

A Joint IranPoll-Chicago Council  
on Global Affairs Survey

State of Iran Survey Series (Nov 2019/Dec 2019)  
Iranian Public Opinion  
Four Decades After  
the Revolution



Amir Farmanesh, PhD  
CEO at People Analytics (IranPoll)

**IRANPOLL**<sup>®</sup>  
UNVEILING IRAN

# Method

---

The “State of Iran” survey series is designed to track the trends regarding Iranian people’s attitudes on key national and international issues.

---

This wave of the series was conducted by IranPoll as a joint survey with the *Chicago Council on Global Affairs*.

---

Telephone survey (CATI) RDD sampling

---

National representative sample of about 1000 Iranians

---

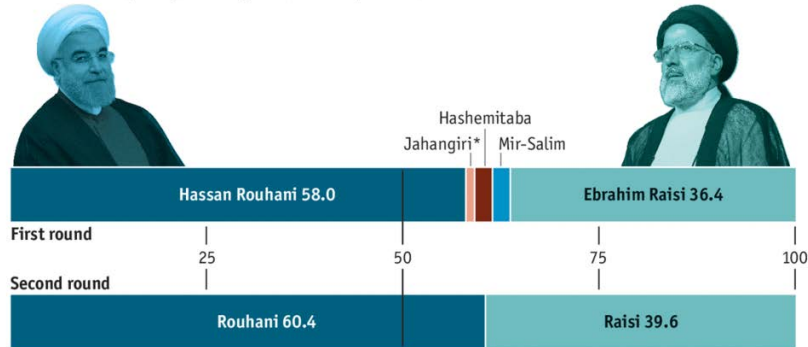
Margin of sampling error +/- 3.09%

---

Conducted:            October 25 – November 2, 2019  
                                 December 18 – 22, 2019

## Persian gulf

Iranian election polling, 16th May 2017, % of respondents, excludes "don't knows"



Source: IranPoll

Economist.com

\*Has withdrawn and endorsed Rouhani since the poll was conducted

Pic credits: Getty Images; AFP

## The Washington Post

*IranPoll series has become one of the best snapshots of public opinion in Iran over recent years, with its polling predictions for the May 2017 presidential elections accurate within less than 2% points.*

The Washington Post, Feb 2, 2018

**IRANPOLL**  
UNVEILING IRAN

Scientific opinion polls have proven to be a reliable and predictive tool in Iran.

# IRANPOLL®

UNVEILING IRAN

---

IranPoll is an independent full-service opinion research company with global office in Toronto, Canada, focusing exclusively on Iran.

---

Utilizing three call centers - Tehran and Toronto - with 106 calling stations, IranPoll conducts about 160,000 interviews each year.

---

IranPoll operates a proprietary online panel of Iranians with 51,000 members.



# Topics

---

❖ The Economy

---

❖ Sanctions

---

❖ The Nuclear Deal

---

❖ Possibility of War

---

❖ Views of the US

---

❖ A way out...

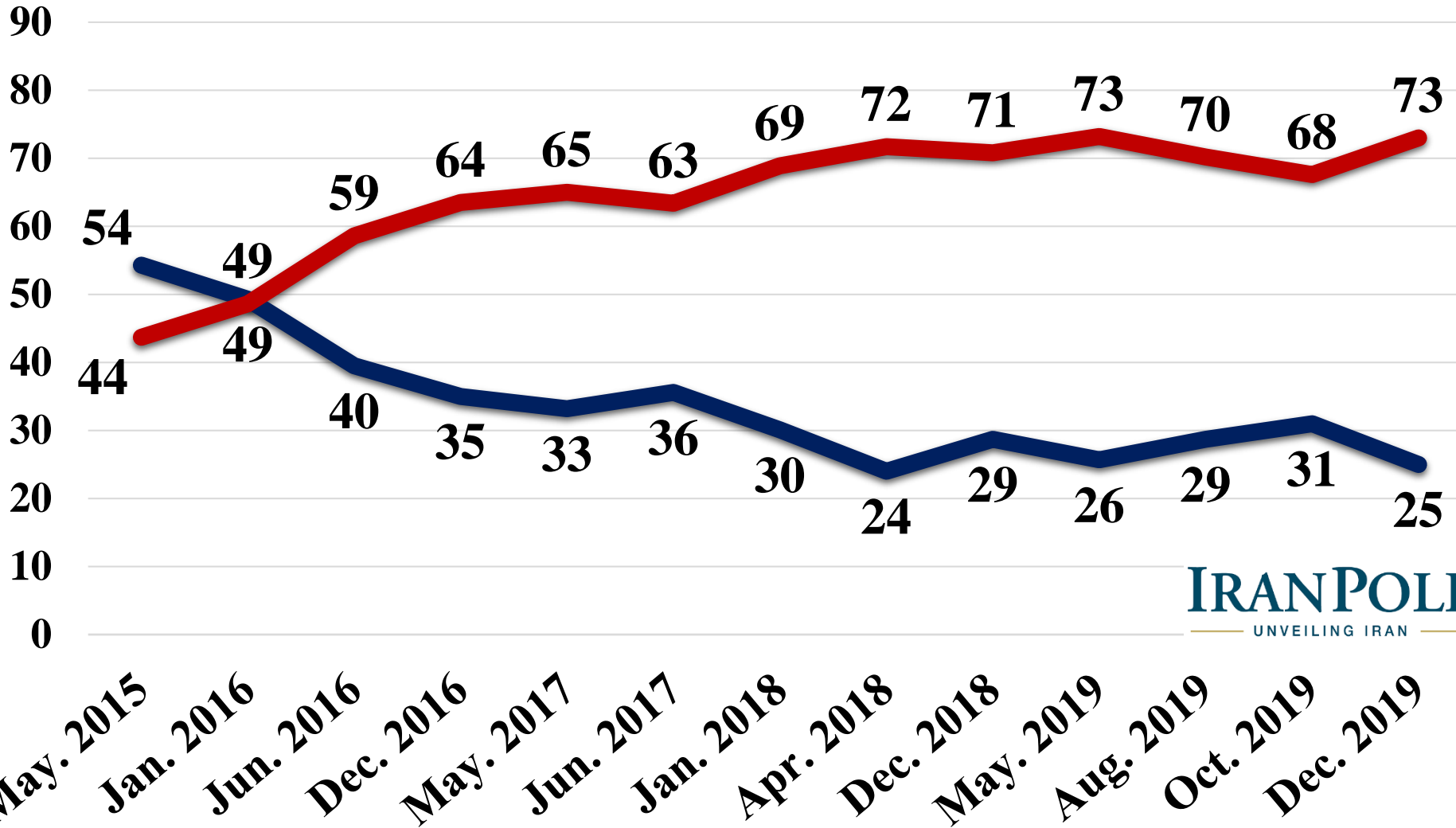
---

❖ Rival or Partner

Iranians say the economy is bad, is getting worse, and continue to blame their own government more than they blame sanctions...

