

# Political Climate and Electoral Scenarios for the Referendum on the Constitutional Amendment

30.11  
CONSULTORES

Presentation of Results

February, 2009

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# Methodology

**Survey type:** Probabilistic, multi-stage and stratified, with proportional assignation for age and sex variables.

**Unit of analysis:** Voters entered into the Electoral Registry (REP).

**Place of unit of analysis:** In the home.

**Margin of error:** 2.1%

**Confidence level:** 95%

**Sample size:** 2,120 interviews.

**Sample area:** Capital District and 16 states, including 56 municipalities.

Distribution proportional to the populations of states and municipalities, with a high level of dispersion in the sample.

**Dates of fieldwork:** February 6 to 11, 2009.

**Goal: Investigate the opinion of Venezuelan voters registered in the REP, with regards to national political climate topics and electoral scenarios for the referendum in Venezuela.**

# General Results and by Party Affiliations

TWO CATEGORIES,

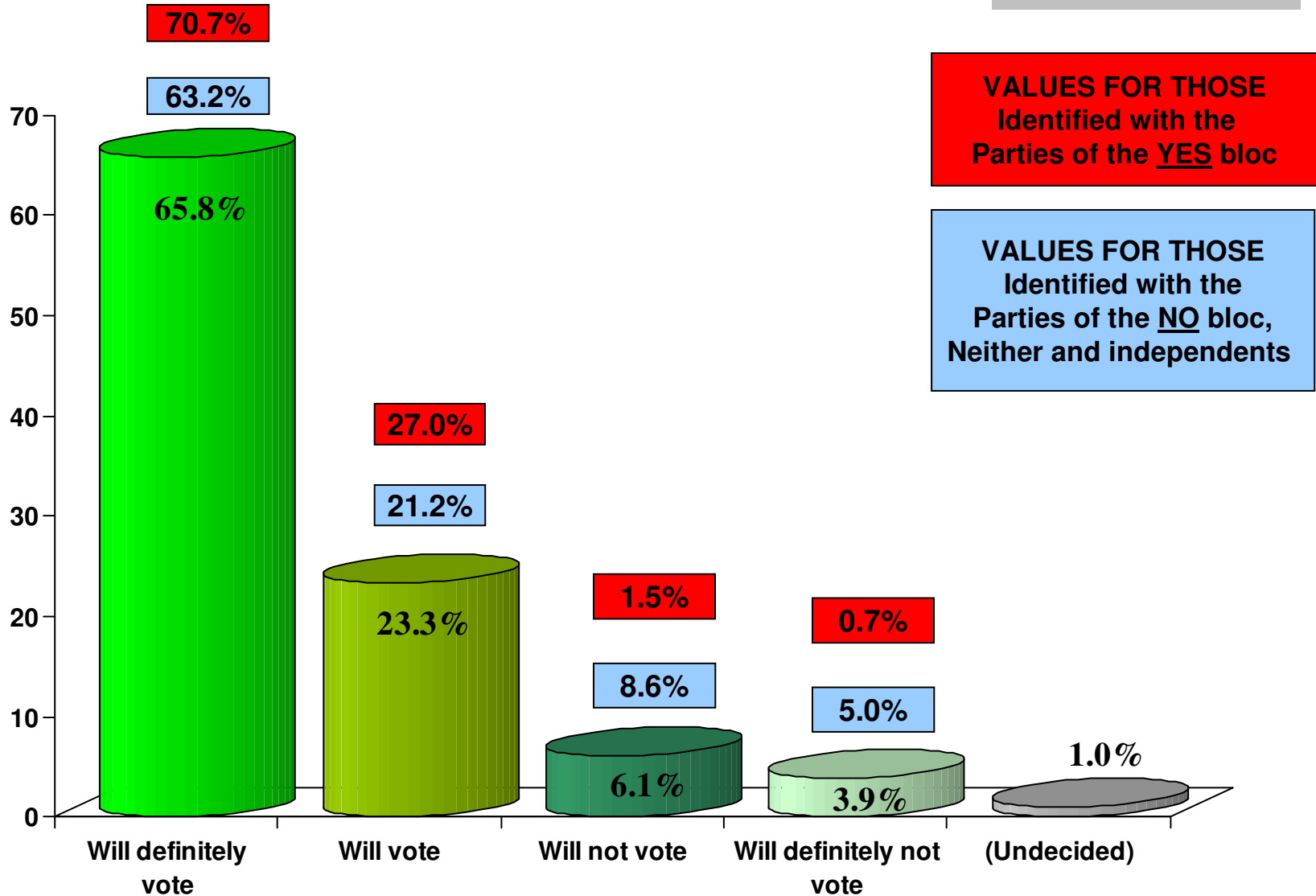
**RED:** Identified with the parties of the YES bloc

