

# RESEARCH AMERICA

AN ALLIANCE FOR DISCOVERIES IN HEALTH®

Science  
debate



Changing the conversation

## Americans' Views on Science and 2016 Elections

September 2015

National public opinion poll commissioned by  
Research!America and ScienceDebate.org

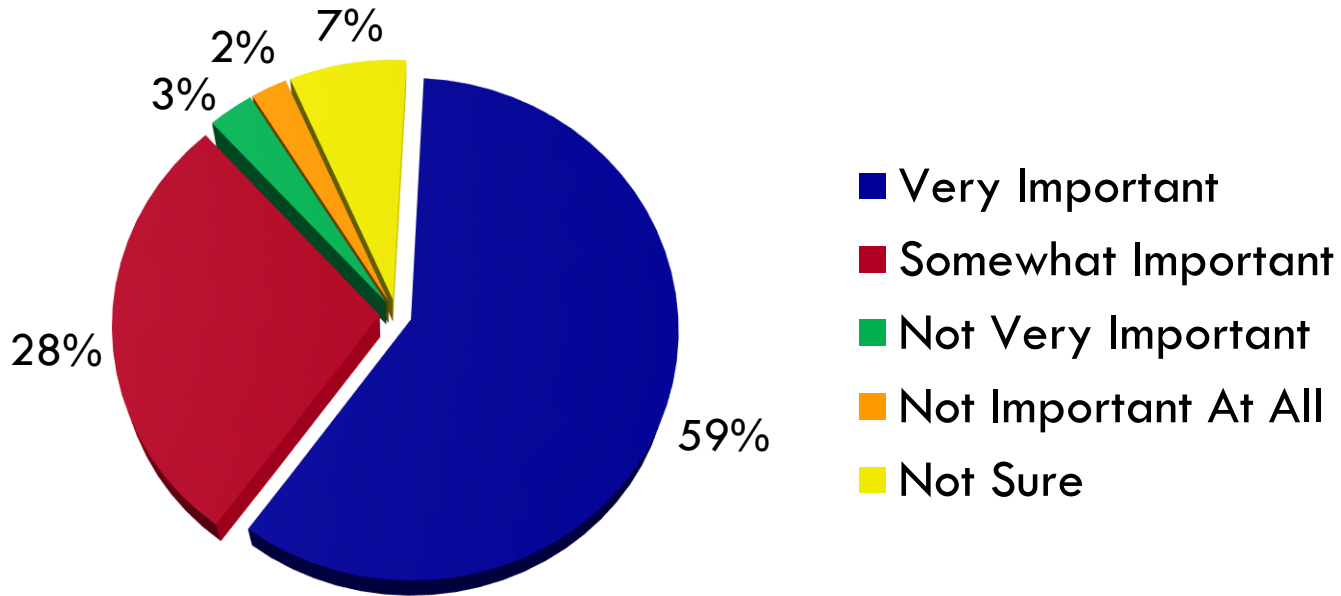
# National Poll methodology

This nationwide online survey was conducted by Zogby Analytics on behalf of Research!America and ScienceDebate.org in September 2015, among 1,002 adults ages 18+. This survey has a theoretical sampling error of +/- 3.2 percentage points\*

\*Due to rounding, the total may not add up to 100 on some slides

# Candidates Should Have a Basic Understanding of Science

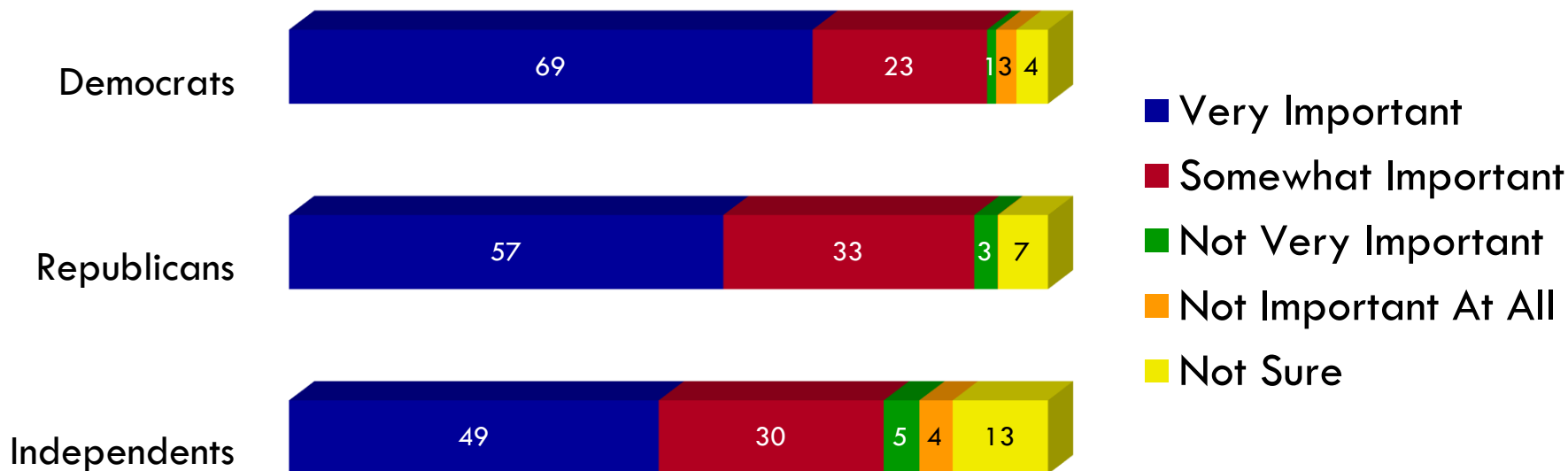
How important do you think it is that candidates for President and Congress have a basic understanding of the science informing public policy issues?



Source: A Research!America and ScienceDebate.org poll of U.S. adults conducted in partnership with Zogby Analytics in September 2015.

