Issues shaping the election in Michigan
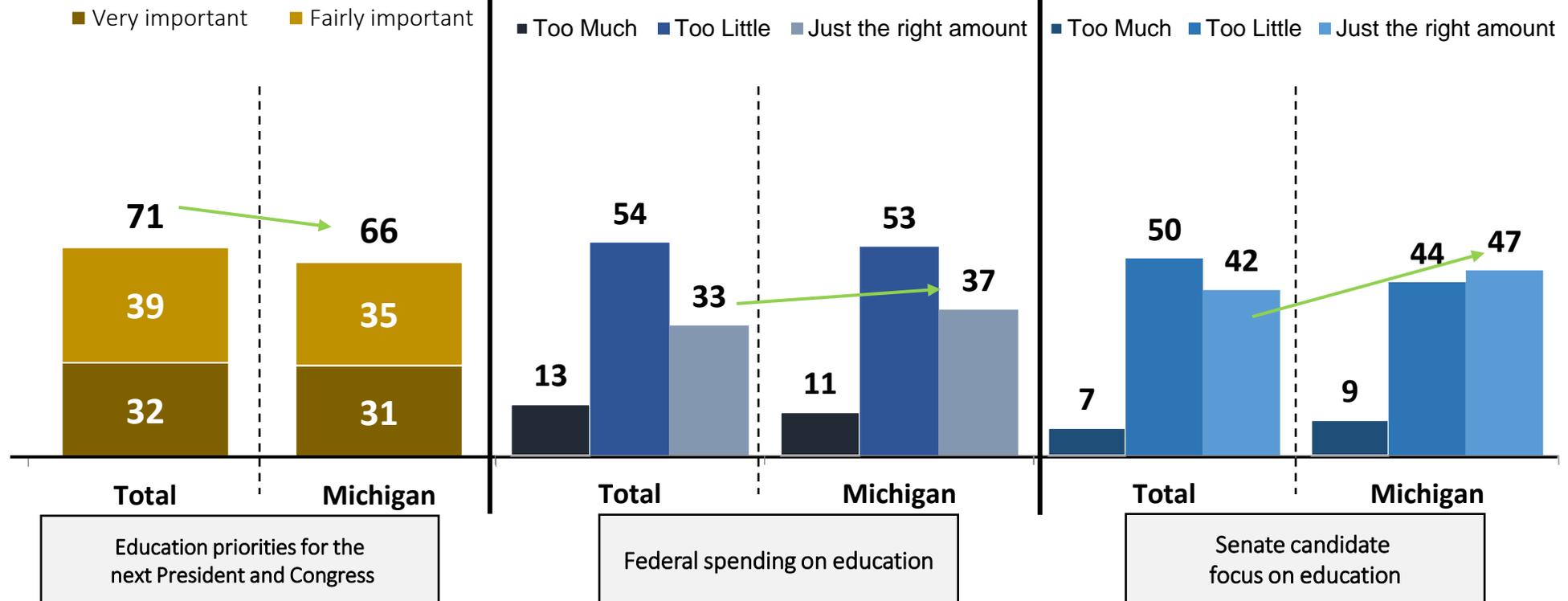
More MI voters are content with federal spending levels and Senate candidates' focus on education, relative to some other states.

How important do you think it should be for the next President and Congress to make education a top national priority?

From what you know, you would say the federal government is spending too much, too little, or the right amount on Education right now?

From what you know, would you say the candidates for Senate in your state are focused too much, too little, or the right amount on education issues right now?

FEDERAL FOCUS ON EDUCATION
BATTLEGROUND VS. MICHIGAN COMPARISON

- ■ Very important ■ Fairly important
- ■ Too Much ■ Too Little ■ Just the right amount
- ■ Too Much ■ Too Little ■ Just the right amount

