

# navigator\*

Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

The Economy:  
A Guide for Advocates



## Key Takeaways:

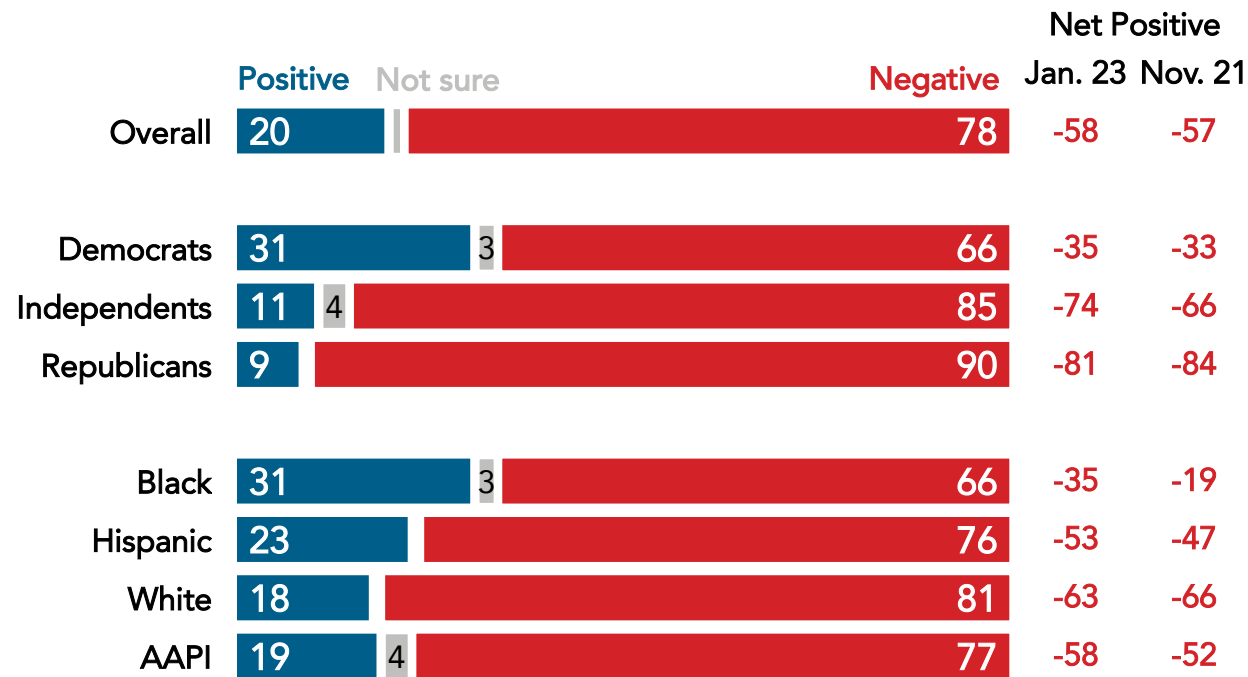
- Americans continue to hold negative views of the economy and perceive prices to be rising; they also do not believe Republicans in Congress are focused enough on inflation and jobs.
- The most convincing reasons to believe the economy is improving are record job creation rates over the last year and the low unemployment rate.
- Learning about recent economic successes boosts Americans' trust in Biden and Democrats on jobs and the economy over Republicans.

