

Local officials' assessments about Michigan's current direction and state government performance:

Findings from the Spring 2018
Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

July 31, 2018

Presenters: Tom Ivacko and Debra Horner

For the MSU Extension Current Issues Affecting Michigan Local
Governments Webinar Series

Presentation Outline

- Brief overview of CLOSUP and the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)
- Trends of local government officials' views on:
 - ✓ Whether the state of Michigan is headed in the right direction or is off on the wrong track
 - ✓ Governor Snyder's job performance
 - ✓ The Michigan Legislature's job performance

Background: CLOSUP

- The Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy (CLOSUP) was founded at the University of Michigan's Ford School of Public Policy in 2001
- A small research center with a core staff of permanent employees and additional student research staff and faculty working on a wide variety of research projects, events, & courses
- The Center's primary mission is to conduct and support applied academic research that informs local, state, and urban policy issues, both in Michigan and beyond

Background: The MPPS

- **A census survey** – all 1,856 Michigan counties, cities, villages, and townships
- **Respondents** – chief elected and appointed officials
- **Administered** – online and via hardcopy
- **Topics** – wide range, such as fiscal health, budget priorities, roads, public safety, economic development, intergovernmental cooperation, service privatization, employee policies, labor unions, environmental sustainability, Great Lakes, citizen engagement, much more.

MPPS is not a typical opinion poll

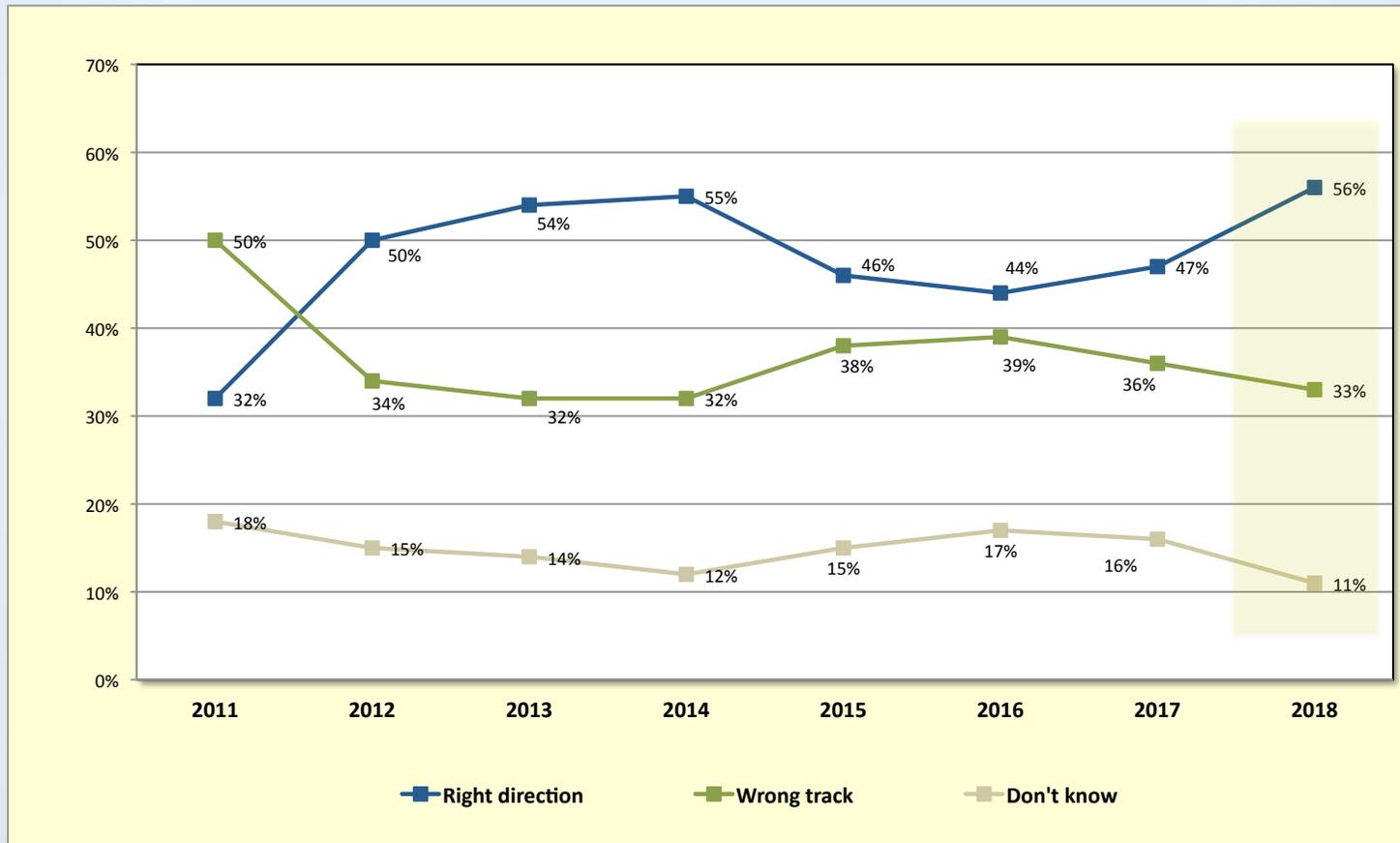
- **70+% response rates**
- **Transparency**
 - Questionnaires online
 - Pre-run data tables online
 - Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers
- **Expert advisors on questionnaire content**
- **Research partnership with Michigan local government associations**
 - MAC, MML, & MTA
- **Borrowing from other proven sources such as NLC and ICMA**

Presentation Outline

- Brief overview of CLOSUP and the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)
- Trends of local government officials' views on:
 - ✓ Whether the state of Michigan is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track
 - ✓ Governor Snyder's job performance
 - ✓ The Michigan Legislature's job performance

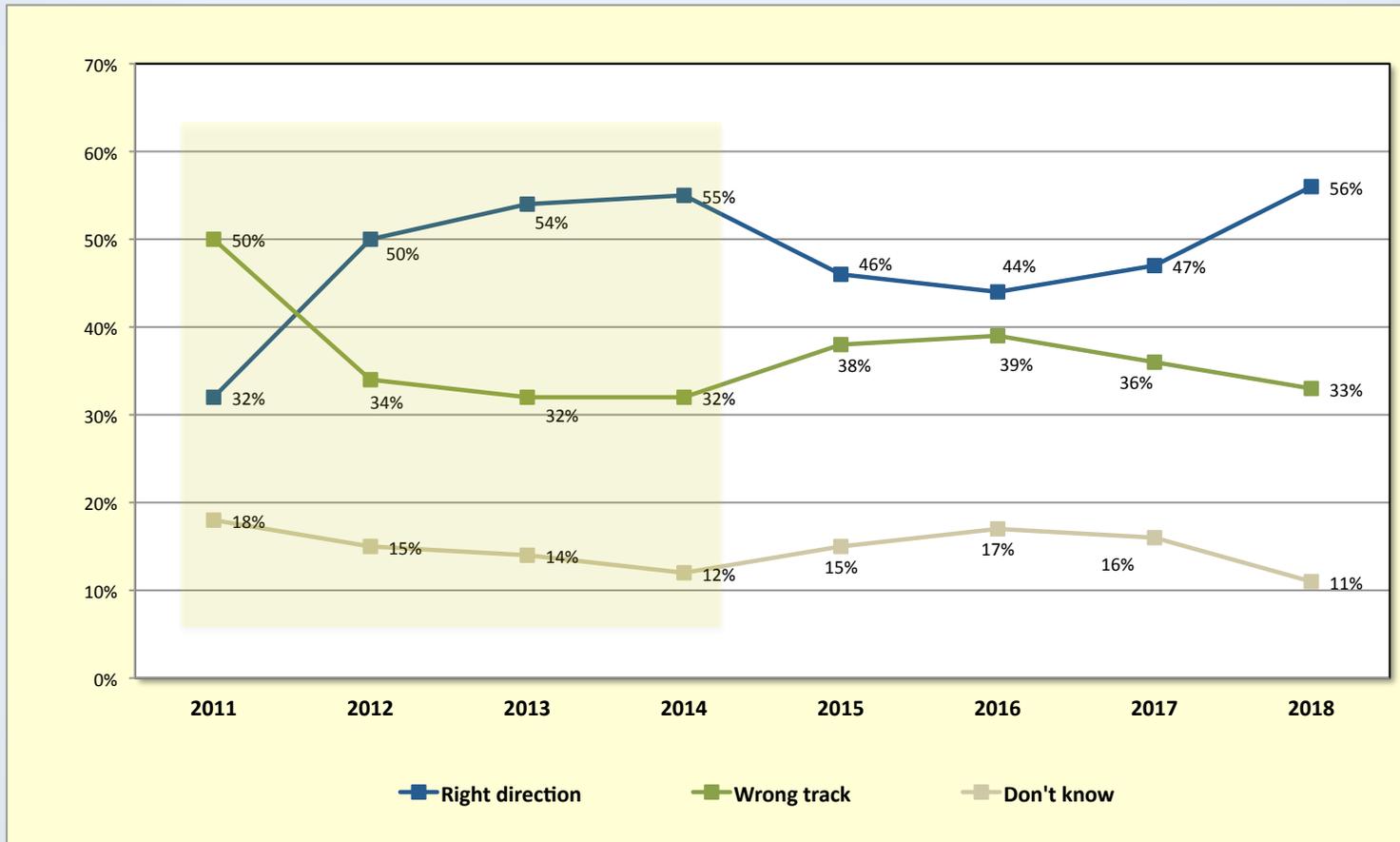
Local officials' confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going **in the right direction**, or do you feel things have gotten off **on the wrong track**?



