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Tuesday, July 18th

The Supreme Court: A Guide for Advocates



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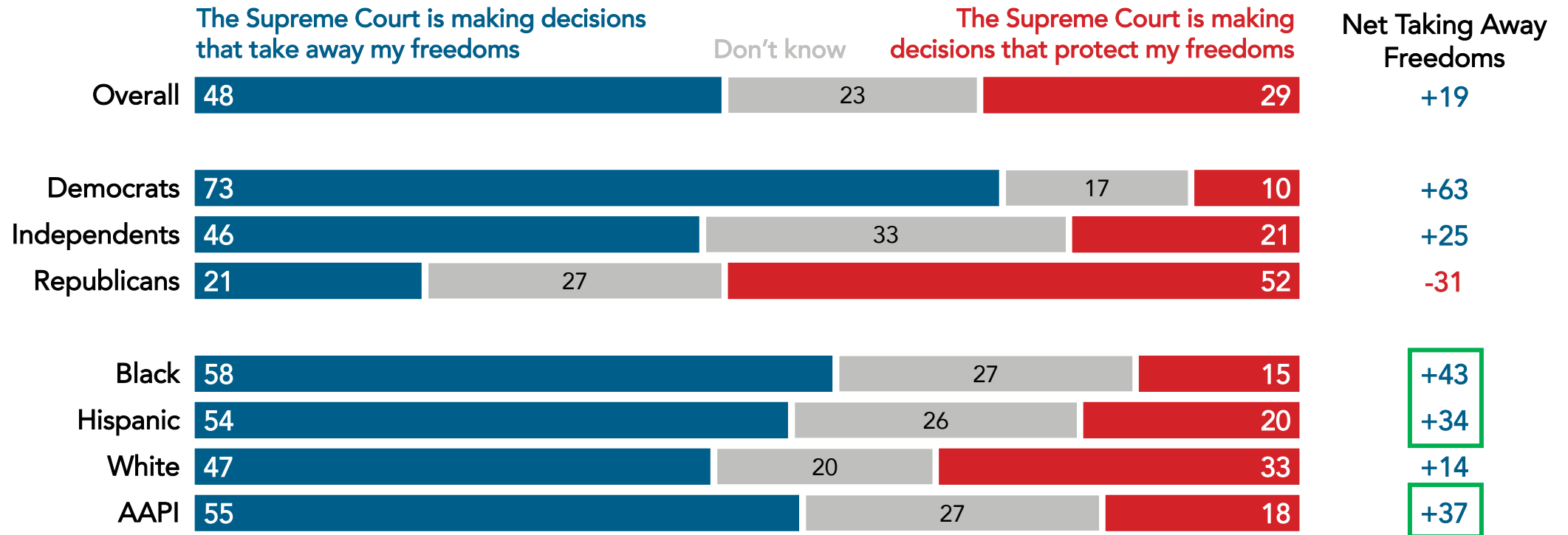
Key Takeaways:

- Nearly half of Americans say the Supreme Court is making decisions that take away their freedoms.
- Majorities support a range of policies around the Supreme Court, including term limits for justices, investigations of potential ethics violations by justices, and the creation of independent investigation bodies, ethics counsels, and a new code of conduct for the Court.
- In the wake of the Supreme Court overturning Biden's student loan forgiveness plan, a majority support alternative proposals.

Nearly Half of Americans Say The Court Is Making Decisions That Are Taking Away Their Freedoms

More than half of Black (58%), AAPI (55%), and Hispanic (54%) Americans believe the Supreme Court is making decisions that take away their freedoms, as do independents by a 25-point margin (46% taking away freedoms/21% protecting freedoms).

When thinking about the current justices on the Supreme Court, which of the following most closely represents your view:



Nationwide survey of 1,001 registered voters conducted July 6-July 10, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Three in Five Agree More with Criticisms of the Supreme Court's Corruption and Extremism Than Conservative Defenses

Against a conservative argument that “the Supreme Court is doing its job independently and fairly,” arguments that the Court “is increasingly corrupt and facing a legitimacy crisis because it is putting politics over the law” (net +20 more convincing), “is imposing an extreme political agenda on the country that is rolling back our rights and freedoms” (net +20), and “is increasingly corrupt and losing the confidence of the American people” (net +18) are all more convincing.