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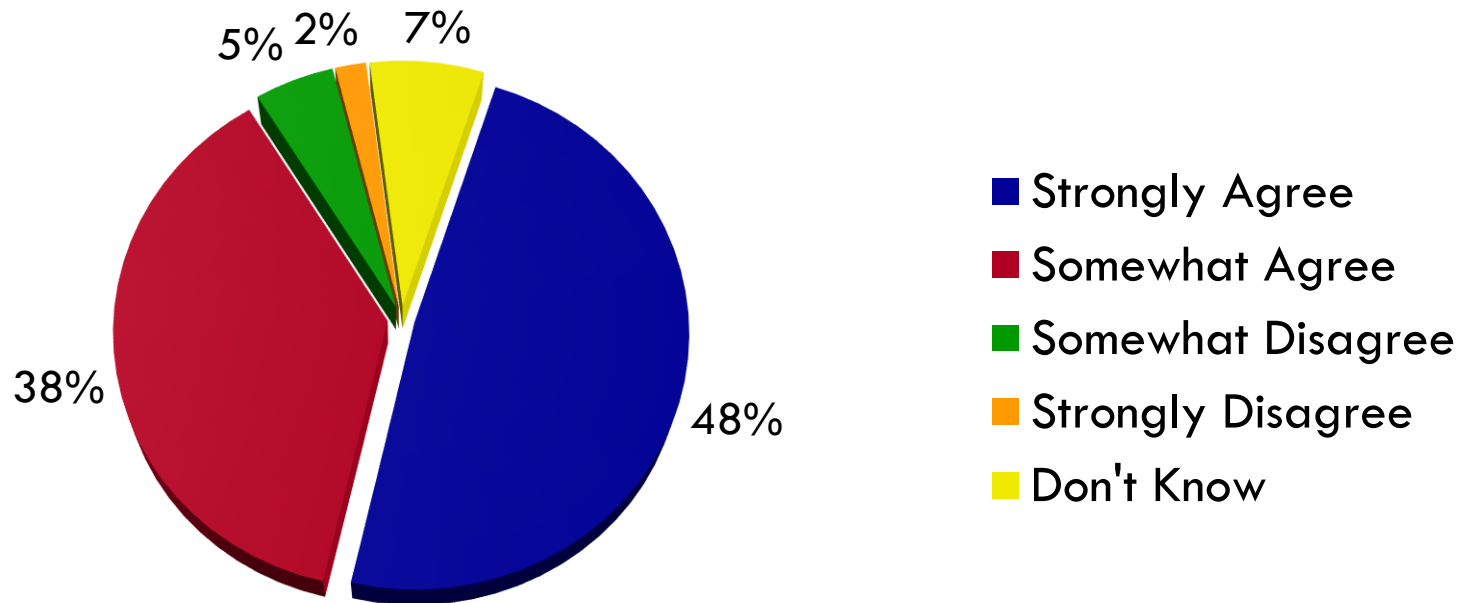
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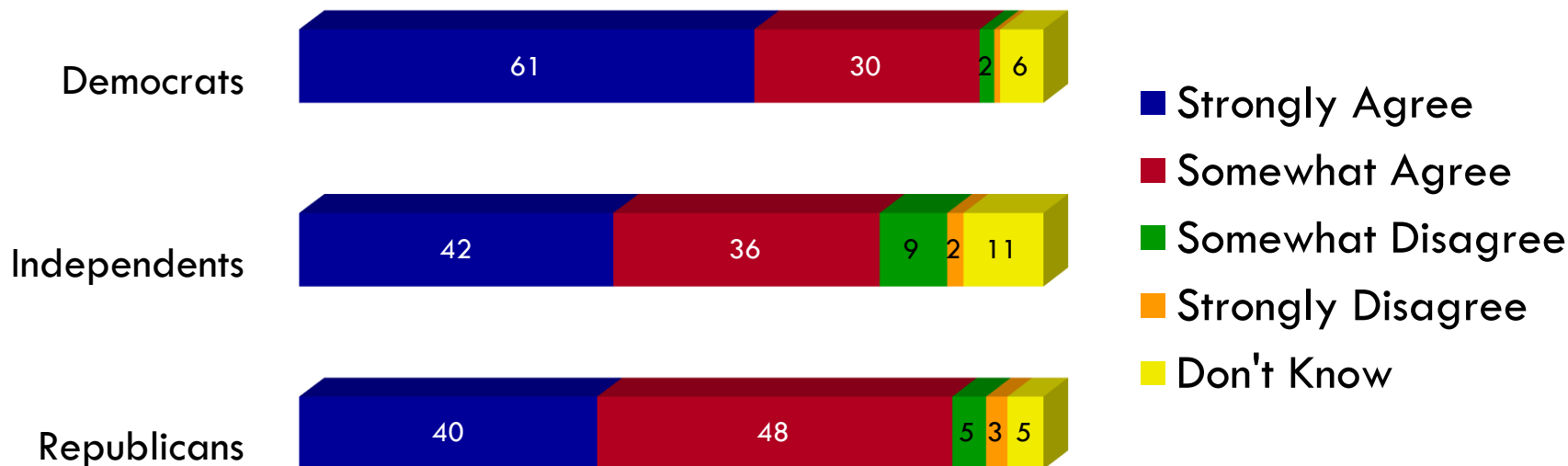
The presidential candidates should participate in a debate to discuss key science-based challenges facing the United States, such as healthcare, climate change, energy, education, innovation and the economy.