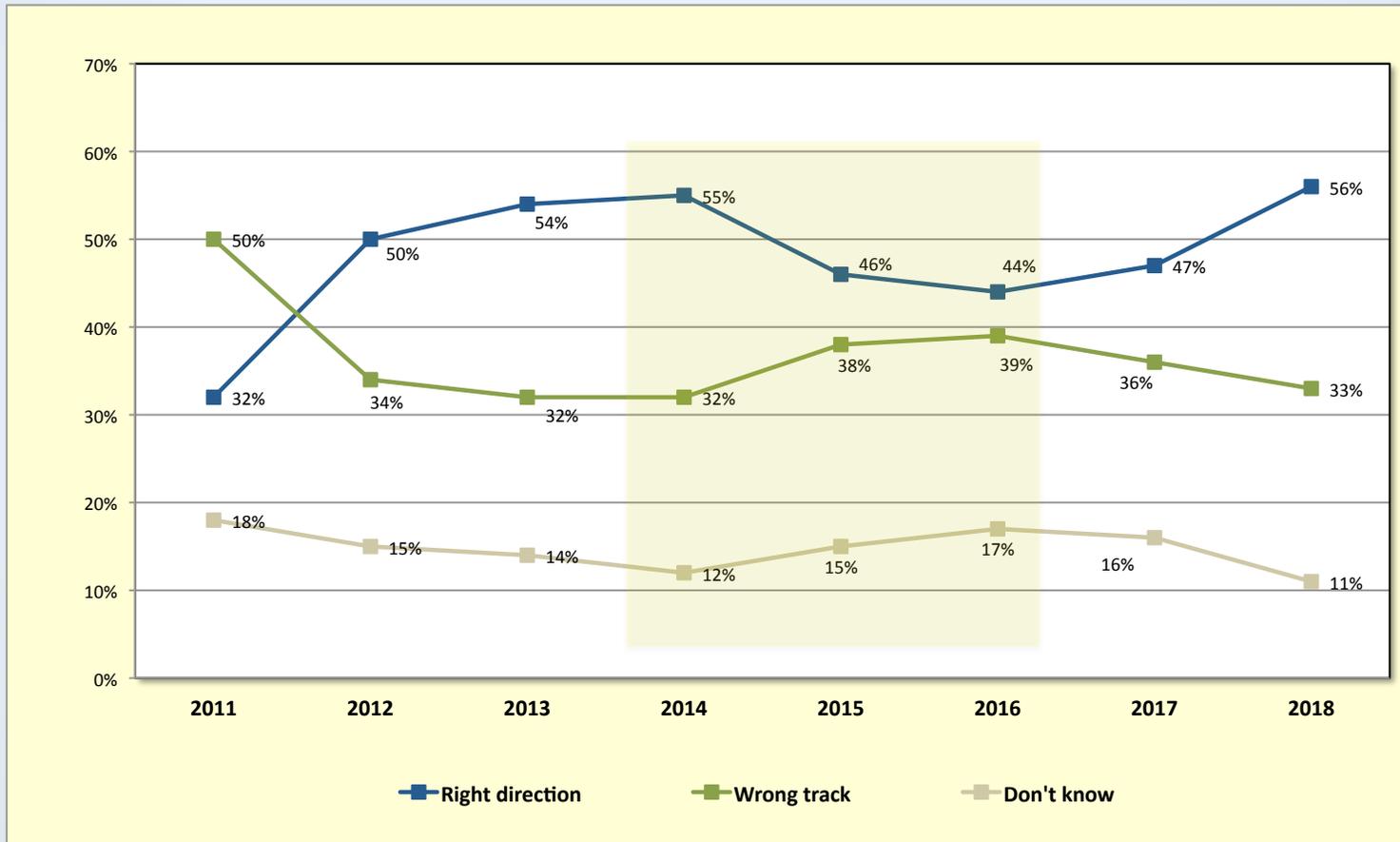
Local officials' confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going **in the right direction**, or do you feel things have gotten off **on the wrong track**?



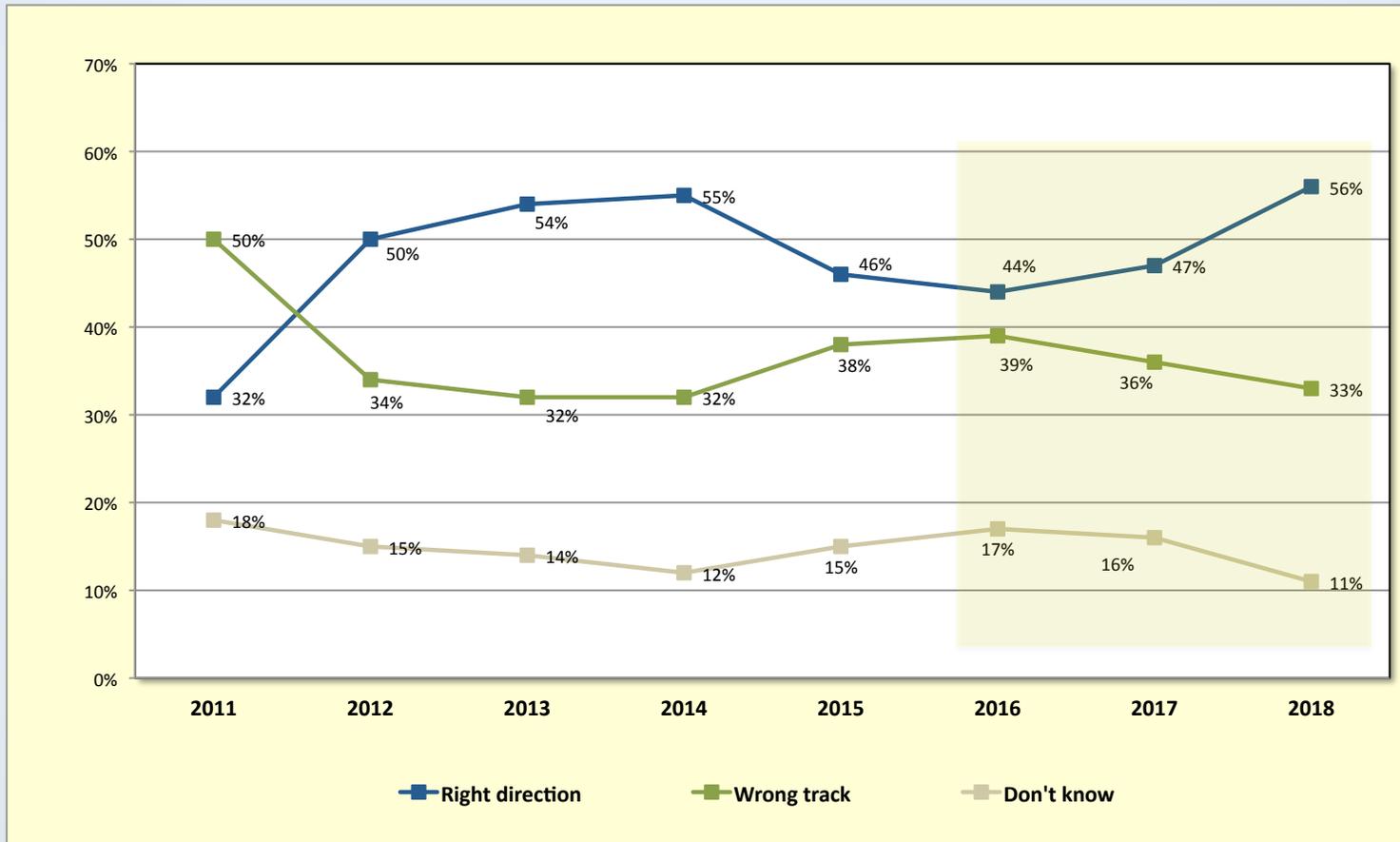
Local officials' confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going **in the right direction**, or do you feel things have gotten off **on the wrong track**?



Local officials' confidence in Michigan's direction is up

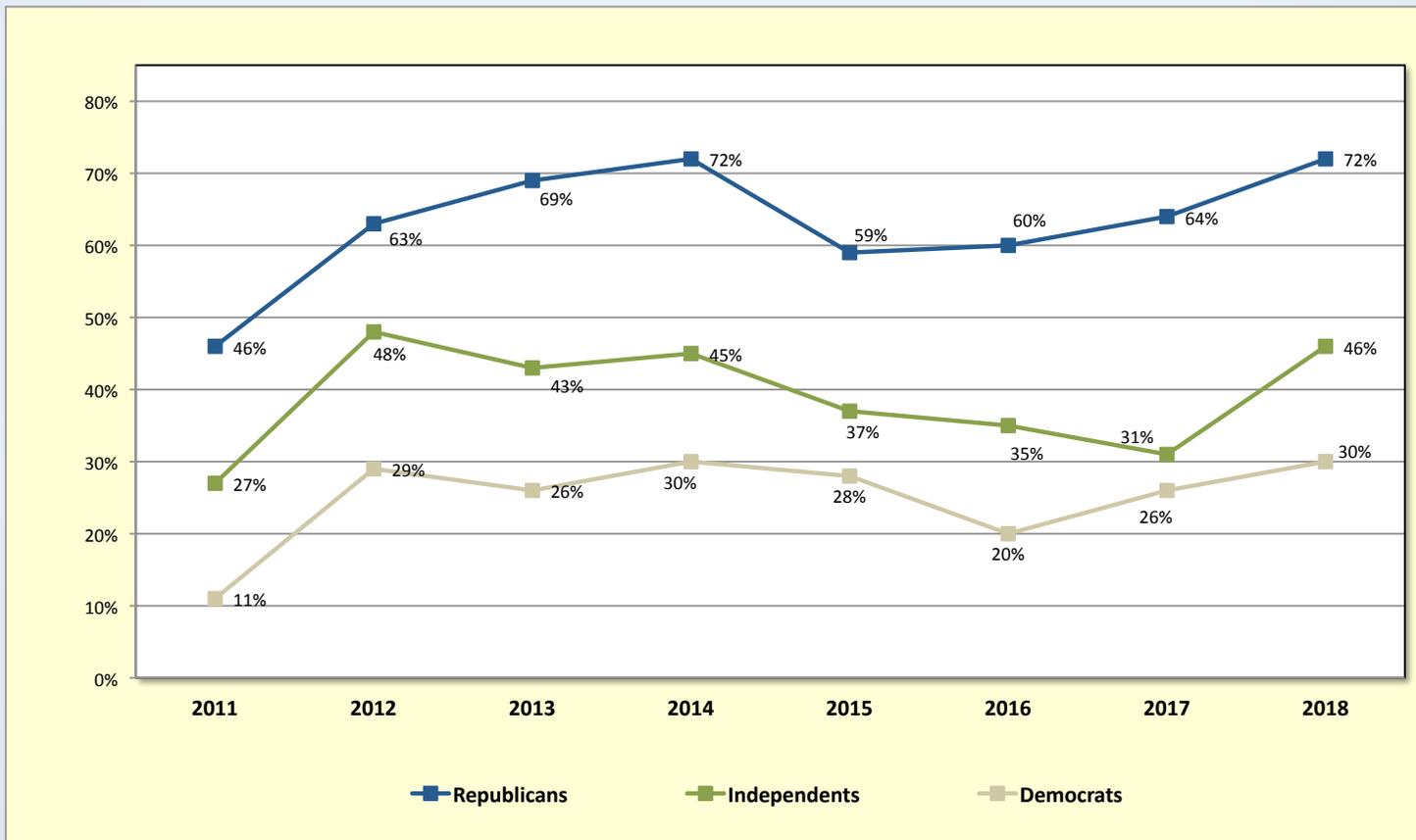
Do you feel things in the state of Michigan are generally going **in the right direction**, or do you feel things have gotten off **on the wrong track**?



