

# Local Government Participation and Elections Review Survey

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## SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT

**PROJECT NAME:**

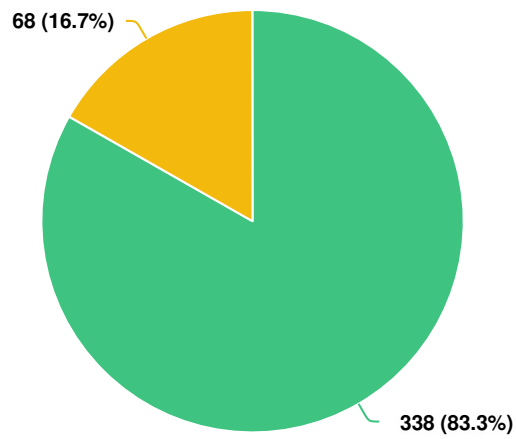
Local Government Participation and Elections  
Review

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# SURVEY QUESTIONS

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**Q1 | Topic 1. Ways to better engage and participate with councils**  
**A Community Engagement Charter will be developed to guide council...**

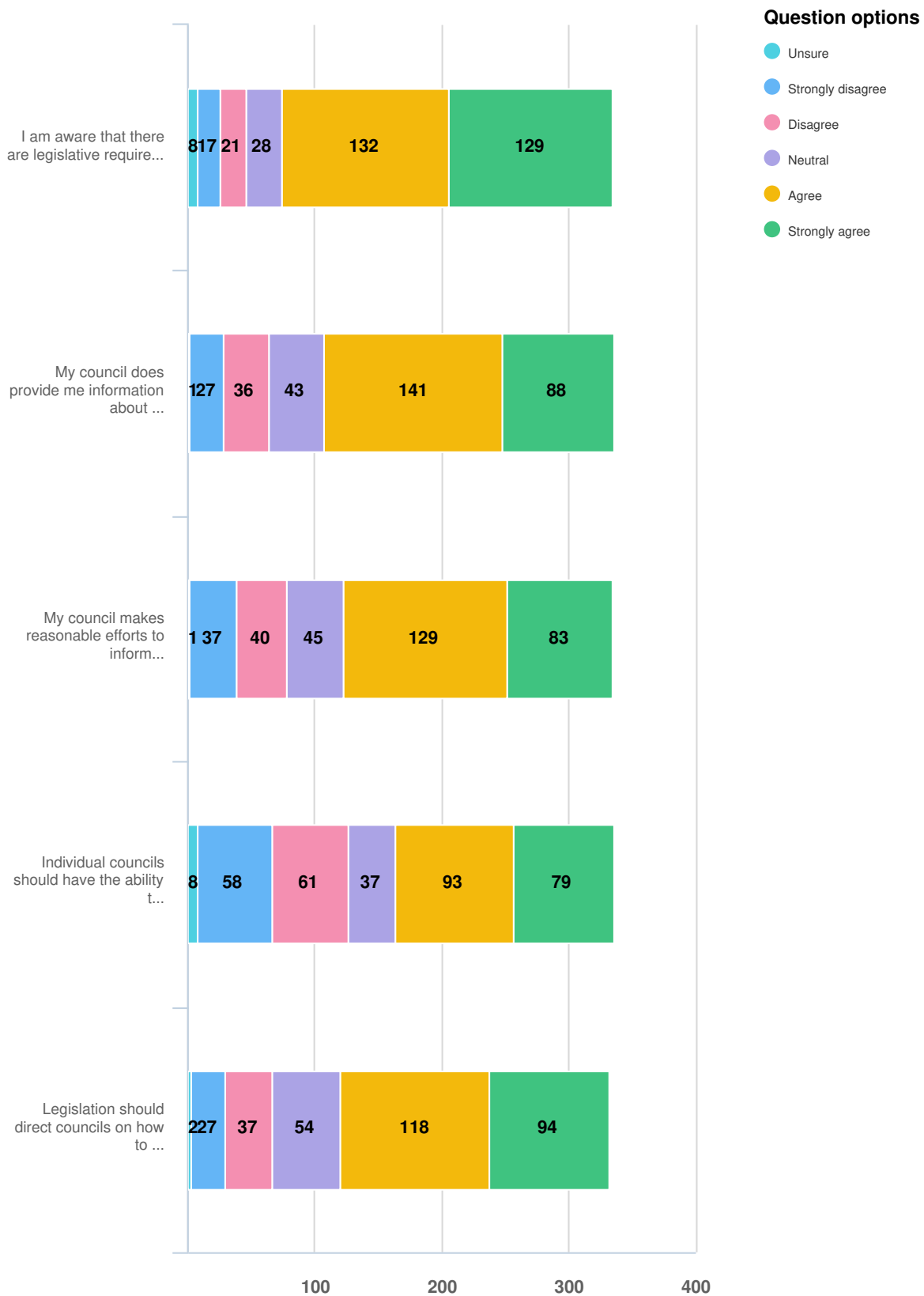


**Question options**

- Yes
- No

*Optional question (406 response(s), 1 skipped)*  
*Question type: Radio Button Question*

**Q2 | Topic 1. Ways to better engage and participate with councils**  
**Community Engagement Charter**  
**A new Community Engagement Charter will outline how councils engage with their community. We are seeking feedback on what the new Charter should include. Pleas...**

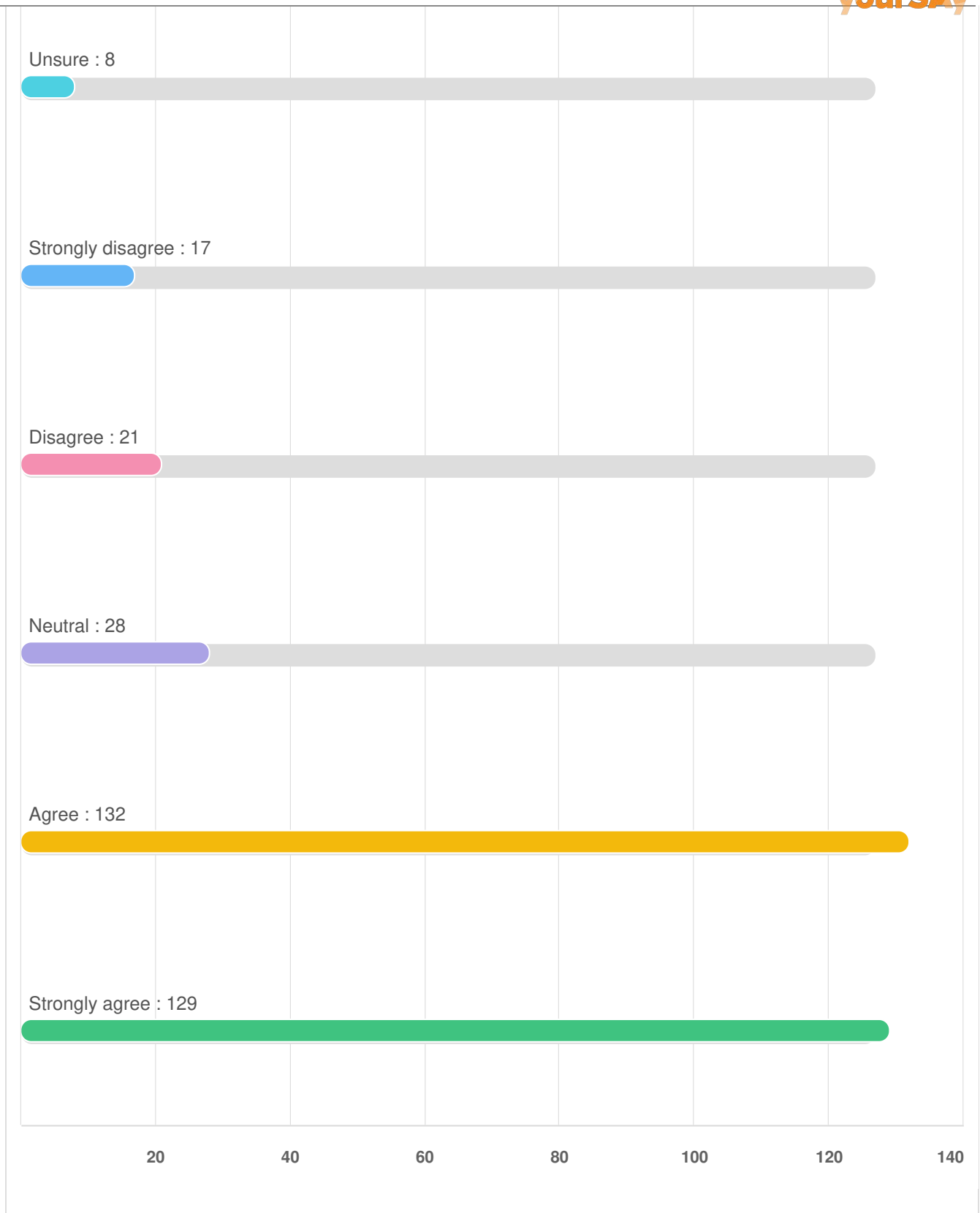


Optional question (336 response(s), 71 skipped)

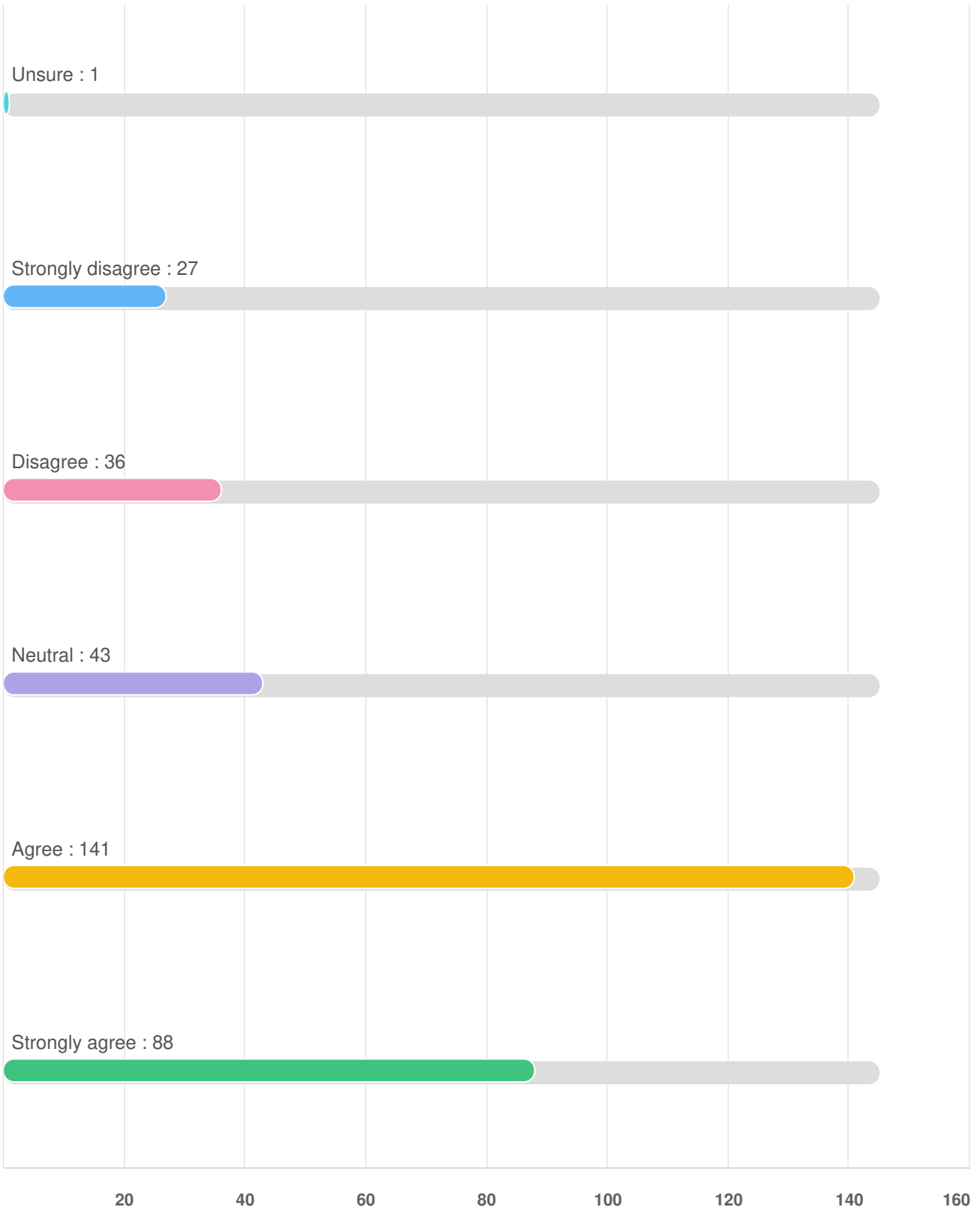
Question type: Likert Question

**Q2 | Topic 1. Ways to better engage and participate with councils**Community Engagement Charter A new Community Engagement Charter will outline how councils engage with their community. We are seeking feedback on what the new Charter should include. Pleas...

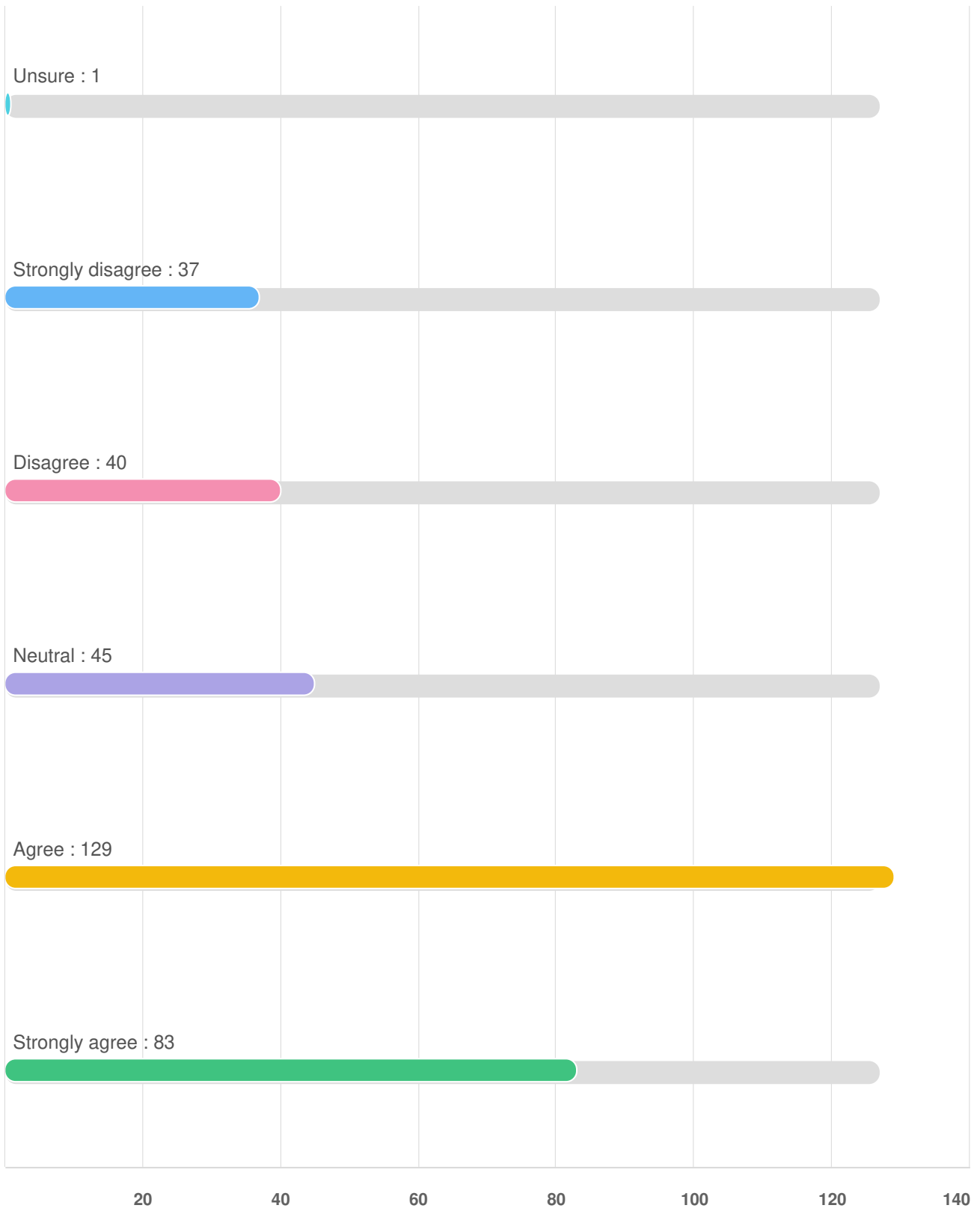
I am aware that there are legislative requirements for councils to engage with me



**My council does provide me information about decisions on council rates, council expenditure, new programs, initiatives and facilities, service changes, etc.**

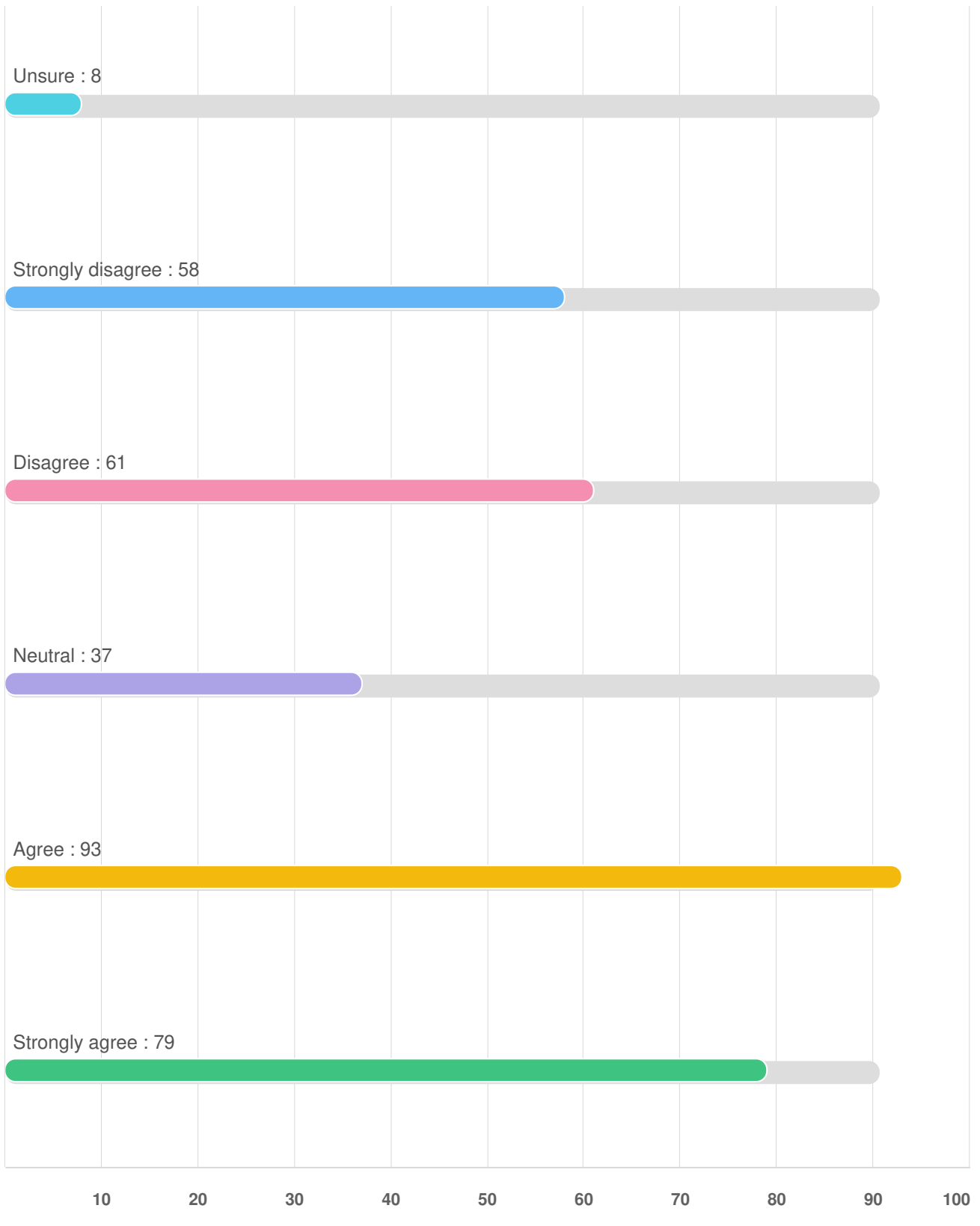


### My council makes reasonable efforts to inform me of their services and seeks my feedback on the annual business plan and other priorities

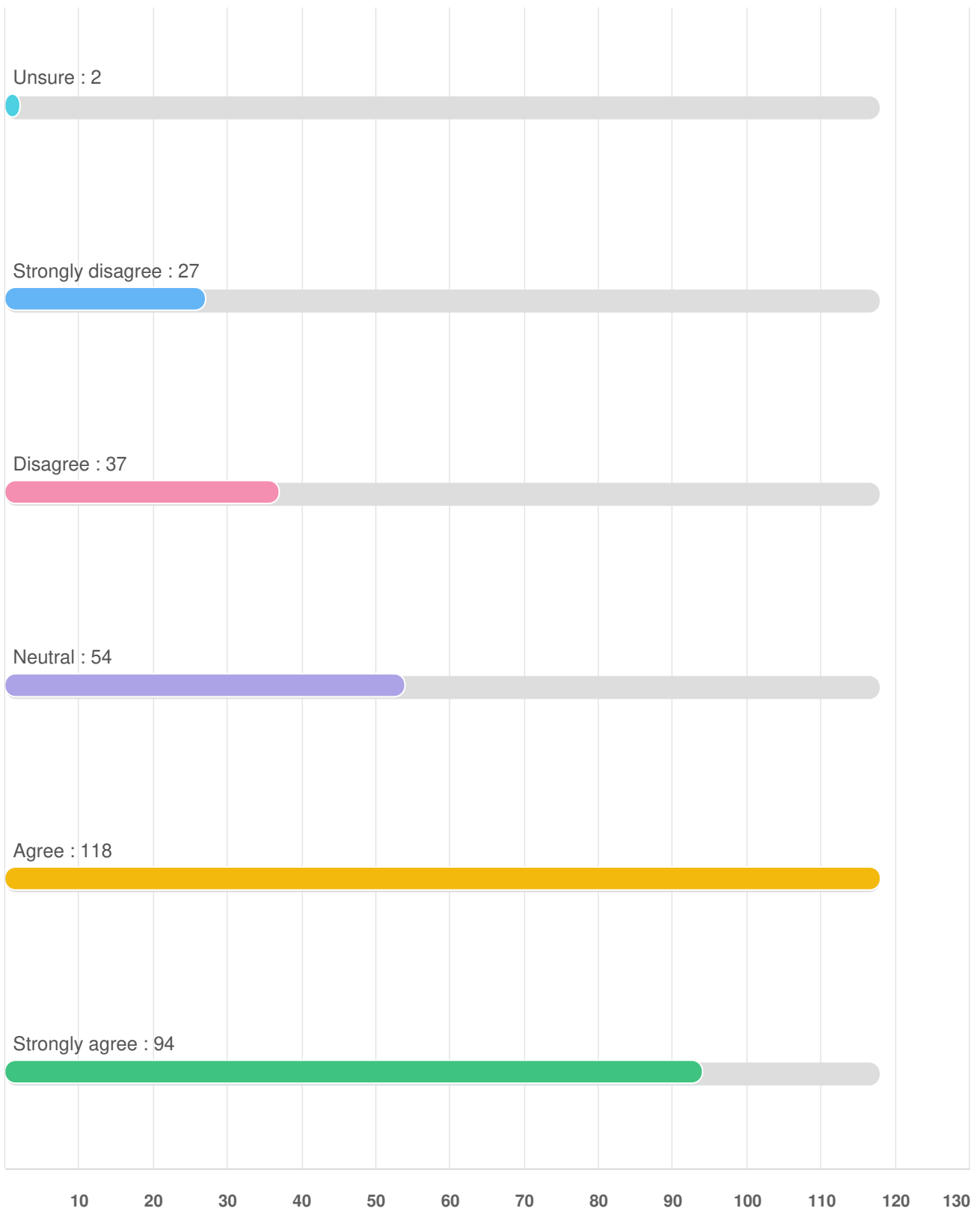




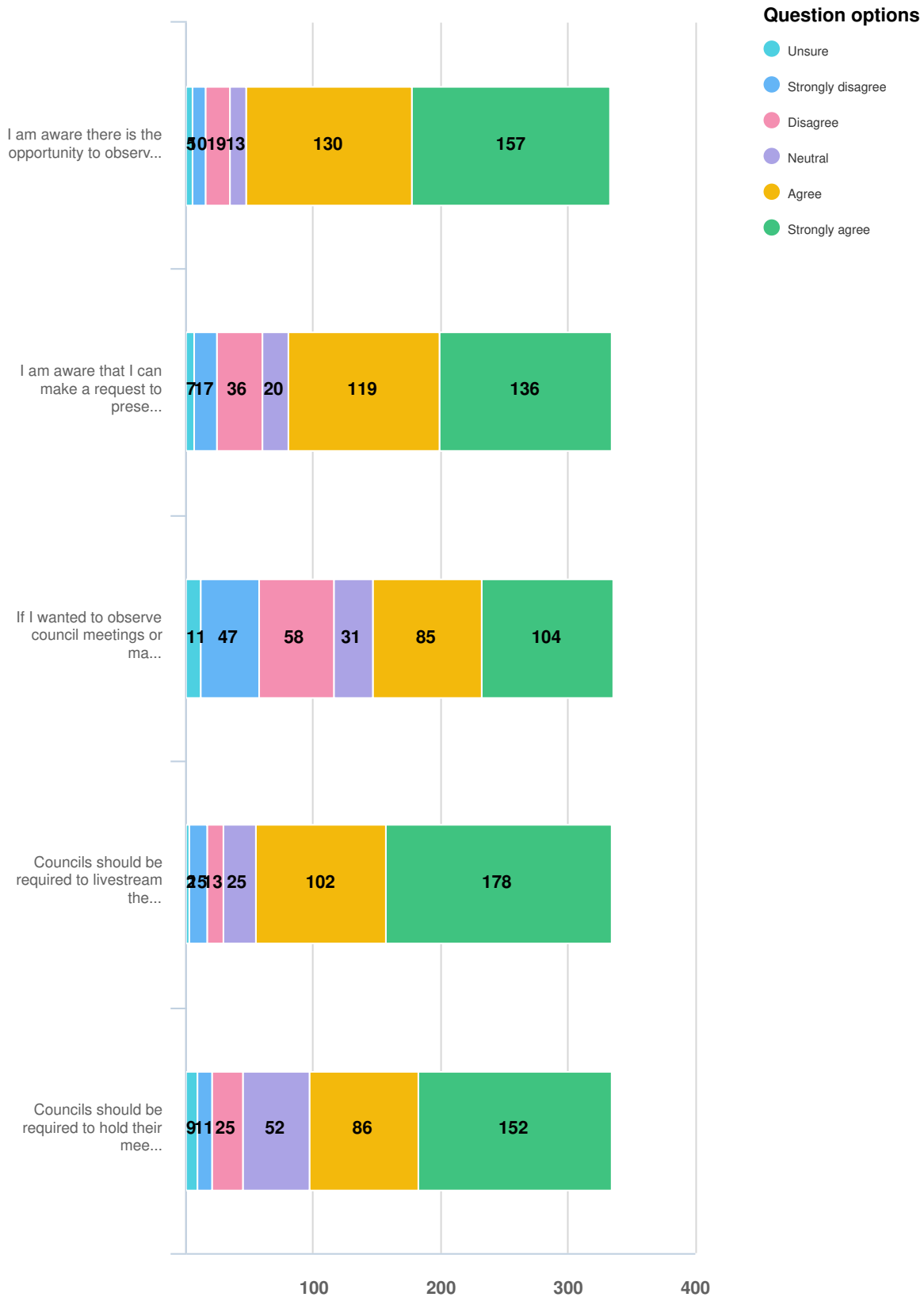
### Individual councils should have the ability to determine how they will engage with their communities



### Legislation should direct councils on how to engage with their communities



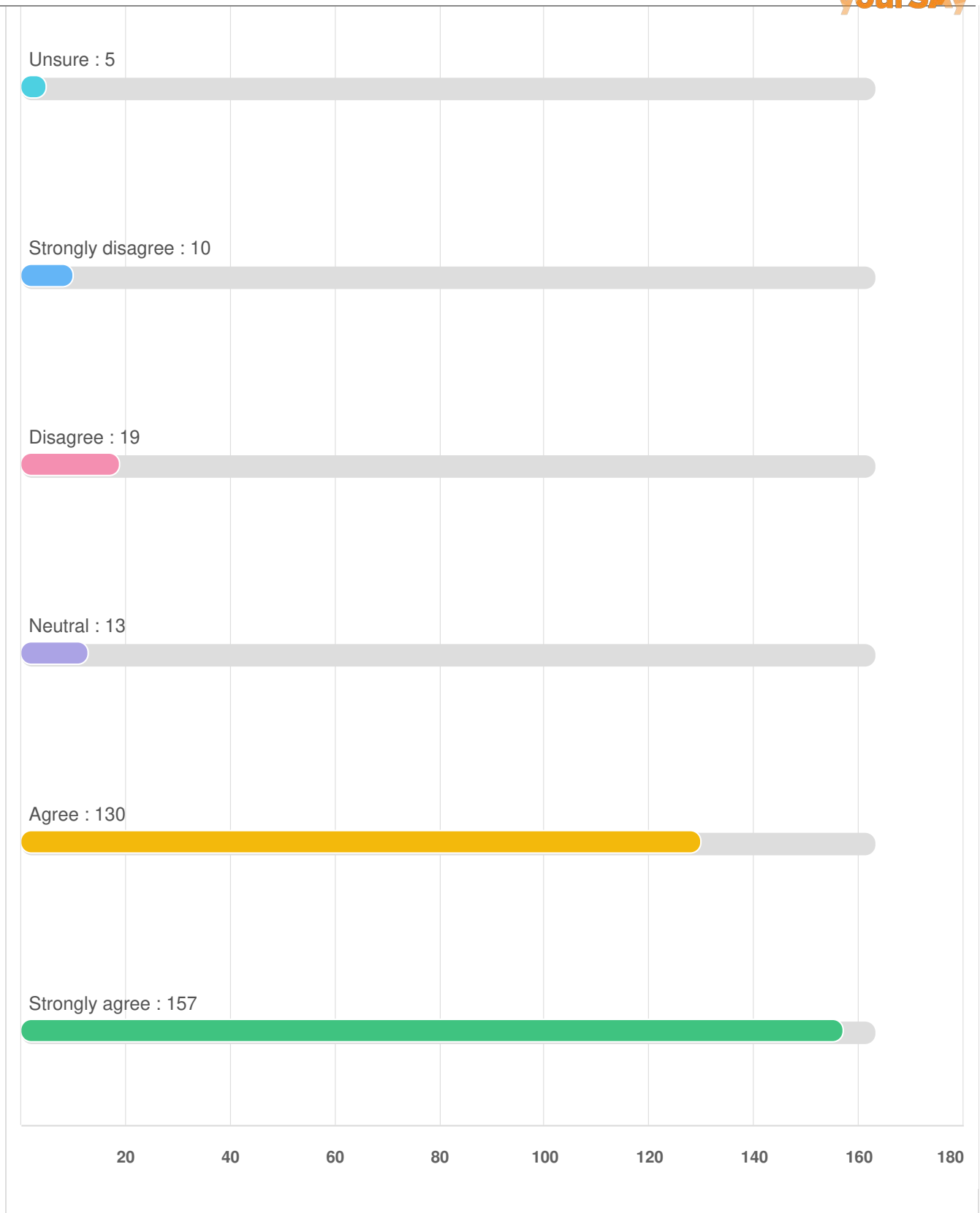
**Q3 Council meetings** Public council meetings are where councils meet to discuss and decide on local matters. Could these meetings be improved? Please indicate your response to the following statements:



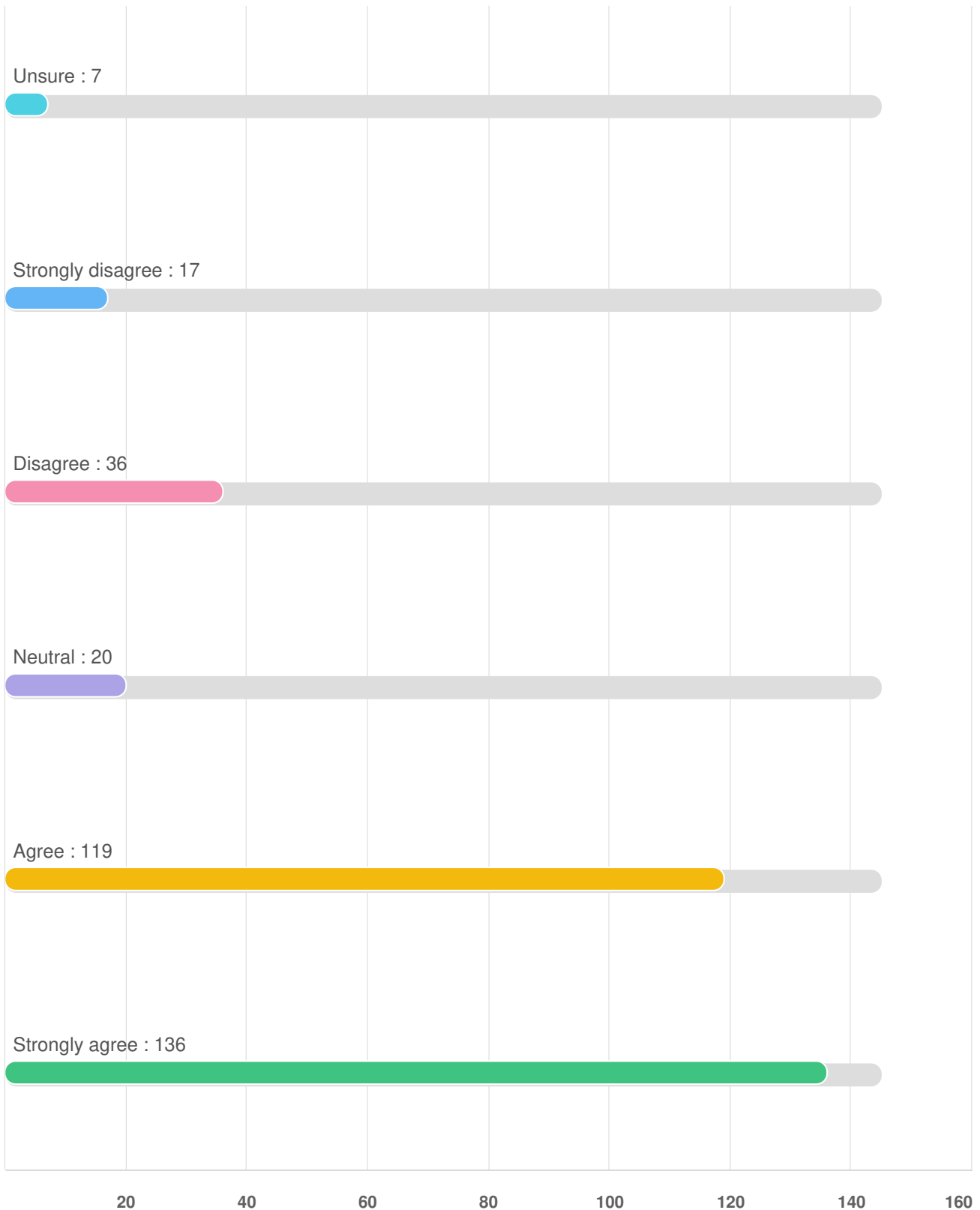
Optional question (336 response(s), 71 skipped)  
Question type: Likert Question

**Q3 | Council meetings** Public council meetings are where councils meet to discuss and decide on local matters. Could these meetings be improved? Please indicate your response to the following statements:

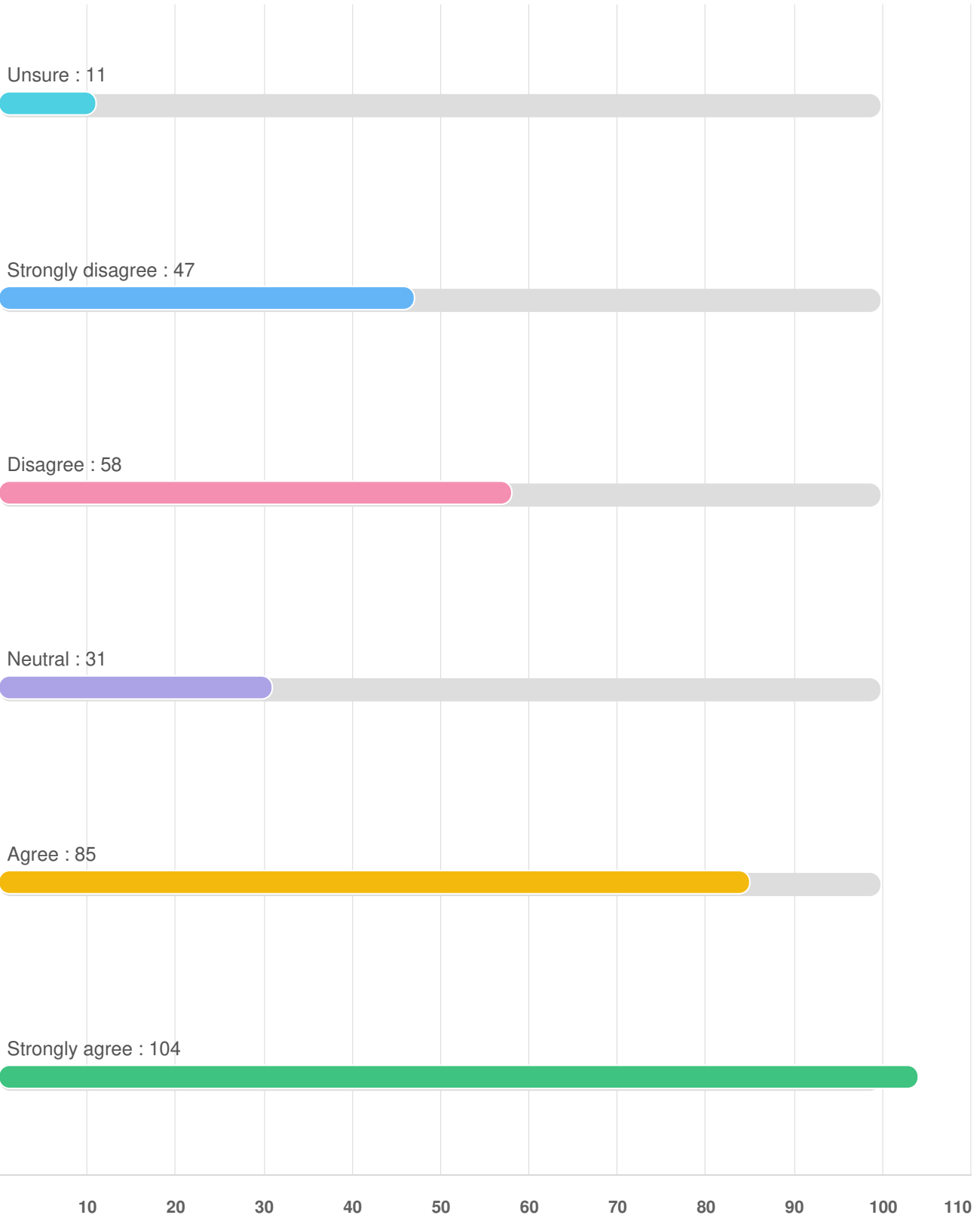
I am aware there is the opportunity to observe my council's meetings



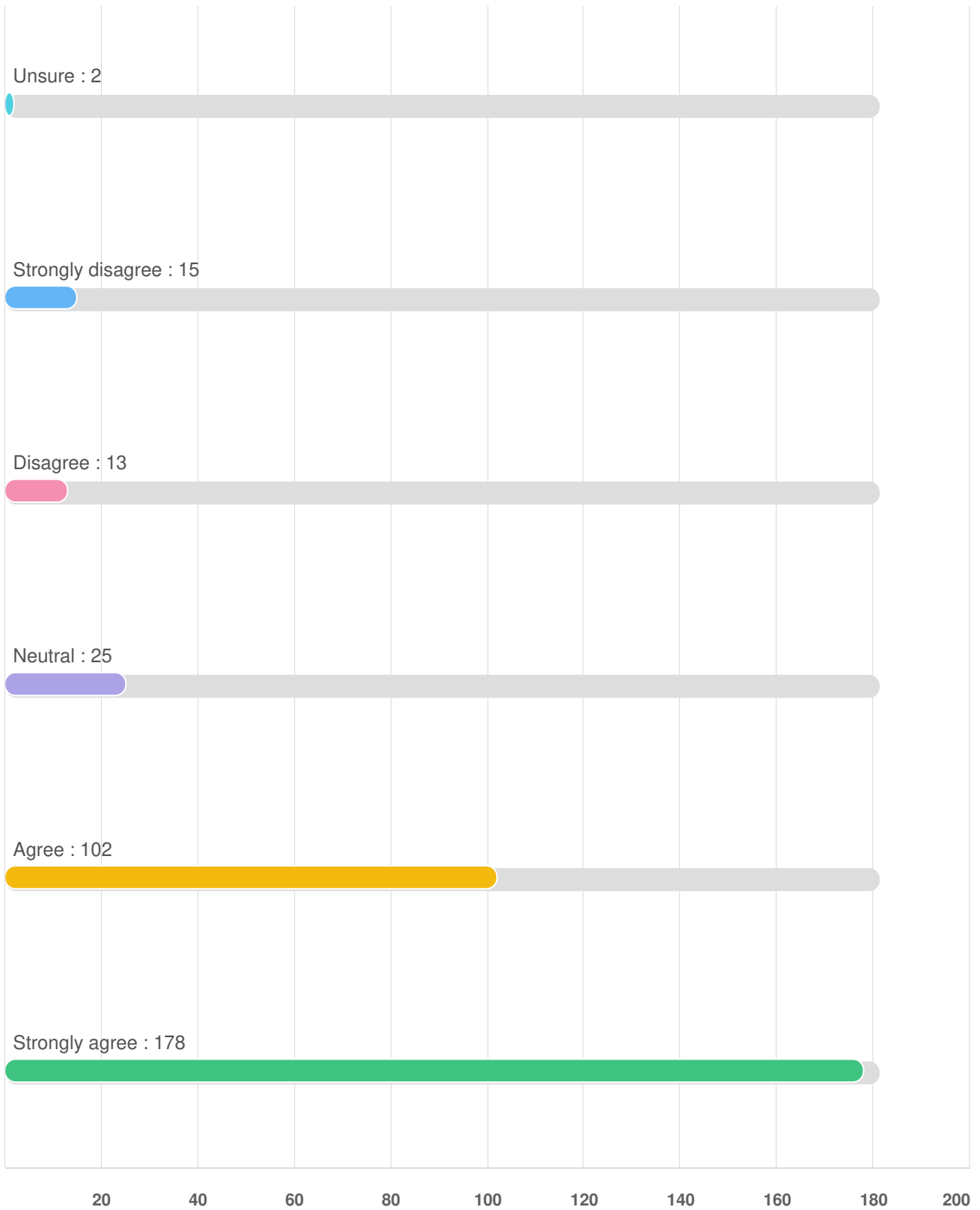
**I am aware that I can make a request to present an idea or question, or give feedback at a council meeting, i.e., seek to make a deputation**



**If I wanted to observe council meetings or make a deputation, I know who to talk to in order to find out more**

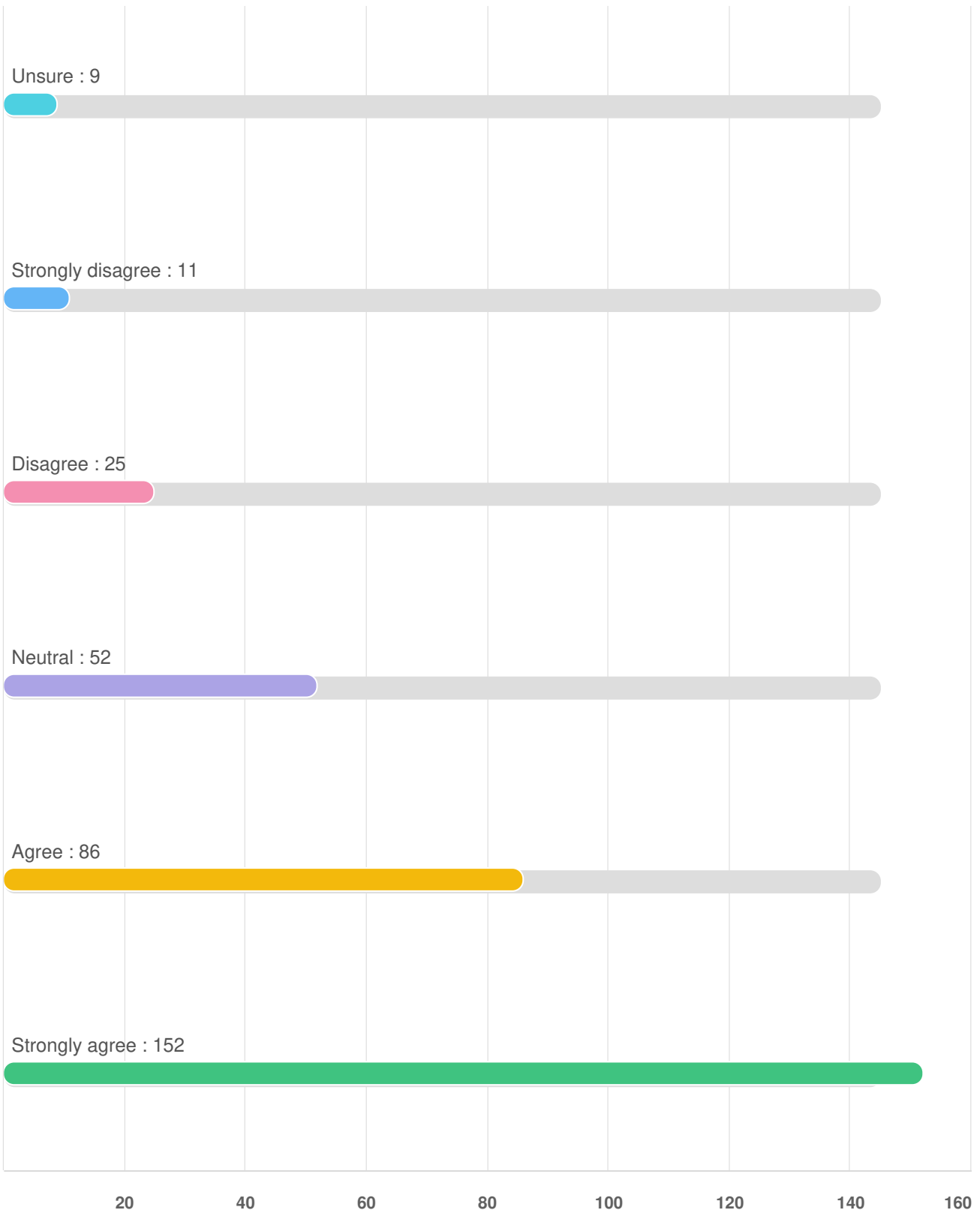


### Councils should be required to livestream their meetings and/or make recordings available

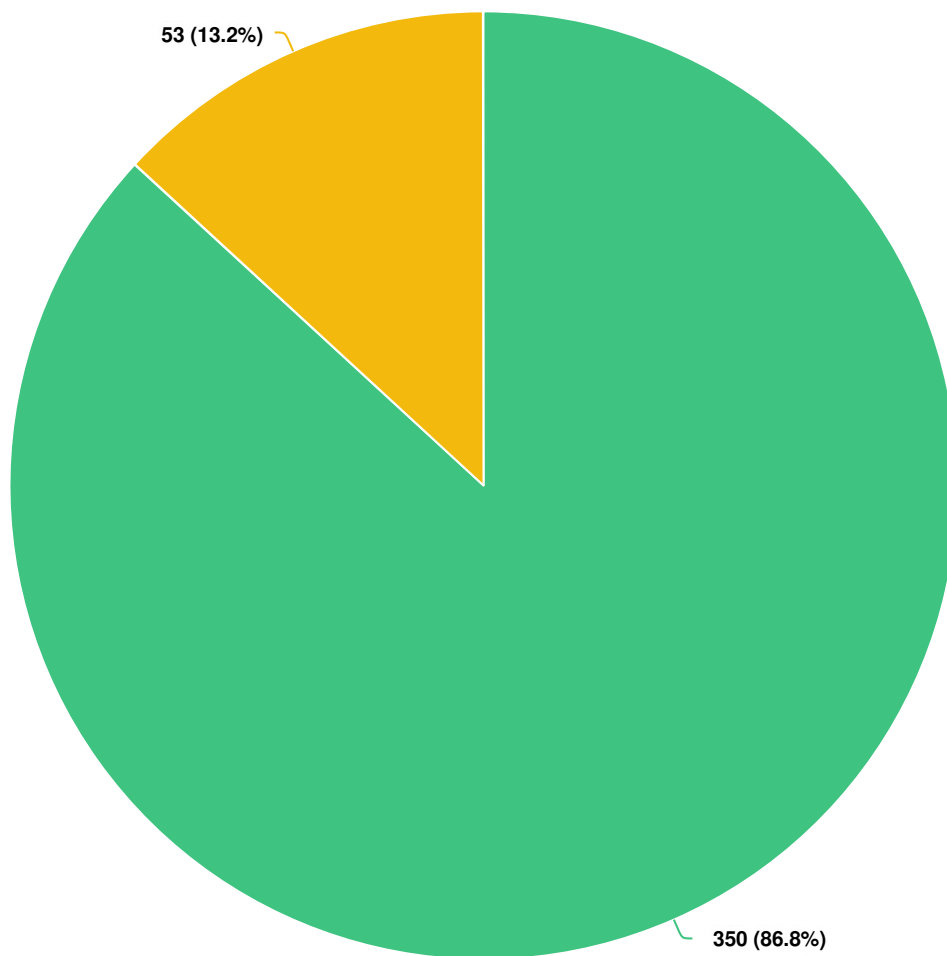




**Councils should be required to hold their meetings at a particular time to maximise community participation. (All city councils hold their meetings during the evenings, but regional councils often hold their meetings during business hours.)**



**Q4** | Topic 2. Ways to encourage a greater number of more diverse candidates for election to councils Every four years, elections are held so that local communities can decide who should represent them and make decisions about their local services and fa...



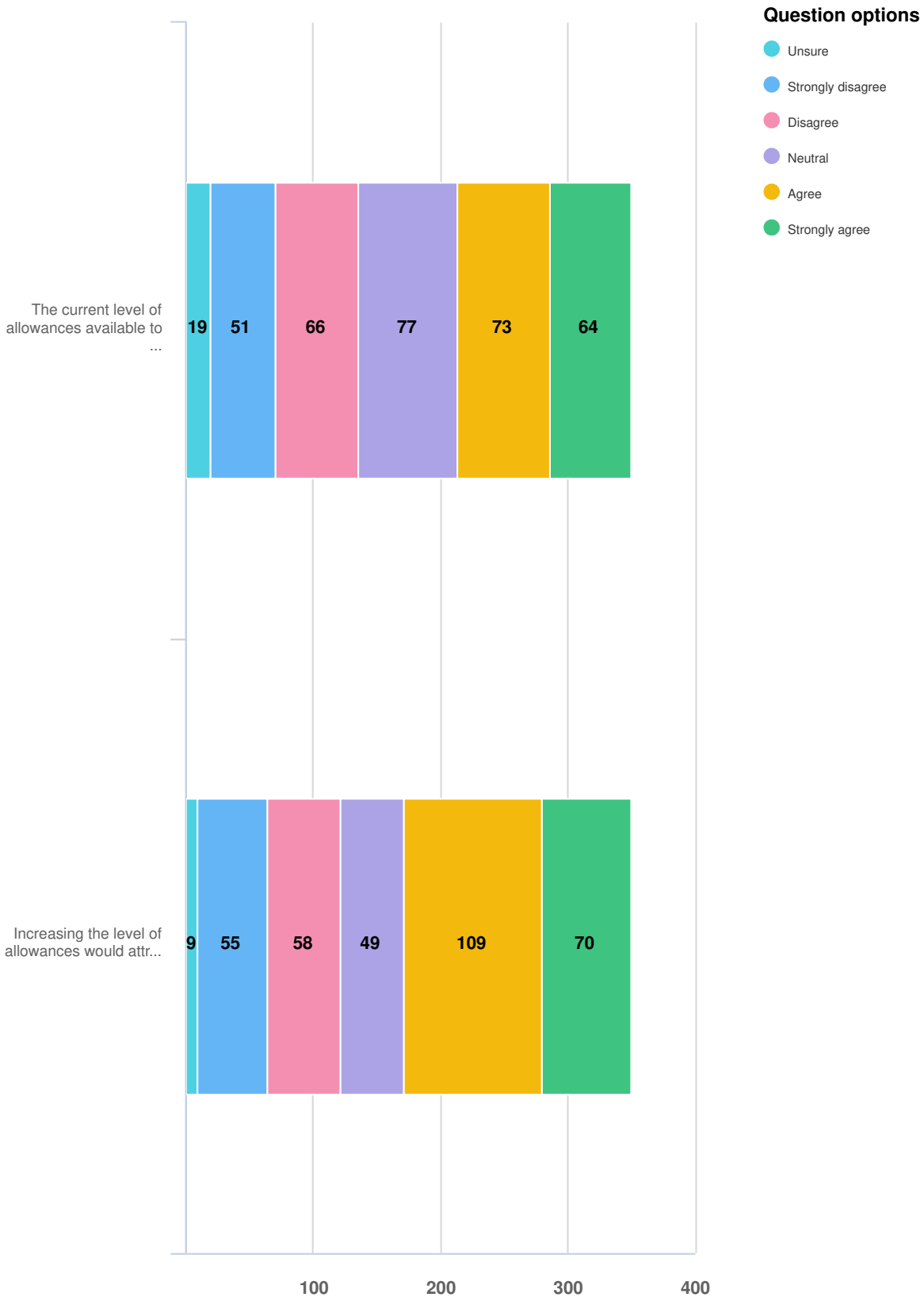
**Question options**

- No
- Yes

Optional question (403 response(s), 4 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

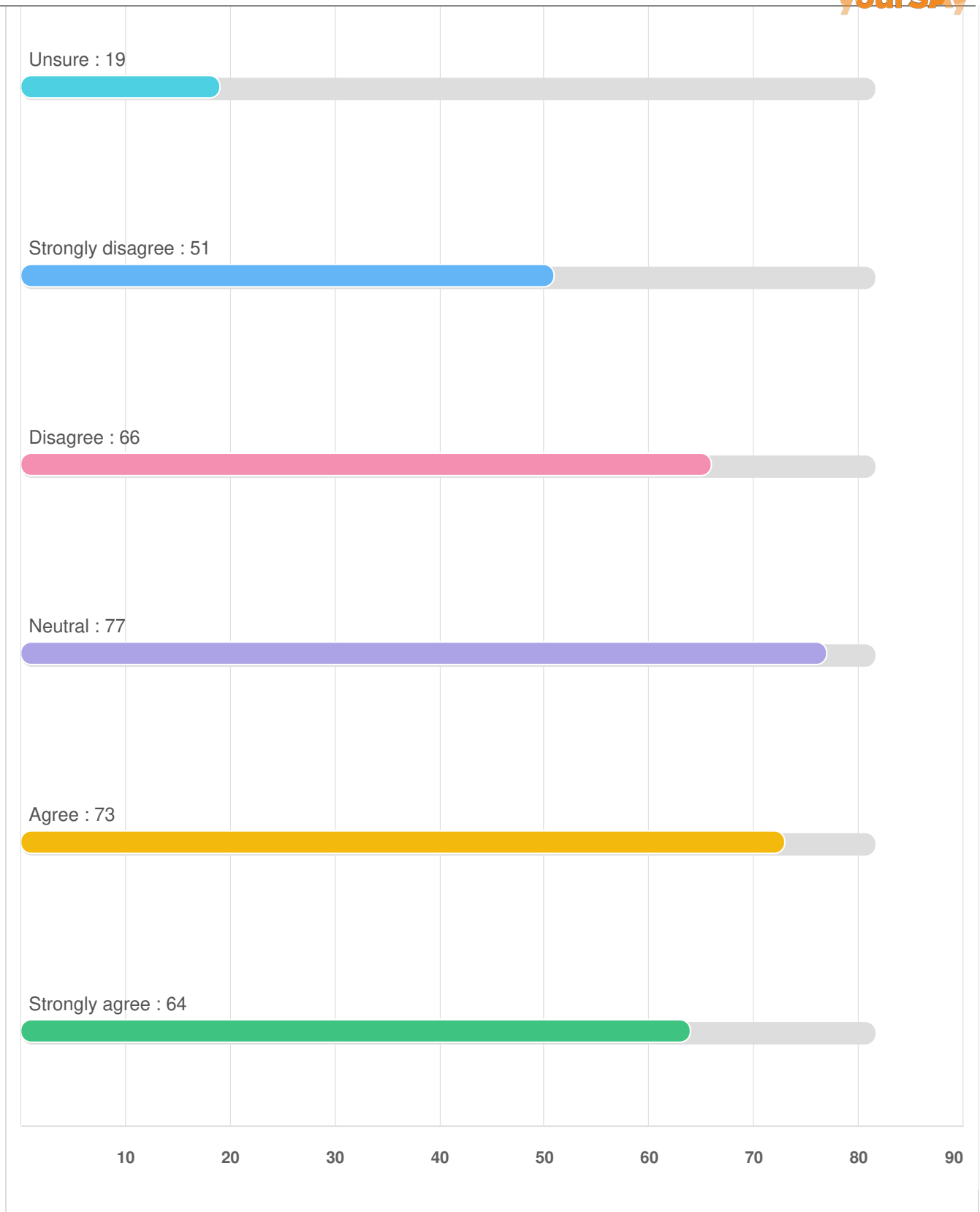
**Q5 | Topic 2. Ways to encourage a greater number of more diverse candidates for election to councils**  
**Increase council members' allowances** Most council members receive a small annual allowance that ranges from \$7,192 to \$25,838, depending on the council a...



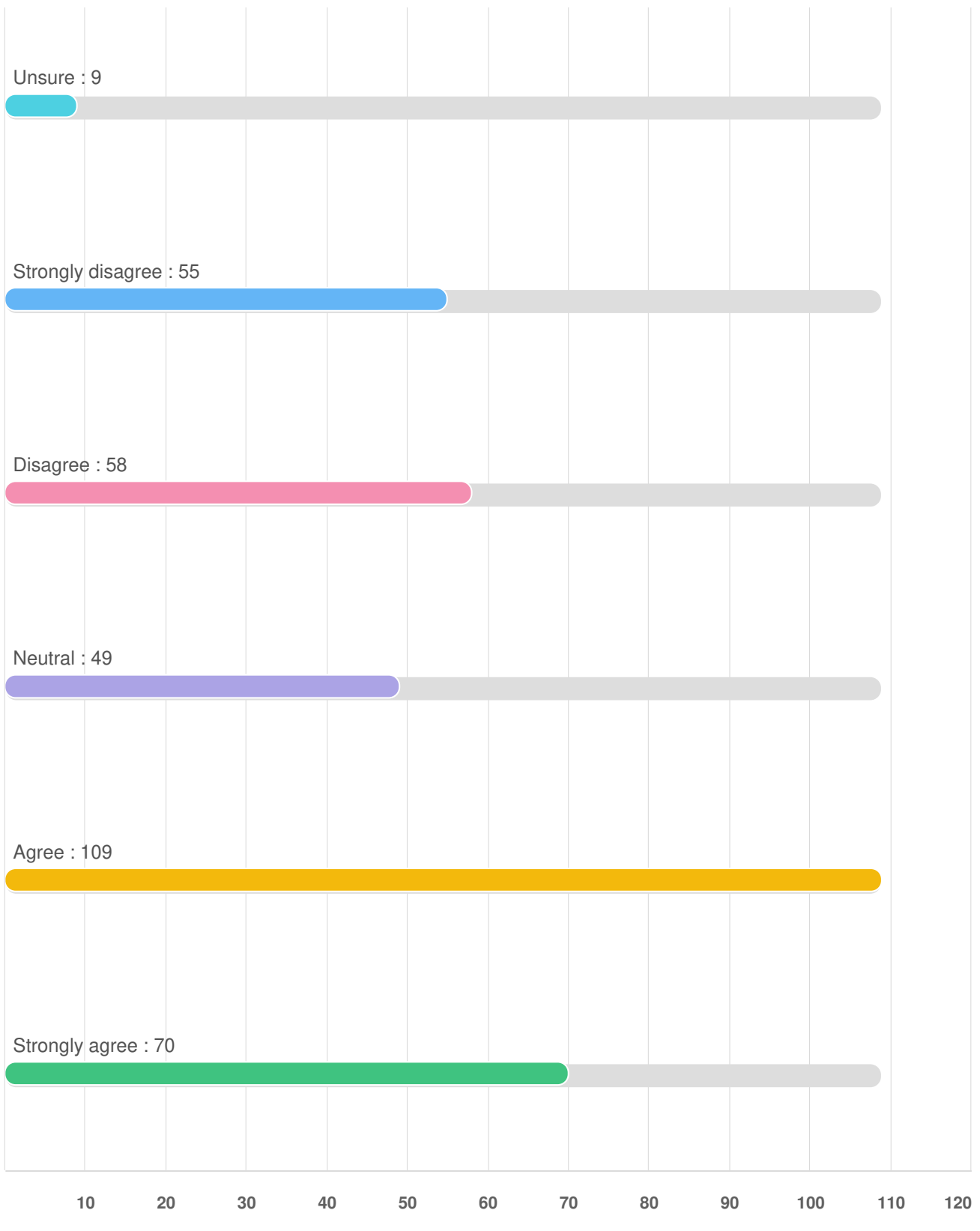
Optional question (351 response(s), 56 skipped)  
 Question type: Likert Question

**Q5 | Topic 2. Ways to encourage a greater number of more diverse candidates for election to councils**  
**Increase council members' allowances**  
Most council members receive a small annual allowance that ranges from \$7,192 to \$25,838, depending on the council a...

