

LAYERS OF POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES IN ARMENIA:

**RESULTS OF THE POLITICAL COMPASS
DATA ANALYSIS**



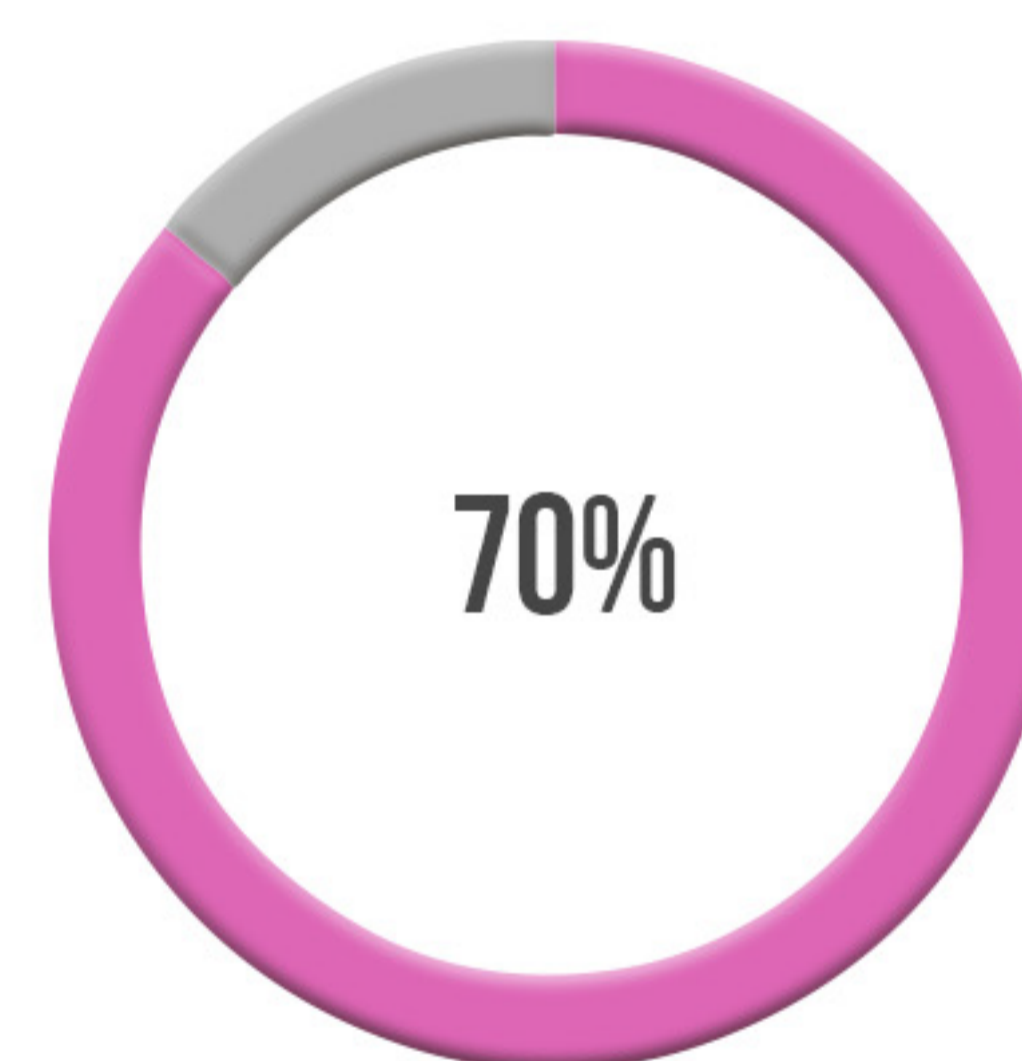
INTRODUCTION

This research analyzed the results of the "Political Compass" test, developed and distributed by the Political Dialogue NGO.

The Political Compass reveals a person's political ideological orientation based on a two-dimensional political axis model. This test - the analysis of which will be presented below - was developed considering the socio-political and socio-cultural reality of Armenia.

It should be noted that the existing results cannot be automatically generalized to the whole society. The test is not a sociological survey, does not include a sample, and does not provide one of the most important conditions for social research: representativeness. However, given that this test was available on the Internet, widely distributed on social networks, and advertised, there is a high probability that a large number of people representing various groups completed it. The database shows that more than 14,000 users completed the test, from which about 3,500 real users from across Armenia were selected.

It should be noted that the vast majority of users are representatives of the younger age group. Moreover, 70 percent of users are women.



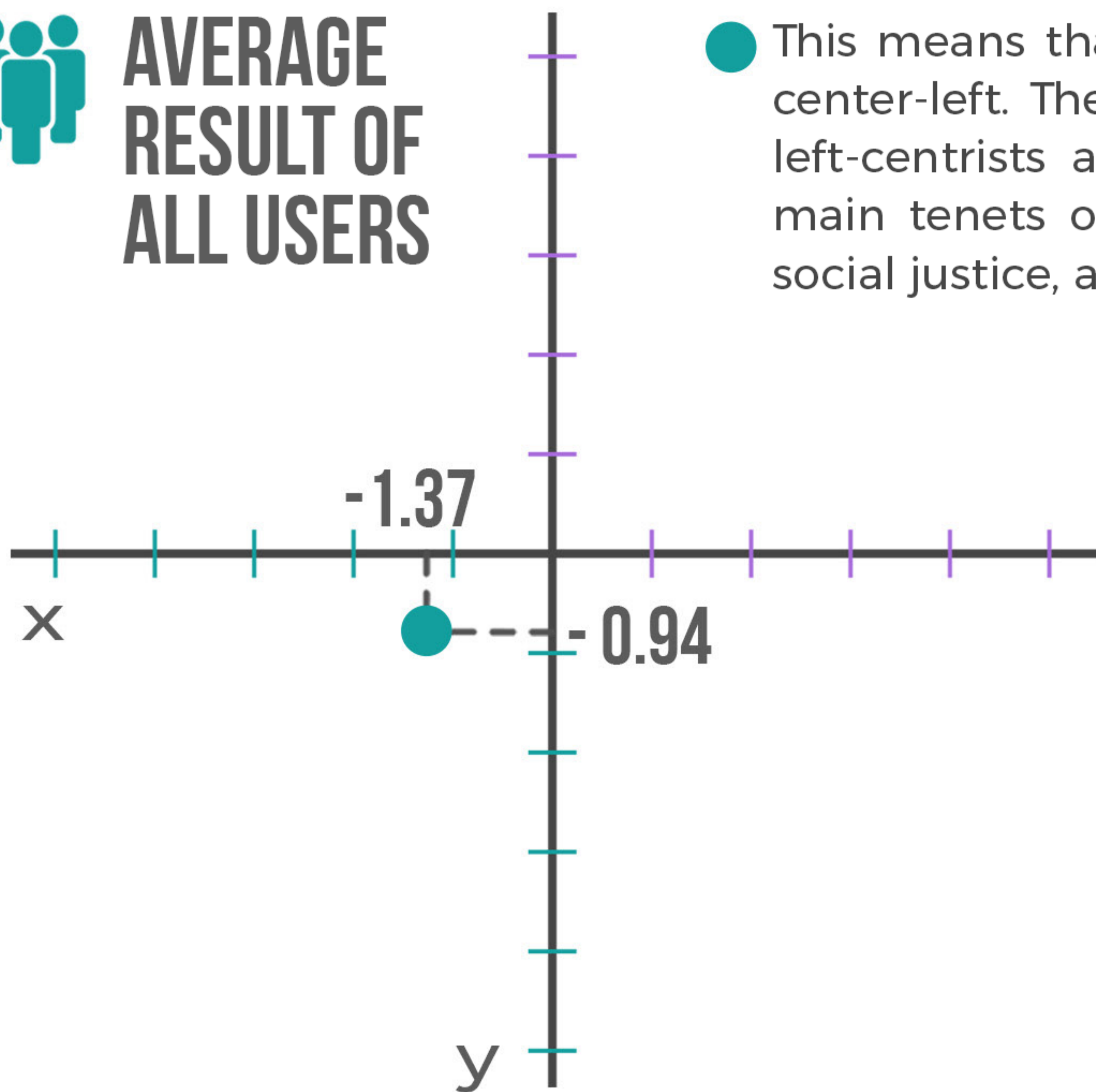
Thus, considering the above circumstances and the fact that the results were analyzed using data science and political science models, we can conclude that the test results can roughly outline the ideological orientations of Armenian society, especially the youth. They indicate various ideological orientations and approaches prevalent or rare in society concerning specific issues. The results of the test can also serve as a good basis for building hypotheses, which can be confirmed or disproved through large-scale sociological research.

MAIN RESULTS

The data analysis showed that there is no correlation between the two axes, namely, the socio-economic and socio-cultural ideological dimensions. This is an interesting result, confirming the widespread thesis that, for example, on the socio-economic dimension, the center-left can be both extremely conservative and extremely liberal, while being moderately liberal on the socio-cultural dimension.



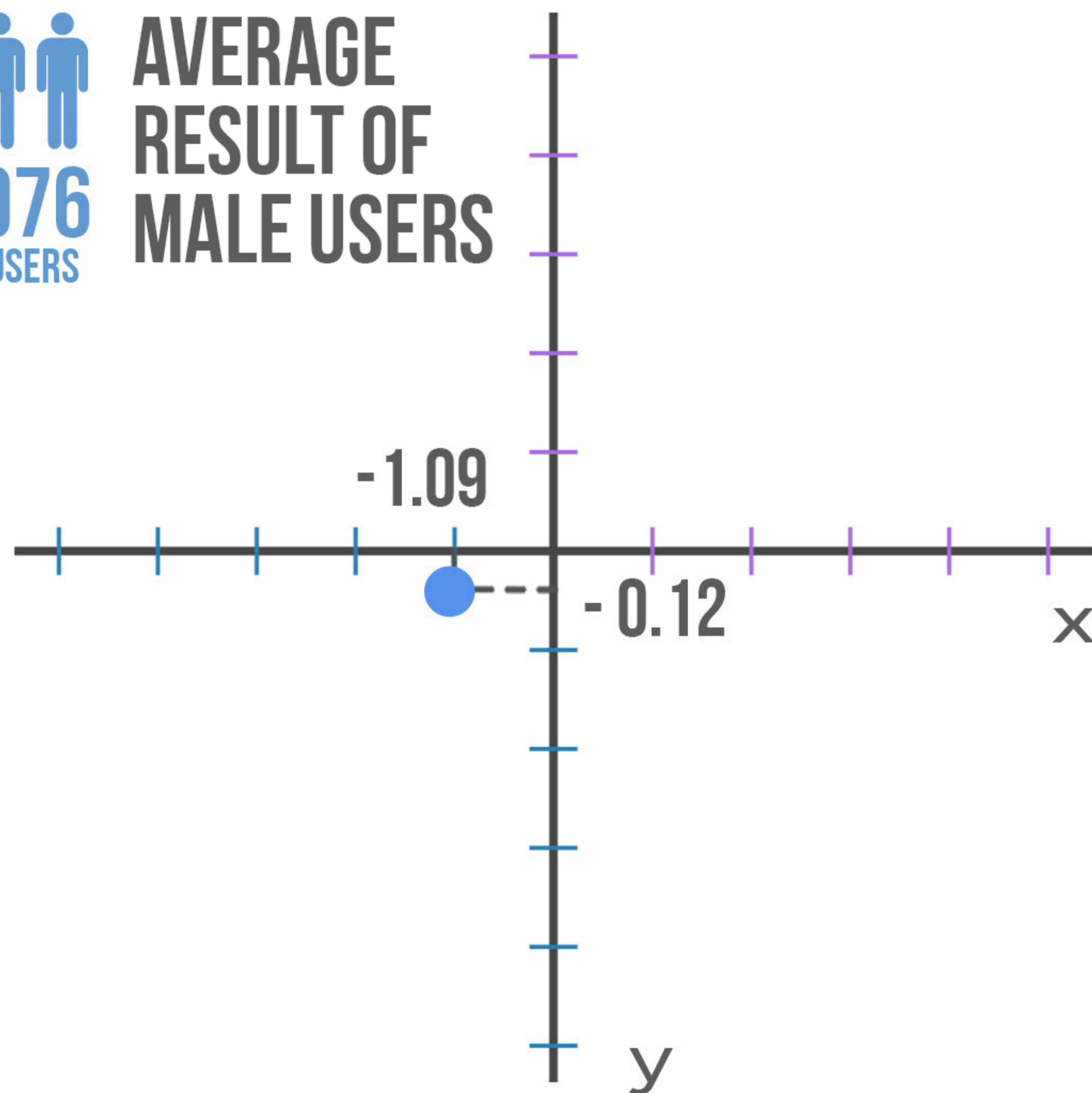
AVERAGE RESULT OF ALL USERS



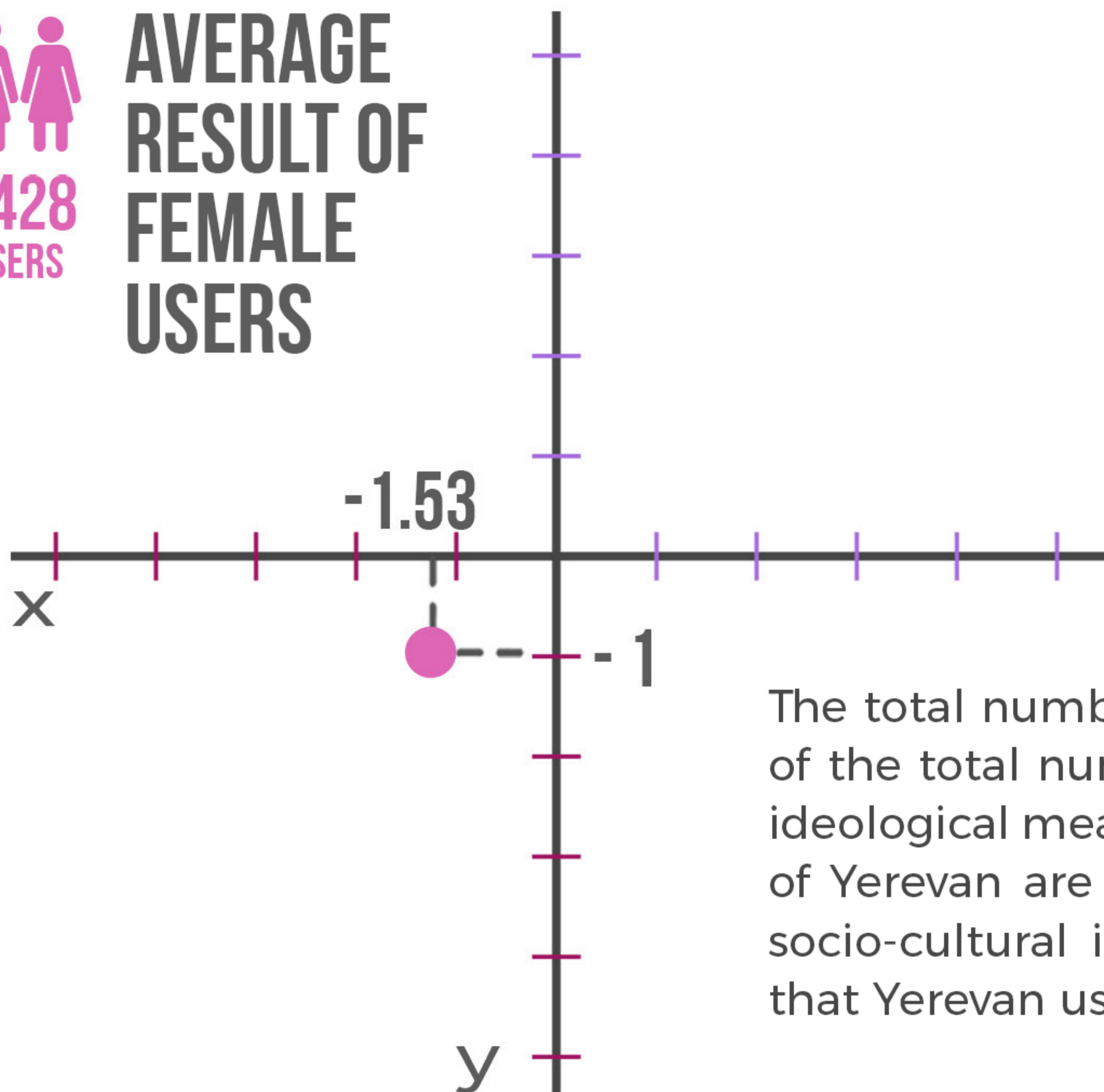
● This means that users are, on average, moderately liberal and center-left. The political ideologies closest to moderate liberal left-centrists are social democracy and social liberalism. The main tenets of these political ideologies are social economy, social justice, and progressivism.



AVERAGE RESULT OF MALE USERS



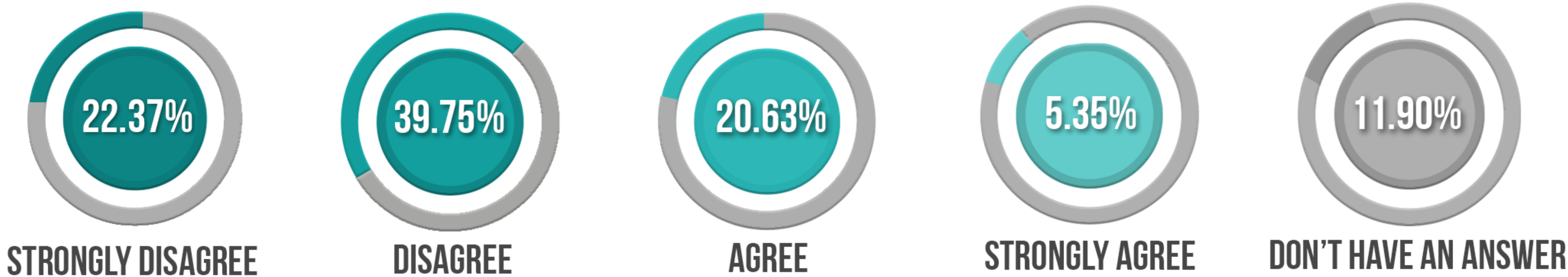
AVERAGE RESULT OF FEMALE USERS



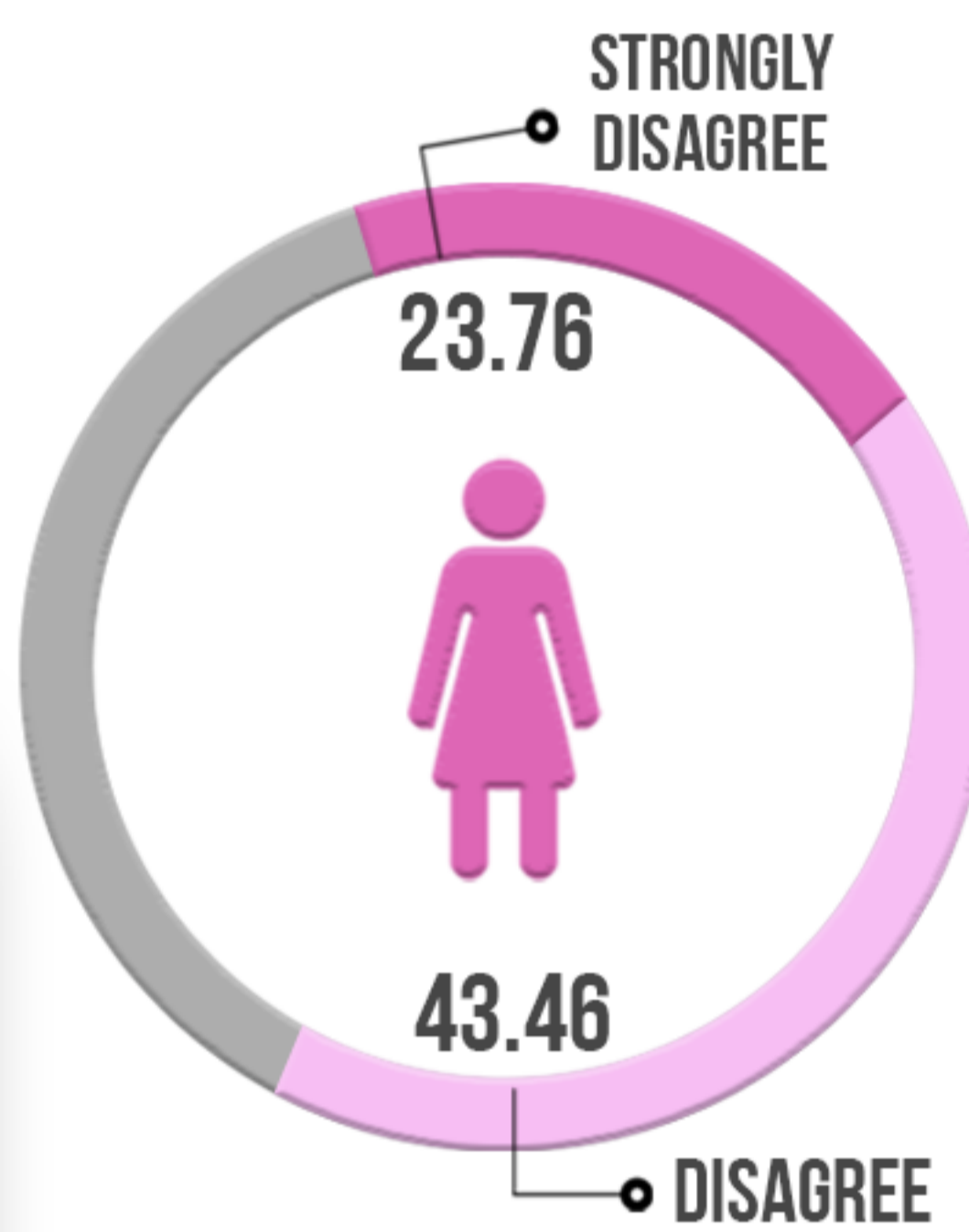
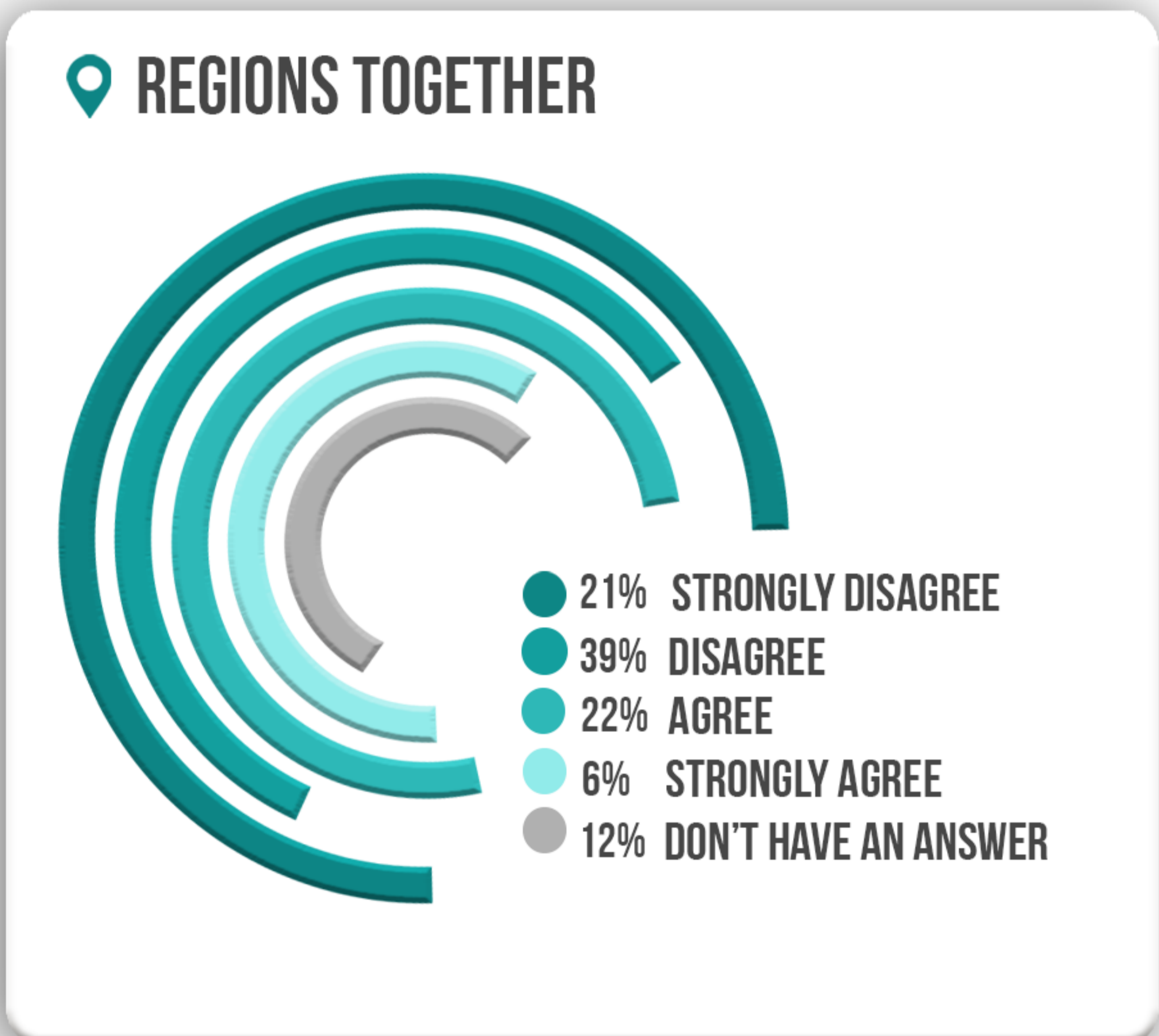
The total number of Yerevan users is 1,470, which is 42 percent of the total number of users. According to the socio-economic ideological measure, their index is -1.33, indicating that the users of Yerevan are quite close to the center-left. According to the socio-cultural ideological scale, their index is -1.08, indicating that Yerevan users are strongly defined as moderate liberals.

STARTING A WAR BY ATTACKING TO ACQUIRE "VITAL LANDS" IS JUST. 

