

Civic Discourse in Michigan: Insights from Local Leaders

Preliminary Findings from the
Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

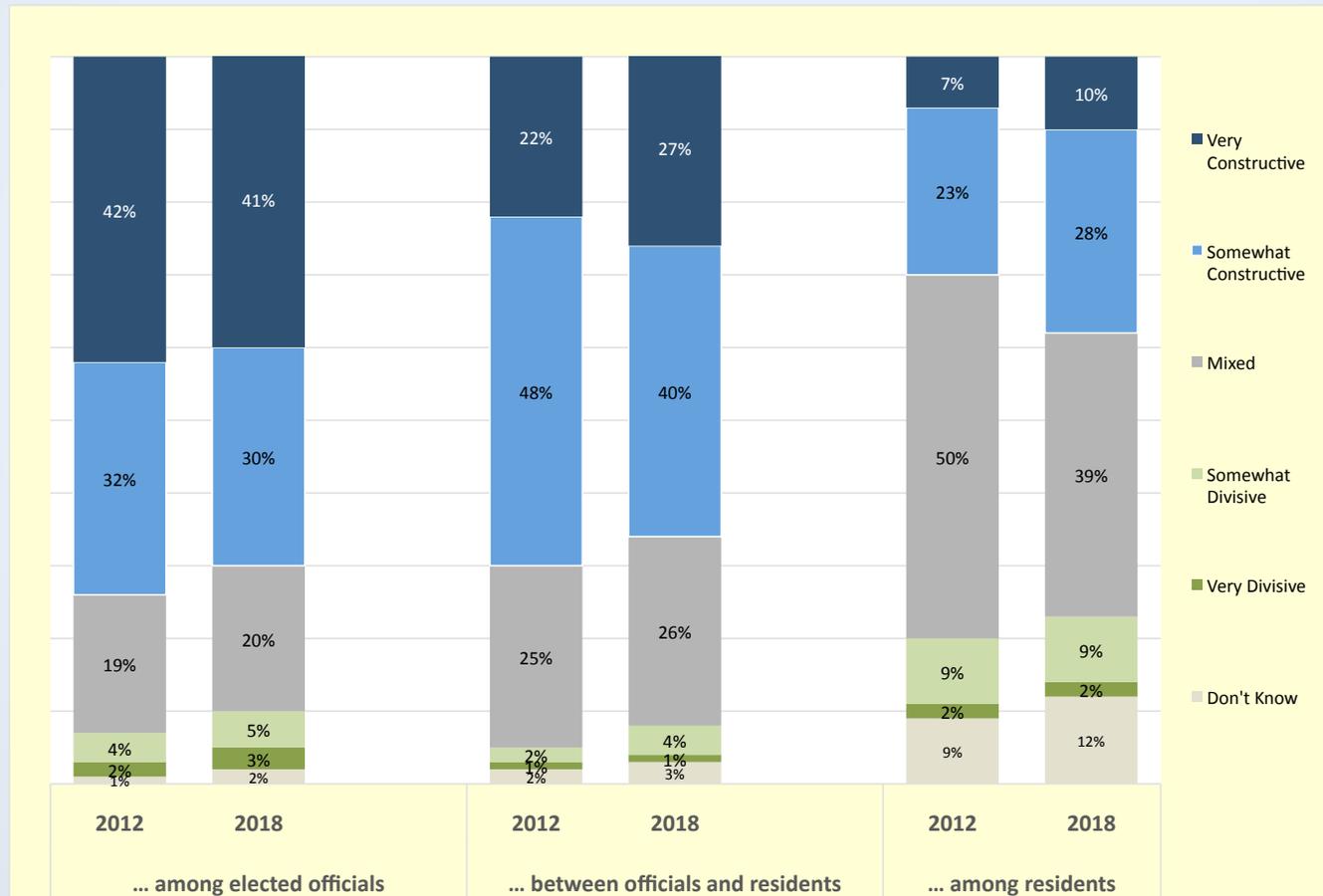
September 21, 2018
Michigan Municipal League 2018 Annual Conference

Background: The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

- **A census survey** – all 1,856 Michigan counties, cities, villages, and townships
- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials
- **Administered** – since 2009, online and via hardcopy
- **70+% regular response rates** (Spring 2018 = 74%)
- **Transparency**
 - Questionnaires online
 - Pre-run data tables online
 - Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers
- **Expert advisors on questionnaire content**
- **Research partnership with Michigan local government associations**
 - MAC, MML, & MTA

