

Venezuelans Hopeful, But Desire Quicker Transition

Gold Glove Consulting
Research and Analysis

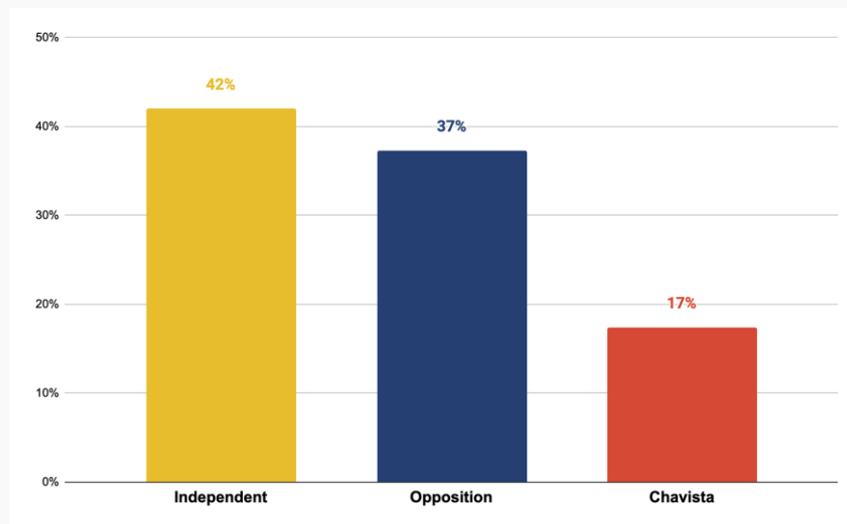
February 2026



Methodology

- 1,000 face to face interviews, nationwide
- Field dates: January 24 – January 30, 2026
- Questionnaire and analysis by Gold Glove Consulting
- Interviews conducted by Venezuelan firm
- Sponsors: Zampa Foundation and Pragmatic Panic
- Geographically, demographically, and politically representative sample (self-reported 2024 vote tracks with independent vote counts)
- Margin of error on pure random sample of 1,000: 3.1% at confidence interval of 95%

Political Breakdown



Key Findings

Figure 3

- Venezuelans are optimistic about near-term
- Economic and security anxieties, and uncertain political future, temper enthusiasm
- For now, public is pragmatic and accepting of current political realities
- U.S. engagement enjoys public backing
- Voters want early elections and accelerated transition
- Maria Corina Machado remains most popular political figure
- Delcy Rodríguez might be receiving a cautious reassessment
- Public shows little appetite for forgiveness or compromise to advance eventual transition
- Partisan affiliation drives positions, but notable consensus emerges on some issues



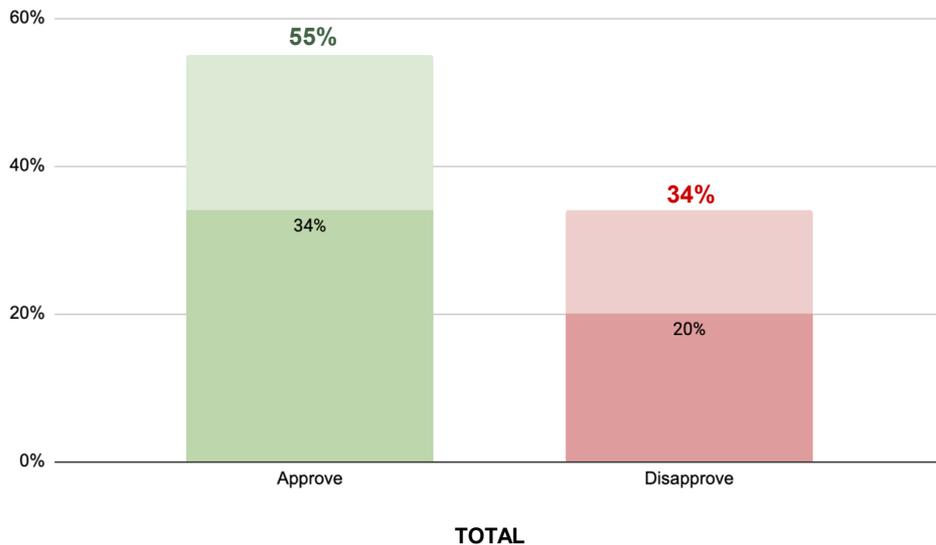
Venezuelans Hopeful about the Future

Majority Supports Capture of Maduro

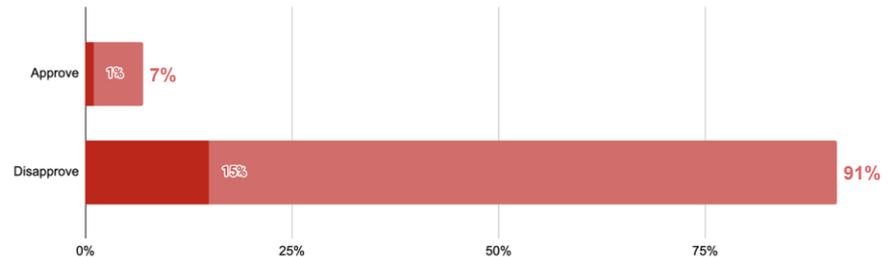
Figure 5

■ Darker tone = strongly

Do you approve or disapprove of what happened with Nicolás Maduro on January 3?



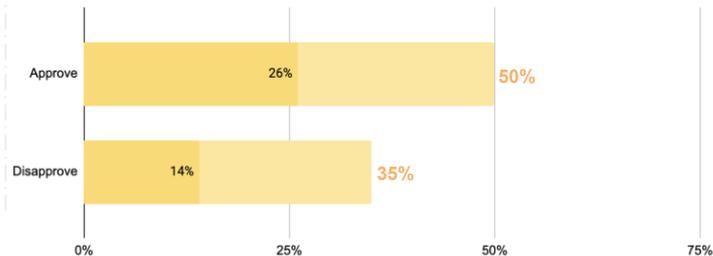
Chavista



Opposition

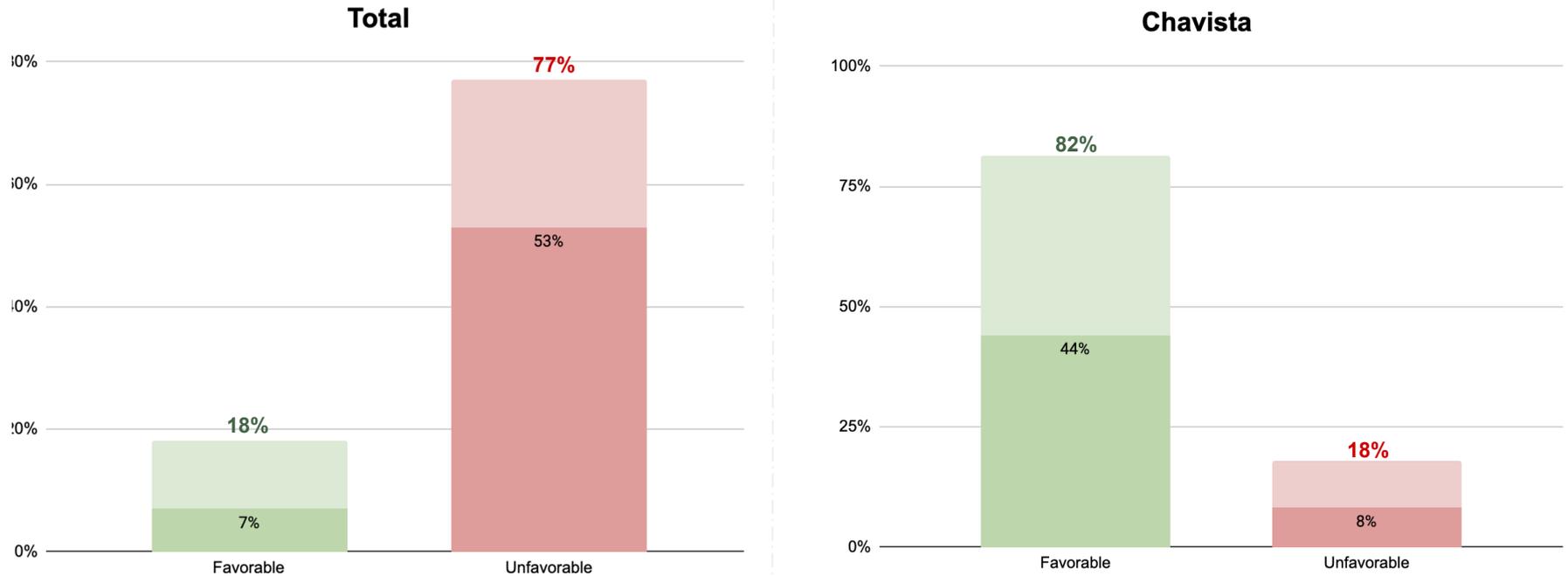


Independent



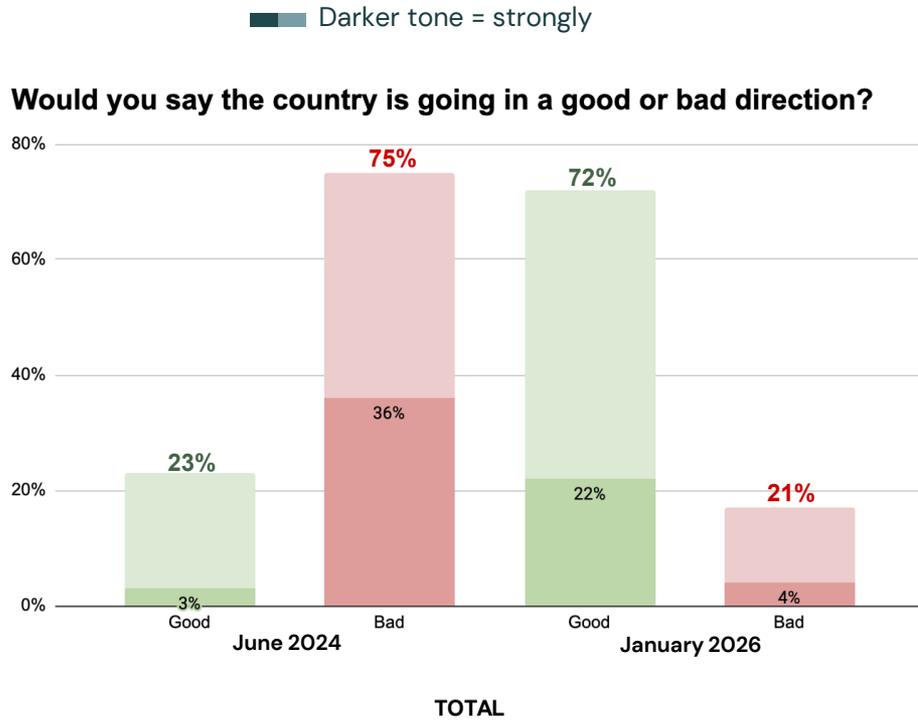
Maduro is Reviled

Please indicate if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the following people/ groups: Nicolás Maduro

