

# Patent Ownership and the Role of Government

Polling by **Morning Consult** on behalf of the  
**Bayh-Dole Coalition**

SEPTEMBER 2023



## METHODOLOGY

This poll was conducted between September 9 and September 11, 2023, among a sample of 1,992 Registered Voters. The interviews were conducted online, and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Registered Voters based on gender by age, educational attainment, race, marital status, home ownership, race by educational attainment, 2020 presidential vote, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

# KEY FINDINGS

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1. Support for policymakers to **encourage relationships** between universities and private companies to **spur innovation** is strong and bipartisan.
2. Protecting the Bayh-Dole Act in its current form is **important** to most voters, especially Democrats.
3. Voters are **concerned** weakening patent regulations under the Bayh-Dole Act would **reduce access** to treatments for chronic diseases and increase government control over patient choice.
4. Twice as many voters would **support a candidate** who encourages preserving inventors' patent rights under the Bayh-Dole Act than one who advocates for reform.
5. Voters agree American scientific leadership is promoted when the government and private sector **work together** to bring cutting-edge medicines to the market and when those inventions are protected.
6. Most voters believe foreign companies should be required **to obtain permission** to replicate medical technologies developed in the United States.

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RESEARCH & THE ROLE OF  
GOVERNMENT

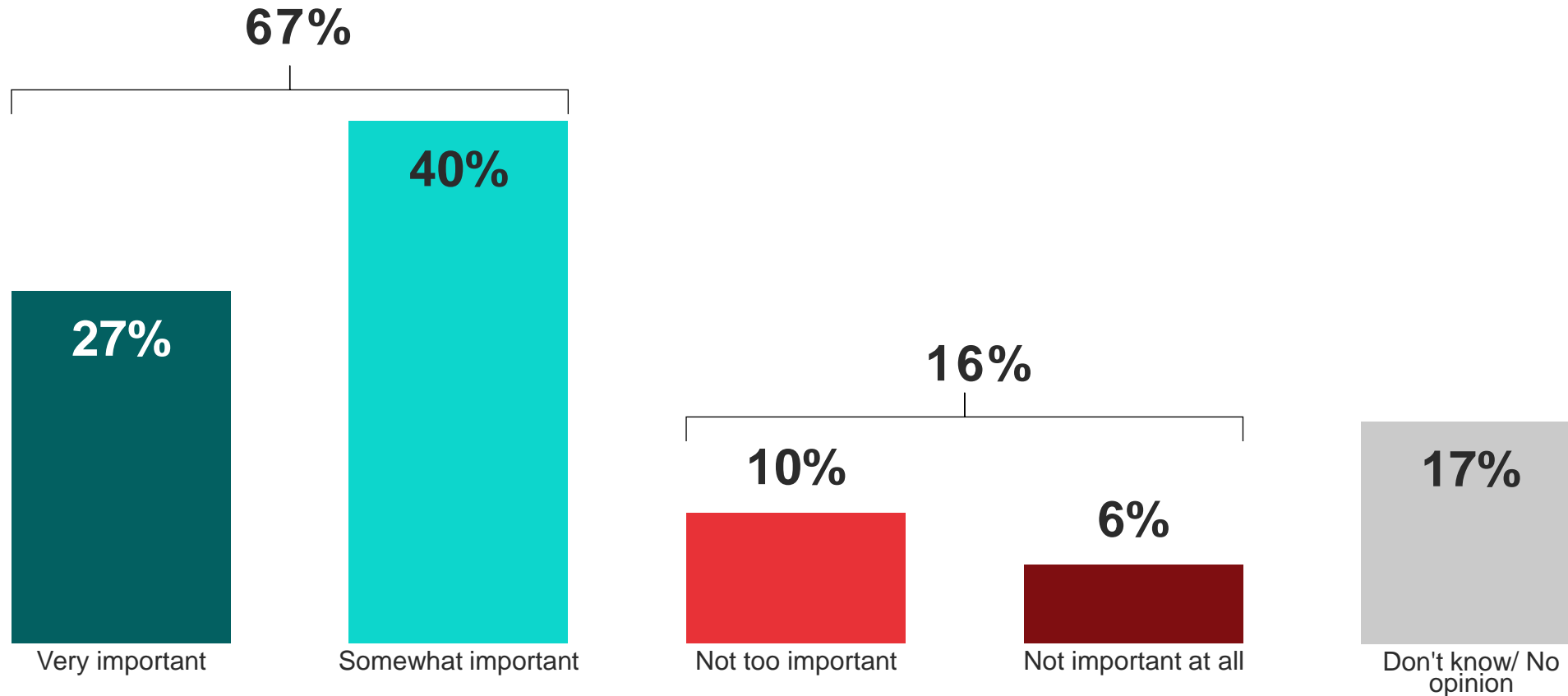
THE BAYH-DOLE ACT

AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC  
LEADERSHIP



# Two-thirds of voters find it important for policymakers to encourage innovation by encouraging partnerships between universities and private companies.

