

# navigating.\* coronavirus

Update:  
Thursday, September 24

Communicating in  
Crisis



## Key takeaways:

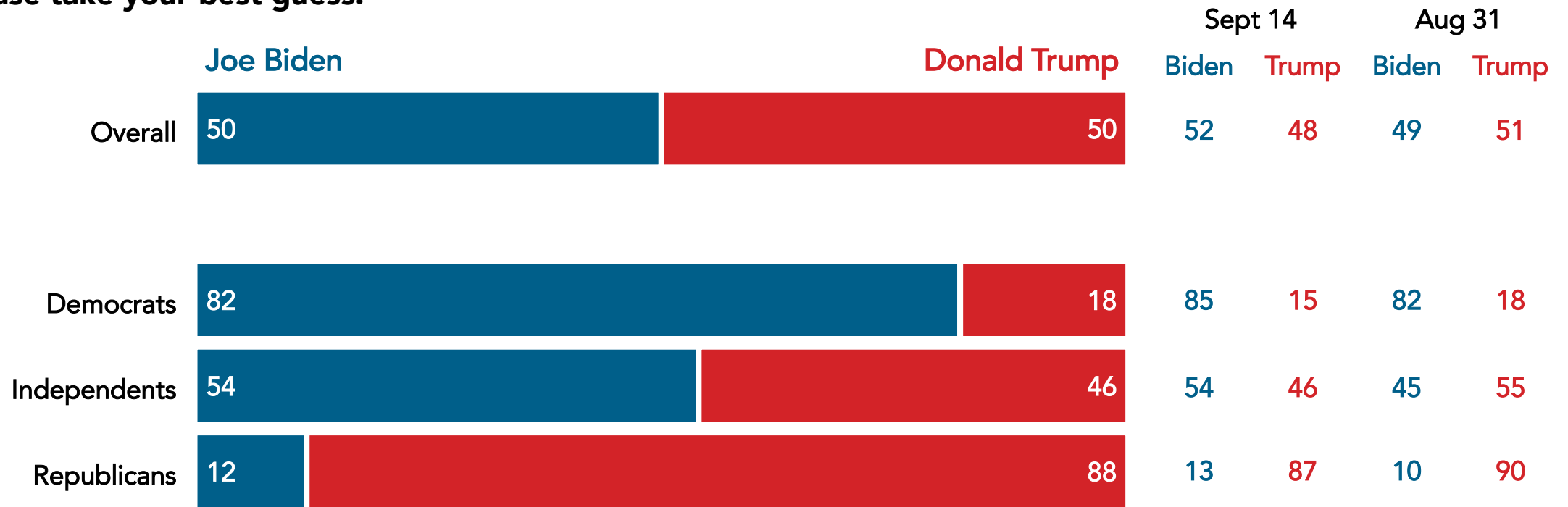
- Americans are split on whether Biden or Trump is more likely to win the election, but those who think Trump is going to win are more confident than those who think Biden will.
- Top concerns about the November election include results differing in the days after Election Day from the night of the election, voter suppression, and foreign interference.
- Americans say climate change is at least partially to blame for recent extreme weather events, and many believe Trump has failed to do enough to help those affected by wildfires.

# Americans Split on Who They Believe Will Win in November

The public is split evenly on whether they think Biden or Trump will win the presidential election, consistent with the last month of data on the topic.

- Democrats (82% Biden) and Republicans (88% Trump) are consolidated behind their party's nominee in belief of victory in November, while independents (54%) lean slightly towards expectation of a Biden victory.

**Regardless of who you are voting for, who do you think will win the election in November? If you are not sure, please take your best guess.**



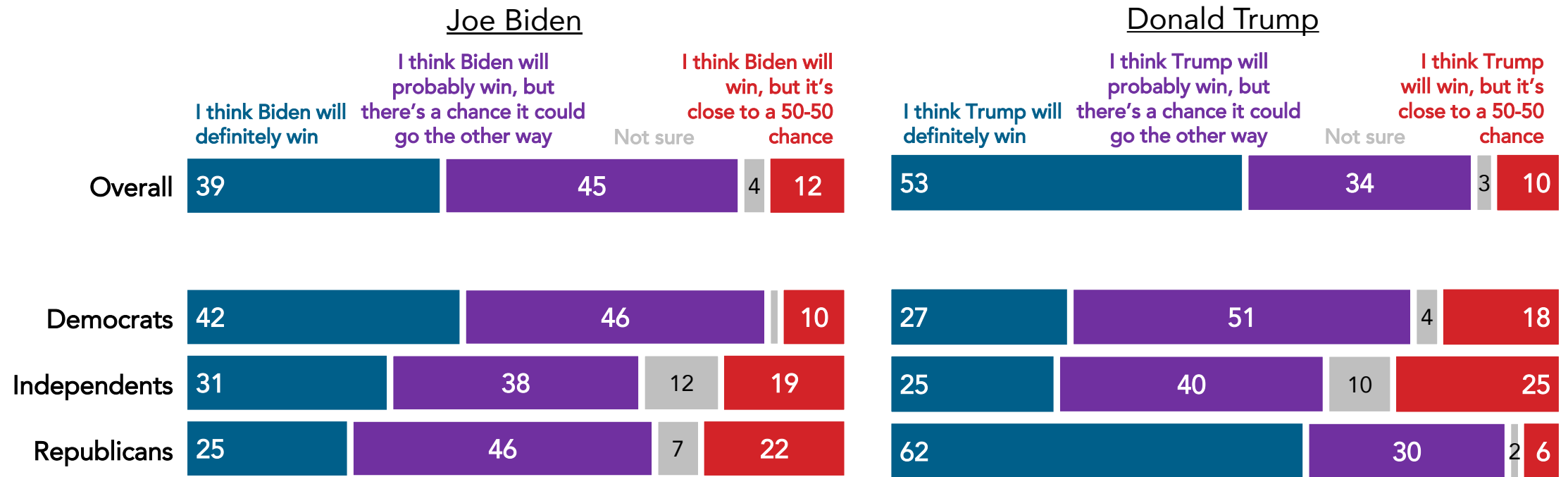
Nationwide survey of 1,230 registered voters; September 17-21, 2020.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# While Voters Are Split on Who Will Win, Those Who Say Biden Are More Likely To Say There's a Chance It Goes Other Way

Americans who believe Biden is going to win are more reluctant to say that he will "definitely win," while a majority of those who think Trump will win say he will "definitely win."

