

2025 EAI Public Opinion Poll on the 21st Presidential Election



East Asia Institute

Survey Overview

Population	Nationwide adults aged 18 and older
Sampling Frame	Hankook Research Master Sample (970,000 people) Politics/Society Panel (70,000 people)
Sampling Method	Proportional selection by region, gender, and age (as of April 2025)
Sample Size	1,509
Survey Method	Web survey
Response Rate	22.5% (among 6,701 sent, 1,509 completed the survey)
Survey Date	2025. 6. 4. ~ 2025. 6. 5.
Survey Agency	Hankook Research Co. Ltd.
Composition of Respondents	<p>[Gender] Male 49.6%; Female 50.4%</p> <p>[Age] 18 to 29: 15.3% 30 to 39: 15.0% 40 to 49: 17.4% 50 to 59: 19.5% 60 to 69: 17.8% Over 70: 15.1%</p>

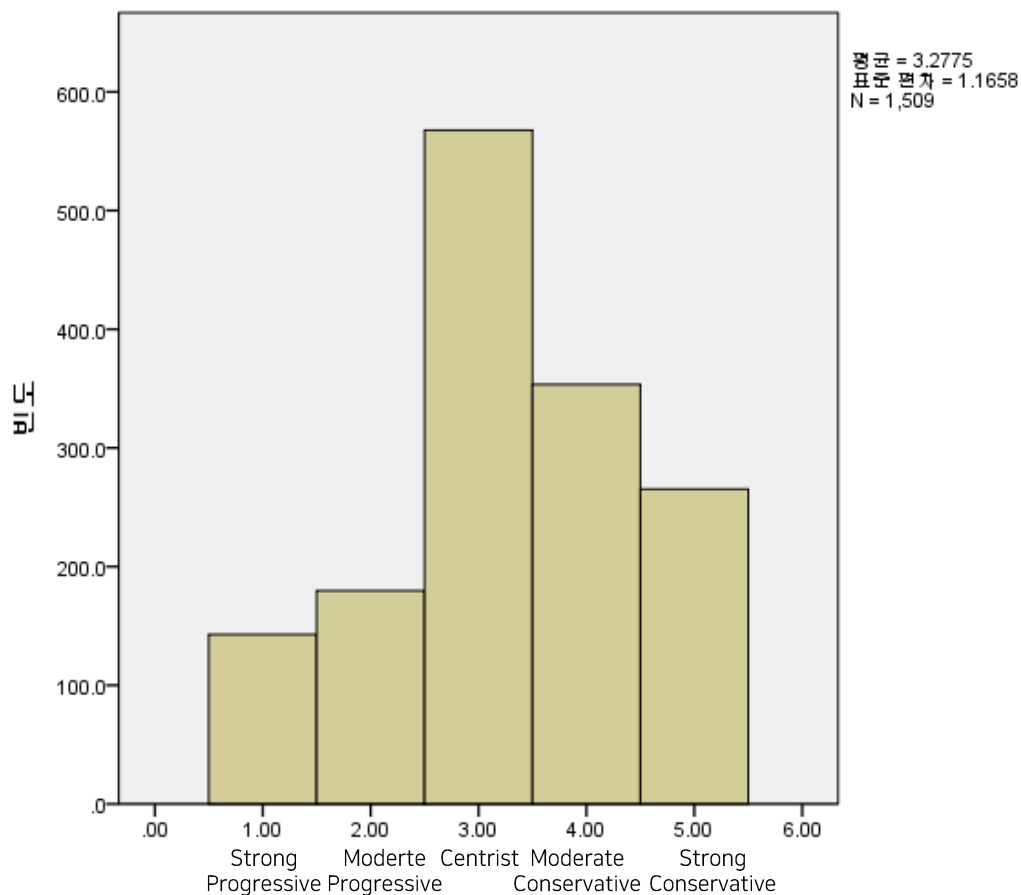
I The 21st Presidential Election

- ***Polarization and Electoral Dynamics:*** The 21st presidential election was marked by entrenched political polarization. Despite variables such as the martial law declaration and impeachment crisis, potential fragmentation within the conservative bloc, renewed debate on constitutional reform, internal turmoil during the ruling party's nomination process, and the potential rise of a third party, the final outcome revealed strong consolidation along progressive-conservative lines. This outcome underscores the deep and persistent polarization in Korean politics.
- ***Emotional Partisan Divide:*** Despite a large centrist segment (37.6%), political discourse remains dominated by small but highly mobilized ideological extremes. These groups often engage in adversarial politics grounded in mutual hostility. The 2025 presidential race was shaped less by policy debate than by reciprocal expressions of disfavor between the two leading candidates. As a result, centrist voters were fragmented rather than consolidated.
- ***Prospects for Political Conflict:*** Post-election, the political landscape is expected to return to binary confrontation. A majority of respondents (67.8%) anticipate increased political conflict within the next year. While pragmatic leadership—emphasizing negotiation, compromise, and problem-solving—is needed, a parallel effort to advance structural political reform will be essential to address the root causes of polarization.

I The 21st Presidential Election

- ***Voter Retention and Shifts:*** Among those who supported Lee Jae-myung in the 2022 election, 92.2% voted for him again, while only 3.6% switched to Kim Moon-soo. Conversely, of those who voted for Yoon Suk-yeol in 2022, 75.5% supported Kim Moon-soo, 11.9% shifted to Lee Jae-myung, and 8.3% voted for Lee Jun-seok of the New Reform Party. These patterns suggest a relatively cohesive progressive base, in contrast to partial fragmentation among conservatives.
- ***Voting Motivations:*** Supporters of Lee Jae-myung cited his qualifications and experience (63.5%) and policy pledges (8.9%) as key reasons for their choice. In contrast, Kim Moon-soo's supporters emphasized his *morality* (43.6%) and experience (20.5%). Issue salience differed sharply between groups: 68.4% of Lee's voters cited the martial law declaration and impeachment as decisive, while 68.5% of Kim's voters pointed to concerns over Lee's legal risks and ethics controversies.
- ***Policy Priorities for the Next Administration:*** Asked to identify top priorities for the next administration, 42.5% of respondents selected economic issues—job creation, inflation control, and growth. This was followed by political reform (10.7%), including constitutional and electoral system changes, and population-related challenges (8.5%) such as the low birth rate and demographic decline.

Self-Perceived Political Ideology

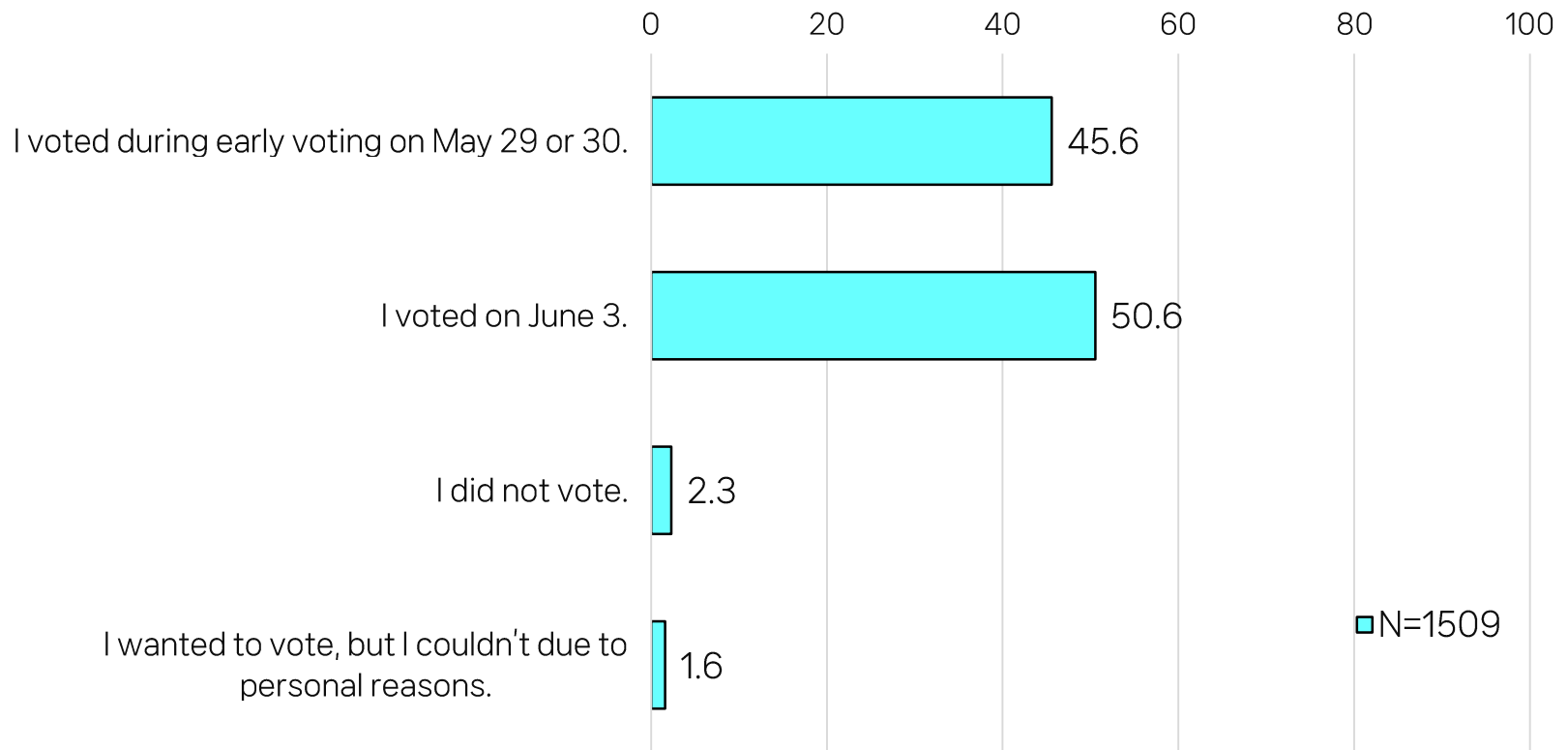


	Strong Progressive (0~2)	Moderate Progressive (3~4)	Centrist (5)	Moderate Conservative (6~7)	Strong Conservative (8~10)
Frequency (1,509)	143	180	568	353	265
% (100.0)	9.5	11.9	37.6	23.4	17.6

Presidential Election Participation

Q51. Did you vote in the 21st presidential election?

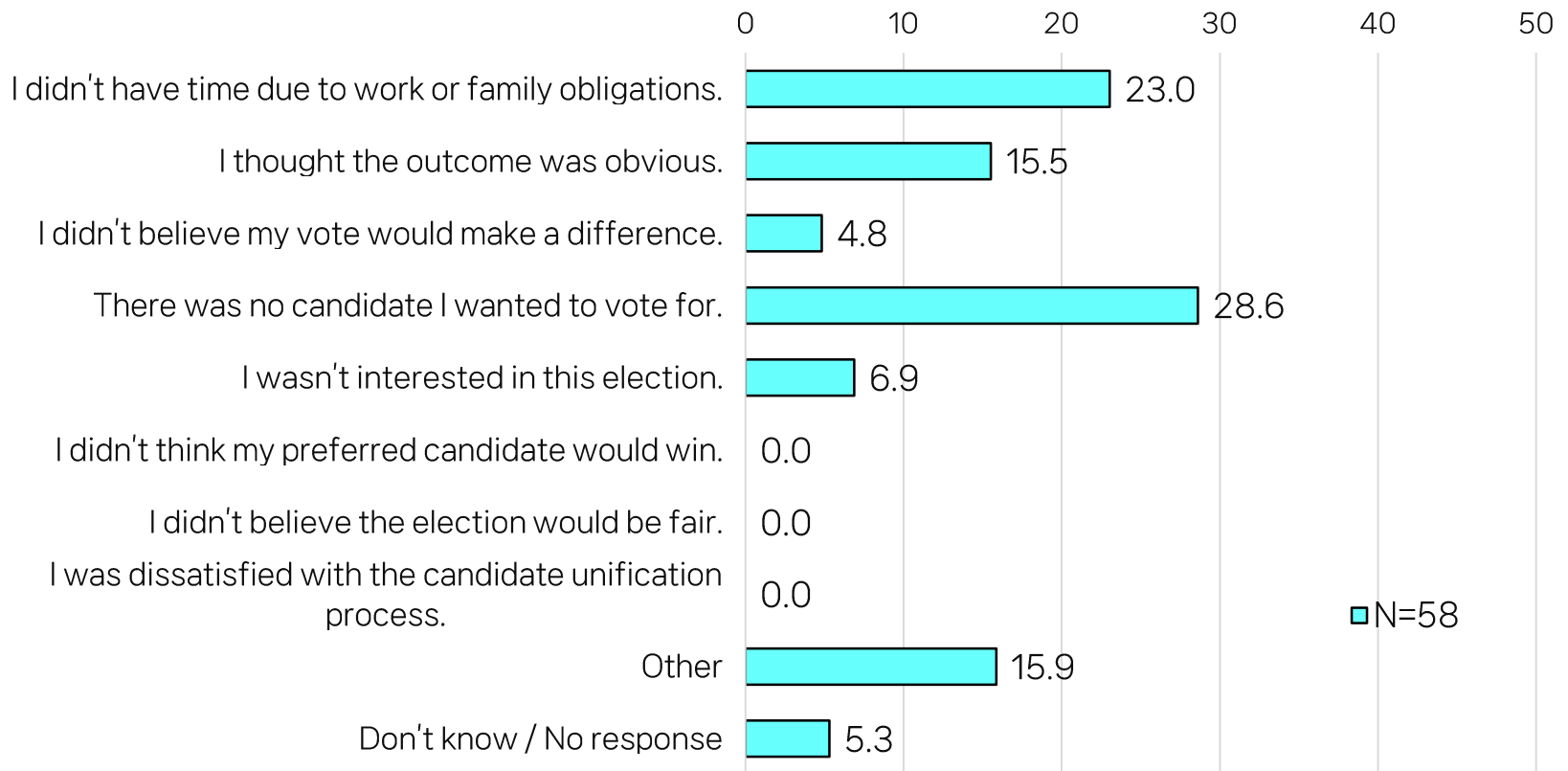
(%)