Local officials' confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Percentage of local officials who say Michigan is headed in
“the right direction”

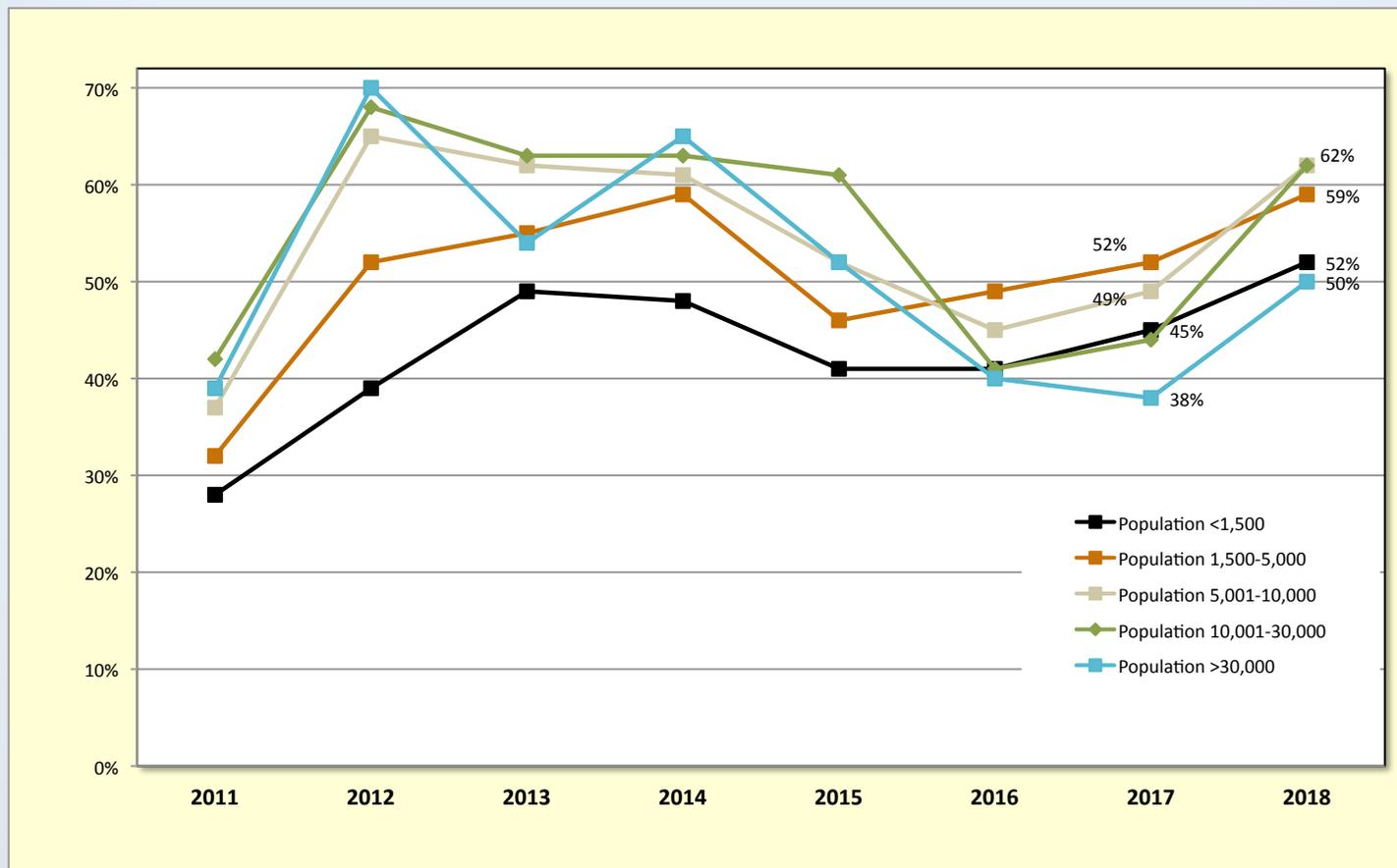
(by *party ID* of local officials)



Local officials' confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Percentage of local officials who say Michigan is headed in
"the right direction"

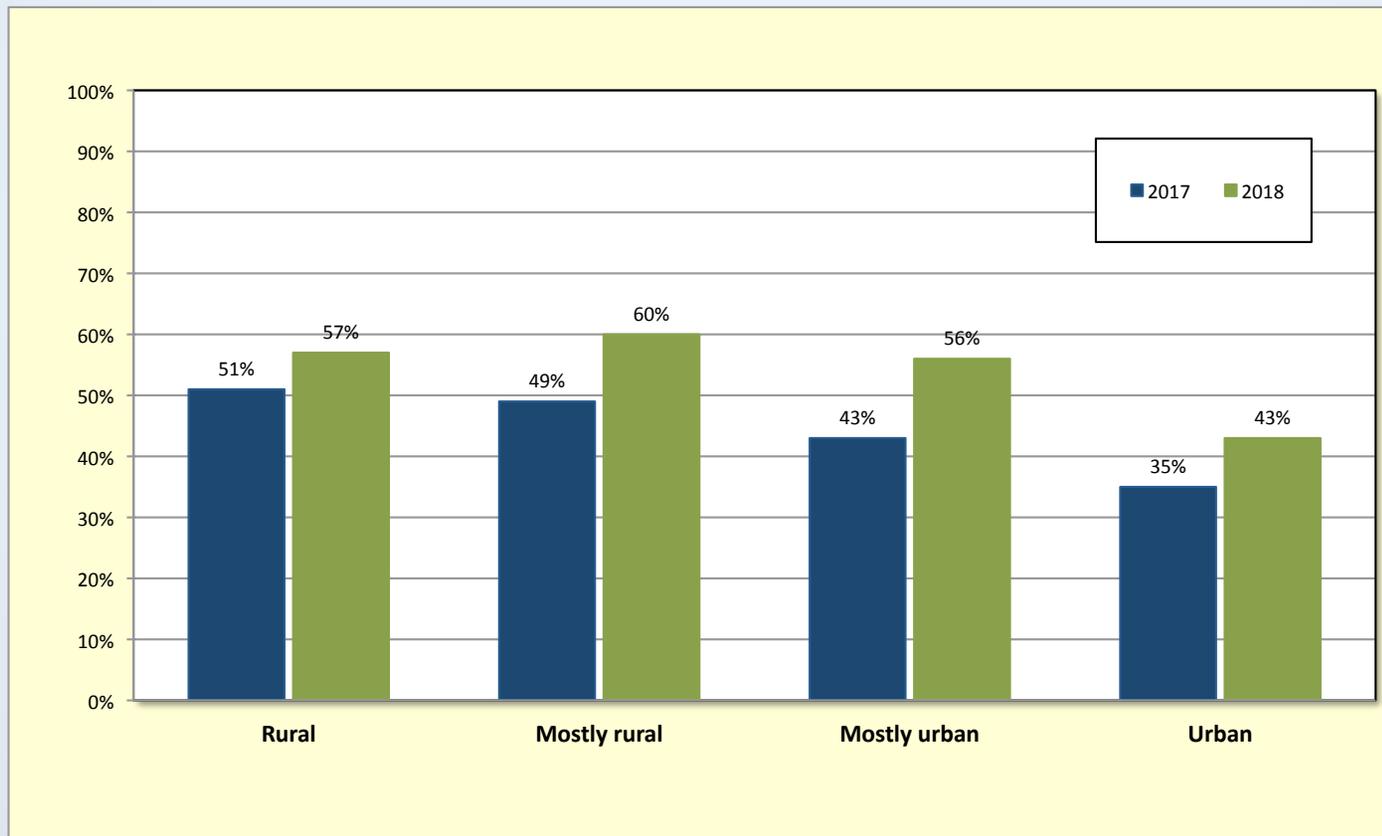
(by jurisdiction size)



Local officials' confidence in Michigan's direction is up

Percentage of local officials who say Michigan is headed in
"the right direction"

(by jurisdiction's *urban-rural* status)

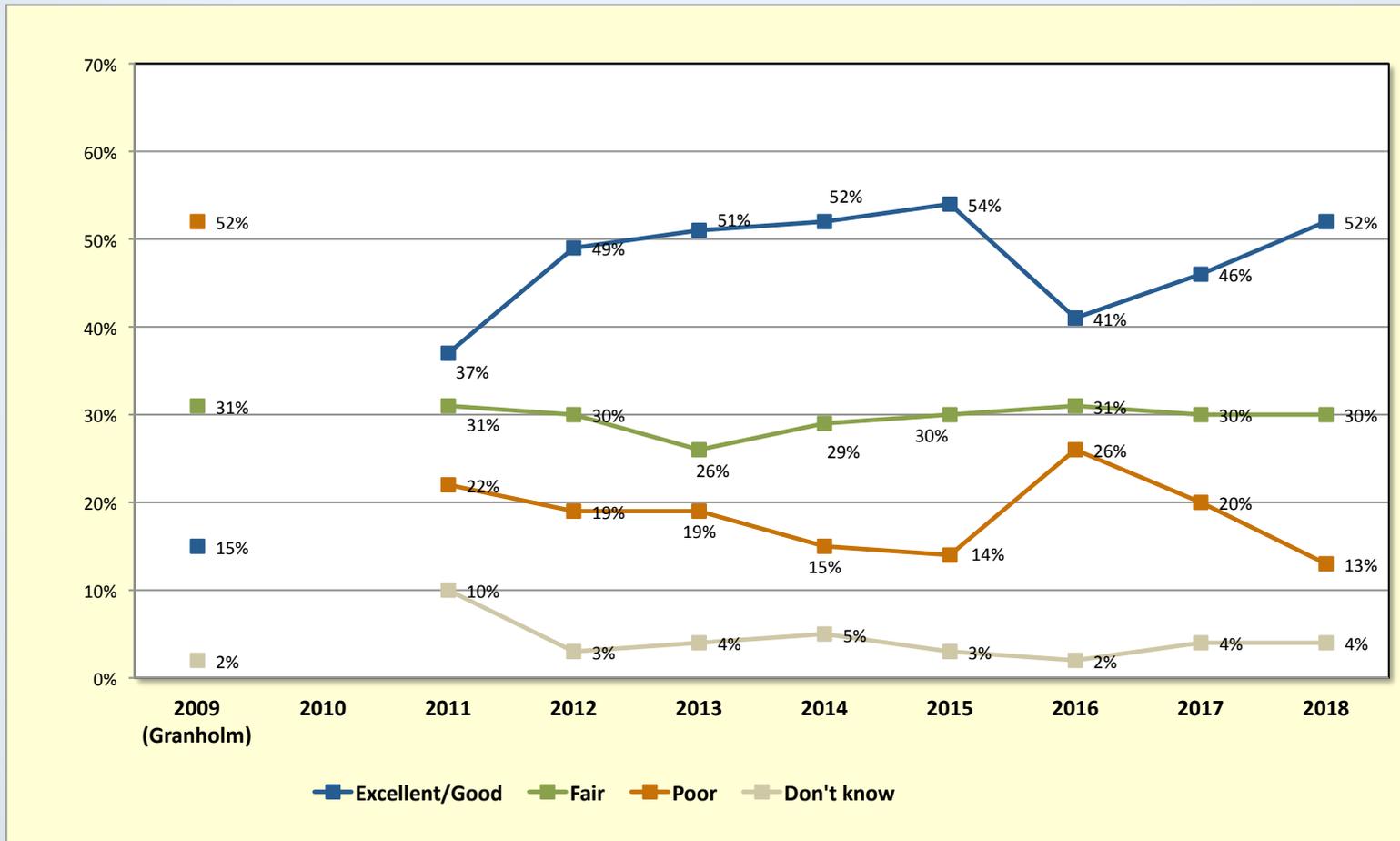


Presentation Outline

- Brief overview of CLOSUP and the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)
- Trends of local government officials' views on:
 - ✓ Whether the state of Michigan is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track
 - ✓ Governor Snyder's job performance
 - ✓ The Michigan Legislature's job performance

