

# The 2018 FIU Cuba Poll:

How Cuban-Americans in Miami  
View U.S. Policies toward Cuba

# The 2018 Cuba Poll

- Telephone surveys (cell phone and landline) of 1,001 randomly selected Cuban-American residents of Miami-Dade County.
- Interviews completed Nov. 14-Dec. 1 2018.
- Margin of error is plus or minus 3.1%.
- 13<sup>th</sup> in the series of Cuba Polls conducted since 1991.
- Results weighted to be representative of the Cuban-American community of Miami-Dade County as a whole.

## Sponsors:

- Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs
- Office of the President
- Cuban Research Institute
- Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center

# General Takeaways from the 2018 FIU Cuba Poll

- The community is divided on how to deal with Cuba
- Some want to return to a more isolationist stance by supporting the embargo—particularly migrants coming before 1980
- A majority would like to continue some of the engagement policies initiated by President Obama
- The Cuban-American community overwhelmingly supported Republican candidates in the midterm elections

## Characteristics of the divisions

- The divisions on attitudes about how to deal with Cuba are established by:
  - Time of departure from Cuba
  - Immigrant generations (second and third generation Cuban-Americans)
  - Political ideology/party
- Political divisions are also guided by:
  - Age
  - Time of departure from Cuba

# Brief Review of Findings

- Economic Policies
  - Embargo
  - Investment in Cuba
- Other Engagement and Immigration Policies
  - Unrestricted Travel for All Americans
  - People-to-People programs
  - Diplomatic Relations
  - Wet foot/dry foot policy
  - Remittances
- Political behavior during midterm elections
  - Who received support
  - What issues motivated Cuban-American voters

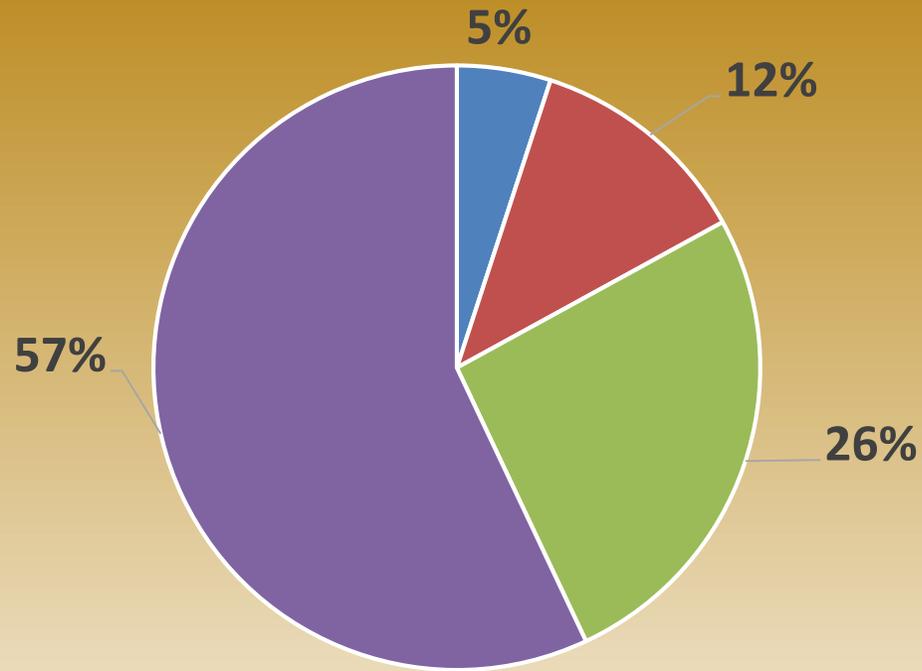
# Structure of Presentation

Each variable is presented to clarify divisions in community

1. Total responses
2. Migration wave and birth outside of Cuba (second and third generations)
3. Age
4. Voter Registration
5. Pre-1980 vs. Other Cuban-Americans
6. Other significant correlations

# The Embargo

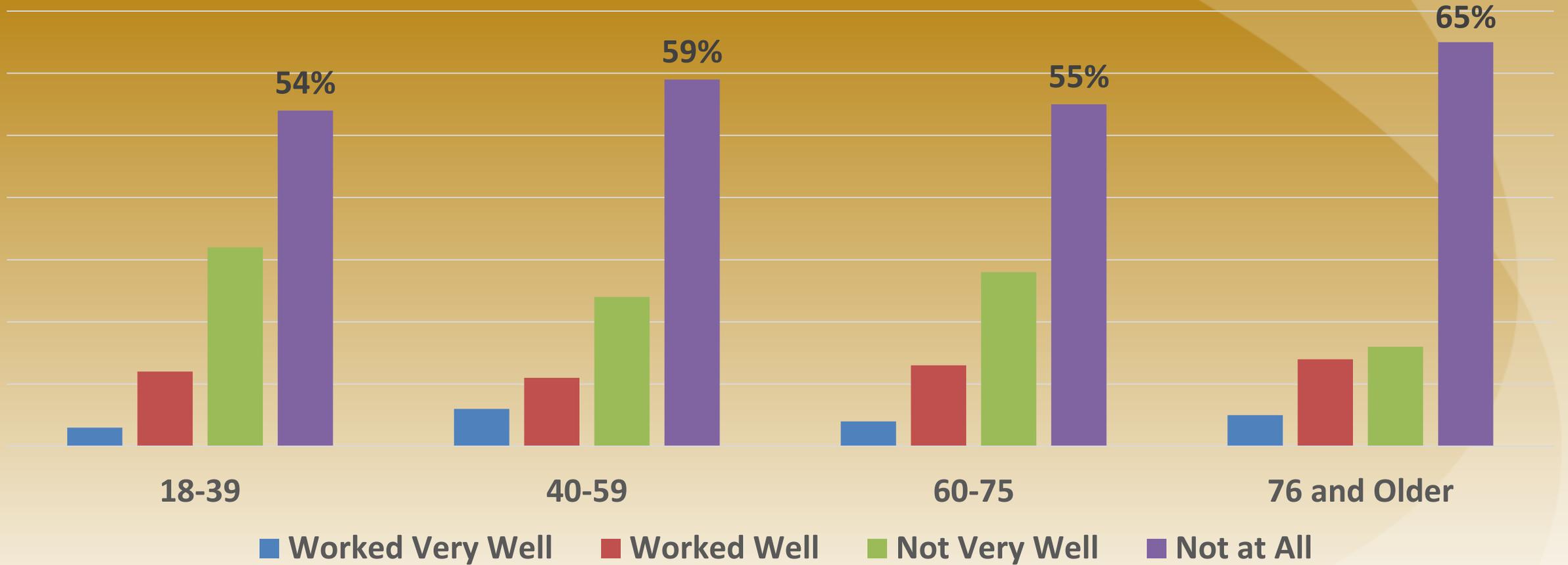
# How Well Has the Embargo Worked?



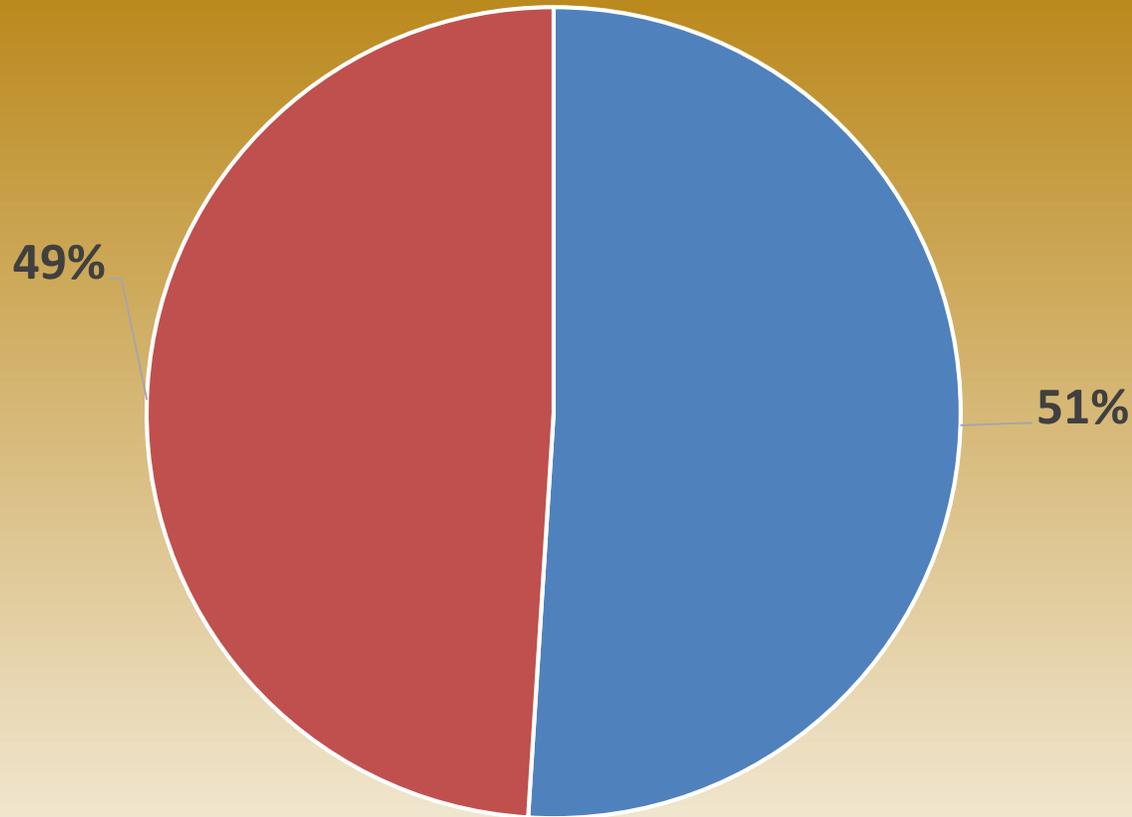
■ Worked Very Well ■ Worked Well  
■ Not Very Well ■ Not at All

Worked Very Well	5%
Worked Well	12%
Not Very Well	26%
Worked Not At All	57%

# Has Embargo Worked? (by age)



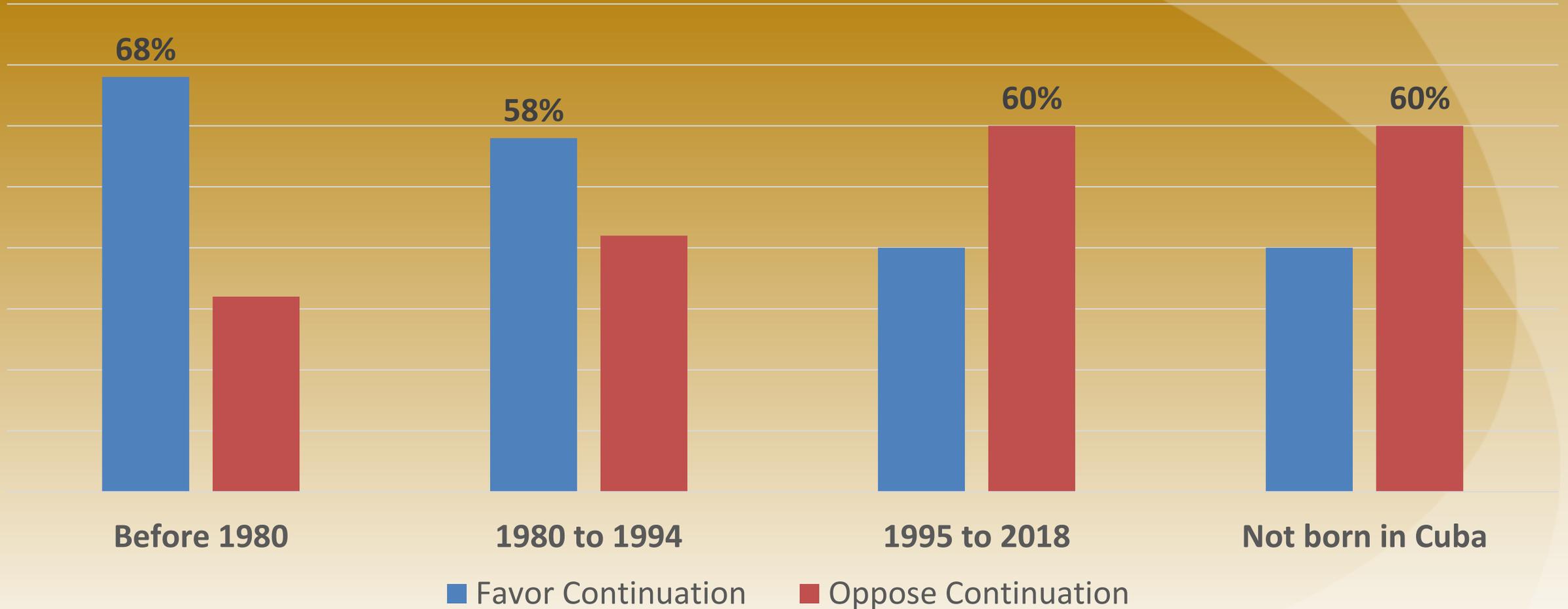
# Favor or Oppose Continuation of Embargo?



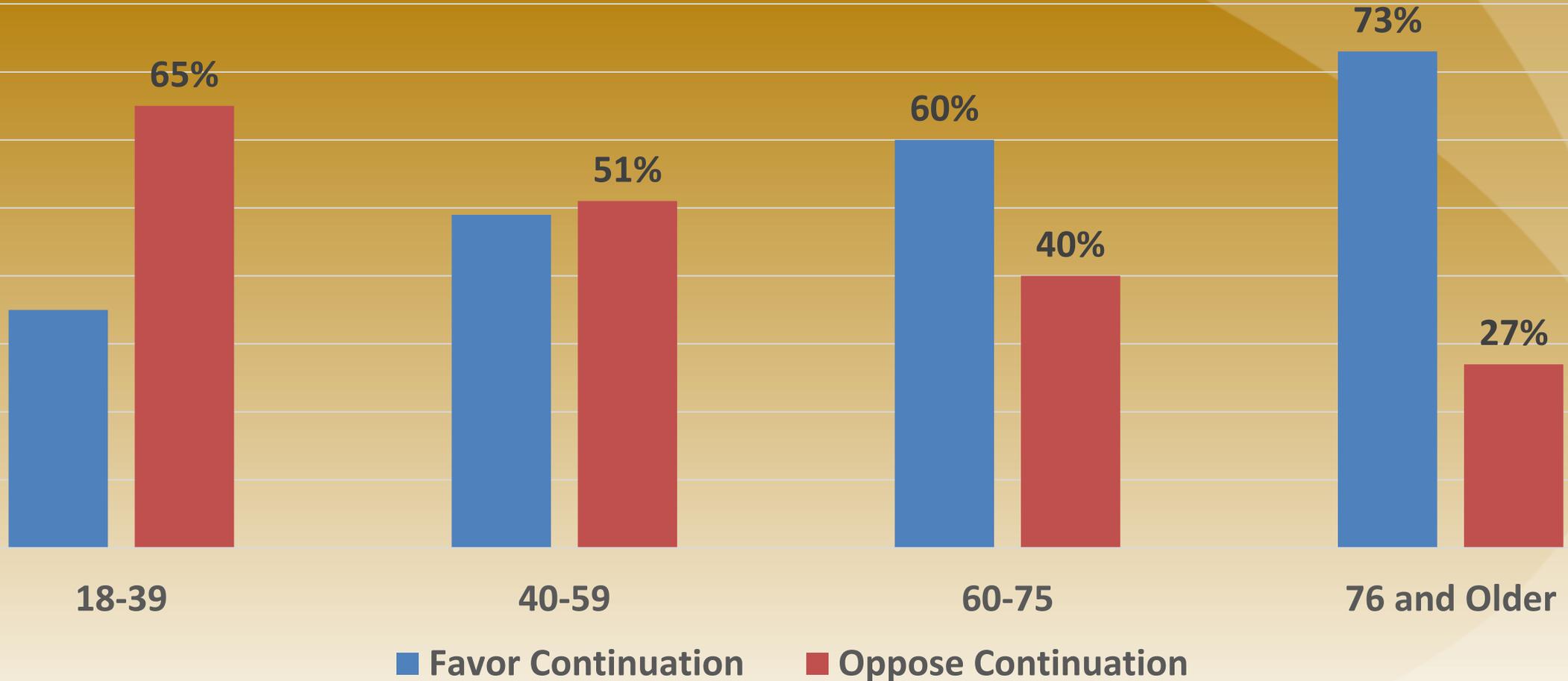
■ Favor Continuation    ■ Oppose Continuation

Continue Embargo	51%	45%
End Embargo	49%	44%
Don't Know		11%

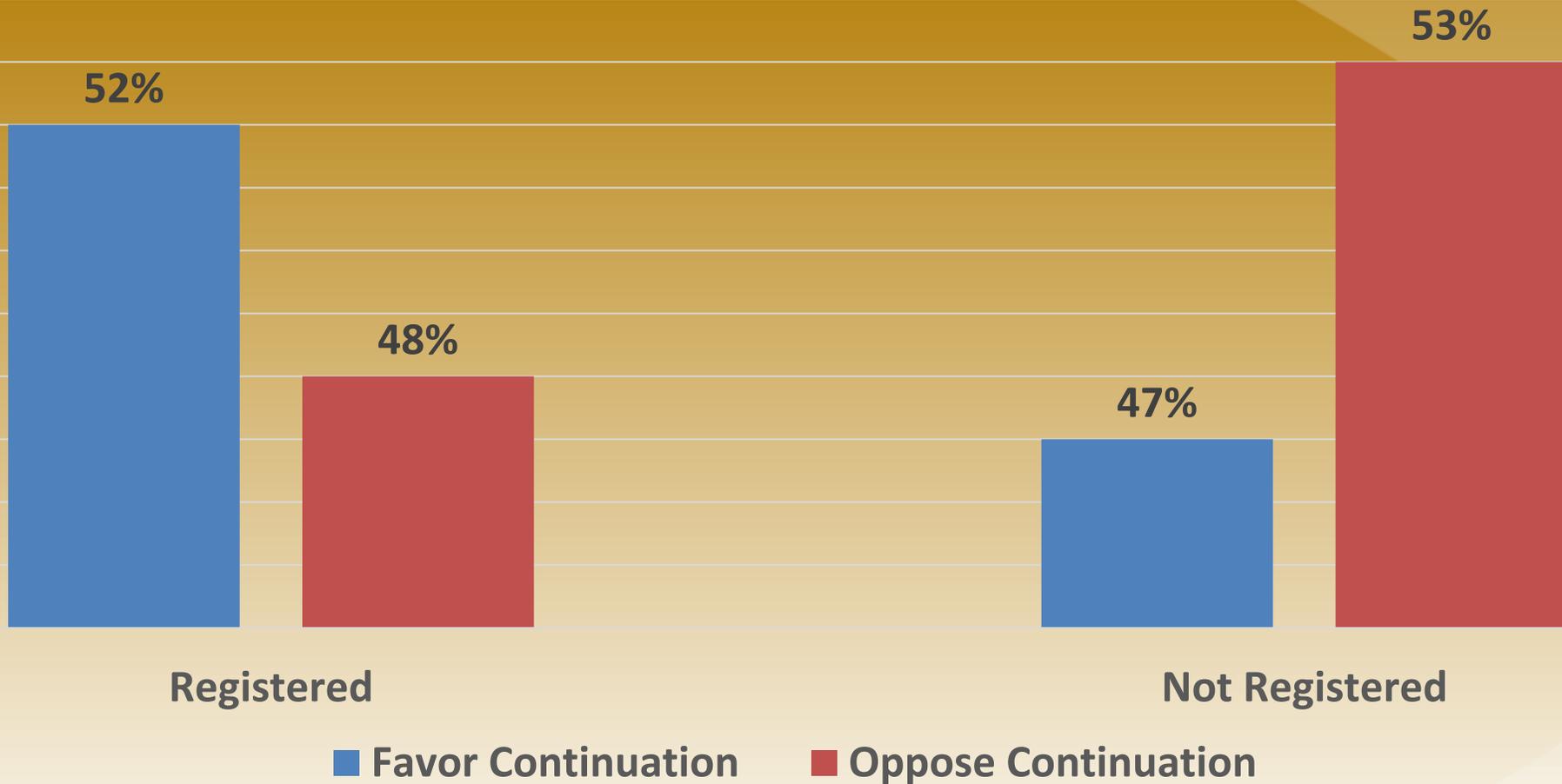
# Favor or Oppose Continuation of Embargo? (by migration/birth)