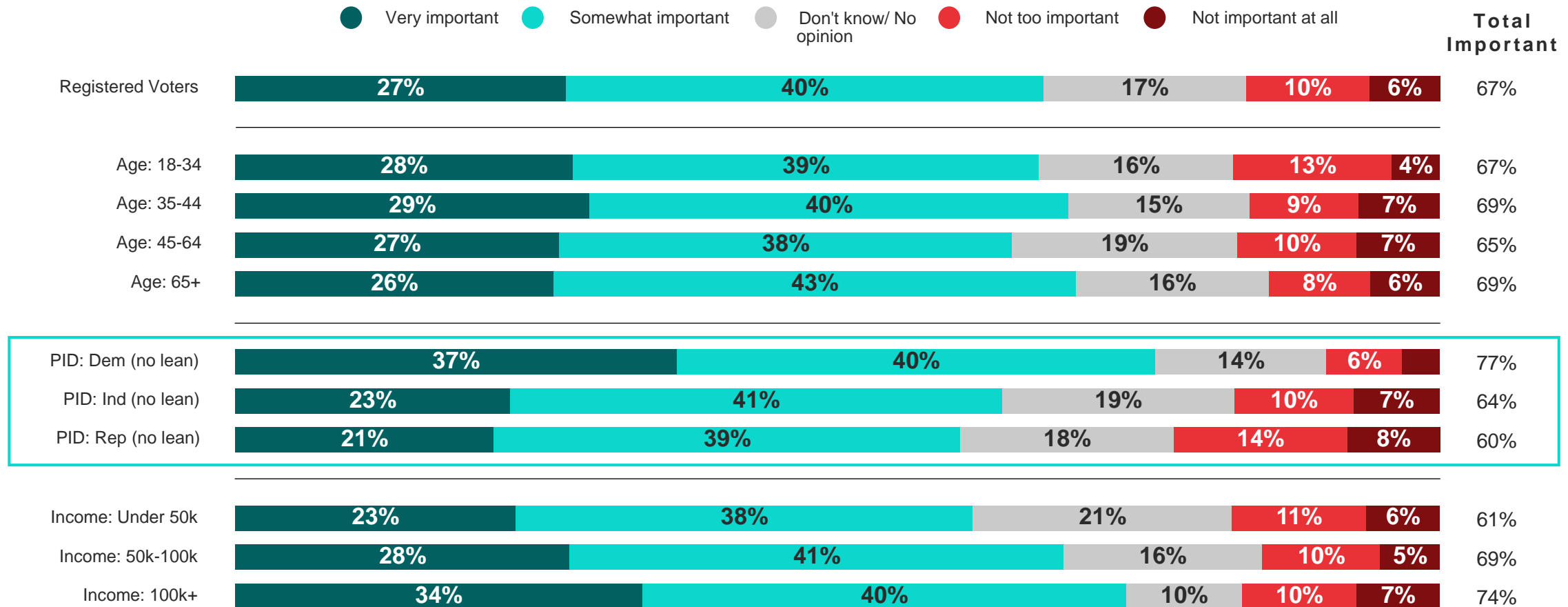
How important, if at all, is it for policymakers to encourage partnerships between universities and private companies to spur innovation?



RESEARCH & THE ROLE OF GOVERNMENT

# Encouraging university partnerships with companies is seen as a priority by Republican, Democrat, and independent voters as a means for the government to spur innovation.

How important, if at all, is it for policymakers to encourage partnerships between universities and private companies to spur innovation?