Reasons for Not Voting

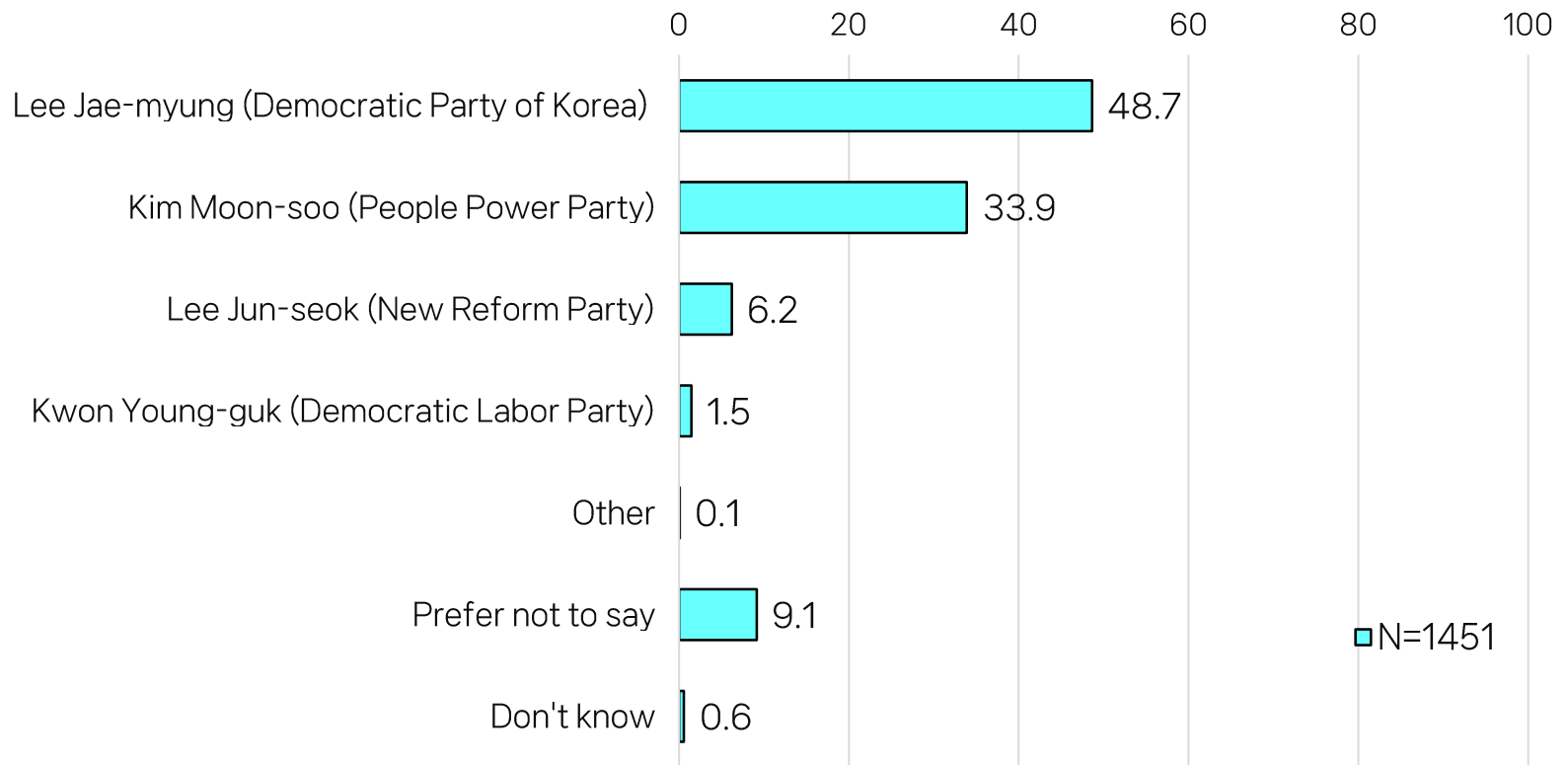
Q55-1. (For those who answered ③ or ④ in Q55)
What was the main reason you were unable to vote?

(%)



Voting Candidates

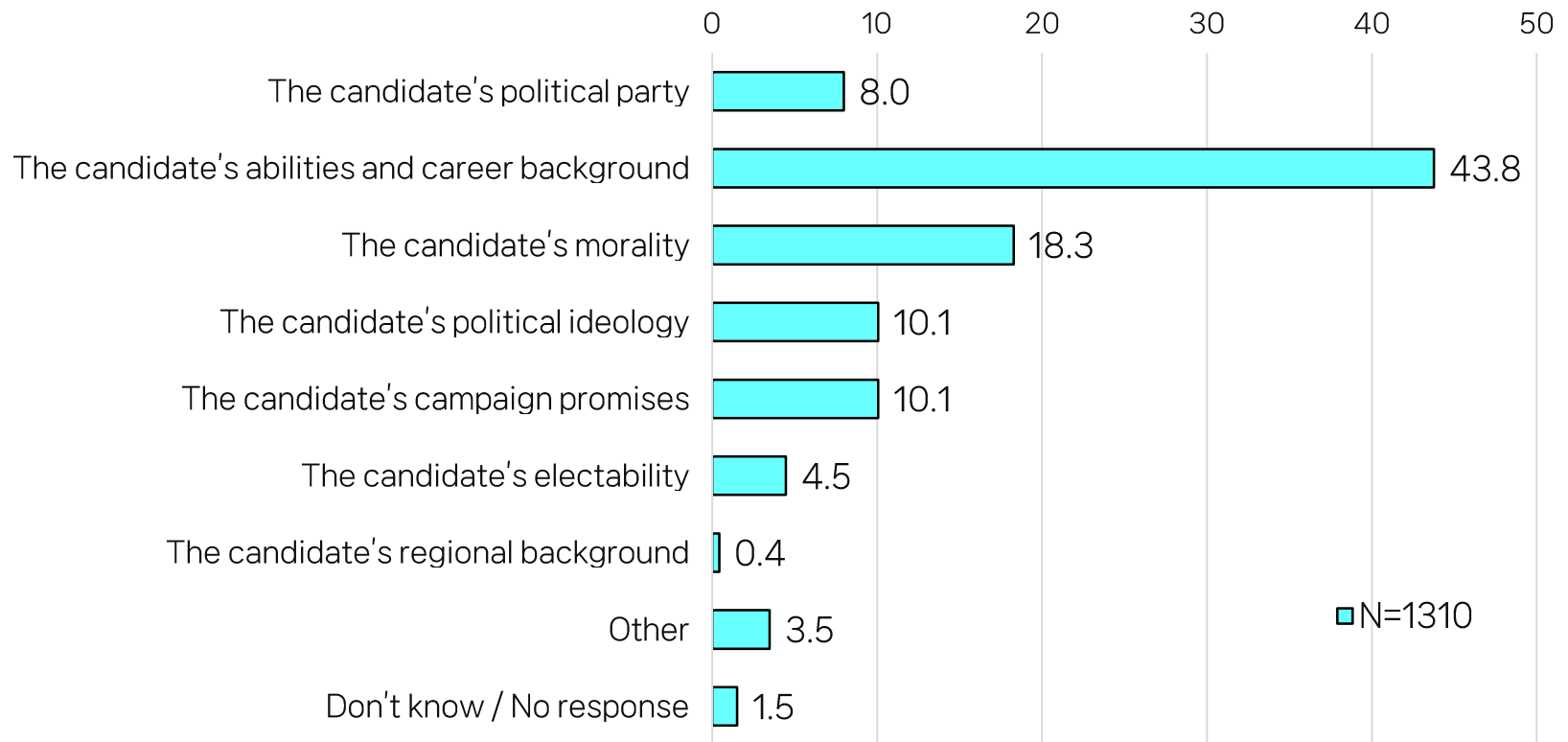
Q56. In the Presidential election on June 3, 2025, which candidate did you vote for? (%)



Reasons for Choosing a Candidate

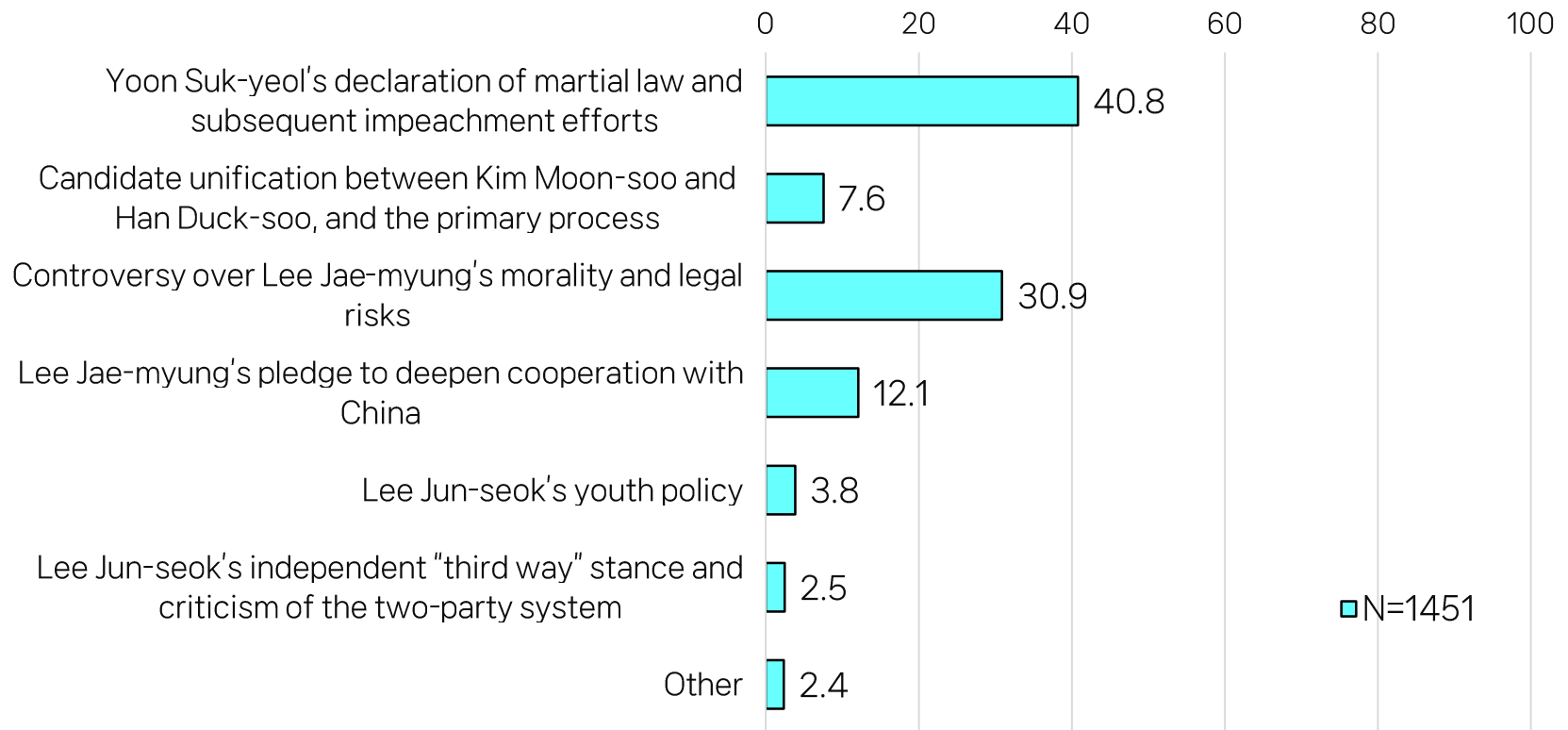
Q56-1. What was the main factor in your decision to vote for the candidate?

(%)



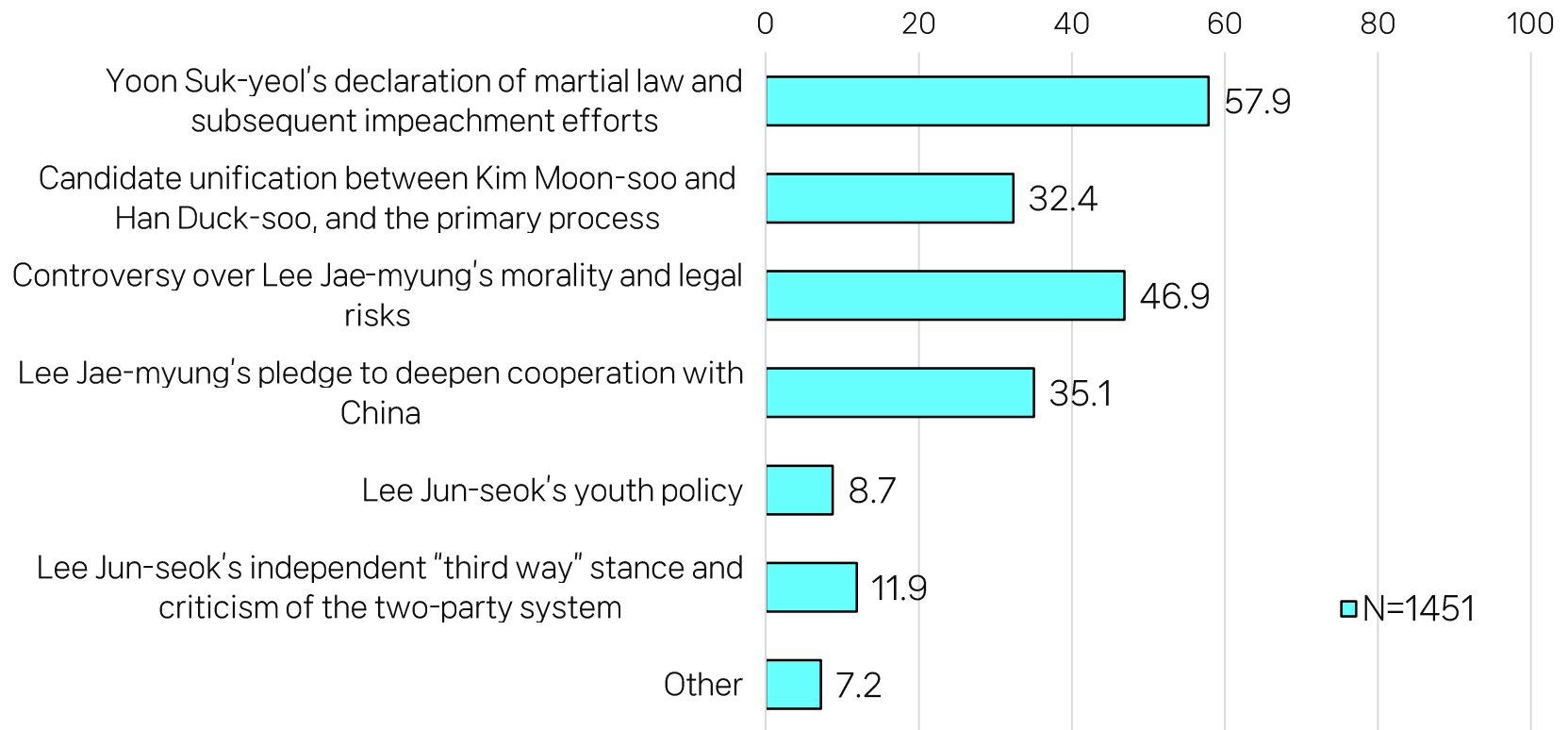
Issues that Influenced Decisions to Vote

