



# The Pulse

## BMC Regional Issues Survey

April 2025

# Methodology

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GQR conducted a 15-minute mixed mode survey among 1,200 adults in Baltimore City and Baltimore, Anne Arundel, Harford, Howard, Carroll, and Queen Anne's counties from March 27 – April 2, 2025. Live phone, text-to-web, and online interviews each made up 33 percent of respondents. Respondents were compiled from a representative stratified set and panel sample of the target area's general population.

The data are subject to a margin of error of +/- 2.83 percentage points overall at the 95 percent confidence interval; the margin of error is higher among subgroups and online respondents.

The data are statistically weighted to ensure the sample's regional, age, and gender composition reflects that of Baltimore and the selected surrounding counties.

In this report, results are expressed as percentages unless otherwise noted. Results may not add to 100% due to rounding or multiple responses. Net results cited in the text may not exactly match individual results shown in the charts due to rounding.

# Statistical significance in each jurisdiction

GQR conducted oversamples of selected counties to increase statistical confidence.

County	Unweighted n size	Weighted/Proportional n size
Anne Arundel	205	252
Baltimore County	266	360
Harford	141	108
Howard	150	132
Carroll	118	72
Queen Anne's	105	24
Baltimore City	215	252

# Regional demographics

%	Total	Anne Arundel	Baltimore County	Harford	Howard	Carroll	Queen Anne's	Baltimore City
18-49	51	51	49	48	55	48	42	56
50+	45	44	46	47	44	50	53	41
White	56	64	58	74	49	86	84	29
Black	28	17	28	13	19	4	6	58
POC	42	34	41	25	48	12	15	69
Non-College	57	55	60	61	34	61	64	64
College	43	44	40	39	66	38	36	36
Less than \$40K	23	16	25	17	9	16	14	41
\$40-\$100k	37	35	40	44	34	30	32	34
\$100k or more	35	40	33	33	51	46	51	19



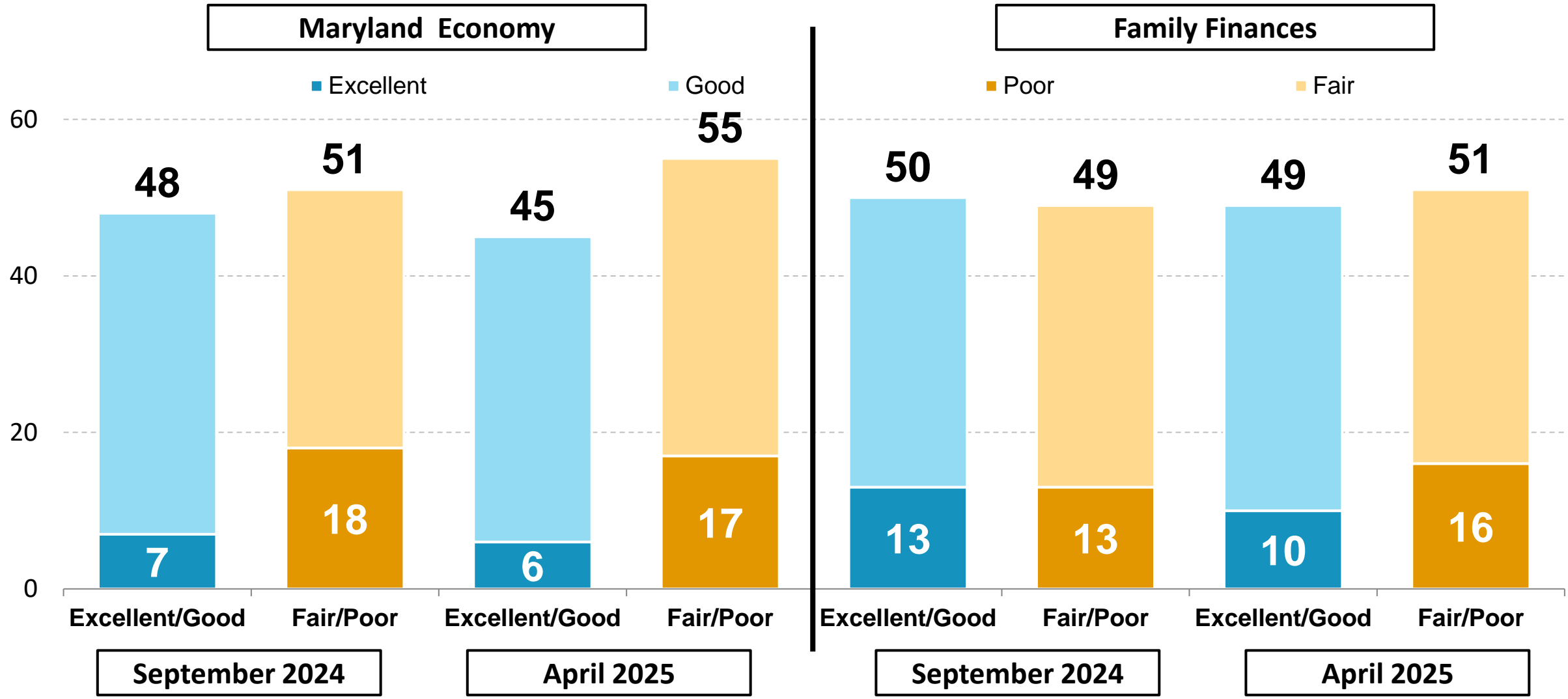
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# The Economy and Personal Finances

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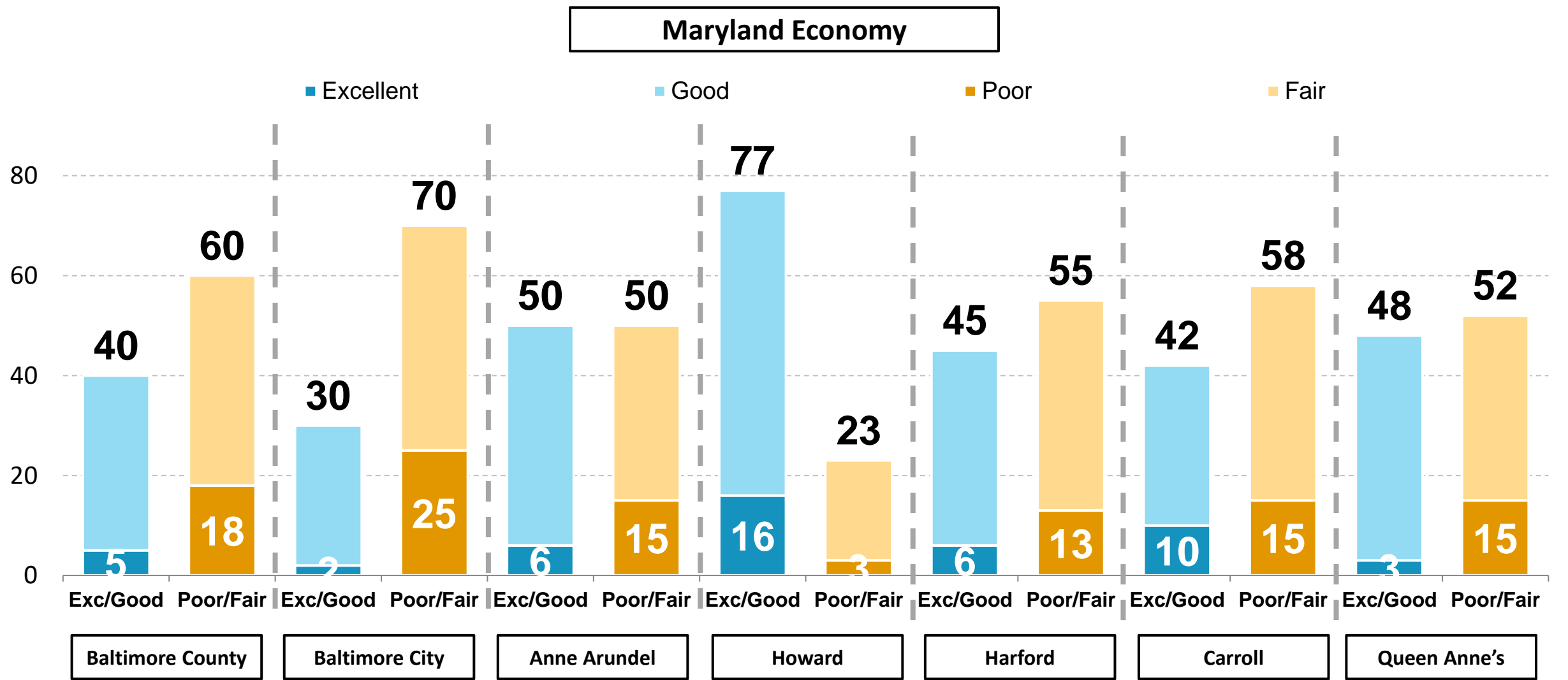
# Less optimistic about Maryland economy; family finances stay split

*Would you describe the economy in the area of Maryland where you live as excellent, good, just fair, or poor? / And would you describe your own family's current financial situation as excellent, good, just fair, or poor?*



# Baltimore City/County residents are most discouraged about the economy

Would you describe the economy in the area of Maryland where you live as excellent, good, just fair, or poor?



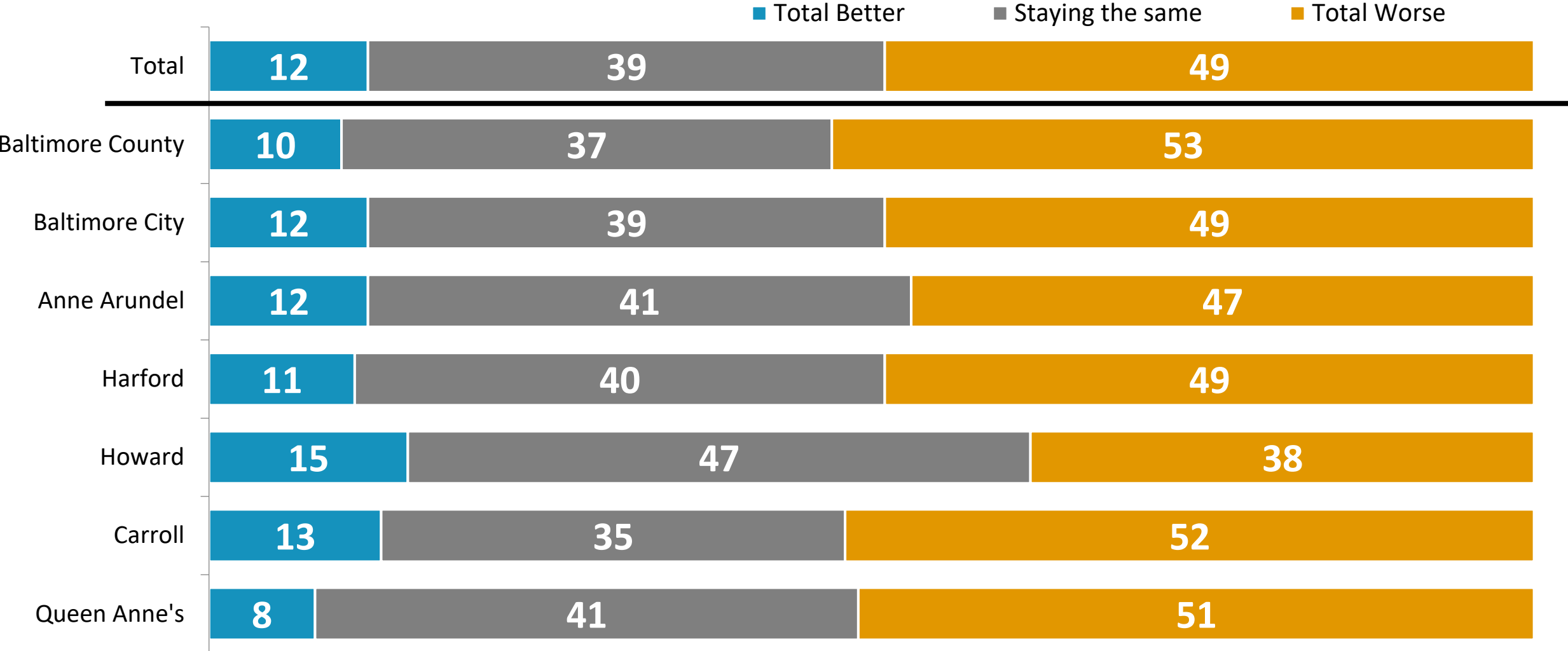
# Biggest shift in outlook in Carroll County and Baltimore area

% Excellent/Good – Poor/Fair	September 2024	April 2025
Total	48 – 51	45 – 55
Baltimore County	50 – 50	40 – 60
Baltimore City	36 – 63	30 – 70
Anne Arundel	45 – 54	50 – 50
Howard	74 – 25	77 – 23
Harford	44 – 56	45 – 55
Carroll	56 – 44	42 – 58
Queen Anne's	50 – 50	48 – 52



