

navigating.* coronavirus

Update:
Friday, May 29, 2020

MESSAGE UPDATE

Communicating in
Crisis: Coronavirus



Key takeaways:

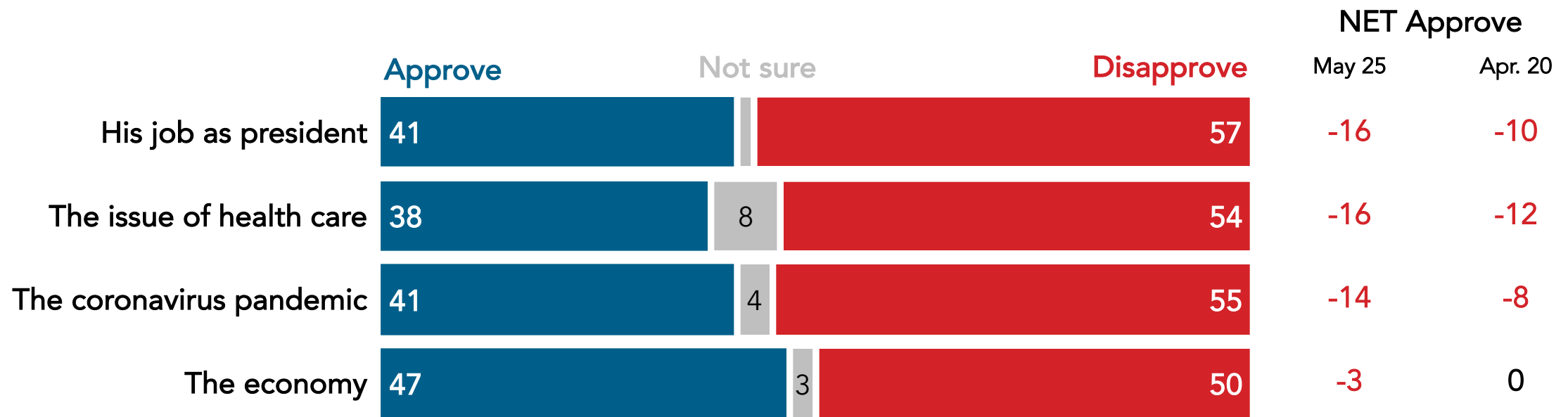
- A key group of Americans – those who disapprove of Trump overall, but approve of him on the economy – strongly disapprove of how Trump is handling the pandemic.
- Americans are nostalgic for the pre-crisis economy, but feel Trump is not doing enough to help regular people, and that his mistakes have made the economy worse.
- Most Americans support measures allowing “safe voting.”

Trump's Approvals Remain Underwater; Public More Split on Economic Handling

Trump's approval ratings on four metrics related to the coronavirus pandemic continue to drop.

- Among independents, Trump's at -29 on his overall job approval (31% approve/60% disapprove), -29 on health care (25% approve/54% disapprove), -11 on handling the pandemic (36% approve/47% disapprove), and -1 on the economy (44% approve/45% disapprove).

Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Donald Trump is handling...

