

The LDS Church in Utah Politics

Surveys of Stake Presidents, Bishops, and Active Members

Research Information Division
September 2014

**Confidential—Not for Distribution
For Church Headquarters Use Only**

*To quote or reproduce this document or to request additional information,
contact the Research Information Division at 2-2727 (CF).
© 2014 by Intellectual Reserve, Inc. All rights reserved.*

Study Background

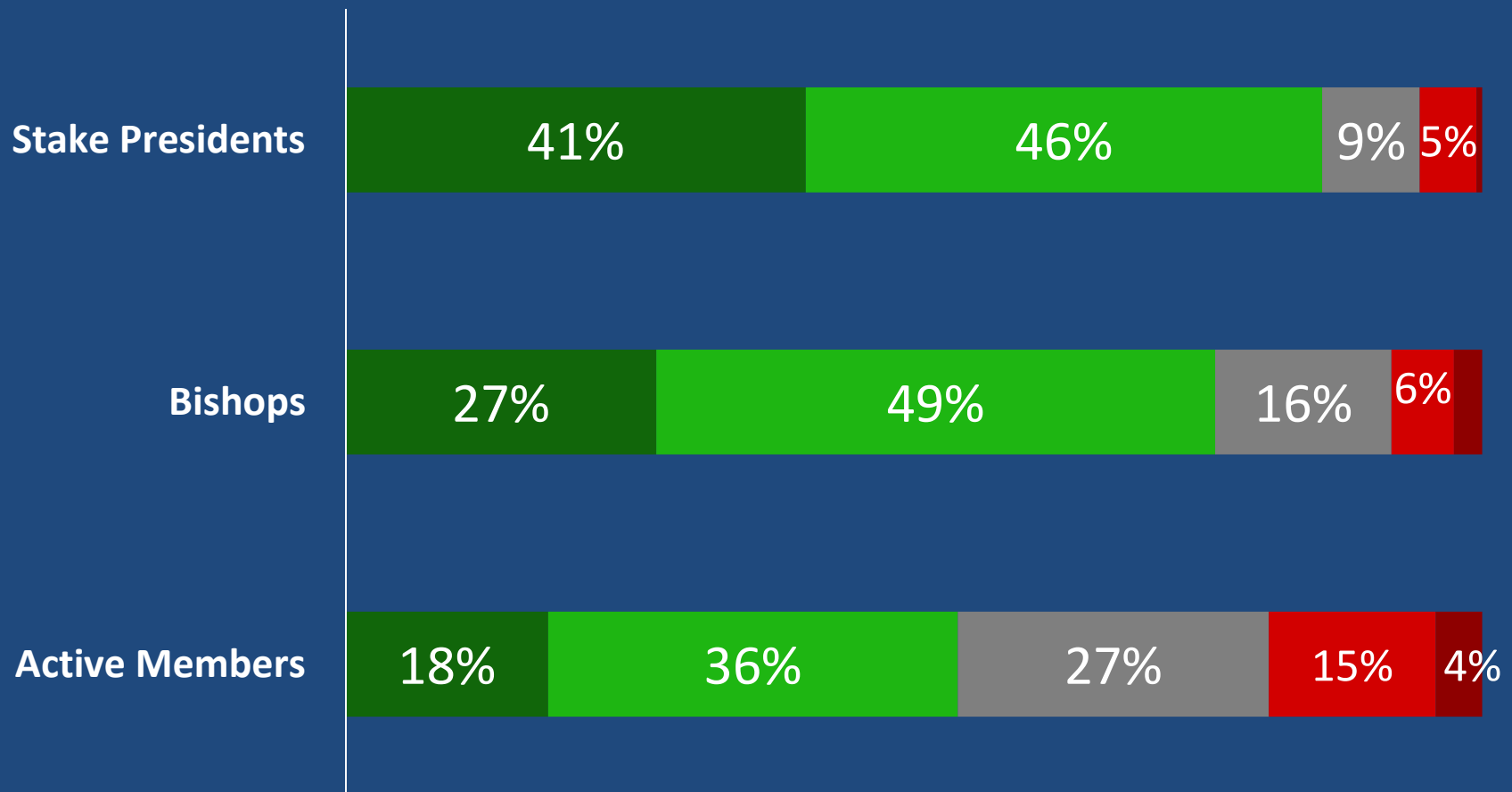
- In April 2014, RID invited local leaders and active LDS adults in Utah to participate in a web survey.
- Respondents:
 - Active members in Utah ($n=424$)
 - Bishops in Utah ($n=244$)
 - Stake presidents in Utah ($n=226$)

Outline

- Study Background
- Survey Findings about:
 - Perceived influence of the LDS Church in Utah politics

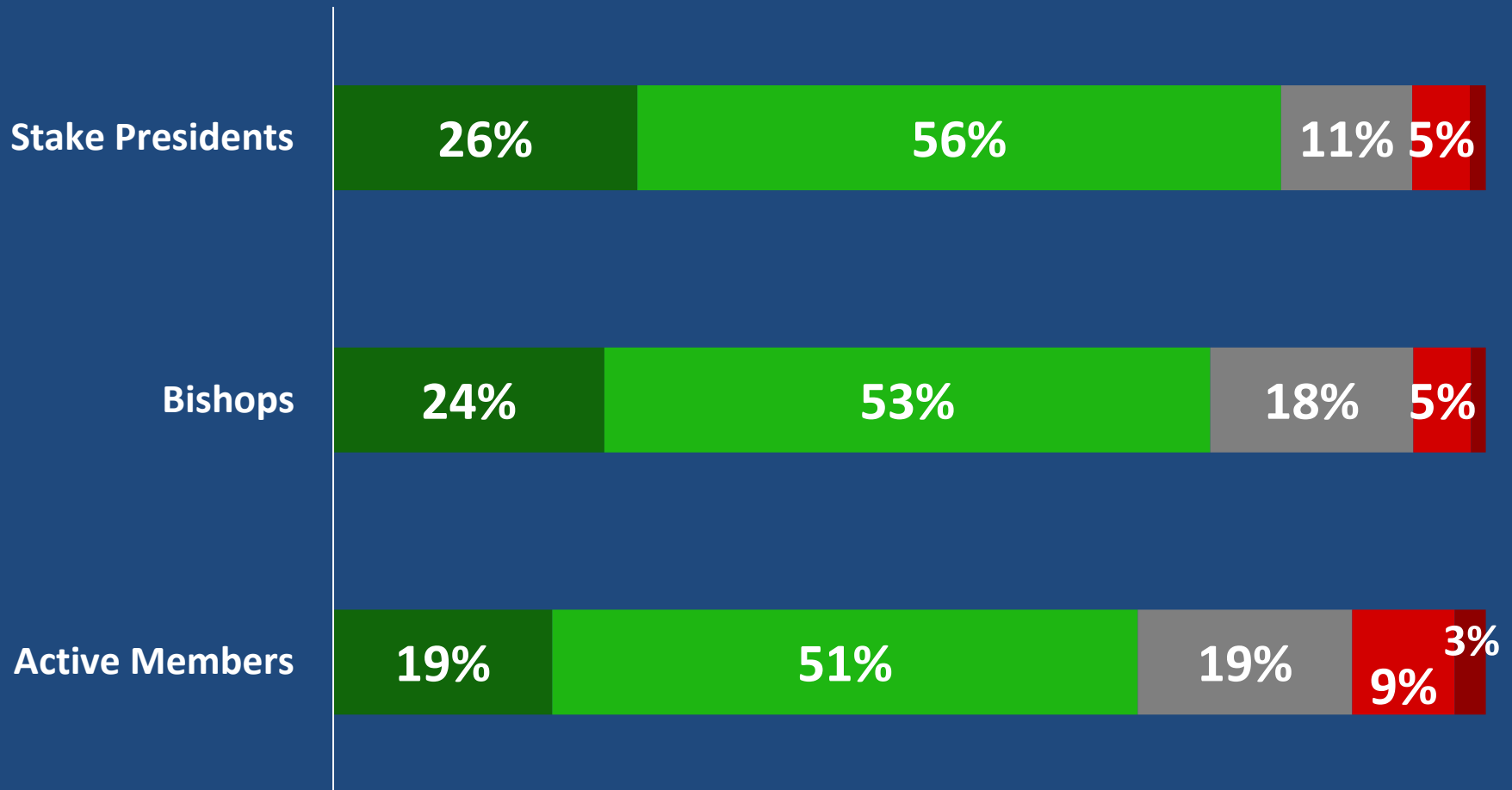
"The Church should have a strong influence in the State of Utah"

