

# A Survey of Voter Attitudes in South Carolina

August 5-7, 2017

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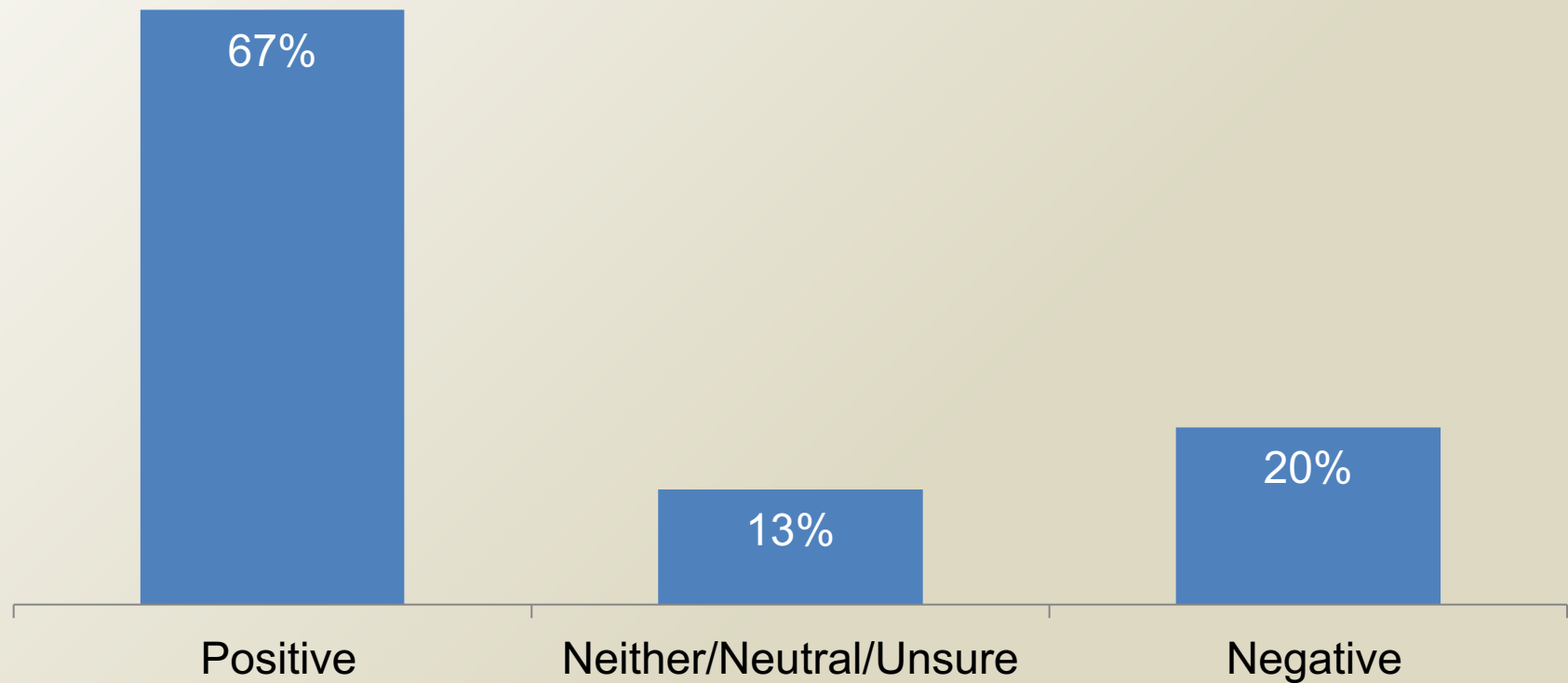
THE TARRANCE GROUP

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August 5-7, 2017 / N = 500 registered voters throughout the state /  $\pm 4.5\%$  M.O.E.

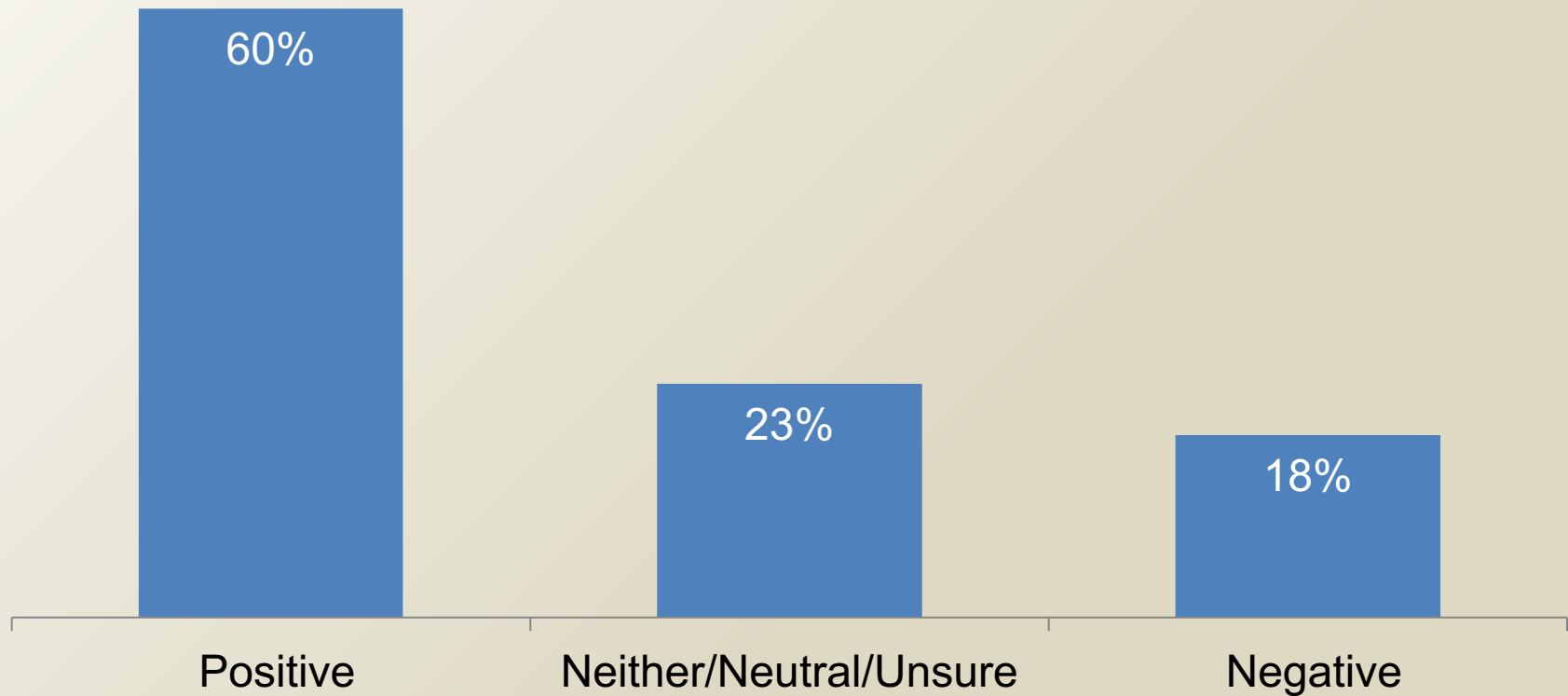
Do you have a positive view or a negative view of your electrical utility provider?



