





Arizona Voter Views of the Resolution Copper Mine Proposal

*Results of a Statewide Survey
Conducted August 18-27, 2021*



OPINION
RESEARCH
& STRATEGY

Survey Methodology

Dates	August 18-27, 2021
Survey Type	Dual-mode Voter Survey
Research Population	Likely November 2022 Voters in Arizona
Total Interviews	605
Margin of Sampling Error	(Full Sample) $\pm 4.0\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level (Half Sample) $\pm 6.0\%$ at the 95% Confidence Level
Contact Method(s)	 Telephone Calls  Email Invitations
Data Collection Mode(s)	 Telephone Interviews  Online Survey

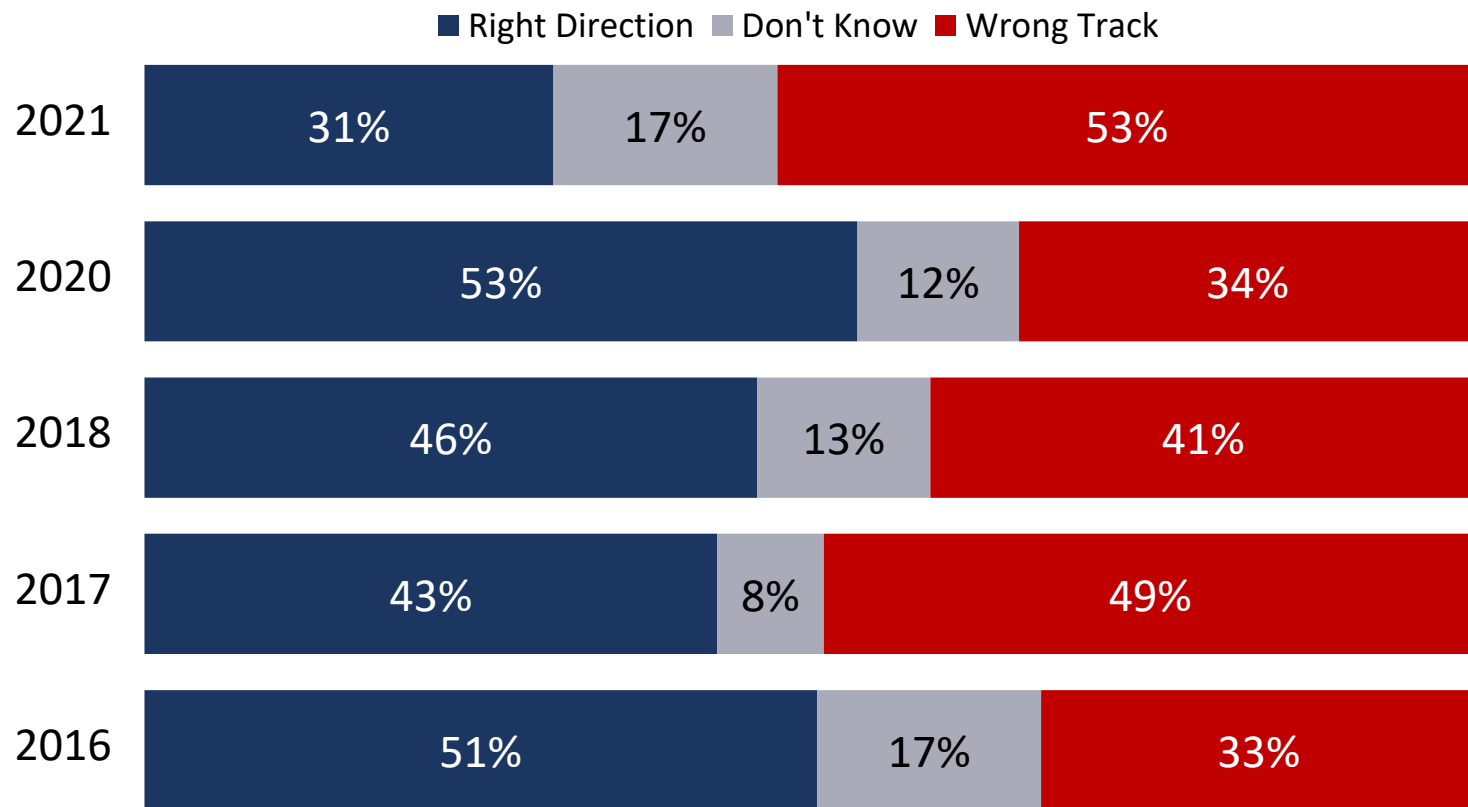
(Note: Not All Results Will Sum to 100% Due to Rounding)



