



TallahasseeVoices

Florida State University and Local Issues

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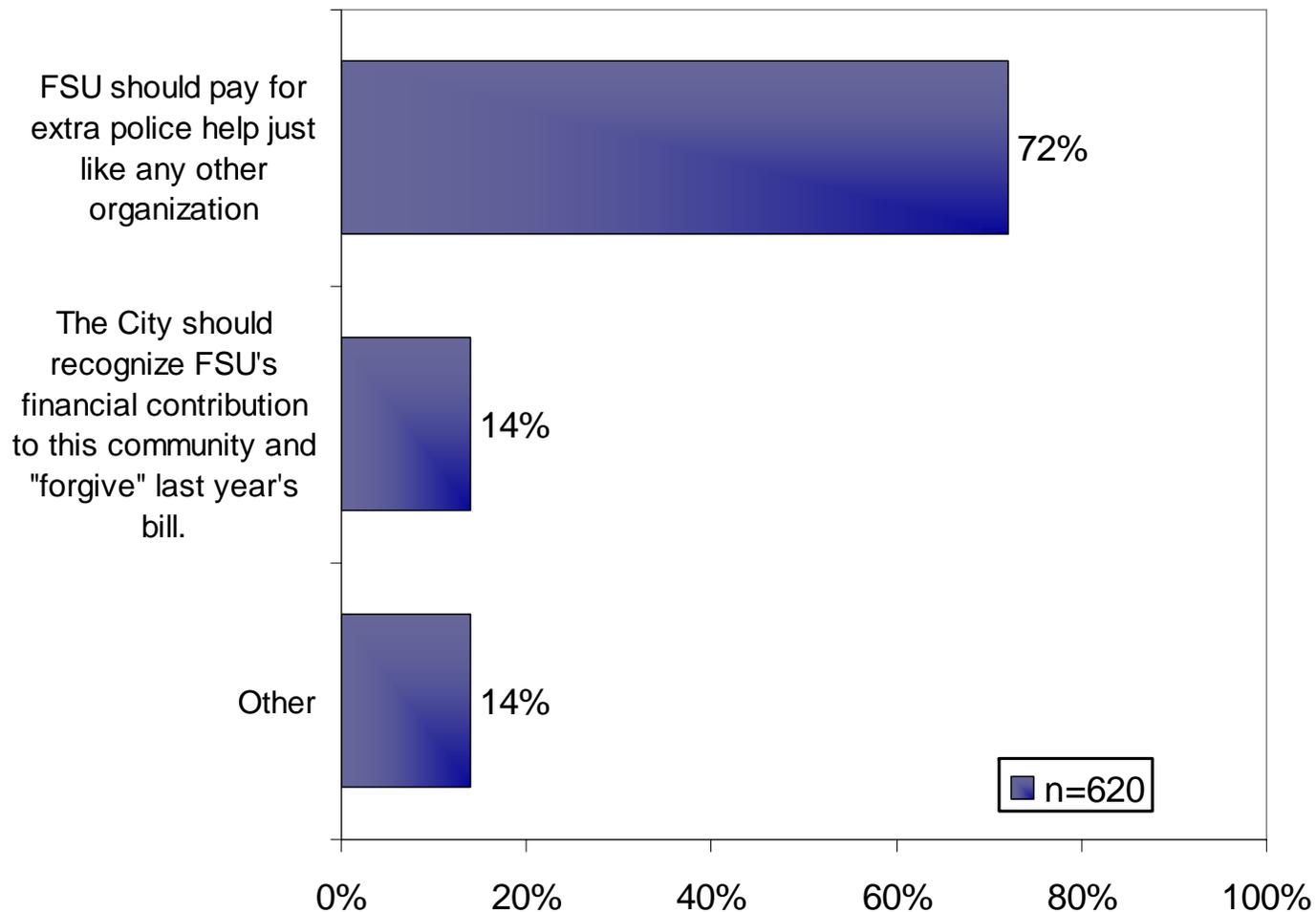
& The Tallahassee Democrat

TallahasseeVoices is a pro bono Internet survey panel sponsored by Kerr & Downs Research and The Tallahassee Democrat. There were 581 responses to the survey sent out in June 14 and 15, 2007. Panel results have been weighted to reflect the demographics of Leon County and results are representative of all local residents who have access to the Internet at home, work, or school. Go to our website at www.tallahasseevoices.com to join our panel and let your voice be heard.

