

navigator*

Wednesday, September 17th

Government Funding Debate: A Guide for Advocates



Credit: Shutterstock/Lucky Photographer

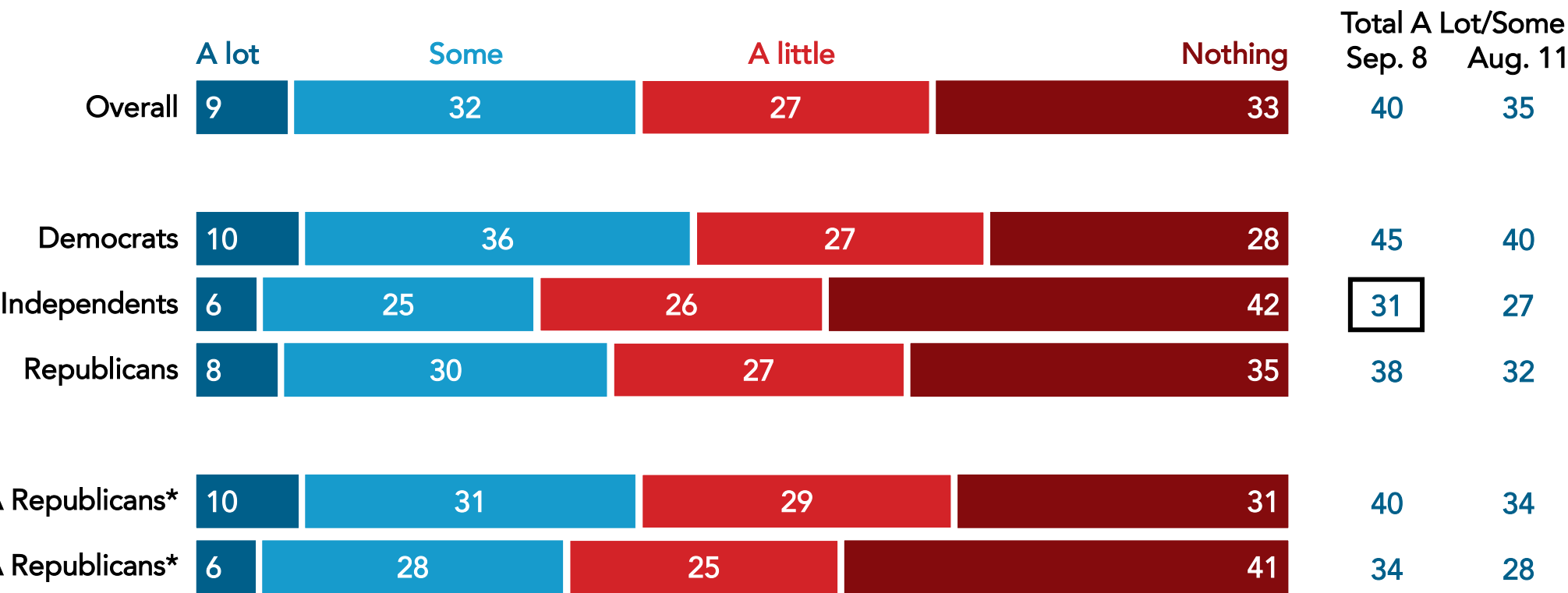
Key Takeaways:

- Compared to August, Americans are hearing slightly more about a potential government shutdown, though still only two in five have heard at least some about a potential shutdown recently.
- Americans continue to say they would blame Trump and Republicans in Congress more if the government were to shut down, including two in five independents.
- Those most open to persuasion on who to blame in a shutdown scenario include independents, non-MAGA Republicans, moderates, those unfavorable to both parties, and younger women.

Two in Five Have Heard At Least “Some” About the Impending Government Shutdown

Just 31% of independents have heard “a lot” or “some” about a potential government shutdown.

How much have you seen, read, or heard about a potential government shutdown in the coming months if Congress cannot pass their annual spending bills?