# Americans Consistently Negative on Economy and Personal Financial Situations Compared to After the Election

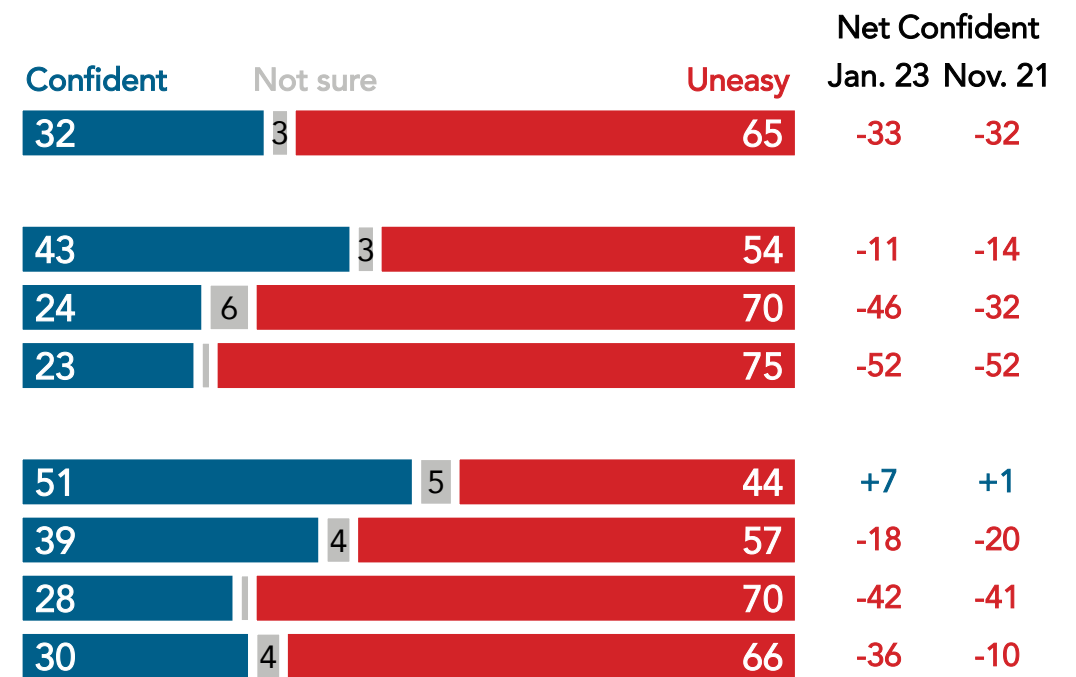
Ratings of the economy and personal financial situations remain consistent and negative compared to late November.

- Nearly nine in ten independents rate the national economy negatively (85%), and seven in ten say they feel uneasy about their personal financial situation (70%).

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?



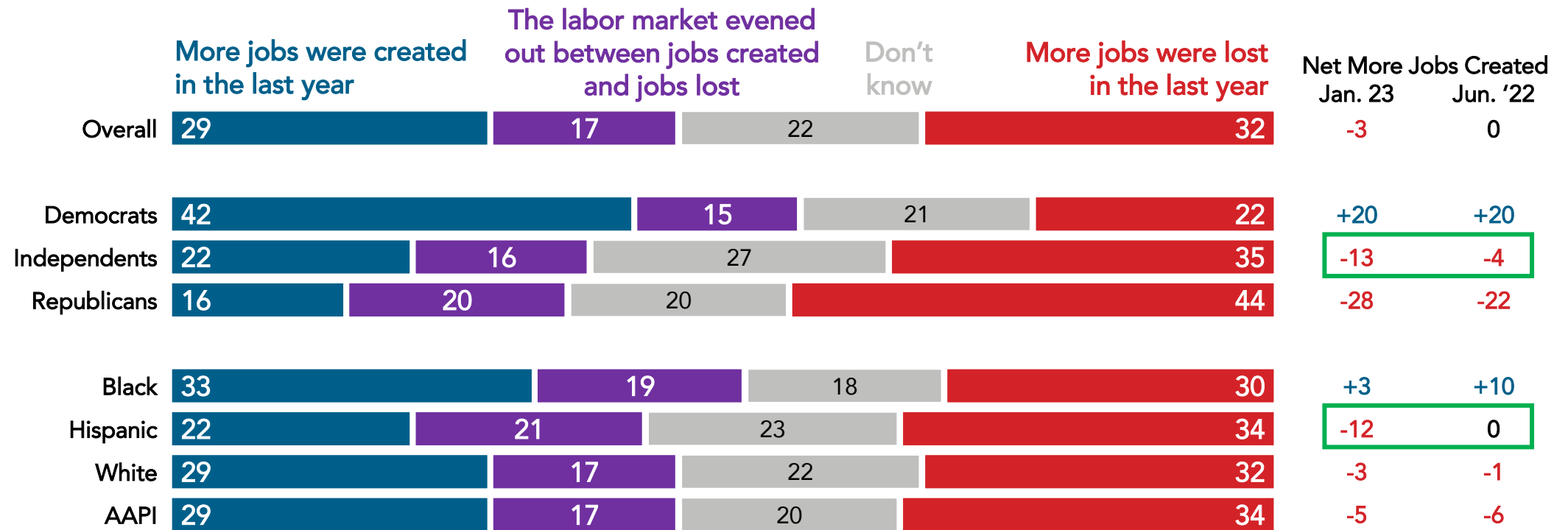
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted January 20-January 23, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org)

# Awareness Remains Consistent, Mixed on Job Loss & Creation

Americans are split on the question of job creation over the past year, with roughly equal shares saying more jobs were created than lost (29%) and more jobs were lost than created (32%) over the last 12 months.

