

Political Leadership Polling

May 2026

**DOWNING
STREET SW1**

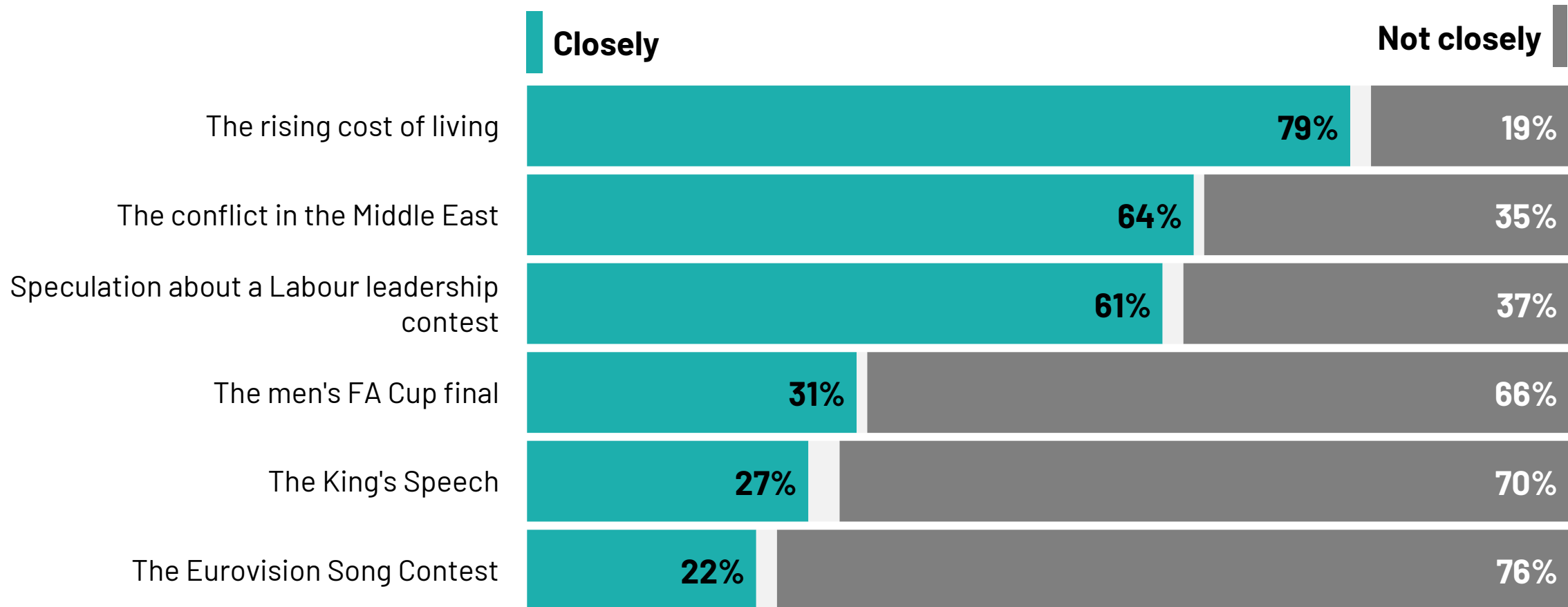
CITY OF WESTMINSTER

**WHITEHALL
SW1**

CITY OF WESTMINSTER

Three in five Britons have been following speculation about the Labour leadership contest closely

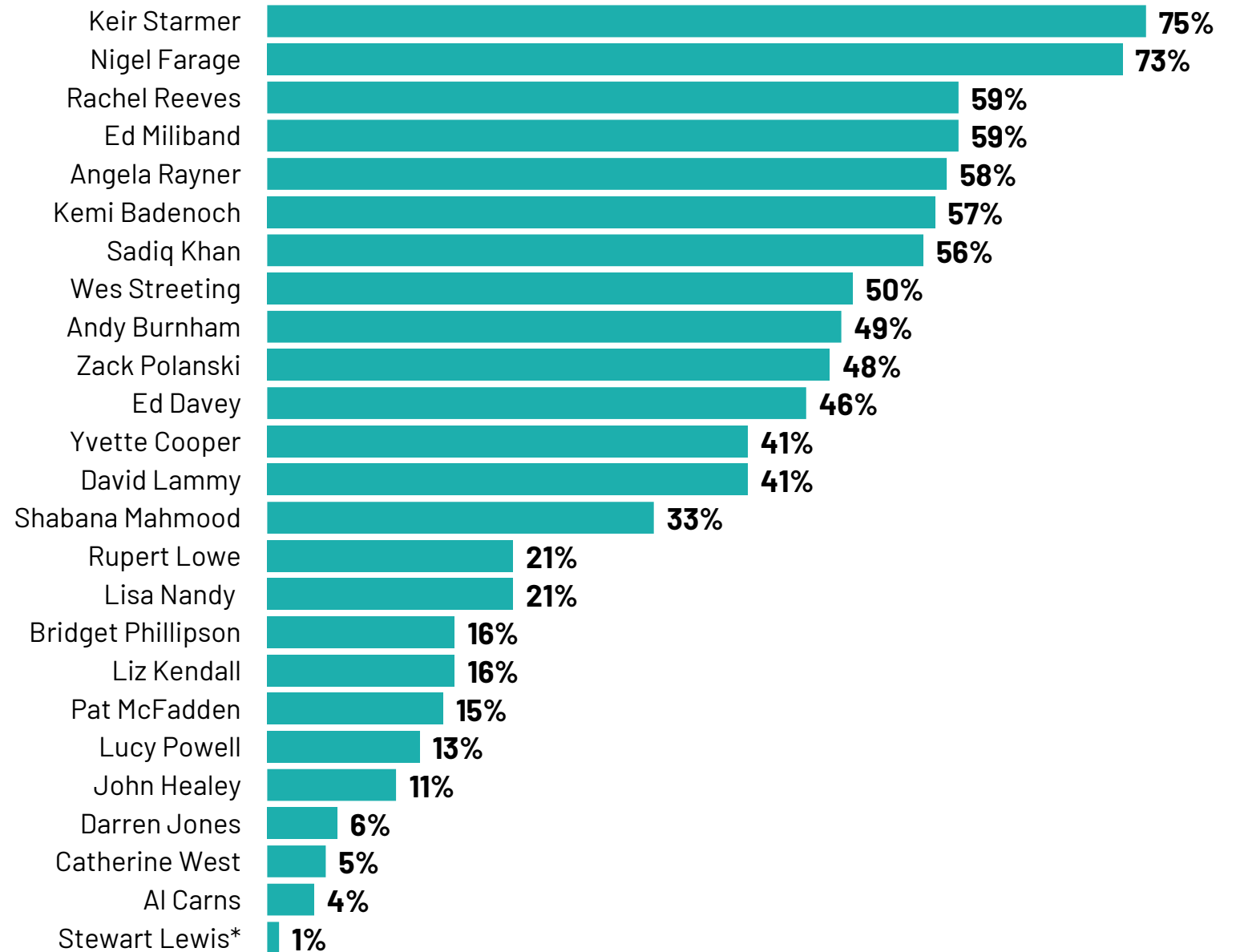
How closely, if at all, have you been following stories about...?



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, 15-19 May 2026

Britons are most familiar with Keir Starmer and Nigel Farage from a list of politicians

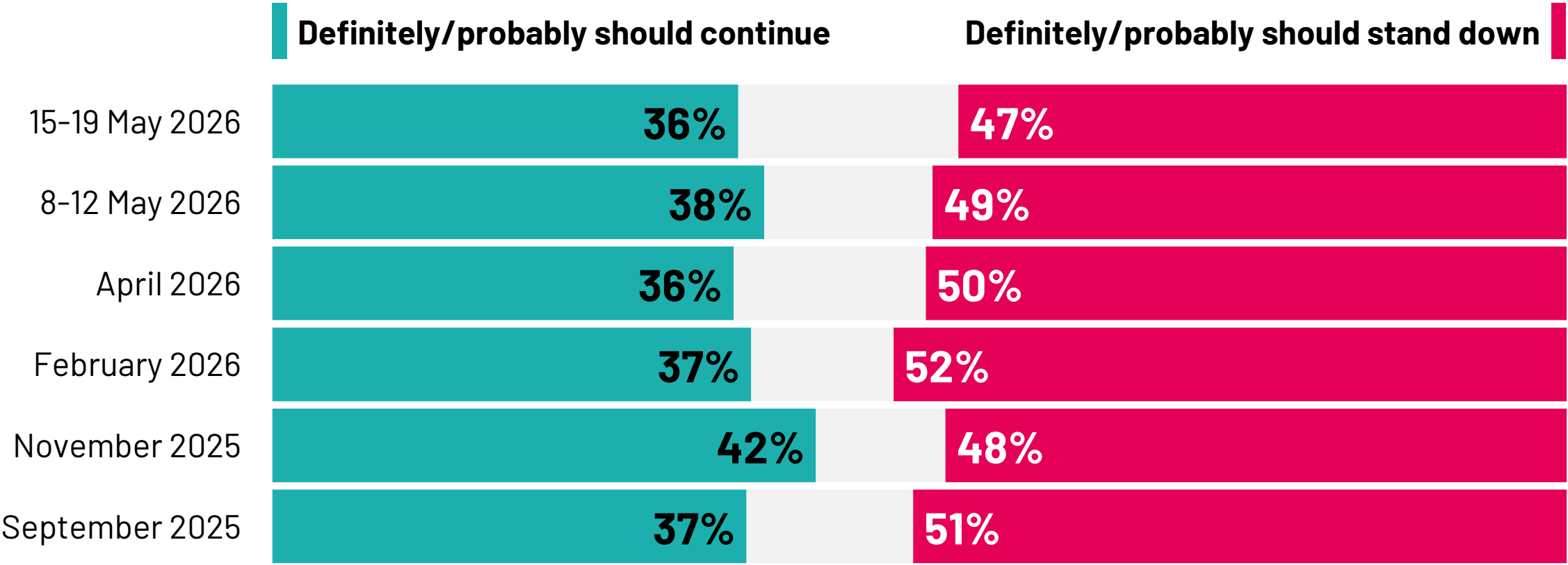
Which of the following British politicians, if any, would you say you are familiar with?
Please select all that apply.