Q57. Which of the following issues most influenced your choice of candidate in this election?(%)



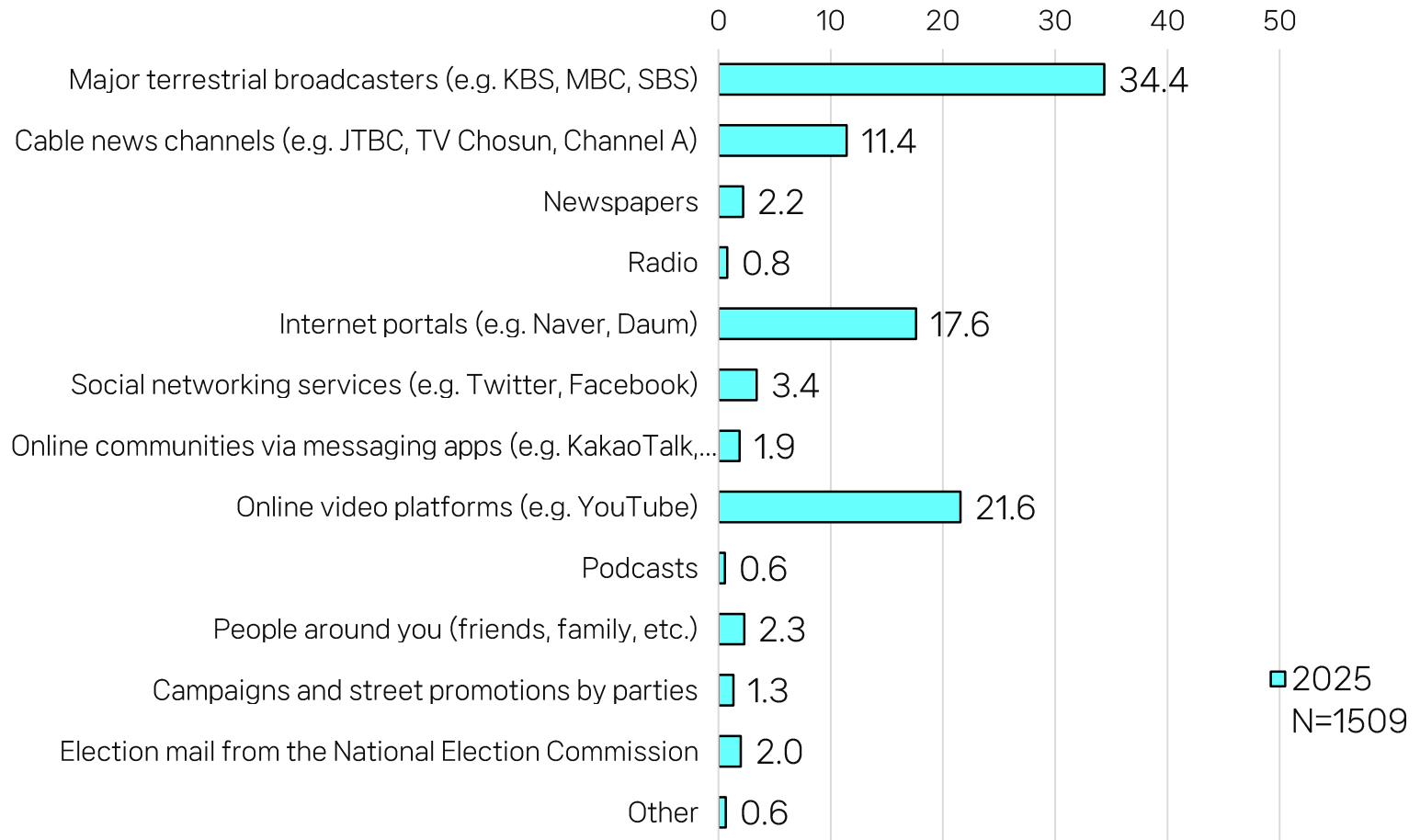
Issues that Influenced Decisions to Vote

Q57. Which of the following issues most influenced your choice of candidate in this election? (%)
[Up to two answers]



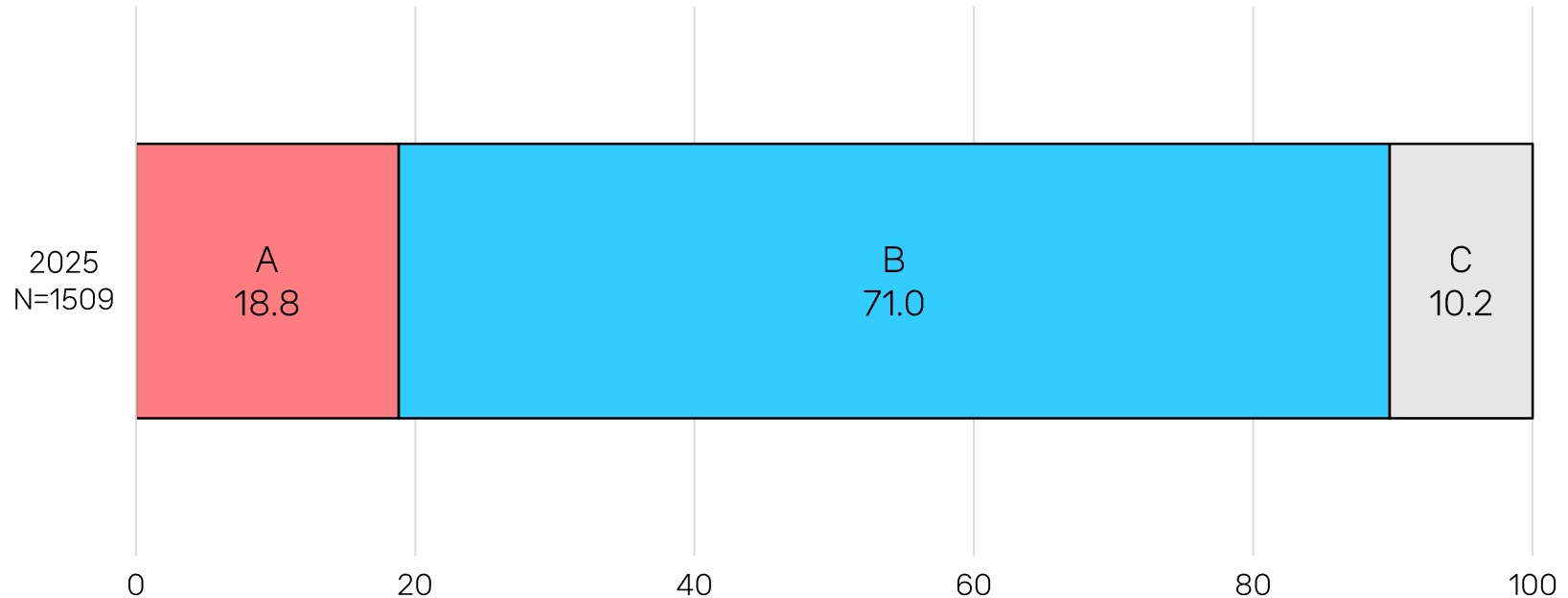
Source of Election-Related Information

Q58. Through which of the following media sources did you obtain the most information related (%) to the election?



Focus of Attention in Media Coverage

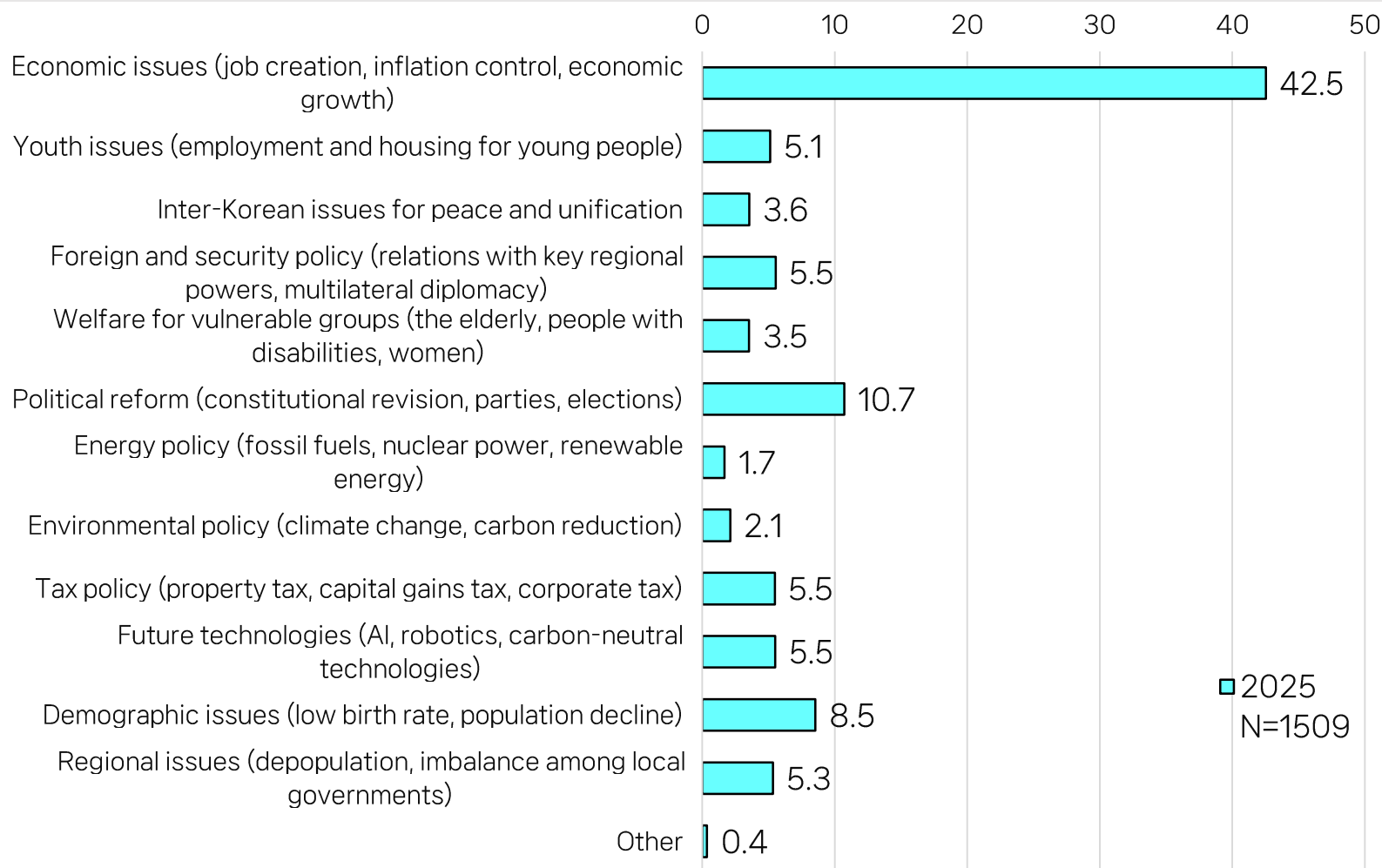
Q59. Which type of information did you pay more attention to through that media source? (%)



A	B	C
I only paid attention to information about the candidate I support.	I paid attention to information about all major candidates, regardless of my support.	I did not pay particular attention to the content provided by the media source.

