



## Public Campaign Action Fund

Findings from a Survey of 504 Likely Voters in New York State, with an Oversample of 300 Likely Voters in State Senate Districts 14, 23, 34, 38, and 53.

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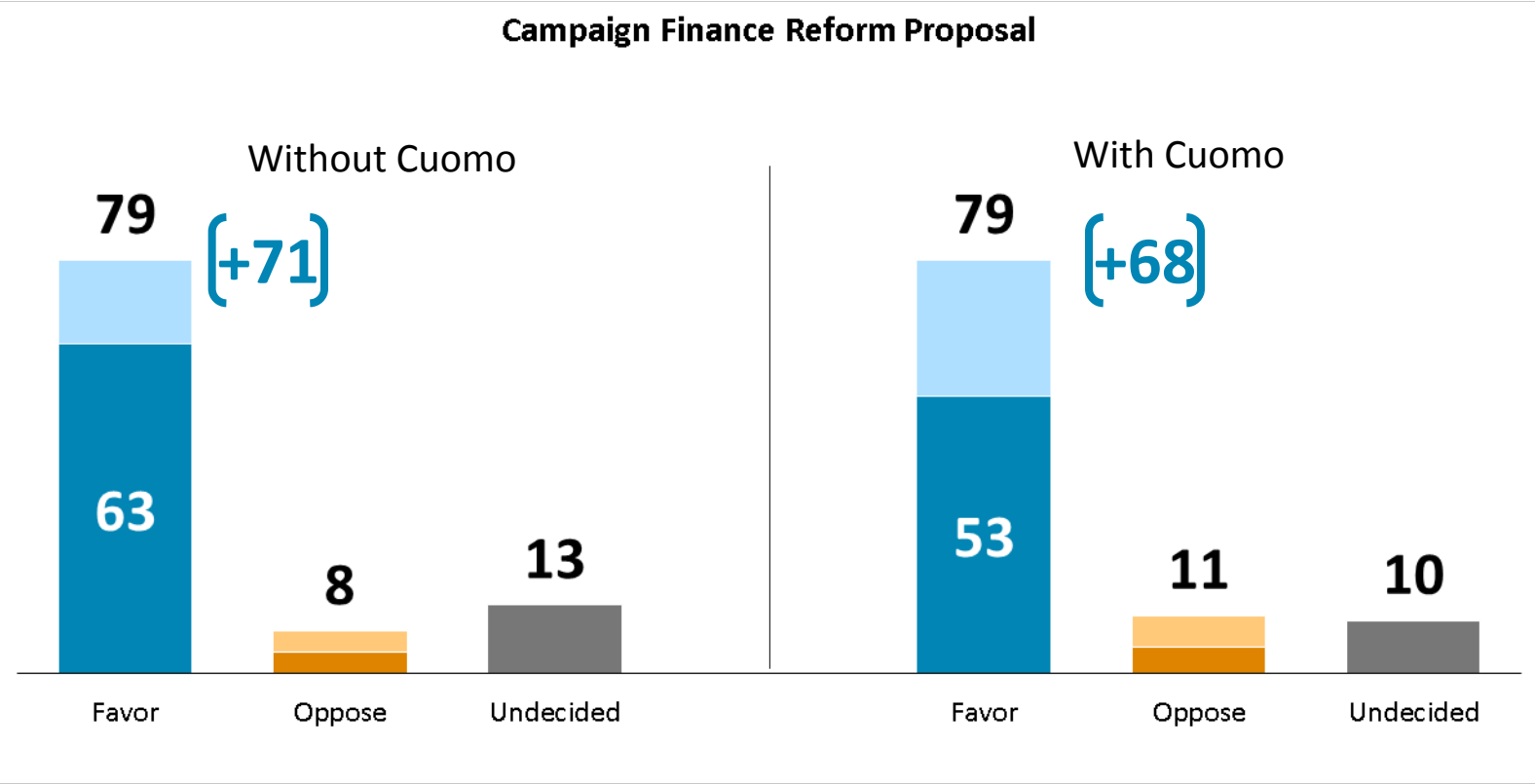
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Nearly 8 in 10 (79%) of voters support a comprehensive campaign finance reform proposal that includes public matching funds. Voters give this proposal their strong support, both with and without Governor Cuomo’s name attached to it.