**BLUE:** Identified with the parties of the NO bloc,  
neither, and independents

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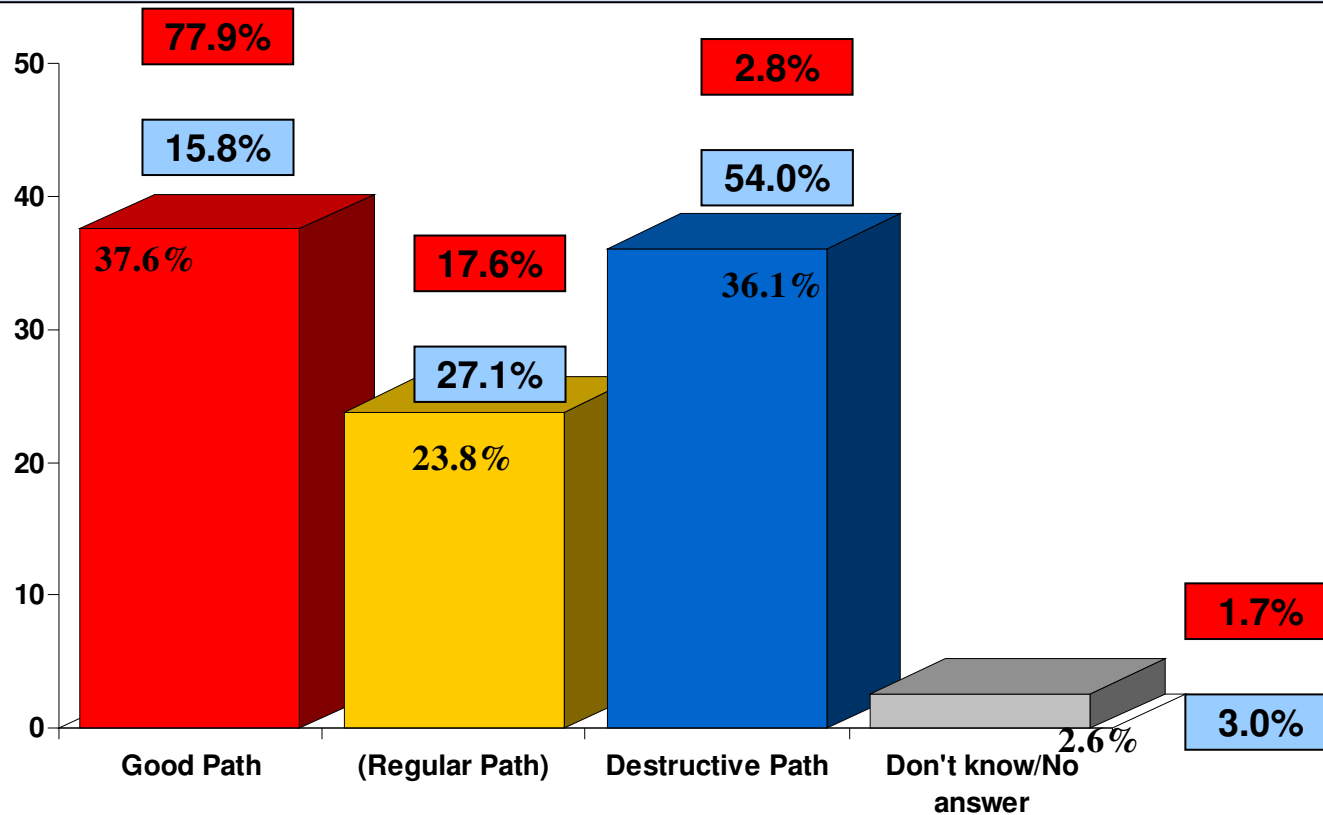
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# Likelihood of Voting on February 15<sup>th</sup>

