

navigator*

Tuesday, June 27th

Trump Indictment: A Guide for Advocates



Credit: Evan El-Amin/Shutterstock

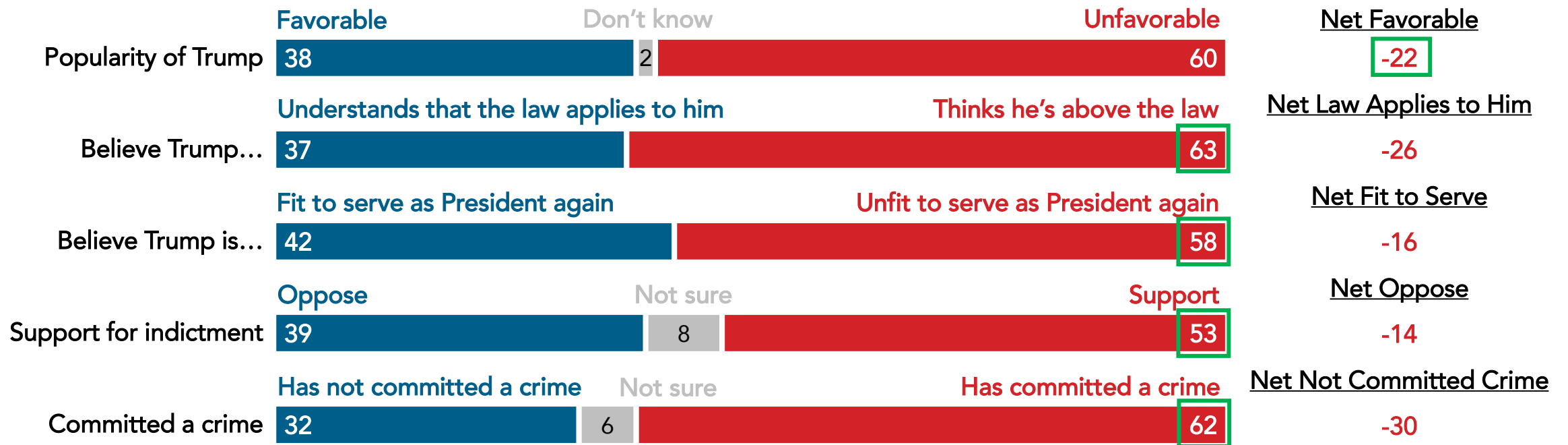
Key Takeaways:

- Three in five Americans hold unfavorable views of Trump, as roughly the same share say he has committed a crime, is unfit to serve as President, and believe he thinks he is above the law.
- By a 20-point margin, Americans support the most recent indictment of Trump when the specific charges against him are explained.
- Against a conservative argument about Trump's innocence, effective rebuttals highlight that what he did was unprecedented, and that he both took documents that had highly sensitive content and obstructed investigations by hiding documents and lying about possessing them.

Trump Underwater as Americans Say He Is Unfit to Lead, Committed a Crime, and Thinks He Is Above the Law

Donald Trump's favorability is 22-points underwater: at the same time, three in five say Trump thinks he is above the law (63%), 58% say he is unfit to serve as President again, 53% support him being criminally indicted, and 62% say he has committed a crime.

Views of Donald Trump:



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted June 14-June 20, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Three in Five Say Trump Is Unfit to Serve As President Again and That He Thinks He Is Above the Law