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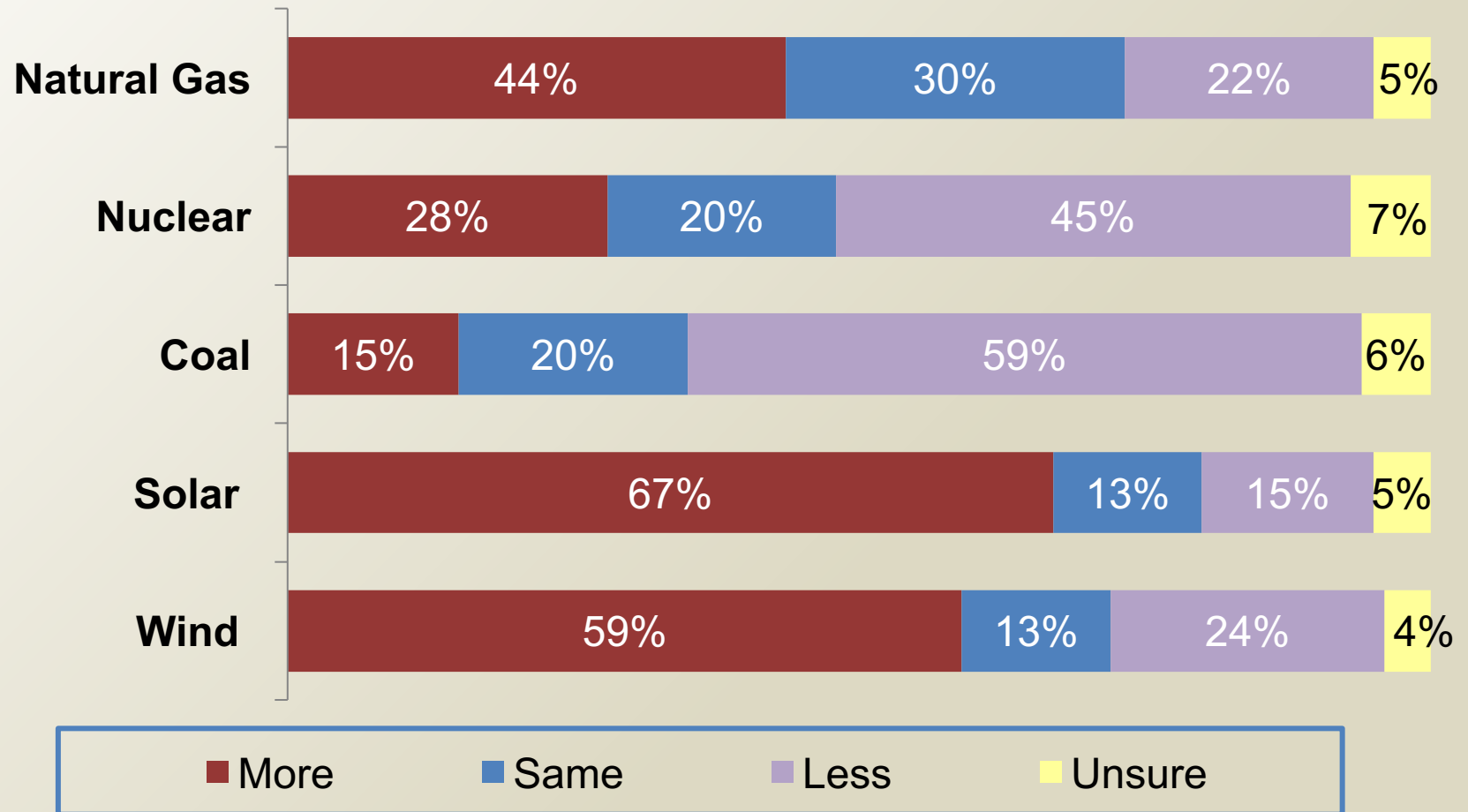
Do you have a positive view or a negative view of the solar energy industry, including rooftop solar?