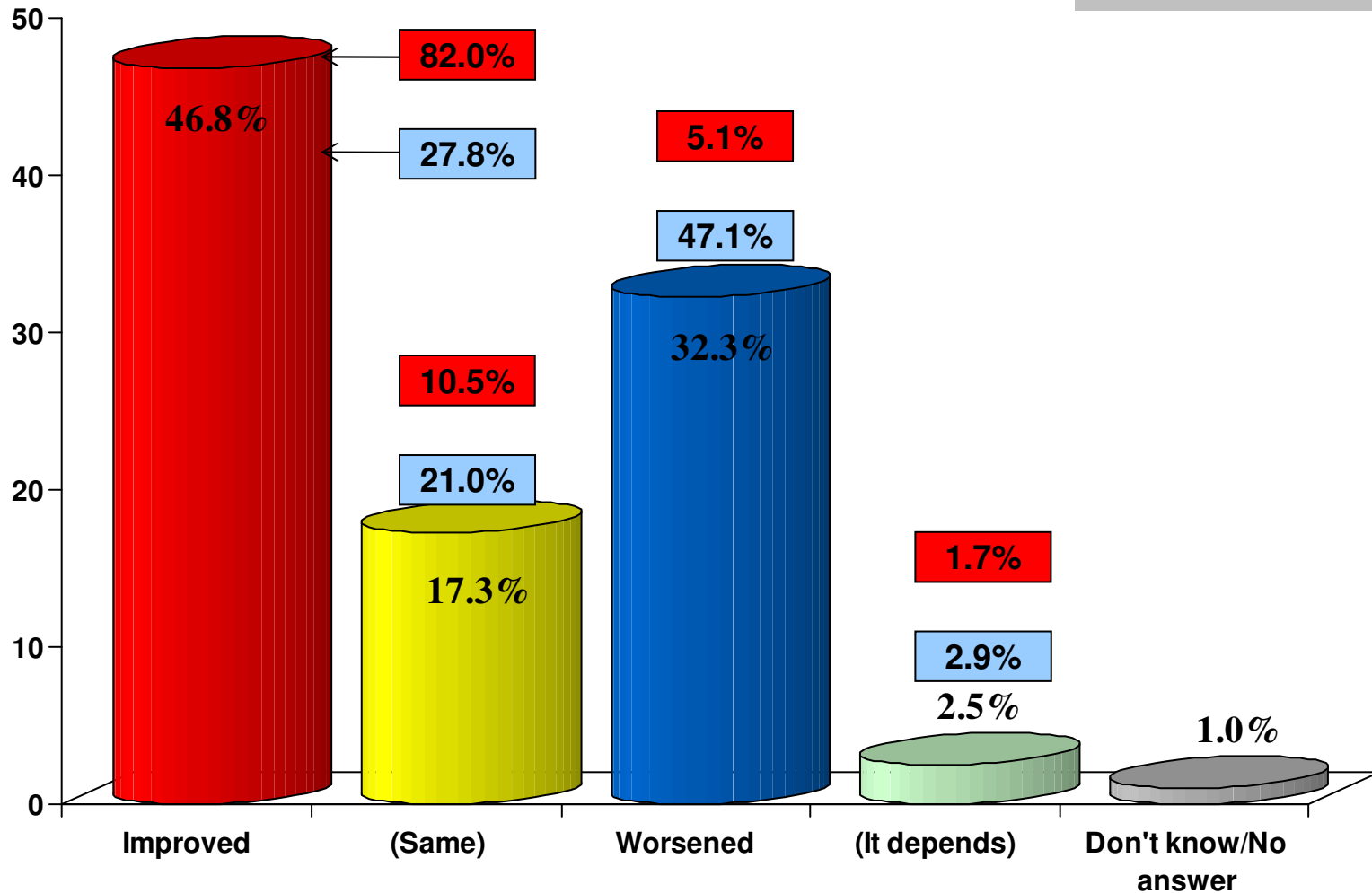


# Venezuela's Path

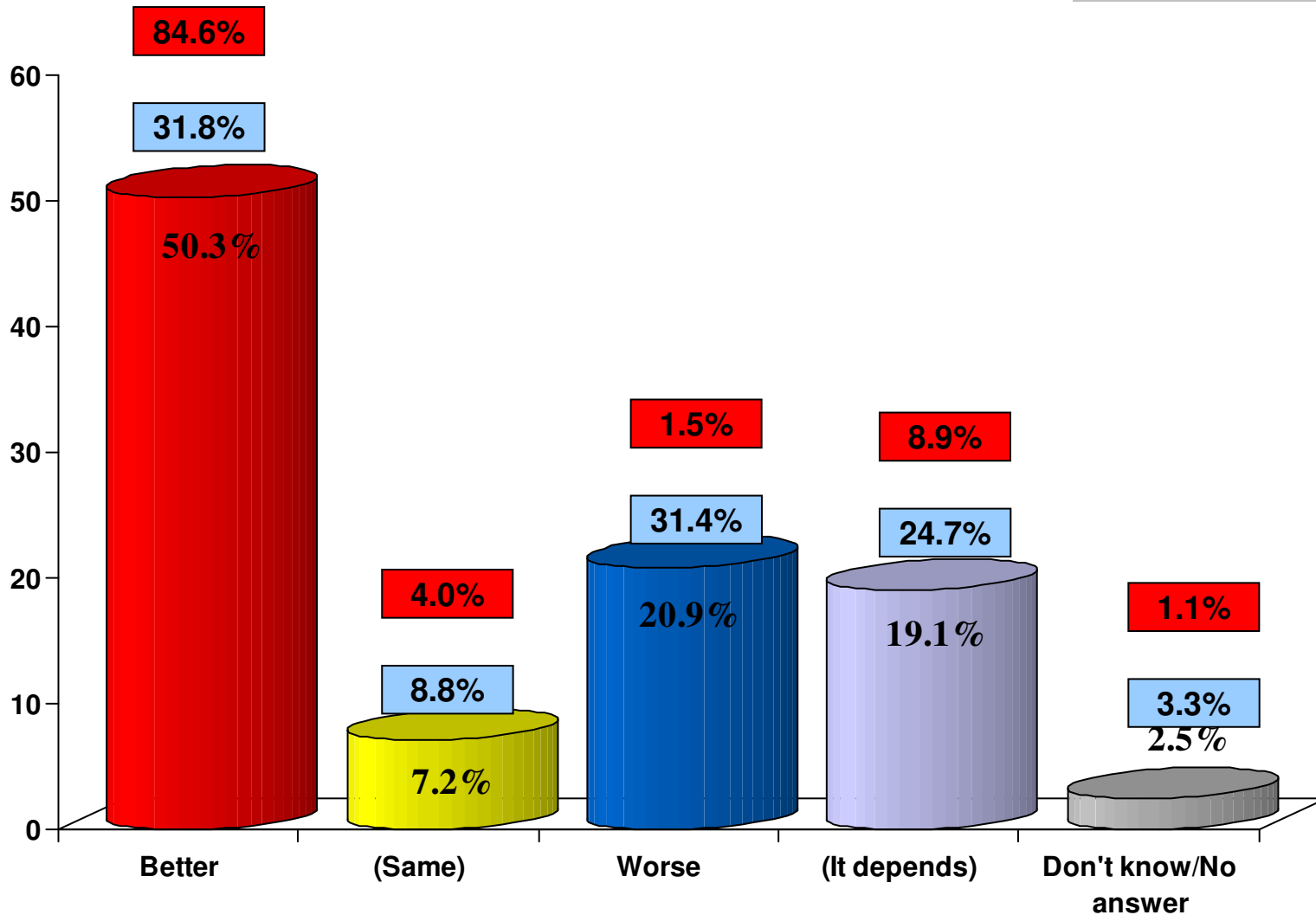
In your judgment, is Venezuela on a good path or on a destructive path?



