



CARNEGIE
ENDOWMENT FOR
INTERNATIONAL PEACE

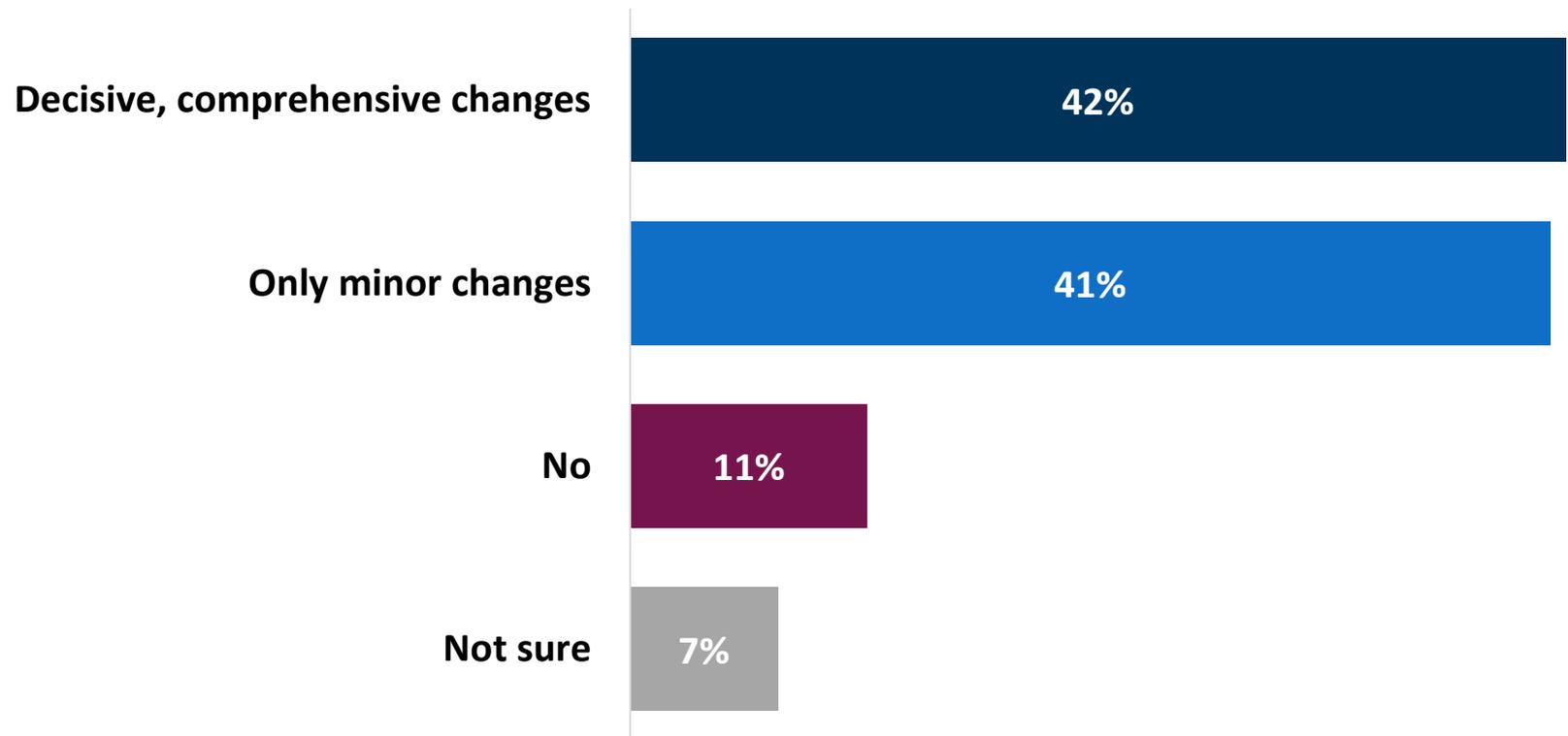
Do Russians Want Change?

Results From Polling and Focus Groups Conducted by the Carnegie Moscow Center and Levada Center

Andrei Kolesnikov | February 8, 2018

Does Russia need change?

Most Russians understand that the country cannot move forward or stay in place without change.