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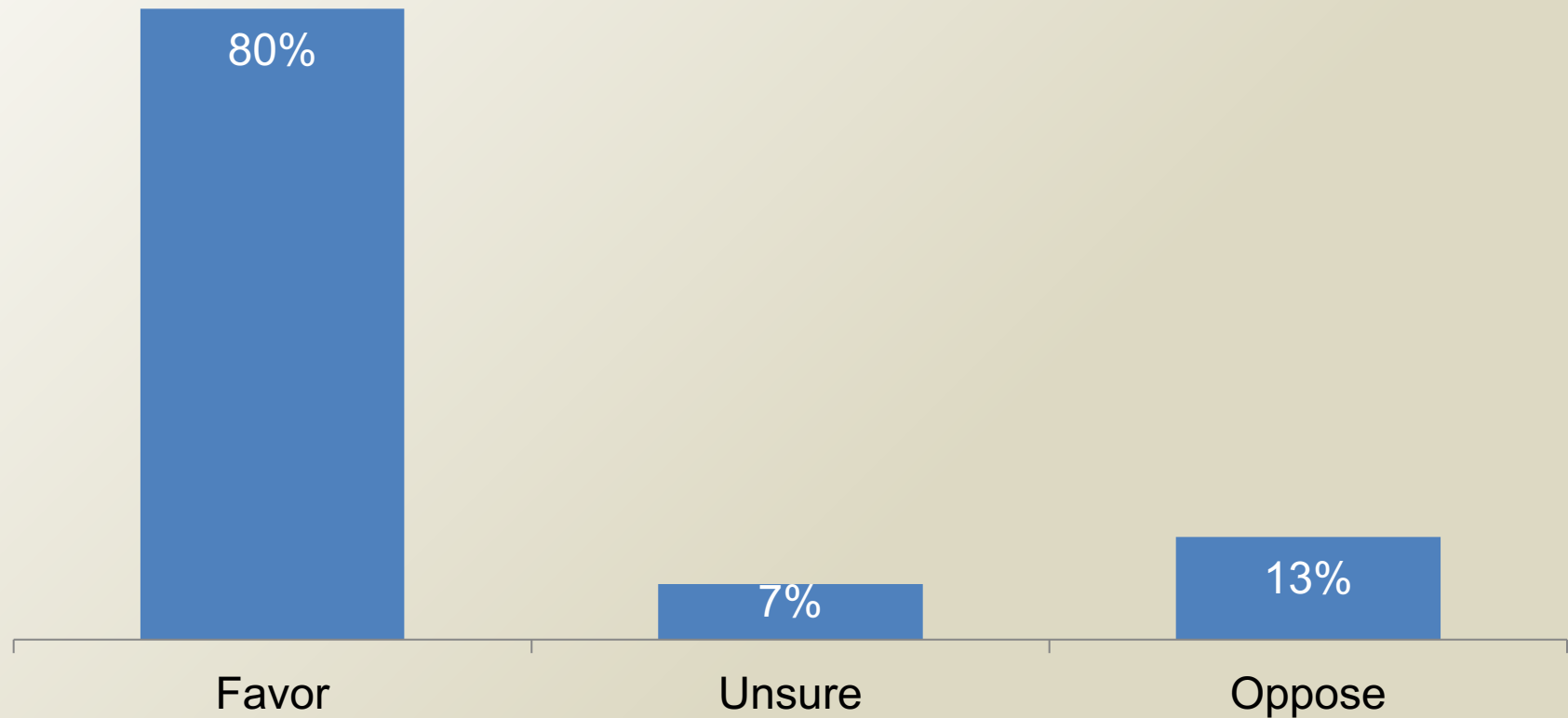
Now I would like to read you list of different energy sources that South Carolinians rely on to get their electrical power. Please listen as I read the list and tell me, for each one, whether you believe that South Carolina should rely more on, rely on the same amount, or rely less on than it does now to generate electrical energy.



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Would you favor or oppose the state of South Carolina creating more competition in the energy industry through “deregulating” monopoly utilities and then allowing consumers more freedom to choose their own energy provider?



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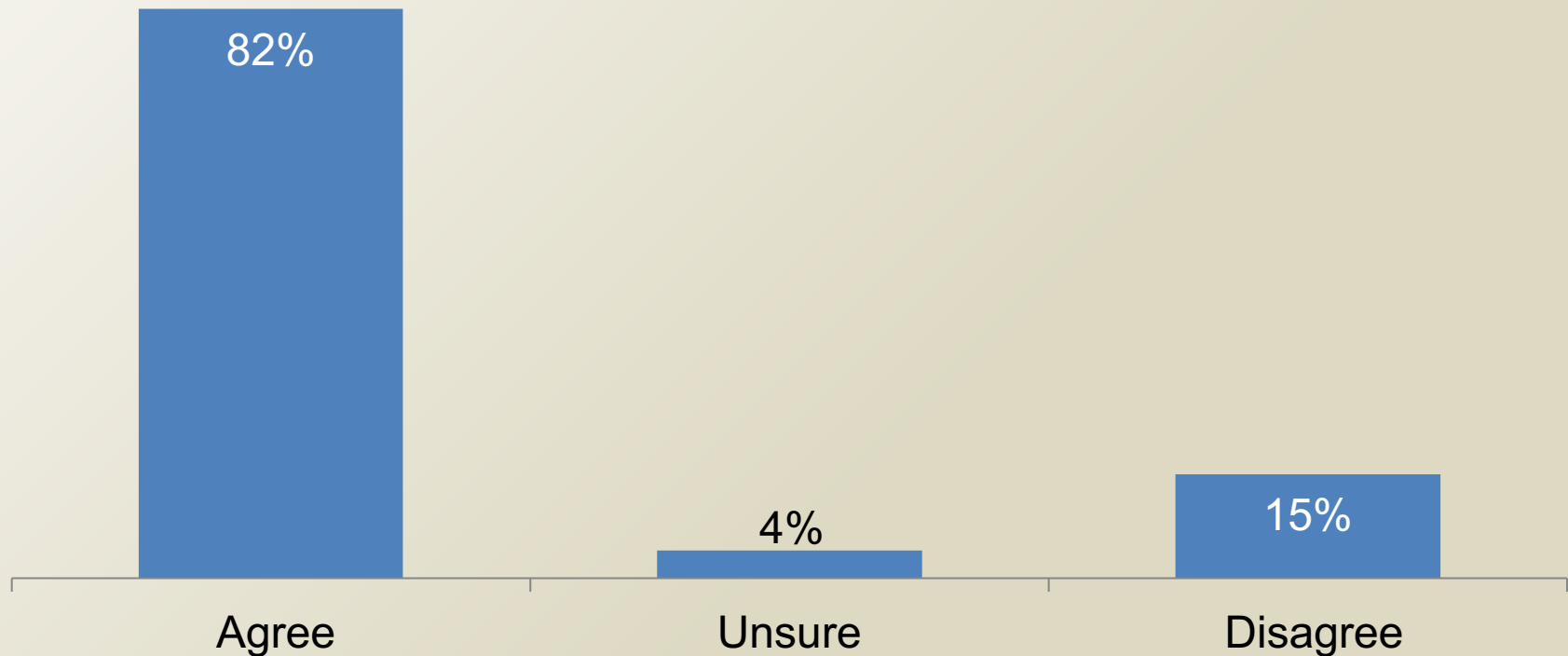
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Now, thinking specifically about the issue of rooftop solar. I would like to read you a statement that some people in South Carolina agree with and others disagree with.