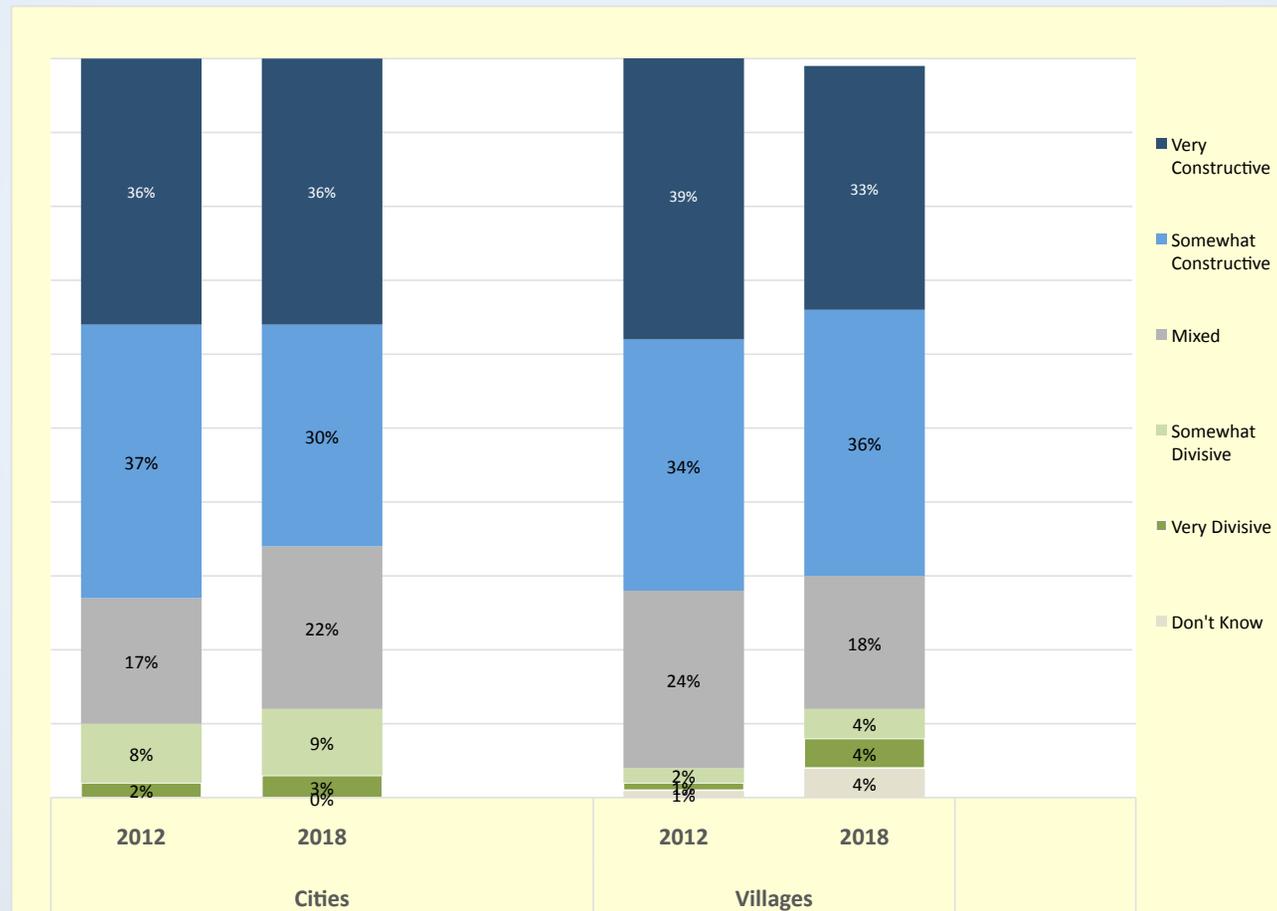
The tone of discourse in Michigan communities

Thinking more generally about the tone of discussion and communication that takes place around local policy issues, how would you describe **the general state of public discourse** between the following groups within your jurisdiction?



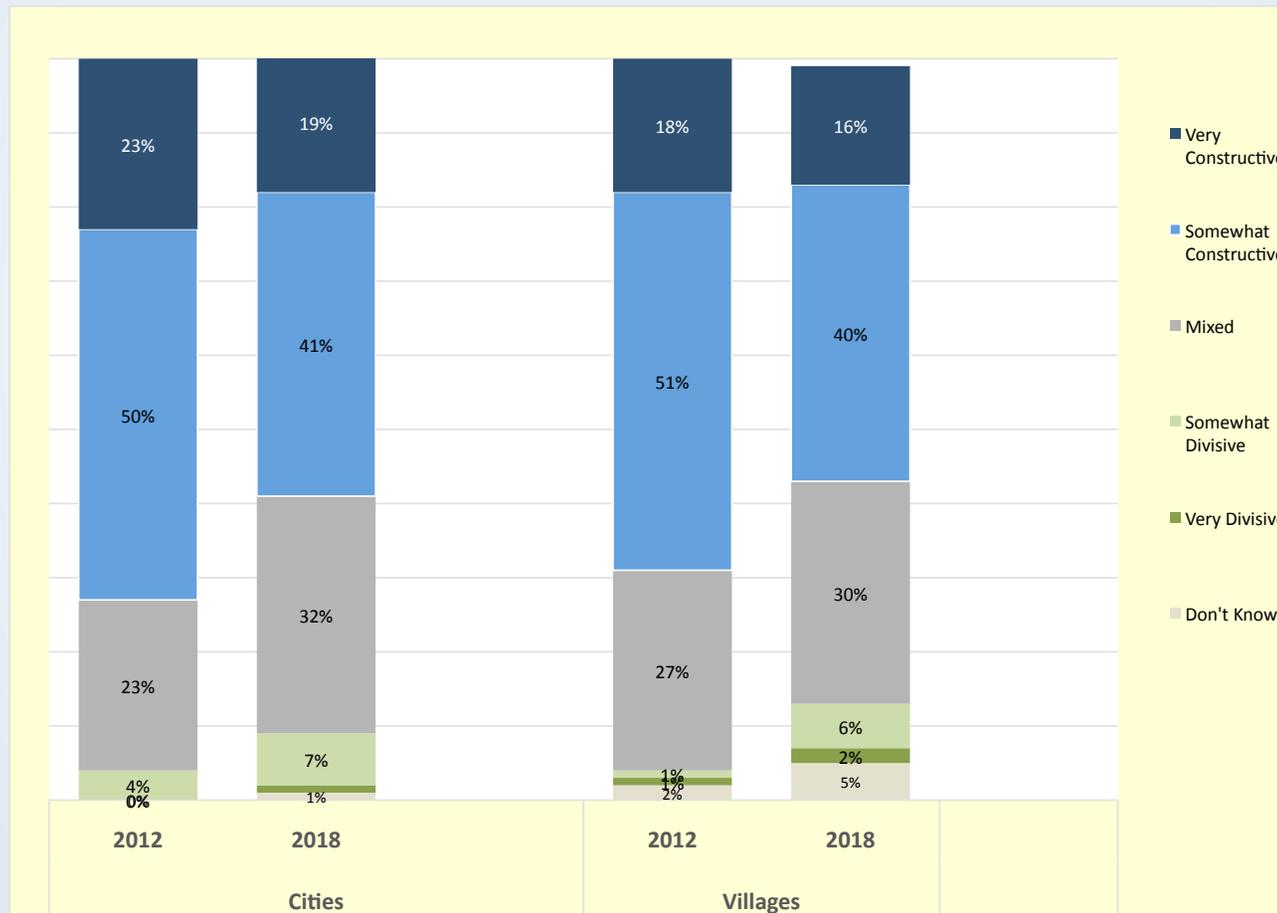
How divisive is discourse among city/village officials?

