

# navigator\*

Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

The State of the  
Country: A Guide for  
Advocates



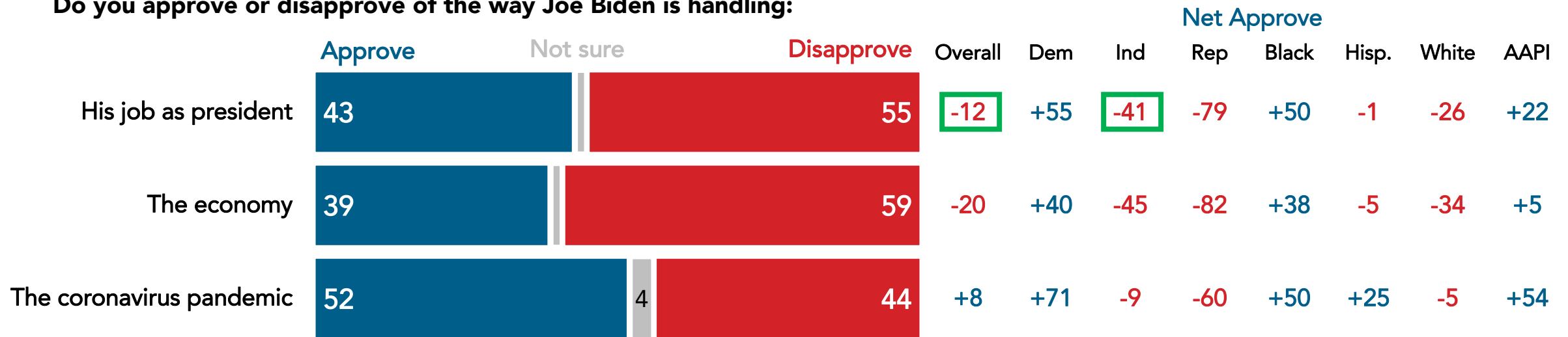
## Key Takeaways:

- Though Biden's approval ratings are underwater, ratings of Republicans in Congress are more deeply so with abortion and Trump dominating the negative things Americans are hearing about them.
- Two in three are uneasy about the state of American democracy, and while the same share is confident their past and future ballots have been/will be counted correctly and fairly, still one in three are not confident.
- The Democratic Party brand is strongest on doing what is best for the country and standing up for the middle class, while Republicans hold advantages on valuing hard work and keeping Americans safe.

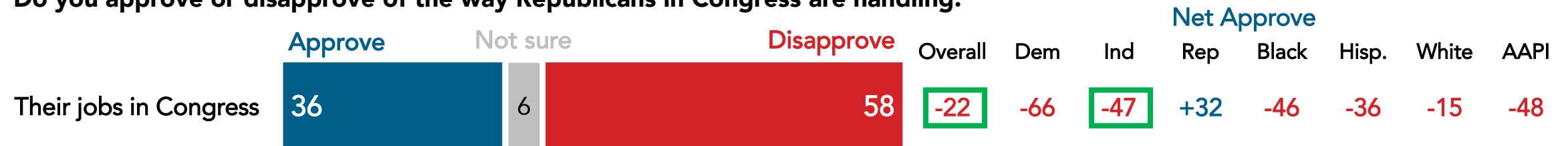
# Biden Underwater Overall and on the Economy, But Republicans in Congress Have Lower Approval Rating

Republicans in Congress are 10-points more deeply underwater on approval (-22 net approval) than the president (-12). Independents rate Republicans in Congress more negatively than they do Biden (net -41 Biden, net -47 Republicans in Congress).

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling:



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling:

