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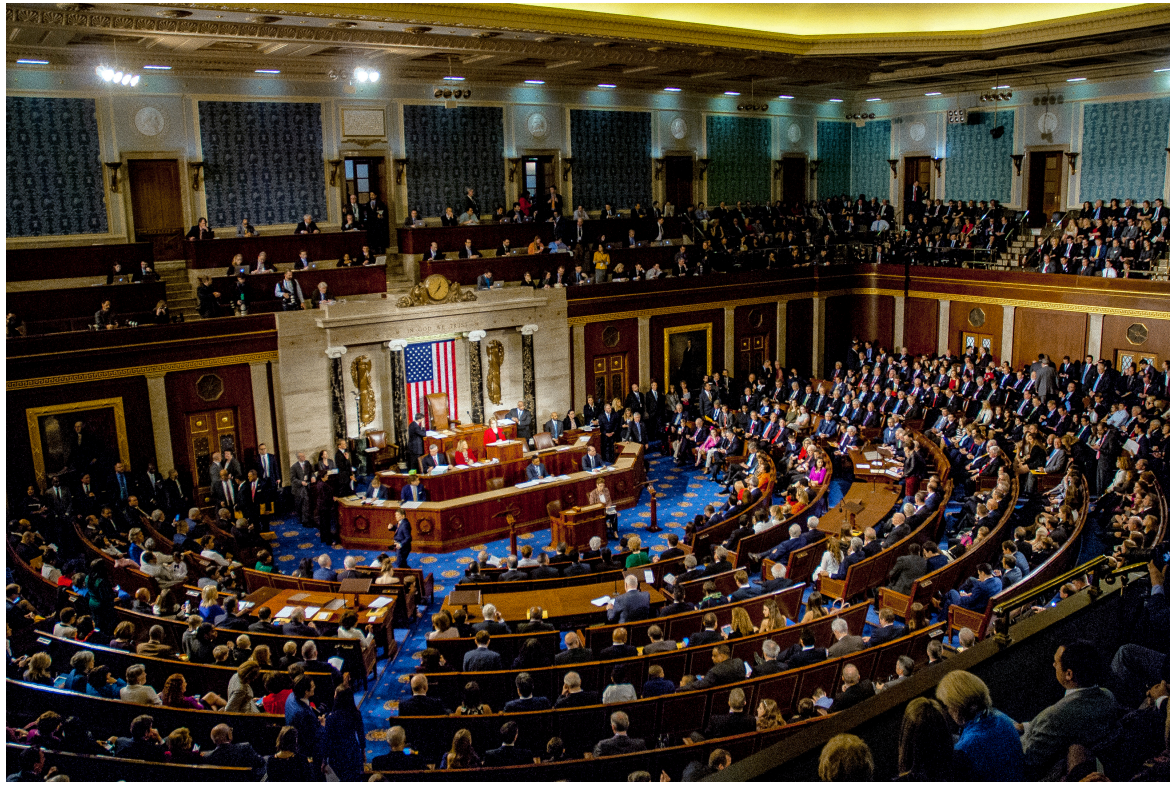

Update:
Thursday, January 14

Communicating in Crisis

GSG GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP

GBAO

Key Takeaways:

- As Biden's inauguration approaches, majorities of Americans support ending gerrymandering, eliminating the filibuster, and abolishing the Electoral College.

- The public says eliminating the Electoral College would have a "positive impact" on our government and would begin to make "every American's vote count."

- Eliminating the filibuster is most effectively framed as a "loophole," and Americans are most convinced by messaging that it creates more gridlock in Washington.

