

Citizens Speak out on the City & County governments June 2011

TallahasseeVoices



TallahasseeVoices is a pro bono internet survey panel sponsored by Kerr & Downs Research, which is solely responsible for information contained within TallahasseeVoices' reports.

The present survey on local issues was conducted in May 2011. 512 of the 6,000 panel members responded. Results were weighted to reflect the demographics of the 90%+ local residents who have access to the internet at home, work, or school.

TallahasseeVoices thanks WCTV-TV for its comprehensive coverage of survey results.

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Comment

- While both local governments have been characterized by ethics charges in the past few years (Marks, Thaell, DePuy & Proctor) and while both have spent tax payers dollars on ethically challenged issues (deferred compensation for the City; Attorney Thiele's retirement money for the County), Leon County government appears to have weathered the storm better than the City of Tallahassee government.
- For the first time in 30 years of surveying local citizens by TallahasseeVoices and Kerr & Downs Research, more citizens believe Leon County government is more efficient and more effective than the City of Tallahassee government. Citizens apparently have taken notice that the City's budget remains 33% above the 20-year historic trendline.
- Mayor Marks' ethical challenges have eroded his popularity as only half as many in 2011 chose him as the best commissioner compared to 2008.
- Leon County Commissioner Desloge's popularity, on the other hand, has skyrocketed, prompting not just a few TallahasseeVoices' panelists to suggest that he run for Mayor.

Phillip Downs, Ph.D., Founder, TallahasseeVoices/Senior Partner, Kerr & Downs Research/Professor of Marketing, FSU

Summary

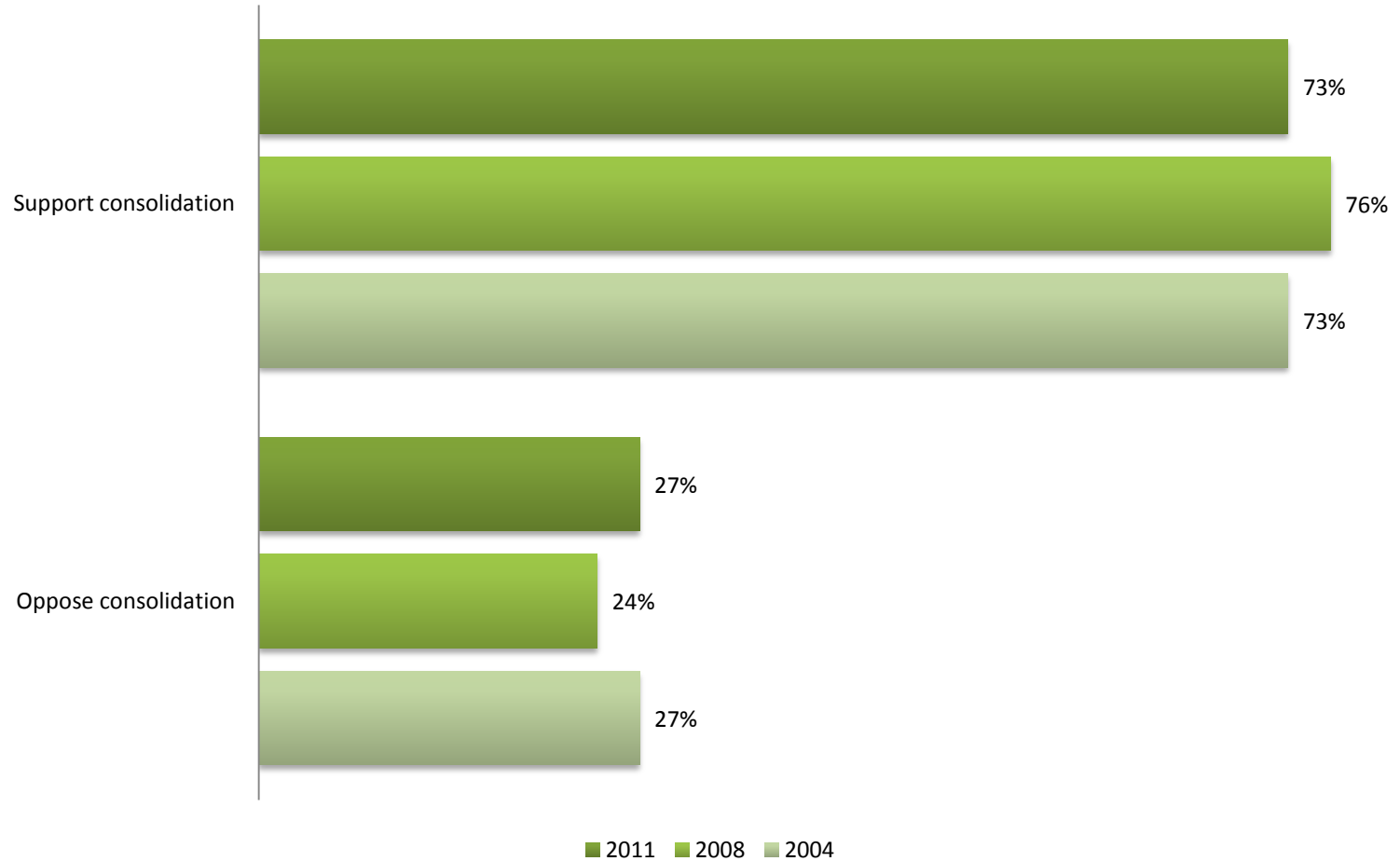
- 3 times as many residents believe Leon County government is more efficient in spending tax dollars than the City of Tallahassee government
- More residents believe the County is better at providing services than the City
- 2 times as many citizens prefer the County government over the City if there could be only 1 government in this area