Which side do you agree with more?

Statement 1: Those who say the Supreme Court is doing its job independently and fairly by deciding cases based on the law, not politics.

Statement 2: Those who say the Supreme Court is increasingly corrupt and losing the confidence of the American people.

Statement 1: 41%
Statement 2: 59%
Net Statement 2: +18

Statement 3: Those who say the Supreme Court is increasingly corrupt and facing a legitimacy crisis because it is putting politics over the law.

Statement 1: 40%
Statement 3: 60%
Net Statement 3: +20

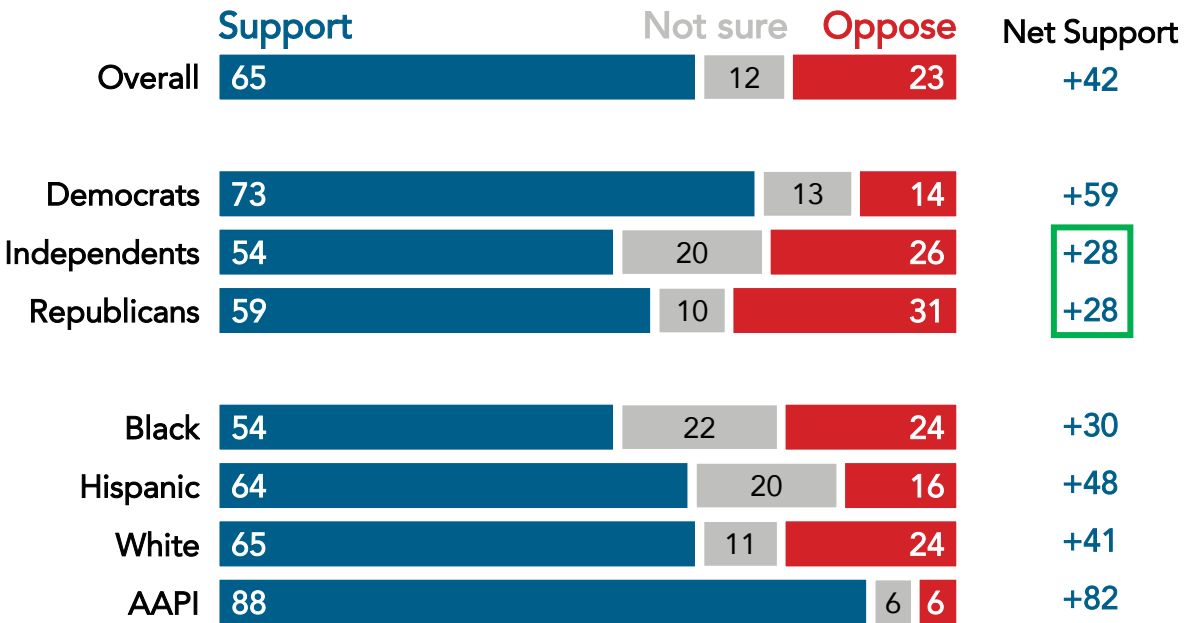
Statement 4: Those who say the Supreme Court is imposing an extreme political agenda on the country that is rolling back our rights and freedoms.

