

Evaluating the 2010 Oregon Citizens' Initiative Review

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Overview of Presentation

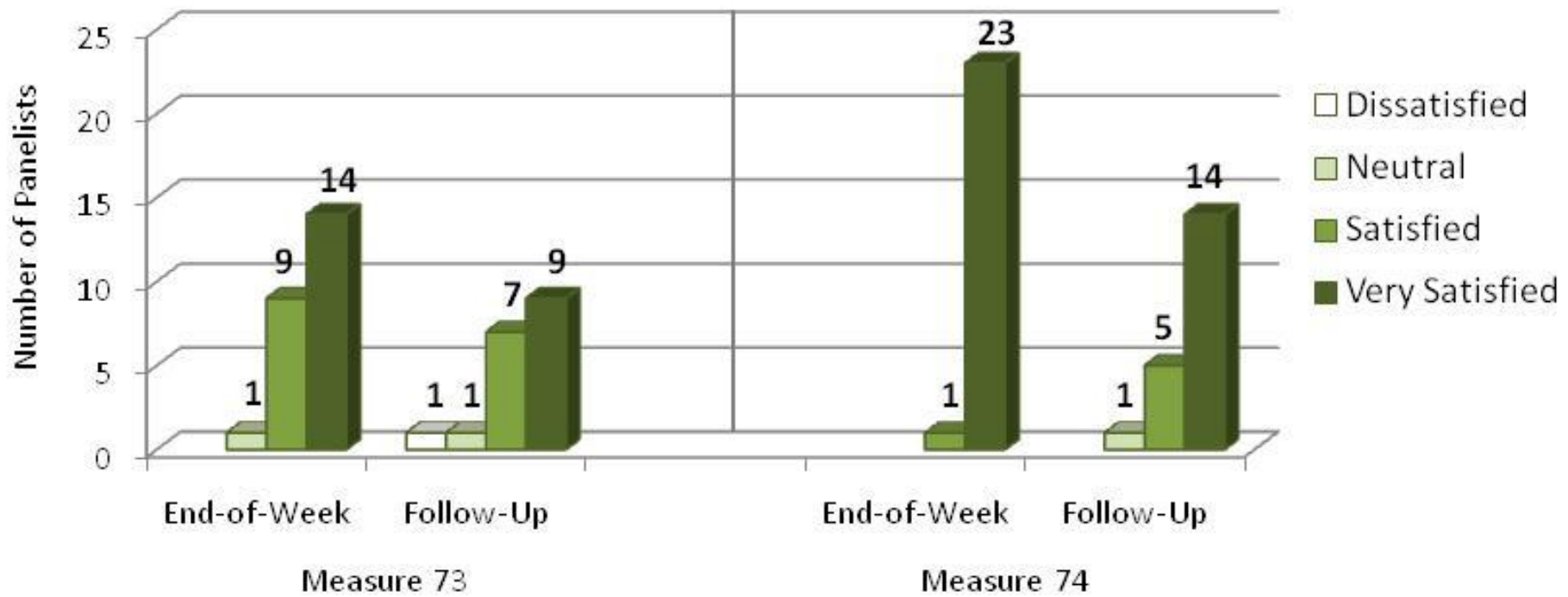
Section 1: CIR Deliberative Process

Section 2: CIR Utility for Voters

Section 3: Impact on Participants

Evaluating the CIR Deliberative Process

Figure 1.1 (p. 11)