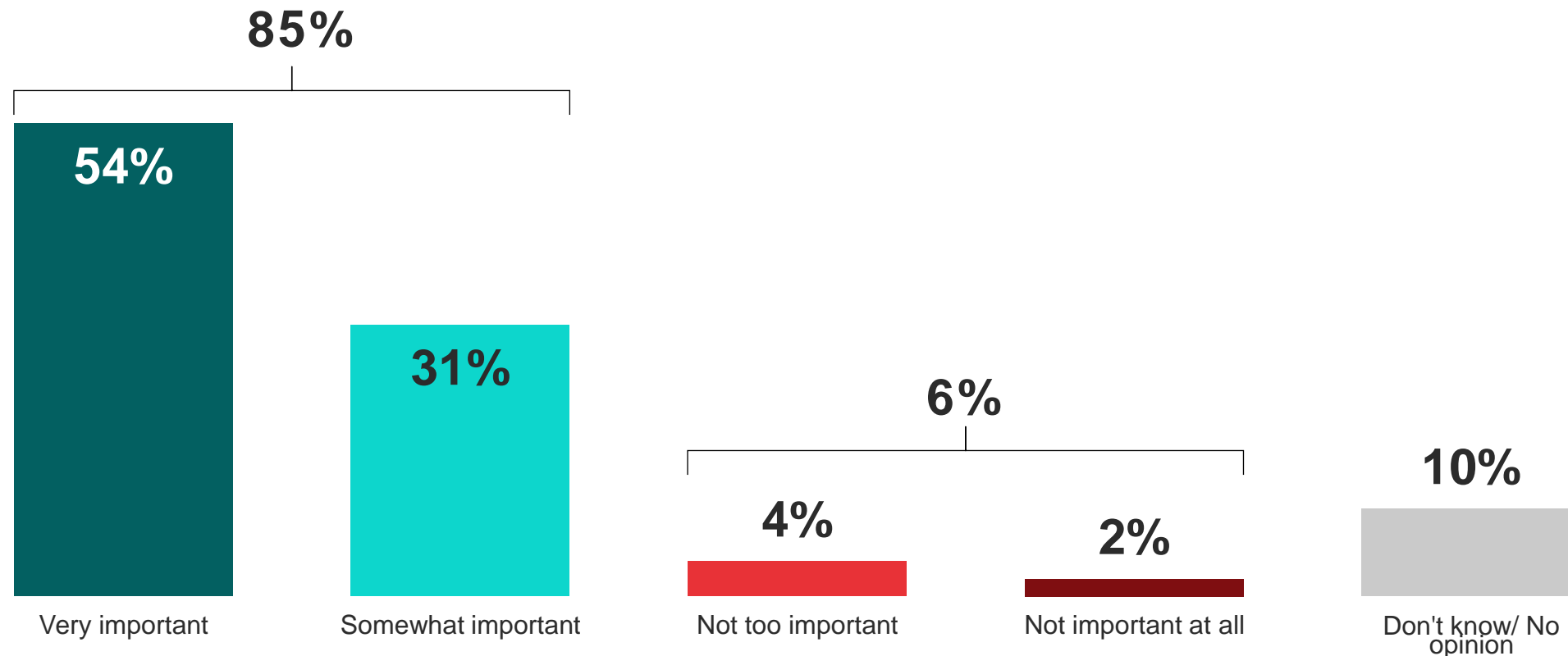
Total = % Very important + % Somewhat important

THE BAYH-DOLE ACT

Given context on the purpose and track record of the Bayh-Dole Act, most voters find it *very important* for policymakers to protect the law.

As you may know, the 1980 Bayh-Dole Act helps ensure the inventions and discoveries made at universities make it to the public. The law is credited with bringing to market breakthrough medicines for HIV, cancer, and seasonal allergies as well as advanced technologies like firefighting drones and high-definition TVs. Now, after hearing more about the Bayh-Dole Act...

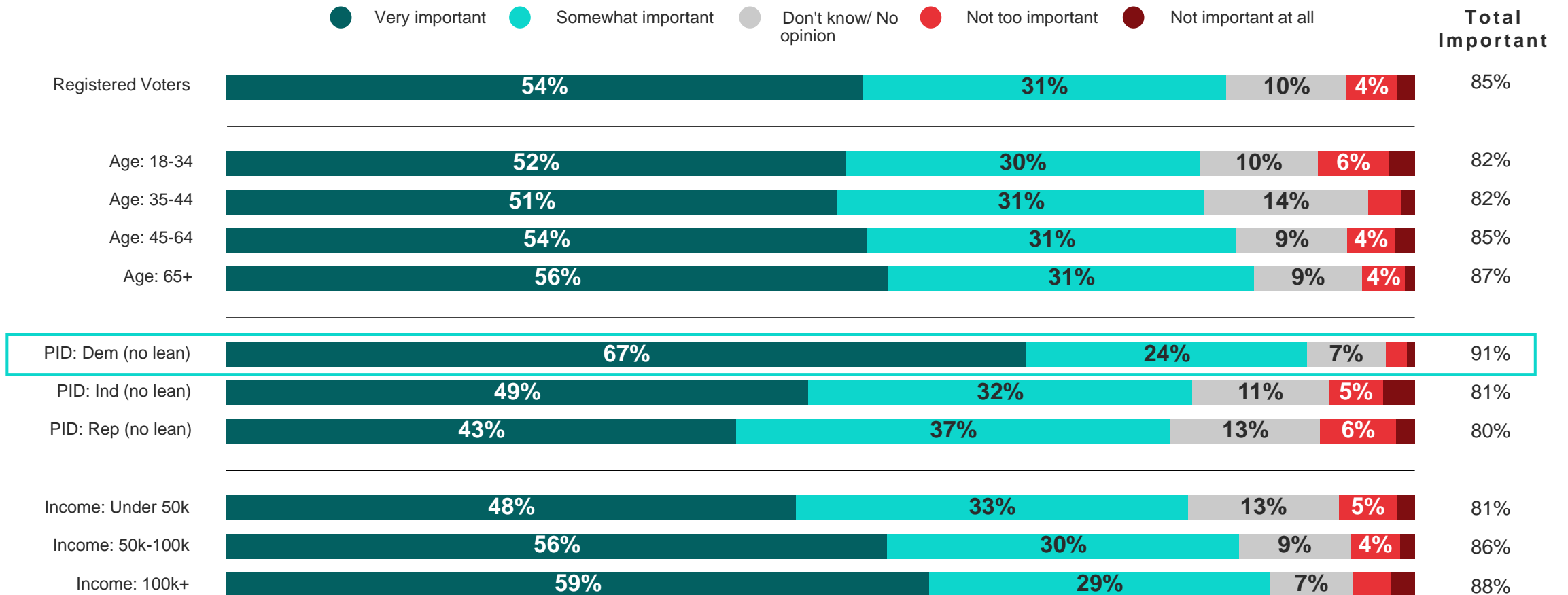
How important (if at all) is it to you for policymakers to protect this law?



