

# EDF Action Minnesota Climate Change Survey

Presented by Global Strategy Group



**EDF**  **ACTION**

Advocacy partner of Environmental Defense Fund

**GSG**  
GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP

# Research Methodology

## Multi-Modal Survey

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of **806 likely voters in Minnesota** between September 13 and 19, 2022, plus additional oversamples of 150 voters in the Iron Range and 85 voters in Southern MN.

Respondents were selected via phone call, online panel, or were texted a link to complete the survey on their mobile phones. Respondents from all modes were matched back to the voter file.

## Margin of Error

The overall margin of error at the 95% confidence level is +/- 3.5%.

The margin of error on other sub-samples may be greater.

# Likely 2022 Electorate – DMAs and Regions

Fargo/Duluth-Superior DMAs  
*10% of the electorate*

Iron Range  
*6% of the electorate*

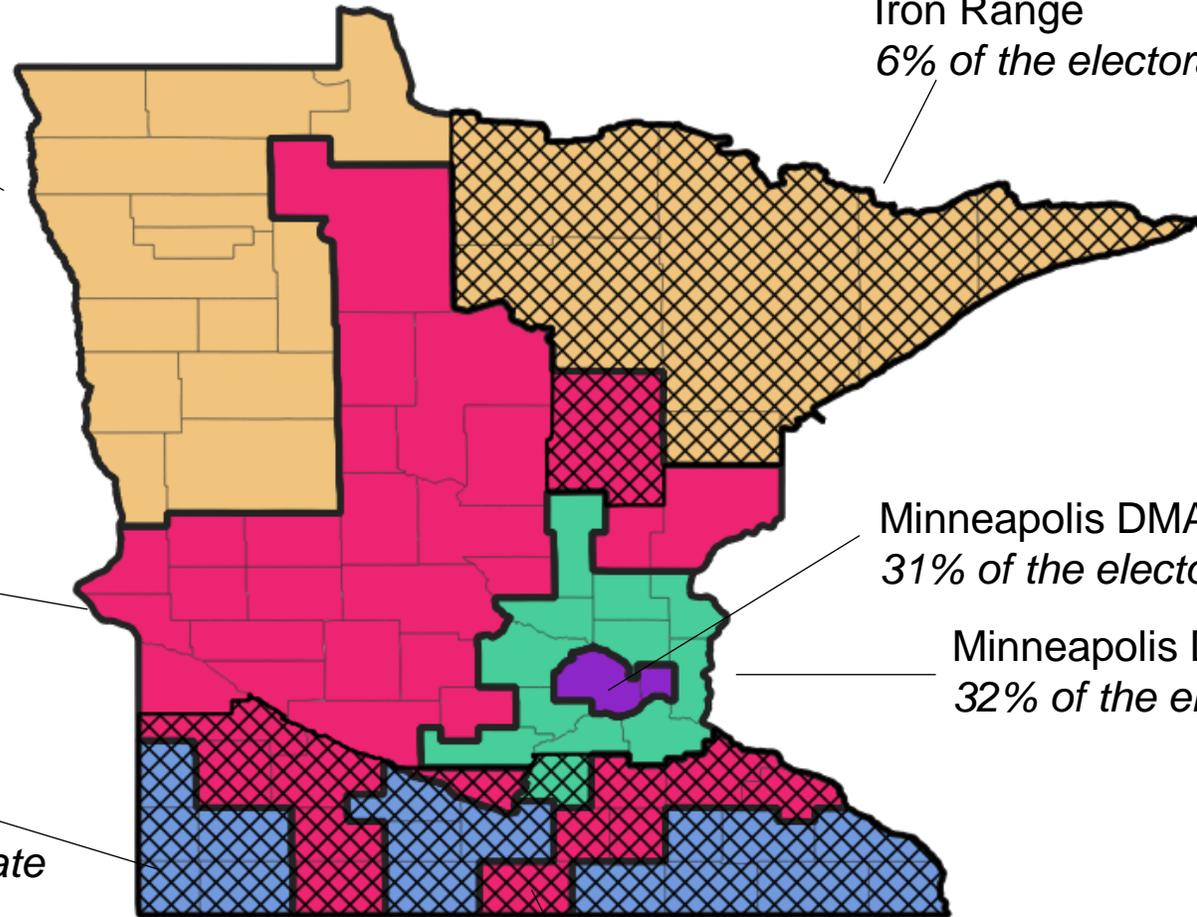
Minneapolis DMA – Rest  
*18% of the electorate*