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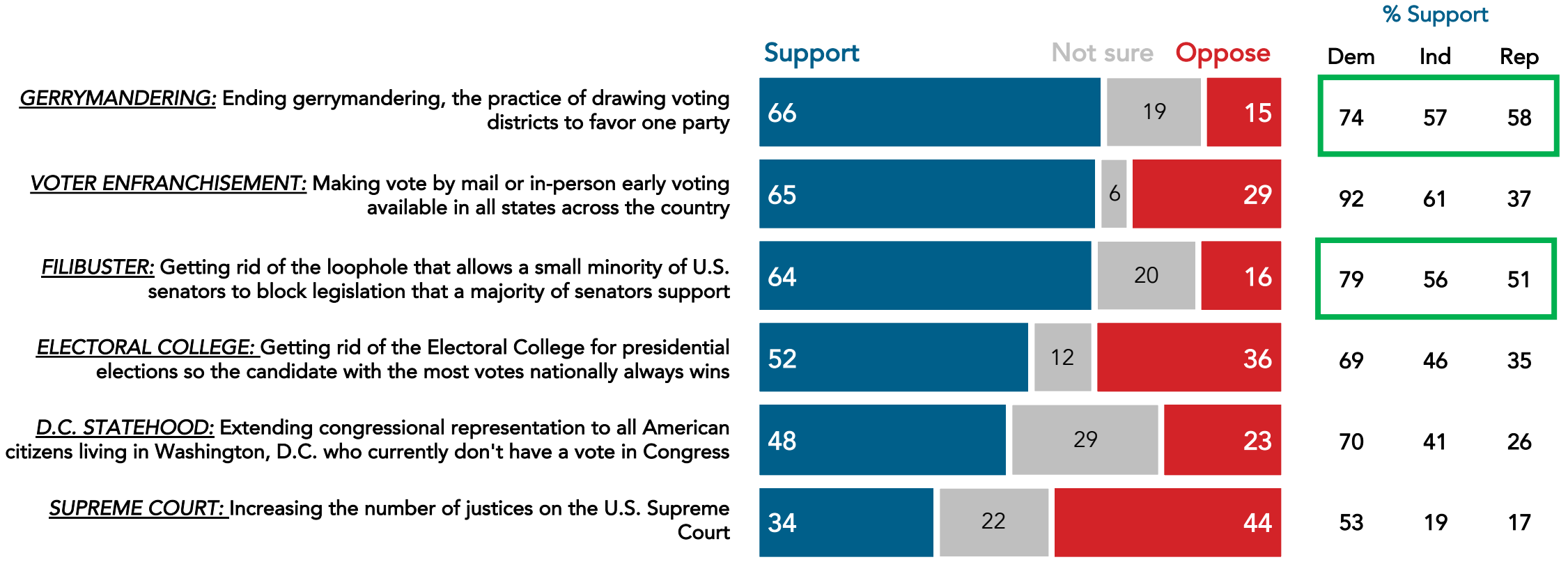
Majorities Support Ending Gerrymandering, Increasing Voter Access, and Eliminating the Filibuster and Electoral College

Proposals that get majority support across party lines include ending gerrymandering and getting rid of the filibuster.

Below is a list of proposals. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each one.



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 8-11, 2021.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