- Independents have grown more negative since the middle of 2022 (net -13 more jobs created now, down from net -4 in June); Hispanics have shown a similar shift (net -12 now, down from net +0 in June).

When it comes to the U.S. economy over the last 12 months, which of the following statements do you think is most accurate?



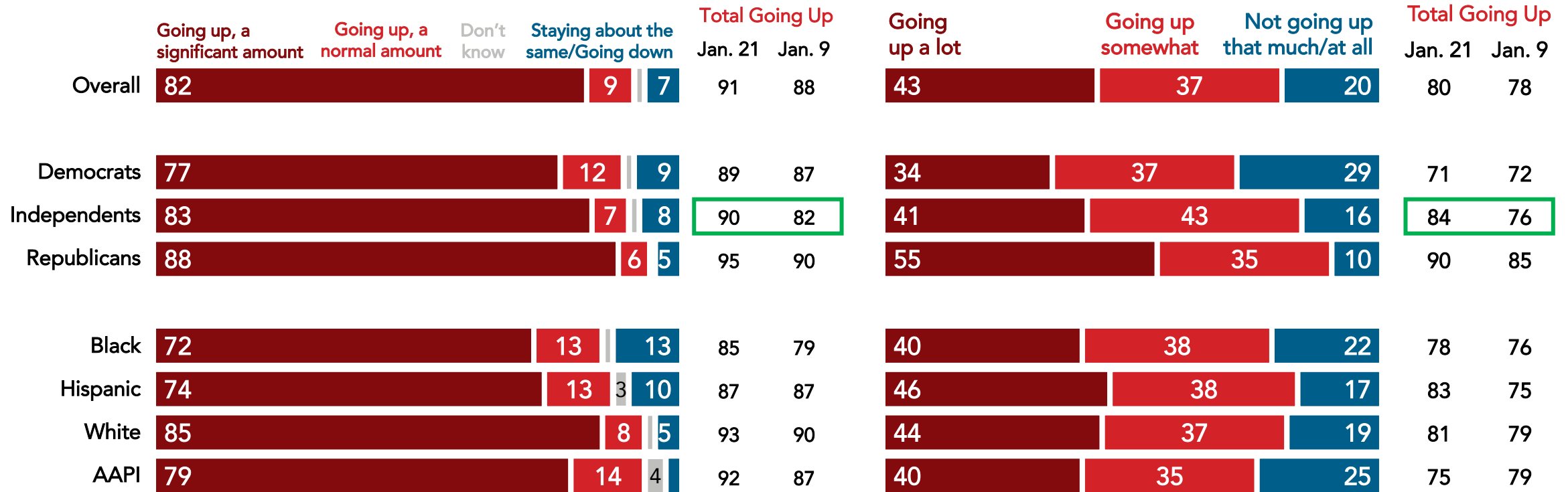
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# Gas and Grocery Prices Are Perceived As Increasing

Since early January, the share of independents who say grocery costs are going up has increased by 8 points (from 82% to 90%), and the share who say the price of gas is going up has also increased by 8 points (from 76% to 84%).

When it comes to the costs of everyday goods like groceries, do you think costs are:

Do you feel the price of gas is going up?