Minneapolis DMA – Hennepin/Ramsey  
*31% of the electorate*

Minneapolis DMA – MSP Suburbs  
*32% of the electorate*

Other DMAs  
*9% of the electorate*

Southern Minnesota  
*15% of the electorate*



# Key Findings

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**Minnesota voters – including political swing voters and those in the Iron Range and Southern Minnesota - are very favorable towards clean energy and climate action and want to see lawmakers act on both.**

- Voters view clean energy, “lawmakers who support strong action on climate,” and “regulations to reduce the carbon emissions that cause climate change” very favorably – including voters in our two rural areas and voters who are not locked into voting Democrat or Republican in November.
- This is, in part, because they believe the climate change is already having an impact on the state’s ag and rural communities and the state’s supply of clean water (though there is less agreement that extreme weather is having such an impact).

**This support for action is boosted by the belief that expanding clean energy and taking action on climate will boost Minnesota’s economy and save Minnesota families money.**

- Voters across every political, demographic, and geographic group overwhelmingly agree that we don’t need to choose between a strong economy and a clean environment.
- Minnesota voters also strongly agree that using more clean energy use will save consumers money and create jobs, including large shares of voters in the Iron Range and Southern Minnesota

# Key Findings

**Voters see the recent federal action on climate as a good start but strongly agree that Minnesota still needs to do more.**

- A focus on how this federal action means Minnesota will have new resources to take action is slightly stronger than an argument to that Minnesota will be left behind if it doesn't act – though overwhelming majorities agree with both.

**And a majority want to see Walz take action on climate change.**

- This is driven by near universal agreement among Democrats but also includes a majority of swing voters.

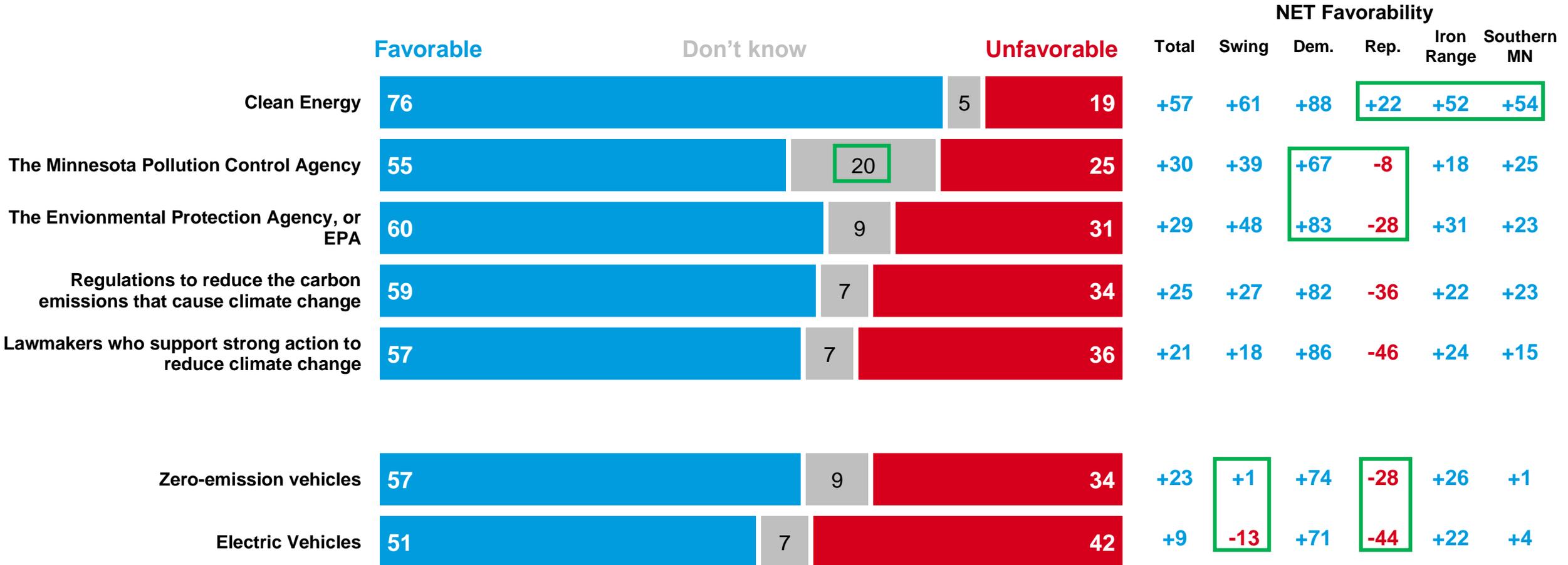
**As a result of broad support for tackling climate change, nearly all policies we tested received majority support**

- Policies related to agriculture – carbon sequestration and regulations on large scale farming – rise to the top due to strong support in the Iron Range and Southern Minnesota
- Strong majorities also support various policies to reduce carbon emissions generally though moving to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 is 11-points more popular (on net) than 100% clean electricity by 2035.

