

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

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

August 20, 2018
2018 MAC-MCMCFC Annual Conference

Presentation Outline

- Brief overview of 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: 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, planning and zoning, 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

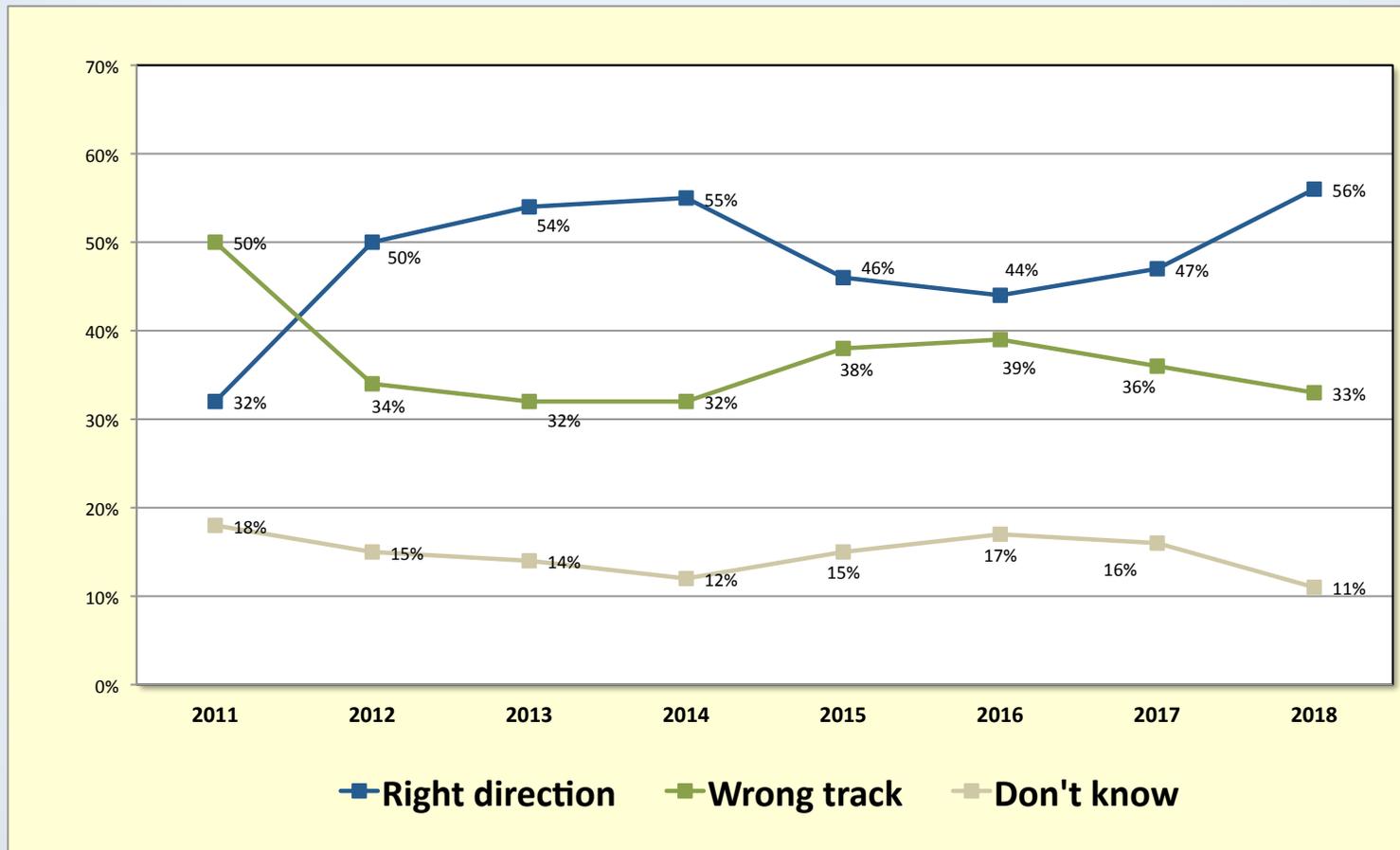
- **70+% regular response rates**
 - in Spring 2018: **78% of counties**
- **Transparency**
 - Questionnaires online
 - Pre-run data tables online
 - Sharing of (anonymized) datasets with other researchers
- **Expert advisors on questionnaire content**
- **Research partnership with Michigan local government associations**
 - MAC, MML, & MTA
- **Borrowing from other proven sources such as NLC and ICMA**

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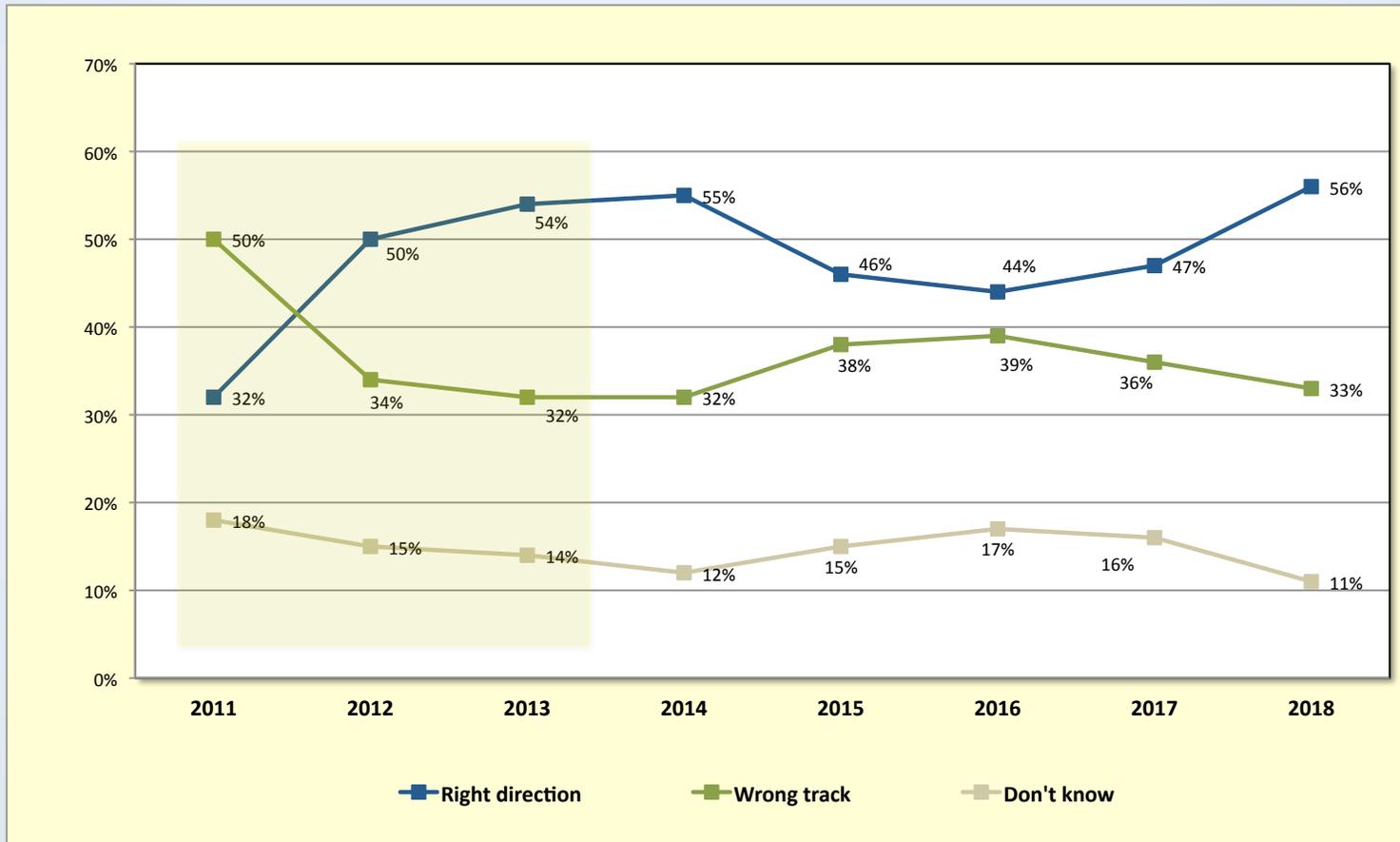
Local officials' confidence in Michigan's direction is up

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**?



