

# navigating.\* coronavirus

Update:

Wednesday, September 23



Communicating in  
Crisis

## Key takeaways:

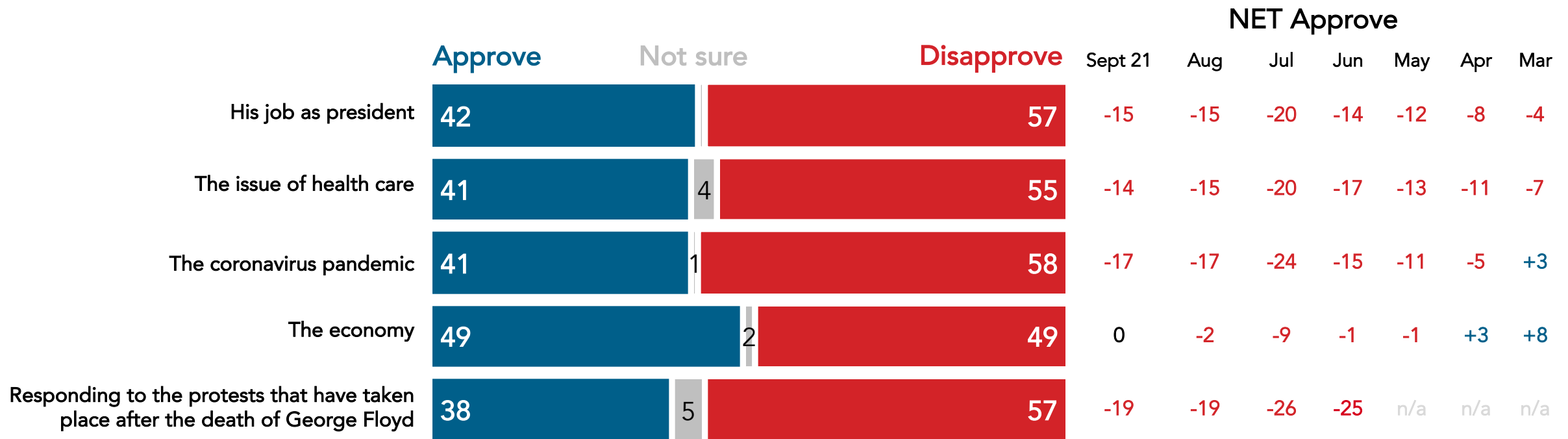
- The public continues to see the pandemic as the most important issue for the president and Congress to address.
- A vast majority support continuing expanded unemployment insurance, and Americans are split on blaming Democrats and Republicans for lack of progress on coronavirus relief.
- Majorities continue to say America's response to the pandemic has been worse than the responses of other countries and that Trump made the pandemic worse than it needed to be.

# Trump's Job Approval Ratings Remain Negative

Trump's approval ratings on his handling of his job overall as president, the issue of health care, the pandemic, and protests remain deeply underwater, while he's breaking even on his handling of the economy.

- Among independents, Trump is 10-points underwater this week on his handling of the economy (40% approve/50% disapprove).

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



Nationwide survey of 1,230 registered voters; September 17-21, 2020.

Nationwide surveys of registered voters including 4,385 interviews in August, 2,017 interviews conducted in July, 5,148 in June, 6,288 in May, 7,393 in April, and 3,373 in March.

For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Trump's Handling of the Pandemic, the Supreme Court, and His Lying Are the Top Negative Things Heard About Him

The vast majority (77%) continue to hear negative things about Trump this week, with a focus on his response to coronavirus, his lies, and the recent news about appointing a new Supreme Court Justice.

In a few words, what **negative** things have you seen, read, or heard recently about Donald Trump?

September 21



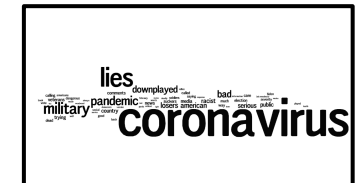
"Not taking COVID seriously...lying to the American people."

"Lying about his knowledge of the severity of the virus and holding indoor rallies."  
"How he mishandled the coronavirus response."

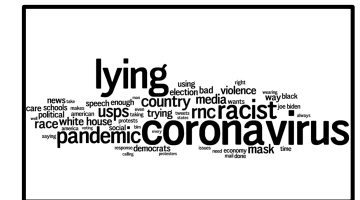
"That he is going to fill the Supreme Court position and not allow the next president to do this."

"He wants to get a new judge appointed to the Supreme Court before election day and his opponents think he should be focusing on other more important issues."

