



DEFUND SEATTLE POLICE DEMANDS

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1. DEFUND SEATTLE POLICE DEPARTMENT
2. FUND COMMUNITY-BASED HEALTH AND SAFETY
3. DON'T PROSECUTE PROTESTORS

To stop police violence, the police must be reduced in size, budget and scope. The police are rooted in violence against Black people. In order to protect Black lives, this moment calls for investing in and expanding our safety and well-being beyond policing.



Survey of
Likely November 2021 Voters
City of Seattle, WA
July 2020

Methodology

- ▶ Live telephone survey of likely November 2021 voters in Seattle, WA
- ▶ Conducted July 22-27, 2020
- ▶ 500 interviews; overall margin of error ± 4.4 percentage points
- ▶ Interviews were conducted in English by trained, professional interviewers

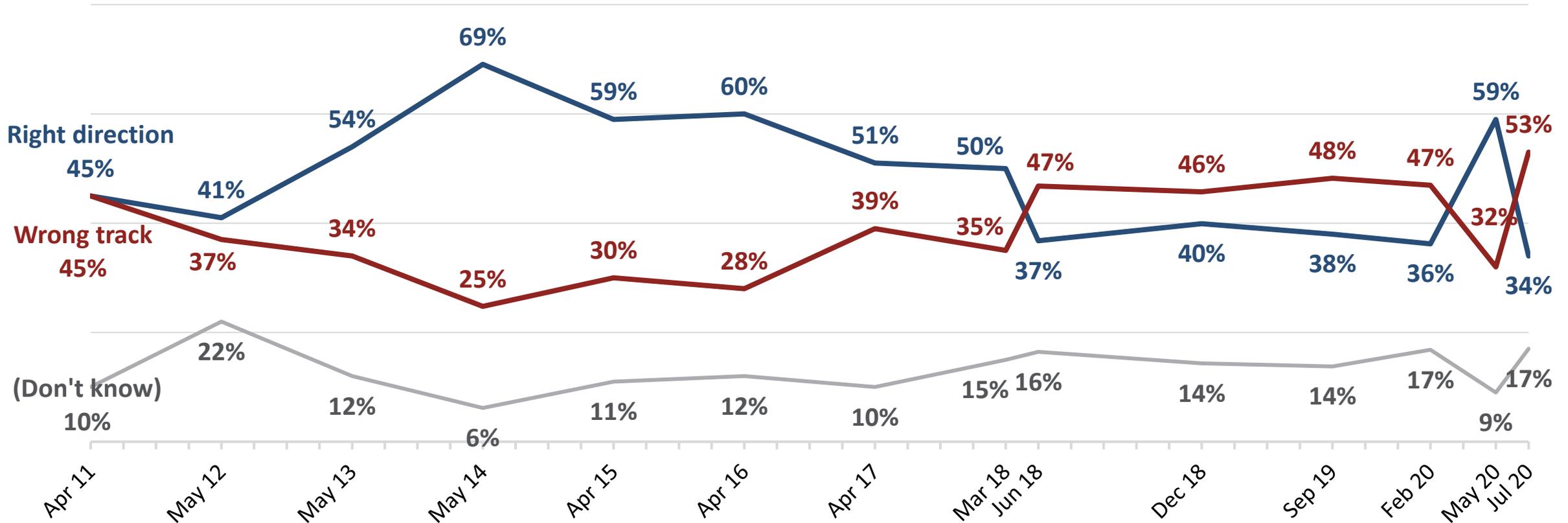
Please note that due to rounding, some percentages may not add up to exactly 100%.



Issue Environment

Direction of Seattle Over Time

After a dramatic rebound in May, optimism about the direction of Seattle has reversed again.