Please listen as I read the statement and tell me if you agree or disagree.

***“The opportunity for homeowners to choose rooftop solar energy is an important part of providing choice and competition in electricity.”***

Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



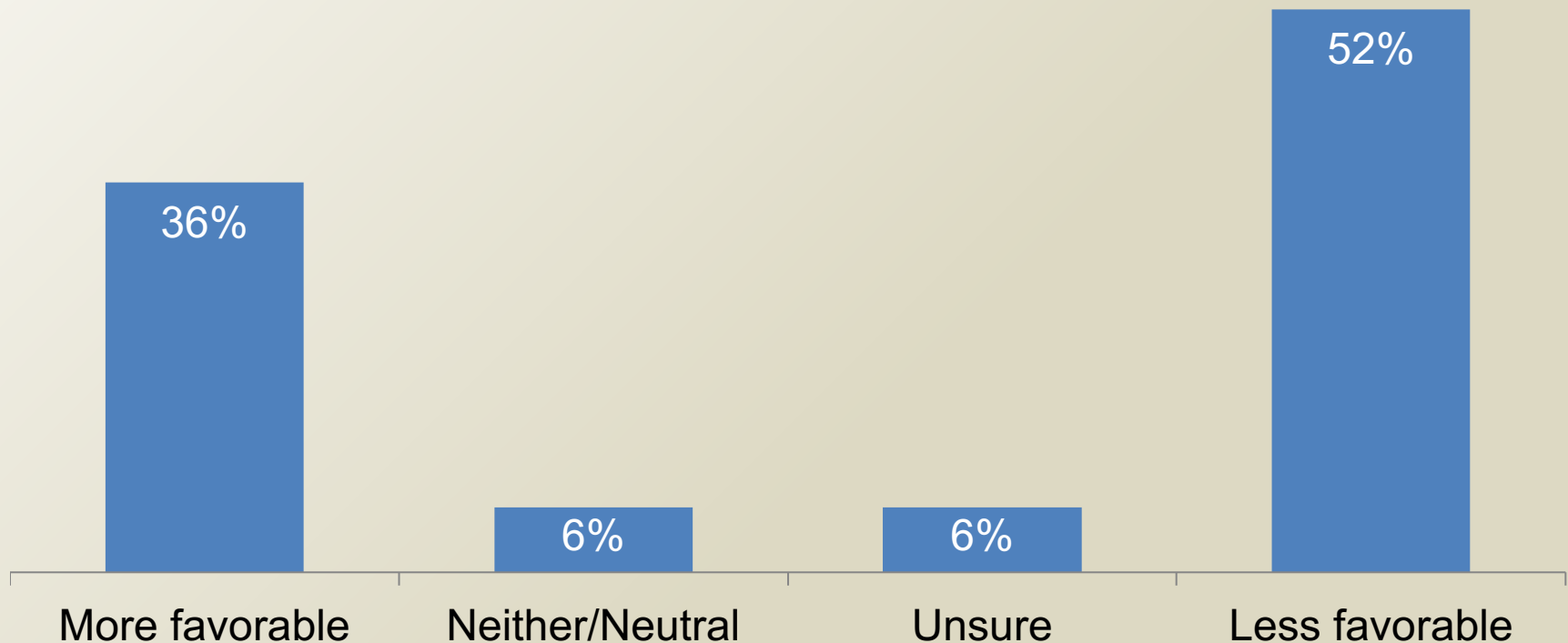
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Now, thinking about the issue of solar power and rooftop solar. There's currently a 2 percent cap on the amount of energy that is allowed to come from rooftop solar for each utility in South Carolina. Several utilities are approaching these caps. If the caps are not extended, it will be uneconomical for homeowners and businesses to install solar energy systems on their rooftops. Utilities, policymakers, and solar energy businesses are currently in the process of negotiating a path forward for whenever the caps are reached.