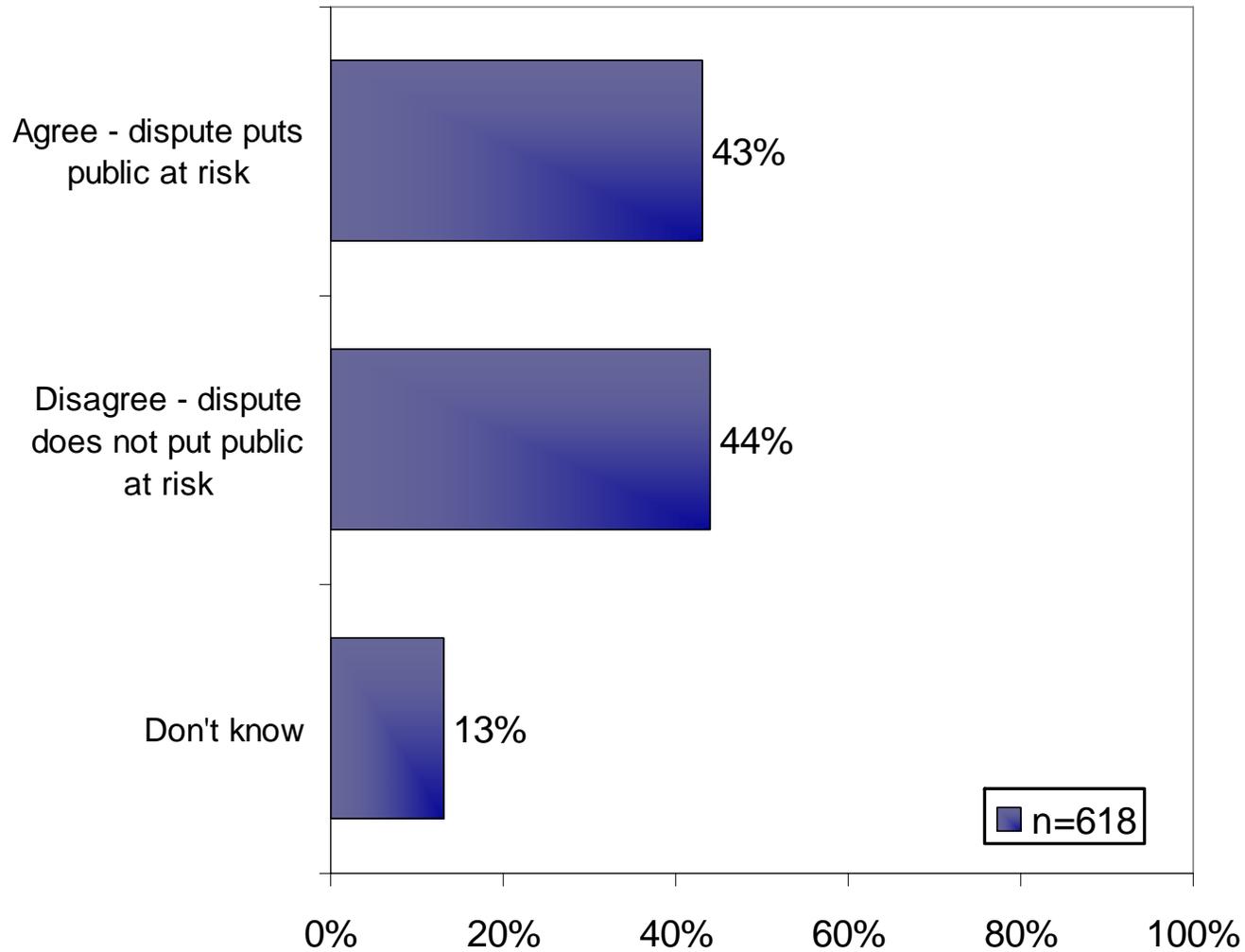
Conclusions:

- The majority of Tallahassee citizens (72%) believe FSU should pay for extra police help just like any other organization.
- Citizens are divided over whether or not the dispute between FSU and the City of Tallahassee over paying for police during and after home football games puts the public at risk.
- Half of Tallahassee citizens believe that the county is showing fiscal restraint and that the current property tax rate cuts are sufficient.
- The majority of citizens are opposed to Governor Crist's proposal to privatize the Florida Lottery.
- On average, Tallahassee citizens believe FSU will win 6 games this season.
- Citizens believe the top three weaknesses effecting FSU's football program are:
 - Offensive line
 - Quarterbacks
 - Head coach

FSU and the City of Tallahassee are at odds regarding payment for police during and after FSU's home football games. The City has billed FSU for \$132,000 for last year's games. FSU refuses to pay and maintains that FSU's economic impact from football games, students, and other activities is so great that it should not have to pay for extra police during FSU football games. Which of the following represents your view on the issue?