# How good or bad is our country's general economic situation?

— Good — Bad

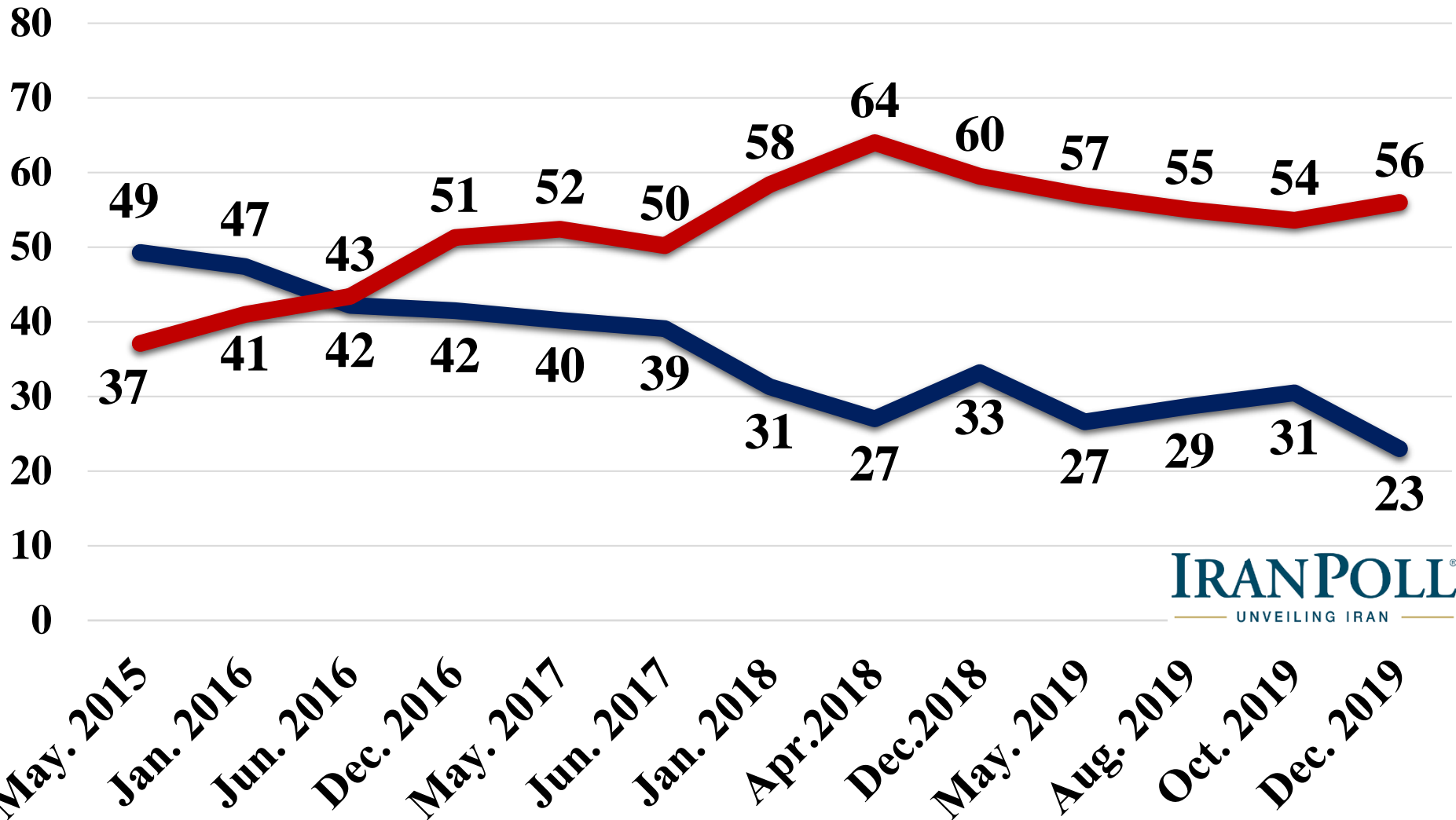


**IRANPOLL**  
UNVEILING IRAN

# Do you think economic conditions in Iran are getting better or getting worse?

— Getting better

— Getting worse



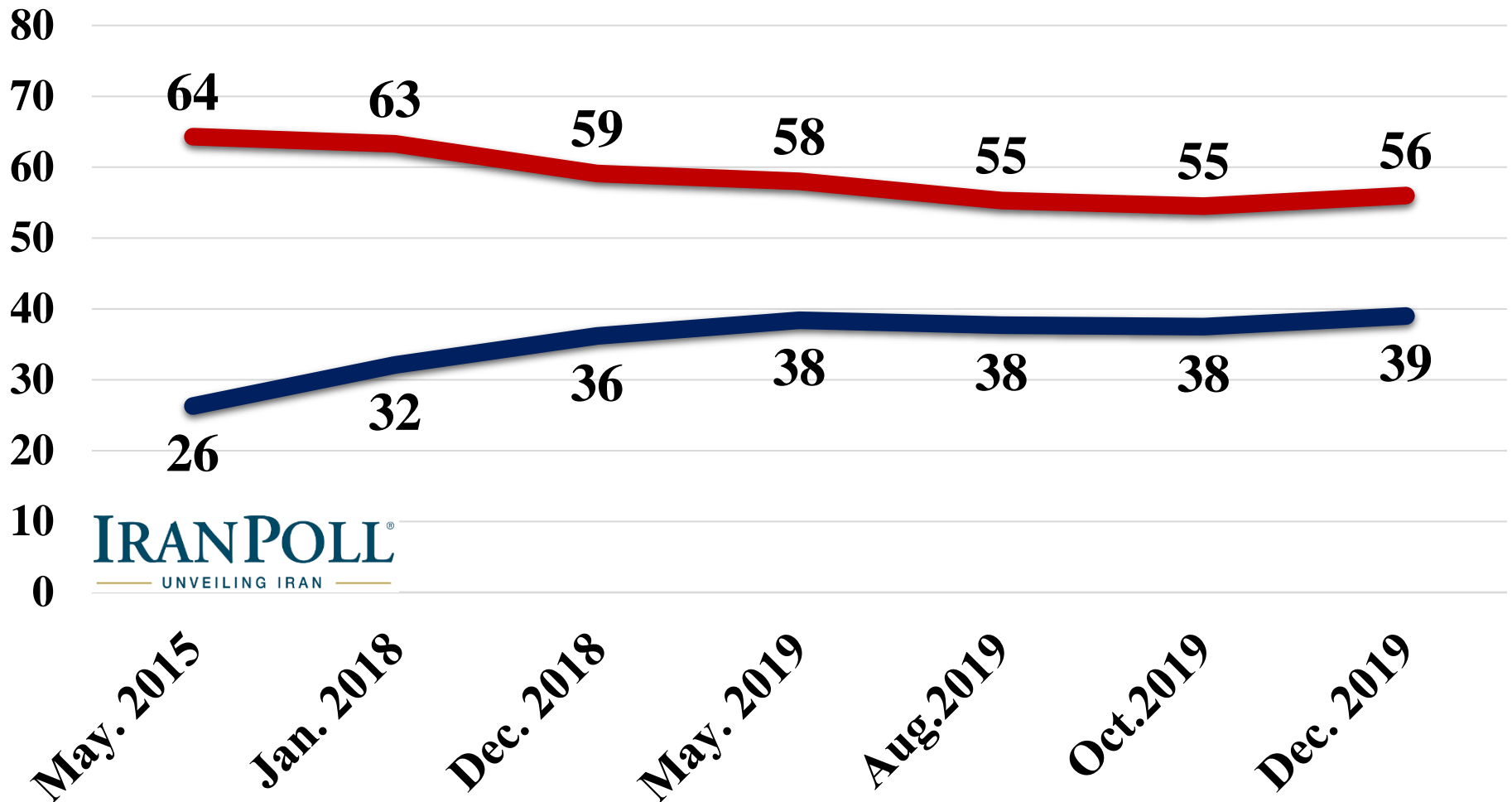
**IRANPOLL**  
UNVEILING IRAN



# Which has the greatest negative impact on the Iranian economy?

Foreign sanctions and pressures

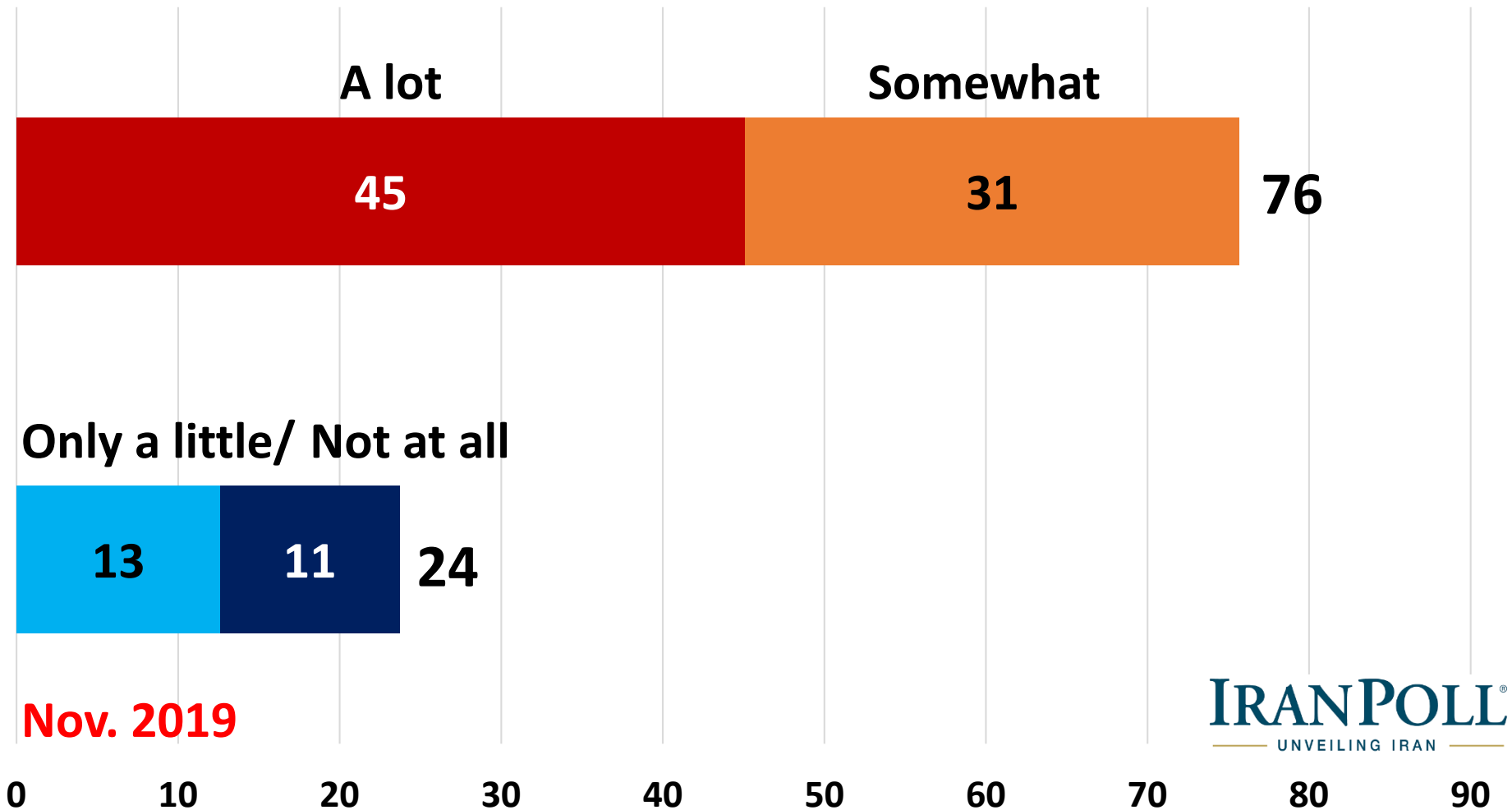
Domestic economic mismanagement and corruption



