

THE CANADA  
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THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO

*Moving Closer or Drifting Apart?*  
Assessing The State Of Public Opinion On  
The U.S.-Canada Relationship

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# Overview of Presentation



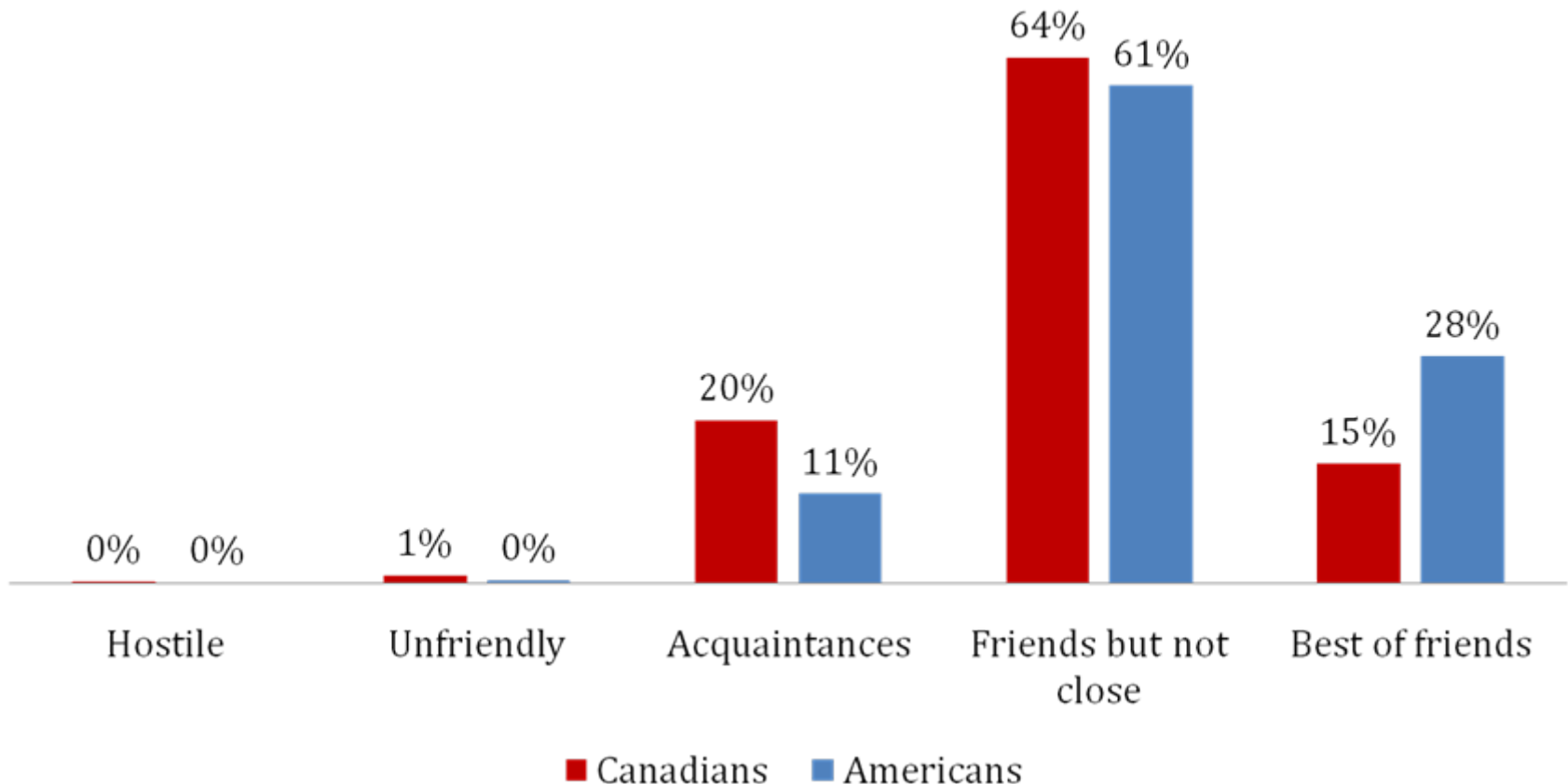
- Views on US-Canada relations and integration
- Most important policy issues facing the relationship
- Exploring opinion on three issues
  - Free trade
  - Border security
  - Environment
- Summary Measures: Net Demand, Net Performance and Net Influence
- Implications and Conclusion

