

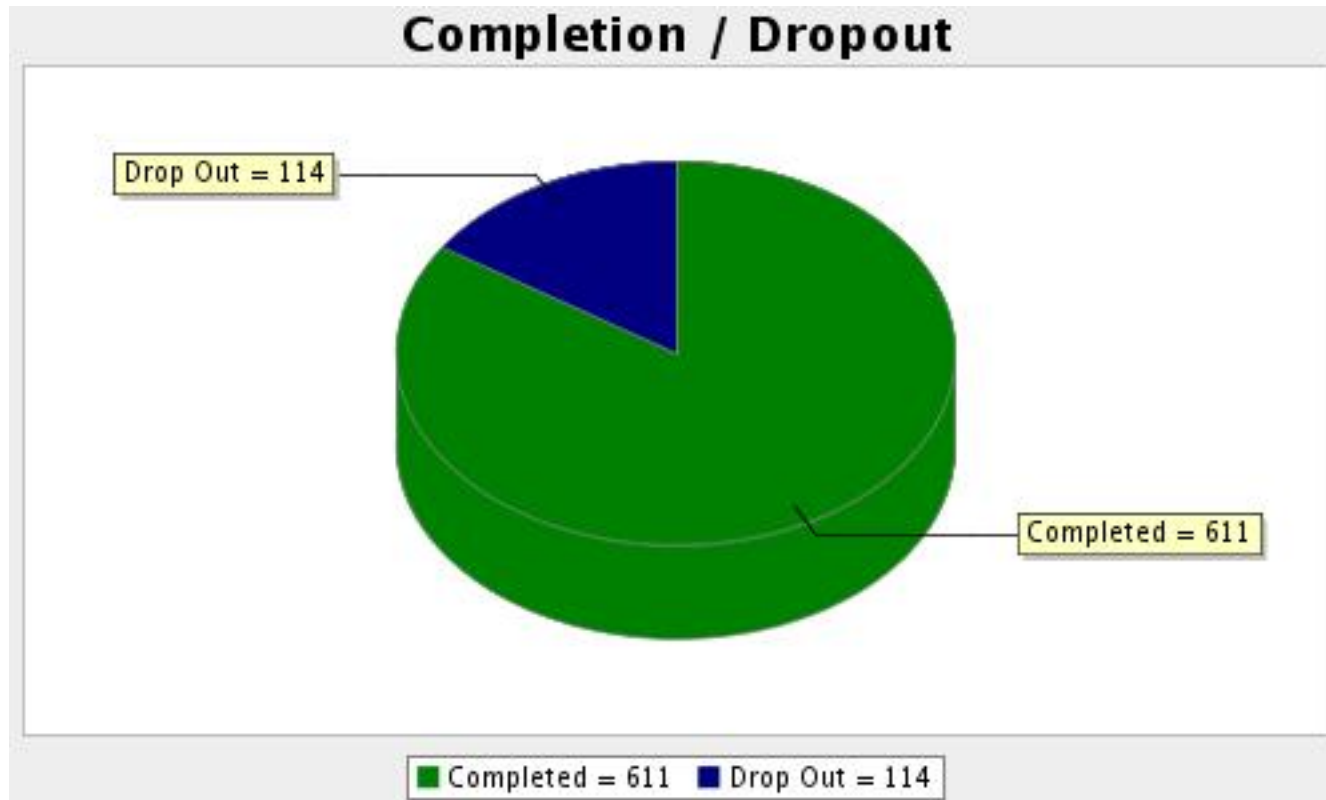
## **Nearly Half of Americans Say Presidential Candidates Lack Influence**

