



The Jobs Crisis and Low-income New Yorkers: Impact and implications for 2013 city elections

Findings from the 2011 Unheard Third survey of New York City residents

November 2011

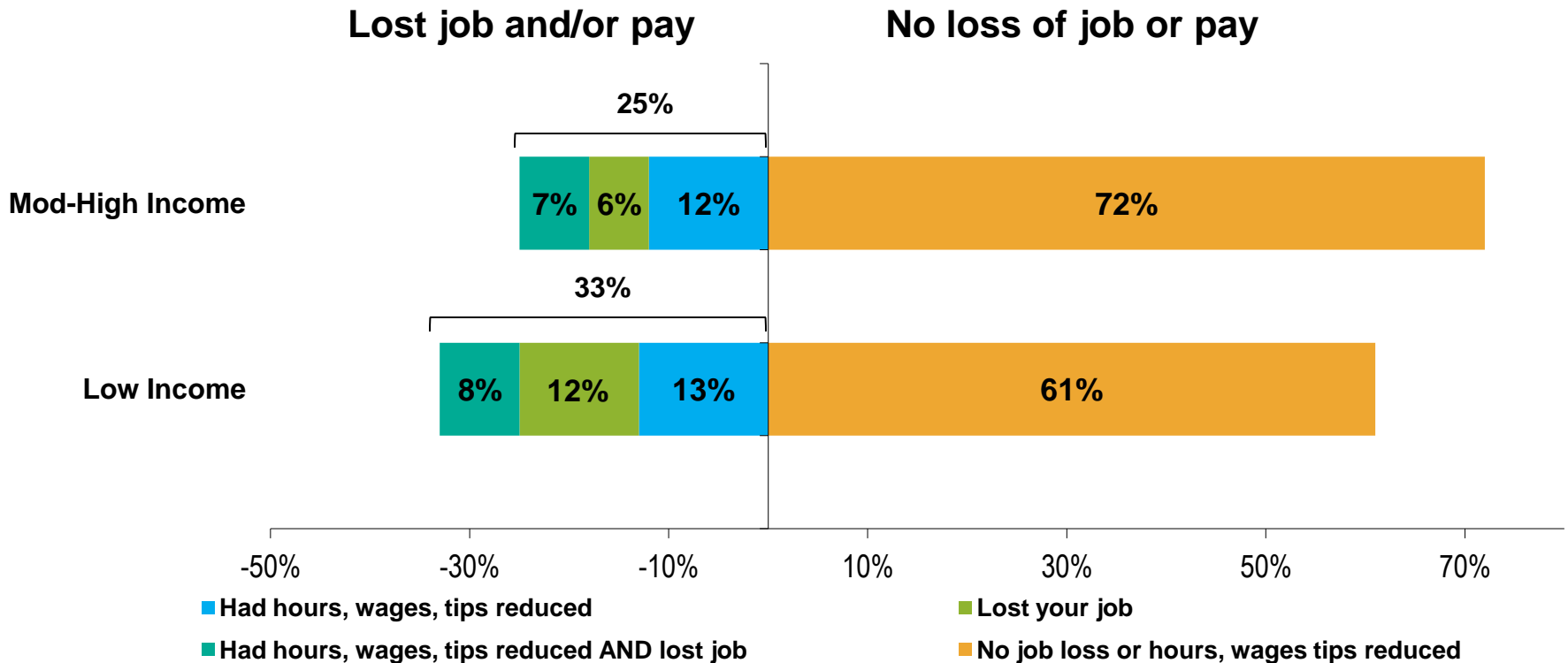
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About the survey

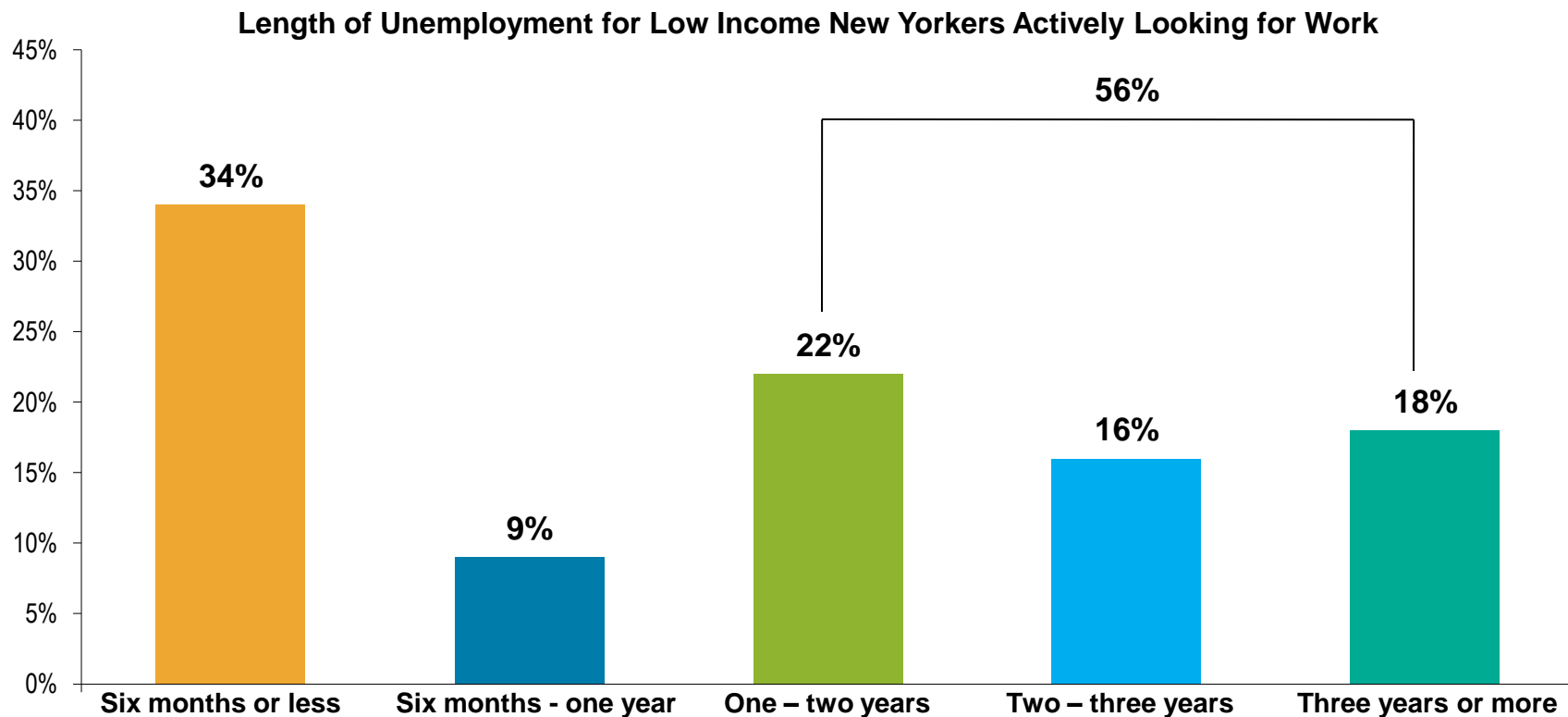
- Who are the unheard third?
 - 1 out of 3 voting age citizens in NYC live in households <200% FPL
- How the survey is done
 - Conducted by Lake Research July 5-31, 2011
 - Phone using RDD, including cell phones, 3 languages
 - 1,419 NYC adults
 - Low-income (<200% FPL), moderate and higher income
 - Margin of error for low-income +/- 3.3 percentage points, moderate-higher income +/- 4.4 percentage points
- How have low-income New Yorkers been affected by the continuing jobs crisis?

