

# navigator\*

navigating\*  
coronavirus

navigating  
the vote\*



Update:  
Thursday, October 22

## Communicating in Crisis

## Key takeaways:

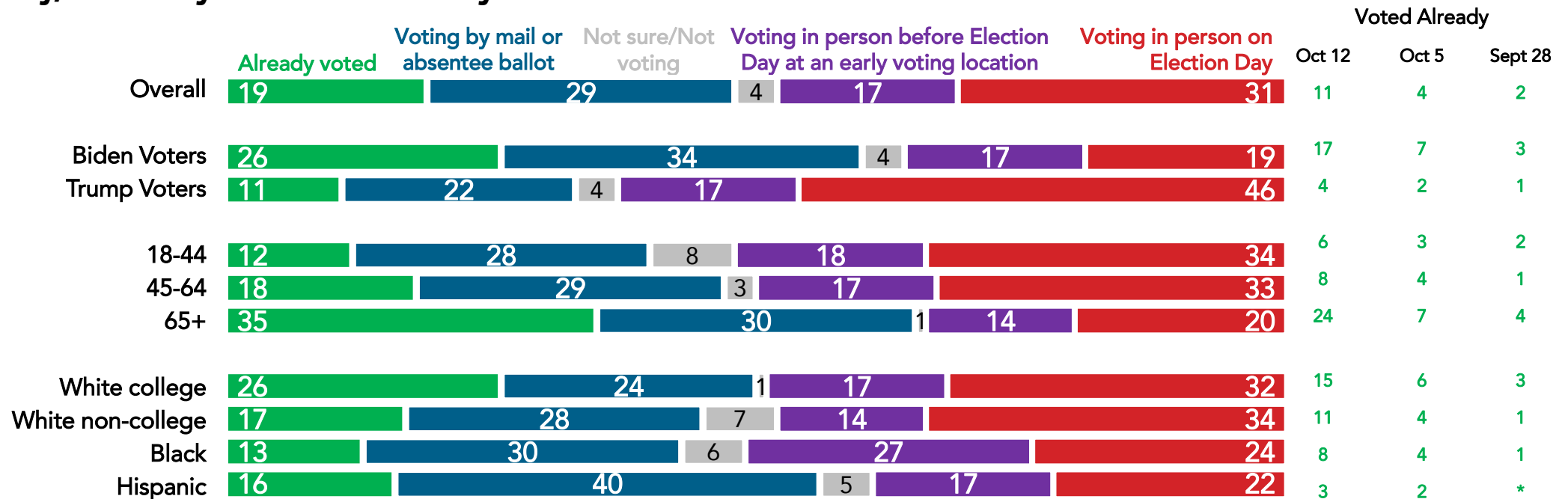
- Six in ten plan to vote before Election Day, up 9 points in the last three weeks.
- A majority of Americans feel a second Trump term will divide the country even further, while a plurality say a Biden presidency will heal some of the country's divisions.
- Among those who have mixed feelings on Trump, many are concerned Trump and Republicans' handling of the election could lead to violence.

# One in Five Report Having Already Voted and Most Who Haven't Intend to Vote Early In Person or By Mail

Just a third of Americans intend to vote in person on Election Day, while a majority report having already voted, or intend to vote by mail or in person before Election Day.

- White college-educated Americans (26%), Biden voters (26%), and Americans 65+ (35%) are the most likely to have already voted, while Trump voters (11%) and 18-44 year-olds (12%) are least likely.

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



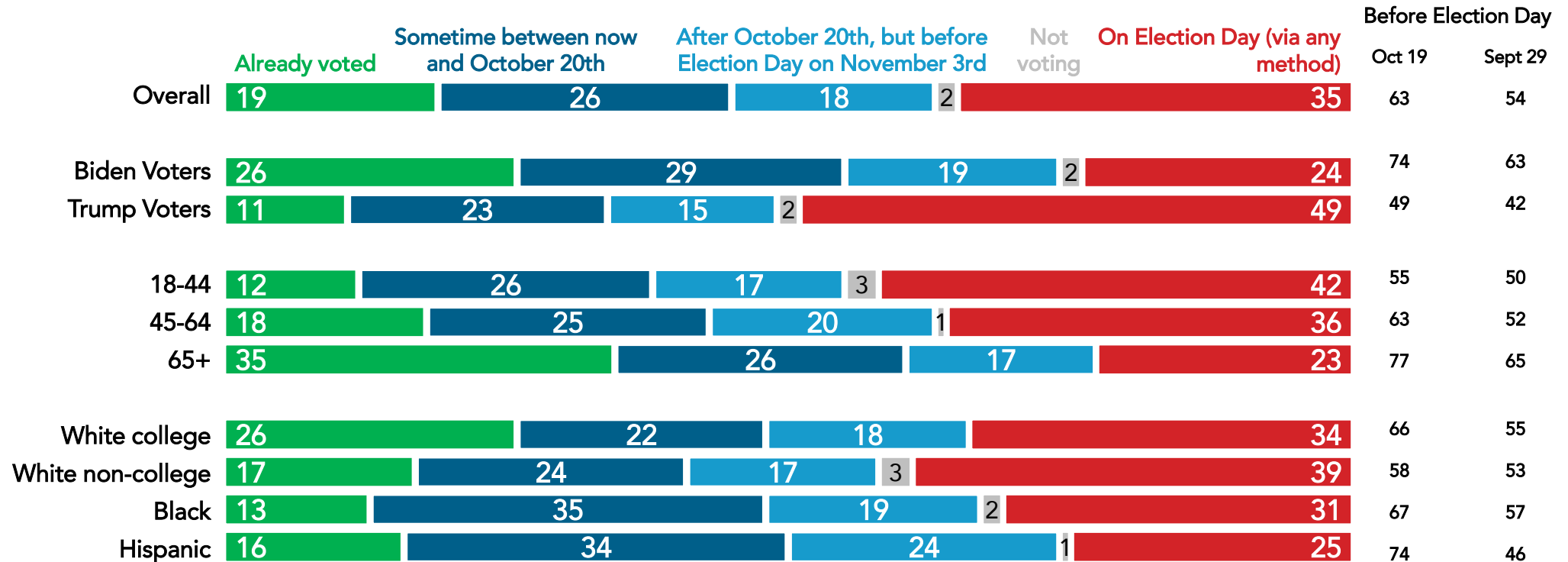
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# Six in Ten Now Plan to Vote Before Election Day