Study shows 45 percent doubt even their preferred candidate can influence change

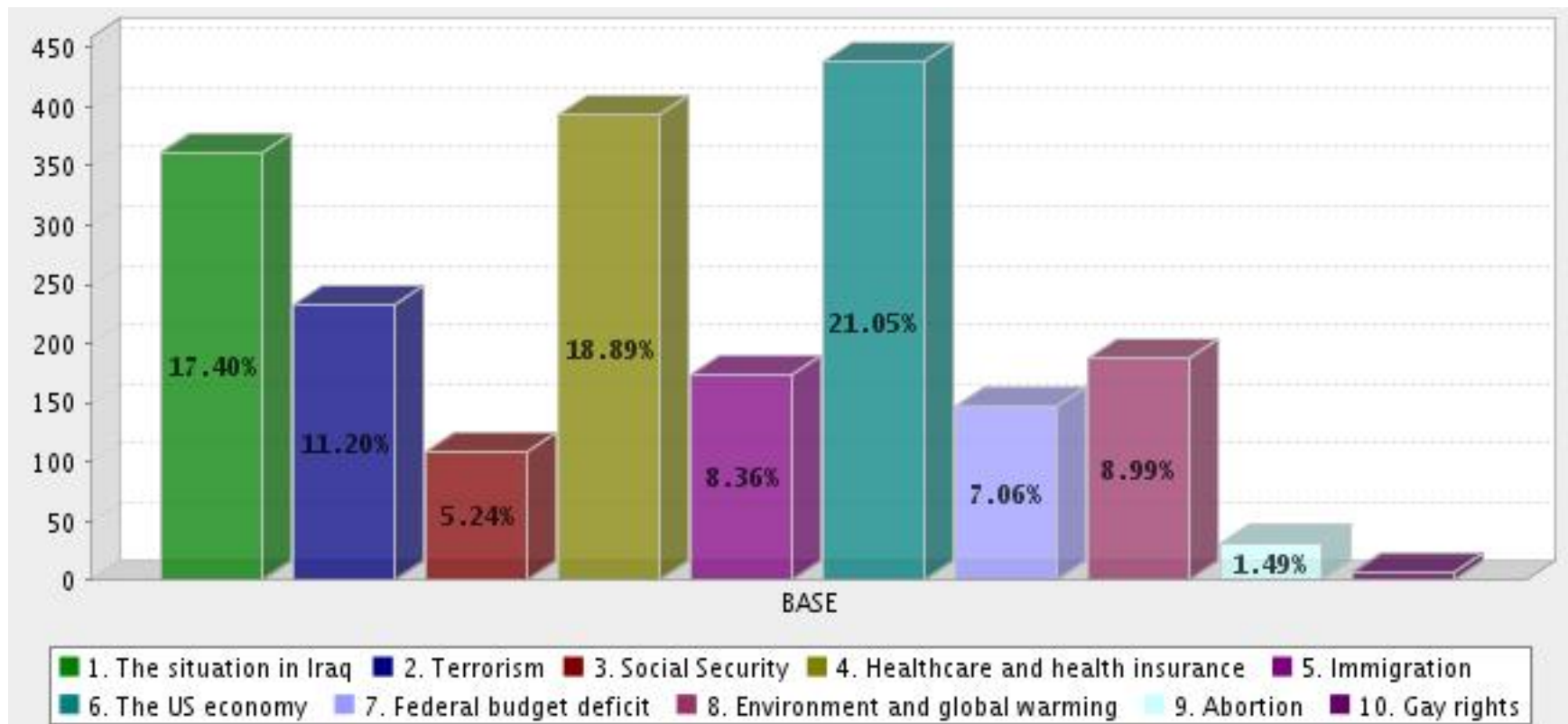
Survey by **VitalSmarts**<sup>™</sup>

April 1, 2008

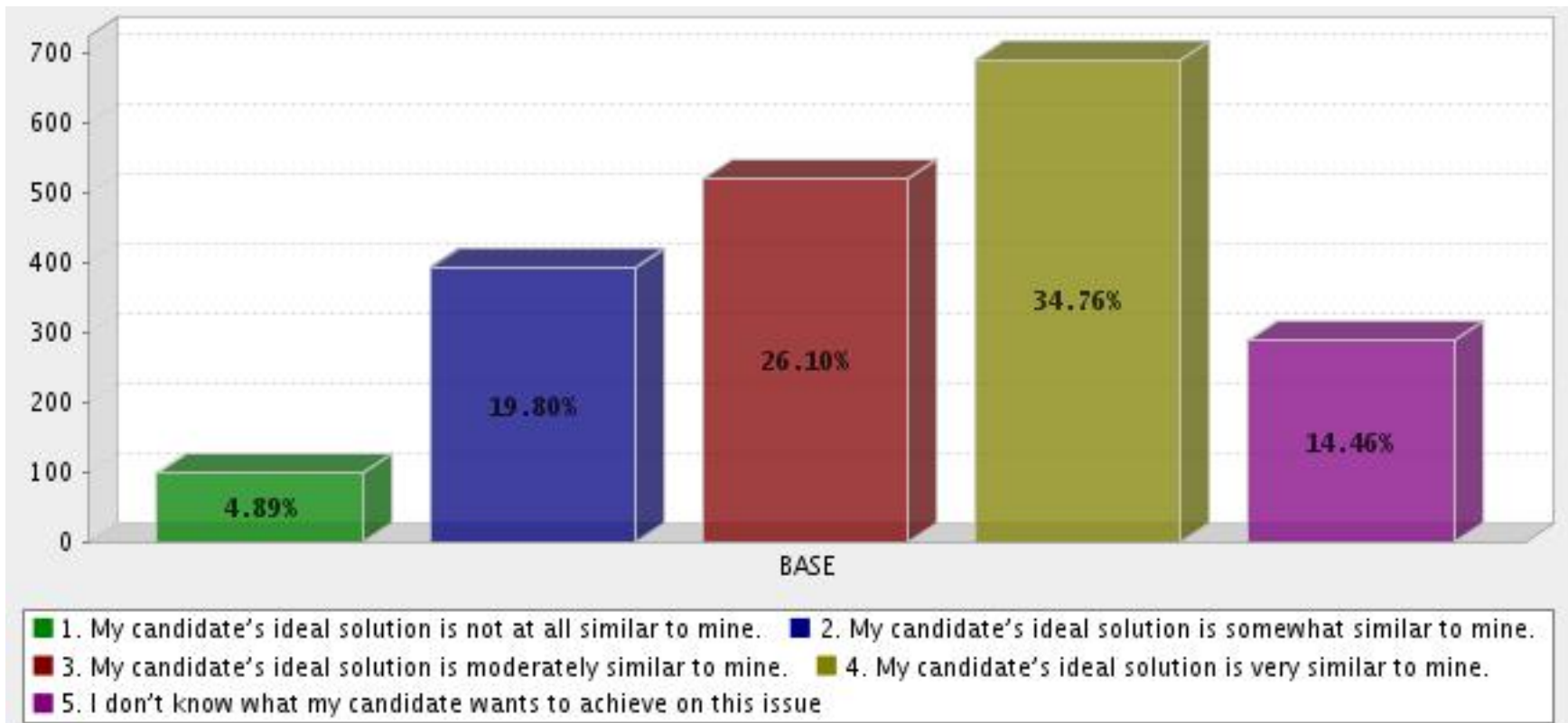
# Survey Overview



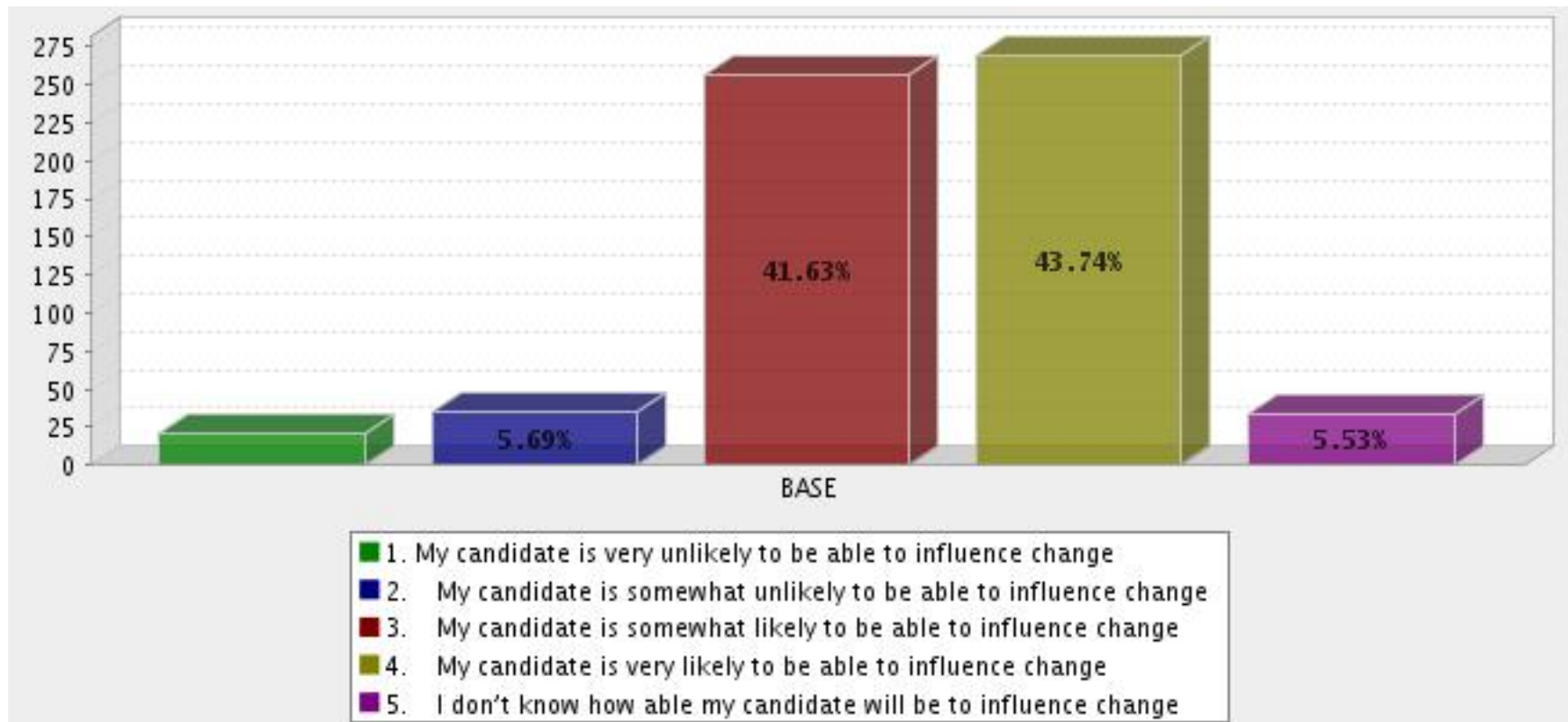
1. The US presidential candidates have taken positions on a wide variety of controversial issues. Please select the top three issues below that you feel are most important to the United States.