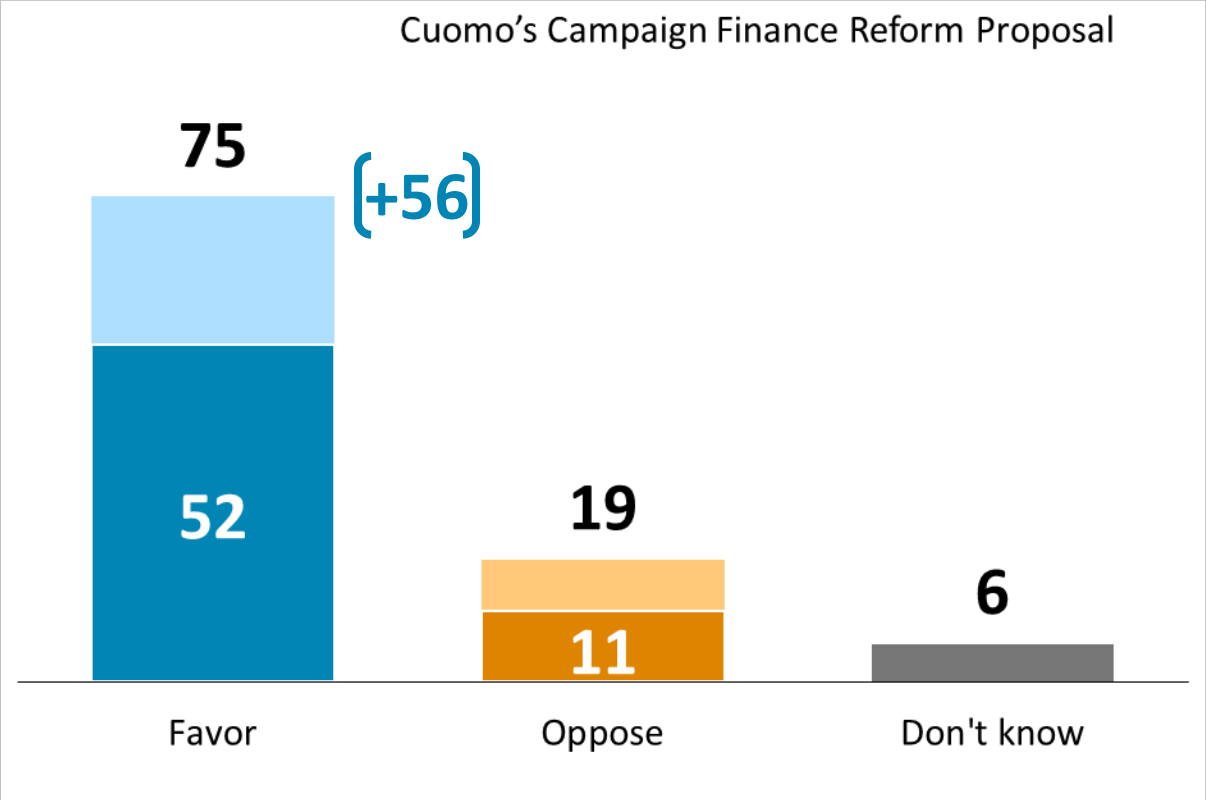
This proposal [by Governor Cuomo] provides qualified candidates a limited amount of public matching funds if they agree to raise small donations only from voters in the district where they are running for office. There would be lower contribution limits, disclosure of spending by outside groups, and strict enforcement of all campaign finance laws. This proposal would include all races for New York state offices.

Do you favor or oppose this proposal to reform how money in politics influences elections, or are you undecided?

After hearing arguments on both sides, three-quarters (75%) of voters continue to support comprehensive campaign finance reform. Arguing that public matching funds are too expensive and other priorities are more important fails to knock down public support for campaign finance reform.

**Supporters of Governor Cuomo’s comprehensive campaign finance reform say that the government will never work for middle and working class people again until we have serious change in Albany where lobbyists and special interest money have too much influence. New York should adopt Governor Cuomo’s reform proposal that centers on small donations to candidates from their constituents and matching those with limited public funds. Until we do, the special interests will always find loopholes to benefit them, lawmakers will say anything to avoid real reform, and our voices will continue to be drowned out by big money.**