Statement 1: 40%
Statement 4: 60%
Net Statement 4: +20

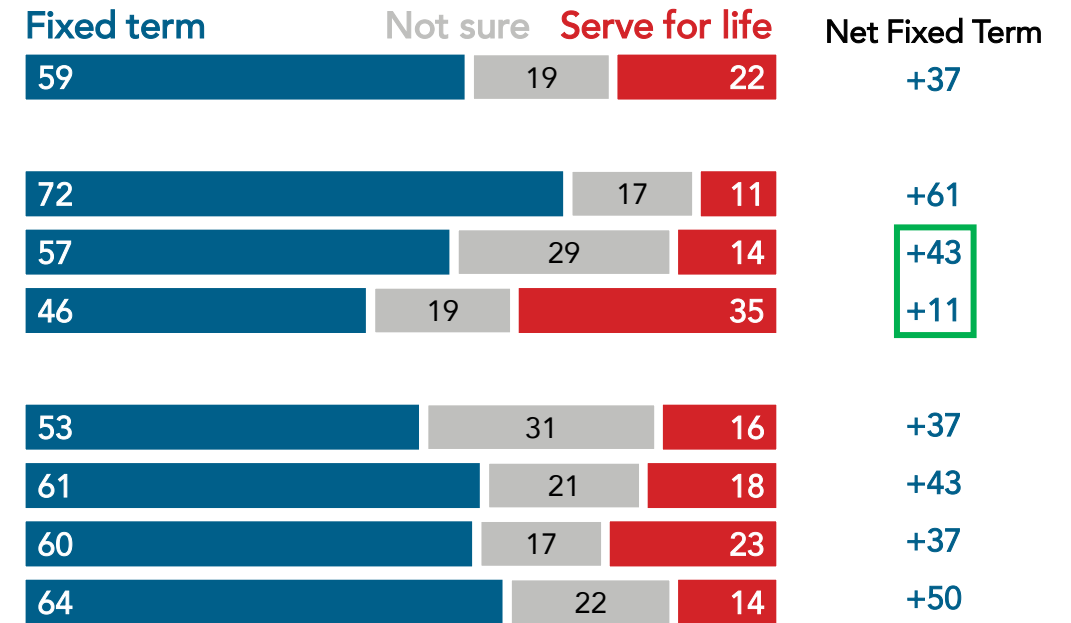
Bipartisan Majorities Want Term Limits on the Supreme Court, and Nearly Three in Five Support Switching to 18-Year Terms

Majorities of Republicans (59%) and independents (54%) support term limits for Supreme Court justices, while a majority of independents (57%) and nearly half of Republicans (46%) support "switching to a system where nine justices each serve a fixed term of 18 years."

Do you support or oppose term limits for U.S. Supreme Court justices?



Which would you prefer: the current way the Supreme Court works which is that justices can serve for life, which in recent times has meant more than 28 years on average, or switching to a system where nine justices each serve a fixed term of 18 years?

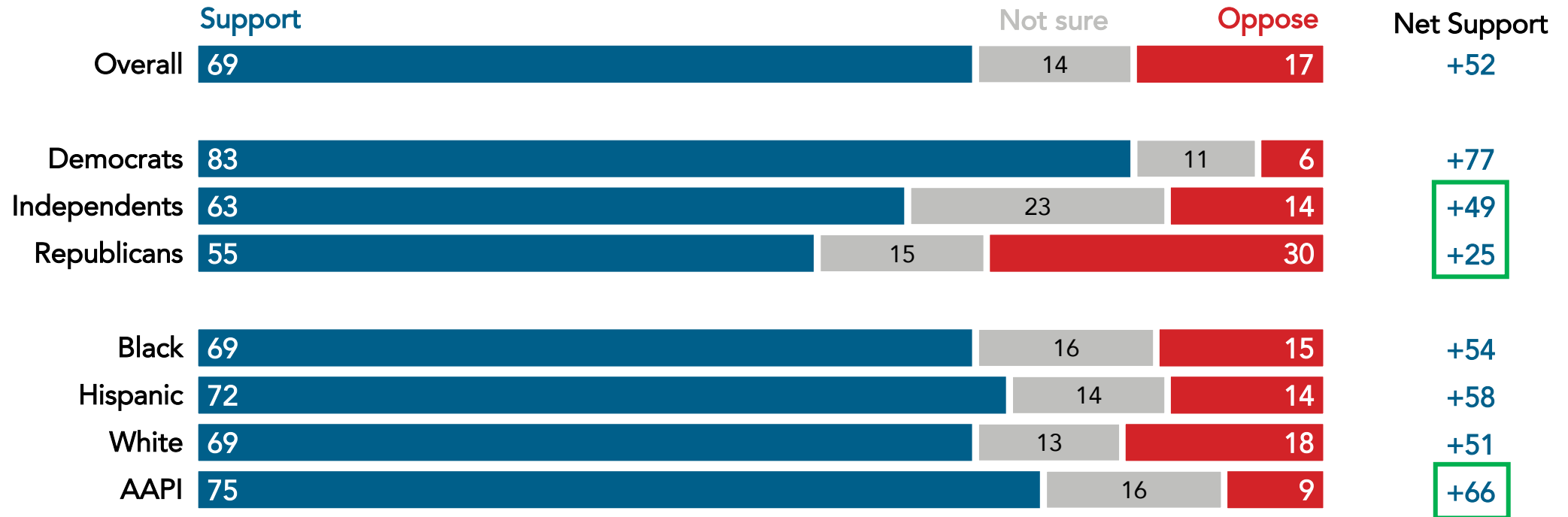


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More Than Two in Three Support Congress Investigating Potential Ethics Violations by Supreme Court Justices

Bipartisan majorities support Congress investigating potential ethics violations by Supreme Court justices, including 83% of Democrats, 63% of independents, and 55% of Republicans.

Do you support or oppose Congress investigating potential ethics violations by Supreme Court justices?



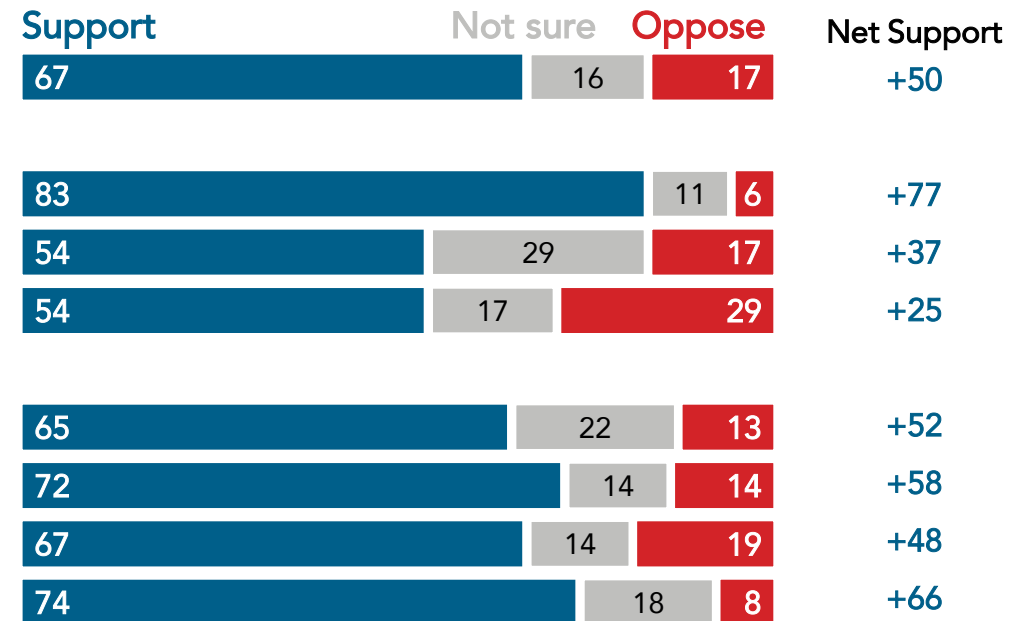
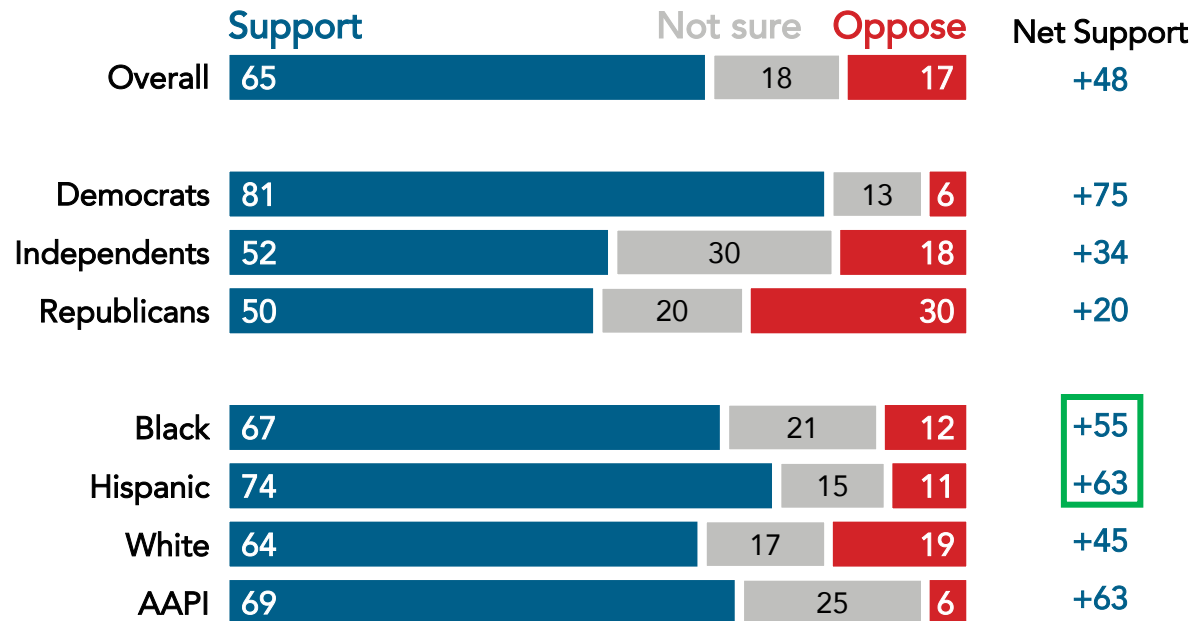
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Establishing Ethics Investigation Bodies and a New Code of Conduct for the Supreme Court Earns Broad Support

