

navigator*

Thursday, March 24th

Ukraine and Gas Prices:
A Guide for Advocates



Key Takeaways:

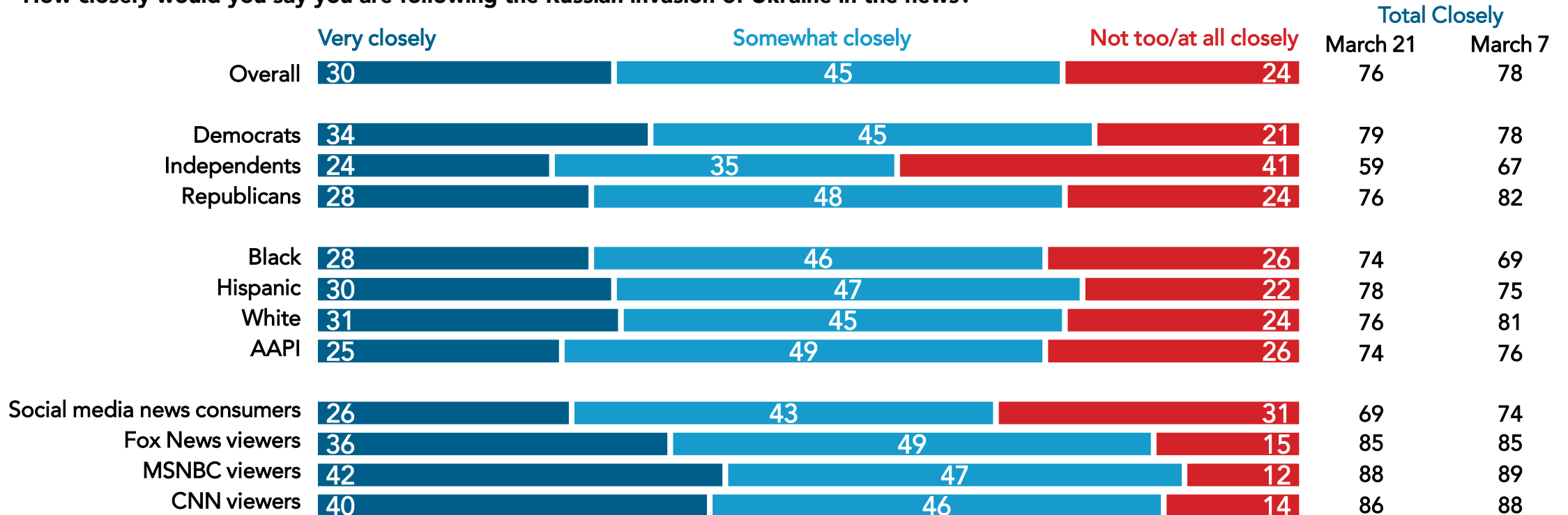
- Americans see Biden and Congress prioritizing foreign policy, including the situation in Ukraine; but for those who disapprove of Biden's handling of the situation, they say the U.S. is not doing enough.
- On gas prices, Americans blame Putin, oil and gas companies, and global supply chain issues most; when forced to choose directly between Putin, oil companies, and Biden, Putin and oil companies are most responsible.
- The strongest rebuttals to conservative criticisms of Biden for rising gas prices focus on big oil companies for price gouging and Vladimir Putin for destabilizing the world.

Majorities Continue to Follow the Russian Invasion of Ukraine Closely in the News

Social media news consumers are less likely to be closely following the invasion (69%), compared to Fox News (85%), MSNBC (88%), and CNN viewers (86%).

- There has been a decline in intensity of awareness: last wave, 37% said they were following “very closely” compared to 30% now.

How closely would you say you are following the Russian invasion of Ukraine in the news?



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted March 17-March 21, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Americans See Alignment Between Desire for Biden and Congress to Focus on Foreign Policy and Them Doing It

Nearly half (48%) say they want Biden and Congress to focus most on foreign policy, including the situation in Ukraine, and the same share say they feel Biden and Congress are focused on it.