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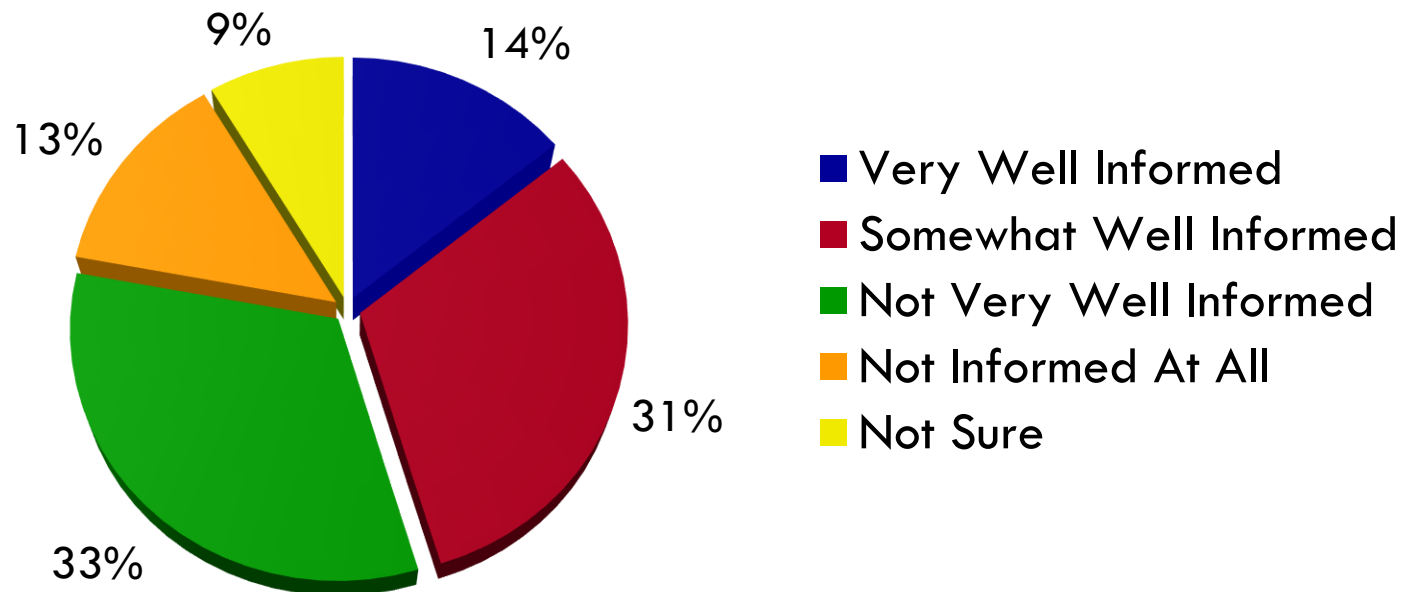
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# Half not Informed of the Positions of Candidates on Science

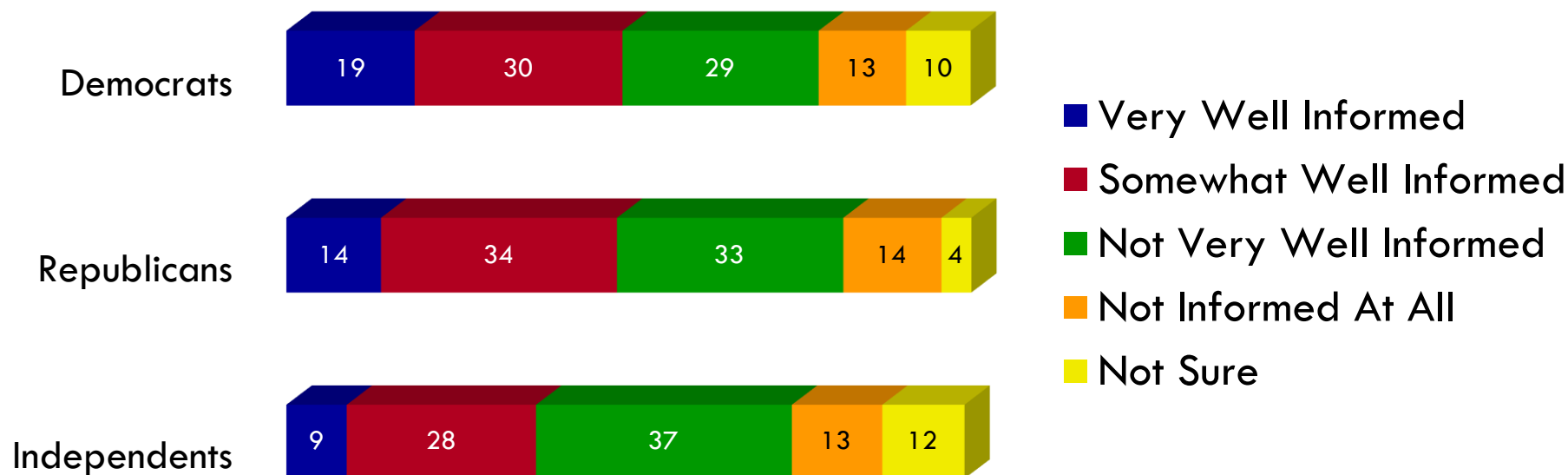
How well informed are you of the positions of current candidates for President of the United States about public policies and public funding for science and innovation?



