

navigator*

Thursday, September 30th

Communicating on Build Back Better and the Debt Ceiling



Key Takeaways:

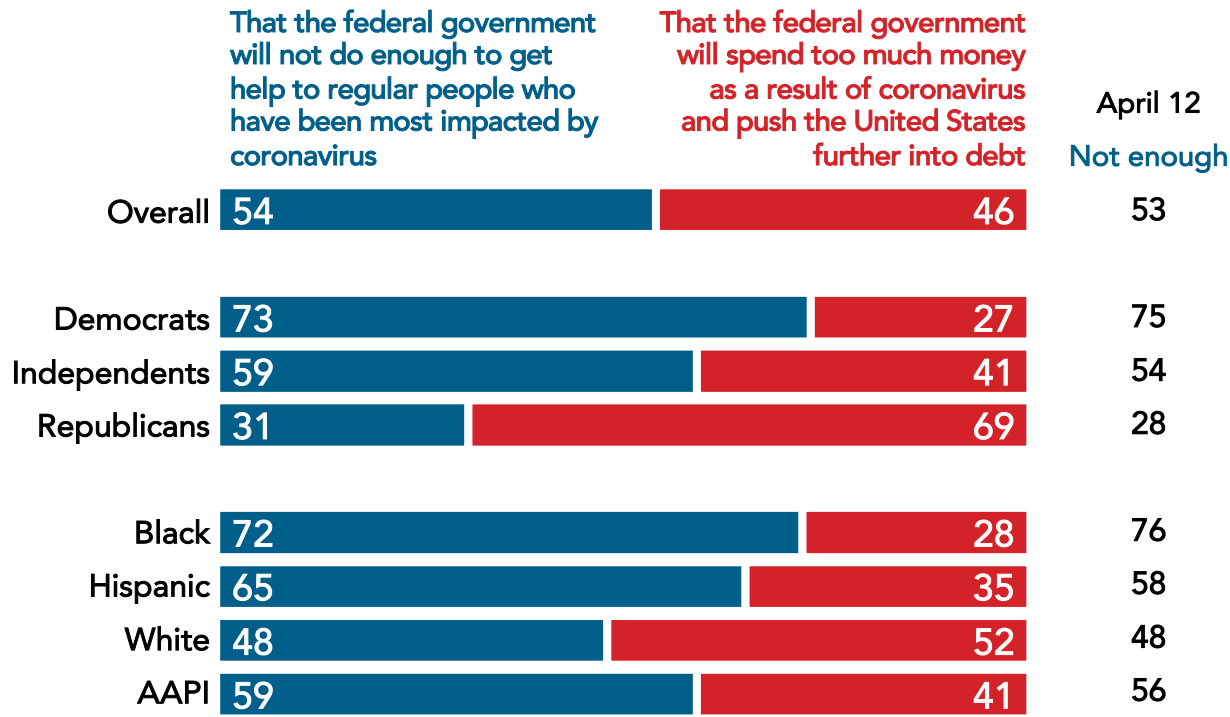
- More than three in five Americans continue to support President Biden's Build Back Better economic proposal.
- A majority of Americans support Congress raising the debt ceiling.
- A delay in Social Security payments and veterans' benefits are seen as the most concerning and most likely potential consequences of Congress failing to reach a new deal to raise the national debt ceiling.

