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Friday, July 21st, 2023

Views on the Supreme Court

IMPACT RESEARCH

Methodology

Impact Research conducted a survey of N=1500 likely 2024 general election voters in 61 battleground congressional districts.

74% of interviews were conducted by text-to-web and 26% were via online panel.

Interviews were conducted between July 6-July 12, 2023.

The margin of error for a sample of this size is +/- 2.5 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

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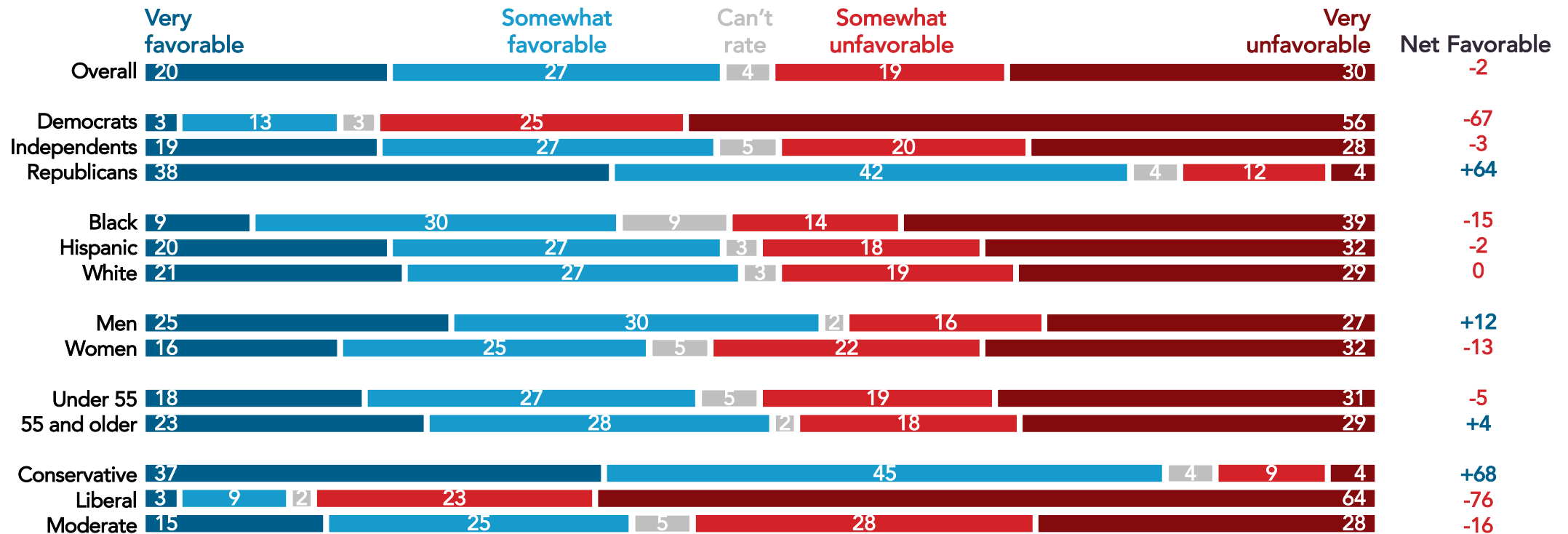
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Key Takeaways

- **The U.S. Supreme Court has mixed approval ratings but additional information about the Court shows gaps in confidence.** The Supreme Court is viewed favorably by 47 percent of voters and unfavorably by 49 percent, but more than two in five voters say the Supreme Court is "too conservative."

- **Voters disagree with recent Supreme Court rulings on abortion, LGBTQ rights, and guns.** Pluralities strongly oppose each of these decisions, and a majority oppose the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.

- **Voters lack confidence in the Supreme Court to be impartial.** A majority (55%) of voters have either no confidence at all or a little confidence in the Supreme Court to issue rulings based on the U.S. Constitution and not their political opinions.

- **Voters strongly favor investigating Supreme Court justices for corruption.** By 43 points, voters favor investigating Supreme Court justices for corruption, with support across partisan lines.

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Ratings of the Court Are Mixed; Those Viewing it *Very Unfavorably* Outpace Those Viewing it *Very Favorably* by Ten Points

The Supreme Court's popularity is divided along party lines, with liberals, women, and Black voters having the most negative impressions of the court.

Please indicate whether you have a very favorable view, somewhat favorable view, somewhat unfavorable view, or very unfavorable view. If you have never heard of them, or cannot rate them, please indicate that... The U.S. Supreme Court.