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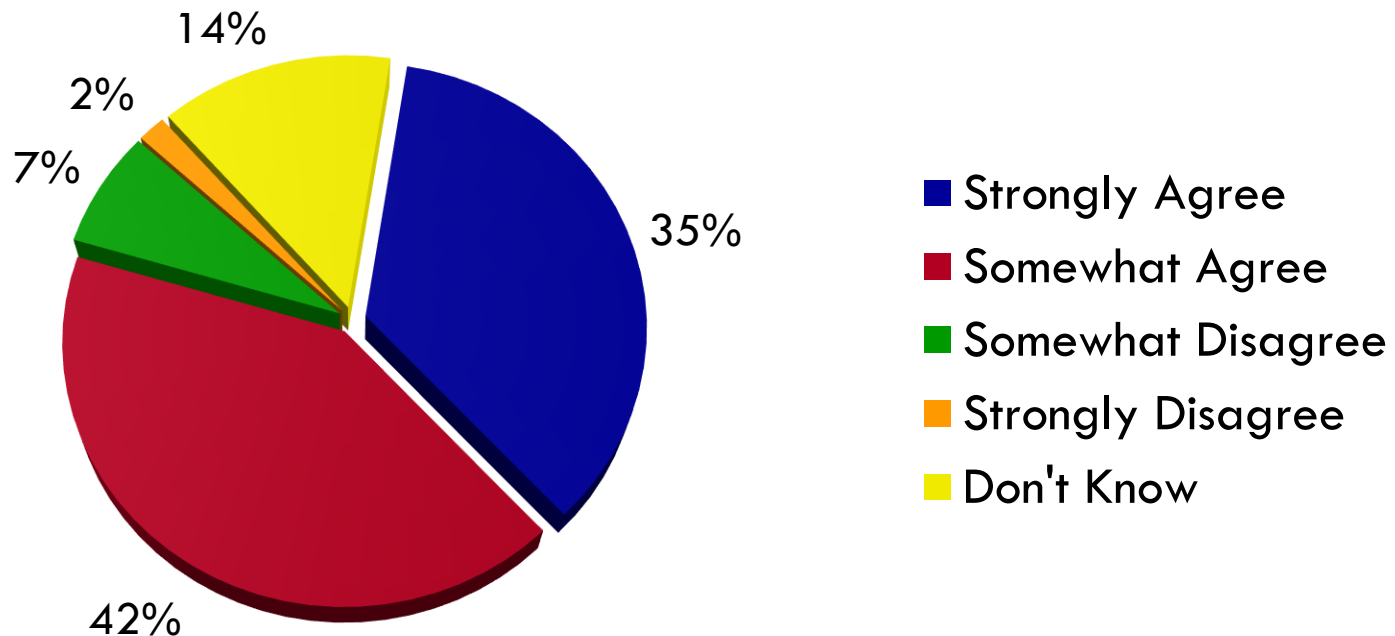


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# Journalists Should Question Candidates About Science

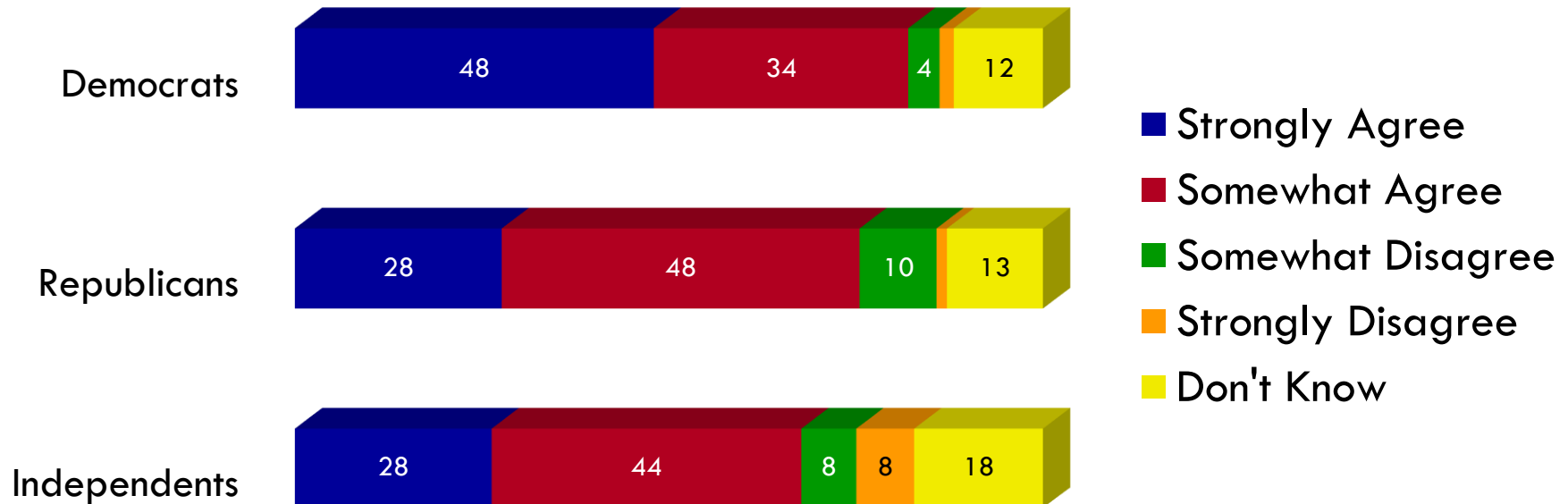
Do you agree or disagree that journalists should ask candidates for President and Congress about their views on scientific issues.