Majorities Continue to Support the Federal Government Doing More to Help Regular People

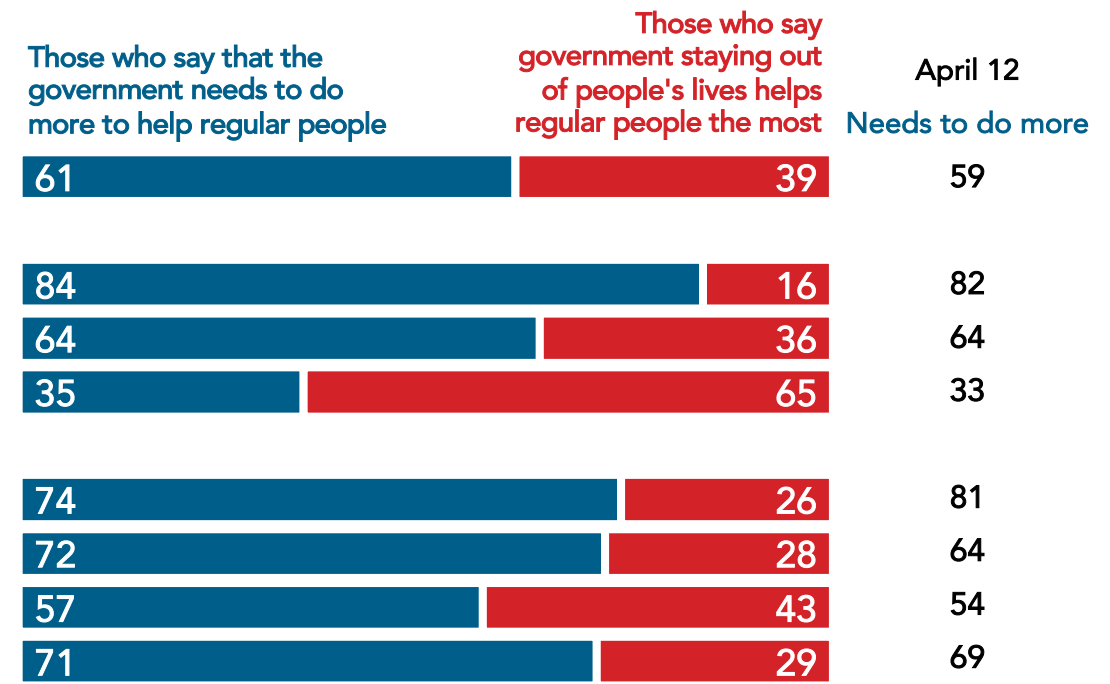
A majority of Americans continue to be more concerned the federal government will not do enough to help regular people impacted by the pandemic and feel the government needs to do more to help regular people.

- Among independents, 59% are concerned the government won't do enough and 64% support it doing more.

Which of the following concerns you more right now?



Even if you don't agree with either side completely, who do you agree with more right now?



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted September 23-September 27, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