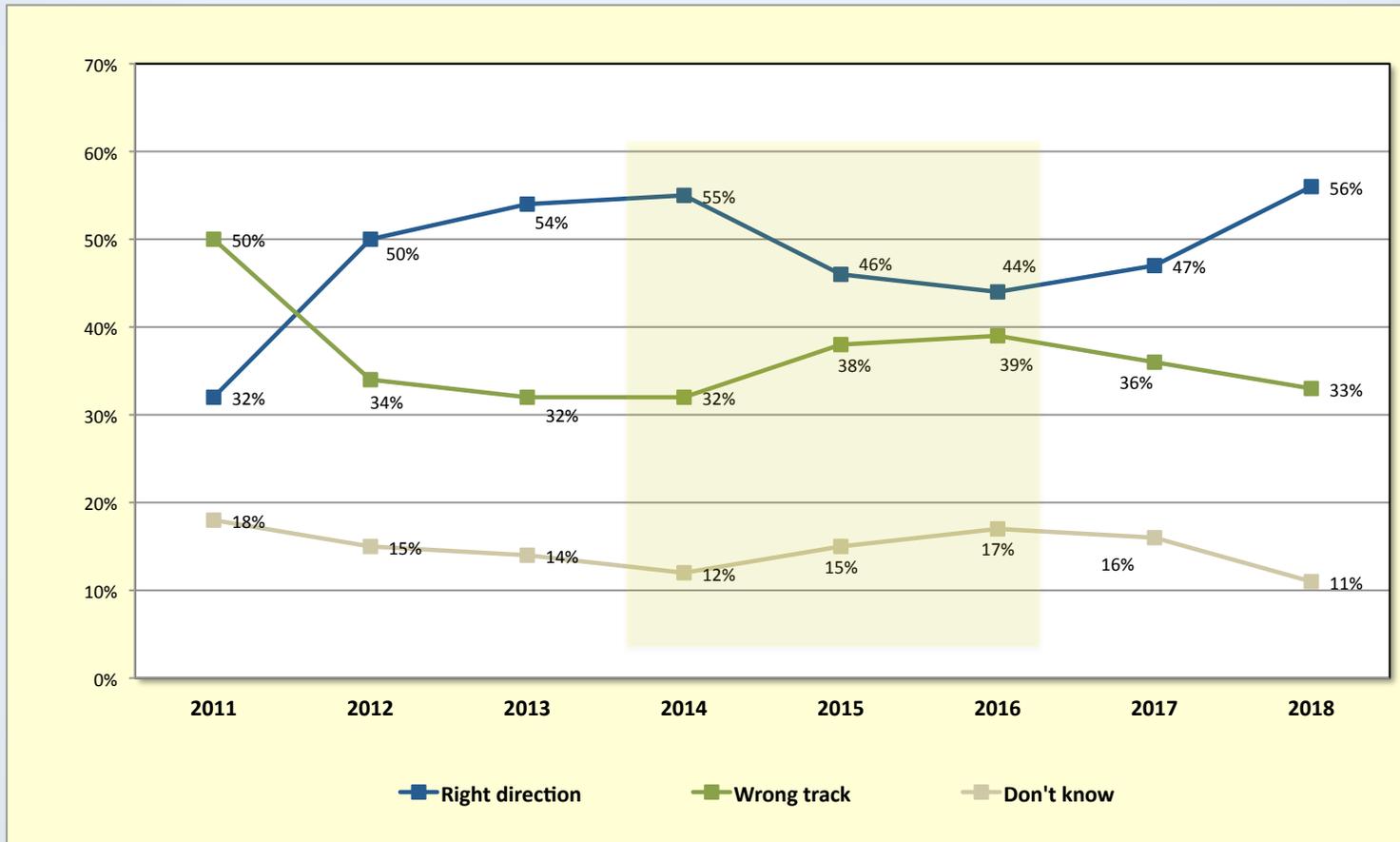
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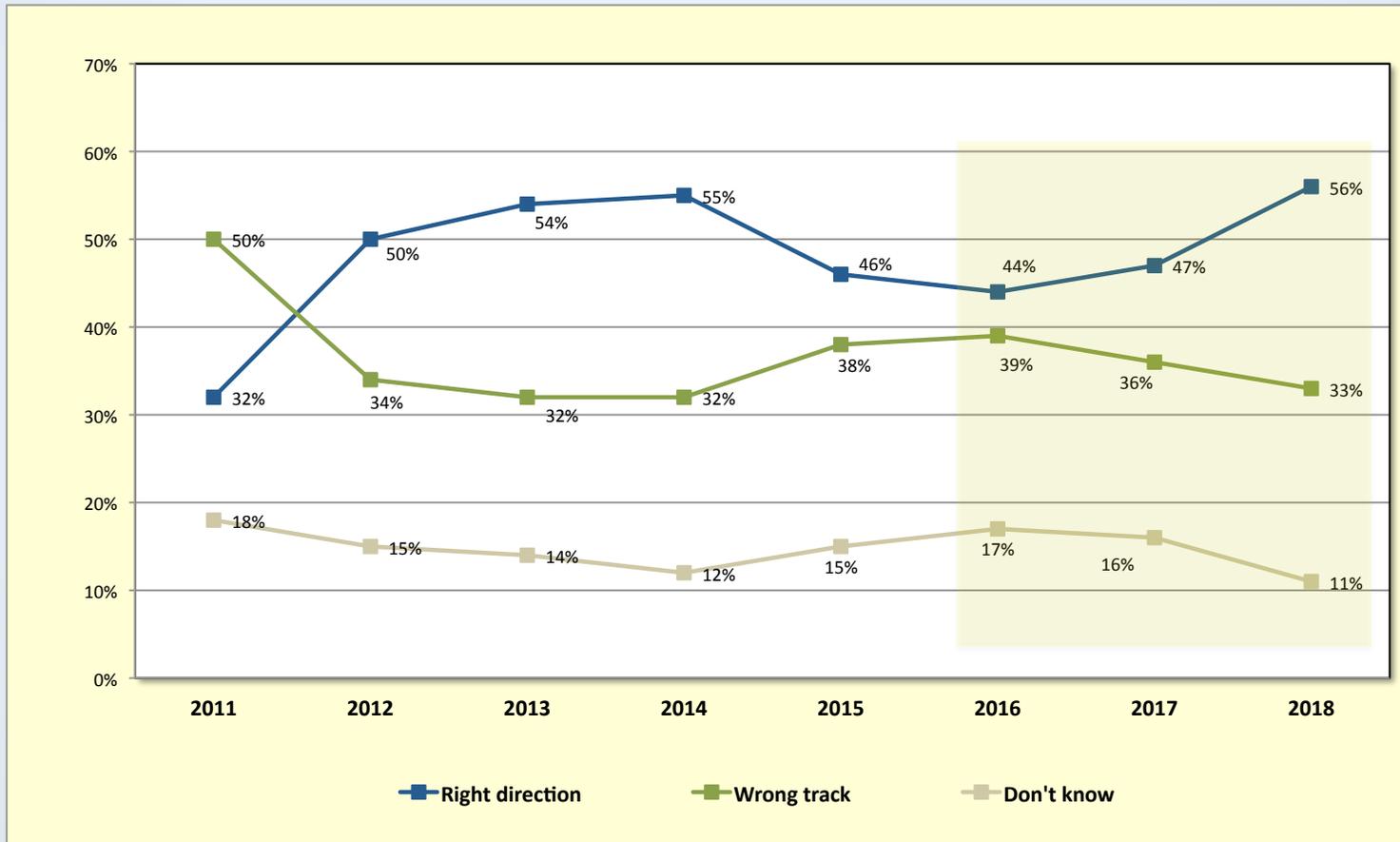
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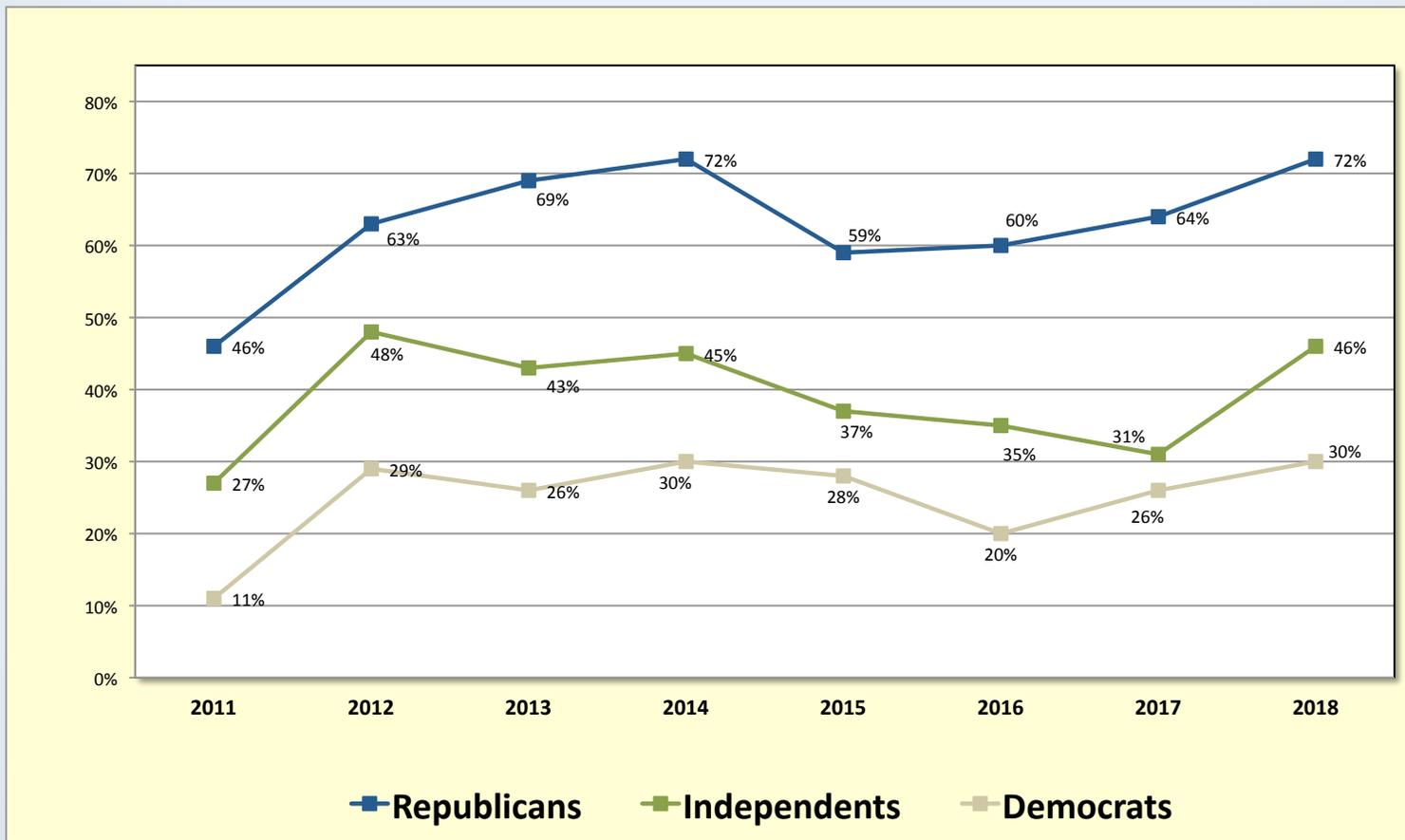
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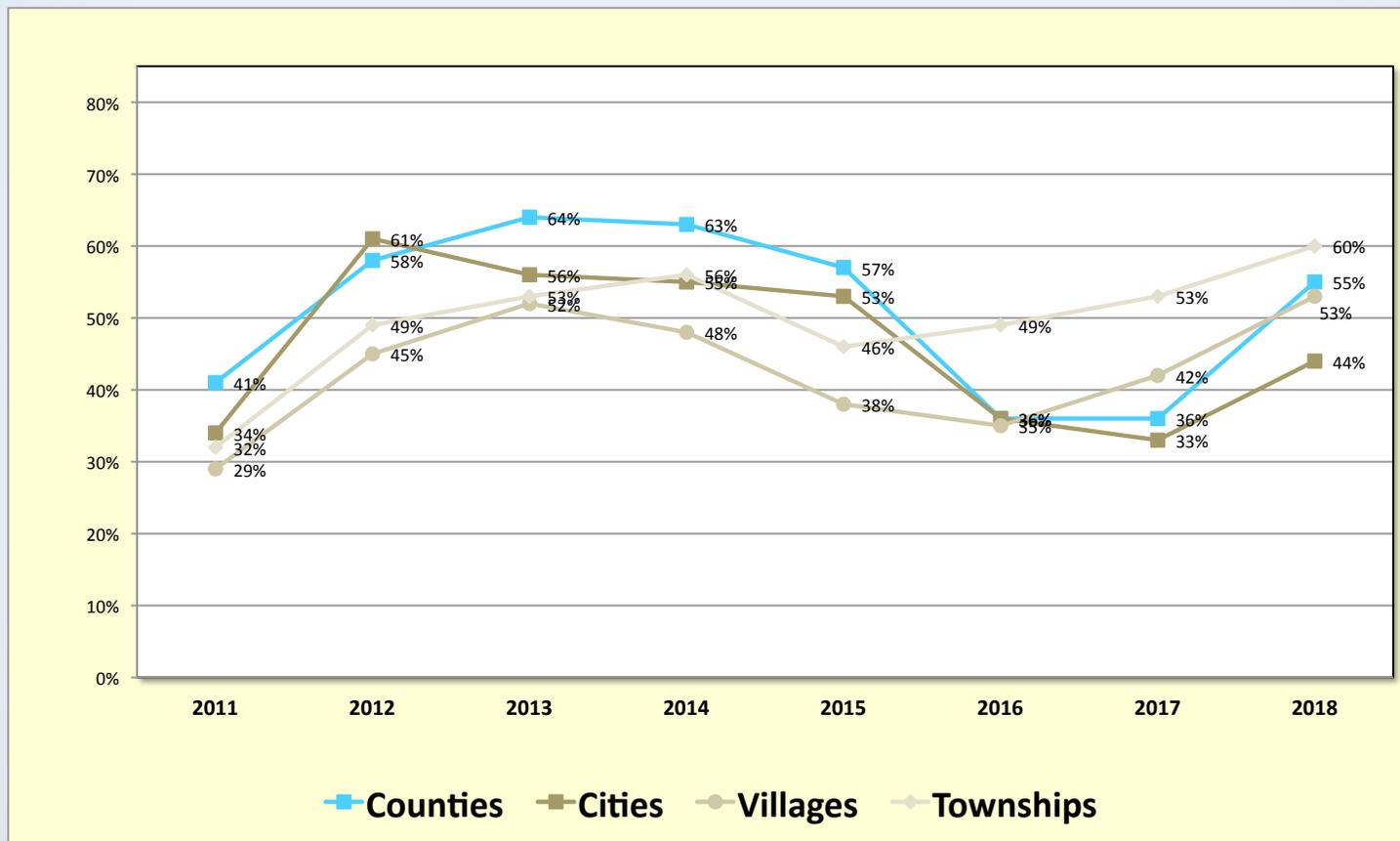
(by *party ID* of local officials)



