

navigating.* CORONAVIRUS

Update:

Friday, September 4



Communicating in
Crisis

Key takeaways:

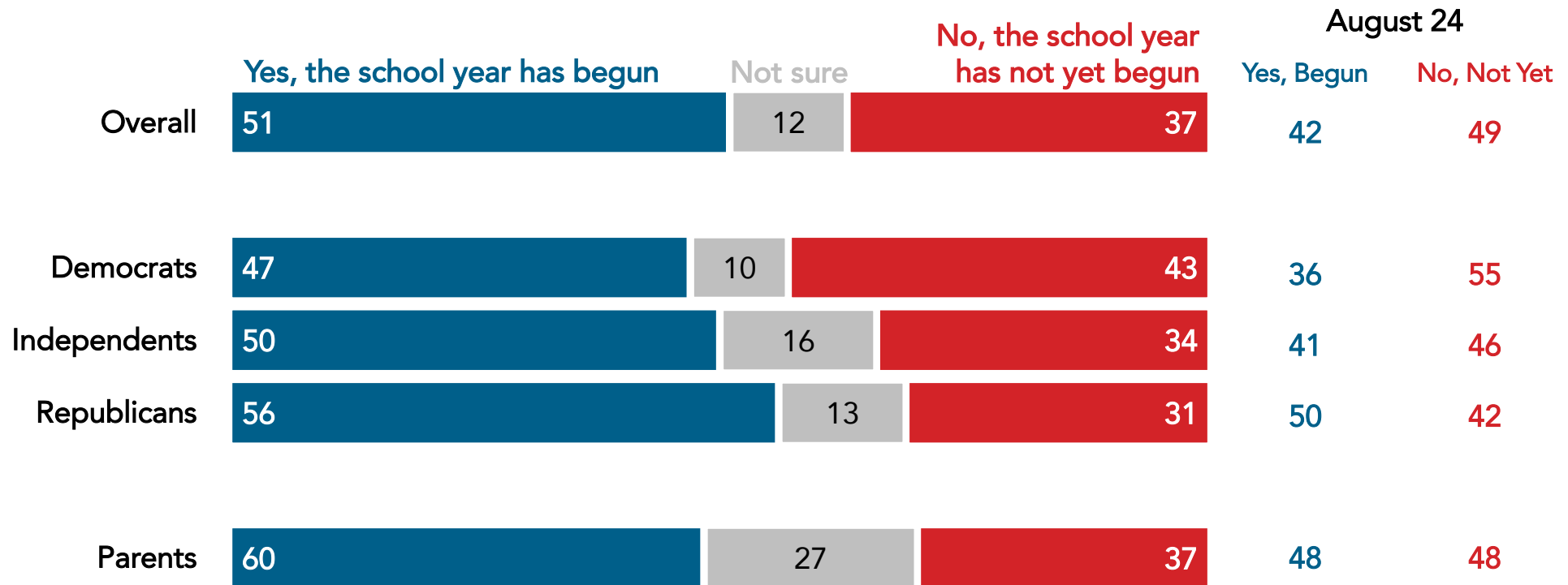
- As more schools begin their year, two in three continue to say they are on the more “cautious side” of reopening.
- Top concerns on reopening schools revolve around infection by coronavirus – of teachers, students, their families, and their communities.
- Support for the federal government fully funding the USPS remains high.

Growing Share of K-12 Schools Have Begun Their School Years

In the last week, the share who report that the school year has begun in their community has grown 9 points.

- Among parents, there has been a 12-point increase in the share who report the K-12 school year has begun.

As far as you know, has the K-12 school year begun yet in your community?



