

American Business Leaders On Campaign Finance And Reform

*Key findings from survey
conducted May/June 2013
for*



Research Methodology

- Hart Research (D) and American Viewpoint (R) formed a bipartisan research team to conduct an online nationwide survey among 302 business executives for the Committee for Economic Development (CED).
- The survey was conducted May 29 – June 3, 2013.
- Job titles for respondents were restricted to owner, president, chairman, partner, CEO, COO, CFO, senior vice president, department head, vice president, director, and administrator.
- All respondents work for a company with at least five employees, including approximately 120 respondents who work for a company with at least 1,000 employees.
- While online surveys are not sampled surveys, a comparable sampled survey of this size would have a statistical margin of sampling error of ± 5.64 percentage points.

Large Majorities Of U.S. Business Executives Agree On The Problem

85% say that the campaign finance system is in poor shape or broken.

87% say that the campaign finance system needs major reforms or a complete overhaul.

71% believe that major contributors have too much influence on politicians.

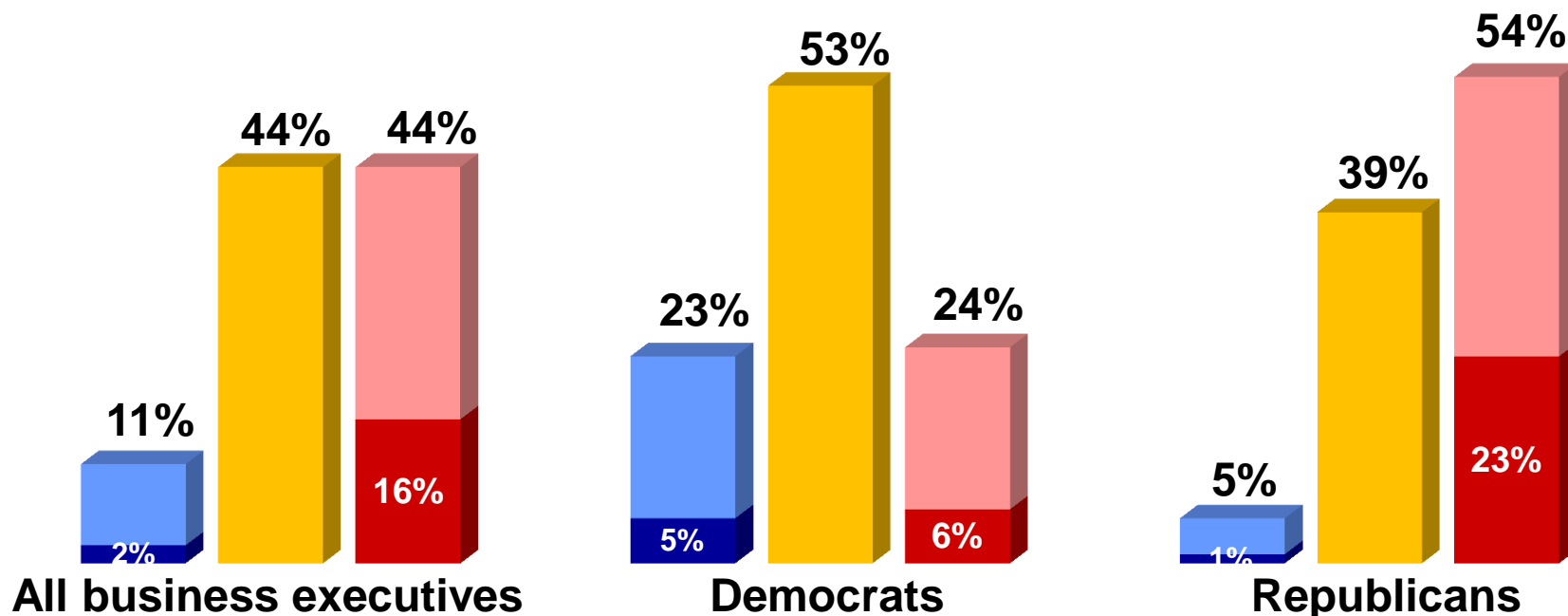
75% say that the U.S. campaign finance system is pay-to-play.