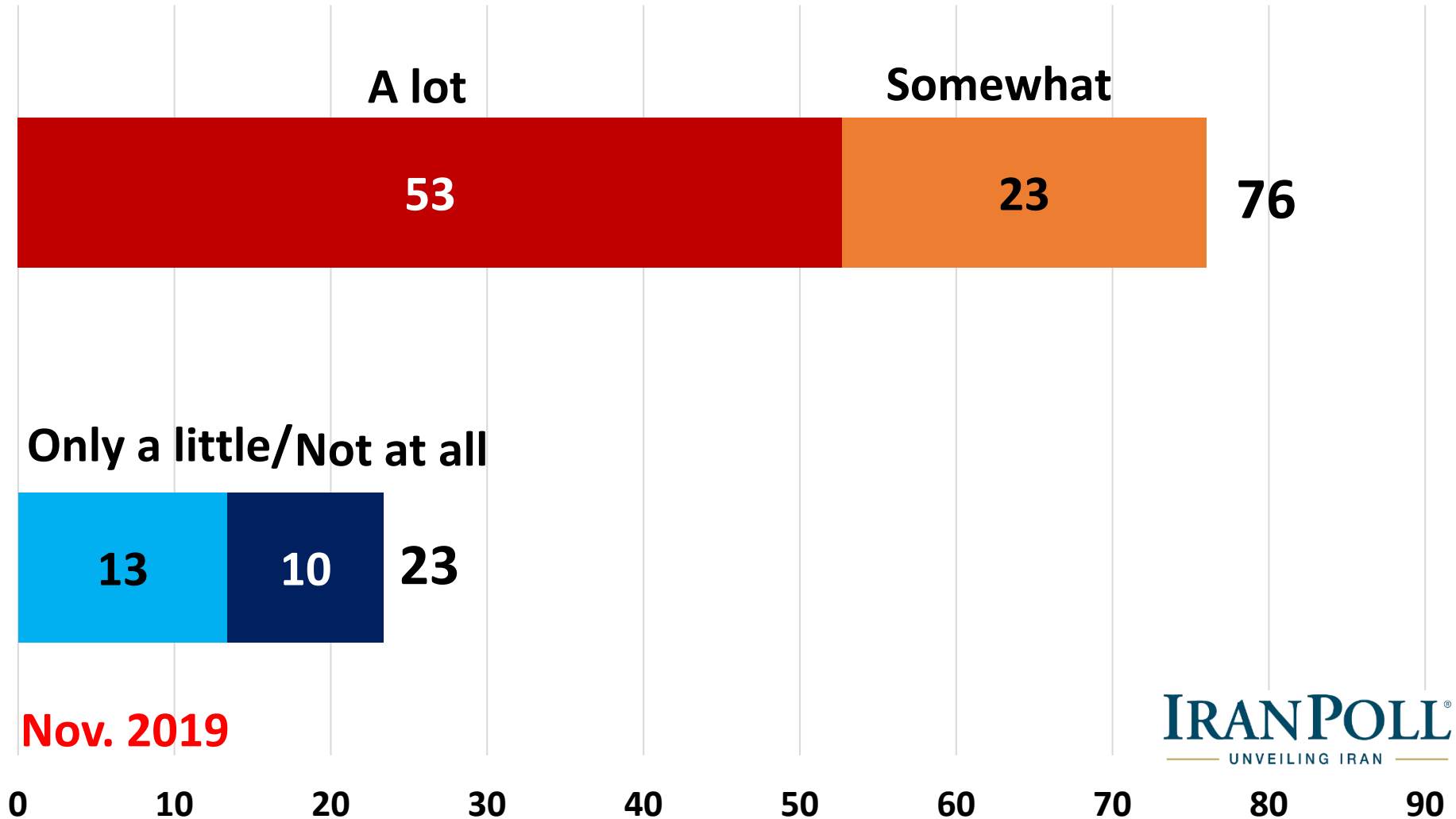
That does not, however, mean that they regard sanctions as not having an impact.

In fact, most say the sanctions are hurting a lot...

# How much of a negative influence are the sanctions having on the economic situation of our country?



# How much of a negative influence are the sanctions having on the economic situation of your family?



Despite poor economic conditions and the perceived negative impact of sanctions on both Iran and ordinary Iranians,

Iranians refuse to accept US demands and forego nuclear enrichment

# Question:

Suppose the United States were to propose a deal whereby:

(1) most US sanctions on Iran would be gradually lifted and

(2) Iran would be able to have a peaceful nuclear energy program **in return for**

(1) agreeing to fully and permanently give up the right to enrich uranium on its soil and

(2) to always allow international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

Do you think Iran should accept or reject such a deal?

# ...Do you think Iran should accept or reject such a deal?

Accept – Strongly/Somewhat



Reject - Somewhat

Strongly



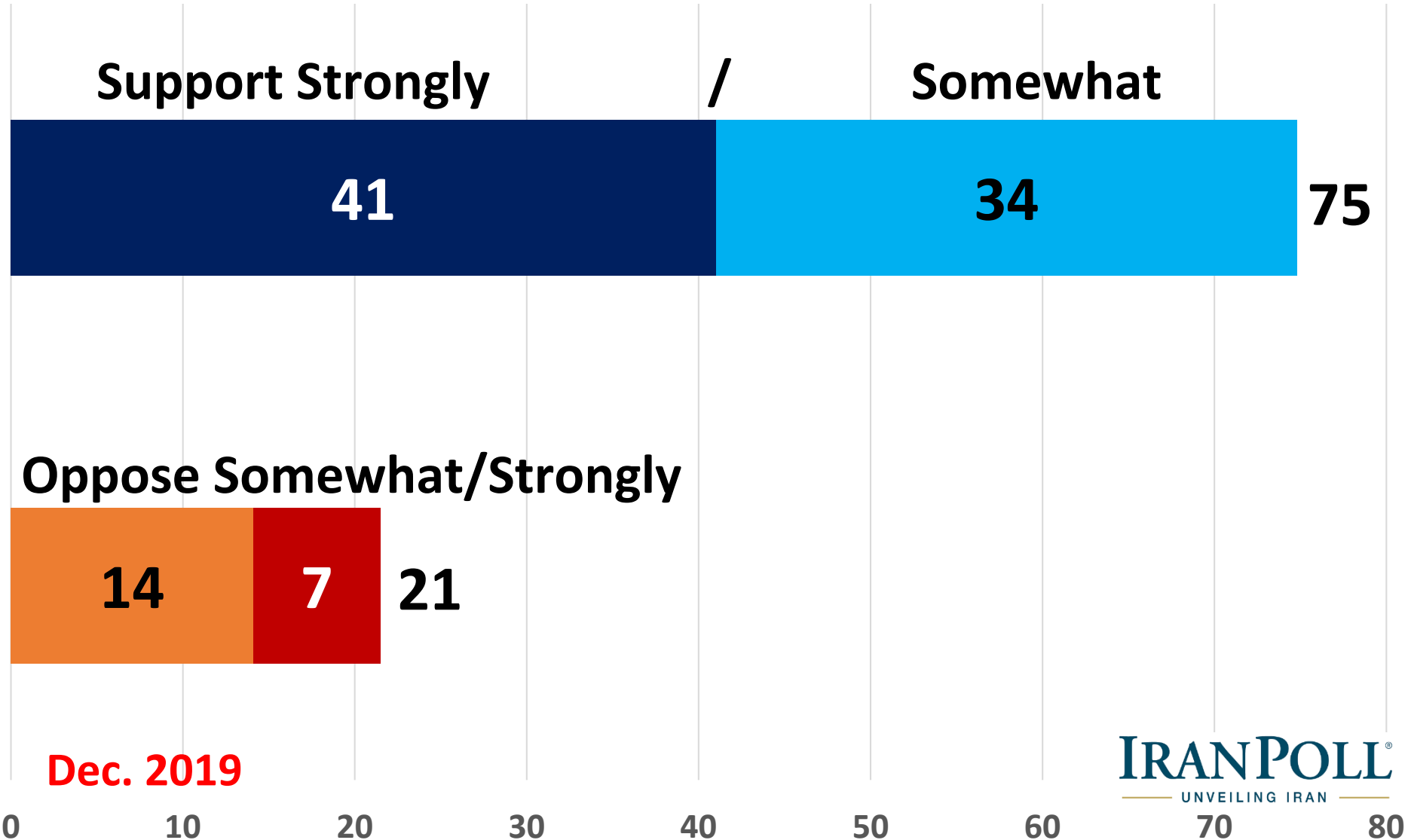
Nov. 2019

# Question:

As you may know, in retaliation for US withdrawal from the JCPOA agreement and reimposition of the sanctions, our government has exceeded some limits it accepted under the JCPOA and threatened to withdraw unless the other P5+1 countries do more to allow Iran to benefit from the agreement. The other P5+1 countries have responded that Iran's recent actions make it more difficult for them to take the steps Iran is demanding. With this in mind, to what degree do you support or oppose our government's recent decision?



**...To what degree do you support or oppose our government's recent decision to exceeded some limits it accepted under the JCPOA?**