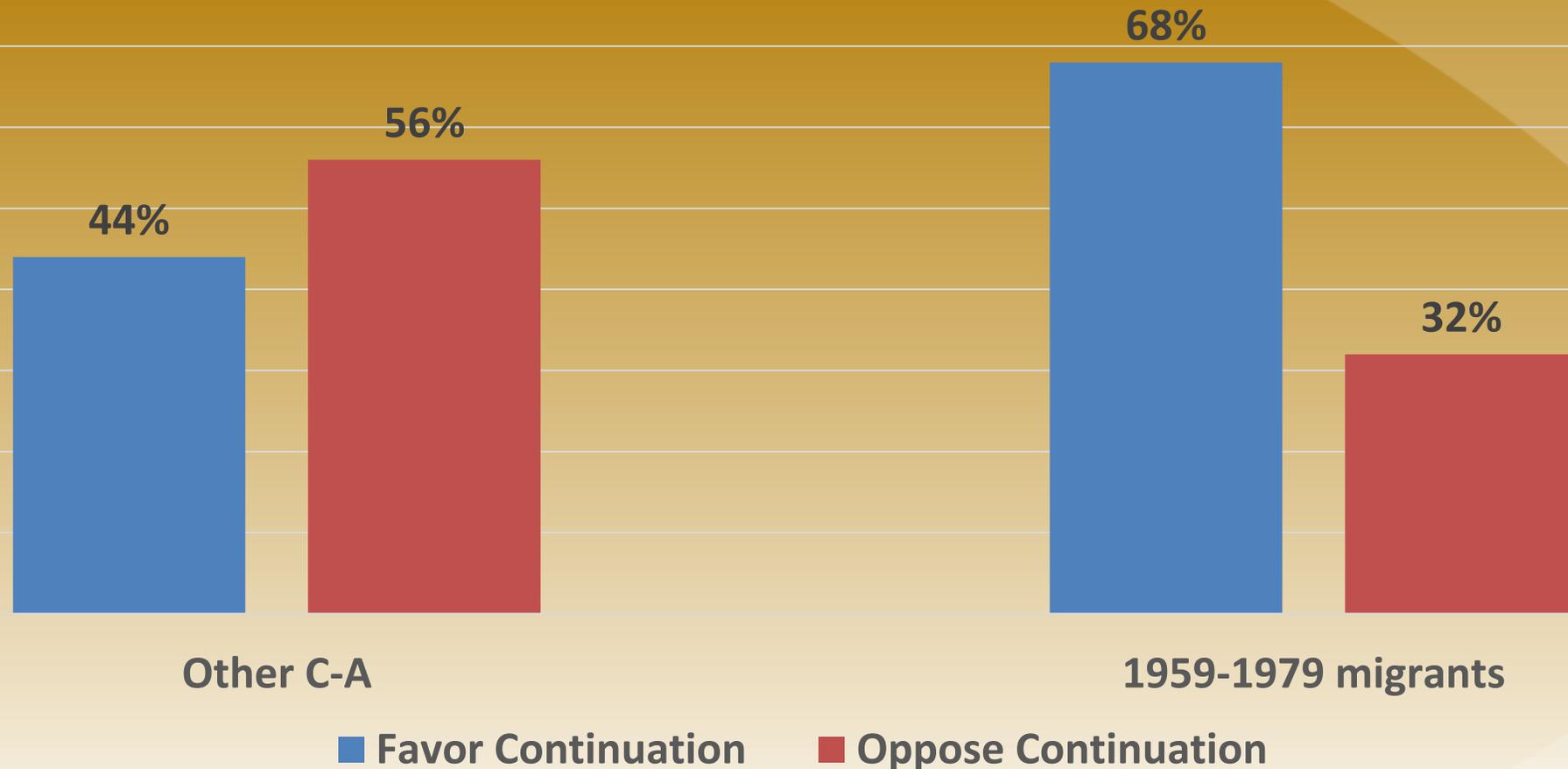
# Favor or Oppose Continuation of Embargo? (by age)



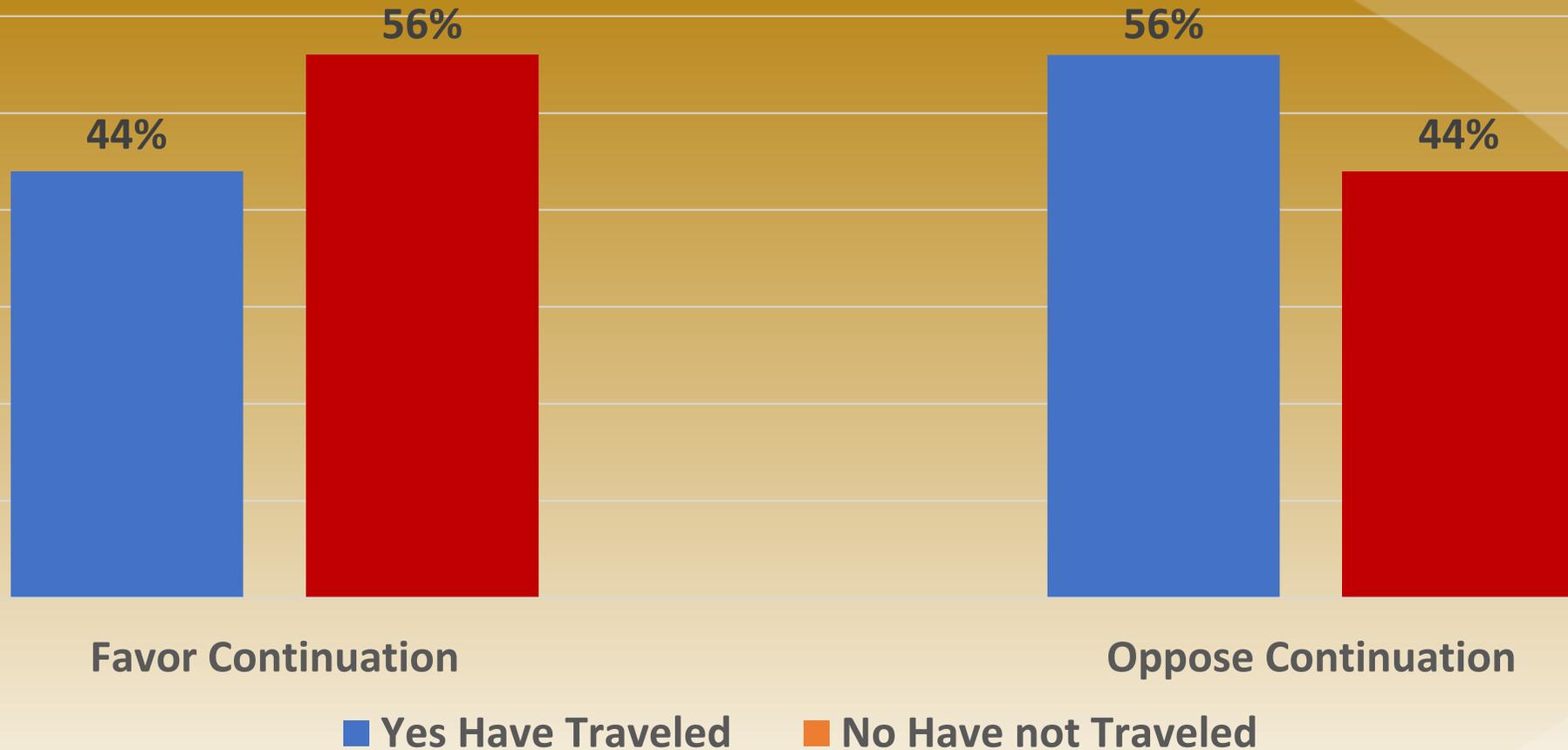
# Support for the Embargo (by voter registration)



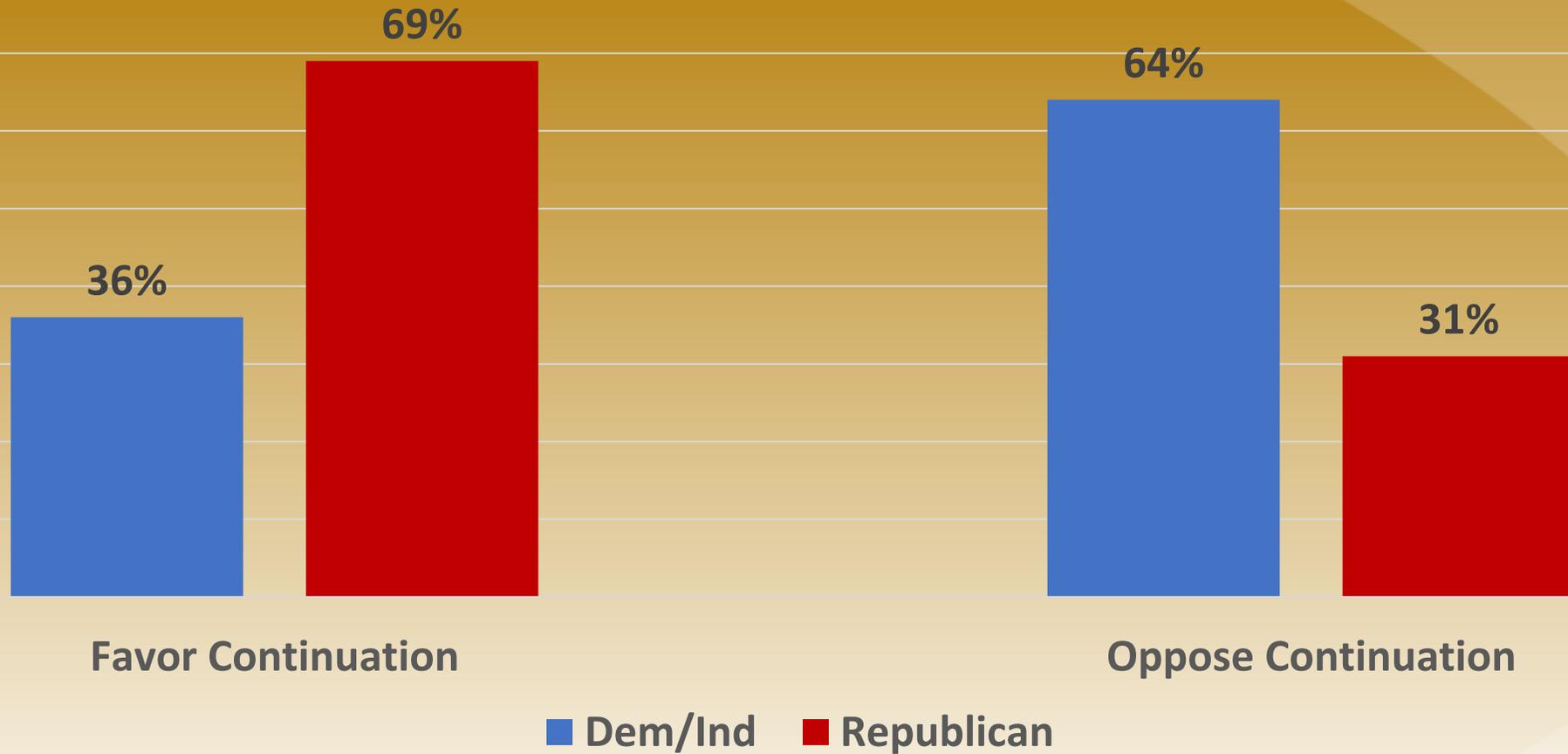
# Favor or Oppose Continuation of Embargo? (by 1959-1979 vs Others)



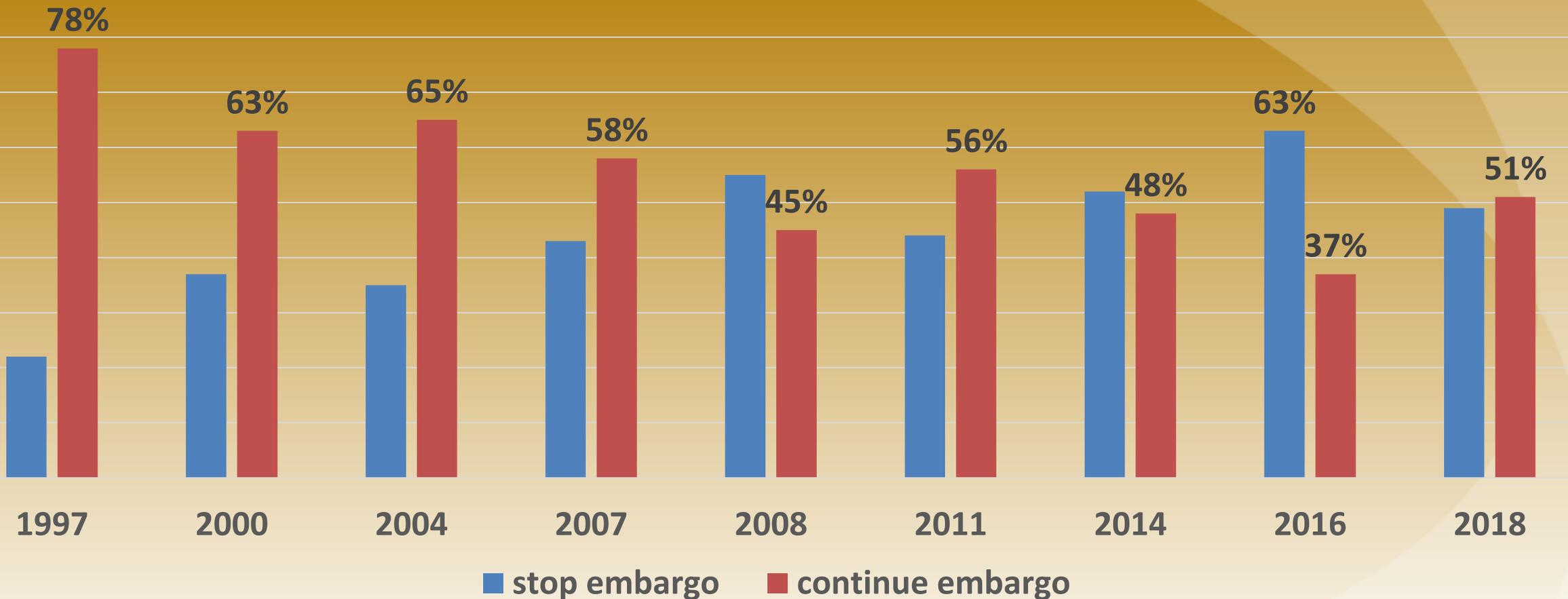
# Support for Embargo (by have traveled to Cuba)



# Support for Embargo (by Republican/Other)

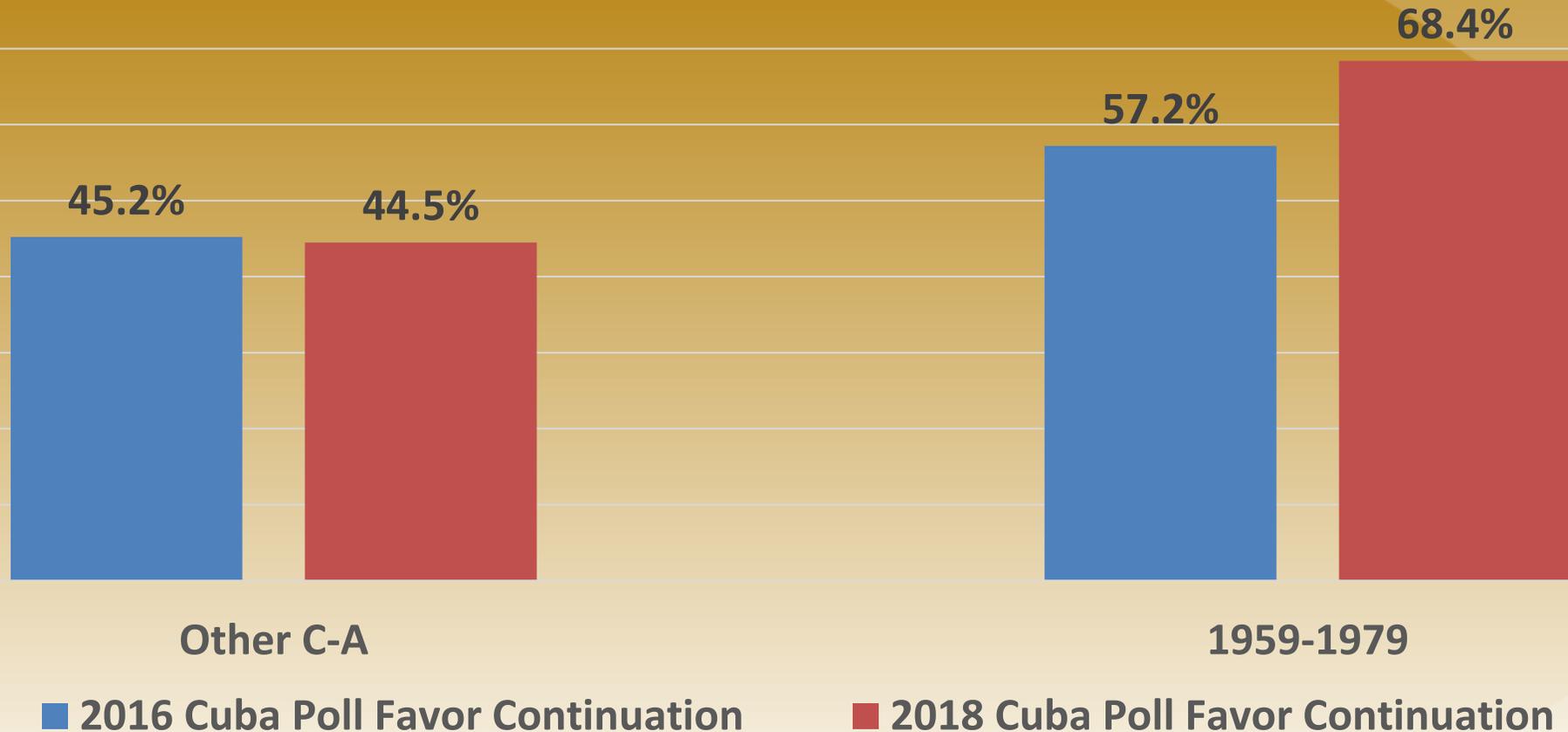


# Opinions on the maintenance of the embargo over time (1997-2018)



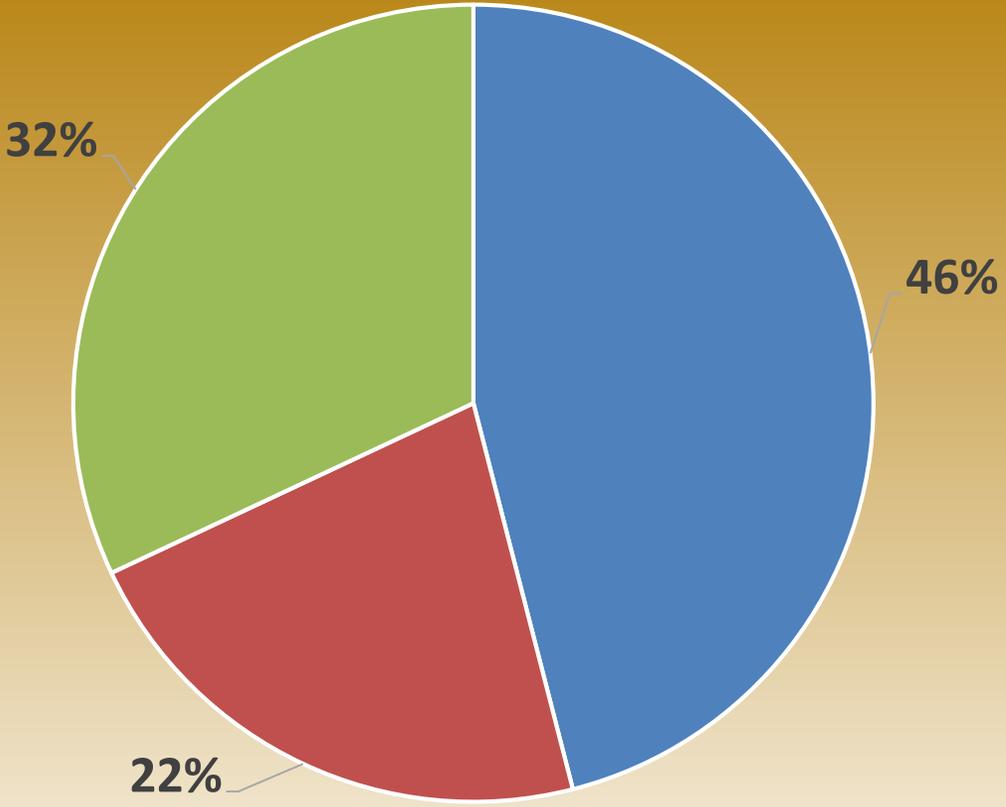
**So What Happened Between 2016  
and 2018 on this variable?**

# Support for Embargo (2016 and 2018 Polls by 1959-1979 and Other Cuban American cohorts)



# Other Economic Relationships

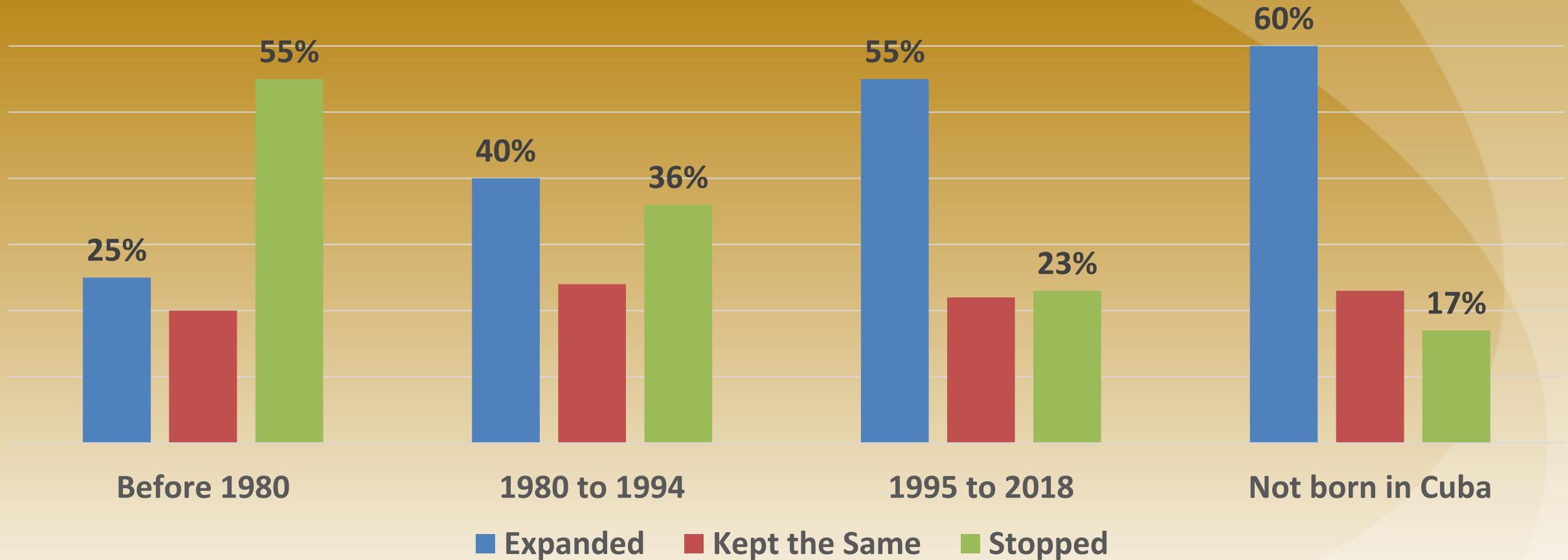
# Should U.S. companies doing business with Cuba expand, maintain or stop their activities?