Large Majorities Of U.S. Business Executives Agree That The Solutions Are Limits And Disclosure

- 90%** support reforms that disclose all individual, corporate, and labor contributions to political committees.
- 89%** want limits on how much money individuals, corporations, and labor can give to political candidates.
- 89%** want limits on how much money individuals, corporations, labor, and independent political organizations can spend for political purposes during an election.

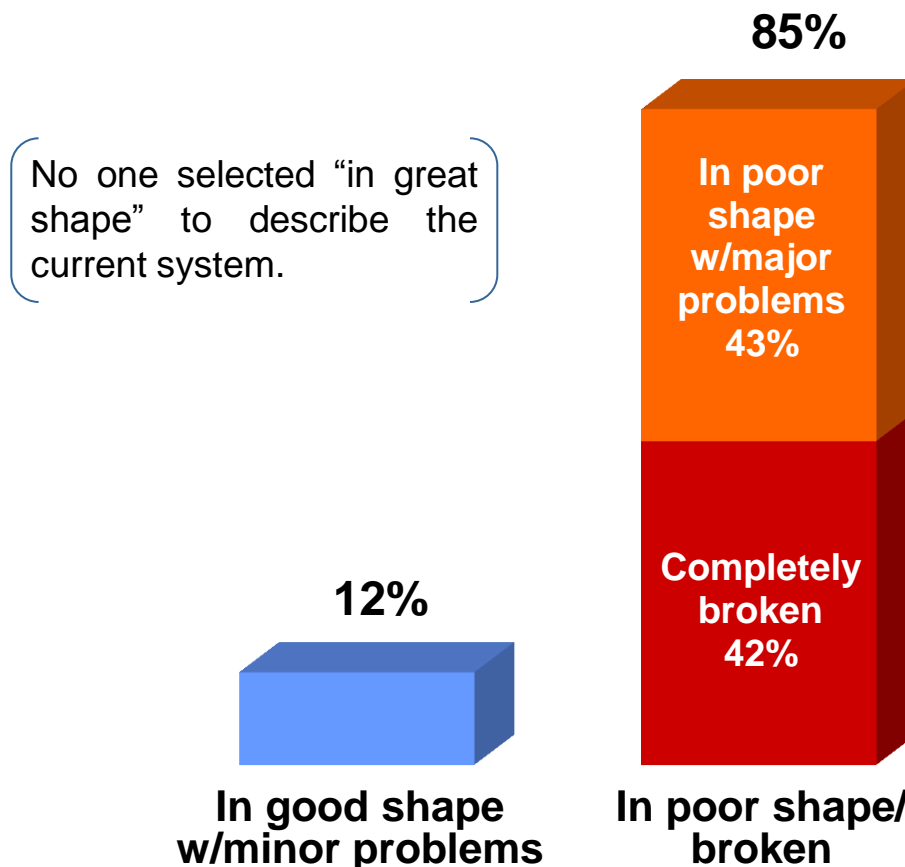
2012 Election Was Not The Best

Thinking about the 2012 election for president, Congress, and other federal and local offices, and concentrating not on the outcome of the election but on the process of how the election was conducted, how would you say election 2012 went?