■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree



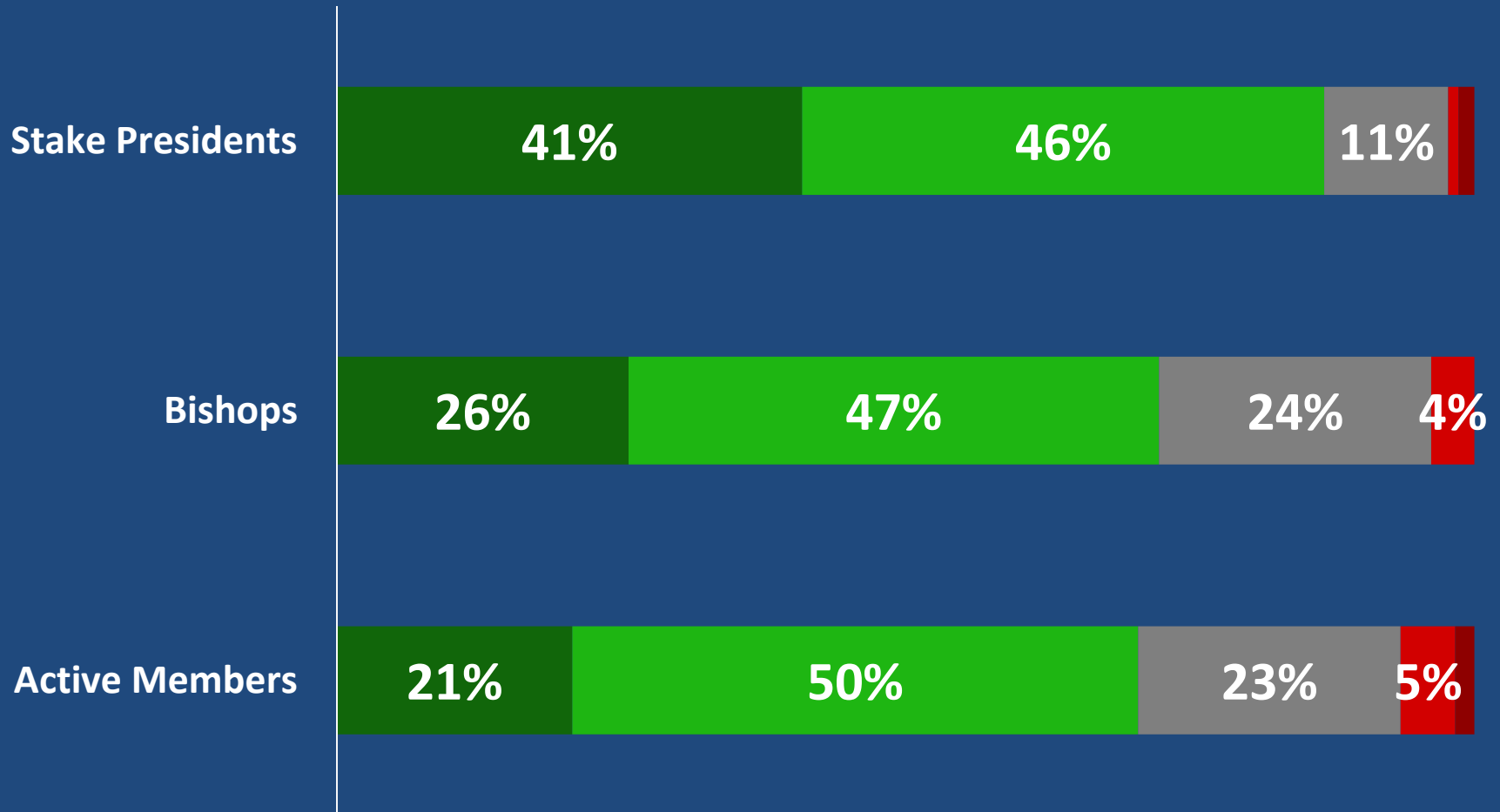
“The Church currently has a strong influence within the State of Utah.”

■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree



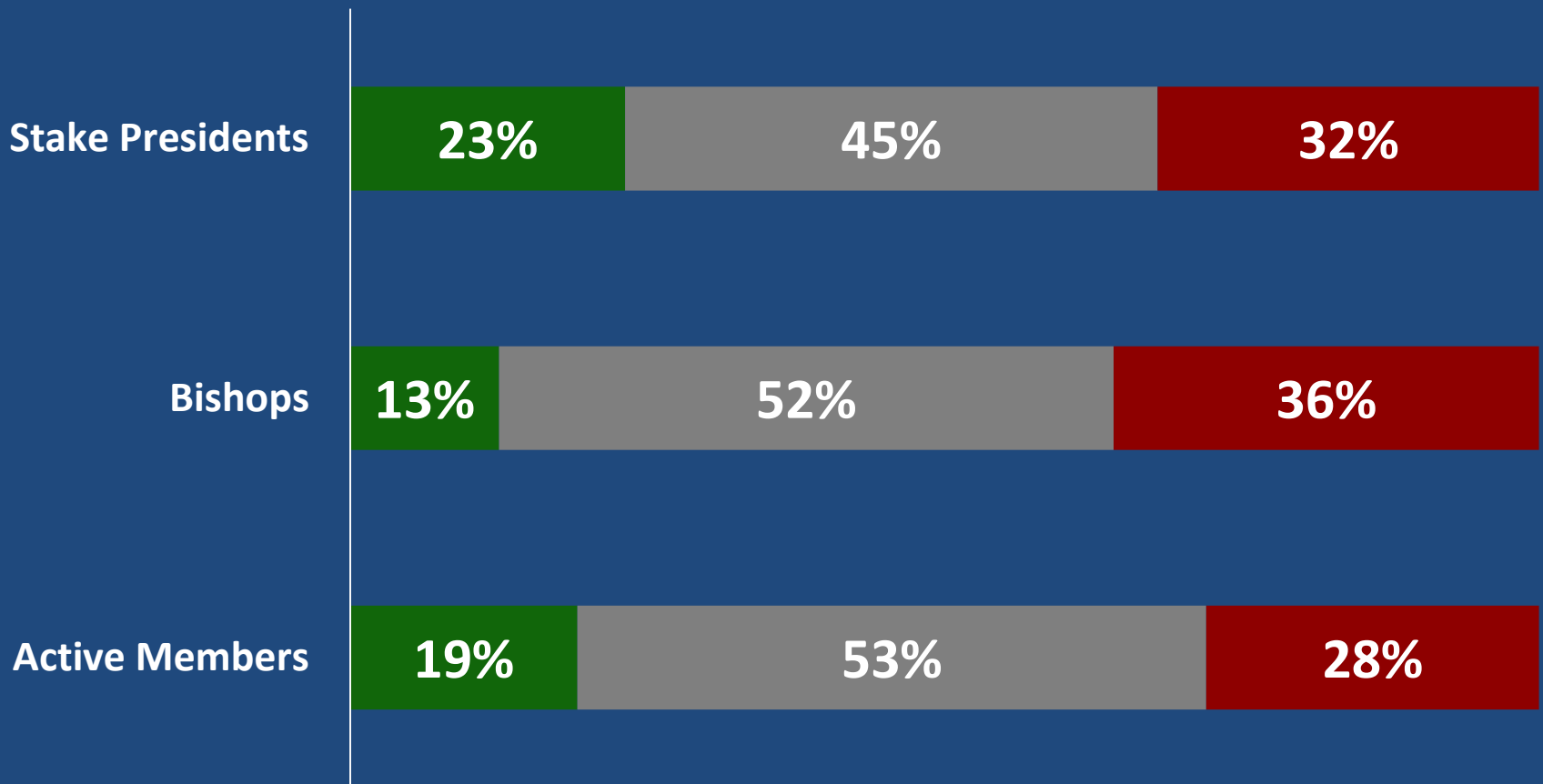
“The Church is too involved in Utah Politics.”

