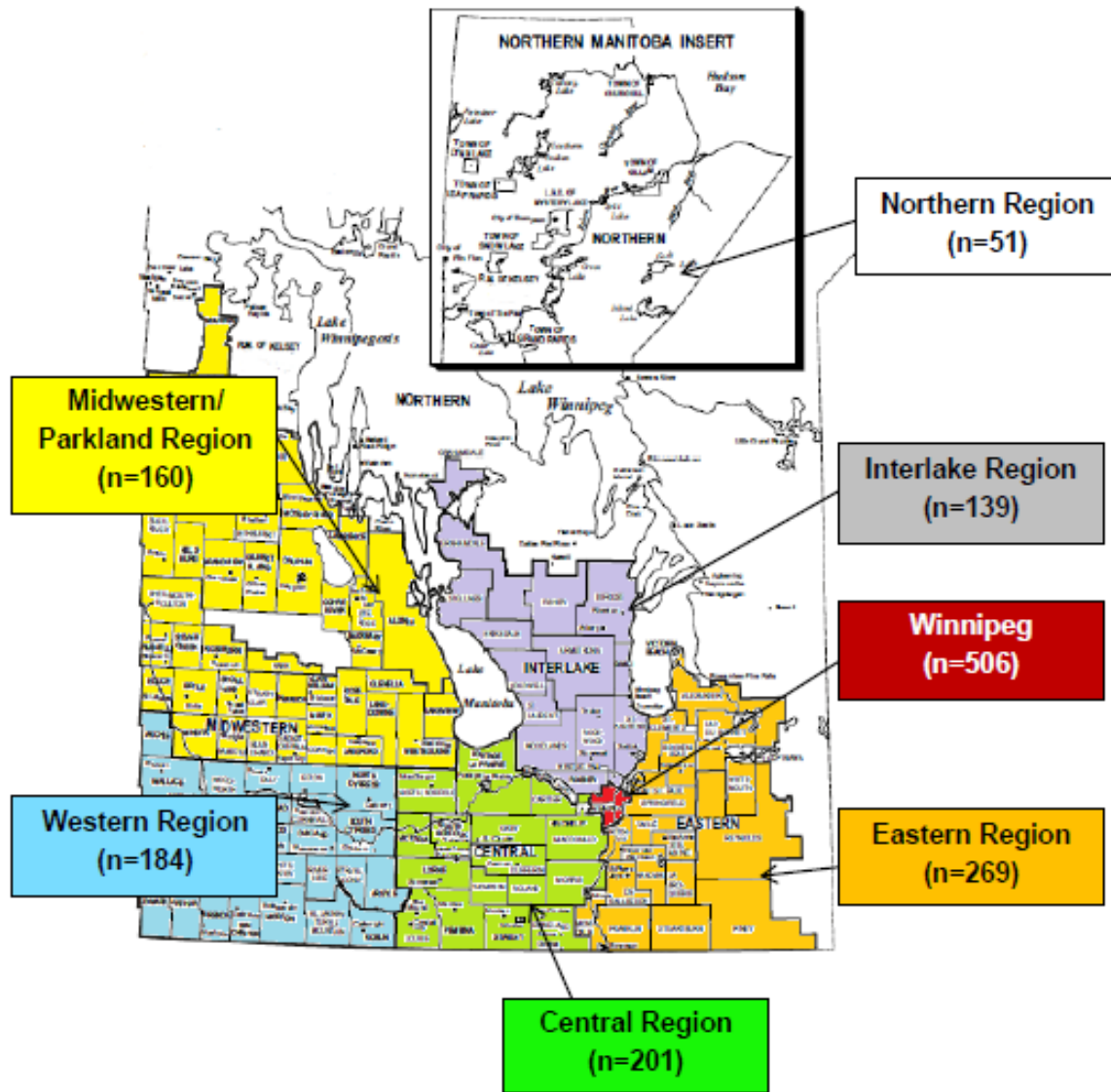


# Everything is Local – Probe Research Survey on Municipal Issues



# Methodology

- Survey of a random and representative sample of 1,510 Manitoba adults
  - 506 in Winnipeg
  - 1,004 outside Winnipeg (broken down based on AMM districts)
- Conducted November 15<sup>th</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013
- Margin of error is +/- 2.53%, 19 times out 20