A third of low-income New Yorkers reported someone in their household lost a job, lost earnings, or lost both over the past year.

Q: In the last year, have you or any member of your household lost a job or had hours, wages, or tips reduced?



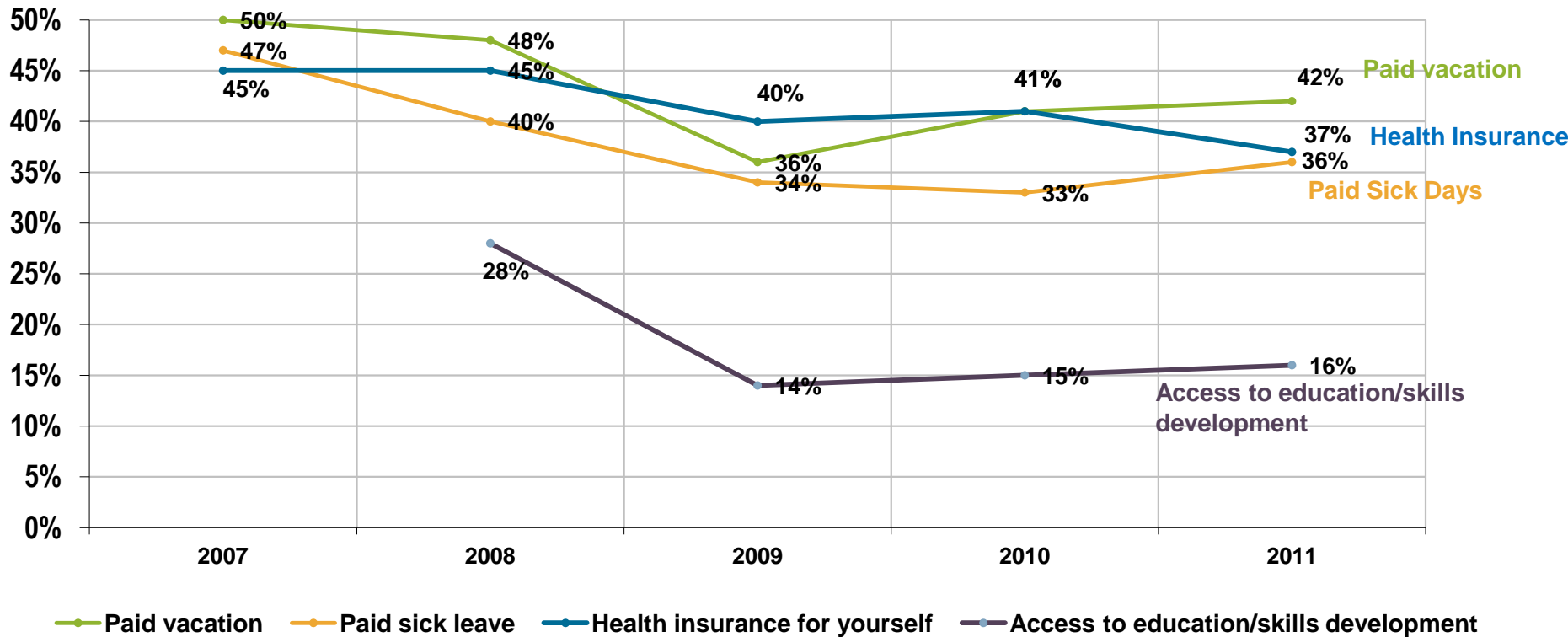
Among low-income unemployed New Yorkers seeking work, over half have been jobless a year or longer; 18% for 3 or more years.



Low-income workers have also lost ground when it comes to benefits compared to pre-recession levels.

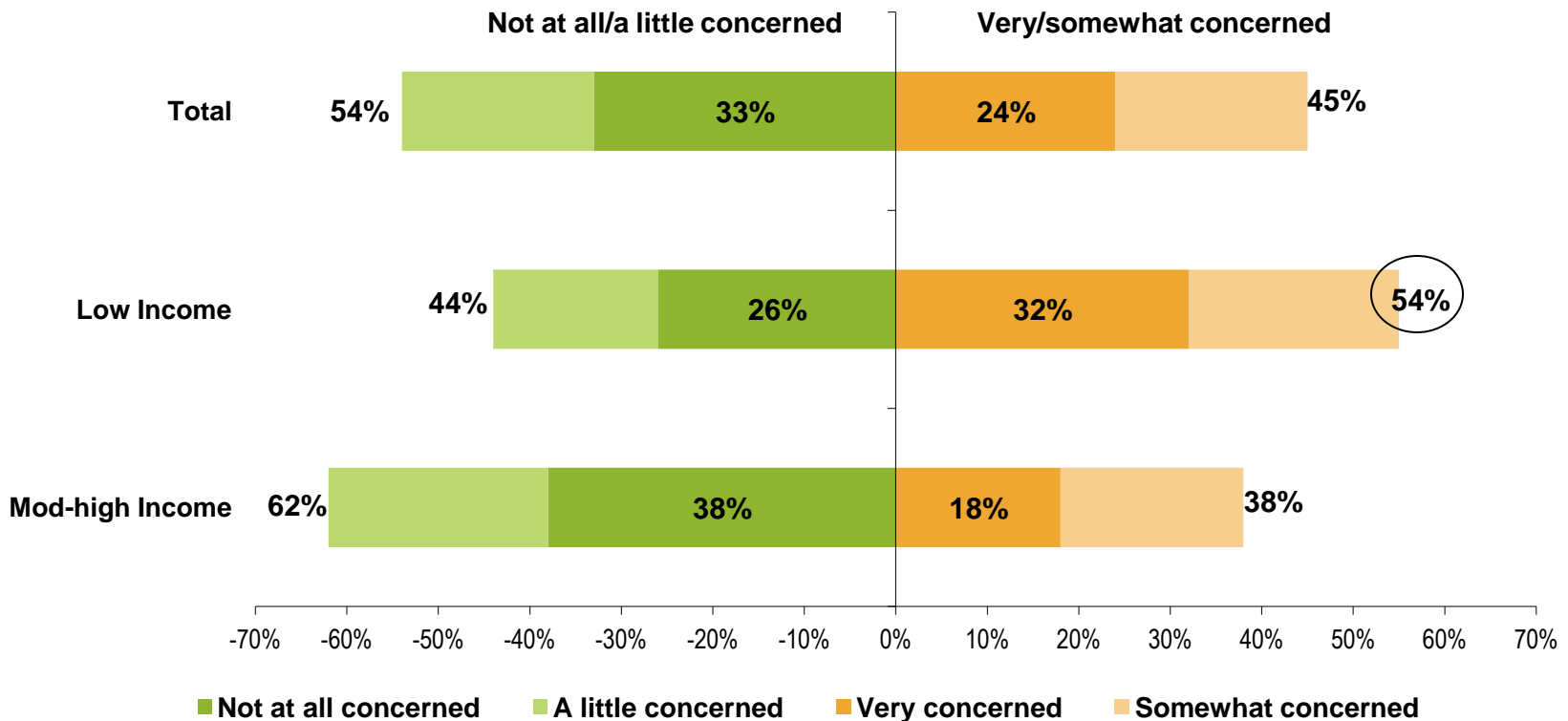
Q: Which of the following benefits, if any, do you receive from your employer?

