

navigator*

Friday, October 28th

The Economy: A Guide
for Advocates



Key Takeaways:

- Jobs and the economy, inflation, and abortion are Americans' top issues in thinking about voting in 2022: Biden and Democrats are more trusted on abortion though Republicans lead on the economy and inflation.
- Most people say gas prices are going up, but they blame supply chain issues, oil and gas companies, and Putin and Russia most for the increase.
- The top reason to raise the debt ceiling is to protect Social Security payments and other payments like veterans' benefits; Republicans withholding these payments are seen as "hurting the American people."

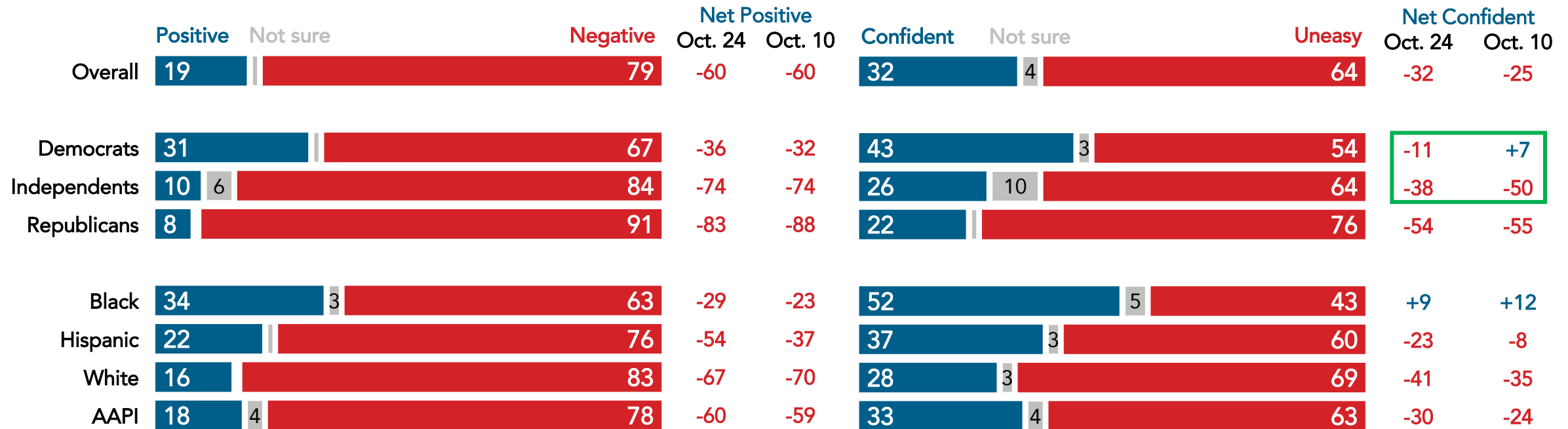
Americans Remain Negative on the Economy Amidst Growing Pessimism About Personal Finances

Four in five Americans rate the national economy negatively (79%) and 64% say they are uneasy about their personal financial situation.

- Four in five independents (84%) rate the economy negatively and 64% say they are uneasy about their personal finances.

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?



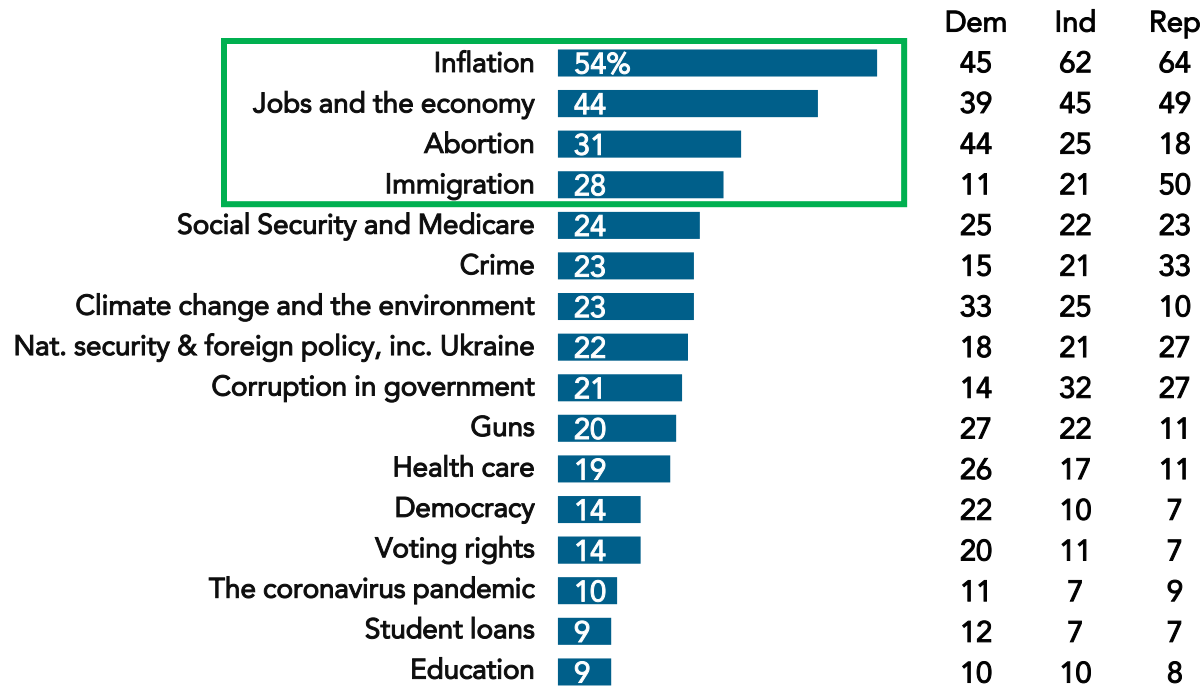
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Inflation, Economy, Abortion, Immigration Top Priorities; Since *Dobbs*, Biden & Congress Seen as Most Focused on Abortion