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, 15-19 May 2026

Almost half of Britons think Keir Starmer should stand down as Prime Minister and leader of the Labour party

To what extent do you think Keir Starmer should continue as Prime Minister and Leader of the Labour party, or should he stand down and let someone else takeover?

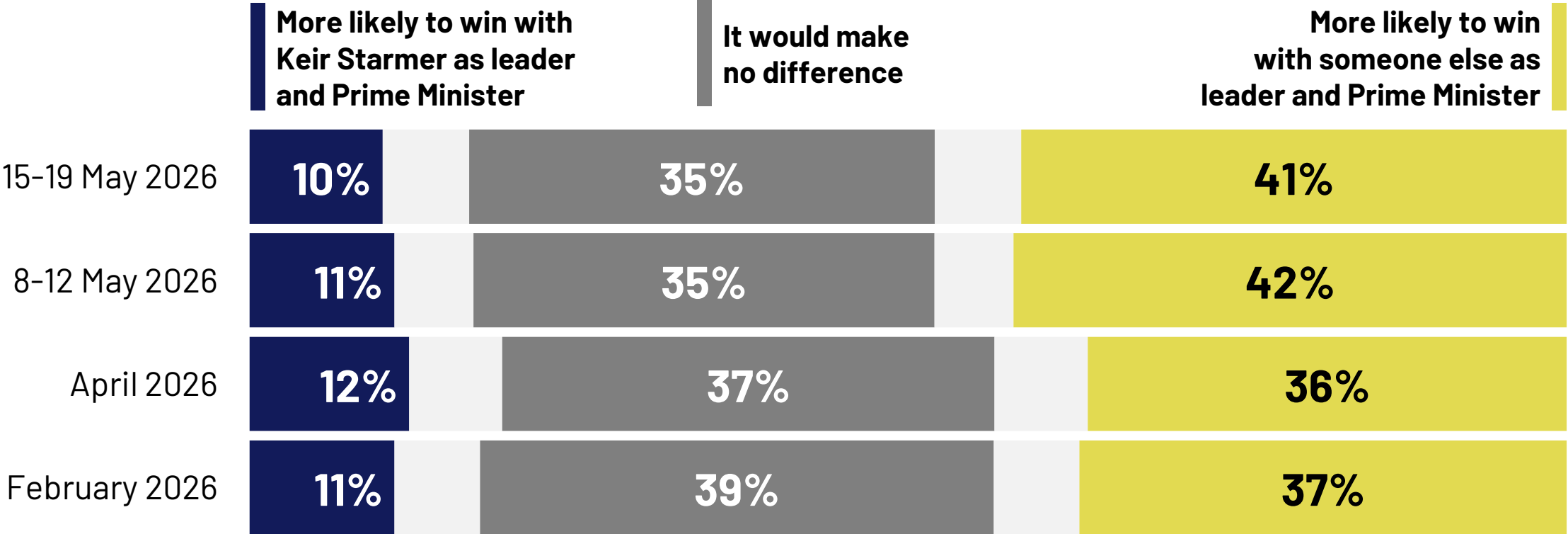


Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, 15-19 May 2026



Britons continue to be split on whether Labour are more likely to win the next election with someone else as leader and Prime Minister or if it wouldn't make a difference

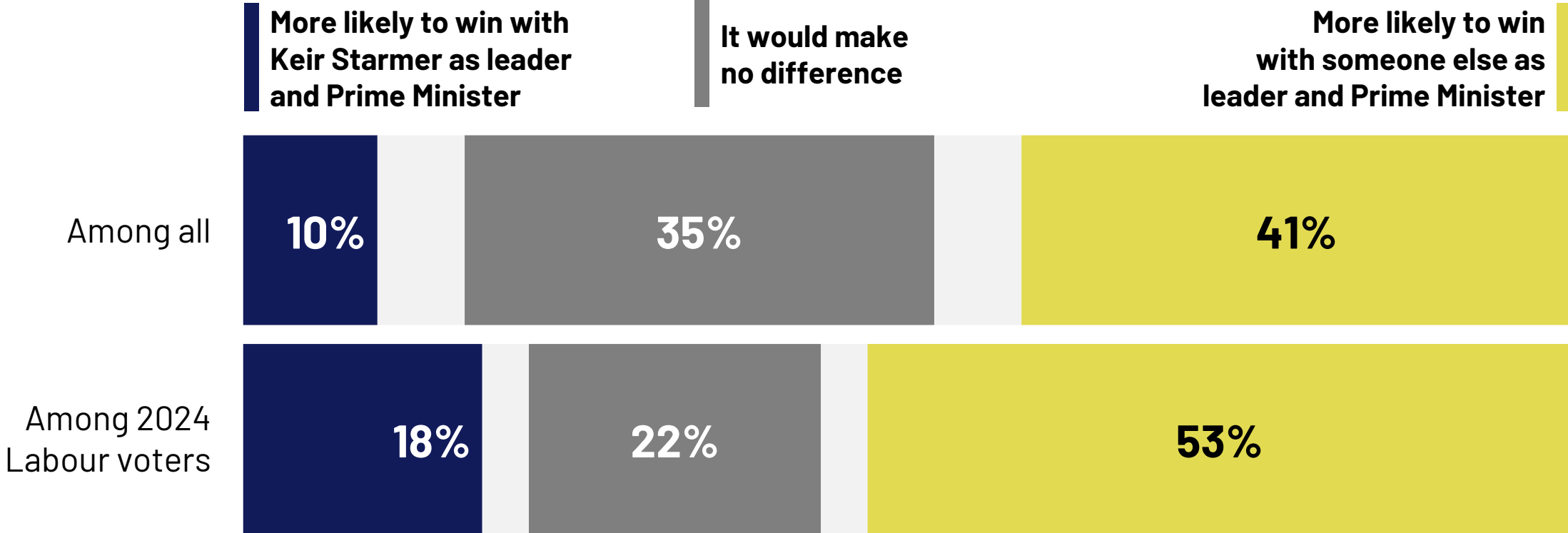
Thinking about the next General Election, do you think Labour are more likely to win with Keir Starmer as leader and Prime Minister, more likely to win with someone else as leader and Prime Minister, or would it make no difference?



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, 15-19 May 2026

Are Labour more likely to win the next General Election with someone else as leader and Prime Minister: *Among 2024 Labour voters*

Thinking about the next General Election, do you think Labour are more likely to win with Keir Starmer as leader and Prime Minister, more likely to win with someone else as leader and Prime Minister, or would it make no difference?



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, including 346 2024 Labour voters, 15-19 May 2026