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Can't rate	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Net Favorable
Overall	20	27	4	19	30	-2
Democrats	3	13	3	25	56	-67
Independents	19	27	5	20	28	-3
Republicans	38	42	4	12	4	+64
Black	9	30	9	14	39	-15
Hispanic	20	27	3	18	32	-2
White	21	27	3	19	29	0
Men	25	30	2	16	27	+12
Women	16	25	5	22	32	-13
Under 55	18	27	5	19	31	-5
55 and older	23	28	2	18	29	+4
Conservative	37	45	4	9	4	+68
Liberal	3	9	2	23	64	-76
Moderate	15	25	5	28	28	-16

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A Plurality View The U.S. Supreme Court As Too Conservative, While Just One in Three Think Its Ideology is Just About Right

Larger shares of independents (45%) and moderates (50%) say the Supreme Court is too conservative than say it is just about right.

In general, do you think the U.S. Supreme Court is...
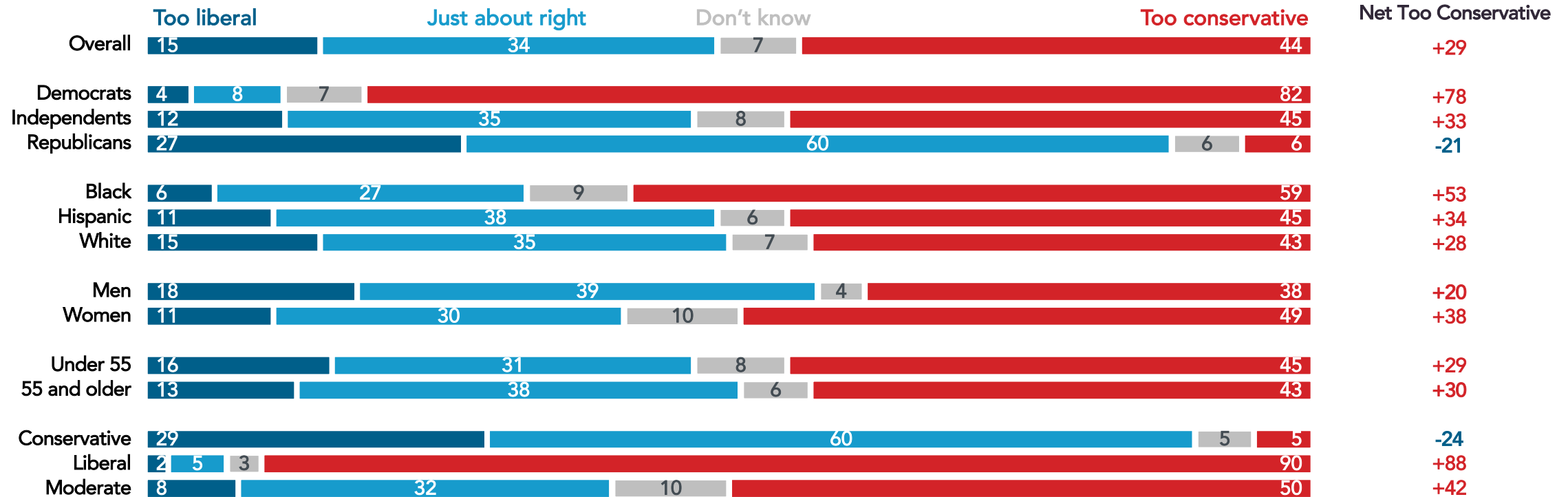
	Too liberal	Just about right	Don't know	Too conservative	Net Too Conservative
Overall	15	34	7	44	+29
Democrats	4	8	7	82	+78
Independents	12	35	8	45	+33
Republicans	27	60	6	6	-21
Black	6	27	9	59	+53
Hispanic	11	38	6	45	+34
White	15	35	7	43	+28
Men	18	39	4	38	+20
Women	11	30	10	49	+38
Under 55	16	31	8	45	+29
55 and older	13	38	6	43	+30
Conservative	29	60	5	5	-24
Liberal	2	5	3	90	+88
Moderate	8	32	10	50	+42

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Voters Oppose Recent Court Decisions on Abortion, LGBTQ+ Rights, and Guns; A Majority *Strongly* Oppose Overturning *Roe*

But not all of their decisions are unpopular – majorities support blocking student loan forgiveness and affirmative action.