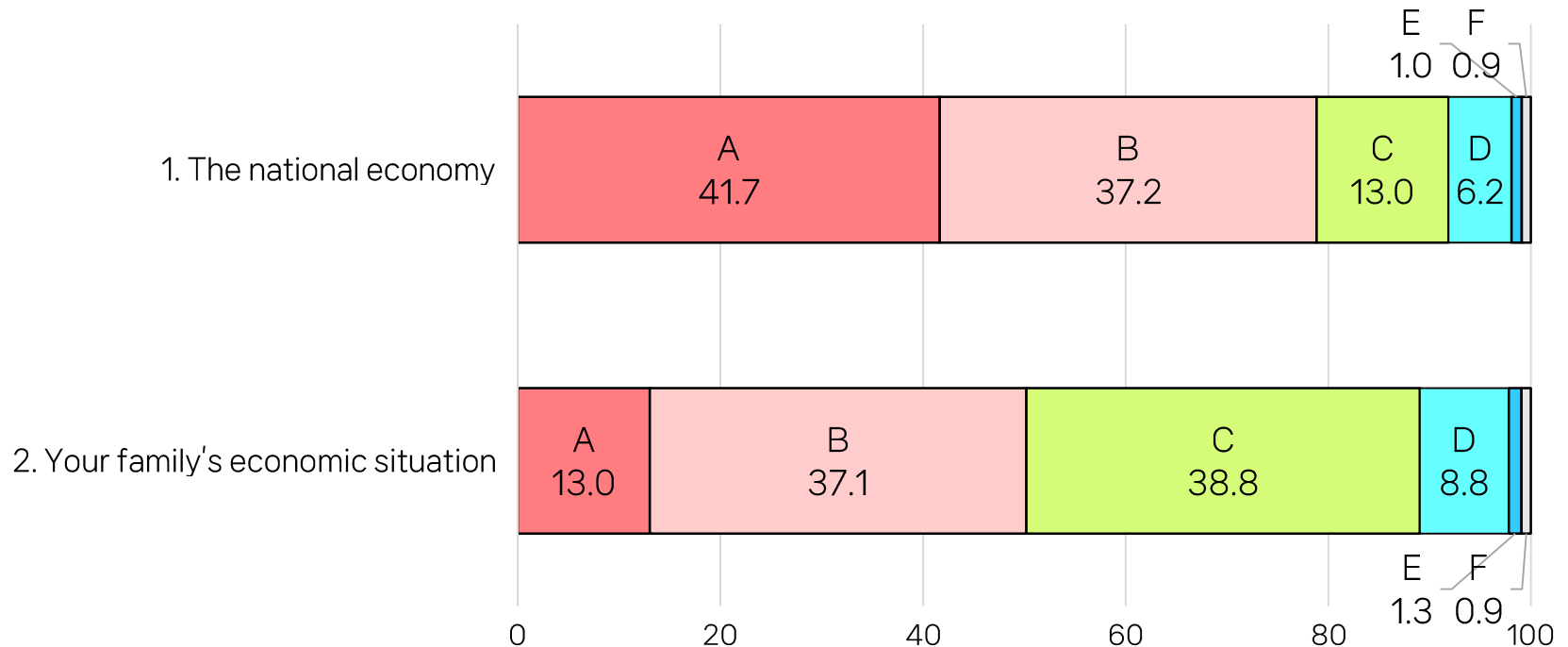
Top Policy Priority for the Next Administration

Q60. Which two policy areas should the next administration prioritize the most? (%)



Perceived Changes in Economic Conditions

Q61. Over the past three years, how do you think the following economic conditions have changed? (%)



A	B	C	D	E	F
Got much worse	Got somewhat worse	No change	Got somewhat better	Got much better	Don't know

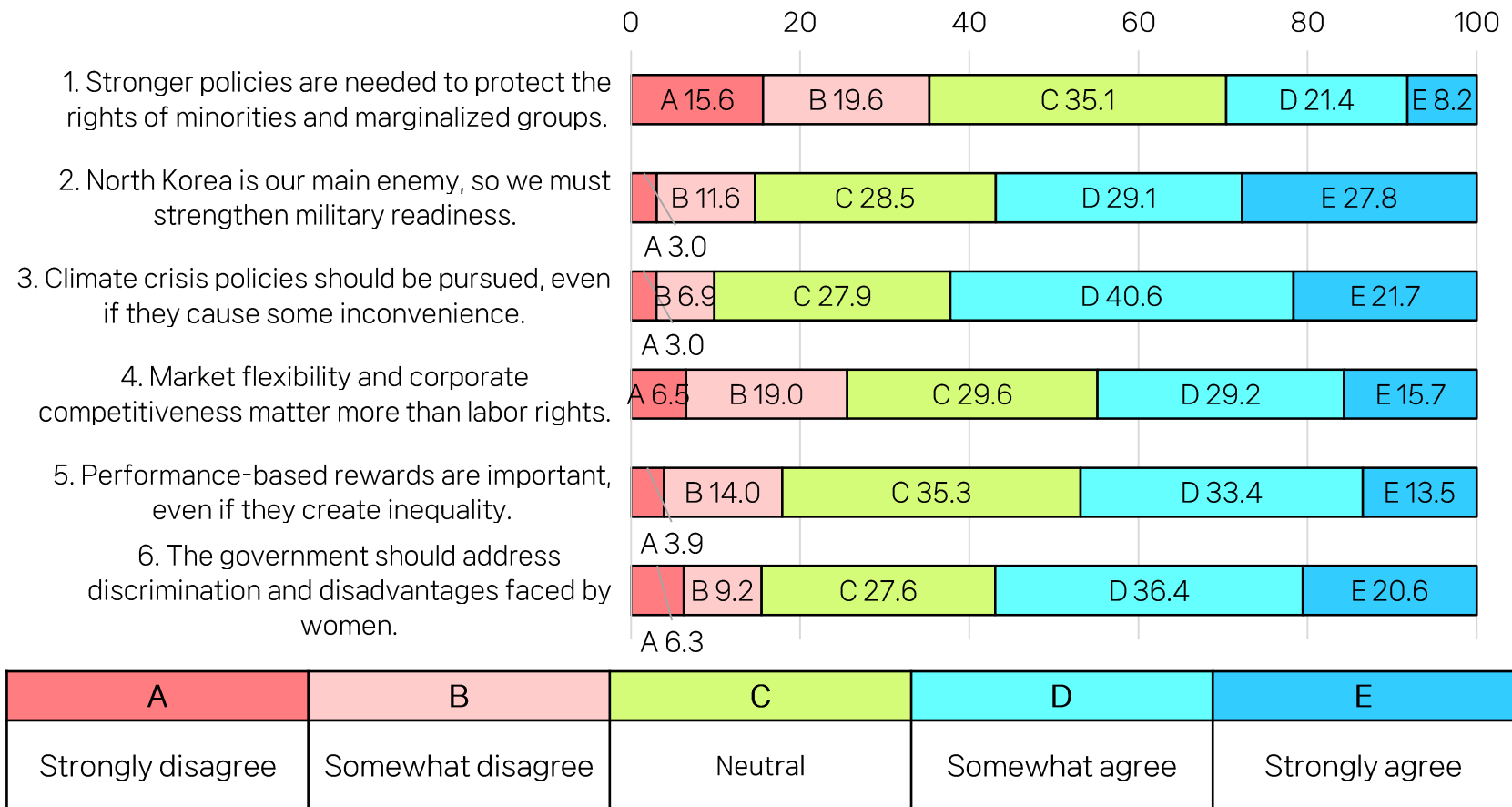
II . Political Attitudes

- ***Perceptions of Political Alienation:*** A majority of respondents (60.6%) felt that politicians and public officials do not care about people like themselves. This sentiment was particularly pronounced among conservatives (69.3%), compared to progressives (56.6%) and centrists (54.7%). Notably, 62.8% of conservatives also reported a strong understanding of major political issues—a level comparable to progressives (62.9%) and significantly higher than centrists (42.8%).
- ***Affective Polarization:*** Supporters of Lee Jae-myung reported a mean favorability score of 7.8 toward their candidate, while rating Kim Moon-soo at just 1.87. Conversely, Kim's supporters rated their candidate at 7.4, while giving Lee a low score of 2.43. These figures reflect intense affective polarization between the two voting blocs.
- ***Partisan Loyalty and Hostility:*** When asked whether they would continue to support their current party in the future, 96.6% of Democratic Party (DP) supporters and 85.6% of People Power Party (PPP) supporters answered affirmatively. However, cross-party perceptions revealed entrenched hostility: 86.1% of DP supporters said the PPP was not a party they could ever support, and 84.3% of PPP supporters said the same of the DP.

Level of Agreement with Statements

Q62. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

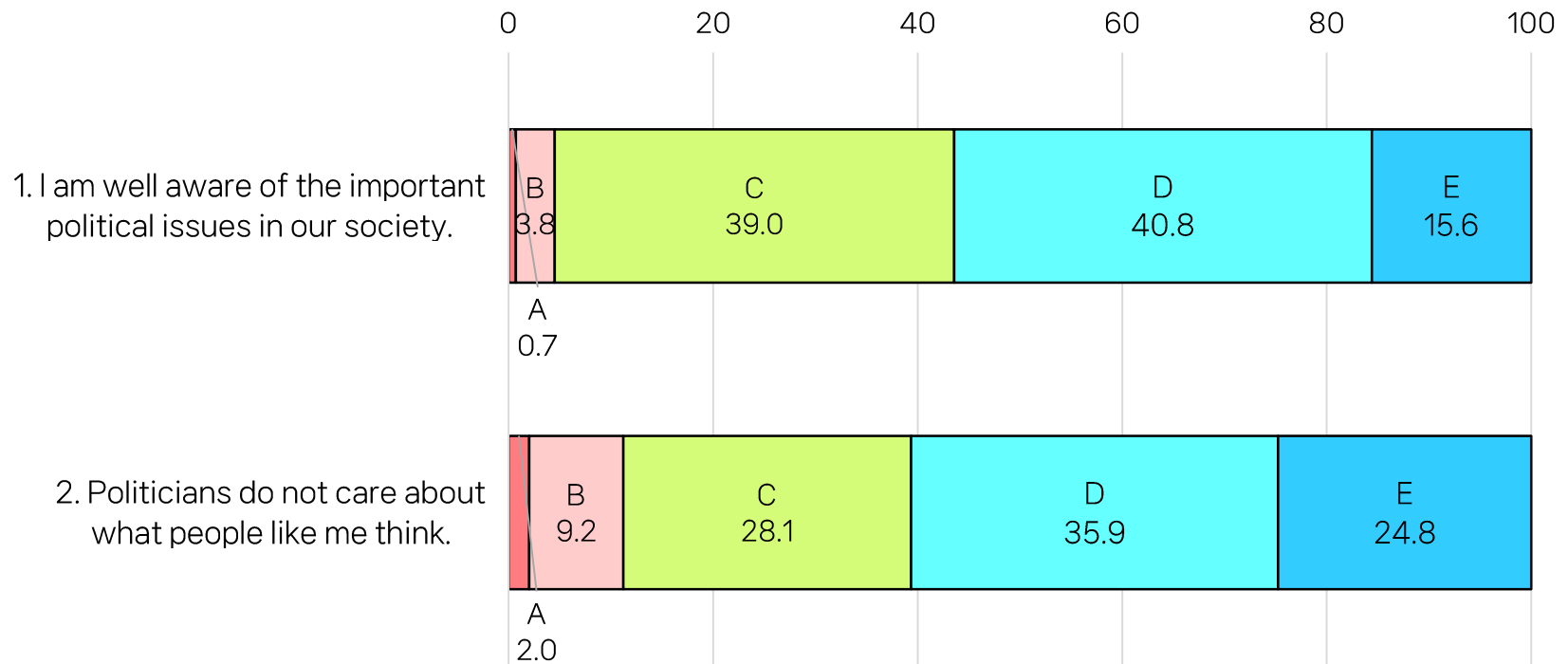
(%)



Level of Agreement with Statements

Q63. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

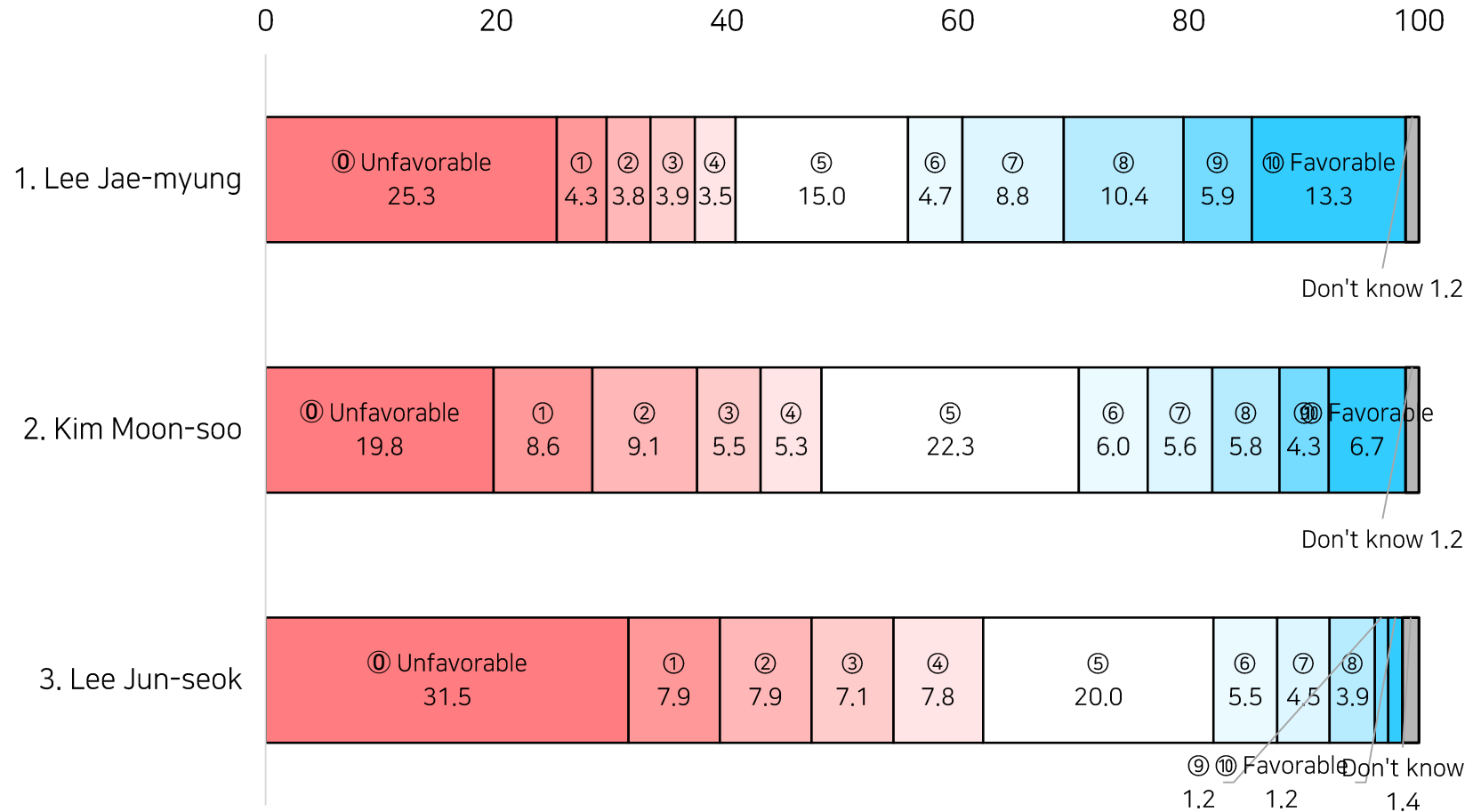
(%)