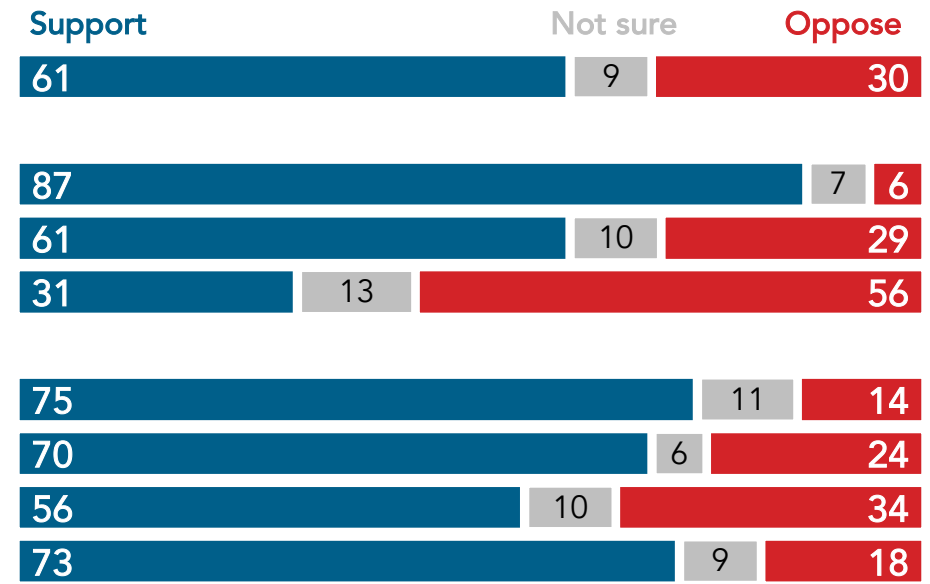
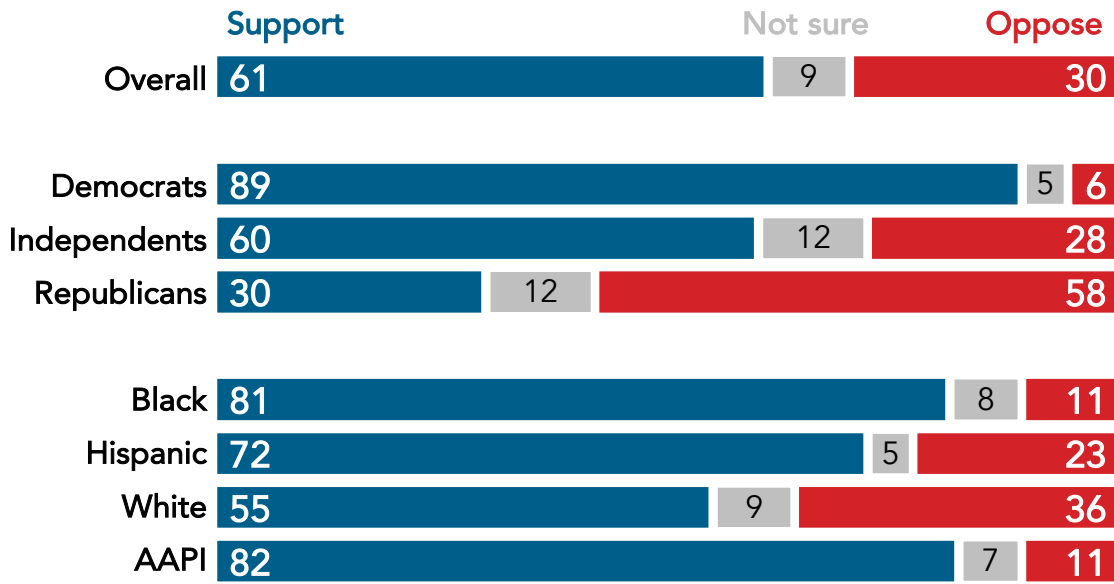
Support for Biden and Democrats' New Economic Plan Is High and Does Not Change When Pay-Fors Are Introduced

Three in five Americans support Biden and Democrats' new plan with (61%) or without pay-fors introduced (61%).

- Three in five independents also support the plan with (61%) or without pay-fors (60%).

As you may know, Biden and Democrats' new economic plan is expected to cost \$3.5 trillion* and will provide paid family and medical leave, establish a universal pre-K program, expand Medicare coverage for seniors including dental, vision, and hearing coverage, and lower health care costs by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices. Do you support or oppose this economic plan?

Biden and Democrats' new economic plan would be paid for by increasing taxes on the top 2% of income earners, raising taxes on those earning over \$1 million a year from selling stocks and bonds, known as capital gains, raising the corporate tax rate from 21% to 26.5%, and cracking down on tax evasion. Knowing this, do you support or oppose this legislation?



*Half of respondents were asked a version of this question with a price tag of \$3.5 trillion, while the other half were asked a version with a price tag of \$350 billion a year over 10 years. The results were nearly identical and thus combined to allow for greater subgroup analysis. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted September 23-September 27, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Two in Three Say Passing the Economic Plan Is Urgent

In the context of needing to pass the spending bill in order to pass the bipartisan infrastructure bill, a majority of Americans say passing the spending bill is urgent, including 69% of independents.

