

A Canadian flag is shown on the left side of the image, waving. In the background, there is a Gothic-style building with a prominent spire, set against a blue sky with a few clouds. A red banner is overlaid across the bottom half of the image.

FIREWEED REVISITED

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The questionnaire was a replication of a survey designed by André Turcotte and Allan Gregg for the Fireweed Democracy Project meeting held in April of 2006.



The survey was replicated by [Public Square Research](#) in partnership with Maru/Blue, using the Maru Voice online panel. The research involved an online survey of 1511 English and French speaking adult Canadians.



The survey was fielded between February 10 and February 11, 2019. It consisted of 10 questions, excluding demographics.

Respondents for this survey were selected from among those who have registered to participate in the Maru Voice panel. The data have been weighted to reflect the demographic composition of Canada, according to statistics Canada. Because the sample is based on those who initially self-selected for participation in the Maru Voice panel rather than a probability sample, no estimates of sampling error can be calculated. However comparable samples of this size have a margin of error of +/- 3%. *2006 data sourced from Fireweed Democracy Barometer. <https://slideplayer.com/slide/10877090/>

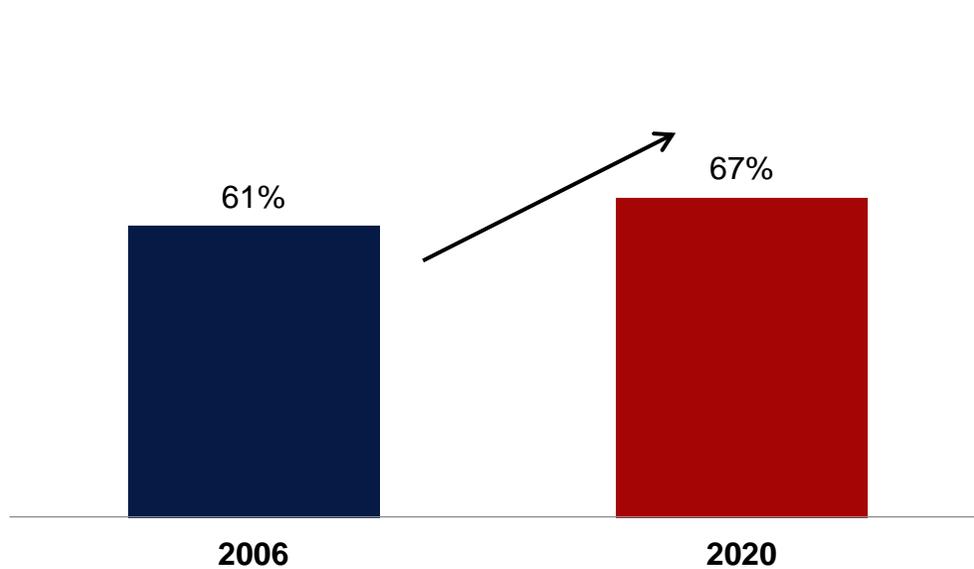
A Canadian flag is shown waving on the left side of the frame. In the background, a Gothic-style building with a prominent spire is visible against a blue sky with light clouds. A red horizontal bar is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing white text.

**INTEREST, IMPORTANCE AND
RELEVANCE**

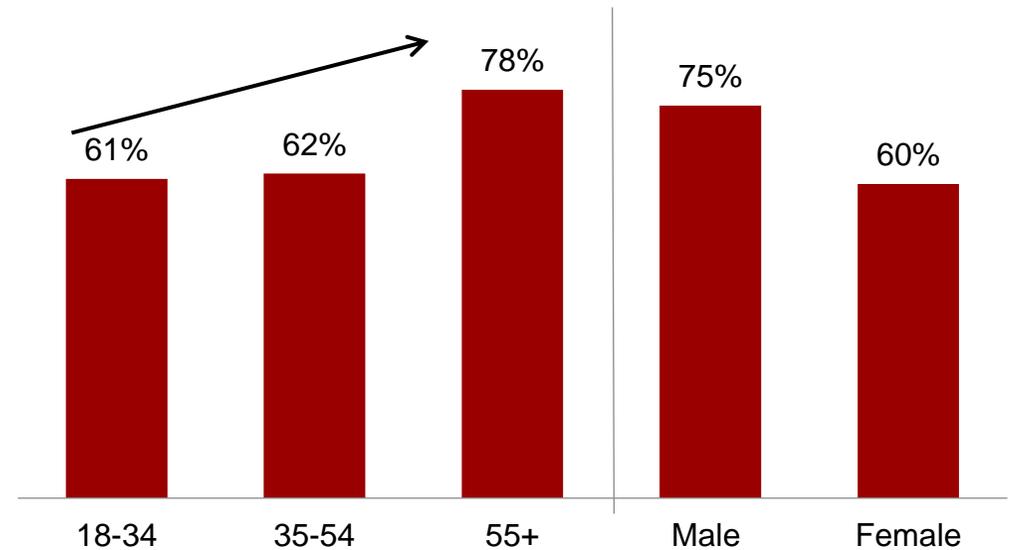
Interest in Politics

Two-thirds of Canadians are *interested* in politics, up significantly from 2006.

