

Why Don't More Women Run?

Political Ambition, Women, and Local Government

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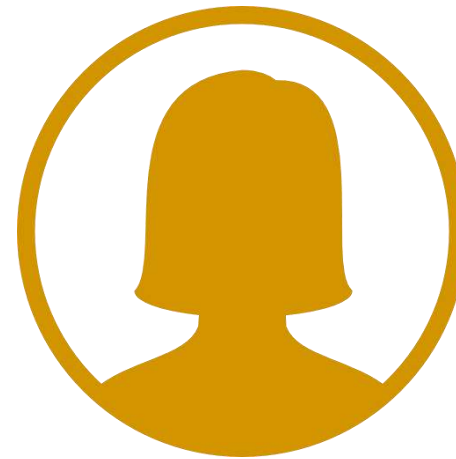
Dan Hill, Local Government Center

Victoria Solomon, University of Wisconsin Extension – Green County

5

WOMEN

Who would be good
elected officials

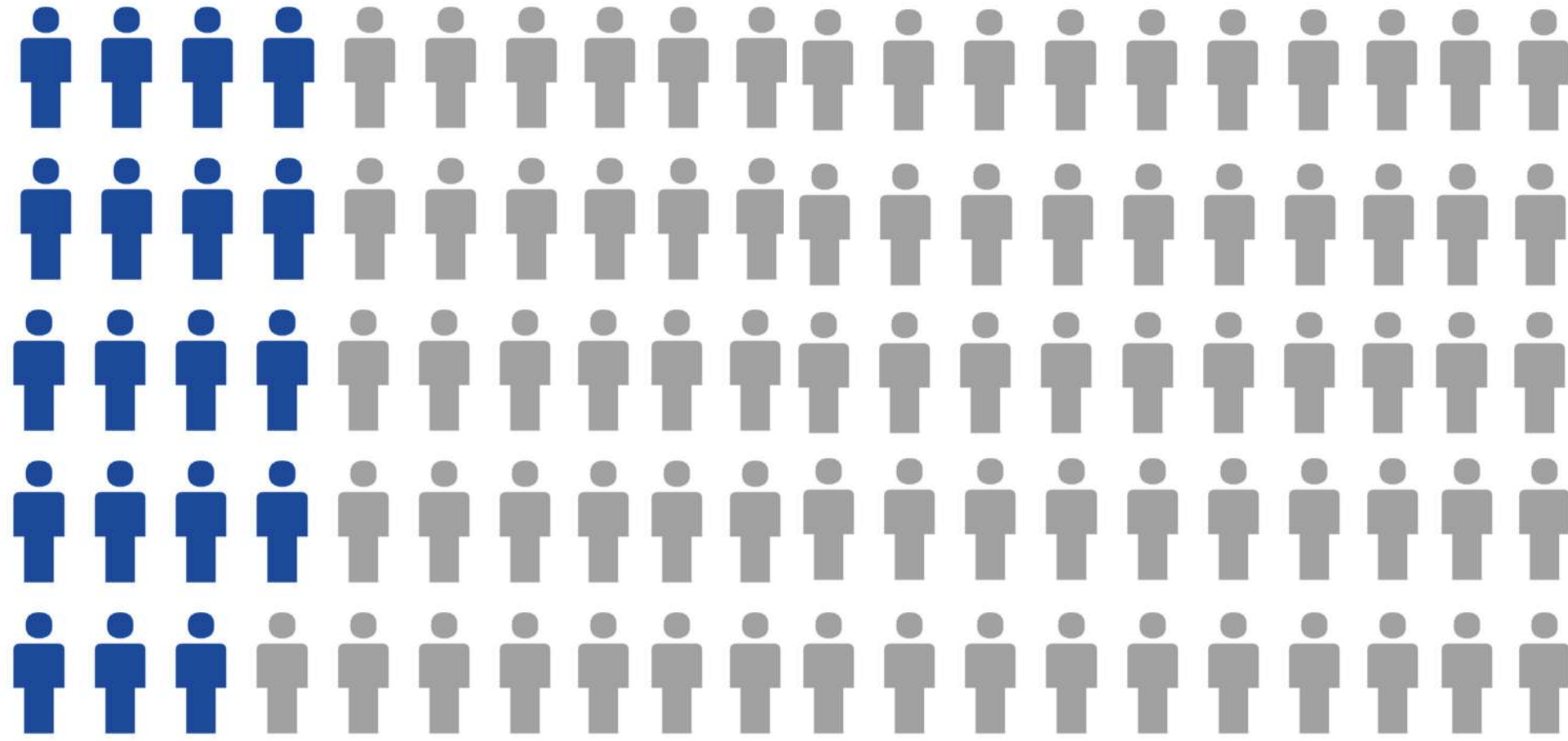


WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What percentage of Wisconsin
county board
supervisors are women?