■ Strongly Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ Agree ■ Strongly Agree



"In the last five years, would you say the influence of the Church on Utah politics is . . . "

■ Increasing ■ About the Same ■ Decreasing



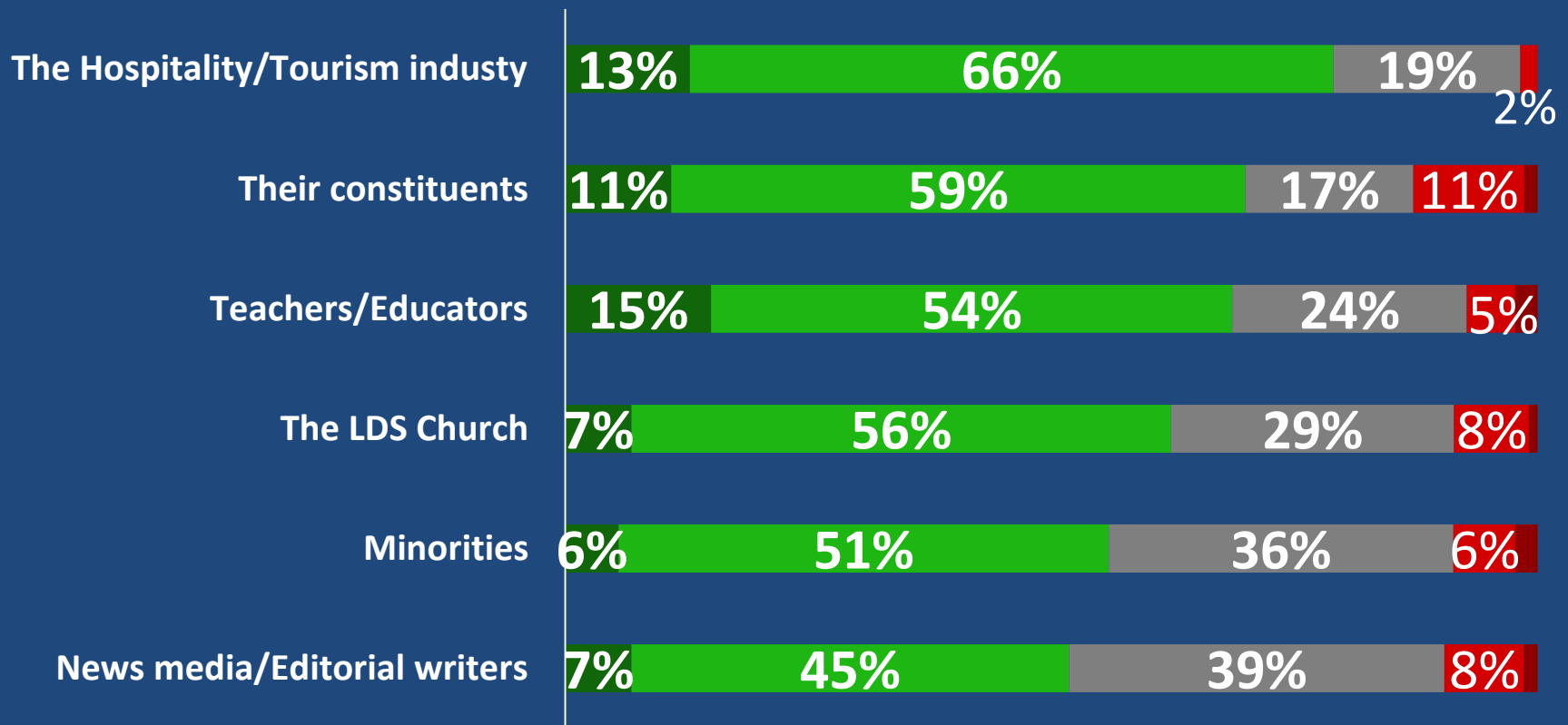
Outline

- Study Background
- Survey Findings about:
 - Perceived influence of the LDS Church in Utah politics
 - Perceived response of Utah State Legislature to various stakeholders, including the LDS Church

“In making policies and laws, the Utah State Legislature takes into account the views of . . .”