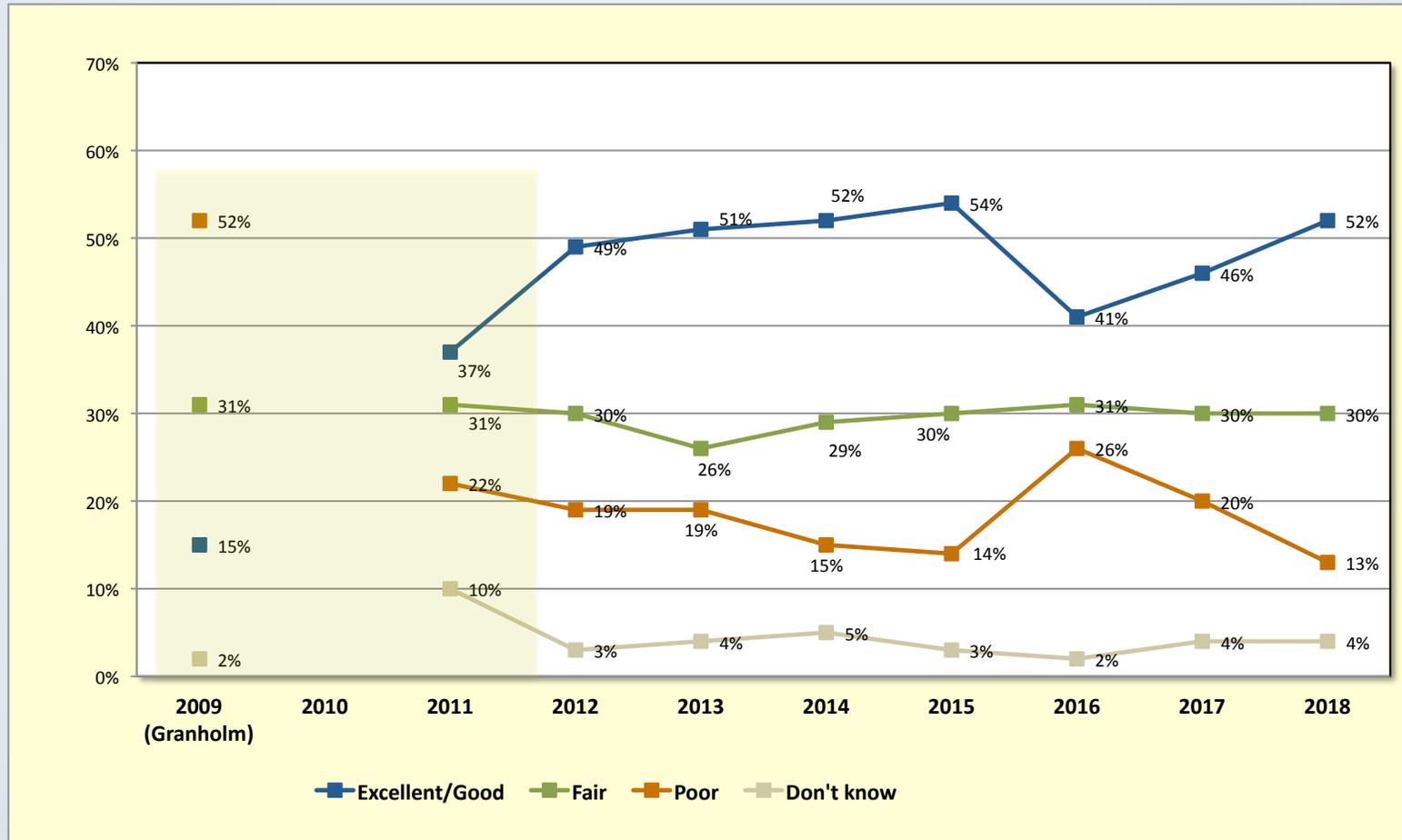
Local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

How would you **rate** the way **Rick Snyder** is performing his job as Michigan's governor?



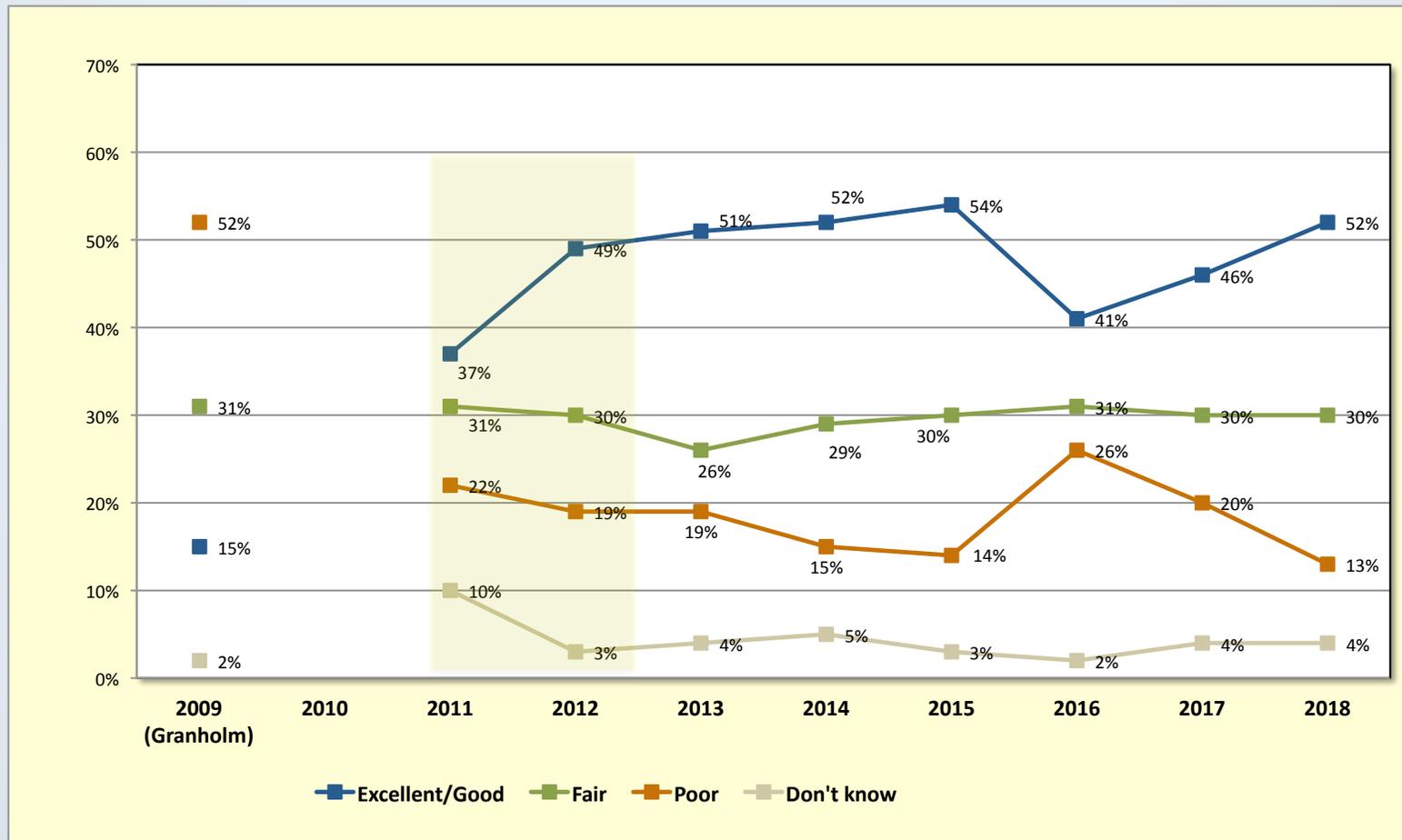
Local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

How would you **rate** the way **Rick Snyder** is performing his job as Michigan's governor?



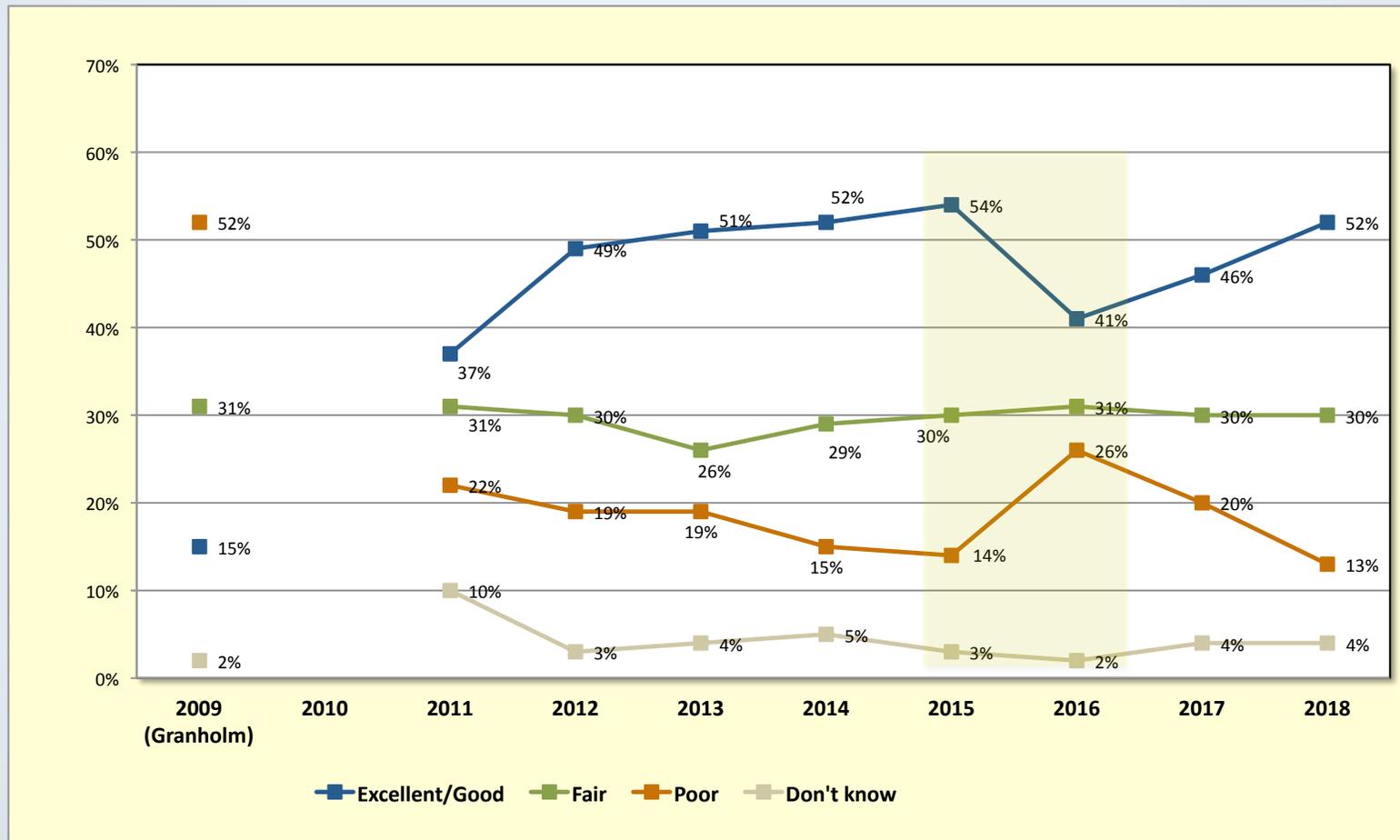
Local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

How would you **rate** the way **Rick Snyder** is performing his job as Michigan's governor?



