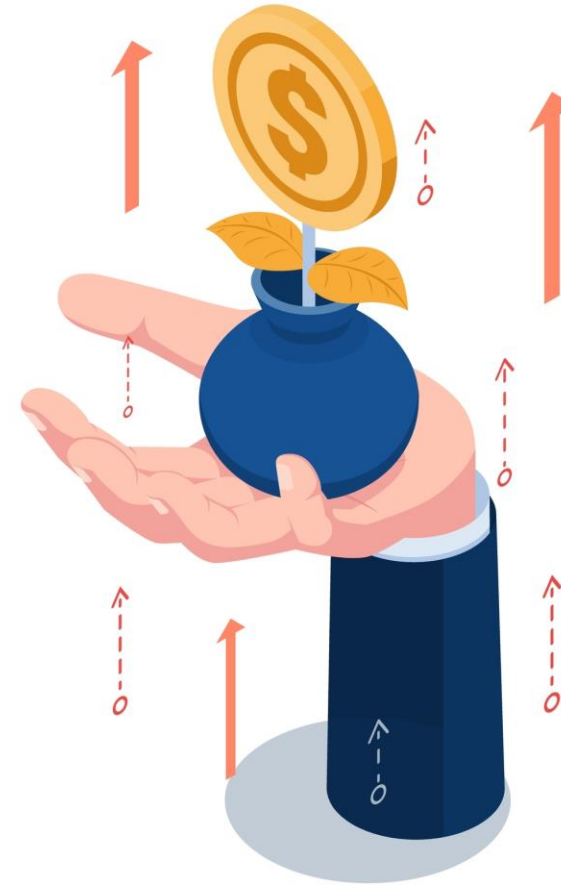


navigator*

Friday, February 17th

The Economy and Debt
Ceiling: A Guide for
Advocates



Key Takeaways:

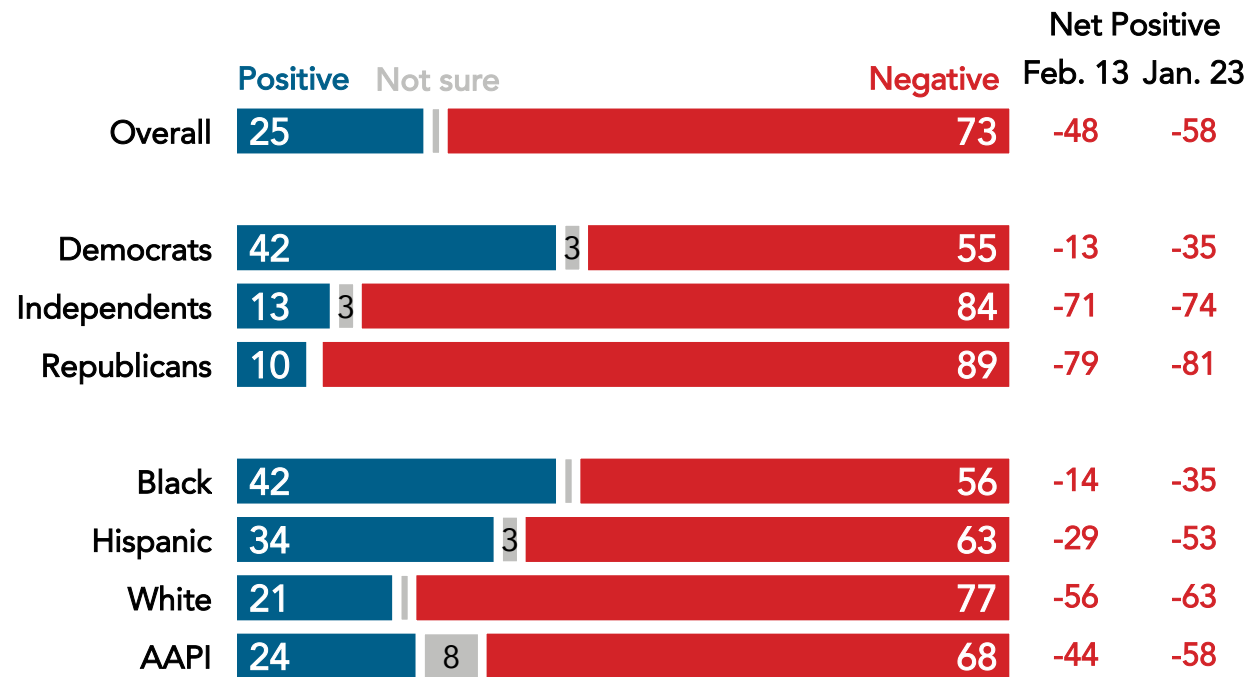
- Views of the economy and personal finances remain negative as Americans say gas and grocery costs are still on the rise.
- The Inflation Reduction Act remains broadly popular though fewer are hearing about it, and majorities across party and age support expanding the insulin price cap of \$35 a month to any Americans who count on insulin.
- Majorities say defaulting on the debt ceiling would be worse than raising the debt ceiling, and a majority support raising the debt ceiling, though one in five do not know enough to say.
- The biggest concerns on House Republicans' behavior around the debt ceiling center on the consequences of default, including seniors not getting Social Security and Medicare payments and the risk of a major economic collapse.