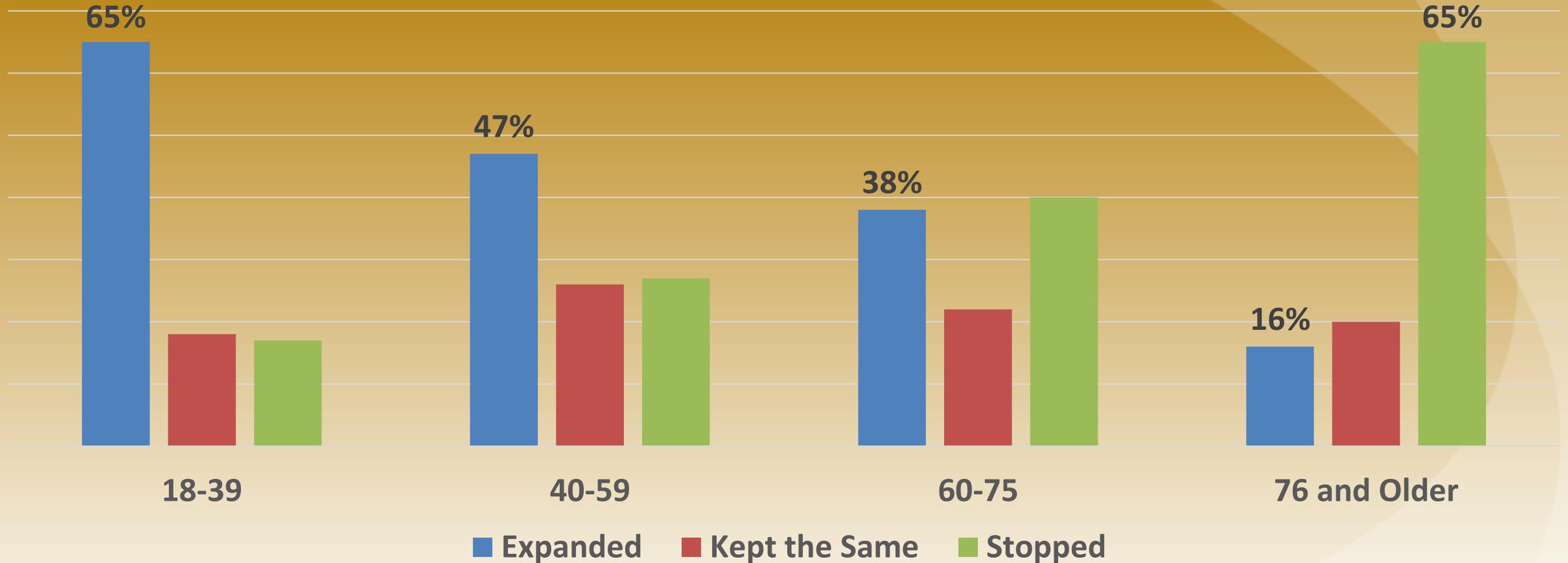
Expanded	46%
Kept the Same	22%
Stopped	32%

■ Expanded   ■ Kept the Same   ■ Stopped

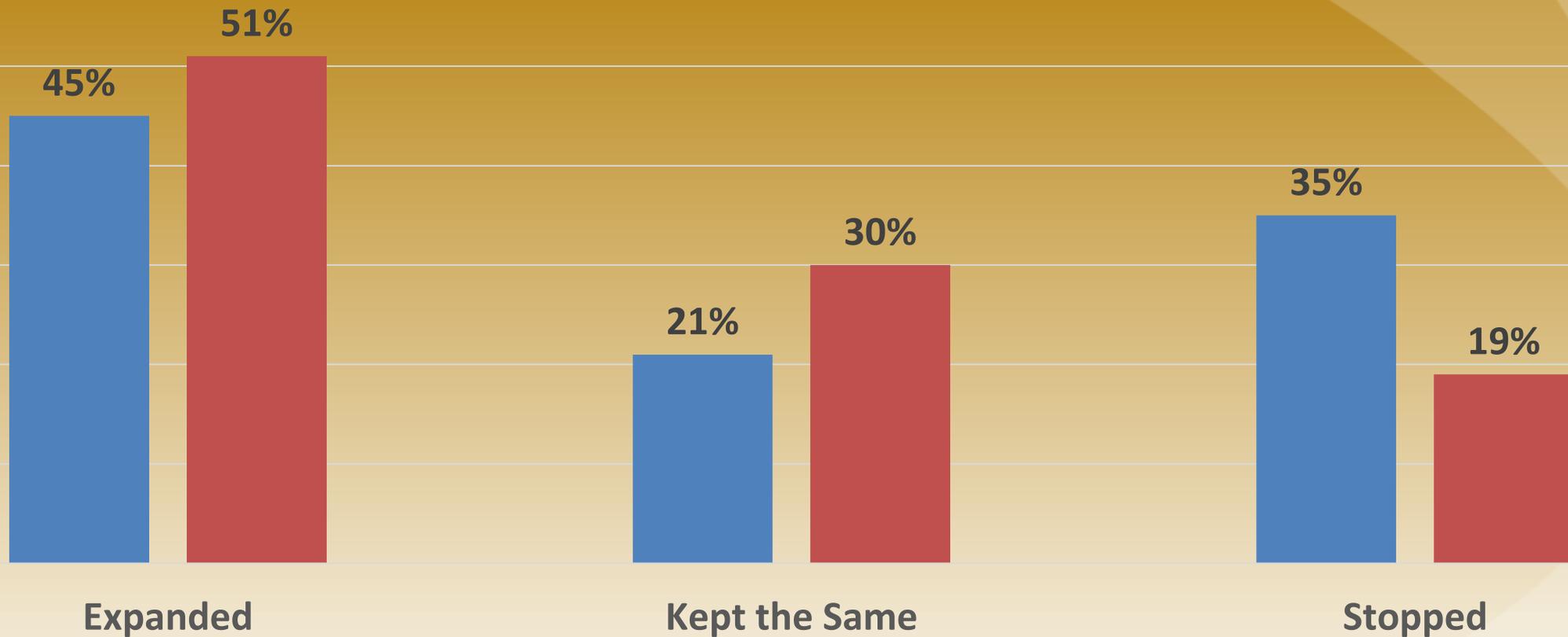
# Should U.S. companies doing business with Cuba expand, maintain or stop their activities? (by migration/birth)



# Should U.S. companies doing business with Cuba expand, maintain or stop their activities? (by Age)

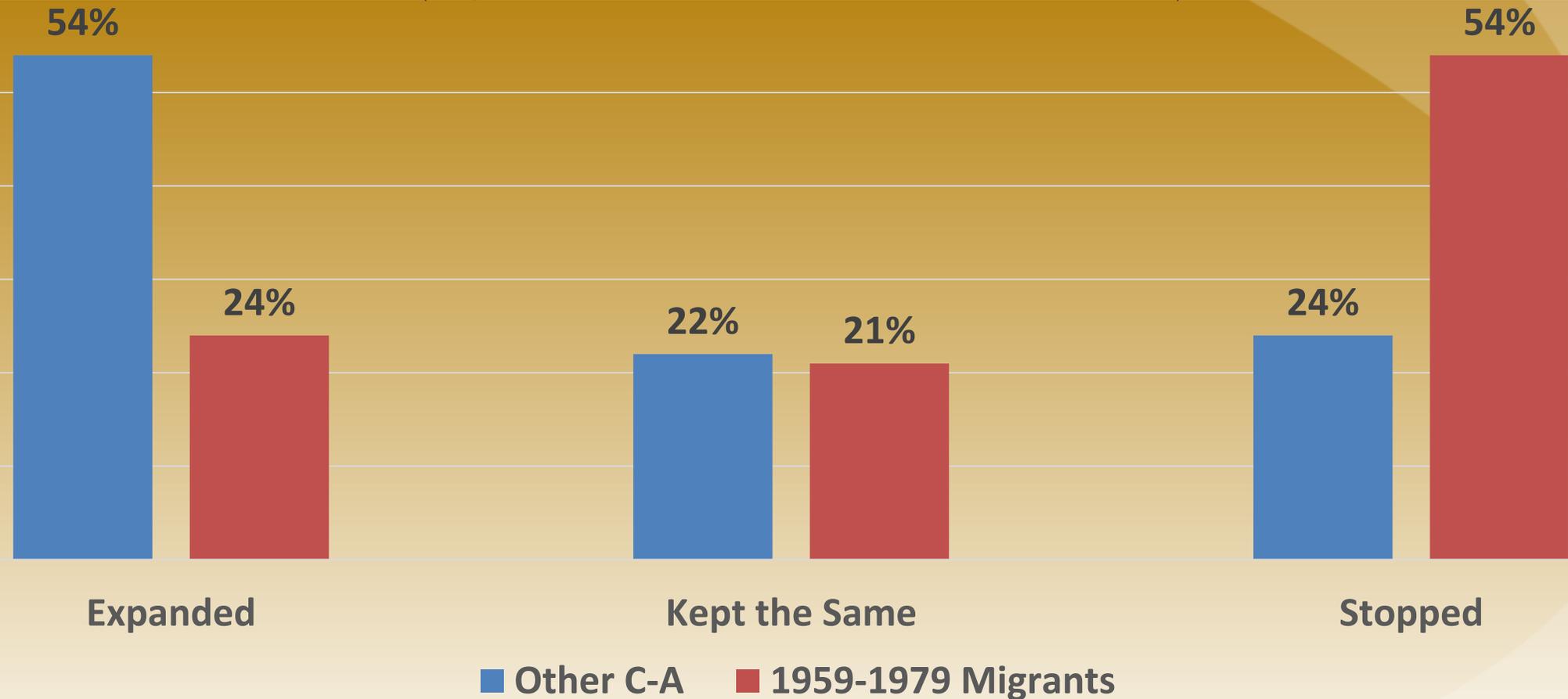


# Should U.S. companies doing business with Cuba expand, maintain or stop their activities? (By Registered to Vote)

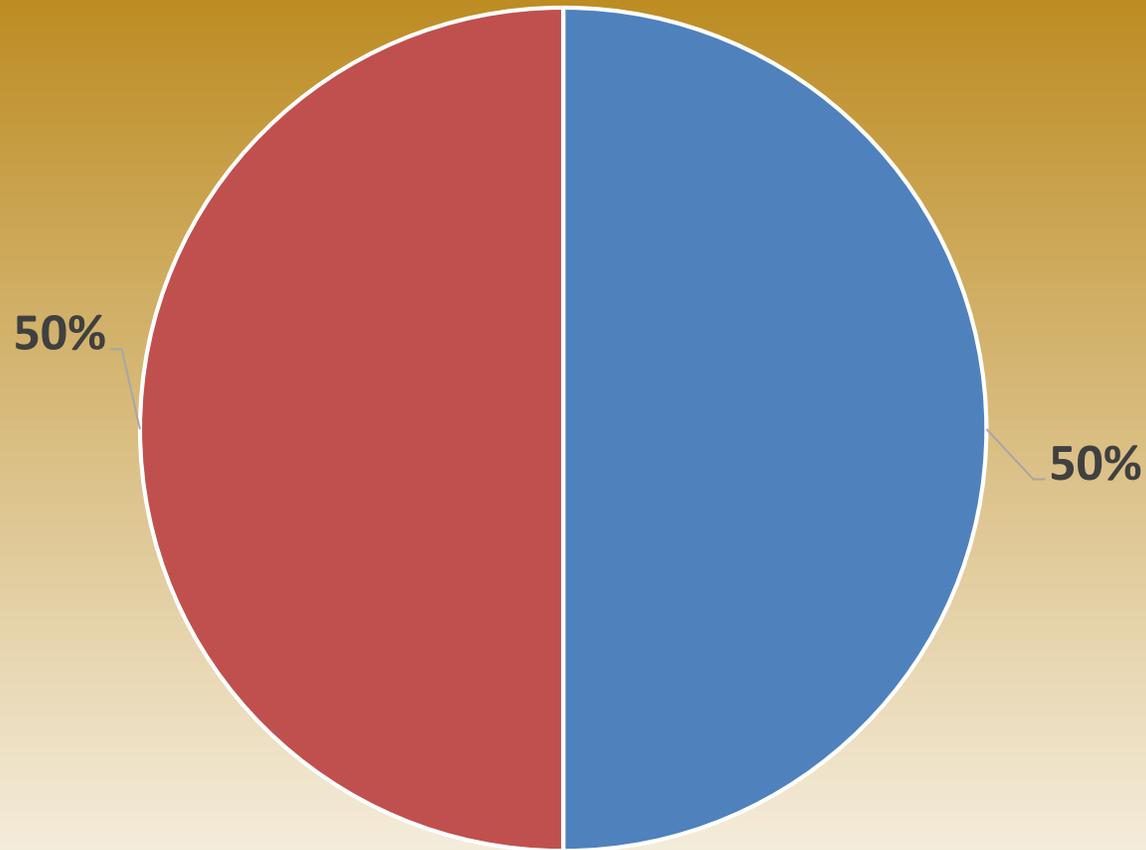


■ Registered ■ Not Registered

# Should U.S. companies doing business with Cuba expand, maintain or stop their activities? (by 1959-1979 vs Others)



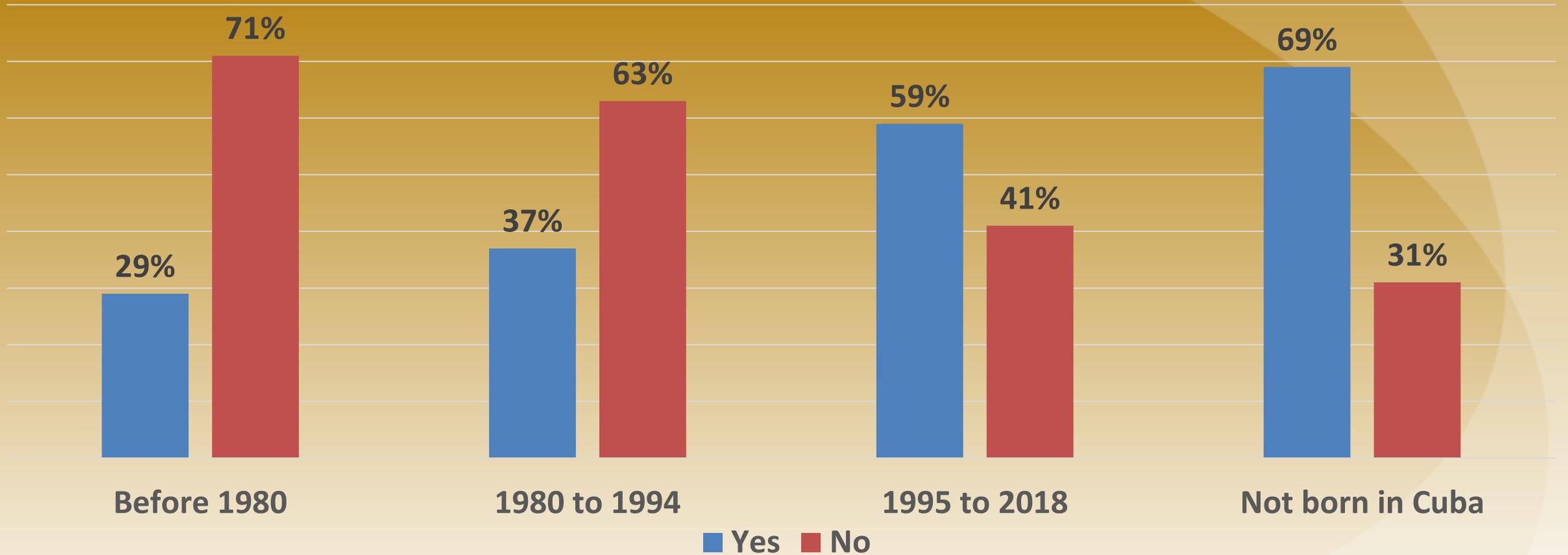
# Should people living in U.S. be allowed to invest in Cuban businesses?



