

UNIVERSITY of HOUSTON

HOBBY SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS



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Hurricane Harvey: Experiences, Consequences and Public Support for Proposed Policies

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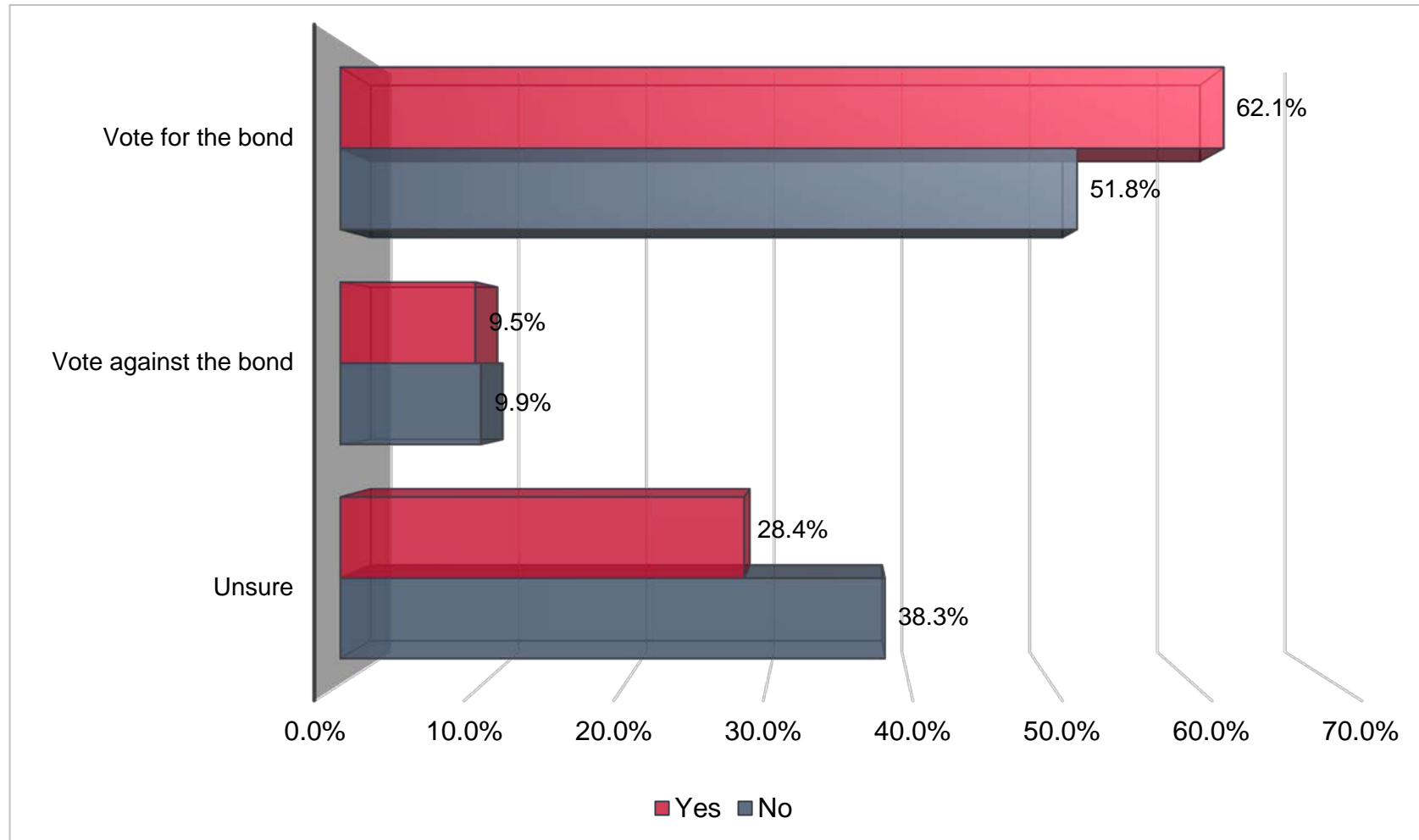
How the survey was conducted

- 815 cell and landlines telephone interviews with residents in Harris County, previously interviewed in November-December, 2017.
- Margin of error=3.4%
- Interviews conducted between June-July, 2018
- Over sample in areas where flooding was most likely to have occurred i.e., reported rainfall > 2 feet.
- Sample in Harris County weighted to reflect actual proportion of renter and owner occupied residences