As you may know, if this \$3.5 trillion spending bill doesn't pass, an infrastructure bill that recently passed in the Senate with bipartisan support is unlikely to get signed into law because some members of Congress only agreed to support it if the larger economic plan is also passed by Congress. Knowing this, how urgent is it to pass the spending bill as soon as possible to ensure both get passed?

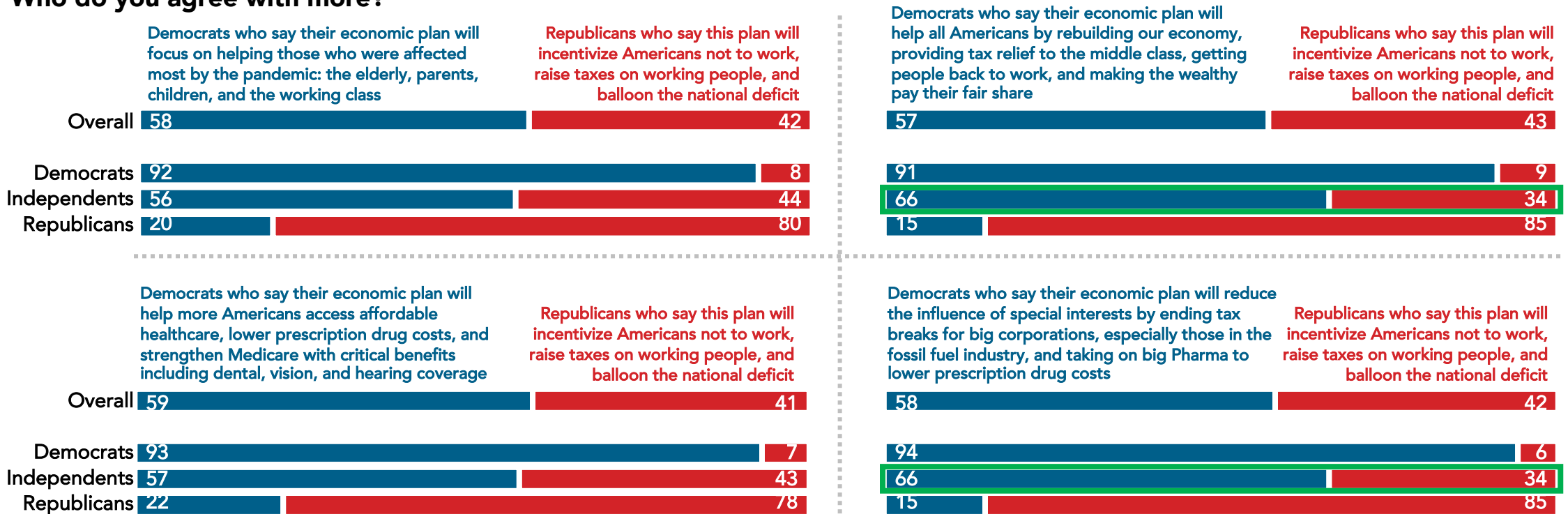


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted September 23-September 27, 2021.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Majorities Side More With Range of Democratic Arguments in Support of Spending Plan than Republicans Who Oppose

Among independents, focusing on how the plan helps all Americans, rather than specific groups like the elderly and children, and highlighting how it will reduce the influence of special interests are the strongest lanes.

Who do you agree with more?