A	B	C	D	E
Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neutral	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree

Favorability toward Politicians

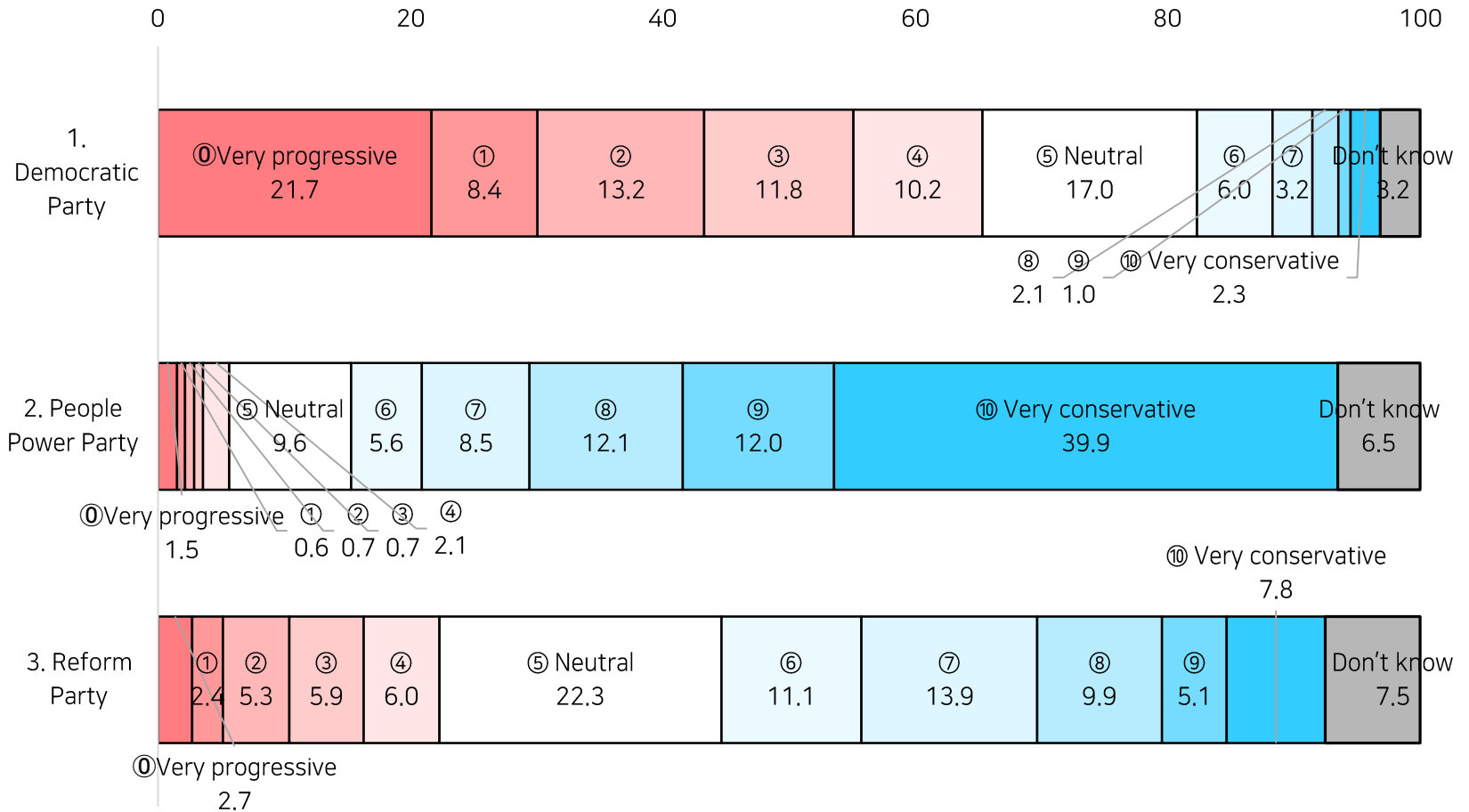
문64. Please indicate your level of favorability toward the following politicians on a scale from 0 to 10. (%)



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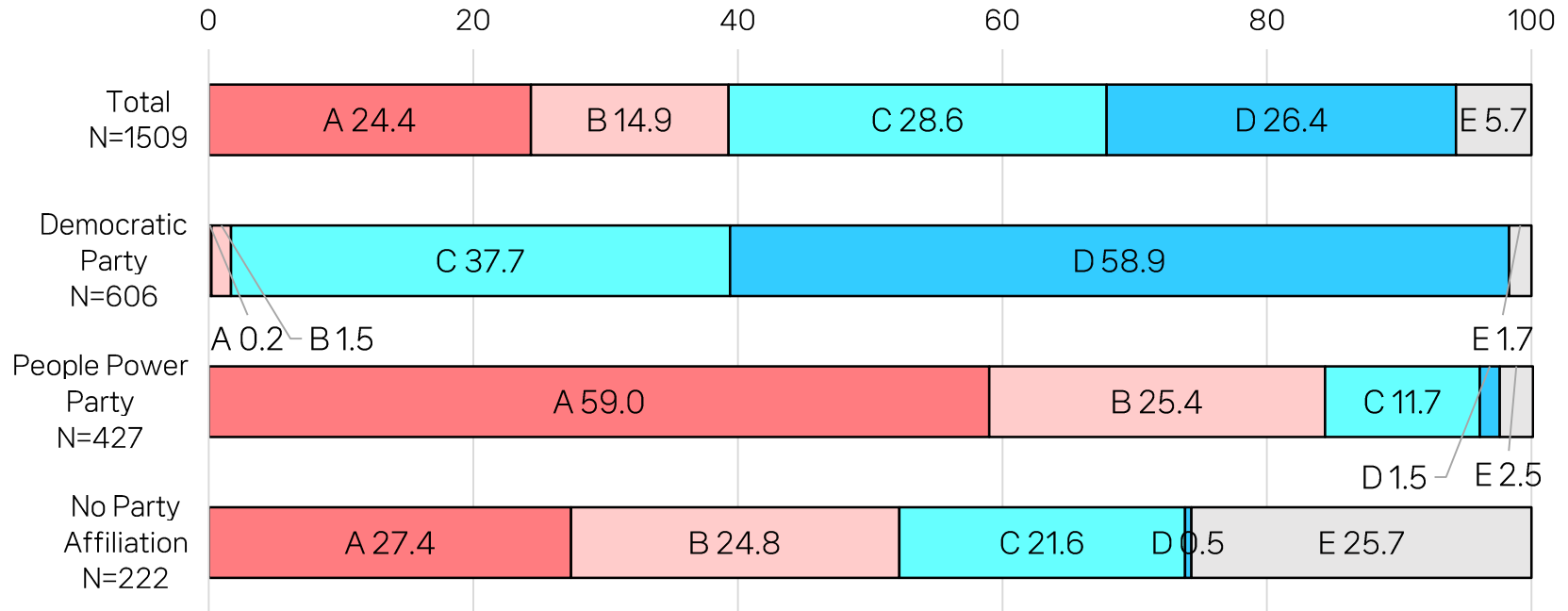
Perceptions of Party Ideology

Q65. Where do you think the following parties belong on the political spectrum? (%)



Parties Considered Worth Supporting in the Future

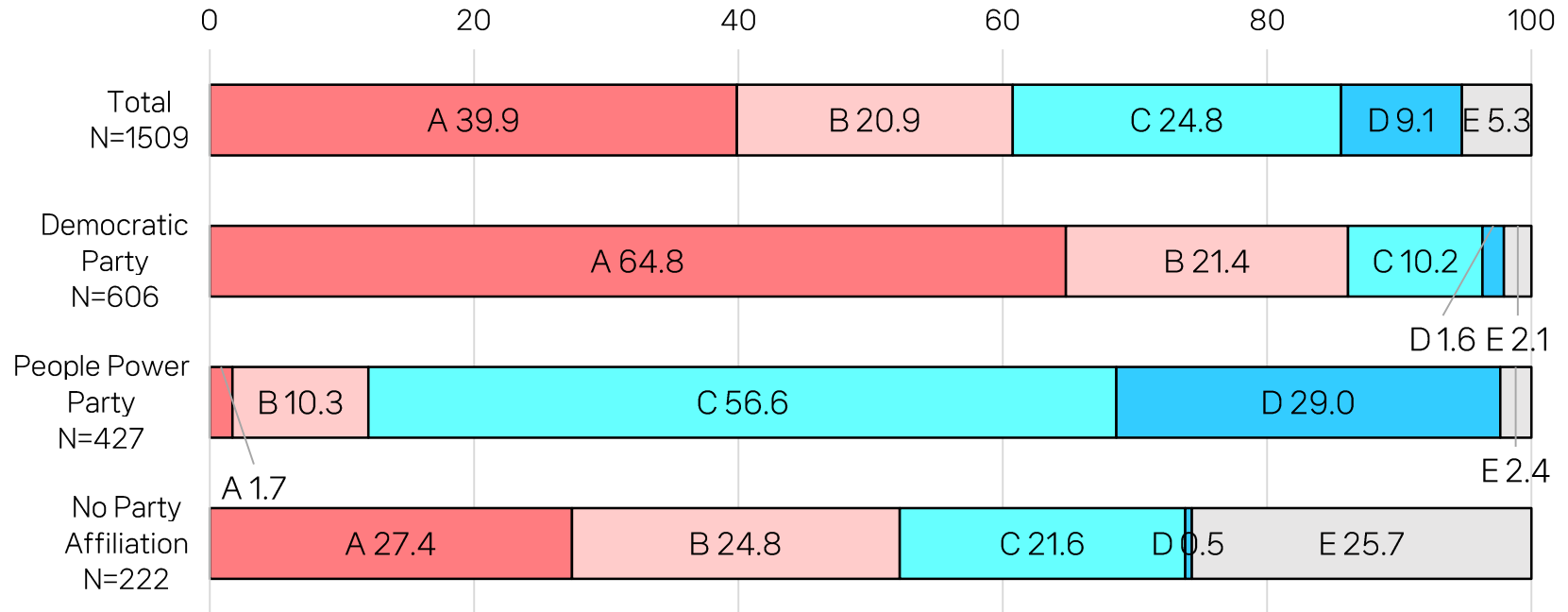
BQ12-2. Do you think the **Democratic Party** is worth supporting in the future? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

Parties Considered Worth Supporting in the Future

BQ12-2. Do you think the People Power Party is worth supporting in the future? (%)



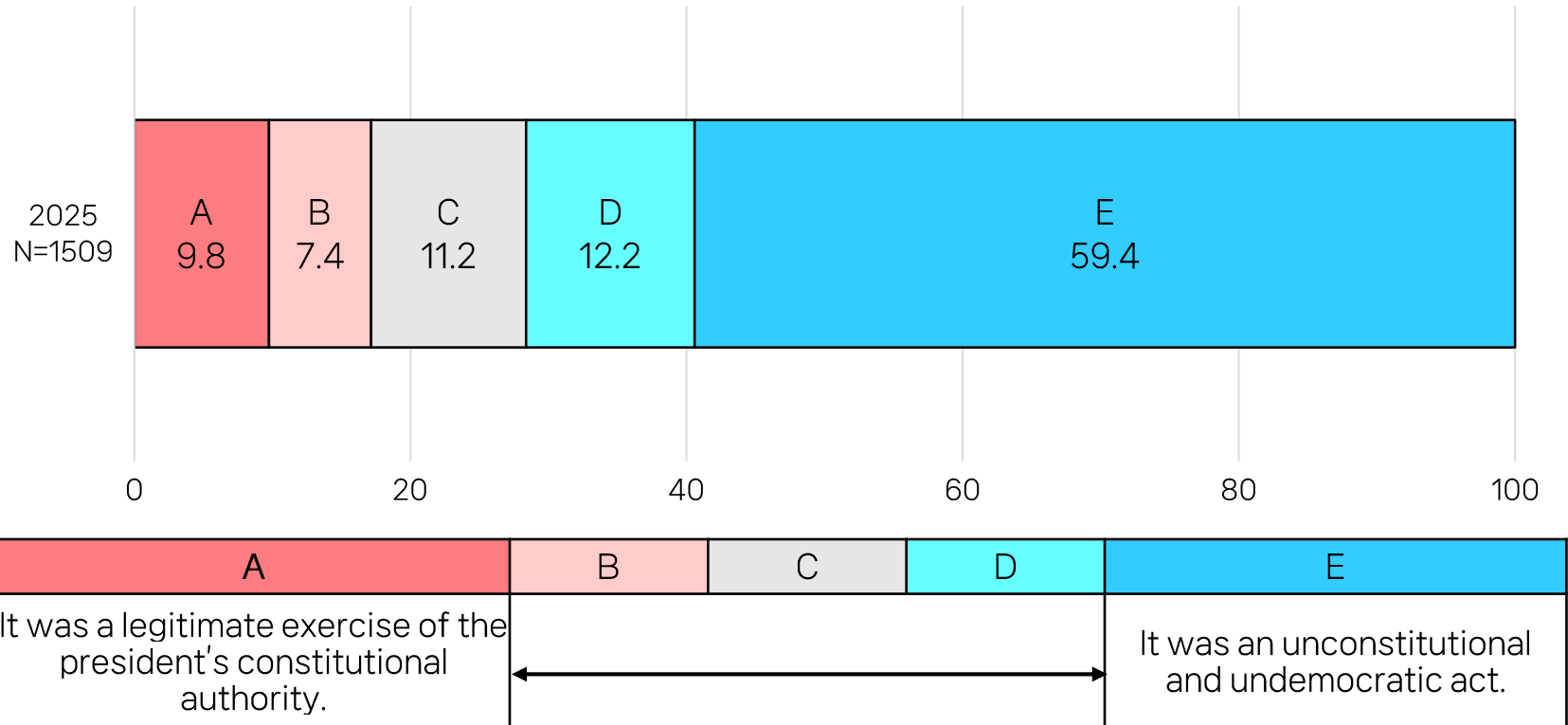
A	B	C	D	E
Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know

III. Perceptions of the Political Situation

- ***Views on the Martial Law Declaration and Constitutional Court Ruling:*** A large majority (71.6%) viewed former President Yoon Suk Yeol's declaration of martial law as unconstitutional and anti-democratic. This perspective was held by 93.4% of progressives and 72.8% of centrists. Even among conservatives, 51.9% assessed the action as unconstitutional, though 37.5% viewed it as a legitimate exercise of constitutional authority. Only 3.3% of progressives and 7.6% of conservatives described it as legitimate. In contrast, views on the Constitutional Court's impeachment ruling revealed stark ideological divides. Among progressives, 91.6% supported the decision, as did 64.8% of centrists. Among conservatives, however, 44.9% considered the decision to be wrong, compared to 41.5% who agreed with it.
- ***Attribution of Responsibility for the Martial Law Declaration:*** When asked which party bore greater responsibility for the December 3 martial law attempt and impeachment crisis, 50.5% of respondents pointed to the ruling People Power Party (PPP), while 20.0% blamed the opposition Democratic Party (DP). Another 25.7% assigned blame to both parties. Among DP supporters, 81.0% blamed the PPP, while 12.2% held both parties accountable. Conversely, 52.0% of PPP supporters blamed the DP, 31.7% cited both, and only 15.0% attributed responsibility to their own party.
- ***Perceptions of the Ruling Party's Response to Impeachment:*** A majority of respondents (57.0%) believed the ruling PPP should have acknowledged its faults and accepted the impeachment process. This view was overwhelmingly held by DP supporters (91.4%) but was shared by only 33.1% of PPP supporters. Instead, 50.4% of PPP supporters said the ruling party should have more actively opposed the impeachment and defended the president—highlighting a clear partisan divide in views on the proper role of the ruling party during the crisis.

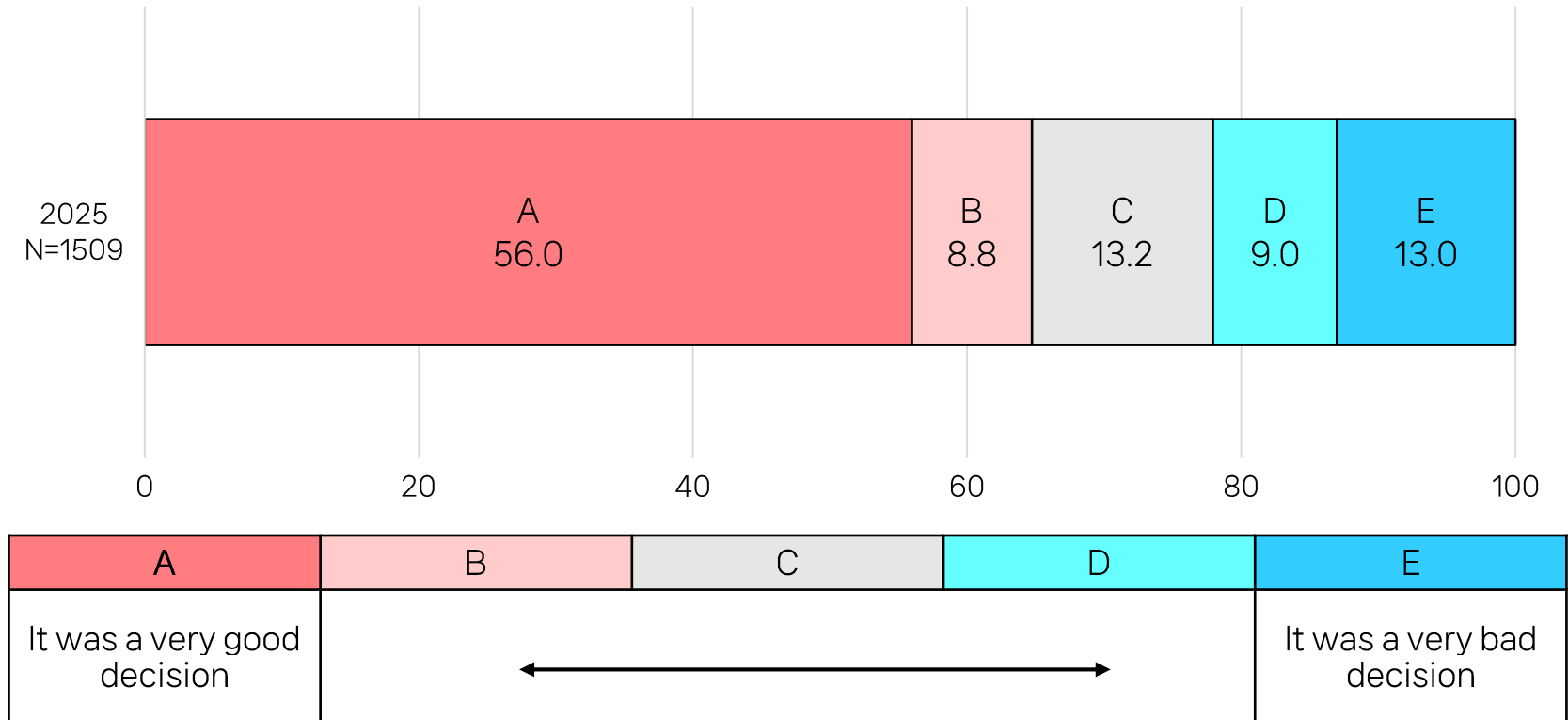
Views on President Yoon's Martial Law Declaration

Regarding President Yoon's declaration of martial law, which of the following positions is closest to your own view? (%)



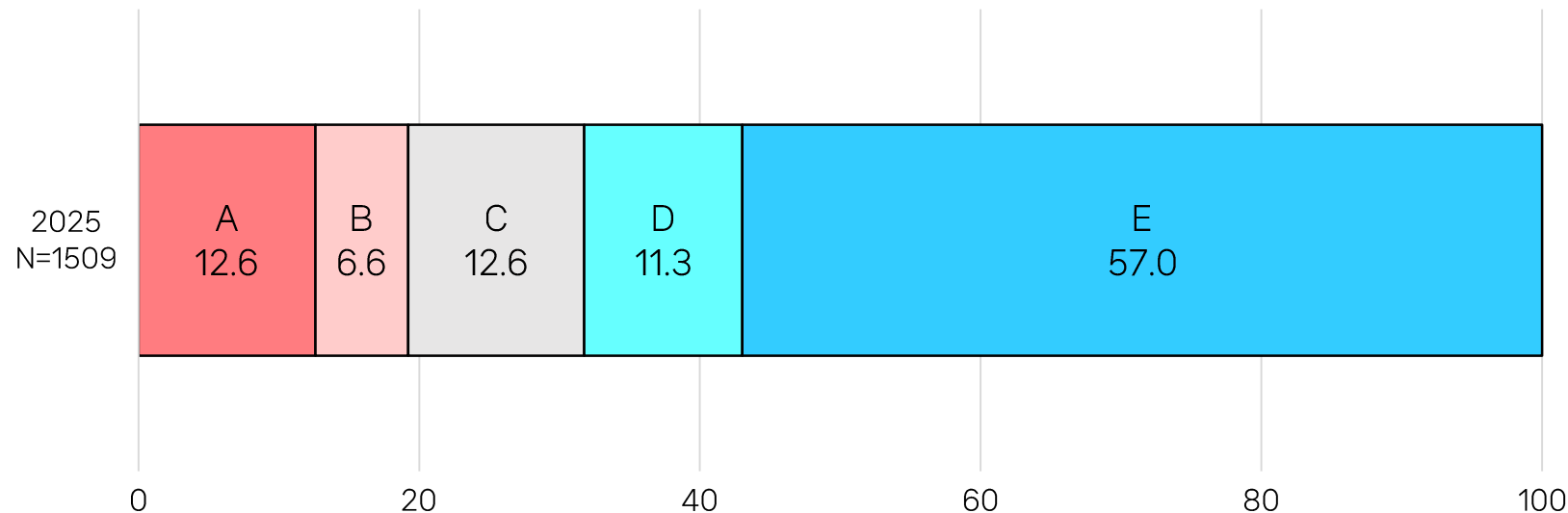
Views on the Constitutional Court's Impeachment Ruling

Q67. Regarding the Constitutional Court's ruling on President Yoon's impeachment, which of the following positions is closest to your own view? (%)



Views on the Ruling Party's Response to Yoon's Impeachment

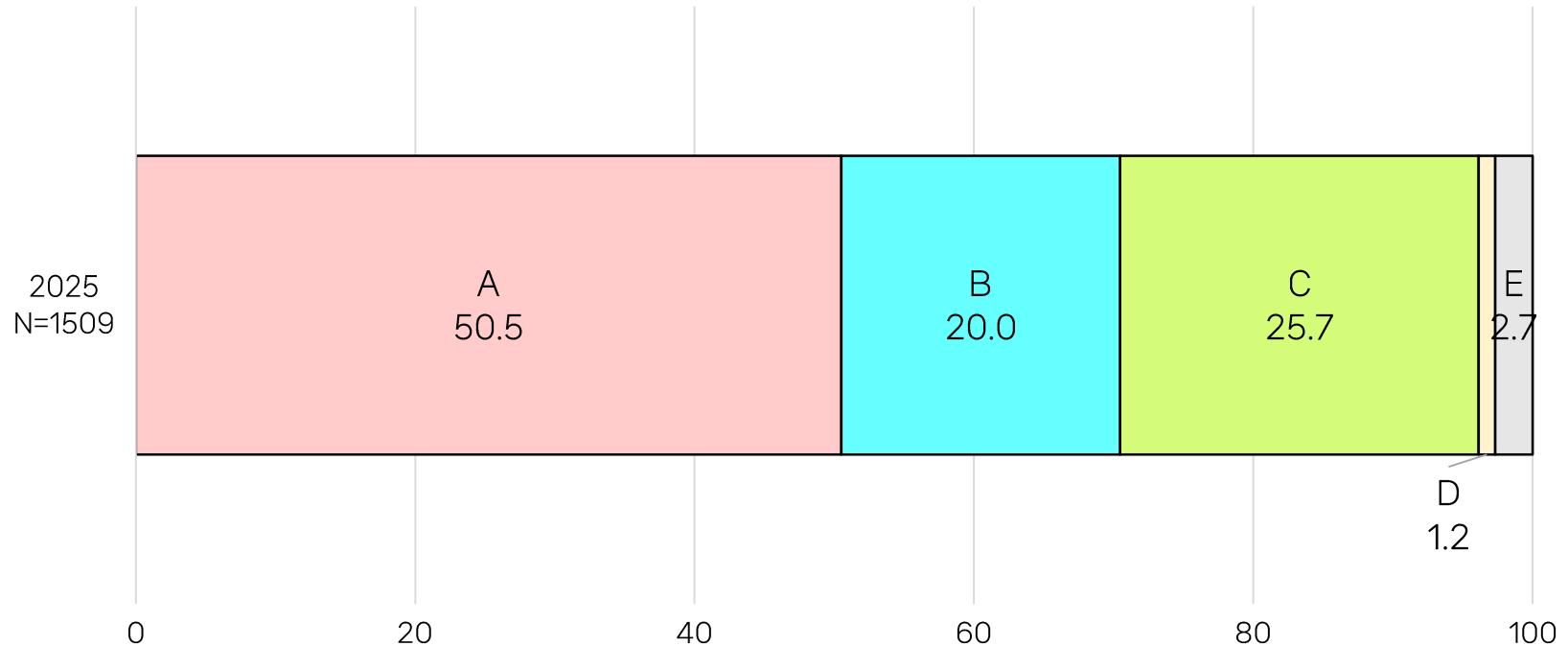
Q68. Regarding the ruling party's actions during President Yoon's impeachment process, which of the following positions is closest to your own view? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
The party should have more actively opposed the impeachment and defended the president.				As the ruling party, it should have acknowledged its mistakes and actively accepted the impeachment.

Party Responsibility for the Martial Law Attempt and Presidential Impeachment Crisis

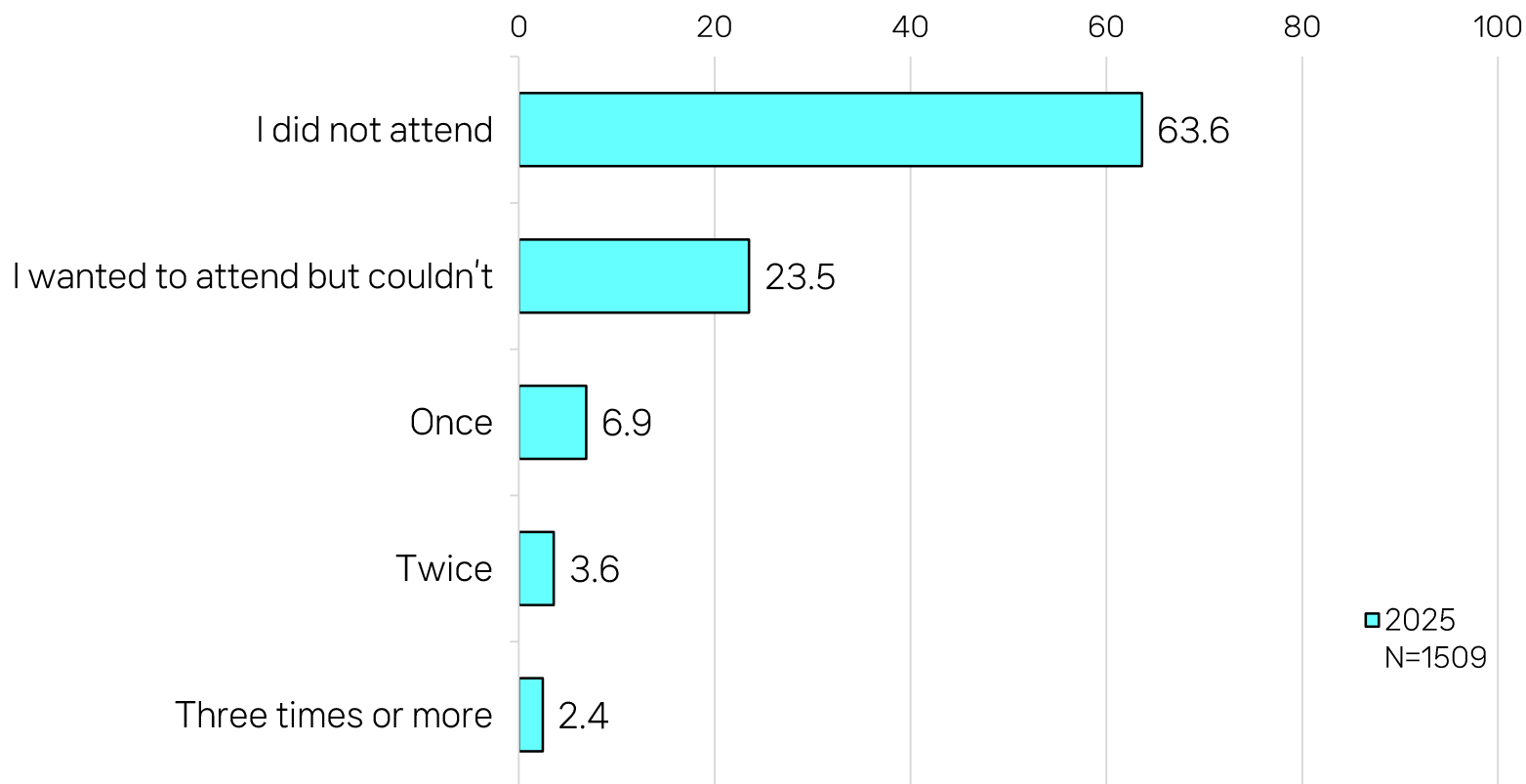
Q69. Regarding the December 3 martial law attempt and the presidential impeachment crisis, which political party do you think holds greater responsibility? (%)



A	B	C	D	E
The People Power Party	The Democratic Party of Korea	Both parties are responsible	Neither party is responsible	Don't know

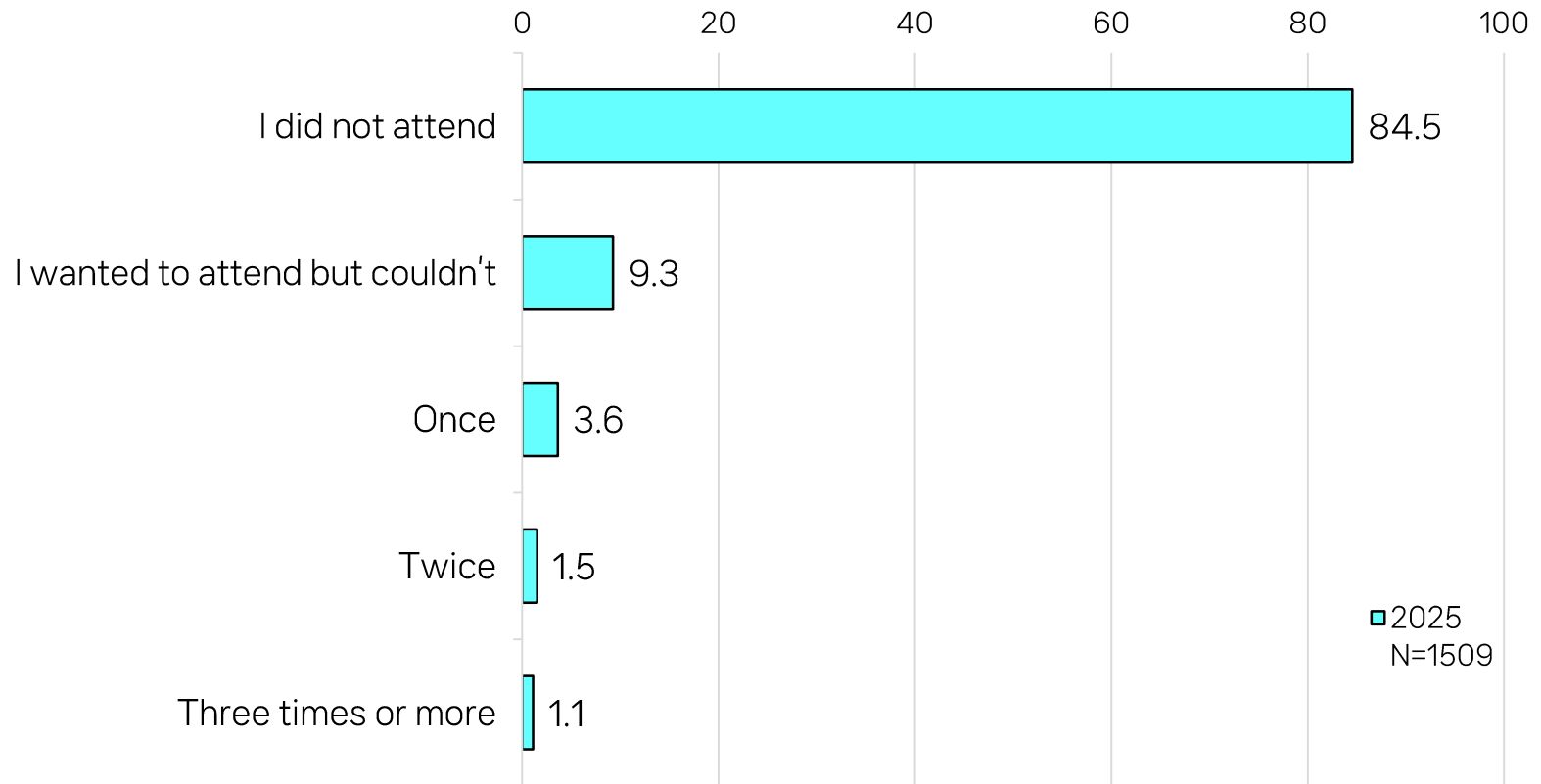
Participation in Pro-Impeachment Protests

Q70-1. Since the December 3 martial law crisis, have you participated in any street rallies or protests calling for the impeachment of President Yoon Suk-yeol? (%)



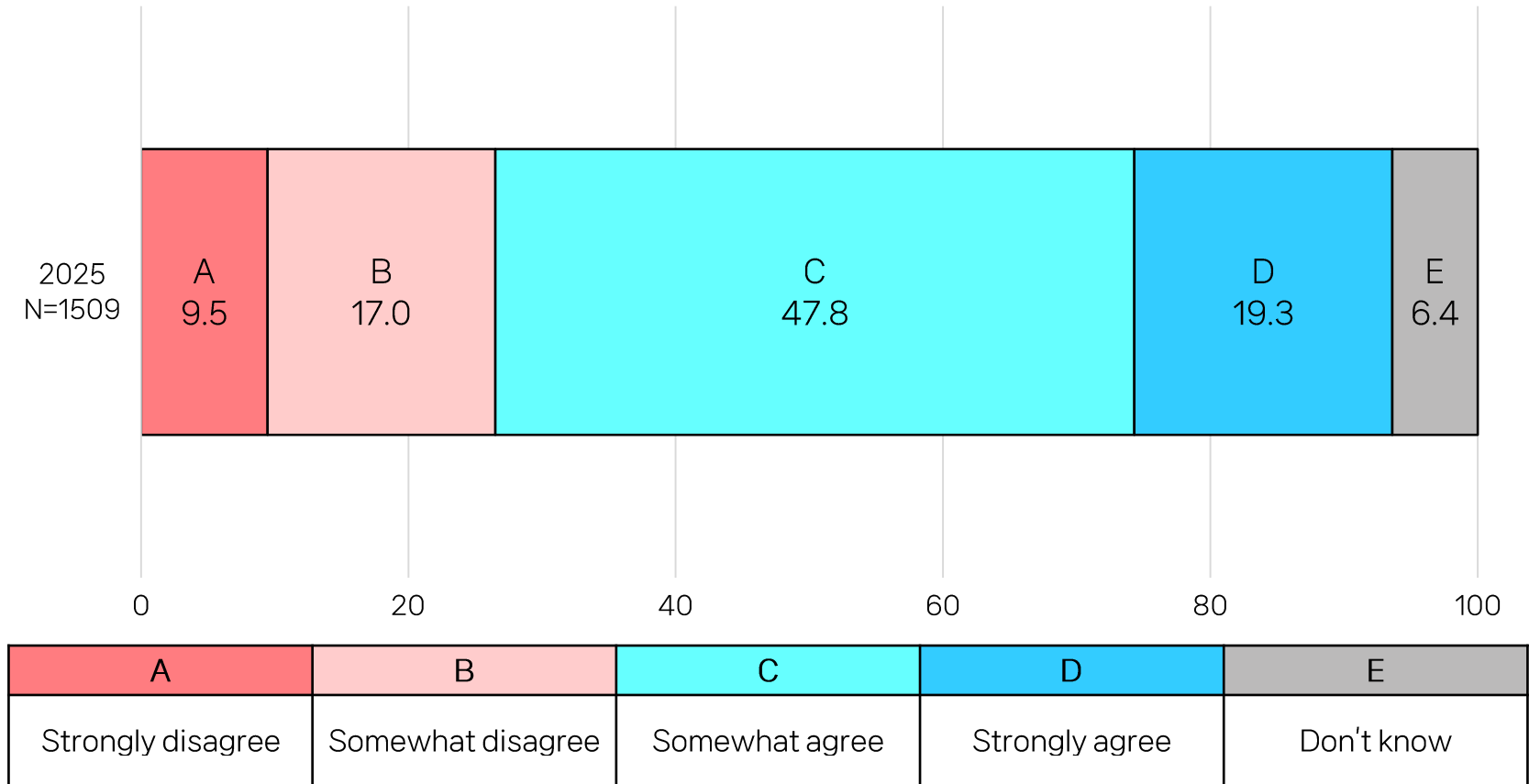
Participation in Anti-Impeachment Protests

Q70-2. Since the December 3 martial law crisis, have you participated in any street rallies or protests opposing the impeachment of President Yoon Suk-yeol? (%)



Voting Trends in the Yeongnam Region

Q71. Do you think voting patterns in the Yeongnam region have become more diverse compared to the past? (%)

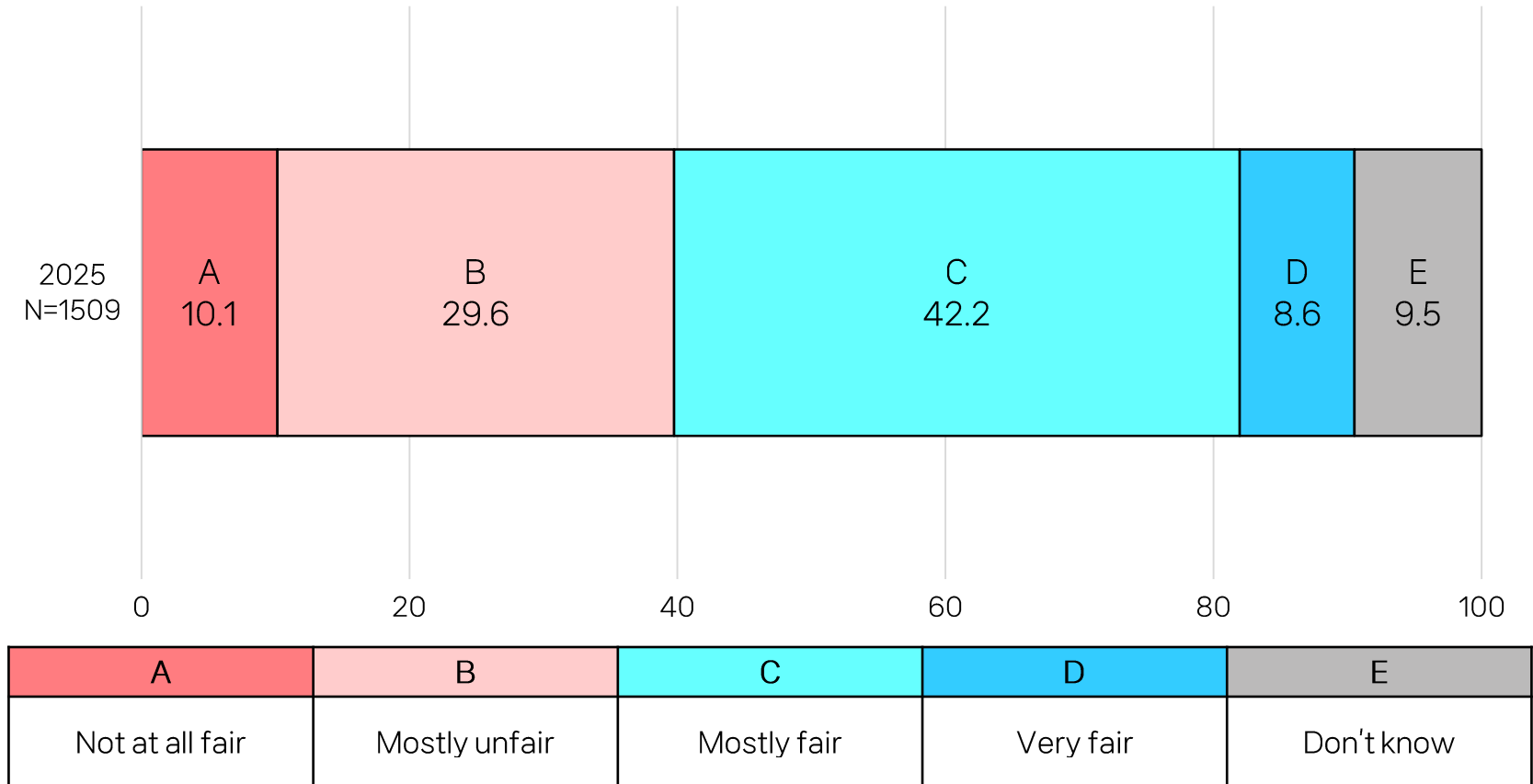


IV. Perceptions of Electoral Institutions and Democracy

- ***Trust in Electoral Institutions:*** When asked about the fairness of the National Election Commission and the judiciary during the election process, 62.7% and 50.8% of respondents, respectively, viewed each institution as fair ("somewhat fair" or "very fair"). Among conservatives, however, a majority viewed both institutions as unfair—55.0% in the case of the Election Commission and 56.9% for the judiciary. In contrast, only 8.6% of progressives said the Election Commission was unfair, while 33.4% viewed the judiciary as such.
- ***Perceived Fairness of Candidate Nominations:*** A total of 39.8% of respondents believed the nomination process was unfair. This perception was most pronounced among conservatives, 53.5% of whom viewed the process as unfair, compared to 32.0% of progressives and 31.7% of centrists.
- ***Concerns About Election Integrity:*** When asked whether there had been electoral fraud or manipulation during the presidential election, 29.0% of all respondents answered affirmatively. By ideological affiliation, 44.4% of conservatives, 30.1% of centrists, and only 9.9% of progressives believed there had been election irregularities.
- ***Evaluation of Democratic Functioning:*** Regarding the overall functioning of democracy in South Korea, 34.7% of respondents stated that democracy was not working well. This view was held by 19.2% of progressives, 30.1% of centrists, and a majority of conservatives (52.1%)—reflecting clear ideological divides in democratic confidence.

