

# Massachusetts Chambers Policy Network Energy Issues Survey Results

# Methodology Statement

This Suffolk University/Massachusetts Chambers Policy Network statewide survey of 500 residents was conducted January 31-February 5, 2026, and is based on live phone interviews with adults 18 years of age or older. Each area's quota and demographic information, including gender, race, education, age, and party affiliation, was determined from 2020 exit polling data, 2020 Census data, the 2022 American Community Survey, and affiliated sources. Samples of both standard landline and cell phones were called using a probability-proportionate-to-size method, ensuring that the phone numbers assigned to each area were proportional to the number of adult residents in each area. All respondents indicated that they were residents of Massachusetts. The 14 Massachusetts counties were grouped into four general regions. The margin of error is +/- 4.4 percentage points at a 95% confidence level. All surveys may be subject to other sources of error, including but not limited to, coverage error and measurement error.

# Topline Survey Results

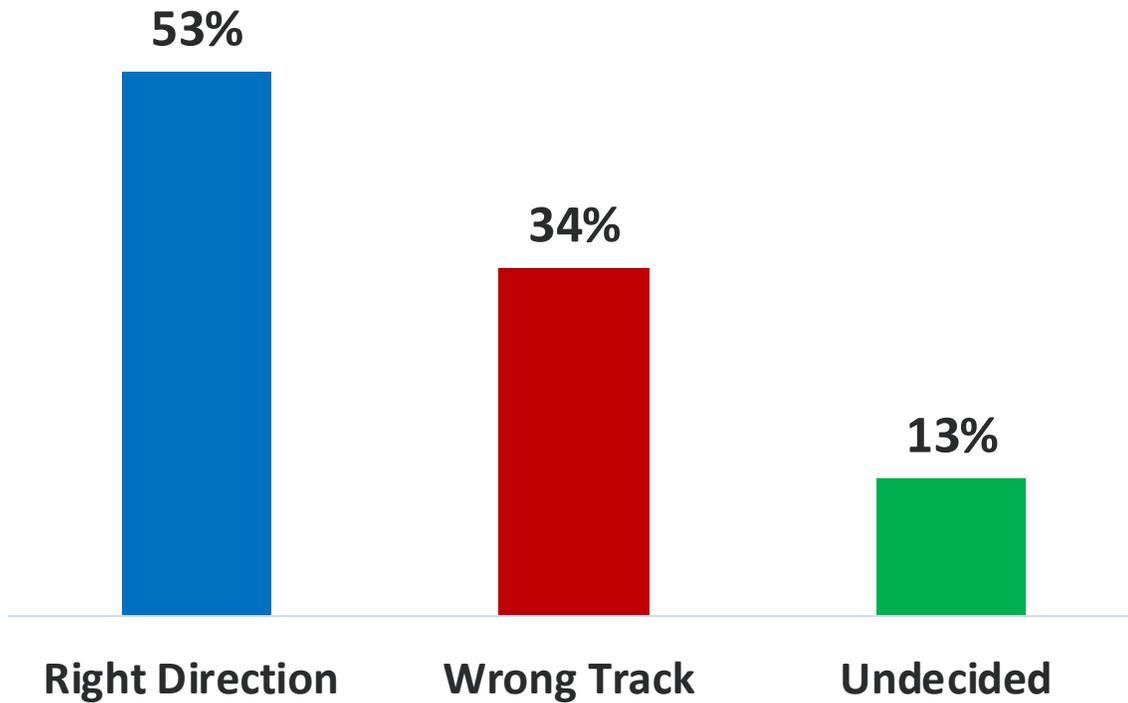
Statewide Results

MA Economy

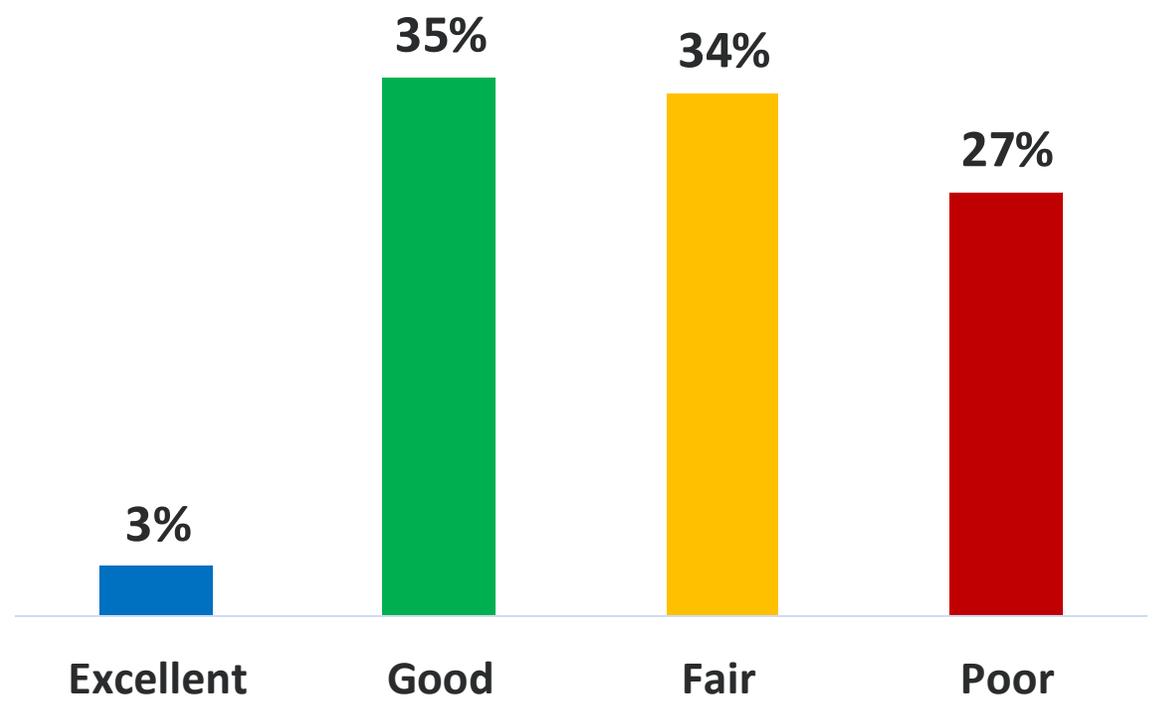
Energy and Utility Questions

# On Massachusetts

Is MA heading in the right direction or on the wrong track?

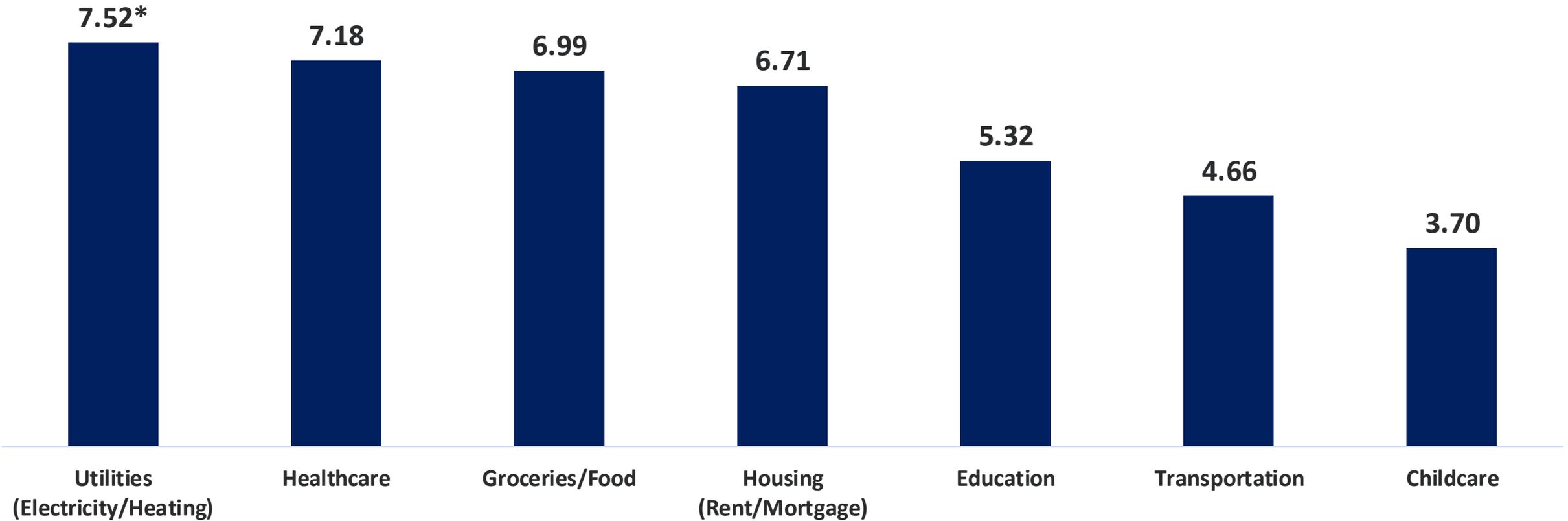


How would you describe MA's economy today?



