The Alberta Referendum:
What Happened? What's Next?

Presented to CCRE
Kananaskis, Alberta
November 2, 2026



Agenda

What happened? Referendum Results

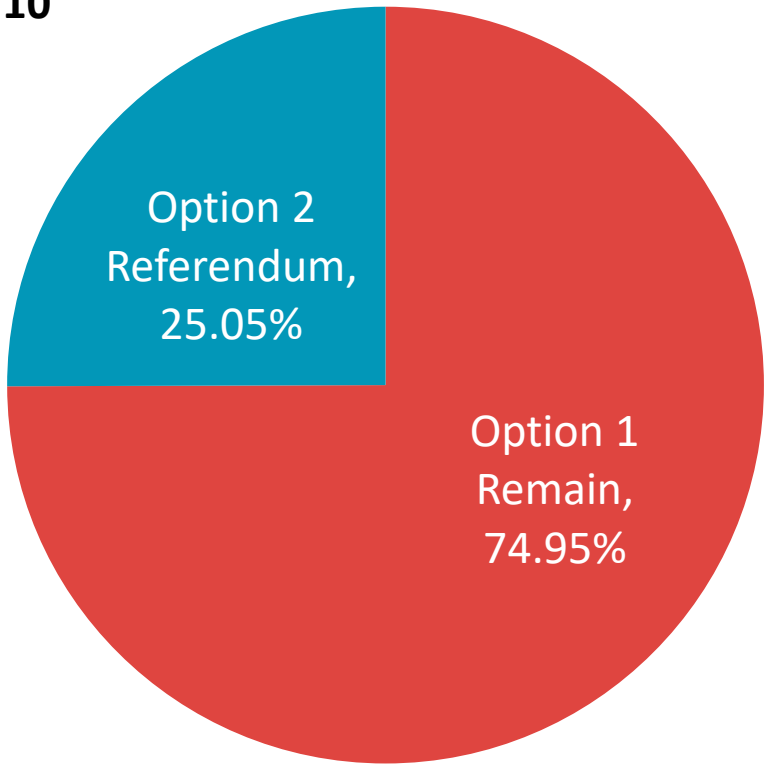
Why it happened? Relevant Polling Data

What's next? Implications

Questions at the end, but please ask questions as we go!

What Happened?

Question 10

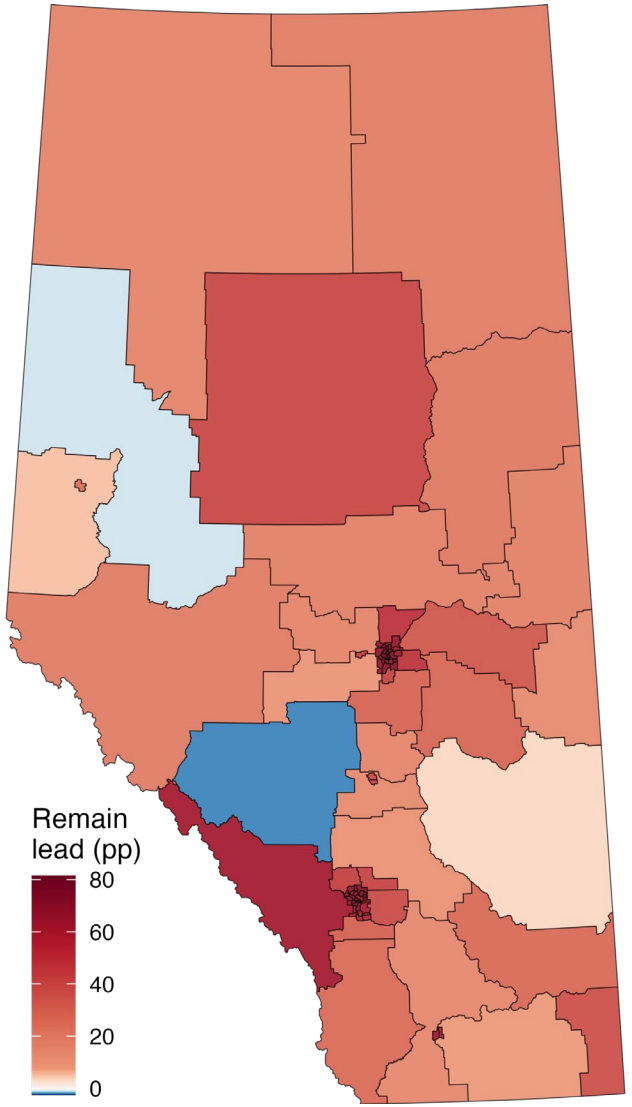


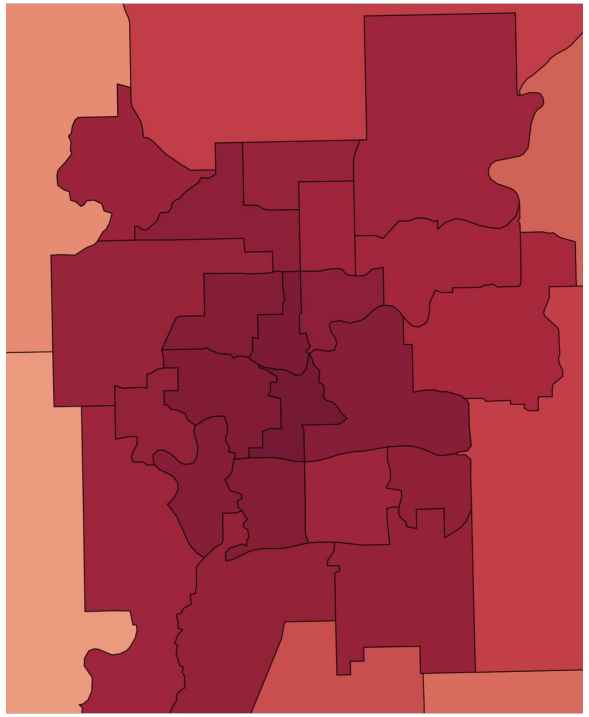
	Option 2 Referendum	Option 1 Remain
Question 10 Separation 2,076,549	25.05% 520,233	74.95% 1,556,316

Question # Valid Votes	Question Topic	Yes	No
Question 1 2,055,512	Immigration Control	54.9% 1,127,729	45.1% 927,783
Question 2 2,056,065	Eligibility for Programs	52.5% 1,078,681	47.5% 977,384
Question 3 2,064,300	Residency Requirement	53.1% 1,096,546	46.9% 967,754
Question 4 2,061,448	Fees for Temporary Residents	51.8% 1,067,383	48.2% 994,065
Question 5 2,068,363	Proof of Citizenship to Vote	58.1% 1,200,838	41.9% 867,525
Question 6 2,057,441	Provincially Appointed Judges	45.4% 933,310	54.6% 1,124,131
Question 7 2,055,461	Abolishing the Senate	47.3% 971,788	52.7% 1,083,673
Question 8 2,057,041	Opting Out of Programs	42.4% 873,059	57.6% 1,183,982
Question 9 2,057,473	Priority of Provincial Laws	44.2% 908,729	55.8% 1,148,744

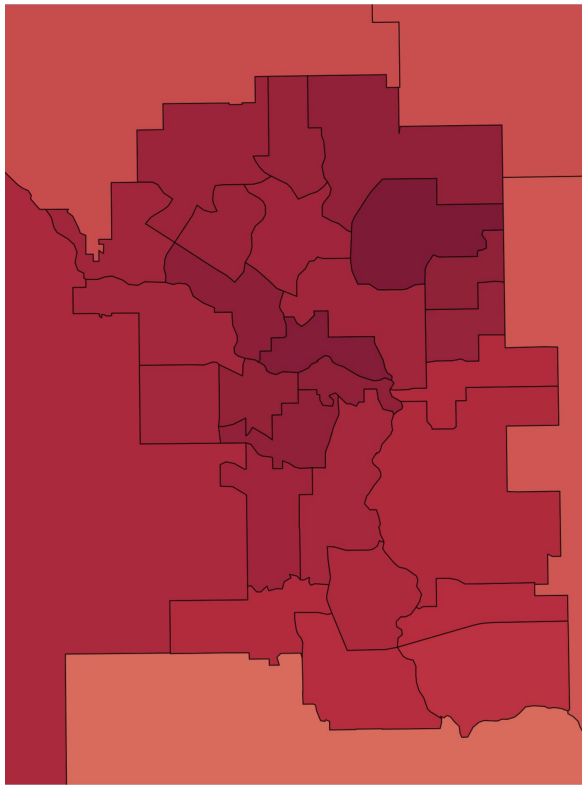
Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Heat Maps of Riding-Level Results (Option 1 – Option 2 gap)





Edmonton

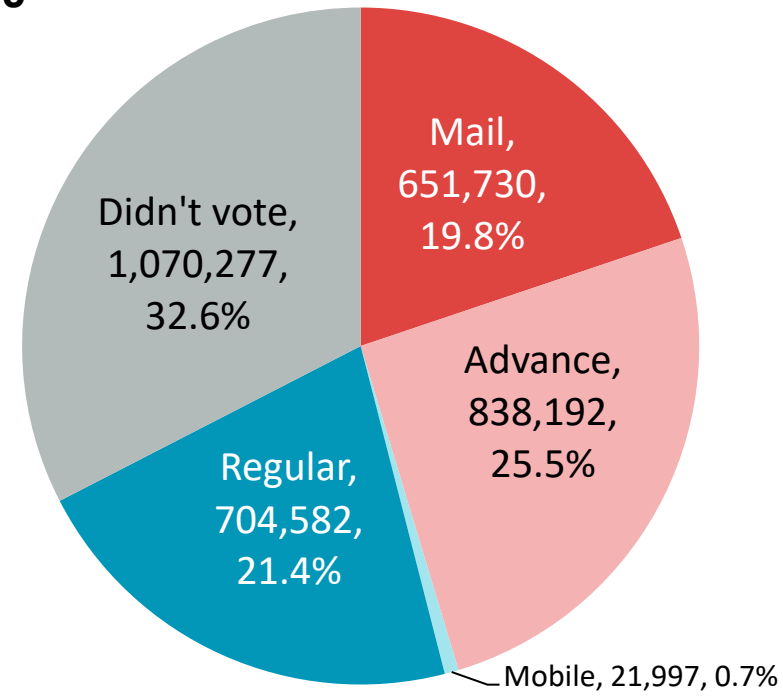


Calgary

Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Voter Turnout

Question 10

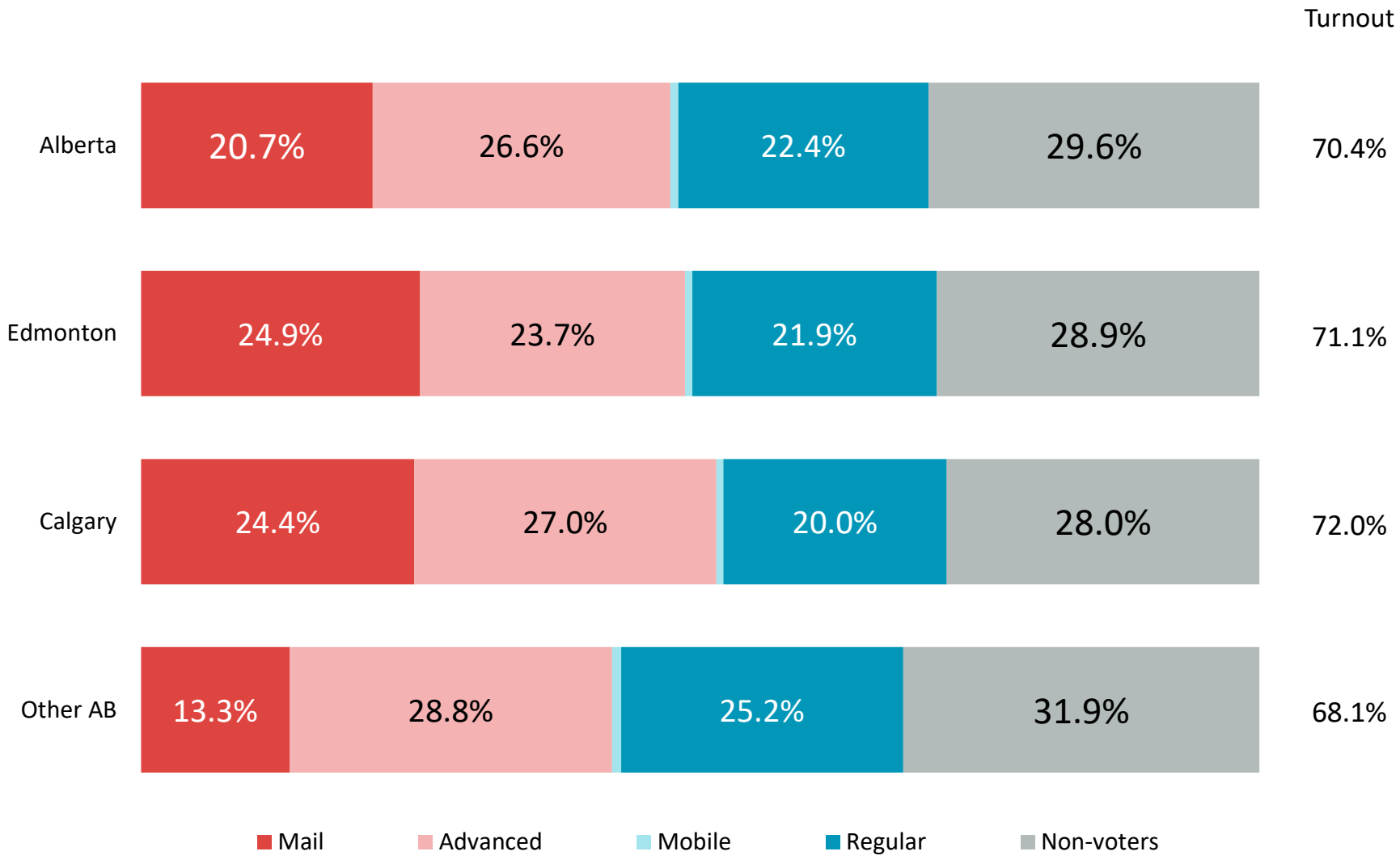


Total Electors	Votes Cast	Rejected Ballots	Valid Votes
100% 3,286,778	67.4% 2,216,501	4.2% 139,952	63.2% 2,076,549

Question #	Question Topic	All Votes	Valid Votes
Question 1	Immigration Control	67.0% 2,202,611	62.5% 2,055,512
Question 2	Eligibility for Programs	67.1% 2,205,402	62.6% 2,056,065
Question 3	Residency Requirement	67.4% 2,214,059	62.8% 2,064,300
Question 4	Fees for Temporary Residents	67.3% 2,210,909	62.7% 2,061,448
Question 5	Proof of Citizenship to Vote	67.4% 2,217,074	62.9% 2,068,363
Question 6	Provincially Appointed Judges	67.4% 2,213,646	62.6% 2,057,441
Question 7	Abolishing the Senate	67.4% 2,214,549	62.5% 2,055,461
Question 8	Opting Out of Programs	67.2% 2,211,698	62.6% 2,057,041
Question 9	Priority of Provincial Laws	67.3% 2,213,519	62.6% 2,057,473

Source: Elections Alberta Official Results – Discrepancies with Elections Alberta are due to the way spoiled ballots are counted