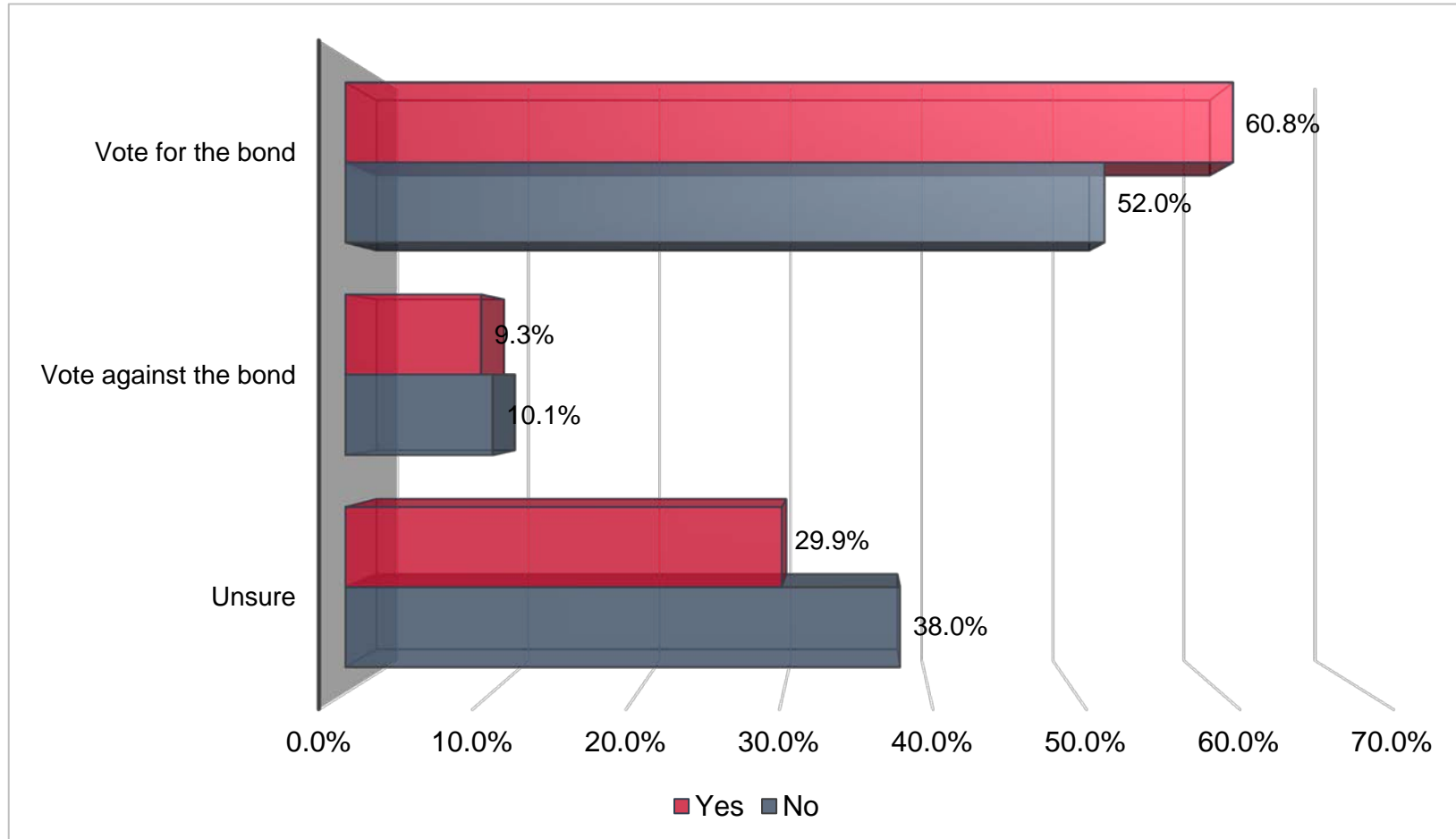
What Happened to you and your family as a result of Hurricane Harvey? [N=2,002, 11/17-12/18]

	Did not Happen	Extremely Serious	Very Serious	Somewhat Serious	Not Serious At All
Lost wages and expenses	42.8%	11.2%	12.7%	23.3%	10.0%
Lost power	53.3%	5.8%	7.7%	17.6%	15.7%
Downed trees or branches	53.5%	2.9%	5.1%	19.8%	18.7%
<i>Flood damage to residence</i>	60.2%	10.2%	7.6%	12.3%	9.7%
Roof damage to residence	66.3%	3.8%	3.2%	14.3%	12.5%
Flood damage to car	68.5%	9.4%	5.9%	7.3%	8.9%
Lost water	74.7%	2.9%	4.0%	6.8%	11.6%
Personal injury	83.4%	1.5%	1.7%	3.2%	10.2%
Home broken into/looted	86.2%	1.1%	1.1%	2.1%	9.5%