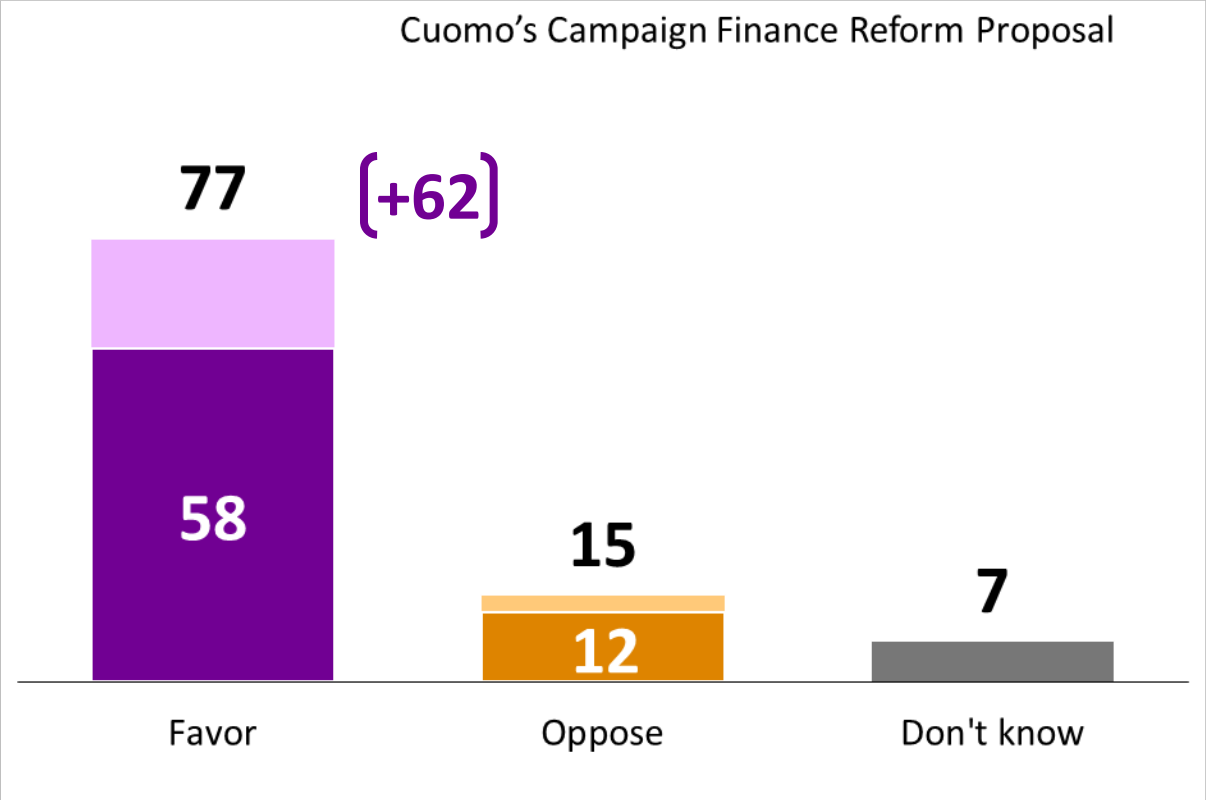
**Opponents of comprehensive campaign finance reform say that New York can’t afford to spend our precious tax dollars on political campaigns when we need to invest in more important priorities like jobs and education. And we certainly can’t afford a tax increase. We should enforce our campaign finance laws and disclose all contributions, but we shouldn’t be wasting tens of millions of taxpayer dollars in welfare for political candidates when we have more important priorities to fund.**