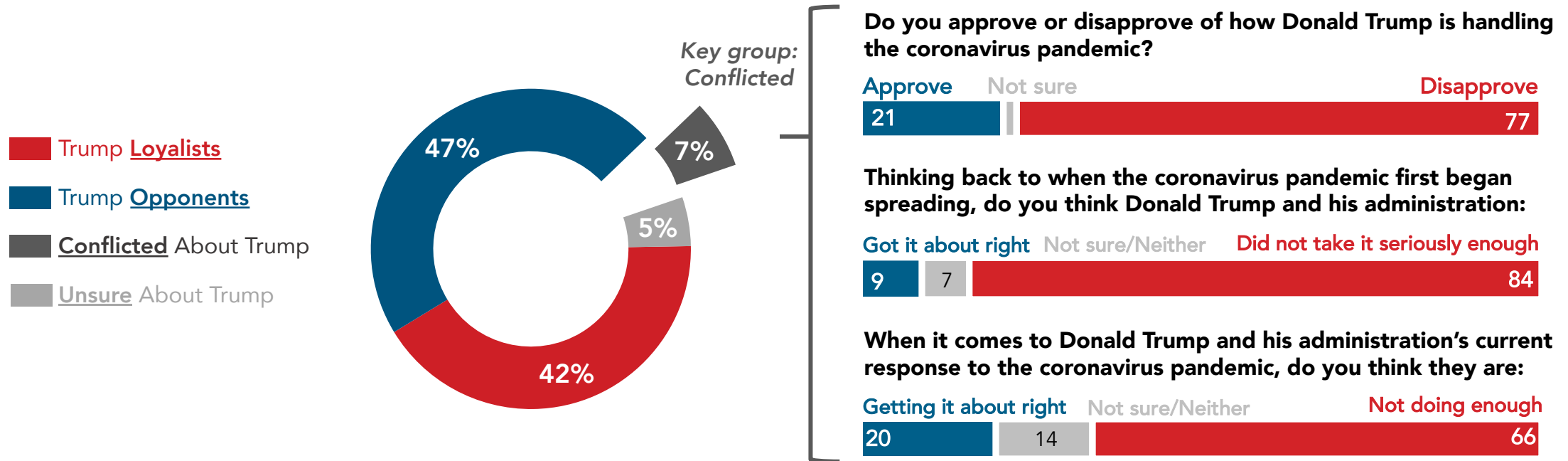


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three days. Latest wave conducted May 21-May 25, 2020. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org

Profiling “Conflicted” Americans Who Approve of Trump on Economy, But Not Overall

Using 7,000+ interviews conducted over the last month, we again looked at “[Conflicted](#)” Americans – 7% of the public who disapprove of Trump overall, but approve of his economic handling.

- This is a key group of the public who hold mixed partisan attitudes – 36% voted for Clinton in 2016, 34% voted for Trump, 10% voted 3rd party, and 21% didn’t vote. At the same time, nearly half (48%) identify as moderate.



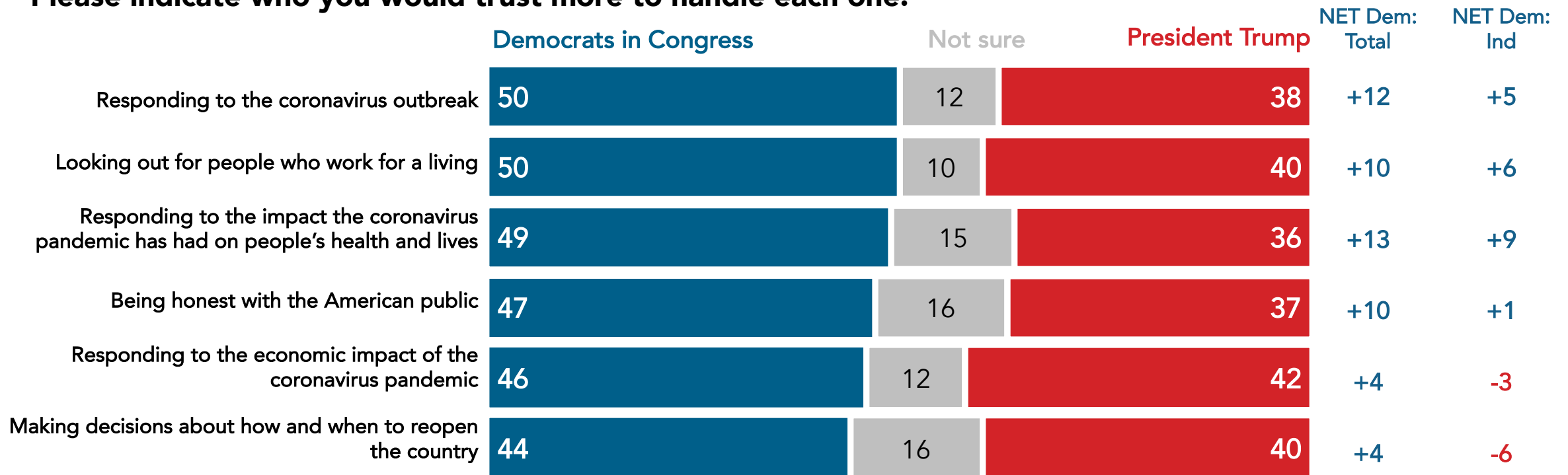
“Conflicted” are those who disapprove of Trump overall, but approve of him on the economy.
“Loyalists” are those who approve of Trump overall and approve of him on the economy.
“Opponents” are those who disapprove of Trump overall and disapprove of him on the economy.
Nationwide survey of 7,070 registered voters; April 24-May 25, 2020.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Democrats More Trusted on Responding to Economic Impact

Democrats in Congress hold an advantage over Trump on trust to respond to the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic and to make decisions about when and how to reopen the country.