85% Say The Campaign Finance System Has Major Problems Or Is Broken

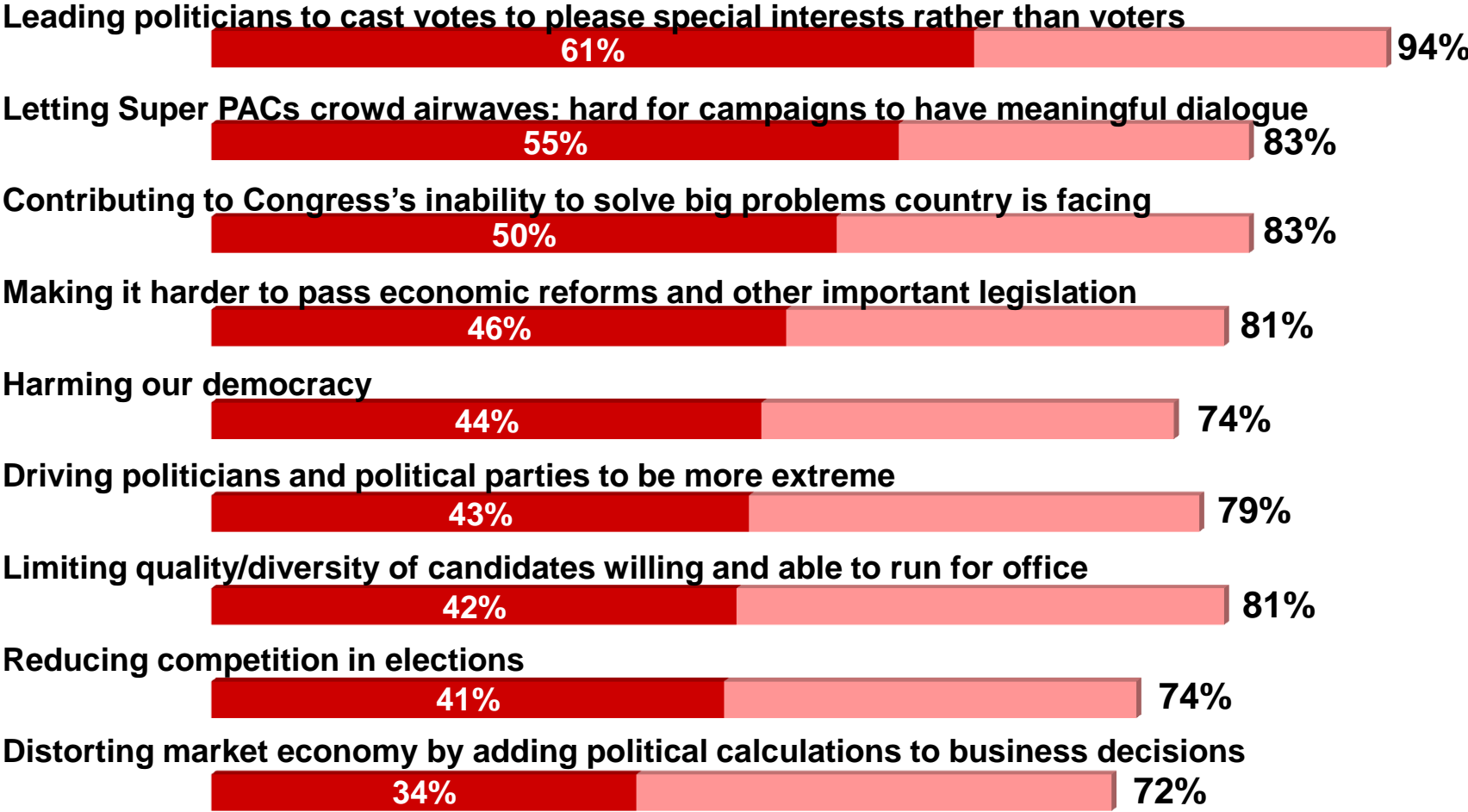
Which one of the following best describes the current state of the system for financing political campaigns?



Current System Pleases Special Interest, Empowers Super PACs, Hurts Country In General