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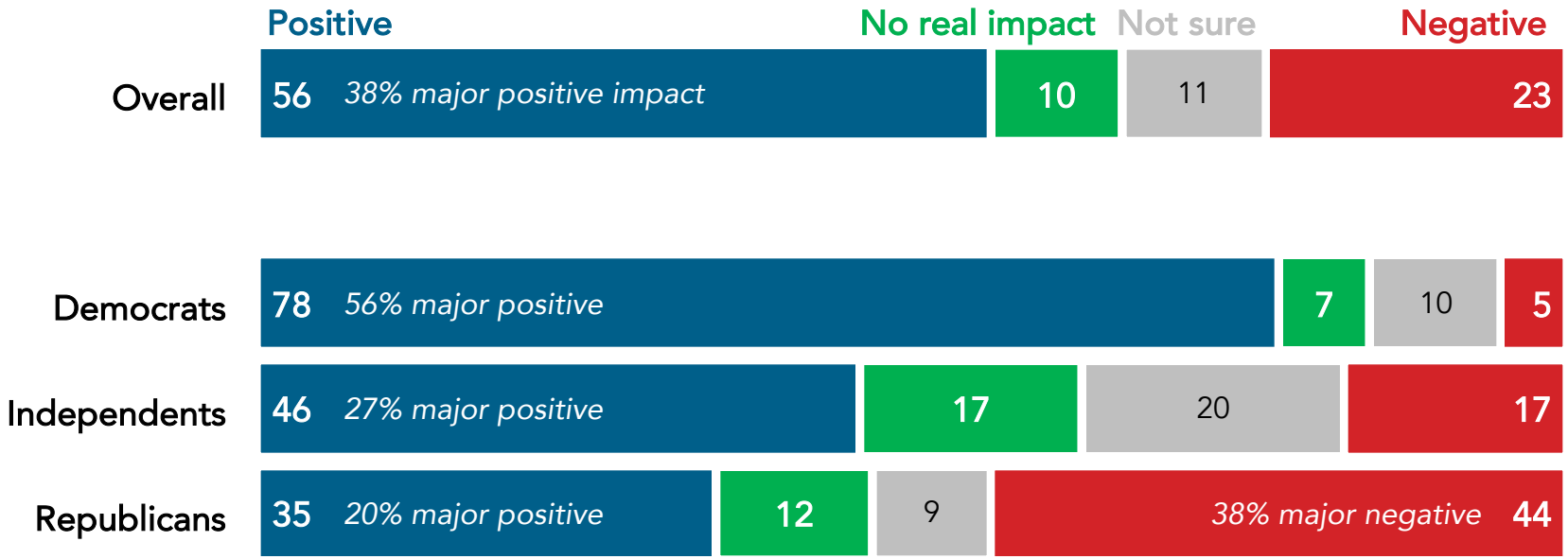
Most Say Eliminating the Electoral College Would Have a Positive Impact on Government

Three in four Democrats and nearly half of independents say it would be positive, as do a third of Republicans.

- While 51% of Republicans say 2020 decreased their confidence in the Electoral College, a plurality (44%) say its elimination would have a negative impact in making "our government work better for the people."

Please indicate what kind of impact you think this change would have in making our government work better for the people it represents: Declaring the candidate who wins the popular vote in the Presidential election the winner of the election.



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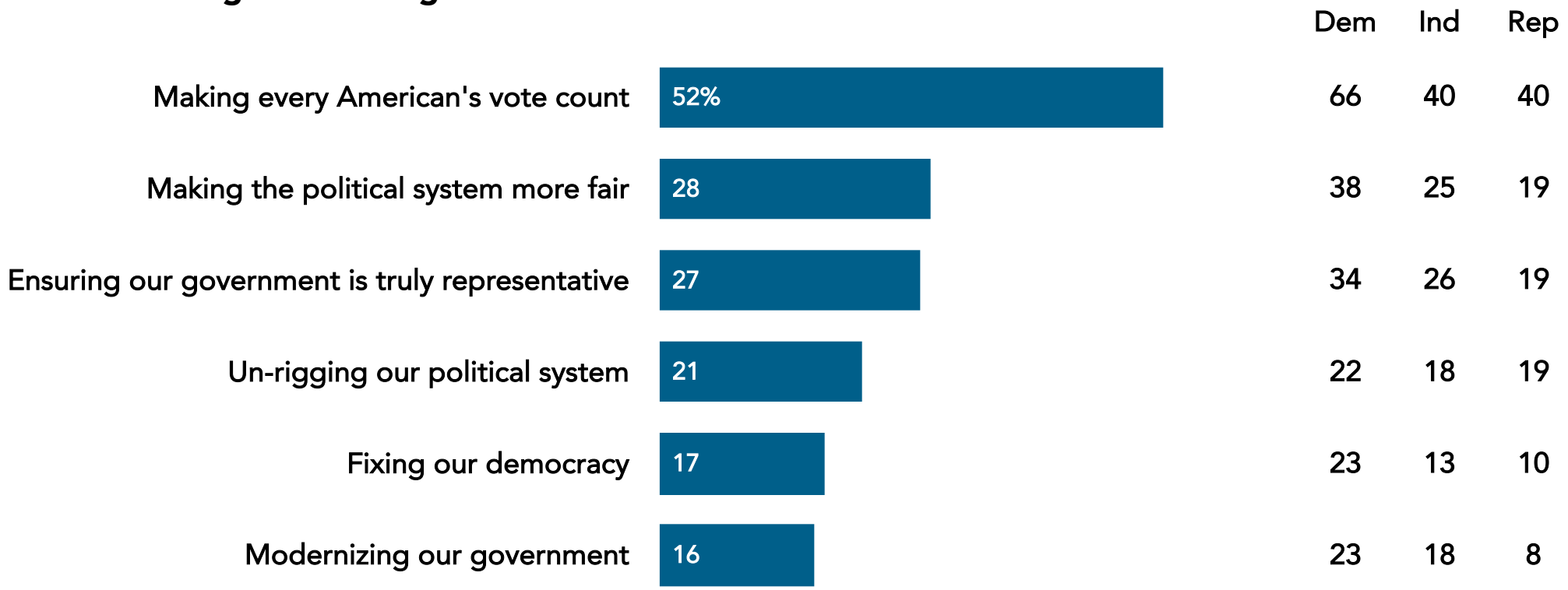
"Making Every American's Vote Count" Most Compelling Framing to Advocate for Abolishing the Electoral College

Nearly half of independents and Republicans say it would make "every American's vote count."

Thinking more about this proposal, which of the following phrases best describe what eliminating the Electoral College would begin to achieve?



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Limited Familiarity with Filibuster

Only half say they understand the filibuster "well," including only one in five who say they understand it "very well."

- Only 19% of Democrats and Republicans each say they understand what the filibuster is "very well," as do just 15% of independents.

How well do you understand what the filibuster is?

Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 8-11, 2021.
For more info, visit navigatorresarch.org.

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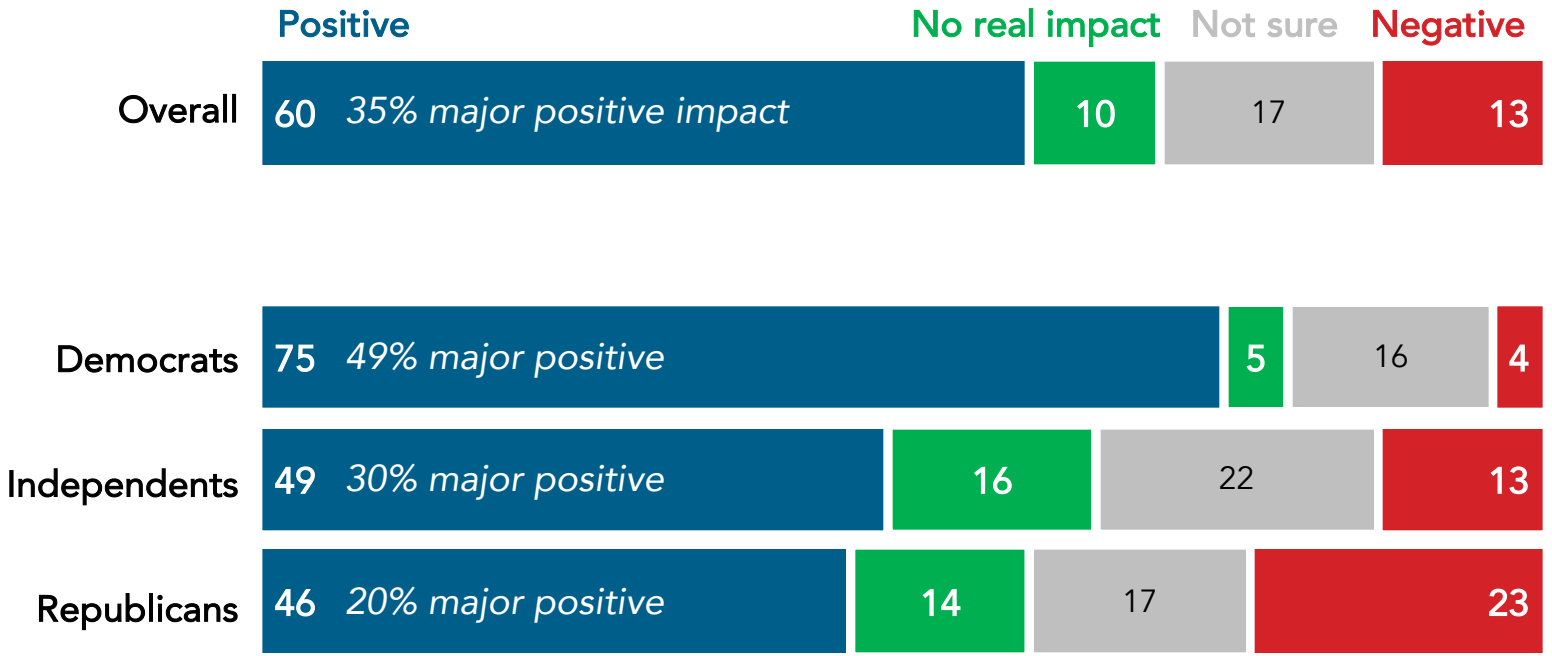
Despite Low Filibuster Awareness, Majority See Positive Impact from Getting Rid of Filibuster Framed as "Loophole"

A majority say getting rid of the "loophole that allows a small minority of U.S. senators to block legislation" would have a positive impact on making "our government work better for the people it represents."

Please indicate what kind of impact you think this change would have in making our government work better for the people it represents: Getting rid of the loophole that allows a small minority of U.S. senators to block legislation that a majority of senators support.



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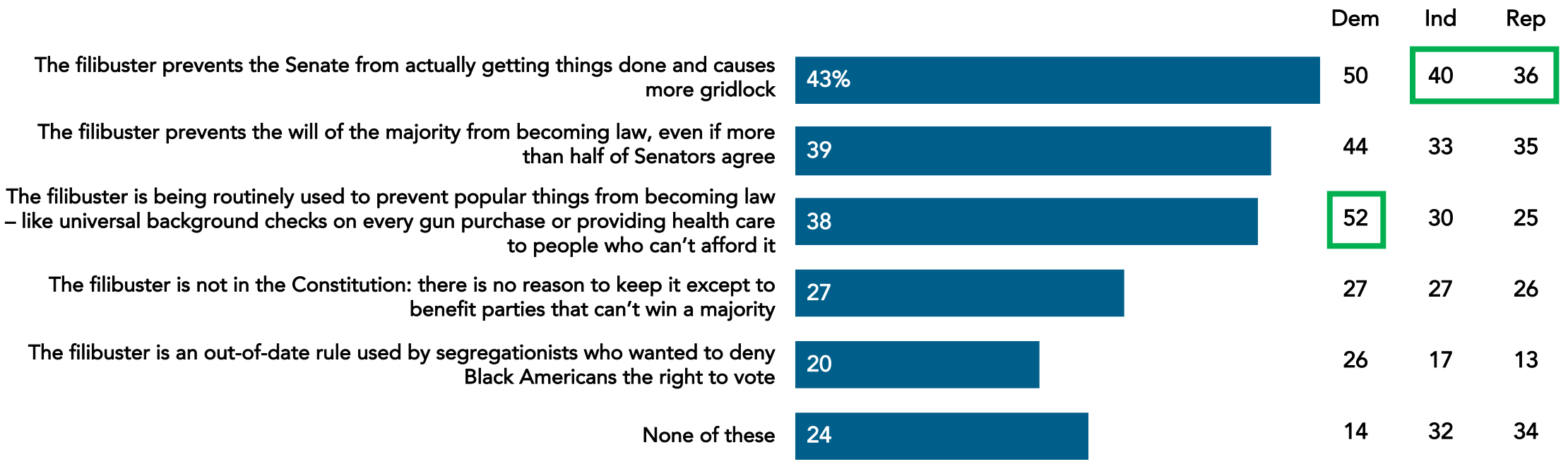
Top Reasons to Abolish Filibuster: Gridlock, Allowing Will of Majority to Become Law, Pass Popular Legislation

