

# navigator\*

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

The Economy and Debt  
Ceiling: A Guide for  
Advocates



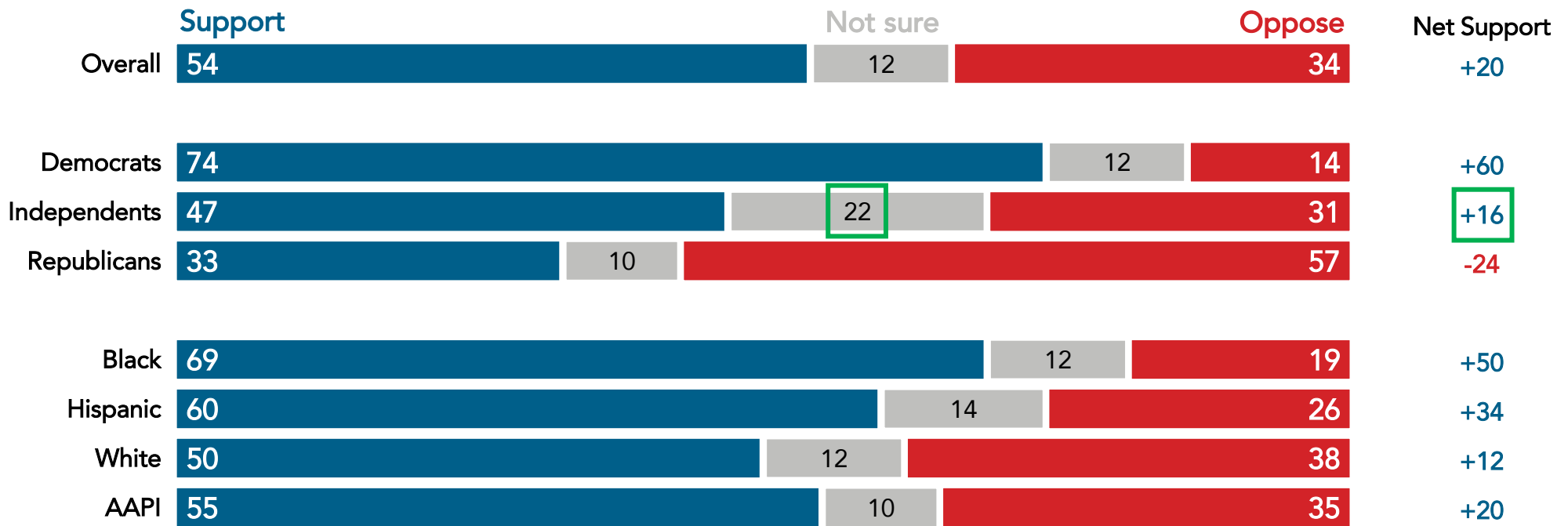
## Key Takeaways:

- Most Americans support raising the debt ceiling, and messaging about the consequences of defaulting is more effective at driving up support than information about how many times it has been raised in the past.
- The Inflation Reduction Act remains broadly popular, and large majorities of Americans across party lines support the Junk Fees Prevention Act and legislation to limit credit card late fees.
- Top concerns of Republicans' approach to the economy include giving tax breaks to those at the top and privatizing Medicare and Social Security; this messaging improves trust in Biden and Democrats over Republicans on a range of economic issues.

# More Than Half of Americans Support Raising the Debt Ceiling

Nearly three in four Democrats support raising the debt ceiling (74% support), along with a plurality of independents (47%, while 22% are not sure). One in three Republicans (33%) also support raising the debt ceiling, though 57% oppose.

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 government has already reached the limit, which means the debt ceiling needs to be raised in order to avoid defaulting on the government's bills. Knowing this, do you support or oppose raising the debt ceiling?



