

navigator*

Thursday, February 16th

President Biden and the
State of the Union: A Guide
for Advocates



Key Takeaways:

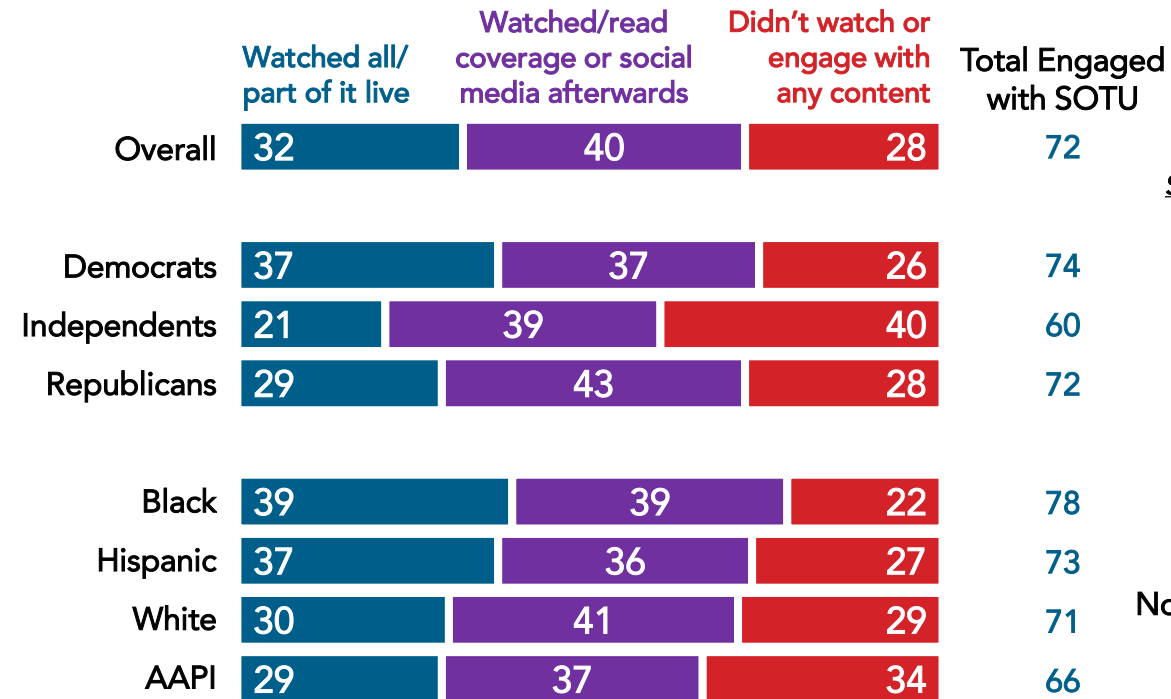
- Following the State of the Union, more report hearing positive news about Biden.
- More Americans say Social Security and Medicare, guns, national security, and abortion are top four issues than did in late January.
- Americans continue to trust Biden and Democrats over Republicans on Social Security and Medicare, health care, gun violence, democracy, and racial issues.
- Most disapprove of how Republicans in Congress are handling their jobs, and a plurality disapprove of their behavior during the State of the Union.

Seven in Ten Report Engaging with State of the Union Address; Those Who Watched Had a More Positive Reaction

