

navigator*

navigating*
coronavirus

navigating
the vote*

Update:
Wednesday, October 7

Communicating in Crisis



Key takeaways:

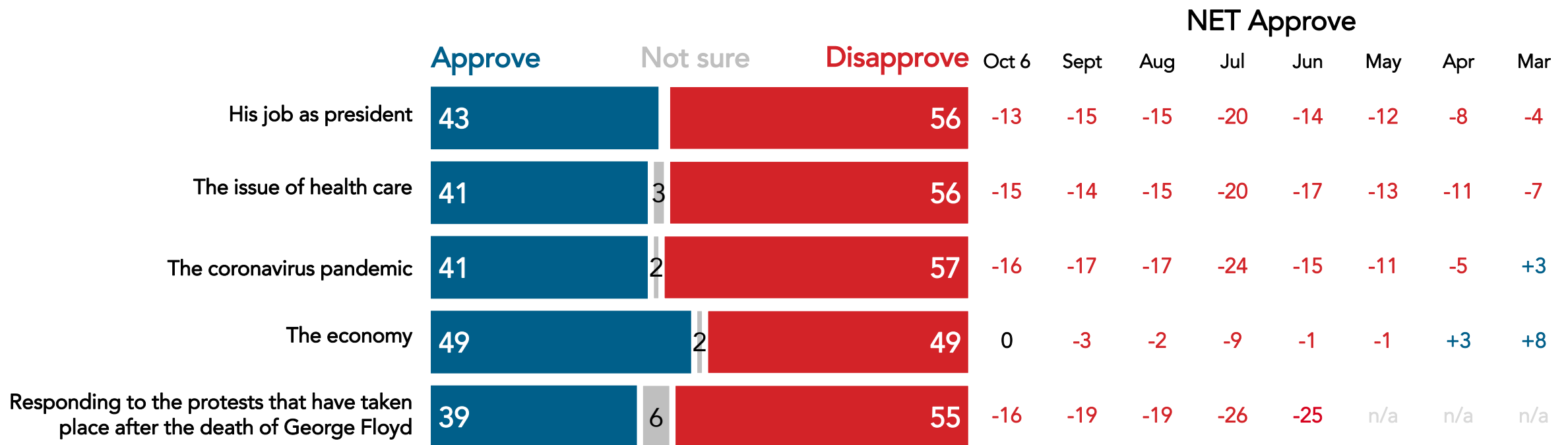
- As coronavirus grows as a top concern, the public continues to give Trump negative marks on his pandemic response and many say it isn't a surprise he contracted the disease.
- Most Americans say Trump caught coronavirus because he was irresponsible, and many express concern that he is spreading it further.
- Americans hold Trump responsible for the rising number of cases around the country.

Trump's Job Approval Ratings Remain in the Negative

Consistent with our cumulative monthly data, Trump's approval ratings remain underwater for him on issues ranging from the pandemic to protests, while he is breaking even on the economy this week.

- Among independents, Trump is at net -29 on his handling of the pandemic (32% approve/61% disapprove).

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



Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; October 2-5, 2020.

Nationwide surveys of registered voters including 3,450 interviews in September, 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.

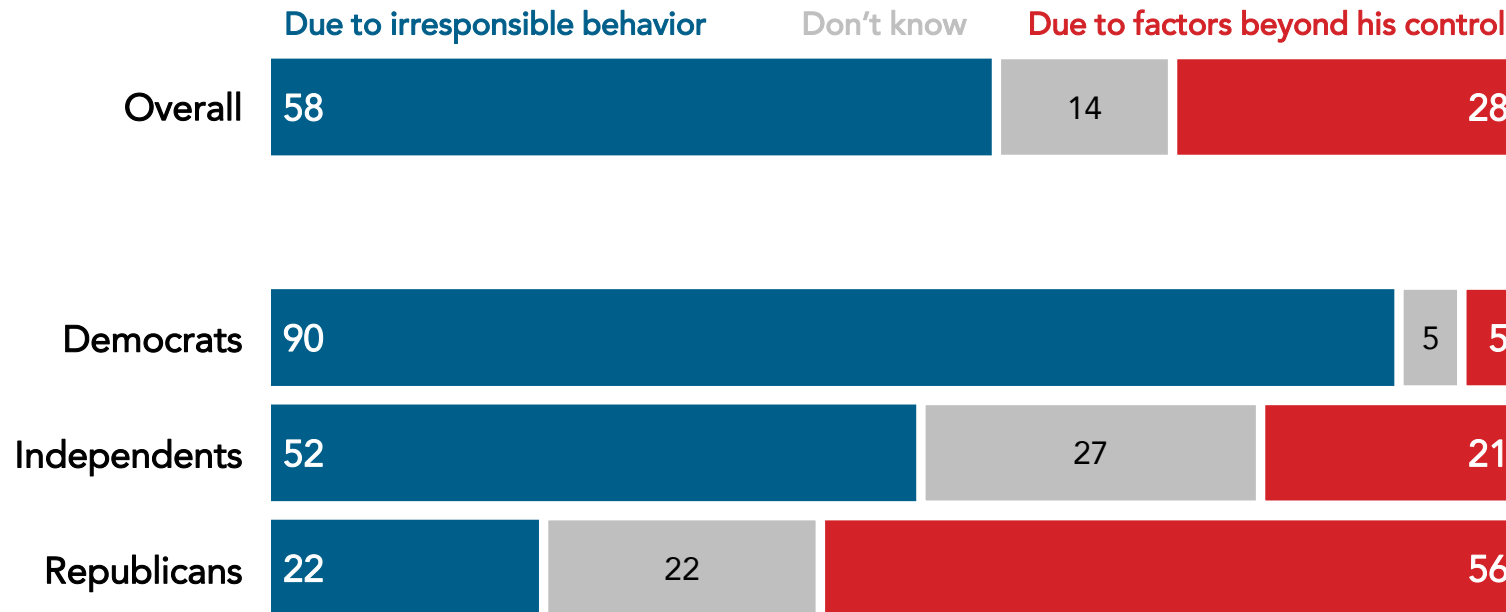
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Majority Think Trump Got Coronavirus Due to Irresponsible Behavior