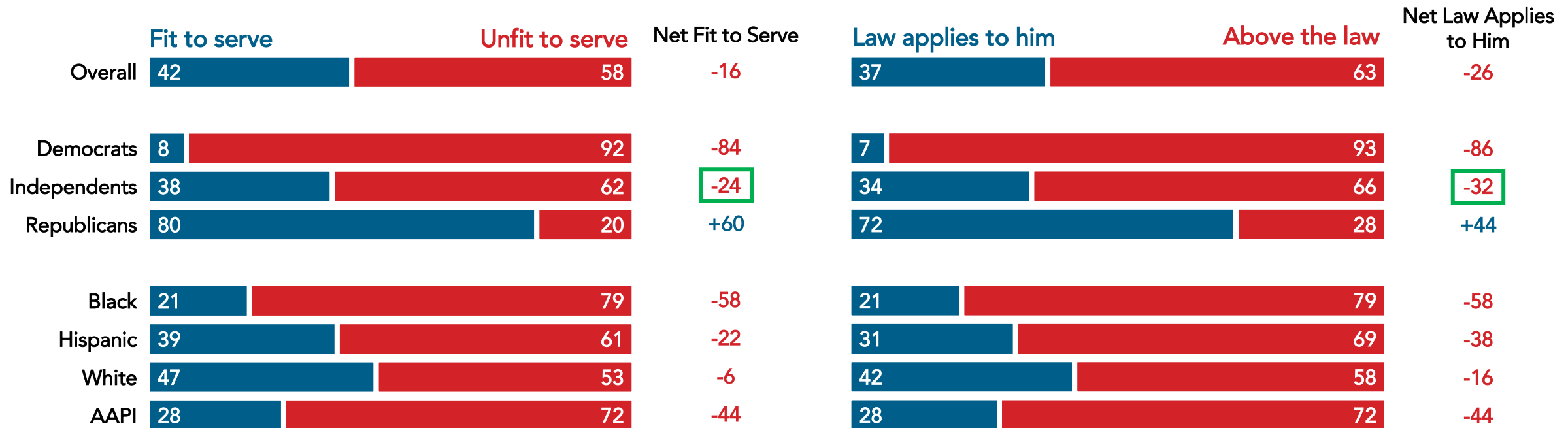
More than three in five independents say Trump is unfit to serve (62%), while two in three (66%) say Trump thinks he's above the law.

Which do you agree with more:

- Donald Trump is **fit** to serve as President again
- Donald Trump is **unfit** to serve as President again

Which do you agree with more:

- Donald Trump **understands that the law applies to him**
- Donald Trump **thinks he's above the law**

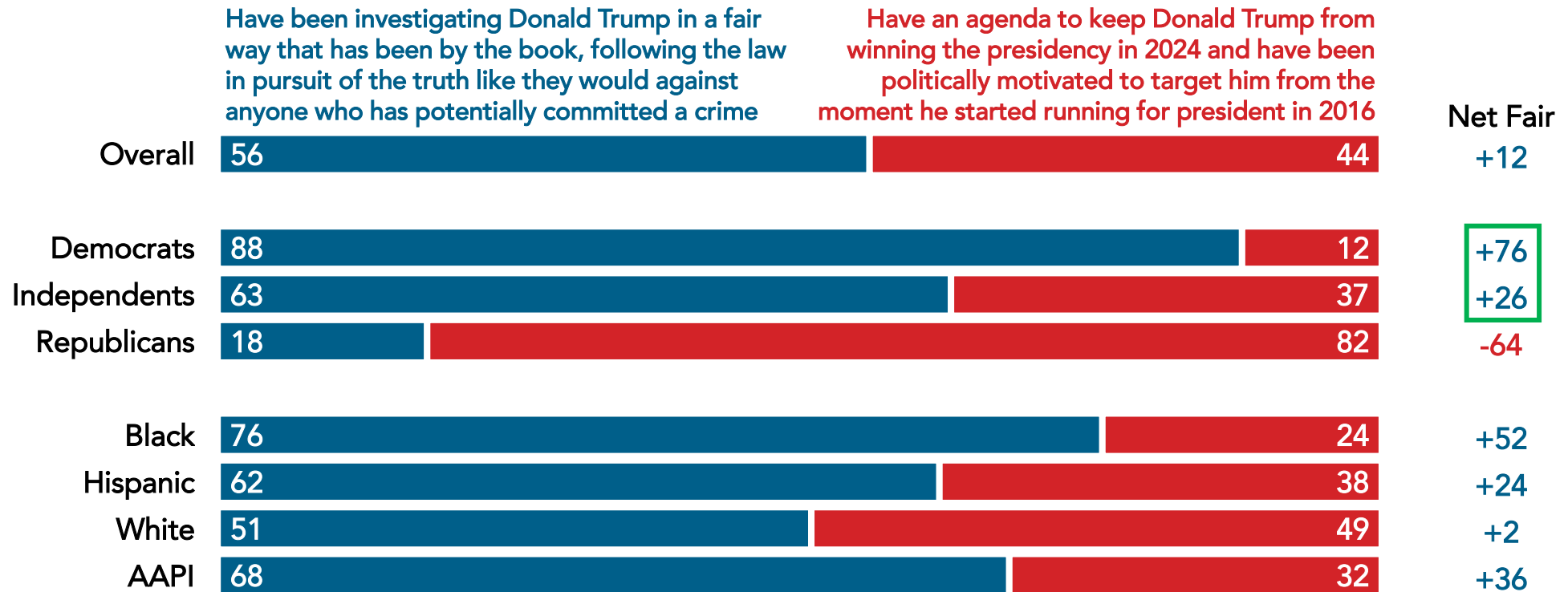


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More Think the FBI Has Been Acting Fairly Than Unfairly Toward Trump

Clear majorities of Democrats (88%) and independents (63%) say the FBI and federal prosecutors “have been investigating Donald Trump in a fair way that has been by the book.”