# The Nature of the US-Canada Relationship



# Views on the Canada-US Relationship

## Descriptions of Canada-US Relationship



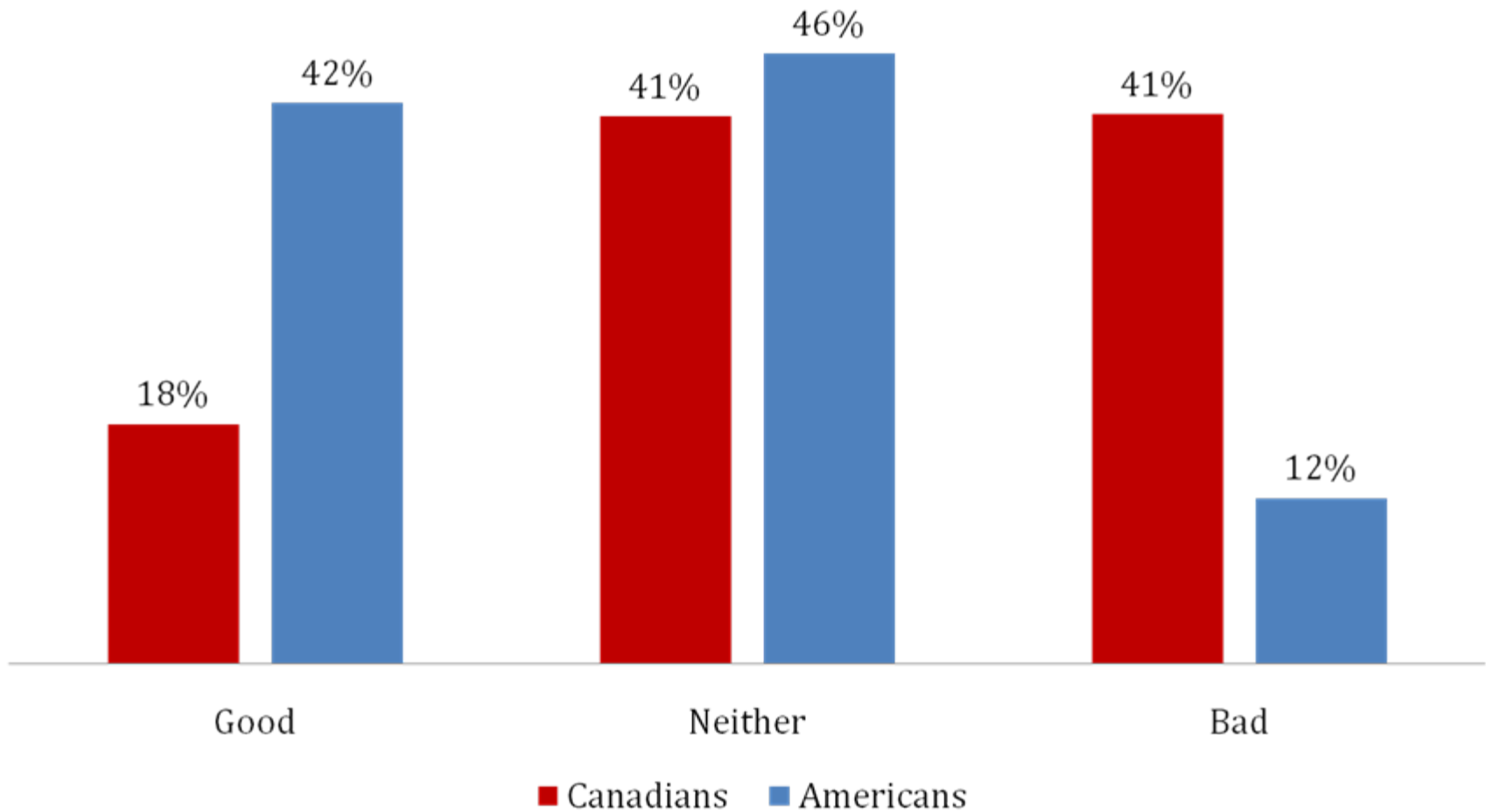
# US-Canada Relations: Past and Future

- 27% of Canadians reported the relationship over past 5 years had “gotten worse” compared to 12% of Americans
- 31% of Canadians and 25% of Americans think the relationship will get better over the next 5 years
- In both cases: a majority of respondents think relationship has and will stay about the same
  - But more Canadians have firm opinions

# Familiarity and Integration

- Canadians are more familiar with the US
- Social: many Canadians have family and friends living in the US
  - 75% of Americans have no family/friends in Canada
- Personal: 32% of Americans have never visited Canada, compared to only 5% of Canadians
- Economic: 17% of Canadians think their incomes are very dependent on US, compared to 2% of Americans