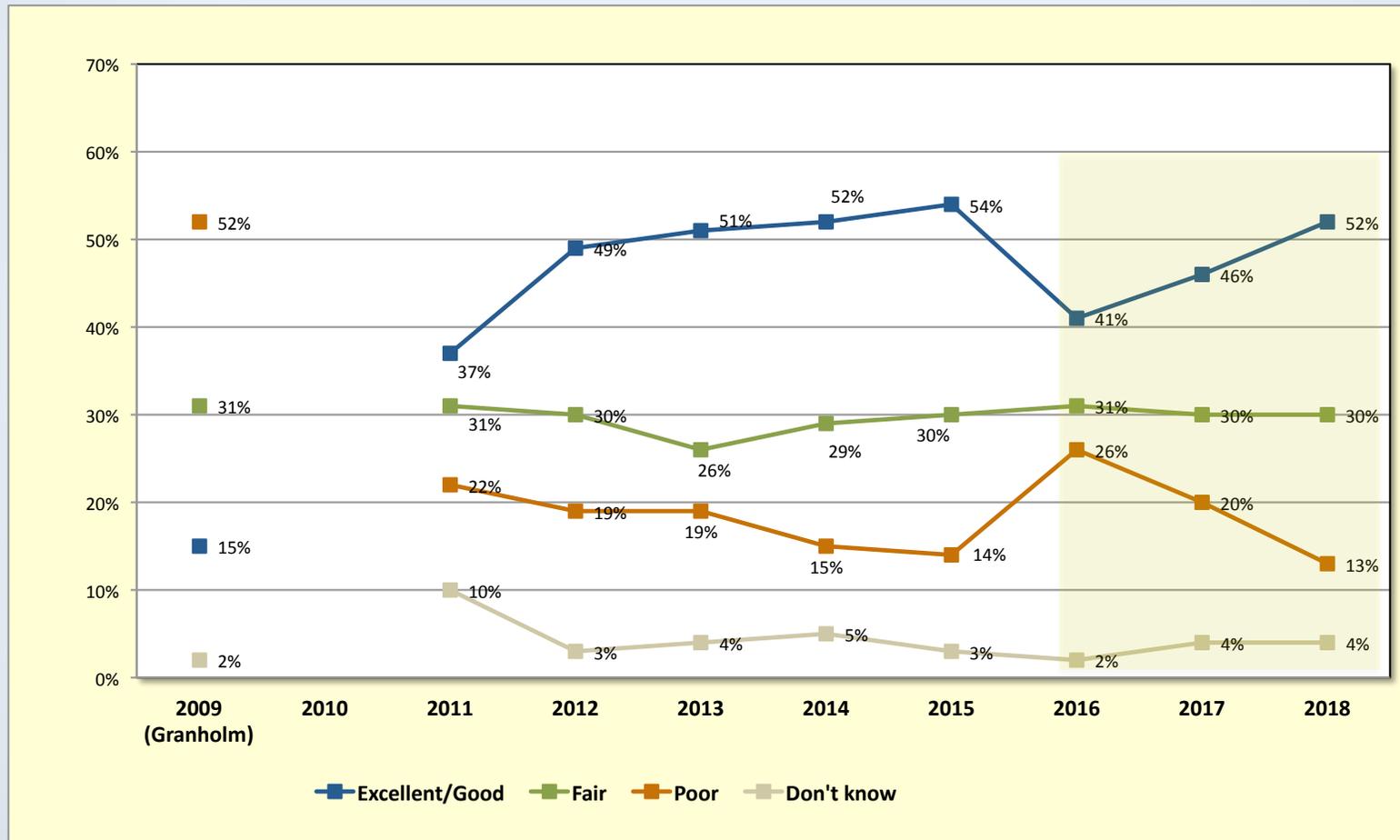
Local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

How would you **rate** the way **Rick Snyder** is performing his job as Michigan's governor?



Local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

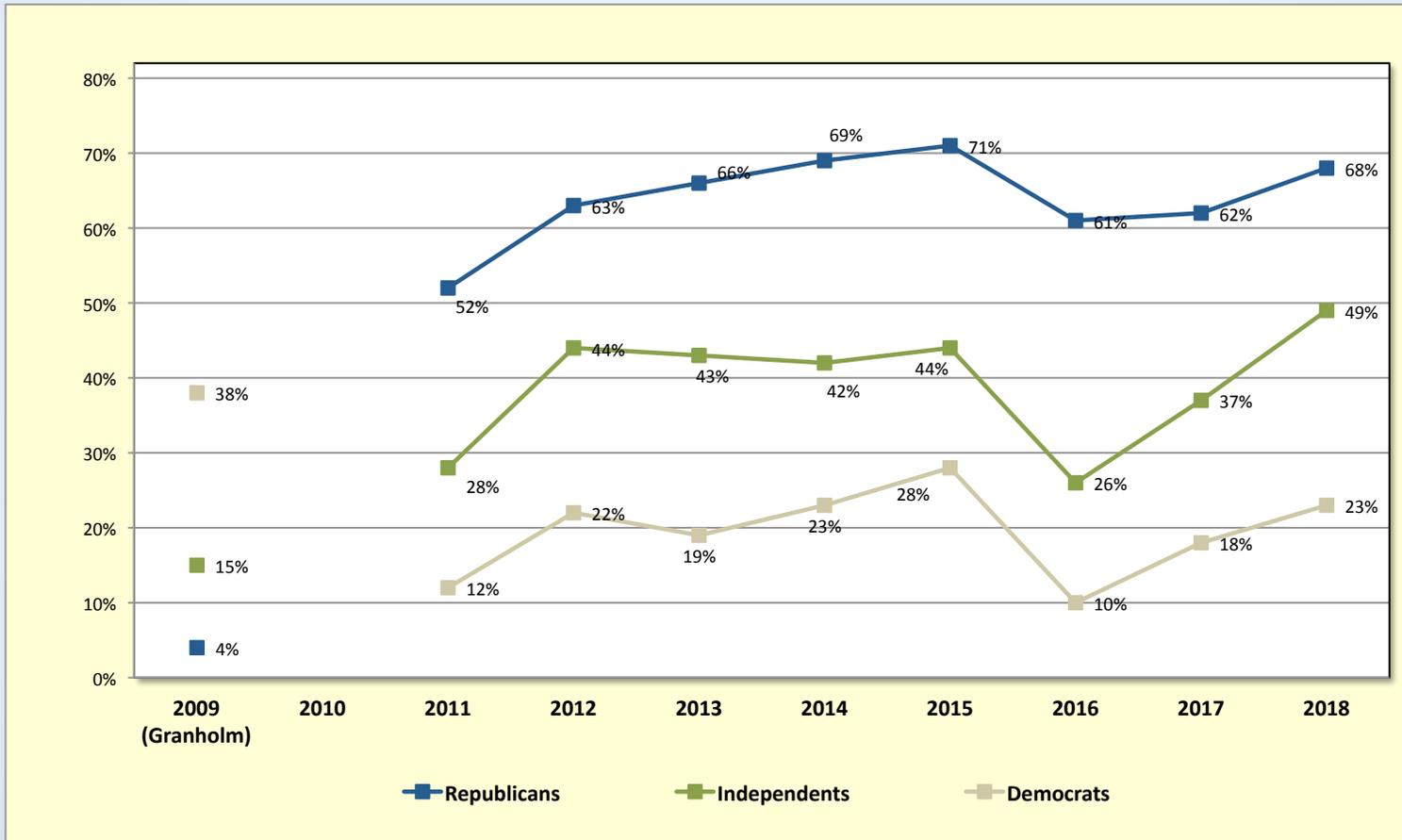
How would you **rate** the way **Rick Snyder** is performing his job as Michigan's governor?



Local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

Percentage of local officials who say Governor Snyder's performance is **"excellent" or "good"**

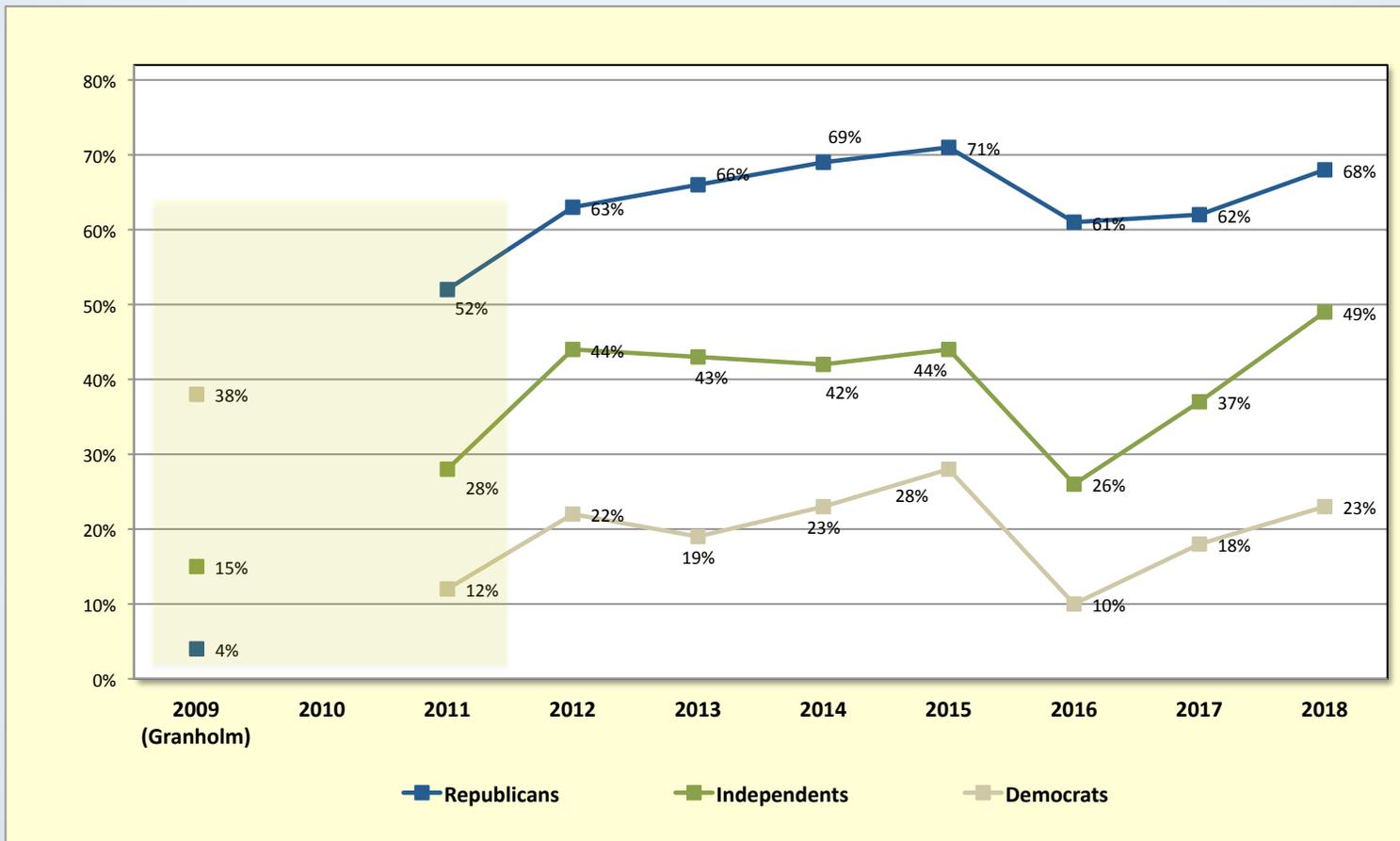
(by *party ID* of local officials)



