

# navigating.\* CORONAVIRUS

Update:  
Friday, September 18



Communicating in  
Crisis

## Key takeaways:

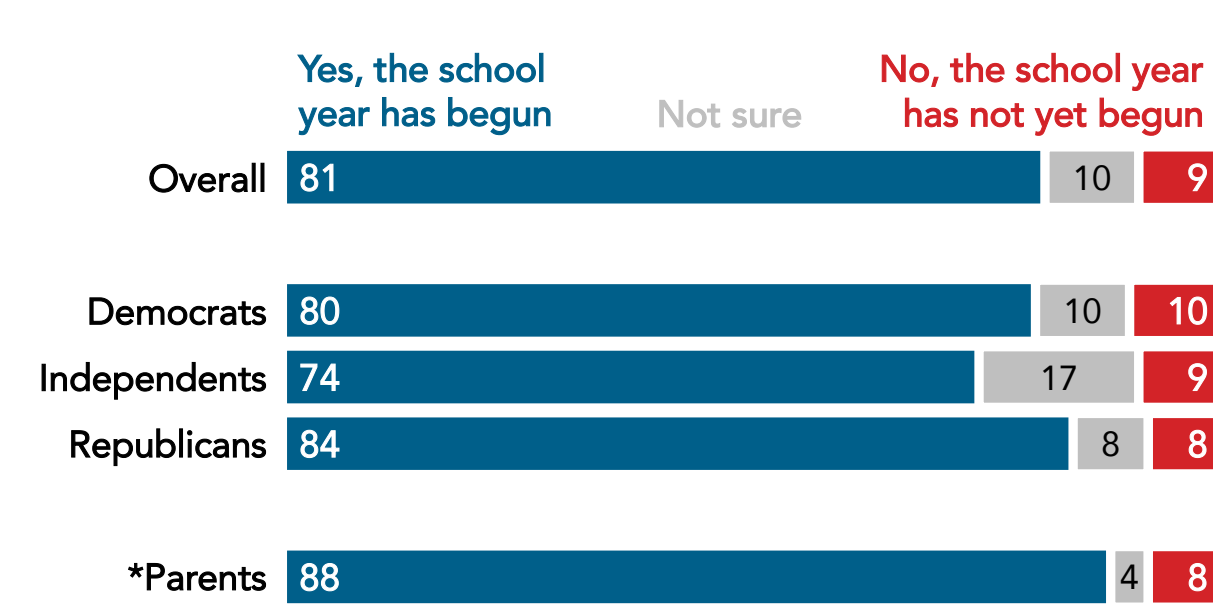
- Though Americans feel school reopenings are going well so far, most expect schools in their area will have to close at some point due to a coronavirus outbreak.
- Two in five still plan to vote by mail, and for those who are not voting by mail, the main reason is a preference to vote in-person rather than fear of their vote not getting counted.
- Many Americans across party lines are struggling to pay bills – but far more Republicans are optimistic about the state of the economy than independents or Democrats.

# The School Year Has Begun for Most, But Few Students Are Going Back to the Classroom Every Day

Most say schools in their community have begun their school years, and a plurality say that the schools in their community are partially open while a quarter say their schools are fully remote.

- Nine in ten (88%) parents say the school year has started with a split between fully remote (31%) and hybrid (35%).

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



**As far as you know, which of the following best describes what is happening with K-12 schools in your community right now?**