- While independents trust Democrats somewhat more on looking out for working people (+6), they are split on who to trust to be honest with the public (+1) and responding to the economic impact of the pandemic (-3).

Please indicate who you would trust more to handle each one.



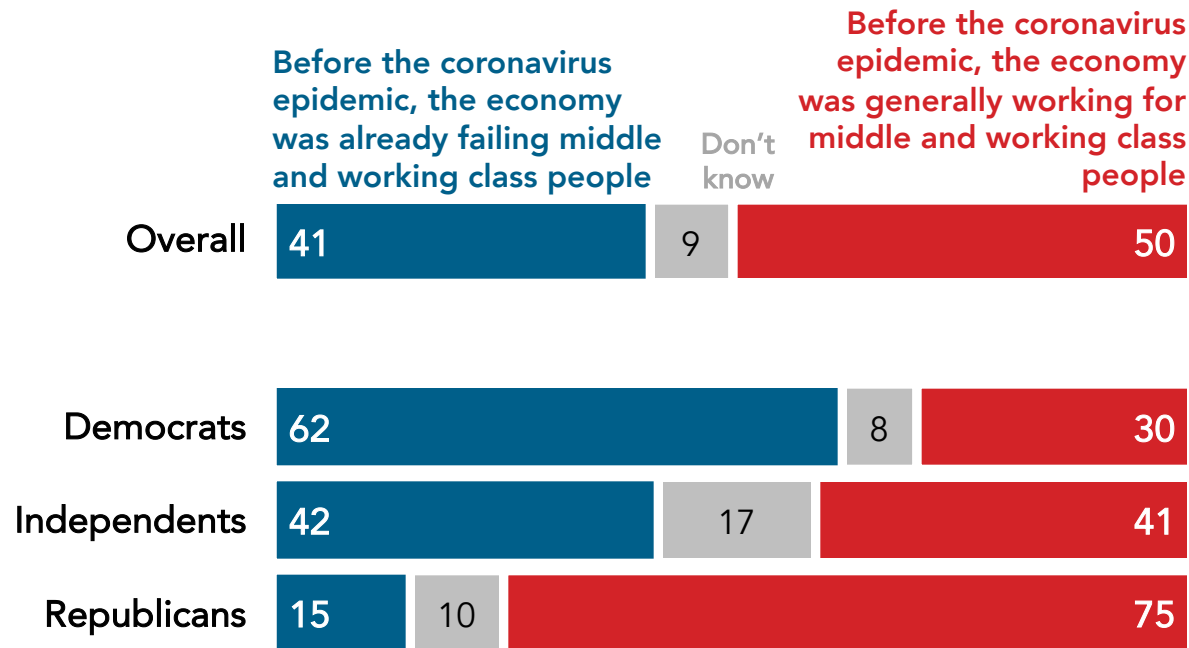
Nationwide survey of 1,012 registered voters; May 21-May 25, 2020.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

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Some Nostalgia Exists for Pre-Crisis Economy...

Roughly half say the economy was working before the crisis. Half also find Trump's economic message to be a convincing reason why he is prepared to handle the recovery.

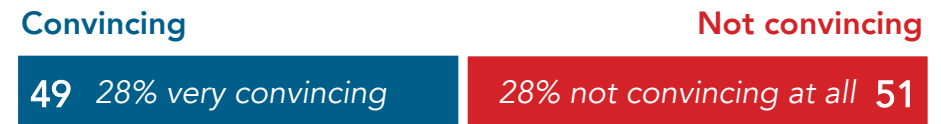
Which of the following comes closest to your opinion?



Nationwide survey of 1,012 registered voters; May 21-May 25, 2020.
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How convincing a reason is this to believe that Trump and his administration are best to handle the country's economic recovery?

Donald Trump says that his administration led the economy to add more than 4 million jobs, had wages that grew at the fastest pace in nearly a decade, and produced a strong, robust labor market. Trump built the greatest economy in the world, and he'll do it a second time.

