



Alberta Separatism

October 17, 2026

pollara
strategic insights

Methodology

2

Field Period	This survey reflects merged findings from the past two weeks of polling on Pollara's Alberta Separatism Tracker: October 2 to 15, 2026.
Sample	This two-week total is of n=1,347 eligible voters. Respondents were recruited from a mix of the Leger and Dynata online research panels, supplemented by a small proportion recruited from social media forums to reach demographics typically under-represented on traditional online panels.
Reliability	Online surveys cannot be assigned a margin of error. As a guideline, a probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of $\pm 2.7\%$, 19 times out of 20.
Weighting	Data has been weighted using the most current region, gender, education, and age Census data, to ensure the sample reflects the population of adult Albertans.
Tracking	Comparisons have been drawn to past Pollara research.



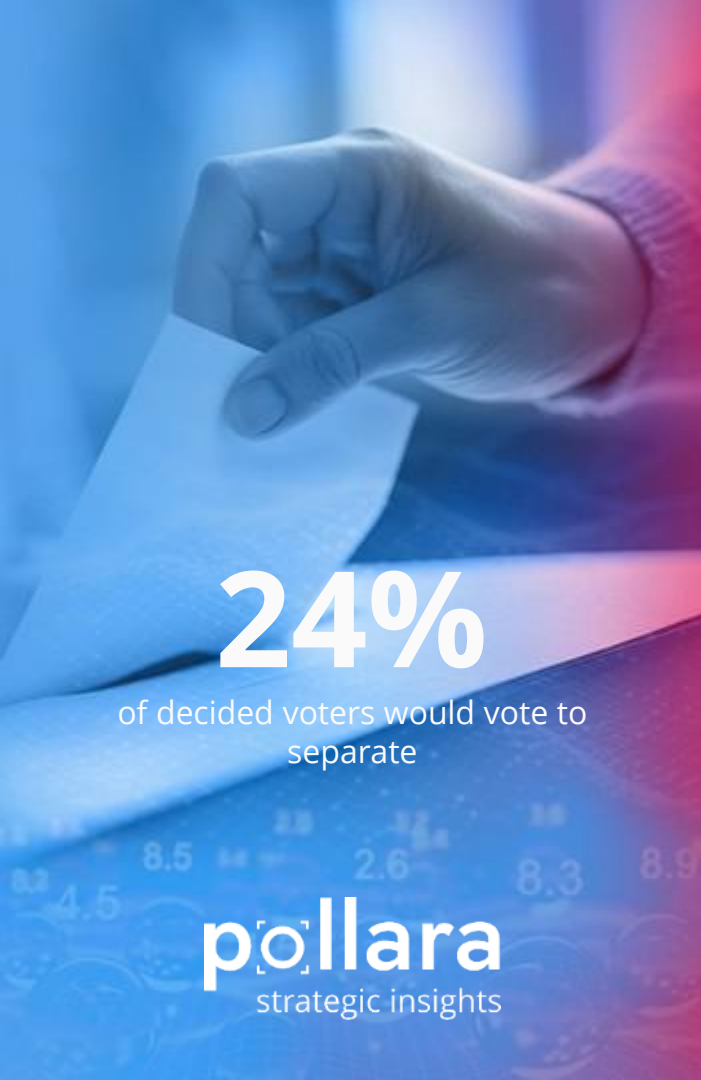
CANADIAN
RESEARCH
INSIGHTS
COUNCIL

POLLARA STRATEGIC INSIGHTS IS A MEMBER OF THE **CANADIAN RESEARCH INSIGHTS COUNCIL** (CRIC), AND THIS RESEARCH WAS CONDUCTED IN COMPLIANCE WITH CRIC STANDARDS.

pollara
strategic insights

Key Findings

- **Decided Vote: 24% would vote to **SEPARATE****
 - **REMAIN** is at 86% among those who voted by mail.
 - **REMAIN** is over 80% in Calgary and Edmonton.
- Decided “YES” vote ranges from 62% to 69% on the 5 immigration questions and 47% to 53% on the 4 constitutional questions.
 - However, among people who have already mailed back their ballots, NO leads or is tied on all 9 questions.
 - Some Albertans are only planning to vote on the separation question. Among those planning to vote on all referendum questions, YES runs an average of 4 points lower.
 - Notably, with just days left in the campaign, between 33% and 49% of voters are still undecided or open to changing their mind on these nine questions. Our polling will not fully capture the impact of Mark Carney urging Albertans to vote NO on these questions on October 15th.