Nearly three in five think Trump caught coronavirus as a result of irresponsible behavior rather than as a result of factors beyond his control.

- Even one in five Republicans (22%) think Trump caught coronavirus as a result of irresponsible behavior and another 22% are not sure.

Thinking more about this, do you think Donald Trump caught coronavirus...



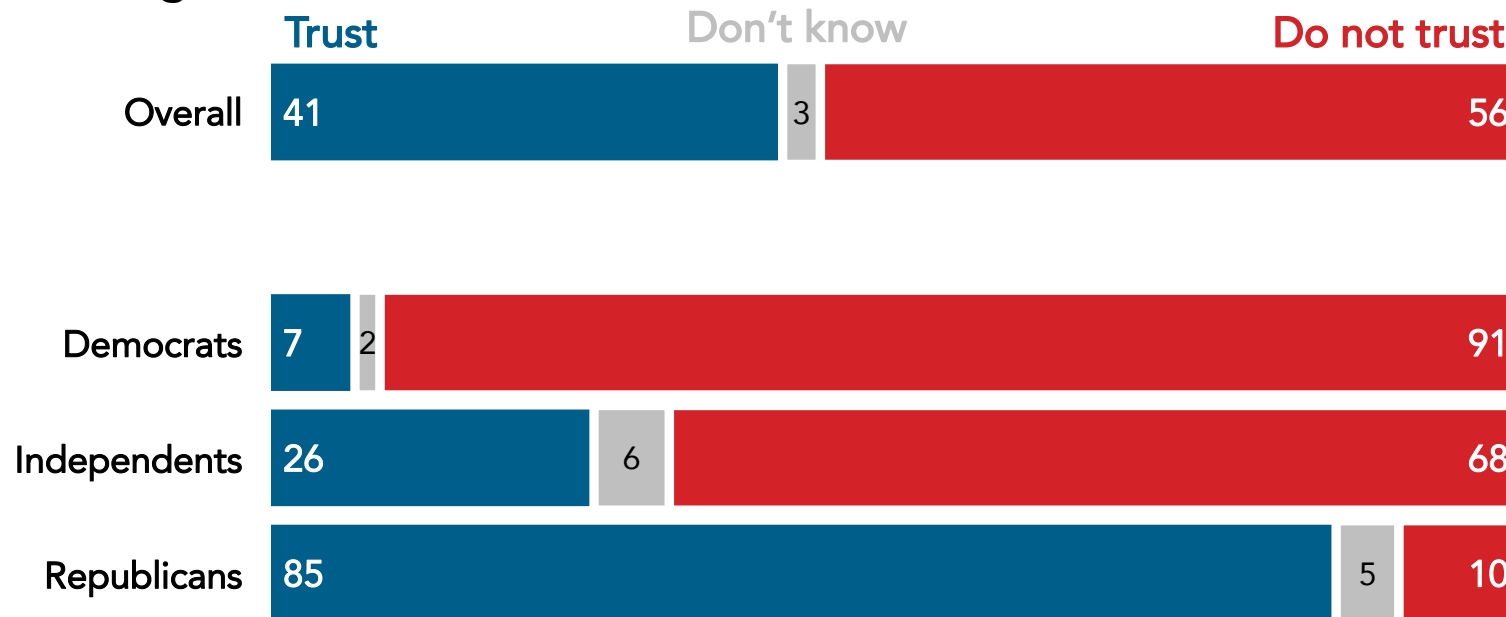
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Most Do Not Trust the President to Be Honest About His Medical Condition

A majority do not trust the president to tell the truth about his medical condition following his diagnosis with coronavirus, including more than two in three independents who do not trust him.

- On a separate question, 54% of Americans say they do not trust the White House to be honest about the president's medical condition, including 60% of independents.

How much do you trust Donald Trump to tell the truth when it comes to his own medical condition following the coronavirus diagnosis?