Panelists Overall Satisfaction with the CIR Process



Panelists' self-assessment of having learned enough to make an informed decision

Figure 1.2 (p. 15)
End-of-Week Assessment

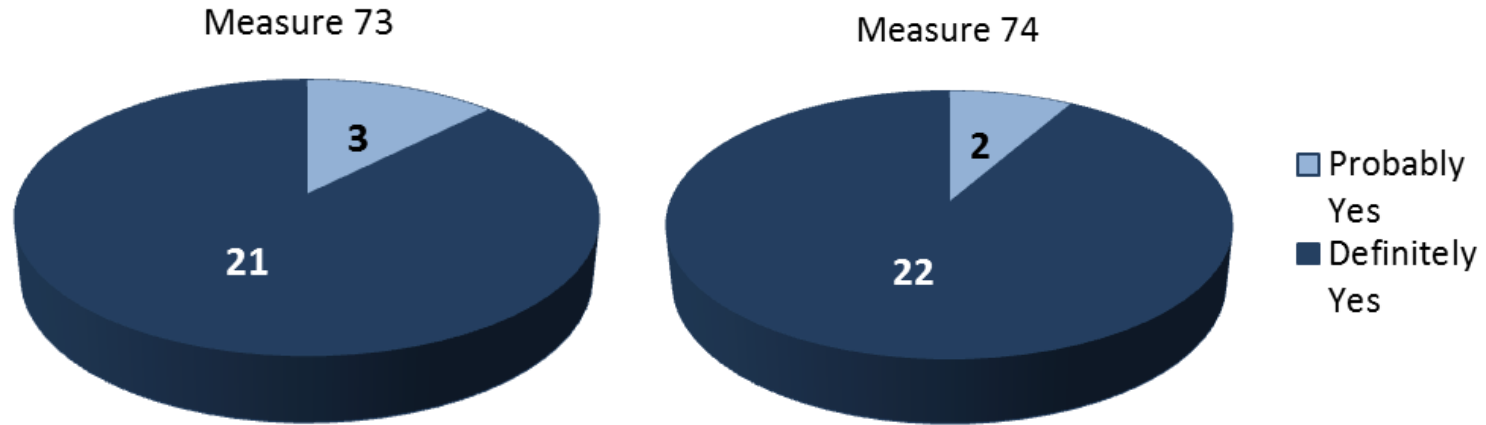


Figure 1.3 (p. 15)
Follow-Up Assessment

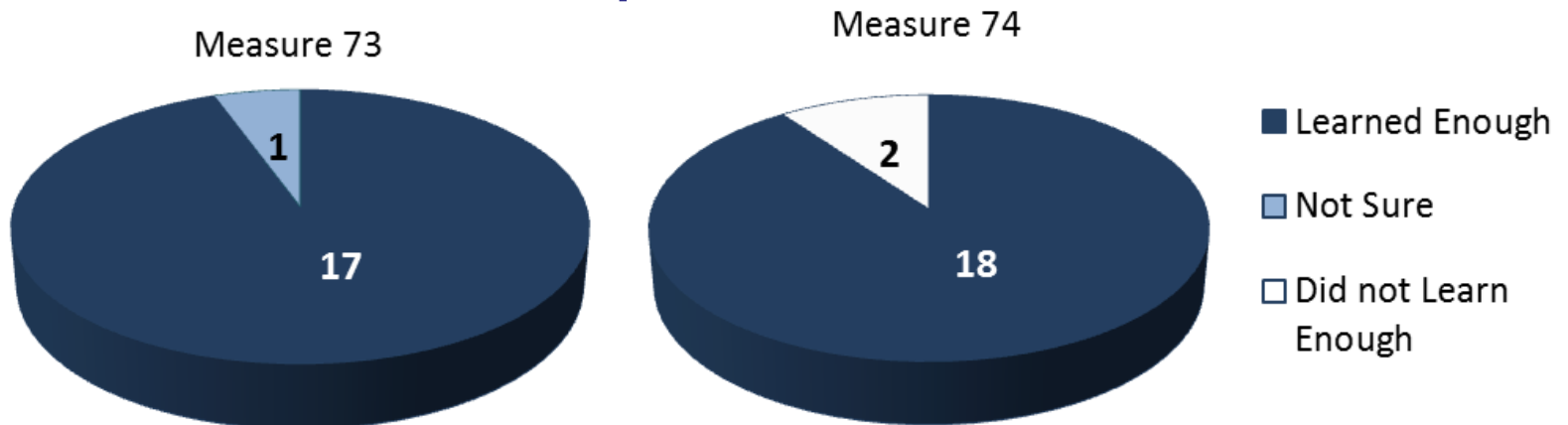


Figure 1.6 (p. 29)