Education priorities for the next President and Congress

	Total	Michigan
Very important	32	31
Fairly important	39	35
Total	71	66

Federal spending on education

	Total	Michigan
Too Much	13	11
Too Little	54	53
Just the right amount	33	37

Senate candidate focus on education

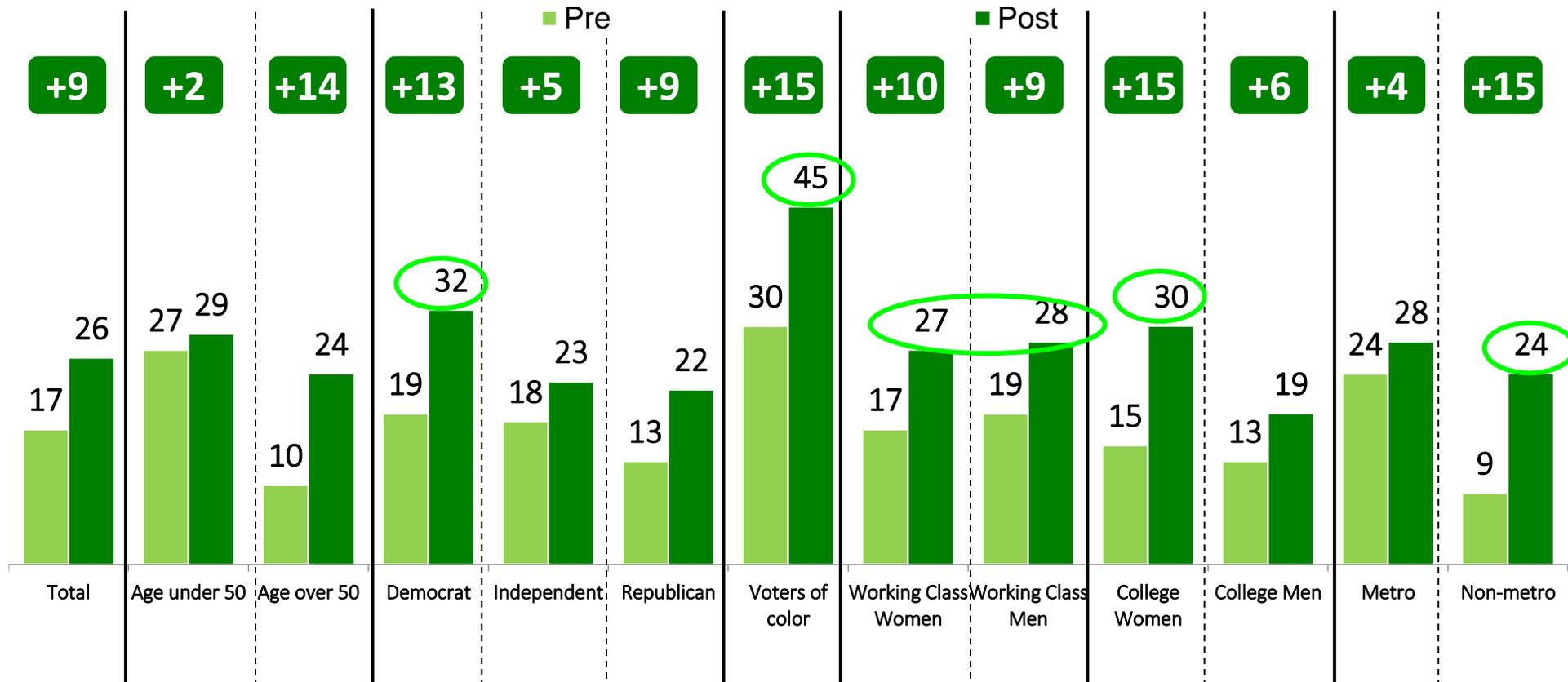|	Total	Michigan
Too Much	7	9
Too Little	50	44
Just the right amount	42	47

EDUCATION CHAMPIONS

2

Big shifts on education among Democrats, voters of color, college women, and all working-class voters. Also some solid growth outside cities.

Now you will read a list of issues in this election. Please pick the top THREE that will be most important to you when voting in the election for president, Senate and Congress this year.

