

navigator*

Thursday, June 17th

Democracy Reform: A Guide for Advocates



Key Takeaways:

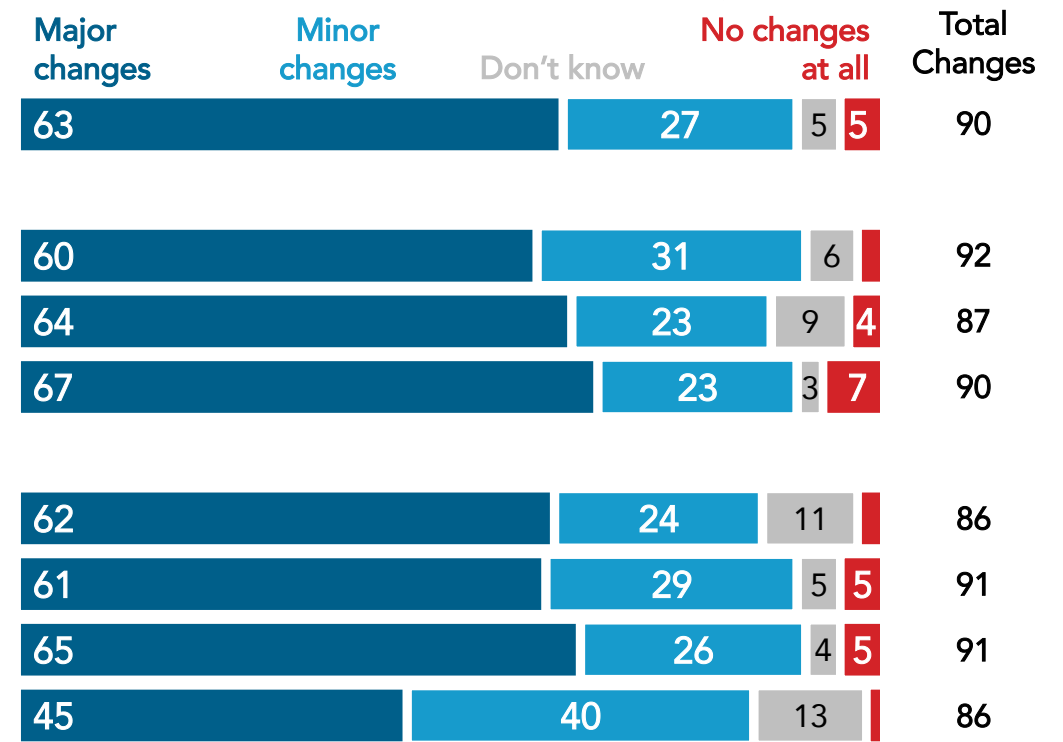
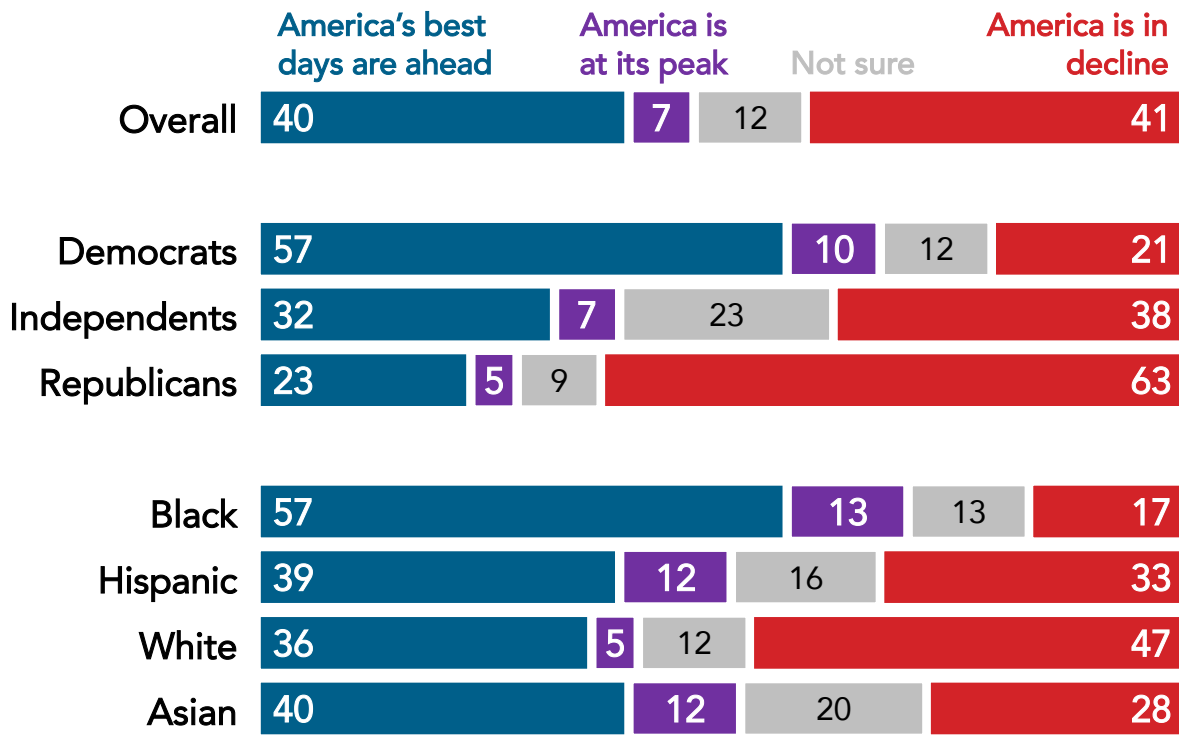
- While Americans are divided on how the country is doing, most think we need major changes in how our government works.
- A majority support the For the People Act and see urgency in its passage before next year's midterm elections.
- Out of a range of For the People Act proposals, those that curb corruption, create accountability, and ensure absentee ballot access are seen as those that would have the greatest personal impact for Americans.

