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Update:  
Tuesday, September 22

SPECIAL SCOTUS EDITION

Communicating in  
Crisis



## Key takeaways:

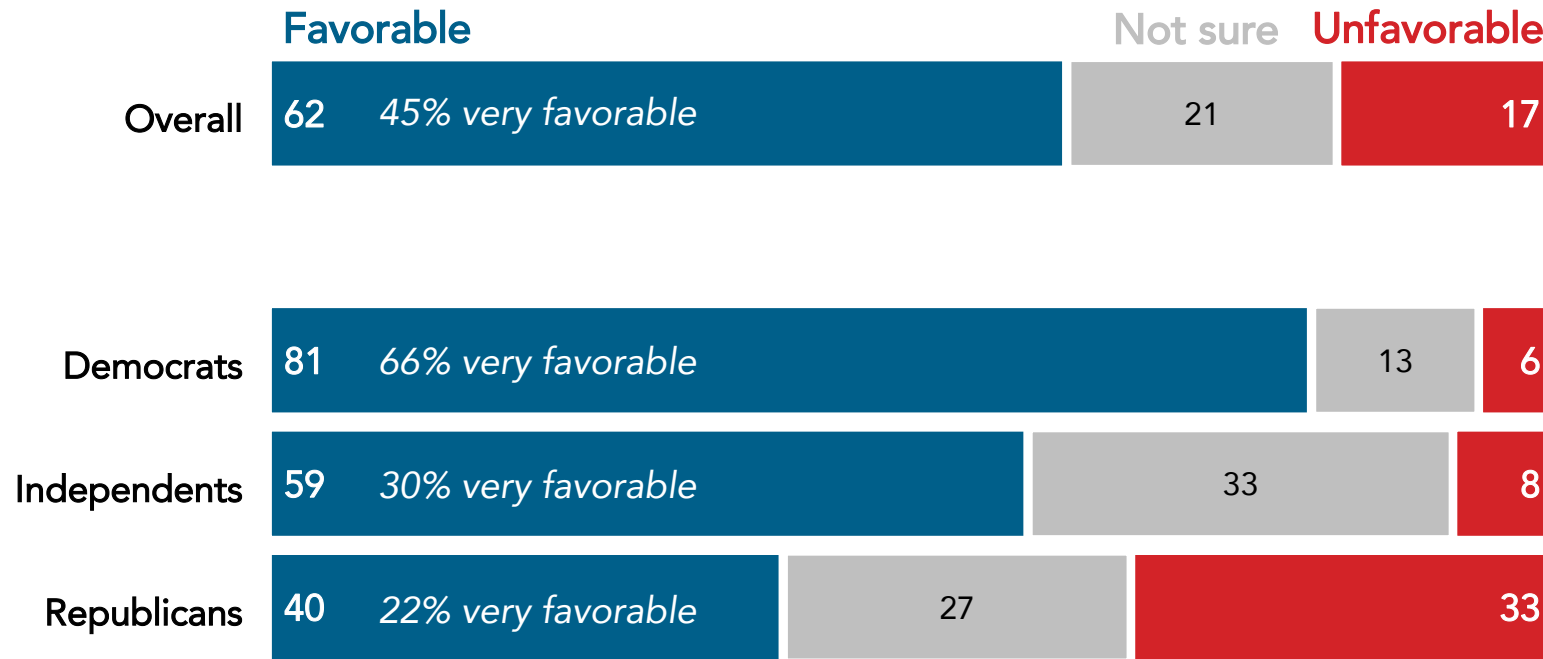
- A majority say the election winner should nominate Ruth Bader Ginsburg's replacement.
- Mitch McConnell is unpopular and a majority oppose him bringing a nominee for a vote in the Senate before Election Day.
- The most convincing reasons to delay confirmation until after the election are prioritizing the pandemic response and Senate Republicans pushing through a Justice after refusing to hold hearings for Obama's nominee.

# In Ruth Bader Ginsburg, America Loses Beloved Figure

Nearly two in three Americans have a favorable view of the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, with almost half saying they have a “very favorable” view.

- A majority of Democrats (81%) and independents (59%) have favorable views of Ginsburg, as do a plurality (40%) of Republicans.

**Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to:** Ruth Bader Ginsburg.



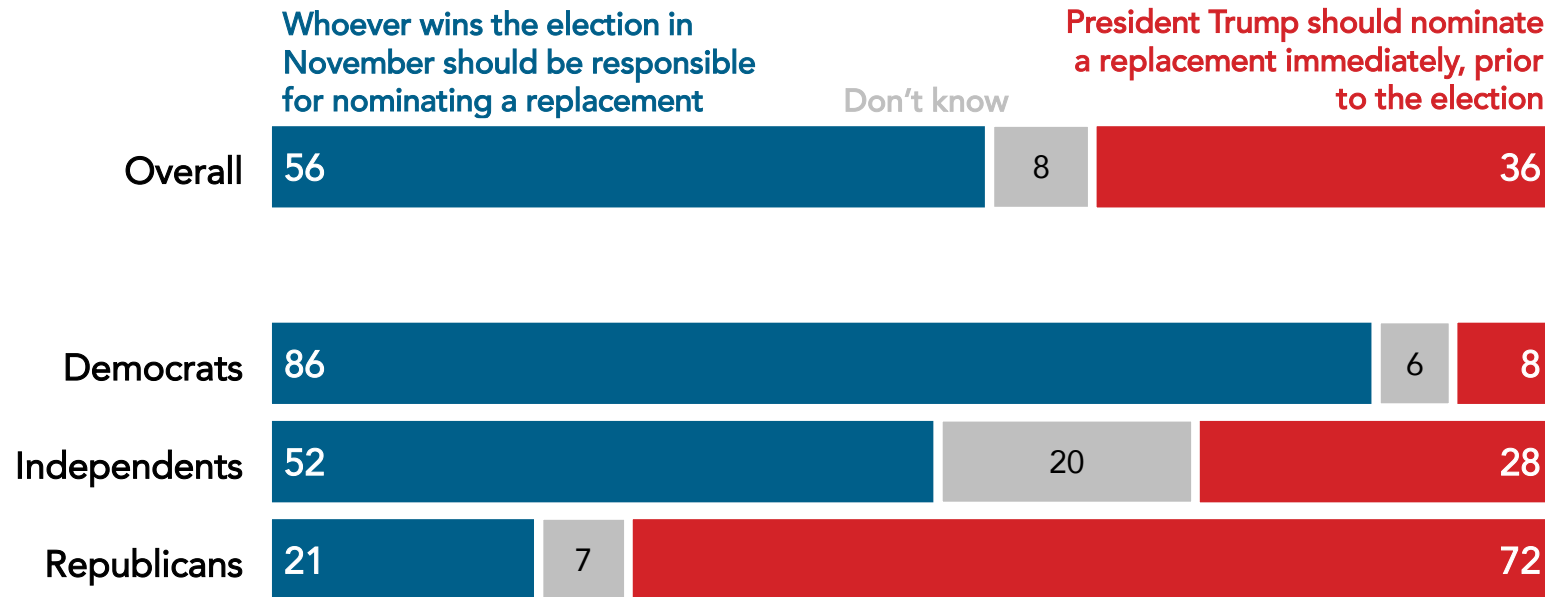
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters; September 19-21, 2020.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# By 20-Point Margin, Americans Want Winner of November Election to Pick Ginsburg's Replacement

A majority say whoever wins the election in November should be responsible for nominating a replacement, rather than that Trump should nominate a replacement immediately.

- Fewer than a third of independents (28%) think Trump should immediately nominate a replacement.

**As you may know, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg just passed away. What do you think should happen in regard to her replacement on the Supreme Court?**