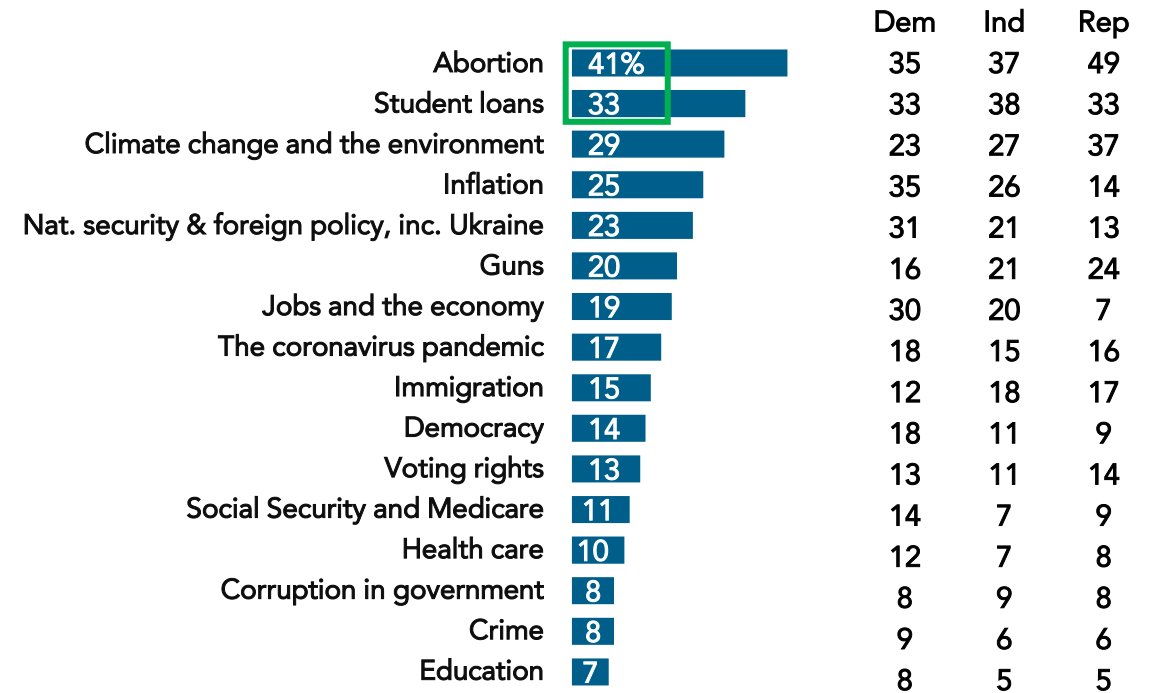
While most Americans want a focus on inflation and the economy, they see Biden and Congress focused on abortion and student loans.

- Among independents, while 62% want a focus on inflation, just 26% see Biden and Congress as 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?

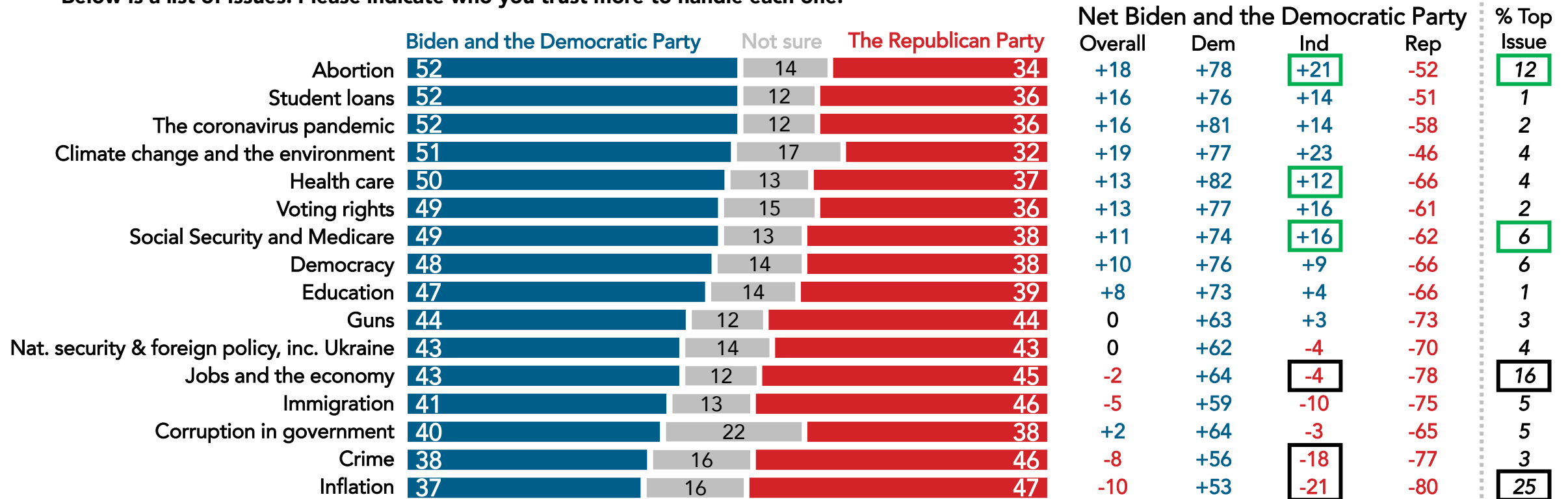


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

On Top Issues, Democrats More Trusted on Abortion and Social Security & Medicare, Republicans on Economy and Inflation

Among independents, Biden and Democrats hold advantages on abortion (+21), health care (+12), and Social Security/Medicare (+16), while Republicans hold advantages on inflation (+21 Republicans), crime (+18), and immigration (+10).