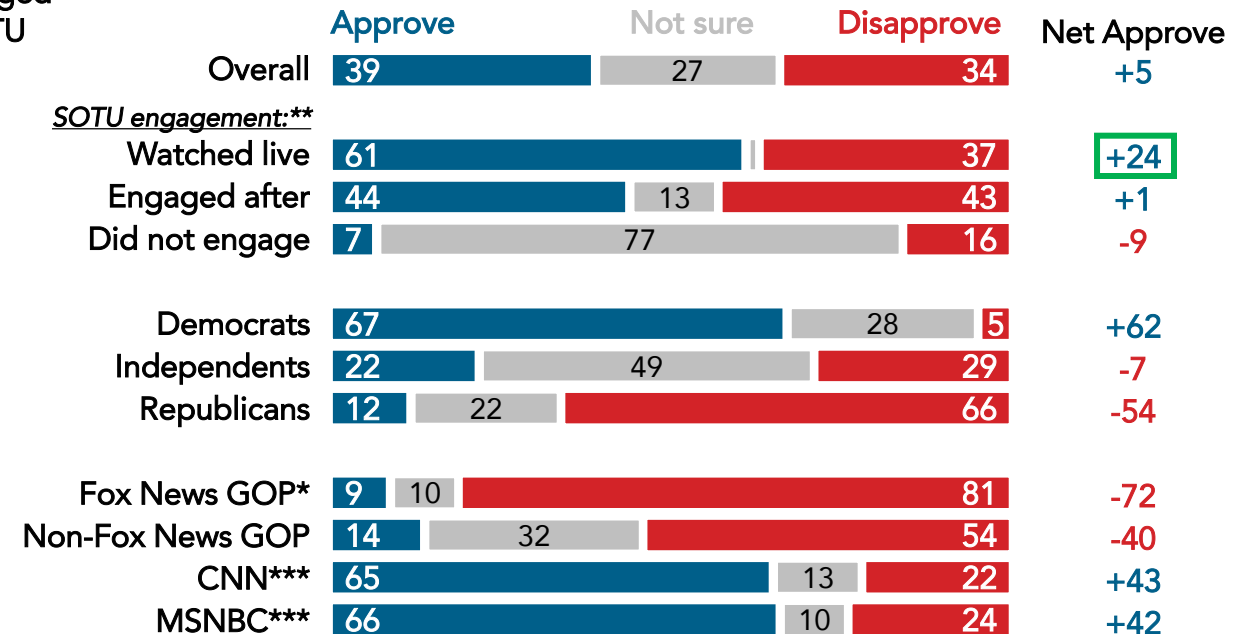
While Democrats and Republicans engaged more than independents, more Democrats watched live (37%) than Republicans (29%).

- Americans who report watching all or part of the speech live approve of what they heard by a 24-point margin.

Which of the following best describes how you watched or learned about President Biden's State of the Union address?



Do you approve or disapprove of what you heard in President Biden's State of the Union address?