One of the key tenets of ultra-conservative/ultra-nationalist ideology, the expansionist war, is not acceptable to the majority of users nationwide. In response to the question of whether it is justified to launch an offensive war to gain "vital territories," users answered as follows.



When considering responses from all regions together (excluding the responses from Yerevan users), users gave slightly different answers compared to the national level.



The indicators for female users nationwide are somewhat different from the national indicators.

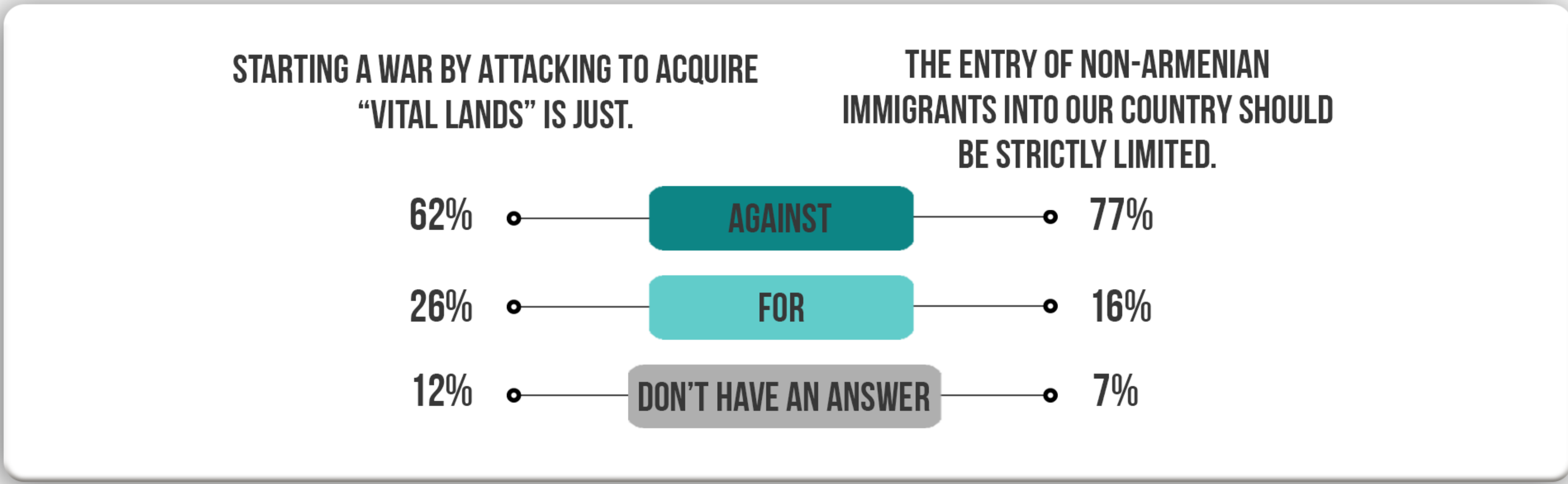
Female users are about 8 percent more likely to oppose one of the fascist statements.

THE ENTRY OF NON-ARMENIAN IMMIGRANTS INTO OUR COUNTRY SHOULD BE STRICTLY LIMITED. 



Here, too, we see that among female users, the number of people who are against that particular narrative of an extremely nationalistic nature is slightly higher.

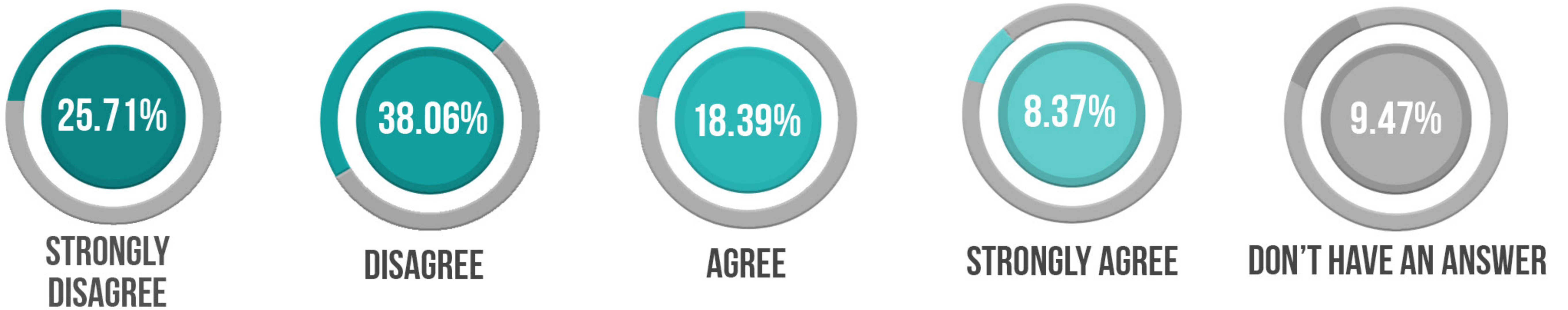
There is a strong positive correlation between these two questions. In other words, respondents to the question "Is it justified to start an offensive war in order to gain 'vital territories'?" related to far-right ideology gave almost the same answers to another question related to far-right ideology: "The entry of non-Armenian immigrants into our country should be strictly limited."



THE ARMENIAN NATION IS SUPERIOR TO OTHER NATIONS.



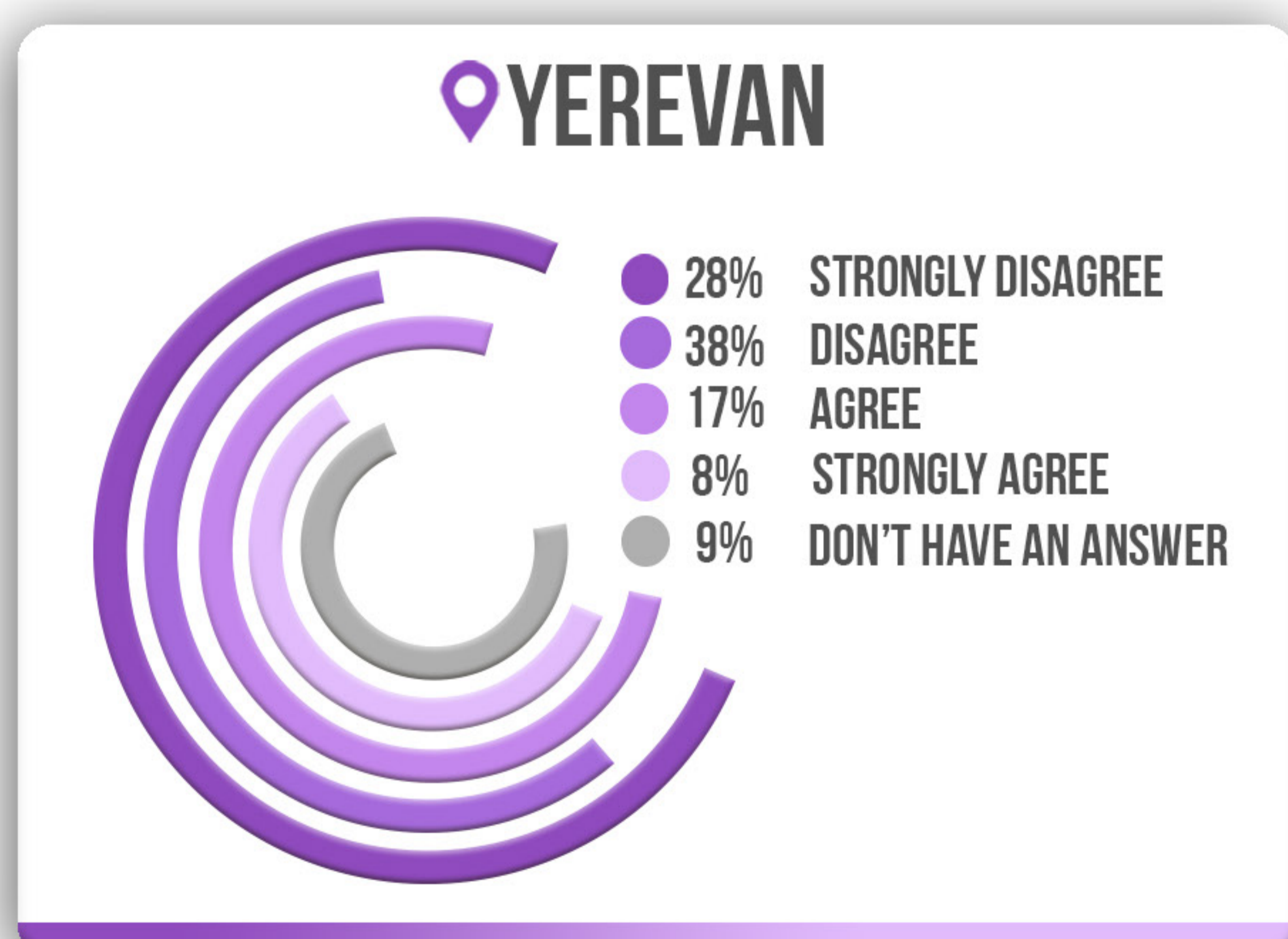
This question, along with a number of other questions, allows us to understand whether a person is ultra-nationalist and to what extent they are ultra-nationalist. This proposition is about whether people consider the nation to which they belong to have particular positive characteristics that make it superior to at least some other nations. Users answered the mentioned question as follows.



Responses from female users are generally quite different from responses from male users.



It should also be noted that there is a certain difference between the approaches of Yerevan and regional users regarding this question. Yerevan users are slightly more against this question than regional users.



Among the different categories of users, the least positive responses are from female users in Yerevan. Thus, 5.56% of female users from Yerevan gave the answer "strongly agree", and about 16% of them gave the answer "agree". These indicators suggest that women from Yerevan are the least extreme nationalist group in Armenia.

TRADITIONAL (PATRIARCHAL) VALUES SHOULD BE THE BASIS OF OUR VALUE SYSTEM: LIBERAL IDEAS ARE UNBECOMING OF OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY.



STRONGLY DISAGREE



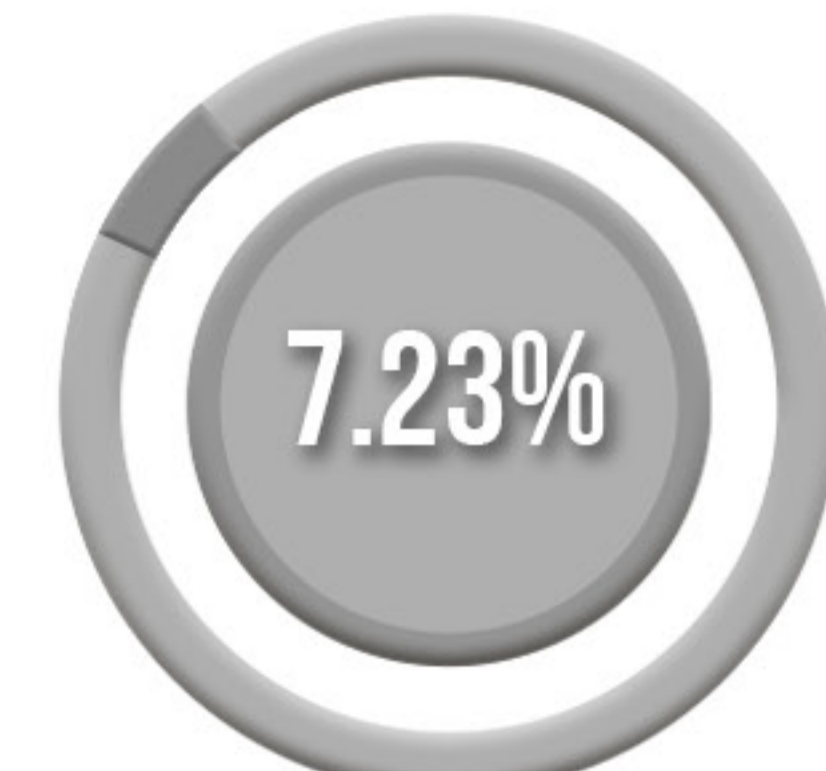
DISAGREE



AGREE



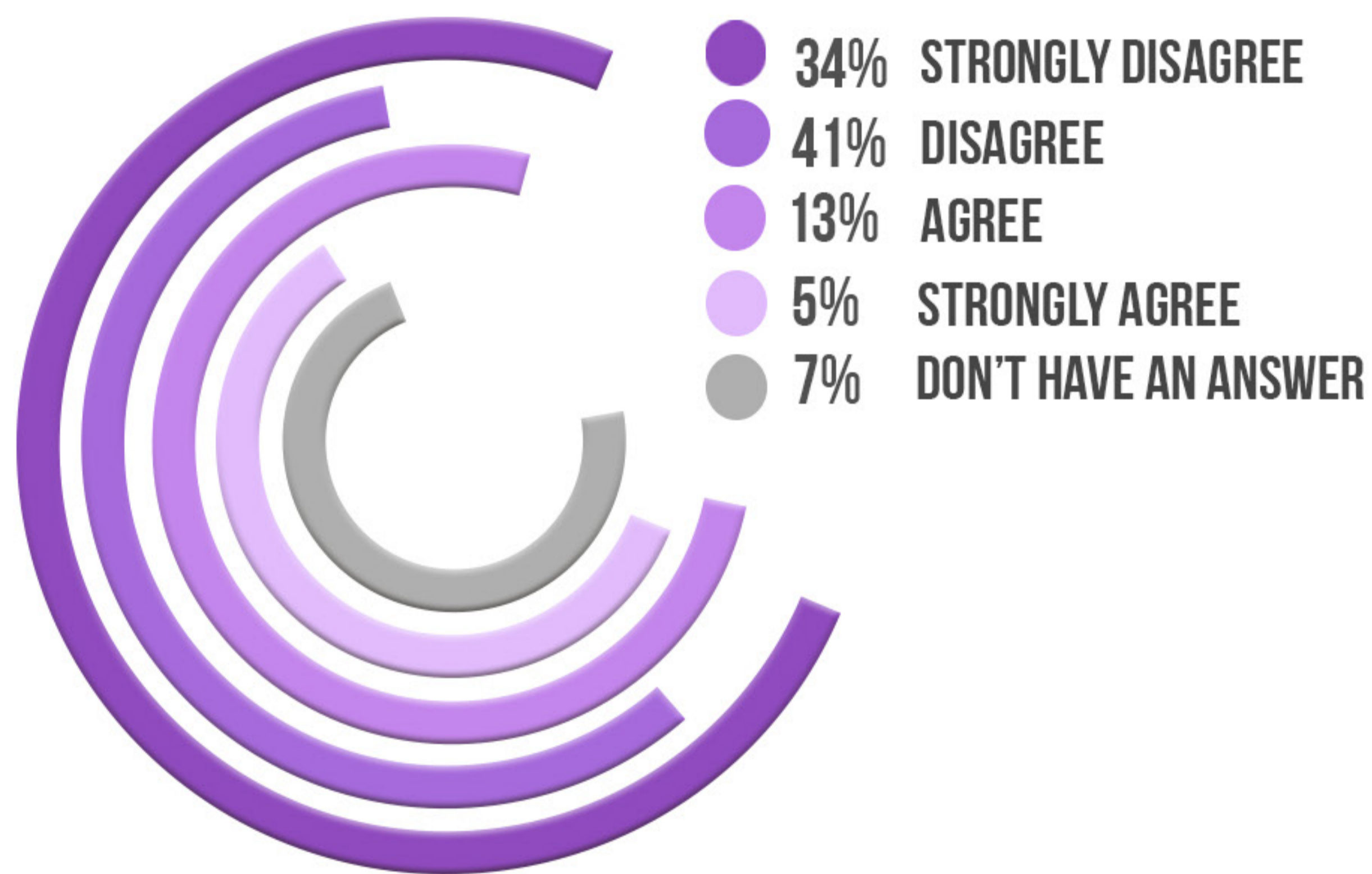
STRONGLY AGREE



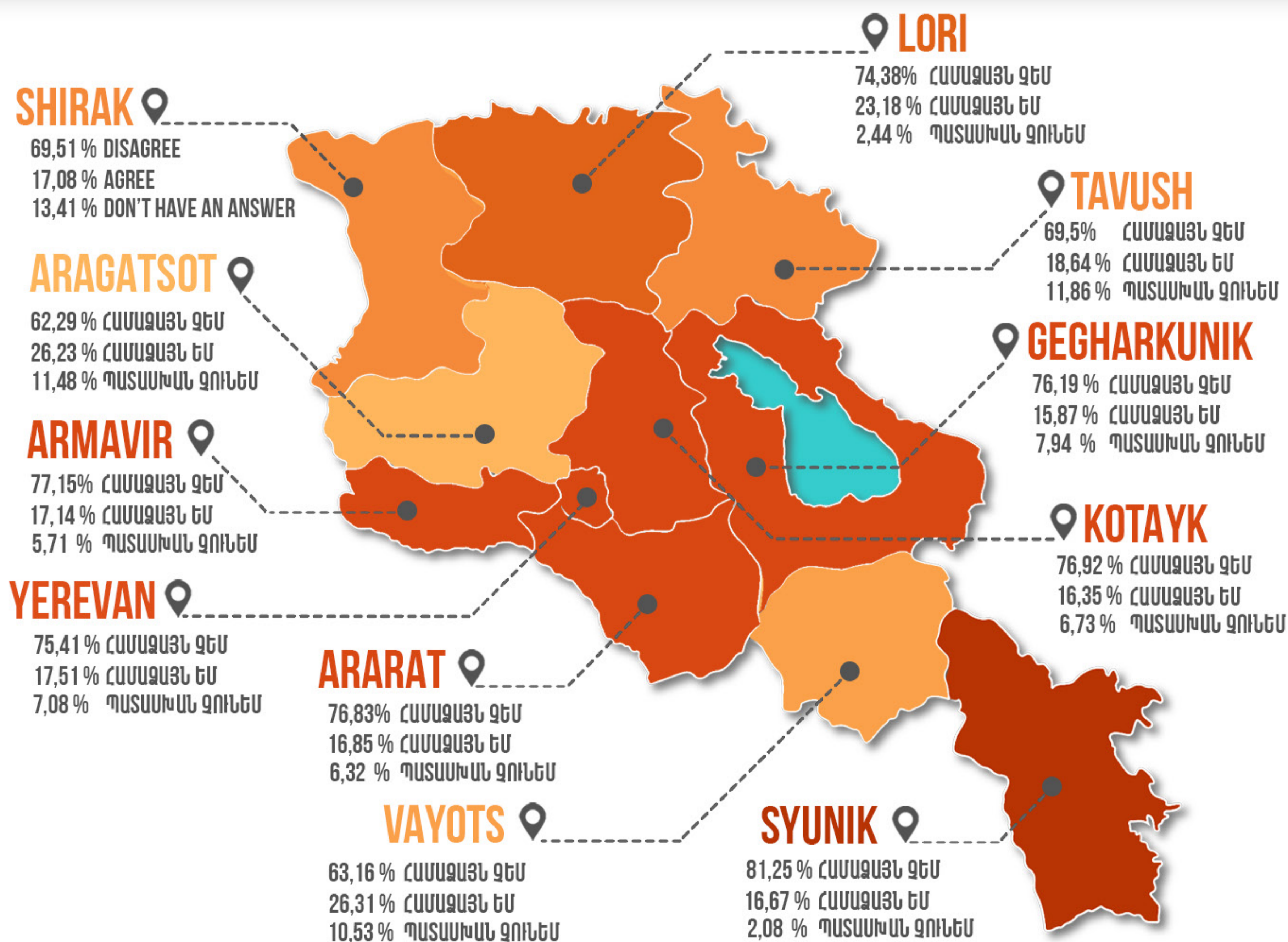
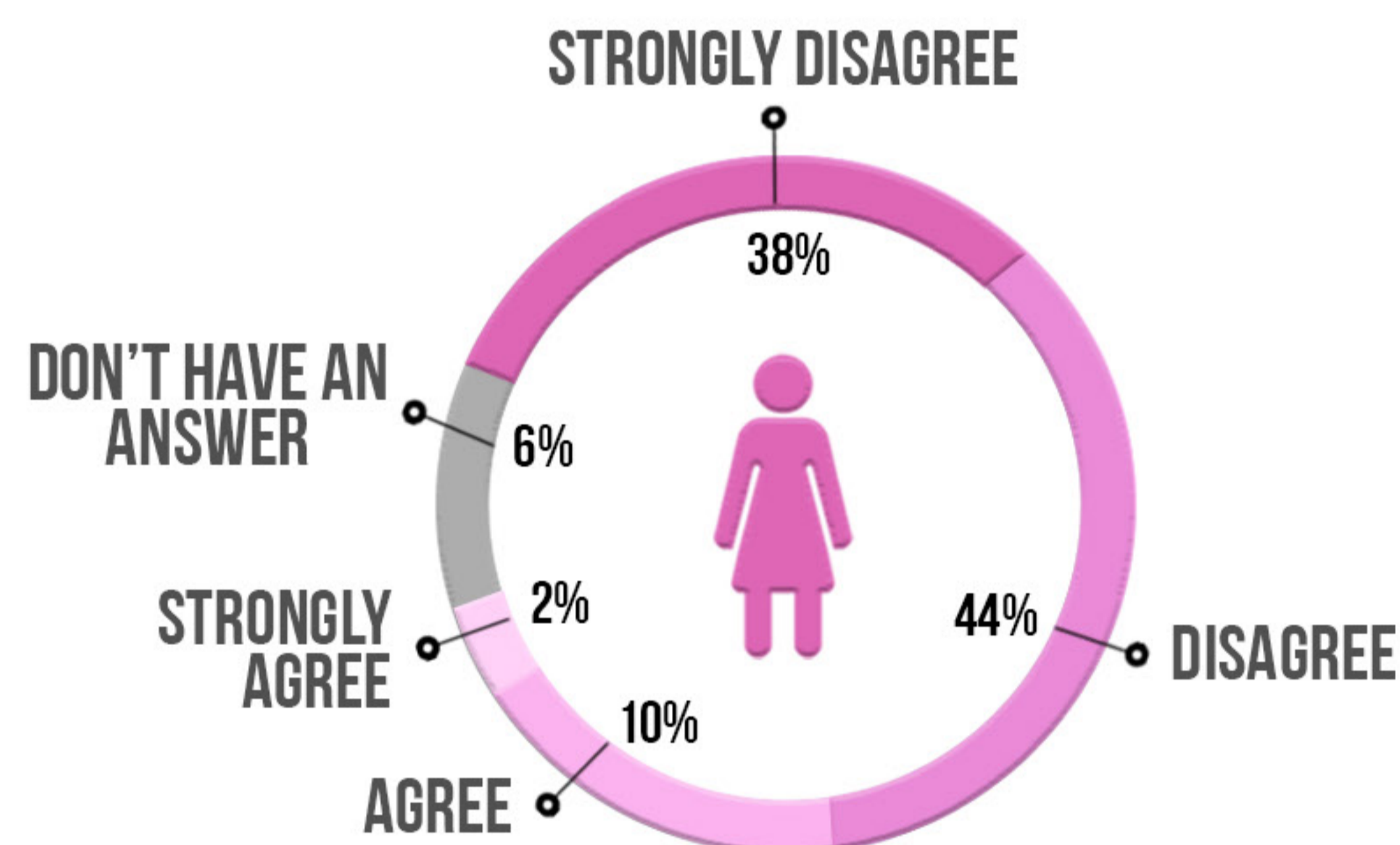
DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER

YEREVAN

The attitude of Yerevan users (both male and female) regarding this statement is almost identical to the indicators of users nationwide on this issue.