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



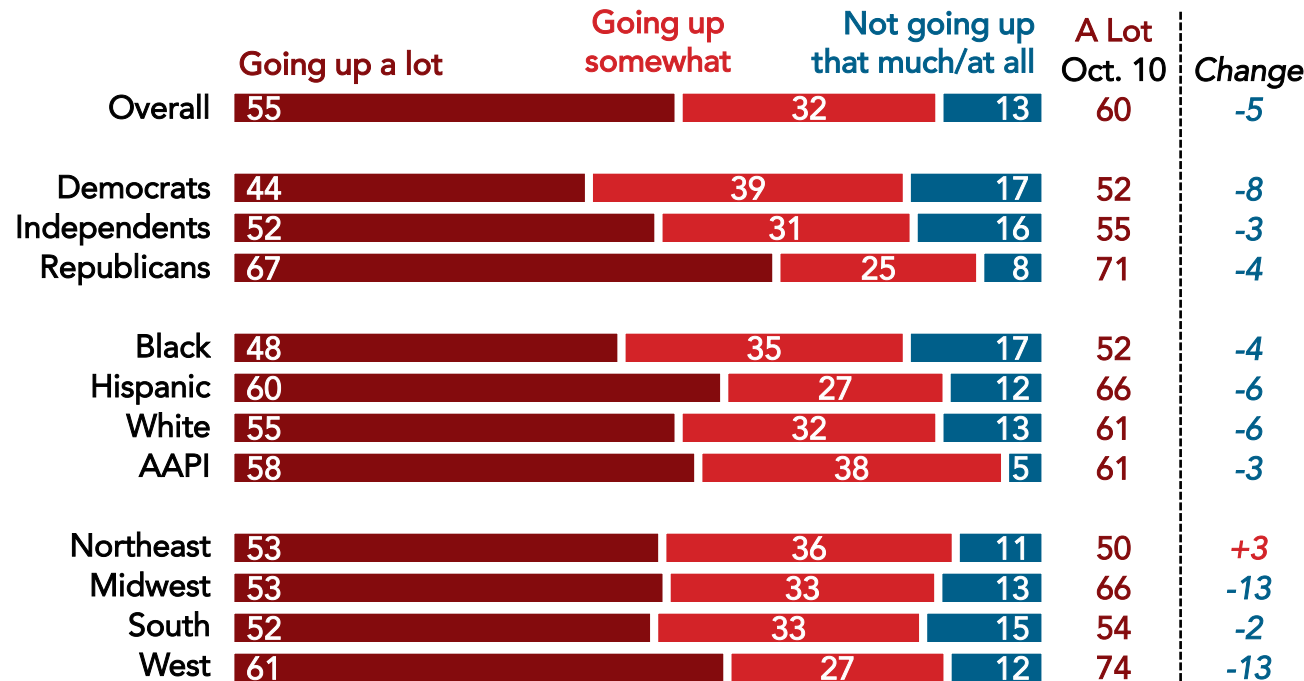
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

There Has Been Mild Improvement in Views of Gas Prices Since Early October, Though Many Americans Still Feel They Are High

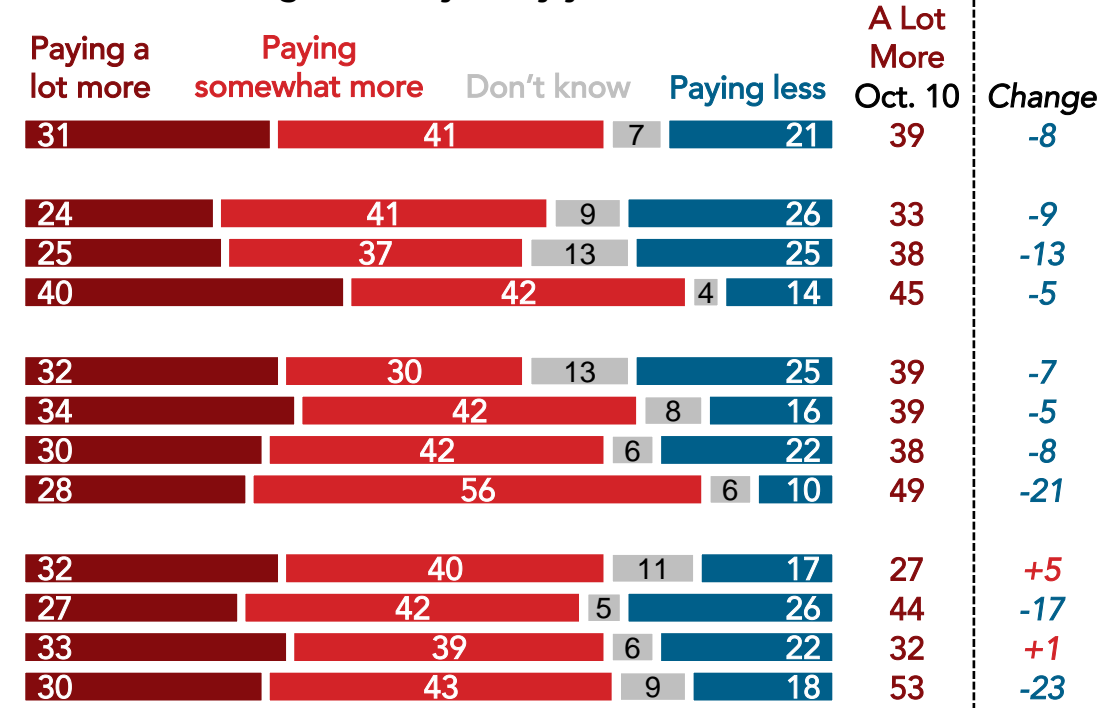
A majority of Americans (55%) say the price of gas is “going up a lot,” though down slightly from 60% in early October.