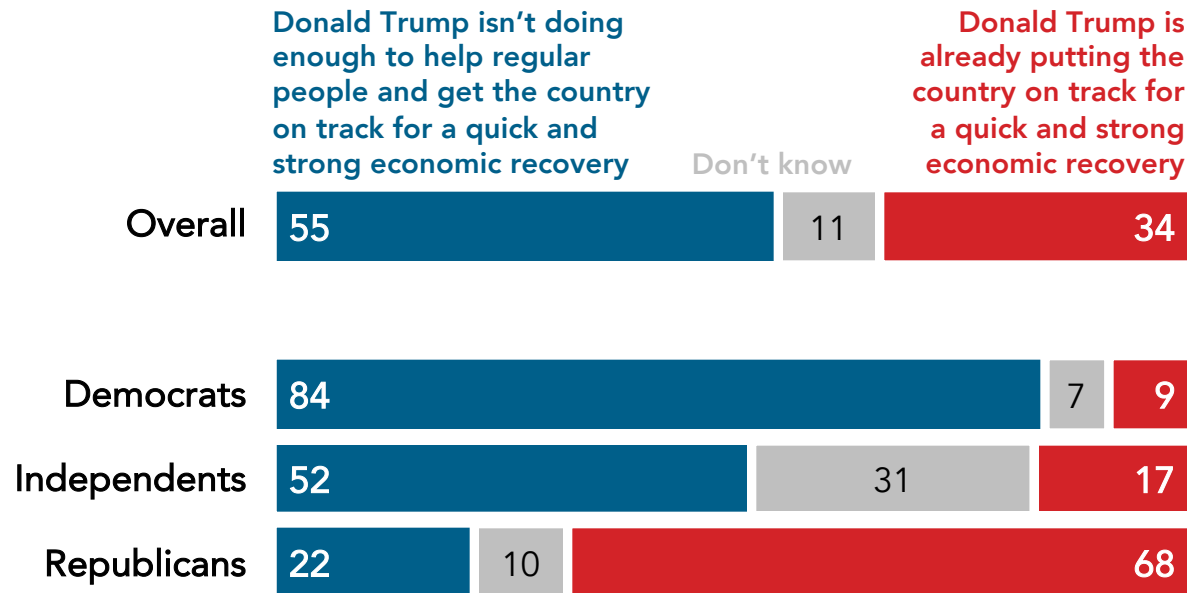


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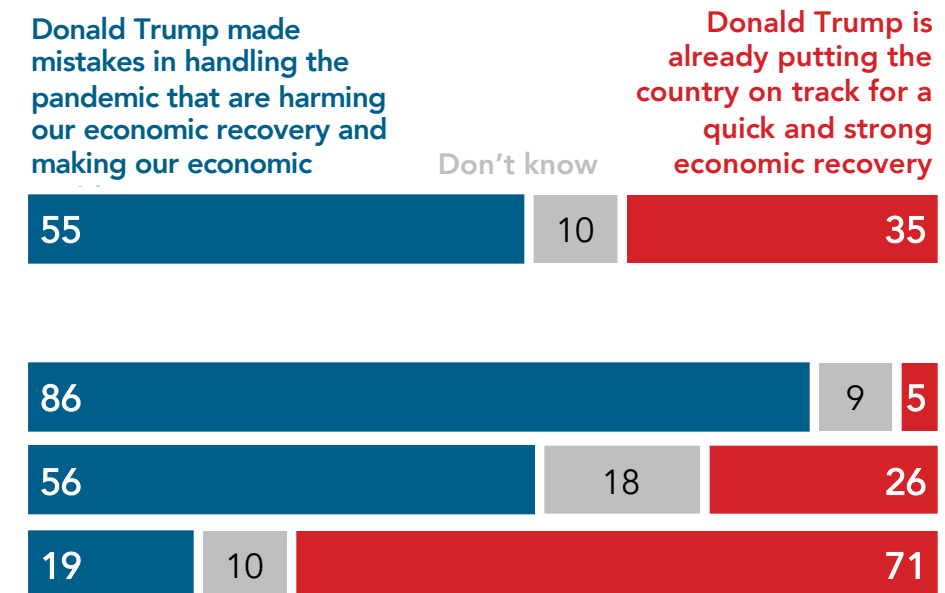
...But Majority Agree Trump Isn't Doing Enough to Help Regular People & Made Mistakes That Hurt the Economy

Majorities believe Trump is not doing enough to help regular people and get the country back on track, and that he made early mistakes that made our economic problems worse than they needed to be.

Thinking about Donald Trump's actions and policies on the economy during the coronavirus crisis, which of the following do you agree with more?