# Political and Issue Environment

# Voters are favorable to clean energy, regulations to reduce pollution, and lawmakers who support taking strong action – though the latter are more polarizing. ZEVs stronger than EVs with Republicans

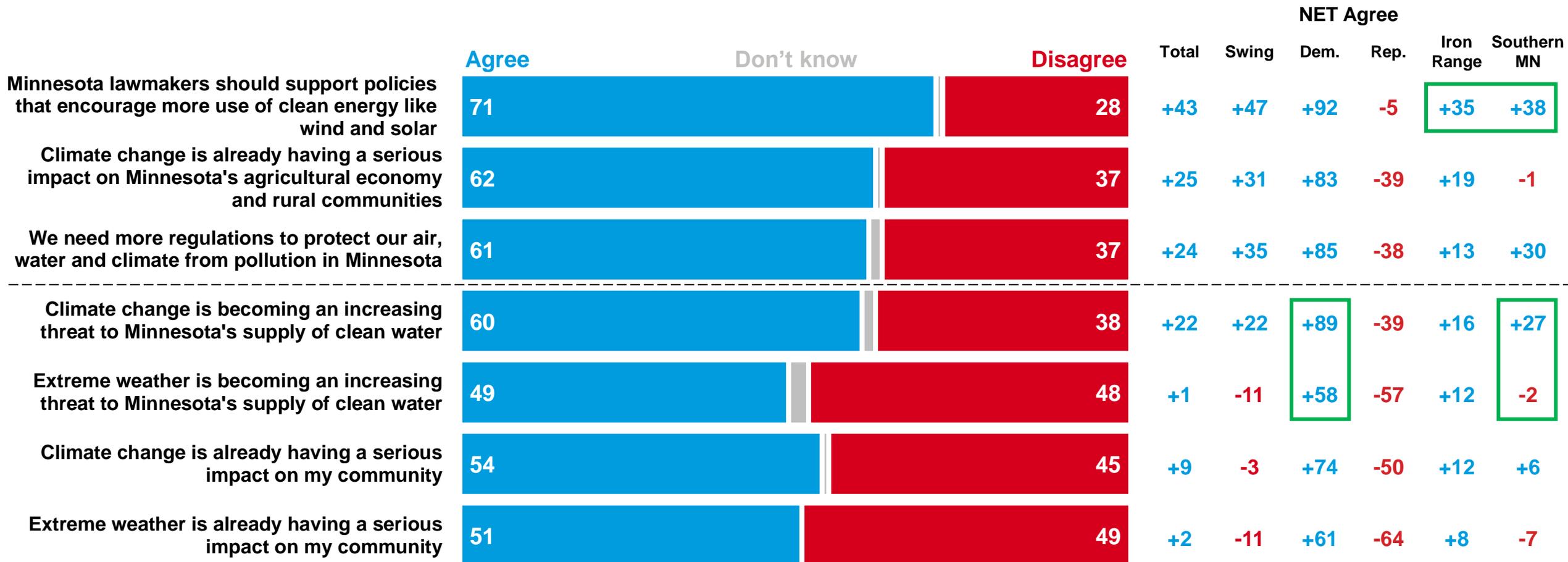
## Favorability of organizations and energy sources



\* Indicates small N-size

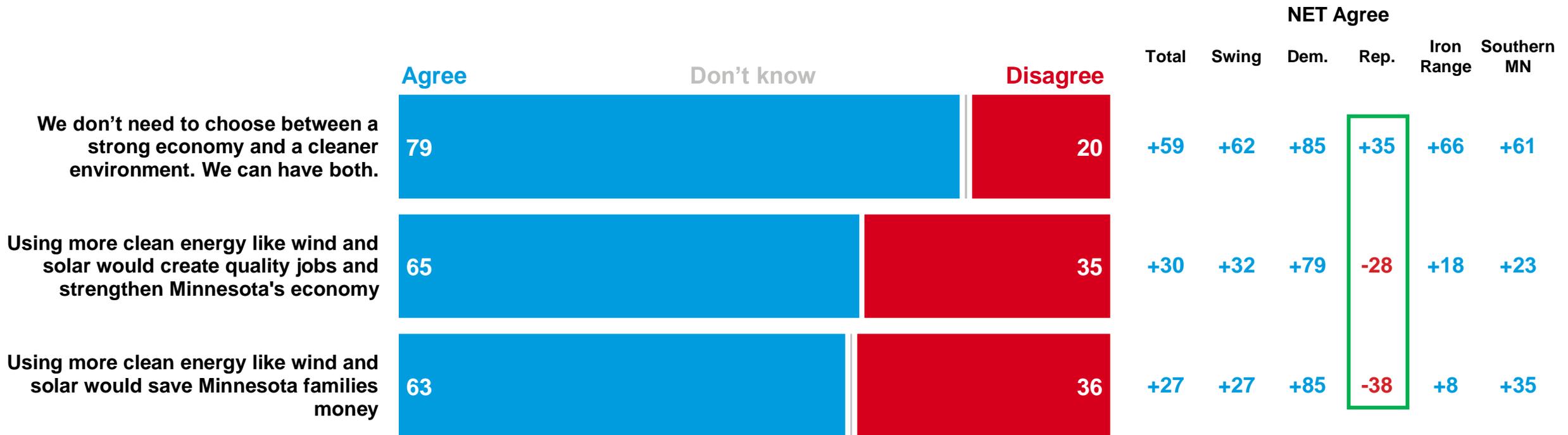
Voters broadly agree that MN should promote more clean energy, regulations to protect environment. More see impact of “climate change” than “extreme weather,” particularly when it comes to clean water

### Agreement with Energy Statements



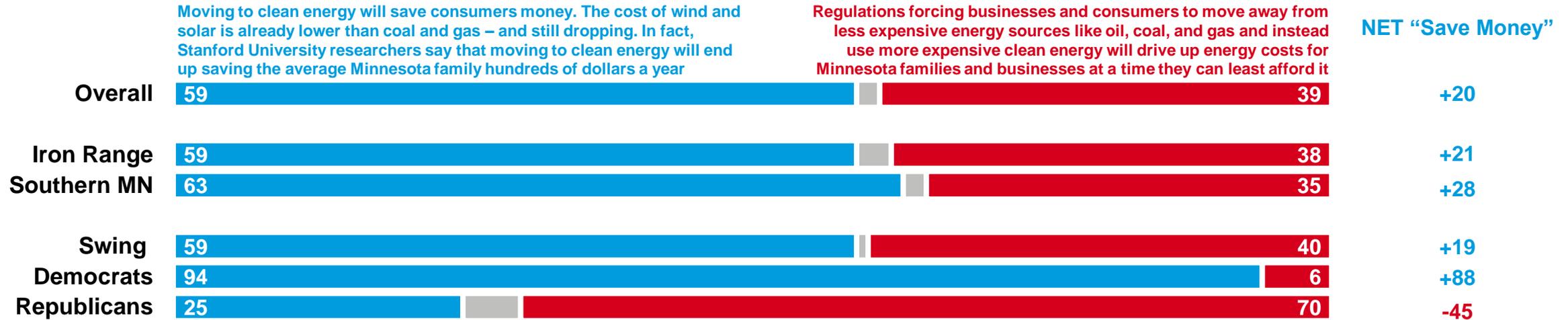
# Voters reject the premise that a strong economy is mutually exclusive with a clean environment; believe a shift to clean energy would create jobs and save families money, particularly in Southern Minnesota

## Agreement with economic statements

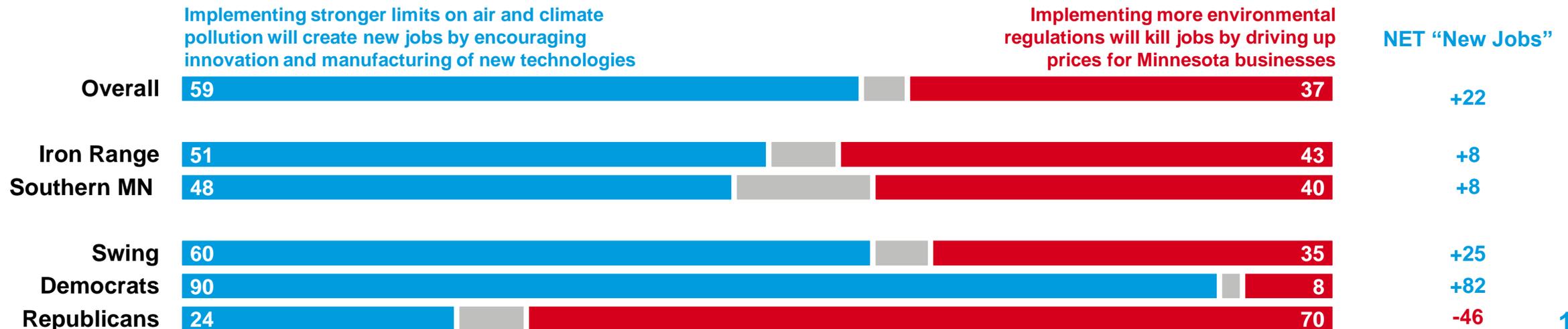


# When put to a debate, voters continue to side with arguments that moving to clean energy and climate action will reduce energy prices and create jobs