# Concern About Household Expenses

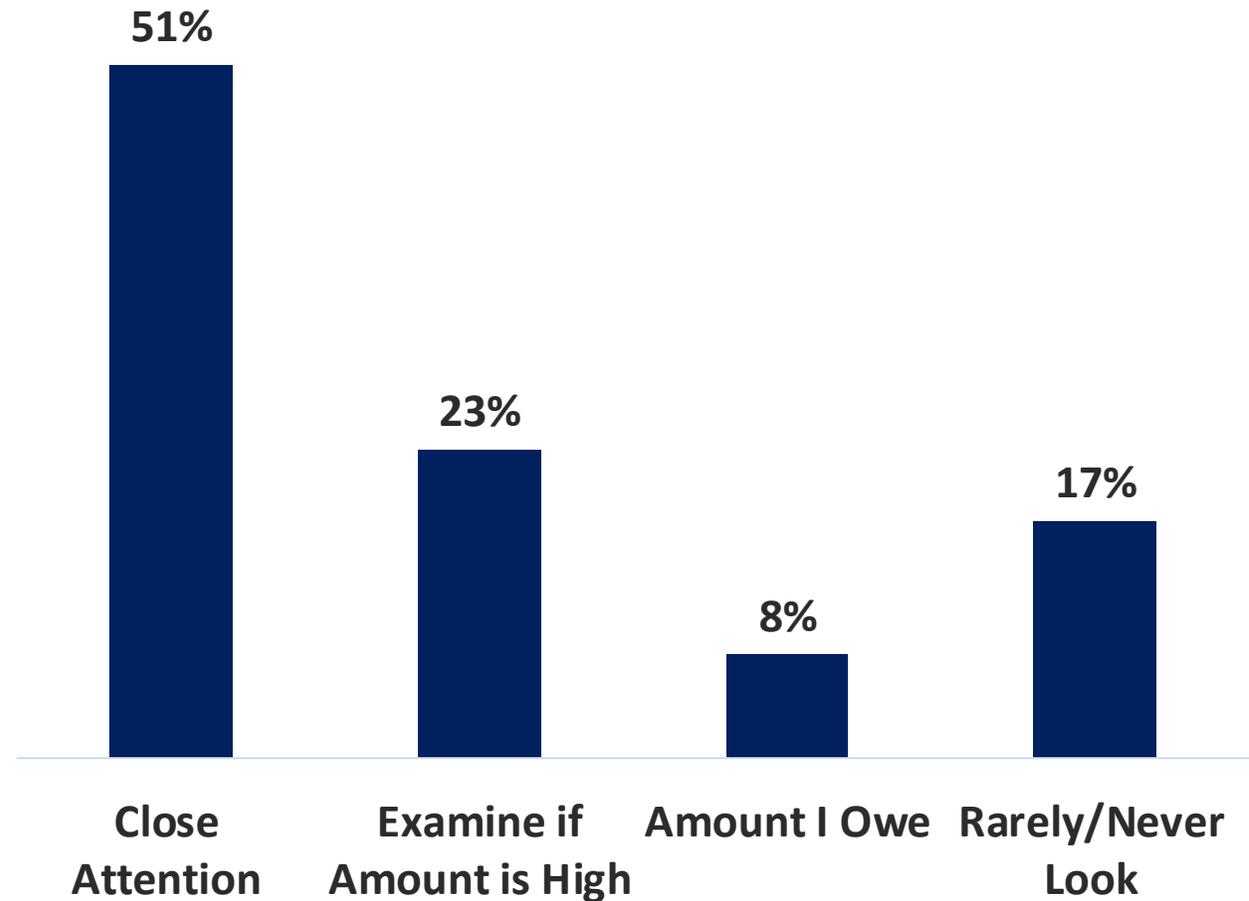
Scale of 1-10 (10 Highest Concern; 1 Least Concern)



\*See slide 19 for demographic breakdown regarding concerns about utility costs.

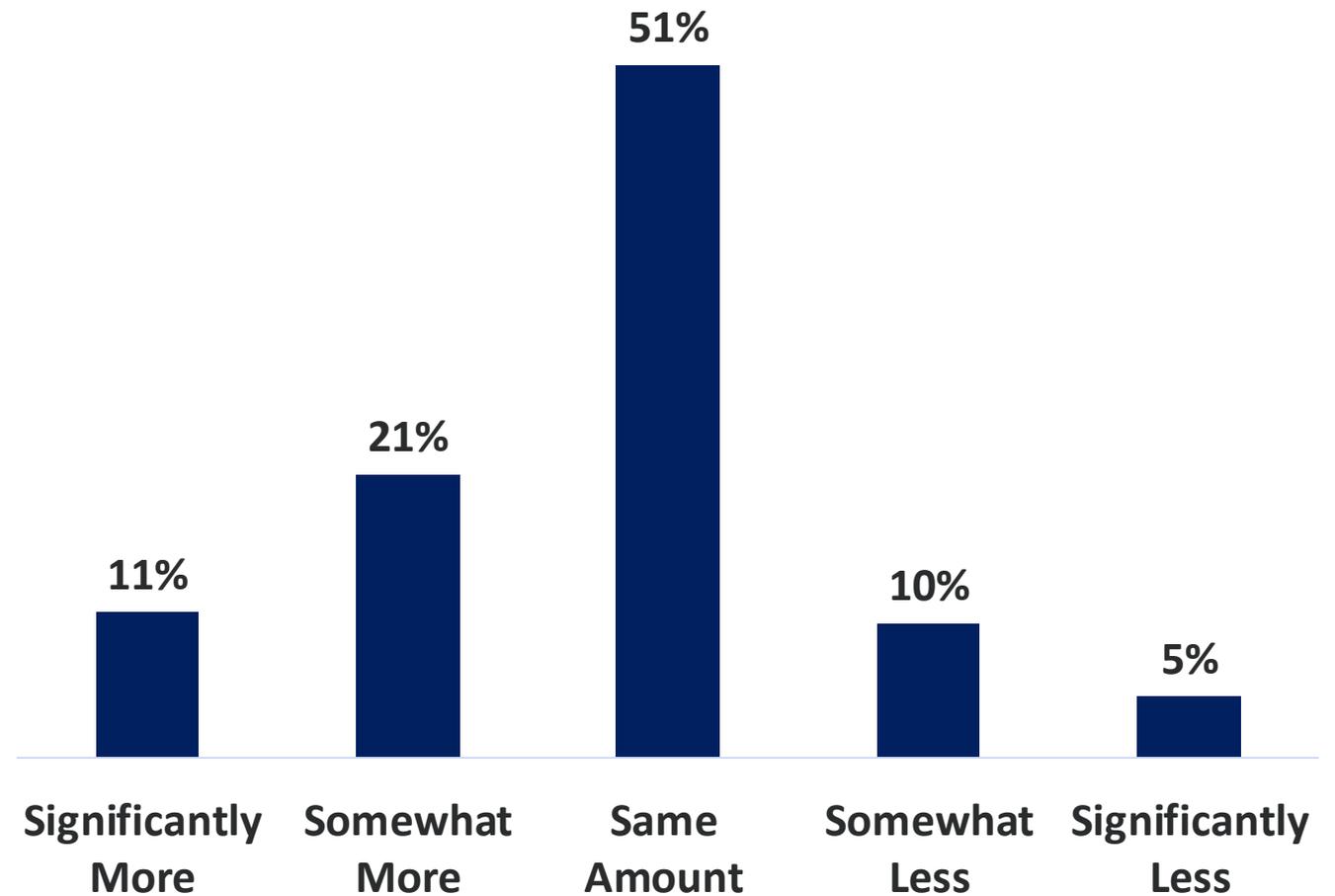
Which of the following best describes your interaction with your monthly electric and/or gas utility bill?