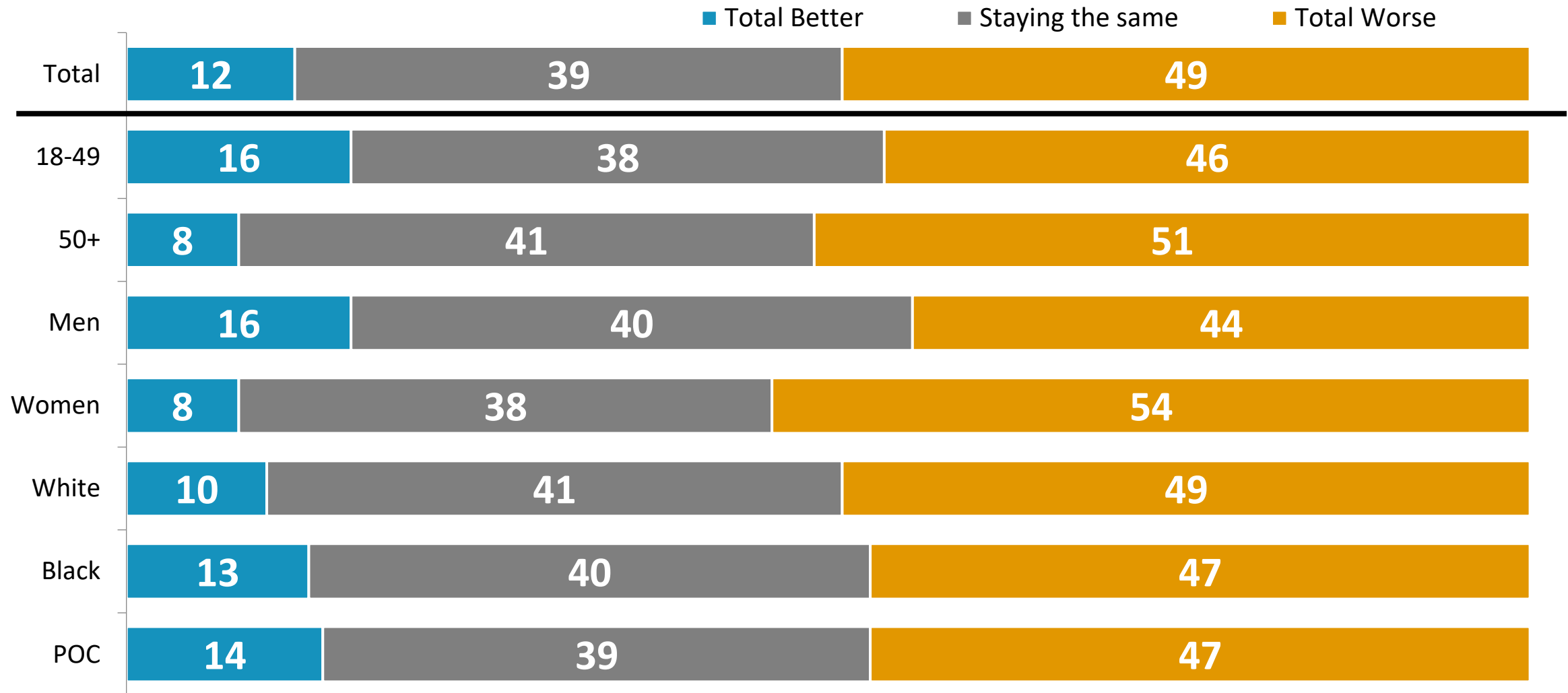
# Around half believe the economy is getting worse

Put another way, do you believe the economy in your area is getting worse, getting better or is it staying about the same?



# Men and younger residents are less pessimistic, minimal racial differences

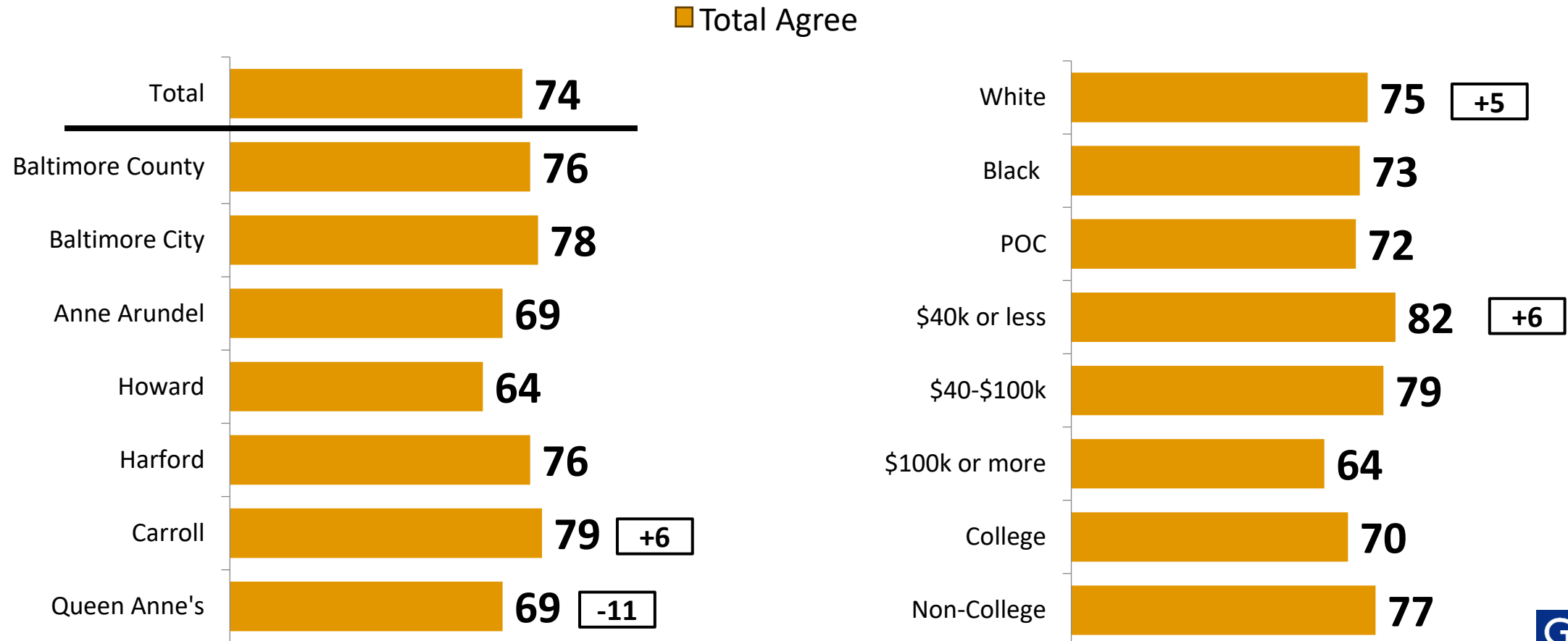
*Put another way, do you believe the economy in your area is getting worse, getting better or is it staying about the same?*



# Biggest shifts in income perception among lower income and white residents

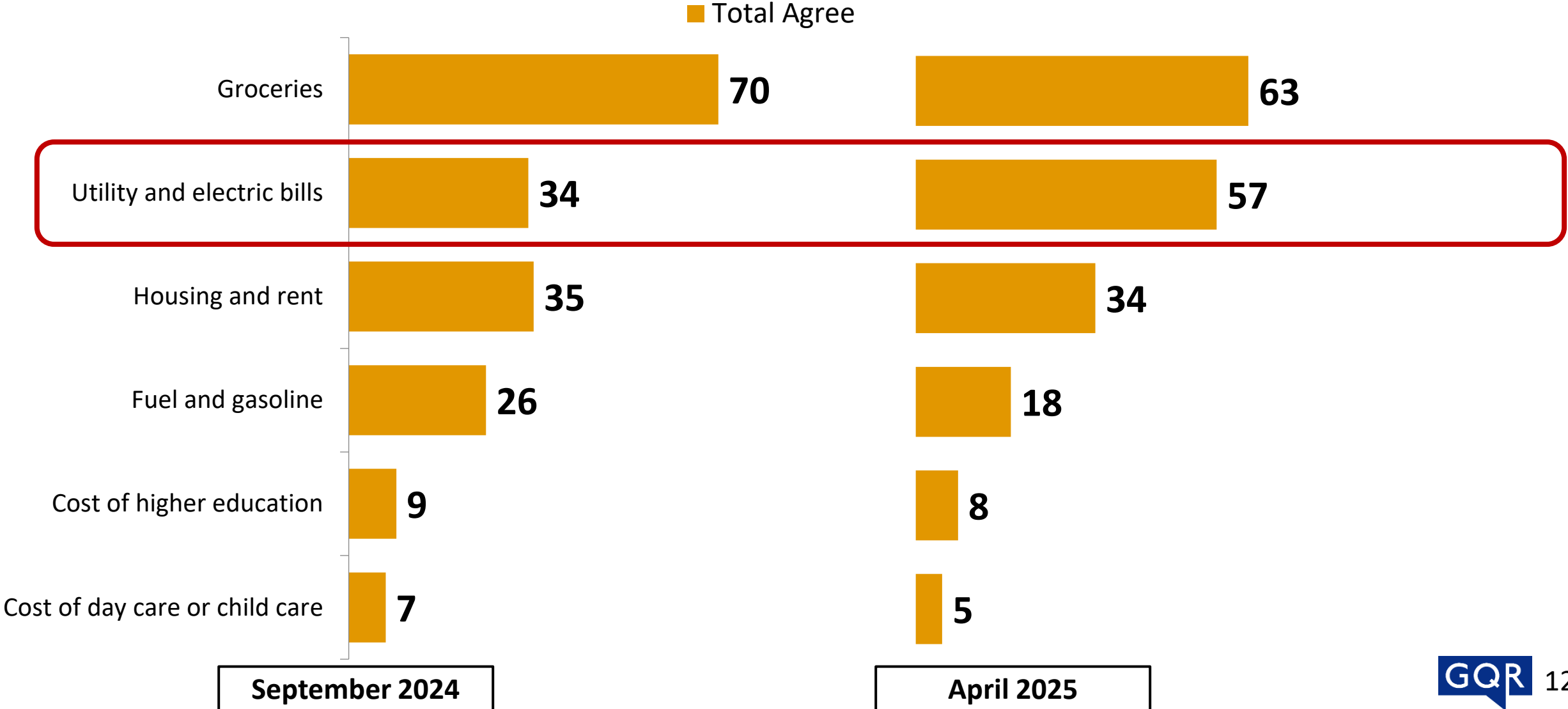
Now I am going to read you a list of statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree with that statement, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with that statement: For my family, our income is not keeping pace with rising costs. (Box denotes change from last wave.)

**For my family, our income is not keeping pace with rising costs.**




# Massive jump in complaints about utility and electric bills

Thinking specifically about rising costs, which ONE or TWO of the following have had the biggest impact on your family?



# Utility rate increases are felt throughout the region


% Picked Utility Bills	September 2024 – April 2025
Baltimore County	36 – 60
Baltimore City	45 – 61
Anne Arundel	28 – 56
Howard	23 – 50
Harford	27 – 56
Carroll	33 – 55
Queen Anne's	34 – 54

 The Baltimore Banner

## Maryland officials push back on BGE's gas rate hikes

With BGE utility bills rising, Del. Elizabeth Embry, a Baltimore Democrat, recently introduced legislation to...




 WBAL-TV

## 'A mammoth increase in that period of time': Maryland utilities grilled at hearing on rising prices

State leaders are addressing concerns with rising gas and electric bills across Maryland.



 WMAR 2 News Baltimore

## Utility customers report steep increases in bills; advocates warn costs will continue to rise

ELKTON, Md. — Utility customers are seeing much higher bills, sometimes double what they paid the month before.

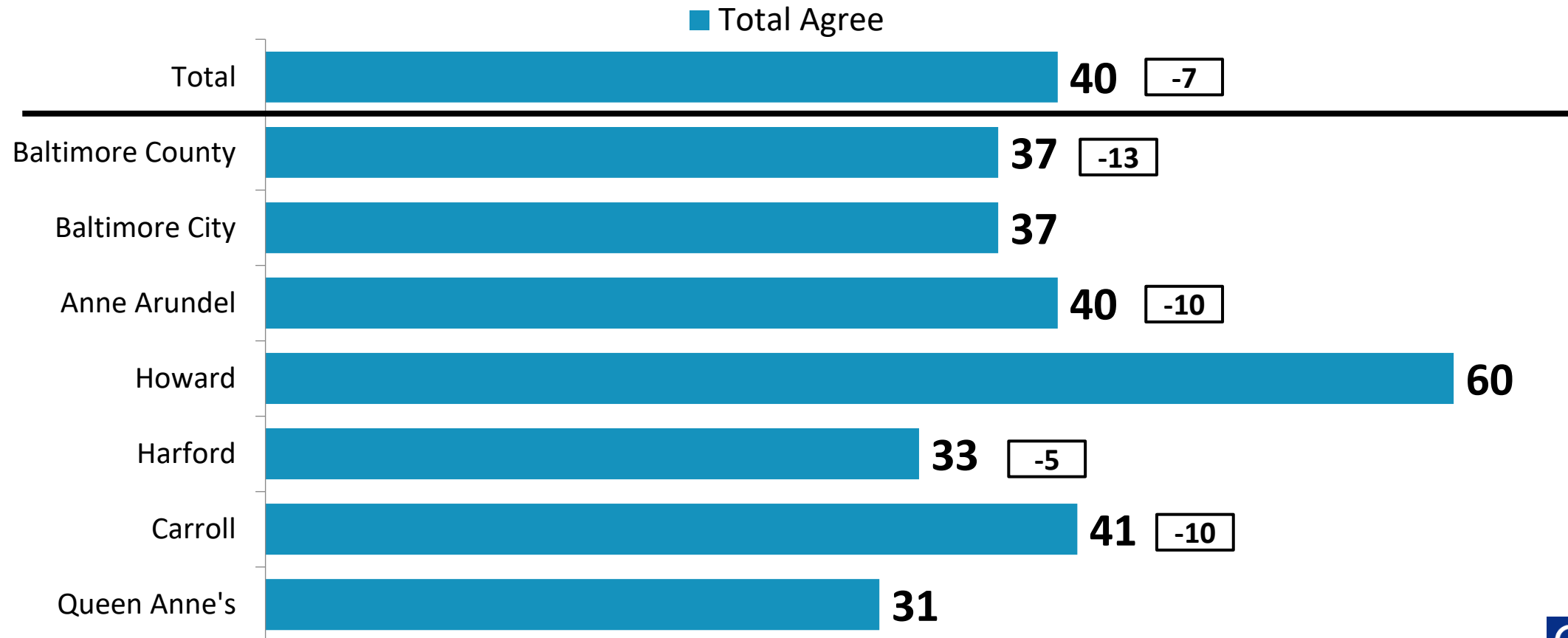
Jan 23, 2025



# Only Howard confident on youth economic success

Now I am going to read you a list of statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree with that statement, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with that statement: The economy in this part of Maryland provides ample opportunities for young people. (Box denotes change from last wave.)

The economy in this part of Maryland provides ample opportunities for young people.