Support for bond by likely voters

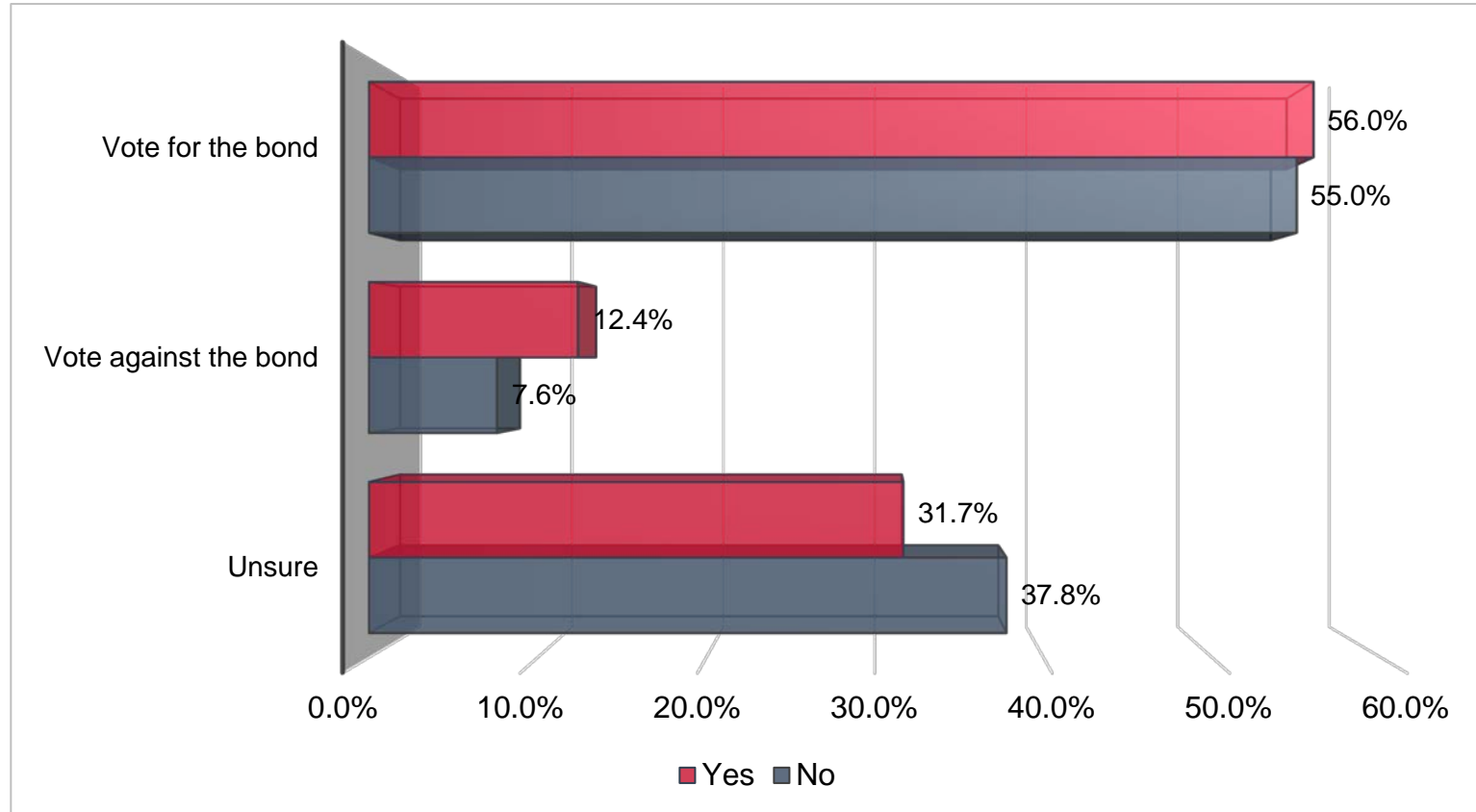


Support for bond by damage to residence due to Hurricane Harvey