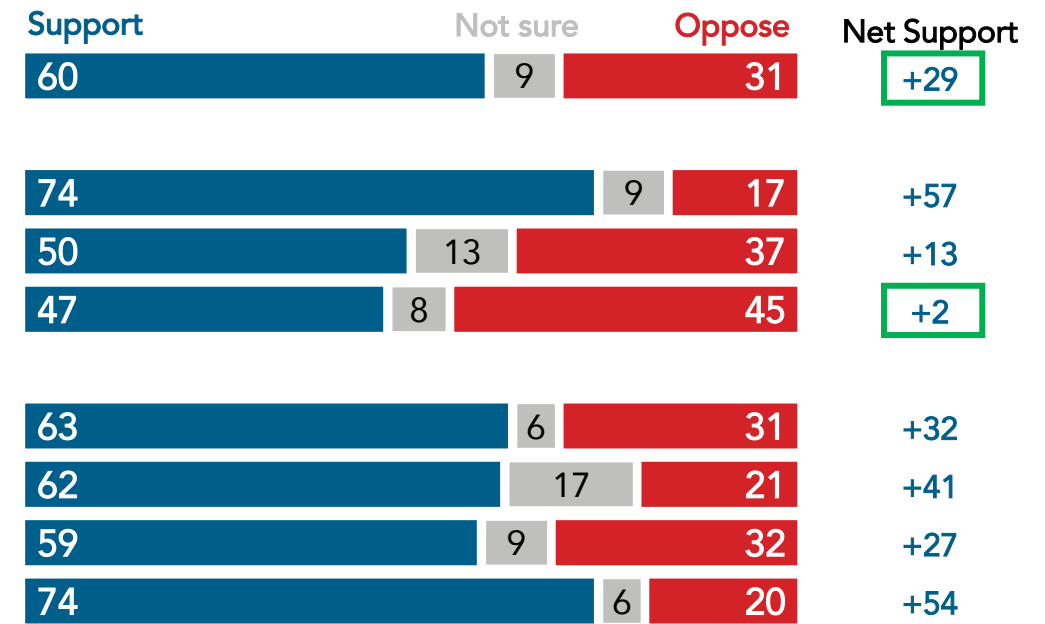
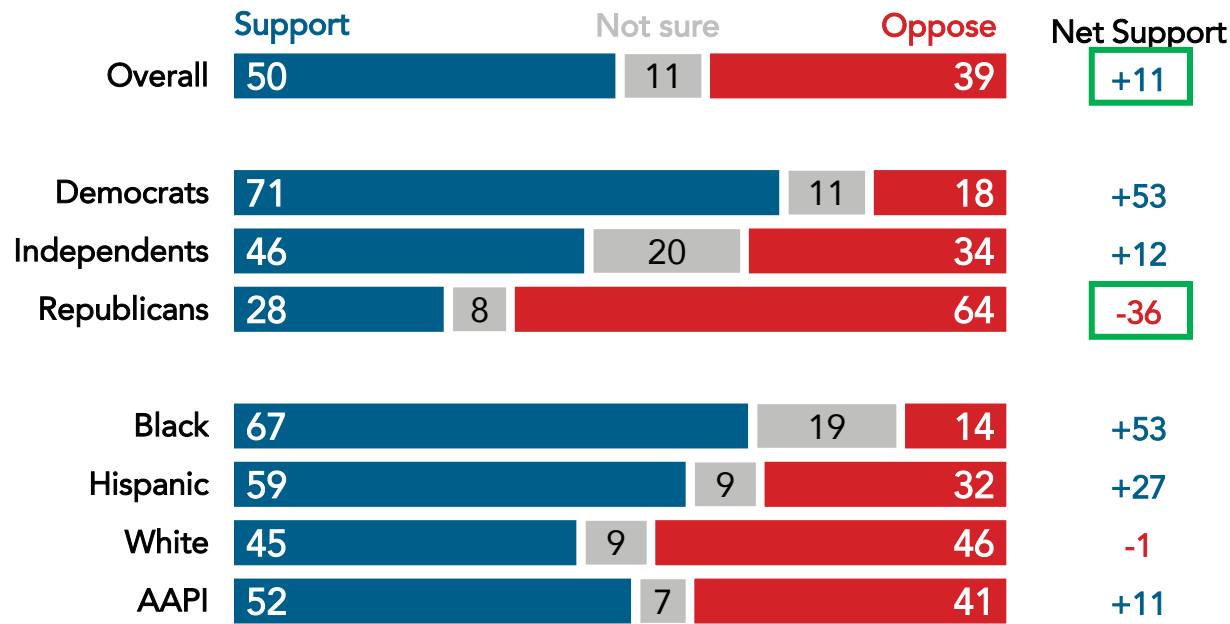
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted February 23-February 27, 2023.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Highlighting the Consequences of a Default Drives Up Support, While Highlighting History on Debt Limit Reduces It

Communicating on the consequences of default around Social Security, Medicare, and veterans' benefits increases support from net +20 to net +29, while talking about the number of times it has been raised actually decreases support from net +20 to net +11.