Select the top four issues that you feel are most important for President Joe Biden and Congress to focus on.

Which of these issues do you feel President Joe Biden and Congress are actually most focused on?

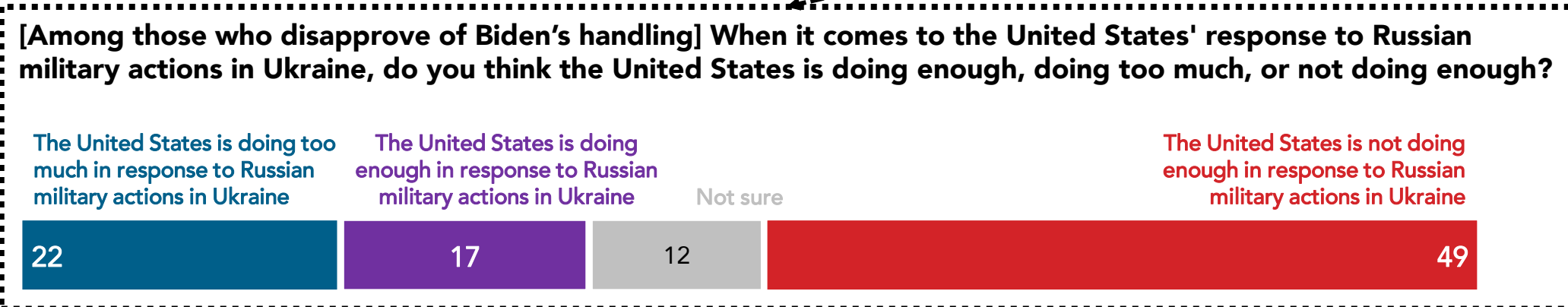
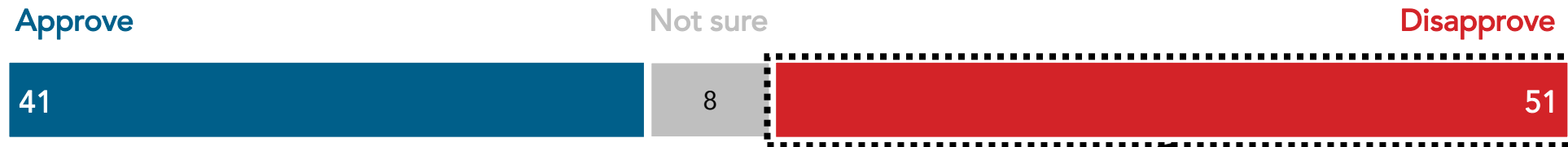
		Mar. 7	Feb. 22			Mar. 7	Feb. 22
Nat. security & foreign policy, <i>inc. Ukraine</i> *	48%	51	30	Nat. security & foreign policy, <i>inc. Ukraine</i> *	48%	46	29
Jobs and the economy	47	52	52	The coronavirus pandemic	45	49	52
Inflation	47	42	46	Climate change and the environment	31	34	31
The coronavirus pandemic	30	29	40	Jobs and the economy	29	30	31
Health care	27	25	27	Voting rights	24	25	28
Immigration	26	31	30	Inflation	23	20	19
Corruption in government	26	23	28	Immigration	16	15	18
Social Security and Medicare	25	24	25	Health care	14	13	16
Climate change and the environment	25	25	26	Abortion	11	12	12
Crime	20	22	24	Social Security and Medicare	11	11	12
Voting rights	17	15	18	Corruption in government	10	9	11
Education	11	12	12	Education	9	8	9
Abortion	9	8	8	Crime	9	6	9

*Previous iterations of this question phrased this as "National security and foreign policy." Given recent events, we added language to specify the situation in Ukraine.
 Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted March 17-March 21, 2022.
 For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Among Those Who Disapprove of Biden's Handling of Ukraine, They Feel the U.S. Is Not Doing Enough

Among the 51% who disapprove of Biden's handling of the situation in Ukraine, 49% say they feel the U.S. is not doing enough in response to Russian military actions, while just 22% say the U.S. is doing too much.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling the situation in Ukraine?