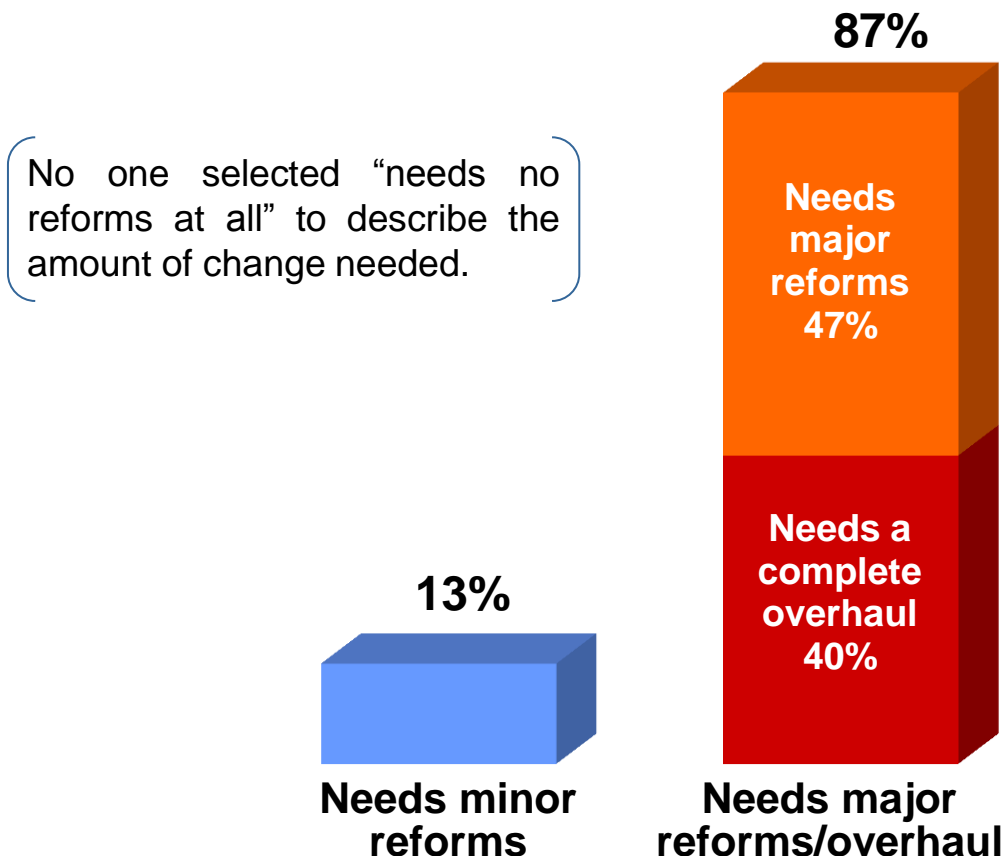
■ Current system DEFINITELY is doing this ■ Current system PROBABLY is doing this

The current system is:



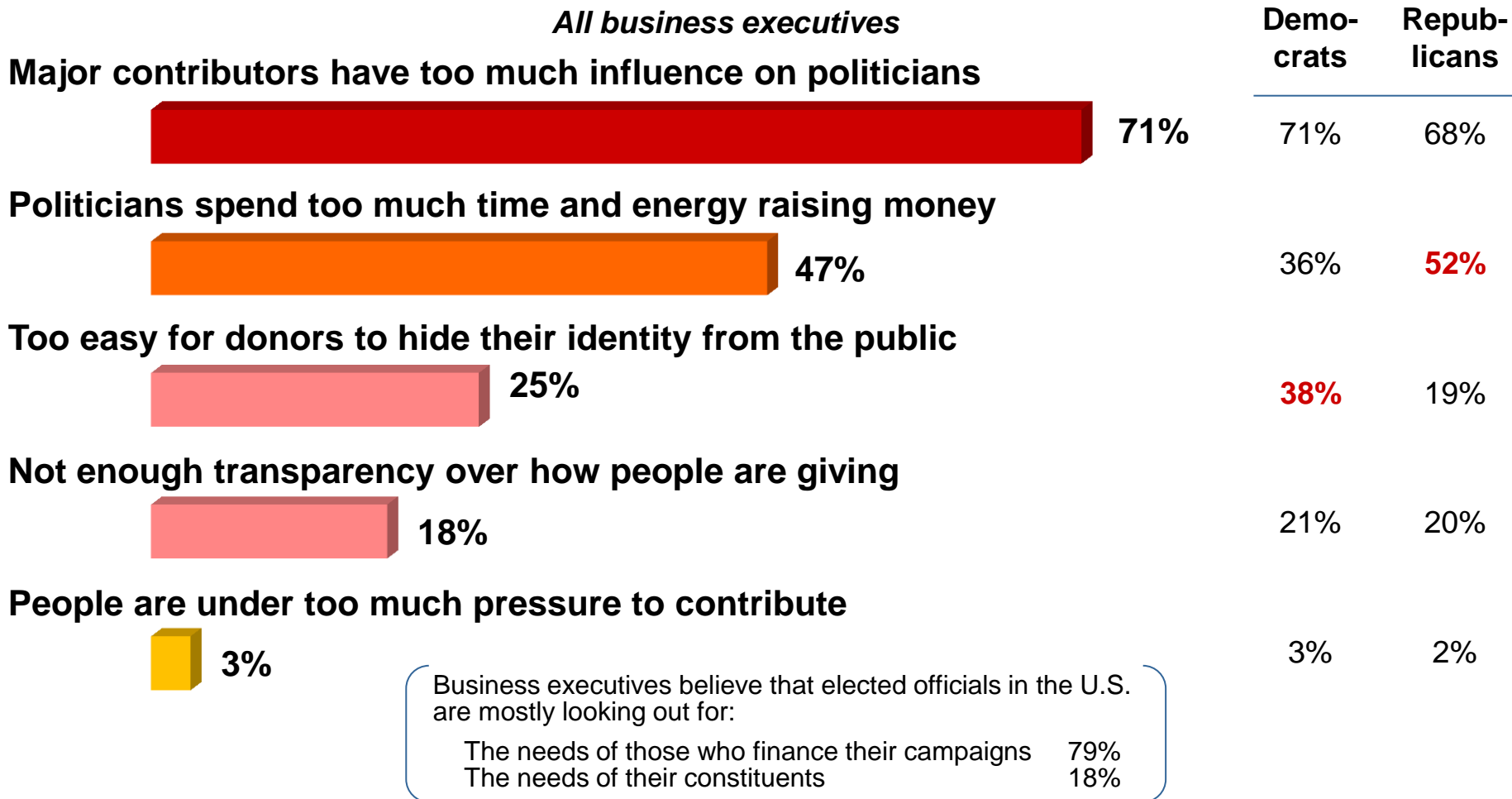
87% Say The Campaign Finance System Needs Major Reforms Or Complete Overhaul