One in three plan to vote on Election Day, with nearly two in three planning to vote before then by various methods.

- Overall, there has been a 9-point jump since September 29 in the share who plan to vote before Election Day. Among Americans 65 years old and above, there has been a 12-point jump.

**And when do you think you are likely to cast your ballot – sometime before Tuesday, October 20th, sometime in the last two weeks before Election Day, or by mail or absentee on Election Day?**



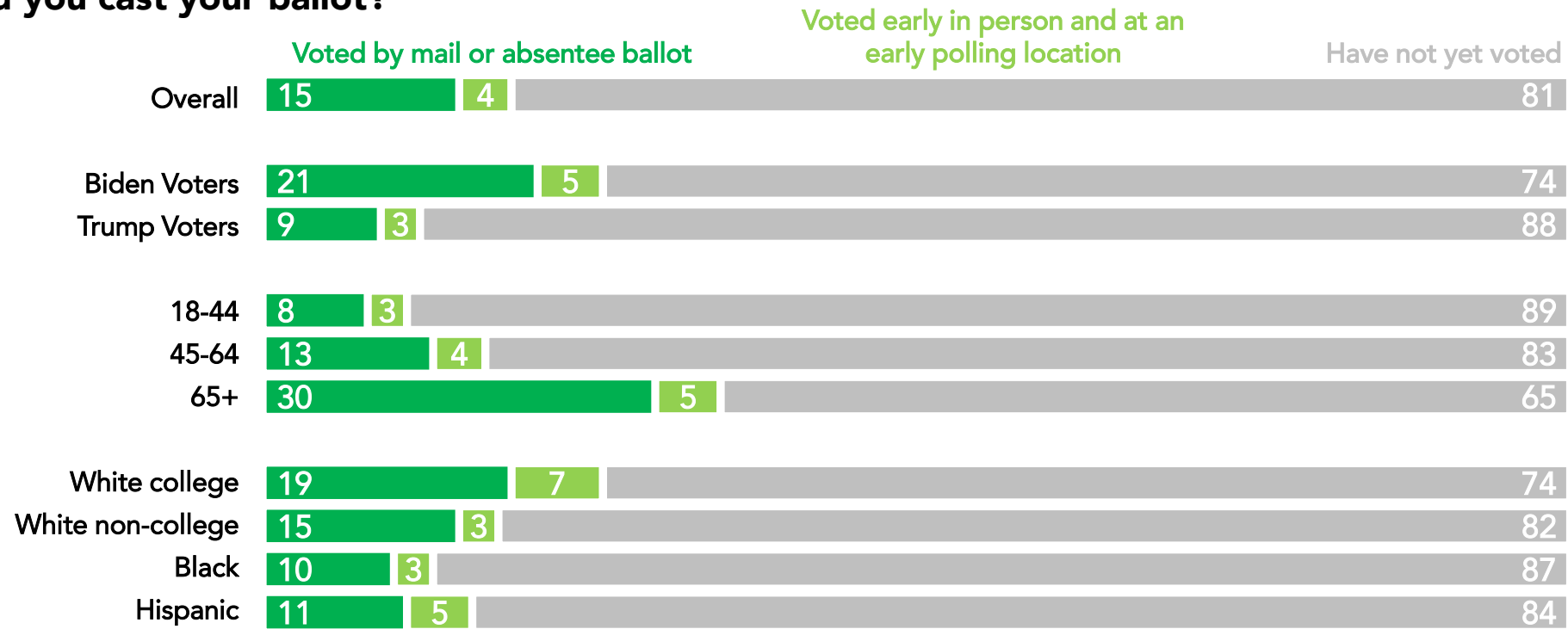
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# Among Those Who Have Already Voted, Most Report Having Done So By Mail

With a total of 19% reporting having already voted, 15% say they have done so by mail.

- Among Americans 65 and older, 30% say they have already voted by mail, as compared to 8% of 18-44 year-olds and 13% of 45-64 year-olds.

