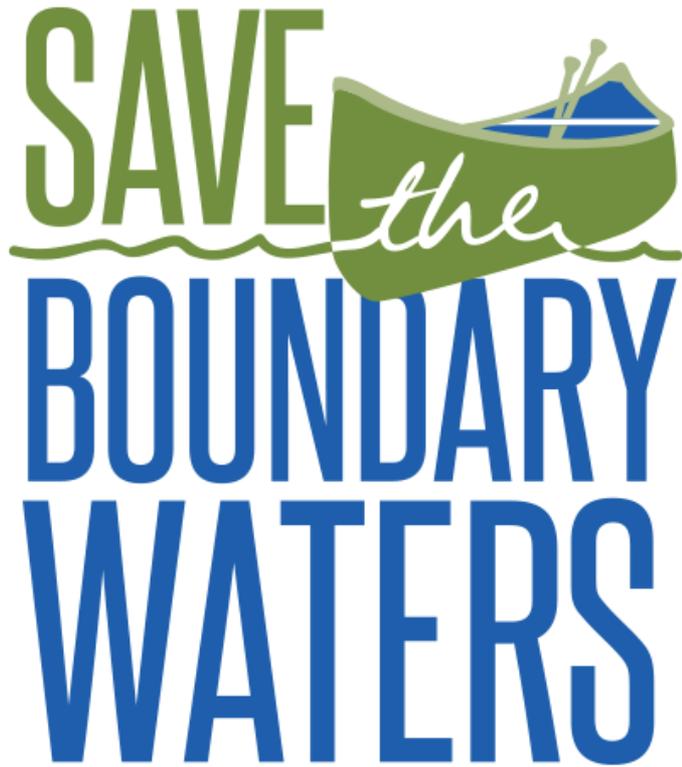


Fabrizio Ward +



## Save the Boundary Waters Survey

Minnesota Registered Voter  
Telephone Survey  
(n600 statewide and n300 in CD-08)

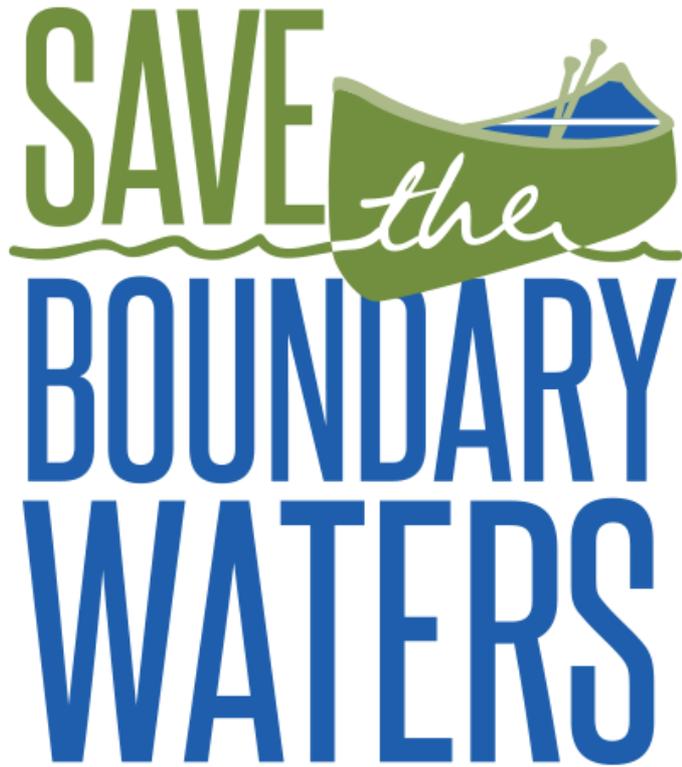
# Methodology

- Fabrizio Ward conducted a statewide telephone survey of 600 registered voters in Minnesota. Additional interviews were conducted to obtain 300 interviews in the 8<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.
- Interviews were stratified into proportionate geographic units based on voter registration data.
- Survey conducted February 11-16, 2017.
- 50% were surveyed on a landline phone and 50% were contacted on a cell phone.
- Margin of error at the 95% confidence interval for a sample of 600 registered voters is  $\pm 4.0\%$  and 300 registered voters is  $\pm 5.7\%$ .

# Key Findings

- Minnesota is not anti-mining, nor is it anti-sulfide ore copper mining. It is, however, very protective of the Boundary Waters Wilderness, and a solid majority are opposed to this kind of mining near that special place.
- But in addition to having a majority of voters on your side, the unifying concept that we tested in the research is “pause & study.” GOP voters, as well as everyone else, agree that the current process of having a two year pause to gather scientific data and public input should run its course.
- Similarly, voters decisively side with keeping the “pause & study” process over the more traditional mine safety plan review, advocated by Rep. Nolan.
- There is electoral power in this issue as well. By a more than four to one margin, voters are more likely to vote for a congressional candidate who fought to keep sulfide ore copper mining away from the areas near the Boundary Waters.

