

Texas Voter Survey

Funding for Instructional Materials

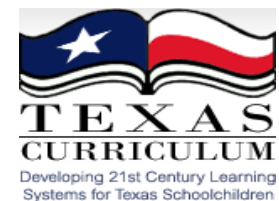


March 1 – 4, 2009

N = 602 Respondents

Margin of error: +/- 4.1%

BASELICE
& Associates, Inc.

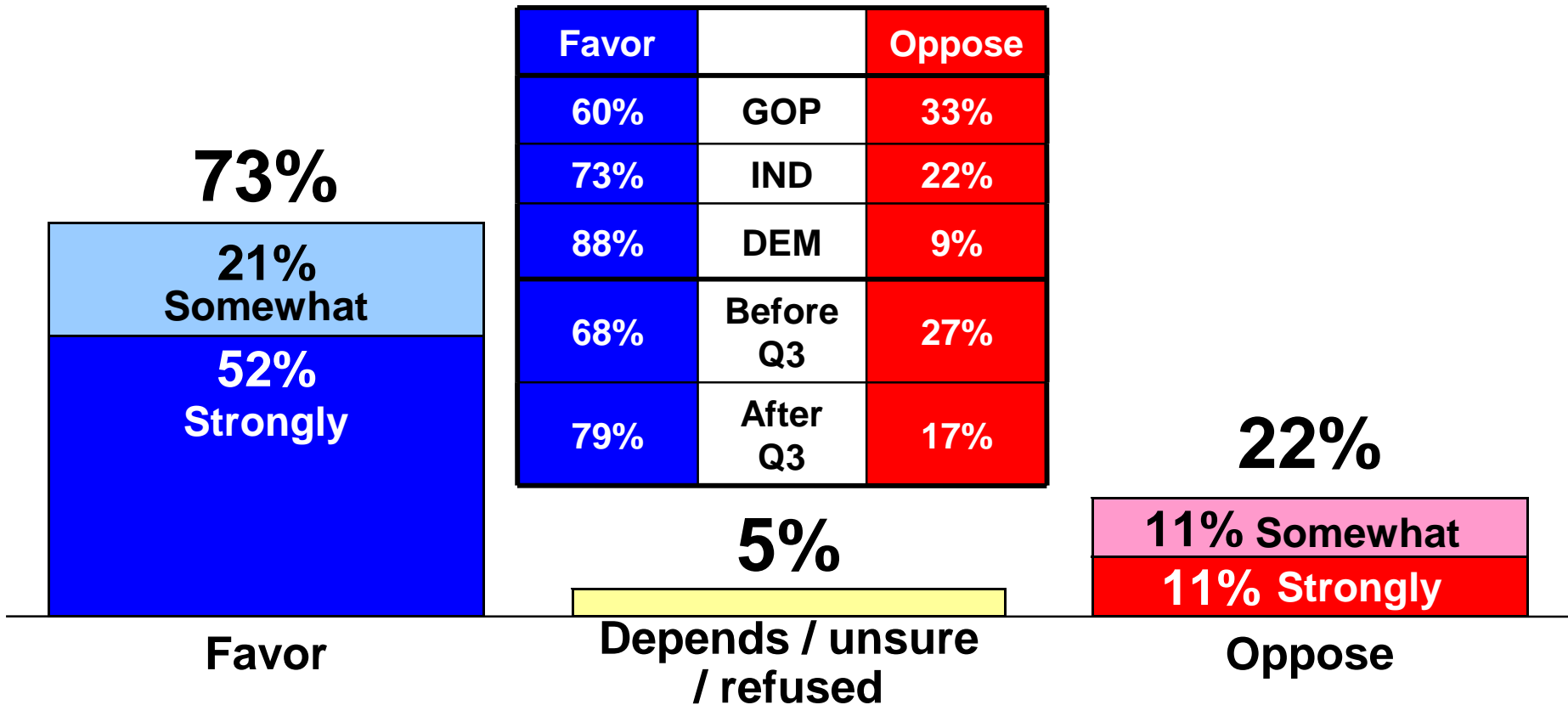


Survey conducted for TexasCurriculum.org – March 1-4, 2009

POSITION ON GUARANTEED FUNDING

The Texas Legislature is currently considering a \$47 billion education budget to fund public schools for the next two years, but not included in that budget is any money for the purchase of new textbooks. These textbooks and instructional materials are included only as a \$900 million contingency in the budget, meaning they will only be purchased if the state's Permanent Education Fund receives \$1.4 billion in market earnings. Given the current economy, these market gains are unlikely during the current legislative session, which ends May 31st.

Do you favor or oppose requiring the legislature to guarantee funding for textbooks and instructional materials in the education budget?



GUARANTEED vs. MARKET RETURNS

If you had to choose, would you prefer funding for textbooks and instructional materials be based...



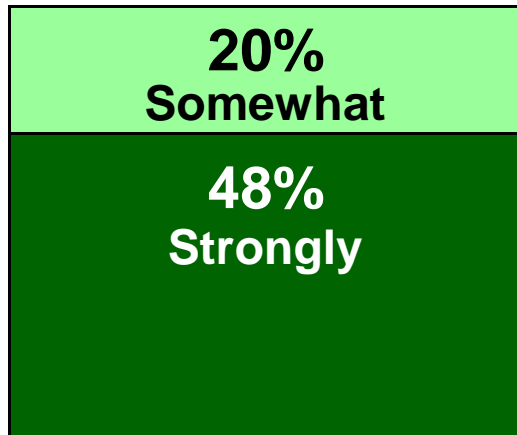
On a guaranteed amount that is specified in the state budget



Only if there is enough of a stock market return through the Permanent Education Fund

Guaranteed		Market Returns
60%	GOP	29%
70%	IND	15%
75%	DEM	17%
70%	Before Q2	21%
66%	After Q2	22%

68%



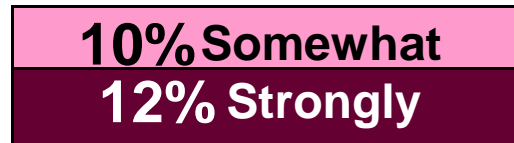
Guaranteed

11%



Other / unsure / refused

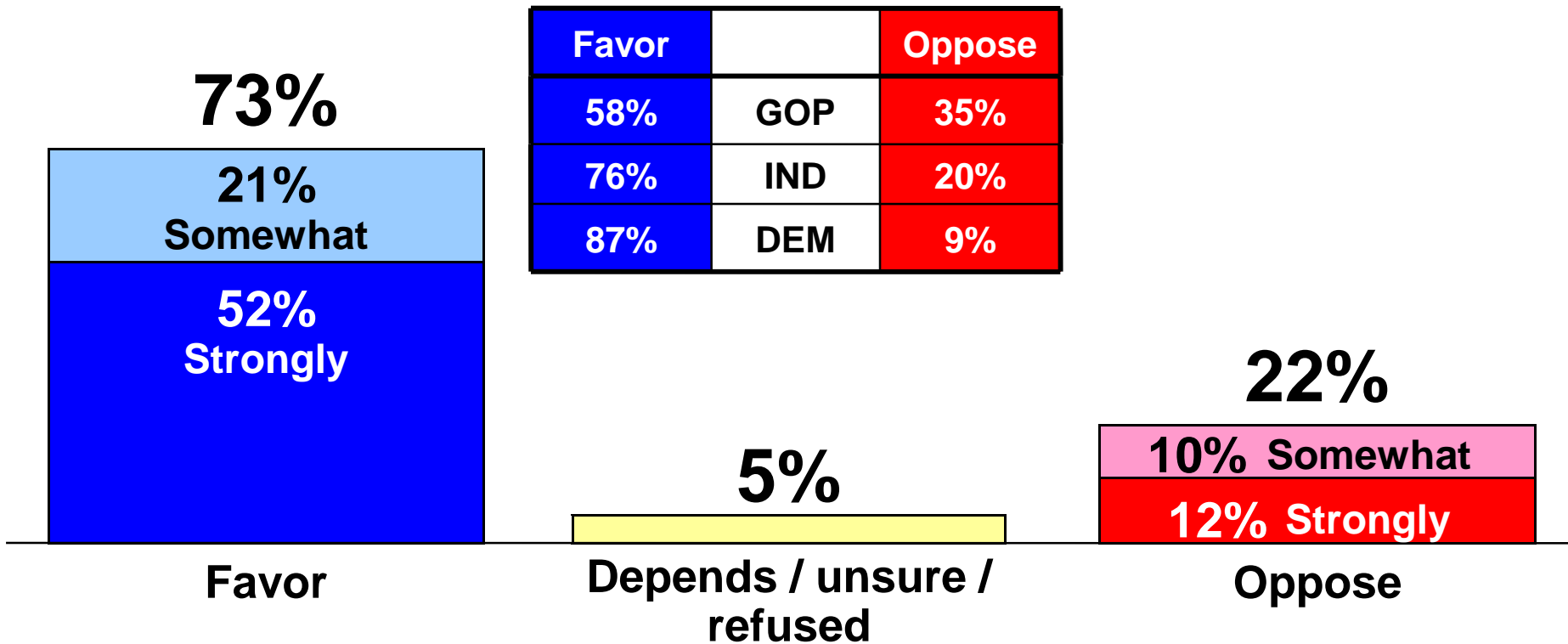
21%



Market returns

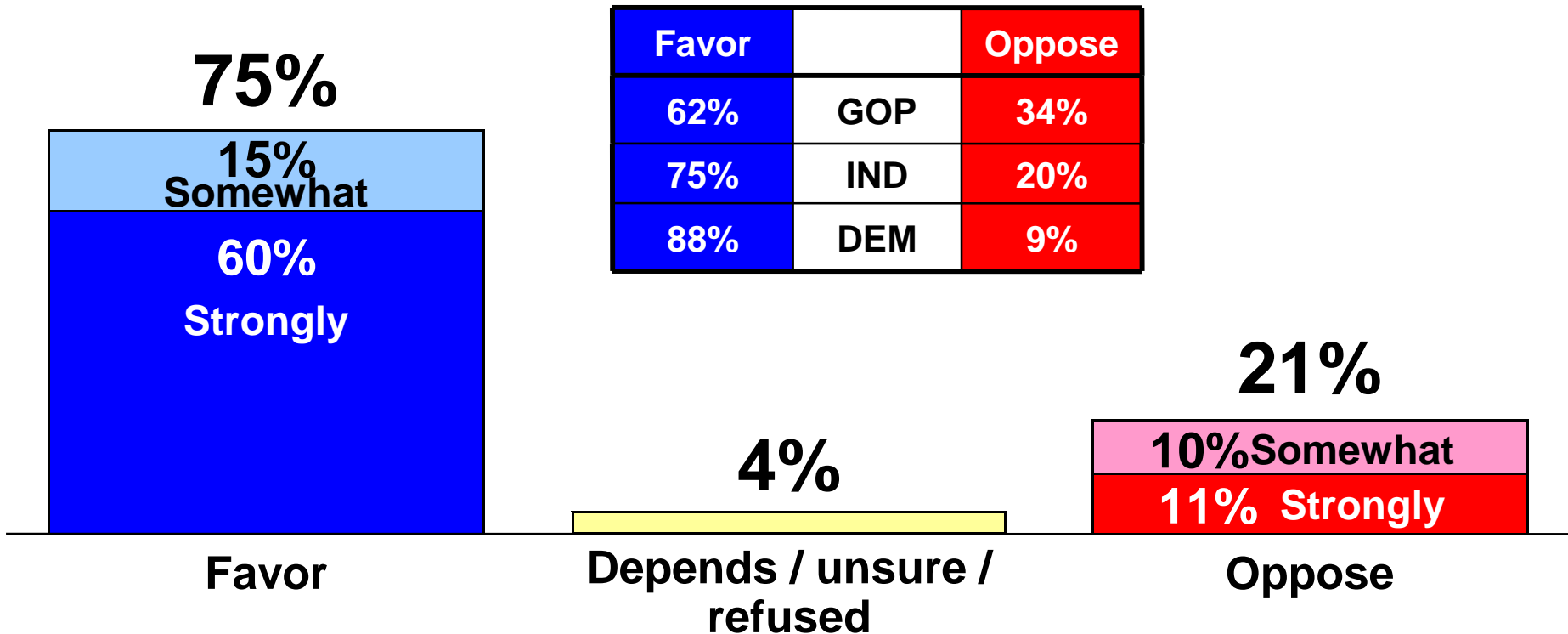
POSITION ON FUNDING FOR READING MATERIALS

Texas Education Agency officials say that Texas is facing its most important textbook purchase in more than a decade: new reading materials that give teachers tools to educate our children, provide electronic tutoring for struggling students, and also focus on teaching English to the state's rapidly growing student population of English learners. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose requiring the legislature to guarantee funding for textbooks and instructional materials in the education budget?



POSITION ON REPLACING OLD MATERIALS

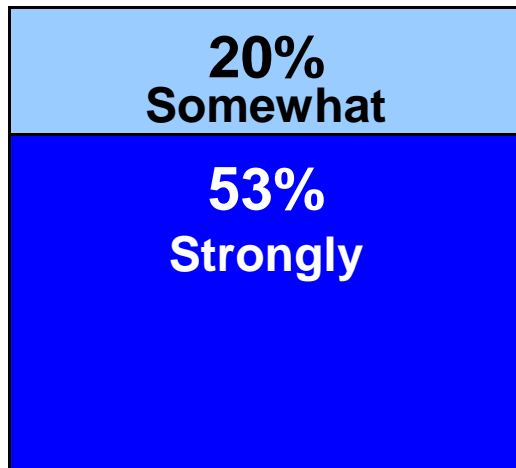
The State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency have adopted reading materials that are scheduled to arrive in classrooms beginning with the 2010 and 2011 school year. If they are not fully funded now, their distribution will be delayed and students will continue to use decade-old materials that do not include the new curriculum and college readiness standards. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose requiring the legislature to guarantee funding for textbooks and instructional materials in the education budget?



POSITION ON CURRICULUM / COLLEGE READINESS

The approved and adopted reading textbooks and instructional materials include new curriculum and college readiness standards. The students will be tested on these new standards which are not in current textbooks. Knowing this, do you favor or oppose requiring the legislature to guarantee funding for textbooks and instructional materials in the education budget?

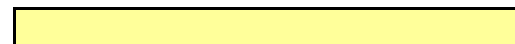
72%



Favor

Favor		Oppose
61%	GOP	33%
74%	IND	20%
83%	DEM	12%

6%



**Depends /
unsure / refused**

22%



Oppose

TOO EXPENSIVE vs. BARGAIN

Which viewpoint comes closest to your own?

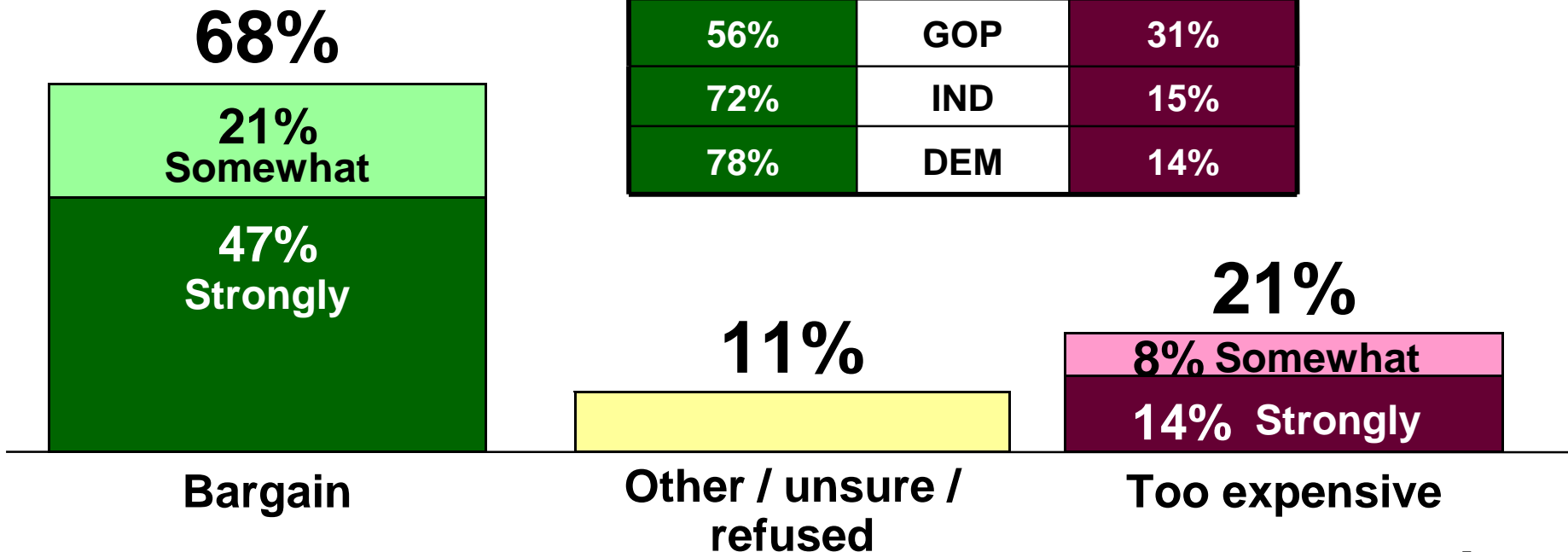


Some people say that at \$900 million dollars this textbook purchase is just too expensive.



Other people say that providing instructional materials for almost 4.8 million students – for ten years – at a cost of about 11 cents a day is a bargain for the state.

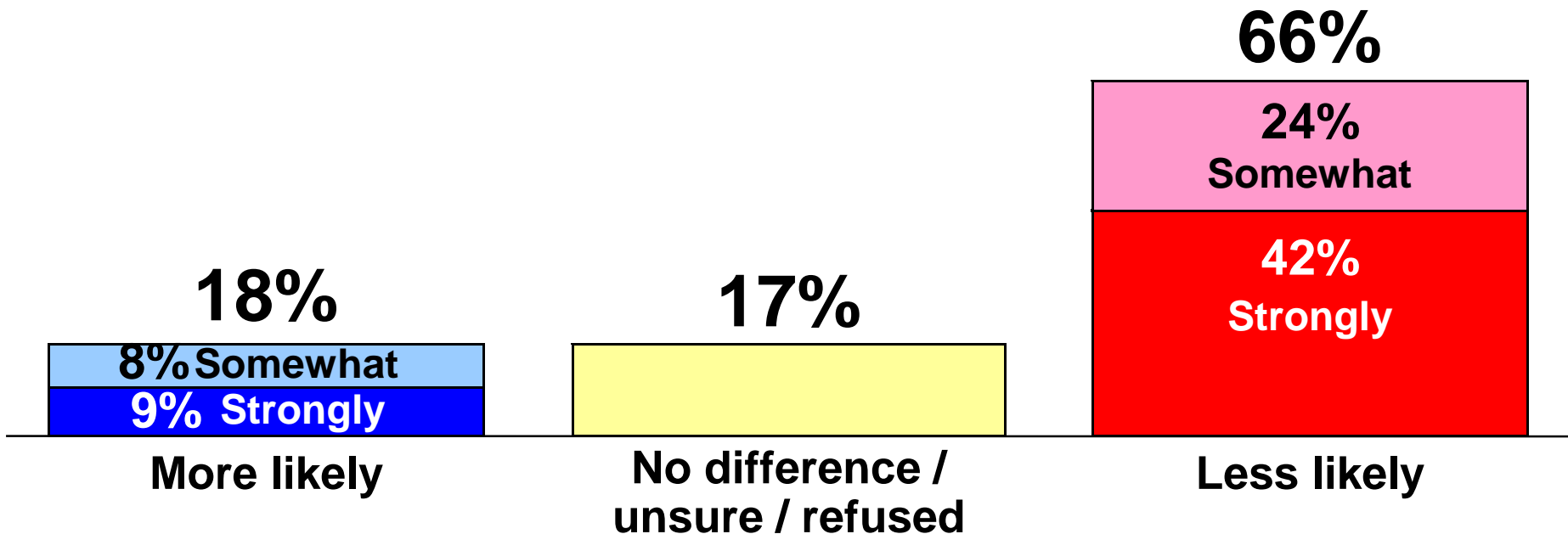
Bargain		Too expensive
56%	GOP	31%
72%	IND	15%
78%	DEM	14%



SUPPORT OF LEGISLATOR

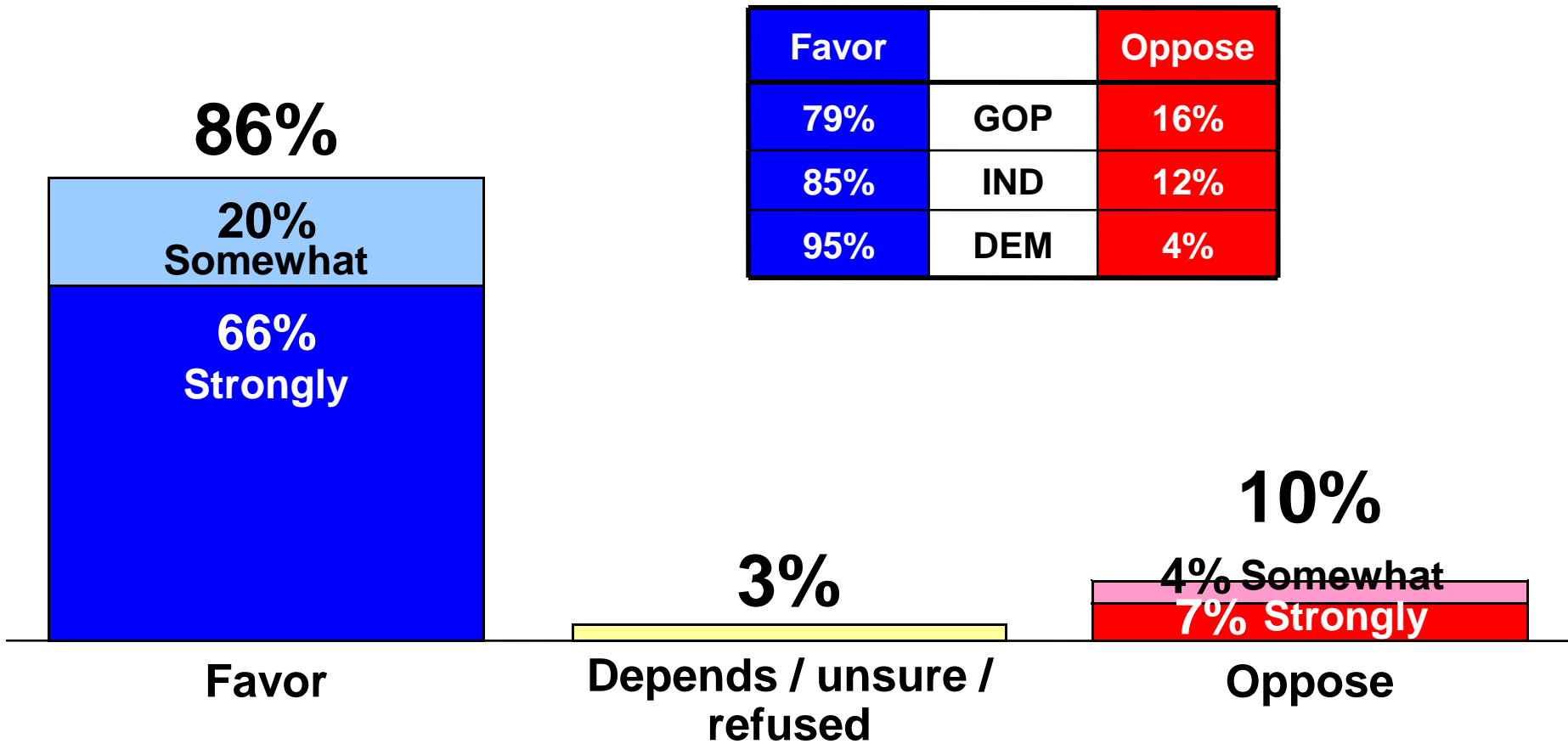
If your state legislator voted in favor of a budget that did not fully fund instructional materials, would you be more or less likely to vote for that legislator?

More likely		Less likely
26%	GOP	51%
10%	IND	71%
13%	DEM	78%



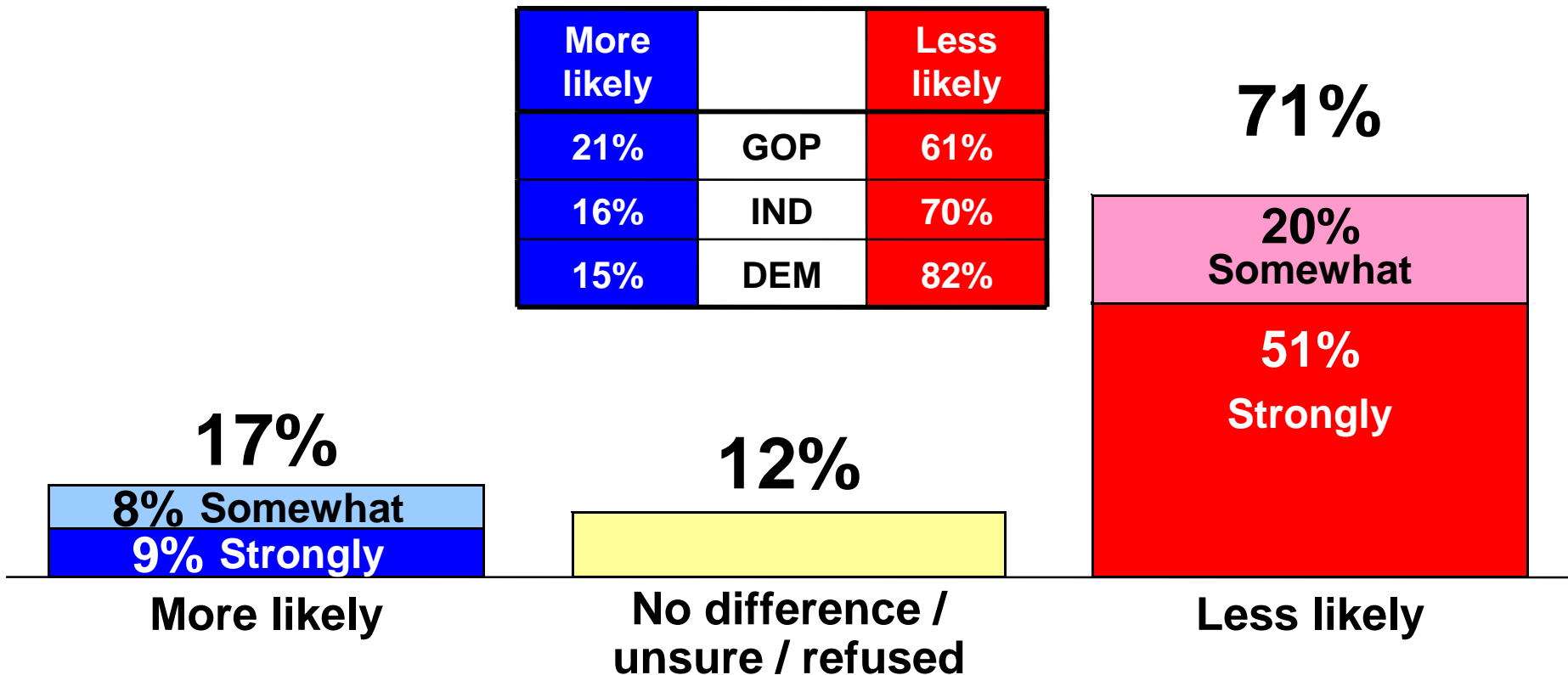
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

Do you favor or oppose the current state constitutional requirement that textbooks be funded by the state and provided directly to every public school student in Texas?



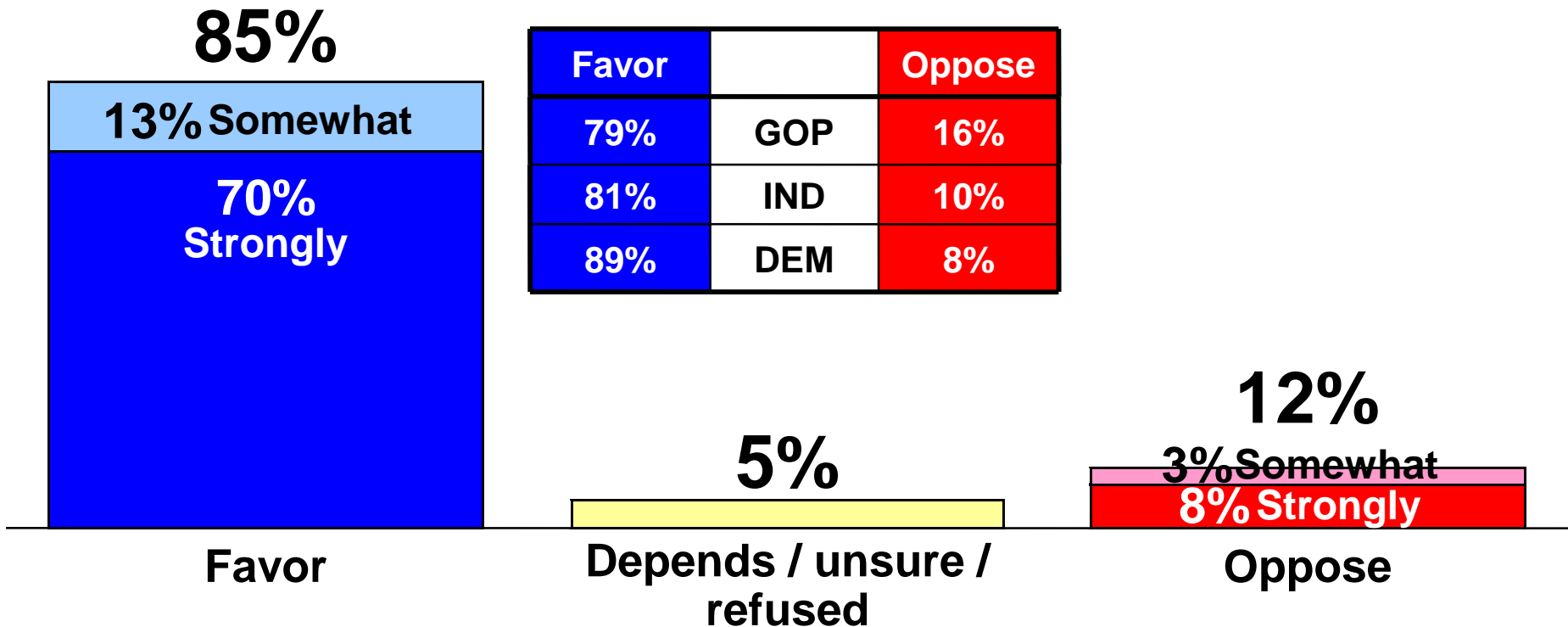
SUPPORT OF LEGISLATOR

If your state legislator voted to ignore the state's constitutional mandate to provide instructional materials directly to every public school student in the state, would you be more or less likely to vote for that legislator?



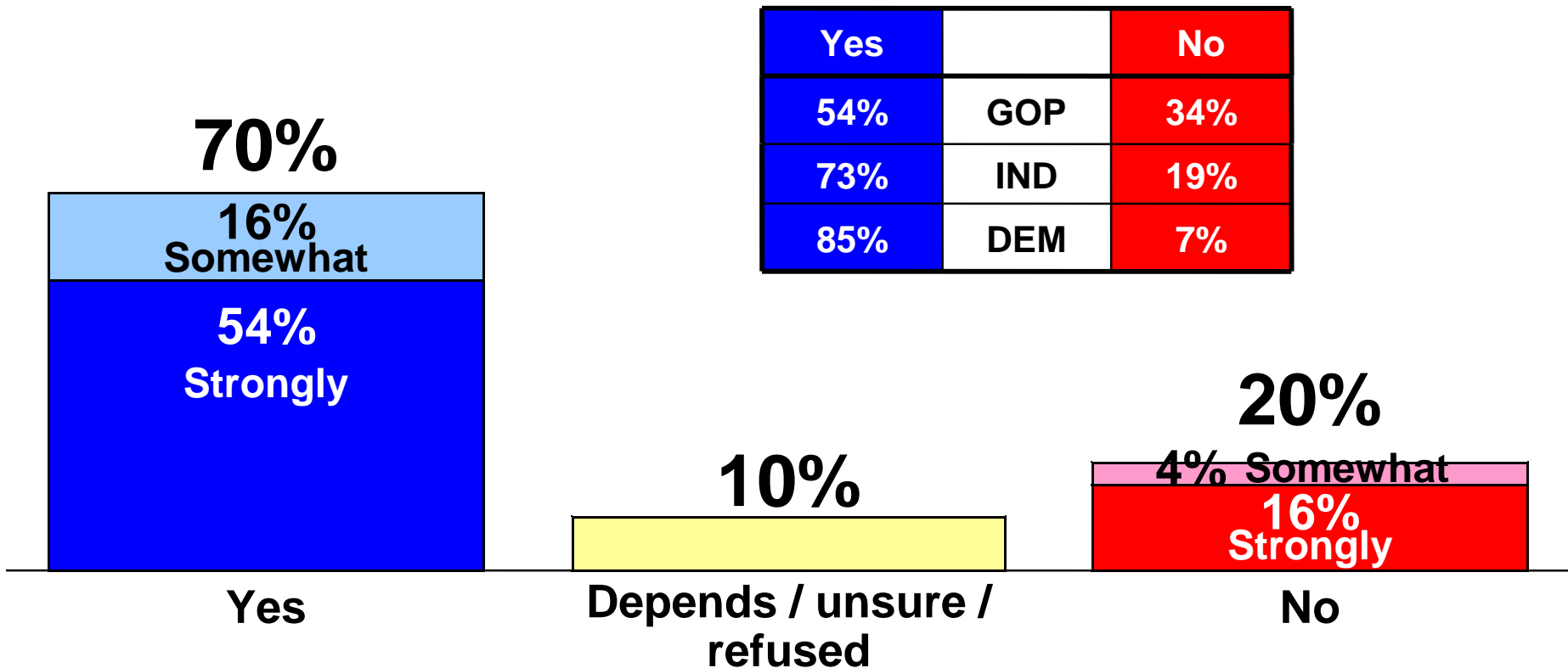
PROTECTING TEXTBOOK FUND

The State Board of Education oversees the Children’s Textbook Fund, but state legislators have been taking money from the textbook fund for other purposes. Do you favor or oppose protecting future textbook funding to make sure that money in the fund is used for up to date math and reading textbooks for students?



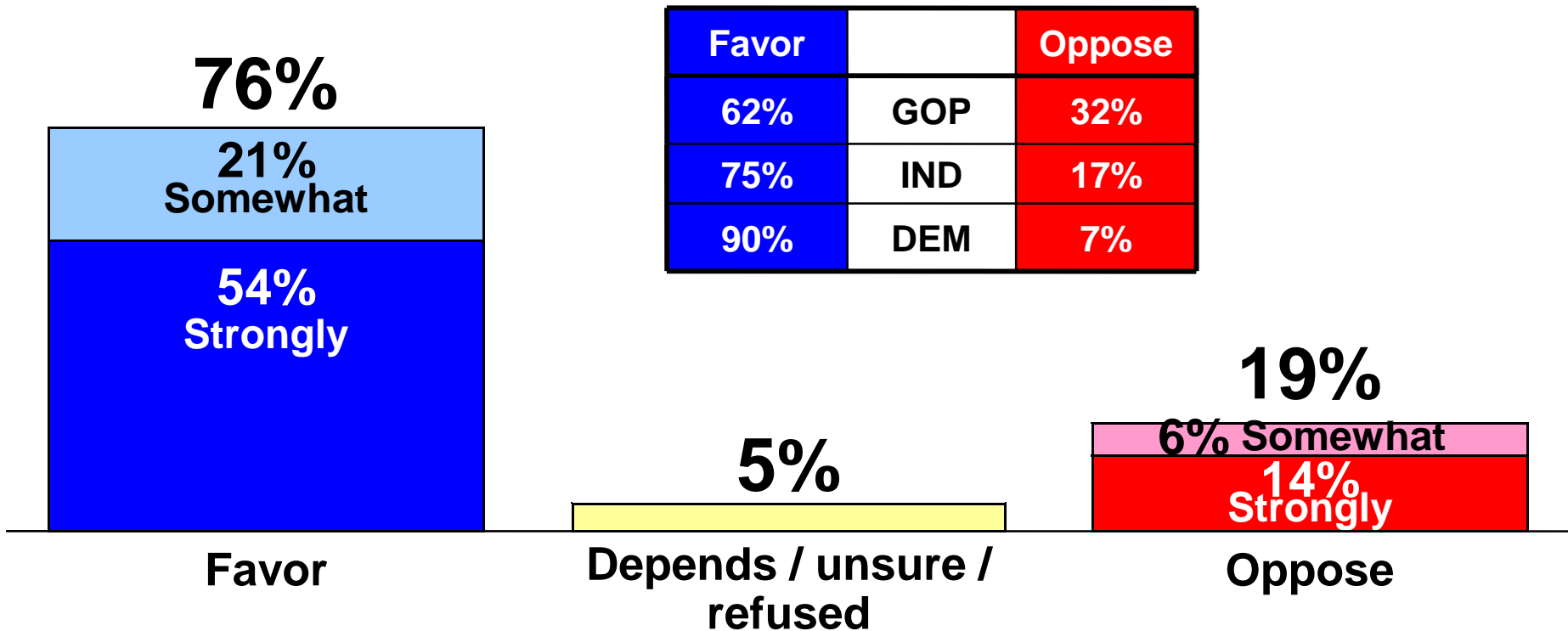
USING STIMULUS FOR INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS

Last week, President Barack Obama signed a federal stimulus spending package of \$780 billion. Included in this package is \$5 billion for public education expenditures in Texas. Do you think it is appropriate for the state of Texas to use those additional federal dollars to guarantee the purchase of new reading textbooks and other instructional materials?



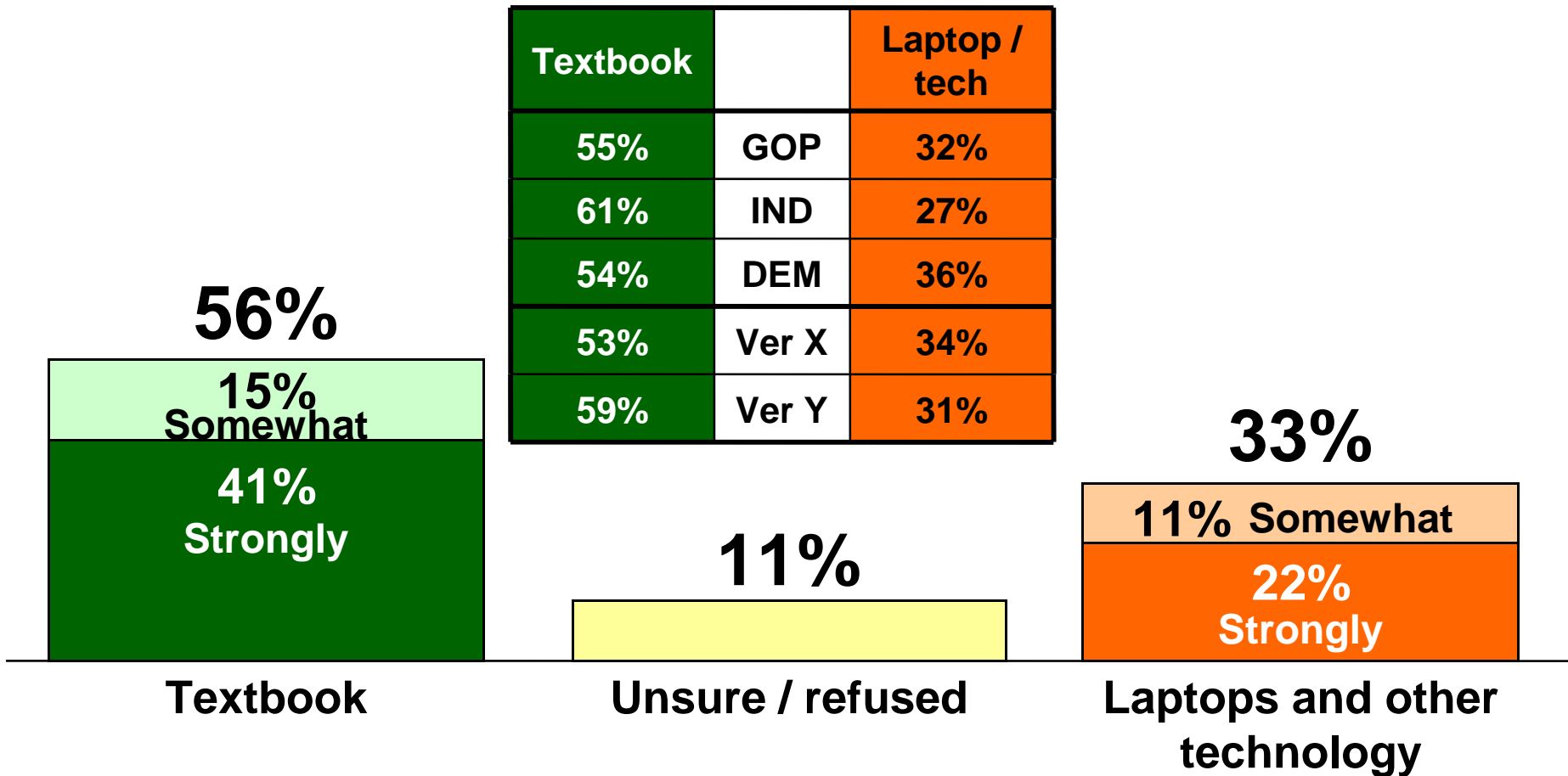
USING STIMULUS FOR BOOKS, TECHNOLOGY, AND REPAIRS

The Texas Education Commissioner stated publicly that the federal money might be used for buying textbooks, new technology for schools, and repairing school buildings damaged by Hurricane Ike. Do you favor or oppose using federal stimulus funds to guarantee the purchase of up-to-date textbooks, technology and repairing schools damaged by the hurricane?



TEXTBOOKS vs. TECHNOLOGY

Which do you think is more important for the state to fund in order to improve Texas public school classrooms: (**Ver X**: updated textbooks that meet state curriculum standards, or laptop computers and other technologies / **Ver Y**: laptop computers and other technologies, or updated textbooks that meet state curriculum standards)?



BOTH vs. TECHNOLOGY

Which viewpoint comes closest to your own?

➔ Some people say instead of spending the money on new reading textbooks, that the state is better off investing in technology for the classroom.

➔ Other people say that we cannot replace content with technology, and the state must invest in both textbooks and computer technology.