- The share who say they are “paying a lot more” for gas has fallen by 8 points since earlier this month (from 39% to 31%).

Do you feel the price of gas is going up?



Thinking more about gas prices in your community... compared to a few weeks ago, would you say you're...

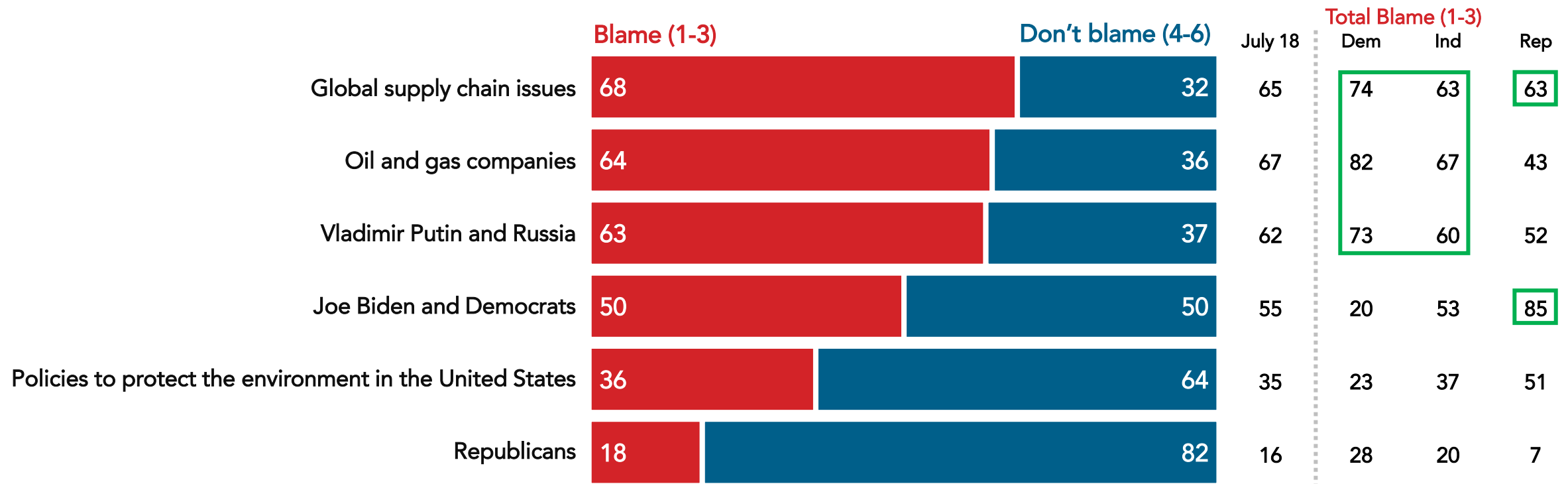


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Supply Chain Issues, Oil and Gas Companies, and Putin and Russia Most to Blame on Gas Prices

Democrats and independents are most likely to blame supply chain issues (74% and 63%, respectively), oil and gas companies (82% and 67%), and Putin and Russia (73% and 60%); Republicans blame Biden and Democrats (85%) and supply chain issues (63%).

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.



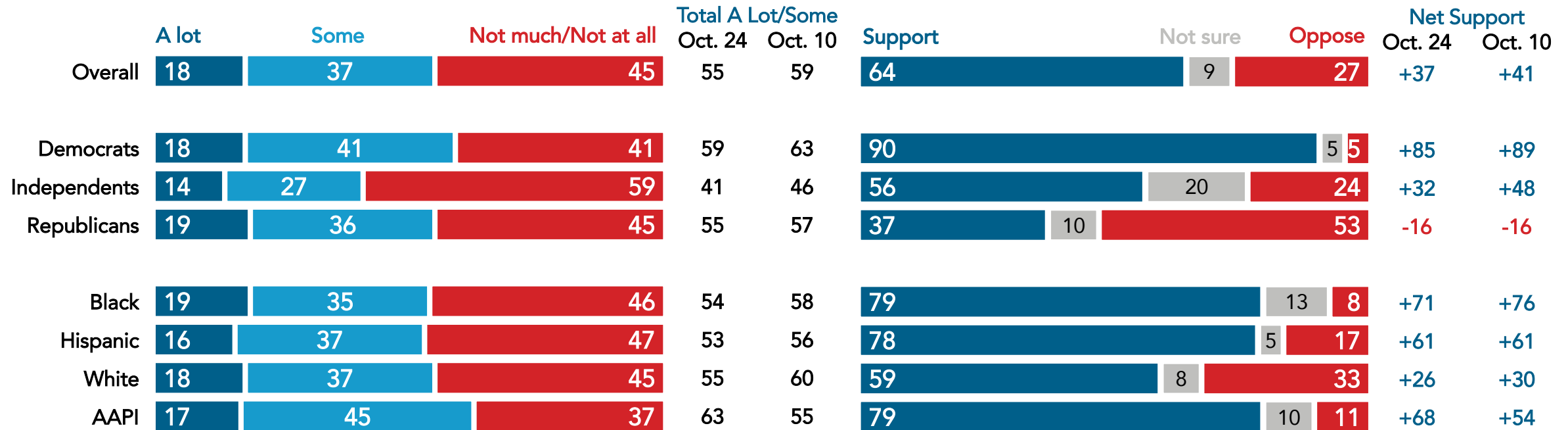
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Inflation Reduction Act Remains Overwhelmingly Popular Though Slightly Fewer Are Hearing About It