Work Benefits Over Time – Low Income



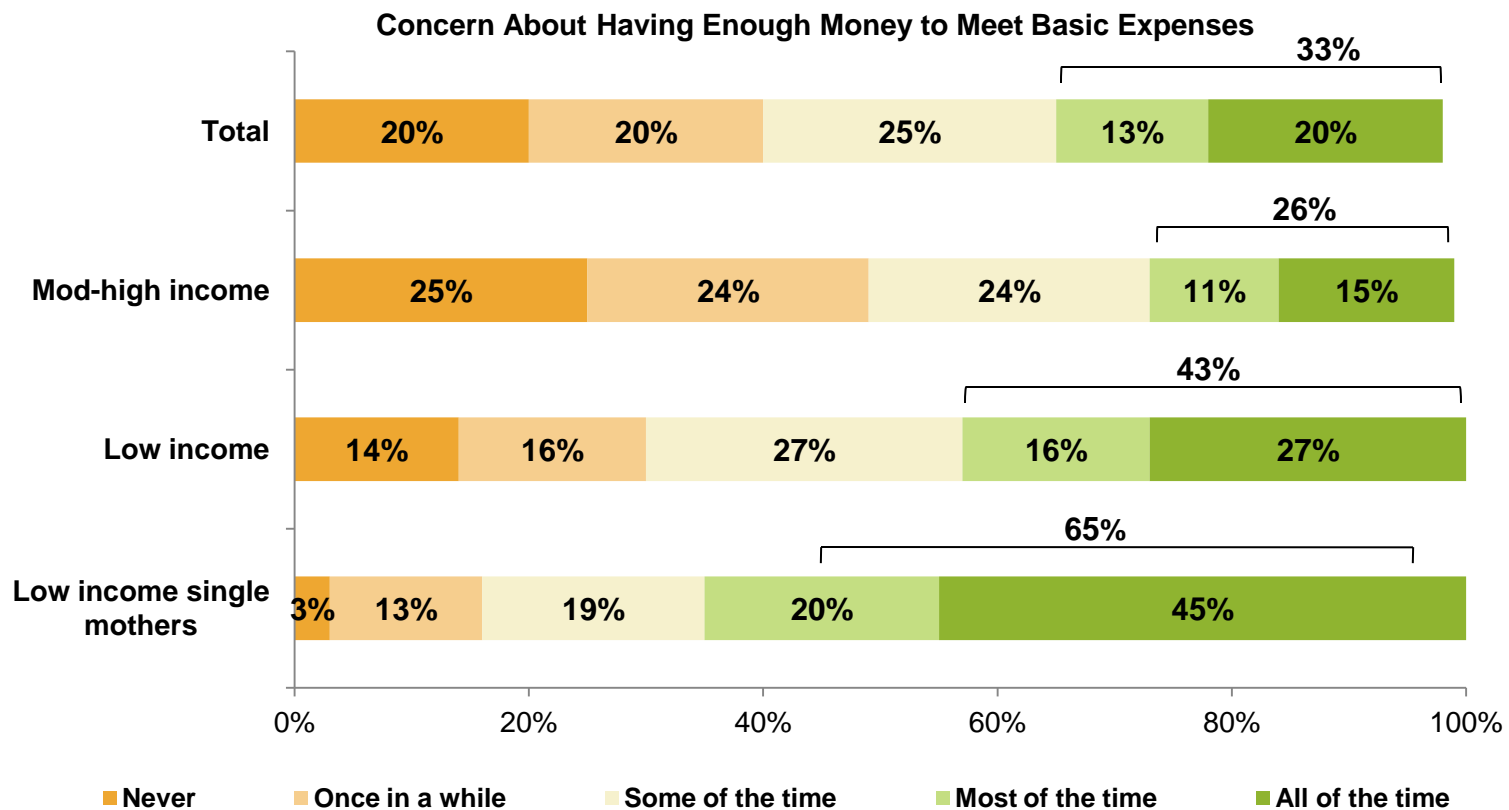
Over half of low-income New Yorkers are worried someone in their household will be out of work in the next year.

Q: Thinking about the next 12 months, how concerned are you that you or someone in your household will be out of a job – are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all?



Four in ten low-income New Yorkers frequently worry their income will not be enough to pay the bills; two out of three single moms worry most or all of the time

Q: How often do you worry that your total family income will not be enough to meet your family's expenses and bills – all of the time, most of the time, some of the time, once in a while, or never?



What has the Great Recession meant for the daily lives of low-income New Yorkers?

Q: Have you or any household member experienced this difficulty in the last year?

Financial

- Cut back on buying back to school supplies and clothes
- Had hours, wages or tips reduced
- Lost job
- Received assistance from charity

Housing

- Fell behind in rent or mortgage
- Had gas, electricity or phone turned off because of unpaid bill
- Moved in with others because of financial problems
- Been threatened with foreclosure or eviction

Hardships cont'd

Food

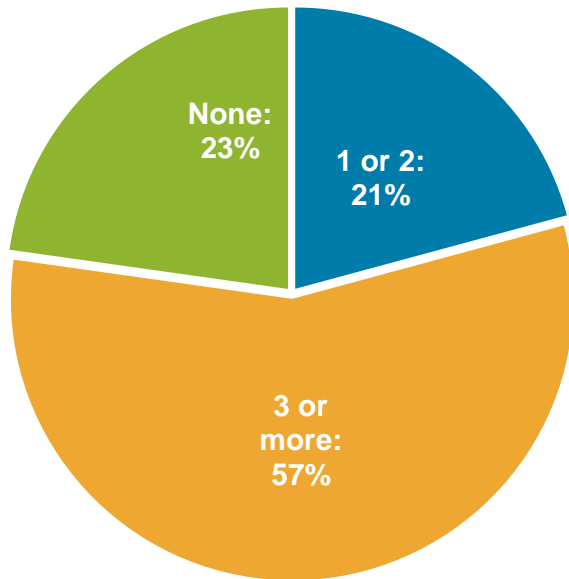
- Received free food from family or friends
- Often skipped meals because not enough money to buy food
- Went hungry because not enough money to buy food
- Got food from food pantry, soup kitchen or meal program

Health

- Had your health care costs increase
- Been without health insurance coverage
- Had your health coverage reduced
- Had debt due to medical bills
- Not gotten or postponed getting medical care or surgery because of lack of money or insurance
- Needed to fill a prescription but couldn't because of lack of money or insurance

Earning poverty wages—even working full-time—does not protect households from experiencing multiple hardships

Number of Household Hardships for full-time workers (living below poverty)



Economic

37% Cut back on buying back-to-school supplies and clothes

37% Had hours, wages or tips reduced

Food

20% Often skipped meals because there wasn't enough money to buy food

20% Went hungry because there wasn't enough money to buy food

Health

28% Had your health care costs increase

28% Been without health insurance coverage in the last year

21% Had your health care coverage reduced

23% Had any debt due to medical bills

24% Not gotten or postponed getting medical care or surgery because of a lack of money or insurance

29% Needed to fill a prescription but couldn't because of a lack of money or insurance

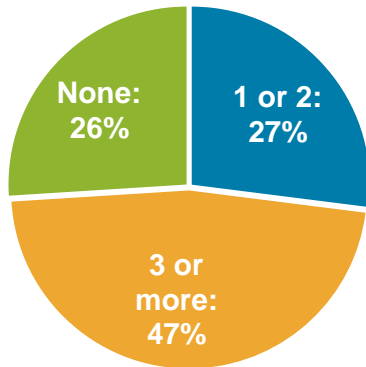
Housing

34% Fell behind in rent or mortgage in the last year

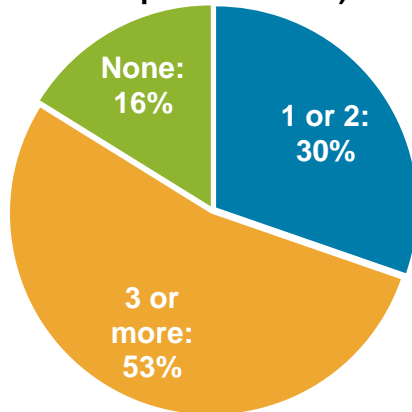
29% Had either the gas, electricity, or telephone turned off because the bill was not paid

Over half of those without a high school diploma or GED had 3 or more hardships—and over a third reported 5 or more.