■ Yes ■ No

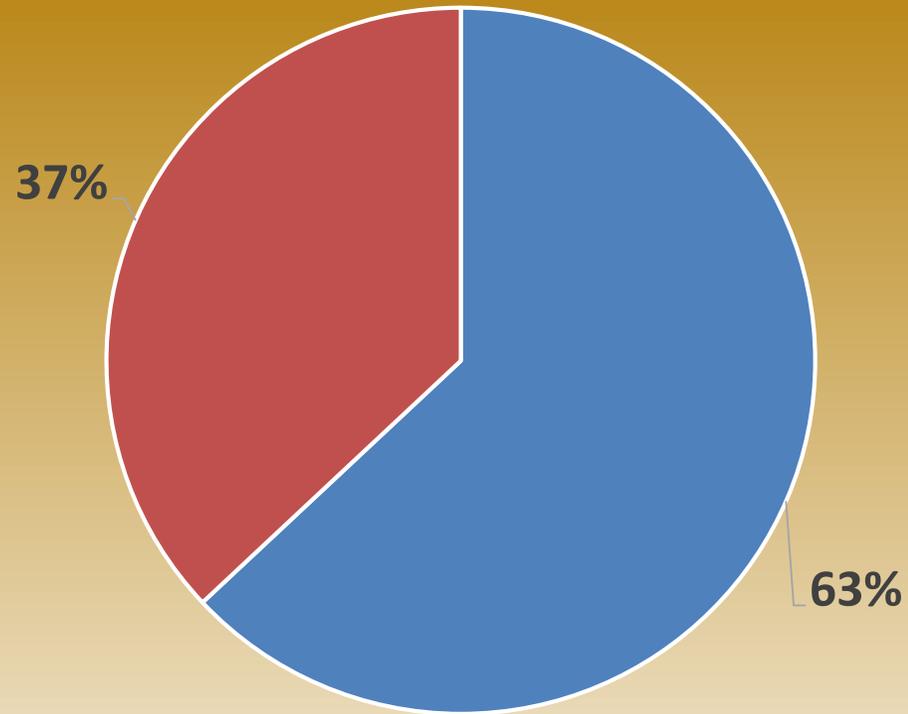
Allow Investments	50%
Do Not Allow	50%

# Should people living in U.S. be allowed to invest in Cuban businesses? (by migration/birth)



# Other Policies

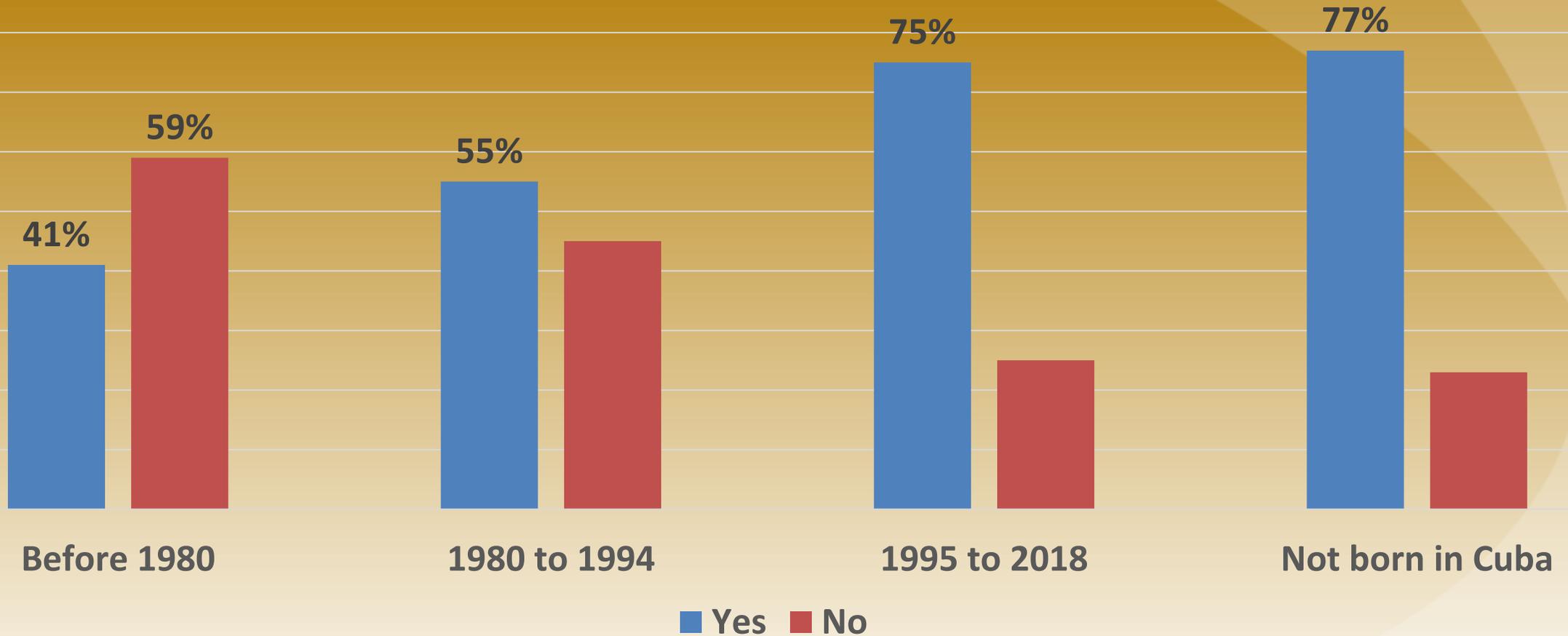
# Support for the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations



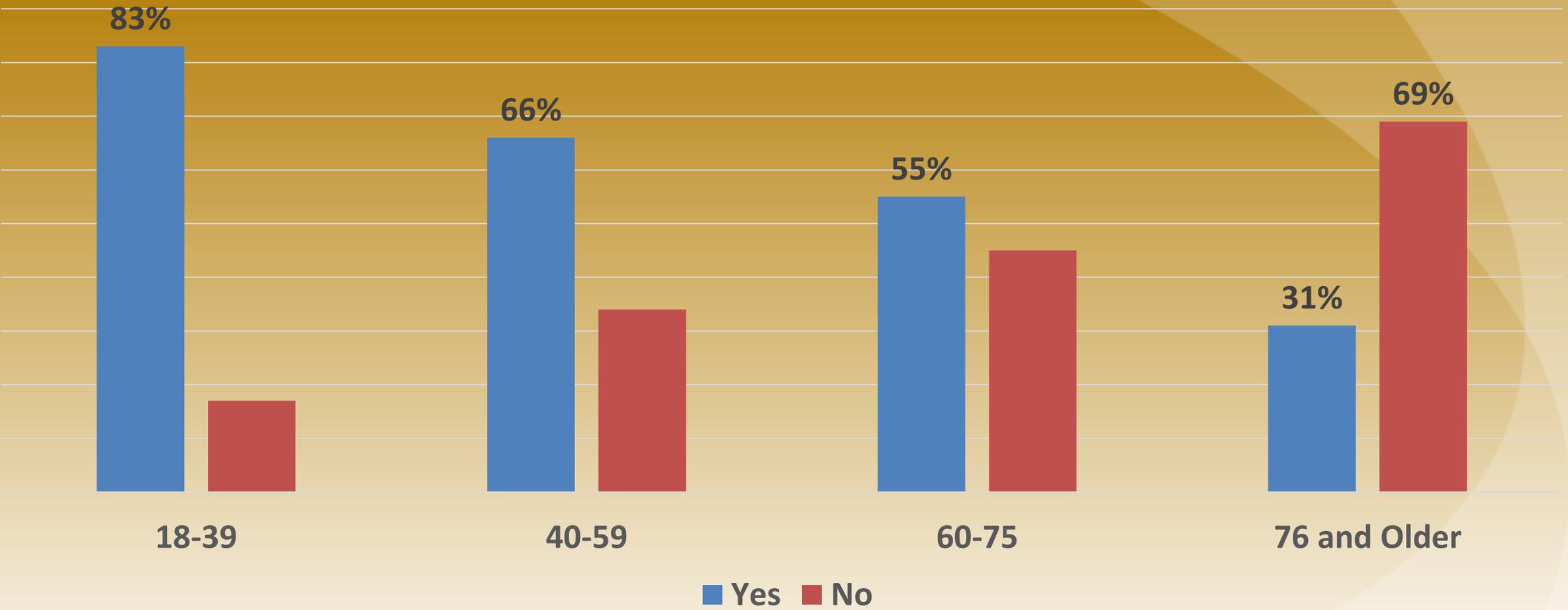
■ Yes ■ No

Favor	63%
Oppose	37%

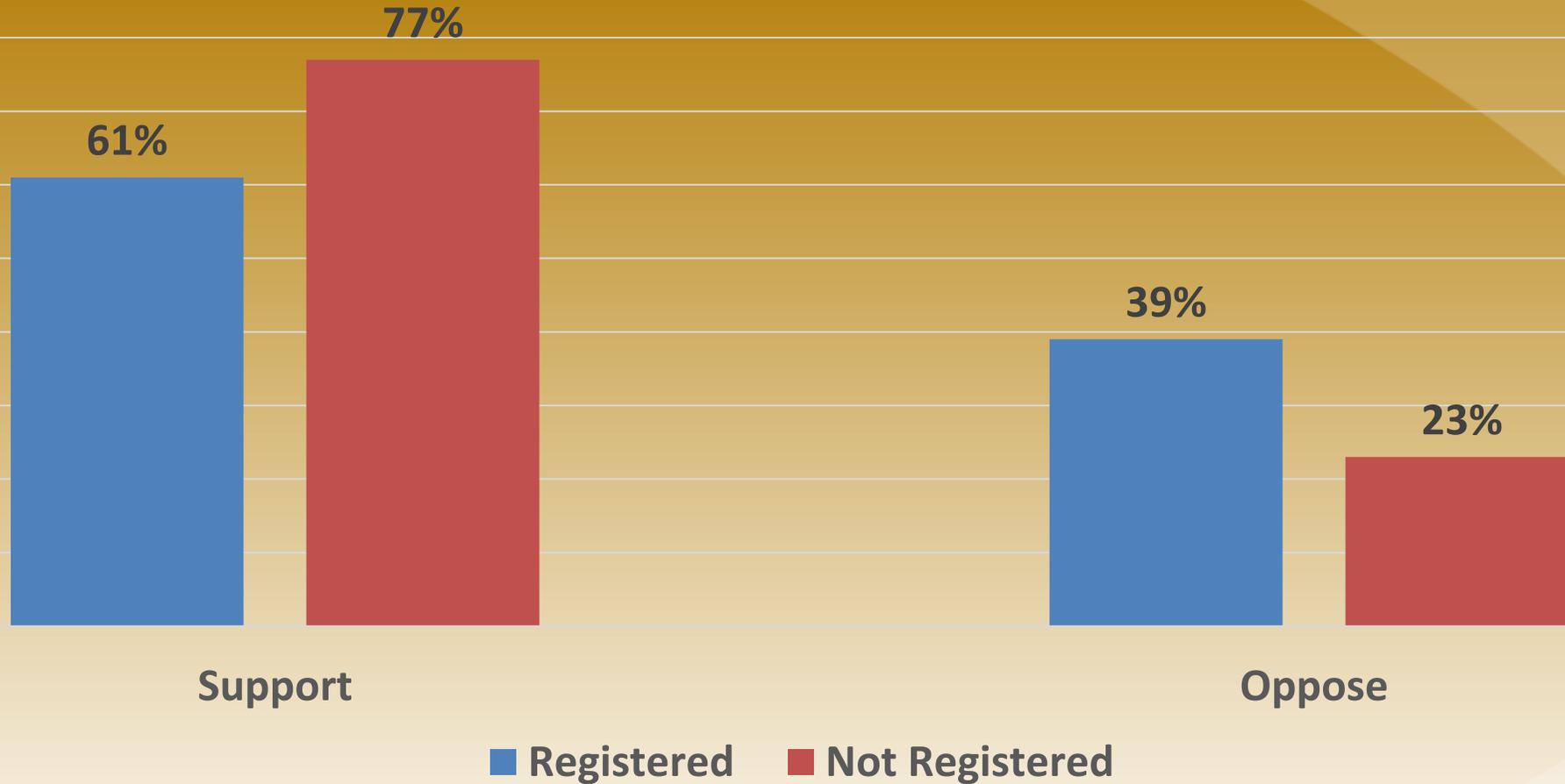
# Support for the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (by migration/birth)



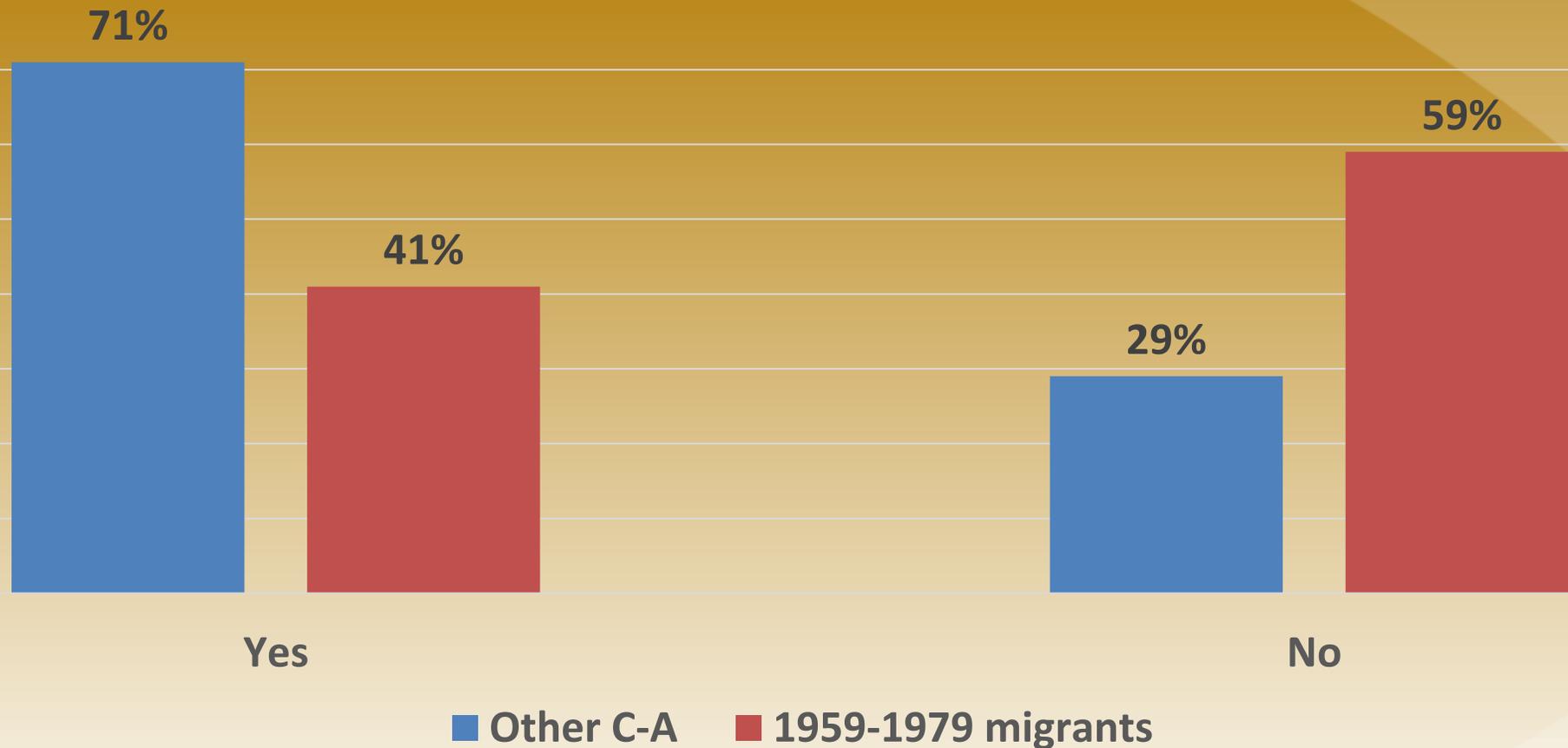
# Support for the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (by age)



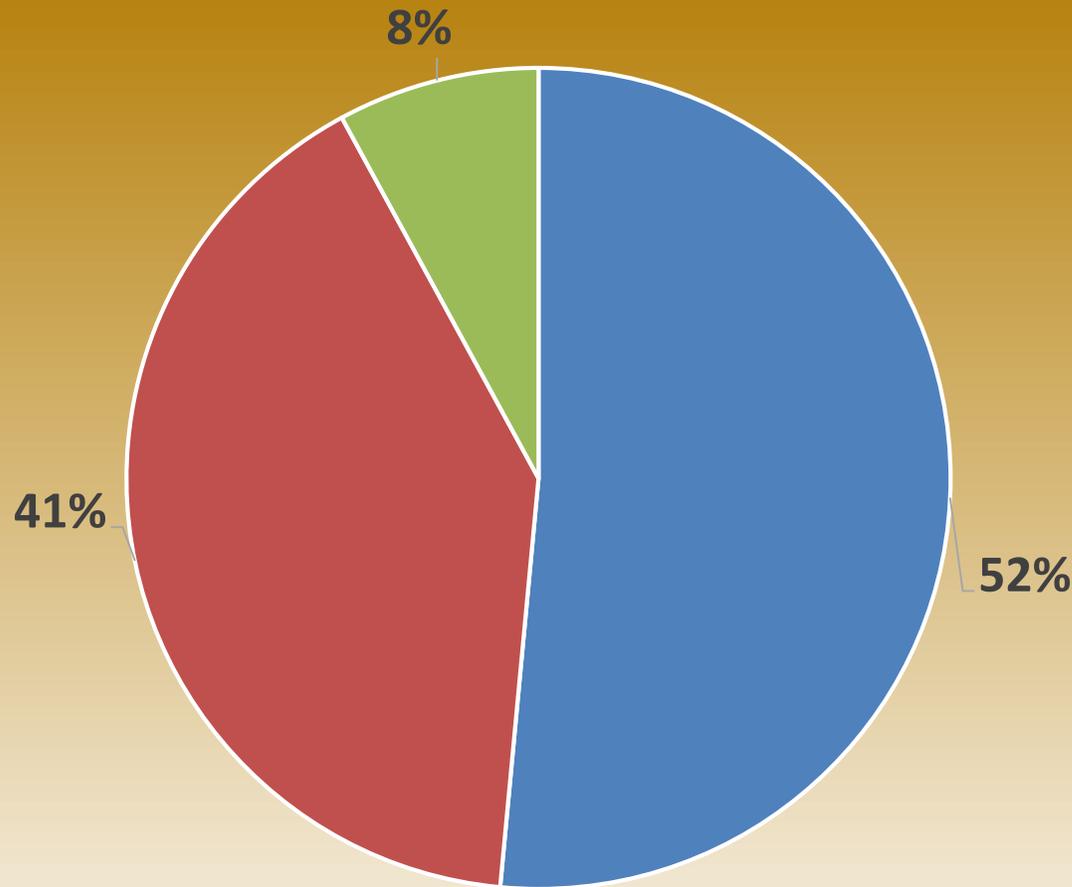
# Support for the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (by voter registration)



# Support for the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations (by 1959-1979 vs Others)



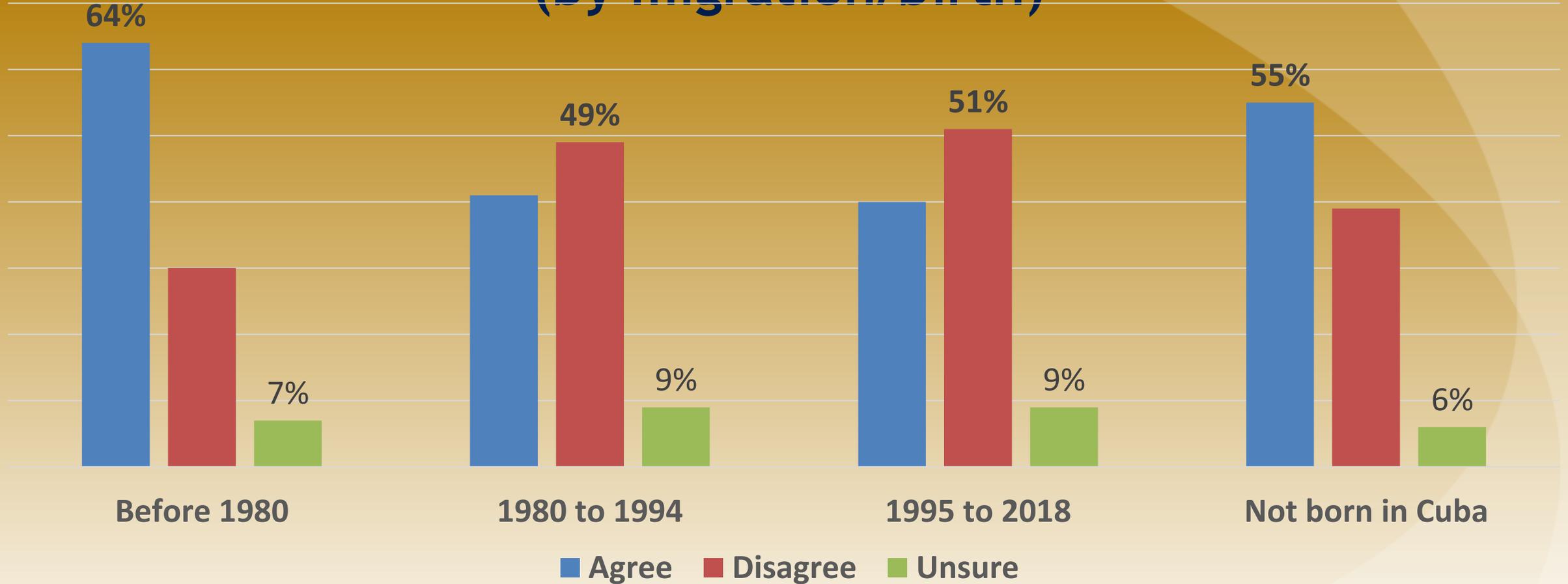
# Support for the Termination of the Wet Foot/Dry Foot policy