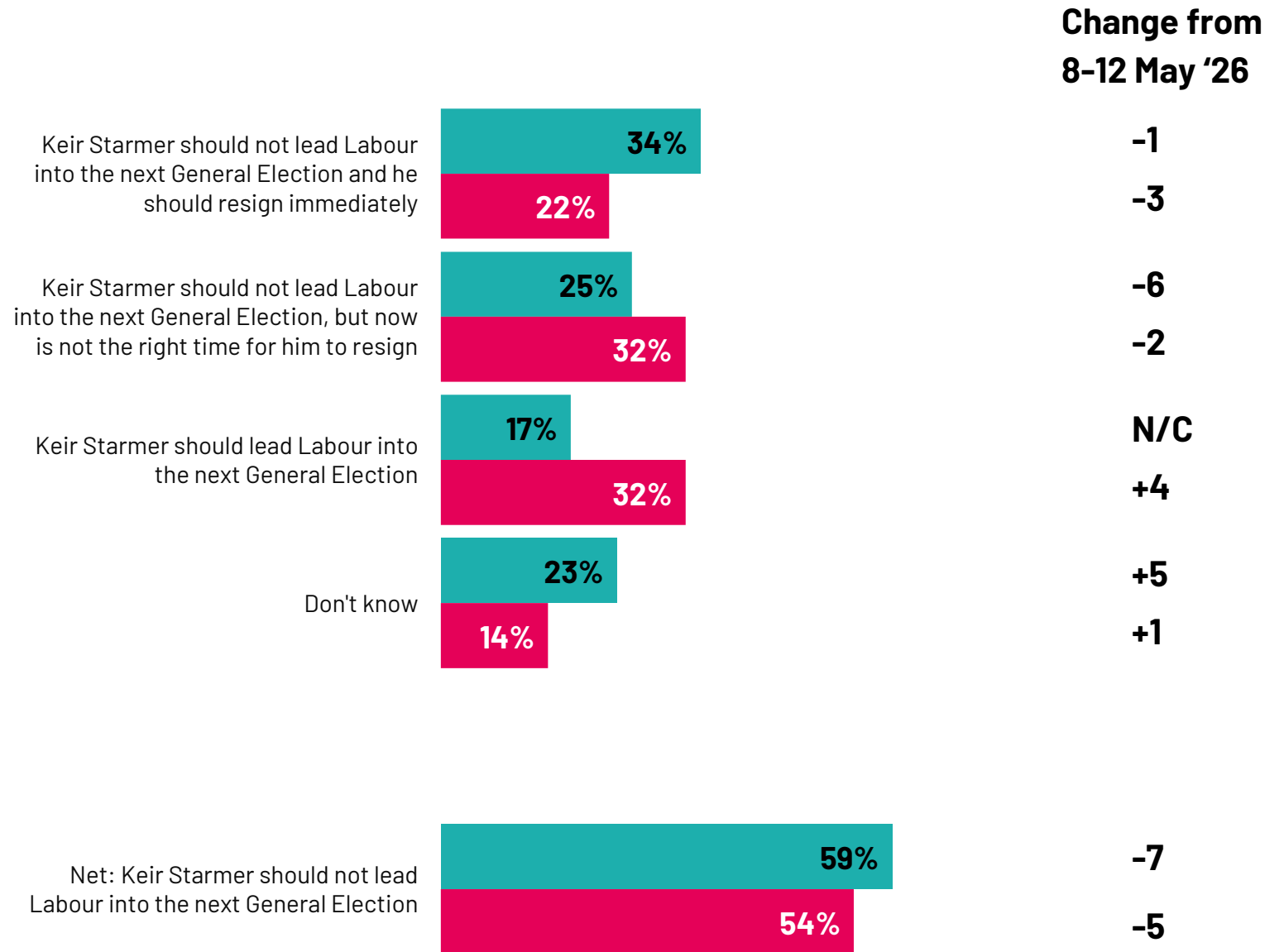
Britons continue to think Keir Starmer should not lead Labour into the next General Election (though slightly less so than in May), but are still split over timings

Which of the following best reflects your views on Keir Starmer and what should happen ahead of the next General Election?

Among all

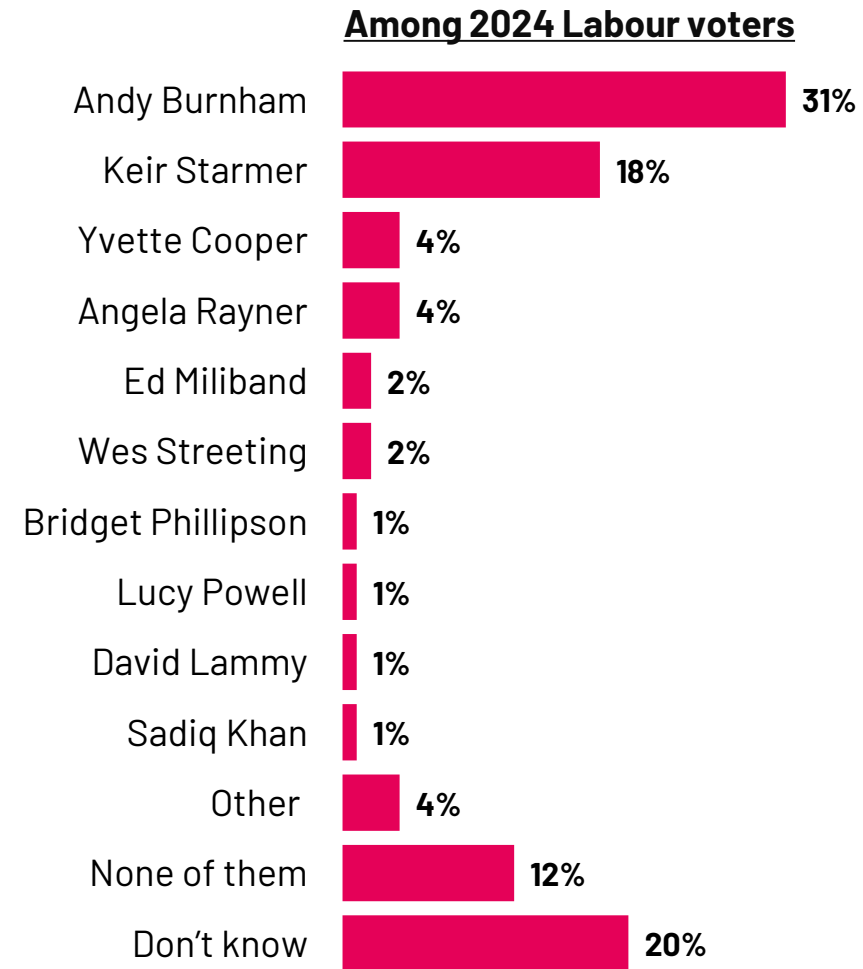
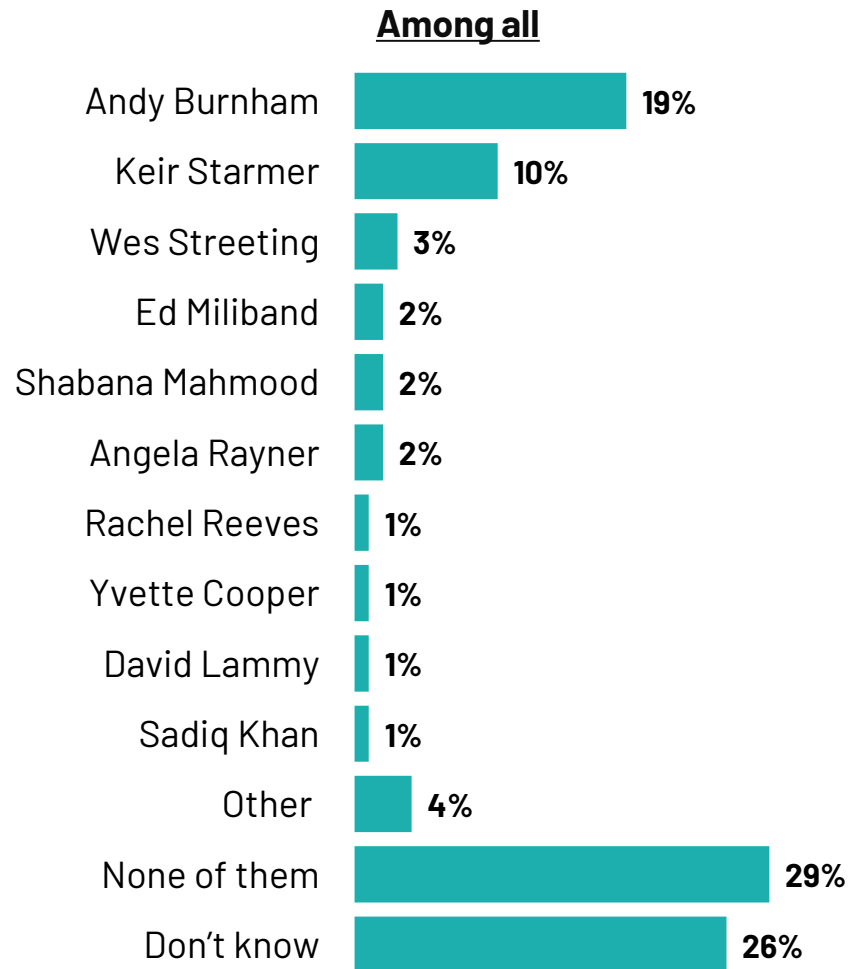
Among 2024 Labour voters

Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, including 346 2024 Labour voters, 15-19 May 2026



Britons and 2024 Labour voters think Andy Burnham would do the best job as leader of the Labour party. Keir Starmer ranks second. Many though don't know or say none of them

Which of the following, if any, do you think would do the best job as leader of the Labour party?