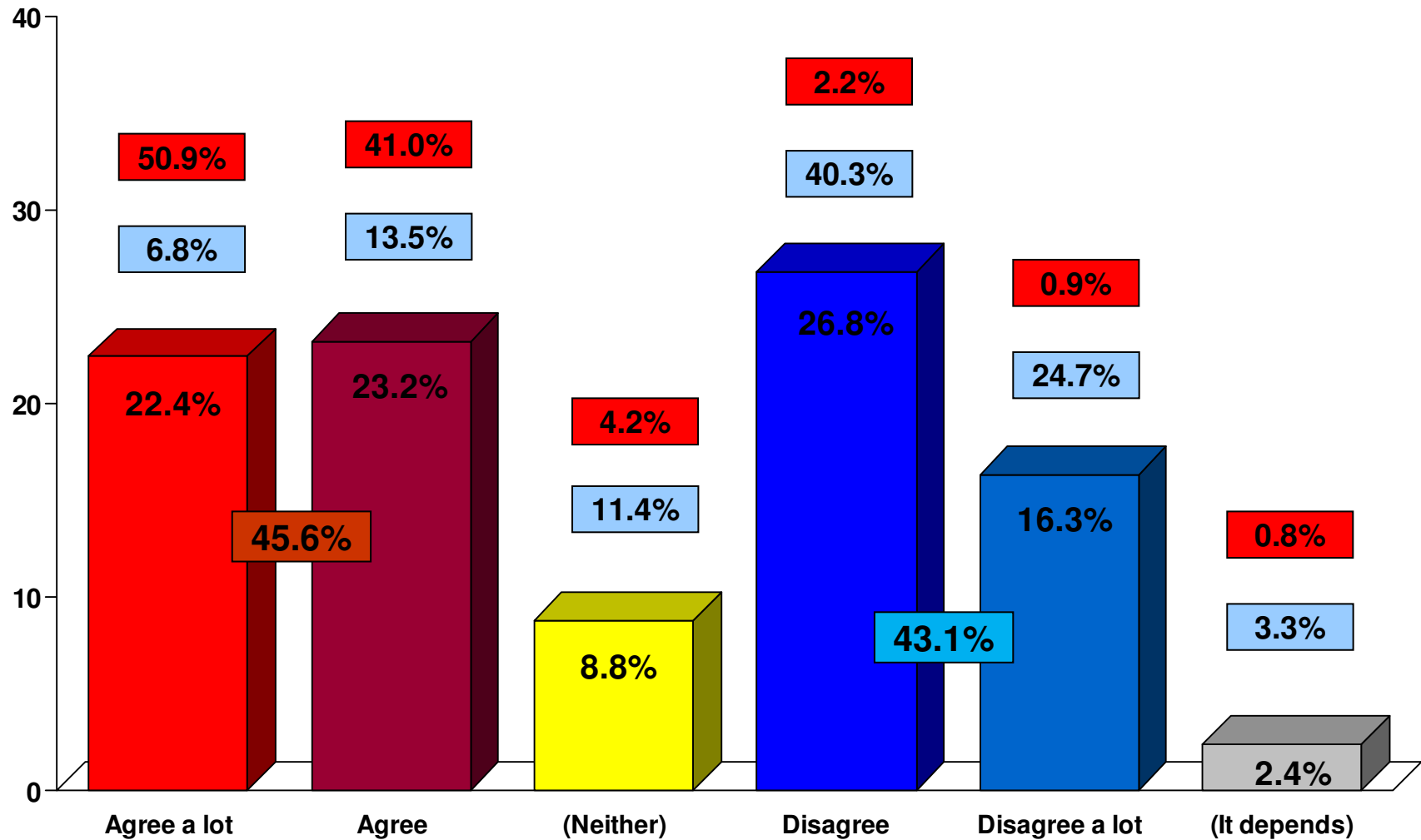
# Comparative Personal Situation Today vs. Two Years Ago



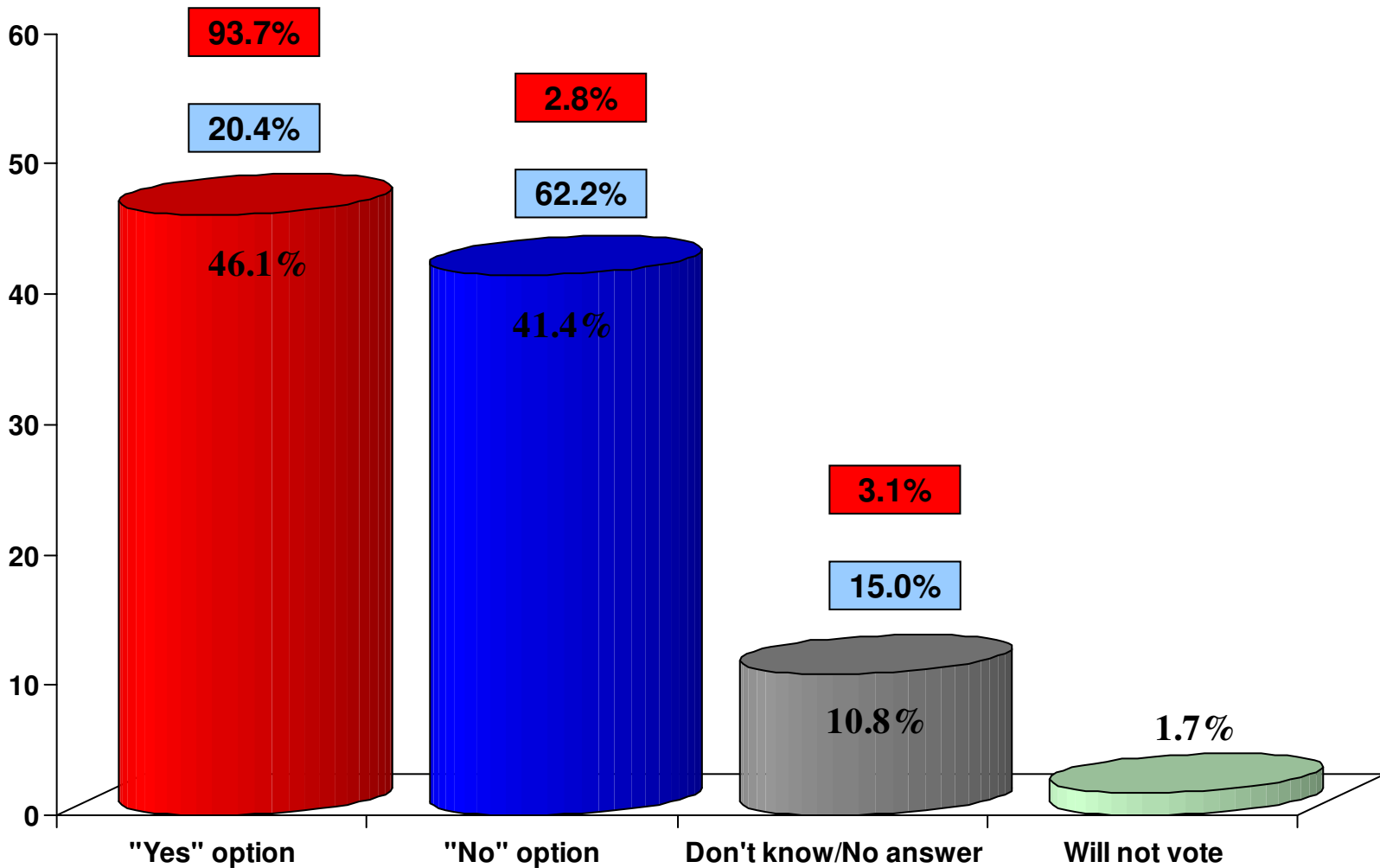
# Expectation of Personal Situation in the next Two or Three Years



