


Federalist Society Polling Data: Wisconsin

Survey of Likely Voters in Wisconsin
March 1-4, 2007 (507 Likely Voters)
March 15-17, 2008 (500 Likely Voters)
Margin of Error: $\pm 4.4\%$

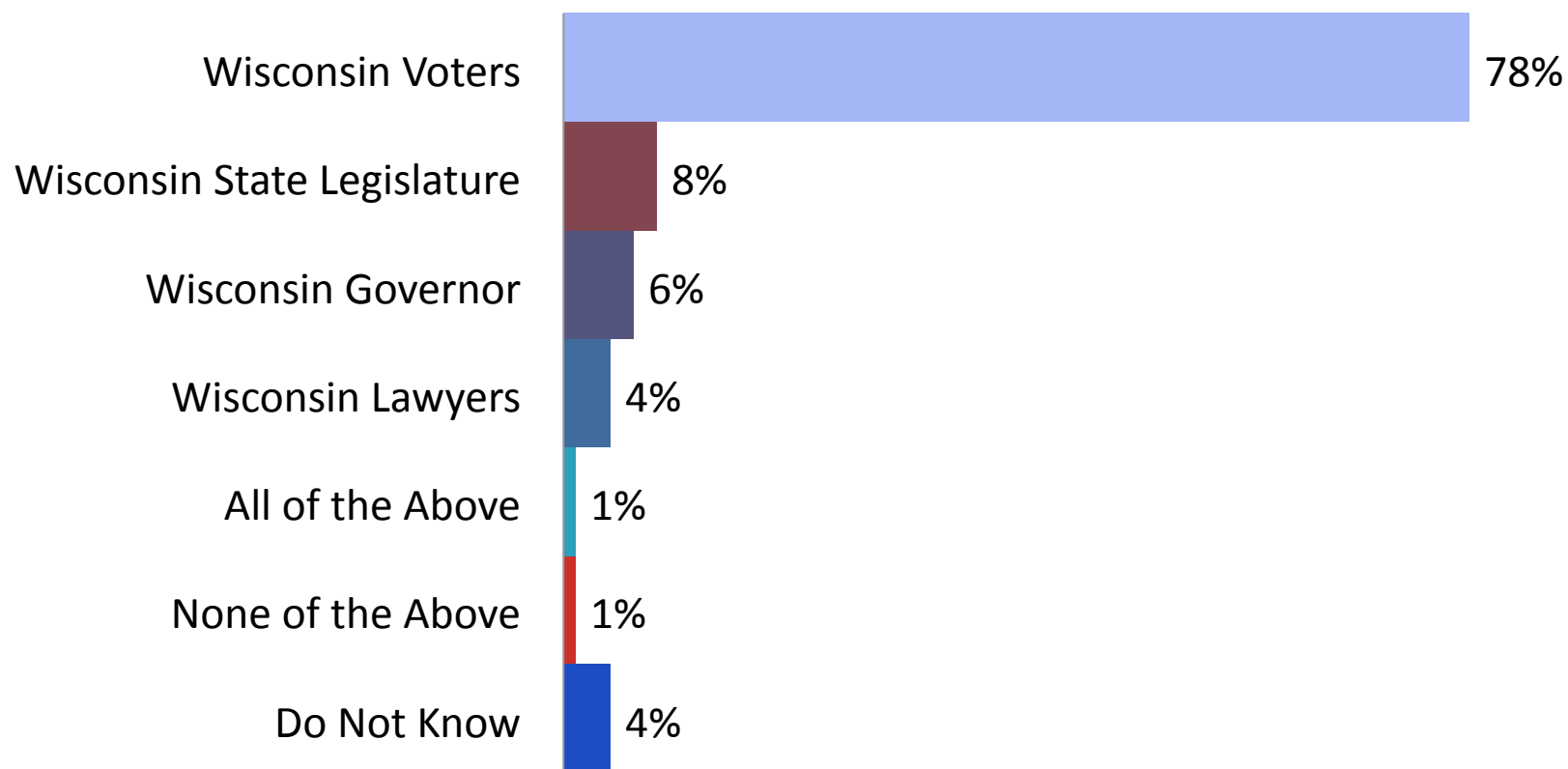
STATECOURTS
guide

 the polling company, inc.
WomanTrend



Wisconsin Supreme Court Selection

Who do you think should have the greatest input on who is selected to serve as a Justice on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court?