# Evaluations of Canada-US Integration



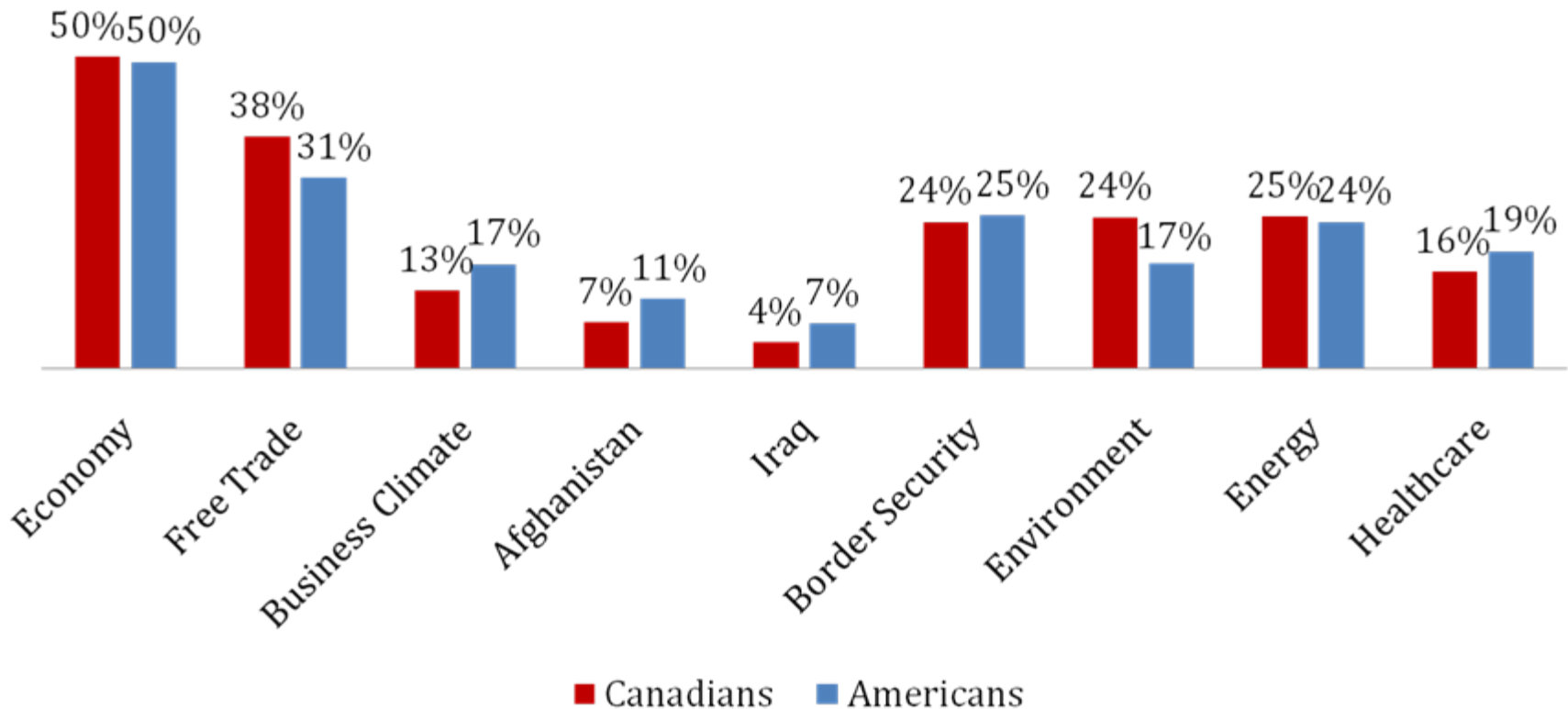


# Views on Future Integration

- 21% of Canadians would like to see more integration while 24% want less
- 41% of Americans would like to see more integration and only 6% prefer less integration
- Critical views of relationship do not dampen support for maintaining current relationship or improving it