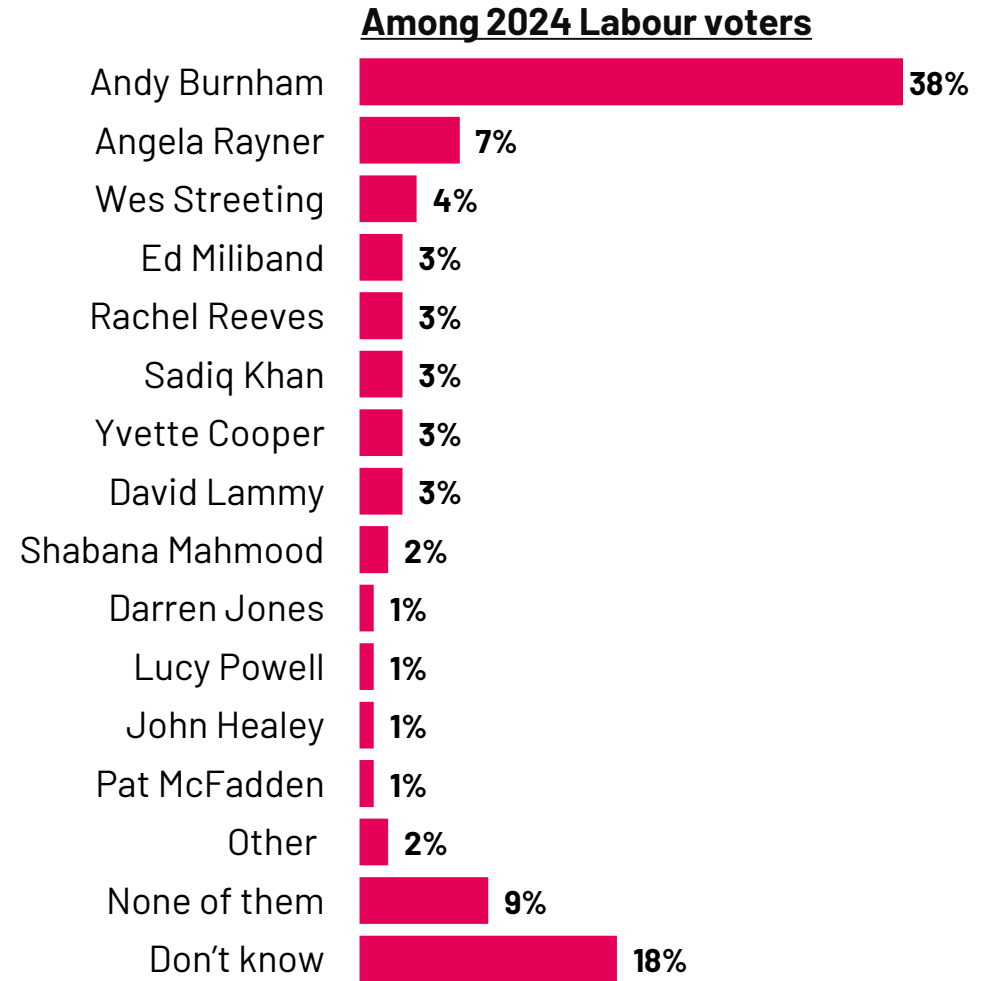
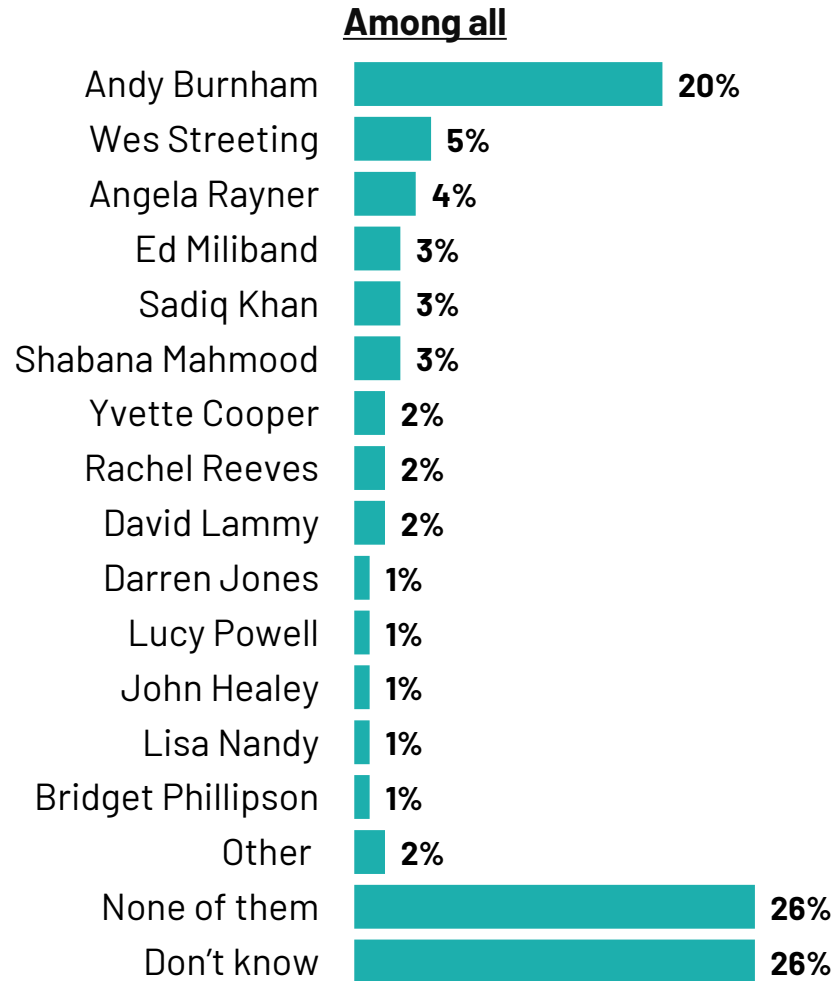


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If Starmer was no longer Labour leader, Andy Burnham is the preferred choice among Britons, though half say don't know/none of them. Burnham has a considerable lead among Labour voters

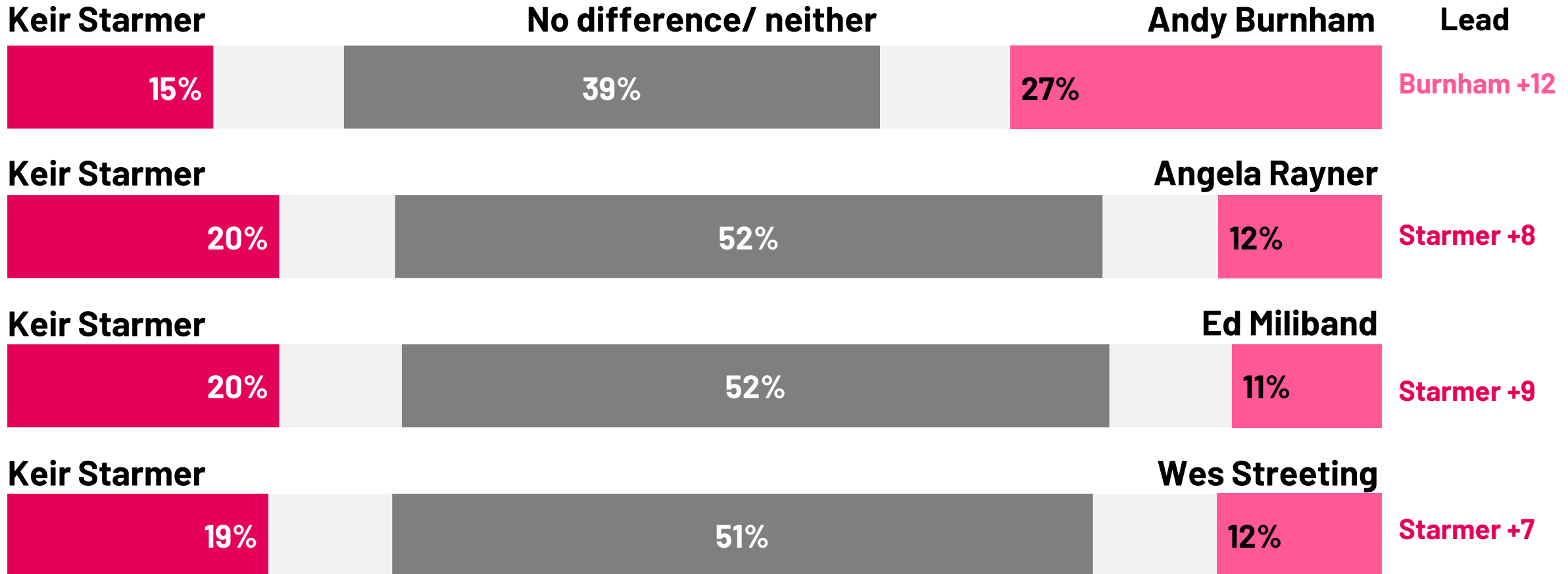
If Keir Starmer was to no longer be leader of the Labour party, which of the following, if any, would you MOST prefer to become the next leader of the Labour party?