Americans Are Divided on the State of the Country and Want “Major Changes” in How Government Works

Nearly two in three Americans want “major changes” to the way our government works (63%).

In general, do you think America's best days are ahead, America is at its peak, or America is in decline?

Generally speaking, do you think we need to make major changes in the way our government works, minor changes, or no changes at all?

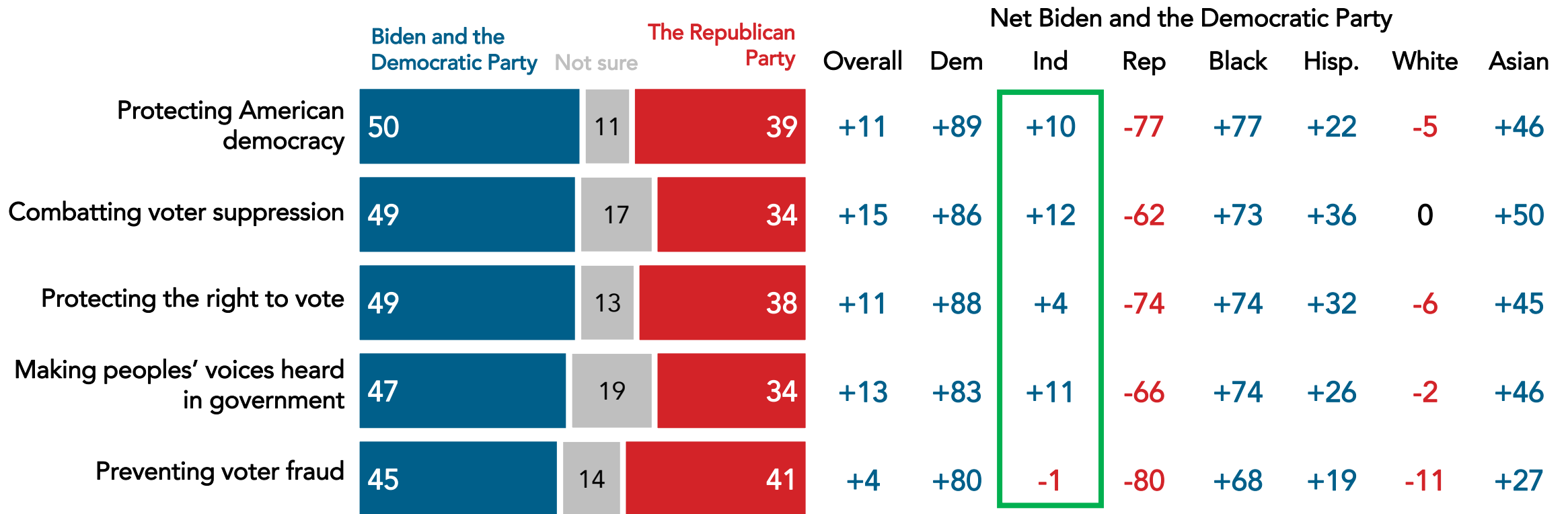


Nationwide survey of 1,001 registered voters conducted June 10-June 14, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Biden