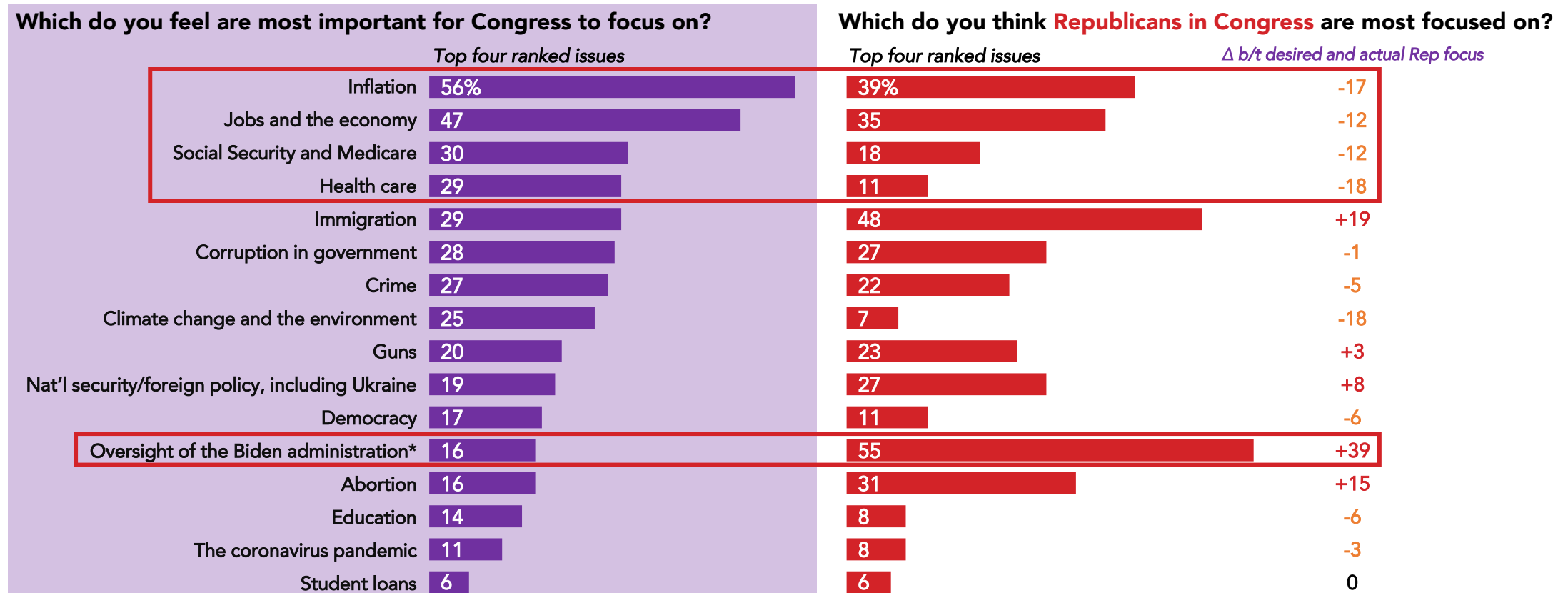


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# Republicans in Congress Are Not Seen Focusing on Inflation, Jobs and Economy As Much As Americans Want

While more than half of Americans think inflation is a top four issue, only 39% think Republicans in Congress are focused on the issue.

- There is a nearly 40-point gap between the share who prioritize oversight of Biden (16%) and who think it is a GOP focus (55%).



\*"Oversight of the Biden administration" was asked as "Conducting oversight into the Biden administration" on the ask about Republicans in Congress. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 20-January 23, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Job Creation, Low Unemployment Rates Are the Best Reasons to Believe the Economy Is Currently Improving

After learning about these economic metrics, 13% of Americans express an improved opinion of Biden’s handling of the economy.

- Among this group of positive Biden movers\*, the most convincing reasons to believe the economy is improving are job creation (64% convincing), new small business applications (59%), and the low unemployment rate (57%).

Below are some statements about the economy. Please indicate how convincing you find each one as a reason to believe that the economy is improving.