24%

of decided voters would vote to
separate

pollara
strategic insights

Key Findings

- When asked why they are voting **REMAIN** in their own words, Albertans show a mix of patriotism and fear about the economic downside of separatism. The threat from President Trump is also a factor, as many see this vote as a step towards becoming the 51st state.
- Those voting to **SEPARATE** are largely driven by grievance with the federal government. Some see this as a vote to “send a message” or gain “leverage”, even if they don’t want to separate.
- Seven in ten (70%) feel the referendum has been a waste of time and money.
- Only 37% feel this referendum will put the question of Alberta separatism to bed once and for all. This sentiment is similar among both **REMAIN** and **SEPARATE** voters.
- The Alberta NDP leads the UCP 50% to 46% among decided voters province-wide.



19%

Albertans have stopped talking to a friend or family member because of the referendum

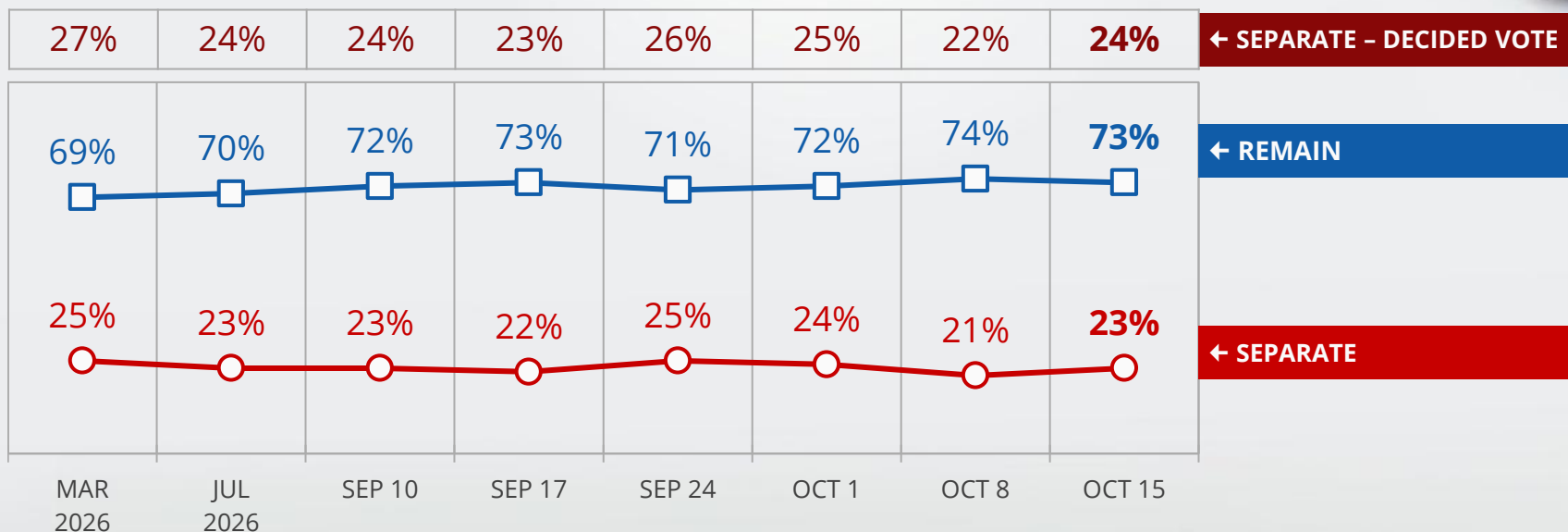
REFERENDUM

pollara
strategic insights

24% of Decided Voters Would Vote to **SEPARATE**

- Just 3% of voters are undecided.
- 5% of **REMAIN** voters and 19% of **SEPARATE** voters are open to changing their minds.