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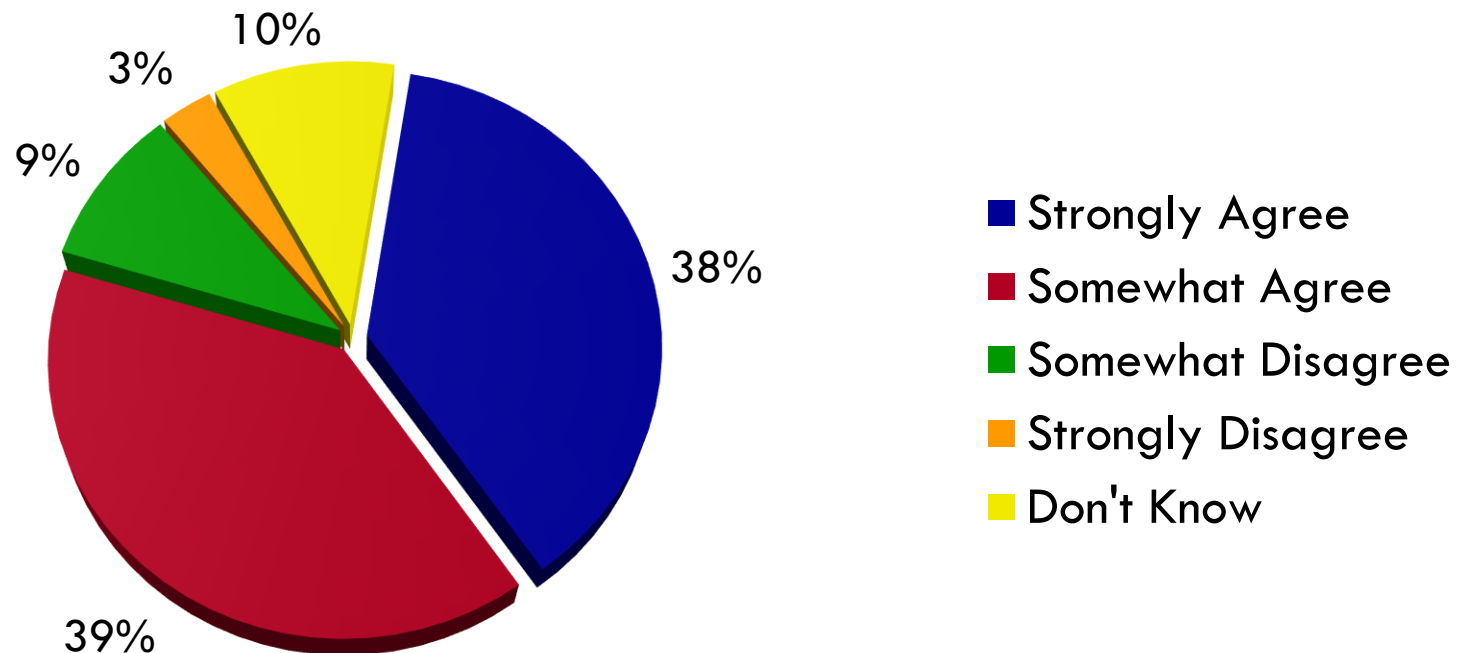
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# Public Policies Should be Based on Science

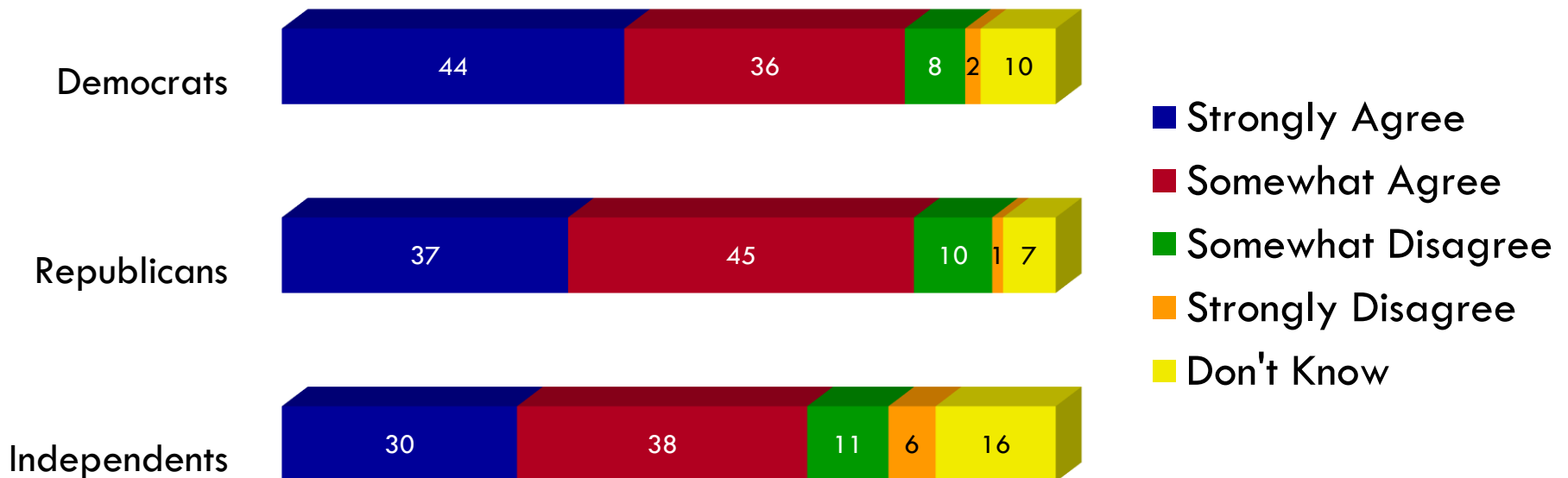
Do you agree or disagree with following statement -- Public policies should be based on the best available science.



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# Public Policies Should be Based on Science