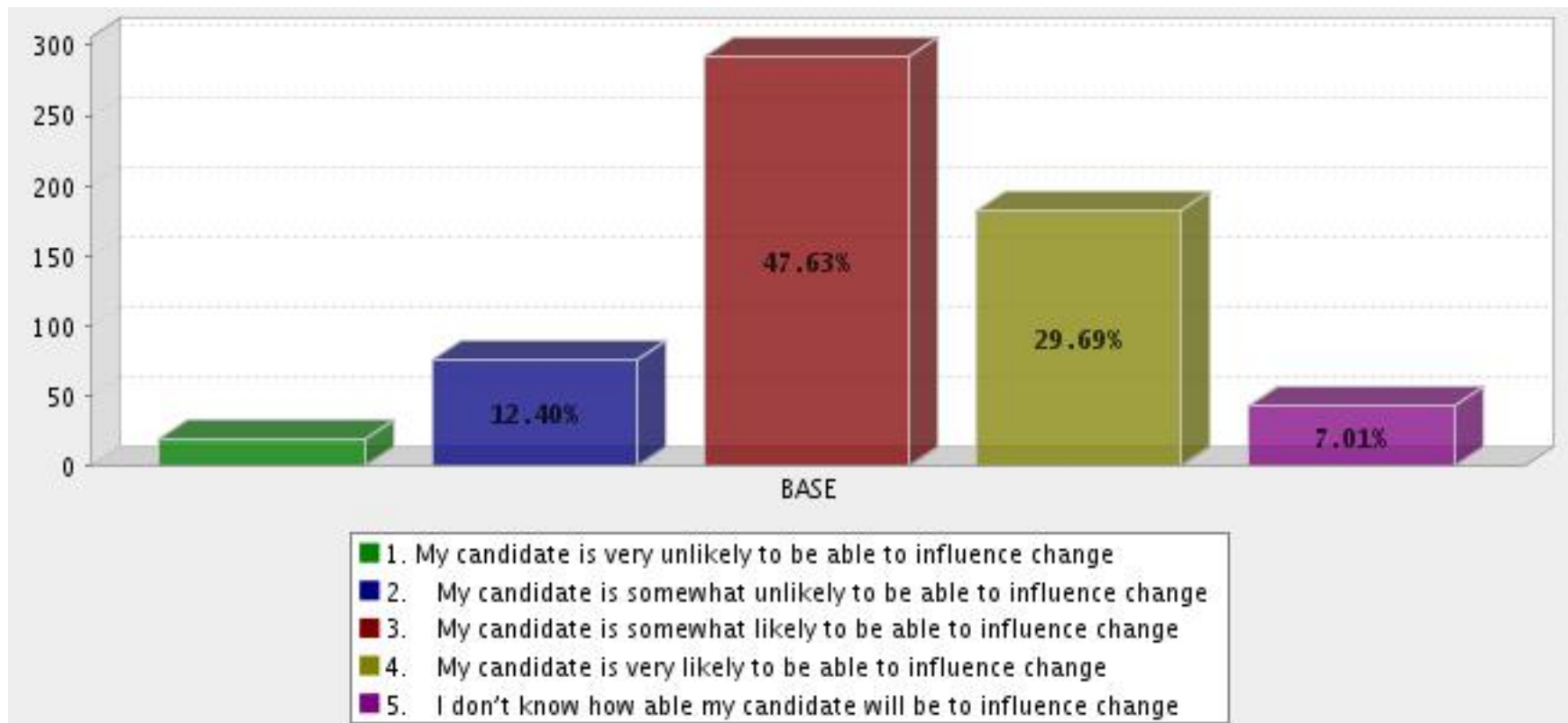
Think of the one candidate you support the most. Please indicate how similar your candidate's goal is to yours on the issue of  $\{\text{piping\_text}\}$ .



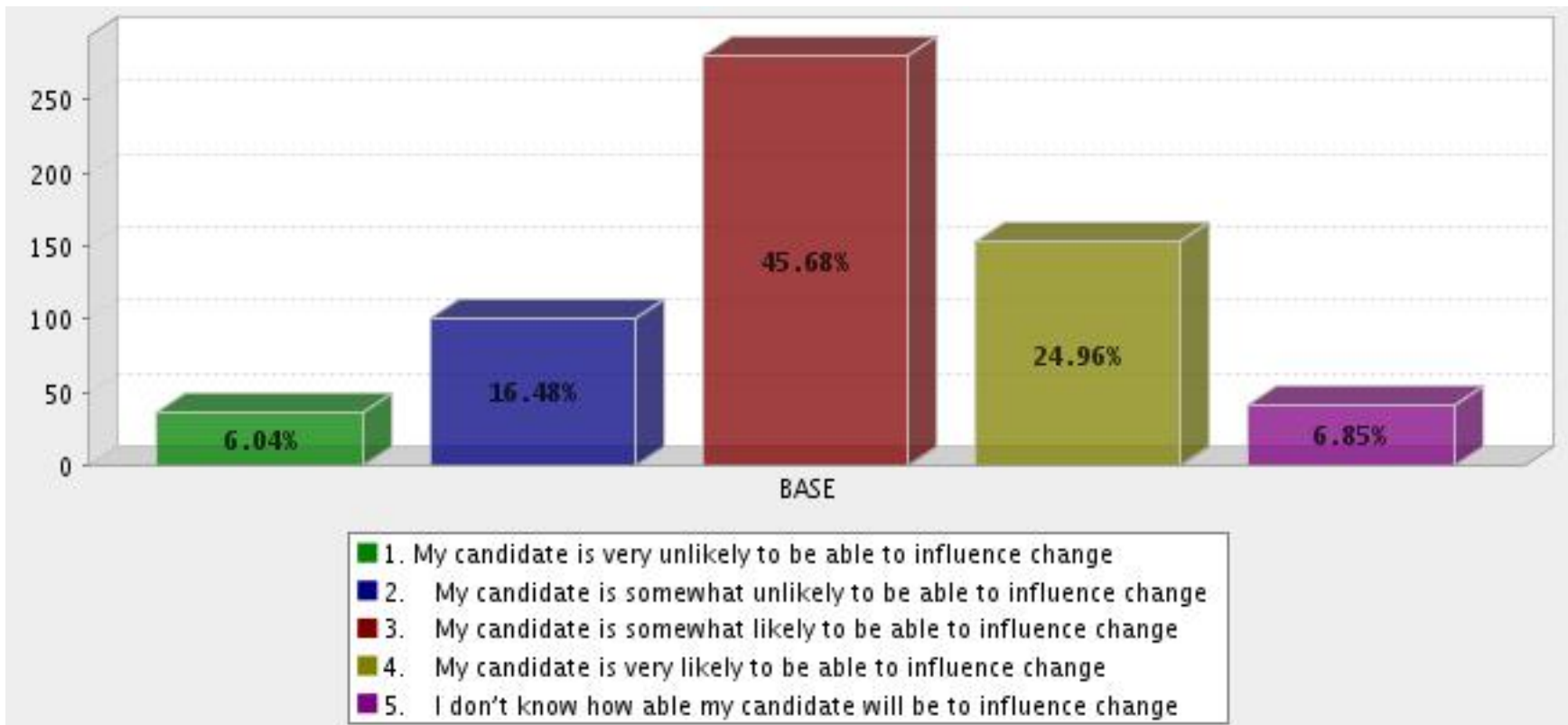
## a. The situation in Iraq?