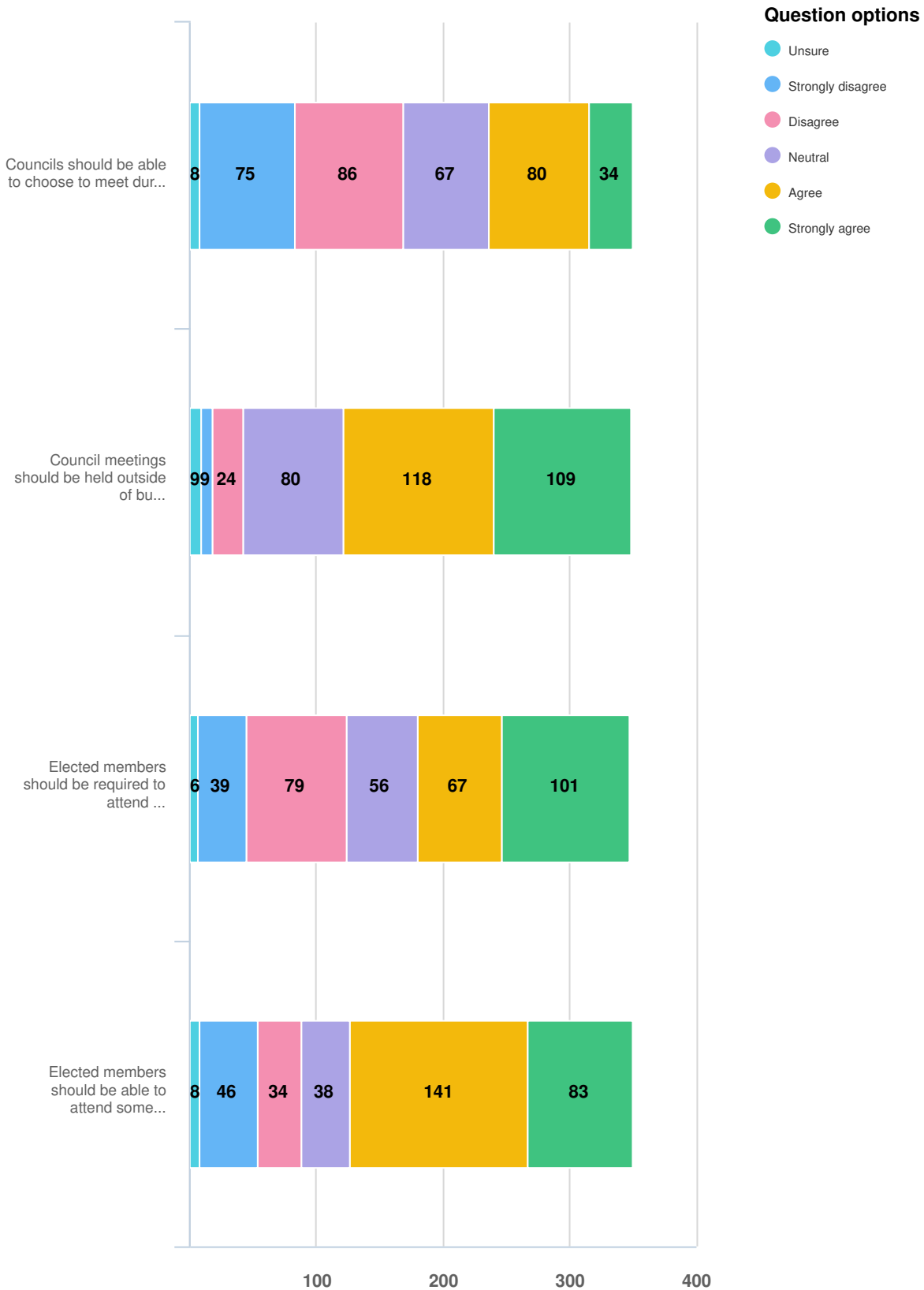
The current level of allowances available to councillors is appropriate



### Increasing the level of allowances would attract more people to nominate for councillor



**Q6** Make council meetings more flexible. Currently, council members are required to attend council meetings in person. Enabling members to attend meetings electronically may encourage more people to nominate for council. City council meetings must be held...



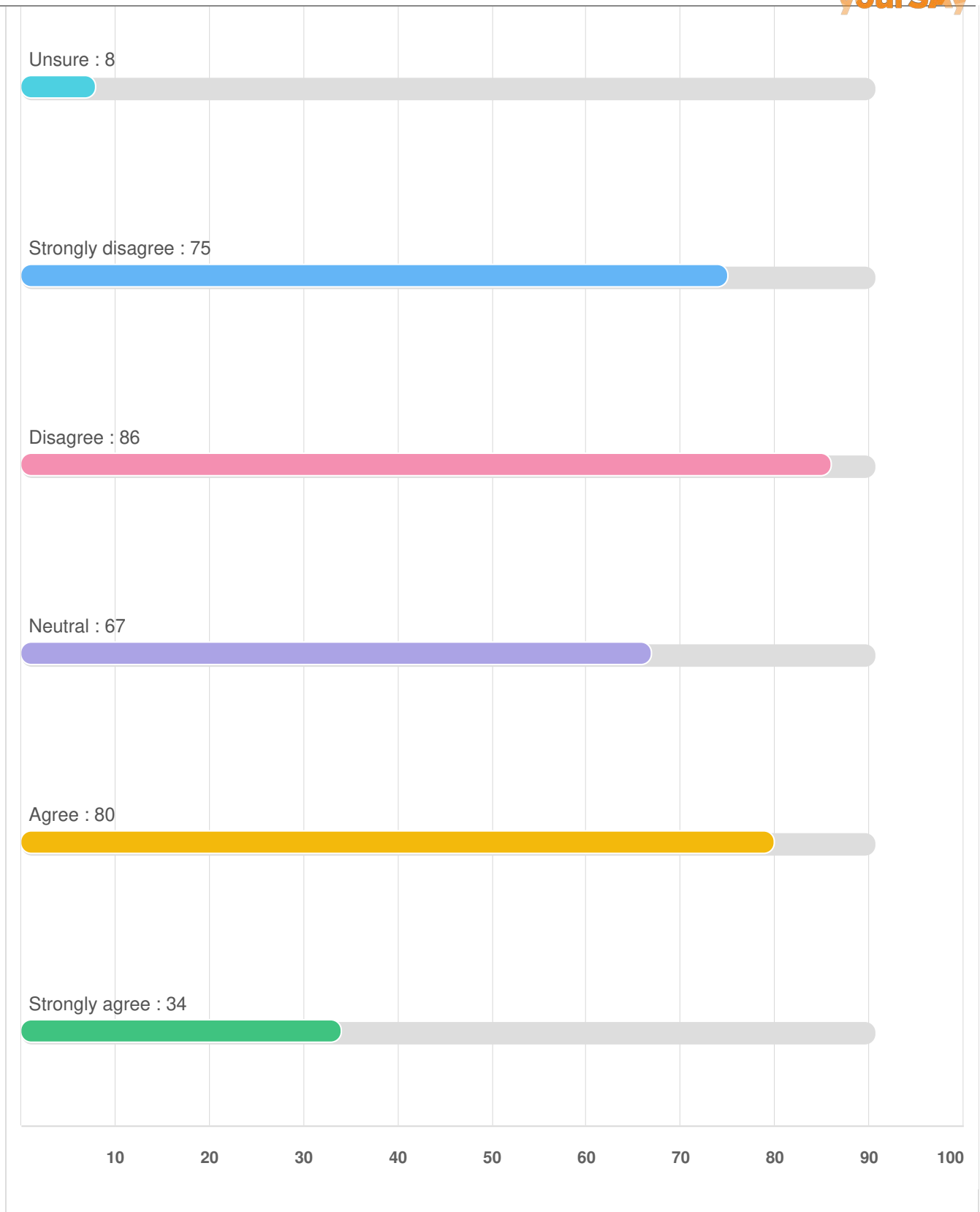
Optional question (350 response(s), 57 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

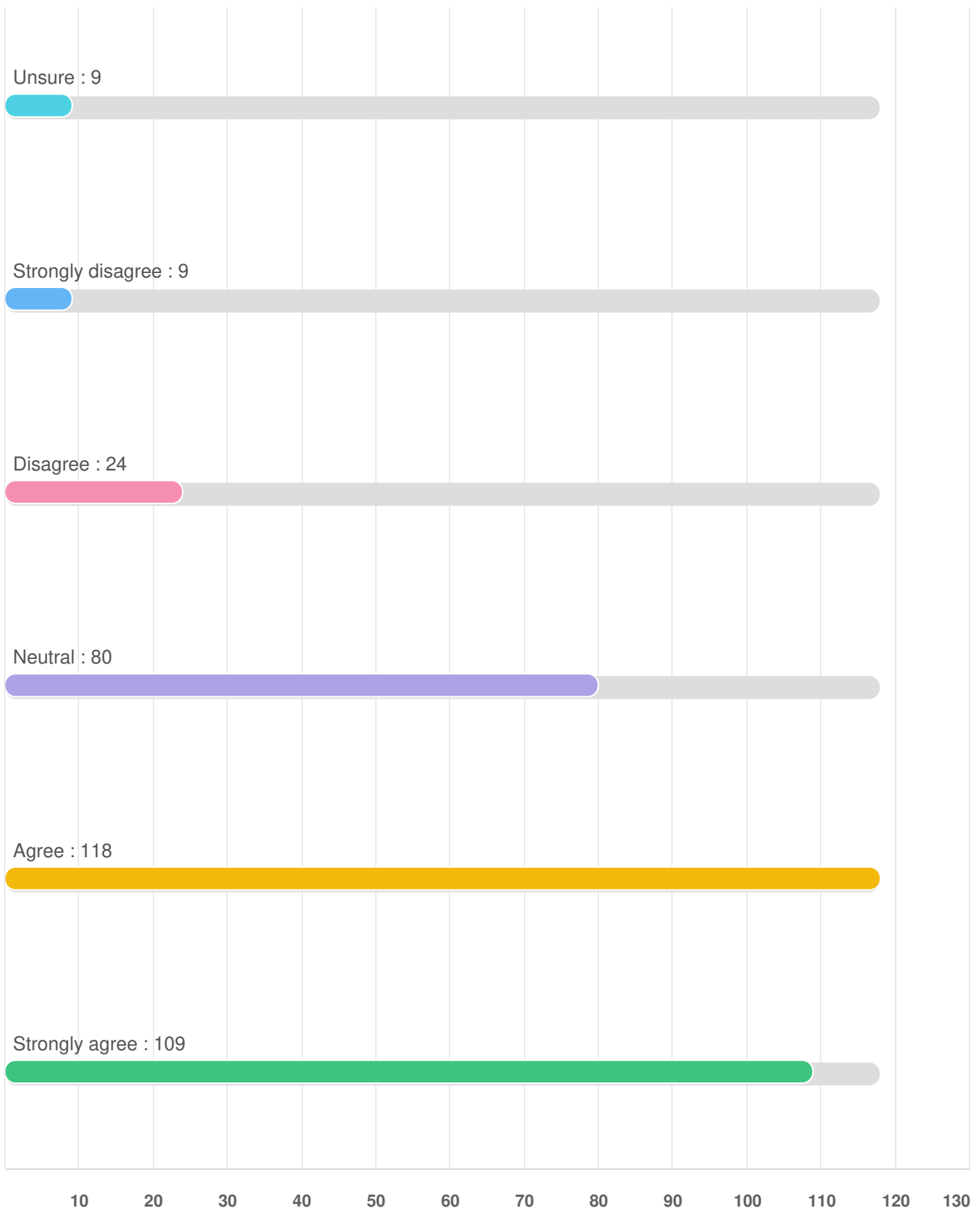
**Q6 | Make council meetings more flexible** Currently, council members are required to attend council meetings in person. Enabling members to attend meetings electronically may encourage more people to nominate for council. City council meetings must be held...

**Councils should be able to choose to meet during business hours**

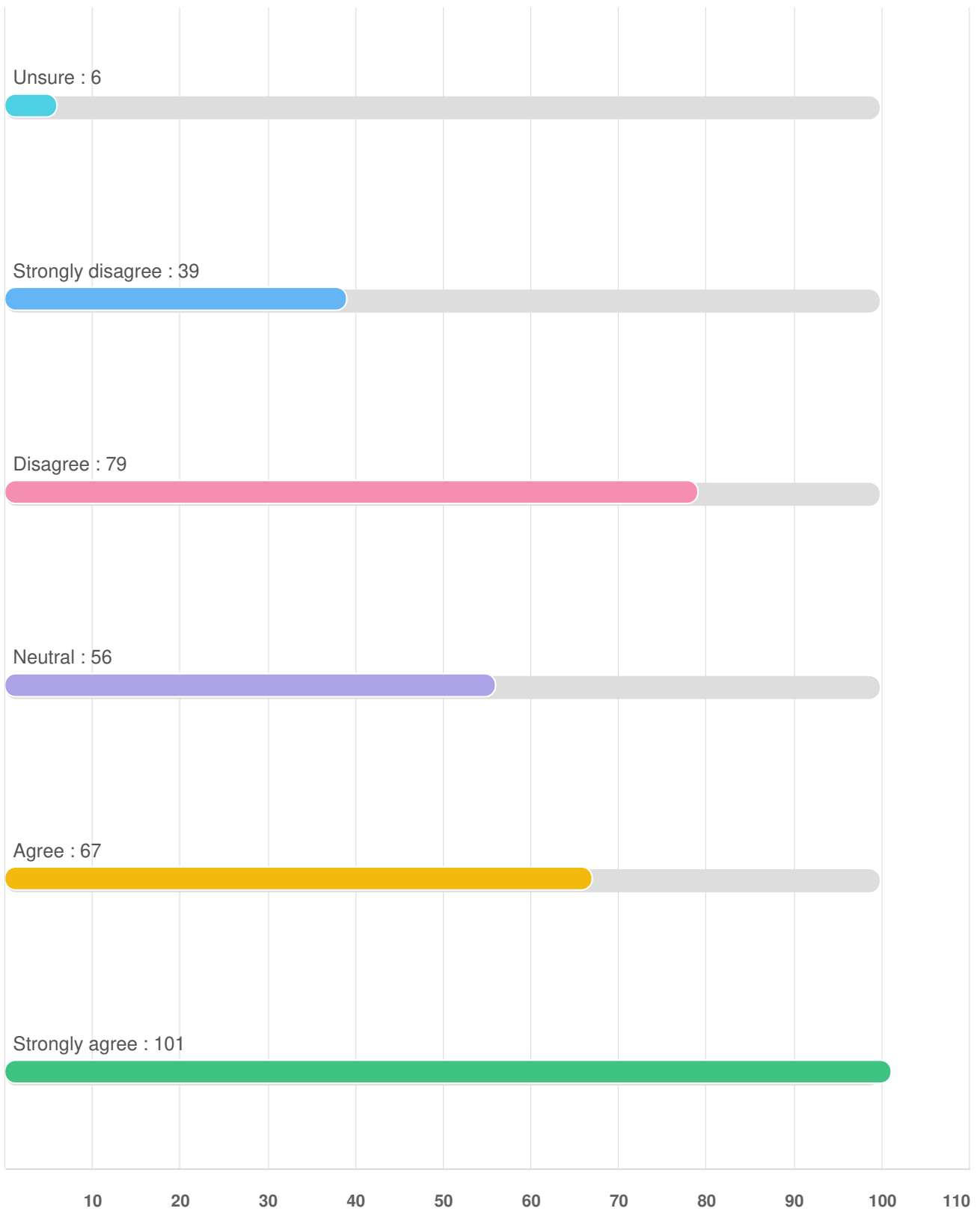




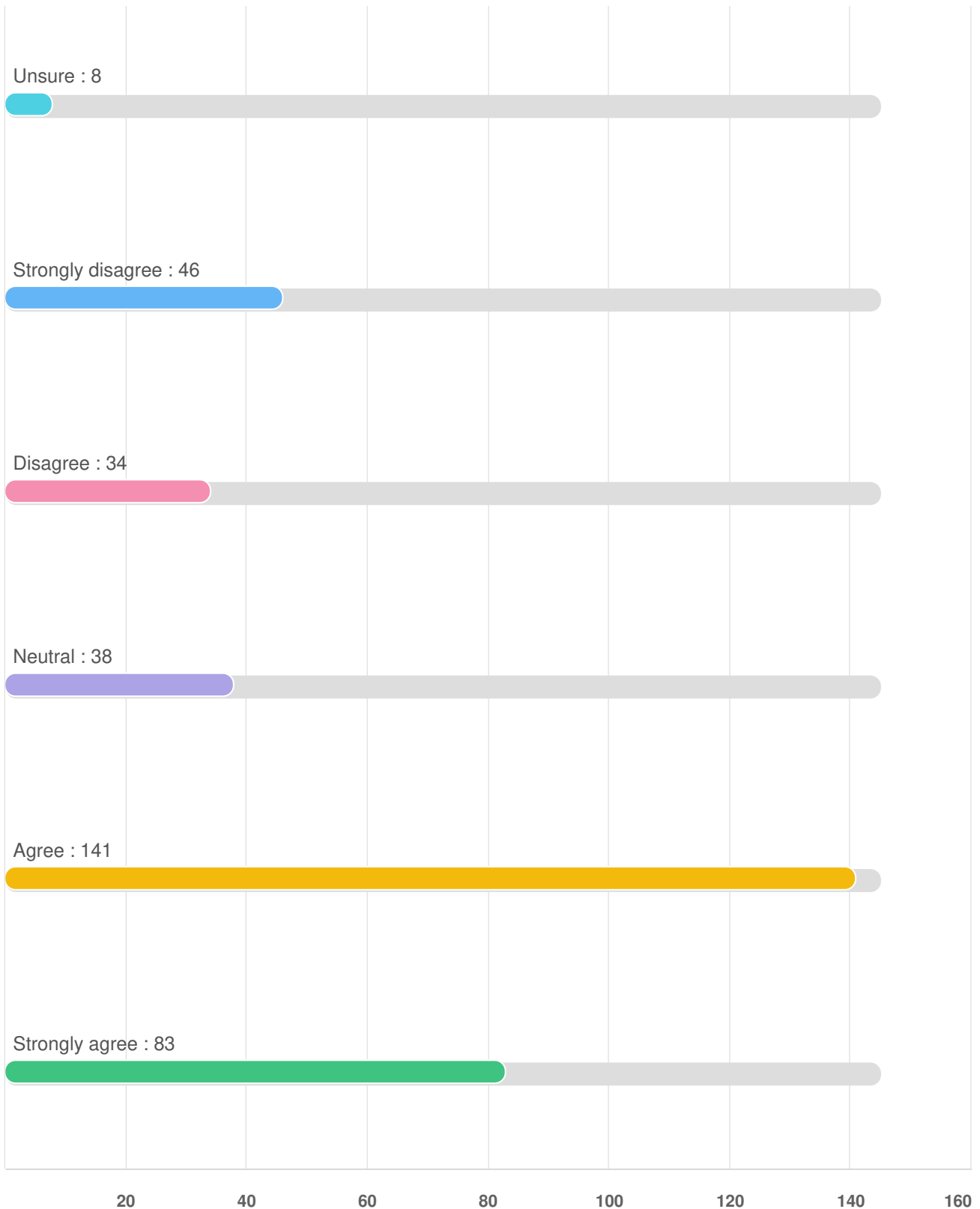
### Council meetings should be held outside of business hours



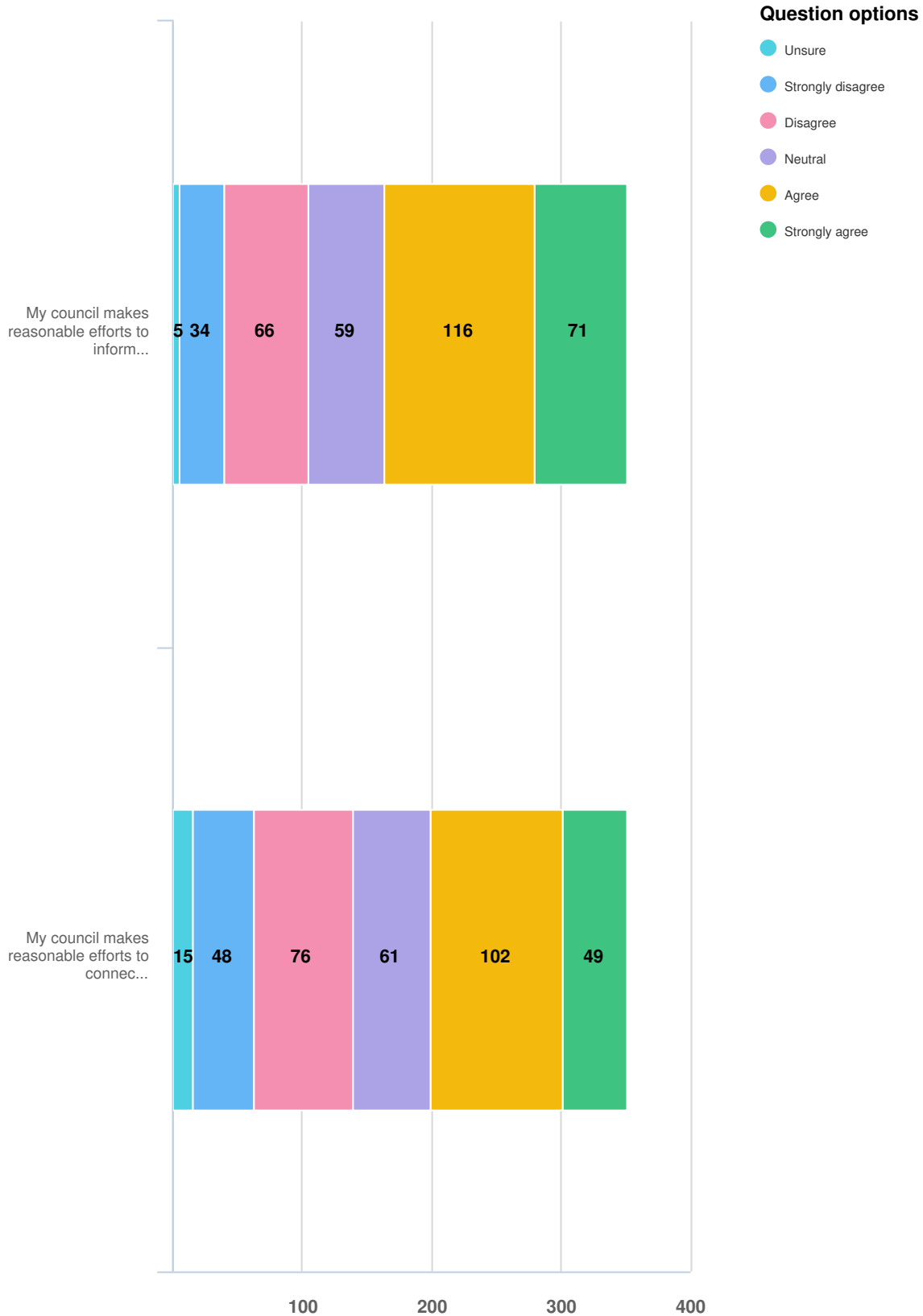
### Elected members should be required to attend all meetings in person



### Elected members should be able to attend some meetings via tele- or video-conference



**Q7 | More local promotion** The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) runs a campaign to generate awareness of the upcoming elections and to encourage people to stand for council. Please indicate your response to the following statements:

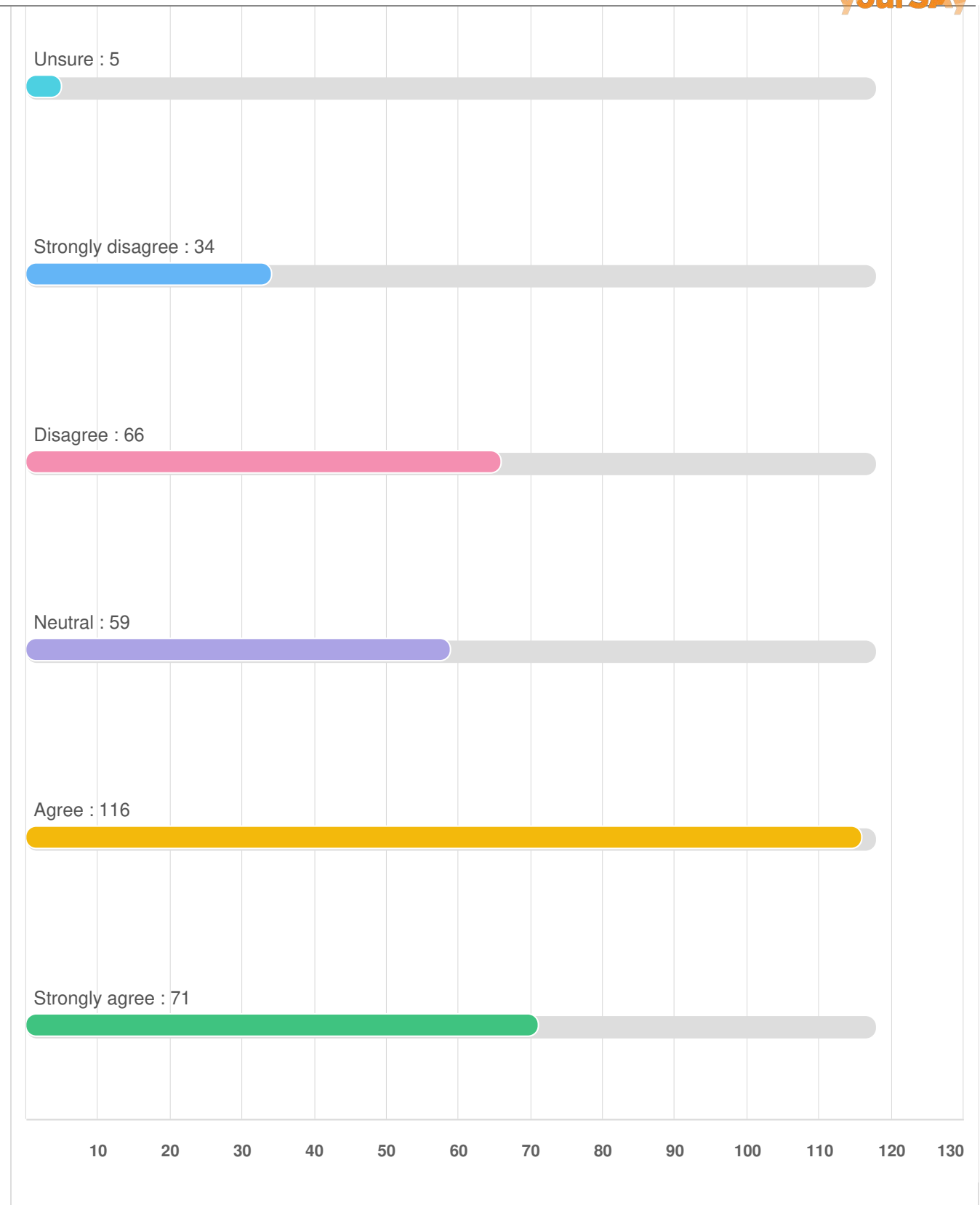


Optional question (351 response(s), 56 skipped)

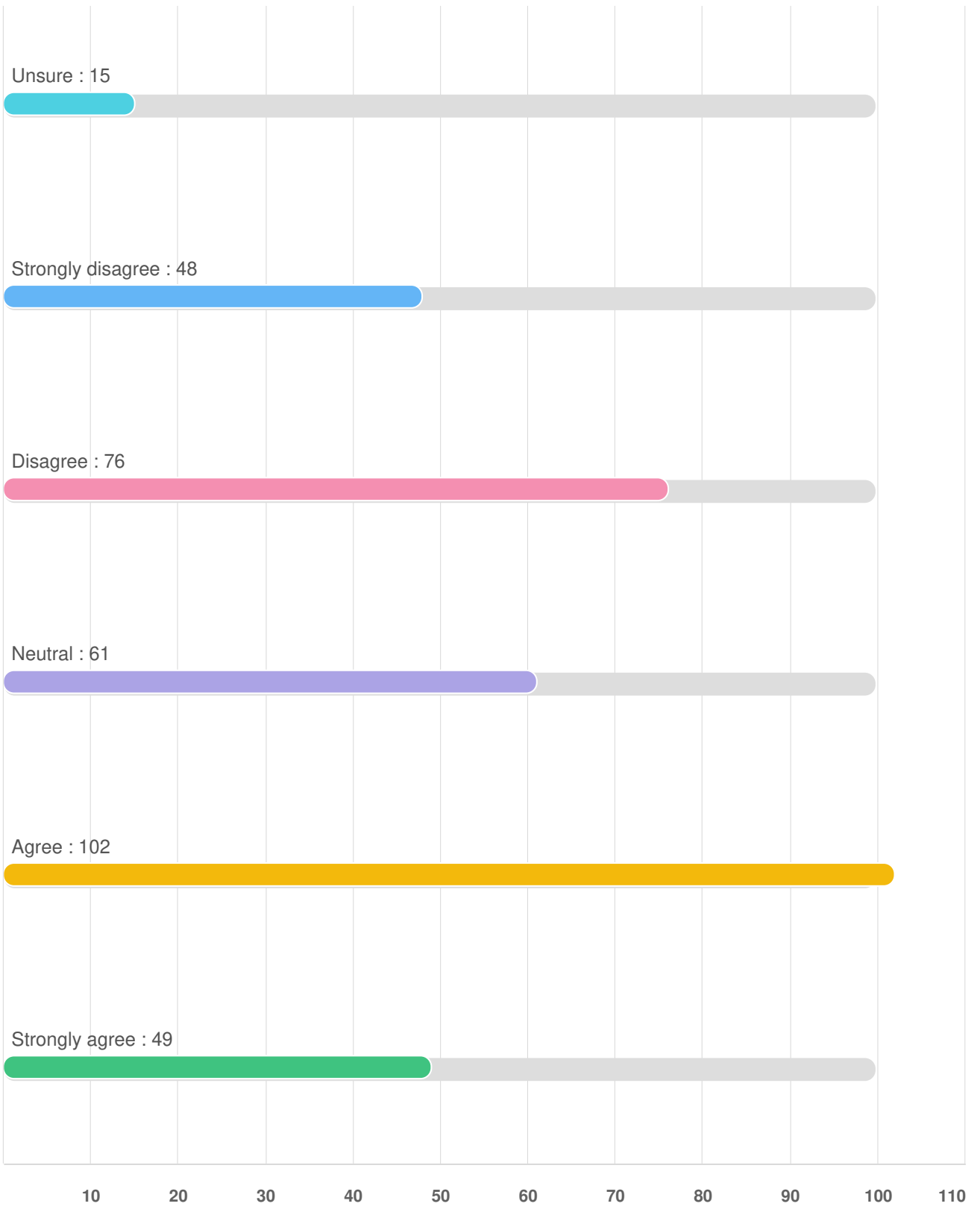
Question type: Likert Question

**Q7 | More local promotion** The Local Government Association of South Australia (LGA) runs a campaign to generate awareness of the upcoming elections and to encourage people to stand for council. Please indicate your response to the following statements:

**My council makes reasonable efforts to inform me of the opportunity to run for council**

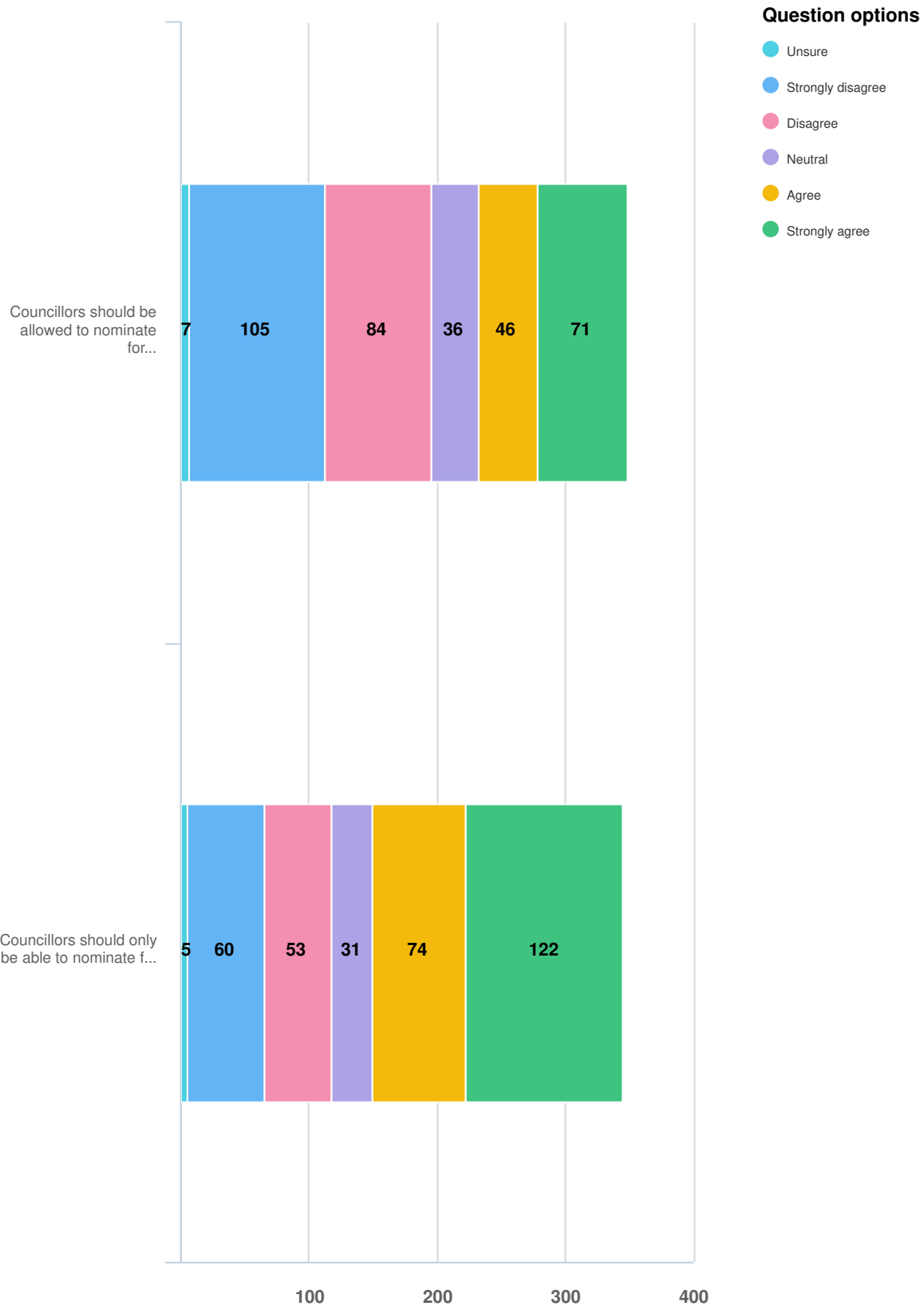


### My council makes reasonable efforts to connect with community and interest groups to raise awareness and encourage nominations





**Q8** Term limits for council members Council members have no limit to the terms that they can serve on council. Limiting council members to a maximum of two or three terms may ‘open up’ vacancies to a wider range of candidates. Please indicate your resp...

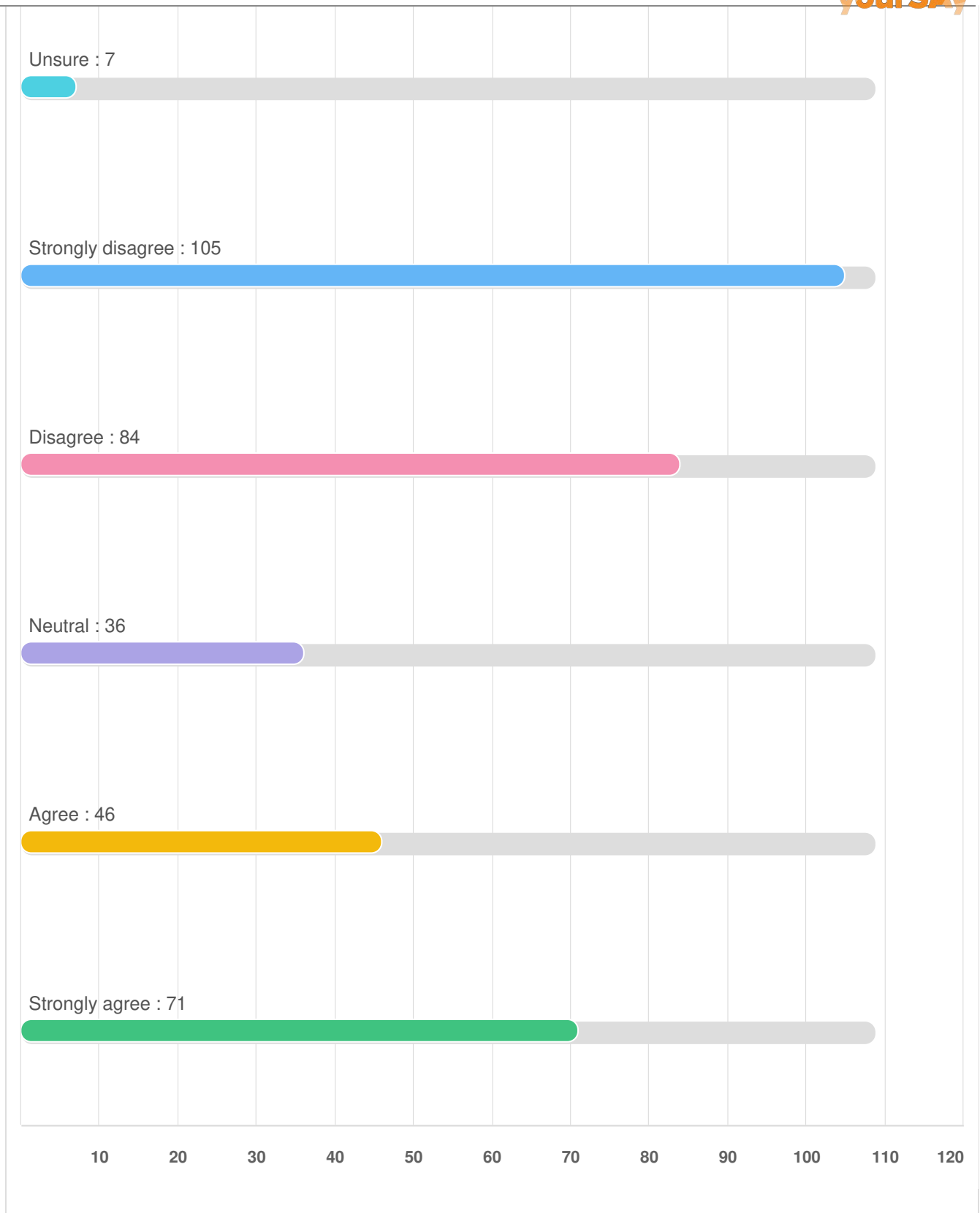


Optional question (350 response(s), 57 skipped)

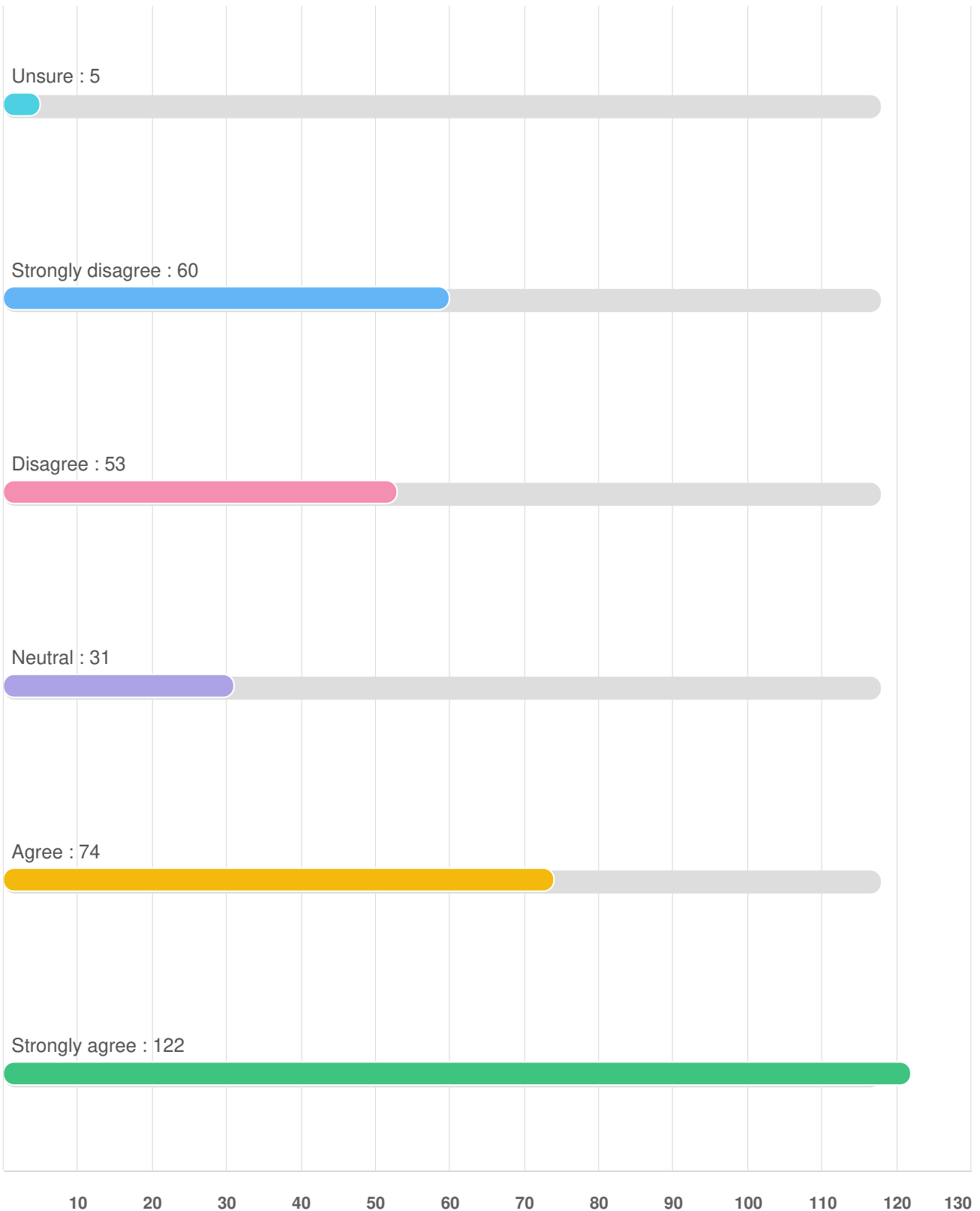
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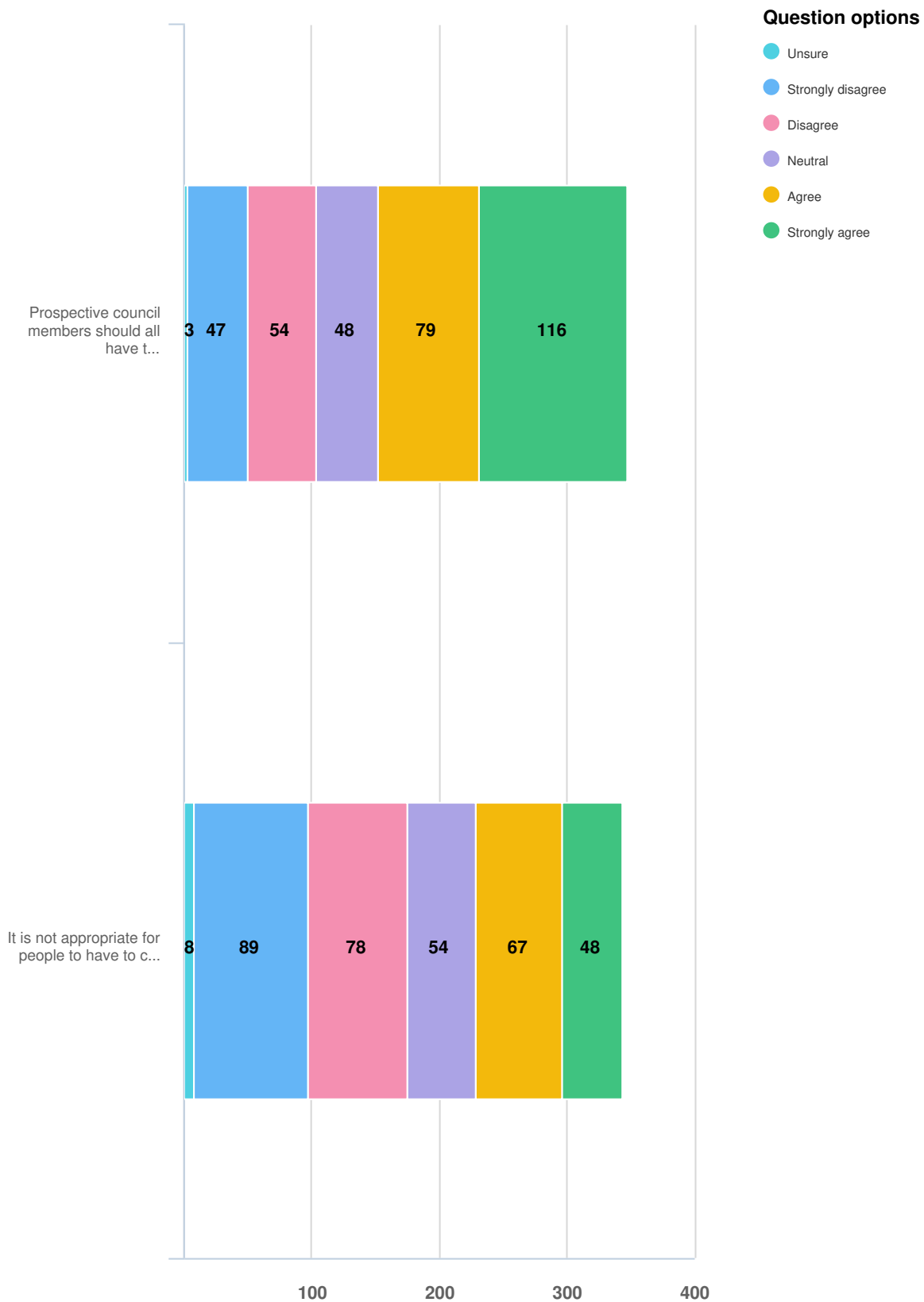
**Councillors should be allowed to nominate for re-election without term limits**



### Councillors should only be able to nominate for a maximum number of terms, e.g., two four-year terms



**Q9** Required training for candidates There is no requirement for people nominating for council to complete any training before they nominate. Should some formal or informal training course be required? Or could this be a barrier that might prevent good...

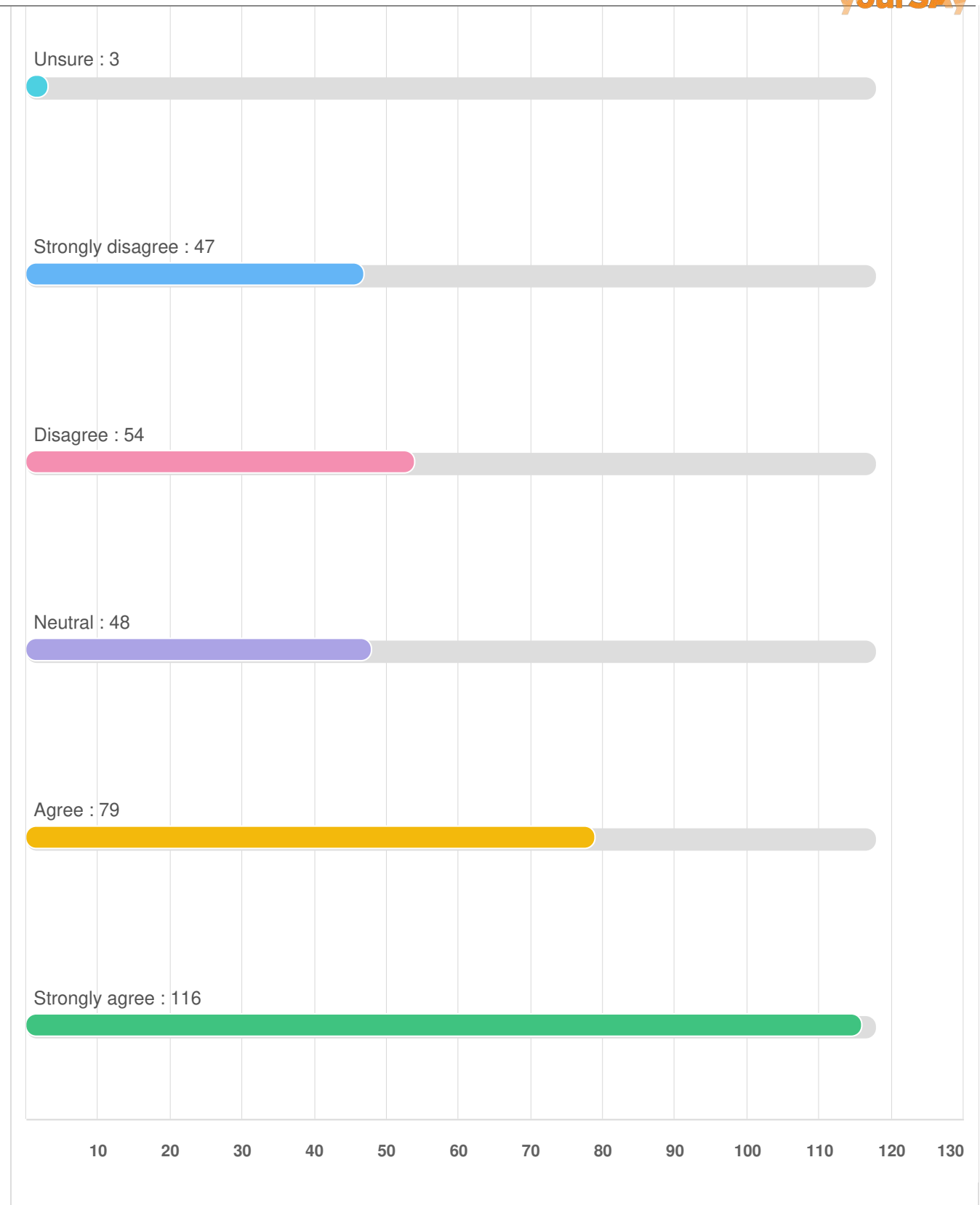


Optional question (347 response(s), 60 skipped)

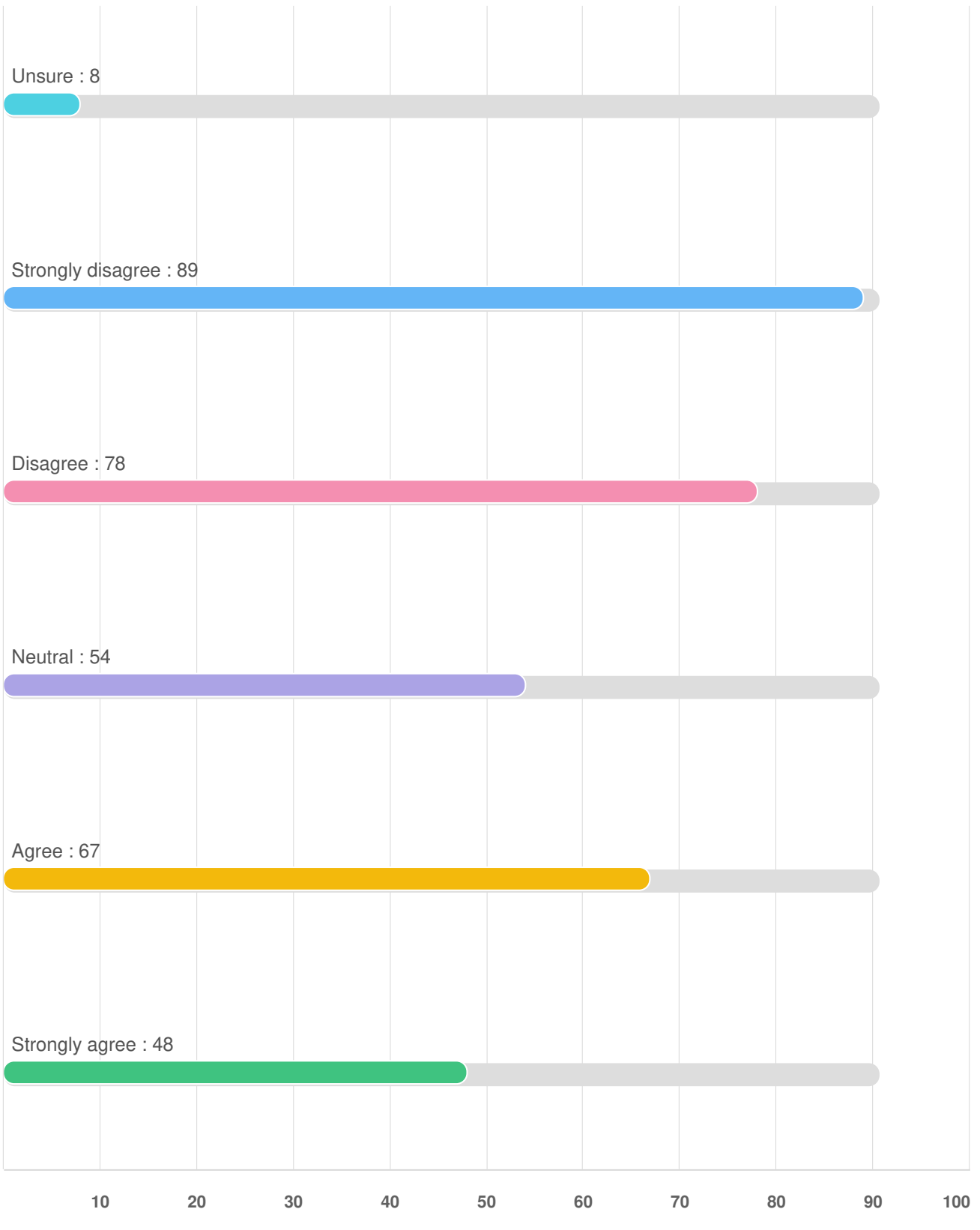
Question type: Likert Question

**Q9 | Required training for candidates** There is no requirement for people nominating for council to complete any training before they nominate. Should some formal or informal training course be required? Or could this be a barrier that might prevent good...

**Prospective council members should all have to undertake mandatory training prior to nominating**

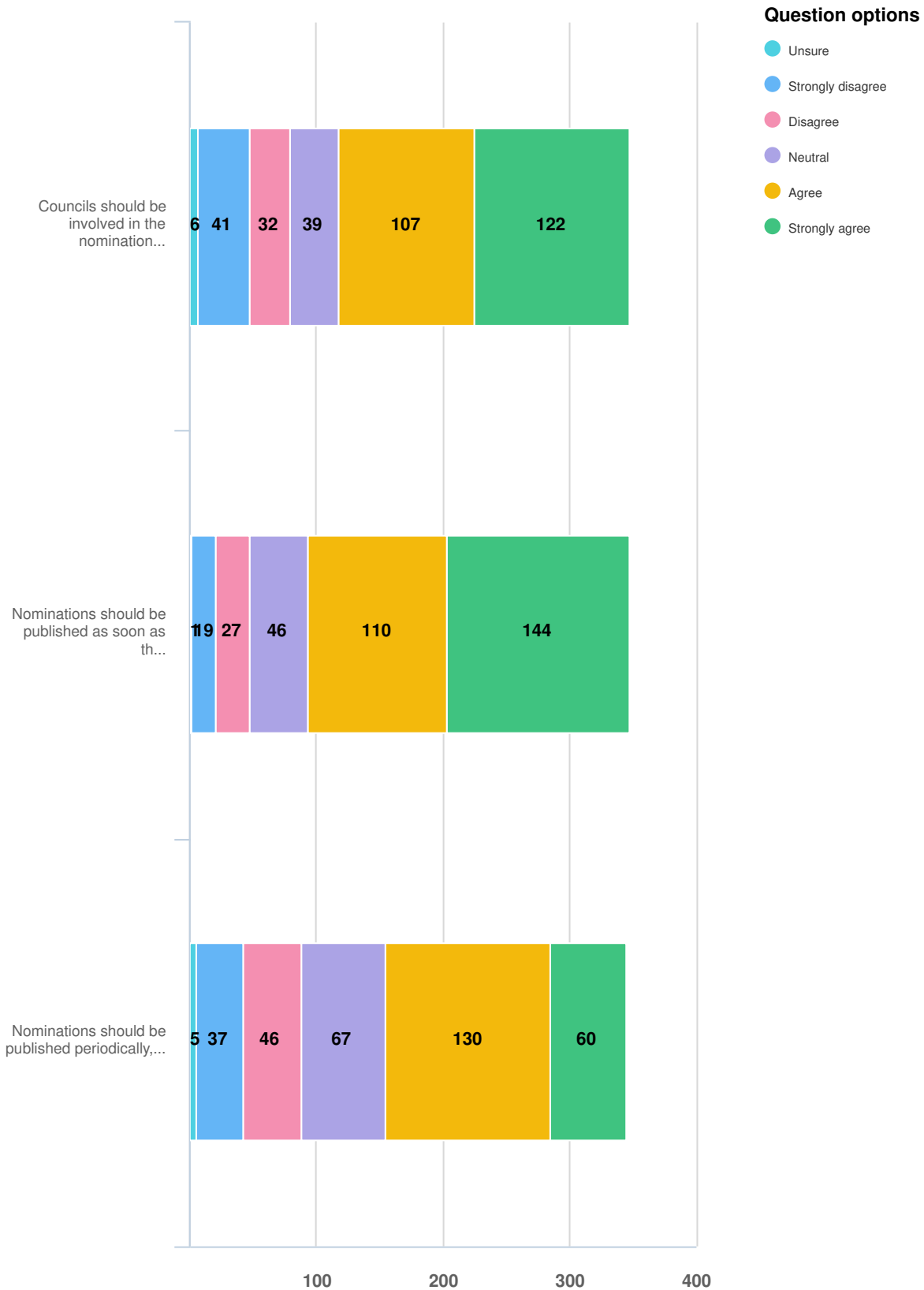


### It is not appropriate for people to have to complete training before standing for election





**Q10** Consider real-time publishing of nominations Nominations to council are lodged directly with the Electoral Commission of South Australia (ECSA). Nominations are not published until the closing date, which means that potential candidates may not know...

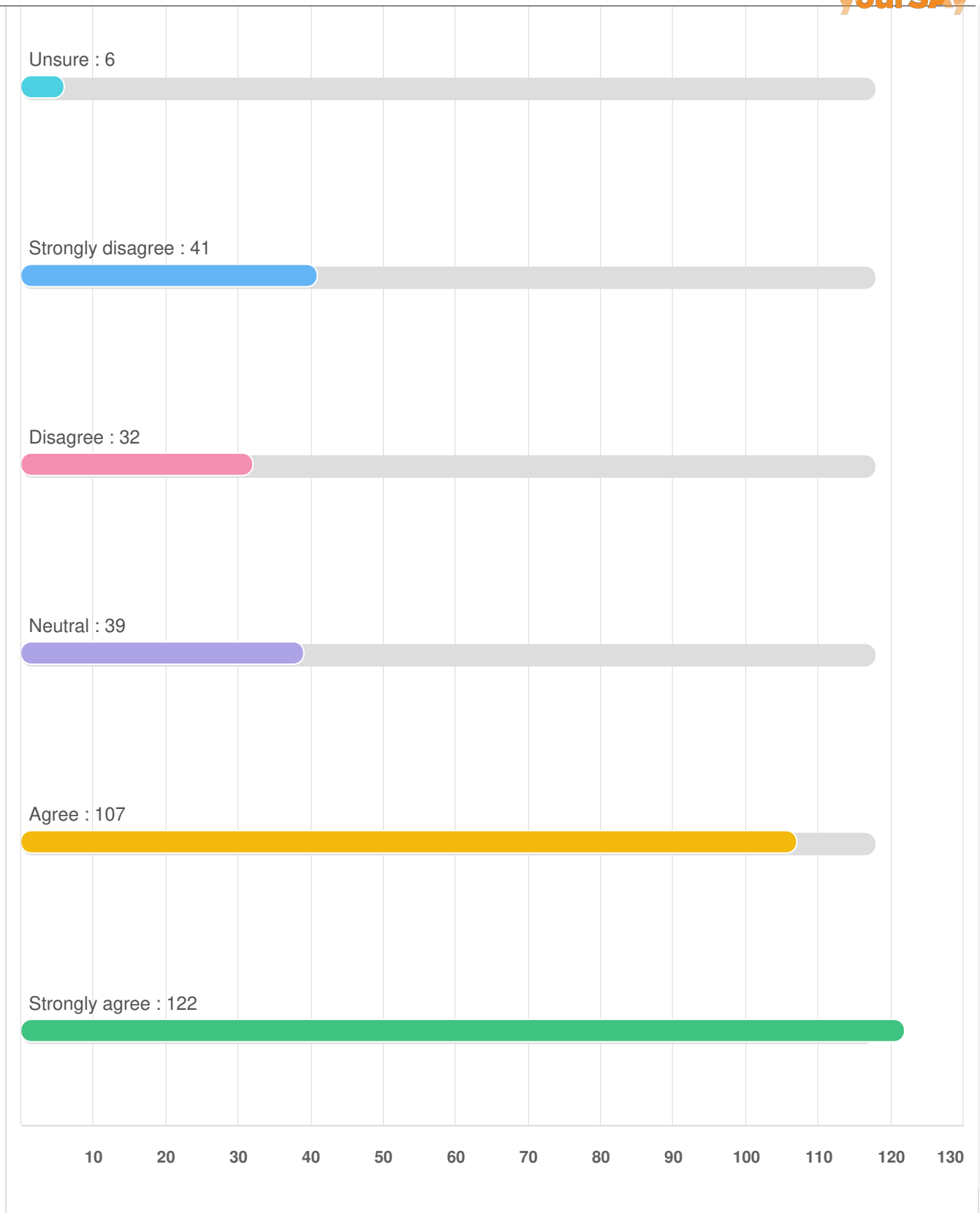


Optional question (348 response(s), 59 skipped)

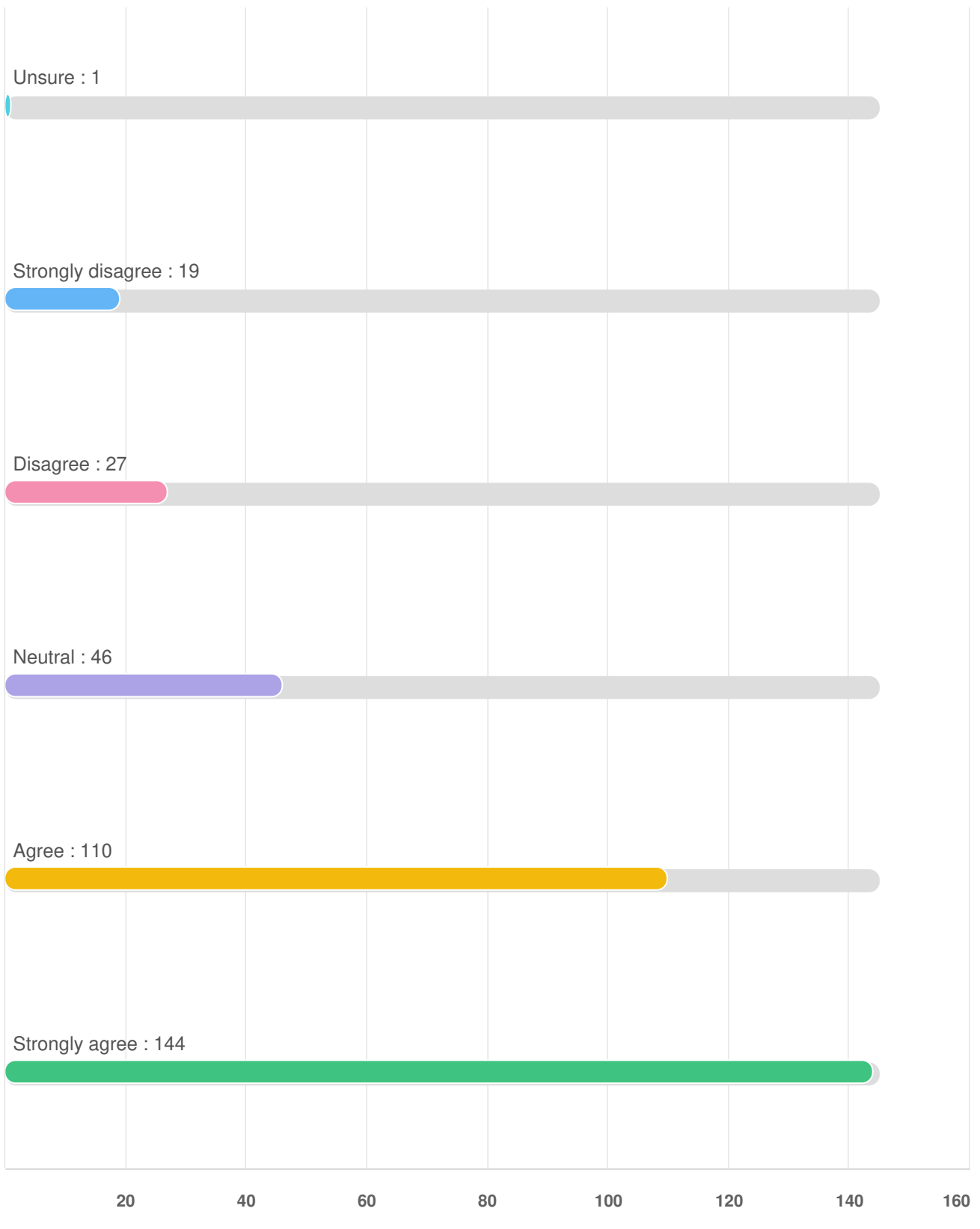
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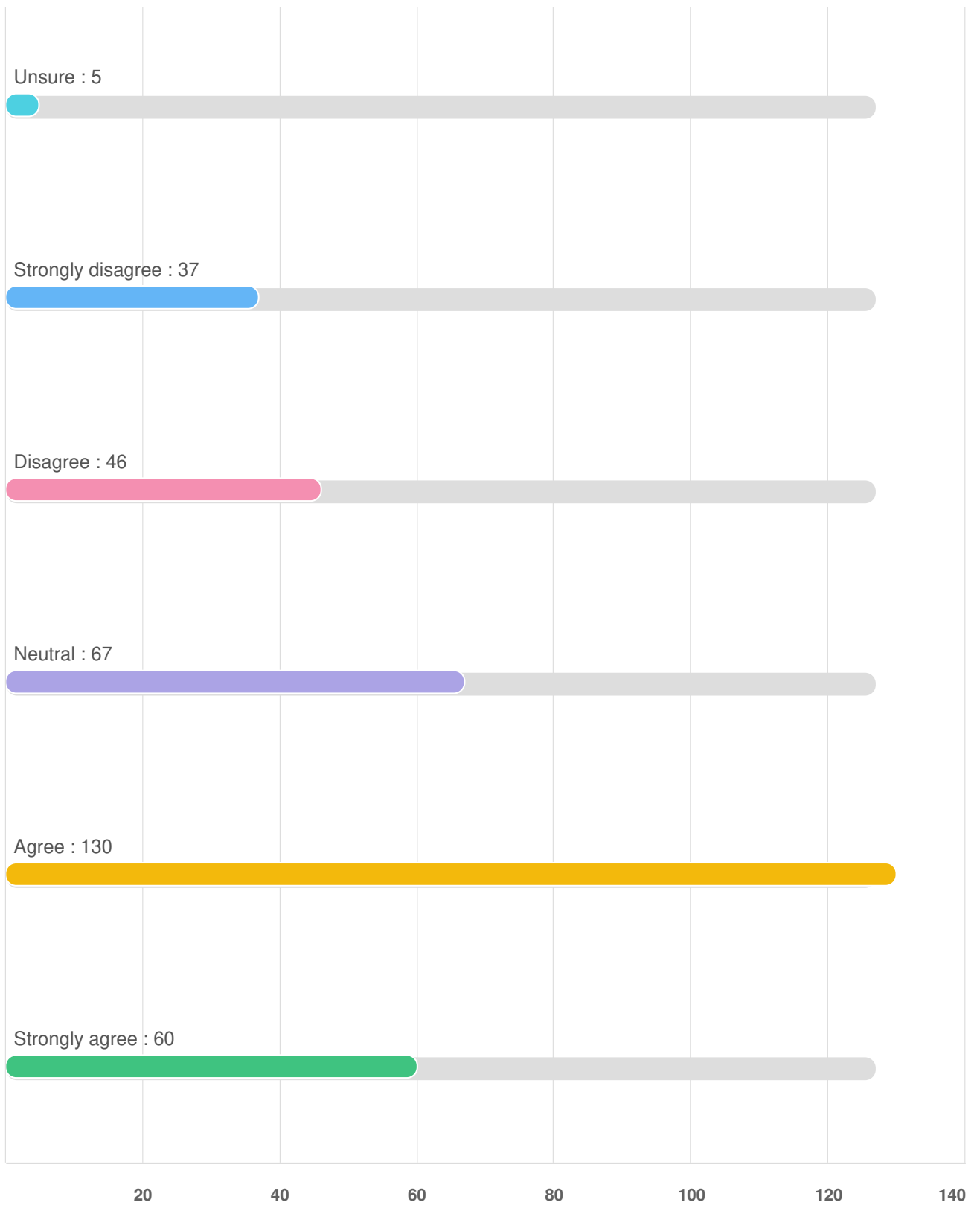
**Councils should be involved in the nomination process, e.g., accepting and displaying nominations**



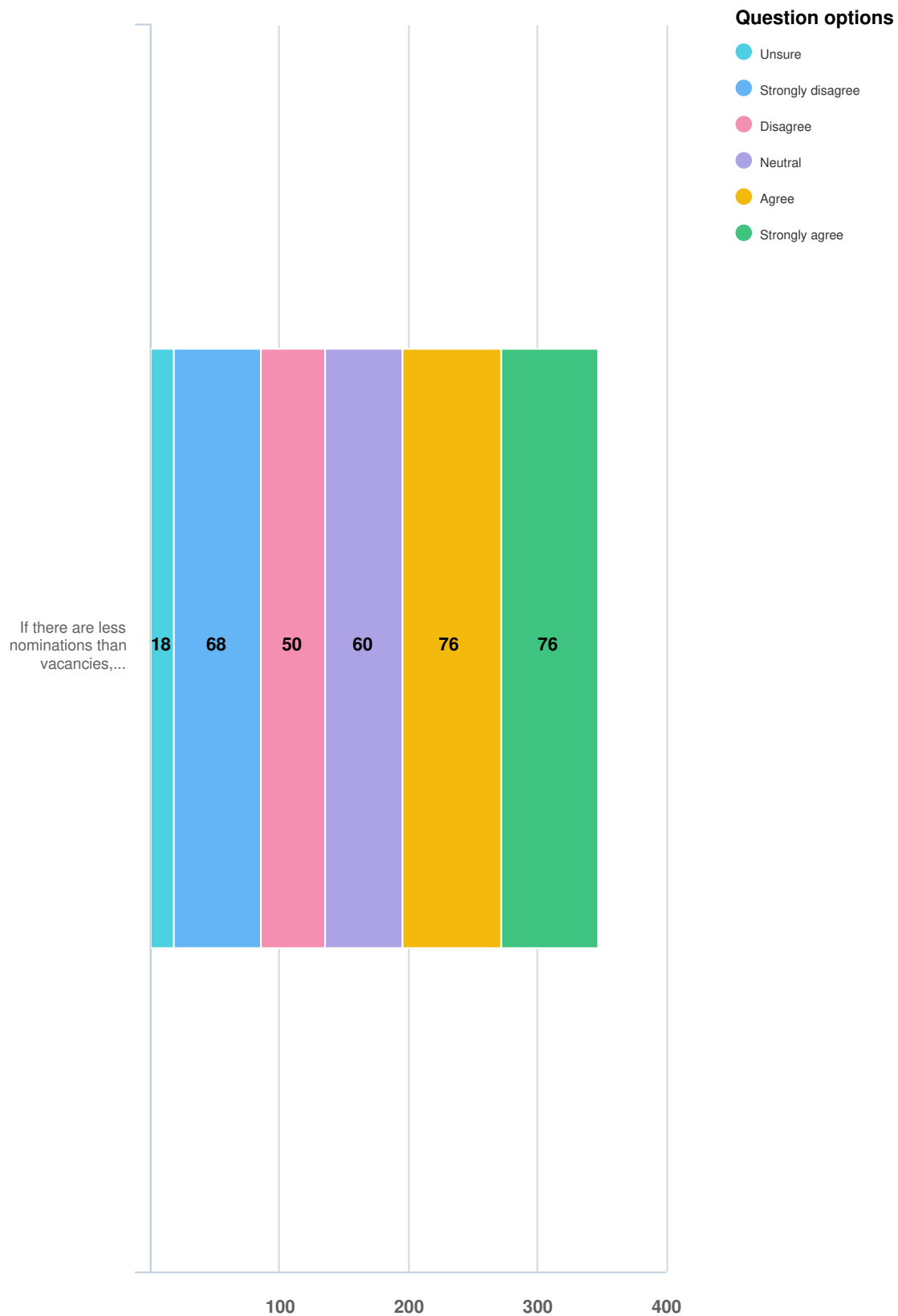
### Nominations should be published as soon as they are received



### Nominations should be published periodically, e.g., weekly, over the nomination period



**Q11 | Lack of nominations trigger for boundary reform** In order for a council to exist, it must have locally elected councillors. If there are insufficient nominations to fill all positions on a council, should amalgamation be considered for that council?...

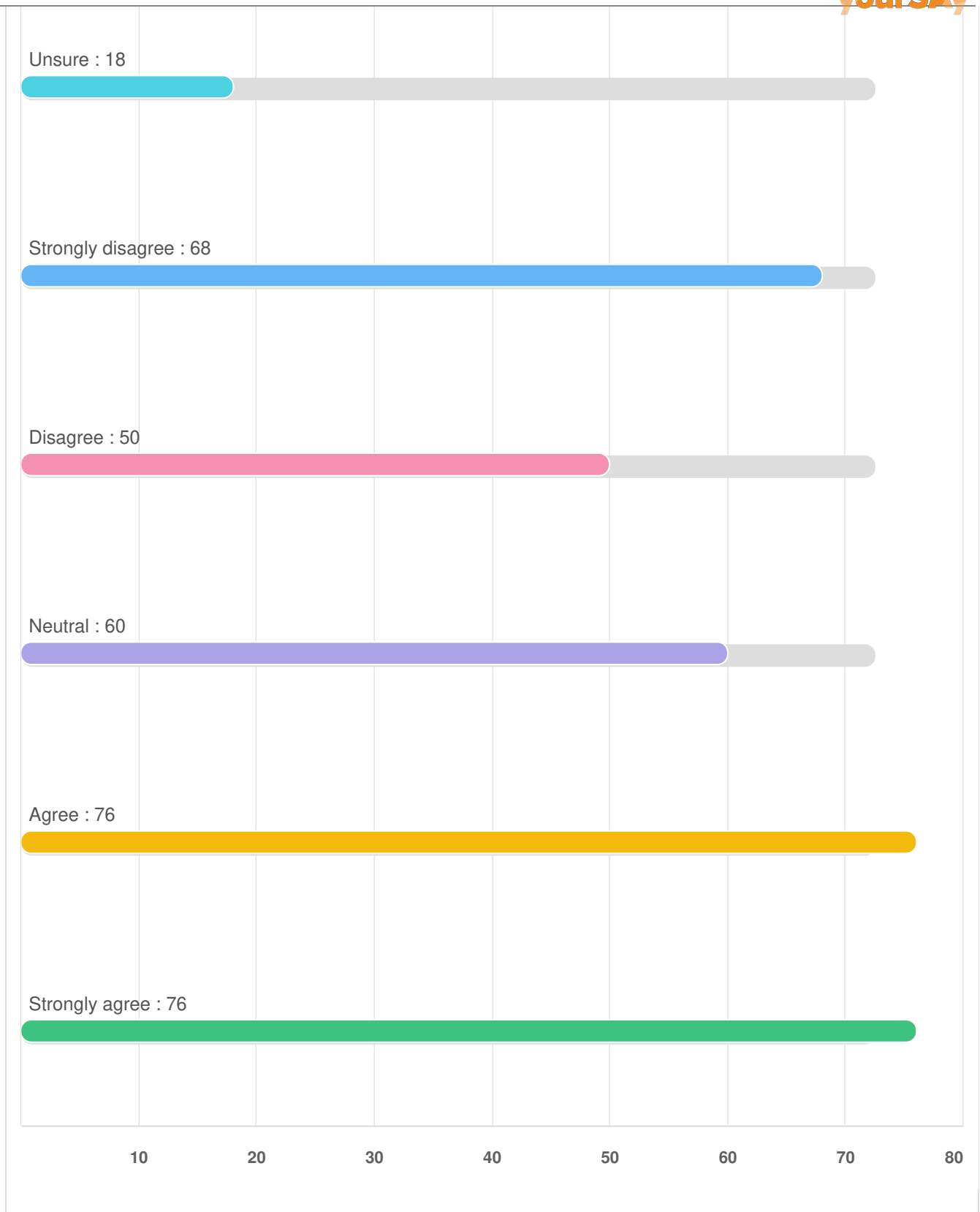


Optional question (348 response(s), 59 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

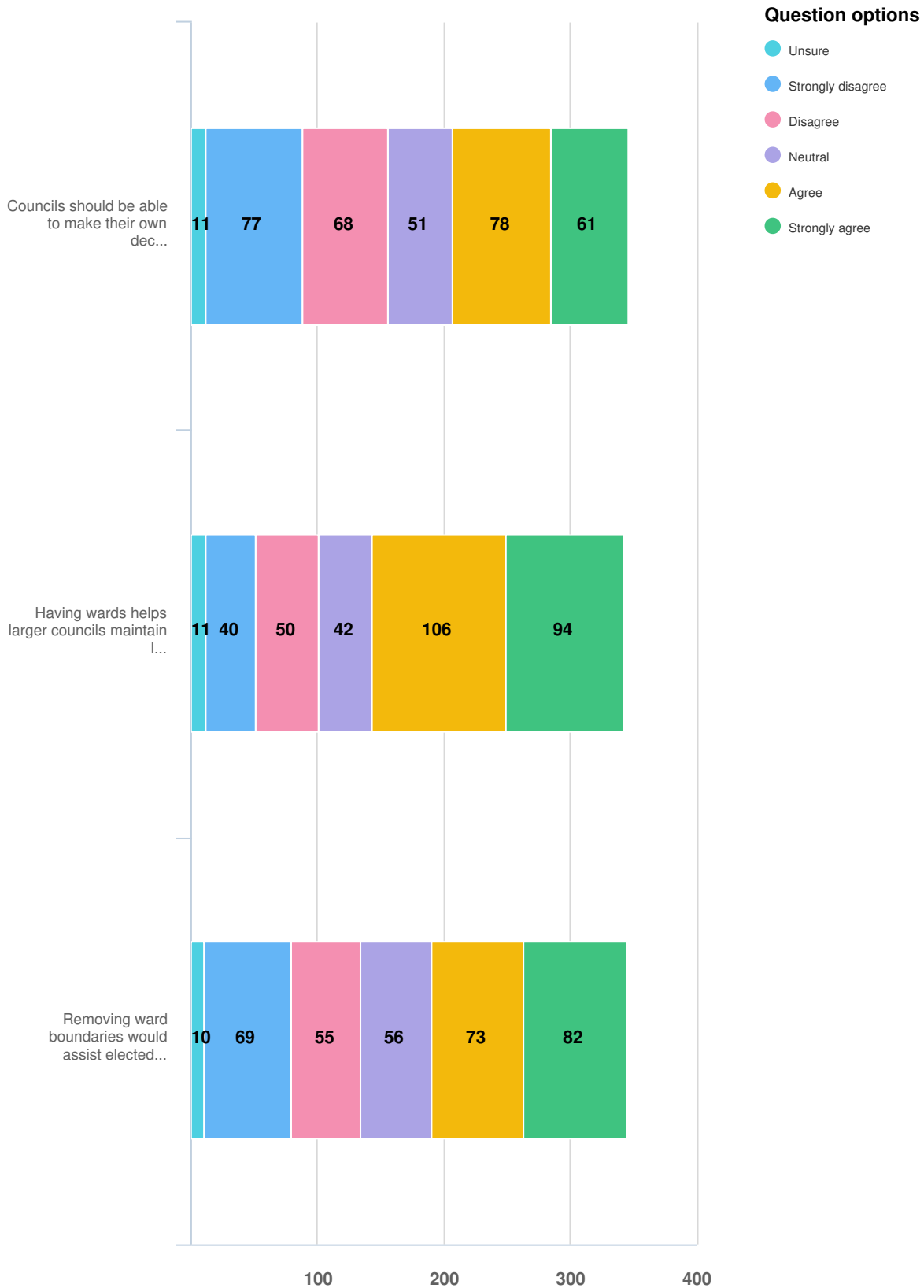
**Q11 | Lack of nominations trigger for boundary reform In order for a council to exist, it must have locally elected councillors. If there are insufficient nominations to fill all positions on a council, should amalgamation be considered for that council?...**

**If there are less nominations than vacancies, potential boundary changes should be referred to the South Australian Boundaries Commission for independent consideration**





**Q12** Removal of council wards Thirty of South Australia’s 68 councils have a ward structure, where a council is divided into smaller areas for the purposes of elections. Maintaining a ward structure has been regarded as a way to bolster representation e...

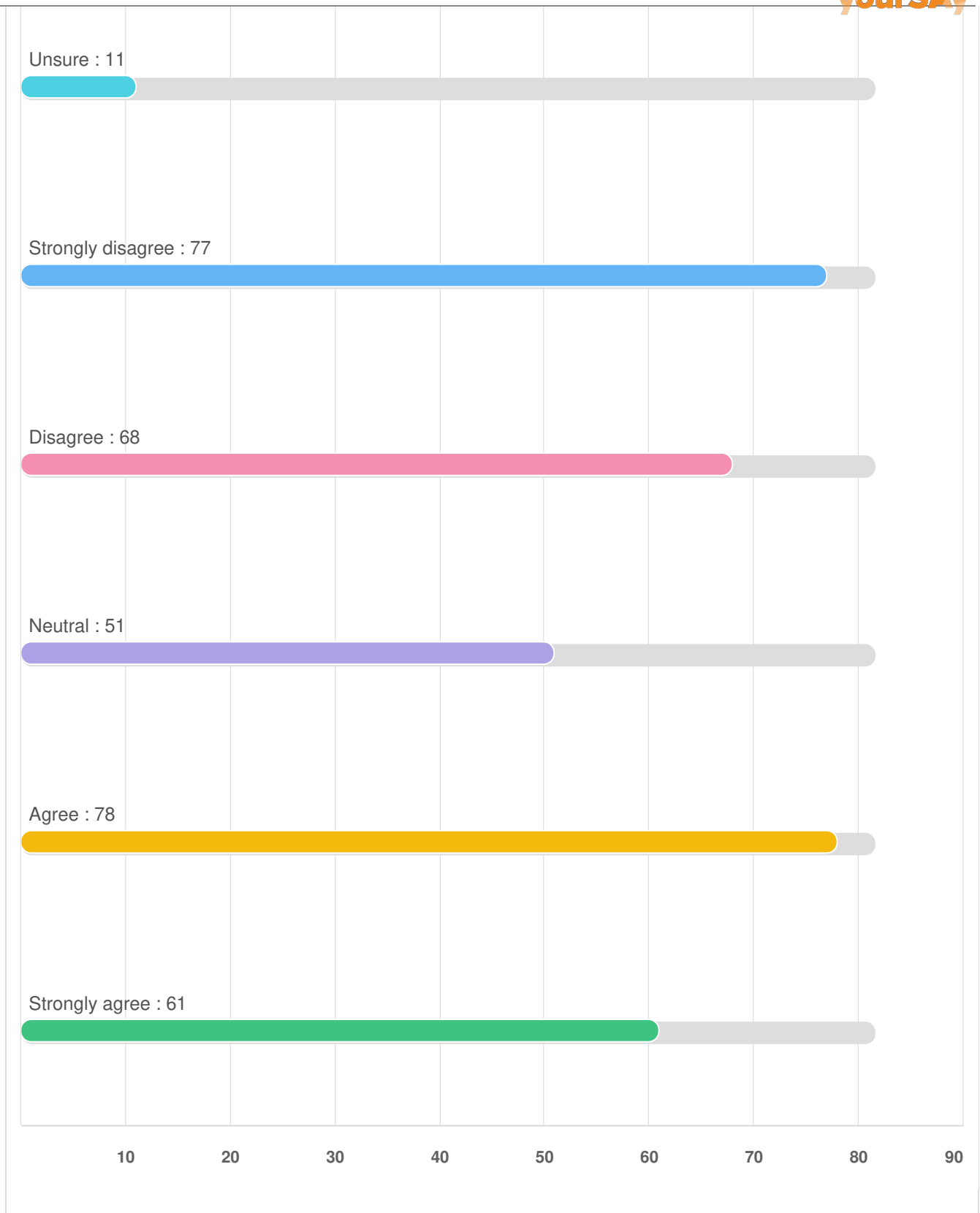


Optional question (347 response(s), 60 skipped)

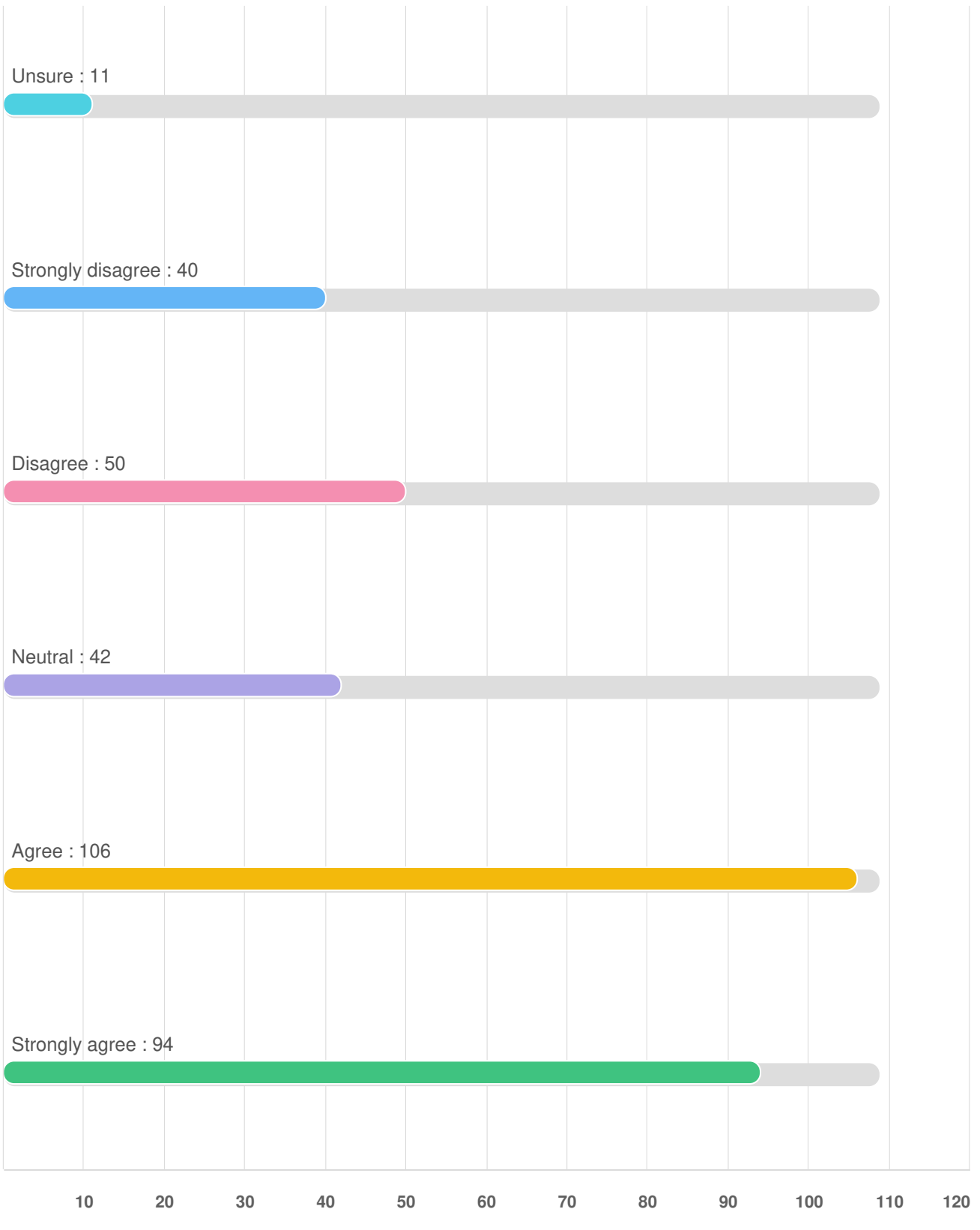
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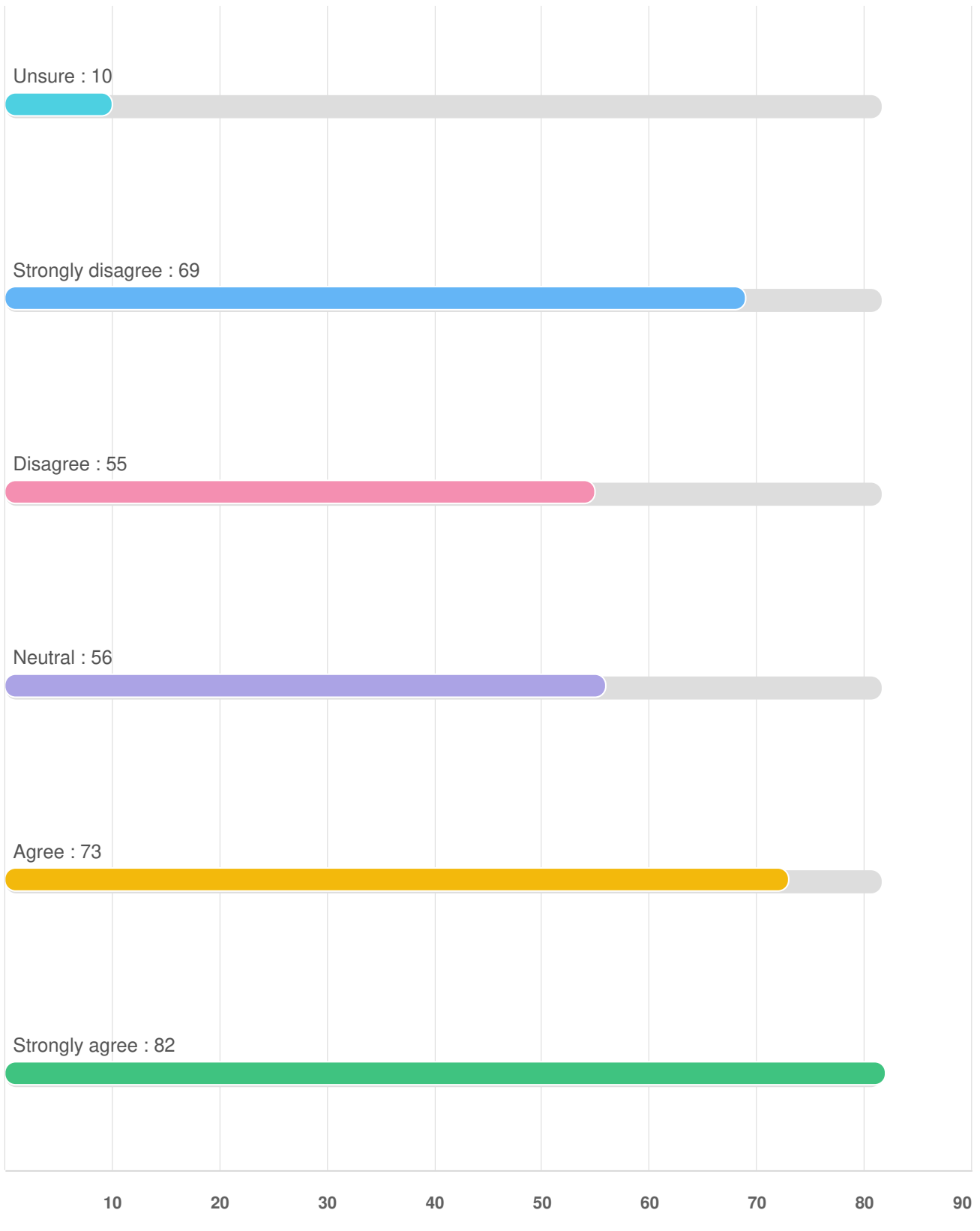
**Councils should be able to make their own decision about whether they have wards**



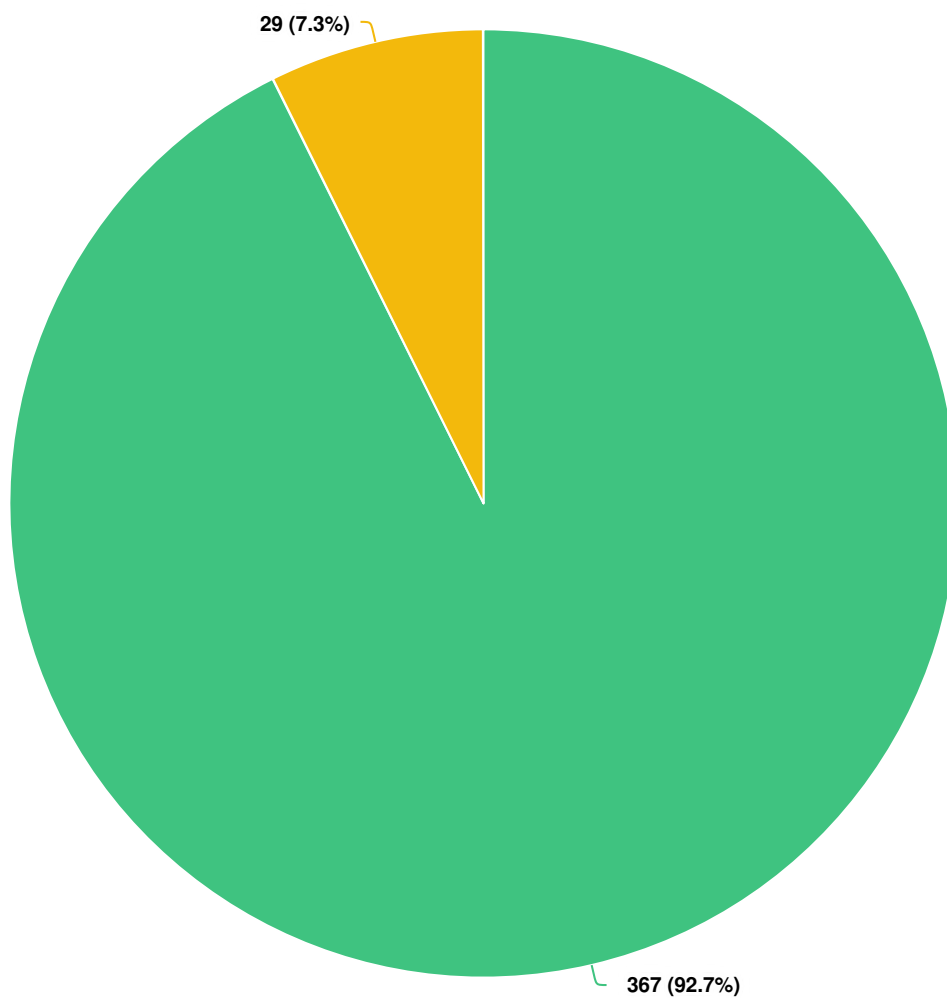
### Having wards helps larger councils maintain local community's connection to council



### Removing ward boundaries would assist elected members to be representative of the whole council



**Q13** | **Topic 3. Ways to increase voter turnout** Voting for councils in South Australia is voluntary and done through the postal system. Over the last six elections, voter turnout has consistently remained at about 33%. This means that around two-thirds of pe...



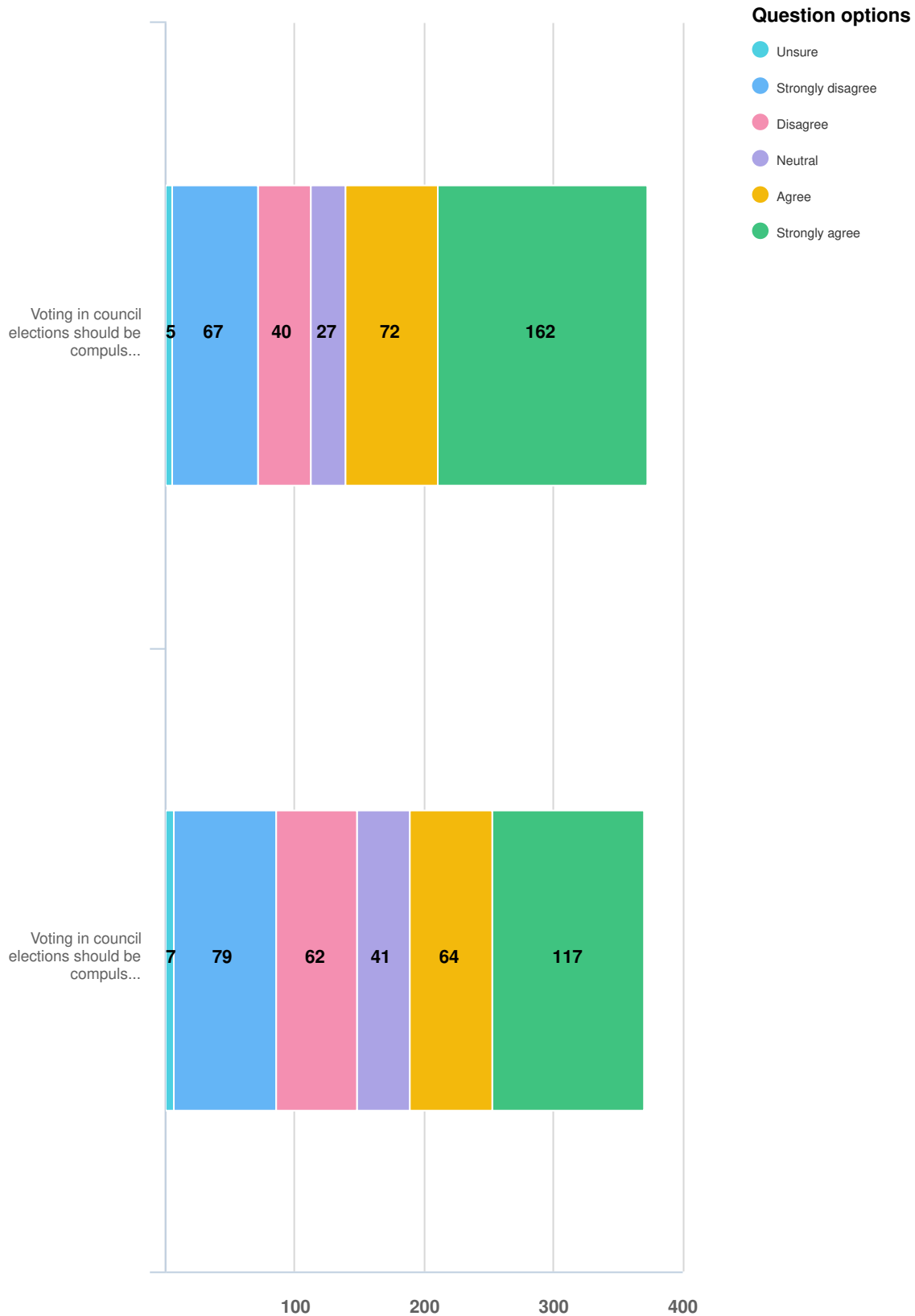
**Question options**

- No
- Yes

Optional question (396 response(s), 11 skipped)

Question type: Radio Button Question

**Q14 | Topic 3. Ways to increase voter turnout** Make voting for councils compulsory South Australia is now one of only two states that have maintained voluntary voting in council elections. Making voting for your council compulsory would be the most certain...

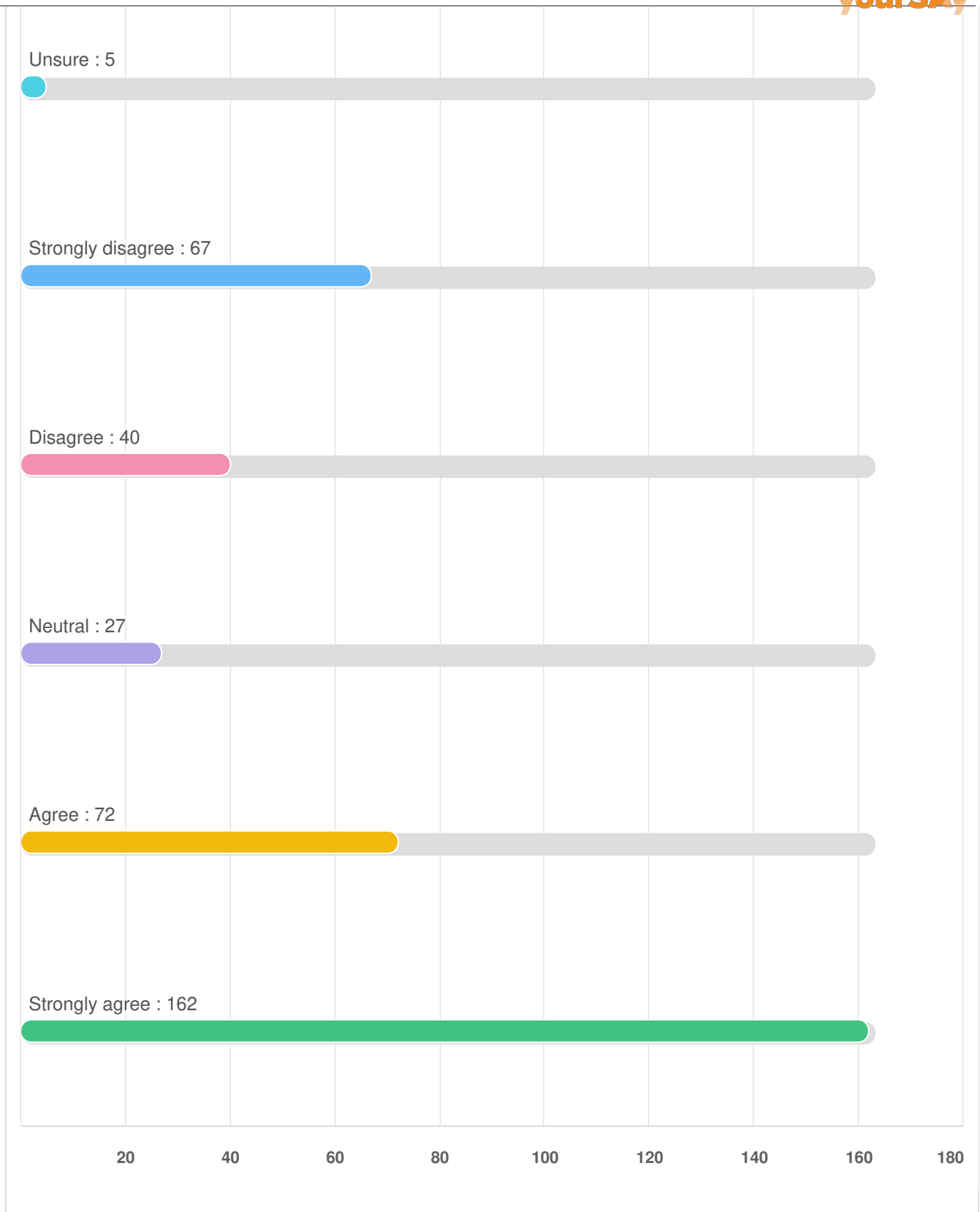


Optional question (375 response(s), 32 skipped)  
Question type: Likert Question

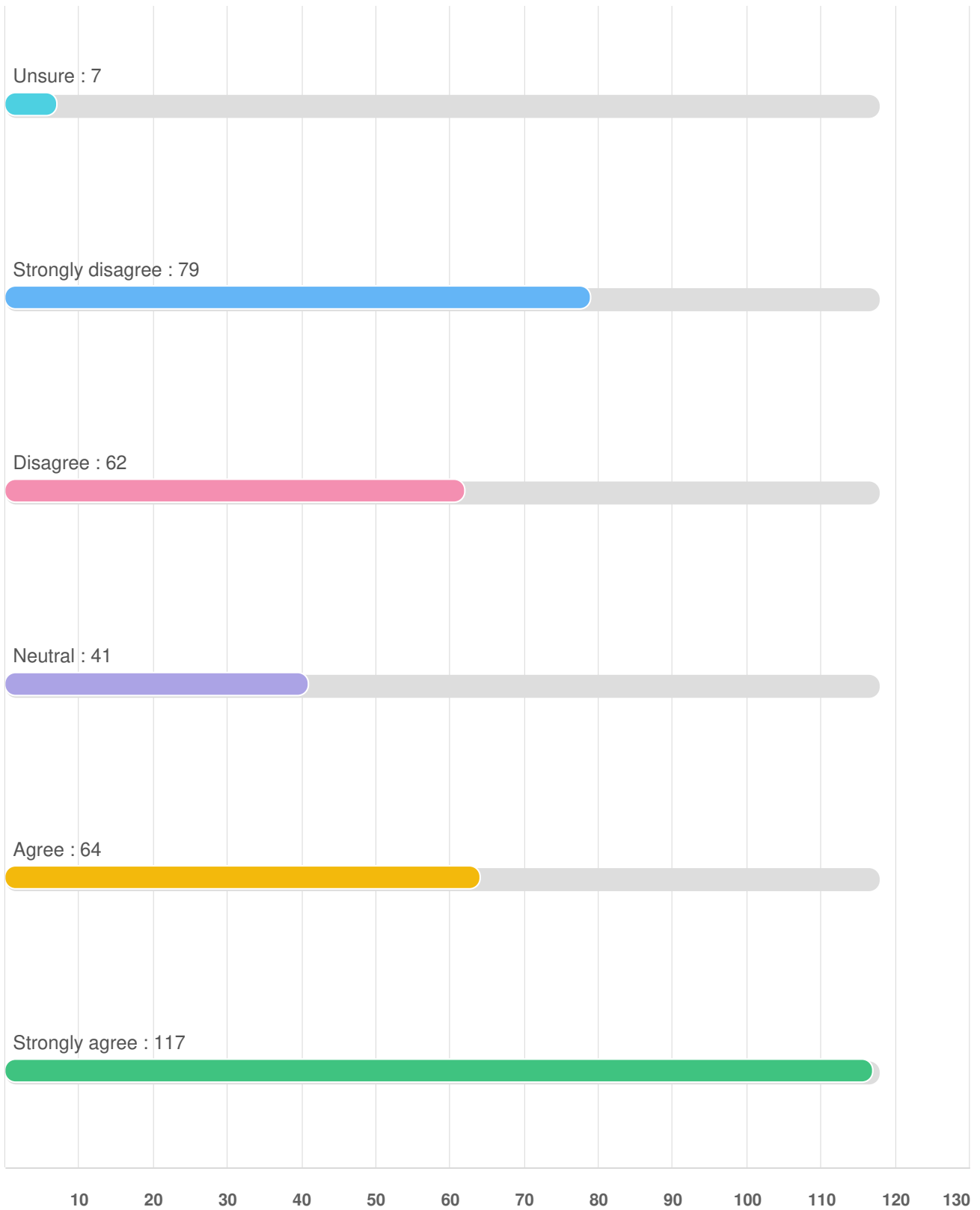
**Q14 | Topic 3. Ways to increase voter turnout** Make voting for councils compulsory South Australia is now one of only two states that have maintained voluntary voting in council elections. Making voting for your council compulsory would be the most certain...

Voting in council elections should be compulsory for all voters

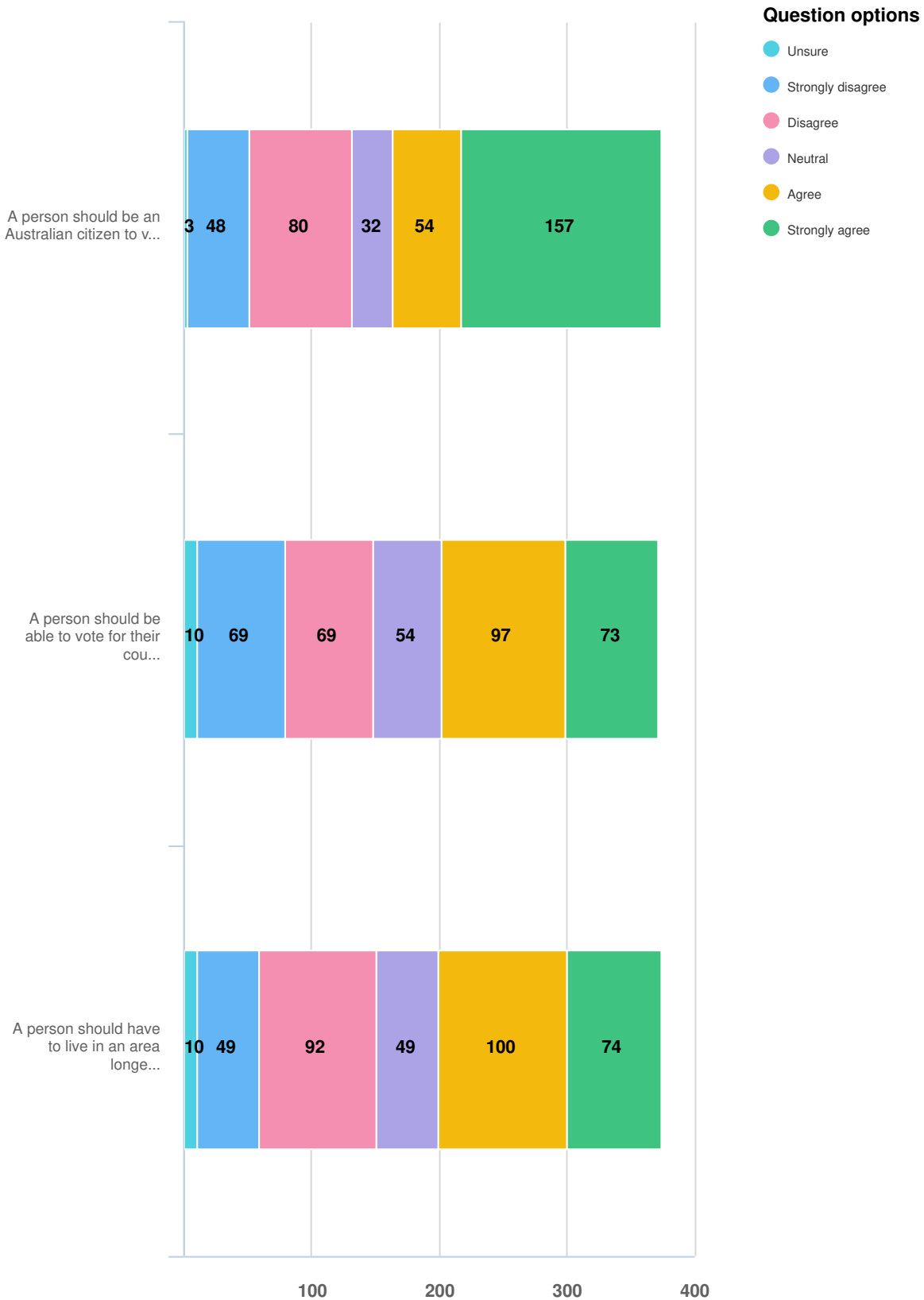




### Voting in council elections should be compulsory for residential voters, i.e., not for property owners or other voters



**Q15** Consider who can vote for their council You can vote in your council area if you are a resident or if you are a person or business owner who owns property in the area. Property owners and people who have lived in the area for at least one month, can ...

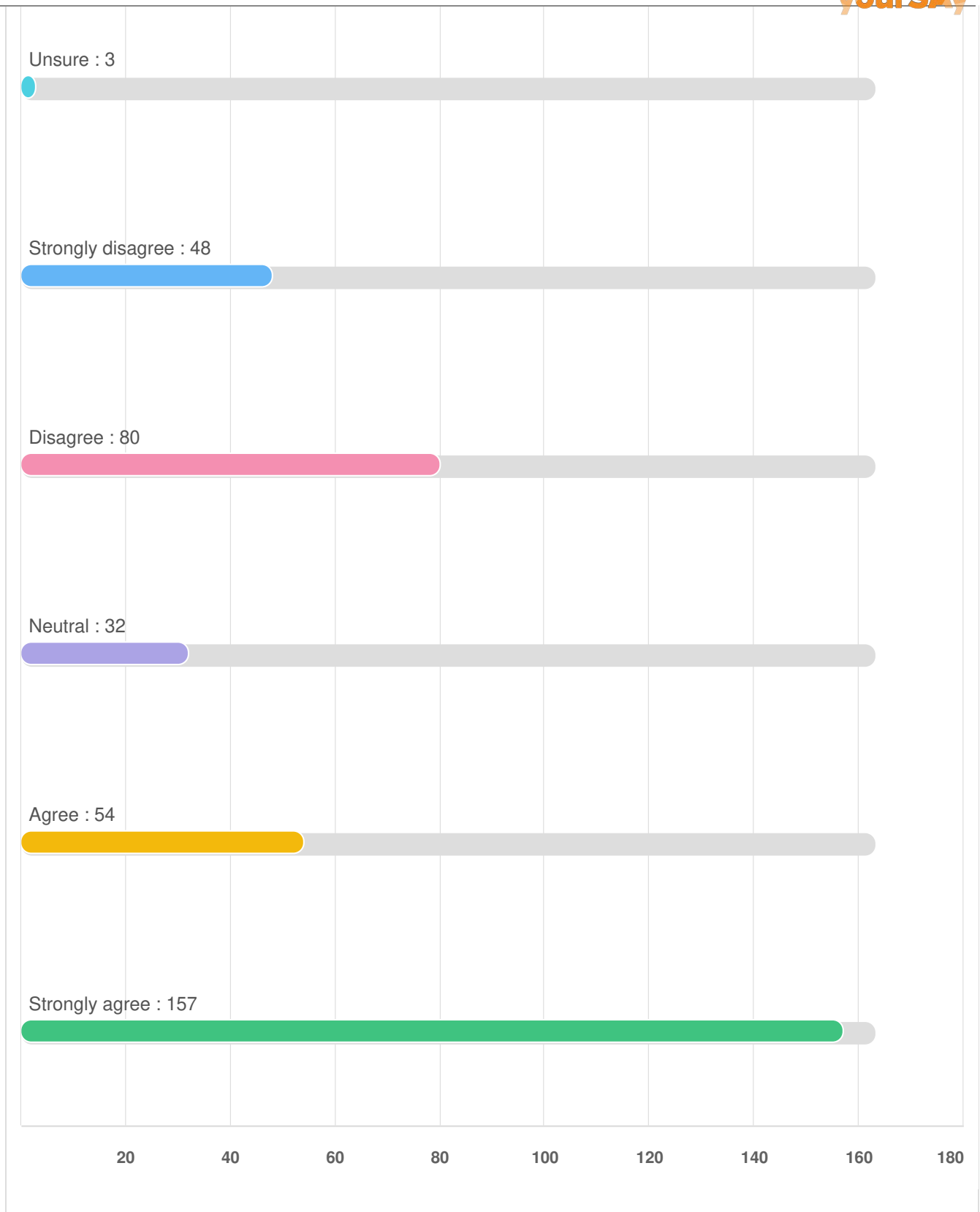


Optional question (375 response(s), 32 skipped)

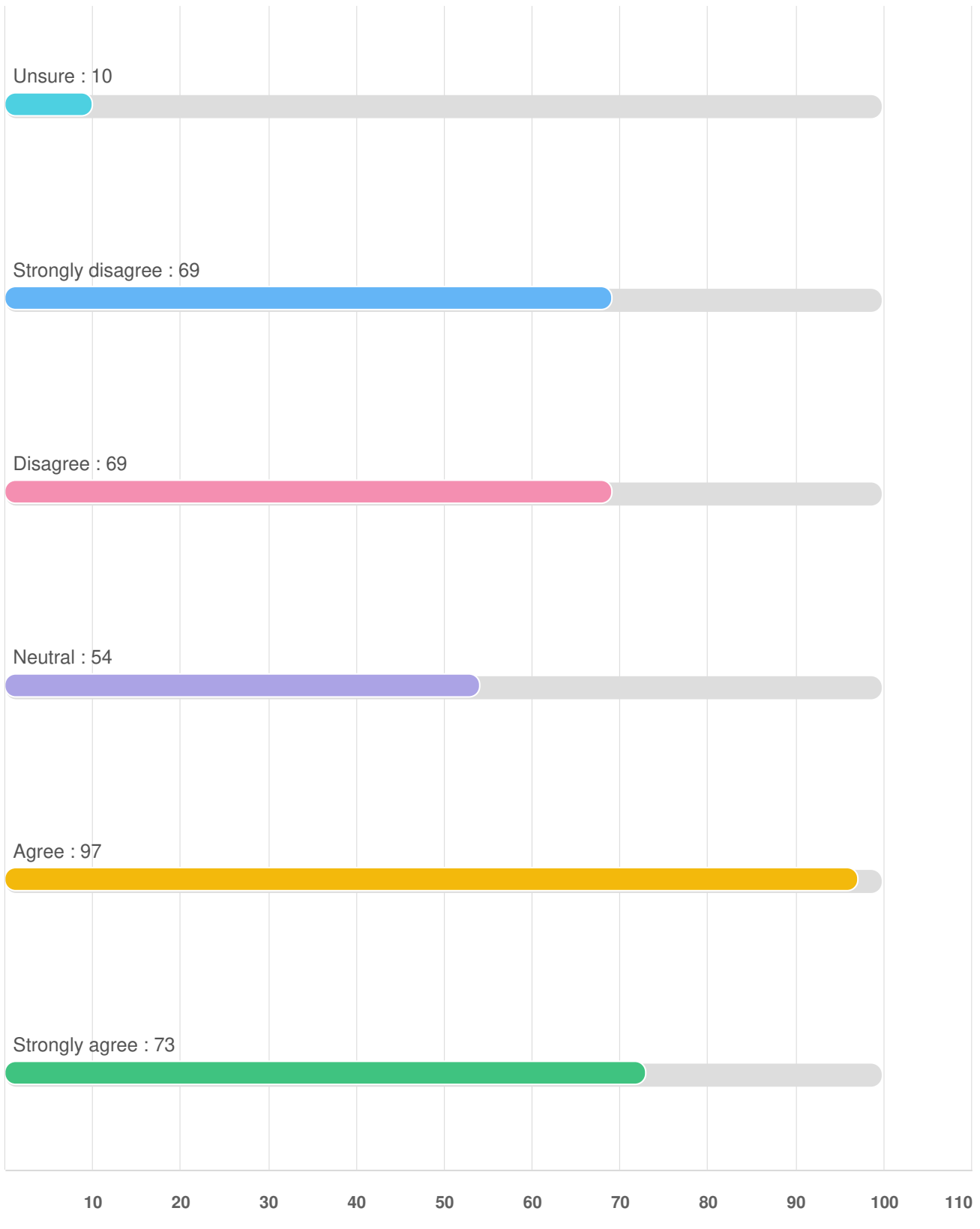
Question type: Likert Question

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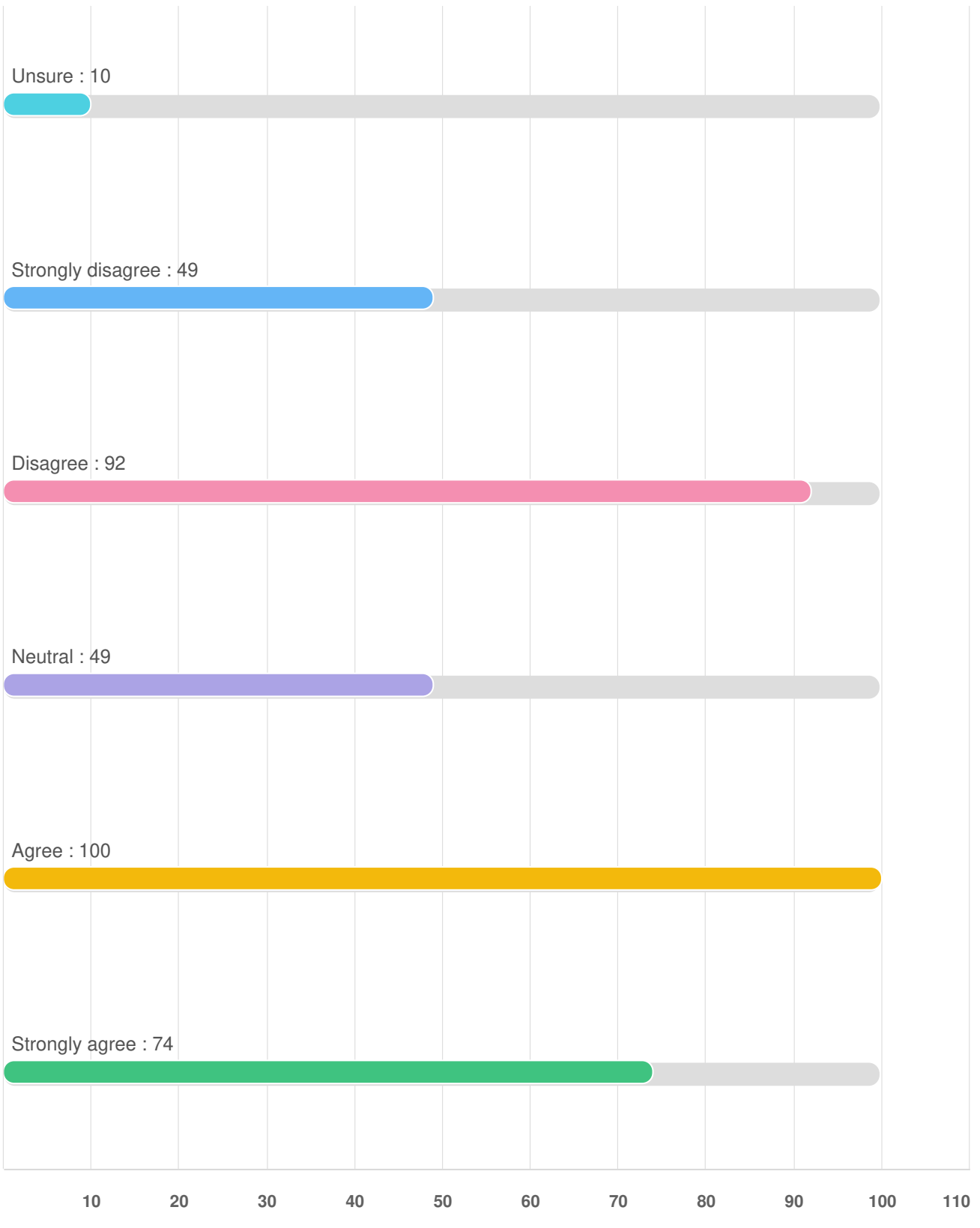
**A person should be an Australian citizen to vote in council elections**



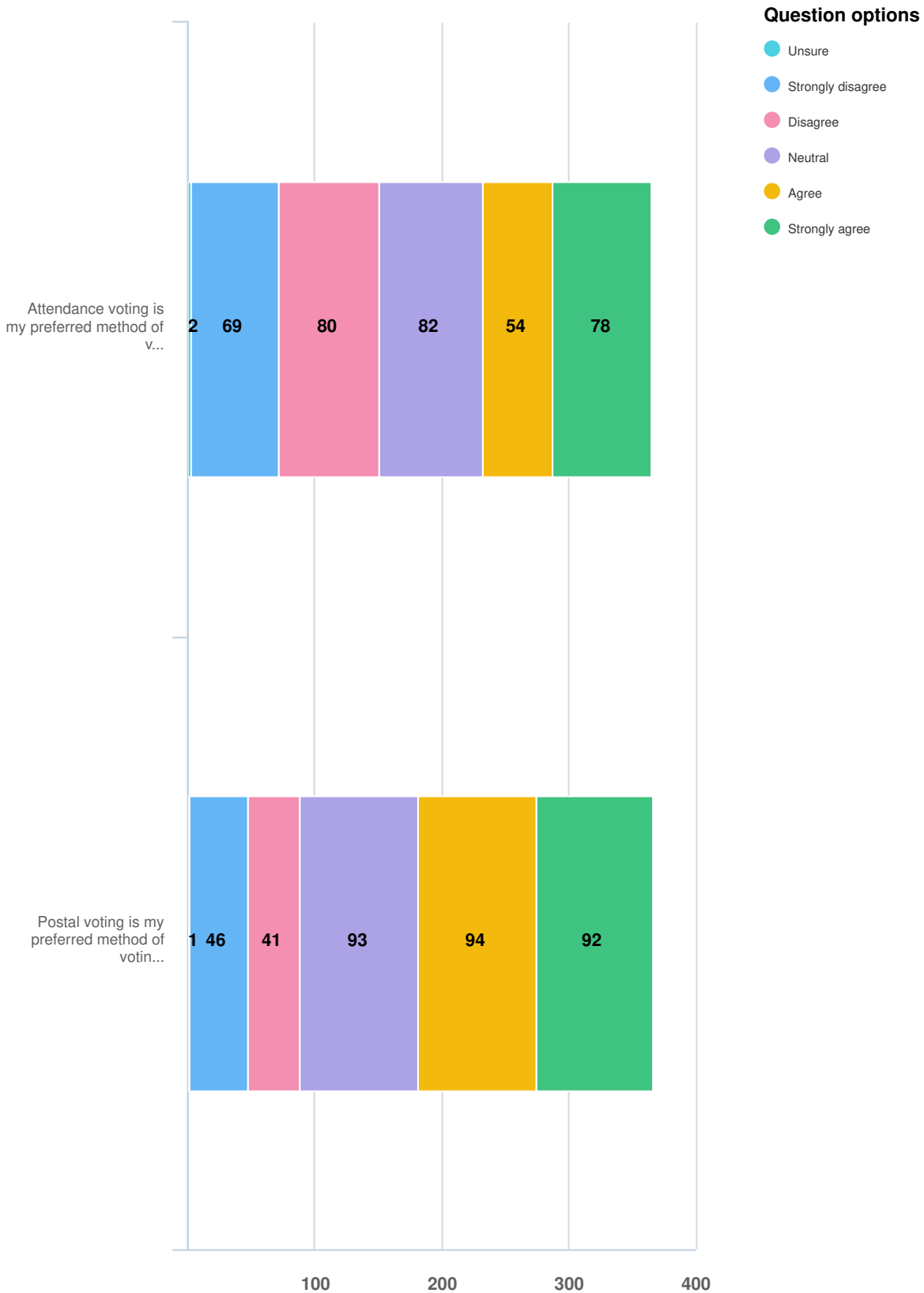
### A person should be able to vote for their council if they have lived in the area for at least 30 days prior to registering to vote



**A person should have to live in an area longer than one month to be able to register to vote, e.g., minimum 1 year**



**Q16** | Change the method of voting While in South Australia voting is by postal vote, other states require attendance (in-person) voting, or a combination of the two. Postal voting was introduced in 1997 to be more convenient, but voter turnout has stayed...



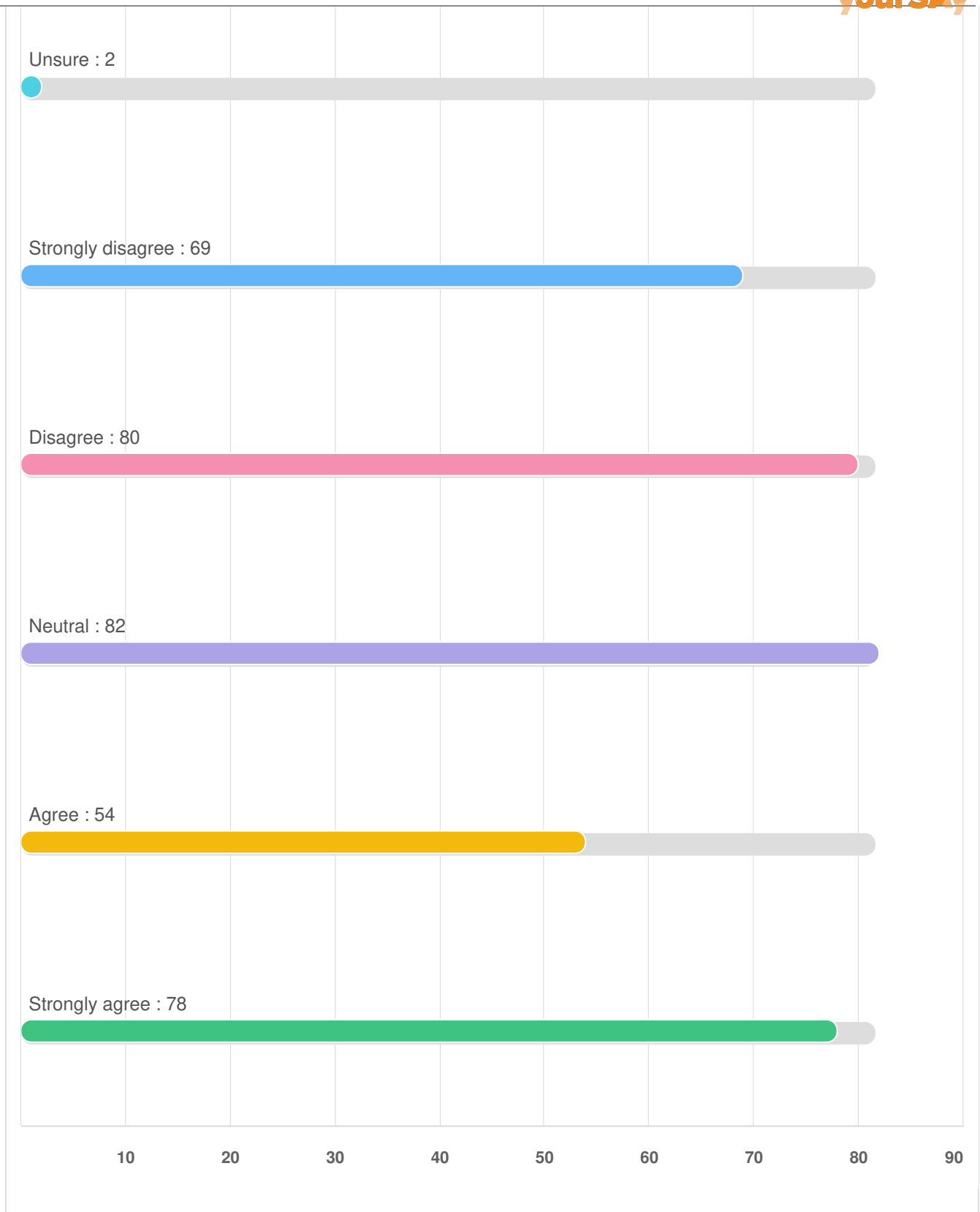
Optional question (372 response(s), 35 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

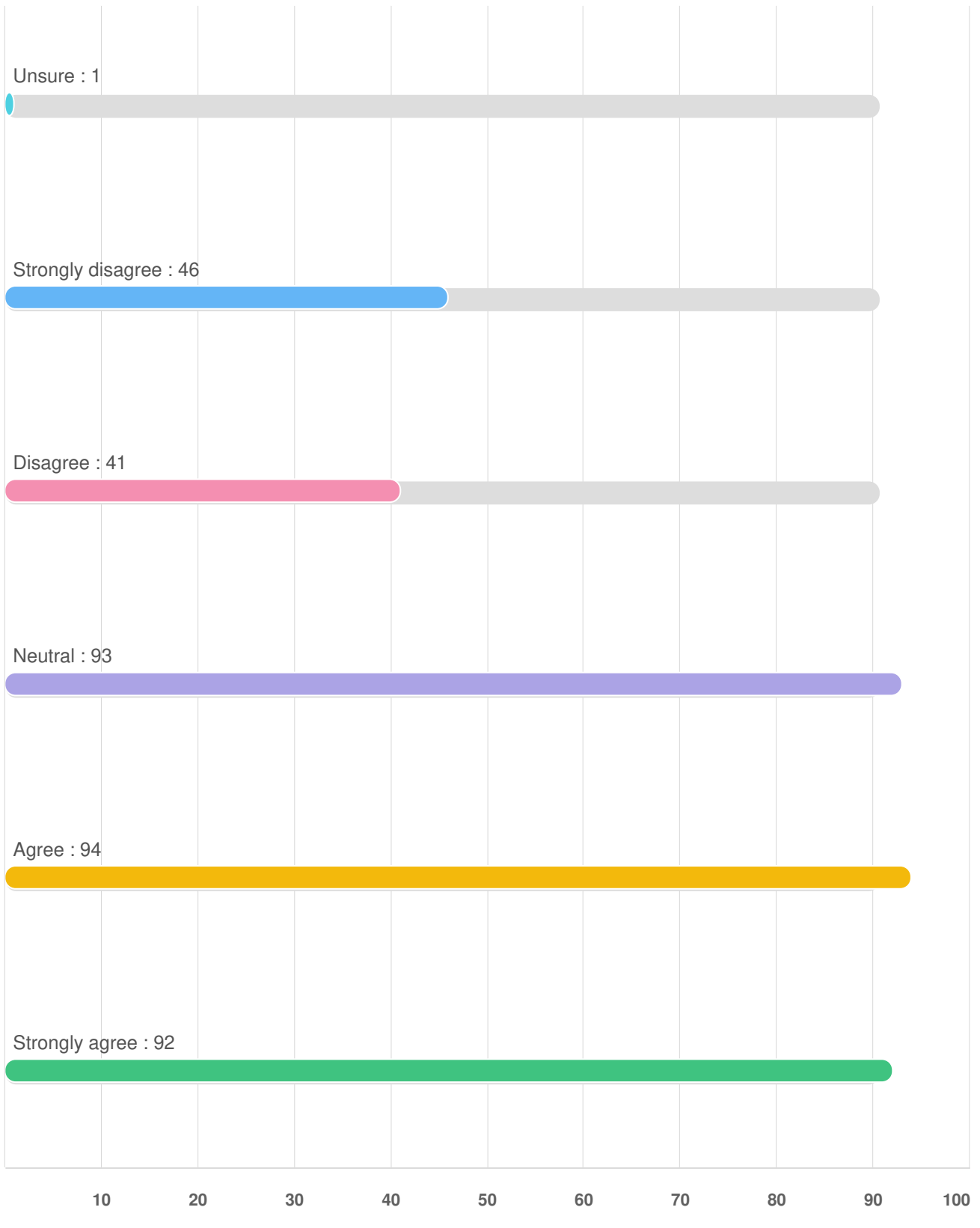


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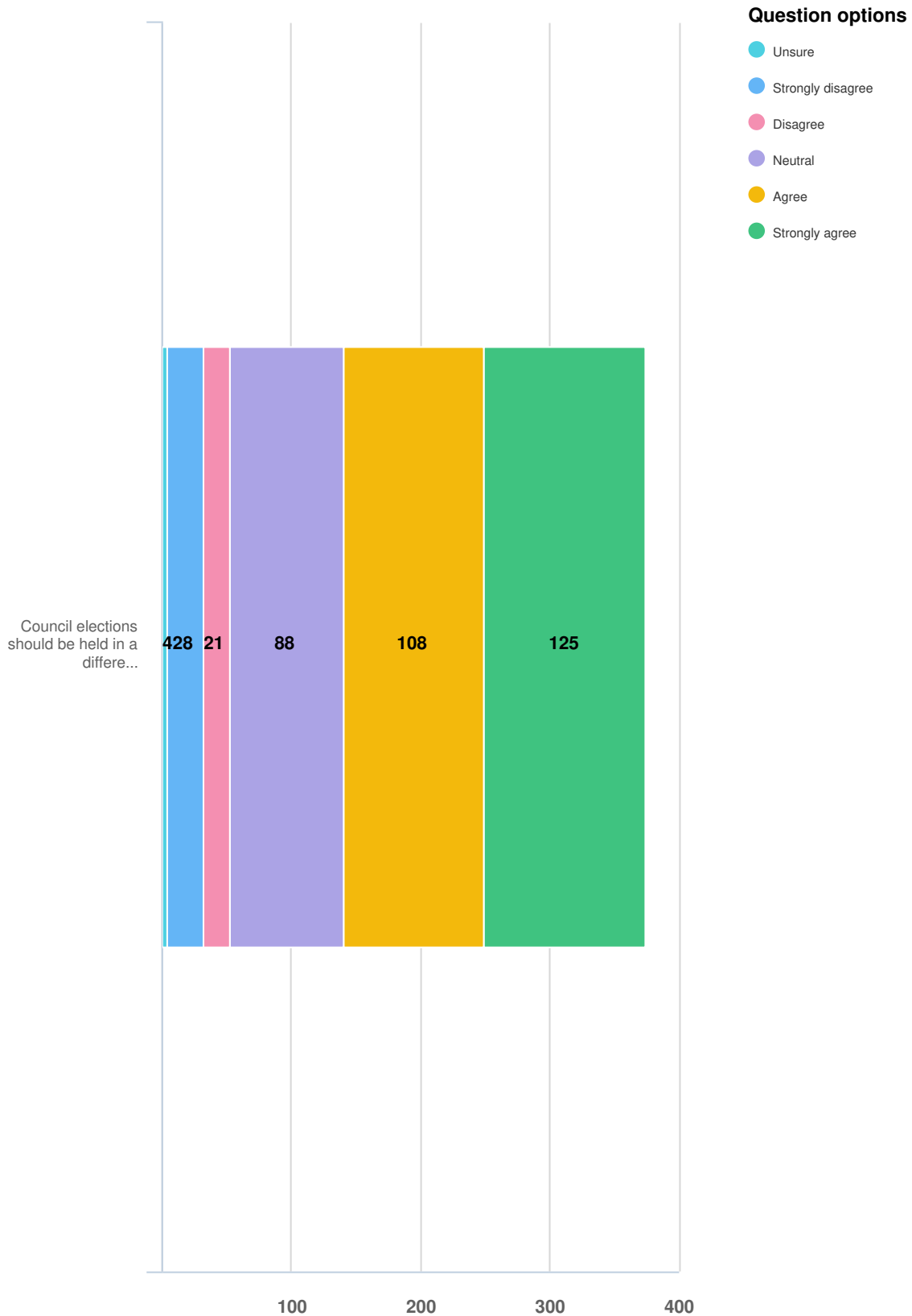
**Attendance voting is my preferred method of voting in council elections**



### Postal voting is my preferred method of voting in council elections



**Q17 | Change the timing of council elections** Currently, council elections are held in November of the same year as State Government elections, but this can mean that citizens struggle to have interest in and enthusiasm for another election, and choose no...

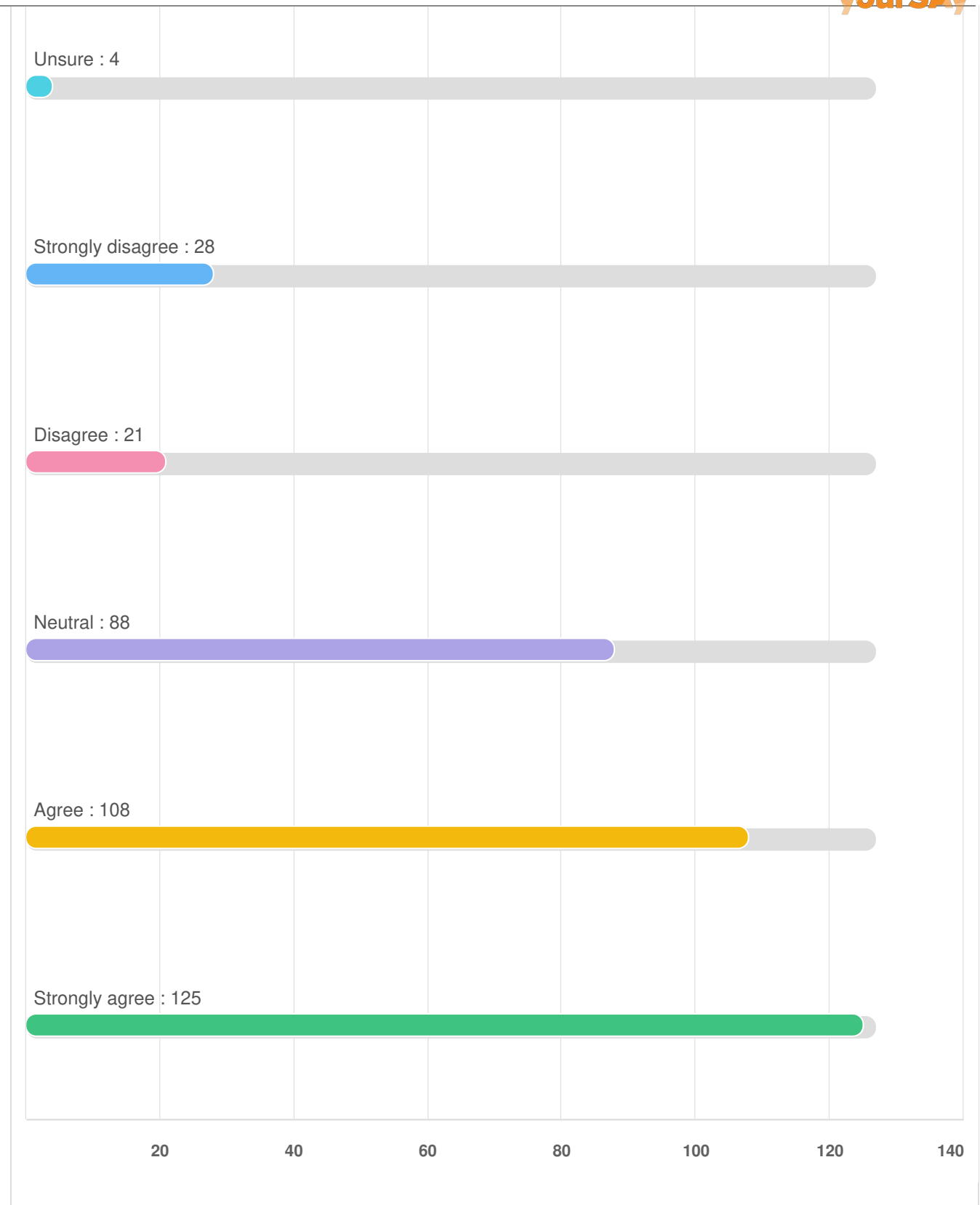


Optional question (374 response(s), 33 skipped)

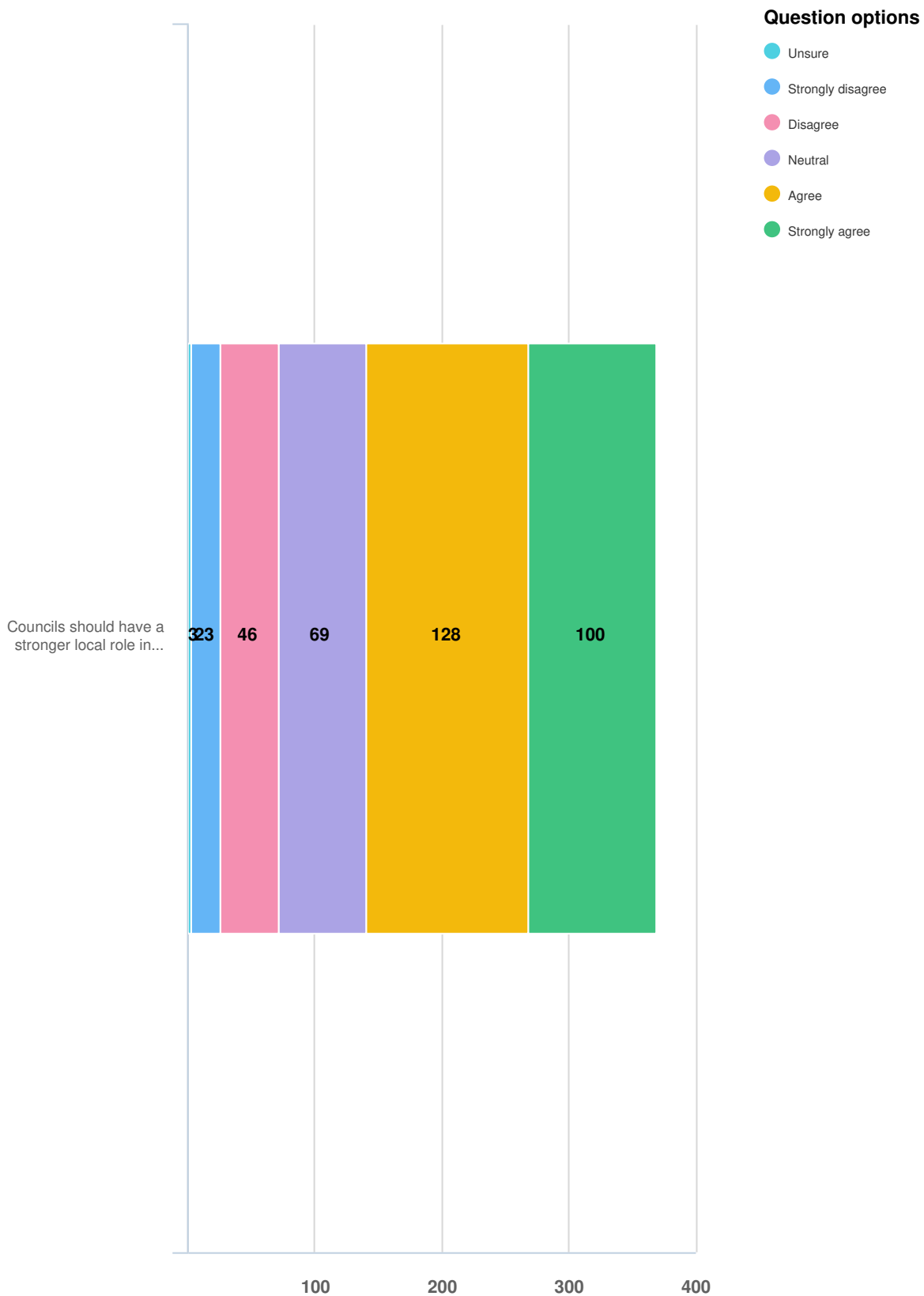
Question type: Likert Question

**Q17 | Change the timing of council elections** Currently, council elections are held in November of the same year as State Government elections, but this can mean that citizens struggle to have interest in and enthusiasm for another election, and choose no...

**Council elections should be held in a different year from state elections**



**Q18 | Election promotion** For all council elections, the Local Government Association and Electoral Commissioner run a centralised promotional campaign to let people know the election is underway, and to encourage people to vote. Please indicate your resp...



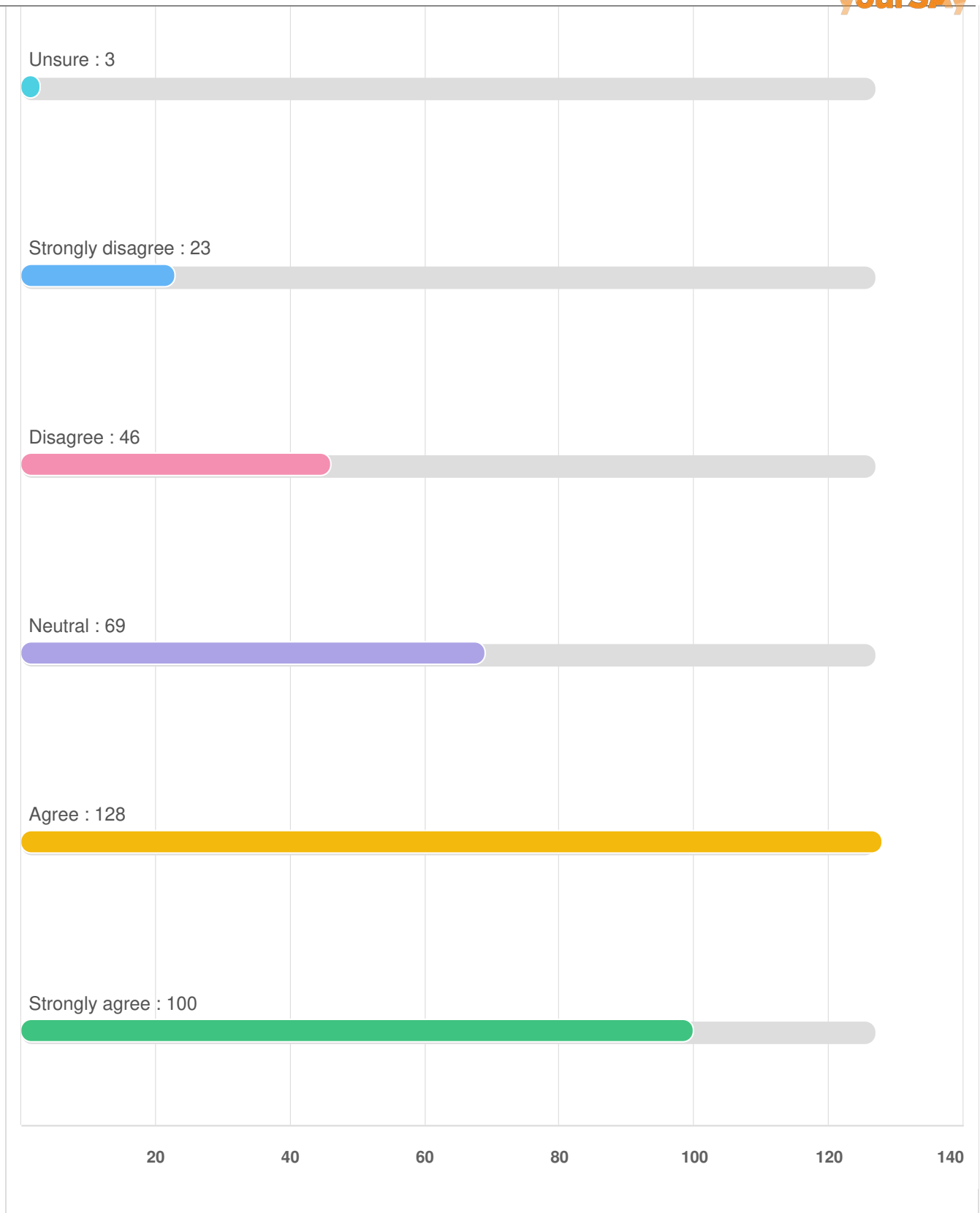
Optional question (369 response(s), 38 skipped)

Question type: Likert Question

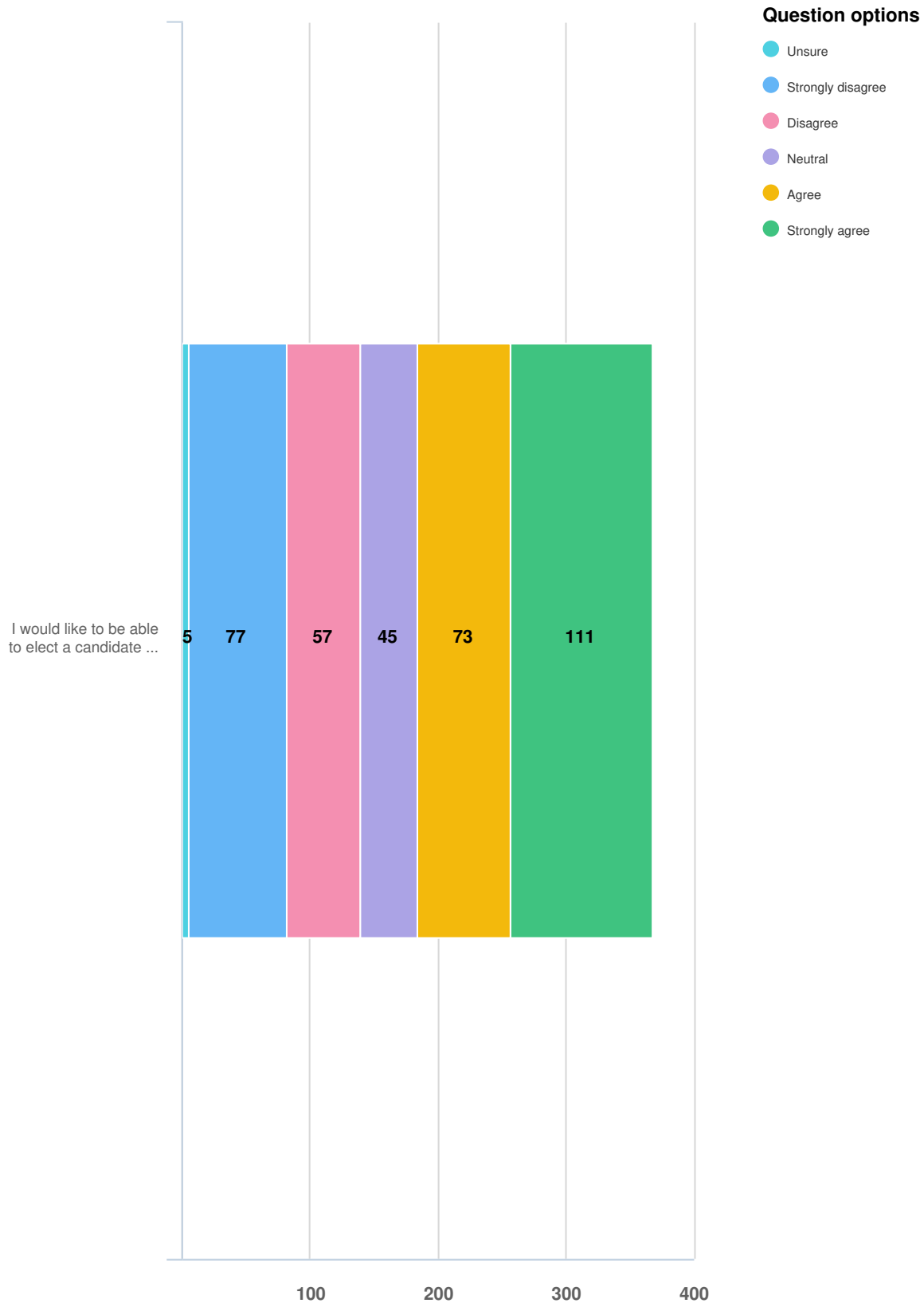
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**Councils should have a stronger local role in promoting elections**





**Q19** Removing wards Removing wards would provide voters with a greater choice of candidates to select from and may encourage more people to vote. Please indicate your response to the following statement:

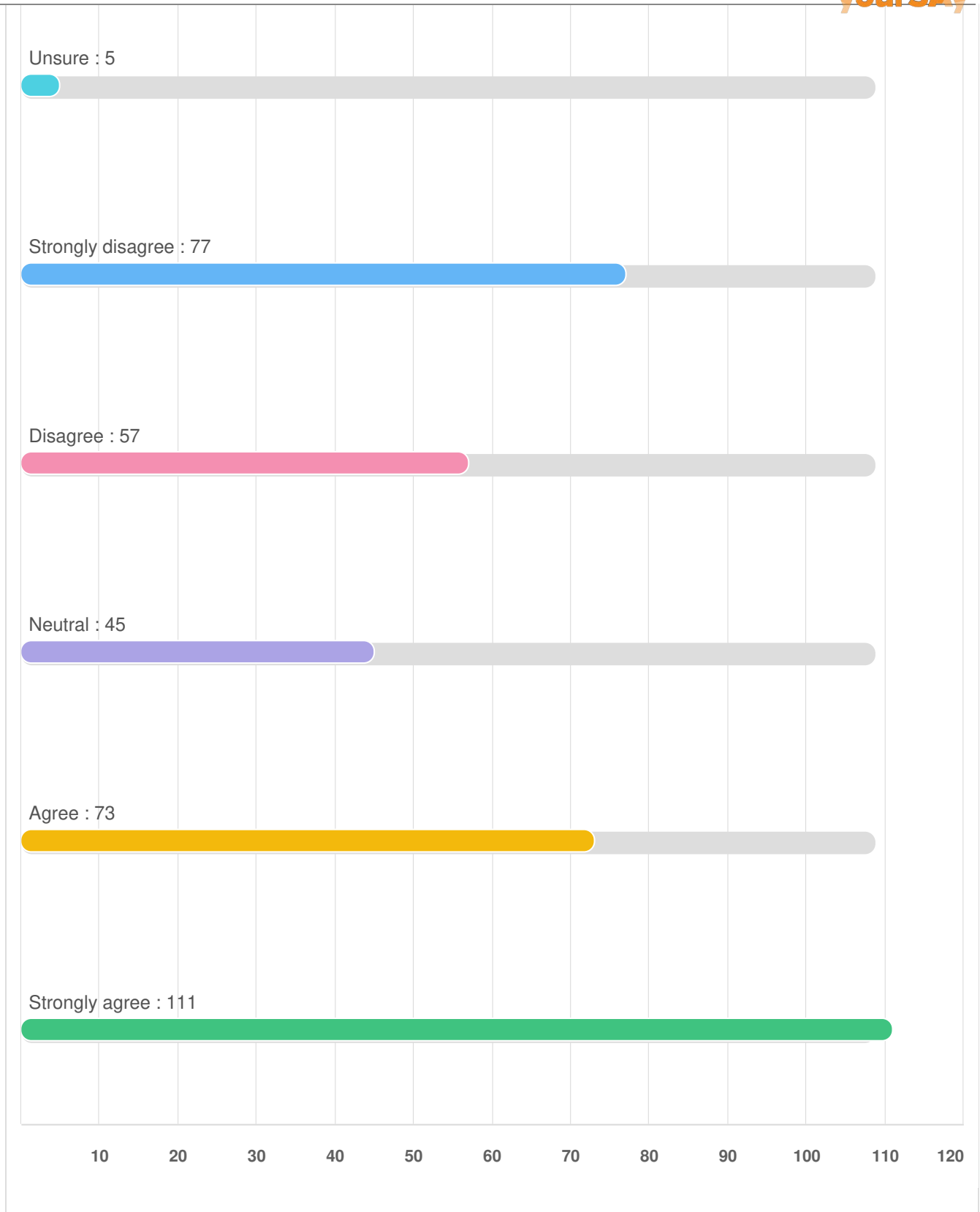


Optional question (368 response(s), 39 skipped)

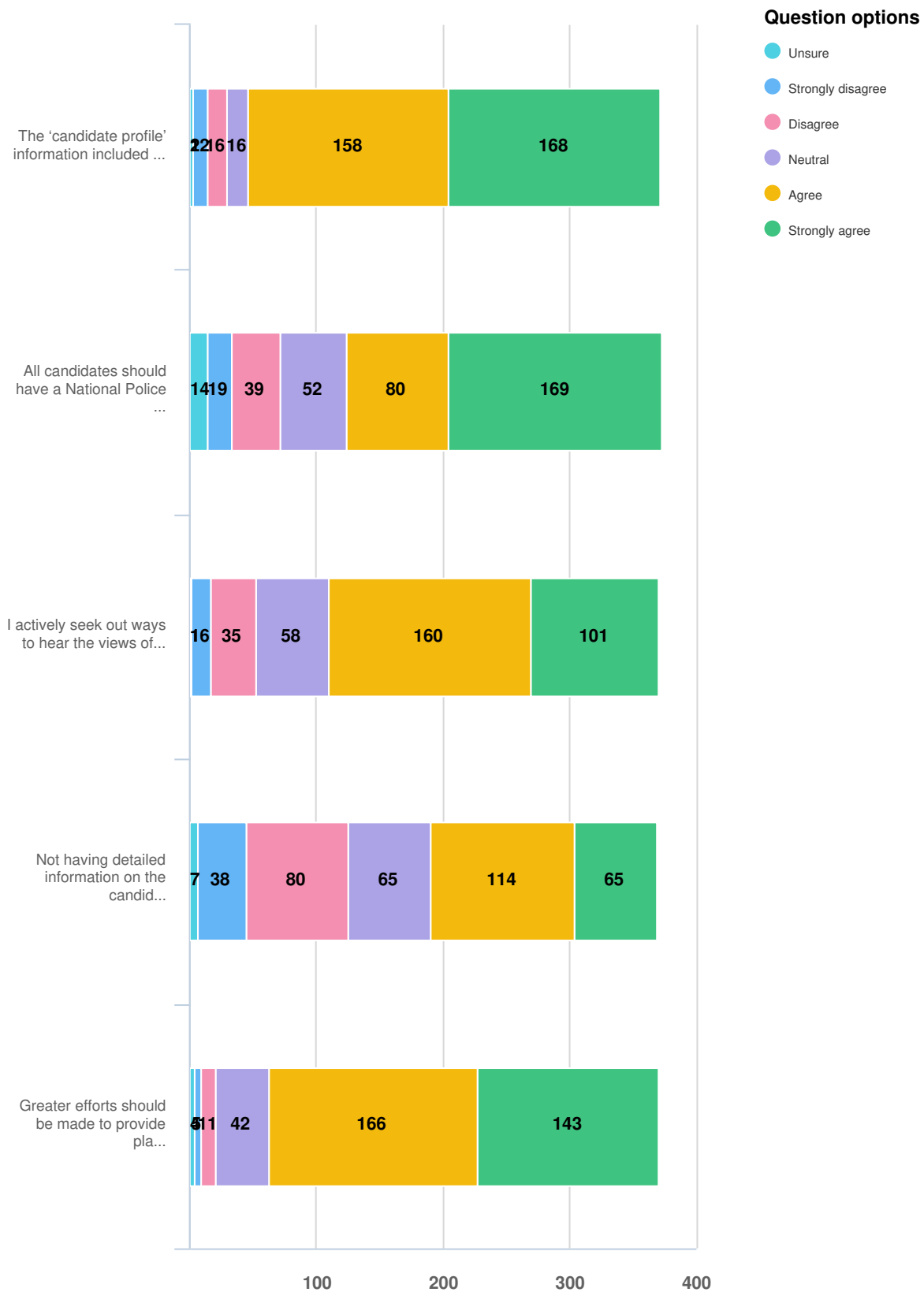
Question type: Likert Question

**Q19 | Removing wards** Removing wards would provide voters with a greater choice of candidates to select from and may encourage more people to vote. Please indicate your response to the following statement:

**I would like to be able to elect a candidate from anywhere in my council, rather than be restricted to a ward**



**Q20** Consider candidate information Currently, all voters receive a short ‘candidate profile’ with their ballot pack for each person standing for their council, along with information on their political party membership, and a ‘tick the box’ statement of...

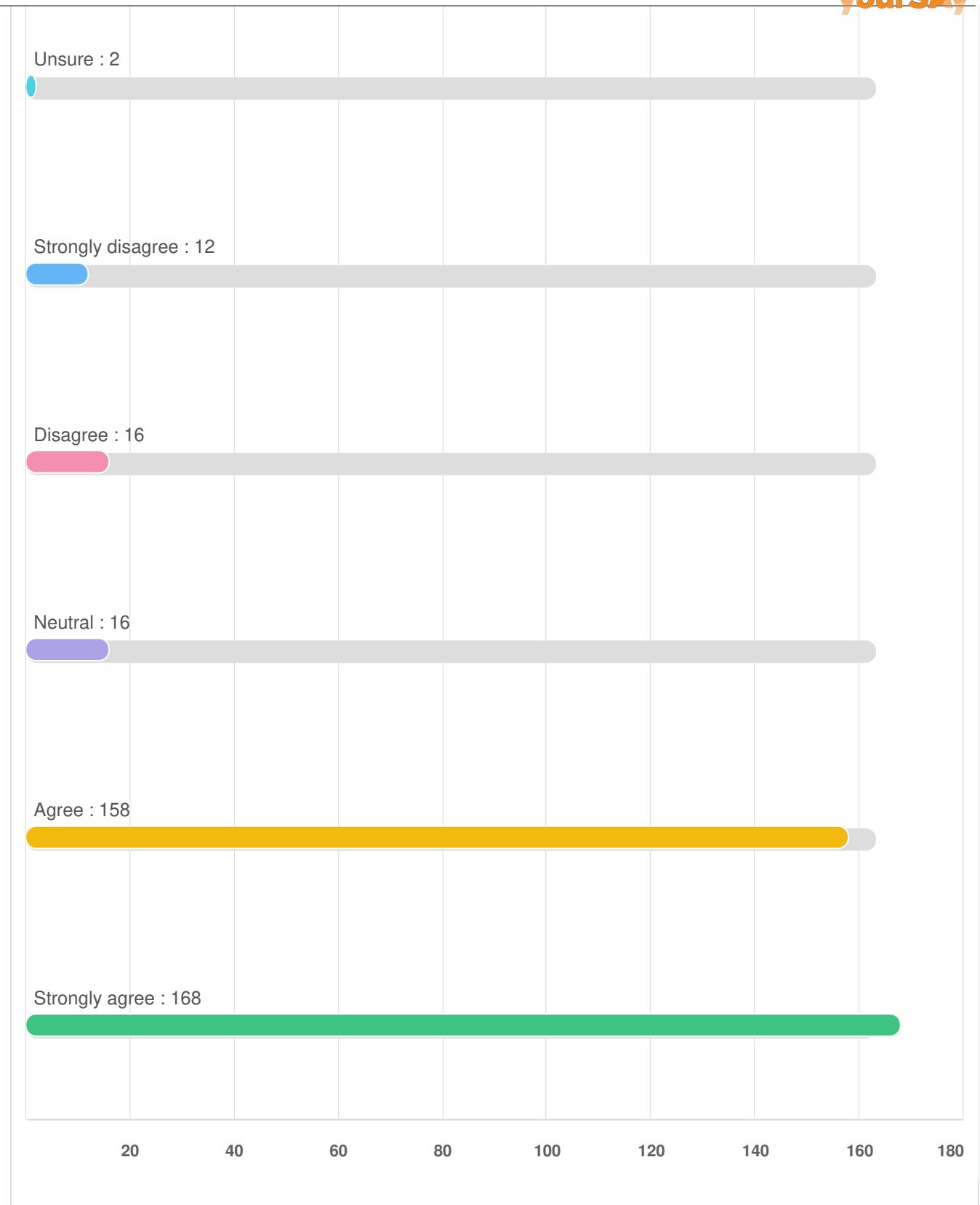


Optional question (374 response(s), 33 skipped)

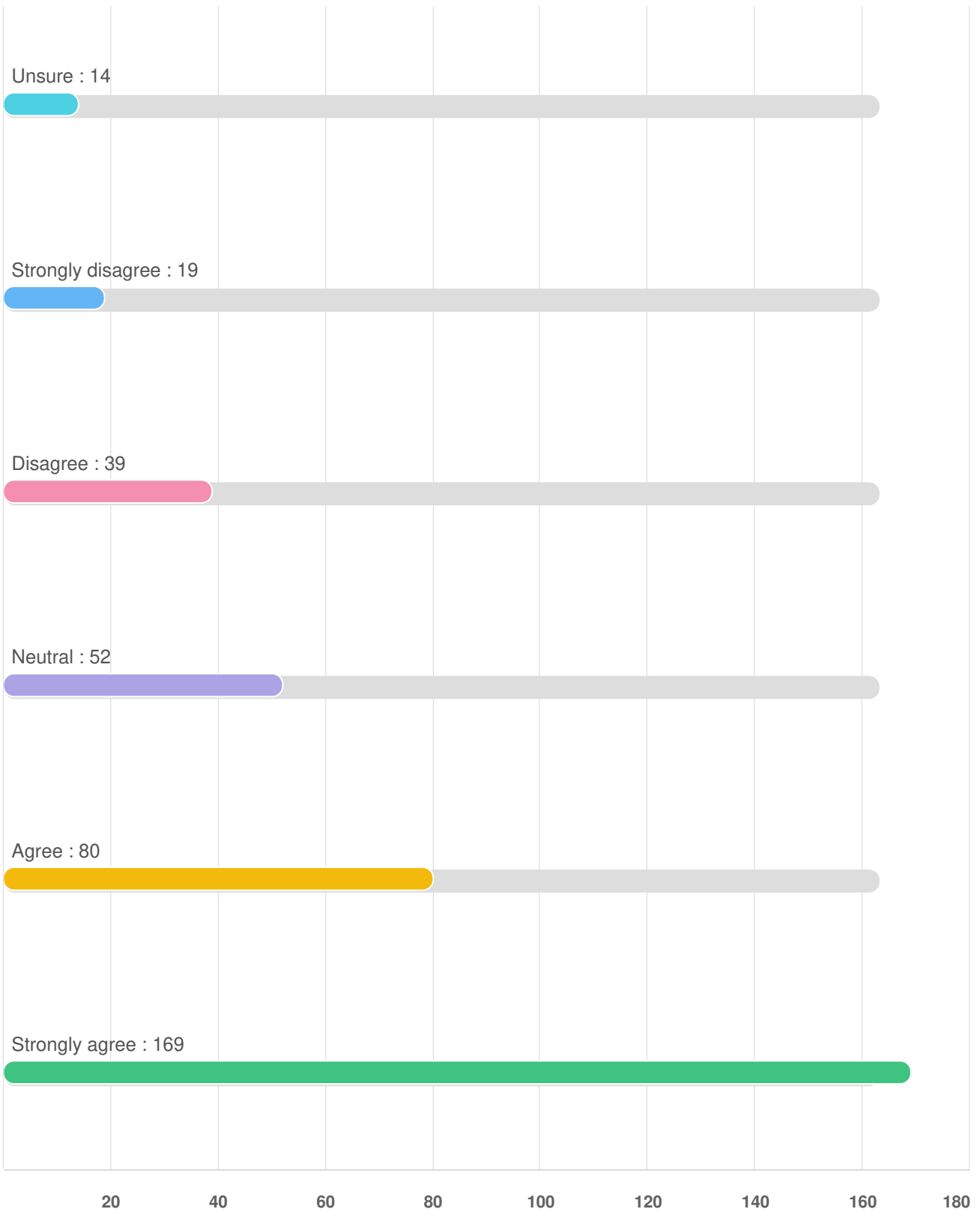
Question type: Likert Question

**Q20** | Consider candidate information Currently, all voters receive a short 'candidate profile' with their ballot pack for each person standing for their council, along with information on their political party membership, and a 'tick the box' statement of...

The 'candidate profile' information included in the ballot pack is useful to me in my decision-making about voting and for whom

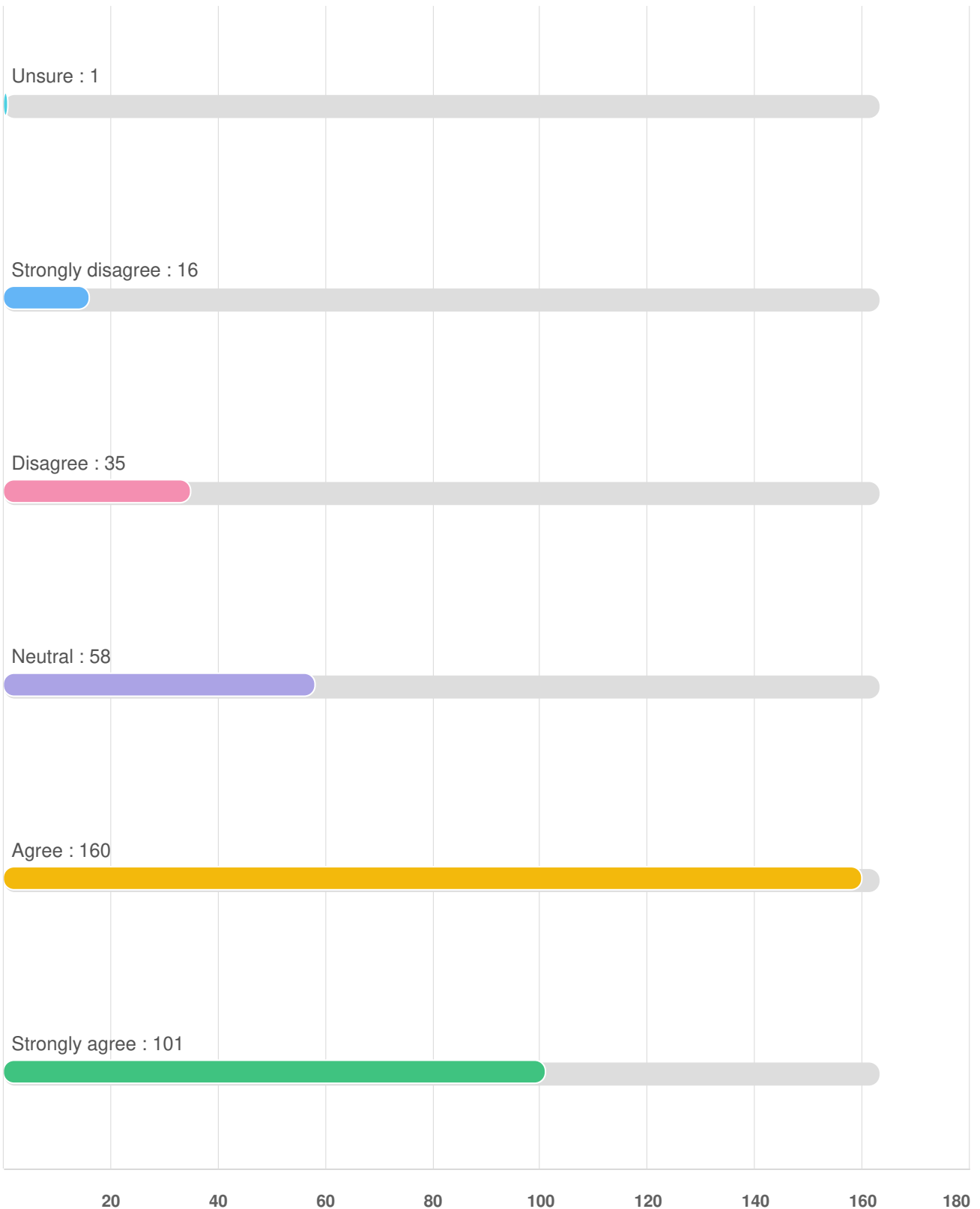


### All candidates should have a National Police Check, and results should be made public

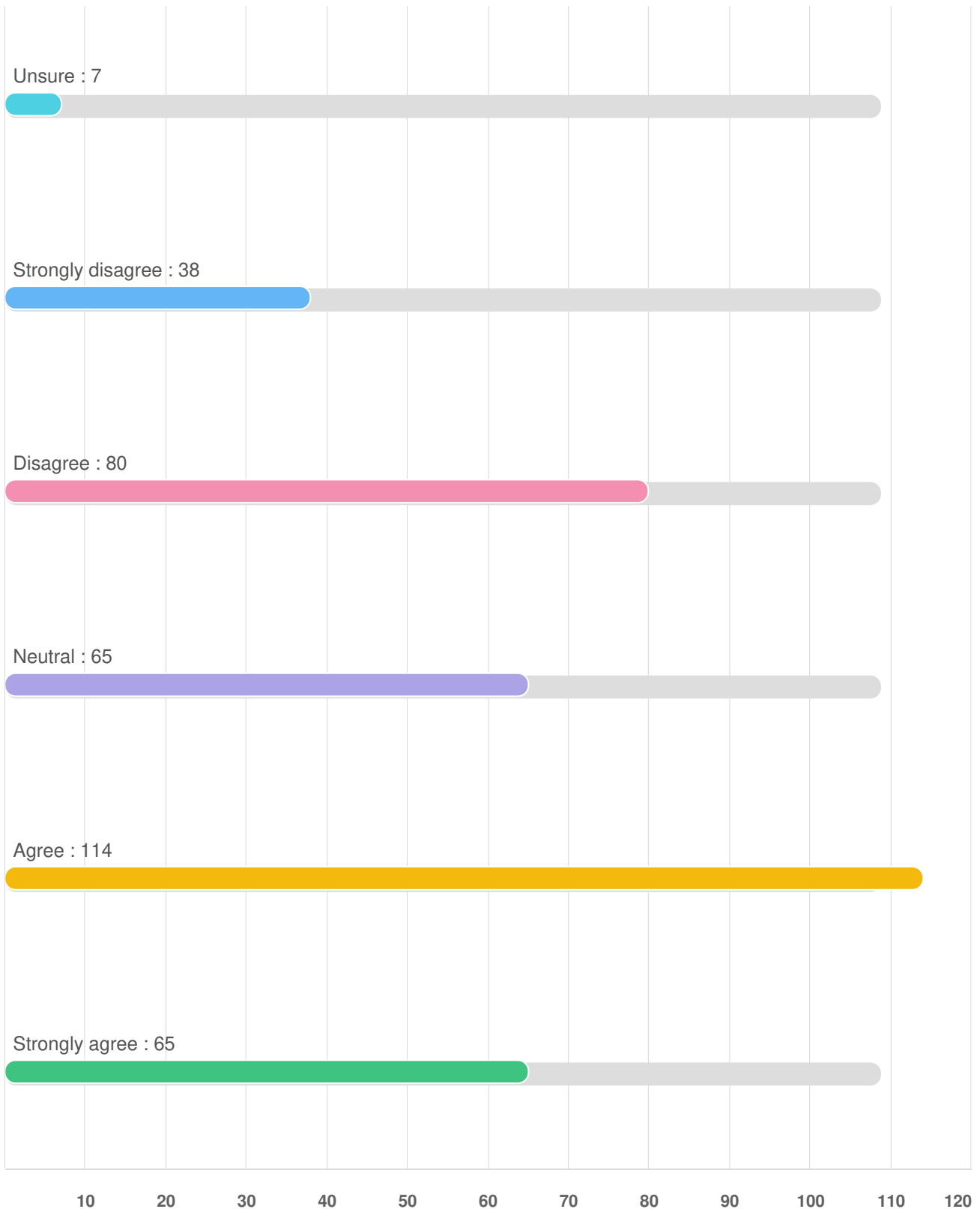




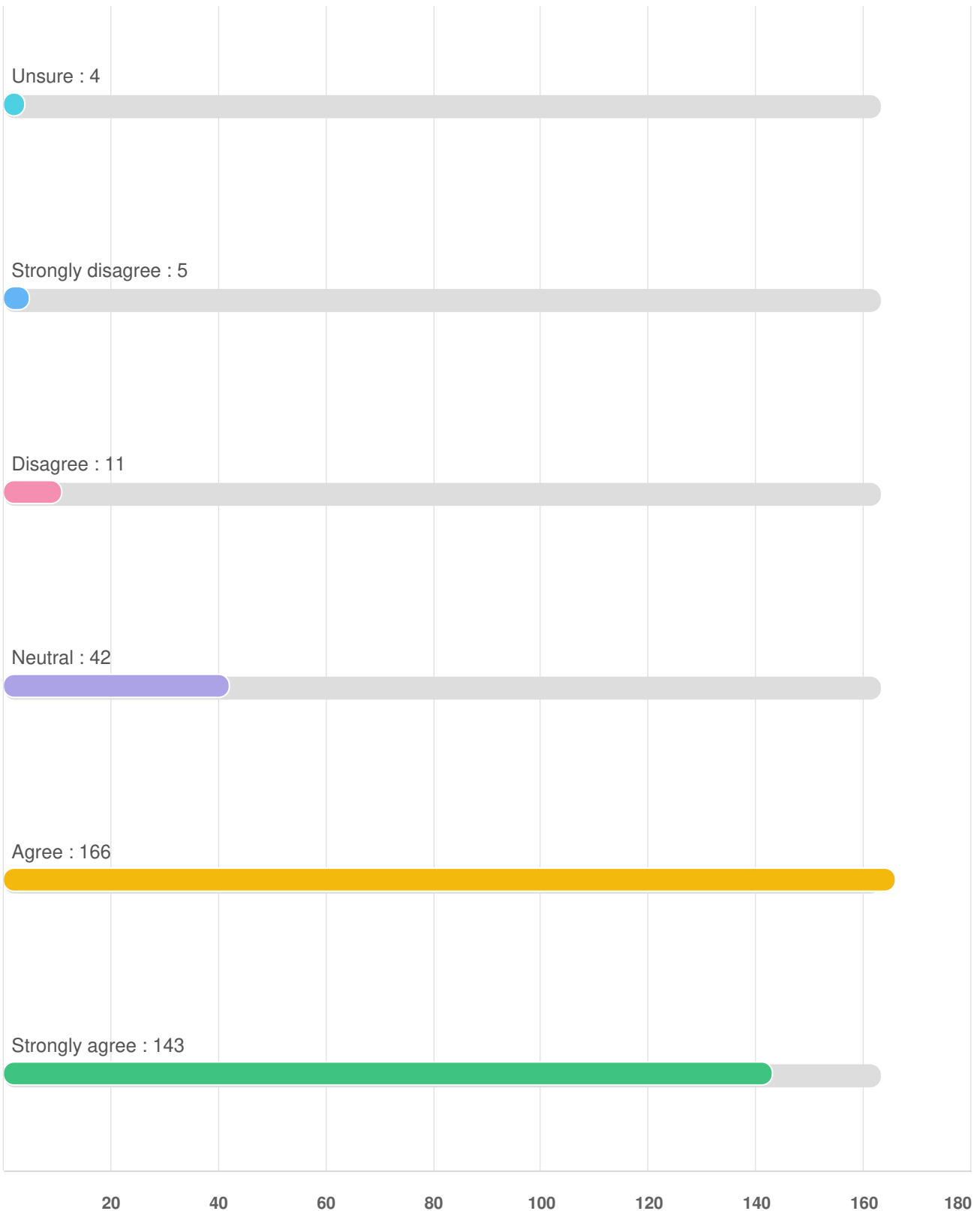
**I actively seek out ways to hear the views of candidates, e.g., by attending meetings, reading traditional and social media, etc.**



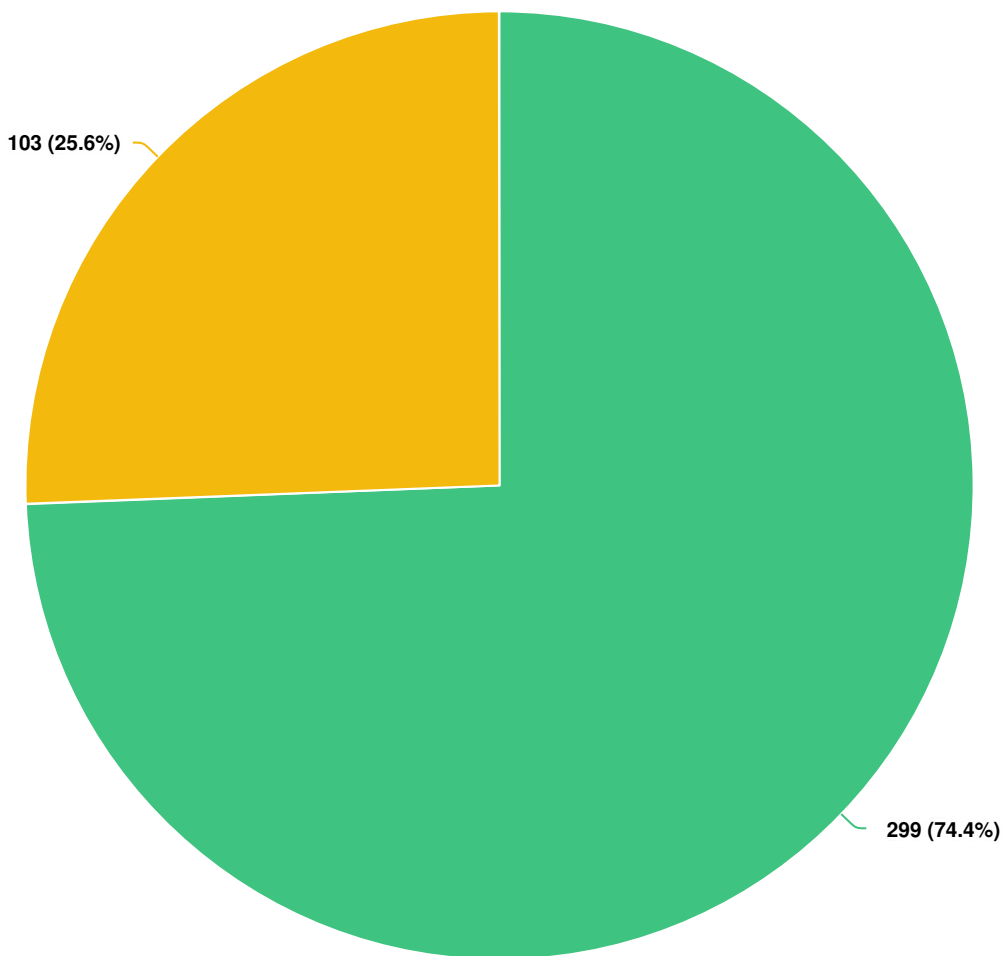
### Not having detailed information on the candidates has discouraged me from participating in council elections



**Greater efforts should be made to provide platforms, e.g., online meetings, questions and answers sessions, etc., for candidates to share their views and experience**



**Q21** | **Topic 4. Ways to ensure that council elections are run efficiently, with the highest level of integrity**It is essential that council elections are run as efficiently as possible and with the greatest level of integrity. This review will consider any...



**Question options**

- No
- Yes

*Optional question (402 response(s), 5 skipped)*

*Question type: Radio Button Question*