# Agreement with Building a Socialist Venezuela

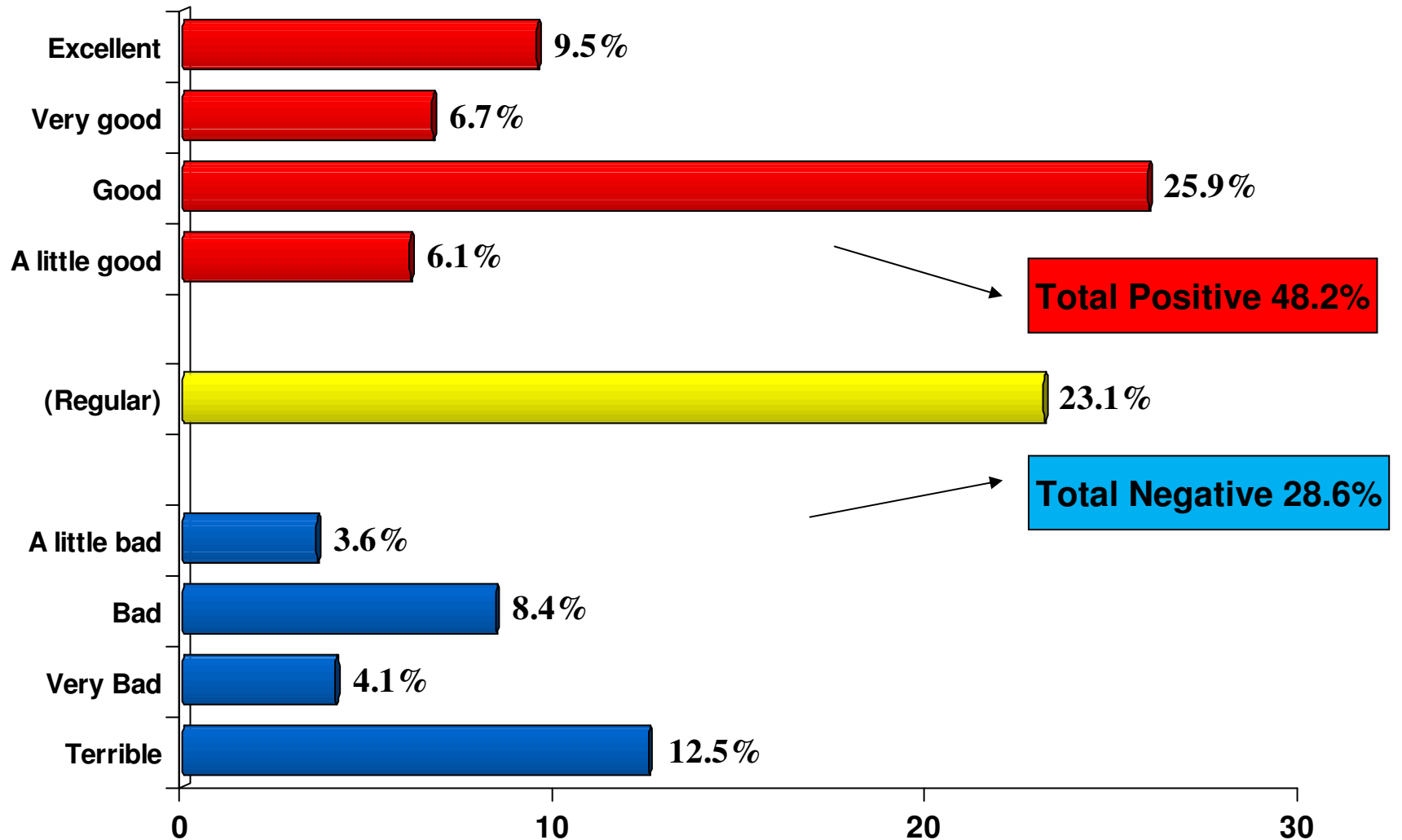


# Voter Intentions

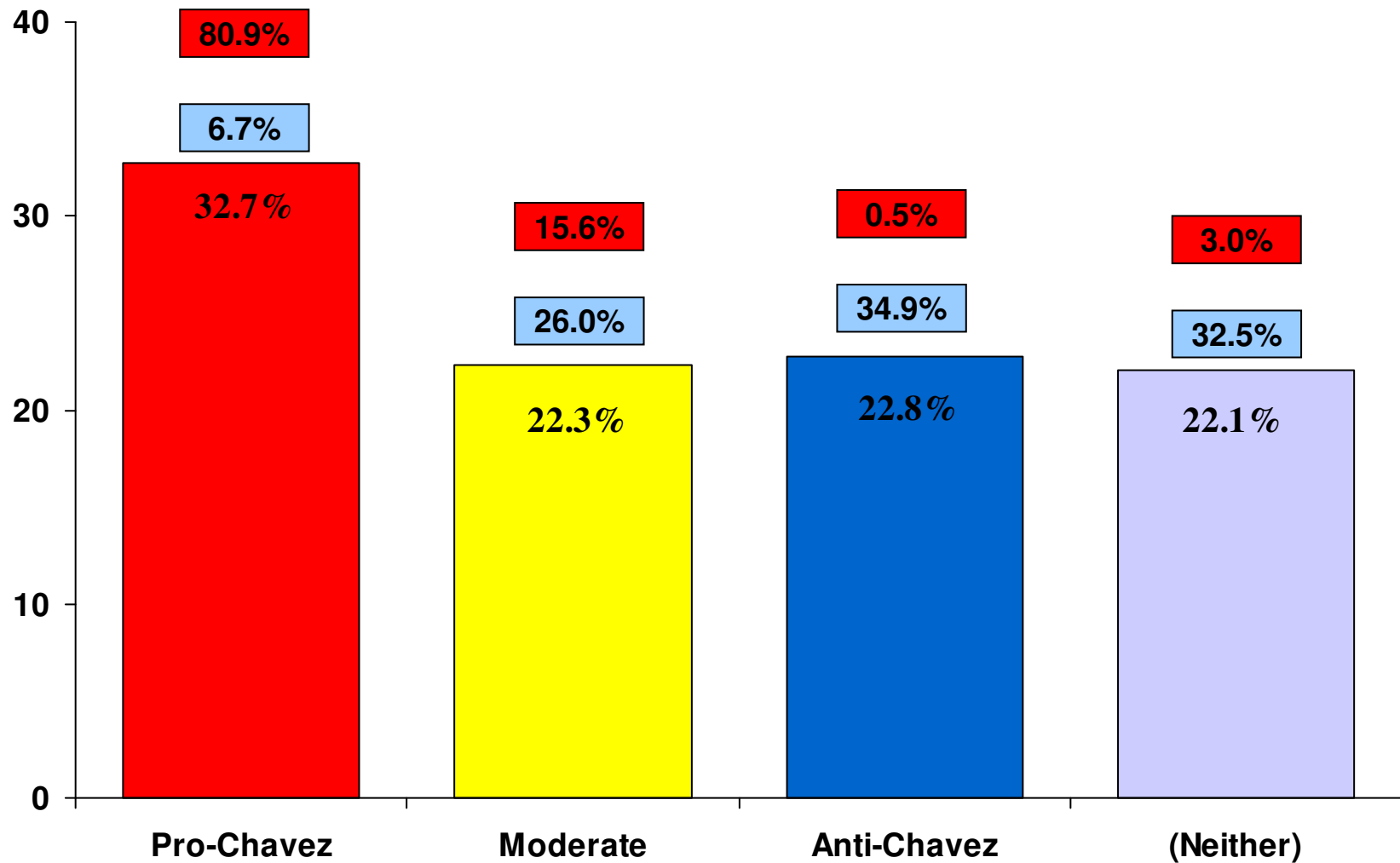