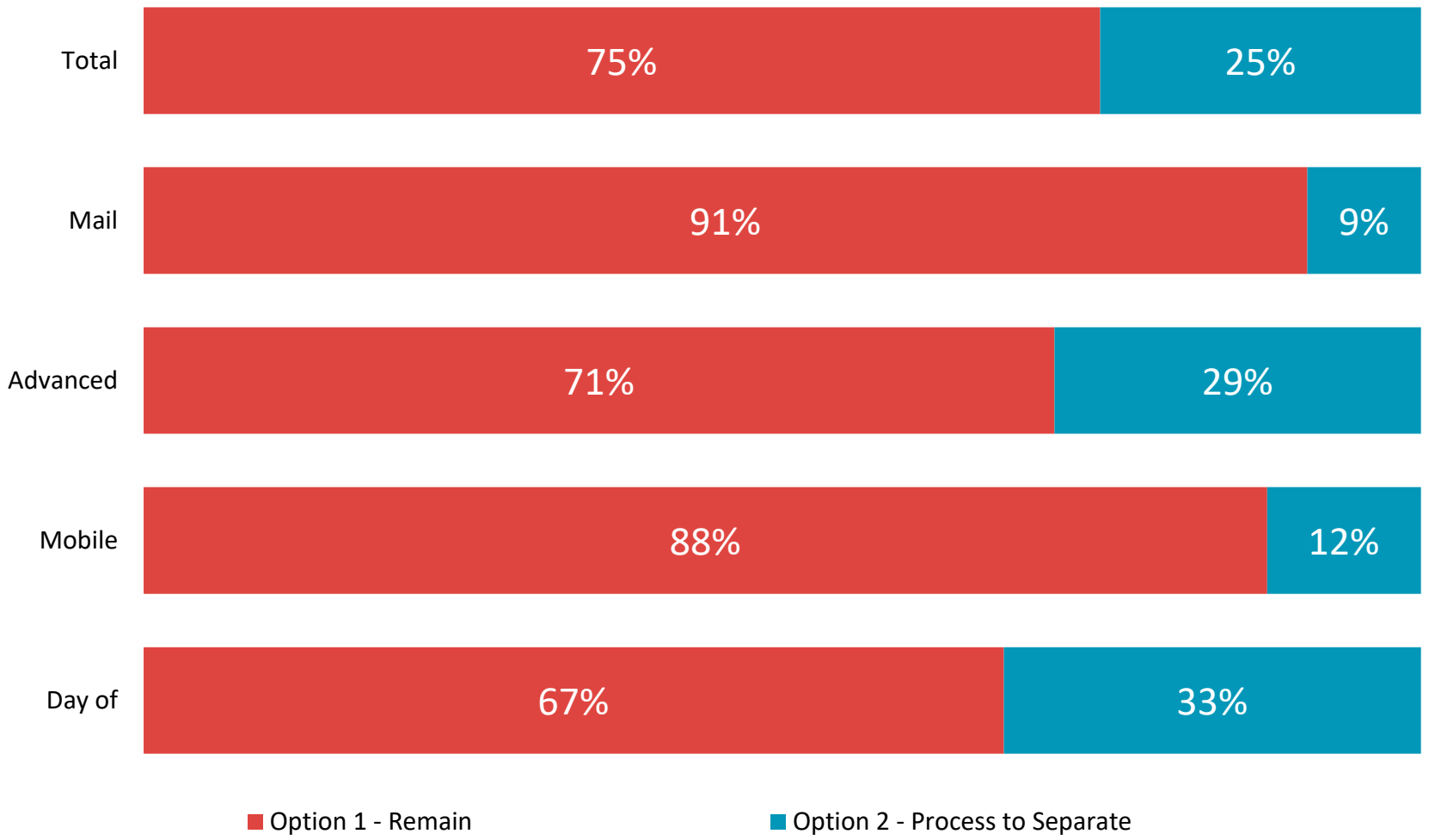
Voting Methods for Q10



Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

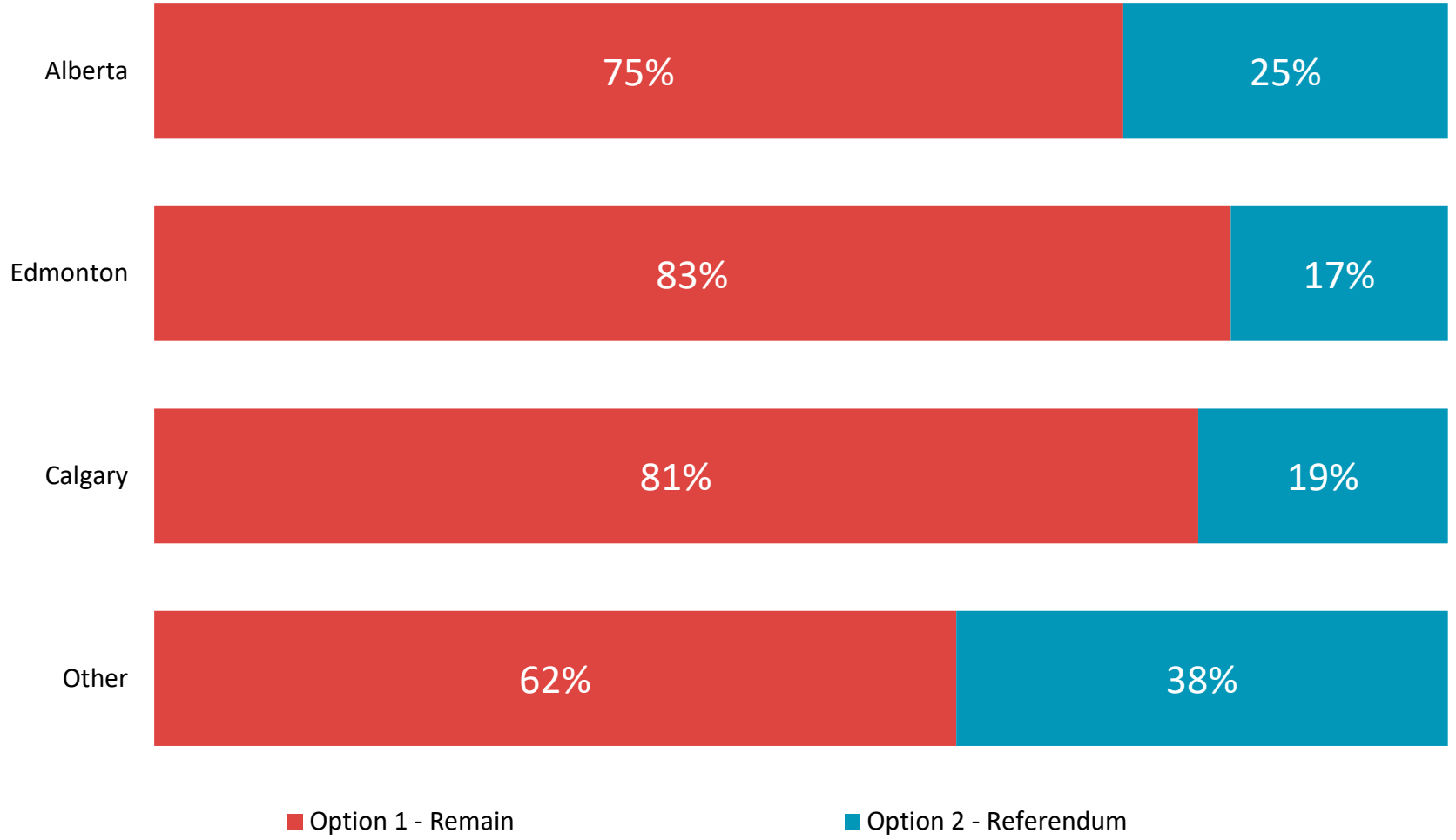
Deeper Dive into Question 10

Vote by Method



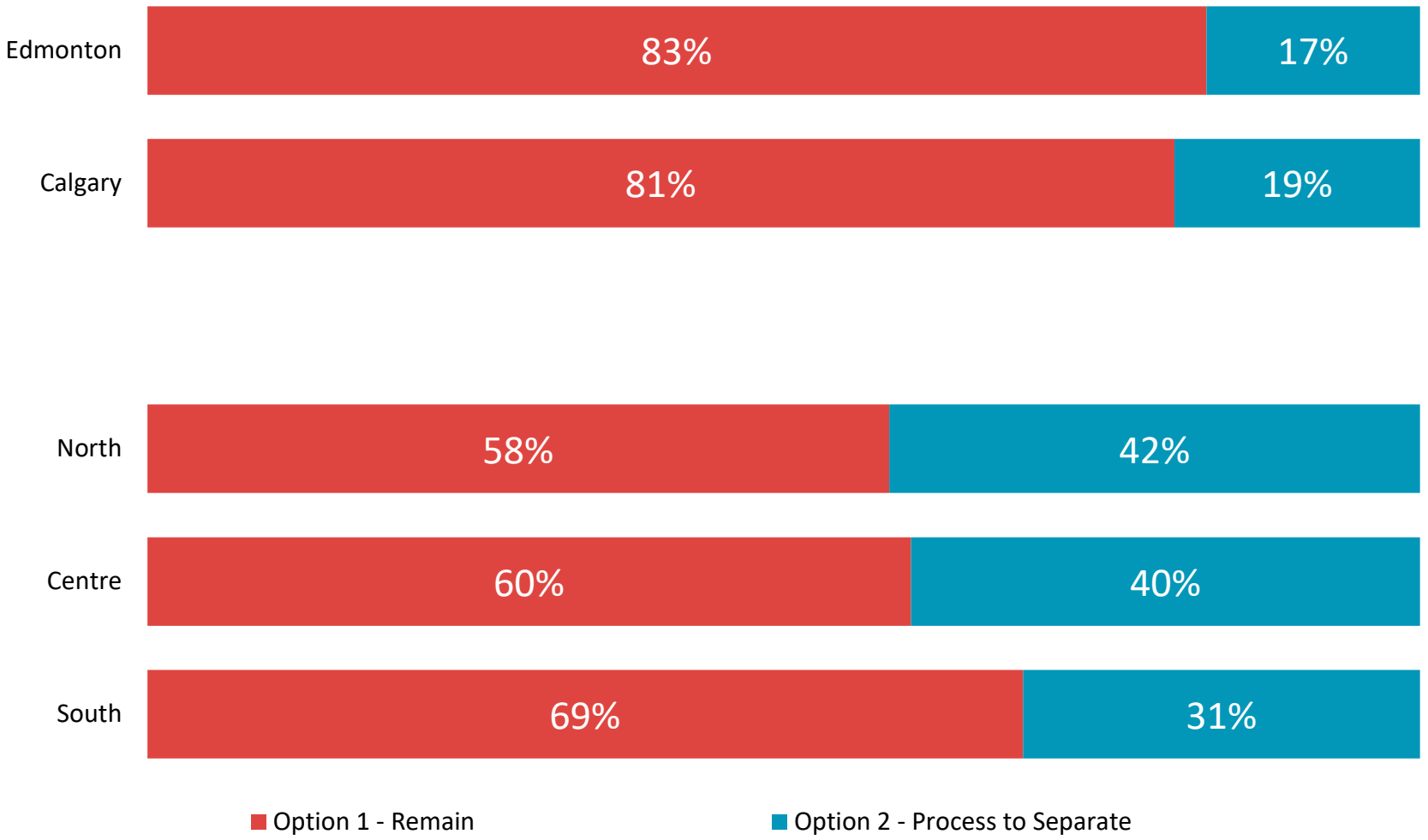
Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Vote by Region



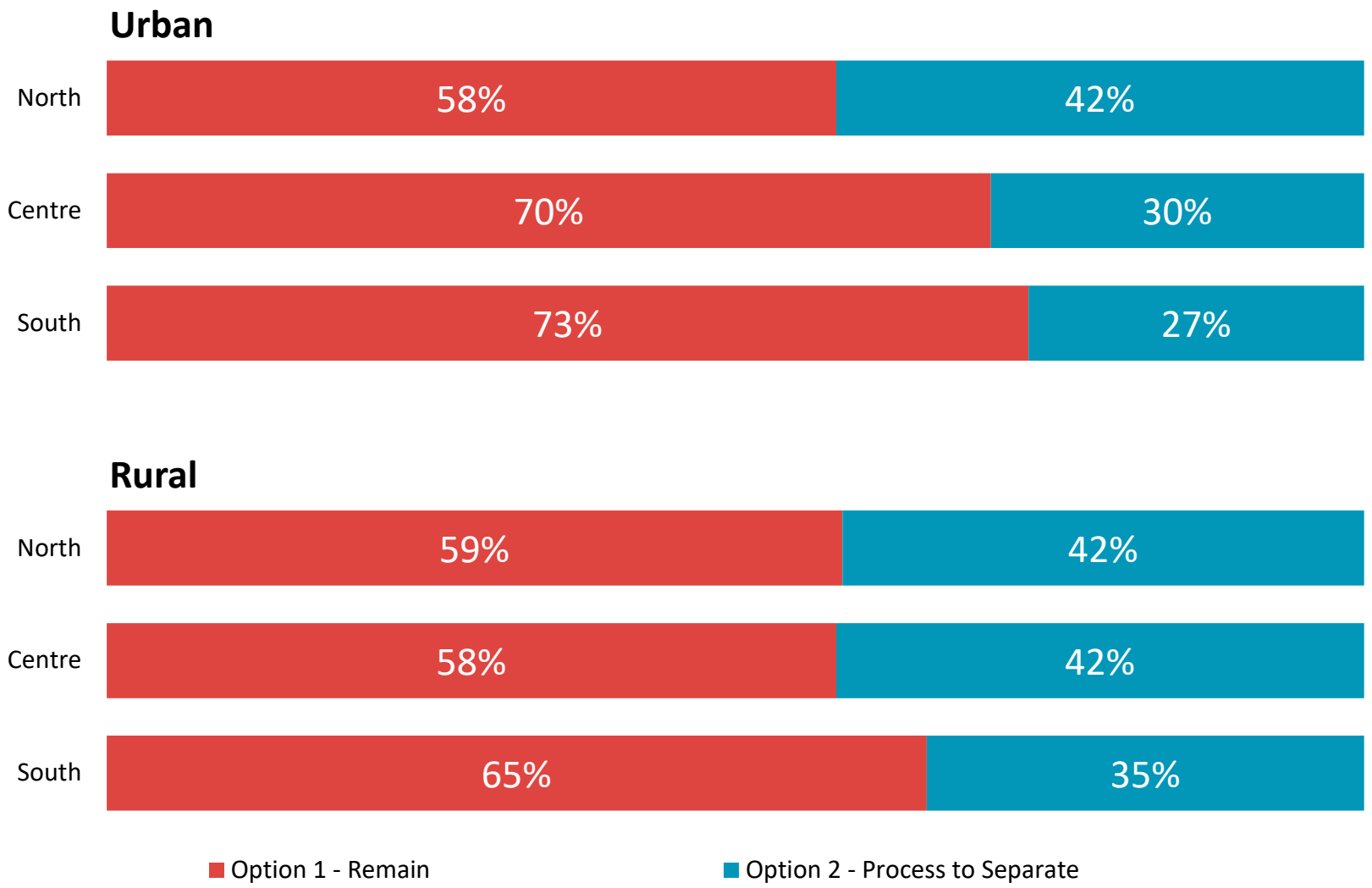
Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Vote by Sub-Region



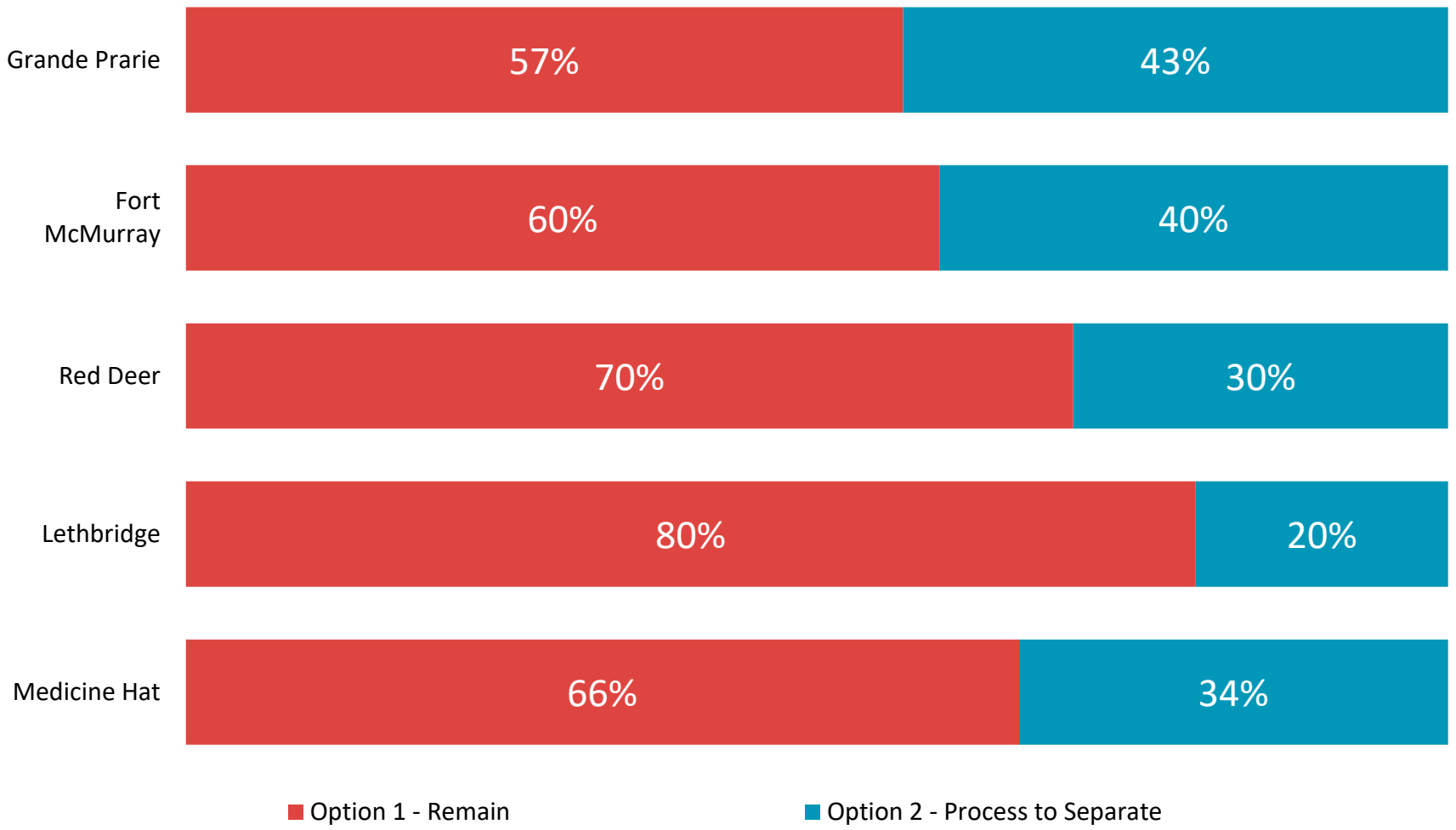
Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Vote by Urban and Rural