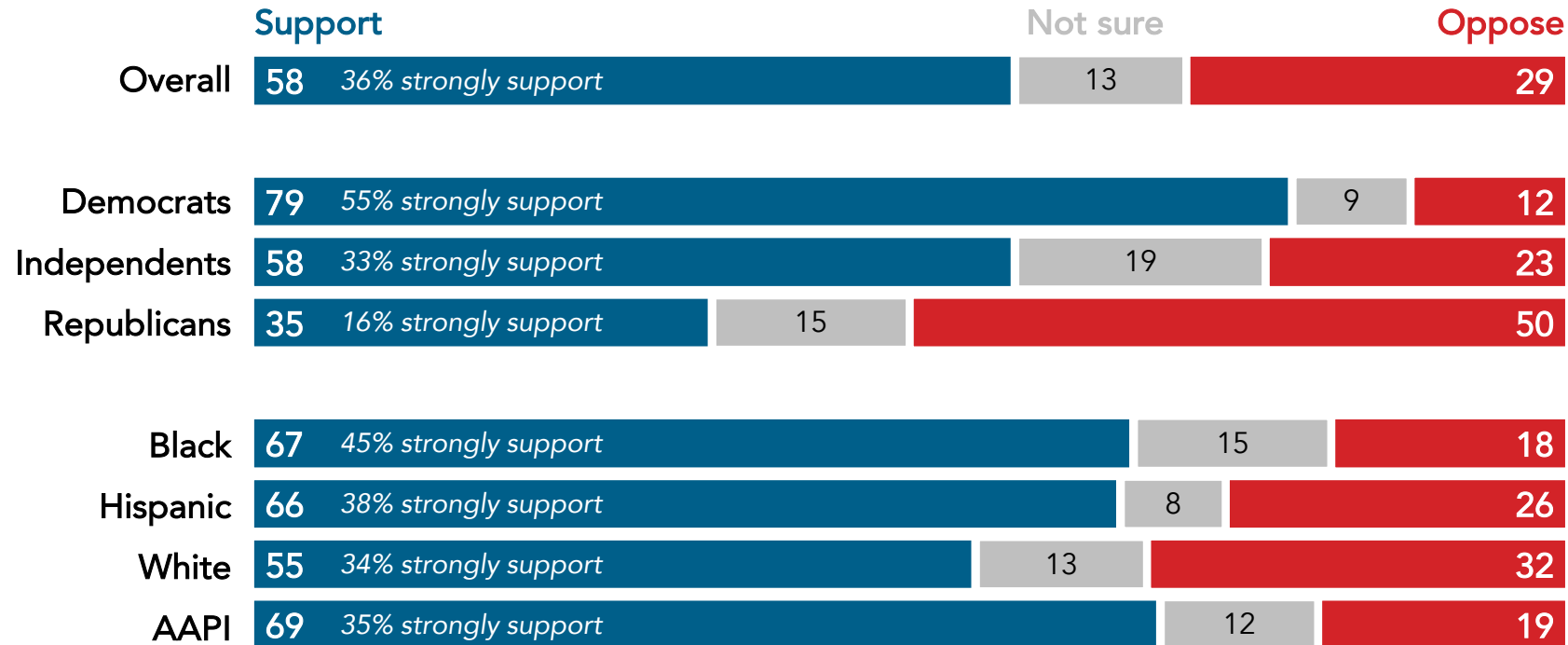


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Nearly Three in Five Support Congress Raising Debt Ceiling

Intensity of support is also strong: 36% “strongly support” Congress passing a bill to raise the debt ceiling.

As you may or may not know, if Congress does not raise the debt ceiling, the federal government will have to shut down most of its operations, which would have significant negative impacts on the economy: the government would not be able to send out payments such as Social Security or paychecks to federal government employees. Knowing this, do you support or oppose Congress passing a bill to raise the debt ceiling so the government can continue paying its obligations?



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Independents & Persuadables Most Concerned About Job Losses, Delayed Social Security and Veterans' Benefits

Independents and economically persuadable Americans*, much like Americans broadly, are most concerned about a loss of millions of jobs and a delay in Social Security and veterans' benefits if Congress fails to raise the debt ceiling.