Thinking more generally about the tone of discussion and communication that takes place around local policy issues, how would you describe **the state of public discourse among elected officials themselves** within your jurisdiction?



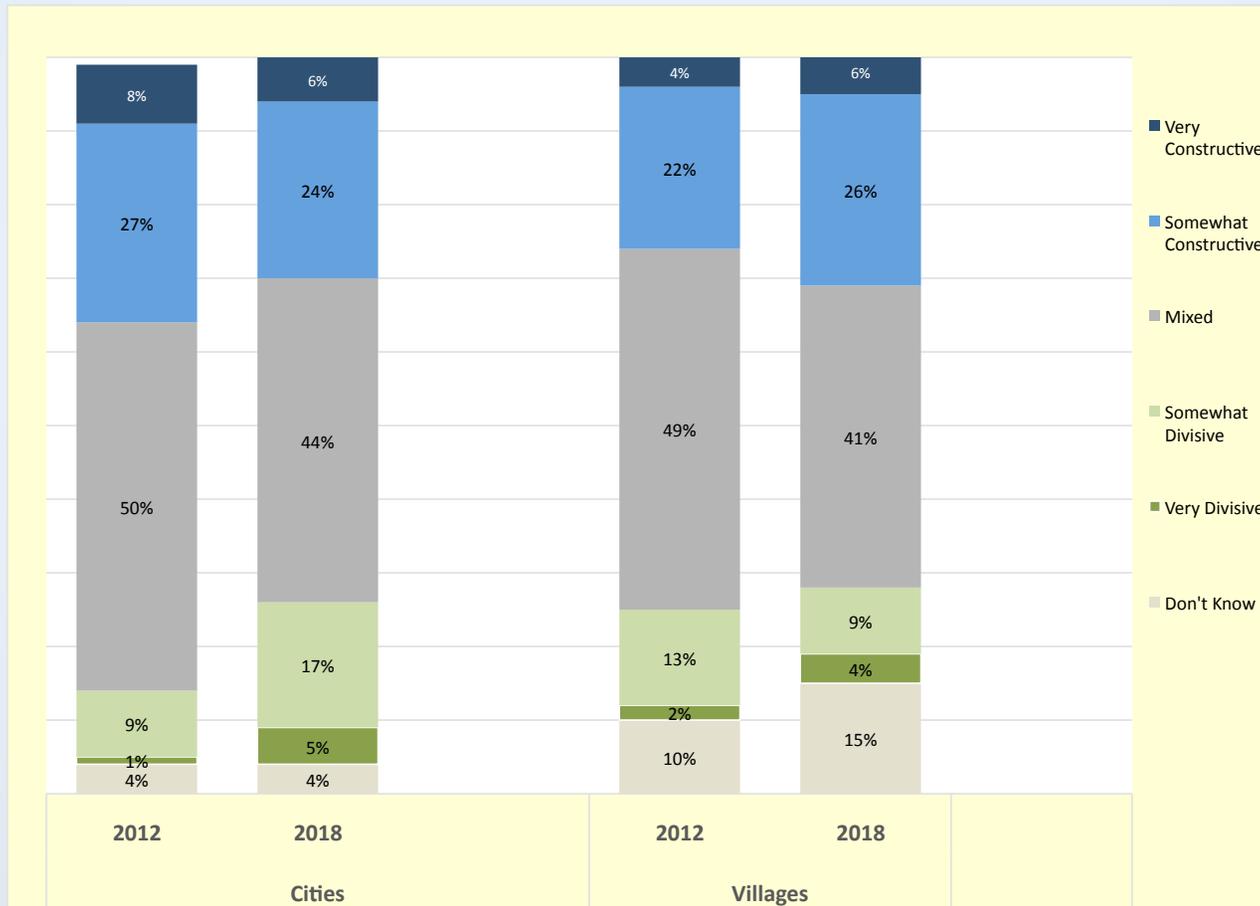
How divisive between city/village officials and residents?

Thinking more generally about the tone of discussion and communication that takes place around local policy issues, how would you describe **the state of public discourse between elected officials and residents** within your jurisdiction?