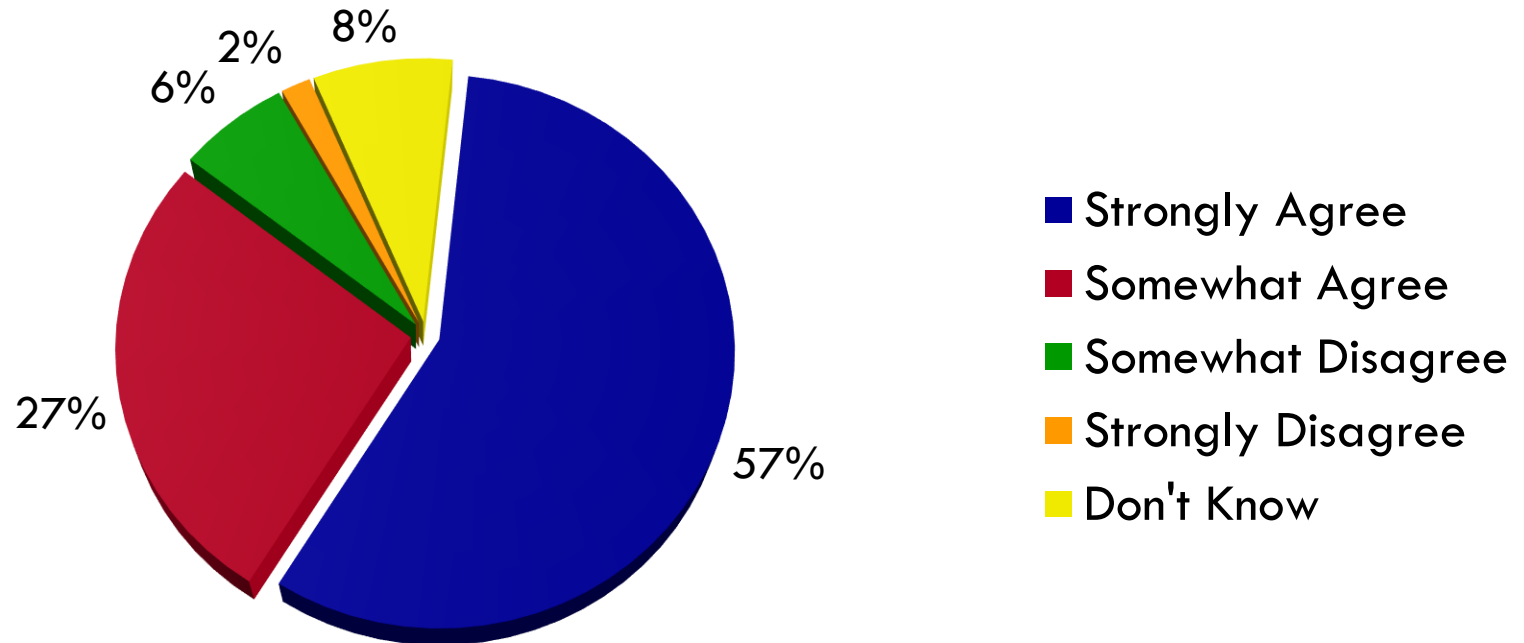
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# Science Should not be Partisan

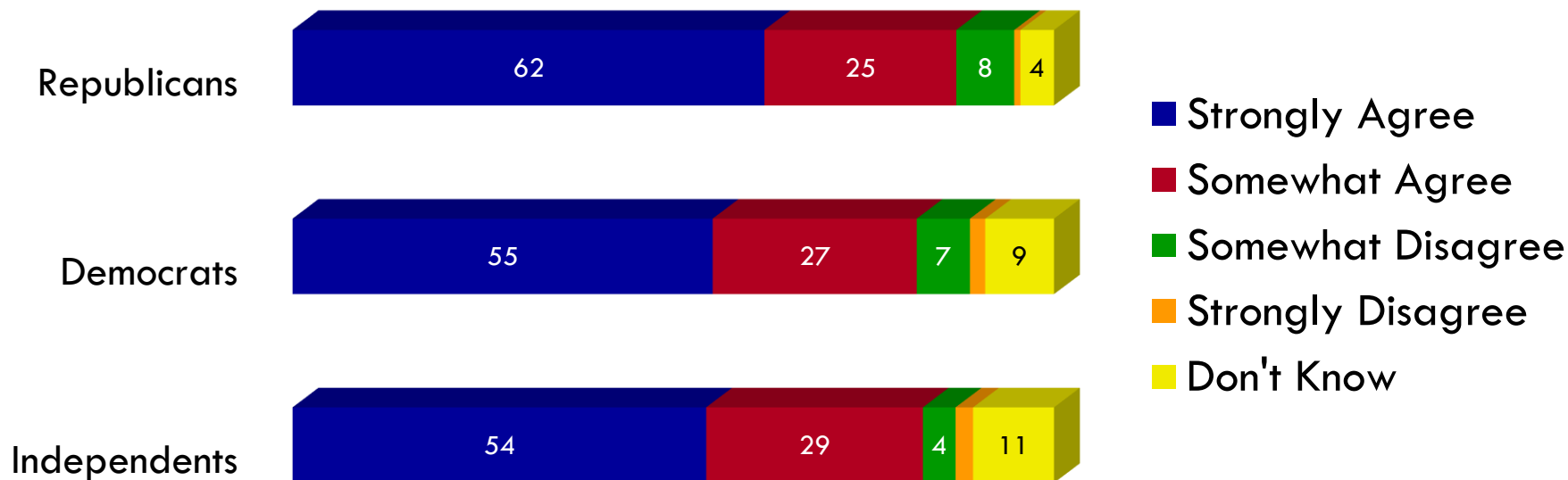
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement - Science should not be partisan, that is, not the sole business of one political party or another.