Do you agree or disagree that the dispute between FSU and the City of Tallahassee over paying for police during and after home football games puts the public at risk?



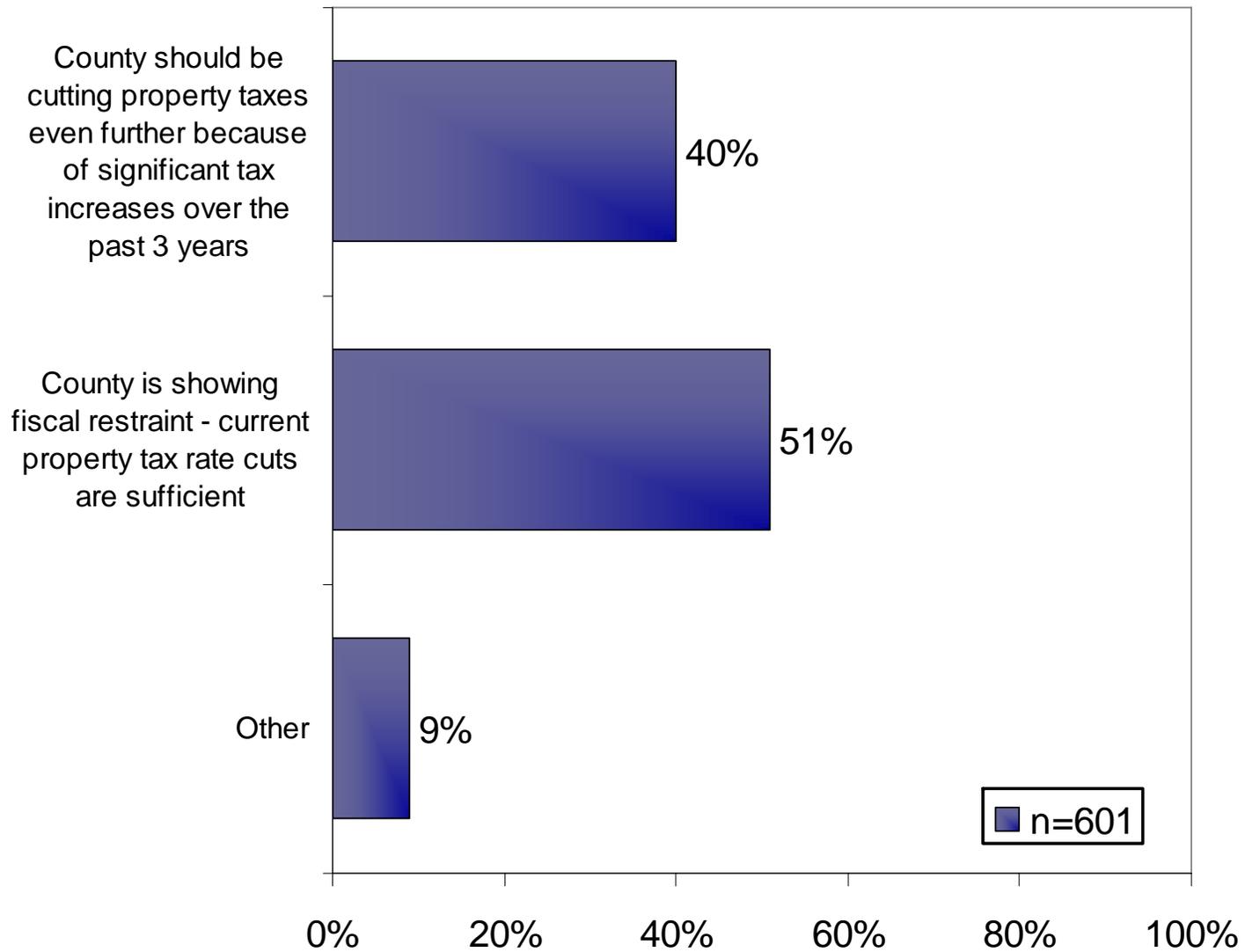
The panel was presented with the following information before answering the next question.

The September 5th headline in the Tallahassee Democrat read “County proposes to slash taxes.” The County proposes to lower the property tax from \$7.99 per \$1,000 of property value to \$7.213 for every \$1,000 in property value. That means for a \$300,000 house (with no homestead exemption), taxes would drop from \$2,392 a year to \$2,164 a year.