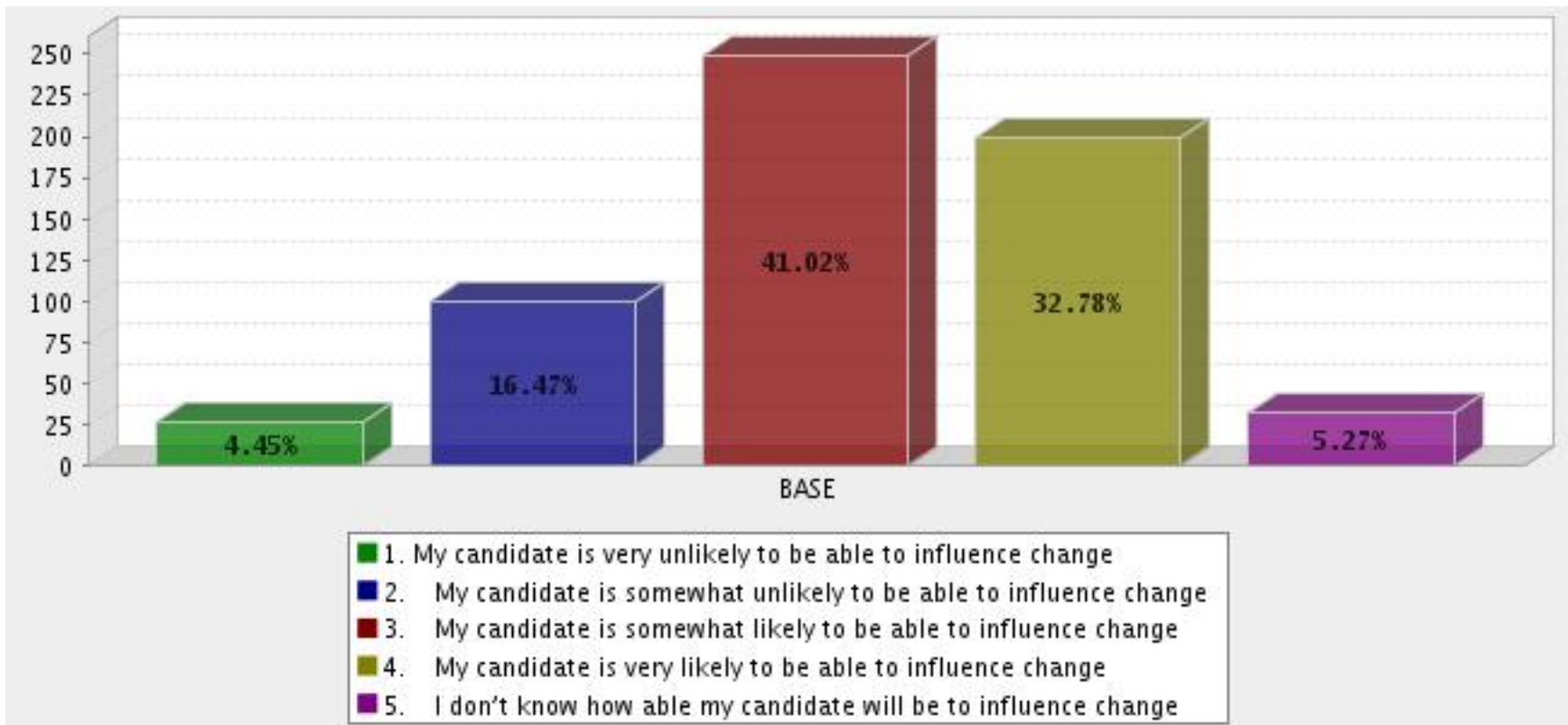
## b. Problems related to terrorism?



