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Fox News and Tucker Carlson: A Guide for Advocates

Tuesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>



## Key Takeaways:

- Fox News putting a political agenda and profits ahead of the truth, dividing Americans, and spreading conspiracies are viewed as the most accurate descriptors of the network. Americans are most troubled by the network spreading misinformation and its bias.
- While many are unsure, a plurality say Fox News made the right decision when it fired Tucker Carlson, as most Americans have heard at least something about it.
- Among those who can rate them, Anderson Cooper, NPR, and Jon Stewart are most trusted overall, while Republicans trust Elon Musk, Tucker Carlson, Fox News, Laura Ingraham, and Joe Rogan most.



#### Putting a Political Agenda and Profits Ahead of the Truth, Dividing Americans, and Conspiracies Define Views of Fox News

Democrats, independents, and non-Fox News Republicans are most likely to say putting politics ahead of getting the story right and dividing Americans are the most accurate descriptors of Fox News; independents and Republicans say it is part of the mainstream media.

You have been selected to answer questions about Fox News. How accurate do you think the following descriptions are when it comes to Fox News?

Total Accurate

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			Iotal Accurate							
*/** Split cample		Somewhat	Not	Overall		-			Non-Fox	
*/** Split sample			accurate	May 8	March 2019	Dem	Ind	GOP*	GOP	
*Puts a political agenda ahead of getting the story right	42	27	32	68	64	88	69	30	61	
Divides Americans	41	25	34	66	62	85	64	27	61	
**Puts profits ahead of getting the story right	40	25	35	<b>65</b>	n/a	84	62	29	54	
*Spreads conspiracy theories not based in reality	35	25	40	60	54	82	60	16	50	
*Is a part of the mainstream media	35	34	31	69	57	65	74	71	72	
**Spreads conspiracy theories that end up getting people hurt	34	24	43	57	n/a	82	56	11	42	
Bullies and harasses regular people if it gets them good ratings	33	24	43	57	n/a	81	50	16	45	
las a culture of sexism and covering up sexual harassment in their workplace	32	28	40	60	n/a	83	58	20	47	
Covers important stories other networks won't cover	23	27	50	50	50	33	44	92	56	
**Confronts biases in mainstream media	22	29	50	50	52	37	57	77	54	
Pursues the truth	20	26	53	47	n/a	30	49	89	46	
Balanced between perspectives on the left and the right	10 1	28	60	40	39	28	42	73	40	

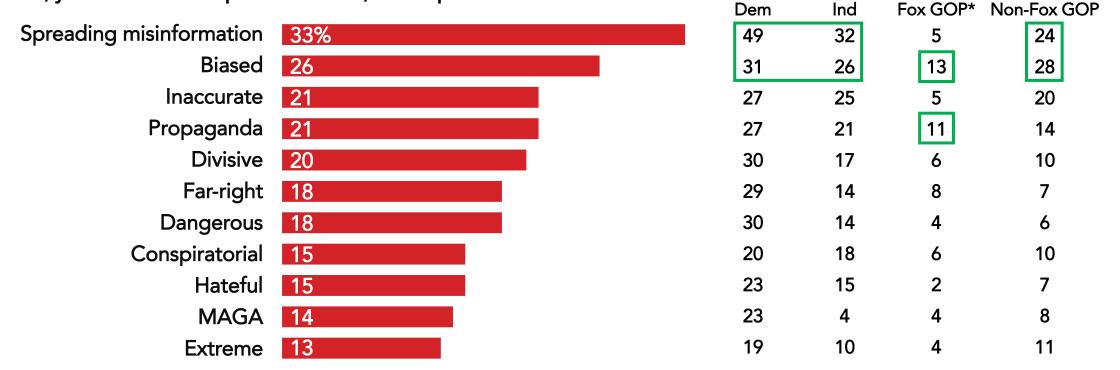
separate question. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted May 4-May 8, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

### Americans Are Most Troubled By Misinformation, Bias, Inaccuracy, Propaganda, and Division from Fox News

One in three Americans are most troubled that Fox News is spreading misinformation (33%), which ranks highest for Democrats (49%) and independents (32%).

• Non-Fox News Republicans are most troubled by Fox News being biased (28%).

Which of the following words or phrases best describe what is most troubling to you about Fox News? If you don't think any of these are accurate, you can select that option. Otherwise, select up to FOUR.