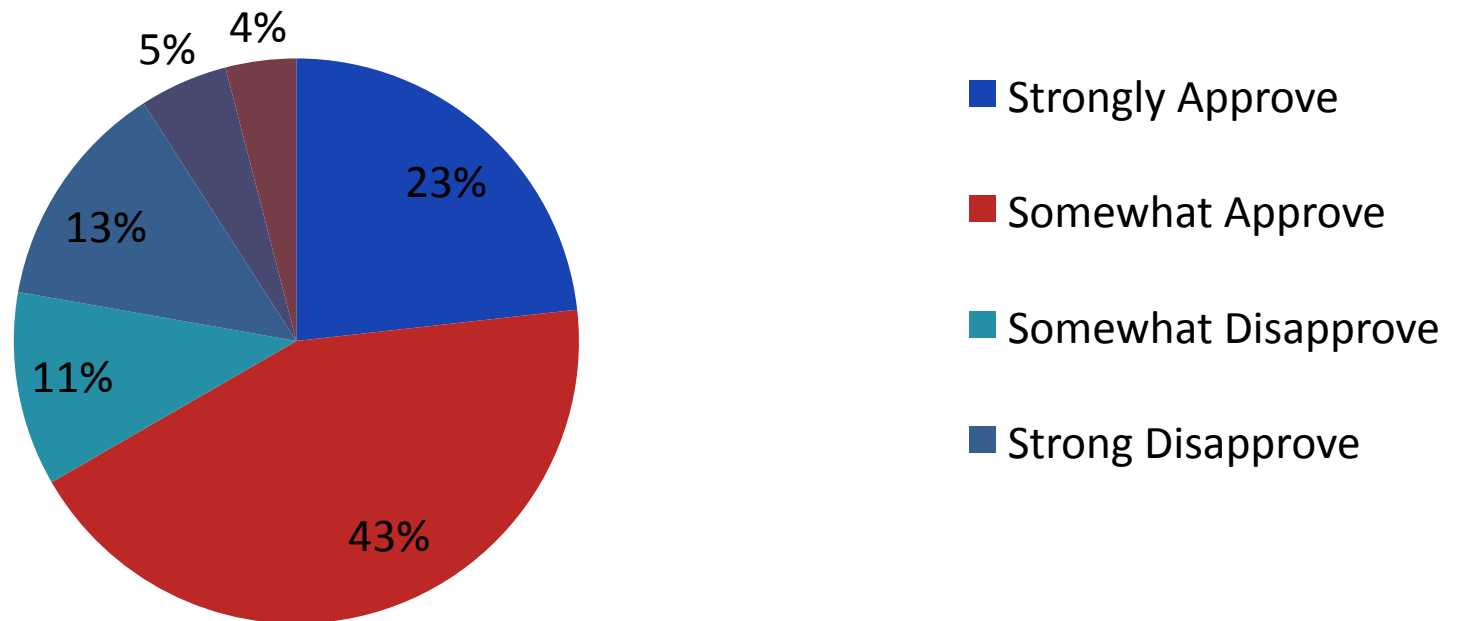
2008, 500 Likely Voters

The Federalist Society Polling Data

Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections

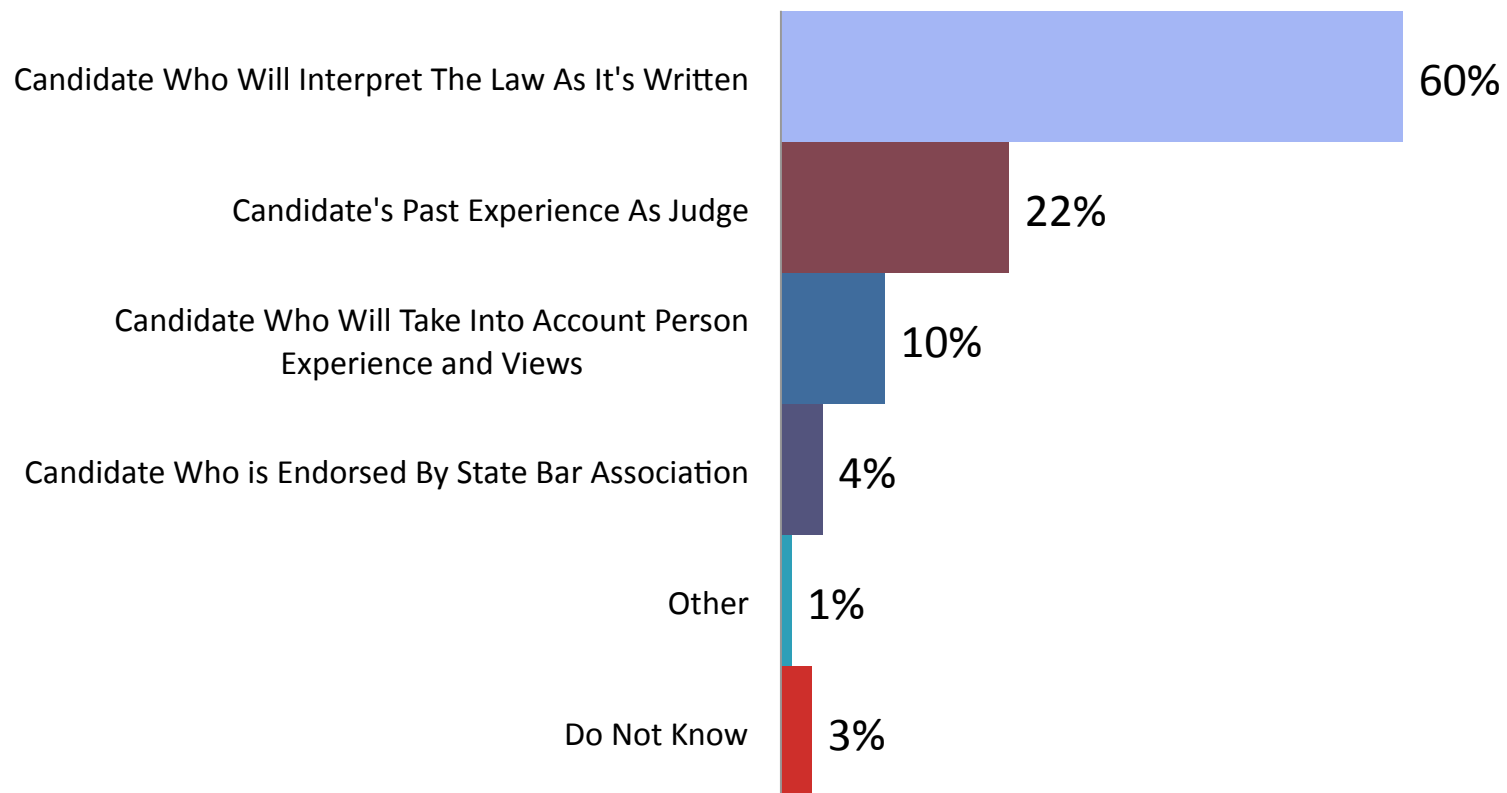
As you may know, there are seven Justices on the Wisconsin State Supreme Court. They are elected by Wisconsin voters in non-partisan elections (meaning the Justices do not identify as Republican or Democrat) for ten year terms. If there is a vacancy in between elections, the Governor of Wisconsin appoints a Justice to serve out the rest of that term. One current Wisconsin Supreme Court Justice is running for reelection next month.

Do you approve or disapprove of this method of judicial selection for Wisconsin's State Supreme Court?



Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections

Which of the following will be MOST important to you in deciding how to vote for Wisconsin State Supreme Court in April?