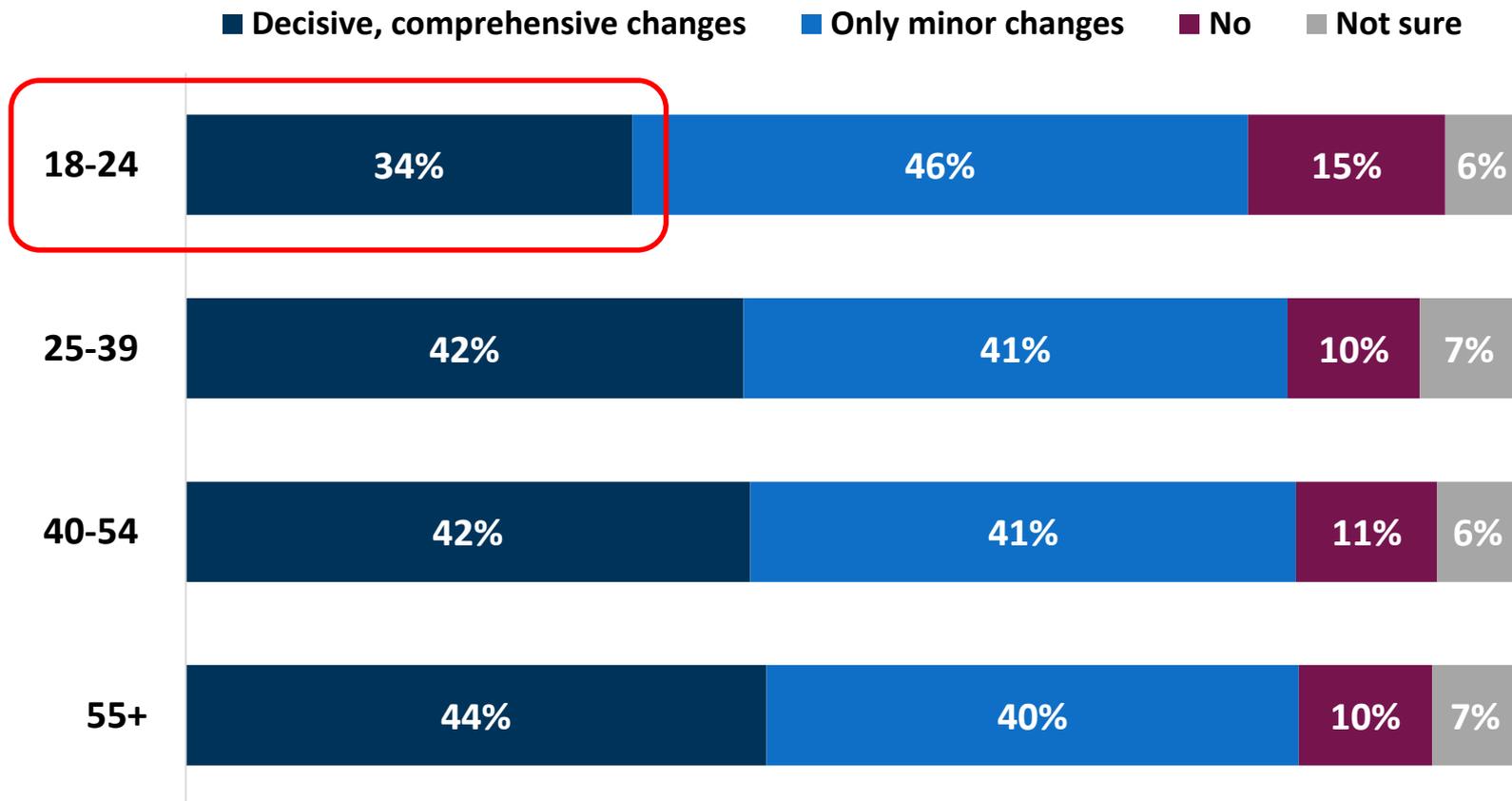


Note:
The Levada Center polled 1,602 Russians over the age of 18 throughout Russia in August 2017. Four focus groups were held in Moscow in July 2017 and were comprised of young liberals, older liberals, young conservatives, and older conservatives.