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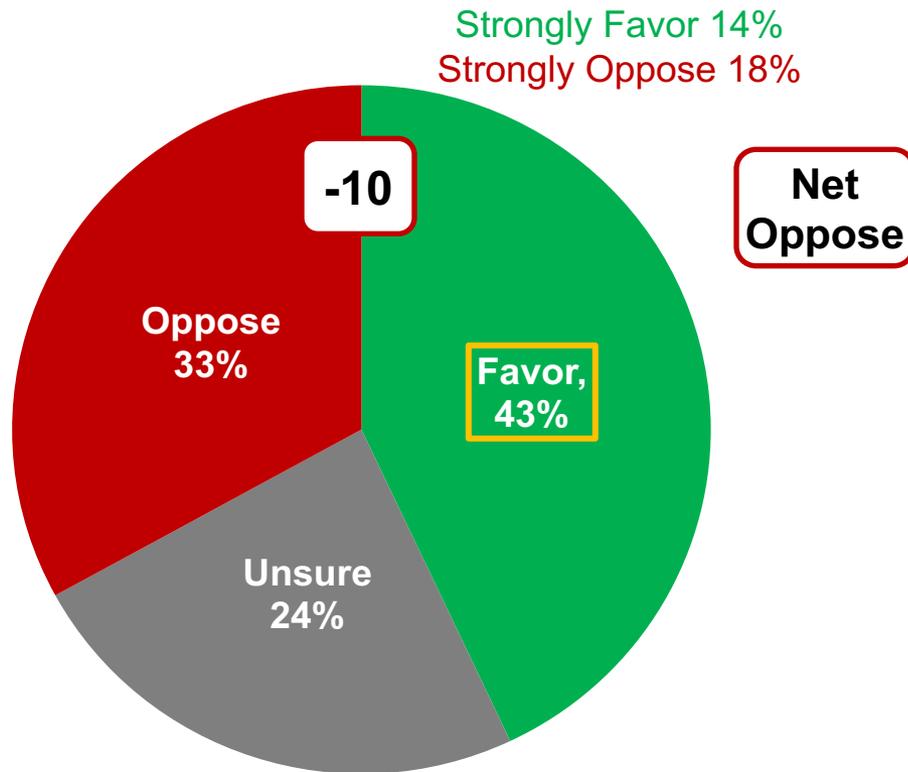
Detailed  
Findings

# Sulfide Ore Copper Mining

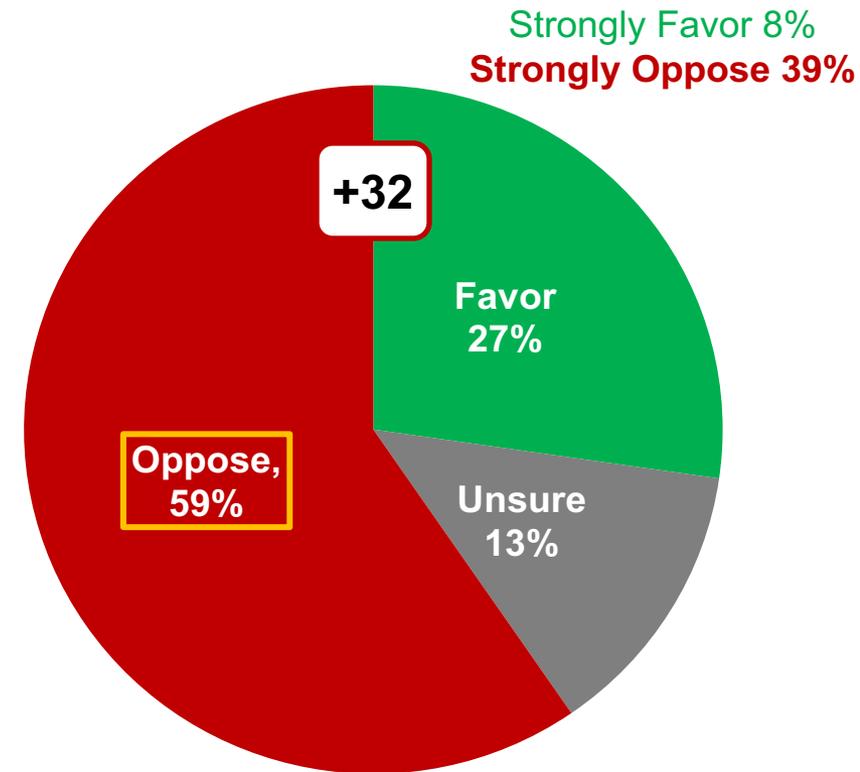
- While sulfide ore copper mining is controversial among the public, as a general matter, a plurality of Minnesotans favor it – by a 10-point margin (43%-33%).
- The distinction is WHERE sulfide ore copper mining takes place. By a decisive 32-point margin, a large majority of voters oppose (59%) sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness.

