



PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES

HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRATION

An In-Depth Look At Attitudes Towards
Immigration And A STEM Visa Proposal



PARTNERSHIP FOR A
NEW AMERICAN
ECONOMY

CompeteAmerica
The Alliance for a Competitive Workforce

The background of the slide is a composite image. The top half features a red-tinted American flag with the stars and stripes visible. On the right side, the top of the US Capitol dome is visible, also in a red tint. The bottom half of the slide is a blue-tinted image of the US Capitol dome, showing its classical architecture with columns and arches. The text "STEM Visa Proposal" is centered in the white space between the two images.

STEM Visa Proposal

STEM Visa Proposal

Executive Summary:

- **A proposal to create a new category of green cards for highly-skilled foreign students in STEM fields is supported by more than three quarters of voters (76%) nationally.**
- **Support spans political party – with strong support from Democrats (87%), Independents (65%) and Republicans (72%), including those who identify themselves as Conservative (69%) or Tea Party supporters (68%).**
- **And, it doesn't matter if you are a voter in the Deep South (72%), or the Pacific Northwest (76%), support remains high across the nation.**
- **Support for this proposal is even higher among voters under 35 (90%) and Hispanics (90%) – two of the most watched voter groups in the 2012 Presidential election. In fact, nearly three out of four Hispanics voters (73%) strongly support the idea.**

Three-fourths of American voters back the STEM visa proposal and many do so strongly.

“The proposal would create a new category of green cards for highly-skilled foreign students who have earned a masters or doctorate degree in science, technology, engineering or mathematics from an American university and have received a job offer to work in the U.S. This would allow these foreign-born students to stay, work and pay taxes here in the United States. Based on this information, do you SUPPORT or OPPOSE creating this new category of green cards to keep foreign students who earn advanced technical degrees?”

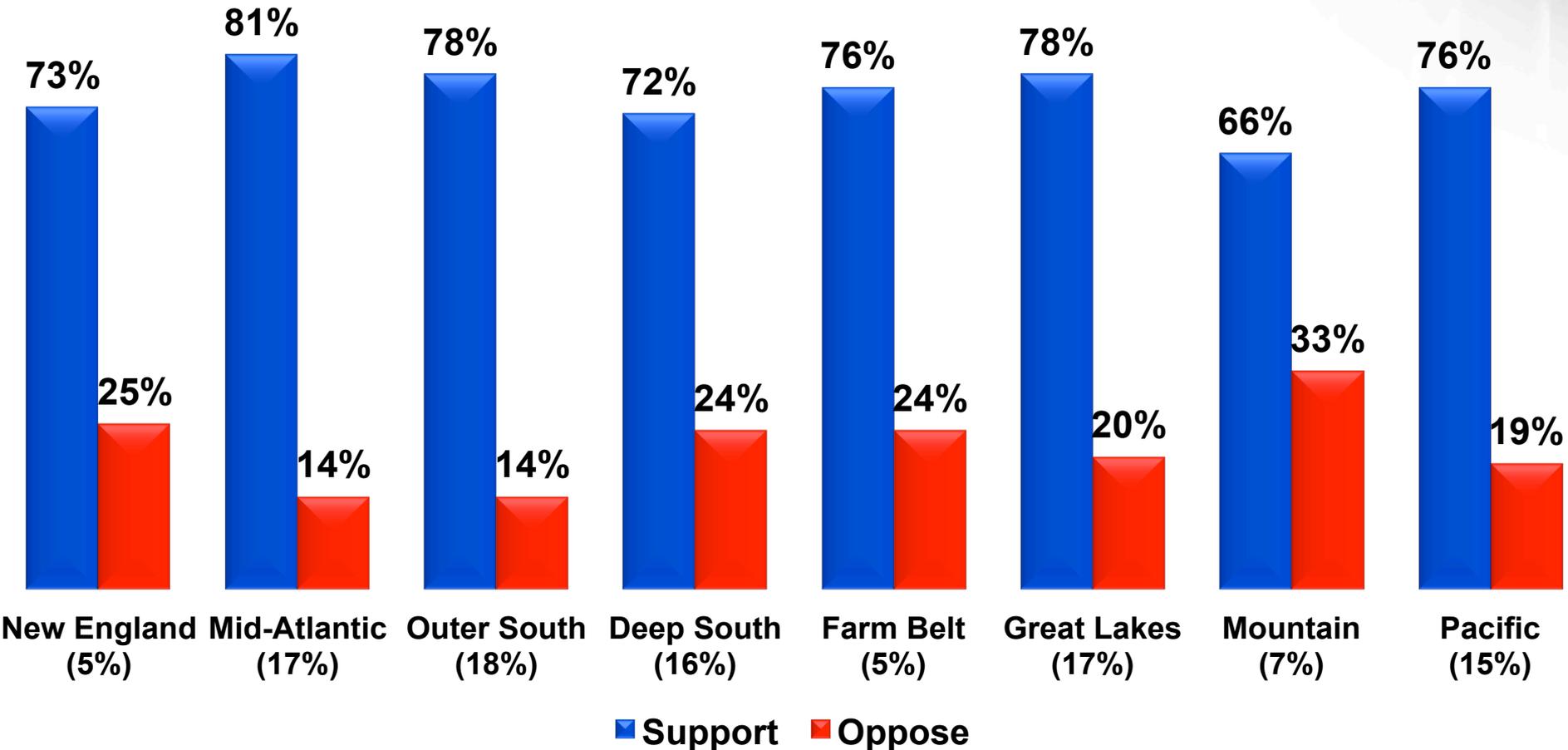
	%
Strongly Support	45%
Somewhat Support	31%
Somewhat Oppose	7%
Strongly Oppose	13%
Undecided/Don't Know	4%