- Desloge & Gillum are voted the best commissioners for the County and City, respectively
- Mayor Marks received only half as many votes for best commissioner in 2011 as he did in 2008

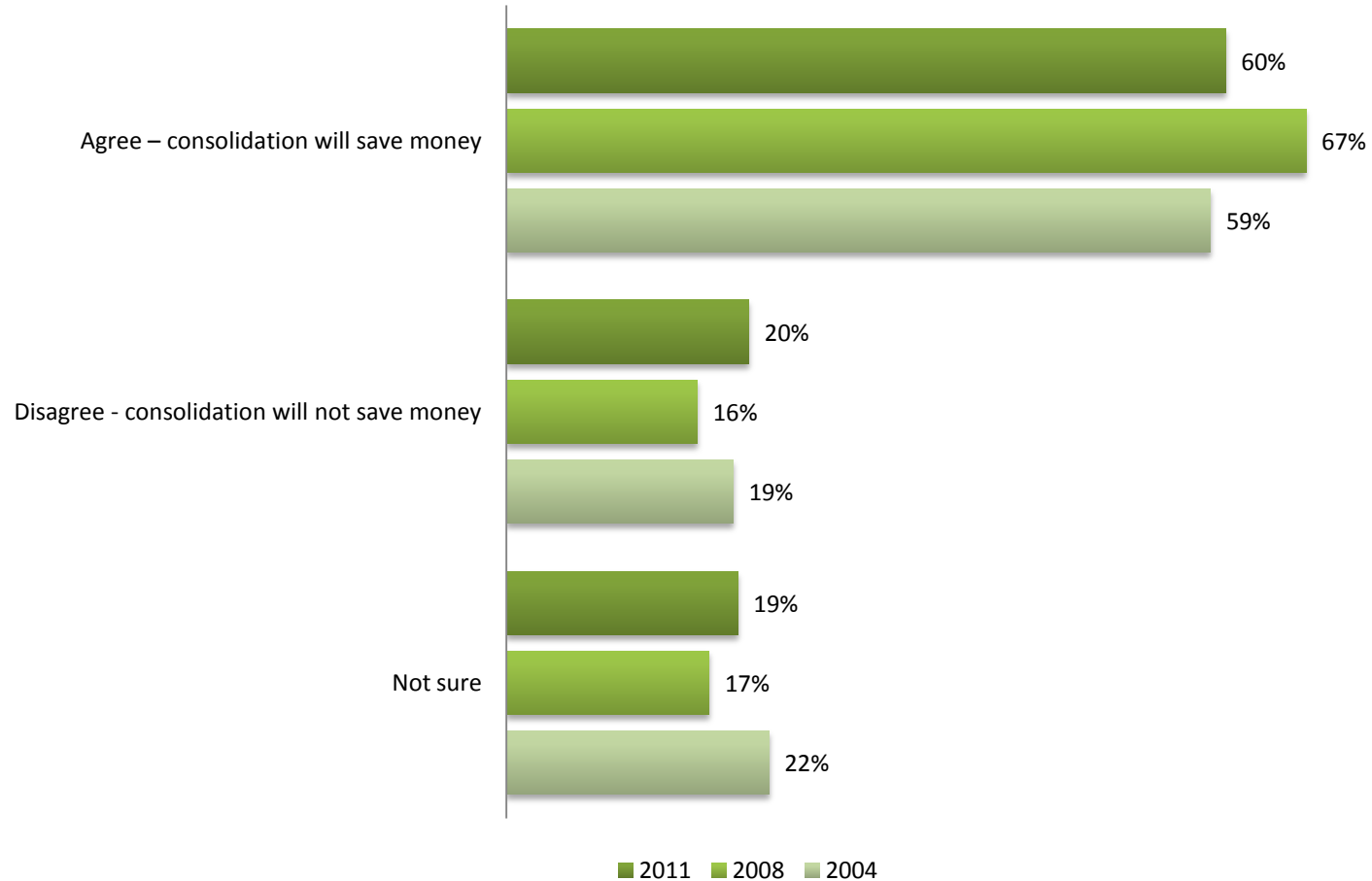
Summary

- Nearly 3 out of 4 residents support consolidating City & County governments
- 6 out of 10 residents believe consolidation will save money
- Integrating law enforcement agencies is the biggest obstacle to consolidation for those who oppose it.

