

# navigator\*

Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>

Norfolk Southern Train  
Derailment and Train  
Regulations: A Guide for  
Advocates



## Key Takeaways:

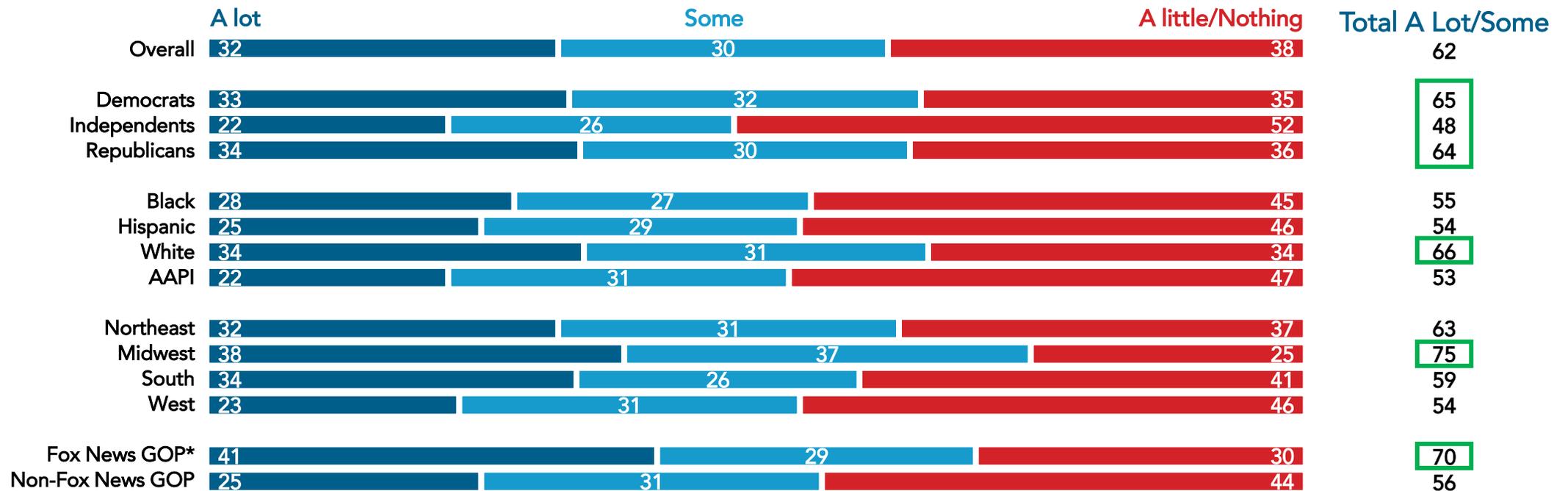
- Three in five Americans report having heard about the derailment of a Norfolk Southern train in East Palestine, Ohio.
- Americans are most likely to blame Norfolk Southern's greed and their taking of shortcuts for the incident in Ohio.
- More than three in four support bipartisan railroad oversight legislation to prevent such catastrophes in the future.

# Three in Five Americans Report Having Heard About the Train Derailment in Ohio

Democrats (65%) and Republicans (64%) are more likely to have heard about the train derailment than independents (48%).

- Those most likely to say they have heard about the derailment include those living in the Midwest (75%), Fox News-watching Republicans (70%), and white Americans (66%).

Over the past few days, how much have you seen, read, or heard about the derailment of a Norfolk Southern train in East Palestine, Ohio?

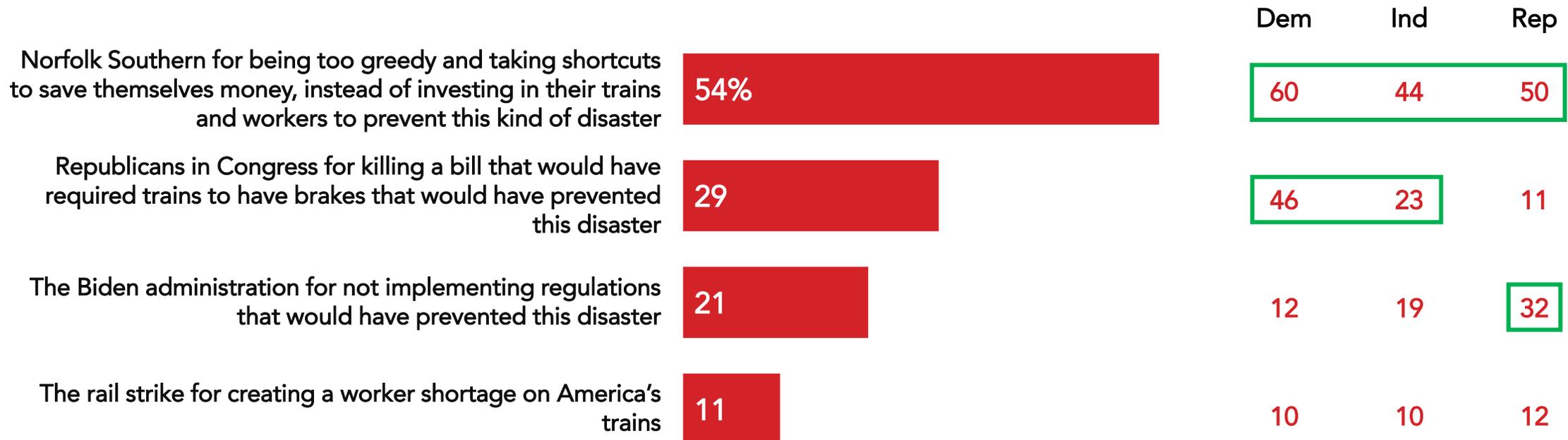


\*"Fox News GOP" are defined as those who identify as Republicans and say Fox News is their "main source of news about politics and current events in the U.S." Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted March 9-March 13, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Most Blame Norfolk Southern's Greed for the Train Derailment

Americans across party lines are most likely to blame Norfolk Southern "for being too greedy and taking shortcuts to save themselves money." Democrats and independents are second-most likely to blame Republicans in Congress (46% and 23%, respectively).

As you may or may not know, recently a Norfolk Southern freight train carrying hazardous materials derailed in East Palestine, Ohio. To prevent an explosion, emergency crews conducted a controlled burn, which released toxic chemicals. As a result, residents within a 1-mile radius were evacuated. Knowing this, which of the following do you think is most responsible for the derailment?



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted March 9-March 13, 2023.  
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# Overwhelming Bipartisan Majorities Support Railroad Oversight Legislation

Large majorities of Democrats (net +82 support), independents (net +51), and Republicans (net +60) support legislation to provide more oversight into railroad carriers and improve industry safety regulations, along with at least three in four Americans in every racial group.

**Do you support or oppose a bipartisan bill to provide more oversight into railroad carriers and improve industry safety regulations?**



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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 March 9-March 13, 2023. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 89 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

[press@navigatorresearch.org](mailto:press@navigatorresearch.org)

To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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