Americans' Views of the Economy and Personal Financial Situations Remain Deeply Negative, Though Slightly Improved

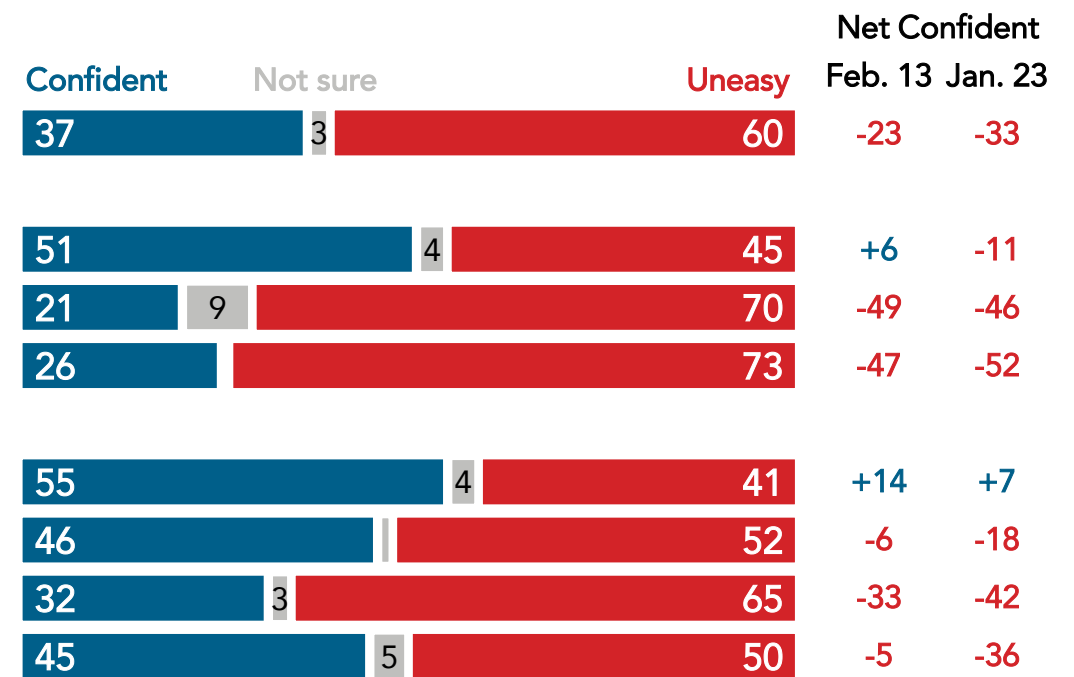
Though there are slight improvements since late January, still majorities rate the national economy and their personal finances negatively.