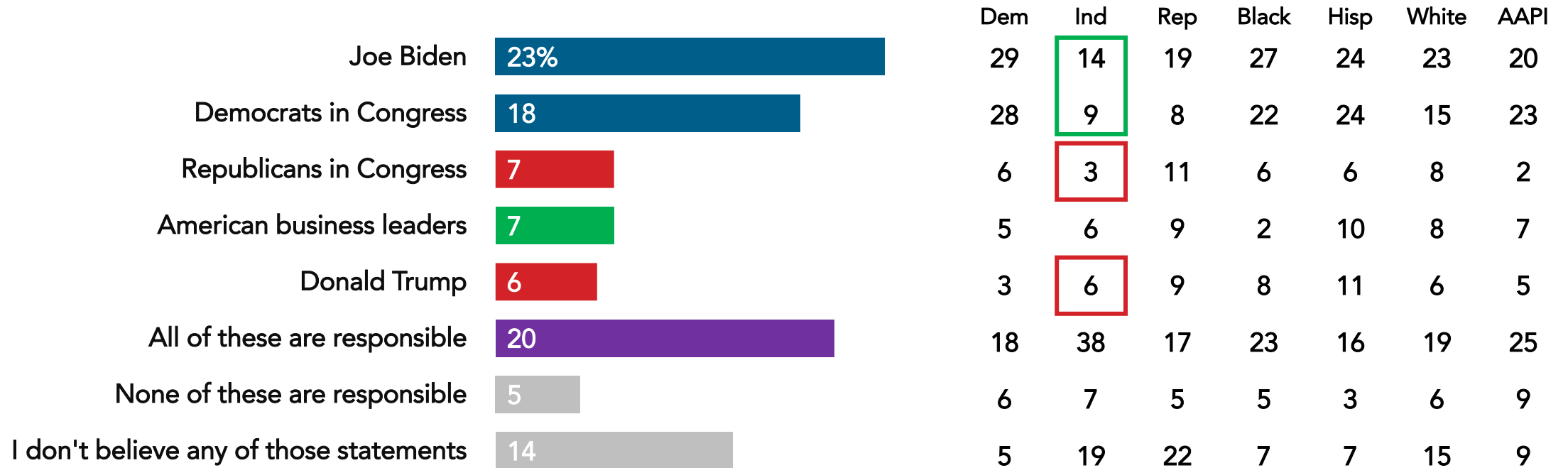
	Convincing	Don't believe	Not convincing	Total Convincing			White		Pos. Biden movers*
				Dem	Ind	Rep	Non-coll	Coll	
10.5 million jobs have been added under President Biden, the most at this point in any presidency on record	46	23	31	72	36	19	36	54	64
The unemployment rate is down to 3.7%, setting a 50-year low	44	20	36	65	30	22	36	51	57
Gas prices are down around \$1.70 a gallon from their peak in June	41	20	39	63	29	19	33	45	49
The last two years have been the strongest on record for applications for new small businesses, totaling 10.5 million	40	22	38	63	33	17	33	47	59
The CPI showed inflation falling last month, the 6 <sup>th</sup> month in a row this has happened, and it is now lower than it's been in over a year	40	24	36	64	31	15	32	49	51
Inflation dropped from 11.3% at the beginning of 2022 to 3.7% at the end of the year	40	28	32	62	30	18	30	49	53
The number of Americans without health insurance has fallen by nearly 6 million compared to before the pandemic	39	16	45	57	26	21	32	43	51
Unemployment rates for Black and Hispanic Americans are near pre-pandemic lows	38	18	44	58	22	19	31	46	47
Wages are higher now than they were six months ago, adjusted for inflation	38	18	44	58	26	18	29	44	46

\*"Positive Biden movers" are defined as respondents whose opinion of Biden’s handling of the economy improves after hearing about these positive economic indicators. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 20-January 23, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Two in Five Say Biden or Democrats in Congress Responsible After Reading Positive Economic Outcomes

Independents are more likely to credit Biden or Democrats (23% total) than Trump and Republicans (9% total).

Thinking about those statements...who do you see as most responsible for those outcomes?



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 20-January 23, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).