THE BAYH-DOLE ACT

Protecting the Bayh-Dole Act is viewed as an important issue across demographic groups, with Democrats and higher earners showing particularly strong enthusiasm.

How important (if at all) is it to you for policymakers to protect this law?



Total = % Very important + % Somewhat important // Full text on previous slide

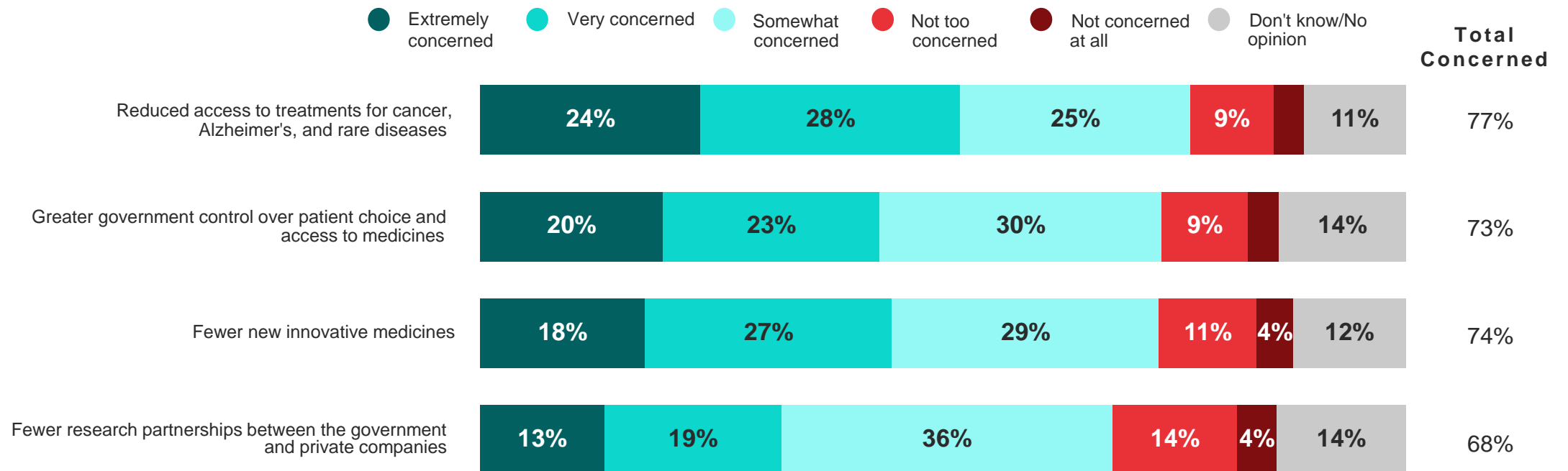


THE BAYH-DOLE ACT

# Voters are concerned weakening patent regulations under the Bayh-Dole Act would **reduce access** to new medicines and treatments by disincentivizing public and private investment.

As you may know, the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 also allows universities to own and patent discoveries they make with the help of federal funding. Some policymakers say that weakening the patent ownership rules enabled by the Bayh-Dole Act would help lower drug prices by allowing more affordable generic drugs to be developed. Others say it would reduce medicine access and choices by discouraging government and private sector investment in new treatments and cures.

**Assuming both are true, how concerned are you, if at all, with each of the potential consequences of weakening patent ownership rules under the Bayh-Dole Act?**