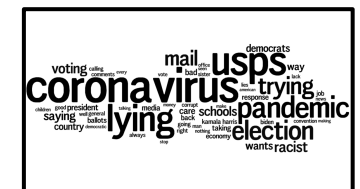
September 14



August 31



August 24



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 17-21, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

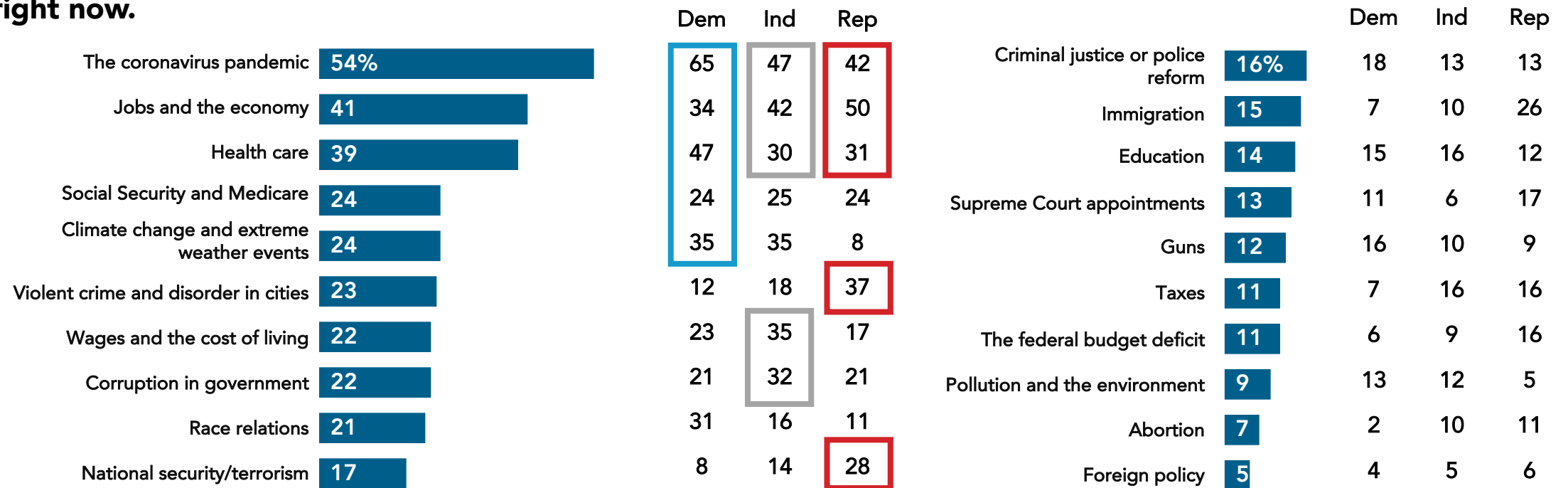
**navigator.**\*

# Pandemic Remains Consistently Top Issue for Americans, Followed By Jobs & the Economy and Health Care

Coronavirus, jobs and the economy, and health care are the three issues that receive a high priority from Democrats, independents, and Republicans. Climate change, crime and disorder, and terrorism are divided by partisanship.

- A week ago, 5% ranked Supreme Court appointments as a top four issue (5% of both Democrats and Republicans). Following recent news, 13% rank it as a top issue, with a jump among Democrats (11%) and Republicans (17%).

Select the top four issues that you feel are most important for the President and Congress to be focusing on right now.



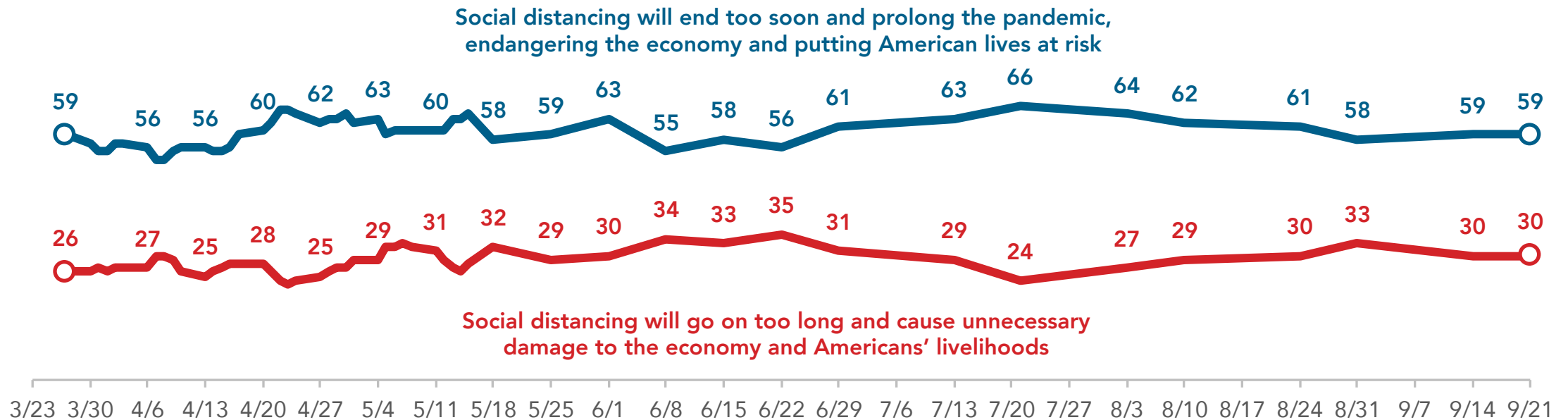
Nationwide survey of 1,230 registered voters; September 17-21, 2020.  
 Methodological note: 230 of our 1,230 interviews were conducted prior to Ruth Bader Ginsburg's passing.  
 For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Three in Five Remain Concerned Social Distancing Will End Too Soon