Vote Intention in Alberta Referendum on **REMAINING** in Canada or **SEPARATING**

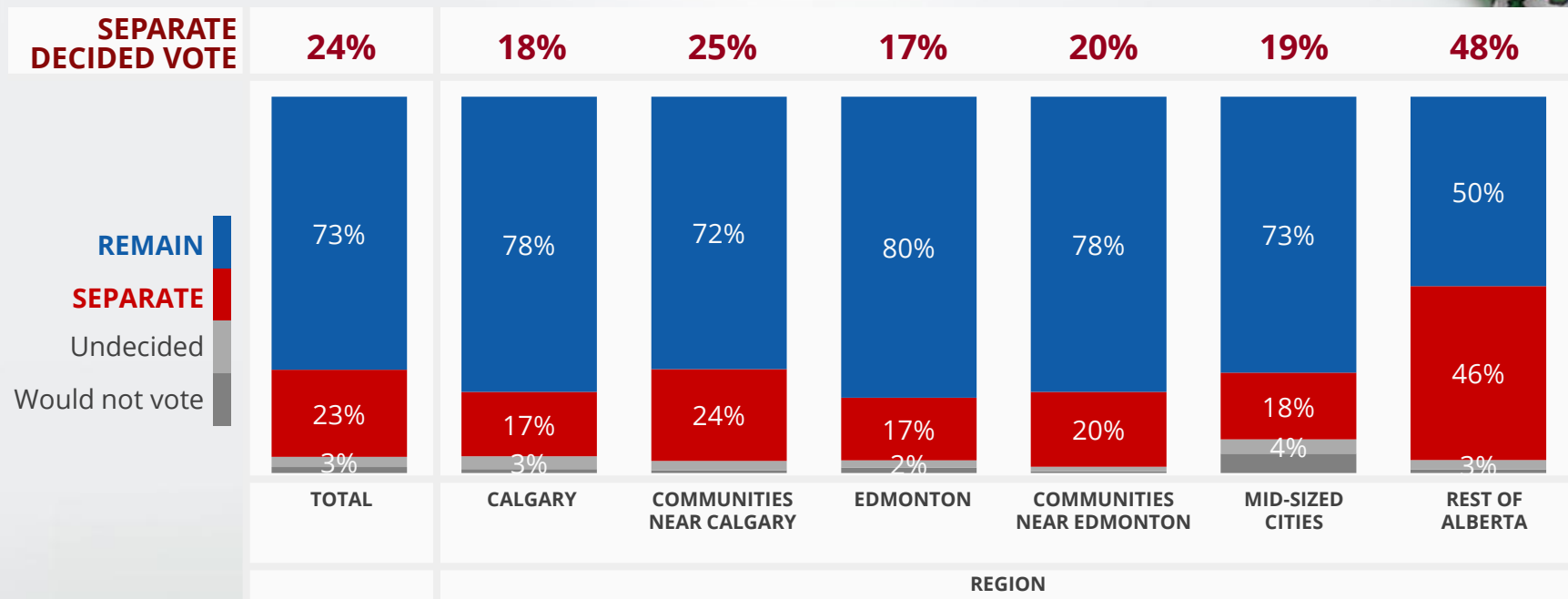


Q5. The following question will be voted on in this referendum: Should Alberta remain a province in Canada, or should the Government of Alberta commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada? If this referendum were held today, how would you vote? Base: All respondents (n=1,347). | Q6. Is there a direction you are leaning towards? Base: Undecided.

Rural Albertans More Likely to Vote to **SEPARATE**

7

- Decided support for separatism is under 20% in mid-sized cities, Calgary and Edmonton. It ranges from 20% to 25% in the communities around Calgary and Edmonton, and 48% in the rest of Alberta.



Q5. The following question will be voted on in this referendum: Should Alberta remain a province in Canada, or should the Government of Alberta commence the legal process required under the Canadian Constitution to hold a binding provincial referendum on whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada? If this referendum were held today, how would you vote? Base: All respondents (n=1,347). | Q6. Is there a direction you are leaning towards? Base: Undecided.

THE CONVERSATION

Reasons Driving the Vote

9

REMAIN Voters

Why would you vote for Alberta to remain a province in Canada?