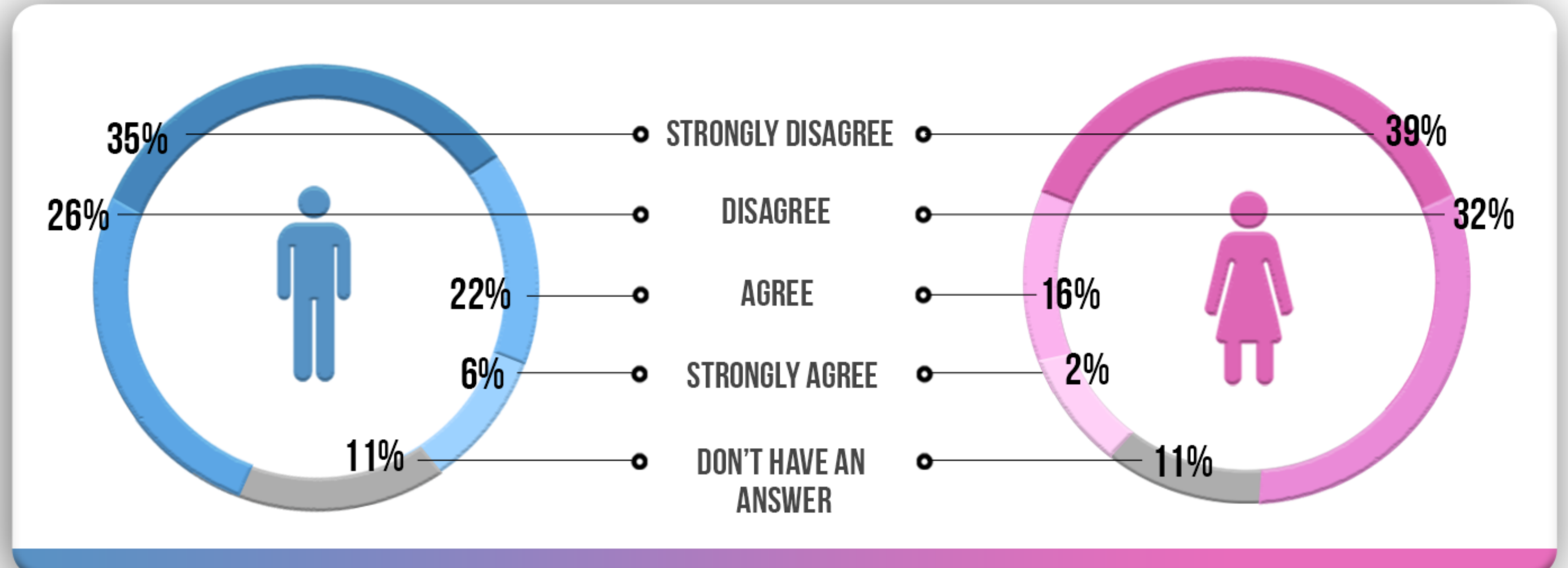
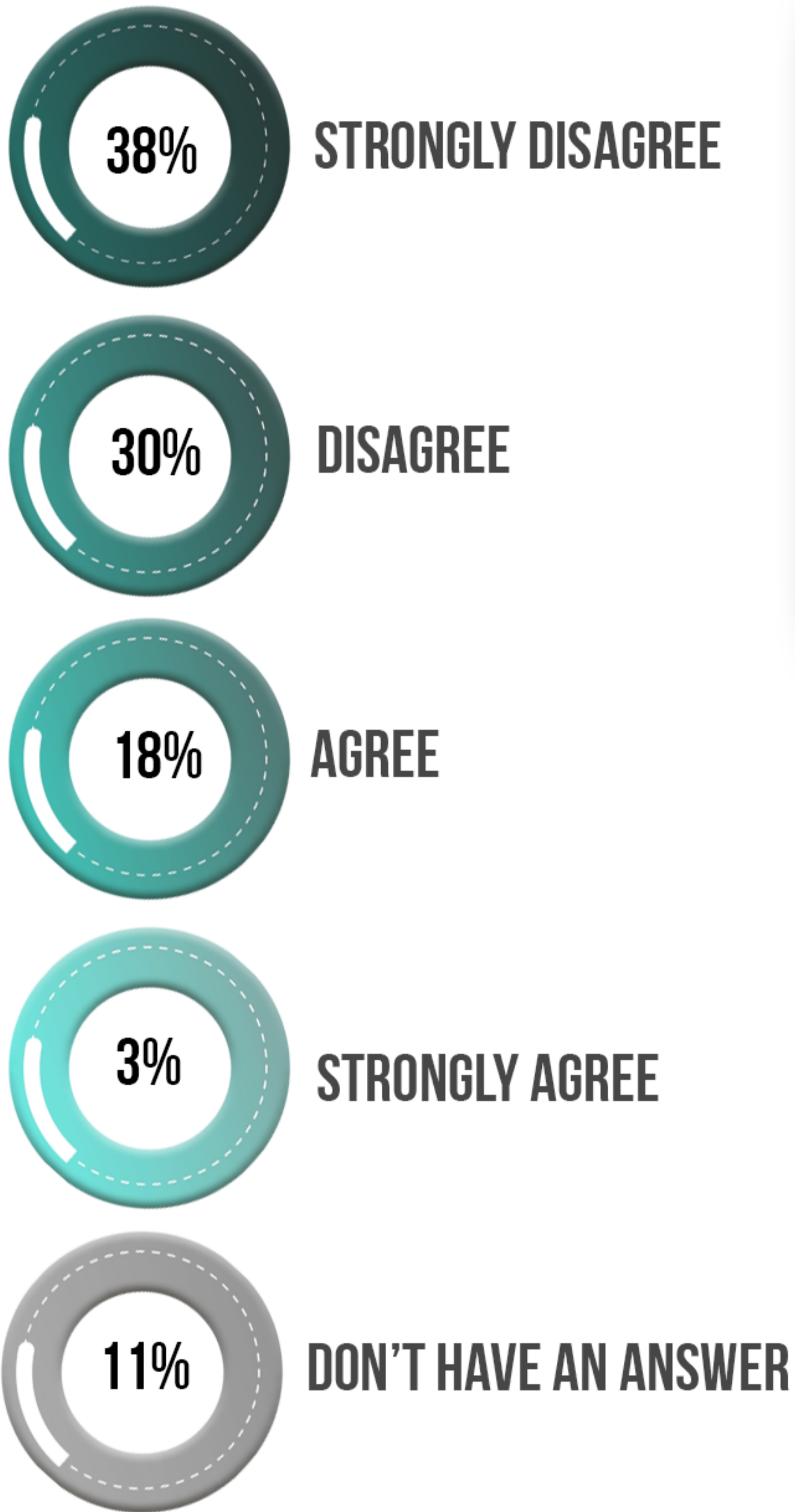


An even greater proportion of female users from Yerevan are against this provision.



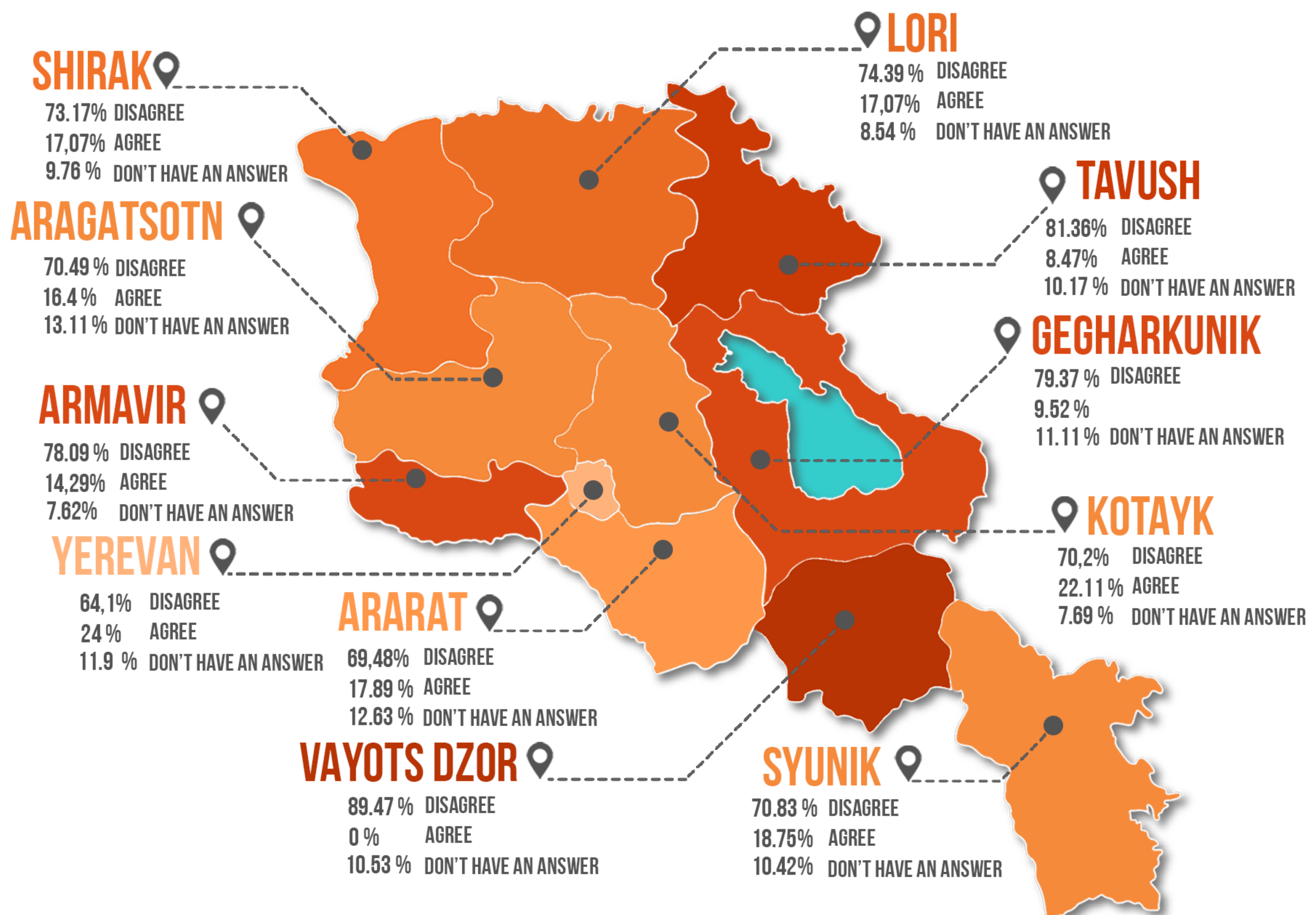
An interesting indicator regarding this issue is that no user from the Tavush region gave the answer "strongly agree." However, the general indicators for Tavush are slightly different from the national indicators.

THE USE OF MARIJUANA MUST BE LEGALIZED.



Interestingly, those in favor of legalizing marijuana are more likely to be among male users, at about 28%.

Meanwhile, among female users, supporters of legalization constitute about 18%. This is notable because, regarding several other socio-cultural issues, the most progressive answers were given by female users. Considering that public discourse in Armenia traditionally expresses a very negative attitude toward all types of drugs, it can be assumed that many progressive women may view this issue from the perspective of public health protection (similar to their views on tobacco), and do not consider marijuana legalization progressive, despite the global trend toward legalization.



STATE'S PARTICIPATION IN THE ECONOMY MUST BE ELIMINATED. THE MARKET MUST BE SELF-REGULATED.

Based on the answers to this question, one can largely conclude a person's socio-economic ideology, as the question addresses a fundamental issue: how the economy should be organized and run.

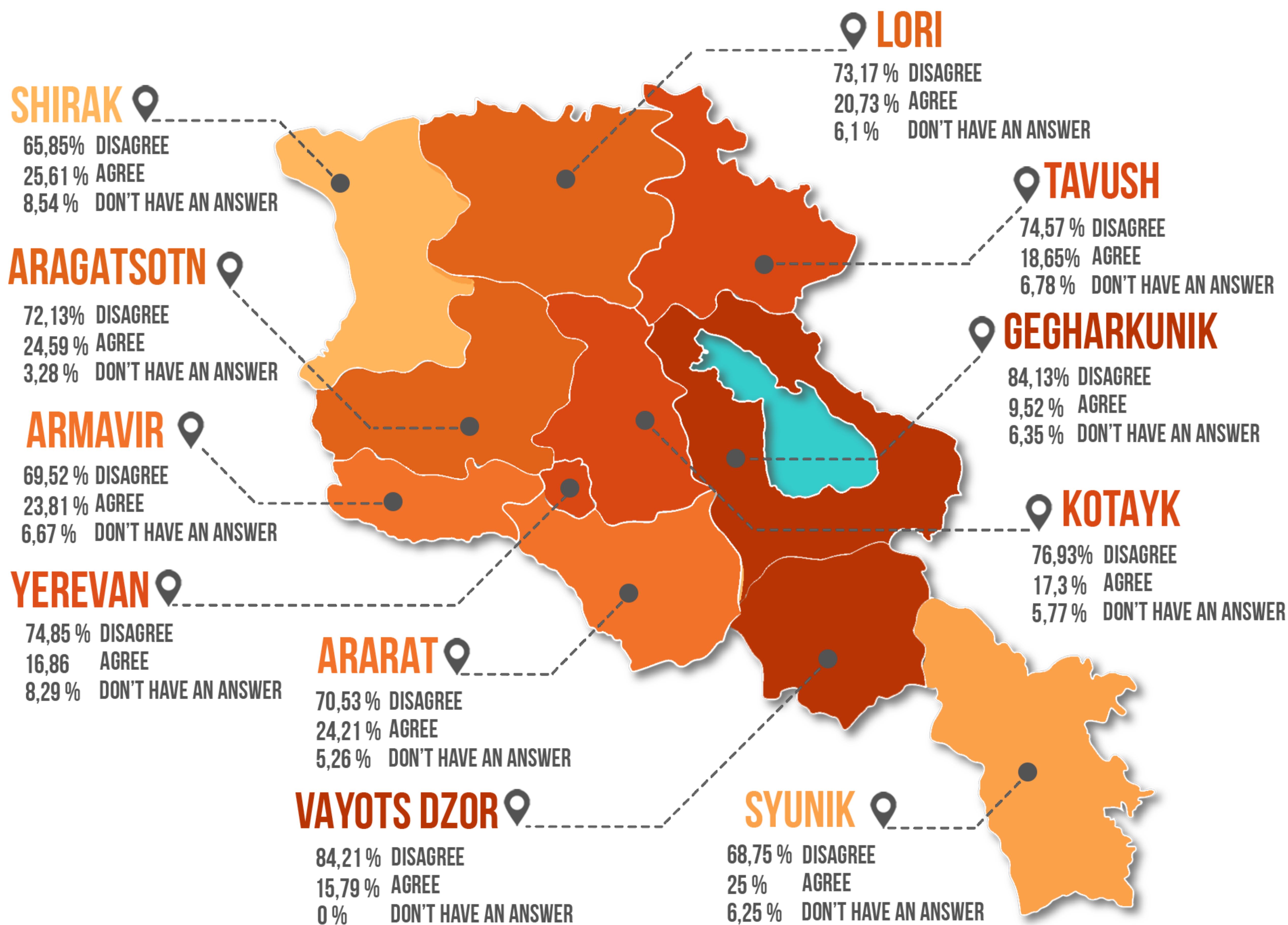


Most users expressed a negative attitude. About 62% of users do not agree, indicating that the majority do not support the idea of a minimal state and an absolutely free market.

A "disagree" answer also implies that respondents believe at least some government regulation is necessary. However, this does not mean they reject the idea of a market economy.

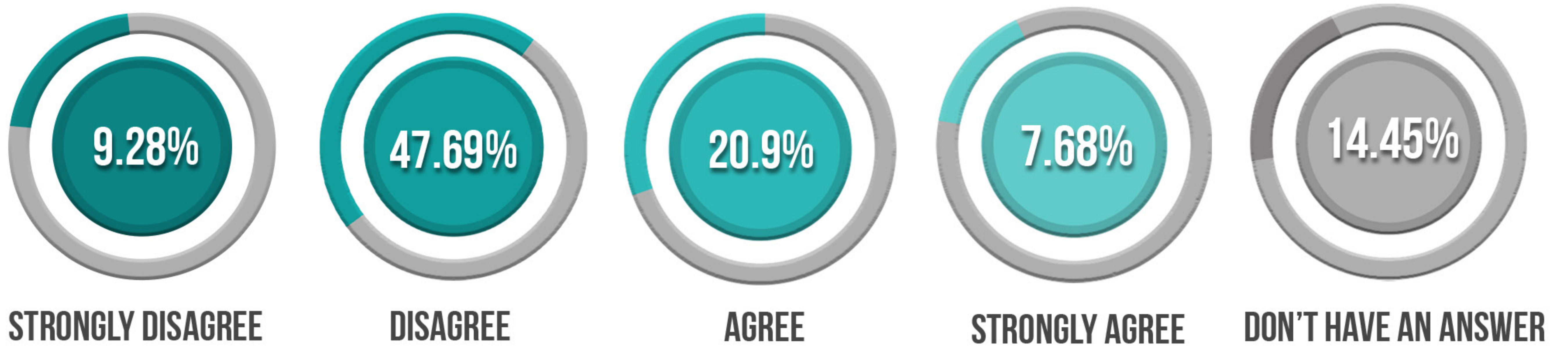
We can reasonably assume that those who strongly oppose the market economy, typically the far left, are the ones who gave the "strongly disagree" answer.

Economic libertarians, representing the extreme economic right, are likely the ones who gave the "strongly agree" answer, which is about 2.5% of users in our case.



THE FORMATION OF A CLASS OF WEALTHY PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY IS UNACCEPTABLE.

This question also relates to socio-economic positioning. However, here it is clearer who the extreme left is: all those answering "strongly agree."

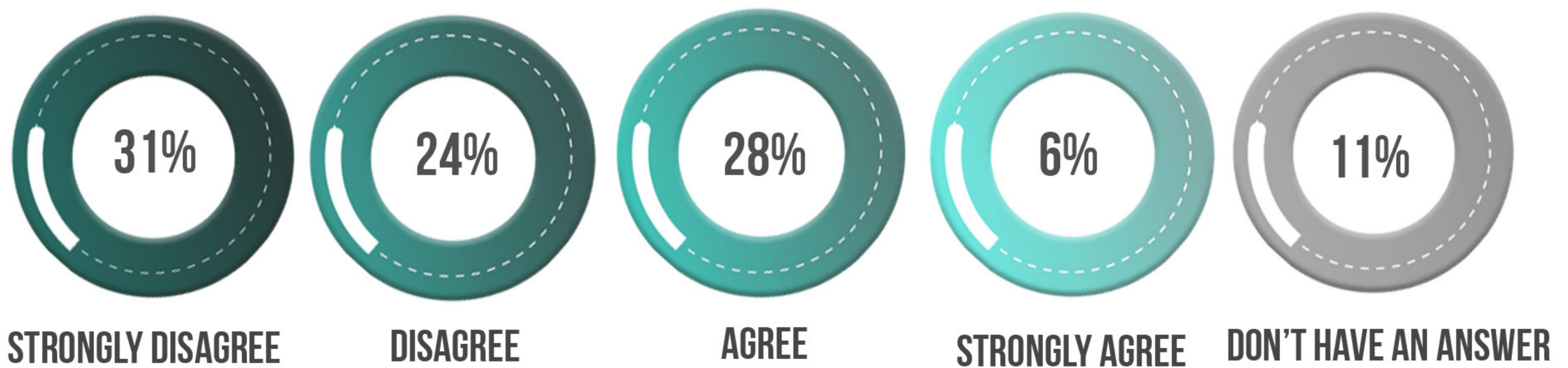


About 8% of users gave such an answer. We can also assume that those who answered "agree" do not rule out the presence of rich people in society, but find it unacceptable for the rich to be the dominant class.

Most users do not share this extreme left-wing position and consider the presence of a wealthy class to be normal.

Additionally, we can assume that those who answered "strongly disagree" (9.28%) are in favor of an unregulated free market.

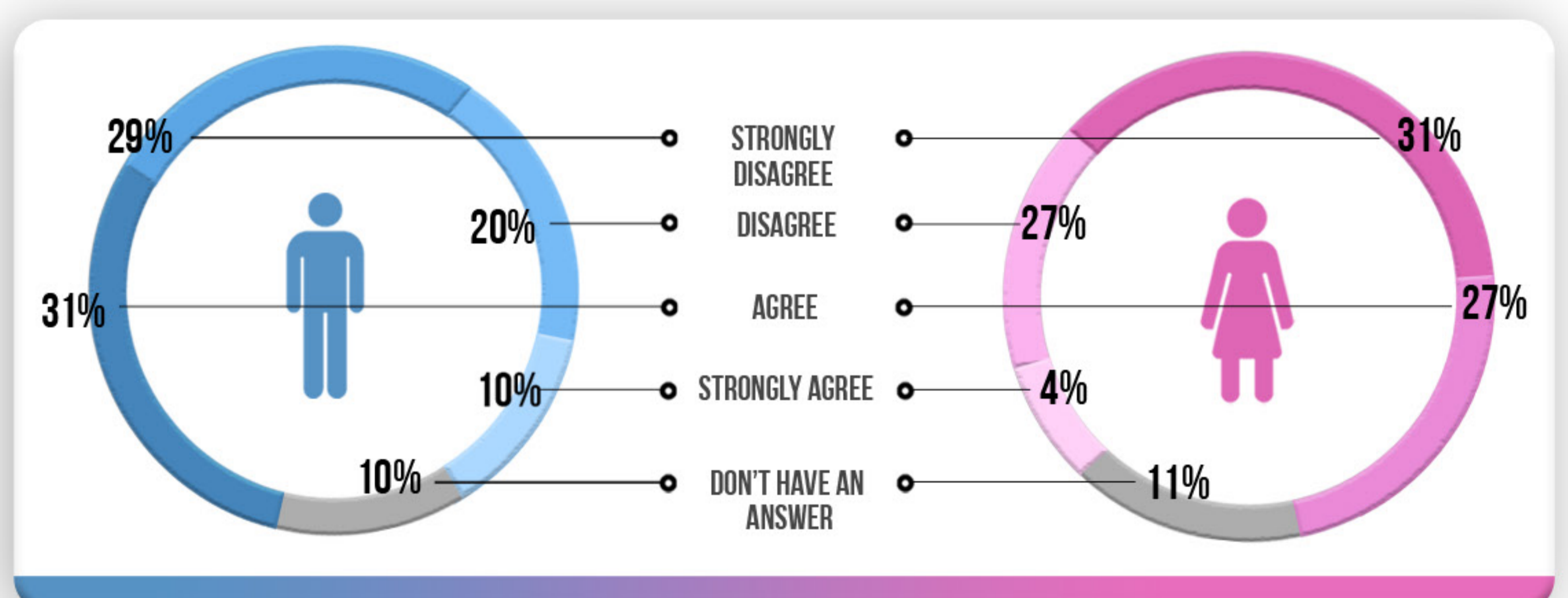
PROSTITUTION MUST BE LEGALIZED.



Those in favor of legalizing prostitution, though also in the minority, outnumber those in favor of legalizing marijuana.

In this regard, female users are less in favor of legalization than male users.

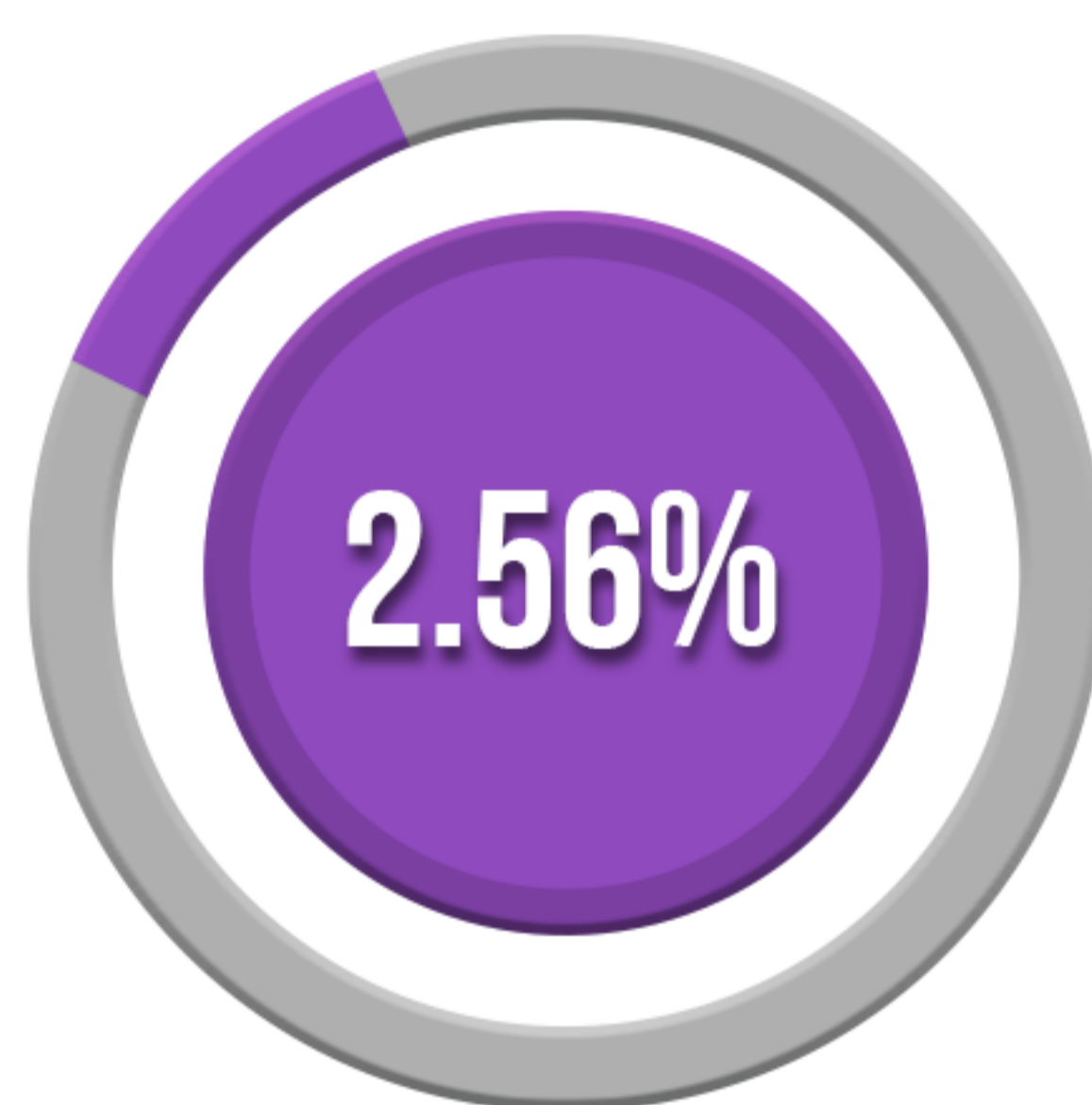
About 41% of male users gave a positive answer, which is 10% more than female users.