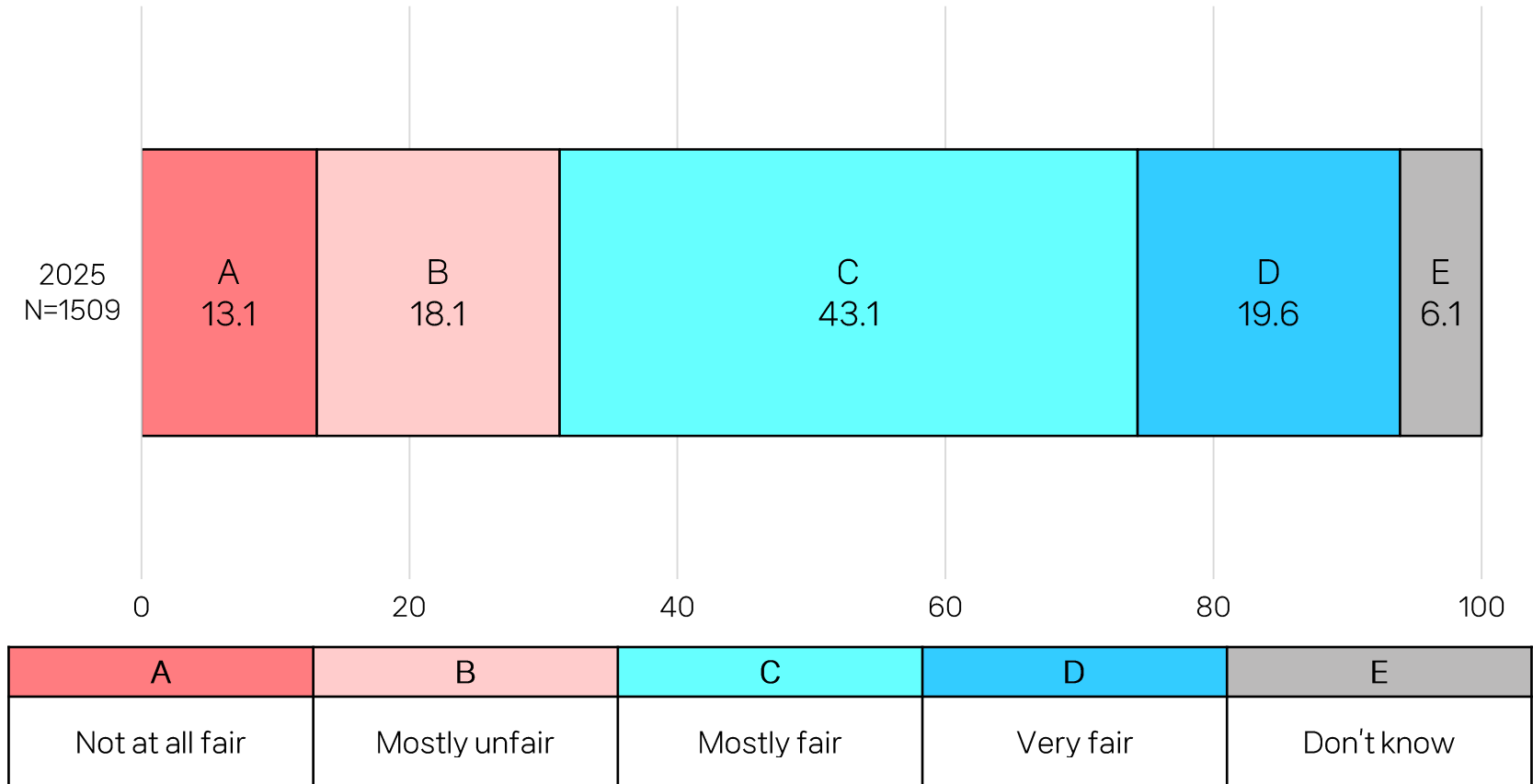
Fairness of the Candidate Nomination Process

Q72. How fairly was the candidate nomination process conducted by each party? (%)



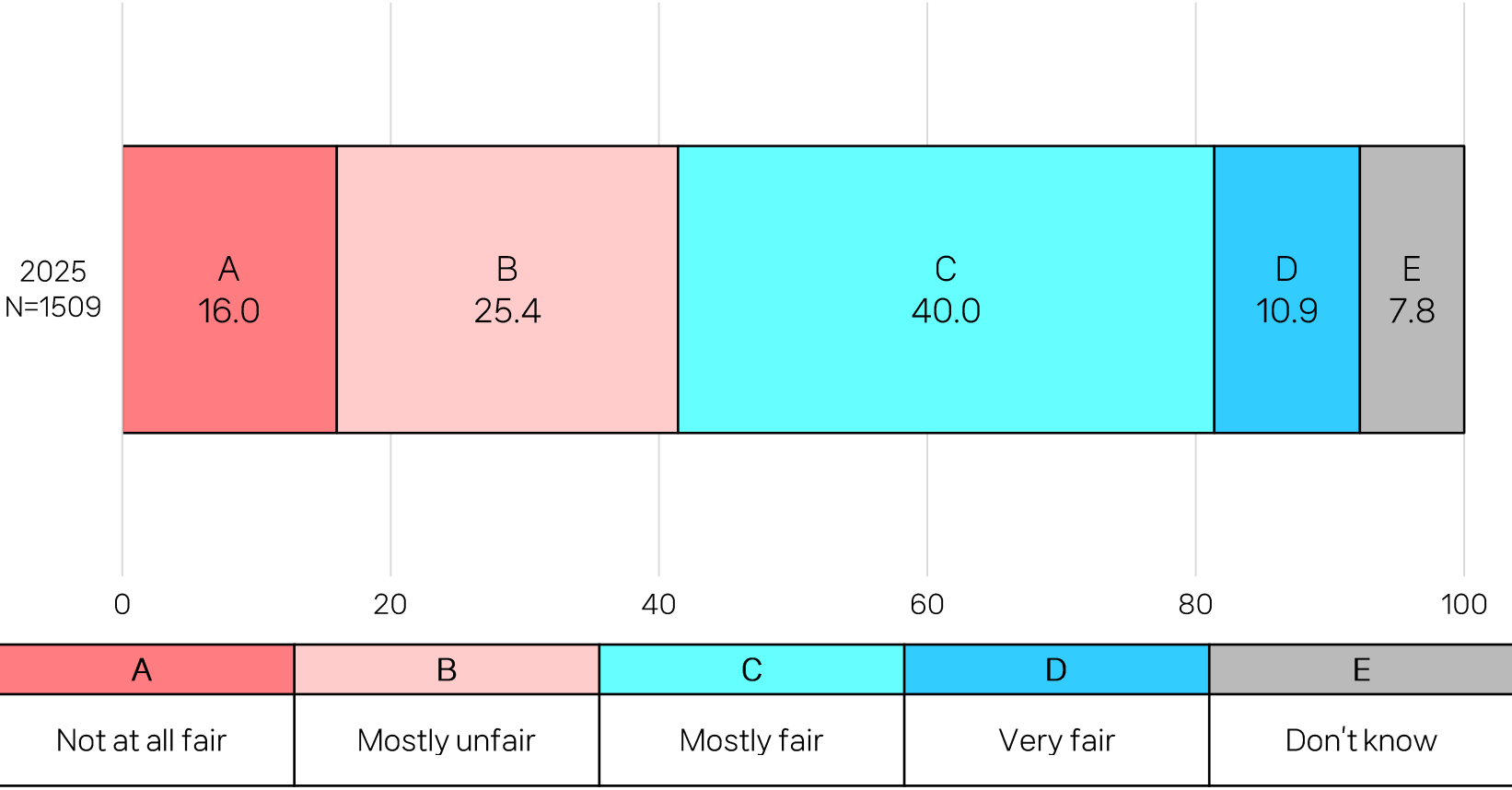
Fairness of the National Election Commission

Q72-1. How fairly did the National Election Commission manage the presidential election?(%)



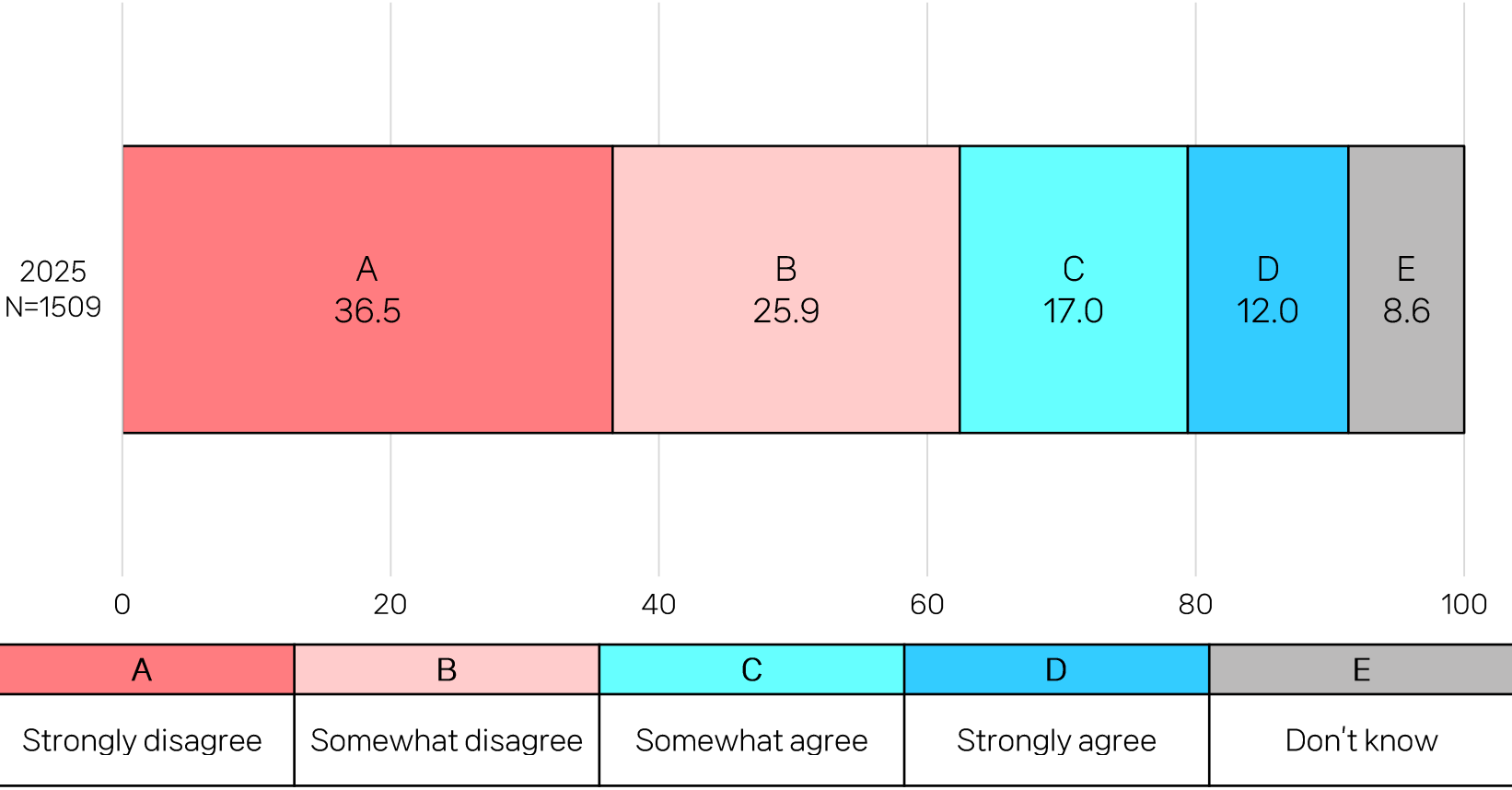
Fairness of the Courts in Election-Related Cases

Q72-2. How fair were the court judgments in recent election-related disputes or lawsuits?" (%)



Perceptions of Electoral Fraud and Manipulation

Q73. Do you think there was any electoral fraud or vote manipulation in the most recent presidential election? (%)



Perceived State of Democracy

Q74. Overall, do you think democracy is functioning well in our country today? (%)