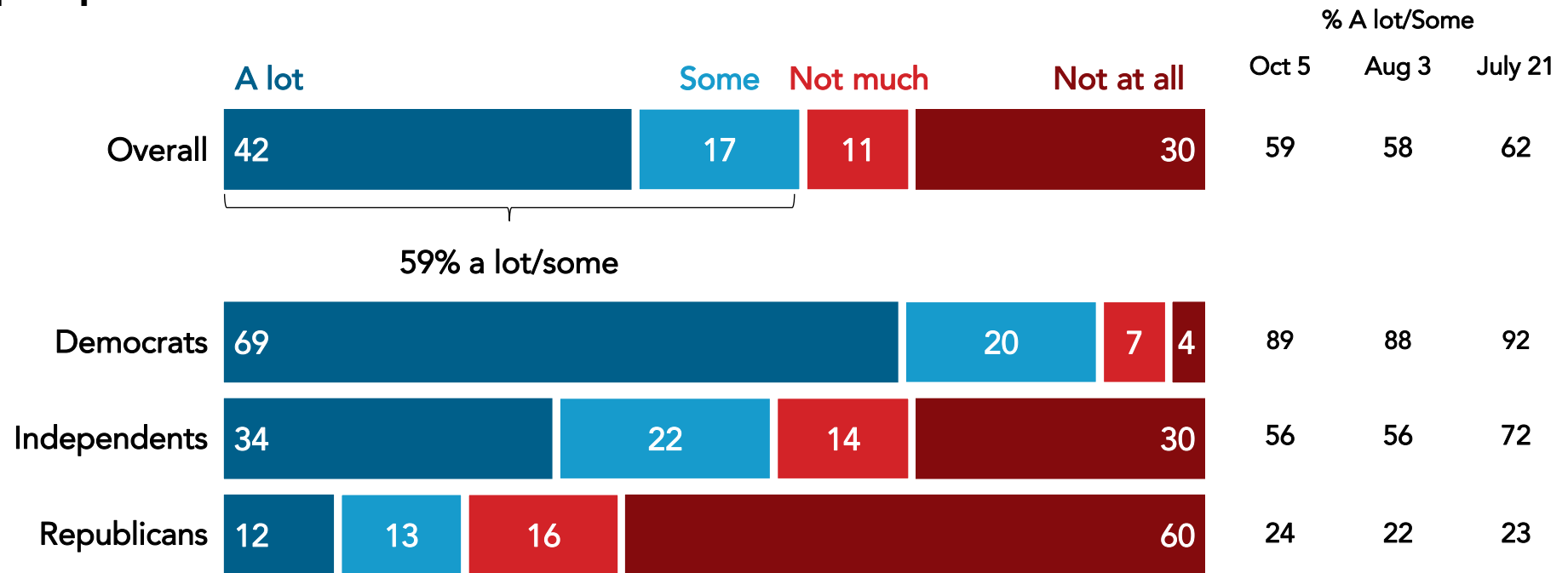
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Consistent Majority of Americans Hold Trump Responsible for Cases Going Up in a Number of States Around the Country

Nearly three in five continue to say they hold Trump responsible at least in part for cases going up around the country.

- More than half of independents (56%) hold Trump responsible for cases going up in a number of states.

As you may know, cases are going up in a number of states around the country. How much do you hold President Trump responsible for that?