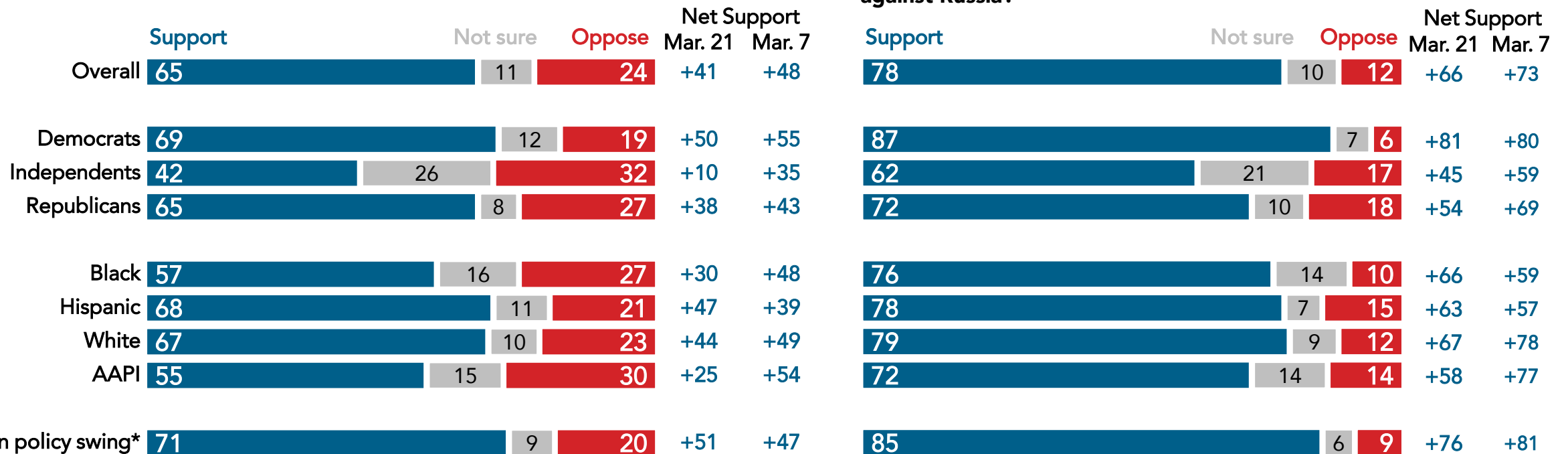
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Majorities Support Economic Sanctions Against Russia and the United States Sending Military Aid

Bipartisan pluralities support the U.S. sending military aid to Ukraine (including 69% of Democrats, 42% of independents, and 65% of Republicans) and imposing sanctions on Russia (87% of Democrats, 62% of independents, and 72% of Republicans).

Do you support or oppose the United States sending military aid including arms and air support to Ukraine to fight against Russia?

As you may know, President Biden and leaders of other major countries have joined together to place initial economic sanctions on Russia as a way to discourage further military action against Ukraine. Do you support or oppose the economic sanctions so far against Russia?