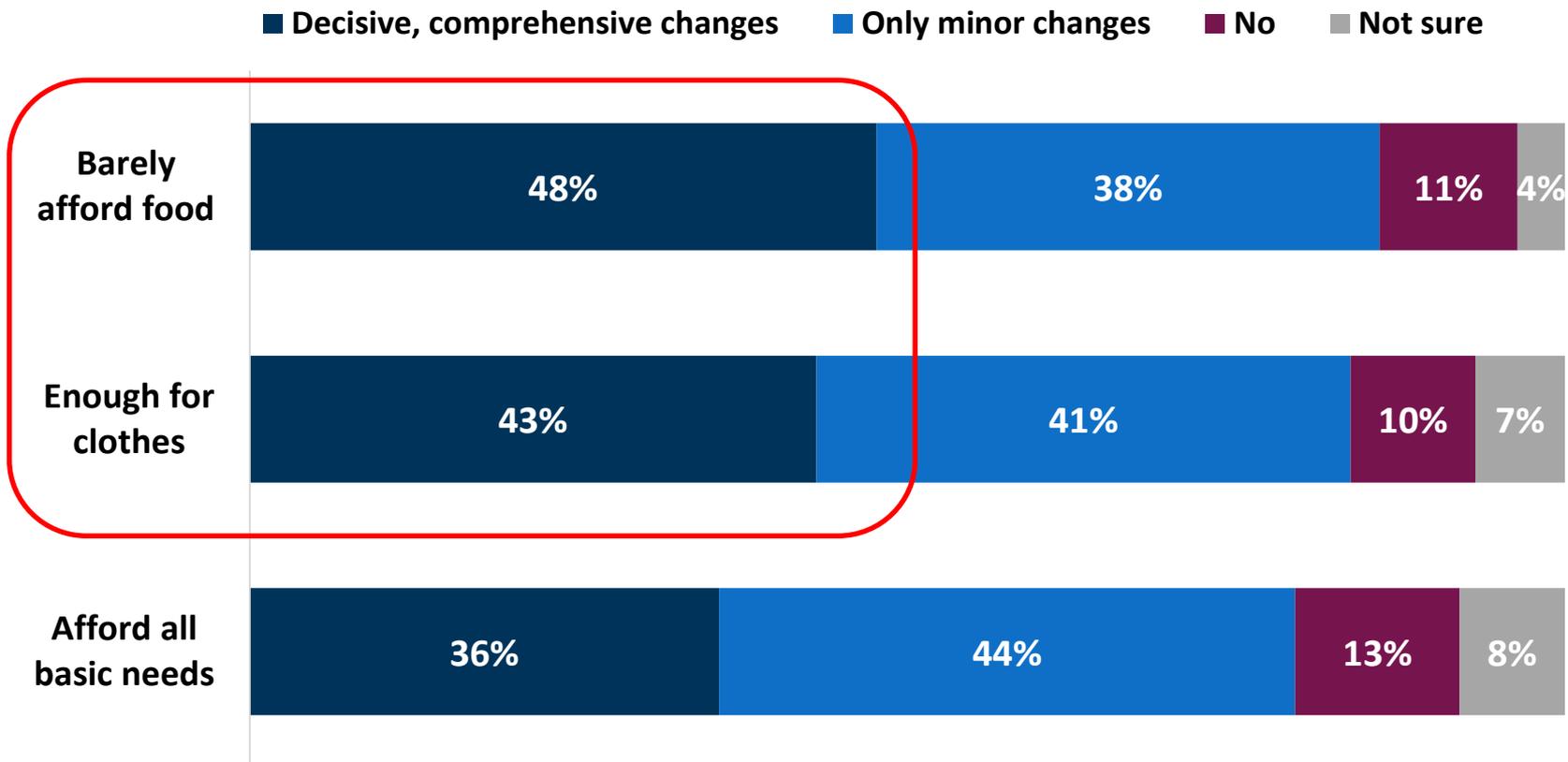
Youth least desire radical change

Support for the government is higher among youth than the national average.