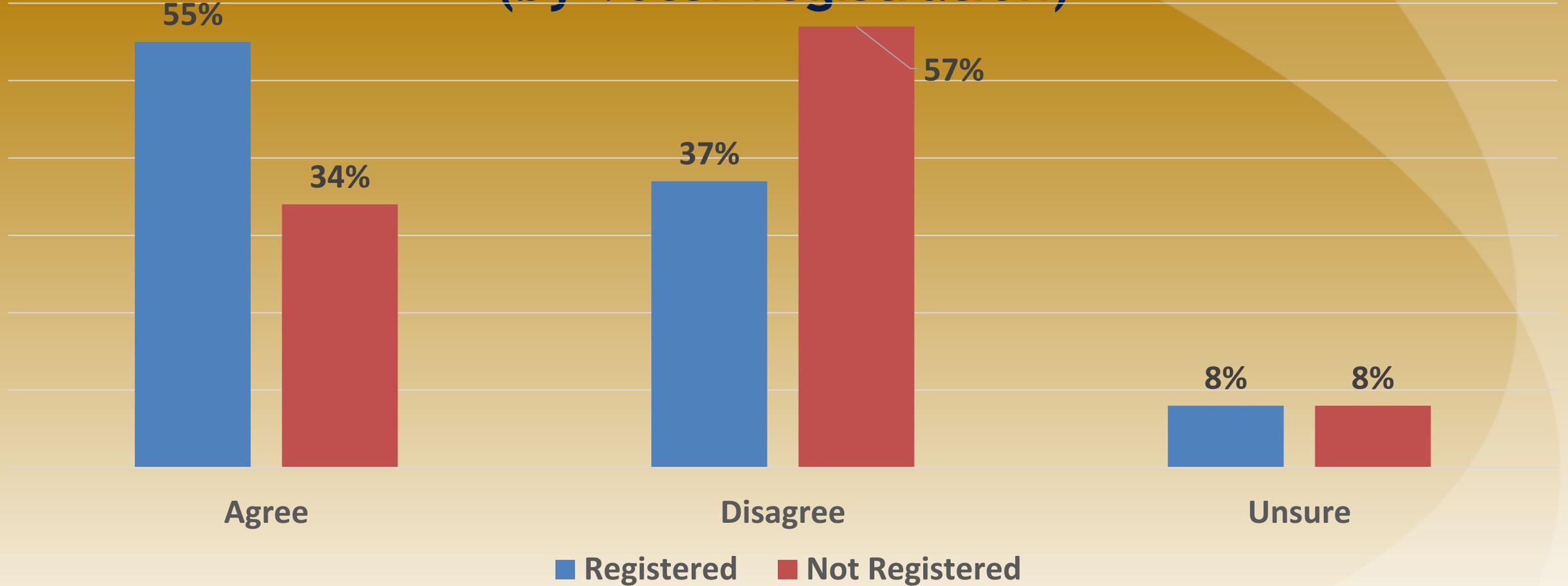
■ Agree ■ Disagree ■ Unsure

Support Termination	52%
Oppose	41%
Unsure	8%

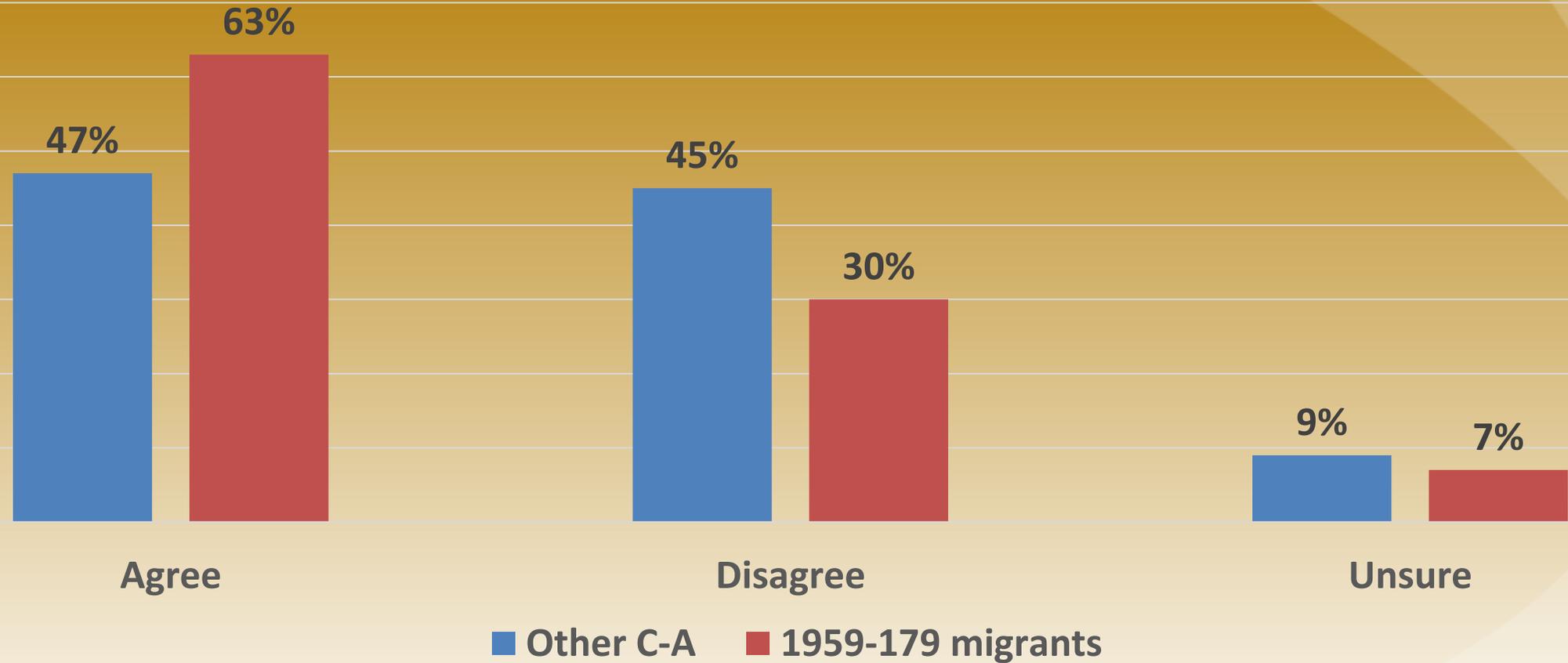
# Support for the Termination of the Wet Foot/Dry Foot policy Foot policy (by migration/birth)



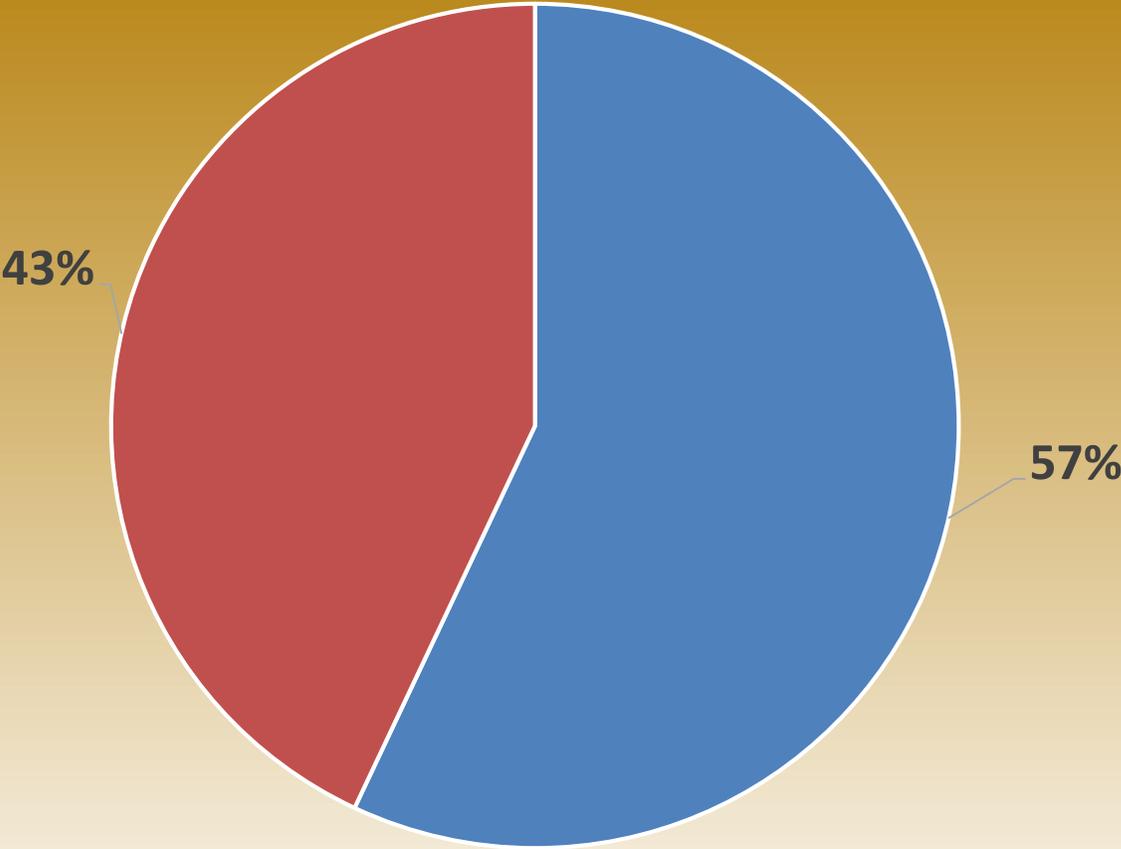
# Support for the Termination of the Wet Foot/Dry Foot policy Foot policy (by voter registration)



# Support for the Termination of the Wet Foot/Dry Foot policy Foot policy (by 1959-1979 vs Others)



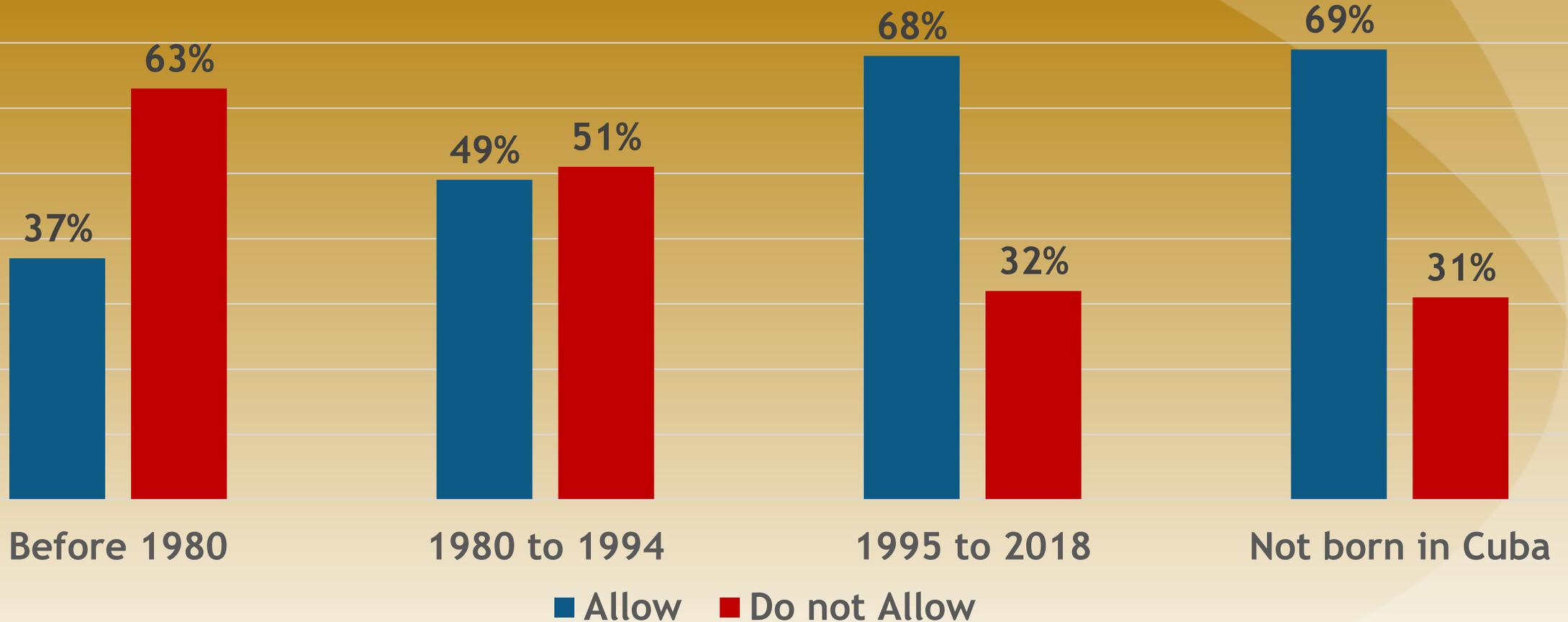
# Support for Unrestricted Travel for All Americans



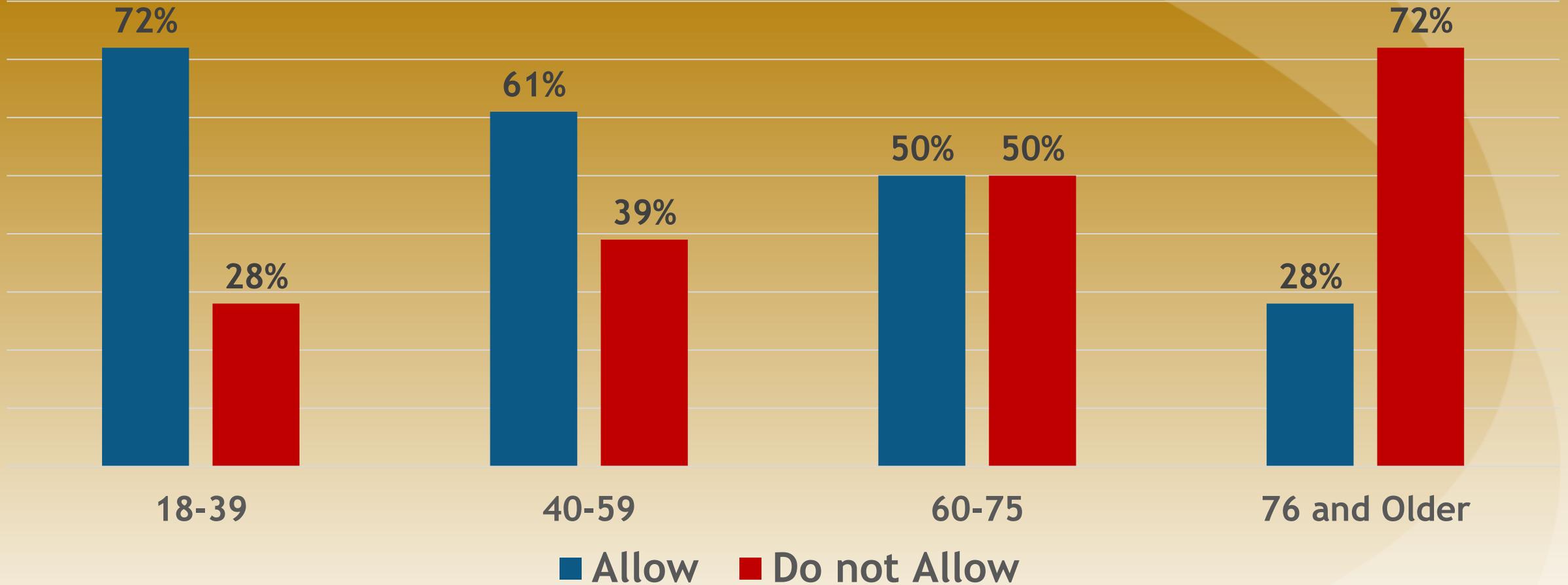
Allow Travel	57%
Do Not Allow	43%

■ Allow ■ Do not Allow

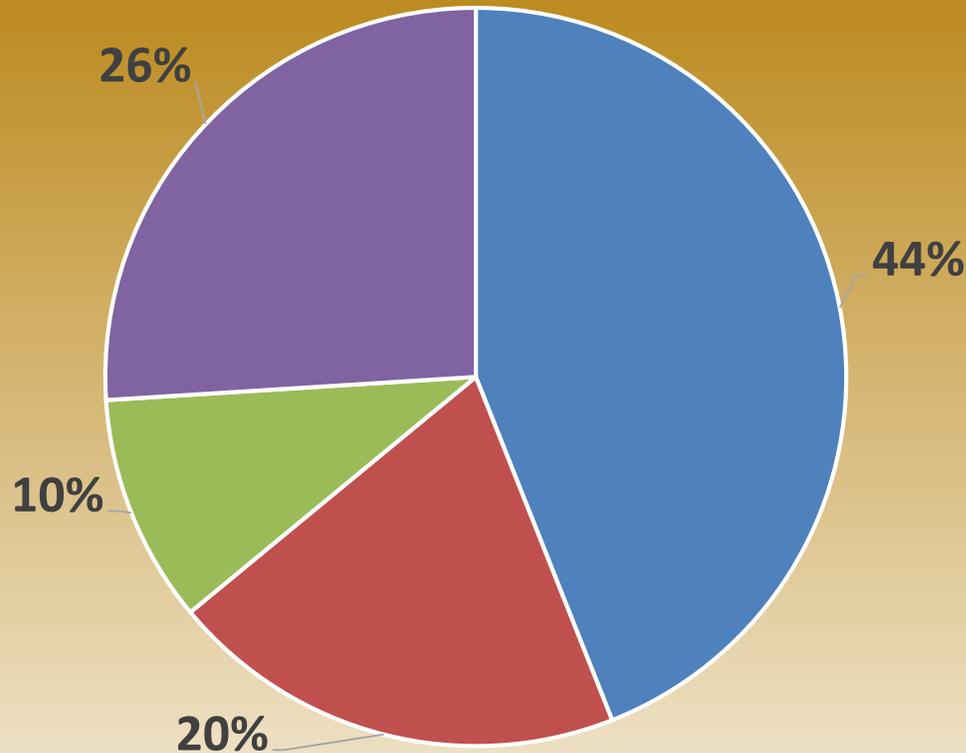
# Support for Unrestricted Travel for All Americans (by migration/birth)



# Support for Unrestricted Travel by All Americans (by age)



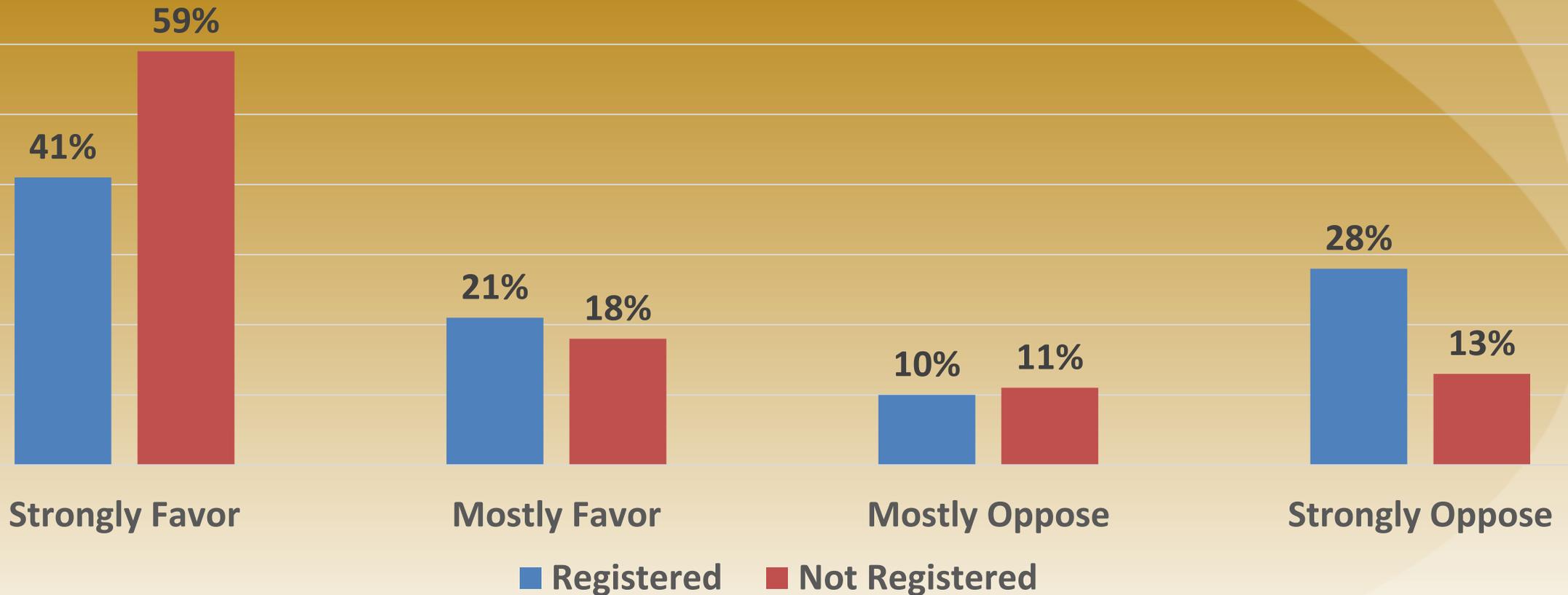
# Support for People-to-People Programs



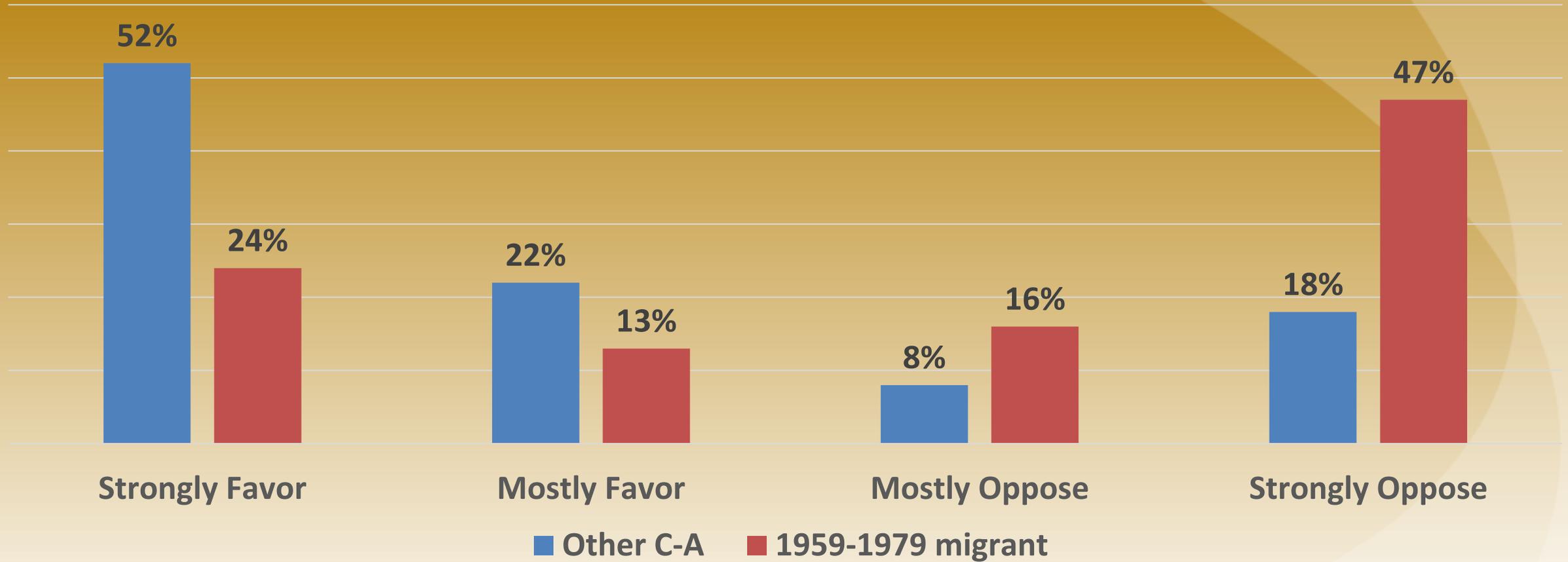
■ Strongly Favor    ■ Mostly Favor  
■ Mostly Oppose    ■ Strongly Oppose