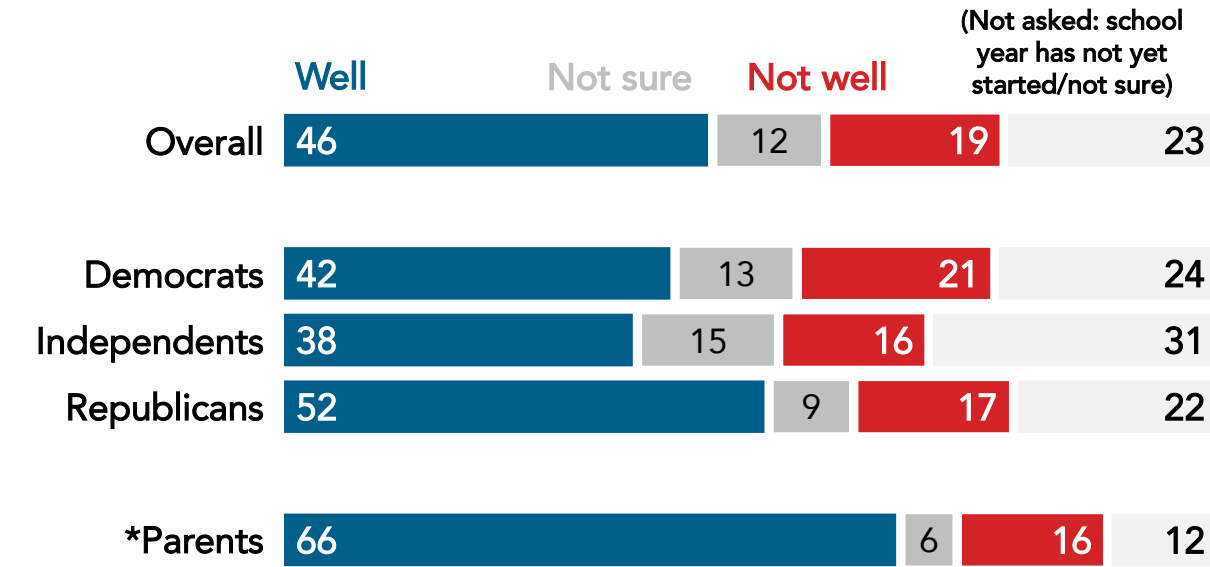
\*Parents\* are those who self-report having a child/children under the age of 18. Nationwide survey of 1,007 registered voters; September 10-14, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Some Feel School Reopenings Are Going Well But Most Fear They Will Close At Some Point Due to Outbreaks

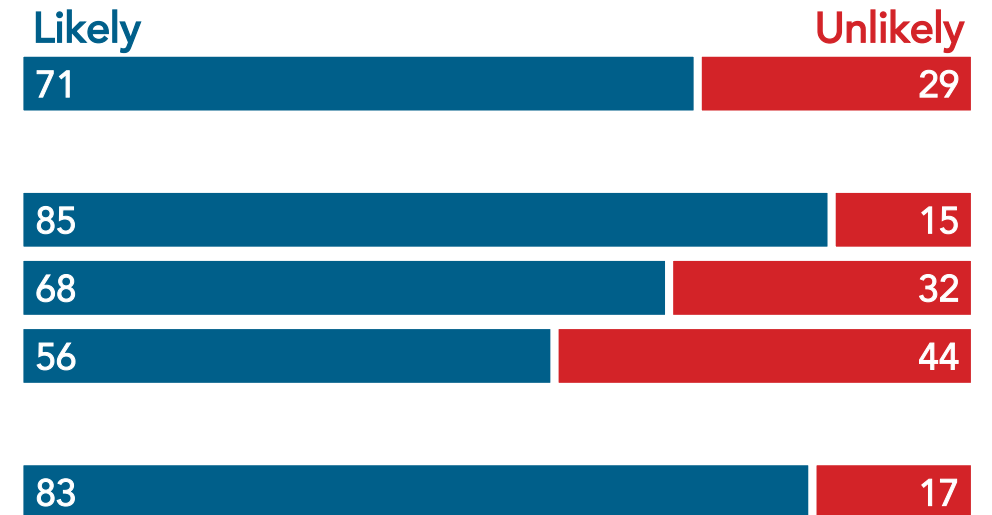
Almost half say their community's school reopening is going well. However, almost three in four acknowledge schools in their community will have to close at some point due to an outbreak.

- Among parents, more than four in five (83%) say schools in their community will have to close at some point due to an outbreak.