**(Split sample)** 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. **This limit has been raised almost 80 times in the last 60 years.** Again, do you support or oppose raising the debt ceiling?

**(Split sample)** 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. **If the debt ceiling is not raised, it could delay Social Security and Medicare payments and veterans' benefits.** Again, do you support or oppose raising the debt ceiling?



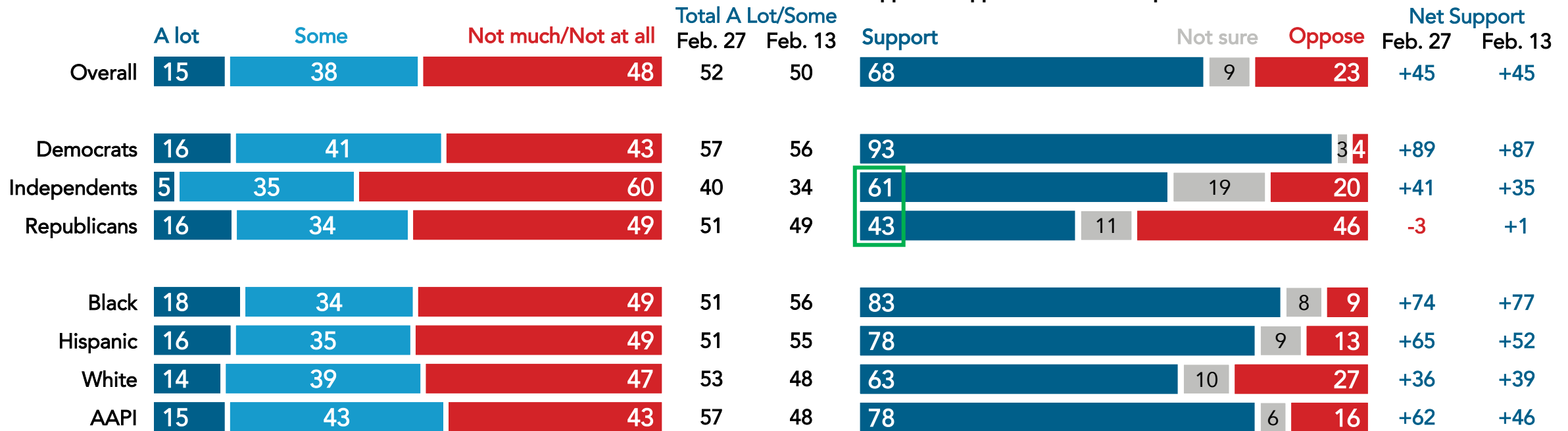
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted February 23-February 27, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# The Inflation Reduction Act Remains Deeply Popular, As About Half of Americans Are Hearing About It

More than nine in ten Democrats (93%), three in five independents (61%), and two in five Republicans (43%) support Biden and Democrats' legislation. Democrats are hearing about it the most (57%), as are 51% of Republicans and 40% of independents.

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?



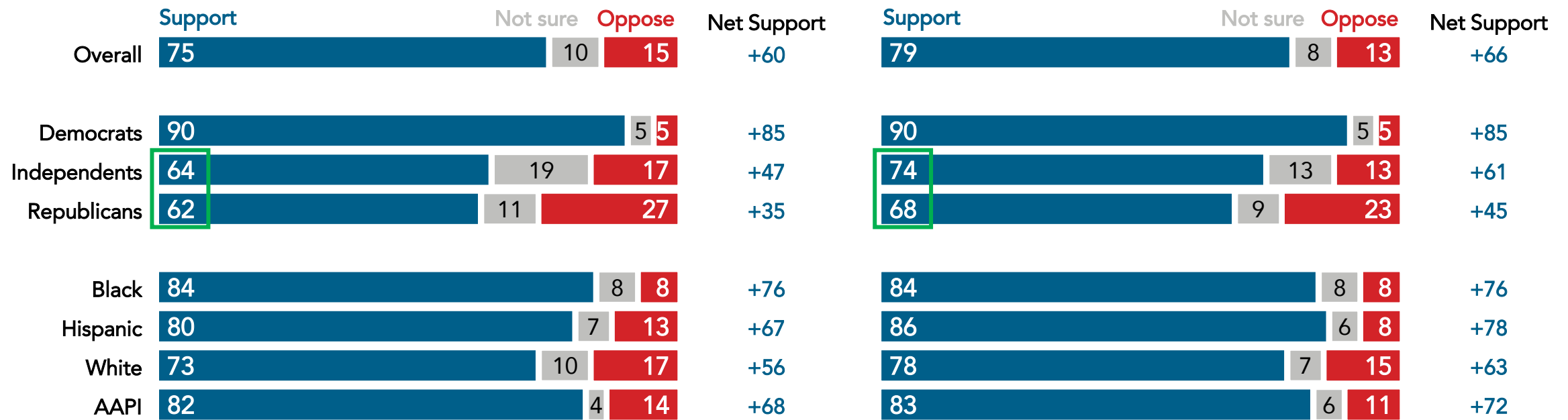
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted February 23-February 27, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatortorresearch.org](https://www.navigatortorresearch.org)