<b>Strongly Favor</b>	<b>44.0%</b>
<b>Mostly Favor</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Mostly Oppose</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Strongly Oppose</b>	<b>26%</b>

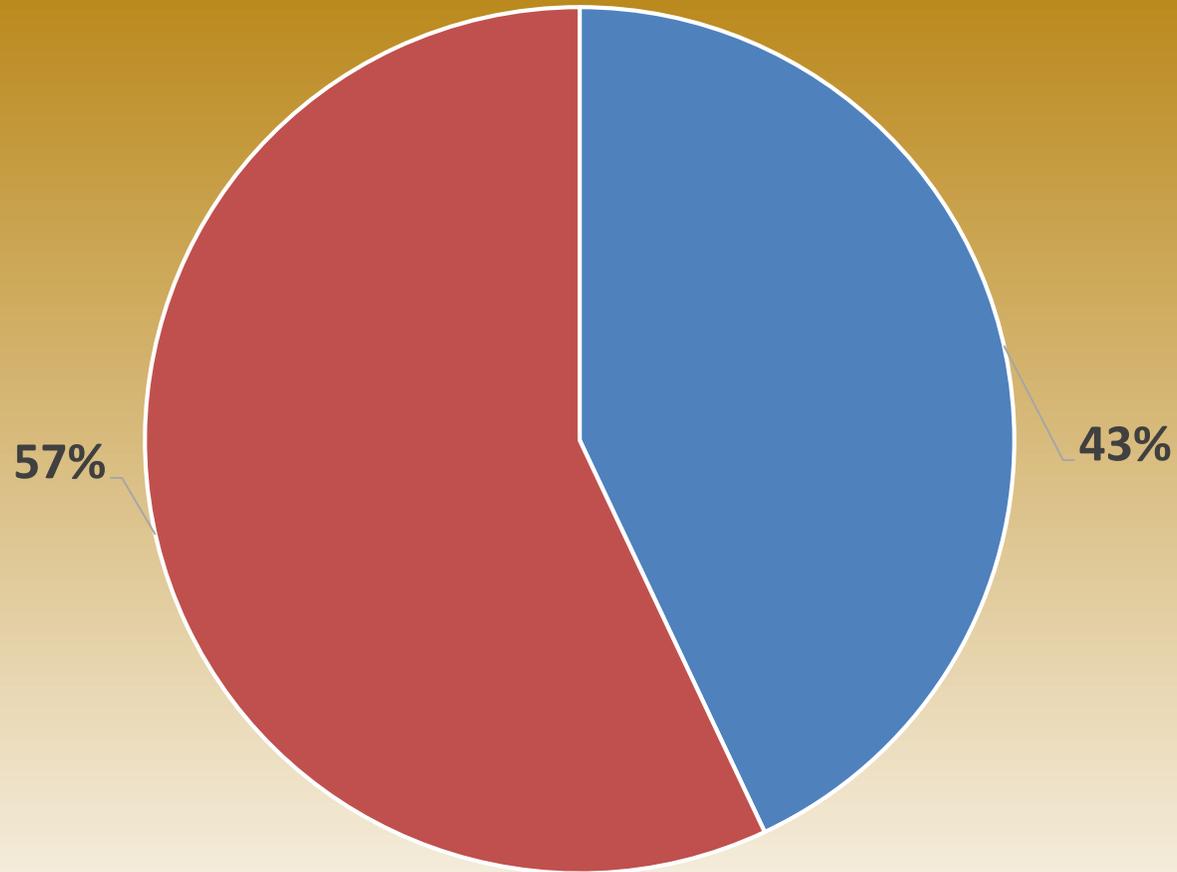
# Support for People-to-People Programs (by voter registration)



# Support for People-to-People Programs (by 1959-1979 vs Others)



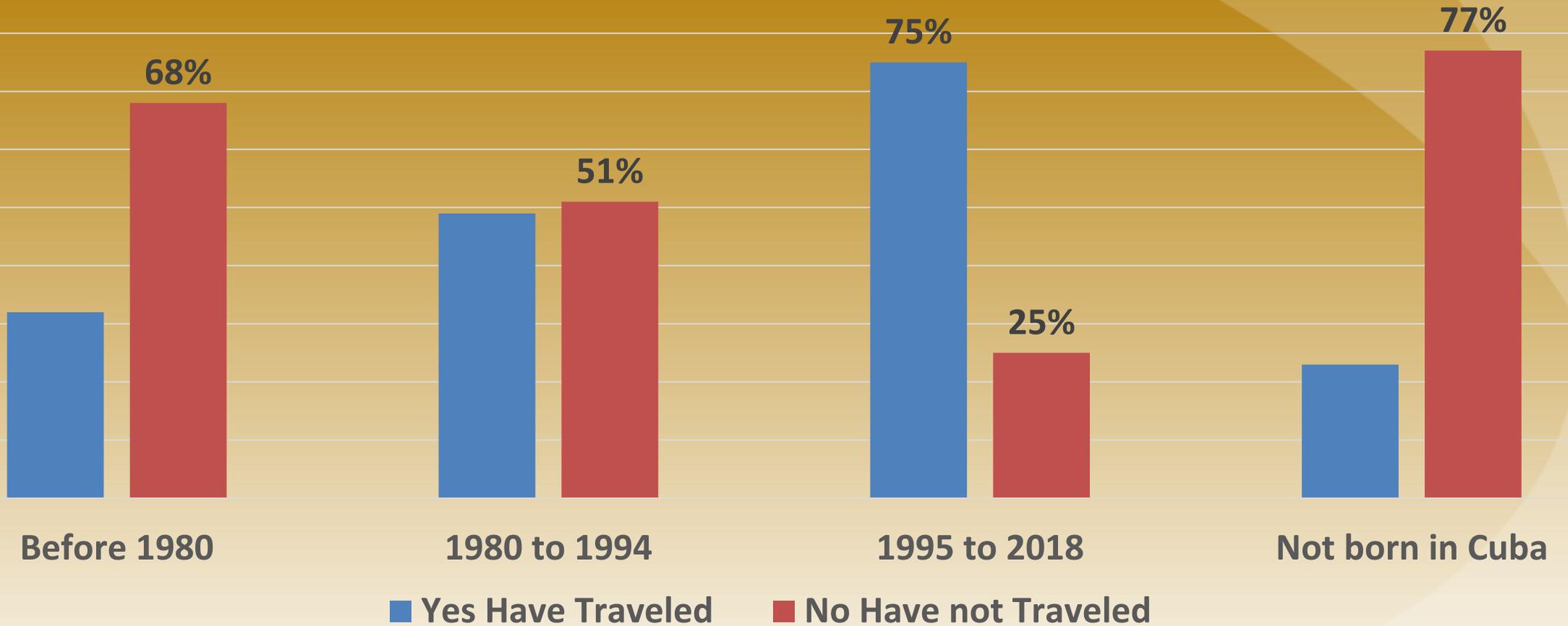
# Have you traveled to Cuba?



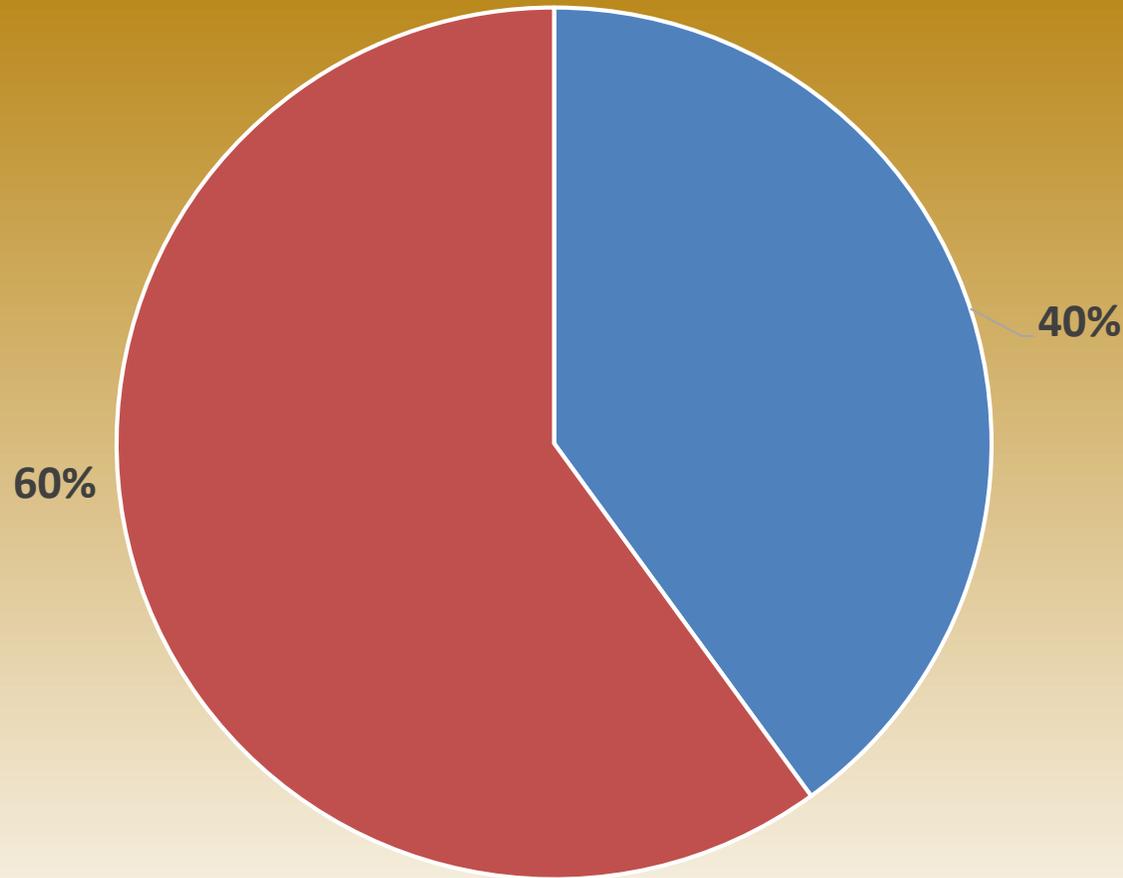
■ Yes Have Traveled    ■ No Have not Traveled