1. I pay close attention to it each month
2. I only examine it closely if the amount is high
3. I only look at the amount I owe
4. I rarely or never look at my bill (for example it is paid automatically through autopay)



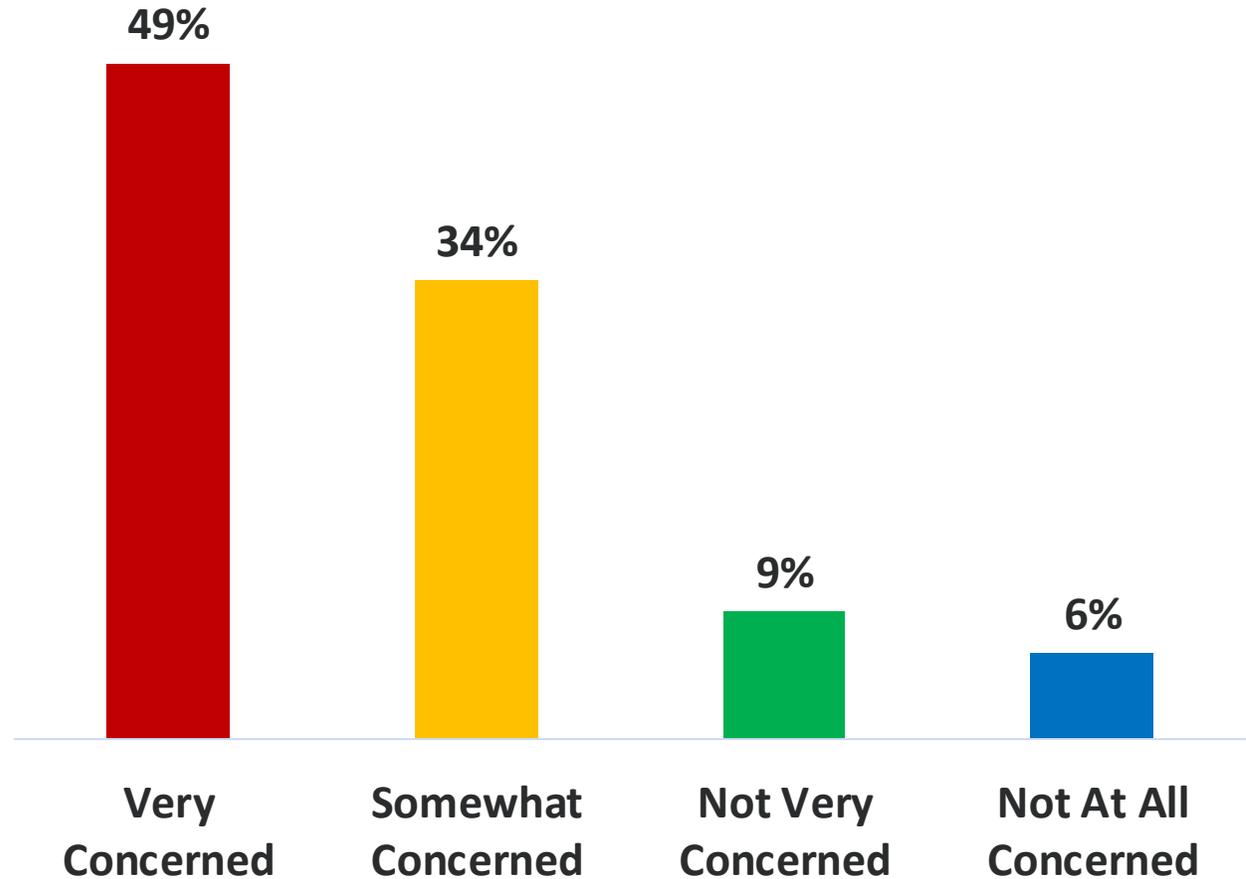
How would you describe your current energy usage compared to your usage one year ago?

1. Using significantly more energy
2. Using somewhat more energy
3. Using the same amount of energy
4. Using somewhat less energy
5. Using significantly less energy



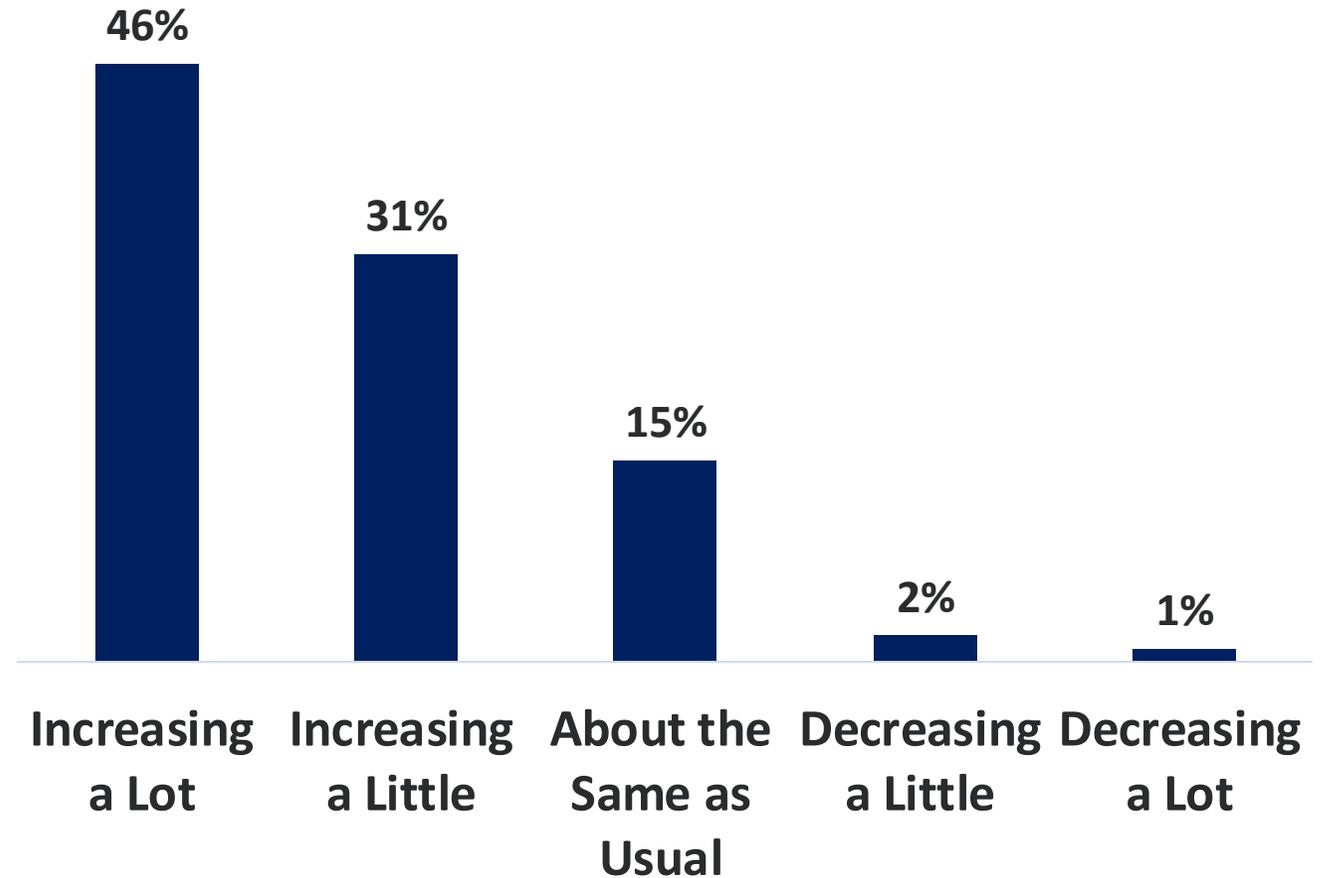
How concerned are you about how much you pay for energy on your monthly electric and/or gas utility bills?

