

# Polarization & Policymaking in Alberta

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[commongroundpolitics.ca](http://commongroundpolitics.ca)



**COMMONGROUND**  
Connecting Communities & Politics



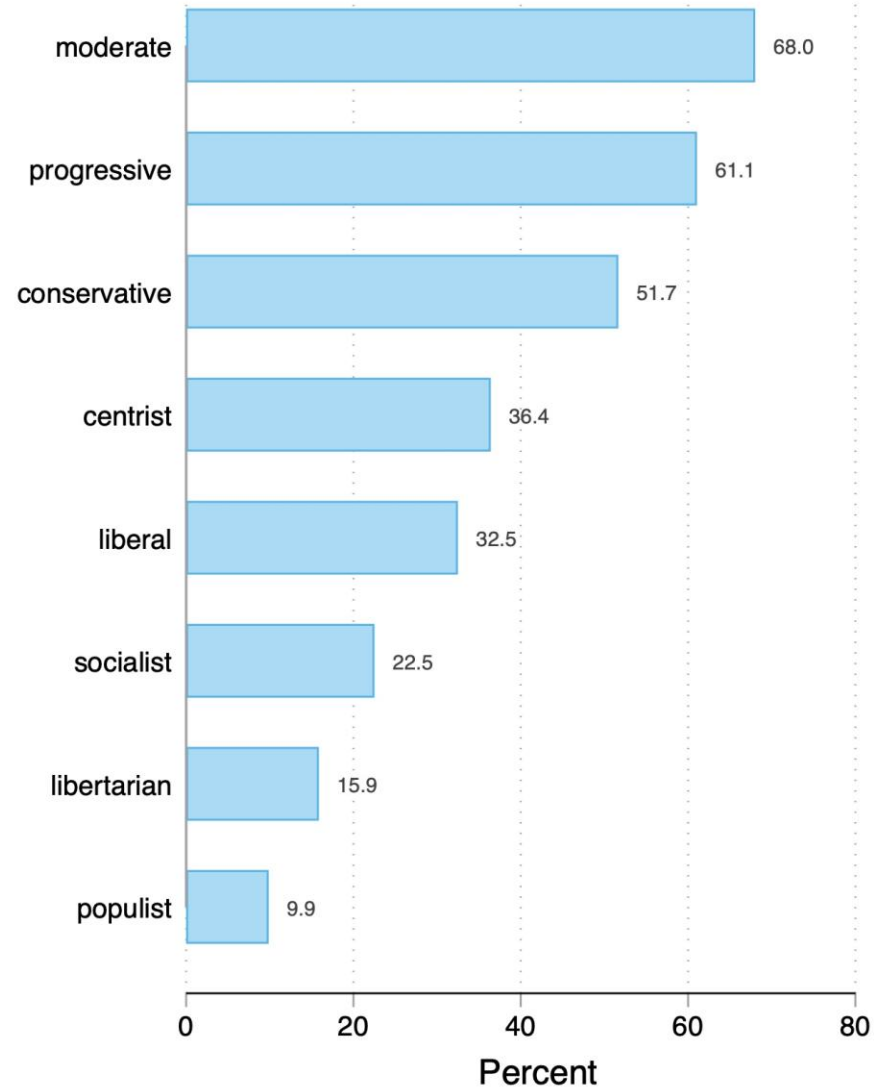
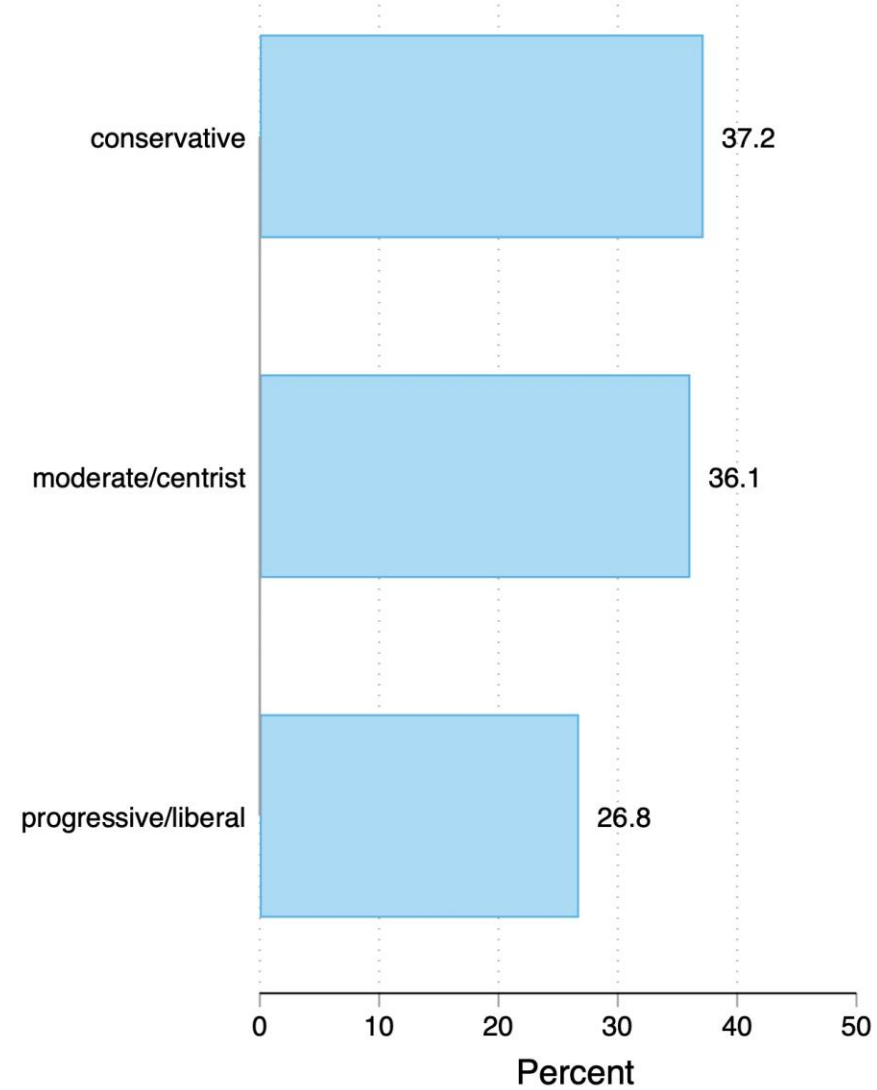
**UNIVERSITY  
OF ALBERTA**