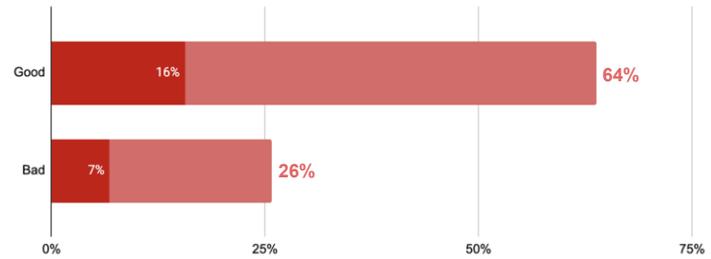


Broad Satisfaction with Direction of the Country

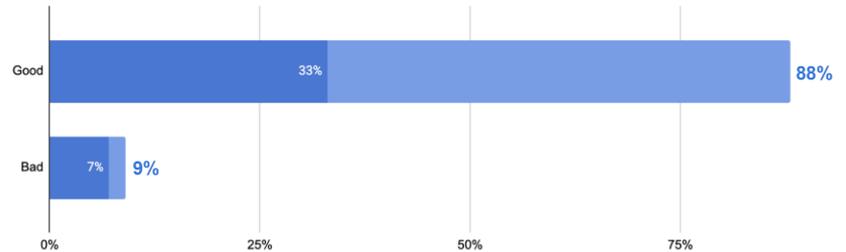
Figure 7



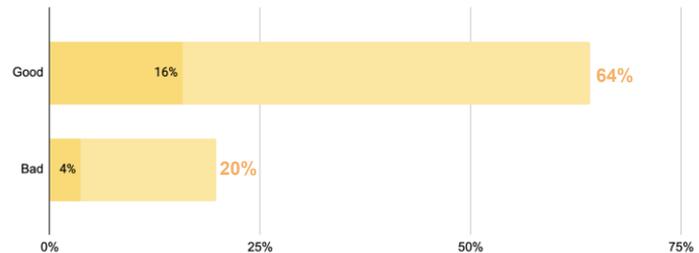
Chavista



Opposition

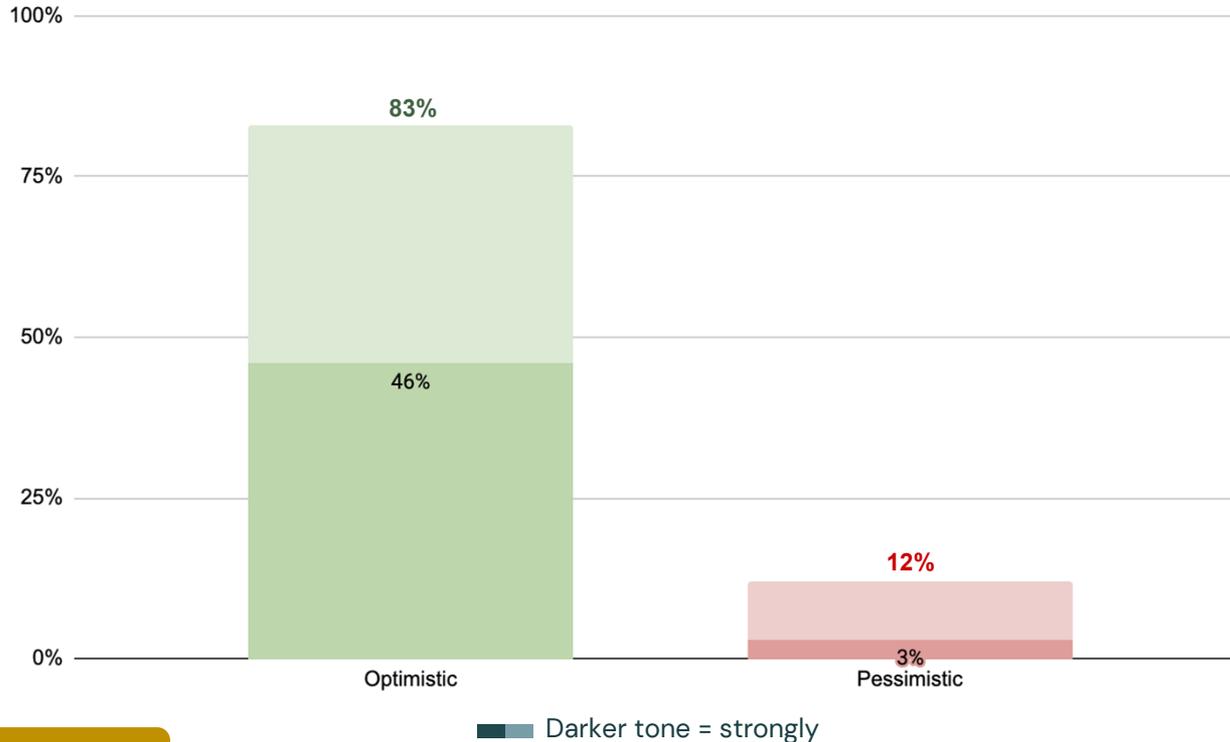


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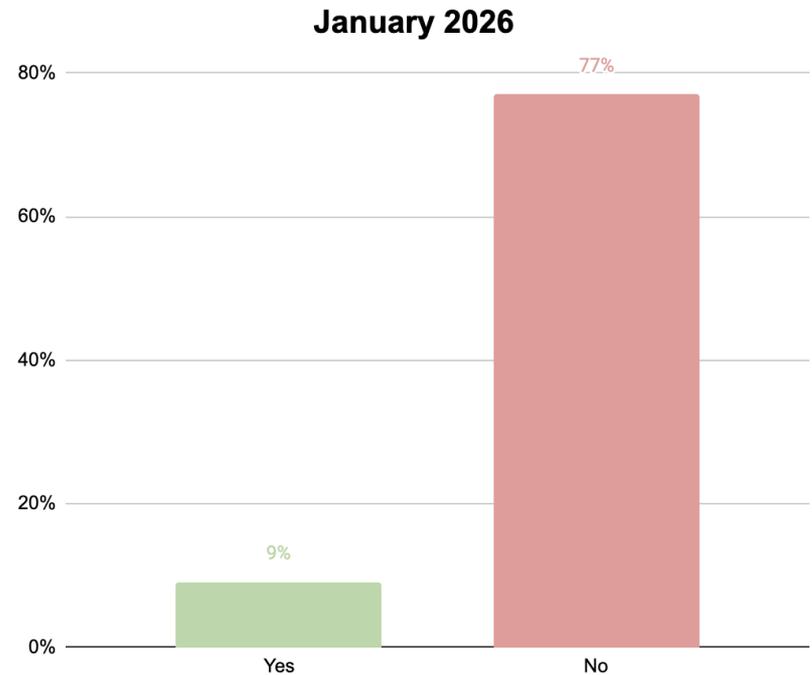
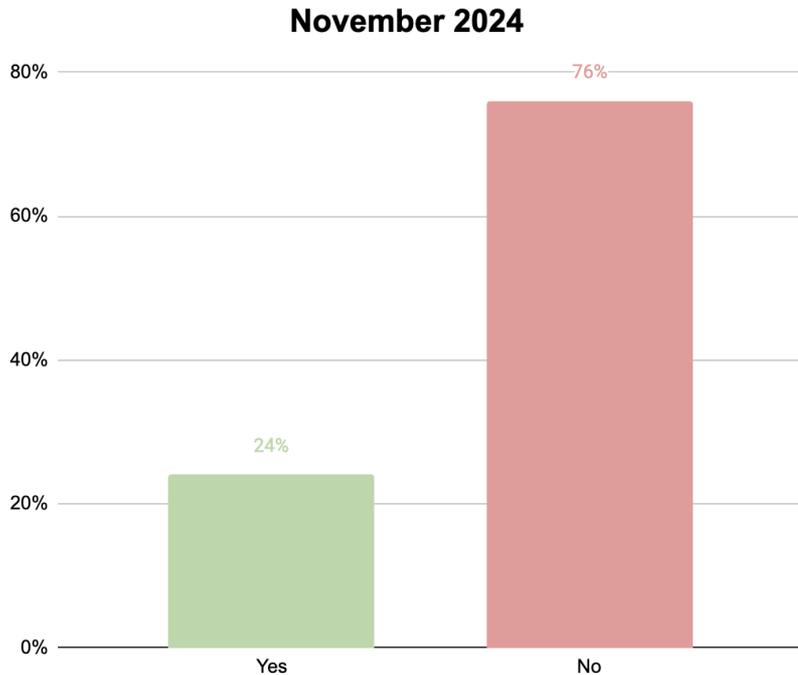
Strong Sense of Optimism

Are you optimistic or pessimistic about Venezuela's future in the next couple of years?



Fewer Venezuelans Plan to Migrate

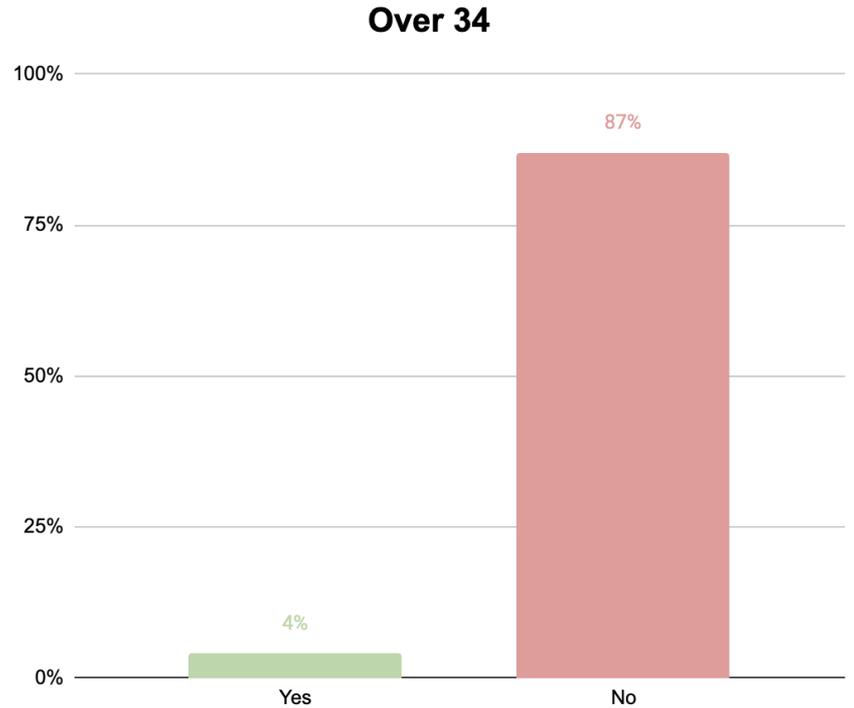
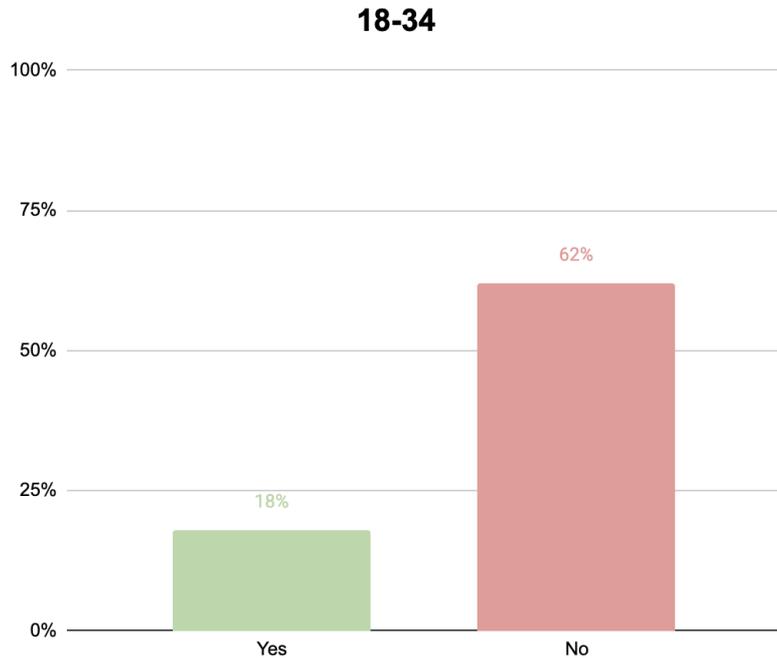
Do you intend to leave Venezuela to live in another country in the next year or two?



Many Younger Venezuelans Still Intend to Migrate

Figure 10

Do you intend to leave Venezuela to live in another country in the next year or two?



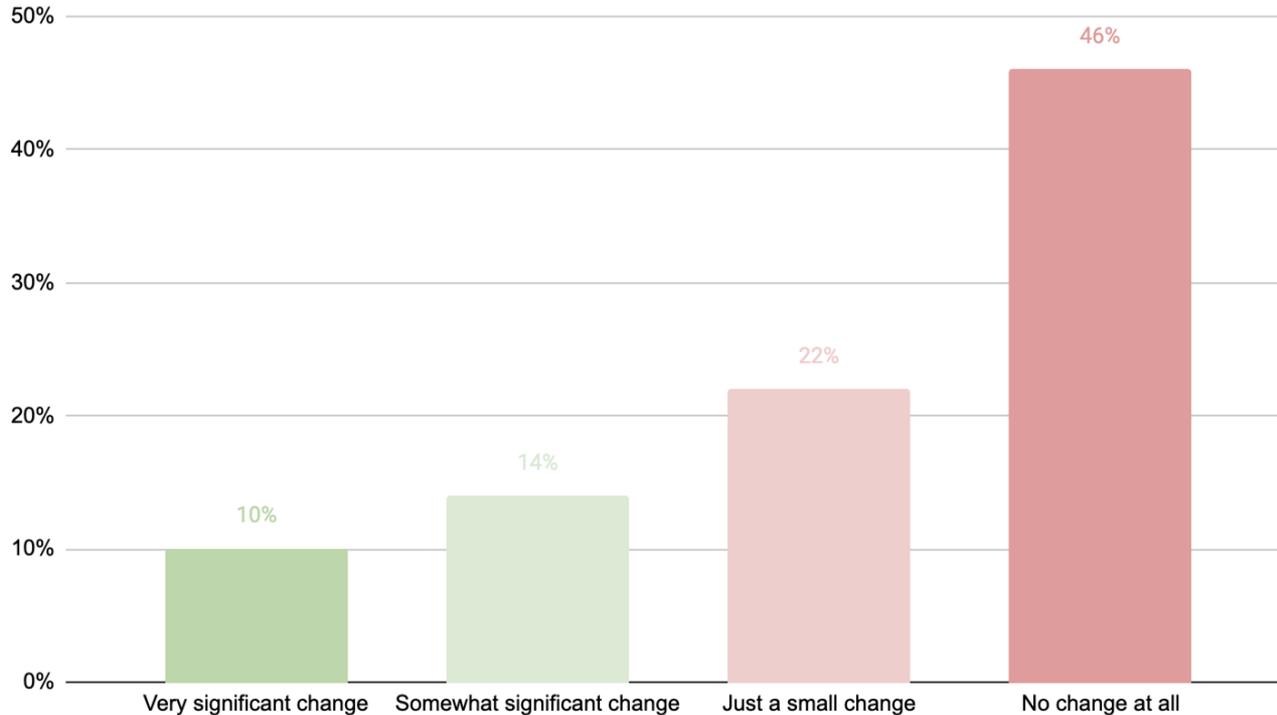


Hope Tempered by Limited Change

Public Sees Delcy Rodriguez as Continuity

Figure 12

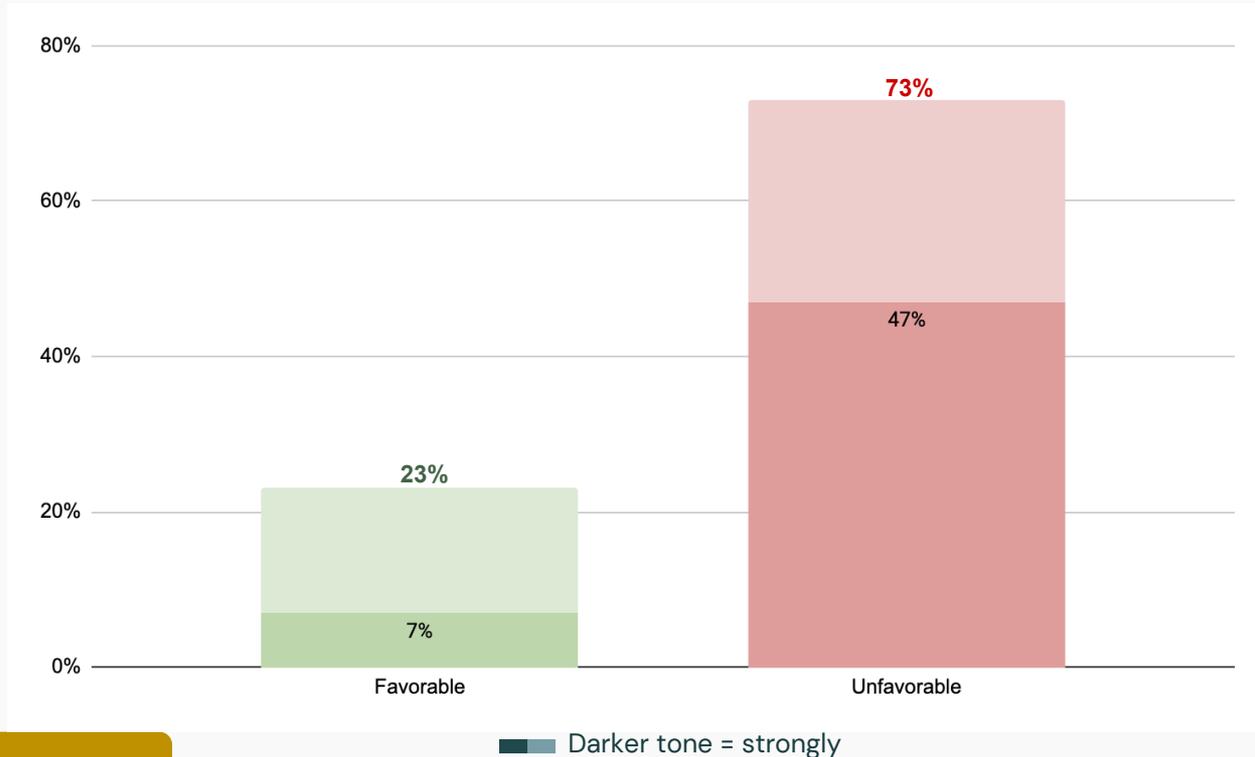
How would you characterize Delcy Rodriguez assuming the presidency following the capture of Nicolás Maduro?