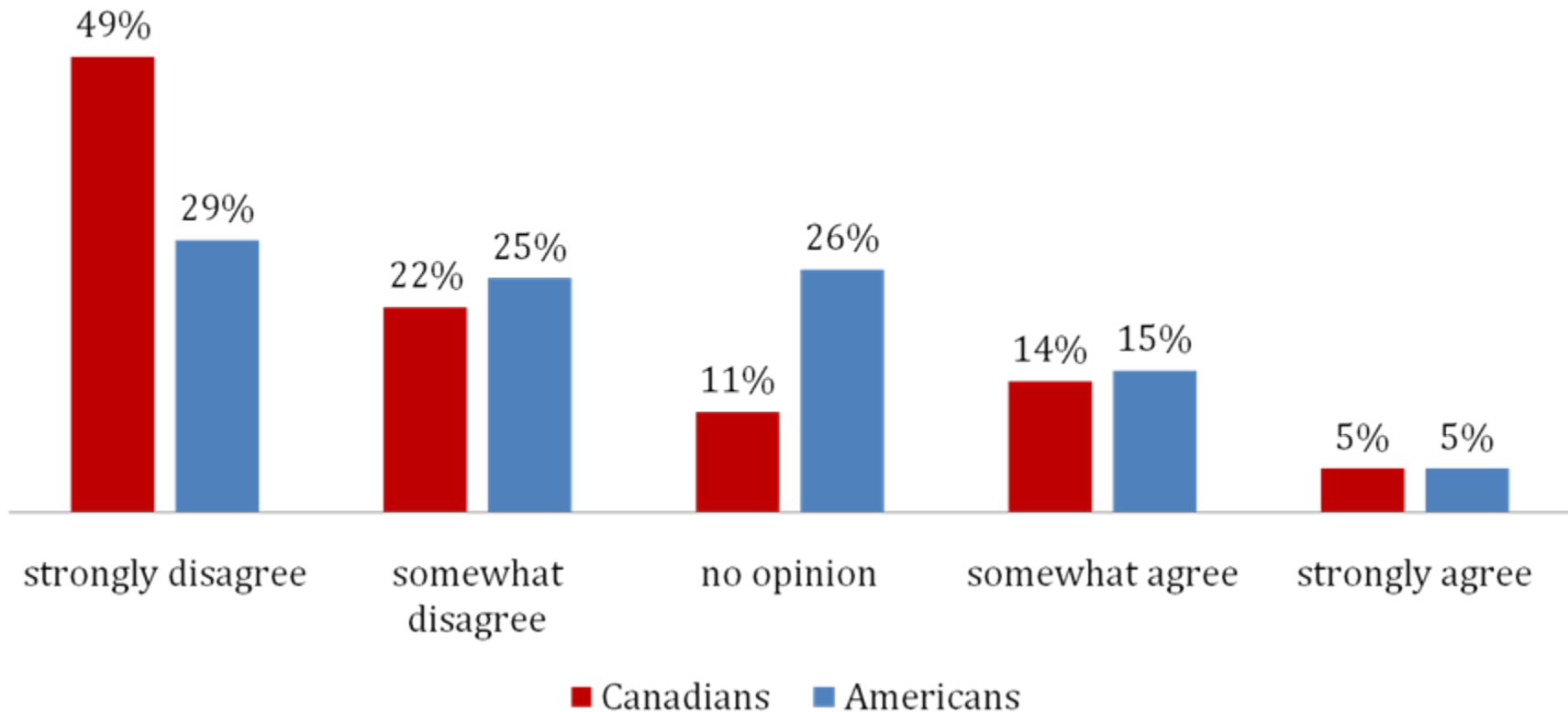
# Policy Issues Facing the Relationship

**Most Important Issue Facing Canada-US Relations  
(1st and 2nd mentions)**



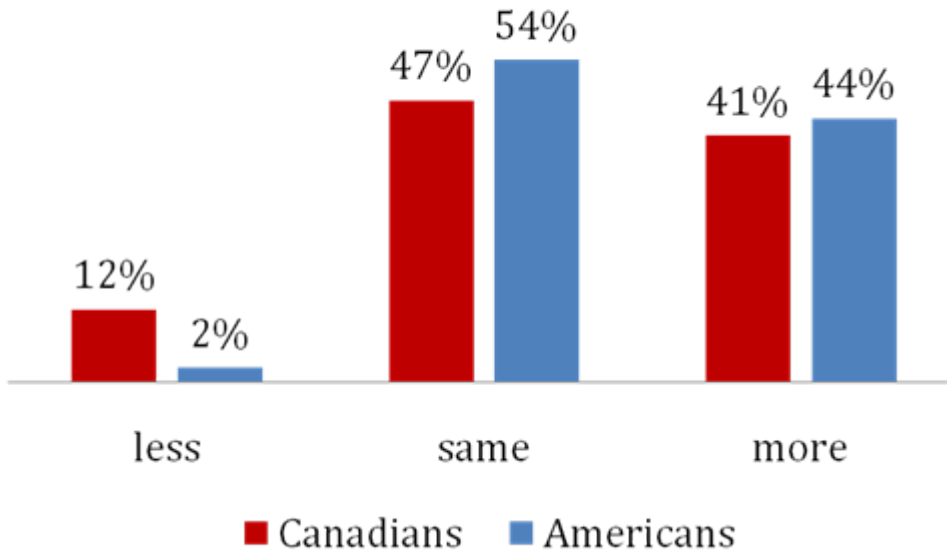
# What does 'Free Trade' mean?

