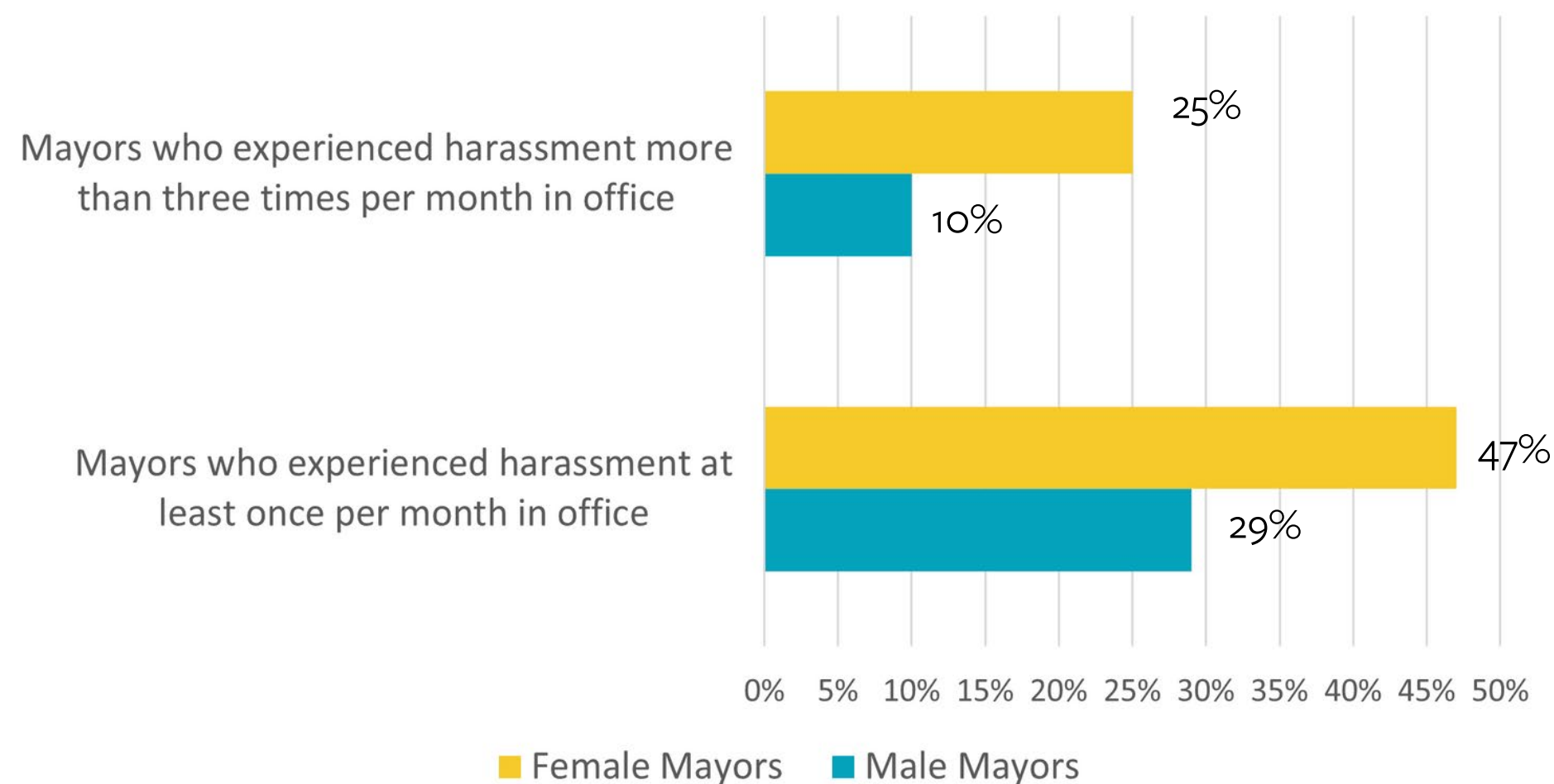


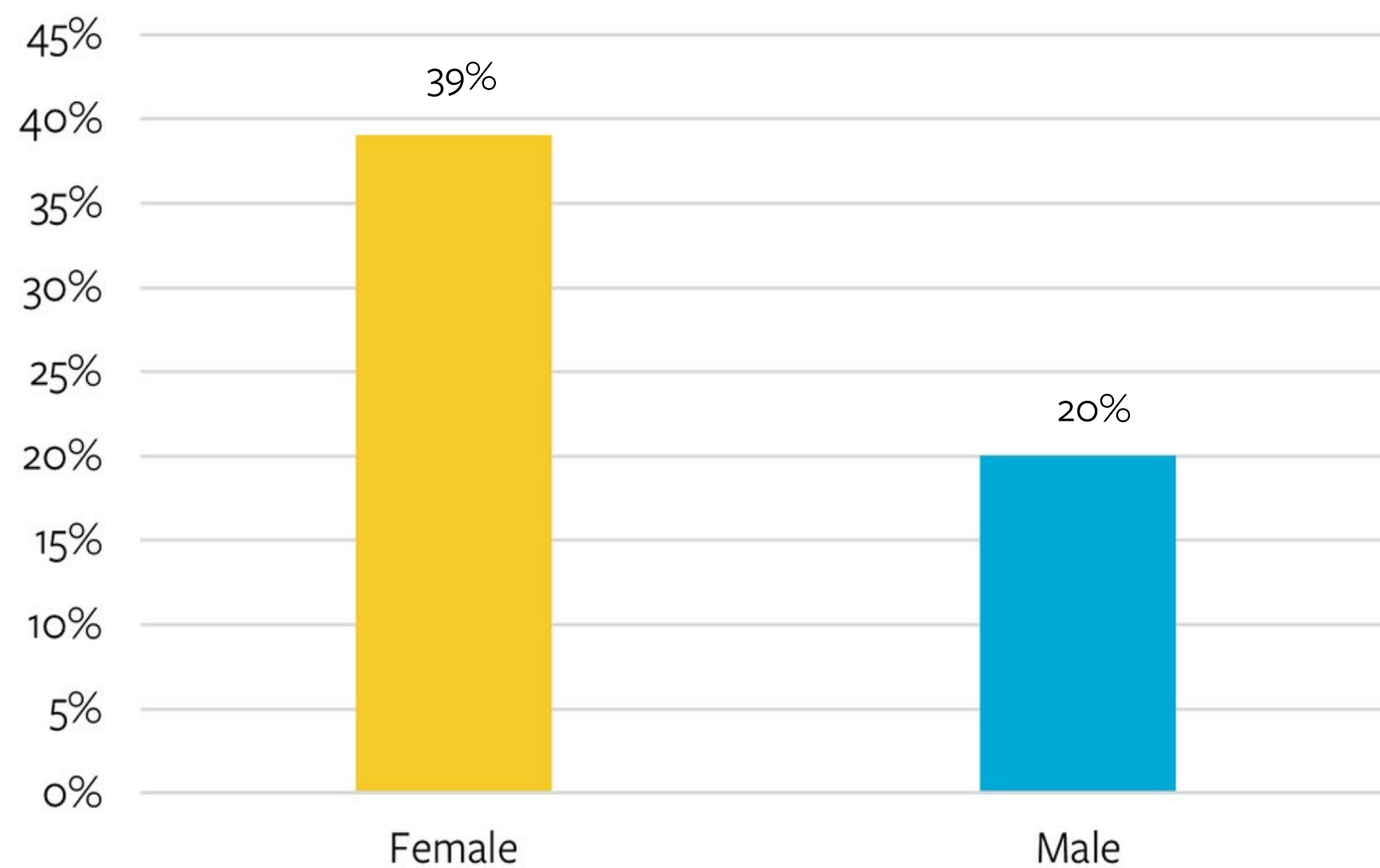


“I had someone vandalize my house. They painted ‘death’ on [my] garage.”

“I had some vandalism at my house, and that same week, I had a death threat online... they posted a picture of my office window and like all this stuff.”

I have a stalker... he started following me around at city events... it escalated to the point where he was blocking my exit from buildings. He [put] his cell phone camera in my face [and] would yell and chase me around at events.”