# President Hugo Chávez's Tenure

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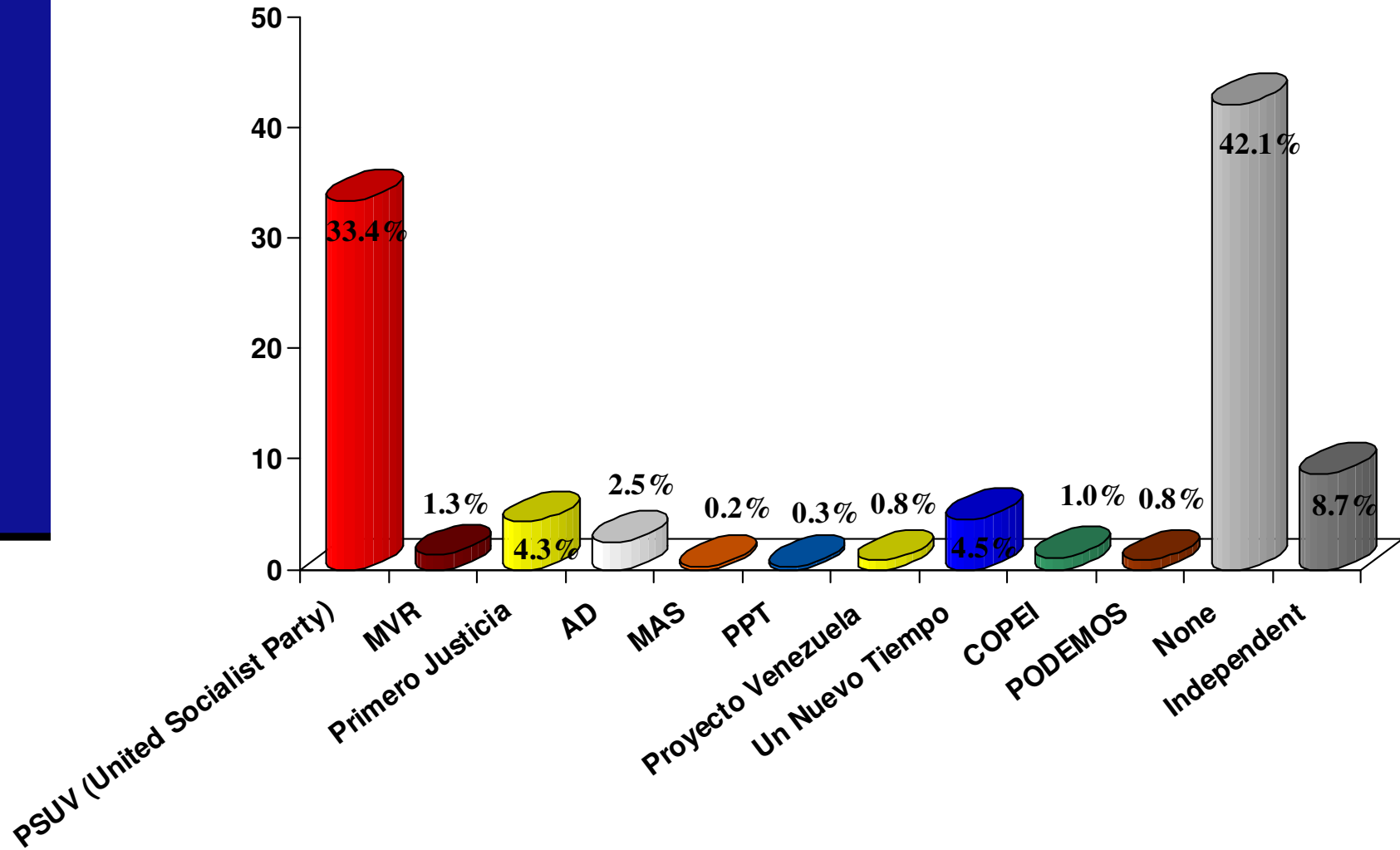