Stake Presidents

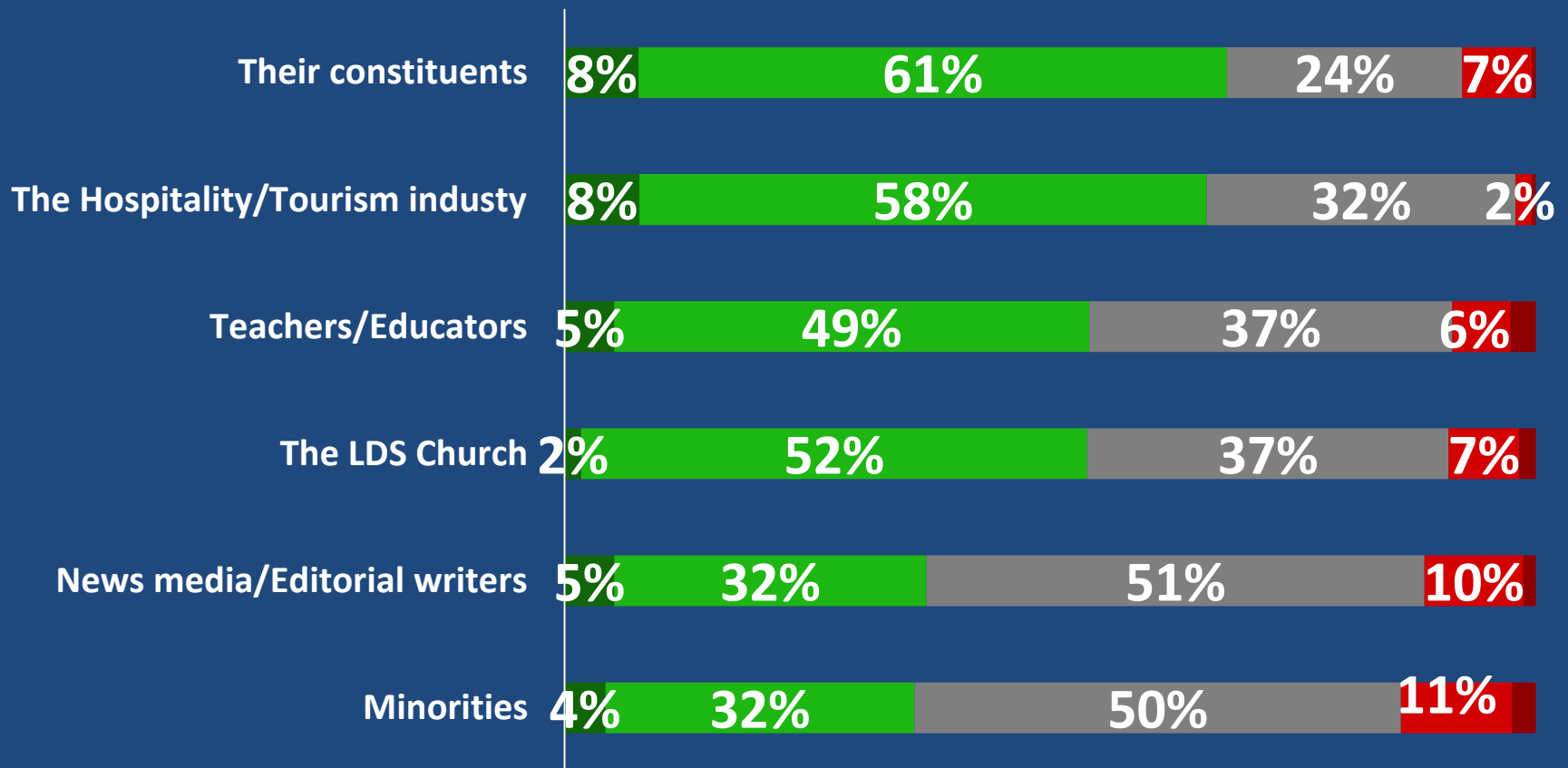
■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree



“In making policies and laws, the Utah State Legislature takes into account the views of . . .”

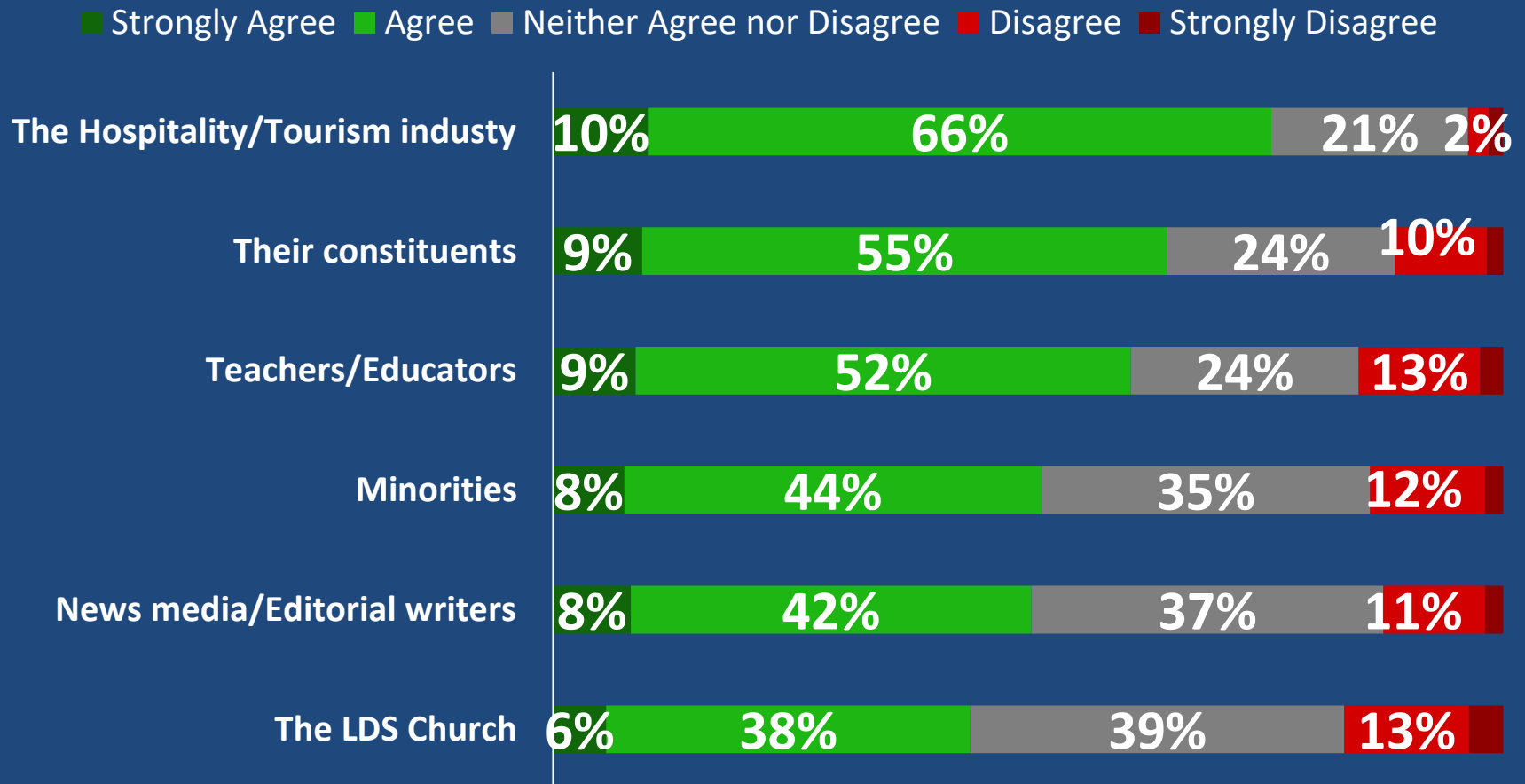
Bishops

Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree



“In making policies and laws, the Utah State Legislature takes into account the views of . . .”