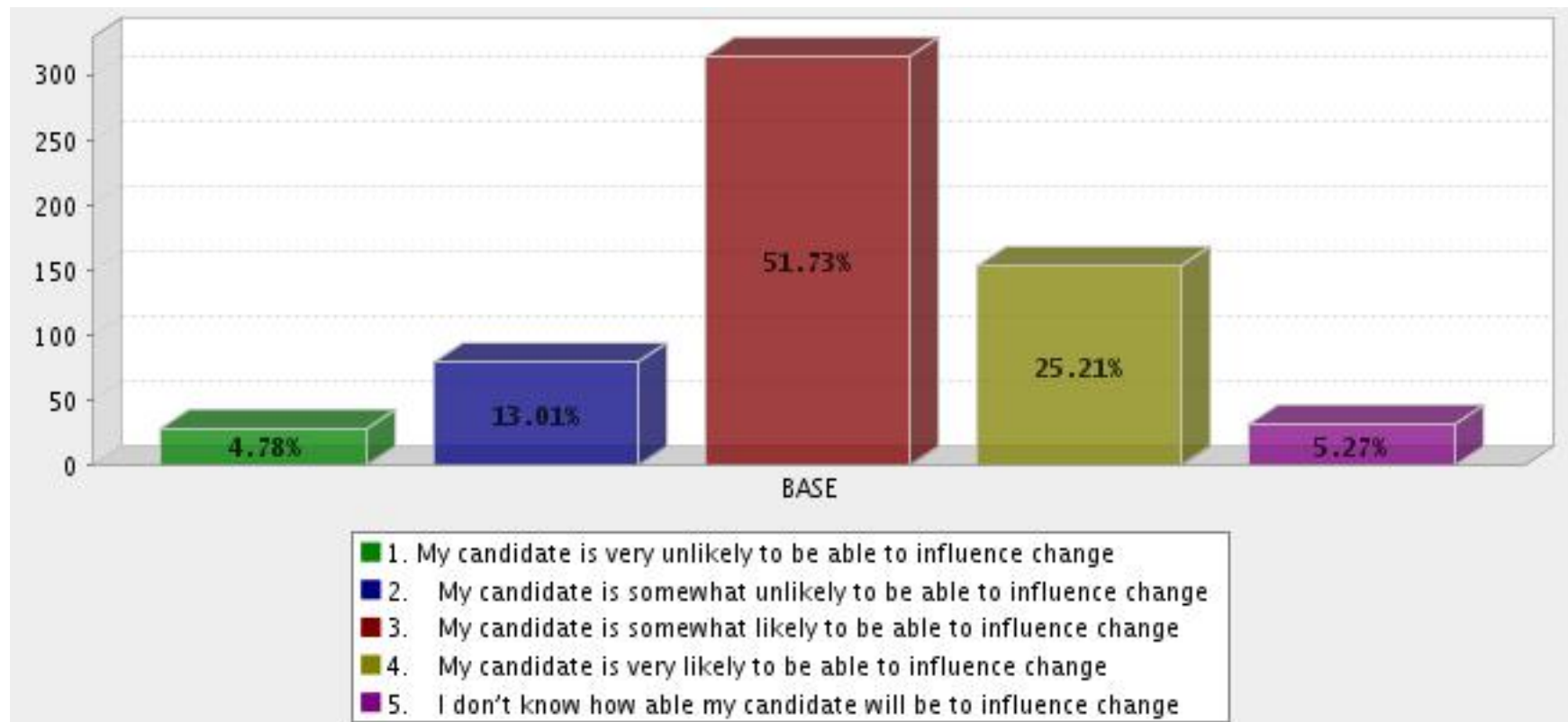
c. The financial problems faced by social security and Medicare?



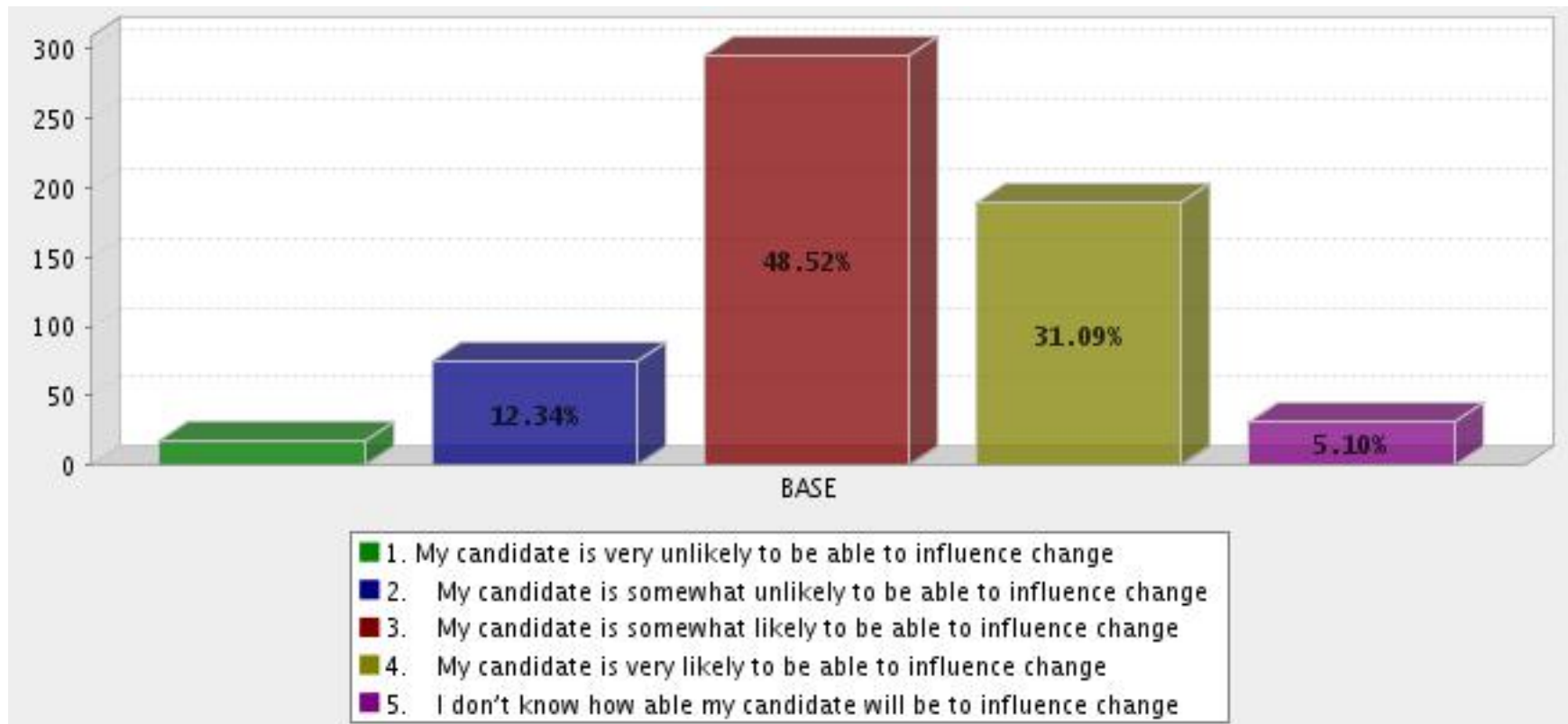
### d. Problems related to healthcare and health insurance?