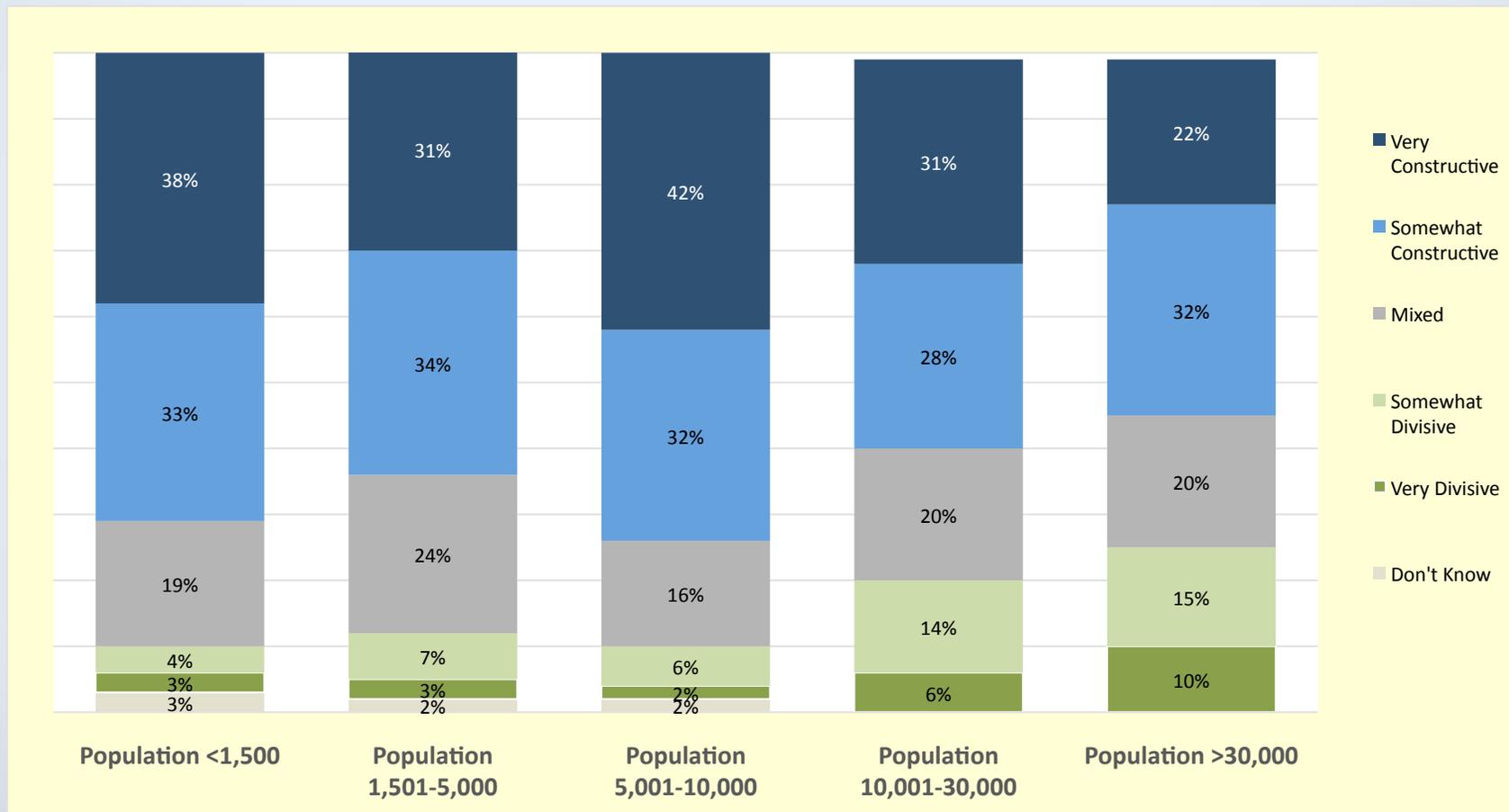
How divisive among city/village residents?

Thinking more generally about the tone of discussion and communication that takes place around local policy issues, how would you describe **the state of public discourse among residents themselves** within your jurisdiction?



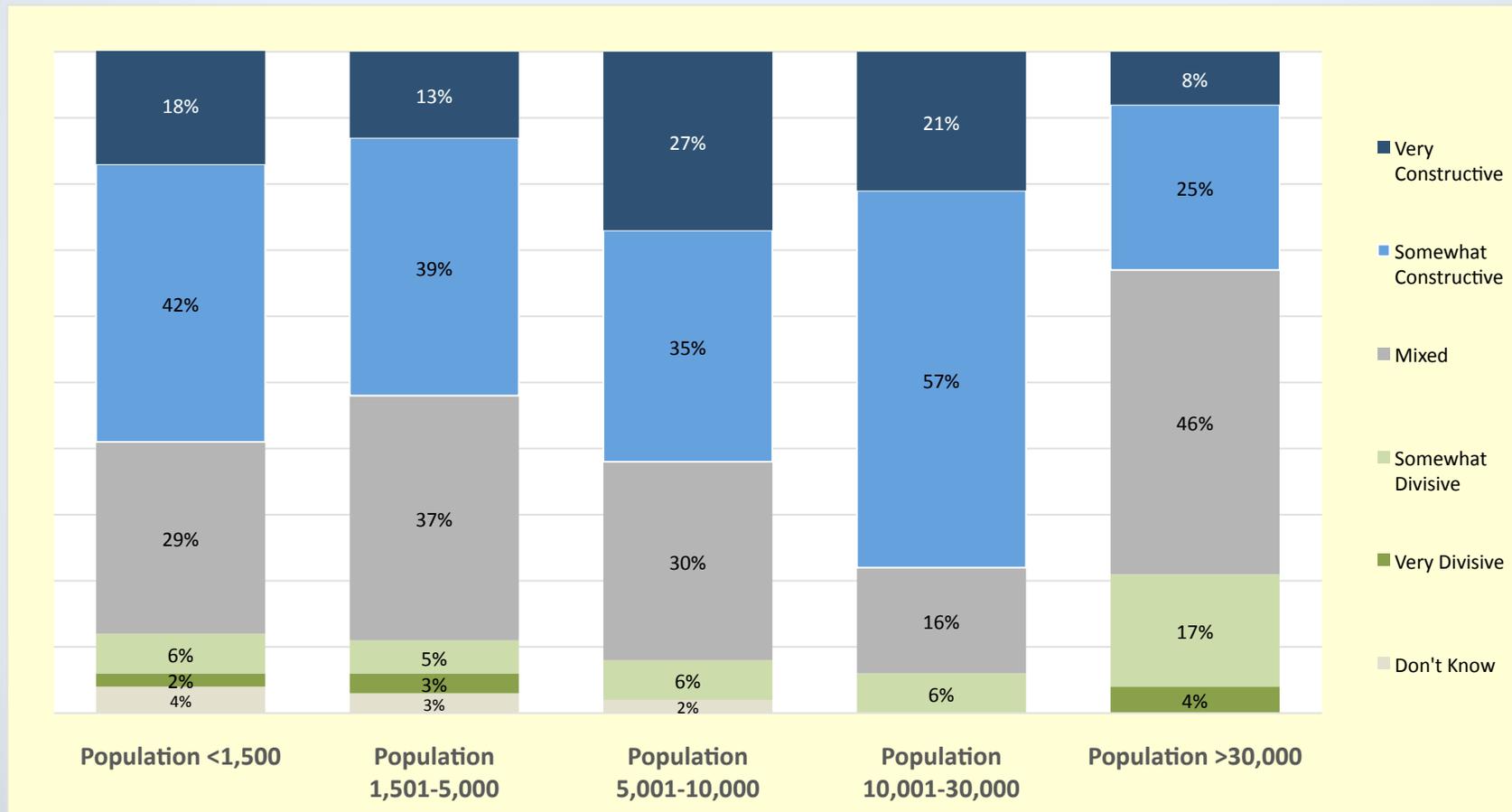
How divisive is discourse among city/village officials?

...how would you describe **the state of public discourse among elected officials themselves** within your jurisdiction? (2018)



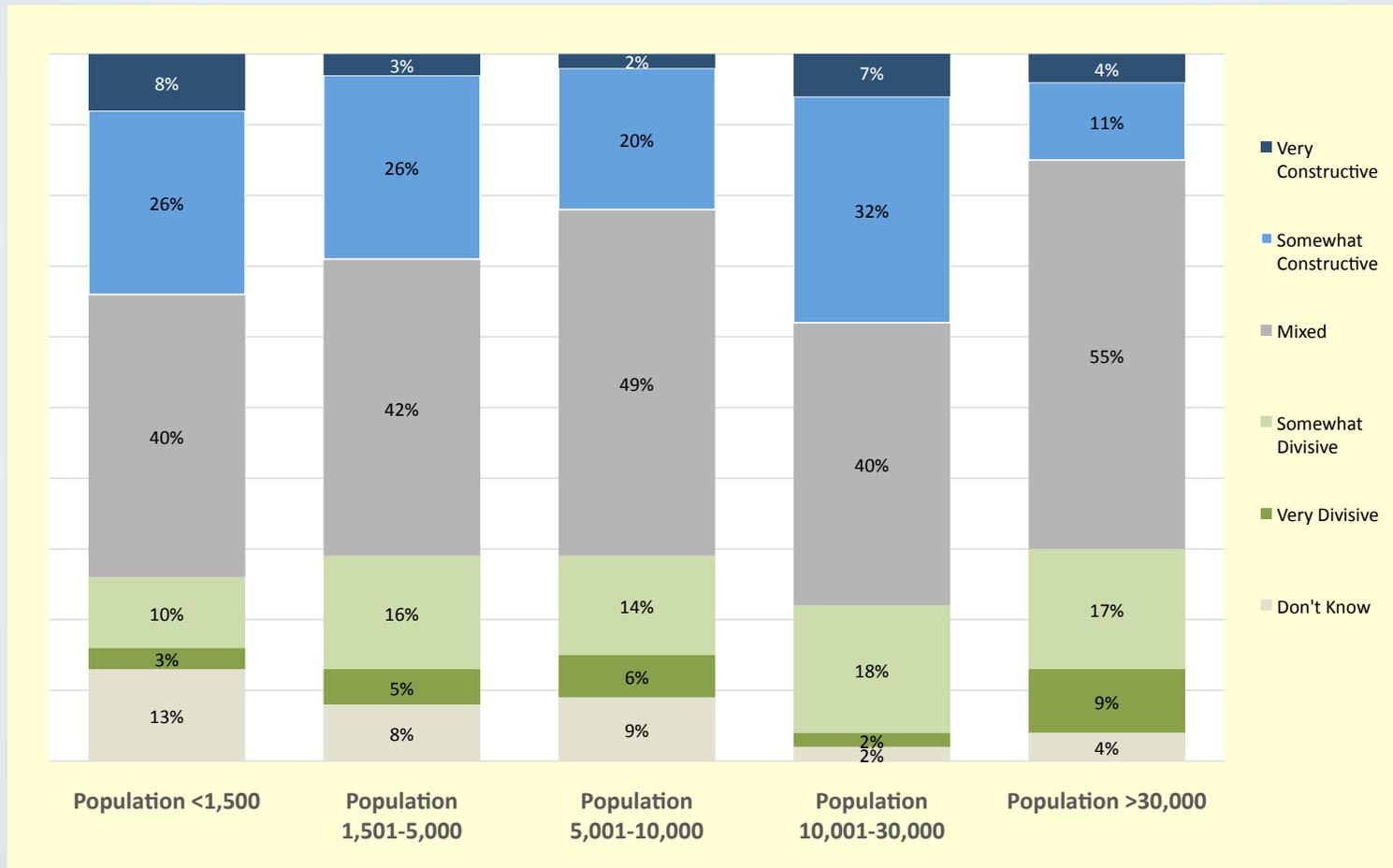
How divisive between city/village officials and residents?