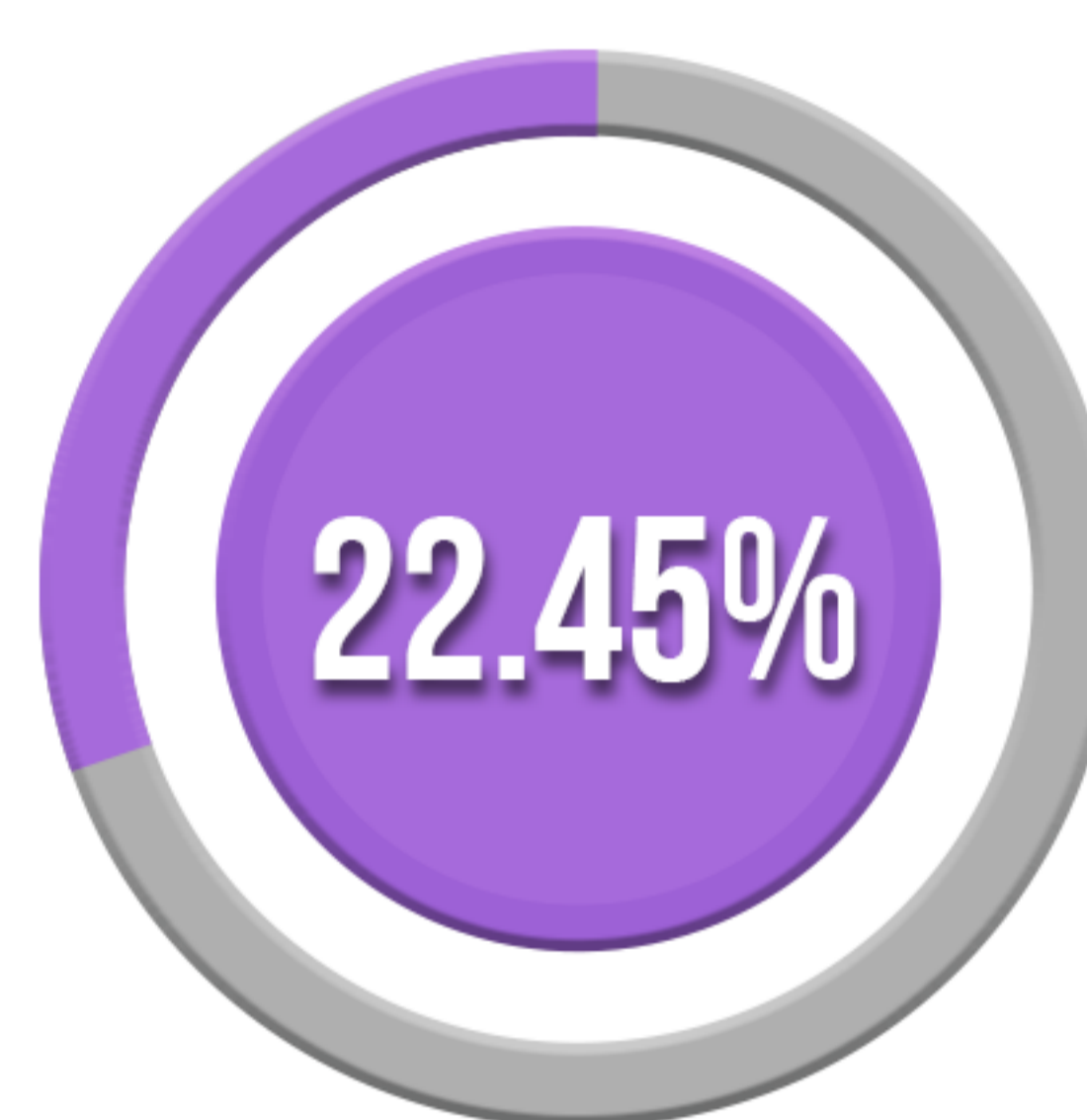
PRIVATE ENTERPRISES ARE GENERALLY MORE EFFICIENT THAN STATE-OWNED ENTERPRISES



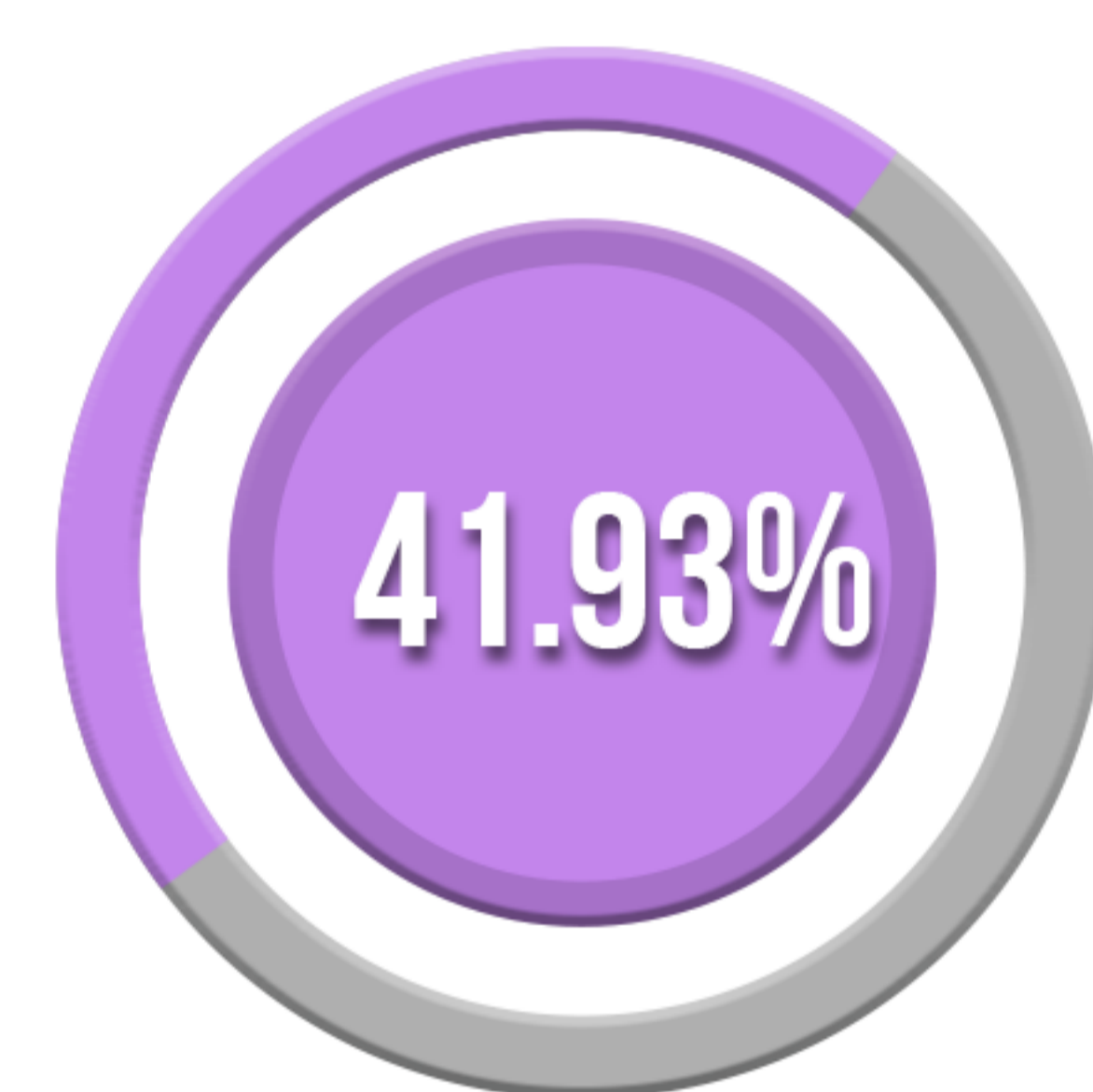
This question shows the ratio of supporters of planned, social market, and market economies.



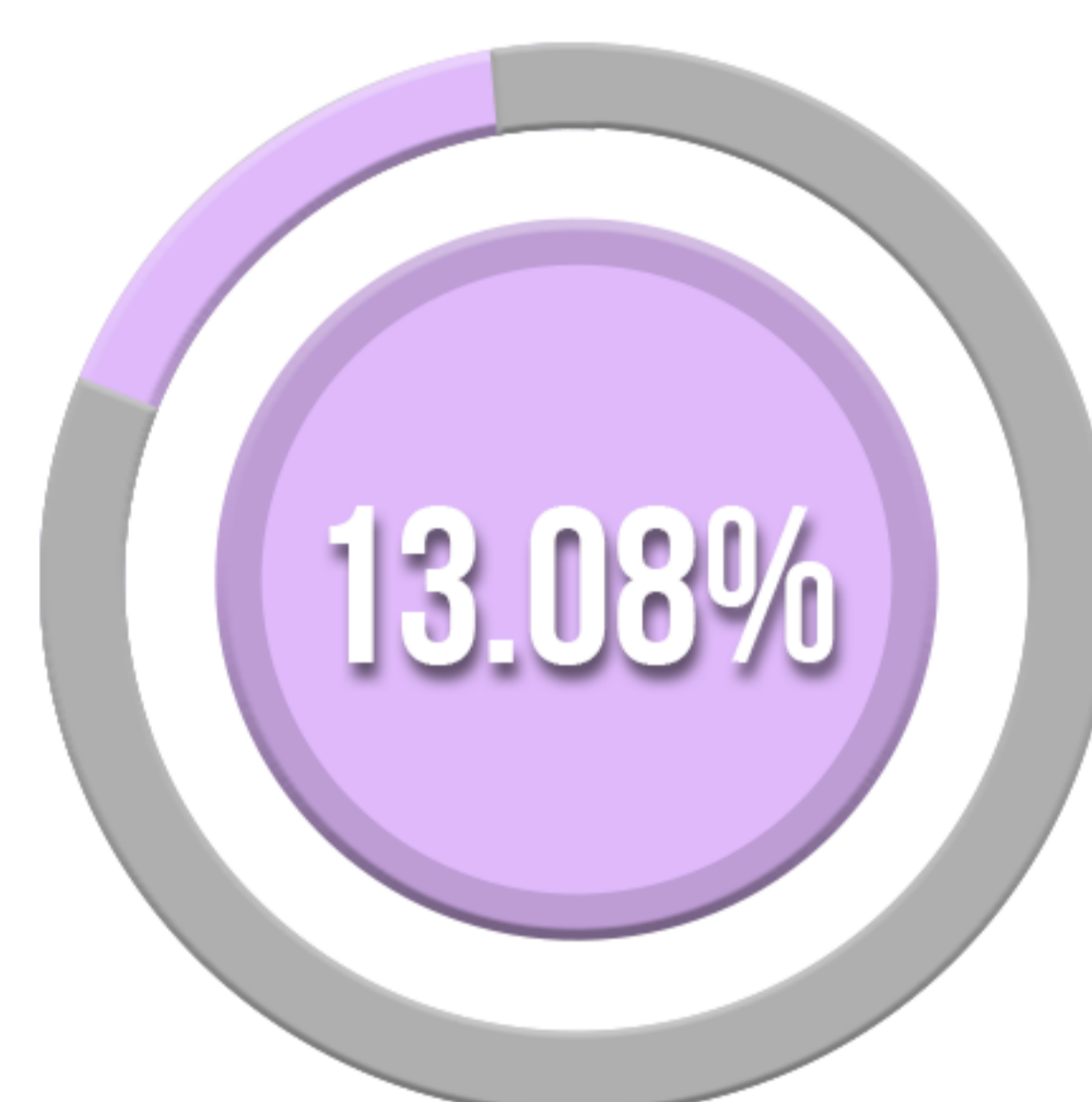
STRONGLY DISAGREE



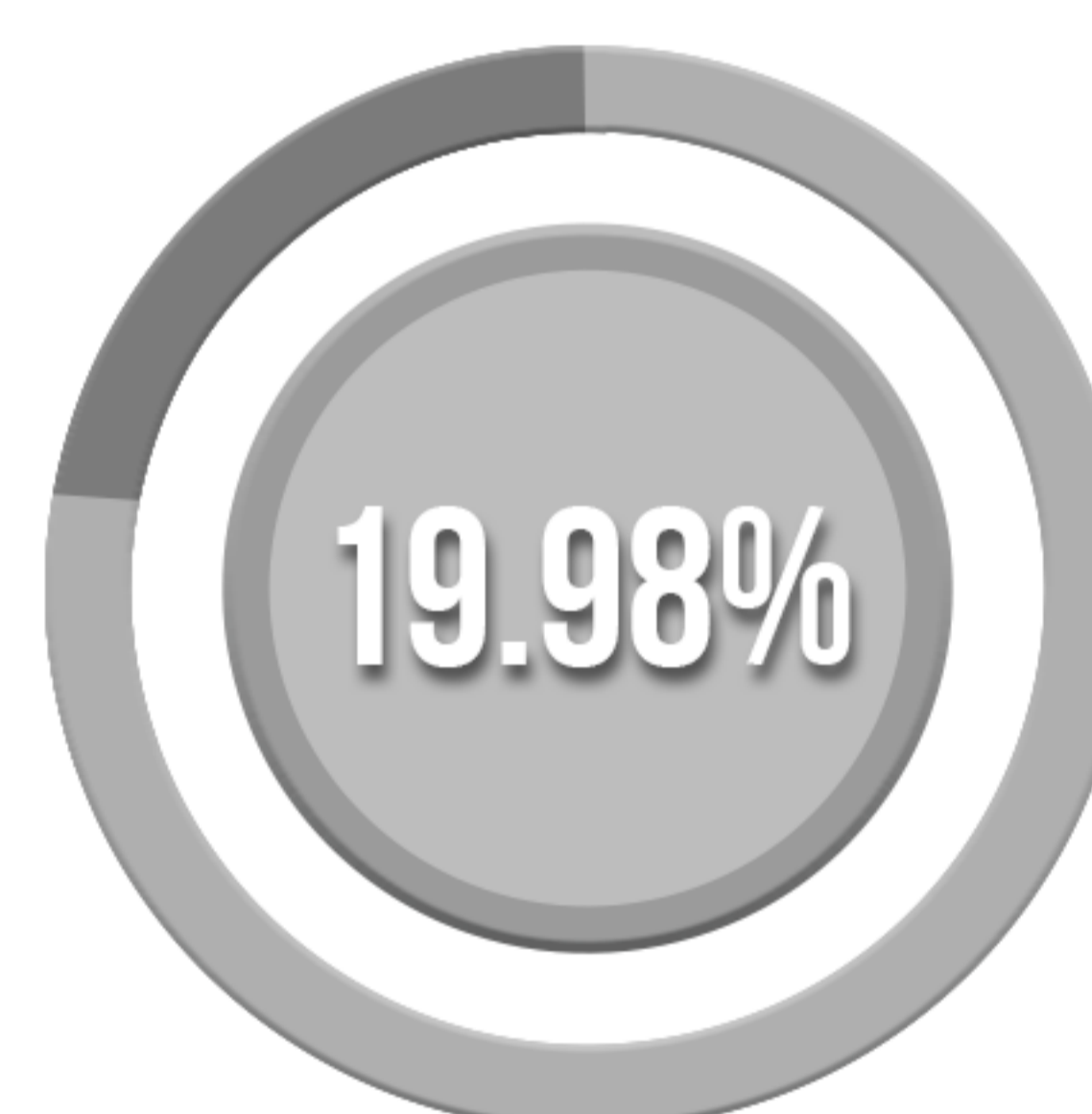
DISAGREE



AGREE



STRONGLY AGREE



DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER

The "strongly agree" respondents are extreme or close to the extreme right in terms of the socio-economic dimension. Thus, about 13% of users gave such an answer.

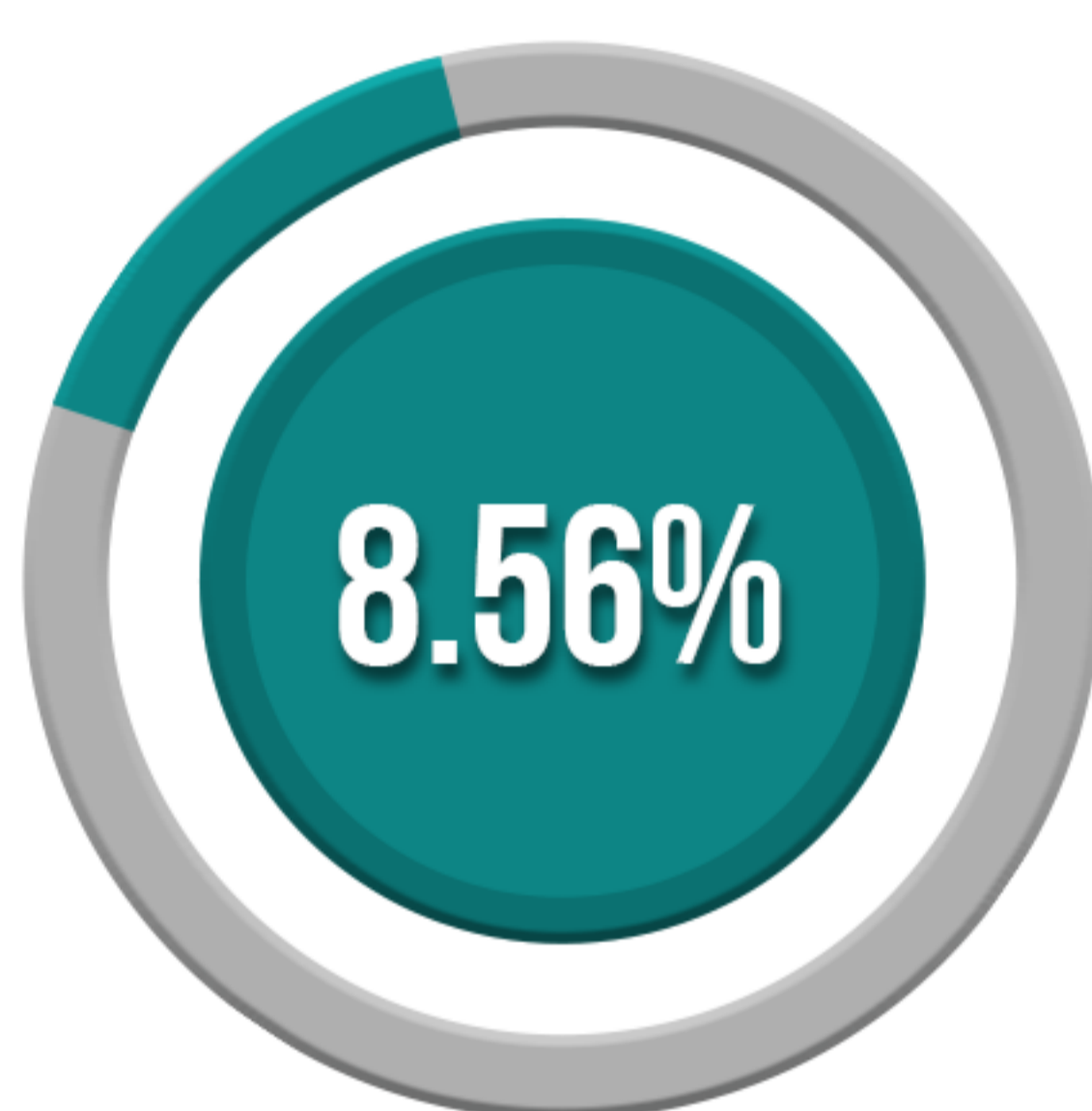
Those who answered "for" - about 42%, which is the most common answer - are at least not extreme leftists, and a significant part of them are supposedly not leftists at all. This is evidenced by the analysis of the answers given to other socio-economic questions.

All those who answered "strongly disagree" are likely to hold extreme leftist viewpoints (2.56%), and 22.45% of users can be assumed to be moderately left leaning. This question also resulted in a higher than average proportion of 'undecided' responses, about 20%.

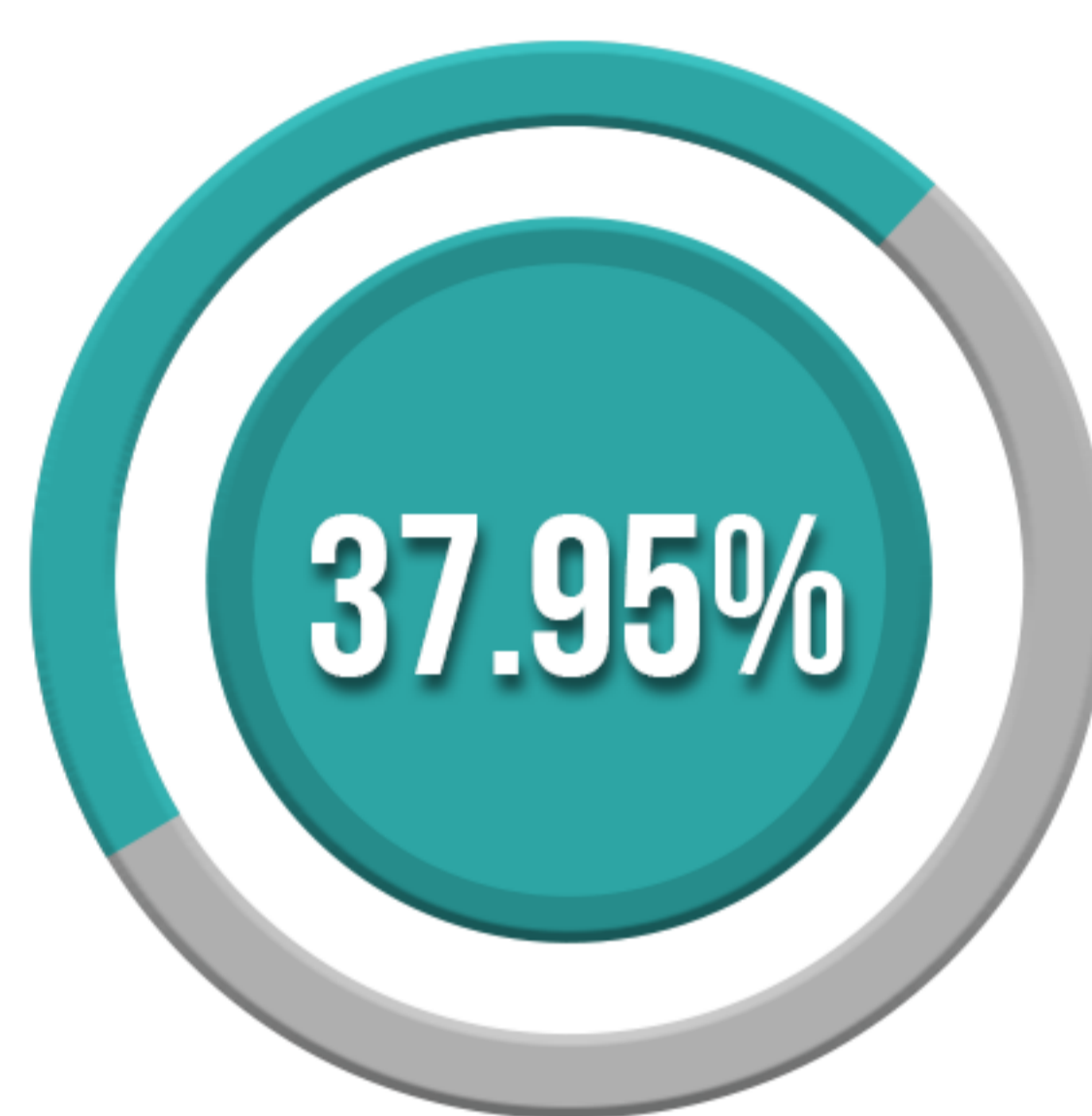
MAJOR INTERNATIONAL CORPORATIONS ARE EVIL; THEIR ACTIVITIES MUST BE STOPPED



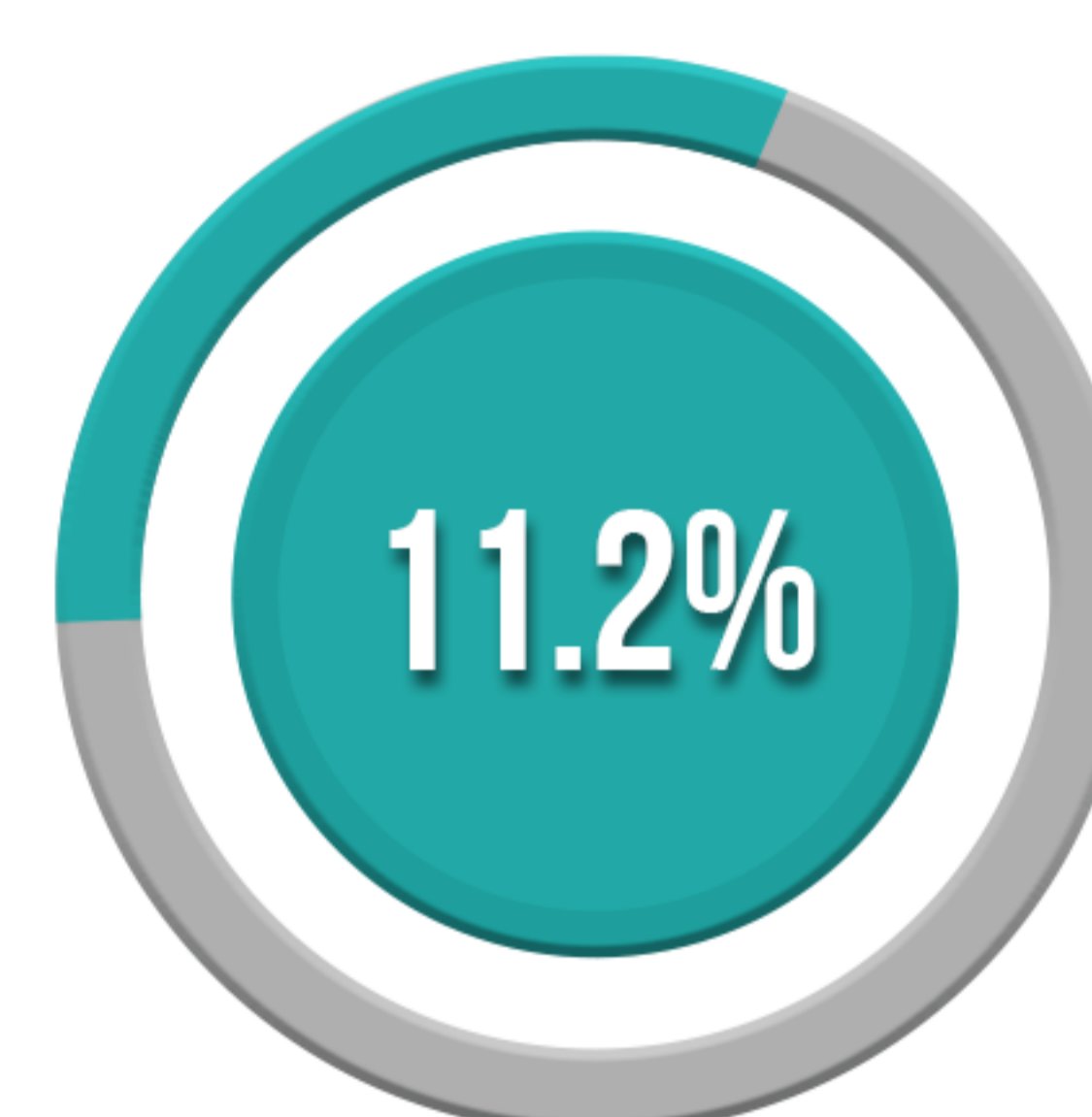
This question can also reveal a person's approach to the market economy. The wording is too categorical, and respondents who "strongly agree" are highly likely to have extreme leftist approaches in the socio-economic ideological dimension.