Delcy Rodriguez has Low Personal Favorability

Figure 13

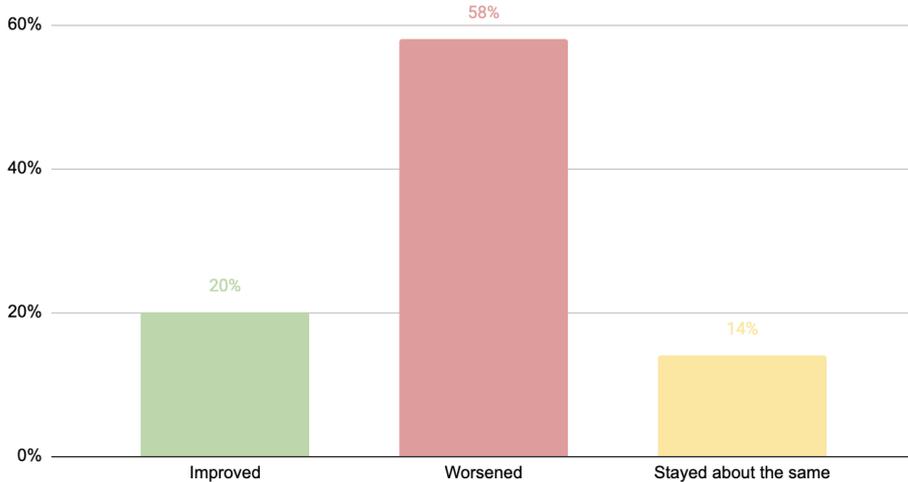
Please indicate if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the following people and groups: Delcy Rodriguez



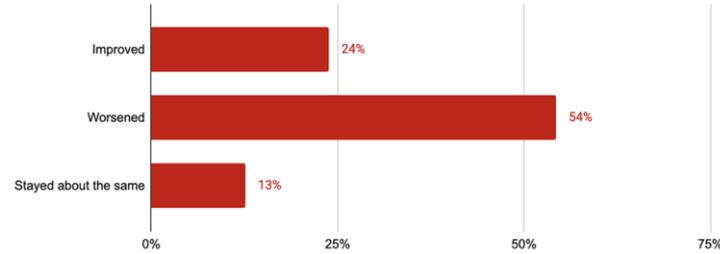
Security Seen to have Worsened since January 3

Figure 14

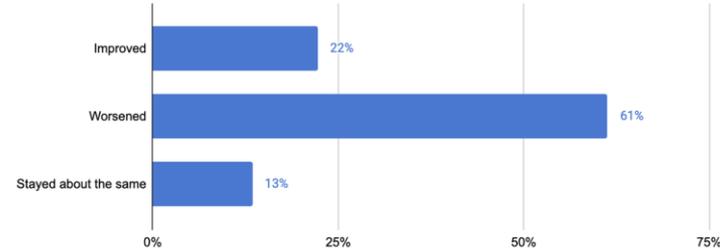
Since what occurred on Jan. 3, would you say the security environment has:



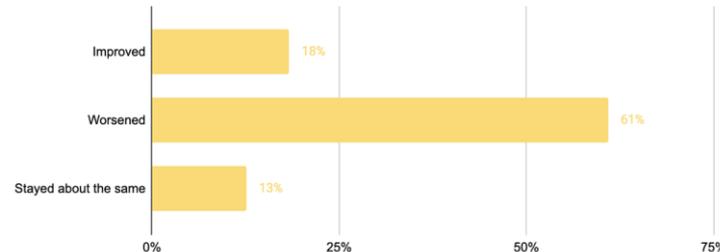
Chavista



Opposition

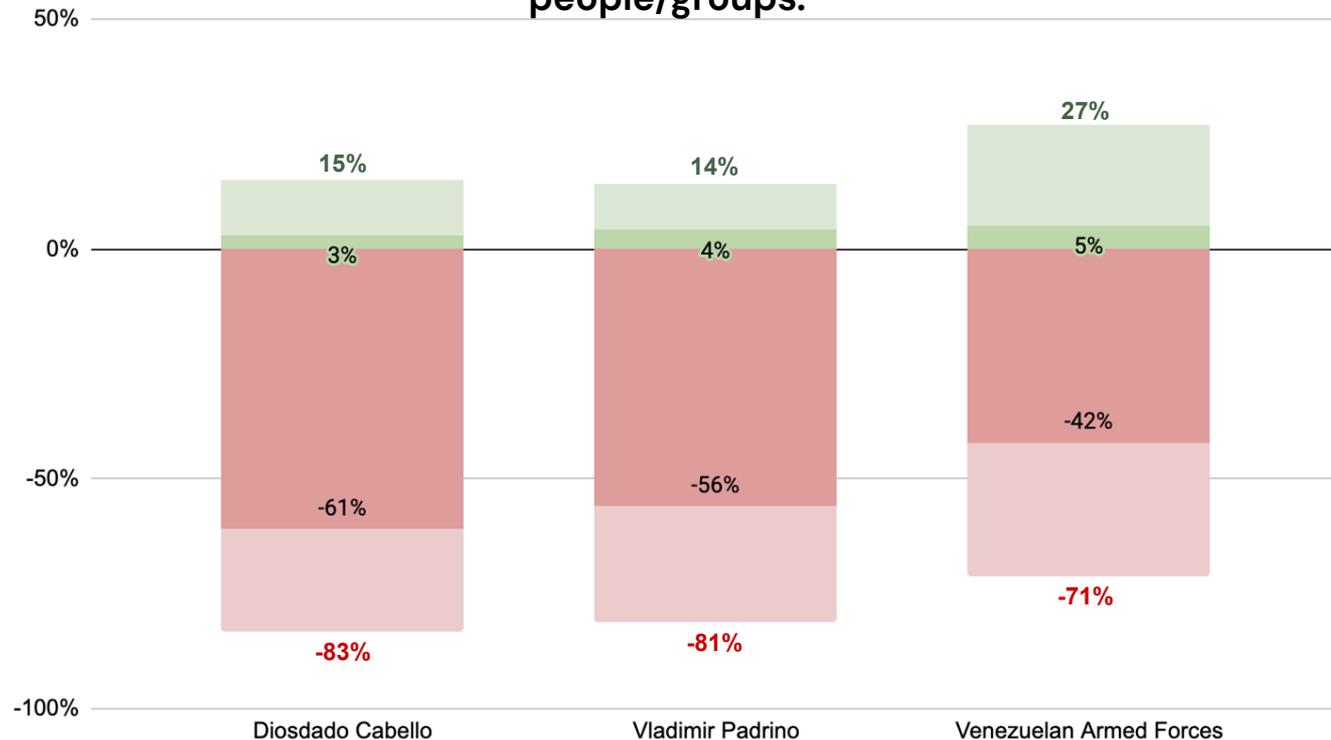


Independent



Disdain for those Responsible for Security

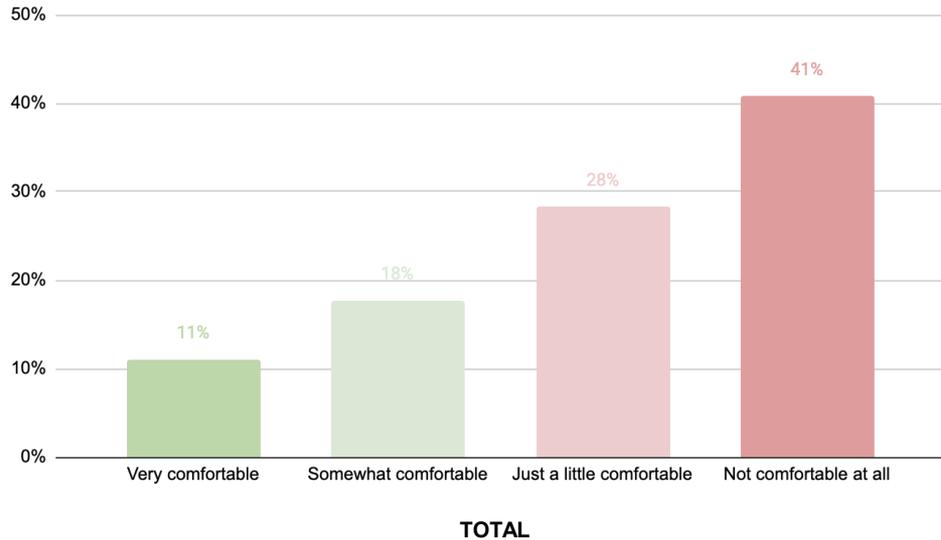
Please indicate if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the following people/groups:



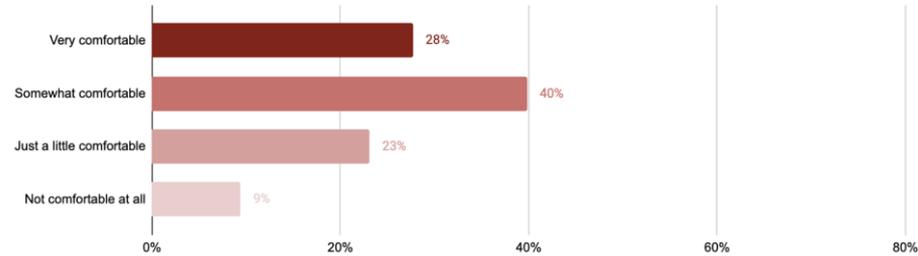
Fear of Discussing Politics with Neighbors

Figure 16

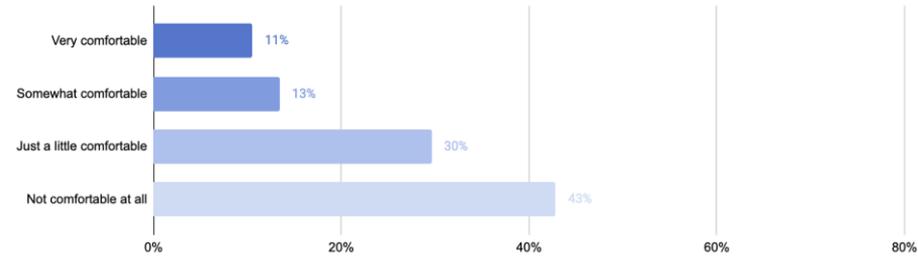
How comfortable are you expressing political views with your neighbors?



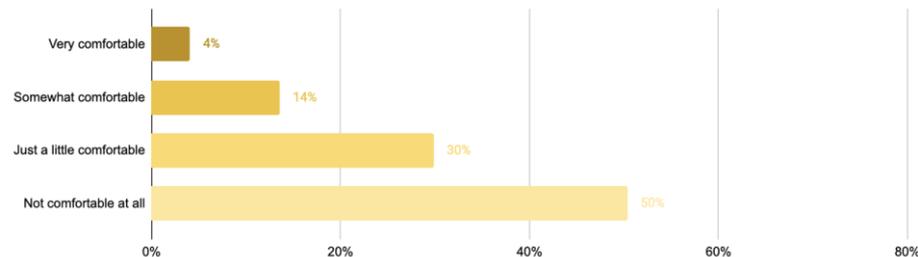
Chavista



Opposition



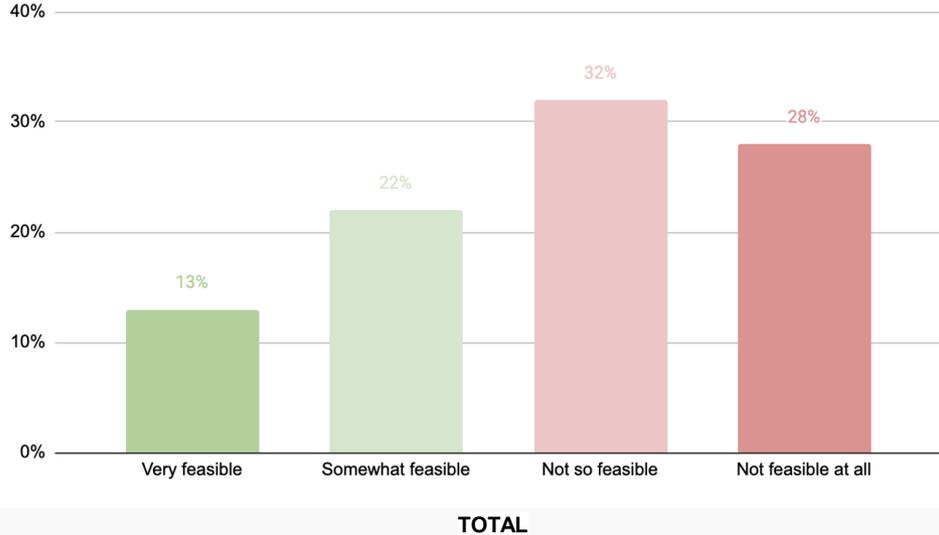
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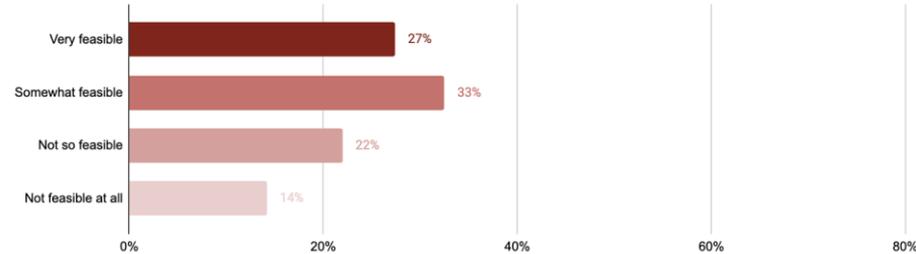
Few See Ripe Local Conditions for Bridging Differences

Figure 17

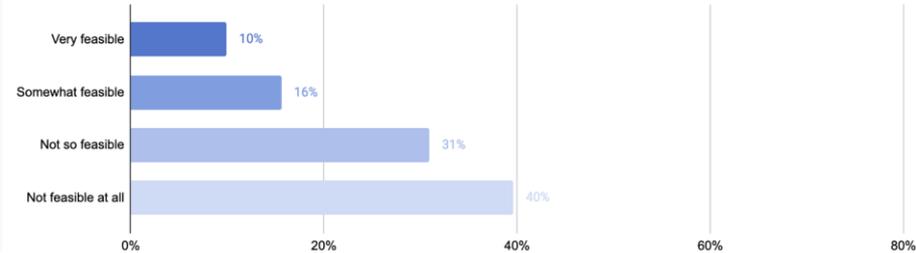
How feasible would it be to bring people together in your community now to find common ground on local issues?