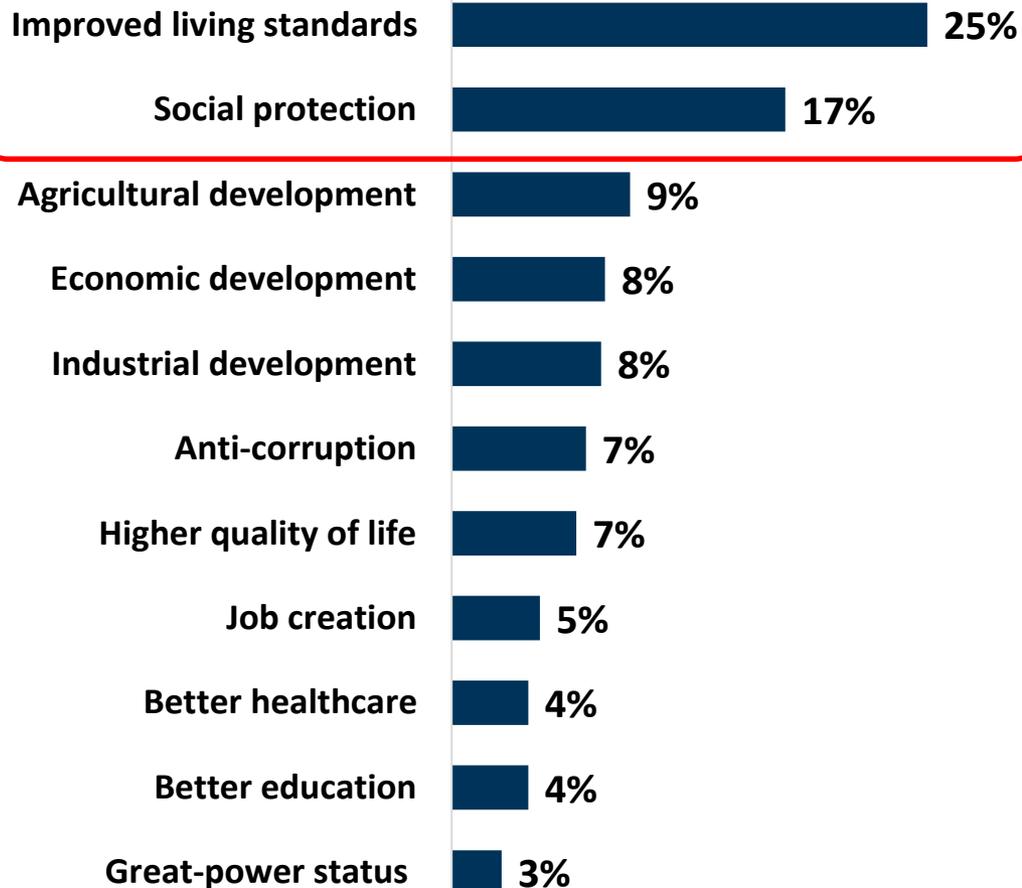
The vulnerable want more change

Those who have least benefitted from the system are a perfect target for populist politicians.



Russians name material well-being as the goal of reforms

What should be the main objectives of change in Russia?