- More than eight in ten independents rate the national economy negatively (84%), 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?



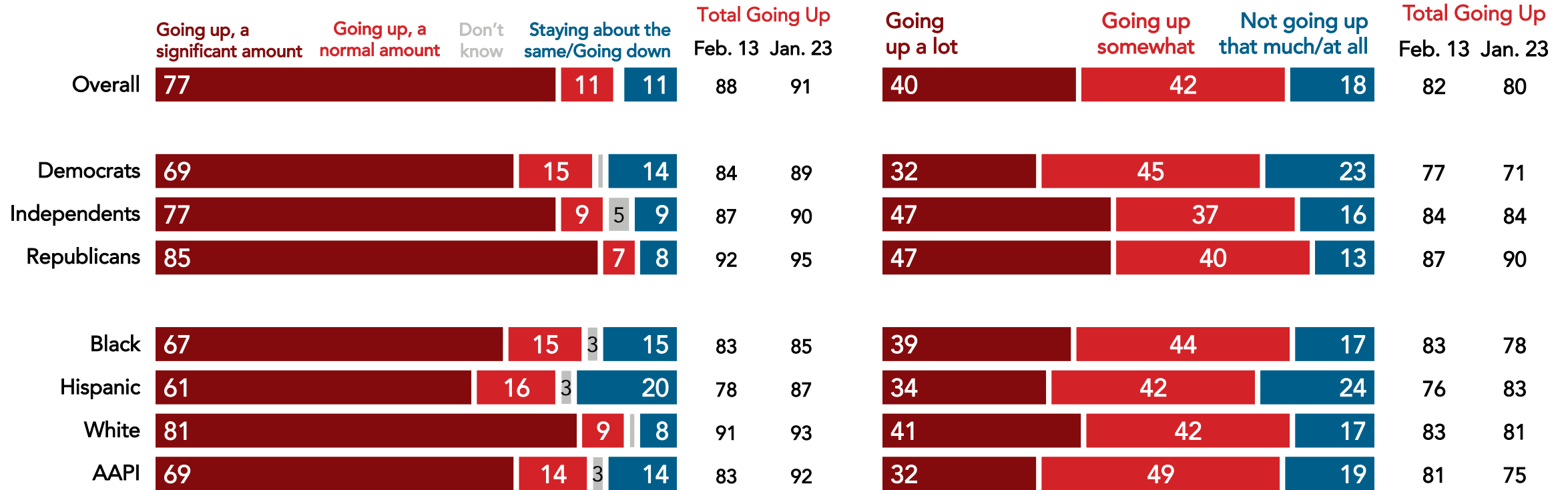
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted February 9-February 13, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Americans Continue to Say Gas and Grocery Prices Are Increasing

Nearly nine in ten (88%) say the costs of everyday goods like groceries are going up, and 82% say the same about the price of gas.