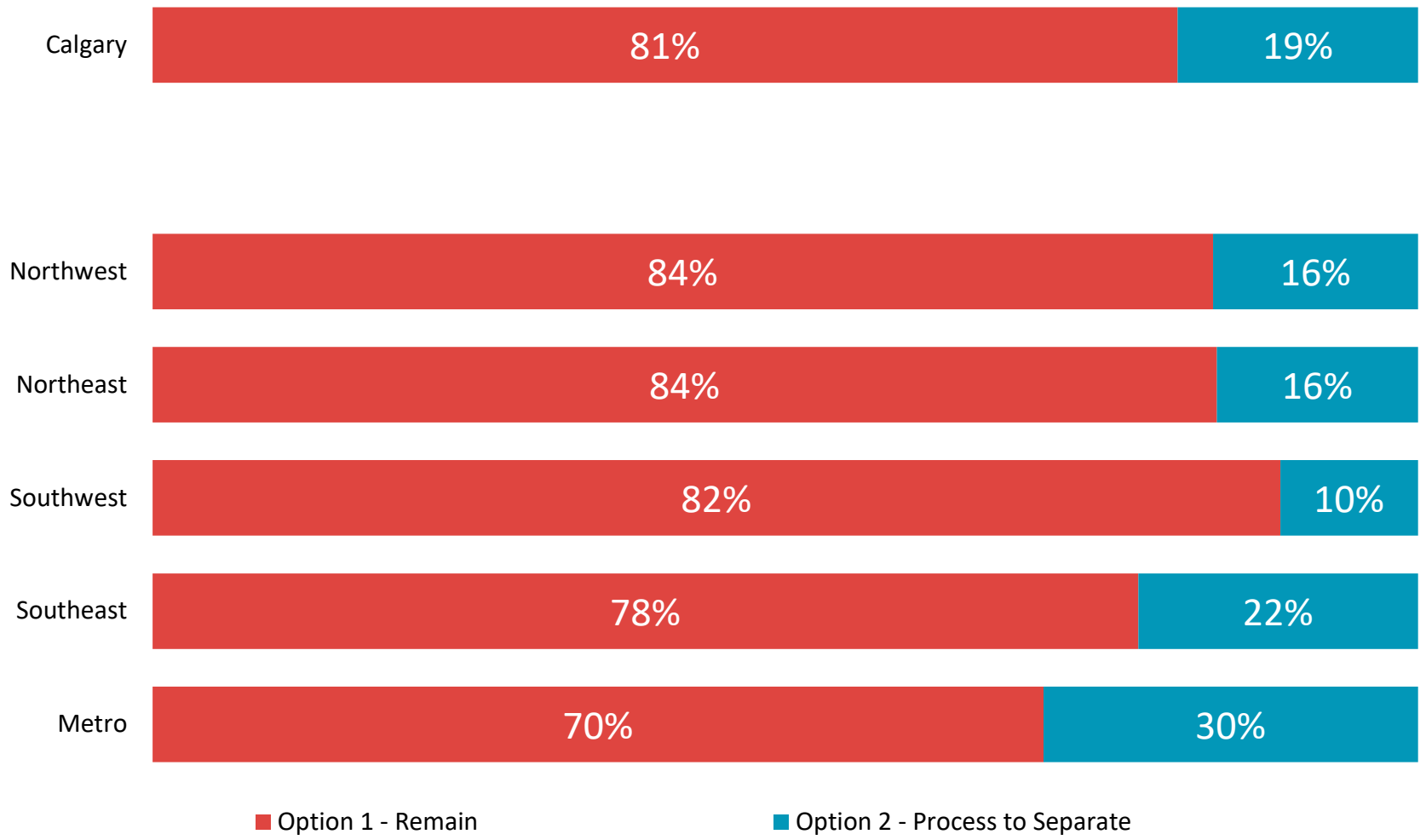
Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Vote in Mid-Size Cities



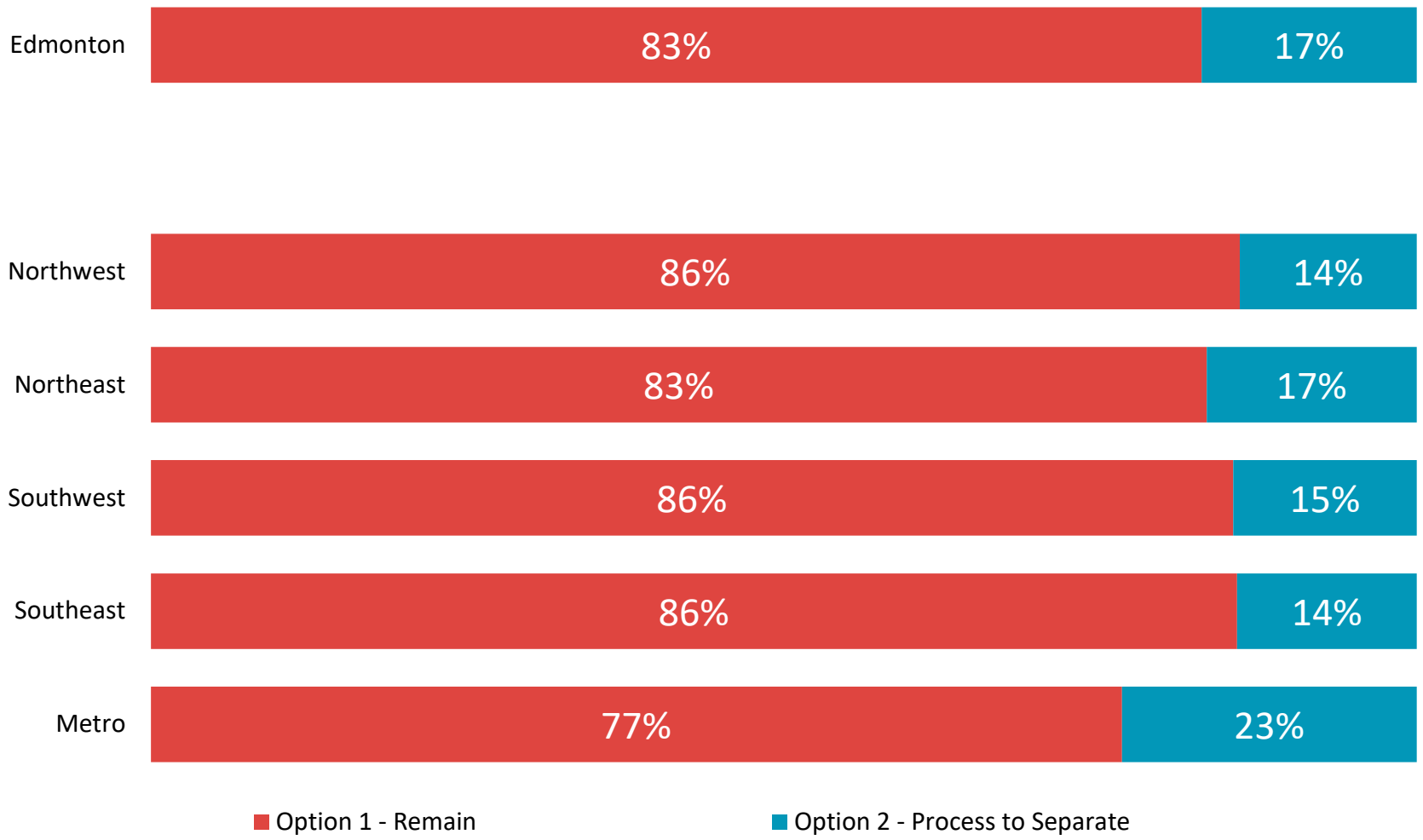
Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Calgary Quadrants



Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

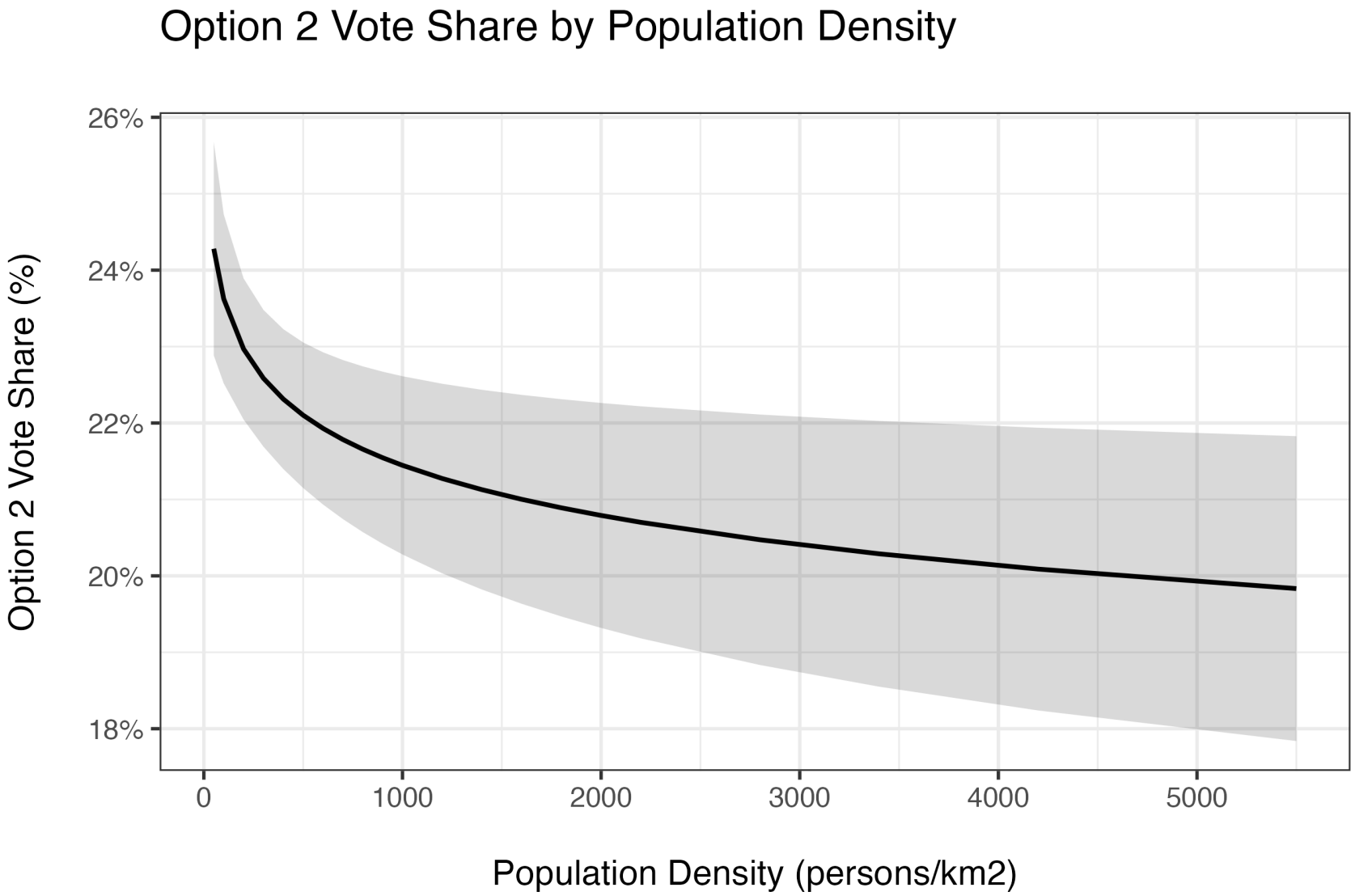
Edmonton Quadrants



Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

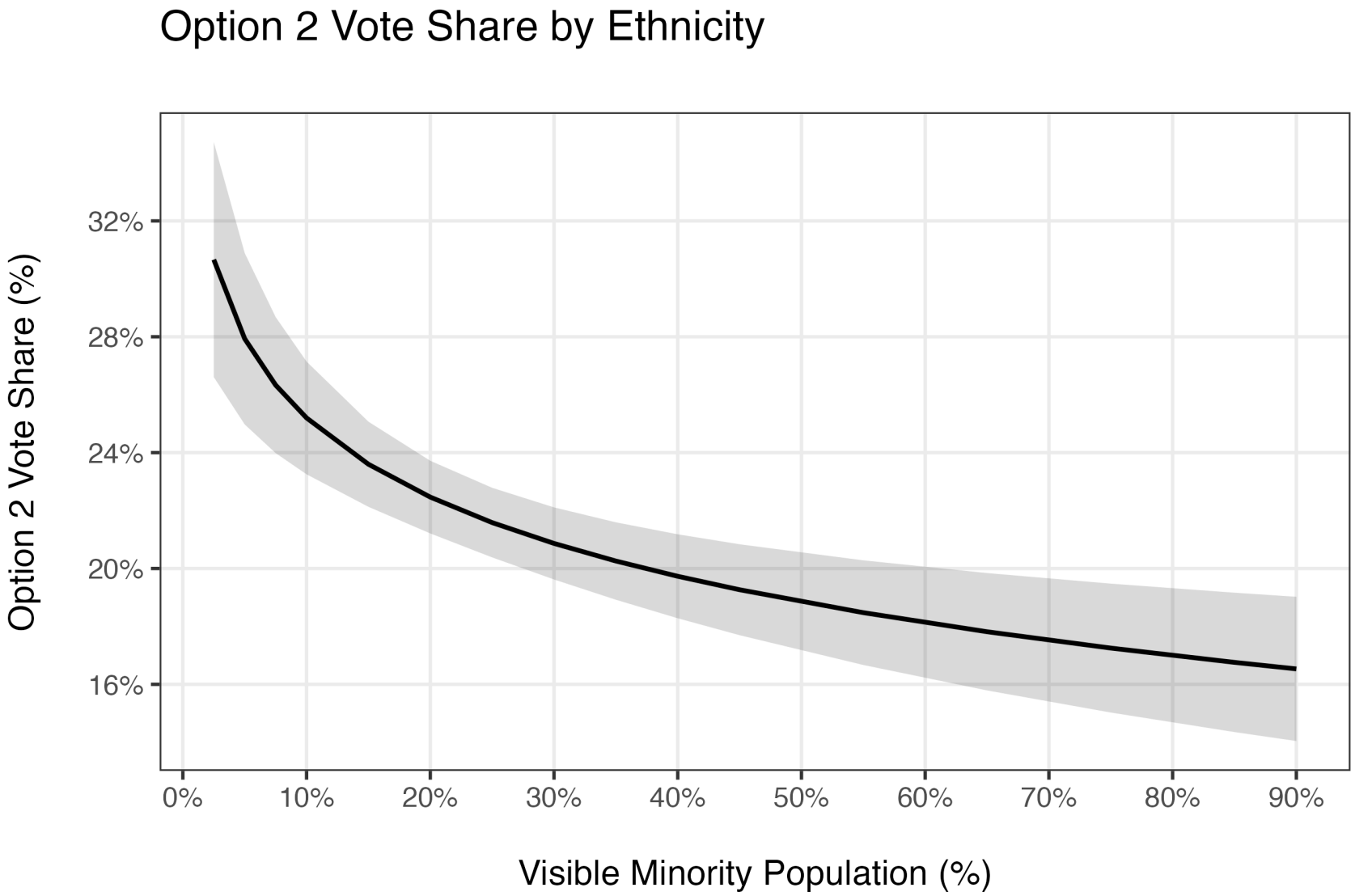
Modelling Results

Option 2 Vote by Population Density



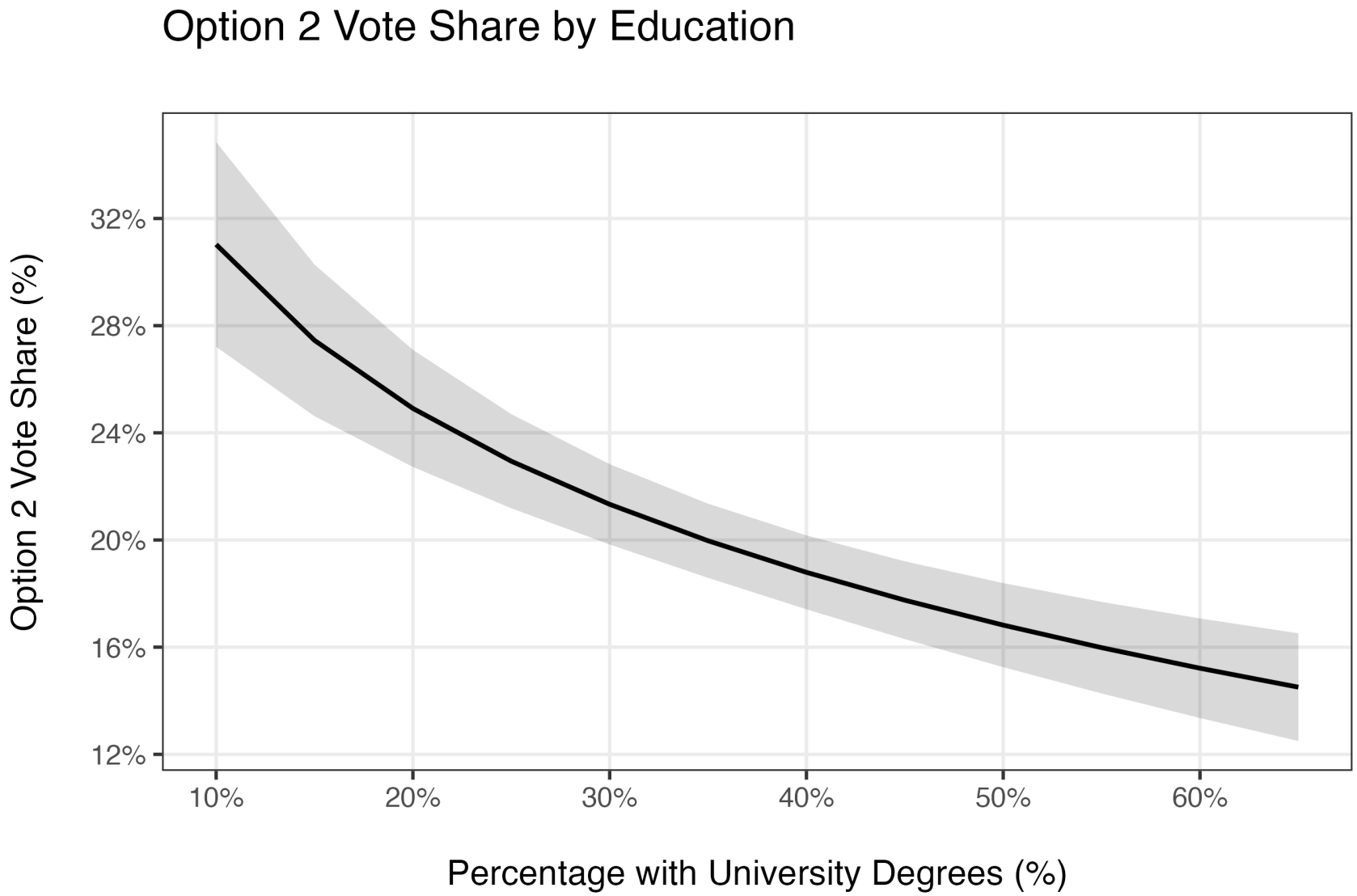
Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Option 2 Vote by Ethnicity



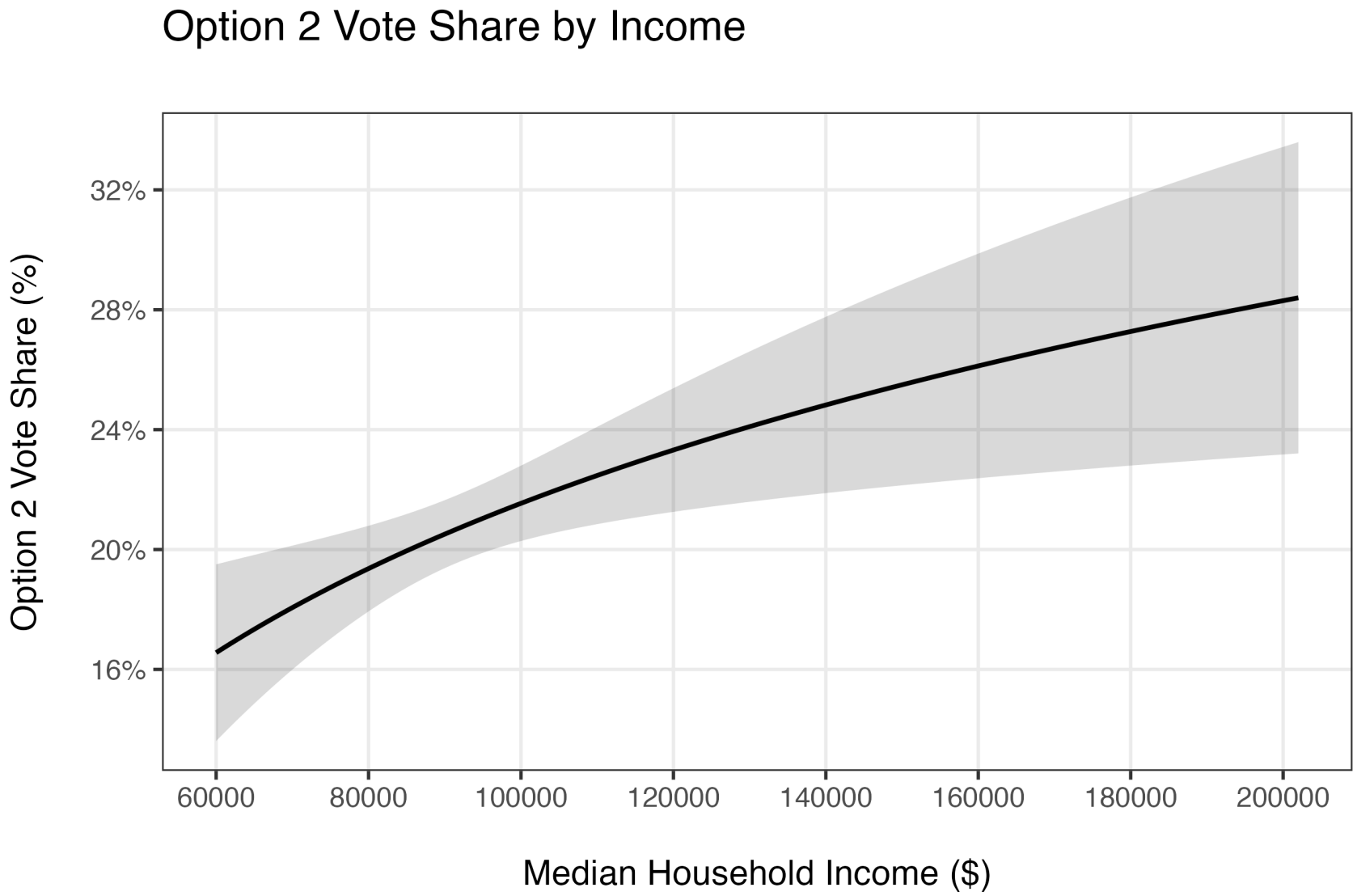
Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Option 2 Vote by Education



Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

Option 2 Vote by Income



Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

The Other Nine

Other Nine by Region

		% saying yes			
		Total	Edmonton	Calgary	Other
Question 1	Immigration Control	54.9% 1,127,729	46.9% 295,247	49.7% 360,041	67.3% 472,441
Question 2	Eligibility for Programs	52.5% 1,078,681	44.6% 279,032	47.1% 339,855	64.9% 459,794
Question 3	Residency Requirement	53.1% 1,096,546	45.3% 285,776	47.7% 346,240	65.6% 464,530
Question 4	Fees for Temporary Residents	51.8% 1,067,383	44.3% 278,089	46.5% 337,547	63.9% 451,747
Question 5	Proof of Citizenship to Vote	58.1% 1,200,838	50.1% 317,001	53.0% 384,146	70.3% 499,691
Question 6	Provincially Appointed Judges	45.4% 933,310	35.9% 225,321	39.5% 285,188	59.7% 422,801
Question 7	Abolishing the Senate	47.3% 971,788	38.2% 239,398	41.7% 301,710	61.1% 430,680
Question 8	Opting Out of Programs	42.4% 873,059	33.1% 207,951	36.8% 265,965	56.6% 399,143
Question 9	Priority of Provincial Laws	44.2% 908,729	34.7% 218,054	38.2% 276,655	58.8% 414,020

Source: Elections Alberta Official Results

What Can Polling Tell Us

Methodology

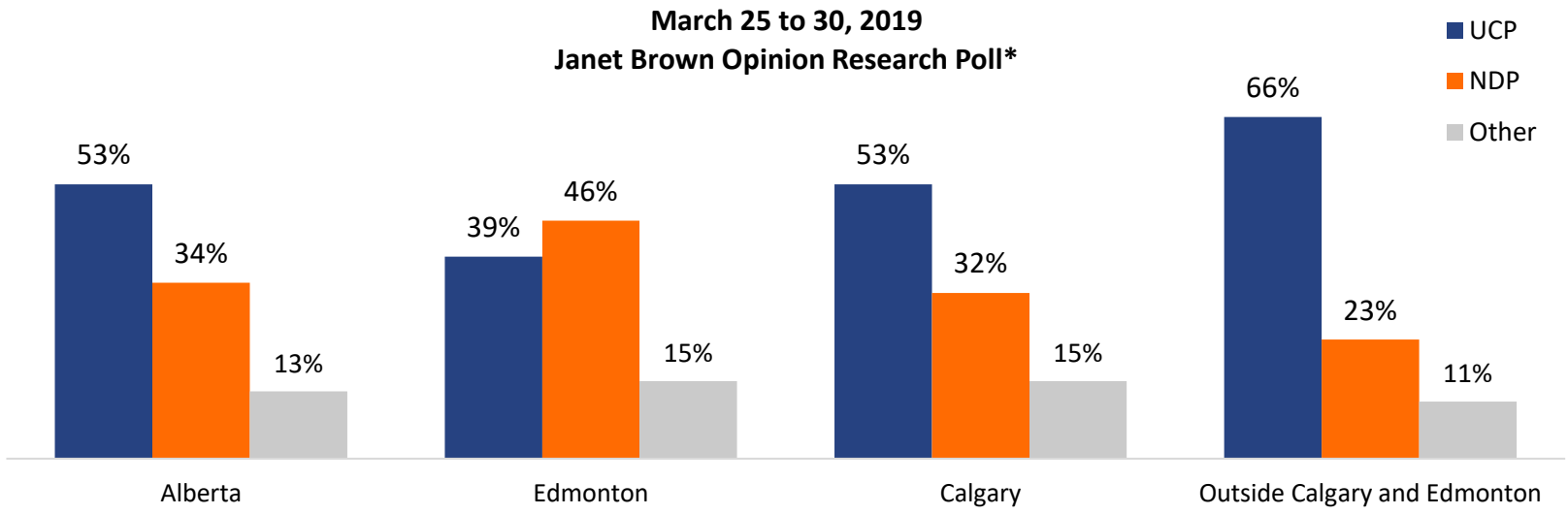
My approach:

- Live interviewers, located in Alberta
- Random sample (70% cellphone and 30% landlines)
- Option of answering over the telephone or online
- Numbers called up to 5 times, at 5 different times of day
- Quotas for age and gender, do minimal weighting

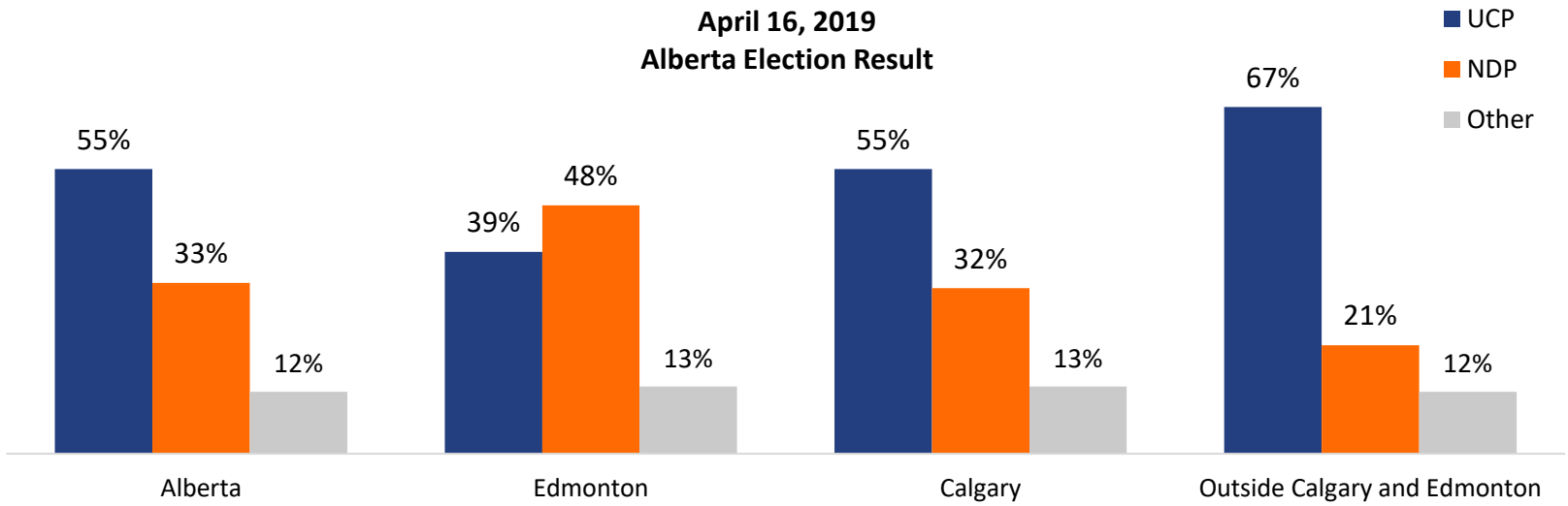
- Road Ahead data for CBC Calgary collected between September 8 to 21
  - N=1,200 (+/-2.8 pts, 19 times in 20)
- Wild Ride data collected between July 13 to 23
  - N=900 (+/-3.3 pts, 19 times in 20)