Local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

Percentage of local officials who say Governor Snyder's performance is **"excellent" or "good"**

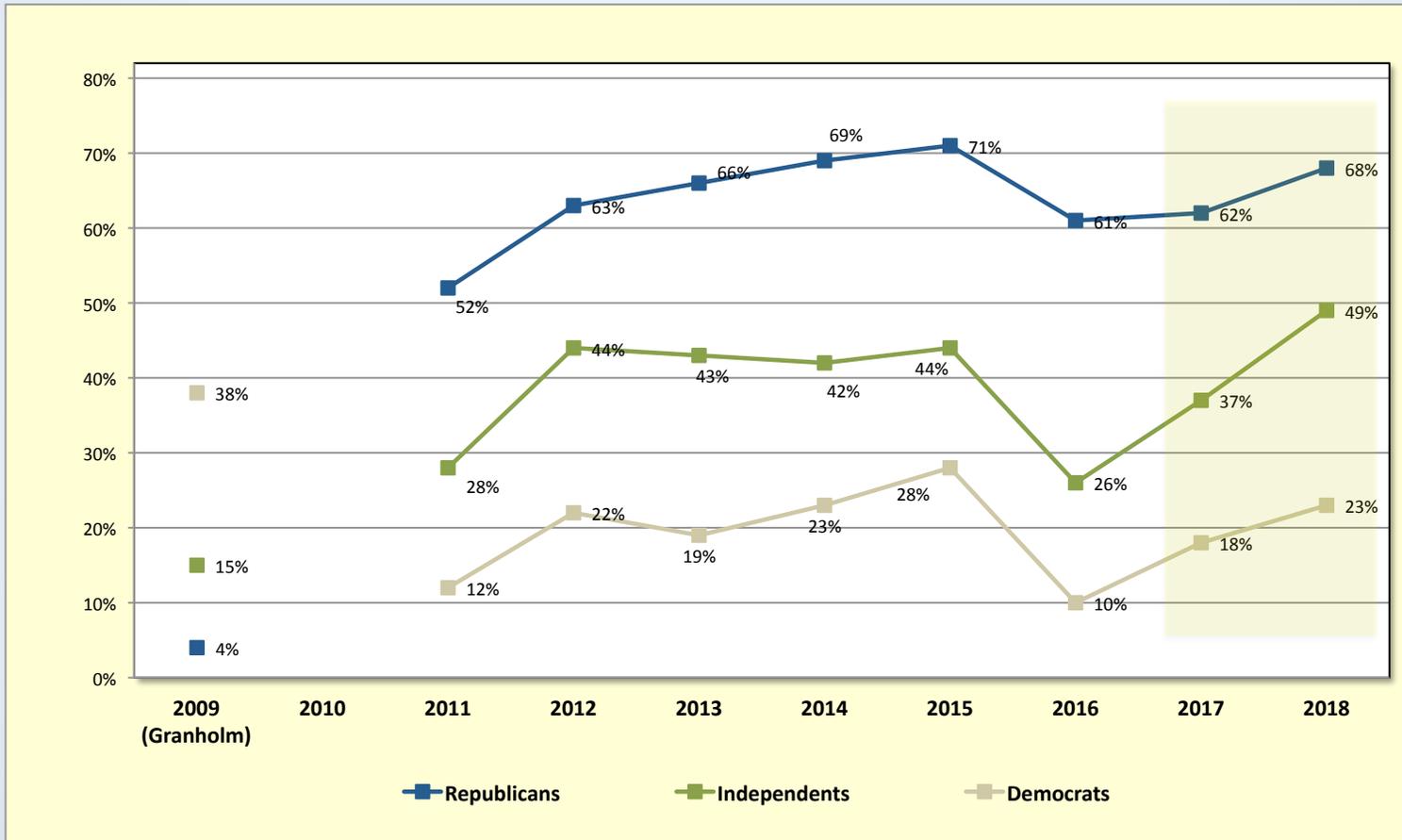
(by *party ID* of local officials)



Local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

Percentage of local officials who say Governor Snyder's performance is **"excellent" or "good"**

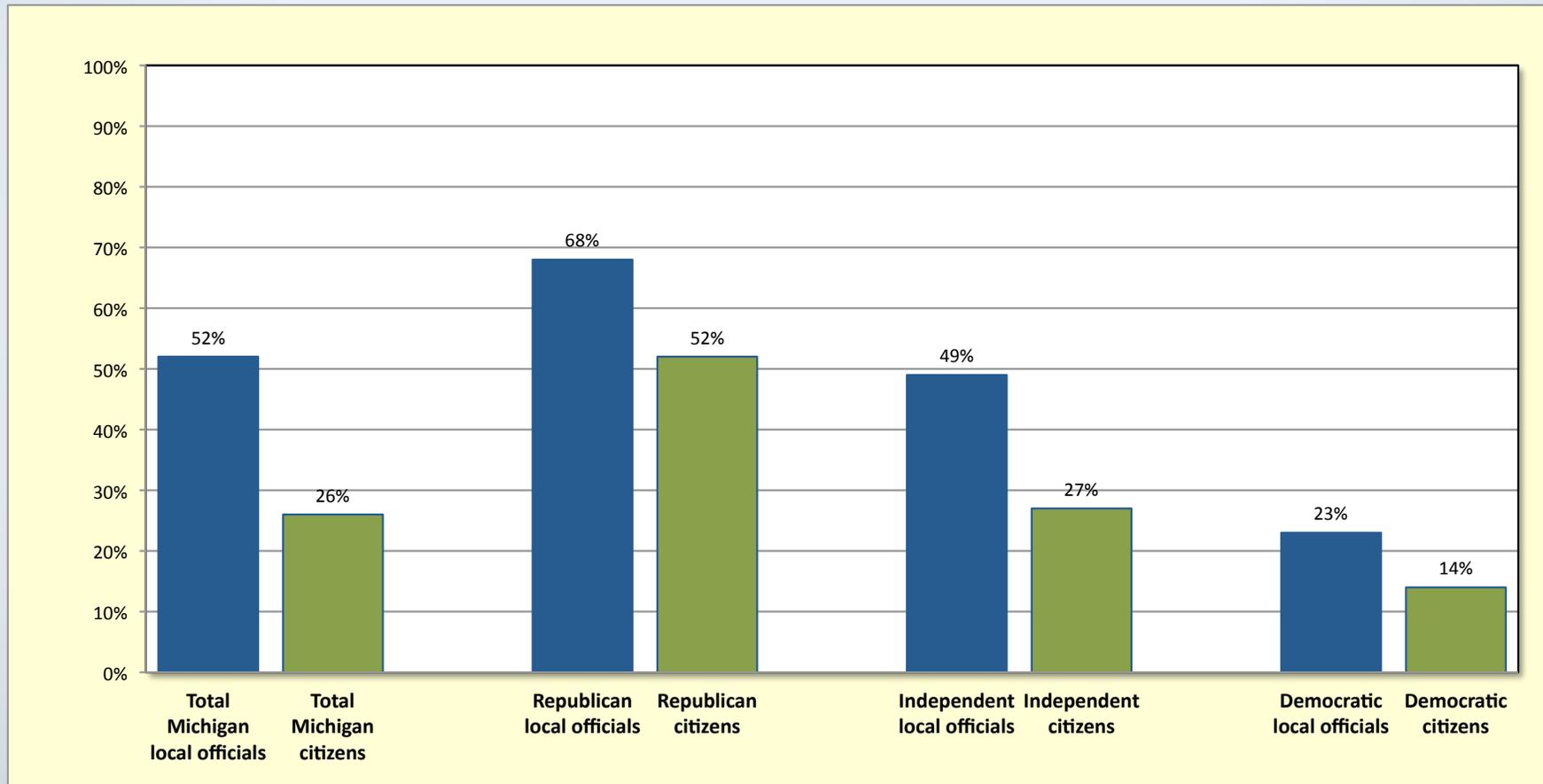
(by *party ID* of local officials)



Local officials more positive on Governor Snyder than citizens are

Percentage of local officials who say Governor Snyder's performance is **"excellent" or "good"**

(by *Spring 2018 MPPS* (officials) vs. *Winter 2017 SOSS* (citizens))

