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### **Illinois Voters Prize Environment Over Economic Growth.**

A majority of registered voters in Illinois believe the earth is getting warmer because of human activity rather than natural patterns, according to the latest poll from the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

There are 57 percent who believe human activity causes global warming while 25 percent believe in natural causes. Only 12 percent claim there is no evidence the earth is getting warmer, while 7 percent haven't formed an opinion.

The survey of 1000 registered voters was taken Sept. 27-Oct. 2. It has a margin of error of 3.1 percentage points.

Another question asked whether to prioritize environmental protection or economic growth. Sixty-four percent believe that the environment should be given priority even at the cost of economic growth, while 27 percent believe that economic growth should be prioritized.

Shiloh Deitz, a researcher at the Institute, said "Voters understand environmental issues and are willing to prioritize them."

Among the poll's findings:

- Opinions differ about the environment across party and ideological lines: 82 percent of liberals believe climate change is due to human activity, only 28 percent of conservatives believe the same.
- While most liberals (80 percent) would prioritize the environment over economic growth, conservatives are split with 44 percent wishing to prioritize the environment and an almost equal 43 percent who want to focus on economic growth.
- Sixty-six percent of respondents under 50 see climate change as the result of human activity, compared to 55 percent of people age 51 to 65, and 47 percent of those over 66 years

Deitz said "there is a stark contrast of these opinions across age groups. Gen X-ers and millennials have grown up with environmental awareness campaigns and this is clear in the

results,” she said. “Younger people are most likely to see climate change as a result of human activity and want to prioritize environmental preservation even at the cost of economic growth.”

Only 7 percent of millennials believe that there is no evidence the earth is getting warmer, compared to 16 percent of adults over 66. Seventy-nine percent of those under 35 would prioritize the environment, while 61 percent of those over 66 would do the same.

One trend in the data indicates the Republican Party may soon grow more environmentalist. Nearly half (49 percent) of Republicans or conservatives under age 50 believe human activity can be blamed for the earth getting warmer compared to only a quarter of those over 50. Sixty-two percent of Republicans or conservatives under 50 would prioritize the environment even at the cost of economic growth compared to only 41 percent of Republicans or conservatives over 50.

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The margin of error for the entire sample of 1,000 voters is plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. This means that if we conducted the survey 100 times, in 95 of those instances, the population proportion would be within plus or minus the reported margin for error for each subsample. For subsamples, the margin of error increases as the sample size goes down. The margin of error was not adjusted for design effects.

Live telephone interviews were conducted by Customer Research International of San Marcos, Texas using the random digit dialing method. The telephone sample was provided to Customer Research International by Scientific Telephone Samples. Potential interviewees were screened based on whether they were registered voters and quotas based on area code and sex (<60% female). Interviewers asked to speak to the youngest registered voter at home at the time of the call. Cell phone interviews accounted for 60 percent of the sample. A Spanish language version of the questionnaire and a Spanish-speaking interviewer were made available.

Field work was conducted from September 27-October 2. No auto-dial or “robo” polling is included. Customer Research International reports no Illinois political clients. The survey was paid for with non-tax dollars from the Institute’s endowment fund. The data were not weighted in any way. Crosstabs for the referenced questions will be on the Institute’s polling web site, [simonpoll.org](http://simonpoll.org).

The Paul Simon Public Policy Institute is a member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research’s (AAPOR) Transparency Initiative. AAPOR works to encourage objective survey standards for practice and disclosure. Membership in the Transparency Initiative reflects a pledge to practice transparency in reporting survey-based findings.

Simon Institute polling data are also archived by four academic institutions for use by scholars and the public. The four open source data repositories are: The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research (<http://ropercenter.cornell.edu/polls/>), The University of Michigan’s Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (<http://openicpsr.org>), the University of North Carolina’s Odum Institute Dataverse Network (<http://arc.irss.unc.edu/dvn/dv/PSPPI>), and the Simon Institute Collection at OpenSIUC (<http://opensiuc.lib.siu.edu/ppi/>).

*Note: The “Paul Simon Public Policy Institute Poll,” the “Simon Poll” and the “Southern Illinois Poll” are the copyrighted trademarks of the Board of Trustees of Southern Illinois University. Use and publication of these polls is encouraged- but only with credit to the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at SIU Carbondale.*