## How did you cast your ballot?



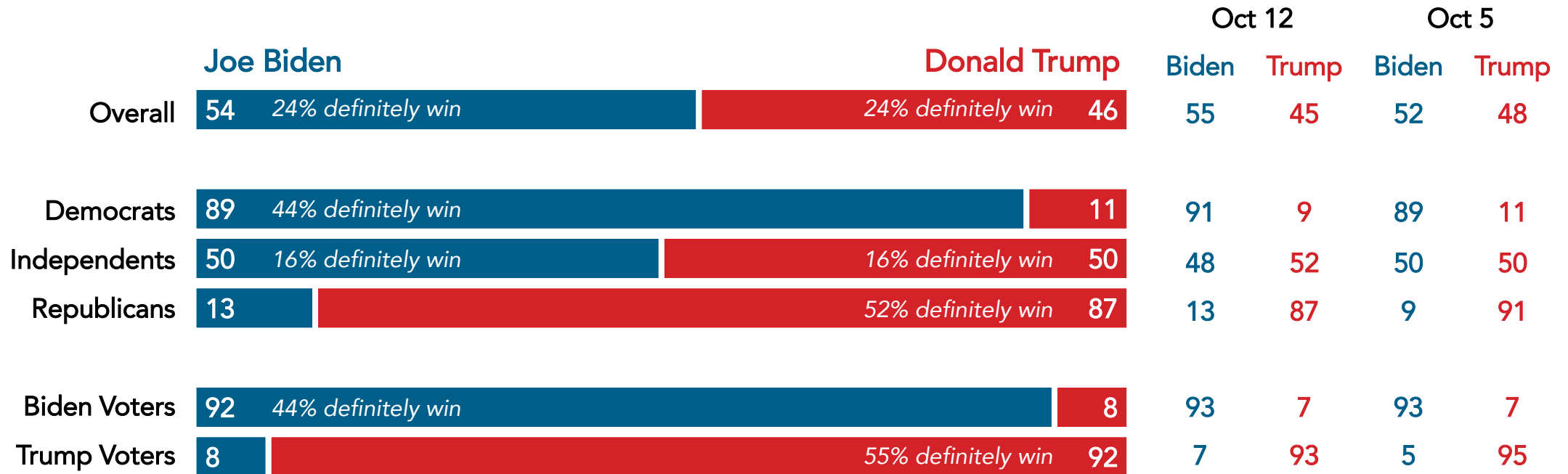
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# Public Remains Largely Split on Who They Anticipate Winning the Election

While the vast majority of Biden voters think the former vice president will probably win, Trump voters are more likely to say the president will "definitely" be re-elected.

- Independents continue to be evenly split on who they expect will win the election (50% Biden/50% Trump).

**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.**



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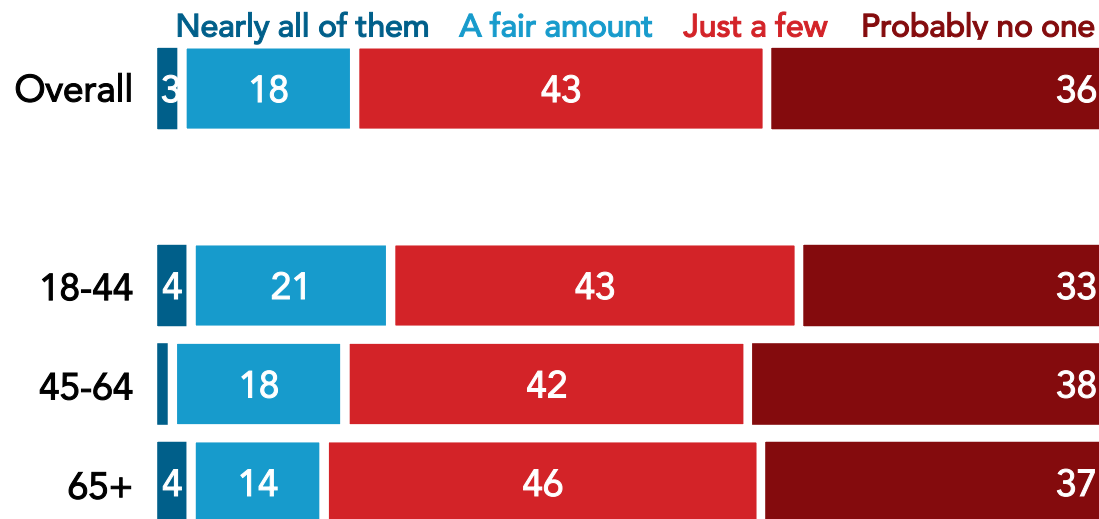
# Few Biden or Trump Voters Interact Much With Supporters of the Opposing Candidate

Just one in five Trump voters and Biden voters each say “nearly all” or “a fair amount” of the people they interact with in daily life are voting for the opposing candidate.

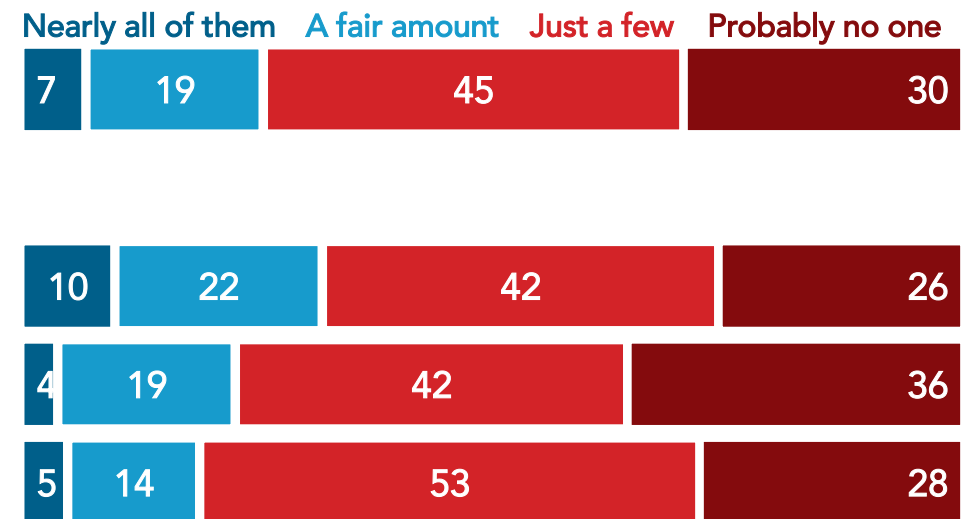
- While Biden voters are more likely to say they interact with Trump voters in the Midwest and West, Trump voters are much more familiar with Biden voters in the West and Northeast.

**Thinking about the people you interact with in day to day life – friends, family, or coworkers – how many do you know who are voting for \_\_\_\_\_?**

Among Trump Voters: Joe Biden



Among Biden Voters: Donald Trump



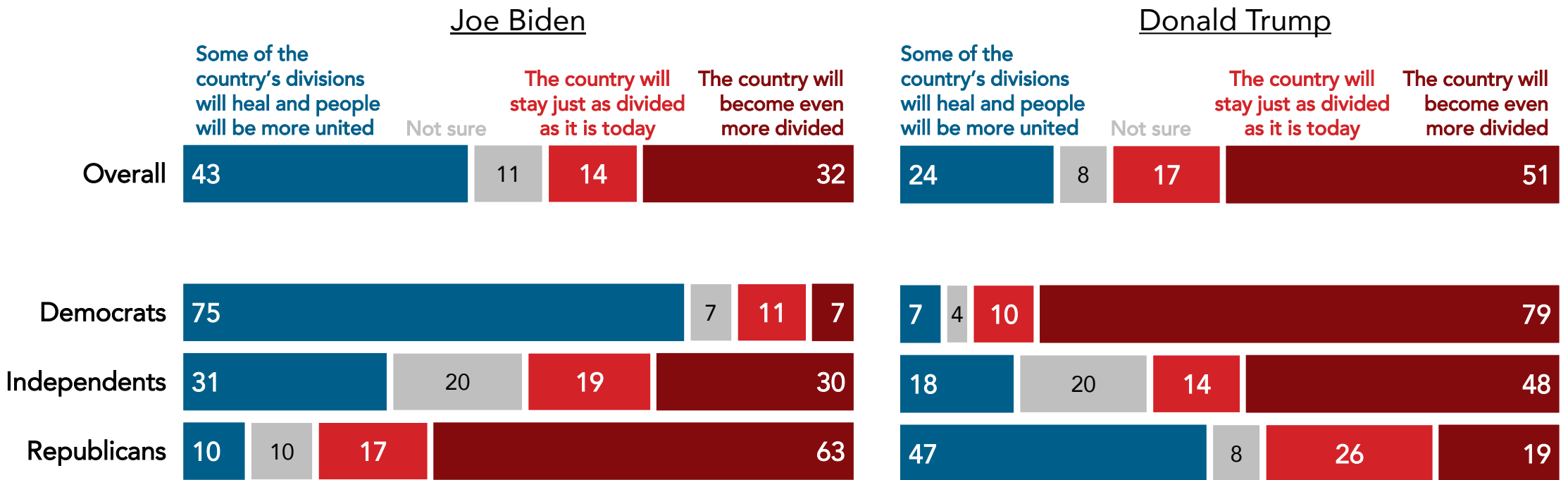
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# While Majority Say Second Trump Term Will Divide Country Even More, Plurality Say Biden Will Heal Country's Divisions

More than two in five say that a Joe Biden presidency will heal some of the country's divisions and make people more united, while less than a quarter say the same of a second Trump term.

- Among independents, while 31% say a Biden presidency will unite the country, only 18% say the same of Trump.

If \_\_\_\_\_ wins, over the next few years what do you expect to happen?



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# Overwhelming Majority Say They Will Be Glad to See the Presidential Election Campaign Over

Across party lines and regardless of intended vote choice, Americans say they will be glad to see the presidential election end.

And which of the following best describes your feelings about the presidential election campaign?