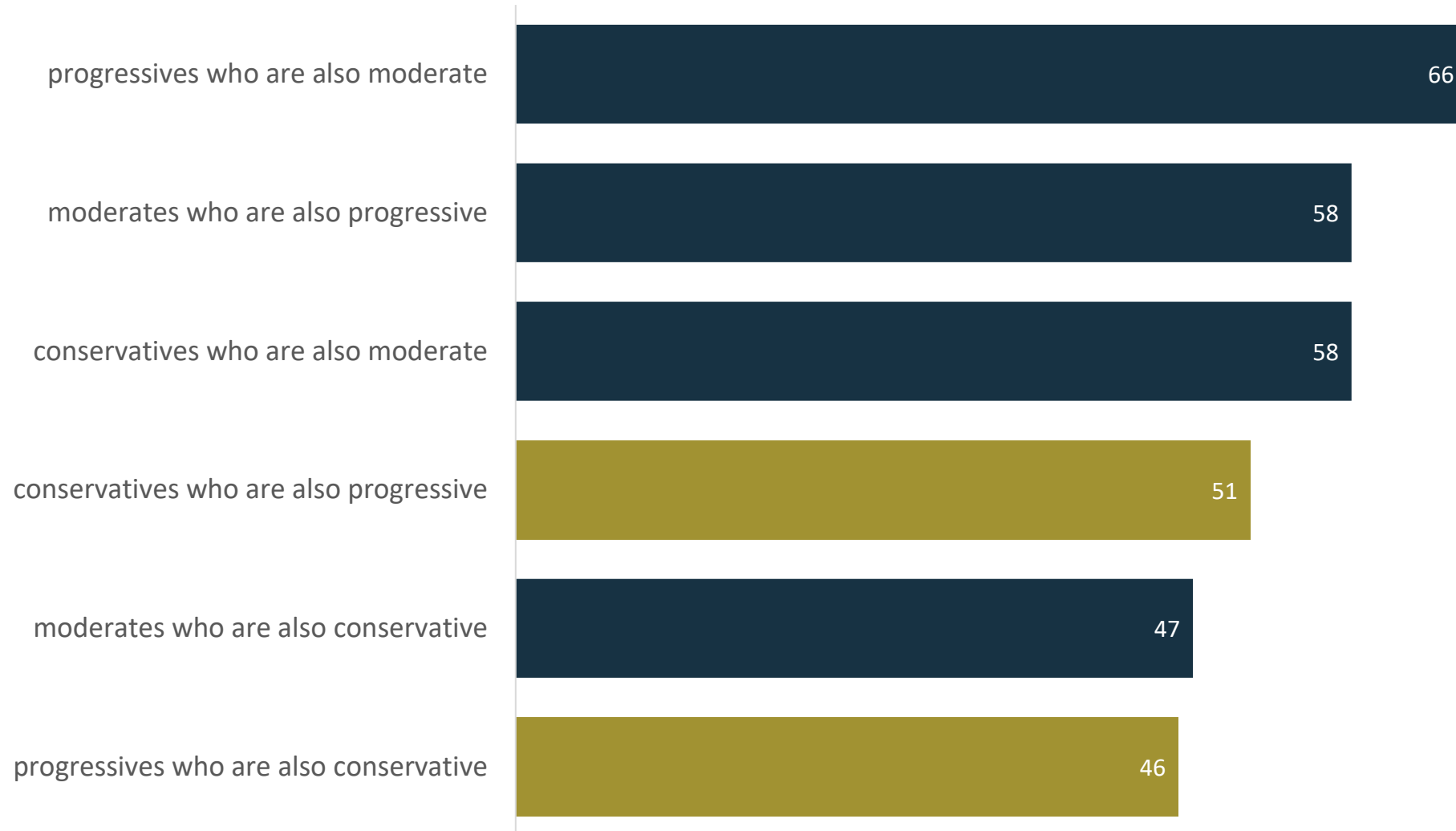
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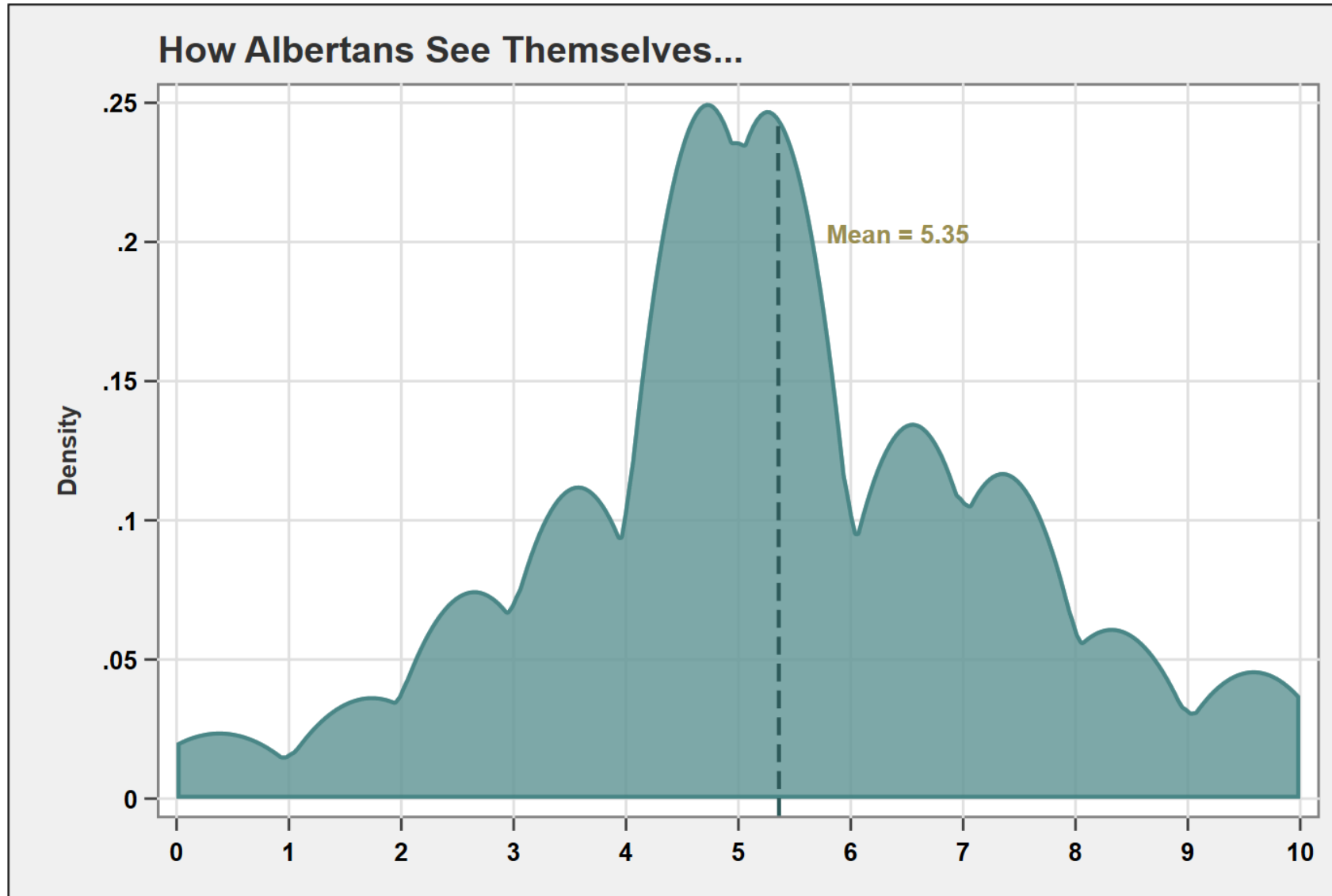
**Albertans are divided  
along partisan lines.**