A majority of independents (56%) and nearly two in five Republicans (37%) support the Inflation Reduction Act.

How much have you seen, read, or heard about the new legislation called the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Democrats in Congress and signed by President Biden?

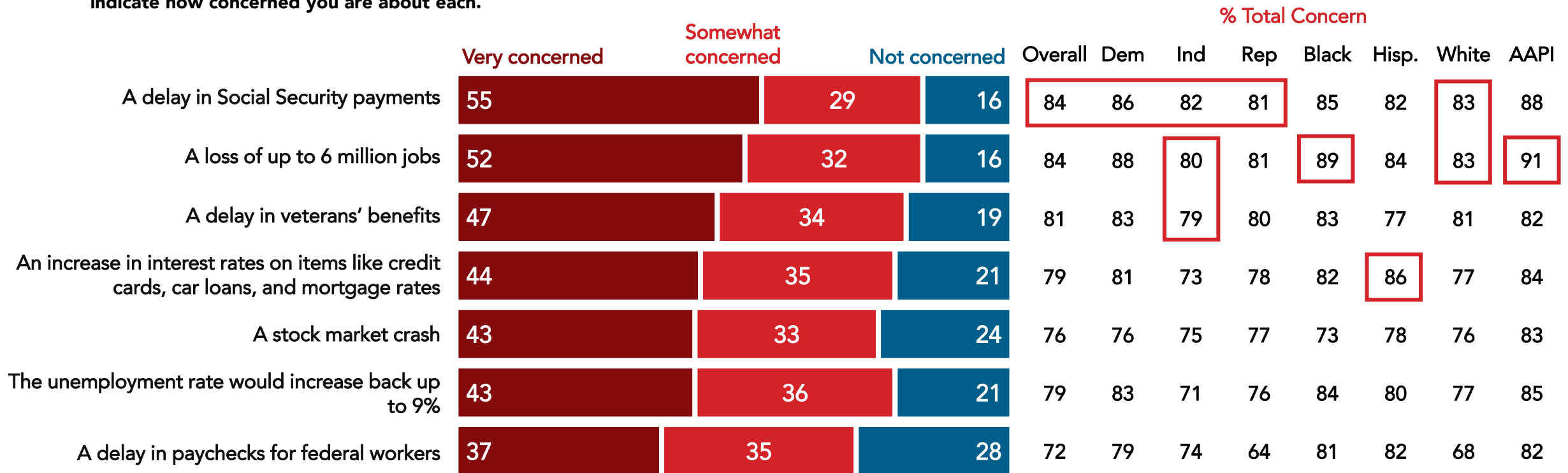
As you may know, Biden and Democrats' new legislation that has been passed by Congress is called the Inflation Reduction Act, which will give Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices, bring down health insurance premiums, and invest in clean energy like wind and solar power. Knowing this, do you support or oppose this new economic plan?



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

Top Consequences of Failing to Raise Debt Ceiling: Delays for Social Security Payments/Veterans' Benefits, Job Losses

Democrats, independents, and Republicans all see a delay in Social Security payments as most concerning overall, as do white Americans. AAPI and Black Americans are most concerned about job loss, while Hispanic Americans are most worried about interest rates increasing. 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.



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Winning Messages on Debt Ceiling Are Focused on Consequences, Not Process

The strongest message against a conservative criticism of raising the debt ceiling focuses on consequences of delayed payments of Social Security, veterans' benefits, and other government programs (net +12 agree) – not process arguments.

Which side do you agree with more?

Statement 1: Those who say the government shouldn't raise the debt ceiling because America already spends too much; we need to focus instead on cutting our spending.

Statement 2: Those who say we need to raise the debt ceiling because failing to raise the debt ceiling would cause a global stock market and economic meltdown and could push us closer to a recession.

Statement 1: 42%
Statement 2: 36%
Net Statement 2: -6

Statement 3: Those who say we need to raise the debt ceiling because failing to do so will shut the government down and block the payment of Social Security payments, veterans' benefits, and other government programs.

Statement 1: 35%
Statement 3: 47%
Net Statement 3: +12

Statement 4: Those who say this is not new spending: Raising the debt ceiling would simply mean lifting the limit so the country is able to cover the costs of things that government has already spent money on, not for new spending.

Statement 1: 40%
Statement 4: 39%
Net Statement 4: -1

Statement 5: Those who say that the ones who are threatening to block raising the debt ceiling are just holding the government hostage in a political stunt so they can cut things like Social Security and Medicare.