Which one of the following best describes the amount of change the system for financing political campaigns needs?



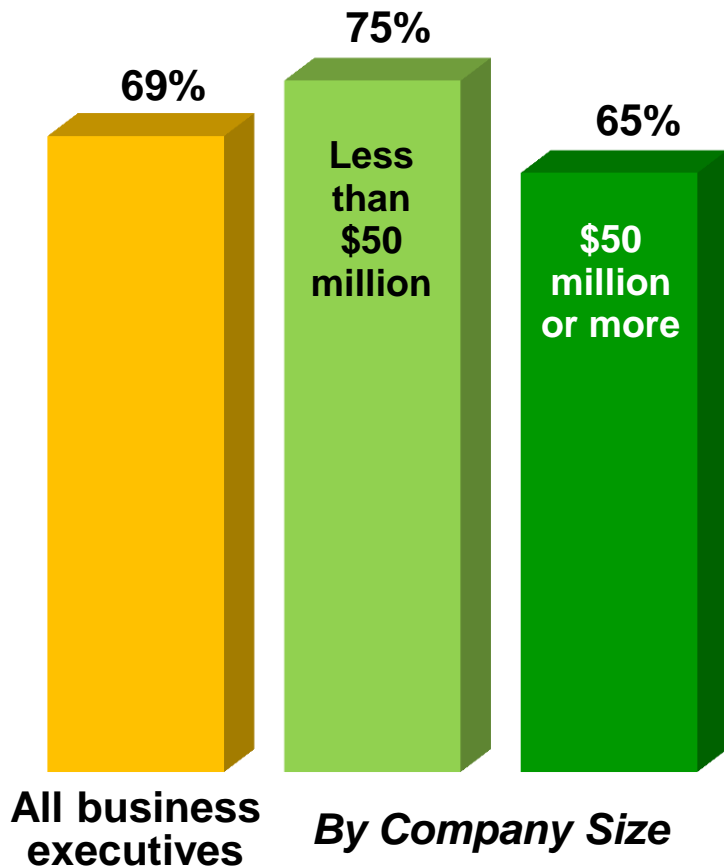
71% Say Major Contributors Have Too Much Influence On Politics

Which one or two of the following, if any, come closest to your view of what the problems are with the system for financing political campaigns?