Thinking about this issue –

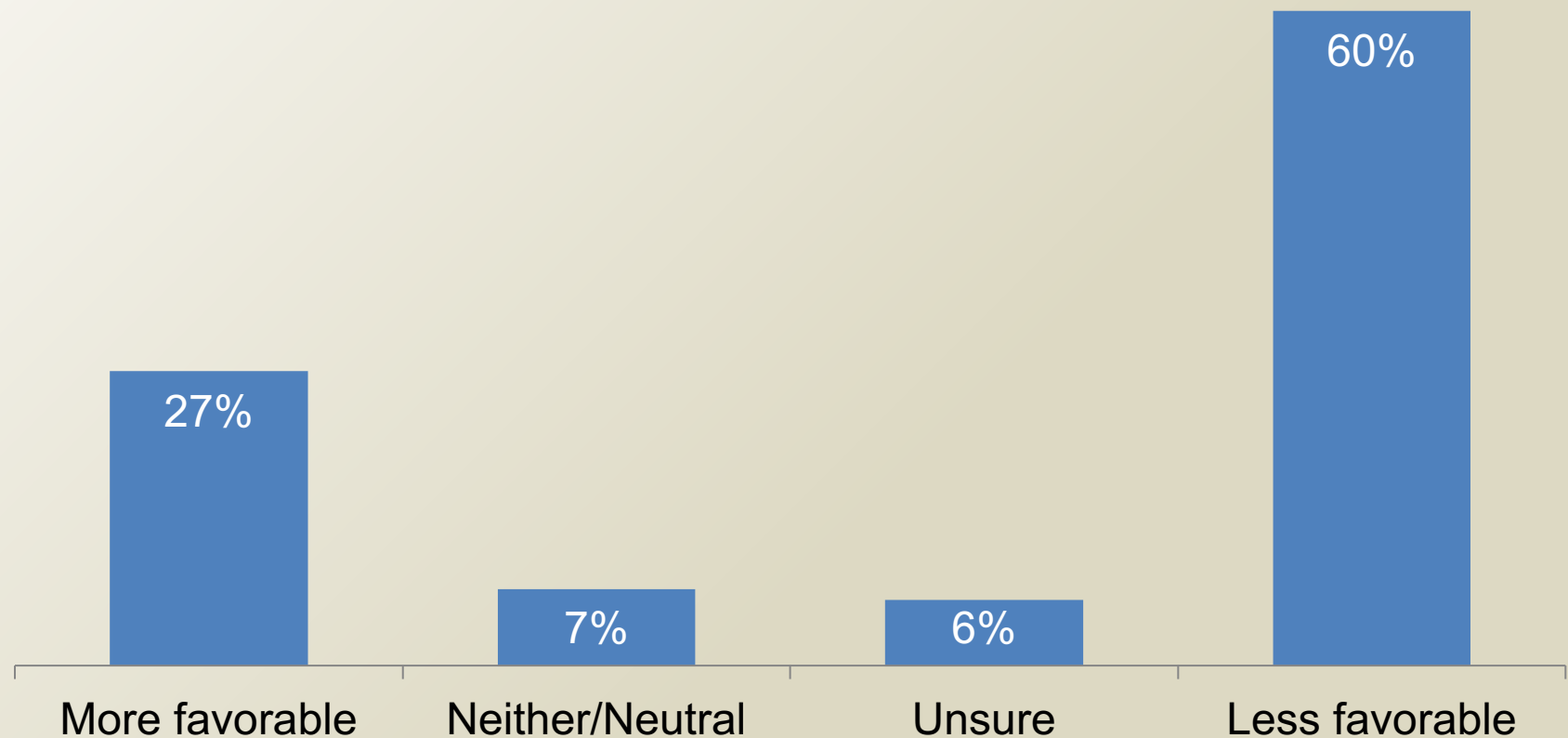
**If your local electric utility provider were to oppose a path forward for rooftop solar in South Carolina, would that cause you to have a more favorable or a less favorable impression of that utility?**



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If your local State Legislator were to oppose a path forward for rooftop solar in South Carolina, would that cause you to have a more favorable or a less favorable impression of them?





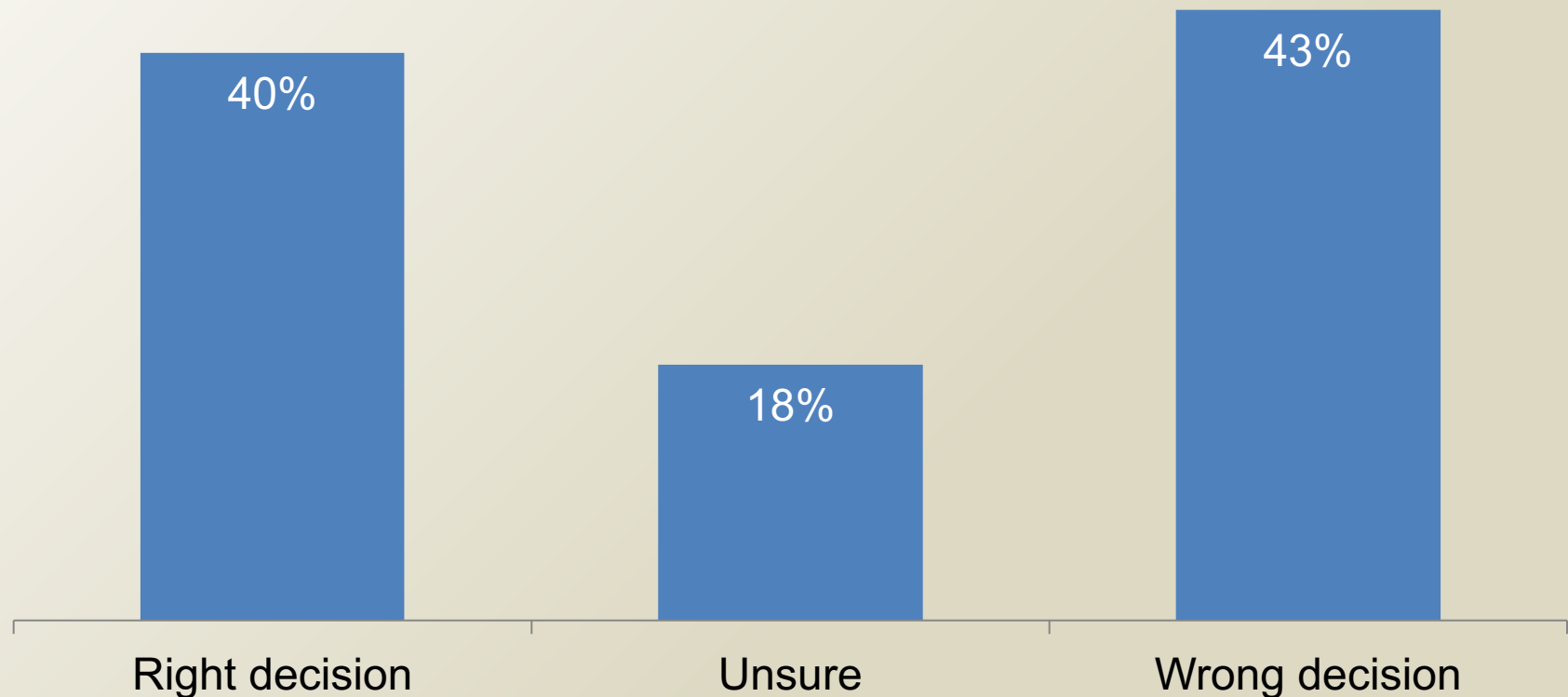
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As you may know, there are two nuclear power plants being built by Santee Cooper Electric Cooperative and SCE&G in Fairfield County. The nuclear power stations are currently several years from being complete and have already cost ratepayers like you in excess of \$1.4 billion in construction costs. On average, electricity customers are already paying \$27 per month on their energy bill for the construction of the plants. And now, the utilities have decided to abandon the project altogether.

