MASSACHUSETTS STATEWIDE POLL

Prepared by Beacon Research | June 2019

ACLU Massachusetts

PRESS PAUSE ON FACE SURVEILLANCE

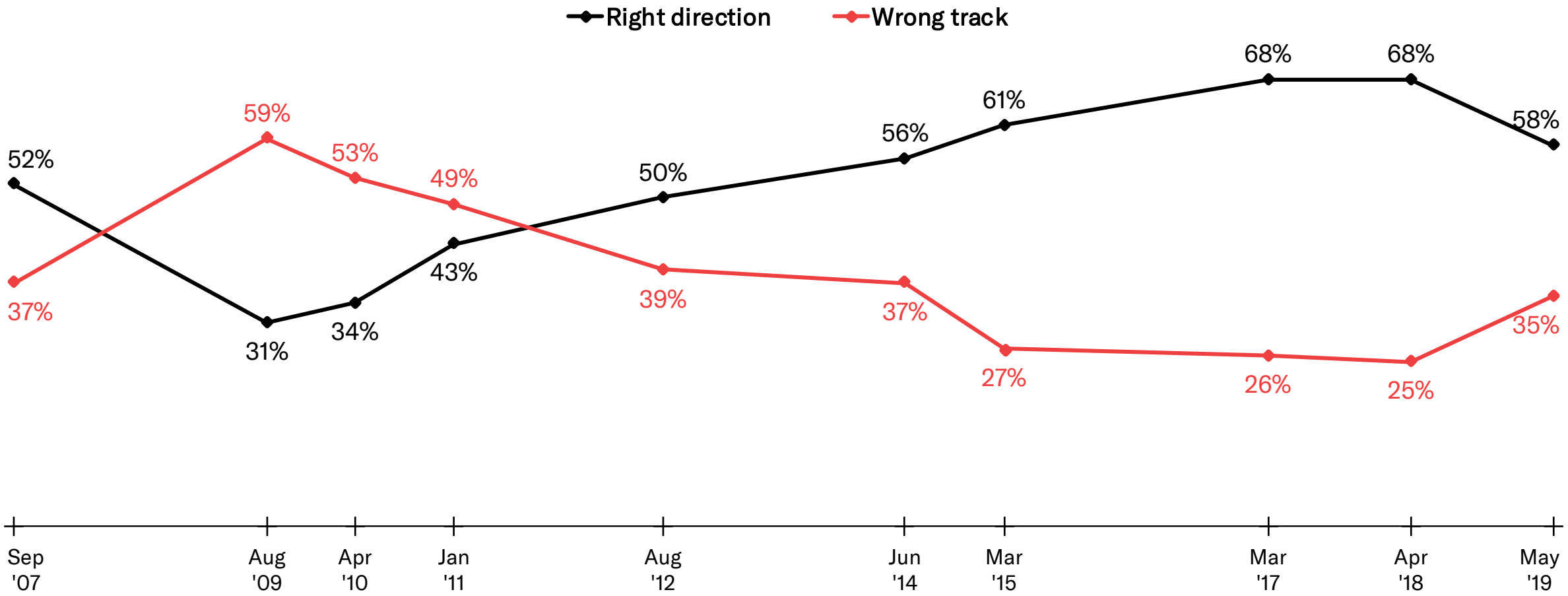
BEACON RESEARCH

Poll conducted by Beacon Research

Project direction and analysis from Chris Anderson

Mode	Telephone survey conducted by trained professional interviewers from a central, monitored location; respondents were interviewed on cell phones and landlines
Sample	503 Massachusetts voters
Dates	May 22-29, 2019
Weights	Slight weights were applied to ensure the sample accurately reflects the demographic profile of the Massachusetts voter population
Margin of Error	±4% at the 95% confidence level for the entire sample; the margin of error for subgroups is higher
Note	Some data may not add up to 100% due to rounding

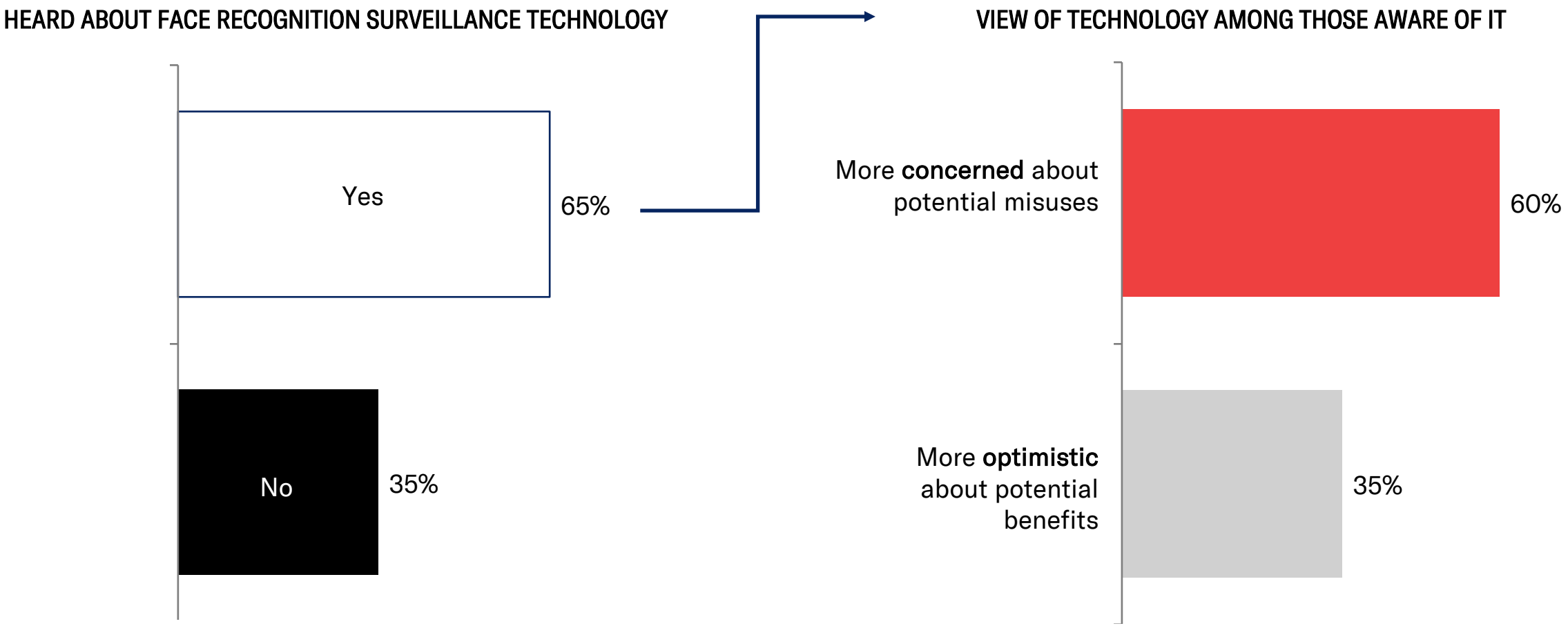
Most feel MA is on the right track, but that may be starting to change.



Q1: Next, do you feel things in Massachusetts are generally heading in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

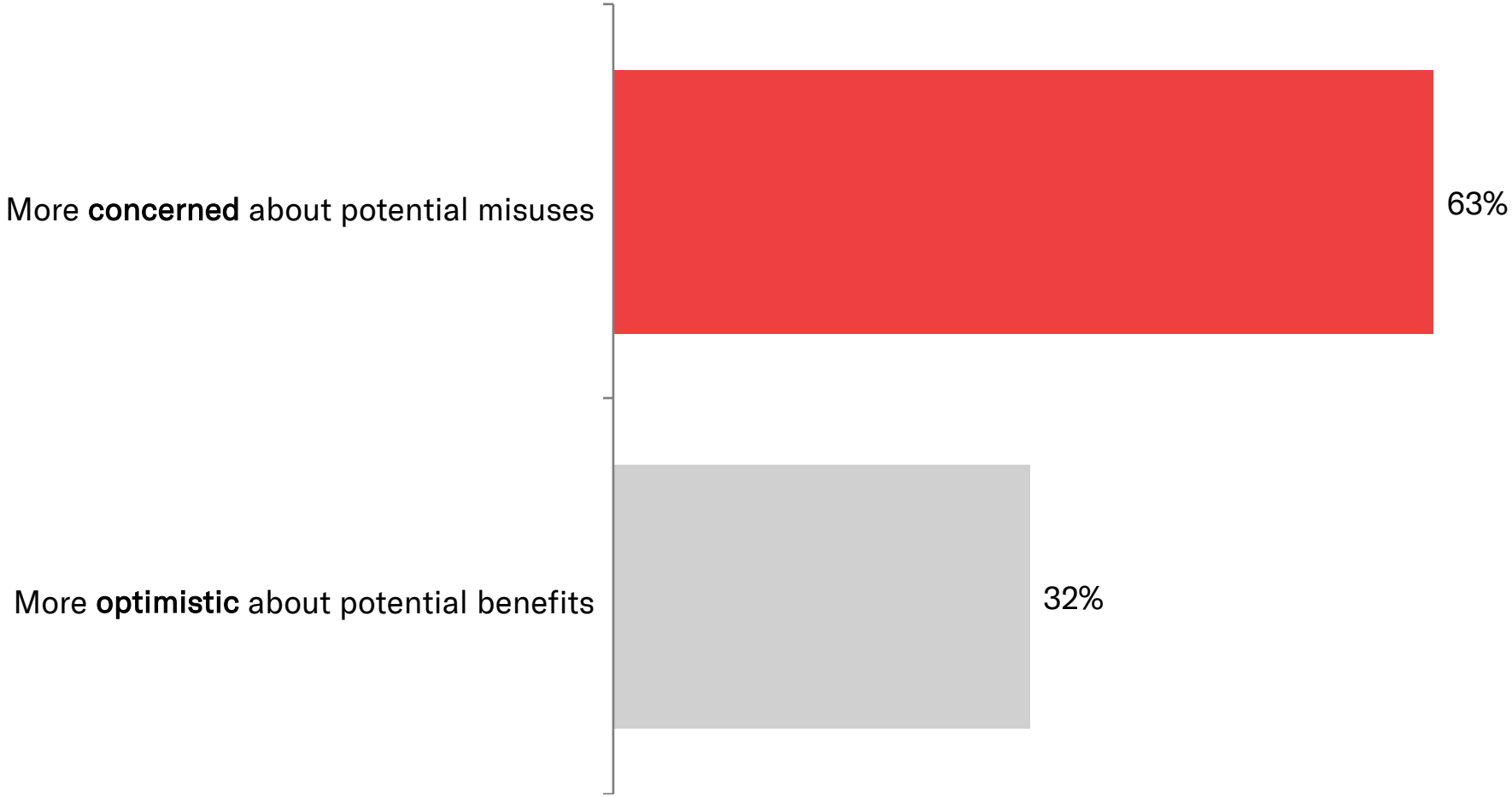
Two-thirds have heard something recently about face recognition technology, and they are much more concerned than optimistic.



Q6: Have you heard or read anything recently about face recognition surveillance technology? AND [IF YES] Q7: From what you have heard about the technology, would you say you are: [ROTATE] more concerned about potential misuses or more optimistic about potential benefits?

Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

After hearing a definition, voters are more concerned about potential misuses than optimistic about benefits of facial recognition surveillance.

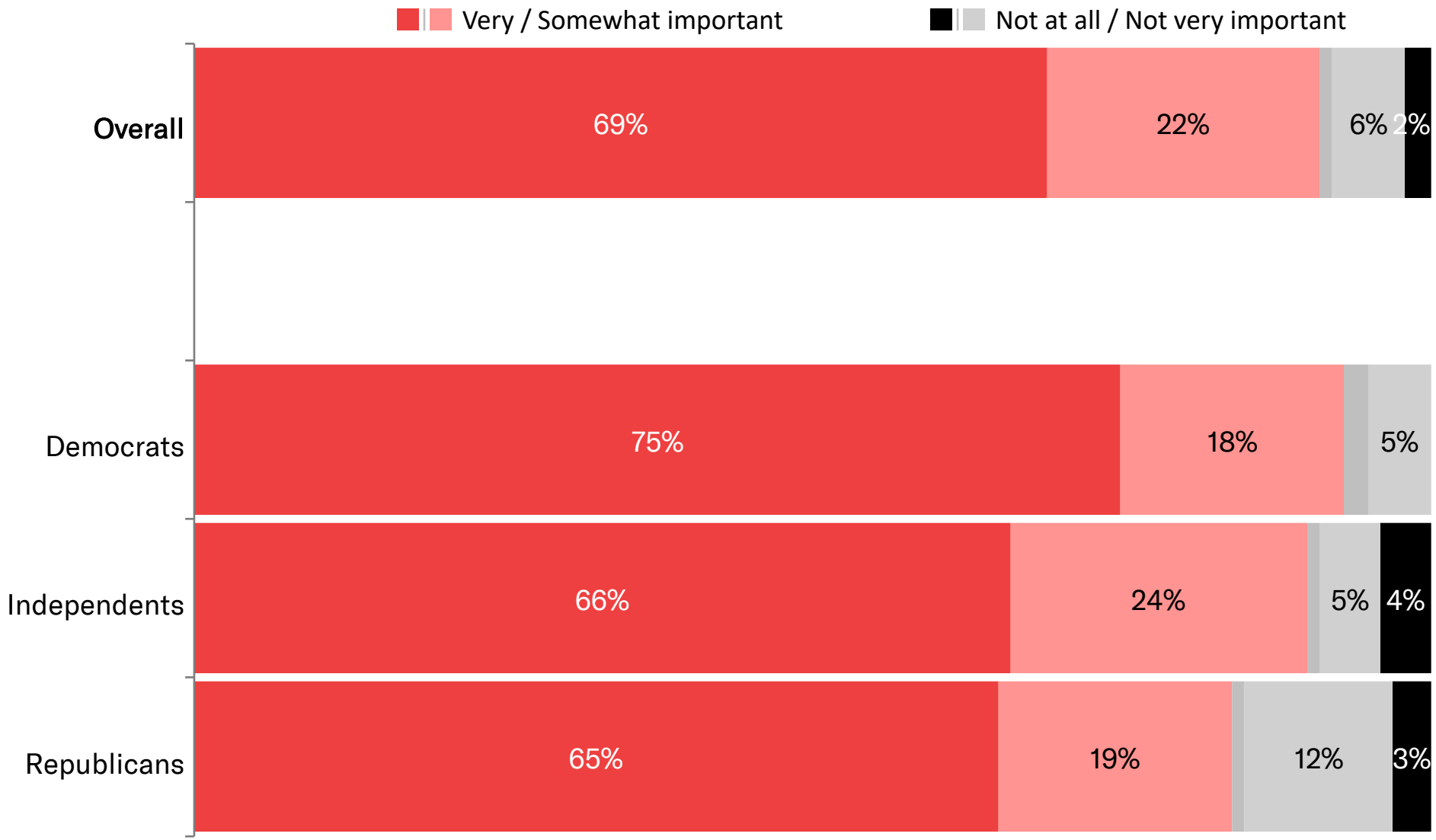


Definition tested: *In fact, face recognition surveillance is an emerging technology that connects networks of cameras and images with powerful computers and databases to identify and track people without their knowledge.*

Q8: Based on this description of the technology, would you say you are: [ROTATE] more concerned about potential misuses or more optimistic about potential benefits?

Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

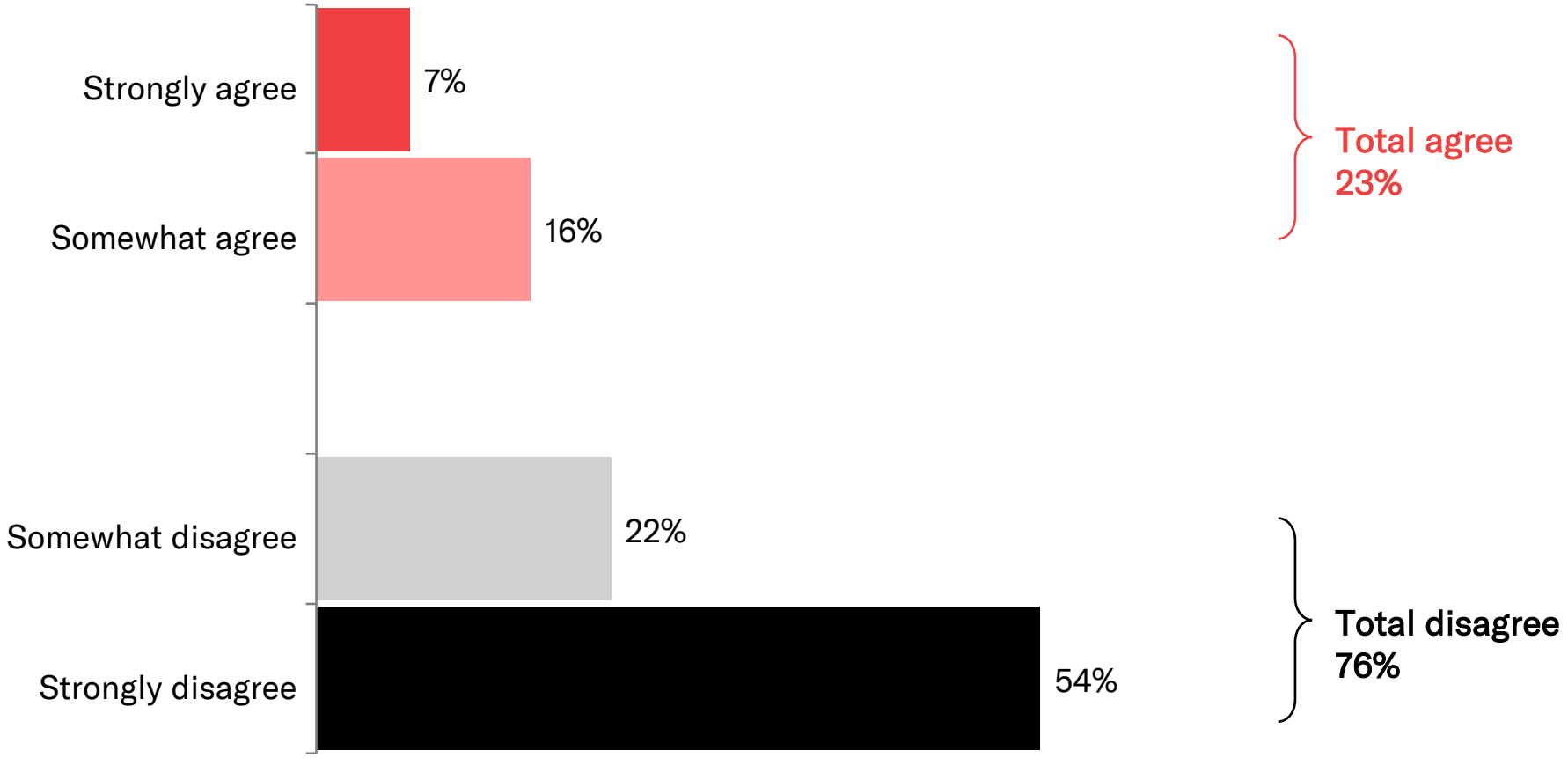
Nearly all voters think regulating government use of face recognition surveillance technologies is important.



Q22: How important do you think it is for Massachusetts to pass laws regulating the government's use of face recognition surveillance technologies and other types of remote biometric tracking technologies?

Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

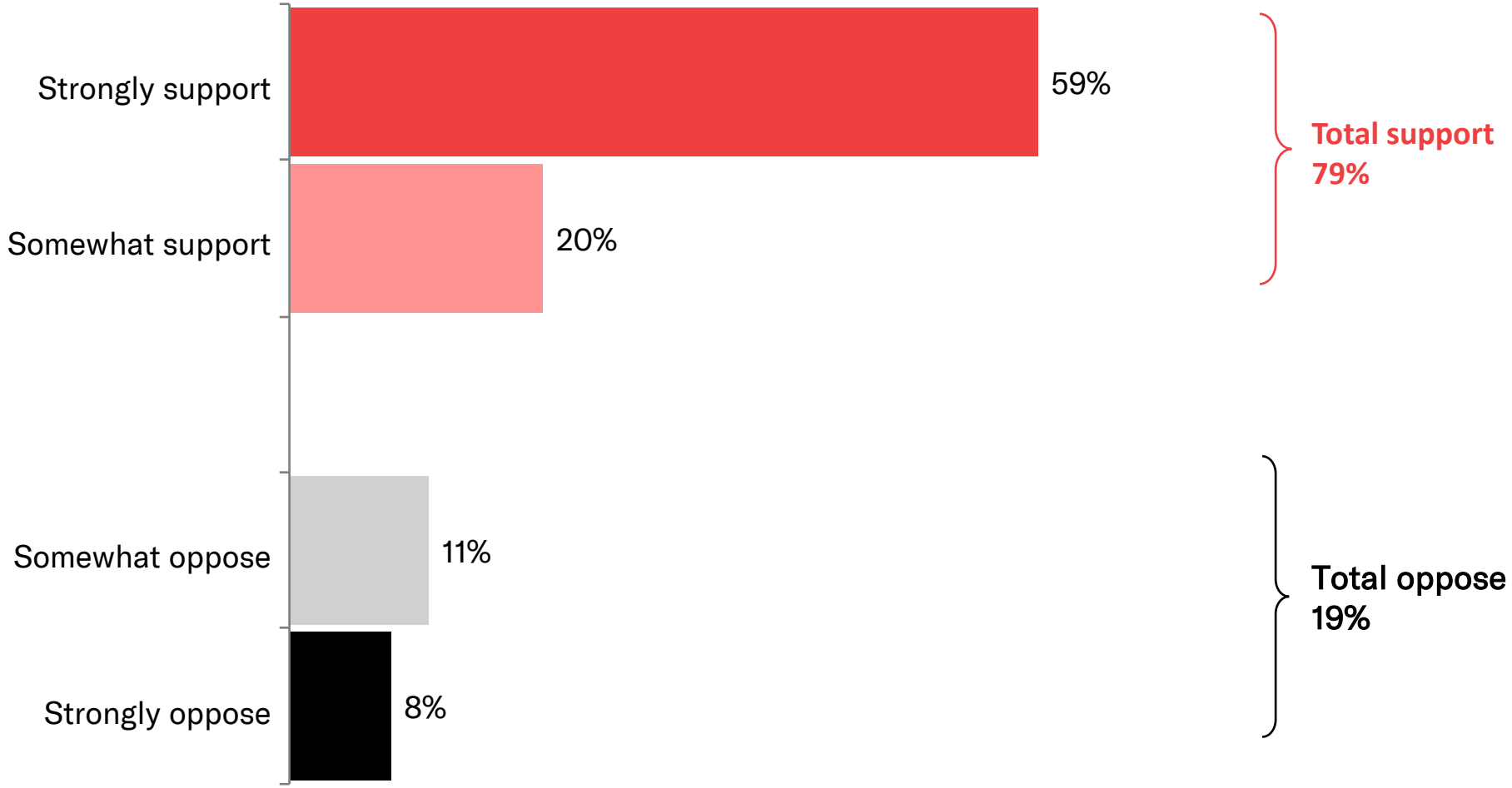
Most voters do not agree that government should be able to monitor and track people with technology.



Q26: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: the government should be able to monitor and track who you are and where you go using face recognition surveillance and other types of remote biometric tracking technologies?

Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

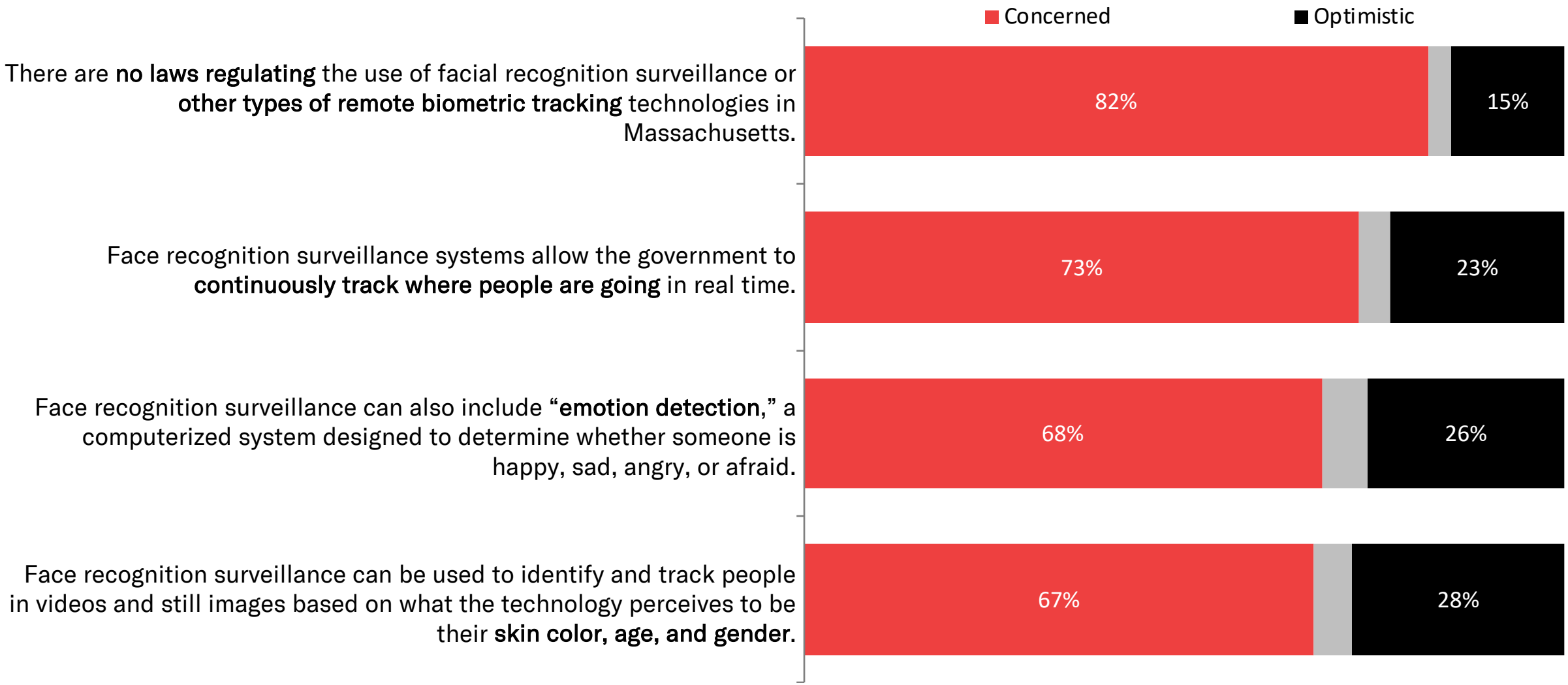
Nearly 8-in-10 support a moratorium on government use of face recognition surveillance.



Q24: Would you support or oppose pausing the use of face recognition surveillance by state government until regulations are in place?

Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

Additional information about face recognition surveillance technology generates more concern than optimism.



Q11 – Q20: I am going to mention some more information about this technology. Please tell me if each piece of information makes you feel more concerned or more optimistic about the emergence of face recognition surveillance technology.

Note: Remainder Not sure / Refused

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

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Category	Group	% of Sample
Gender	Male	47
	Female	53
	Non-binary	<1
Age	18-44	30
	45-64	44
	65+	24
Education	Noncollege	43
	College graduate	32
	Post graduate	25
Ethnicity	White	78
	African American, Black	11
	Latino, Hispanic	5

Category	Group	% of Sample
Socioeconomic Status	High SES	27
	Middle class, college	28
	Middle class, noncollege	21
	Low SES	20
Region	West	22
	North	10
	South	20
	Suburbs	35
	Boston	13
Political Identification	Democrat	39
	Republican	14
	Independent	44