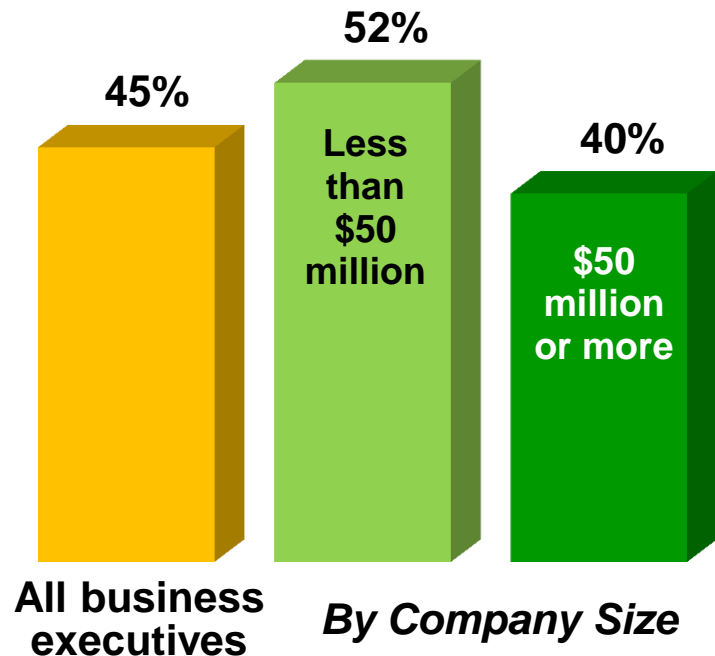


69% Believe Political Donors Have A Great Deal More Influence

In the way election campaigns are financed, I think **political donors have a great deal more influence** than average donors:



I think **companies that spend money on political campaigns gain a large advantage** in the marketplace:



64% Say The “Pay-To-Play” System Is A Serious Problem

Would you say the U.S. system of financing elections amounts to a pay-to-play system, where business executives are expected to give money if they want to have influence over public policy, or would you not describe the system this way?