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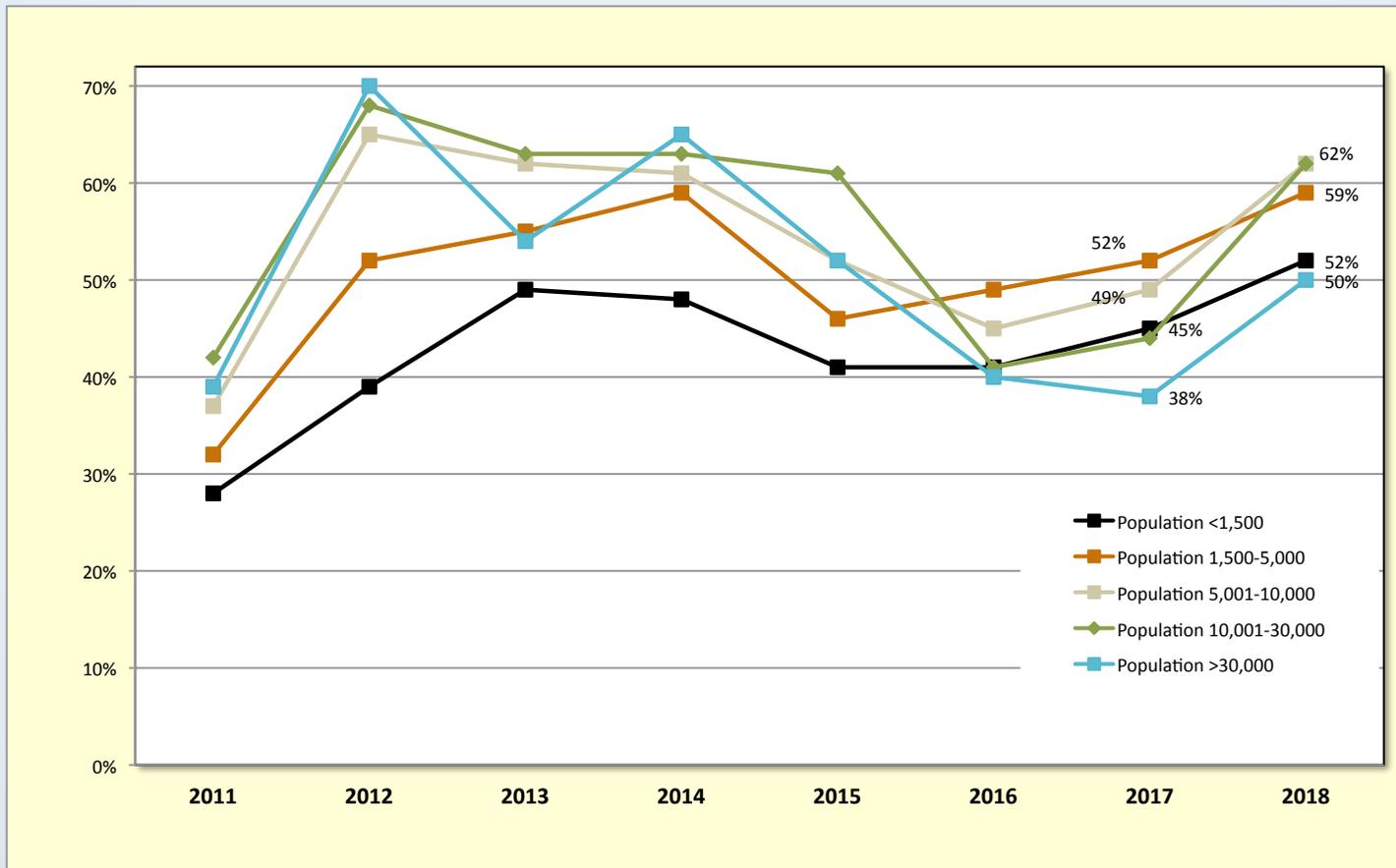
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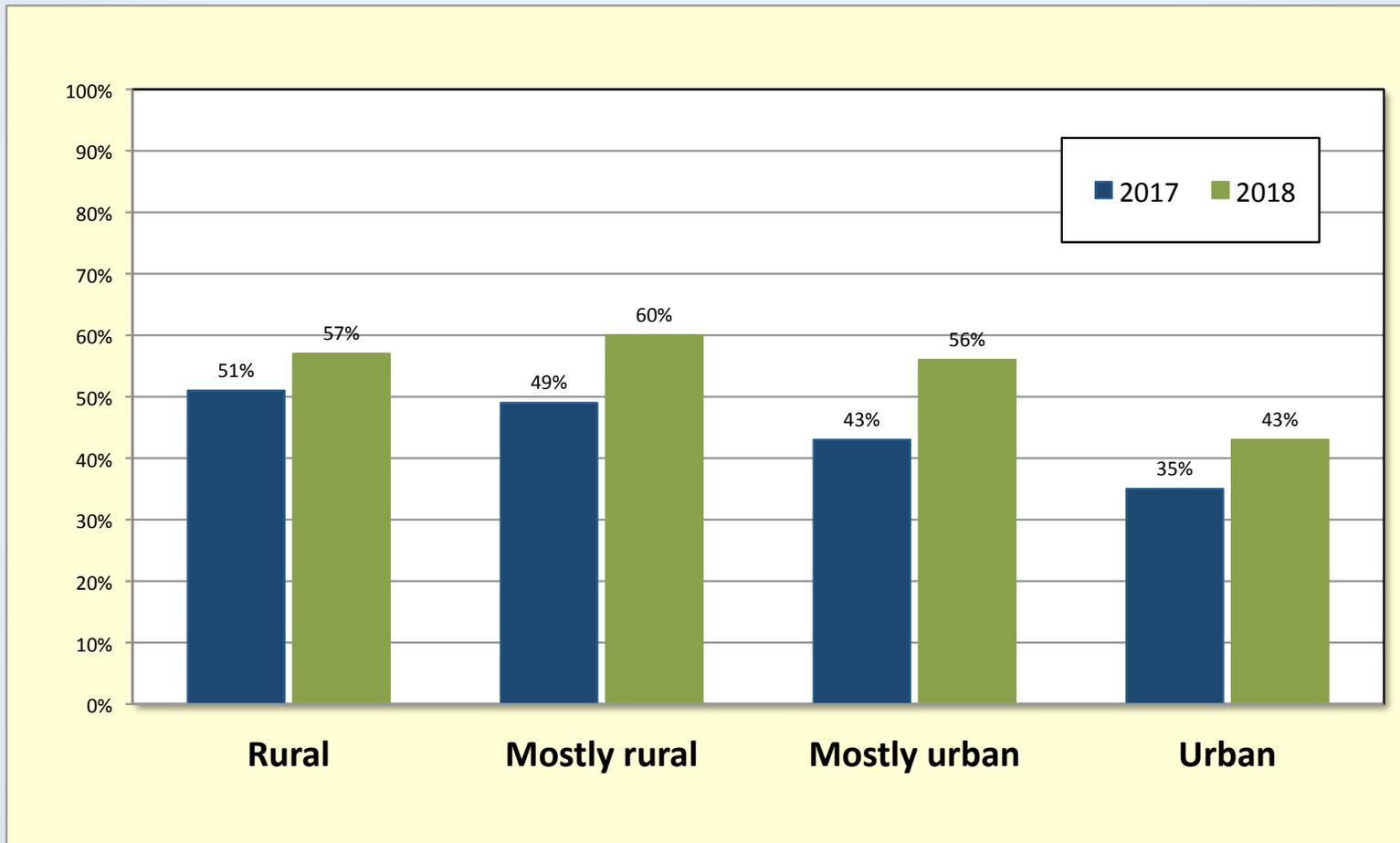
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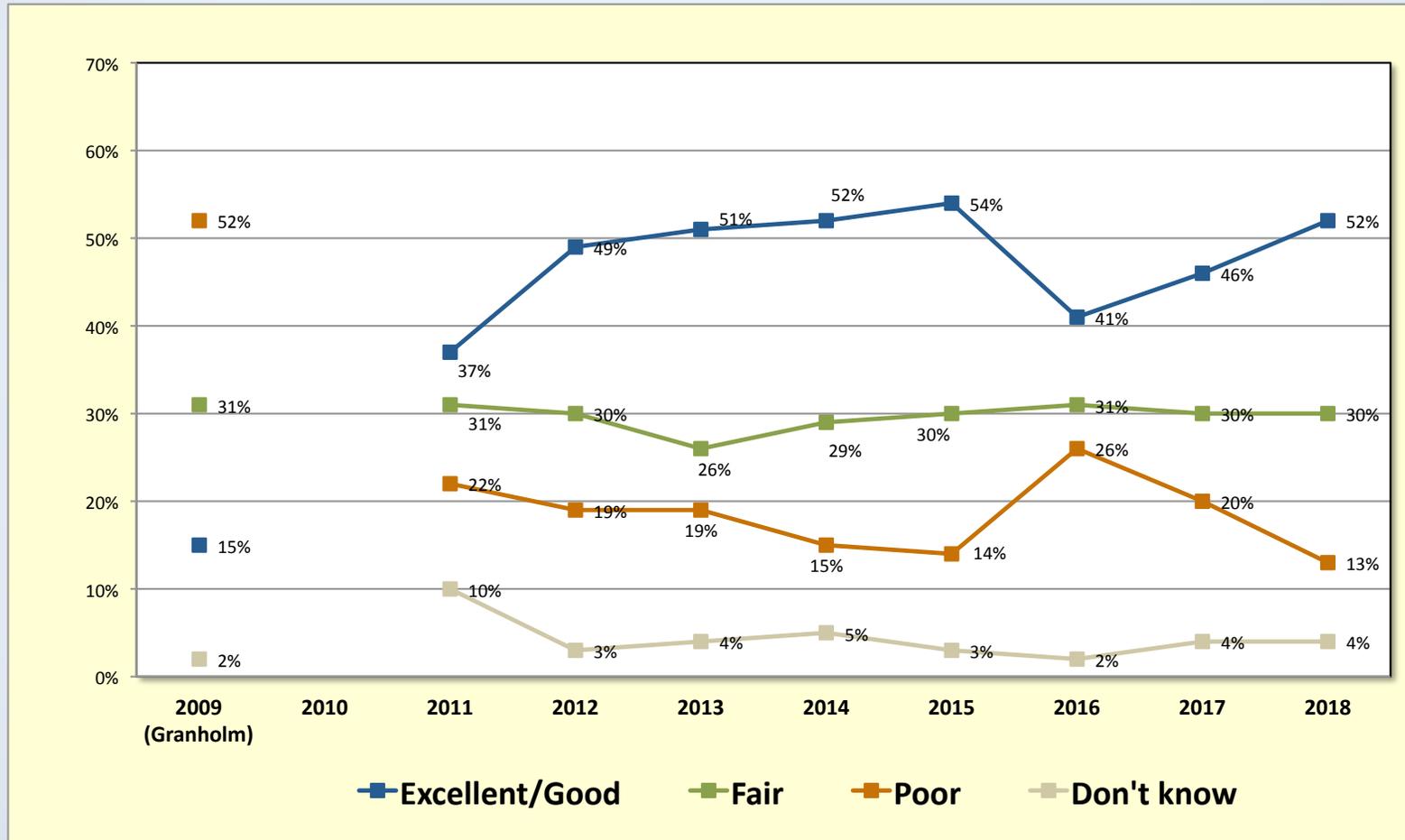