## Free Trade Means Unrestricted Access to Resources

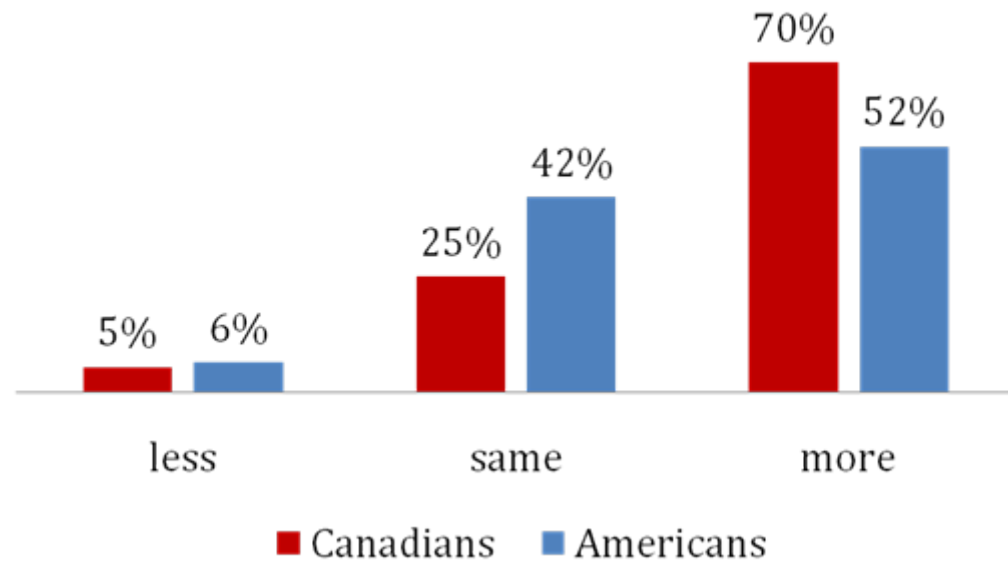


# Free Trade

## How much should Canada do?

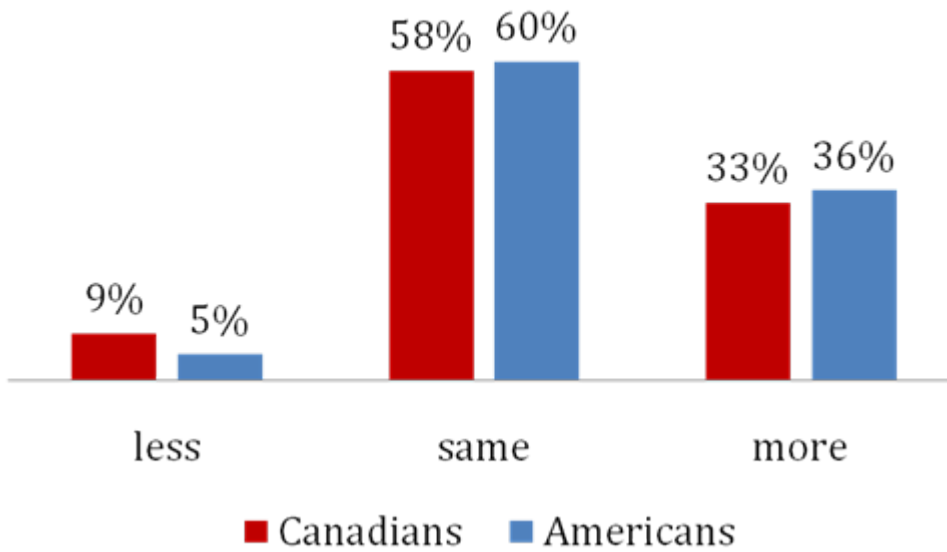


## How much should the US do?

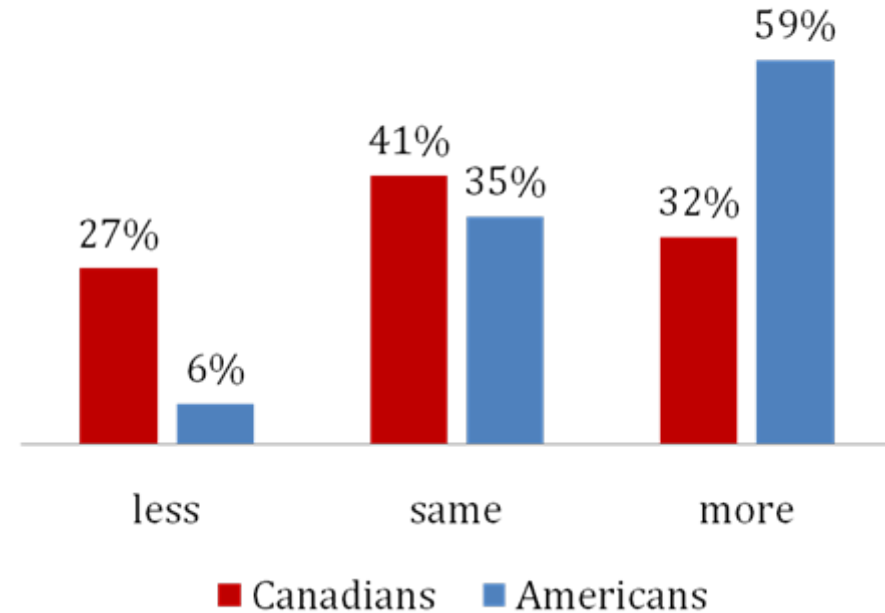