The U.S. system is pay-to-play, and it is a serious problem



The U.S. system is pay-to-play, not a serious problem



There are elements of pay-to-play, but it's not that bad

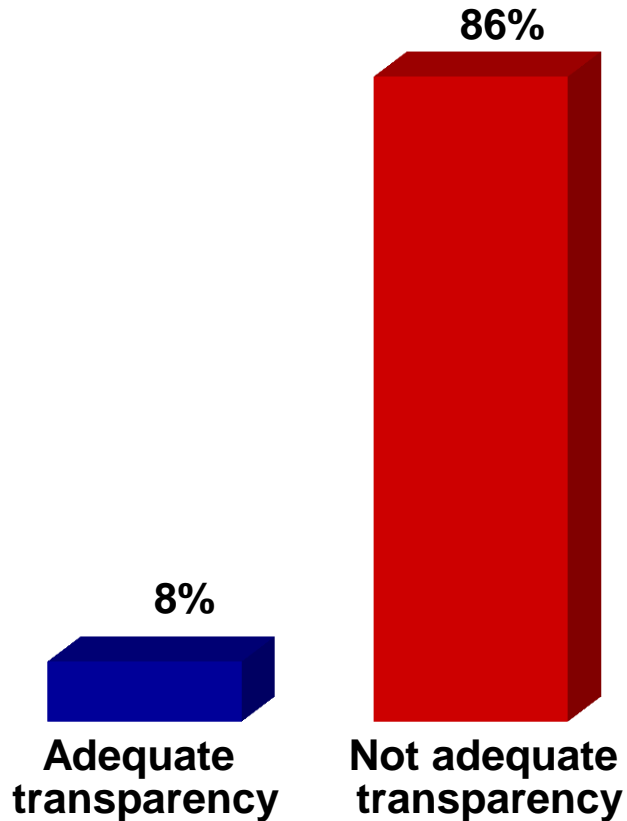


I would not describe it as a pay-to-play system

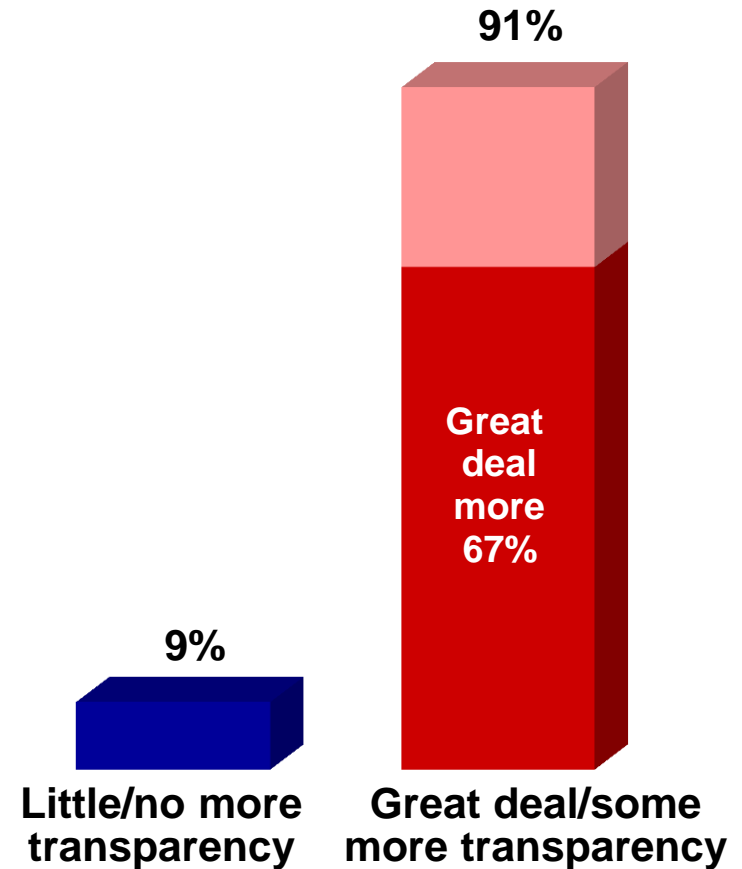


86% Say There is Not Enough Transparency; 91% Want More Transparency

Do you think there is adequate transparency over the way election campaigns are financed, or not?



In the way election campaigns are financed, how much transparency does there need to be?



90% Support Full Disclosure; 80% Support Limits On Contributions

■ Strongly support this change to system for financing elections
 ■ Somewhat support this change

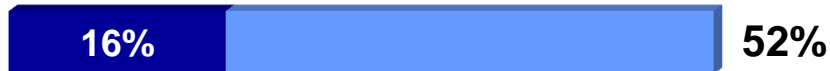
Disclosing all individual, corporate, labor contributions to political committees or other organizations that spend money in election campaigns



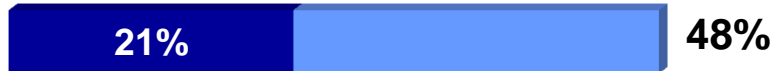
Reducing influence of individual donors by limiting total amount an individual may contribute to all candidates, political action committees, and party committees



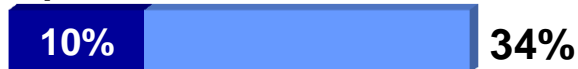
Encouraging individual contributions, especially small contributions, by giving them tax-exempt status



Eliminating need for candidates to raise money by having full public financing of political campaigns



Encouraging citizens to participate in elections by matching their small contributions up to \$200 with public funds