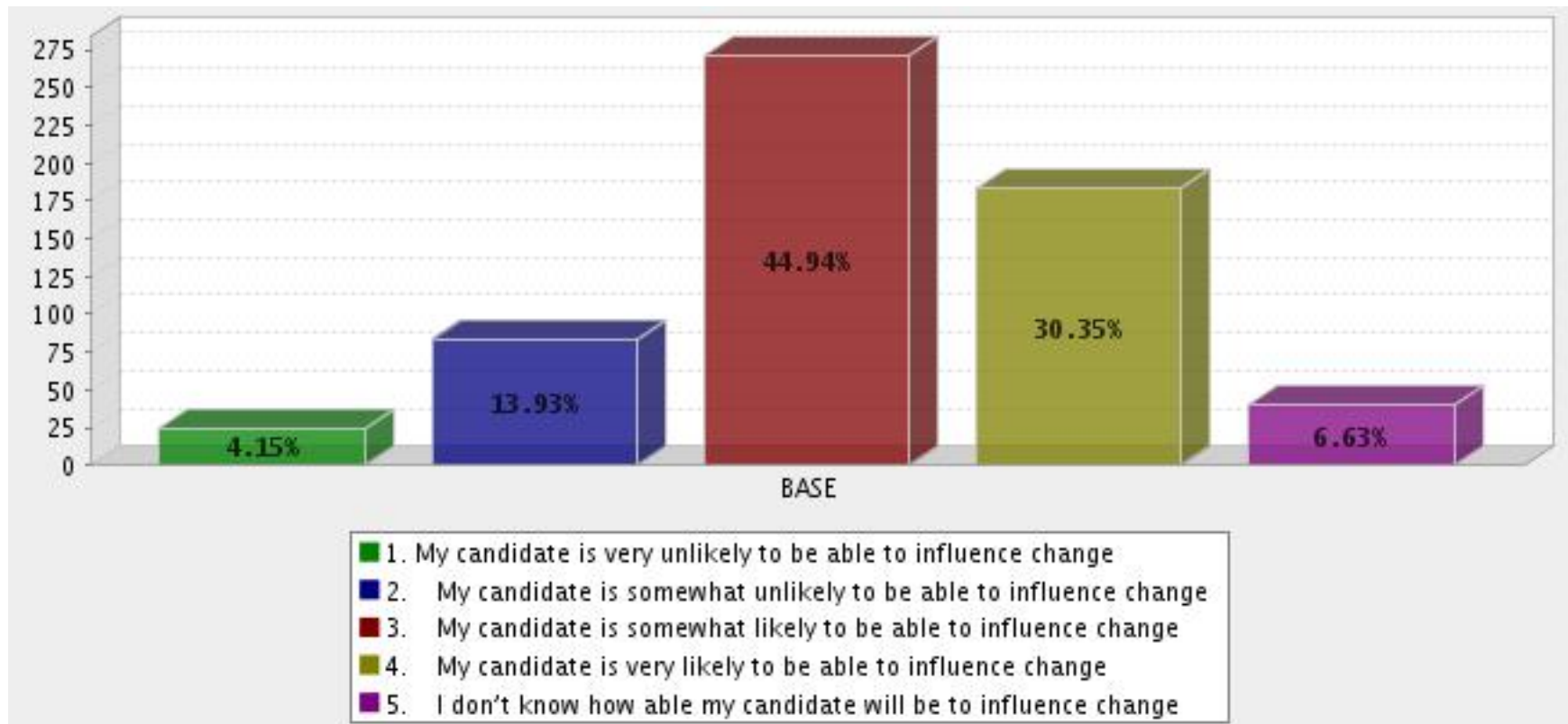
## e. Issues related to legal and illegal immigration?



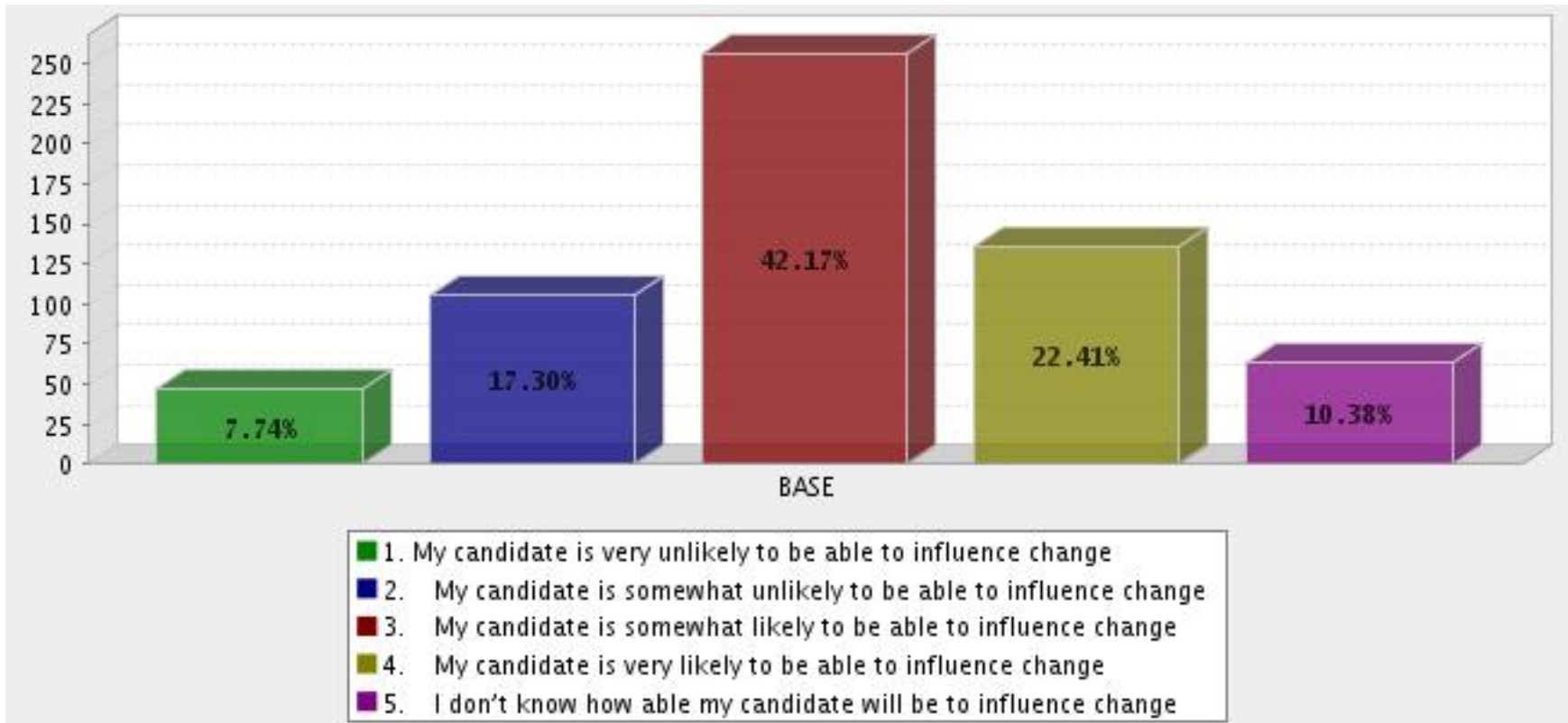
## f. Problems related economic growth and jobs?