Belonging comes first: More than a third describe themselves as “Canadian”, and for them Alberta’s place in Canada is not up for debate.

Practical fear reinforces that identity: A quarter call separation “financial suicide”, and many doubt a small, landlocked province could stand alone.

Trump’s threats sharpen the point: leaving Canada looks like a step toward a “51st state”, not toward independence.

SEPARATE Voters

Why would you vote for Alberta to begin the process for a separation referendum?

Grievance, more than a plan to leave: The case rests on a sense that Ottawa treats Alberta as second-class and as a “cash cow” through equalization, with much of the anger aimed at Carney and the Liberals.

For many, the vote is leverage: Nearly one in five want to send “a wake-up call” to Ottawa, and several say outright they don’t want Alberta to leave.



Q10A. In your own words, why would you vote for Alberta to remain a province in Canada?

[ASKED OPEN ENDED]

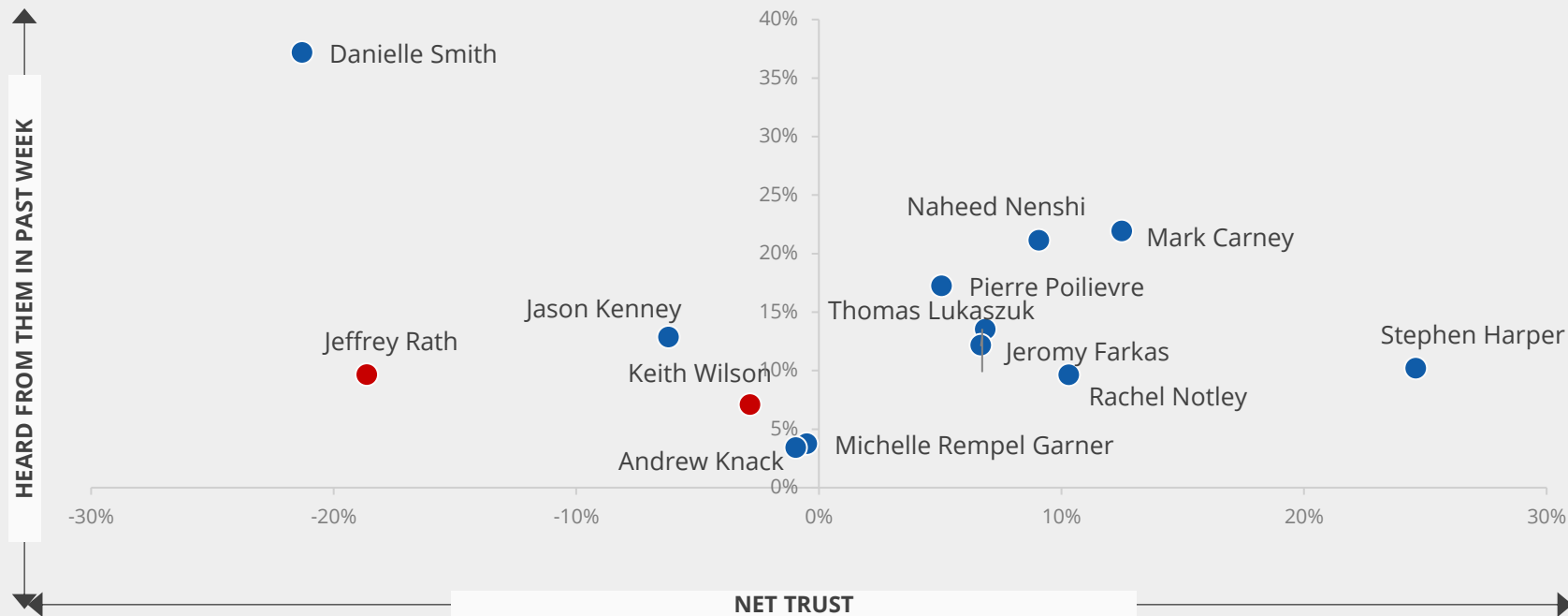
Q10B. In your own words, why would you vote for Alberta to begin the process for a separation referendum?