**You indicated that K-12 schools in your community are [fully open/partially open/online]. How would you say that plan is going for K-12 schools in your community?**



**How likely do you think it is that schools in your area will have to close down at some point due to a coronavirus outbreak in your community?**



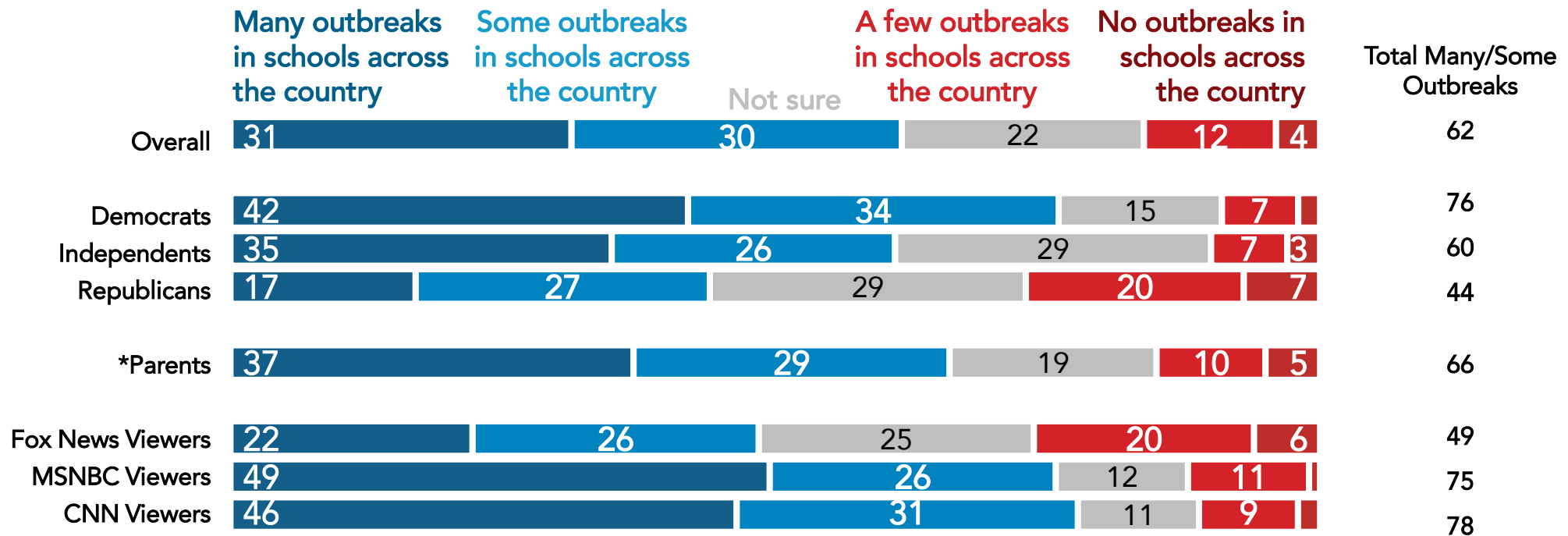
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# School Outbreak Awareness Lower Among Republicans

Three in five say there have been “many” or “some” outbreaks in schools across the country, but perceptions of the frequency of these outbreaks differ greatly by party identification.

- Three in four (76%) Democrats say there have been “many” or “some” outbreaks, while only 44% of Republicans say the same. Three in ten independents (29%) and Republicans (29%) also say they are not sure.

**As far as you know, have schools that have opened in other parts of the United States experienced coronavirus outbreaks?** There have been...



\*Parents\* are those who self-report having a child/children under the age of 18. \*Fox News Viewers\* are those who self-report Fox News as a main source of news about politics and current events in the U.S. \*MSNBC Viewers\* are those who self-report MSNBC as a main source of news about politics and current events in the U.S. \*CNN Viewers\* are those who self-report CNN as a main source of news about politics and current events in the U.S.