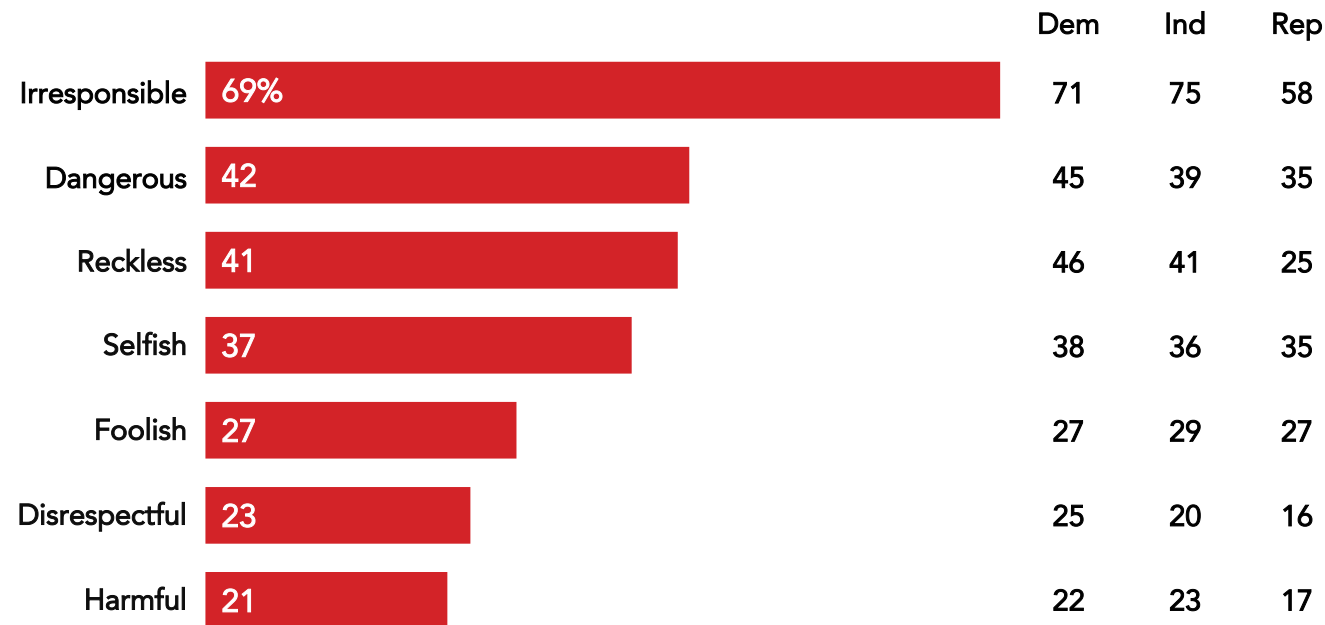


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 2-5, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

“Irresponsible”: Top Descriptor of Trump and His Administration’s Dismissal of Safety Precautions

Of those who say a range of criticisms of Donald Trump’s recent behavior each raise at least minor concerns, more than two in three say Trump’s failure to comply with basic safety precautions is “irresponsible.”

***Some people have criticized President Trump and his administration for ignoring basic safety precautions like wearing masks, social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings. Which of the following words best describes your concerns about this behavior?**



* Asked of those who said in a separate question that a range of criticisms of Trump’s behavior surrounding his diagnosis each raised at least minor concerns. Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; October 2-5, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

On Trump's Diagnosis, Greatest Concerns Are Failing to Stop the Spread and Irresponsibly Spreading

Among those mixed on Trump*, the top concern is trump failing to stop the spread of coronavirus.

Please indicate how concerning each is about Trump and his team's handling of the situation around Trump's positive coronavirus diagnosis.

	% Serious Concerns	
	Overall	Mixed on Trump*
Trump's positive test shows how out of control the virus is and how much Trump has failed to stop its spread. The pandemic has now claimed 200,000 lives, while 7 million more have tested positive, including the President himself, because from the beginning, Trump has ignored experts, downplayed the crisis, and lied about the threat	64	66
Trump's positive test shows how he's failed to set the right example for the American people which is what was needed to get this virus under control. Trump's failure to wear masks and social distance has encouraged many other people to do the same – behavior that has prevented the country from overcoming coronavirus	64	63
Trump's positive test is the result of him and his staff ignoring safety precautions – irresponsible behavior that has exposed countless people to the virus and spread it further. This is the result of Trump and his team refusing to wear masks, follow social distancing, or cancel large gatherings and rallies	64	62
Trump's positive test once again exposes how he cannot be trusted to tell the truth to the public about coronavirus. After one of Trump's senior staff members tested positive, Trump first tried to hide it and cover it up to keep the public from knowing the truth – just like he's lied all along to the public about the true threat of coronavirus	61	53
Trump's positive test shows that if he can't keep himself safe, then he can't keep the rest of us safe. The fact that this virus has infected millions and spread to the highest office in the land, infecting Trump and those close to him, shows that Trump is incapable of getting the virus under control – putting everyone in the country's health and safety at risk	60	50

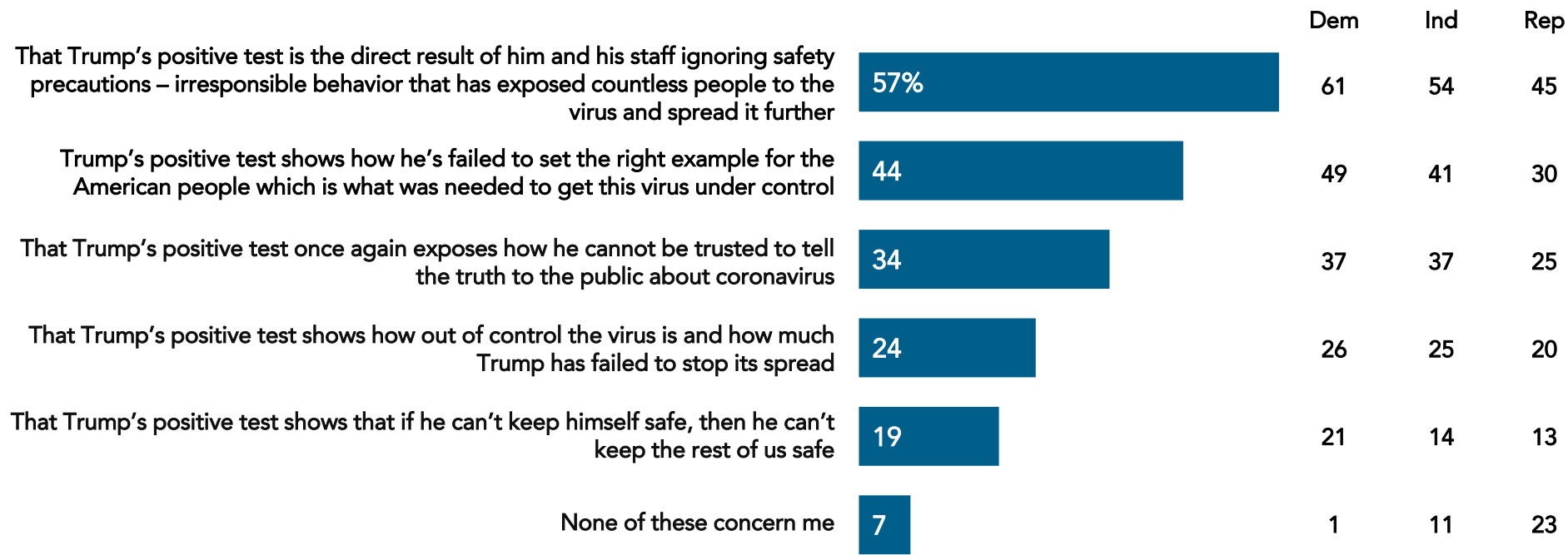
*"Mixed on Trump" refers to Americans that don't always approve or don't always disapprove of Trump's overall job performance, his handling of the economy, his handling the coronavirus pandemic, and his handling of health care. Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; October 2-5, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org