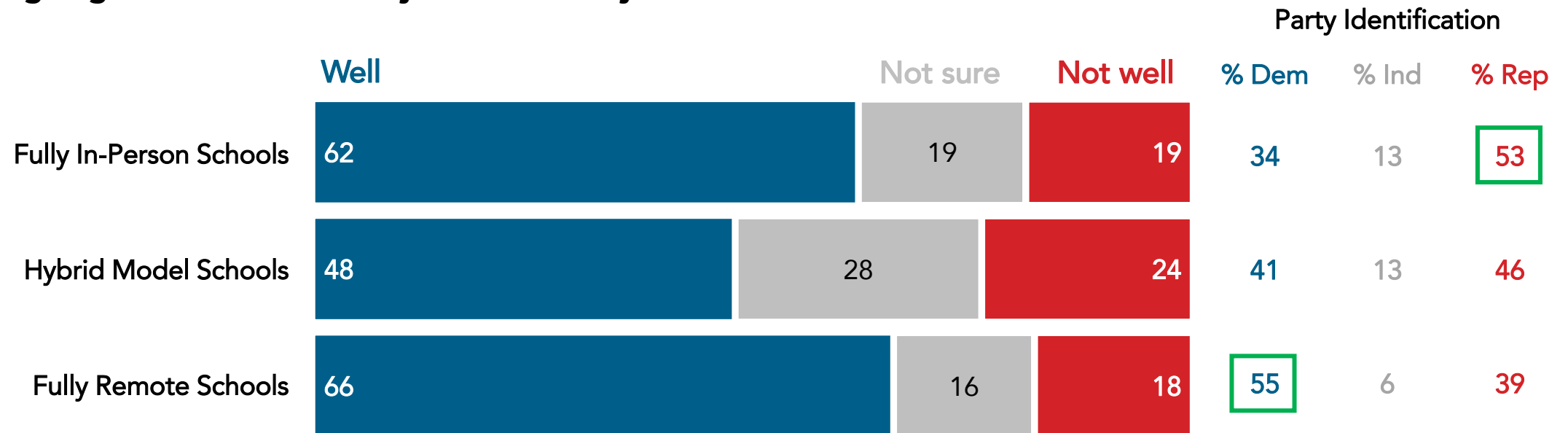
"Parents" are those who self-report having a child/children under the age of 18.
 Nationwide survey of 1,007 registered voters; August 27-31, 2020.
 For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Those in Communities With Fully In-Person or Fully Remote Schools Report Plan is Going “Well” More So Than Hybrid

More than three in five of those in communities with in-person schooling and those in communities with remote schooling say their schools’ plan is going well, while less than half of hybrid model communities say it is going well.

- Those in communities with fully in-person schools are disproportionately Republican (+19R) and those in communities with fully remote schools are disproportionately Democrats (+16D).

You indicated that K-12 schools in your community are [SCHOOL MODEL CHOICE]. How would you say that plan is going for K-12 schools in your community?



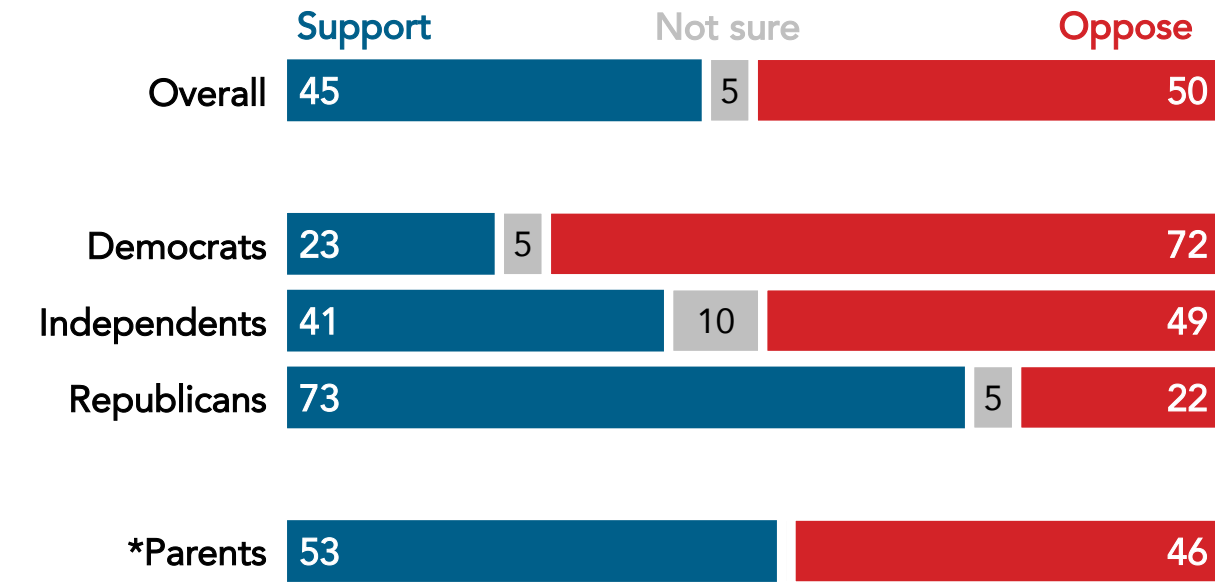
“Fully in-person schools” are those who self-report that schools have begun in their community and are fully in-person. “Hybrid model schools” are those who self-report that schools have begun in their community and they are partially in-person, partially remote. “Fully remote schools” are those who self-report that schools have begun in their community and are fully online. Nationwide survey of 1,007 registered voters; August 27-31, 2020.