[ASKED OPEN ENDED]

Politician Pressure Grid: Smith Has Been the Most Heard Voice, But is Less Trusted on the Topic of Separatism

10

How to read pressure grid: More trusted voices on the topic of Alberta separatism are further right on this graph and voices Albertans have heard more from on this topic are higher up.



Q14. How trustworthy would you find a message about Alberta separatism from each of the following people or groups?

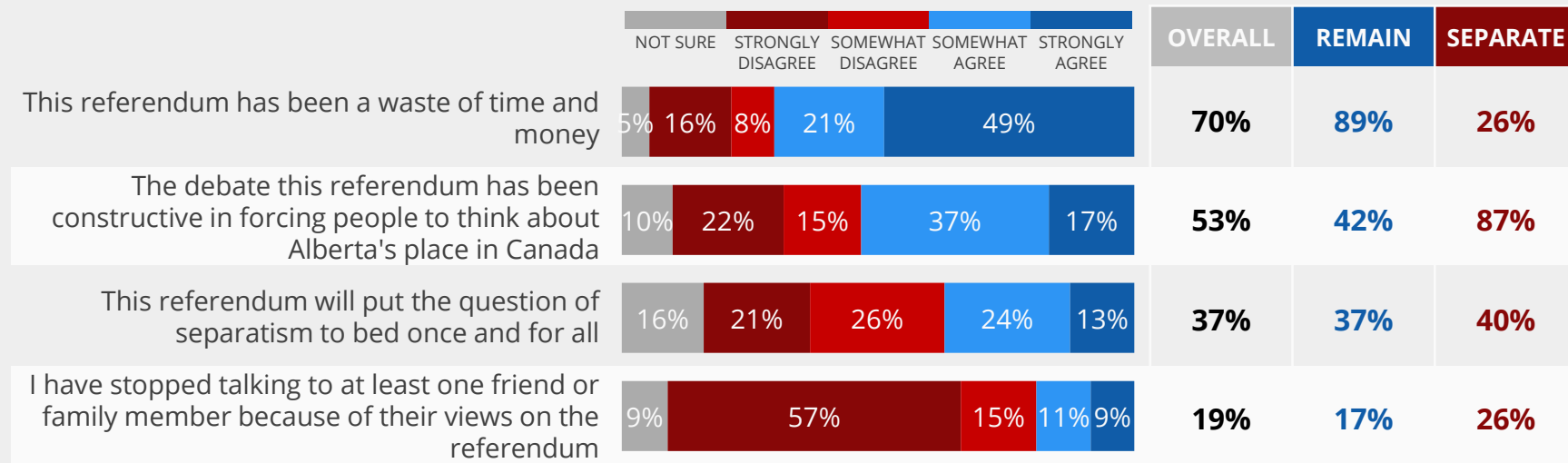
Q15. In the past week, have you heard anything on the topic of Alberta separatism from any of these people or groups? Select everyone you heard from.

Base: All respondents (n=1,347).

More See Referendum as Waste of Time and Money Than as Constructive Debate About Alberta's Place in Canada

11

- Seven in ten (70%) call the referendum a waste of time and money, including 89% of **REMAIN** voters.
- SEPARATE** voters see value in the process: 87% say the debate has been constructive, versus 42% of **REMAIN** voters.
- 19% have stopped talking to a friend or family member over it (including 27% of 18 to 34 year olds).



Q13. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

Base: All respondents (n=842)

DATA FOR THESE CHARTS COMES FROM OCT 9-15

NINE REFERENDUM QUESTIONS

60%+ Decided YES Vote for Immigration Questions – but Short of Majority Among Those Who Voted by Mail

13

- Support runs 13 points lower among immigrants than among those born in Canada, a significant shift from the start of the referendum, when this gap was just 6 points. The “reasonable fee” question receives under 50% support among immigrants.

Do you support...