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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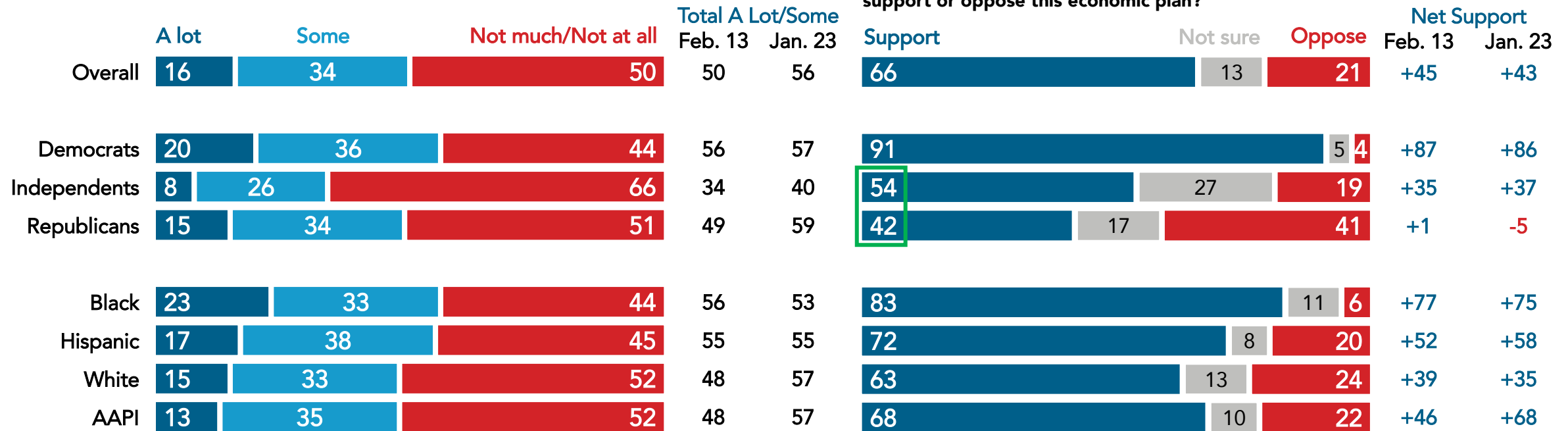
The Inflation Reduction Act Remains Popular Among Bipartisan Pluralities, Though Fewer Are Hearing About It

There has been a slight decline in the share who report hearing about the Inflation Reduction Act since late January (from 56% “a lot” or “some” to 50%), with the most pronounced decline among independents (from 40% to 34%) and Republicans (from 59% to 49%).

- Still, nine in ten Democrats (91%), more than half of independents (54%), and a plurality of Republicans (42%) support the plan.

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?



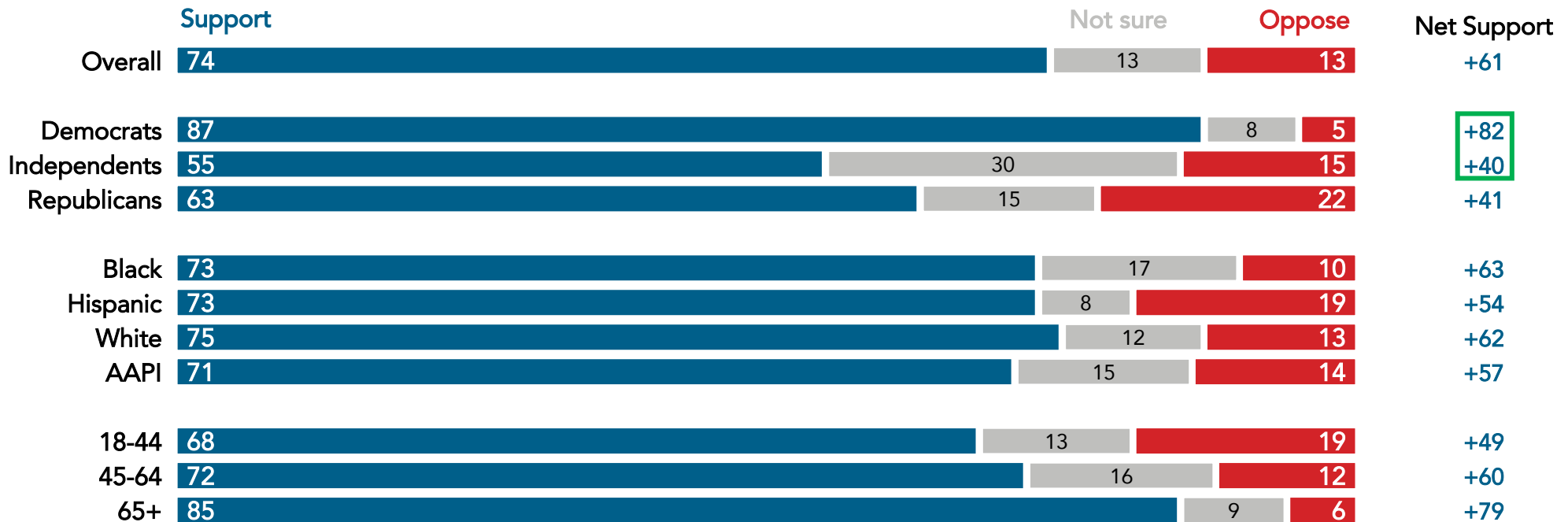
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Overwhelming Majorities Across Age, Race, and Party Support Capping Insulin Costs to \$35 a Month for All Americans

Nearly nine in ten Democrats (87%) support capping insulin costs for “any American who buys it, regardless of age,” along with clear majorities of Republicans (63%) and independents (55%).