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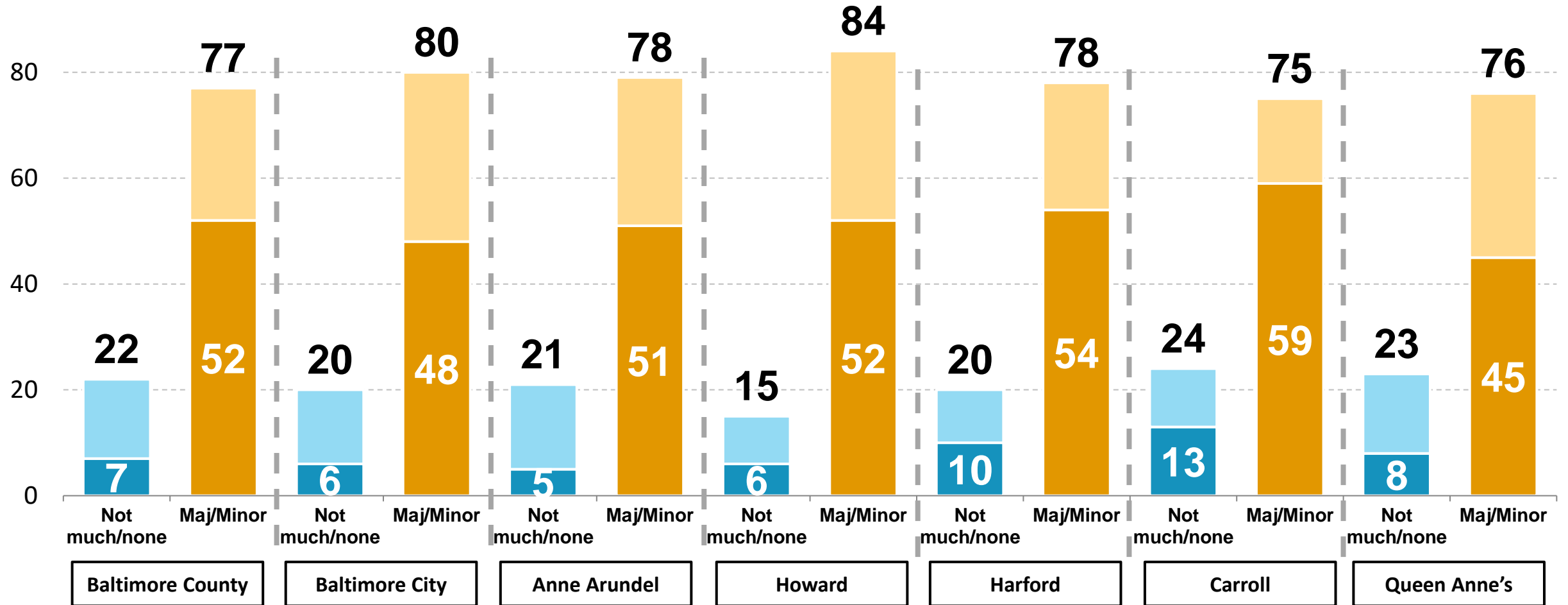
# Housing and Development

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# Affordable housing concerns consistent across region

Is the cost of housing in your community a major problem, minor problem, not much of a problem or not a problem at all?

■ Not a problem at all ■ Not much of a problem ■ Major problem ■ Minor problem

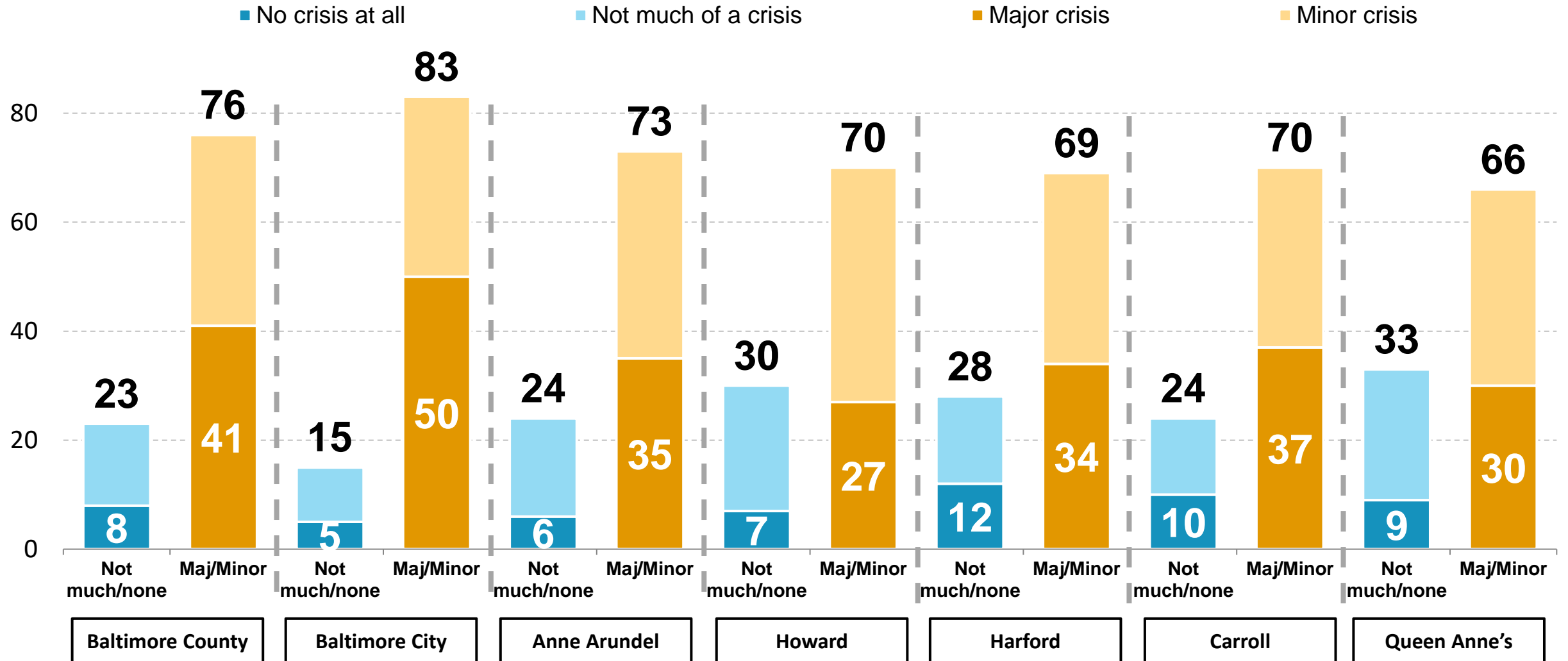


September 2024: 80% major or minor problem – 21% not much/not a problem. | April 2025: 79% major or minor problem – 21% not much/not a problem.



# “Crisis” in housing spikes in Baltimore City and County

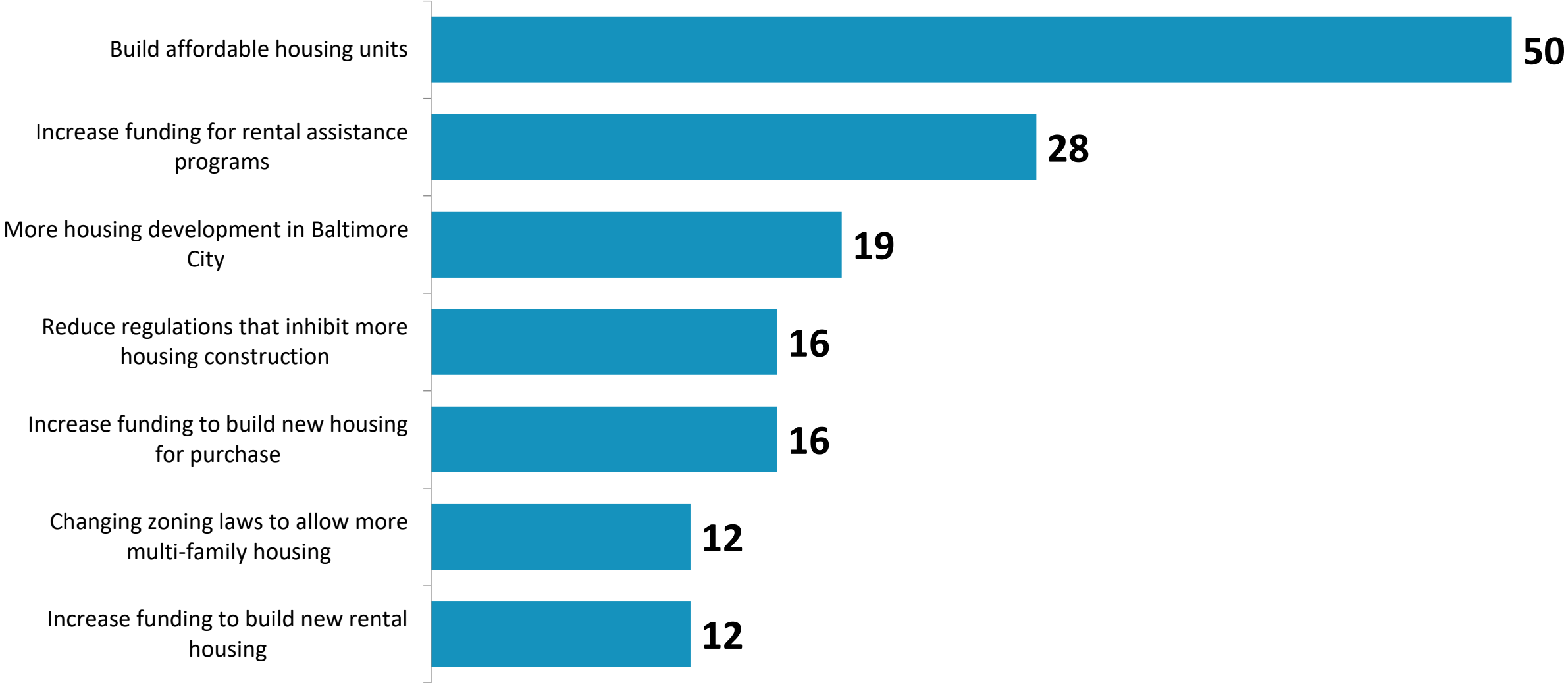
Generally, would you say this part of Maryland is experiencing a major housing crisis, a minor housing crisis, not much of a crisis or no crisis at all?



Overall, 75% of respondents said that this part of Maryland is experiencing a major/minor crisis, and 23% said it's not much of a/no crisis at all.

# Focus on building as solution

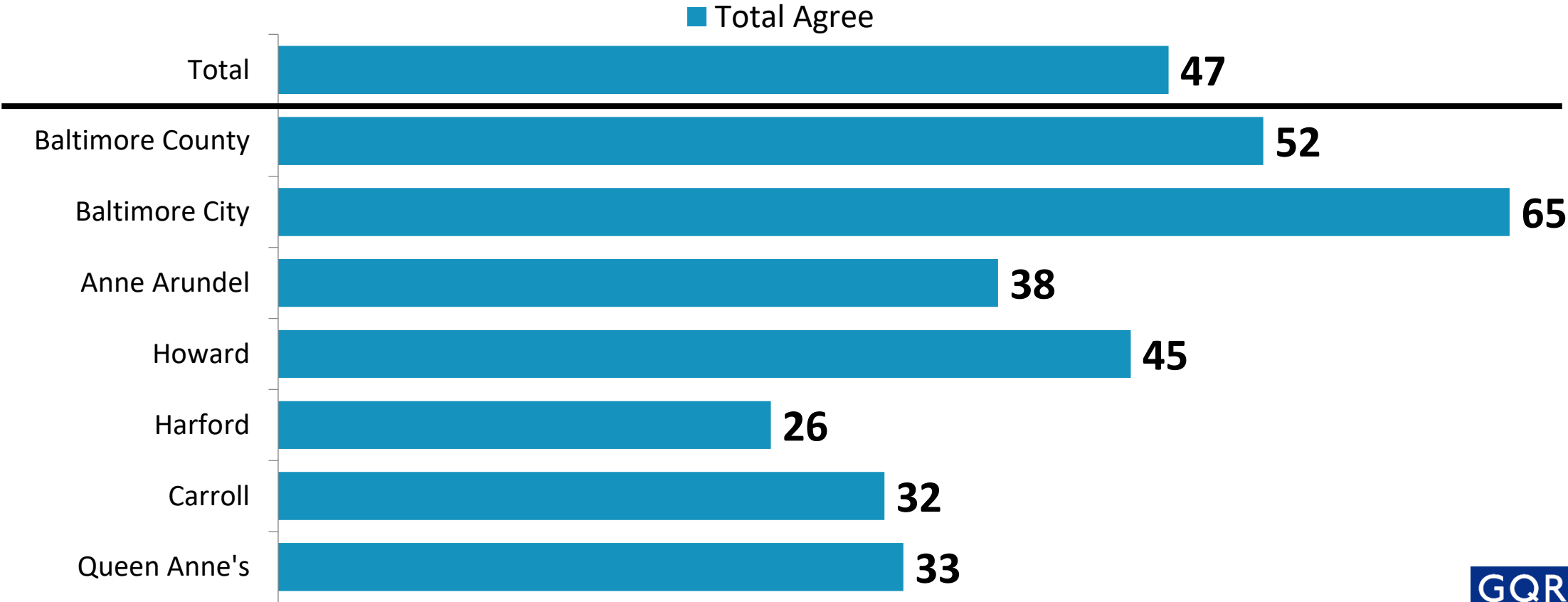
*(IF MAJOR CRISIS, MINOR, OR NOT MUCH IN Q.25) Which one or two of the following do you believe will be the most helpful in addressing this housing crisis?*



