

navigator*

Thursday, August 3rd

Government Shutdown: A Guide for Advocates



Key Takeaways:

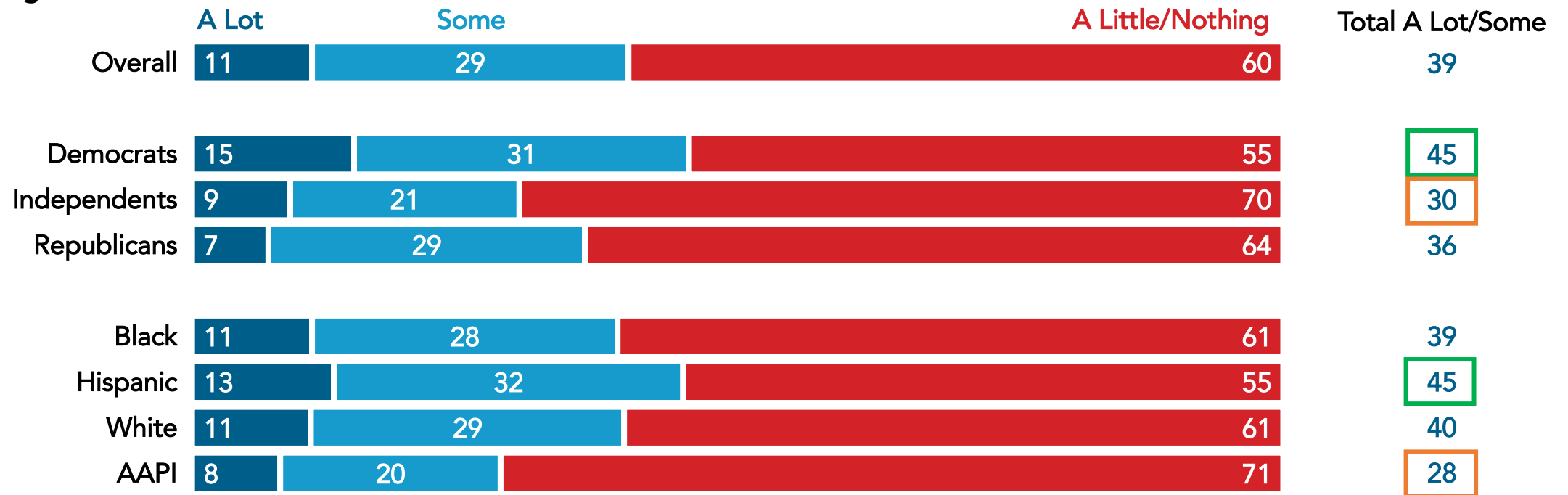
- Few Americans are hearing “a lot” about a potential fall government shutdown.
- The strongest arguments against shutdown threats from Republicans are ones that focus on consequences of a shutdown, tax breaks for the rich causing a shutdown, and Republicans trying to score points against Biden.
- Senator Tuberville blocking confirmations and promotions of top military officers in order to protest the Pentagon’s abortion policy is deeply unpopular.

Just One in Ten Americans Are Hearing "A Lot" About a Potential Fall Shutdown

Fewer than two in five Americans have heard "a lot" or "some" about a government shutdown (39%); Democrats and Hispanic Americans have heard the most (45% each).

- Independents (30%) and AAPI Americans (28%) have heard the least.

How much have you seen, read, or heard about a potential government shutdown this fall if Congress cannot pass their annual spending bills?



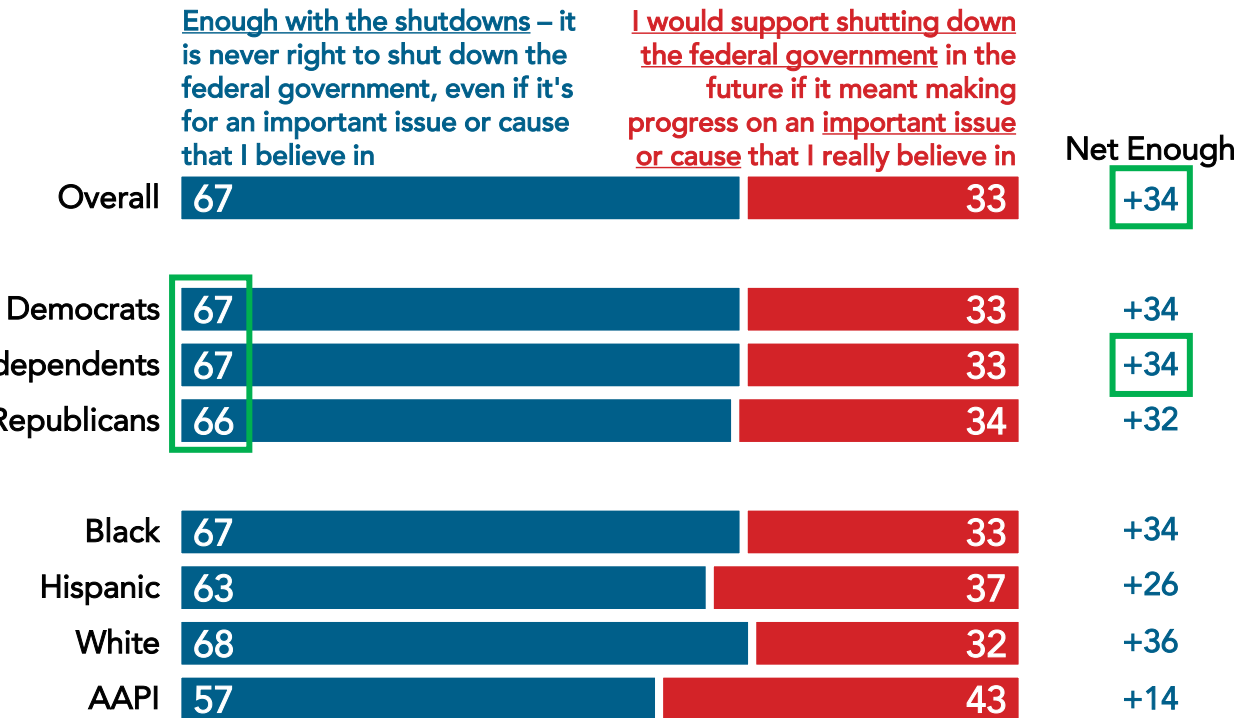
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted July 20-July 24, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Americans Are Anti-Shutdown Across Party Lines, Especially Strongly Against Ideological Arguments from the GOP

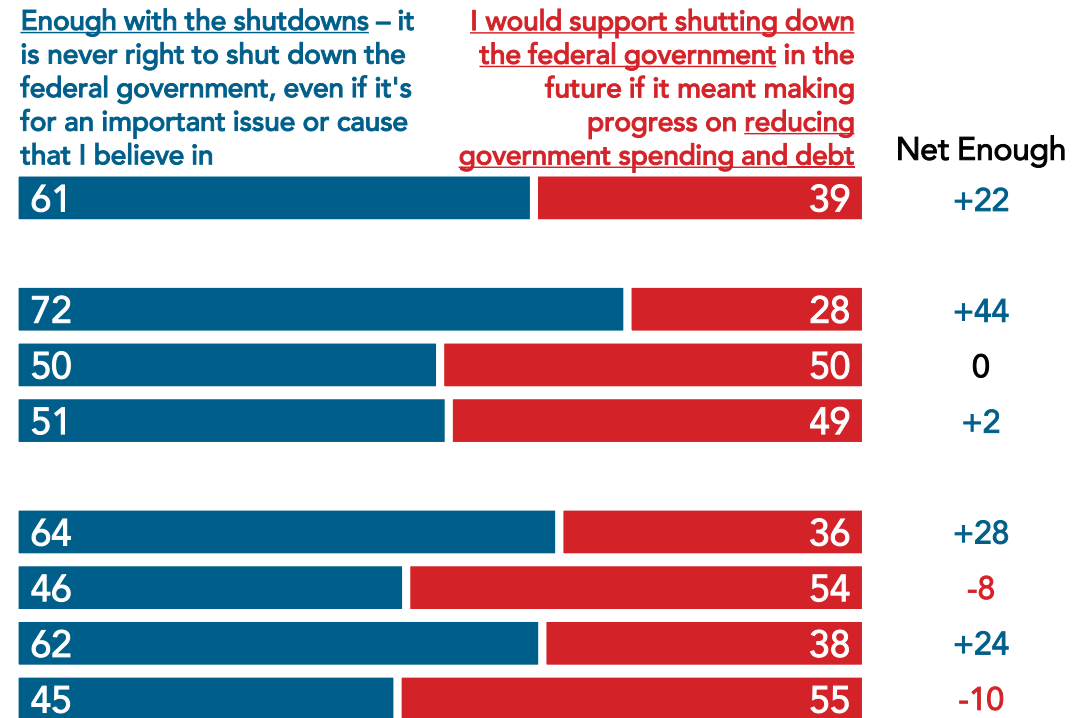
Framing the opposition as shutting down the federal government in support of a “cause that [they] really believe in” (net +34 “enough”) is more effective than talking about them doing so to reduce “government spending and debt” (net +22 “enough”).

- Roughly two in three, regardless of partisanship, are anti-shutdown against issue-/cause-based arguments (between net +34 and +32).

(Split sample) Which of the following statements do you agree with more?



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Compelling Arguments Against GOP on Government Shutdown: Consequences, Reneging on Deal, Tax Breaks for the Rich

Hitting Republicans for protecting tax breaks for the rich and big corporations (net +8 agree more), for going back on their word and proposing lower spending levels to score points on President Biden (net +8), and for potential consequences from a shutdown (net +10) are more effective than talking about their proposed government spending cuts (+2).

Which side do you agree with more?

Statement 1: Republicans who say that we need to reduce government spending to bring down inflation, even if it means temporarily shutting down the government to make it happen.

Statement 2: Democrats who say Republicans want to cut government spending by 20%, which could mean major cuts to programs Americans rely on like Medicaid and food stamps.

Statement 1: 49%
Statement 2: 51%
Net Statement 2: +2

Statement 3: Democrats who say if Republicans stopped protecting tax breaks for the rich and big corporations, the government would not run out of money or shut down.

Statement 1: 46%
Statement 3: 54%
Net Statement 3: +8

Statement 4: Democrats who say Congress and President Biden finally reached a budget and spending agreement recently, and Republicans are now going back on their word and proposing lower spending levels because they just want to score political points against Biden.

Statement 1: 46%
Statement 4: 54%
Net Statement 4: +8

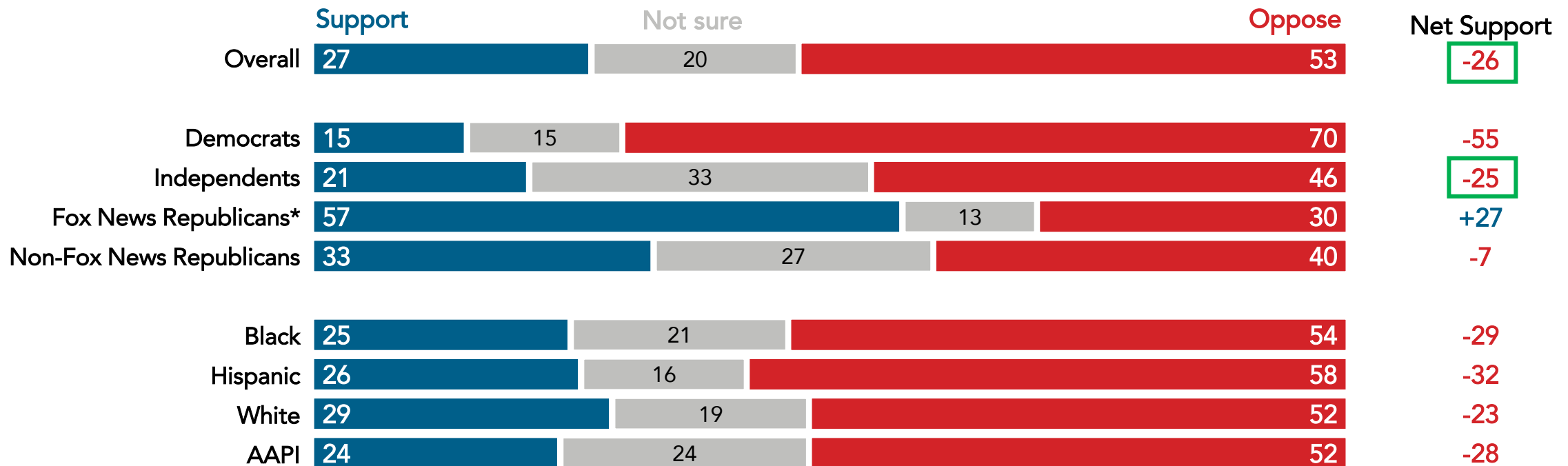
Statement 5: Democrats who say Republicans' dangerous games with our government could cause a shutdown of the government, which could delay payments like Social Security, Medicare, and veterans' benefits, and thousands of federal employees could lose their jobs or be furloughed.

Statement 1: 45%
Statement 5: 55%
Net Statement 5: +10

Tuberville's Obstinacy on Military Promotions, Confirmations to Protest the Pentagon's Abortion Policy Is Deeply Unpopular

A majority of Americans oppose Senator Tuberville blocking the confirmation and promotion of top military officers (net -26 support), and independents oppose the move by a similar margin (net -25).

As you may know, Republican Senator Tommy Tuberville is currently blocking the Senate confirmation and promotion of several top U.S. military officers. Tuberville says he is doing this to protest a new Pentagon policy allowing people serving in the military or their dependents to travel out-of-state to get an abortion if it is illegal in the state where they live. Knowing this, do you support or oppose Senator Tuberville blocking the confirmation and promotion of top military officers?



*"Fox News Republicans" are Republicans who indicate that Fox News is one of their main sources of news about politics and current events on a separate question. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted July 20-July 24, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

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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 July 20-July 24, 2023 and 1,000 registered voters from June 14-June 20, 2023. In this latest survey, 99 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters; 67 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters; 104 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters; and 107 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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