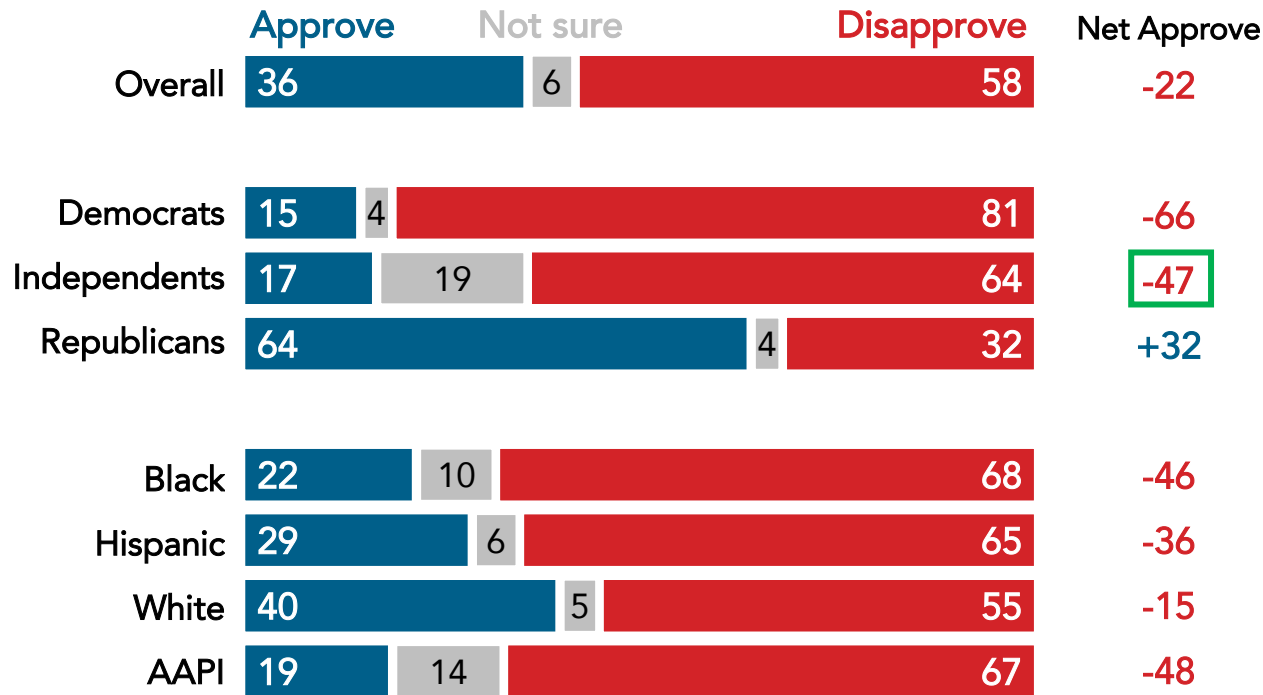


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Nearly Three in Five Americans Disapprove of Republicans in Congress, With Emphasis on Abortion and Trump

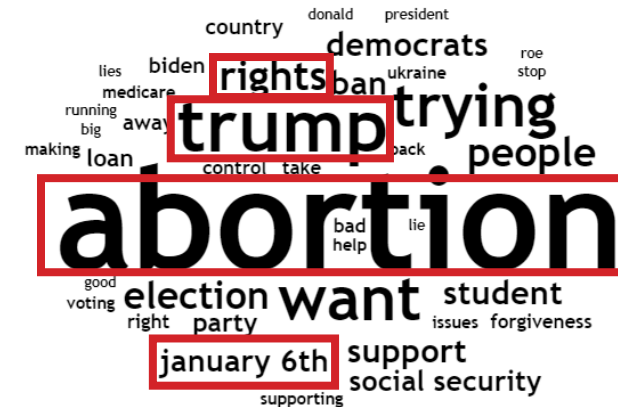
As Republicans in Congress are 22 points underwater, the main negatives Americans recall on them include their support for abortion bans, their fealty to Trump, their involvement/support for the actions that took place on January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and “rights” being taken away.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling their jobs?



In a few words, what negative things have you seen, read, or heard recently about Republicans in Congress?

Hearing Negatives on Republicans in Congress: 55%



“Republicans want a national abortion ban.”

“They refused to pass the inflation bill. They are continuing their war on women. They refuse to pivot away from Donald Trump.”