2019 Alberta Election Results

March 25 to 30 Poll vs Election

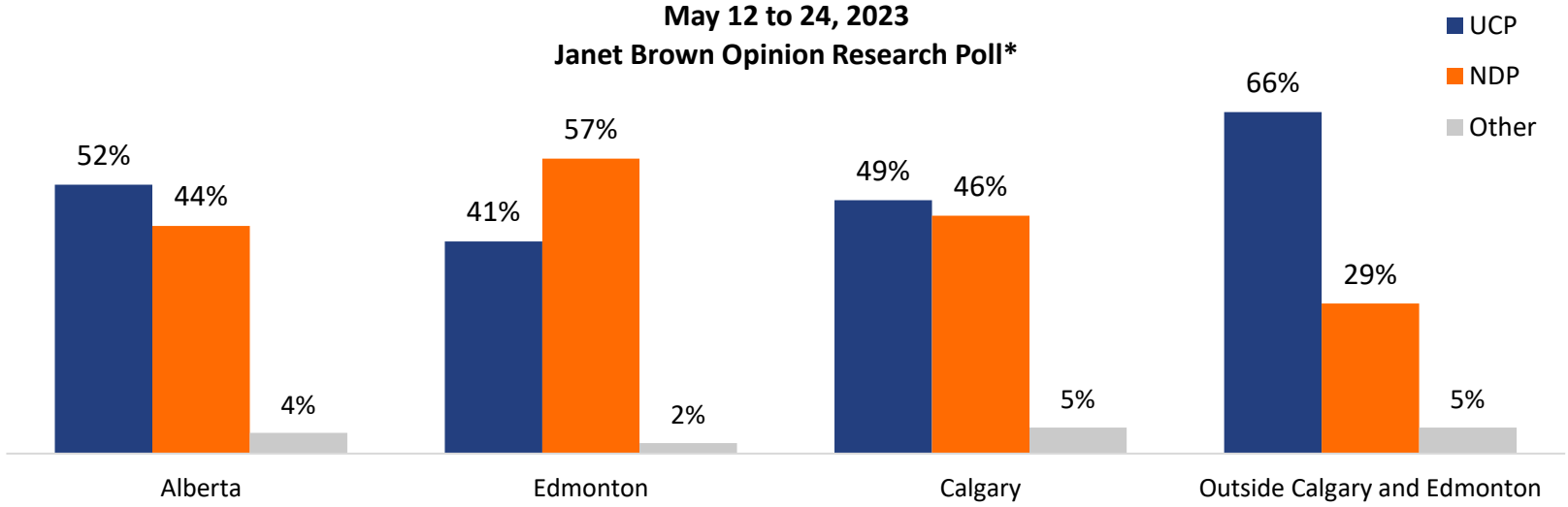


*conducted for Global Petroleum Show

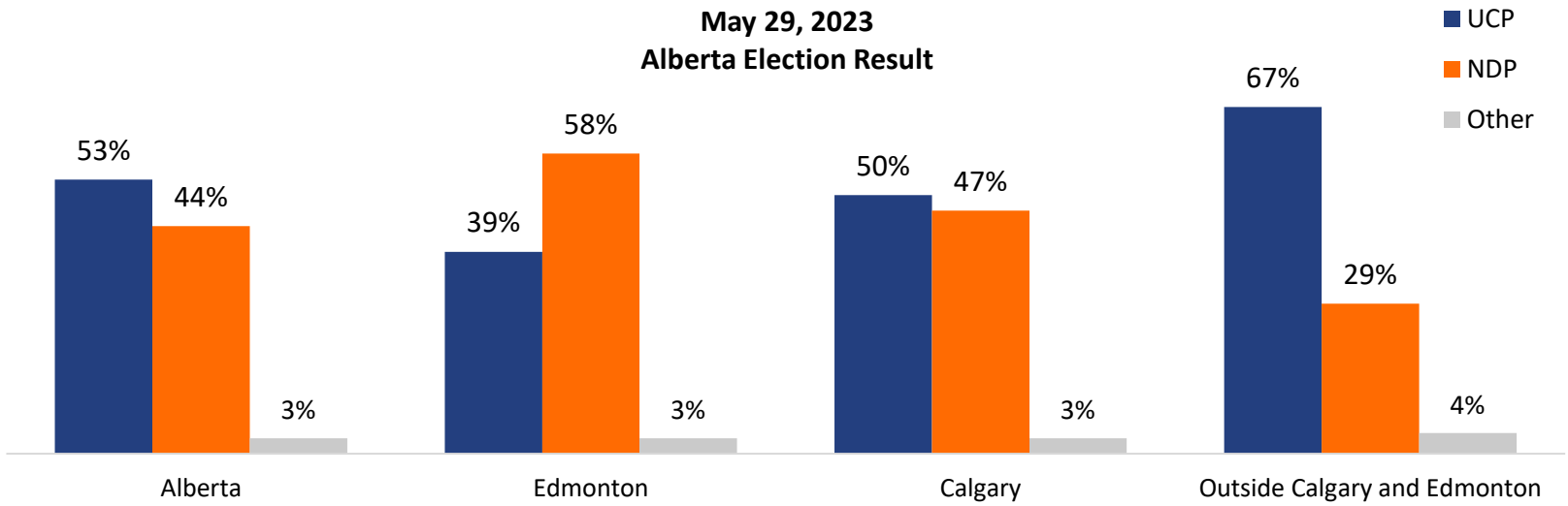


2023 Alberta Election Results

May 12 to 24 Poll vs Election

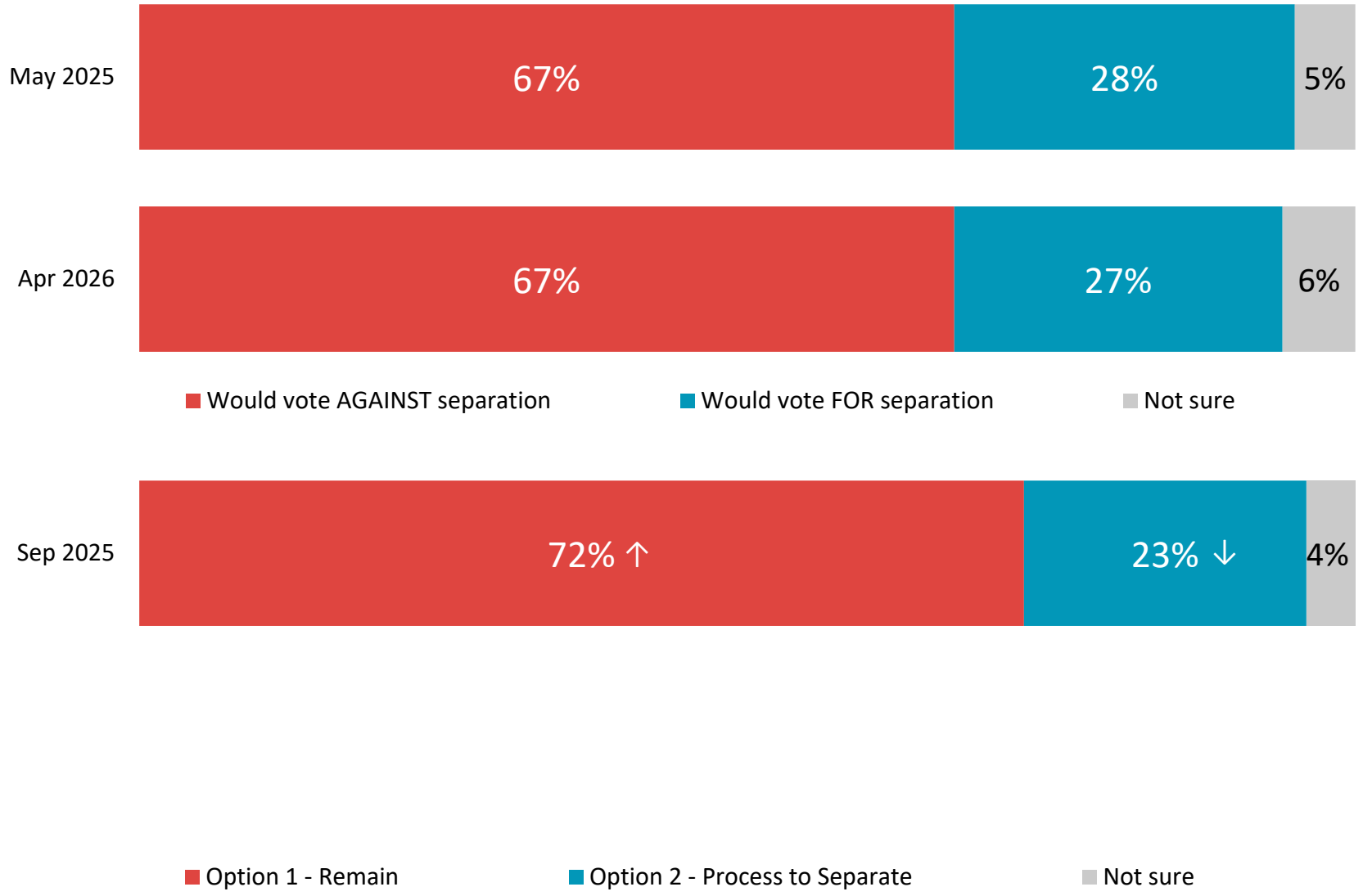


*conducted for CBC Calgary



Separation Referendum Tracking

September 2026

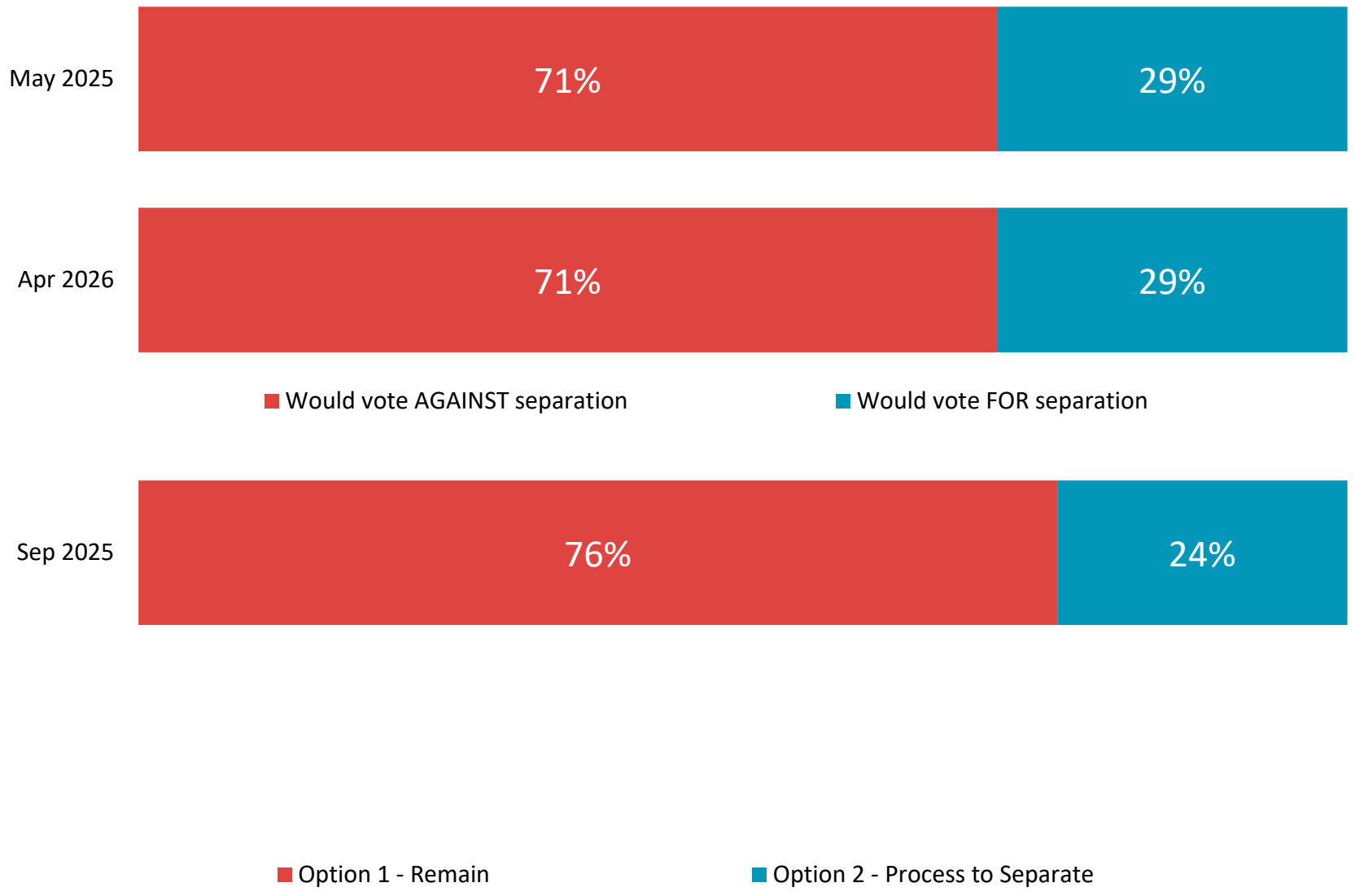


If a referendum were held today on whether Alberta should separate from the rest of Canada, would you vote for or against separation?
Should Alberta remain a province of Canada or should the Government of Alberta commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada?

Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

Separation Referendum Tracking

September 2026

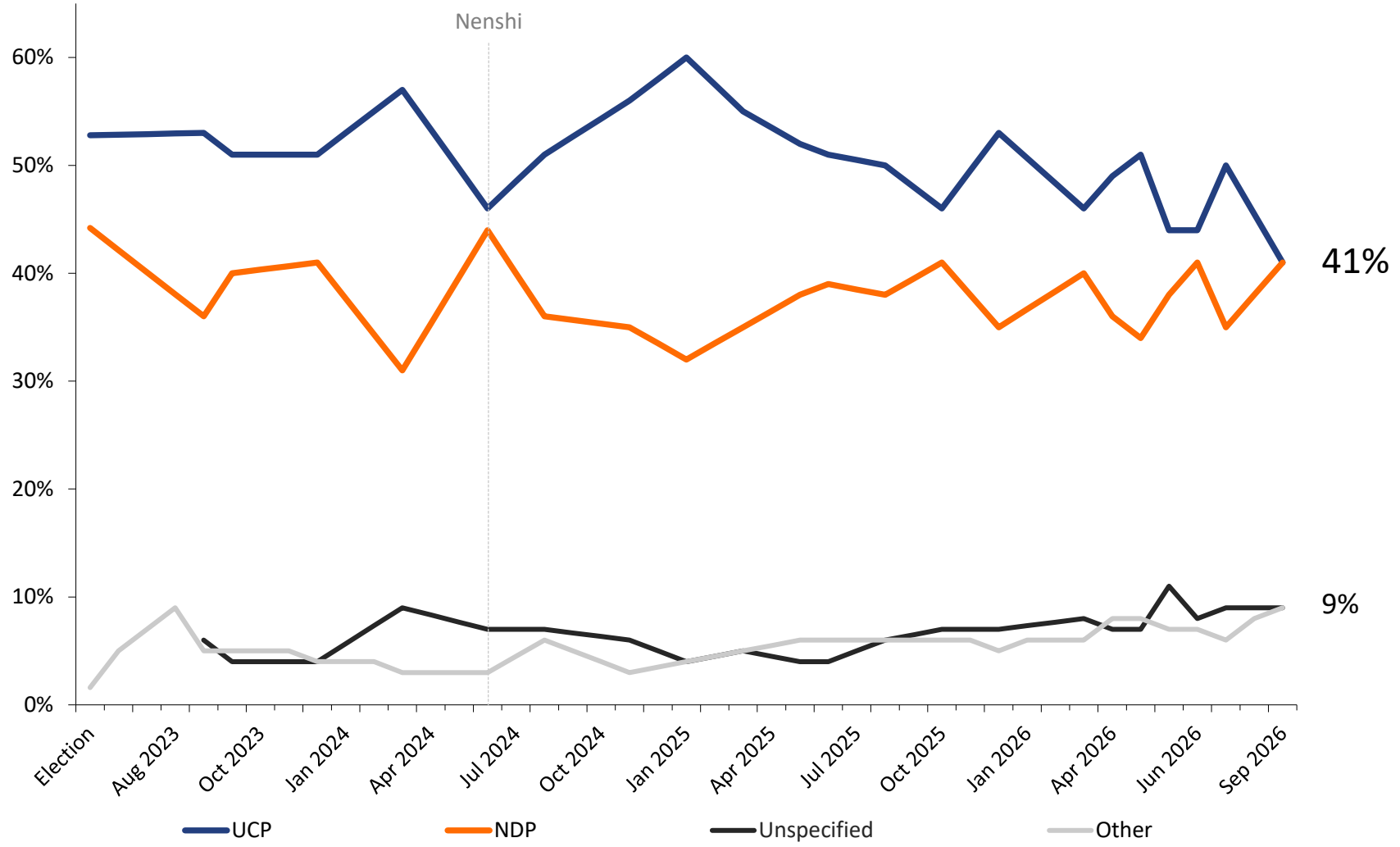


If a referendum were held today on whether Alberta should separate from the rest of Canada, would you vote for or against separation?
Should Alberta remain a province of Canada or should the Government of Alberta commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada?

Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

Voting Intention

September 2026

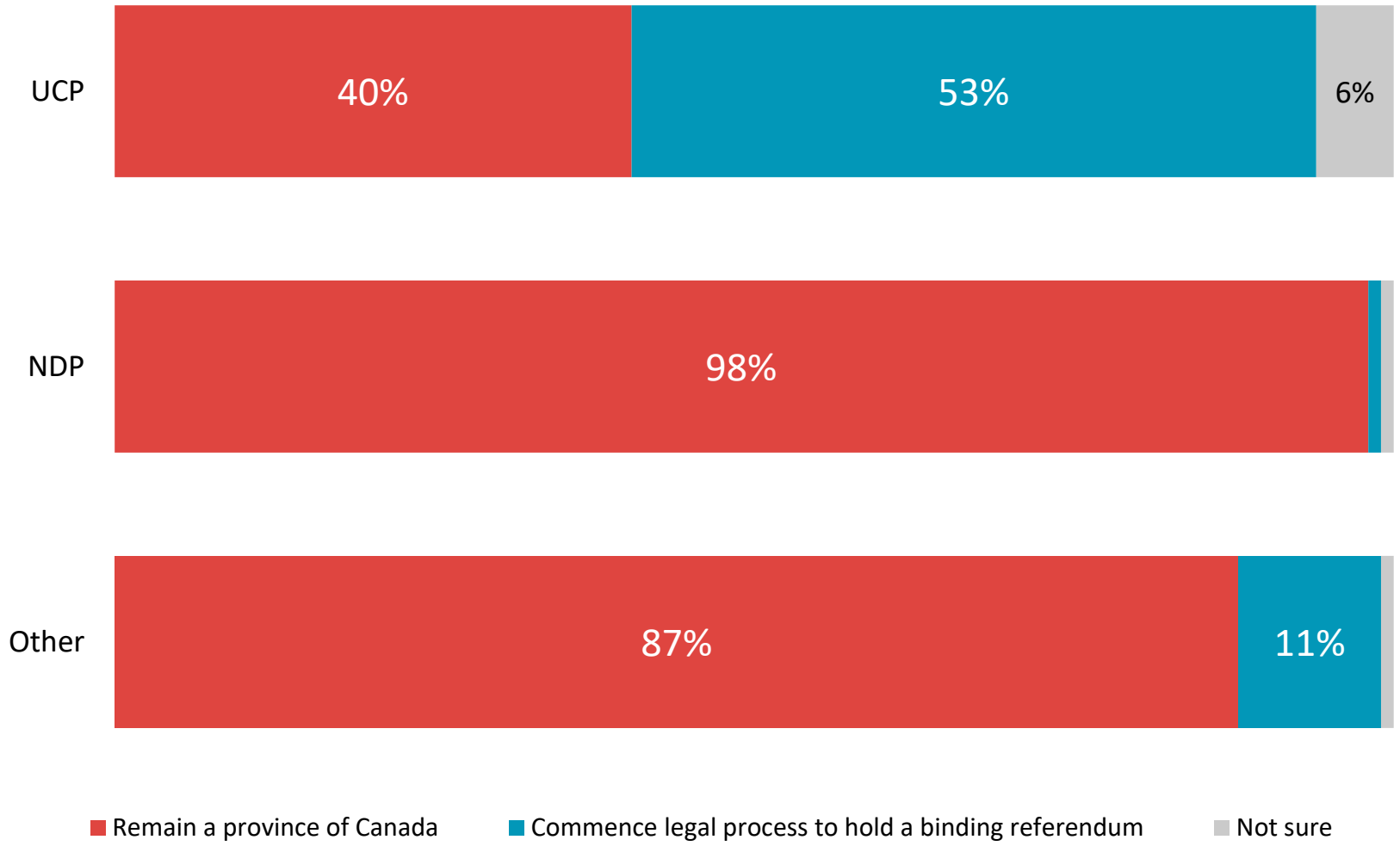


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

If a provincial election were held in Alberta today, which one of the following parties would you vote for? Which other party would you vote for? Perhaps you have not yet made up your mind. Is there nevertheless a party you might be inclined to support?