Percentage 'Very Interested' and 'Somewhat Interested' in Politics



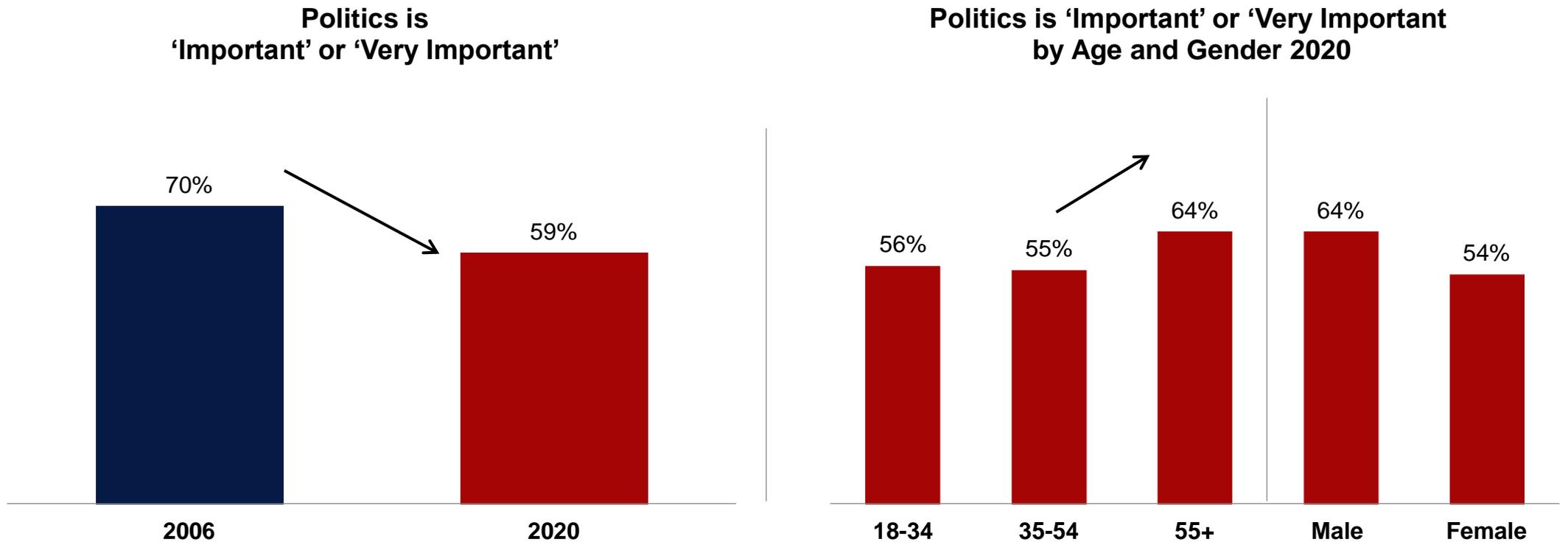
Percentage 'Very Interested' and 'Somewhat Interested' in Politics by Age and Gender 2020



Q1: How interested are you in politics? N=1511

Importance of Politics

About 3 in 5 Canadians say that politics is important to their everyday life currently, down significantly since 2006. Politics is seen as more important among those over the age of 55.