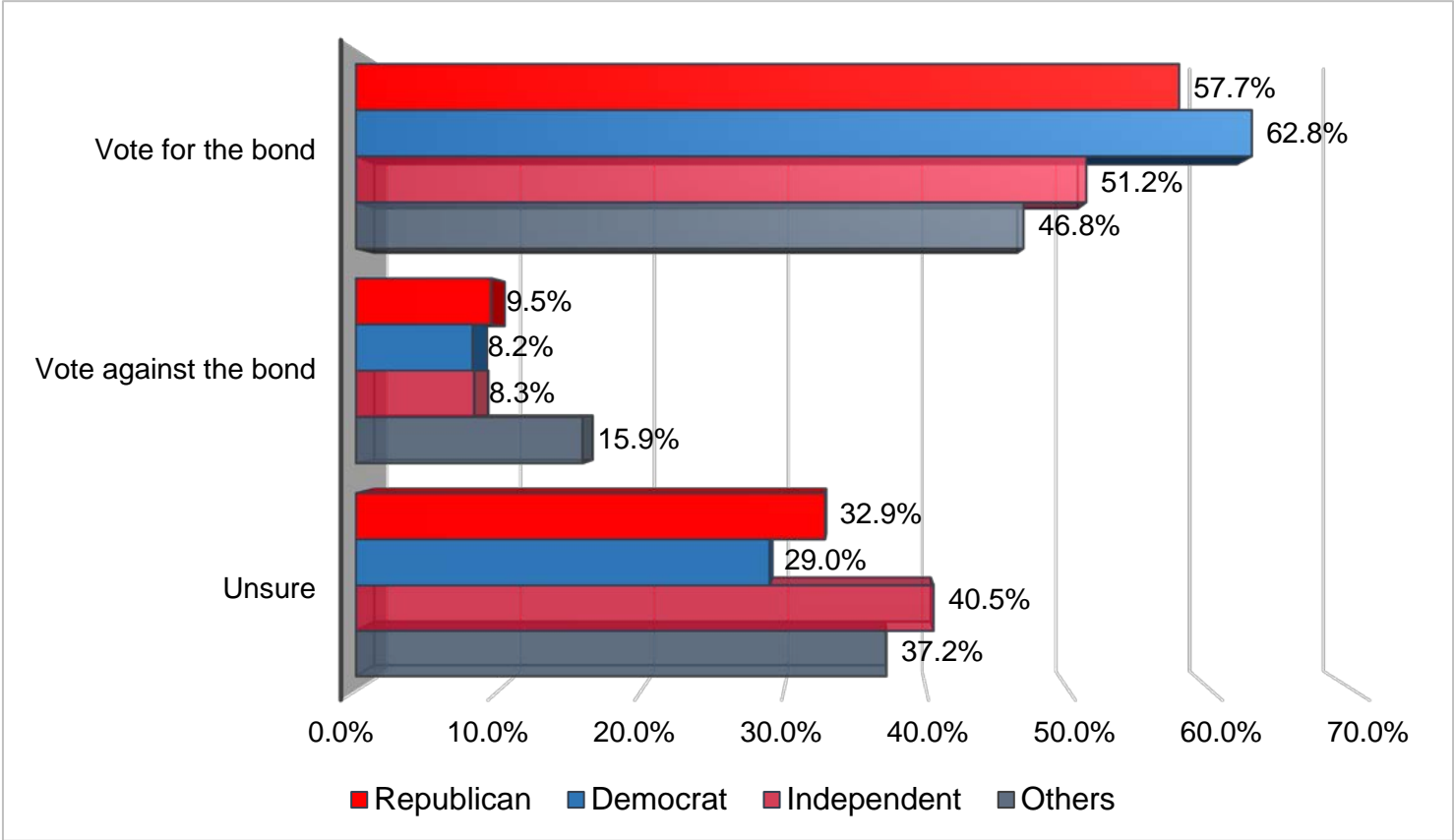
Note: "Yes" means respondents who had damage to their residence due to Hurricane Harvey