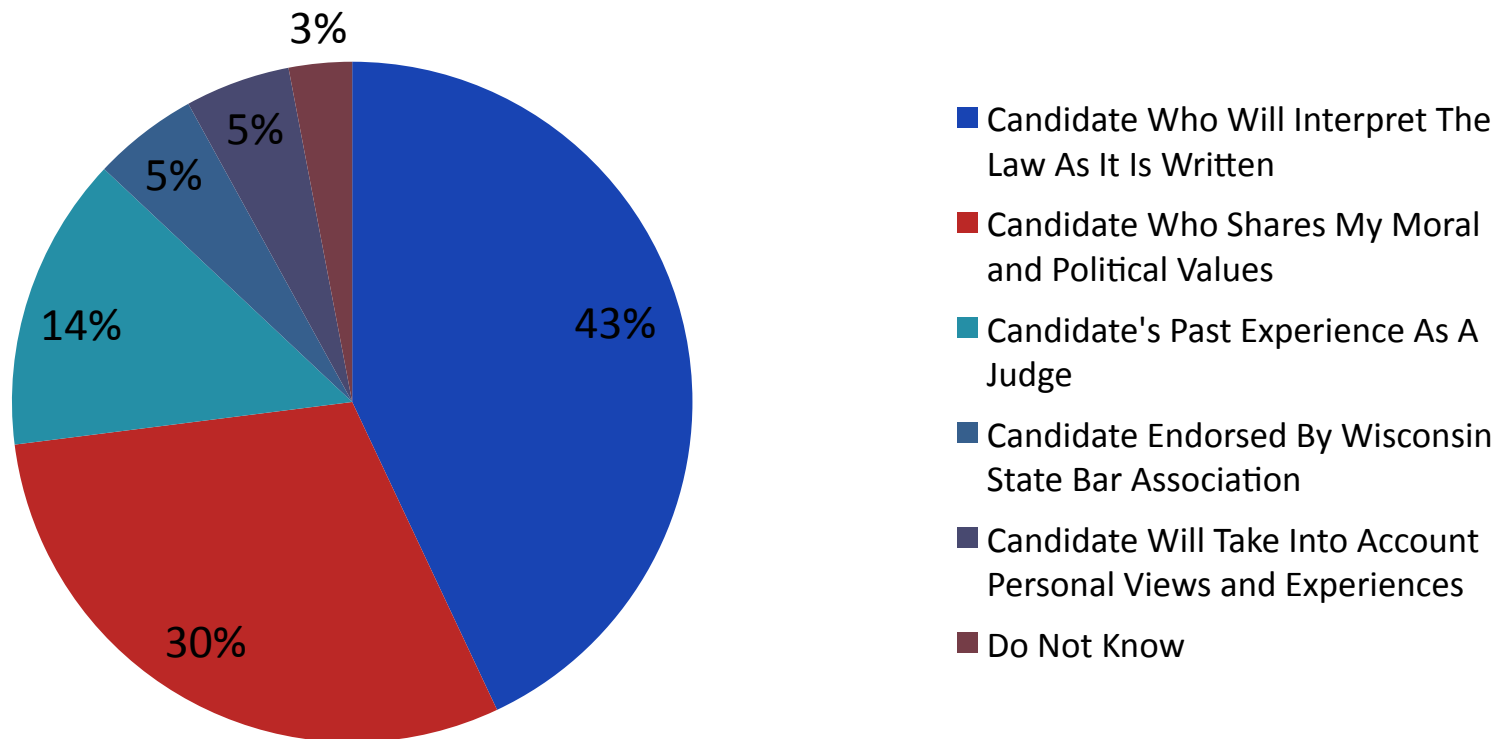


2008, 500 Likely Voters

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Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections

Which of the following will be MOST important to you in deciding how to vote for Wisconsin State Supreme Court in April?

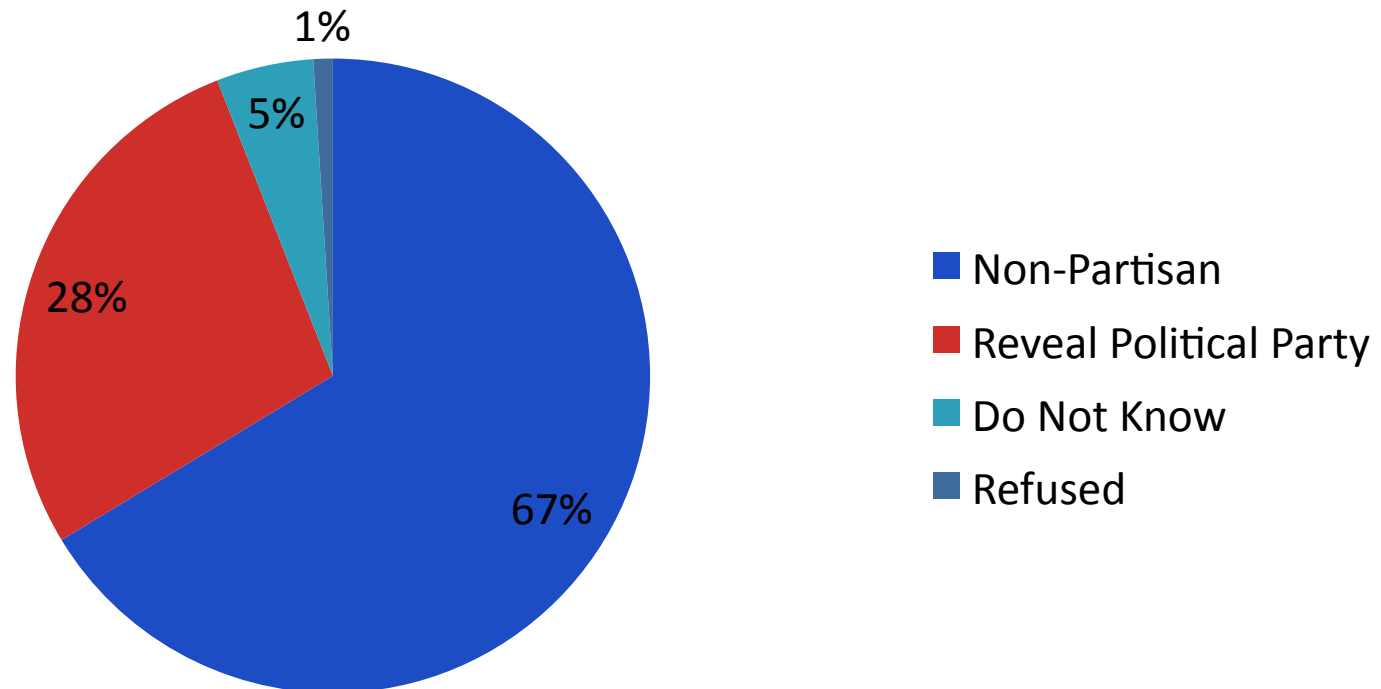


2007, 507 Likely Voters

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Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections

As I mentioned previously, judicial elections here in Wisconsin are non-partisan, meaning candidates do not identify themselves as Republican or Democrat. Do you think that judicial elections in Wisconsin should be non-partisan or do you believe people running for Supreme Court in Wisconsin should reveal whether they are Republicans or Democrats?