Most Troubling About Trump's Diagnosis: Irresponsible Behavior and Spreading the Virus Further

Americans are most troubled by his irresponsible behavior in exposing others and failing to set the right example for the country amid the pandemic.

***Of the criticisms you just read, which of the following THREE are most troubling to you about Trump's positive test?**



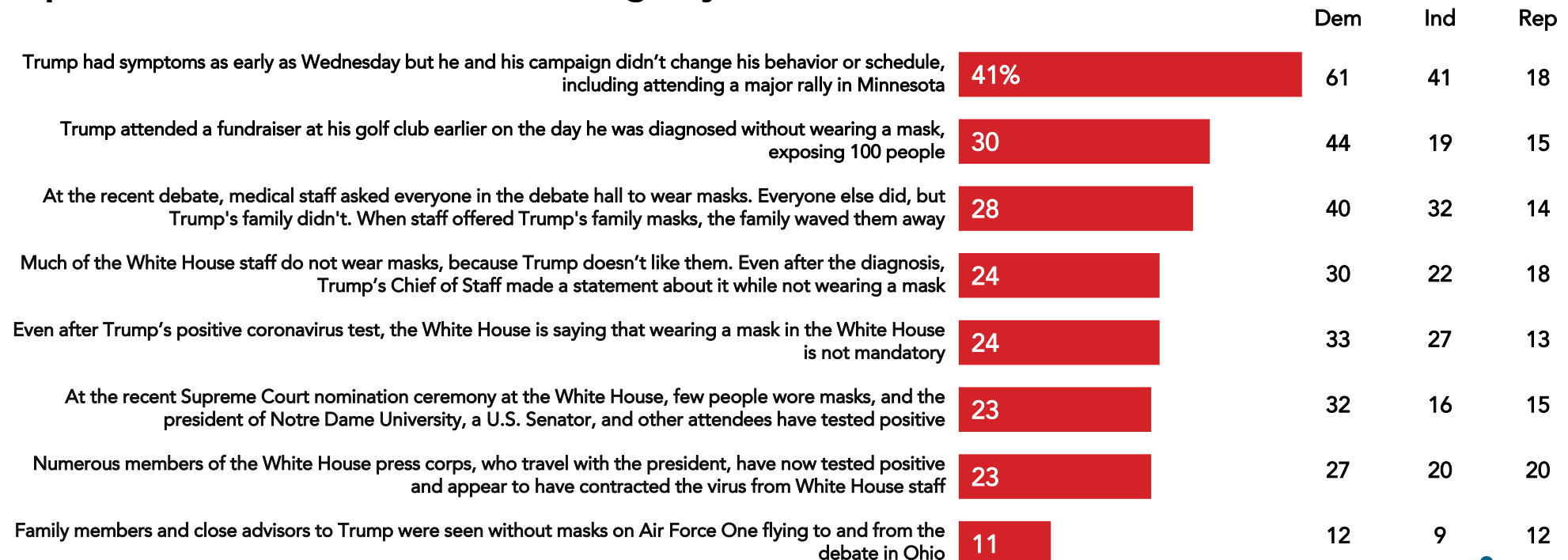
* Asked of those who said in a separate question that a range of criticisms of Trump's behavior surrounding his diagnosis each raised at least minor concerns. Nationwide survey of 1,011 registered voters; October 2-5, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Trump Activities That Could Have Spread the Virus Are the Most Troubling Events Around Diagnosis

Americans find most troubling Trump's attendance of a major rally while having symptoms, attending a fundraiser on the day he was diagnosed, and his refusal to wear a mask at the debate even when asked by medical staff.

- Independents find his rally attendance (41%) and refusal to wear a mask at the debate (32%) most troubling.

Below are some details about the events surrounding Donald Trump's positive coronavirus diagnosis. Please select up to three that are the most troubling to you.