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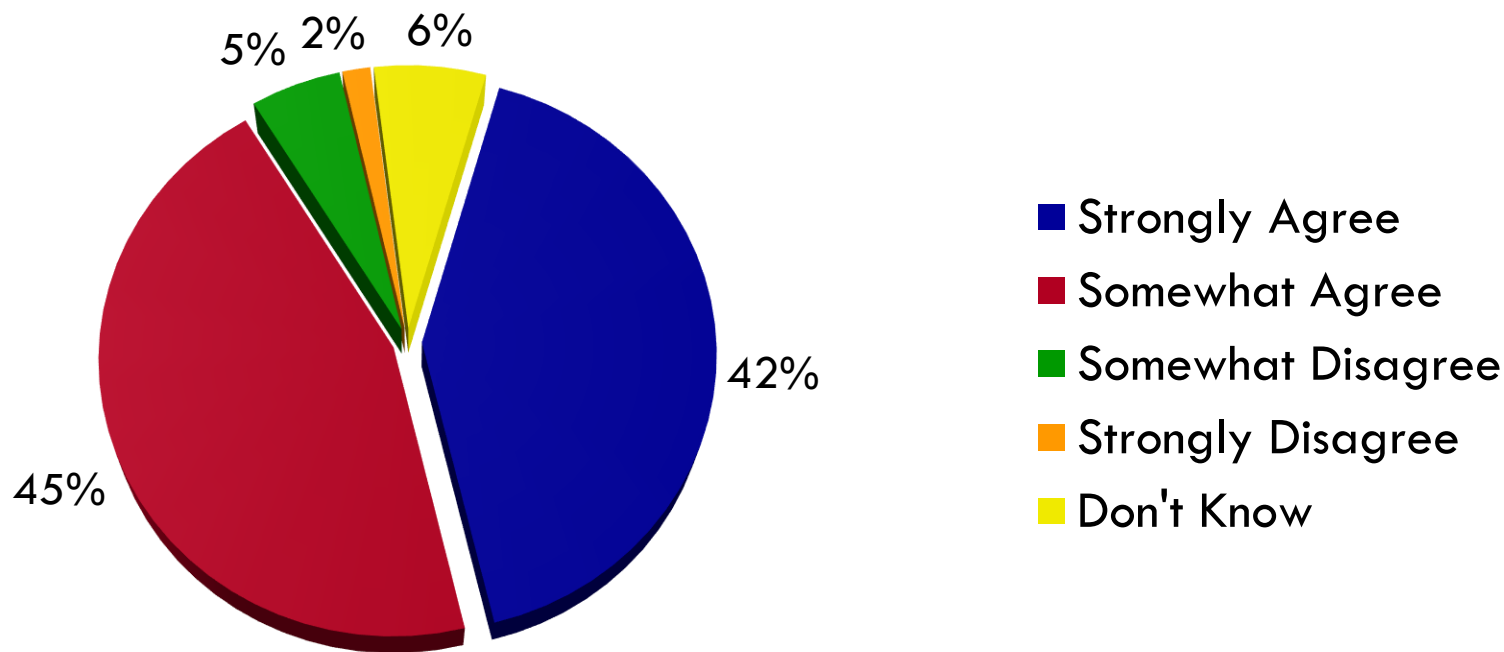
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# Scientific Innovations Improve Standard of Living

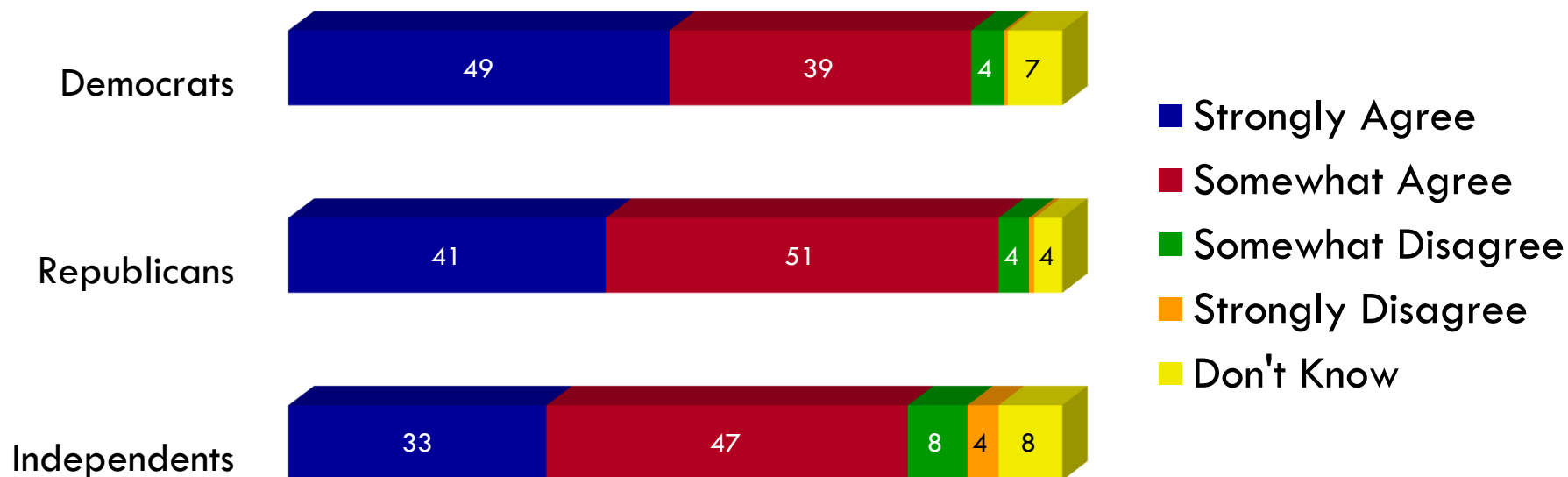
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement -- Scientific innovations are improving our standard of living.



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# Scientific Research Plays Important Role in People's Lives

In which of the following areas of your life, if any, do you think scientific research has played an important role? (Check all that apply)

Health care	54%
Energy	49%
Protecting the environment	36%
Communication and the Internet	36%
Transportation and travel	28%
Education	24%
Economy	23%
Convenience and assistance	21%
Don't know	8%
None of these	7%
Other	3%

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# Economy & Jobs and Health Care Costs Rank High on Serious Long-Term Issues