76%
Support

20%
Oppose

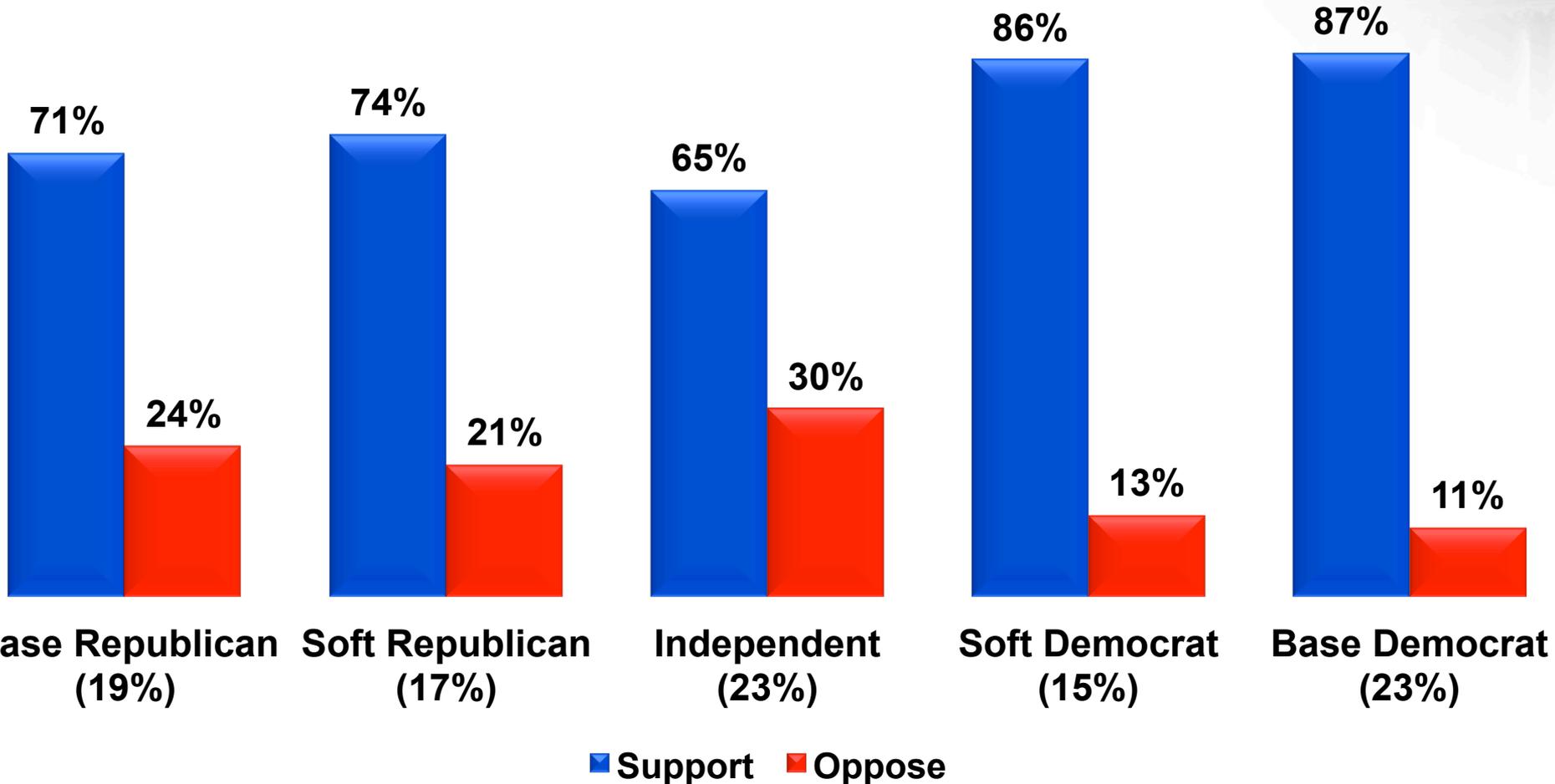
Solid majorities of voters from the east coast to the west coast back the STEM visa proposal.