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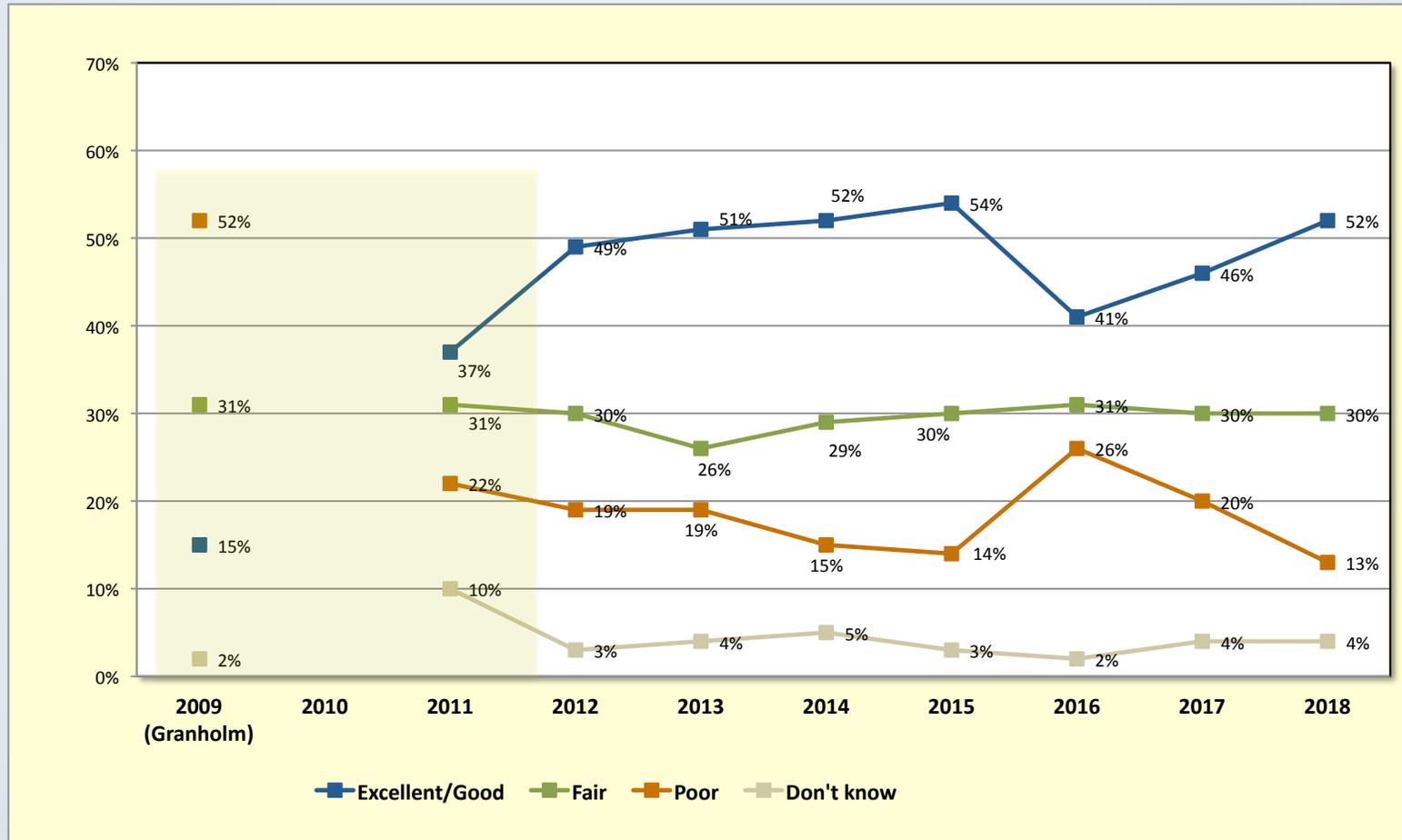
Local officials' evaluations of Governor Snyder also up