IMPORTANT ISSUES IN THE ELECTION

INITIAL TO FINAL SHIFT ON EDUCATION

■ Pre   ■ Post

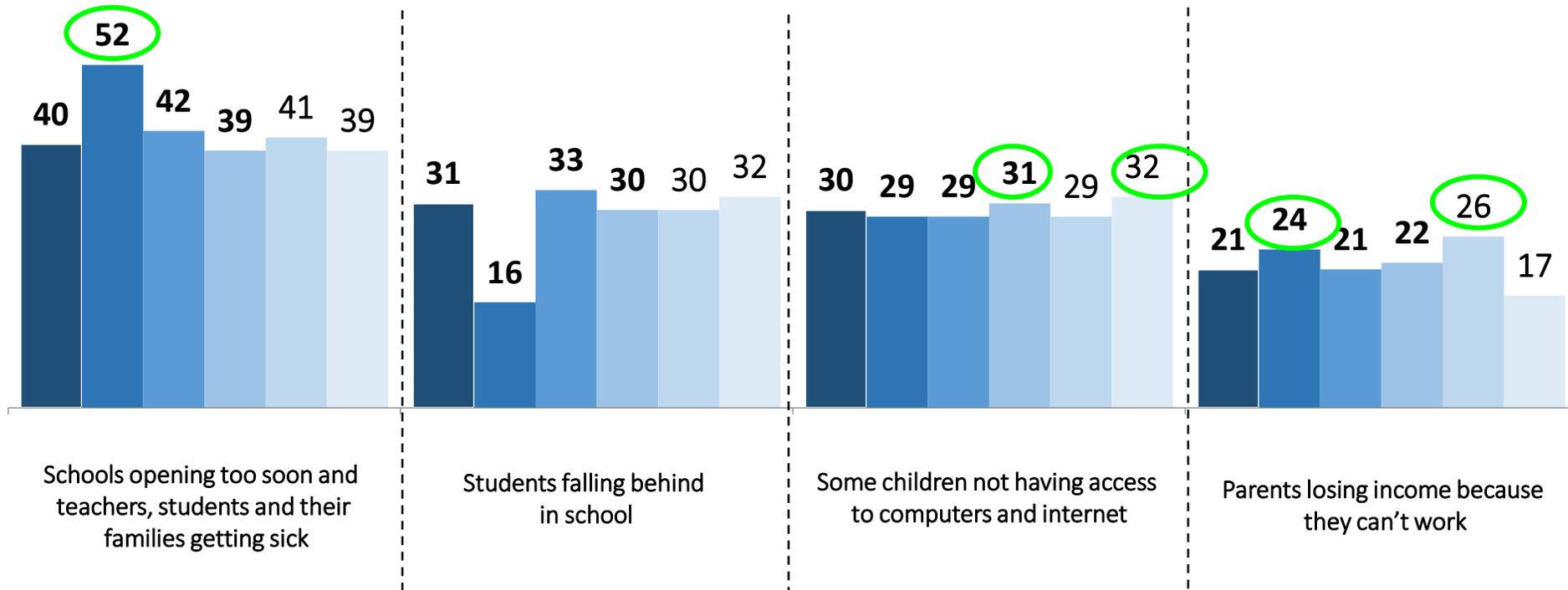| Category	+shift	Pre	Post
Total	+9	17	26
Age under 50	+2	27	29
Age over 50	+14	10	24
Democrat	+13	19	32
Independent	+5	18	23
Republican	+9	13	22
Voters of color	+15	30	45
Working Class Women	+10	17	27
Working Class Men	+9	19	28
College Women	+15	15	30
College Men	+6	13	19
Metro	+4	24	28
Non-metro	+15	9	24

EDUCATION CHAMPIONS

3

Voters of color and in cities most concerned about opening schools too soon, but also particularly concerned about parents losing income

(Thinking about education and schools in your state during the coronavirus crisis, which TWO of the following do you think are the most urgent issues facing students and their families?