Panelists' Position Before and After Deliberation

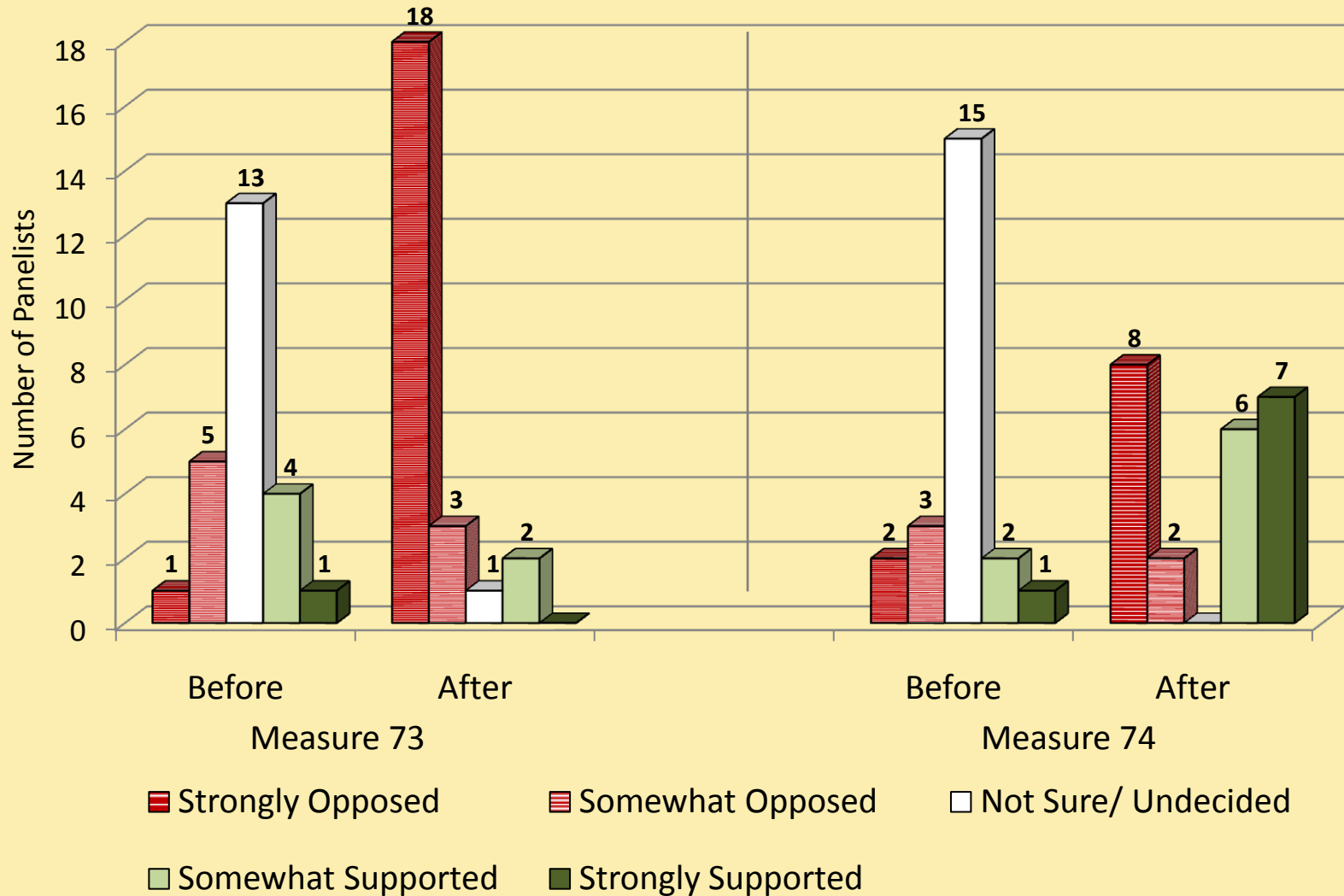


Table 1.1. (p. 8)
Quality of Deliberation in CIR Panels

Criteria for Evaluating Deliberation	Measure 73 (Sentencing)	Measure 74 (Marijuana)
<i>1. Promote analytic rigor</i>		
1a. Learning basic issue information	B+	B+
1b. Examining of underlying values	B-	B
1c. Considering a range of alternatives	A	B
1d. Weighing pros/cons of measure	A	A
<i>2. Facilitate a democratic process</i>		
2a. Equality of opportunity to participate	A	A
2b. Comprehension of information	B+	B+
2c. Consideration of different views	A	A
2d. Mutual respect	A-	A
<i>3. Produce a well-reasoned statement</i>		
3a. Informed decision making	A-	A
3b. Non-coercive process	A	A

The CIR's Utility for Oregon Voters

Voters' Pamphlet

Oregon General Election
November 2, 2010

vote!



Kate Brown
Oregon Secretary of State

This Voters' Pamphlet is provided for assistance
in casting your vote by mail ballot.

Citizens' Review Statement

This Citizens' Statement, authorized by the 2009 State Legislature, was developed by an independent panel of 24 Oregon voters who chose to participate in the Citizens' Initiative Review process. The panelists were randomly selected from registered voters in Oregon and balanced to fairly reflect the state's voting population based upon location of residence, age, gender, party affiliation, education, ethnicity, and likelihood of voting. Over a period of five days the panel heard from initiative proponents, opponents, and background witnesses. The panelists deliberated the measure and issued this statement. This statement has not been edited, altered, or approved by the Secretary of State.