and Democrats More Trusted Than Congressional Republicans as Stewards of Democracy and Voting

Biden and Democrats are more trusted than Republicans by double digits on “protecting American democracy,” “combatting voter suppression,” and “making sure peoples’ voices” are heard among independents.

Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you trust more to handle:



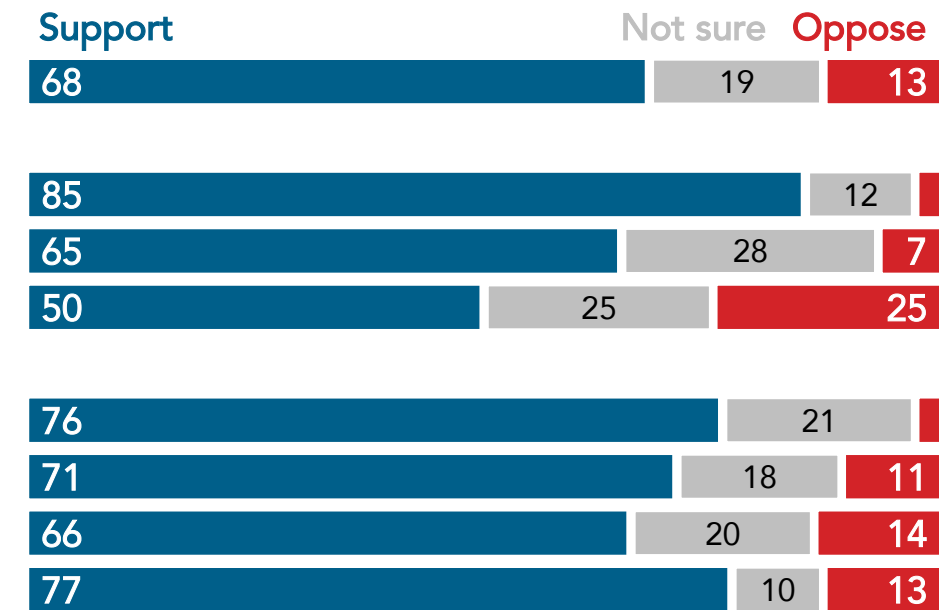
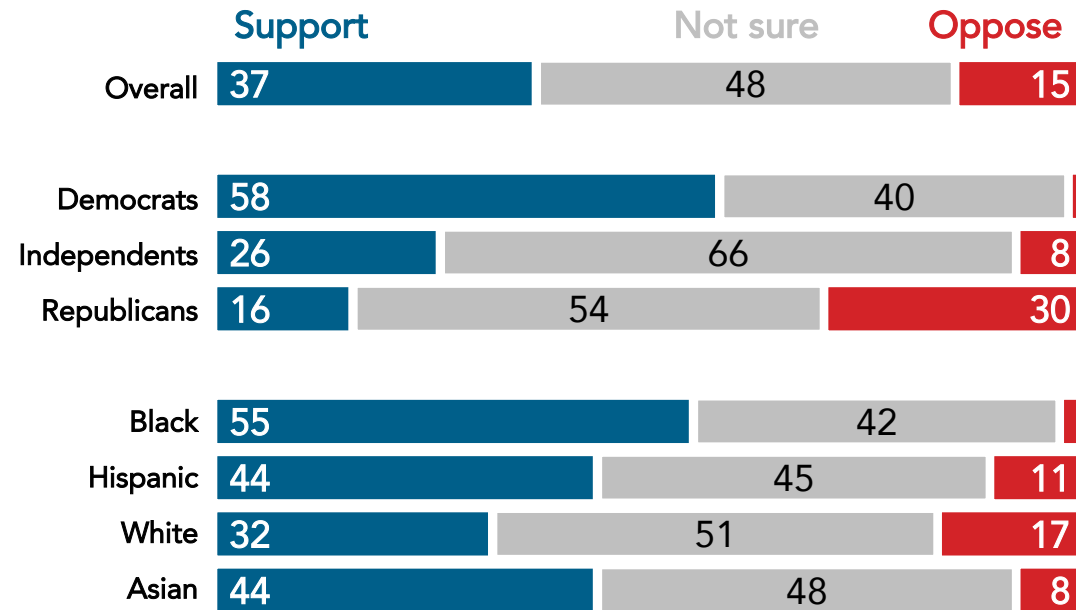
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While Many Are Initially Unaware of the For the People Act, Support Is Strong Once Informed