The most convincing reason to abolish the filibuster for Democrats is the filibuster's routine use to prevent specific policies – like background checks – while gridlock is most convincing for independents and Republicans.

As you may know, some people have argued that we need to abolish the filibuster as a Senate rule, which is a loophole that allows a small minority of U.S. senators to block legislation that a majority of senators support by requiring 60 votes instead of a simple majority. Below are some arguments that have been made for abolishing the filibuster. **Which three of these do you think are the most convincing reasons to abolish the filibuster?**



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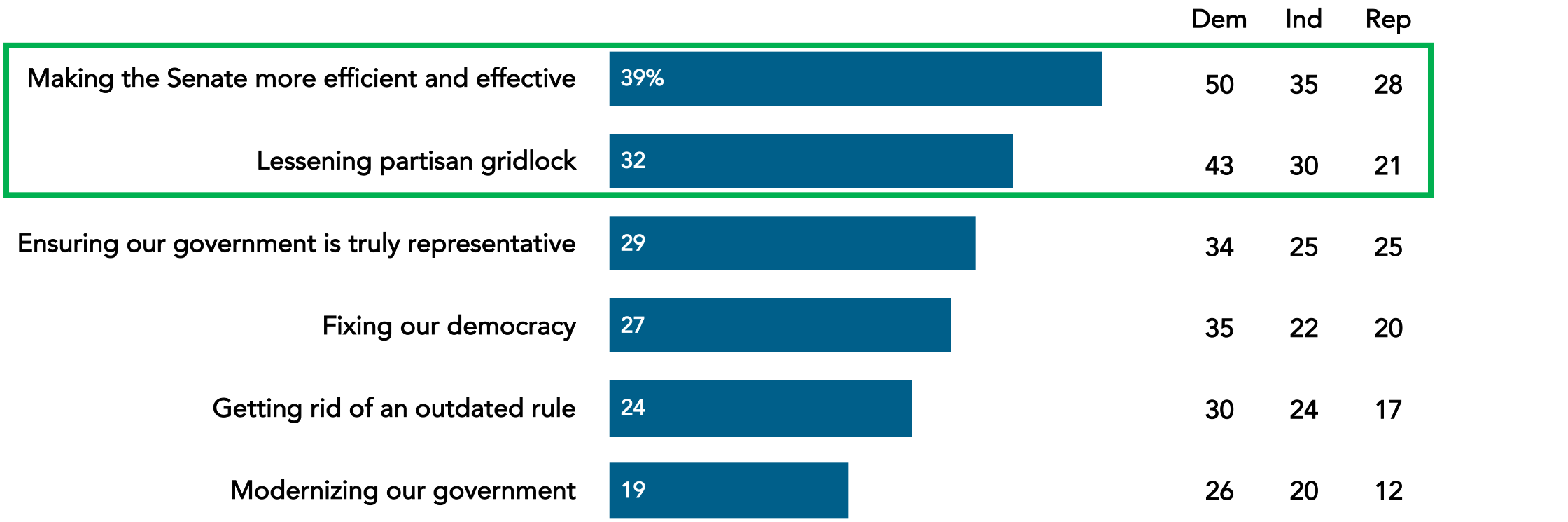
Eliminating the Filibuster Would Begin To Make the Senate More Efficient and Lessen Gridlock

Two in five say eliminating the filibuster would make the Senate "more efficient and effective."