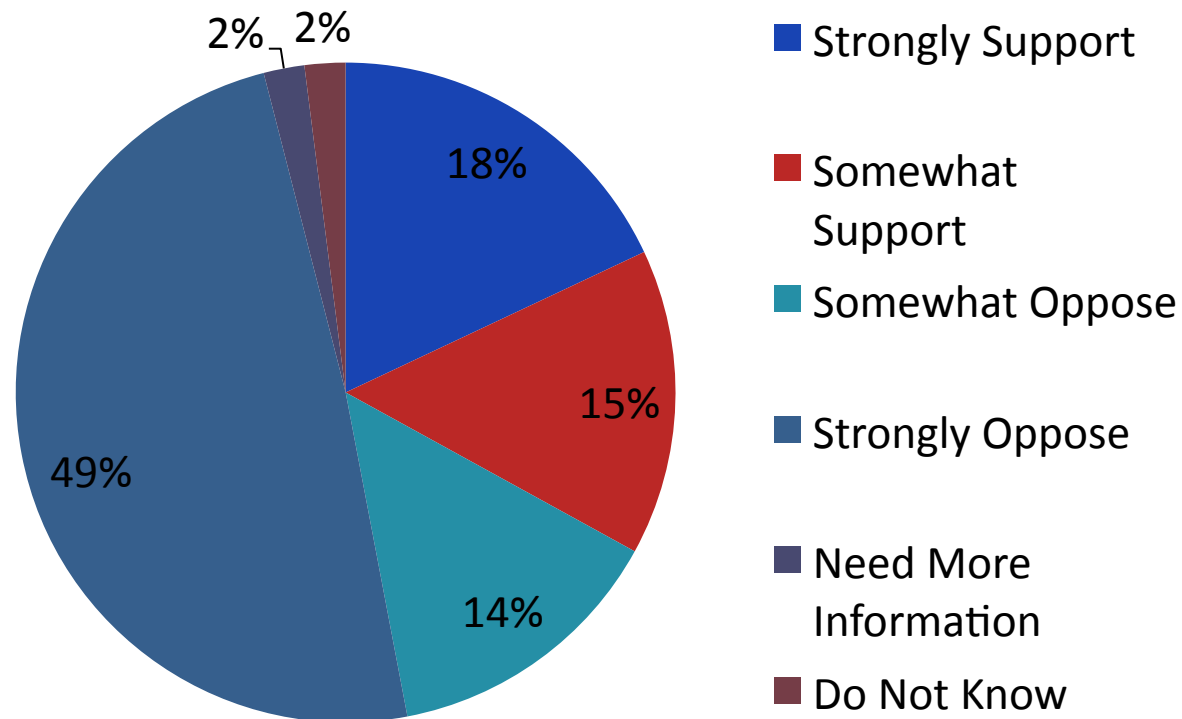


2007, 507 Likely Voters

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Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections

Do you support or oppose giving candidates for judicial offices – such as State Supreme Court Justice – Wisconsin state taxpayer money to publicly finance their campaigns?

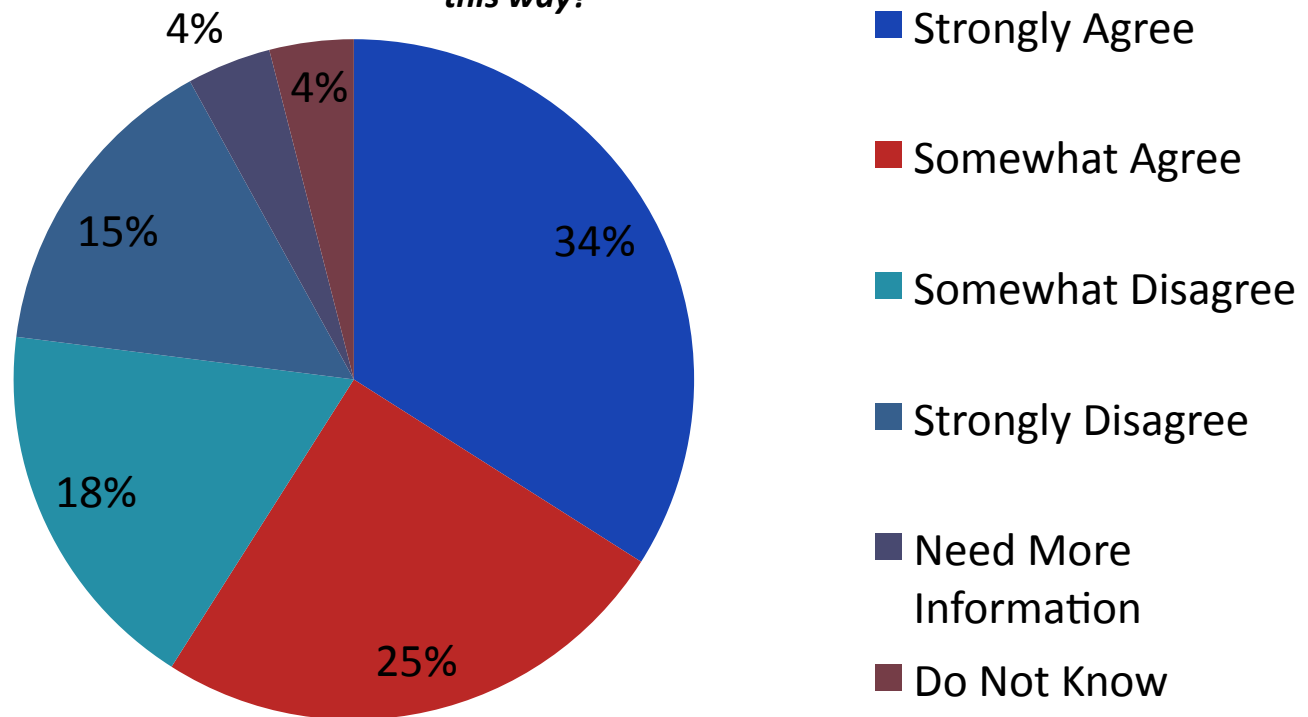


2008, 500 Likely Voters

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Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections

To ensure impartiality, candidates for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court are prohibited from publicly offering their opinions about cases that might come before them in the future. Some believe that this should go further and that people running for judge should also be restricted from speaking about or producing campaign materials about other issues as well. Do you agree or disagree that candidates for State Supreme Court should be restricted from speaking in this way?



2008, 500 Likely Voters

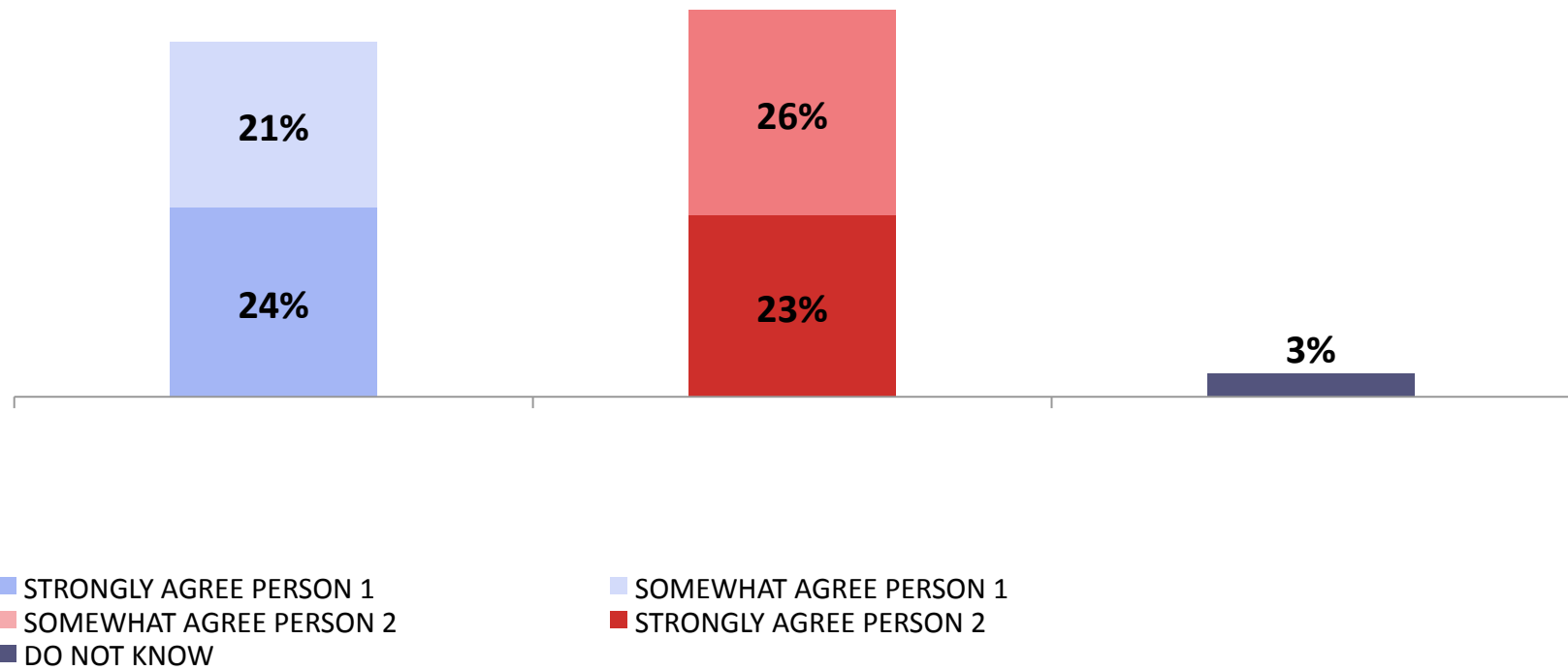
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Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections

I am going to read you the opinions of two people. Please tell me which one comes closest to your view.

PERSON 1: The speech of candidates for State Supreme Court should be restricted because judges are different than other elected officials and are held to a higher standard of impartiality.

PERSON 2: The speech of candidates for State Supreme Court should not be restricted because it violates the First Amendment and prevents Wisconsin voters from obtaining the fullest information possible for deciding who is best-suited to serve on our State Supreme Court.

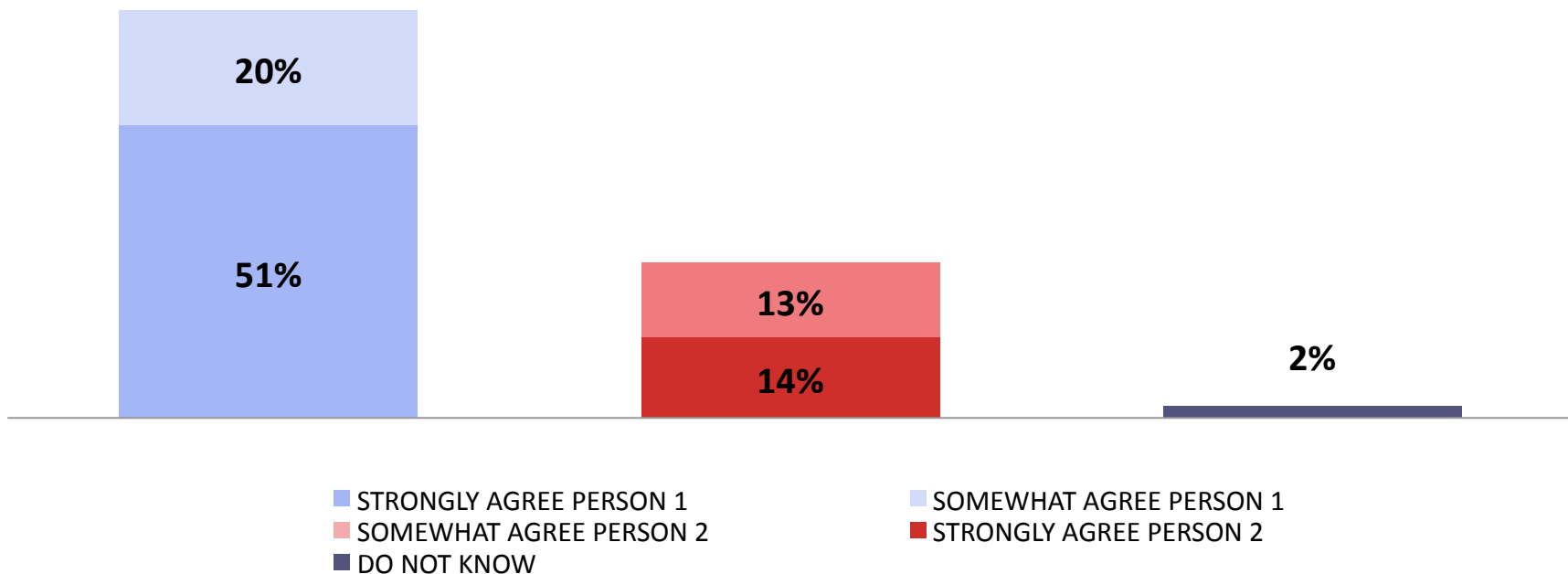


Wisconsin Supreme Court Elections

I am going to read you the opinions of two people. Please tell me which one comes closest to your view.

PERSON 1: Supreme Court Justices should be elected by voters because elections hold Justices accountable for their decisions and rulings.

PERSON 2: Supreme Court Justices should not be elected by voters because elections put pressure on Justices to make certain decisions and rulings based on public opinion.