Just three in ten are more concerned social distancing will go on too long rather than end too soon.

- Among independents, 54% are more concerned social distancing will end too soon, while only 26% are more concerned social distancing will go on too long.

When it comes to social distancing and the coronavirus pandemic, which of the following concerns you more right now?



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 17-21, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

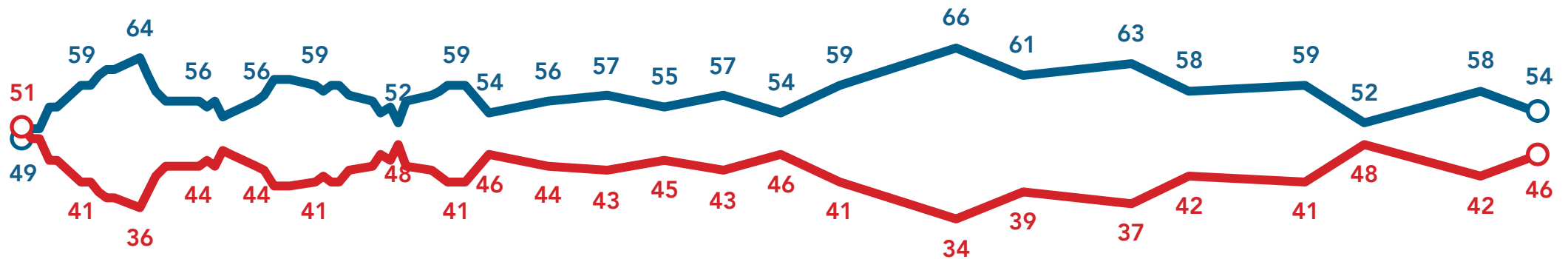
# Majority Remain More Concerned About Public Health Than the National Economy

More than half say they are more concerned about the impact of coronavirus on people's health rather than on the economy as a whole.

- On a separate question, 54% of Americans say they know someone who has been infected with coronavirus.

In thinking about the impact of coronavirus on the country, which are you more worried about...

The impact of coronavirus on people's health



The impact of coronavirus on the economy as a whole

3/23 3/30 4/6 4/13 4/20 4/27 5/4 5/11 5/18 5/25 6/1 6/8 6/15 6/22 6/29 7/6 7/13 7/20 7/27 8/3 8/10 8/17 8/24 8/31 9/7 9/14 9/21

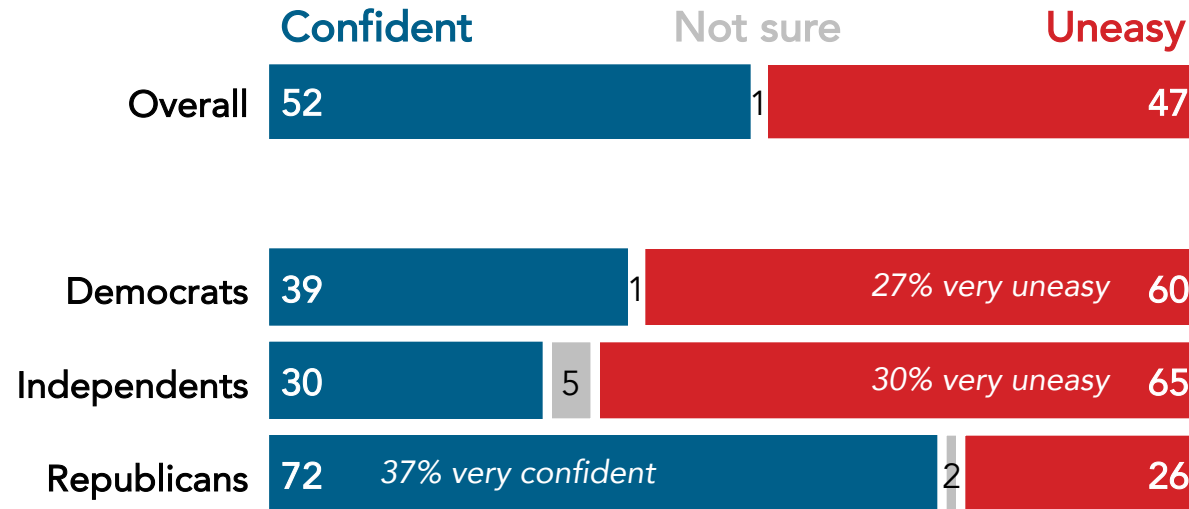
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 17-21, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Only Republicans Express More Confidence Than Unease in Their Personal Financial Situation

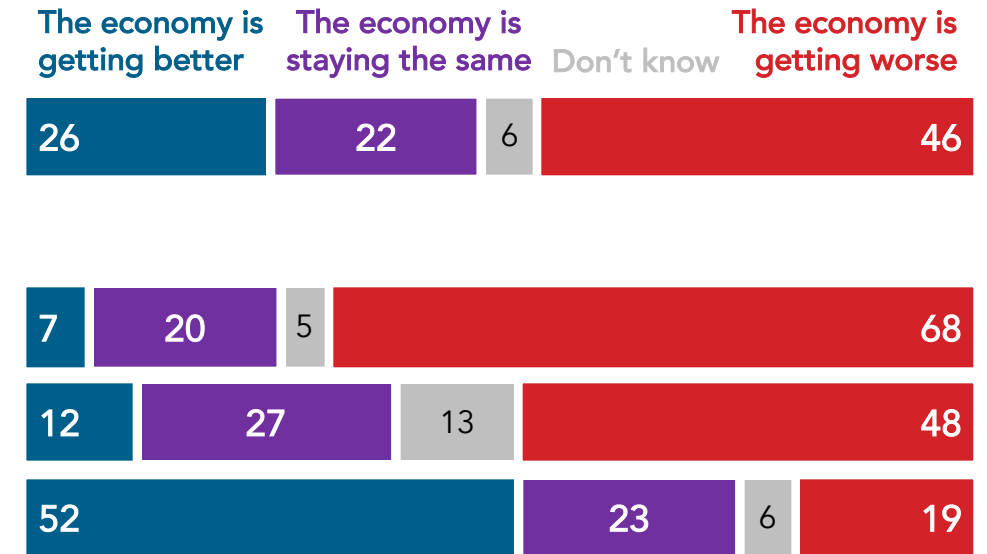
A majority of Americans say they are confident about their personal financial situation over the next few months, while a plurality say the economy is getting worse.

- Republicans (72% confident) are driving the share who are personally confident about their financial situation and who believe the economy is getting better (52%).
- Independents are personally uneasy about finances (65%) and say the economy is getting worse (48%).

**Thinking about your personal financial situation over the next few months, do you feel confident or uneasy?**



**Which of the following best describes the current state of the U.S. economy:**



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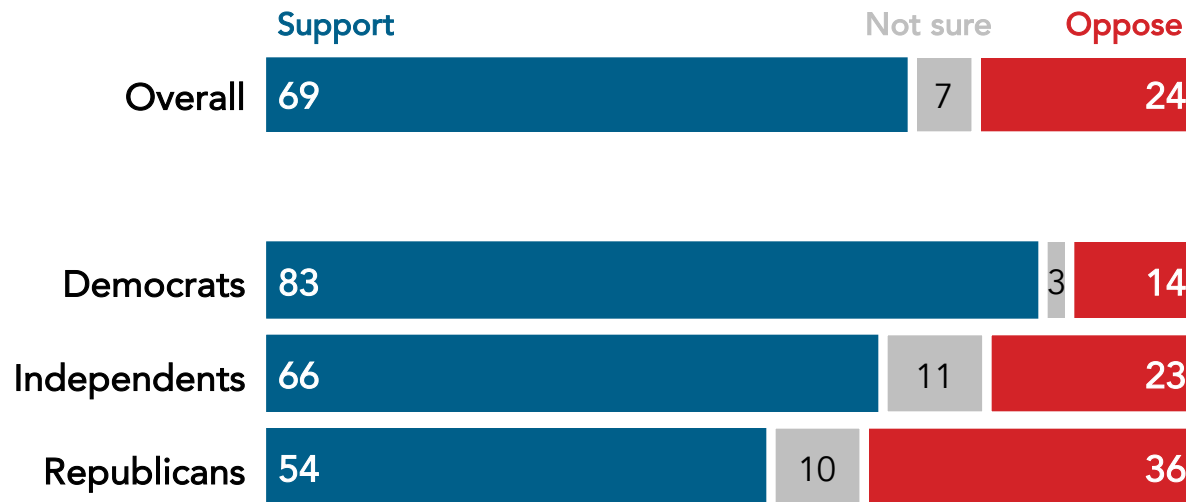


# Vast Majority Continue to Support Expanded Unemployment Compensation, Equally Blame Both Parties for Lack of Relief

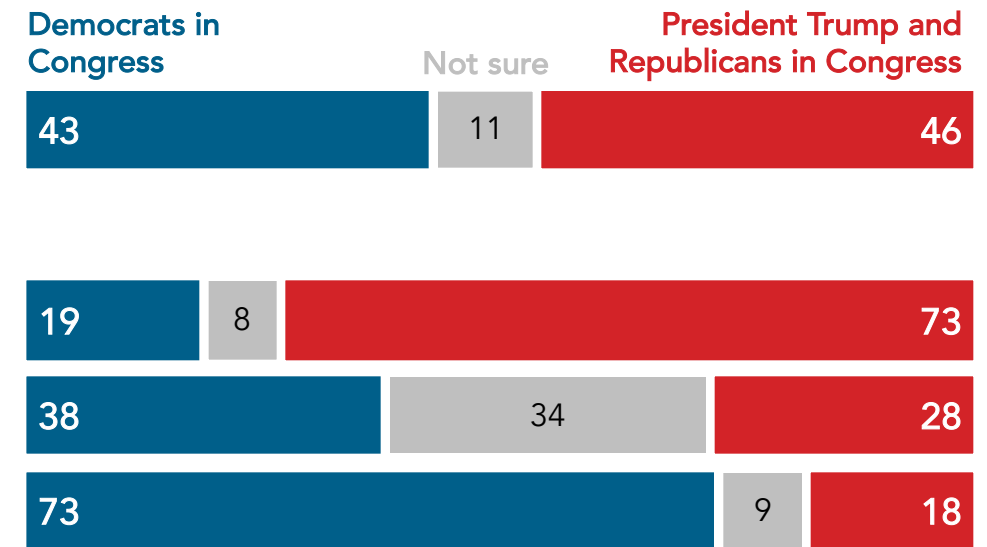
More than two in three support expanded unemployment compensation, but Americans are split on whether they blame Democrats in Congress or Trump and Republicans in Congress more for the lack of progress on relief.

As you may know, earlier this year Congress passed an expansion of federal unemployment compensation providing as much as \$600 a week in additional relief due to the coronavirus pandemic. This expansion expired in July.

**Do you support or oppose continuing this expanded unemployment compensation until at least January 2021?**



**So far, Congress has been unable to agree on the details for additional coronavirus relief. Of the following, who do you think is more to blame for the lack of progress on this issue?**



Nationwide survey of 1,230 registered voters; September 17-21, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Arguing for Restoring Economy By Addressing the Pandemic Is Most Effective Pushback to Trump Economic Attacks

While Americans agree with both messages on the Democratic stance on coronavirus and the economy more than a statement from Trump, more agree with language that focuses on getting things back to normal than that Trump “cannot be trusted on reopening the economy.”

There has been some debate about coronavirus and the economy. On this issue, who do you agree with more?

*Shown to half of sample*

Democrats, who say we need to get things back to normal, but we can't get the economy fully restarted unless we get the virus fully under control. Trump's push to reopen too quickly has already led to a surge in infections which harms our ability to fix the economy

Donald Trump, who says Democrats are actively trying to keep the economy shut down and harming our recovery because they think it will help their chances in the election, but now is the time to continue reopening so America can make its comeback

Net Democrats



Democrats, who say Trump cannot be trusted on reopening the economy. Trump now has the worst jobs numbers of any President since the Great Depression and he's always focused on rewarding wealthy people instead of investing in people who work for a living

*Shown to half of sample*

# Top Trump Concerns: 200,000 American Casualties from Coronavirus & Making Situation in Cities Worse

Across party lines, the most concerning thing about Trump in the last few weeks is the number of Americans who have died from coronavirus and his adding fuel to the fire on the situation in cities.

**Which TWO of the following things concern you the most about the way Trump has handled his job as president in the last few weeks?**

		Dem	Ind	Rep
Under Donald Trump's watch, about 200,000 Americans have died due to coronavirus, as he continues to downplay the crisis and ignores the advice of experts	37%	58	32	13
Donald Trump is constantly adding fuel to the fire on the situation taking place in cities across the country, leading to more division, violence, and disorder	28	38	34	14
Donald Trump continues to undermine Americans' ability to vote in order to help him win the election, including his attempts to harm the United States Postal Service to stop people from voting by mail	22	37	18	5
Donald Trump is failing to respond to the economic impact of coronavirus, leaving regular people without the help they need to get through this crisis	18	22	27	11
Instead of doing something to help improve the situation with the wildfires, Donald Trump questions whether climate change is real and promises that it will "start getting cooler" at some point	13	17	11	9
Under Donald Trump's leadership, nearly 14 million Americans were unemployed as of August	10	10	23	7

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# On Economy, Top Trump Concern Is Ignoring Experts to Reopen Too Soon, Causing New Surge and Costing More Jobs

Among Democrats and independents, the top concern on Trump's handling of the economy is his ignoring of experts and reopening the country too soon, causing a new surge in cases that will set back the economy again.

Below are some criticisms that have been made of Donald Trump's handling of the economic recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. Which of the following best describe your own concerns?

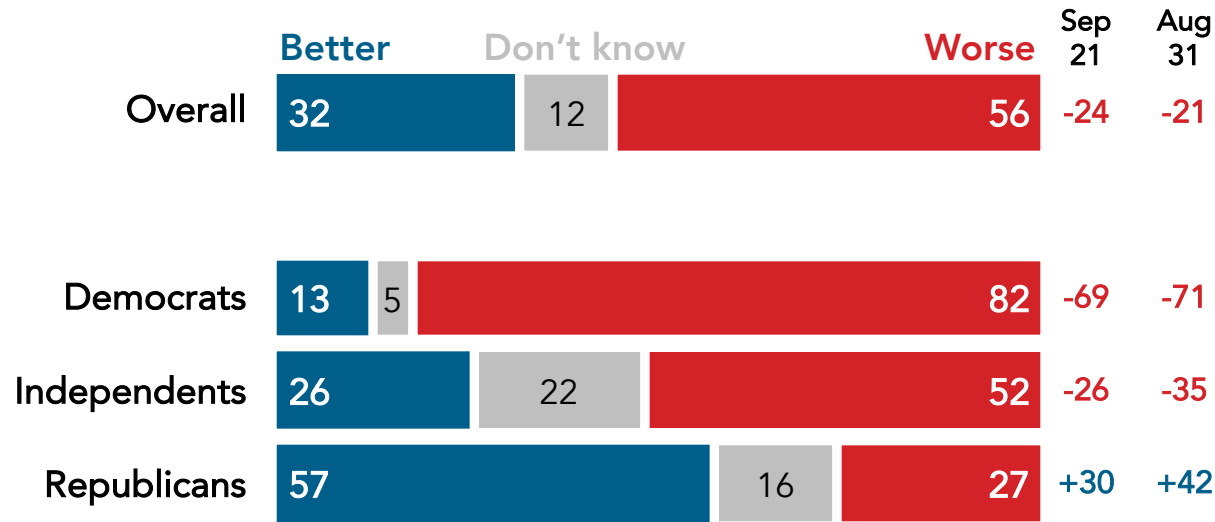
		Dem	Ind	Rep
He continues to ignore health experts and economists and has pushed states to reopen too soon without the right precautions, which already backfired once by causing a new surge in infections and will cost even more jobs if it happens again	47%	74	44	17
He gave bailouts to big corporations that didn't really need the money, while many small businesses and restaurants are now shutting down because they didn't get the help they needed	30	41	28	17
He isn't doing enough to help middle class and working people who have recently lost jobs or income due to coronavirus	21	29	34	9
He is constantly getting distracted instead of focusing on beating the virus, which is essential to getting the economy back on track	19	26	18	11

# Majorities Say America's Pandemic Response Worse Than Other Countries', Trump Made Things Worse Than Necessary

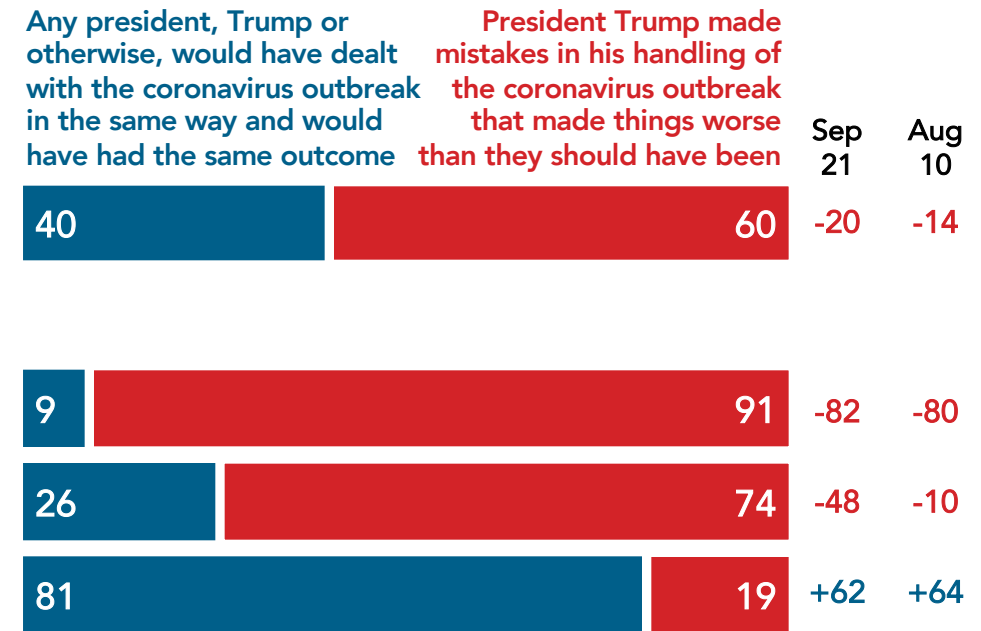
More than half continue to say America's response to the pandemic has been worse than other countries' and three in five say Trump made mistakes that made the coronavirus outbreak worse than it should have been.

- The share of Republicans saying America is doing better than other countries has dropped 14 points in 3 weeks.

**Do you think America is doing better or worse than most other countries in the world with our response to the coronavirus pandemic?**



**Which of the following statements do you agree with more?**



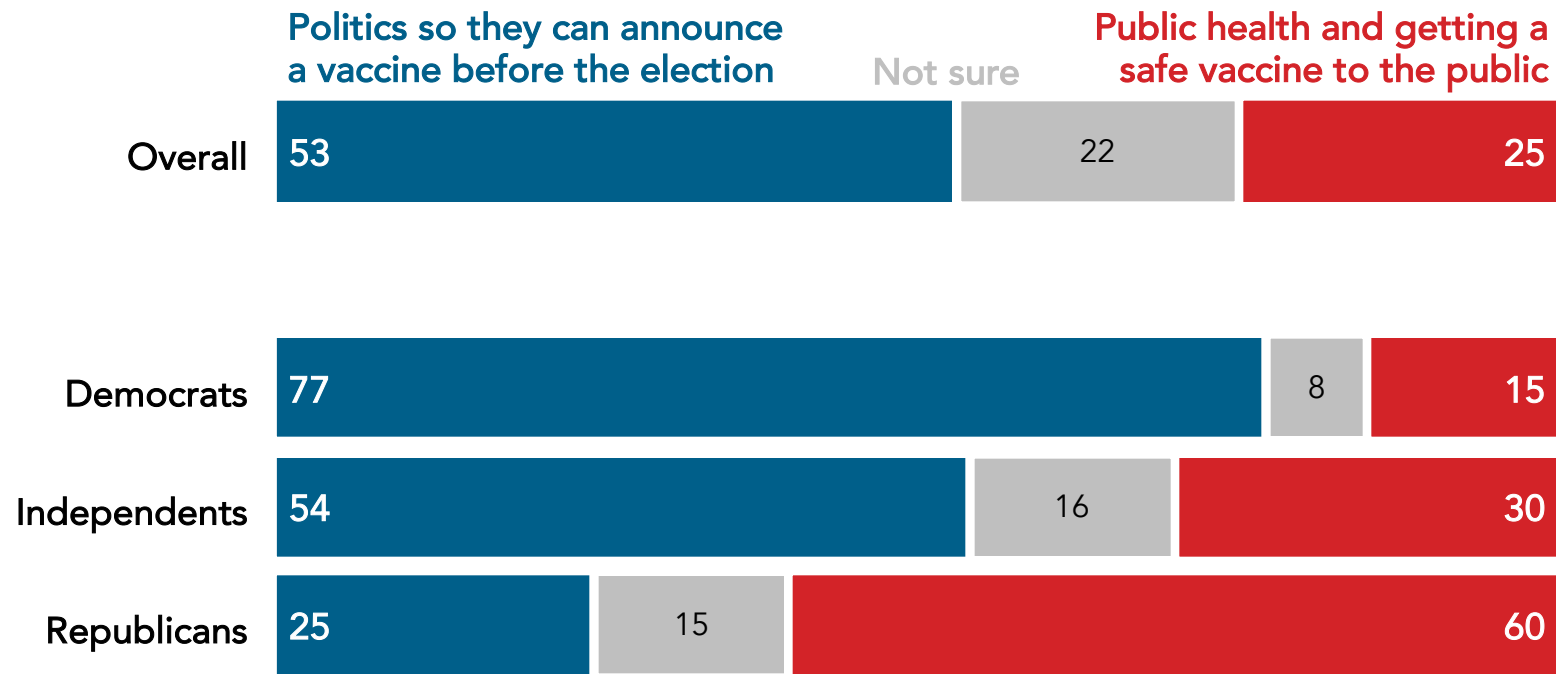
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 17-21, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Majority Say Trump Drive for Vaccine Motivated By Politics

More than half say that Trump and his administration's approach to the coronavirus vaccine is motivated by politics so they can announce a vaccine before the election, while just a quarter say it is motivated by public health.

- Even among 2016 Trump voters\*, 25% say that Trump's vaccine approach is more motivated by politics.

**When it comes to Donald Trump and his administration's current approach to the coronavirus vaccine, which do you think they are more motivated by...**



\*2016 Trump voters" self-report having voted for Donald Trump in the 2016 election. Nationwide survey of 1,230 registered voters; September 17-21, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

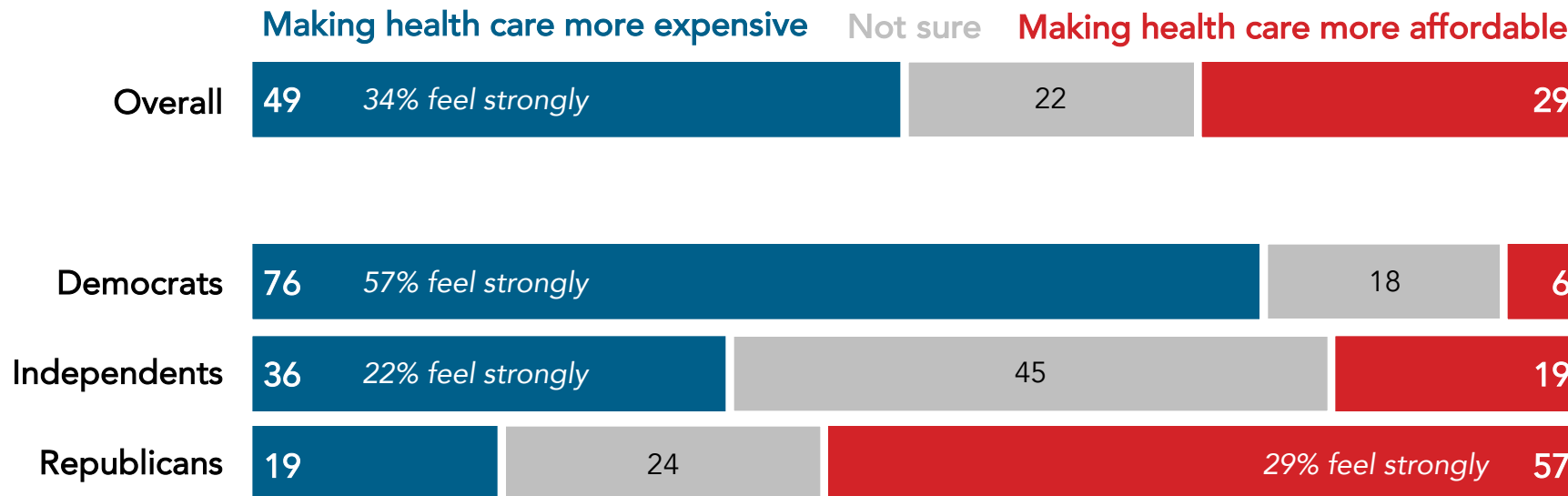
# By 20 Points, People Say Trump Making Health Care More Expensive

Nearly half say Trump is making health care more expensive, while less than a third say he is making it more affordable.

- Among those mixed on Trump\*, 33% say he is making health care more expensive, while only 24% say he is making health care more affordable.

## Which do you agree with more:

- Donald Trump is **making health care more expensive**
- Donald Trump is **making health care more affordable**



\*"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 1,230 registered voters; September 17-21, 2020. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

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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 1,230 registered voters from September 17-21, 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).*

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To learn more about  
Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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