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, including 346 2024 Labour voters, 15-19 May 2026

Out of possible Labour leadership contenders, Andy Burnham is the only person to hold a lead over Keir Starmer as the likely better PM

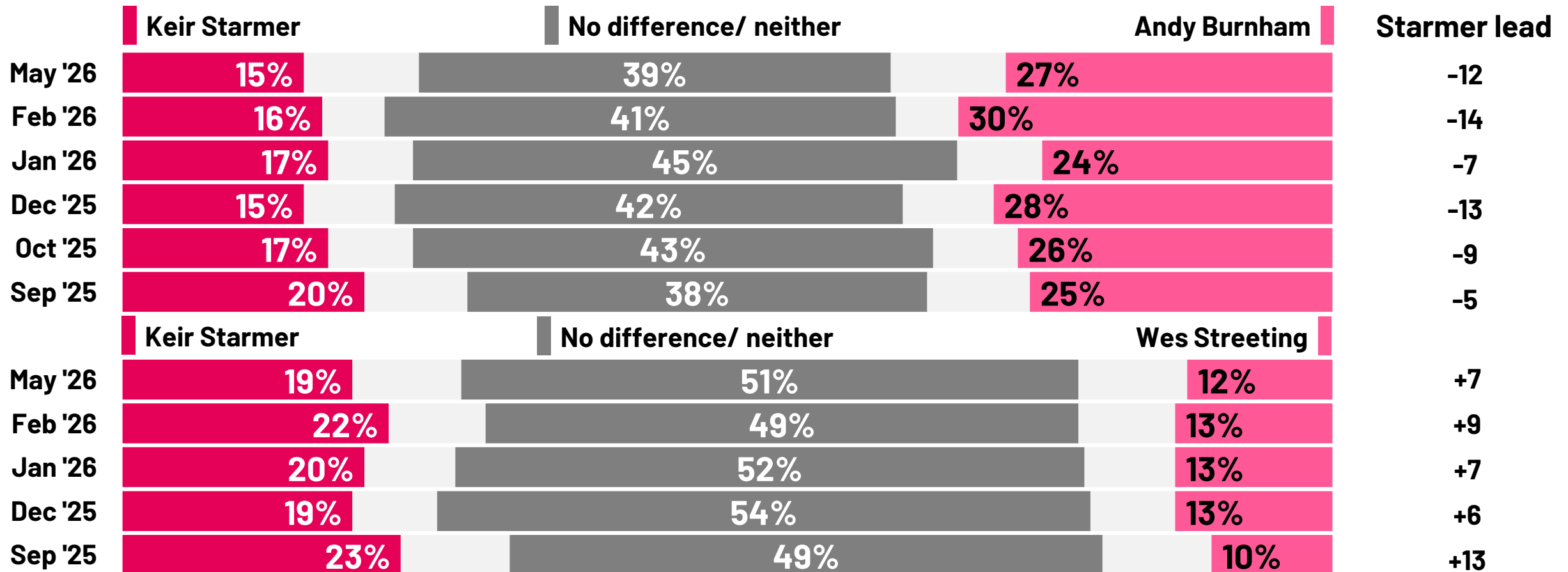
Which of the following, if either, do you think would make a better Prime Minister?



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, 15-19 May 2026

Andy Burnham has continued his lead over Keir Starmer on who Britons think would make the best Prime Minister

Which of the following, if either, do you think would make a better Prime Minister?



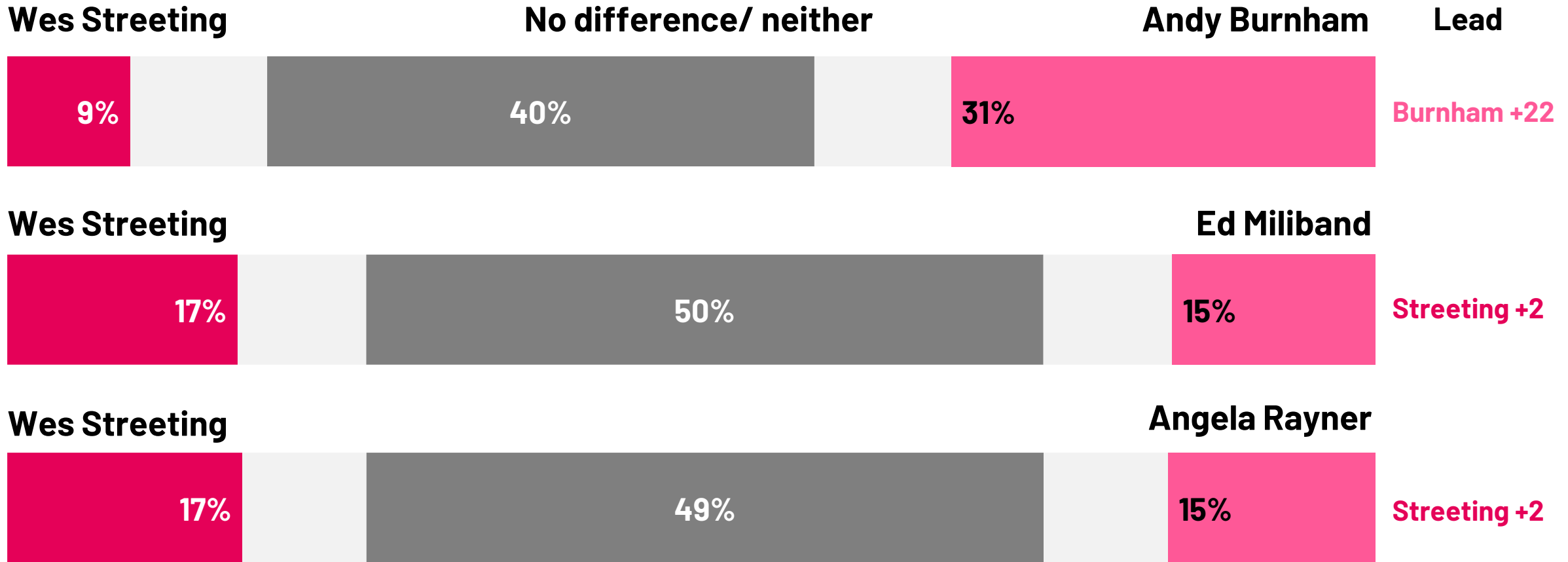
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Andy Burnham holds a clear lead over Wes Streeting when asked who would make a better Prime Minister

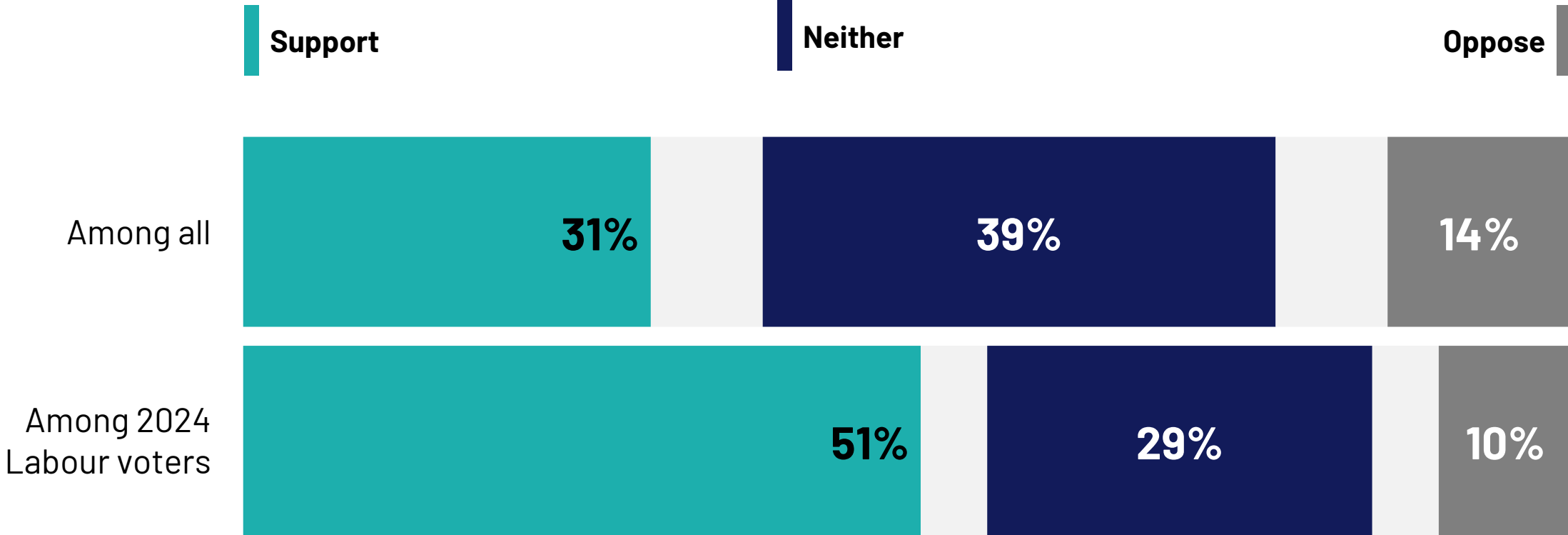
Which of the following, if either, do you think would make a better Prime Minister?



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, 15-19 May 2026

Half of Labour voters support Andy Burnham's decision to contest a parliamentary by-election in Makerfield to become an MP

As you may know, Andy Burnham has announced he wants to resign as Mayor of Greater Manchester to run for parliament following the resignation of Josh Simons as Labour MP for Makerfield. Do you support or oppose Andy Burnham's decision to resign as Mayor of Greater Manchester to contest a parliamentary by-election in Makerfield to become an MP?