1. Very concerned
2. Somewhat concerned
3. Not very concerned
4. Not at all concerned



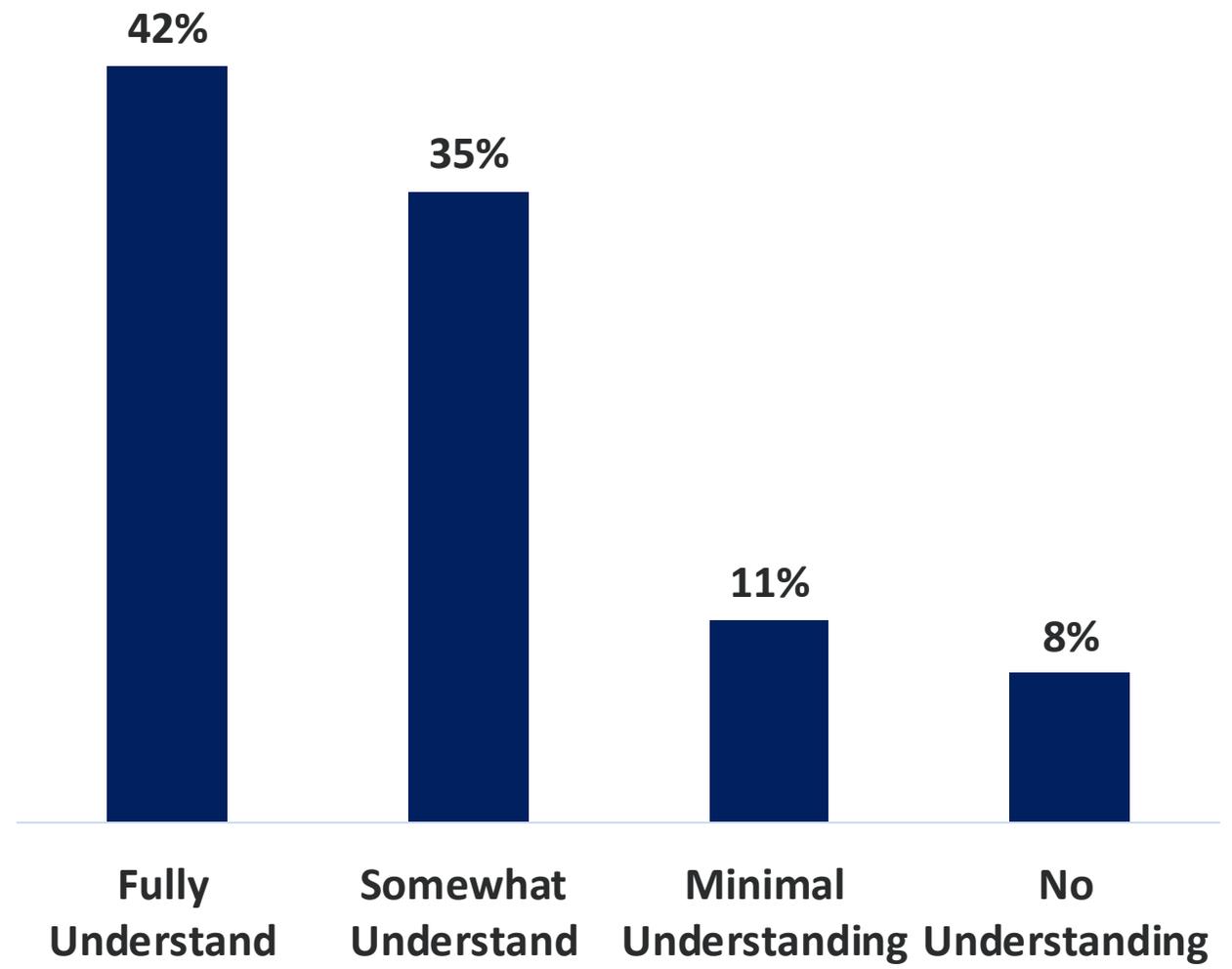
Which of the following best describes your electric and/or gas bills?

1. My bills are increasing a lot
2. My bills are increasing a little
3. My bills are about the same as usual
4. My bills are decreasing a little
5. My bills are decreasing a lot



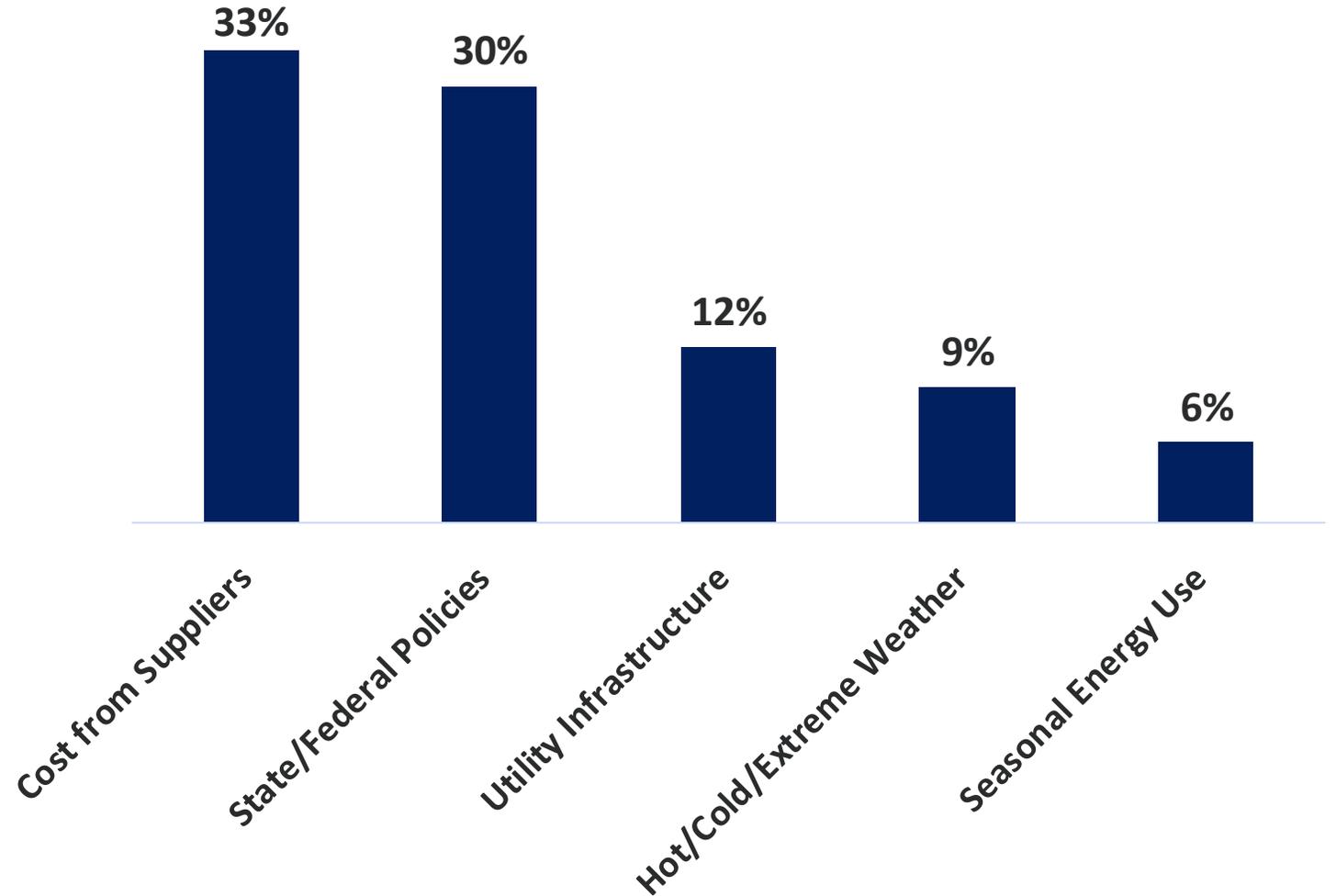
How would you describe your understanding of what you are paying for on your electric and/or gas bills?