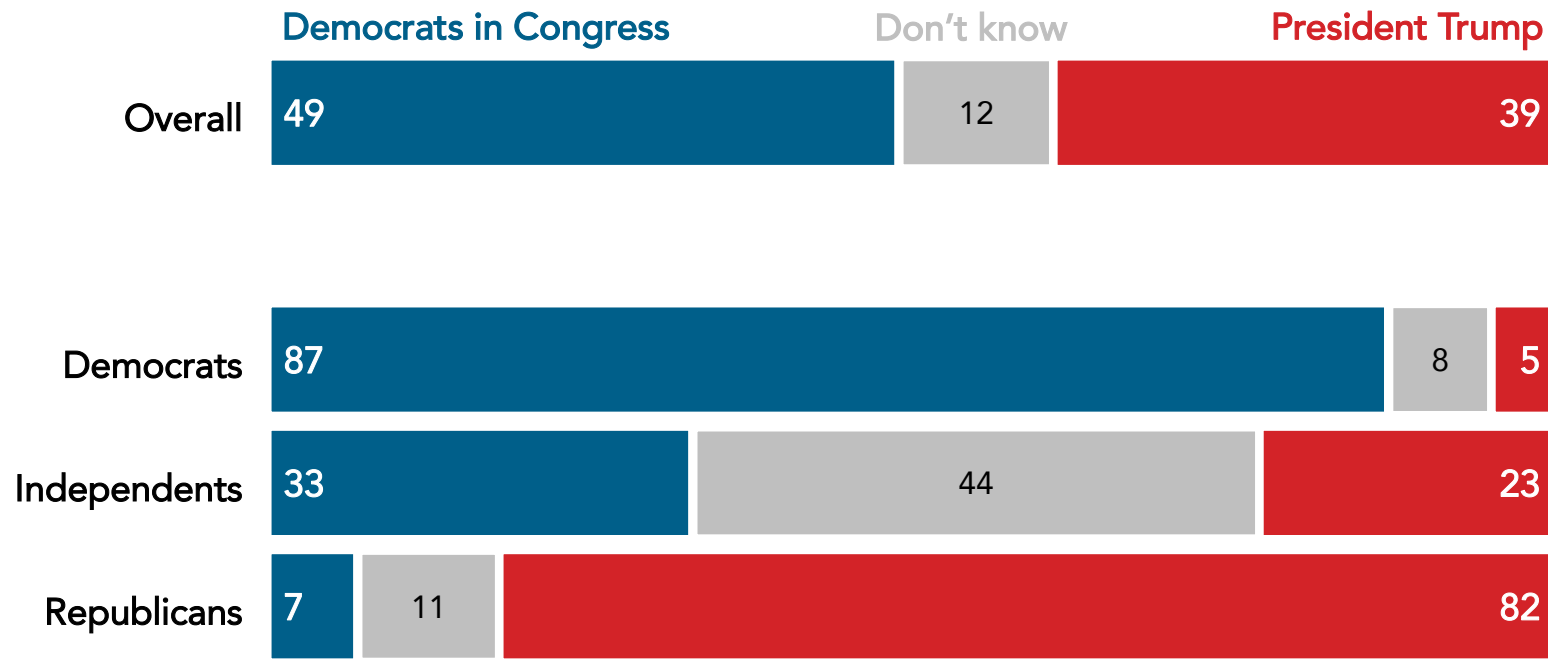
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# Democrats in Congress Hold Advantage Over Trump in Putting the Right People on the Supreme Court

Democrats in Congress are more trusted than Trump to put the right people on the Supreme Court by double digits.

- Independents are largely undecided (44% don't know) on who they trust more to handle the issue of putting people on the Supreme Court.