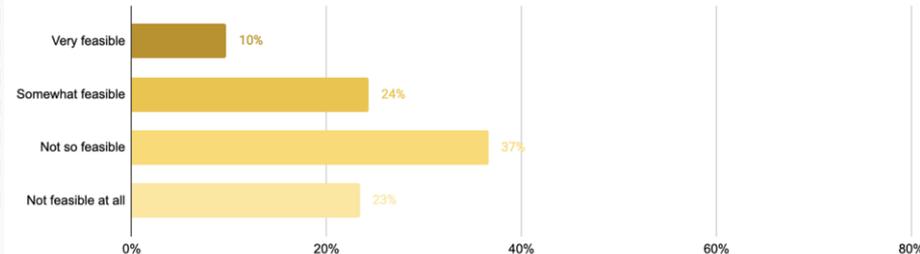
Chavista



Opposition



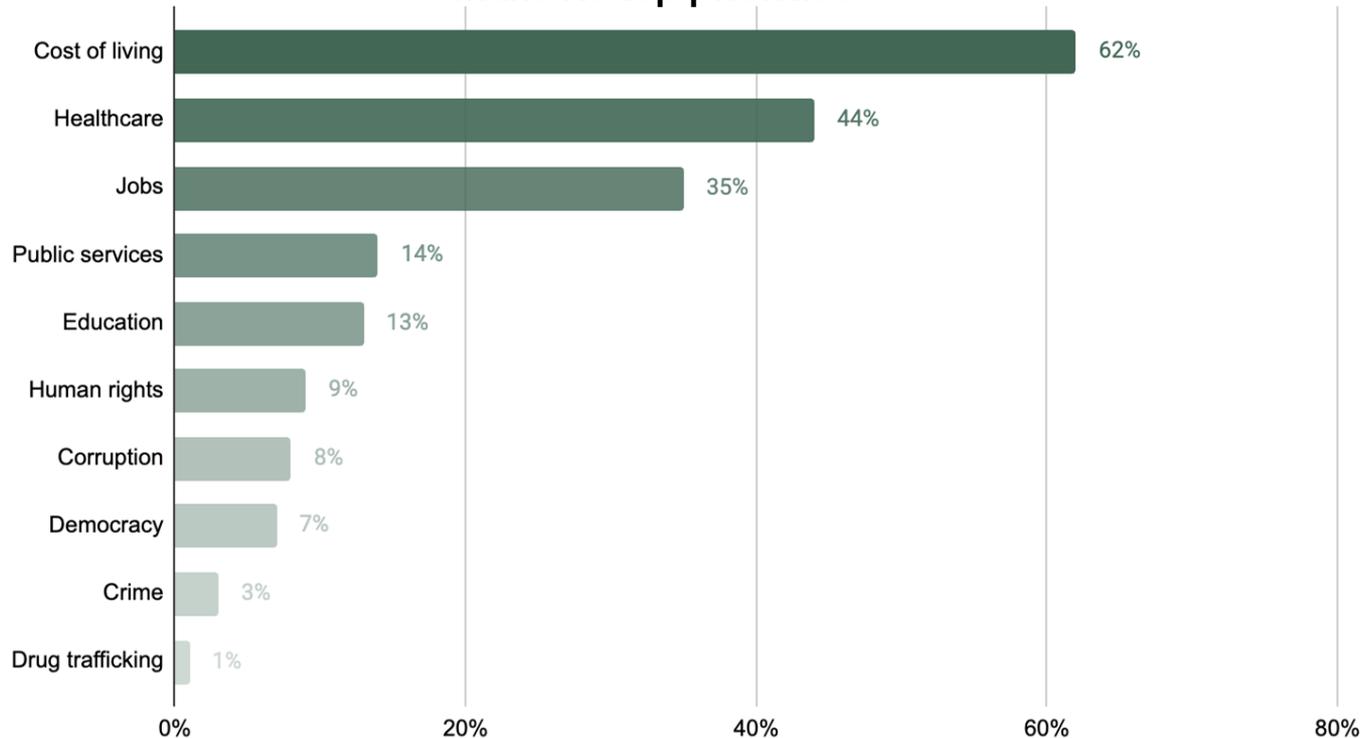
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Economic Concerns Remain Central

Figure 18

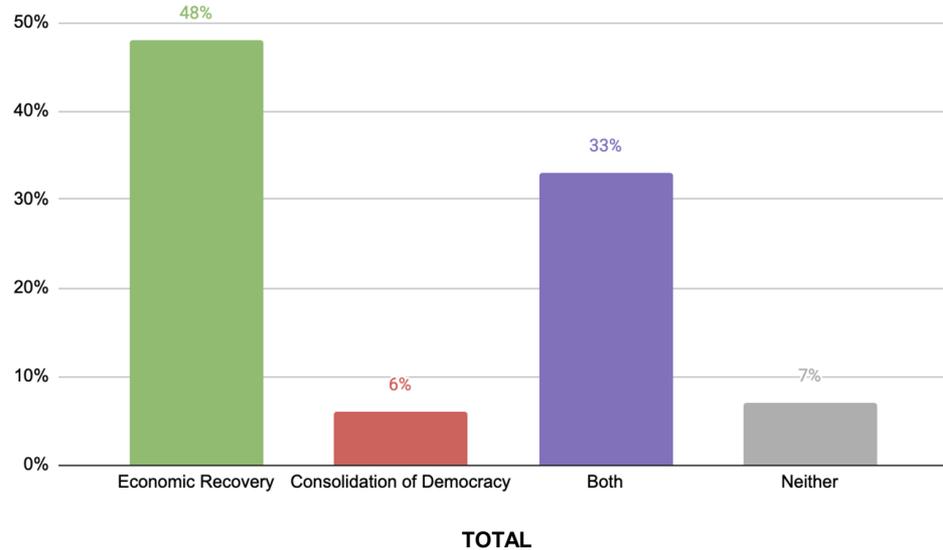
Next is a list of issues. Which TWO of these do you want the Venezuelan Government to make its top priorities?



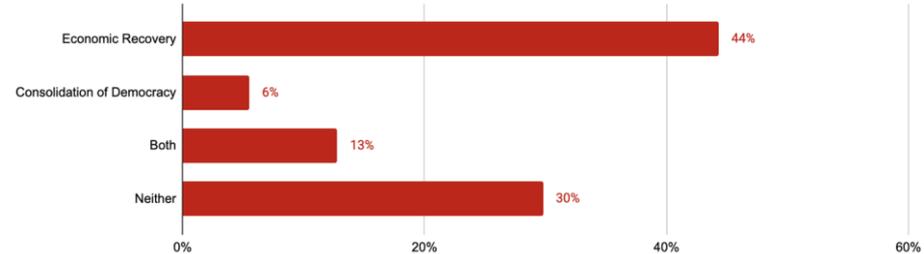
Economic Recovery a Higher Priority than Democracy

Figure 19

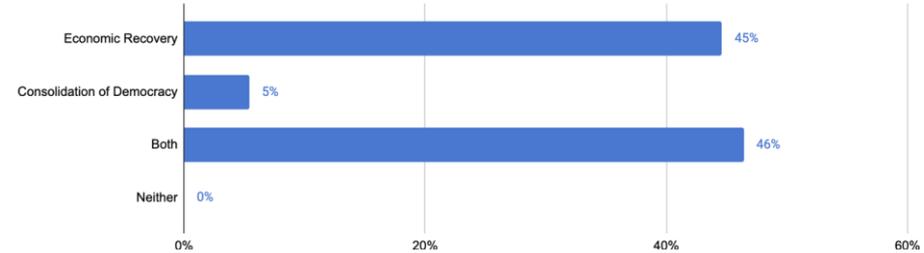
What do you think the principal objective should be for the U.S. in Venezuela



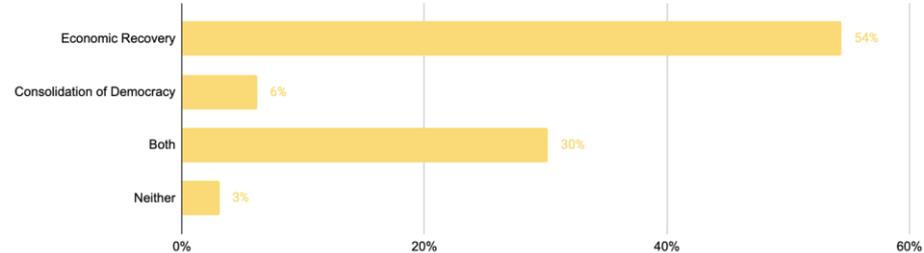
Chavista



Opposition



Independent



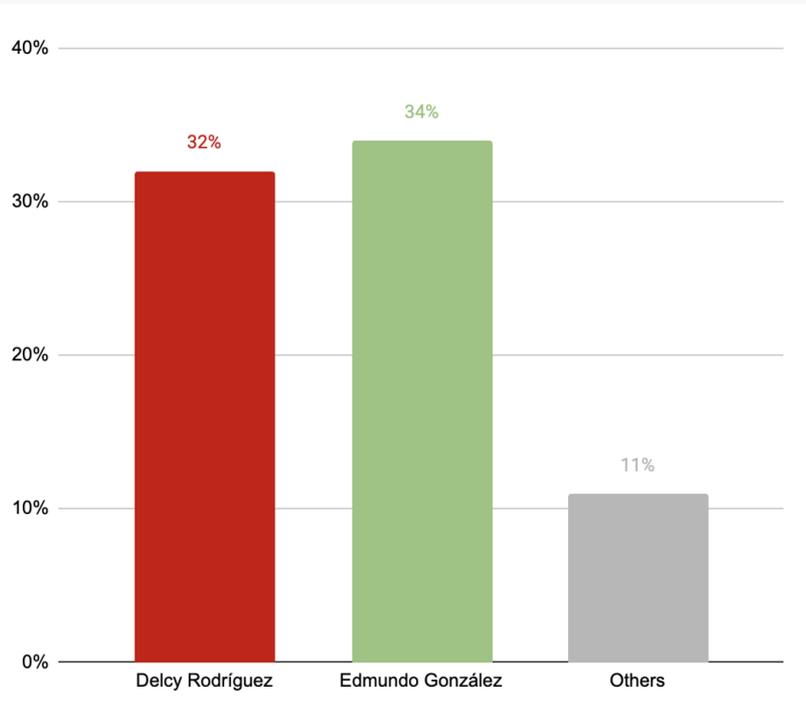


Venezuelans Pragmatic about Present Political Realities

Some Acceptance of Delcy Amid Broad Disfavor

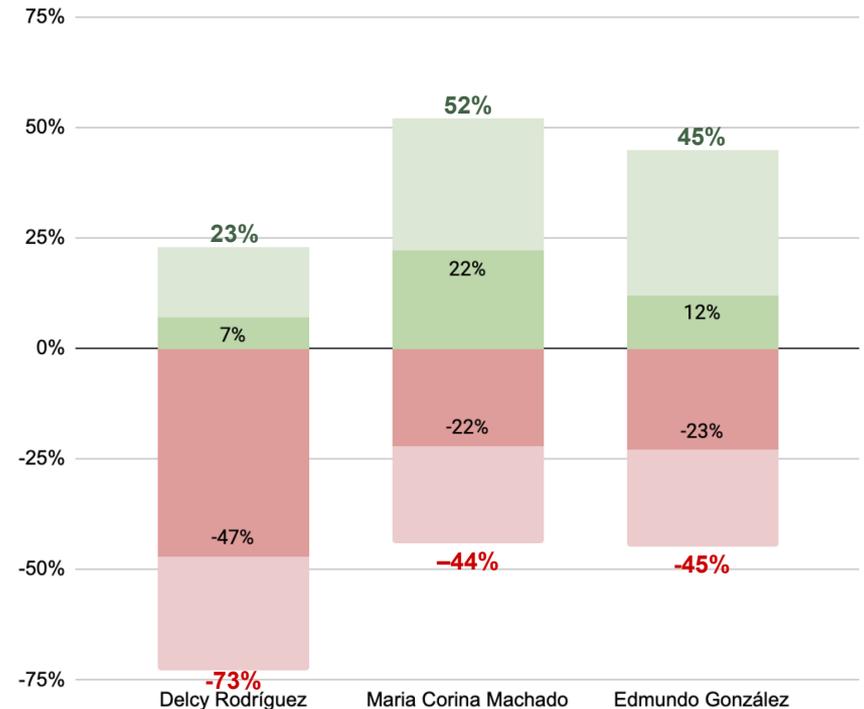
Figure 21

Who do you think should have replaced Nicolás Maduro as president?