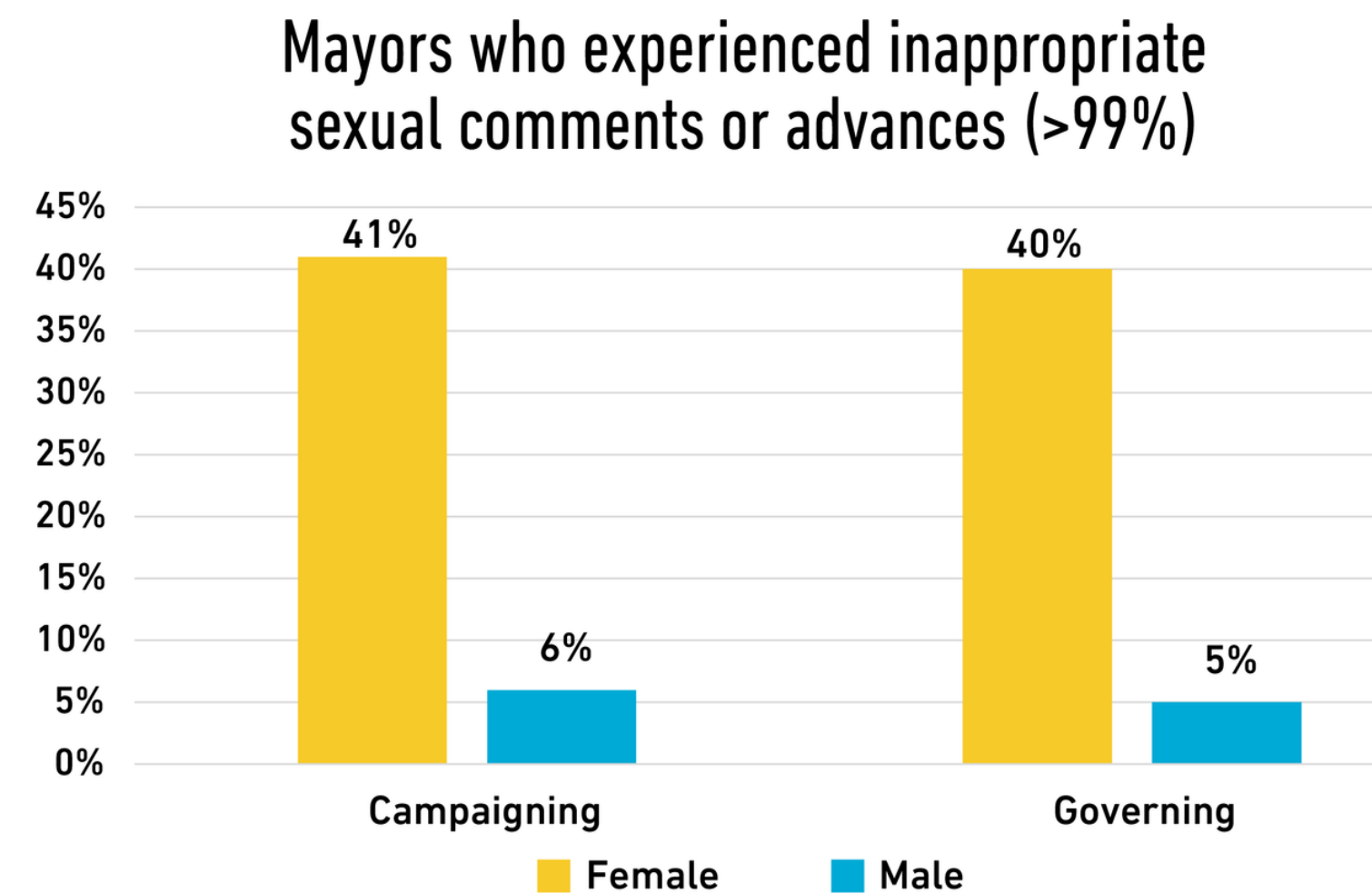
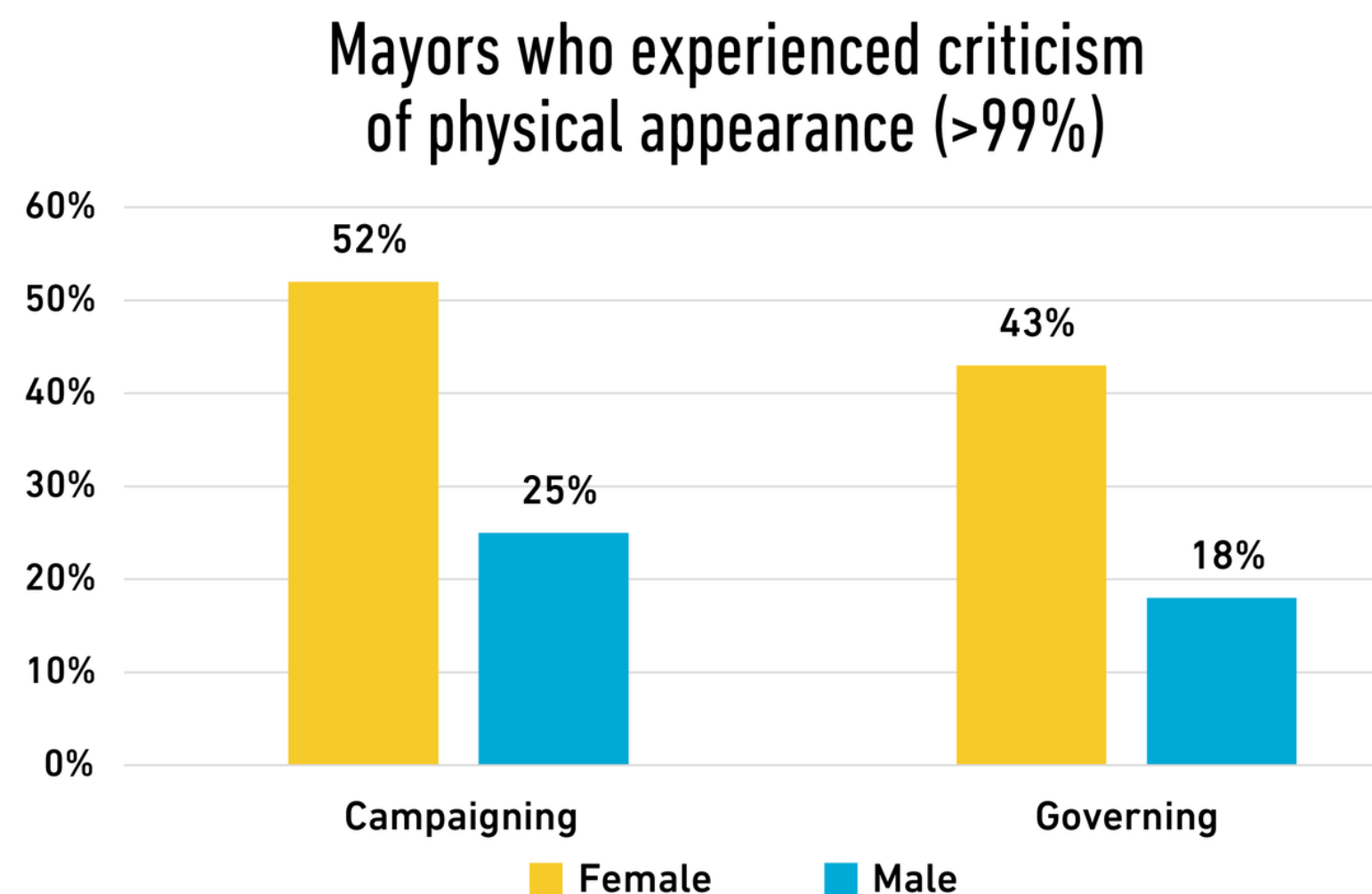
Mayors who experienced harassment of their family