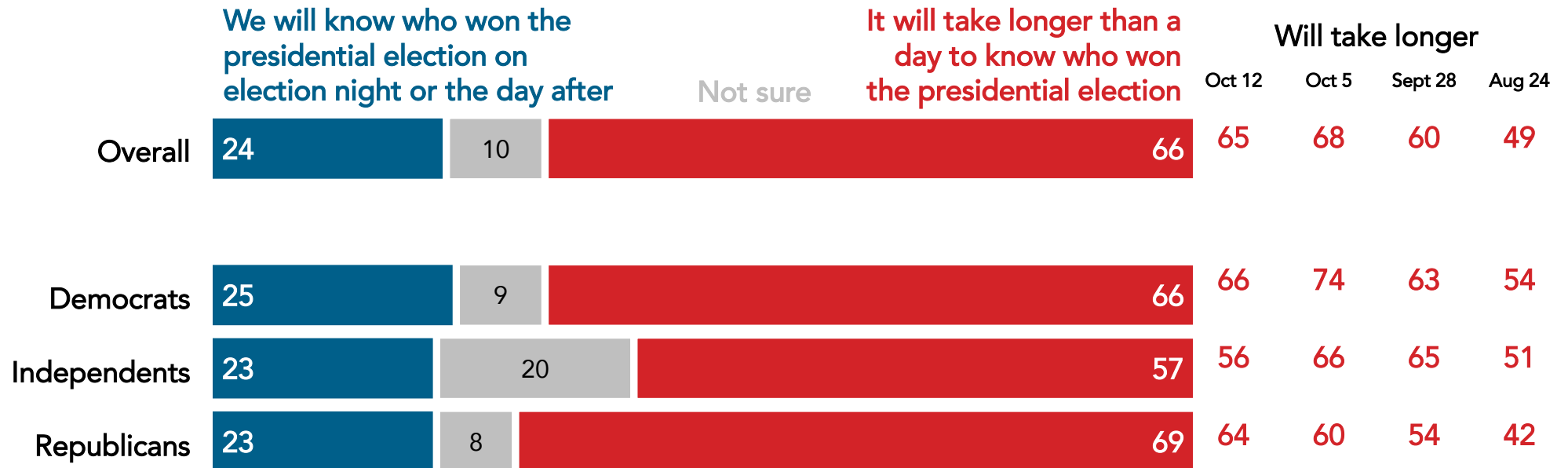
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# Two in Three Expect It Will Take Longer Than a Day to Know the Results of the Presidential Election

A majority across party lines continue to say it will take longer than a day to know who won the presidential election with just one in four saying we will know on election night or the day after.

- Both Biden voters (66%) and Trump voters (68%) expect it will take longer than a day to know 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?

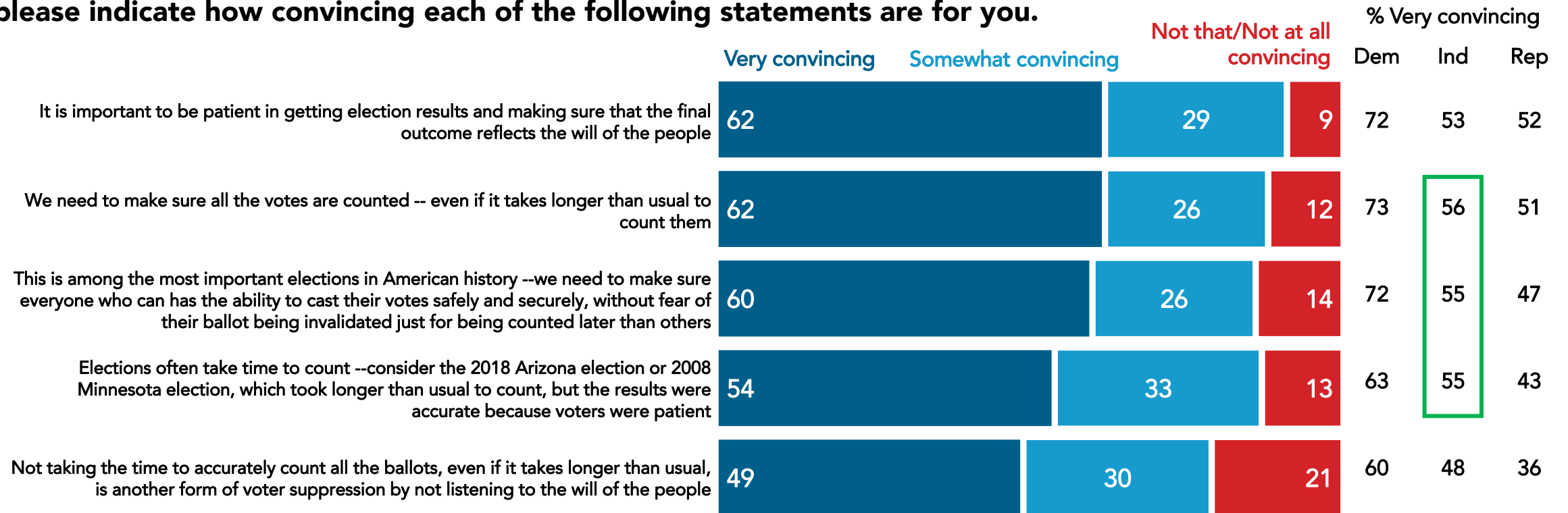


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# Americans Convinced By Several Arguments for Being Patient With Election Results

Majorities find a range of messages to be “very convincing” reasons to be patient in awaiting election results in November, though just under half find a message about voter suppression “very convincing.”

Thinking more about how patient Americans should be in waiting for states to finish counting their votes, please indicate how convincing each of the following statements are for you.



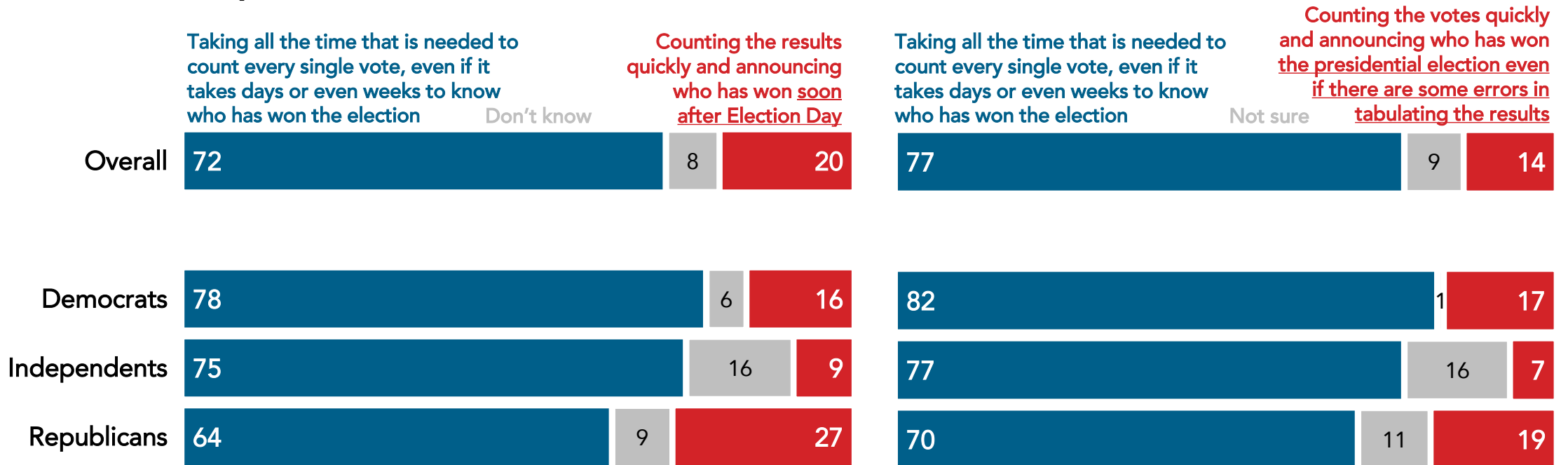
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# Vast Majorities Support Taking the Time Needed to Count Votes Rather than Trying to Rush Results

More than seven in ten think it is more important to take the time needed to count every vote, even if it means results are delayed. Mention of errors in counting too quickly drives up support for taking the time to count every vote.

- Democrats and independents are more likely than Republicans to support taking the time needed to count.

**When it comes to ensuring confidence in the accuracy of the election results this November, which do you think is more important?**

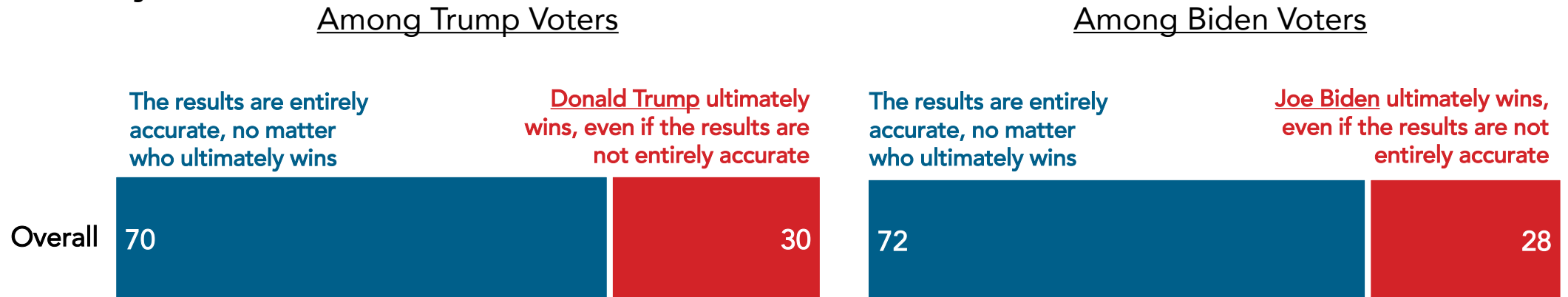


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# Biden and Trump Voters Each Agree It Is Most Important the Election Results Are Accurate

More than seven in ten Trump and Biden voters say that it is more important that the results of the election are entirely accurate, no matter who wins, while just three in ten say it is more important their candidate of choice ultimately wins.

When it comes to the way states tally the presidential election results this November, which is more important to you?



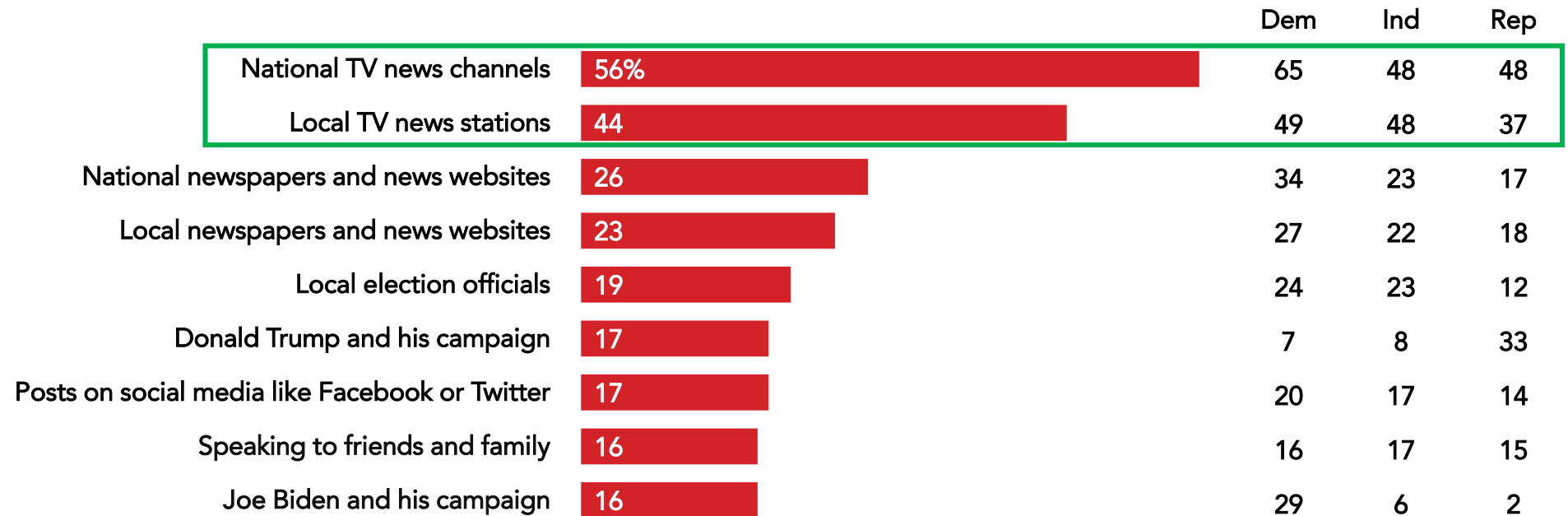
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# Americans Look to TV News to Explain Election Results