# Residents near Baltimore believe increased housing would help, less so in exurbs

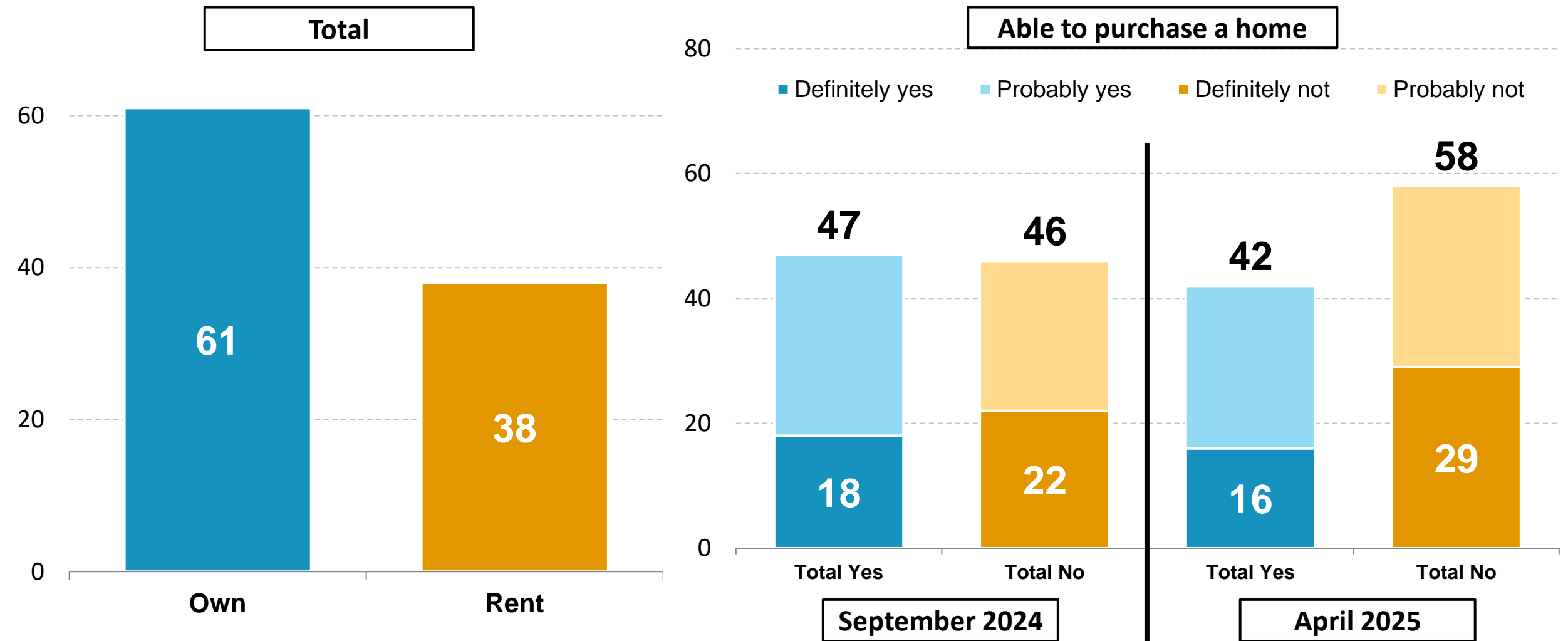
Now I am going to read you a list of statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree with that statement, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with that statement: *If Baltimore City built or restored more housing, it would lower housing costs in my area.*

**If Baltimore City built or restored more housing, it would lower housing costs in my area.**



# Nearly three-fifths of renters priced out of homeownership; renters less optimistic on buying a house someday

Do you own your home or do you rent? / If renter, do you believe that you personally will be able to purchase a house in the near future?\*

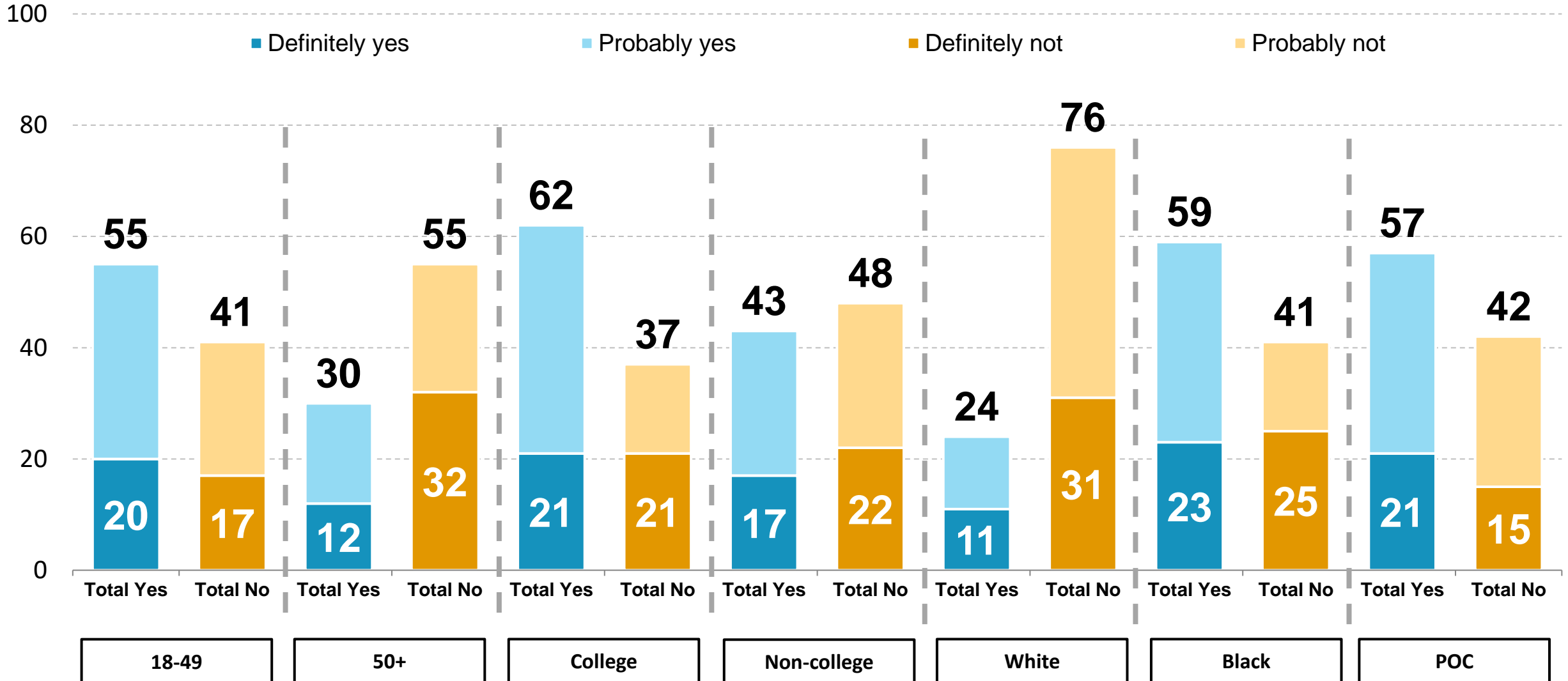


In September 2024, 65% of respondents owned their home, and 34% were renters.

\*Question only asked of renters

# Less confidence among older, white renters

Do you believe that you personally will be able to purchase a house in the near future? (Renters only)





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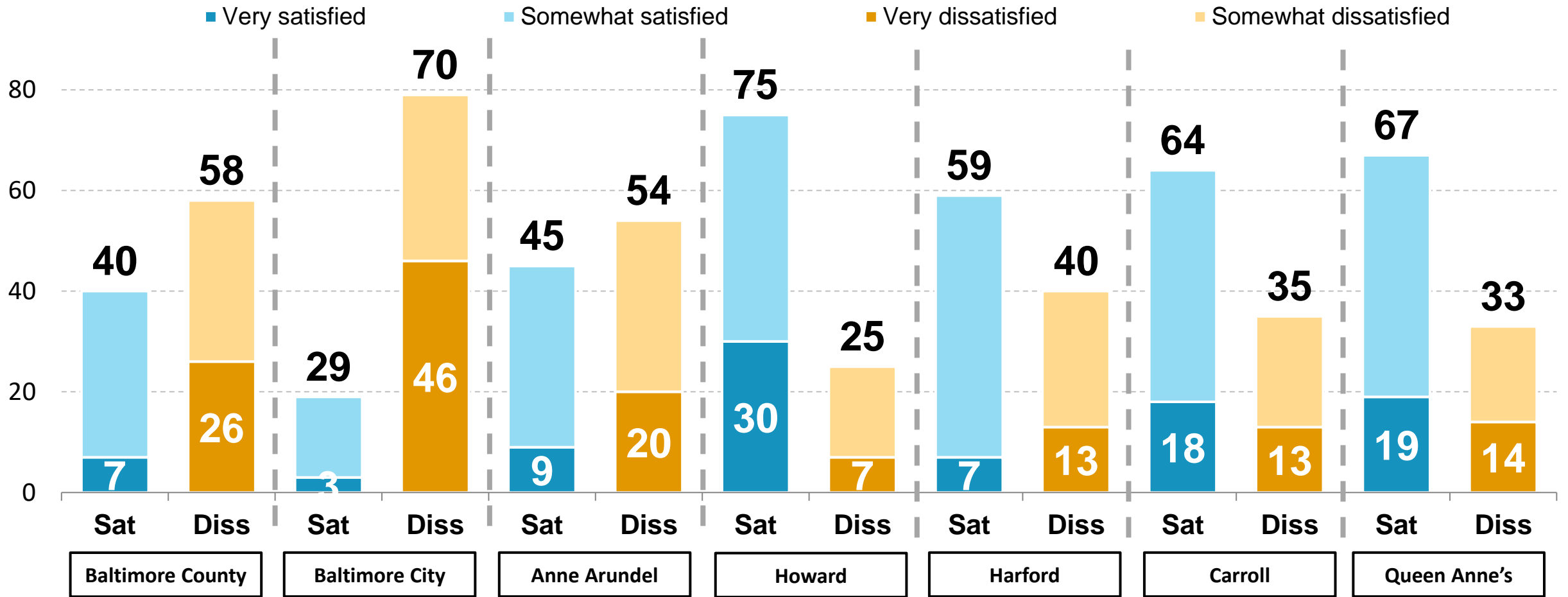
# Traffic, Transportation and Transit

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# Baltimore far less satisfied roads and bridges

Thinking about your community, please tell me if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with each item I read.

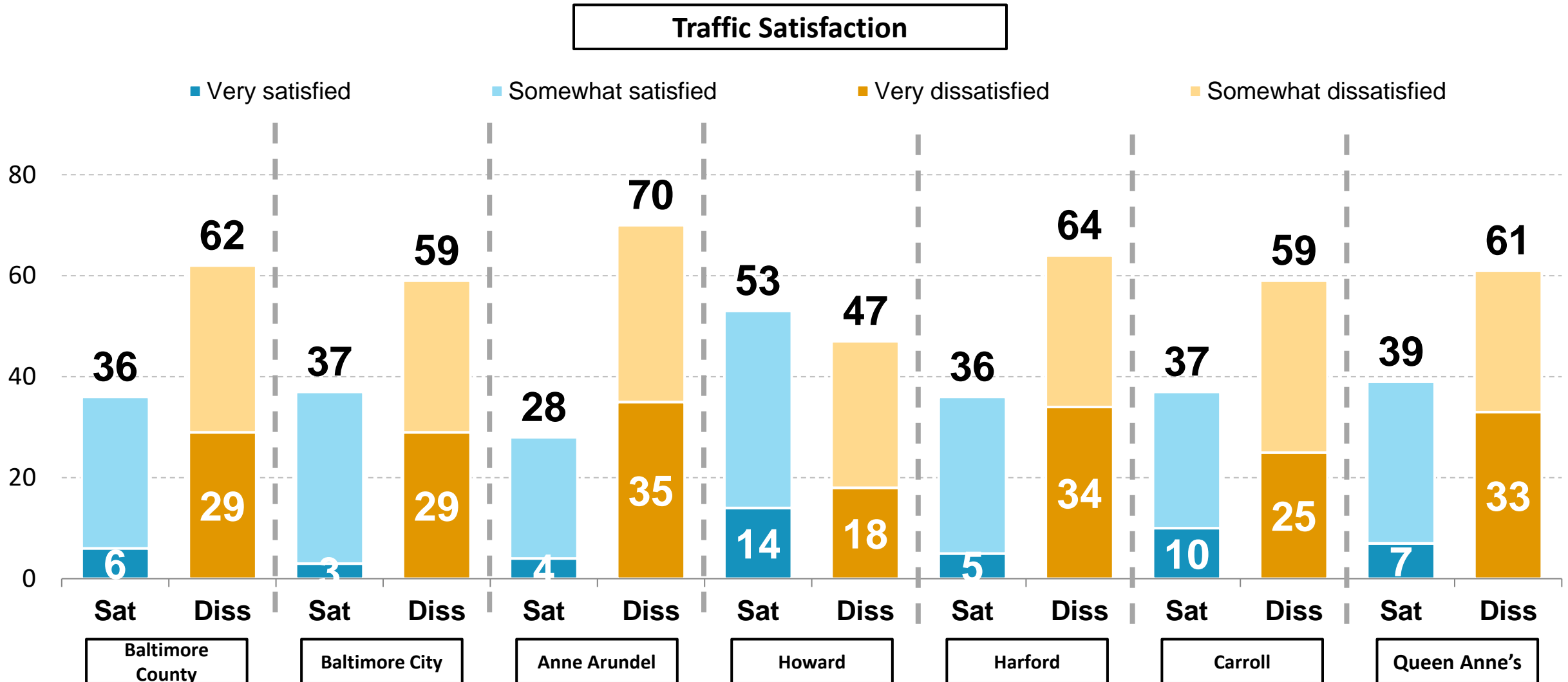
**Roads and Bridges Satisfaction**



September 2024: 49% very/somewhat satisfied – 50% somewhat/very dissatisfied. | April 2025: 44% very/somewhat satisfied – 54% somewhat/very dissatisfied.

# But struggles with traffic span the region

Thinking about your community, please tell me if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with each item I read.

