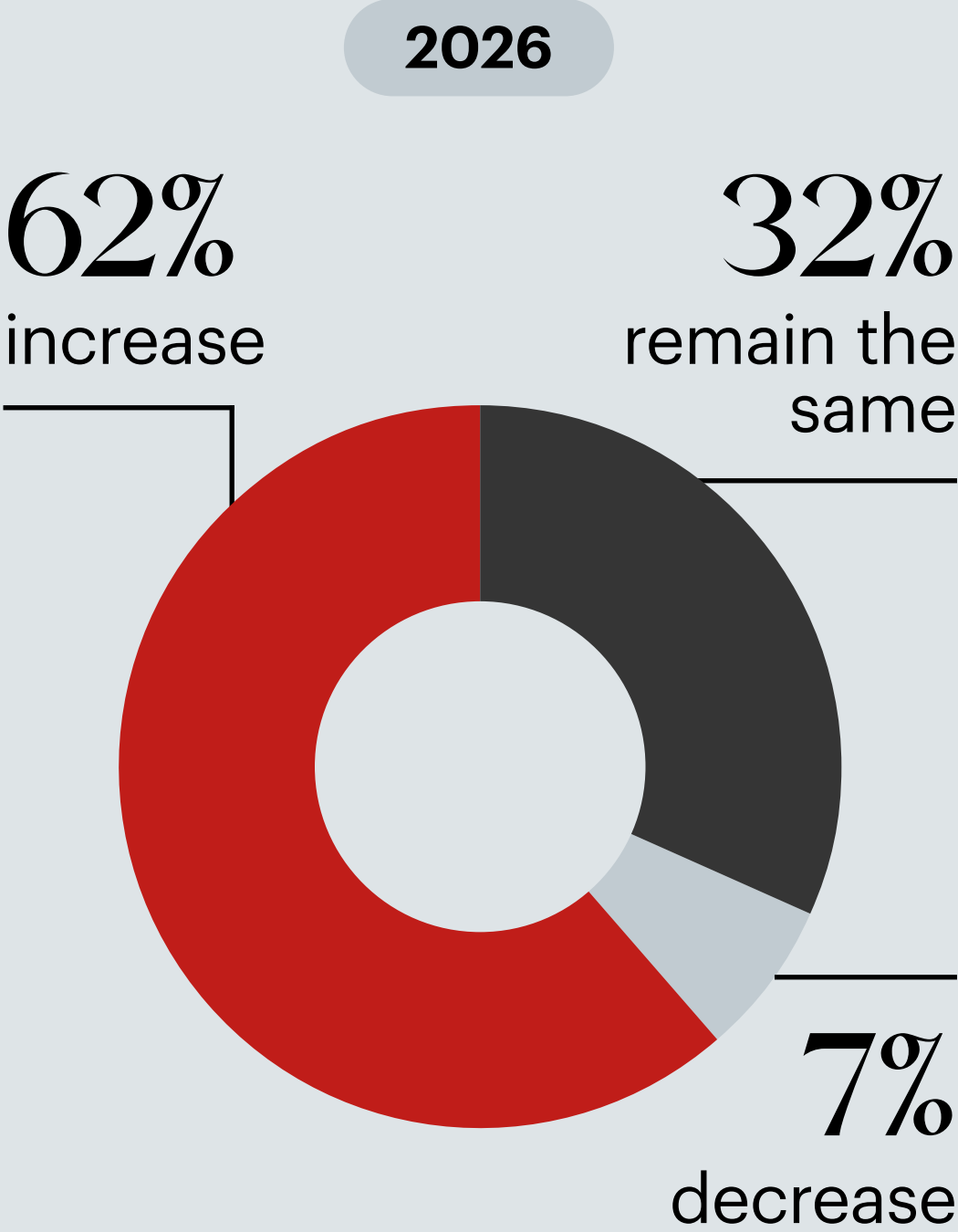