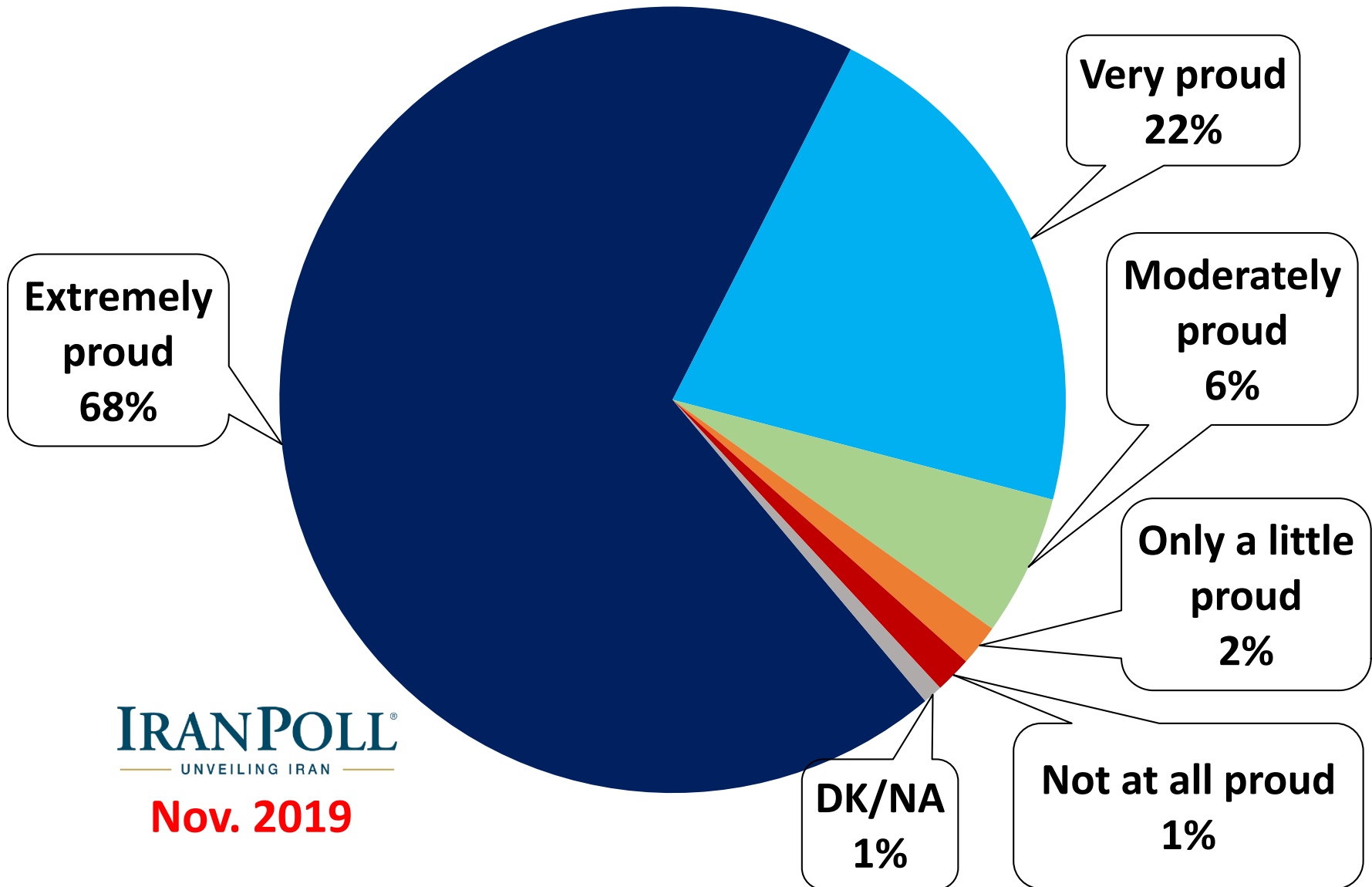


# Why?

(1) Classic Rallying Around the Flag Effect

Iranians are a very proud people and they believe Iran has a right to have a peaceful nuclear program

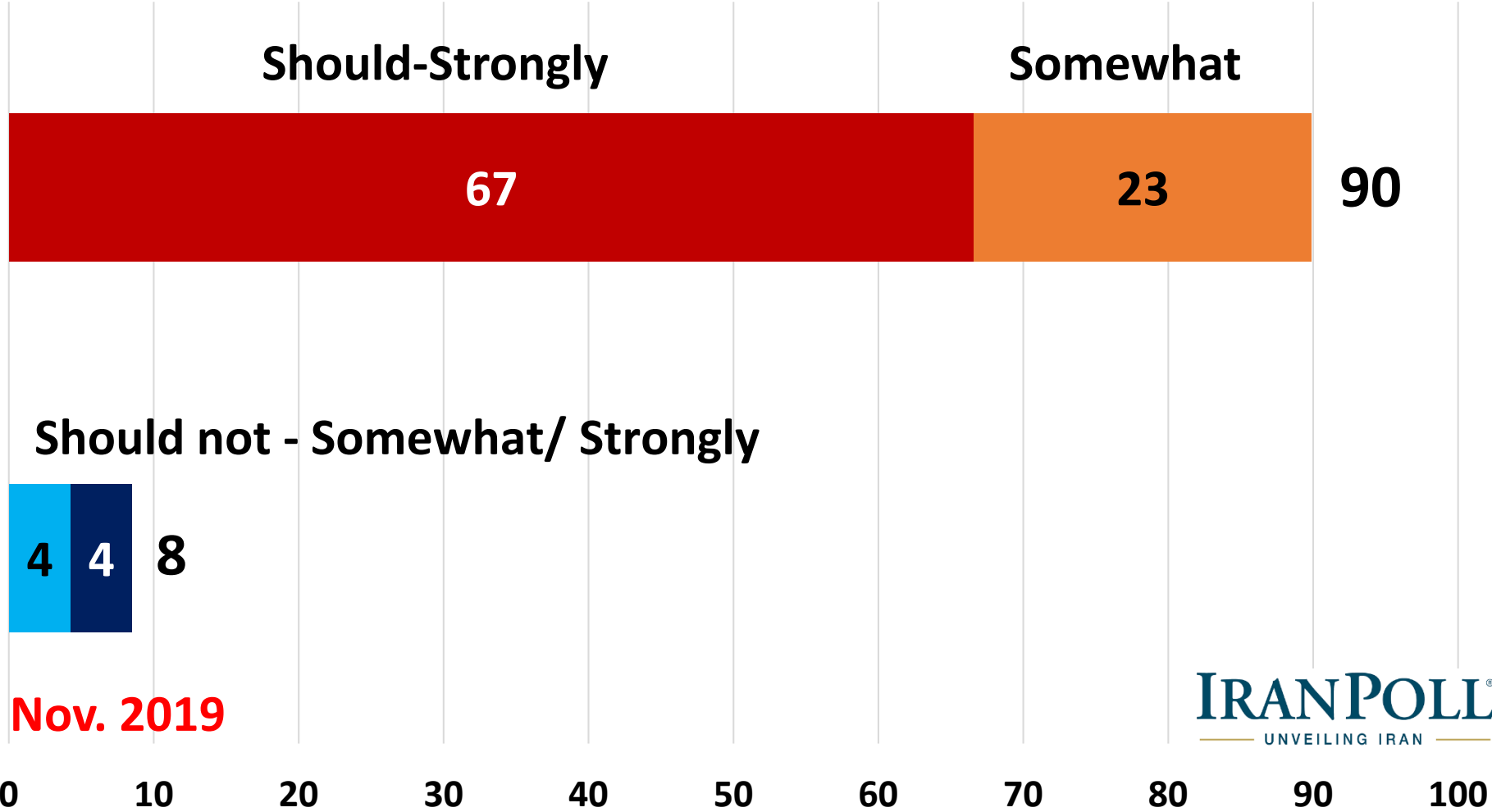
# How proud are you to be an Iranian?



**IRANPOLL**  
UNVEILING IRAN

**Nov. 2019**

# Do you think Iran should or should not have a peaceful nuclear energy program?



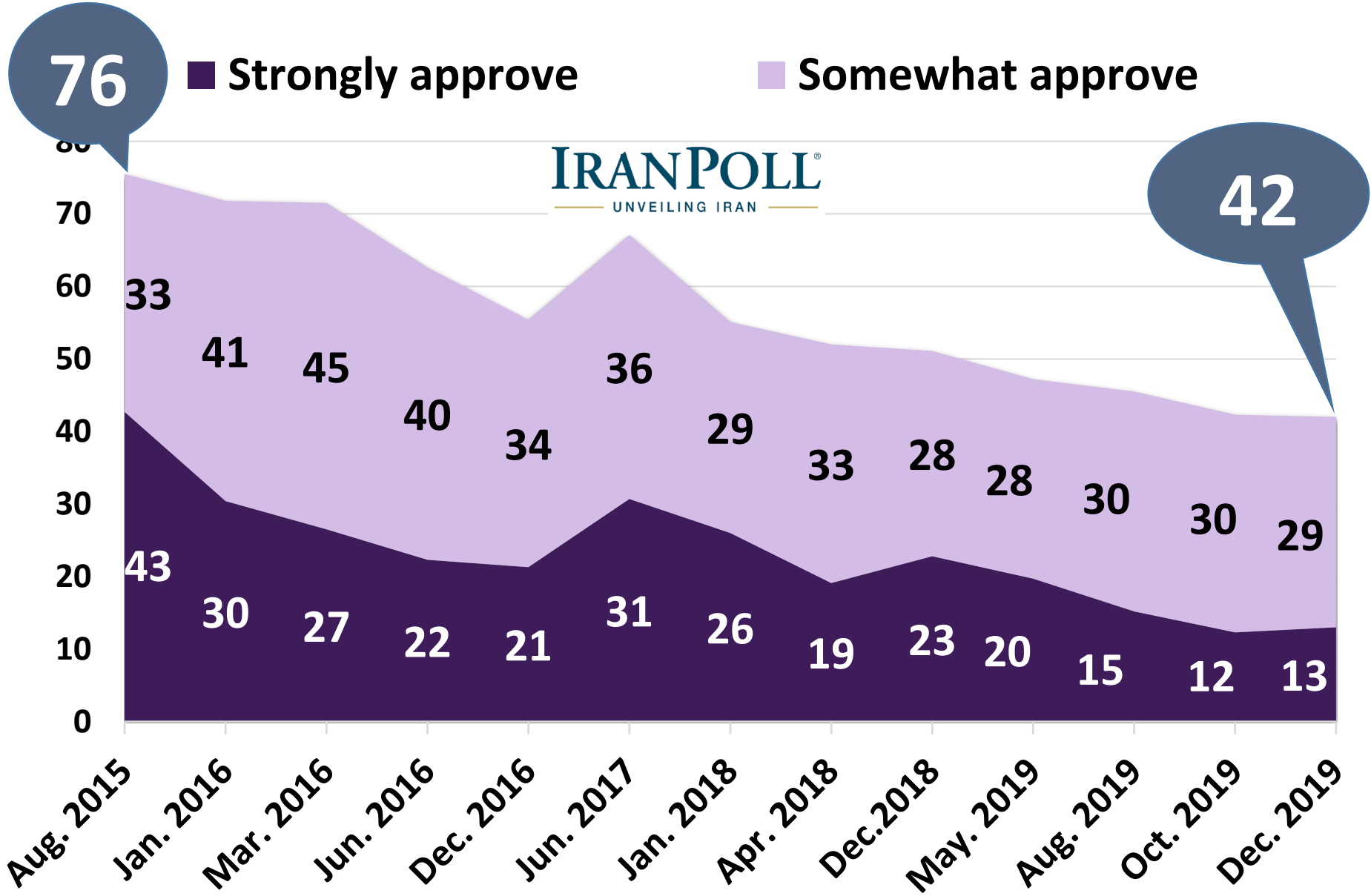
# Why?