**Please indicate who you would trust more to handle each one:** Putting the right people on the Supreme Court.



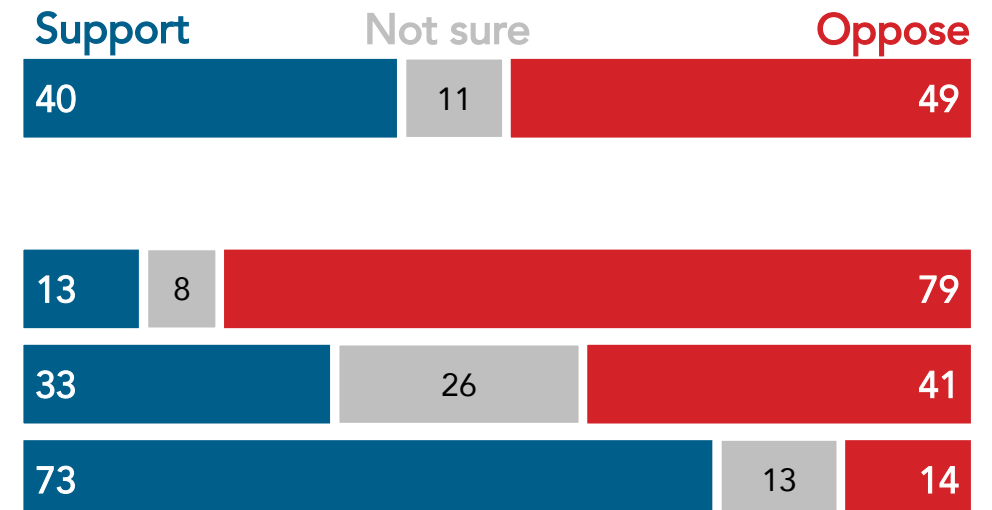
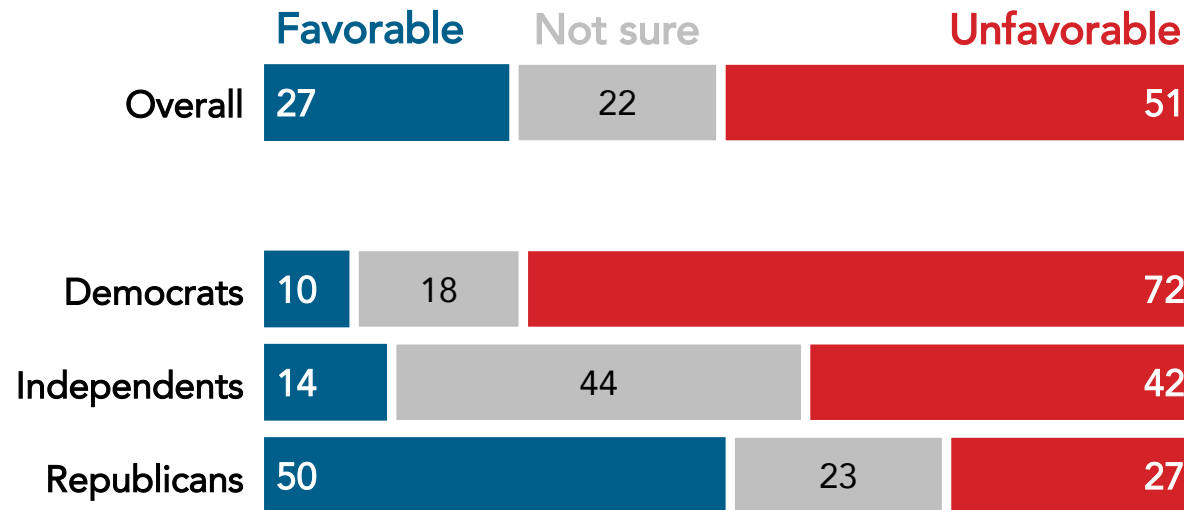
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# McConnell is Deeply Unpopular and Plurality Oppose Him Bringing SCOTUS Nominee for Vote

A near-majority of Americans oppose McConnell bringing Trump's nominee for a Senate vote, and McConnell's personal popularity is underwater by 24 points.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to each one: Mitch McConnell.

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has already announced that he plans to hold hearings and bring Trump's nominee for a vote. Do you support or oppose Mitch McConnell on this?



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# Progressives Clearly Win Back and Forth Debate Over Timing of SCOTUS Pick

By a 15-point margin, more agree since Obama’s nominee was not considered in 2016 since it was an election year, no hearings should be held for Trump’s pick either – while just one in three say the vacancy should be filled right away.

- A third of independents (29%) are undecided.

**When it comes to the debate around the Supreme Court, who do you agree with more?**

Those who say that when President Obama was in the same situation, Mitch McConnell and Senate Republicans said no nominee should be considered in an election year and refused to hold hearings on Obama’s nominee for 10 months. With just six weeks until the election and early votes already being cast, the same rules should apply – no hearings for Trump’s nominee so that the American people can have their voices heard

Those who say that nominating Supreme Court justices is one of Donald Trump’s constitutional responsibilities as President and he should act now to ensure the Supreme Court is filled. We shouldn’t let a vacancy stay open for political considerations, it should be filled right away so the Supreme Court is prepared to do its job as it will face many important decisions soon

Don’t know



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# Among Persuadables, Distraction from Pandemic is Most Convincing Reason to Wait Until After Election for SCOTUS

Please indicate how convincing each is as a reason to support waiting until after the election and letting whoever wins the election pick Ruth Bader Ginsburg's replacement.