1. I fully understand what I am paying for on my energy bills
2. I somewhat understand what I am paying for on my energy bills
3. I have a minimal understanding of what I am paying for on my energy bills
4. I don't understand what I am paying for on my energy bill at all



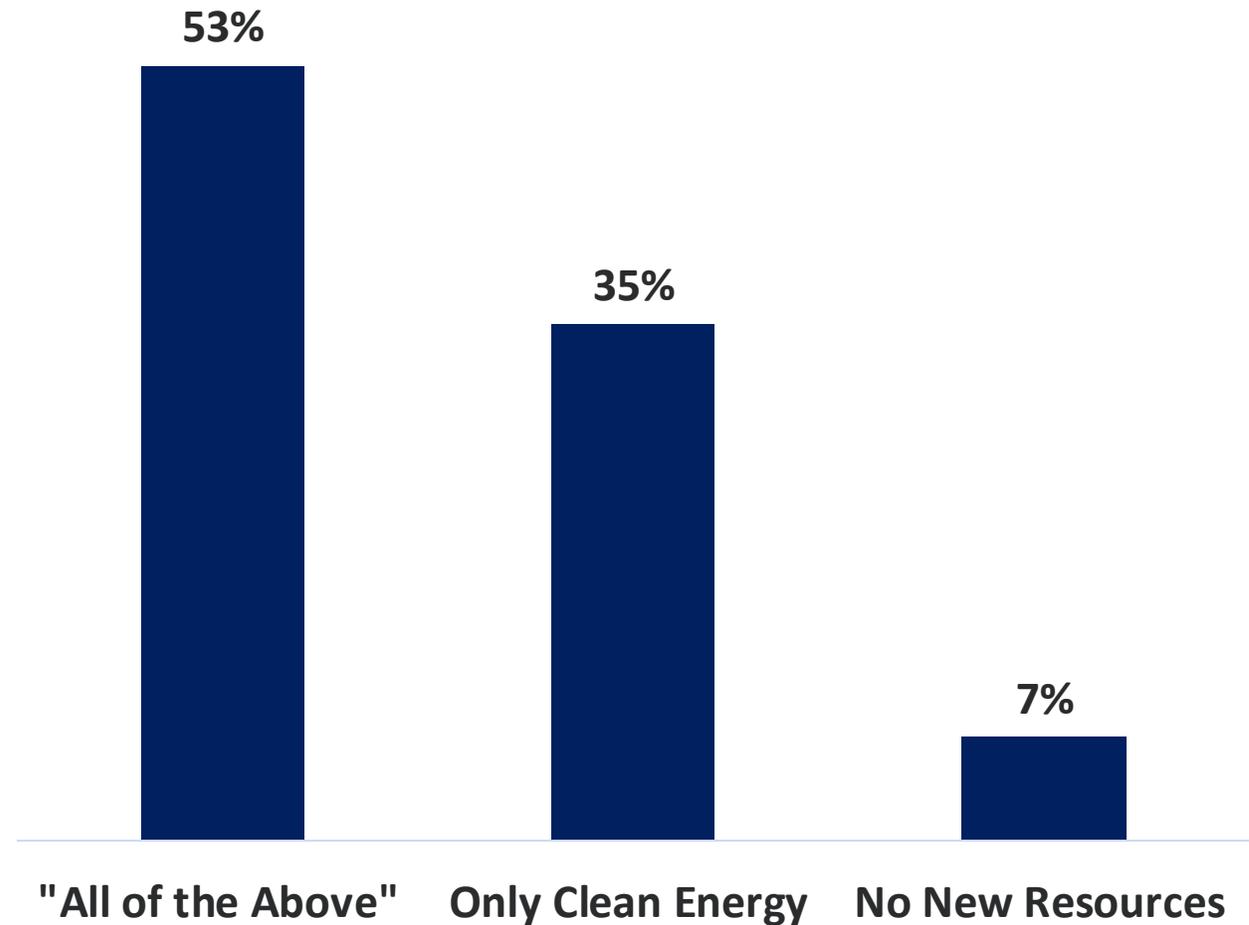
From your perspective, what do you believe is the primary cause of higher electric and/or gas utility bills?

1. Cost of energy from suppliers
2. State and federal policies, including clean energy and climate policies
3. Utility infrastructure investments, like transmission wires, pipelines, maintenance
4. Unusually hot, cold, or extreme weather
5. How much energy I use seasonally



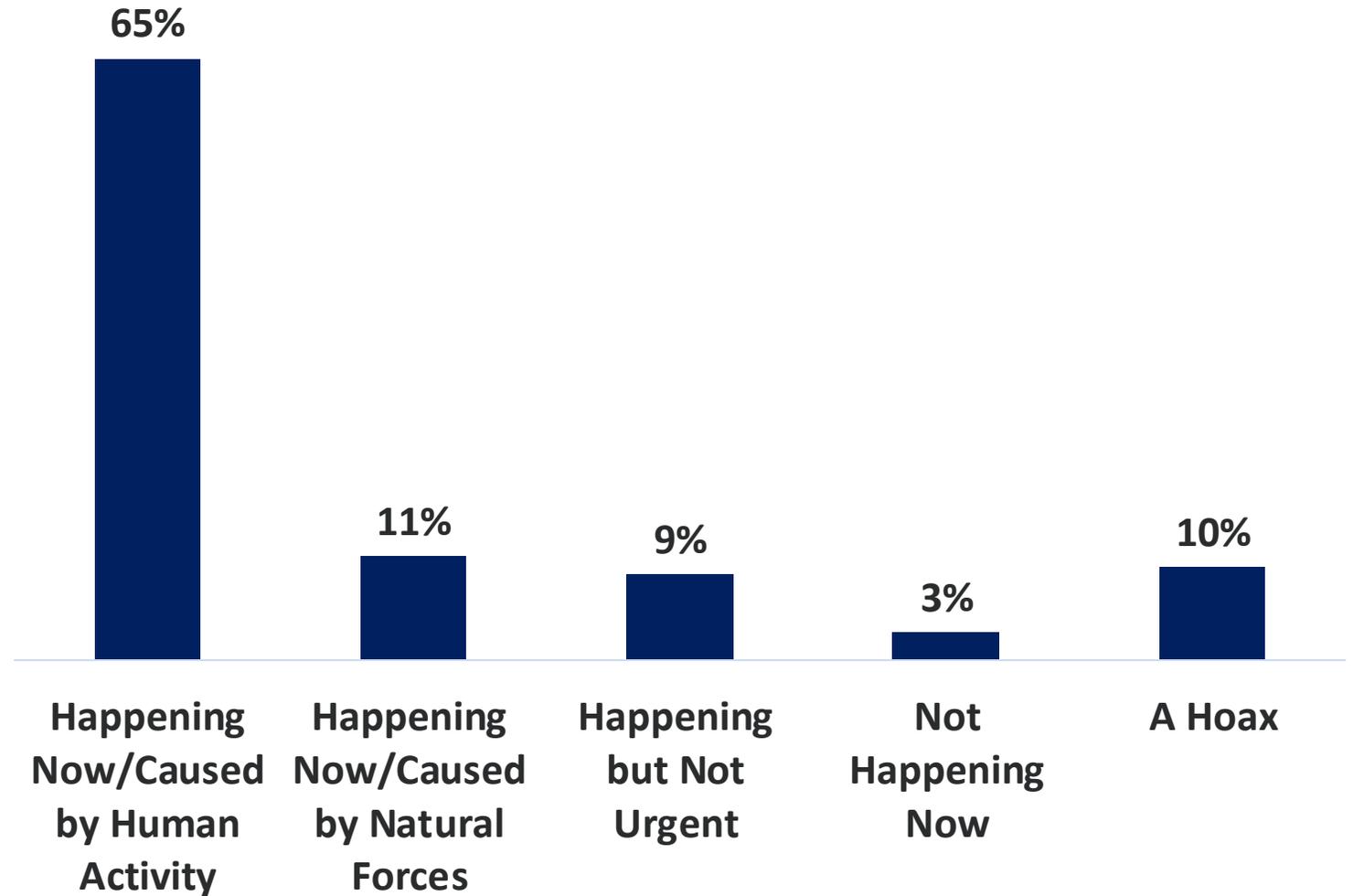
When it comes to the region's energy supply, which of the following comes closest to your view?