# Border Security

## How much should Canada do?

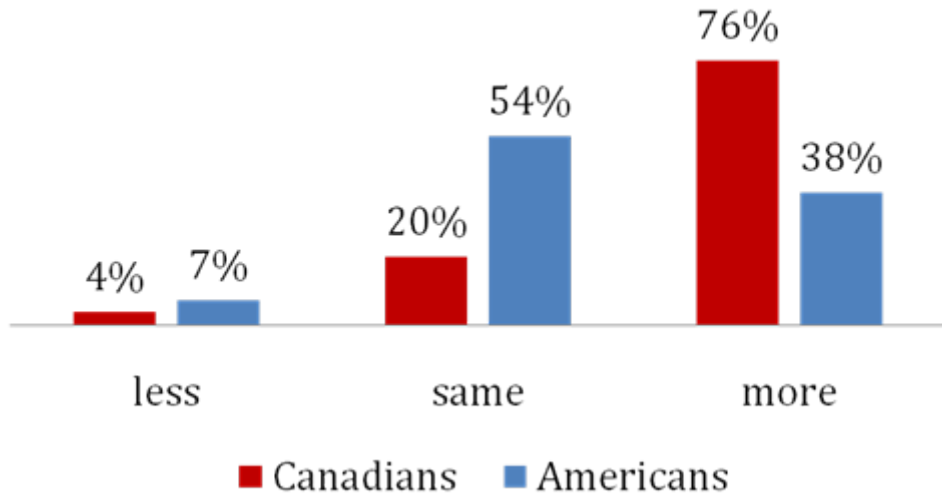


## How much should the US do?

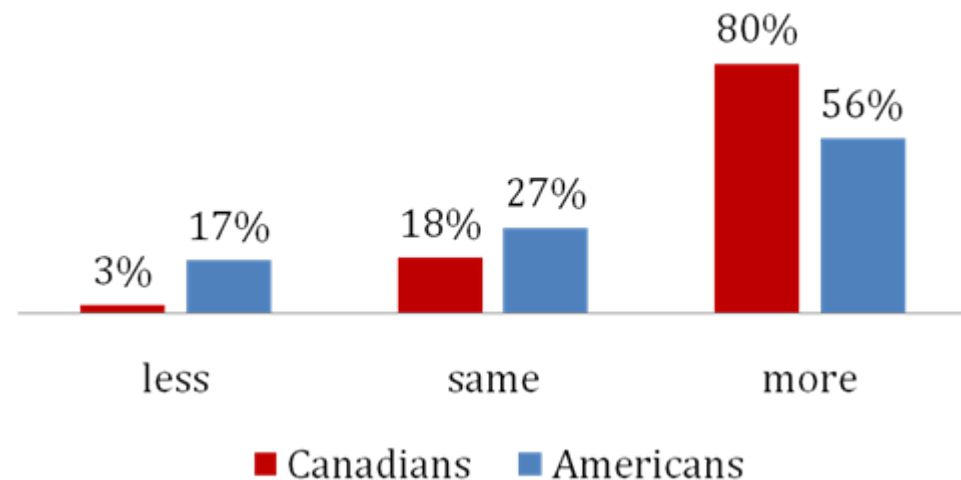


# The Environment

## How much should Canada do?

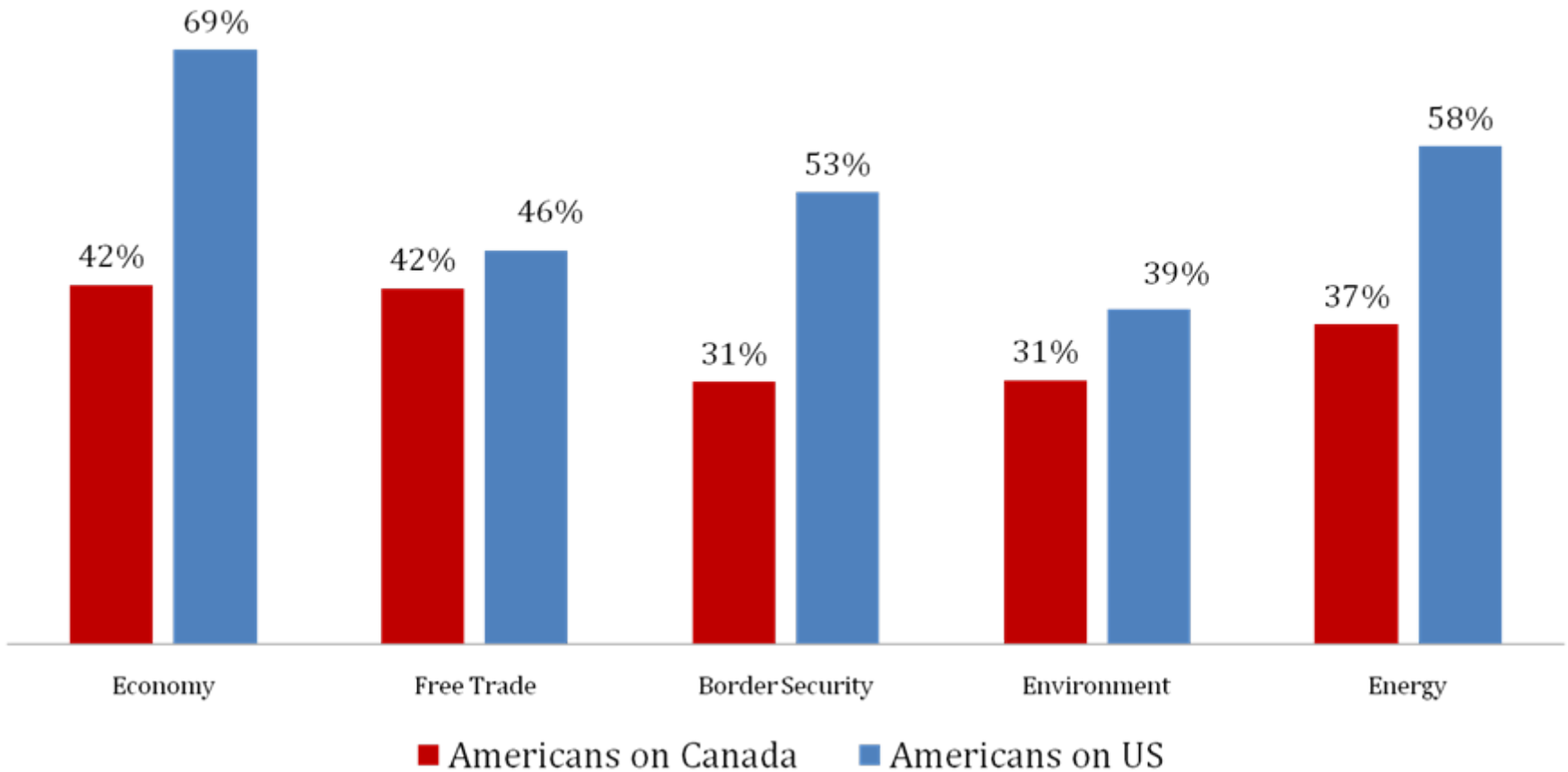