**Number of Hardships
(Low Income)**



**Number of Hardships
(Low Income Individuals w/out a HS diploma or GED)**



Economic

36% Cut back on buying back-to-school supplies and clothes

21% Had hours, wages or tips reduced

Food

19% Received free food or meals from family or friends

21% Often skipped meals because there wasn't enough money to buy food

Health

31% Been without health insurance coverage in the last year

24% Had your health care coverage reduced

30% Needed to fill a prescription but couldn't because of a lack of money or insurance

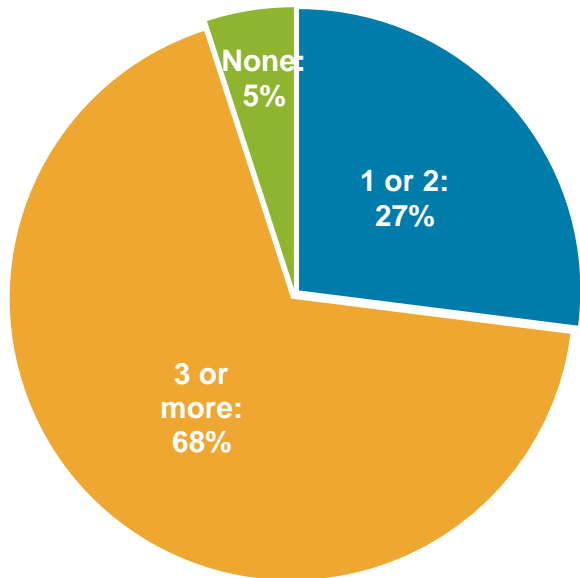
Housing

31% Fell behind in rent or mortgage in the last year

24% Had either the gas, electricity, or telephone turned off because the bill was not paid

Over two-thirds of low-income single mothers experienced 3 or more hardships; half had 5 or more.

Number of Hardships
(Low Income Single Mothers*)



Economic

51% Cut back on buying back-to-school supplies and clothes

35% Lost job

Food

33% Received free food or meals from family or friends

30% Often skipped meals because there wasn't enough money to buy food

33% Went hungry because there wasn't enough money to buy food

Health

36% Been without health insurance coverage in the last year

38% Needed to fill a prescription but couldn't because of a lack of money or insurance

Housing

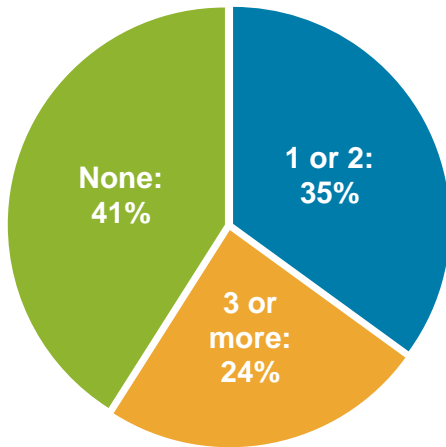
48% Fell behind in rent or mortgage in the last year

33% Had either the gas, electricity, or telephone turned off because the bill was not paid

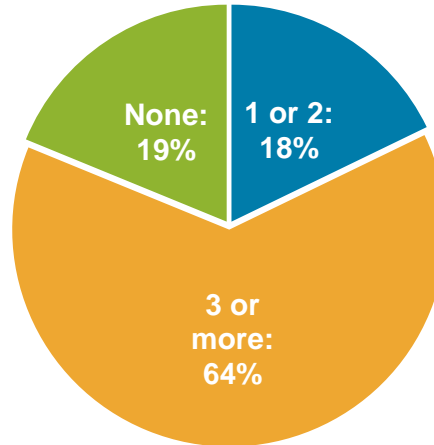
Low-income families who lost pay, jobs or both were devastated

Multiple Hardships for Low Income Households by Employment

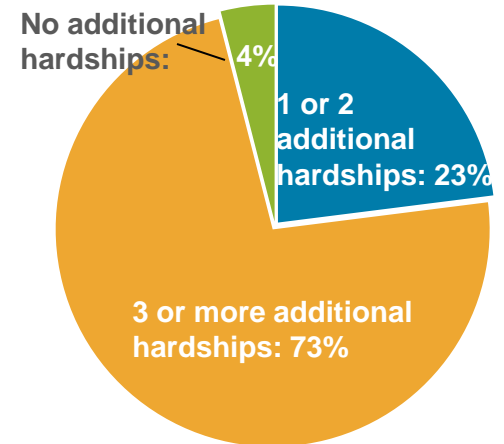
All Low Income
No Job Hardships



Low Income respondent
Unemployed 1 year or more



Low Income HH member
Lost job and/or had hours,
wages, or tips reduced



45% - Cut back on buying back-to-school supplies and clothes

36% - Fell behind in rent or mortgage

29% - Been without health insurance coverage

29% - Often skipped meals

53% - Cut back on buying back-to-school supplies and clothes

47% - Fell behind in rent or mortgage

43% - Been without health insurance coverage

41% - Needed to fill a prescription but couldn't

Political implications

What are the political implications for the 2013 city elections for mayor and City Council?

New Yorkers see job creation as the most important issue for the mayoral race; with education a close second, and housing for lower-income groups.

Q: In the 2013 election for Mayor, what are the two most important issues that you would like the candidate to focus on?