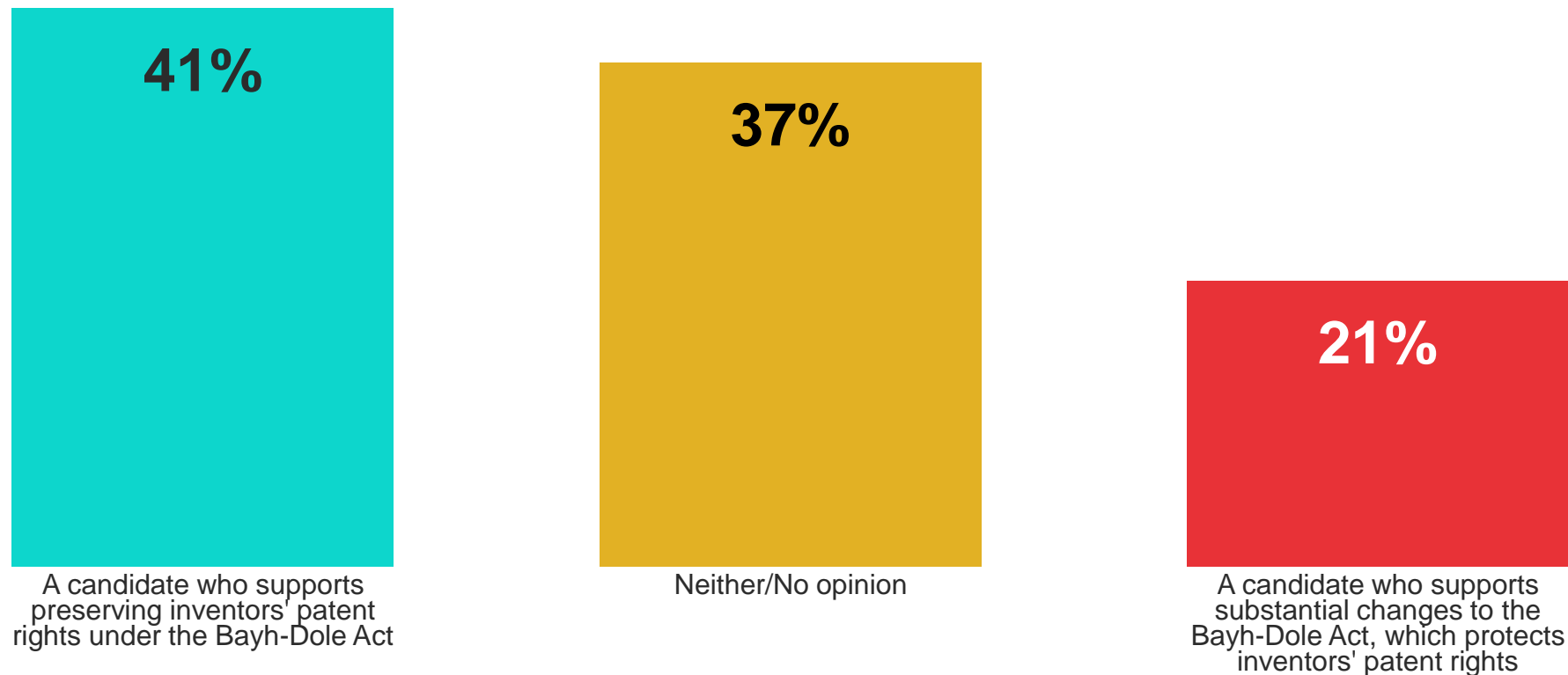


Total = % Extremely concerned + % Very concerned + % Somewhat concerned

## THE BAYH-DOLE ACT

Twice as many respondents would be inclined to **vote** for an electoral candidate who stands for **preserving** the Bayh-Dole Act in its current form than one who advocates for substantial changes to the law, based on the information provided.

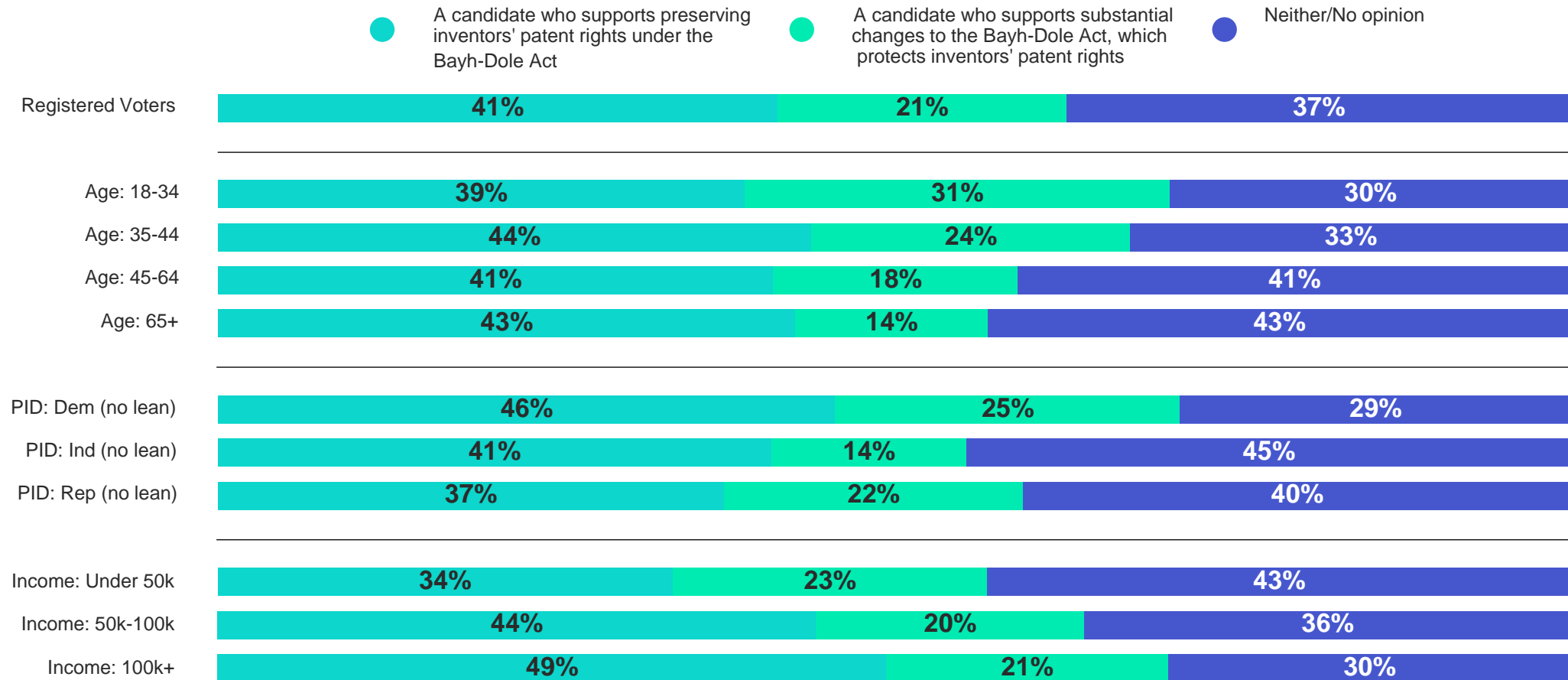
In the next election, which of the following candidates would you be more inclined to cast your vote for?