	VOTE INTENT					DECIDED YES VOTE		
	DEFINITE YES	LEAN YES	NOT SURE	LEAN NO	DEFINITE NO	OVERALL	VOTING ALL 9 Q	VOTED BY MAIL
...Gov of AB introducing a law requiring individuals to provide proof of citizenship , such as a passport, birth certificate, or citizenship card, to vote in an AB provincial election?	43%	22%	5%	6%	24%	69%	62%	50%
...Gov of AB introducing a law requiring all people who are not CDN citizens or permanent residents to reside in AB for at least 12 months before qualifying for any provincially funded social support programs?	39%	24%	5%	6%	26%	66%	61%	47%
...Gov of AB introducing a law that only CDN citizens/permanent residents/individuals with AB-approved immigration status will be eligible for provincially funded programs (health care/education/other social services)?	38%	24%	5%	7%	26%	65%	59%	47%
...Gov of AB taking increased control over immigration for purposes of decreasing immigration to more sustainable levels/prioritizing economic migration/giving Albertans 1 st priority on employment opportunities?	38%	22%	6%	8%	26%	63%	58%	44%
...Gov of AB charging a reasonable fee or premium to people who are not CDN citizens or permanent residents for their & their family's use of the health care & education systems ?	34%	24%	6%	9%	26%	62%	59%	48%

All Four Constitutional Questions Are Too Close to Call

14

- Between 44% and 49% of voters are still undecided or open to changing their mind on these questions.

Do you support...	VOTE INTENT					DECIDED YES VOTE		
	DEFINITE YES	LEAN YES	NOT SURE	LEAN NO	DEFINITE NO	OVERALL	VOTING ALL 9 Q	VOTED BY MAIL
... abolishing the unelected federal Senate ?	25%	16%	22%	10%	26%	53%	54%	44%
...having provincial governments, & not the federal government, select the justices appointed to provincial King's Bench & Appeal courts?	23%	20%	16%	10%	31%	51%	49%	36%
...giving provincial laws dealing with provincial or shared areas of constitutional jurisdiction priority over federal laws when provincial & federal laws conflict?	22%	21%	15%	10%	32%	50%	46%	35%
...allowing provinces to opt out of fed programs that intrude on provincial jurisdiction such as health care/education/social services, without a province losing any of the associated fed funding for use in its social programs?	22%	19%	11%	14%	34%	47%	43%	30%

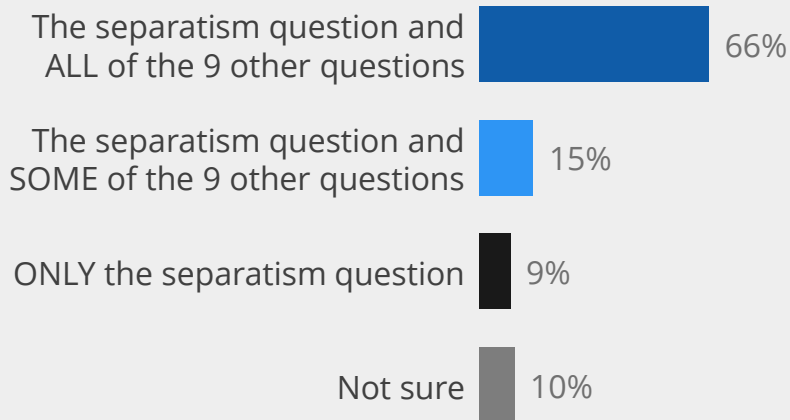
Q Q16. This October's referendum will also ask 9 other questions. How would you vote on the following referendum questions?
Base: All respondents (n=1,347).

Two-Thirds *Plan* to Vote on All Referendum Questions, but 93% of Those Who Already Mailed Back Ballots Voted on All 9

15

- On average, YES support runs 4 points lower among those who plan to vote on all 9 questions.
- Among Albertans who have already voted by mail, YES votes for the immigration questions range from 44% to 50%, and YES votes for the constitutional questions range from 30% to 44%.