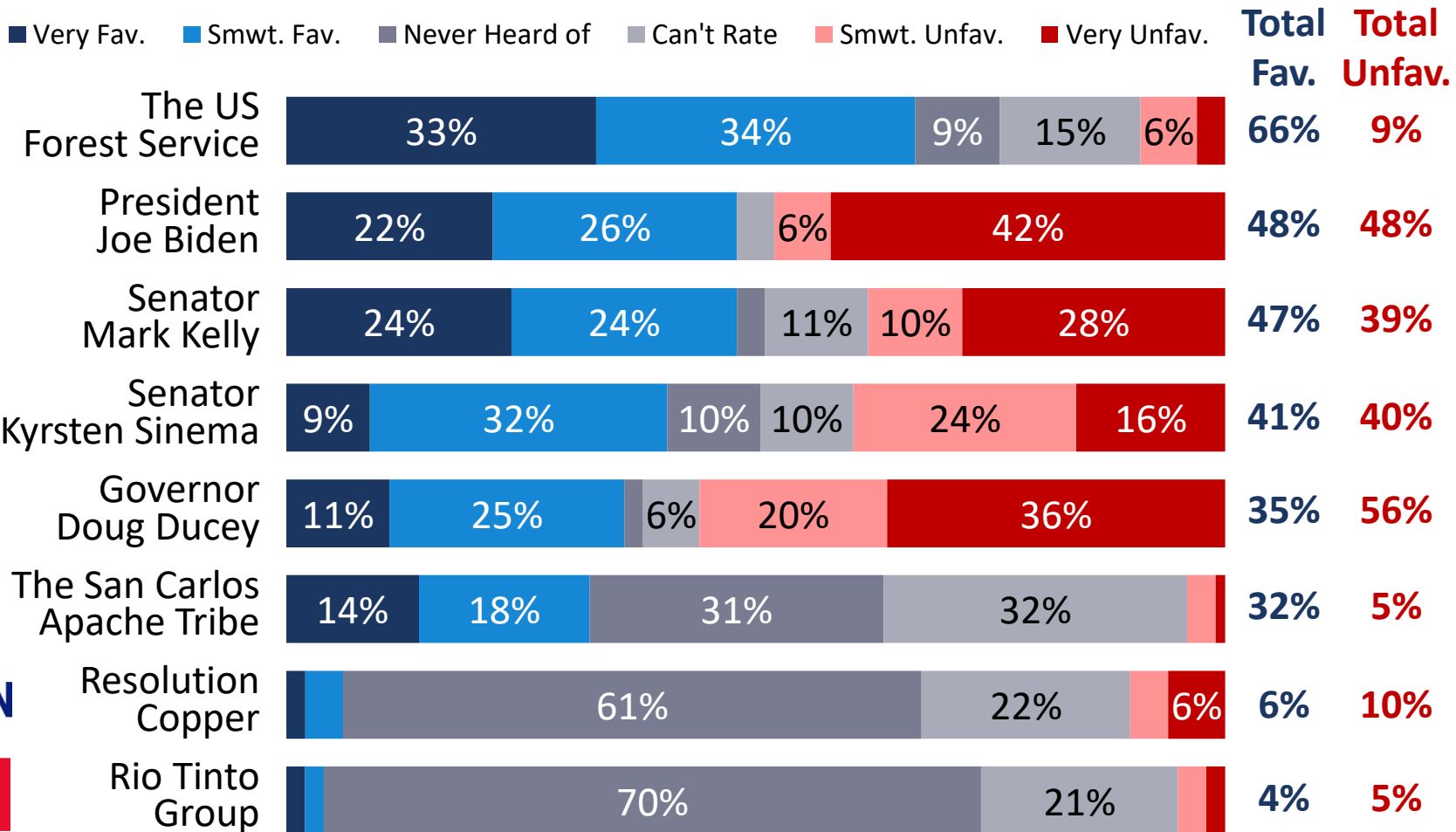
Issue Context

A majority of voters now believes the state is off on the wrong track.

Would you say that things in the State of Arizona are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are pretty seriously off on the wrong track?



Arizonans have broadly favorable views of the Forest Service and are divided on Biden.



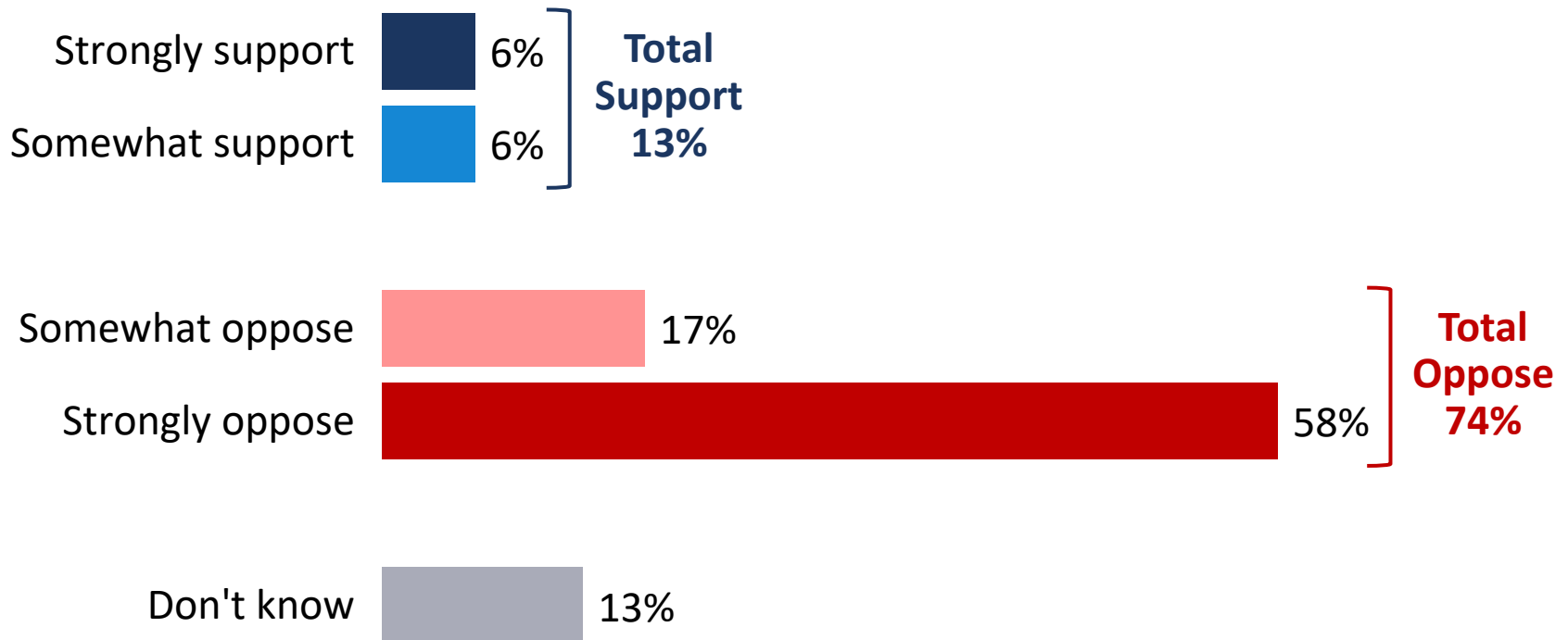
Q2. I'm going to mention a few people and organizations that are active in public life. Please tell me whether you have an overall favorable or unfavorable opinion of that person or organization.



Opinions of the Resolution Copper Proposal

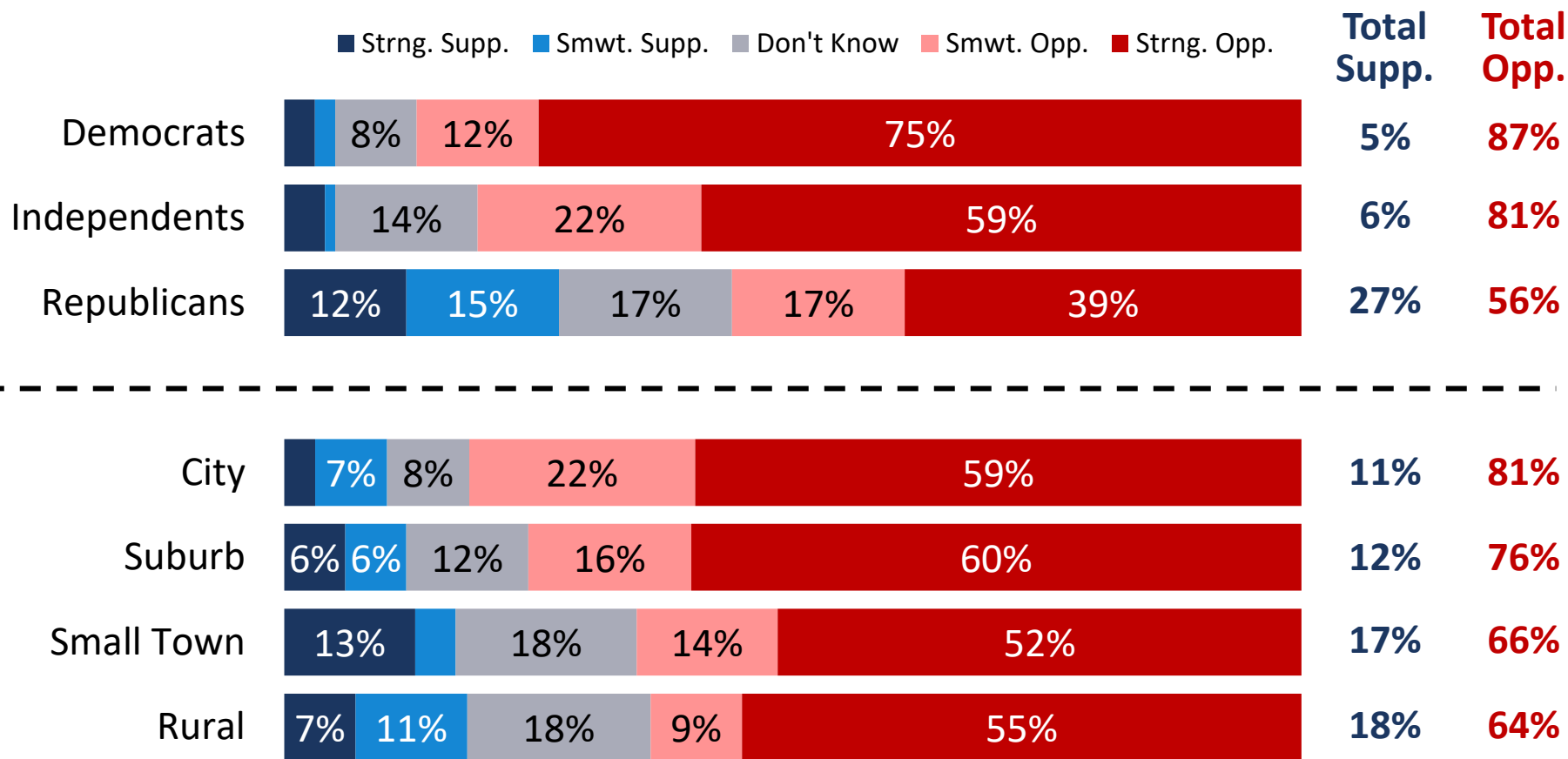
Given a brief description, nearly three-quarters oppose the Resolution Copper proposal.

Let me tell you more about the proposal. Resolution Copper, a subsidiary of multinational mining company Rio Tinto, is seeking to develop a copper mine in Central Arizona east of Phoenix on more than 16,000 acres of Tonto National Forest and other public land. Resolution Copper estimates that the mine could produce as much as 40 billion pounds of copper over 40 years. The area, also known as Oak Flat, is a sacred site to the Apache. The company would use a mining method that would leave a crater 2 miles wide and a thousand feet deep, impacting water supplies and wildlife habitat. The proposal is being reviewed by state and federal agencies and Congress.



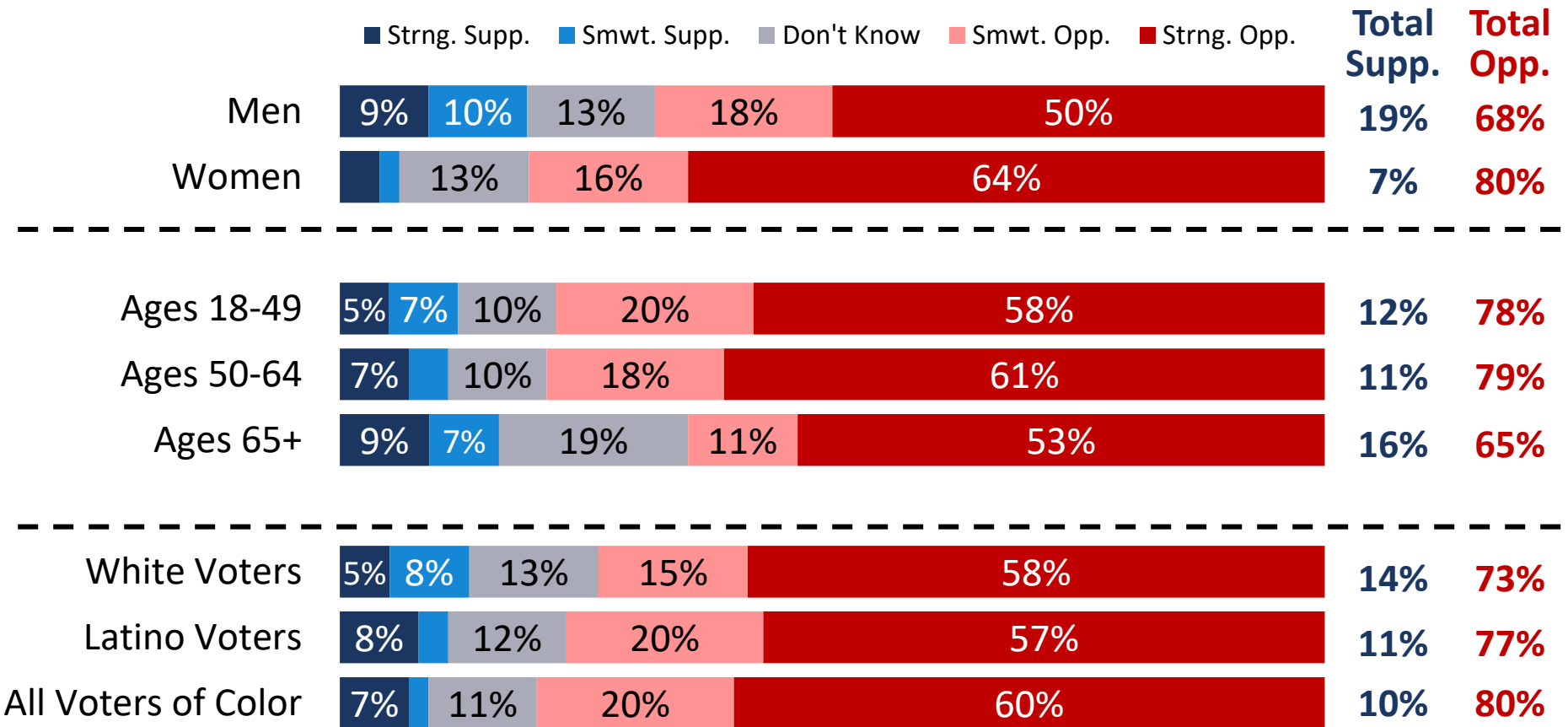
Opposition is substantial across party and type of area in the state, including majorities of Republicans and rural voters.

Initial Opinion by Party & Area



Majorities across age, gender and ethnicity lines are “strongly opposed” to the proposal for Oak Flat.

Initial Opinion by Gender, Age & Race/Ethnicity





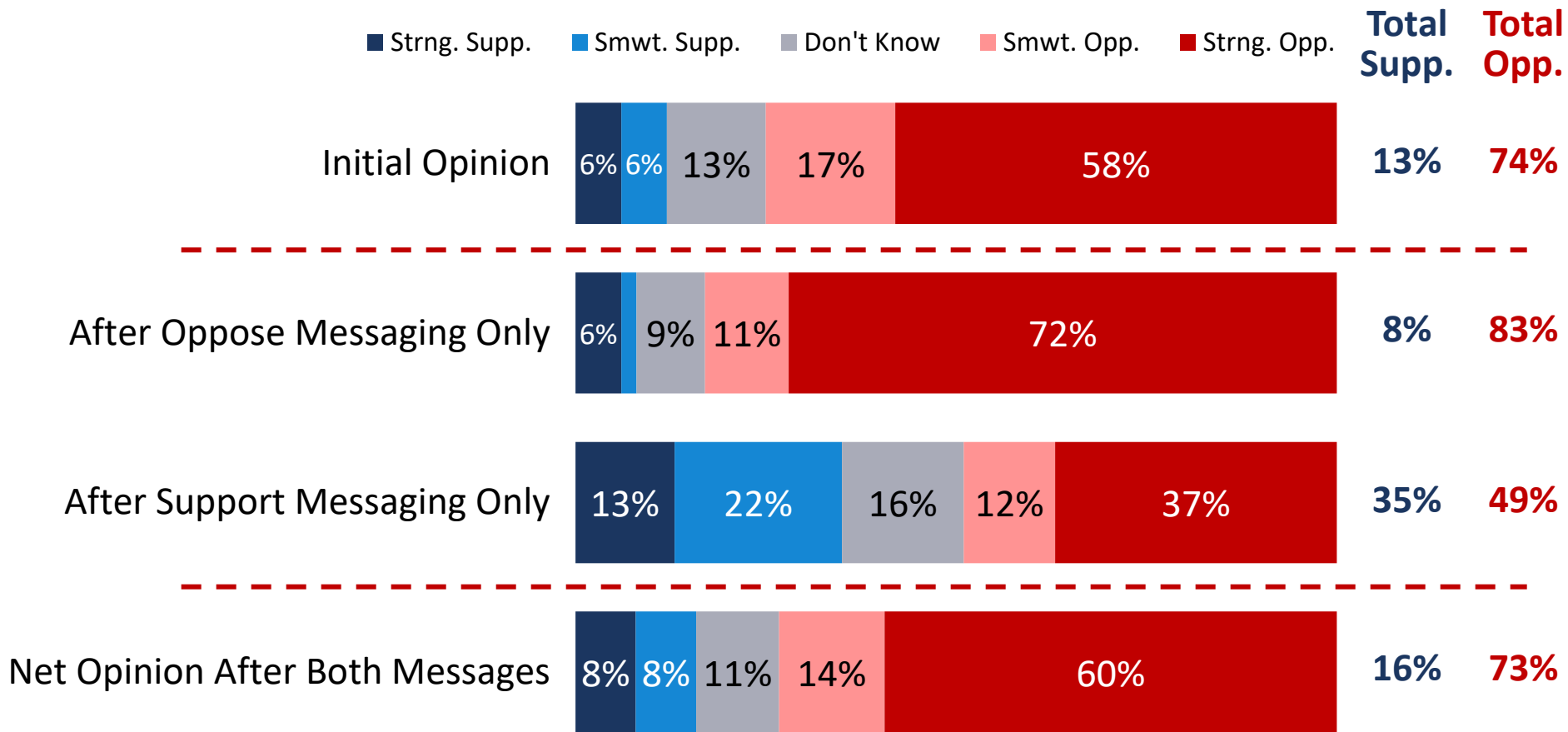
Messaging and Movement

Voters also heard brief statements from supporters and opponents of the project.

Opponents say that Oak Flat is a sacred site to the Apache and is still used in religious ceremonies today. The mine would destroy Oak Flat, leave a crater up to 2 miles wide and 1,000 feet deep and permanently deplete our water supply during a time of extreme drought. Toxic waste from the mine would be spread across thousands of acres, risking drinking water contamination and making the area unsafe for humans and wildlife. Few of the mine's jobs would go to local residents and the copper is expected to be processed in China. The mine also poses huge risks to Arizona tourism, outdoor recreation, and agriculture -- while likely leaving major cleanup costs for taxpayers.

Supporters say this project would create more than 1,400 jobs in rural Arizona and contribute more than \$60 billion to the Arizona economy over the lifespan of the project through wages, economic activity and tax revenue. And this mine could supply up to ¼ of America's copper demand. The copper from the mine would be used to produce vital products needed for solar panels, electric vehicles, and smartphones. Resolution Copper has worked with tribal, environmental, and recreation stakeholders to protect another sacred site at Apache Leap, and to make public 5,000 acres of other land for wildlife habitat, hunting, rock climbing, and camping.

After pro and con messaging, more than seven in ten still oppose the plan – and three in five do so “strongly.”





Conclusions

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- Nearly three in four Arizona voters oppose the proposal for the Resolution Copper Mine at Oak Flat – and more than half (58%) “strongly oppose” it.
- That opposition holds across key demographics, including 64% opposed in rural areas and 56% of GOP voters opposed.
- The proposal is also broadly and strongly opposed even after voters hear arguments in favor of it in isolation.

**For more information,
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