THE BAYH-DOLE ACT

# Pluralities of voters across age, income, and party lines would vote for candidates who support preserving inventors' patent rights under the Bayh-Dole Act.

In the next election, which of the following candidates would you be more inclined to cast your vote for?

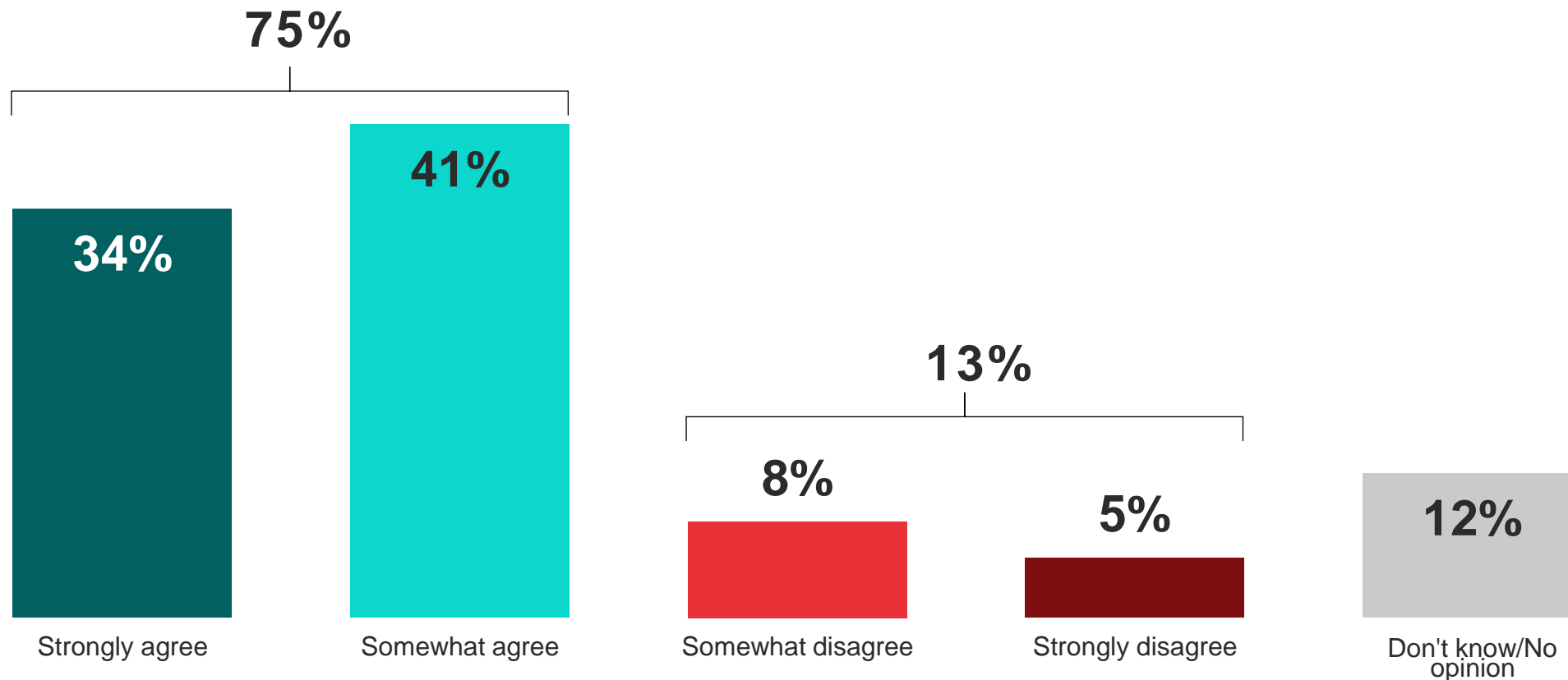


AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

# Three-in-four voters agree on the importance of maintaining America's status as a leader in the global scientific community.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement about America's scientific leadership?