# Key Message #1

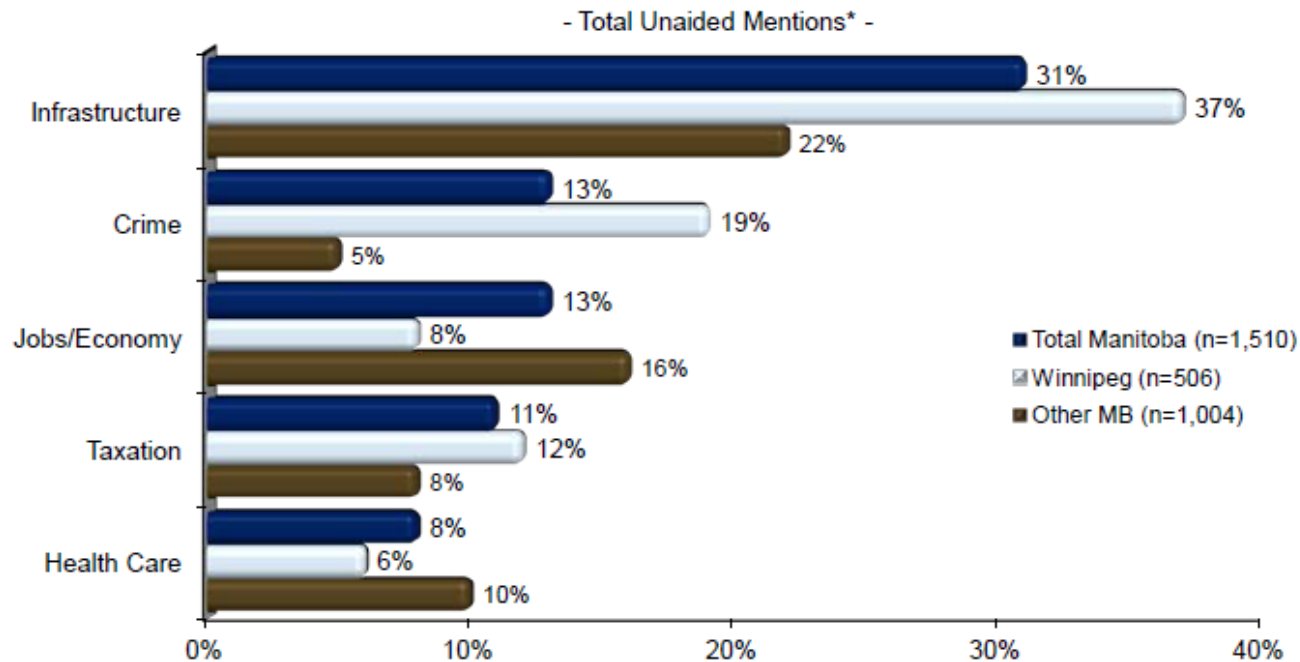
- **Infrastructure** is the most critical top-of-mind issue for Manitobans today.
- Almost one-third (31%) of those asked said infrastructure was the most important issue for their communities.
- Slightly more than one-in-ten (13%) believe that crime and public safety and jobs and the economy are the most important issues facing their communities.

# Top-of-Mind Issue



## Most Important Community Concerns

CG1. "I would like to begin by having you tell me what you consider to be the most important issue or concern facing [Winnipeg/your municipality] today. And what other issues or concerns do you think are important for your municipality today?"