Separation Referendum by Party

September 2026



Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

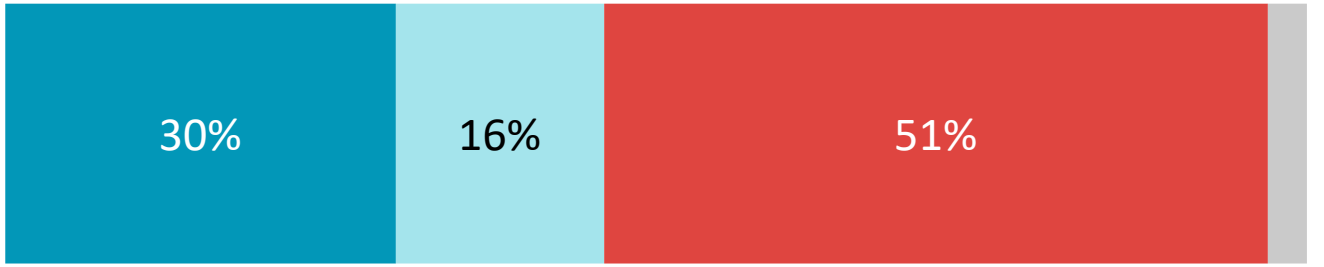
Should Alberta remain a province of Canada or should the Government of Alberta commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada?

Leader Impressions

September 2026



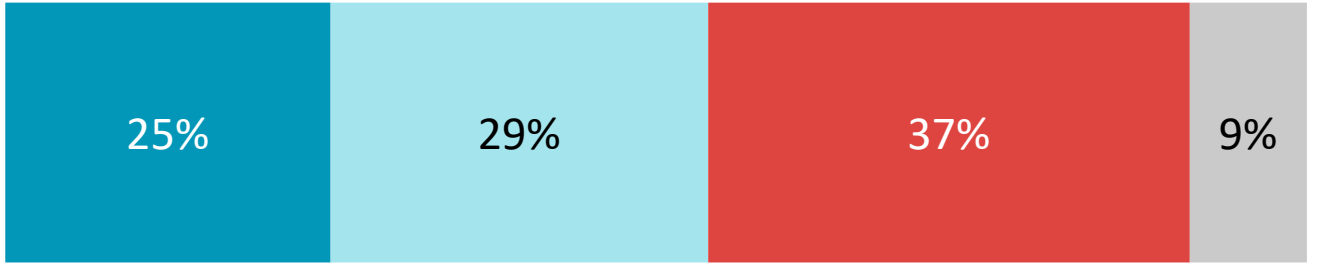
Danielle Smith



Average: 3.8



Naheed Nenshi



Average: 4.2

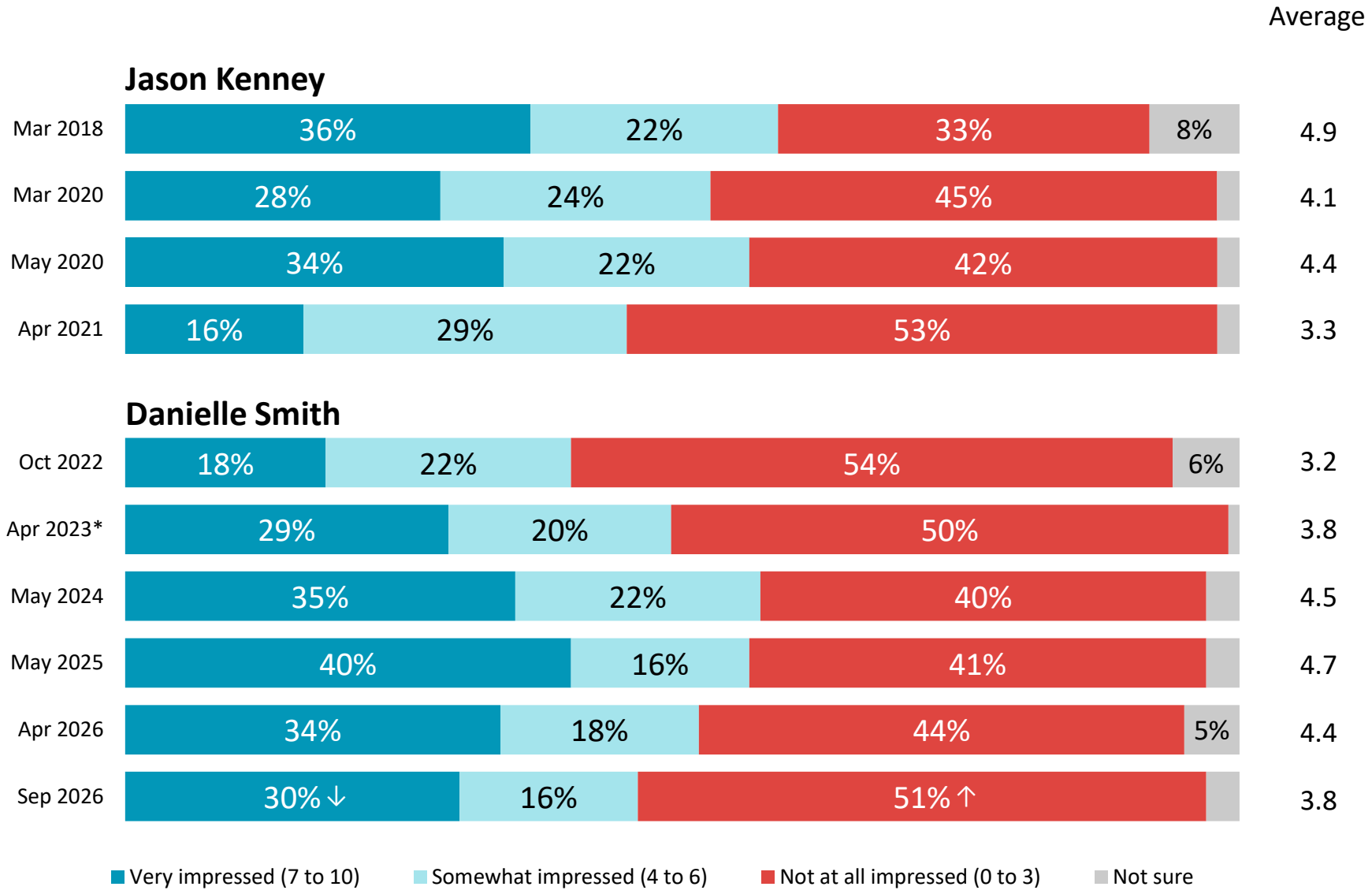
Very impressed (7 to 10) | Somewhat impressed (4 to 6) | Not at all impressed (0 to 3) | Not sure

Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you are not at all impressed and 10 means you are very impressed, how would you rate each of the following party leaders?

Impressions of UCP Leader

September 2026

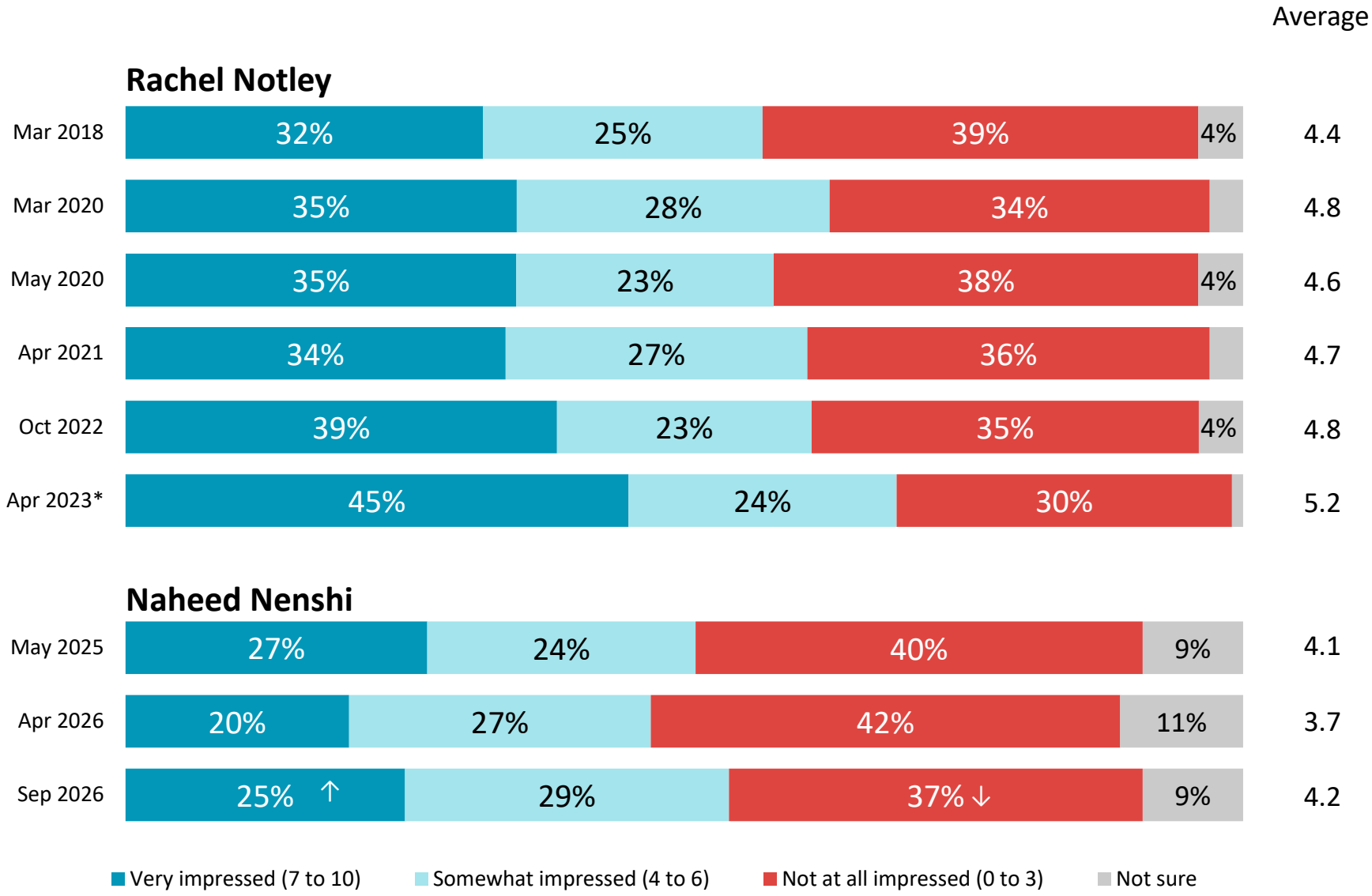


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you are not at all impressed and 10 means you are very impressed, how would you rate each of the following party leaders? Danielle Smith, Premier and Leader of the United Conservative Party.

Impressions of NDP Leader

September 2026

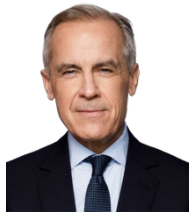


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you are not at all impressed and 10 means you are very impressed, how would you rate each of the following party leaders? Naheed Nenshi, the Leader of the New Democratic Party.