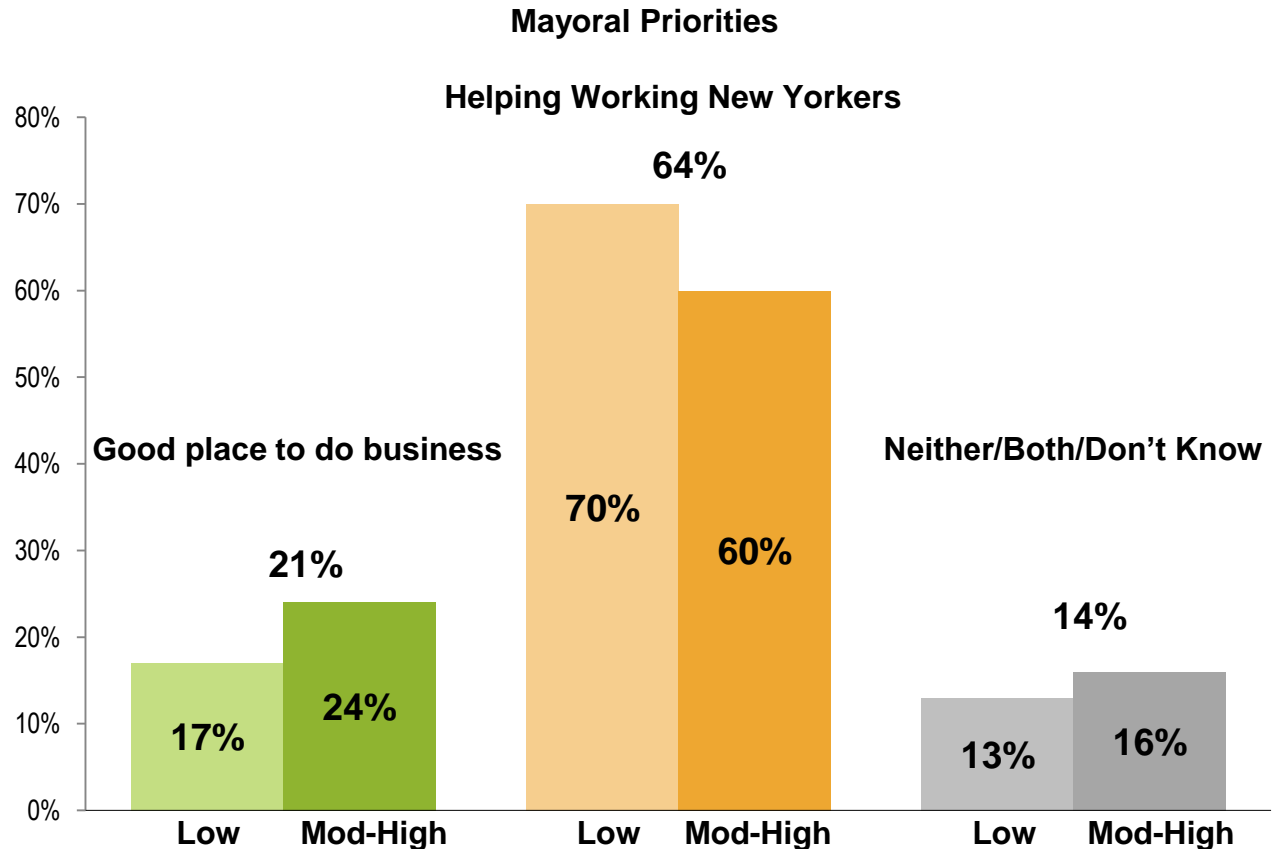
Most Important Issue for Mayor Candidates (Top two answers)			
	Total	Low Income	Mod-High Income
Creating more jobs	47%	50%	45%
Investing more in education	35%	27%	41%
Making housing more affordable	23%	28%	19%
Reducing crime, drugs and guns	20%	22%	18%
Keeping local taxes down	20%	20%	20%
Preventing cuts to programs for children and seniors	14%	14%	14%
Keeping spending down	9%	9%	9%
Protecting the city from terrorism	9%	8%	9%
Making the city more attractive to business	8%	8%	8%
Promoting policies like living wage and paid sick days	5%	5%	6%

By a three to one margin, New Yorkers prefer a mayor who supports policies that help working families vs. policies that make NYC a better place to do business.

And thinking about our next mayor, which of the following two statements do you agree with more?

Statement A: We need a mayor who supports policies that make New York City a good place to do business.

Statement B: We need a mayor who supports policies that help working New Yorkers and their families get ahead.

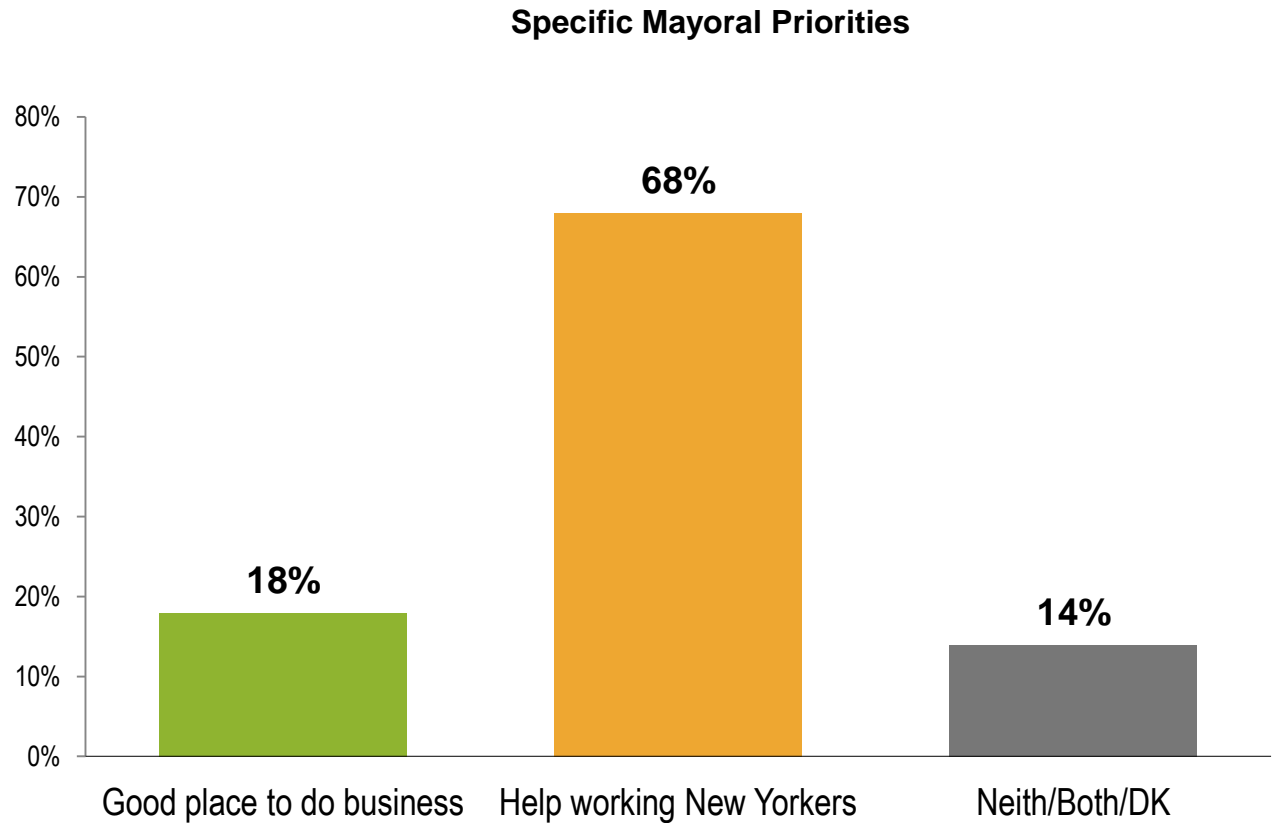


Including specific details like lower taxes and fewer regulations for small business vs. making housing more affordable, protecting schools from cuts, and promoting better work benefits increases preference for a mayor who supports working families.

And thinking about our next mayor, which of the following two statements do you agree with more?

Statement A: We need a mayor who supports policies that make New York City a good place to do business like **lower taxes and fewer regulations for small businesses.**

Statement B: We need a mayor who supports policies that help working New Yorkers and their families get ahead like **making housing more affordable, protecting schools from cuts, and promoting better benefits for workers.**