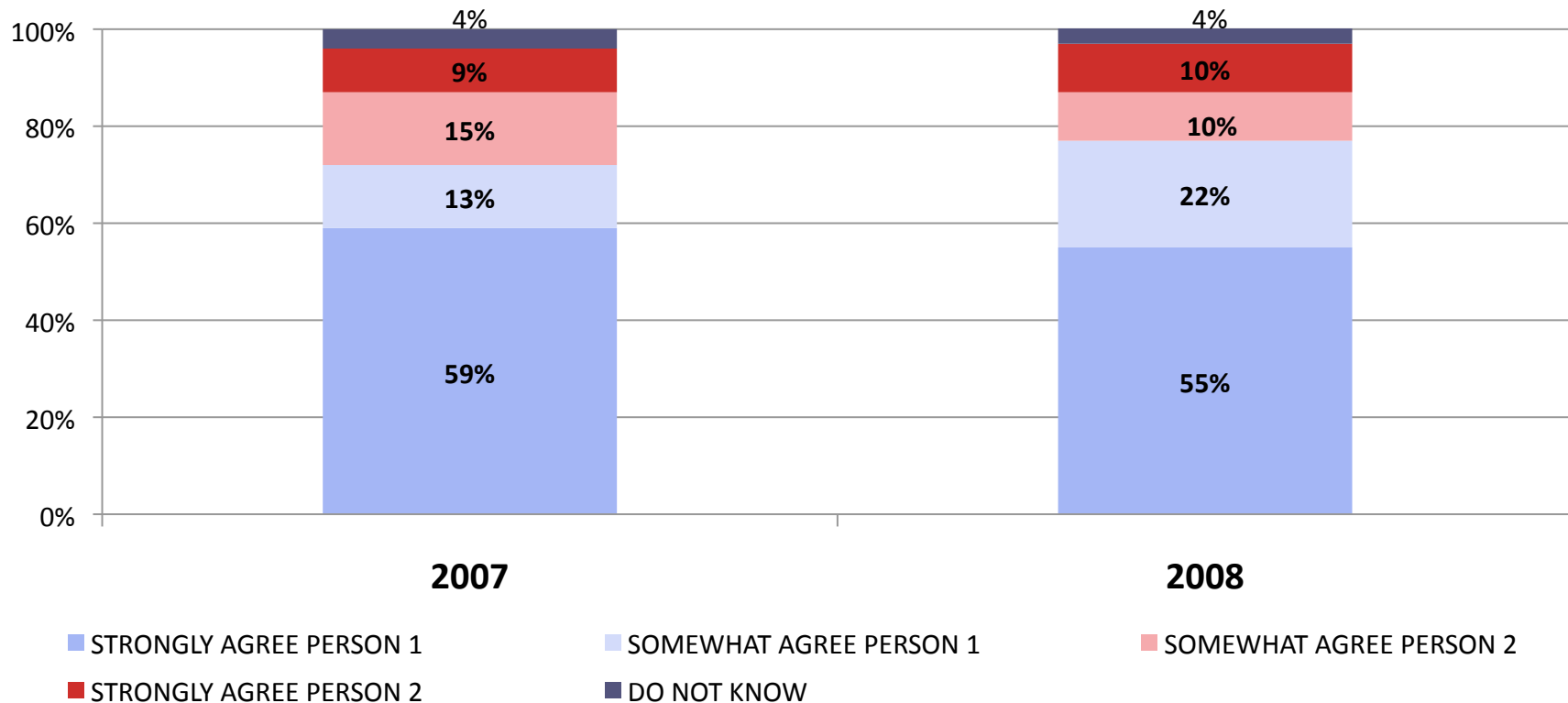


Role of Personal Viewpoints

I am going to read you the opinions of two people. Please tell me which one comes closest to your view.

PERSON 1: Judges should interpret and apply the law as it is written and not take into account their own viewpoints and experiences.

PERSON 2: Judges should go beyond interpreting and applying the law and take into account their own viewpoints and experiences.

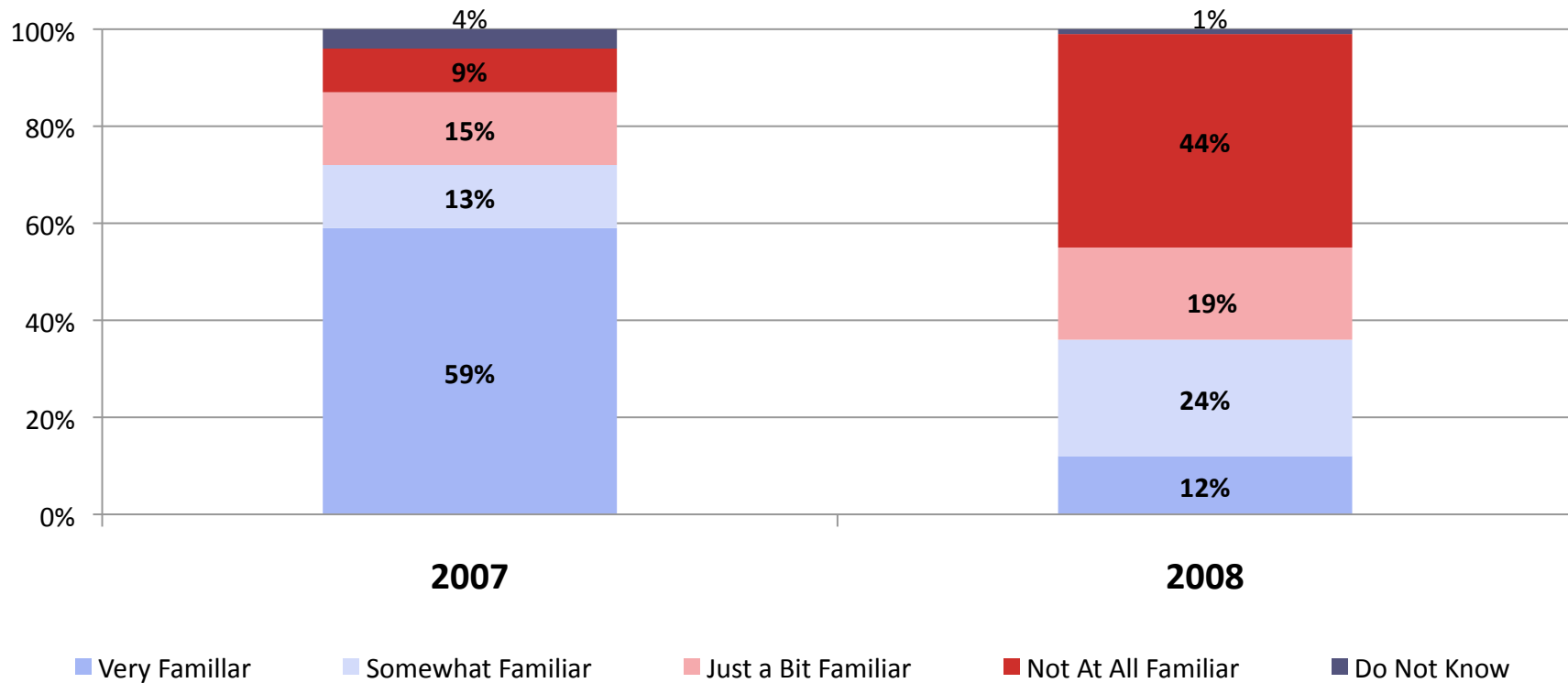


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Awareness of Judicial Activism

How familiar are you with the concept of “judicial activism”? Would you say you are...