Thinking about this issue –

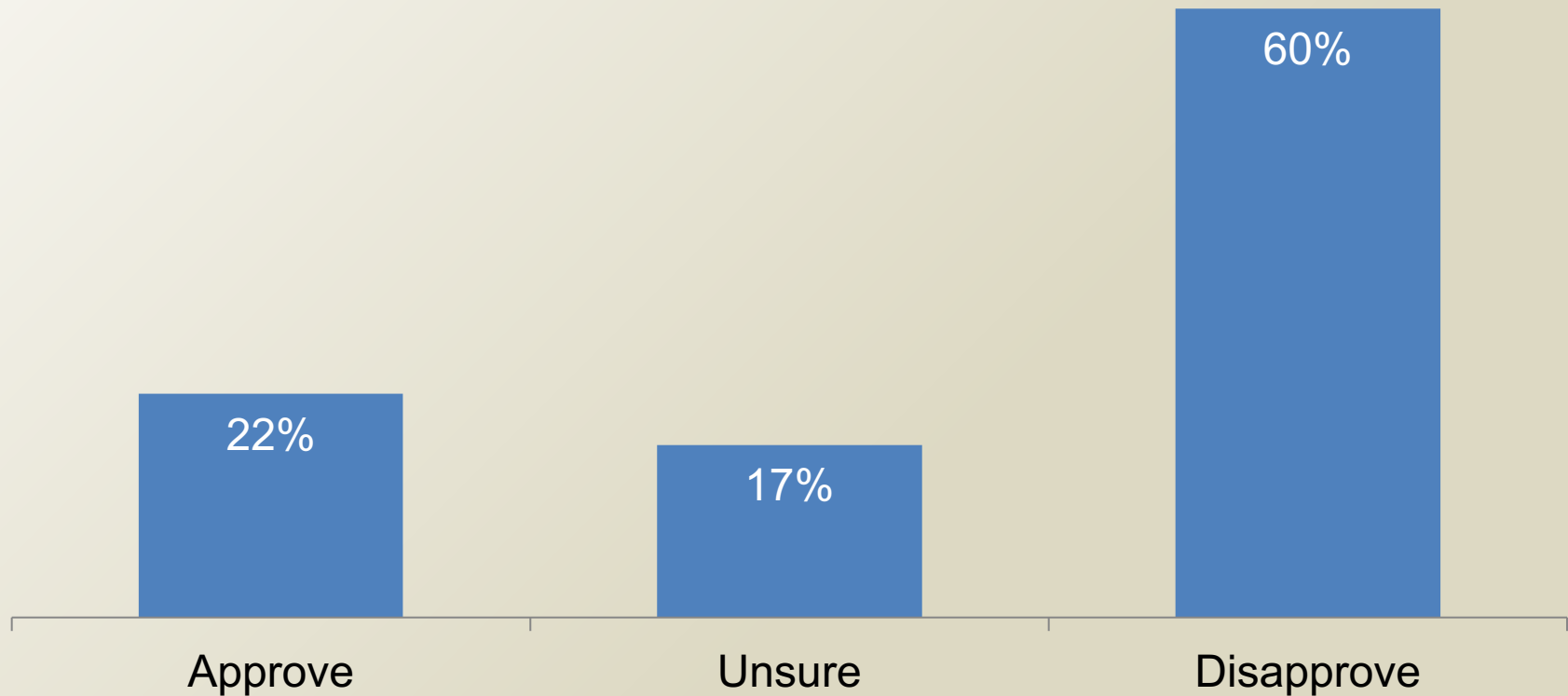
**Do you believe that the utilities made the right decision or the wrong decision to stop construction of these two nuclear power generation plants?**