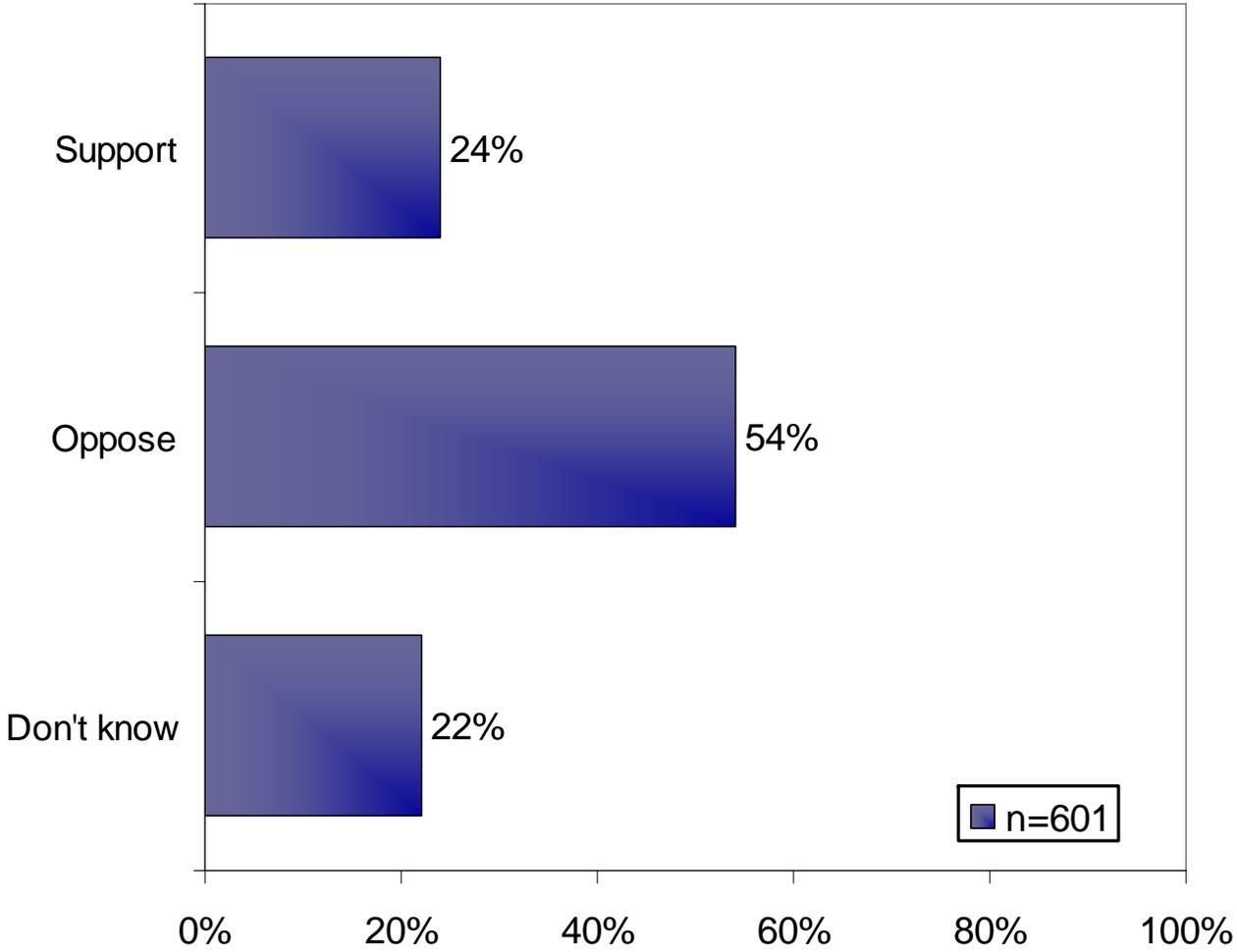
Some people say the County’s budget has grown well beyond inflation over the past 3 years as property tax values have skyrocketed resulting in significant increases in property taxes collected by the County; hence the County should cut property taxes even further.

Other people say the County is showing fiscal restraint by cutting property tax rate by over 9% and that current cuts in the tax rate are sufficient.

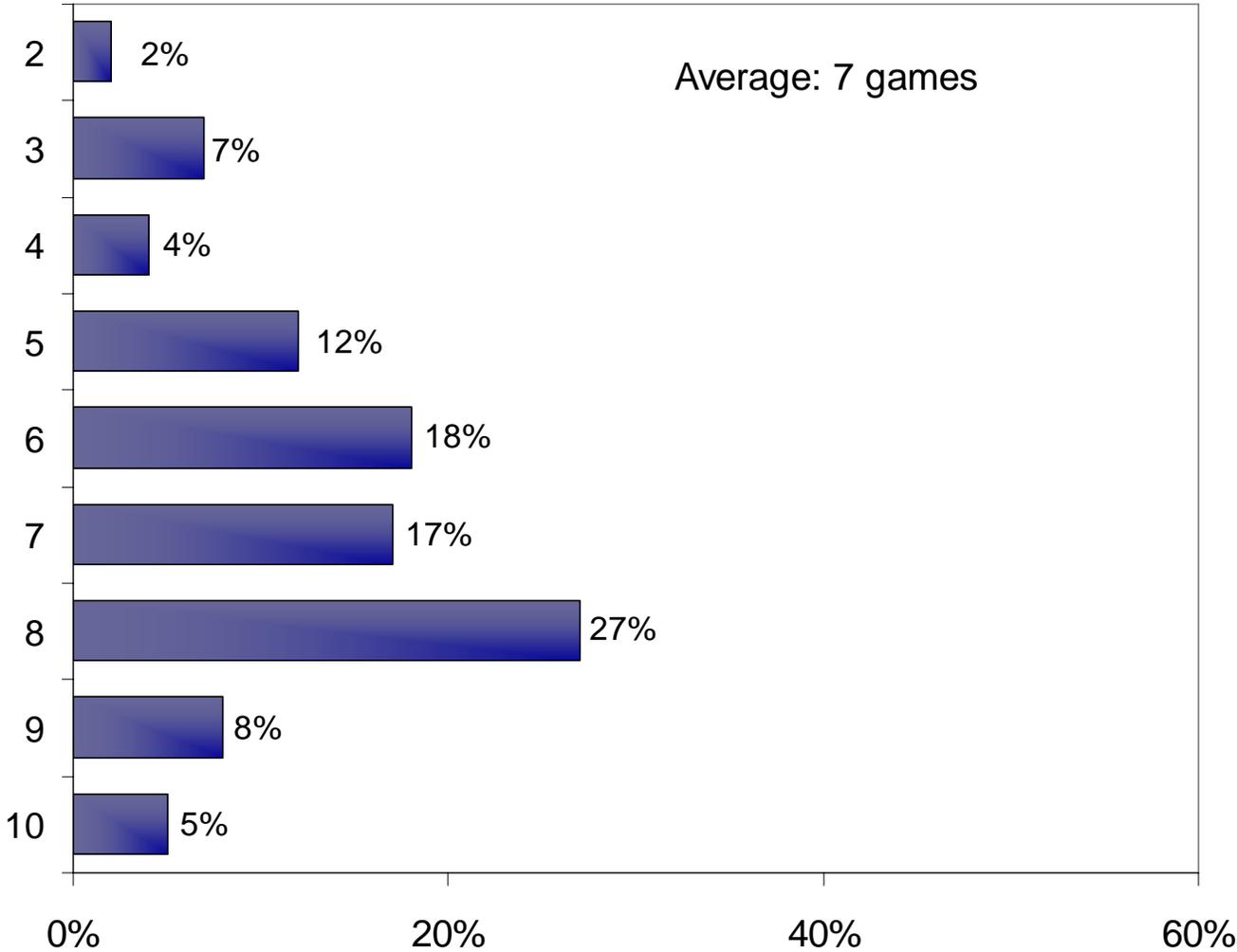
Which of these opinions better fits your view?