- Support is higher among seniors (85%) than Americans under 45 (68%), though majorities of every age group support the policy.

As a part of the Inflation Reduction Act, out-of-pocket costs for insulin will be capped at \$35 a month for seniors on Medicare. However, the Biden administration is also pushing to extend that cap of \$35 a month for insulin to any American who buys it, regardless of age. Knowing this, do you support or oppose capping the monthly out-of-pocket costs for insulin at \$35 a month for all Americans who use it?



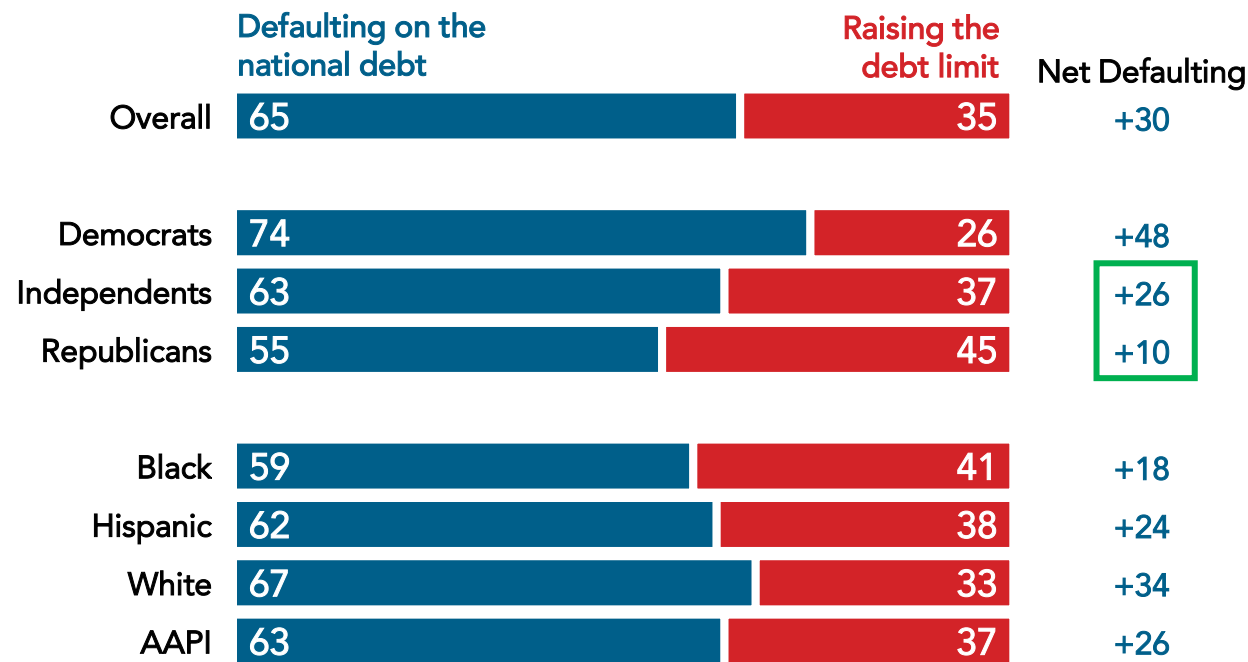
Nationwide survey of 998 registered voters conducted February 9-February 13, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Two in Three Say Defaulting on the Debt Would Be Worse Than Raising the Debt Limit, With or Without Messaging