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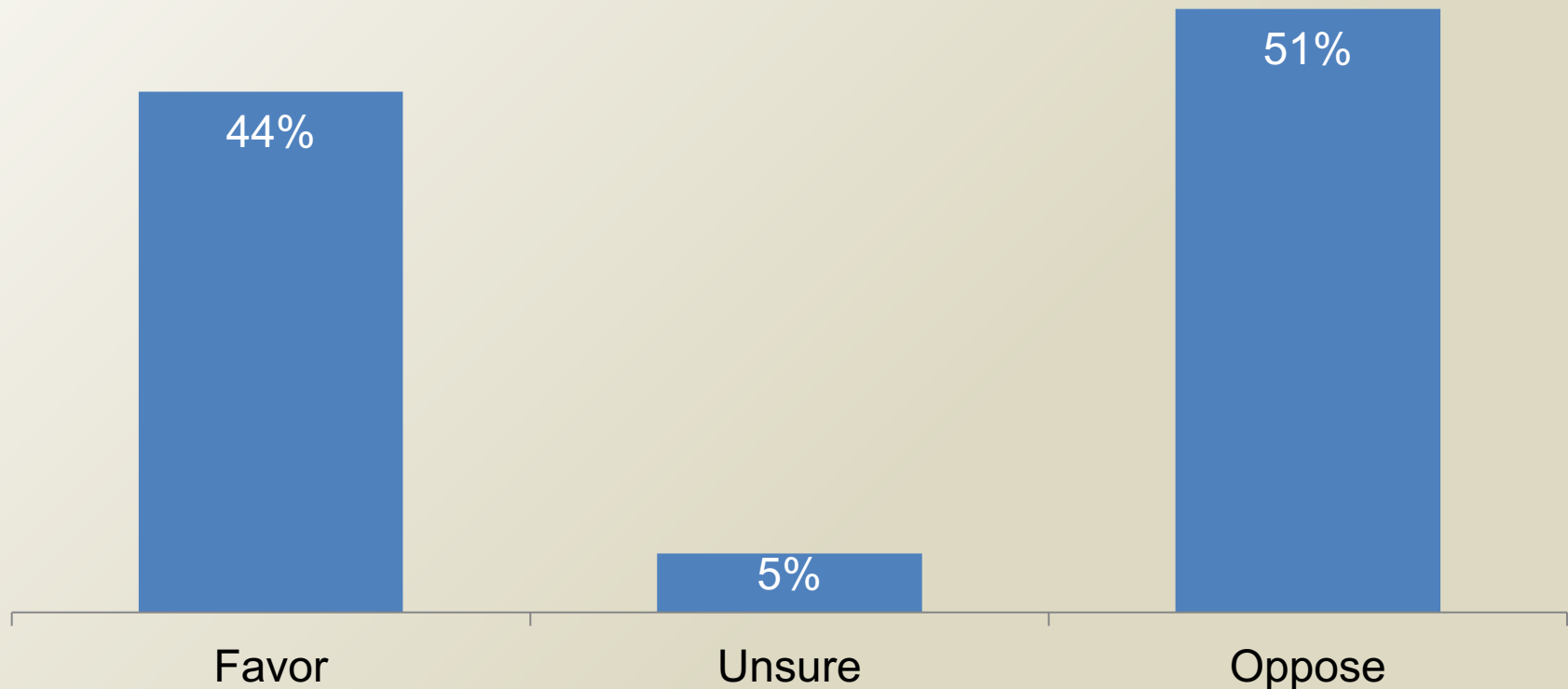
Do you approve or disapprove of the job that South Carolina regulators and elected officials did of providing oversight on this project?



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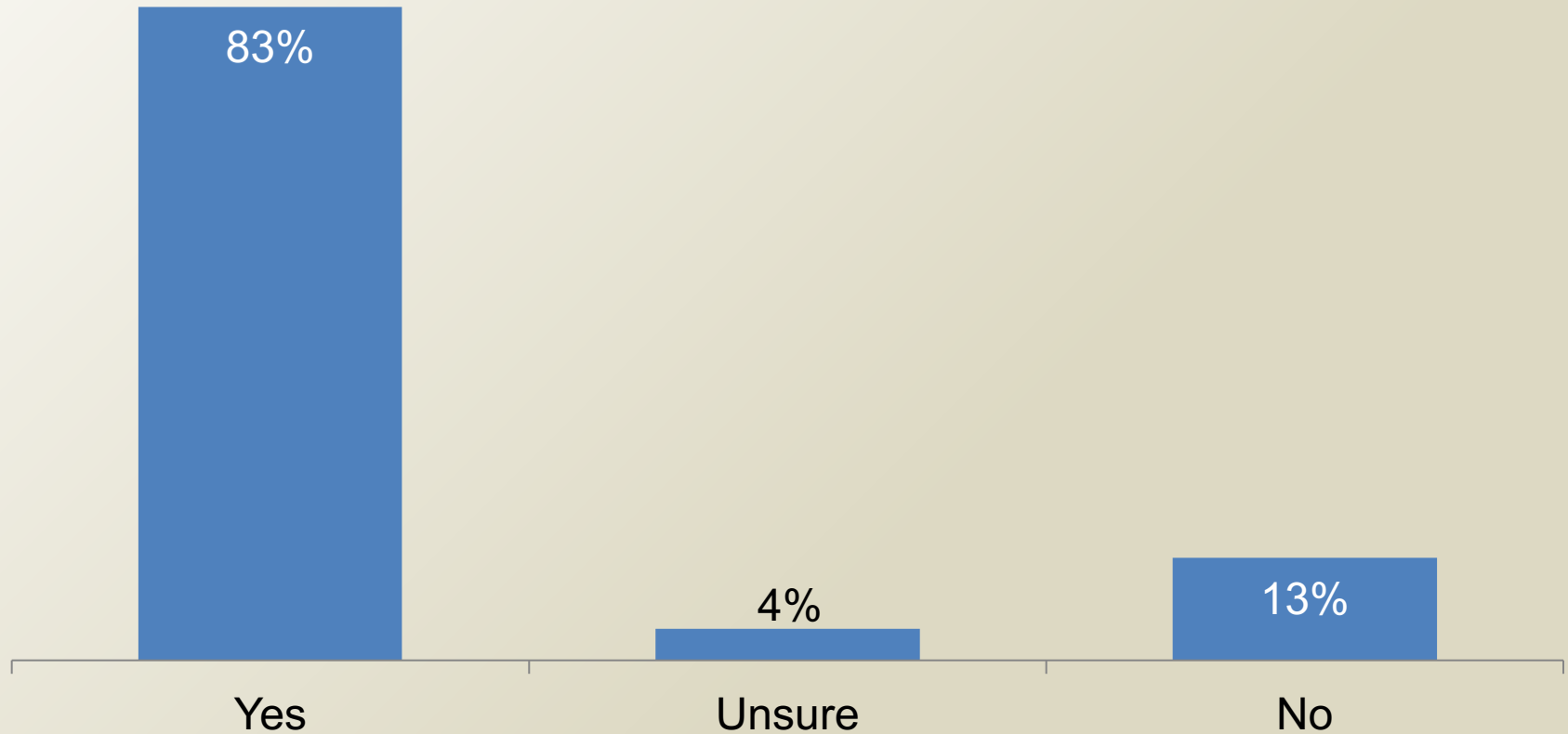
In 2007, the South Carolina State Legislature passed a law to transfer liability away from utilities and allow them to charge customers for the construction of large, new power plants. Thinking about this issue –  
Would you favor or oppose repealing this law that allows utilities to charge customers for the construction of large, new power plants?