EDUCATION CONCERNS IN PANDEMIC

MICHIGAN

■ Total ■ Voters of Color ■ College graduates ■ Non-college graduates ■ Metro ■ Non-metro

Schools opening too soon and teachers, students and their families getting sick: 40, 52, 42, 39, 41, 39

Students falling behind in school: 31, 16, 33, 30, 30, 32

Some children not having access to computers and internet: 30, 29, 29, 31, 29, 32

Parents losing income because they can't work: 21, 24, 21, 22, 26, 17
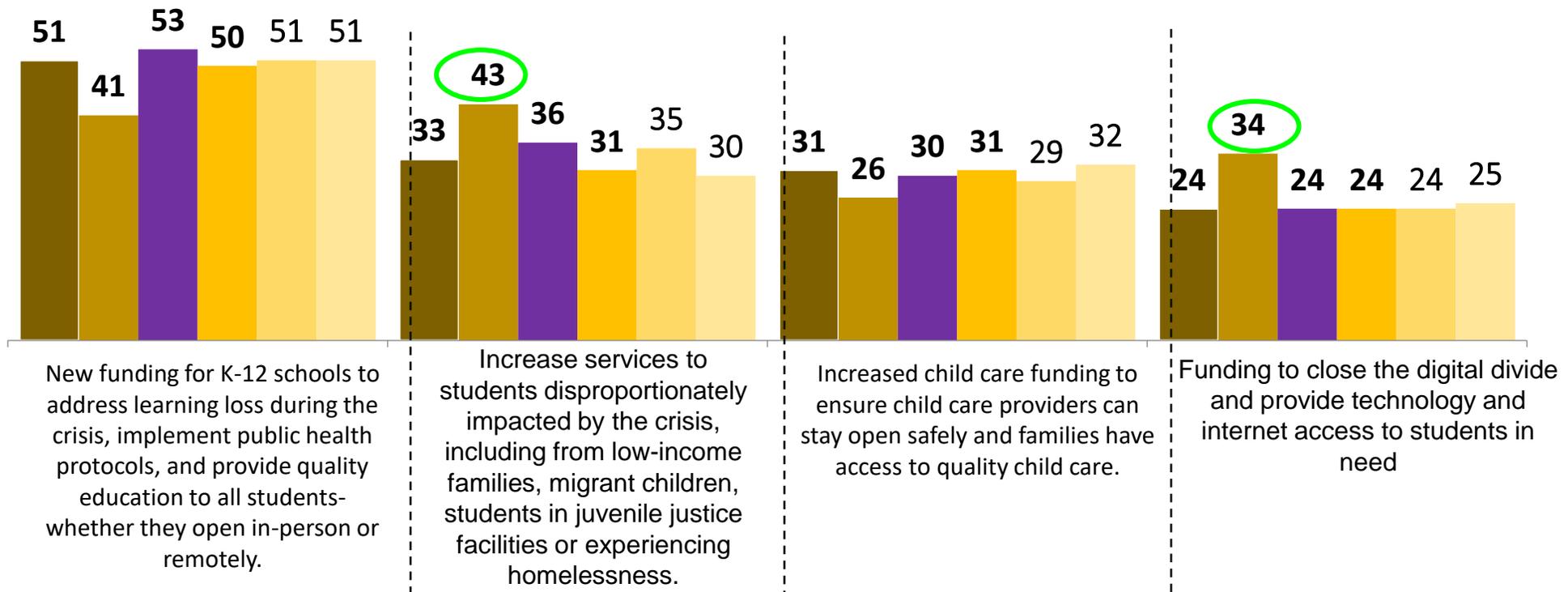
EDUCATION CHAMPIONS

Significant divide by race when it comes to equity in the education system, both in terms of services for low-income families and the digital divide

Congress has proposed major new laws to deal with the pandemic and the economic crash and education. Please pick the THREE you would favor the most.

EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

MICHIGAN

■ Total   ■ Voters of Color   ■ College graduates   ■ Non-college graduates   ■ Metro   ■ Non-metro

New funding for K-12 schools to address learning loss during the crisis, implement public health protocols, and provide quality education to all students- whether they open in-person or remotely.
- Total: 51
- Voters of Color: 41
- College graduates: 53
- Non-college graduates: 50
- Metro: 51
- Non-metro: 51

Increase services to students disproportionately impacted by the crisis, including from low-income families, migrant children, students in juvenile justice facilities or experiencing homelessness.
- Total: 33
- Voters of Color: 43
- College graduates: 36
- Non-college graduates: 31
- Metro: 35
- Non-metro: 30

Increased child care funding to ensure child care providers can stay open safely and families have access to quality child care.
- Total: 31
- Voters of Color: 26
- College graduates: 30
- Non-college graduates: 31
- Metro: 29
- Non-metro: 32

Funding to close the digital divide and provide technology and internet access to students in need
- Total: 24
- Voters of Color: 34
- College graduates: 24
- Non-college graduates: 24
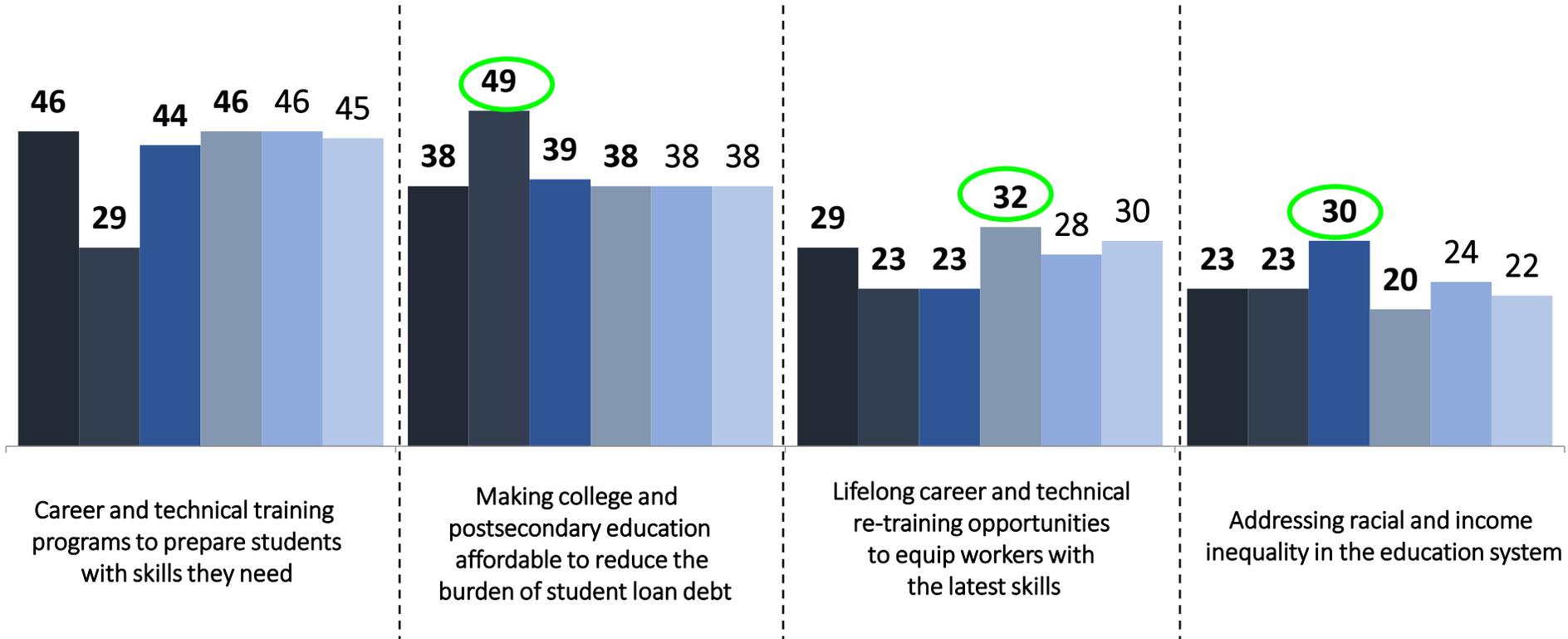- Metro: 24
- Non-metro: 25

EDUCATION CHAMPIONS

5

Significant divide by race on affordable college and addressing inequality in the education system. Strong working-class support for lifelong learning.