- Among Democrats, two in five who think Biden is going to win think he definitely will win, while 62% of Republicans who think Trump is going to win think he definitely will.

You said that \_\_\_\_\_ will win. How likely do you think that is?

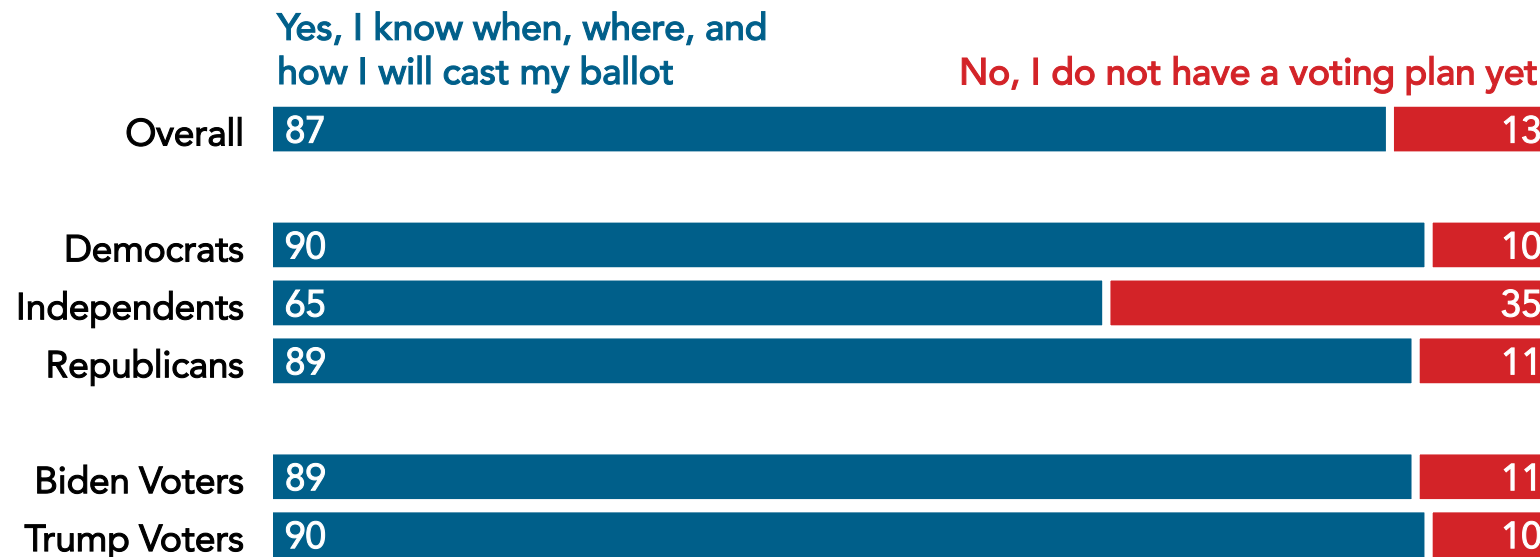


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# Americans Who Say They Intend to Vote Also Say They Know When, Where, and How They Will Be Casting Their Ballot

Biden and Trump voters are equally likely to have a plan for voting in the November election – though only two in three independents say they have a plan, and more than one in three say they do not yet have a plan.

**Do you currently have a plan for how you will vote in the November election, including details such as how you will cast your ballot, where your polling location is if you are voting in person, how you will get there, and what time you will vote?**



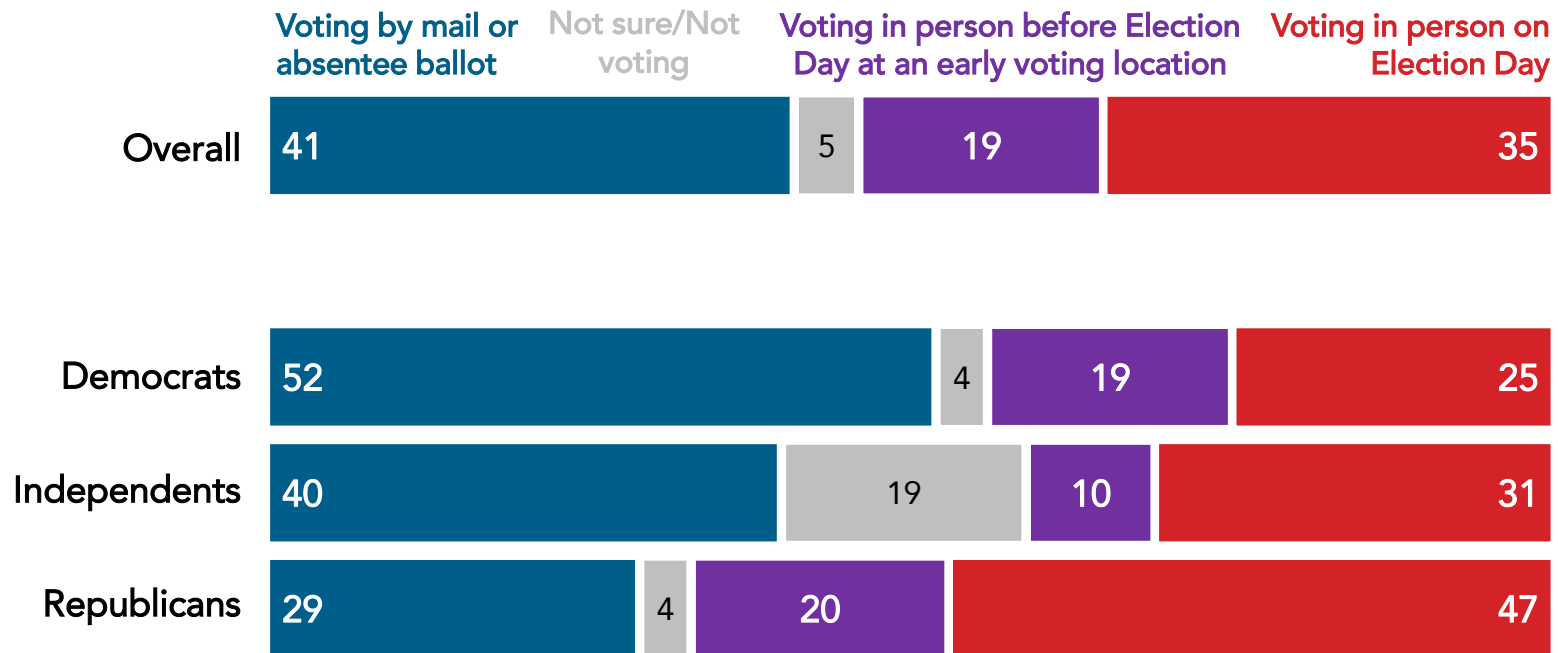
"Biden voters" are defined as those who say they plan to vote for Joe Biden in the presidential election. "Trump voters" are defined as those who say they plan to vote for Donald Trump in the presidential election.  
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# Two in Five Intend to Vote By Mail