On a separate question, only 33% of Americans report having heard "a lot" (10%) or "some" (23%) about it.

Regardless of how much you have seen or heard about the For the People Act, do you support or oppose the For the People Act?

Regardless of how much you have heard about the For the People Act, do you support or oppose new legislation that will protect and expand voting rights and election security, reduce the influence of big money in our politics, require an independent commission set Congressional district lines that don't unfairly benefit either party, and ensure an ethical government that is accountable to the people?



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Most Popular Democracy Reforms: Donor Disclosure, Limiting Lobbyist Influence, Redistricting, Election Security

Among independents, a majority “strongly support” requiring disclosing dark money donors (53%) and “slowing the revolving door between government officials and lobbyists” (49%).

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each proposal being considered to reform how our government currently works.

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Oppose	Overall	Total Support		
					Dem	Ind	Rep
Requiring secret money organizations that spend money in elections to disclose their donors	61	23	16	84	87	78	81
Slowing the revolving door between government officials and lobbyists	50	35	14	86	90	81	81
Ensuring that all eligible voters can vote by absentee ballot	48	26	25	75	94	79	52
Making online voter registration available in every state	46	24	30	70	93	72	45
Ending the manipulation of Congressional districts – known as partisan gerrymandering – by creating independent redistricting commissions	44	38	18	82	92	80	71
Expanding early voting access by requiring all states to offer 15 days of early voting	41	35	24	76	96	76	53
Making automatic voter registration available in every state, meaning eligible voters are automatically registered to vote whenever they interact with government agencies [e.g. departments of motor vehicles]	40	31	29	71	93	73	47
Enhancing election security by increasing funding for more election oversight	40	43	16	84	86	80	81
Restoring voting rights to people after they serve their time for a felony conviction	38	31	31	69	89	69	46

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Ending Gerrymandering, Ensuring Absentee Voting, & Disclosing Dark Money Seen as Having Positive Personal Impacts

Roughly three in ten Americans across party lines say ending partisan gerrymandering would have the most positive impact on them personally if passed (35% of Democrats, 29% of independents, and 31% of Republicans).