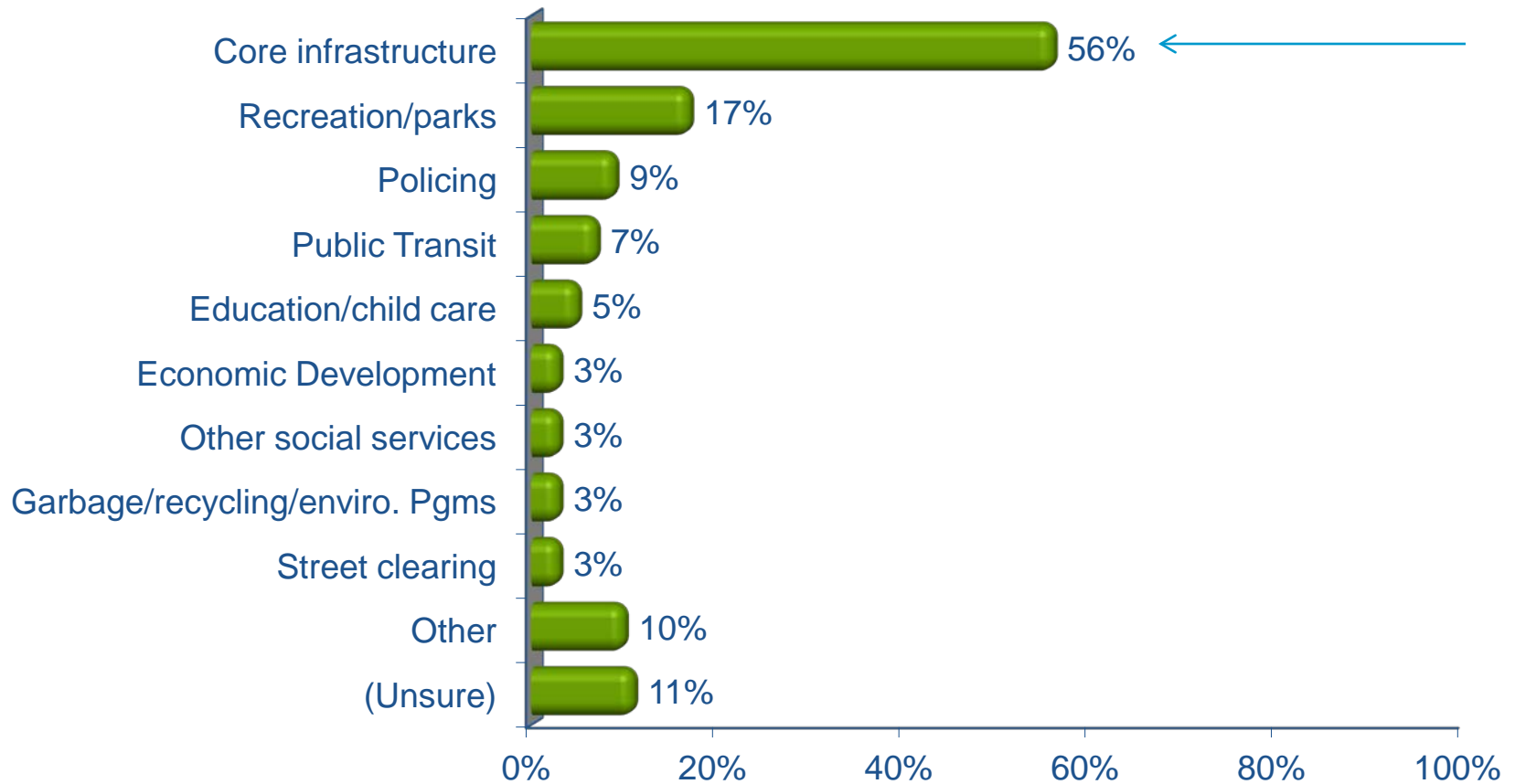
\* Multiple mentions were accepted, thus totals may exceed 100%

# Key Message #2

- The majority of Manitoba adults - 56% - believe local governments should spend more money on **core** infrastructure – which includes streets, roads, bridges, and water/wastewater assets.