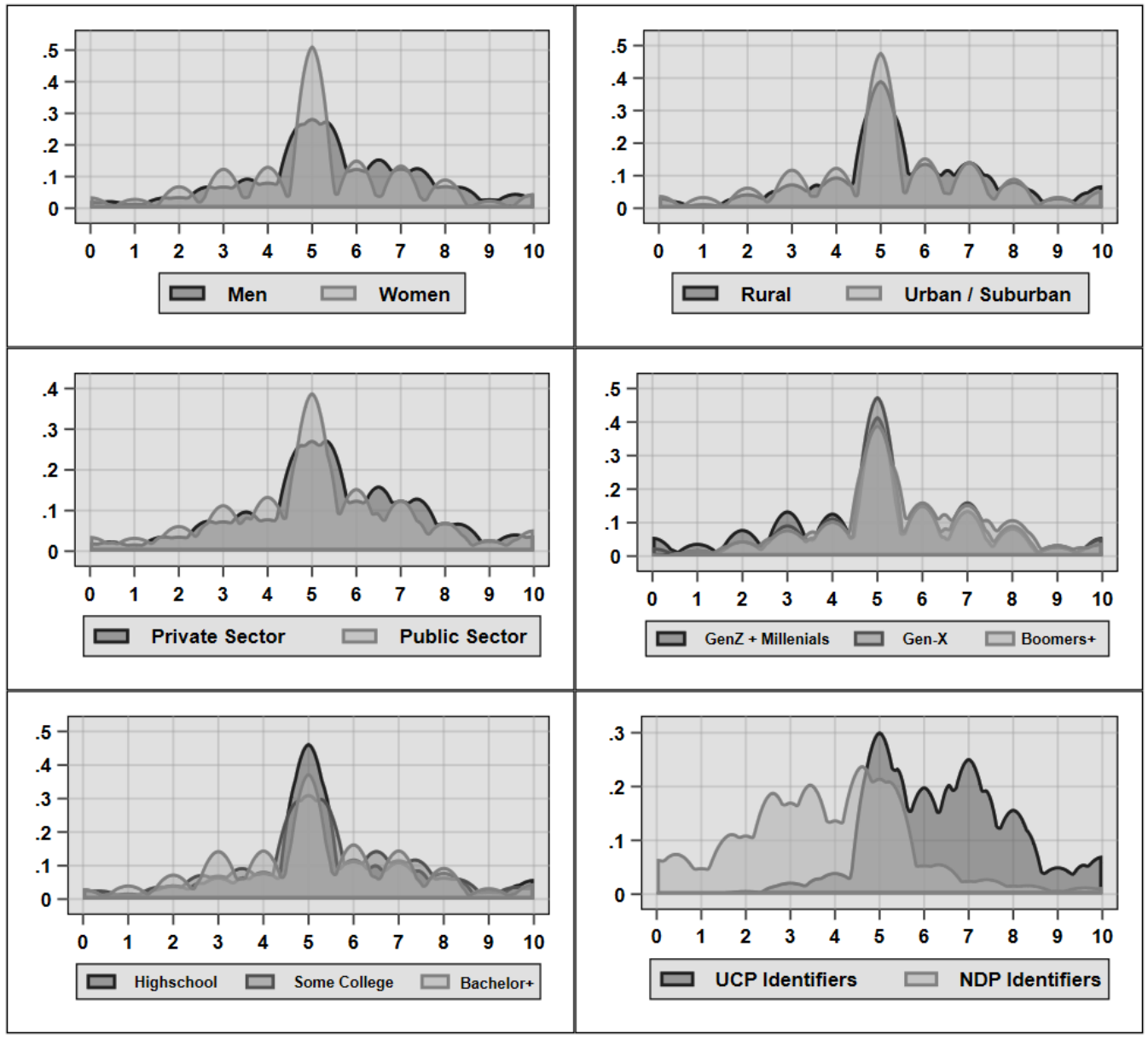


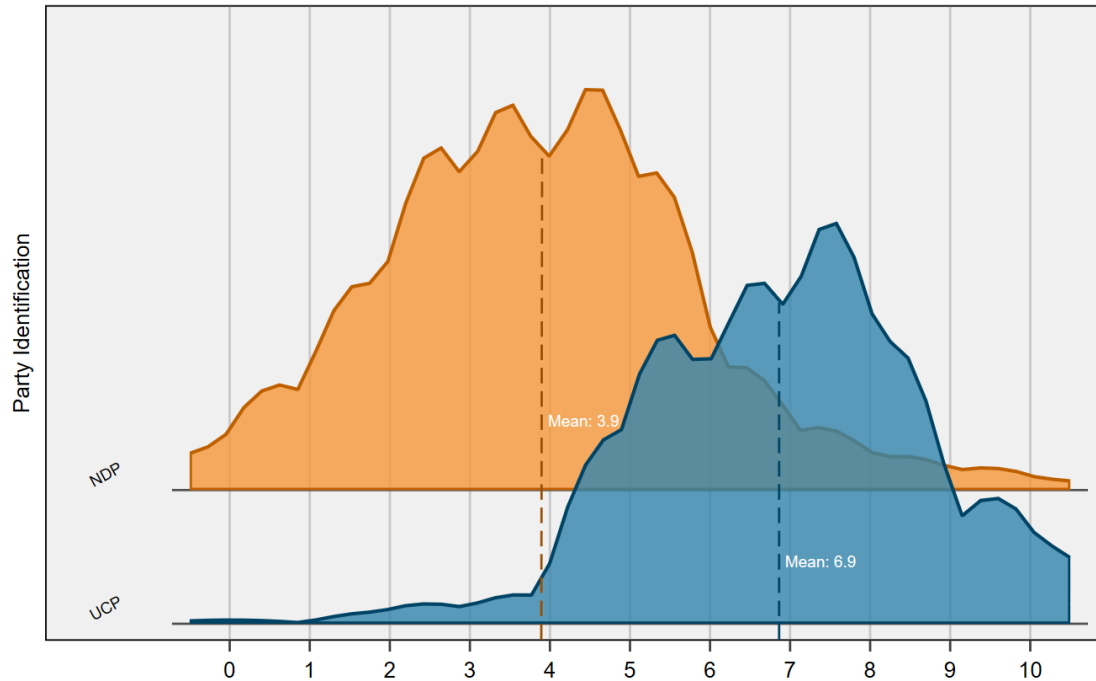


**All Identities That Apply****Closest Identity**





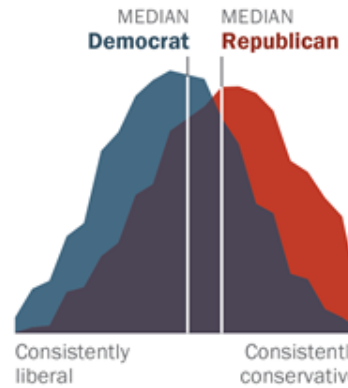




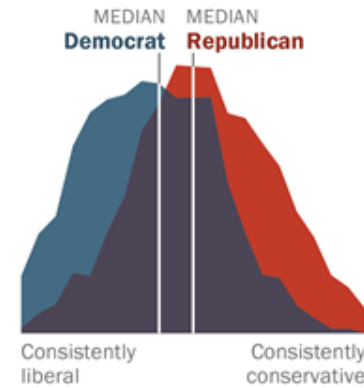
## Democrats and Republicans More Ideologically Divided than in the Past

*Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values*

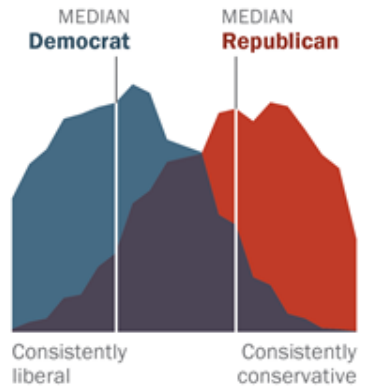
**1994**



**2004**



**2014**



Source: 2014 Political Polarization in the American Public

Notes: Ideological consistency based on a scale of 10 political values questions (see Appendix A). The blue area in this chart represents the ideological distribution of Democrats; the red area of Republicans. The overlap of these two distributions is shaded purple. Republicans include Republican-leaning independents; Democrats include Democratic-leaning independents (see Appendix B).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER



# Adversaries

You want to defeat.



Compromise is honourable.



We play by and trust the rules.



We compete over ideas.



Elections are dialogues.

# Enemies

You want to destroy.



Compromise is appeasement.



If we lose, we 'fix' the system.