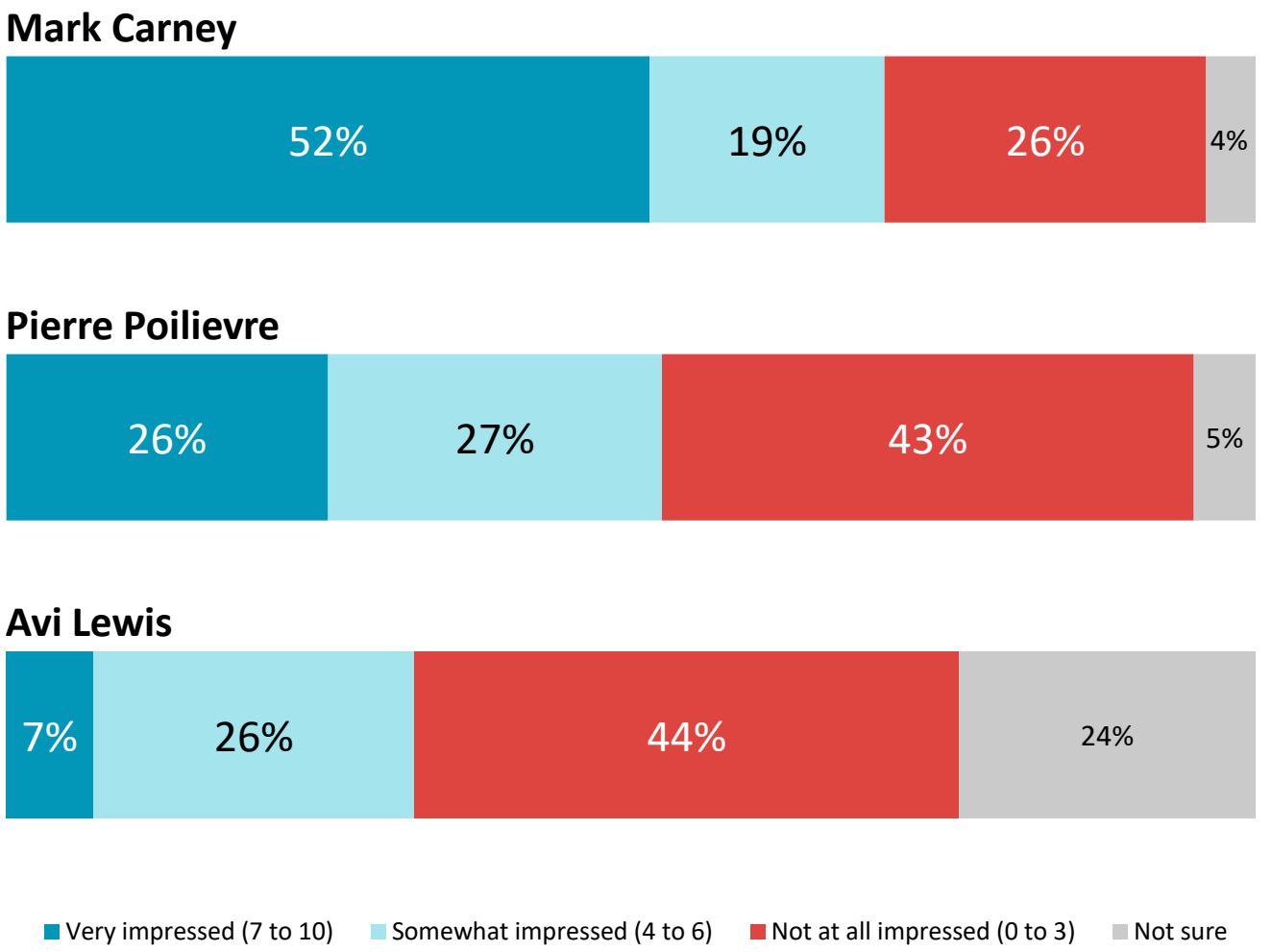
Federal Leader Impressions

September 2026







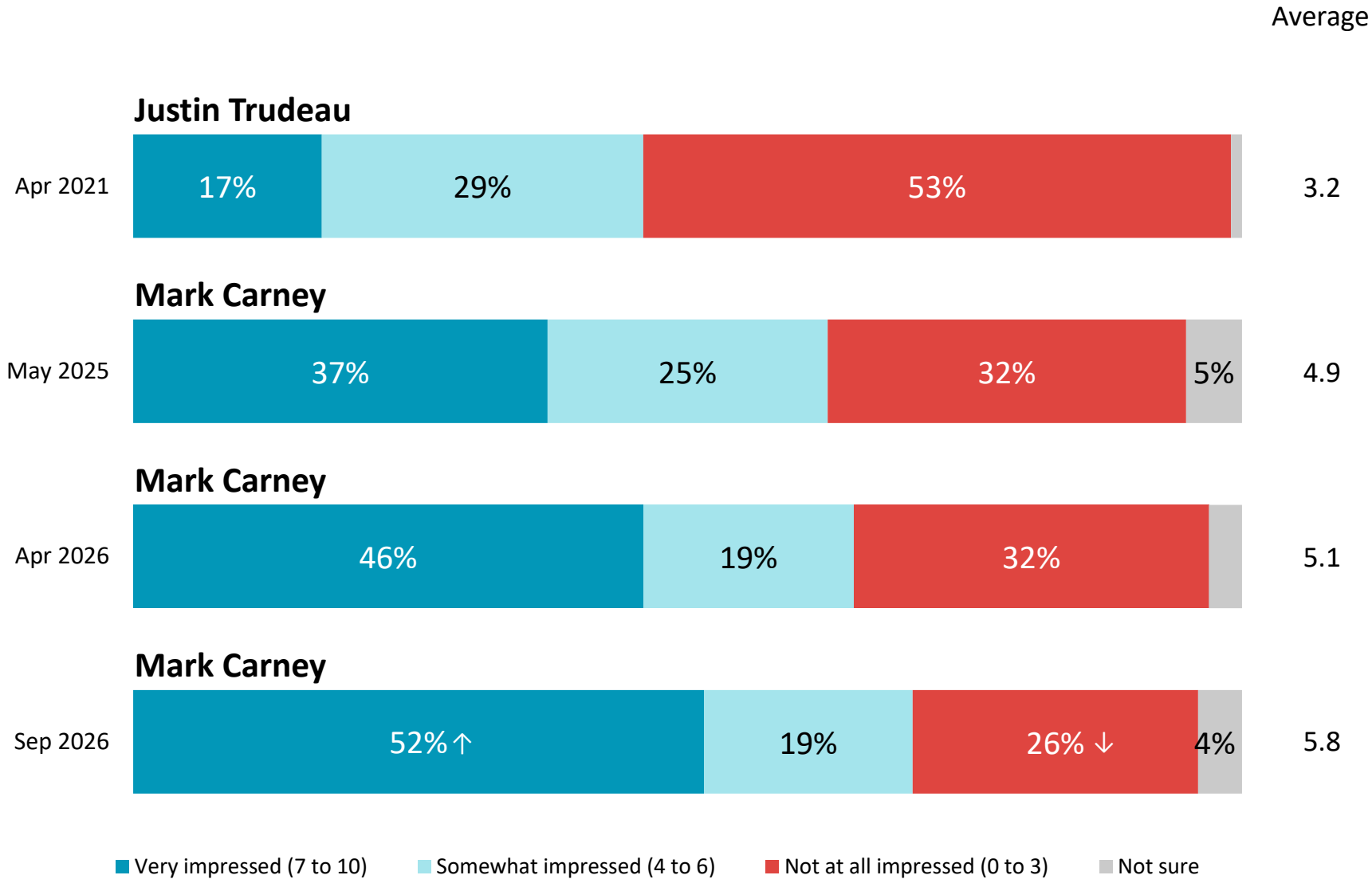


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you are not at all impressed and 10 means you are very impressed, how would you rate each of the following federal party leaders?

Impression of Liberal Leader

September 2026

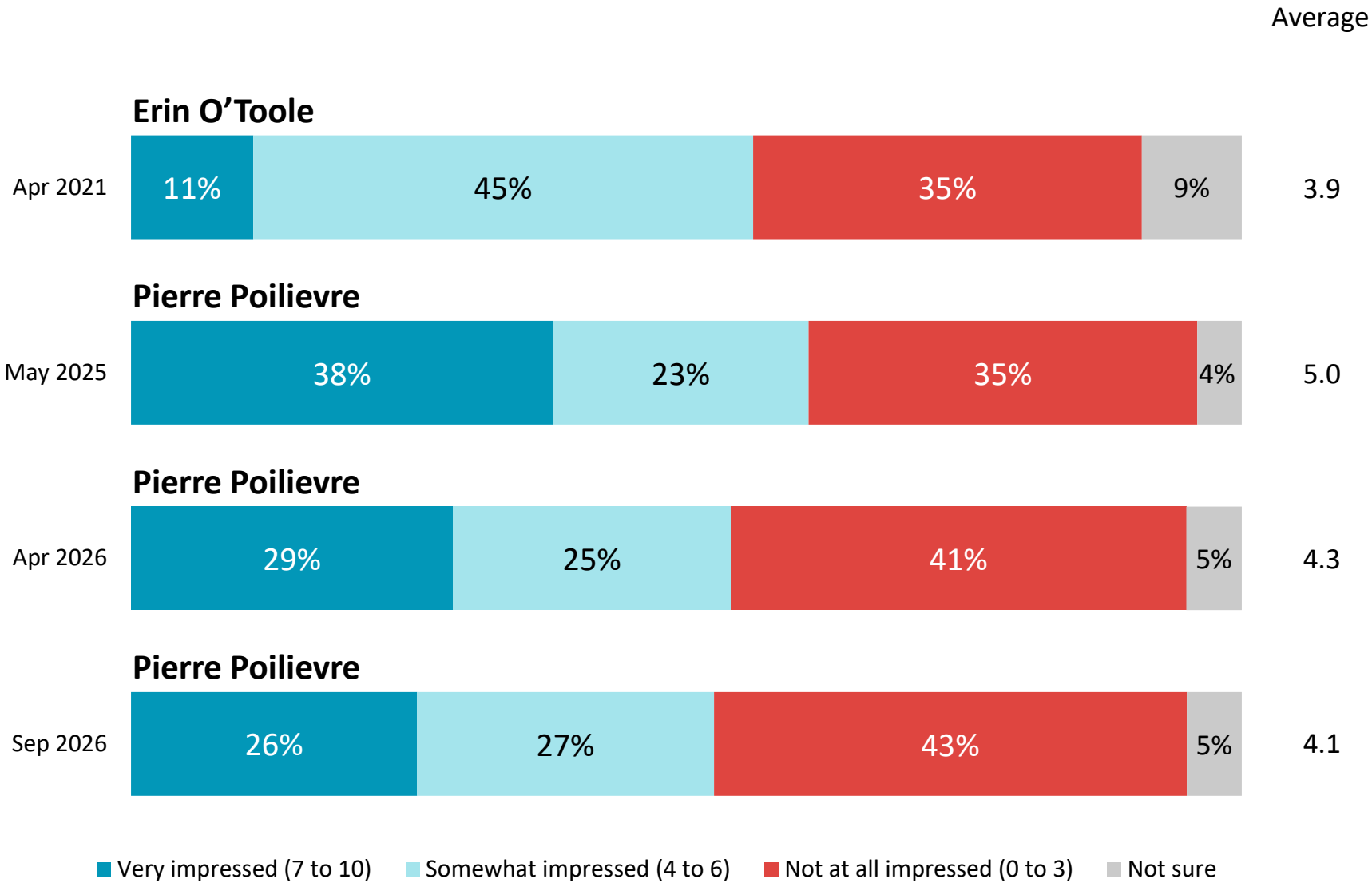


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you are not at all impressed and 10 means you are very impressed, how would you rate each of the following federal party leaders?

Impression of CPC Leader

September 2026

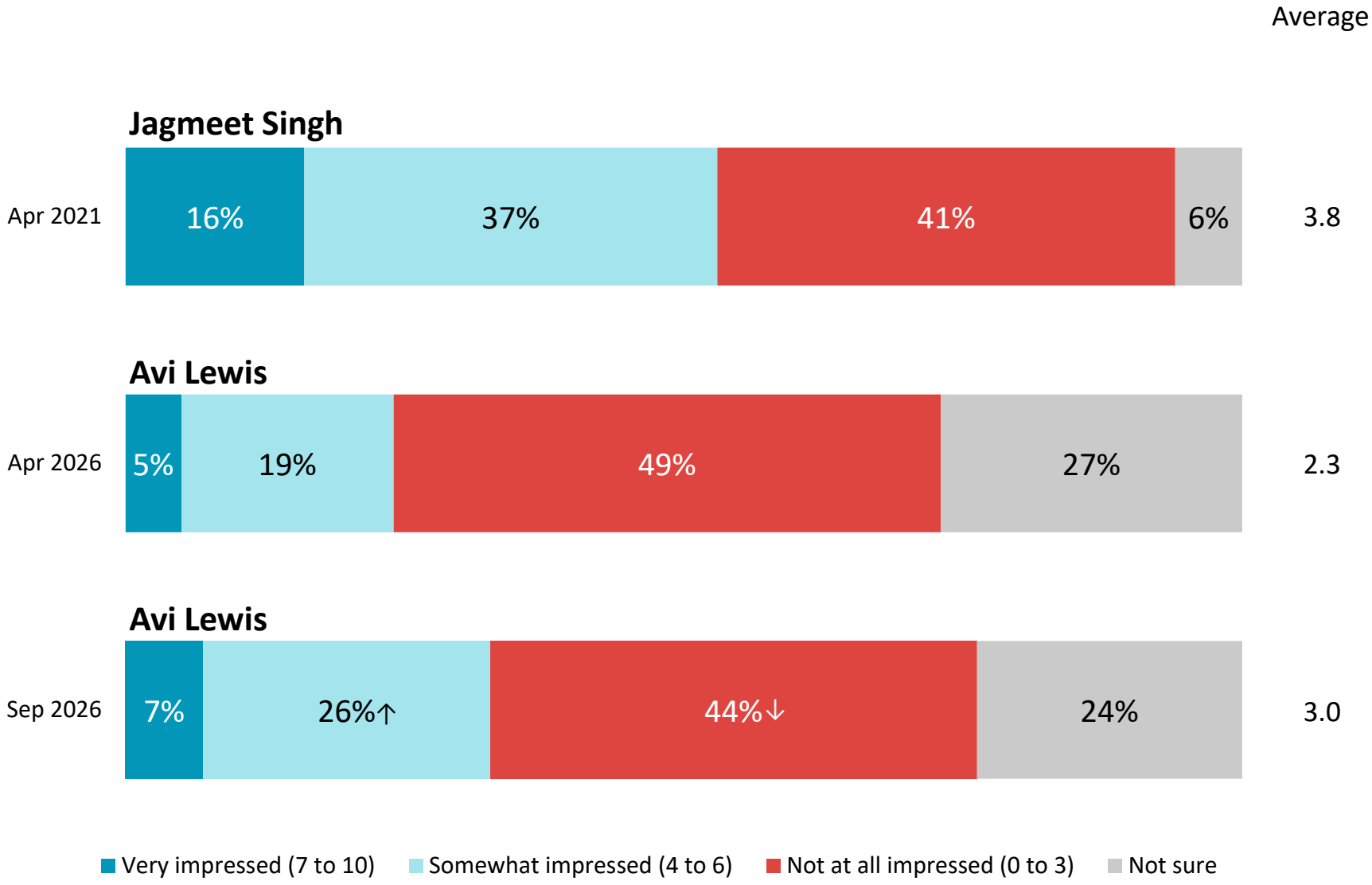


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you are not at all impressed and 10 means you are very impressed, how would you rate each of the following federal party leaders?

Impression of NDP Leader

September 2026

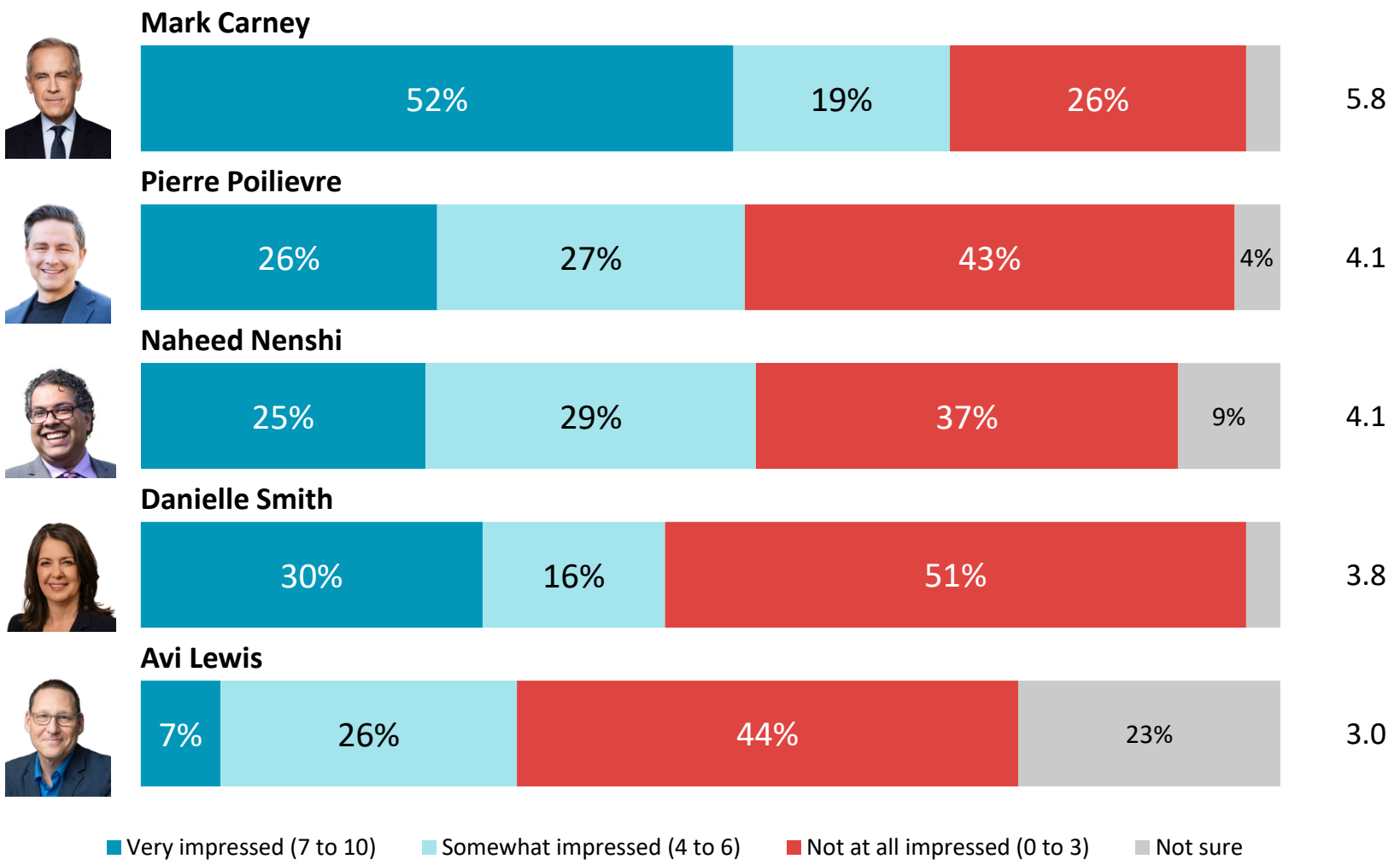


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you are not at all impressed and 10 means you are very impressed, how would you rate each of the following federal party leaders?