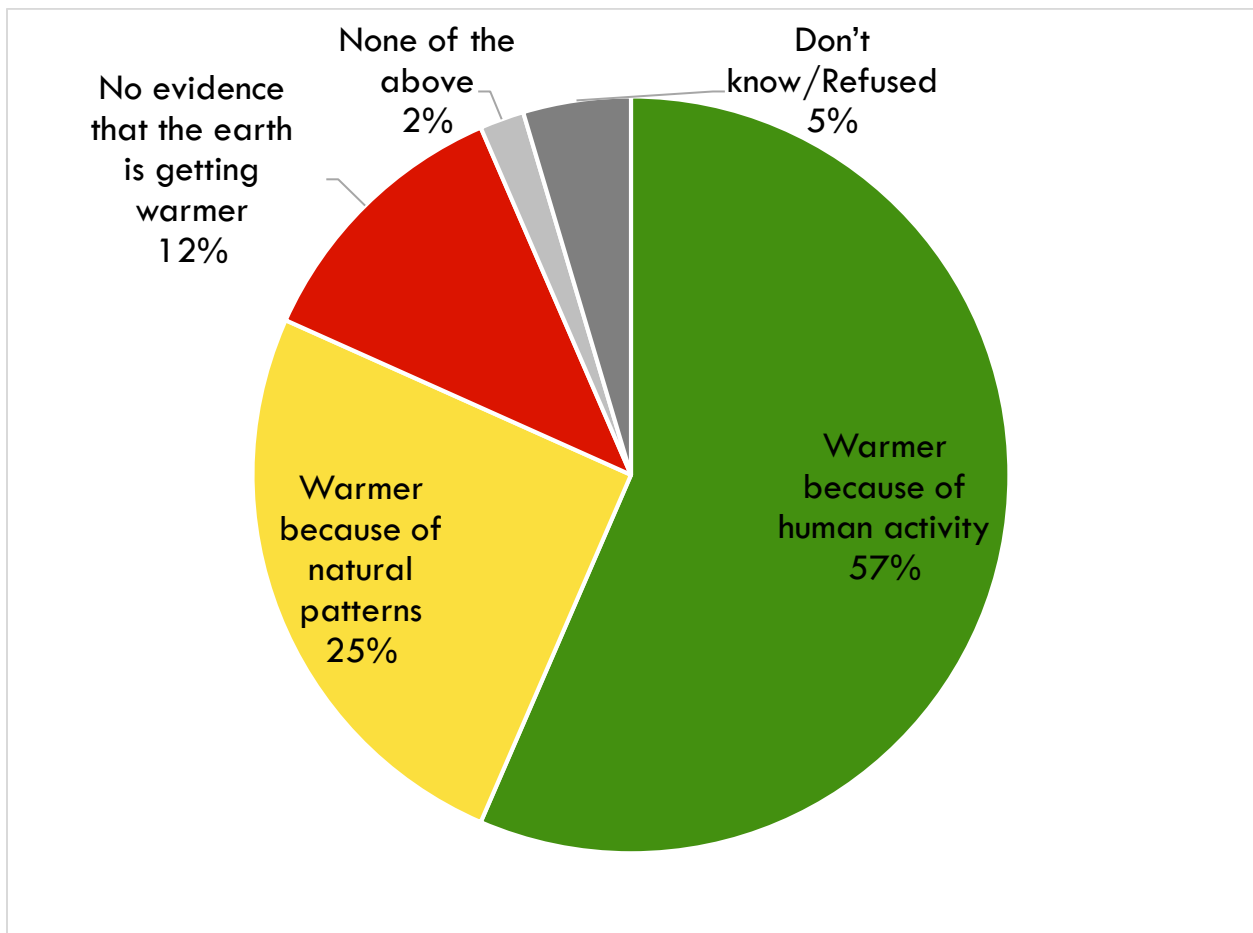
# Frequency Tables<sup>1</sup>

## Global Warming

With of these statements comes closer to your view, even if none are exactly right:

- *The earth is getting warmer mostly because of human activity, such as burning fossil fuels OR*
- *The earth is getting warmer mostly because of natural pattern in the earth's environment OR*
- *There is no solid evidence that the earth is getting warmer*

<u>Response</u>	<u>Percent (n=1000)</u>
Warmer because of human activity	56.5%
Warmer because of natural patterns	25.2%
No evidence that the earth is getting warmer	11.8%
None of the above	1.9%
Don't know/Refused	4.6%