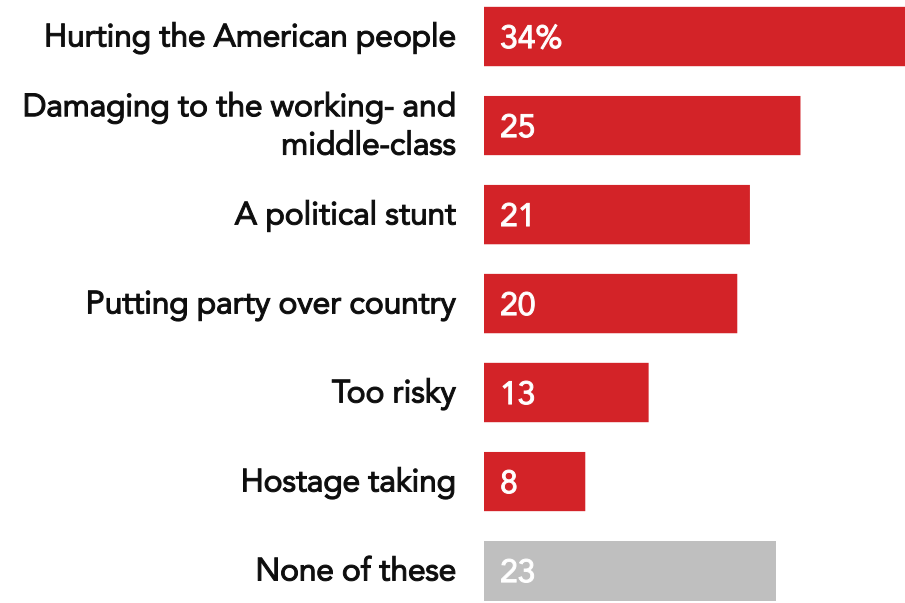
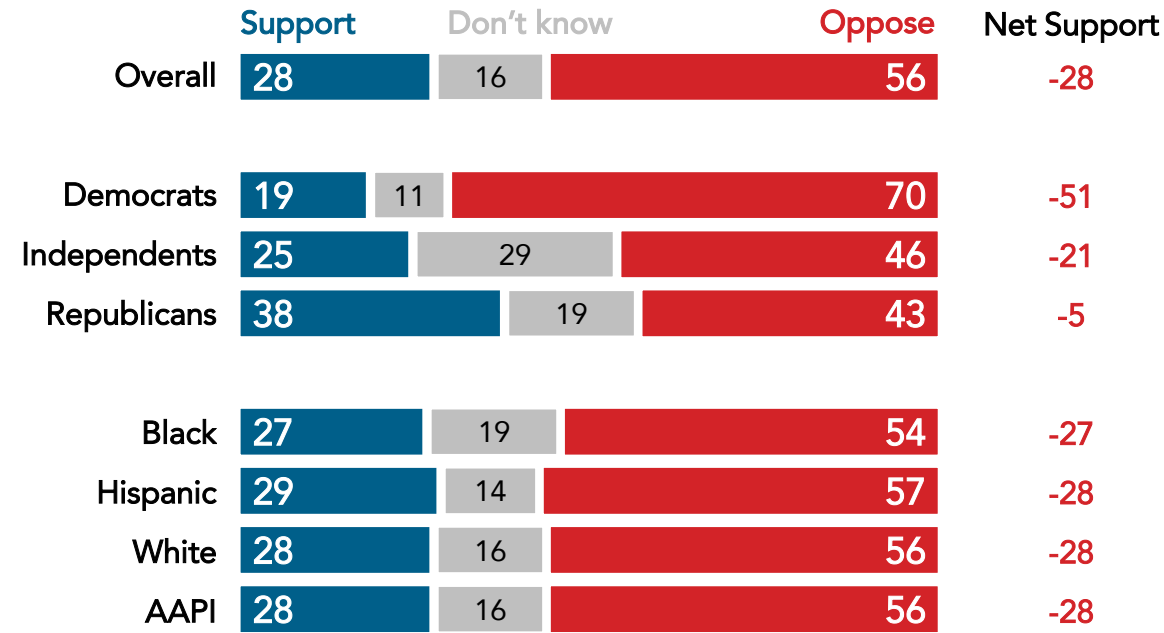
Statement 1: 39%
Statement 5: 42%
Net Statement 5: +3

GOP Not Raising Debt Ceiling Seen as "Hurting the American People"

There is bipartisan opposition to not raising the debt ceiling in order to make cuts to programs like Medicare and Social Security.

As you may know, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy recently said if Republicans gained control of Congress in the upcoming midterm elections, they would not raise the debt ceiling without making cuts to programs like Social Security and Medicare. Do you support or oppose Republicans not raising the debt ceiling in order to make cuts to programs like Social Security and Medicare?

As you may know, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy recently said if Republicans gained control of Congress in the upcoming midterm elections, they might withhold paying these bills so they can make cuts to government spending programs. What word or phrase do you think best describes this action, if any do?