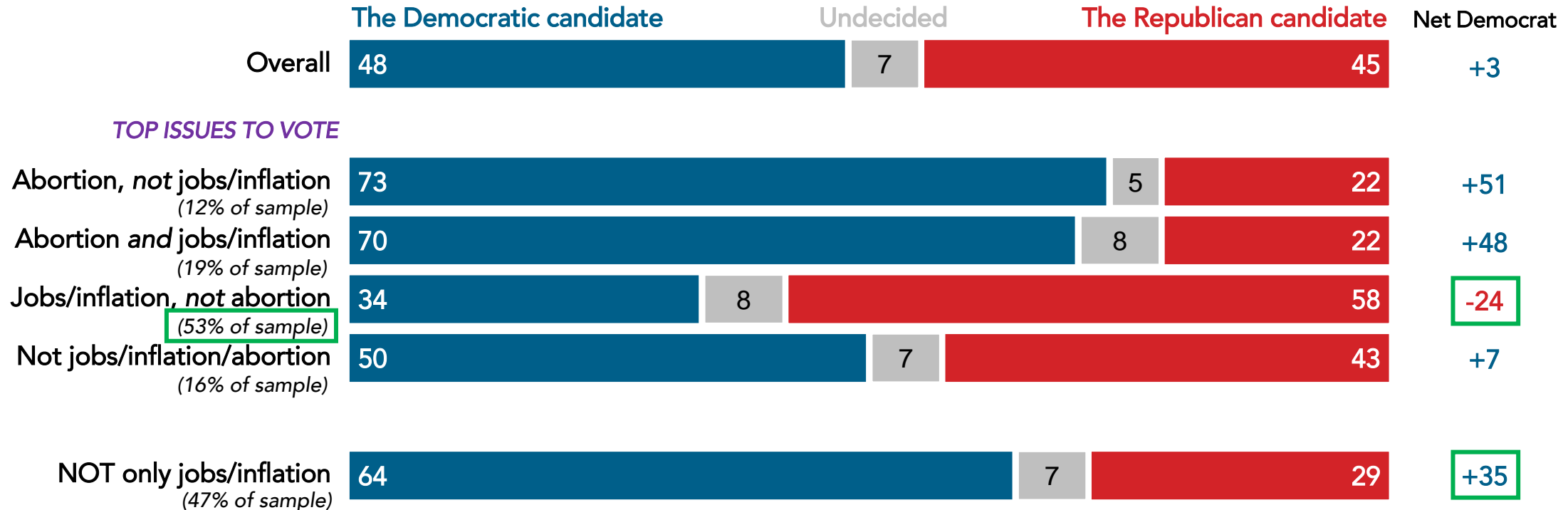
“Stuff about January 6<sup>th</sup> and taking women's rights away.”

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# Among Those Registered to Vote, GOP Lead Among Those Concerned About Economy and Not Abortion

Among the 53% of Americans who say jobs and the economy or inflation are among their top issues and say abortion is not, a generic Republican leads by 24 points; among the other 47% of Americans, a generic Democrat leads by 35 points.

If the general election for U.S. Congress were today, for whom would you vote?



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# Supporters of Each Party Say Their Vote Is About Supporting Their Own Party, Not Just Voting Against the Opposition

Overwhelming majorities of those voting for a Republican candidate (82%) and those voting for a Democratic candidate (79%) say their vote is a vote *for* their chosen candidate's party, not against the opposing candidate's party.

If the general election for U.S. Congress were today, for whom would you vote?

The Democratic candidate

Undecided

The Republican candidate

Net Democrat

48

7

45

+3

You indicated you would choose the Democratic candidate for Congress over the Republican candidate. Would you say you chose this as more of a vote for Democrats, or against Republicans?

You indicated you would choose the Republican candidate for Congress over the Democratic candidate. Would you say you chose this as more of a vote for Republicans, or against Democrats?