1. I support an "all of the above" approach to bring energy resources into the region to address affordability, regardless of the particular fuel source
2. I only support bringing in new clean energy resources like solar and wind
3. I do not think we should bring any new energy resources into the region to address affordability



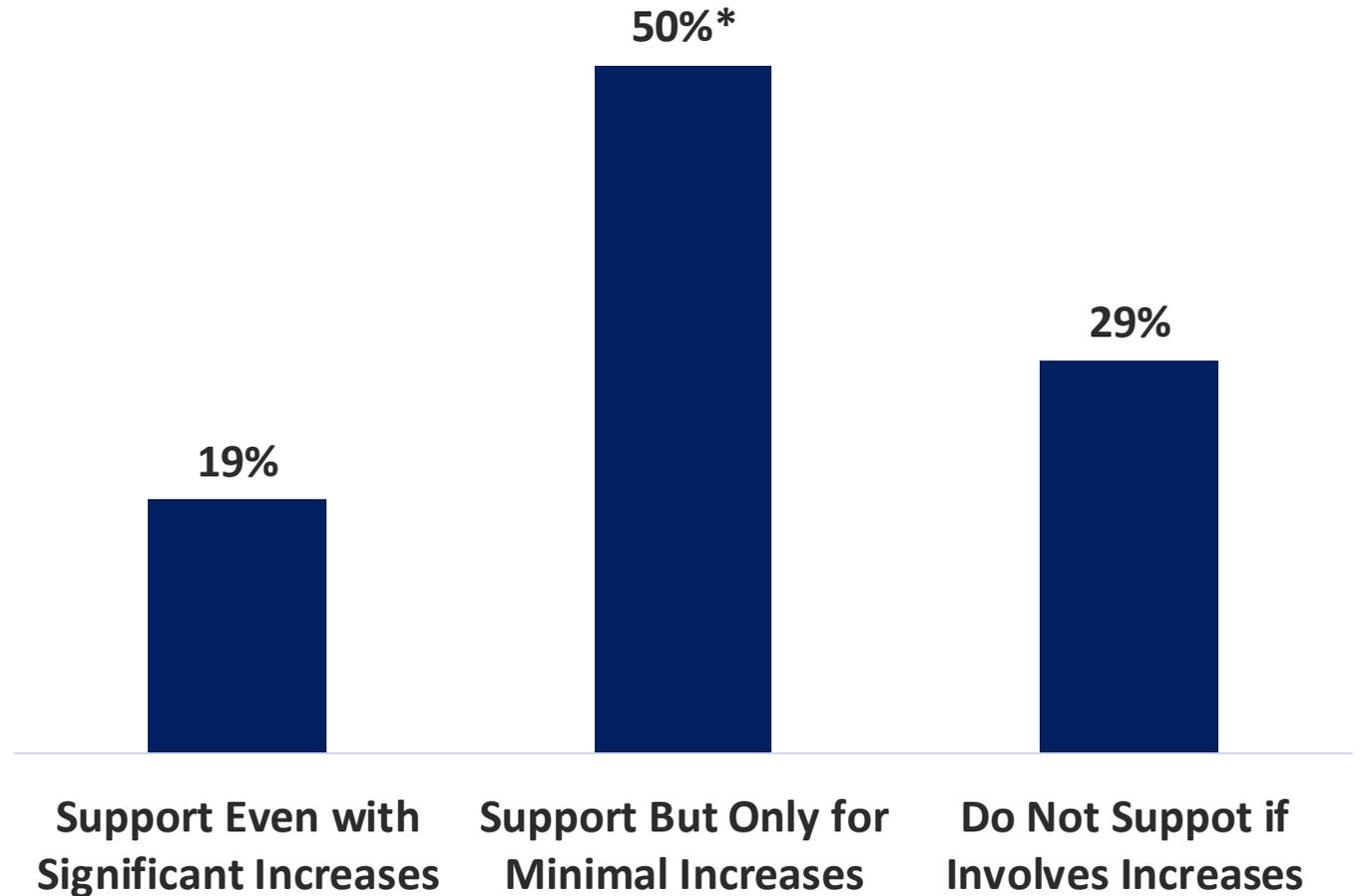
Which of the following statements best describes your views towards climate change?

1. Climate change is happening now, caused mainly by human activities
2. Climate change is happening now, but caused mainly by natural forces
3. Climate change is happening, but is not an urgent issue
4. Climate change is not happening now
5. Climate change is a hoax



Massachusetts has set ambitious clean energy and climate goals. If pursuing these goals results in higher utility bills, which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

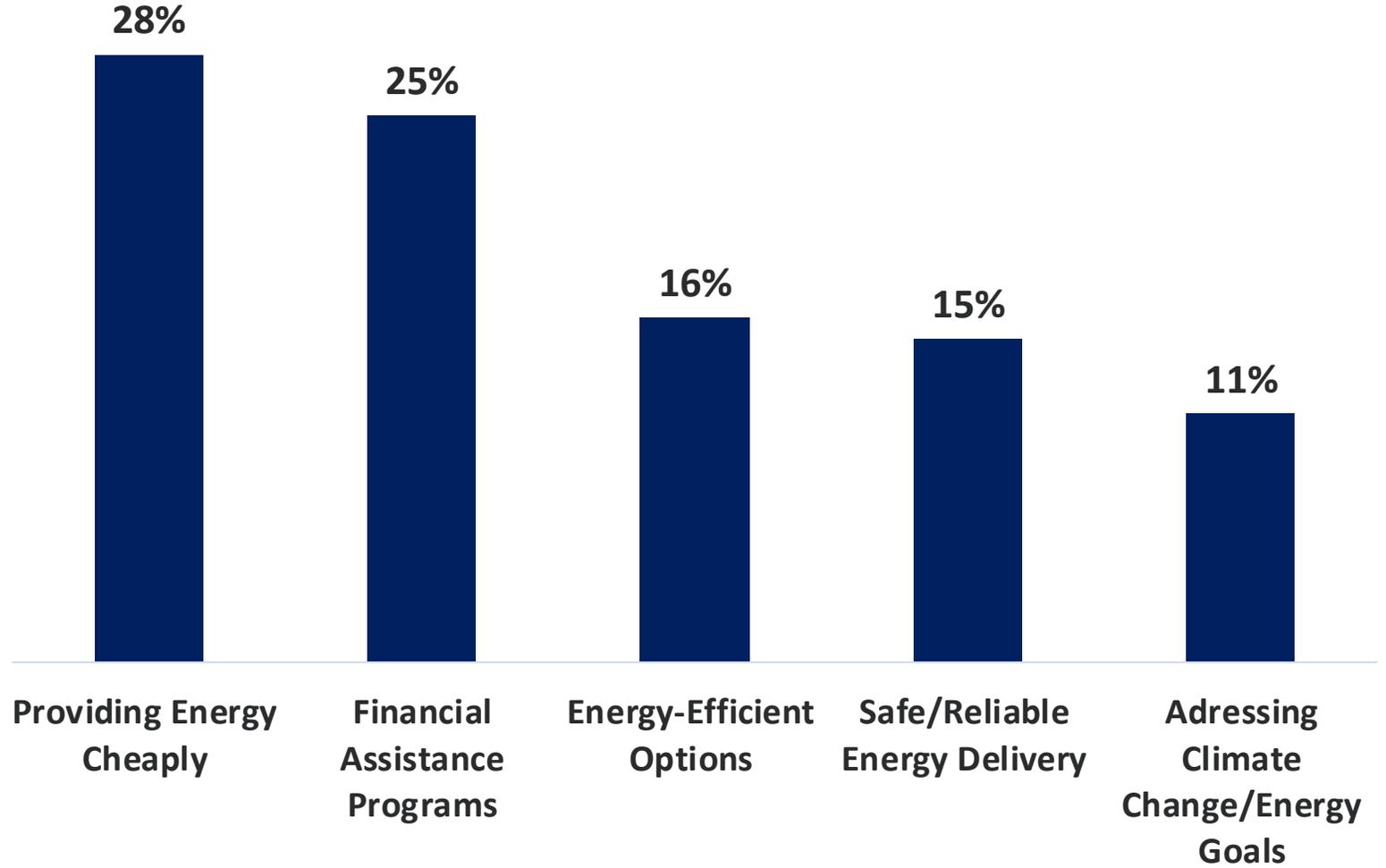
1. I support clean energy goals, even if they significantly increase my utility bill
2. I support clean energy goals, but only for minimal increases in my utility bill
3. I do not support clean energy goals if it involves increases in my utility bill



\*See slide 20 for demographics insisting on only minimal increases in utility bills.