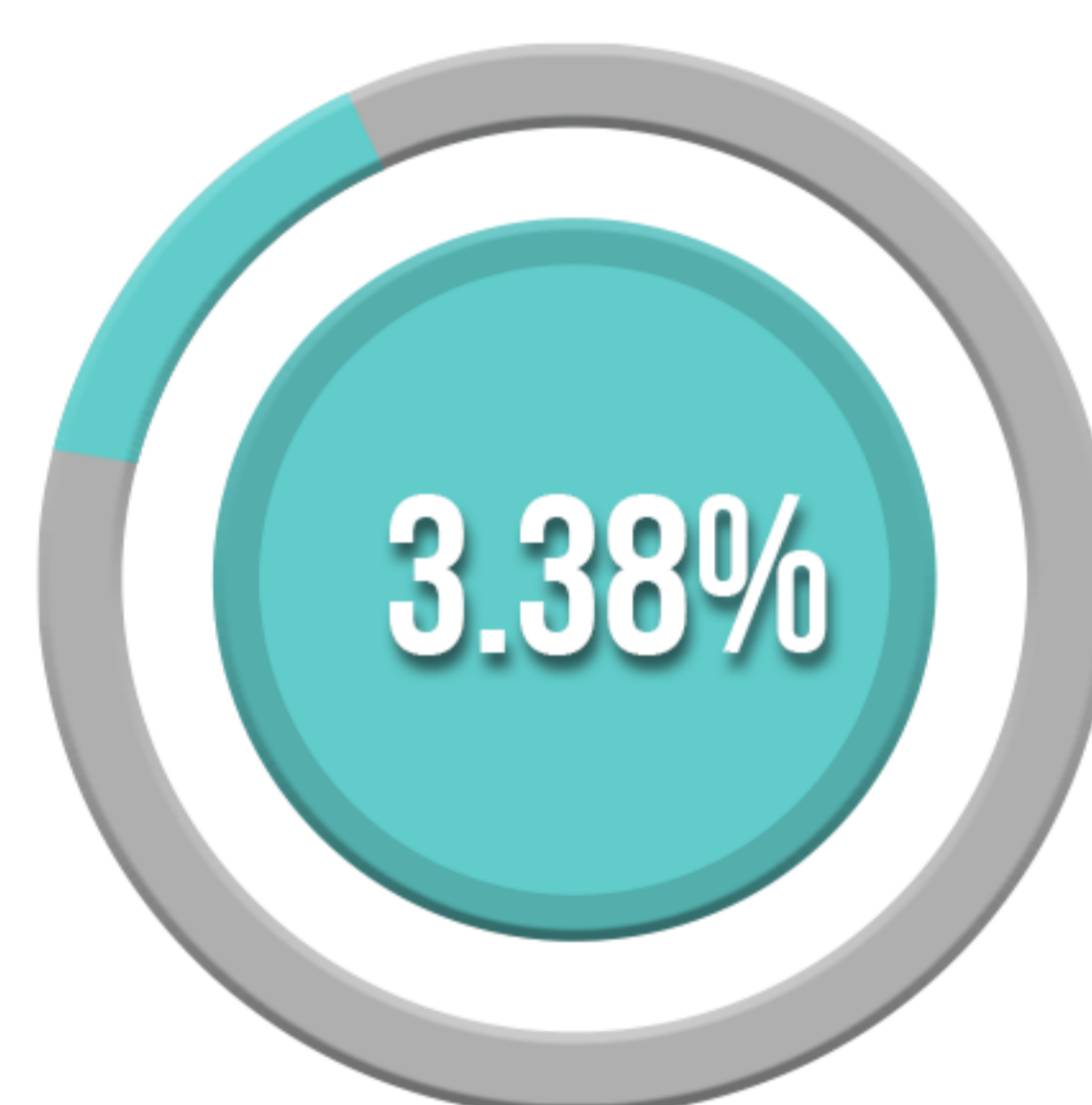
STRONGLY DISAGREE



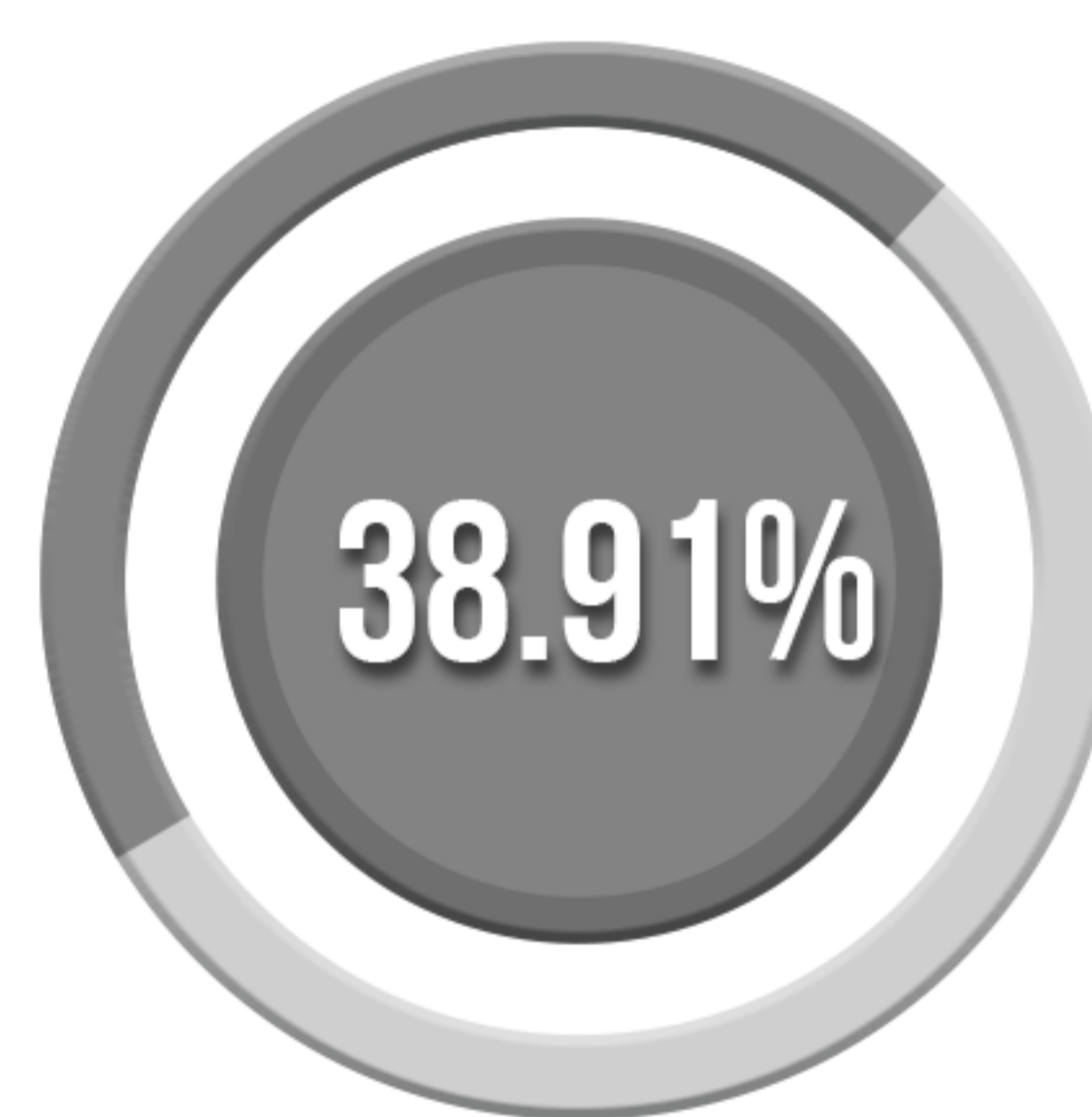
DISAGREE



AGREE



STRONGLY AGREE



DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER

If we rely on the answer to this question, we can confidently say that about 15% of users shows a clear leftist approach.

However, it is also necessary to note that the number of those who did not answer is record high, about 39%. Many of them may not have understood the question or the given problem. This can be considered an indicator of the level of public awareness and understanding of such topics.

We can also assume that those who answered "strongly disagree" are economic libertarians.

THE AGE THRESHOLD FOR RETIREMENT MUST BE RAISED. RETIREMENT AT AN EARLY AGE IS EXTREMELY HARMFUL TO THE ECONOMY.



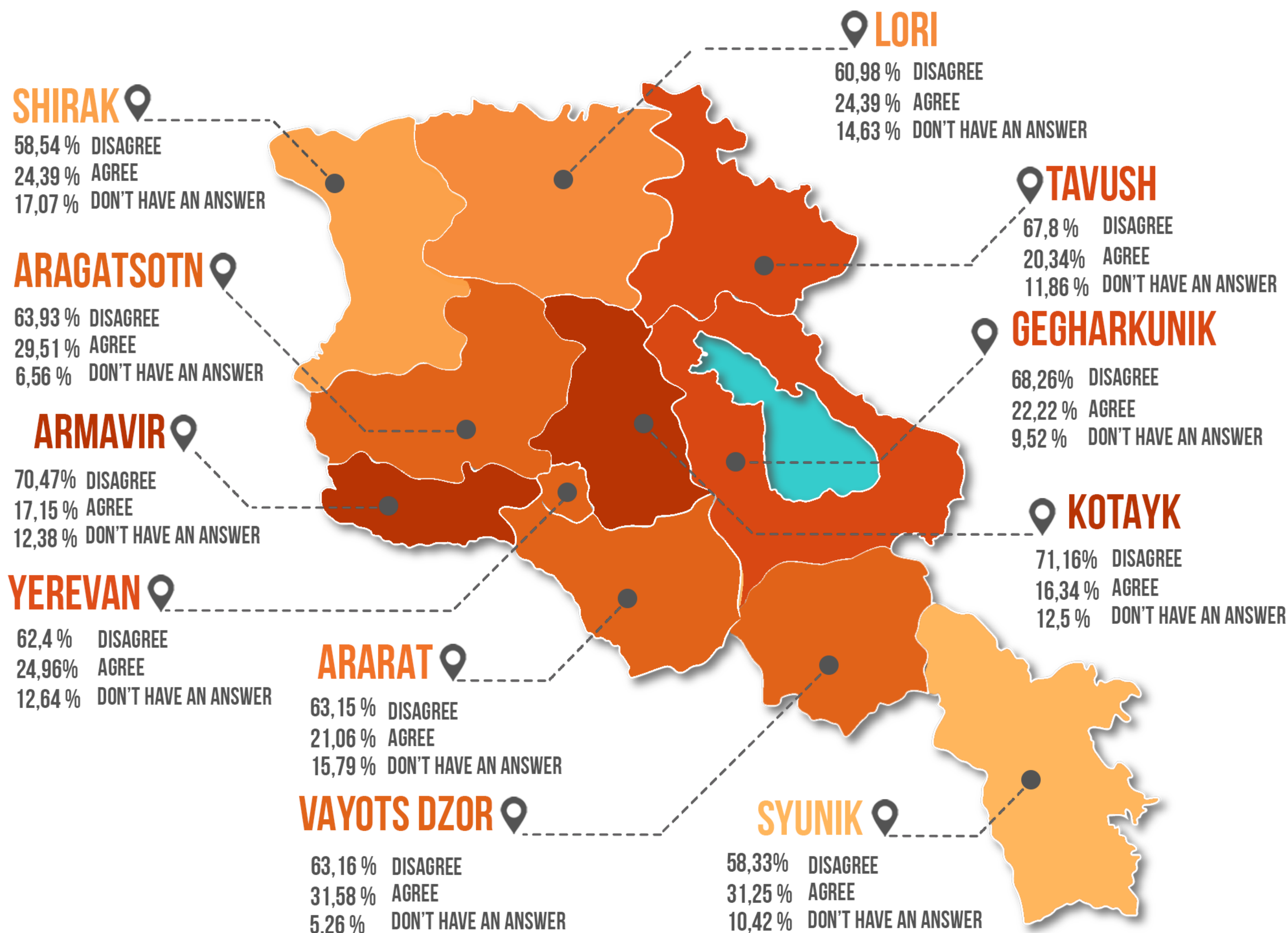
If this provision is strongly approved, it means that the person likely has extremely libertarian ideas about the organization of the economy.



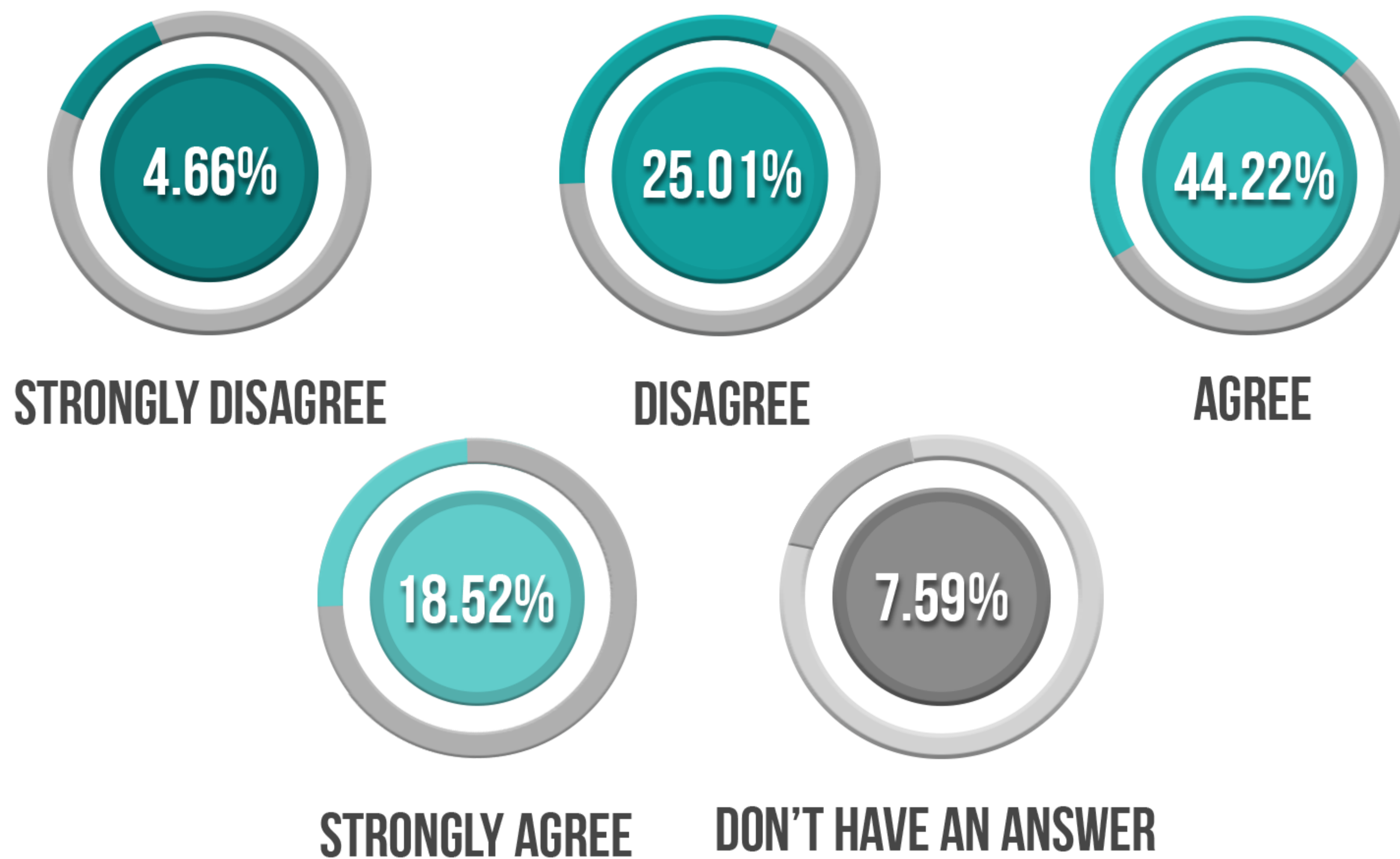
The answer "Agree" also indicates a preference for economic liberalism. Those who answered "strongly disagree" are clearly leftists from a socio-economic point of view.

Regarding those who answered "Disagree," it can be said that they are not extreme right or extreme left from a socio-economic ideological point of view, but they can have both center-right and center-left views.

Thus, "Disagree" is the most common answer; about 52 percent of users gave this response.



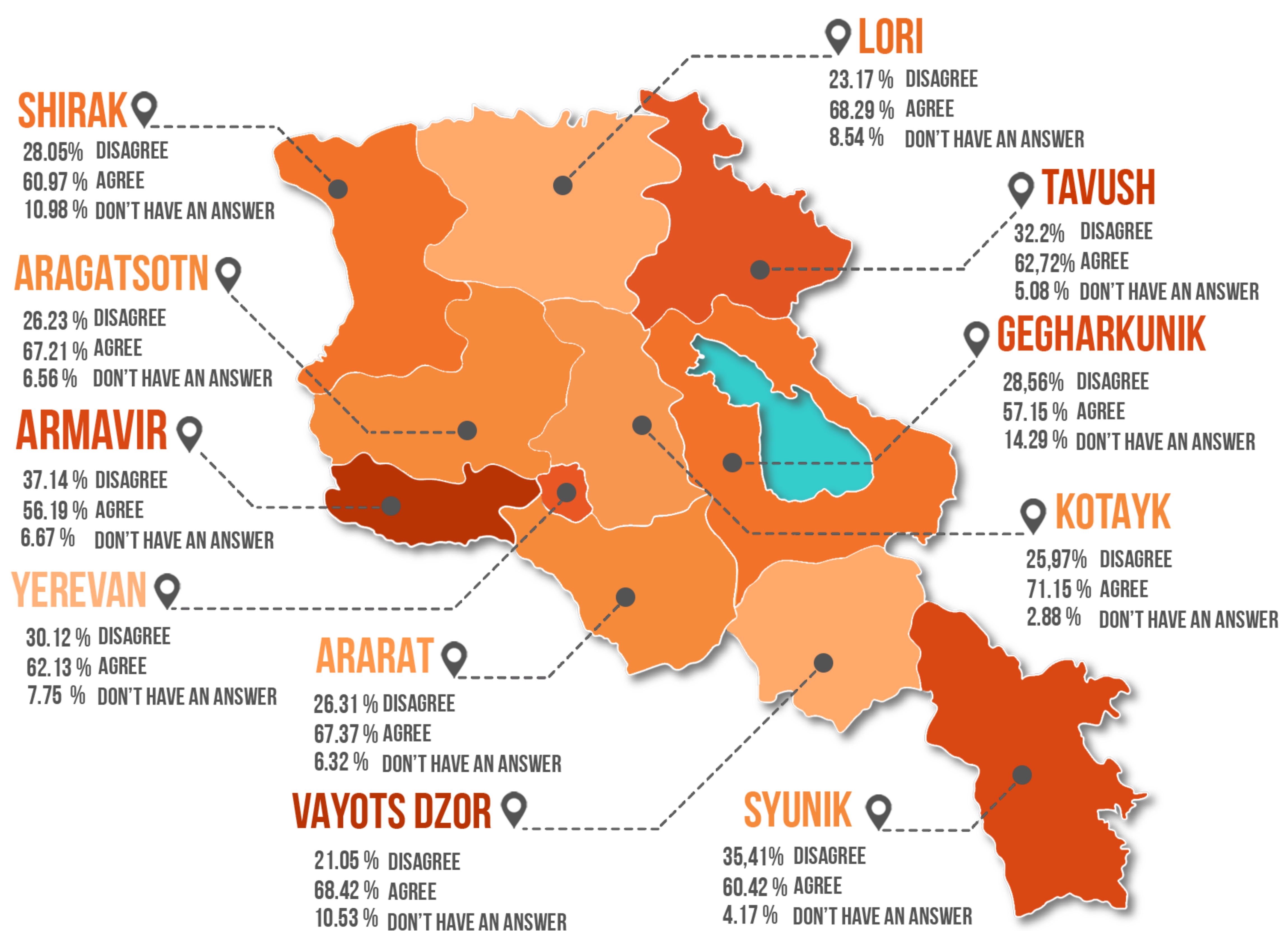
THE TAX SYSTEM SHOULD FOLLOW THIS PRINCIPLE: PEOPLE WITH HIGHER INCOME MUST PAY TAXES WITH A HIGHER PERCENTAGE. (PROGRESSIVE TAXATION SYSTEM)



The majority of users, about 63%, is in favor of a progressive tax system. Specifically, 18.52% of users "strongly agree," and 44.22% "agree."

We can infer that 18.52% of users have a clear left-wing approach, while 44.22% are mainly center-left but can include center-right individuals who lean as far left as possible.

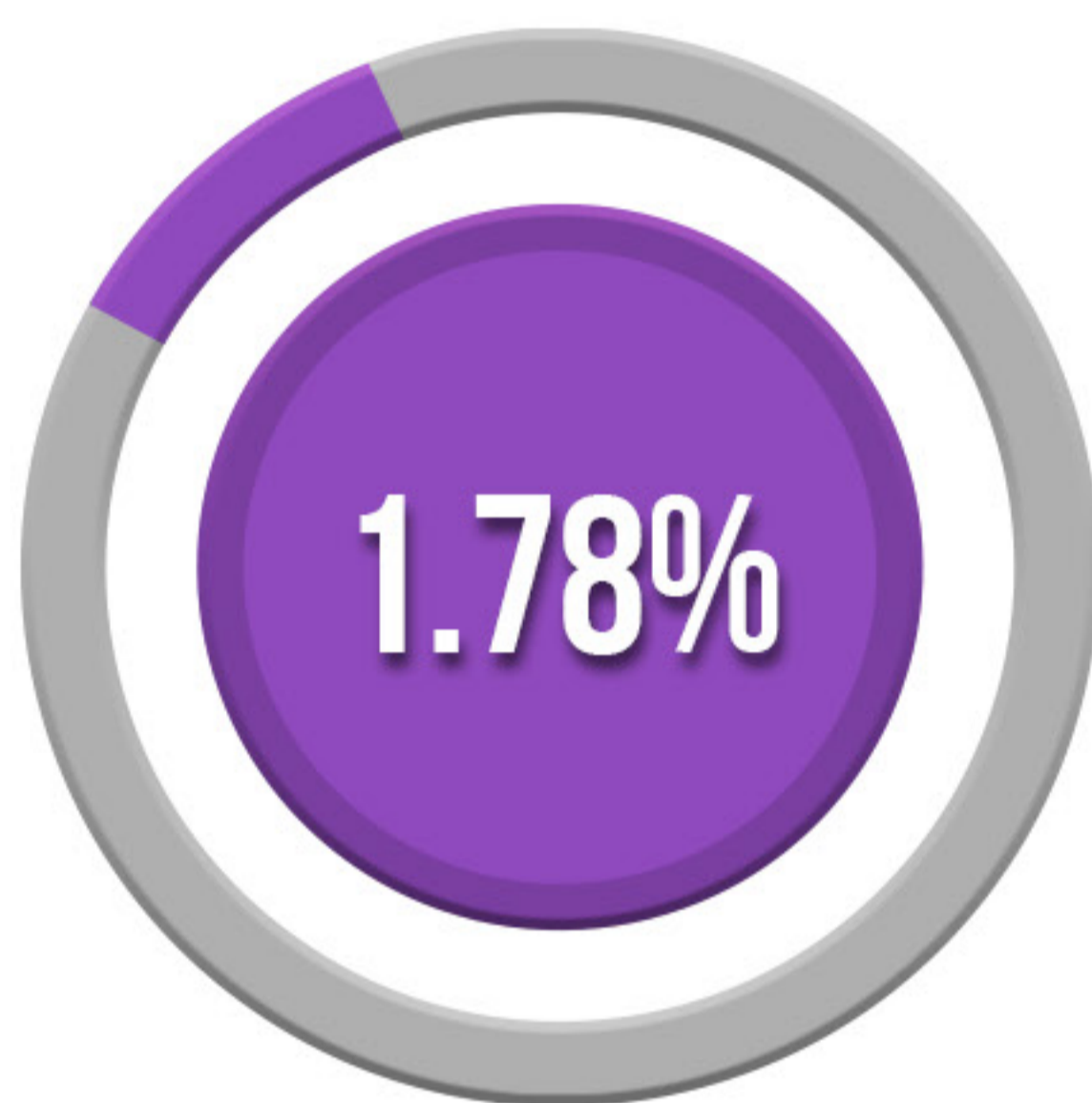
About 30% of users have a clear right-wing orientation, including about 5% who are extreme right.



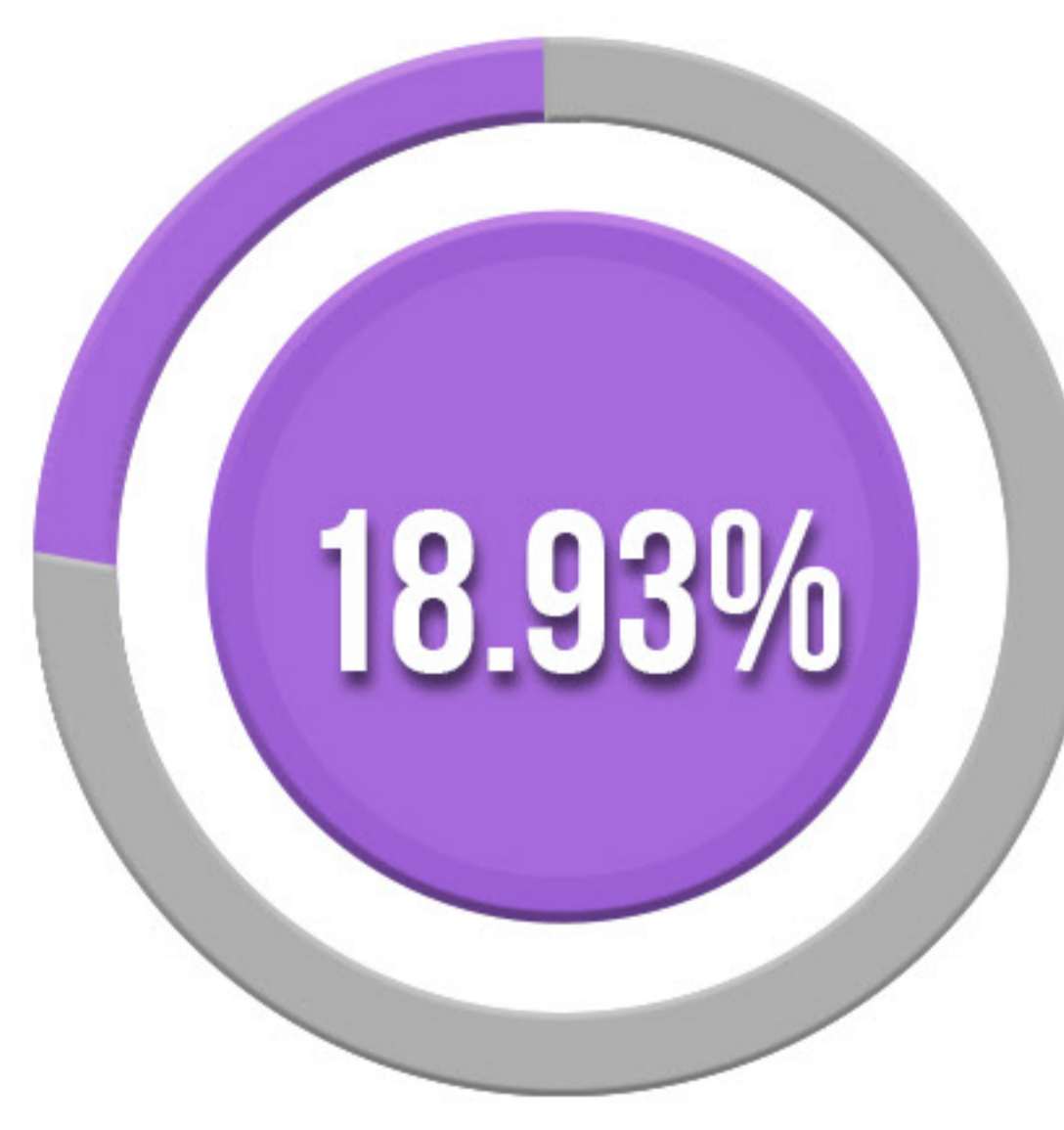
FREE TRADE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE OF PROSPERITY.



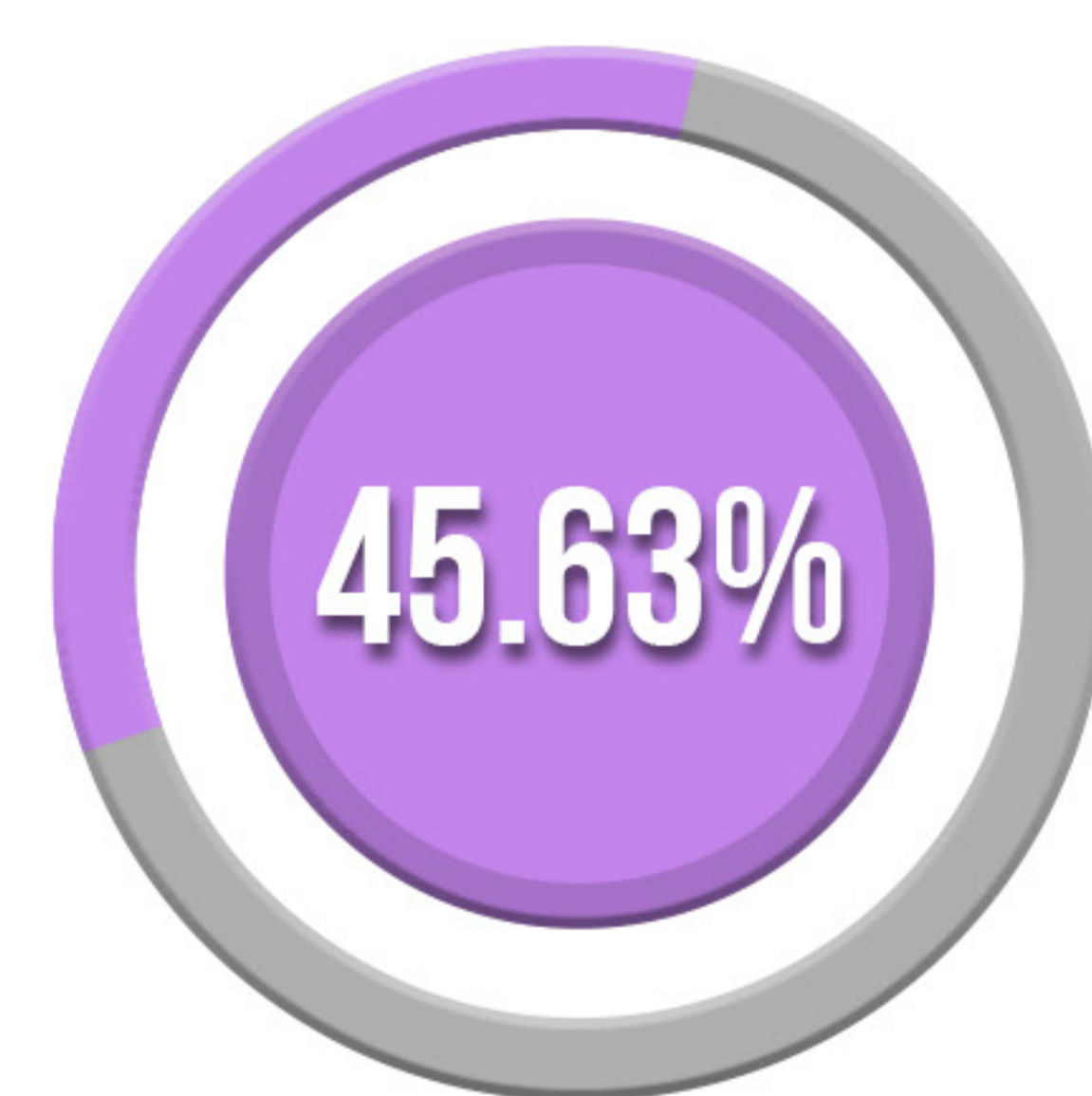
This is one of those questions where only the answer "Strongly disagree" clearly indicates a person's ideological orientation - in this case, extreme left.



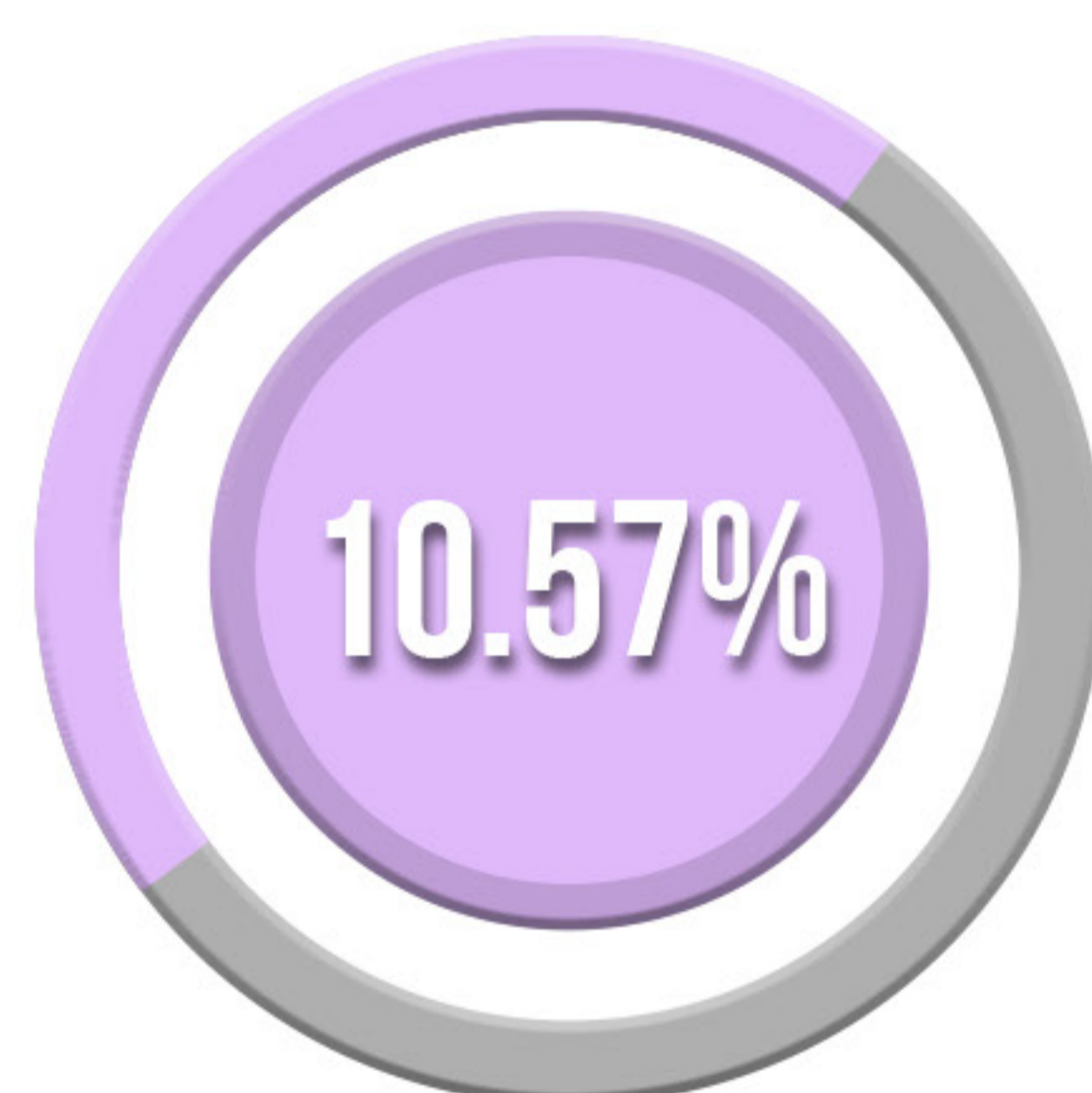
STRONGLY DISAGREE



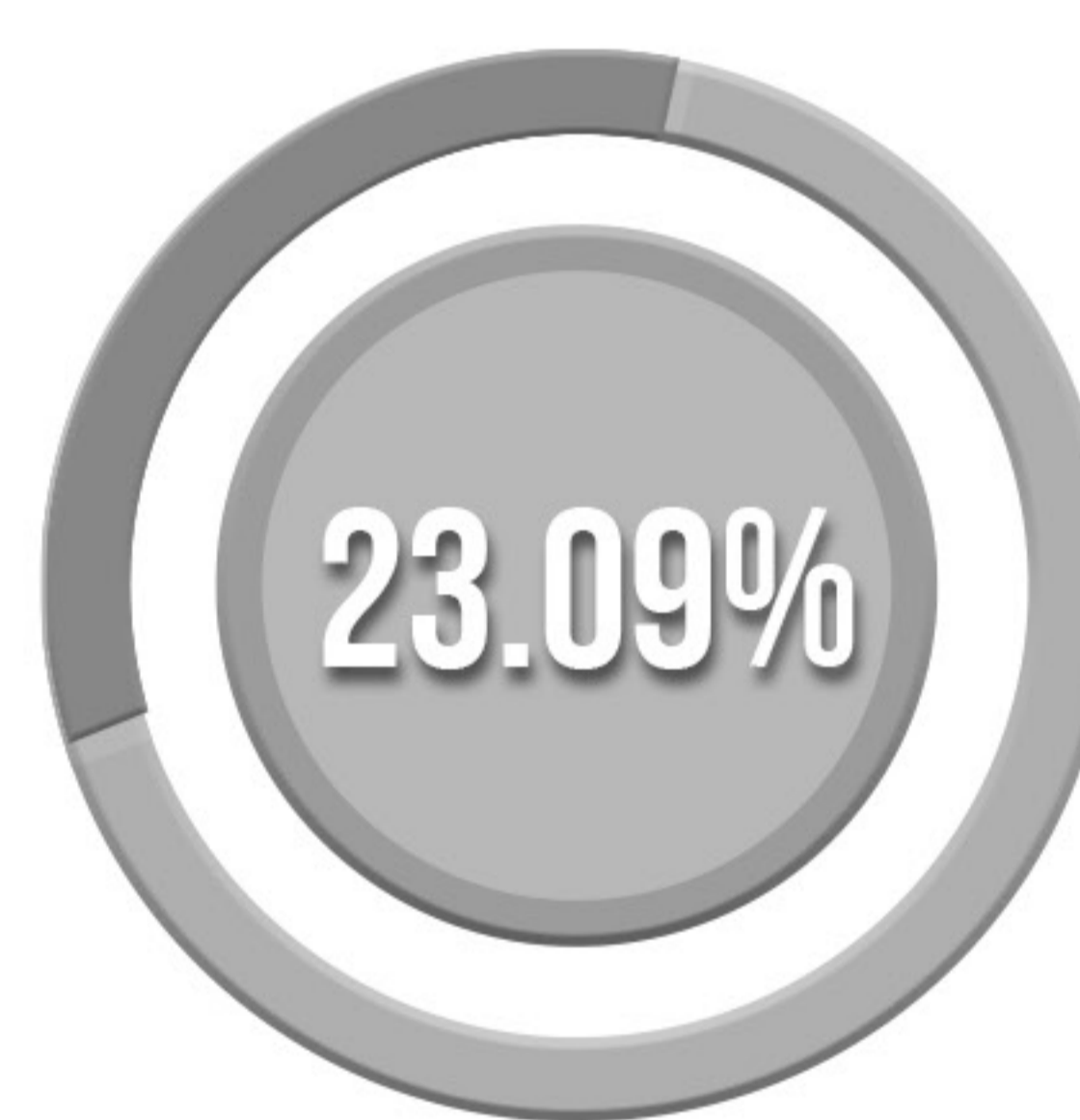
DISAGREE



AGREE



STRONGLY AGREE



DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER

Among the "disagree" answers, there may be many people with extreme left views who might not have given an extreme answer because they think that trade contributes to welfare to some extent.

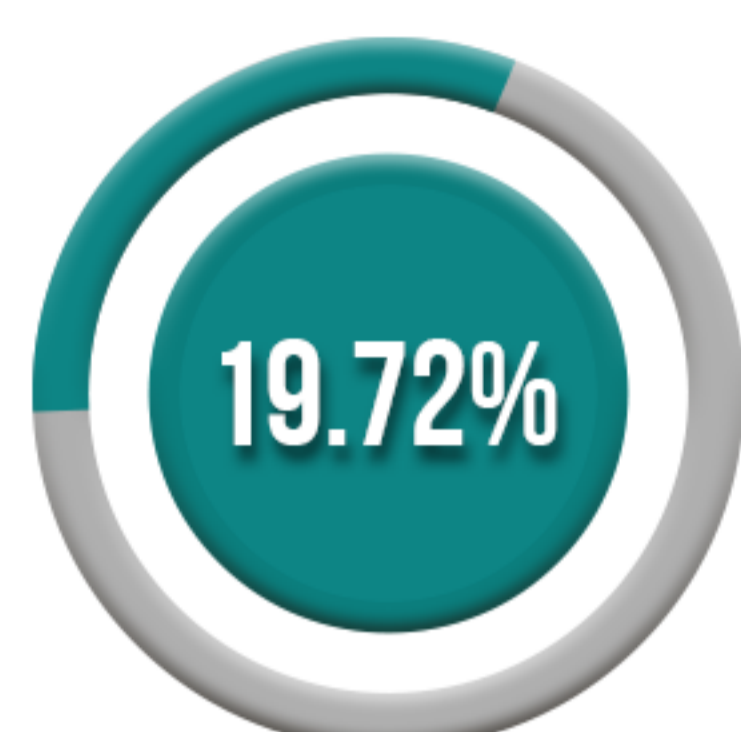
In other words, this question does not allow us to understand the ideological orientation of the majority of people. It is no coincidence that 23.09% of respondents did not have an answer.

The concept of free trade is a right-wing concept, but people don't always perceive it that way, and the results of this test are further proof of that.

THE DIVISION OF CHURCH FROM THE STATE IS UNACCEPTABLE.



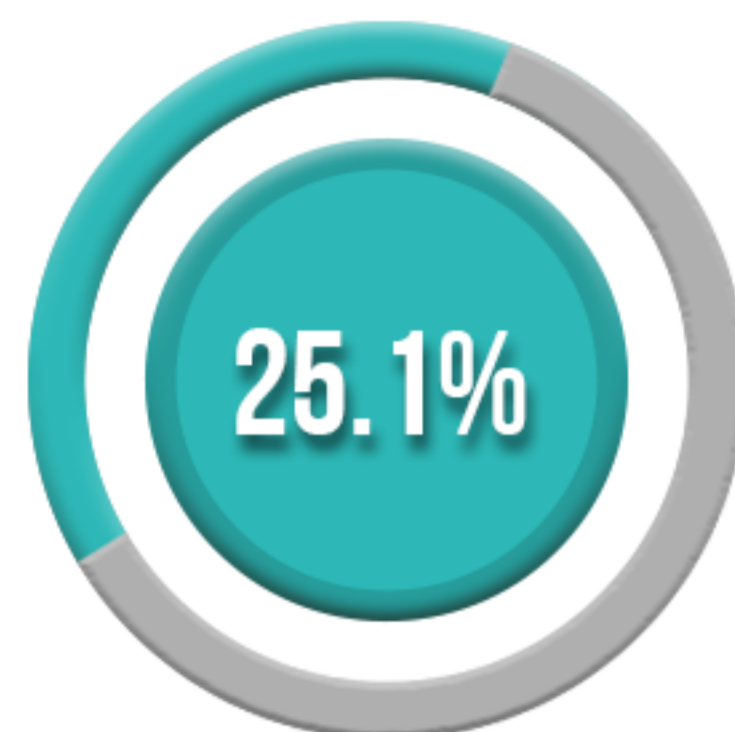
The majority of users are in favor of the concept of a secular state. However, there is still a significant minority of people who oppose this concept.



STRONGLY DISAGREE



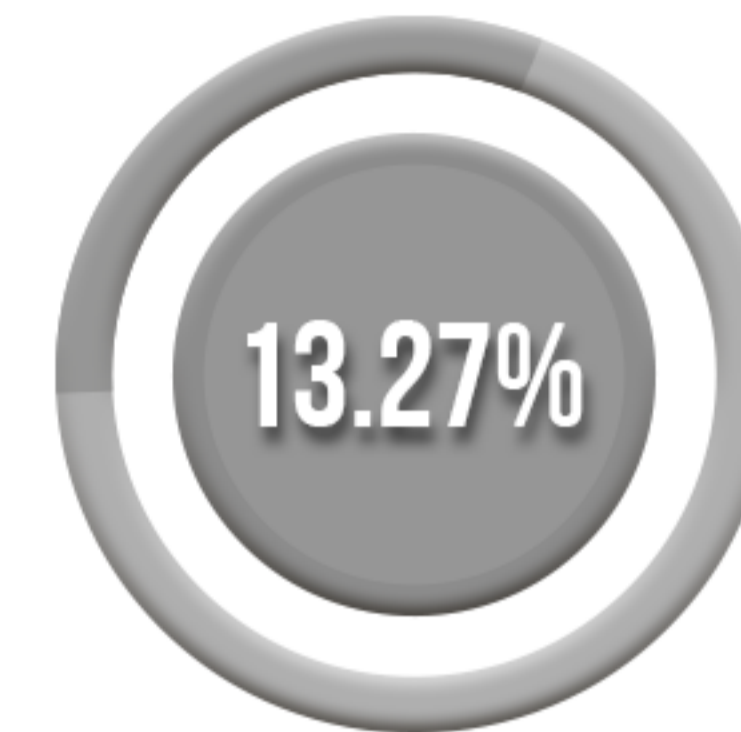
DISAGREE



AGREE



STRONGLY AGREE

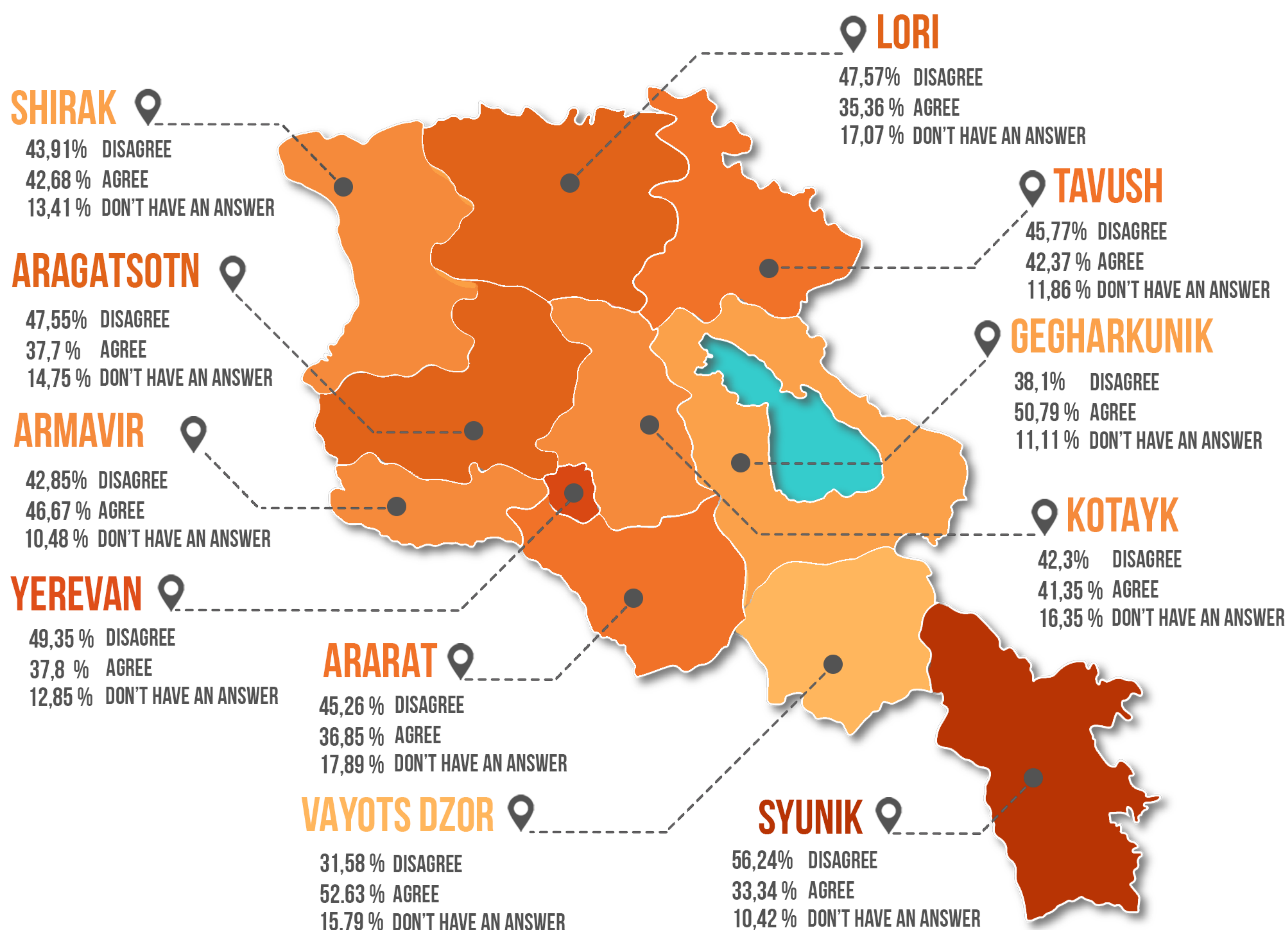


DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER

It can be observed that among social-conservative issues, the provision regarding the convergence of the state and the church has a relatively large number of supporters, even among those who take liberal, progressive approaches on other issues.

For comparison, only 18% of users agree that patriarchal (traditional) values should be the basis of the Armenian nation's value system.

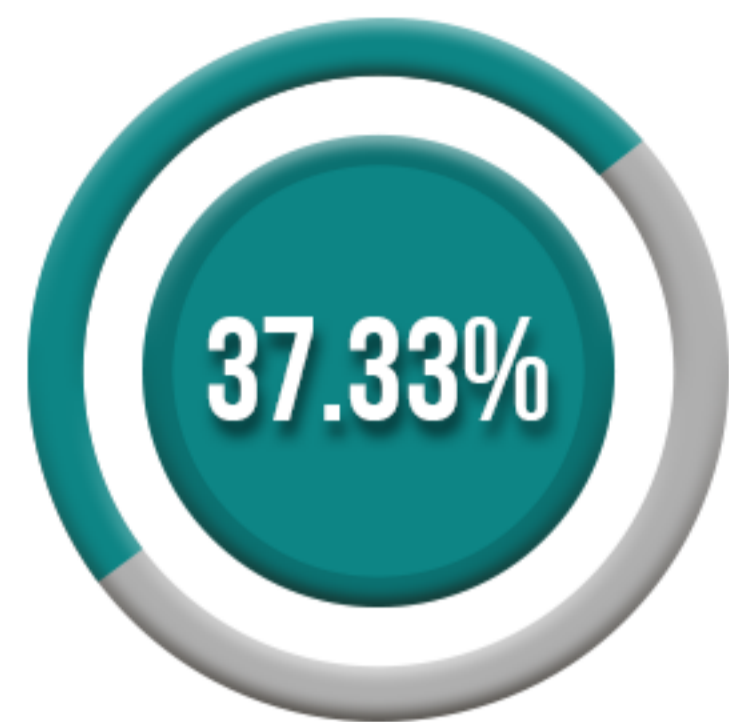
This peculiarity can be explained by the historical mission of the Apostolic Church. Even in the RA constitution, the historical and exclusive mission of the Armenian Apostolic Church in preserving Armenian culture is stated, which could influence people's views on the role of the church.



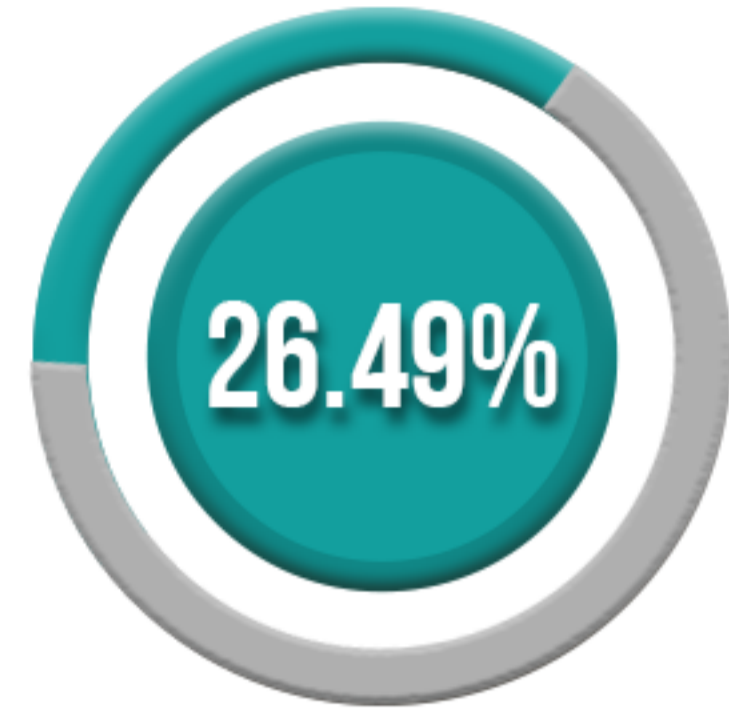
HOMOSEXUAL PEOPLE MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO HOLD PUBLIC PARADES.



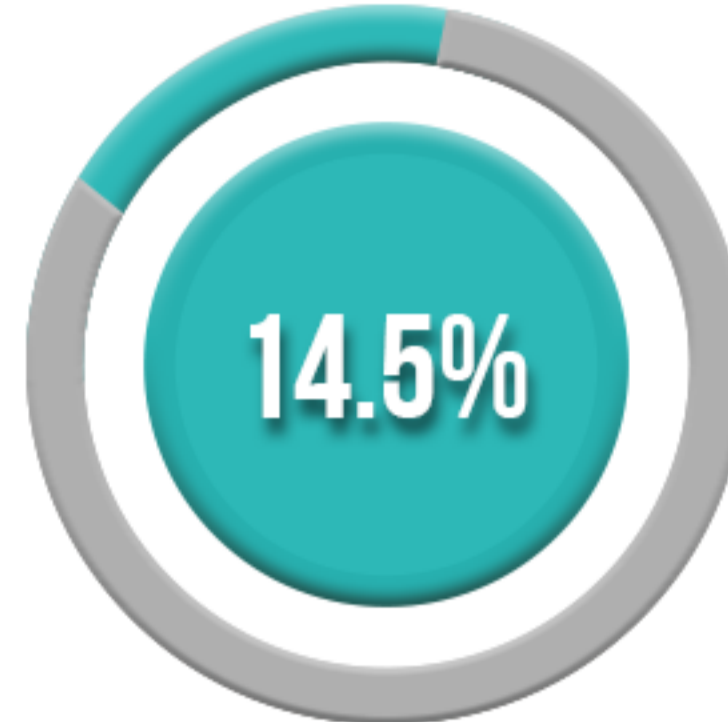
This question is also one of those provisions where the answers differ from responses to several other social-conservative questions.



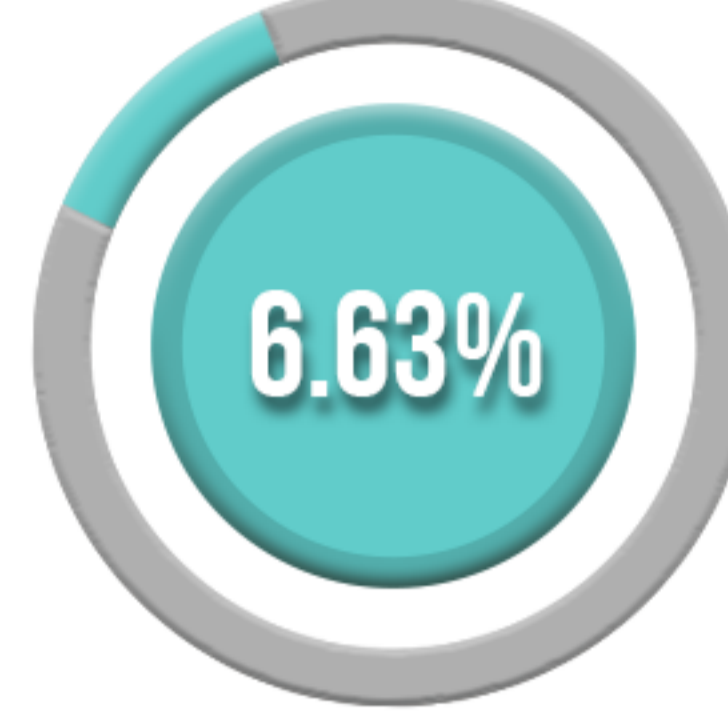
STRONGLY DISAGREE



DISAGREE



AGREE



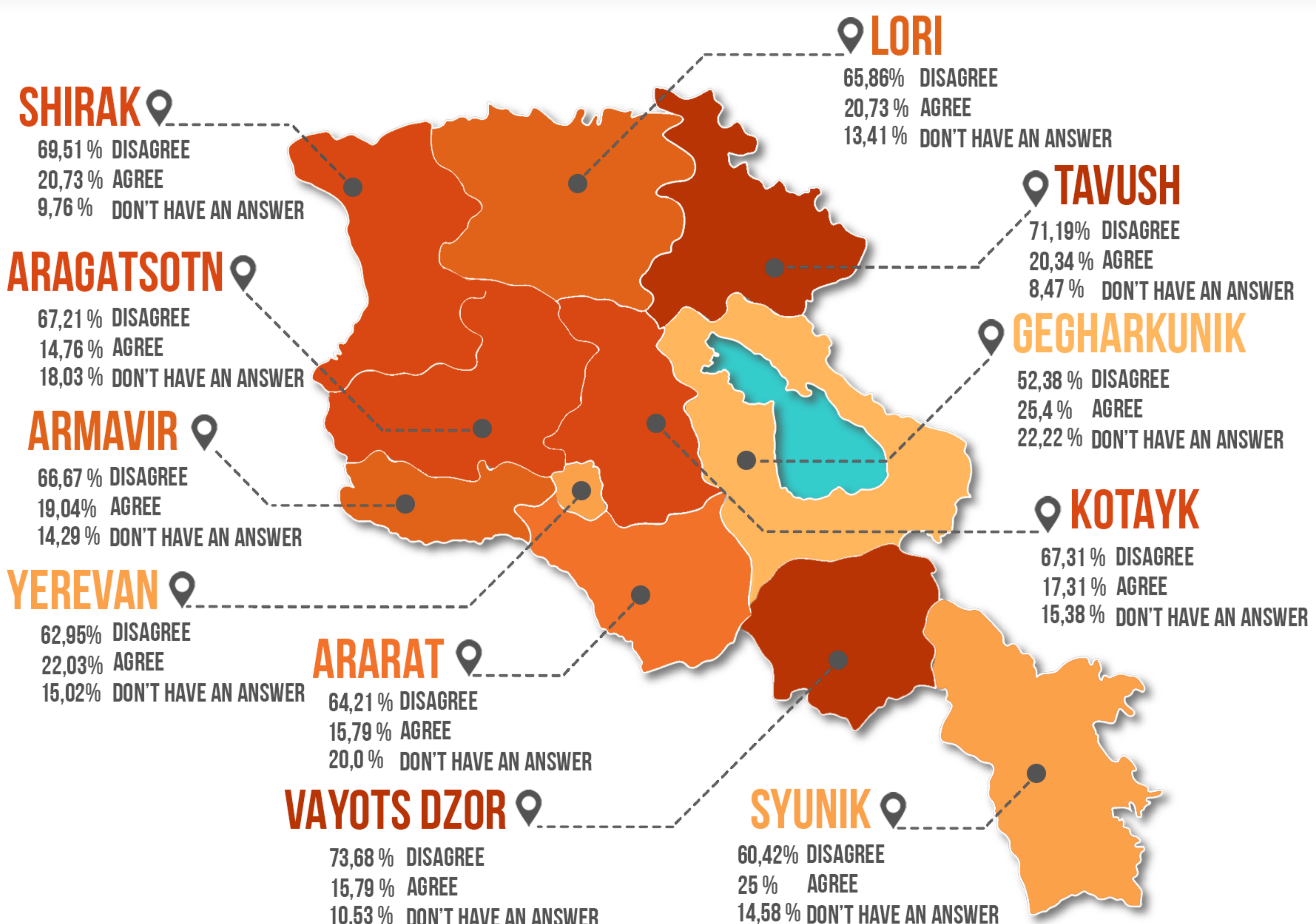
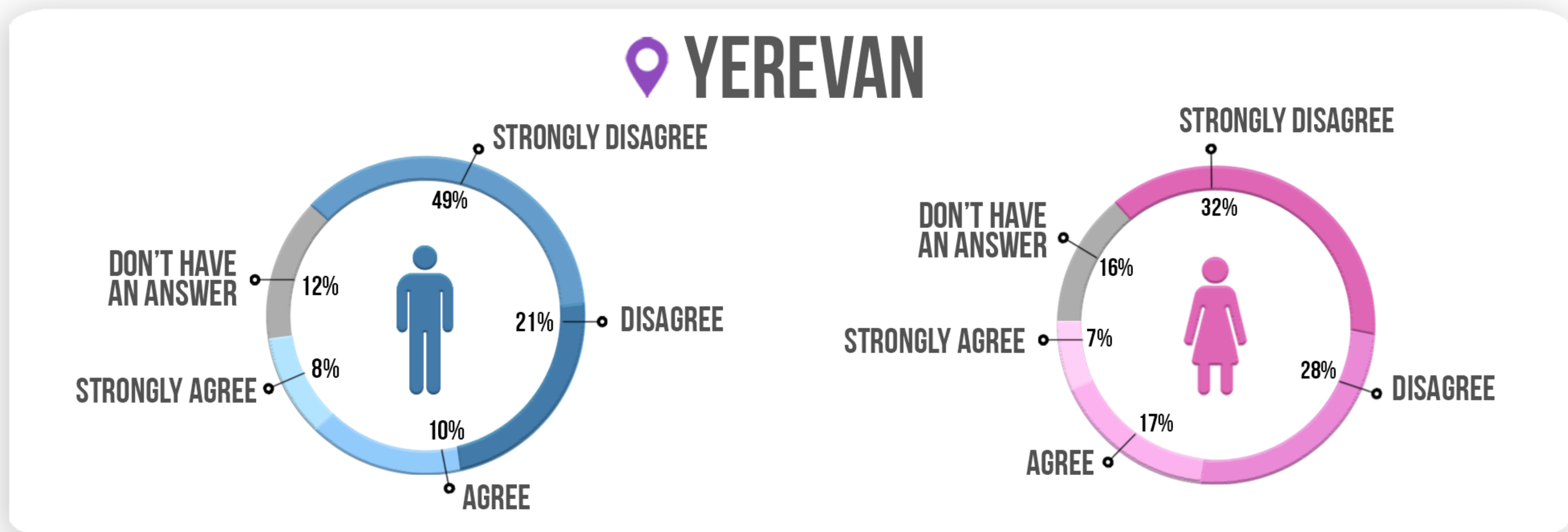
STRONGLY AGREE



DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER

Thus, only 21% of users agree (6.63% strongly agree) that representatives of the LGBT community have the right to hold a pride parade. We believe this topic is also one where a certain stable public approach has historically been formed, and so far there has not been a free debate or discussion that would allow people to reconsider their own views. It should be noted that about 15% are undecided on this issue.

However, female users, especially those from Yerevan, constitute the majority of those providing progressive answers in this regard.



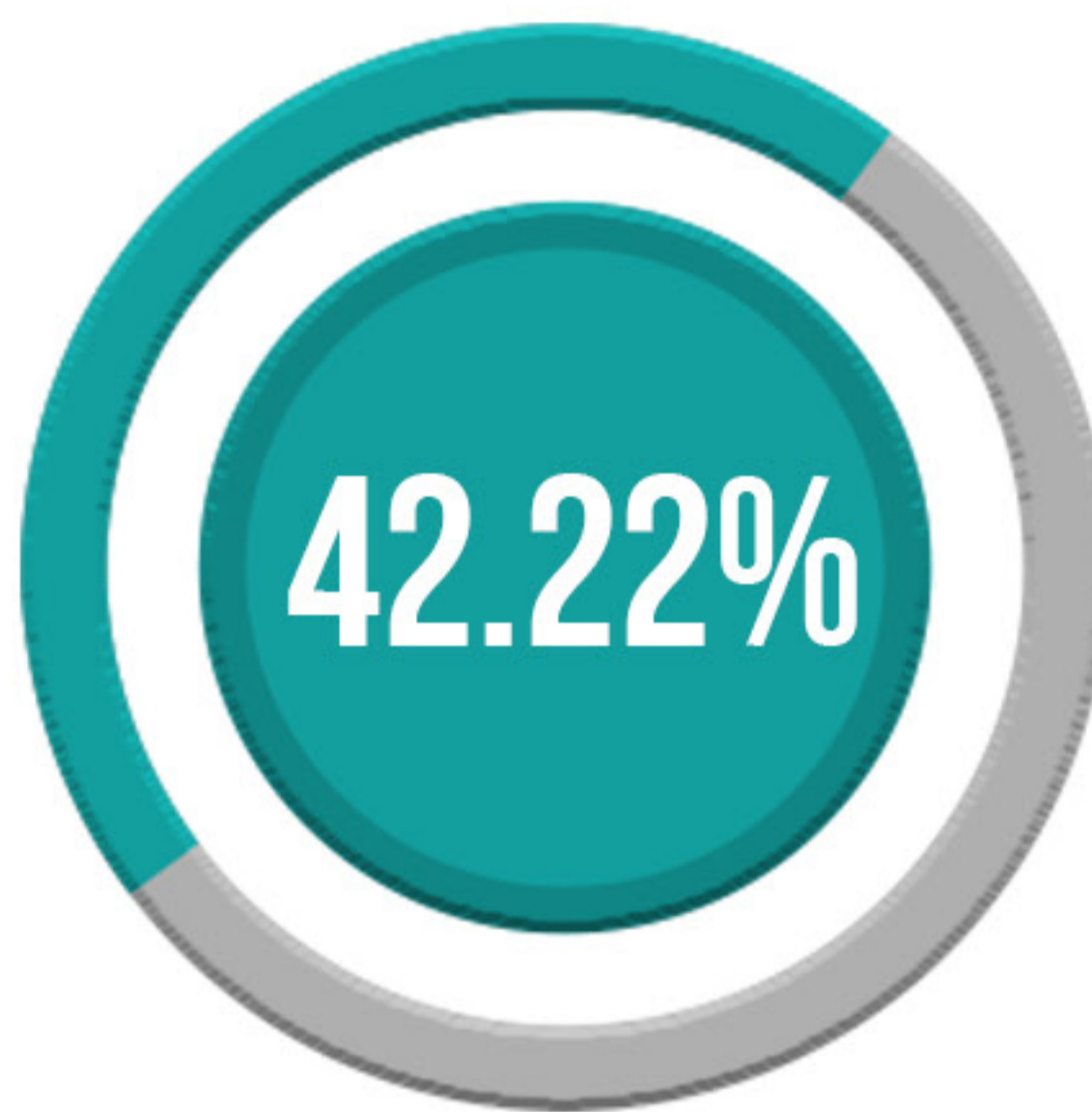
THE SOLE GOAL OF THE STATE IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS IS TO SERVE THE NATIONAL INTEREST. UNIVERSAL VALUES HAVE NO PLACE IN THE STATE'S FOREIGN POLICY.



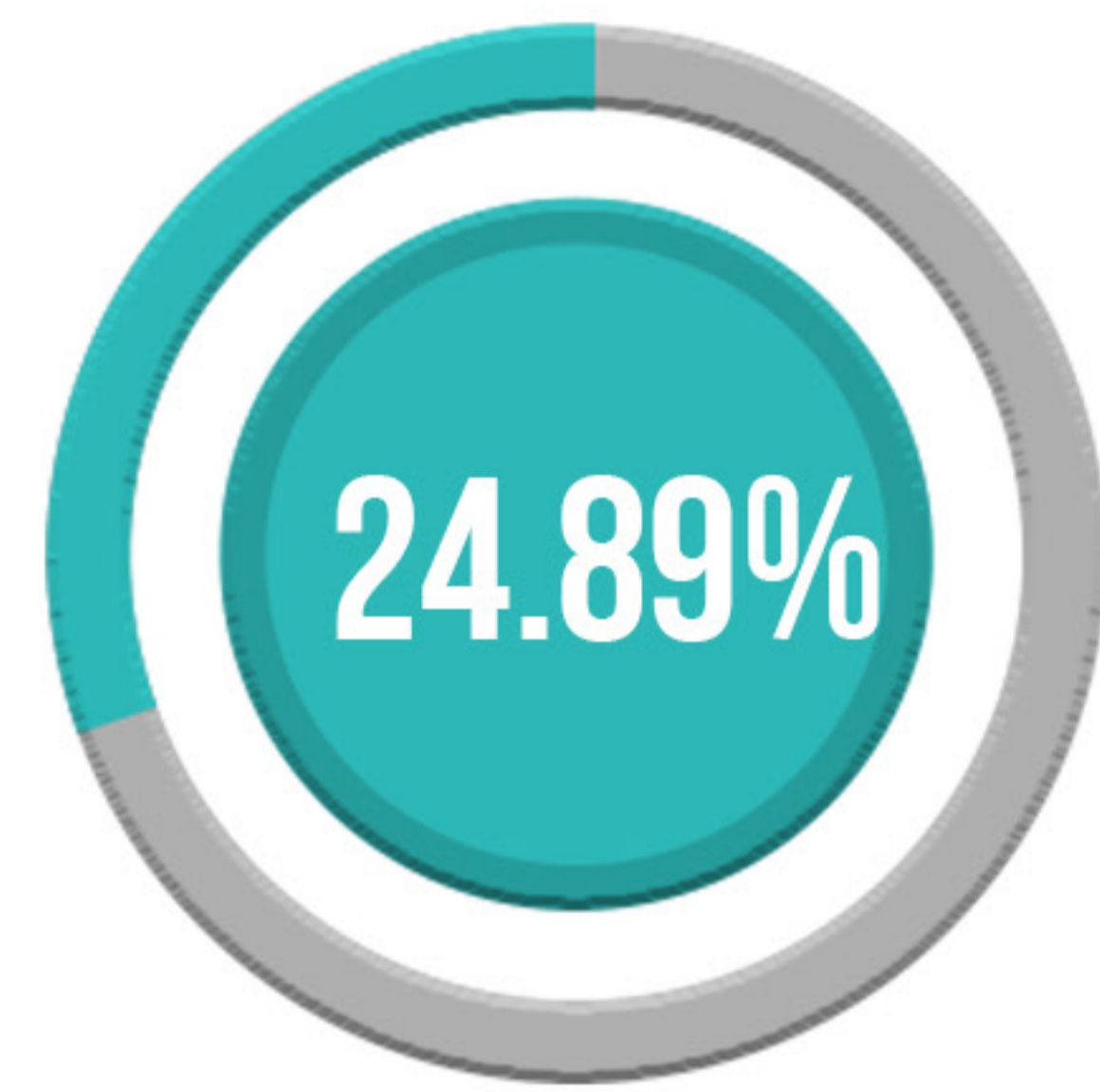
Most users, approximately 52%, believe that universal values should also have a place in the state's foreign policy. On the other hand, it is notable that only about 10% of users strongly disagree with the statement 'The sole goal of the state in international relations is to serve the national interest. Universal values have no place in the state's foreign policy.'