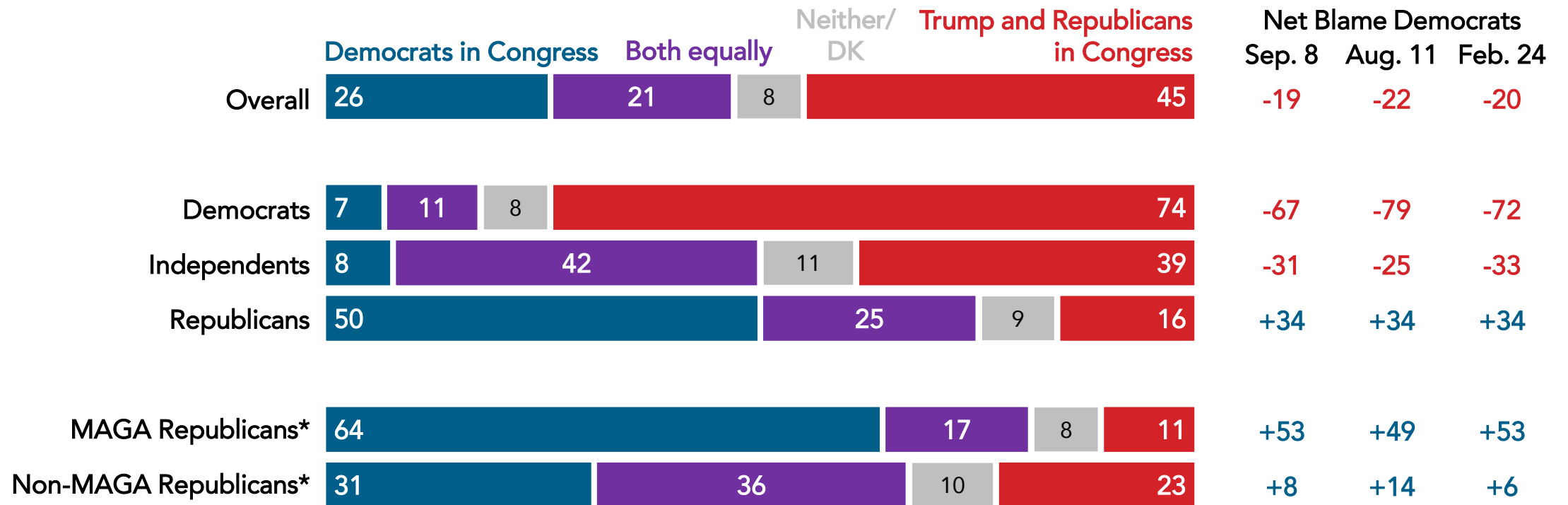


*“MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who identify as “a supporter of the MAGA movement” on a separate question, while “non-MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days.
Latest wave conducted September 4-September 8, 2025. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Trump and GOP Remain Most to Blame in Shutdown Scenario

A plurality of Americans continue to say they would blame Trump and Republicans in Congress most for a government shutdown (45%), including 39% of independents. Just 26% say they would blame Democrats in Congress most, driven by 50% of Republicans.

If the government were to shut down in the coming months, who would you blame most?



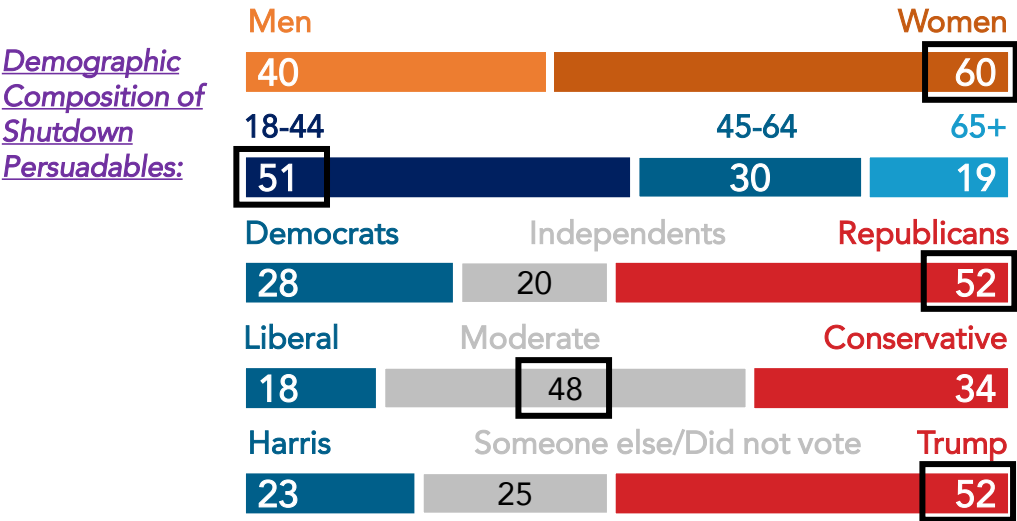
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Three in Ten Americans Are Open to Persuasion on Who to Blame More for a Potential Government Shutdown

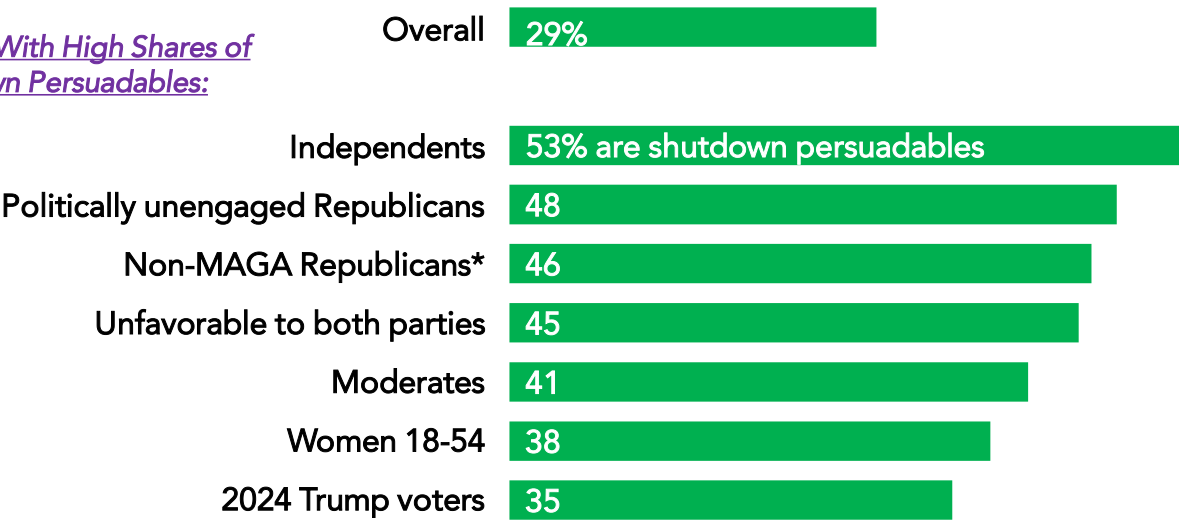
Nearly three in ten Americans would blame neither party, both parties equally, or don't know enough to say on who they would blame if the government shut down (29%). Groups that are disproportionately likely to include shutdown persuadables include independents (53% are shutdown persuadable), non-MAGA Republicans* (46%), those unfavorable to both parties (45%), and women 18-54 (38%).

Shutdown Persuadables (29% of Americans):

If the government were to shut down in the coming months, who would you blame most? (Democrats in Congress or Trump and Republicans in Congress): *Would not blame either of these, would blame both of these equally, or don't know*



Groups With High Shares of Shutdown Persuadables:



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About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Jessica Floyd, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds; Mike Podhorzer; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from September 4-September 8, 2025. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 75 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among independent voters. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from an opt-in online panel vendor. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables. The margin of error for the full sample at the 95 percent level of confidence is +/- 3.1 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

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