# The Junk Fees Prevention Act and Limits on Credit Card Late Fees Earn Overwhelming Bipartisan Support

More than three in five independents (64%) and Republicans (62%) support Biden and Democrats' Junk Fees Prevention Act; even higher shares support their plan to lower limits on credit card late fees (74% independents, 68% Republicans).

As you may know, Biden and Democrats have proposed the Junk Fees Prevention Act to limit hidden fees and charges like resort fees at hotels, service fees at concerts and sporting events, and extra airline charges for family members to sit together. Knowing this, do you support or oppose the Junk Fees Prevention Act?

As you may know, the Biden administration recently proposed lowering the limit credit card companies can charge per late fee from \$41 to \$8. Knowing this, do you support or oppose lowering the limit on credit card late fees?

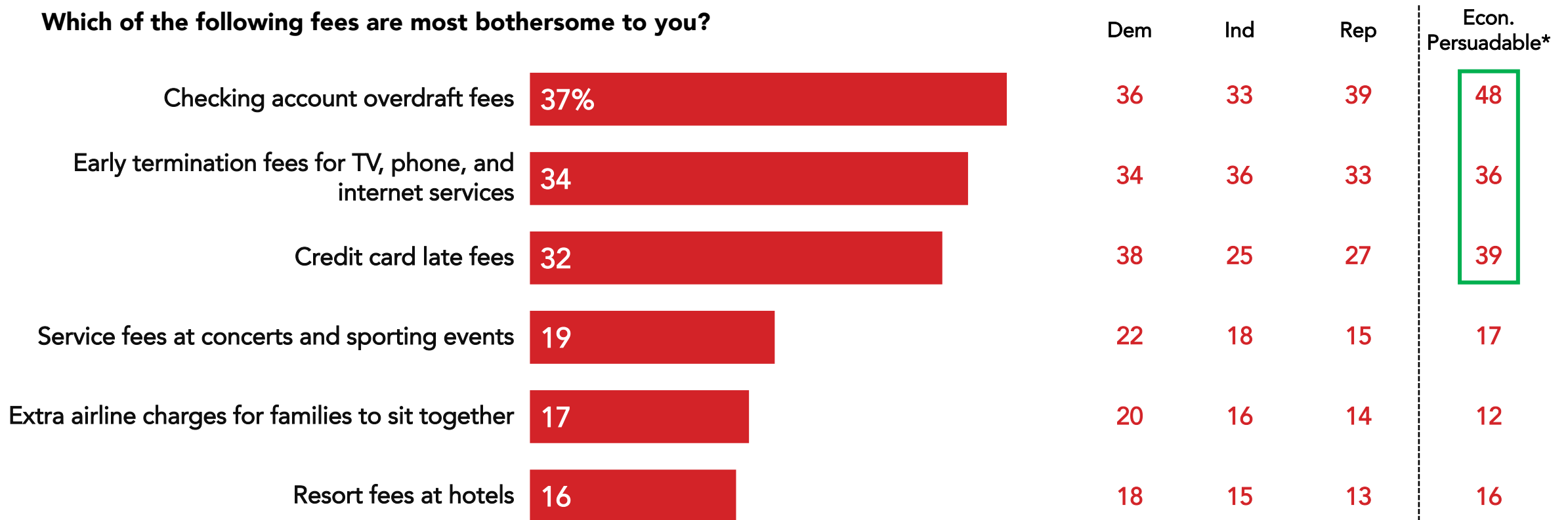


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# Fees Related to Banking; TV, Phone, and Internet; and Credit Are Most Bothersome to Americans

Economically persuadable Americans\* find overdraft fees (48%) the most bothersome, followed by credit card late fees (39%) and early termination fees for TV, phone, or internet (36%).