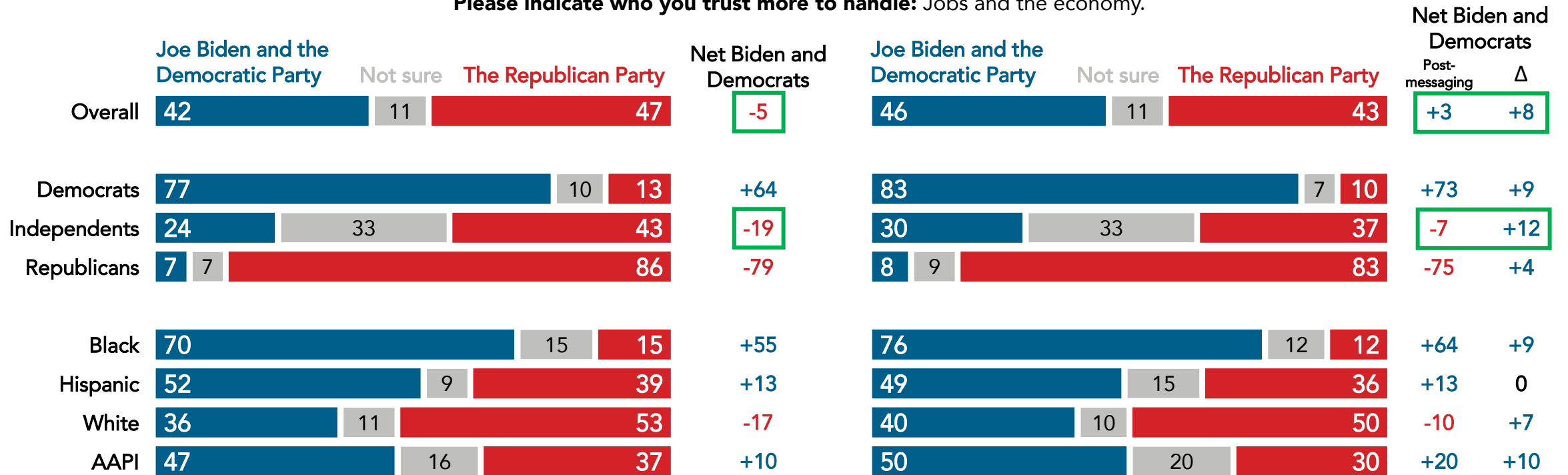
# After Learning About Recent Positive Economic Outcomes, a Plurality Trust Biden and Democrats More on the Economy

After statements, Americans shift from trusting the Republican Party by net 5 points to trusting Biden and Democrats by net 3 points on "jobs and the economy."

*Before reading positive economic outcomes*

*After reading positive economic outcomes*

Please indicate who you trust more to handle: Jobs and the economy.



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 20-January 23, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatortresearch.org](https://www.navigatortresearch.org).

# Those Who Move to Rate Biden More Positively on the Economy Tend to Be Younger, People of Color, Non-Republicans

Americans ages 18-34 most disproportionately fall into this group (20% are positive Biden movers), while only 9% of seniors fall into this category. People of color (19%) are also more likely to fall into this group than white Americans (12%).

- This group also tends to be more moderate or liberal, with 17% of independents and 15% of Democrats falling into this group compared to just 10% of Republicans.

## **Positive Biden movers:**

Respondents whose opinion of Biden's handling of the economy improves after hearing about a range of positive economic indicators.