Comparison Impression of Party Leaders

September 2026

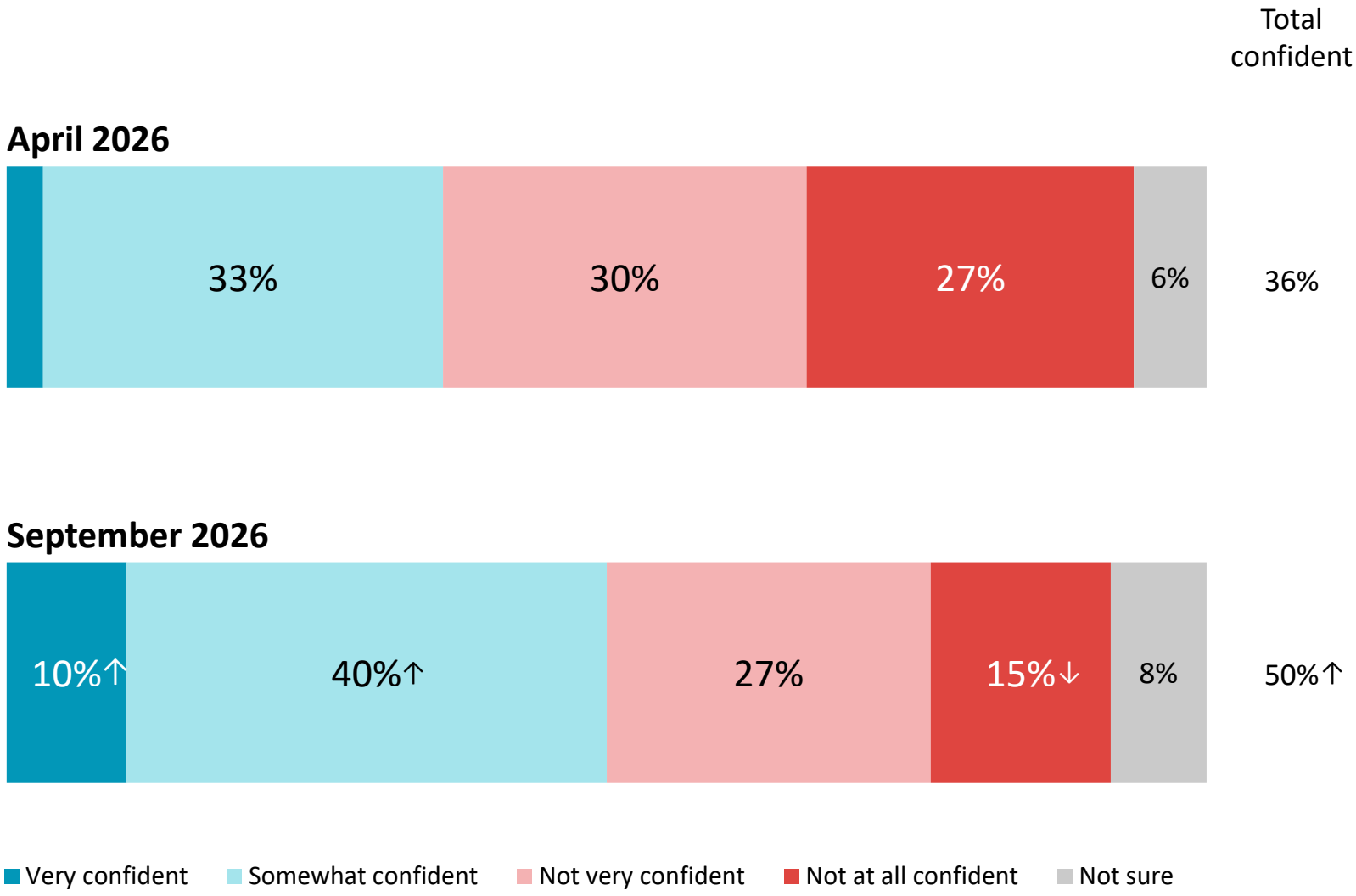


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

On a scale from 0 to 10 where 0 means you are not at all impressed and 10 means you are very impressed, how would you rate each of the following party leaders?

Confidence in MOU Pipeline

September 2026



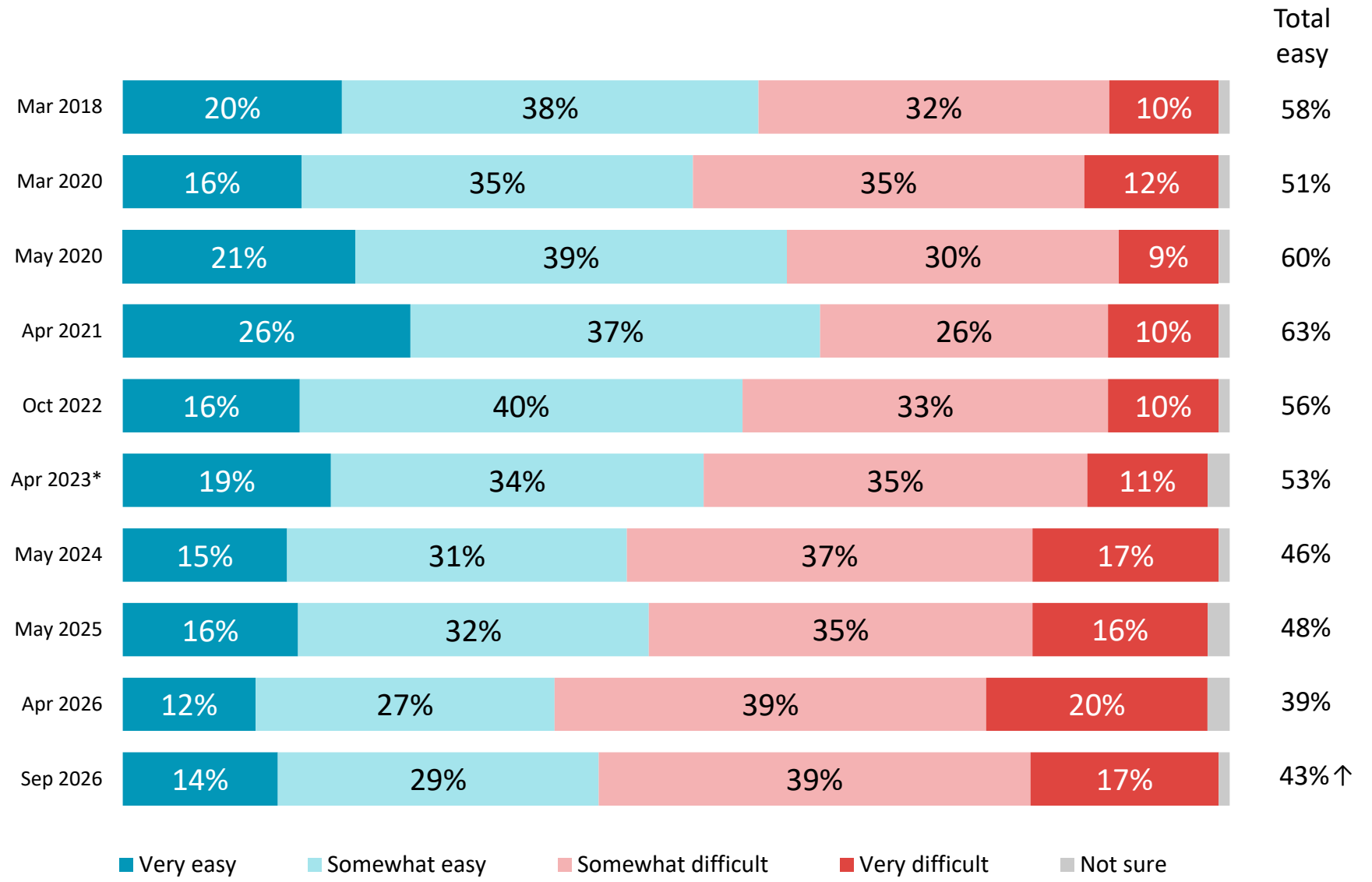
April 2026: In November, Premier Danielle Smith and Prime Minister Mark Carney signed a Memorandum of Understanding (or MOU) outlining energy collaboration between Alberta and the Federal Government. How confident are you this MOU will lead to the construction of new energy infrastructure, like a pipeline to the west coast? Would you say you are…

Sep 2026: How confident are you that this Memorandum of Understanding will result in the construction of new energy infrastructure, like a pipeline to the west coast? Would you say you are …

Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

Meeting Monthly Expenses

September 2026

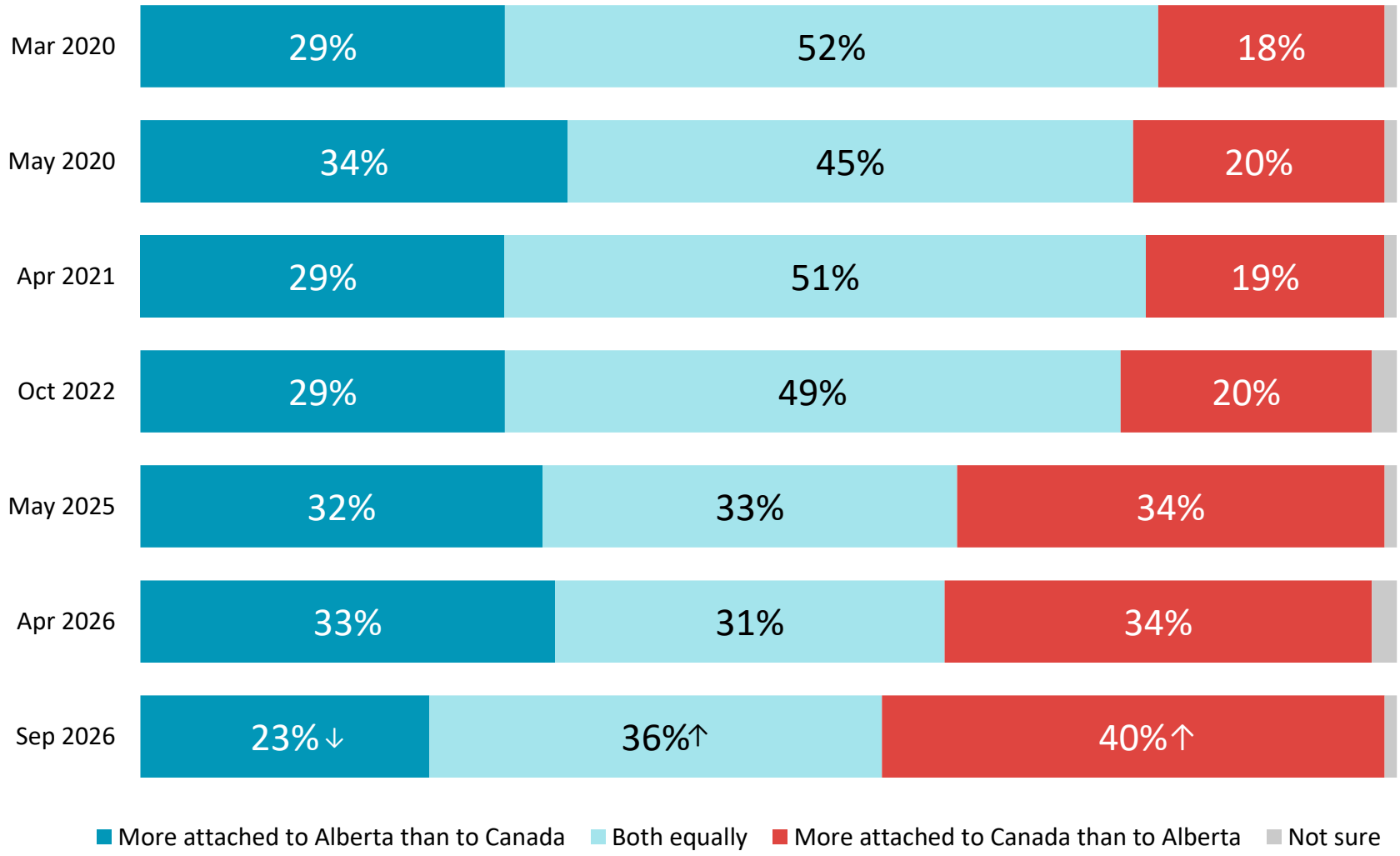


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

In recent months, how easy or difficult has it been for you to meet your monthly expenses? Has it been…

Attachment to Alberta vs Canada

September 2026

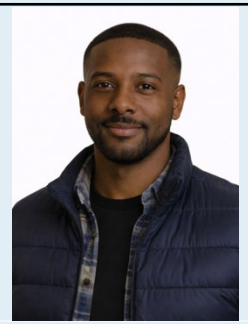


Source: CBC Calgary (September 2026)

Would you say you feel … more attached to Alberta than to Canada, both equally, more attached to Canada than to Alberta, or not sure?

Alternate Personas

The BertaVerse – All Personas

Non-Separatist Left 25%	Non-Separatist Centre 24%	Non-Separatist Right 17%	Soft Separatist 11%	Committed Separatist 23%
"Meghan" 	"Laura" 	"Sanjeev" 	"Alexei" 	"Luke" 
The Ideologue	*The Busy Pragmatist*	*The Business Conservative*	*The Stalled Starter*	*The AB-First Traditionalist*
"Evelyn" 	"Michael" 	"Amanda" 	"Meryl" 	"Cade" 
The Collective Spirit	*The Sensible Split-Ticket*	*The Family Fiscal Focus*	*The Small-Town Skeptic*	*The Blue-Collar Holdout*
"Zach" 	"Rhea" 	"Glenn" 	"Curtis" 	"Jessie" 
The Eco-Drifter	*The Institutionalist*	*The Risk-Averse Retiree*	*The Libertarian Disruptor*	*The Proud Provincialist*

*AI generated images

Implications for Government

Option 2 Vote – UCP Caucus

<50%



Jason Nixon
Rimbey-Rocky Mountain House-Sundre



Todd Loewen
Central Peace-Notley

45 – 50%



Nate Horner
Drumheller-Stettler



Ron Wiebe
Grande Prairie-Wapiti



Grant Hunter
Taber-Warner



Andrew Boitchenko
Drayton Valley-Devon

40 – 45%



Tara Sawyer
Olds-Didsbury-Three Hills



Garth Rowswell
Vermilion-Lloydminster-Wainwright



Devin Dreeshen
Innisfail-Sylvan Lake



Joseph Schow
Cardston-Siksika



Jennifer Johnson
Lacombe-Ponoka



Dan Williams
Peace River



Shane Getson
Lac Ste. Anne-Parkland



Scott Cyr
Bonnyville-Cold Lake-St. Paul



Glenn van Dijken
Athabasca-Barrhead-Westlock



Tany Yao
Fort McMurray-Wood Buffalo



Martin Long
West Yellowhead



Brian Jean
Fort McMurray-Lac La Biche

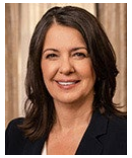
35 – 40%



Nolan Dyck
Grande Prairie



Chelsae Petrovic
Livingstone-Macleod



Danielle Smith
Brooks-Medicine Hat



Jackie Lovely
Camrose



Rick Wilson
Maskwacis-Wetaskiwin



R.J. Sigurdson
Highwood

Option 2 Vote – UCP Caucus

30 – 35%



Jackie Armstrong-Homeniuk
Fort Saskatchewan-Vegreville



Justin Wright
Cypress-Medicine Hat



Chantelle de Jonge
Chestermere-Strathmore



Adriana LaGrange
Red Deer-North



Scott Sinclair
Lesser Slave Lake

25 – 30%



Angela Pitt
Airdrie-East



Jason Stephan
Red Deer-South



Brandon Lunty
Leduc-Beaumont



Pete Guthrie
Airdrie-Cochrane



Searle Turton
Spruce Grove-Stony Plain



Nate Glubish
Strathcona-Sherwood Park



Dale Nally
Morinville-St. Albert

10 – 25%



Matt Jones
Calgary-South East



Ric McIver
Calgary-Hays



Eric Bouchard
Calgary-Lougheed



Nathan Neudorf
Lethbridge-East



Peter Singh
Calgary-East



Tanya Fir
Calgary-Peigan



Myles McDougall
Calgary-Fish Creek

<20%



Demetrios Nicolaides
Calgary-Bow



Mike Ellis
Calgary-West



Rajan Sawhney
Calgary-North West



Muhammad Yaseen
Calgary-North



Mickey Amery
Calgary-Cross

Option 2 Vote – NDP Caucus

30 – 35%



Kyle Campbell
Calgary-Shaw



Sarah Elmeligi
Banff-Kananaskis

25 – 30%



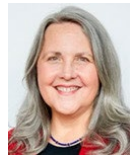
Kyle Kasawski
Sherwood Park



Diana Batten
Calgary-Acadia



Rob Miyashiro
Lethbridge-West



Peggy Wright
Edmonton-Beverly-Clareview



Lizette Tejada
Calgary-Klein



Amanda Chapman
Calgary-Beddington



Sharif Haji
Edmonton-Decore



Nagwan Al-Guneid
Calgary-Glenmore



Heather Sweet
Edmonton-Manning



Nathan Ip
Edmonton-South West



Christina Gray
Edmonton-Mill Woods



Court Ellingson
Calgary-Foothills



Marie Renaud
St. Albert



Julia Hayter
Calgary-Edgemont



Brooks Arcand-Paul
Edmonton-West Henday



Nicole Goehring
Edmonton-Castle Downs



Gurtej Singh Brar
Edmonton-Ellerslie



Janet Eremenko
Calgary-Currie



Rhiannon Hoyle
Edmonton-South



Lorne Dach
Edmonton-McClung

Option 2 Vote – NDP Caucus

10 – 15%



Gurinder Brar
Calgary-
North East



Samir Kayande
Calgary-Elbow



Joe Ceci
Calgary-
Buffalo



Jasvir Deol
Edmonton-
Meadows



Parmeet Singh Boparai
Calgary-Falconridge



David Eggen
Edmonton-
North West



Luanne Metz
Calgary-Varsity



Janis Irwin
Edmonton-
Highlands-Norwood



Rakhi Pancholi
Edmonton-
Whitemud



Marlin Schmidt
Edmonton-
Gold Bar



Jodi Calahoo Stonehouse
Edmonton-Rutherford



Sarah Hoffman
Edmonton-Glenora



Kathleen Ganley
Calgary-
Mountain View



Lori Sigurdson
Edmonton-Riverview



Irfan Sabir
Calgary-
Bhullar-McCall



David Shepherd
Edmonton-City Centre

<10%



Naheed Nenshi
Edmonton-Strathcona

Thanks!

planetjanet@shaw.ca

JANET BROWN

OPINION RESEARCH