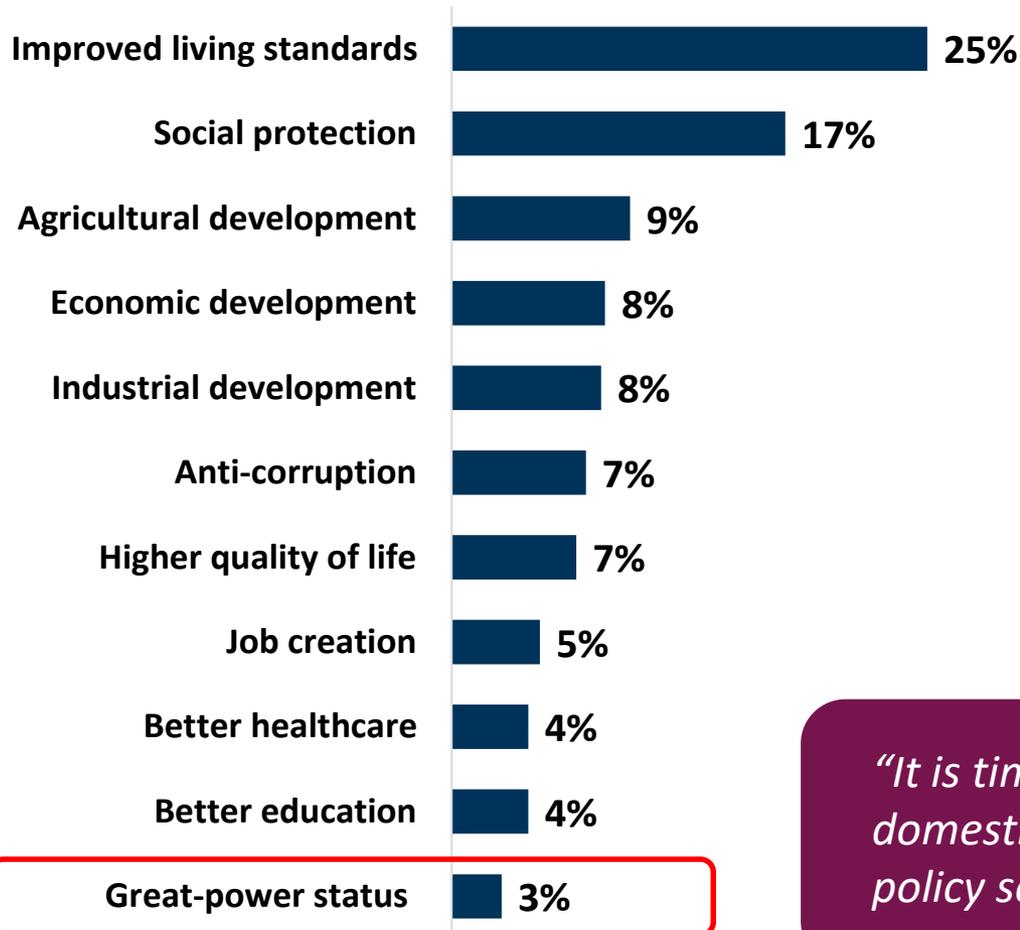


“[Russian leaders] don’t love their people and are trying to fleece them.”



And want the state to shift from foreign policy to domestic policy

What should be the main objectives of change in Russia?

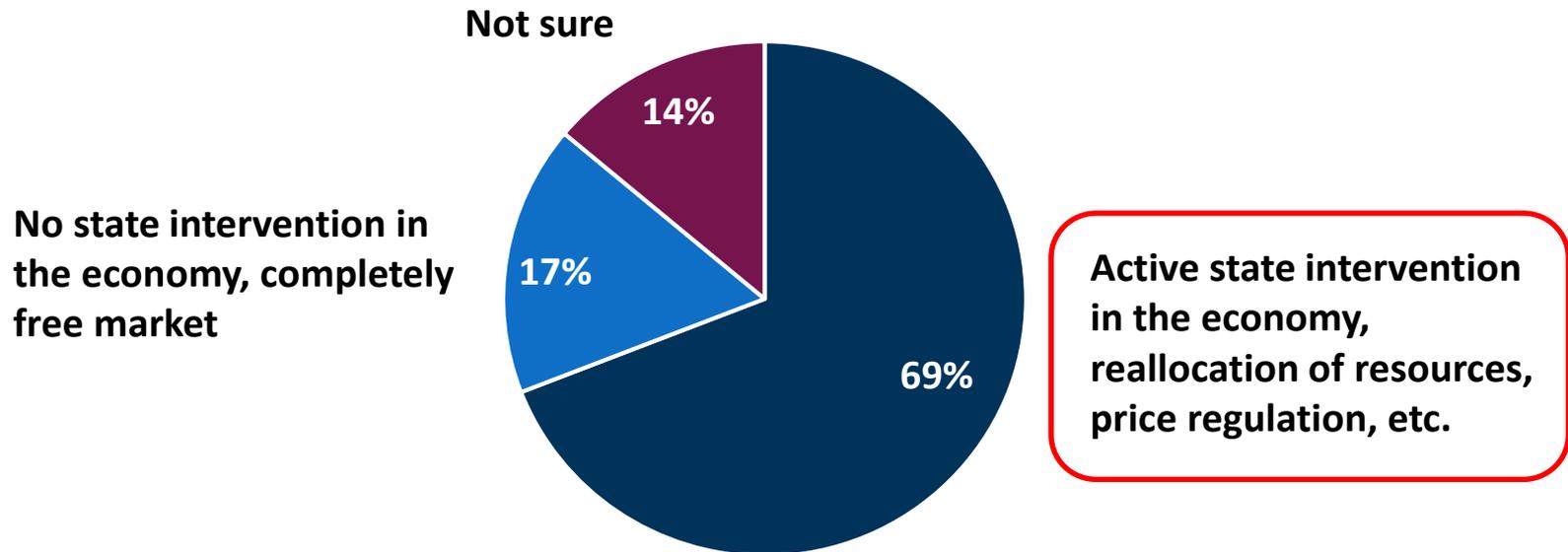


“It is time to work on Russia’s domestic policy, because foreign policy seems to achieve its goals.”