The opinions expressed in this statement are those of the members of a citizen panel and were developed through the citizen review process. They are NOT official opinions or positions endorsed by the State of Oregon or any government agency. A citizen panel is not a judge of the constitutionality or legality of any ballot measure, and any statements about such matters are not binding on a court of law.

Citizen Statement of a Majority of the Panel

Key Findings – The following are statements about the measure and the number of panelists who agree with each statement:

- M73 shifts the balance of power in court proceedings, giving the prosecution additional leverage in plea bargaining and limiting the judge's discretion in sentencing individual cases. (21 agree)
- Passed in 1994, Measure 11 (ORS 137.700) provides mandatory minimum sentencing of 70-300 months for the major felony sex crimes defined in Measure 73. (24 agree)
- Mandatory minimum sentencing has not proven a significant deterrent to future DUII or sex crimes. (21 agree)
- An unintended consequence of M73 is that juveniles aged 15 to 17 are subject to 25 year mandatory minimum sentences. (20 agree)
- Oregon spends over 10.9% of its general funds on corrections – a greater percentage than any other state. (19 agree)

www.review73.org

Shared Agreement Statement

Public policy impacts all citizens—we have had the opportunity to closely review material not readily available to voters—and have tried to examine both sides of this measure in an unbiased manner.

www.review73.org

Citizen Statement Opposed to the Measure

POSITION TAKEN BY 21 OF 24 PANELISTS

We, 21 members of the Citizens' Initiative Review, oppose Ballot Measure 73 for the following reasons:

- Longer mandatory sentencing has little or no effect as a deterrent and has not been proven to increase public safety. Furthermore mandatory sentences are already in effect under Measure 11.
- Measure 73 takes discretion and power away from judges giving leverage to the prosecution. People charged under this measure may be forced to plea bargain whether they are guilty or not, depriving them of their right to trial by jury.
- Measure 73 requires projected expenditures of \$238 million over the next 10 years which must come from cuts in other programs or new taxes.
- This initiative leads to unintended consequences. Sexting falls under the definition of explicit material. No one convicted for felony sex offenses would receive the opportunity for treatment.

www.review73.org

Citizen Statement in Favor of the Measure

POSITION TAKEN BY 3 OF 24 PANELISTS

We, 3 members of the Citizens' Initiative Review, support Ballot Measure 73 for the following reasons:

- This is a public safety measure.
- This measure will take minimum mandatory sentences (70-100 months) on four major sex crimes to mandatory 300 months (25 years).
- This measure changes a third conviction DUII from a misdemeanor to a Class C felony.
- Measure 73 specifically targets only repeat serious sex offenders and repeat (third conviction) intoxicated drivers.
- Statistics support that mandatory sentencing is effective on reduction of violent crime rate.
- Measure 73 will cost only 1/5 of 1% of the General Fund.

Summary: Measure 73 is carefully targeted at repeat violent sex offenders and third time DUII convictions. If passed it would make all Oregonians safer.

www.review73.org

Figure 2.1 (p. 33)
Weekly CIR Awareness, Aug 30-Nov 1

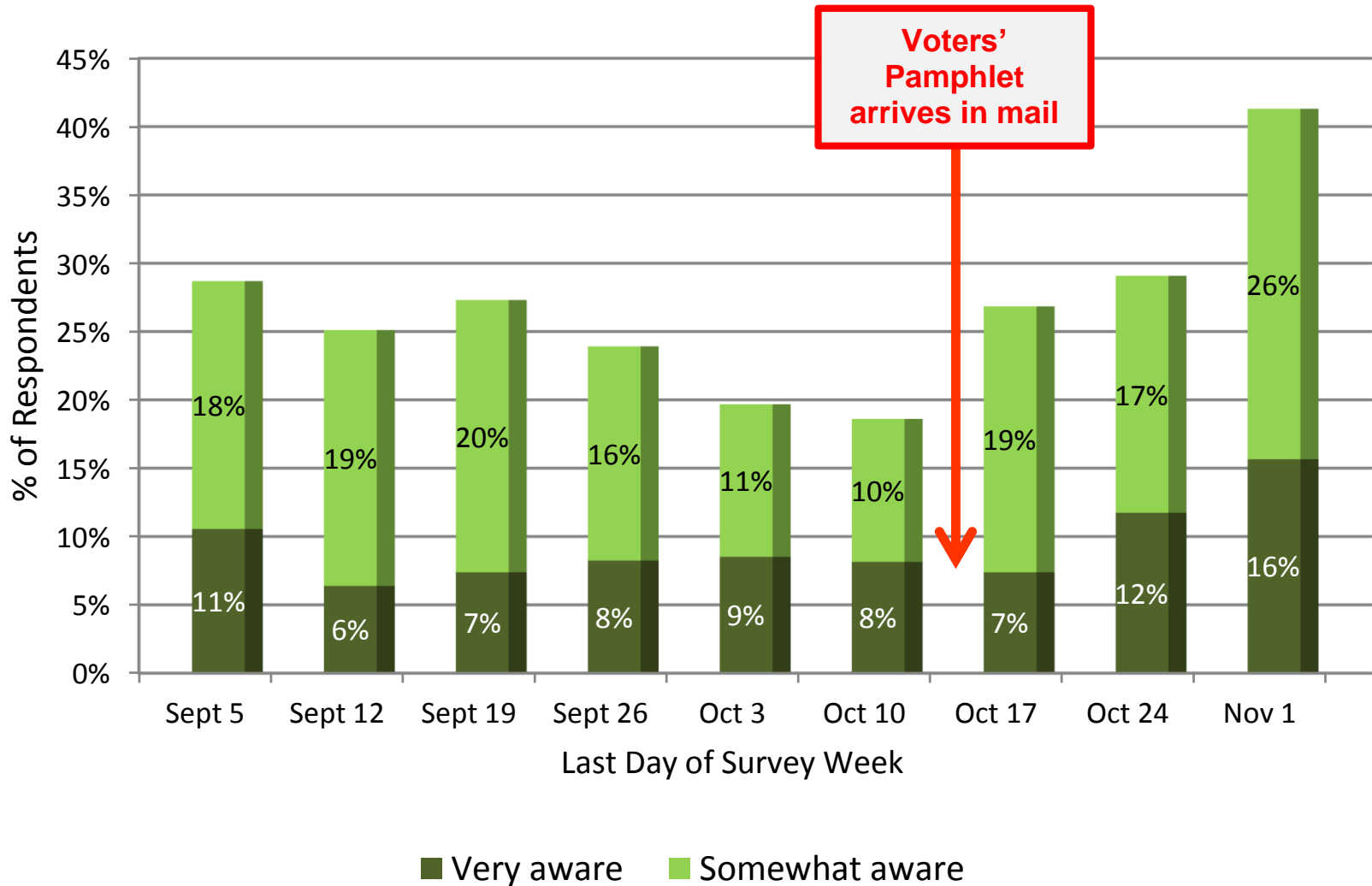


Figure 2.3 (p. 35)