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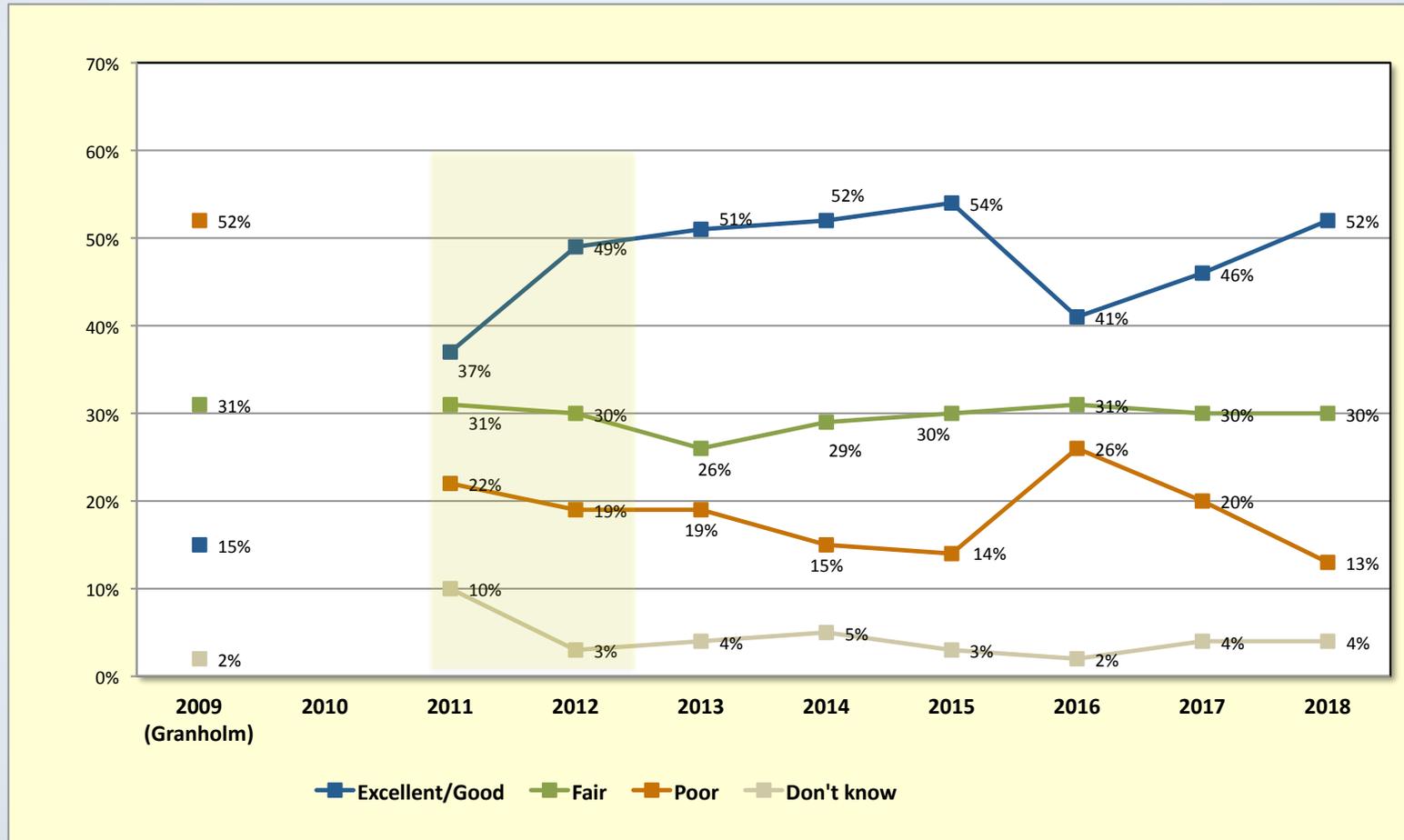
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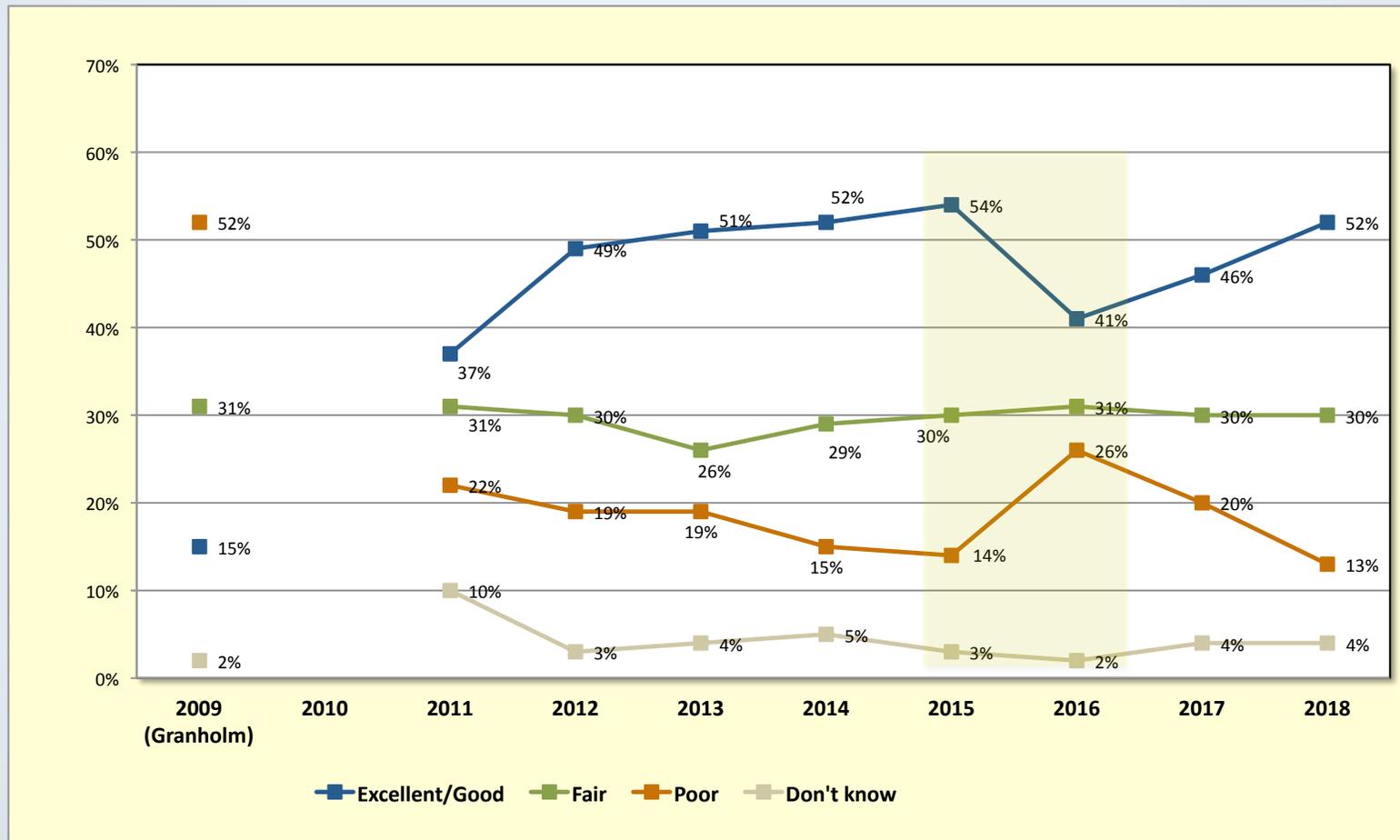
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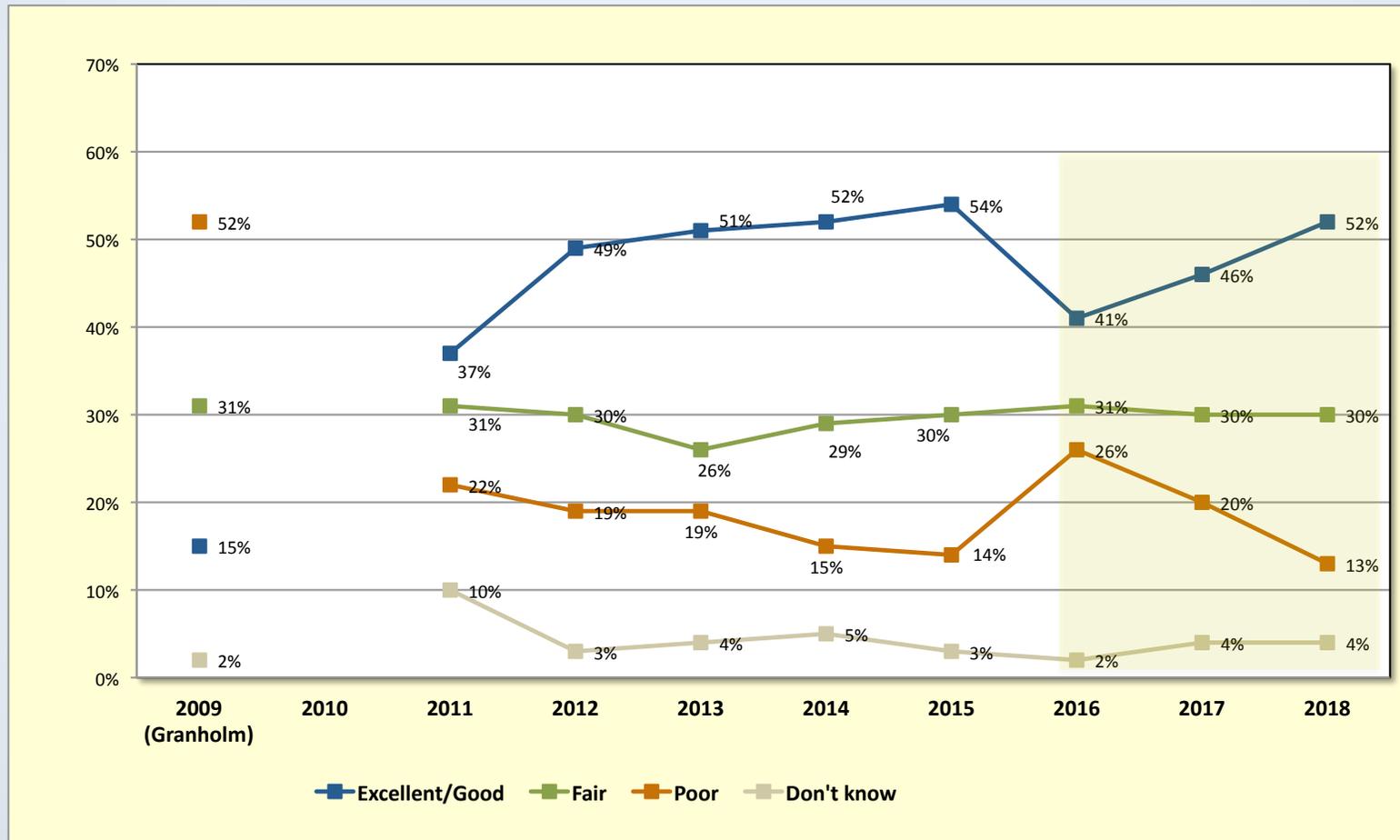
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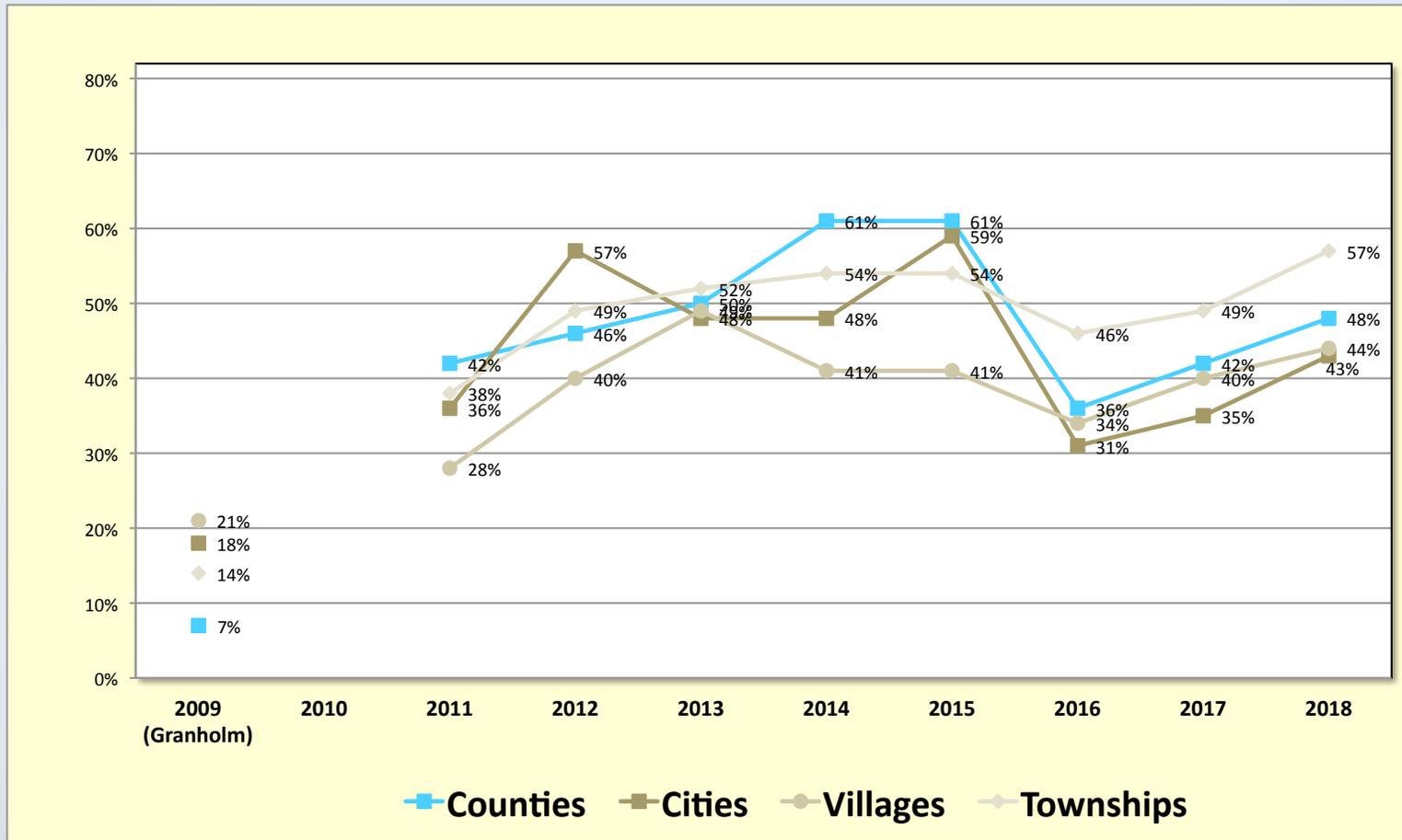
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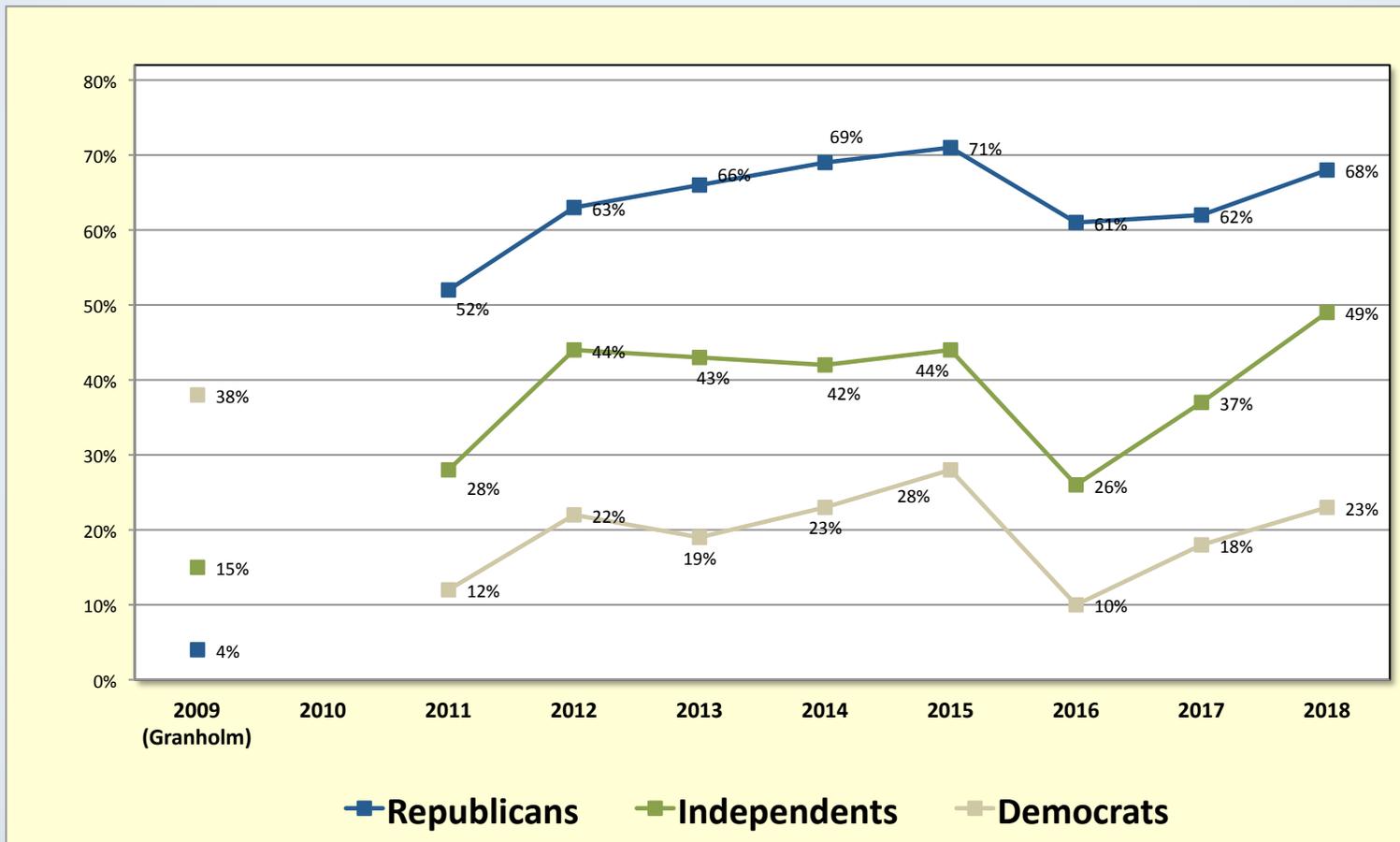