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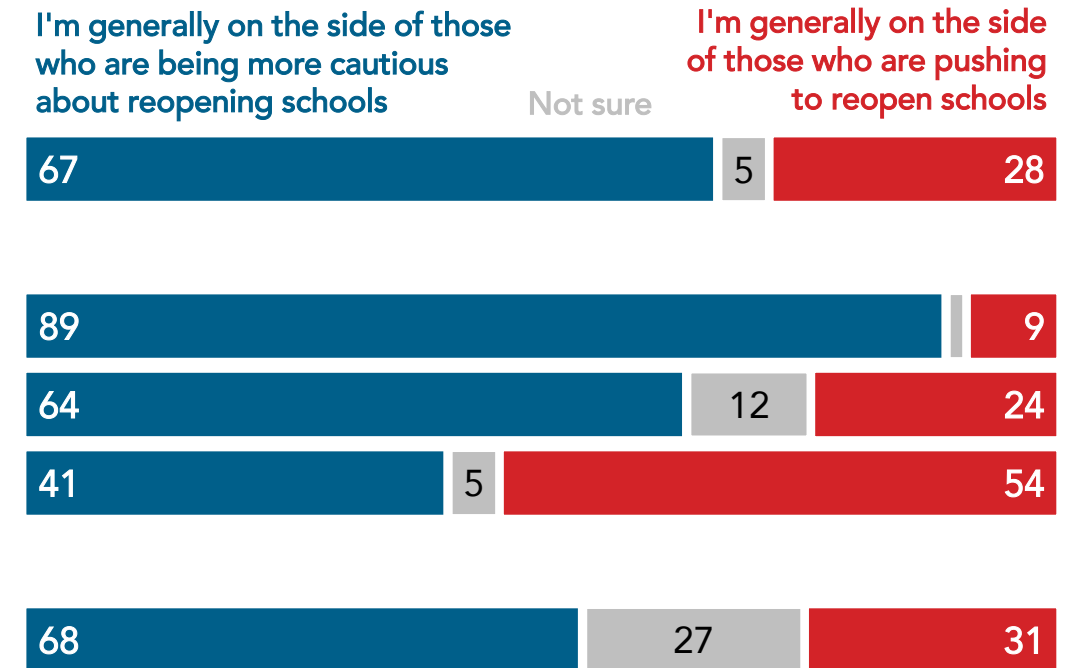
As Many Schools Reopen, Support for Reopening Grows – Though Two in Three Still On Side of Being More Cautious

Underscoring the complexity of the schools issue, even while support for reopening schools is now almost even with opposition, there has been no change in the share who say they are on the “cautious” side of the debate.

Do you support or oppose allowing K-12 schools in [STATE] to open?



