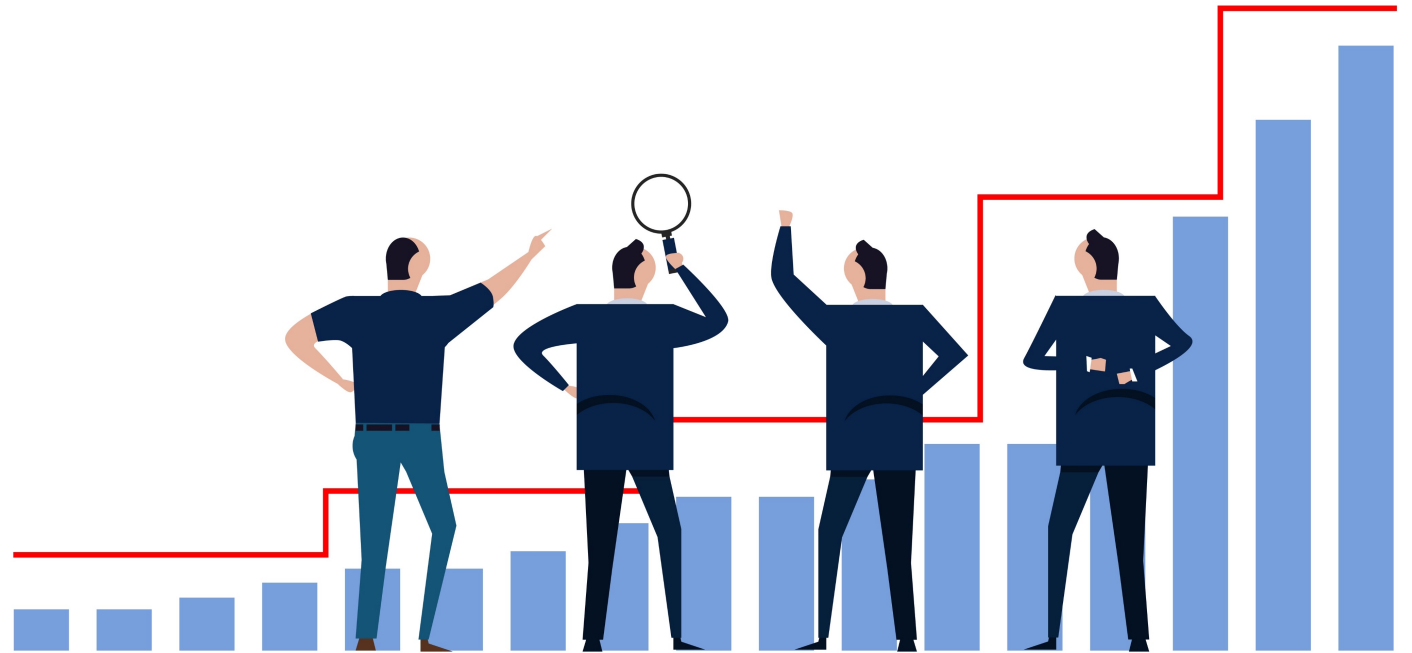


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Tuesday, October 19th

The Debt Ceiling: A
Guide for Advocates



Key Takeaways:

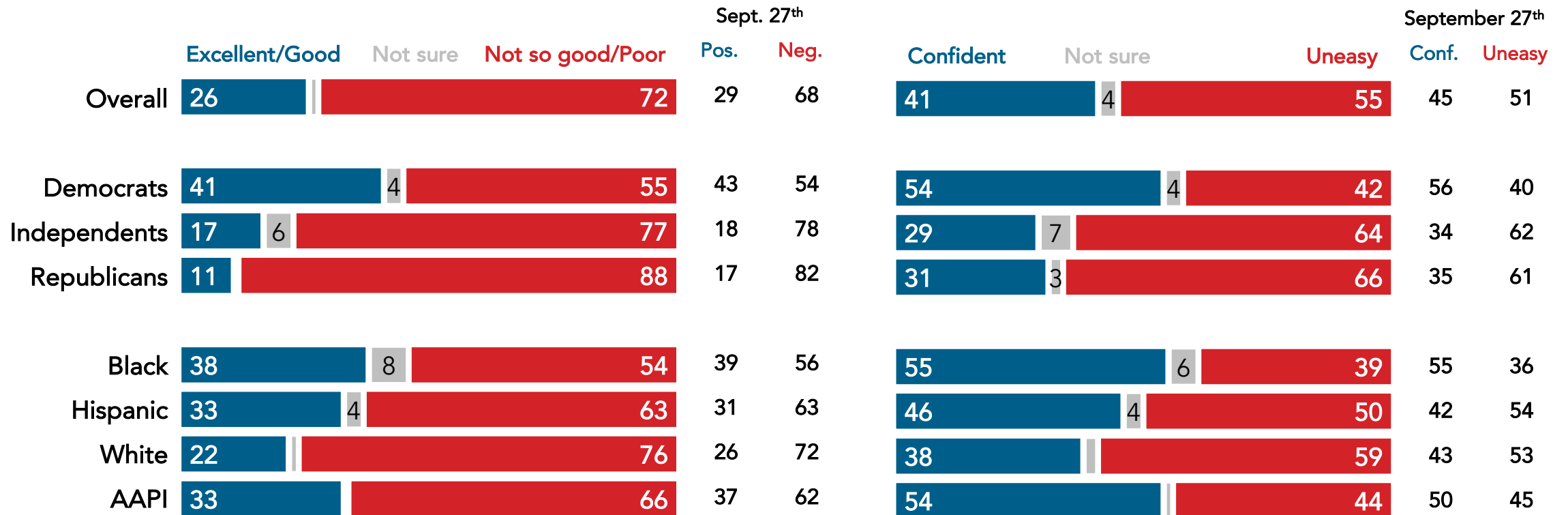
- Americans show signs of increasing pessimism about their personal financial situations and the economy overall.
- A majority support raising the debt ceiling.
- An effective progressive rebuttal to conservative criticisms of raising the debt ceiling focuses on the potential economic consequences including lost jobs and delayed payments to Americans, like Social Security and veterans' benefits.

There Are Signs of Growing Pessimism on Personal Finances and the National Economy

There has been a 4-point increase in the share who rate the economy negatively since September 27th (from 68% to 72%) and a 4-point increase in the share who are “uneasy” about their personal finances (from 51% to 55%).

How would you rate the state of the U.S. economy today?

Thinking about your personal financial situation over the next few months, do you feel confident or uneasy?

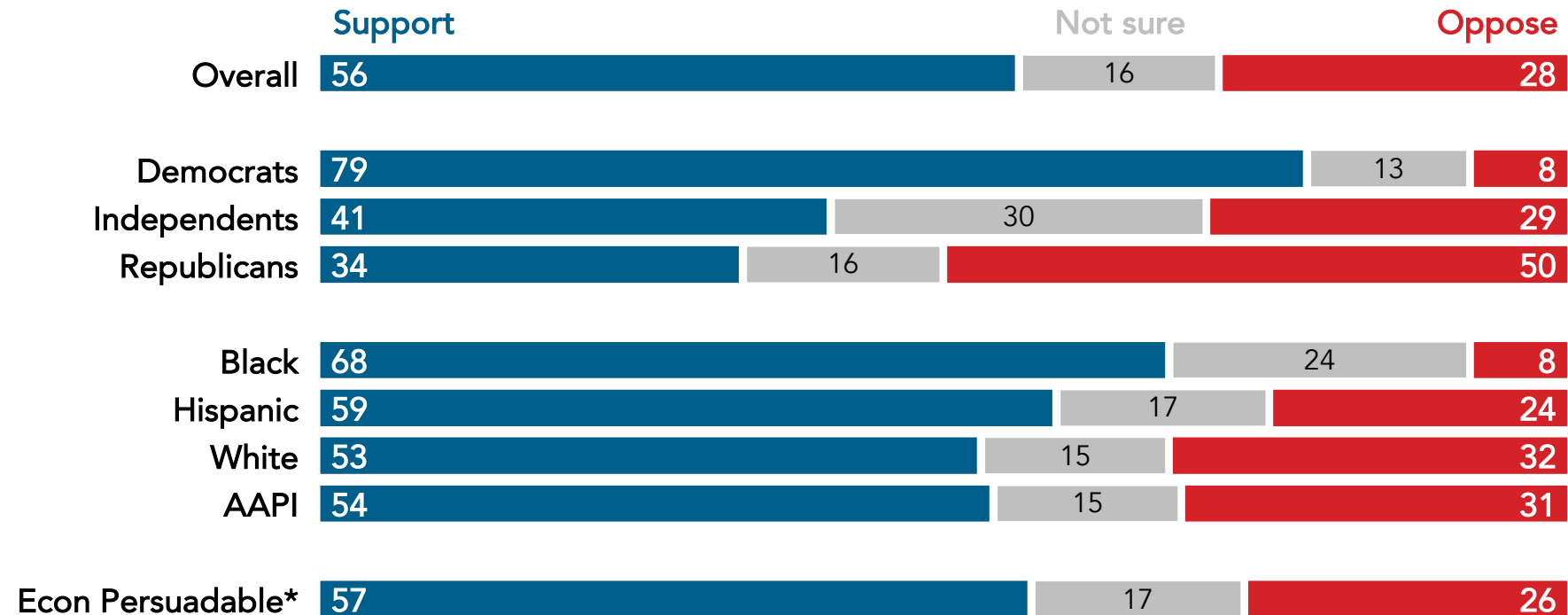


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 7-October 11, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

A Majority Support Congress Raising the Debt Ceiling

Nearly three in five Americans support Congress increasing the debt ceiling, including roughly the same share of economically persuadable Americans*.

As you may know, the United States can only pay outstanding debts for what the federal government is spending up to a maximum, known as America's "debt ceiling." It is expected that the federal government will exceed that debt ceiling in the coming days, and Congress is considering passing a law to raise the debt ceiling so the government can continue paying its obligations. Do you support Congress increasing the debt ceiling?



*"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 1,001 registered voters conducted October 7-October 11, 2021. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

A Progressive Debt Ceiling Argument About Lost Jobs and Delayed Payments to Americans Is Most Compelling

Against a conservative argument that Democrats only want to raise the debt ceiling so they can spend more, progressive arguments about jeopardized payments like Social Security and future economic plans, as well as one about a potential economic shockwave plus jeopardized payments, are both effective – though the latter is slightly stronger.

[Asked of the 84% of respondents who do not strongly oppose increasing debt ceiling] Who do you agree with more?

Statement 1: Republicans, who say that Democrats want to raise the debt ceiling so they can spend trillions more in government spending we cannot afford, which will further raise the prices on everyday goods that working families are already struggling to keep up with.

Statement 2: Democrats, who say that **Republicans want to jeopardize Social Security payments, veterans' benefits, and future economic plans by opposing an increase in the debt ceiling.**

Statement 1:	40%
Statement 2:	60%
Net Statement 2:	+20

Statement 3: Democrats, who say **we have to raise the debt ceiling to prevent an unnecessary economic shockwave that will cause millions of lost jobs and prevent payments to those on Social Security, federal workers, and veterans just because Republicans are trying to score political points.**

Statement 1:	36%
Statement 3:	64%
Net Statement 3:	+28

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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 October 7-October 11, 2021. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 73 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 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.

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