Green Card Proposal By Region



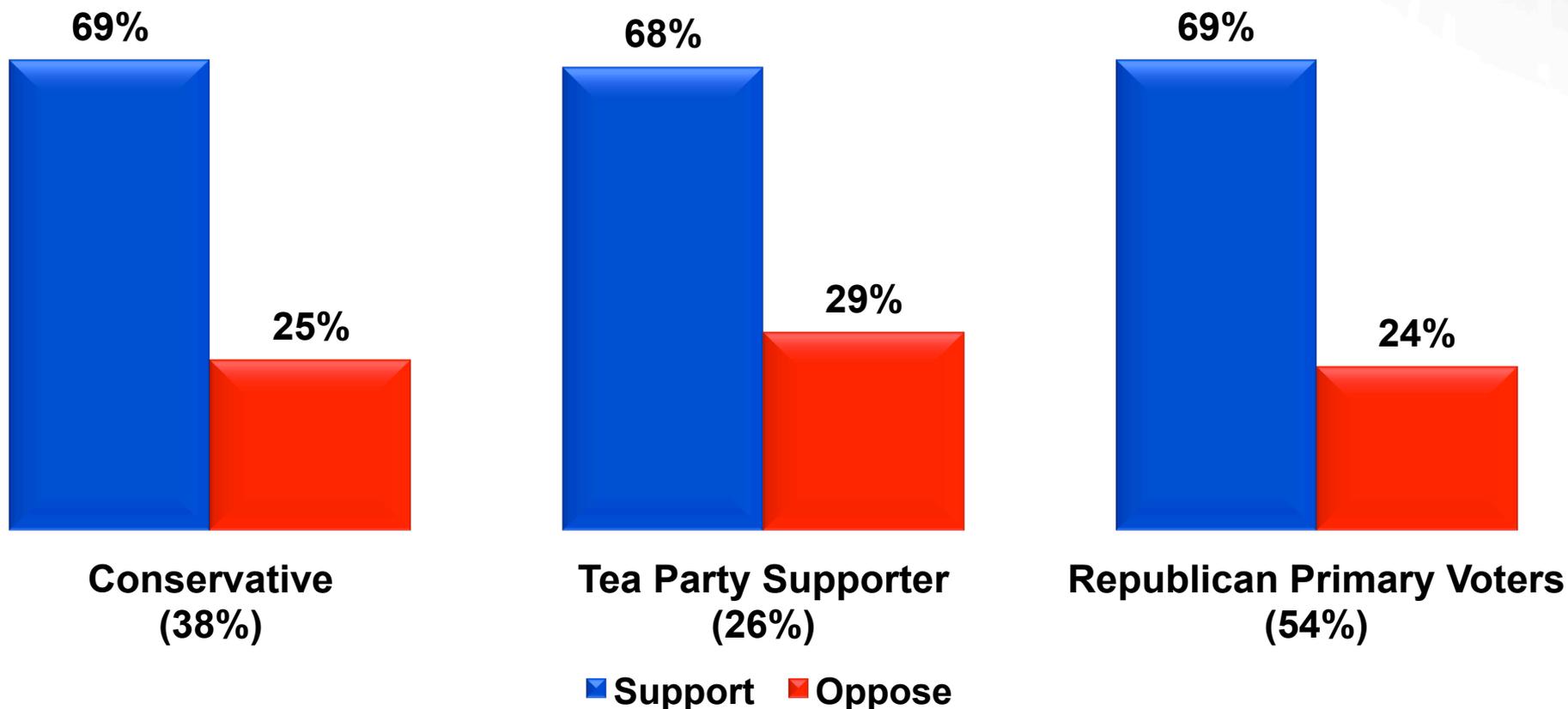
And, there is broad bipartisan backing for the idea.