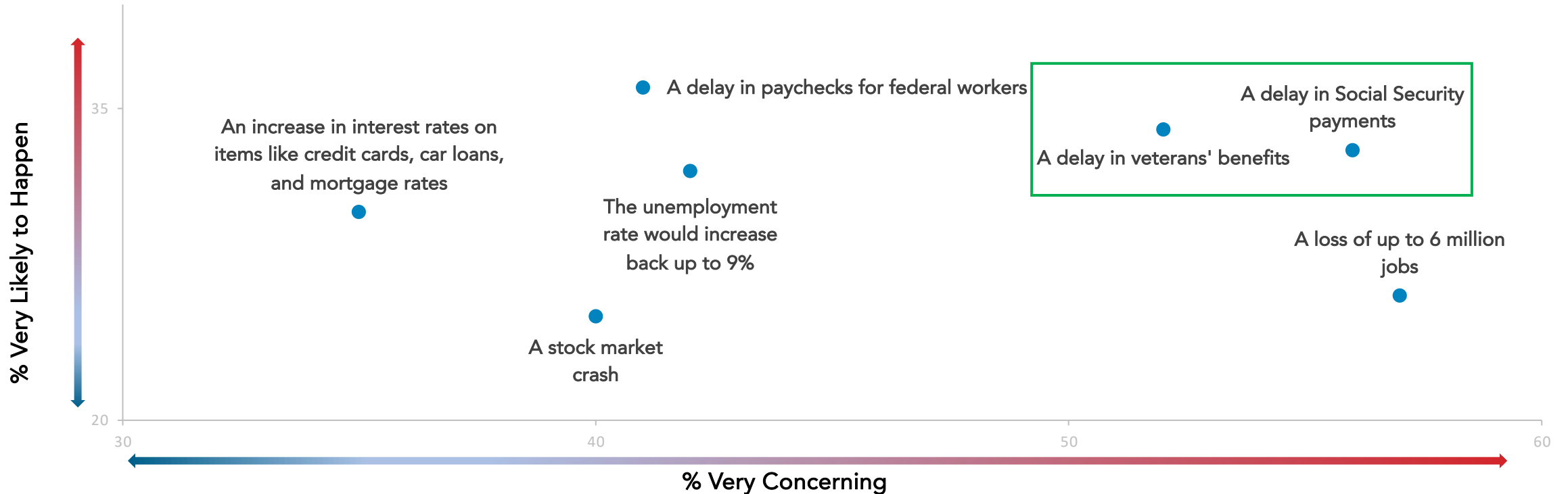
Below is a list of concerns some people have about potential consequences of Congress failing to reach a new deal to increase the national debt ceiling. Please indicate how concerned you are about each one.

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not concerned	Independents	Very concerned *Economically Persuadable
A loss of up to 6 million jobs	57	26	17	57	67
A delay in Social Security payments	56	29	15	57	65
A delay in veterans' benefits	52	32	16	48	64
The unemployment rate would increase back up to 9%	42	34	24	45	49
A delay in paychecks for federal workers	41	34	25	36	49
A stock market crash	40	33	27	41	42
An increase in interest rates on items like credit cards, car loans, and mortgage rates	35	39	26	36	40

*"Economically persuadable" Americans are defined as those who disapprove of how Biden is handling the economy, but support Biden and Democrats' new economic plan. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted September 23-September 27, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Delays in Social Security Payments and Veterans' Benefits Seen as Most Likely and Concerning Effects of Default

Half of respondents were shown a list of potential consequences if Congress fails to reach a new deal on the debt ceiling and asked how concerned they were about each item, while the other half was shown the same list and asked how likely it is that each consequence could happen. Delayed Social Security payments topped both lists, followed closely by a delay in veterans' benefits. Most concerning (but less likely) is a loss of 6 million jobs.



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Reminding Americans Republicans Voted to Raise the Debt Ceiling Three Times Under Trump Is Most Effective Rebuttal

Against a conservative argument criticizing Democrats for irresponsible spending, a progressive response that highlights the three times Republicans voted to raise the debt ceiling under Trump is most effective. A response that also focuses on Republicans voting for this spending is more compelling than the conservative message.