# Top-of-Mind Municipal Spending Priorities



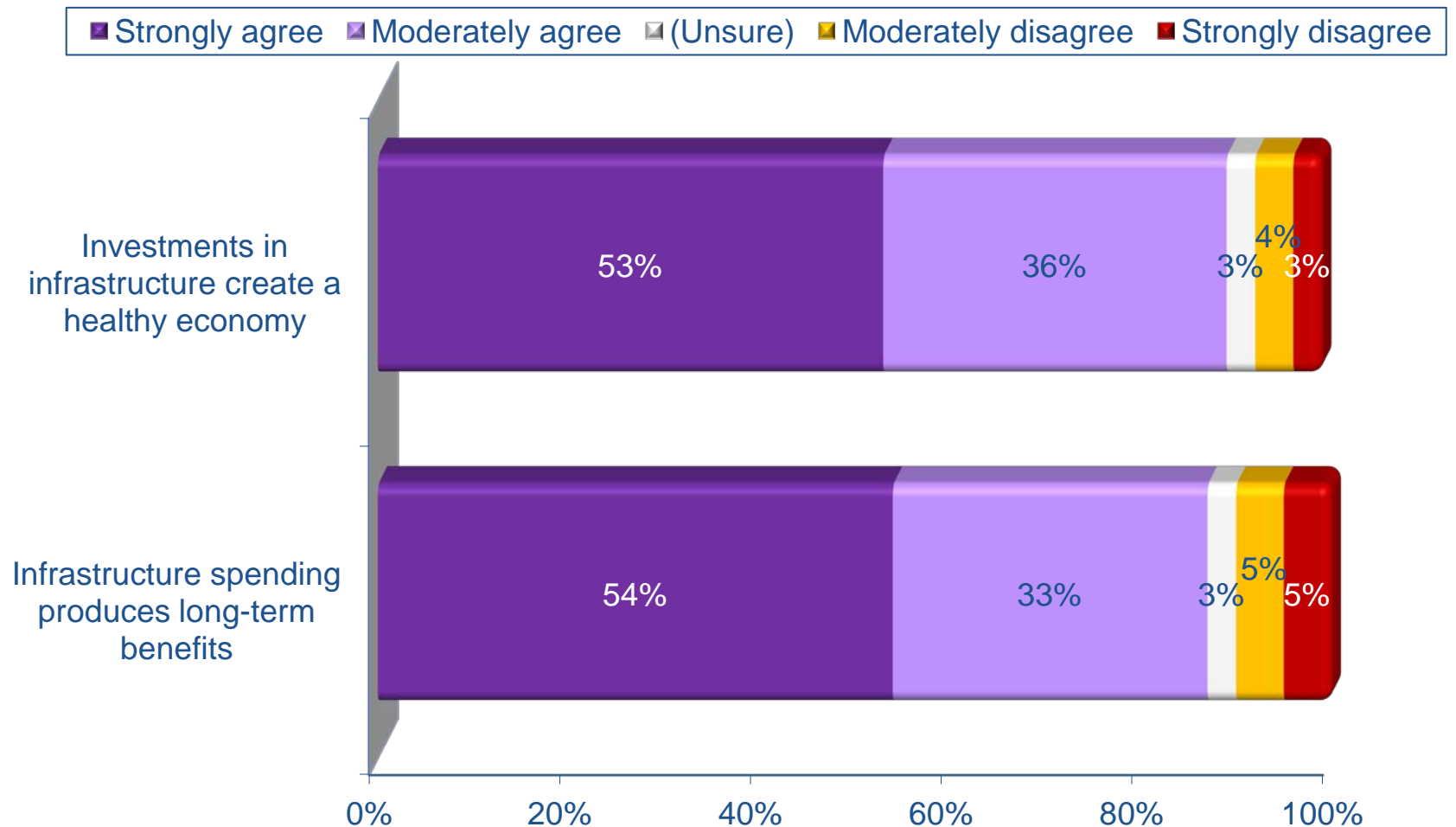
# Key Message #3

- Manitobans agree that investing in infrastructure creates important socio-economic benefits – it is our “*economic health care*” program





# General Attitudes on Selected Infrastructure Statements



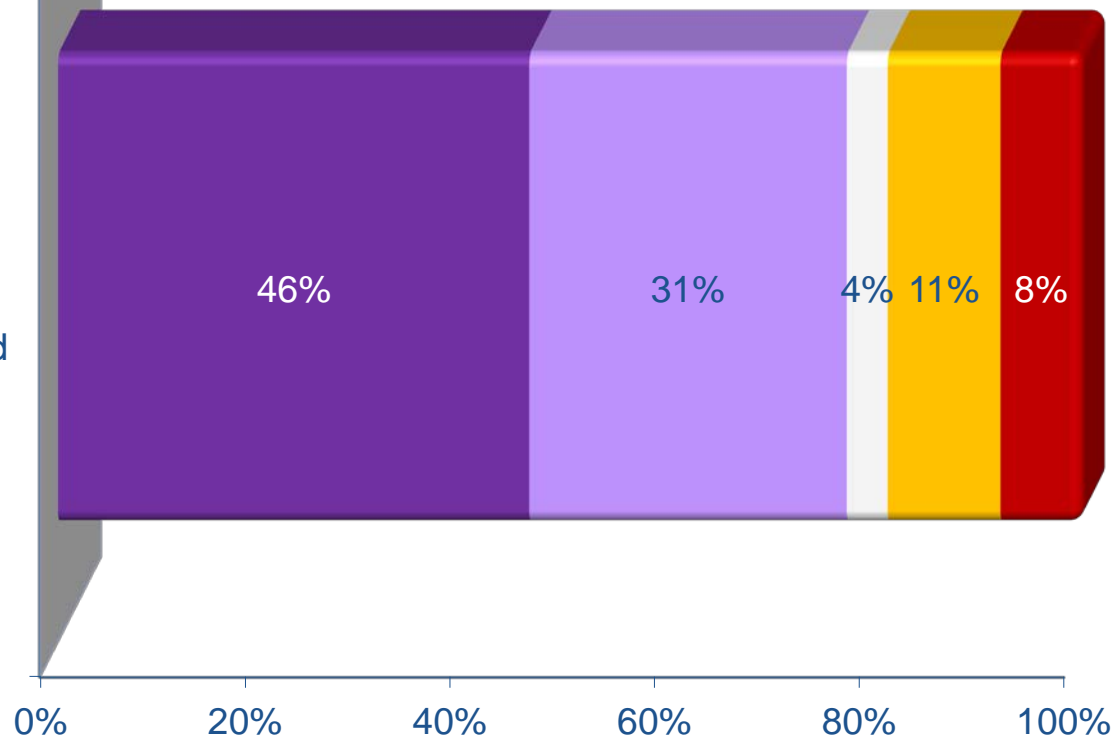
# Key Message #4

- A majority of Manitobans agree that **municipal governments** are in the best position to determine how infrastructure investments should be allocated.
- Fewer than half of all Manitobans believe that infrastructure funding is delivered fairly by the provincial government (42%, including just 13% who strongly agree).
- **Clearly, Manitobans have a higher level of trust in their municipal government than they do in their provincial government.**

# General Attitudes on Selected Infrastructure Statements

■ Strongly agree ■ Moderately agree ■ (Unsure) ■ Moderately disagree ■ Strongly disagree

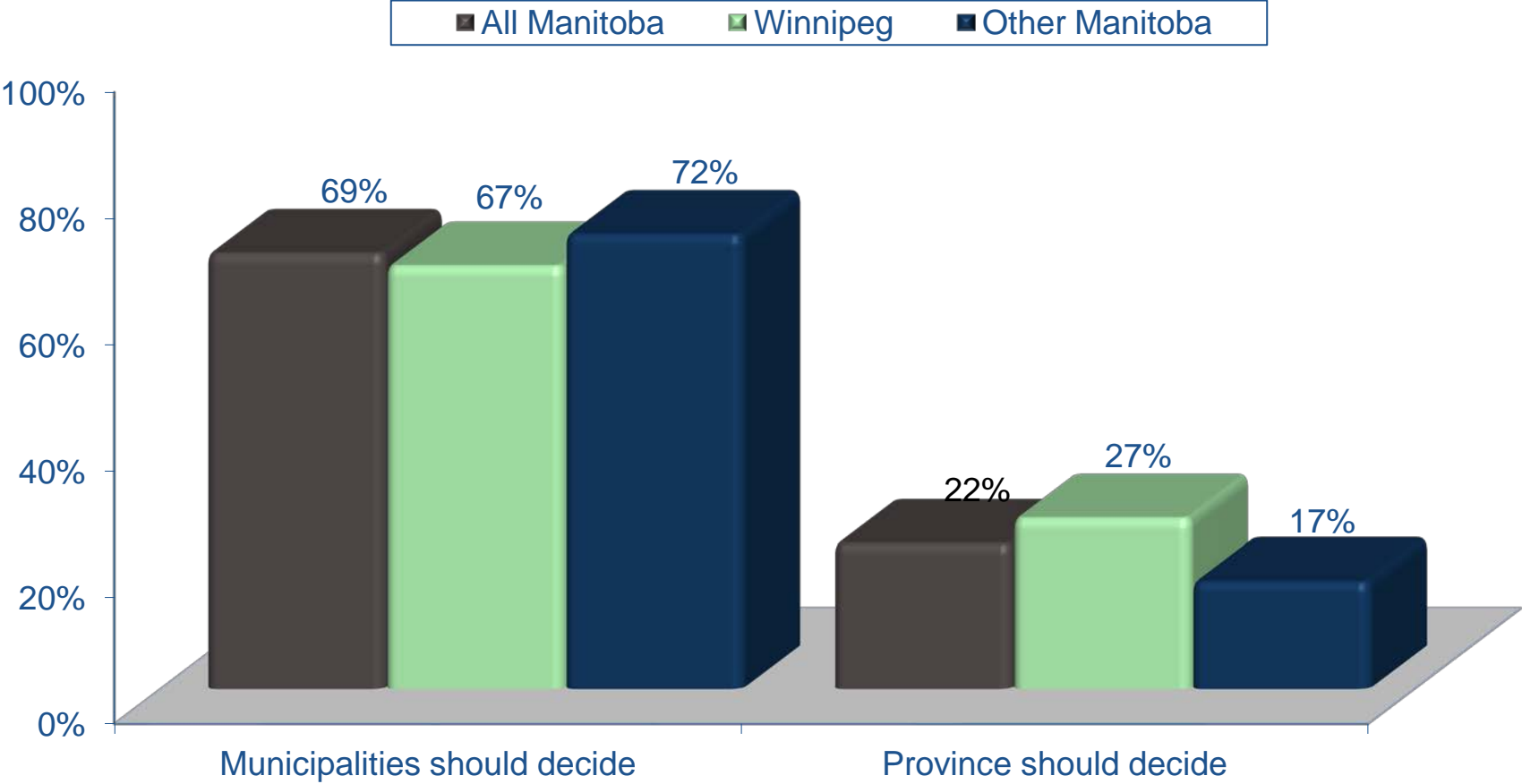
Municipalities in best position to decide how infrastructure \$\$ should be spent