19%

of County Board Officials
are Women

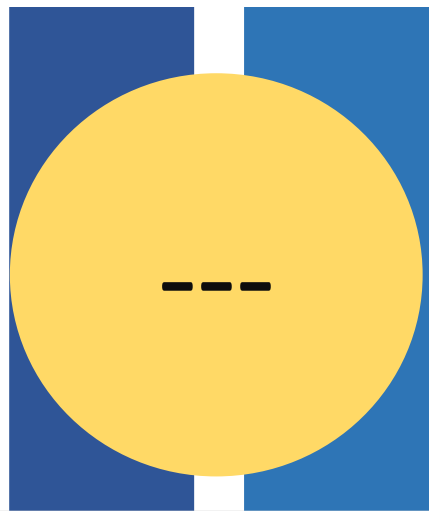


19% COUNTY BOARD

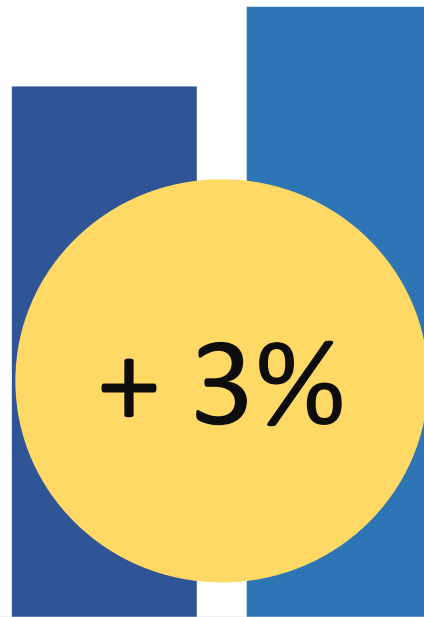
23% CITY COUNCIL

40% SCHOOL BOARD

Change Between 2005 -- 2015



County Board

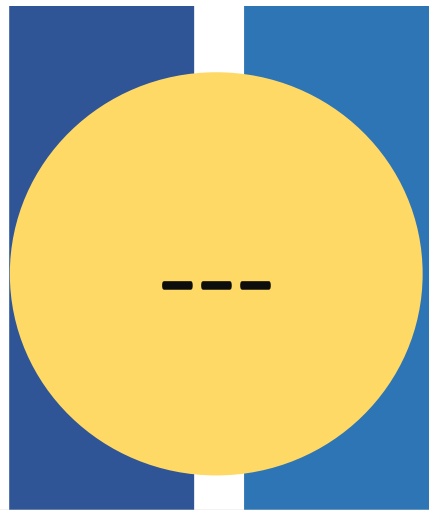


City Council



School Board

Year of Parity



County Board



City Council



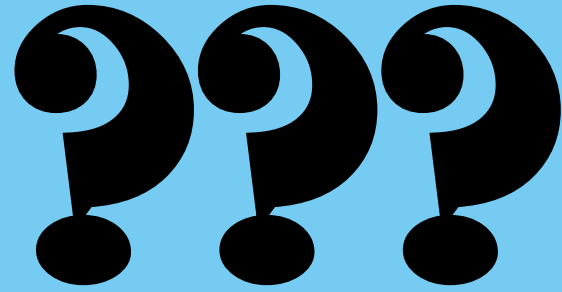
School Board

EXISTING RESEARCH



TRUE OR FALSE?

Women win elections
at the same rate
as men.



Why don't
women run?

Survey
#1

CURRENT

Local elected
officials

1,609 surveys sent

592 responses

37% response rate



Survey
#2

POTENTIAL

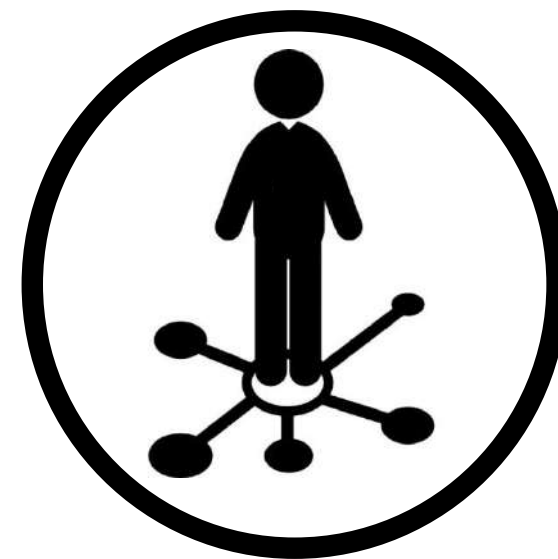
Local elected
officials



5 Men



5 Women

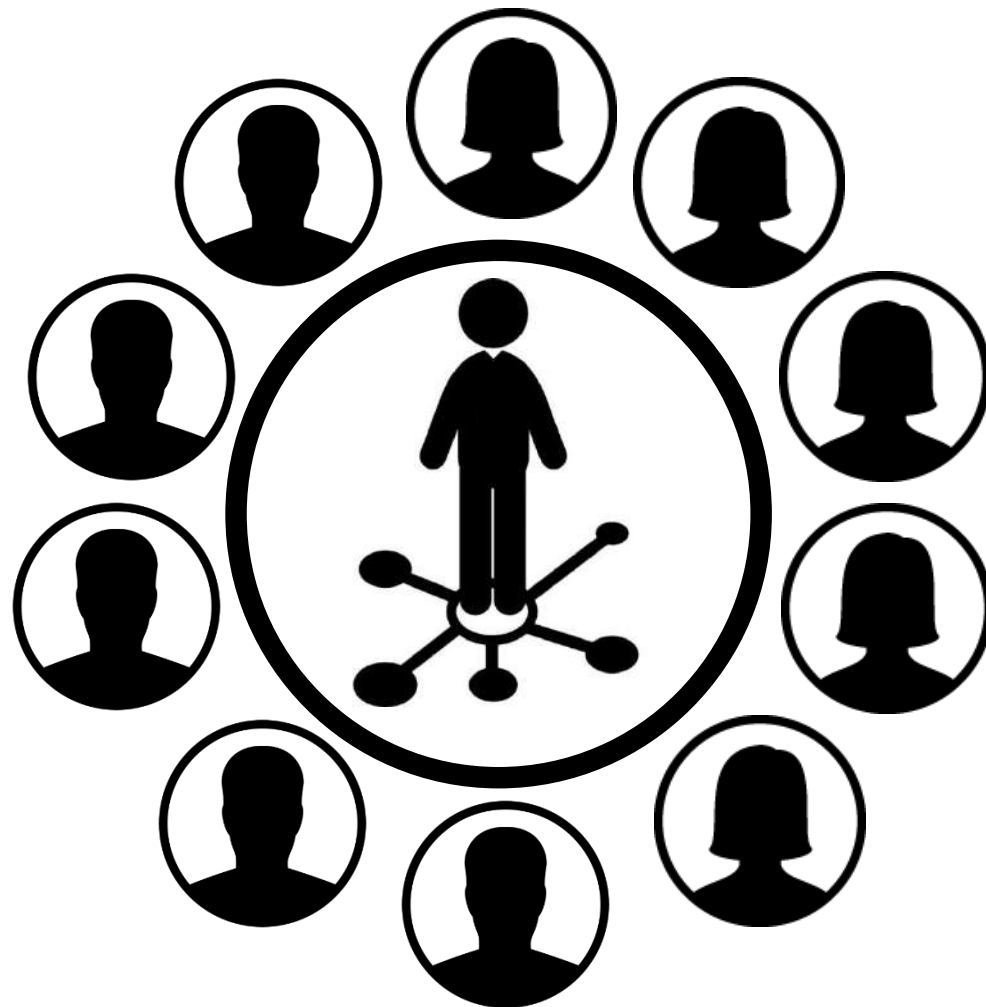


5 Leaders

Survey
#2

POTENTIAL

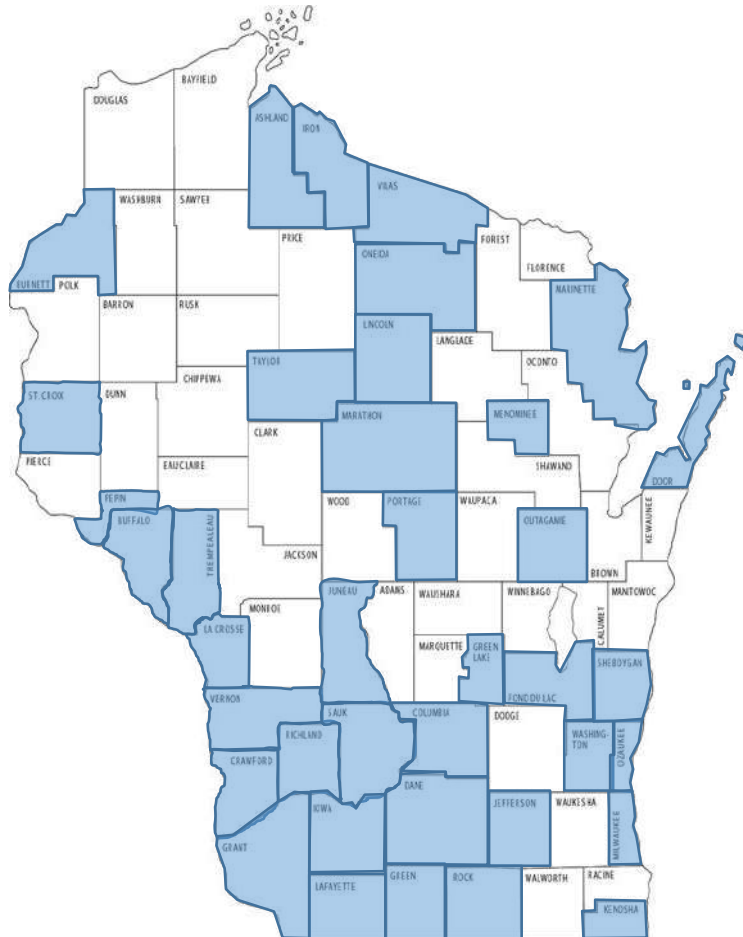
Local elected
officials



Survey
#2

POTENTIAL