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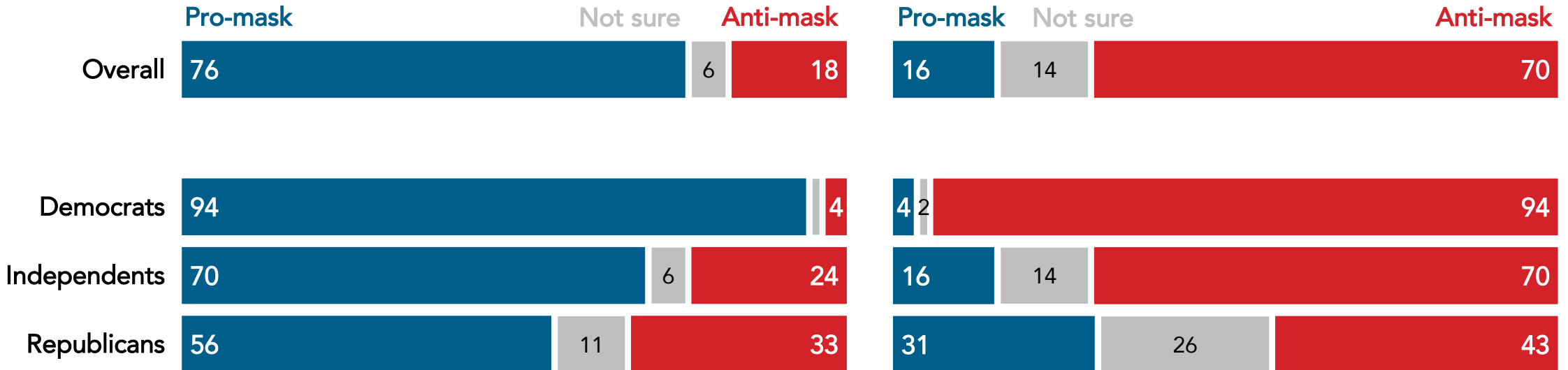
Public Remains “Pro-Mask” and Trump is Still Seen as “Anti-Mask”

Nearly four in five say they are “pro-mask” while nearly the same share say that Trump is “anti-mask.”

- The share who say Trump is “anti-mask” has increased 6 points since last week (from 64% September 28 to 70% today).

There are differing opinions on whether or not people should be wearing masks right now when they are in public, but if you had to choose, would you say that you are generally pro-mask or anti-mask?

Do you think Donald Trump has generally been pro-mask or anti-mask?



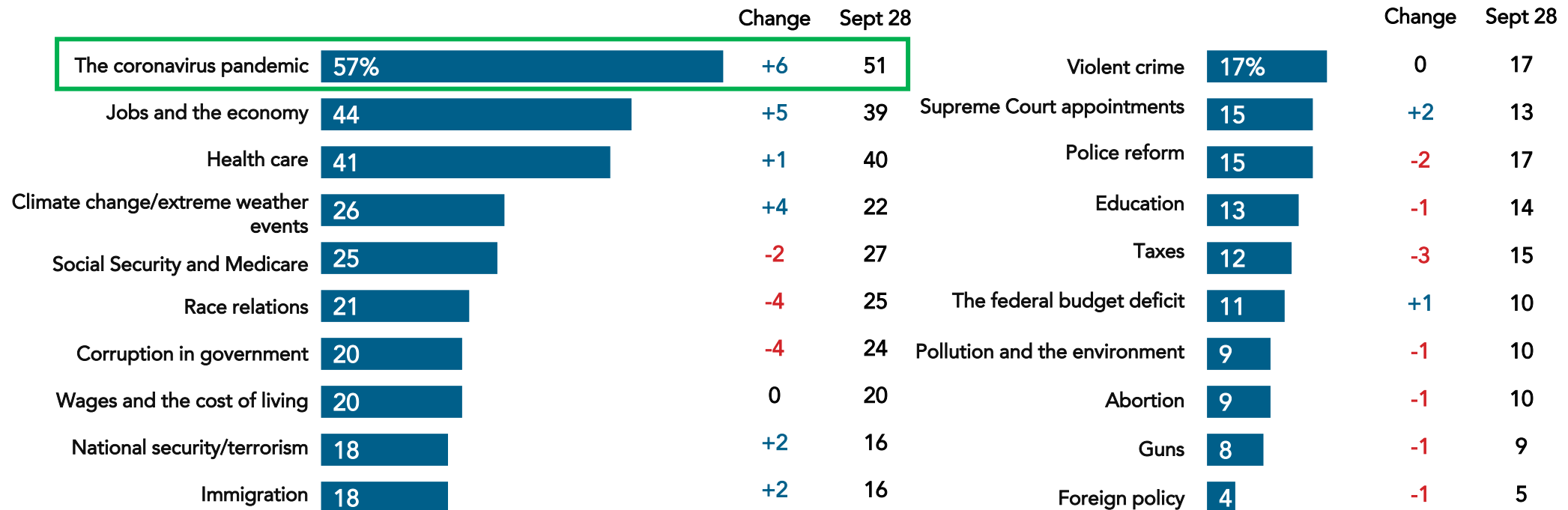
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Pandemic Increasingly a Top Concern for Americans

While coronavirus has consistently been the top-ranking issue for Americans, there has been a 6-point increase in the share who say it is a top concern since last week.