Minutes Reading the CIR Statement and Other Sections of the Voters' Pamphlet

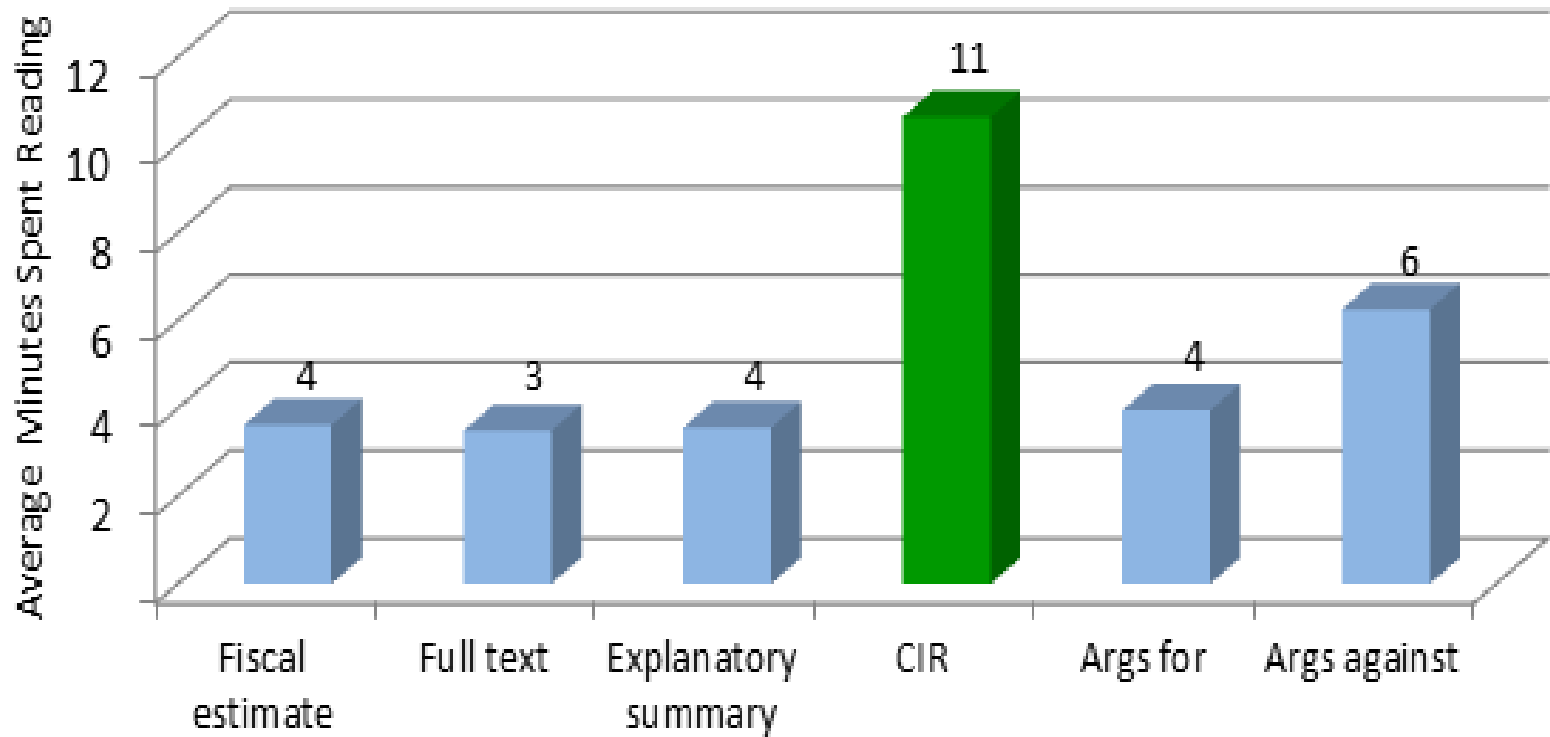


Figure 2.5 (p. 38)
**Perceived “Importance” of CIR Key Findings
for Deciding How to Vote on Measure 73,**

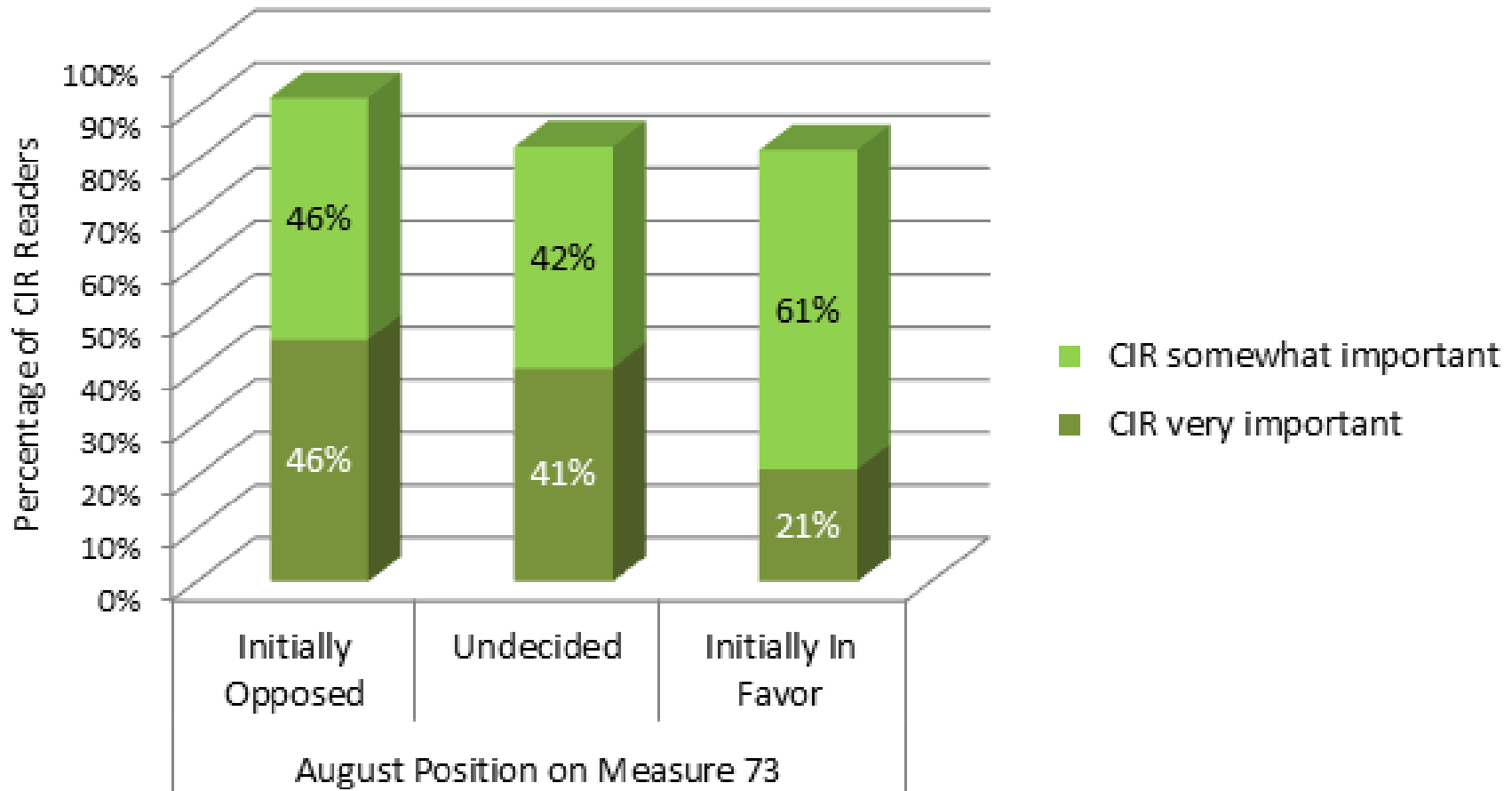
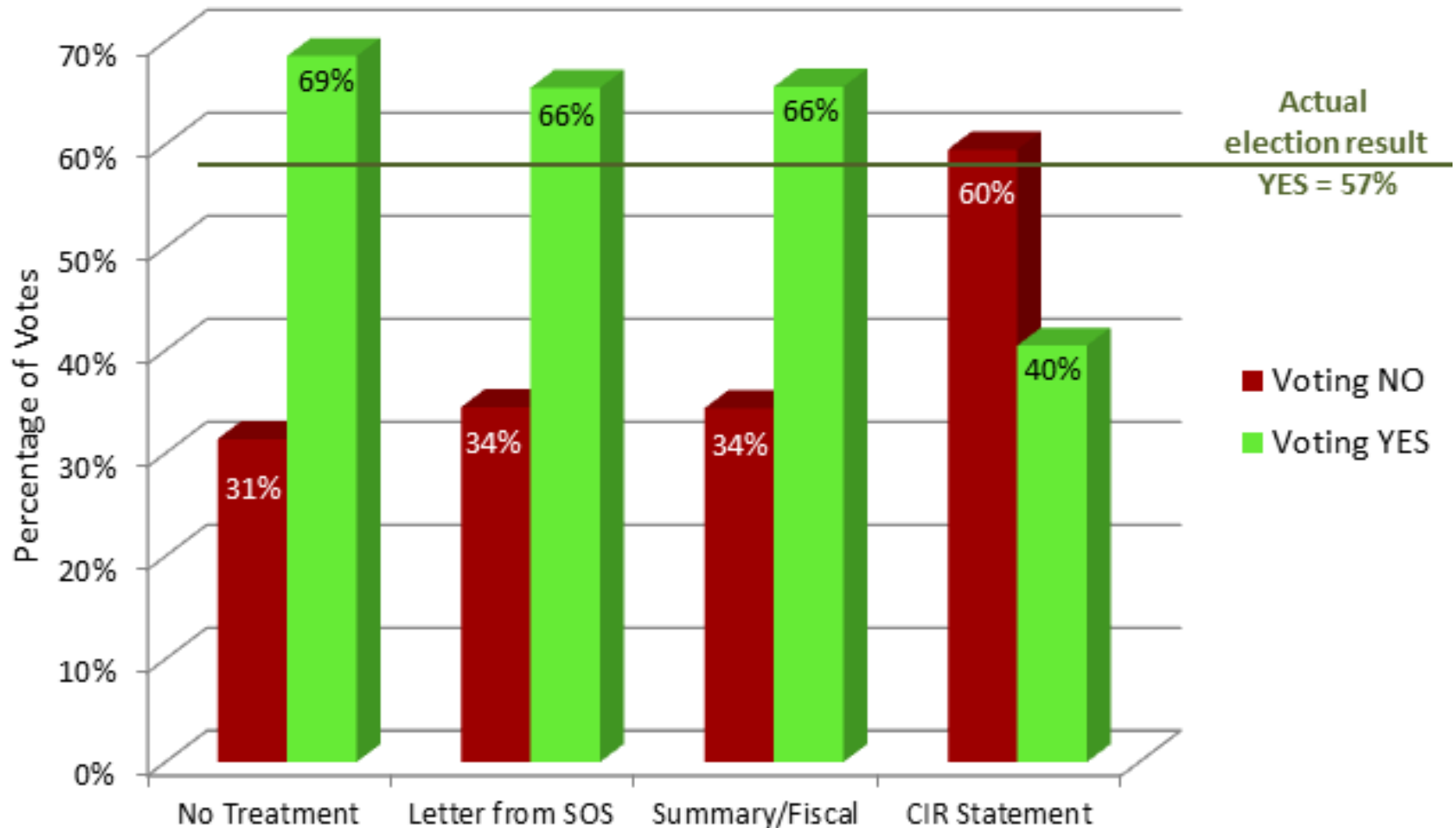


Figure 2.7 (p. 41) Results of online CIR Statement experiment for voting preferences on Measure 73



Knowledge Gains from Reading CIR

Measure 73 (Sentencing)

- Measure 73 would apply to minors
- Mandatory minimums do not have a proven deterrent effect
- Previous mandatory minimums already have elevated Oregon's incarceration rate
- Mandatory minimums reduce violent crime through incarceration

Measure 74 (Medical marijuana dispensaries)

- Measure 74 would pay for itself
- Measure 74 would relieve pain for some users
- Measure 74 wouldn't directly spur recreational use
- **Current law forces many medical marijuana users to the black market**

CIR'S IMPACT ON PARTICIPANTS

Attitudinal Changes

Face-to-Face (N = 36)

	Agree Less	No Change	Agree More
Political Self-Confidence			
I think I am better informed about politics and government than most people	6%	31%	64%**
I have a pretty good understanding of the important issues facing this country	3%	50%	47%**
I consider myself well-qualified to participate in politics and community affairs	0%	72%	28%*
Collective Identity			
Being an Oregonian is an important part of how I describe myself	0%	81%	19%

* $p < .01$

** $p < .001$

Attitudinal Changes

Face-to-Face (N = 36)

	Agree Less	No Change	Agree More
Deliberative Faith			
The first step in solving our common problems is to discuss them together	0%	36%	64%**
Even people who strongly disagree can make decisions if they sit down and talk	0%	25%	72%**
Everyday people from different political parties can have civil, respectful conversations about politics	0%	19%	81%**
Political Faith			
Under our form of government, the people have the final say about how the country is run, no matter who is in office	14%	69%	17%
People like me don't have any say about what the government does	42%	56%	3%**
There are many legal ways for citizens to successfully influence what government does	3%	39%	58%**

** $p < .001$

Behavioral Changes

	Face-to-Face (N = 36)		
	Agree Less	No Change	Agree More
Conversation			
Talking to people to learn more about a political issue or a candidate	0%	53%	47%**
Talking to other people to show them why they should vote for one of the parties or candidates	0%	56%	44%**
Media Use			
Paying attention to news about government, politics, or community while watching TV	0%	61%	36%**
Paying attention to news about government, politics, or community affairs while reading the newspaper	0%	53%	47%**

** $p < .001$

Behavioral Changes

	Face-to-Face (N = 36)		
	Agree Less	No Change	Agree More
Local Engagement			
Voluntarily working or co-operating with others in your local community to try to solve some of the community's problems	0%	72%	28%*
Discussing local community affairs with other members of your community	0%	44%	56%**
Institutional Engagement			
Going to political meetings, demonstrations, fund raising dinners or things like that	6%	78%	17%
Doing volunteer work for one of the parties or candidates, for example, making a speech, putting up posters, or working in a candidate's office	6%	83%	11%

* $p < .01$

** $p < .001$

Conclusion and Recommendations

Evaluation Summary

- The process clearly met a high standard for public deliberation
- Though many didn't read it, those voters who read the CIR found it helpful in deciding how to vote on Measures 73 and 74.

Key Recommendations

- CIR organizers should prepare witnesses more thoroughly for their appearance before citizen panelists.
- The purpose and limitations of the Shared Agreement section of the Citizens' Statement should be clarified.
- It should be clearer when, how, and for how long panelists can take the reins of the CIR process.
- Formalize the process for forming subcommittees and make explicit their objectives and limitations.