Have Traveled	43%
Have Not Traveled	43%

# Have you traveled to Cuba? (By Year Left)

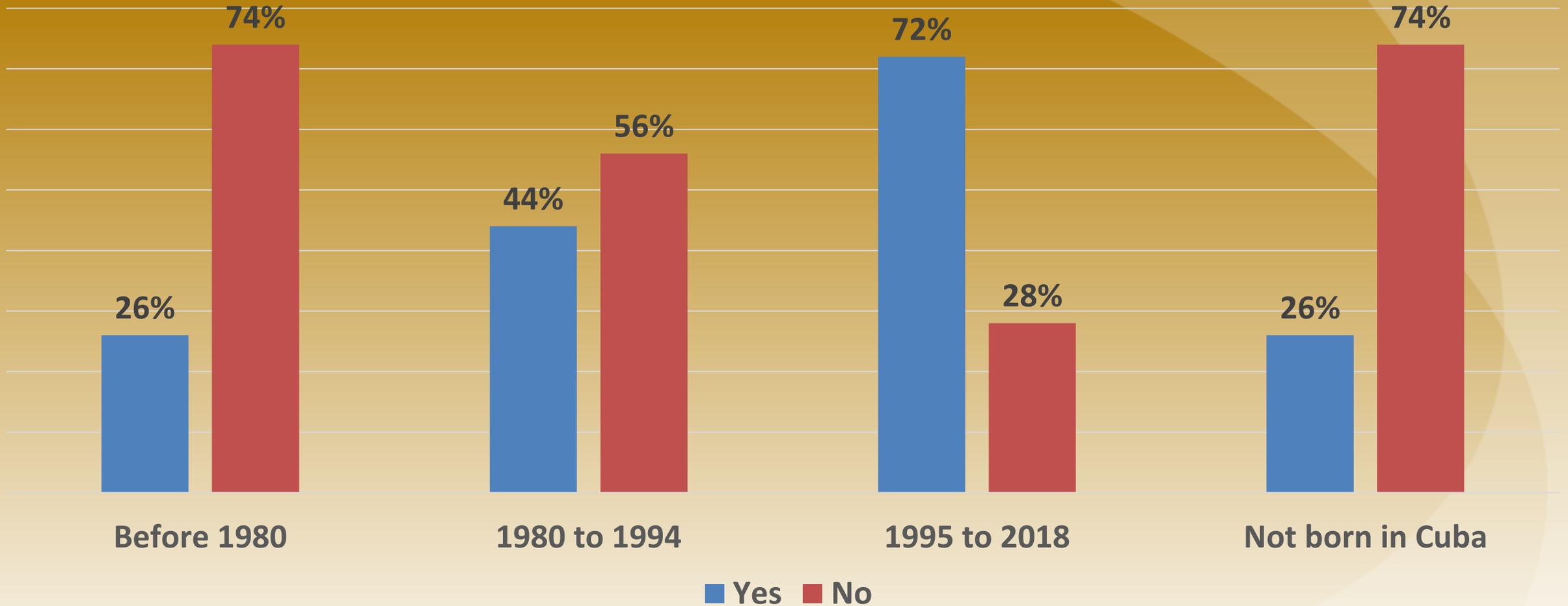


# Send remittances to family or friends



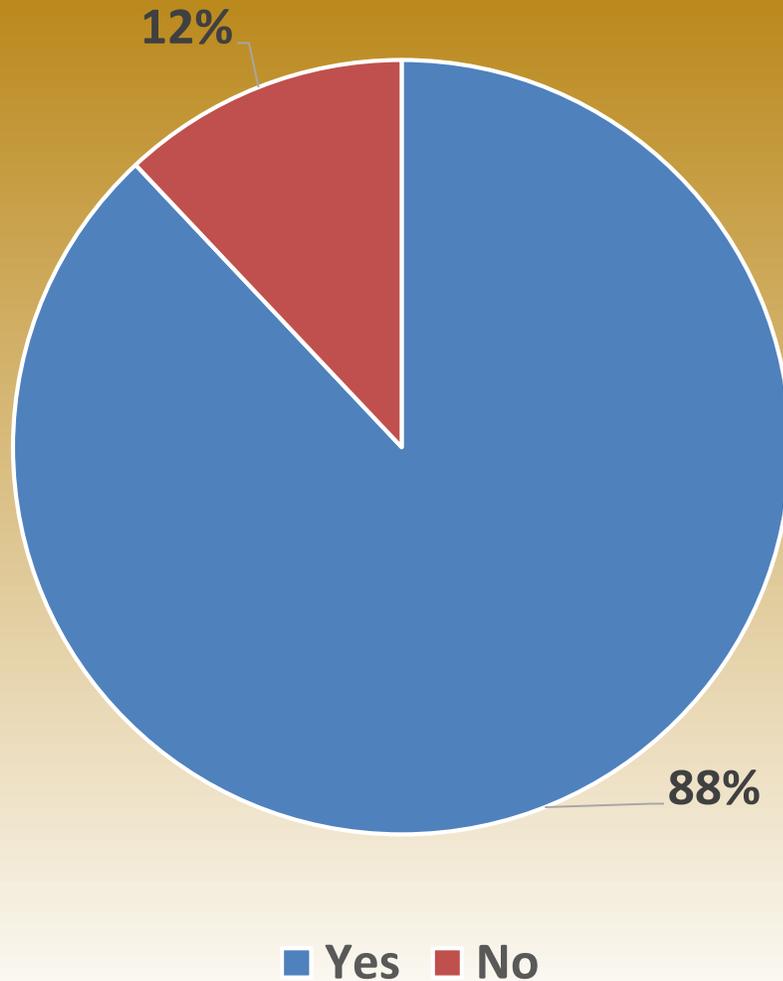
Send Money	40%
Send Other Items	36%

# Send remittances to family or friends (by migration/birth)



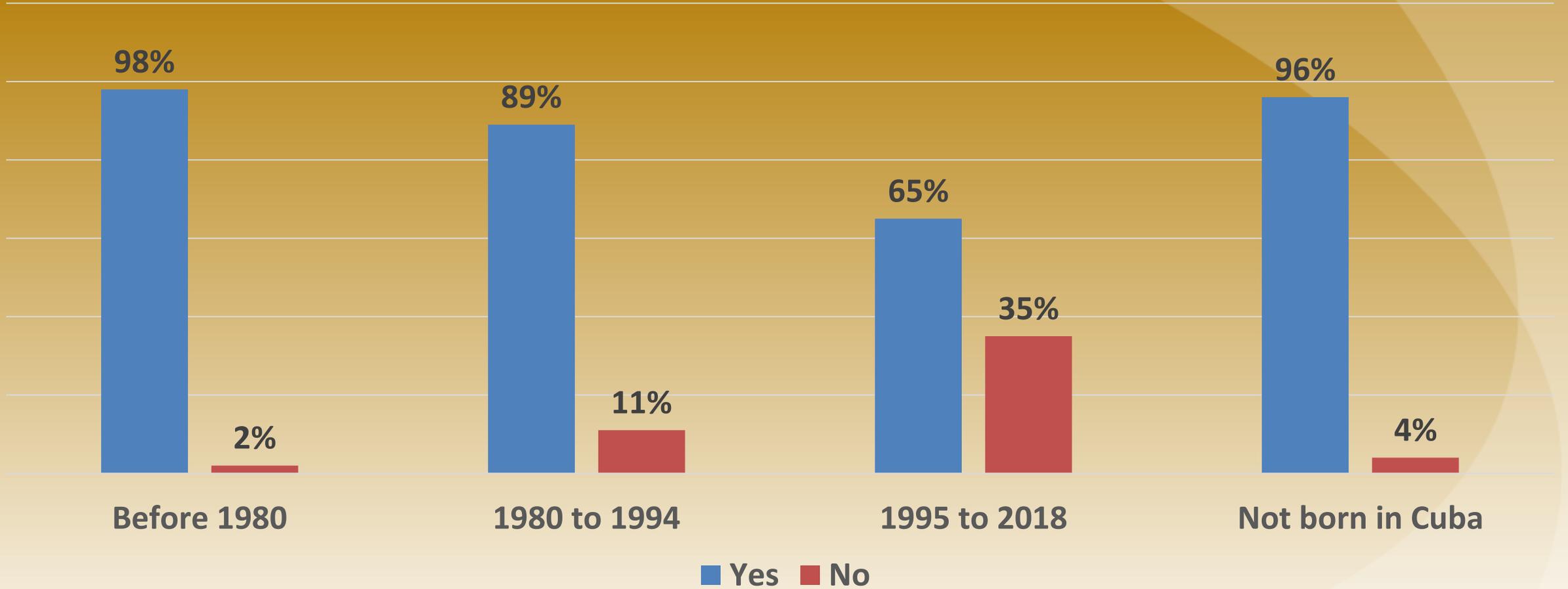
# Politics

# Citizens

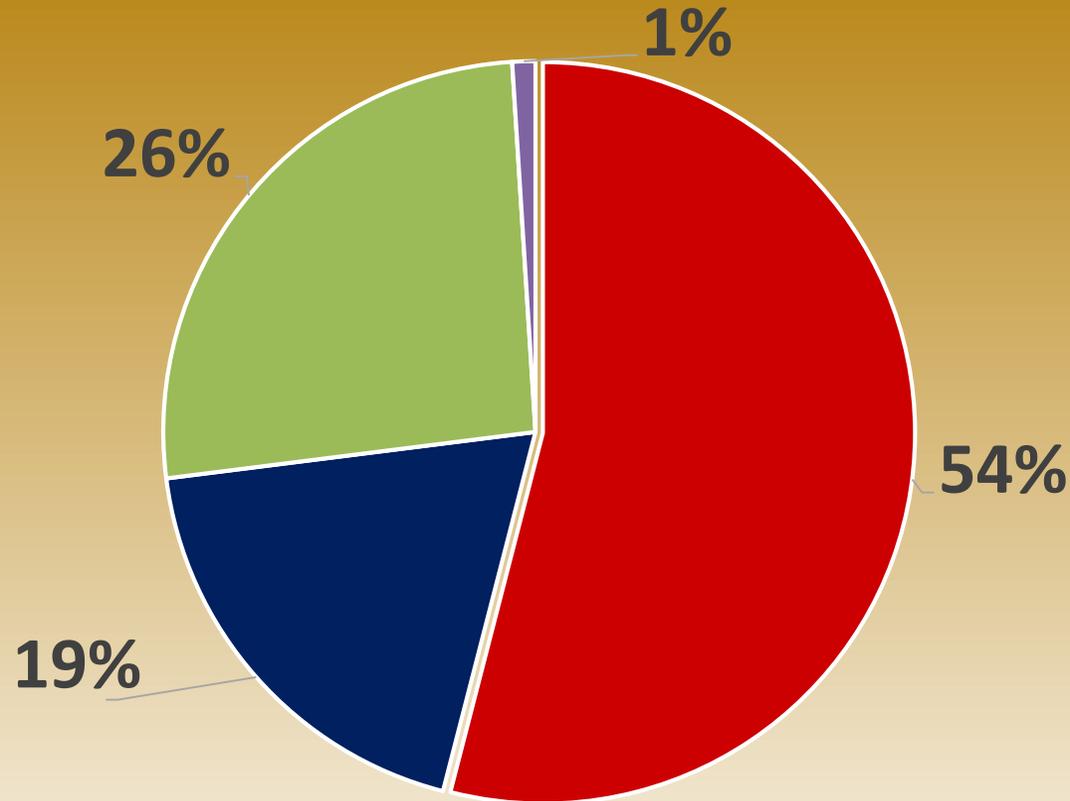


<b>Citizens</b>	<b>88%</b>
<b>Registered voters (of Citizens)</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Midterm Voters (of Registered Voters)</b>	<b>87%</b>

# Citizens (by migration/birth)



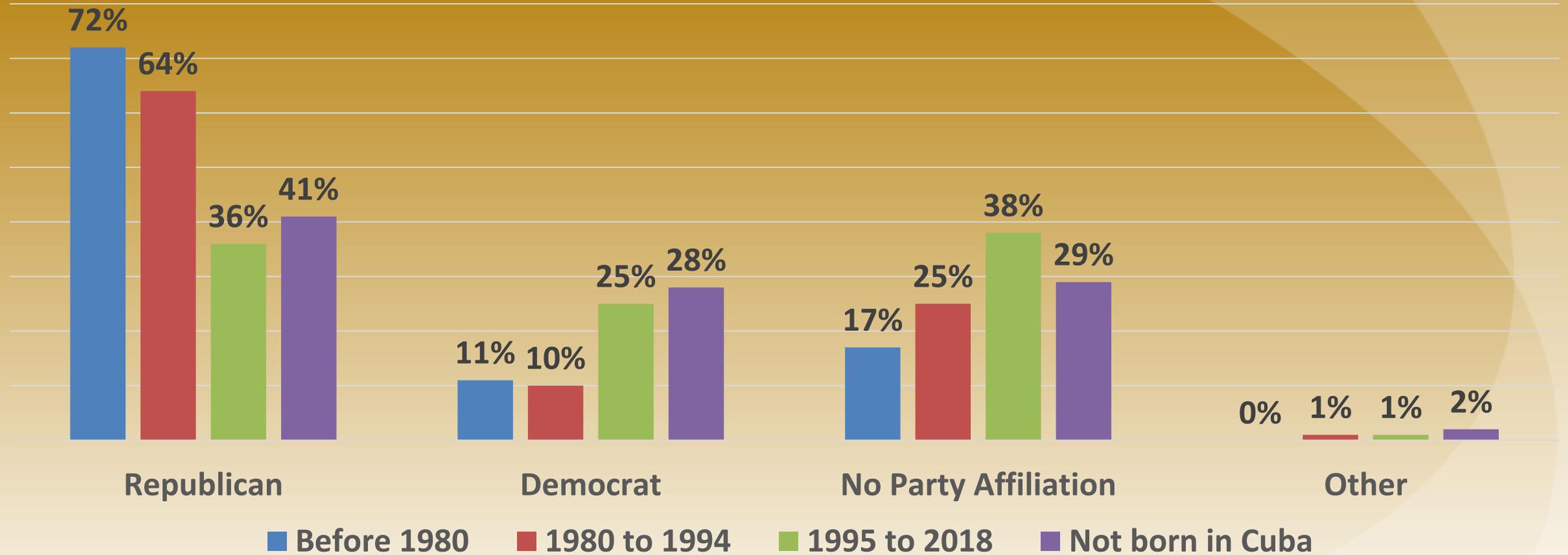
# Registered Voters (of citizens by party registration)



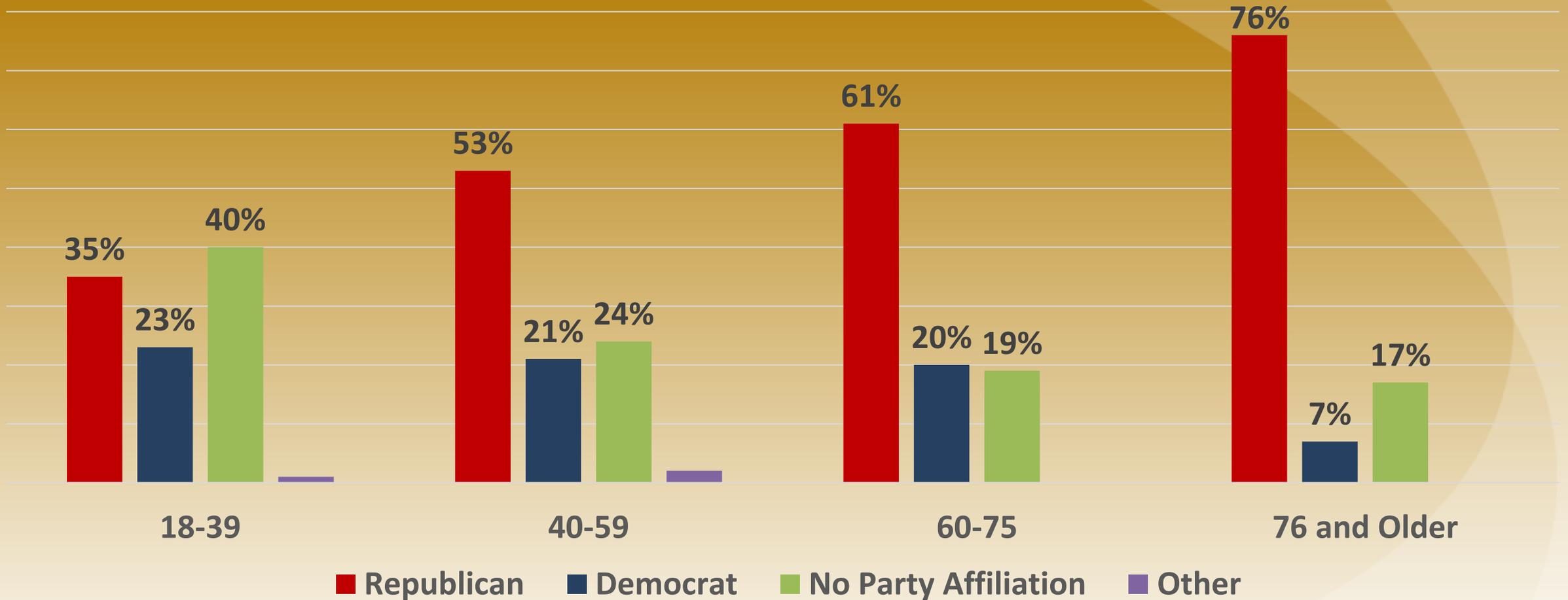
<b>Republican</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Democrat</b>	<b>19%</b>
<b>Independent</b>	<b>26%</b>

■ Republican ■ Democrat ■ No Party Affiliation ■ Other

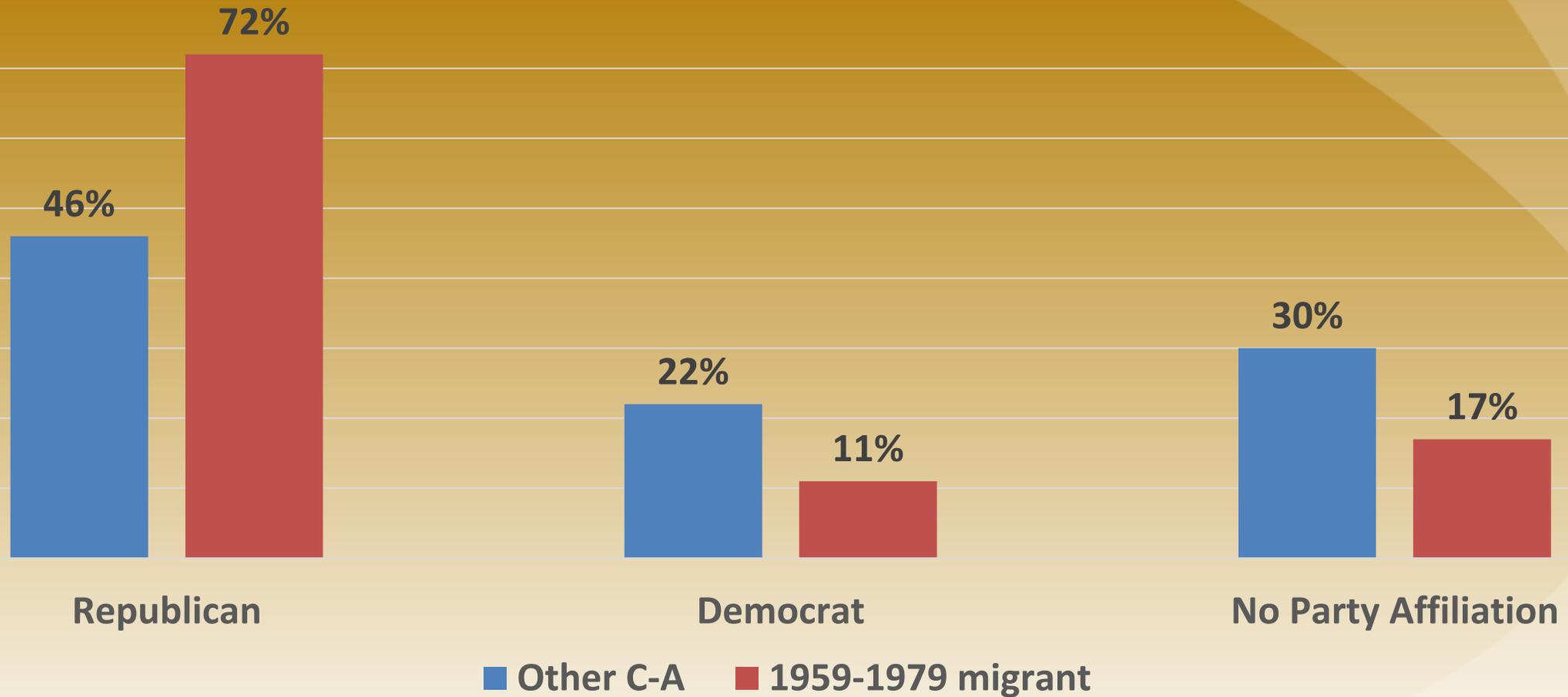
# Party Affiliation of Registered Voters (by migration/birth)



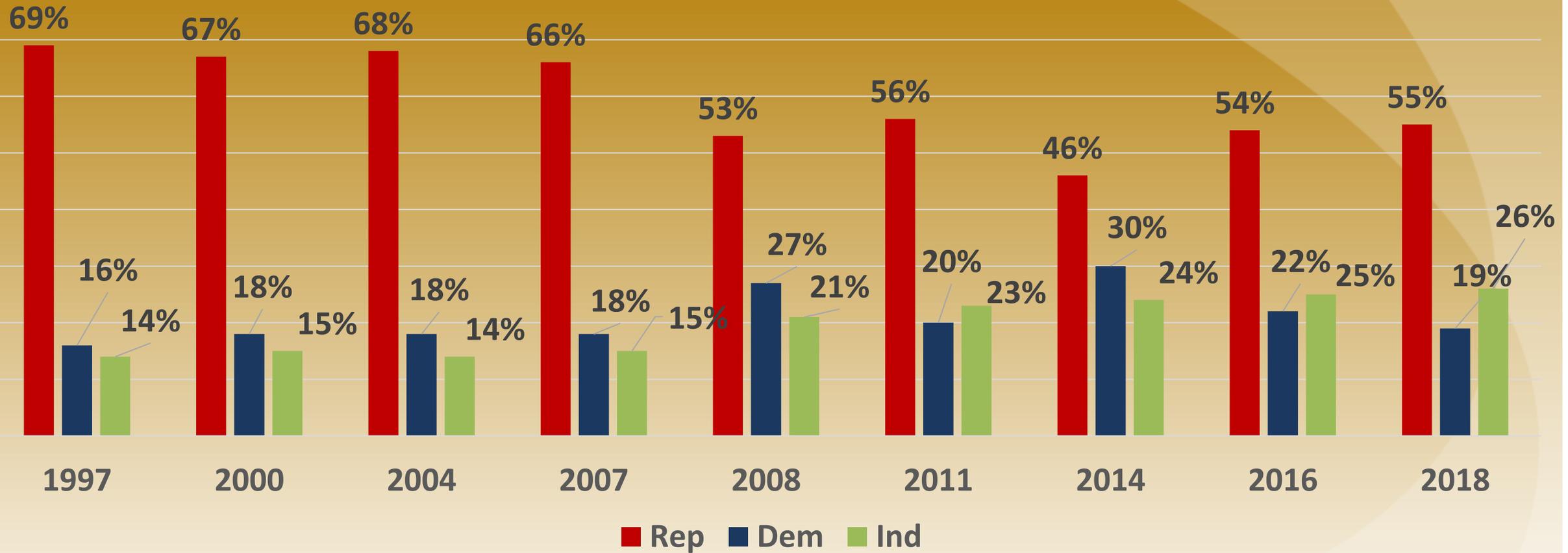
# Party Registration (by age)



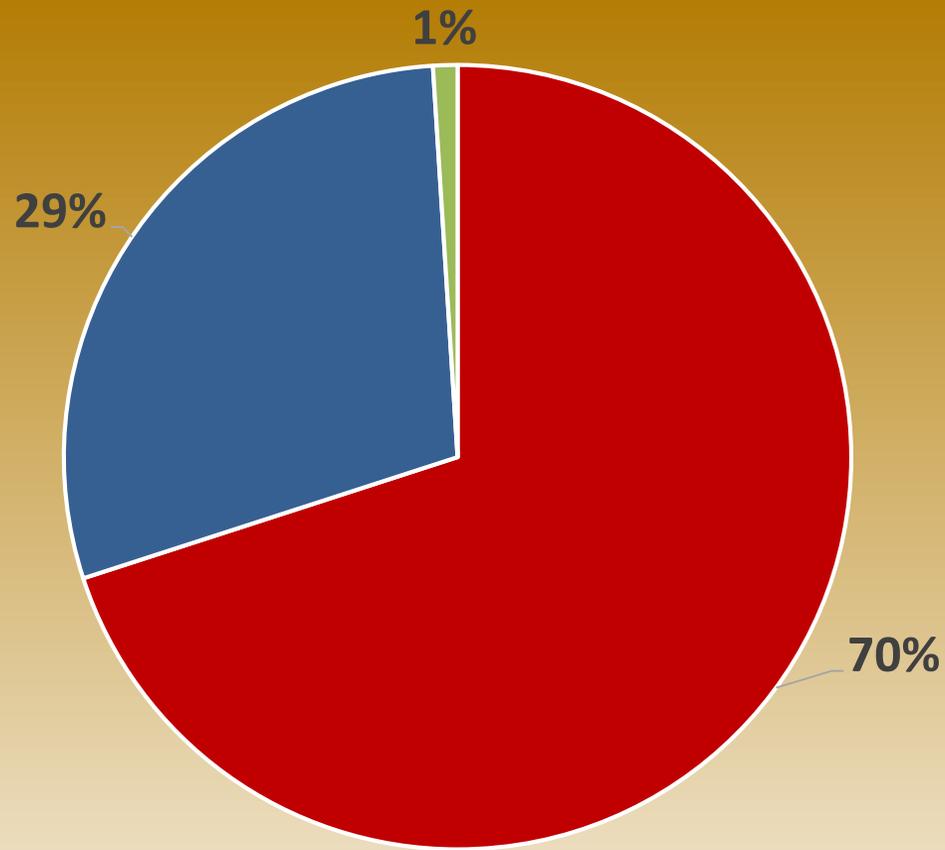
# Party Registration (by 1959-1979 vs Others)