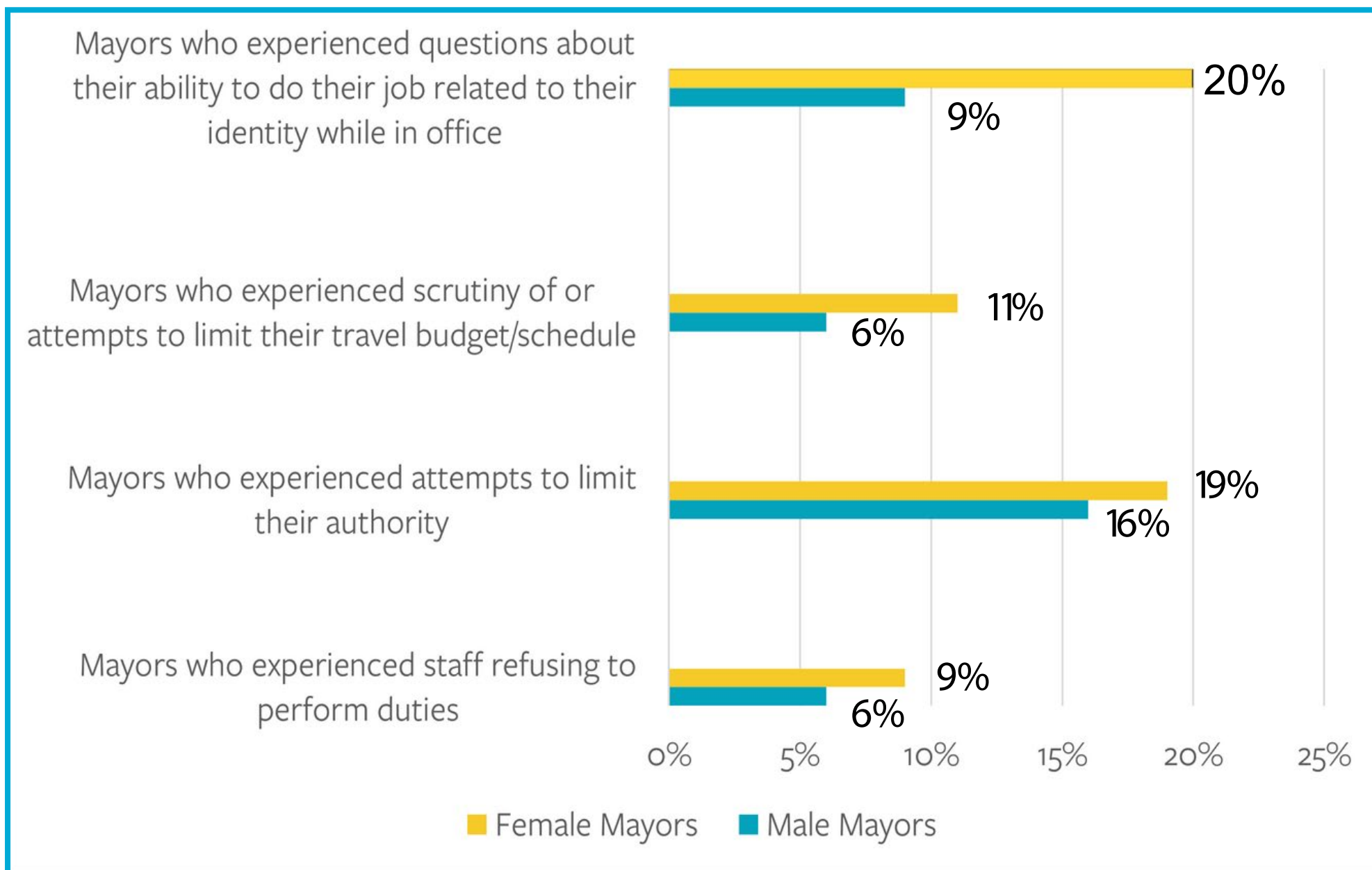
“I had to get rid of my home phone because I had a message machine, and the messages would come across, and my [child] would just totally freak out. So I got rid of my home phone.”

