

navigator*

navigating*
coronavirus

navigating
the vote*

Update:
Friday, October 2

Communicating in Crisis



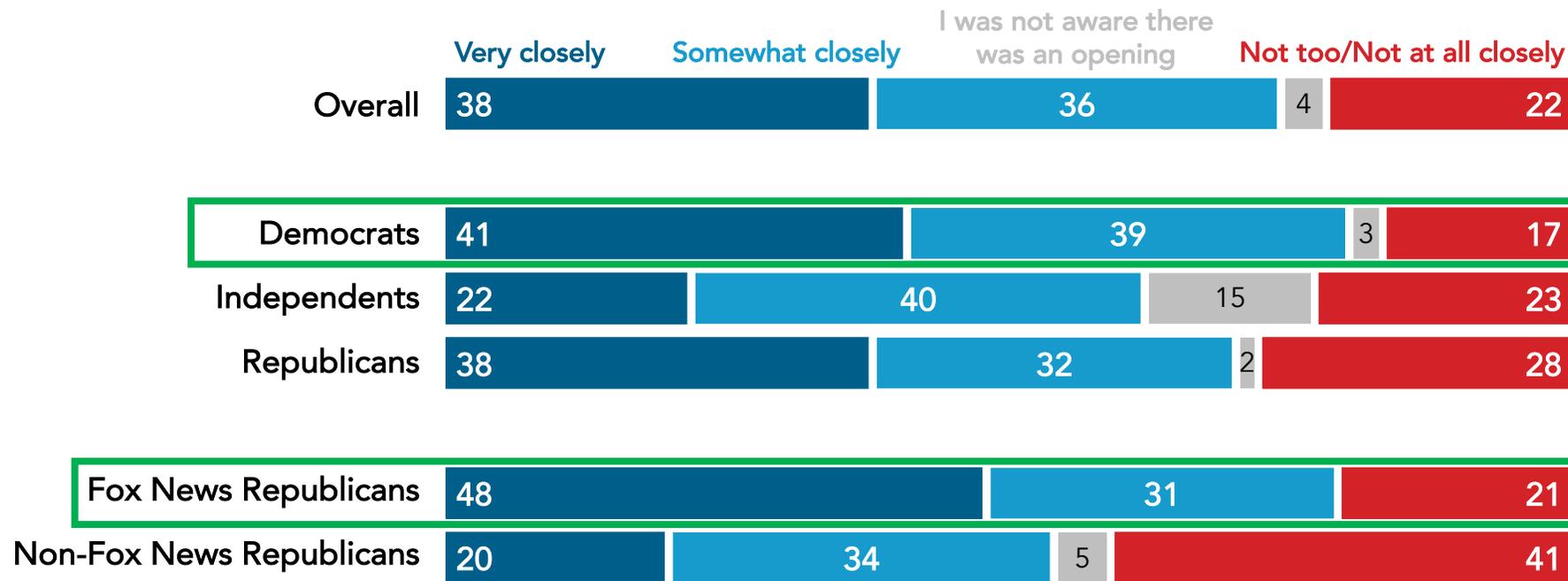
Key takeaways:

- Democrats are following news about the Supreme Court more closely than Republicans.
- A conservative Court could disrupt a clear public consensus on cases like *Roe v. Wade* and *Citizens United*.
- Americans believe their preferred candidate is most likely to win the election, but Trump voters are more confident that Trump will “definitely” win.

Republicans Who Watch Fox News and Democrats Are Following the Supreme Court Vacancy Most Closely

Nearly three in four Americans report following the recent vacancy on the Supreme Court “very” or “somewhat” closely, with less than a quarter saying they are following “not too” or “not at all closely.”

As you may know, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg recently passed away, leaving a seat vacant on the Supreme Court. How closely are you following the recent news of a new opening on the Supreme Court?



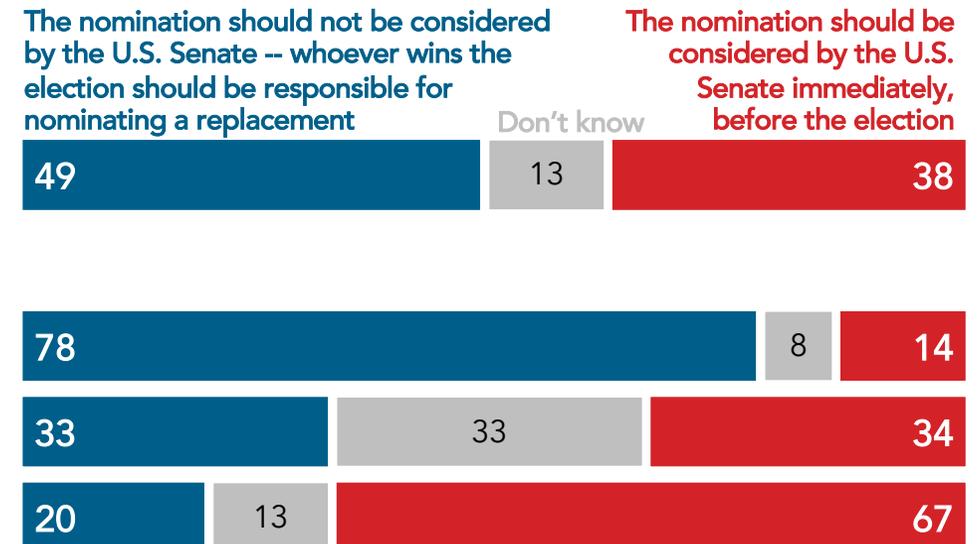
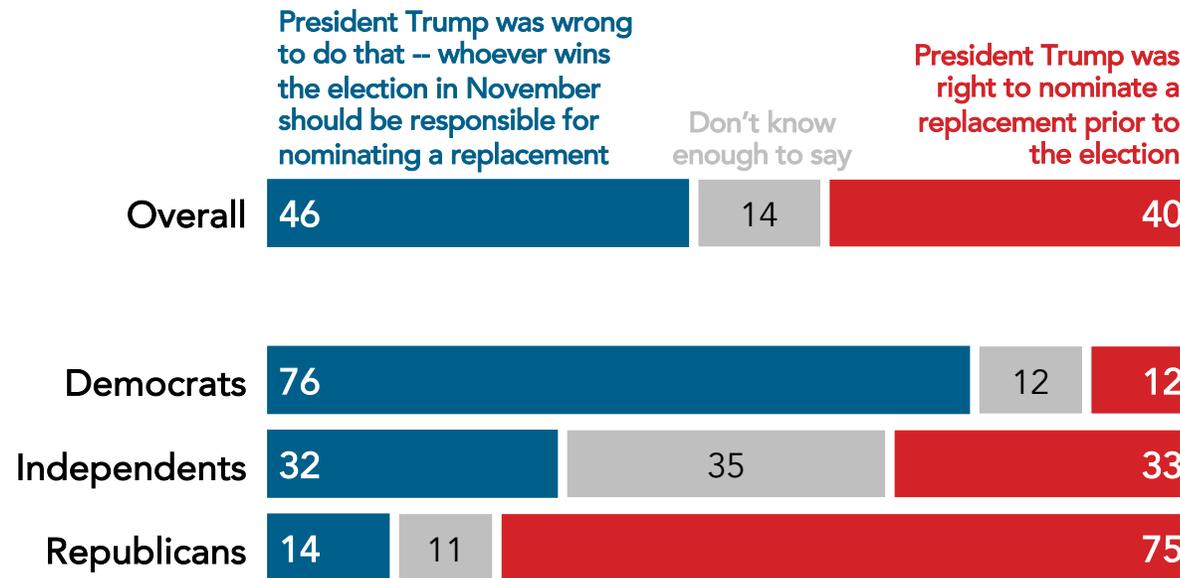
"Republicans who watch Fox News" are Republicans who report watching Fox News at least a few times a month. Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; September 26-28, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Americans Do Not Want Barrett Nomination to Be Considered Before the Election

By a 6-point margin, the public thinks Trump was wrong to nominate Amy Coney Barrett, and the margin grows to 11 points when asked whether the nomination should be considered by the U.S. Senate.

As you may know, President Trump just nominated Amy Coney Barrett to replace Ruth Bader Ginsburg on the Court. Which of the following comes closer to your view?

And regardless of what you think the U.S. Senate should do, which of the following comes closer to your view about Trump's decision to nominate a replacement for Ginsburg prior to the election?



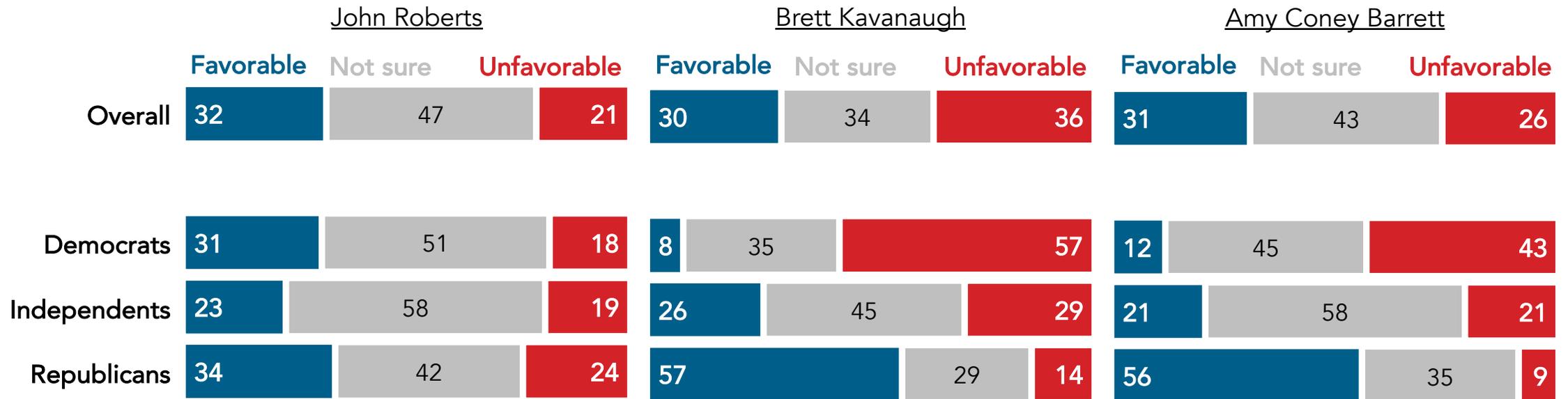
Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; September 26-28, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Early Reviews of Barrett Are Mixed, But Many Don't Know Enough to Say

While views of Brett Kavanaugh and Amy Coney Barrett are largely defined by partisanship, nearly a third of both Democrats and Republicans view John Roberts favorably.

- More than half (57%) of Democrats have an unfavorable view of Brett Kavanaugh and 56% say the same of Amy Coney Barrett.

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



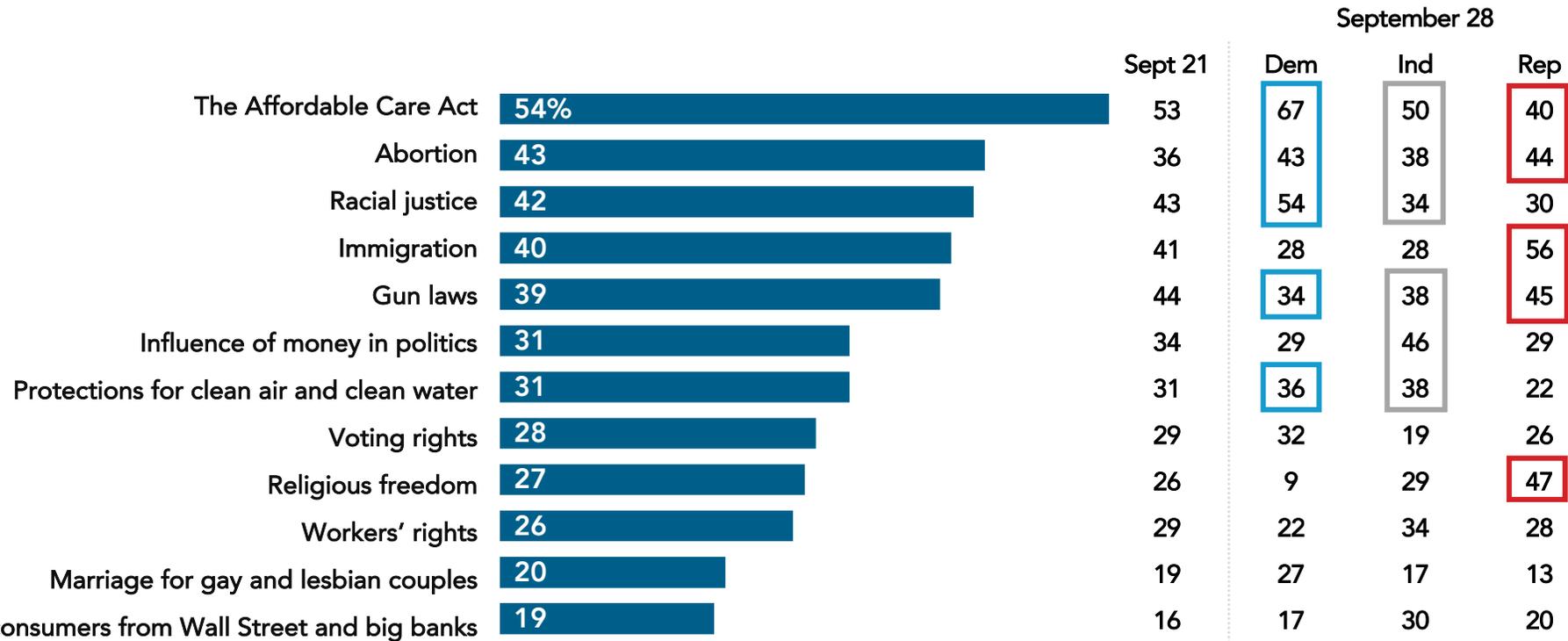
Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; September 26-28, 2020.
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ACA Remains Top SCOTUS Issue, While Abortion Has Risen in Importance Over the Past Week

Since last week, the Affordable Care Act, racial justice, and immigration remain top issues in terms of how the Court decides these cases, while more Americans this week rate abortion as one of the most important issues.

- Democrats (34%), independents (38%), and Republicans (45%) also all place gun laws as a high Court priority.

Please select the FOUR that are most important to you, in terms of how the Court decides these cases.



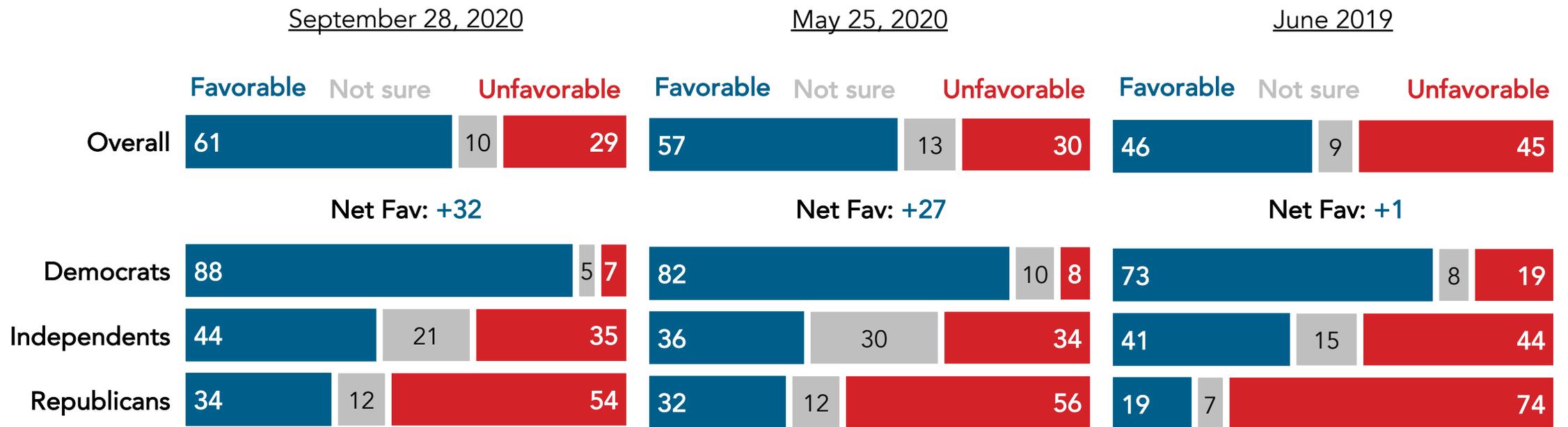
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The Affordable Care Act Continues to Grow More Popular

Three in five have a favorable view of the Affordable Care Act, up 15 points since June 2019 and 5 since May 2020.

- Among Republicans, the ACA has grown 15-points more popular since June 2019 (from 19% to 34%).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: The Affordable Care Act.

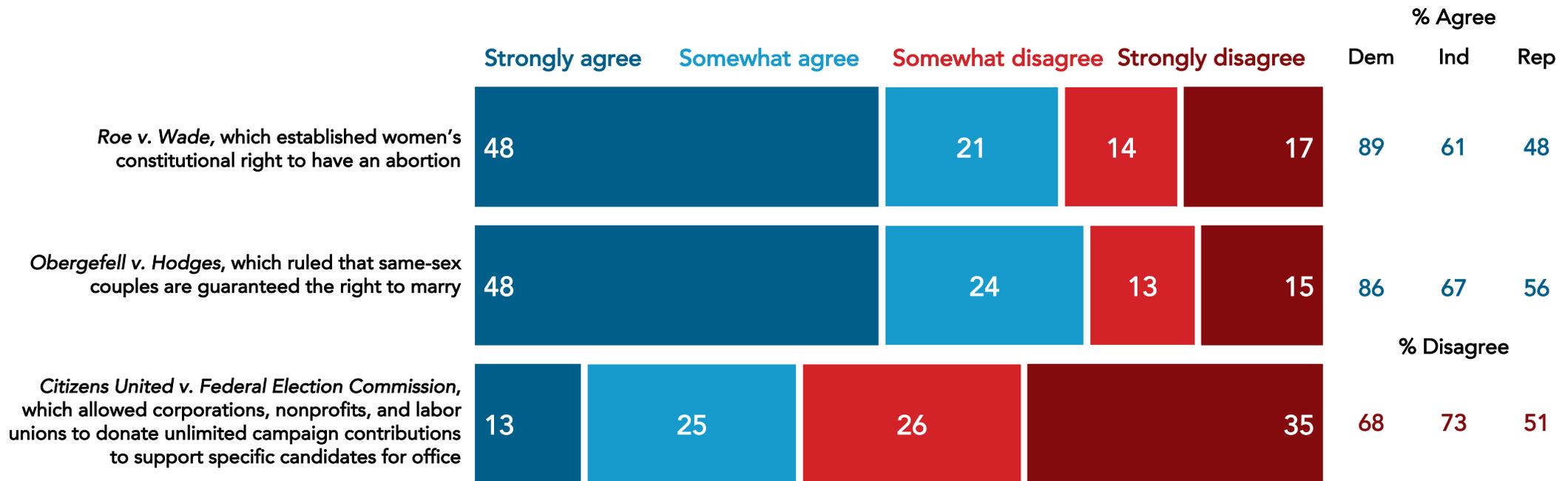


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 26-28, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Conservative Court Threatens Cases For Which There Is Already Consensus

A majority of Americans hold more progressive views on cases expected to come before a new Court: majorities agree with the rulings of *Roe* and *Obergefell* and disagree with *Citizens United*.

For each, please state whether you agree or disagree with the decision made by the Court.

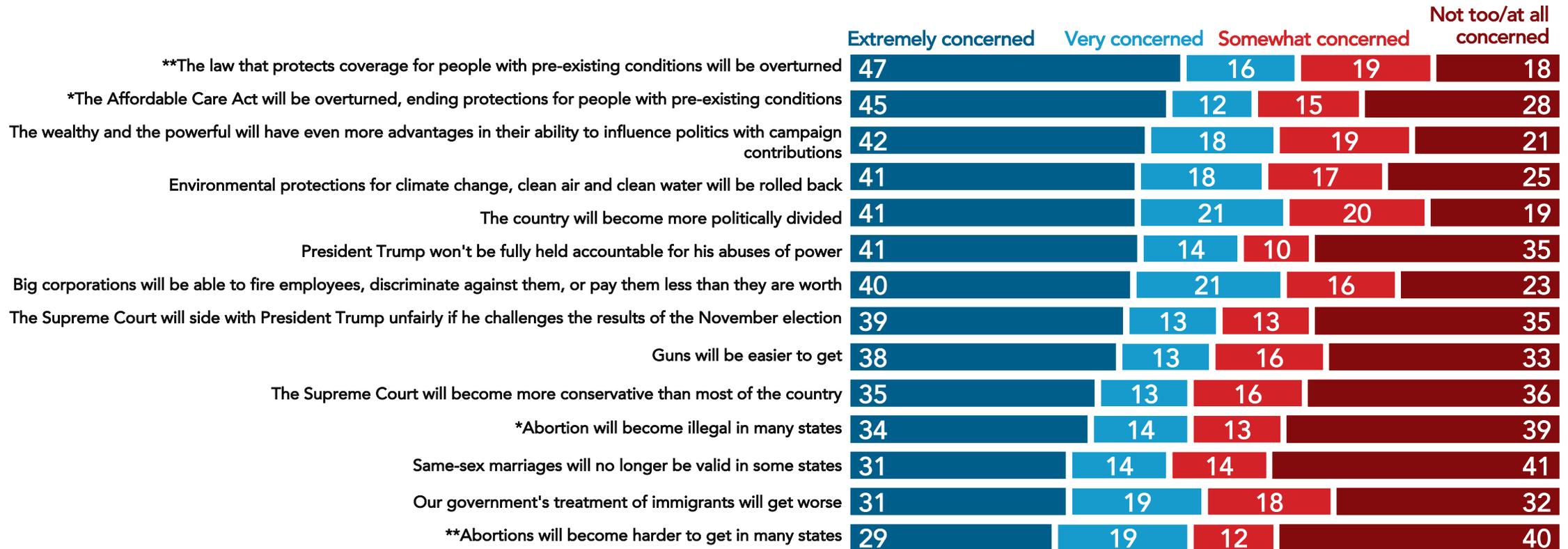


Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; September 26-28, 2020.
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Americans Most Concerned About Court Overturning ACA

Top concerns for Americans in thinking about what could happen if Trump's next Supreme Court nominee is confirmed include the ACA, campaign finance, climate change, and political division.

Below are some things people have said will happen if President Trump's next Supreme Court nominee is confirmed. For each, indicate how concerned you are personally about each happening.



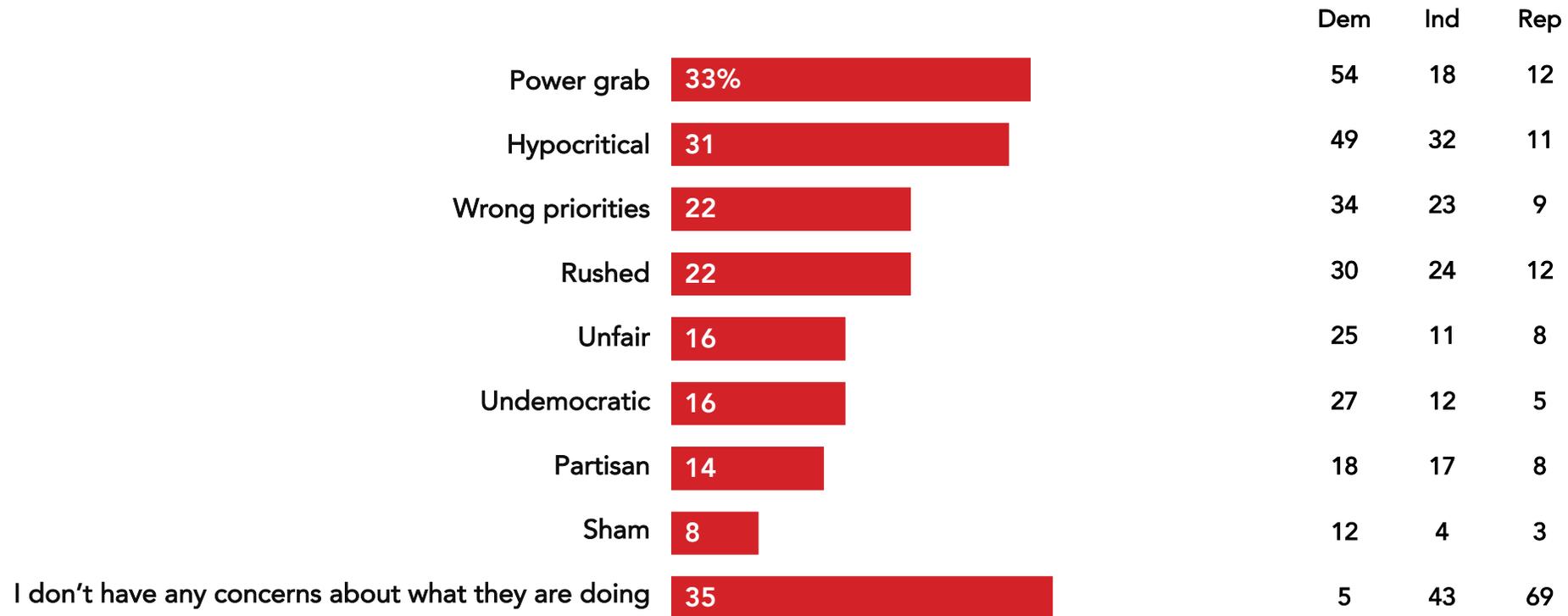
*/** indicate messages that were seen by half of the sample.
 Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; September 26-28, 2020.
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“Power Grab” and “Hypocritical” Are Top Descriptors of Republicans’ Recent Actions on the Supreme Court

Americans see “power grab” and “hypocritical” as the top descriptors of Republicans’ actions on the Supreme Court.

- Among independents, top descriptions include “hypocritical,” “wrong priorities,” and “rushed.”

Which best describes your concerns about what Republicans are doing as it relates to the Supreme Court?



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Focusing on Specific Rights That Are At Risk in a New Court Is More Effective Than Ideological Imbalance

In a messaging experiment where all respondents were shown a message on Amy Coney Barrett’s qualifications, and half were shown a rebuttal about specific rights at risk and the other about the conservative imbalance of a post-RBG Court, rights that are at risk are far more compelling as a reason to not confirm Trump’s Supreme Court nominee.

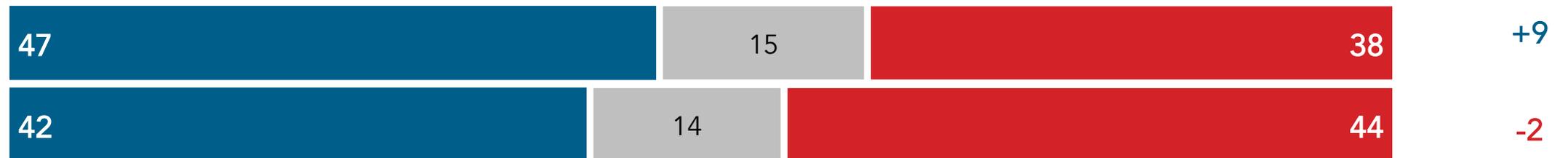
Which side do you agree with more?

Shown to half of sample

Those who say Trump’s nominee for the Supreme Court should NOT be confirmed, because putting another conservative justice on the Court will mean the end of basic protections like the right to a safe and legal abortion, health care protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and environmental safeguards

Those who say Trump’s nominee for the Supreme Court should be confirmed because she is highly qualified and has demonstrated her commitment to upholding the Constitution

Net Not Confirm



Those who say Trump’s nominee for the Supreme Court should NOT be confirmed, because replacing Ruth Bader Ginsburg with a more conservative justice will throw off the Court’s ideological balance and make it even more conservative than the rest of the country

Shown to half of sample

Among Persuadables, Distraction from the Pandemic, ACA Are Top Reasons to Wait Until Election for New Justice

Please indicate how convincing each is as a reason to support waiting until after the election and letting whoever wins the election pick Ruth Bader Ginsburg's replacement.

	% Very Convincing	
	Overall	Movers + Undecided
The Senate should be focused on one thing – getting us out of the pandemic and helping our economy recover but right now, they refuse to do any of that. The Senate should not drop everything to rush a Supreme Court nomination, while they refuse to act on our health, safety, and economy in this pandemic	46	47
The Trump administration is already going to court to overturn the Affordable Care Act and Trump's Supreme Court nominee could tip the balance on the Court to strike it down, which would end protections for patients with pre-existing conditions [including those who have been infected by coronavirus], raise costs for seniors, and lead to over 20 million Americans losing their coverage entirely --all in the middle of a pandemic	46	44
Senate Republicans refused to hold hearings and a vote on President Obama's election year nominee for 10 months. The same rules should apply to President Trump and now with just six weeks until this election and many people already starting to vote, no hearings should be held for Donald Trump's nominee	45	35
President Trump is doing everything he can to rig the election in his favor in case the election once again is decided by the Supreme Court. Mitch McConnell and Trump are rushing so they have a loyal justice that will rule in their favor if the election is close	45	33
There are already four votes on the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court decision from almost 50 years ago giving women the right to an abortion. If Trump adds one more Justice who is against Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court would take us back to the time when Members of Congress and local politicians could decide how and when a woman could become a mother	45	37
The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice for a lifetime appointment. Americans are already starting to vote in many places and with the election just a few weeks away, this vacancy should not be filled until the American people have voted and made their voice heard	43	37
200,000 Americans have died from coronavirus. We still don't have a vaccine, and public health experts continue to warn about the possibility of another resurgence in the United States. With schools and businesses across the country reopening, the Senate and President Trump need to focus on the coronavirus, not on party politics	43	33
The Supreme Court is considering a case that could overturn the Affordable Care Act this November. That's why Senate Republicans are rushing this nomination through: so they can ensure the ACA is struck down immediately, which would end protections for patients with pre-existing conditions, raise costs for seniors, and lead to over 20 million Americans losing their coverage entirely --all in the middle of a pandemic	42	33
Since 1994, background checks have prevented over 3 million dangerous people from purchasing guns. Donald Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court, like him, will side with the gun lobby and overturn background checks in our towns and states, meaning anyone can get a gun, no questions asked	41	38
States and cities should be able to pass laws to keep guns out of dangerous hands with background checks on every gun purchase, more tools for law enforcement, and safety training requirements, as long as the Second Amendment is protected. But if Trump adds another conservative Supreme Court Justice, it could decide that local gun laws should be weaker, instead of stronger	37	32
The Supreme Court just blocked Trump's attempt to dismantle DACA, the program that protects 700,000 DREAMers [undocumented immigrants who came to this country as children] who work, learn, and live in the United States. If Trump is able to appoint a new Justice, those protections will be stripped, and DREAMers who know no other home than the United States would be deported to countries they don't remember and where they may not even speak the language	37	36

*"Movers + undecided" are defined as those who initially say Trump's SCOTUS nomination should be considered before the election or are undecided and move to say that the nomination should not be considered until after the election after messaging, or are initially undecided and remain undecided after messaging. Nationwide survey of 1,002 registered voters; September 26-28, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Progressive Arguments Stand Up Well to Conservative Arguments on the SCOTUS Fight

Counters to conservative messaging supporting Trump's nomination are all more effective.

Which side do you agree with more?

Those who say Trump and the Republicans won't do what's needed to combat a deadly pandemic, like passing vaccine research legislation or providing PPE supplies --instead, they are rushing to make an important, lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court. They are ignoring an urgent health crisis while rushing on something important and long term

Those who say there are 9 seats on the Supreme Court and President Trump is still the president, so he should do his job and fill the seat so that the highest court in the country isn't left vacant



Those who say Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court should NOT be confirmed, because putting another conservative justice on the Court will mean the end of basic protections like the right to a safe and legal abortion, health care protections for people with pre-existing conditions, and environmental safeguards

Those who say Trump's nominee for the Supreme Court should be confirmed because she is highly qualified and has demonstrated her commitment to upholding the Constitution



Those who say Trump and the Republicans are hypocrites who are robbing Americans of their democratic right to have the President and Senate they vote for in November be the ones who decide on the next Supreme Court Justice. Like many Senate Republicans said in 2016 when they refused to hold hearings on Obama's nominee for 10 months, the American people should have a voice in deciding who sits on the Supreme Court --which will be the case if the next Justice is appointed after November

Those who say Trump and Senate Republicans were elected by the American people and are just doing their job in nominating a new Supreme Court Justice and holding hearings and a vote. The Constitution gives them the right to appoint and confirm new Justices, and that is exactly what they are doing



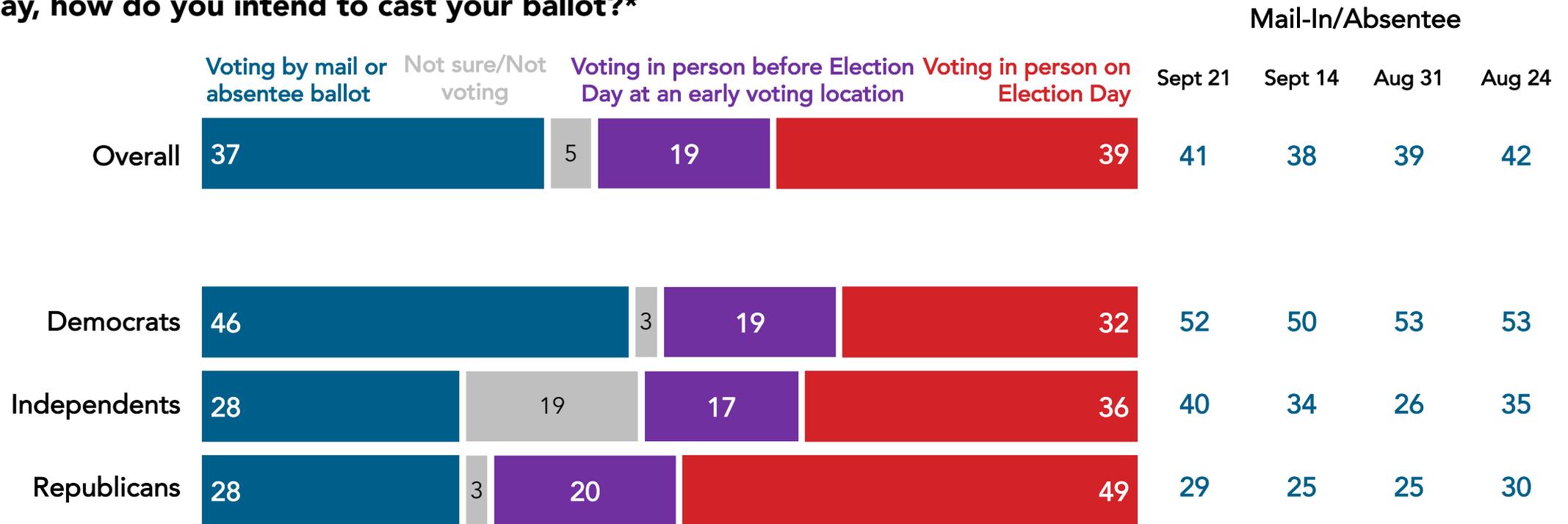
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More Now Say They Will Vote in Person on Election Day Than Will Vote By Mail

For the first time in Navigator’s tracking of vote method intention since early August, a plurality now say that they will vote in person on Election Day, though still nearly two in five plan to vote by mail.

- Since August 24, intent to vote by mail has especially dropped among Democrats (down 7, from 53% to 46%) and independents (down 7, from 35% to 28%).

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



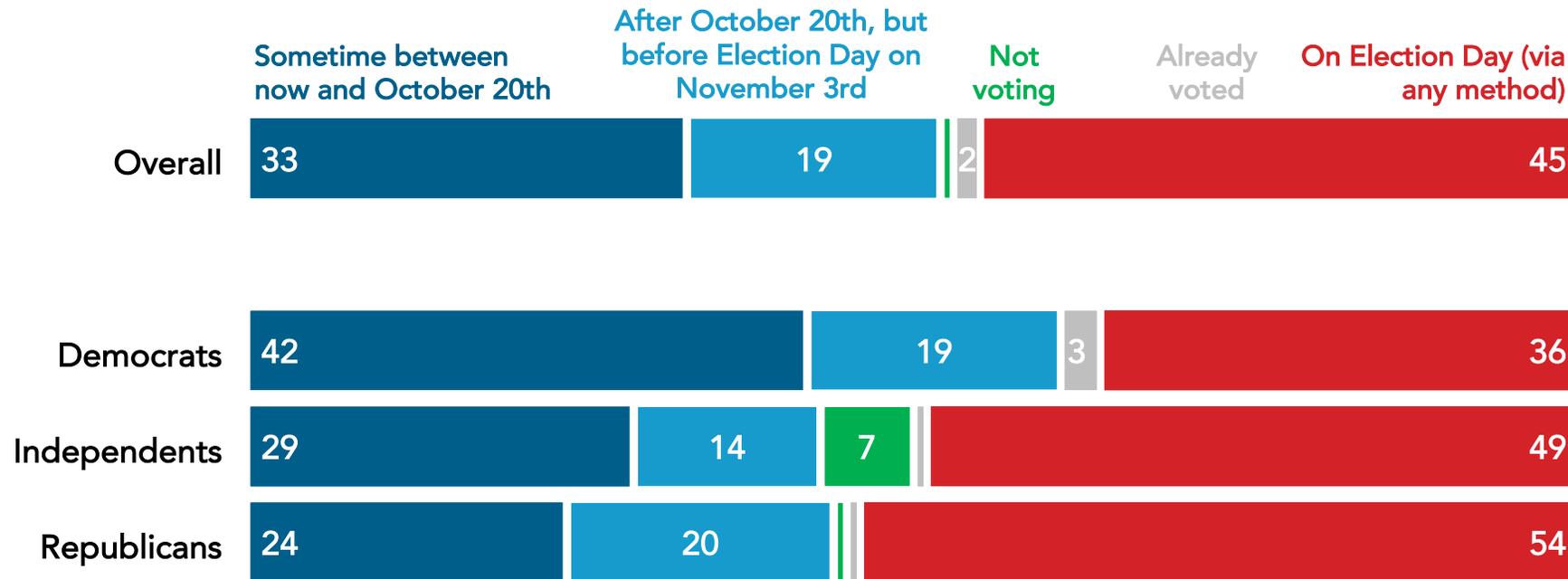
*Prior to 9/21, question text was: As you may know, due to the coronavirus situation, there may be some new voting options for the November election in your state. For that election, if each of these options were available in your state, which way would you be most likely to cast your ballot? Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 26-28, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Half of Americans Plan to Vote Before Election Day – With a Third Voting in the Next Three Weeks

A third of Americans plan to vote sometime between now and October 20th, while more than two in five plan to vote on Election Day by either mail/absentee ballot or in person.

- Democrats are most likely to vote sometime between now and October 20th (42%) while Republicans are most likely to vote on Election Day (54%).

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?



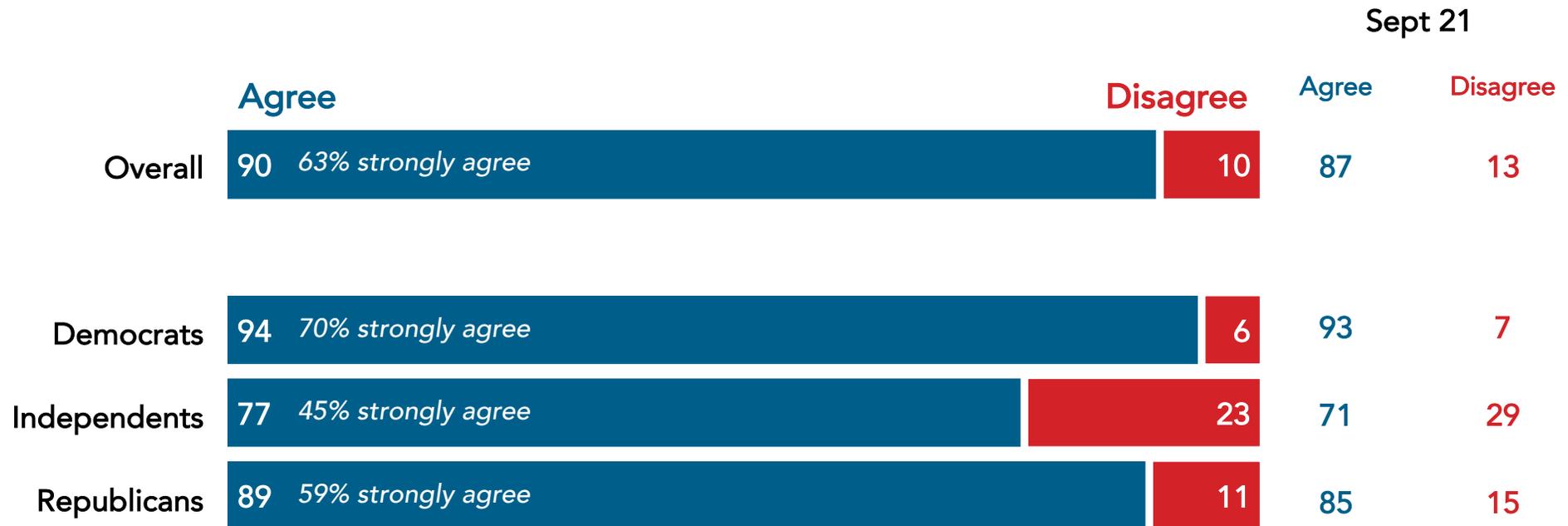
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An Overwhelming Majority Believe the 2020 Presidential Election Is Most Important in Their Lifetime

Nine in ten Americans believe this November's presidential election will be the most important of their lifetimes.

- Democrats are more likely than Republicans to strongly agree that this presidential election is the most important in their lifetimes by an 11-point margin.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree: The 2020 presidential election is the most important election in my lifetime.

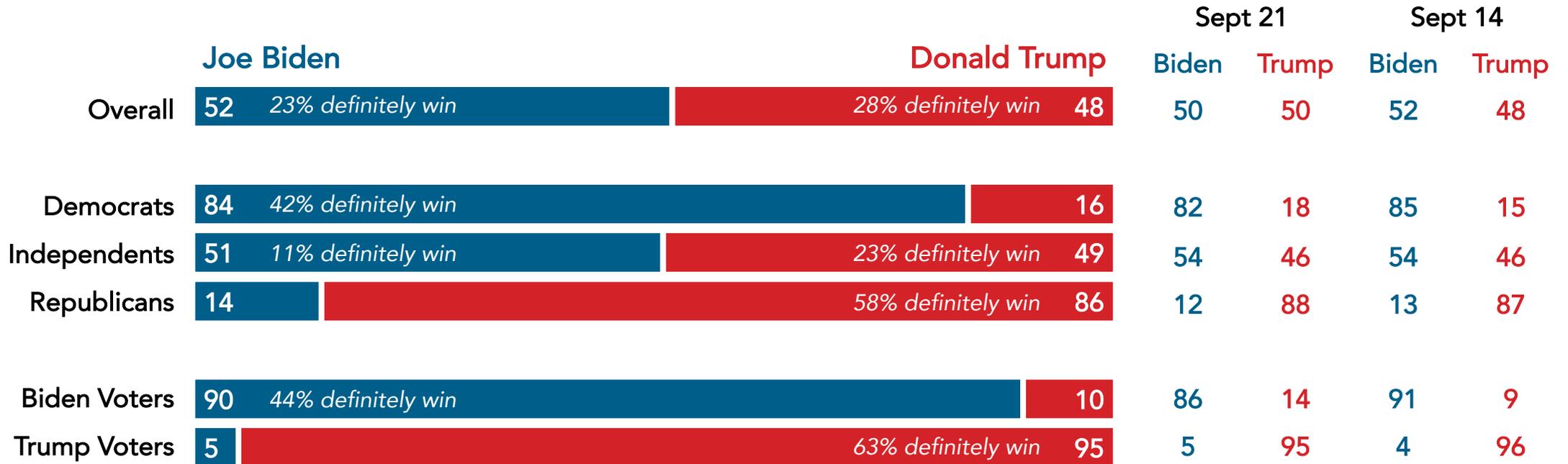


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Most Americans Believe Their Preferred Candidate Will Win the Presidential Election

While nine in ten supporters of Trump and Biden believe their respective candidate will win the November election, Trump voters feel Trump will "definitely" win (63%) than Biden voters think Biden will "definitely" win (44%).

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.



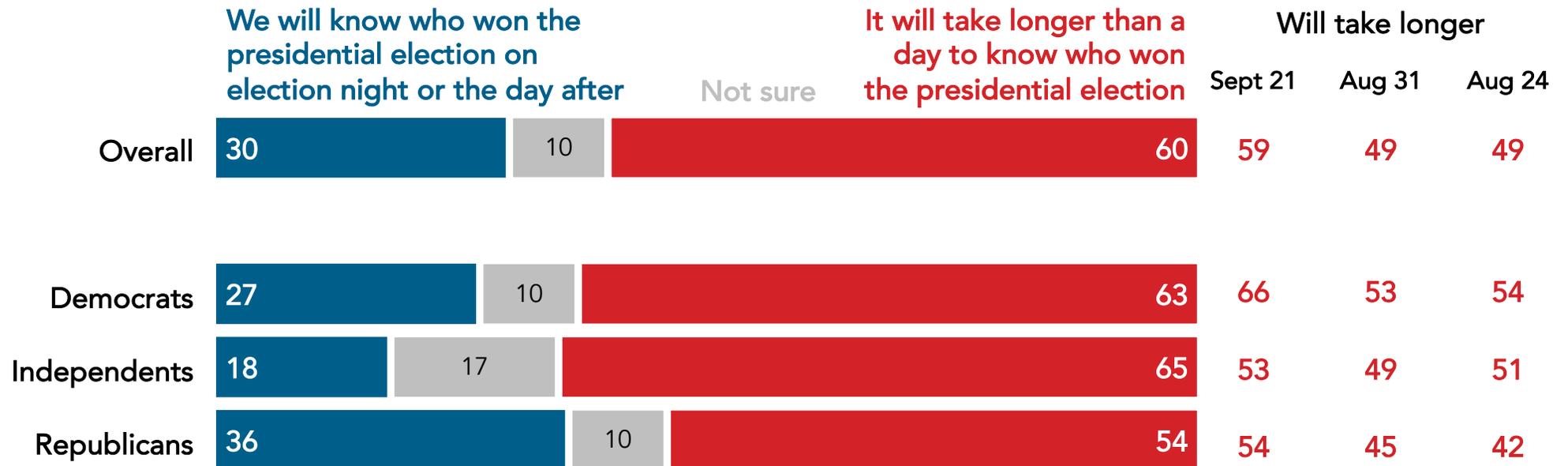
"Biden Voters" are defined as those who report intending to vote for Joe Biden in the November presidential election. "Trump Voters" are defined as those who report intending to vote for Donald Trump in the November presidential election. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 26-28, 2020. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Growing Awareness That Presidential Result May Not Be Clear on November 4th

The majority of Americans believe it will take longer than a day to know who won the presidential election, up double digits since just a month ago in August.

- In a follow-up question, 51% say that we will know within a couple of days or sooner, while 17% 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?



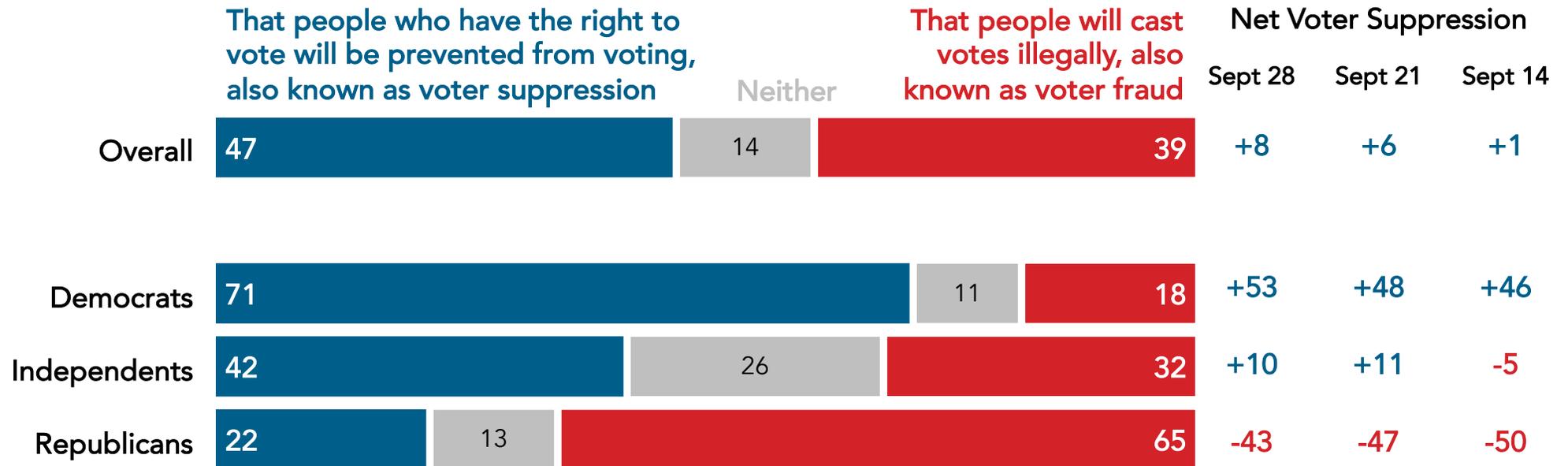
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Concerns About Voter Suppression Outweigh Concerns About Fraud

A near-majority now are more concerned about voter suppression than voter fraud in the November election, up a net 7 points since September 14.

- Among Republicans, there has been a 7-point net shift in the share who are more concerned about voter suppression than voter fraud (from -50 to -43) since September 14.

Which of the following concerns you more?

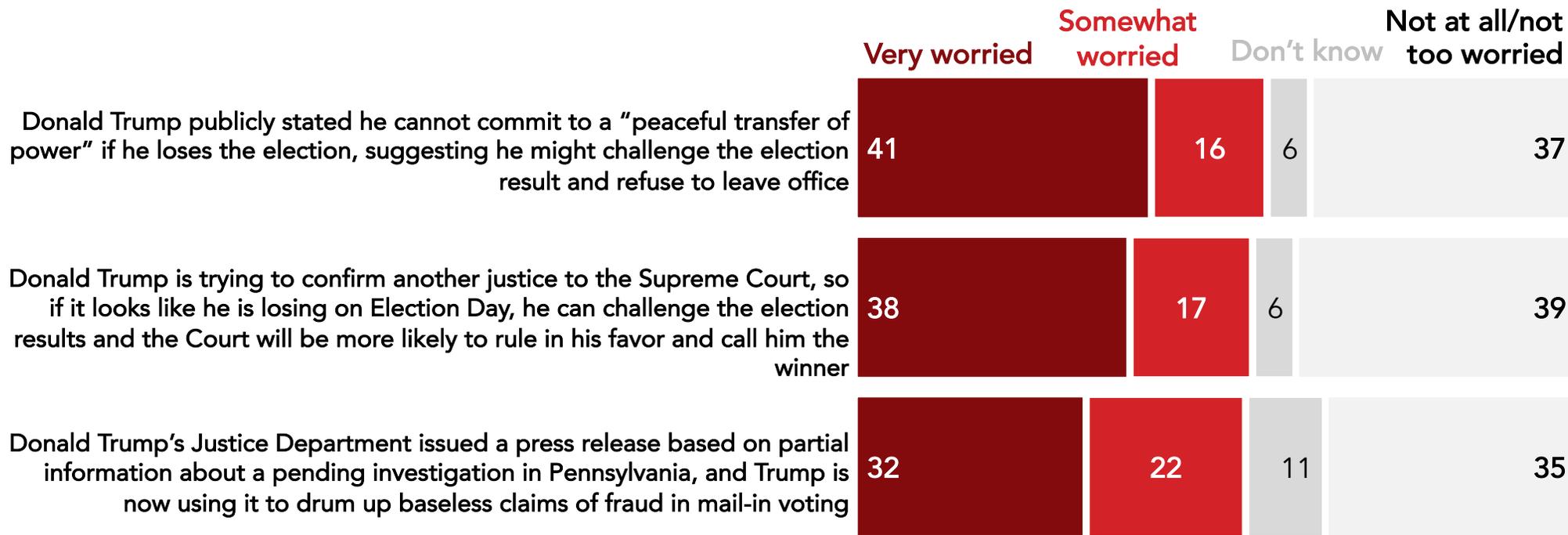


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Majority Worried By Range of Trump's Recent Actions Regarding Voting in the Upcoming Election

A majority of Americans are worried about Trump's refusal to commit to a peaceful transfer of power, efforts to confirm a new Justice to have a favorable Court on Election Day, and efforts to increase concern about voter fraud.

Please indicate whether each one is something you are worried about.



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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 1,002 registered voters from September 26-28, 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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