..., how would you describe **the state of public discourse between elected officials and residents** within your jurisdiction? (2018)



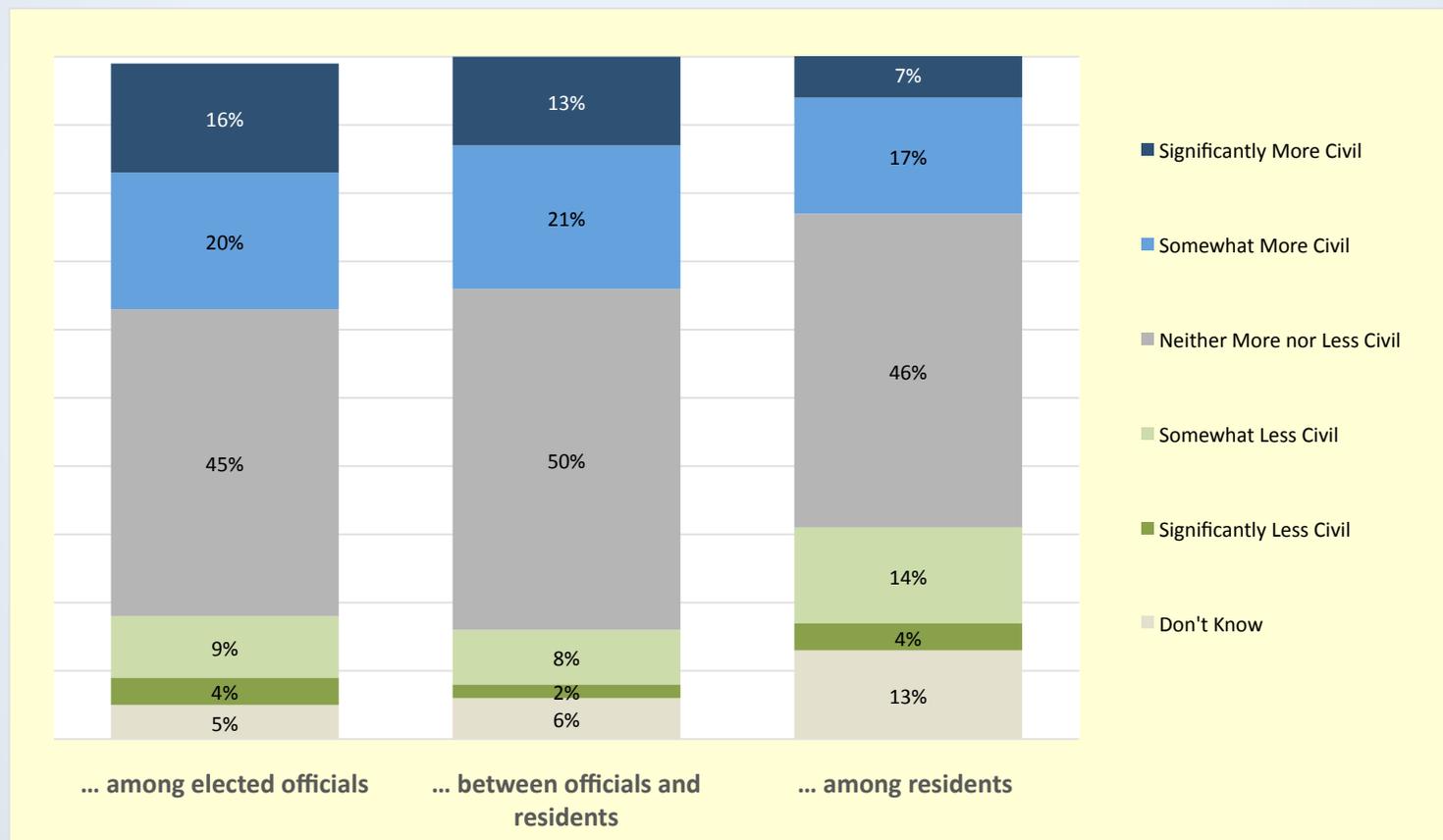
How divisive among city/village residents?

..., how would you describe **the state of public discourse between and residents themselves** within your jurisdiction? (2018)