Which of the following fees are most bothersome to you?



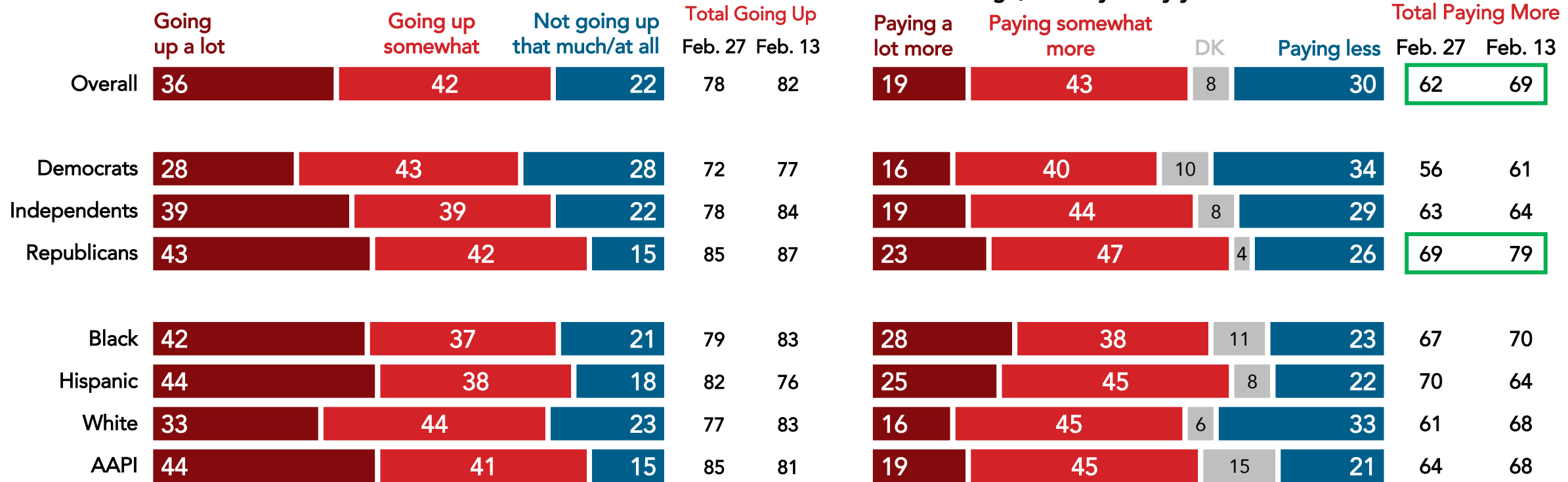
\*"Economically persuadable" are those who disapprove of Biden's handling of the economy, but support Biden and Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act, proposed Junk Fees Prevention Act, and proposed legislation to limit credit card late fees on separate questions. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted February 23-February 27, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Views of Gas Prices in the Short- and Long-Term Remain Negative

The share saying they're paying more for gas now compared to a few weeks ago has fallen by 7 points (from 69% paying more in early February to 62% now), including a 10-point decline among Republicans (from 79% to 69%).

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...



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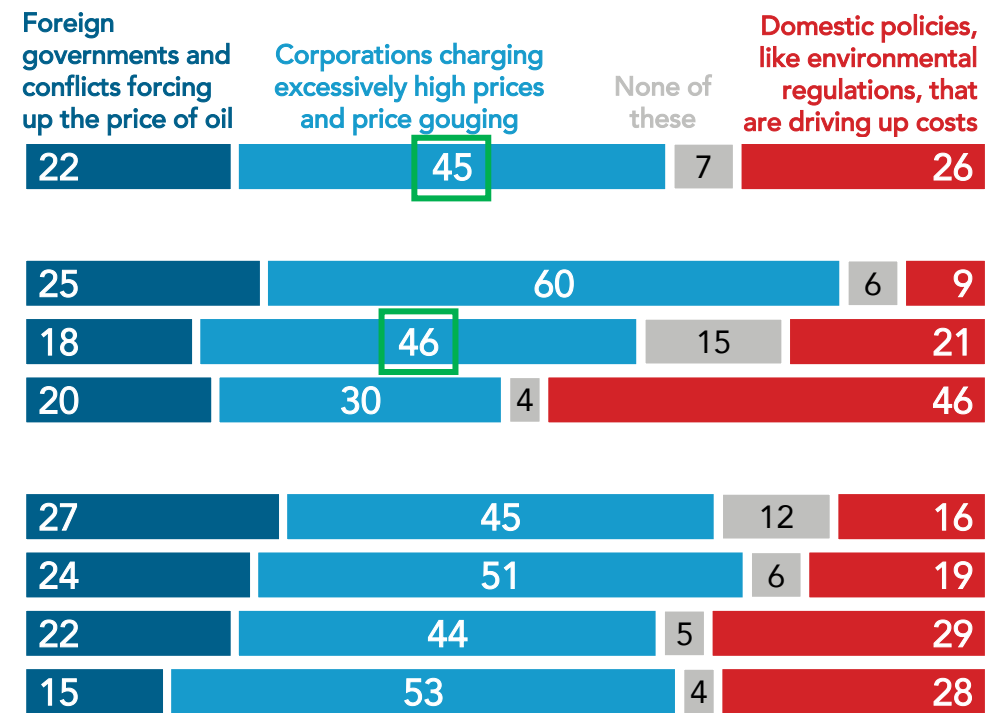
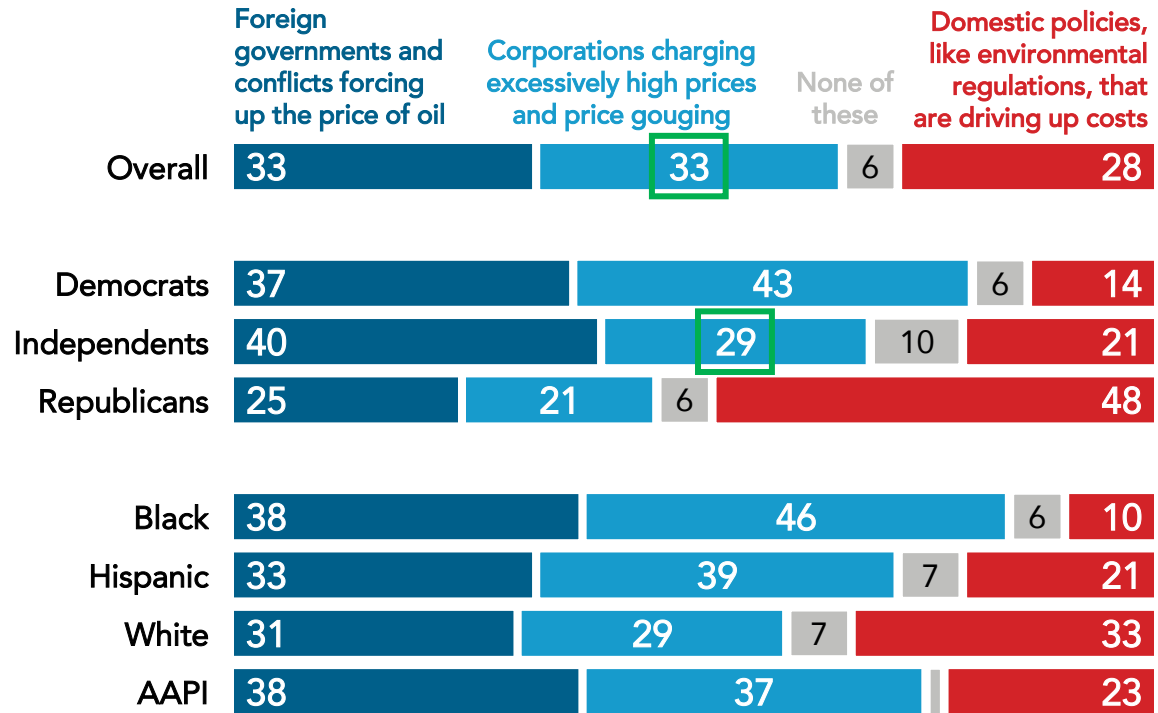


# Talking About Record Gas Company Profits Drives Up the Share Who Blame Corporate Greed for High Gas Prices

One in three blame oil companies for high gas prices (33%), but that share rises to 45% when shown proof points about record-breaking profits oil companies have made.

**(Split sample)** Gas prices have been at record highs in the last year. Who or what is more responsible for the high gas prices?

**(Split sample)** Gas prices have been at record highs in the last year. In the last year alone, Exxon made \$55.7 billion, a company record; Chevron made \$36.5 billion, doubling their 2021 profits; and Valero made \$11.6 billion, 866% higher than the previous year. Who or what is more responsible for the high gas prices?



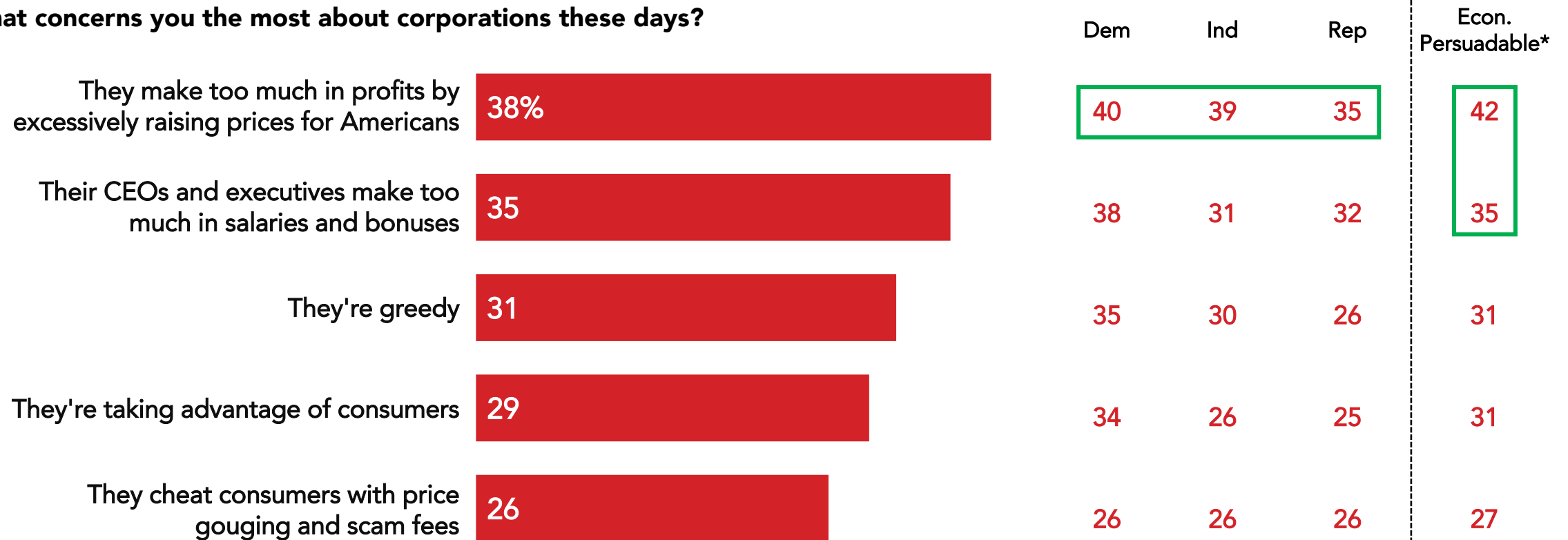
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# Americans Are Most Concerned That Corporations and Their CEOs & Executives Are Making Excessive Profits

Corporations making “too much in profits by excessively raising prices for Americans” is the top concern across party lines, while concerns about “price gouging and scam fees” are not as acute (26% concerned about this most overall).

- Among economically persuadable Americans\*, corporations making too much by raising prices on Americans is most concerning (42%).

## What concerns you the most about corporations these days?



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# Top Concerns About Republicans' Handling of the Economy: Helping Those at the Top; Privatizing Social Security/Medicare

Among economically persuadable Americans\*, the strongest arguments center on Republicans' focus on giving tax breaks to those at the top (71% concerning), privatizing Medicare and Social Security (68%), and opposing efforts to cut healthcare costs (68%).

Below are some statements from critics of Republicans' approach to the economy. Please indicate how concerning you find each statement. If you don't believe the statement, please indicate that as well.