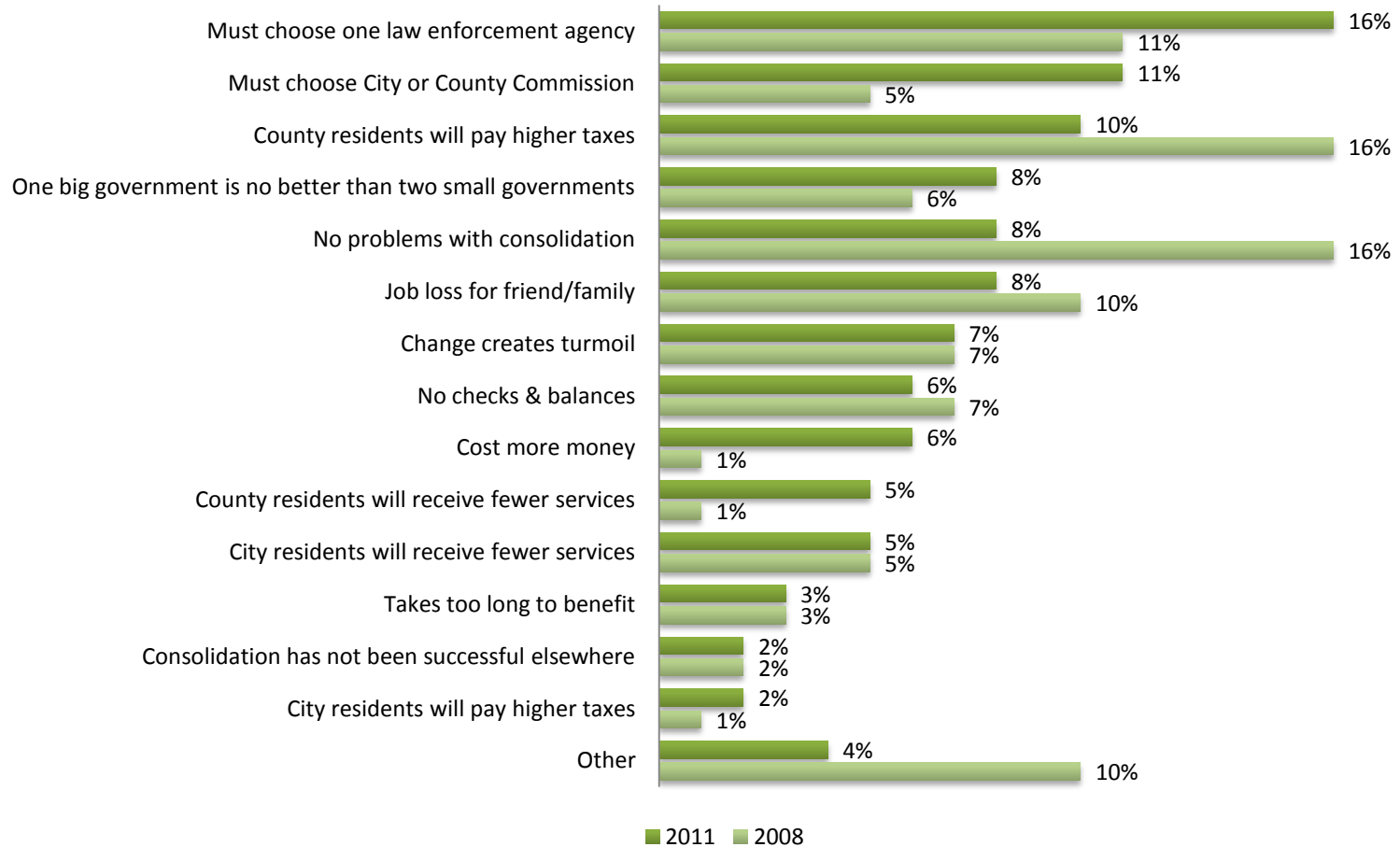
If there were a vote today to support or oppose consolidating Leon County government and the City of Tallahassee government into one countywide government, how would you vote?