Support for bond by prior flooding experience

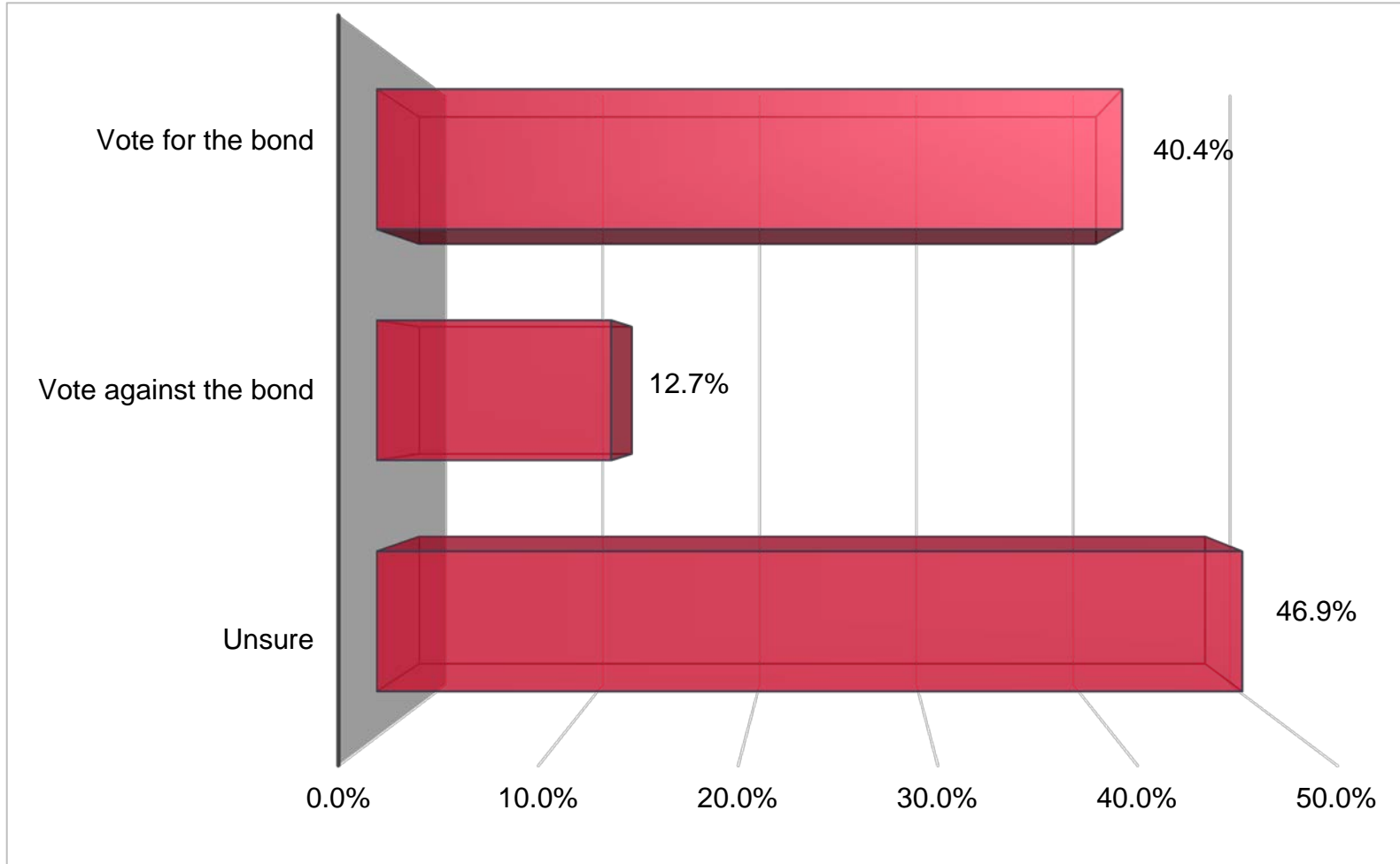


“Yes” means respondents who or whose family members experienced a personal injury, property damage, or had to evacuate in face of severe weather since 2001