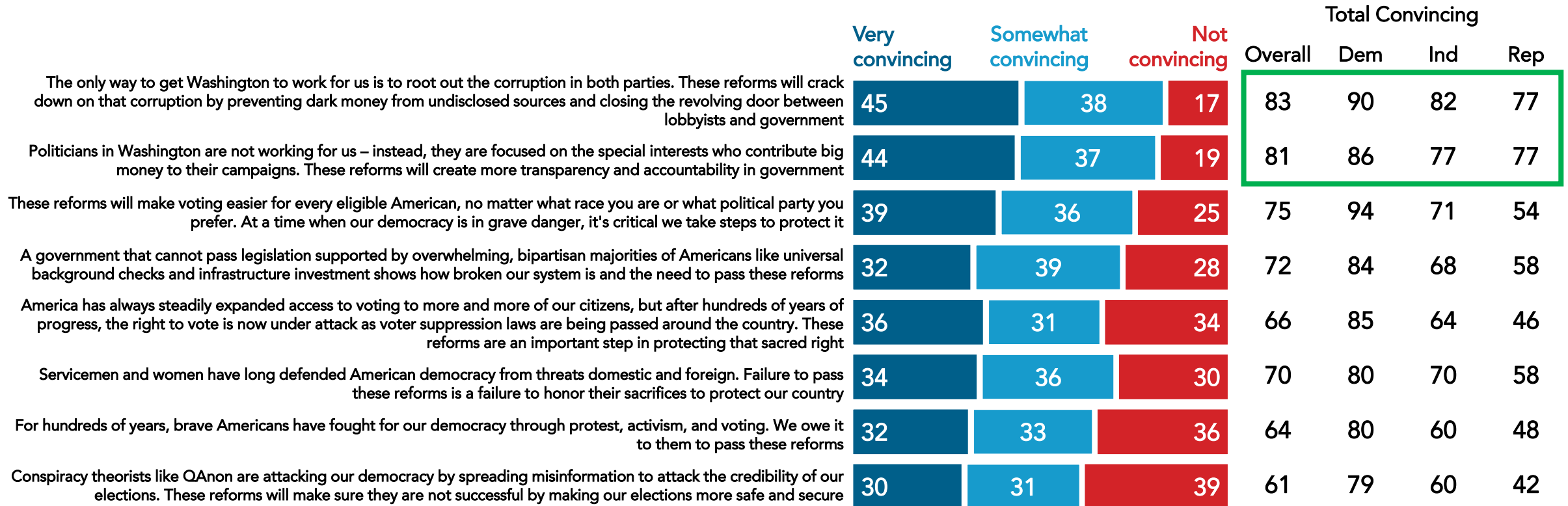
Regardless of which ones you support, please indicate which THREE reforms to how our government currently works you think will have the most positive impact on you personally if passed.

		Dem	Ind	Rep	Black	Hisp	White	Asian
Ending the manipulation of Congressional districts – known as partisan gerrymandering – by creating independent redistricting commissions	33%	35	29	31	26	25	35	33
Ensuring that all eligible voters can vote by absentee ballot	32	47	31	16	38	35	30	53
Requiring secret money organizations that spend money in elections to disclose their donors	29	25	27	33	19	25	32	15
Expanding early voting access by requiring all states to offer 15 days of early voting	27	36	29	16	30	32	24	41
Making online voter registration available in every state	26	35	29	16	39	27	23	34
Enhancing election security by increasing funding for more election oversight	24	13	19	38	15	21	27	19
Making automatic voter registration available in every state, meaning eligible voters are automatically registered to vote whenever they interact with government agencies	24	32	27	15	33	29	22	28
Slowing the revolving door between government officials and lobbyists	23	18	17	30	12	18	26	14
Restoring voting rights to people after they serve their time for a felony conviction	16	21	14	11	29	25	12	23

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Most Effective Arguments for Reforms Focus on Rooting Out Corruption and Creating More Accountability

Consensus exists among at least three in four Americans across party lines that rooting out corruption in both parties and ensuring politicians work “for us” rather than special interests are convincing reasons to support these reforms. Please indicate whether you find each of the statements convincing as a reason to support these reforms.