# Pro-Chavez / Anti-Chavez

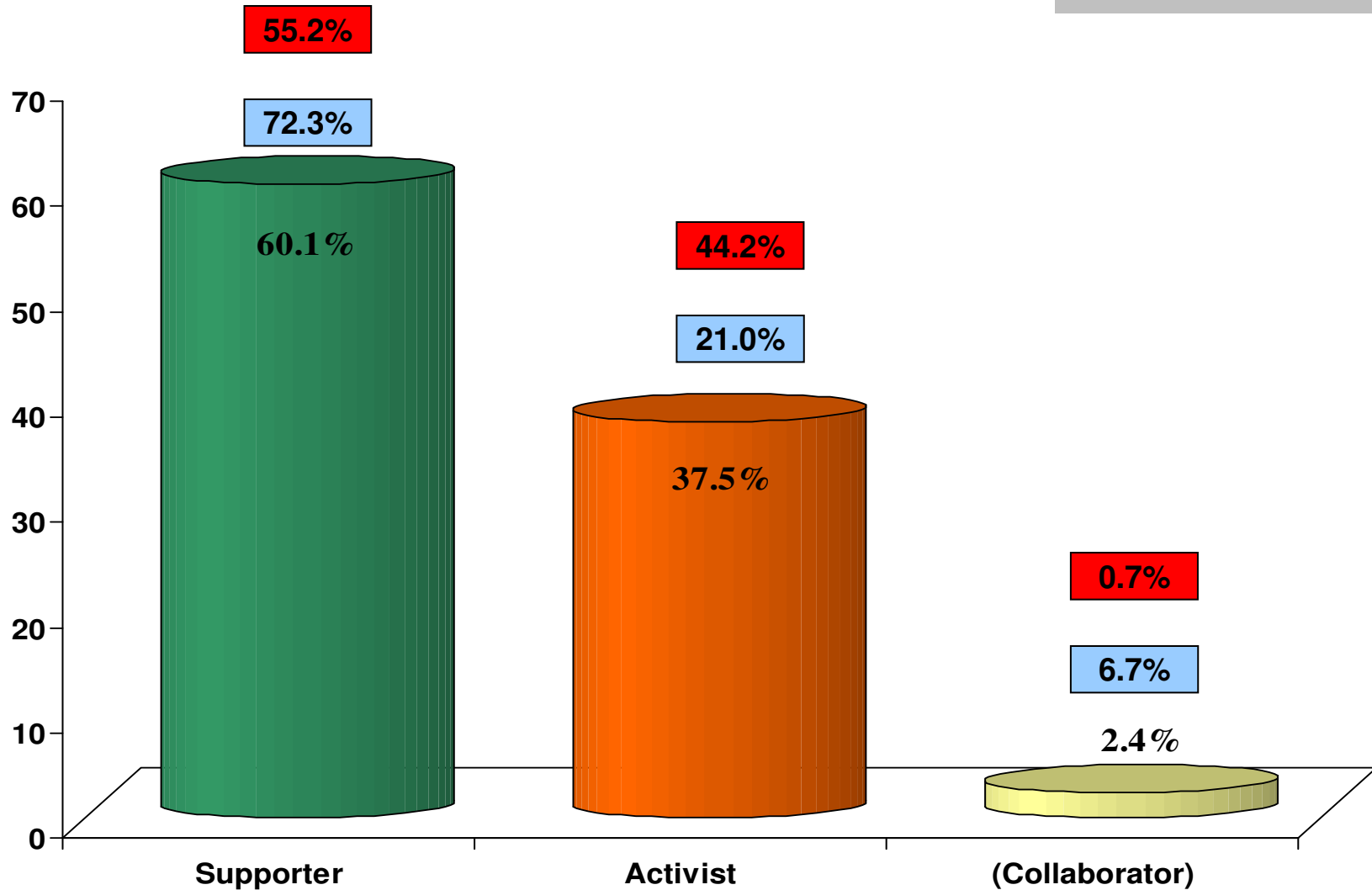


# Most Favorable Political Organization

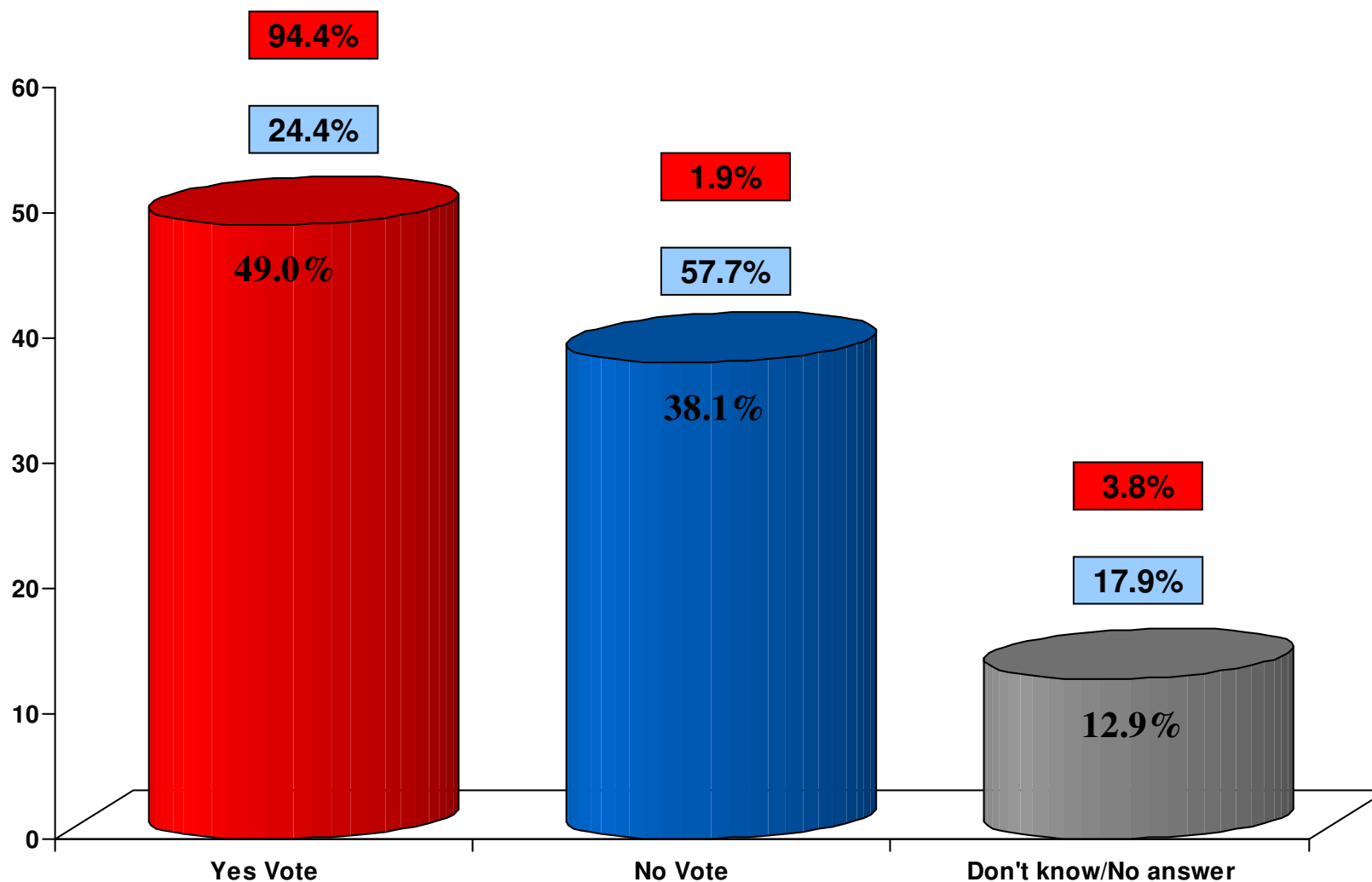
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# Level of Political Participation



# Who do you think will win the referendum?





# Electoral Scenario



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# Voter Intention

By likelihood of voting on February 15<sup>th</sup>



VOTER INTENTION	LIKELIHOOD OF VOTING ON FEBRUARY 15 <sup>th</sup>					TOTAL
	WILL DEFINITELY VOTE	WILL VOTE	WILL NOT VOTE	WILL DEFINITELY NOT VOTE	UNDECIDED	
“YES” VOTE	49.8%	49.2%	18.6%	13.4%	23.8%	46.1%
“NO” VOTE	41.4%	39.5%	49.6%	40.2%	38.1%	41.4%
(DON’T KNOW/NO ANSWER)	8.7%	11.1%	23.3%	22.0%	28.6%	10.8%
(WILL NOT VOTE)	0.1%	0.2%	8.5%	24.4%	9.5%	1.7%

**These two categories regarding the likelihood of voting (the group responding “will definitely vote” and “will vote”) have historically described electoral behavior. On average, they make up 95% of people who VOTE ON THE DAY OF ELECTIONS.**

# SUMMARY

- **The electoral scenario in Venezuela strongly favors a “YES” victory.**
- **Factors such as behavioral variables, the ideological dimension of socialism, the perception of the country’s path, the evaluation of current situations, and expectations for the future, present positive values that correlate strongly with the intention to vote “YES.”**
- **Among the entire electoral population, the “YES” option has a 4.7% advantage based on the stated intention to vote, and it has a 10.9% advantage based on voters’ own expected results. This implies that the “YES” vote has a larger perceived lead than it may in fact have.**