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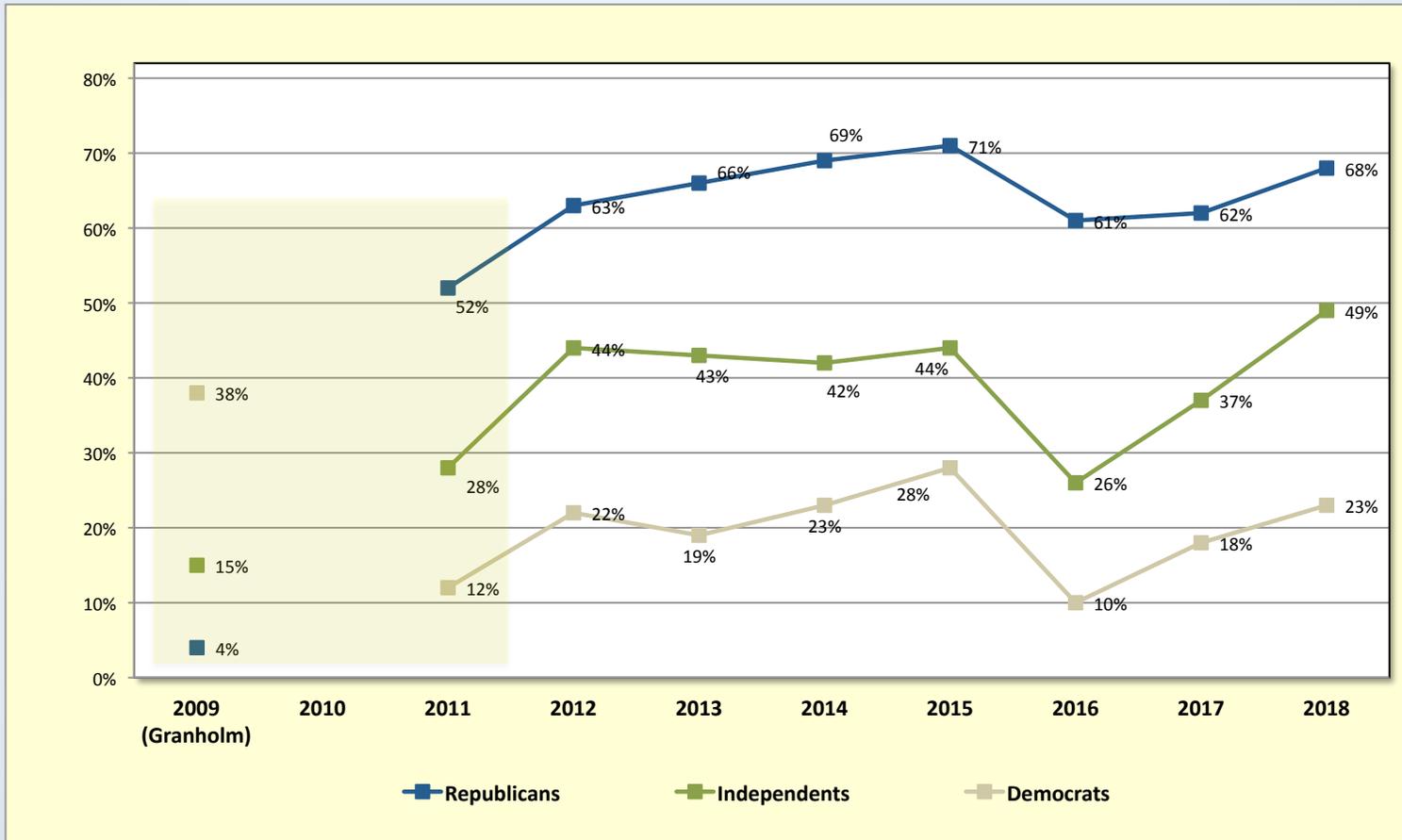
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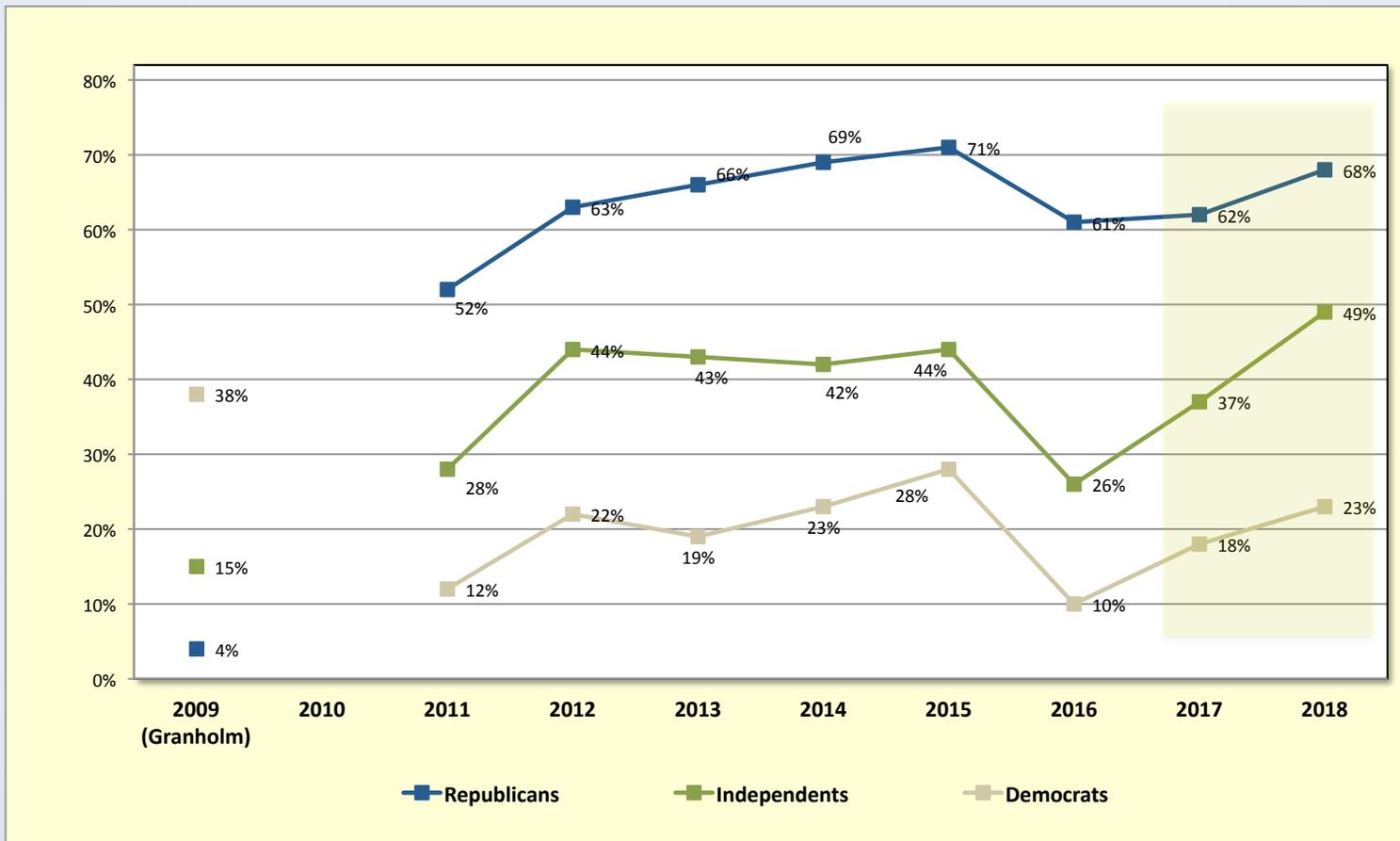
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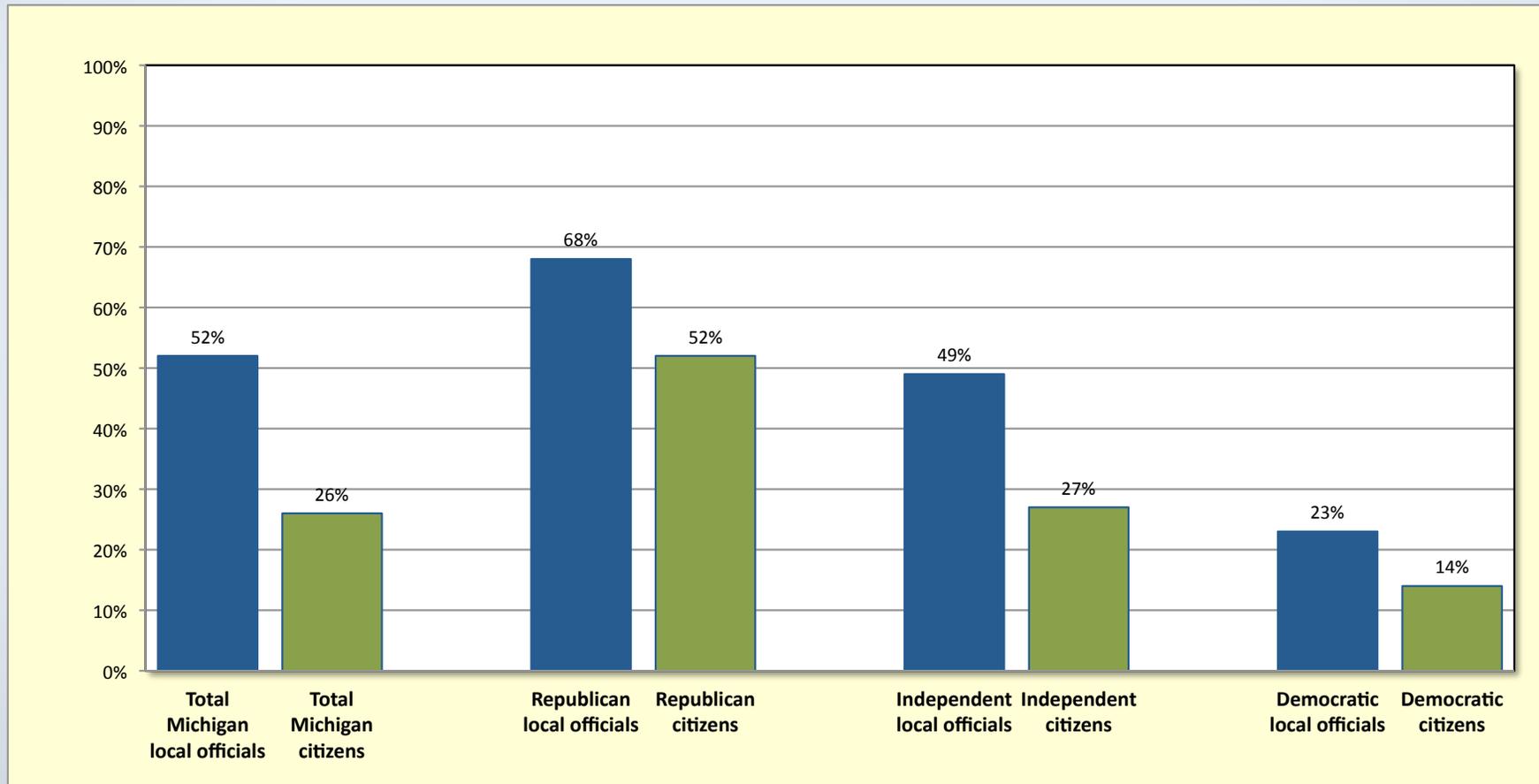
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Local officials more positive on Governor Snyder than citizens are