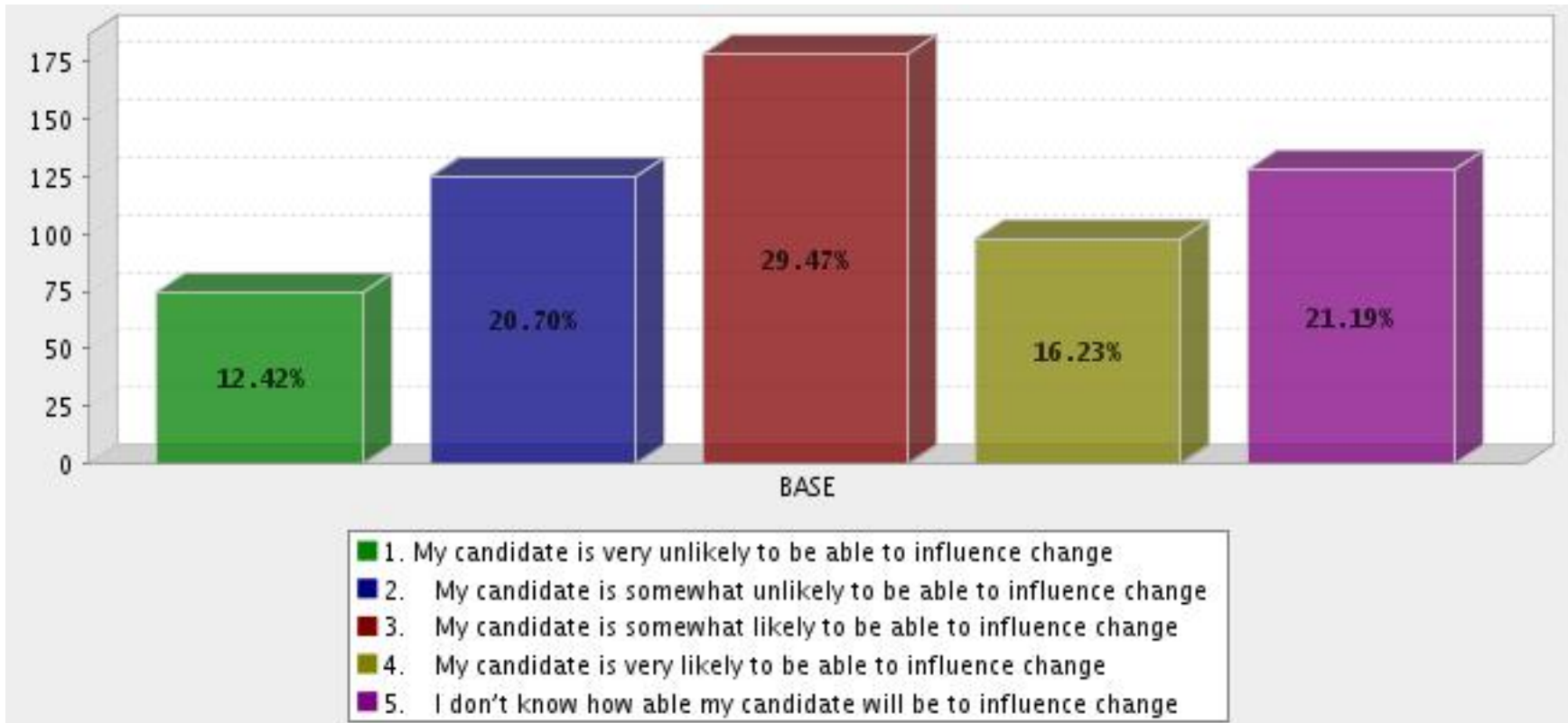
## g. Issues related to the federal budget deficit?



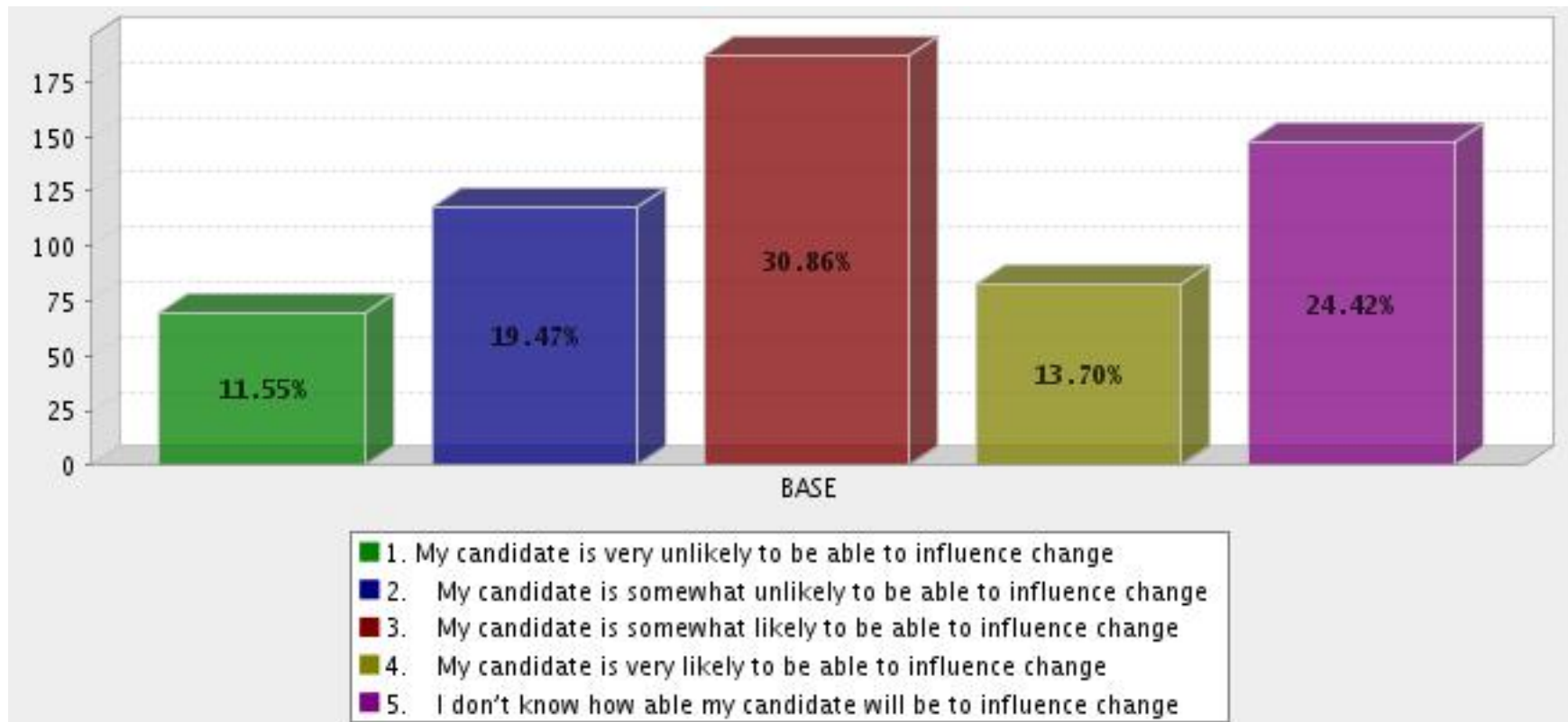
## h. Issues related to the environment and global warming?