# Political Party Registration Over Time

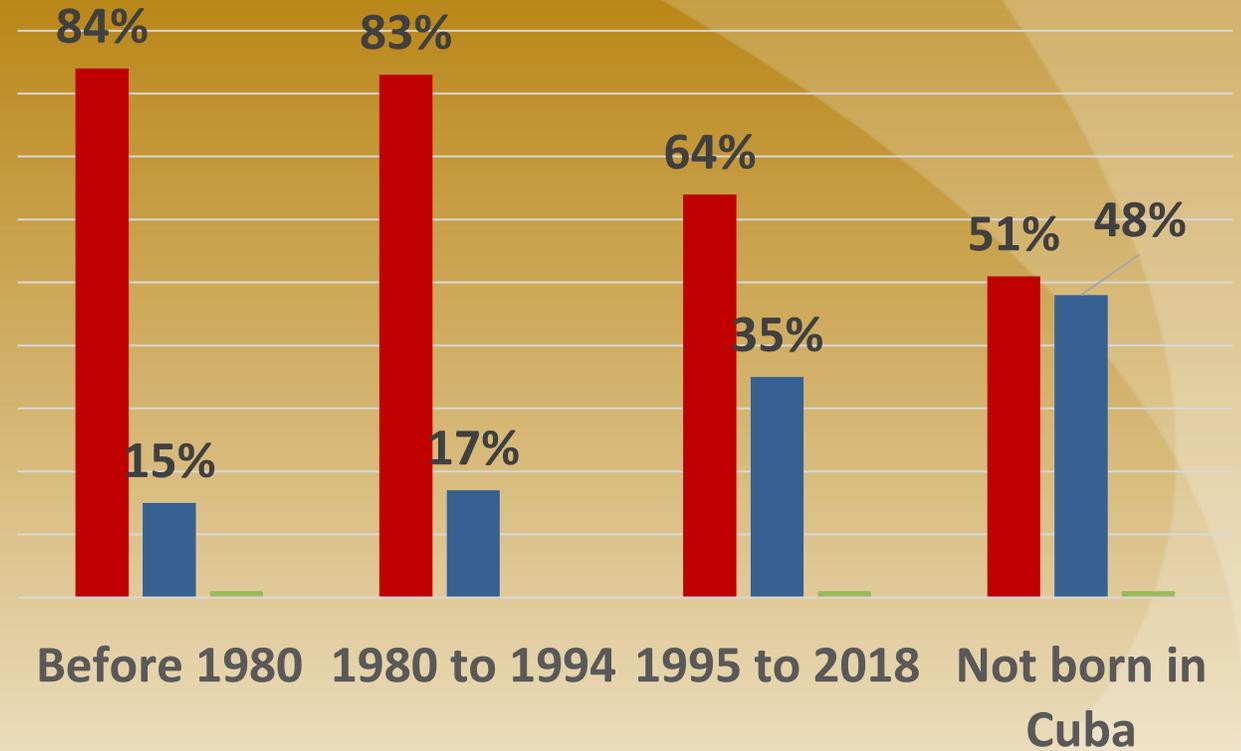


# Midterm Statewide Vote: Governor



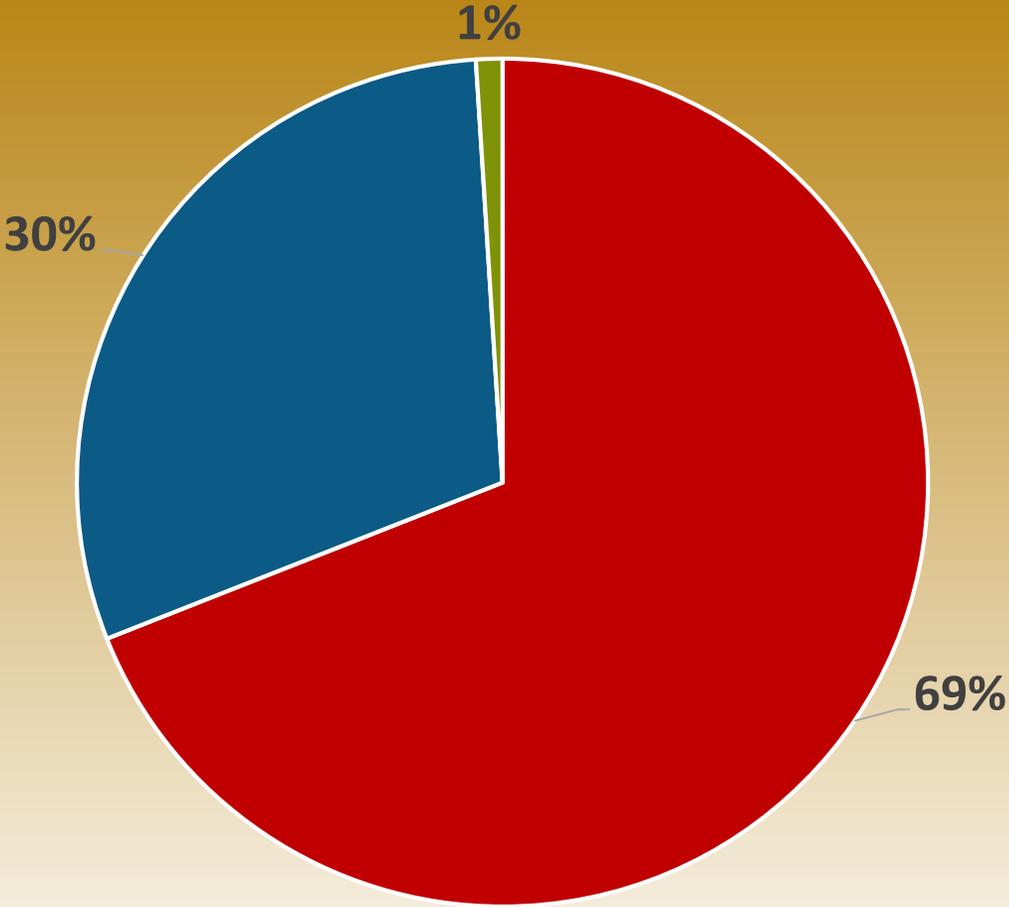
■ Ron DeSantis ■ Andrew Gillum ■ Other

### Vote for Governor (by migration/birth)



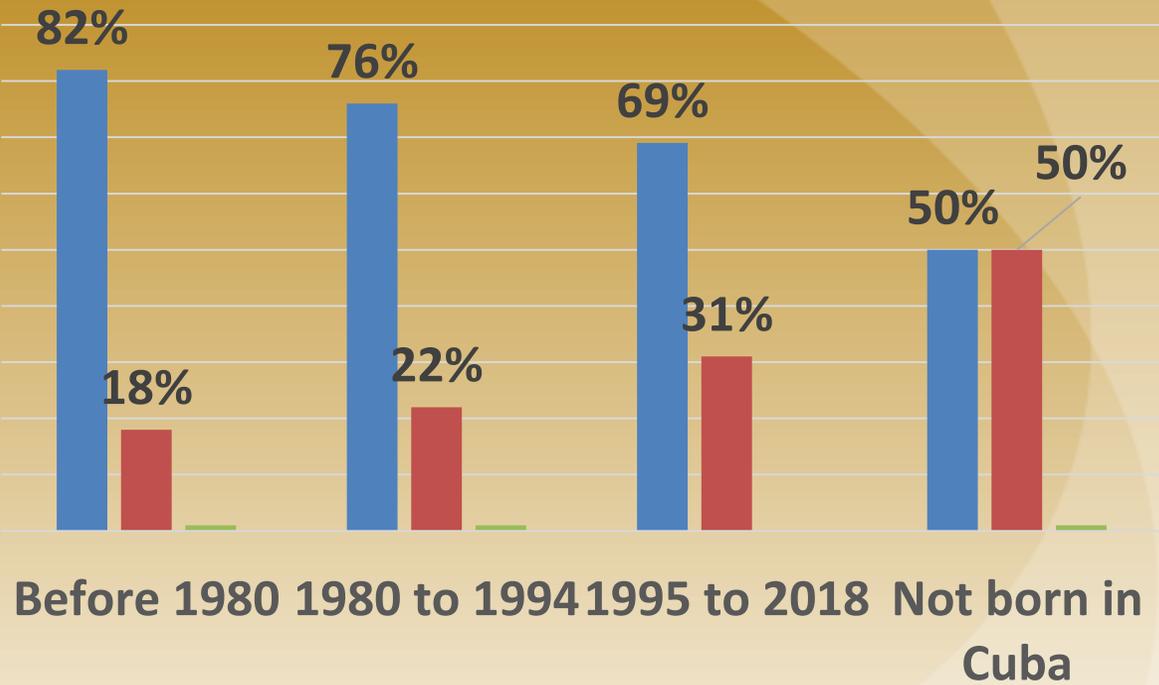
■ Ron DeSantis ■ Andrew Gillum ■ Other

# Midterm Vote: Senator



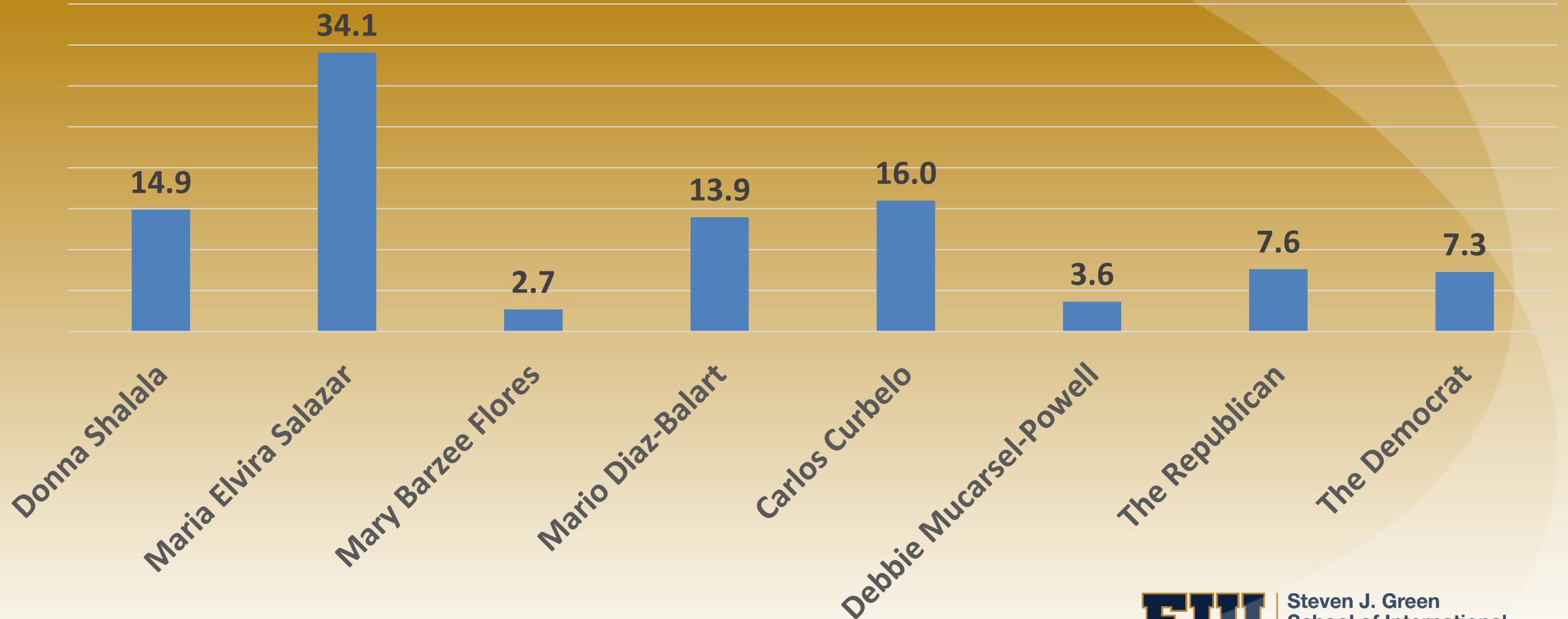
■ Rick Scott
 ■ Bill Nelson
 ■ Other

Vote for Senator  
(by migration/birth)



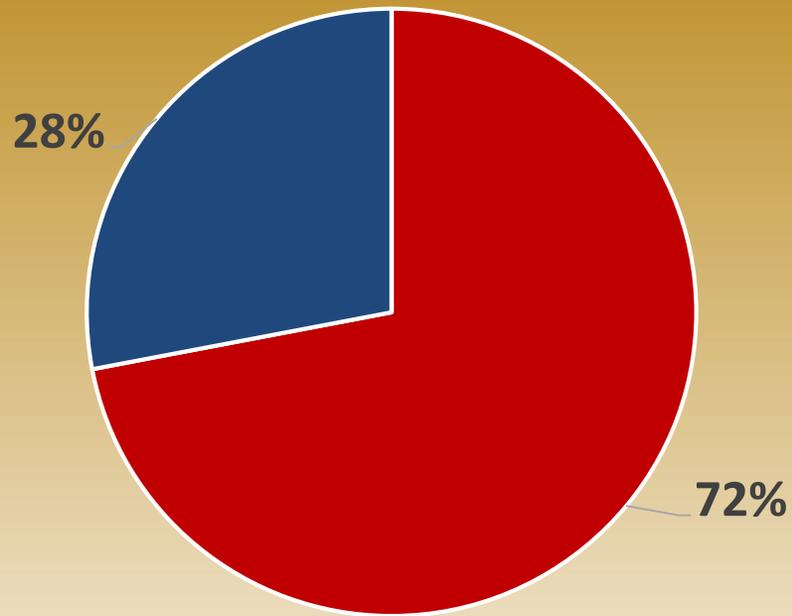
■ Rick Scott
 ■ Bill Nelson
 ■ Other

# Midterm Election: Congressional Districts



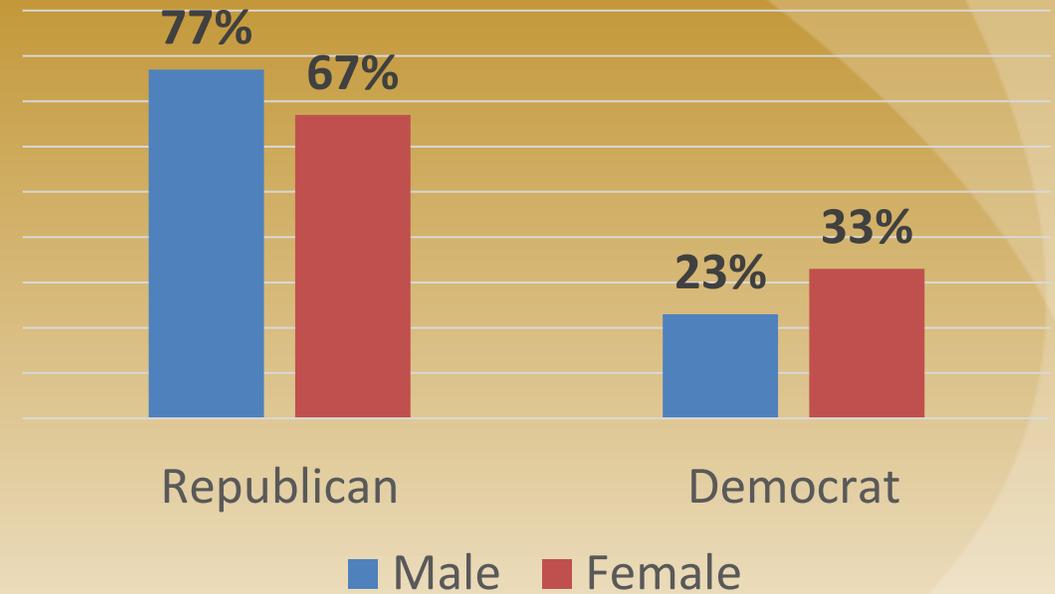
# Congressional Vote by Party and by Gender

Congressional Vote  
(by party)



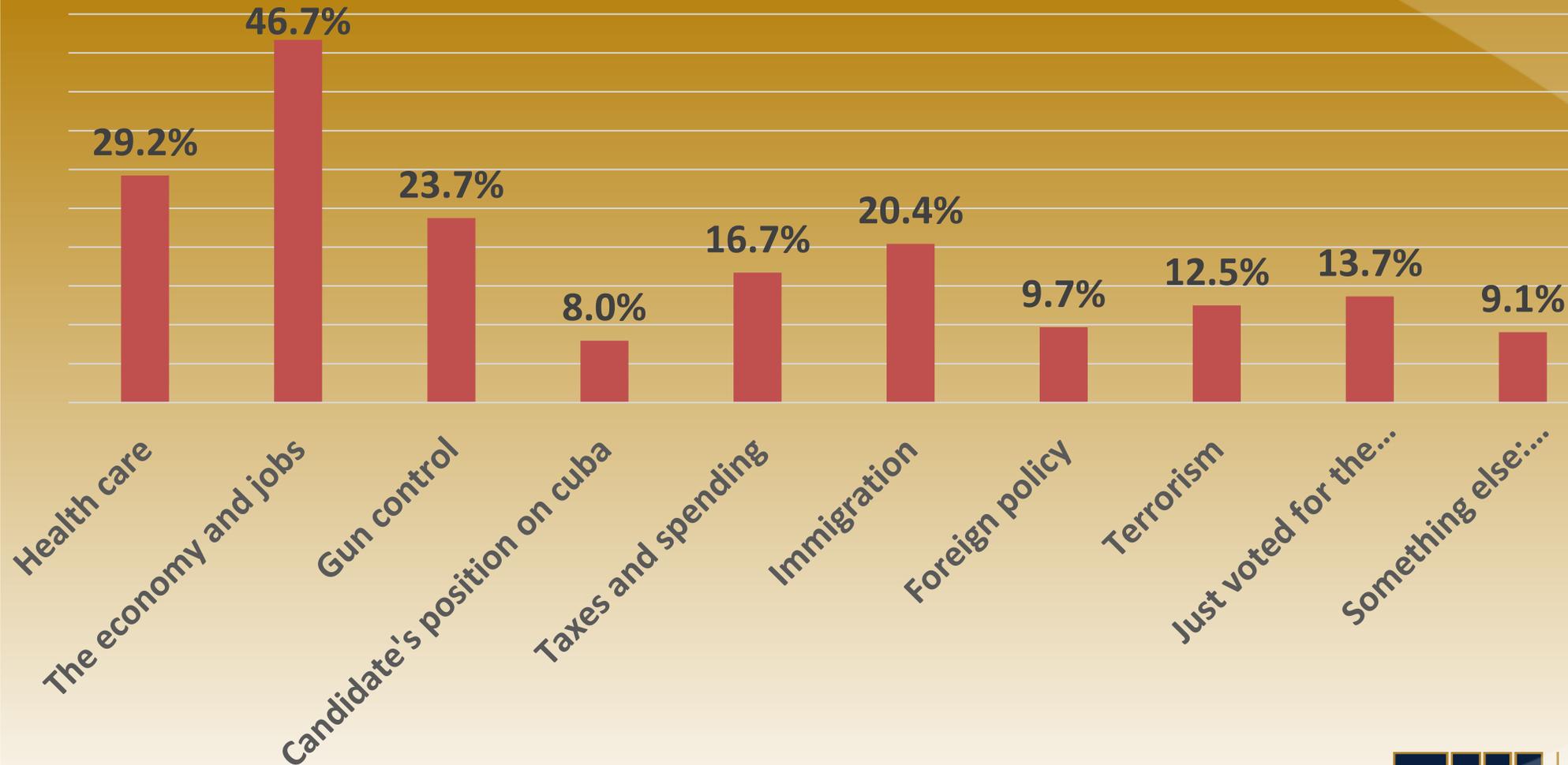
■ Republican ■ Democrat

Congressional Vote  
(by gender)

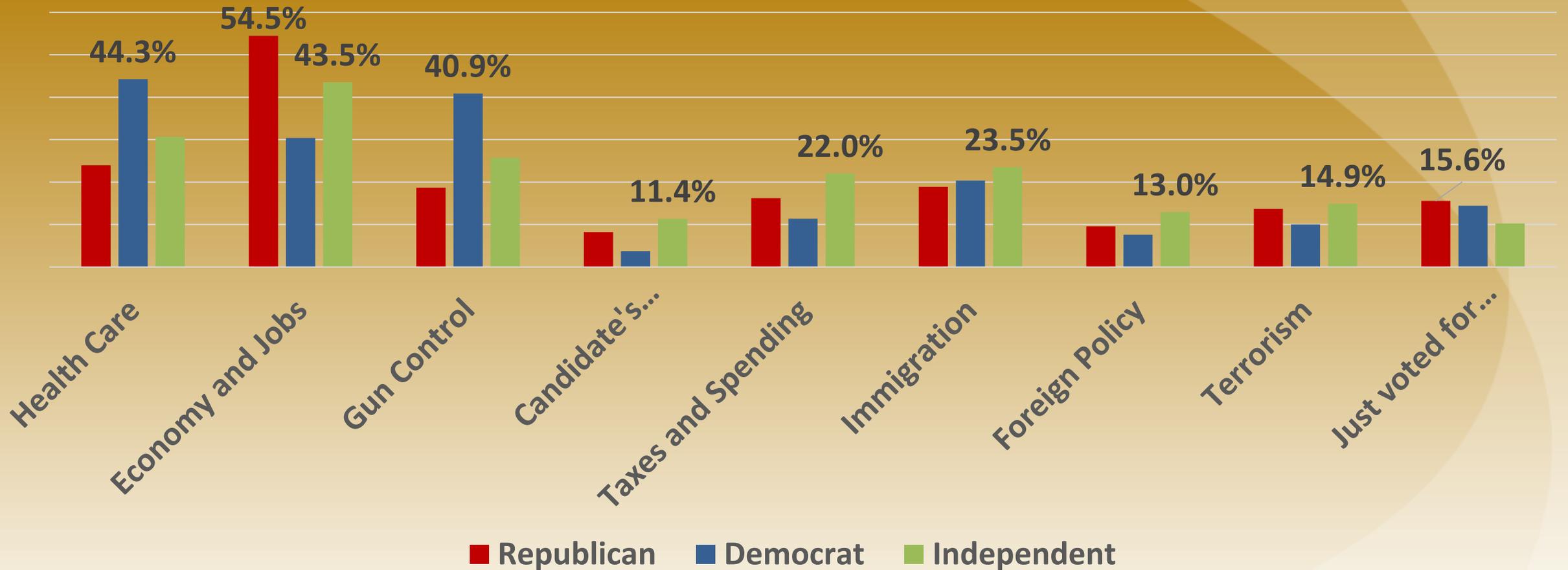


■ Male ■ Female

# What Issue Motivates Vote for a Candidate? (entire sample)



# Motivating Issues (by party)



# Conclusions:

## Hay Cubanos y Hay Cubanos

- The community is divided along specific demographic and ideological dimensions about how to deal with Cuba.
- A strong majority of most recent arrivals (from 1995 to the present) as well as second and third generation Cuban-Americans support policies of engagement towards Cuba.
- The pre-1980 migrants have retrenched to a more isolationist attitude towards U.S./Cuba relations.
- The Cuban-American vote remains dominantly Republican in its behavior even as Independent and Democratic registrants account for almost 50% of the community.

**FIU**

Steven J. Green  
School of International  
& Public Affairs

**2018 FIU Cuba Poll**  
**View online at [sipa.fiu.edu](http://sipa.fiu.edu)**  
**Thank you!**