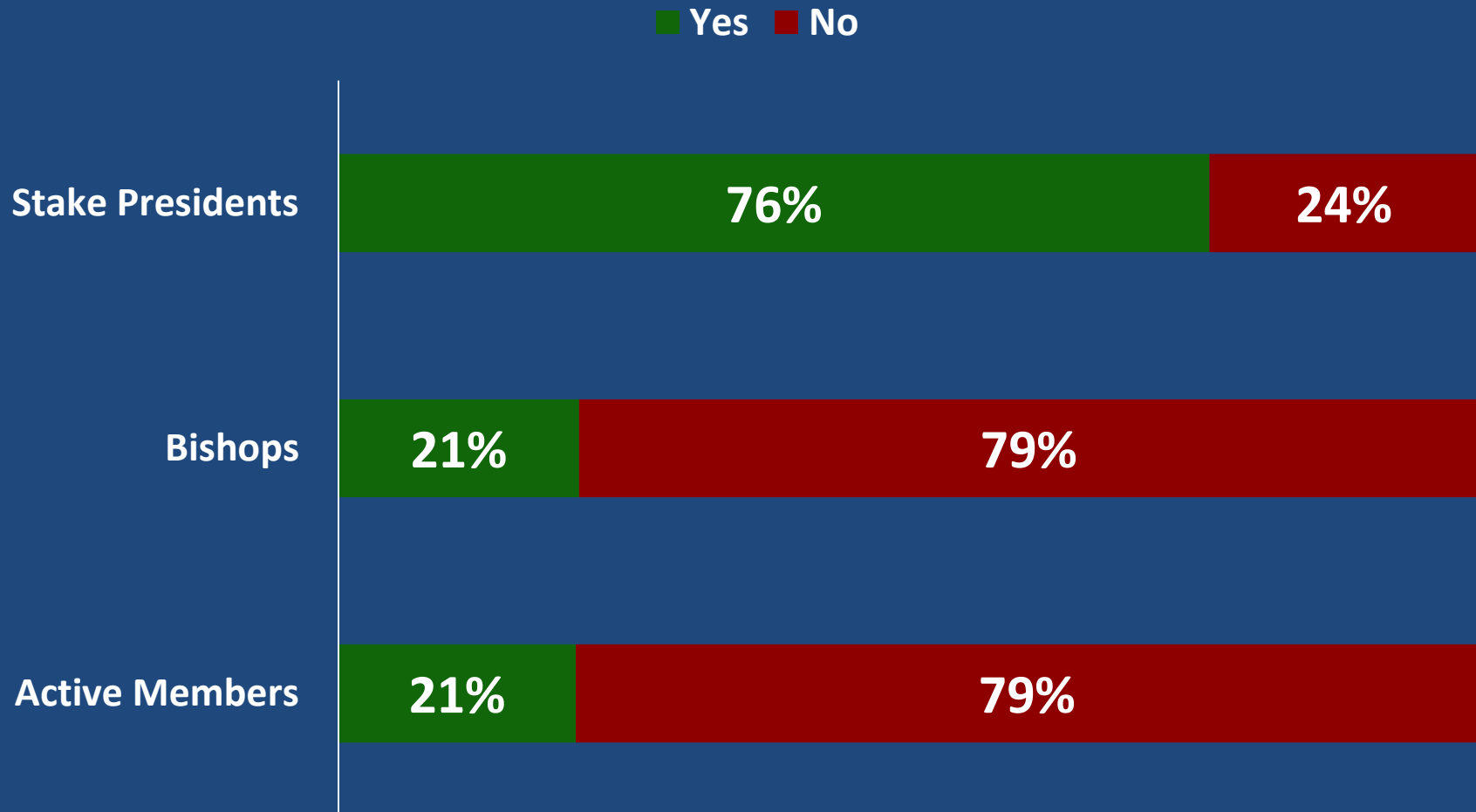
Active LDS Members



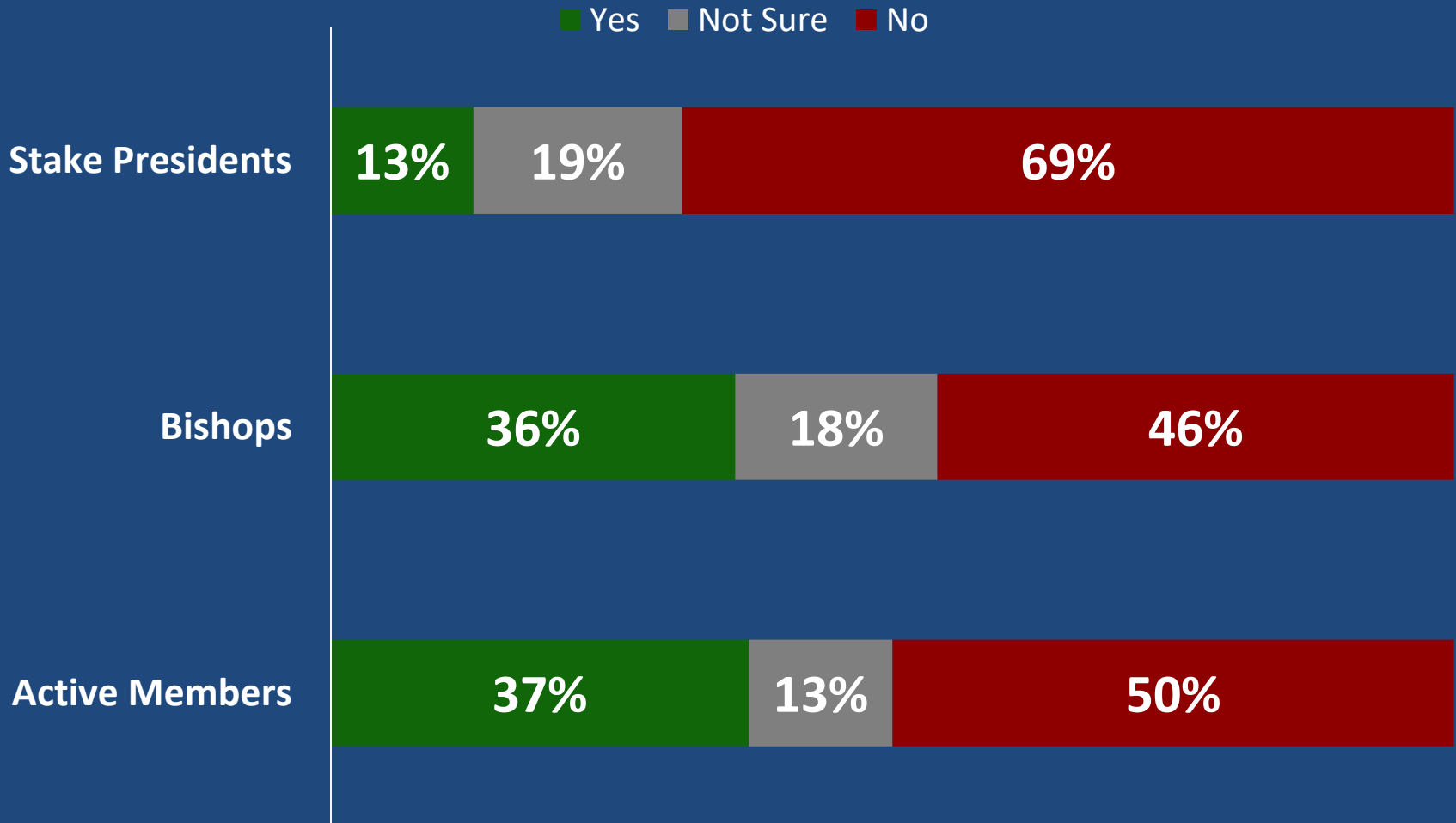
Outline

- Study Background
- Survey Findings about:
 - Perceived influence of the LDS Church in Utah politics
 - Perceived response of Utah State Legislature to various stakeholders, including the LDS Church
 - Awareness of LDS Church messages and materials regarding Utah's alcohol laws

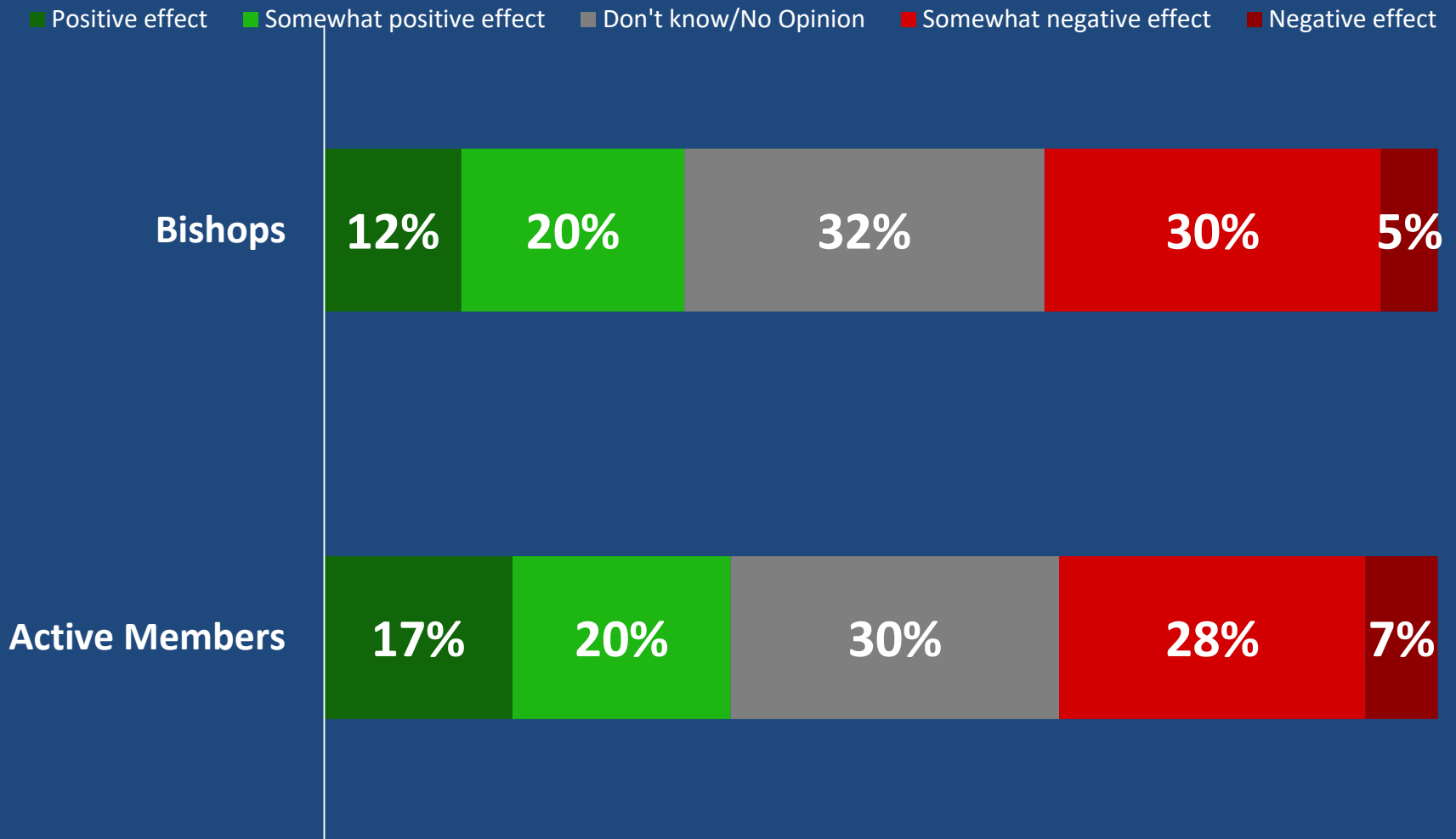
“Have you seen any messages from the Church regarding its position on Utah's alcohol laws?”



[Of those who have seen any Church message:] “Have you seen a video featuring one of the Apostles regarding Utah’s alcohol laws?”

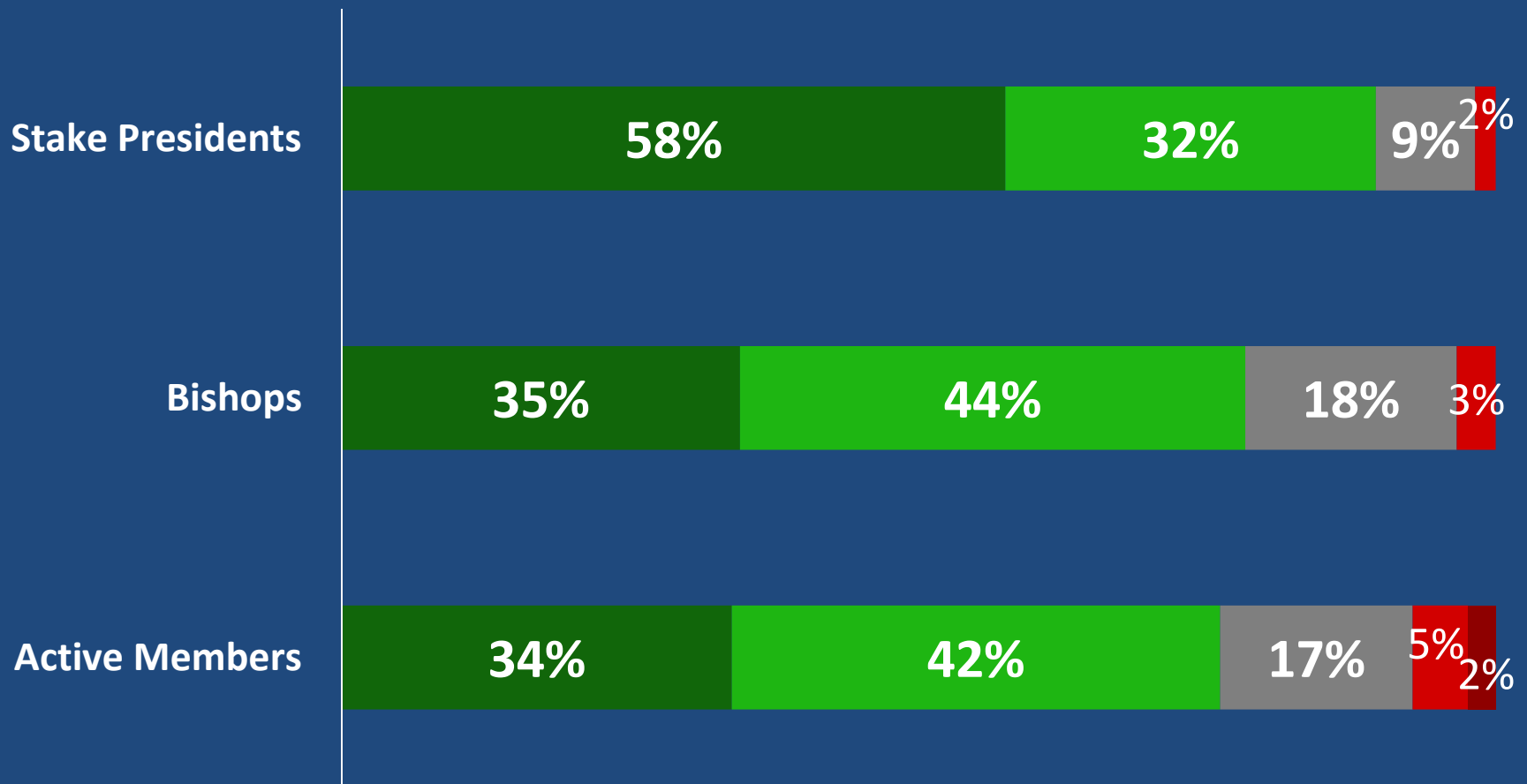


“In terms of economic impact on the state, do you think that Utah’s alcohol laws have a . . .”