- Other issues that have risen in importance among Americans in the last week include jobs and the economy (up 5 points) and climate change and extreme weather (up 4 points).

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



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Americans Most Concerned By Trump's Handling of Pandemic; Hearing Least About ACA Repeal

Among those who do not strongly approve of Trump's handling of the presidency, their biggest concern is Trump's failed handling of the pandemic: Democrats and independents are also concerned by his refusal to condemn white supremacy while Republicans are concerned by him getting sick and his debate performance.

[If do not strongly approve of Trump's handling of job as president] On which THREE of the following issues do you have the most concerns with how President Trump is handling his job right now?

		Dem	Ind	Rep	% Heard A lot
Trump's failed handling of the coronavirus pandemic as cases continue to rise nationally	35%	55	40	10	54
Trump's refusal to condemn white supremacy	30	45	34	10	52
Trump's push to repeal the Affordable Care Act and kick millions off of their health care	29	43	27	13	42
Trump's attacks on the integrity of the election	25	35	32	11	58
Trump's refusal to follow safety precautions, leading to Trump, his wife, and members of his staff testing positive for coronavirus	21	25	24	15	59
Trump's push to put his appointment on the Supreme Court before the election	20	32	20	6	60
Trump's erratic behavior at the recent presidential debate	19	21	24	15	59
Trump's tax returns were finally exposed and show he's avoided paying taxes for years	14	18	20	8	53
(Not asked: Strongly approve of Trump's handling of job as president)	28	3	13	63	n/a

*Numbers come from separate question: "Below is a list of criticisms that some people have made about Donald Trump lately. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with these criticisms, how much have you seen, read, or heard lately about each of the following?"

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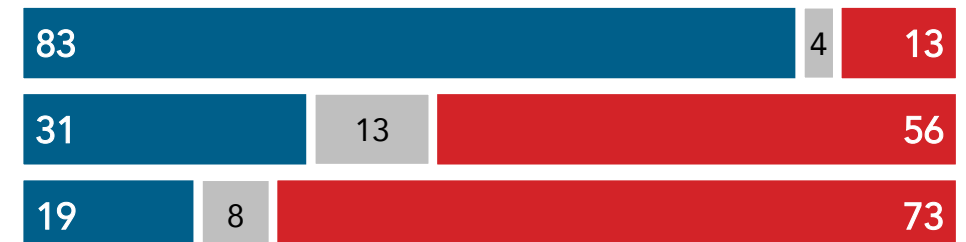
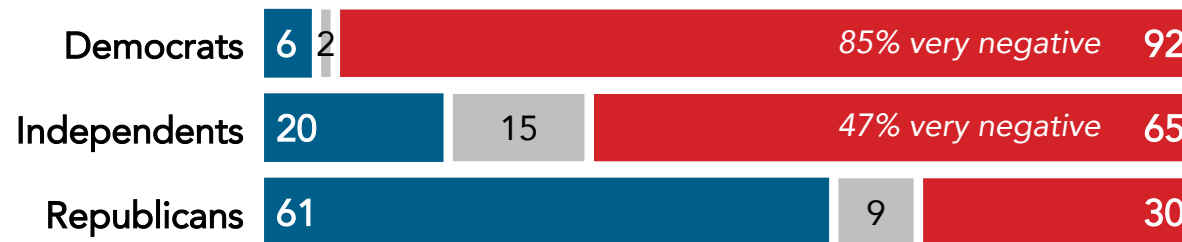
Americans See Biden's Debate Performance Much More Positively Than Trump's

Nearly two in three say they have a negative impression of Trump's recent debate performance, including more than half who say they have a "very negative" impression, while a majority give Biden positive marks.

- More independents view Trump's performance negatively (65% negative) than Biden's (56%), though a majority view each negatively.

Based on anything you have seen, read, or heard, what is your overall impression of Donald Trump's performance at the presidential debate?

Based on anything you have seen, read, or heard, what is your overall impression of Joe Biden's performance at the presidential debate?