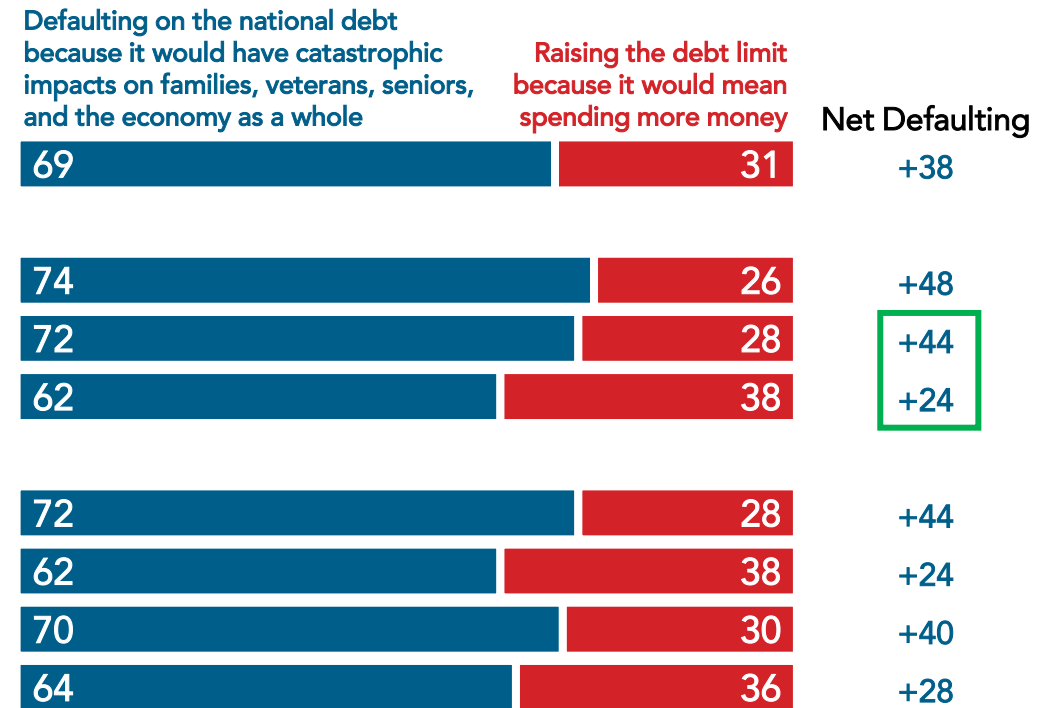
Including information about the “catastrophic impacts” of a default boosts the share who say that defaulting would be worse, though majorities say “defaulting on the national debt” would be worse with or without messaging included.

- Additional information increases the share of independents who say default would be worse by a net 18 points (from net +26 defaulting would be worse to net +44) and the share of Republicans who say the same by net 14 points (from net +10 to net +24).

(Split Sample) Which would be worse for the country?



