

navigating.* coronavirus

Daily Update:
Friday, April 24, 2020



Communicating in
Crisis: Coronavirus

Key takeaways:

- Trump's approval rating on handling the coronavirus pandemic remains negative and tracks with Americans hearing more negative things about his handling of the crisis.
- Most Americans say President Trump bears responsibility for the lack of testing and PPE.
- There is broad, bipartisan support for expanded vote-by-mail.

Coronavirus Briefings: Public Wants to Leave it To Experts

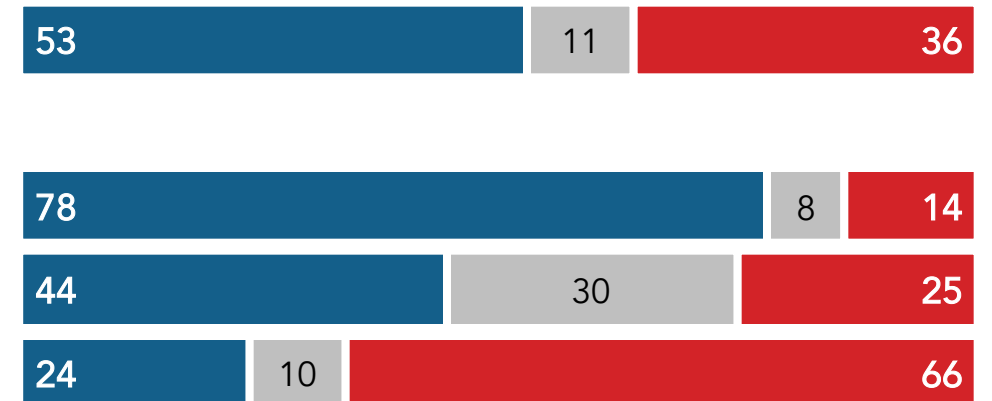
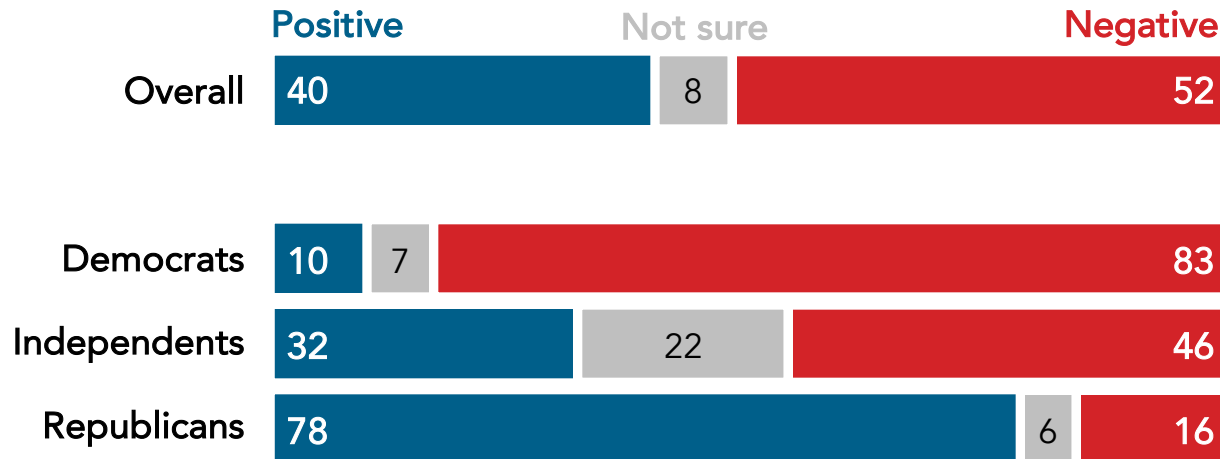
A majority of the public say Trump's behavior at press conferences gives them a negative impression of his handling of the pandemic and more than half also think he should leave press briefings to health experts.

- Even a quarter of Republicans (24%) believe Trump should leave the briefings to the experts.

Does the way Trump is behaving at these press conferences give you a positive or negative impression of his handling of the coronavirus pandemic?

Do you think Trump should continue to do daily press conferences or leave the briefings to other officials, including public health experts like Dr. Fauci or Dr. Birx?

Trump should stop doing daily press conferences personally and leave briefings to other officials Not sure Trump should continue to do daily press conferences



Nationwide survey of 1,022 registered voters; April 17-22, 2020.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

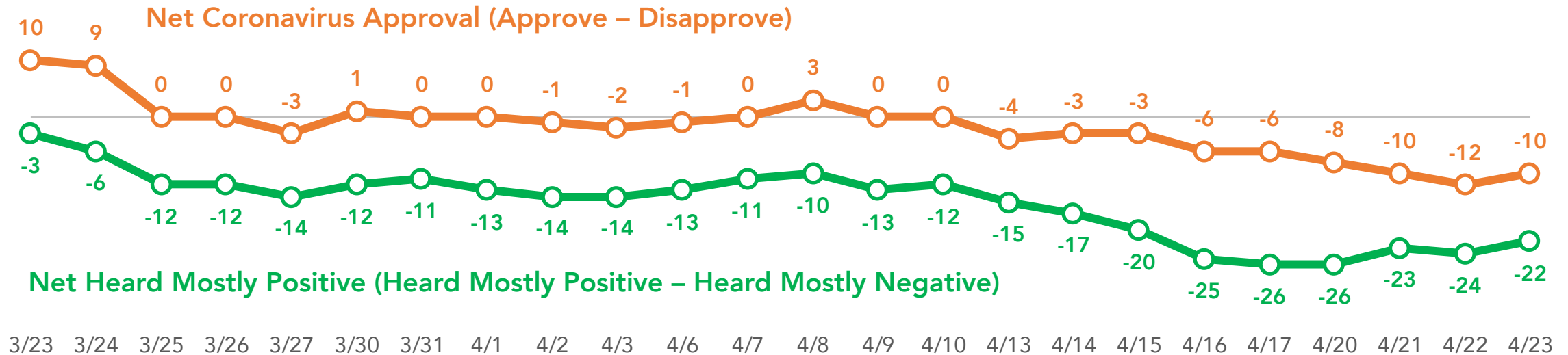
Negative Exposure Tracks With Approval Decline

Throughout our daily tracking, Trump's approval rating on handling of the coronavirus pandemic has moved in tandem with Americans hearing, on net, more bad than good things about how he is handling the crisis.

- Since our first day of tracking on March 23rd, net approval on Trump's handling of the pandemic has dropped 20 points and net hearing mostly positive things has dropped 19 points.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling the coronavirus pandemic?

Has what you have seen, read, or heard recently about Donald Trump's handling of the coronavirus pandemic been:



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days.
Latest wave conducted April 20-23, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Public Holds Trump Responsible for Lack of PPE & Testing

Nearly three in five Americans find Trump responsible for limitations on testing and lack of protective equipment for frontline medical professionals.

After each item, please indicate whether you think President Trump is mostly responsible for this, somewhat responsible for this, not that responsible for this, or not at all responsible for this.

	Mostly/ Somewhat responsible	Not that responsible	Not at all responsible
The United States is lagging behind other hard-hit countries in its share of the population being tested, having conducted just over 2.8 million tests for its population of 329 million	57	18	25
Doctors and nurses are running dangerously low on their supplies of protective masks and equipment , leading many to get sick as hospitals struggle to maintain a healthy staff	55	19	26
The number of Americans infected by the coronavirus is more than 680,000 and counting , more than any other country in the world	50	18	31
The coronavirus pandemic has so far claimed the lives of nearly 35,000 Americans , more than any other country in the world	50	19	31
Unemployment has risen for the last three weeks in a row with nearly 22 million Americans filing for unemployment since mid-March – the highest ever on record	44	26	30

Nationwide survey of 1,022 registered voters; April 17-22, 2020.
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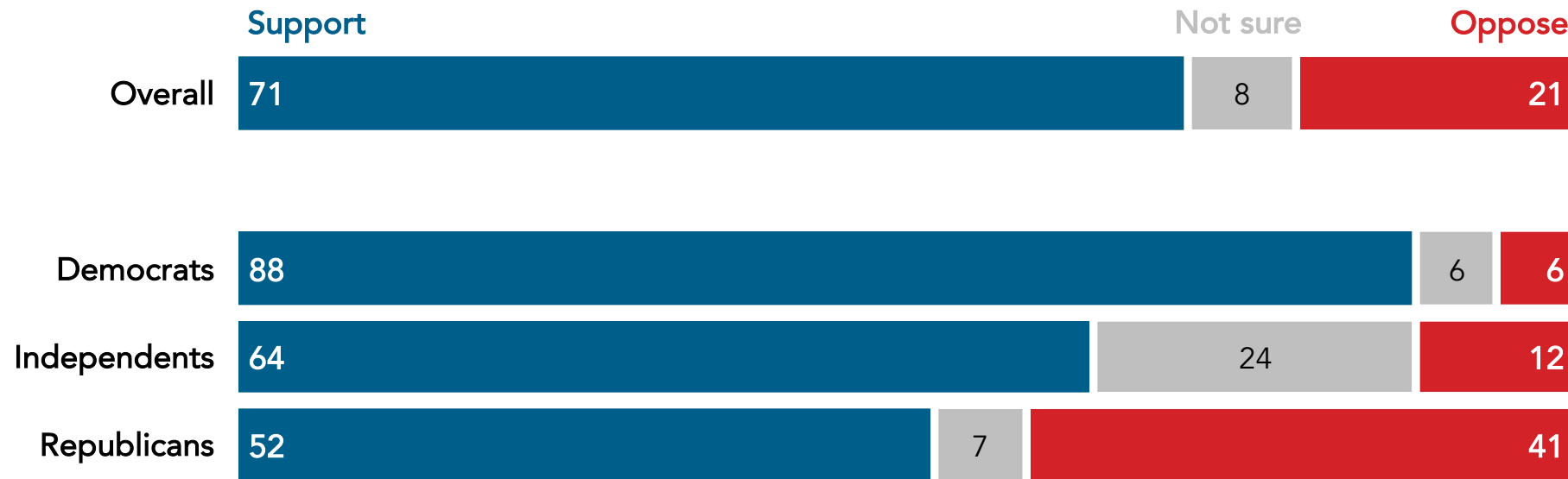
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Bipartisan Support for Expanded Vote By Mail in November

Almost three in four Americans support giving all eligible voters the option to vote by mail in November, including more than half of Republicans.

- Supporters of expanded vote by mail also have the more convincing argument. 69% of Americans agree that the pandemic should not force people to choose between voting and their health, while just 31% agree that expanding vote by mail increases voter fraud and reduces electoral credibility.

Do you support or oppose giving all eligible voters the option to vote by mail, also known as no-excuse absentee voting, in the election this November?



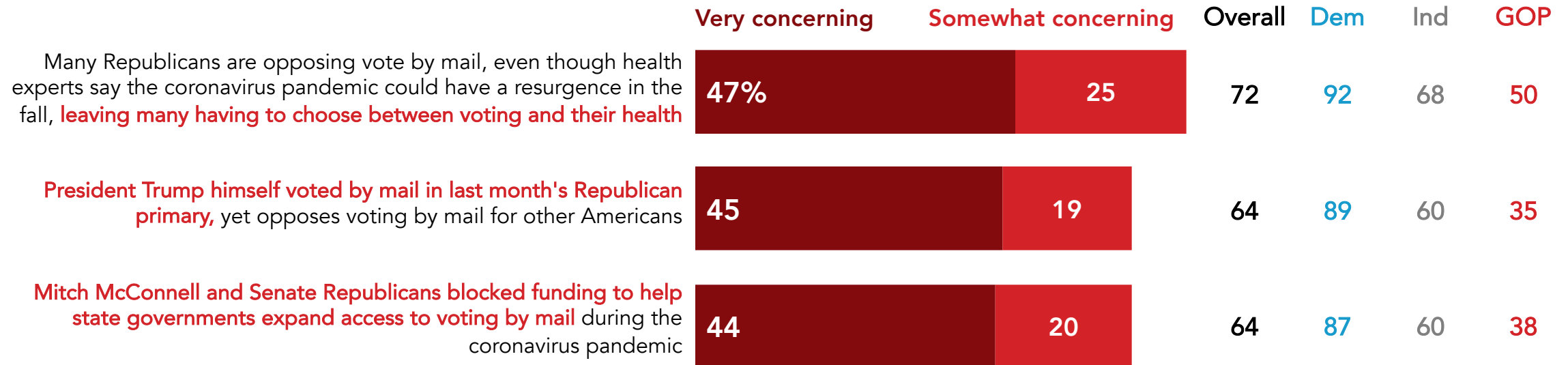
Nationwide survey of 1,022 registered voters; April 17-22, 2020.
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There Is Strong Concern That GOP Opposition to Expanded Mail Voting Will Force Choice Between Health and Voting

Americans are most concerned about having to choose between their health and voting in-person in the fall, including half of Republicans.

- 52% of 2016 Trump voters find being unable to vote by mail in the fall and having to choose between health and exercising their right to vote “very” or “somewhat” concerning, and 40% find it “very” or “somewhat” concerning that Senate Republicans are blocking access to vote by mail.

For each, please indicate whether you find each statement to be very concerning, somewhat concerning, not too concerning, or not concerning at all.



“2016 Trump Voters” self-report having voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 election.
Nationwide survey of 1,022 registered voters; April 17-22, 2020.
For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org

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Pushing Back on Trump's China Argument

To determine the best response to Trump deflecting blame to the Chinese government, we used a split sample question to test two statements. We found that a statement acknowledging mistakes by the Chinese government performs better than a statement that doesn't.

Which side do you agree with more?

46% agree with more

+8

54% agree with more

President Trump says that the Chinese government is fully responsible for the spread of coronavirus. China lied about the severity of the early spread of the virus and in doing so, put the health of Americans and people around the world at risk. As soon as the risk became apparent, President Trump acted decisively to save lives by banning all travel from China.

Split sample

51% agree with more

-2

49% agree with more

The Chinese government mismanaged their handling of the coronavirus and tried to cover it up, but Donald Trump is simply blaming China as a distraction from his own failure to contain the virus in our country. Trump downplayed the seriousness of the virus from the beginning, letting the situation get worse when we should have been preparing.

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Challenges With Unemployment Applications Common

Nearly a third of American households report having tried to apply for unemployment benefits. However, experiences of the application process are mixed, with only 34% of those that have applied saying they have actually received their benefits so far.

Have you or has anyone in your household tried to apply for unemployment benefits?



Among the 14% who tried to apply for unemployment benefits:

How would you rate your experience applying for unemployment benefits?



Were you successful in receiving those unemployment benefits?



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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: Andrea Purse, progressive strategist; Arkadi Gerney, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; Delvone Michael, Working Families; Felicia Wong, Roosevelt Institute; Mike Podhorzer, AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; 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 1,010 registered voters conducted April 20-23, 2020. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from multiple opt-in online panel vendors. 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.

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