When asked how they intend to cast their ballot, a plurality say they are voting by mail or absentee ballot, while more than a third intend to cast their ballot in person on Election Day.

- Among Americans 65 and older, 53% say they intend to vote by mail.

**As of today, how do you intend to cast your ballot?**



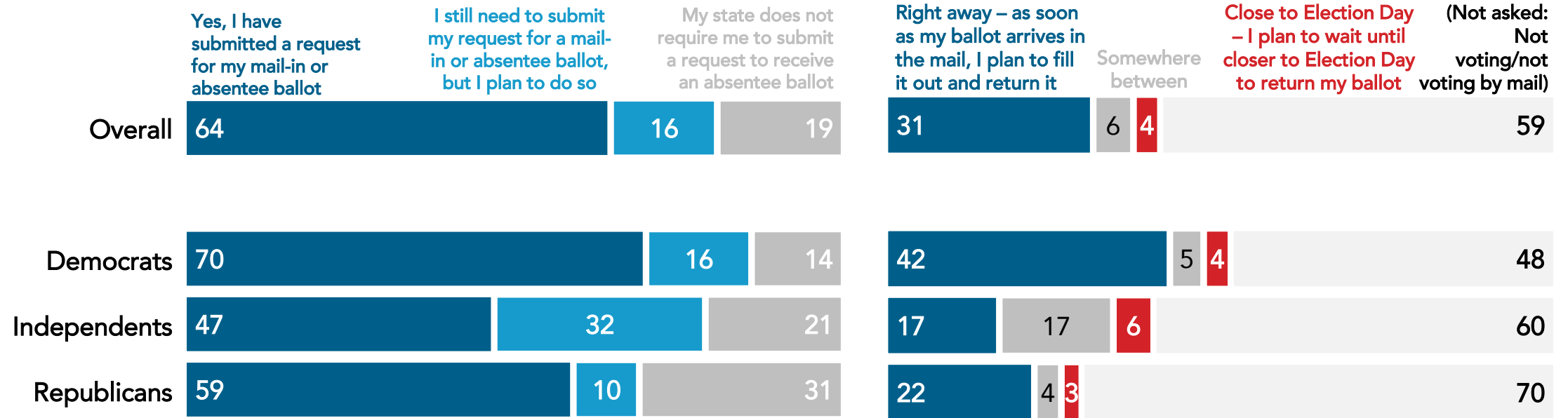
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# Majority of Mail Voters Have Already Requested Their Absentee Ballot and Most Plan to Return Ballot Right Away

Two in three Americans who intend to vote by mail have already submitted a request for a mail-in ballot, and while 59% of Americans are not voting by mail, 31% of Americans say they are voting by mail and will return their ballot immediately upon receiving it.

**[Among mail voters] As you may know, many states require voters to request a mail-in or absentee ballot. Have you already requested your mail-in or absentee ballot?**