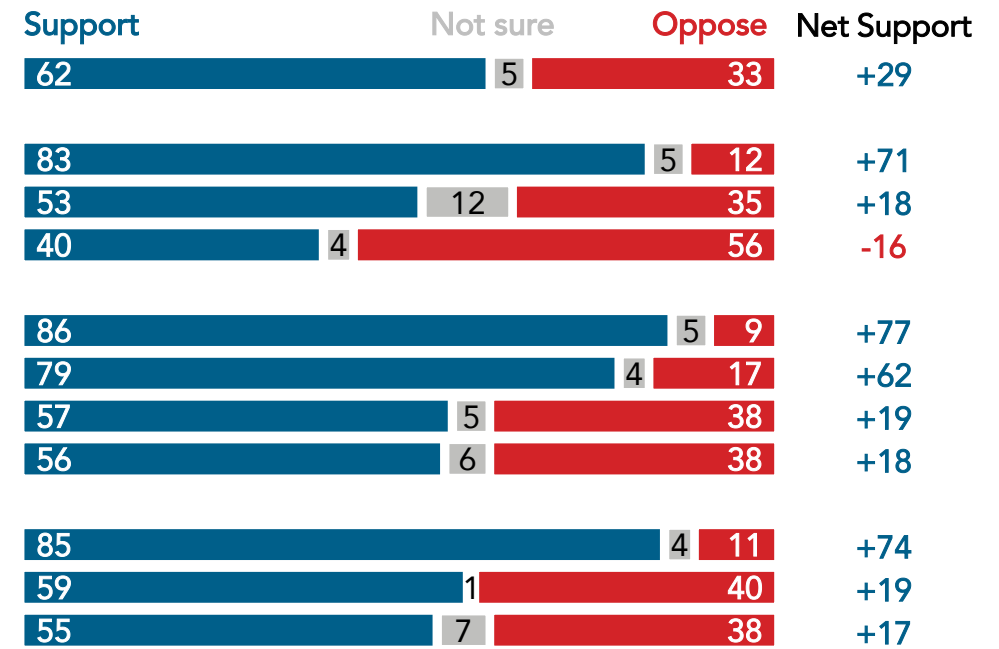
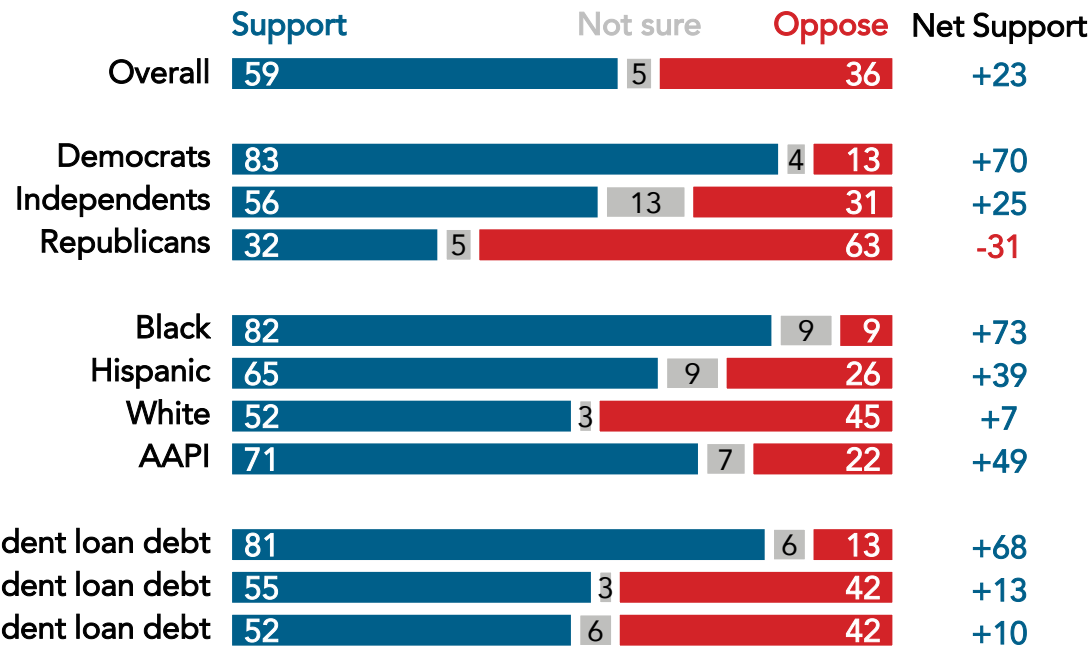
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Canceling a Portion of Student Loan Debt Remains Popular

Majorities of those who currently have student loan debt (81%), who had debt but paid it off (55%), and who never had debt (52%) all support the plan. Inclusion of the \$20,000 in cancellations for Pell Grant recipients drives support up to net +29 overall.

(Split sample) As you may know, the Biden administration announced it will be cancelling up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for borrowers who make less than \$125,000 a year. Do you support or oppose this proposal?

(Split sample) As you may know, the Biden administration announced it will be cancelling up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for borrowers who make less than \$125,000 a year and \$20,000 for those who received the Pell Grant for low-income students. Do you support or oppose this proposal?



