

navigator*

navigating*
coronavirus

navigating
the vote*



Update:
Wednesday, October 14

Communicating in Crisis

Key takeaways:

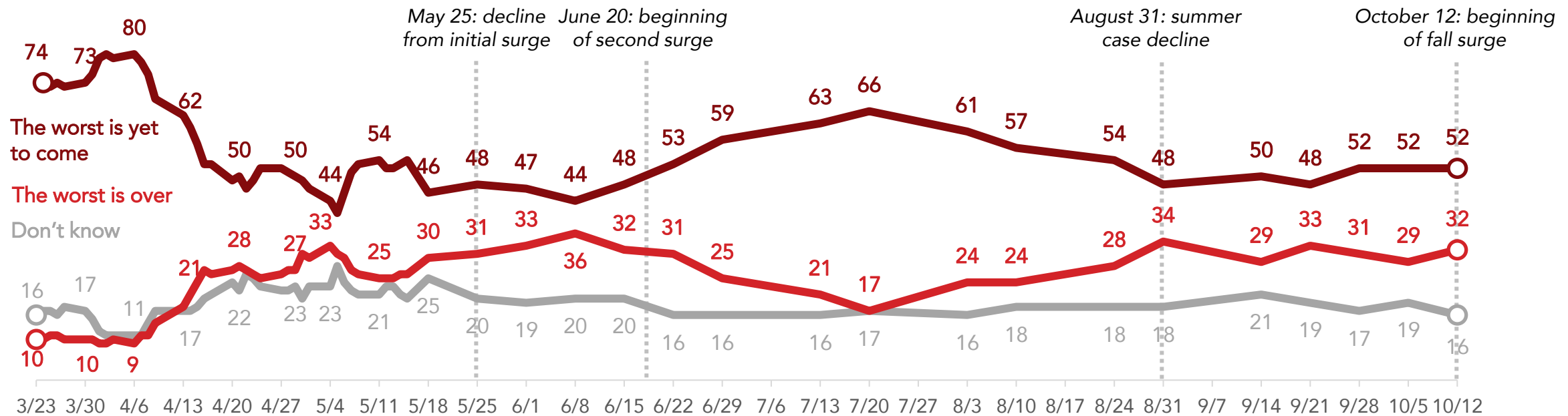
- Americans are worried the pandemic is surging: the share who say “the worst is yet to come” in the pandemic and who support “more aggressive social distancing” are climbing back to the levels seen in July amid surging cases.
- Coronavirus remains Americans’ top policy priority for the president and Congress to be focused on.
- Three in five say Trump is “not doing enough” on the pandemic and say he is showing poor leadership and behaving irresponsibly.

Majority Continue to Say "Worst is Yet to Come" in Pandemic

More than half of Americans say the "worst is yet to come," while just one in three say the "worst is over."

- Among independents, 61% say the "worst is yet to come" in the pandemic and 22% say the "worst is over."

When it comes to the coronavirus pandemic in the United States, do you personally think that...



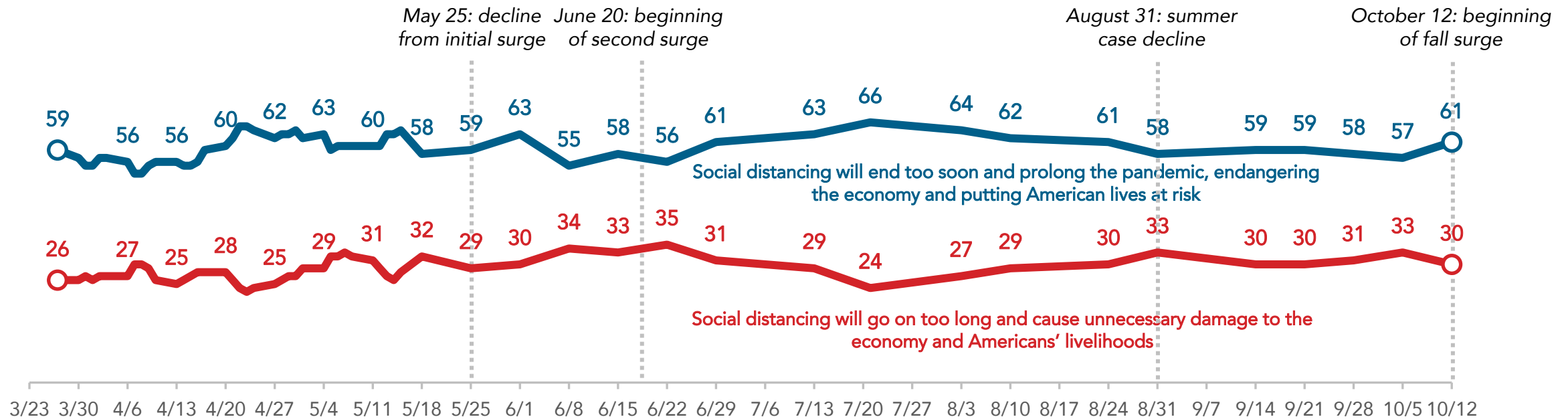
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 8-12, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Majority More Concerned About Social Distancing Ending Too Soon Rather Than Going on Too Long

Three in five are more concerned social distancing will end too soon and prolong the pandemic while only three in ten are more concerned social distancing will go on too long and hurt the economy.

- Even among Republicans, 40% say they are more concerned social distancing will end too soon and prolong the pandemic, while 51% say they 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?