Many Russians desire a strong, paternalistic state

Which situation would be better?



“People in [remote towns] want change too... They want the government to get stronger, they want all rich people to be shot, they want kind Comrade Stalin to come back and save everyone.”



Though many Muscovites and liberals prioritize political reforms

Which of the following aspects of public policy do you consider a priority?



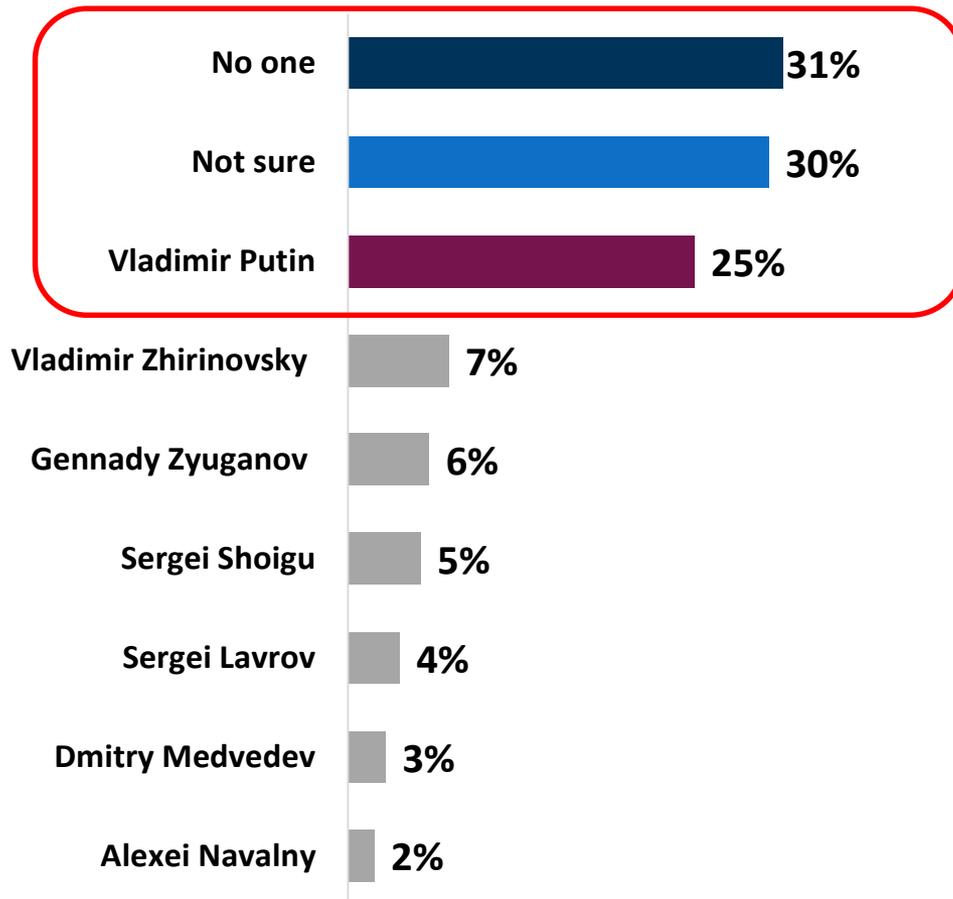
“Businessmen simply can’t operate in the current conditions.”

“We just need the existing constitution to be obeyed.”