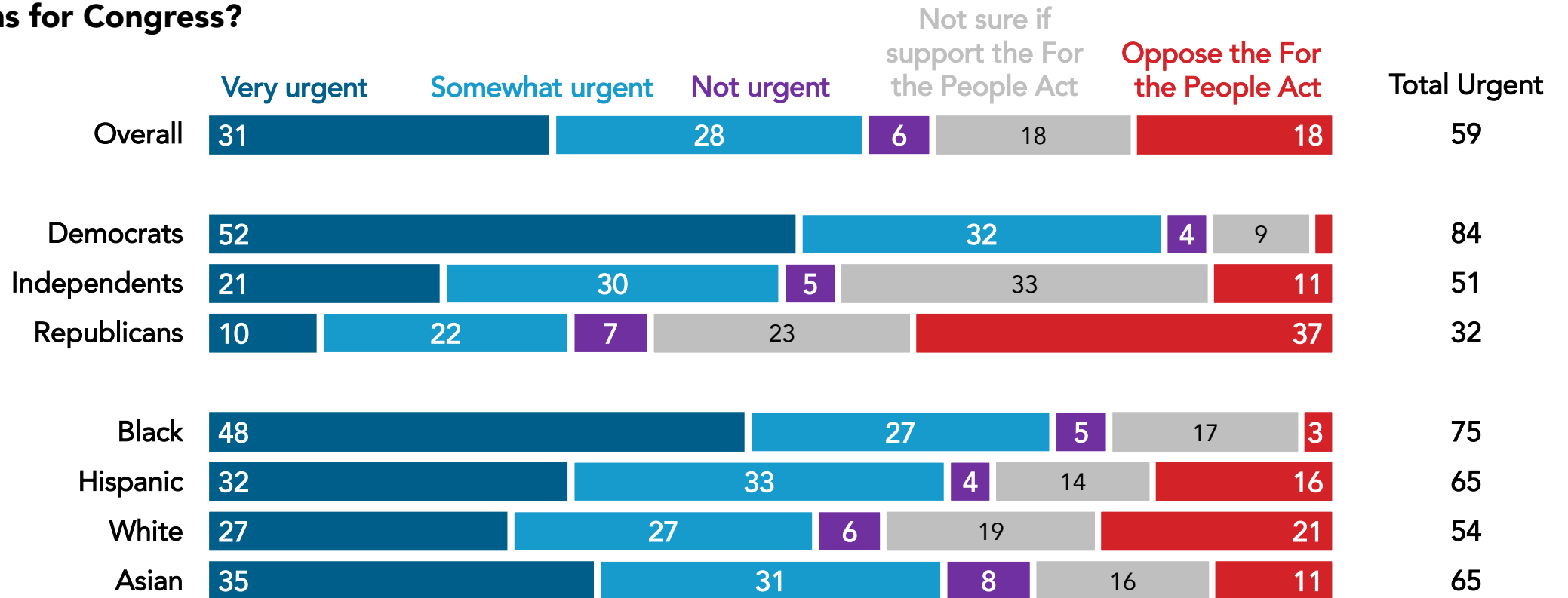


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Majority Say It Is Urgent That the For the People Act Is Passed Before Midterms

More than half of independents (51%) say it is urgent the For the People Act is passed before the November 2022 midterm elections. Among Democrats, 52% say it is "very urgent."

How urgent do you think it is that the For the People Act gets passed ahead of the November 2022 midterm elections for Congress?



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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 1,001 registered voters from June 10-June 14, 2021. 99 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 71 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 102 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 101 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.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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