# Plurality of voters open to Sulfide Ore Copper Mining in Minnesota, but NOT near the Boundary Waters.

## View of Sulfide Ore Copper Mining in Minnesota



## View of Sulfide Ore Copper Mining near Boundary Waters

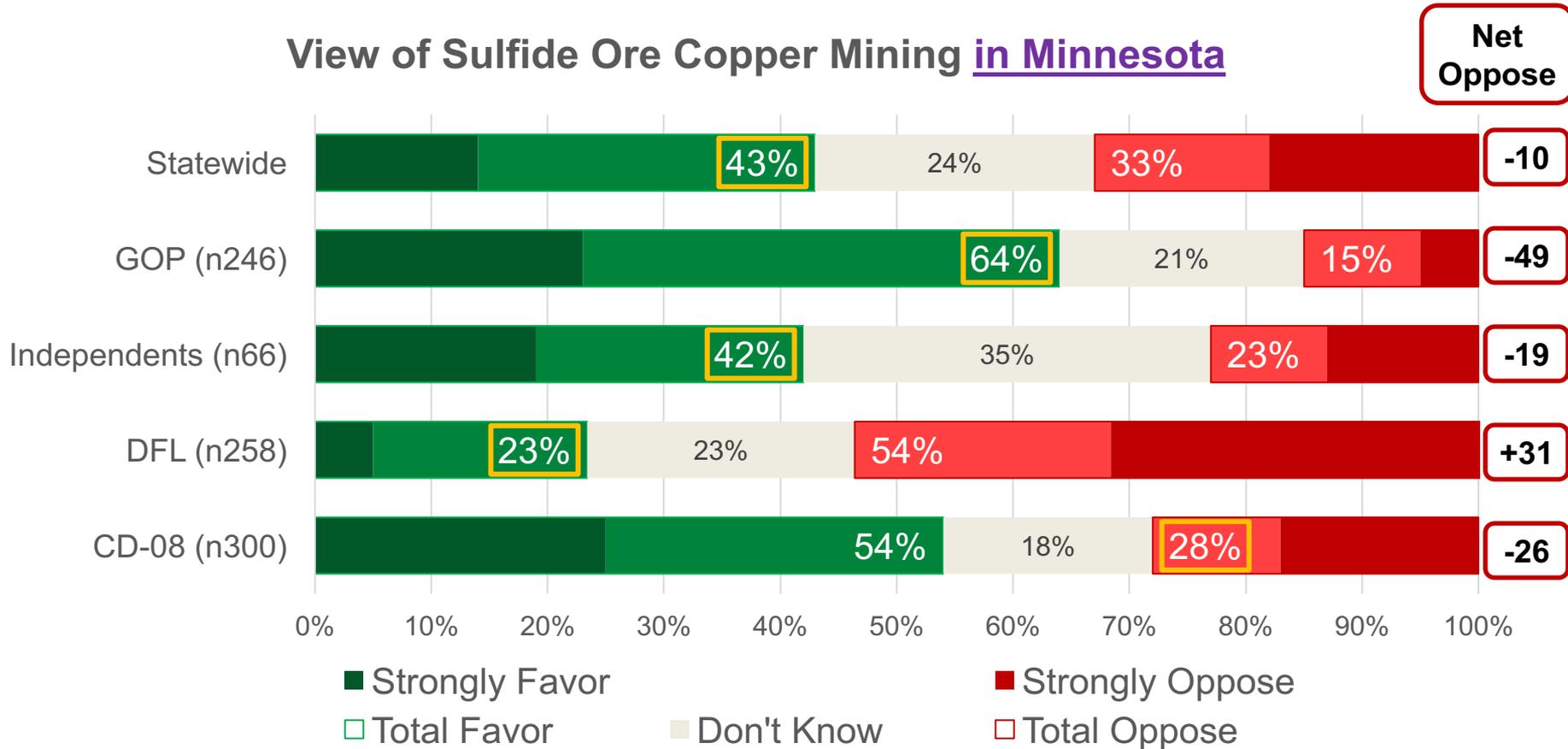


Q. As you may know, mining companies have proposed opening sulfide ore copper mines in Minnesota. From what you know, do you favor or oppose sulfide ore copper mining in Minnesota?

Q. As you may know, mining companies have also proposed opening sulfide ore copper mines on the edge of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. From what you know, do you favor or oppose sulfide ore copper mining in the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness?

# Republicans and Independents more open to sulfide ore copper mining in Minnesota than DFLers.

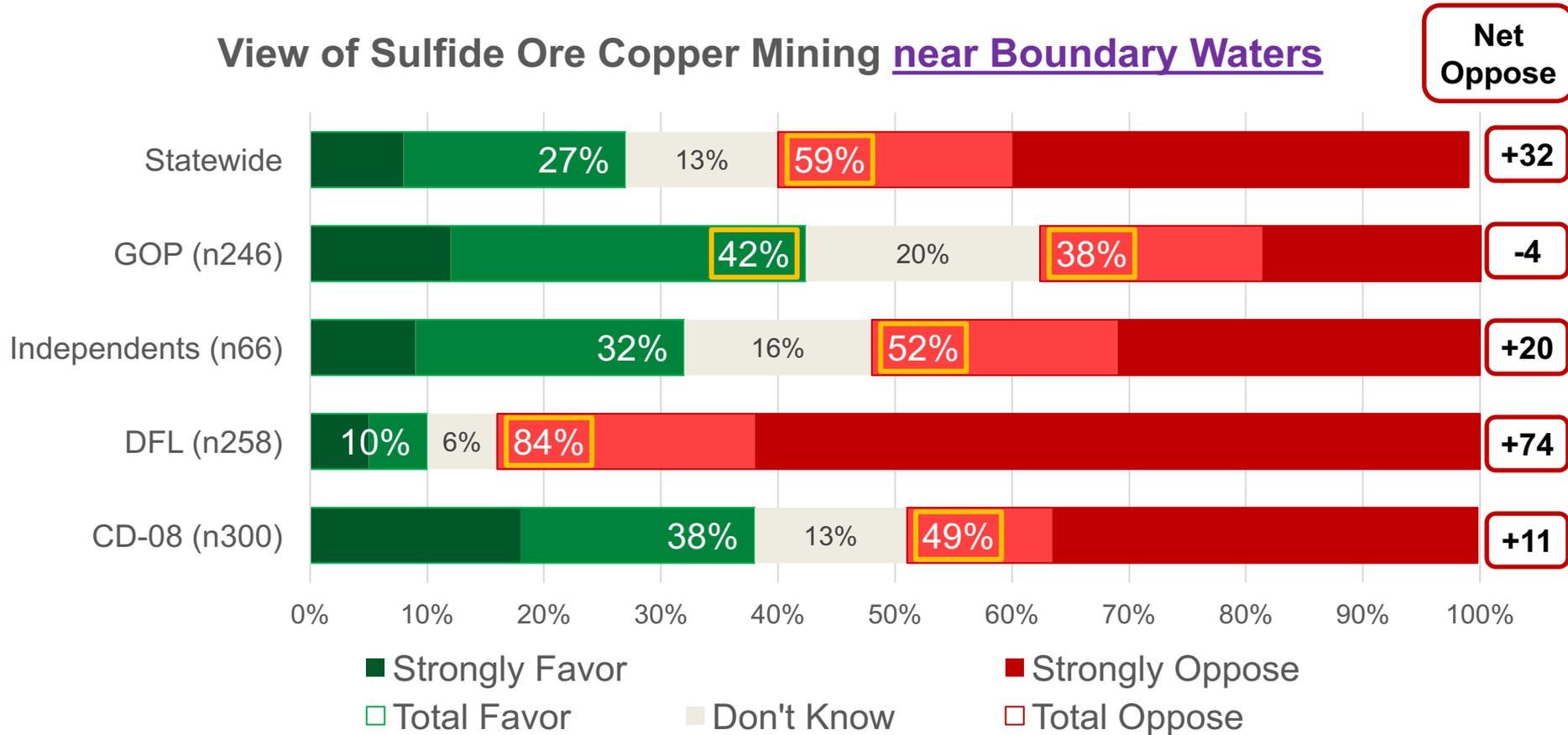
View of Sulfide Ore Copper Mining in Minnesota



Q. As you may know, mining companies have proposed opening sulfide ore copper mines in Minnesota. From what you know, do you favor or oppose sulfide ore copper mining in Minnesota?

DFLers and Independent voters are opposed to sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters. While Republicans are split in their opinions.

### View of Sulfide Ore Copper Mining near Boundary Waters



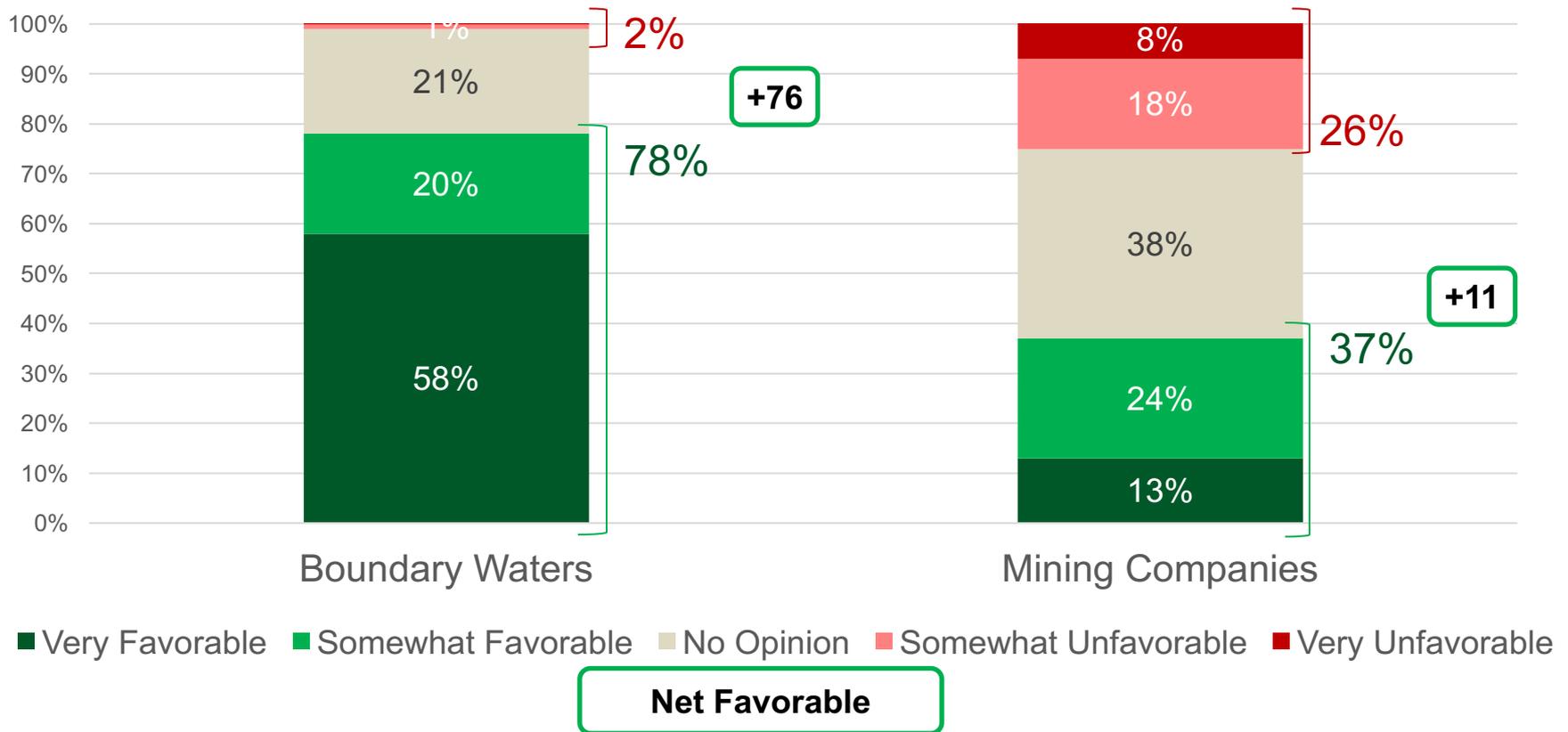
Q. As you may know, mining companies have also proposed opening sulfide ore copper mines on the edge of the Boundary Waters Wilderness. From what you know, do you favor or oppose sulfide ore copper mining in the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness?

# MN Not Anti-Mining, but Loves the Boundary Waters

- Minnesotans are not anti-mining. Indeed, the industry's image is more positive than negative (37%-26%).
- But the vast majority of Minnesotans are passionate about the Boundary Waters. Overall, 78% have a favorable opinion of the area, with an eye-popping 58% viewing it *very favorably*.
- The love for the Boundary Waters area is not surprising given that two-thirds of voters have been there, with about one in five making the trip every year!

# Most Minnesotans are not anti-mining. But their love for the Boundary Waters is both broad and deep.

## Boundary Waters & Mining Companies Image



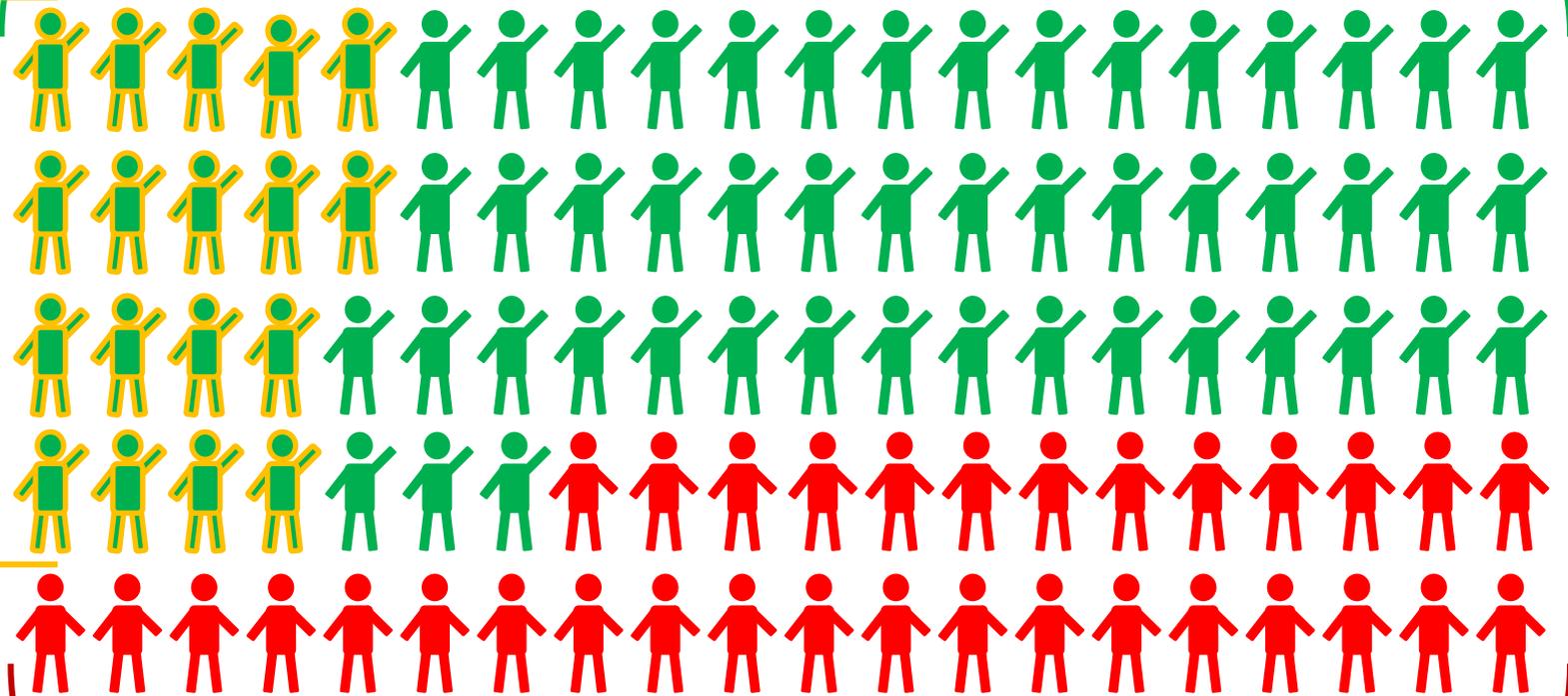
Q. Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness/ Mining Companies? If you have no opinion or have never heard of him just say so.

Two thirds of Minnesota voters have been to the Boundary Waters before, while one in five go every year.

### Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness Visitors

Visit Every Year: 18%

Have Visited BWW: 67%



Never Visited BWW: 33%

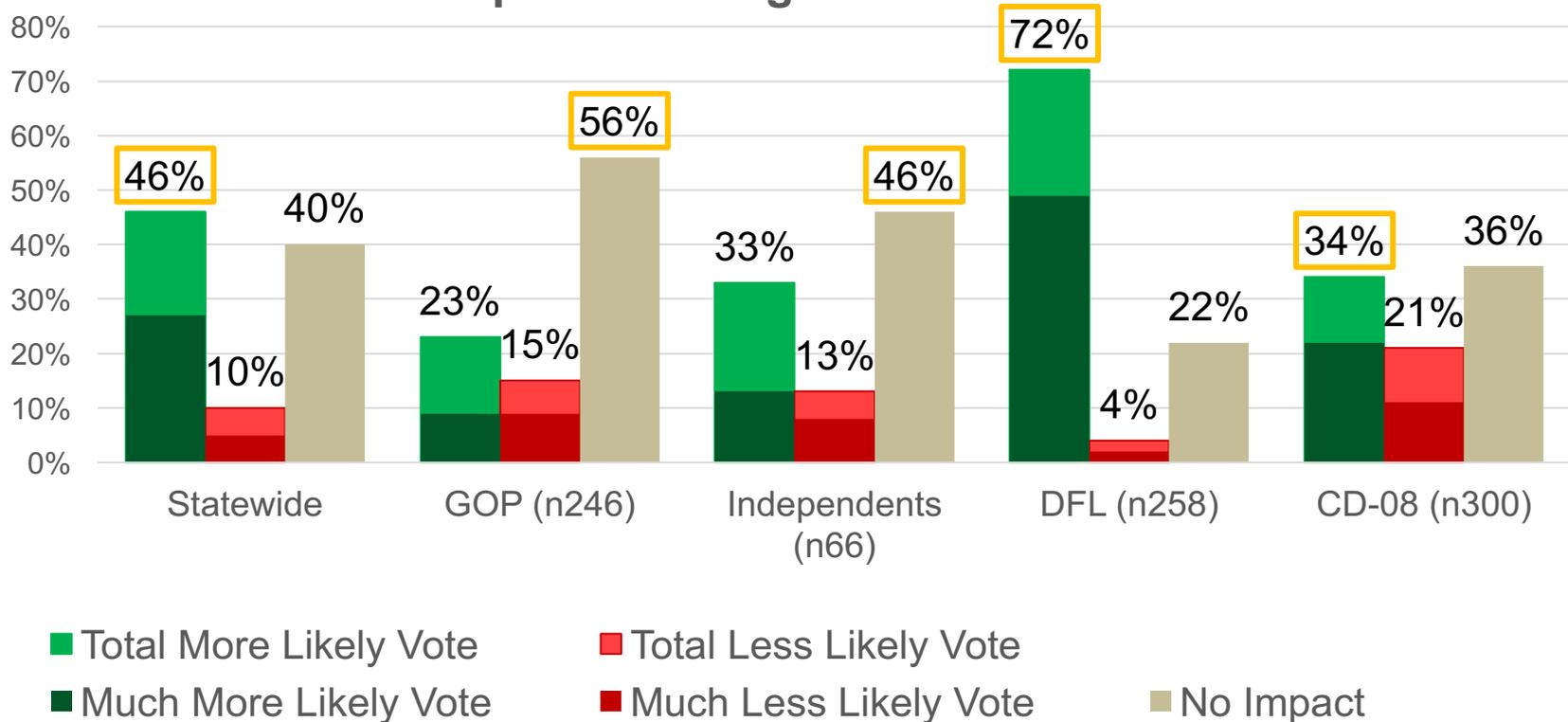
Q. What best describes your visits to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness?

# Impact on Congressional Vote

- Keeping sulfide ore copper mining away from the Boundary Waters Wilderness is a potent electoral issue.
- We asked voters if they would be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for Congress if that person “fought to keep sulfide ore copper mining away from the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness.” By a margin better than 4 to 1, voters said they would be more likely to vote for that candidate rather than less likely.
- Even in CD-8, where the mines would be located, and the potential appeal of mining jobs is cross-pressured by the desire to preserve the natural environment, the advantage is to the candidate who fights for the BWW.

# Republicans and to a lesser extent Independents are less politically motivated on the issue compared to DFLers.

## Stopping Sulfide Ore Copper Mining Near Boundary Waters Impact on Congressional Ballot



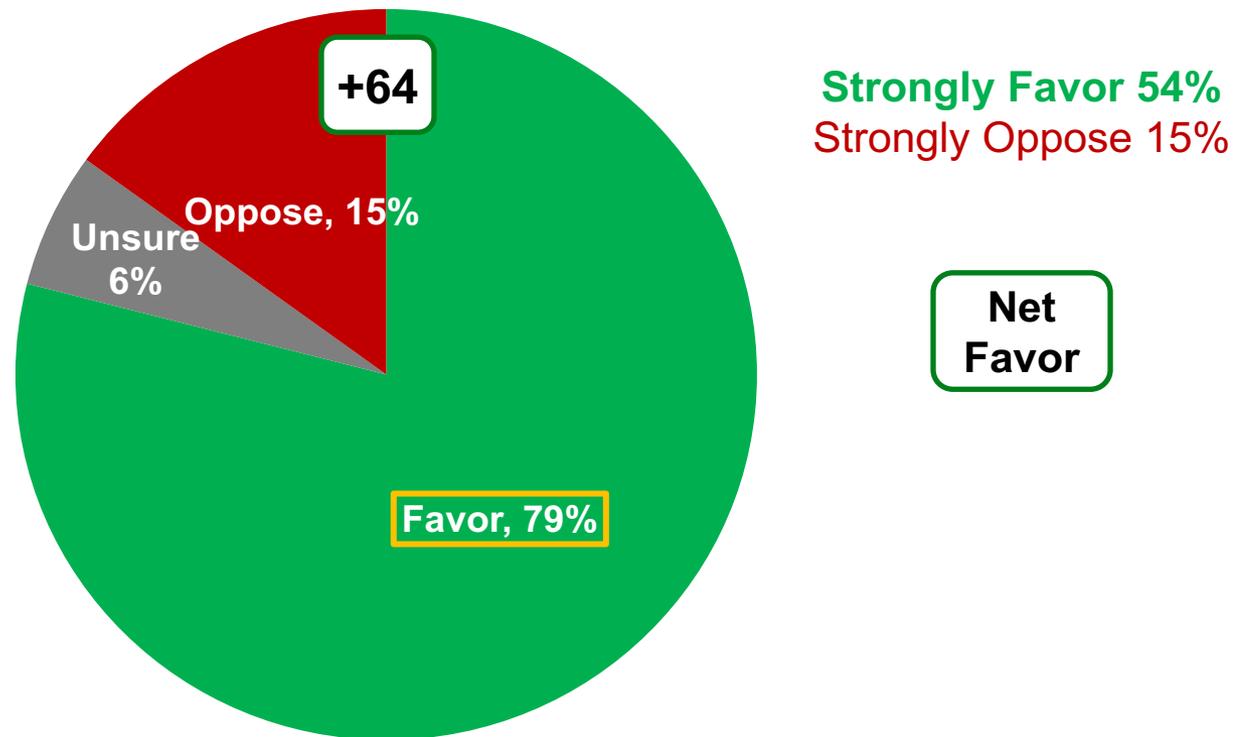
Q. If the election for Congress were held today, would you be MORE likely or LESS likely to vote for a candidate who fought to keep sulfide ore copper mining away from the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness? If it would have no impact on your vote, just say so. (IF MORE/LESS LIKELY, ASK) And is that MUCH (more/less) likely or just SOMEWHAT (more/less) likely?

# Review Process

- There is overwhelming support – both broad (79% favor) and deep (54% strongly favor) – for continuing with the “pause and study” process initiated by the federal government in December.
- Even two thirds of Republicans endorse the current plan that puts a two year pause on any sulfide ore copper mining near the BWV while the science is studied.