Favorability Ratings

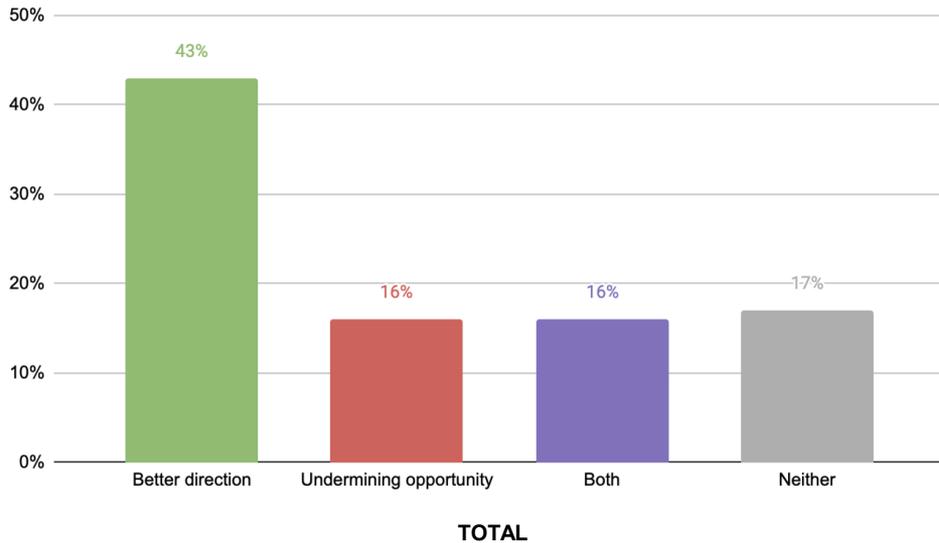
■ Darker tone = strongly



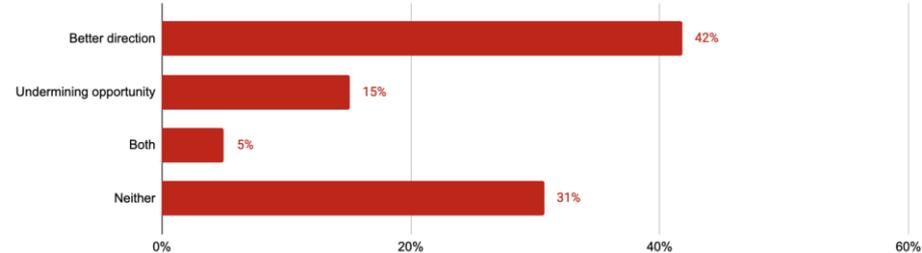
Acceptance of U.S. Engagement with Venezuelan Government

Figure 22

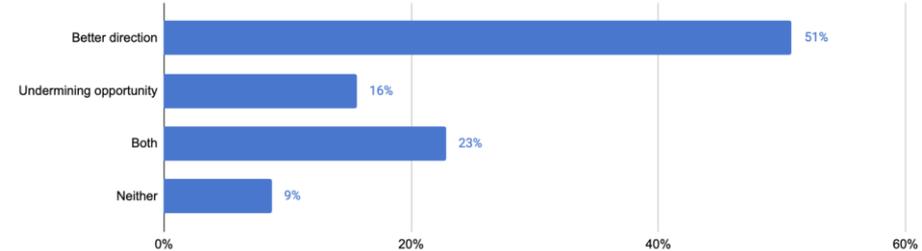
By working with the current Venezuelan government, the United States:
- can move Venezuela in a better direction without risking instability
- is undermining the opportunity for a transition to democracy or economic recovery



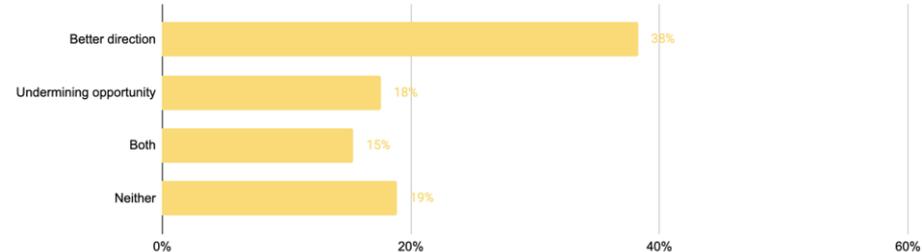
Chavista



Opposition



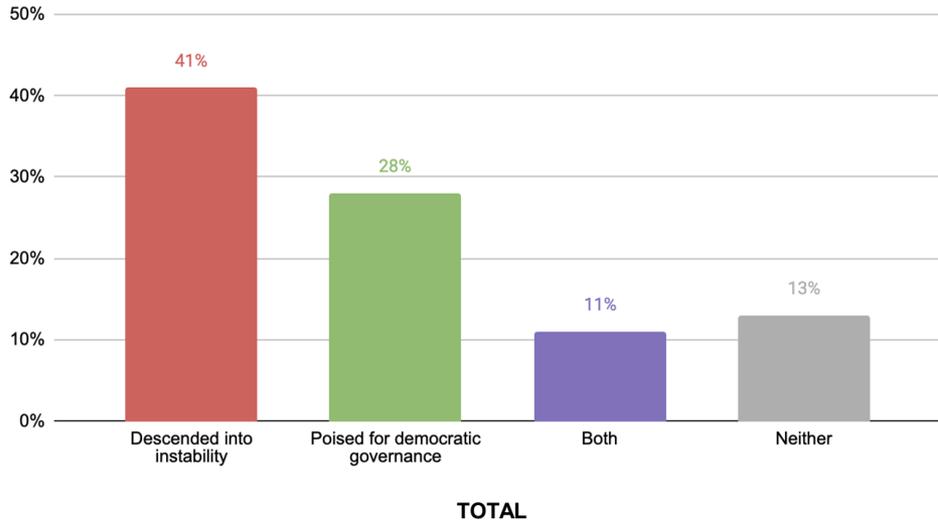
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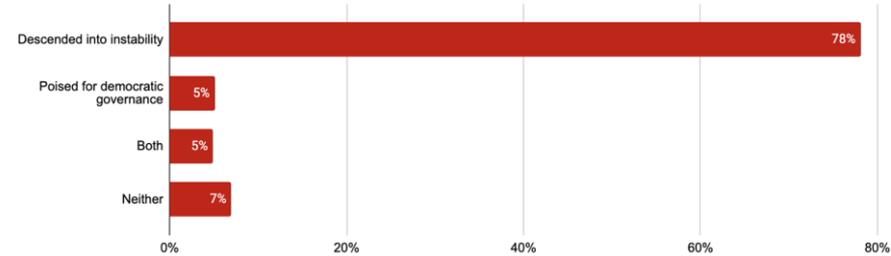
Concerns Installing Gonzalez would have been Destabilizing

Figure 23

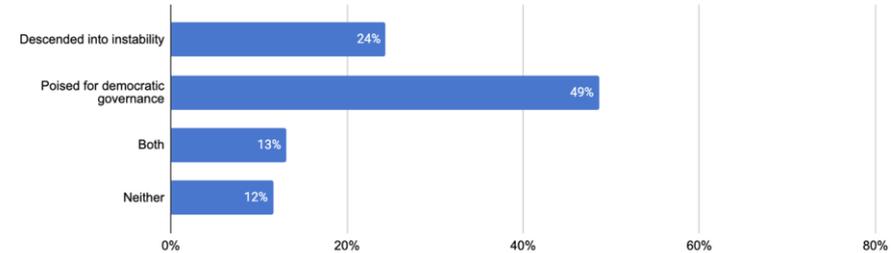
If Edmundo Gonzalez had assumed the presidency following the capture of Nicolás Maduro, Venezuela:
- would have descended into instability
- would now be poised for stable, democratic governance



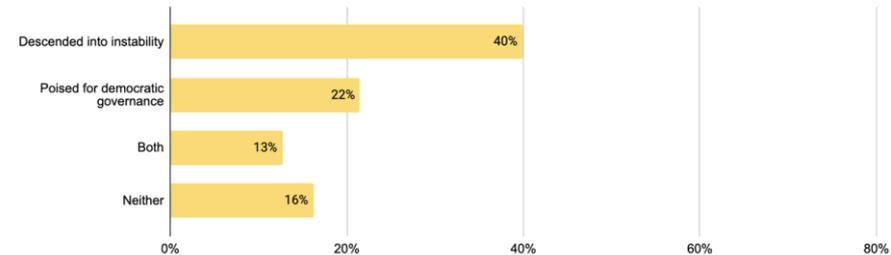
Chavista



Opposition



Independent

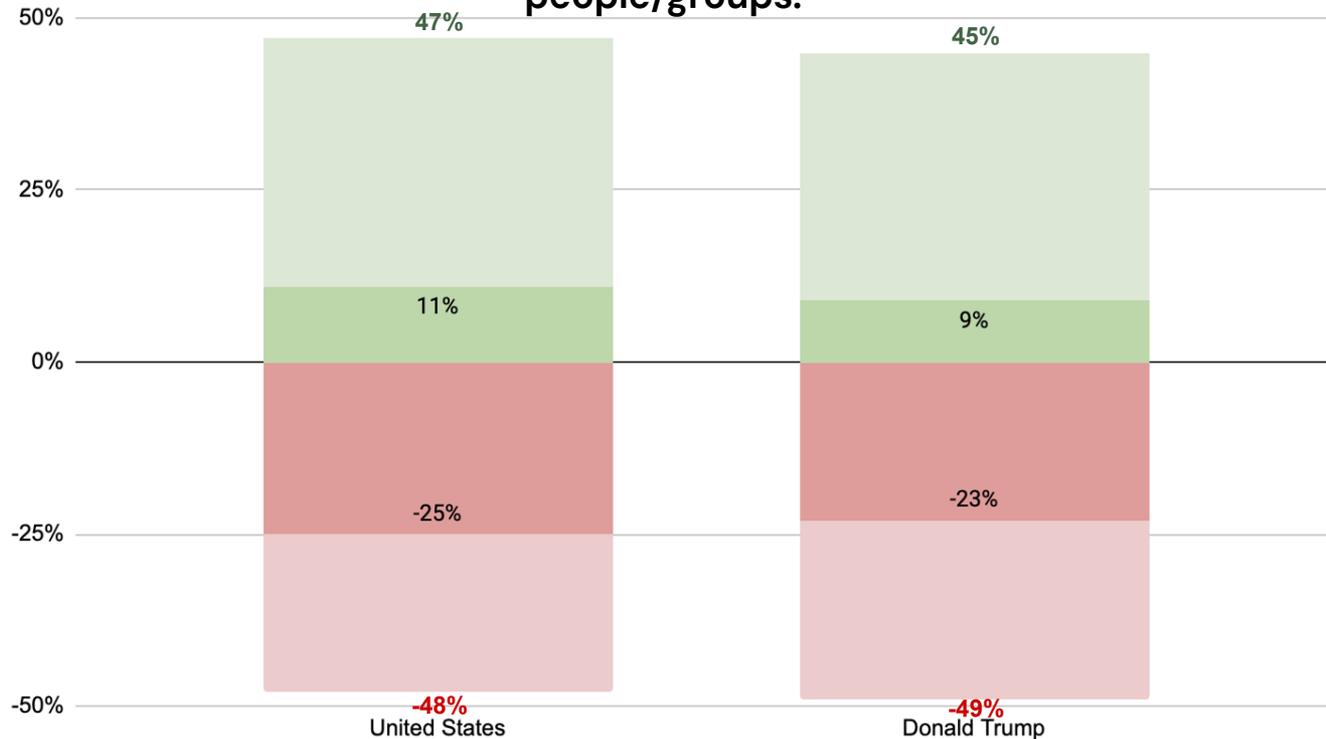




Support for Current U.S. Policy Approach

Measured Feelings Toward U.S. and Trump

Please indicate if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the following people/groups:

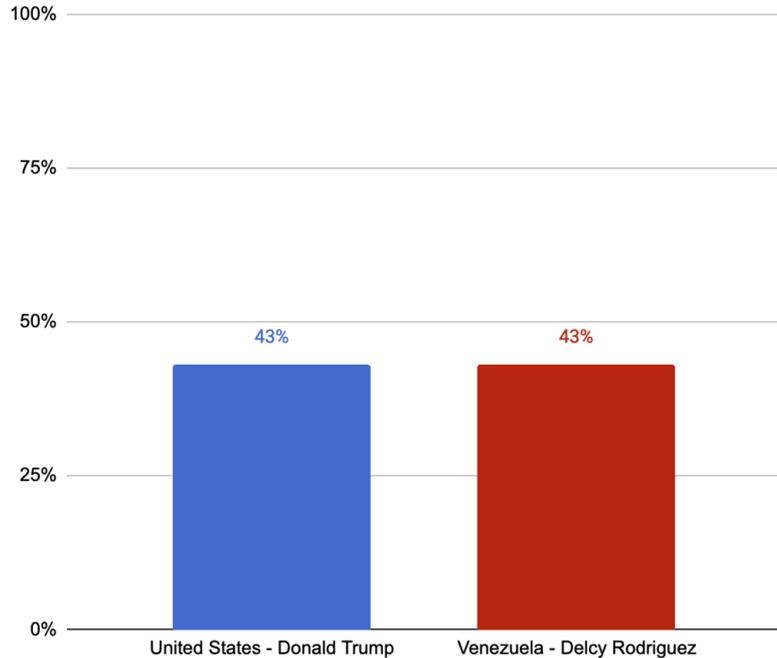


■ Darker tone = strongly

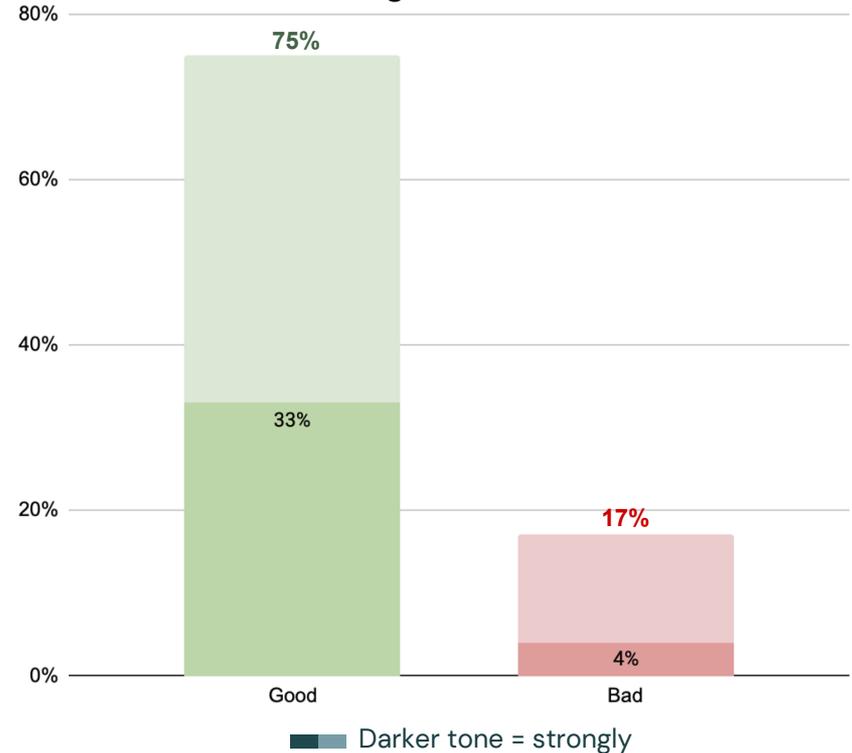
Public Divided over Who is Running Venezuela

Figure 26

Who do you think is mostly running Venezuela today?