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, including 346 2024 Labour voters, 15-19 May 2026



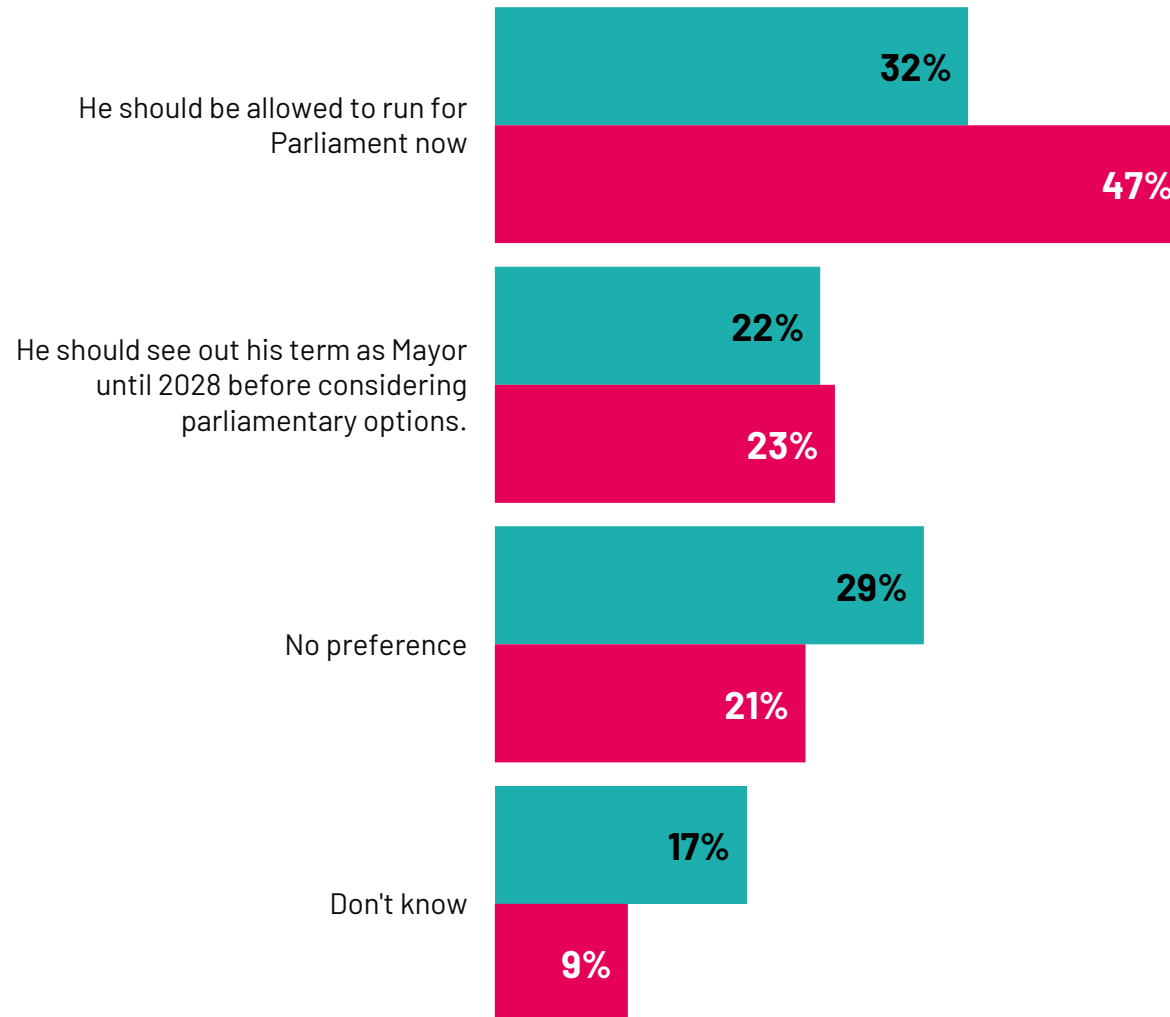
Almost half of Labour voters think Andy Burnham should be allowed to run for Parliament now rather than seeing out his term as Manchester Mayor

Thinking about Andy Burnham's decision to resign as Mayor of Greater Manchester to contest a parliamentary by-election in Makerfield, which of the following comes closest to your view?

Among all

Among 2024 Labour voters

Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, including 346 2024 Labour voters, 15-19 May 2026



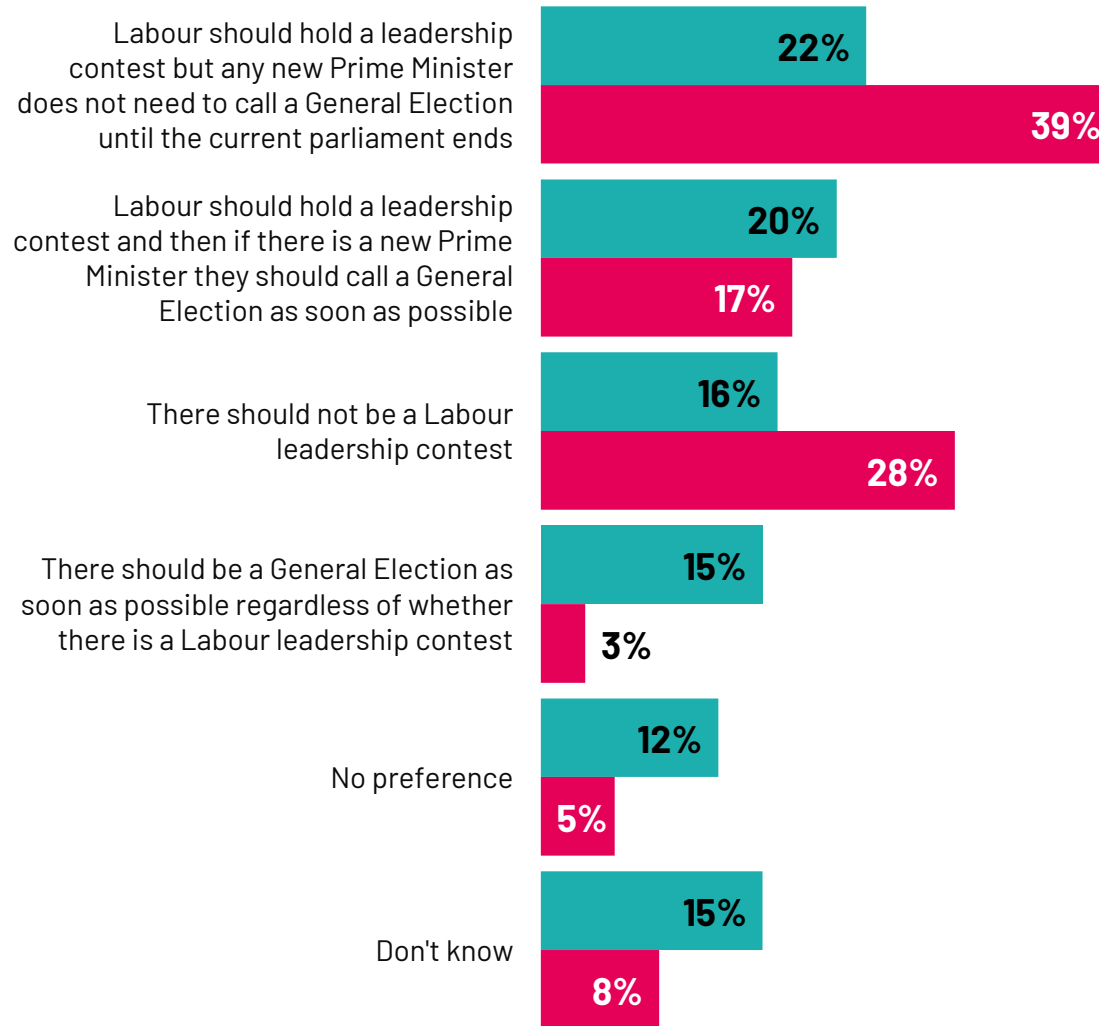
Britons are split on whether, if there is a Labour leadership contest, there needs to be a new election. 4 in 10 2024 Labour voters think there should be a contest, but any new Prime Minister does not need to call a General Election

As you may know there has been some discussion about a potential Labour leadership contest to replace Keir Starmer. Which of the following, if any, is closest to your view?