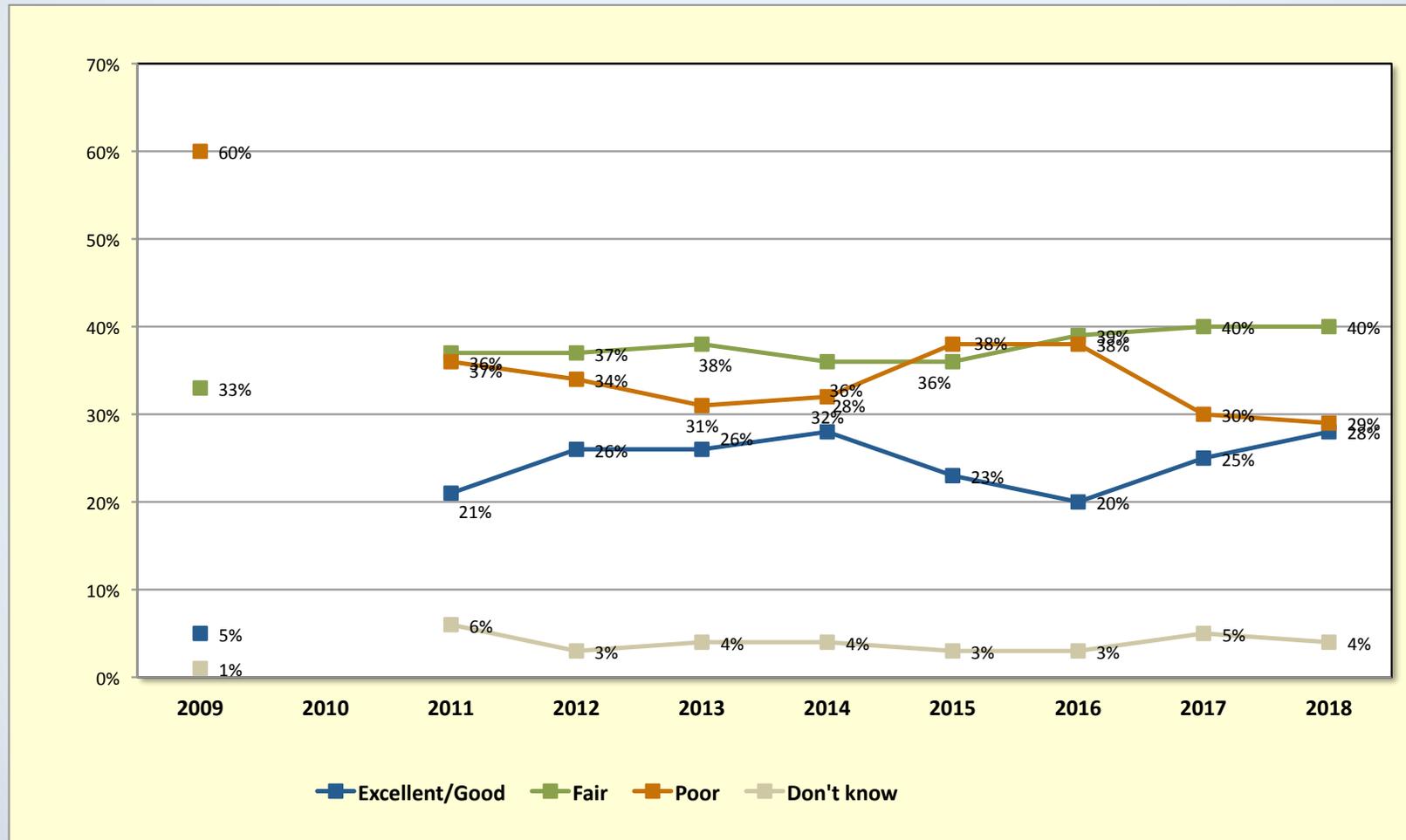


Presentation Outline

- Brief overview of CLOSUP and the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)
- Trends of local government officials' views on:
 - ✓ Whether the state of Michigan is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track
 - ✓ Governor Snyder's job performance
 - ✓ The Michigan Legislature's job performance

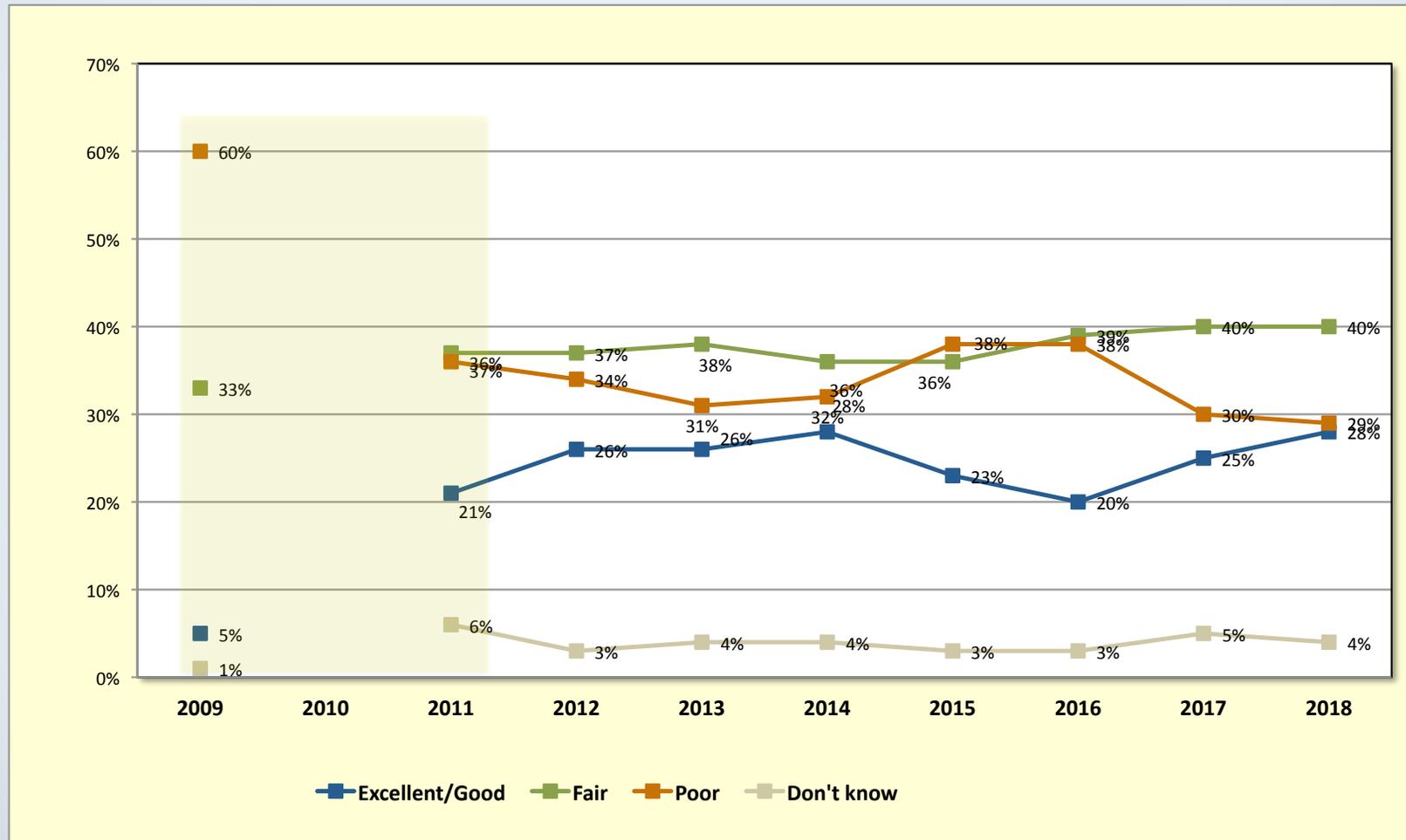
Local officials' evaluations of Legislature up, but less

How would you **rate** the way **the Michigan Legislature** is performing its job?



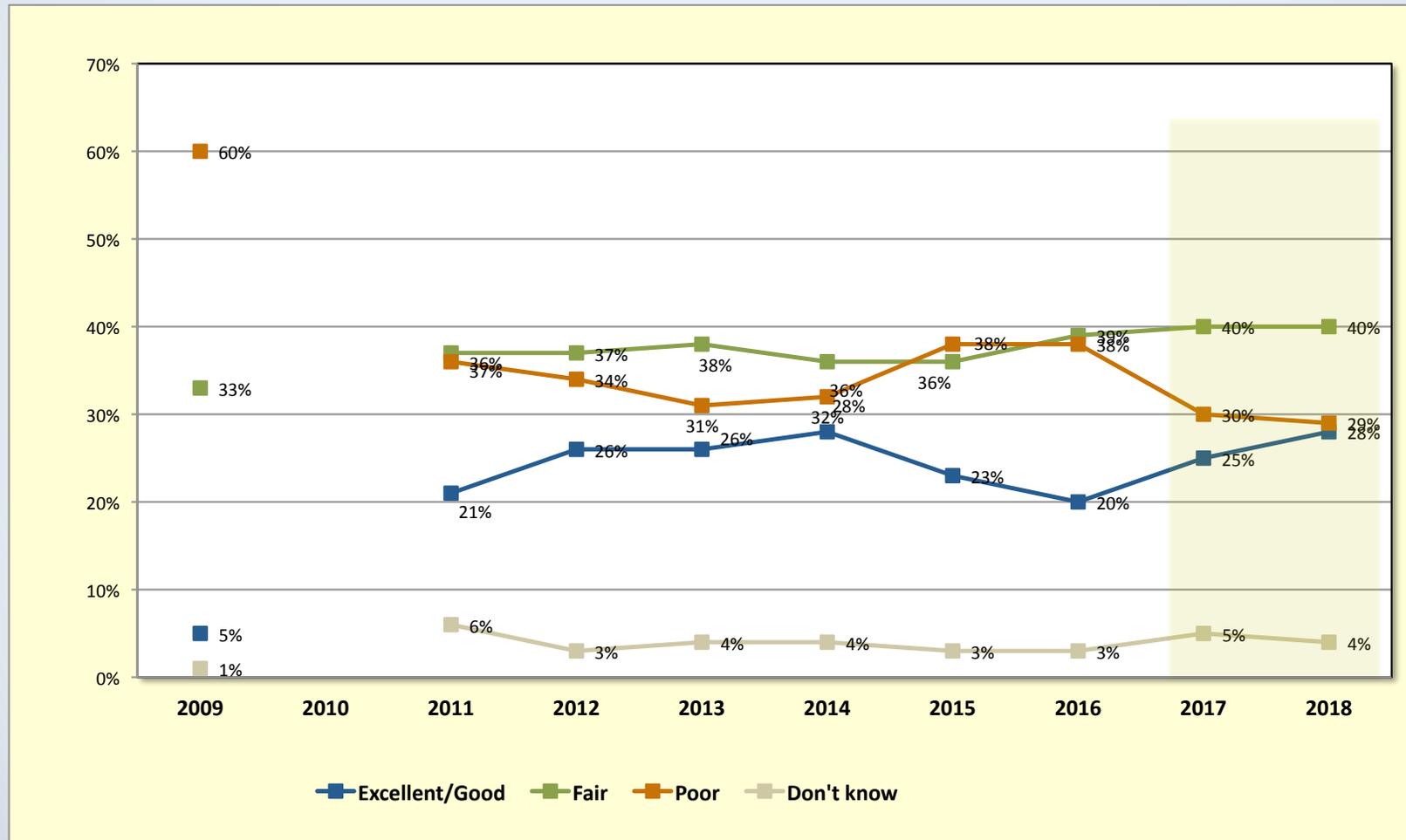
Local officials' evaluations of Legislature up, but less

How would you **rate** the way **the Michigan Legislature** is performing its job?