Local elected
officials



38 counties

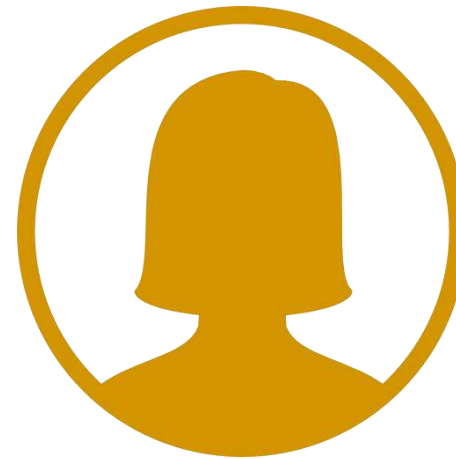
353 surveys sent

241 responses

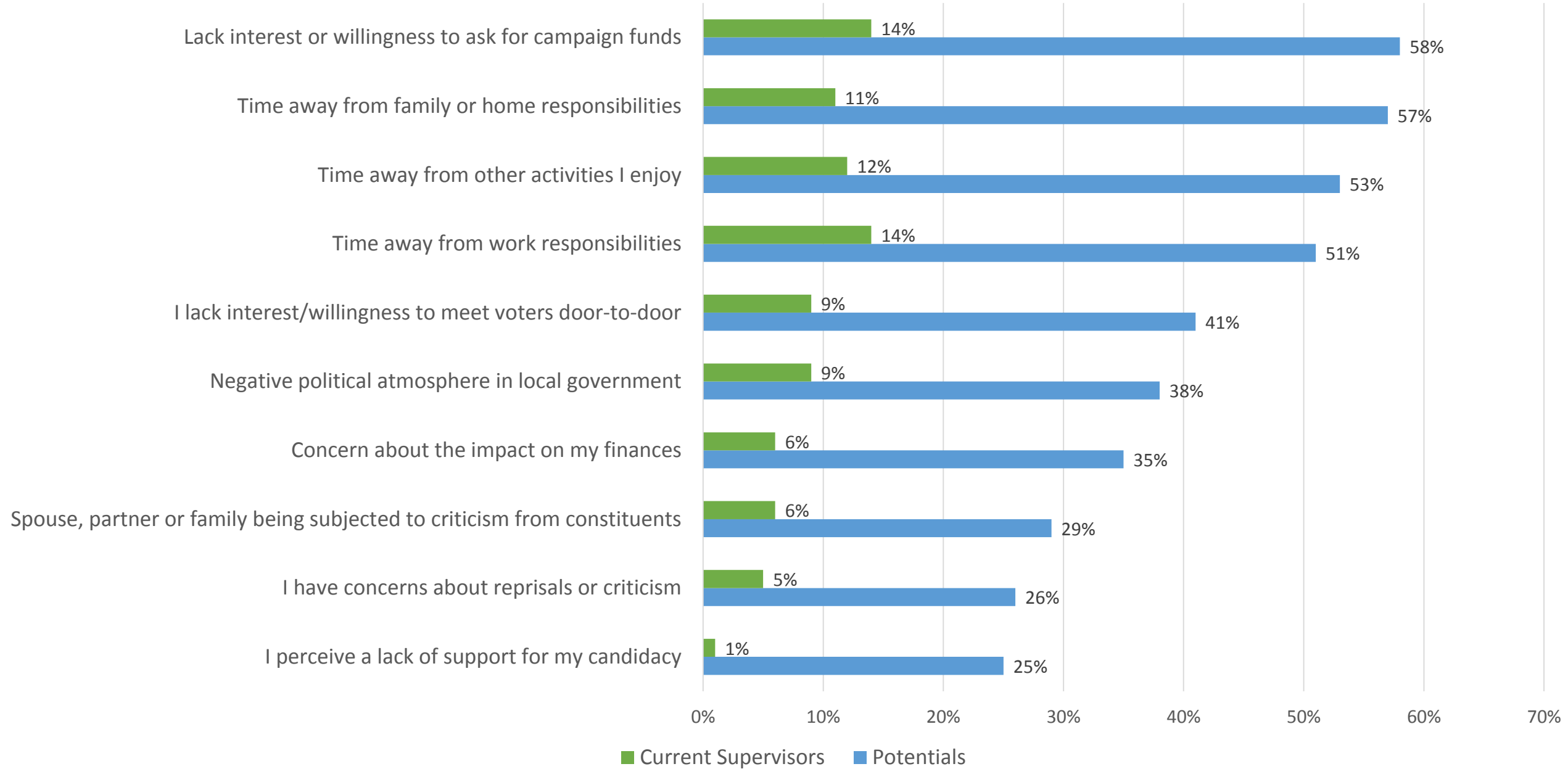
56% response rate

BARRIERS

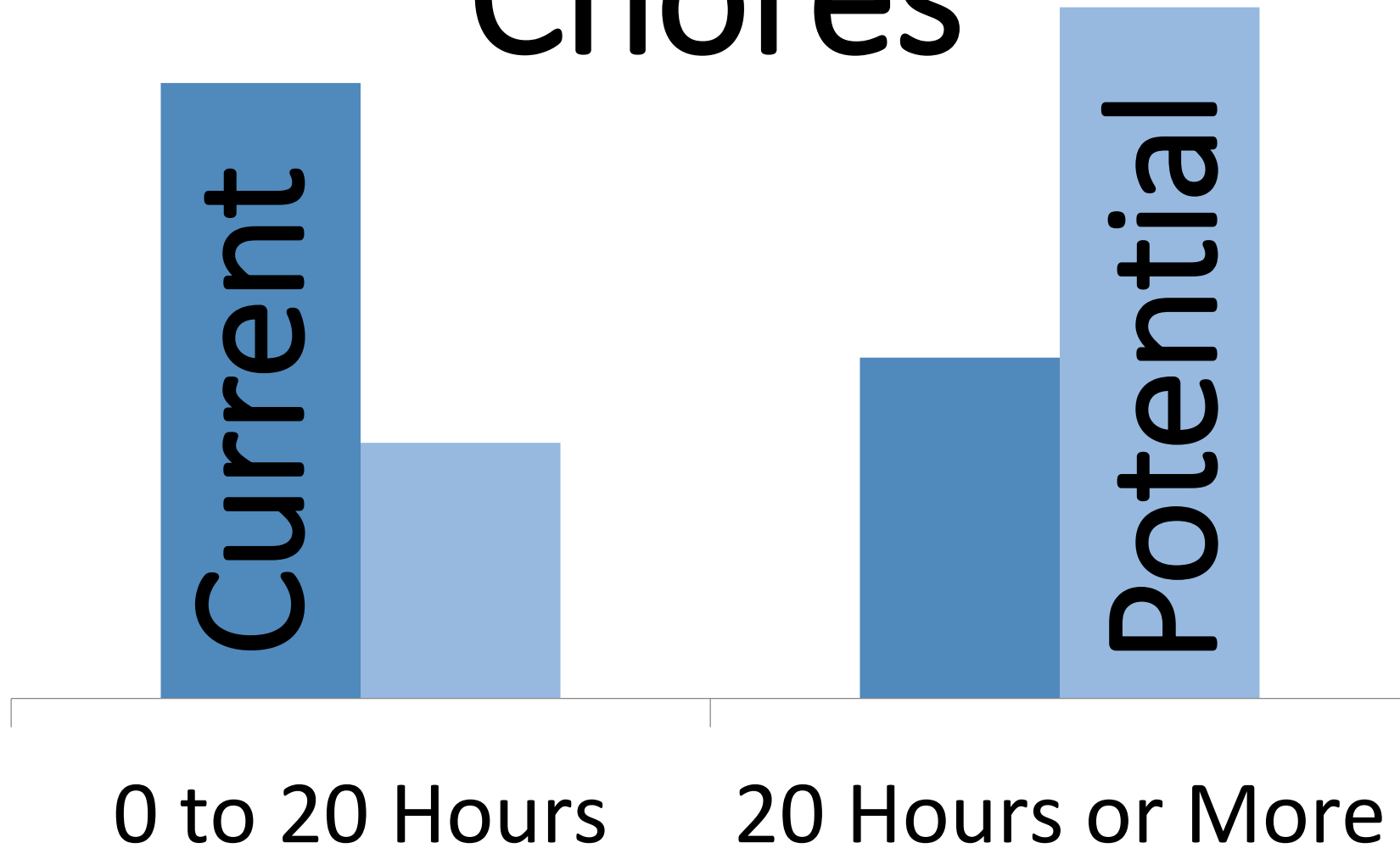
What might be some barriers to running?



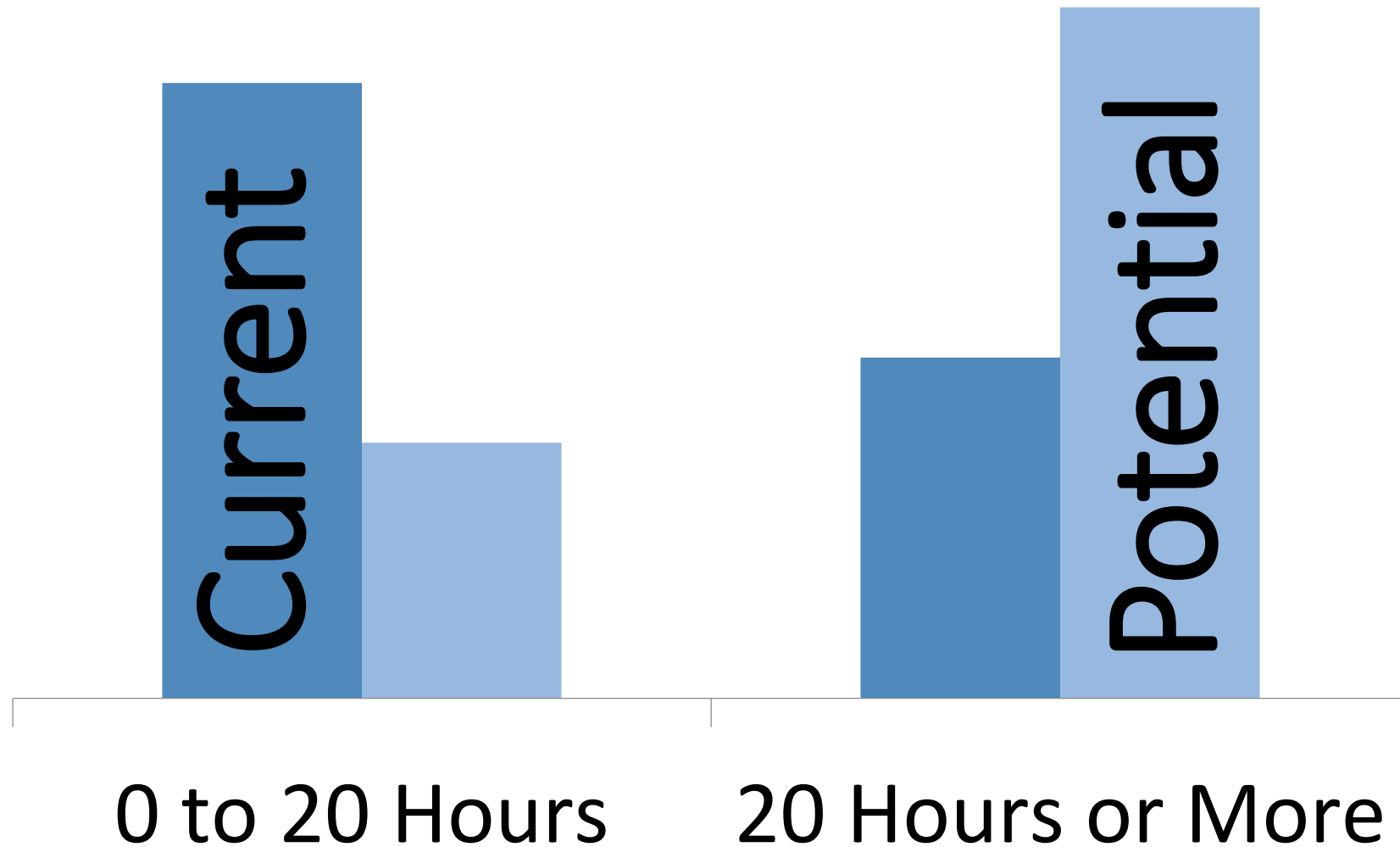
Top 10 Barriers for Potential Local Elected Officials (PLEO)



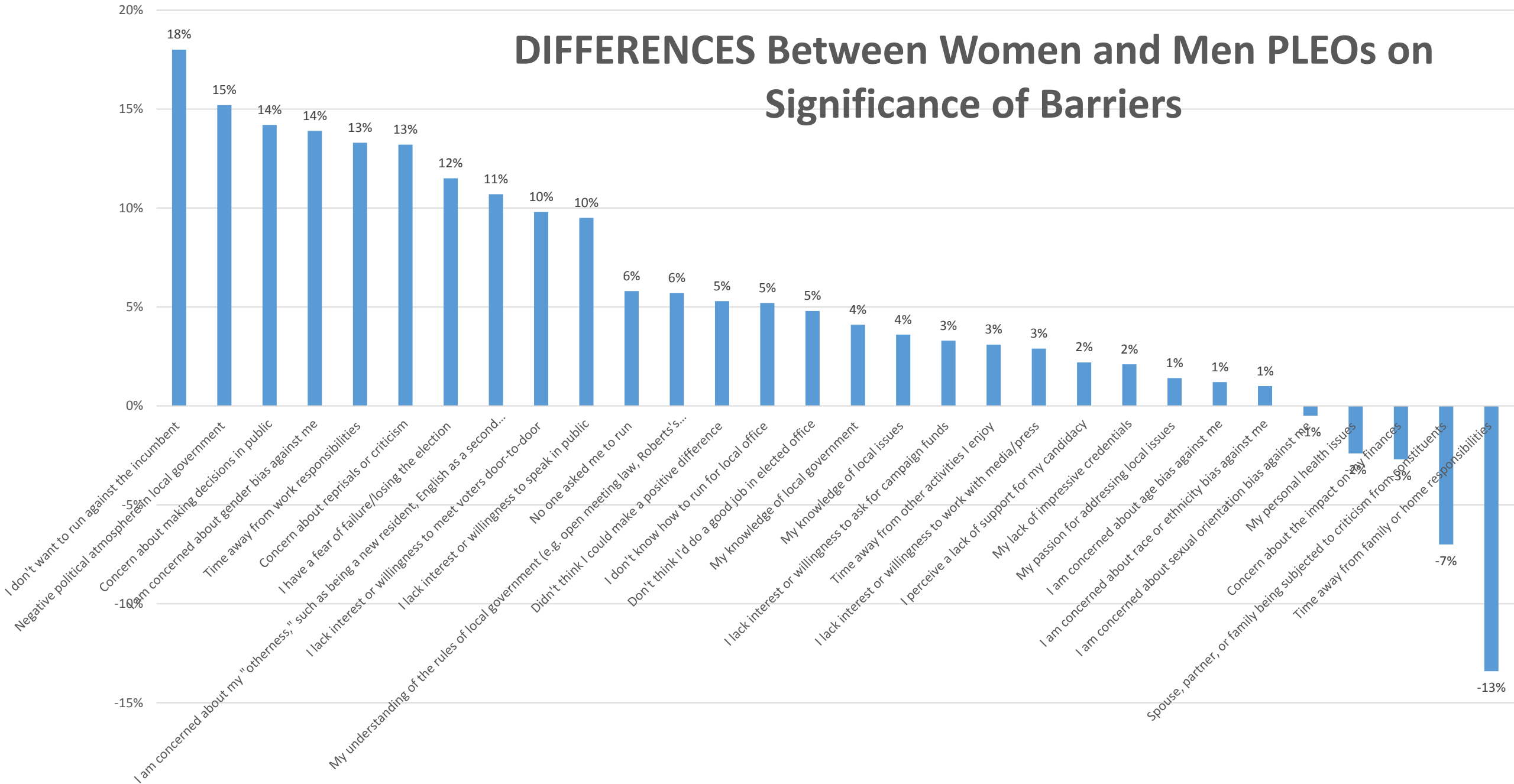
Amount of Household Chores



Work Outside the Home



DIFFERENCES Between Women and Men PLEOs on Significance of Barriers





CONCERNS ABOUT CRITICISM

HESITANT TO RUN AGAINST AN INCUMBENT

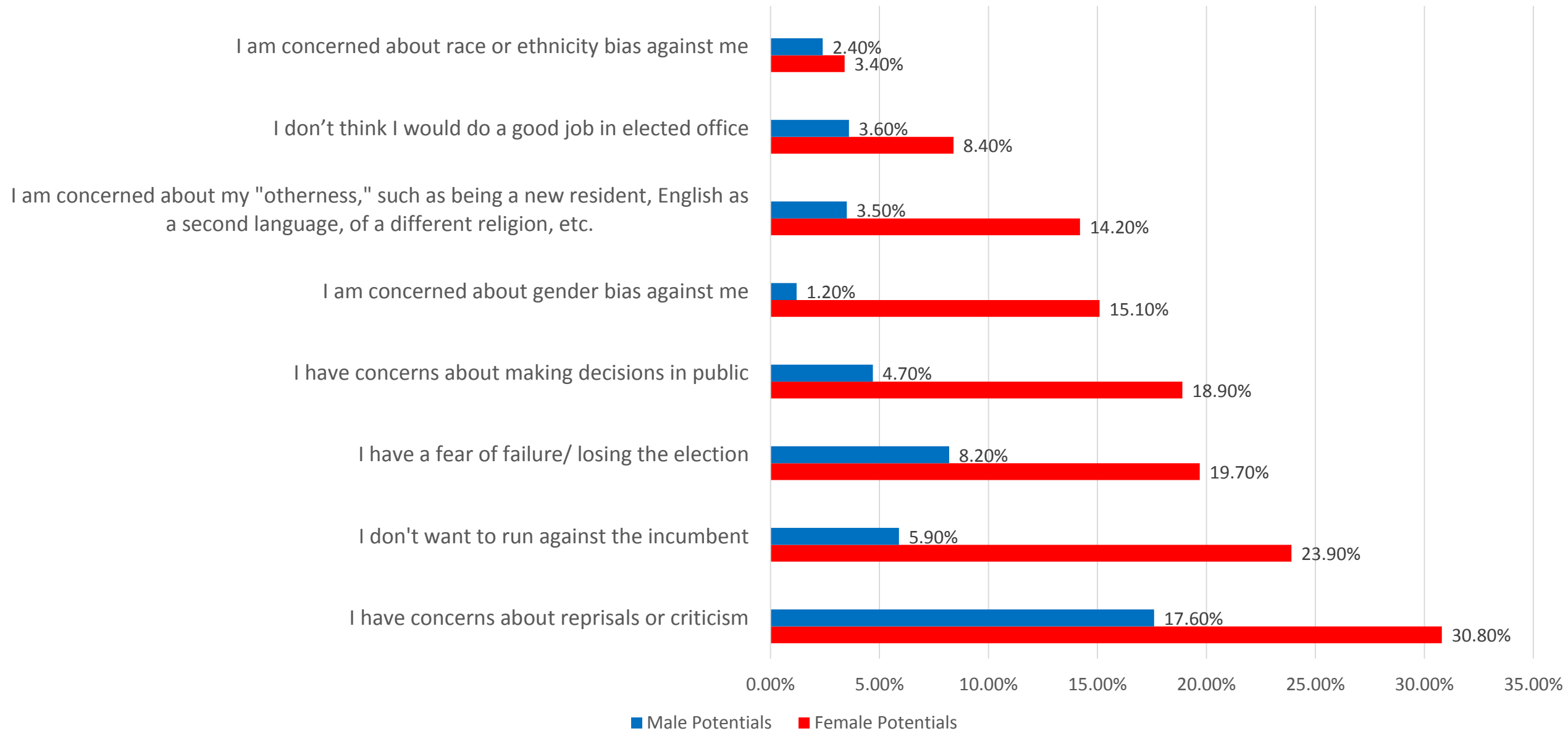
FEAR OF FAILURE & LOSING

CONCERNS ABOUT MAKING DECISIONS IN PUBLIC

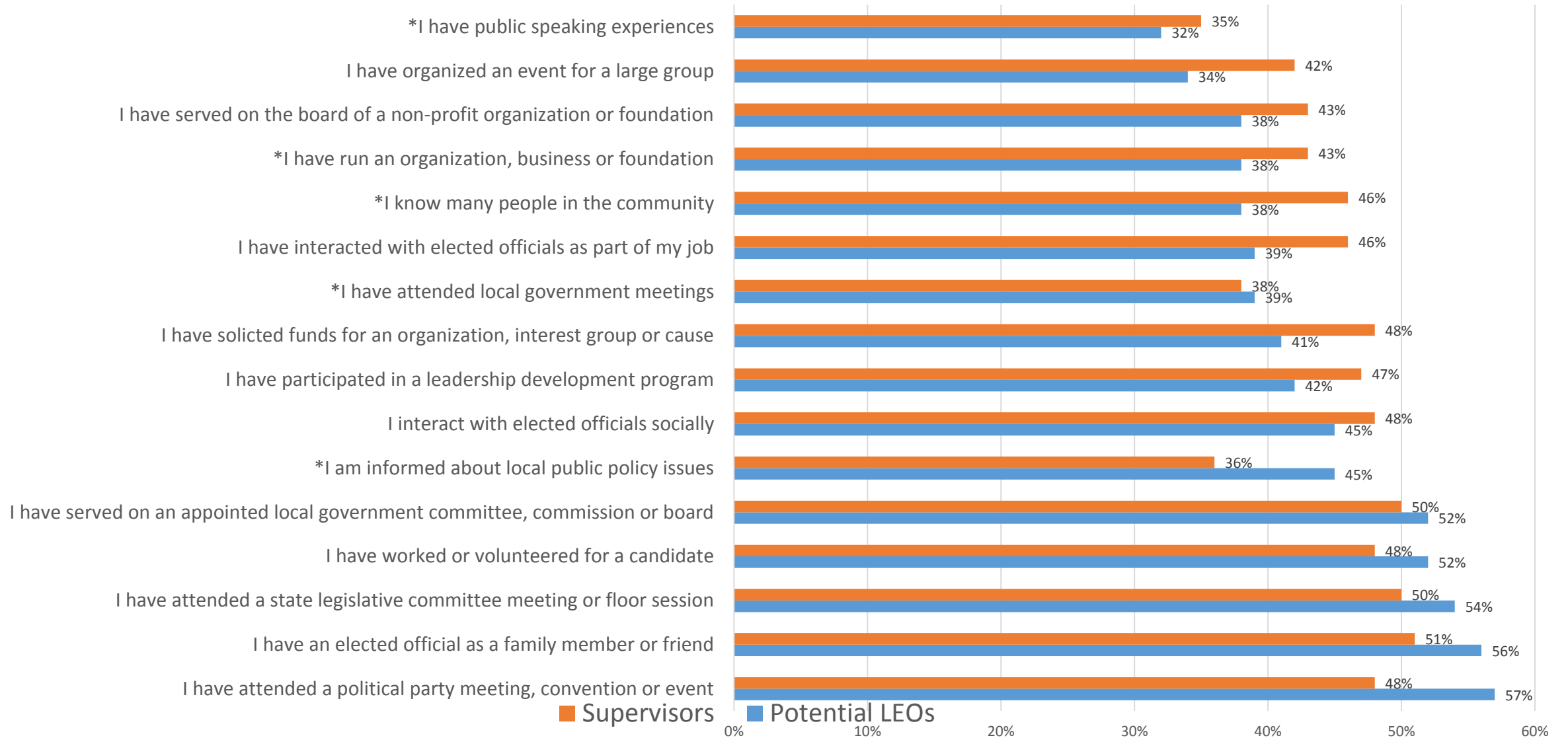
NEGATIVE GENDER BIAS

UNCERTAIN ABOUT DOING A GOOD JOB

Barriers with Statistically Significant Differences Between Female and Male Potential Local Elected Officials



Percent of Respondents that Indicated that they had the Following Abilities or Experiences



Are you qualified to serve
in local elected office?



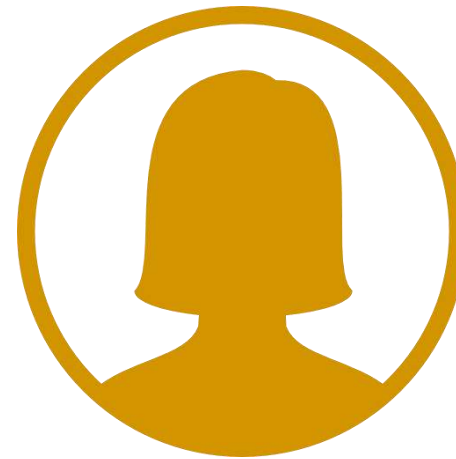
60%



71%

ENCOURAGEMENT

How would you encourage them to run?



1.

INFORMED ON LOCAL ISSUES



2.

**KNOWING
MANY
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS**



3.

**ATTENDING
LOCAL GOV.
MEETINGS**



4.

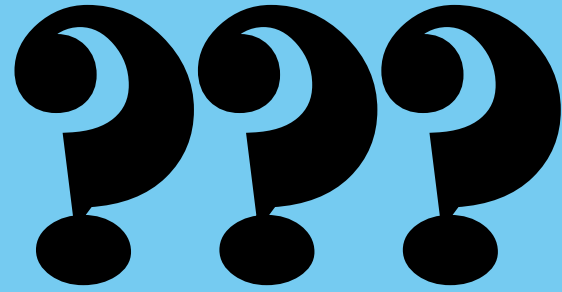
**PUBLIC
SPEAKING
EXPERIENCE**



5.

LEADING AN ORGANIZATION OR BUSINESS





What are the barriers
to running for local
elected office?

WHAT'S NEXT?

