

PERRY

RESULTS FROM A STATEWIDE SURVEY

A Survey of North Carolina Residents: State of the State

—

JULY 2022

UNDEEM

Background.

The survey was sponsored and conducted by PerryUdem, a non-partisan public opinion research firm. It is part of a two-state study (NC and GA) looking at how residents feel about their state, the challenges they see and personally experience, the costs they are struggling with, and their policy priorities. Georgia results are reported elsewhere.

Methods.

This was a 15-minute statewide survey of adults 18 and older living in North Carolina that fielded May 27 – June 9, 2022. The survey was conducted online with YouGov.

In all, 700 adults 18 and older participated, including 203 Black adults and 100 Hispanic/Latino adults.

The margin of sampling error for total results is ± 4.52 percentage points.

Findings.

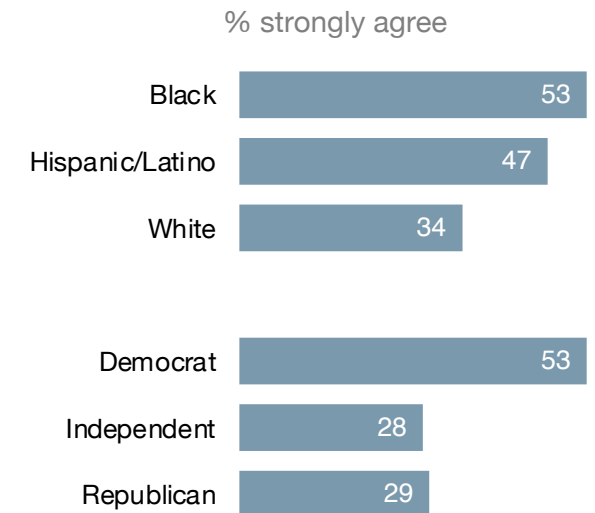
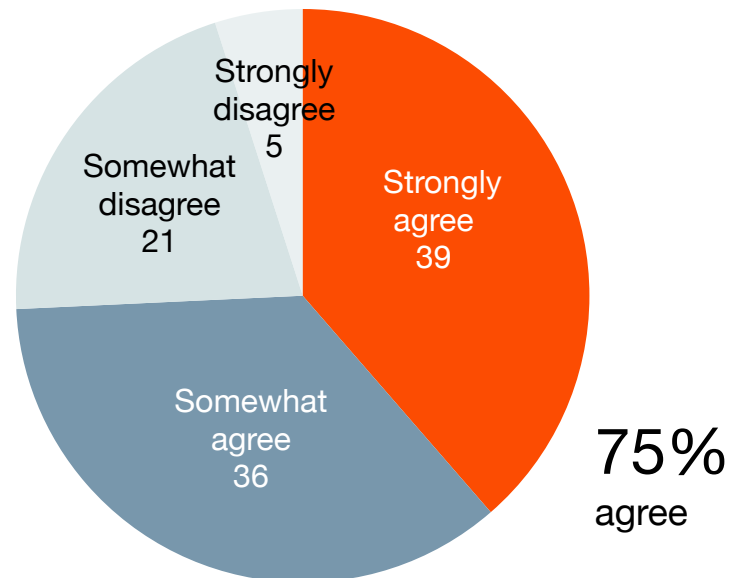
More than half feel the state's economy is headed in the wrong direction and three-quarters say the economy has left too many people behind.

Black and Hispanic/Latino residents, along with Democrats, are most likely to agree the state's economy has left too many people behind.

Q: Indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: "Our state's economy has left too many people behind."

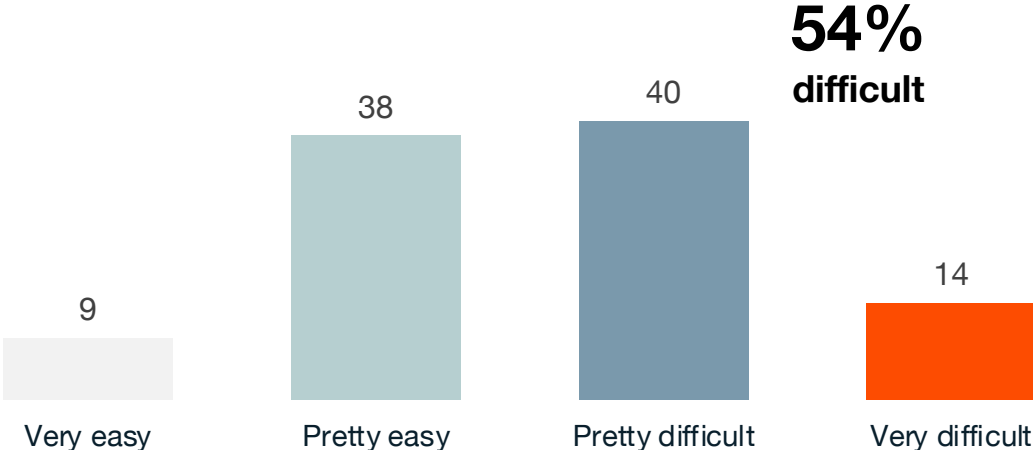
56%

Say economic conditions in North Carolina are "heading in the wrong direction."



More than half say it is hard to find good paying jobs in their communities.

Q: In general, is it easy or difficult to find good-paying jobs in your community? Would you say it is...



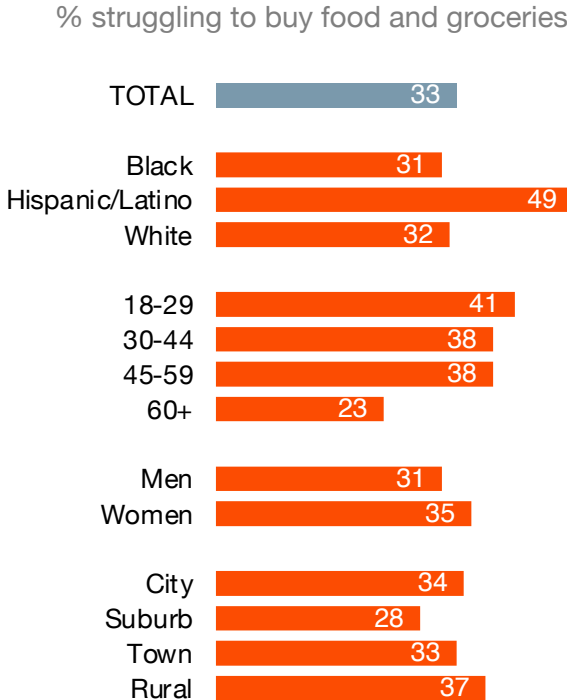
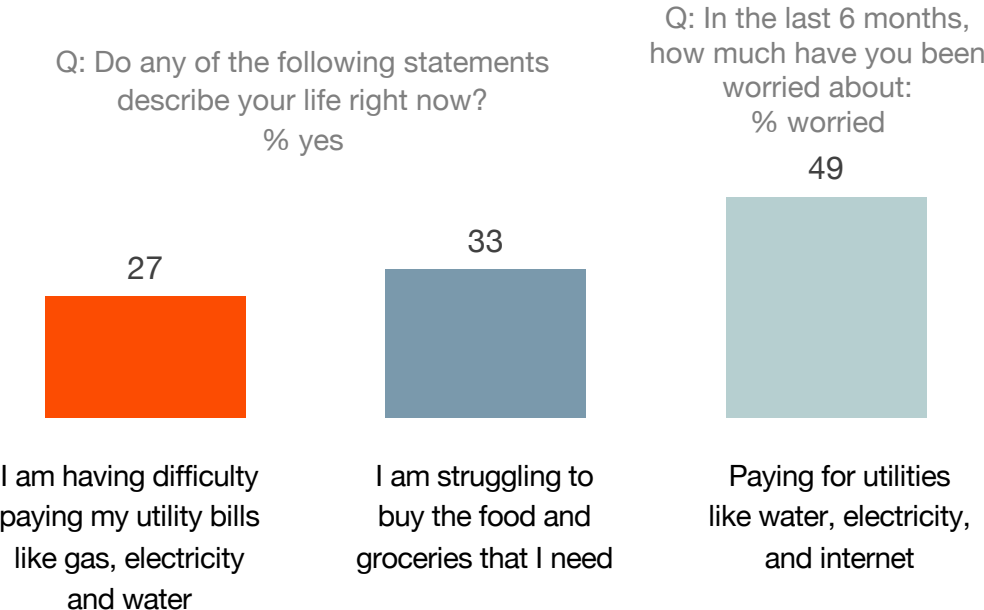
4 in 10 North Carolina residents say they are doing worse financially than a year ago.