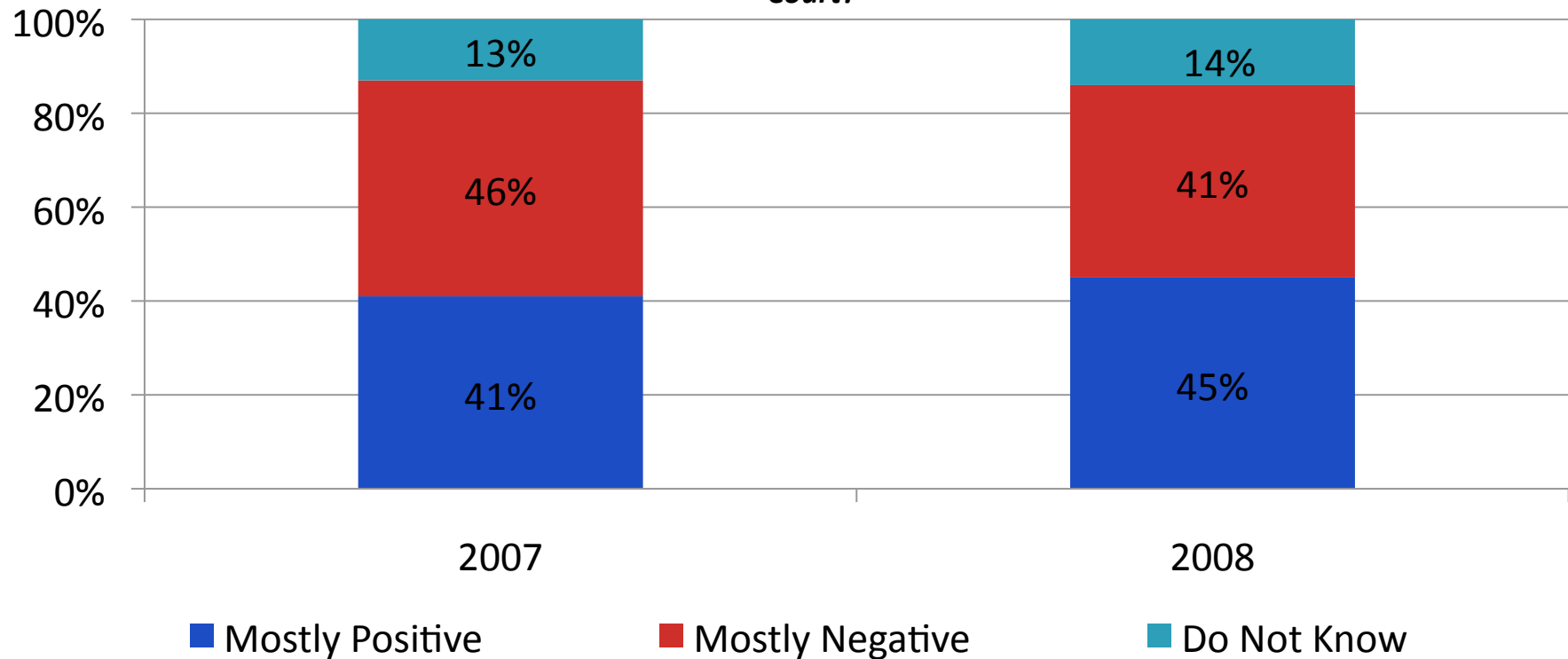
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Attitudes Toward Judicial Activism

"Judicial activism" is a term used to describe when a judge feels that his or her role is not simply to review the law as it is written, but is instead to allow for new or evolving meaning of the law over time.

Do you think judicial activism is a mostly positive or mostly negative thing for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court?

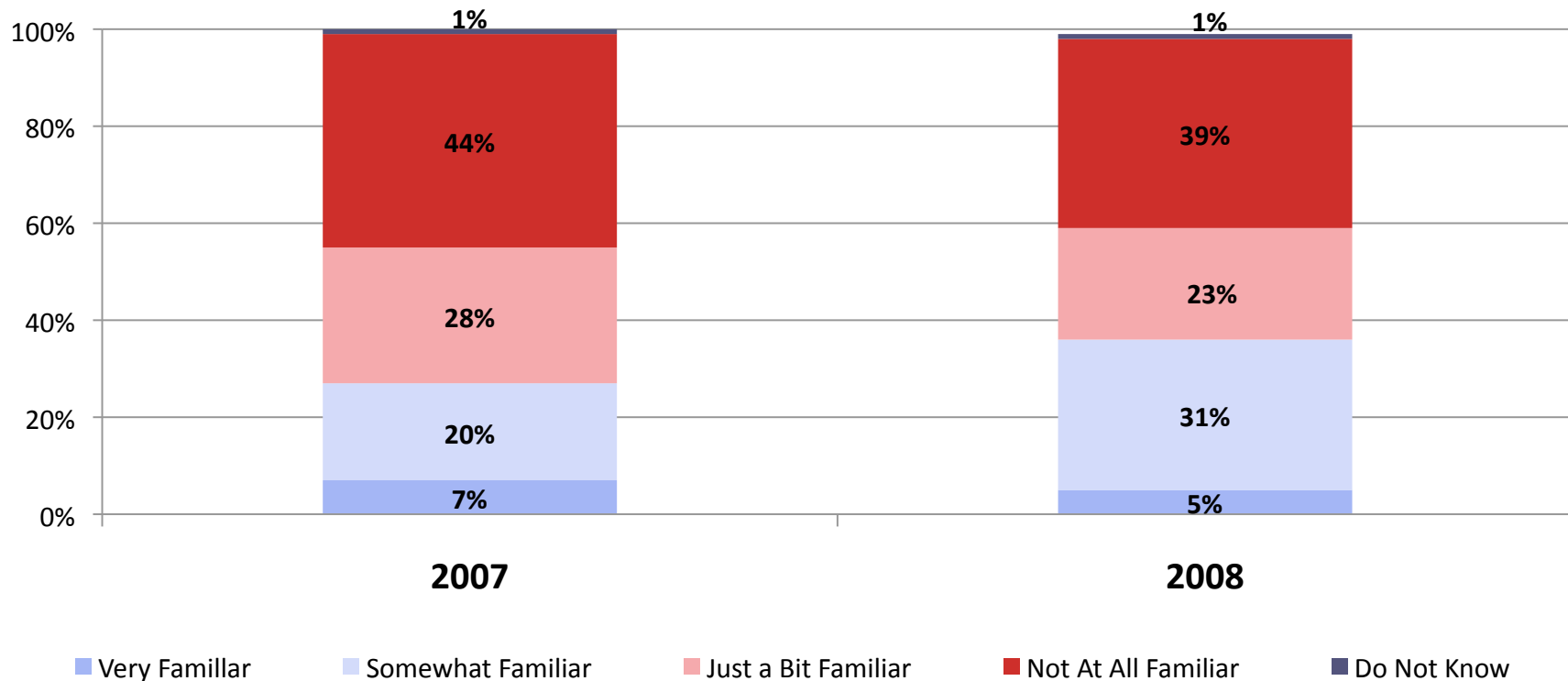


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Awareness of Judicial Restraint

And how familiar are you with the concept of “judicial restraint”? Would you say you are...