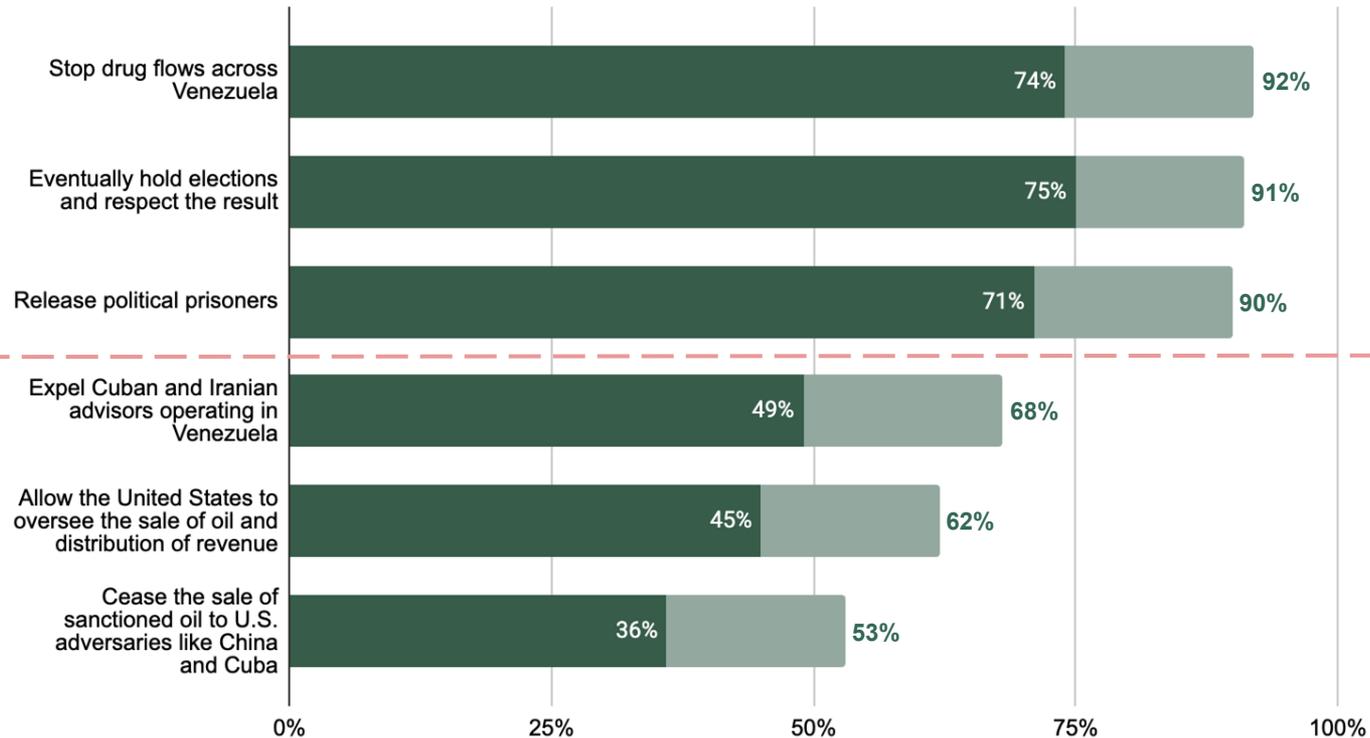
[Among those who answered "U.S./Donald Trump"]
If the U.S. and Trump runs the country, do you think that is good or bad?



Backing for U.S. Demands of Venezuelan Government

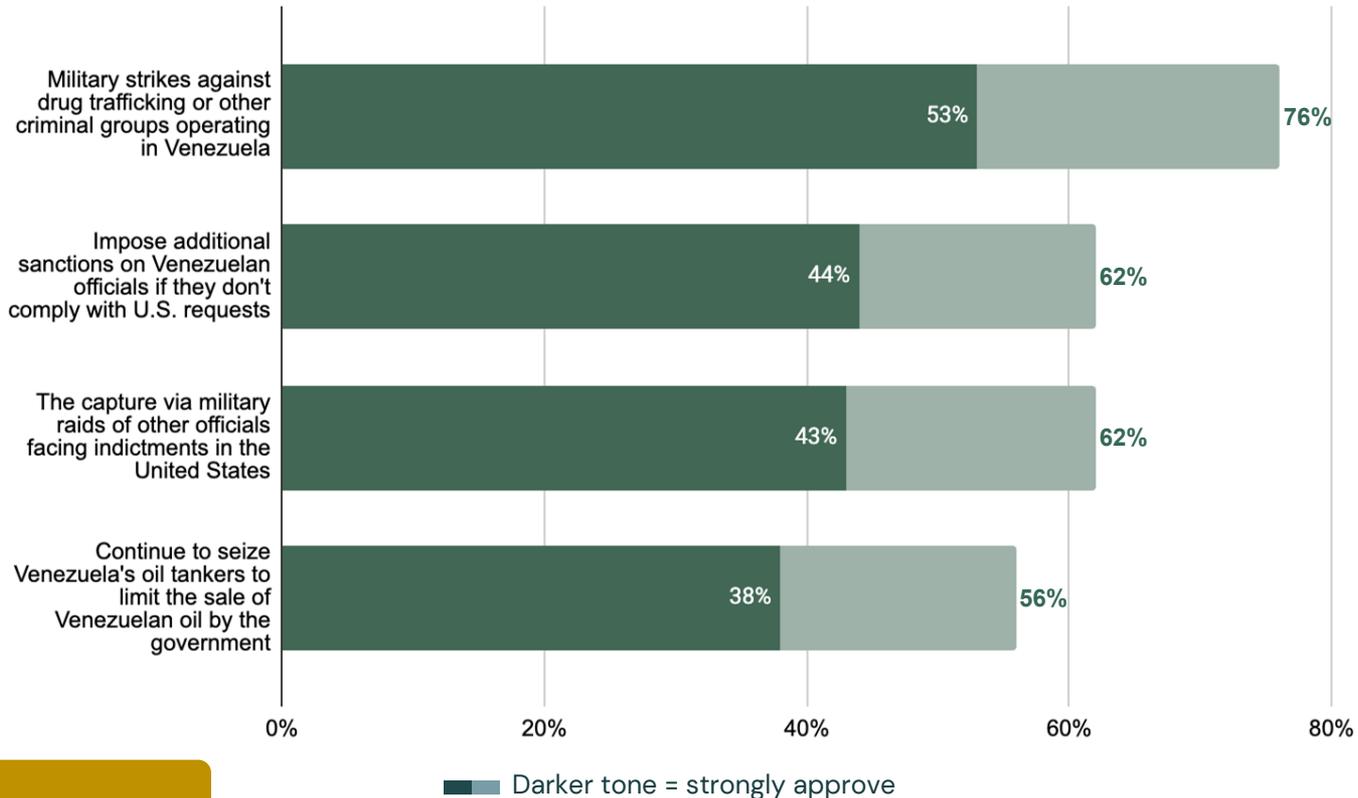
Figure 27

List of demands by total approval



Comfort with Potential Tougher U.S. Actions

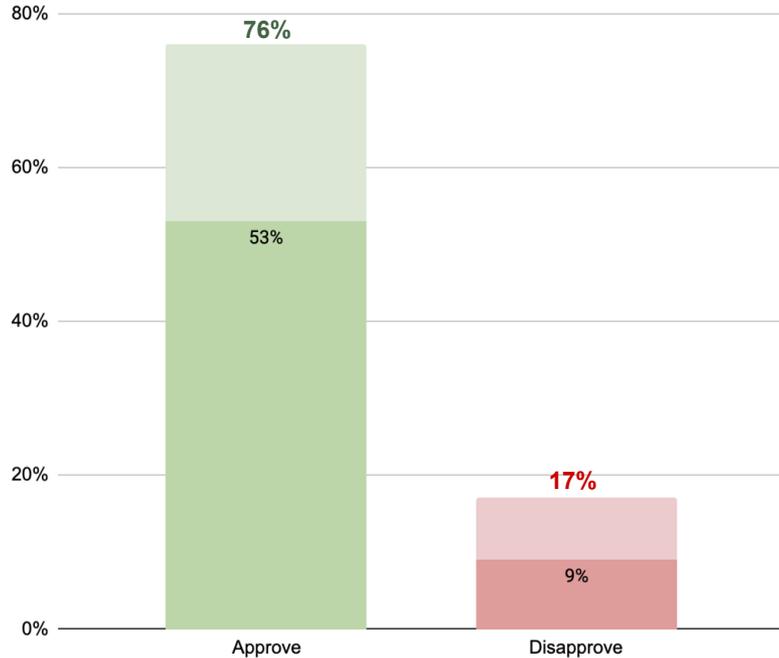
List of options by total approval



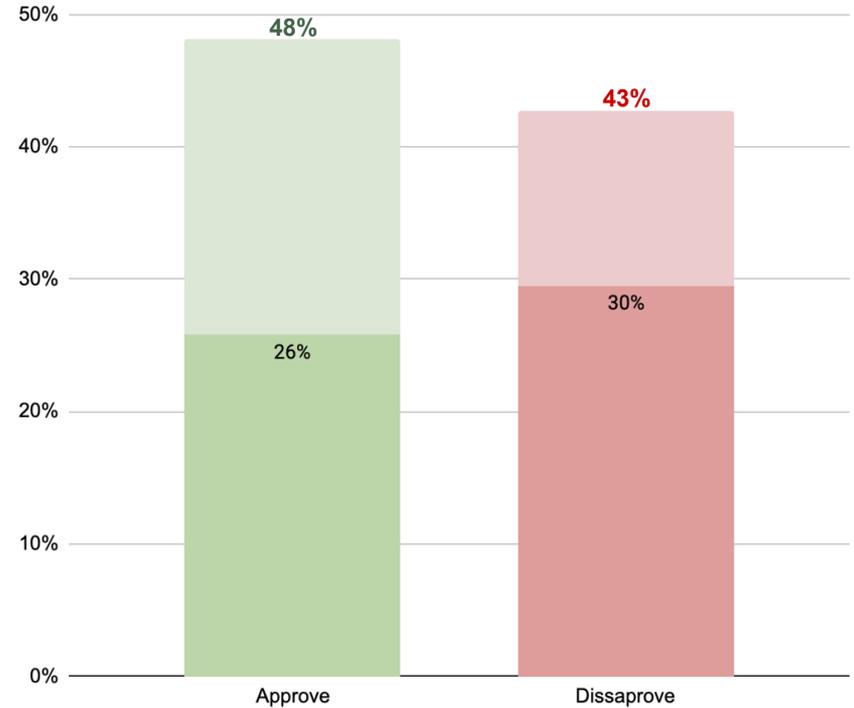
Even Chavistas Favor U.S. Strikes on Criminal Groups

Figure 29

Total favorability



Chavista

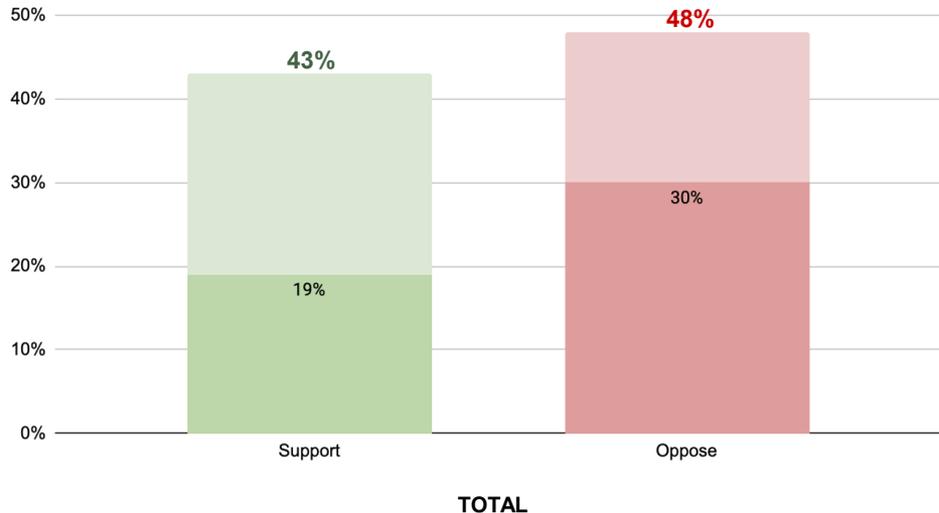


Deploying U.S. Troops Could Generate Opposition

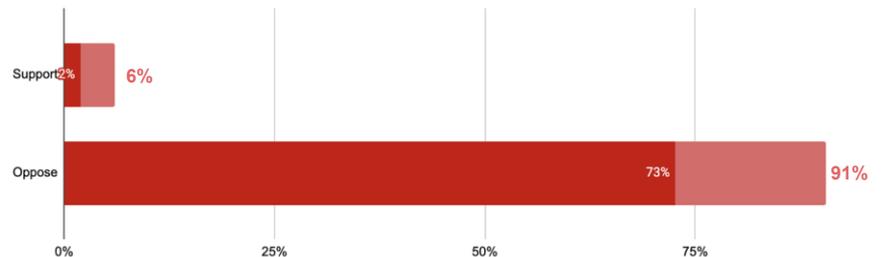
Figure 30

■ Darker tone = strongly

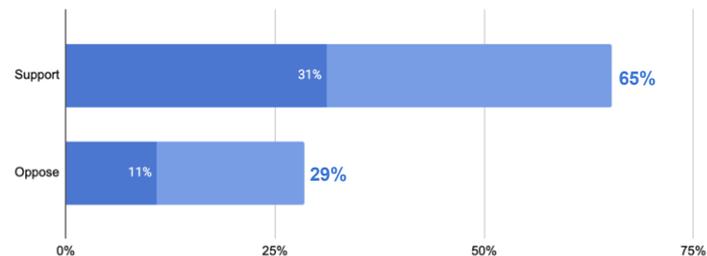
Would you support or oppose the United States deploying troops in Venezuela to maintain order in the event of civil unrest or an outbreak of violence?