Local officials' evaluations of Legislature up, but less

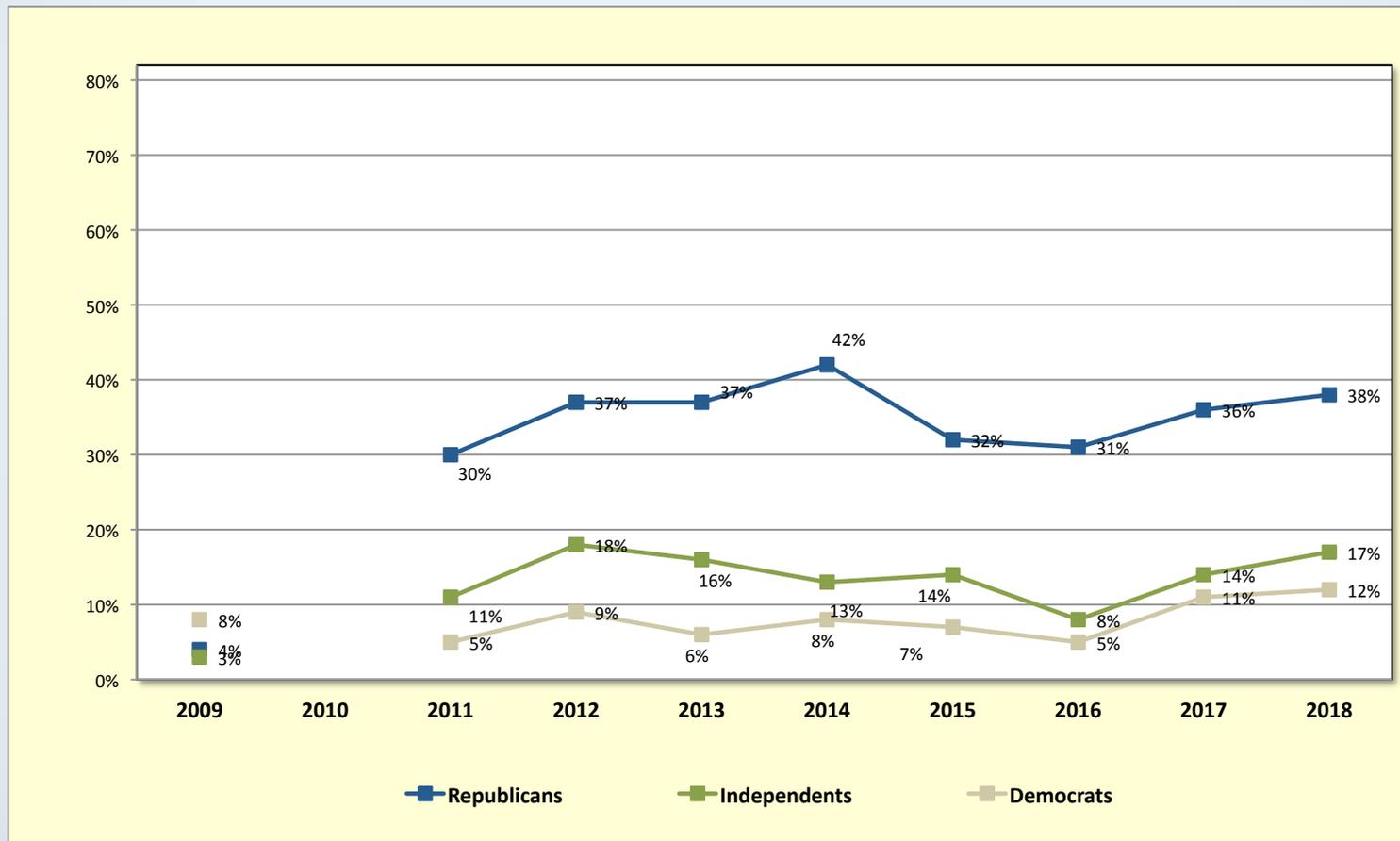
How would you **rate** the way **the Michigan Legislature** is performing its job?



Local officials' evaluations of Legislature up, but less

Percentage of local officials who say the Michigan Legislature's performance is **"excellent" or "good"**

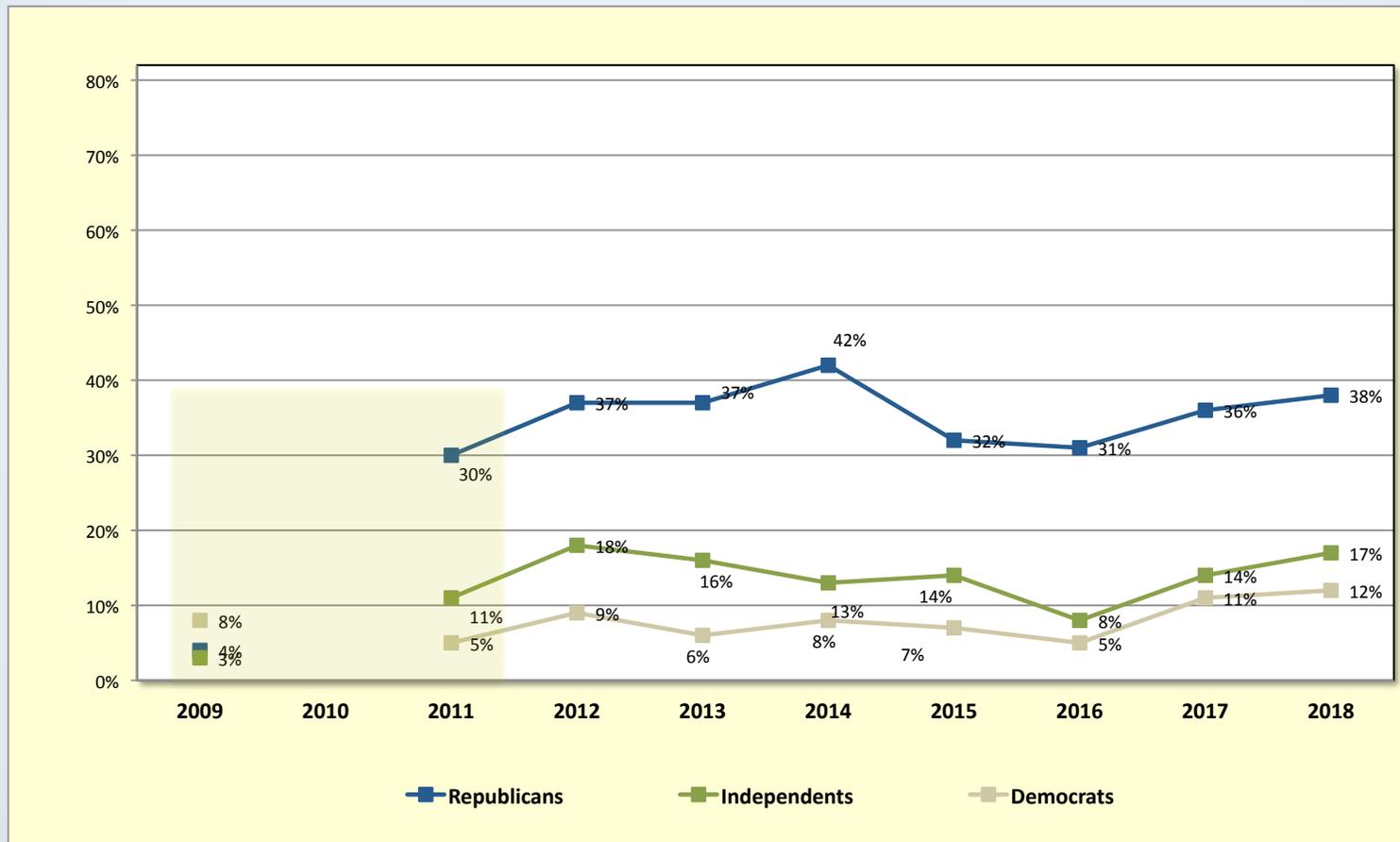
(by *party ID* of local officials)



Local officials' evaluations of Legislature up, but less

Percentage of local officials who say the Michigan Legislature's performance is **"excellent" or "good"**

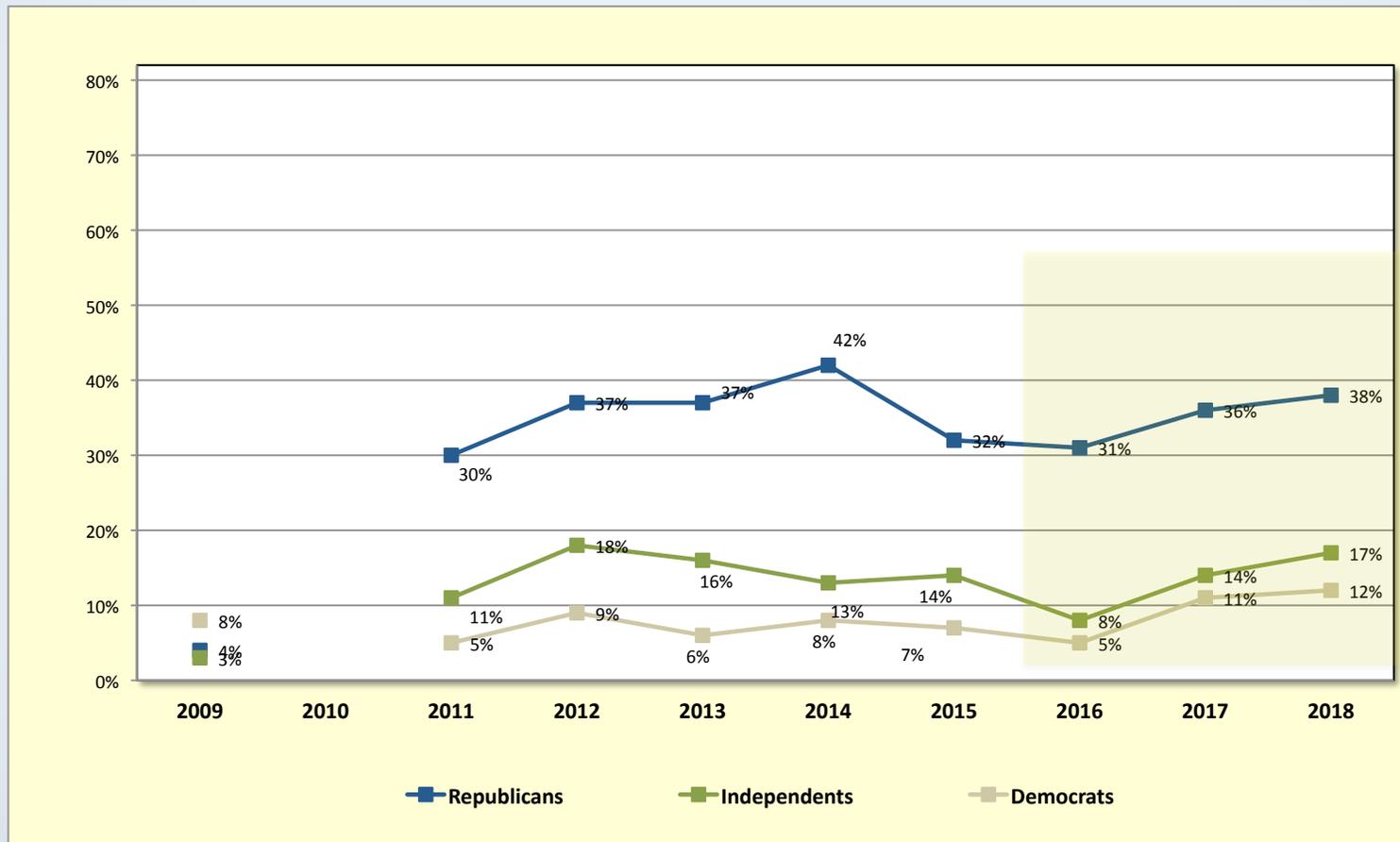
(by *party ID* of local officials)



Local officials' evaluations of Legislature up, but less

Percentage of local officials who say the Michigan Legislature's performance is **"excellent" or "good"**

(by *party ID* of local officials)



Michigan local officials' views on the state's direction, the Governor, and the Legislature

Summary

- For the second straight year, the percentage of Michigan's local leaders who are optimistic about the state's direction has increased. Statewide, over half (56%) believe Michigan is headed in the right direction, while a third (33%) say the state is off on the wrong track. Republican officials are much more likely to be optimistic.
- Local leaders' positive job approval ratings for Governor Rick Snyder have risen for the second year in row as well, to 52%. But although 68% of Republican officials say he's doing an "excellent" or "good" job, 49% of Independents and 23% of Democrats say the same.
- Performance ratings for the Michigan Legislature trail both other metrics.

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

Web: www.closup.umich.edu
Email: closup-mpps@umich.edu
Twitter: @closup