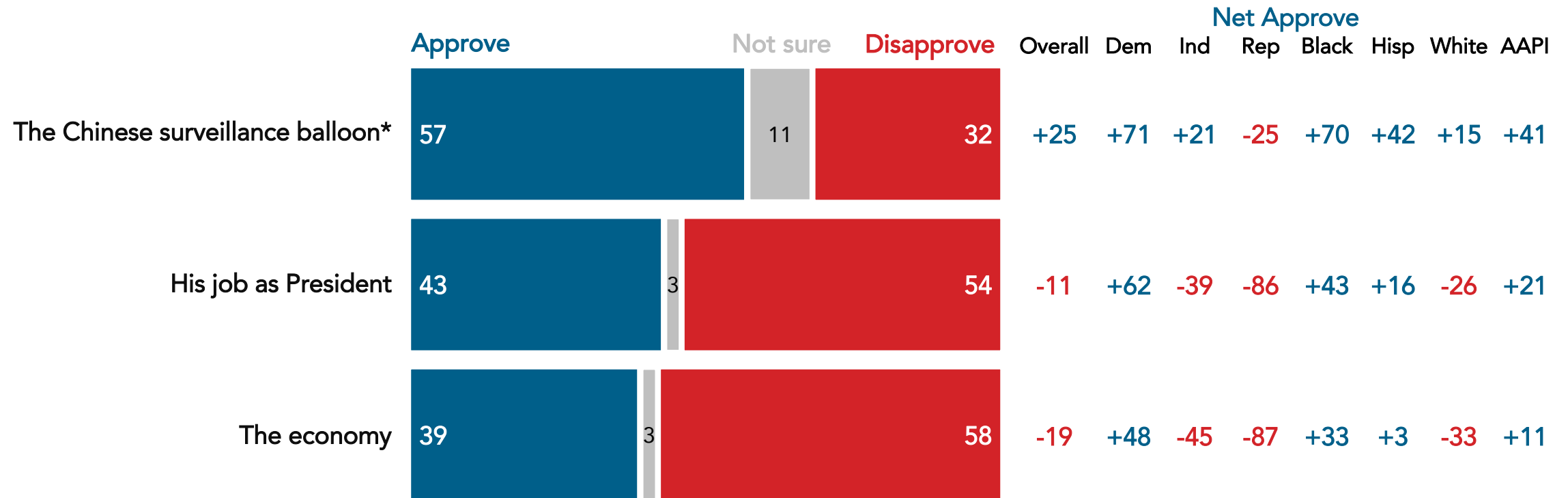


*"Fox News Republicans" are defined as those who identify as Republicans and say Fox News is their "main source of news about politics and current events in the U.S." ***"SOTU engagement" is defined by how respondents answered, "Which of the following best describes how you watched or learned about President Biden's State of the Union address?" ****"CNN" and "MSNBC" viewers are defined as those who report watching each channel respectively at least a few times a month. Nationwide survey of 998 registered voters conducted February 9-February 13, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Americans Approve of Biden's Handling of the Surveillance Balloon; Less Approve Overall and on the Economy

Independents approve of Biden's handling of the surveillance balloon by a double-digit margin (net +21 approve), but generally disapprove of his performance overall (net -39) and on the economy (net -45).

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

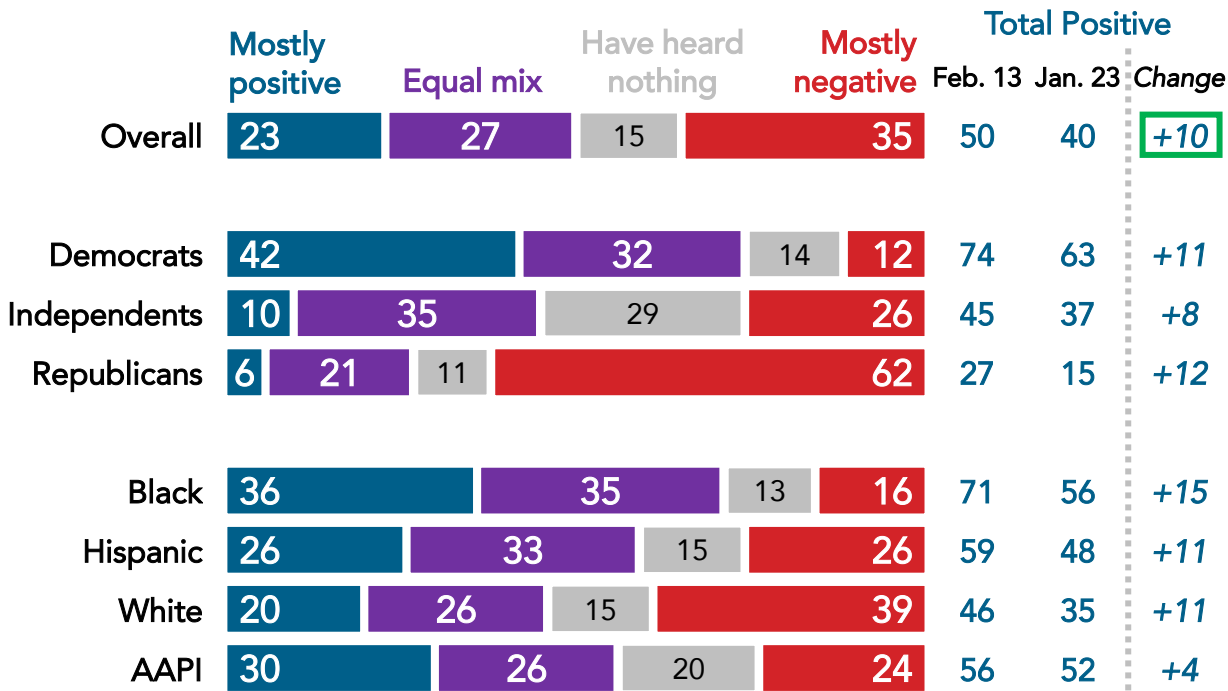


This survey fielded as President Biden also ordered three additional objects to be shot down over North American airspace.
 *Full question text: "As you may know, there was a Chinese surveillance balloon over the United States this past week. A U.S. fighter jet eventually shot down the balloon off the coast of South Carolina at Biden's direction. Knowing this, do you approve or disapprove of the way President Biden handled the Chinese surveillance balloon?" Nationwide survey of 998 registered voters conducted February 9-February 13, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