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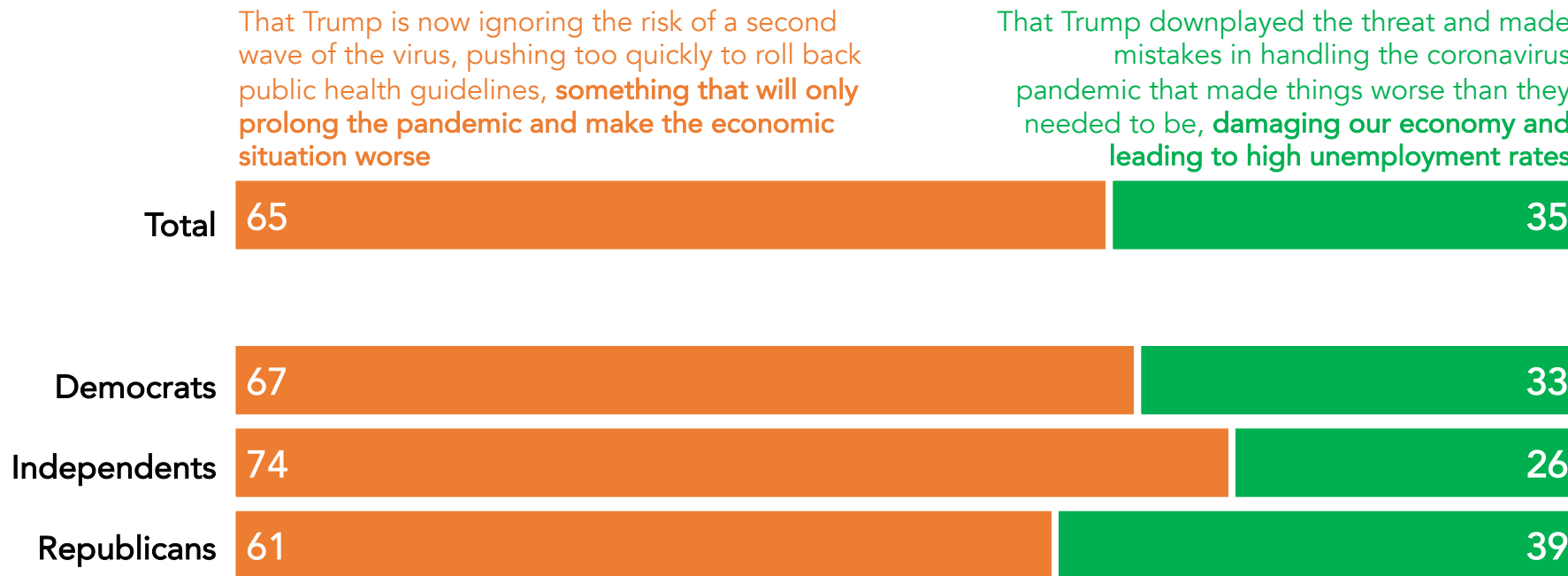


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Voters More Concerned About Trump Prolonging Economic Crisis Than Economic Damage Done So Far

Nearly two in three Americans say they are more concerned about Trump reopening the country too quickly and prolonging the virus, making the economic situation worse, than about economic damage already done.

Which of the following criticisms of President Trump around the issues of coronavirus concerns you more?



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Top Economic Concerns: Trump's Early Mistakes, Ignoring Economists, Favoring the Wealthy & Corporations

When presented with a series of criticisms about Trump's approach to the economic recovery, early mistakes, ignoring economists who say more government action is needed, and corporate bailouts raise the most serious concerns.

| Please indicate whether each raises concerns about the Trump administration's approach to the country's economic recovery. | % Very Serious Concerns | |
|---|-------------------------|----------------|
| | Overall | Mixed on Trump |
| Donald Trump made mistakes in his handling of the coronavirus pandemic that have made the economic pain from this crisis worse than it needed to be. Trump downplayed the threat, when he should have been preparing, and continues to ignore the advice of experts on how to reopen the economy safely | 50 | 44 |
| Donald Trump ignored health experts when they warned of the danger posed by coronavirus. Now, he is ignoring economists who are warning of "lasting economic damage" without further government action and is opposing efforts to pass another round of support for the economy and American families and businesses | 49 | 47 |
| The Trump administration used the small business aid in the coronavirus relief bill to give millions of dollars to corporations with no oversight, while many Black and Latino small business owners were shut out and denied assistance | 47 | 37 |
| Donald Trump's policies to respond to coronavirus have been skewed to benefit big corporations and the wealthy at every step of the way – even the coronavirus relief bill included billions in tax breaks for millionaires and billions of dollars in handouts for rich corporations. Working people are hardest hit by the pandemic, but Trump's not doing enough for them in his response | 47 | 42 |
| As we work to rebuild the economy, Donald Trump is pushing to give more bailouts to big oil companies and their CEOs while opposing investments in clean energy that would create millions of good jobs while protecting our kids' health and future | 45 | 41 |
| Donald Trump says he'll create the same economy as we had before coronavirus, but that economy wasn't working for regular people before the virus hit. As we recover from coronavirus, we need to move towards an economy that works for everyone, but Trump will do exactly what he did before – give away all the benefits to those at the top, while people who work for a living fall further behind | 43 | 32 |