Q: Would you say that you and your family are in...



One-third of state residents say they are struggling to buy food right now.

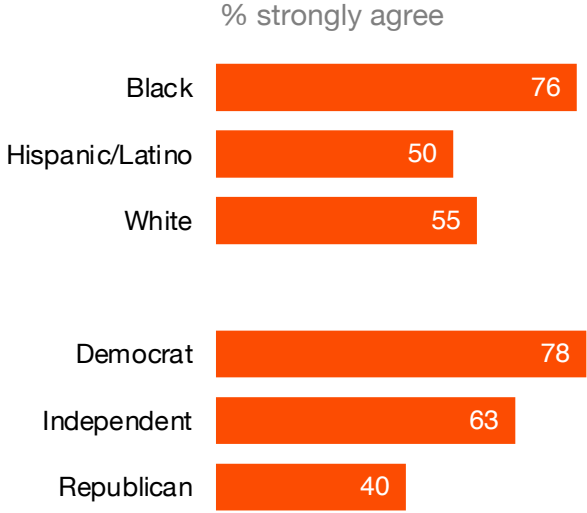
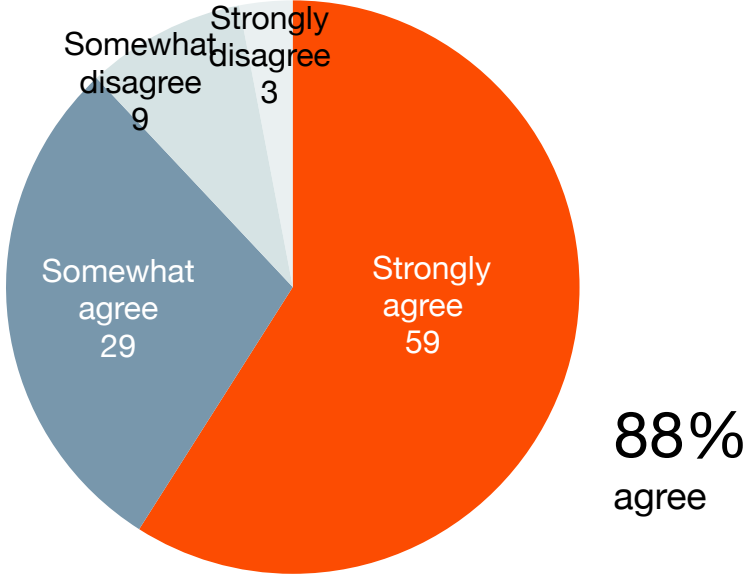
Hispanic/Latino residents are much more likely to be struggling to buy food currently.



Nearly 9 in 10 agree the wealth gap is growing.

Democrats and Black residents are most likely to “strongly” agree the gap between the wealthy and everyone else is growing.

Q: Rate your agreement with the following statement: “The gap between the wealthiest Americans and the rest of the country is growing more and more every day.”



More than 4 in 10 North Carolina residents have worried about their mental health in the last 6 months.

44%

Say in the last 6 months they have worried about their mental and emotional health.

55%

Say in the last 6 months they have worried about the mental and emotional health of someone close to them.

44%

Say “I am feeling more anxious and depressed these days.”

6 in 10 say they are tired of just “getting by.”

Black state residents are most likely to feel this way.

Q: Do any of the following statements describe your life right now?

62%

Say “I am tired of just getting by, I want to thrive.”

Black	71%
Latino/Hispanic	66%
White	59%
Democrat	62%
Independent	64%
Republican	57%

45%

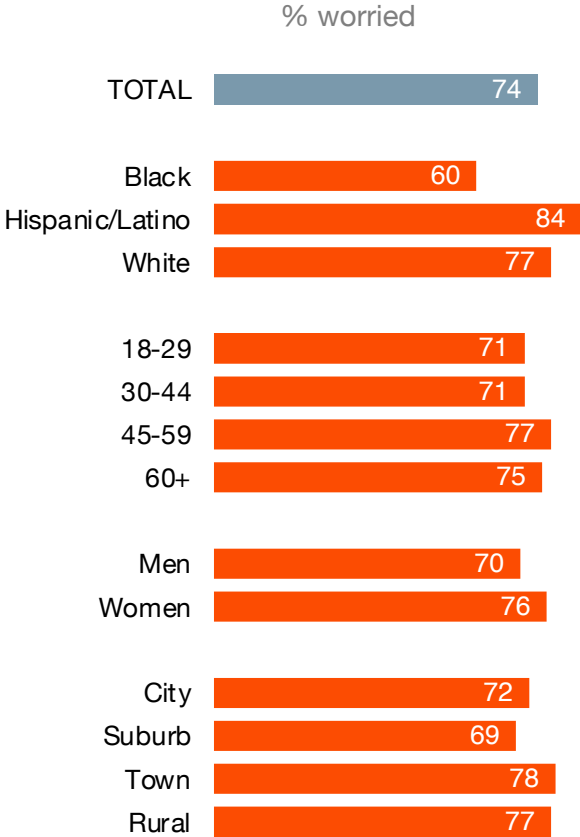
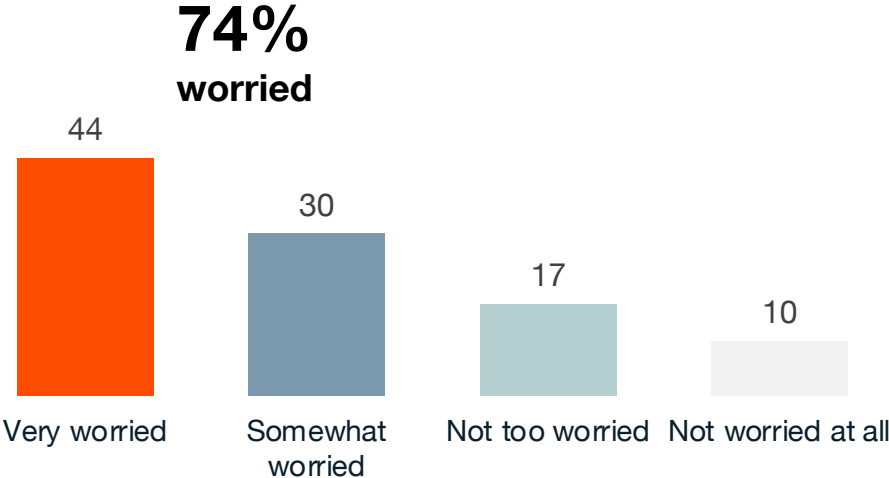
Say “no matter what I do, I just can’t get seem to get ahead.”

Black	48%
Latino/Hispanic	48%
White	43%
Democrat	44%
Independent	44%
Republican	46%

Three-quarters say they have worried about the cost of transportation during the last 6 months.

This is a worry particularly for Hispanic/Latino residents.

Q: In the last 6 months, how much have you been worried about the cost of transportation?



Affordable housing is an issue for many North Carolina residents.

89%

Feel over the past 5 years housing in the state has become less affordable.

58%

Think a lack of affordable housing is a major problem where they live.

37%

Say they would like to move but rents and mortgages in their area are too high.

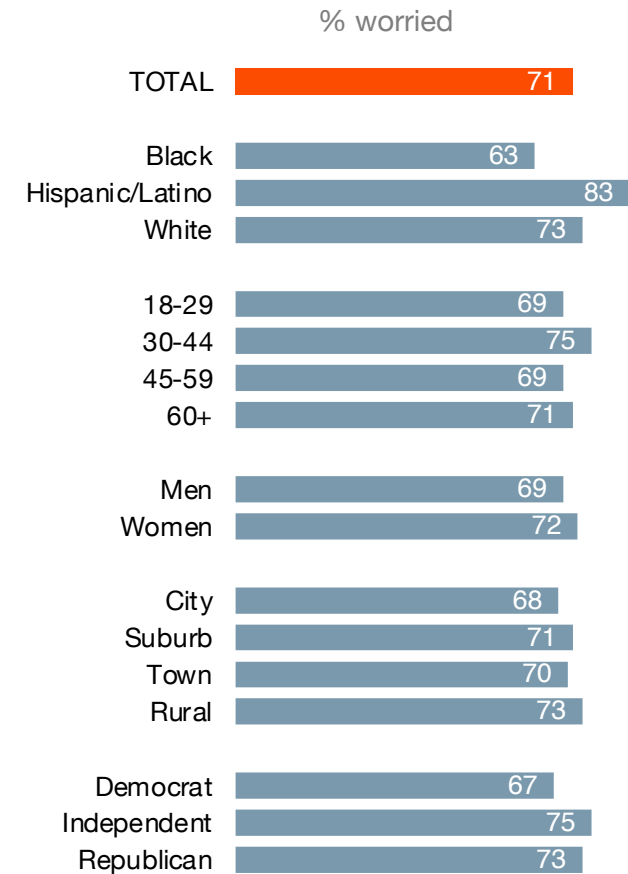
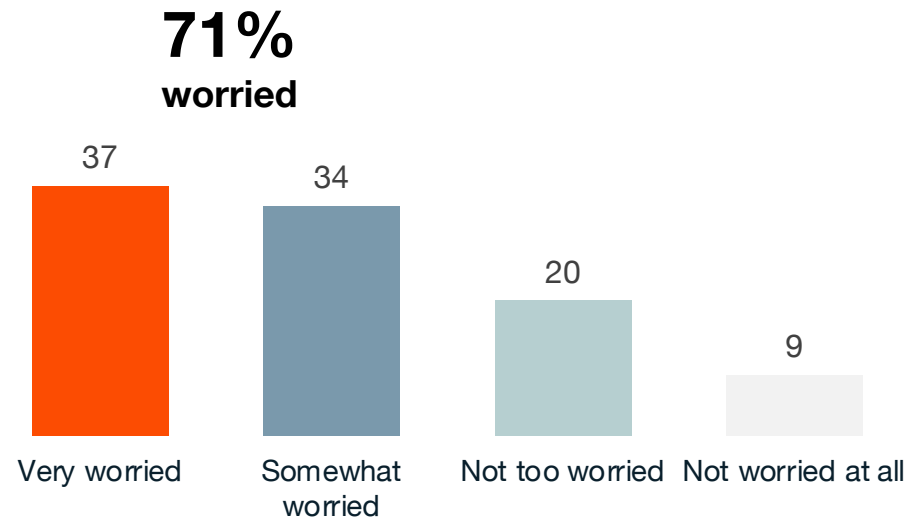
96%

Agree more Americans are going to struggle to be able to buy a house in the future.

7 in 10 North Carolina residents have worried about the cost of healthcare in the last 6 months.

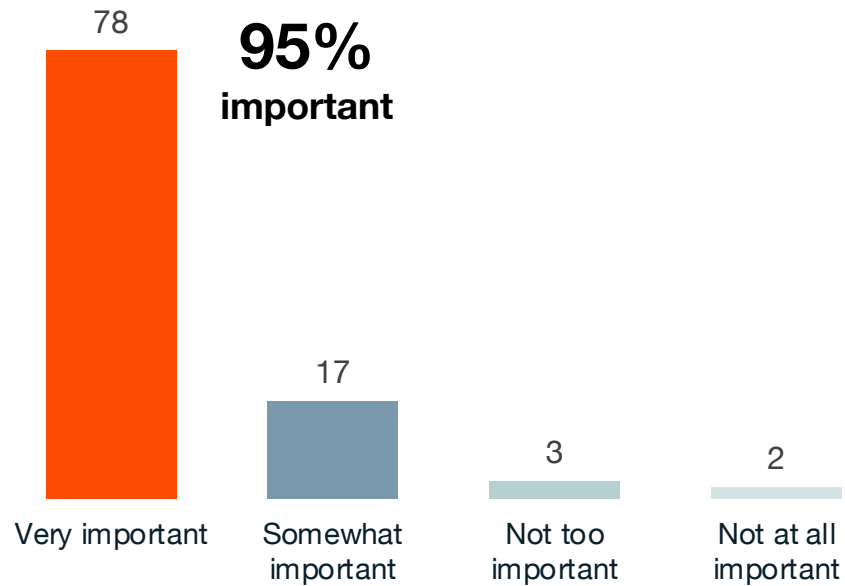
Hispanic/Latino residents have been most worried.

Q: In the last 6 months, how much have you been worried about the cost of healthcare?

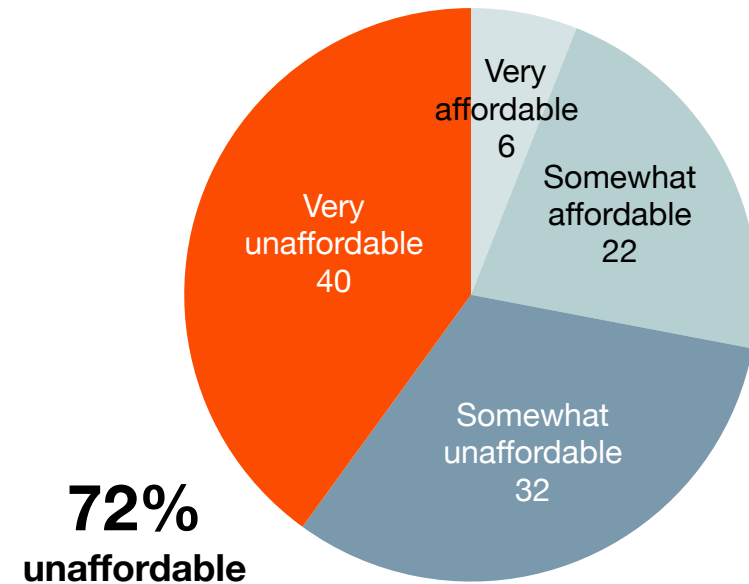


Nearly all say health insurance is important, but most say that it is not affordable for someone who has to buy it on their own.

Q: How important is it to have health insurance these days? Is it...



Q: Generally speaking, if someone in North Carolina has a change in their life (i.e., loses a job, new health situation, etc.) and has to buy insurance on their own, do you think that private health insurance is...



There is a shared belief that everyone should have access to affordable health coverage.

89%

Agree everyone in North Carolina should have an affordable option for health coverage.

Black	93%
Latino/Hispanic	93%
White	87%
Democrat	94%
Independent	92%
Republican	84%

88%

Agree all North Carolina residents should have access to quality, affordable healthcare services to support their physical and mental well-being and to have financial security.

Black	95%
Latino/Hispanic	90%
White	85%
Democrat	95%
Independent	92%
Republican	76%

92%

Agree having more options for affordable health coverage can result in a healthier, more productive workforce.

Black	93%
Latino/Hispanic	90%
White	91%
Democrat	95%
Independent	92%
Republican	88%

North Carolina residents share beliefs around equal opportunity, including when it comes to access to healthy foods.

88%

Agree with the statement: “Opportunity and success in North Carolina for me and my family shouldn’t be determined by zip code, background, or income.”

Black	91%
Latino/Hispanic	81%
White	88%
Democrat	92%
Independent	90%
Republican	82%

88%

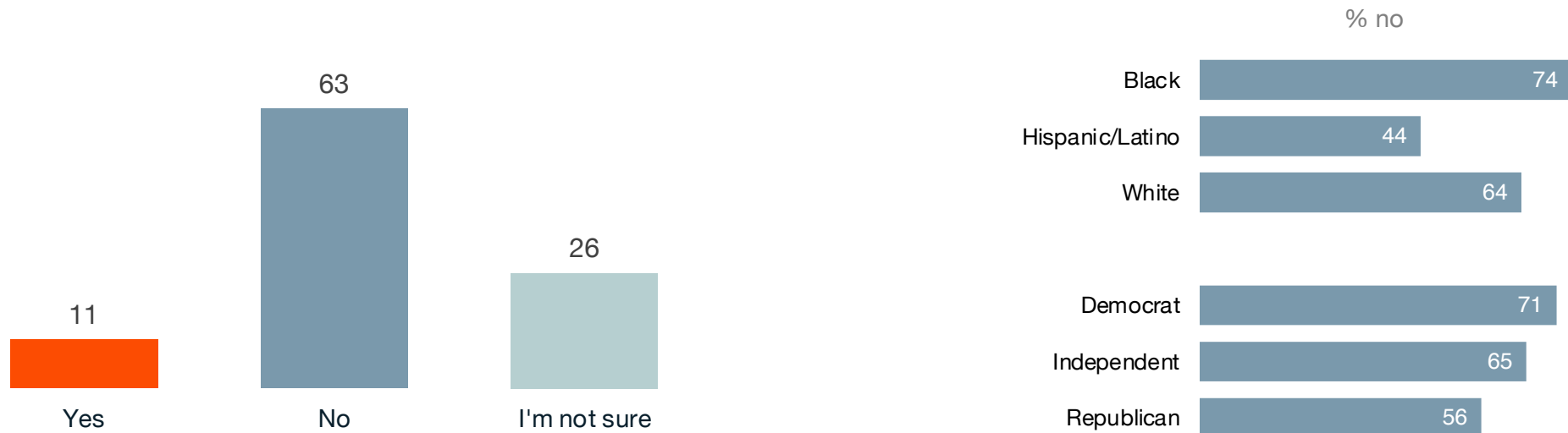
Agree with the statement: “Everyone in the state should have equitable access to healthy food regardless of where they live, their income, their race, or any other factors.”

Black	95%
Latino/Hispanic	89%
White	84%
Democrat	95%
Independent	89%
Republican	79%

6 in 10 don't think their political leaders are doing enough to improve the standard of living of most residents.

Black residents and Democrats are most likely to say the state is not doing enough while Hispanic/Latino residents are among the least likely to say this.

Q: Do you think that North Carolina elected officials are doing enough to improve the standard of living for most state residents?



8 in 10 feel if people work together, it is possible to solve problems. But at the same time, more than half don't feel they have a voice in the state.

This feeling of not having a voice is widespread and crosses all subgroups.

79%

Agree with the statement: “I feel if my neighbors and community members work together, we can solve the problems we face.”

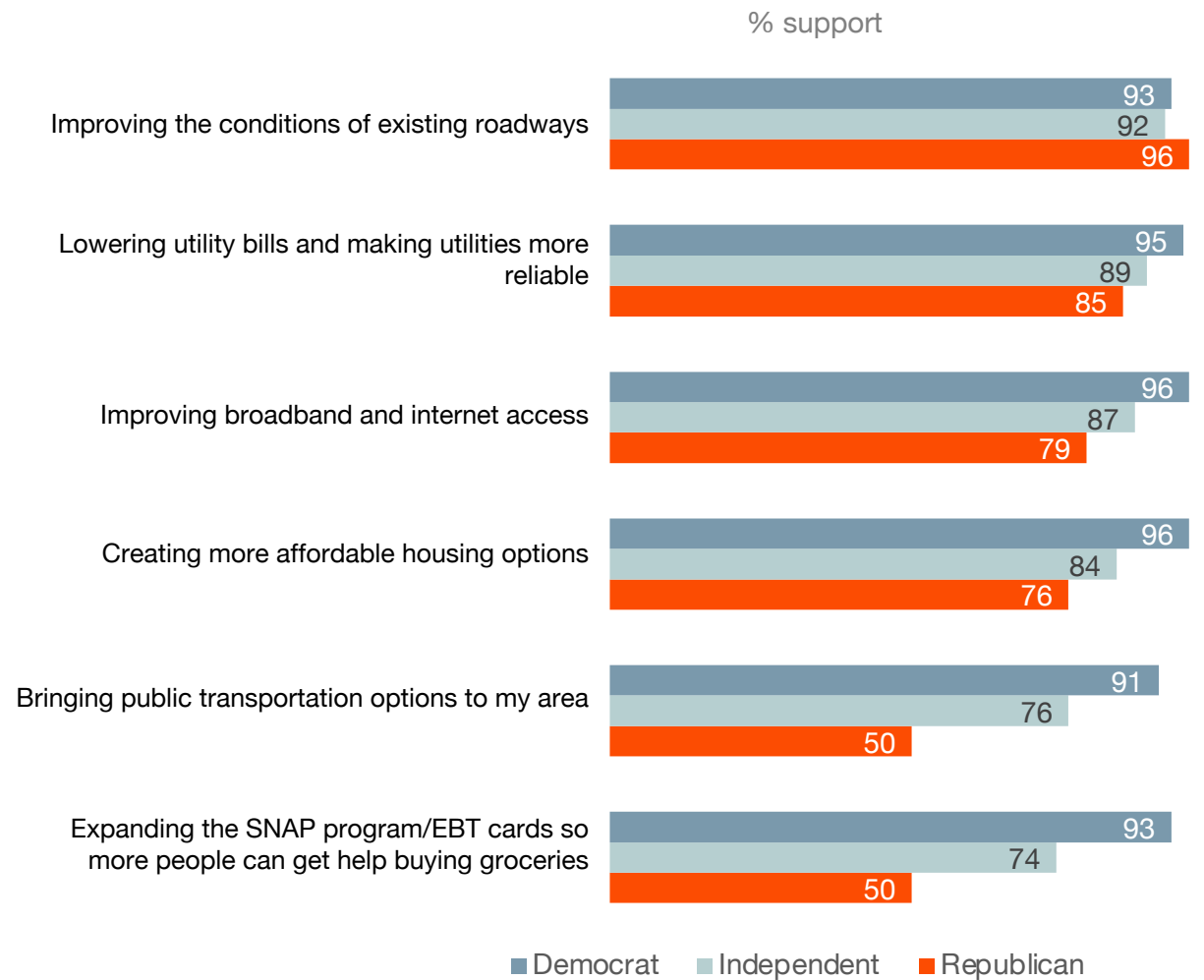
Black	87%
Latino/Hispanic	68%
White	76%
Democrat	78%
Independent	75%
Republican	80%

56%

Say they don't feel like they have a voice in what happens in their state.

Black	51%
Latino/Hispanic	57%
White	60%
Democrat	52%
Independent	62%
Republican	54%

There is bipartisan support for policymakers advancing a public commitment to the infrastructure of opportunity — like improving transportation networks, lowering utility costs and making housing and food affordable and accessible.



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