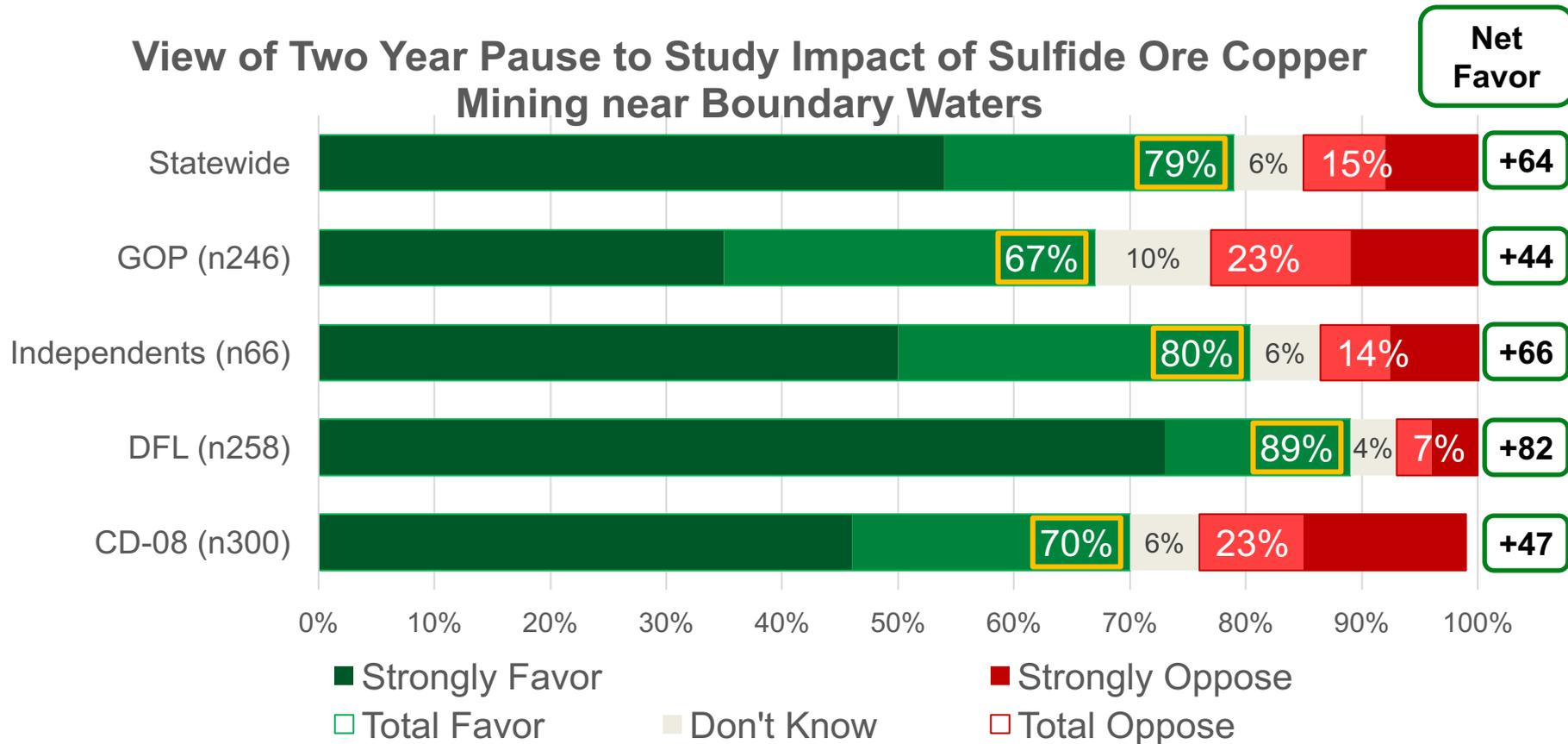
# Minnesota voters overwhelmingly support the two year pause near the Boundary Water Wilderness area.

## View of Two Year Pause to Study Impact of Sulfide Ore Copper Mining near Boundary Waters



Q. In January, federal land management agencies declared the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness area off limits from sulfide ore copper mining for two years while they gather scientific information and public input about its potential impacts. This study could lead to a longer term ban of up to twenty years on sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. Do you favor or oppose taking this type of pause to gather more information about the potential impacts of sulfide ore copper mining?

# Clear levels of support for the two year pause near the Boundary Water Wilderness area among all political affiliations and CD-08.



Q. In January, federal land management agencies declared the areas near the Boundary Waters Wilderness area off limits from sulfide ore copper mining for two years while they gather scientific information and public input about its potential impacts. This study could lead to a longer term ban of up to twenty years on sulfide ore copper mining near the Boundary Waters Wilderness. Do you favor or oppose taking this type of pause to gather more information about the potential impacts of sulfide ore copper mining?

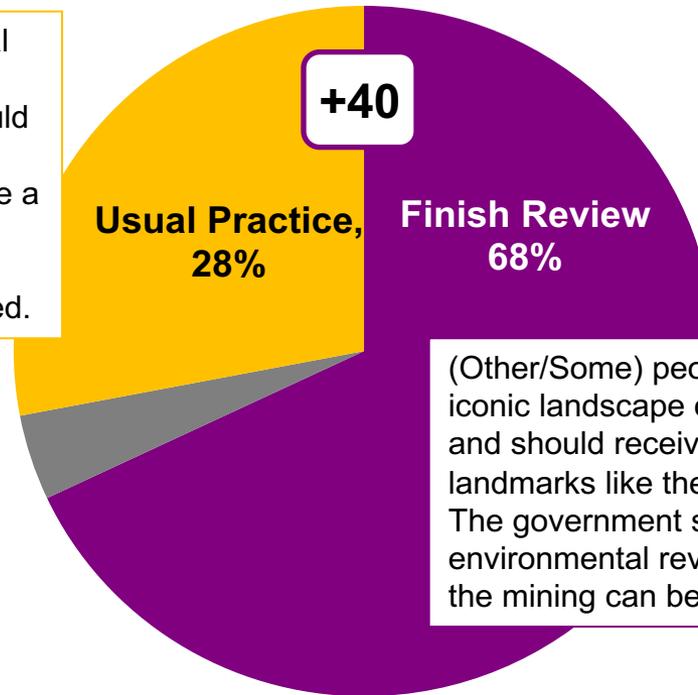
# Current Process or Standard Mine Safety Review?