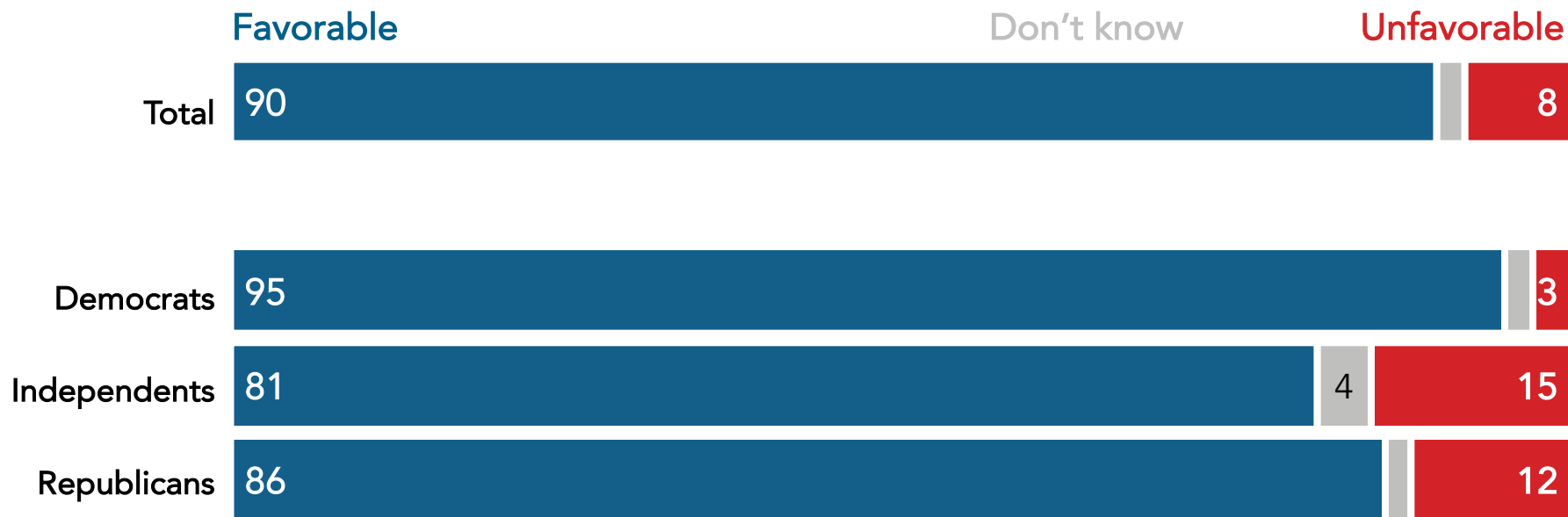
"Mixed on Trump" refers to Americans that don't always approve or don't always disapprove of Trump's overall job performance, his handling of the economy, his handling the coronavirus pandemic, and his handling of health care. Nationwide survey of 1,012 registered voters; May 21-May 25, 2020. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org

Nearly Unanimous Favorability Toward the USPS

Nine in ten Americans have favorable views of the United States Postal Service.

- Across party lines, the USPS enjoys at least four in five saying that they are favorable to the USPS, including 86% of Republicans.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to the United States Postal Service.



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Broad Support For Expanding Voting Access

Despite narratives of voter fraud and other unproven criticisms of expanding voting access, more than two in three Americans support allowing people to vote at different times at polls in-person, funding the USPS to ensure mail-in ballots have no issues, making Election Day a national holiday, and other measures.