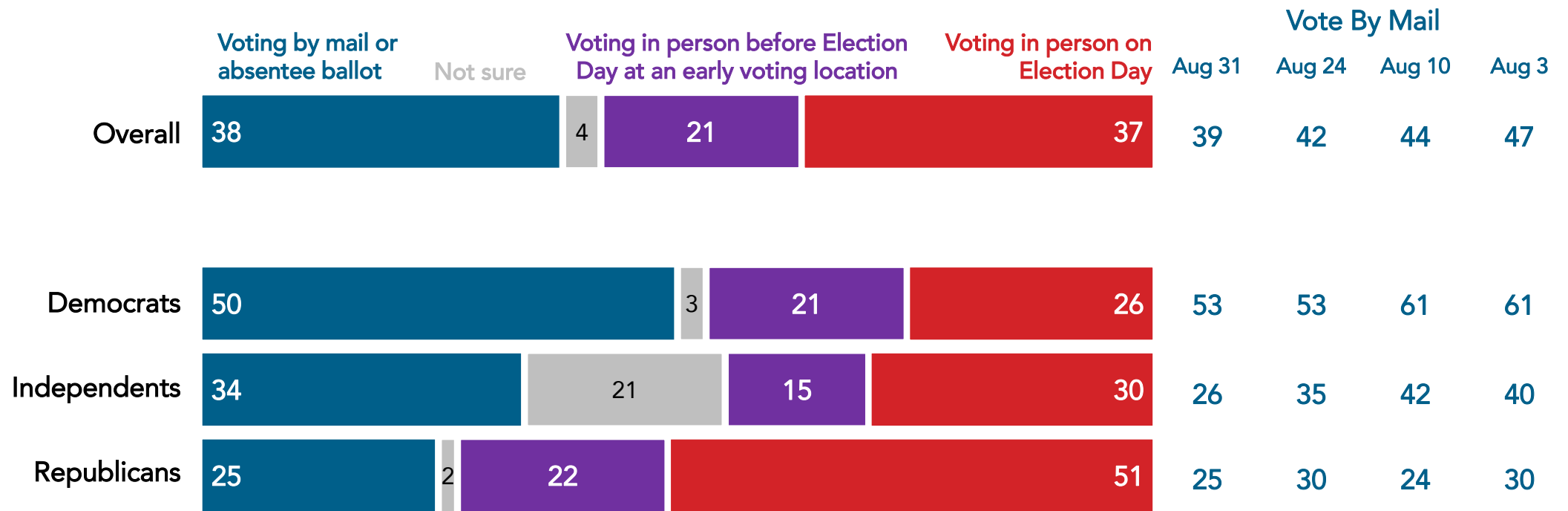
Nationwide survey of 1,007 registered voters; September 10-14, 2020.

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# Though Two in Five Still Plan To Vote By Mail, Intent to Do So Has Declined Since Early August

In the last six weeks, intent to vote by mail has dropped 9 points, with declines across Democrats (down 11 points), independents (down 6 points) and Republicans (down 5 points).

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?



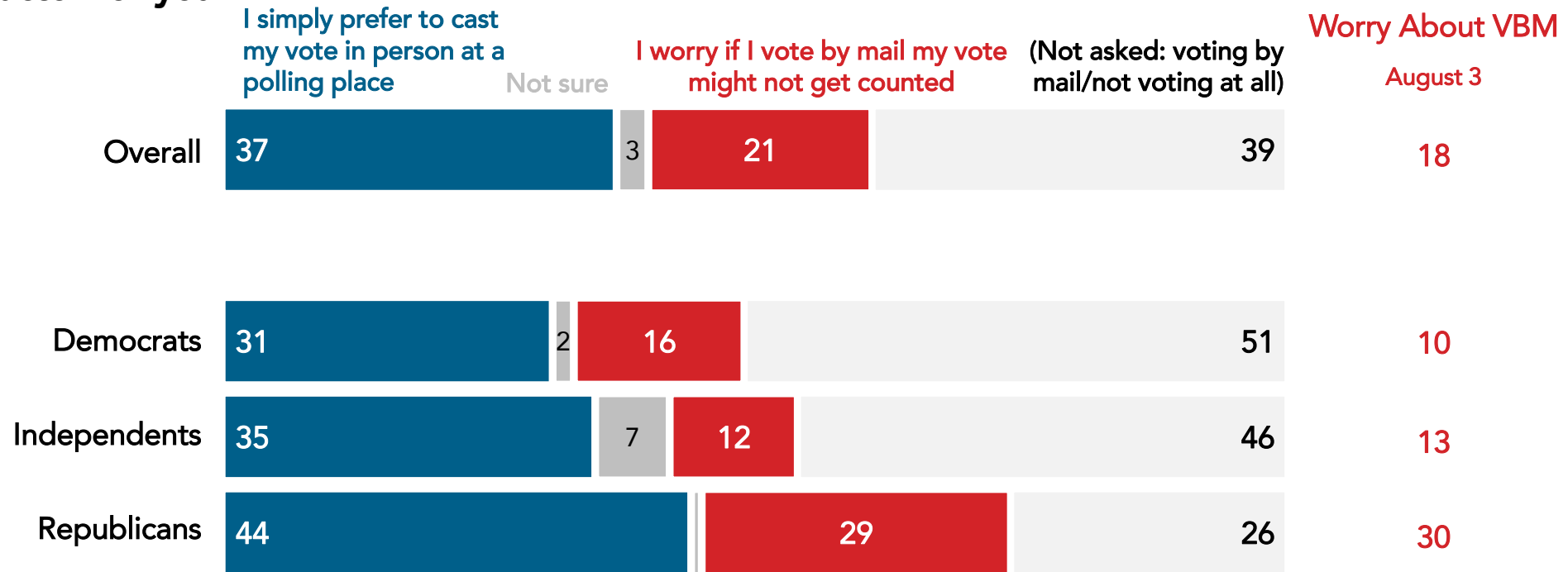
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 10-14, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Among Those Not Voting By Mail, Main Reasoning Is Simply Preference to Vote In-Person

Nearly two in five say they are not voting by mail simply because they prefer to vote in person, while one in five say they worry if they vote by mail, their vote might not get counted.

- Among Republicans, three in ten (29%) do worry if they vote by mail, their vote might not get counted.

**You indicated you would not be most likely to vote by mail. Thinking more about that, which of the following is a bigger factor for you?**



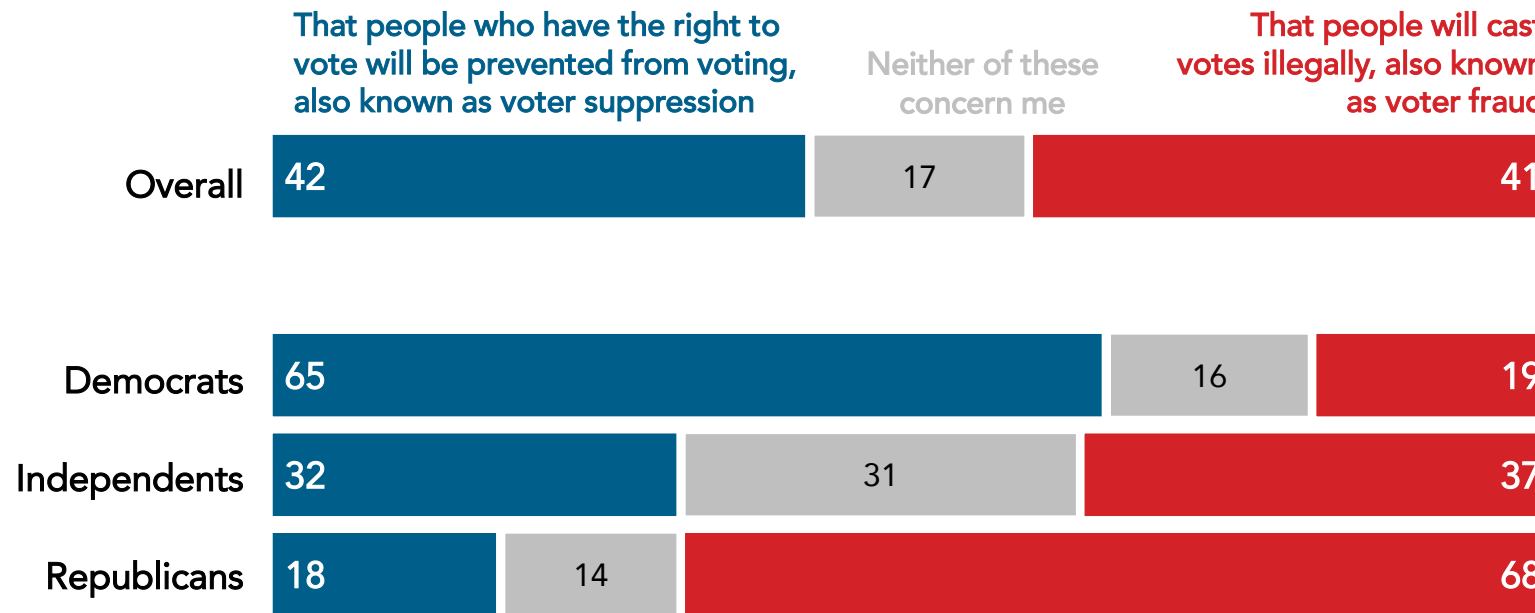
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# Americans Are Split Between Concerns About Voter Suppression and Voter Fraud

Roughly two in five are more concerned about voter suppression – mostly driven by Democrats – while the same share is more concerned about casting their votes illegally, or voter fraud – mostly driven by Republicans.