- Some have argued that the areas near the BWW should not be categorically ruled off-limits, that mine safety review plans are enough to guarantee a process that would ensure the safety of the BWW or wherever the mine was located.
- We tested that sentiment against the “pause and study” process the federal government set in motion in December.
- By a 40-point margin, Minnesotans want the current “pause and study” process to play out to see if a long term moratorium on sulfide ore copper mining should be placed near the BWW.

# Minnesota voters recognize the landmark status of the Boundary Waters and support the current review process.

## Follow Usual Practice or Finish Review

(Some/Other) people say environmental review of new mines is essential and there shouldn't be shortcuts. But it should be done in accordance with the usual practice of allowing a company to create a mine plan and apply for a permit. If a specific mine plan near the Boundary Waters is ruled safe, it should be allowed.

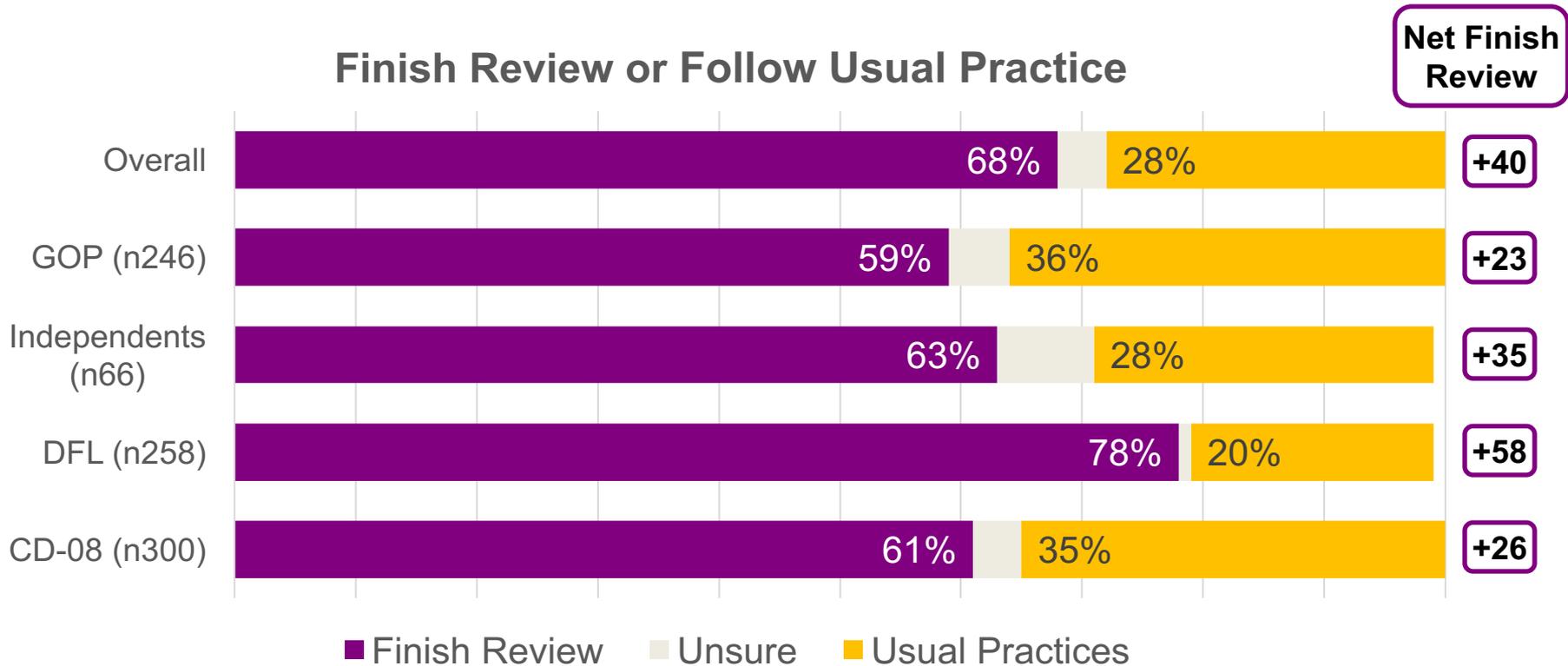


**Net Finish Review**

(Other/Some) people say The Boundary Waters is an iconic landscape of pristine lakes, rivers, and forests and should receive the same review as other landmarks like the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone. The government should finish the current environmental review process before determining if the mining can be safely done there at all.

Q. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion? (Some/Other) people say environmental review of new mines is essential and there shouldn't be shortcuts. But it should be done in accordance with the usual practice of allowing a company to create a mine plan and apply for a permit. If a specific mine plan near the Boundary Waters is ruled safe, it should be allowed. (Other/Some) people say The Boundary Waters is an iconic landscape of pristine lakes, rivers, and forests and should receive the same review as other landmarks like the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone. The government should finish the current environmental review process before determining if the mining can be safely done there at all. Which do you agree with more?

# Clear support for staying on the current path to finish the review among all party affiliations and in CD-08.



Q. Which of these statements comes closer to your opinion? (Some/Other) people say environmental review of new mines is essential and there shouldn't be shortcuts. But it should be done in accordance with the usual practice of allowing a company to create a mine plan and apply for a permit. If a specific mine plan near the Boundary Waters is ruled safe, it should be allowed. (Other/Some) people say The Boundary Waters is an iconic landscape of pristine lakes, rivers, and forests and should receive the same review as other landmarks like the Grand Canyon and Yellowstone. The government should finish the current environmental review process before determining if the mining can be safely done there at all. Which do you agree with more?