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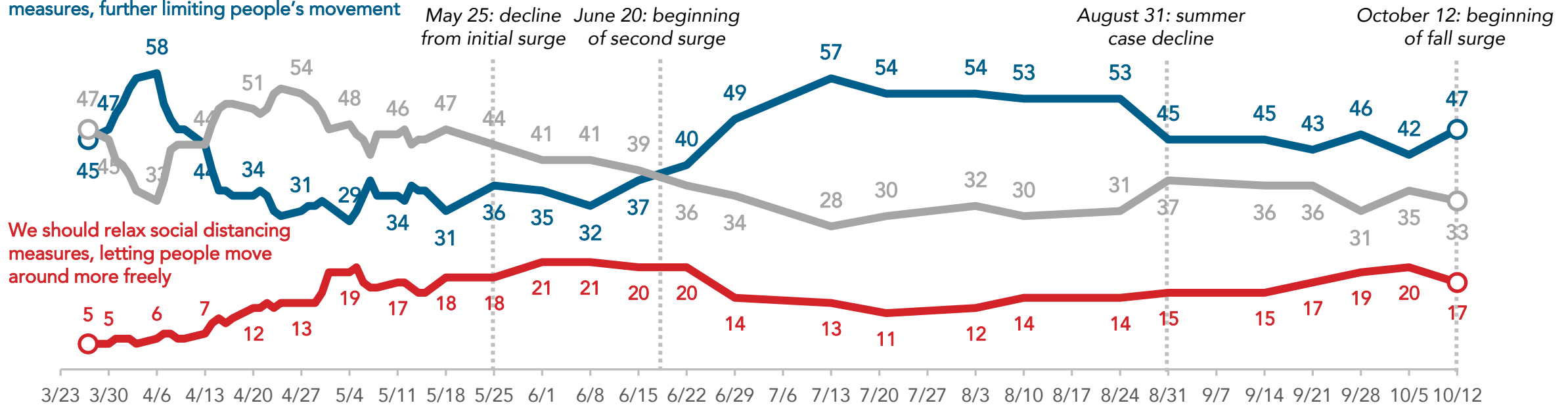
Support for More Aggressive Social Distancing Is On the Rise

Nearly half say the country needs “more aggressive social distancing measures,” while just one in three say we are currently “doing the right thing,” and less than one in five say we should “relax social distancing measures.”

When it comes to social distancing, what do you think we, as a country, need to be doing right now?

We are currently doing the right thing when it comes to social distancing

We need more aggressive social distancing measures, further limiting people’s movement



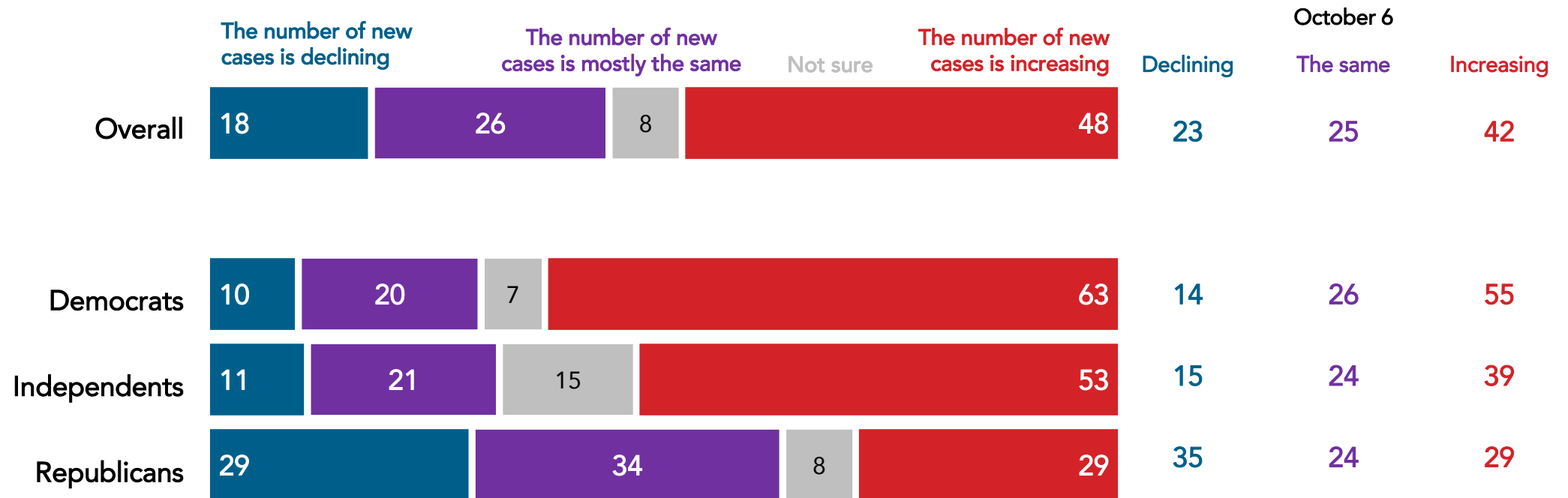
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Americans Once Again See Cases in Their State Increasing

In the last week, the share who say the number of new cases is increasing in their state has grown 6 points and the share who say the number of new cases in their state is declining has dropped 5 points.

- Among independents, the share who say the number of cases in their state is increasing has grown 14 points since last week (from 39% to 53%).

How would you describe what is going on in [STATE] in regard to the coronavirus?



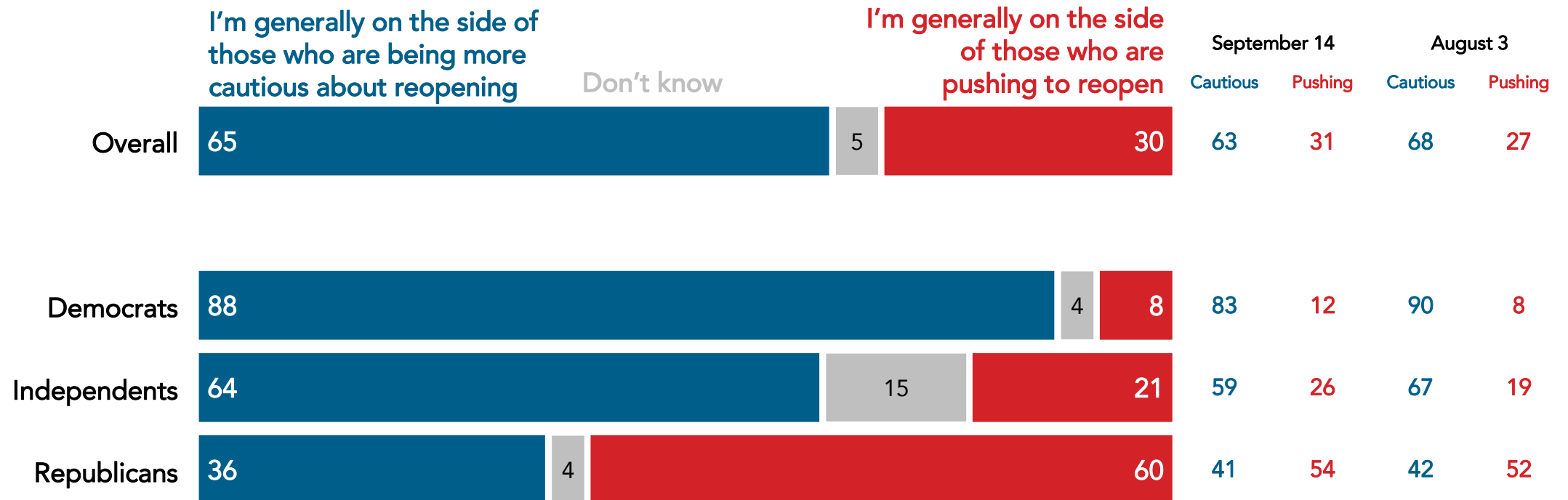
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Americans Continue to Overwhelmingly Side With “Caution”