Generally speaking, which side are you on?



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Top Concerns On Schools Reopening Are Spread of the Virus to Children, Teachers, Families, and Communities

The issues that raise the most serious concerns all focus on coronavirus infection as a result of in-person schooling – while issues like the economy suffering from parents helping their children with schooling are far lower concerns.

Below is a list of concerns some people have expressed regarding the reopening of schools. For each, please indicate whether it raises concerns for you personally.

	Total Serious Concerns		Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Parents
	Very Serious Concerns	Smwt. Serious Concerns					
That children might be asymptomatic but they can infect their parents or grandparents as a result of attending in-person schools	50%	25	75	90	76	56	78
That reopening schools will cause community spread of the virus, even to families without children	49	22	71	89	74	50	77
That teachers will get sick as a result of teaching in in-person schools	48	26	74	90	75	53	76
That children will get sick as a result of attending in-person schools	48	24	72	89	73	51	76
That some children whose schools are remote do not have the same kind of technological access as others [computers, Wifi, etc.] and will not have the same ability to learn as children in other remote learning situations do	42	33	75	80	76	69	84
That parents with children whose schools are not reopening in-person will continue to struggle to balance work, home, and helping their children with schooling	41	34	75	76	71	75	83
That children unable to attend in-person schooling will fall behind academically	38	33	72	71	67	74	78
That businesses will suffer because parents will be juggling parenting, work, and helping their children with schooling	33	35	68	67	68	69	80

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Americans Blame Students, Colleges & Universities, and Trump Most for Recent Outbreaks at Colleges

The public blames students, colleges and universities, and Donald Trump most for recent outbreaks of coronavirus at colleges and universities that have reopened in-person.

- Independents (25%) and Republicans (31%) are most likely to not blame anyone for recent college outbreaks.

As you may or may not know, some colleges and universities that have reopened for the fall in-person have had to close back down after outbreaks of coronavirus on campus. Some have blamed various government actors and institutions for pushing colleges and universities to reopen too soon with proper safety precautions in place, while others have blamed students for socializing and spreading the virus through social events.

Who do you blame for recent outbreaks at colleges and universities?

		Dem	Ind	Rep	Parents
Students	43%	42	40	46	33
Colleges and universities	33	44	33	21	33
Donald Trump	31	52	26	7	38
State and local government	22	31	23	11	23
The federal government	22	32	26	7	25
State governors	21	30	20	10	23
Do not blame anyone	19	7	25	31	17

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Concerns on Trump's School Approach: New Surges & Recklessness, Forcing Reopening Without Plan, Ignoring Experts

Overall and among those who are mixed on Trump, his pushing to reopen schools despite new surges, forcing schools to reopen without a national plan, and ignoring the experts are the critiques that raise the greatest concerns.

Please indicate whether each raises concerns about Donald Trump's approach to reopening schools.