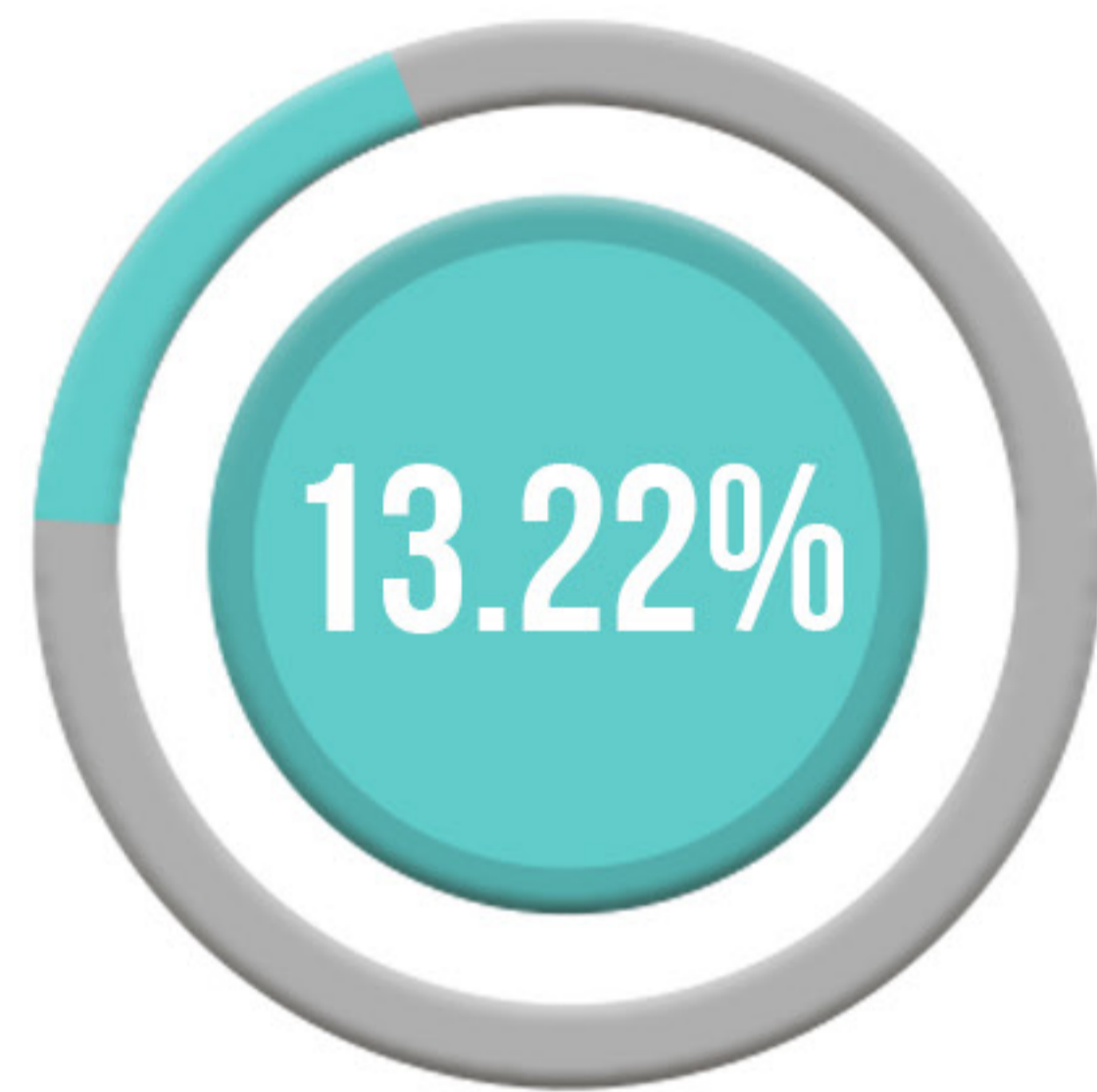
STRONGLY DISAGREE



DISAGREE



AGREE



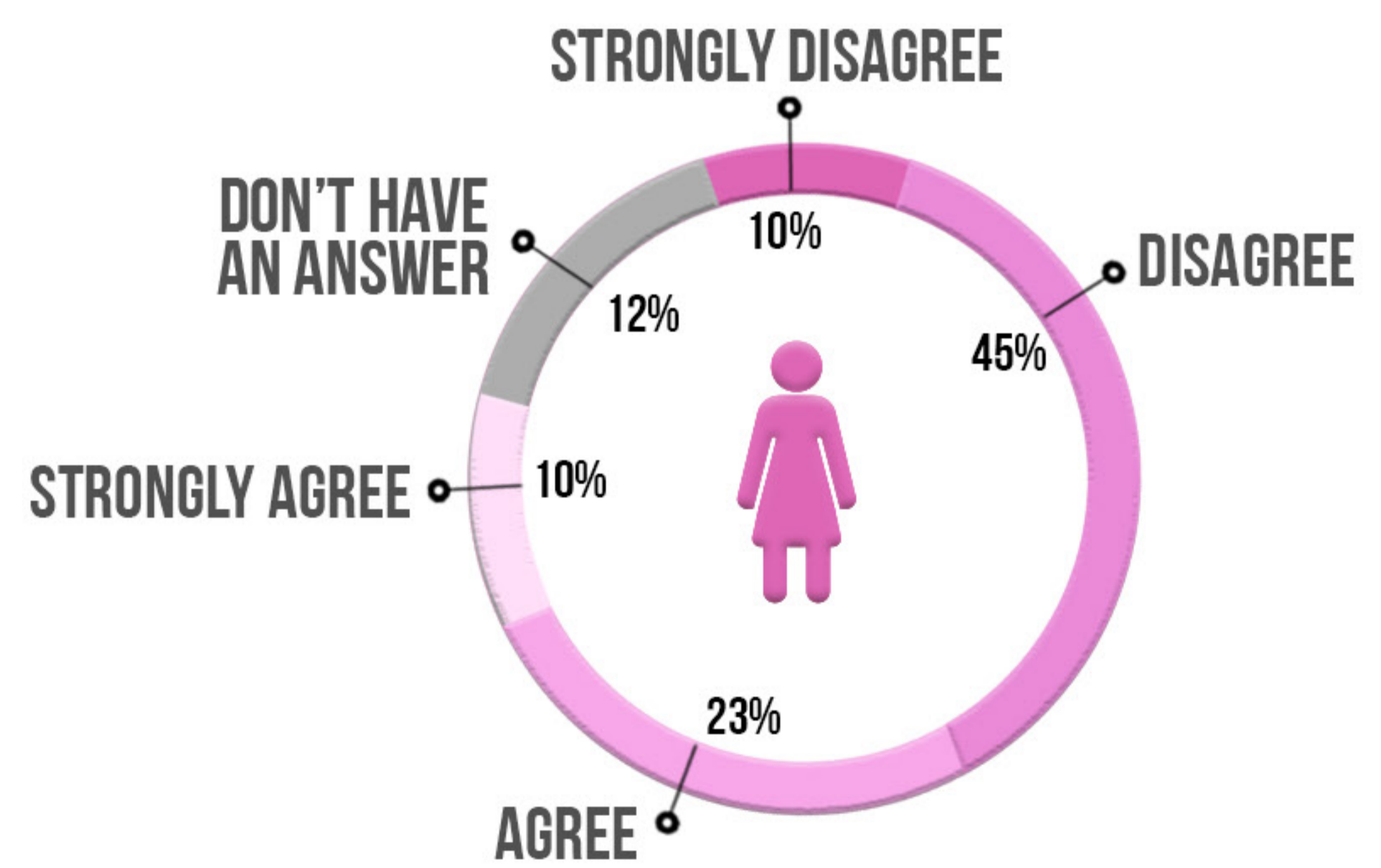
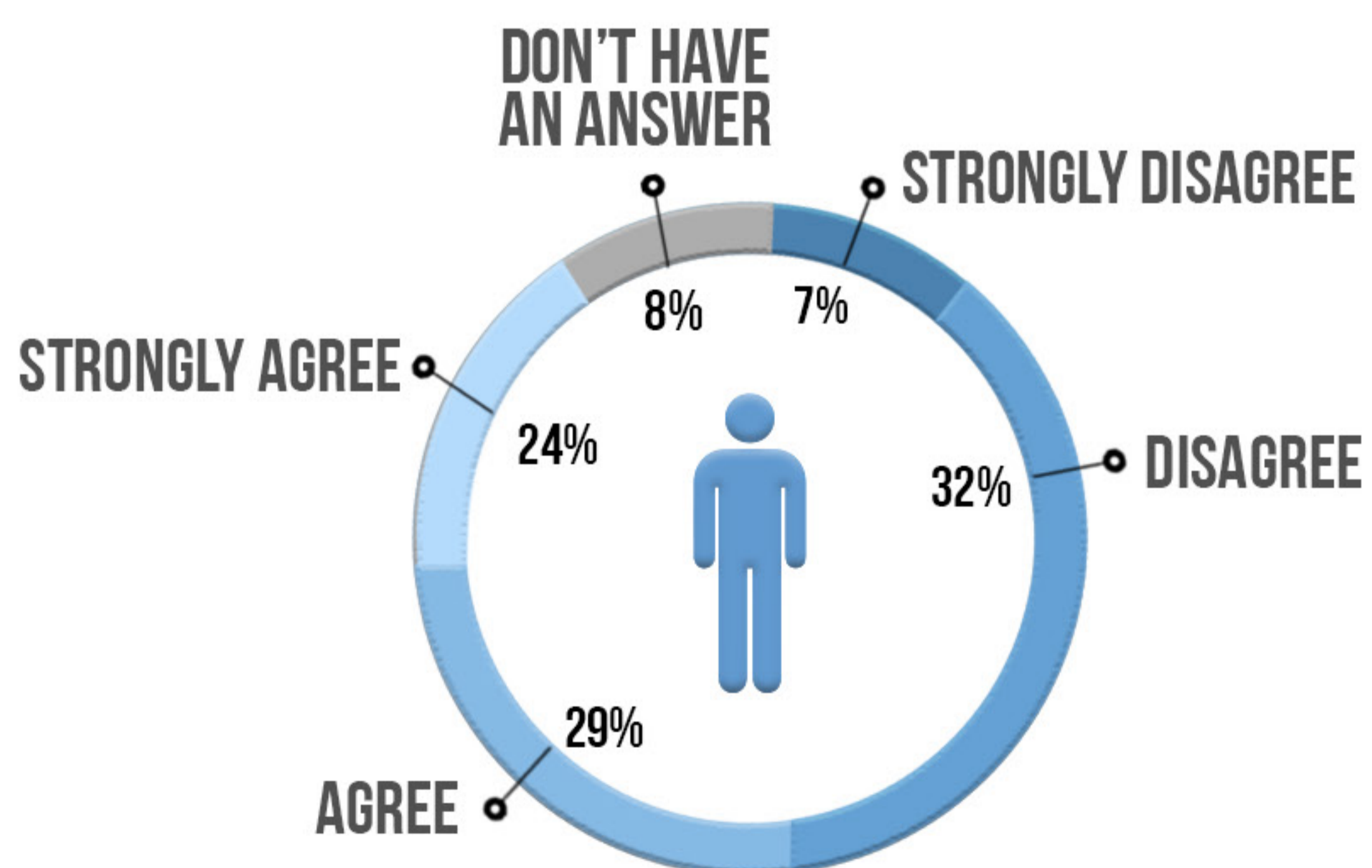
STRONGLY AGREE



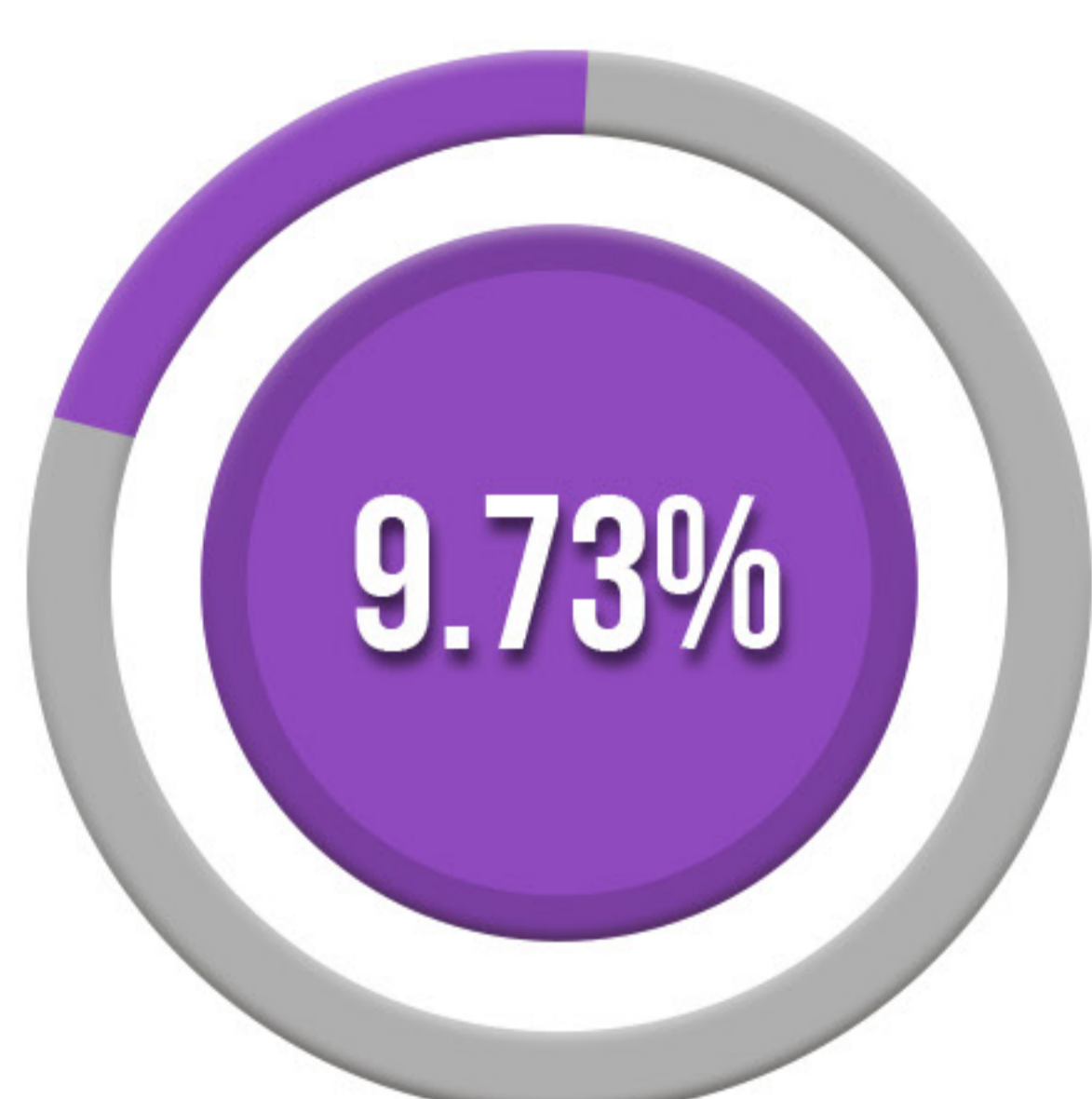
DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER

YEREVAN

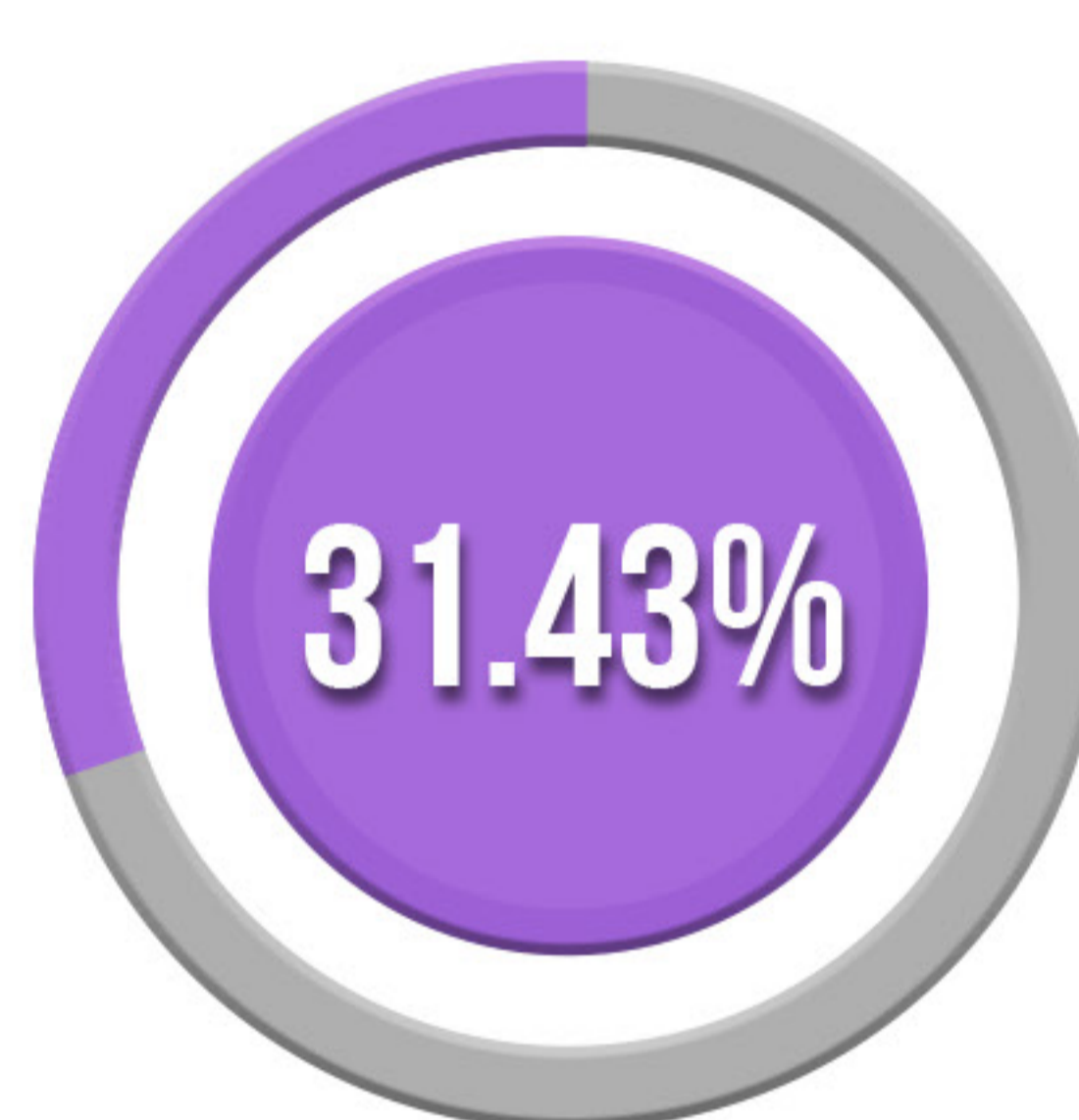
Here, too, there is a significant difference in responses between male and female users. Particularly, women from Yerevan stand out the most in their opinions.



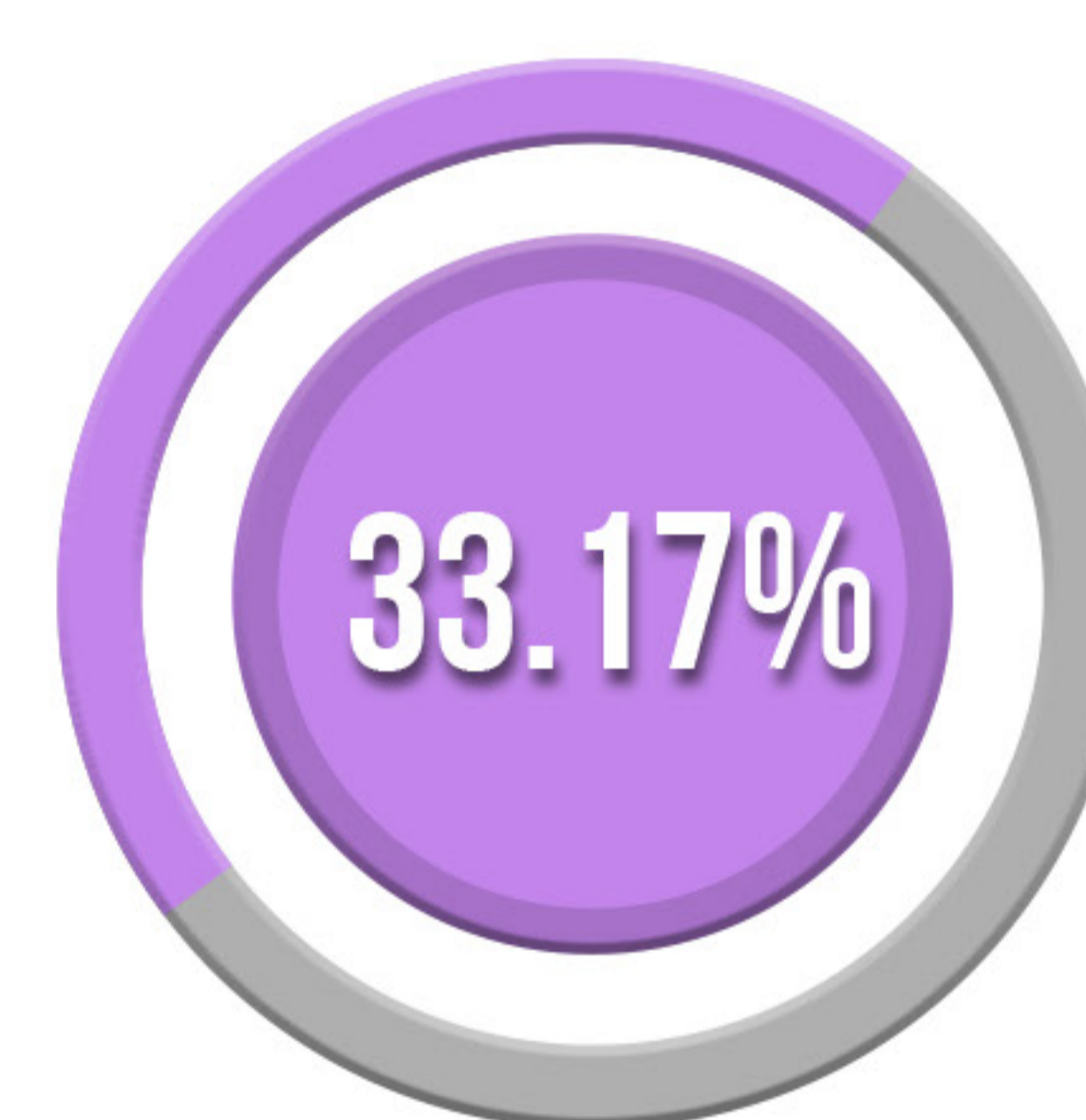
THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IS THE PUNISHMENT OF THE OFFENDER, NOT THEIR REHABILITATION.



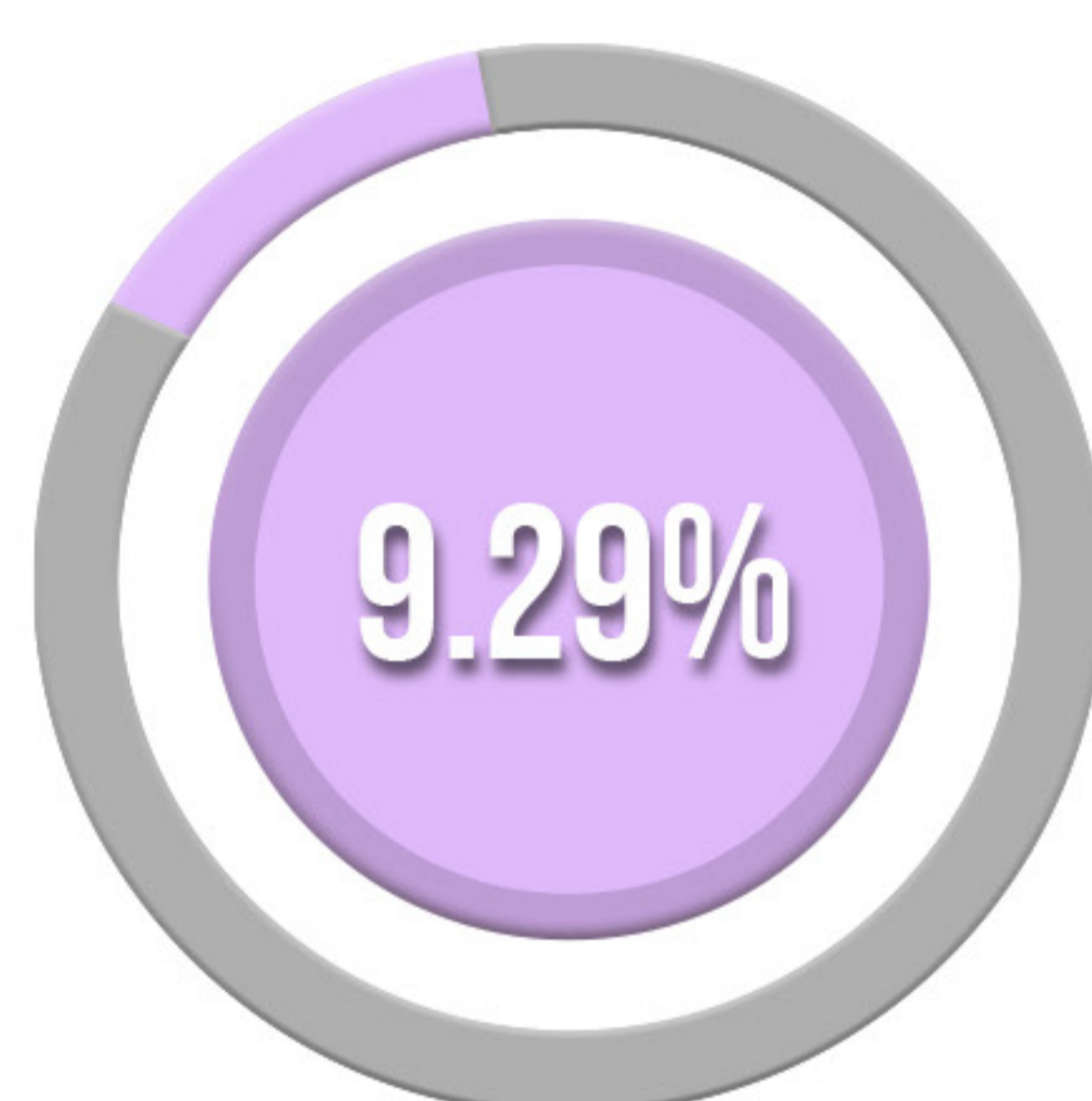
STRONGLY DISAGREE



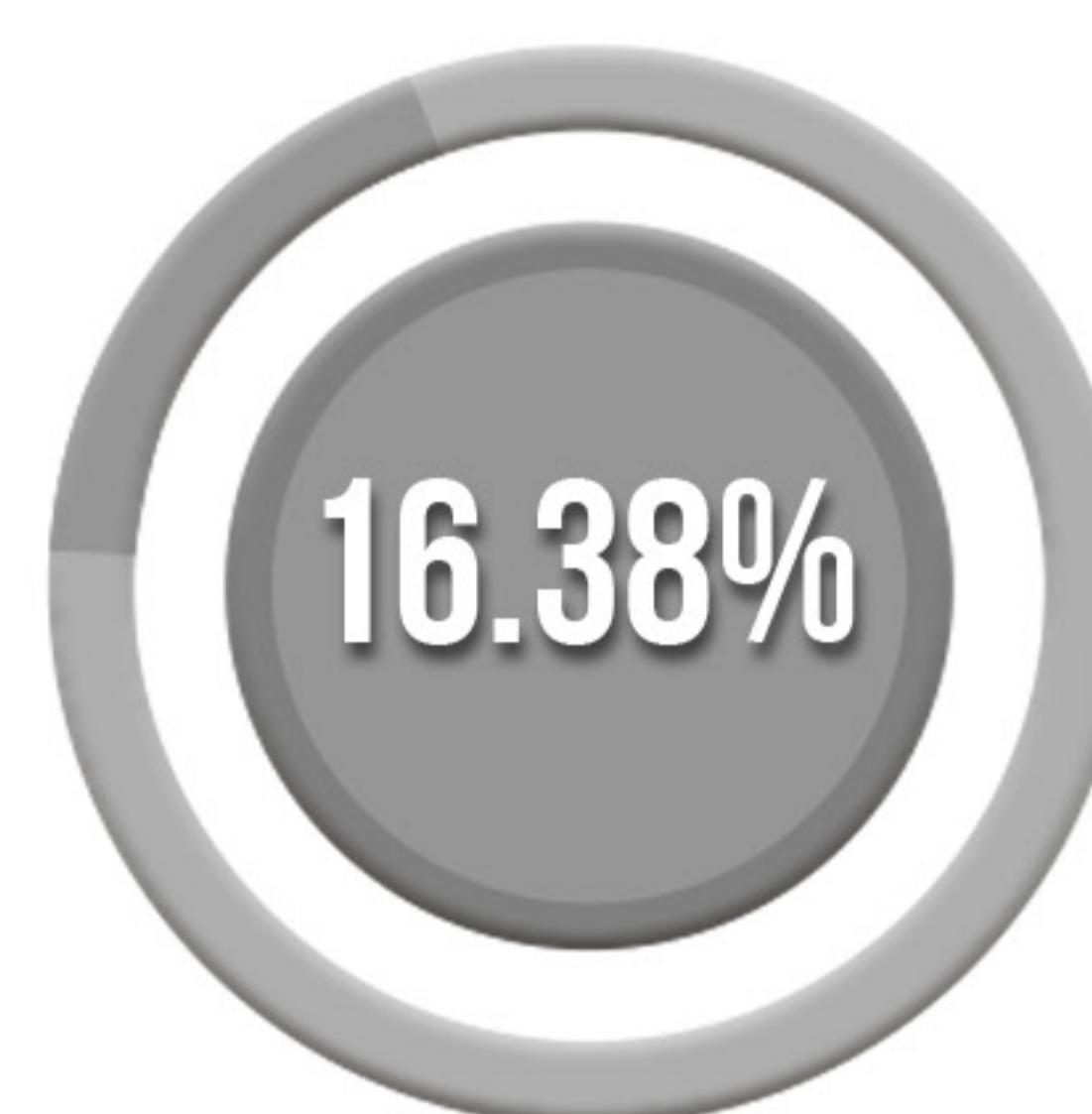
DISAGREE



AGREE



STRONGLY AGREE



DON'T HAVE AN ANSWER

This is one of the issues that requires public awareness campaigns. It is closely linked to the concept of a modern democratic state, and civic education programs can contribute to the adjustment of ideas about it.

SUMMARY

Based on our research, we conclude that the majority of users generally hold left-center to moderately liberal views. Consequently, it appears unlikely that any extremist political forces, whether right-wing or left-wing, conservative or liberal, can garner broad public support in Armenia. The ideological leanings of a significant segment of Armenian society closely mirror average European perspectives. Similar to Europe, centrist forces are likely to enjoy widespread public backing in Armenia. Additionally, there seems to be a notable demand for left-center forces and solutions in the country.

However, the views of a significant portion of Armenian users diverge from average European views on several issues, particularly concerning the relationship between the church and the state, marijuana legalization, and LGBT community parades. On these matters, a substantial number of Armenian users exhibit more conservative approaches.

Overall, the most progressive viewpoints are predominantly held by female users in Yerevan, while the most conservative viewpoints are prevalent among male users residing in regional areas.