Two in three say they are more on the side of being cautious about reopening as opposed to only three in ten who say they are on the side of those who are pushing to reopen.

- A majority of independents (64%) say they are generally on the side of being more cautious.

As you may know, decisions around how and when to reopen are complicated. But generally speaking, which side are you on?



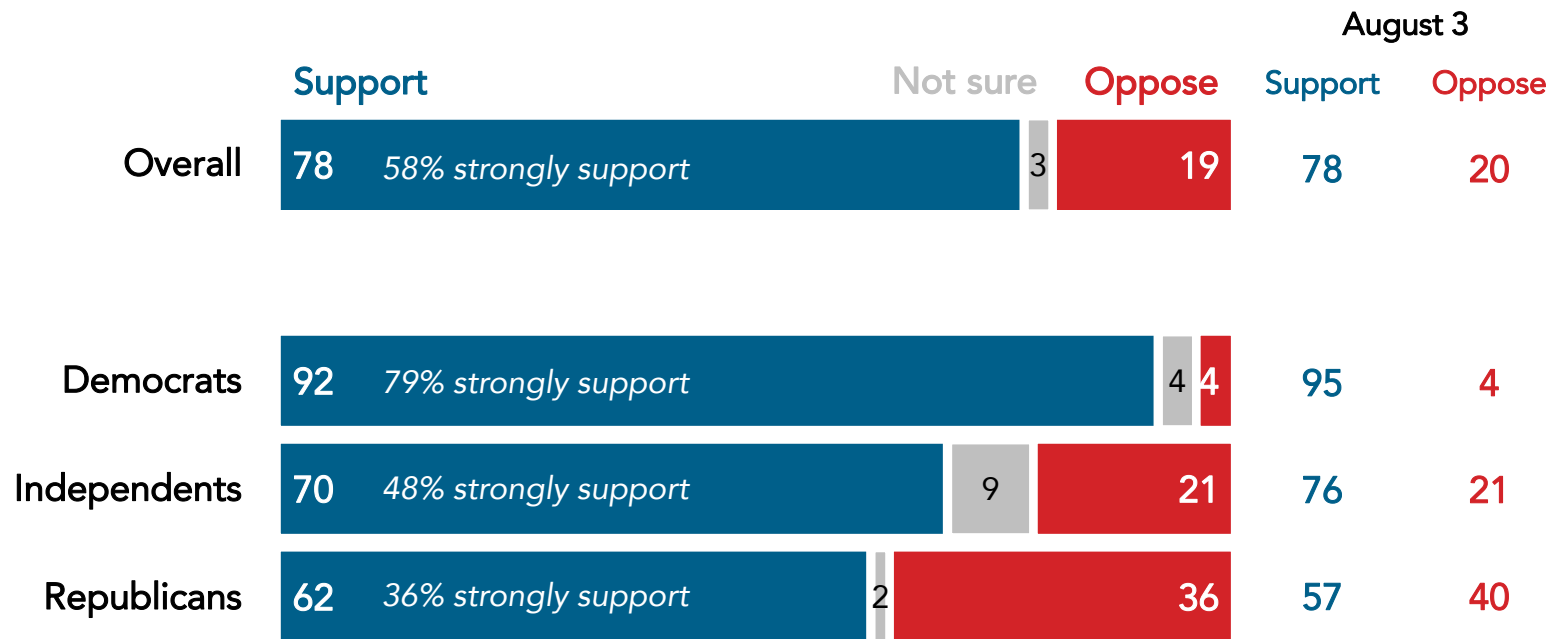
Nationwide survey of 1,003 registered voters; October 8-12, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Vast – and Bipartisan – Majority Supports Mask Mandate

More than three in four support having a law requiring people wear masks in their state.

- Such a law enjoys majority support from Democrats (92%), independents (70%), and Republicans (62%), with a 5-point increase in Republican support since August 3 (from 57% to 62%).

As you may know, state and local governments in some parts of the country have put in place laws requiring people to wear masks in public places. Do you support or oppose having a law requiring people wear masks in your state?



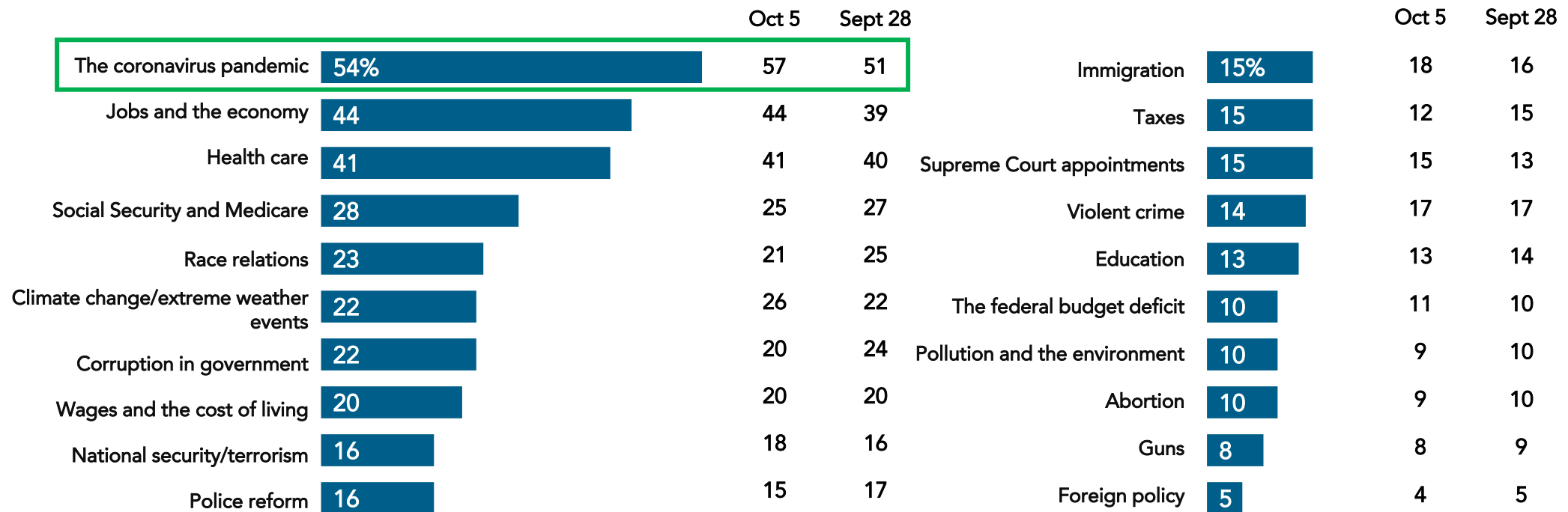
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Pandemic Remains a Top Concern for Americans

A majority of Americans continue to choose the pandemic as a top issue for the President and Congress to focus on.

- Jobs and the economy and health care also remain top issues for Americans.
- One in six (15%) also continue to rate Supreme Court appointments as a top issue.

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 1,003 registered voters; October 8-12, 2020.
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Coronavirus Dominates the Negative Conversation Around Trump This Week

The share who report hearing mostly negative or an equal mix of positive and negative things about Trump this week has reached 82%, compared to 79% the week before and 74% the week before that. Those hearing negative things about Trump this week focus on his response to coronavirus and his behavior after contracting the virus.

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

October 12



“That **he is handling the virus wrong**. That **he infected the entire White House** with the virus.”

“He **has active COVID-19** and **he's not quarantining** and is also not always wearing a mask.”

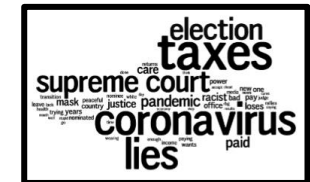
“That **he has not taken the coronavirus seriously** and is endangering the lives of others especially in the White House.”

“The fact that **he continually downplays the coronavirus** and ignores mask wearing and social distancing, even though he has contracted the disease himself.”

October 5



September 28



September 21



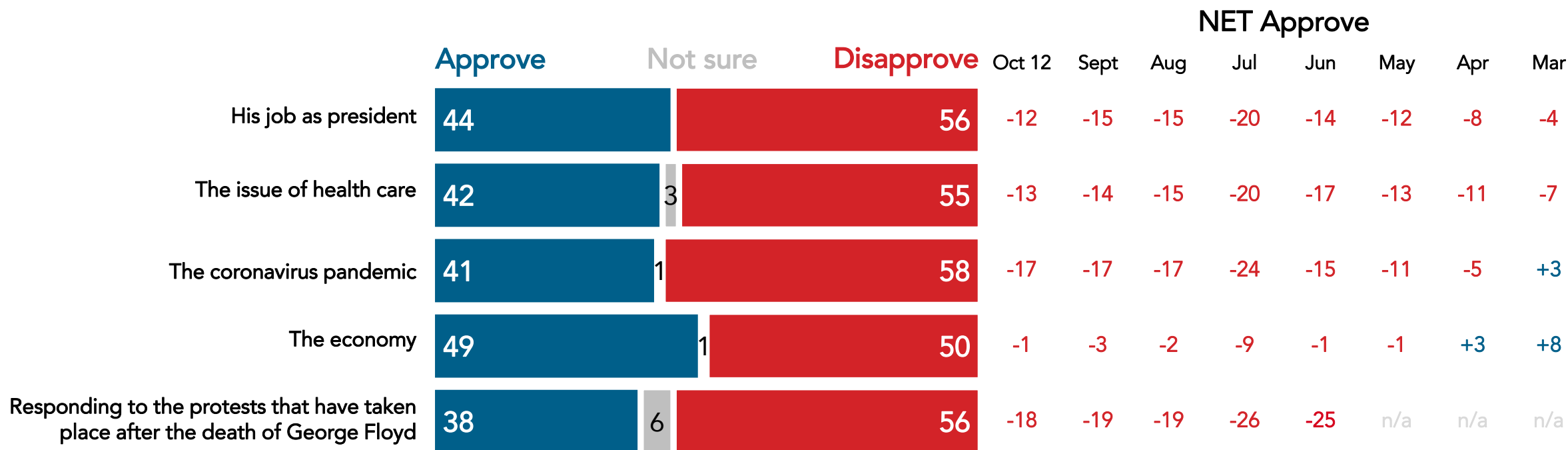
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Negative Views Persist of Trump's Handling of Range of Issues

Trump's approval ratings remain underwater on everything from the economy to handling the pandemic.

- Among independents, Trump is just breaking even on the economy (46% approve/46% disapprove), and on the pandemic, is underwater by 25 points (34% approve/59% disapprove).

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



Nationwide survey of 1,003 registered voters; October 8-12, 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.

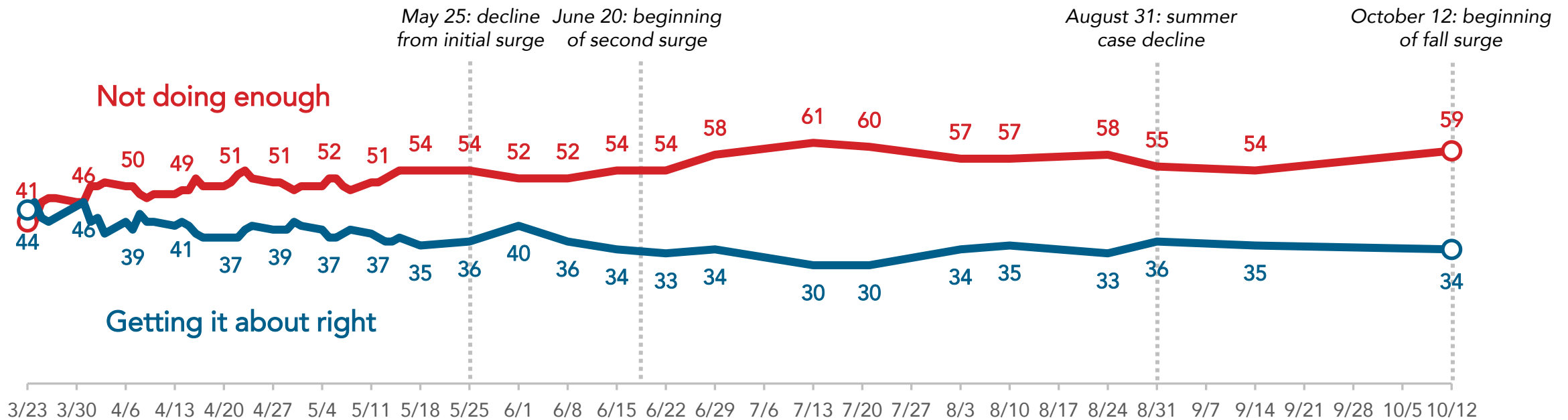
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Three in Five Say Trump “Not Doing Enough” on Pandemic

The majority of Americans say that Trump is “not doing enough” on handling the pandemic, approaching the level who said the same mid-July during the surge in new cases that took place in the U.S. this summer.

- On a separate question, 58% say that America is doing worse than most other countries in the world with our response to the coronavirus pandemic, including more than a third (35%) who say we are doing “much worse.”

When it comes to Donald Trump and his administration’s current response to the coronavirus pandemic, do you think they are...

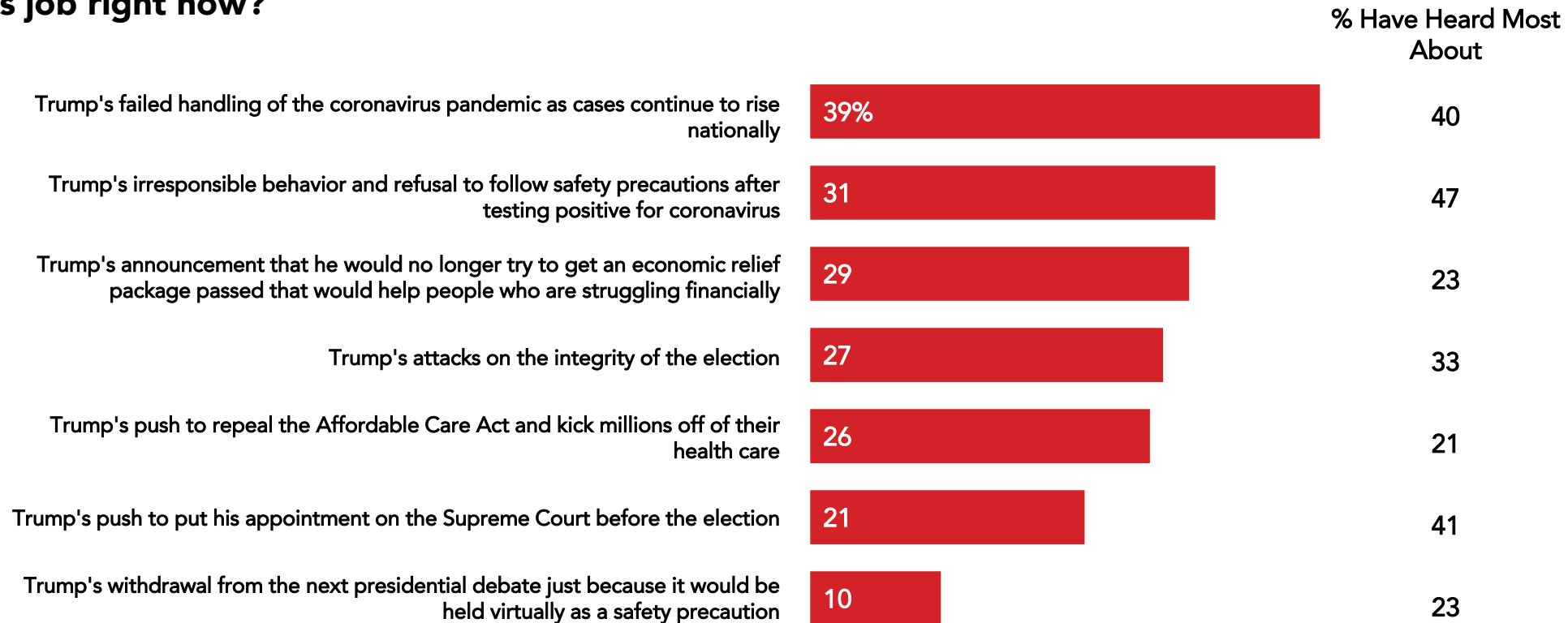


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Pandemic Tops List of Americans' Greatest Concerns About Trump

The top two issues Americans have the most concerns about on how Trump is handling his job – his failed handling of the pandemic and irresponsible behavior – are two of the issues Americans are also hearing about most.

On which of the THREE following issues do you have the most concerns with how President Trump is handling his job right now?



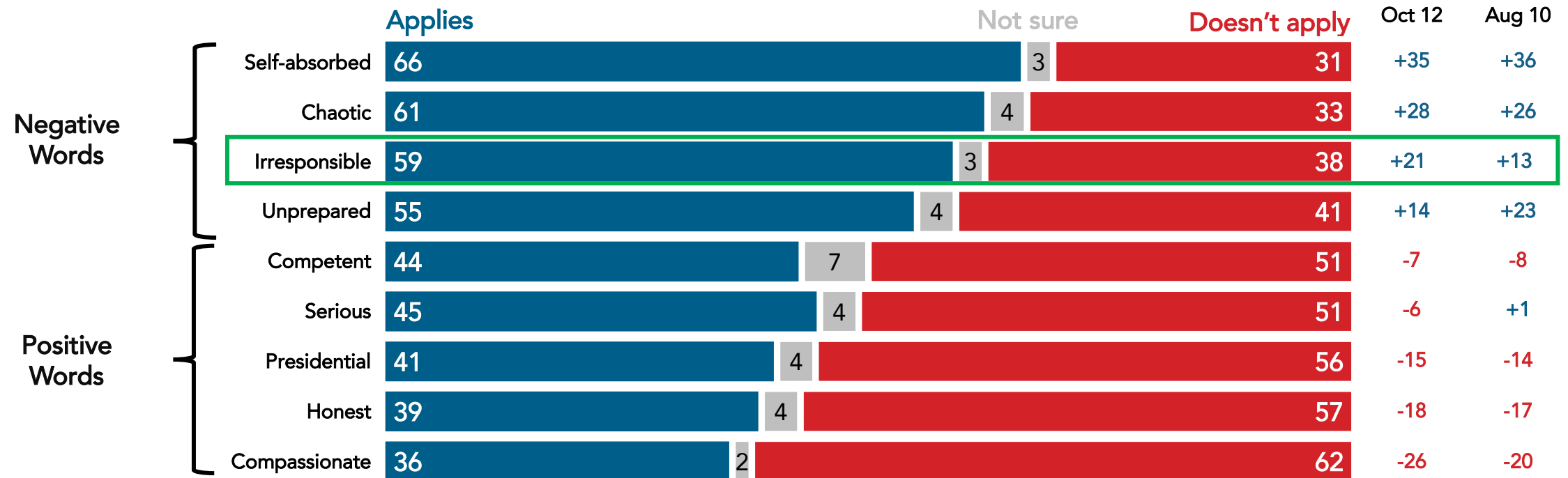
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Trump's Presidency: "Self-Absorbed," "Chaotic," & "Irresponsible"

The majority of Americans say that negative words, including self-absorbed, chaotic, irresponsible, and unprepared, apply to Donald Trump's handling of the presidency while less than half say positive words apply.

- Among independents, majorities say "self-absorbed" (60%) and "chaotic" (64%) apply to Trump's handling of the presidency.

Please indicate how well each of the following words or phrases apply to the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president.

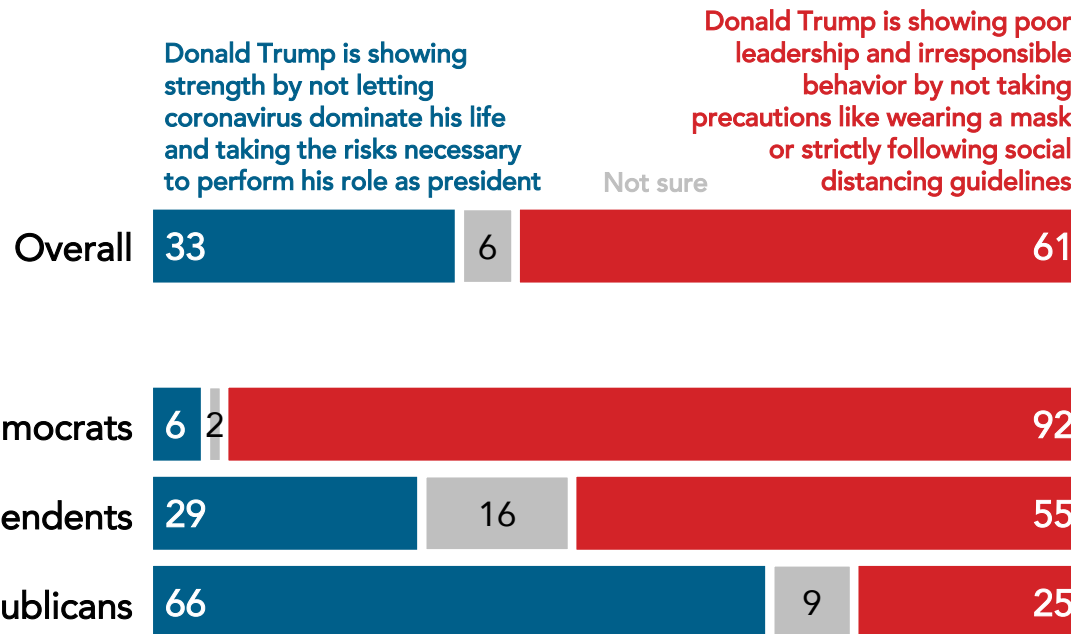


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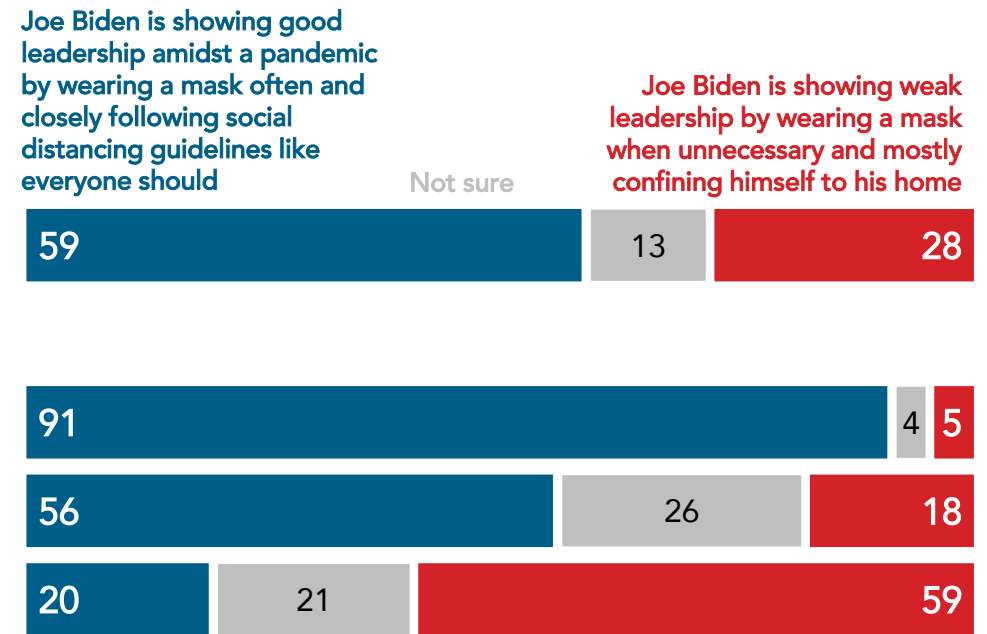
Public Sees Poor Leadership in Trump's Refusal to Take Precautions or Wear a Mask

Just a third see Trump as showing strength by not taking precautions like wearing a mask or strictly social distancing, while three in five see Joe Biden as a good leader for observing these precautions "like everyone should."

There has been some debate recently about how often Trump wears a mask and follows social distancing guidelines. Which of the following better describes your opinion of **Donald Trump's** approach?



Flipping that around... Which of the following better describes your opinion of **Joe Biden's** approach?



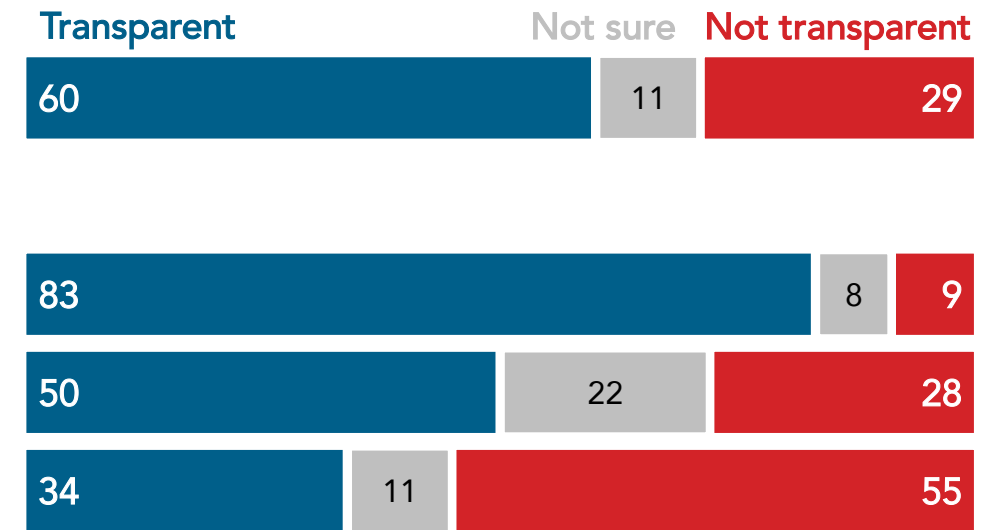
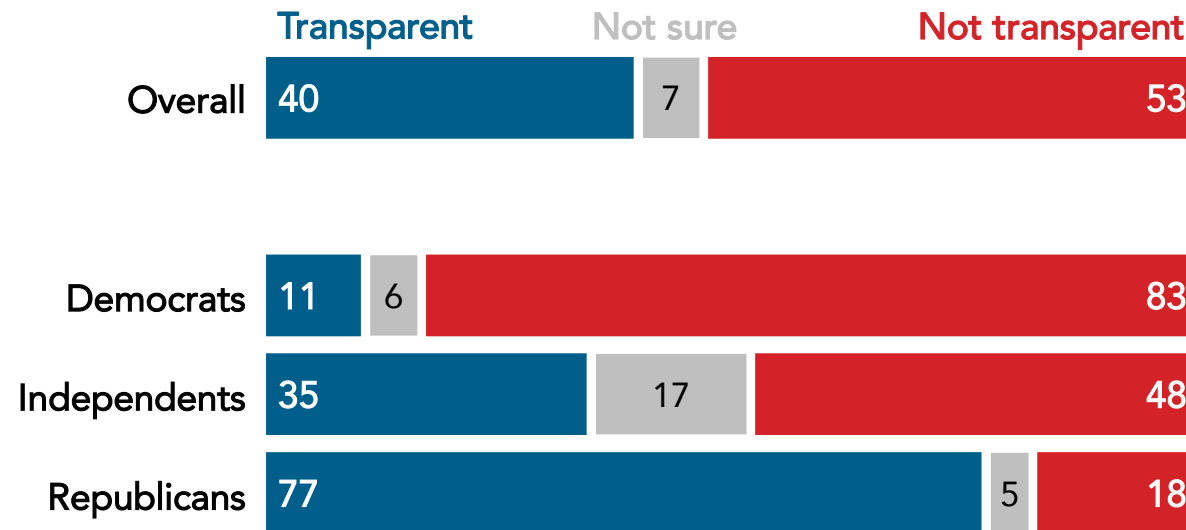
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Americans Say Biden Has Been Transparent About His Health, But Trump Has Not

Majorities say Trump and the White House have not been transparent enough about the president's medical condition, and that Joe Biden has been transparent enough about his own medical condition since Trump's diagnosis.

Do you think **Donald Trump and the White House** have been transparent enough about his medical condition?

Do you think **Joe Biden** has been transparent enough about his own medical condition and the results of the coronavirus tests he has gotten since debating with Donald Trump?



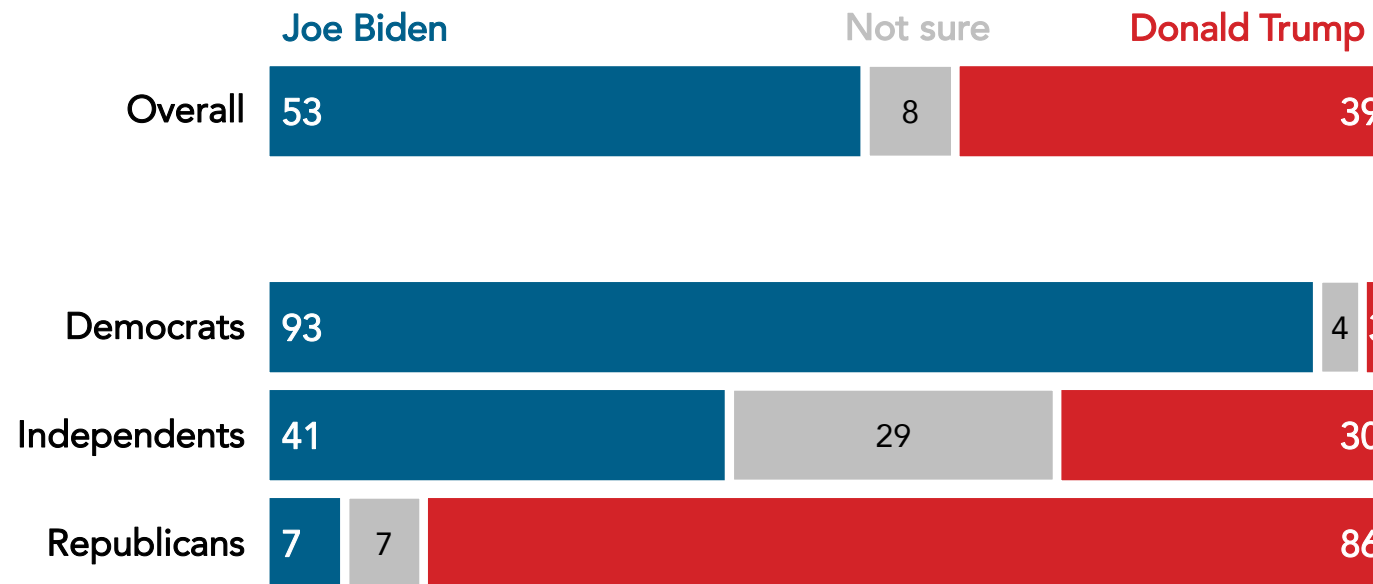
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Joe Biden Trusted Much More Than Trump to Get Life in America “Back to Normal Again”

A majority trust Biden more to get life post-pandemic back to normal again, while only two in five trust Trump more.

- Biden holds an 11-point advantage among independents on getting life back to normal (41% to 30%).

Thinking more about the changes to everyday life caused by the coronavirus pandemic, who do you trust more to get life in this country back to normal again?



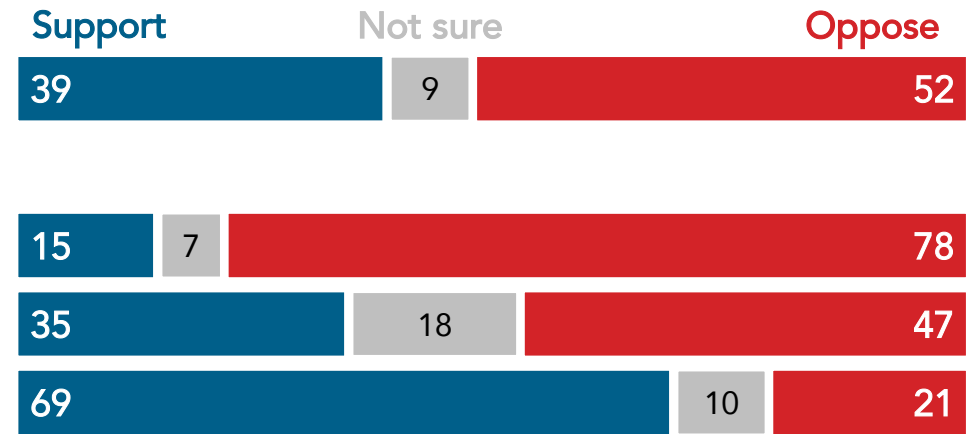
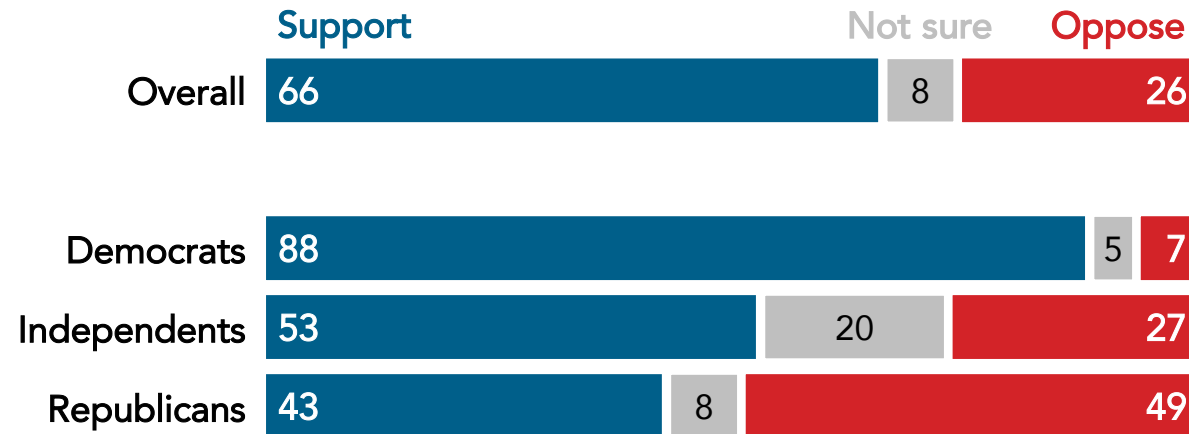
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Americans Support Decision to Make Second Presidential Debate Virtual and Oppose Trump's Withdrawal

Two in three support the decision by the Commission on Presidential Debates to host a virtual debate instead of an in-person debate following Trump's positive coronavirus diagnosis, while a majority oppose his withdrawal as a result.

Given Donald Trump's recent positive coronavirus diagnosis, the Commission on Presidential Debates initially said it would hold the second presidential debate virtually to avoid possible transmission. Did you support or oppose this decision by the Commission on Presidential Debates to host a virtual debate instead of an in-person debate?

As you may know, given the Commission on Presidential Debates' decision to hold the second debate virtually, Donald Trump announced he would not participate. Did you support or oppose Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the presidential debate?



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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 1,003 registered voters from October 8-12, 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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