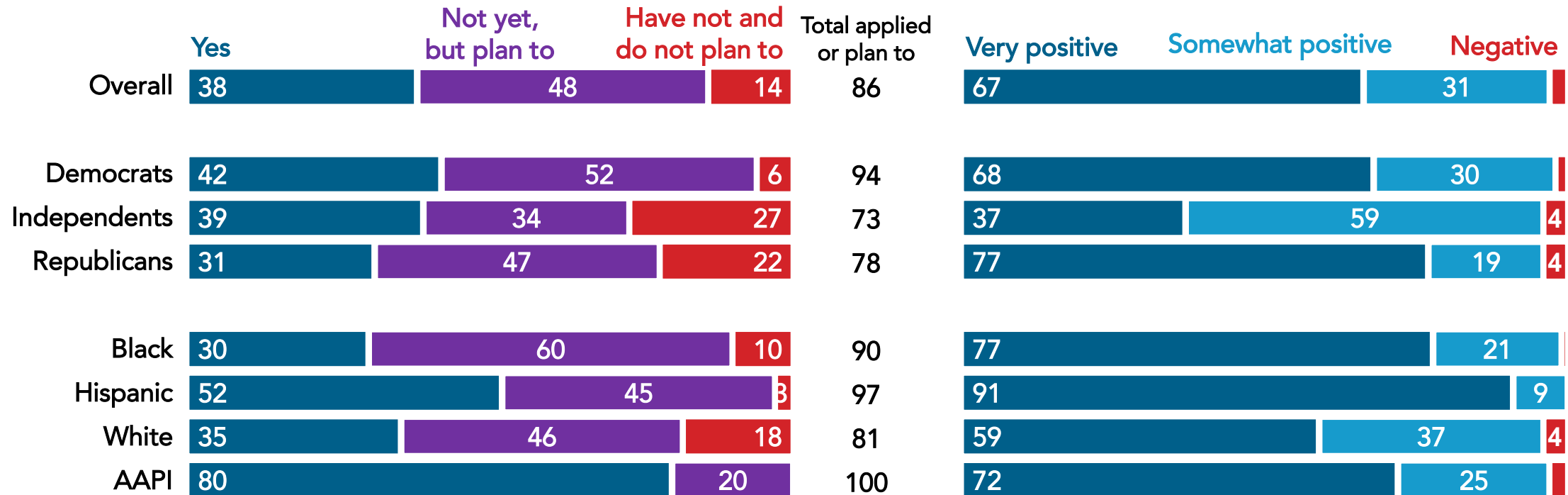
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Two in Five Eligible Americans Have Applied for Student Loan Forgiveness; Process Overwhelmingly Viewed Positively

An additional 48% say they plan to apply for forgiveness; for the 38% of student loan debt holders who have already applied, nearly all say the process of applying has been positive.

If have student loan debt] Have you applied yet for student loan forgiveness under Biden and Democrats' new plan?

[IF APPLIED FOR STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS] How would you describe the process of applying for student loan forgiveness?

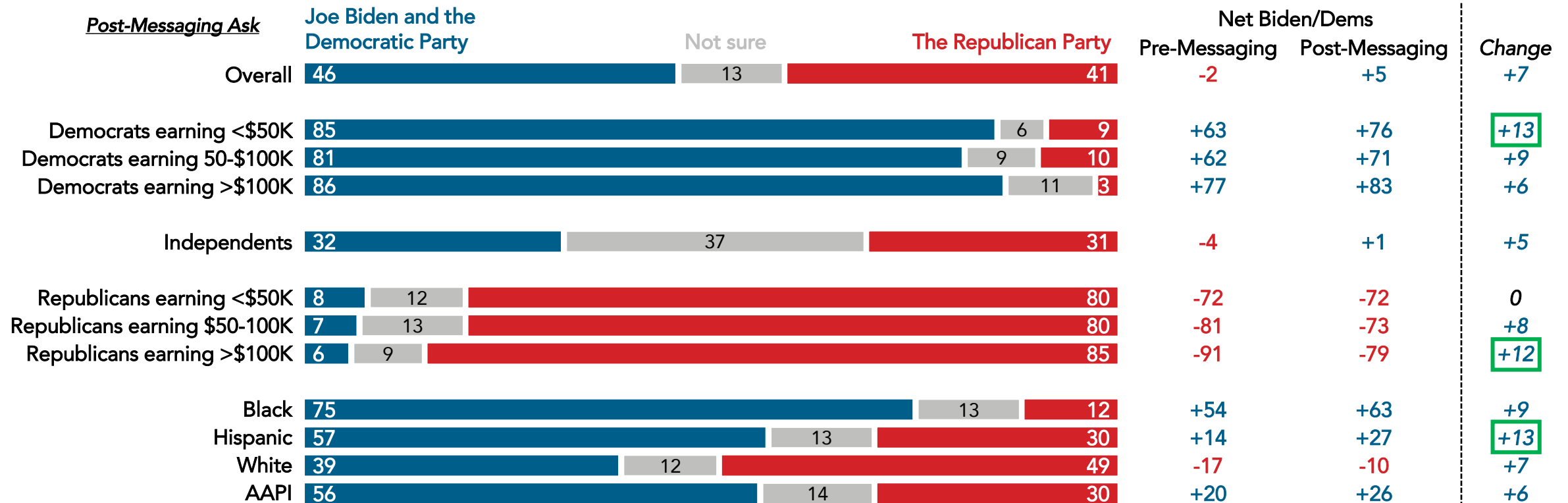


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

After Messaging on Inflation Reduction Act, Student Debt, and Debt Ceiling, Economic Trust in Biden and Democrats Increases

Trust in Biden and the Democratic Party to handle “jobs and the economy” over the Republican Party increases by 7 points after exposure to Inflation Reduction Act, student loan debt, and debt ceiling messaging: greatest increases come from lower-income Democrats (+13 improvement in net support), higher-earning Republicans (+12), and Hispanics (+13).

One more time... please indicate who you trust more to handle: Jobs and the economy



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 20-October 24, 2022. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

navigator*

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

To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter