



Puerto Rican Diaspora Findings and Recommendations from two statewide surveys in Florida and New York

May 2019

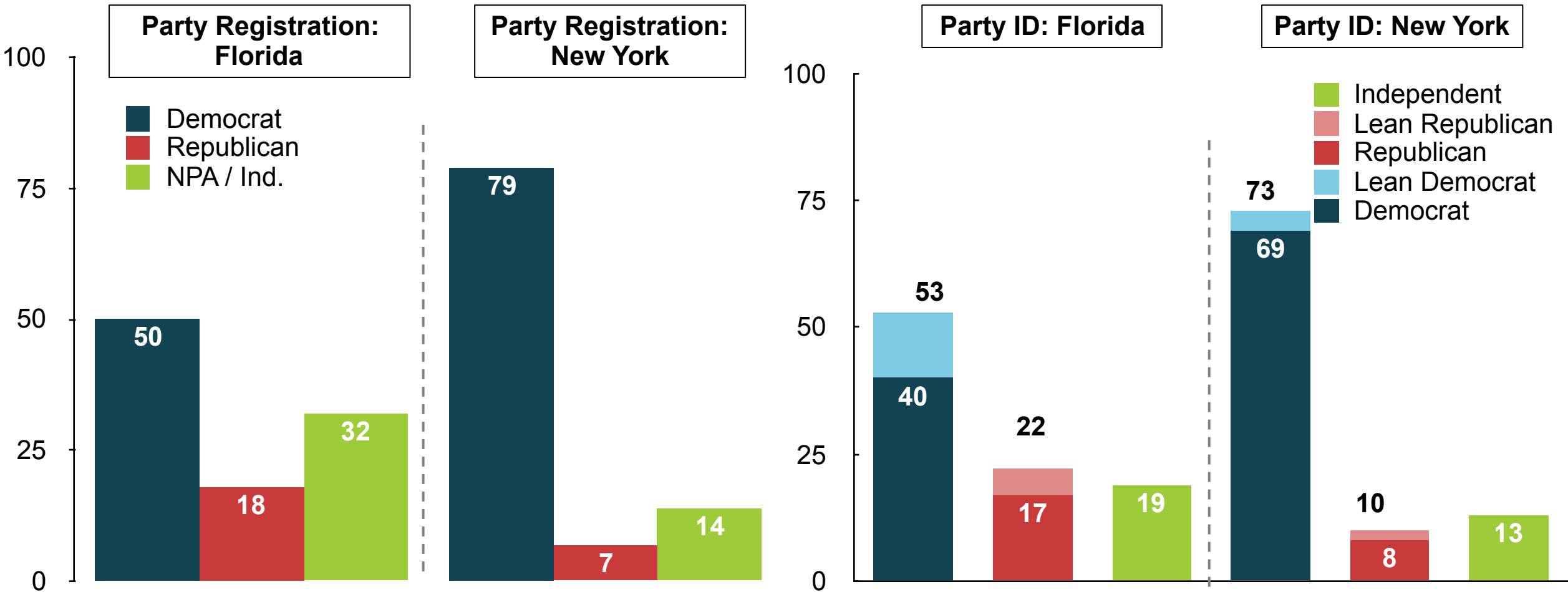
Survey Methodology

- **Florida Poll:** A statewide survey of 600 likely November 2020 Puerto Rican Voters in Florida was conducted March 12-20, 2019 via landlines and cellphones among professional interviewers. This survey employed professional, bilingual interviewers. 86% of interviews were conducted via cell phone.
- The margin of error for the statewide sample is +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.
- **New York Poll:** A statewide survey of 500 likely November 2020 Puerto Rican voters in New York, and an oversample of N=50 in NY CD-07, was conducted May 6-9, 2019 via landlines and cellphones. This survey employed professional, bilingual interviewers. 65% of interviews were conducted via cell phone.
- The margin of error for the statewide sample is +/- 4.4 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

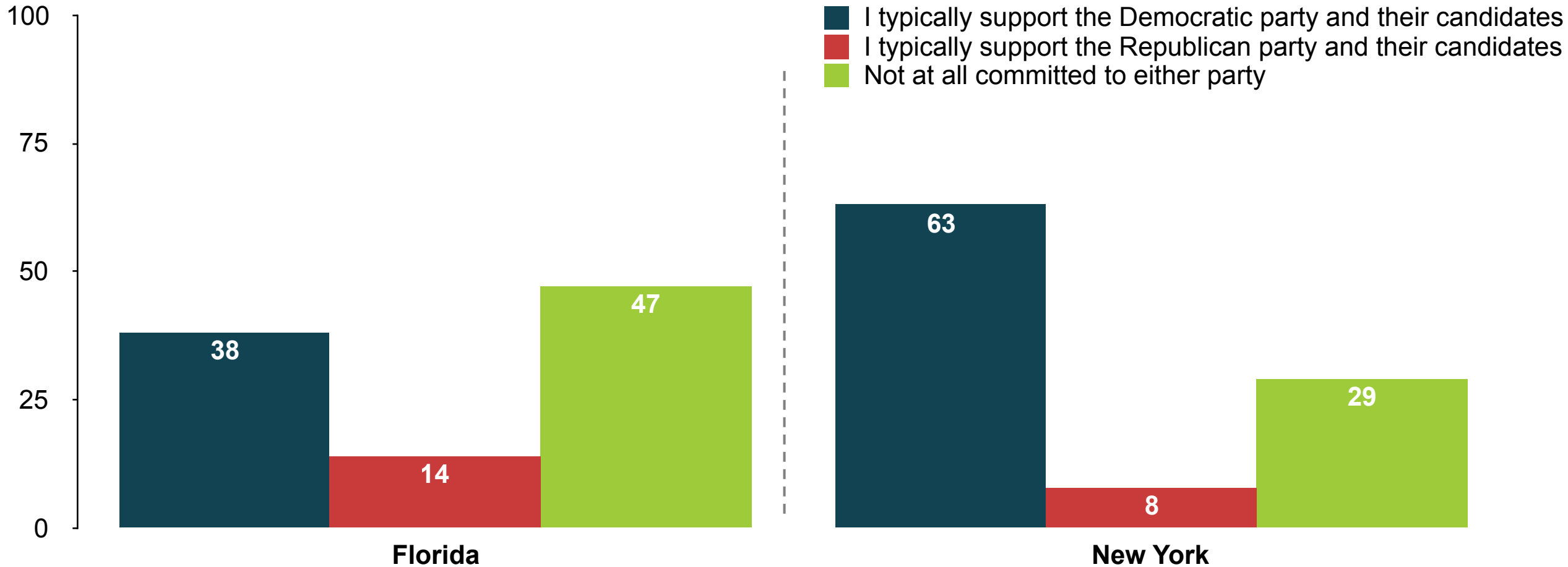
While both state's Puerto Rican populations skew Democratic, the NY diaspora is more partisan in nature.