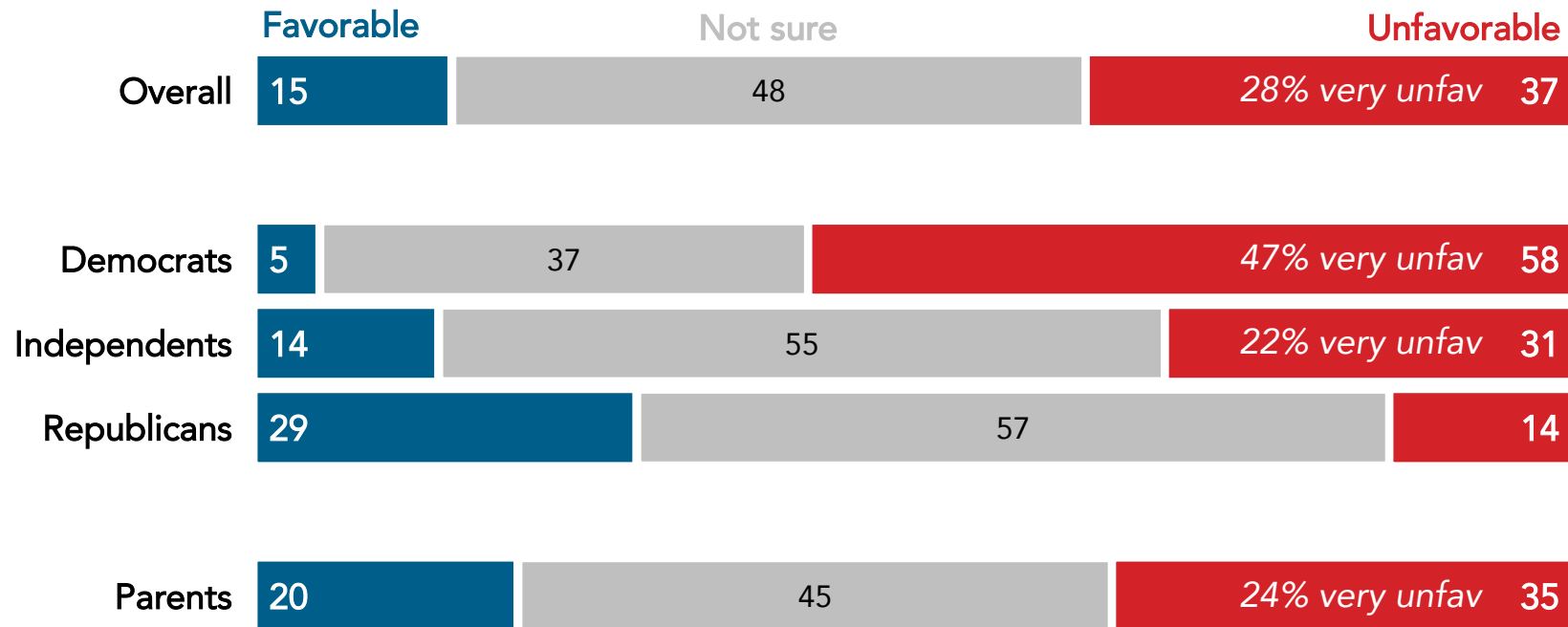
	% Total Serious Concerns	
	Overall	Mixed on Trump*
Donald Trump continues to push to reopen schools – and for many of the schools that have reopened, they are already closing back down due to surges in their communities following reopening. In the same way that he pushed to reopen our economy too soon, he's recklessly pushing to reopen our schools and threatening the lives of our students, parents, and teachers in doing so	62	70
Donald Trump has given up the fight against coronavirus and completely surrendered to the pandemic, forcing schools to reopen without any kind of national plan whatsoever and disregarding the health and economic consequences of forcing schools to reopen before they are ready. Trump continues to ignore the virus and its consequences rather than create concrete plans to reopen in ways that are safe	60	62
It's Donald Trump's fault that schools are in danger of not reopening – from the beginning, he downplayed the threat of the virus, ignored public health experts, and said it would disappear. Other countries are able to safely reopen schools, but Trump has said he doesn't want to follow the CDC guidelines for opening schools, and it is his unwillingness to listen to experts that has made the crisis so much worse in America	60	59
Donald Trump only wants what is best for himself so he's pushing to reopen schools, even though it's unsafe, because he thinks it will be good for his campaign and reelection chances. He has gone so far as to threaten the funding of public schools that do not comply with his reopening timeline, ignoring the risk that individual communities may face if they ignore their state and local situations	58	57

*Mixed on Trump" refers to Americans who don't always approve or don't always disapprove of Trump's overall job performance, his handling of the economy, his handling of the coronavirus pandemic, or his handling of health care. Nationwide survey of 1,007 registered voters; August 27-31, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

While Many are Unfamiliar with Education Secretary DeVos, Those Who Know Her Dislike Her Two to One

Just over half of Americans are familiar with Betsy DeVos – and among those who are familiar, most hold an unfavorable view, with 28% who say they have a “very unfavorable” view of the Secretary of Education.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Betsy DeVos.

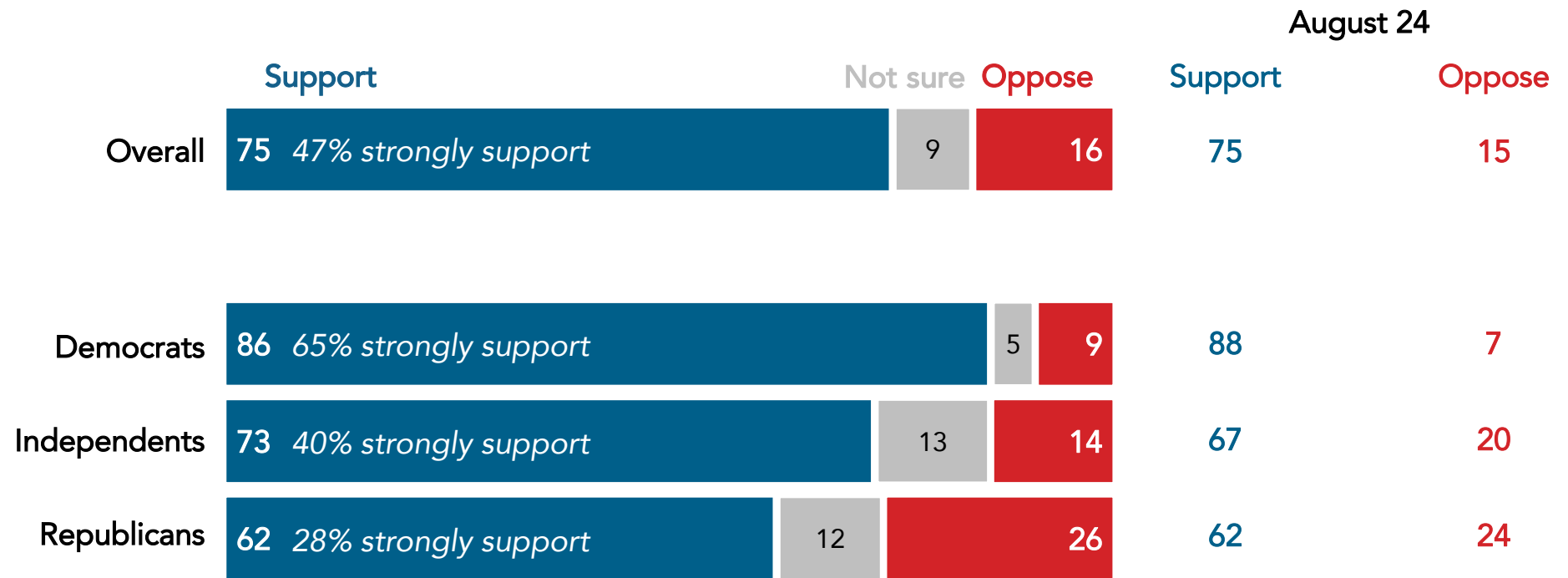


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Three in Four Continue to Support Fully Funding the USPS

Support for the federal government fully funding the USPS remains high, with the vast majority supporting fully funding and nearly half saying they “strongly support” fully funding.

Do you support or oppose the federal government fully funding the United States Postal Service [USPS]?



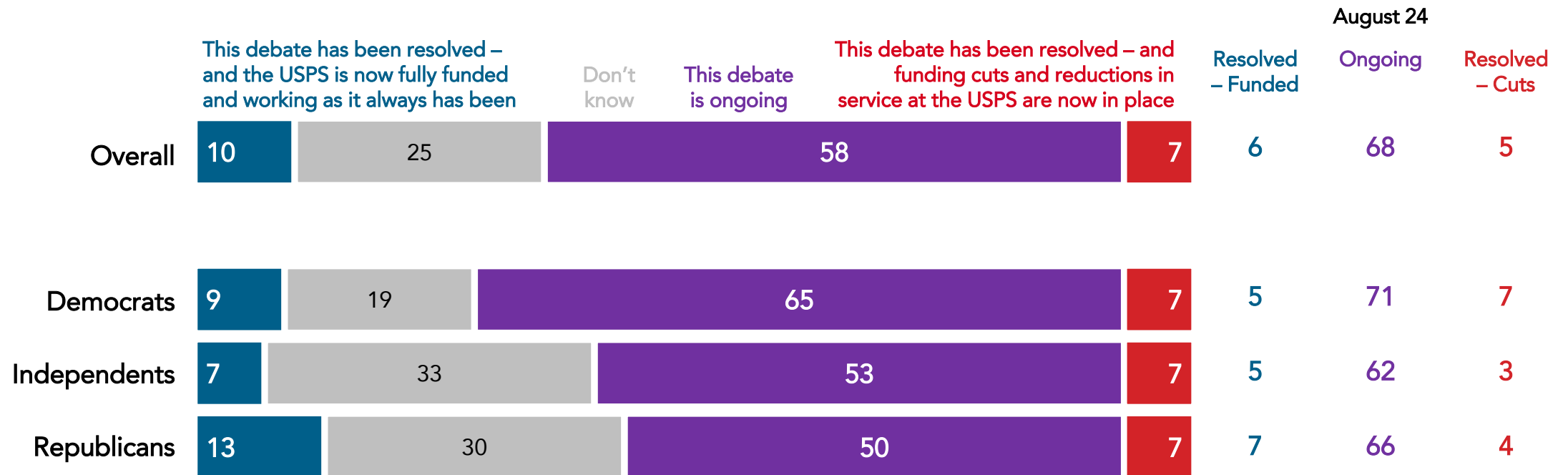
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted August 27-31, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Few See Debate About USPS as Resolved

The majority still say that the debate about the funding of the USPS remains unresolved. In the last week though, the share who say the debate on funding cuts and reductions in service at the USPS is ongoing has declined 10 points.

- Republicans are the most likely to say the debate has been resolved and the USPS is now fully funded and working as it always has been (13%).

As you may know, there has recently been a debate about funding cuts and reductions in service at the United States Postal Service. As far as you know, has this debate been resolved or not?



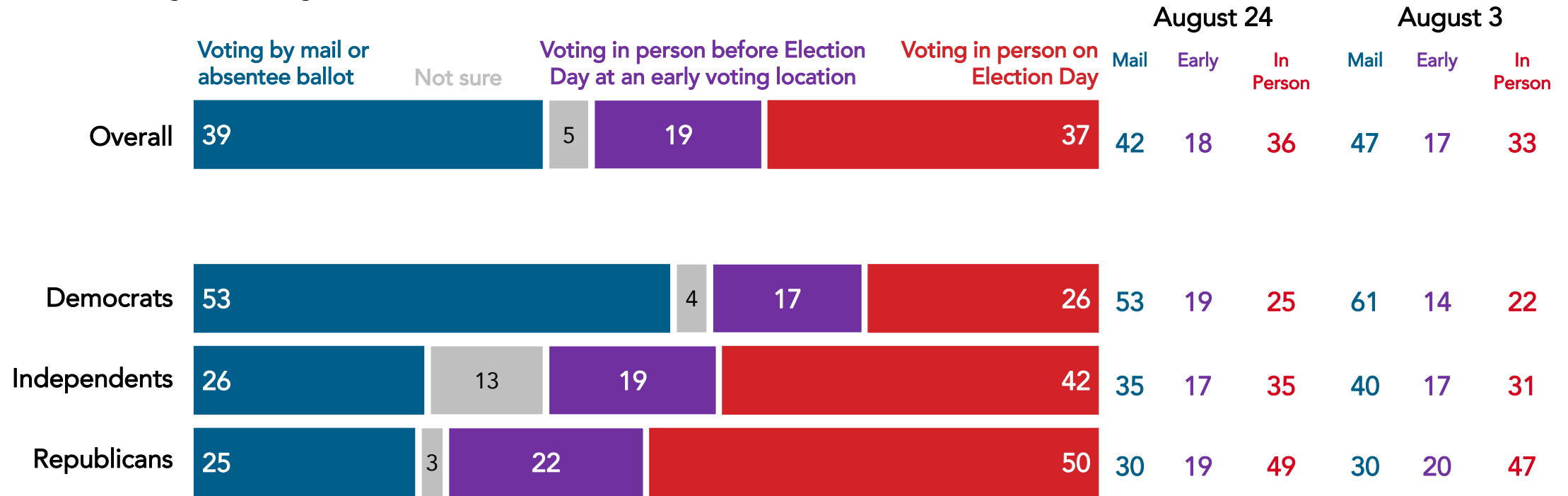
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Number of Americans Planning to Vote By Mail in Decline