Green Card Proposal By Party



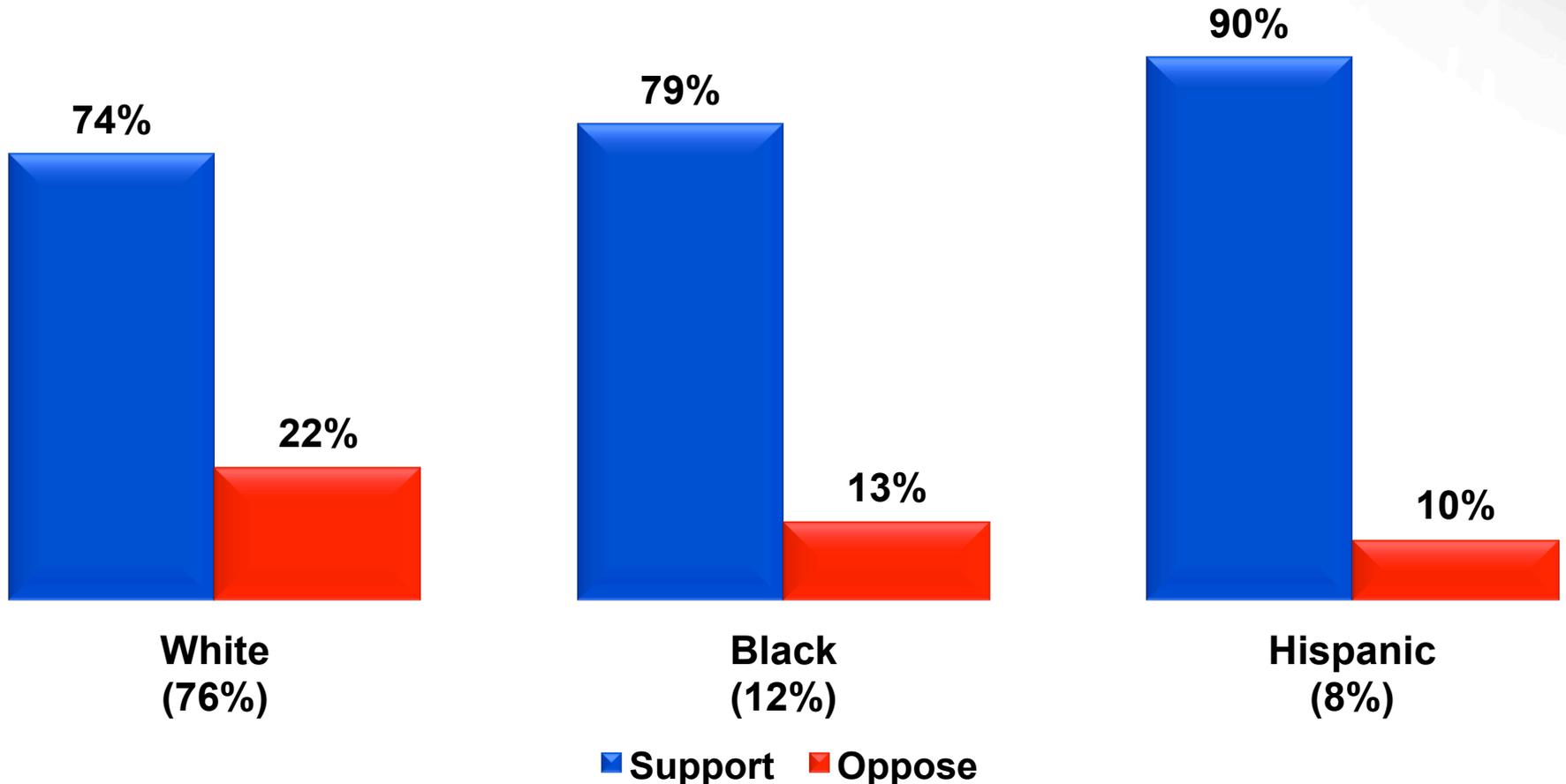
Nearly seven out of ten core Republican voter groups support creating the visa category.