- Among those who intend to vote by mail, 56% say they are more concerned about voter suppression, while 58% of those who are voting in-person on Election Day are more concerned about voter fraud.

Which of the following concerns you more?



"Mail voters" are those who self-report that they are most likely to vote by mail in the November 2020 election. "In-person on Election Day voters" are those who self-report that they are most likely to vote in-person on Election Day in the November 2020 election. Nationwide survey of 1,007 registered voters; September 10-14, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

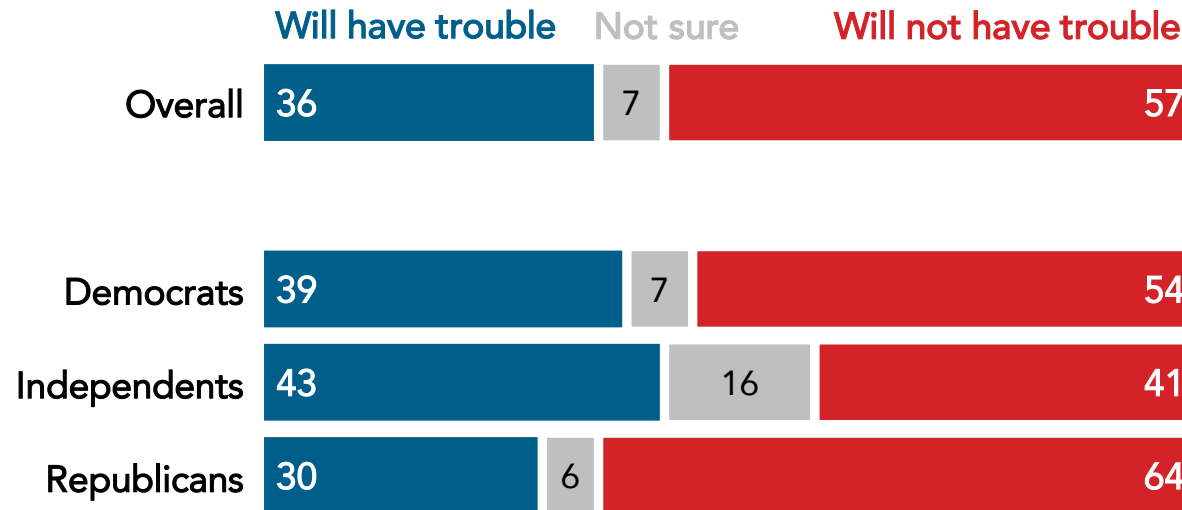


# Across Parties, Many Americans Are Struggling to Pay Bills – But Republicans Far More Optimistic on State of Economy

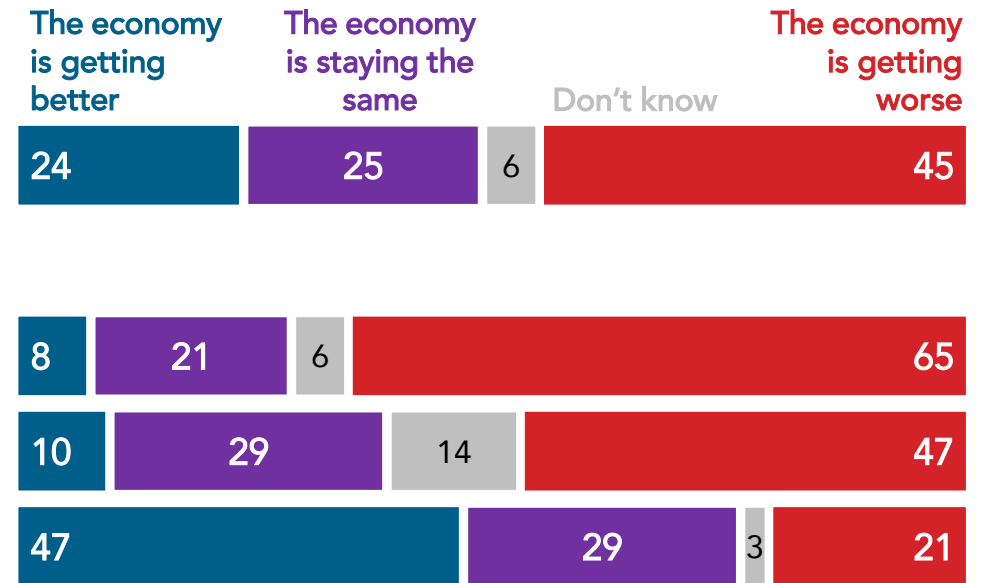
While at least three in ten across party lines say they will have trouble paying bills in the next month, views of the state of the American economy are driven by partisanship.

- While only one in five Republicans (21%) say the economy is getting worse, nearly half of independents (47%) and two in three Democrats (65%) say the economy is getting worse.

**Do you think you will have trouble paying any bills over the next month?**



**And, which of the following best describes the current state of the U.S. economy:**



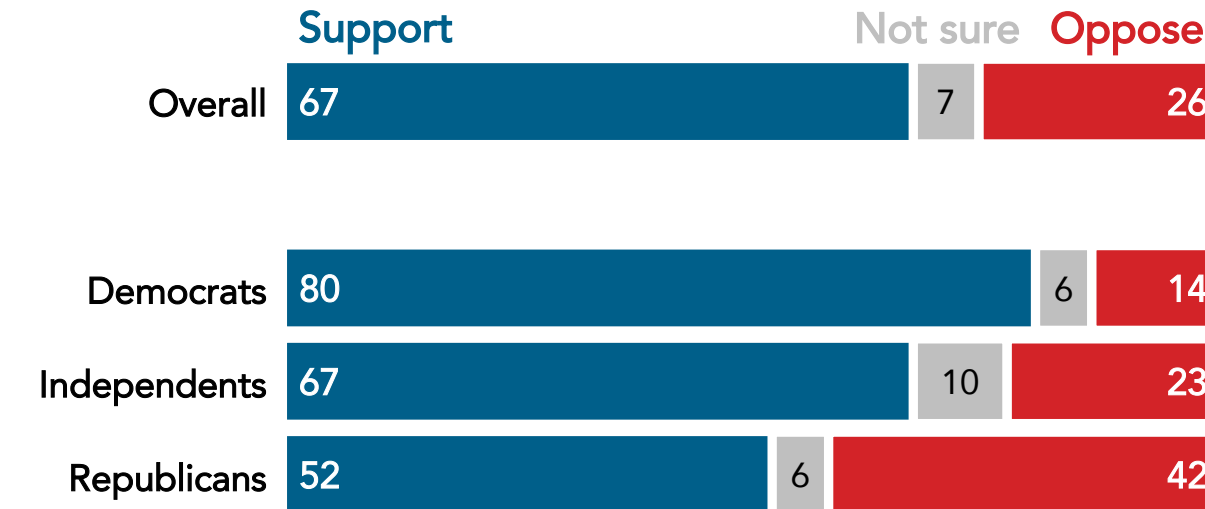
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# Two in Three Support Legalizing Marijuana and Decriminalizing Distribution and Possession