# Key Message #5

- A large majority of Manitobans would prefer to see additional PST revenue managed by local governments.
- In fact, **69 percent** of those surveyed felt that the money raised from the PST increase should flow directly to municipalities.
- Slightly less than one-quarter, on the other hand, felt that the provincial government should determine how this money is spent (23%).

# Views Regarding Allocation of PST



# Key Message #6

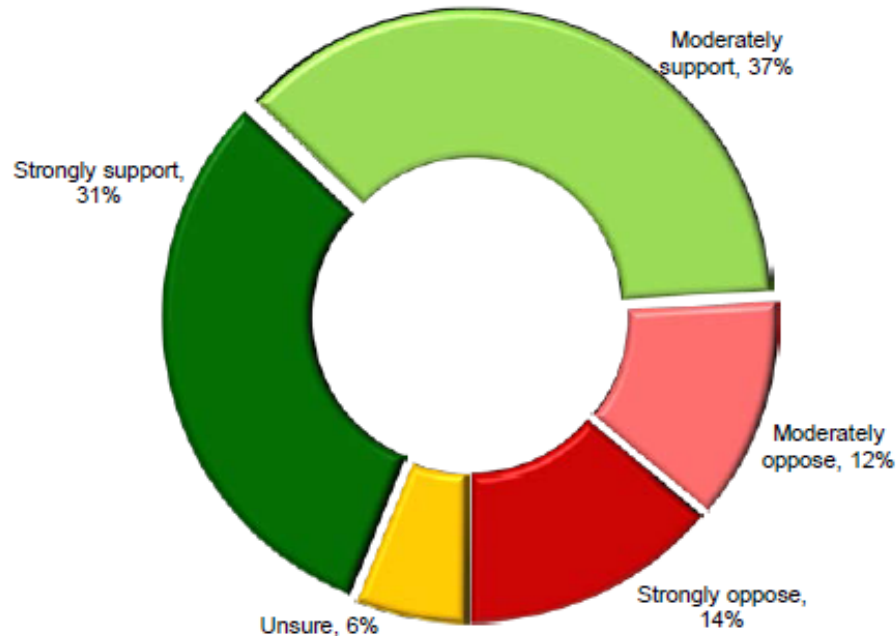
- The idea of dedicating revenue raised from future municipal tax increases to a specific purpose – such as municipal infrastructure projects – continues to gain in popularity.
- More than two-thirds of those surveyed in 2013 – **68%** - support this idea.
- This message is an increase from previous polling done by the AMM in 2008 (54% support) and 2011 (64%).