*It is important to maintain America's scientific leadership with laws and regulations that encourage the government and private sector to work together to bring cutting-edge medicines to the market.*

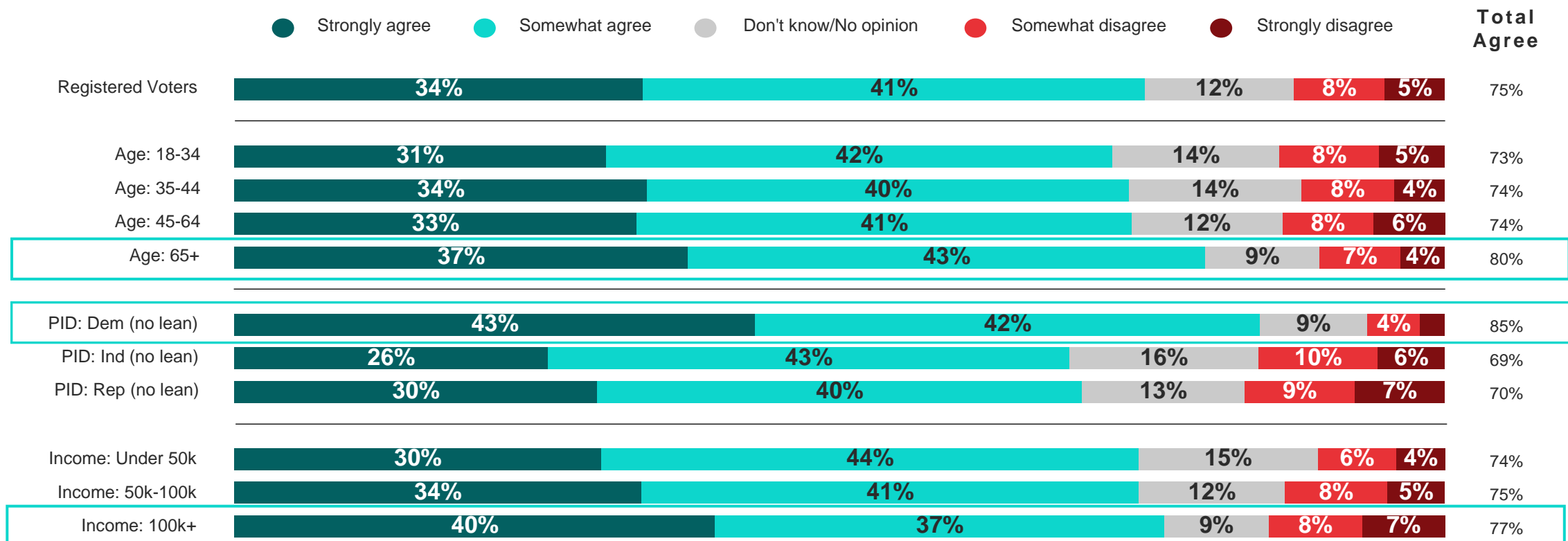


AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

Voters across key groups agree on the importance of maintaining private sector partnerships with universities to maintain the U.S.' scientific leadership role. Democrats, higher earners, and older voters agree tend to believe this more strongly than others.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement about America's scientific leadership?

*It is important to maintain America's scientific leadership with laws and regulations that encourage the government and private sector to work together to bring cutting-edge medicines to the market.*