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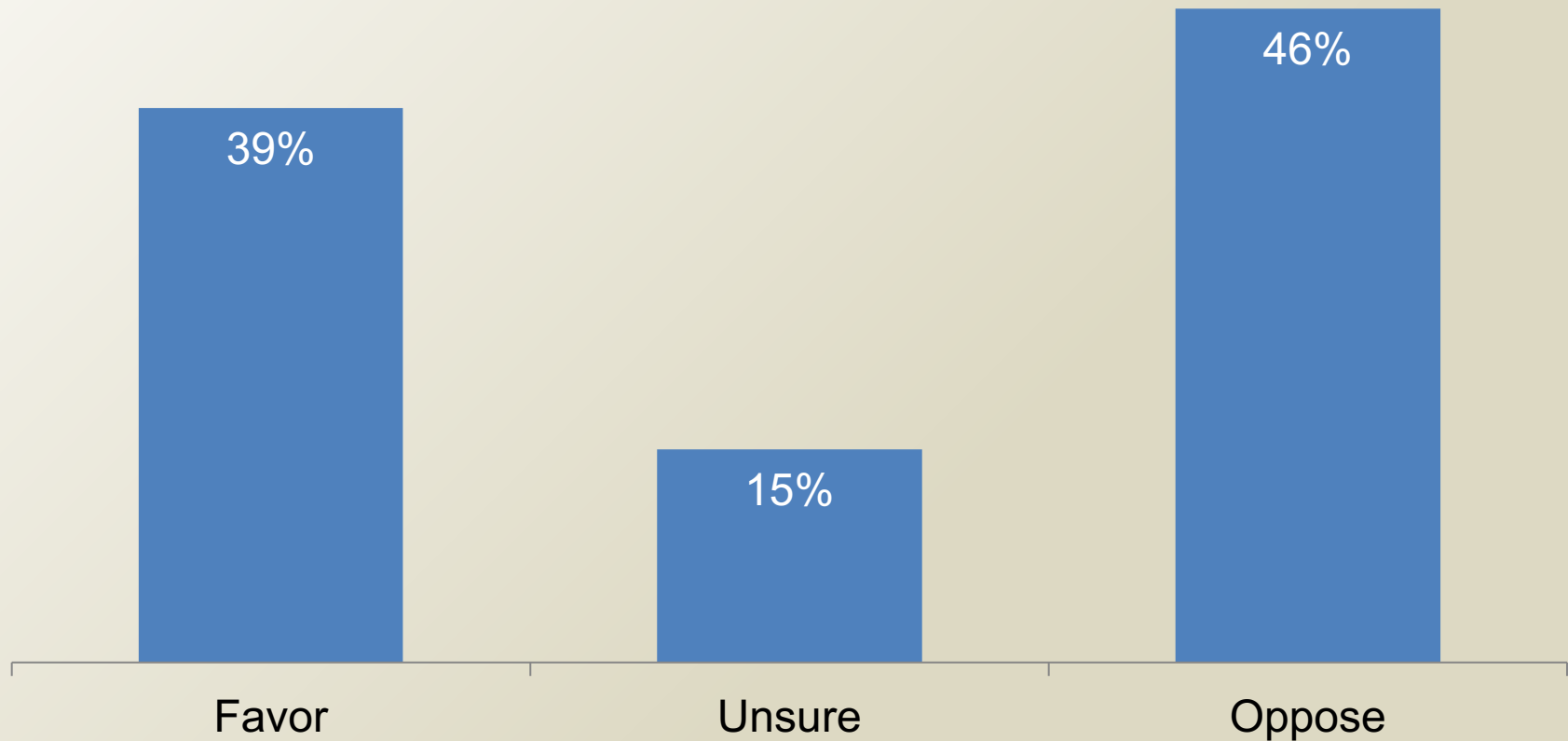
Do you believe that these utilities should be required to reimburse their customers for the money that they have already contributed to the project?



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Would you favor or oppose the South Carolina Legislature “privatizing” and selling the publicly-owned utility Santee Cooper Electric Cooperative?



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In 2014, then Governor Haley signed Act 236 into law to encourage more solar energy in our state. However, the law also exempted electric cooperatives and publicly owned Santee Cooper Electric Cooperative from allowing rooftop solar customers to receive credit on their bill for extra energy they produce at the same rate as they buy energy from the utility. Thinking about this issue --

*Do you support or oppose these restrictions on publicly owned Santee Cooper Electric Cooperative and the electric cooperatives in South Carolina providing credit to rooftop solar customers?*

