



SINE INSTITUTE
of POLICY & POLITICS

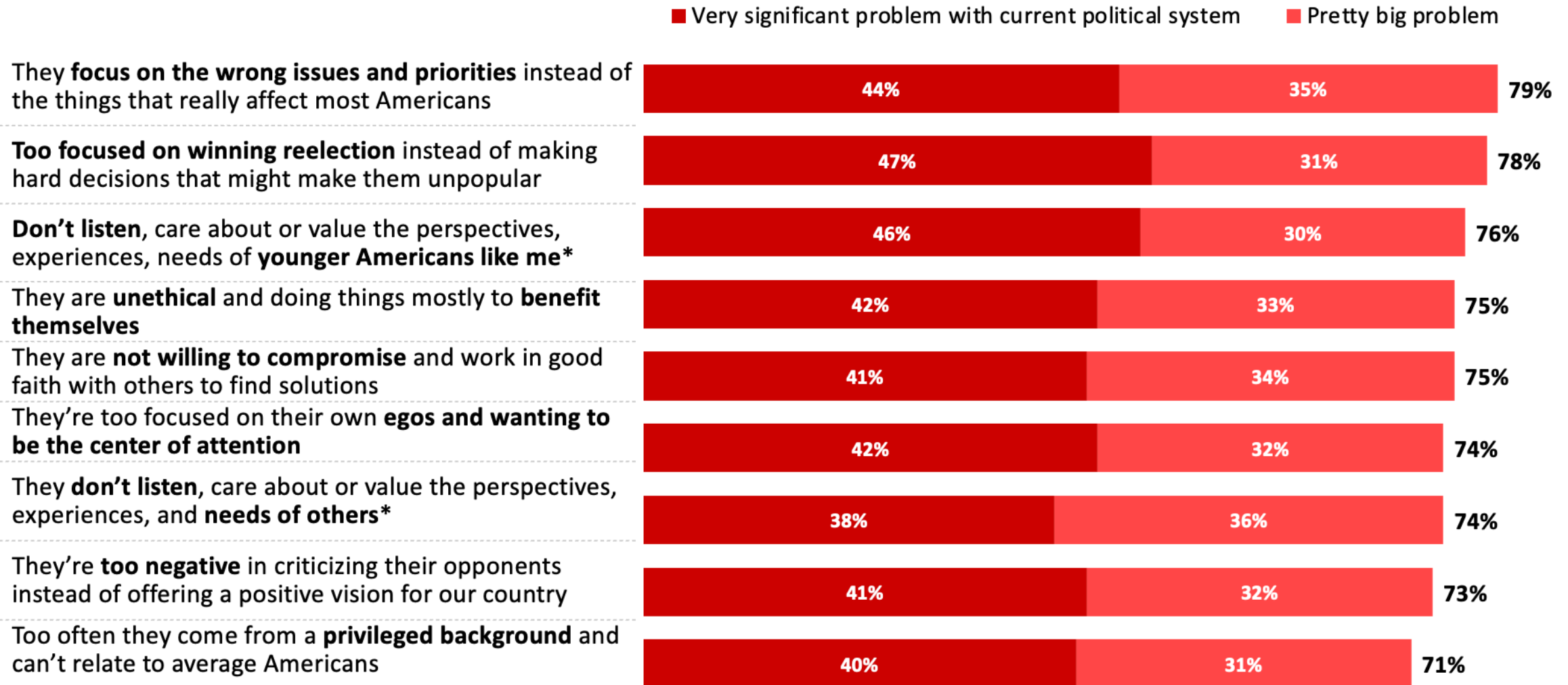
Reimagining Political Leadership: *Step 1.* *Diagnosing the Problem*

Step 1: Diagnosing the Problem

Like all Americans, young Americans identify a wide range of problems with our current political landscape.

- Leading the list of criticisms is that our core political dialogue is simply off base: young Americans' most common criticism is that political leaders are focused on the wrong issues and priorities instead of things that really affect people.
- Young Americans are also disappointed with leaders' being unethical and focused too much on themselves, being too concerned about winning reelection and therefore ducking hard decisions, not being willing to compromise, and being too negative instead of offering a positive vision.
- In identifying what is most absent from today's political leadership, young Americans are nearly unanimous in calling for a willingness to compromise and a commitment to truly serve others and not oneself.

Young Americans see lots of problems with the current state of our political leadership—including being focused on the wrong priorities, not listening and being distracted by reelection.



*Split-formed: each asked of half the respondents.

In a ranked choice, young Americans' say that political leaders are focused on the wrong agenda for the country.