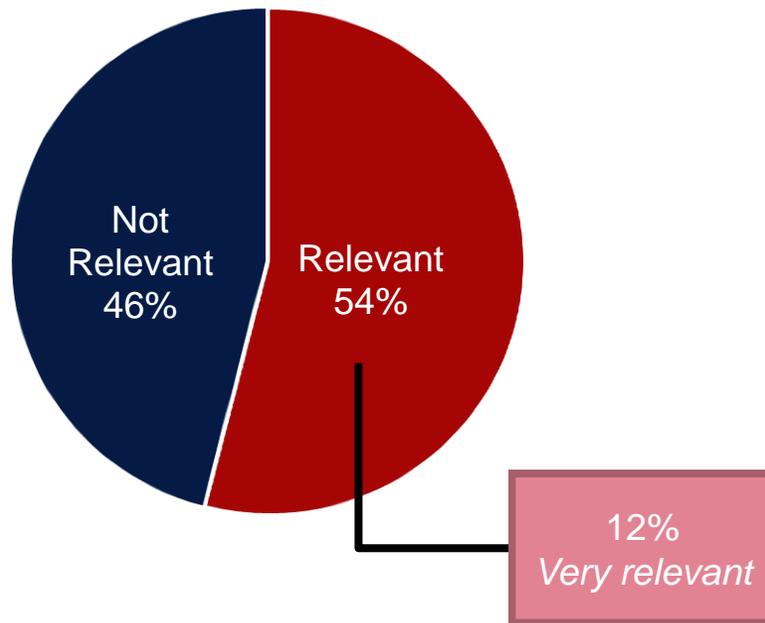


Q2: How important is politics to your everyday life? N=1511

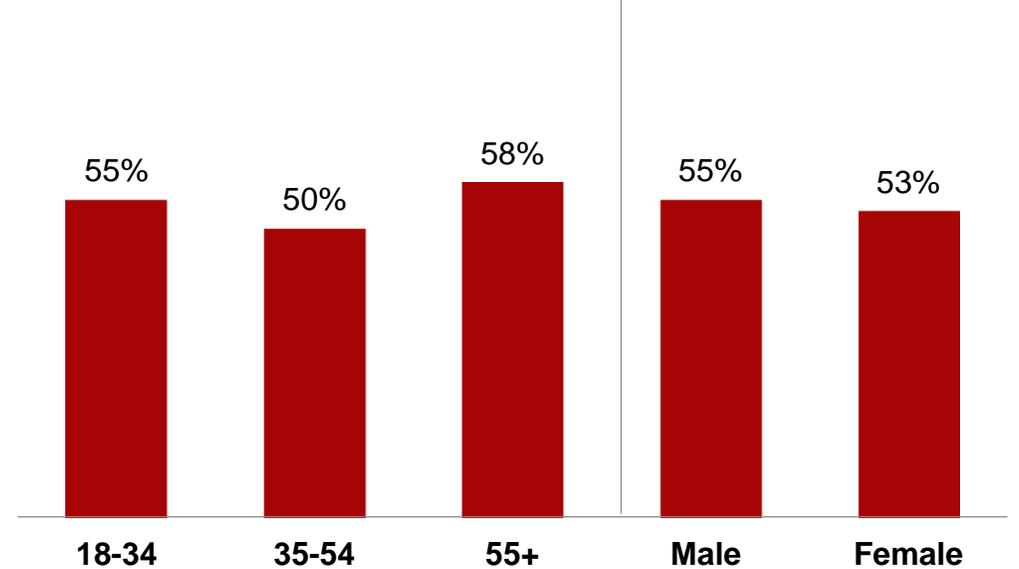
Relevance of Political Discourse

Half of Canadians say that what politicians talk about is relevant to their everyday life. Importantly, only 12% see what they talk about as very important.

What Politicians talk about is Relevant
2020 only



'Very Relevant' or 'Somewhat Relevant'
by Age and Gender
2020 only



Q3: How relevant is what politicians talk about to your everyday life? N=1511

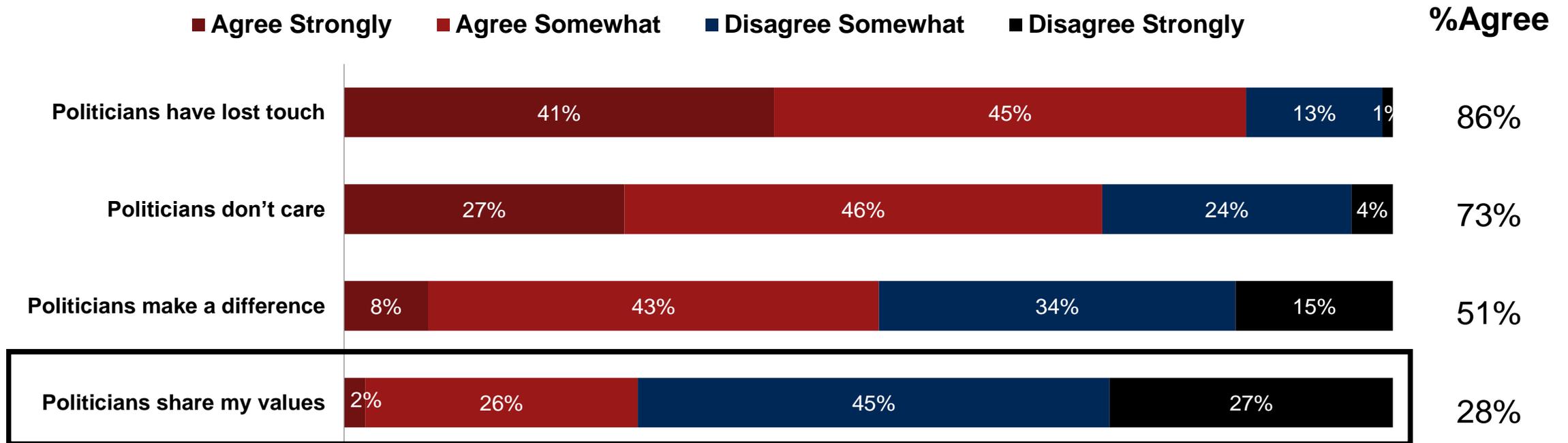
A photograph of the Canadian flag waving in the foreground on the left. In the background, the Gothic architecture of Parliament Hill in Ottawa is visible under a clear blue sky with a few light clouds. A semi-transparent red banner is overlaid on the bottom right of the image, containing white text.