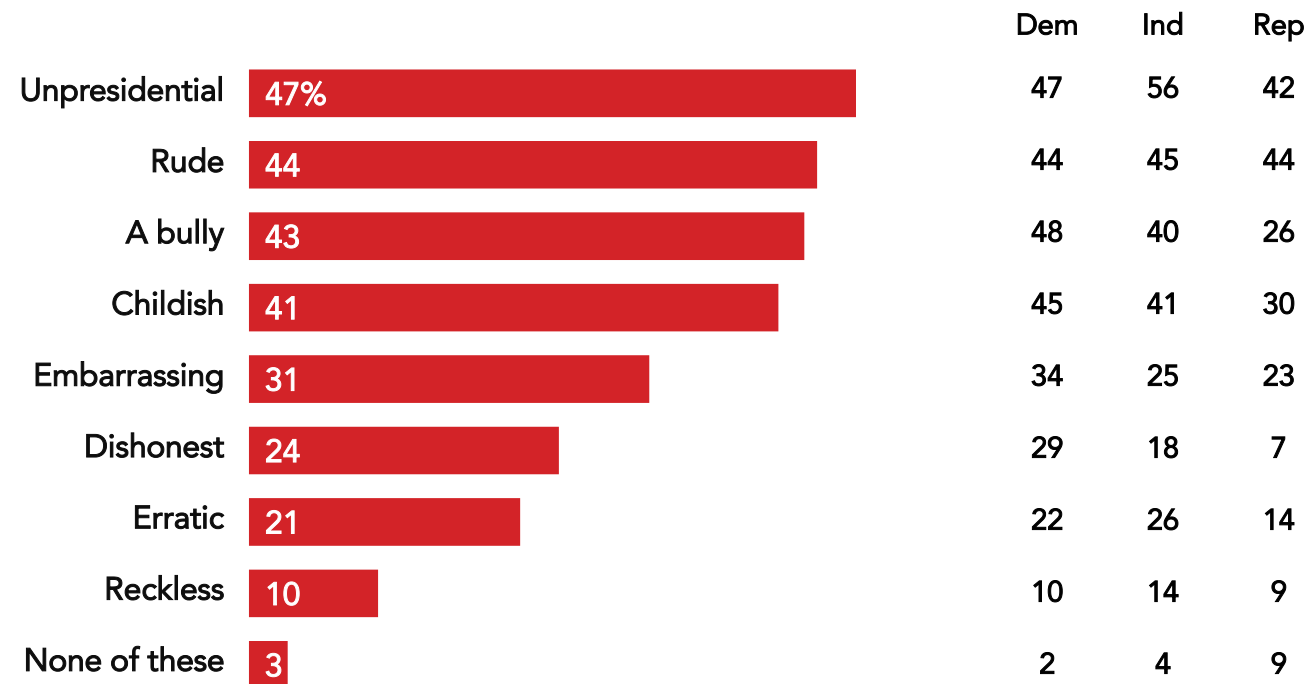


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“Unpresidential” and “Rude” Top Negative Descriptors of Trump’s Debate Performance

Among those who view Trump’s performance at the recent debate negatively, nearly half say that his performance was “unpresidential” and “rude.”

[If negative impression of Trump’s performance] You mentioned you had a negative impression of Trump’s performance. Which of the following words best describe what bothered you about Trump’s performance?



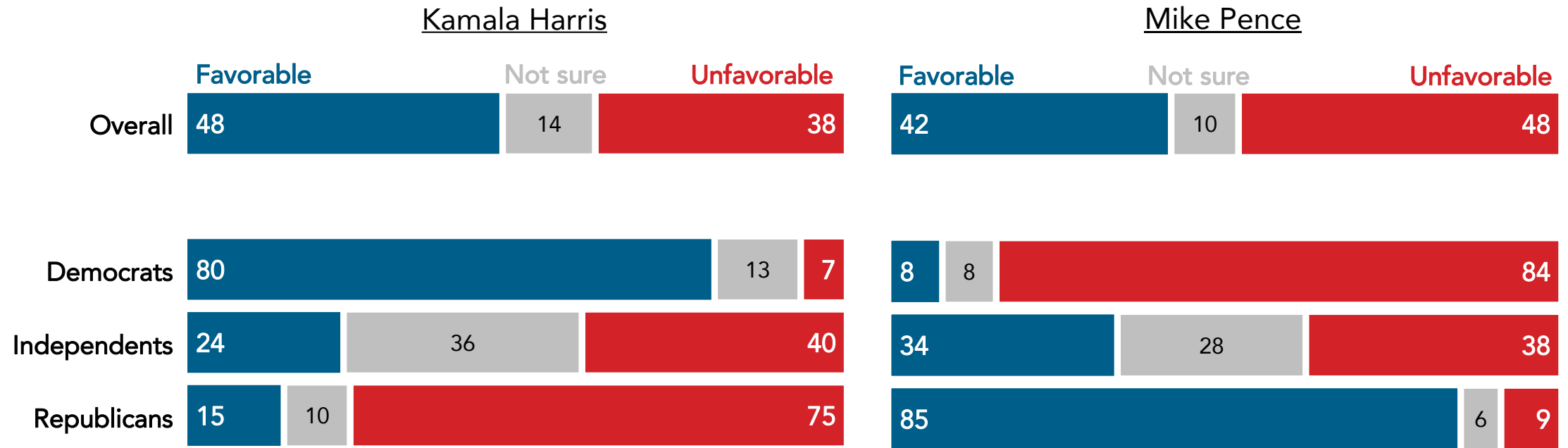
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Entering Vice Presidential Debate, More Have Favorable Views of Kamala Harris Than Mike Pence

Nearly half view Kamala Harris favorably while the same share view Mike Pence unfavorably, and only two in five have a favorable view of the vice president.

- Donald Trump is 11-points underwater on favorability (44% favorable/55% unfavorable) while Joe Biden is 9 points above water (53% favorable/44% unfavorable).

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 1,011 registered voters from October 2-5, 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.

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