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each voting measure that is being discussed in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

| | Support | Don't know | Oppose | % Support | | |
|--|---------|------------|--------|-----------|-----|-----|
| | | | | Dem | Ind | GOP |
| Expanding options for early voting to allow people to vote at different times and spread out crowds at the polls | 81 | 7 | 12 | 88 | 71 | 75 |
| Ensuring the U.S. Postal Service is fully funded so that mail-in and absentee ballots are sent and delivered on time and without problems | 77 | 9 | 14 | 91 | 74 | 61 |
| Making Election Day a national holiday to ensure people can go to the polls throughout the day and aren't forced to vote at the same time before or after work | 73 | 10 | 17 | 79 | 74 | 66 |
| Mailing every registered voter an absentee ballot and allowing them to return that ballot by mail, drop it off at a secure drop-box, or vote in-person at their polling place to ensure they can safely vote | 66 | 7 | 27 | 85 | 65 | 46 |
| Allowing people to register to vote online so they don't have to leave their homes more than necessary to vote safely | 66 | 8 | 26 | 82 | 63 | 47 |
| Allowing people to register to vote on Election Day so they don't have to leave their homes more than necessary to vote safely | 66 | 9 | 25 | 82 | 69 | 46 |
| Automatically registering every eligible citizen to vote when they interact with a government agency [like the DMV], so they don't have to leave their homes more than necessary to vote safely | 65 | 10 | 25 | 81 | 61 | 48 |
| Automatically sending a ballot application to every registered voter to allow them to apply to vote by mail | 63 | 8 | 29 | 83 | 60 | 40 |

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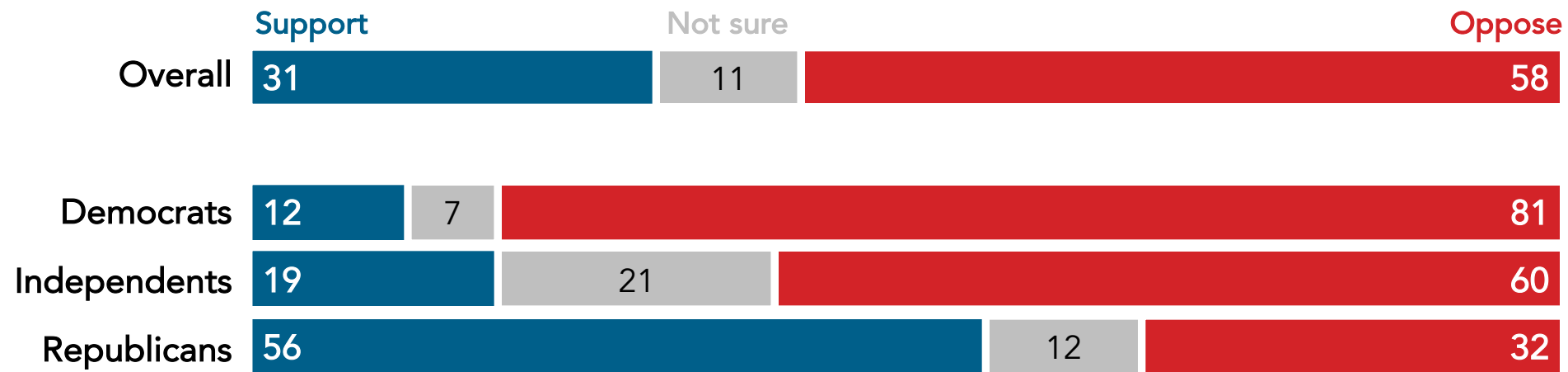
Trump Threats on Vote By Mail Fall Flat

Most Americans oppose Trump's threat to withhold federal funding to states that expand mail voting.

- Even among Republicans, support for Trump's position is only at 56%. Among Republicans who watch Fox News, it's at 66%.

As you may know, Donald Trump has claimed that voting by mail promotes "voter fraud" and he threatened to withhold federal election funding from states like Nevada and Michigan, who say they are considering expanding mail voting options to allow residents to vote safely despite the coronavirus pandemic.

Do you support or oppose the federal government withholding federal election funding from states that expand mail voting options?



"Republicans who watch Fox news" are Republicans who report watching Fox News at least a few times a month.
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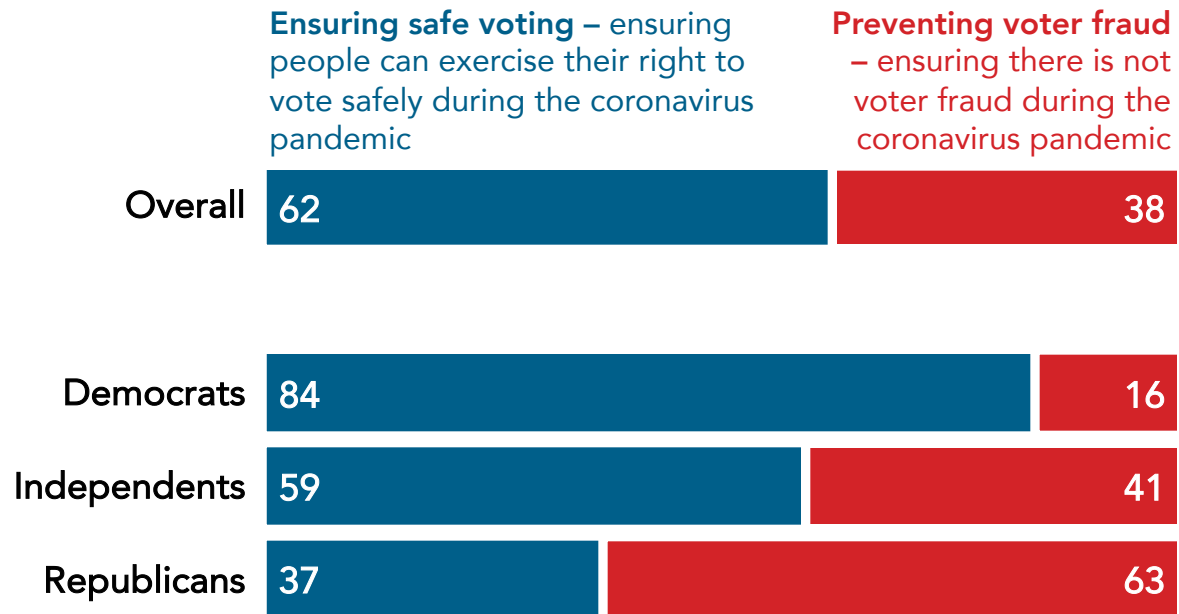
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"Safe Voting" More Compelling than "Voter Reforms"

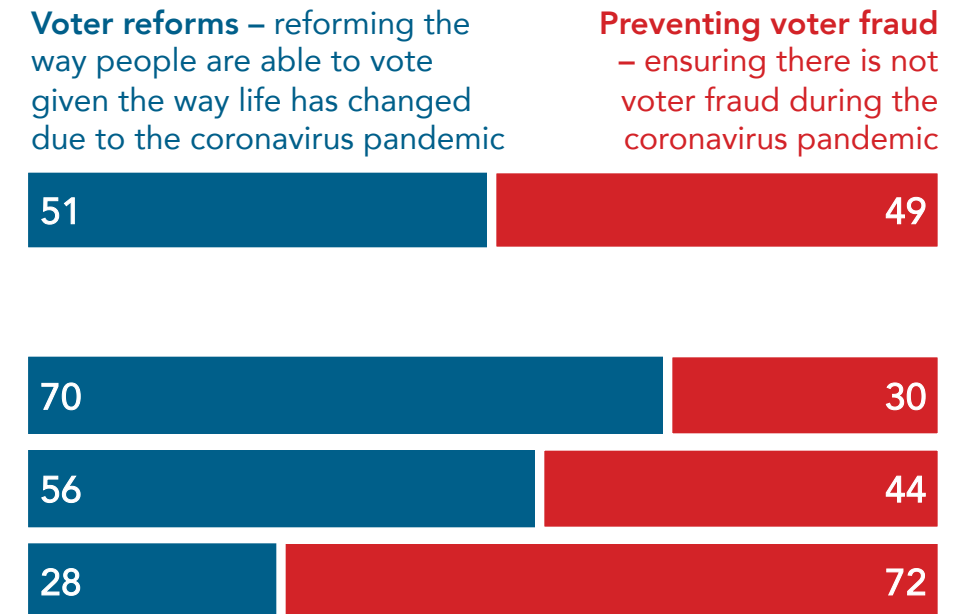
While more than half of Americans say reforming voting as a result of the coronavirus pandemic is more important than preventing voter fraud, more than three in five choose ensuring safe voting over preventing fraud.

- Even among Republicans, nearly two in five (37%) choose ensuring safe voting over preventing voter fraud.

In thinking about the elections this November, which is more important to you?



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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 1,012 registered voters conducted May 21-May 25, 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

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<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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