Many Americans continue to say they would likely vote by mail if it is an option in their state, though overall interest is 8 points lower than at the beginning of August.

- Among independents, there has been a 14-point decline since August 3 in the share who say they will vote by mail.

As you may know, due to the coronavirus situation, there may be some new voting options for the November election in your state. For that election, if each of these options were available in your state, which way would you be most likely to cast your ballot?



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Most Would-Be Mail Voters Say They Would Return Their Ballots Immediately

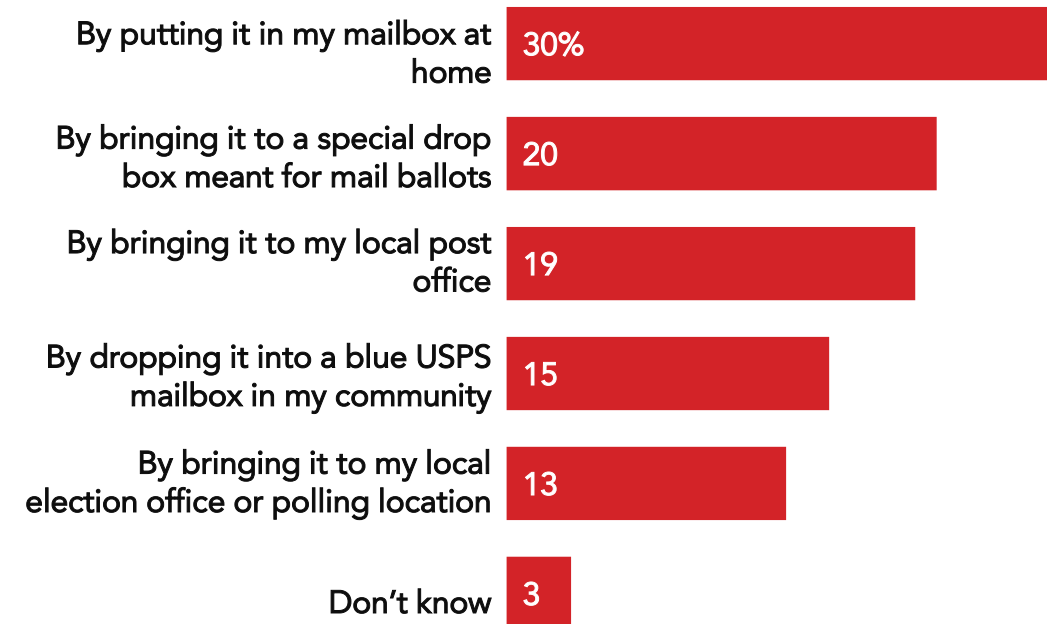
As the share who are voting by mail has decreased, three in ten still say that they will vote by mail and immediately fill out and return their ballot.

- One in five independents (18%) and Republicans (19%) plan to vote by mail and immediately return their ballot, while more than two in five Democrats (44%) say the same.

When do you plan to vote by mail?



*How do you plan to return your mail ballot?



*Among those who say they would vote by mail.
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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 1,007 registered voters from August 27-31, 2020. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 101 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 101 additional interviews were conducted among independents with no partisan lean. 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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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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