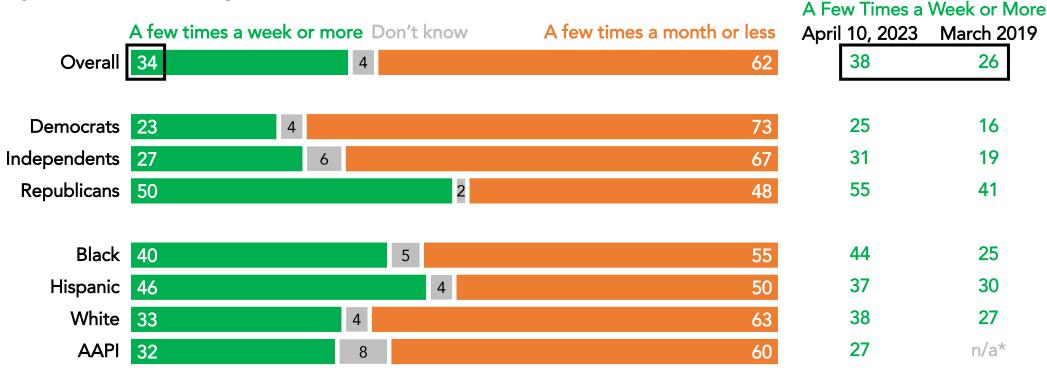
\*"Fox News GOP" are those who identify as Republicans and say Fox News is one of their "main sources of news about politics and current events in the U.S." on a separate question. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted May 4-May 8, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.



#### While Reported Regular Fox Viewership Has Grown Since 2019, There Has Been a Decline in the Last Month

Since mid-April of this year, regular viewership of Fox News has declined by 4 points (from 38% to 34%), with a 5-point decline in regular viewership among Republicans (from 55% to 50%). That said, 34% of Americans reporting regularly watching Fox News now is still an increase from March 2019 (26%).

How often do you watch the following news channels? Fox News Channel.



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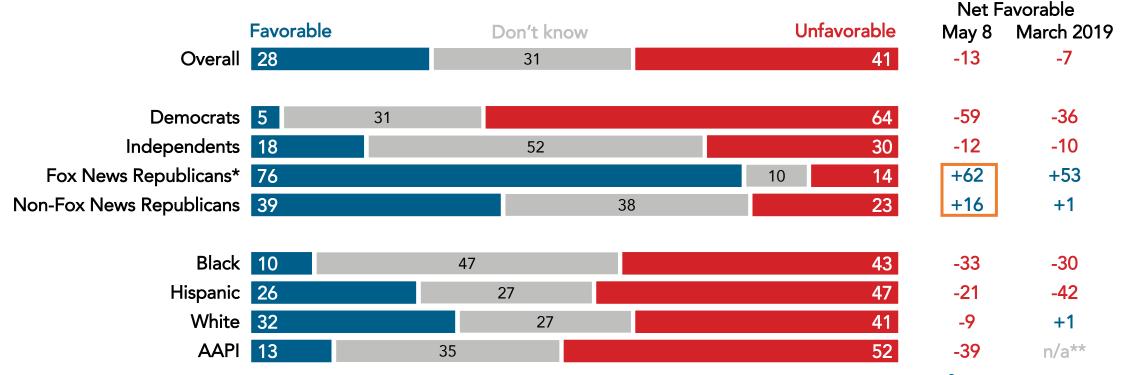
\*Previous poll's sample size too small for analysis.

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### Tucker Carlson Has Become Increasingly Unpopular Over Time; Favorable Ratings Are Driven By Fox News-Viewing Republicans

Tucker Carlson's favorability has moved 6 points more underwater since March of 2019 (from net -7 favorable to net -13). Among Republicans who watch Fox News, his net favorable rating is +62; among Republicans who do not watch Fox News, his net favorable rating is just +16.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Tucker Carlson.



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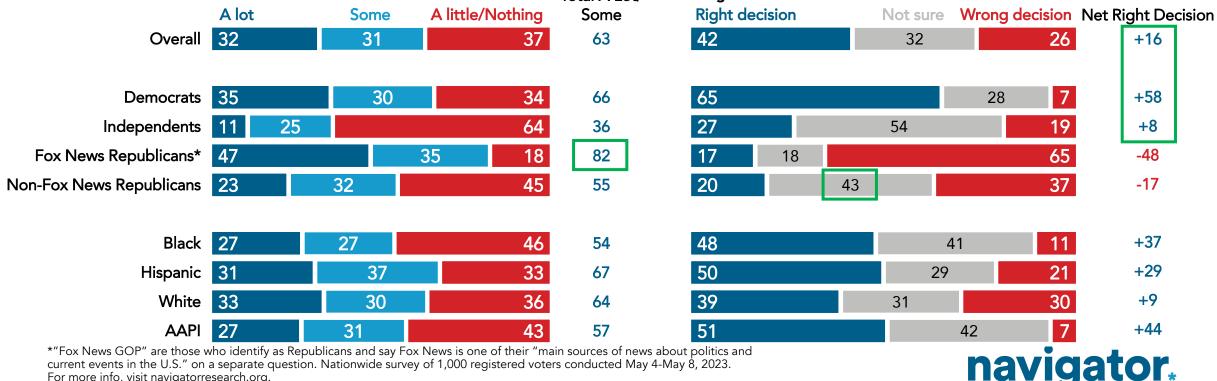
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#### Three in Five Are Hearing About Fox Firing Tucker Carlson, and a Plurality Say It Was the Right Call

One in three Republicans (32%) are not sure whether Fox made the right or wrong decision on Carlson, though a plurality (49%) say it was the wrong choice: non-Fox News Republicans drive the share who are not sure (43%).

- Fox News Republicans are hearing the most about the firing of Tucker Carlson (82% "a lot" or "some").
- Among those who have heard at least "some," a majority say it was right decision by Fox News (54% right decision, 33% wrong).

How much have you seen, read, or heard about Fox News recently firing talk show host Tucker Carlson? Total A Lot/ As you may know, Fox News recently fired talk show host Tucker Carlson. Knowing this, do you think Fox News made the right or wrong decision in firing Tucker Carlson?



For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

#### Among Those Familiar, Anderson Cooper, NPR, Jon Stewart Most Trusted

Fox News Republicans trust Elon Musk (net +70 trust), Tucker Carlson (+70), Fox News (+69), Laura Ingraham (+68), and Joe Rogan (+41) most. While non-Fox News GOP also rank some of these as their most trusted, they distrust Fox News more than they trust it (net -11).
Independents are most likely to trust Joe Rogan (net +17), Anderson Cooper (+13), CNN (+12), and Jon Stewart (+9).

Below is a list of websites, news outlets, specific news reporters, and others. Please indicate whether you trust or do not trust each one to tell the truth – if you don't know enough to give a rating or haven't heard of one, please indicate that as well.

<b>—</b> •				<b>• •</b> • • •	INCL HUSL						
	Trust	Don	't know	Don't trust	Overall	Dem	Ind	Fox GOP*	Non-Fox GOP		
Anderson Cooper	47		29	24	+23	+65	+13	-44	-8		
NPR	38	41	[	21	+17	+43	+2	-17	-3		
Jon Stewart	37	43	3	20	+17	+48	+9	-28	-11		
CNN	49	13		38	+11	+56	+12	-69	-18		
John Oliver	25	61		14	+11	+32	+3	-13	-6		
MSNBC	43	24		33	+10	+55	-6	-50	-26		
Rachel Maddow	28	49		23	+5	+38	-8	-41	-20		
Joe Rogan	30	41		29	+1	-23	+17	+41	+9		
Laura Ingraham	24	52		24	0	-29	-6	+68	+7		
Elon Musk	38	20		42	-4	-41	-2	+70	+11		
Tucker Carlson	31	30		39	-8	-51	-9	+70	+18		
Don Lemon	22	48		30	-8	+22	-14	-59	-24		
Fox News	38	10		52	-14	-46	-19	+69	-11		

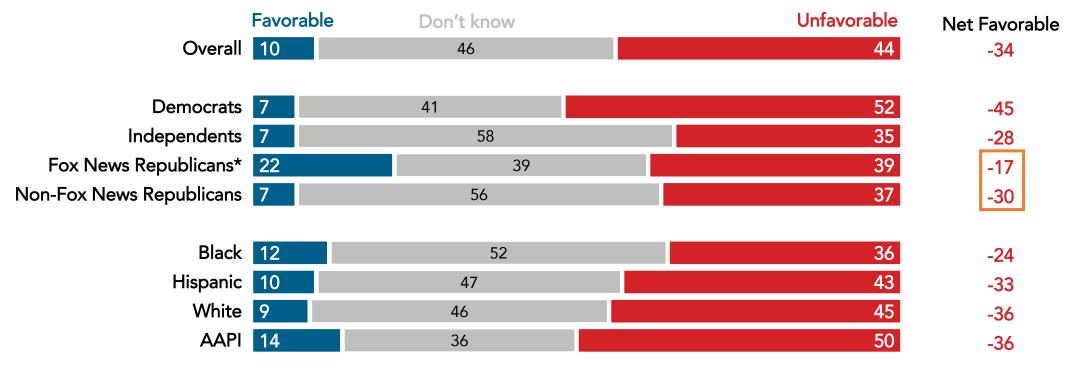
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### Roughly Half of Americans Are Familiar With Rupert Murdoch, and Those Who Are View Him Negatively Across Party Lines

Among Republicans, both those who watch Fox News and those who do not view him more unfavorably than favorably (net -17 and net -30, respectively).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Rupert Murdoch.



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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 May 4-May 8, 2023. 102 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.

For Press inquiries contact: press@navigatorresearch.org To learn more about Navigator: http://navigatorresearch.org @NavigatorSurvey on Twitter