**When do you plan to vote by mail?**



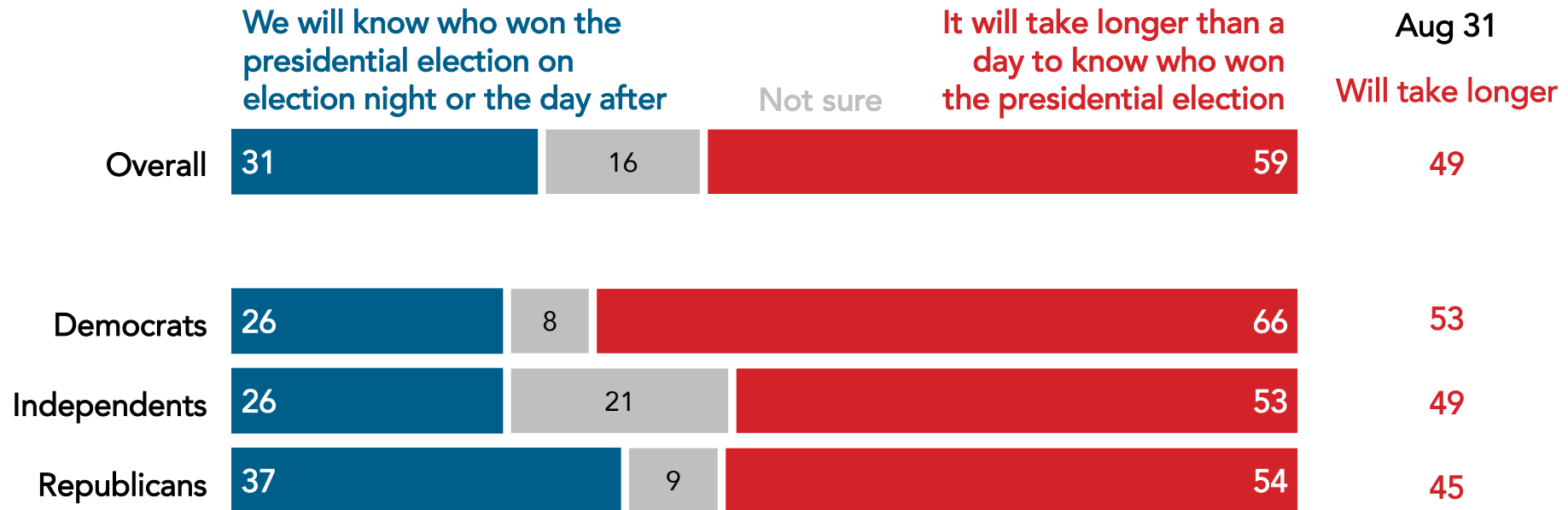
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# Growing Share Expect It Will Take Longer Than a Day to Know Outcome of Presidential Election

Three in five say it will take longer than a day to know who won the presidential election, up double digits from three weeks ago in August.

- In a follow-up question, 58% say that we will know within a couple of days or sooner, while 13% say it may take a few weeks or longer until we have the results.

**As you may know, the presidential election takes place on November 3rd of this year. Based on what you know, which do you expect to be true in November?**



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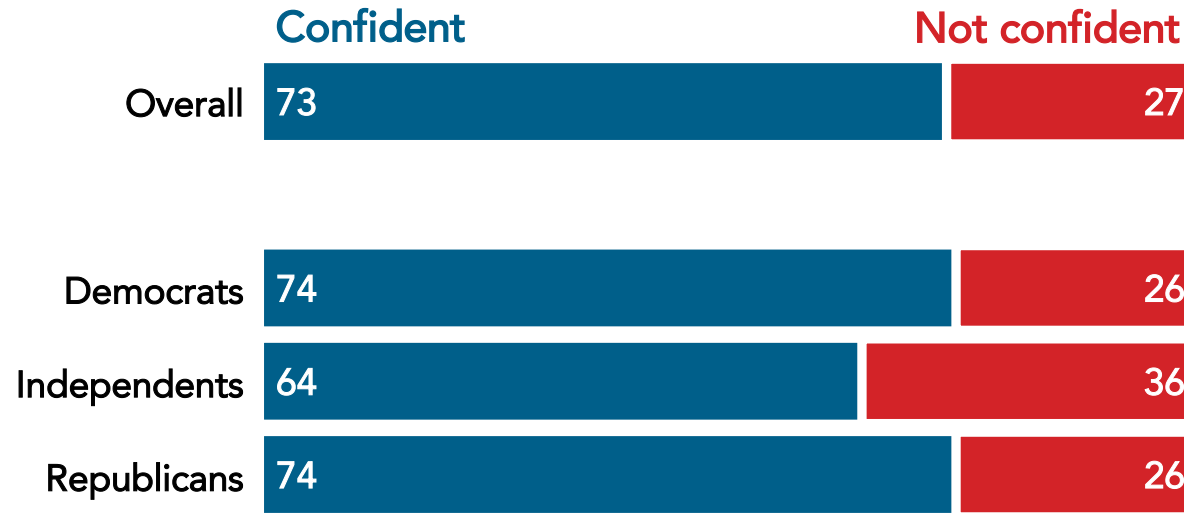


# Most Americans Are Confident That Both November Results and Their Own Ballot Will Be Counted Fairly

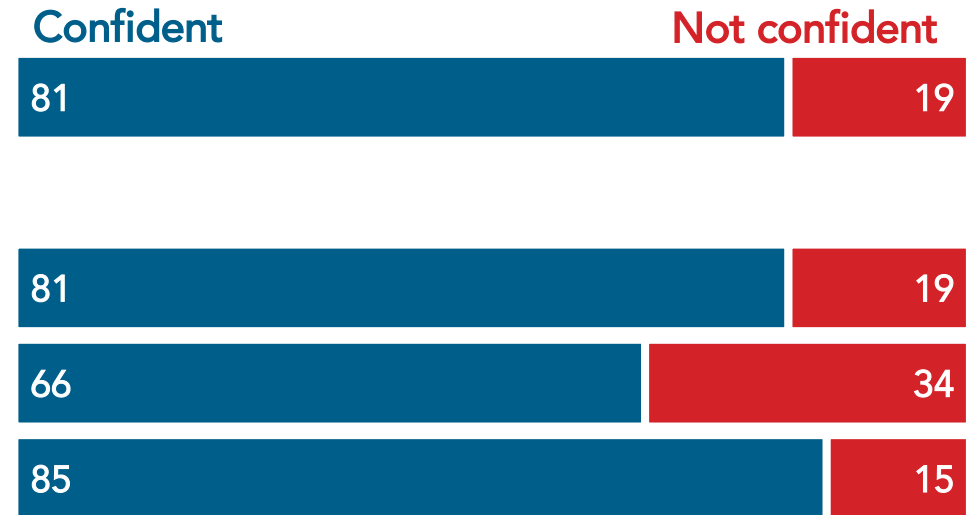
While the vast majority of Americans are confident that both their own vote and the results of the November election overall will be counted fairly, there is greater confidence in personal ballots being counted accurately.