Among all

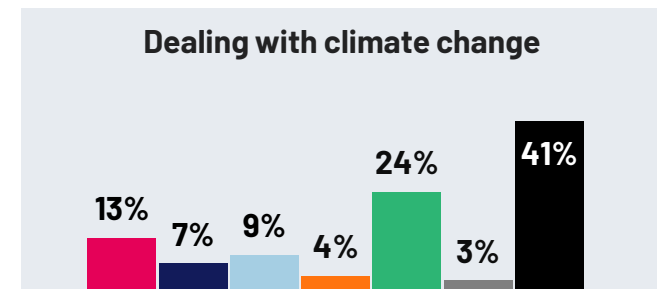
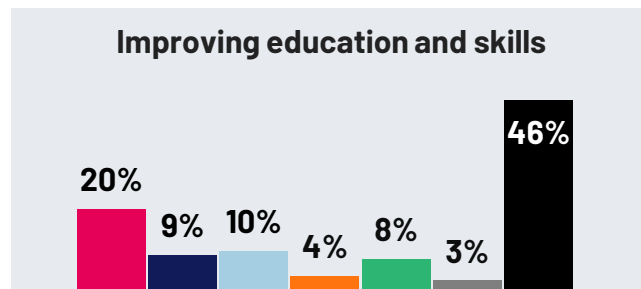
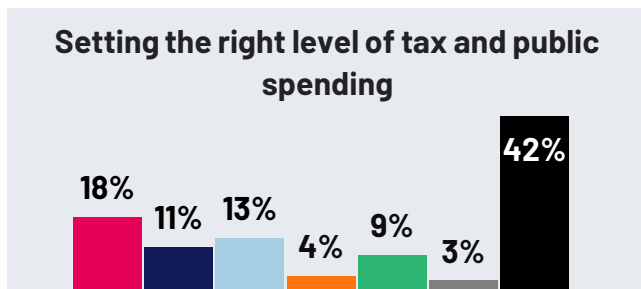
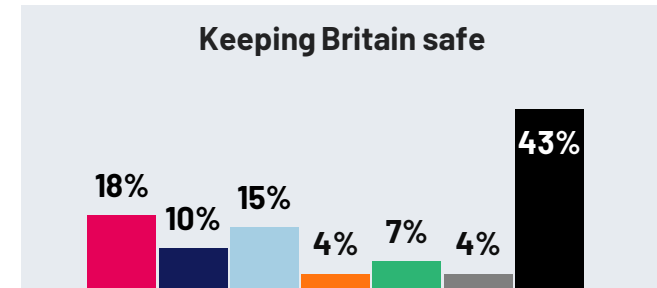
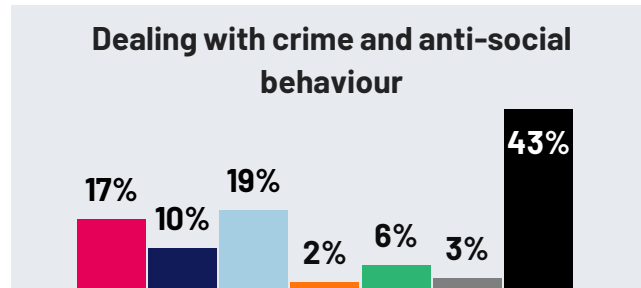
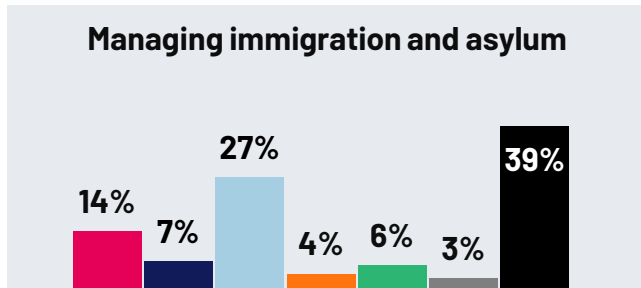
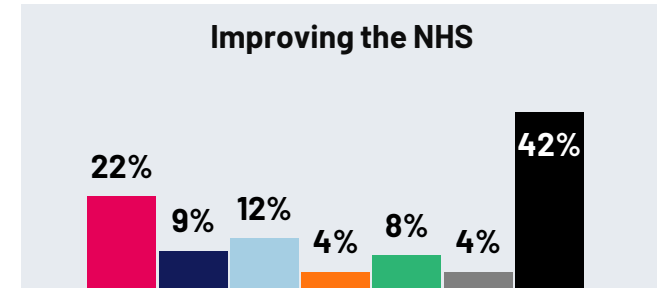
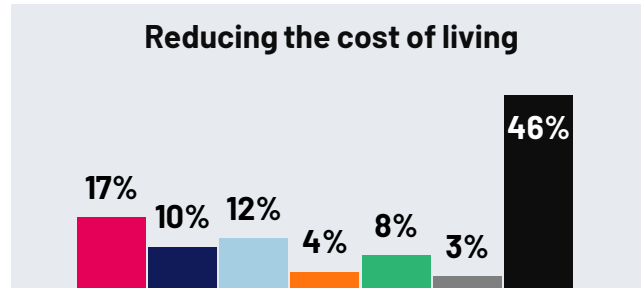
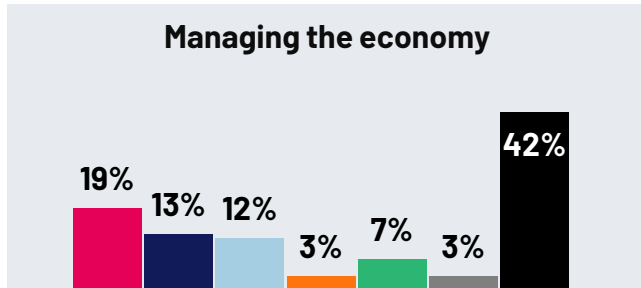
Among 2024 Labour voters

Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, including 346 2024 Labour voters, 15-19 May 2026



Best party on key policy issues

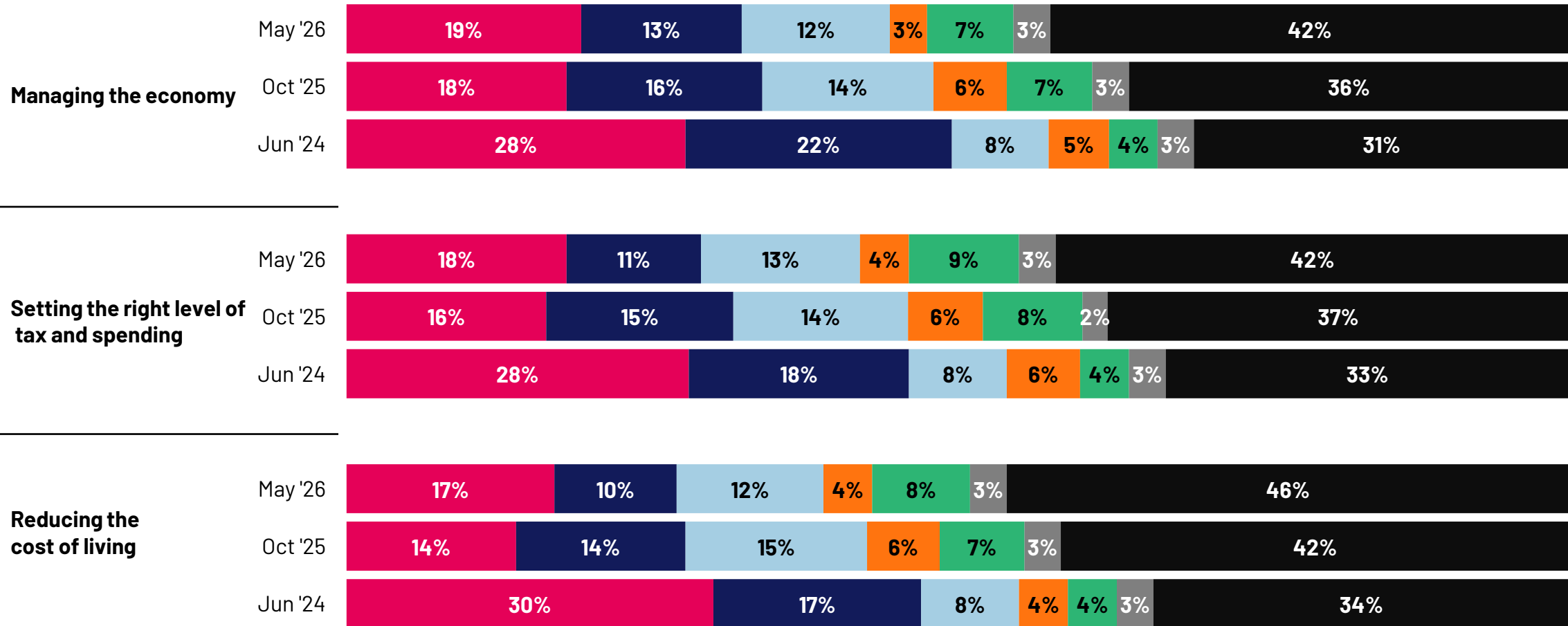
Thinking about the following issues, which party, if any, do you think has the best policies to address them?