## How much should the US do?



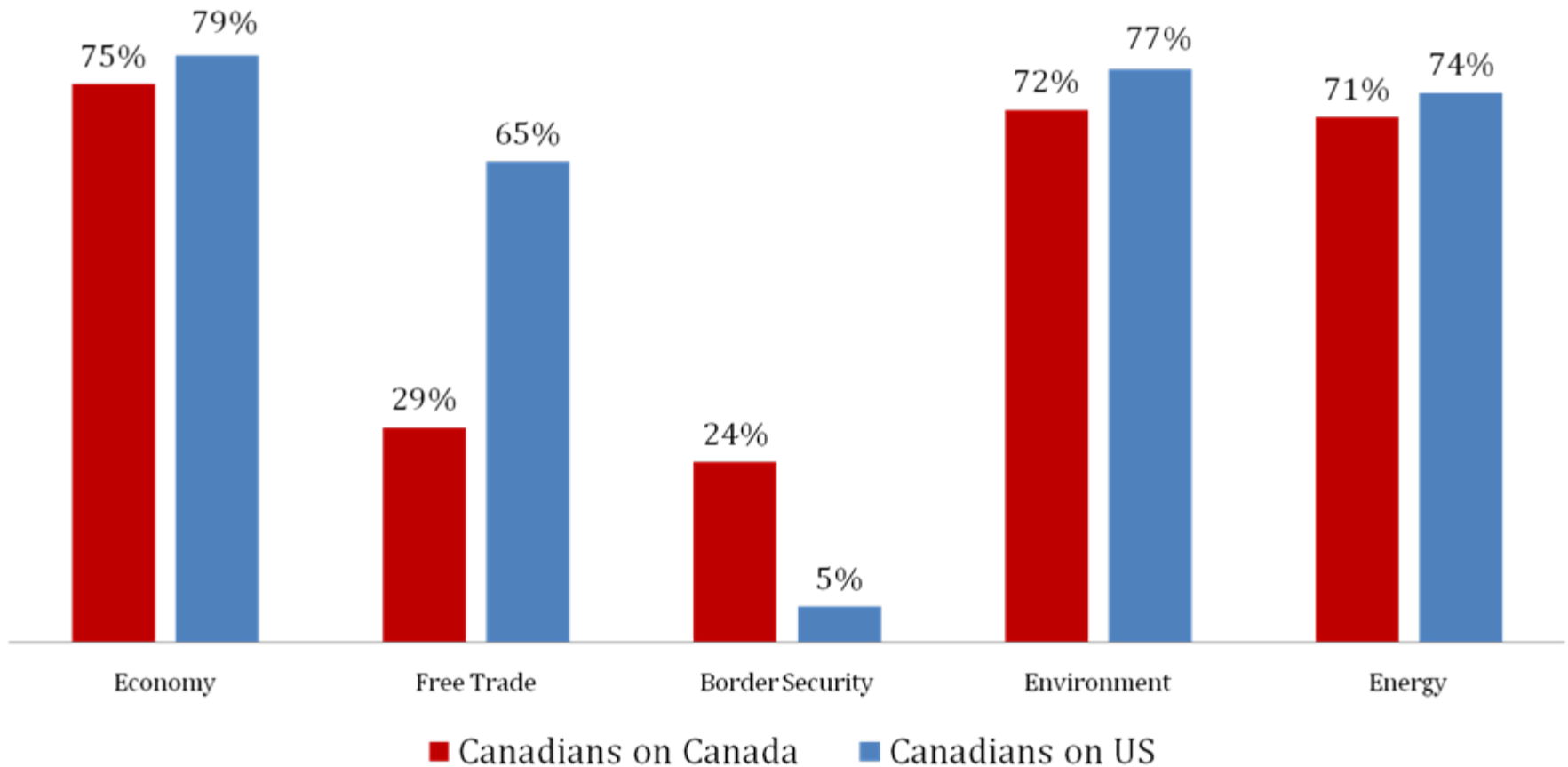
# Next Steps: American Demand

Net Demand for More Government Action (Americans)



# Next Steps: Canadian Demand

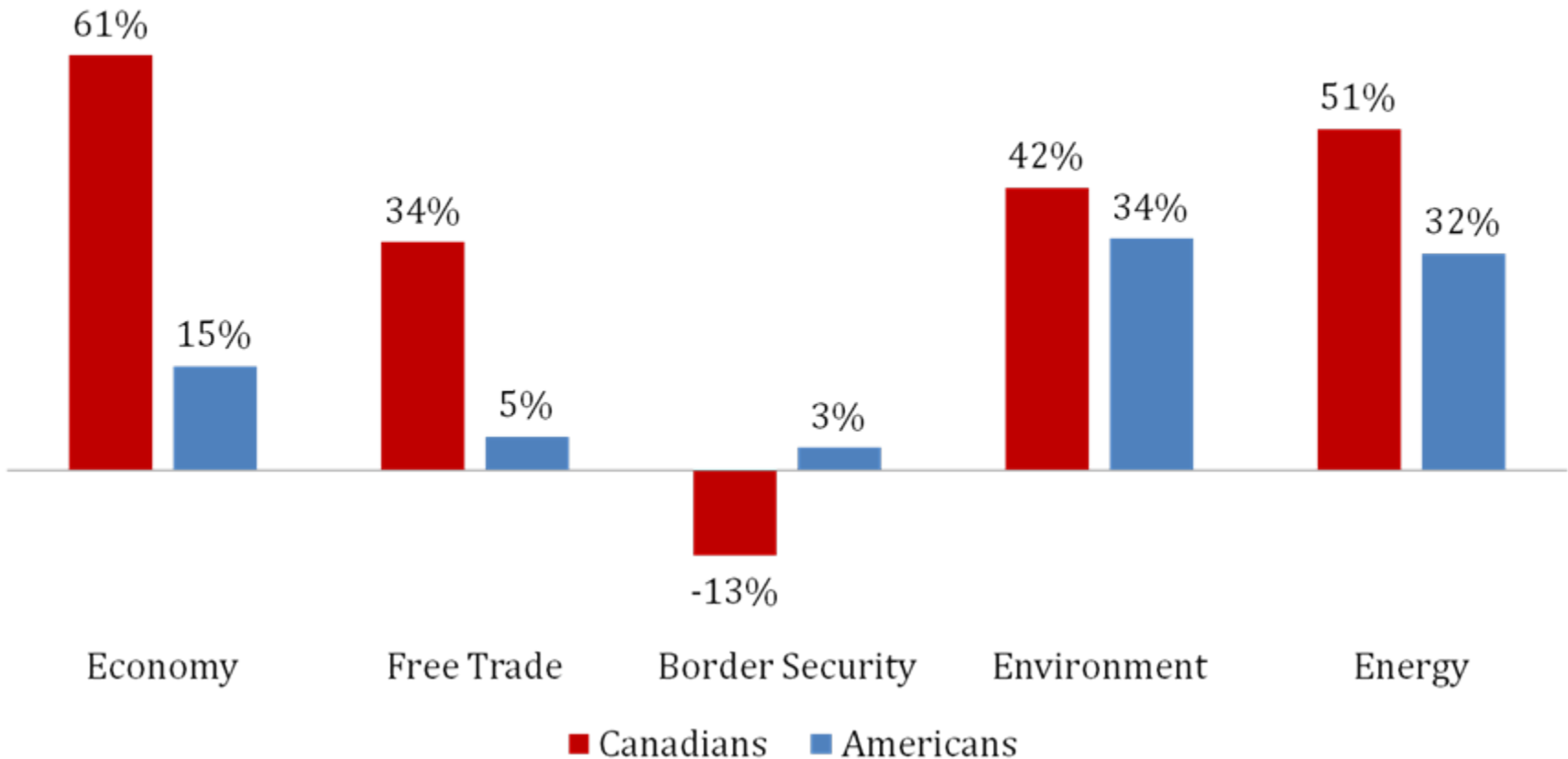
**Net Demand for More Government Action (Canadians)**