More Americans Report Hearing Positive News About Biden, Focusing on the SOTU, Surveillance Balloon, and Social Security

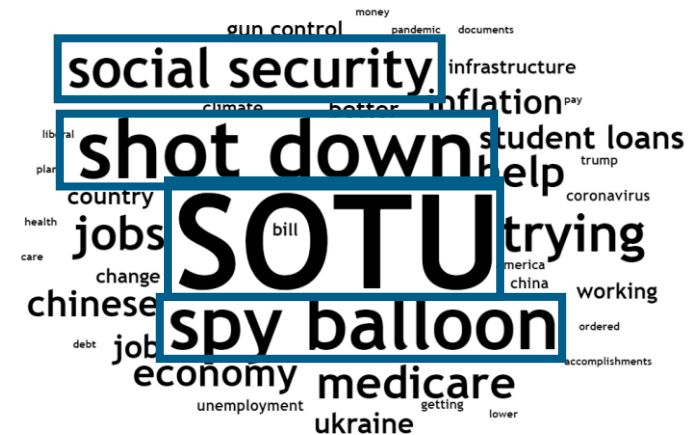
The share of Americans hearing “mostly positive” or an “equal mix of positive and negative” has increased from 40% two weeks ago to 50% now, including an 8-point increase among independents (from 37% to 45%).

Over the past few days, has what you have seen, read or heard recently about Joe Biden been:



In a few words, what positive things have you seen, read, or heard recently about Joe Biden?

Hearing Positives About President Biden: 50%



“His commitment to maintain Social Security and Medicare. He stood up to China and shot down a spy balloon.”

“Good State of the Union speech. Standing up for Social Security and Medicare.”

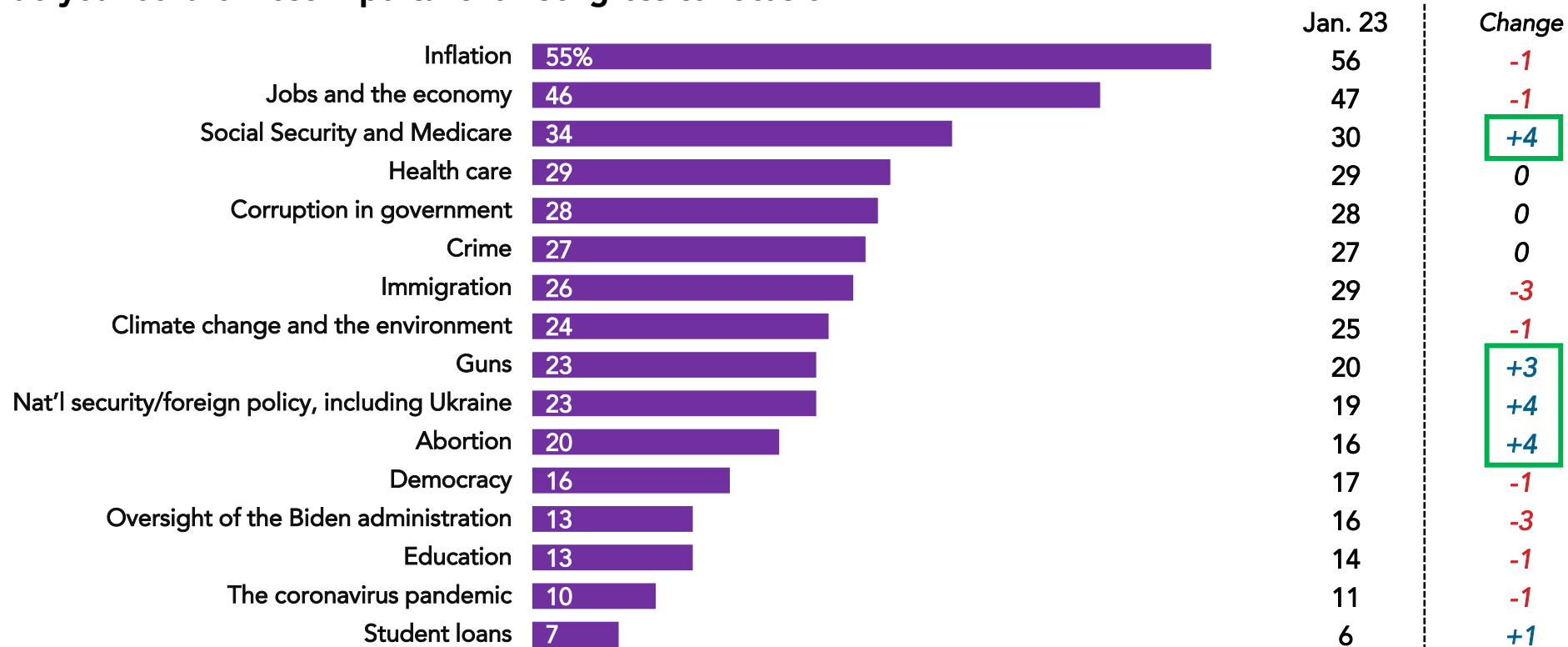
“The economy is getting better and the jobs report is better than expected.”

Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted February 9-February 13, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Americans Place a Slightly Higher Priority on SS/Medicare, Guns, National Security, and Abortion After State of the Union

The share of Americans who rate Social Security and Medicare as a top-four issue increased by 4 points since late January (from 30% to 34%); similar shifts have taken place on guns (from 20% to 23%), national security/foreign policy (19% to 23%), and abortion (16% to 20%).

Which do you feel are most important for Congress to focus on?



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Democrats More Trusted on Social Security/Medicare, Health Care, Gun Violence, Racial Issues; GOP on Inflation and Crime

Independents trust Biden and Democrats more by double digits on both “reforming” and “protecting” Social Security and Medicare, gun violence, health care, and race relations.

- The Republican Party advantage on inflation has grown since mid-January (net +11 Republicans now, up from net +7).

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

	<i>*/** Split sample</i>	Biden and the Democratic Party	Don't know	The Republican Party	Overall	Dem	Net Biden and Democrats	Rep	Black	Hisp	White	AAPI
*Protecting Social Security and Medicare		50	14	36	+14	+73	+16	-53	+60	+26	+5	+38
Health care		48	13	39	+9	+78	+15	-69	+55	+35	-5	+41
**Preventing gun violence		47	14	39	+8	+77	+16	-69	+46	+38	-6	+41
Relations between police and the Black community		47	17	36	+11	+76	+10	-62	+55	+29	+1	+39
Race relations		47	19	34	+13	+76	+14	-58	+55	+36	+2	+39
Democracy		47	15	38	+9	+79	+9	-71	+38	+36	-4	+38
**Reforming Social Security and Medicare		46	15	39	+7	+73	+17	-71	+52	+21	-6	+21
*Guns		45	14	41	+4	+67	+3	-66	+50	+13	-7	+41
Jobs and the economy		42	12	46	-4	+66	-3	-83	+43	+22	-18	+23
Crime		38	16	46	-8	+60	-16	-81	+33	+15	-19	+13
Inflation		38	13	49	-11	+57	-16	-84	+29	+16	-22	+5

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Americans Say Biden Is Kind, Trying to Do What's Best for the Country, and Values Hard Work

Majorities agree Biden “is kind and cares about people” (net +16 describes him well), “is trying to do what’s best for the country” (net +12), and “values hard work” (net +10); he fares worse on “brings stability to the country” and “is up to the job of President” (both net -8).