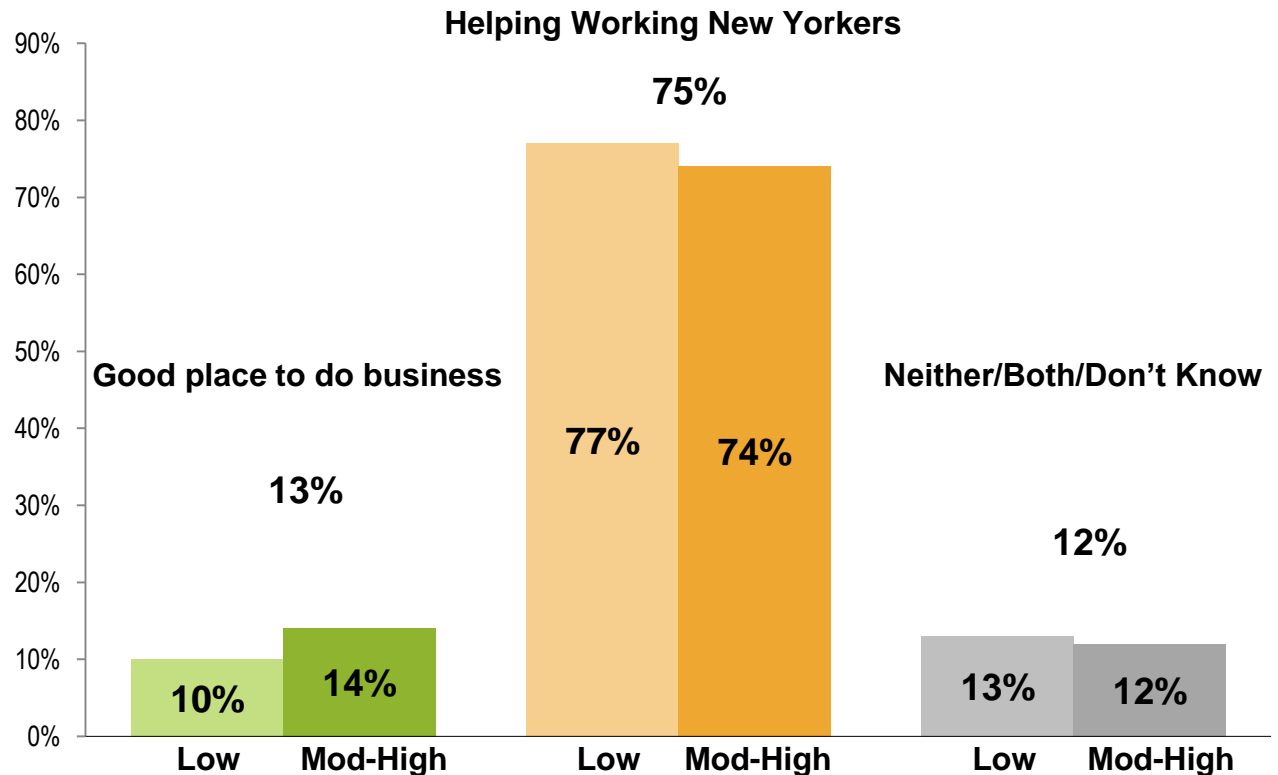
By a margin of more than 5 to 1, NYC's registered Democrats—across incomes—want a mayor who supports worker-friendly over business-friendly policies

And thinking about our next mayor, which of the following two statements do you agree with more?

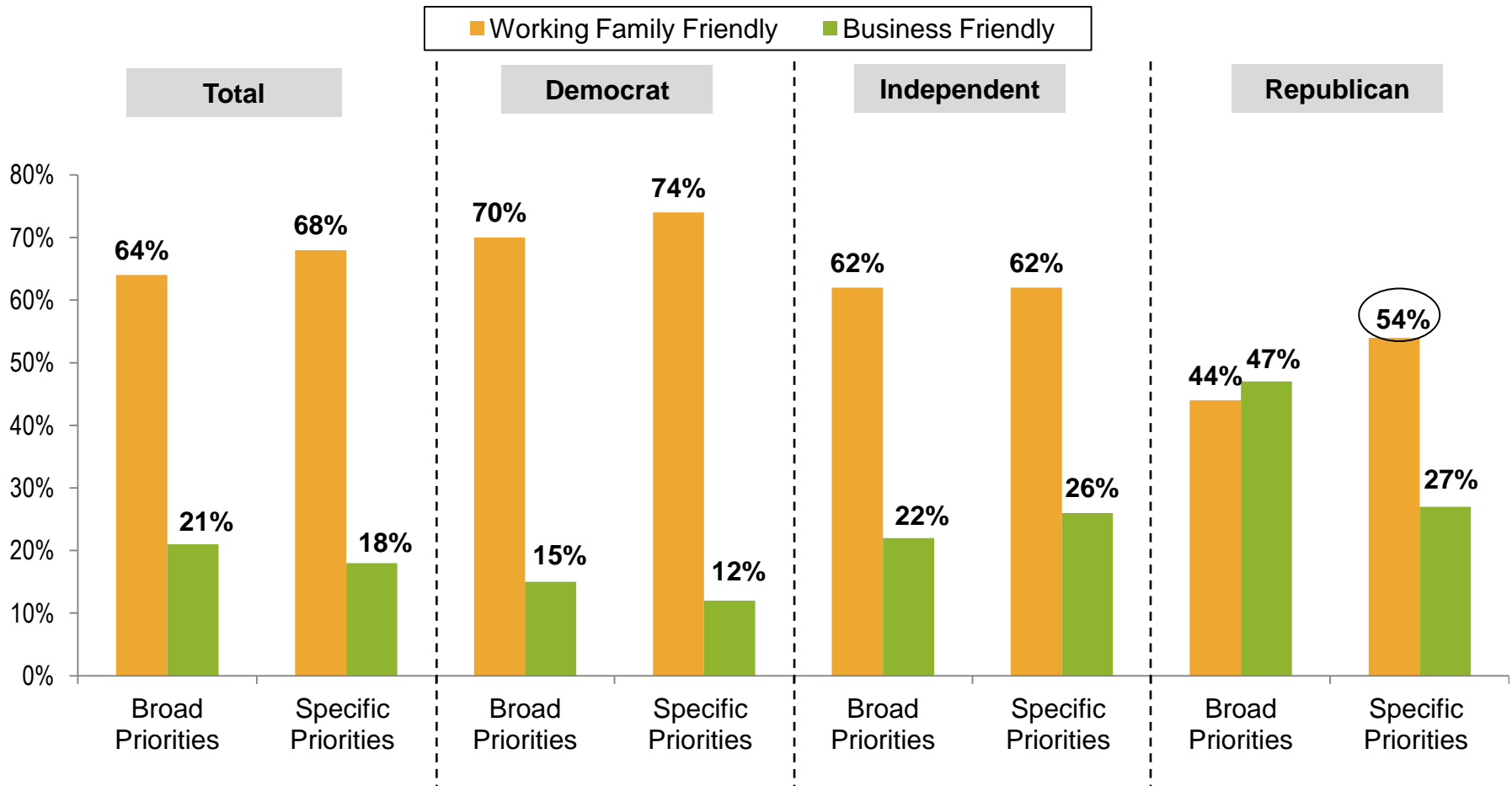
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Mayoral Priorities of Registered Democratic Voters