Creating an independent investigative body to look into potential unethical behavior by the Supreme Court justices, creating an ethics counsel to provide advice to the justices, and creating a new code of conduct for the Court are supported by bipartisan majorities.

As you may know, some members of Congress have recommended the Supreme Court establish both an independent investigative body to look into potential unethical behavior by the justices, as well as an ethics counsel to provide advice to the justices on ethical issues. Do you support or oppose the Supreme Court establishing these two independent ethics bodies?

As you may know, several Senators recently introduced a bill that would require the Supreme Court to adopt a code of conduct for justices, implement stricter financial disclosure rules, and allow formal complaints against justices to be investigated by judges serving on lower courts. Knowing this, do you support or oppose this legislation?

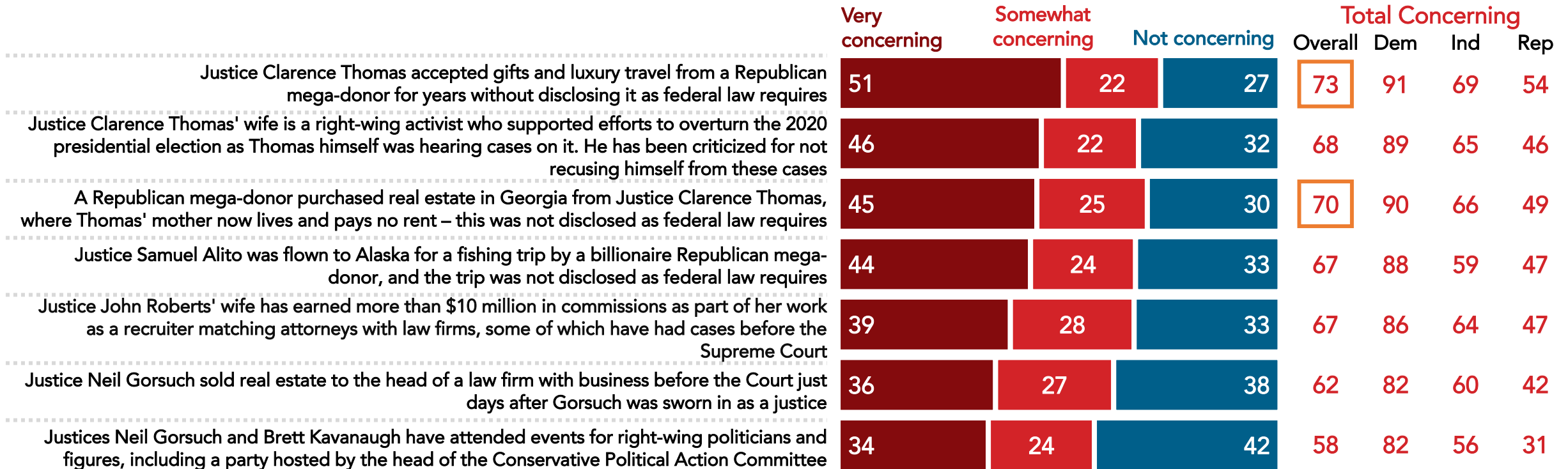


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Ethics Violations By Conservative Justices Are All Concerning, With Thomas' Violations Most Concerning

More than seven in ten are concerned by allegations that Justice Thomas "accepted gifts and luxury travel from a Republican mega-donor for years" (73% concerning) and that "a Republican mega-donor purchased real estate in Georgia from Justice Clarence Thomas, where Thomas' mother now lives and pays no rent" (70%).

Please indicate how concerning you find each of the following recent alleged ethics violations and other concerns about the behaviors of several Supreme Court justices.



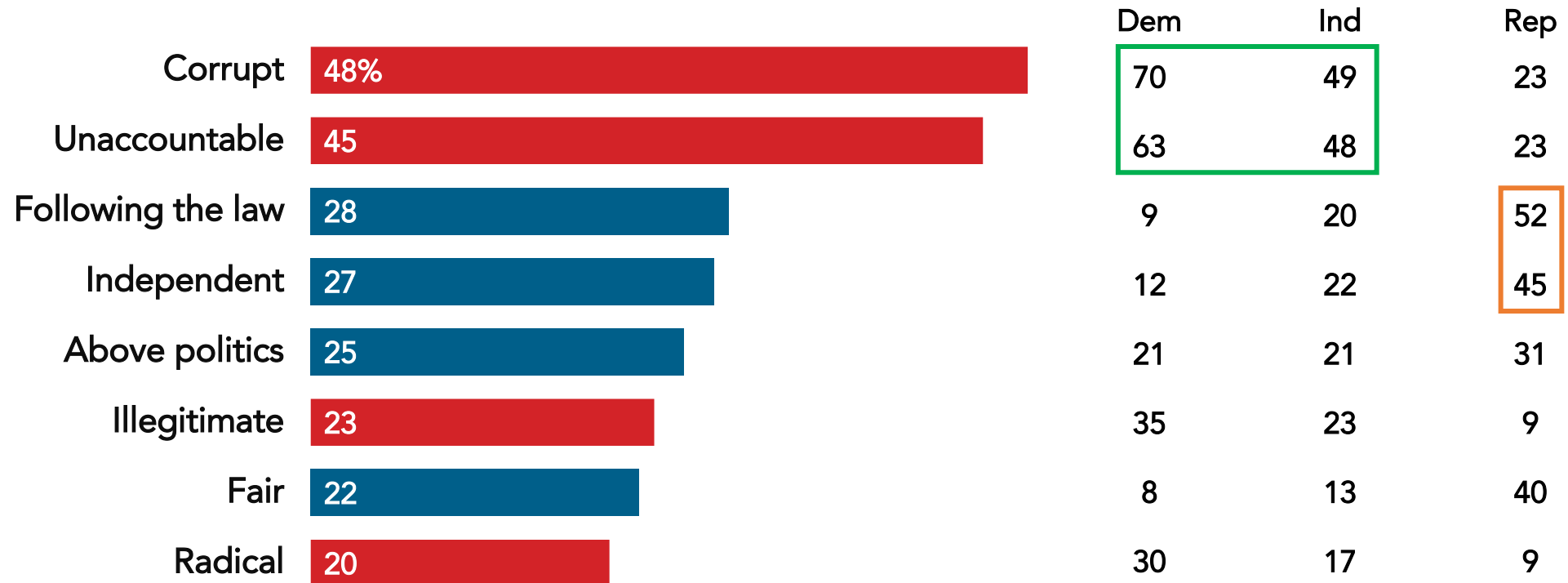
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The Supreme Court Is Mostly Described As “Corrupt” and “Unaccountable”

Nearly half of independents describe the Supreme Court as “corrupt” (49%) and “unaccountable” (48%).