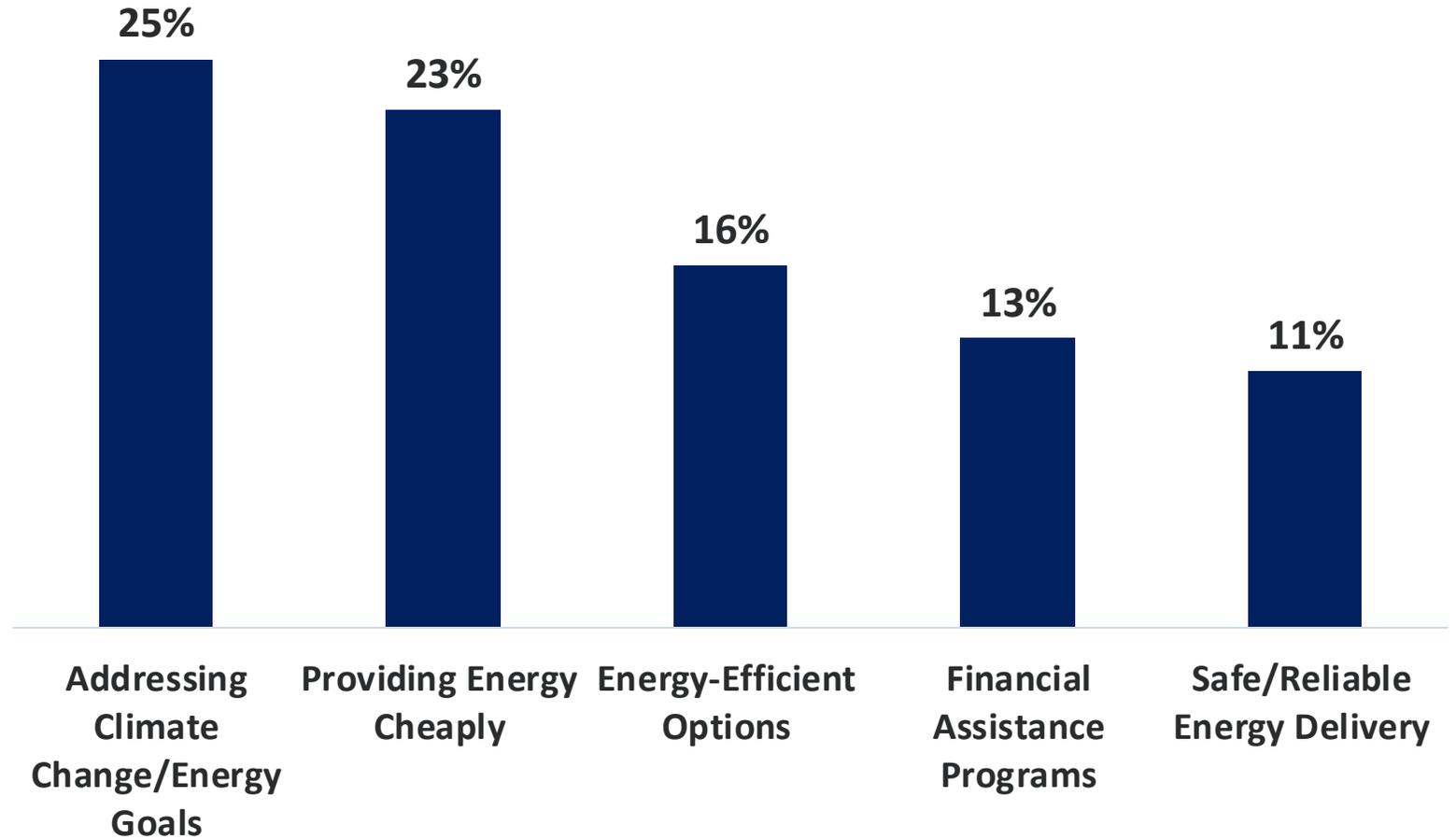
# What do you think should be the most important priority for your utility company?

1. Providing energy as cheaply as possible to customers
2. Financial assistance programs for people struggling to pay energy bills
3. Providing energy-efficiency options for customers
4. The safe, reliable delivery of energy
5. Addressing climate change and meeting the state's clean energy goals



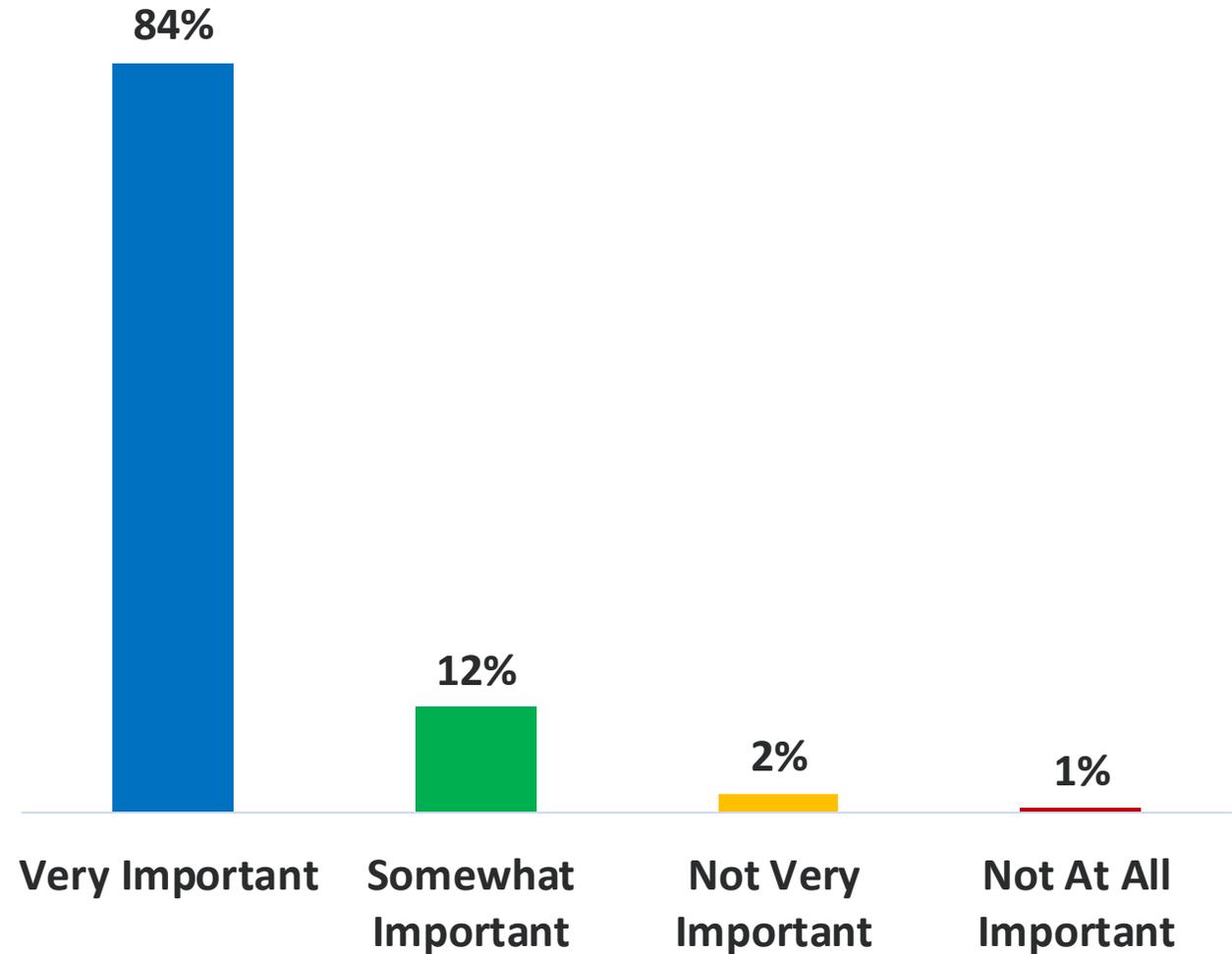
From the remaining options, what do you think should be your utility's lowest priority?

1. Addressing climate change and meeting the state's clean energy goals
2. Providing energy as cheaply as possible to customers
3. Providing energy-efficiency options for customers
4. Financial assistance programs for people struggling to pay energy bills
5. The safe, reliable delivery of energy



How important do you think it is for your utility company to maintain the safety and reliability of the energy system?