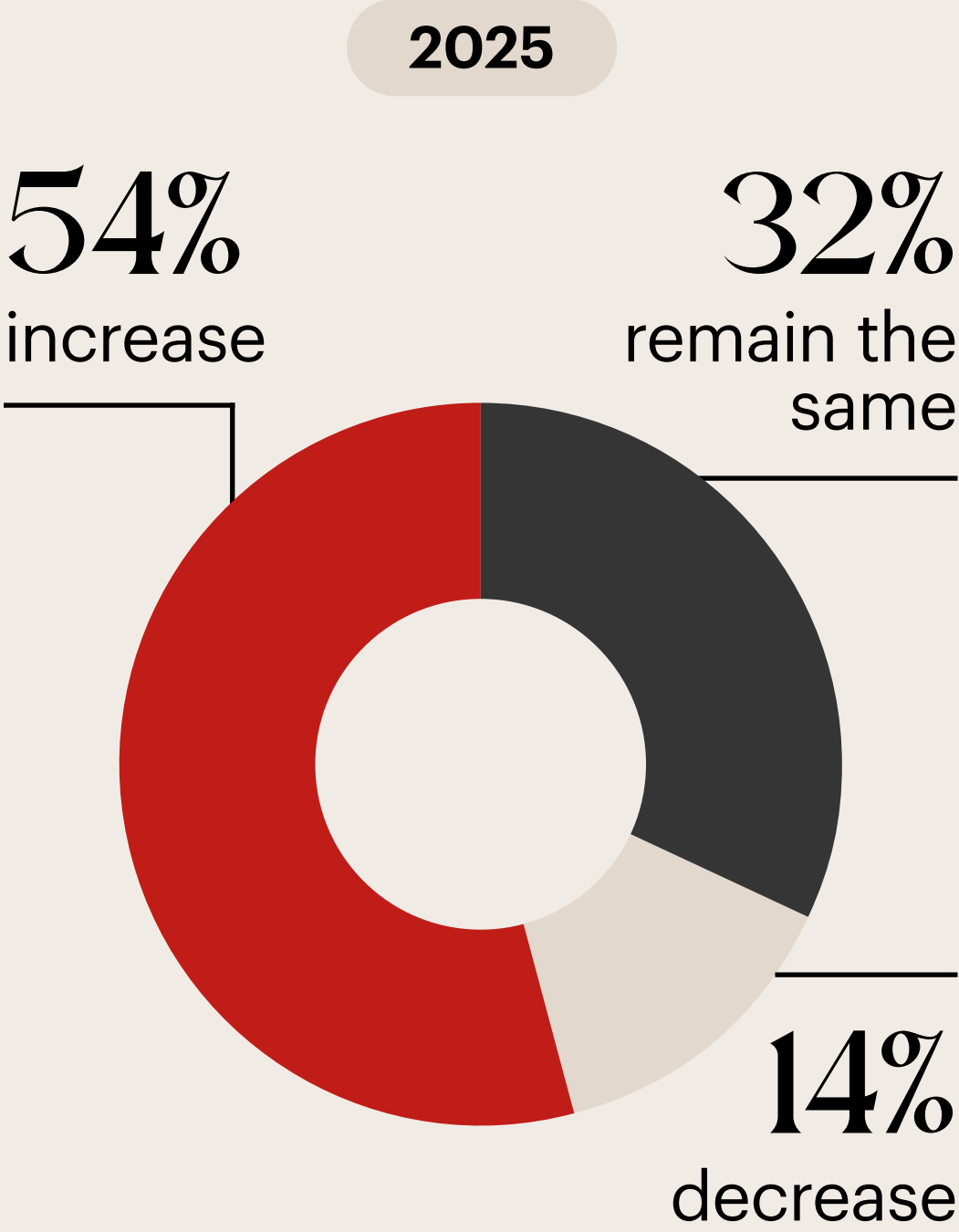


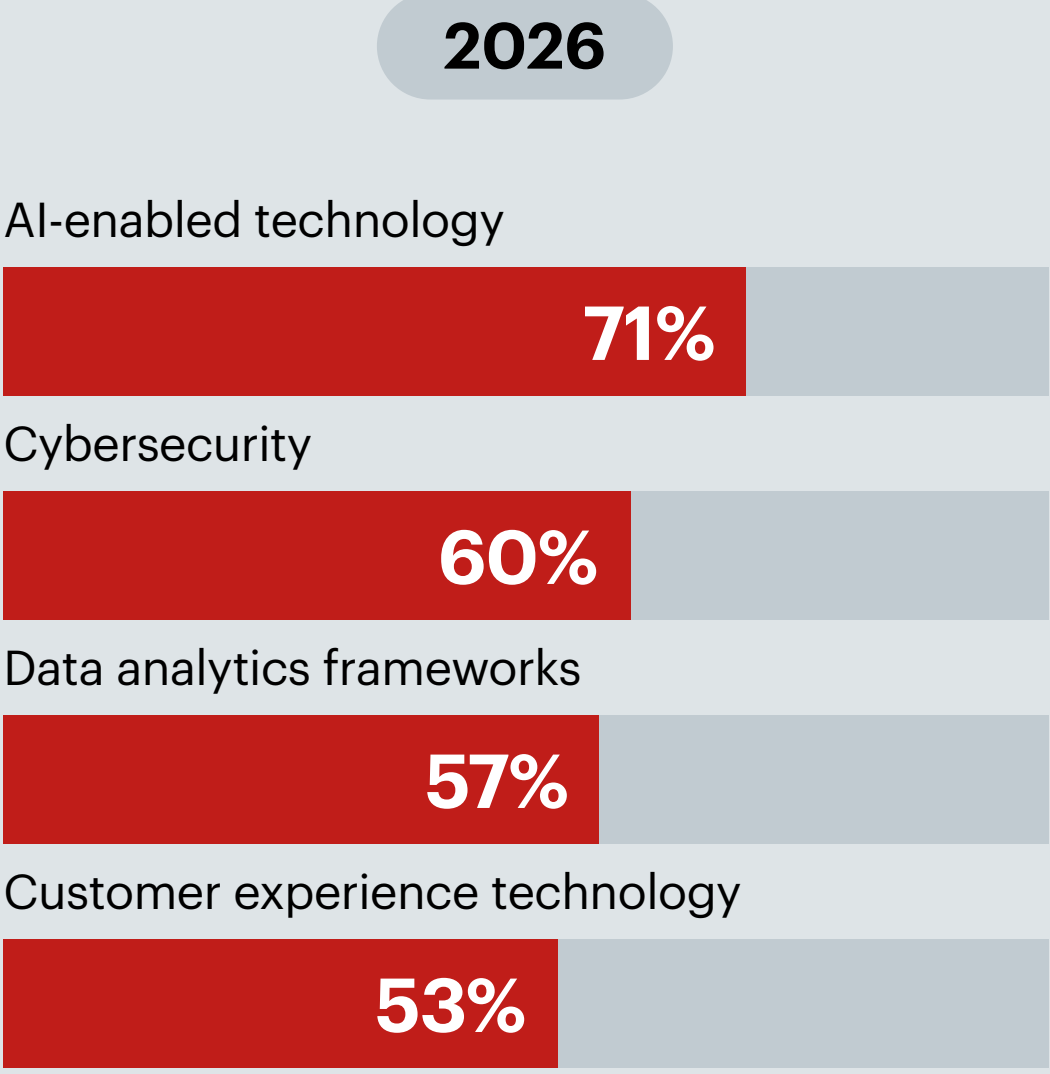
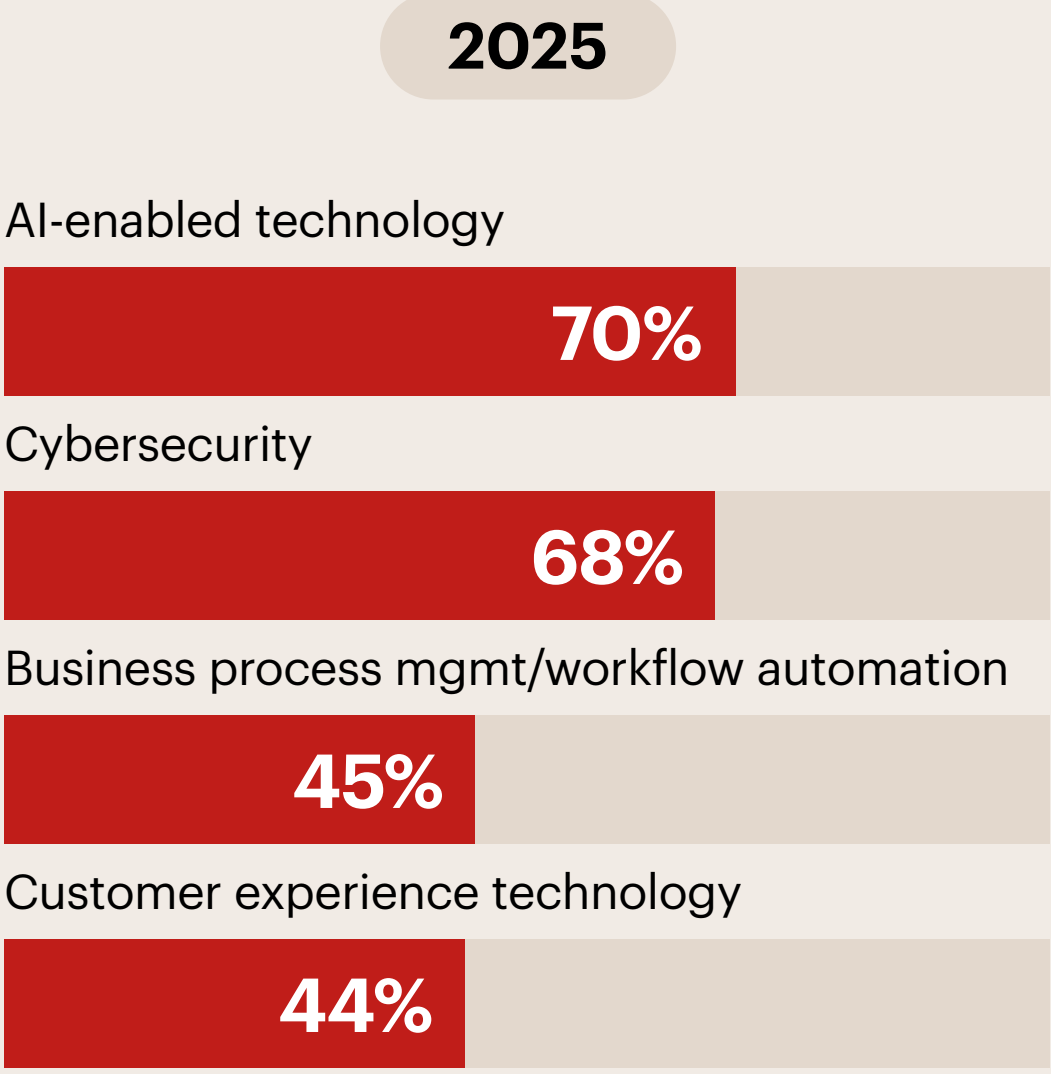
# CIO tech trends: then vs. now

HIGHLIGHTS FROM CIO TECH POLL: TECH PRIORITIES STUDY

## Technology budgets on the incline



## AI and cybersecurity are still at the forefront of investments



## Quantum computing emerges as a research topic

- 2025**
1. AI-enabled technology
  2. Data-modeling tools to support in-house AI/ML projects
  3. SASE/Security Service Edge (SSE)

- 2026**
1. AI-enabled technology
  2. Quantum computing
  3. Data analytics frameworks

## Ways in which IT leaders plan to use AI and machine learning tools

- 2025**
- Process automation and efficiency
  - Enhancing customer experiences
  - Natural Language Processing (NLP)
  - Risk management/fraud detection
  - Smart manufacturing/IoT integration (predictive maintenance, quality control, etc.)

- 2026**
- Improving decision making through predictive or real-time analytics
  - Risk management (e.g., cybersecurity, fraud detection)
  - Process automation and efficiency
  - Enhancing customer experiences
  - Enhancing employee experiences (e.g., talent acquisition, personalized training)

## AI gains traction as a top driver in vendor evaluation



## Security becomes the top challenge to new technology adoption

- 2025**
- Lack of budget
  - Resistance to change within the organization
  - Shortage of staff

- 2026**
- Security concerns
  - Lack of appropriate skillsets for deployment
  - Inability to integrate with existing tools