- While Republicans use more positive descriptors like “following the law” (52%) and “independent” (45%), nearly one in four describe the Court as “corrupt” and “unaccountable” (23% each).

Below are words and phrases some have used to describe the Supreme Court. Please indicate which three you think best describe the Supreme Court.

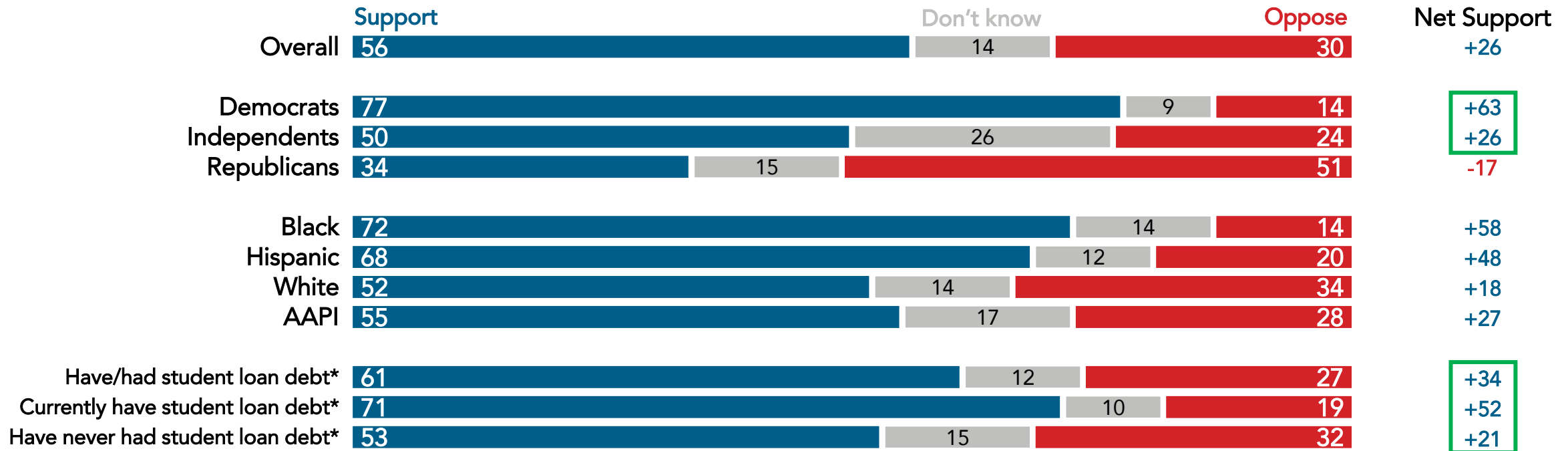


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Majorities Support Biden's Alternatives to Providing Student Loan Debt Relief

Most Americans support student debt relief, including majorities of Americans who currently have student loan debt (net +52), have had student loan debt at some point (net +34), and those who have never had student loan debt (net +21).

Given the Supreme Court struck down President Biden's student loan forgiveness plan, he has proposed alternatives including: using the Department of Education to provide student loan debt relief under the Higher Education Act, creating a more affordable repayment plan for borrowers, and instituting a 12-month "on-ramp" to repayment of student loans so borrowers who miss payments are not penalized. Knowing this, do you support or oppose President Biden's alternatives to provide student loan debt relief?



*Student loan debt status based on self-reported student loan debt from a separate question. Nationwide survey of 1,001 registered voters conducted July 6-July 10, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Americans Blame The Supreme Court Most For Failure on Student Loan Debt Cancellation

A plurality (36%) of Americans (including 58% of Democrats) believe the Supreme Court is most to blame for the lack of debt relief.

Because of recent events, 43 million Americans who have been promised student loan debt relief will no longer be getting it. As far as you know, which do you blame most for why they are not getting student loan debt relief?



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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 1,001 registered voters from July 6-July 10, 2023. 102 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 82 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 102 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 99 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:

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