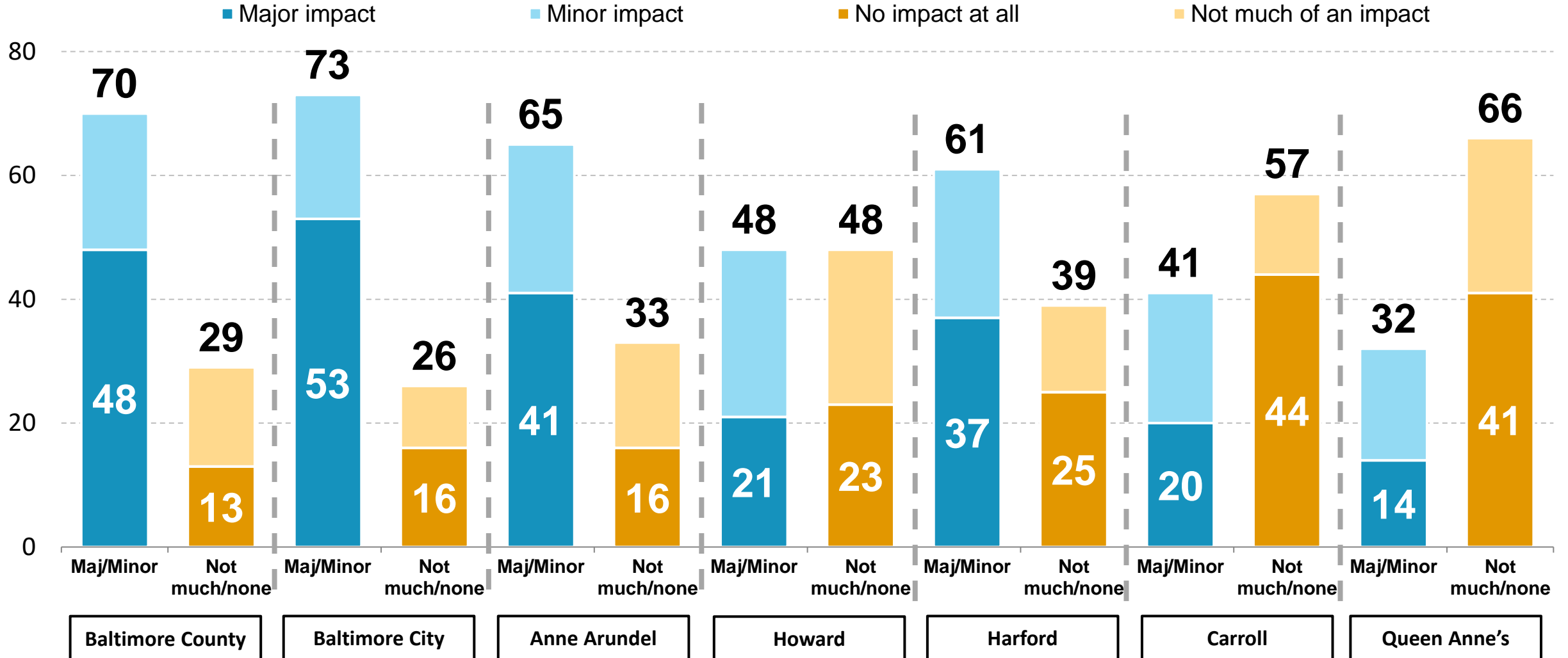


September 2024: 38% very/somewhat satisfied – 61% somewhat/very dissatisfied. | April 2025: 36% very/somewhat satisfied – 62% very/somewhat dissatisfied.



# Francis Scott Key Bridge still impacting Baltimore, Anne Arundel and Harford commuters

*Has the collapse of the Francis Scott Key bridge had a major impact on traffic and travel in this region, a minor impact, not much of an impact or no impact at all?*



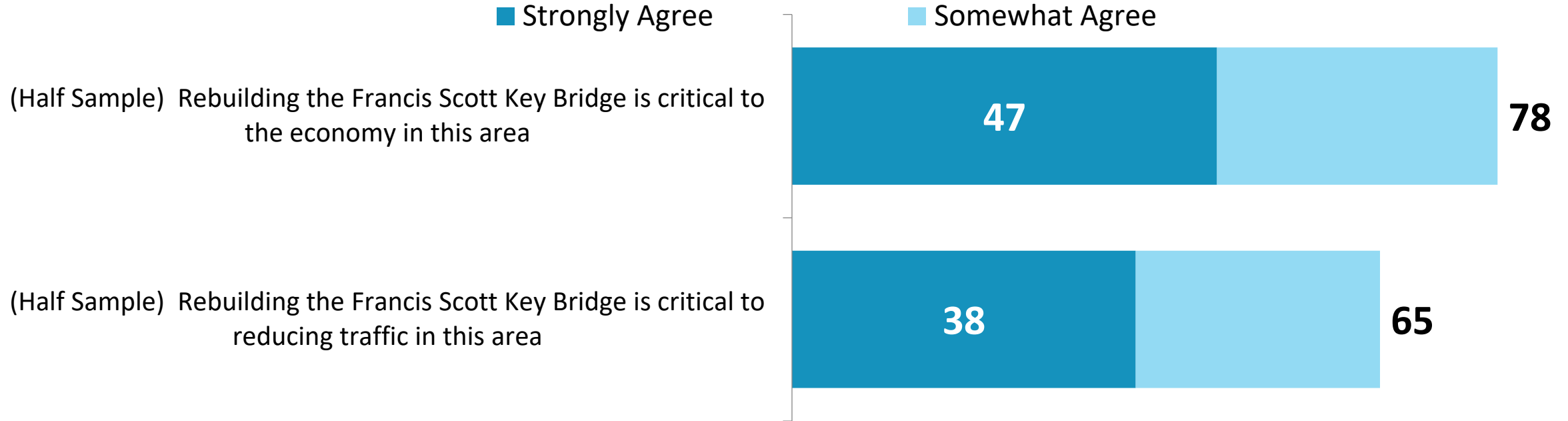
# Significant change in Baltimore City, Queen Anne, Carroll – identical elsewhere

*Has the collapse of the Francis Scott Key bridge had a major impact on traffic and travel in this region, a minor impact, not much of an impact or no impact at all?*

% Major/Minor – Not Much/None	September 2024	April 2025
Total	63 – 35	64 – 34
Baltimore County	70 – 28	70 – 29
Baltimore City	67 – 30	73 – 26
Anne Arundel	67 – 31	65 – 33
Howard	49 – 49	48 – 48
Harford	62 – 37	61 – 39
Carroll	36 – 64	41 – 57
Queen Anne's	37 – 59	32 – 66

# Most still believe Key Bridge rebuild will improve economy and traffic

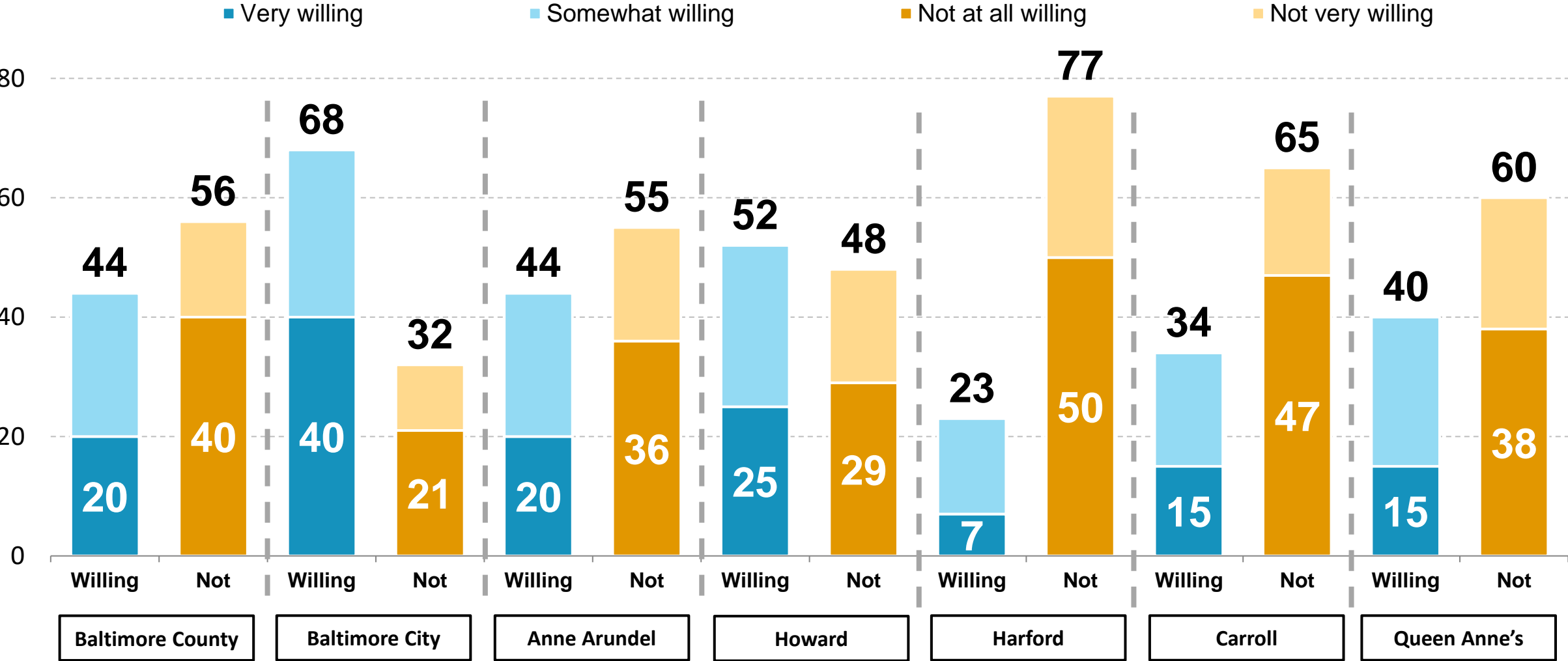
Now I am going to read you a list of statements. Please tell me if you strongly agree with that statement, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with that statement. / Rebuilding the Francis Scott Key Bridge is critical to the economy in this area. / Rebuilding the Francis Scott Key Bridge is critical to reducing traffic in this area.



% Total Agree (Sep 2024 – Apr 2025)	Total	Baltimore County	Baltimore City	Anne Arundel	Howard	Harford	Carroll	Queen Anne's
<b>Economy</b>	<b>80 – 78</b>	82 – 81	90 – 81	77 – 82	75 – 72	82 – 72	58 – 59	56 – 57
<b>Reducing Traffic</b>	<b>73 – 65</b>	79 – 71	76 – 78	81 – 60	65 – 56	62 – 59	46 – 45	47 – 41

# Willingness to use public transportation highest in Baltimore

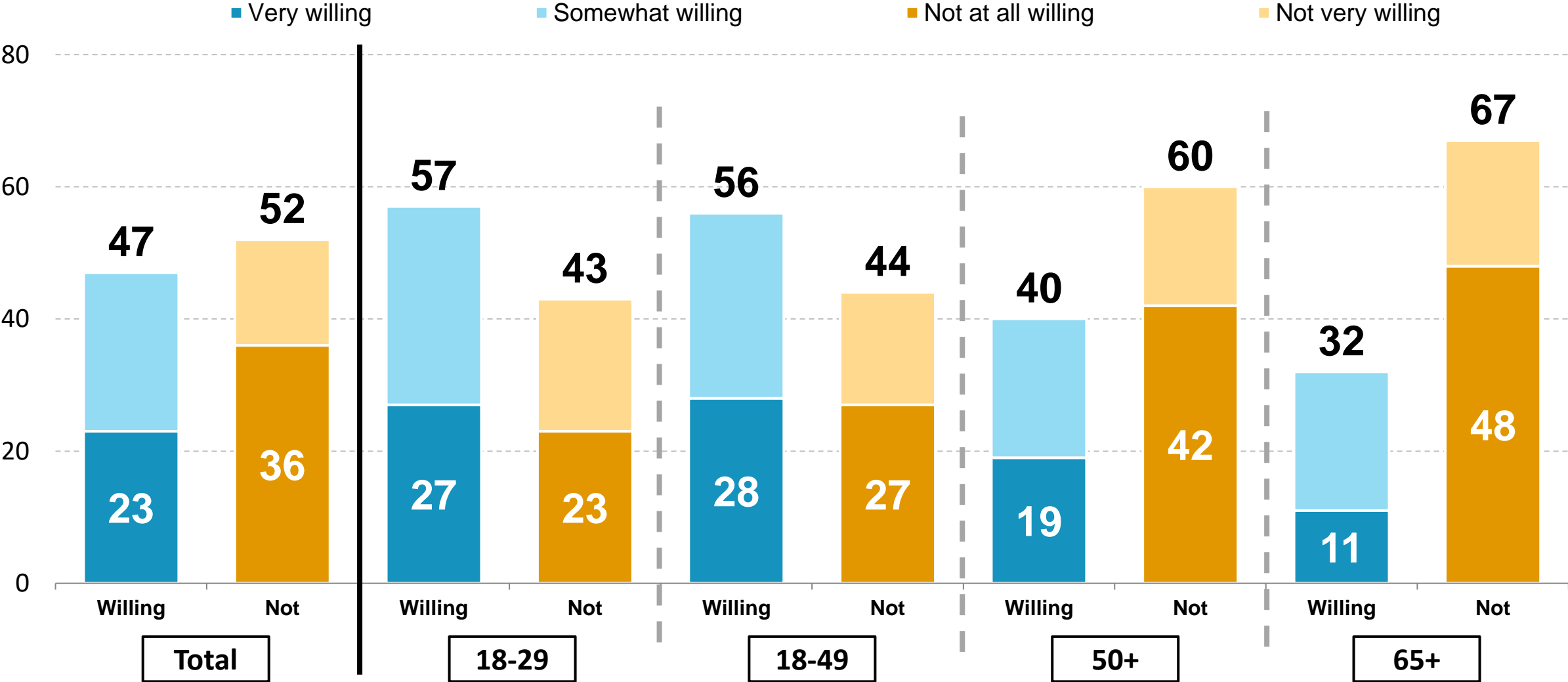
How willing would you be to use public transportation at least once a week - are you very willing, somewhat willing, not very willing or not at all willing?



September 2024: 45% very/somewhat willing – 55% not very/not at all willing. | April 2025: 47% very/somewhat willing – 52% not very/not at all willing.