Roughly one-third of likely 2020 Puerto Rican voters in Florida are registered as No Party Affiliation – a number that continues to increase over time.



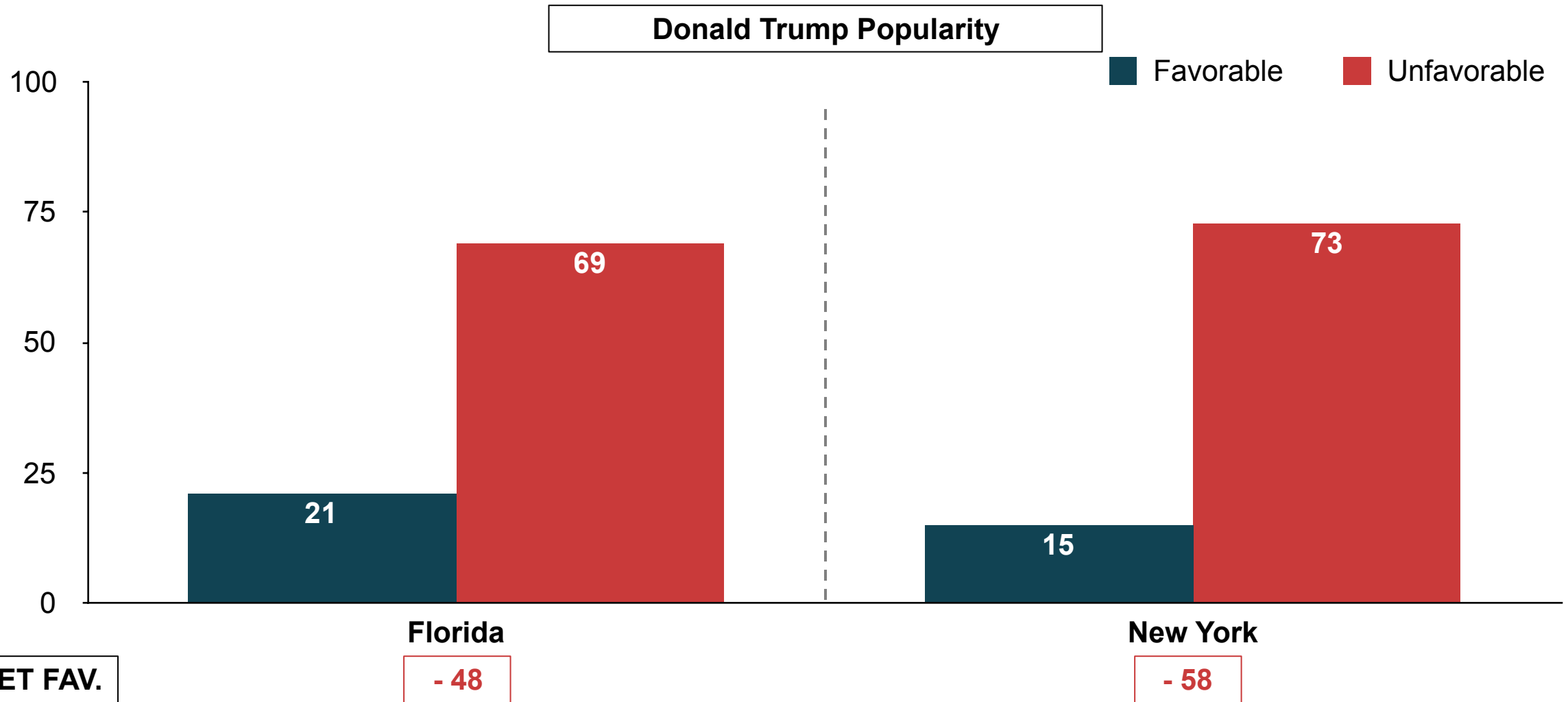
A plurality of FL Puerto Ricans are not tied to either political party, while NY Puerto Ricans are reliably Democratic in a generic ballot.

Thinking about U.S. elections, do you typically support the Democratic Party and their candidates, do you typically support the Republican party and their candidates, or are you not at all committed to either party?



Unsurprisingly, Trump is heavily underwater among Puerto Ricans.

He is behind by more in New York, but both Puerto Rican diaspora's rate him unfavorably.

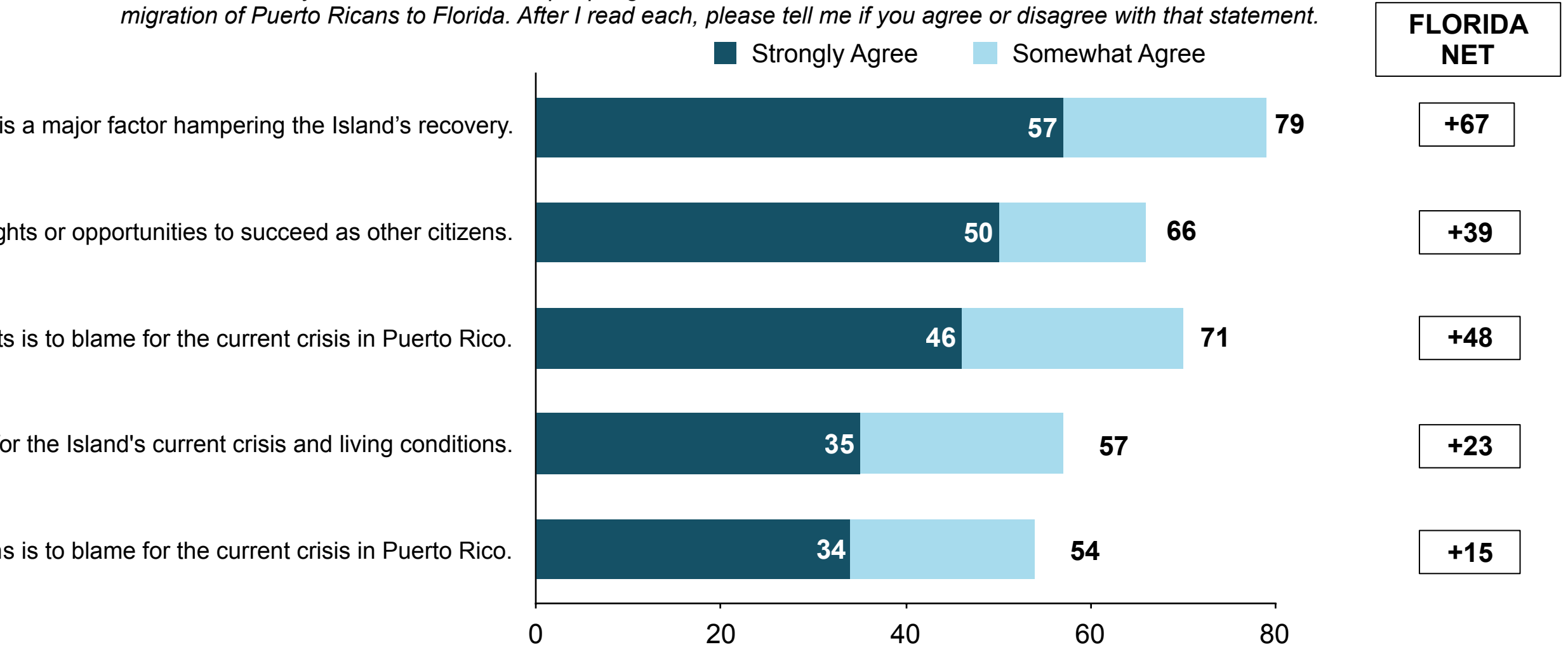


CONDITIONS IN PUERTO RICO

Puerto Ricans in Florida attribute the island's recent hardships to excessive taxes, poor local leadership, and Congressional neglect.

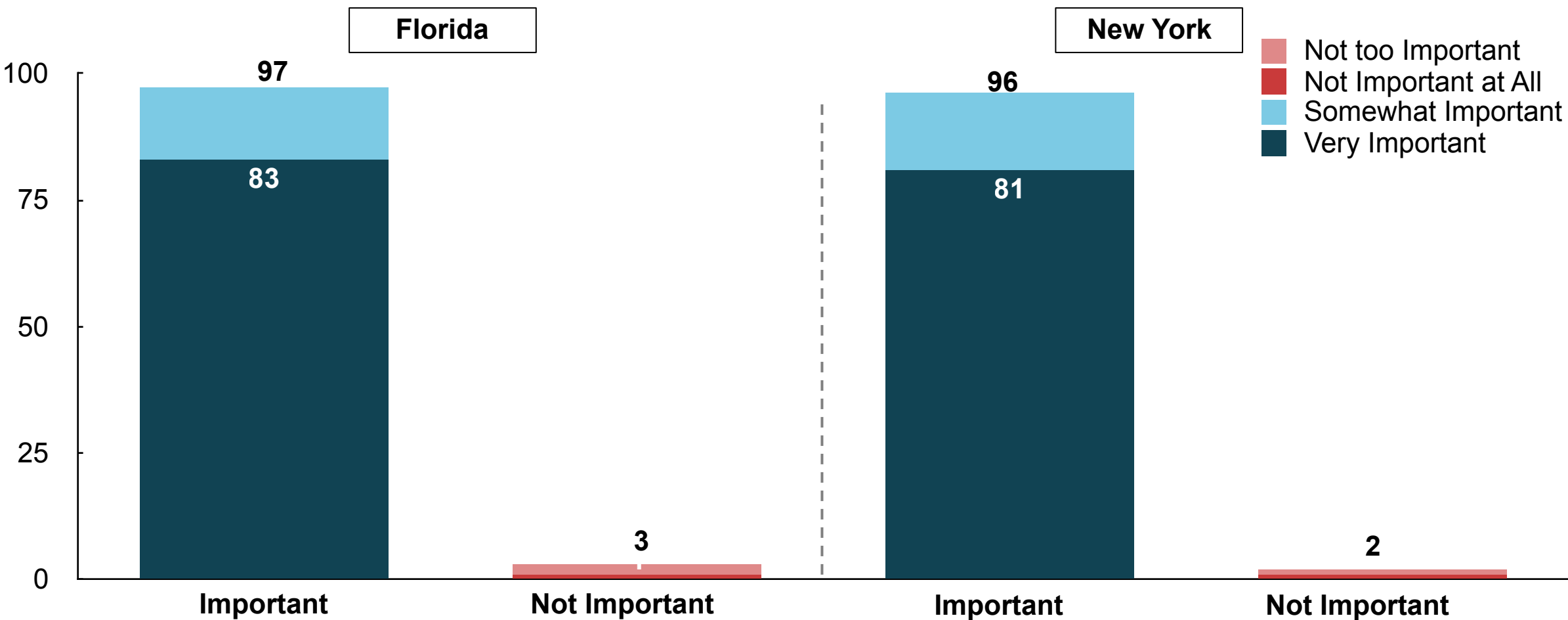
A majority (57%) agree that the island's Commonwealth status is the underlying cause for the crisis.

Now I'd like to read you some reasons that people give for the current economic and social crisis in Puerto Rico and the migration of Puerto Ricans to Florida. After I read each, please tell me if you agree or disagree with that statement.



Regardless the state, virtually all Puerto Ricans think it's important that 2020 candidates focus on solutions to revive Puerto Rico's economy. Conditions on the island matter in vote choice.

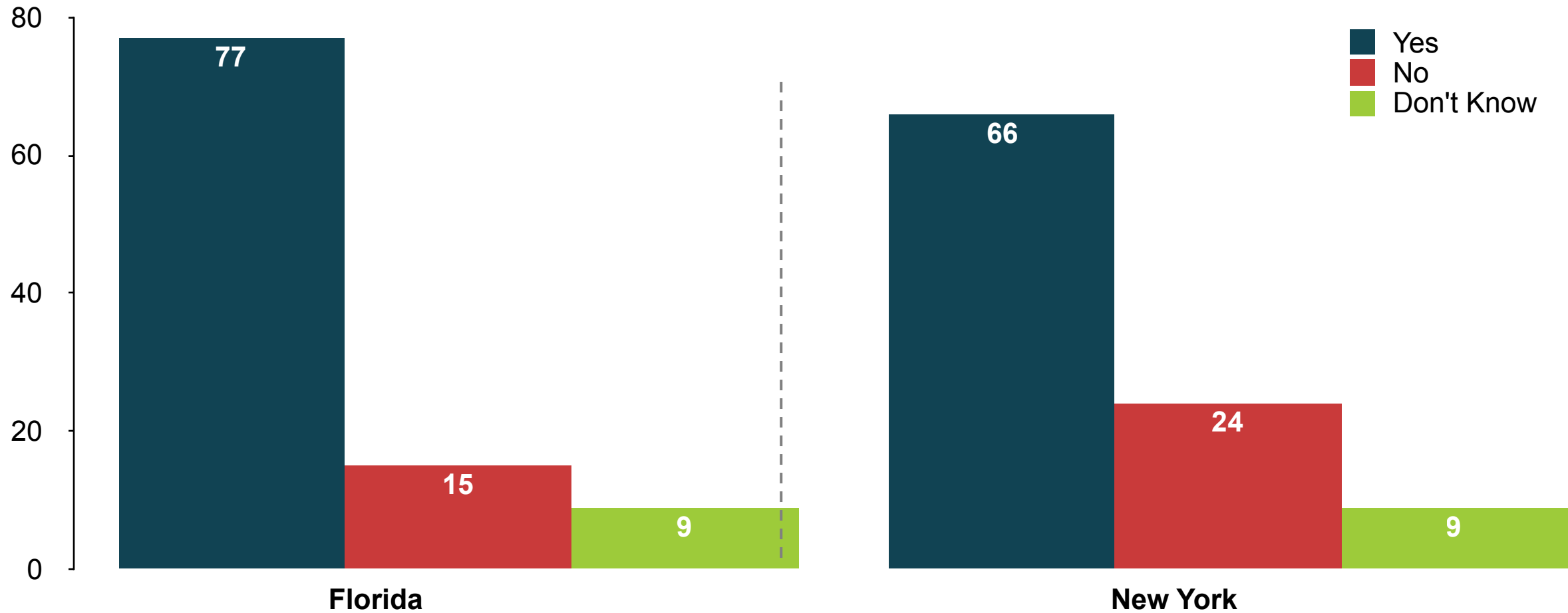
Thinking about how you might vote in the Congressional and Presidential elections in 2020, how important is it for your vote that a candidate commits specific solutions to the economic recovery and well being of Puerto Ricans in the Island?



OPINIONS ON PUERTO RICO STATEHOOD

Support for statehood is strong, backed by more than three-fourths of Puerto Ricans in Florida and by two-thirds of New York Puerto Ricans.

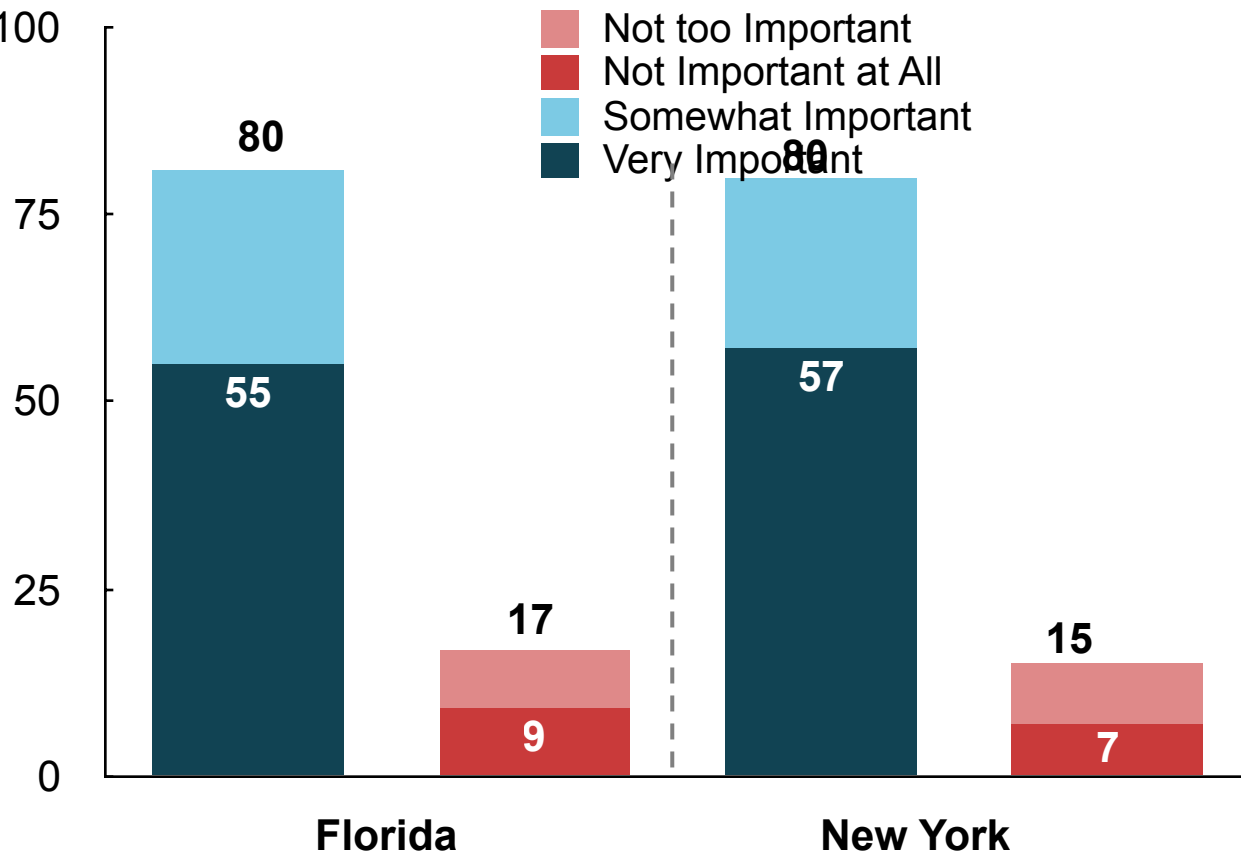
If the U.S. Congress offered Puerto Rico statehood, would you support it?



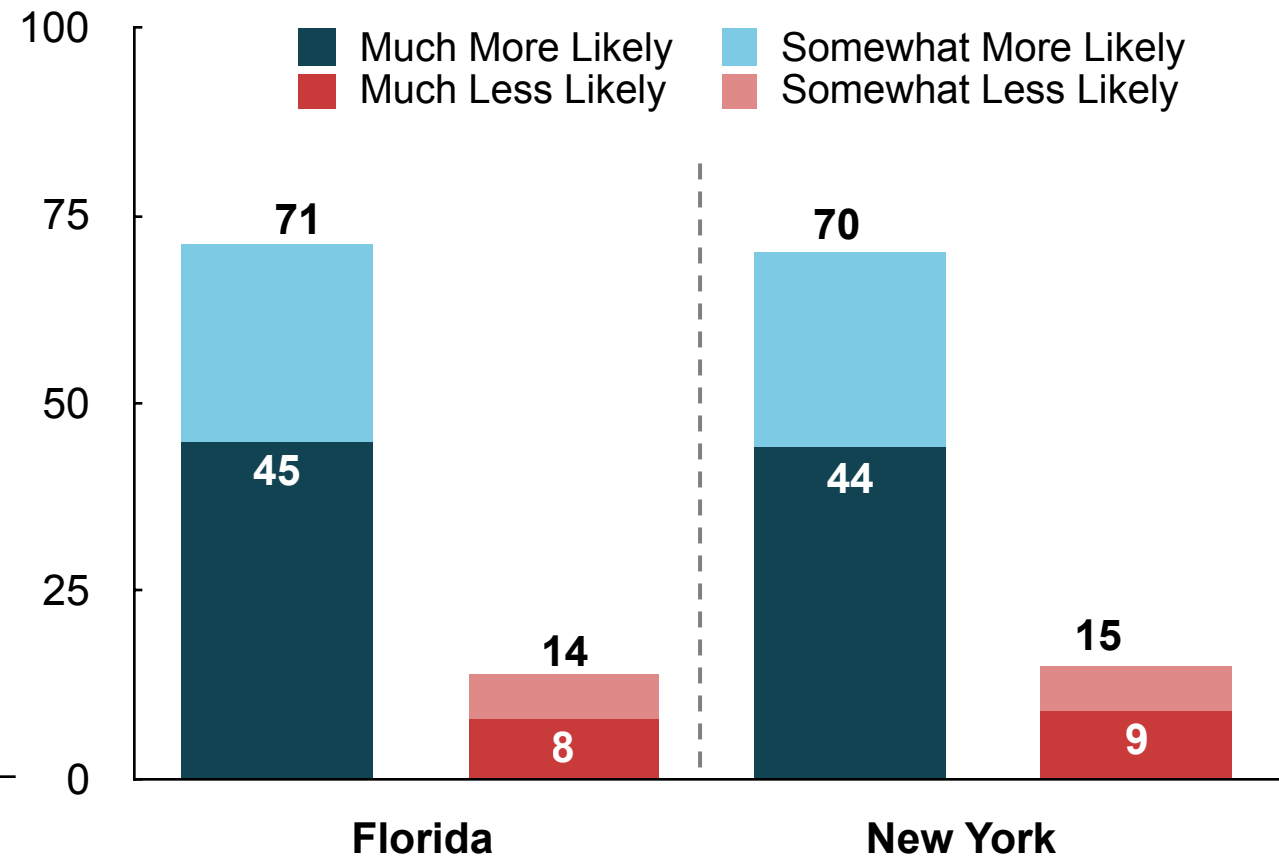
Eight-in-ten Puerto Ricans say statehood is important in their 2020 vote and roughly 70% are more likely to vote for a candidate who aggressively pushes for statehood.