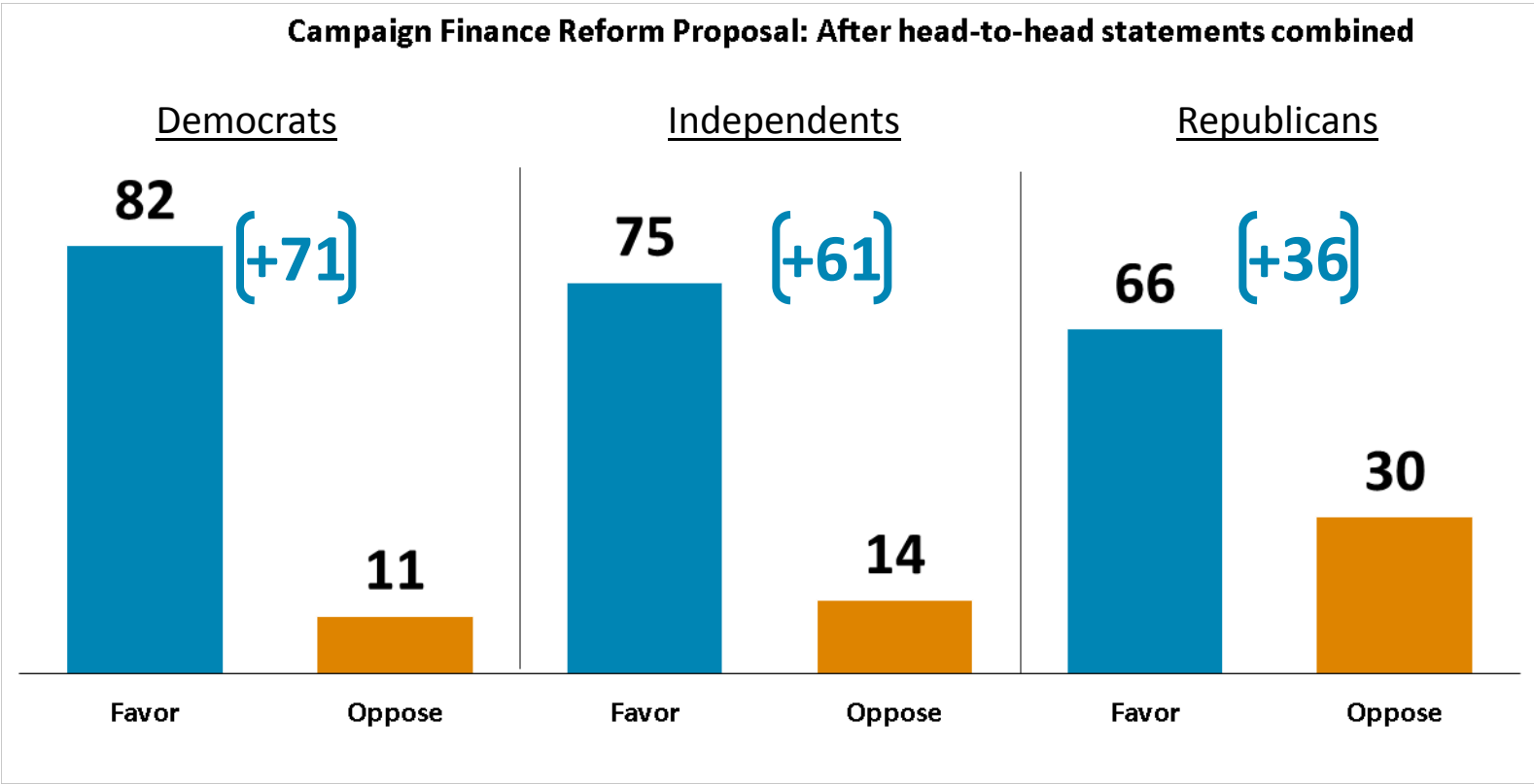
Support for campaign finance reform is even stronger when proponents argue for returning our government back to the people and replacing corporate-funded elections with fair elections.

**Supporters of Governor Cuomo’s comprehensive campaign finance reform** say that an overhaul is needed because its time we return to government of, by and for the people, not government of, bought, and paid for by special interests. If corporate special interests want to invest in our government, let them pay their fair share of taxes, rather than paying for politicians who will write them special tax breaks. We need to replace corporate-funded elections with fair elections, and put our government back in the hands of ordinary New Yorkers through campaigns that rely on small donations and limited matching funds.

**Opponents of comprehensive campaign finance reform** say that New York can’t afford to spend our precious tax dollars on political campaigns when we need to invest in more important priorities like jobs and education. And we certainly can’t afford a tax increase. We should enforce our campaign finance laws and disclose all contributions, but we shouldn’t be wasting tens of millions of taxpayer dollars in welfare for political candidates when we have more important priorities to fund.