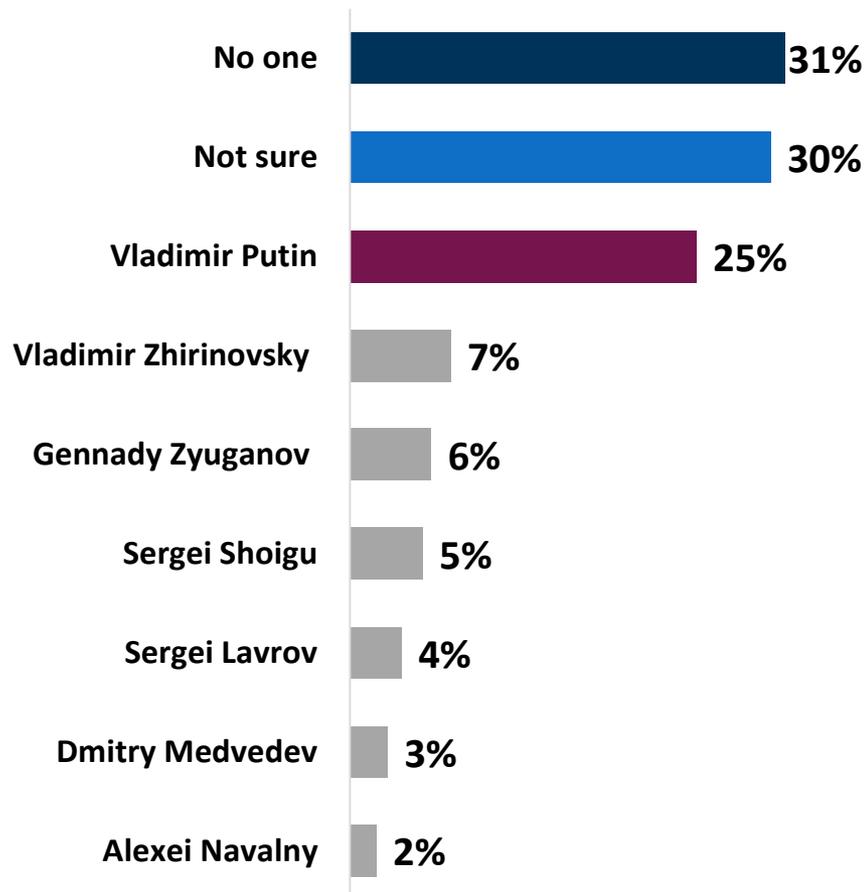
Most Russians cannot name an appealing reformer

Name a politician who can offer a plan of reforms that you find appealing:



They recall reformers of the past

Name a politician who can offer a plan of reforms that you find appealing:



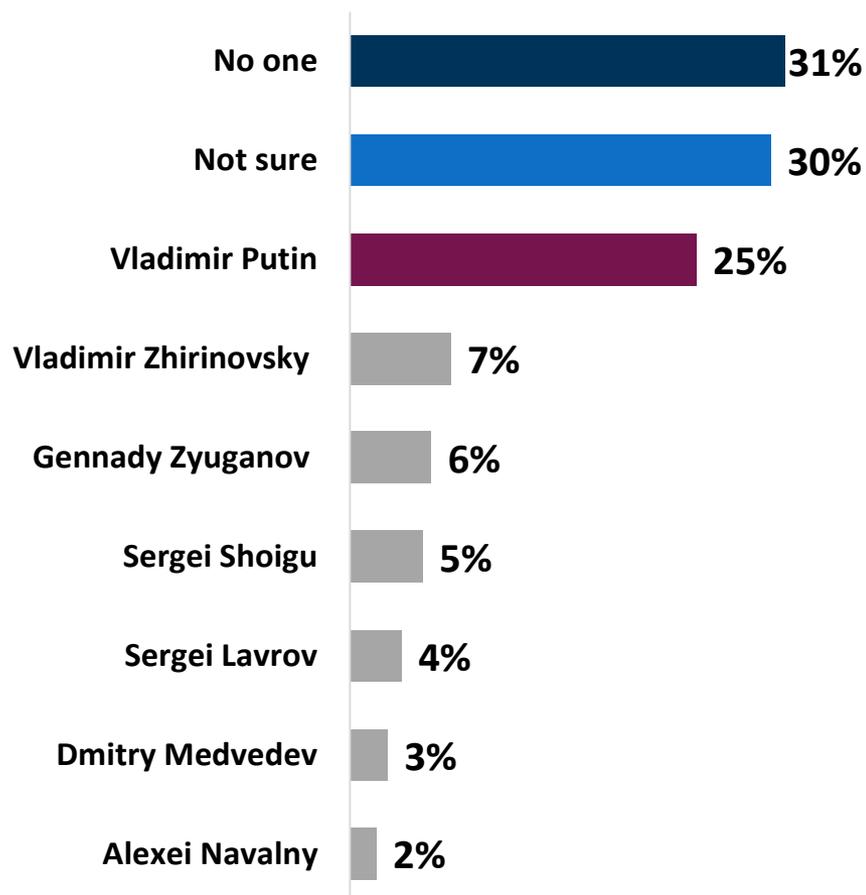
Reformers of the Past:

- Peter the Great
- Pyotr Stolypin
- Catherine the Great
- Alexander II



But they have little faith in the success of reforms

Name a politician who can offer a plan of reforms that you find appealing:



Reformers of the Past:

- Peter the Great
- Pyotr Stolypin
- Catherine the Great
- Alexander II

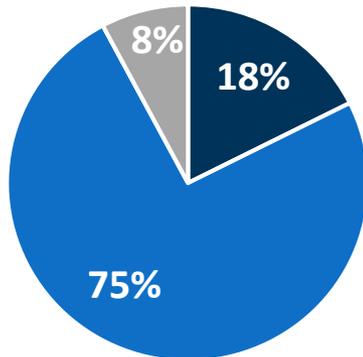
No one has conducted reforms successfully in contemporary Russia:
“Even Putin can’t fix these problems.”



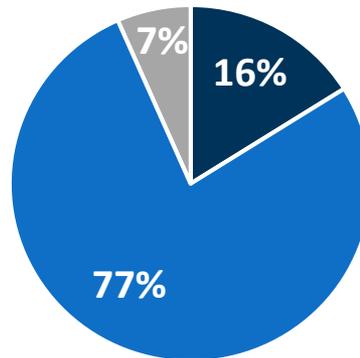
Russians are reluctant to bear the costs of reforms

Are you willing to accept the following costs to improve future quality of life?

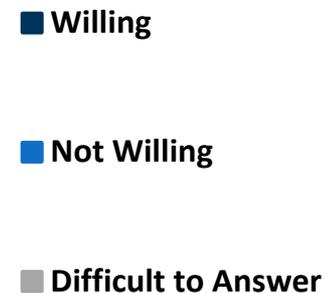
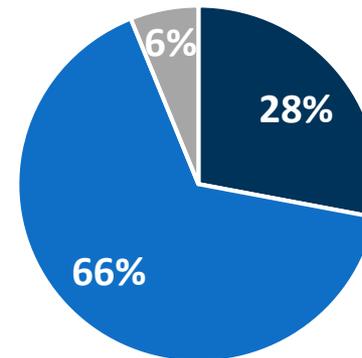
Higher retirement age



Loss of social benefits



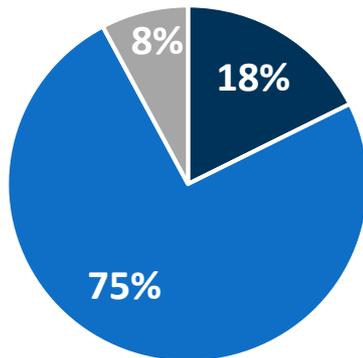
Partial payment of medical expenses



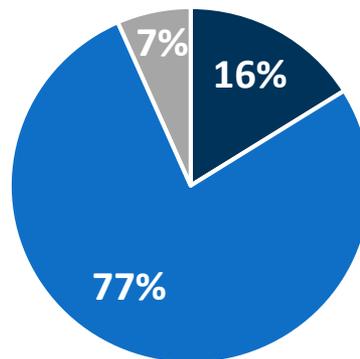
Russians are reluctant to bear the costs of reforms

Are you willing to accept the following costs to improve future quality of life?

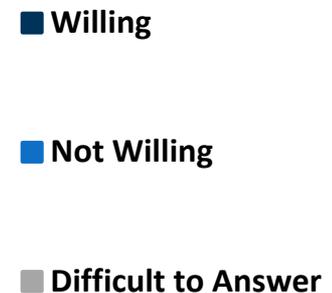
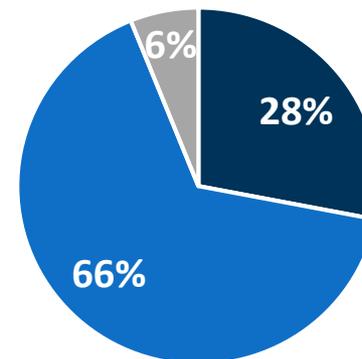
Higher retirement age



Loss of social benefits



Partial payment of medical expenses



“Most people want changes, but they don’t want to do anything to make them happen.”

“People say that the common folk should pay the price for reforms. Why can’t the oligarchs pay this price?”



Many Russians still see voting as a means of change

Which of the following would you personally do to change the situation in the country?