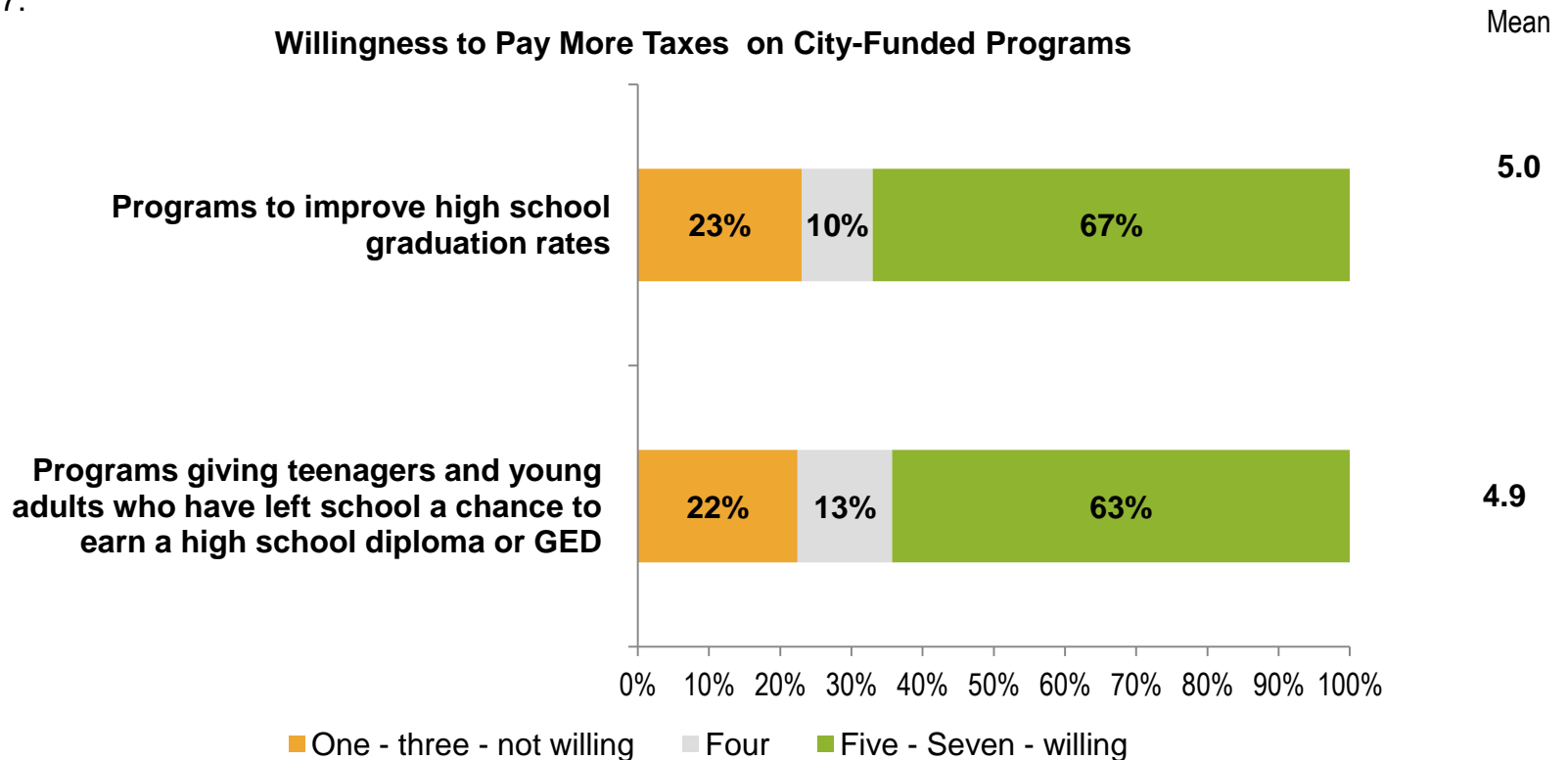


When specific policies are cited, even Republicans favor worker-friendly over business-friendly policies.



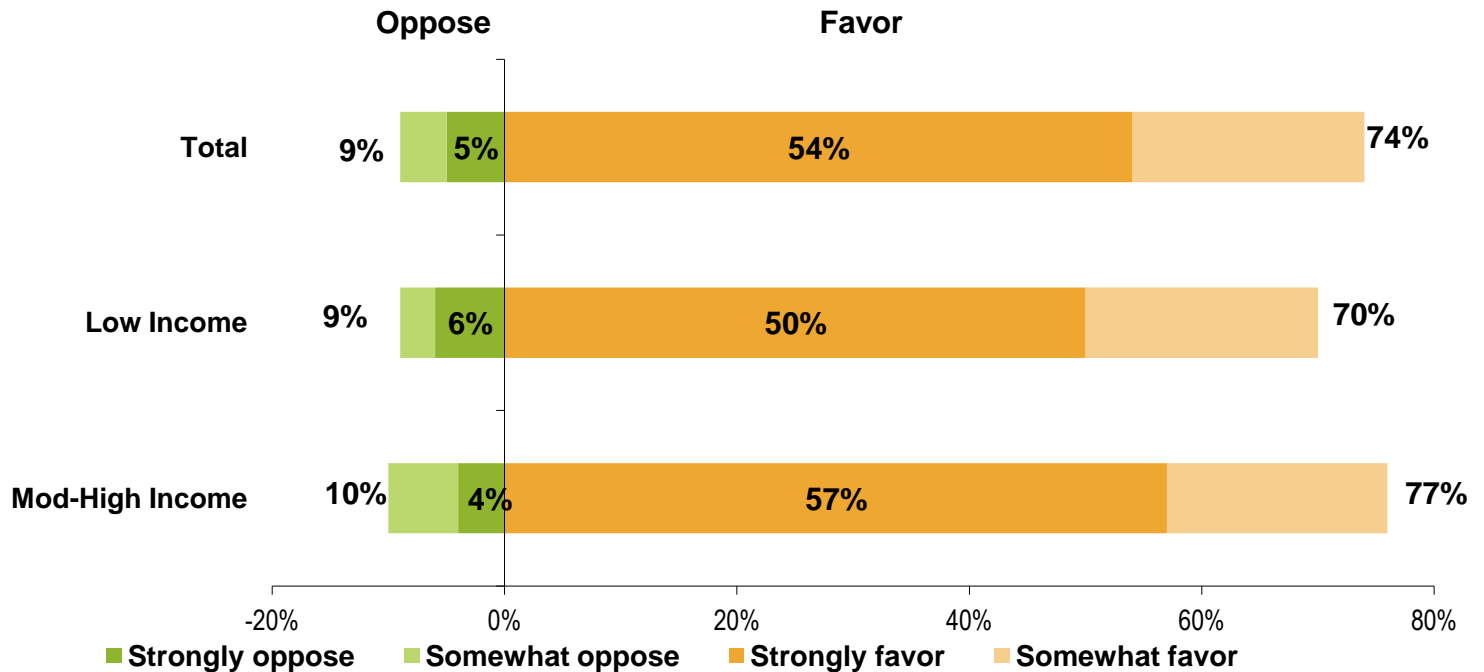
A solid majority of New Yorkers are willing to pay more in taxes to support city-funded programs that are designed to improve high school graduation rates or expand opportunities to earn a diploma or GED.

Q: Now I am going to ask you a few questions about some city-funded programs. After I read each one, please tell me on a scale of 1 to 7 how willing you would be to personally pay more in taxes to spend more on each, where a 1 means you are not willing at all and a 7 means you are very willing. You can use any number between 1 and 7.