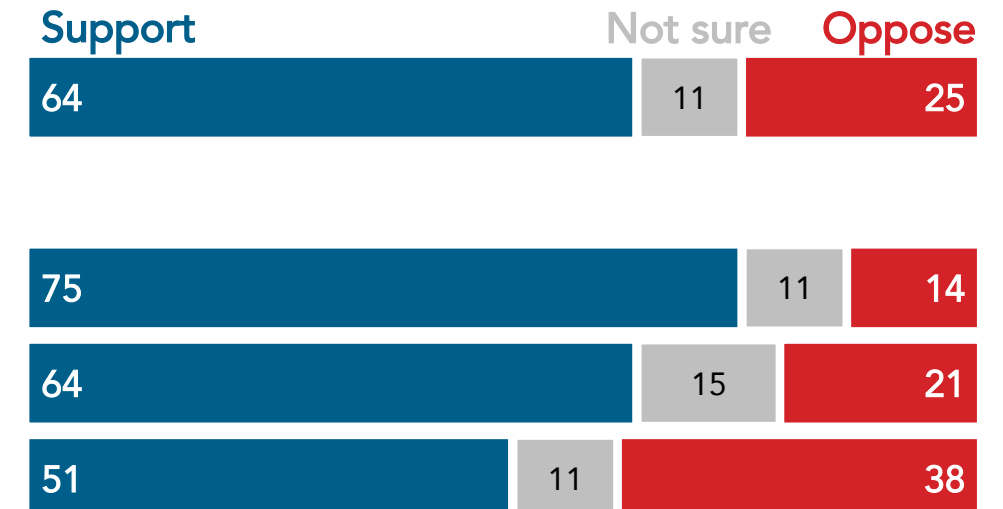
Majorities of Americans support legalizing marijuana and decriminalizing distribution and possession of marijuana, with little difference across policies in levels of support.

- Though Democrats and independents are driving the share who support both legalization and decriminalization, a majority of Republicans also support both.

**Do you support or oppose legalizing marijuana for recreational use by adults?**



**Do you support or oppose decriminalizing marijuana to eliminate criminal penalties for anyone who distributes or possesses marijuana?**



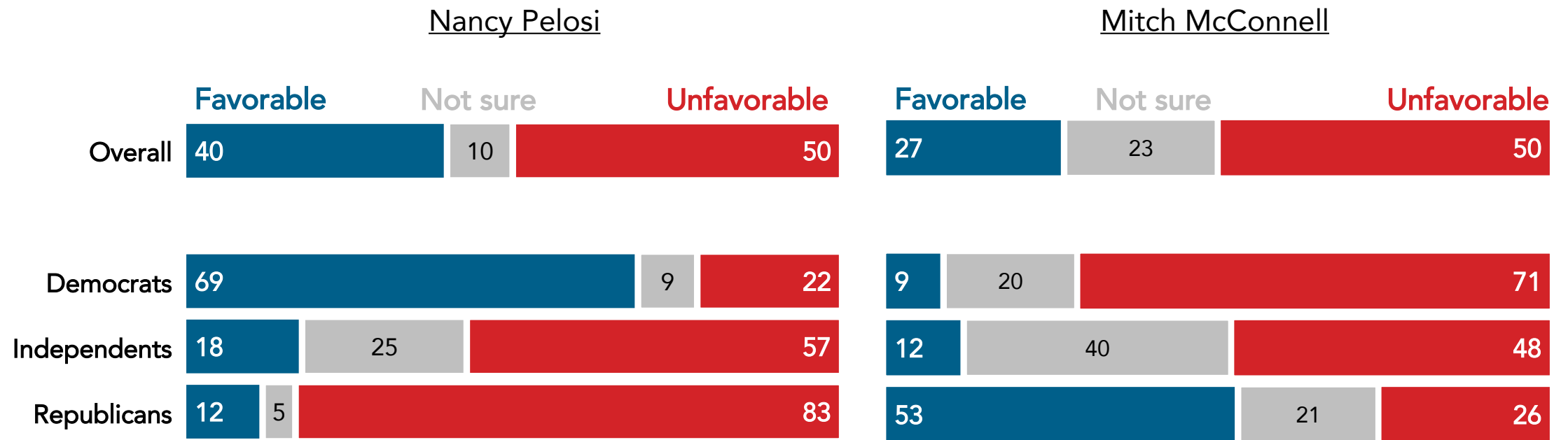
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# Nancy Pelosi Is More Popular Than Mitch McConnell

Two in five Americans have a favorable view of Pelosi while less than three in ten say the same of McConnell. Fewer Republicans have favorable views of Mitch McConnell than Democrats have of Nancy Pelosi.

- Among independents, while 25% are not sure of their view of Pelosi, 40% are not sure of their view of McConnell.

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



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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 September 10-14, 2020. 102 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 102 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 103 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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