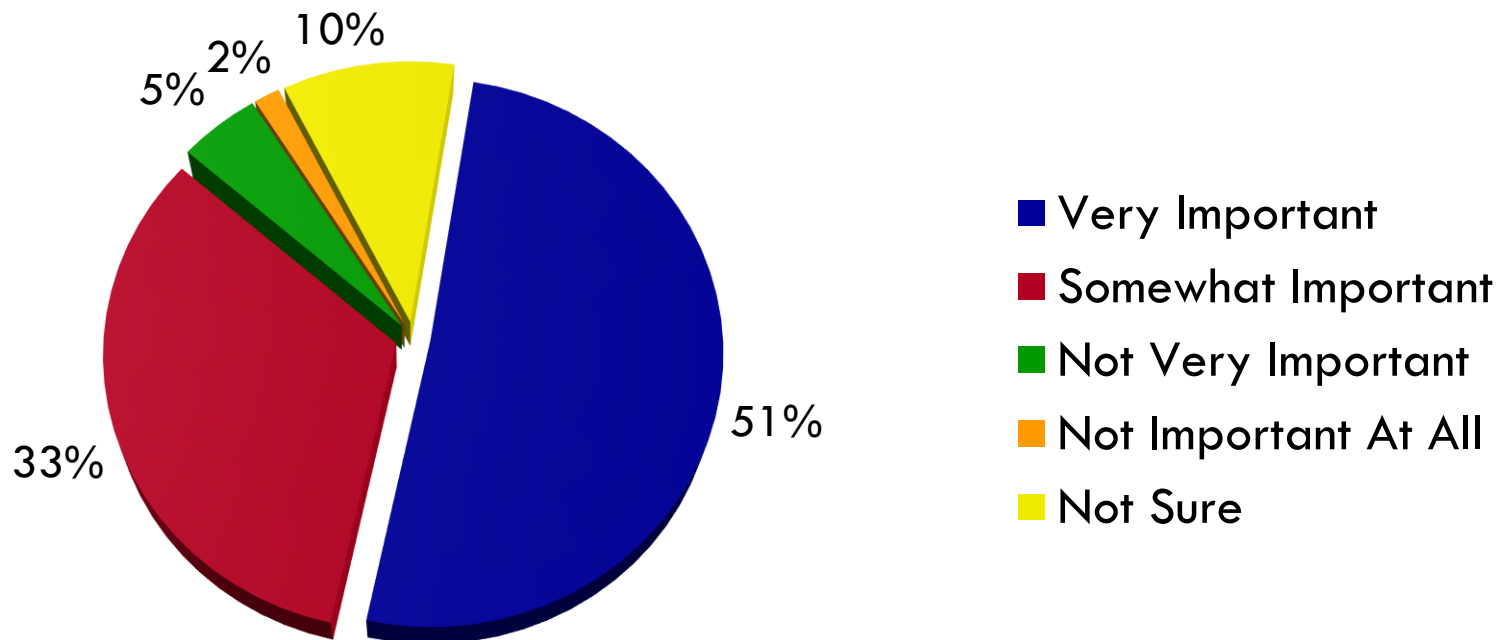
In your opinion, which of the following are the most serious long-term issues facing this country? (Check all that apply)

Economy & jobs	61%	Global poverty	25%
Health care costs	55%	Nuclear war	22%
Healthcare	48%	Alzheimer's and other	
National security	47%	Dreaded Diseases	20%
International Terrorism	42%	Global economic competition	20%
Income inequality	33%	Population growth	19%
Climate change	32%	Ocean extinctions and fishing	
Environmental degradation	28%	colony collapses	17%
Falling US high school		Robot outsourcing of jobs	14%
science & math rankings		Another issue	9%
compared to other countries	27%	None of these	8%
Clean water	27%		
Mental health	25%		

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# Important for Scientists to Engage with Public on Research

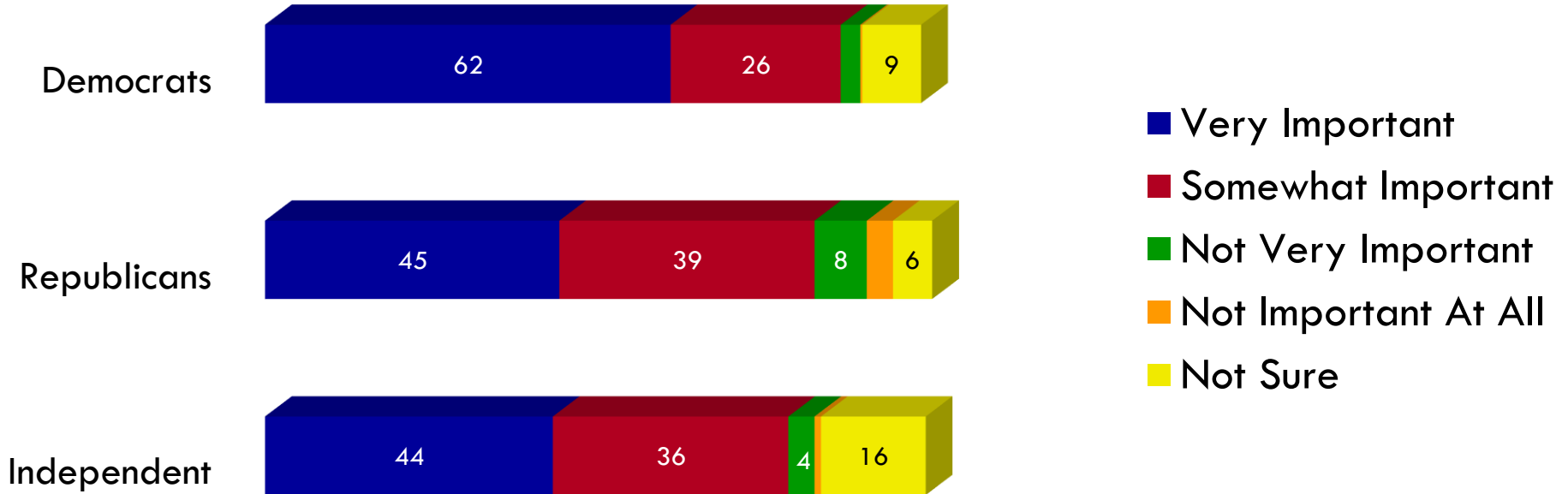
How important is it for scientists to inform elected officials and the public about their research and its impact on society?



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