“[People threatened] to kill my husband . . . [they said] there’s too many rats in [my city], so [we’ll] give the rats the poison and . . . poison your [children].”

“Sometimes it’s, you’ve got a really hot mayor . . . And sometimes it’s old men saying, your beauty mark should probably be removed.”



“I had a guy who sent me an email . . . basically inferring that he’d like to [commit sexual violence against] me . . . it was a series of like 40 emails . . . filled with a lot of sexual violence.”



“I used to say, meeting adjourned. Now I have to ask [the council] for a motion to adjourn the meeting ...”

“It’s just like the optics of **spending money on me in any way, shape, or form, I feel like is not a thing I can do.** Like we are not going to renovate our office suite because it would be me spending money on me. **I won’t take a detail because it would be me spending money on me.** I’m super careful about travel, and I **pay for 80% to 90% of my own** . . . [but] my predecessor had a huge travel budget, which he spent liberally.”

Solutions:

Normalize the position as a job:

- Normalize support professional development
- Normalize support for personal protection
- Staff dedicated to the mayor
- Raise wages

Combat divisiveness and increase civic literacy:

- Demystify the local government process and promote civic engagement
- Invest in collaborative, respectful communication among council
- Call out personal, identity-based attacks

Move towards systemic and policy shifts:

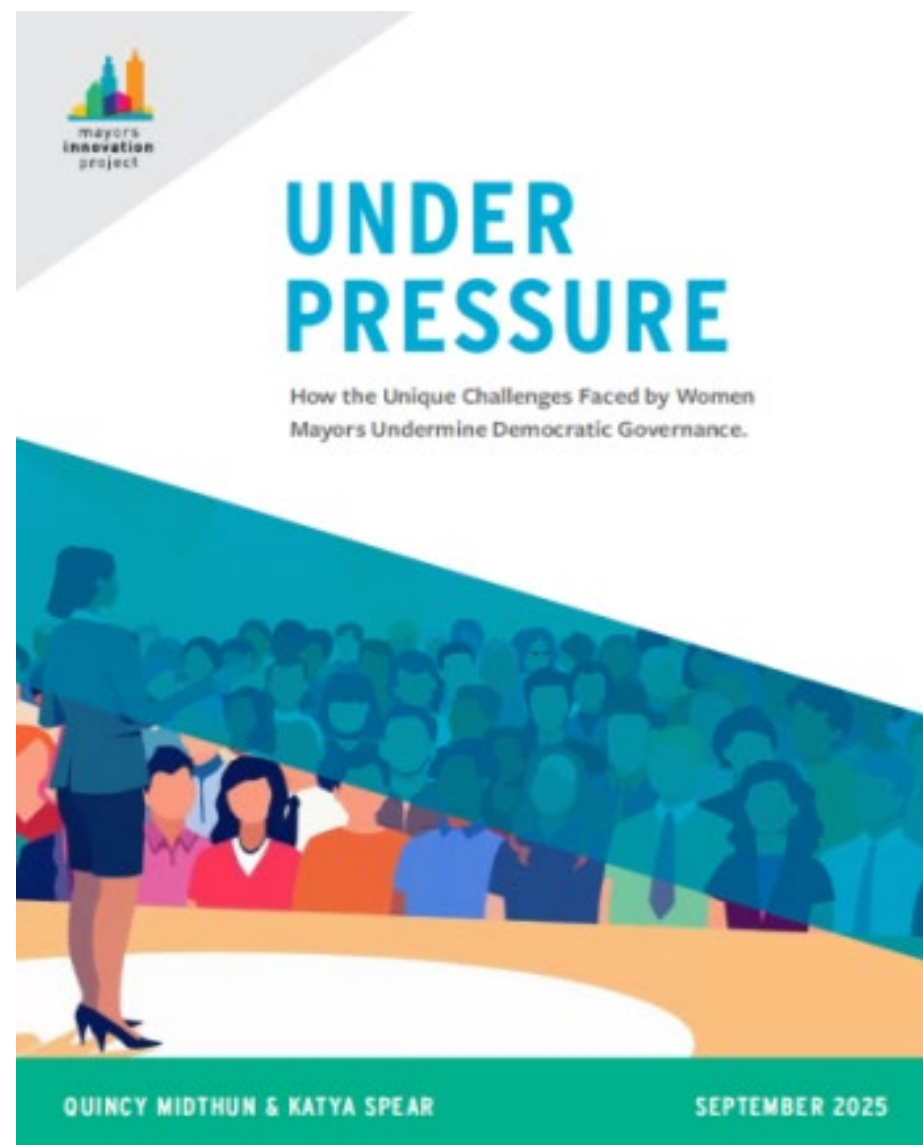
- Family supportive policies: pay equity, paid leave, childcare
- Voting reforms

“The solution requires systemic change, not just better armor for women.”

- *Under Pressure*,
Mayors Innovation Project

Read the full report:

<https://mayorsinnovation.org/under-pressure/>



Let's discuss solutions: knspear@mayorsinnovation.org