Change in tone of discourse in Michigan communities

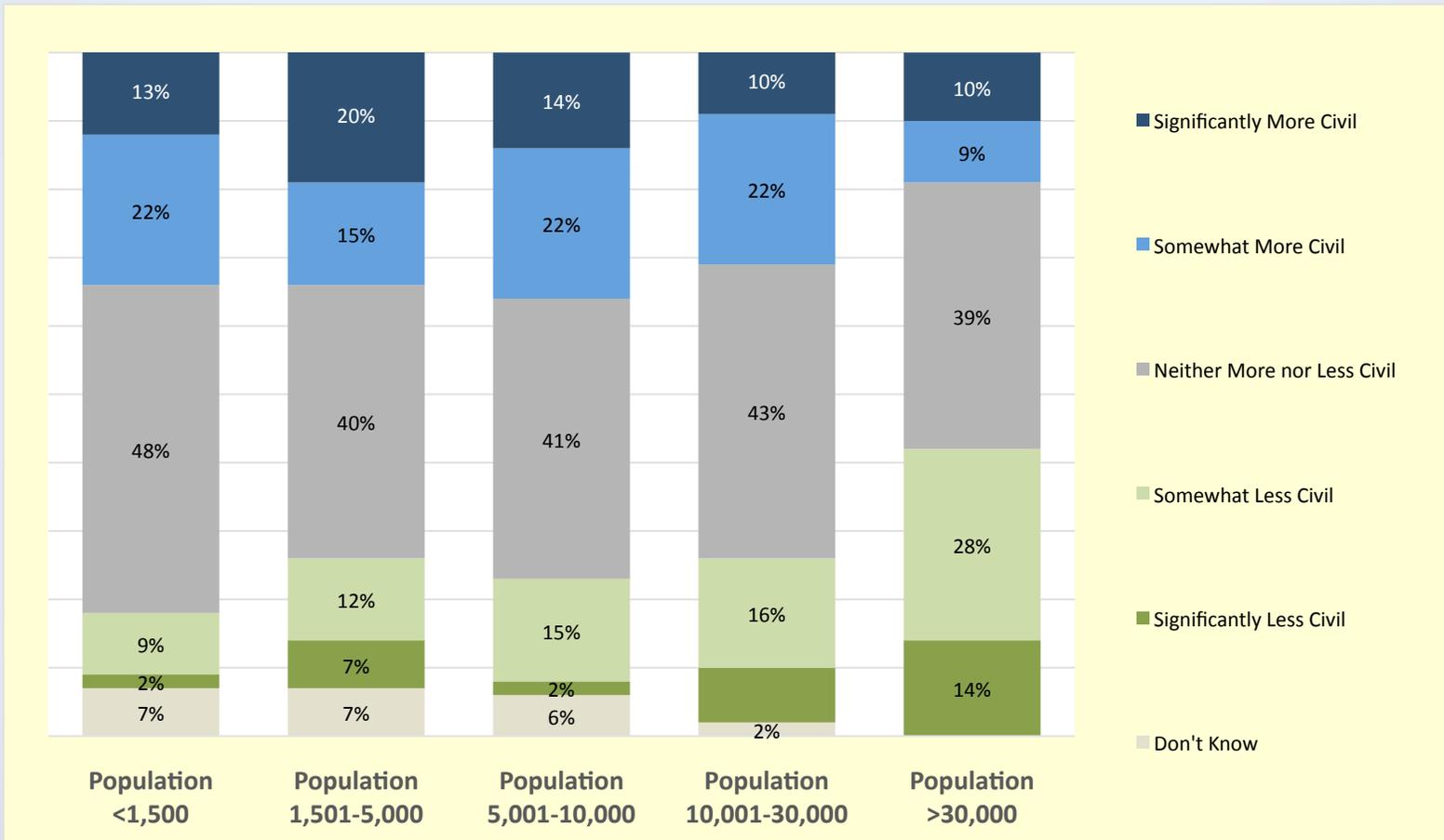
Would you say the tone of discussion and communication among these groups is **more or less civil than it was five years ago?**
(2018 responses statewide)



Change in tone of discourse in Michigan cities/villages

Would you say the tone of discussion and communication **among elected officials** is **more or less civil than it was five years ago?**

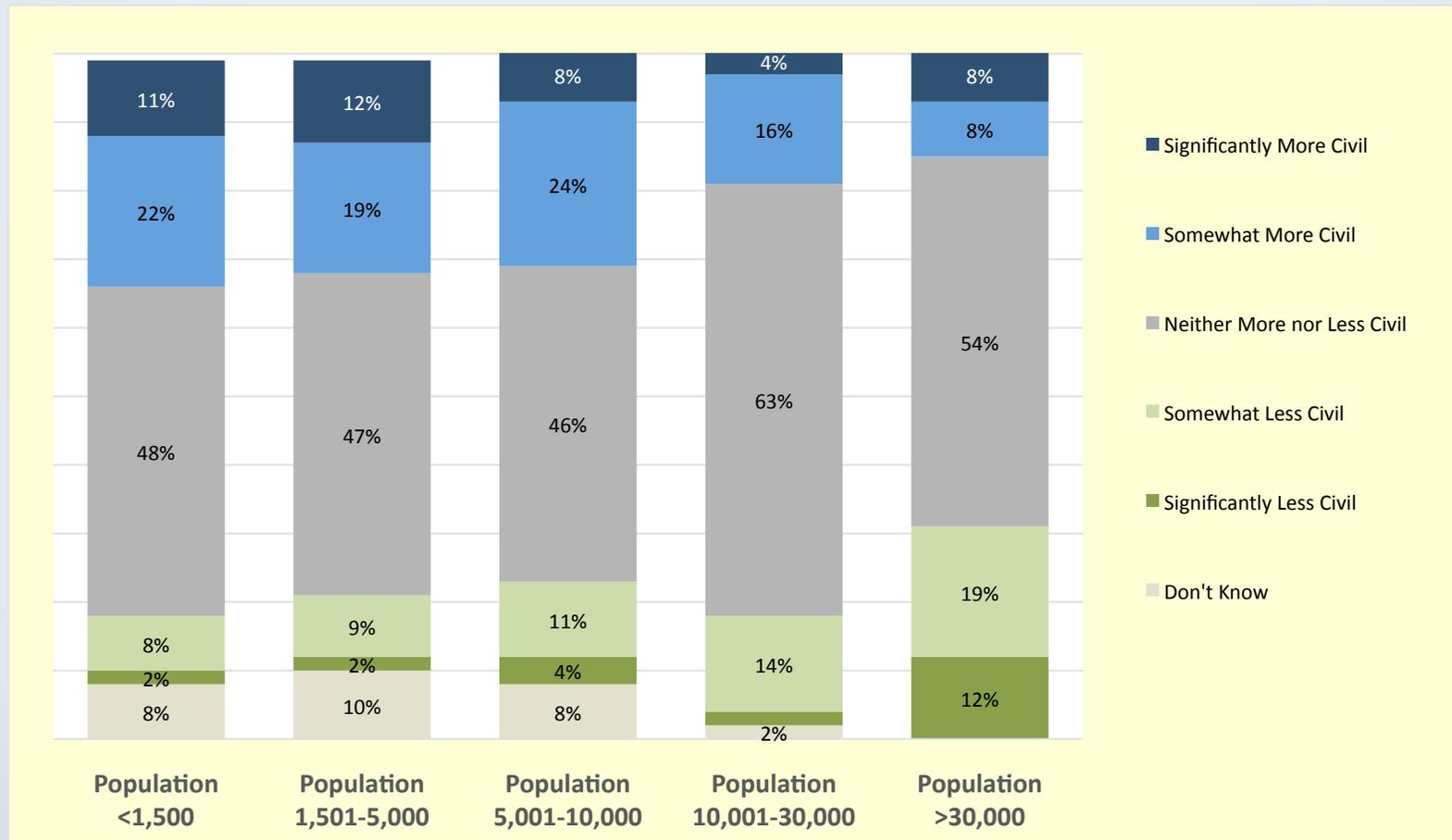
(only cities and villages in 2018)



Change in tone of discourse in Michigan cities/villages

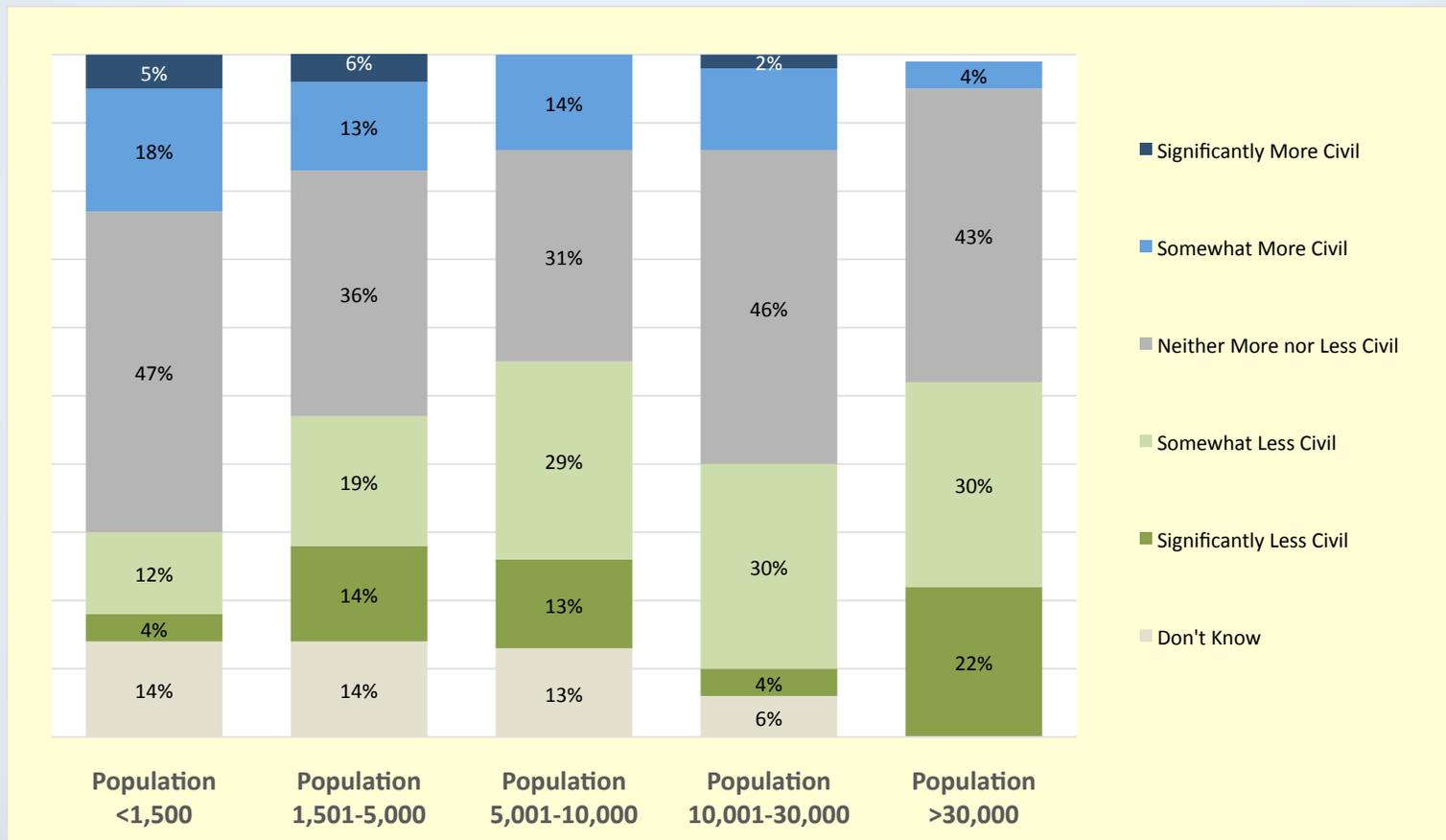
Would you say the tone of discussion and communication among **between elected officials and residents** is **more or less civil than it was five years ago?**

(only cities and villages in 2018)



Change in tone of discourse in Michigan cities/villages

Would you say the tone of discussion and communication among **among residents** is **more or less civil than it was five years ago?**
(only cities and villages in 2018)



The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

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