Base: 1,072 Online British adults aged 18-75, 15-19 May 2026

Labour's lead on which party has the best policies has either been cut or lost altogether across several key issues since the 2024 General Election campaign

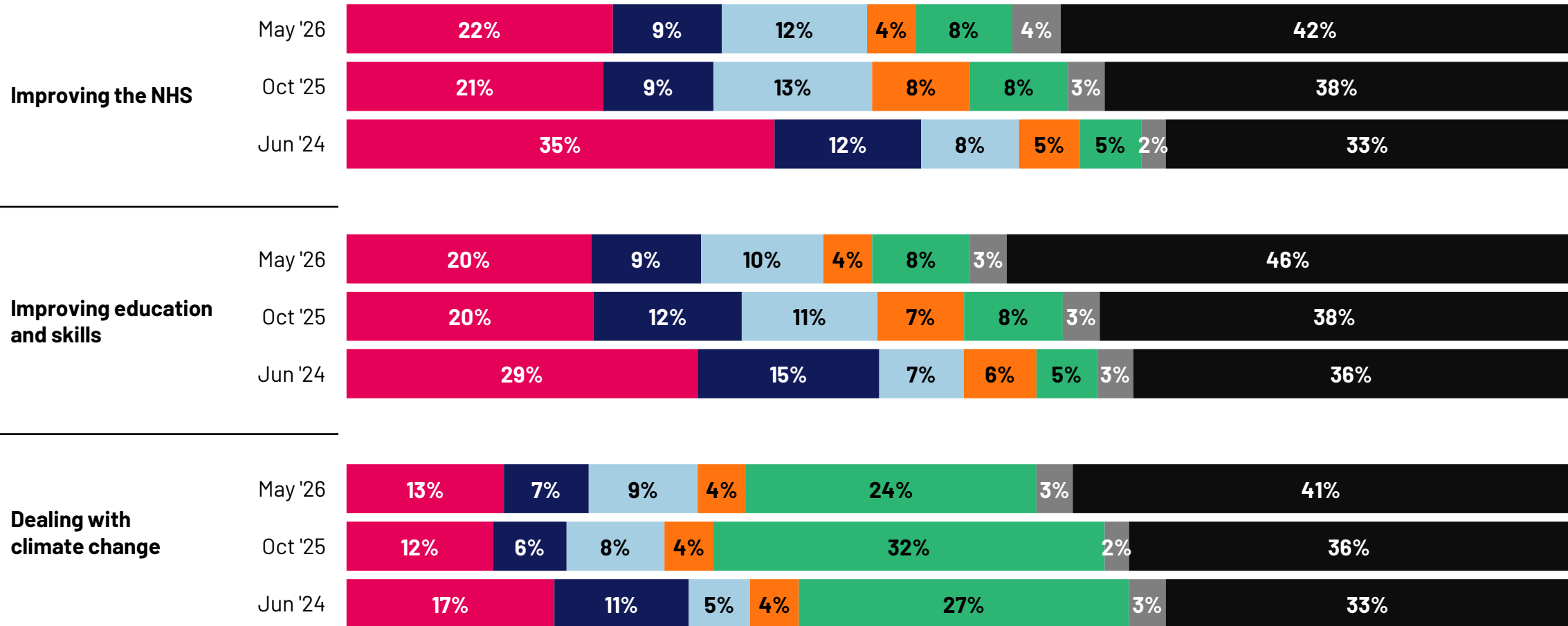
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Thinking about the following issues, which party, if any, do you think has the best policies to address them?

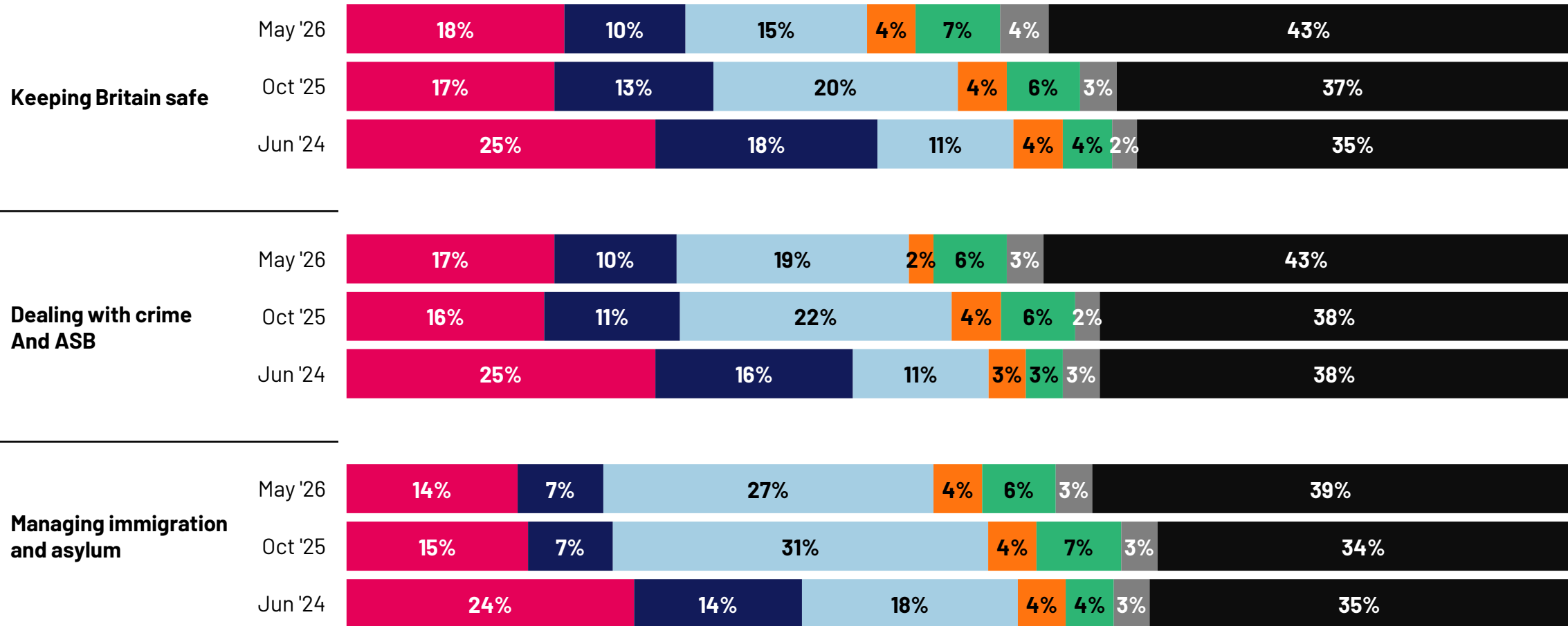


Base: 1,072 Online British adults aged 18-75, 15-19 May 2026

Labour's lead on which party has the best policies has either been cut or lost altogether across several key issues since the 2024 General Election campaign

Thinking about the following issues, which party, if any, do you think has the best policies to address them?

■ Labour
 ■ The Conservatives
 ■ Reform UK
 ■ The Liberal Democrats
 ■ Green Party
 ■ Another party
 ■ Don't know/ none of these

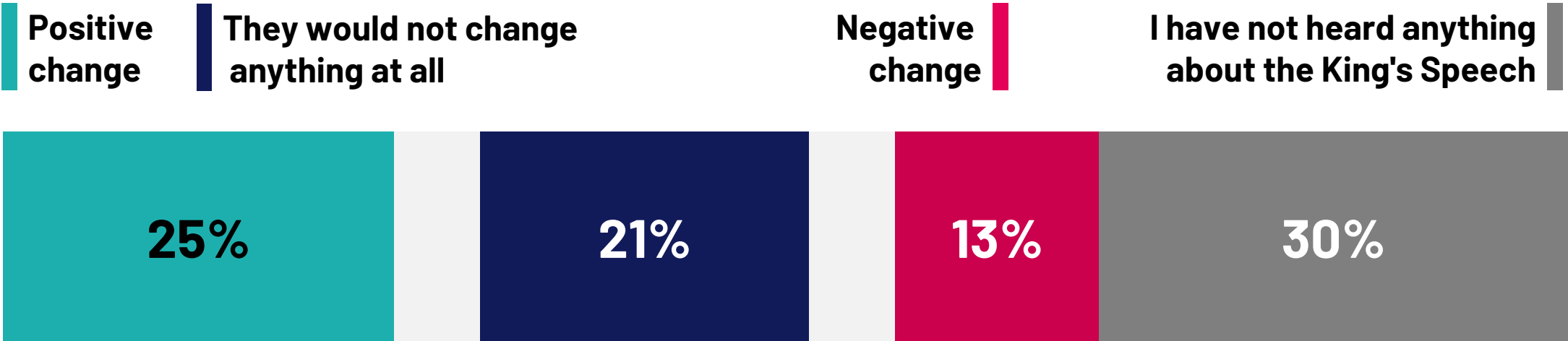


Base: 1,072 Online British adults aged 18-75, 15-19 May 2026

Britons are uncertain whether the policies and proposed legislation outlined in the King's Speech will change anything for Britain

As you may know, the King's Speech took place on 13th May 2026. The King's Speech marks the start of the new parliamentary year, and outlines the policies and proposed legislation for the new parliamentary session.

From what you know or have heard, thinking about the policies and proposed legislation outlined in the King's Speech as a whole, do you think they would deliver positive change or negative change for Britain, or would they not change anything at all?



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, 15-19 May 2026



Only 1 in 4 Britons are confident that the policies in the King's Speech are affordable or would be delivered competently

From what you know or have heard about these policies and proposed legislation as a whole, how confident, if at all, are you that these...?



Base: 1,169 Online British adults aged 18+, 15-19 May 2026



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