- The biggest partisan gulf between belief one's own ballot and the election results at large will be counted accurately exists among Republicans, with 74% confident about the election, 85% their own ballot.

**How confident are you that the results of the November presidential election will be counted correctly and fairly?**



**How confident are you that your ballot in the November presidential election will be counted correctly and fairly?**

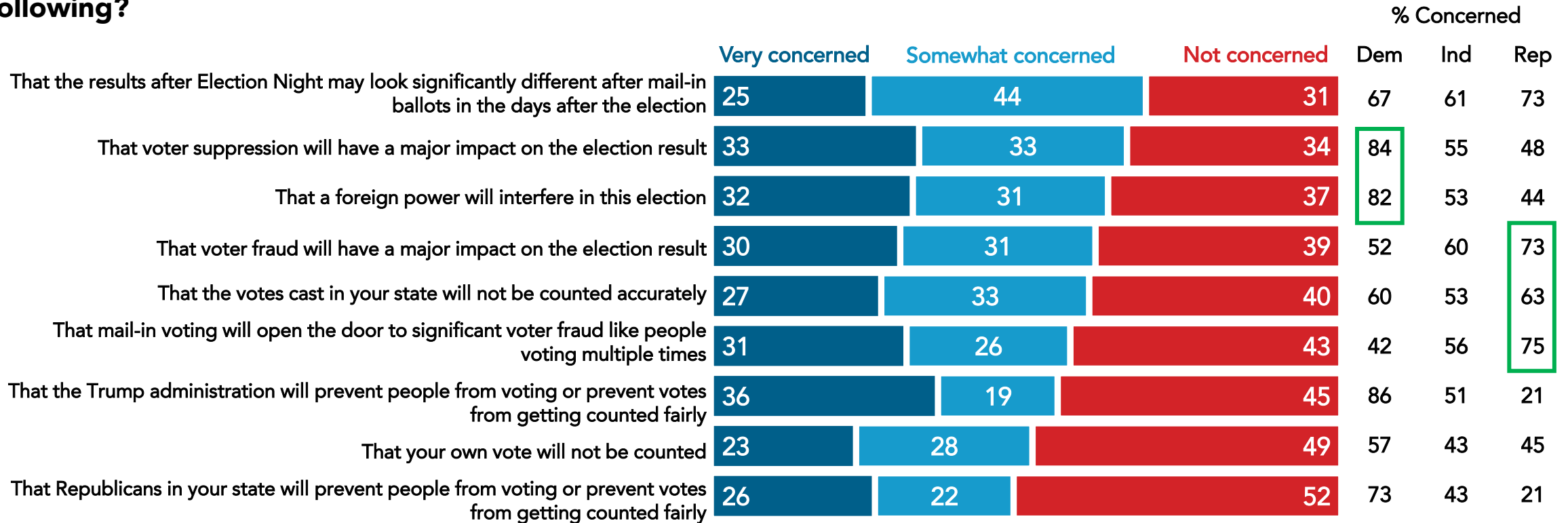


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# Top Concerns About November Election: A Long Count, Voter Suppression, Foreign Interference

While Americans across partisanship are worried about Election Night results changing in the days after, Democrats are more worried about voter suppression and foreign interference, and Republicans about voter fraud.

Thinking about the November election, regardless of who wins, how concerned are you about each of the following?



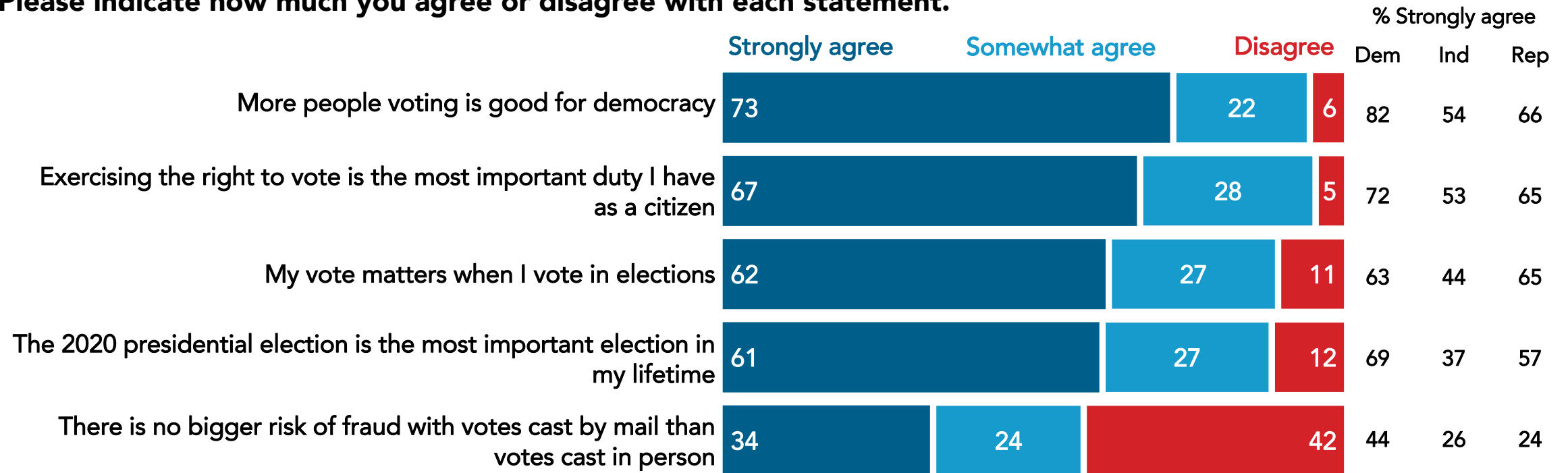
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# Vast Majority Agree More People Voting is Good for Democracy, Exercising Vote Is Important Civic Duty

Three in four Americans agree “more people voting is good for democracy,” including two in three Republicans who “strongly agree.”