ATTITUDES ABOUT POLITICS AND POLITICIANS

Agree/Disagree: Politicians

4 in 5 agree that politicians have lost touch, almost three quarters agree that politicians don't care. Only 28% say that politicians share their values.

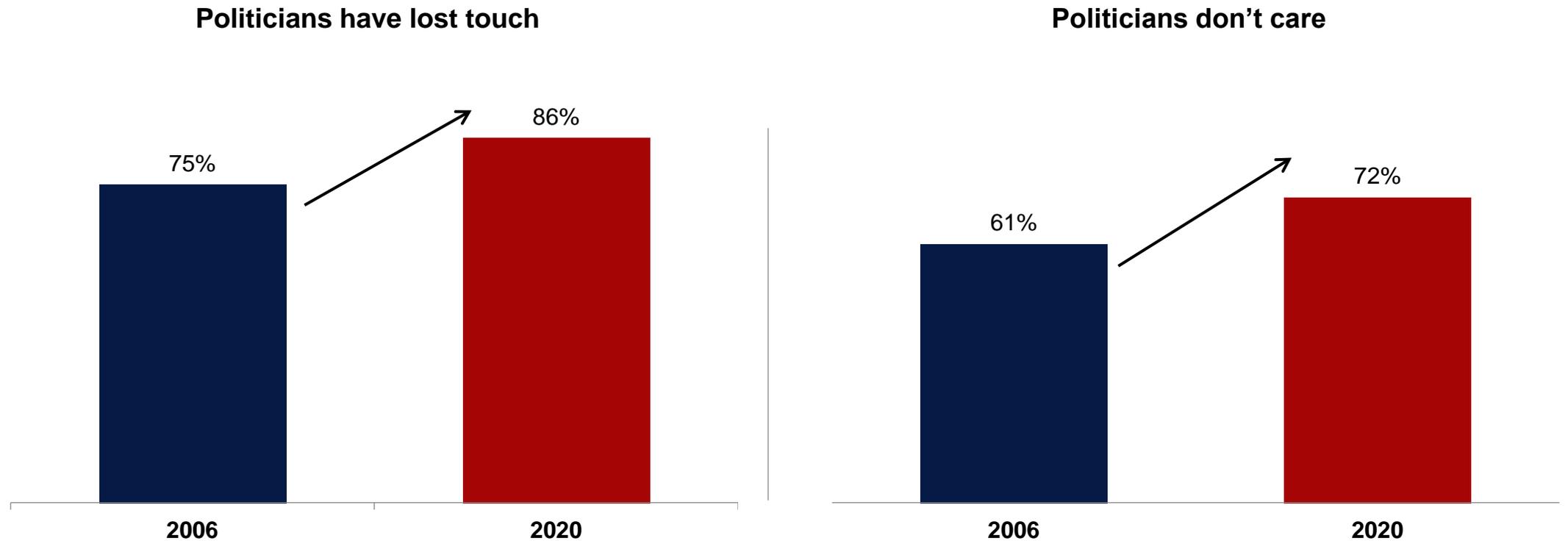
Percentage in Agreement
2020



Q4: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about politicians? N=1511

Politicians Over Time

Since 2006, perceptions that politicians are out of touch / don't care have increased, markedly.

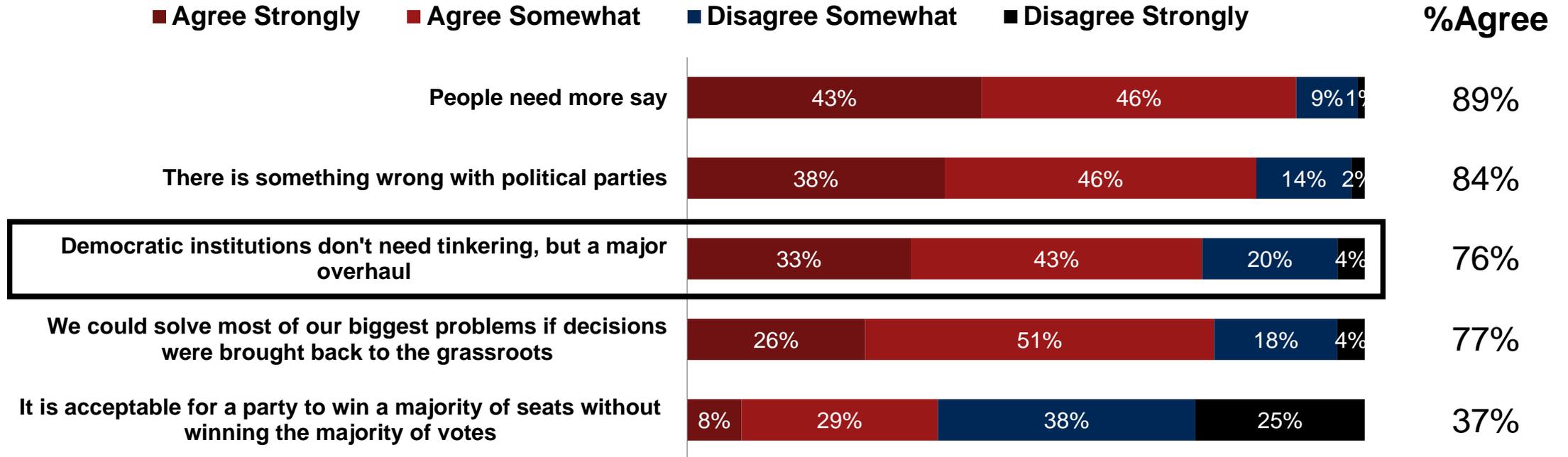


Q4: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about politicians? N=1511

Agree/Disagree: Politics

9 in 10 agree that people need more say, and 84% say that there is something wrong with political parties. Three quarters now say that institutions don't need tinkering, but a major overhaul.

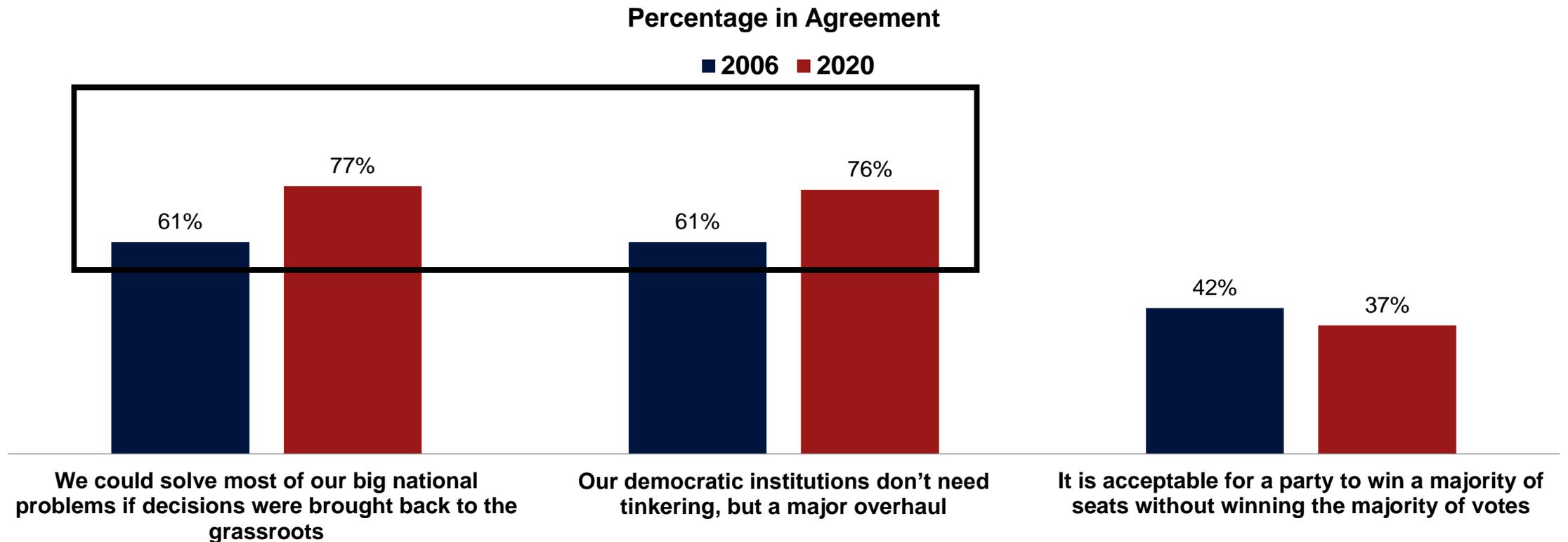
Percentage in Agreement
2020



Q5: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about politics? N=1511

Agree/Disagree: Politics

Today, Canadians are more likely to agree that the grassroots should be involved in decision making, and that democratic institutions need a major overhaul.



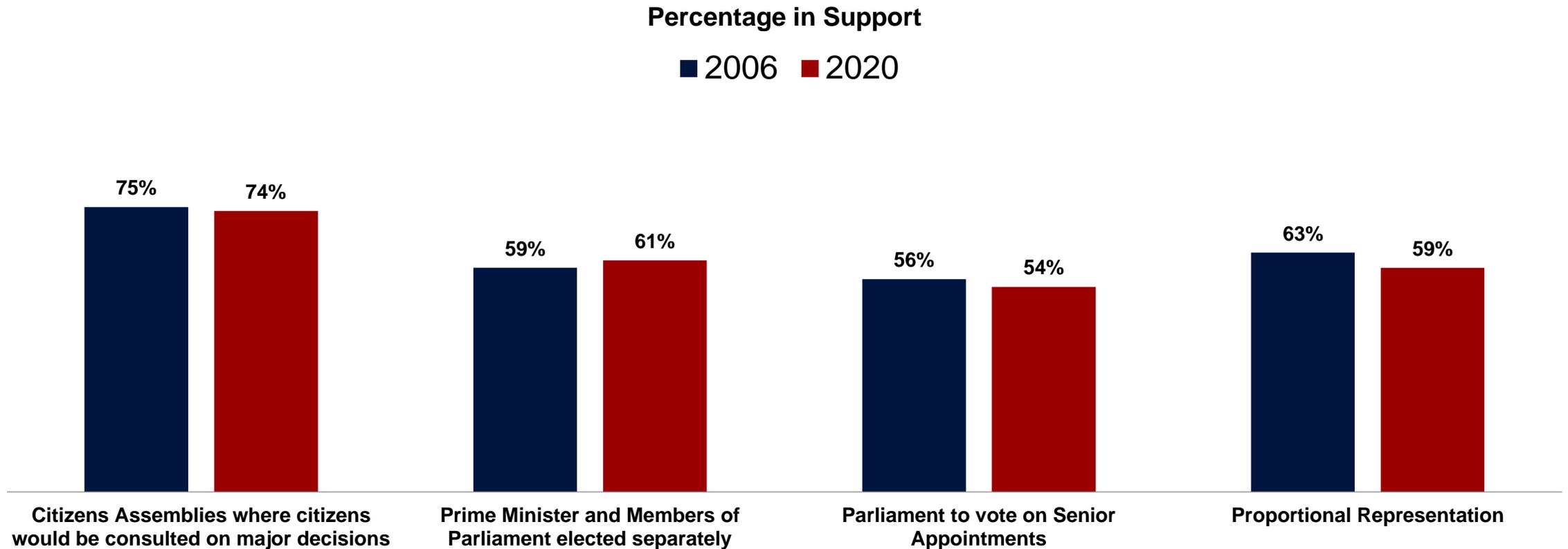
Q5: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about politics? N=1511

A photograph of the Canadian flag waving in the foreground on the left. In the background, the Parliament Hill in Ottawa is visible under a blue sky with some clouds. A semi-transparent red banner is overlaid across the bottom right portion of the image.

**WHAT SHOULD BE
CHANGED?**

Stable Over Time for Reforms

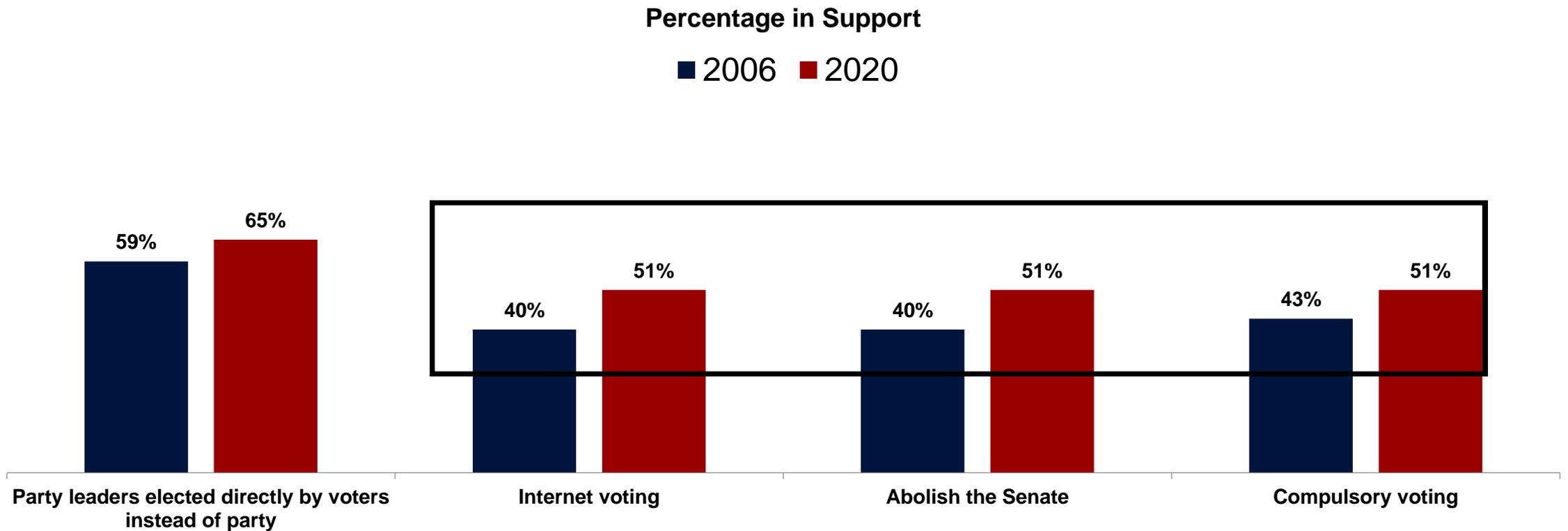
Across key issues related to democratic actors, the appetite for reform remains unchanged.



Q5: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements about politics? N=1511

Greater Support Over Time for Reforms

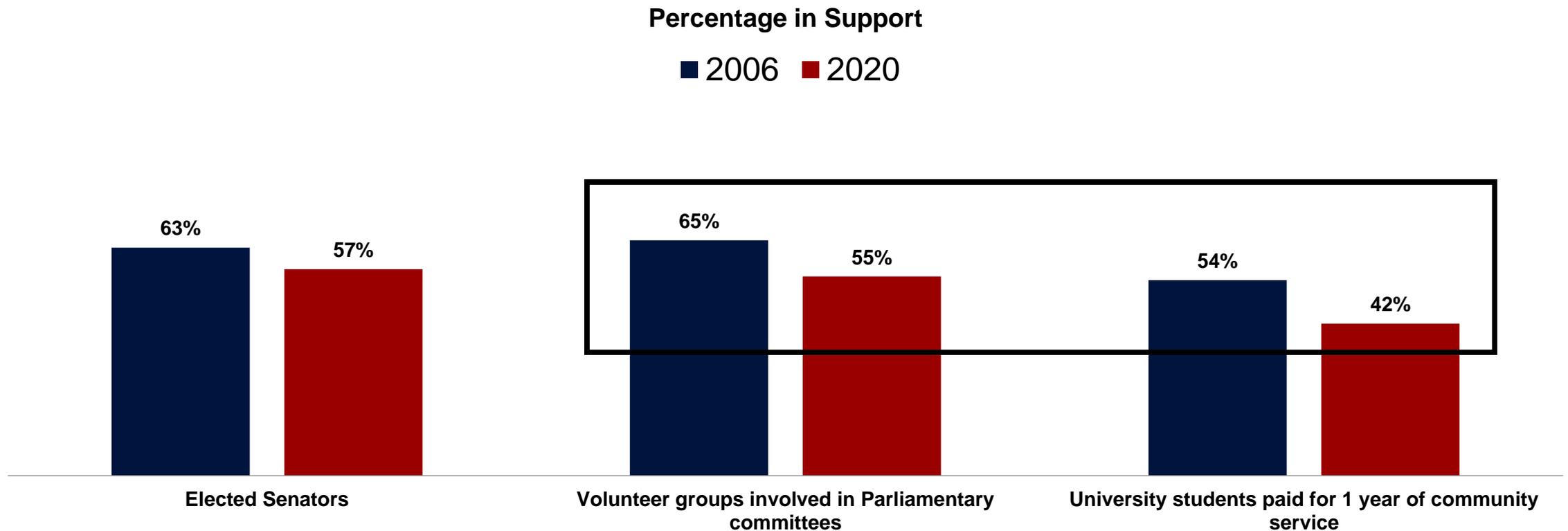
As internet growth has expanded over the past 14 years, so too has the appetite for internet voting. Importantly, the senate continues to be a target for reform, with half of Canadians support it being abolished.



Q2: How much would you support the following democratic initiatives in Canada?

Less Support Over Time for Reforms

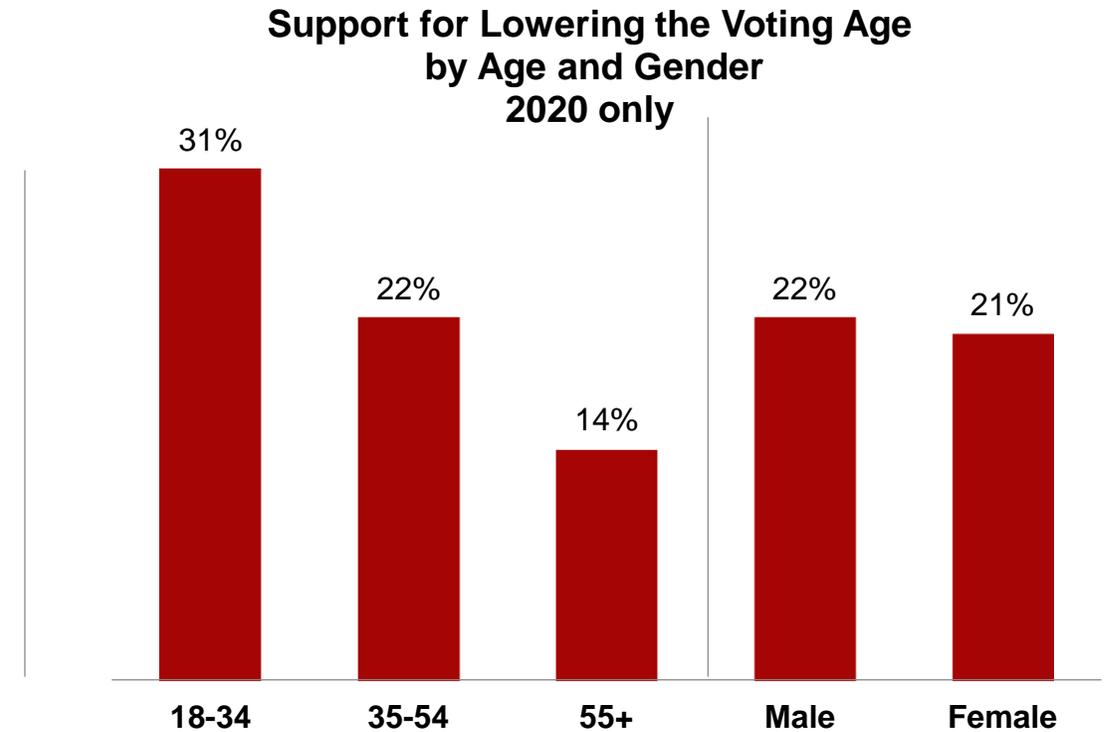
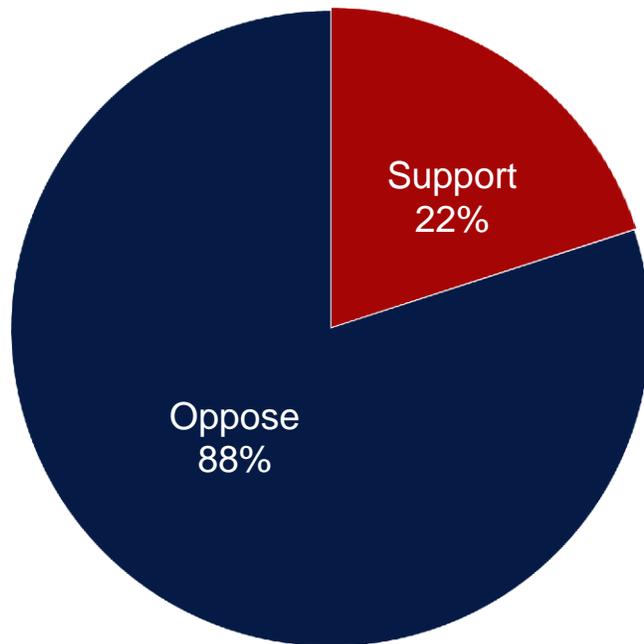
Canadians are less likely to support volunteer groups being involved in Parliamentary committees and that University students should be paid for 1 year of community service.



Q2: How much would you support the following democratic initiatives in Canada?

Support for Lowering the Voting Age

Less than 2 in 10 support lowering the voting.



Q2: How much would you support the following democratic initiatives in Canada? [Lowering the voting age] N=1511



Highlights

In the 14 years since Fireweed not much has changed with respect to reform of democracy. Key highlights include:

- 1) Canadians are more interested in politics, but fewer say that it is important to their everyday lives, and this has declined over time.
- 2) The decline in importance coincides with a growth in agreement that politicians are out of touch and that they don't care.
- 3) Additionally, there is a perception that reforms are needed – with three-quarters saying that democratic institutions need a major overhaul.
- 4) Some key issues from 14 years ago have increased overtime as areas that need focus. These issues are related to reforming key parts of the democratic process. For instances, half of Canadians support internet voting, up 9 points from 2006. As well, a similar proportion support abolishing the senate, and compulsory voting.