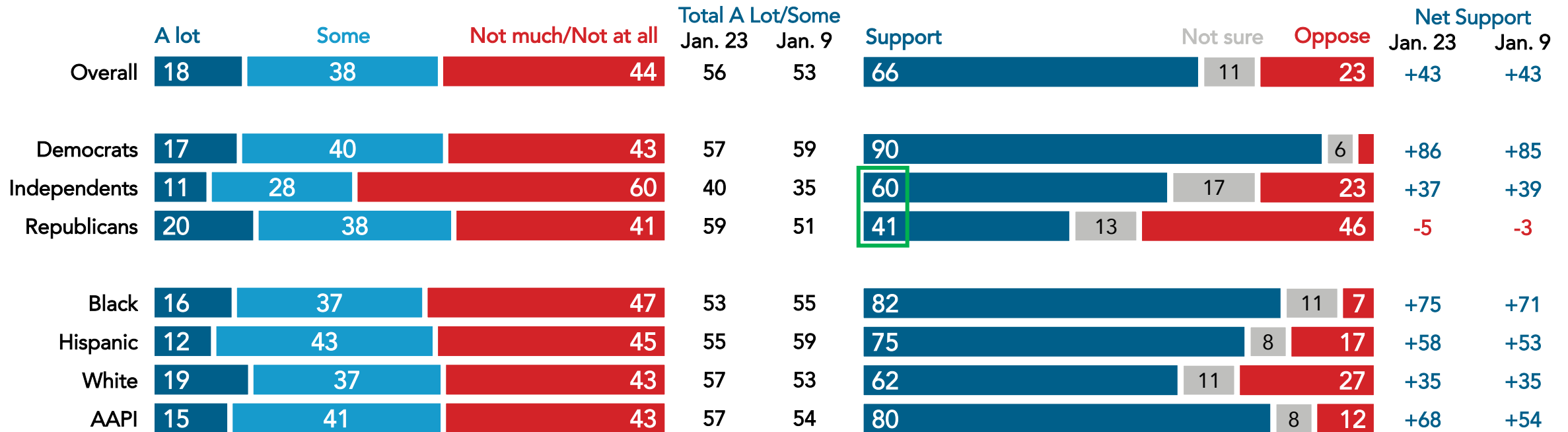


# Views on the Inflation Reduction Act Remain Positive as Roughly the Same Share Continue to Hear About It

A majority of independents (60%) and more than two in five Republicans (41%) continue to support the Inflation Reduction Act.

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

As you may know, Biden and Democrats' legislation that was 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 economic plan?



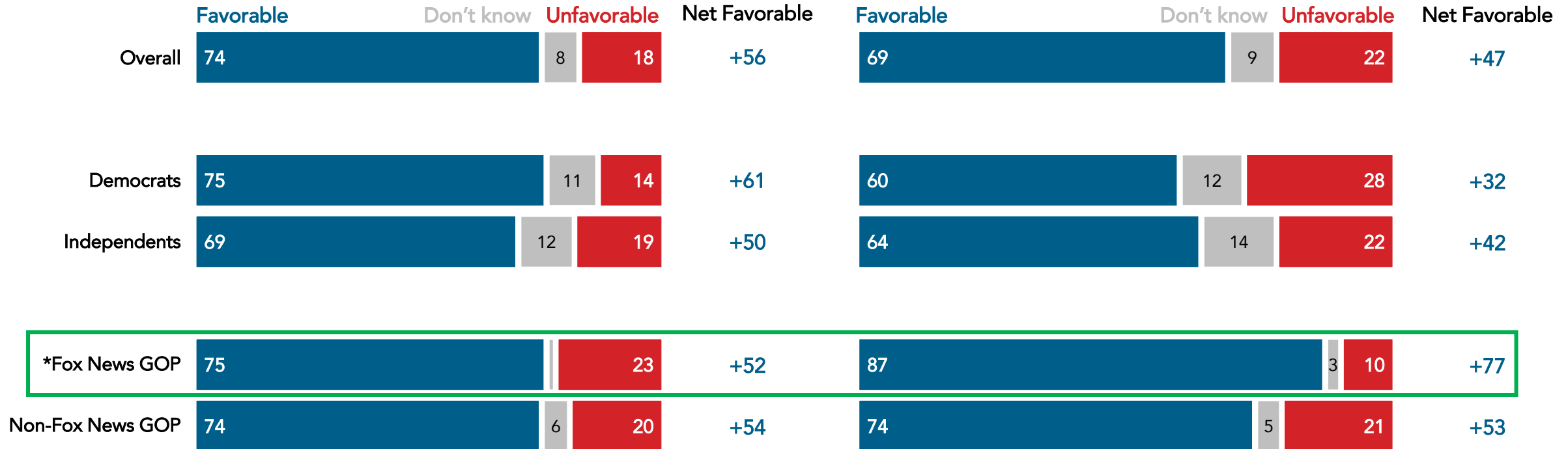
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# Most Americans View Both Electric and Gas Stoves Favorably, Though Modest Differences By Party Are Beginning to Emerge

Fox News-watching Republicans\* are a net 24 points more favorable to gas stoves than non-Fox News-watching Republicans (net +77 compared to net +53) and are a net 25 points more favorable to gas stoves than electric stoves (net +77 compared to net +52).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Electric stoves.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Gas stoves.



\*"Fox News GOP" are self-identified Republicans who report watching Fox News at least a few times a month. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 20-January 23, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

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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: Jessica Floyd, 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 January 20-January 23, 2023. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 75 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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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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