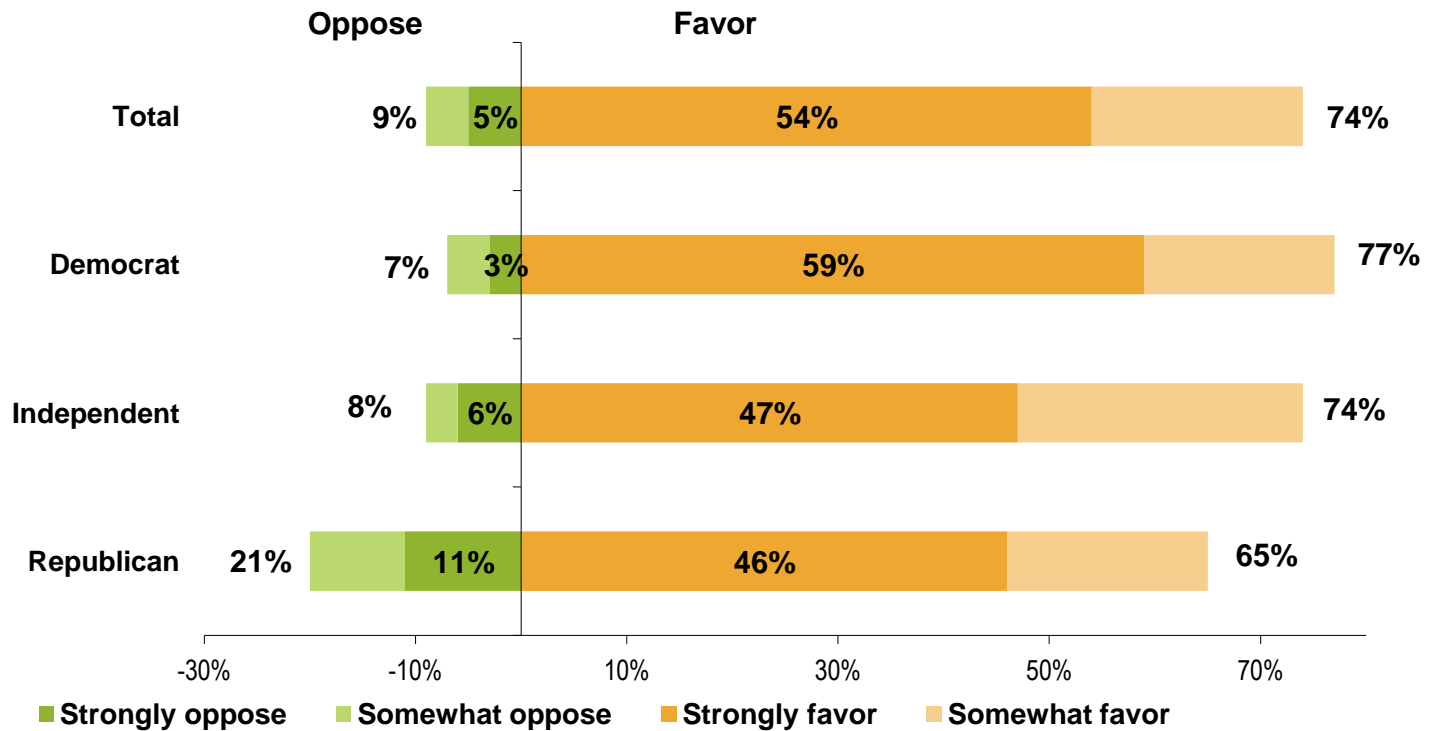
By strong majorities, New Yorkers of all incomes favor a law to provide all workers with a minimum number of paid sick days.

Q: The New York City Council is considering a proposal that would require employers in New York City to provide workers with at least five paid sick days a year if they are a small business, and nine paid sick days a year if they are a business with 20 or more employees. Would you strongly favor this proposal, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this proposal, or are you undecided?



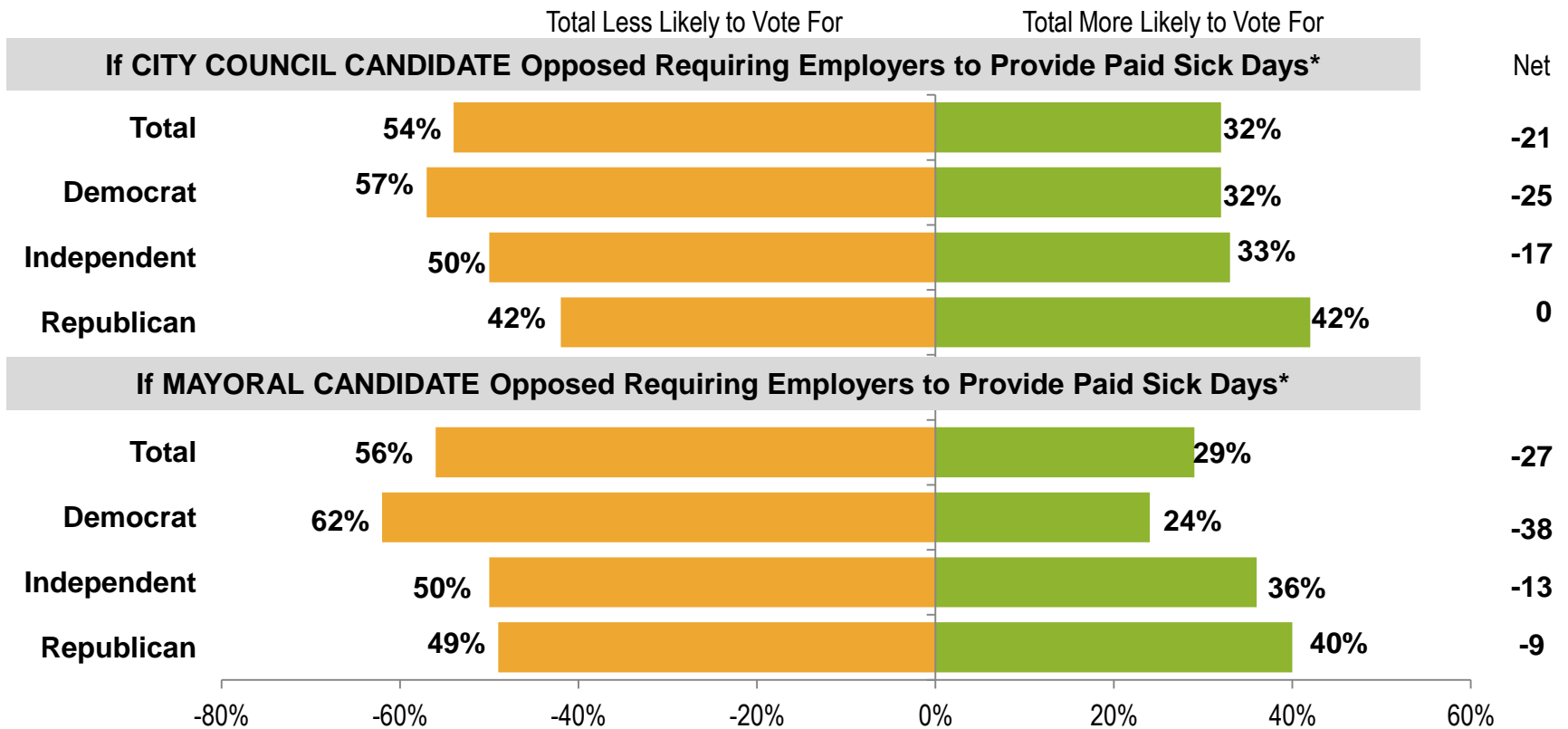
Across party, New Yorkers favor the paid sick days proposal with real intensity.

Q: The New York City Council is considering a proposal that would require employers in New York City to provide workers with at least five paid sick days a year if they are a small business, and nine paid sick days a year if they are a business with 20 or more employees. Would you strongly favor this proposal, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this proposal, or are you undecided?



Voters - across party lines - would punish a City Council or Mayoral candidate who opposes required paid sick days.

Q: Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for City Council or Mayor who opposed the proposal which requires employers in New York City to provide their workers with paid sick days.



Key findings and implications

- Low-income New Yorkers hard hit by recession
- Despite intense worries about jobs and putting jobs at top of political agenda, public does not think more giveaways to business is the way to fix it
- Policies are needed to increase consumer spending
 - Create more jobs e.g., infrastructure, public works
 - Better jobs, e.g., paid sick days, living wage
 - And give people the skills to fill them, e.g., GED
 - Target new entrants to labor force and long-term jobless

About CSS

The Community Service Society of New York (CSS) draws on a 165-year history of excellence in addressing the root causes of economic disparity. Through applied research, advocacy, litigation, and innovative program models, we respond to urgent, contemporary challenges by advancing solutions that strengthen and benefit all New Yorkers.