In both Florida and New York, being pro-statehood boosts Puerto Rican support at the ballot box.

Thinking about how you might vote in the Congressional and Presidential elections in 2020, how important is it for your vote that a candidate supports statehood for Puerto Rico?

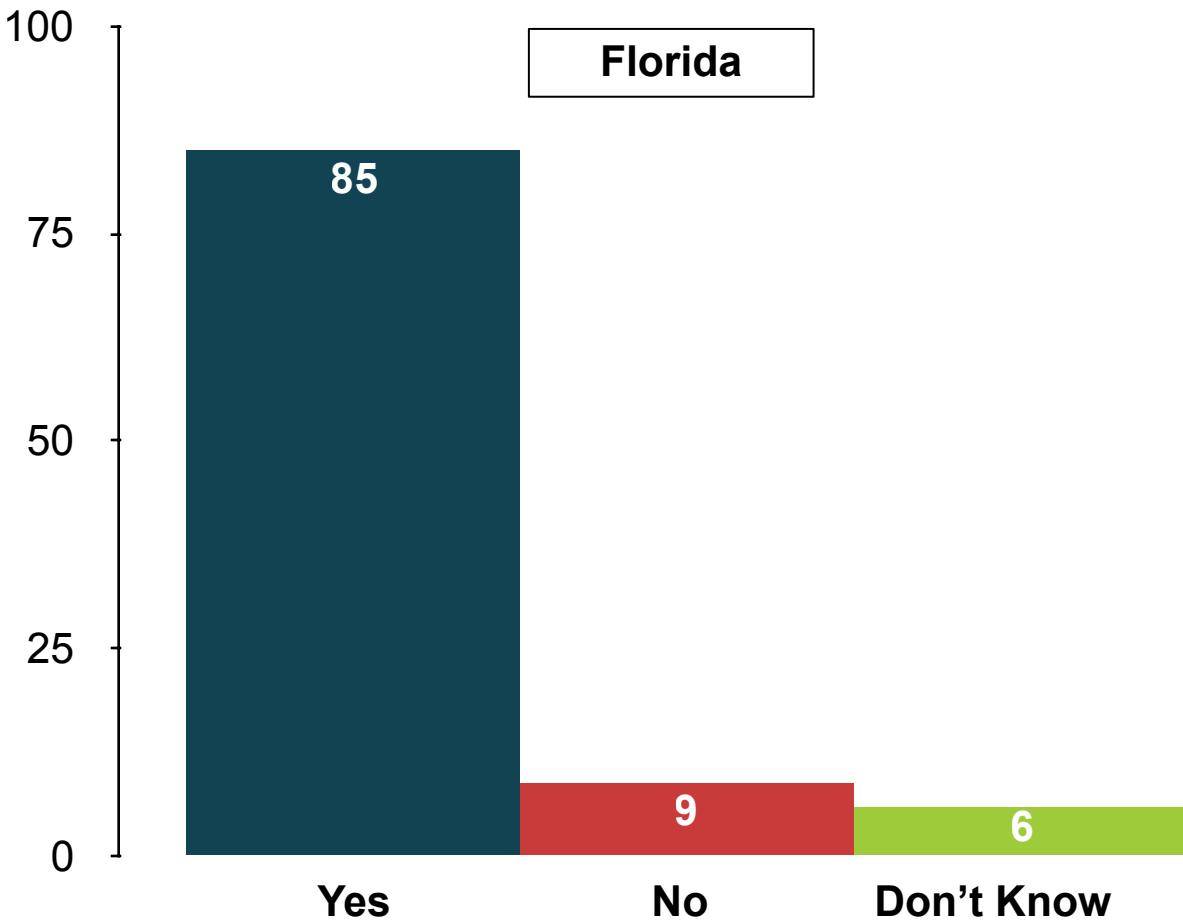


And regardless of their political party, would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who will work aggressively to achieve U.S. statehood for Puerto Rico?



Florida Puerto Ricans overwhelmingly think that Congress should respect the outcome of a yes/no statehood vote held in the commonwealth.

Do you think Congress should abide by the election results of a yes / no statehood vote in the island of Puerto Rico?

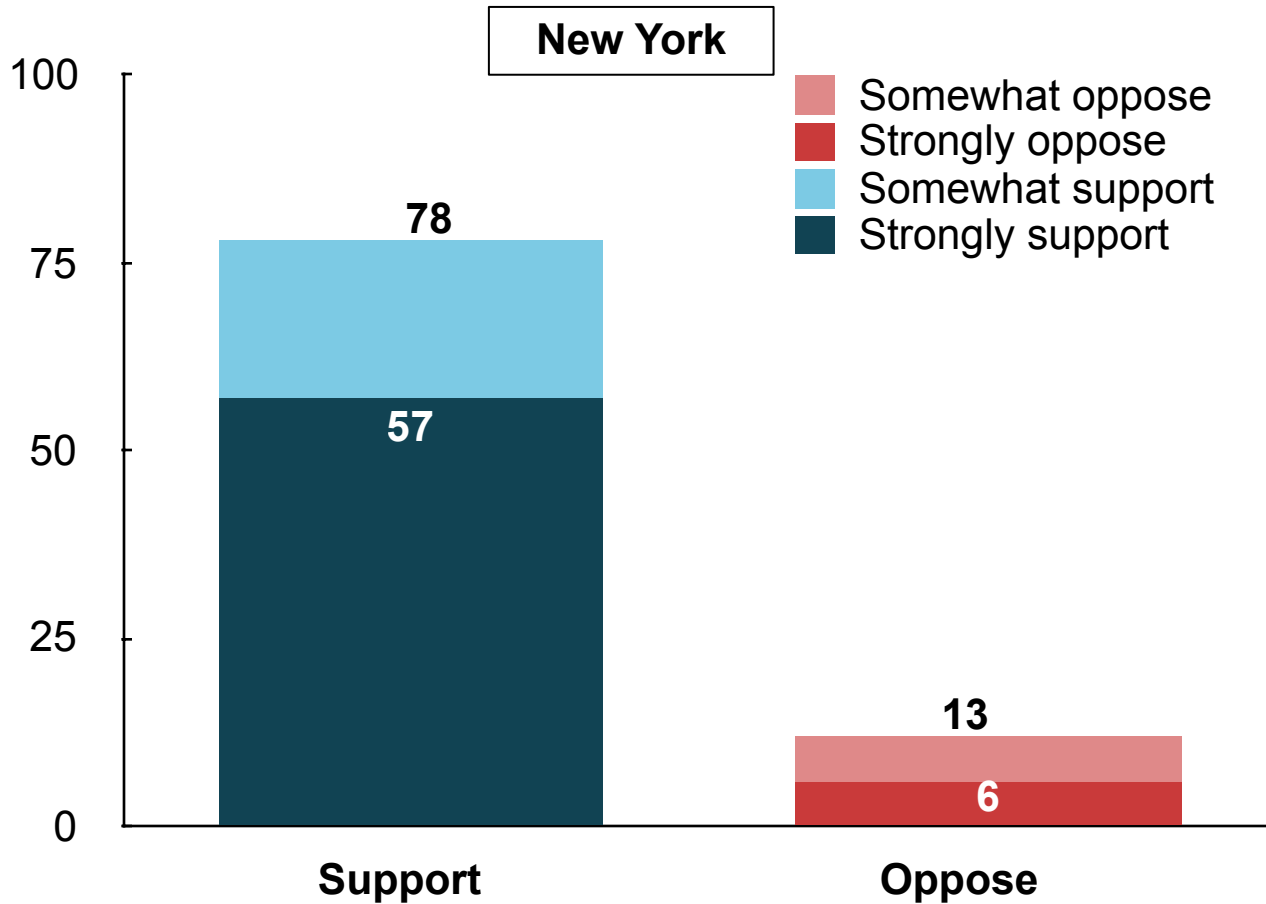


Abide by Vote in Commonwealth	Yes	No	Net Yes
Florida Total	85	9	+76
Men	85	8	+77
Women	84	10	+74
Age 18-34	90	10	+80
Age 35-49	85	8	+77
Age 50-64	84	9	+75
Age 65+	78	12	+66
Reg. Dem.	84	8	+76
Reg. GOP	86	10	+76
Reg. NPA	85	11	+74
Miami MM	90	5	+85
Orlando MM	84	10	+74
Tampa MM	80	10	+70
Generic Ballot Pers.	84	9	+75

In a similar question, more than three-fourths of the NY diaspora support holding a statehood yes/no vote in 2020 – and their support is intense (57% strongly support).

There is consensus support for a yes/no vote across gender, age, regional and political divides.

Would you support or oppose Puerto Rico holding a straight statehood yes or no vote during its general election in November 2020?



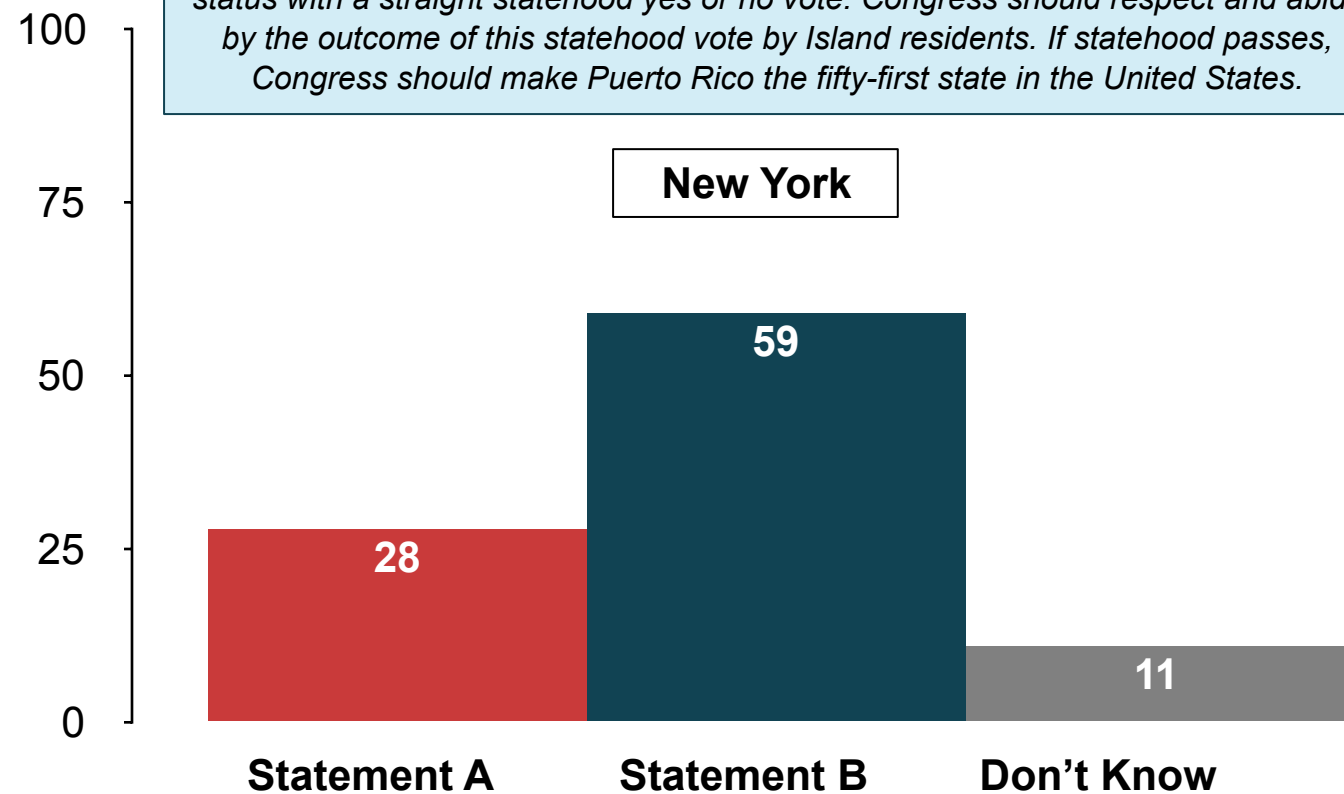
Support for Yes/No Statehood Vote	Support	Oppose	Net Support
New York Total	78	13	+65
Men	84	9	+75
Women	74	15	+59
Age 18-34	82	10	+72
Age 35-49	76	19	+57
Age 50-64	83	9	+74
Age 65+	70	13	+57
Democrat	76	15	+61
Republican	88	8	+80
Independent	78	8	+70
CD-7	82	10	+72
CD-15	80	9	+71

In a paired statements test, a majority in NY support Puerto Rico holding a statehood vote and Congress respecting the results of this referendum.

Statement A: Puerto Ricans in the Island should have the chance to determine their own political status with a referendum that includes a status option for a new form of Commonwealth. Congress should not support the outcome of any Island referendum that does not include a new form of Commonwealth option. Until then, Puerto Rico will continue to be a U.S. territory.

Statement B: It is time for Puerto Ricans in the Island to determine their own political status with a straight statehood yes or no vote. Congress should respect and abide by the outcome of this statehood vote by Island residents. If statehood passes, Congress should make Puerto Rico the fifty-first state in the United States.

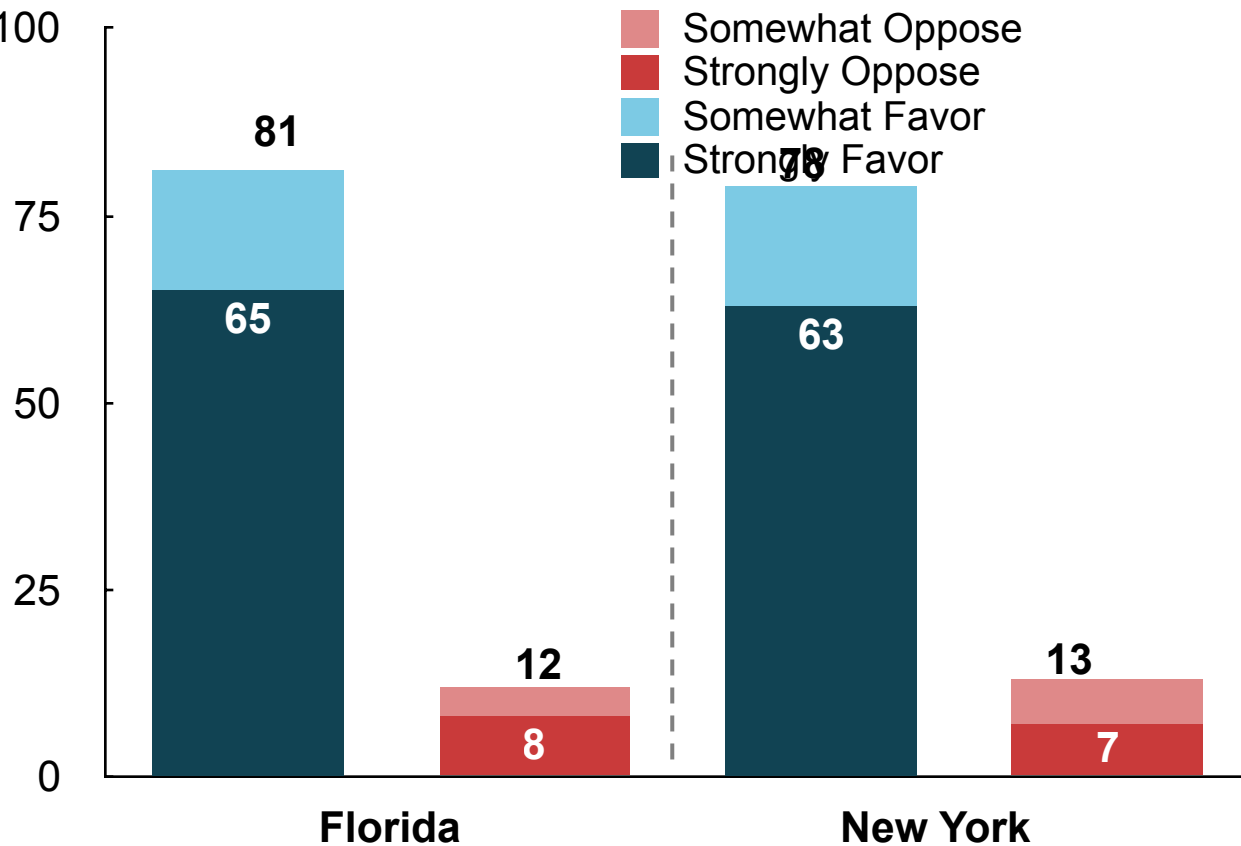
P.R. Statehood Paired Statements	Statement A	Statement B
New York Total	28	59
Men	32	59
Women	27	59
Age 18-34	30	64
Age 35-49	28	66
Age 50-64	32	54
Age 65+	22	52
Democrat	29	57
Republican	26	67
Independent	30	62
CD-7	19	64
CD-15	35	47



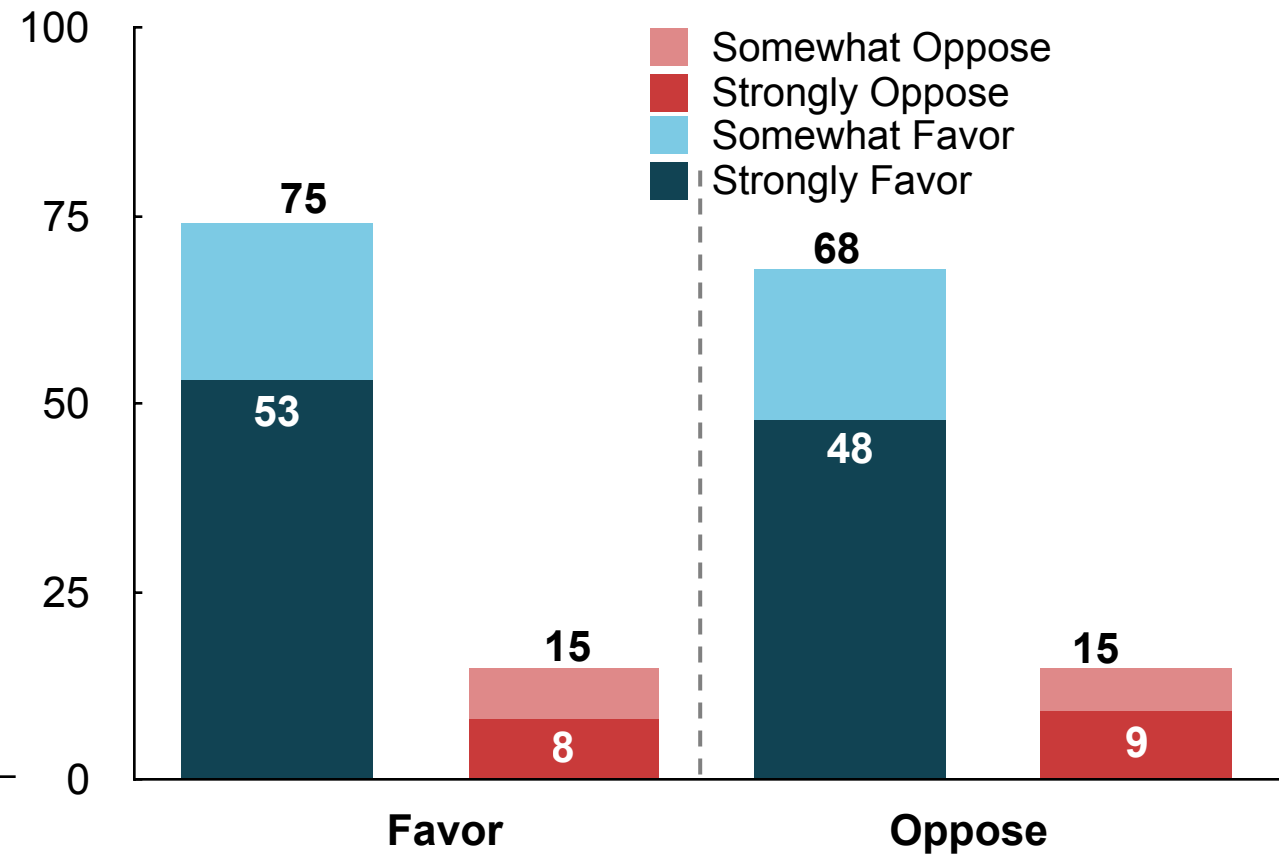
COMPARING STATEHOOD EFFORTS

Statehood for Puerto Rico and Washington, D.C. are popular, although there's less intensity backing D.C. statehood.

Do you favor or oppose statehood now for Puerto Rico, so that Puerto Rican citizens in the Island are represented with their own voting members of Congress and the same civil and political rights as all other U.S. citizens?



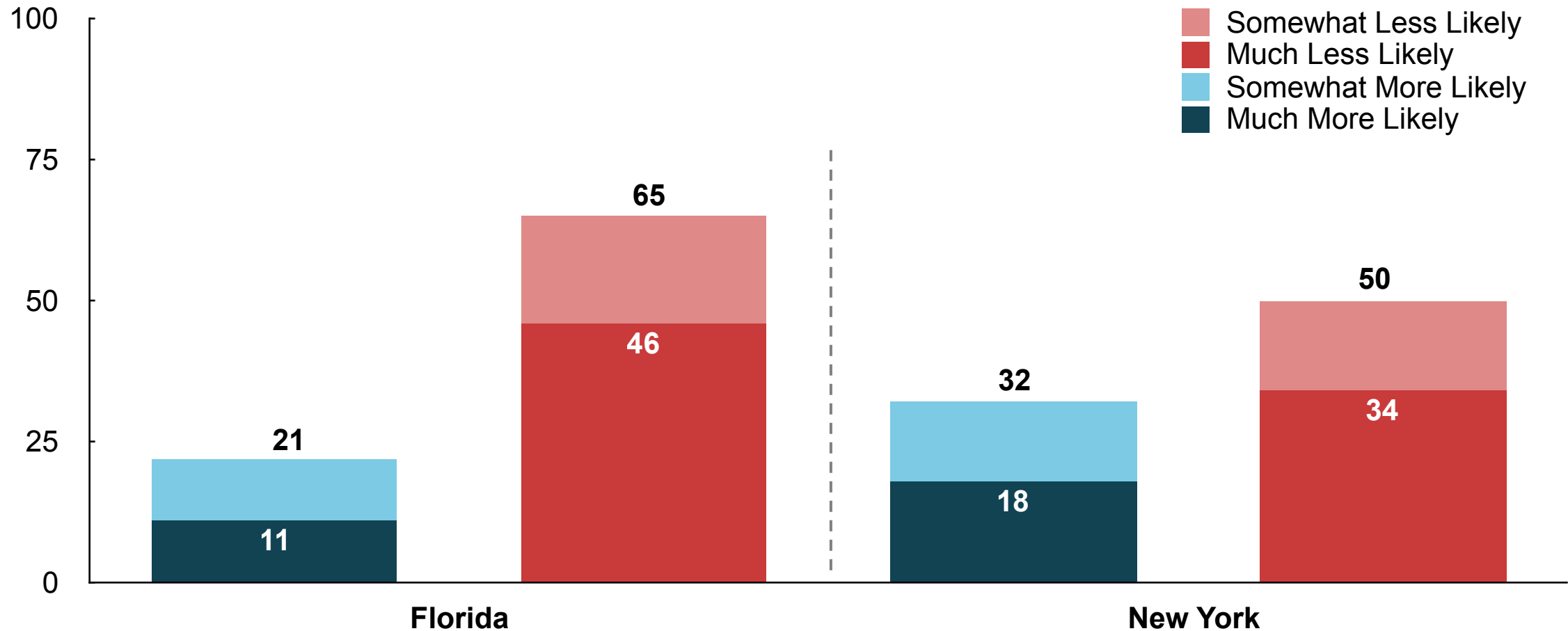
Do you favor or oppose statehood now for Washington, D.C., so that D.C. citizens are represented with their own voting members of Congress and the same civil and political rights as all other U.S. citizens?



A Democratic candidate in 2020 could struggle to win the support of Puerto Ricans if they are pro-D.C. statehood, but opposed to statehood for Puerto Rico.

This stance is politically damaging across almost every Puerto Rican subgroup in each state.

Thinking about your vote for Congress and President in 2020, would you be more or less likely to vote for a Democratic candidate who supports statehood for Washington, D.C., but opposes statehood for Puerto Rico?



KEY TAKEAWAYS

Key Takeaways

- There is solid support for statehood across virtually every Puerto Rican subgroup in New York and Florida. And in each state, Puerto Ricans say statehood is important in their 2020 vote for President and Congress.
- A yes/no vote on statehood is backed by voters in each state. Puerto Ricans on the mainland want statehood, are ready to hold an election, and think Congress should respect the outcome and the will of the voters on the Island.
- Puerto Ricans support the idea of D.C. statehood – but they show resentment toward a Democrat who backs D.C. statehood yet opposes statehood for Puerto Rico. This stance carries political baggage in each state, but is particularly damaging in Florida, where lackluster Puerto Rican support could tilt the scales in a close election.