Q. Do you feel that things in Seattle are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

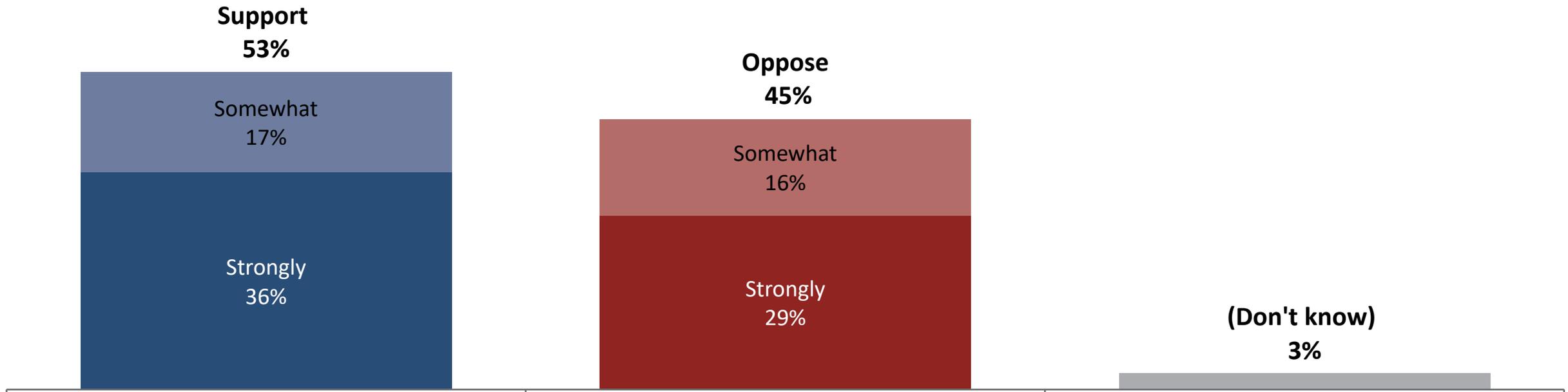


Defund the Police

Support for 50% SPD Cut – Initial

Initially, a narrow majority support a “Defund the Police law that would permanently cut the Seattle Police Department’s budget by 50% and shift that money to social services and community-based programs” although strong support is only 36%. Nearly half (45%) of likely voters oppose the idea, with 3-in-10 strongly opposed.

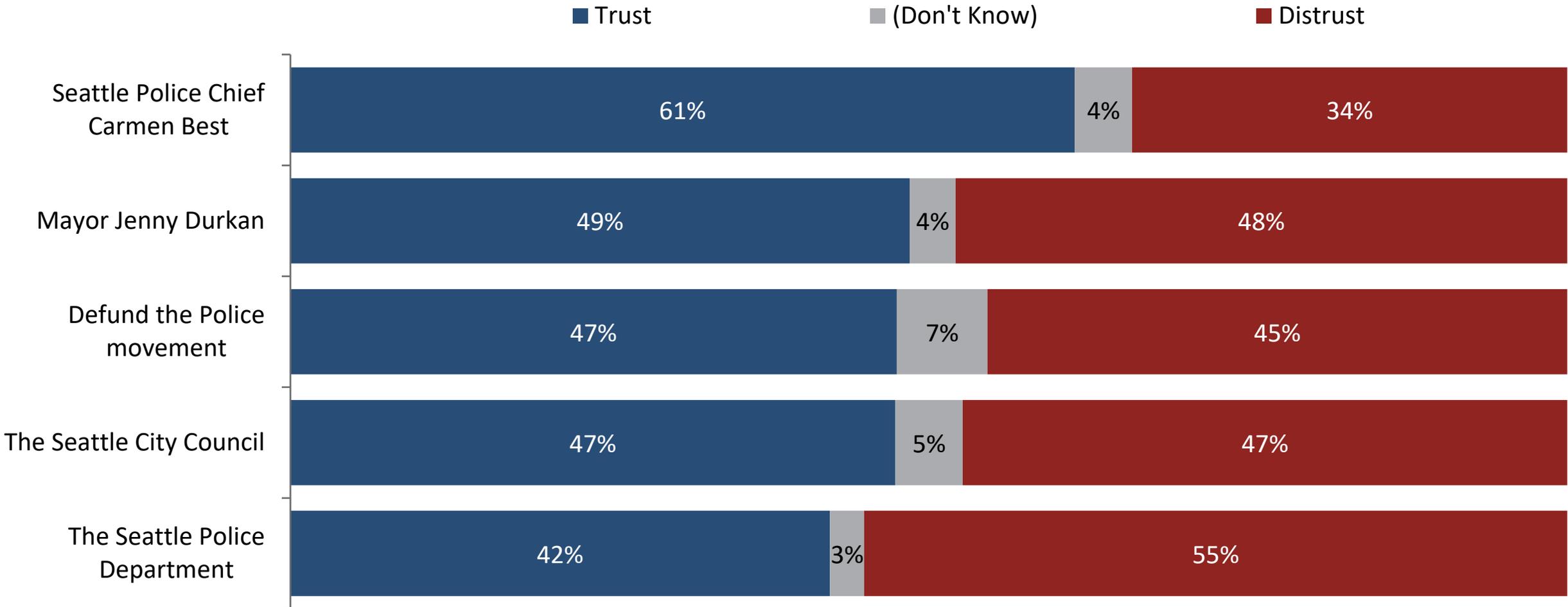
“The Seattle City Council has made a pledge to pass a Defund the Police law that would permanently cut the Seattle Police Department’s budget by 50% and shift that money to social services and community-based programs.”