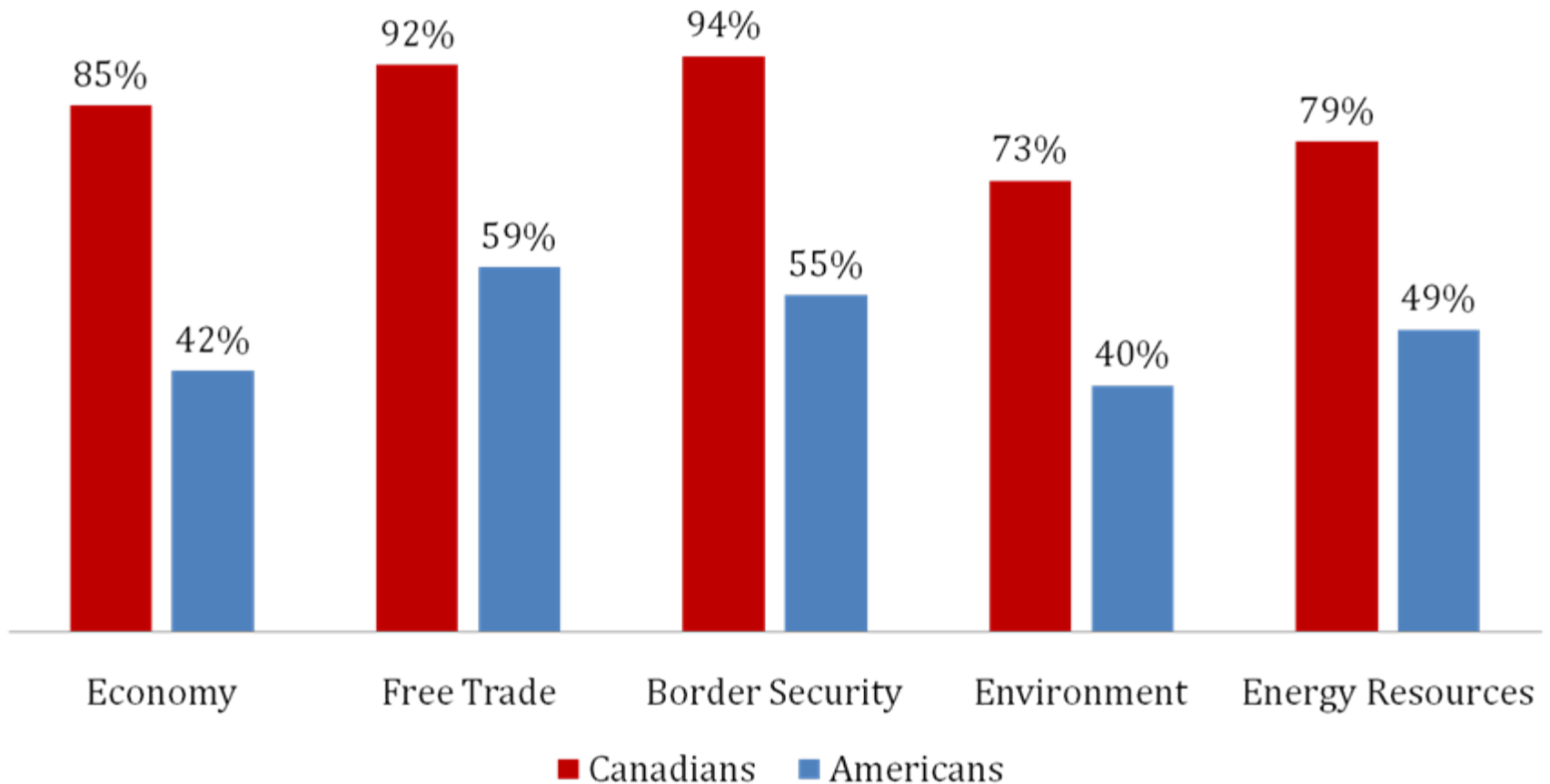
# Next Steps: Performance

## Net Canadian Advantage - Government Activity



# Next Steps: Influence

## Positive Influence of Other Country's Government



# Conclusions

- Americans have positive view of Canadians and relations but are less integrated; Canadians are more critical of relationship and US
- Policymakers should be aware of public opinion and take it into account
  - Canadians are watching closely
  - Americans seem to expect Canada to have influence; perhaps they are willing to accept explicit policy direction from Canada
- Greater communication and information is key