Which side would you blame more if Congress fails to reach a new deal to increase the national debt ceiling?

Statement 1: Democrats, because they're the ones who are irresponsibly spending government money and putting the U.S. in this situation.

Statement 2: Republicans, who voted to raise the debt ceiling three times under Trump while racking up nearly \$8 trillion on the deficit in that time, but now want to score points against Biden at the expense of the economy.

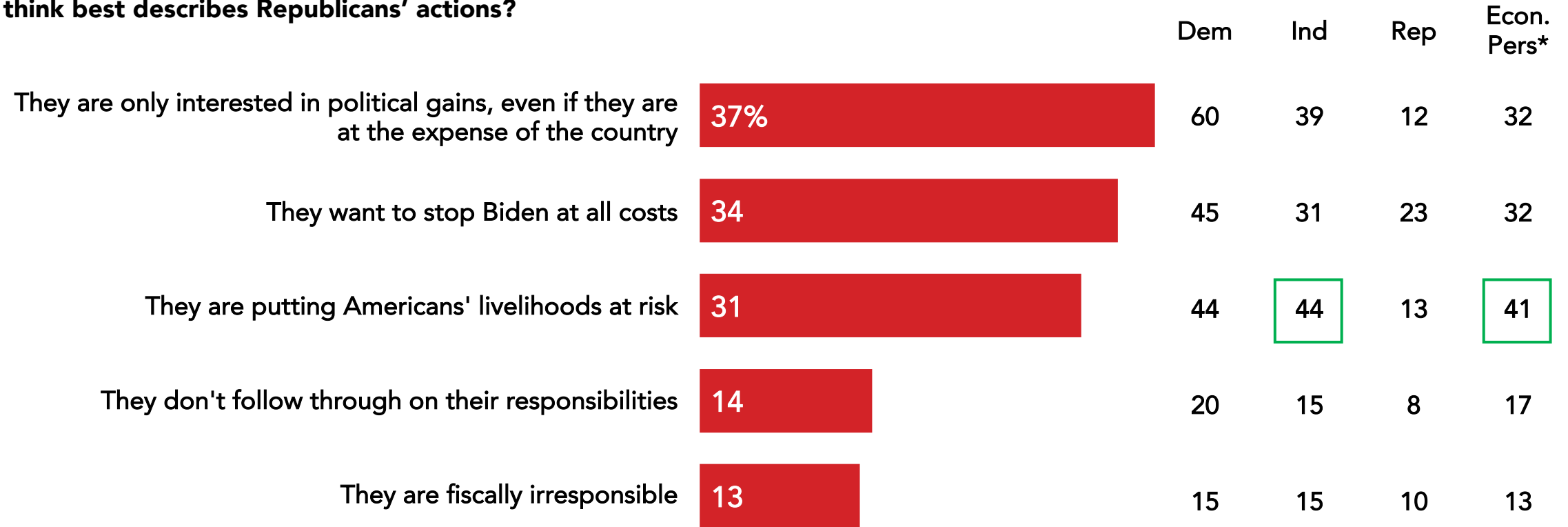
Statement 1:	46%
Statement 2:	54%
Net Statement 2:	+8

Statement 3: Republicans, because this was all spending that many of them voted to do, but now they don't feel like paying the bills because they want to score points against Biden at the expense of the economy.

Statement 1:	48%
Statement 3:	52%
Net Statement 3:	+4

Political Gains, Stopping Biden at All Costs, and Putting Livelihoods at Risk Describes Republican Actions on Debt

Roughly one in three Americans say “only interested in political gains,” wanting “to stop Biden at all costs,” and “putting American’s livelihoods at risk” best describe Republicans’ actions if they fail to come to a new agreement. If Republicans refuse to work with Democrats to come to a new agreement to suspend or raise the debt ceiling, which do you think best describes Republicans’ actions?



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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 September 23-September 27, 2021. 101 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 77 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 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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Navigator:

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