For Democrats

Against Republicans

Net For Dem

For Republicans

Against Democrats

Net For Rep

Overall

79

21

+58

Overall

82

18

+64

Democrats

81

19

+62

Republicans

84

16

+68

Independents

57

43

+14

Independents

57

43

+14

Liberals

79

21

+58

Conservatives

83

17

+66

Non-liberals

79

21

+58

Non-conservatives

78

22

+56

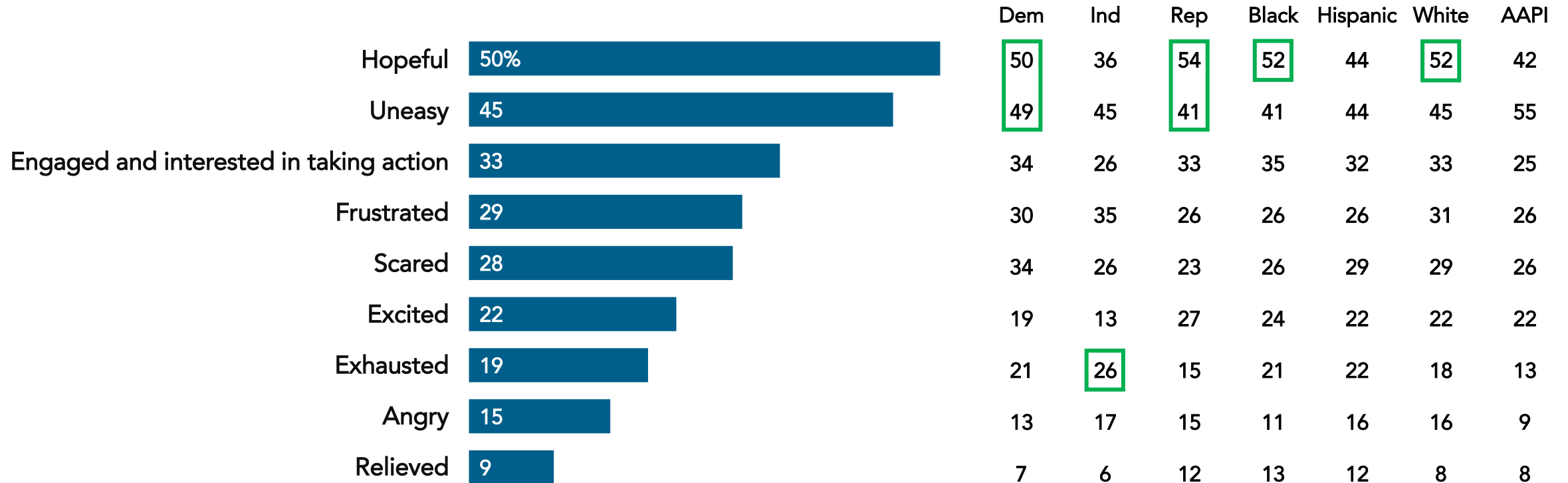
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# Americans Report Feeling “Hopeful,” “Uneasy” About Election

Independents report feeling “uneasy,” while Republicans (54%) and Democrats (50%) are hopeful most of all in thinking about the upcoming elections this year.

Below are some emotions people feel about politics. Please select ALL that you feel in thinking about the upcoming elections this year.



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# Three in Ten Americans Have Volunteered in Politics, Attended Events, or Donated to Political Candidates or Organizations

Three in four have talked or posted about politics since Biden was elected (76%). On more high-intensity engagement like volunteering, attending events, or donating, 36% of Democrats have done this compared to just 26% of Republicans and 17% of independents.

Below is a list of actions some people have taken. Select ALL actions that you have taken since Biden was elected in 2020.

	Dem	Ind	Rep	Black	Hispanic	White	AAPI	
Talked about politics with friends	62%	66	47	63	60	56	65	49
Talked about politics with family members	60	61	47	62	54	51	63	55
Posted about or discussed the election, politics, or issues on social media	26	27	21	26	25	29	26	18
Donated to a political candidate	12	16	6	10	14	14	12	12
Donated to an issue advocacy organization	12	16	8	8	13	13	11	12
Attended an event or rally by an elected official or political candidate	8	10	2	8	11	15	7	6
Attended a political rally or a protest in support of an issue	8	10	3	7	10	14	7	8
Attended a town hall meeting	6	8	3	5	10	6	6	4
Volunteered for a political candidate	6	7	4	5	9	9	5	0
Volunteered for an issue advocacy organization	5	8	1	4	9	4	5	5
Have done none of these	19	15	38	20	19	25	18	30
<i>Talked or posted about politics (NET)</i>	<b>76</b>	80	59	77	74	69	79	68
<i>Volunteered or attended political events (NET)</i>	<b>20</b>	24	9	18	27	34	17	15
<i>Volunteered, attended events, or donated (NET)</i>	<b>30</b>	36	17	26	38	41	27	27

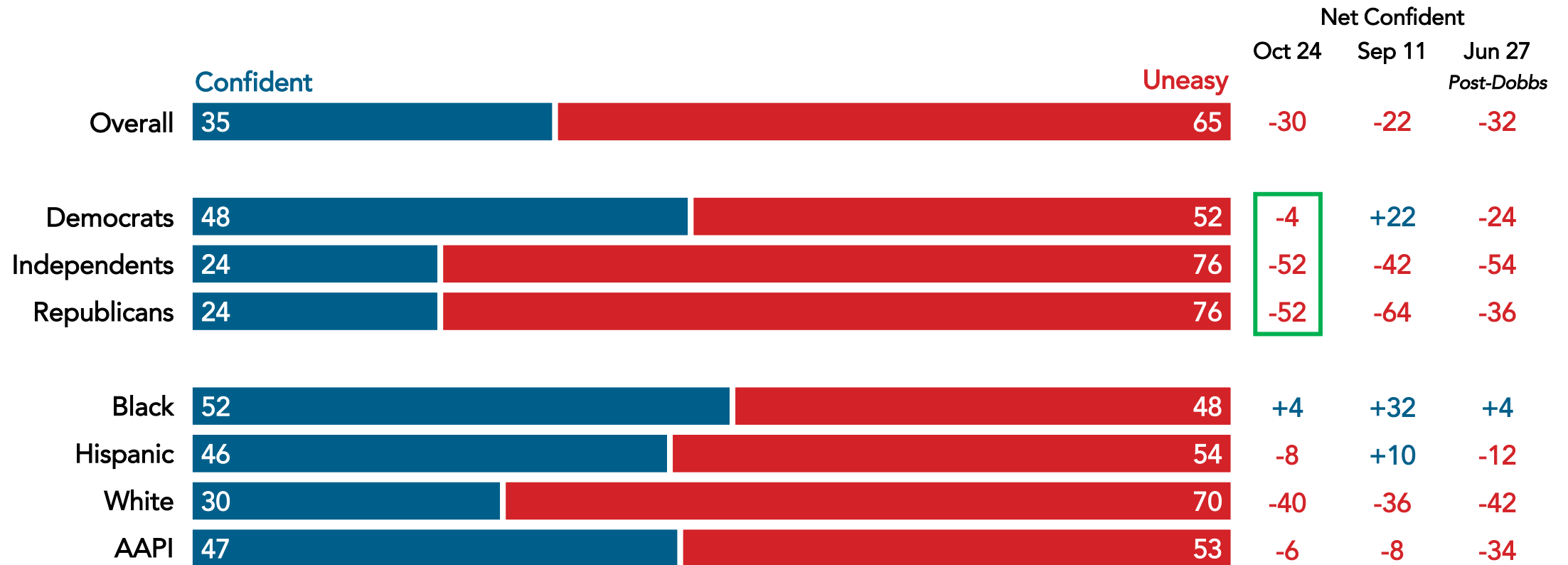
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# Nearly Two in Three Uneasy About American Democracy

Bipartisan majorities are uneasy about the state of American democracy today, with independents (76%) and Republicans (76%) particularly uneasy though 52% of Democrats say the same.

How confident are you in the state of American democracy today?



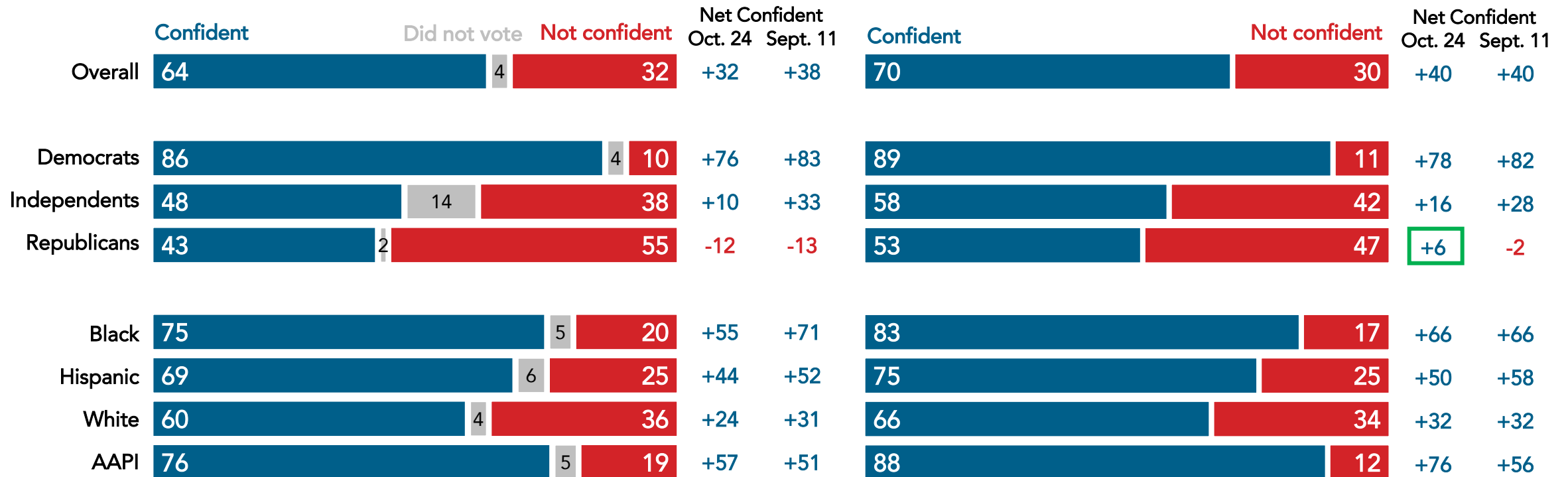
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org)

# While Most Are Confident in Past/Future Ballots, Still a Third of Americans Do Not Think Ballots Are Counted Fairly

Republicans are the most pessimistic about their ballot in the previous election (55% not confident) and future elections (47% not confident) being counted correctly and fairly, though 38% of independents are also not confident about past ballots and 42% about future ballots.

How confident are you that your ballot in the previous presidential election was counted correctly and fairly?

How confident are you that your ballot in future elections will be counted correctly and fairly?

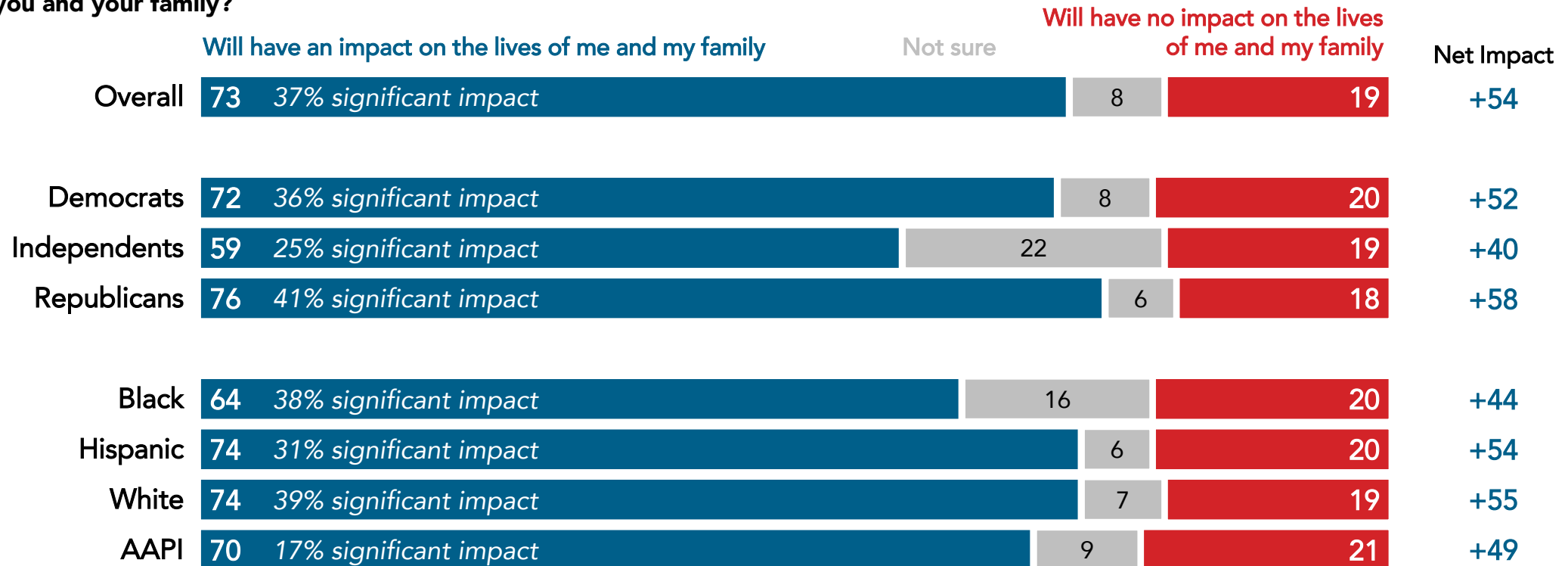


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# Most Feel the Election Has Ramifications for Them and Their Family, and One in Three Say "Significant"

Republicans (76% impact) and Democrats (72%) are each more likely than independents (59%) to say the midterm elections will have an impact on the lives of them and their family. Two in five of each say it will have a significant impact (36% of Democrats, 41% Republicans).