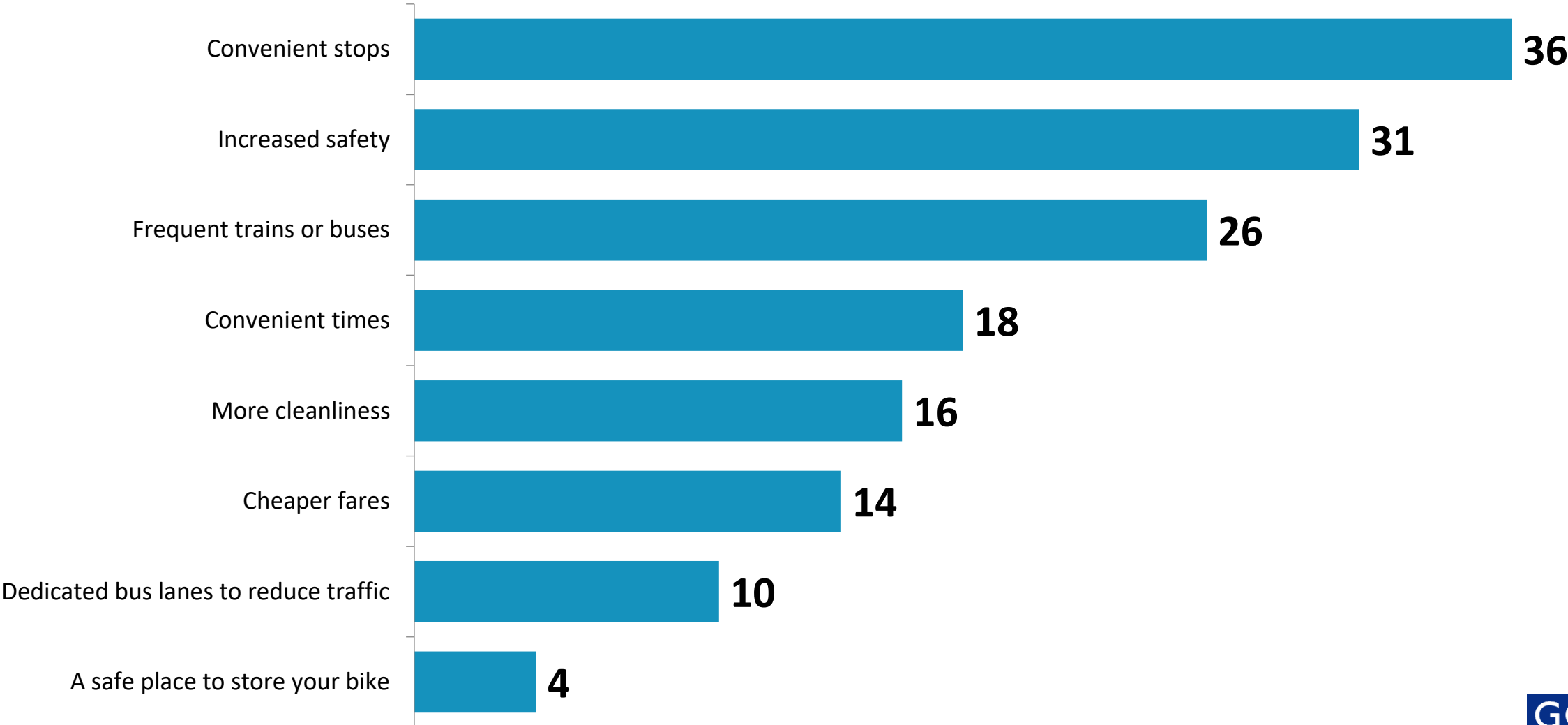
# Younger people more willing to use public transportation

How willing would you be to use public transportation at least once a week - are you very willing, somewhat willing, not very willing or not at all willing?



# Convenience and safety can bring more people to public transportation

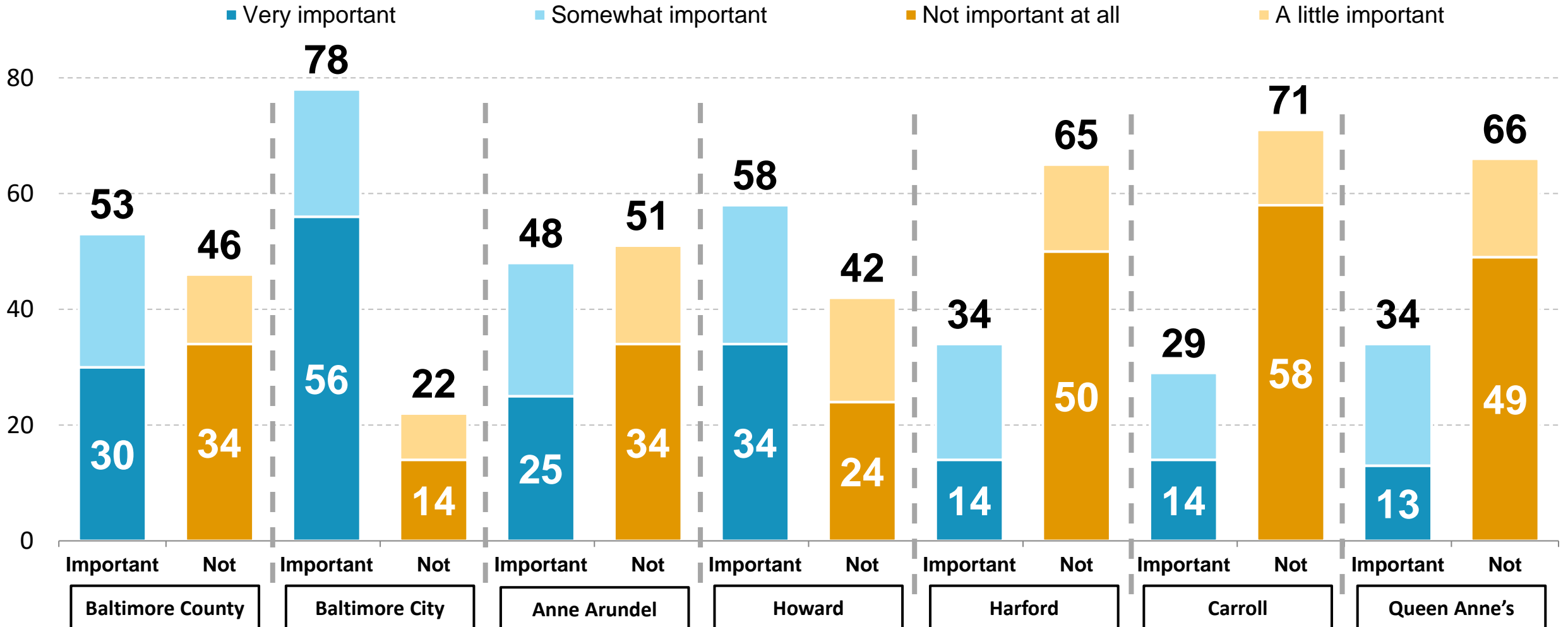
Which ONE or TWO of the following would make you more likely to use public transportation, at least some of the time?



All percentages shifted within 1-2% since September 2024, which is a statistically insignificant change given sample size.

# Baltimore more focused on having convenient stops

How important is it to you personally to have public transportation stops near your residence?

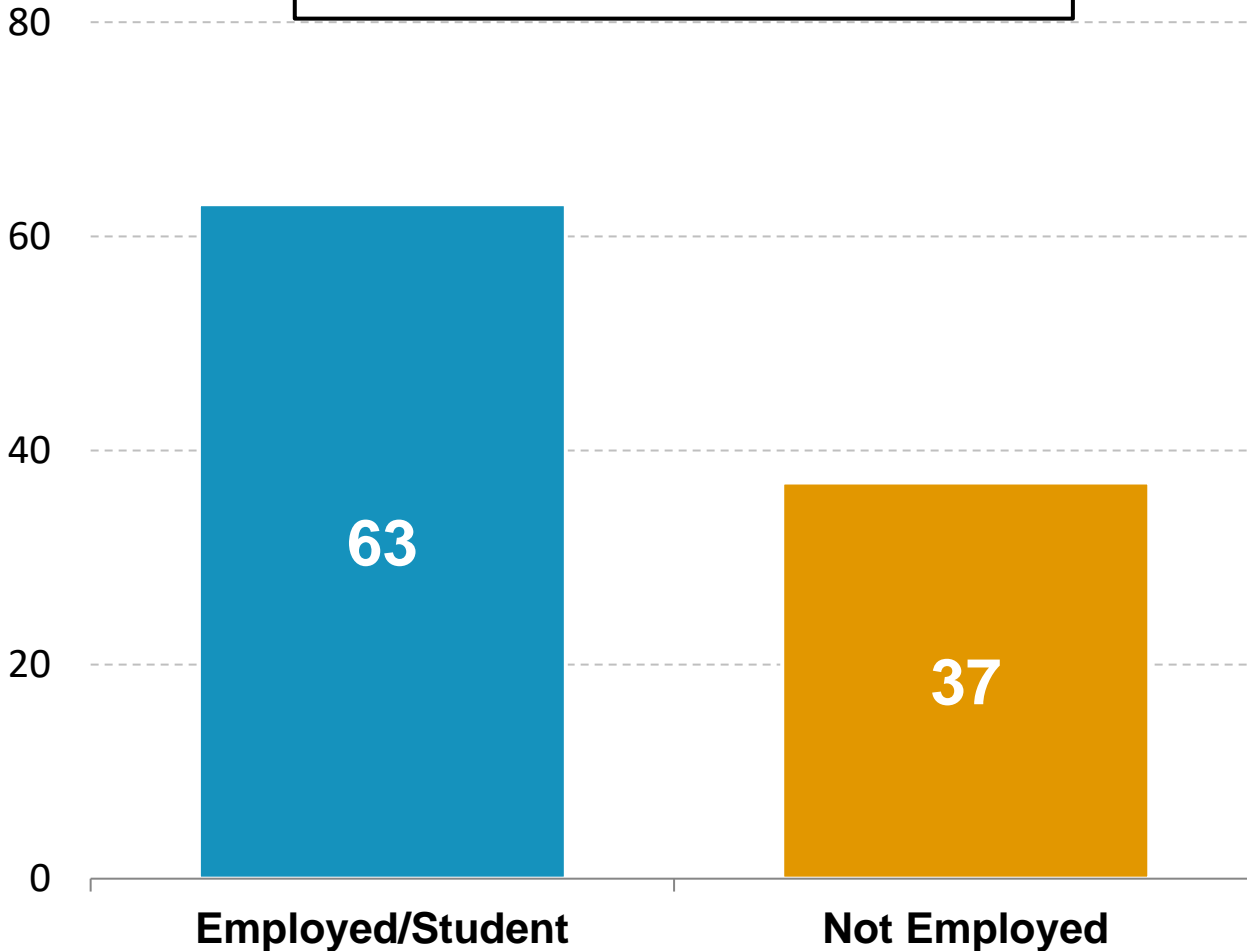


Overall, 54% of respondents said it was very/somewhat important, and 45% of respondents said it was a little/not important at all.

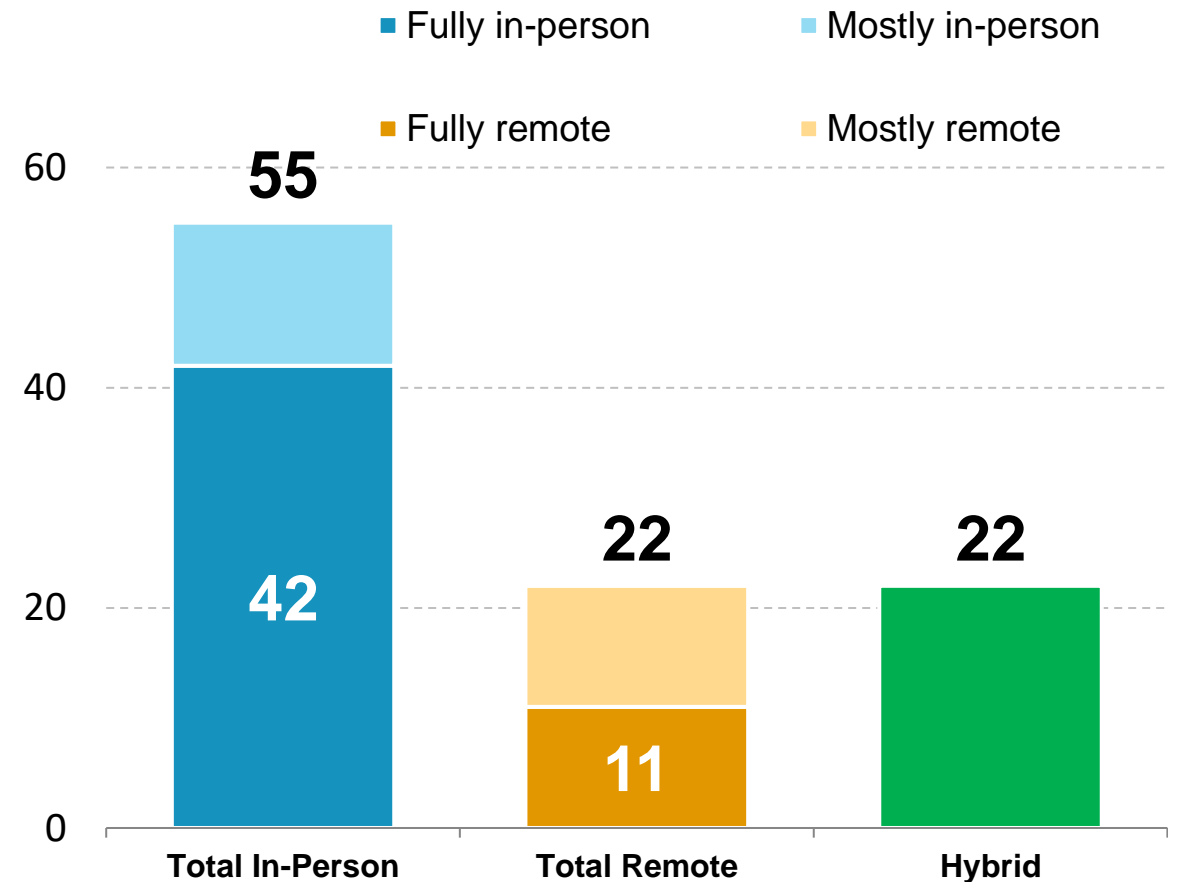
# Most workers prefer an in-person schedule

What is your current employment status? / (IF EMPLOYED OR A STUDENT) Which of the following schedules do you prefer for school or work?

## Employment Status



## In-person vs Remote

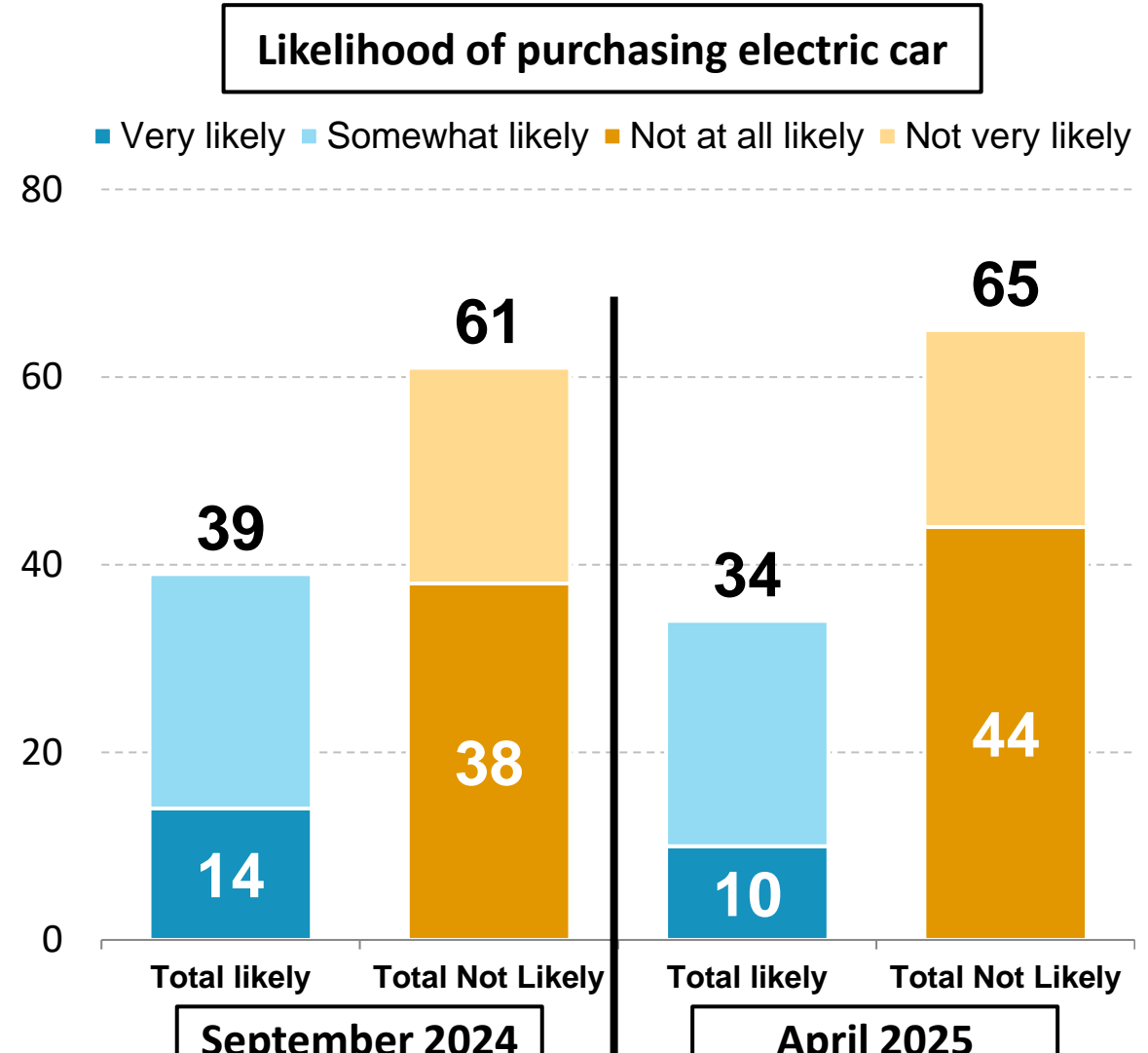
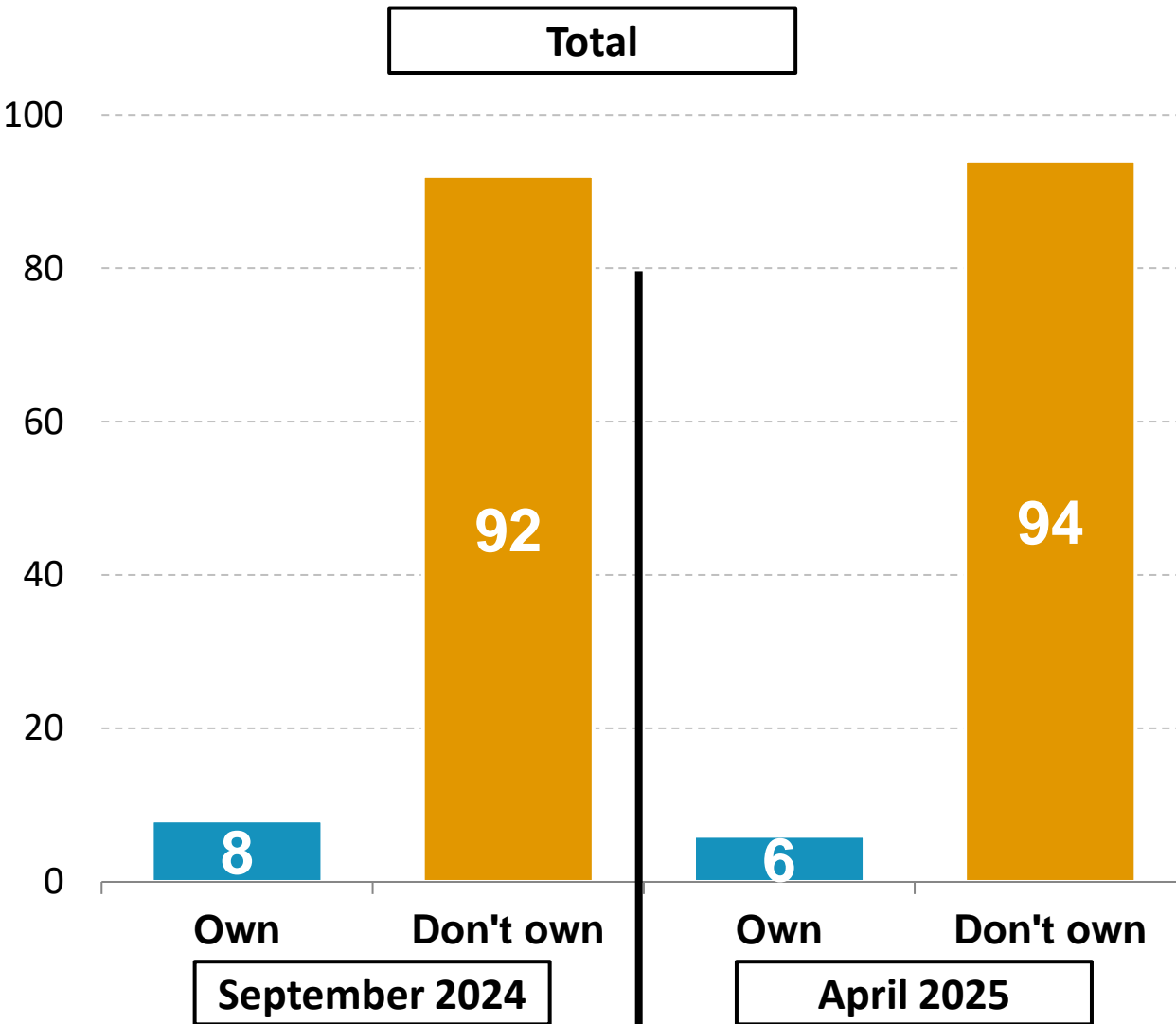


In September 2024, 65% of respondents were employed/students, and 35% not employed.



# One in twenty own an EV; around three in ten likely to purchase

Do you currently own an electric-powered car or truck? / How likely are you to purchase an electric car as your next vehicle, are you very likely, somewhat likely, not very likely, or not at all likely?





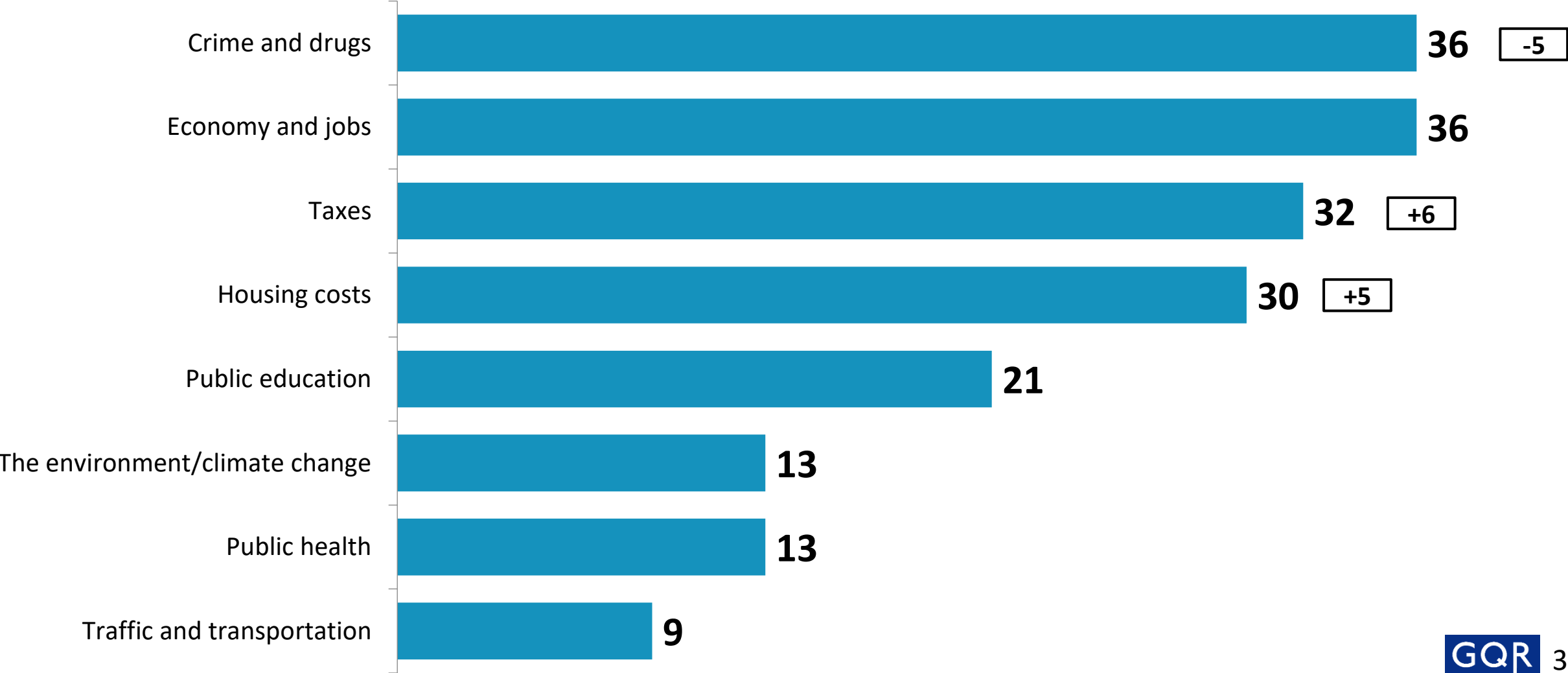
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# Quality of Life

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# Crime and the economy are still top issues; higher focus on taxes and housing costs

Which TWO of the following issues are the most important to you for your local and state government to do something about? (Box denotes change from last wave.)



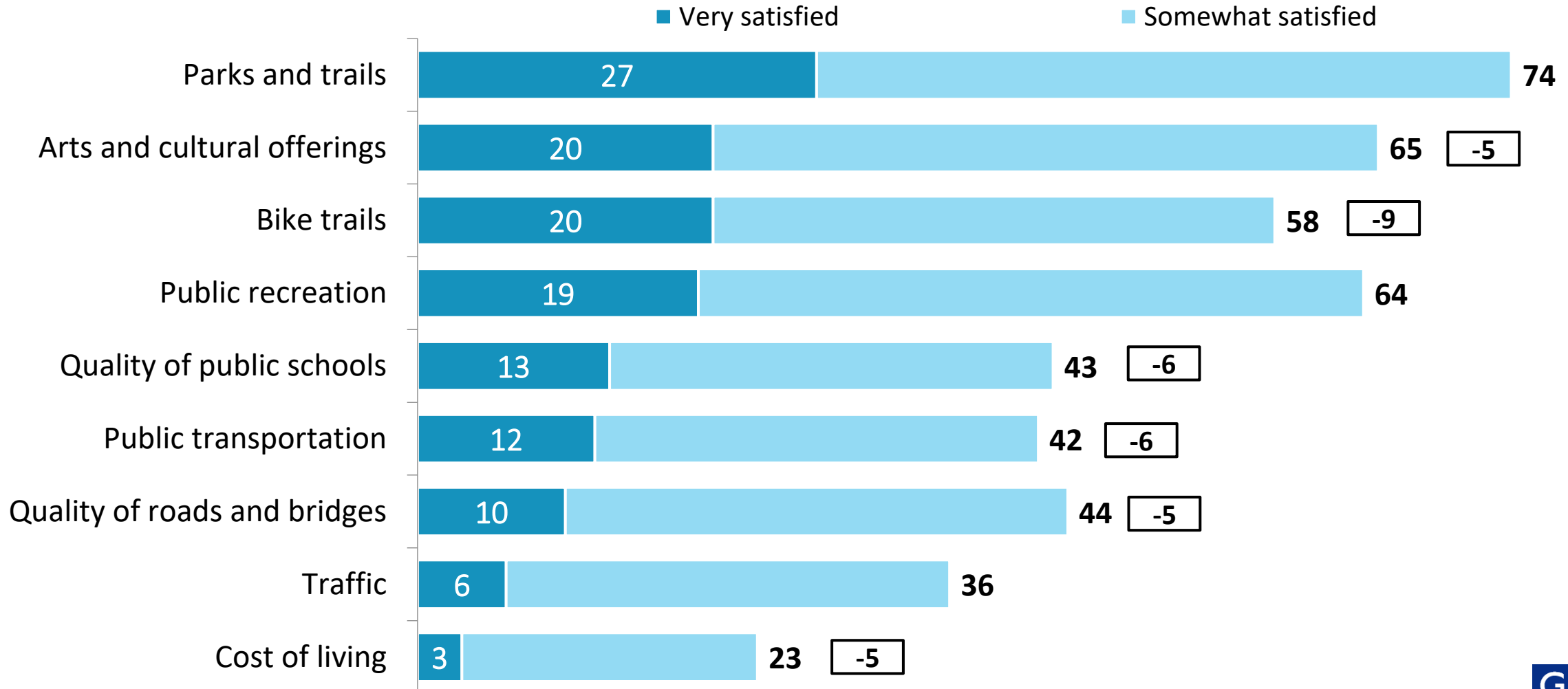
# Increased attention on taxes and housing costs across suburbs, large jump for public education in Baltimore City and Harford amid budget cuts

Which TWO of the following issues are the most important to you for your local and state government to do something about?