(2) “Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice...”

Iranians have lost confidence in promises of world powers...

They initially supported the JCPOA with great enthusiasm but then lost faith when benefits did not arrive and US pulled out

# In general and based on what you know about the JCPOA, to what degree do you approve or disapprove of this agreement?

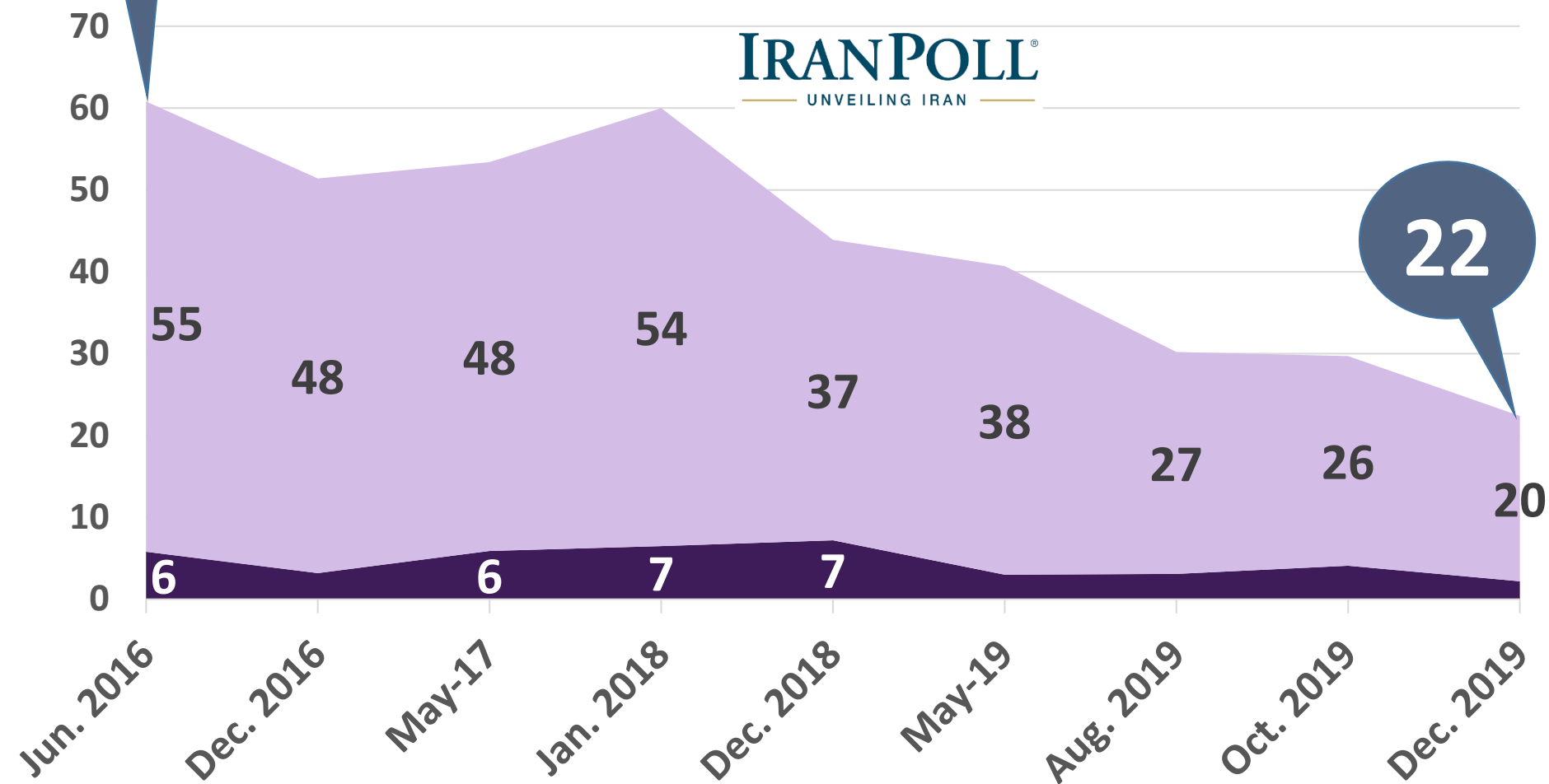


IranPoll for University of Maryland (CISSM) – Apr, Dec 2018, Oct, & Dec. 2019 data are IranPoll exclusive.

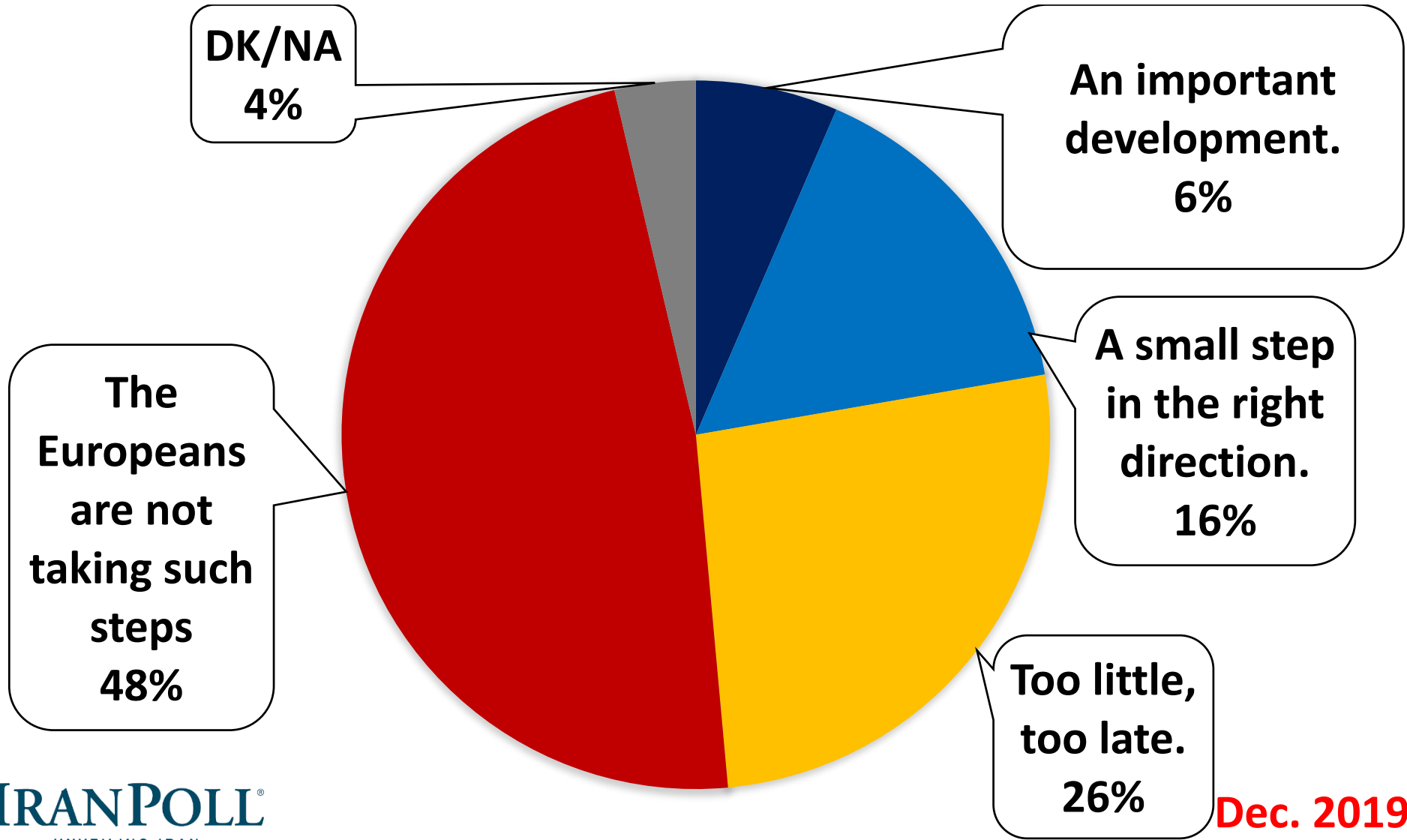
# How confident are you that other P5+1 countries besides the U.S. will live up to their obligations toward the nuclear agreement?