Here are some recent decisions the U.S. Supreme Court has made. For each of these, please indicate whether you strongly support that decision, somewhat support that decision, somewhat oppose that decision, or strongly oppose that decision.

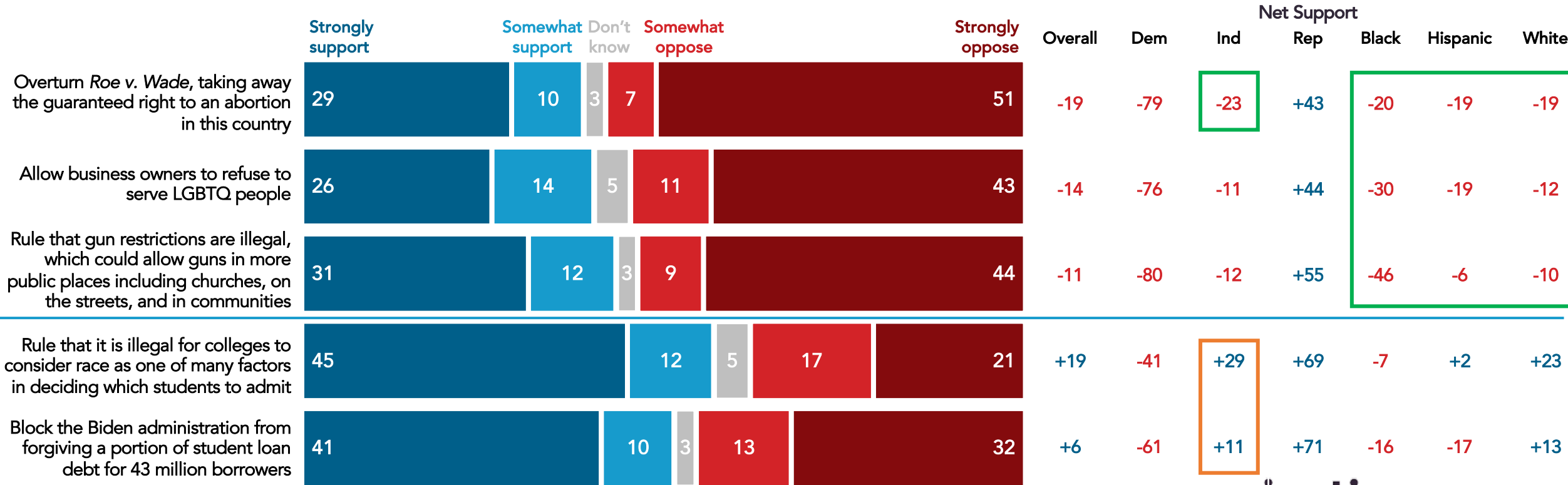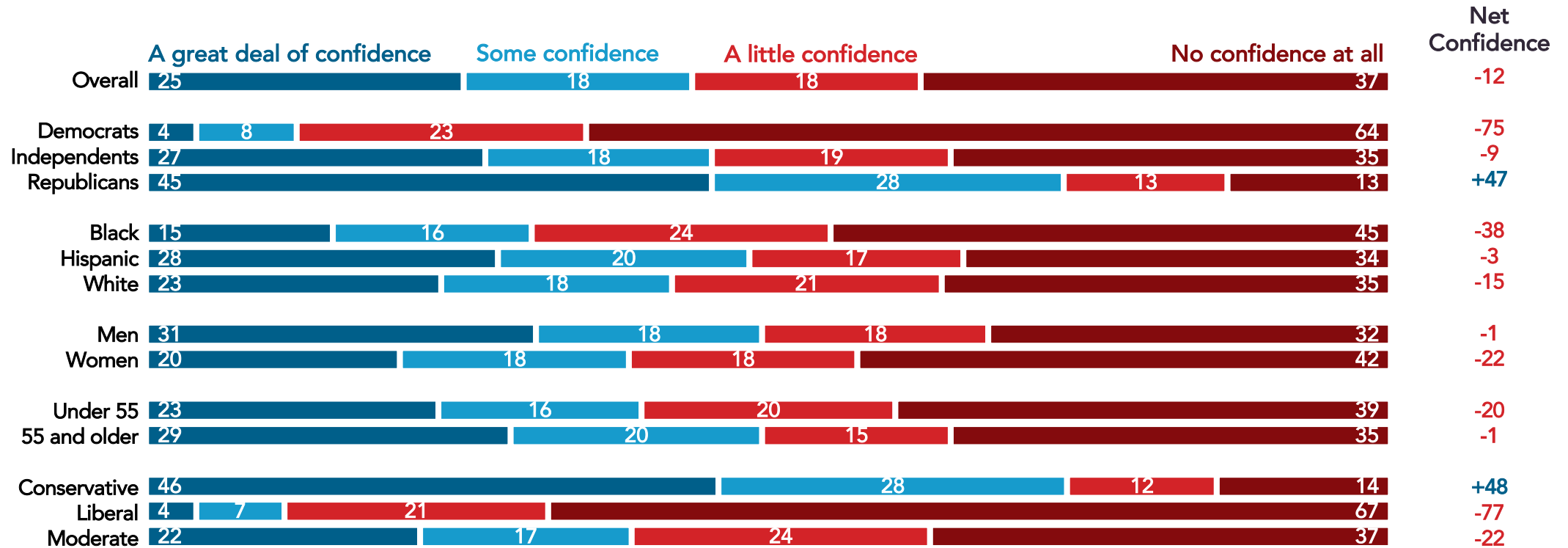|	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Black	Hispanic	White
								Net Support				
Overturn *Roe v. Wade*, taking away the guaranteed right to an abortion in this country	29	10	3	7	51	-19	-79	-23	+43	-20	-19	-19
Allow business owners to refuse to serve LGBTQ people	26	14	5	11	43	-14	-76	-11	+44	-30	-19	-12
Rule that gun restrictions are illegal, which could allow guns in more public places including churches, on the streets, and in communities	31	12	3	9	44	-11	-80	-12	+55	-46	-6	-10
Rule that it is illegal for colleges to consider race as one of many factors in deciding which students to admit	45	12	5	17	21	+19	-41	+29	+69	-7	+2	+23
Block the Biden administration from forgiving a portion of student loan debt for 43 million borrowers	41	10	3	13	32	+6	-61	+11	+71	-16	-17	+13

Nationwide survey of 1,500 likely 2024 general election voters across 61 battleground districts conducted July 6-July 12, 2023.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org/battleground.

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Most Voters Lacks Confidence in the Supreme Court to Issue Rulings Absent of Politics, Including a Majority of Independents

Republicans and conservative voters are the only groups with confidence in the Supreme Court.

How much confidence do you have in the U.S. Supreme Court to issue rulings according to the Constitution and not their political opinions?

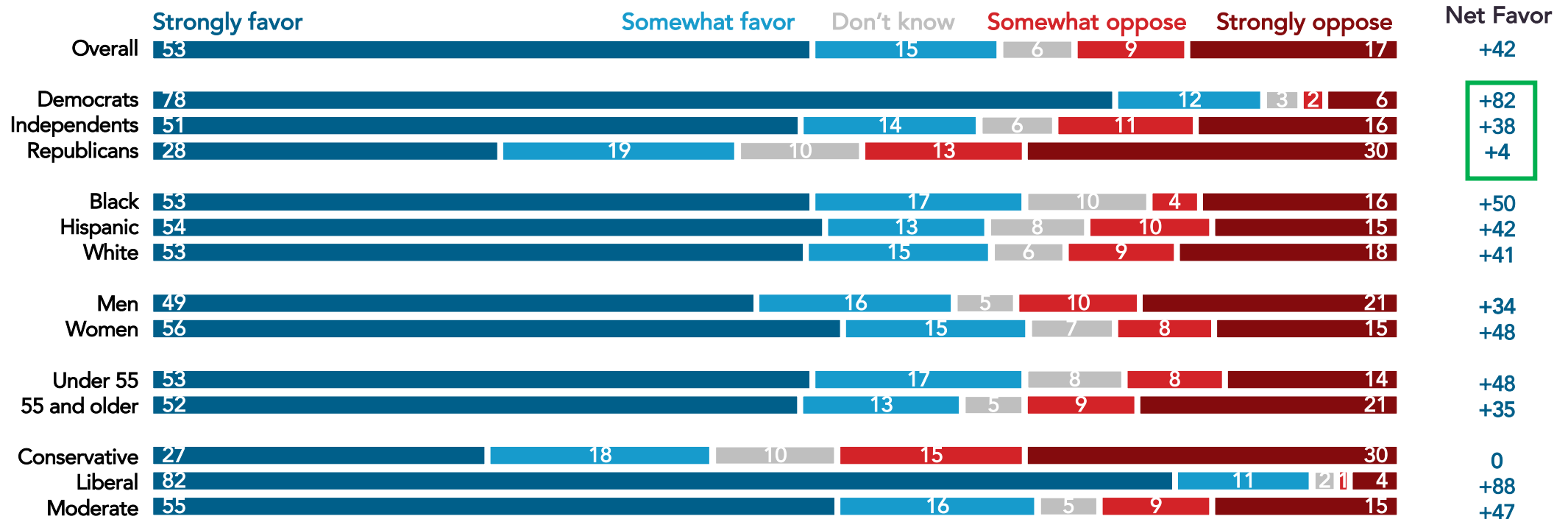|	A great deal of confidence	Some confidence	A little confidence	No confidence at all	Net Confidence
Overall	25	18	18	37	-12
Democrats	4	8	23	64	-75
Independents	27	18	19	35	-9
Republicans	45	28	13	13	+47
Black	15	16	24	45	-38
Hispanic	28	20	17	34	-3
White	23	18	21	35	-15
Men	31	18	18	32	-1
Women	20	18	18	42	-22
Under 55	23	16	20	39	-20
55 and older	29	20	15	35	-1
Conservative	46	28	12	14	+48
Liberal	4	7	21	67	-77
Moderate	22	17	24	37	-22

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By a 42-Point Margin, Voters Support Investigating Justices for Corruption

Voters across the partisan spectrum favor more than oppose investigating Supreme Court justices for corruption.

Do you favor or oppose Congress investigating U.S. Supreme Court justices for corruption?*

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Net Favor
Overall	53	15	6	9	17	+42
Democrats	78	12	3	2	6	+82
Independents	51	14	6	11	16	+38
Republicans	28	19	10	13	30	+4
Black	53	17	10	4	16	+50
Hispanic	54	13	8	10	15	+42
White	53	15	6	9	18	+41
Men	49	16	5	10	21	+34
Women	56	15	7	8	15	+48
Under 55	53	17	8	8	14	+48
55 and older	52	13	5	9	21	+35
Conservative	27	18	10	15	30	0
Liberal	82	11	2	1	4	+88
Moderate	55	16	5	9	15	+47

*Full question text: Multiple U.S. Supreme Court justices have accepted gifts and lavish vacations from billionaires. Those same billionaires later had cases that were heard by the Supreme Court that directly impacted them and their businesses. The justices did not disclose the gifts and trips and did not remove themselves from hearing the cases involving the billionaires. Do you favor or oppose Congress investigating U.S. Supreme Court justices for corruption? Nationwide survey of 1,500 likely 2024 general election voters across 61 battleground districts conducted July 6-July 12, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org/battleground.

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Appendix: Congressional Districts Included In Sample

AK-01	CA-08	IN-01	NE-02	NY-17	PA-07
AZ-01	CT-05	KS-03	NH-01	NY-18	PA-08
AZ-06	FL-07	ME-02	NJ-07	NY-19	PA-17
CA-13	FL-13	MI-03	NM-02	NY-22	TX-15
CA-22	FL-27	MI-08	NV-03	OH-01	VA-02
CA-27	IA-01	MI-10	NV-04	OH-09	VA-07
CA-40	IA-02	MN-02	NY-01	OH-13	WA-03
CA-41	IA-03	MT-01	NY-02	OR-05	WA-08
CA-45	IL-13	NC-01	NY-03	OR-06	WI-01
CA-49	IL-17	NC-13	NY-04	PA-01	WI-03
CA-03					

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About Navigator and Navigating the Battleground

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. *Navigating the Battleground* is a project designed to understand messaging nuances in different types of battleground geographies, led by pollsters from Impact Research along with an advisory committee, including: Jessica Floyd, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; Mike Podhorzer, formerly of the AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund; and Joel Payne, MoveOn.

About the Study

Impact Research conducted public opinion surveys among a sample of 1,500 likely 2024 general election voters from July 6-July 12, 2023. The survey was conducted by a mix of text-to-web (74 percent) and an opt-in, online panel (26 percent). Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the 61 congressional districts included in the sample across a variety of demographic variables. The margin of error for the full sample at the 95 percent level of confidence is +/- 2.5 percentage points. The margin for error for subgroups varies and is higher.

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To learn more about Navigator or Navigating the Battleground:

http://navigatorresearch.org

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