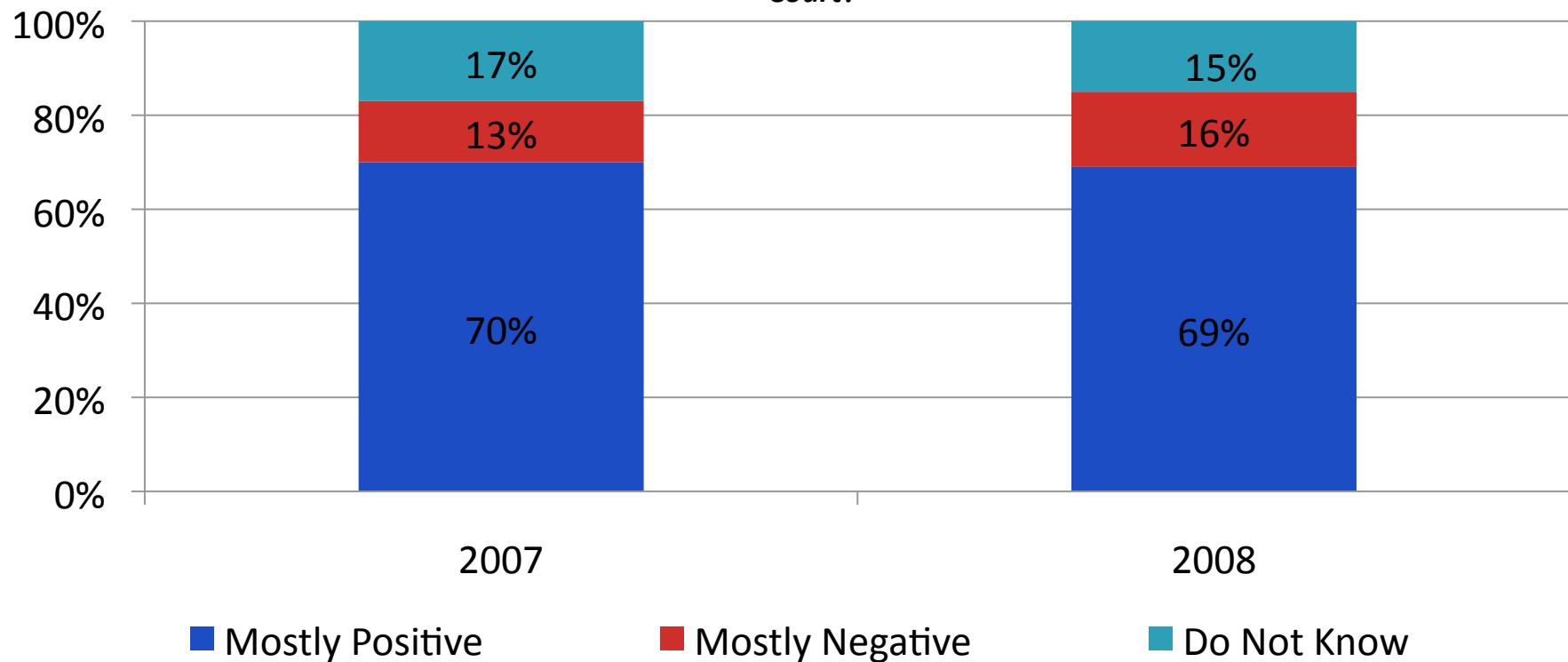
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Attitudes Toward Judicial Restraint

“Judicial restraint” is a term used to describe when a judge views his or her role solely as an evaluator of whether a law or lower court ruling is in line with the state constitution.

Do you think judicial restraint is a mostly positive or mostly negative thing for the Wisconsin State Supreme Court?

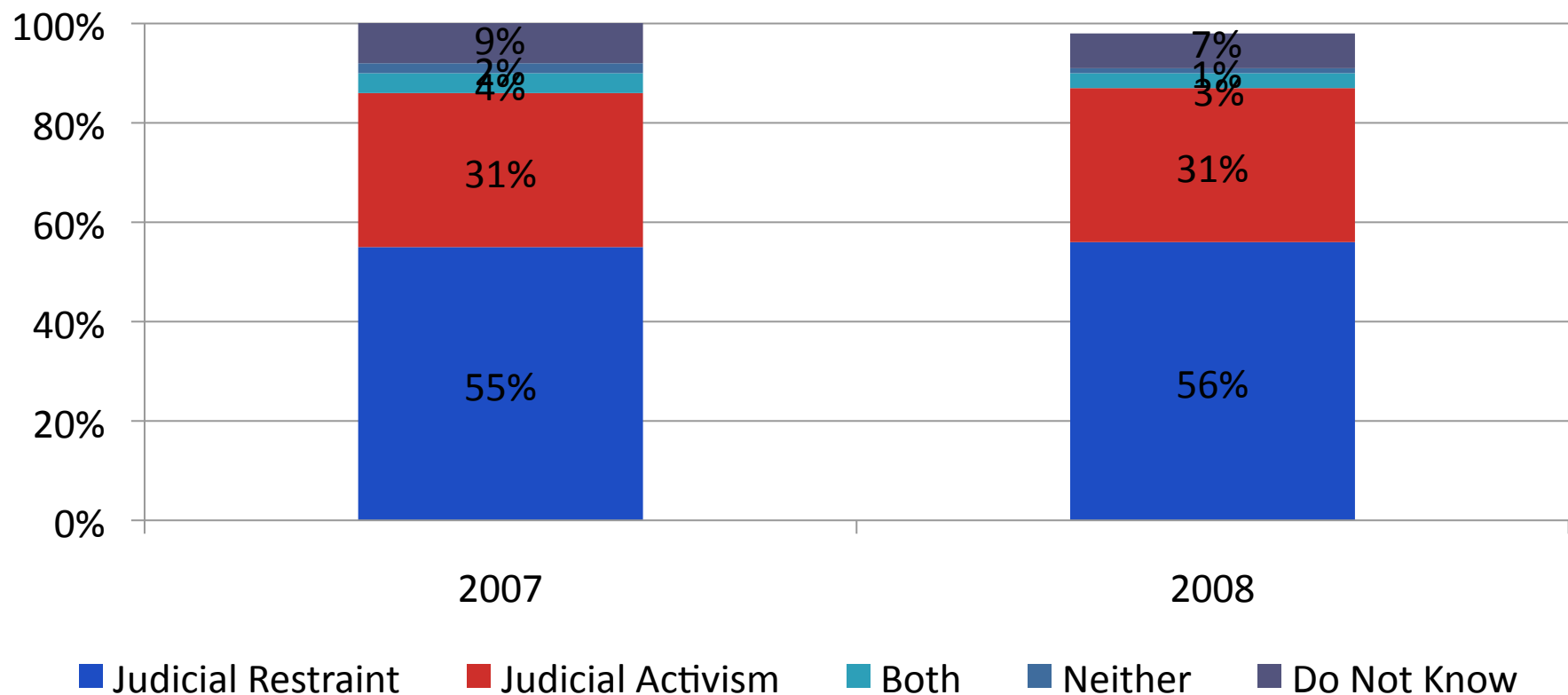


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Preferred Jurisprudence for Wisconsin Supreme Court

Based on the definitions I gave you, would you rather the Wisconsin Supreme Court practice judicial activism or judicial restraint?



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