Support for bond by partisanship

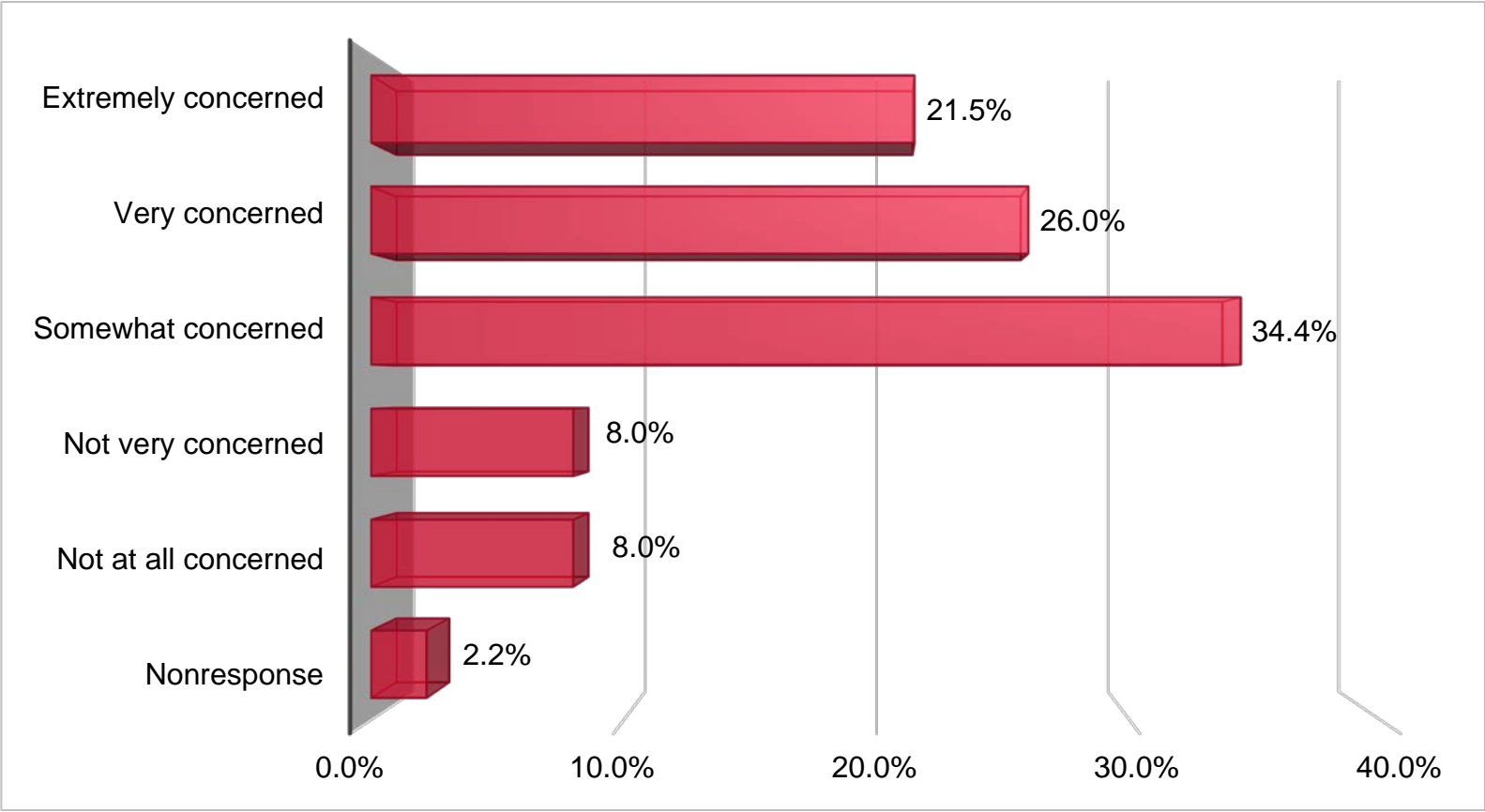


Support for bond among first wave respondents who opposed raising property taxes to fund future flood control