Green Card Proposal By Conservative Groups



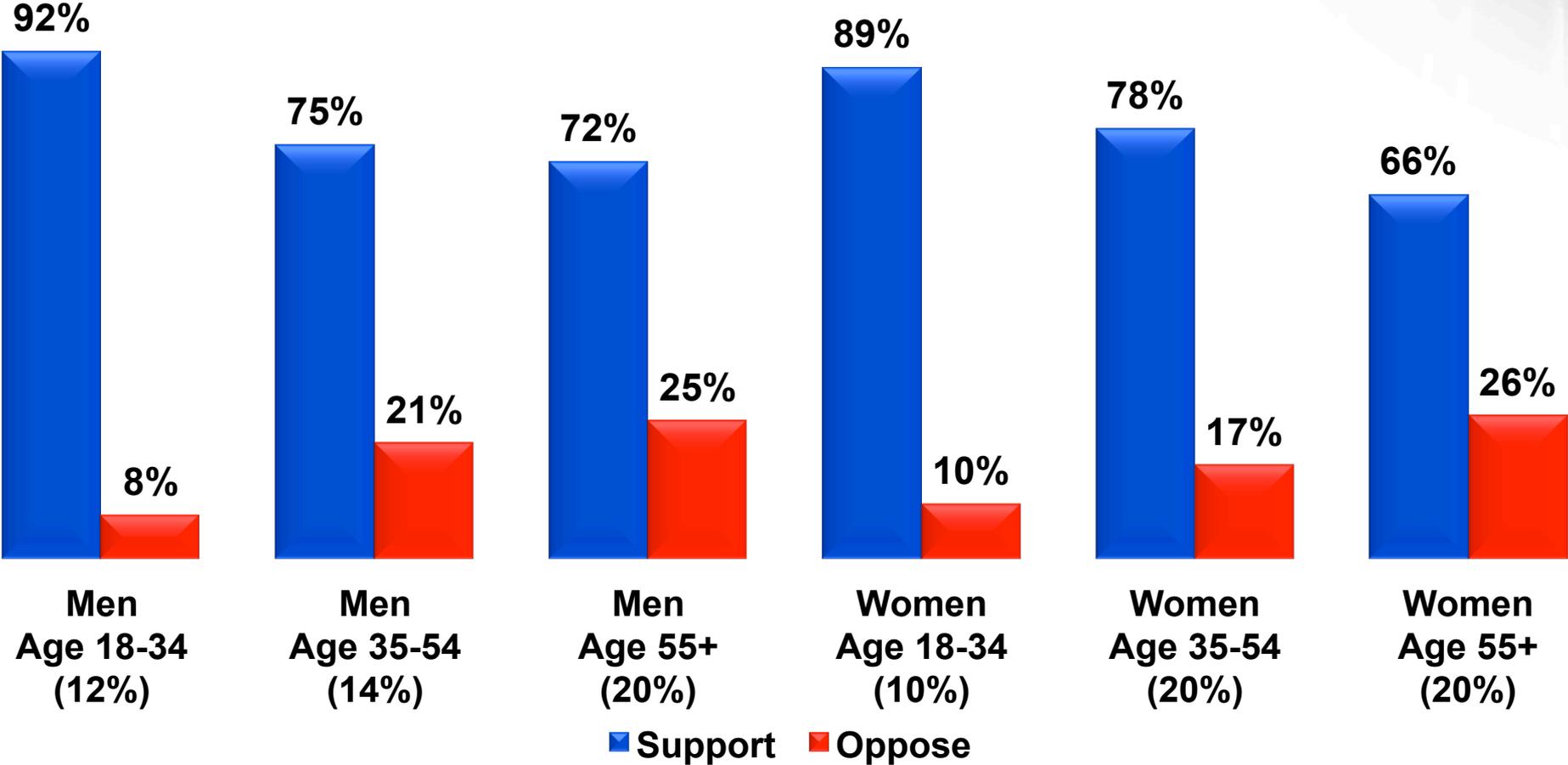
Support is high across racial lines, with Hispanics being among the most supportive sub-group.

Green Card Proposal By Ethnicity



Also, we see a noticeable spike in support among voters under the age of thirty-five.

Green Card Proposal By Gender/Age



Methodology

- **The key findings are drawn from a focus group conducted among Republican primary voters in Richmond, Virginia (April 30, 2012) and from a telephone survey was conducted among 800 likely voters (600 landline/200 cellphone) on May 17, 19-22, 2012. This study has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.46%.**
- **Additionally, we completed an oversample of 391 likely Republican primary voters nationwide (conducted June 2-3, 2012) to bolster our sample size among base GOPers. The margin of error for the oversample is plus or minus 4.96%.**
- **Rob Autry and Glen Bolger were the pollsters for this study.**



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