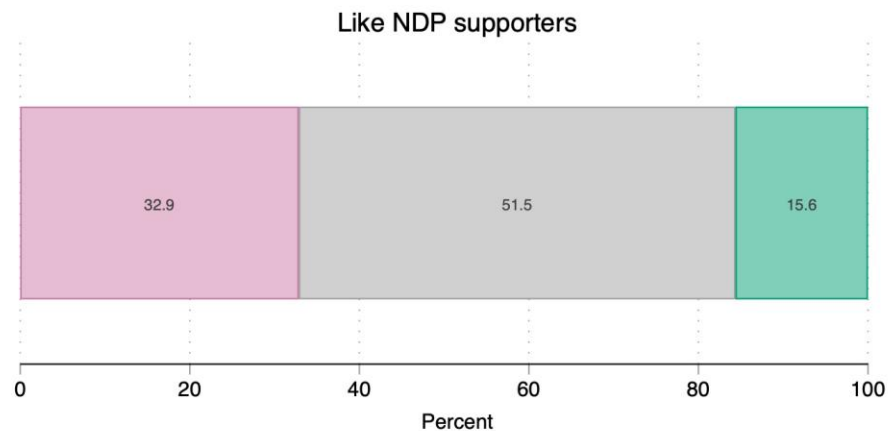


Fights are matters of conviction.

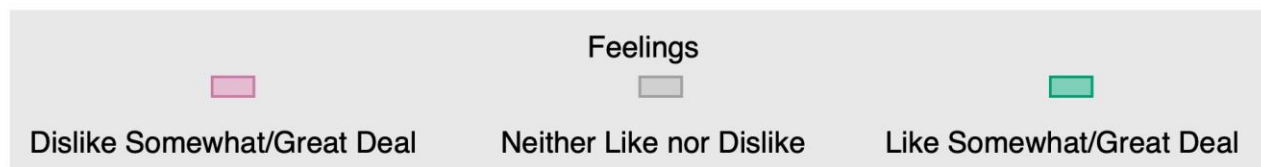
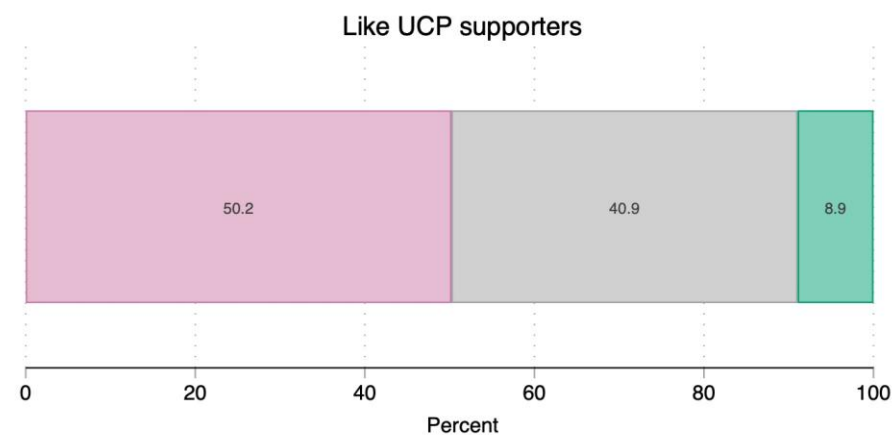
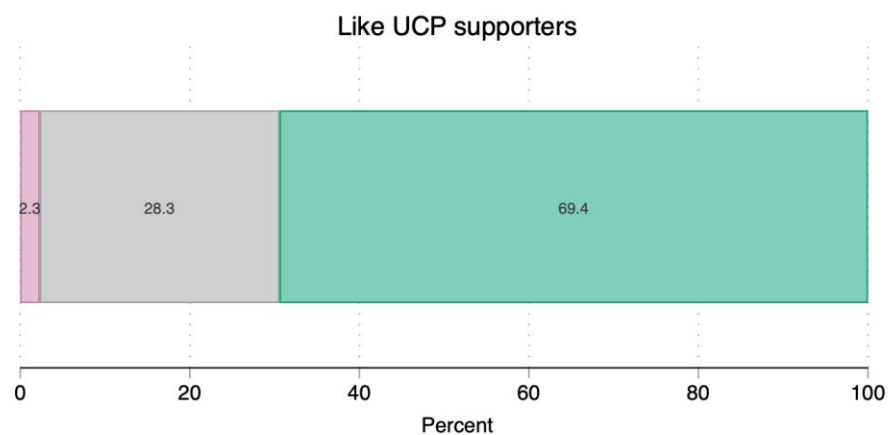
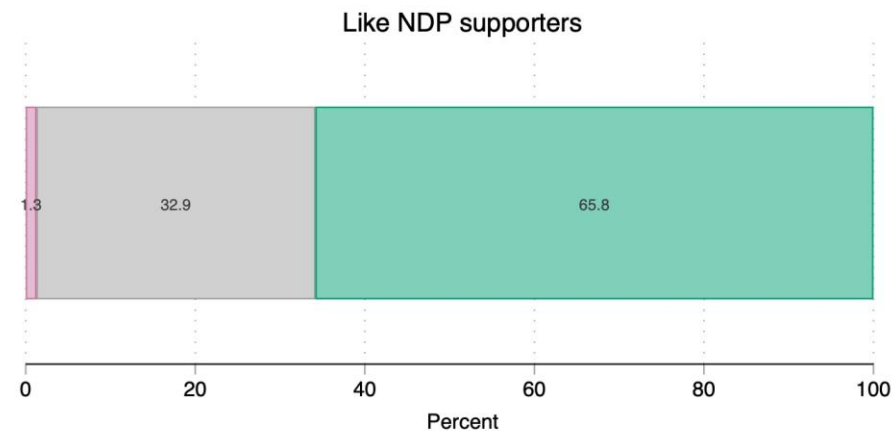


Elections are wars.

## Self ID: United Conservative



## Self ID: New Democrat



**There is a gap between  
public opinion and elite  
rhetoric.**

# Alberta's municipal power grab is flawed policy – and bad politics

THE EDITORIAL BOARD

PUBLISHED JUNE 6, 2024

## 'We need less politicization, not more': Alberta's push for local political parties proving to be unpopular

*The results of the government's survey show widespread opposition to adding parties to municipal election ballots and ABMunis is now calling on the province to scrap the idea*

Matthew Black

Published Feb 22, 2024 • Last updated Feb 22, 2024 • 4 minute read

## The Undemocratic Voter ID Law Coming to an Election Near You

Alberta's Bill 20 could block 50,000 people from voting in the province's next municipal elections.

Alex Ballos, Rachel Hwang and Jared Wesley / 22 Aug 2024 / Policy Options

Alexandra Ballos is a University of Calgary grad student and a research assistant for [Common Ground](#). Rachel Hwang is an undergrad at the University of Kentucky. Jared Wesley is a political science professor at the University of Alberta. This article was [originally published](#) by Policy Options.

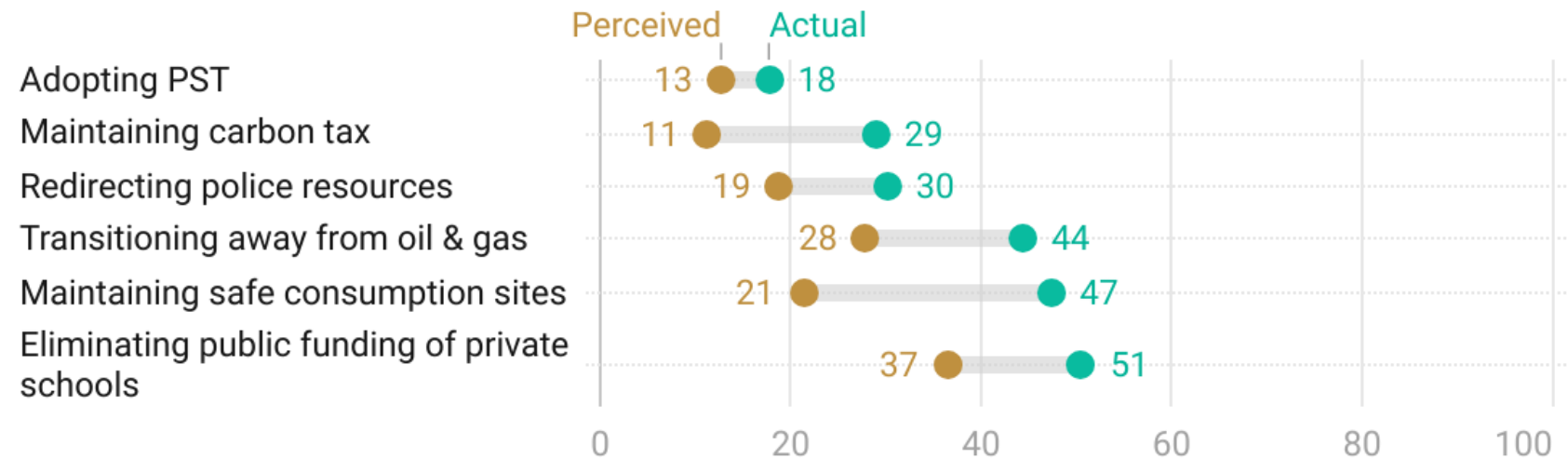
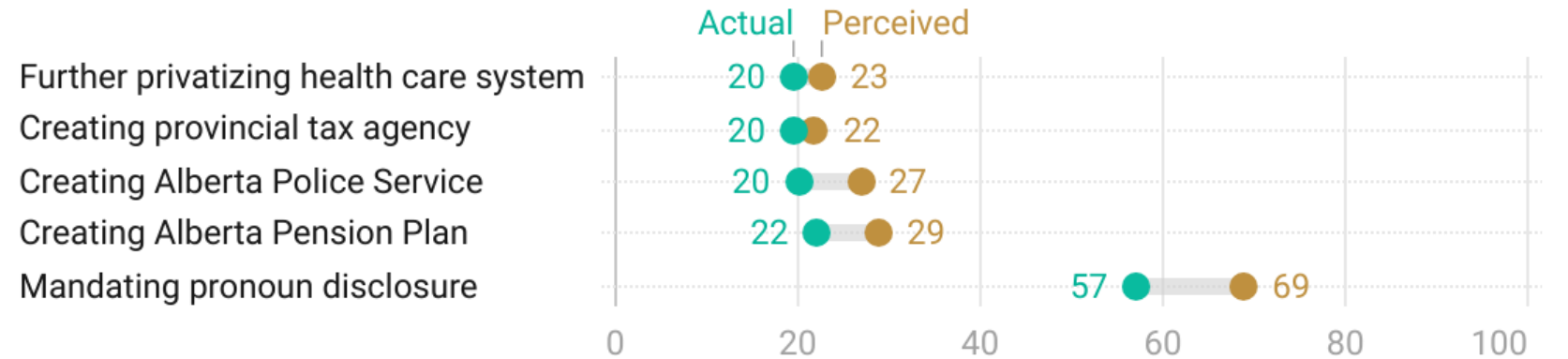
## Albertans want federal climate regulation – just don't tell Danielle Smith

JARED WESLEY

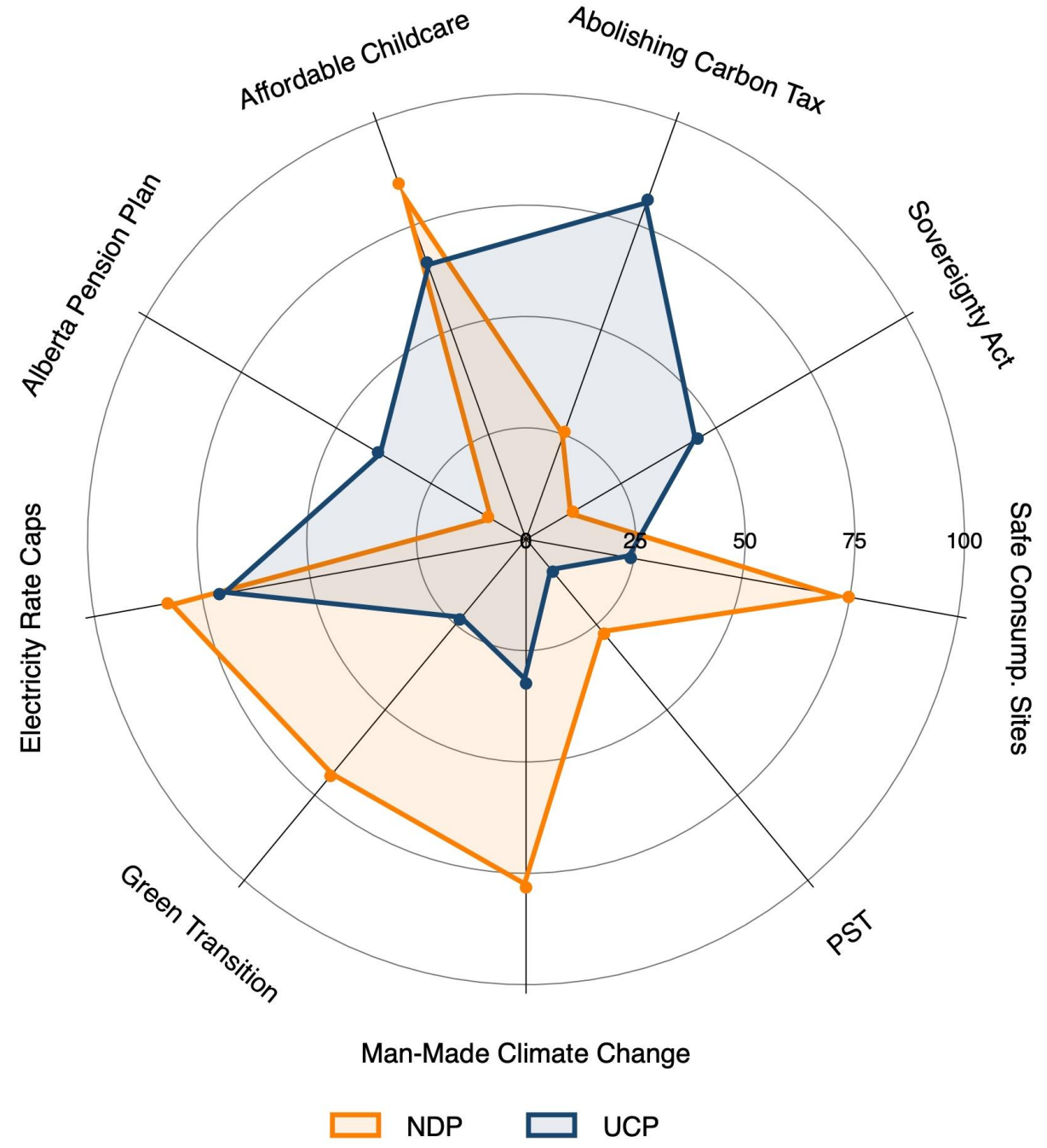
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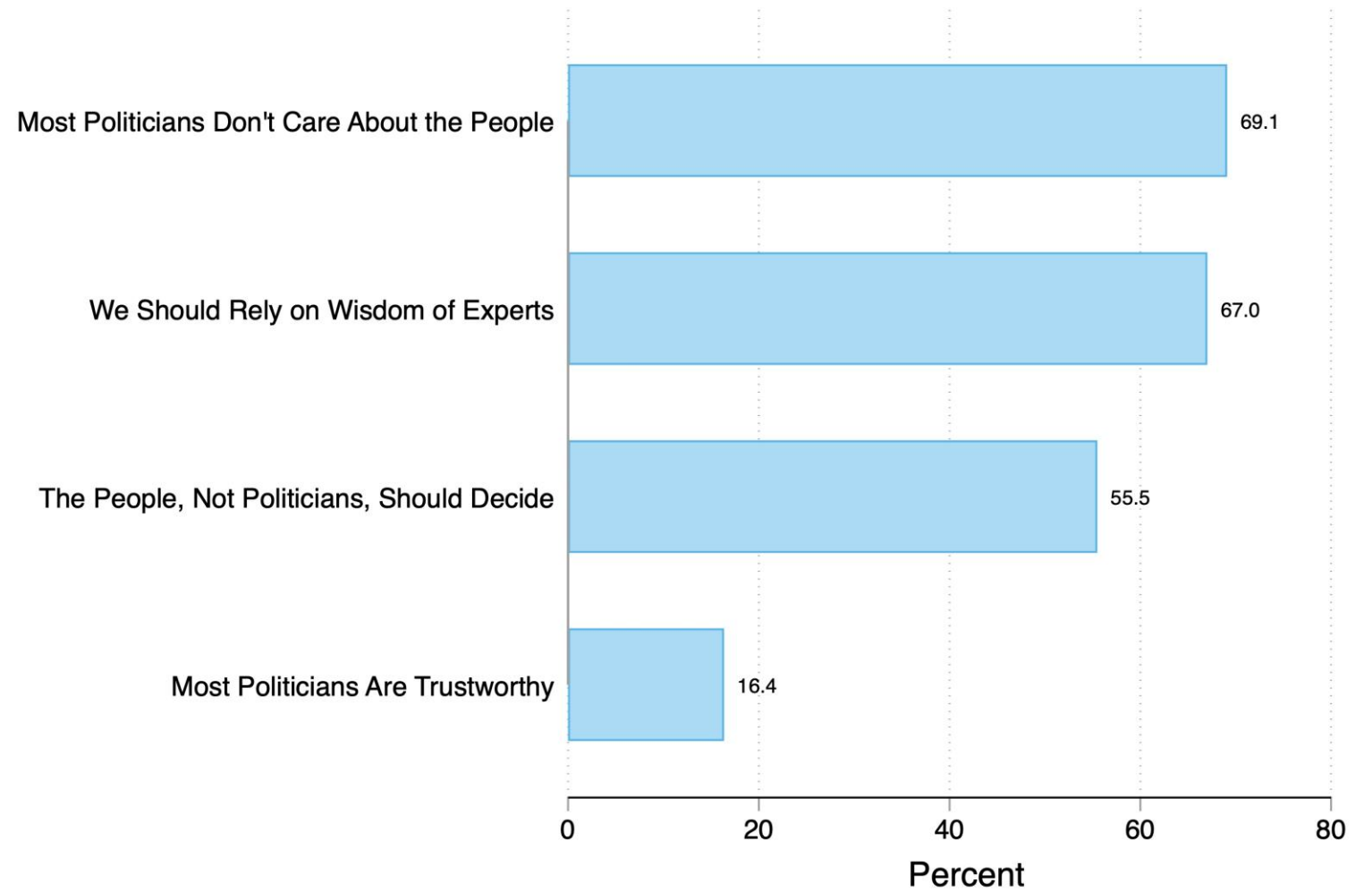
PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 15, 2023

 Actual Support (%)
  Perceived Support (%)







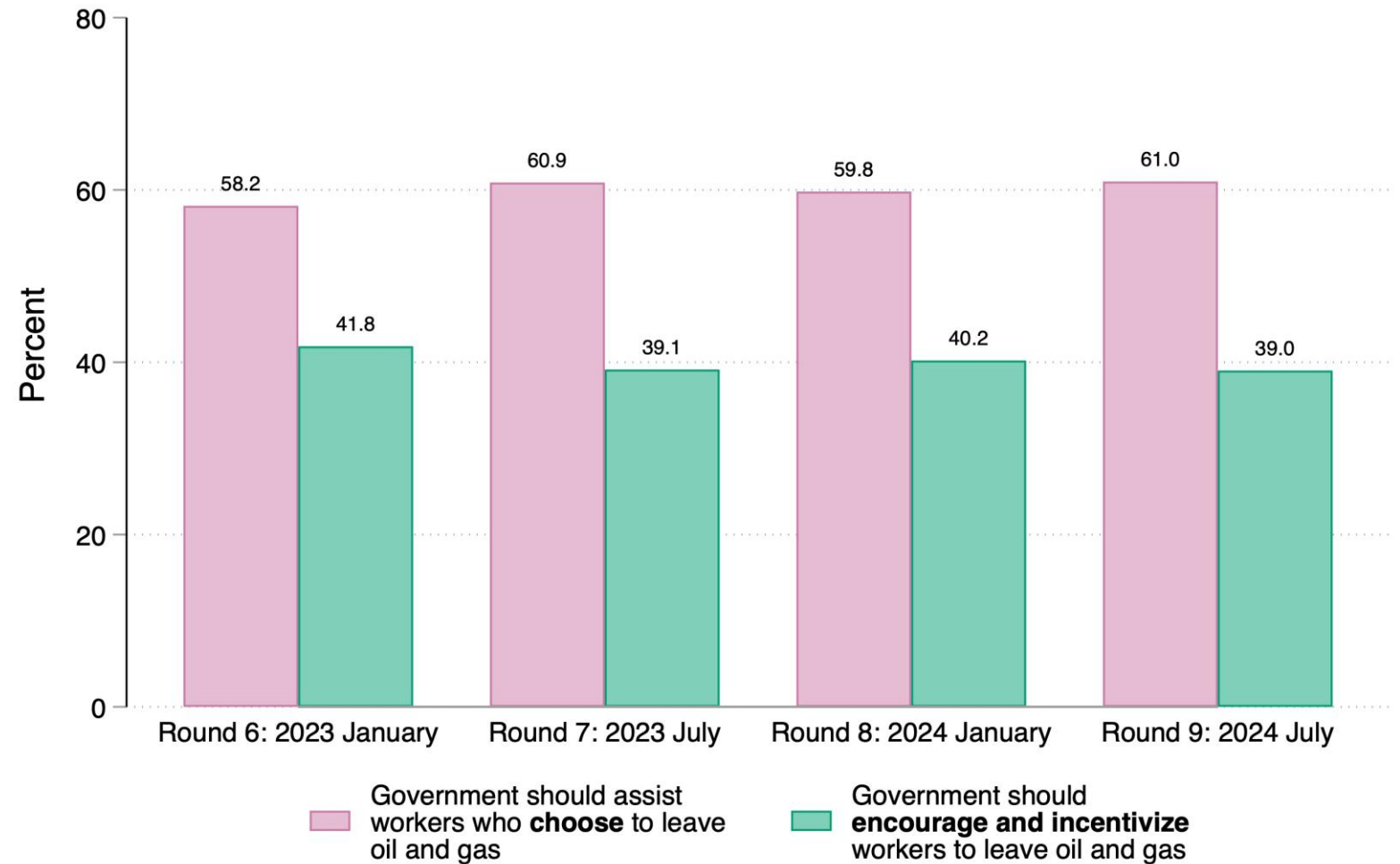


**Abstract ideas do not  
always translate to  
specific policy.**

## Attitudes Towards Oil and Gas



## Attitudes Towards Energy Transition





## Attitudes Towards an Alberta Pension Plan