Across parties, the number one source of information about election results is national TV news channels, with online sources and campaigns far behind.

- One in three Republicans plan to use Trump and his campaign as a resource for results (33%) and 29% of Democrats plan to use Biden and his campaign as a resource.

**Thinking about the various sources of information these days, from which of the following sources do you think you will get the information you need to understand the results of the November election?**



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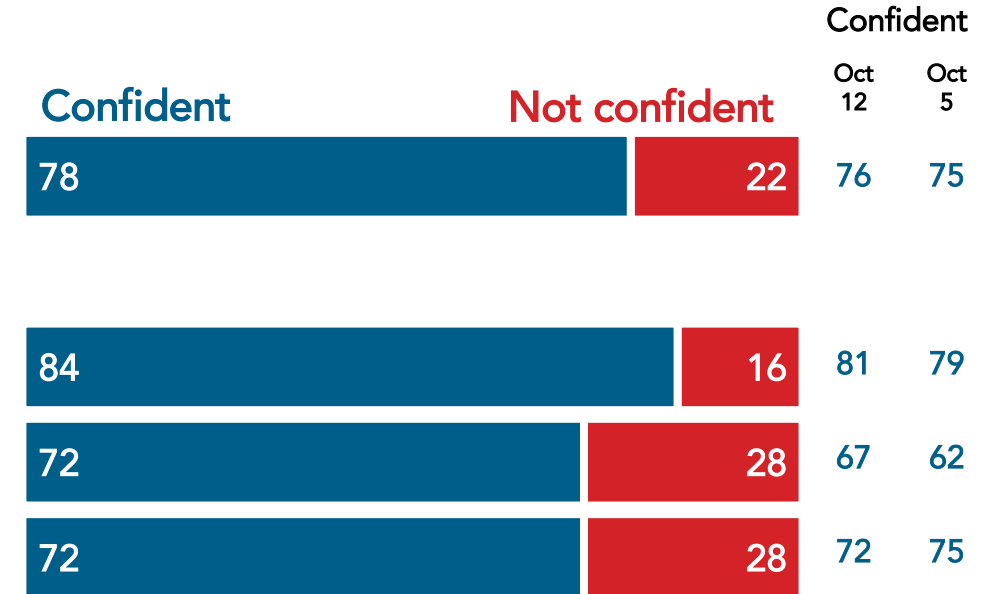
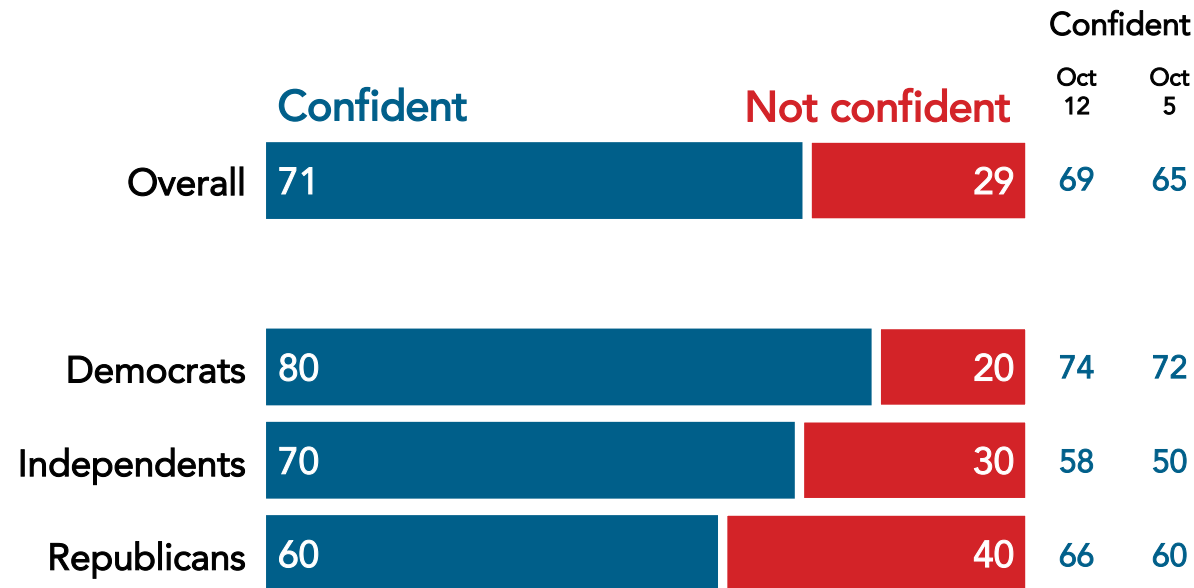
# Majorities Remain Confident in the November Election

Nearly four in five are confident that their ballot will be counted accurately in November, and nearly as many say the same about the election overall.

- While 81% of Biden voters are confident the results of the election will be counted correctly, only 58% of Trump voters say the same. On their personal ballot, 86% of Biden voters and 70% of Trump voters feel confident.

**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?**



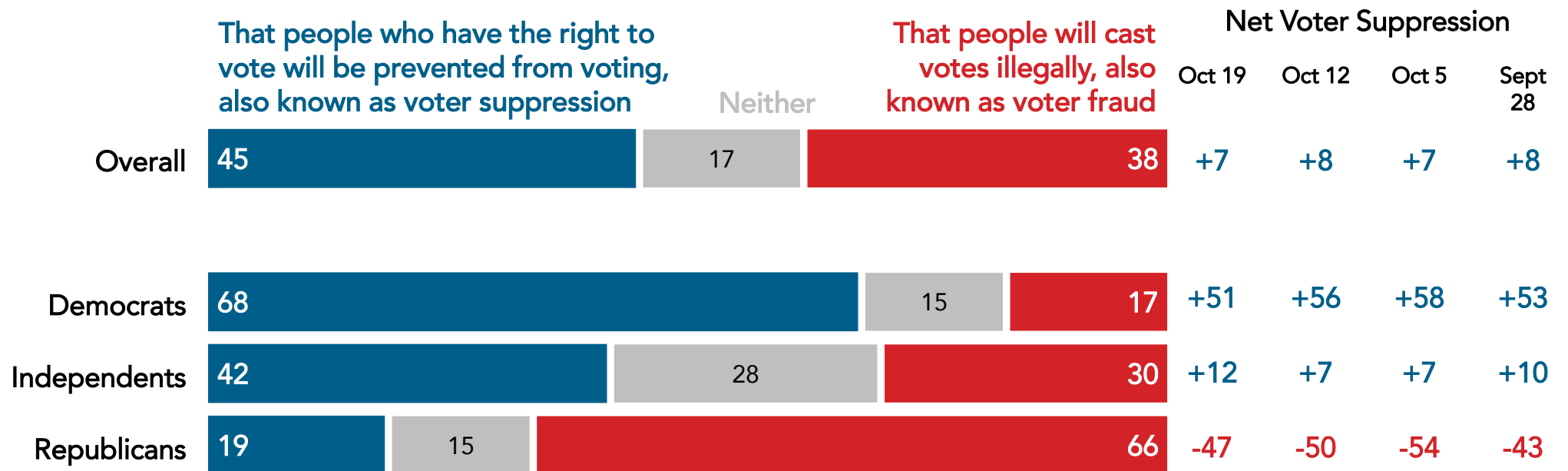
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# Americans Have Consistently Been More Concerned About Voter Suppression than Voter Fraud

While a plurality of Americans are more concerned about voter suppression, nearly two in five are more concerned about voter fraud.

- While 69% of Biden voters are more concerned about voter suppression, 67% of Trump voters are more concerned about voter fraud.

Which of the following concerns you more?



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# Americans Conflicted About Trump Especially Worried His Words Will Inspire Post-Election Violence

Please indicate whether each statement raises very serious concerns, somewhat serious concerns, only minor concerns, or no concerns at all about the way Trump and other Republicans are handling the upcoming election.

	% Serious Concerns	
	Overall	Mixed on Trump*
<p><b>Donald Trump's aggressive and partisan rhetoric on the election has the potential to inspire violence following the election.</b> The recent plot to kidnap Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Governor Ralph Northam shows this highly partisan language and hostility can put Americans in danger</p>	63	61
<p>No matter who wins, the candidates should be committed to honoring the election results. <b>Donald Trump and other Republicans, however, have not committed to honoring the election results and continue to sow distrust in the election results</b> which will only encourage Americans to not accept them either</p>	63	54
<p><b>Donald Trump has worked hard to make Americans doubt the integrity of mail-in voting,</b> although he himself continues to vote by mail in Florida and millions of Americans have also already cast their ballots by this method. This hypocrisy is just another example of Trump doing everything in his power to discourage people from voting because he's afraid of losing the election</p>	63	53
<p>There has never been an unpeaceful transfer of power between presidents in American history. <b>Donald Trump and other Republicans have not committed to a peaceful transfer of power if he were to lose,</b> creating a possible environment for violence following the election</p>	63	56
<p><b>Donald Trump and his Republican allies are doing everything they can to prevent people from voting in the middle of a pandemic:</b> Americans, especially those vulnerable to the virus, should not have to choose between participating in democracy and public health</p>	61	54
<p><b>Donald Trump is rushing through a new Supreme Court Justice to fill the recent vacancy because he wants a favorable judge</b> on the Court in the event that the election decision is decided there as it was in 2000</p>	58	51

\*"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.  
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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 1,000 registered voters from October 15-19, 2020. 210 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 202 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 203 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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