% Sep 2024 – Apr 2025	Baltimore County	Baltimore City	Anne Arundel	Howard	Harford	Carroll	Queen Anne's
<b>Crime/Drugs</b>	44 – 37	50 – 46	36 – 34	36 – 33	41 – 29	23 – 23	28 – 15
<b>Economy and Jobs</b>	45 – 40	25 – 37	31 – 36	33 – 34	32 – 29	41 – 36	39 – 29
<b>Taxes</b>	26 – 34	17 – 18	27 – 36	25 – 25	36 – 45	36 – 44	33 – 43
<b>Housing Costs</b>	23 – 29	28 – 29	32 – 35	20 – 30	21 – 28	25 – 26	23 – 25
<b>Public Education</b>	17 – 17	19 – 26	20 – 18	33 – 25	16 – 25	36 – 25	25 – 27
<b>Environment/ Climate Change</b>	11 – 12	12 – 12	16 – 11	21 – 18	15 – 14	14 – 17	12 – 22
<b>Public health</b>	14 – 16	18 – 16	13 – 10	10 – 14	12 – 10	9 – 9	6 – 9
<b>Traffic/ Transportation</b>	6 – 7	11 – 6	14 – 12	10 – 9	7 – 8	8 – 15	20 – 17

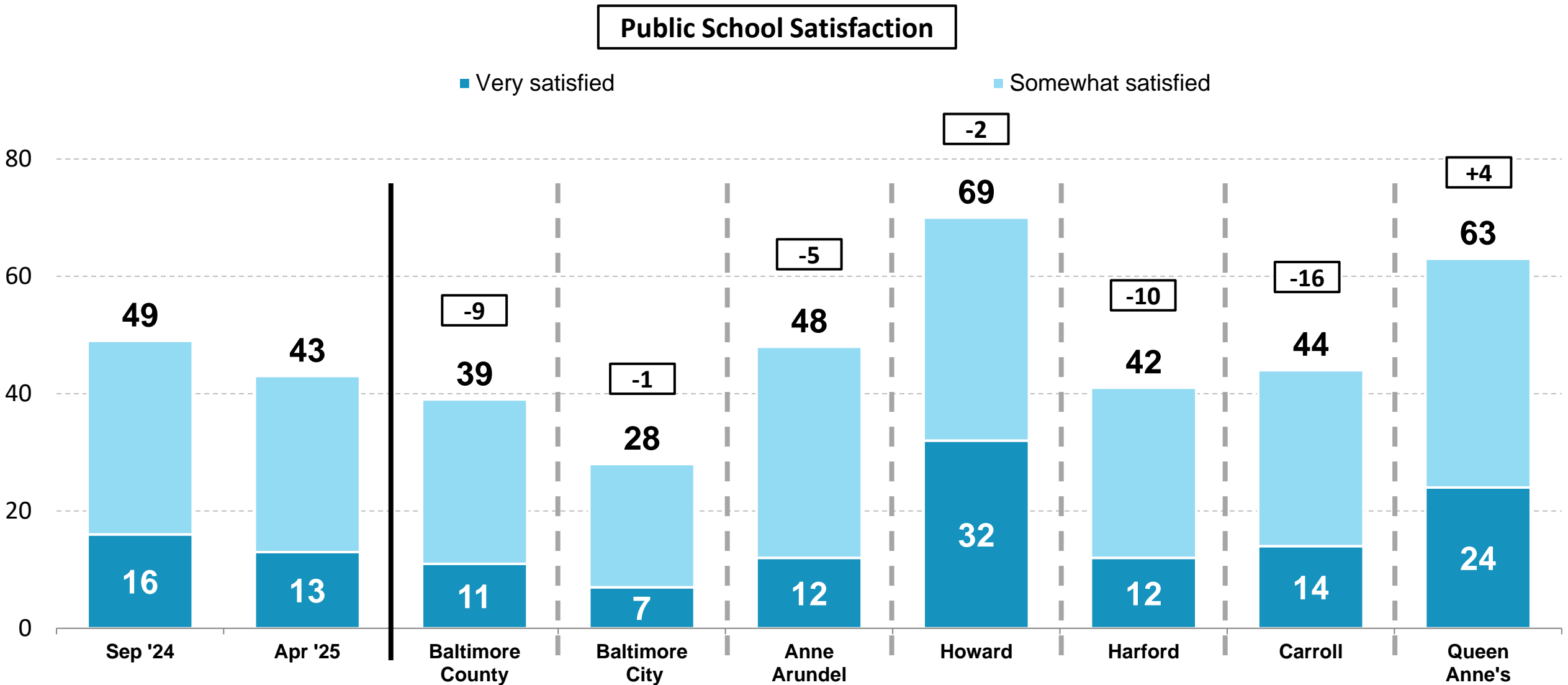
# Satisfaction with amenities; continued dissatisfaction with traffic and cost of living

Thinking about your community, please tell me if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with each item I read. (Box denotes change in total satisfaction from last wave.)



# Decreased public school satisfaction across the board, except Queen Anne's county

Thinking about your community, please tell me if you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied with each item I read. (Box denotes change in total satisfaction from last wave.)





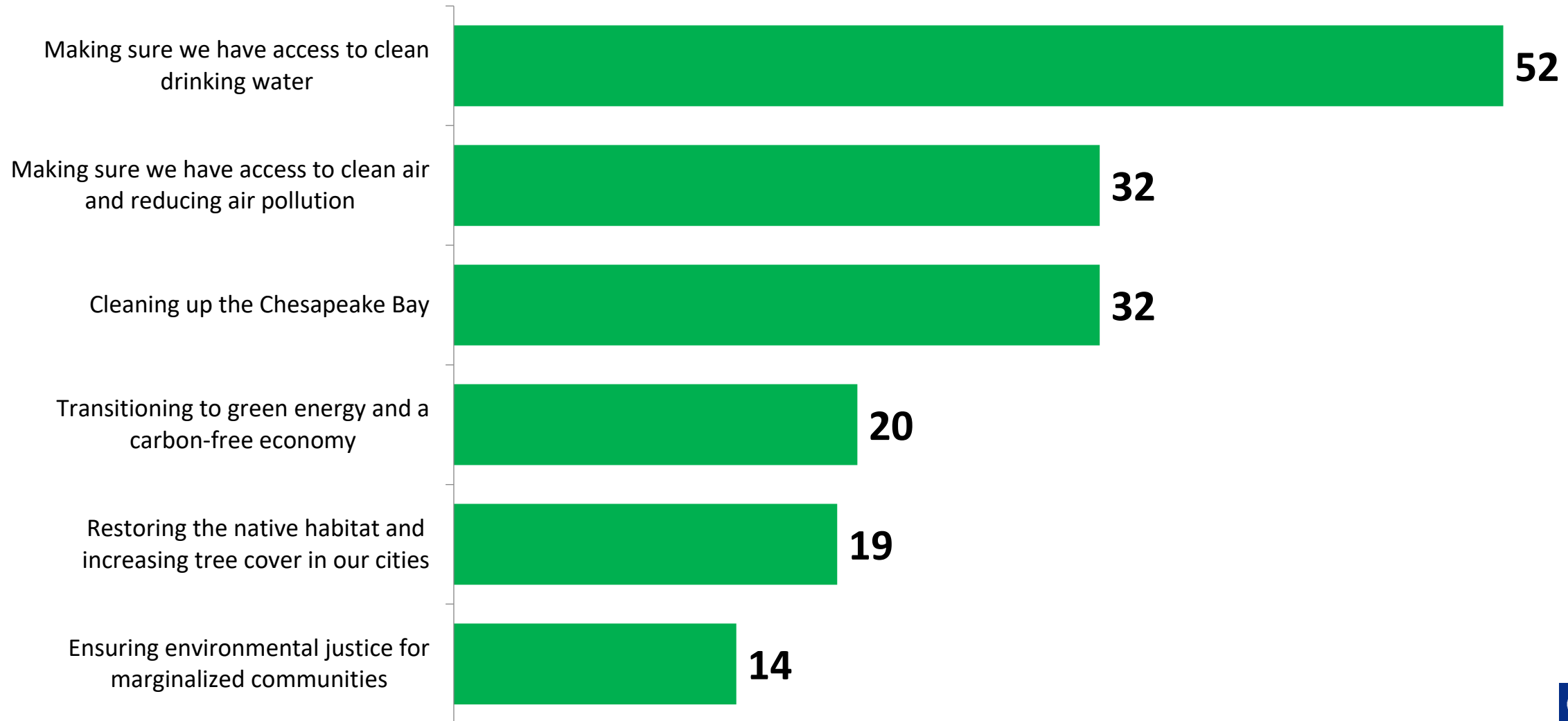
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# Environment and Climate Change

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# Access to clean water and air are top environmental priorities

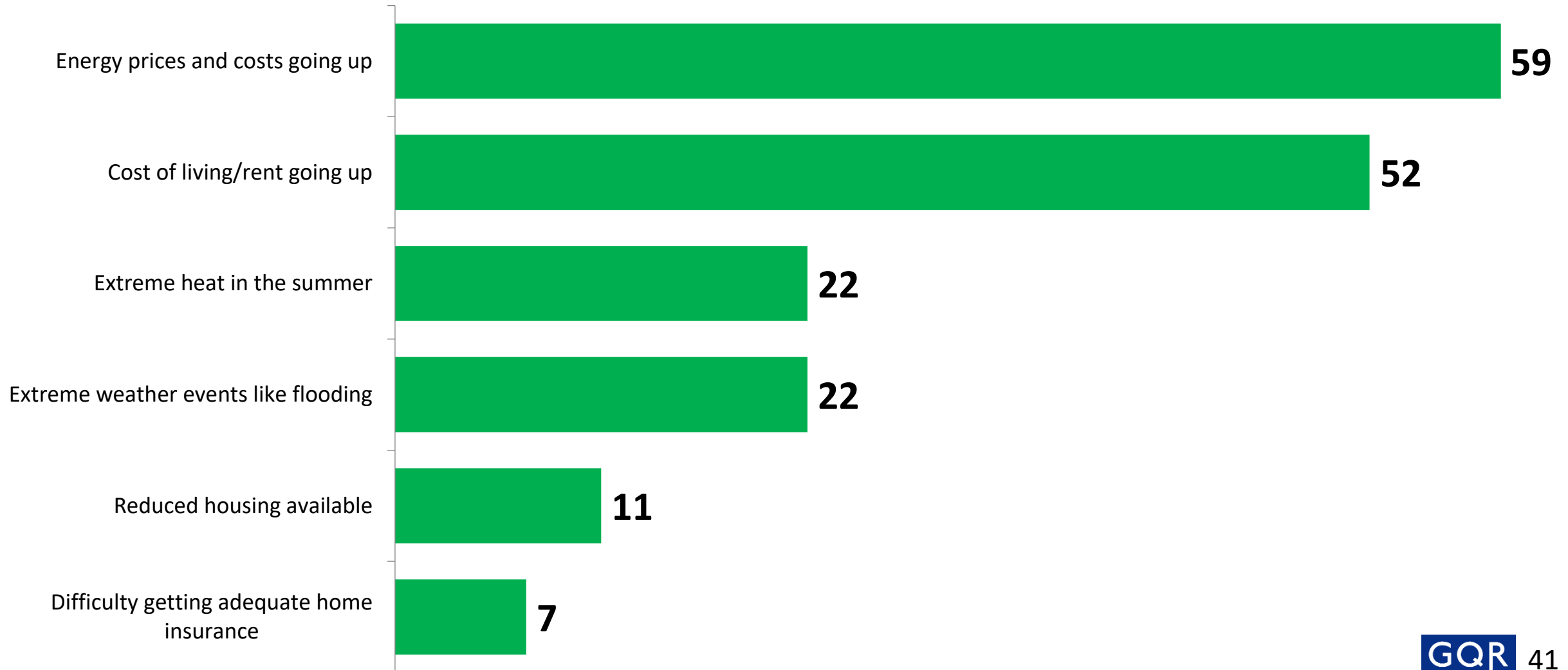
*Thinking specifically about the environment, which one or two of the following do you believe should be the highest priority for the state and local government?*





# Residents are concerned about rising costs due to climate change, in line with general economic anxiety

*Thinking about the environment and climate change, what two things concern you the most?*



The logo consists of the letters 'GQRR' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letters are contained within a white speech bubble shape that has a tail pointing towards the bottom-left corner.

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# Thank you

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