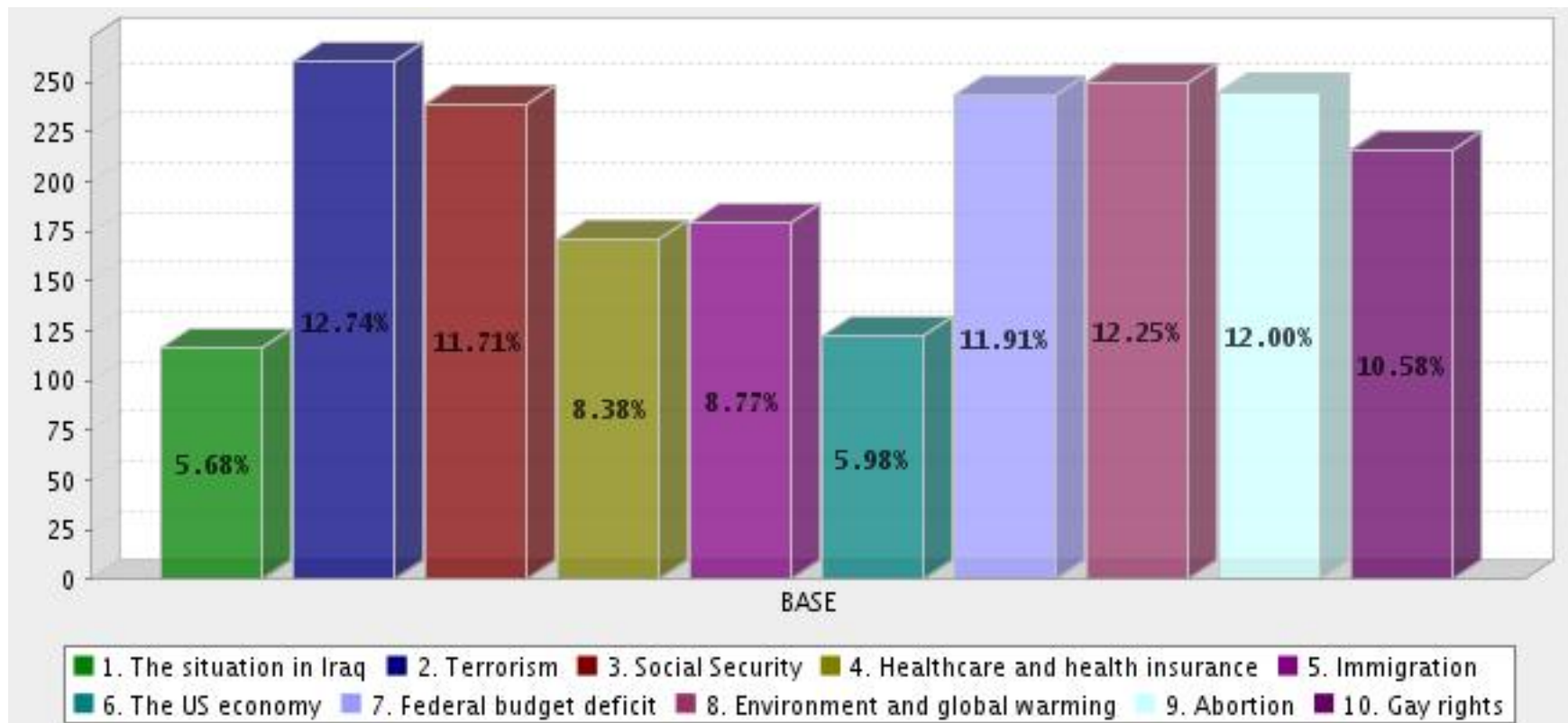
### i. Issues related to abortion?



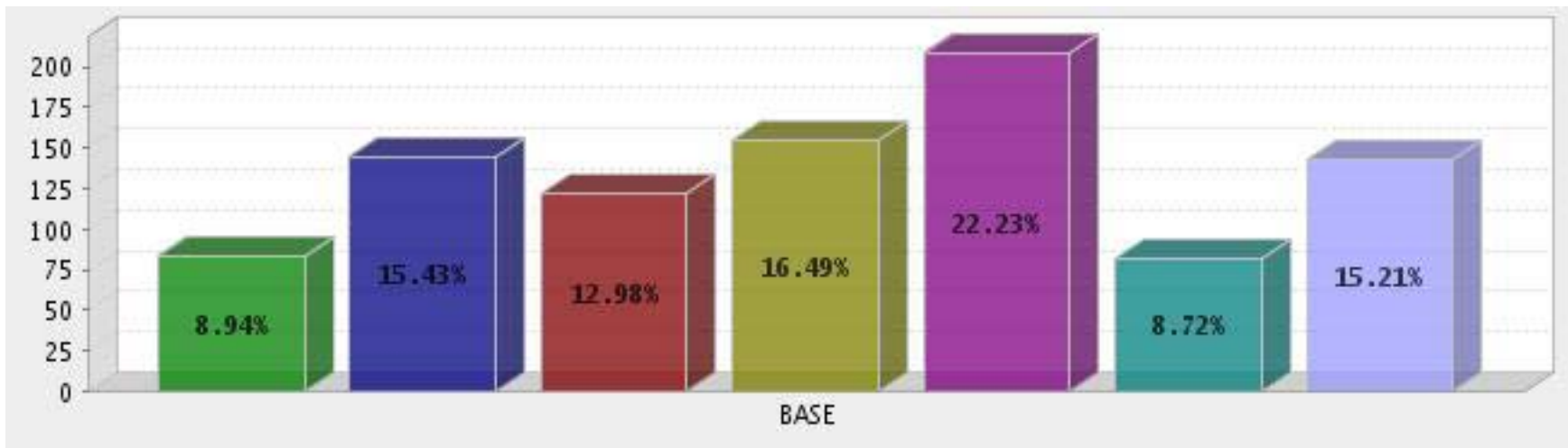
## j. Issues related to gay rights?



4. Are there issues around which you feel no candidate will make much of a difference in any reasonable amount of time? Please select the issues you believe no next president will be able to influence much in the near future. You can select as many as you like.



5. In your opinion, why would the next president not have the influence he or she needs to create these changes?  
(select as many as you want)



- 1. The next president is unlikely to set the kind of clear and measurable goals it takes to drive change.
- 2. The next president is likely to go after too many priorities instead of focusing on the most important two or three.
- 3. The next president won't define the specific actions he/she wants the American people to take, so the change effort will lose direction.
- 4. The president won't take the time to really understand all the forces that have combined to support the current situation, so he/she will underestimate what it will take to drive change.
- 5. The next president will try a few influence tactics—for example, tinker with taxes, provide some training, or give some great speeches—but won't combine these efforts into a comprehensive strategy that guarantees change.
- 6. I believe whoever is elected the next president will be successful in influencing the needed changes.
- 7. None of the above.

6. Which candidate do you believe would be most effective at achieving his or her position? Please answer this question regardless of whether you think the candidate is electable or whether you agree with his or her position.