Looking toward the future, beyond the coronavirus pandemic, please select the TWO education issues you think are most important for the next president and congress to address

URGENT EDUCATION PRIORITIES

MICHIGAN

■ Total ■ Voters of Color ■ College graduates ■ Non-college graduates ■ Metro ■ Non-metro

Career and technical training programs to prepare students with skills they need
- 46
- 29
- 44
- 46
- 46
- 45

Making college and postsecondary education affordable to reduce the burden of student loan debt
- 38
- 49
- 39
- 38
- 38
- 38

Lifelong career and technical re-training opportunities to equip workers with the latest skills
- 29
- 23
- 23
- 32
- 28
- 30

Addressing racial and income inequality in the education system
- 23
- 23
- 30
- 20
- 24
- 22

Broad support for redesigning k-12 across the board. Access to technology and career re-training are important to working-class voters
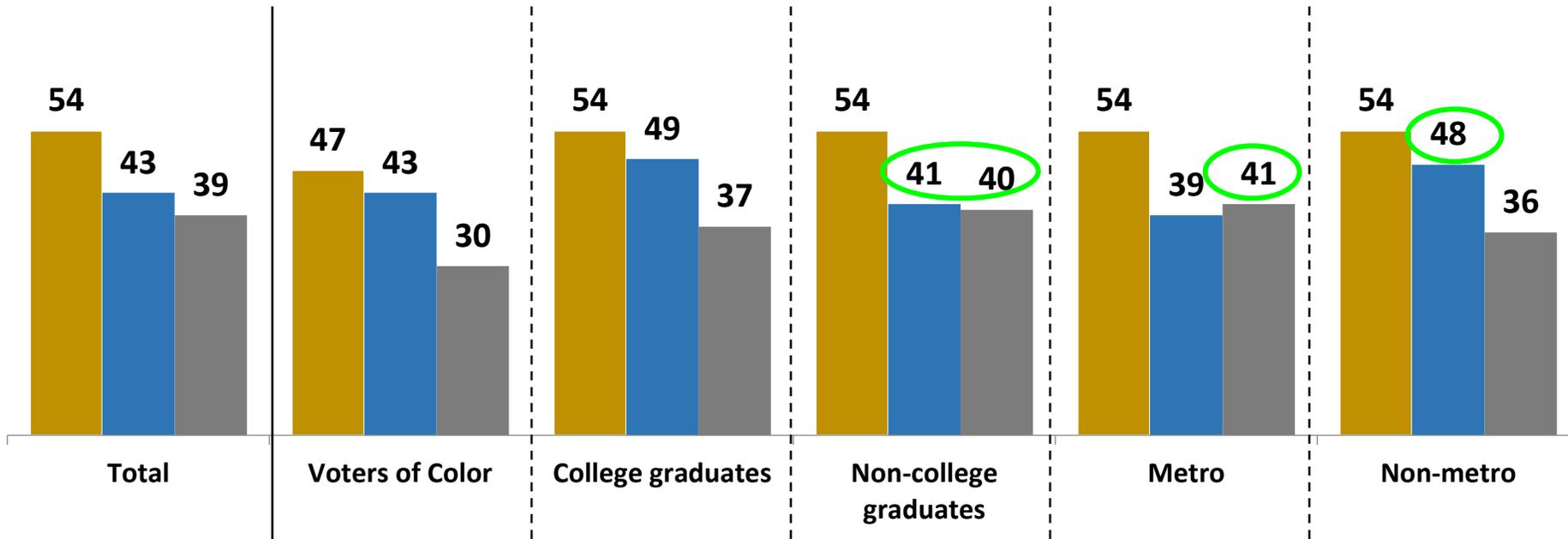
Let's say you wanted America to improve its current economic, healthcare and overcome national polarization through big changes in the education system. Which THREE of the proposals below would you choose?

BIG EDUCATION IDEAS

Redesign the pre-K and k-12 experience so it includes strong components of problem solving, academics, the arts, mental and physical health, living skills, civics, and community activities, integrated into in-school and out of school experiences, based on the best research.

Expand affordable internet access to all Americans to the necessary education and training materials and services including, and provide appropriate hardware and software as needed, so that people have access to the learning, training and services they need throughout their lives.

Recognize that this is the highest unemployment rate on record, and use this opportunity to retrain America for the future. And just like the Congress did for returning GIs in WWII, create a massive retraining program for the 52 million unemployed or 30 million collecting benefits

	Total	Voters of Color	College graduates	Non-college graduates	Metro	Non-metro
Redesign pre-K/k-12	54	47	54	54	54	54
Expand internet access	43	43	49	41	39	48
Retrain America	39	30	37	40	41	36

EDUCATION CHAMPIONS

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