	% Very Convincing		
	Overall	Base	Movers
Senate Republicans refused to hold hearings and a vote on President Obama's election year nominee for 10 months. <b>The same rules should apply to President Trump and now with just six weeks until this election and many people already starting to vote</b> , no hearings should be held for Donald Trump's nominee	47	86	48
<b>The Senate should be focused on one thing – getting us out of the pandemic and helping our economy recover</b> , including addressing unemployment – but right now, they refuse to do any of that. The Senate should not drop everything to rush a Supreme Court nomination, while they refuse to act on our health, safety, and economy in this pandemic	46	77	59
<b>The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice for a lifetime appointment</b> . Americans are already starting to vote in many places and with the election just a few weeks away, this vacancy should not be filled until the American people have voted and made their voice heard	46	80	46
Right now, <b>America is more divided than it ever has been, and the country is in constant turmoil and chaos</b> – all in the middle of a pandemic. A big, rushed political fight over the Supreme Court before the election will only add to the chaos and division and make things worse. We need to wait until after the election	46	81	50
The average number of days from nomination to confirmation for current Supreme Court Justices is 78 days because it takes time to ensure a nominee is qualified to be a lifetime member of the Court. Right now, there are less than 50 days until the election and <b>rusthing it would place politics ahead of ensuring we have a qualified judge</b>	43	77	48
<b>The Trump administration is already going to court to overturn the Affordable Care Act</b> and Trump's Supreme Court nominee could tip the balance on the Court to strike it down, which would end protections for patients with pre-existing conditions, raise costs for seniors, and lead to over 20 million Americans losing their coverage entirely – all in the middle of a pandemic	43	75	50
There are already four votes on the Supreme Court to overturn <i>Roe v. Wade</i> . If another vote against <i>Roe v. Wade</i> is put on the Supreme Court, <b>then it will rule to abolish a woman's right to choose</b> , and put many other basic fundamental rights and freedoms at risk	40	72	42
<b>President Trump is doing everything he can to rig the election in his favor in case the election once again is decided by the Supreme Court</b> . Mitch McConnell and Trump are rushing so they have a loyal justice that will rule in their favor if the election is close	40	75	34
In the days leading up to her death, Ruth Bader Ginsburg said in a statement, "My most fervent wish is that I will not be replaced until a new President is installed." <b>President Trump and Senate Republicans should honor her dying wish</b>	40	69	41

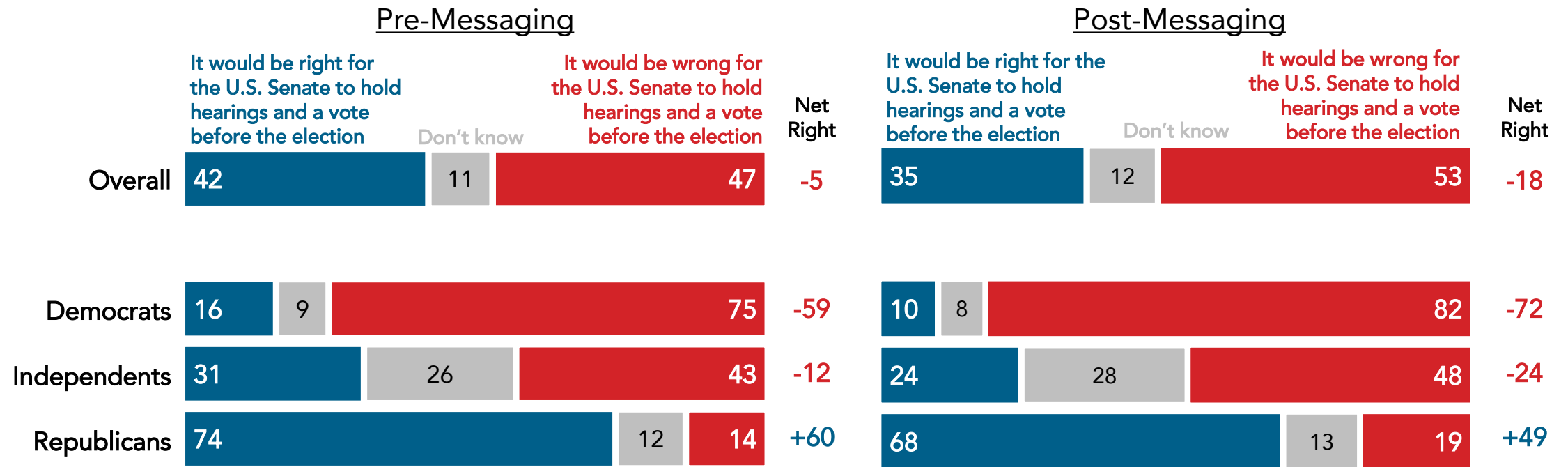
"Base" are defined as those who say it is wrong for the Senate to hold hearings and a vote for Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court both before and after messaging. "Movers" are defined as those who initially say it is right or are not sure about whether or not the Senate should hold hearings and a vote for Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court but, after messaging, say it is wrong. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters; September 19-21, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)



# Opposition to Pre-Election SCOTUS Nomination Grows After Messaging

Before hearing arguments for waiting until after the election to confirm a new justice, there is a 5-point advantage in the share who say it would be wrong for the Senate to hold a vote on Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court before the November election. After, there is an 18-point advantage that “it would be wrong.”