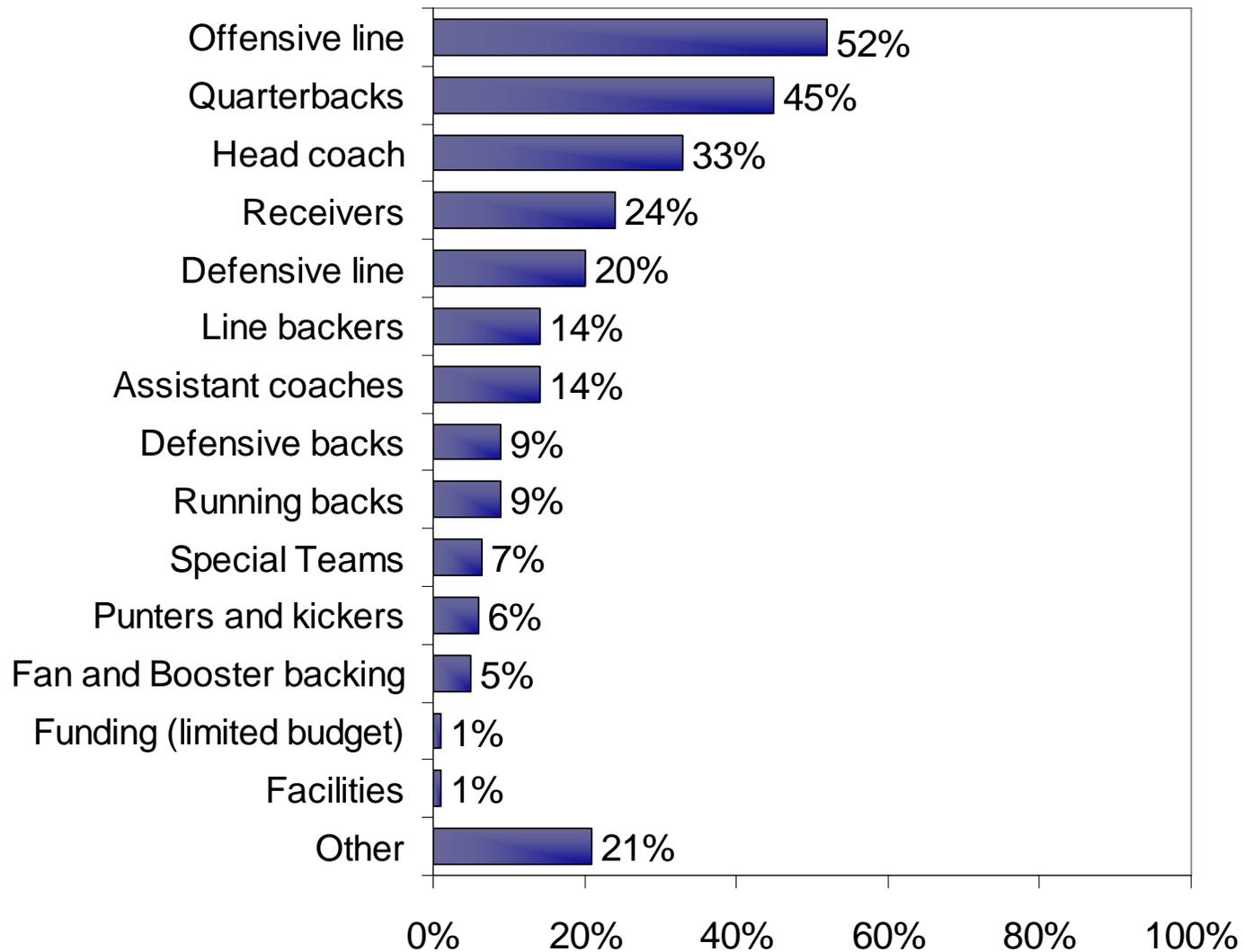
Governor Crist has recently mentioned the possibility of selling the Florida Lottery to a private vendor. He mentioned that privatizing the lottery could help plug a \$1.1 billion hole in the state budget. Do you support or oppose privatizing the Florida Lottery?



FSU lost its first football game to Clemson. How many of the 11 games on its schedule do you think FSU will win?



What are the biggest weaknesses in FSU's football program?



- The typical fan thinks FSU will win 7 regular season games this year, although 13% of fans expect FSU to return to its glory days immediately and expect FSU to win at least 9 of its 11 regular season games. Yet there is an equal number (13%) of pessimists (realists?) who think FSU will win 4 or fewer regular season games.
- The offensive line and quarterbacks (although only 1 has played so far this year) received the lion's share of blame for FSU's performance so far as 52% of fans say the offensive line is the weakest area followed by 45% who named the quarterback.
- Bobby Bowden, despite winning two national championships and putting FSU football on the national map did not escape criticism as 33% of fans claimed he was the major weakness. Receivers (24%) and the defensive line (20%) placed 4th and 5th, respectively, on the blame list.
- Many fans offered comments to back up their predictions. Many claimed it was too early to expect a new coaching staff and new scheme to work effectively. Many fans seem to be pointing to next year. Other fans could not resist a parting shot at Jeff Bowden blaming him this year's performance as well as for the past several years' disappointments.