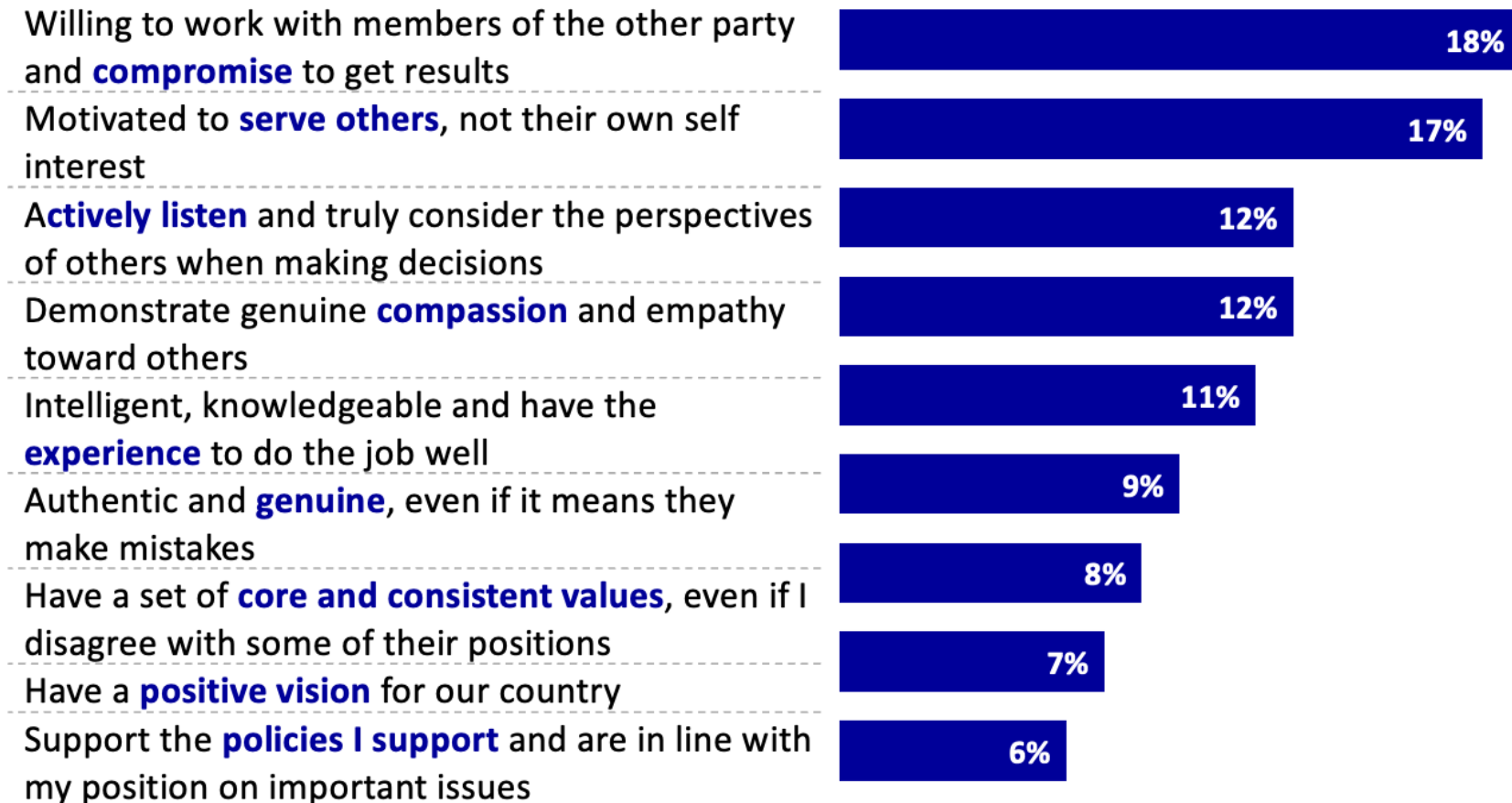
% Top two problems in current political system

- 36%** They focus on the wrong issues and priorities instead of the things that really affect most Americans
- 31%** They are unethical and doing things mostly to benefit themselves
- 28%** They are too focused on winning reelection instead of making hard decisions that might make them unpopular
- 24%** They are not willing to compromise and work in good faith with others to find solutions
- 22%** They're too negative in criticizing their opponents instead of offering a positive vision for our country
- 19%** Too often they come from a privileged background and can't relate to average Americans
- 18%** They're too focused on their own egos and wanting to be the center of attention
- 10%** They don't listen, care about, value the perspectives, experiences, needs of others
- 9%** They don't listen, care about or value the perspectives, experiences, needs of younger Americans like me

Across demographic and partisan lines, young Americans are remarkably consistent in their rank ordering of these criticisms.

Young Americans see lots of qualities missing in today's political leaders—willingness to compromise & moving beyond self interest are top concerns.

% single quality that is most missing in today's political leaders/candidates



These are the top two concerns among men & women; among white, Black & Hispanic adults, among adults regardless of educational attainment, and in every region of the country.