Questions you *plan* to vote on



Questions you *voted* on

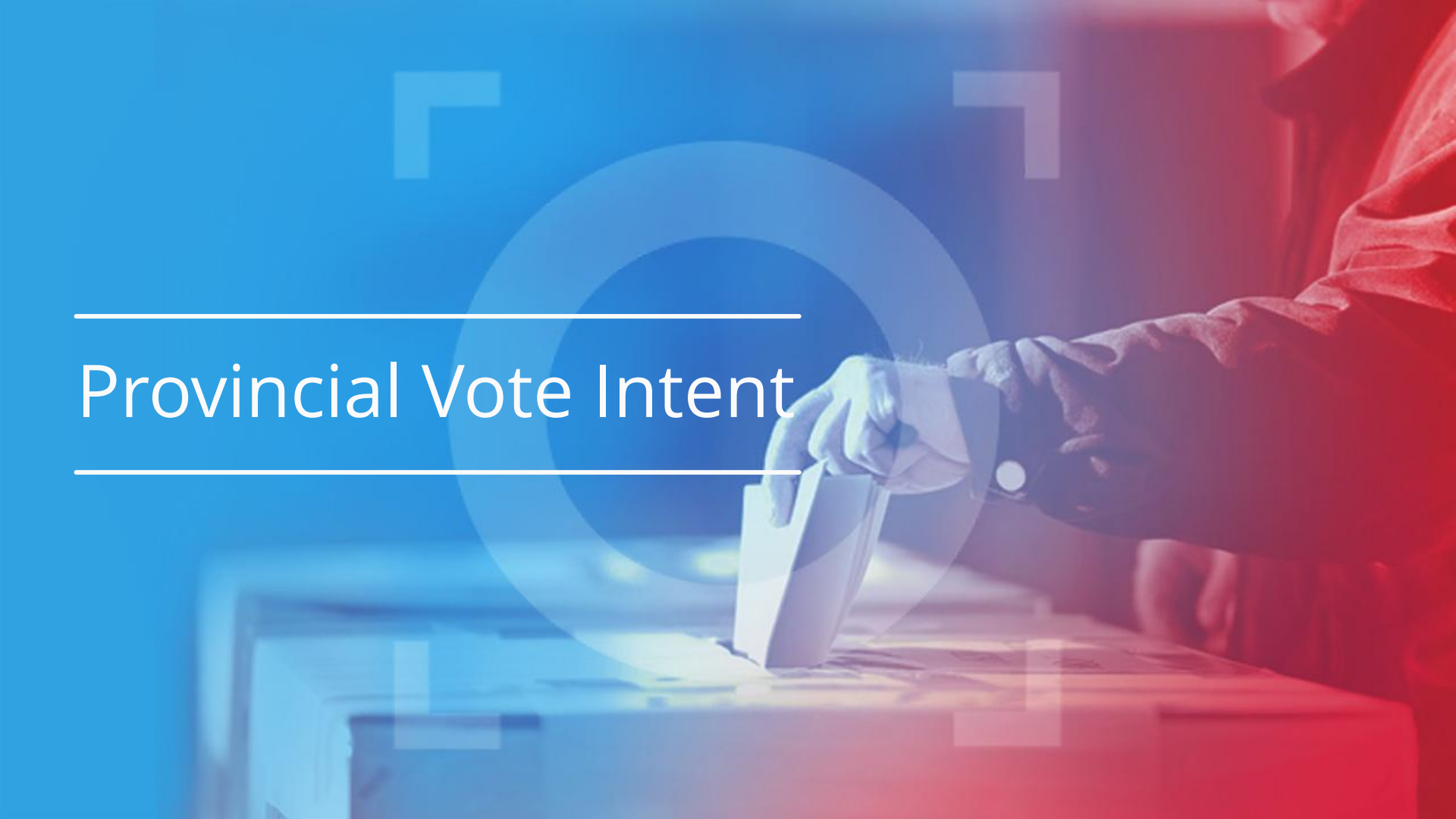


Q17A. You do not need to vote on all the referendum questions, only the ones you want to. Which questions do you plan to vote on?

Base: All respondents who plan to vote (n=1,020).

Q17B. You do not need to vote on all the referendum questions, only the ones you want to. Which questions did you vote on?

Base: All respondents who already voted by mail (n=220)



Provincial Vote Intent

Provincial Vote Intent

- The NDP leads by 4 points province-wide, including a 2-point lead in Calgary and a 27-point lead in Edmonton.