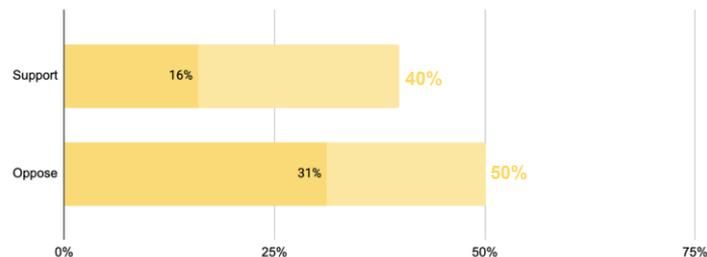
Chavista



Opposition



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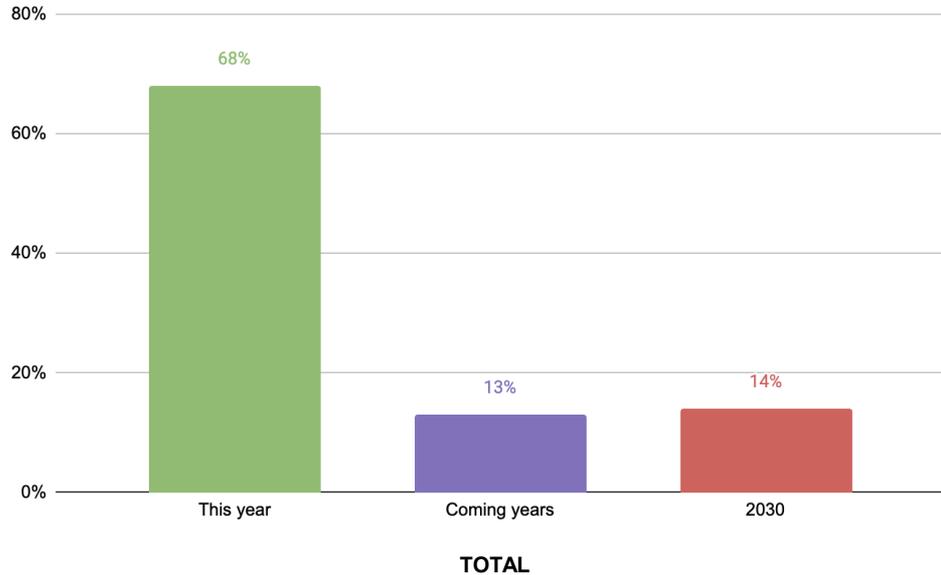


Desire for Speedier Transition

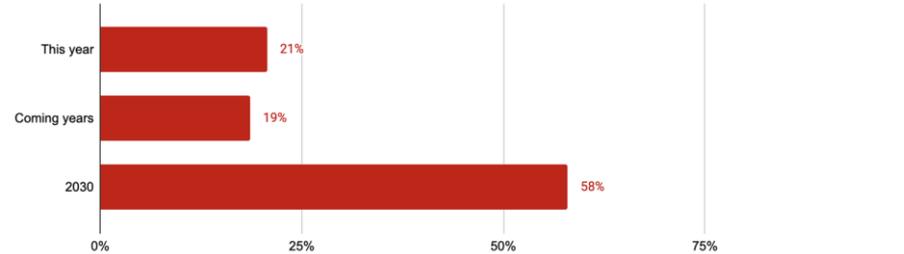
Venezuelans Want Elections This Year

Figure 32

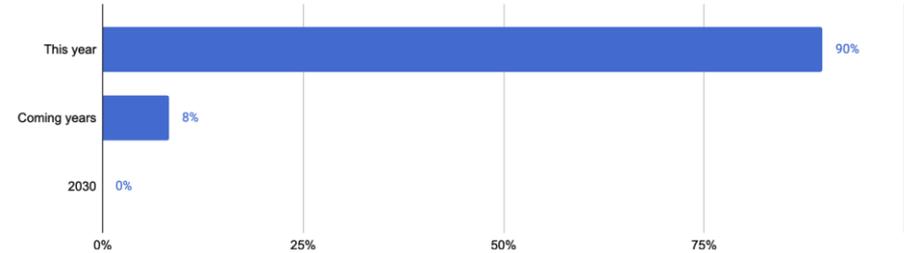
When do you think the next presidential elections should be held?



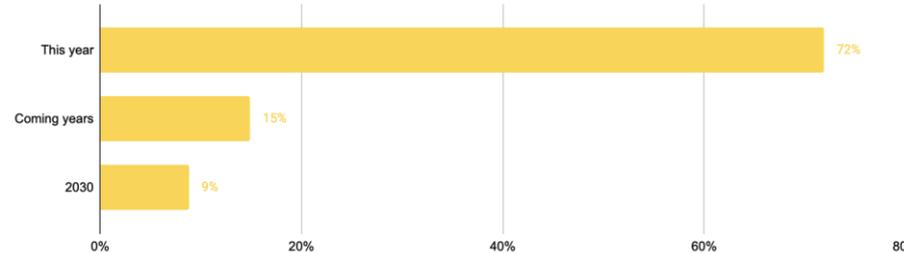
Chavista



Opposition



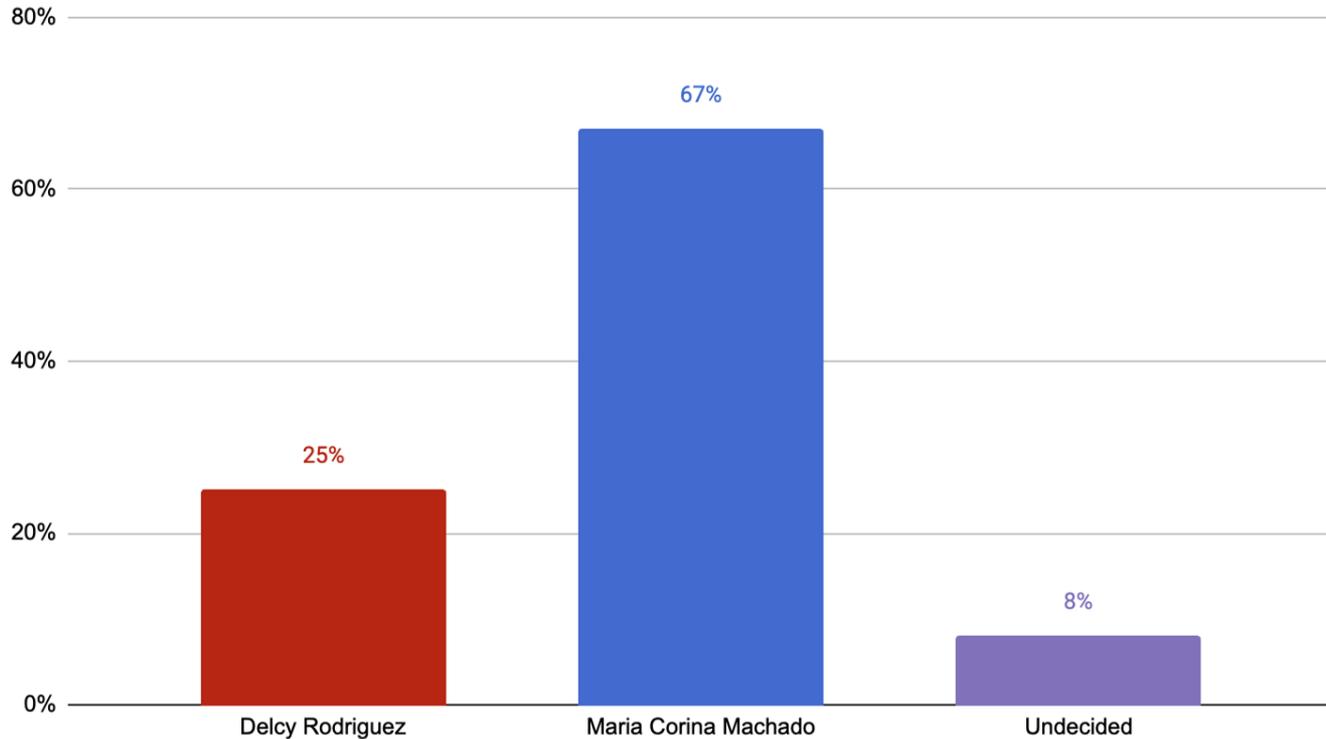
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Machado Would Rout Delcy Rodriguez Today

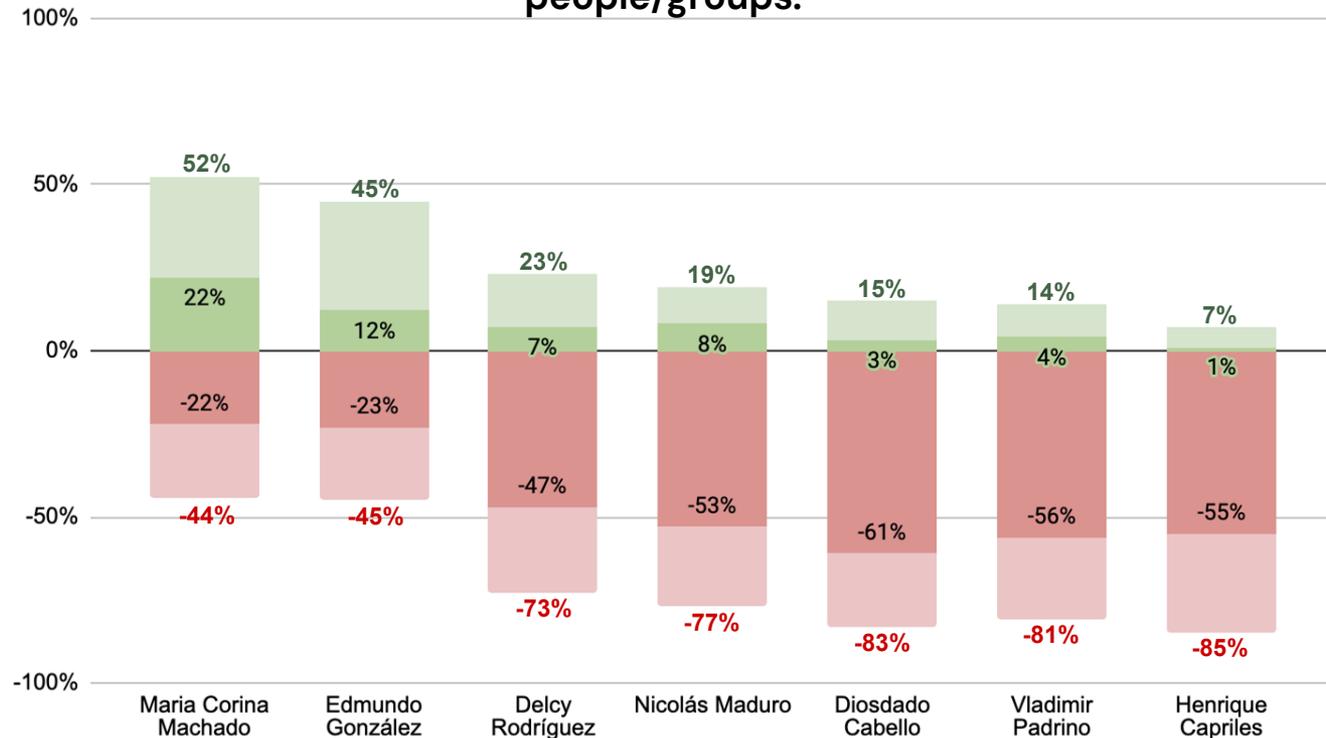
Figure 33

Candidates by potential vote share



Machado Remains Dominant Political Figure

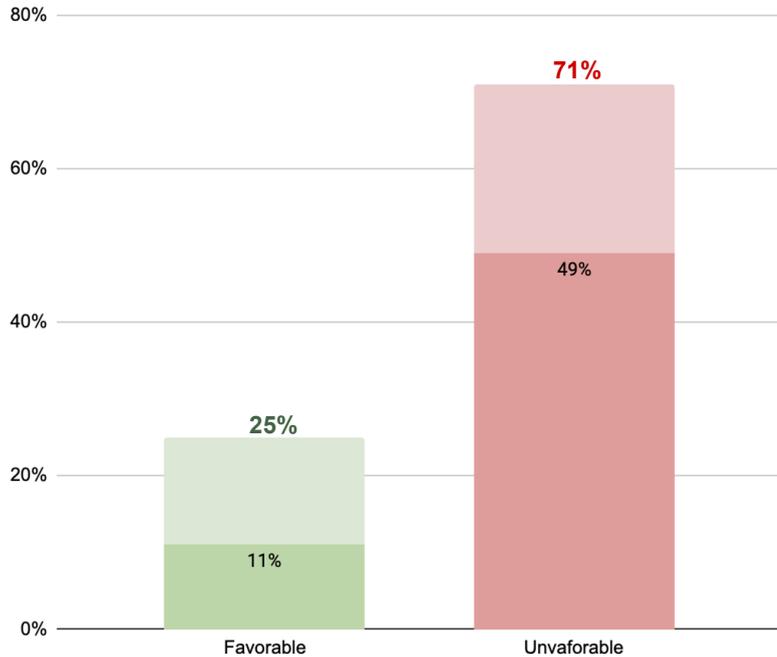
Please indicate if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of the following people/groups:



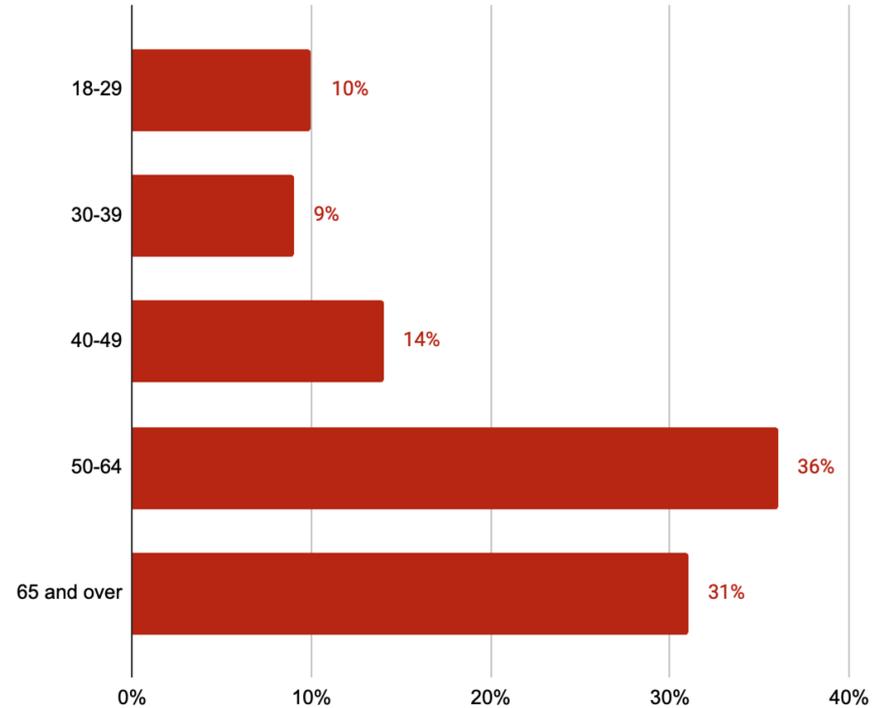
Chavista Movement is Battered and Aging

Hugo Chavez Impression

■ Darker tone = strongly



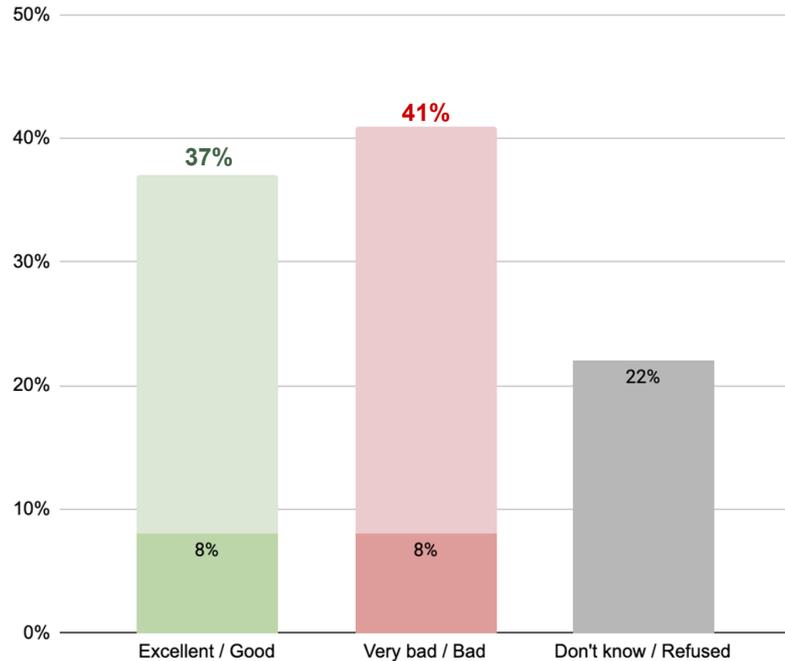
Chavista by Age Group



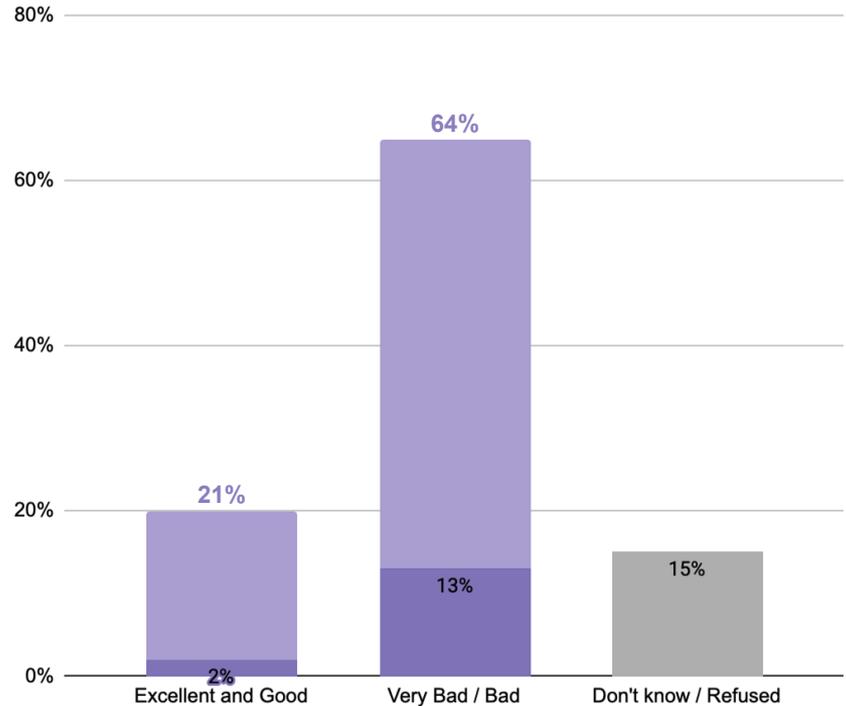
Public Still Assessing Delcy Rodríguez

Figure 36

How would you rate Delcy Rodríguez's performance as president so far?
TOTAL



Among Gonzalez 2024 Voters



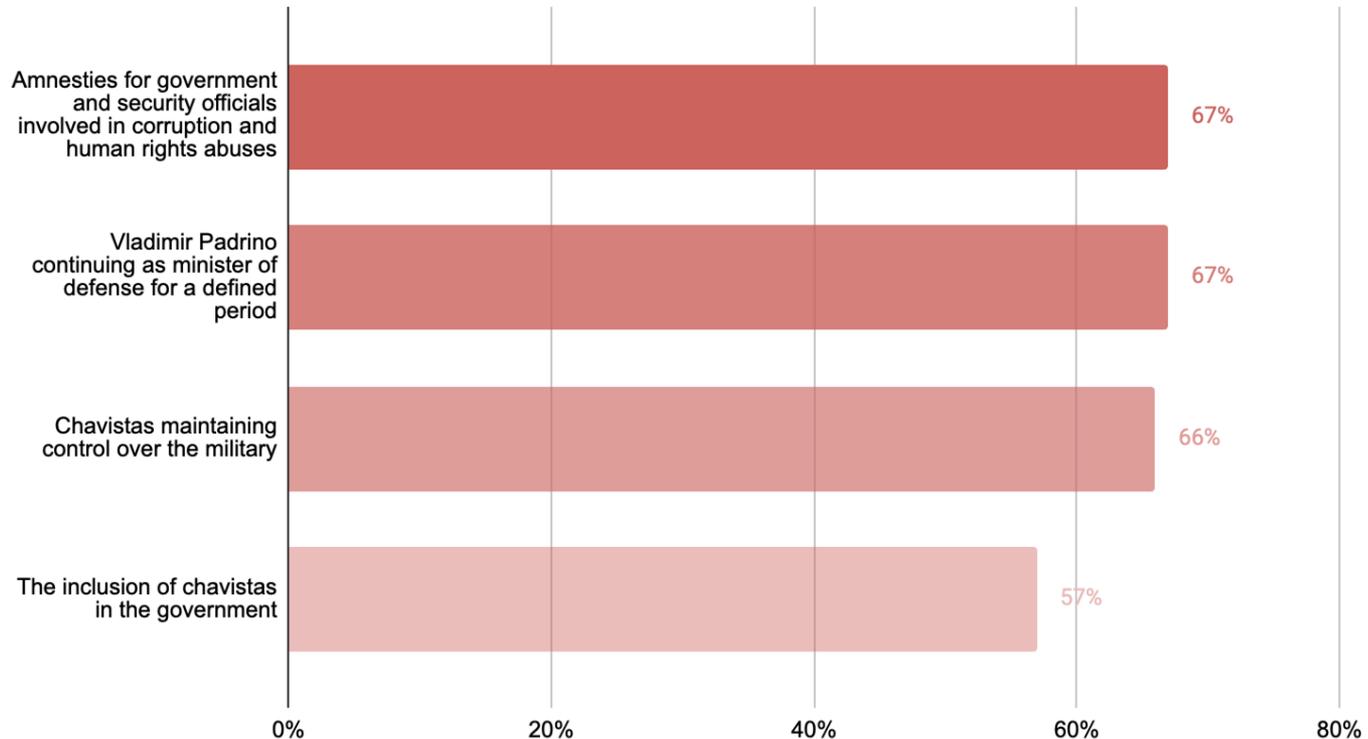


Venezuelans not in Forgiving, Conciliatory Mood

Resistance to Transitional Compromises

Figure 39

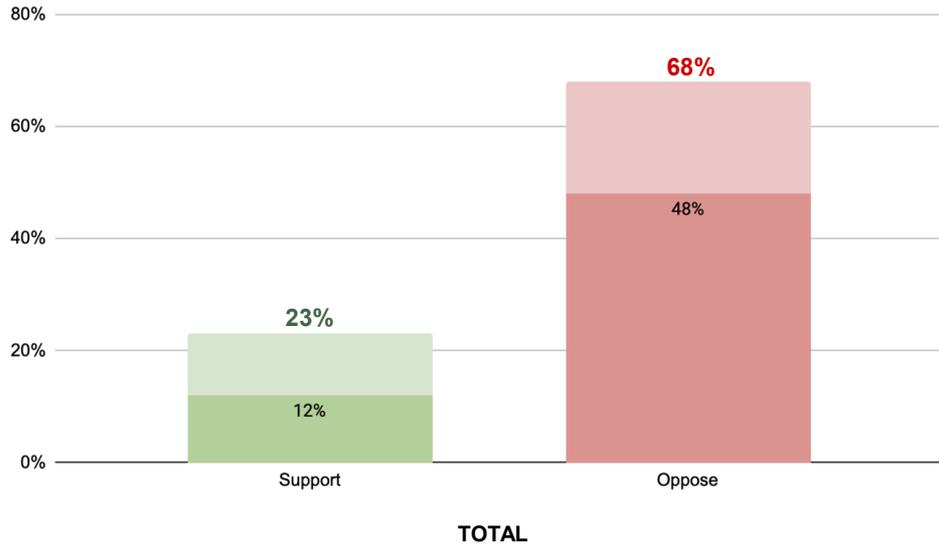
List of measures by total opposition



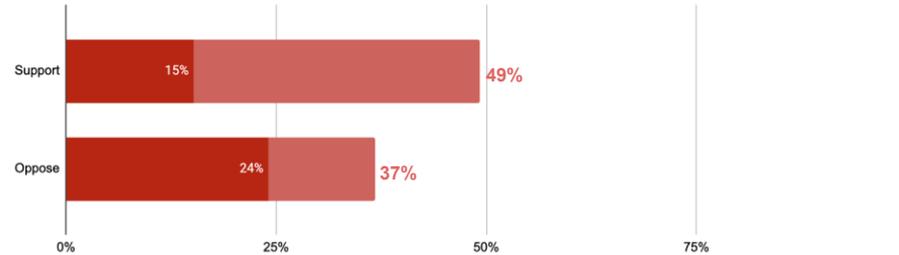
Many Chavistas Question Amnesties

■ Darker tone = strongly

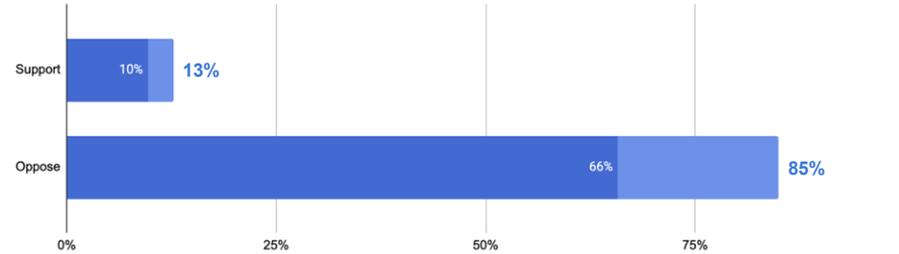
Amnesties for government and security officials involved in corruption and human rights abuses



Chavista



Opposition



Independent