- Among those voting in person on Election Day, 49% agree that there is “no bigger risk of fraud” with mail voting than votes cast in person.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement.



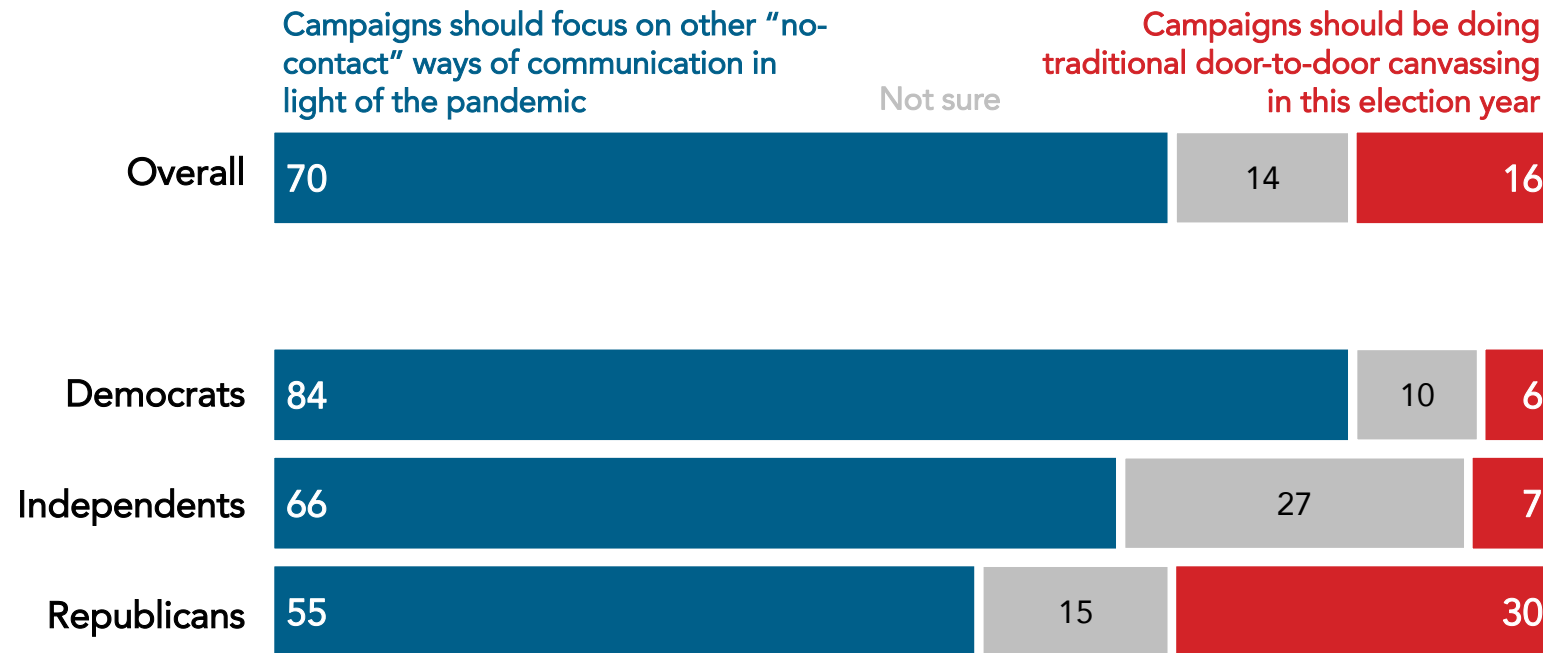
“Those voting in person on Election Day” are defined as those who self-report intending to vote in-person on Election Day in the November 2020 presidential election.  
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# Americans Overwhelmingly Prefer Campaigns Avoid Door-to-Door Canvassing

Seven in ten Americans say that campaigns should be focusing on “no-contact” communications this election cycle while only one in six say campaigns should be doing traditional door-to-door canvassing this year.

- Among Americans 65 and older, 70% say that campaigns should focus on “no-contact” communications.

**Do you think the Biden and Trump presidential campaigns should be doing traditional door-to-door canvassing in this election year or should they focus on other “no-contact” ways of communicating in light of the pandemic?**



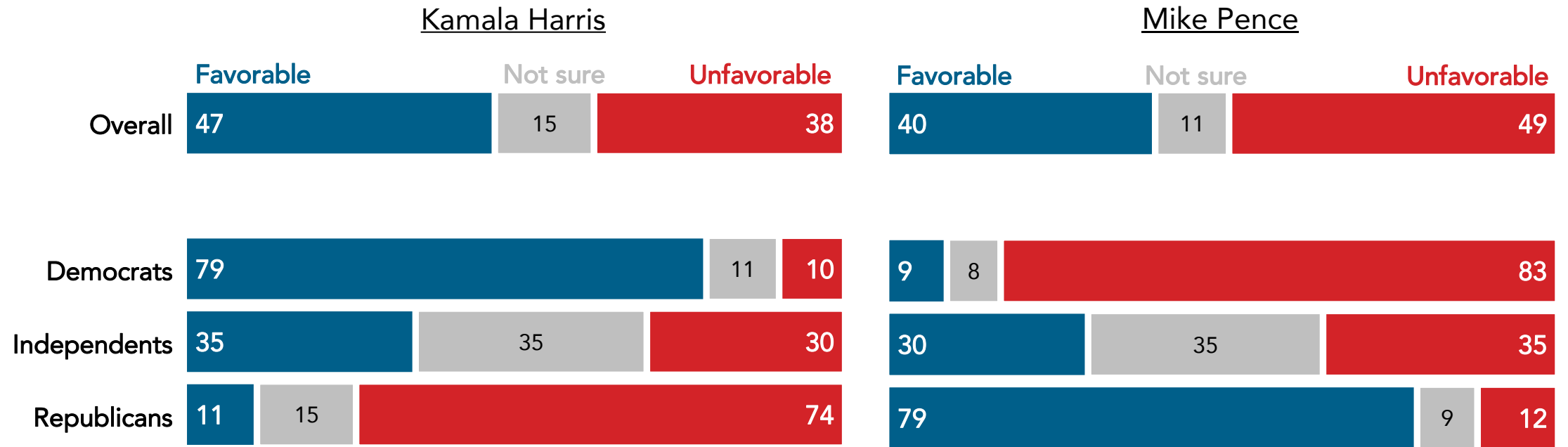
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# More Americans Have Unfavorable View of Mike Pence Than Kamala Harris

While less than two in five have unfavorable views of Kamala Harris, nearly half have unfavorable views of Mike Pence.