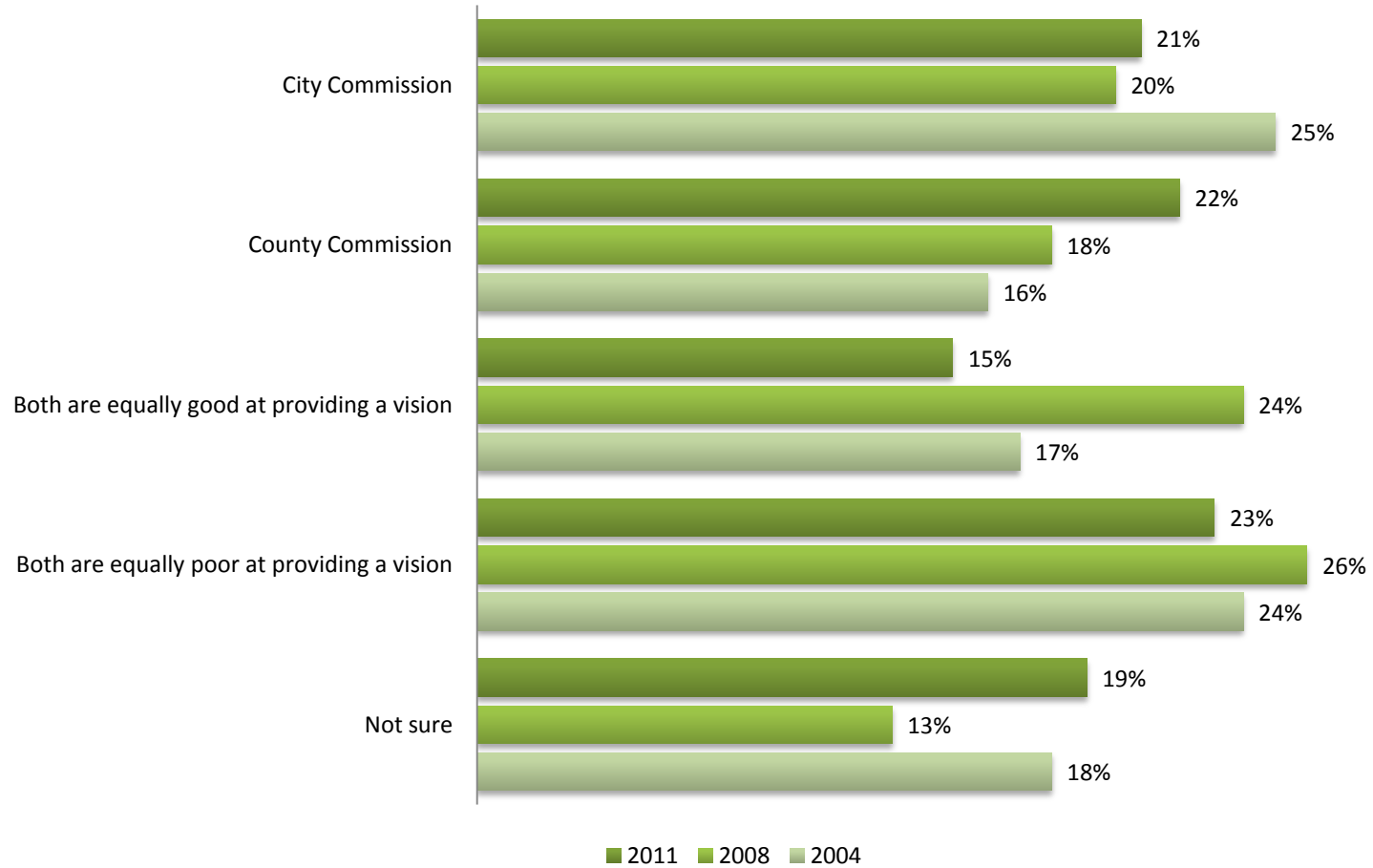
Some people say that consolidating the two local governments will help save money. Do you agree or disagree that consolidating the two local governments will save taxpayers money?



