



Kati Capozzi  
President and CEO

Greater Sitka Chamber of Commerce 7/31/19

# Who We Are

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## Our history

Formed in 1953 before Alaska was a state for the purpose of promoting commerce in Alaska.

## Our vision

To be the leading voice advancing Alaska business.

## Our mission

To promote a healthy business environment in Alaska.



# Our Membership

**700+**

CHAMBER  
MEMBERS

**100K**

EMPLOYEES

**30+**

LOCAL ALASKA  
CHAMBERS

**65%**

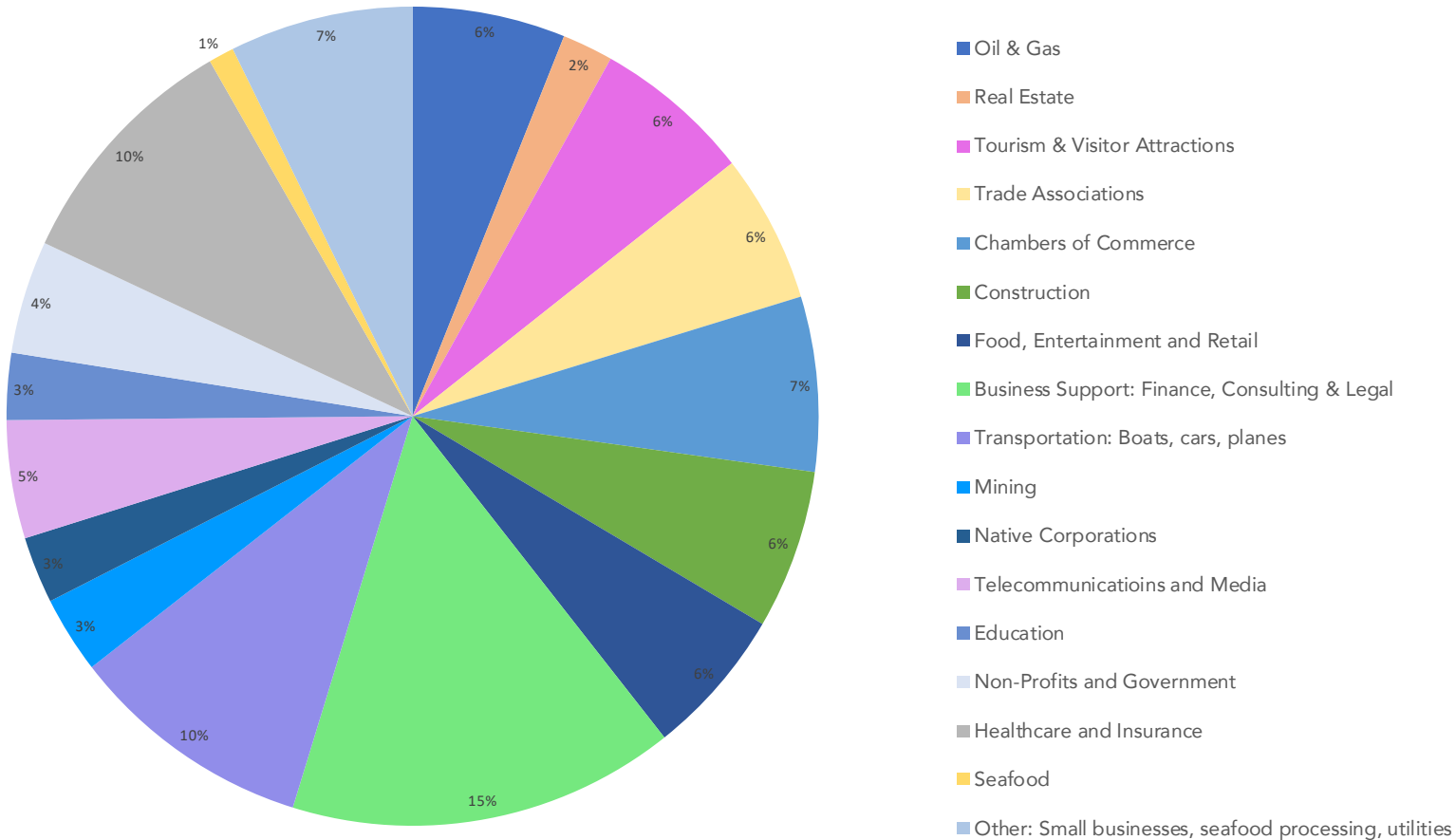
BUSINESSES  
WITH 50+  
EMPLOYEES

**35%**

BUSINESSES  
WITH < 50  
EMPLOYEES



# Our Membership





Our Board

# Our Board

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- 9 Member Executive Committee
- 20 elected representatives from each Alaska Senate District
- 10 elected At-Large representatives from the general membership
- 14 Board members appointed by the Chair
- A representative from 30+ local Alaska chambers of commerce
- A representative from 3 Outside chambers of commerce







# ADVOCACY



# PRIORITIES FOR 2019



# State Priorities for 2019

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1. Support reduction of spending to sustainable levels
2. Support a meaningful cap on operating budget expenditures
3. Support comprehensive workers' compensation reform



# Federal Priorities for 2019

1. Support oil and gas exploration and development in Alaska's federal areas including; the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPRA), Cook Inlet, and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR)
2. Support reform of the Federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act



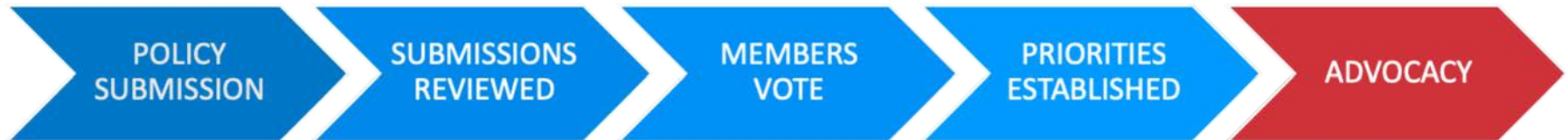
# Policy Setting Process

**SEPT. 6 – OCT. 30**

Legislative Affairs Committee reviews submissions, hears from policy proponent, and advances submission to membership.

**NOV. 13**

Full membership notified of the positions and priorities the Alaska Chamber will be advocating for in 2020.



**JULY 24 – SEPT. 6**

Any Alaska Chamber member in good standing can submit a position.

**OCT. 30**

Alaska Chamber members present vote on policy submissions. Priorities and positions ratified by Board of Directors.



# Make Your Voice Heard

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 **ALASKA CHAMBER**

**2019 FALL FORUM**

October 28-30, 2019  
The Hotel Alyeska, Girdwood, Alaska

**PLAN TO ATTEND!**



# Alaska Chamber Health Plan

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Small businesses need  
cost-saving options  
and the Alaska  
Chamber is working  
toward a solution.



# 2019 ALASKA OPINION SURVEY RESULTS

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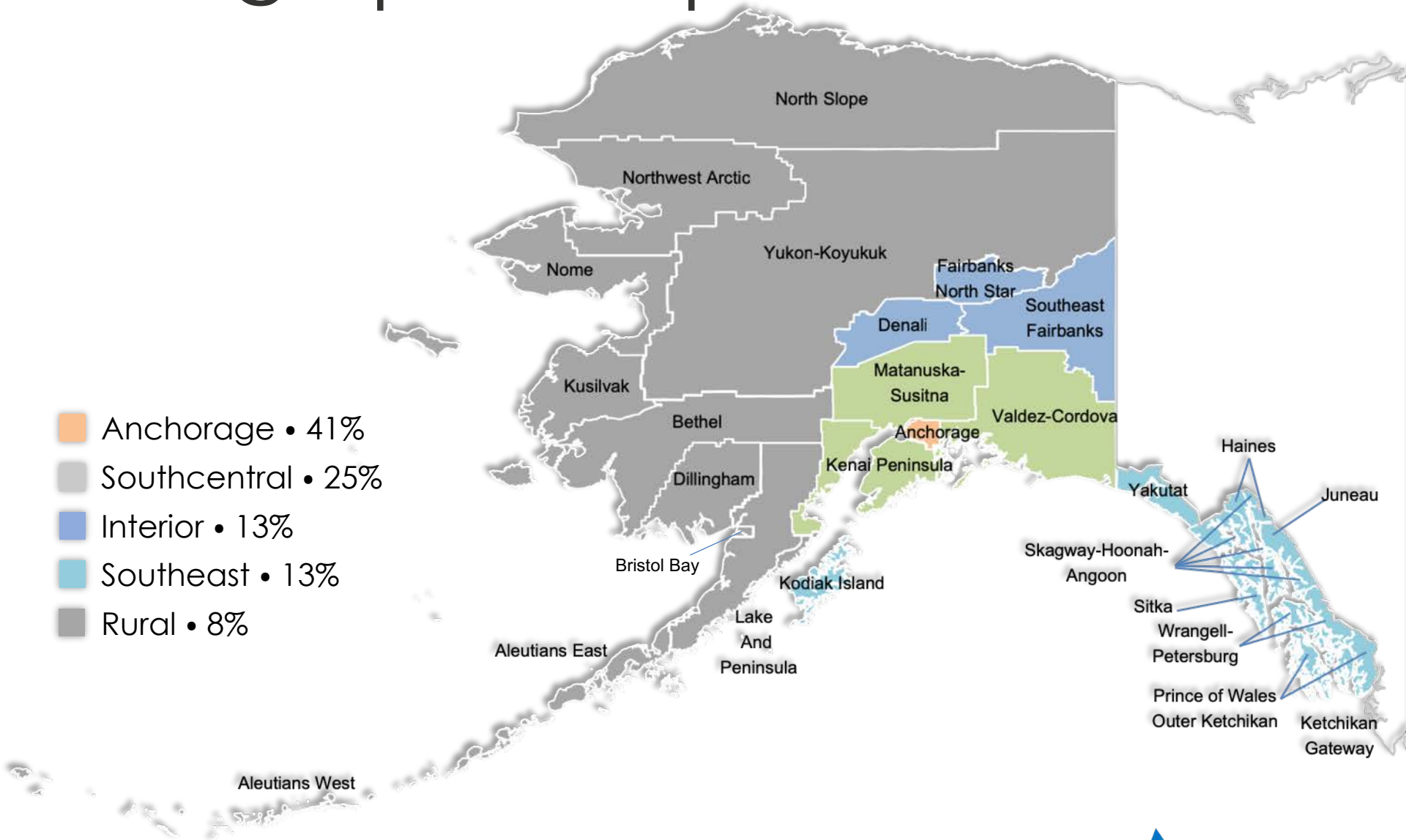
Fielded: March 27- 31, 2019

Sample: 705 statewide likely voters



# Geographic Representation

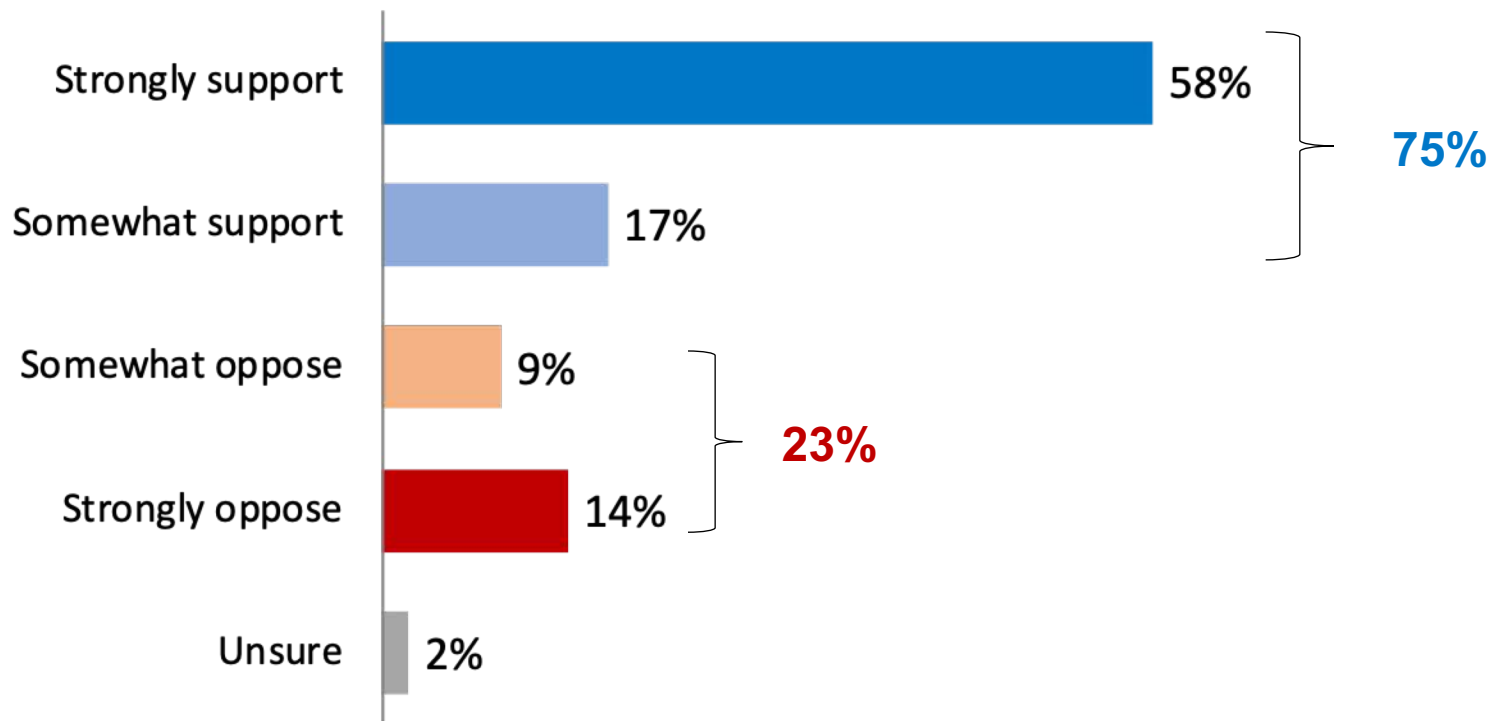
- Anchorage • 41%
- Southcentral • 25%
- Interior • 13%
- Southeast • 13%
- Rural • 8%



# POLICY ISSUES

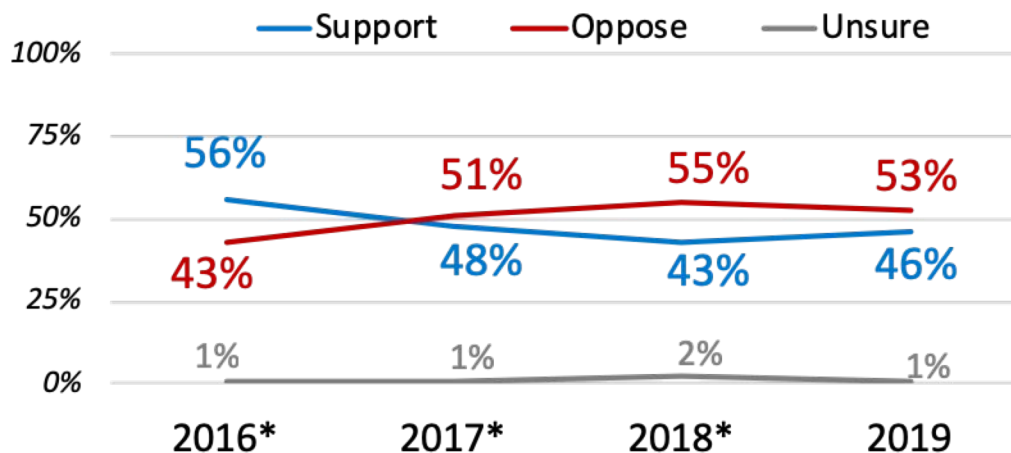
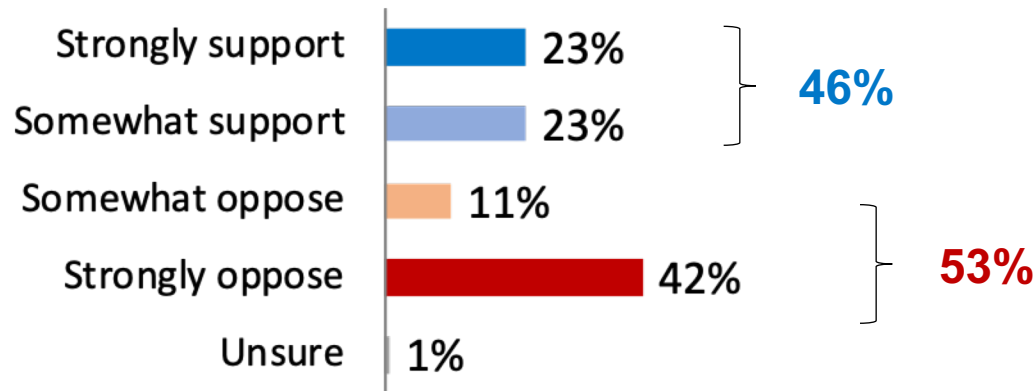
# Vote to approve a tax?

If in the future a statewide tax is proposed by the legislature, would you support or oppose requiring the tax be approved by a vote of the people before it could take effect?



# Using a portion of PFD for government?

Do you support or oppose using a portion of the Permanent Fund Dividend to pay for state government?



*\*2018 read: Use of some Permanent Fund earnings while guaranteeing a dividend equal to the historical average of \$1,200.*

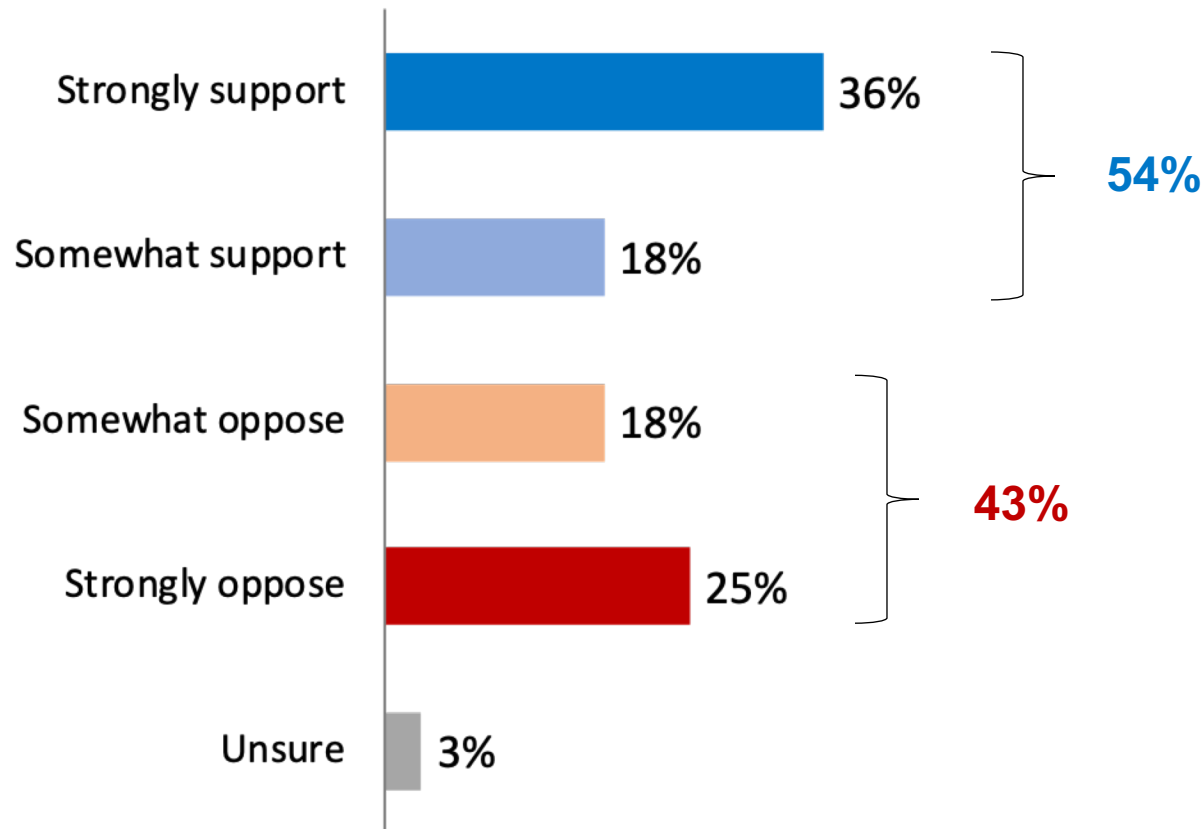
*\*2017 read: Use of some Permanent Fund earnings while guaranteeing a dividend equal to the historical average of \$1,000.*

*\*2016 read: Use of some Permanent Fund earnings with dividends capped to \$1,000 per year.*



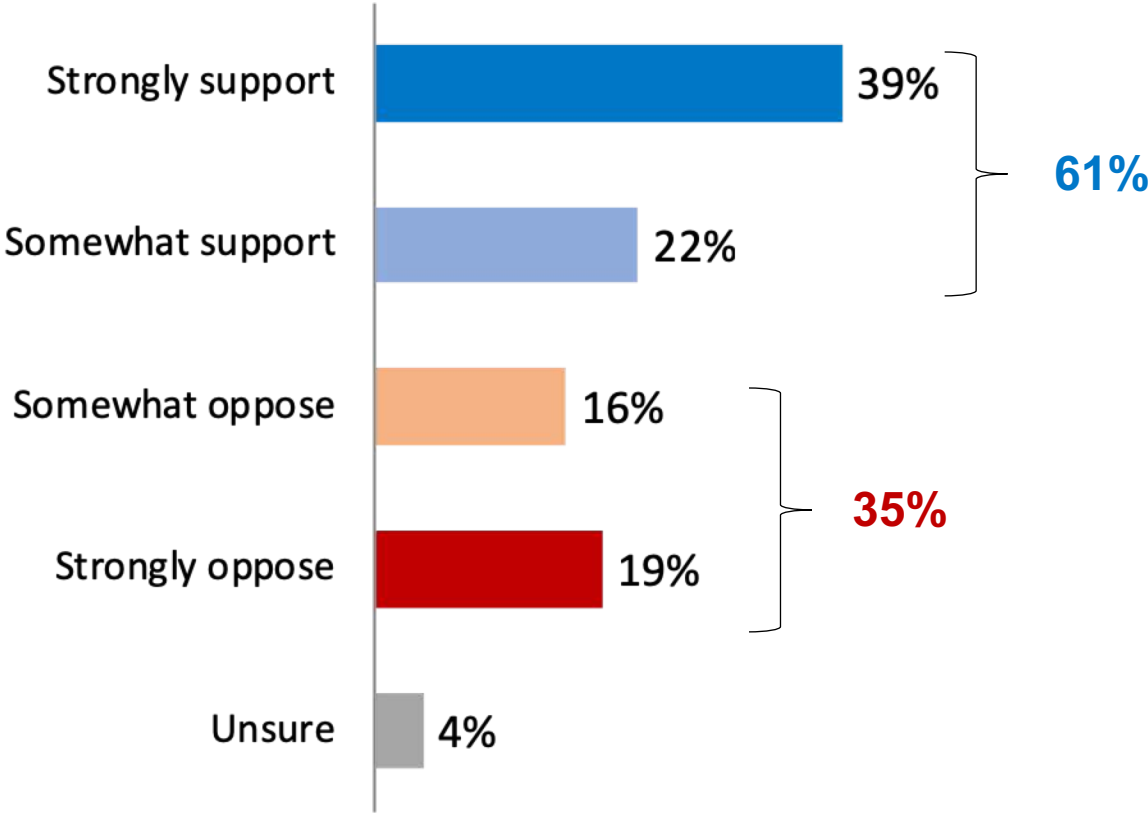
# Guarantee PFD in Constitution?

Do you support or oppose a state constitutional amendment to guarantee payment of the Permanent Fund Dividend each year?



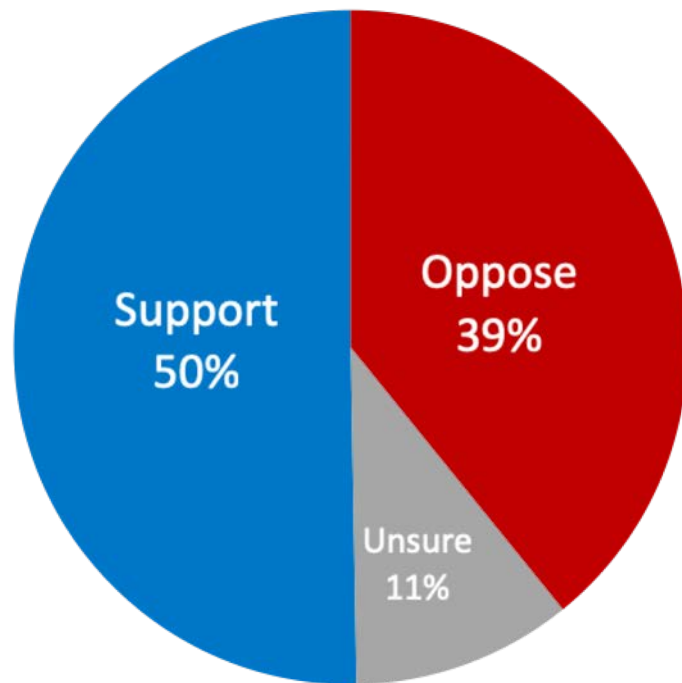
# Constitutional Spending Cap

Do you support or oppose a state constitutional amendment to put in place a spending cap on state spending?



# Workers' Compensation Reform

Workers' Compensation is a form of insurance providing wage replacement and medical benefits to employees injured in the course of employment. Alaska businesses pay some of the highest costs for Workers' Compensation insurance in the nation, and legislative reforms have been proposed to reduce those costs.



The business community supports reforms to Workers' Compensation because they will bring the cost of insurance in Alaska to be more in line with the costs incurred in other states.

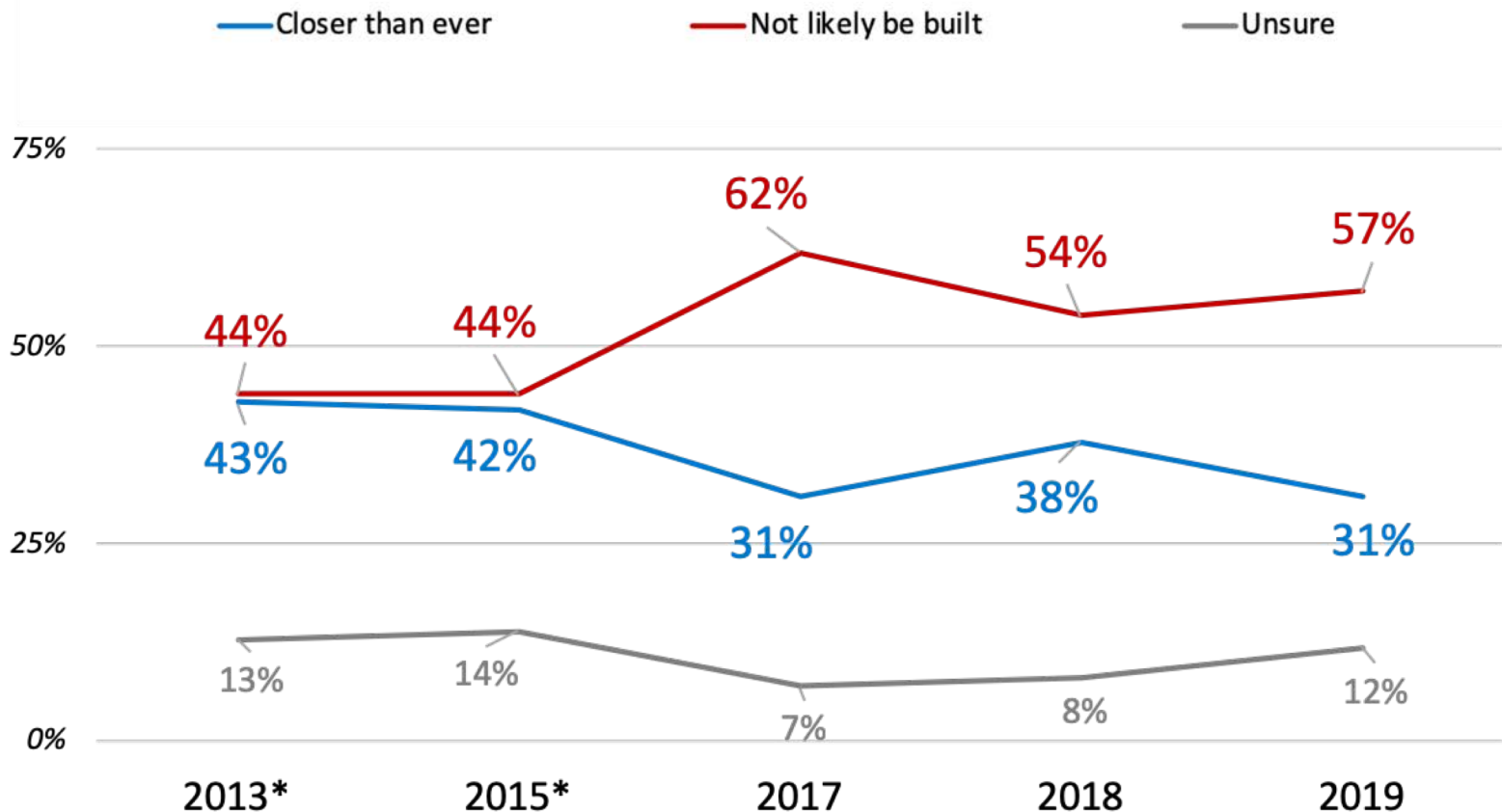
The healthcare community does not support reforms, saying the reforms will decrease the benefits for injured workers.

What is your opinion? Do you support or oppose workers' compensation reform?

# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

# Natural Gas Pipeline

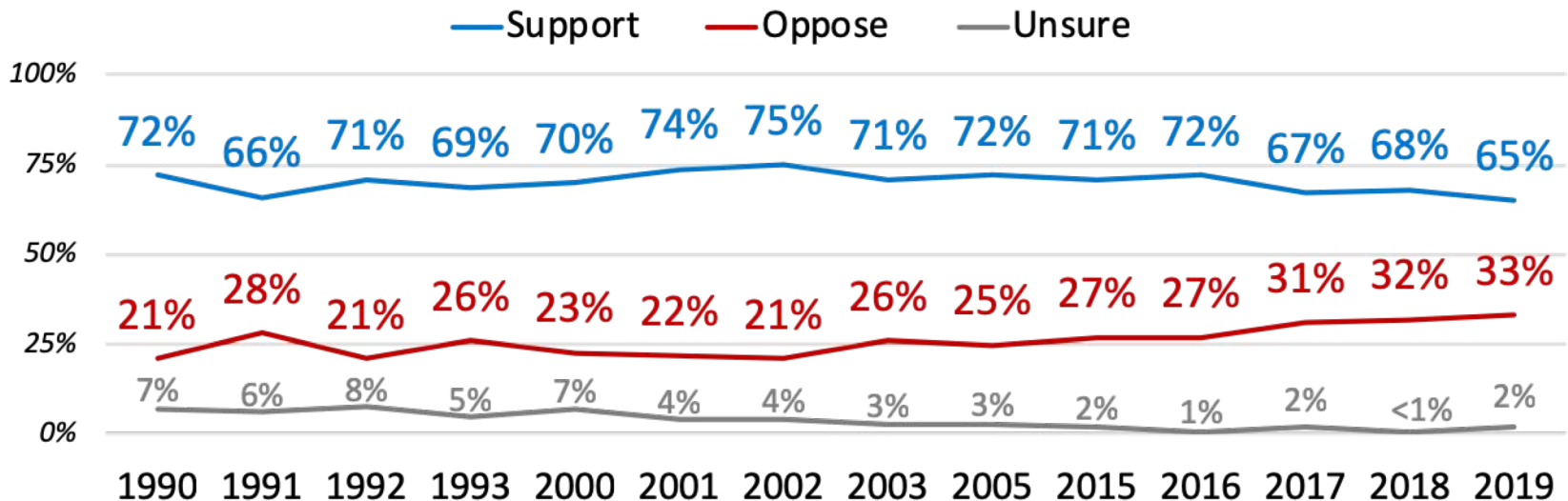
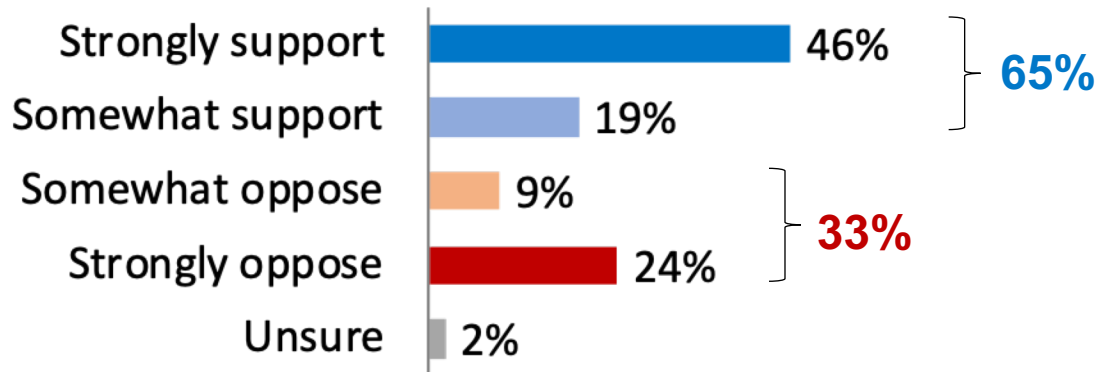
Please tell me which of the following two statements comes closest to your view regarding a potential natural gas pipeline from the North Slope: **Alaska is closer than ever to getting a natural gas pipeline built** — or — **a natural gas pipeline will not likely be built in the foreseeable future.**





# ANWR Exploration and Production

Do you support or oppose exploration and production of oil and gas in a portion of ANWR, that is the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge?



# Final Thought

"...one key issue has consistently remained a priority for more than 20 years, both when the state was flush with cash from high oil prices and when it was struggling through economic recession: the need for a sustainable fiscal plan focused on Alaska's future."

Alaska Chamber Op-Ed  
Anchorage Daily News, 4/26/19



# Contact Us

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