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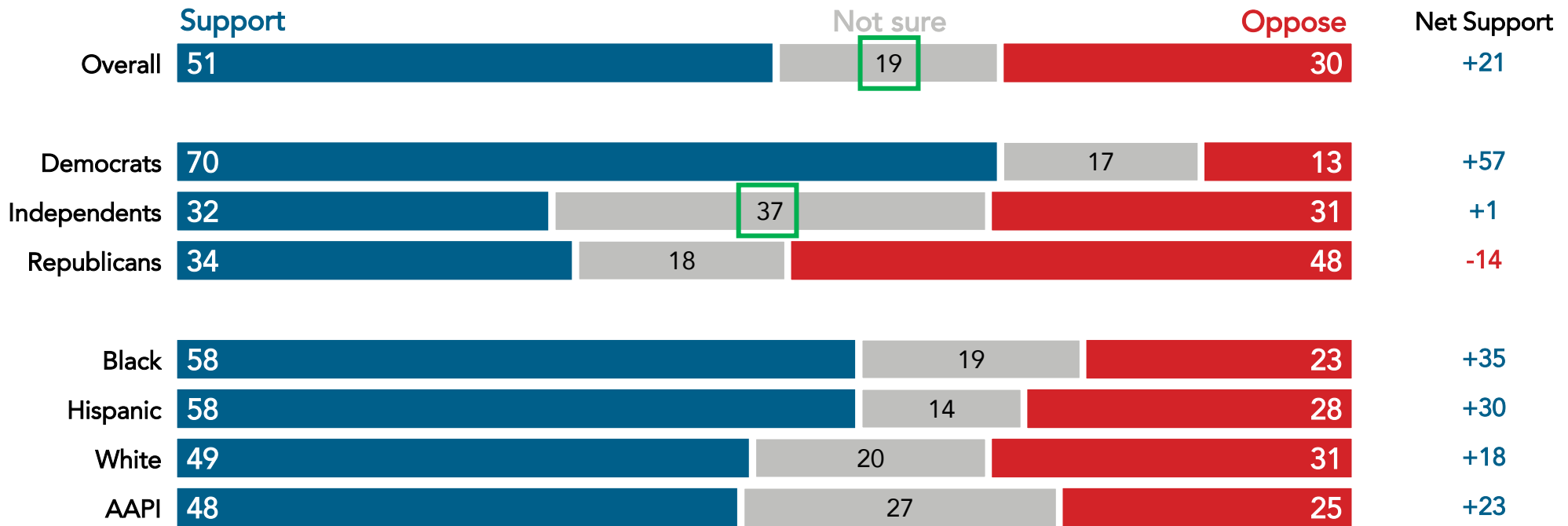


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A Majority of Americans Support Raising the Debt Ceiling, Though One in Five Are Not Sure

A large majority of Democrats support raising the debt ceiling (70% support), while independents are split (32% support vs. 31% oppose, while another 37% are not sure); one in three Republicans (34%) also support raising the debt ceiling.

As you may know, the debt ceiling is a limit to the amount of money the U.S. government can borrow to pay its bills. The U.S. government is currently at its limit on the amount of money it can borrow, forcing the Treasury to take "extraordinary measures" for now. When this has happened in the past, the U.S. government has raised its debt ceiling, or the limit to what it can borrow, so that it can pay its bills. If the debt ceiling is not raised, the U.S. will eventually default on its bills. Do you support or oppose Congress raising the debt ceiling?



Nationwide survey of 998 registered voters conducted February 9-February 13, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Loss of Social Security/Medicare, Economic Collapse Most Concerning on House Republicans' Debt Ceiling Behavior

For those unsure of whether they support raising the debt ceiling*, the strongest arguments focus on Republicans holding the economy hostage to cut Social Security/Medicare (60% concerning) and letting the country default on its bills and causing economic collapse (61%).

Below is a list of statements from critics of how Republicans in Congress have been handling the debt ceiling. Please indicate how concerning each one is about Republicans in Congress.

	Very concerning	Somewhat concerning	Don't believe	Not concerning	Total Concerning				Debt ceiling unsure*	
					Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep		
*Republicans in Congress will let the country default on its debt, meaning seniors won't get the Social Security and Medicare payments that they've earned and veterans' benefits will be delayed	52		18	19	11	70	87	62	53	56
*Republicans in Congress will let the country default on its debt, meaning major economic collapse worldwide including loss of jobs, risk to 401(k)s, and stock market crashes	51		22	17	10	72	91	68	53	54
**Republicans in Congress are taking our national debt hostage as part of an extreme plan to cut Social Security and Medicare benefits that seniors have earned over their lifetimes and to delay veterans' benefits	46		20	22	12	65	86	62	44	60
*Republicans in Congress will let the country default on its debt, meaning for the first time in its history, America won't pay its bills – turning America into an irresponsible deadbeat who doesn't make good on its bills	44		26	19	11	69	86	57	55	53
**Republicans in Congress will let the country default on the bills it already owes, meaning major economic collapse worldwide including loss of jobs, risk to 401(k)s, and stock market crashes	43		23	22	12	66	86	63	45	61
**Republicans in Congress oppose raising the debt ceiling, meaning for the first time in its history, America won't pay its bills – turning America into an irresponsible deadbeat who doesn't make good on its bills	37	22	23	18		59	78	52	41	52
*Republicans in Congress pretend to care about the national debt because Biden is in charge, but under Trump, the national deficit rose by \$7.8 trillion while Biden cut the deficit by \$1.4 trillion in 2022 alone	35	27	21	17		62	84	58	40	48
**Republicans in Congress pretend to care about the national debt because Biden is in charge, but Biden cut the deficit by \$1.4 trillion in 2022 alone	28	26	27	19		53	74	48	31	39