Which of the following two statements do you find more convincing, even if neither is exactly right?

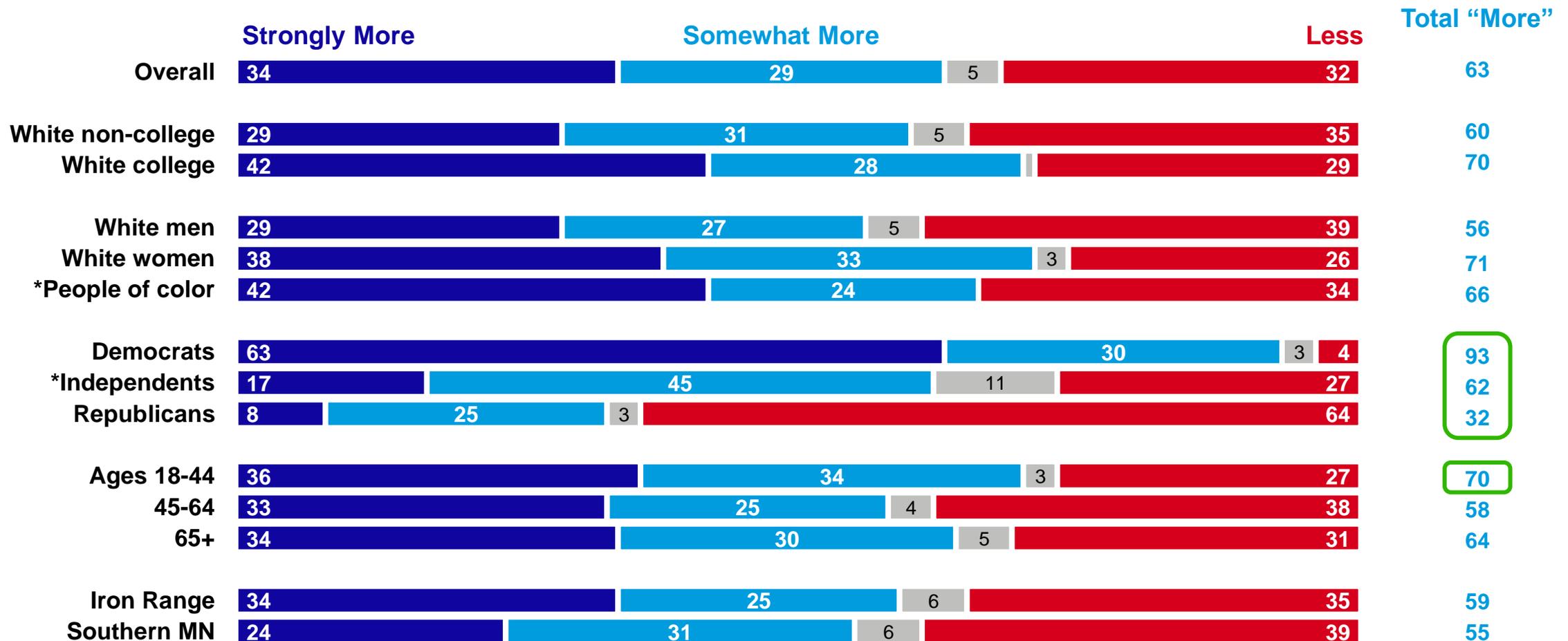


Which of the following two statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?



# Voters want Minnesota to do more to regulate air pollution in light of the Supreme Court ruling

As you may know, the Supreme Court recently placed new limits on how much the federal Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, can do to regulate air pollution. Having heard this, do you think Minnesota should do more or less to regulate air pollution?

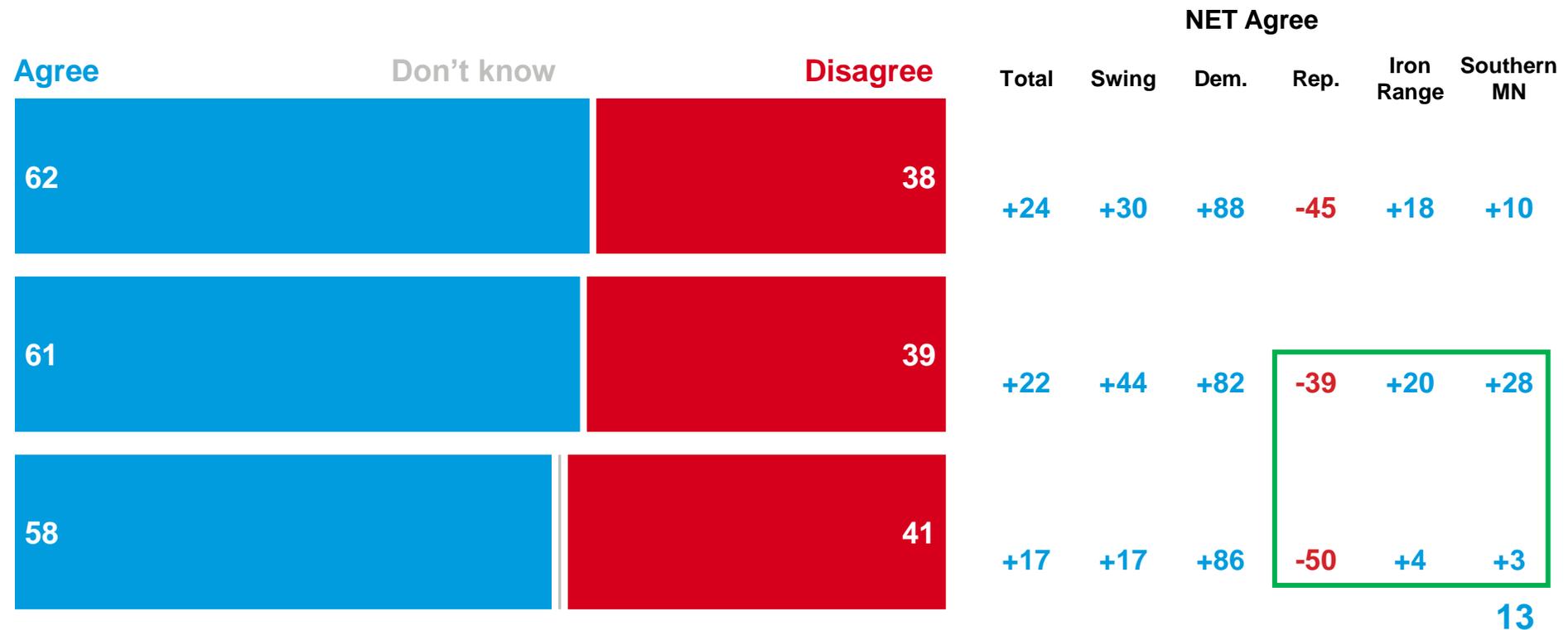


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# Voters agree that federal action on climate clean energy means Minnesota should do more, not less, to combat climate change; a focus on new federal resources is more effective with Republicans and target regions

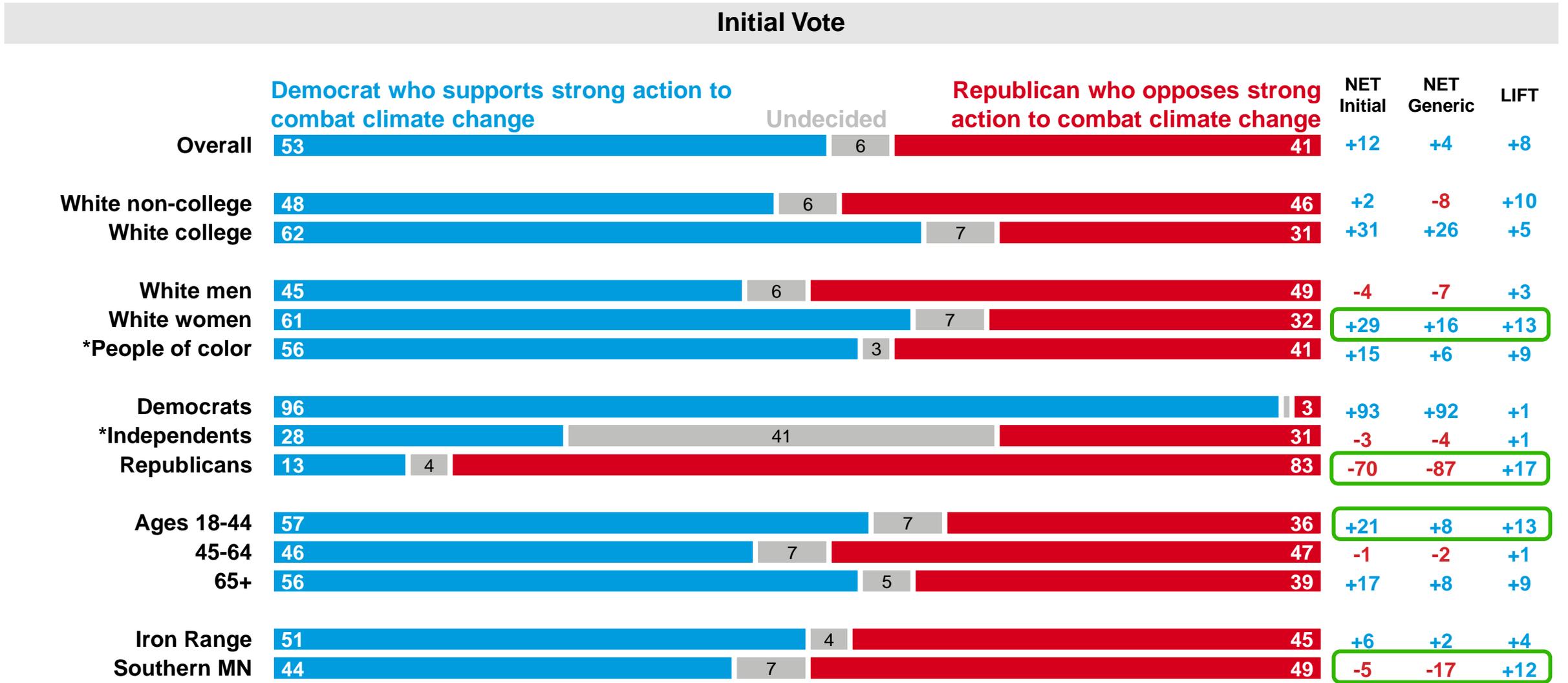
## Agreement with IRA statements

*As you may know, Congress recently passed a new law that will invest \$369 billion in efforts to expand the use of clean energy and combat climate change. Now I'm going to read you some statements about how Minnesota should respond to this.*



\* Indicates small N-size

# A candidate who supports taking action on climate change gets a boost over the generic, particularly with white women, younger voters, Republicans, and in Southern MN



\* Indicates small N-size

# Voters in the Iron Range and Southern MN are very supportive of carbon sequestration and a regional plan to reduce climate change receives strong support. Net-zero by 2050 stronger than 100% clean electricity by 2035

## Support for proposals for the Minnesota government to address climate change and improve air quality

	Support	Oppose	Total	Swing	NET Support		Iron Range	Southern MN
					Dem.	Rep.		
<b>Agriculture</b>								
Create opportunities for farmers and forest managers to get paid to change their practices in ways that allows Minnesota lands and forests to capture more carbon and reduce the impacts of climate change	68	30	+38	+68	+91	-14	+42	+30
Strengthen regulations on large-scale farms to reduce the pollution that causes climate change and prevent pollution in our lakes and rivers	68	31	+37	+46	+76	-10	+21	+28
<b>Carbon Limits</b>								
Join other states in the Midwest in an effort to combat climate change by capping carbon emissions from power plants and requiring power plants to pay for the carbon emissions they emit	65	35	+30	+39	+88	-29	+18	+26
Place a limit on carbon emissions across all sectors of Minnesota's economy including electricity, industry, transportation, and agriculture that would decline over time, reaching a 50% reduction in emissions...	63	37	+26	+18	+83	-30	+12	+9
Place a limit on the total carbon emissions in Minnesota that would decline over time, reaching a 50% reduction in emissions by 2030 and net zero emissions by 2050	60	40	+20	+18	+91	-44	+32	+24
Require Minnesota utilities to get 100% of their electricity from clean energy sources like wind and solar by the year 2035	54	45	+9	+9	+76	-57	-6	0
<b>Transportation</b>								
Reduce carbon emissions from cars and trucks by increasing the use of bio fuels and other technologies to reach zero carbon emissions from Minnesota cars and trucks by 2050	64	36	+28	+38	+84	-24	+14	+30
Require that more new heavy-duty trucks and buses sold in Minnesota be zero-emission vehicles, reaching zero carbon emissions from trucks and buses by 2050	60	39	+21	+10	+83	-44	+24	-4
Require that more new cars sold in Minnesota be zero-emission vehicles, with 100 percent of new car sales being zero-emission vehicles by the year 2035	50	48	+2	-8	+61	-59	-12	-25

# Governor Walz and Climate

# Walz's approval on climate change mirrors his job approval overall

## Walz Job Approval



## Walz Climate Change Approval



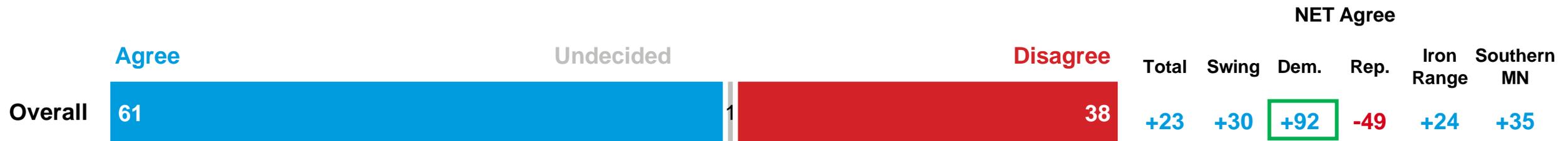
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Democrats see more need for MN lawmakers to do more on climate than the governor – likely because they give Walz more credit than they do the split legislature

**Governor Walz Needs To Do More to Combat Climate Change**

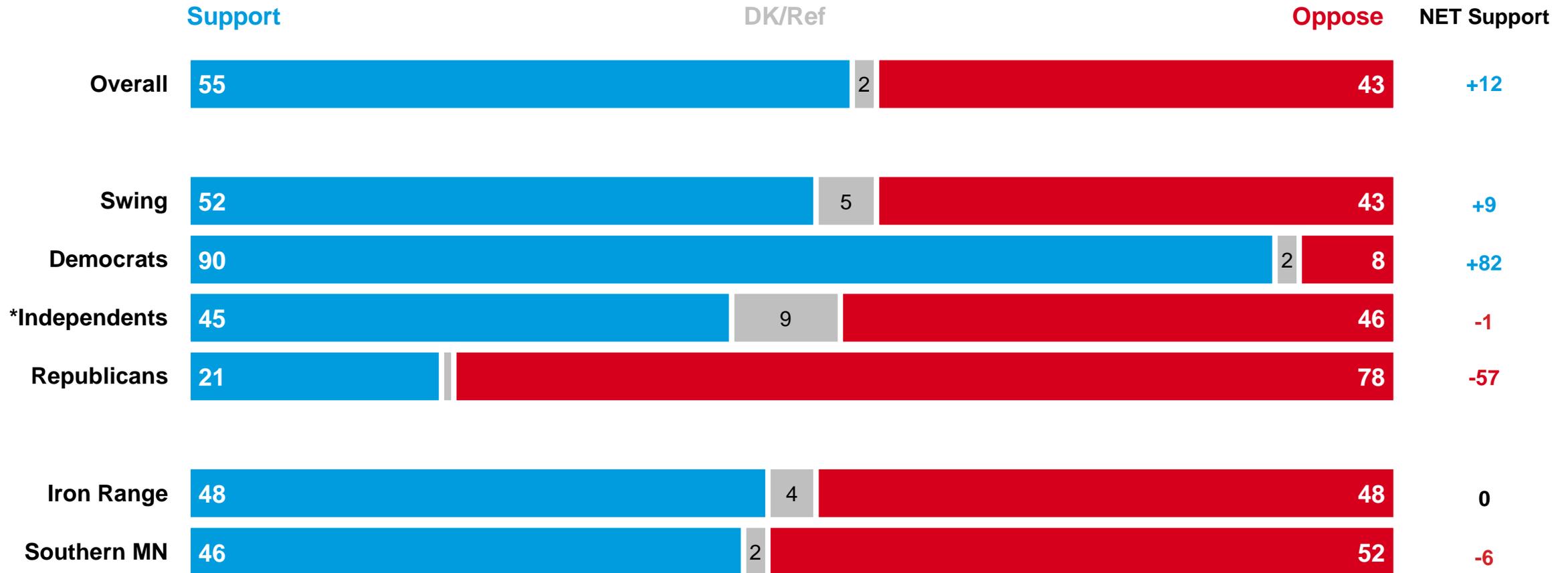


**Minnesota Lawmakers Need To Do More to Combat Climate Change**



# Voters support Walz taking executive action to reduce carbon pollution

## Support for Executive Action



\* Indicates small N-size

**Thank You!**