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

(by *2018 MPPS* (officials) vs. *2018 SOSS* (citizens))

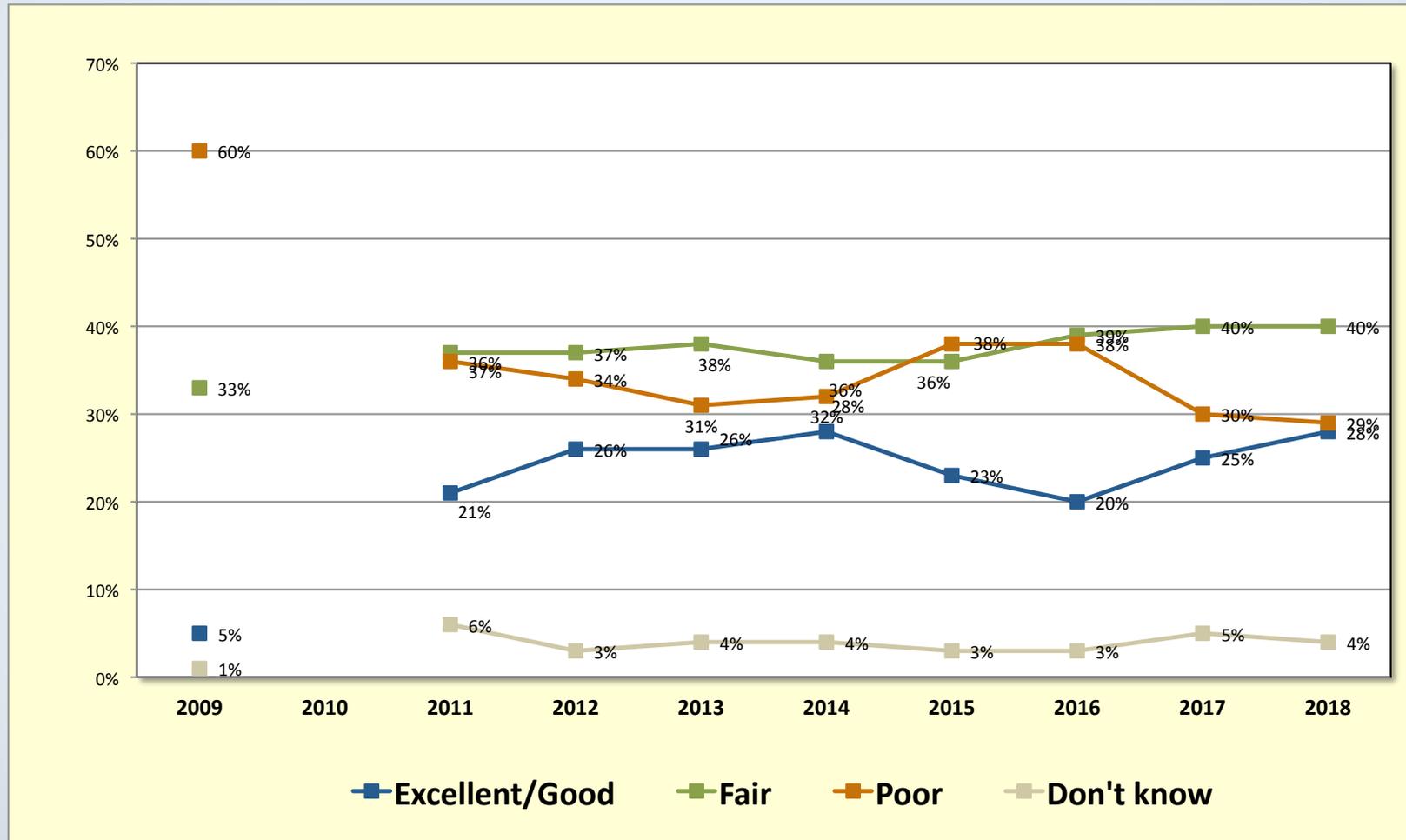


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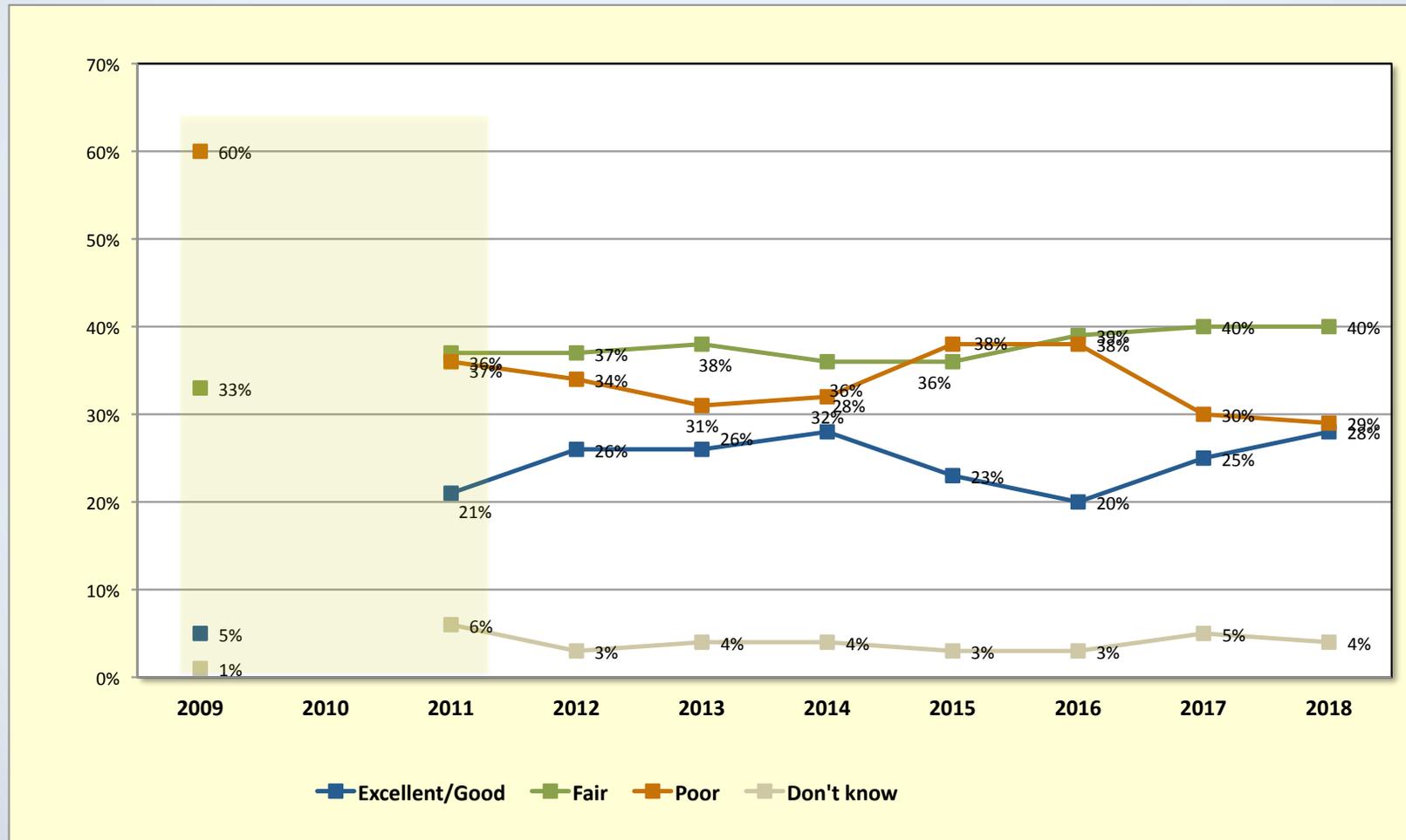
Local officials' evaluations of Legislature up, but less