\*/\*\* Split sample

	Very concerning	Somewhat concerning	Don't believe	Not concerning	Total Concerning				Econ. Persuadable*
					Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
Republicans are more focused on giving tax breaks to those at the top than on finding ways to bring down costs for working- and middle-class Americans	48	19	22	11	67	92	70	38	71
Republicans aren't focused on protecting your retirement. They want to privatize Medicare and cut Social Security. Seniors who worked their whole lives won't have the retirement they counted on	48	18	24	10	66	90	67	40	68
Republicans would rather protect tax breaks for the rich and help wealthy tax cheats continue to avoid paying their fair share, even if it means cutting Social Security and Medicare to do so	48	19	24	9	66	91	71	38	67
Republicans support letting big corporations raise prices on everyday goods like groceries, while making sure those corporations don't have to pay their fair share of taxes	46	19	26	9	65	89	69	36	66
Republicans tried to block Medicare from negotiating lower prescription drug prices, to remove the cap on the price of insulin, and to let insurance premiums go up for people who buy insurance on their own	45	21	24	10	66	92	67	38	68
Republicans aren't on the side of working families: they let a tax break for most families with children expire, raising taxes on millions of families during the pandemic, all while voting against more affordable childcare	43	22	25	10	65	90	67	36	63
**Republicans are too focused on divisive political attacks and things like banning books without any plan on how to improve the economy or lower costs for families	41	19	27	13	60	87	60	29	49
*Republicans are too focused on culture war debates without any plan on how to improve the economy or lower costs for families	38	24	28	10	63	88	65	33	58

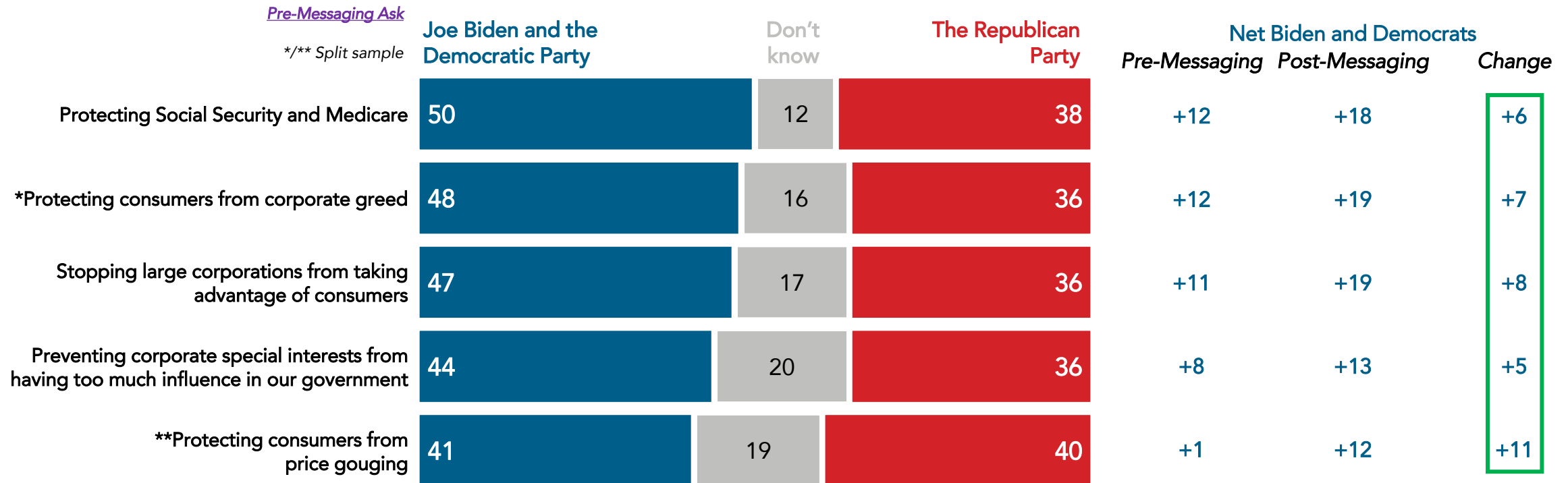
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# After Messaging About the Republican Agenda, Democrats' Advantage On A Range of Economic Issues Grows

Before messaging, Americans trust Biden and Democrats and Republicans almost equally on “protecting consumers from price gouging” (net +1 Democrats); after messaging, Americans trust Biden and Democrats by a 12-point margin.

- Biden and Democrats’ advantage on each tested economic issue improves by at least 5 points.

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



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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 February 23-February 27, 2023. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 76 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 99 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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