- Biden’s rating on each attribute tested in this survey outpaces his overall job approval rating.

Below is a list of words and phrases. For each, please indicate how well it describes President Biden.

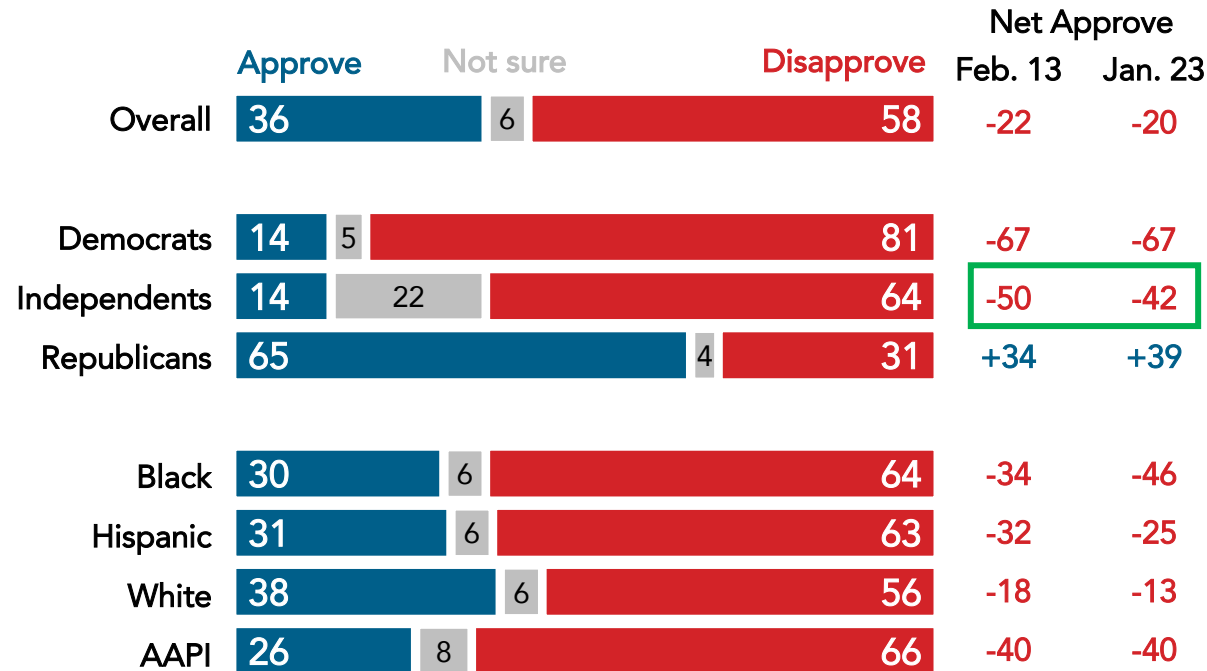
	Well	Not well	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Black	Hisp	White	AAPI	
	<i>*/** Split sample</i>										
He is kind and cares about people	58	42	+16	+82	-2	-52	+70	+36	+2	+38	
*He is trying to do what's best for the country	56	44	+12	+74	-16	-50	+54	+34	+2	+42	
**He values hard work	55	45	+10	+78	0	-66	+62	+34	-4	+24	
**He stands up for the middle class	50	50	0	+68	-18	-70	+56	+24	-14	+22	
*He represents the country well abroad	49	51	-2	+66	-22	-70	+56	+18	-14	+32	
**He has the right priorities	49	51	-2	+66	-18	-83	+50	+30	-18	+20	
He keeps a steady hand when things get tough	48	52	-4	+62	-26	-72	+50	+24	-18	+14	
He looks out for people like me	48	52	-4	+62	-24	-74	+40	+22	-18	+22	
*He shares my values	47	53	-6	+58	-32	-70	+42	+10	-16	+12	
**He is reaching across the aisle to get things done	47	53	-6	+58	-16	-76	+46	+24	-20	+16	
*He brings stability to the country	46	54	-8	+58	-38	-70	+50	+12	-20	+28	
**He is up to the job of President	46	54	-8	+62	-30	-80	+50	+28	-26	+8	

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Nearly Three in Five Disapprove of Republicans in Congress, With Negative Things Heard Focused on SS/Medicare, Biden

The share of independents who approve of Republicans in Congress has declined by a net 8 points since last month (net -50 approve now, down from net -42 in mid-January).