In thinking more about the upcoming midterm elections next month... regardless of the outcome, do you think it will have any real impact on the lives of you and your family?



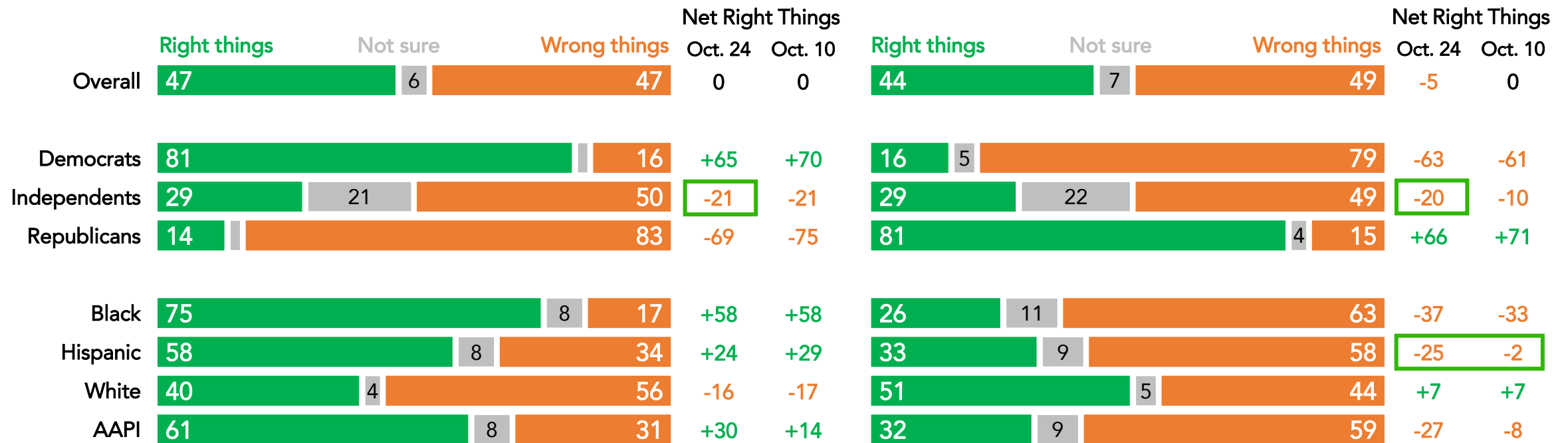
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# Slightly Greater Share Say Republicans Focused on Wrong Things, Though Neither Party Endears Much Faith

Both parties are underwater by roughly 20 points among independents on the measure (net -21 right things on the Democratic Party, net -20 right things on the Republican Party). Views of the Republican Party's focus have declined by 23 points among Hispanics.

Do you think the **Democratic Party** is focused on the right things?

Do you think the **Republican Party** is focused on the right things?



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# The Democratic Brand Is Strongest on Doing What Is Best For the Country and Standing Up for the Middle Class

Americans see both parties as trying to do what is best for the country (+10 describes Democrats well, +8 describes Republicans well).

Below is a list of words and phrases. For each, please indicate how well it describes Democratic members of Congress, Democratic Governors, and other Democratic officeholders generally who are not President Biden.

Below is a list of words and phrases. For each, please indicate how well it describes Republican members of Congress, Republican Governors, and other Republican officeholders.

	Well	Not well	Net Well Democrats	Well	Not well	Net Well Republicans	Net Party Advantage
They are trying to do what's best for the country	55%	45%	+10	54%	46%	+8	+2 Dem
They value hard work	54	46	+8	60	40	+20	+12 Rep
They stand up for the middle class	54	46	+8	49	51	-2	+10 Dem
They look out for people like me	51	49	+2	48	52	-4	+6 Dem
They keep us safe	51	49	+2	56	44	+12	+10 Rep
They share my values	49	51	-2	50	50	0	+2 Rep
They bring stability to the country	48	52	-4	50	50	0	+4 Rep

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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 October 20-October 24, 2022. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 78 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 104 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](mailto:press@navigatorresearch.org)

To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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