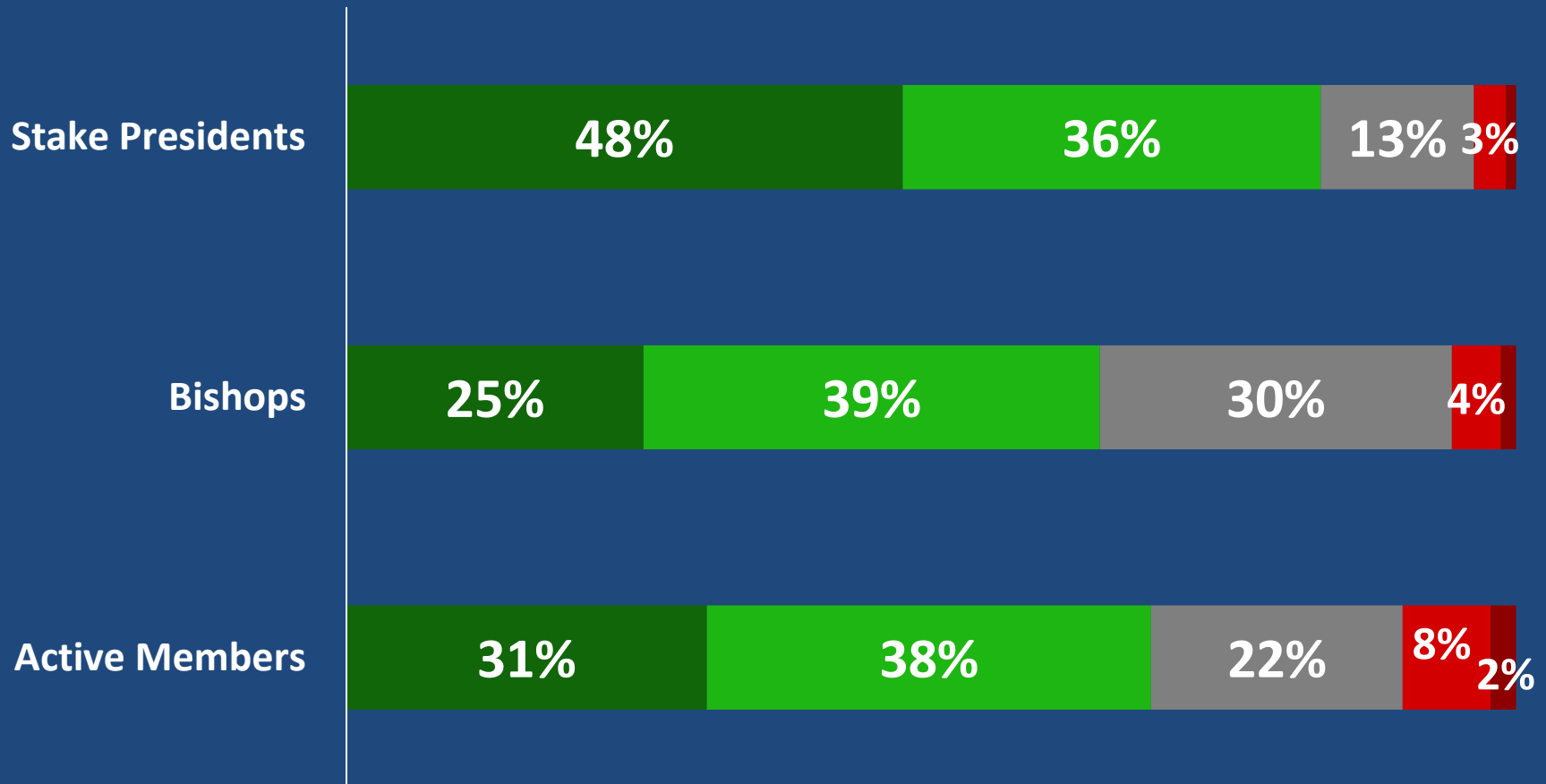
“I support the Church in maintaining Utah’s current alcohol laws.”

■ Strongly Agree ■ Agree ■ Neither Agree nor Disagree ■ Disagree ■ Strongly Disagree

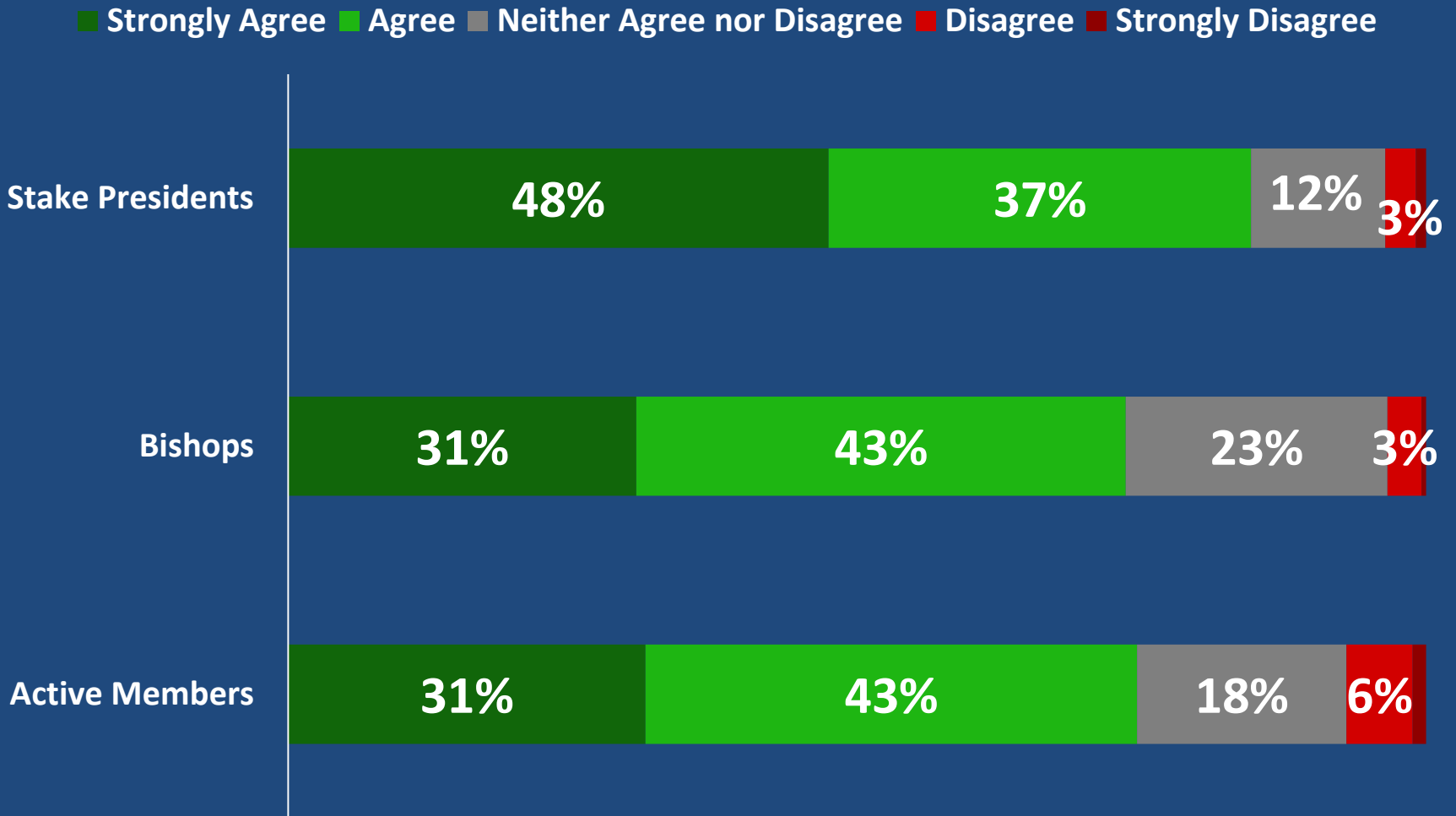


“Preserving Utah’s current alcohol laws is important to me.”

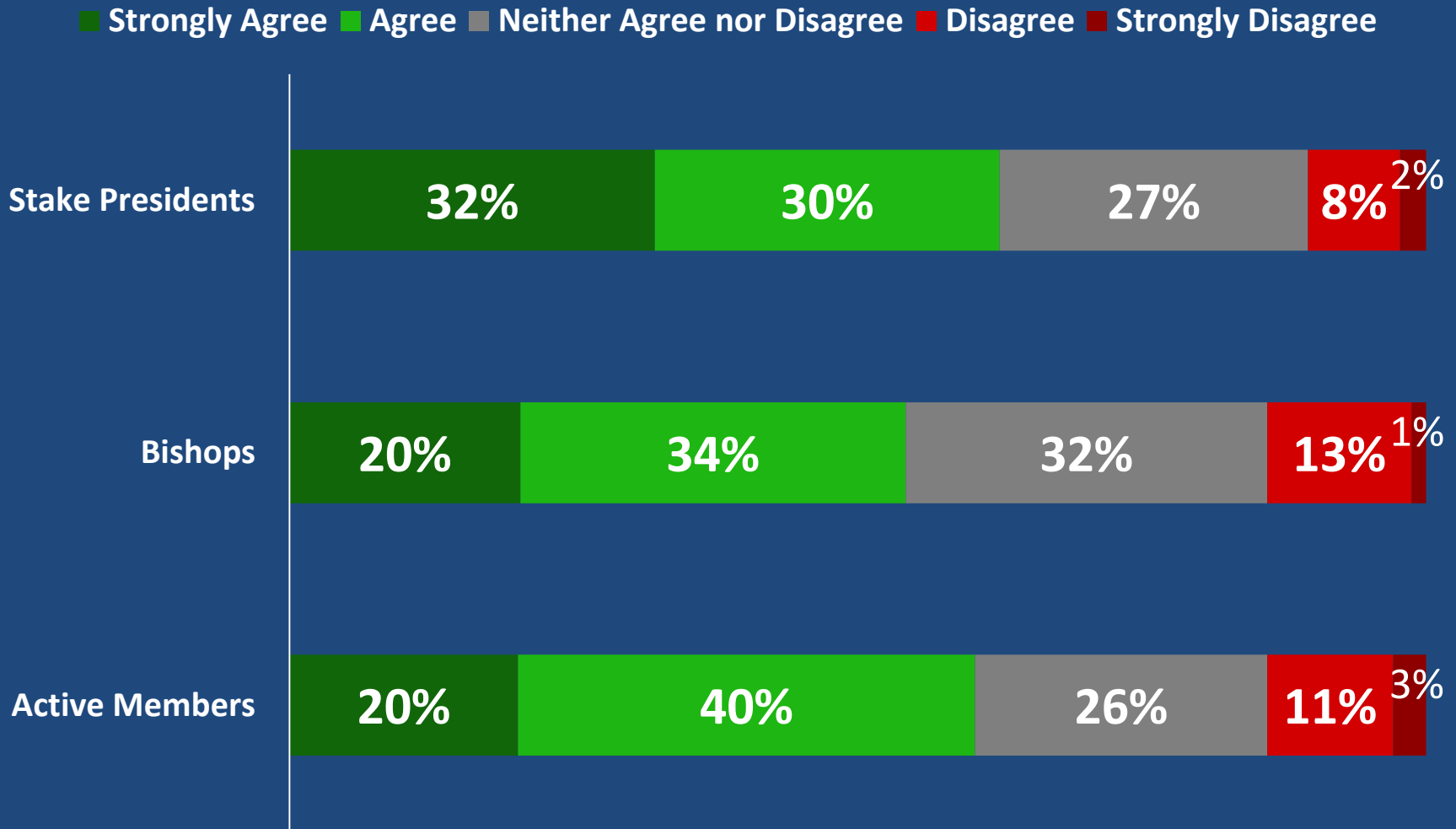
Strongly Agree Agree Neither Agree nor Disagree Disagree Strongly Disagree



“Utah’s alcohol laws improve public safety within the state.”



“Utah’s alcohol laws benefit the reputation of the state.”



Summary

Perceived Influence of the Church

1. About the same percentages of Utah stake presidents and bishops who agreed that the Church has a strong influence in Utah also agreed that the Church *should* have a strong influence in Utah. However for active adults, 70% agreed that the Church currently has a strong influence but only 54% agreed that the Church *should* have a strong influence.
2. High percentages of Utah stake presidents (87%), bishops (73%), and active adults (71%) disagreed that the Church is too involved in Utah politics. Only 2% to 6% agreed.

Summary

Perceived Influence of the Church (continued)

3. Roughly 1/2 of Utah stake presidents, bishops, and active adults say the influence of the Church in Utah politics is “about the same” over the last 5 years, another 1/3 say it is “decreasing,” and about 1/5 say it is “increasing.”

Perceptions of the Utah State Legislature

4. Utah stake presidents, bishops, and active adults agreed that the Utah State Legislature takes into account the views of “the hospitality/tourism industry,” “their constituents,” and “teachers/educators” the most. They agreed that the legislature take into account the views of “the LDS Church,” “news medial/editorial writers,” and “minorities” the least.

Summary

Awareness of Church Messages about Utah Alcohol Laws

5. A high percentage of Utah stake presidents (76%) have seen a message(s) from the Church regarding its position on Utah's alcohol laws. A significantly lower percentage of Utah bishops (21%) and active adults (21%) saw a Church message(s) on this topic!
6. Conversely, of the 76% of Utah stake presidents who saw a message(s), only 13% said they saw a video featuring one of the Apostles! Slightly over 1/3 of Utah bishops and active adults said they saw a video featuring an Apostle.

Summary

Awareness of Church Messages (continued)

7. Roughly 1/3 of Utah bishops and active adults think that Utah's alcohol laws have a positive economic impact on Utah, another 1/3 think they have a negative economic impact, and the final 1/3 say they don't know.
8. High percentages of Utah stake presidents, bishops, and active adults agreed that they “support the Church in maintaining Utah's current alcohol laws” (75% to 90%), that “preserving Utah's alcohol laws is important to them” (70% to 82%), and that “Utah's alcohol laws improve public safety within the state” (74% to 85%). But a lower percentage agreed that “Utah's alcohol laws benefit the reputation of the state” (54% to 62%).