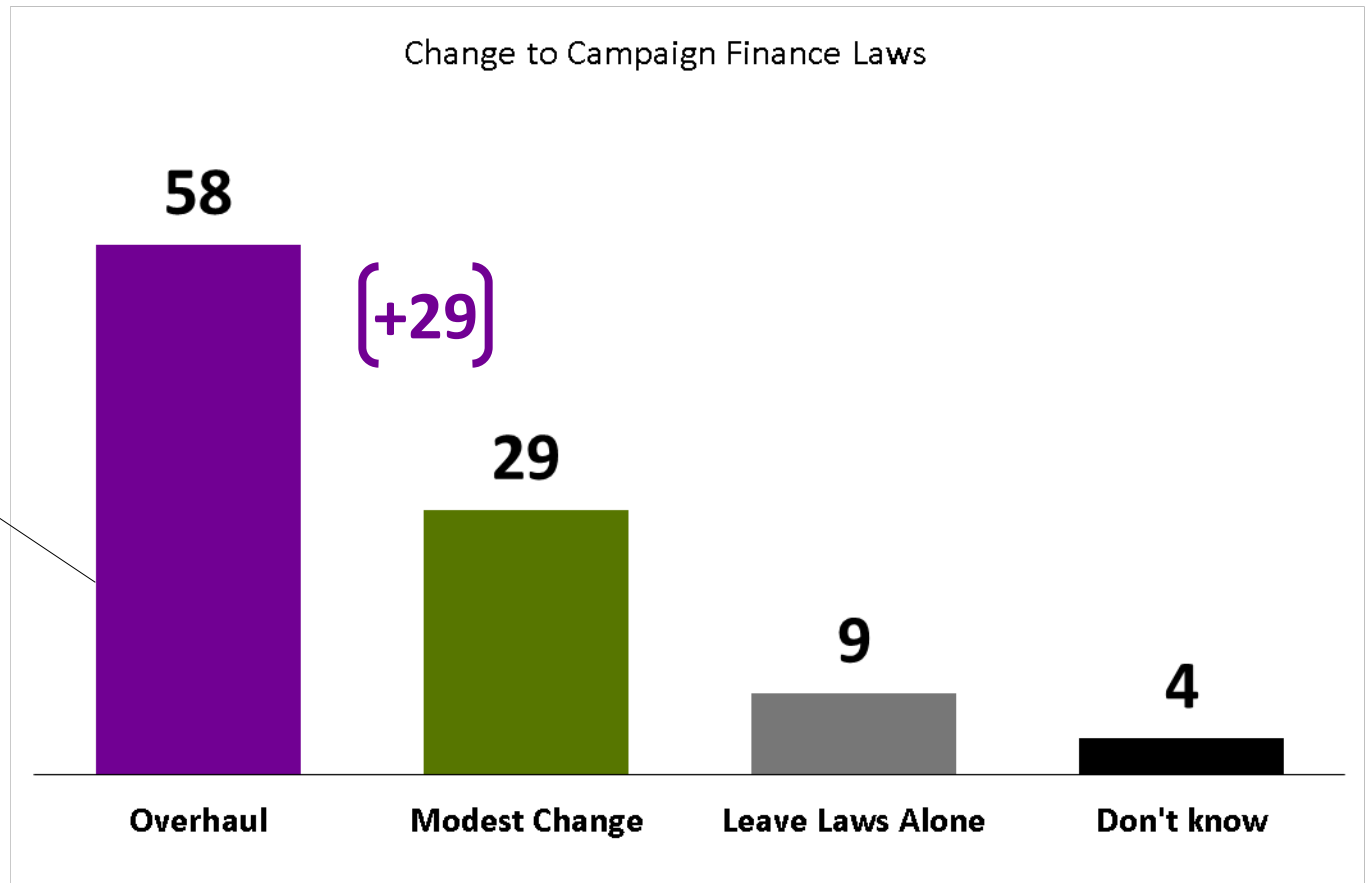


After hearing arguments on both sides, strong majorities of voters across party lines support the comprehensive reform proposal, including 82% of Democrats, 75% of independents and 66% of Republicans.



Supporters of Governor Cuomo’s comprehensive campaign finance reform say... Opponents of comprehensive campaign finance reform say...Do you favor or oppose Governor Cuomo’s comprehensive campaign finance reform proposal?

By a 2 to 1 margin, voters prefer overhauling campaign finance laws over making modest changes, while only 9% want to keep the laws we currently have. Support is even stronger among independents, with 65% supporting an overhaul of the campaign finance laws.

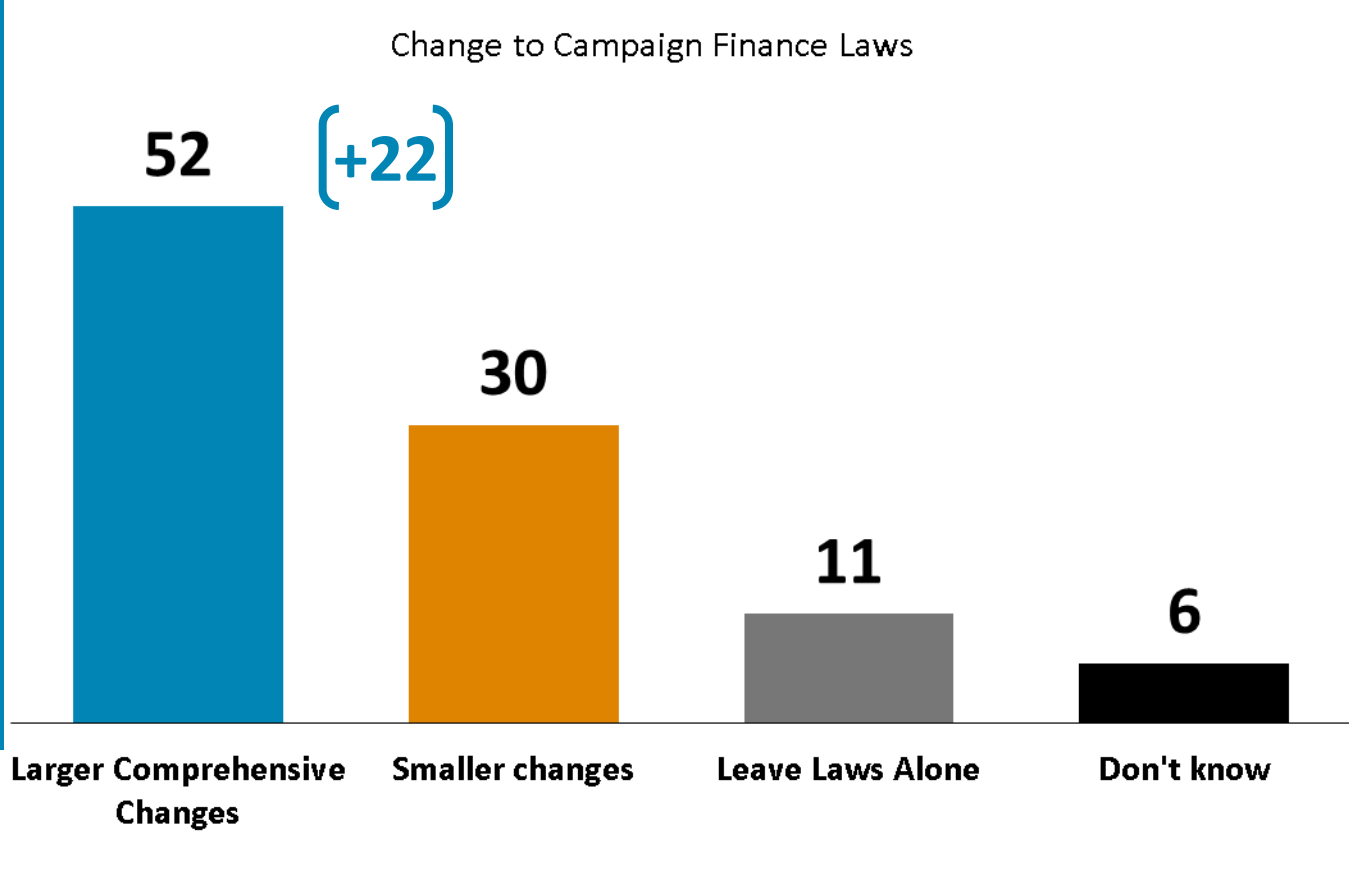


**% Support Overhaul:**  
Democrats: 58%  
Independents: 65%  
Republicans: 52%

During the last election, tens of millions of dollars were spent on campaigns for the New York state legislature. Thinking about the role of special interest money in politics in New York, do you believe we need to overhaul our campaign finance laws, make modest changes, or leave them the way they are?

After hearing more details of what comprehensive or small changes would entail, voters continue to support the larger comprehensive changes which include public matching funds. Just 30% support small changes, while the majority (52%) support comprehensive change.

Some have said that we need a larger comprehensive reform package to reduce the influence of money in politics, while others say we need smaller changes. Those that support smaller changes would like more disclosure of money in politics and lower contribution limits. Those that support a larger reform, support disclosure and lower contribution limits, but also want to limit candidates to raising money only from small contributors from their own districts with limited public matching funds.





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