Q. In general, do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose cutting the Police Department’s budget by 50%?

Trust to Fundamentally Change the Police

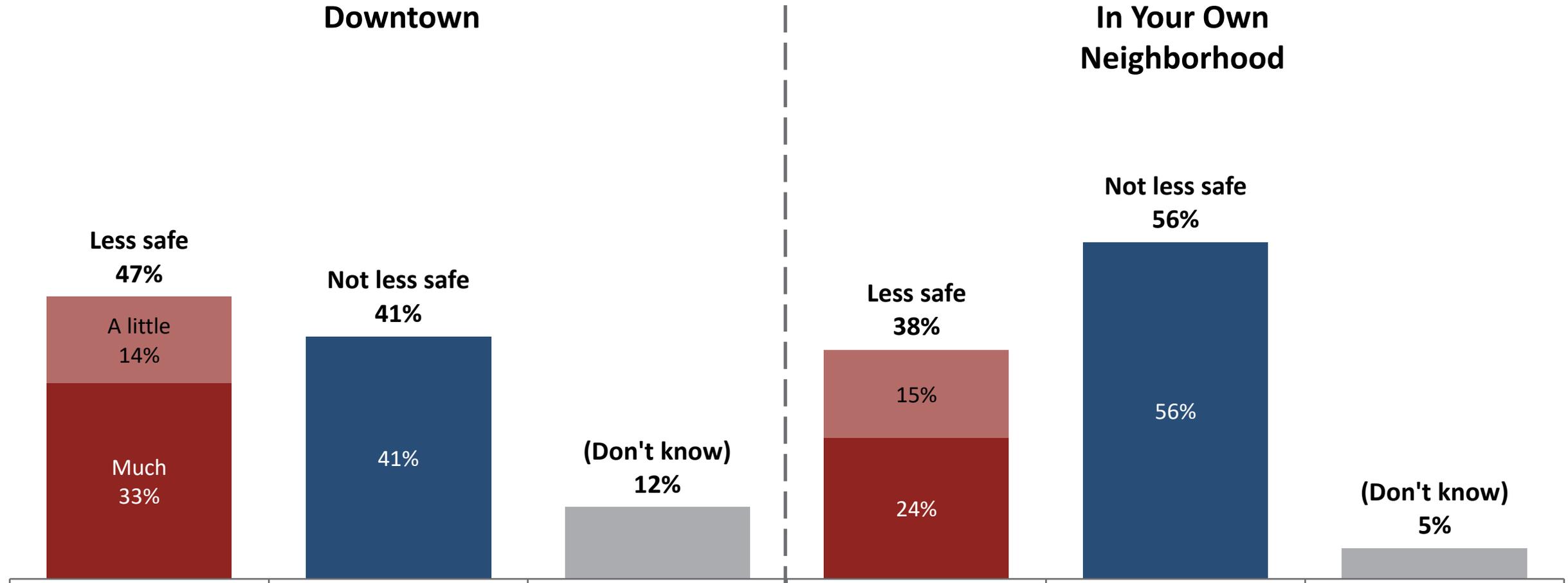
Chief Best is the most trusted voice – by a significant margin – on “making fundamental changes to SPD while protecting public safety.” Voters are divided on how much they trust the “Defund the Police movement.”



Q. How much do you trust each of the following, when it comes to making fundamental changes to the Seattle Police Department while protecting public safety?

Perception of Public Safety Impacts

Half of likely voters think a 50% cut to SPD will make Downtown Seattle less safe and one-third think it will make Downtown “much less safe.” Four-in-ten say a 50% cut will make them “feel less safe in [their] own neighborhood.”



Q. If the City Council cuts the SPD budget by 50%, do you think it will make Downtown Seattle less safe or not?

Q. And do you think you will feel less safe in your own neighborhood or not?

Council's vs. Mayor's Approach

Based on the descriptions below (no messaging), likely voters prefer the Mayor's approach on SPD to the Council's approach by an 11-point margin, although **one-in-five believe that there should not be any cuts to SPD at all right now.**

[Council's Approach] Policing in Seattle is broken. The only way to create meaningful change is to dismantle and rebuild SPD from the ground up. The Council's pledge to cut 50% from the SPD budget as soon as possible and invest this money in community-based services is the right approach to get us to better policing.

OR

[Mayor's Approach] The City Council is rushing ahead without any concrete plans on how to rebuild SPD or what laying off hundreds of officers would do to public safety. The Mayor and Police Chief's plan to cut 10% this year and at least 20% next year will help fund alternative approaches to policing including social services and community-based programs, will preserve public safety, and will give affected communities time to weigh in on how we build a better police department together.

OR

[No Cuts] We shouldn't be making any cuts to SPD right now. Seattle already has one of the lowest ratios of officers to residents compared to similarly sized cities.