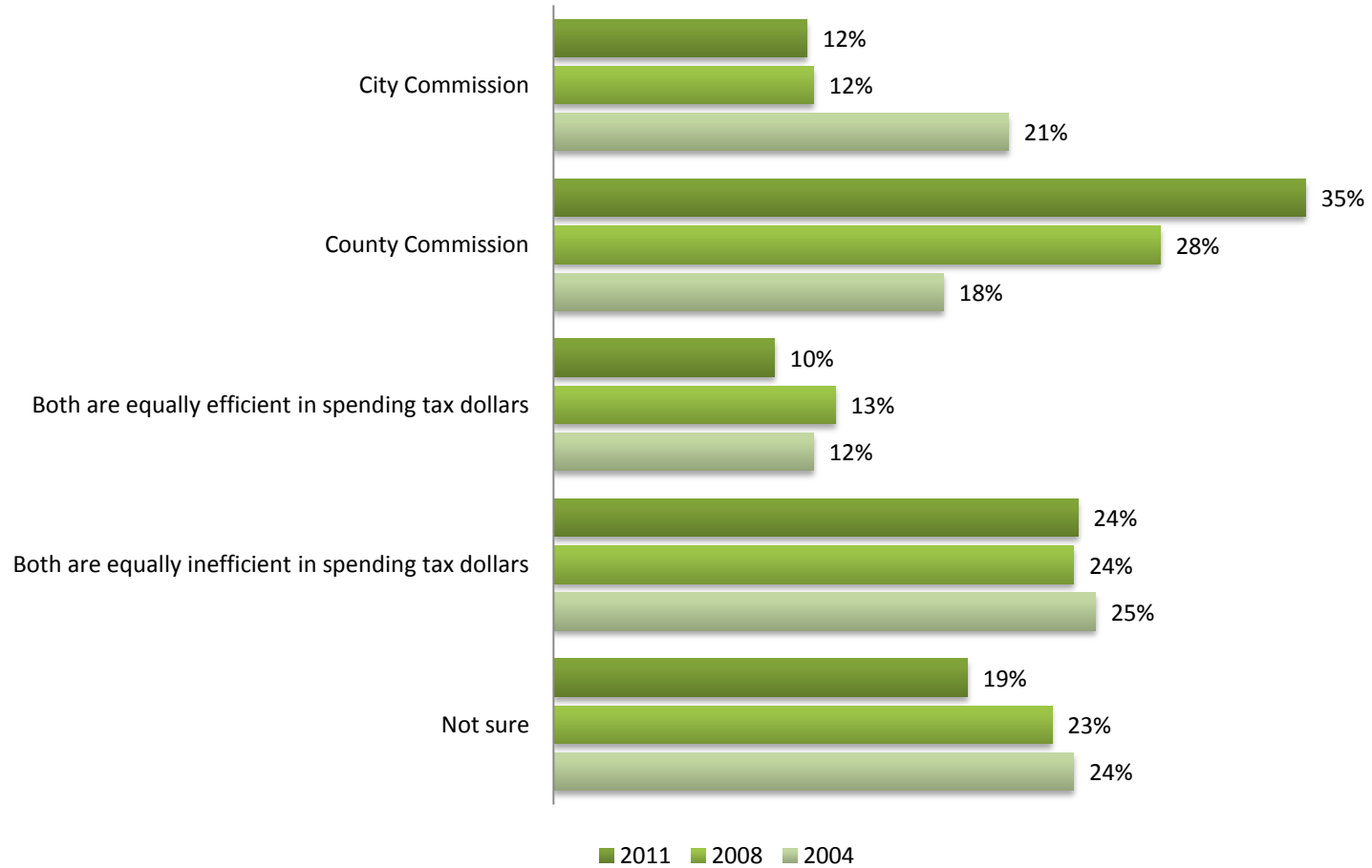
If County and City Governments were consolidated, what would be the biggest loss or problem?



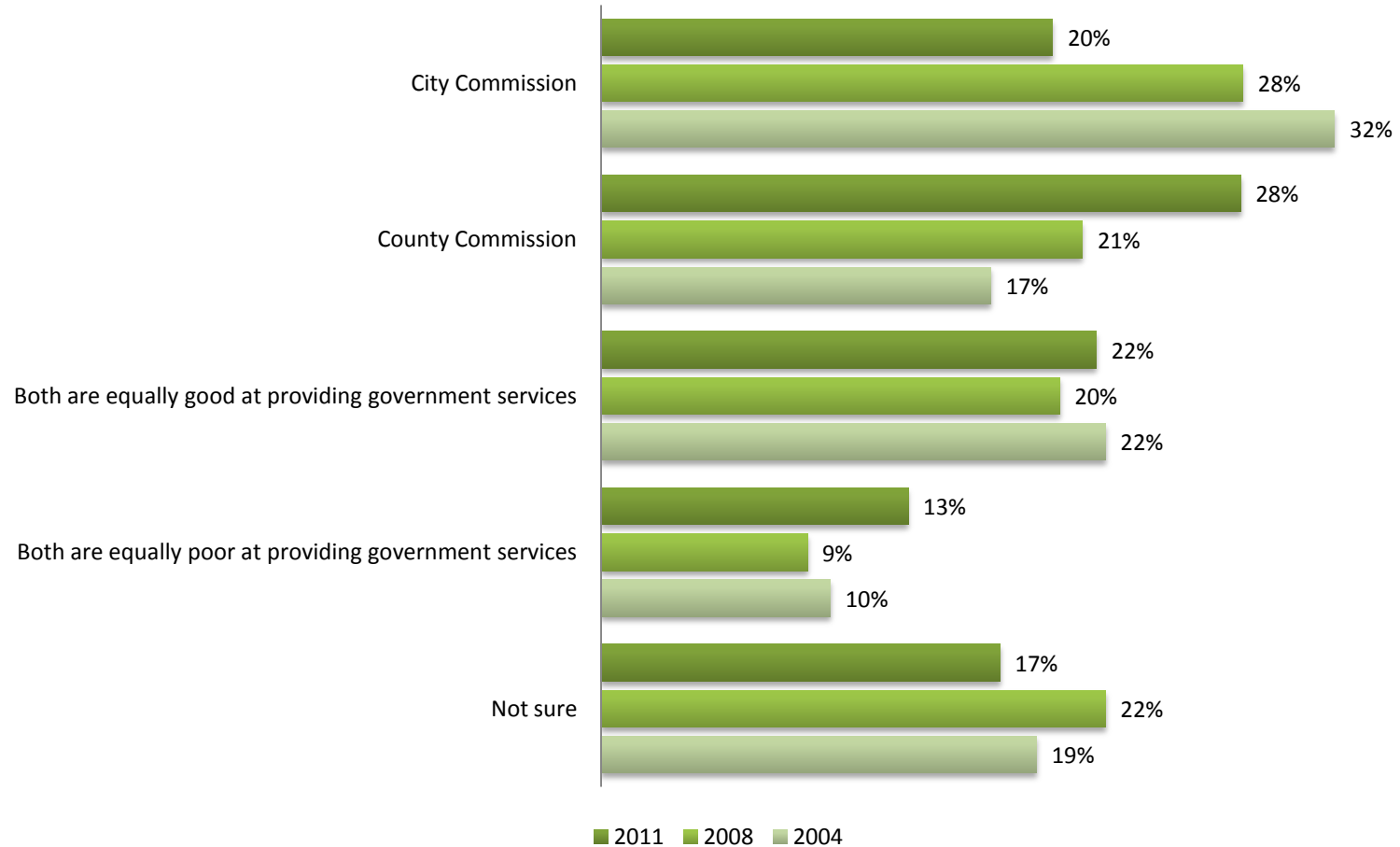
Which commission do you believe does the best job of providing a vision for the future for our community?



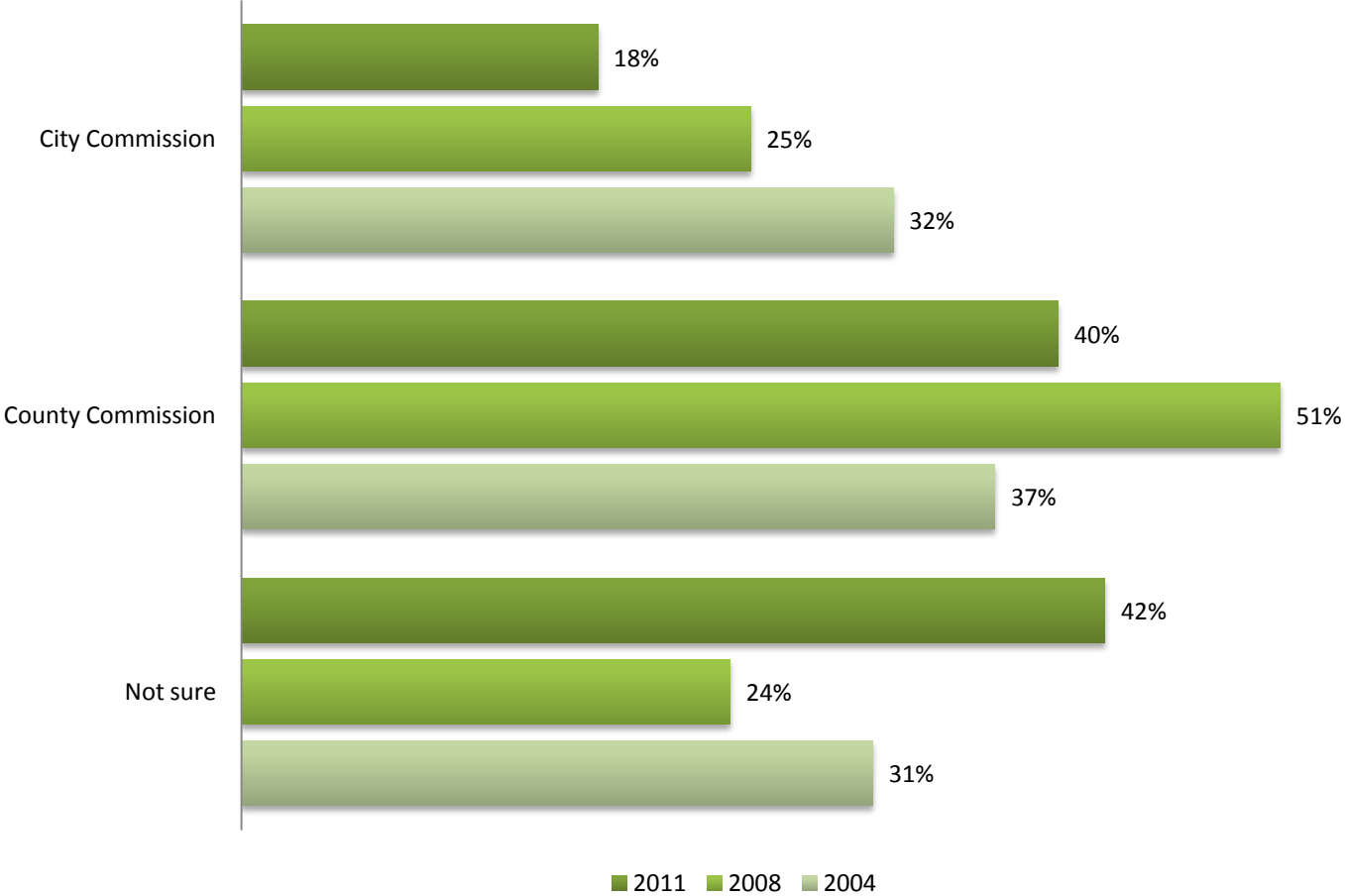
Which commission do you believe spends local tax dollars more efficiently?



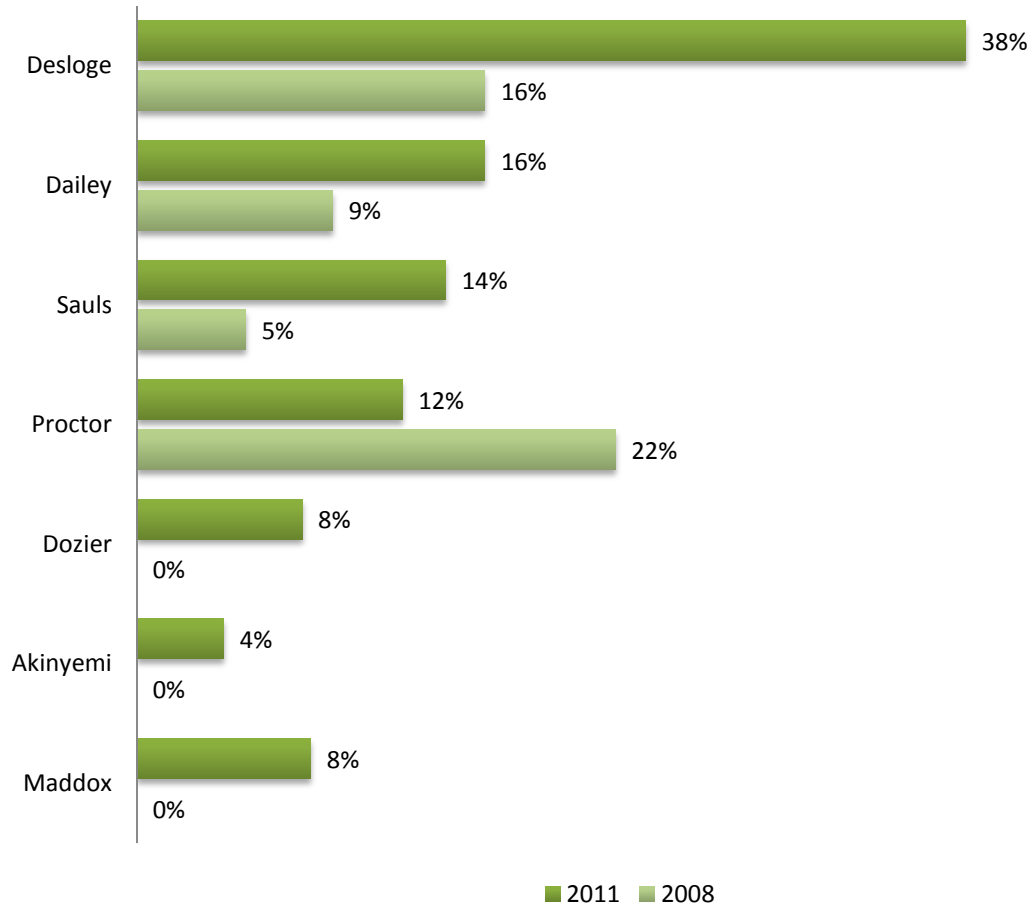
Which commission do you believe does the best job of providing government services to the residents in this community?



If there could be only one commission for the entire county, which one would you want to serve all residents?

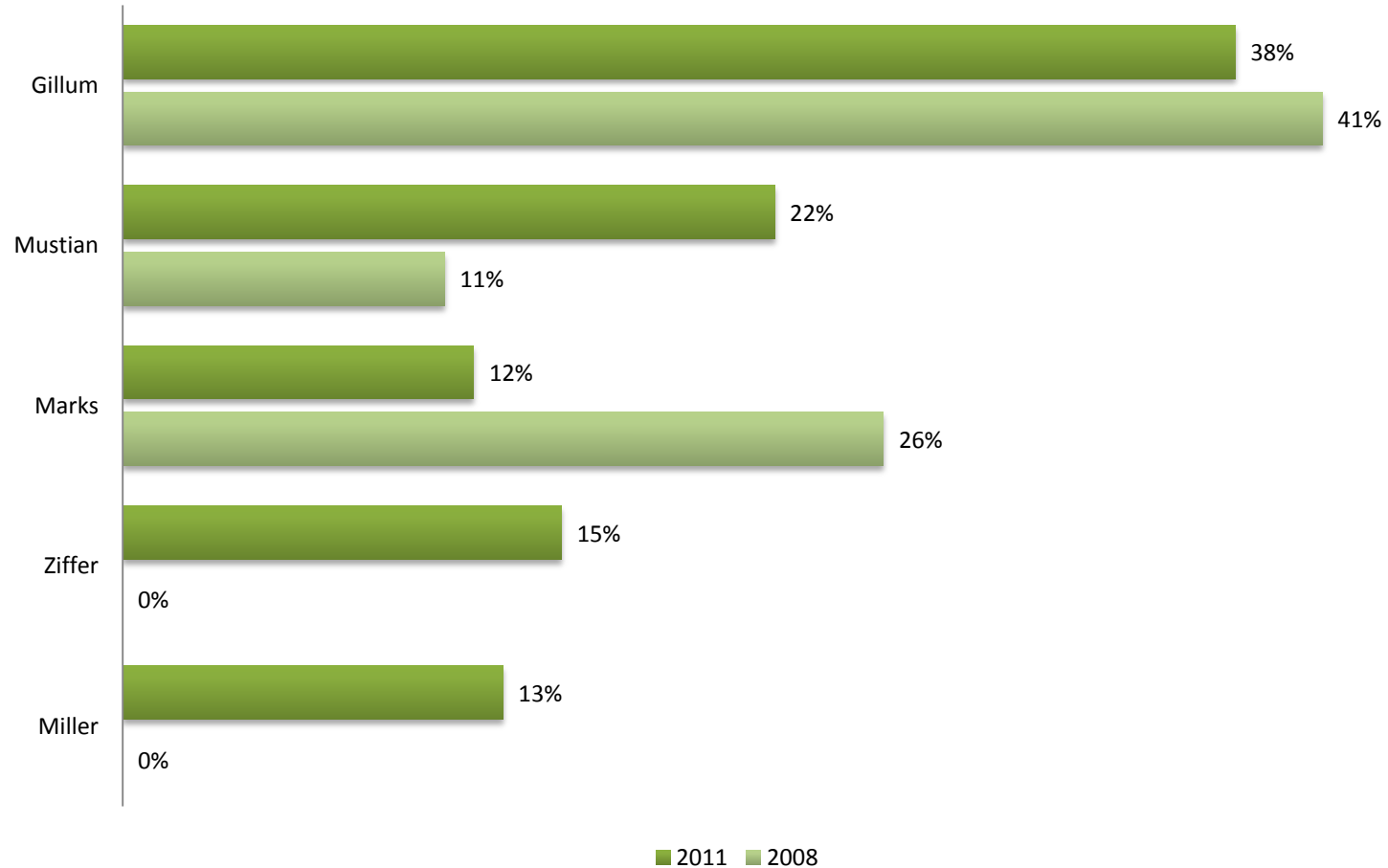


Which County Commissioner would you like to commend for her or his efforts in leading the community?*



*Dozier, Akinyemi & Maddox were not on the commission in 2008.

Which City Commissioner would you like to commend for her or his efforts in leading the community? *



*Ziffer & Miller were not on the commission in 2008..