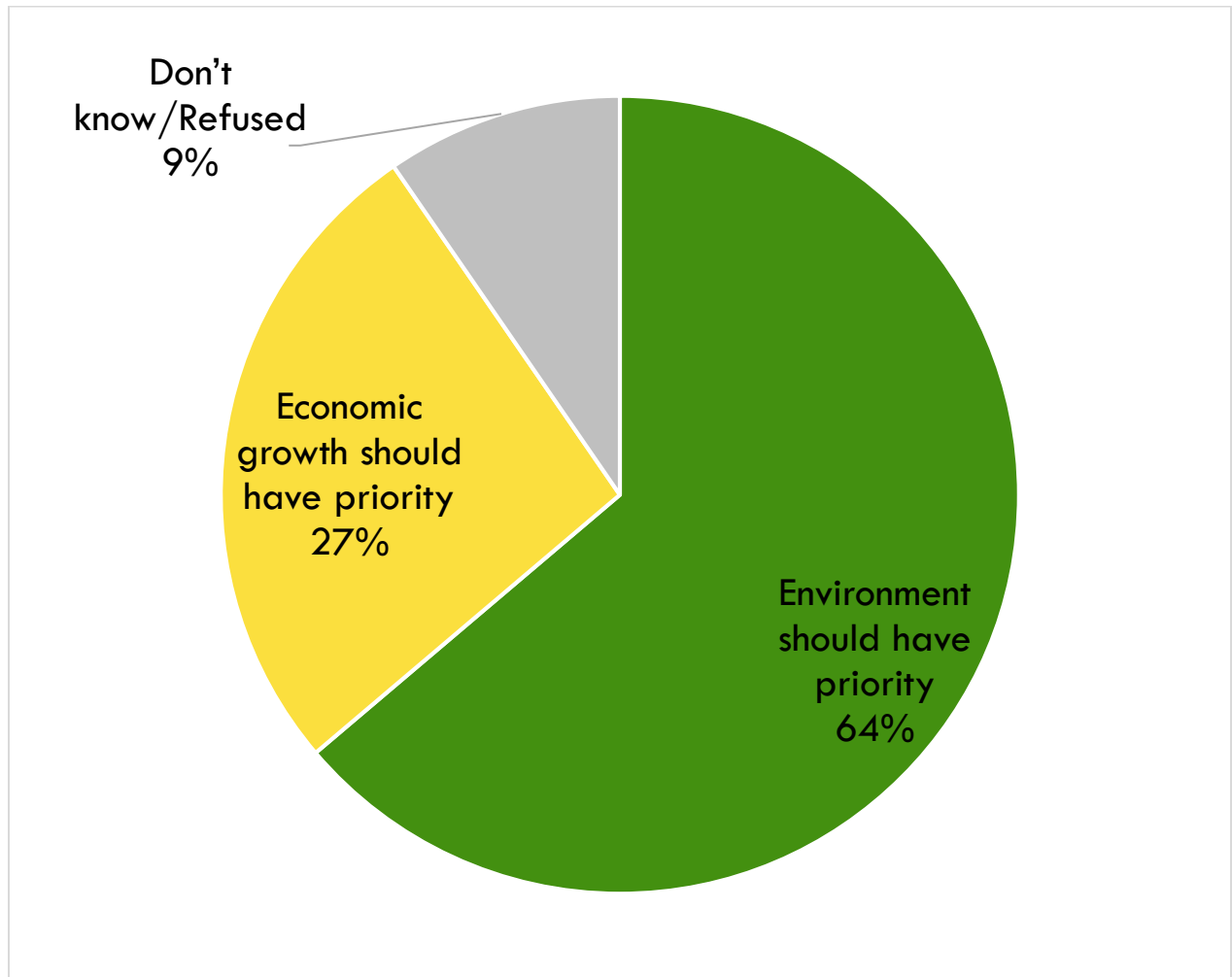
<sup>1</sup> Values are rounded and may not sum to 100%.

## Environment vs. Economic Growth

And again, which of these statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right:

- *Protection of the environment should be given priority, even at the risk of curbing economic growth OR*
- *Economic growth should be given priority, even if the environment suffers to some extent*

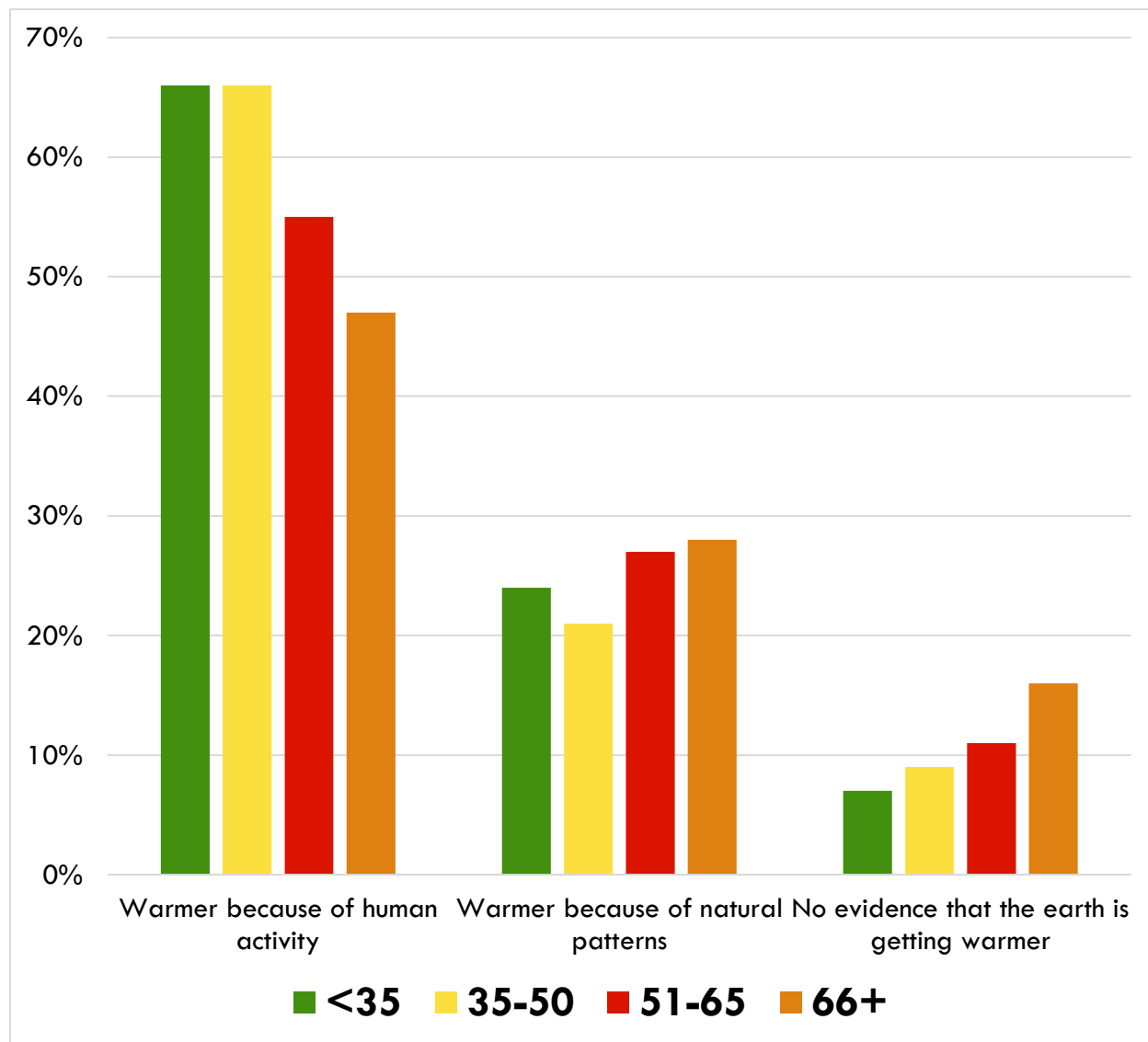
Response	Percent (n=1000)
Environment should have priority	63.8%
Economic growth should have priority	26.6%
Don't know/Refused	9.6%



## Demographic Crosstabs<sup>2</sup>

### CLIMATE CHANGE

#### By AGE



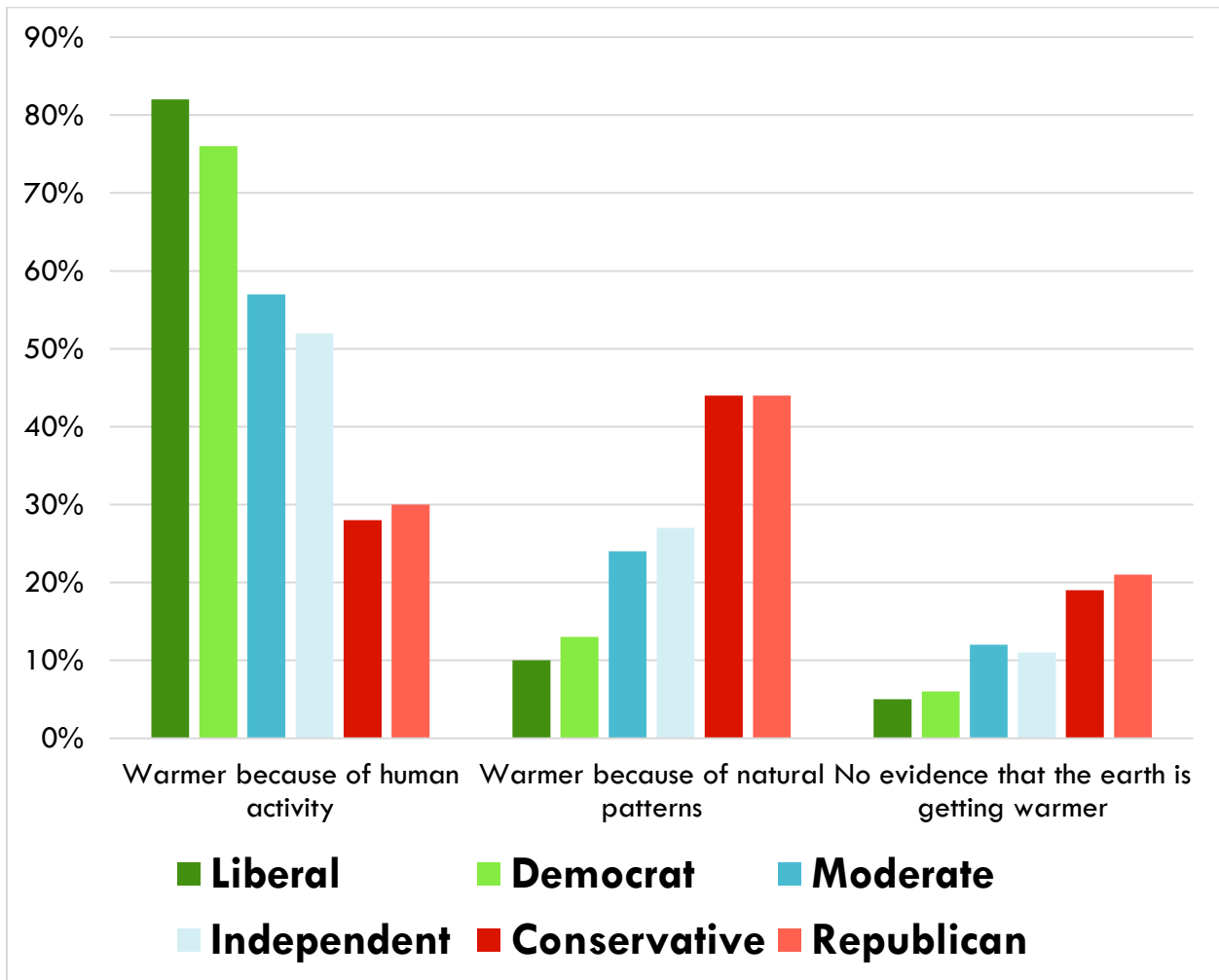
	<35	35-50	51-65	66+
Warmer because of human activity	66%	66%	55%	47%
Warmer because of natural patterns	24%	21%	27%	28%
No evidence that the earth is getting warmer	7%	9%	11%	16%
None of the above	1%	1%	2%	3%
Don't know/Refused	2%	3%	4%	6%

<sup>2</sup> Values are rounded so may not sum to 100%.

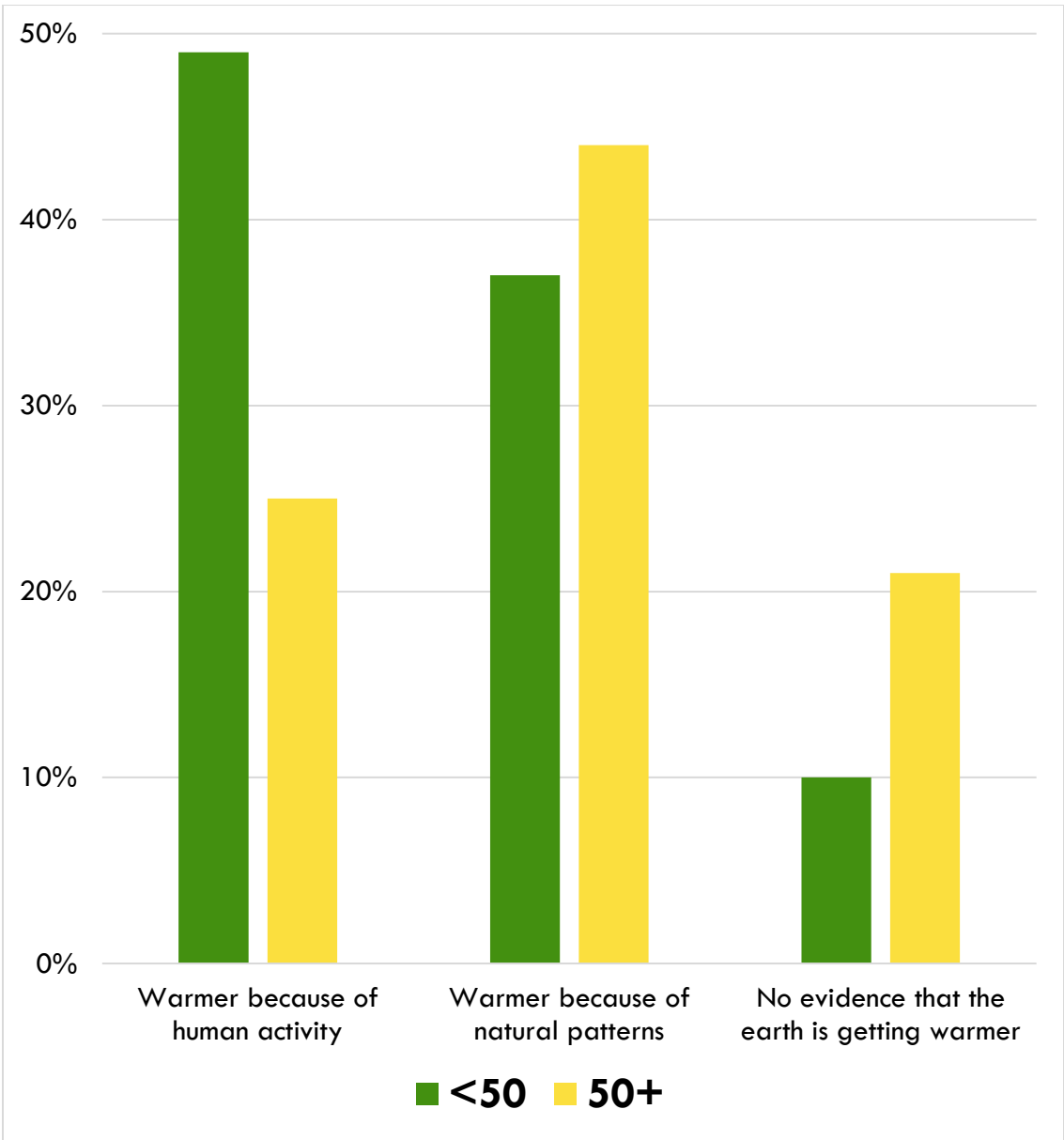
**By PARTY & IDEOLOGY**

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Warmer because of human activity	82%	57%	28%
Warmer because of natural patterns	10%	24%	44%
No evidence that the earth is getting warmer	5%	12%	19%
None of the above	1%	1%	3%
Don't know/Refused	2%	5%	5%

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Warmer because of human activity	76%	52%	30%
Warmer because of natural patterns	13%	27%	44%
No evidence that the earth is getting warmer	6%	11%	21%
None of the above	1%	5%	2%
Don't know/Refused	4%	5%	3%



**By AGE among Conservatives/Republicans<sup>3</sup>**

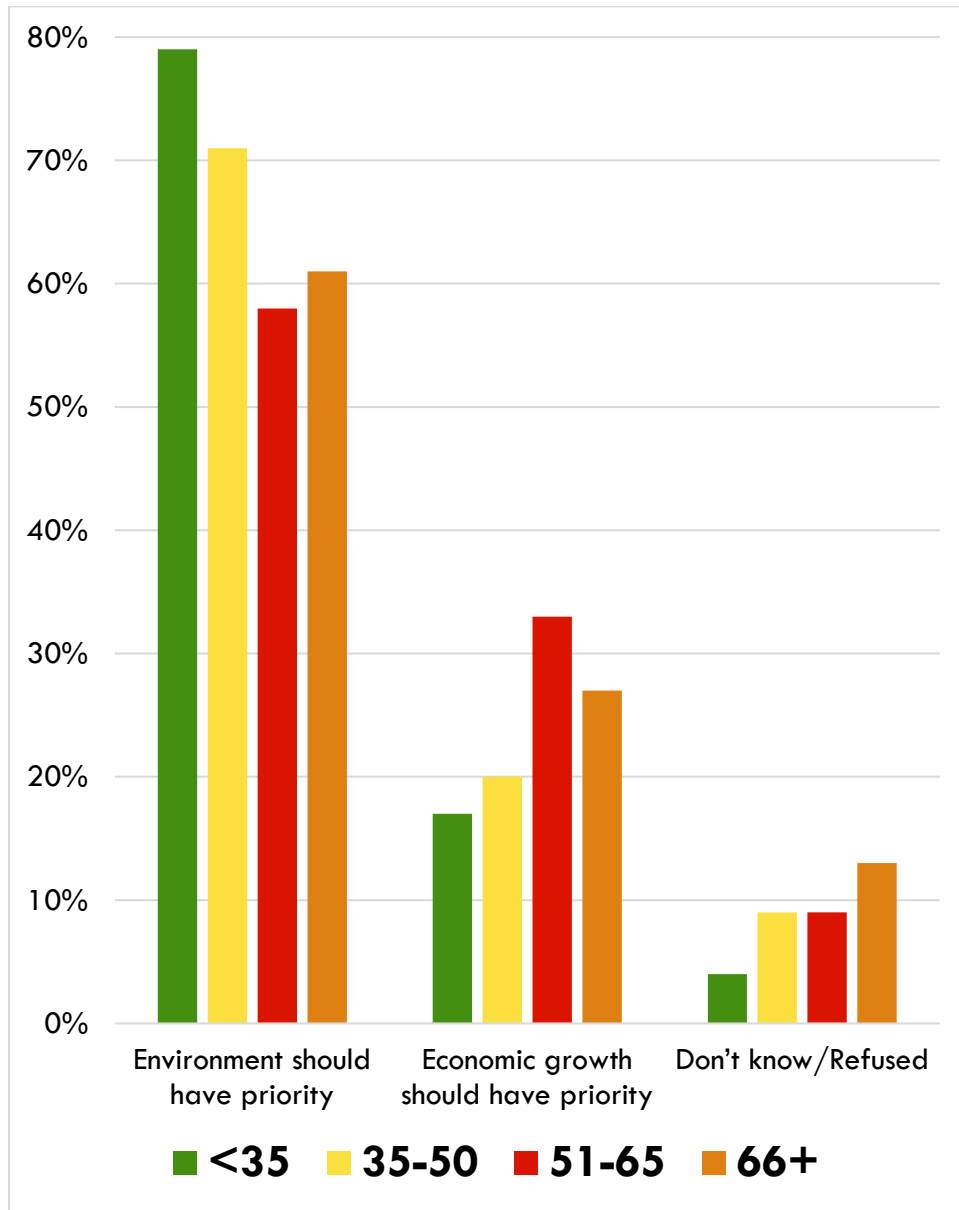


	<50	50+
Warmer because of human activity	49%	25%
Warmer because of natural patterns	37%	44%
No evidence that the earth is getting warmer	10%	21%
Other/Don't know/Refused	4%	9%

<sup>3</sup> These values represent only those that identify as conservative or Republican (n=426). The margin of error for this limited sample is 4.7 percentage points. Data were split by these groups (under 50 and over 50) because that is where the difference in opinion was observed (e.g. those under 35 and those between 35 and 50 held similar beliefs).

## ENVIRONMENT VS. ECONOMIC GROWTH

By AGE



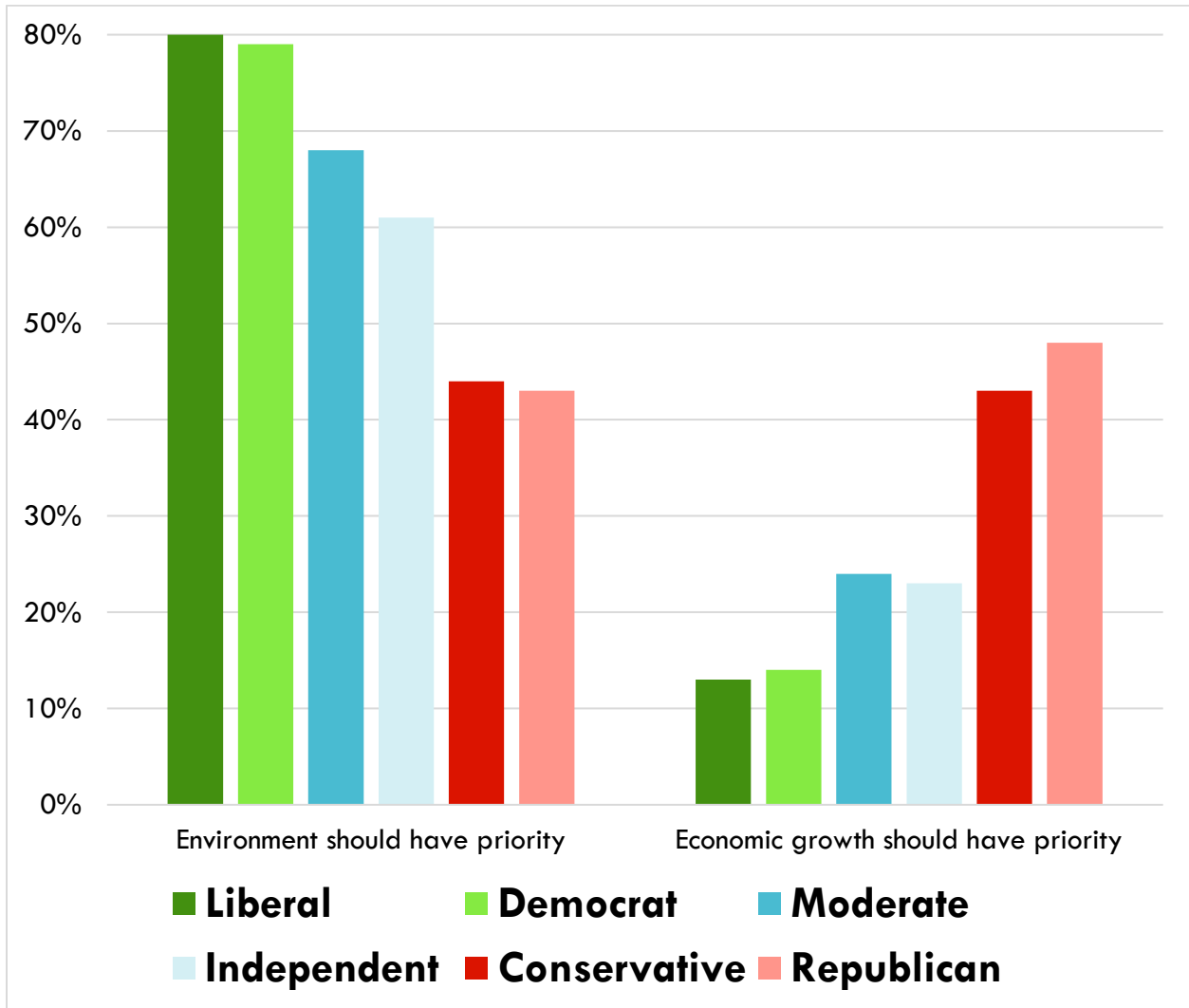
	<35	35-50	51-65	66+
Environment should have priority	79%	71%	58%	61%
Economic growth should have priority	17%	20%	33%	27%
Don't know/Refused	4%	9%	9%	13%



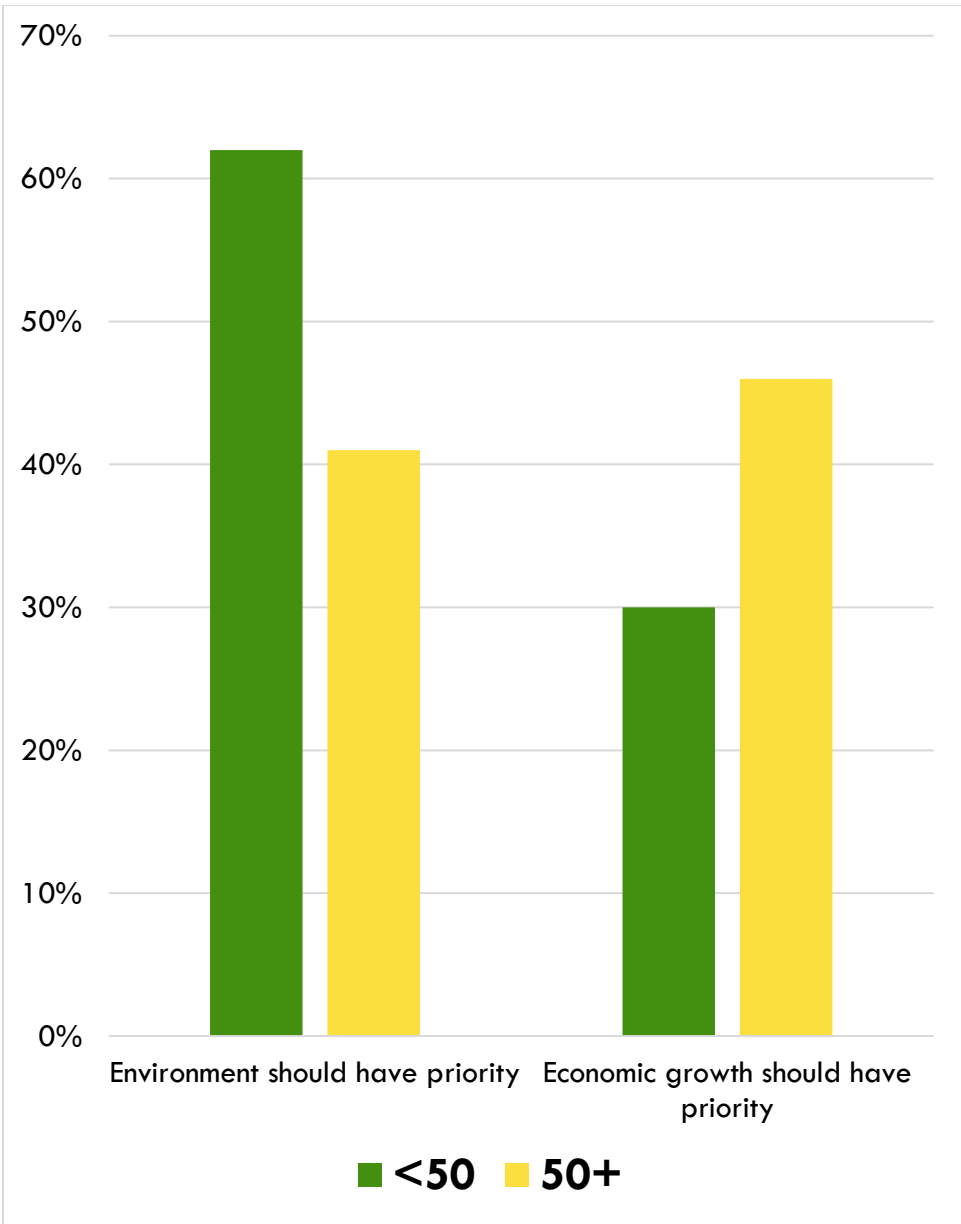
**By PARTY & IDEOLOGY**

	Democrat	Independent	Republican
Environment should have priority	79%	61%	43%
Economic growth should have priority	14%	23%	48%
Don't know/Refused	8%	15%	9%

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Environment should have priority	80%	68%	44%
Economic growth should have priority	13%	24%	43%
Don't know/Refused	7%	8%	13%



**By AGE among Conservatives/Republicans<sup>4</sup>**



	<50	50+
Environment should have priority	62%	41%
Economic growth should have priority	30%	46%
Don't know/Refused	8%	13%

<sup>4</sup> These values represent only those that identify as conservative or Republican (n=426). The margin of error for this limited sample is 4.7 percentage points. Data were split by these groups (under 50 and over 50) because that is where the difference in opinion was observed (e.g. those under 35 and those between 35 and 50 held similar beliefs).