Overall Provincial Election Voting Intentions



Alberta
NDP



Naheed Nenshi

50%



UNITED
CONSERVATIVE
PARTY



Danielle Smith

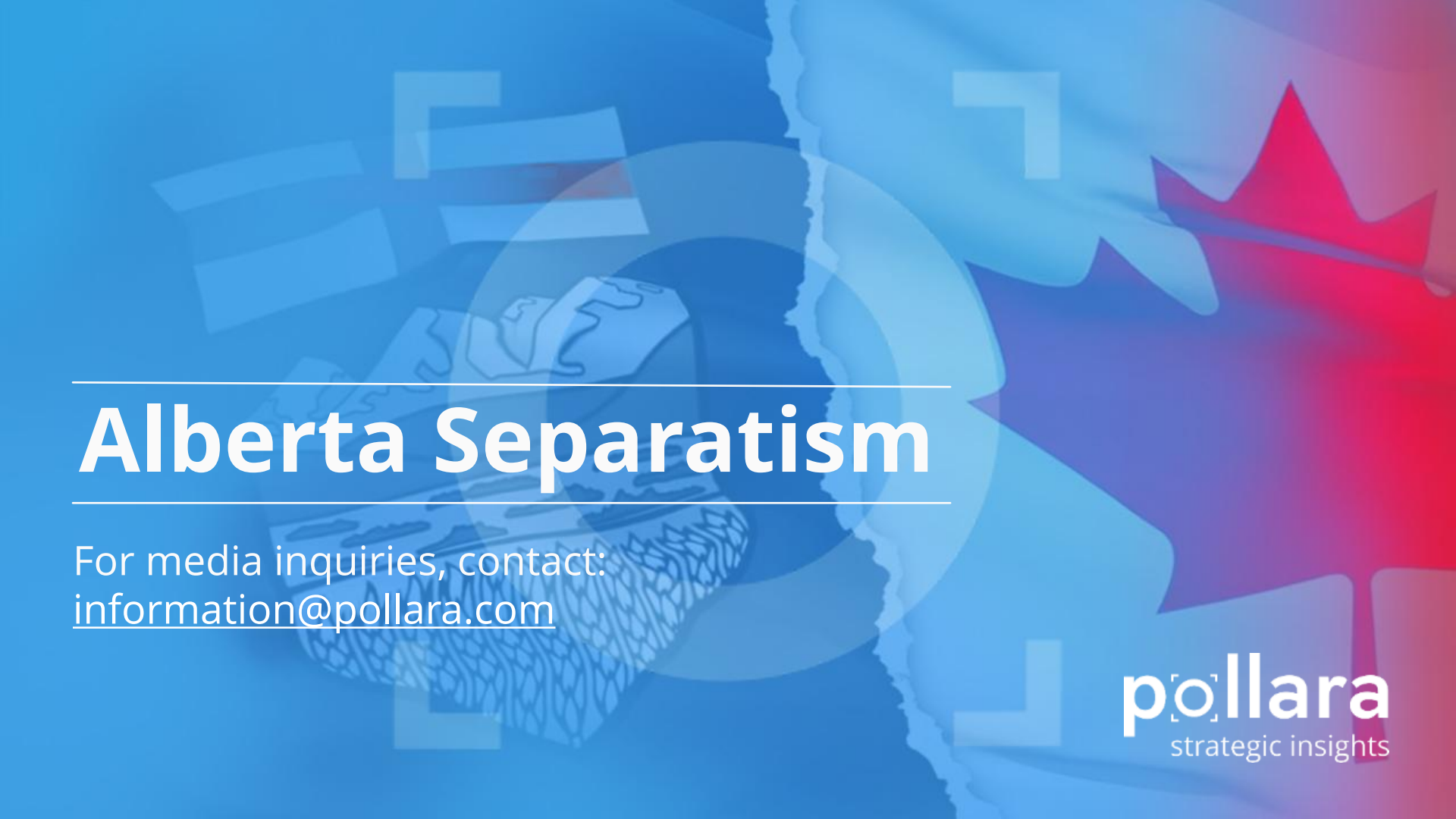
46%

4%

Someone else

18% of Albertans are **Undecided**





Alberta Separatism

For media inquiries, contact:
information@pollara.com

pollara
strategic insights