*"Debt ceiling unsure" are those who said on a previous question they were "not sure" if they supported or opposed raising the debt ceiling. Nationwide survey of 998 registered voters conducted February 9-February 13, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

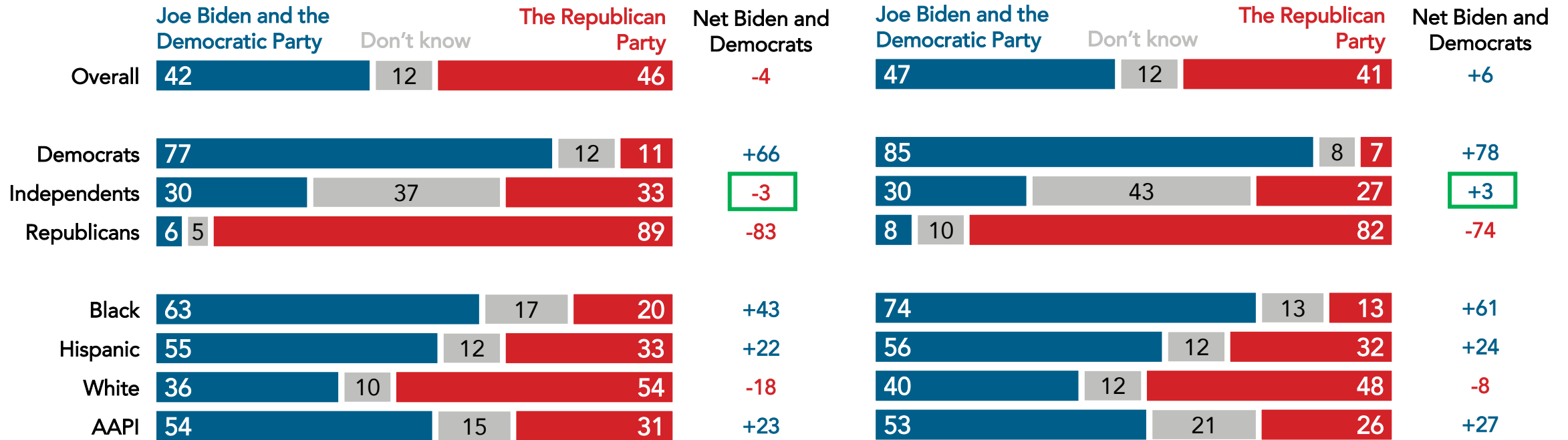
Trust in Democrats to Handle Economy Increases After Messaging Critical of House GOP Stance on Debt Ceiling

After reading messaging about where Congressional Republicans stand on the debt ceiling, trust in Biden and Democrats to handle “jobs and the economy” increases by a net 10 points (from net +4 Republicans to net +6 Biden and Democrats).

- Independents trust the Republican Party by 6 points less after messaging (from 33% trust the Republican Party more to 27%).

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

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



*Half of respondents in the poll saw this question after sections on both the Fair Tax Act and the debt ceiling, and half saw this question after just a section on the debt ceiling. The results were nearly identical, and those two sets of results were combined in the righthand chart. Nationwide survey of 998 registered voters conducted February 9-February 13, 2023. For more info, visit 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 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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