- Donald Trump is 15-points underwater on favorability (42% favorable/57% unfavorable) while Joe Biden is 7 points in the positive (52% favorable/45% unfavorable).

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



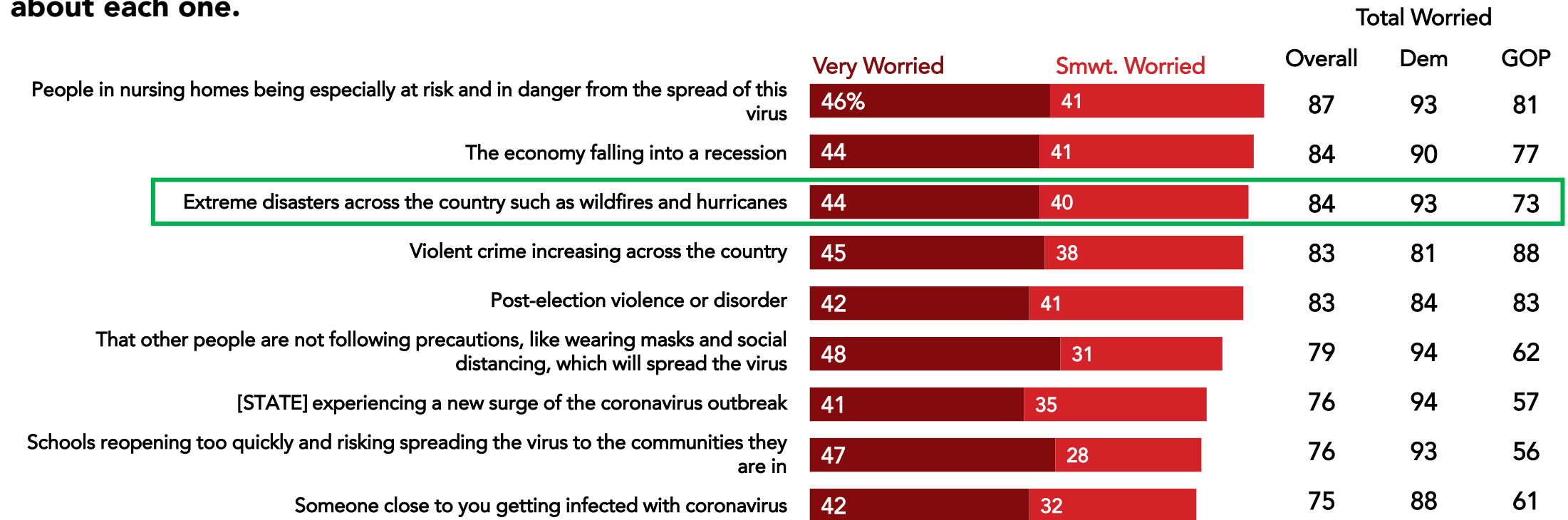
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# Worries Over Extreme Weather Events on Par With Other Major Issues Like Coronavirus and the Economy

Americans are most worried about people in nursing homes being vulnerable to coronavirus, the economy falling into a recession, and extreme disasters like wildfires and hurricanes.

- Both Democrats (93%) and Republicans (73%) are worried about extreme weather disasters.

**Below are some things some people might be worried about right now. Please indicate how worried you are about each one.**



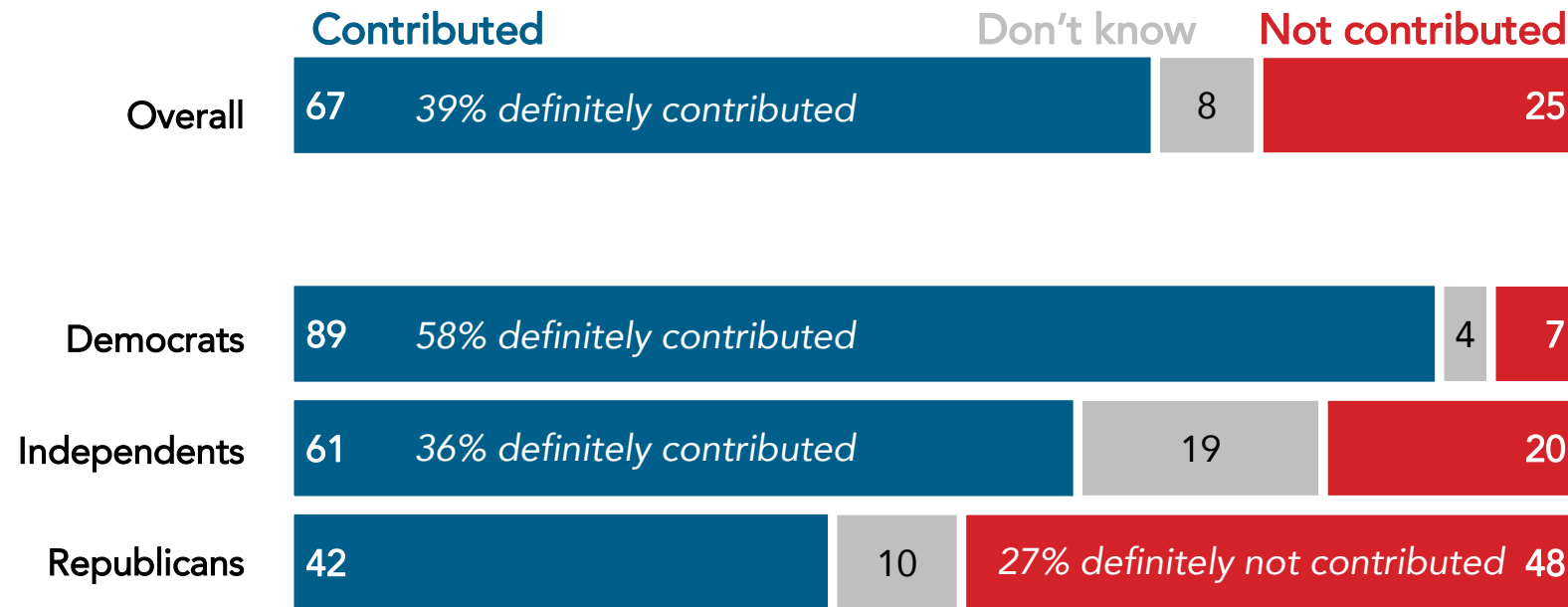
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# Two Thirds Believe Climate Change Probably or Definitely Contributed to Recent Wildfires

Two in three say that climate change has at least “probably” contributed to the recent wildfires, and nearly two in five say it has “definitely” contributed.

- Republicans are split on the issue, with a 6-point gap between the share who say that climate change has contributed (42%) and those who say it has not (48%). Only 27% say it has definitely not contributed.

**As you may know, there have recently been especially large and destructive wildfires in many parts of the country. Do you think climate change has contributed to the severity of these wildfires?**



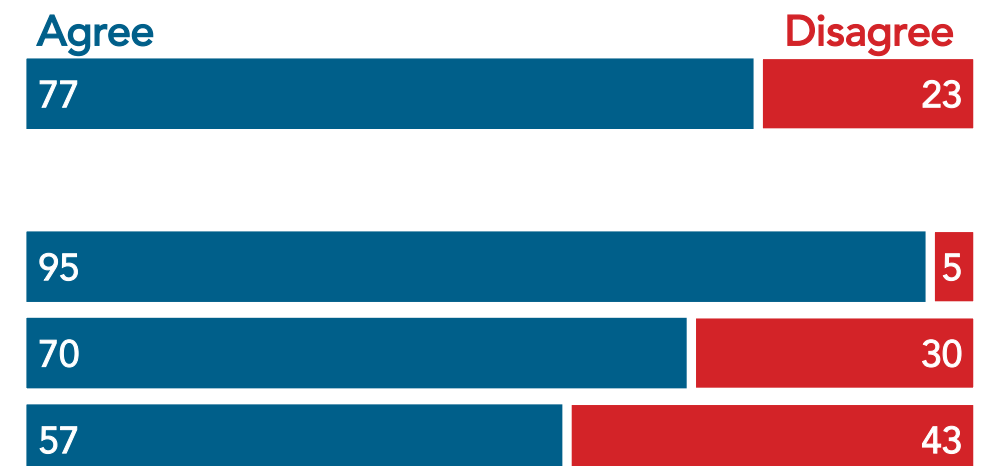
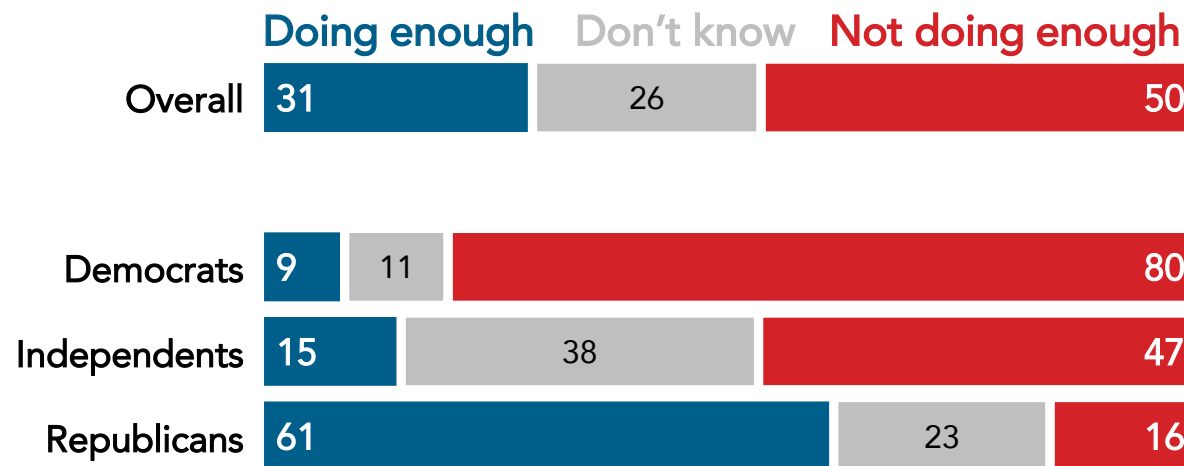
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# Americans Say Trump “Not Doing Enough” on Wildfires and Agree He Is Remaining Silent, Not Helping the Situation

Half of Americans say that Trump and his administration are not doing enough to respond to the recent wildfires and more than three in four agree with a statement criticizing his response.

**Do you think Trump and his administration are doing enough to respond to the wildfires and help communities affected by them, or not?**

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: **While wildfires were destroying millions of acres across the West and taking American lives, Donald Trump remained silent. A president must be a leader for every state in the country, not just those that voted for them.**



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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.

For Press inquiries contact:

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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