Which side do you agree with more? *The FBI and federal prosecutors...*

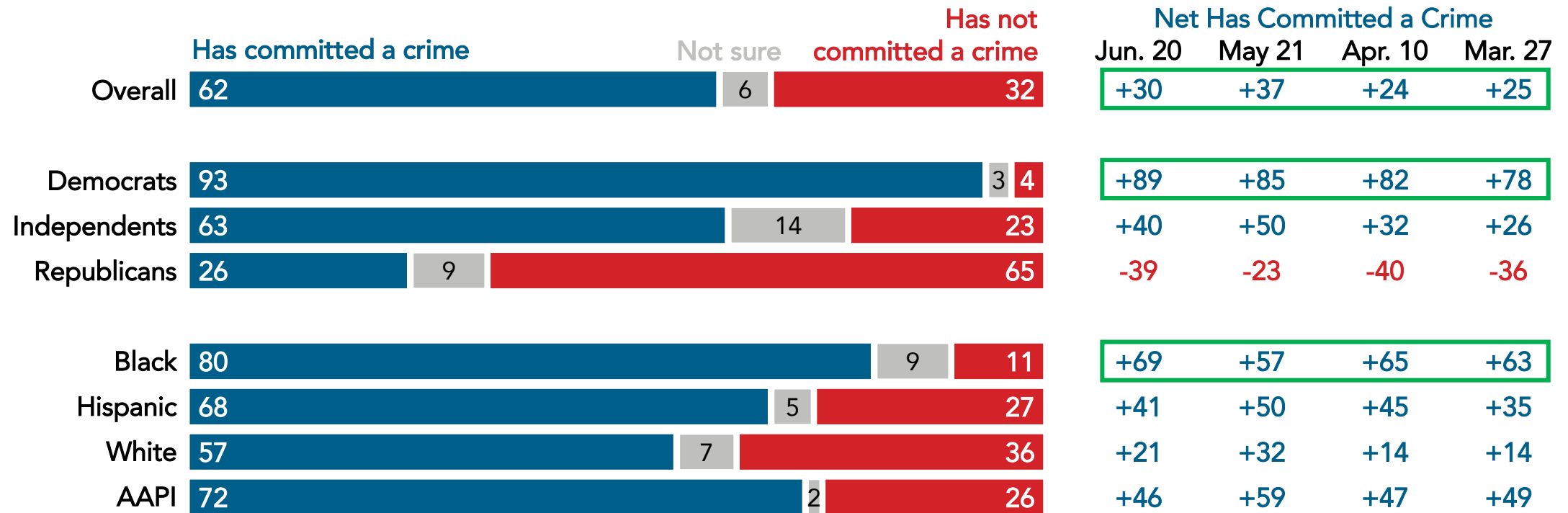


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Three in Five Continue to Say Trump Has Committed a Crime

The shares of Democrats and Black Americans who say Trump has committed a crime are the highest they have been since late March (net +89 and net +69, respectively).

Do you think Donald Trump has committed a crime?



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted June 14-June 20, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Three in Four Americans Have Heard Something About the Most Recent Trump Indictment

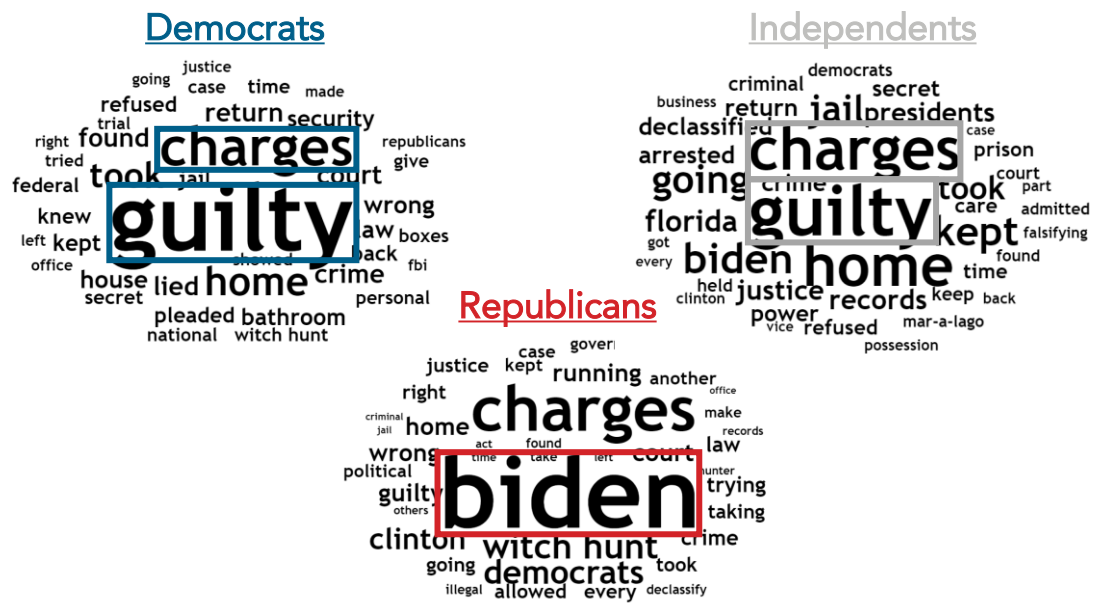
More Americans are hearing about this indictment (74% “a lot”/“some”) than heard about the expiration of Title 42 in May (55%) or the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank in March (59%); more had heard about the Chinese surveillance balloon being shot down in February (78%).

- Democrats and independents are most likely to mention “charges” and the prospect/consequences of Trump being found “guilty,” while Republicans mention President Biden most, including his administration’s investigating of Trump and accusations against Biden.

How much have you seen, read, or heard recently about former President Donald Trump being indicted on 37 federal counts in an investigation into his mishandling of classified documents from his time as President?

[If have heard at least a little] What have you heard about former President Donald Trump being indicted on 37 federal counts in an investigation into his mishandling of classified documents from his time as President?

	A lot	Some	A little/Nothing	Total A Lot/Some
Overall	42	32	26	74
Democrats	44	35	21	79
Independents	32	26	42	58
Republicans	43	31	27	74
Black	39	29	33	68
Hispanic	41	38	21	79
White	44	30	25	74
AAPI	31	51	18	82

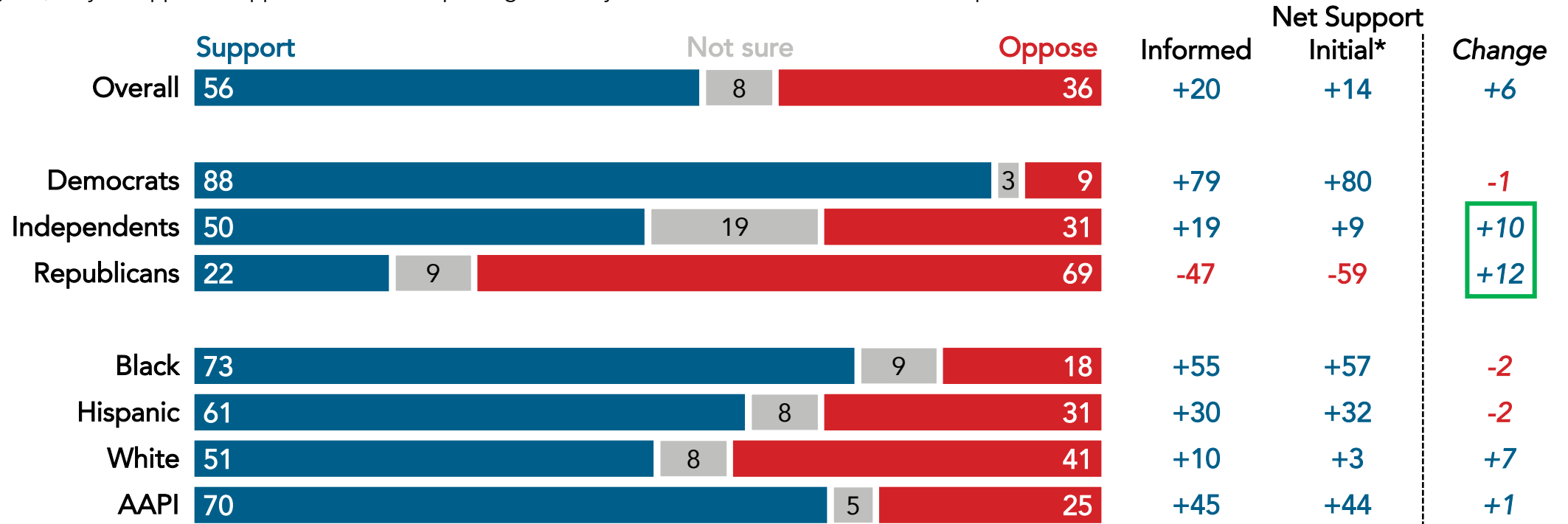


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Most Americans Support the Recent Indictment Against Donald Trump When the Charges Are Explained

After hearing about the specific charges in this most recent indictment, the vast majority of Democrats (88%) and half of independents (50%), as well as majorities of every racial group, support the decision to indict the former President.

As you may know, former President Donald Trump has been indicted on 37 federal counts in the special counsel's classified documents probe, facing charges under the Espionage Act, as well as charges of obstruction of justice, destruction or falsification of records, conspiracy, and making false statements to investigators. Knowing this, do you support or oppose Donald Trump being criminally indicted in this classified documents probe?



*Initial question wording: "Do you support or oppose Donald Trump being criminally indicted?"
 Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted June 14-June 20, 2023.
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The Nature of the Documents Trump Held & His Obstruction of Justice Are More Concerning than Biden or Clinton's Actions

In response to a conservative statement that Trump has done nothing wrong and both Biden and Clinton have done similar things, messaging that emphasizes "what Donald Trump did was unprecedented," that he "knowingly took boxes of classified documents with sensitive information about our military and nuclear operations," and "hid them in a bathroom, tried to conceal them, and even demanded his lawyers lie about their existence" is more compelling.

Which side do you agree with more?

Statement 1: Republicans who say Donald Trump has done nothing wrong. Joe Biden also took classified documents from the White House as Vice President and Hillary Clinton broke the law when it came to her emails.

Statement 2: Democrats who say what Donald Trump did was unprecedented. He knowingly took boxes of classified documents with sensitive information about our military and nuclear operations and showed them to reporters and friends. No one is above the law, not even a former President.

Statement 1: 45%

Statement 2: 55%

Net Statement 2: +10

Statement 3: Democrats who say what Donald Trump did was unprecedented. He knowingly took boxes of classified documents, hid them in a bathroom, tried to conceal them, and even demanded his lawyers lie about their existence. No one is above the law, not even a former President.

Statement 1: 45%

Statement 3: 55%

Net Statement 3: +10

The Contents of the Documents – Including Nuclear Programs and Military Information – and Obstruction Are Most Concerning

Trump voters who believe he has committed a crime* are most concerned that Trump “was recorded on tape sharing material he described as ‘highly confidential’ and ‘secret’ with someone who did not have the proper security clearance” (73% concerning).

Below is a list of details about this most recent indictment against former President Donald Trump. Please indicate how concerning you find each one – if you don't find the detail concerning or don't believe it, please indicate that as well.

Donald Trump...	Very concerning	Somewhat concerning	Don't believe	Not concerning	Total Concerning				*Indict. Pers.
					Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
...allegedly took classified documents about the U.S.' nuclear programs to his home at Mar-a-Lago	50	14	18	18	64	93	66	30	65
...allegedly took classified documents about potential vulnerabilities of the U.S....to military attacks	50	14	19	17	64	92	66	32	69
...allegedly suggested that his lawyer hide or destroy subpoenaed classified documents	49	14	25	12	63	92	64	30	63
...was recorded on tape sharing material he described as “highly confidential” and “secret” ... ¹	49	17	19	15	65	93	63	36	73
...allegedly shared a highly sensitive, secret plan of attack against Iran with visitors to his golf club	49	13	27	11	62	92	61	29	60
...allegedly told lawyers...to falsely claim that he did not have documents in response to a subpoena	49	13	24	14	62	91	62	30	63
...allegedly stored boxes of classified information in public spaces... ²	48	14	25	13	62	90	61	31	68
...allegedly shared a top-secret military map with a staff member at his political action committee... ³	47	15	22	16	62	91	63	30	65
...allegedly directed his personal valet to move boxes to conceal them from his lawyer	45	17	24	14	61	91	64	27	56
Every witness in the investigation is another Republican or a former employee of Trump himself	38	19	20	23	57	84	52	28	50
Trump's own Attorney General said, "If even half of [the charges are] true, then [Trump] is toast"	38	19	19	24	58	80	54	34	60

*“Indictment persuadable” are 2020 Trump voters who also say he has committed a crime on a separate question. ¹Full text included: “...with someone who did not have the proper security clearance.” ²Full text included: “...accessible to any member of his country club, which have included spies from foreign governments.” ³Full text included: “...who did not have the proper security clearance.”
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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 June 14-June 20, 2023. 101 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.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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