1. Very important
2. Somewhat important
3. Not very important
4. Not at all important

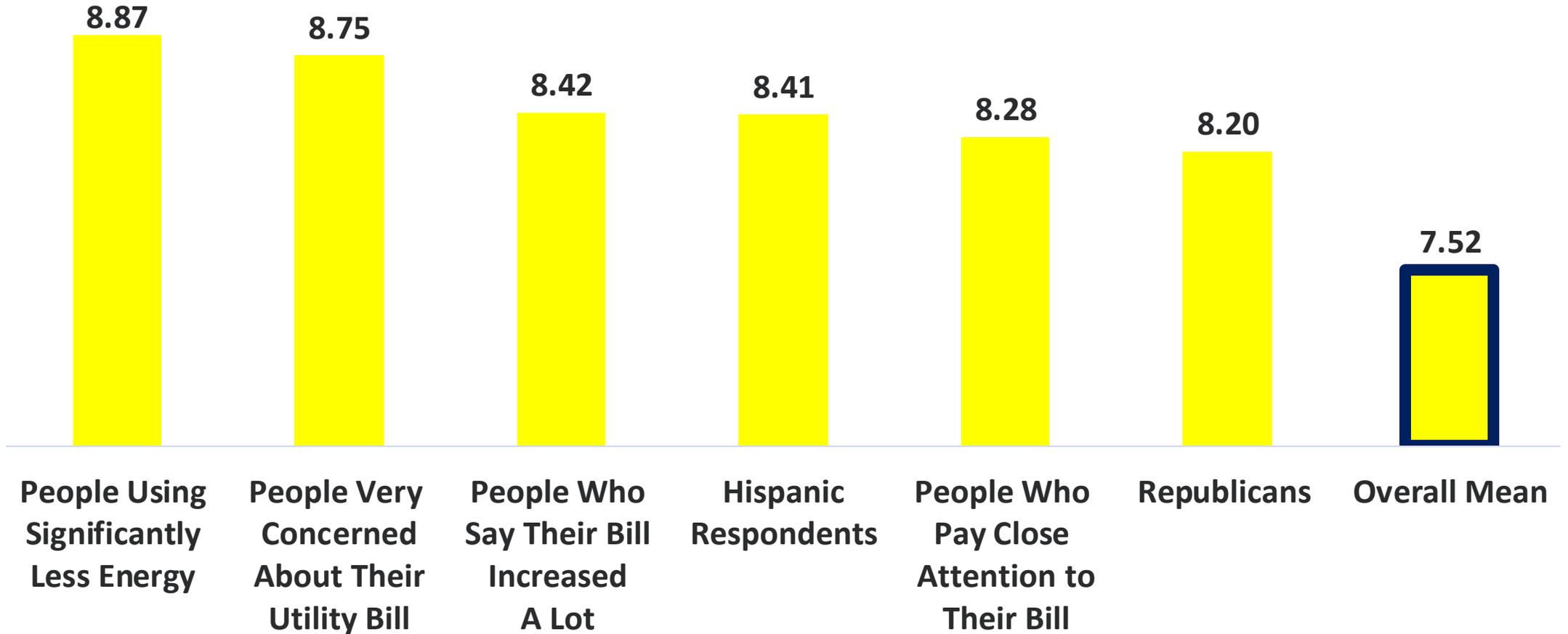


# Analysis

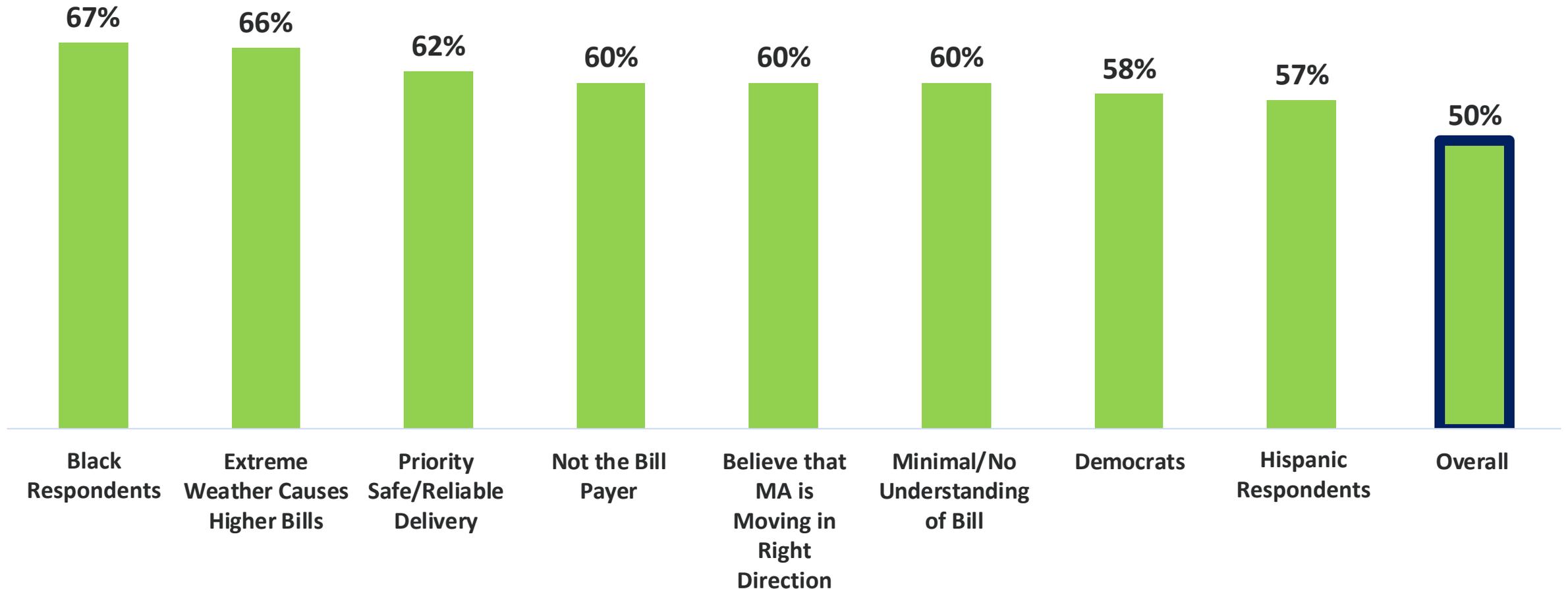
Key Findings

Crosstab Highlights

# Demographics with the Highest Utility Concerns



# Demographics: Clean Energy/Climate Goals Must Only Come With Minimal Increases In Utility Bills



# Costs, Causes, and Solutions

A significant majority of respondents are highly concerned about **utility costs**, with opinions on the causes and solutions heavily split along **political lines** and **age groups**.

# Utility Costs: High Concern & Rising Bills

## Very Concerned

- Nearly half of all respondents (49%) are "Very concerned" about the amount they pay for monthly electric and/or gas utility bills. Another 34% are "Somewhat concerned."
- Concern is particularly high among older respondents. For those ages 50 and older, 55% were "very concerned" compared to 37% of those ages 18-34.
- 55% of Unenrolled or Independent respondents said they were "very concerned" compared to 49% of Republicans and 42% of Democrats.

## Bills Increasing A Lot

- A combined 77% of residents feel their bills are increasing ("a lot" or "a little").
- Women (50%) are more likely than men (42%) to report their bills are increasing "a lot."
- 52% of those ages 50 and older say their bills are increasing "a lot" compared to 35% of those ages 18-34.
- Despite the high costs, only 51% of people pay "close attention" to their bill each month. 17% rarely or never look at their bill, often because it's on autopay.

# Views on Climate Change & Energy Policy

## Belief in Climate Change

- Most residents (65%) believe climate change is happening now and is mainly caused by human activities. This view is shared across most demographics but is notably higher among Democrats (89%) and Liberals (95%) than Republicans (14%) and Conservatives (21%).
- 10% of respondents believe climate change is a hoax.

## Energy Priorities vs. Cost

- There is a conflict between environmental goals and financial concerns. 69% of residents support clean energy goals but 50% state they only support them for "minimal increases" in their utility bill.
- 29% say they do not support clean energy goals at all if it involves increases to their bill. This sentiment is strongest among Republicans (76%).
- When asked their top priority for utility companies, the most popular responses were "Providing energy as cheaply as possible" (28%) and "Financial assistance programs" (25%). "Addressing climate change" came in last (11%).

# Income & Housing Correlation

## Income

- The perception of the economy is heavily tied to income. 49% of residents earning over \$140K/year rate the economy as "excellent" or "good," while this drops to 27% for those earning under \$50K/year.

## Renters

- Renters are more likely to rank housing costs as a highest concern (a 9 or 10 on the scale) compared to non-renting counterparts.