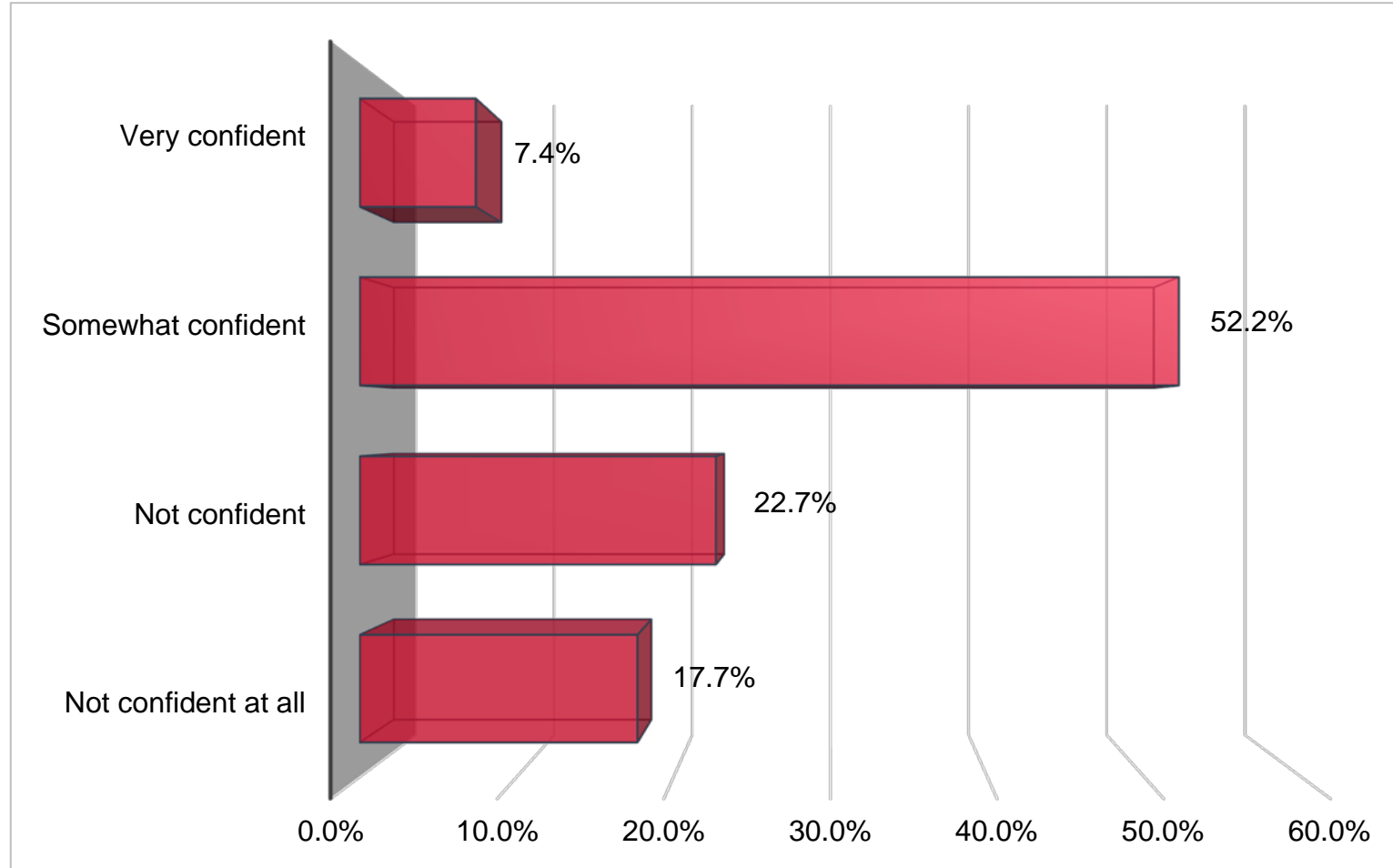


The data come from the respondents who opposed raising property taxes to mitigate the impact of severe weather events in the December wave of survey. N=202

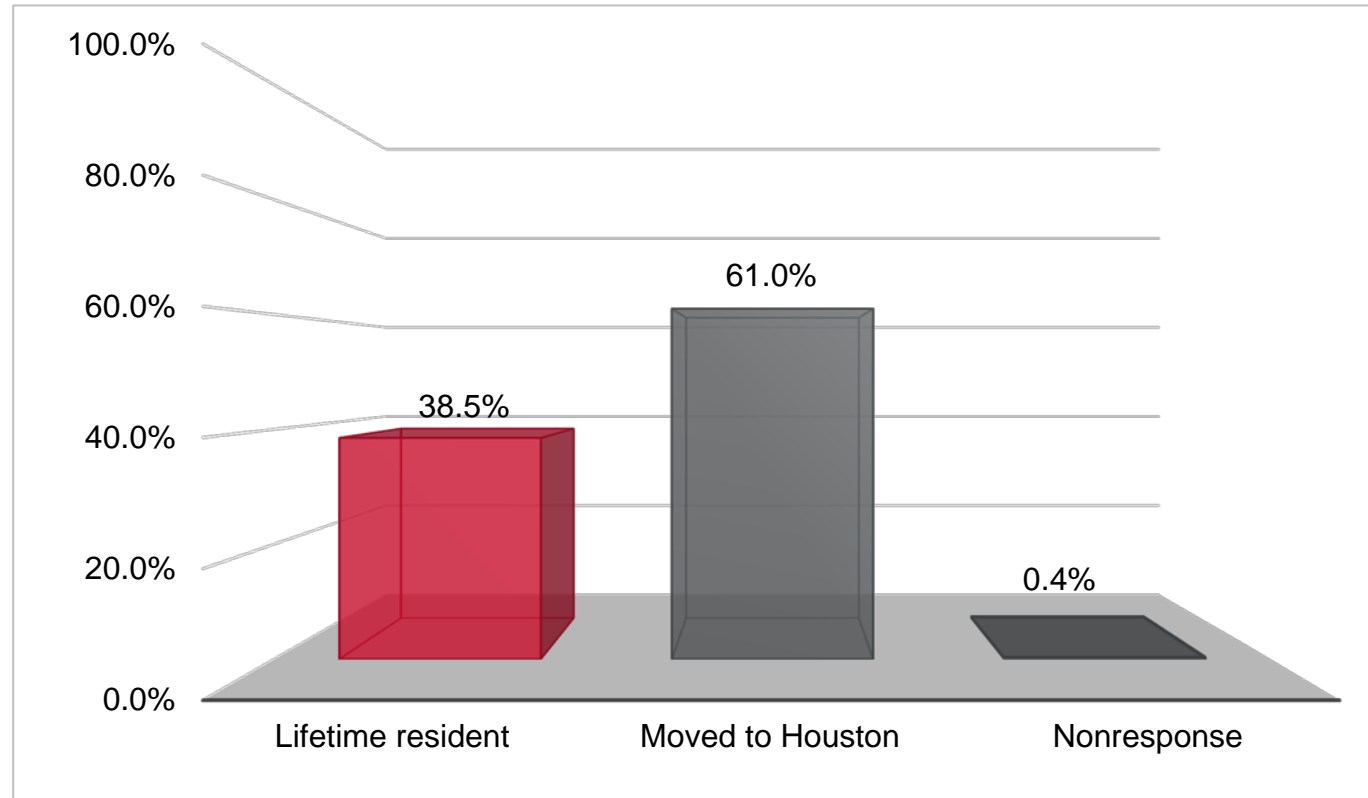
“Some people believe that much of the money from the \$2.5 billion bond issue for flood control will go to politically connected developers and construction firms instead of directly helping risk reduction projects throughout the county. Do you share this concern? Are you extremely concerned, very concerned, somewhat concerned, not very concerned, or not at all concerned?”



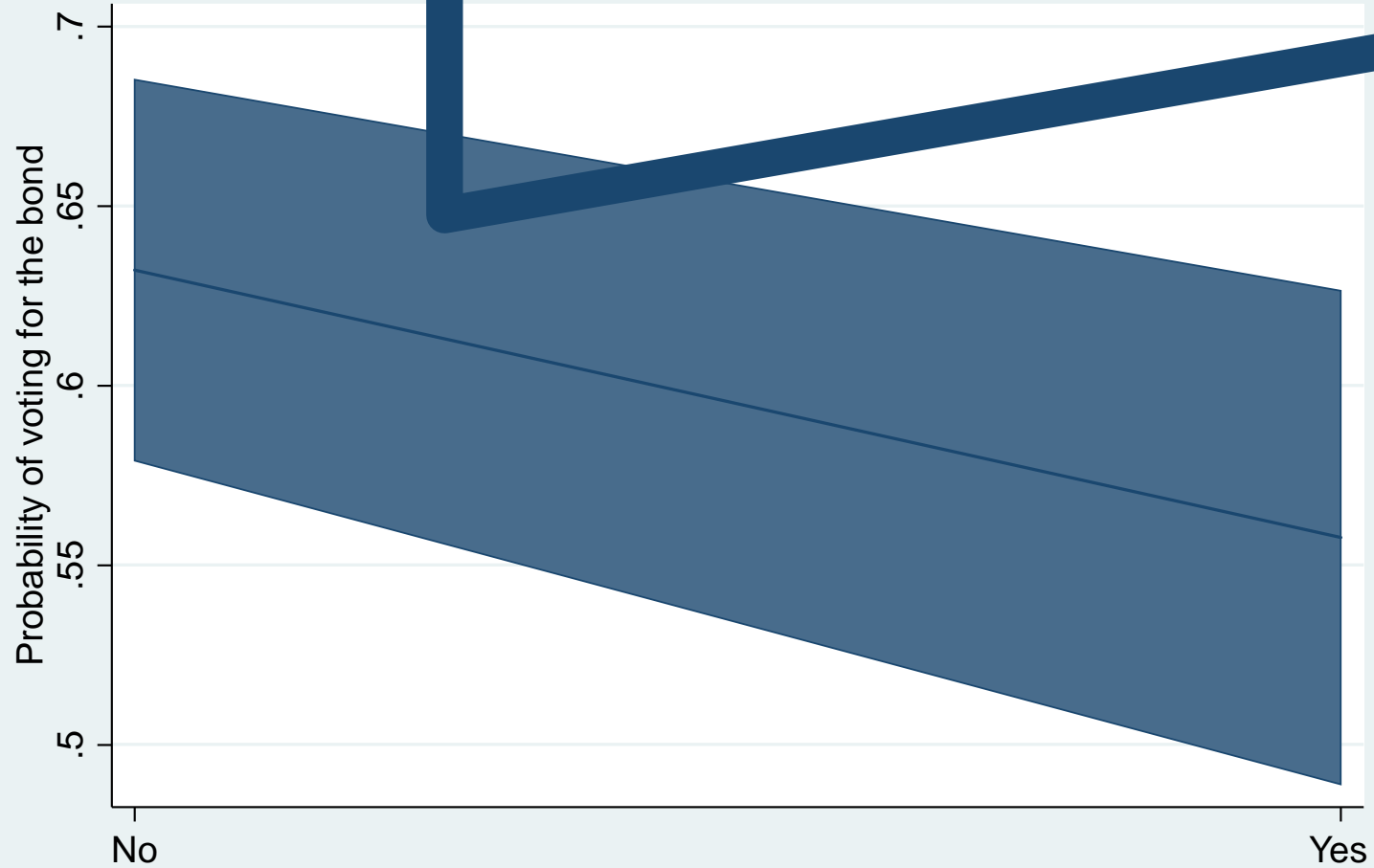
“How confident are you that your elected county and city representatives know how to reduce/mitigate the negative impact of future flooding in the Houston area? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not confident, or not confident at all?”



“Have you lived in the Houston area all your life, or did you move here from somewhere else?”



Probability of voting for bond by length of residence in county



lifelong resident of the county

What we need to know about flooding

- Where does it flood?
- Why does it flood in specific locations?
- Why do people prepare for severe weather?
- Why do people comply with official directives during severe weather episodes?

On-going research

- In collaboration with the Houston Fire Department and City's Office Emergency Preparedness Rice researchers have completed a survey of Fire personnel to identify streets and intersections that experience street flooding during severe storm episodes—this information will also guide the deployment of runoff sensor devices.
- Replication of the fire fighters survey with subscribers to the City of Houston's *CitizensNet* (N= \sim 100K).
- The second part of the agenda incorporates information about the street locations that frequently flood to evaluate the efficacy and public evaluation of select City and County flood control projects.