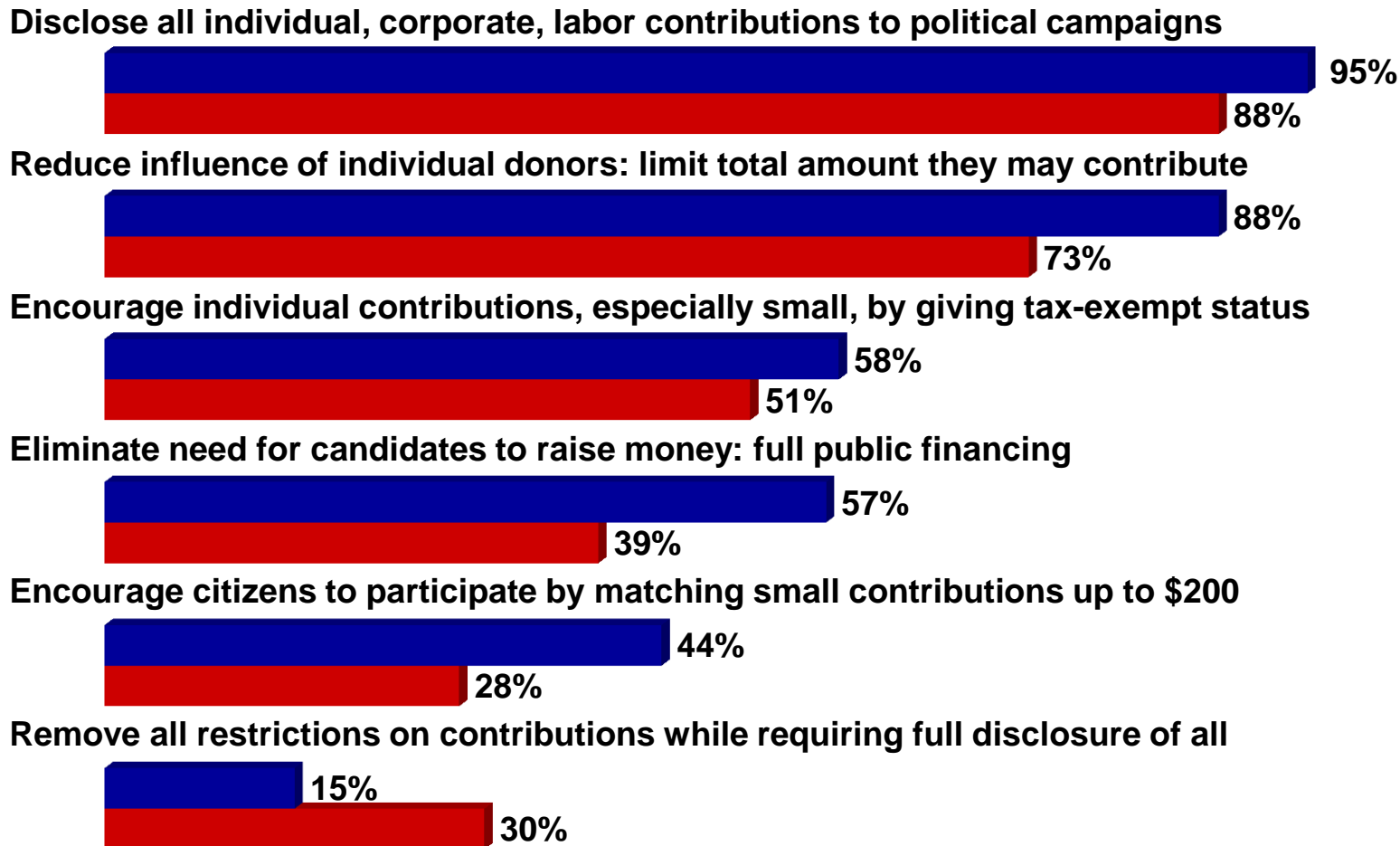


Removing all restrictions on contributions to candidates, PACs, Super PACs, and political parties while also requiring full disclosure of all contributions



95% of Democrats and 88% of Republicans Support Disclosure Reform

■ Democrats who support this reform
 ■ Republicans who support this reform



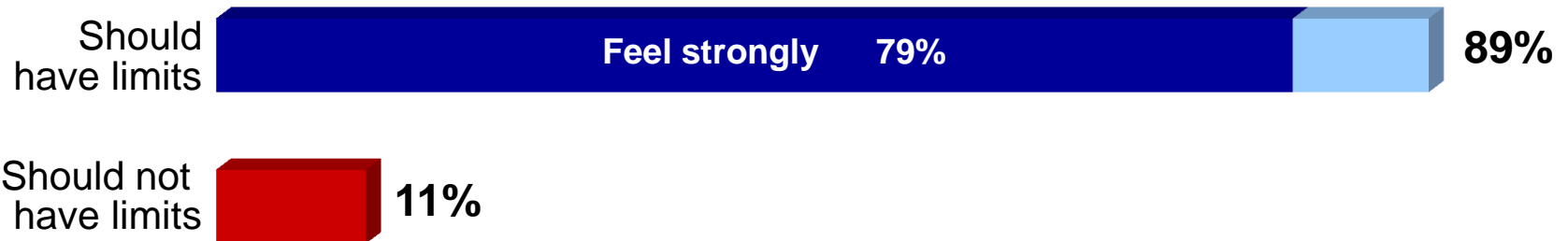
70% Believe Current Super PACs Should Be Made Illegal

Organizations known as Super PACs can raise and spend unlimited amounts of money on behalf of candidates they support. (Supporters say this is a form of free speech) while (opponents say this allows groups or wealthy individuals to have unfair influence.) Do you believe it should be legal or illegal for these Super PACs to operate?



89% Support Limits On Donations To Political Candidates And Groups

Should there be limits on the amount of money individuals, corporations, and labor unions **can give to political candidates** and independent political organizations?



Should there be limits on the amount of money outside groups, including individuals, corporations, labor unions, and independent political organizations **can spend for political purposes** during an election?