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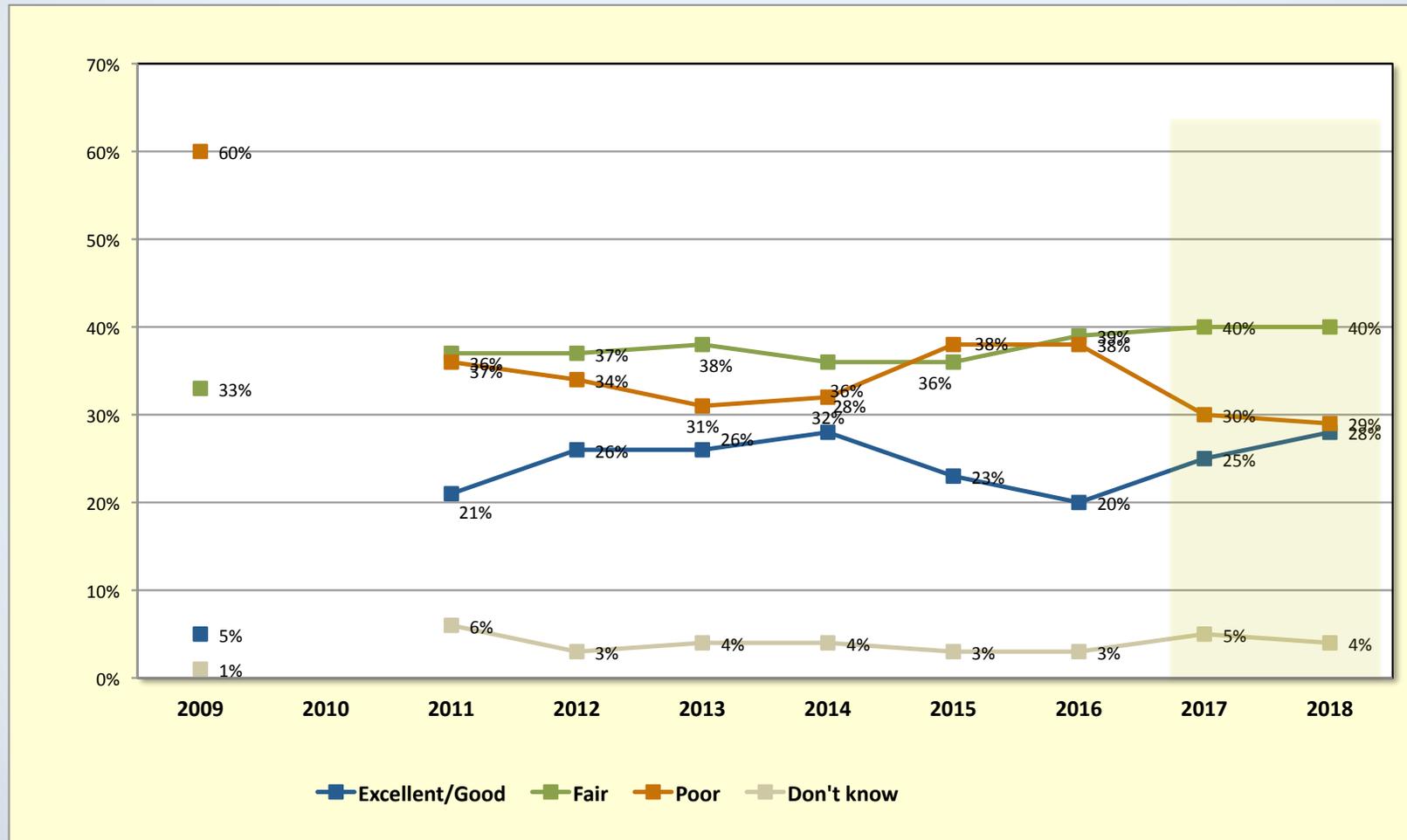
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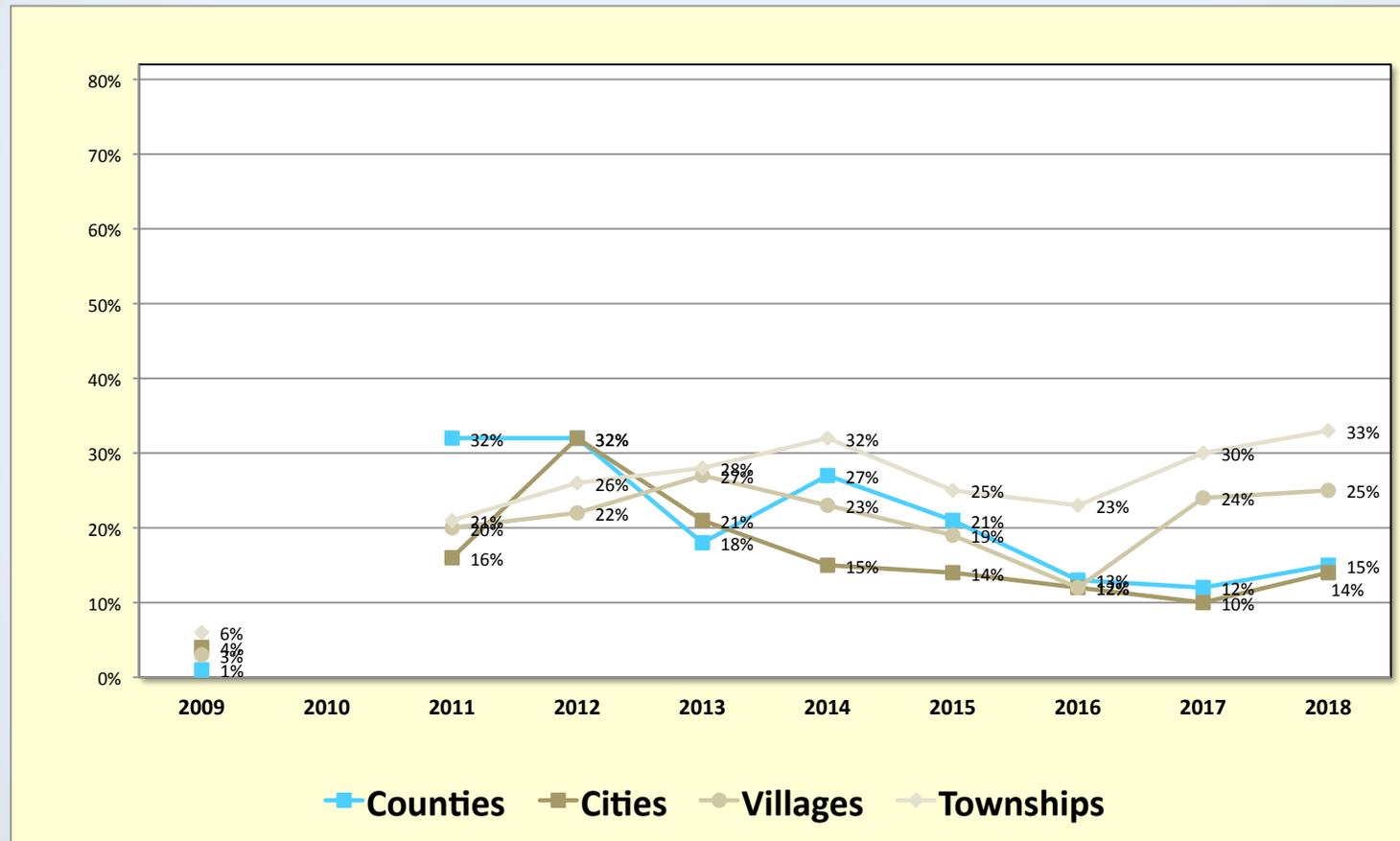
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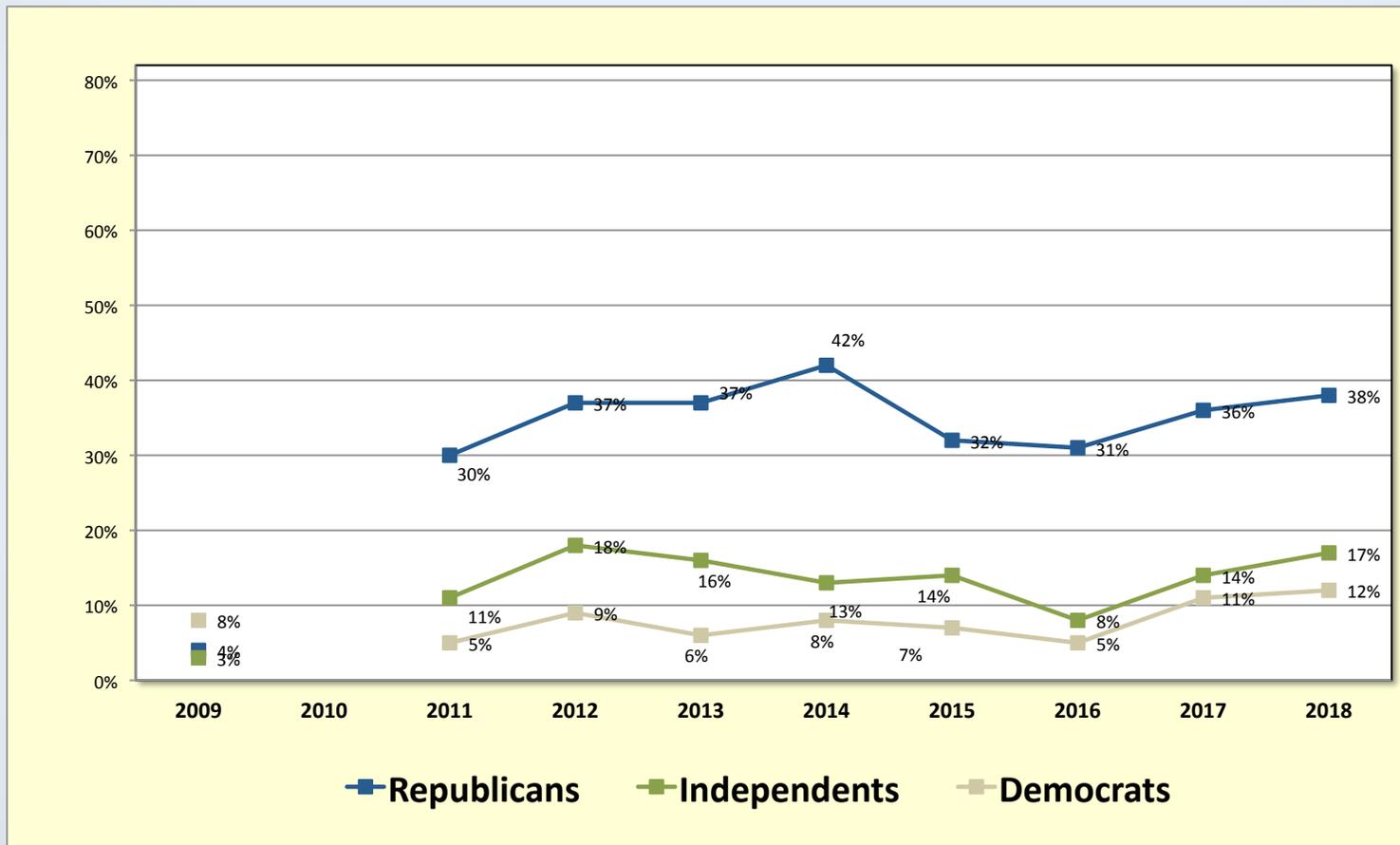
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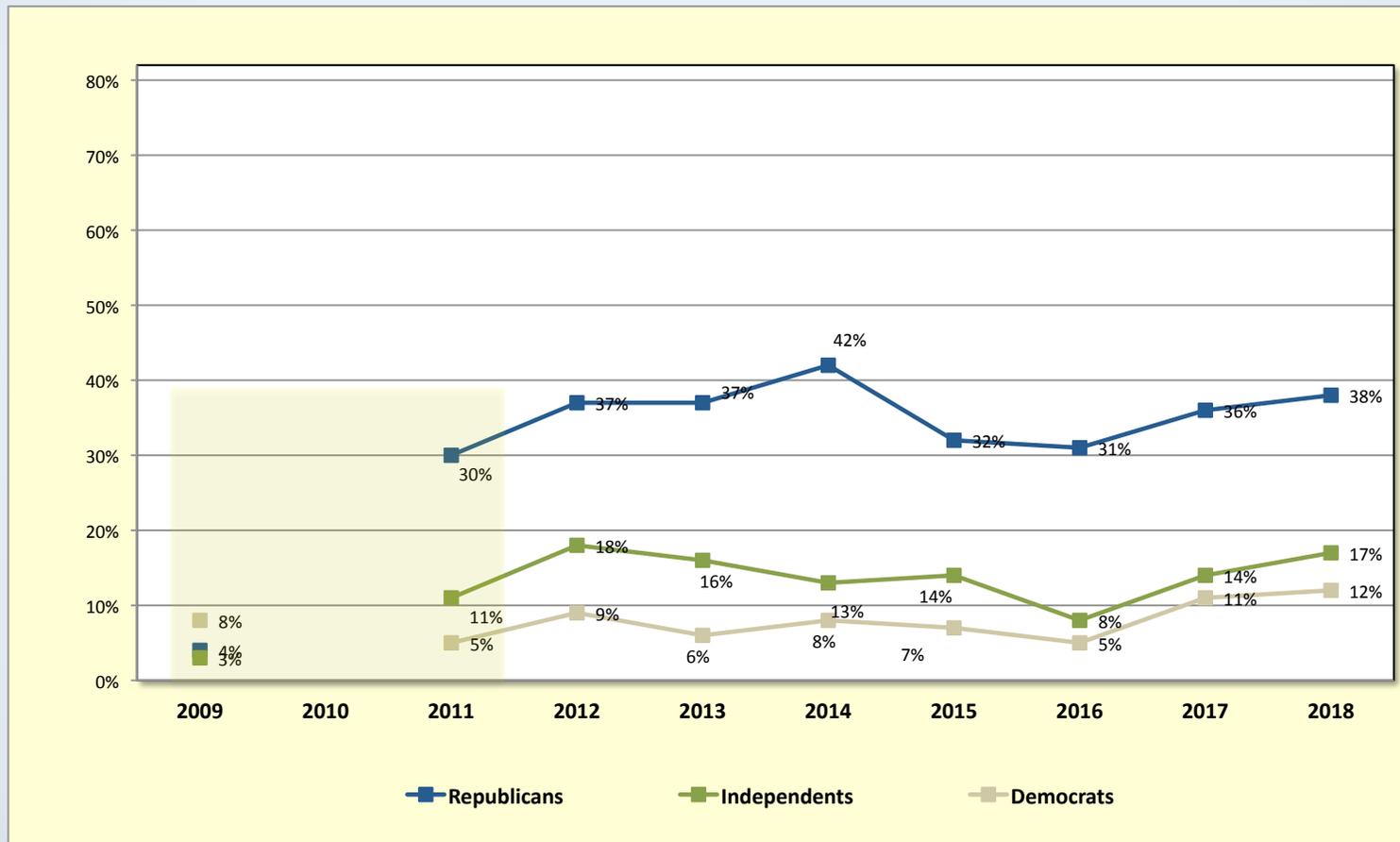
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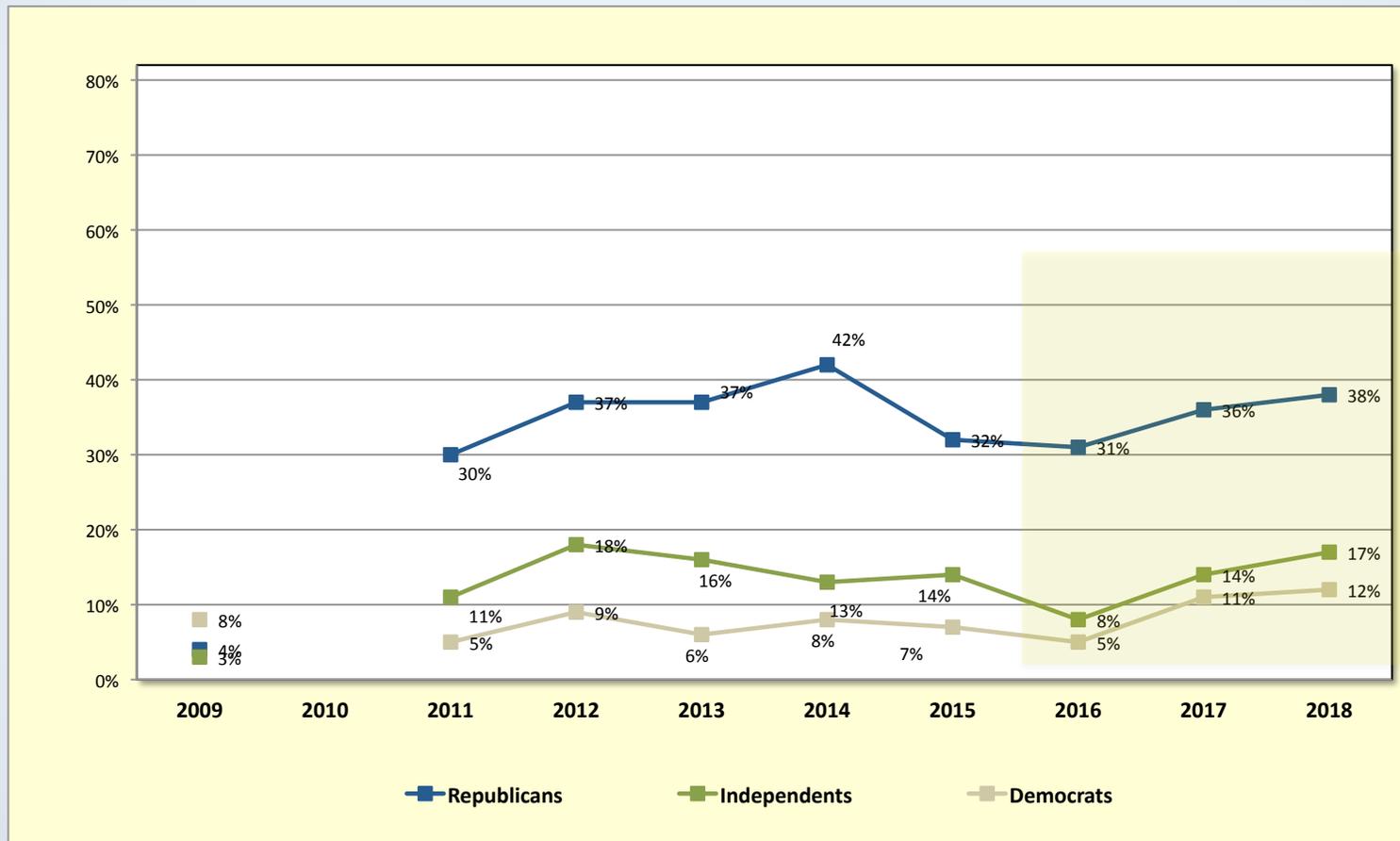
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Michigan local officials' views on the state's direction, the Governor, and the Legislature

Summary

- For the second straight year, the percentage of Michigan's local leaders who are optimistic about the state's direction has increased, with over (56%) saying Michigan is headed in the right direction (among county officials, 55%).
- Local leaders' positive job approval ratings for Governor Rick Snyder have risen for the second year in row as well, to 52% (and 48% among county officials). 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 (15% of county officials rate it positively).

What else does the MPPS have to offer?

- Upcoming reports from the Spring 2018 wave:
 - ✓ Local government fiscal health
 - ✓ Medical marijuana regulation
 - ✓ Local poverty issues and policies
 - ✓ Intra-governmental relationships on elected Boards and with staff
- Customized data analysis
- Looking for your input on future survey topics

The Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS)

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