**If Trump nominates someone soon, do you think it would be right or wrong for the U.S. Senate to hold hearings and a vote for Trump’s nominee to the Supreme Court before the November election?**



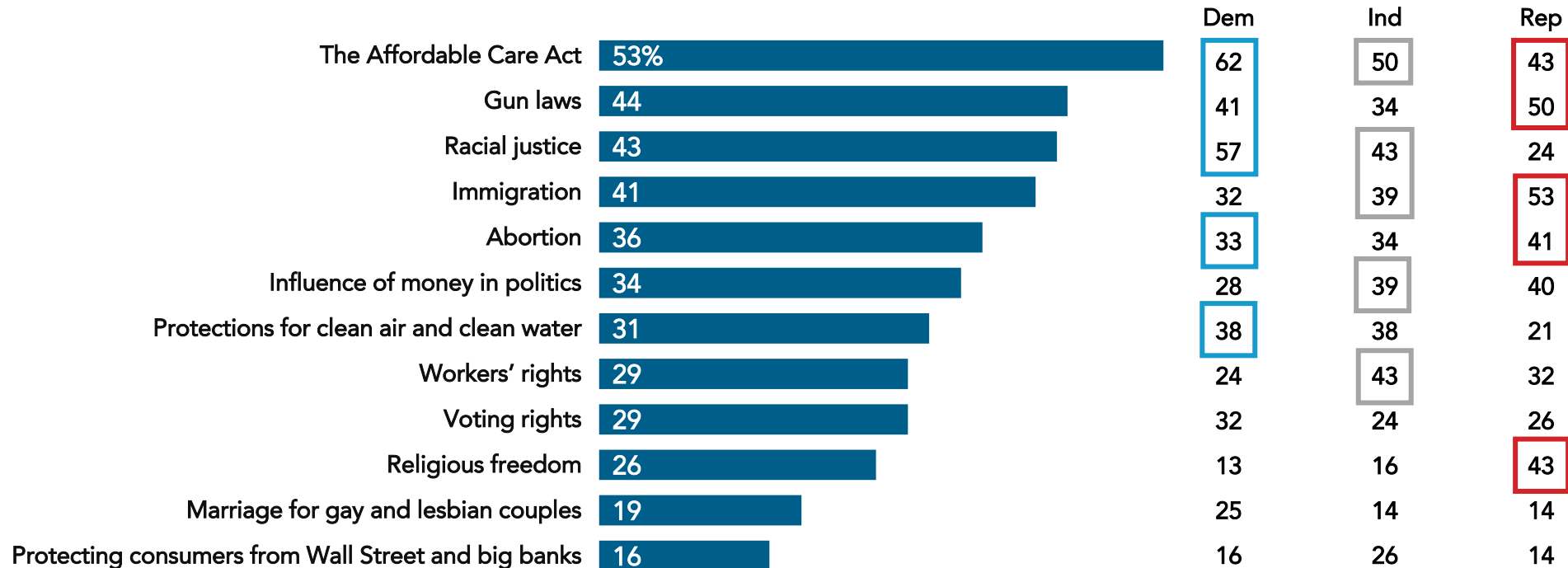
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# The Affordable Care Act Weighs Heaviest On the Minds of Americans Thinking About Court Rulings

While the Affordable Care Act is a top issue across party lines for Americans in terms of how the Court decides future cases, other issues like racial justice and immigration are more divided by partisanship.

- Democrats' top issues are the ACA and racial justice, while Republicans' are gun laws and immigration.

**Please select the FOUR that are most important to you, in terms of how the Court decides these cases.**



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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; Joel Payne, 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 public opinion surveys among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from September 19-21, 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.

*\*Due to a data tabulation error, some subgroup estimates were incorrect in an initial release and have been corrected (as of 9/23).*

For Press inquiries contact:

[press@navigatorresearch.org](mailto:press@navigatorresearch.org)

To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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