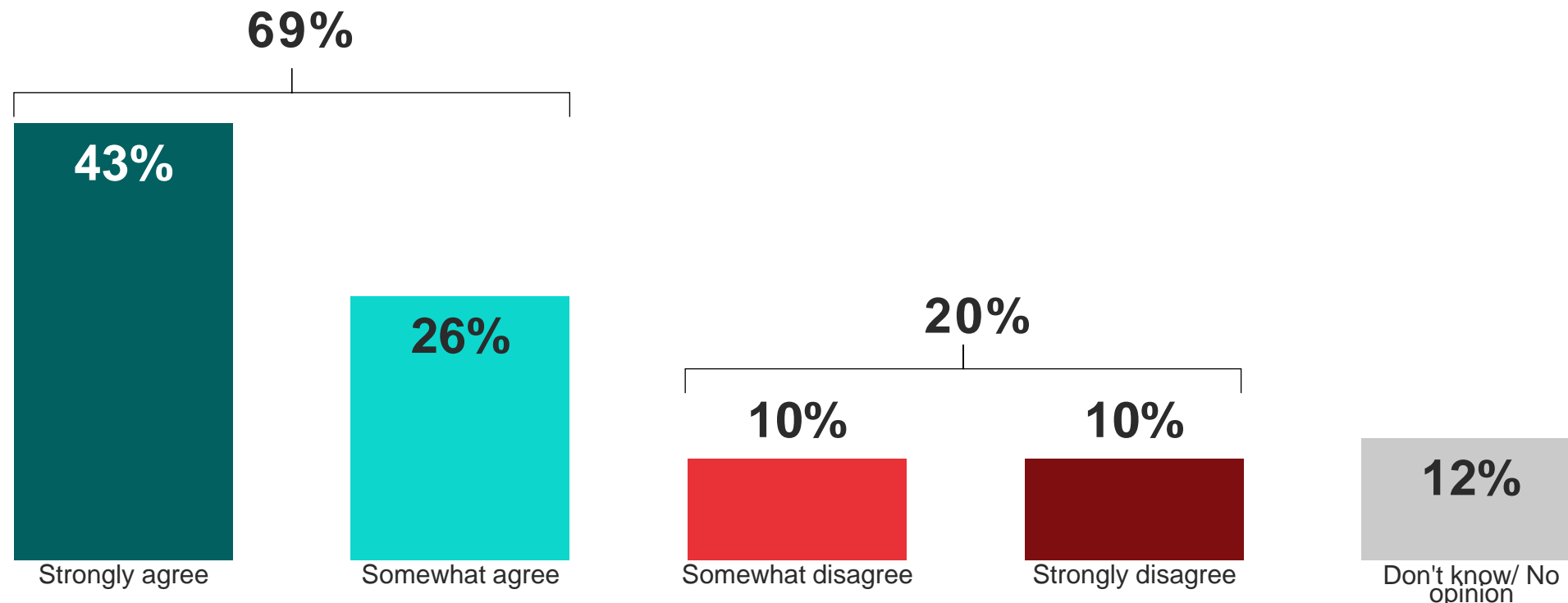


Total = % Strongly agree +% Somewhat agree

AMERICAN SCIENTIFIC LEADERSHIP

Protecting American innovation is important to voters, as two-thirds of voters support requiring foreign companies to obtain permission before copying technologies developed by U.S. universities.

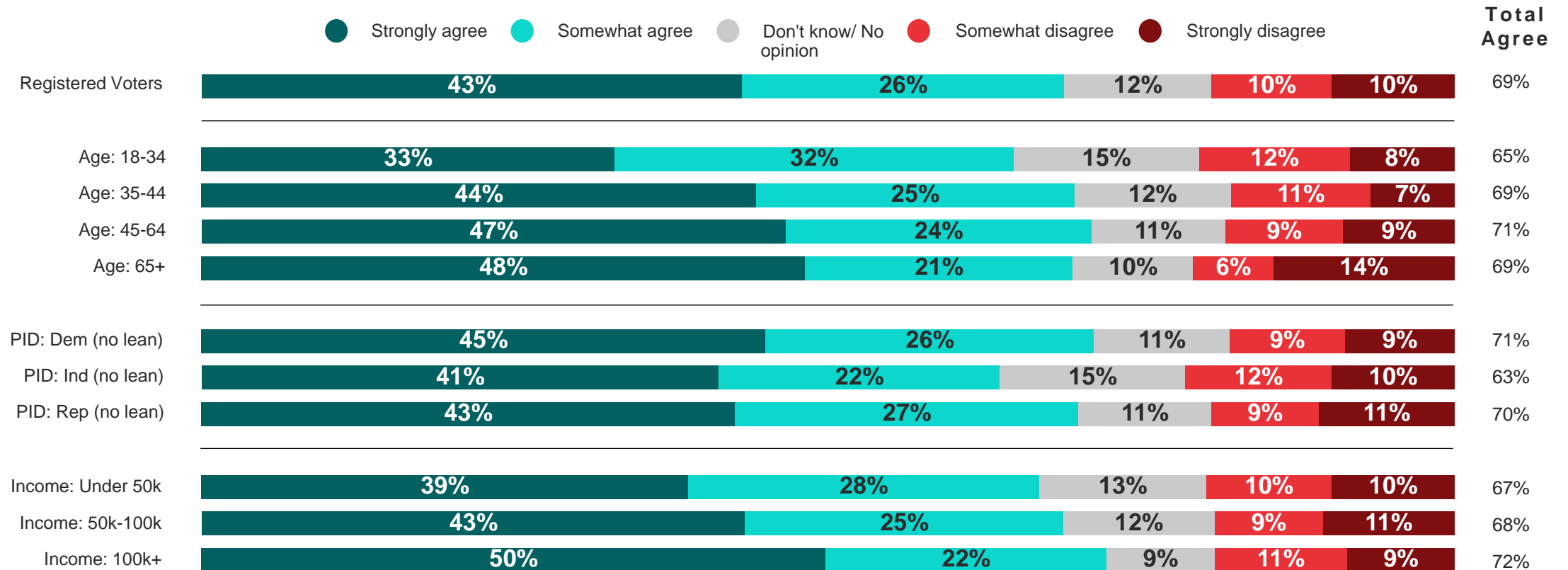
A number of foreign leaders have suggested that foreign companies should be able to copy certain products developed by researchers at United States universities — particularly in the healthcare and green energy spaces — without permission from their inventors. With this in mind, do you agree or disagree that foreign companies should be required to obtain permission from U.S. universities in order to copy products they developed?



# Support for requiring companies to obtain permission from the U.S. universities before replicating their products is bipartisan.

A number of foreign leaders have suggested that foreign companies should be able to copy certain products developed by researchers at United States universities — particularly in the healthcare and green energy spaces — without permission from their inventors.

With this in mind, do you agree or disagree that foreign companies should be required to obtain permission from U.S. universities in order to copy products they developed?



Total = % Strongly agree +% Somewhat agree



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