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 About Republicans in Congress: 56%



"They have *done nothing* but try to drag the Biden family through the mud instead of working for the people."

"Yelling out at President Biden during his speech was rude and shows how *out of touch with reality* they are."

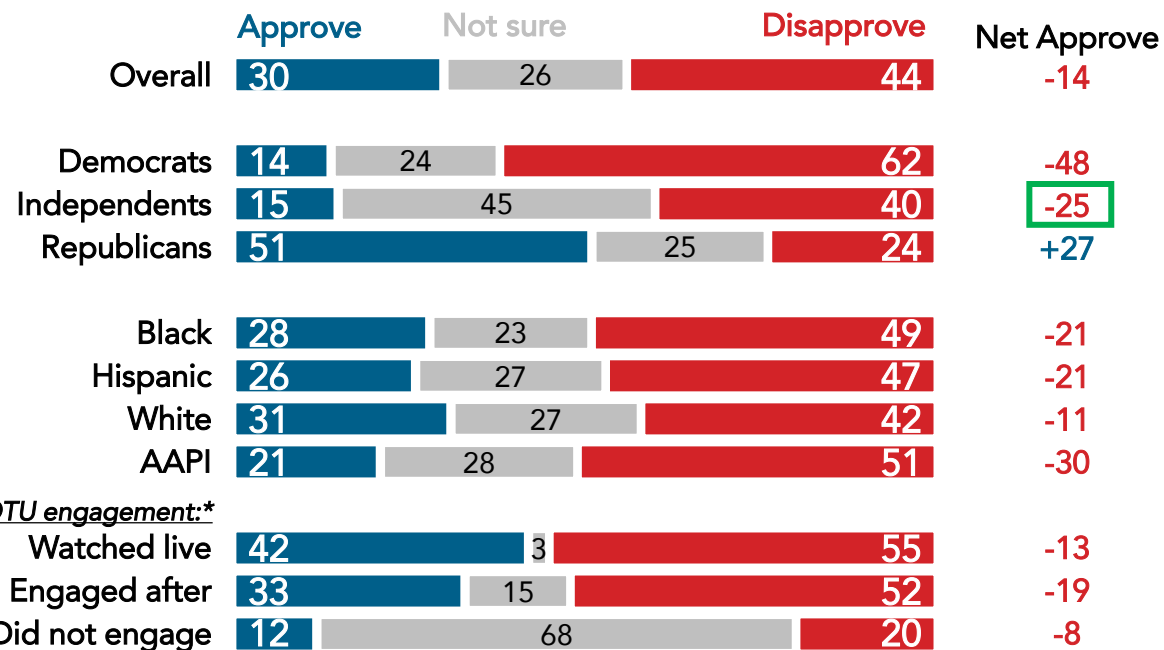
"Proposal to *vote on funding for Medicare and Social Security every 5 years.*"

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Almost Half of Americans Disapprove of Republicans' "Childish" and "Disrespectful" Conduct During the State of the Union

By a 25-point margin, more independents disapprove (40%) than approve (15%) of Republicans' behavior during Biden's State of the Union address, and prevailing moments from the speech show Republicans as "childish," "disrespectful," and "unprofessional."

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress acted during the State of the Union address?



Based on what you know about President Biden's State of the Union address... what stuck out to you about how **Republicans in Congress** reacted to his speech?



"There were people *calling him a liar when he was telling the truth.*"

"They were *immature, childish unruly, unprofessional and an embarrassment to the party they represent and to the people who elected them.*"

"The Republicans' *childish, un-American, and disrespectful behavior...*"

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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 998 registered voters from February 9-February 13, 2023. 99 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 74 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 99 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 99 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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