Very confident      Somewhat confident

IRAN POLL<sup>®</sup>  
UNVEILING IRAN



**European countries are stating that they are taking steps to protect companies that engage in some types of trade with Iran from facing U.S. sanctions. What do you think about these efforts?**

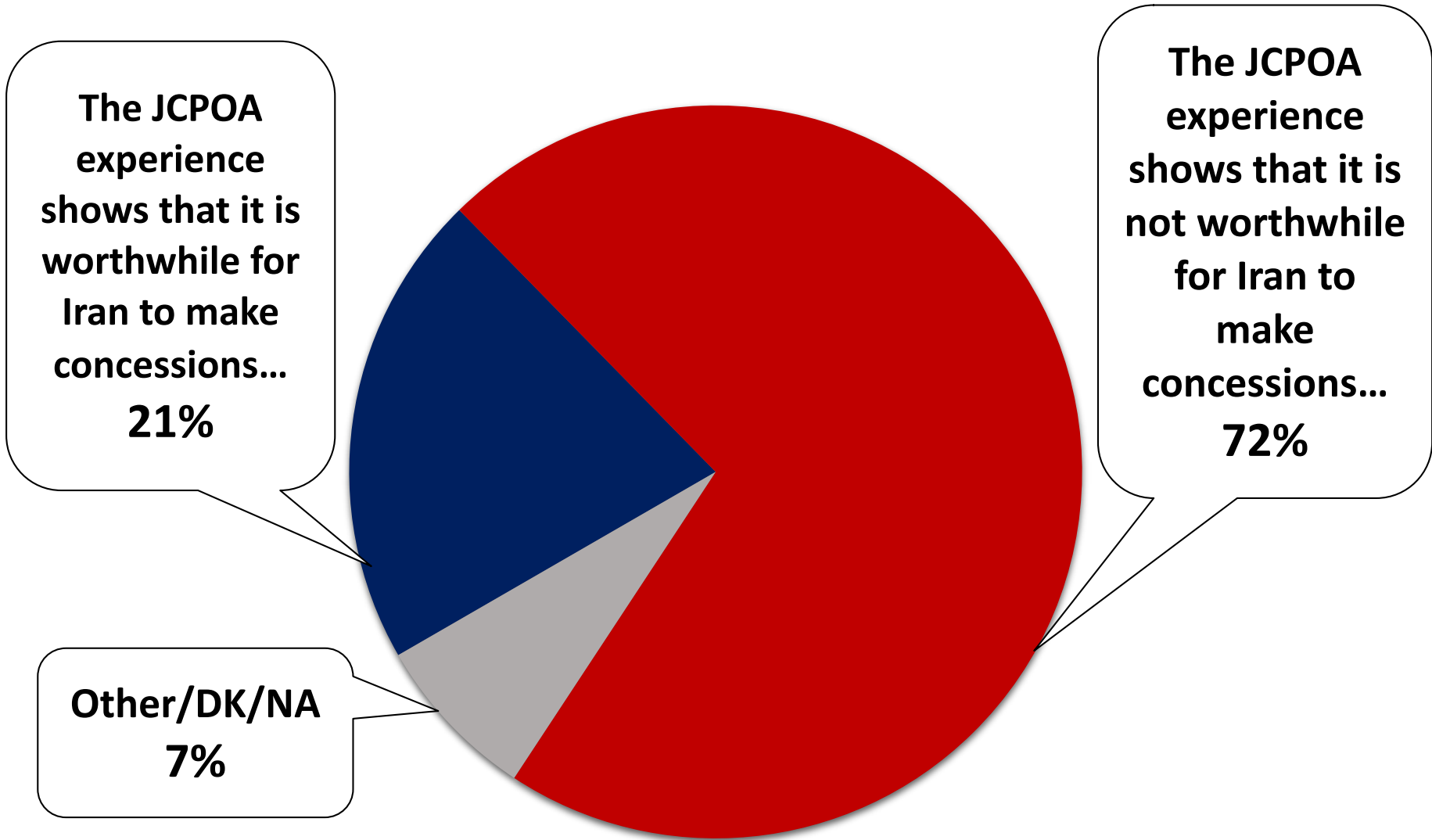




# Question:

- Thinking about how the JCPOA has worked out so far, which view is closer to yours?
- 1. The JCPOA experience shows that it is worthwhile for Iran to make concessions, because through compromise Iran can negotiate mutually beneficial agreements with world powers.
- 2. The JCPOA experience shows that it is not worthwhile for Iran to make concessions, because Iran cannot have confidence that if it makes a concession world powers will honor their side of an agreement.

# Thinking about how the JCPOA has worked out so far, which view is closer to yours?

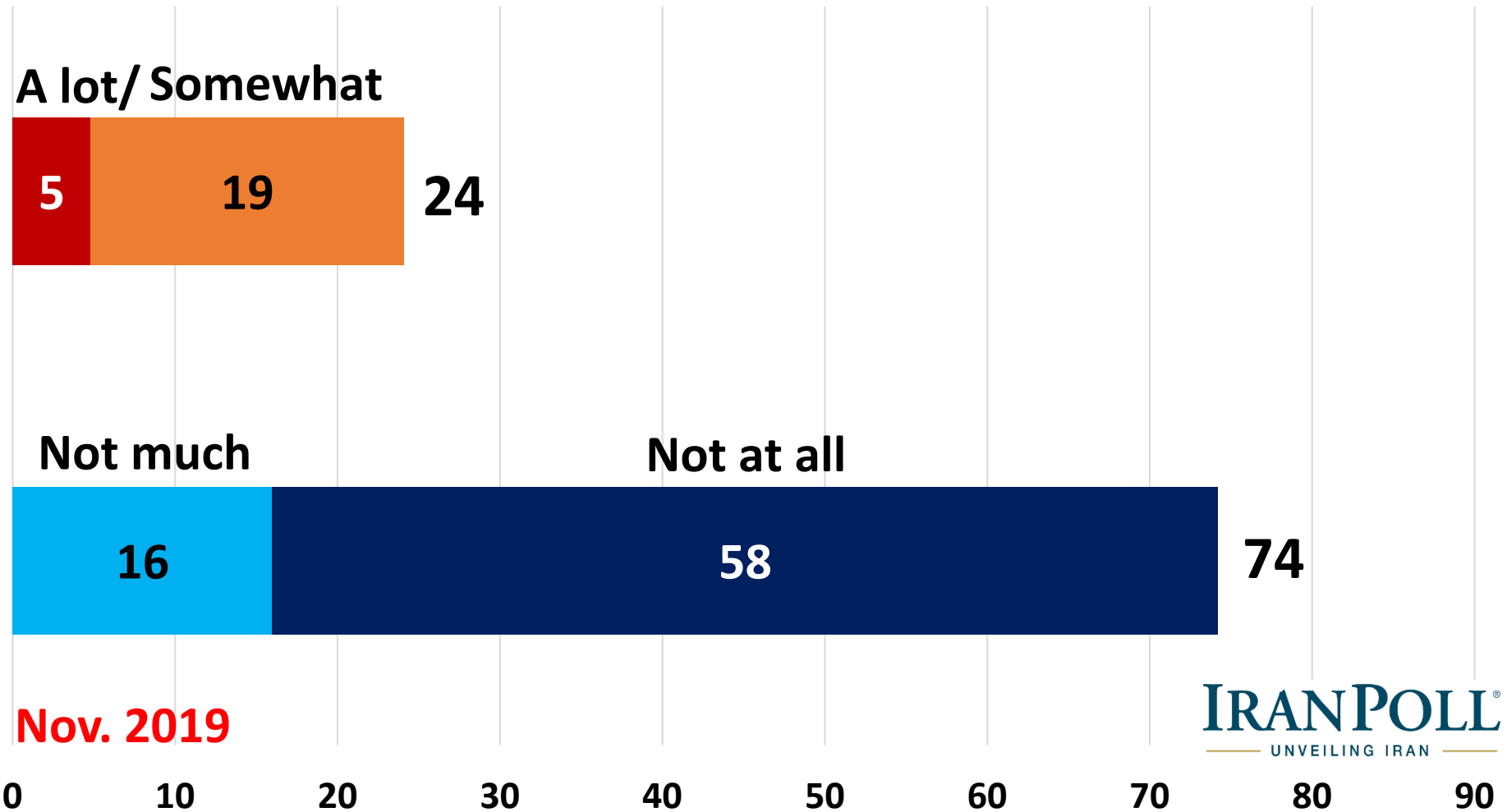


Aug 2019

# Possibility of war?

Majority say there is little possibility BUT if US, Saudi Arabia, or Israel attacks, Iran should retaliate with force.

# How likely do you think it is that the United States would militarily attack Iran if Iran continues to develop its nuclear program?



# If the United States militarily attacks an Iranian nuclear facility, do you think:

Iran should retaliate by attacking US military

59

Iran should not retaliate and should only take its complaint to the UN

30

Iran should both retaliate and complain to the UN

8

Nov. 2019

# What if Saudi Arabia militarily attacks an Iranian nuclear facility? In that case do you think:

Iran should retaliate by attacking Saudi Arabia

69

Iran should not retaliate and should only take its complaint to the UN

24

Iran should both retaliate and complain to the UN

4

Nov. 2019

# What if Israel militarily attacks an Iranian nuclear facility? In that case do you think

Iran should retaliate by attacking Israel

75

Iran should not retaliate and should only take its complaint to the UN

21

Iran should both retaliate and complain to the UN

2

Nov. 2019

## Views of the United States:

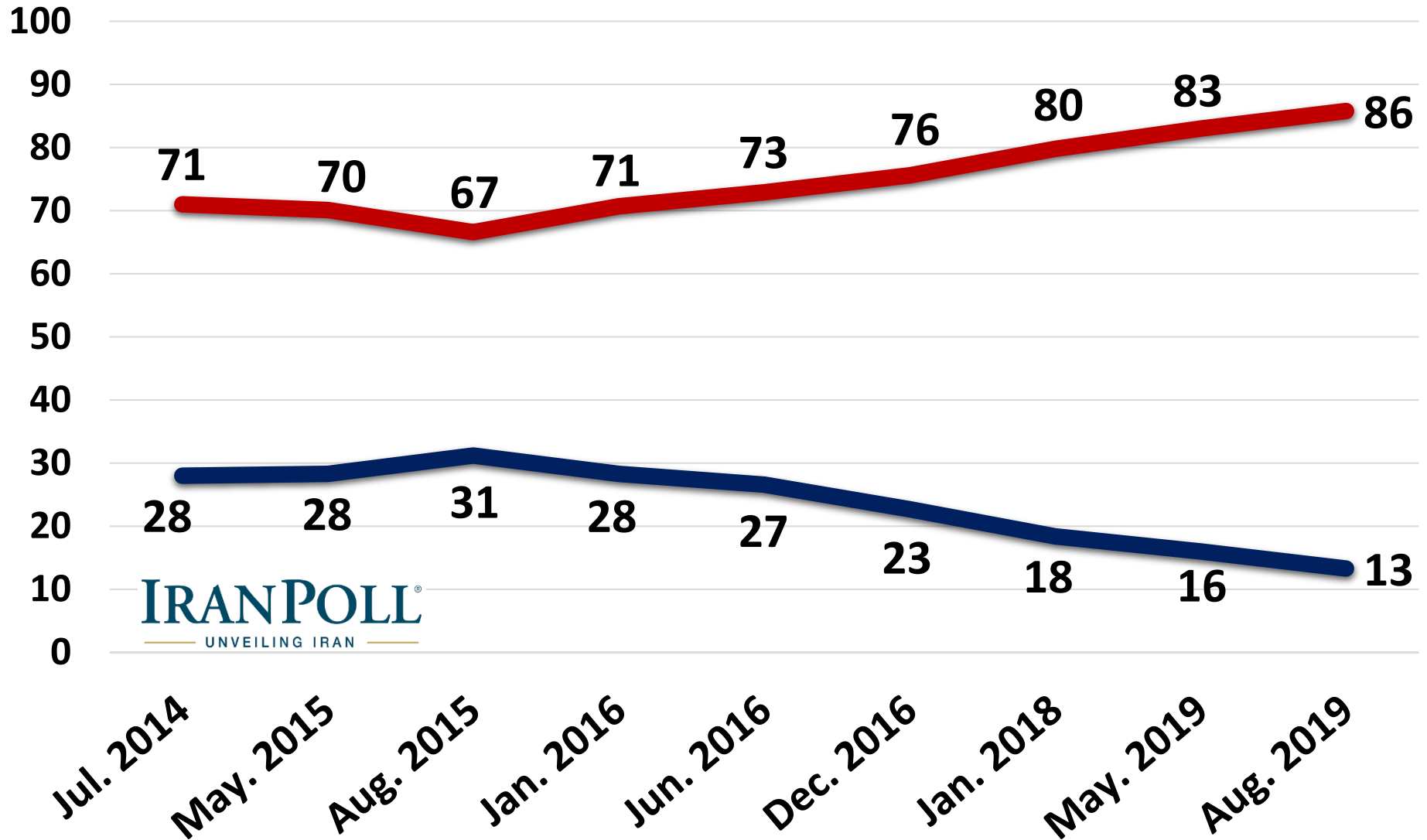
- ❖ Very negative
- ❖ US has lost its power of attraction (soft power)



# The United States

**Favorable**

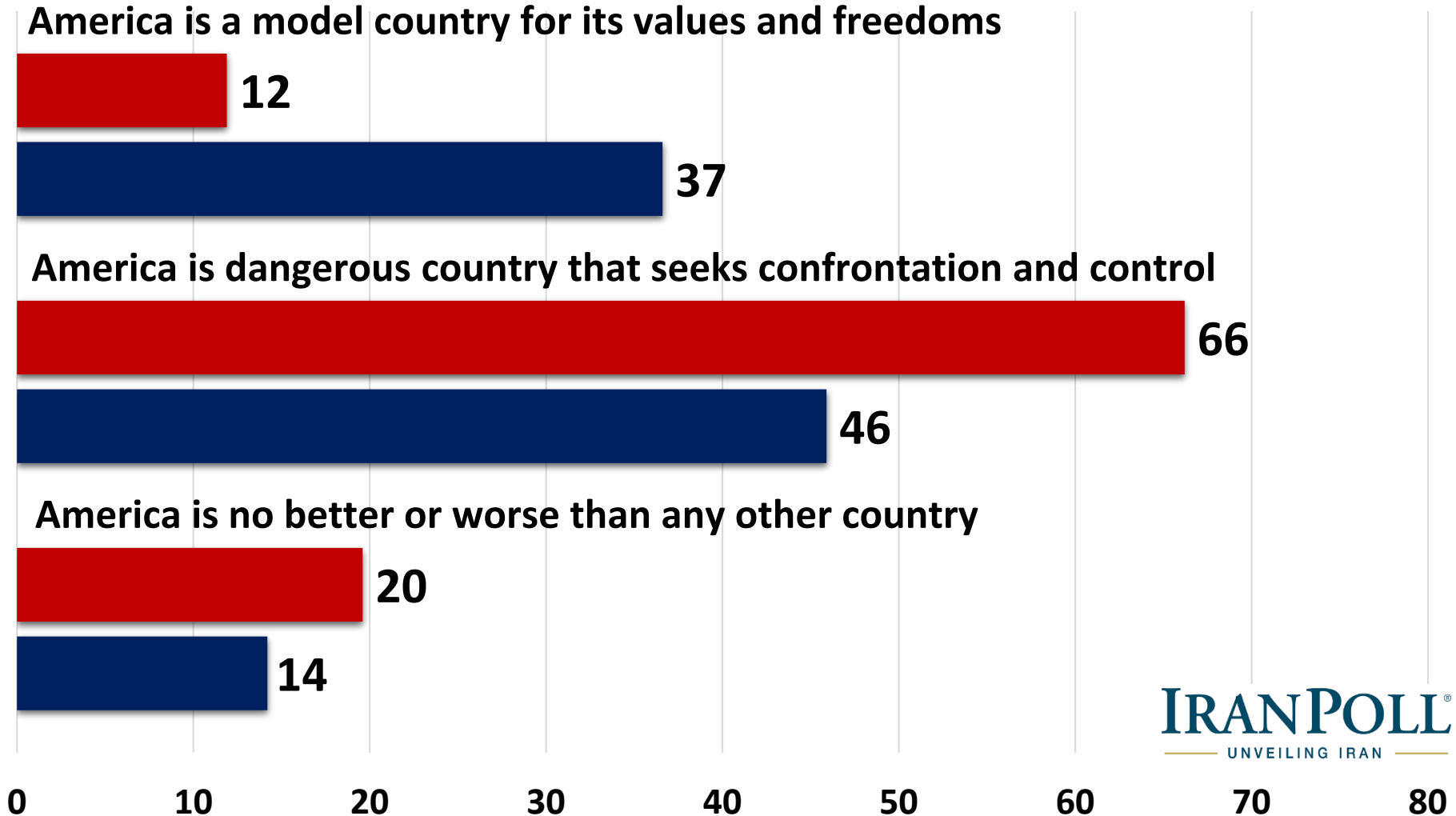
**Unfavorable**



**IRANPOLL**  
UNVEILING IRAN

# Which of the following statements is closer to your view about the United States:

■ Aug. 2019 ■ May. 2005

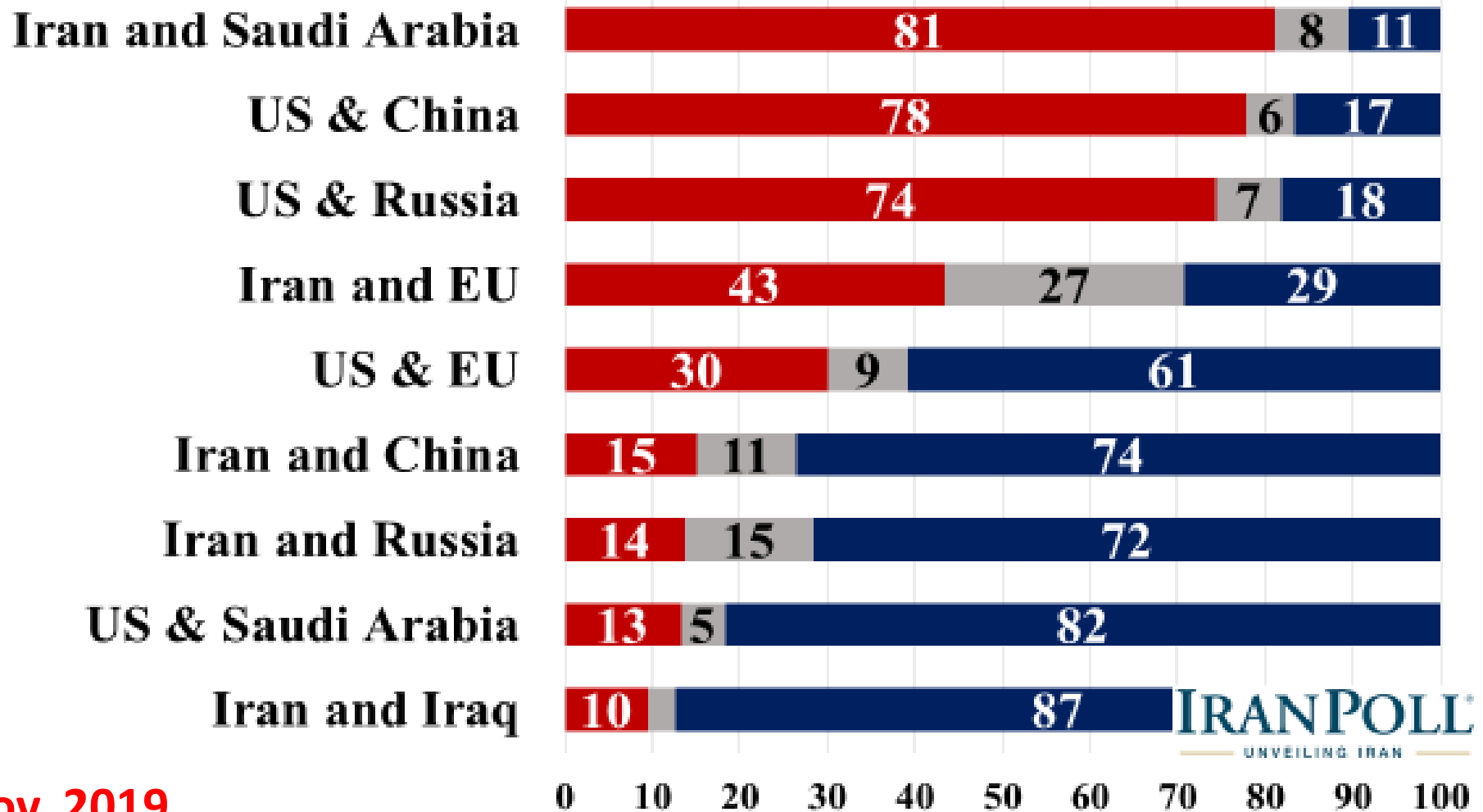


## Rivals or Partners?

Iran sees US rivals as its own partners and US partners as its own rivals?

# At present, are the following countries mostly rivals or mostly partners?

■ **Mostly rivals**
■ **Neither /DK/NA**
■ **Mostly partners**



**IRAN POLL**  
UNVEILING IRAN

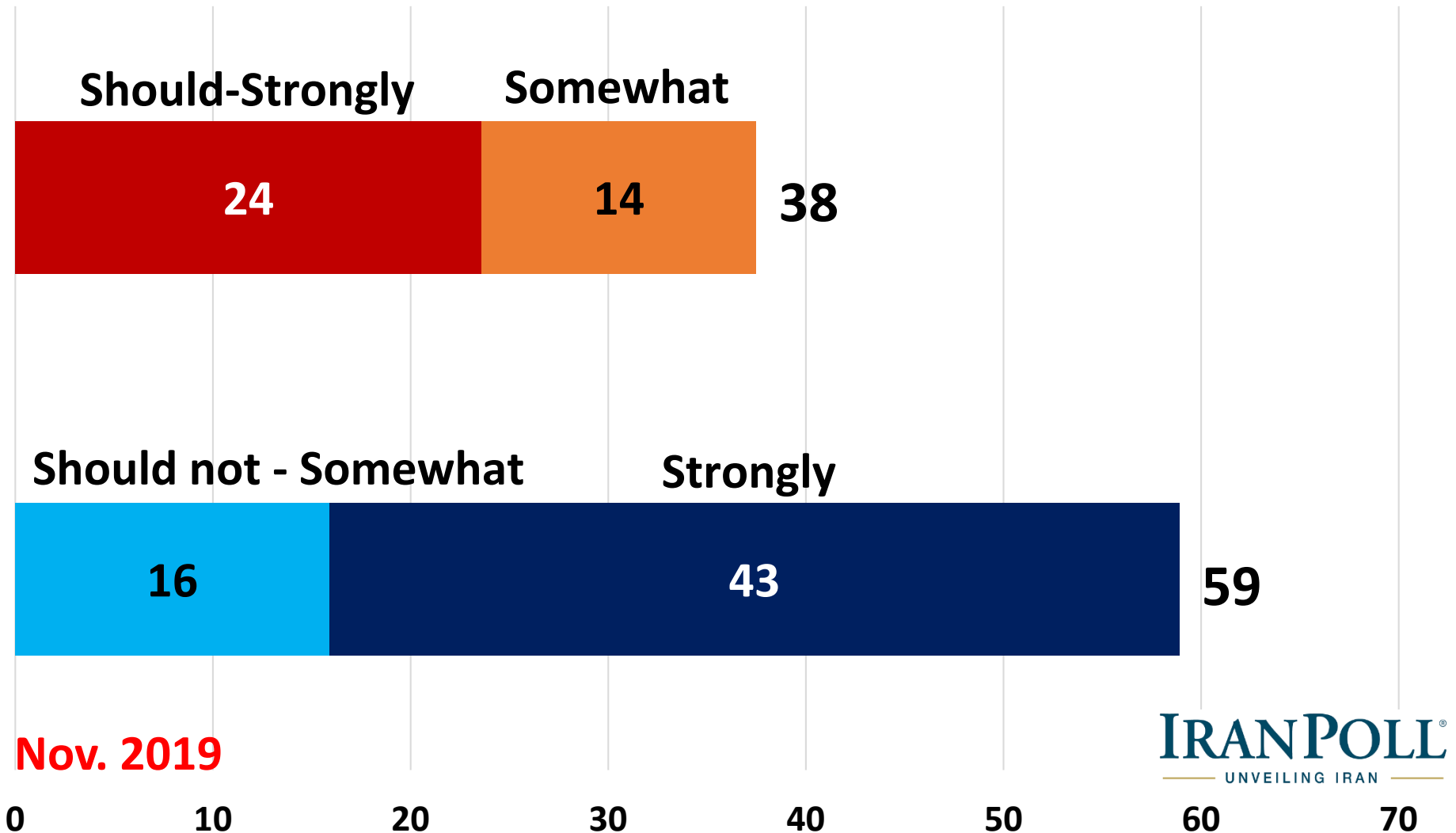
Nov. 2019

## Some good news...

- 1) Iranian people oppose development of nuclear weapons

- 2) Support their country negotiating with US on a wide range of issues if the United States lives by its commitments under the nuclear agreement

# Do you think Iran should or should not develop nuclear weapons?



# Which of these views is closer to yours?

Development of nuclear weapons is against the teachings of Islam

66

Islam does not prohibit the development of nuclear weapons

17

Depends/ DK/NA

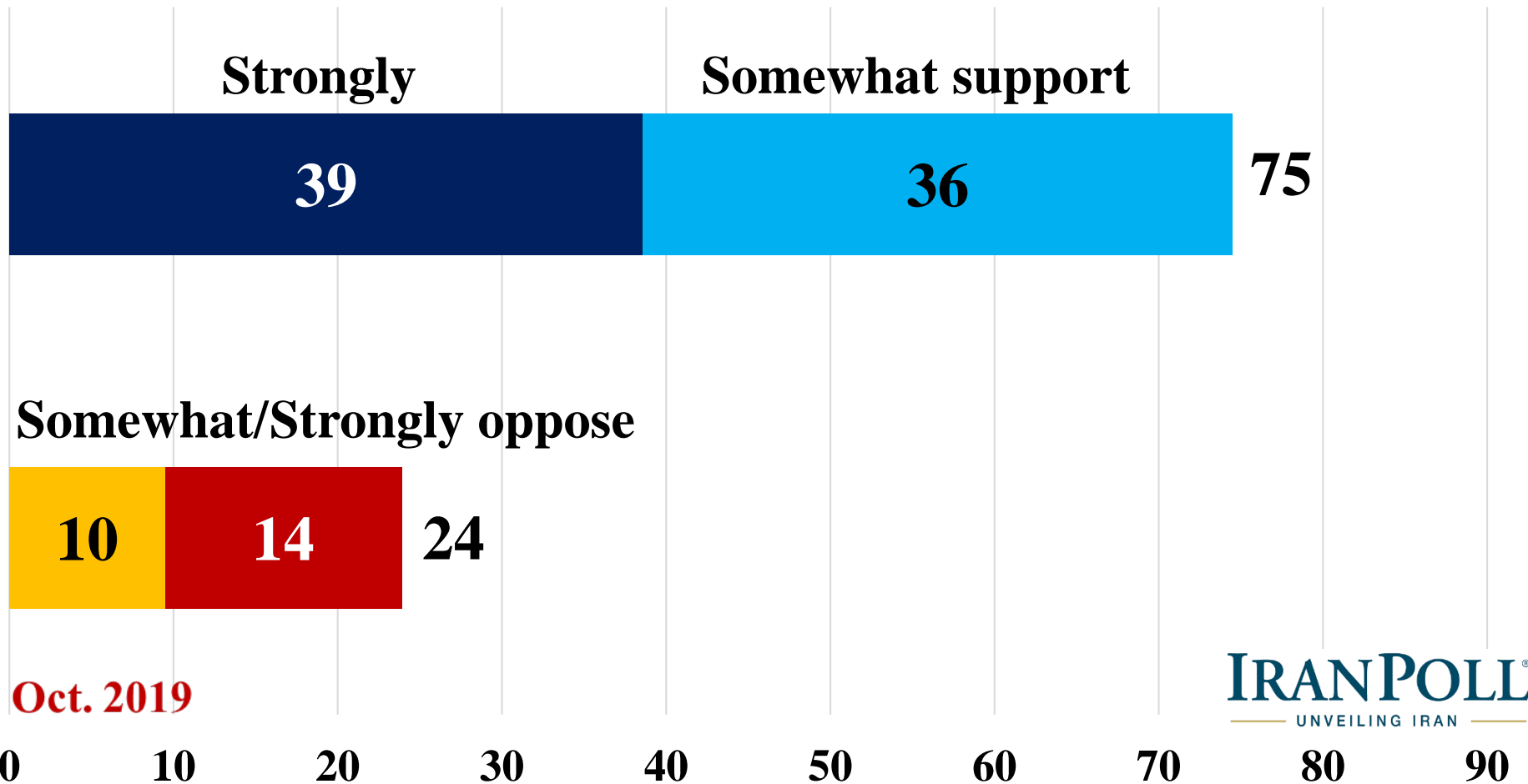
11

7

18

Nov. 2019

**Support or oppose talks: If the United States returns to the JCPOA, lifts all sanctions related to Iran's nuclear program, and is willing to talk in a forum that includes all the P5+1 countries?**



Oct. 2019

**IRAN POLL**  
UNVEILING IRAN





# Contact Us

---

707-7191 Yonge St. Toronto, ON,  
L3T0C4, Canada

☎ +1-84-IranPoll

[Contact@IranPoll.com](mailto:Contact@IranPoll.com)

[www.IranPoll.com](http://www.IranPoll.com)