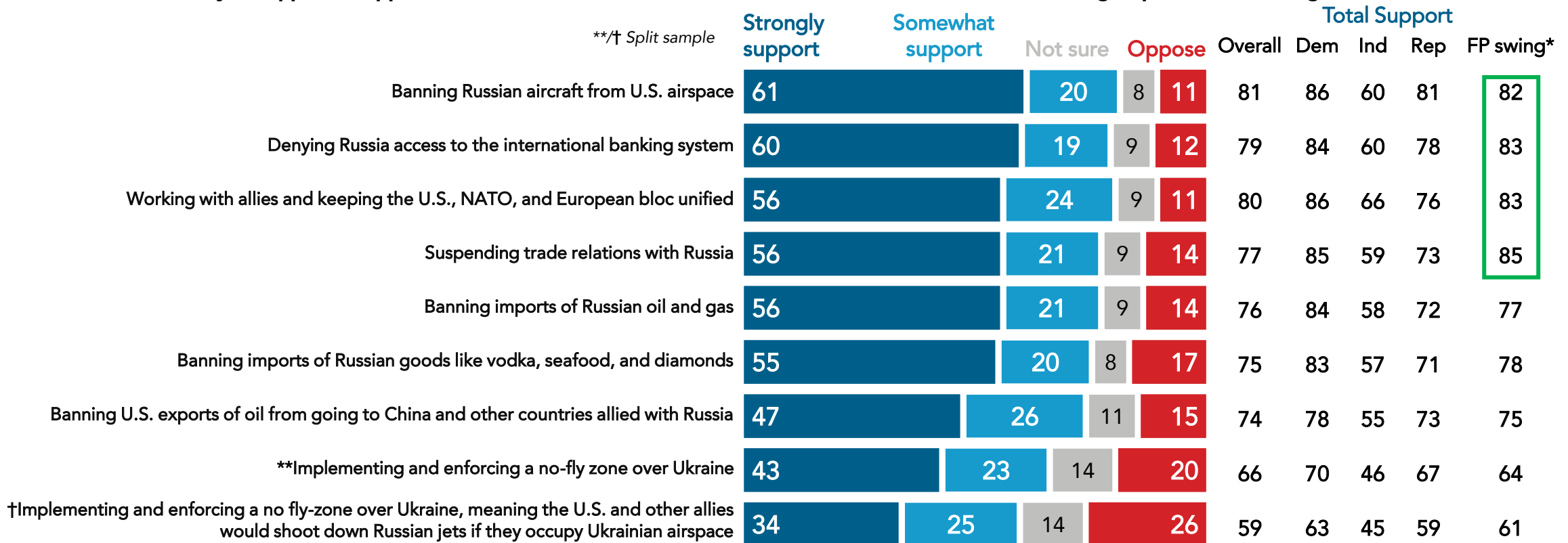


*"Foreign policy swing" are those who give a negative rating of the job Biden's doing handling the situation in Ukraine overall, but feel he has made all or mostly the right decisions on the situation. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted March 17-March 21, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Majorities Support Range of Biden Actions, Including Barring Russian Aircraft Over U.S. and Denying Banking Access

On the other hand, just 34% of Americans “strongly support” implementing a no-fly zone over Ukraine when explaining the implications of enforcing that no-fly zone.

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each action that the Biden administration has taken or discussed taking as punitive actions against Russia.



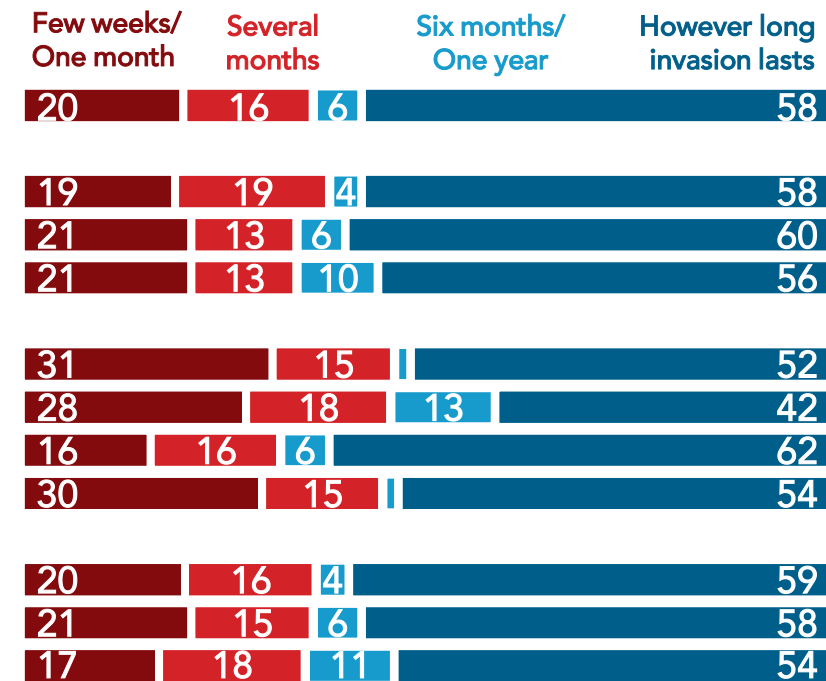
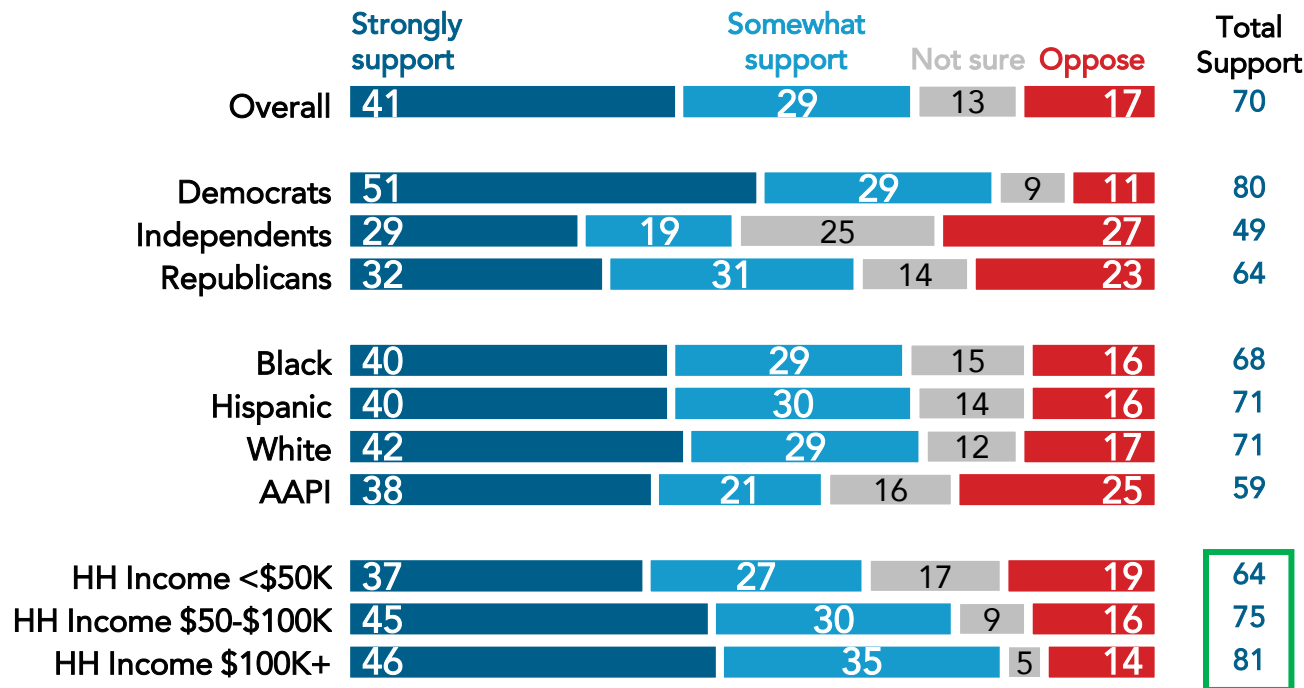
*“Foreign policy swing” are those who give a negative rating of the job Biden’s doing handling the situation in Ukraine overall, but feel he has made all or mostly the right decisions on the situation. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted March 17-March 21, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Despite Rising Gas Costs, Americans Support Sanctions and Most Favor Them for Duration of Invasion

There is differentiation by income level: while 64% of those with household incomes below \$50,000 a year support the sanctions, 75% of those earning between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and 81% of those earning above \$100,000 support them.

As you may or may not know, some have suggested that the sanctions against Russia – a major producer of oil and gas – are part of why gas prices have increased. Knowing this, do you support or oppose the United States and other countries sanctioning Russia for its invasion of Ukraine if it is having the impact of raising American gas prices here at home?

[If support sanctions with gas price context] In thinking more about the impact of sanctions on Russia on gas prices in the United States that started in the last few days – if these sanctions were to continue for an extended period of time with high gas prices continuing alongside them, for how long would you support the sanctions against Russia?

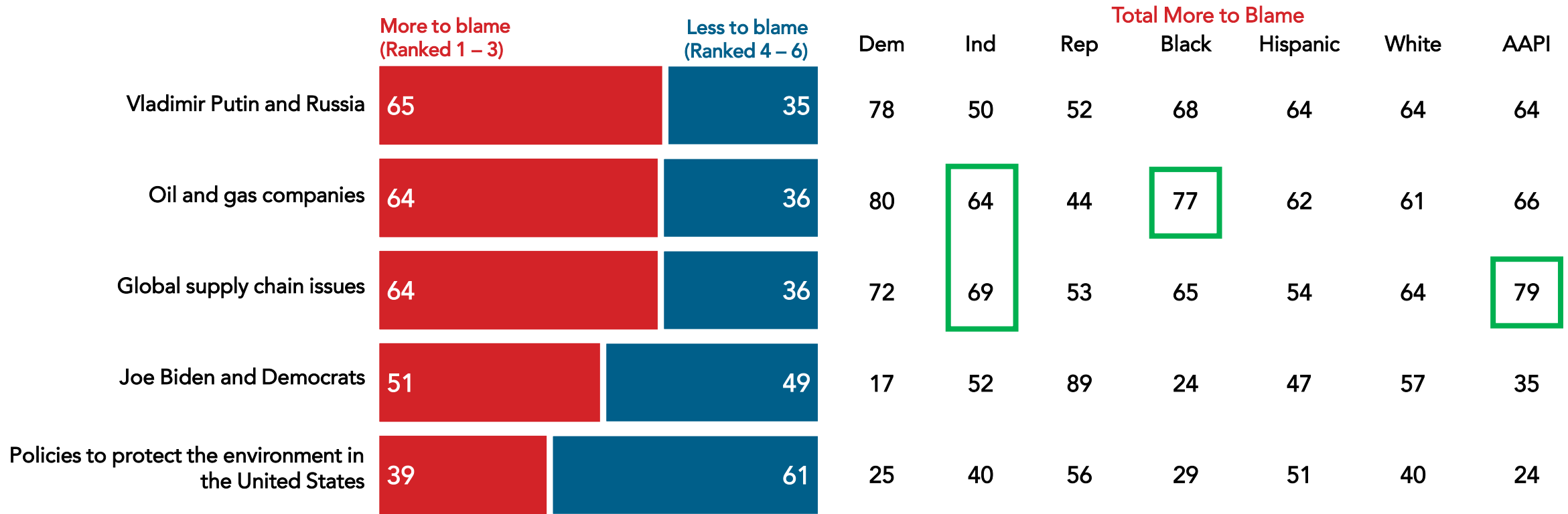


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Putin, Oil and Gas Companies, and Supply Chain Issues Get Most Blame for Gas Price Increases

Among independents, supply chain issues (69%) and oil and gas companies (64%) are seen as most responsible for gas prices increasing.

Please rank the following in terms of who or what you hold most responsible for gas prices increasing, 1 being the most to blame, and 6 being the least to blame.

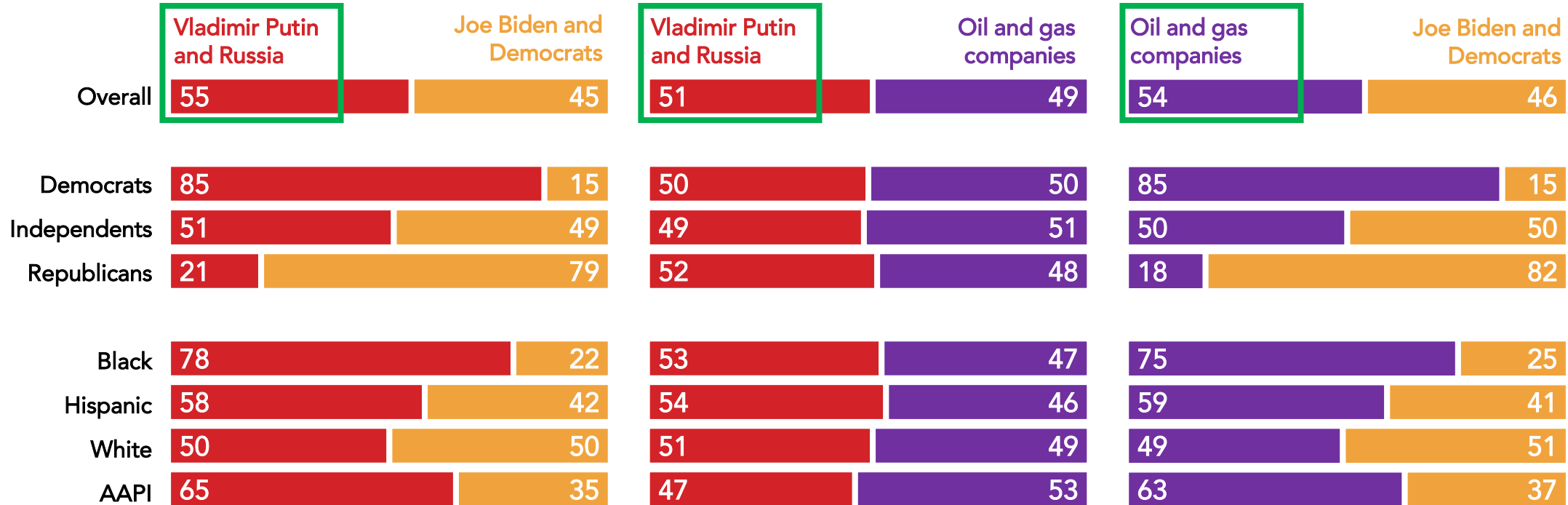


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Putin and Russia, Oil and Gas Companies Seen as More Responsible for Gas Prices Increasing Than Biden

Americans hold both Putin and Russia (+10) and oil and gas companies (+8) more responsible for increased gas prices when compared directly to President Biden and Democrats.

Who do you hold more responsible for gas prices increasing?



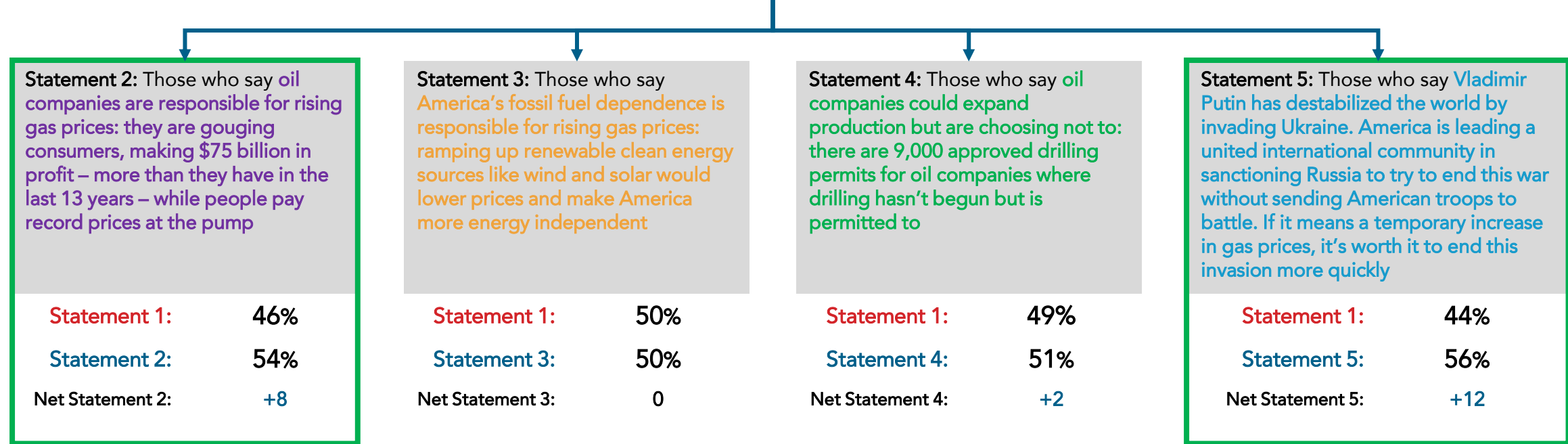
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Strongest Progressive Rebuttals to Criticisms of Biden's Handling of Gas Prices Focus on Putin and Price Gouging By Oil Companies

In response to a criticism that Biden is responsible for rising gas prices, hitting oil and gas companies for price gouging and Vladimir Putin for invading Ukraine are more effective angles than a pivot to renewables and oil companies' potential to expand production.

Which side do you find more convincing?

Statement 1: Those who say Biden is responsible for rising gas prices: prices have been rising for months because he refuses to unleash American energy and increase American oil and gas production



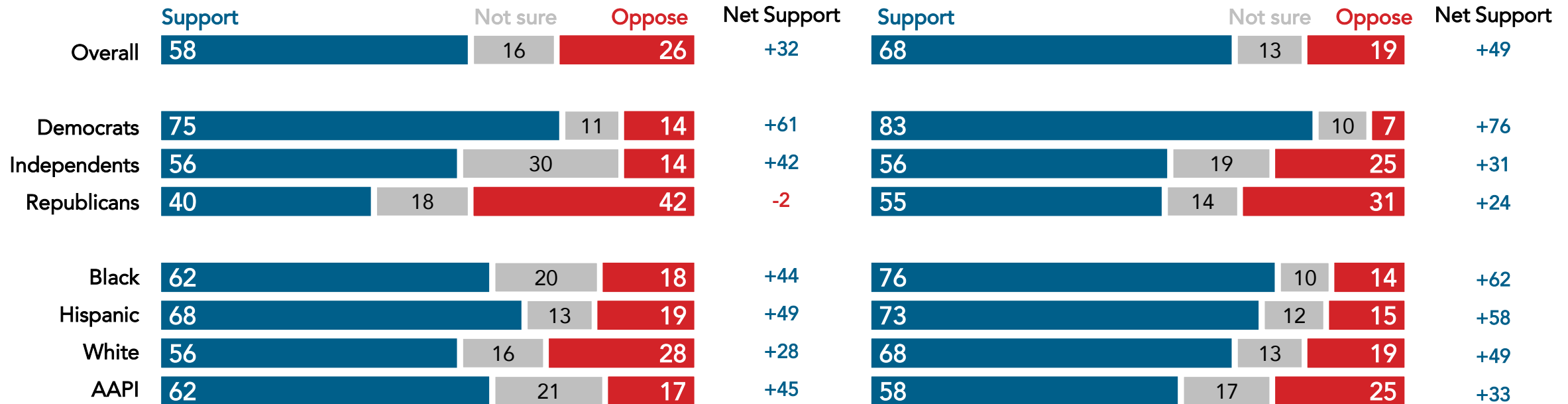
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Majorities Support Windfall Tax on Big Oil, and Support Grows With Context of Recent Record-Breaking Profits

Without the context of \$75 billion in recent profits, still 58% support the windfall tax including 56% of independents and 40% of Republicans. Adding in that context increases support to 68% overall, 56% among independents, and 55% among Republicans.

(Split sample) As you may know, some Senators are working on a new proposal that would add an additional tax on the extra profits oil companies are making from the higher gas prices they are now charging. After reading this, do you support or oppose a new tax targeting oil companies' profits as gas prices spike?

(Split sample) As you may know, oil companies are making \$75 billion in profits, the biggest profits in 13 years. Some Senators are working on a new proposal that would add an additional tax on the extra profits oil companies are making from the higher gas prices they are now charging. The money raised from this tax would be sent as rebates to consumers to offset the high price of gas. After reading this, do you support or oppose a new tax targeting oil companies' profits as gas prices spike?



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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: Arkadi Gerney, The Hub Project; Joel Payne, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; 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 March 17-March 21, 2022. 107 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 79 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 102 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 96 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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<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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