Thinking more about those proposals, which of the following phrases best describe what eliminating the filibuster would begin to achieve?



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 8-11, 2021.
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A Range of Progressive Messages are Effective Against a Pro-Filibuster Argument

Messaging focused on gridlock, the filibuster's anti-civil rights history, and its anti-democratic nature are compelling.

Even if you don't agree with either side completely, who do you find more convincing:

Those who say abolishing the filibuster is dangerous. The Senate is supposed to be "the world's greatest deliberative body," where both parties have to work together. Without the filibuster, whichever party has a bare majority can pass any laws they want

Those who say the filibuster has to go. It is an out-of-date rule that's not in the Constitution and **allows a minority of Senators to cause even more gridlock. Already, too many bills with bipartisan support are blocked because a few Senators want to play partisan games.**	Those who say the filibuster has to go. It is an out-of-date rule that's not in the Constitution and **allows a minority to cause gridlock. The reality is if we want to reform immigration or health care and combat climate change, it is not going to be possible if they need 60 votes to pass every bill**	Those who say the filibuster has to go. **It is a rule that has its roots in being used to stop civil rights legislation**, and continues to be used today to **prevent the expansion of voting rights and granting legal status to immigrants who entered the country as children**	Those who say the filibuster is **anti-Democratic and rigs the Senate to block the will of the people**. When the majority of voters support important action, a narrow minority in the Senate shouldn't be able to block it
Statement 1: 46%	Statement 1: 46%	Statement 1: 47%	Statement 1: 49%
Statement 2: 54%	Statement 2: 54%	Statement 2: 53%	Statement 2: 51%

Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 8-11, 2021.
For more info, visit navigatorresarch.org.

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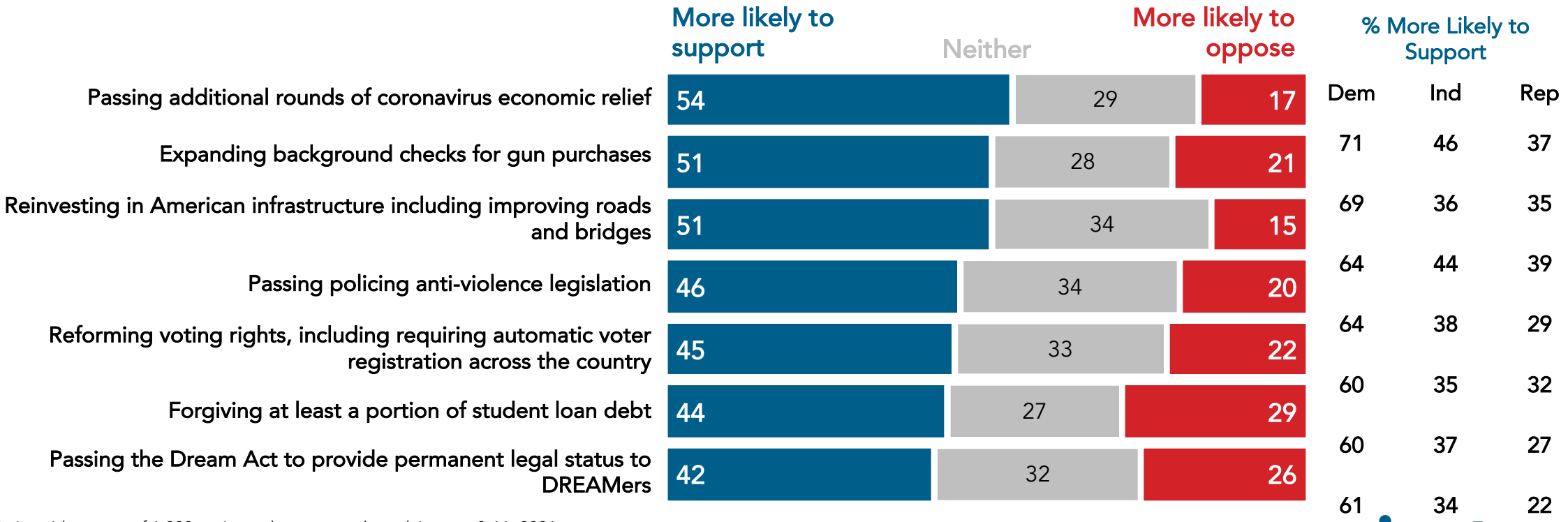
Passage of Economic Relief, Background Checks, and Infrastructure are Compelling Reasons to Eliminate Filibuster