- **Among voters who say they “will definitely vote” or “will vote”, the “YES” vote increases its lead between 8.4% and 9.3%. This indicates that the intention to vote “YES” has a higher chance of becoming stronger, and for this reason, voter mobilization will play an important role.**

# SUMMARY

- By virtue of the fact that polls taken throughout the campaign have found a growing tendency to favor the “YES” vote, we can infer in this instance that the “final emotional push” present in every electoral campaign has a higher probability to favor the “YES” vote.
- It is not easy to estimate the final level of abstention with low levels of uncertainty by using the data measured from the two variables related to this and the historic behavior of the Venezuelan electorate. However, everything seems to indicate a high probability of 35% abstention, a figure that is more likely to increase rather than decrease.
- Finally, using a model that distributes behavior of those who are undecided and those who say they will not vote, and that also estimates abstention, we present in the following slide the electoral scenarios which are considered most probable.

# ELECTORAL SCENARIOS

	SCENARIOS		
VOTER INTENTION	SCENARIO 1	SCENARIO 2	SCENARIO 3
"YES" VOTE	55.8%	53.4%	52.2%
"NO" VOTE	44.2%	46.6%	47.8%

**THESE NUMBERS WERE CALCULATED USING THE ABSTENTION ESTIMATES PRESENTED IN A PREVIOUS SLIDE**

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