# Dedicated Tax Increases



## Public Views on “Dedicated” Tax Increases

FIG. “In some places in the world, money raised from tax increases must be specifically dedicated to certain items or activities – for example, an increase in property taxes must be spent fixing city streets. In principle, do you support or oppose the idea of having all future municipal tax increases dedicated to specific projects?” (n=1,510)



# Municipal Amalgamation

- Overall, one-half of Manitobans support the government's plan to require communities of fewer than 1,000 people to merge (54). One-third oppose the province's municipal amalgamation plans (34%,). One-in-ten (11%) were unsure or did not provide a response.
- Although many Manitobans support the idea of amalgamation in principle, this analysis shows that **there are concerns about the manner in which the government has proceeded with this issue.**

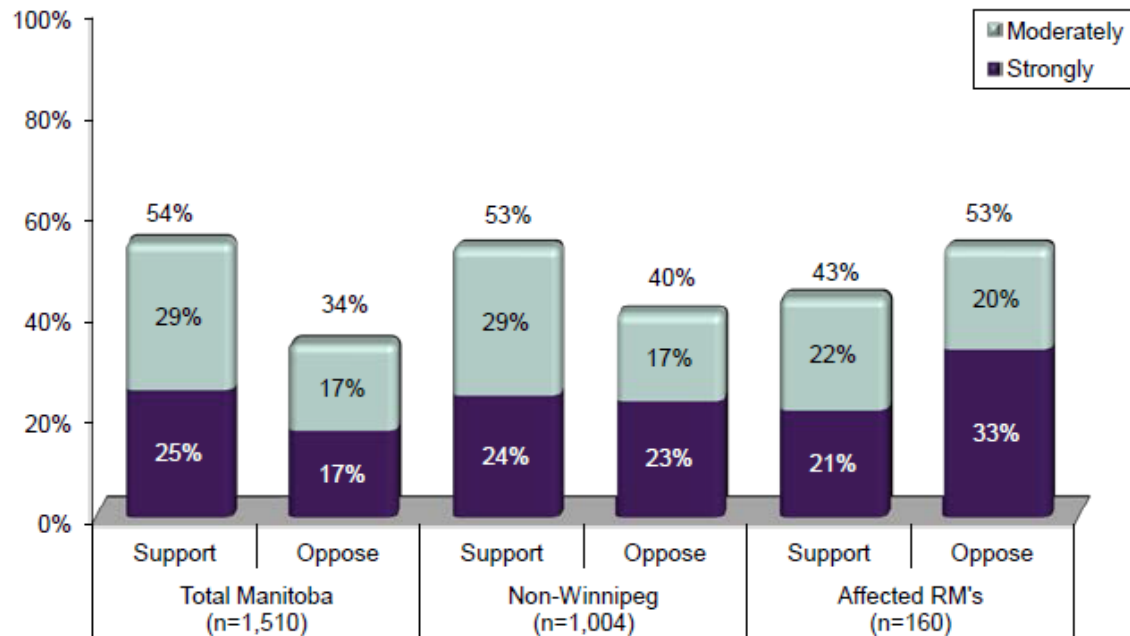


# Municipal Amalgamation



## Public Support and Opposition to Municipal Amalgamation

AM2. "Overall, do you support or oppose this decision to amalgamate Manitoba municipalities that have less than 1,000 people?" (n=1,510)



# AMM Legal Challenge

- Interestingly, although a majority of Manitobans support the idea of merging municipalities of fewer than 1,000 people, a similar proportion of adults also back the AMM's legal challenge (55%, including 30% who strongly support it.)
- *This suggests that although Manitobans back the notion of amalgamation in principle, many are concerned about the process used by the government to force municipal mergers.*

# General observations

- Overall, Manitobans are quite satisfied with the performance of their local governments.
- Nearly six-in-ten (59%) believe their municipality is headed in the right direction.
- Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) are optimistic about the economic future of their municipality.
- Overall, a majority of adults (65%) agree that their municipal council does a good job of representing them.
- Those living in smaller communities are more likely to believe their local council is doing a good job (70%).

# In Summary

- The AMM realizes polling numbers represent only a snapshot in time.
- However, these results do allow a glimpse of public opinion at a key moment in Manitoba.
- The AMM plans to mount its own campaign to ensure infrastructure is front and centre during the next provincial election.
- Having insight into public thinking will help the AMM develop its strategy going forward.

Questions?