Pandemic relief and infrastructure are compelling across party lines.

Please indicate whether you would be more likely to support or oppose eliminating the filibuster if the filibuster remaining in place as it currently exists would mean these policies would not be enacted.



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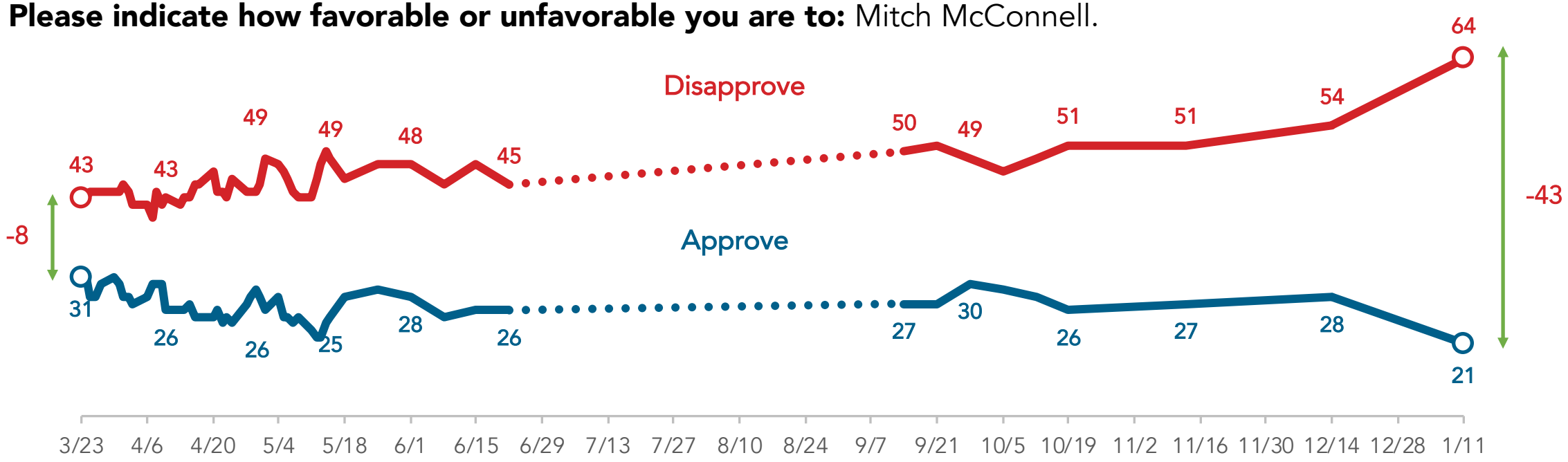
Since March 2020, Former Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's Favorability Has Tanked By 35 Points

At the end of Trump's presidency, former Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell's favorability is 43 points underwater.

- In March 2020, McConnell was at net -13 among independents (23% fav/36% unfav) and +34 among Republicans (56%/22%); now, he's at net -50 (11%/61%) and -9 (37%/46%) respectively.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Mitch McConnell.



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days.
Latest wave conducted January 8-11, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

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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 January 8-11, 2021. 104 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 103 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among independent voters. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from an opt-in online panel vendor. 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:

press@navigatorresearch.org

To learn more about Navigator:

http://navigatorresearch.org

@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter