

navigator*

Wednesday, October 11th

The Latest on a Potential
Government Shutdown:
A Guide for Advocates



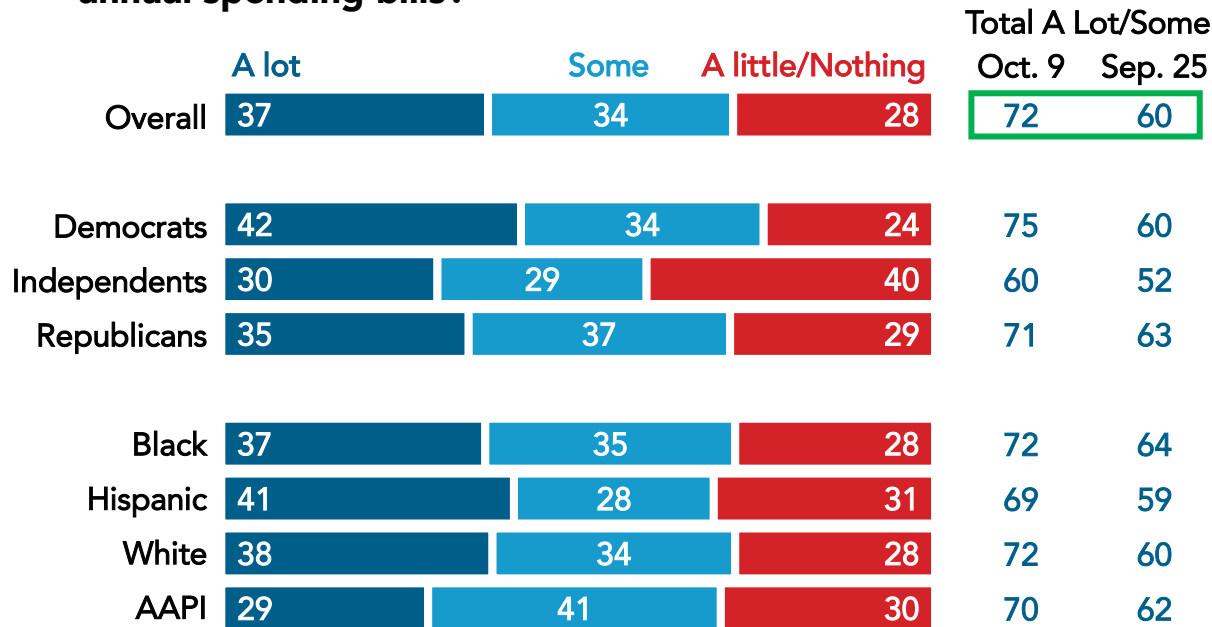
Key Takeaways:

- A slight plurality now say they would blame Republicans in Congress for a government shutdown instead of President Biden and Democrats in Congress, a change from just two weeks ago.
- Seven in ten Americans support the plan that kept the government open, and two in three Americans now agree that "it is never right to shut down the federal government."
- Majorities of Americans say Biden and Democrats in Congress tried to keep the government open, while pluralities think Republicans in Congress, Donald Trump, and the most far right Republican members tried to shut it down.
- The most concerning messages about Republicans in Congress who voted to shut down the government center on their party's dysfunction and chaos, threats to the economy and Americans' paychecks, and cuts to key programs.

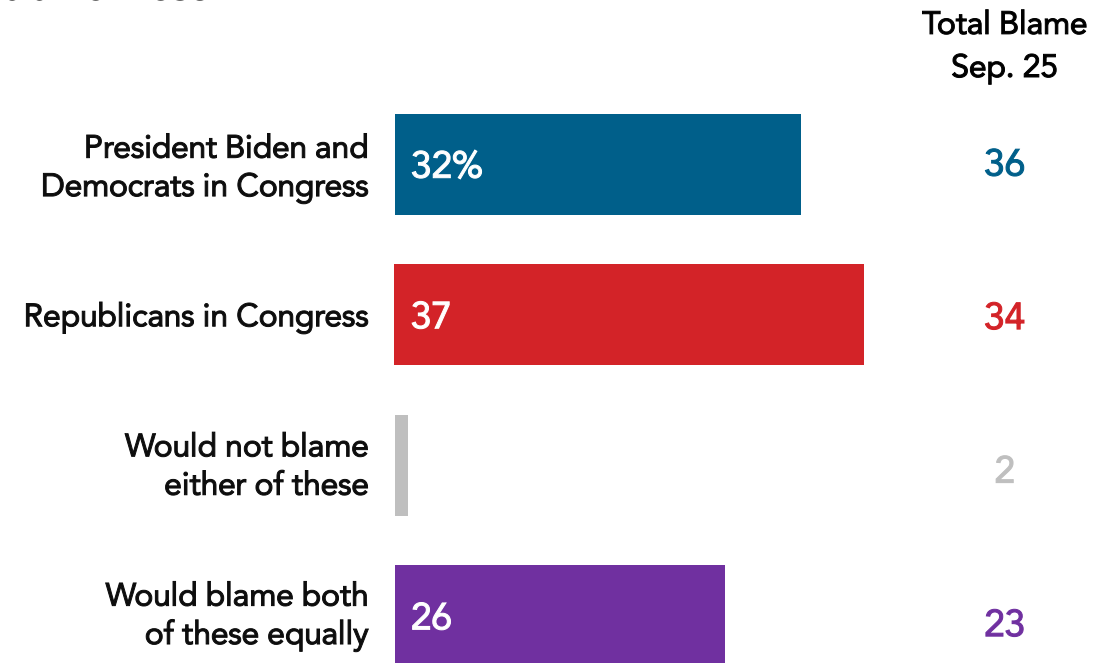
Blame Has Shifted from Biden and Democrats to Republicans in Congress, Though Many Still Blame Both

Nearly three in four Americans (72%) now report hearing “a lot” or “some” about a potential government shutdown, up from three in five in late September (60%); more Americans now would blame Republicans in Congress (37%) than Biden and Democrats in Congress (32%), with another quarter saying they would blame both equally (26%).

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



If the government were to shut down this fall, who would you blame most?



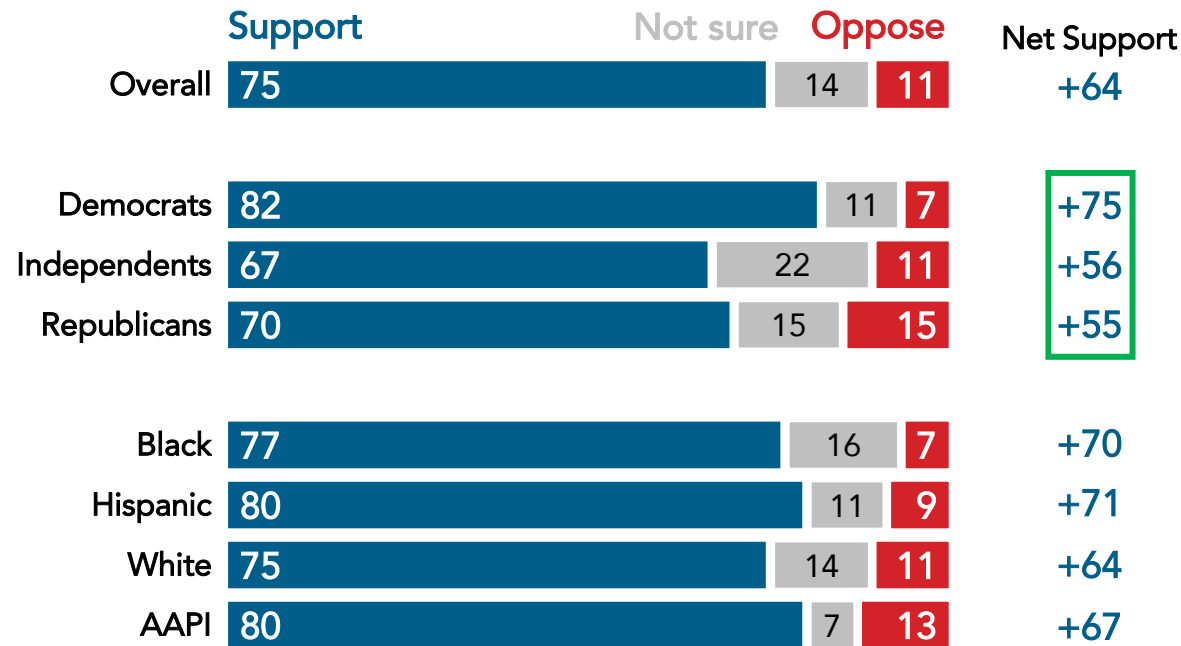
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 5-October 9, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Three in Four Support the Decision to Keep the Government Open, and Growing Shares Say "Enough With the Shutdowns"

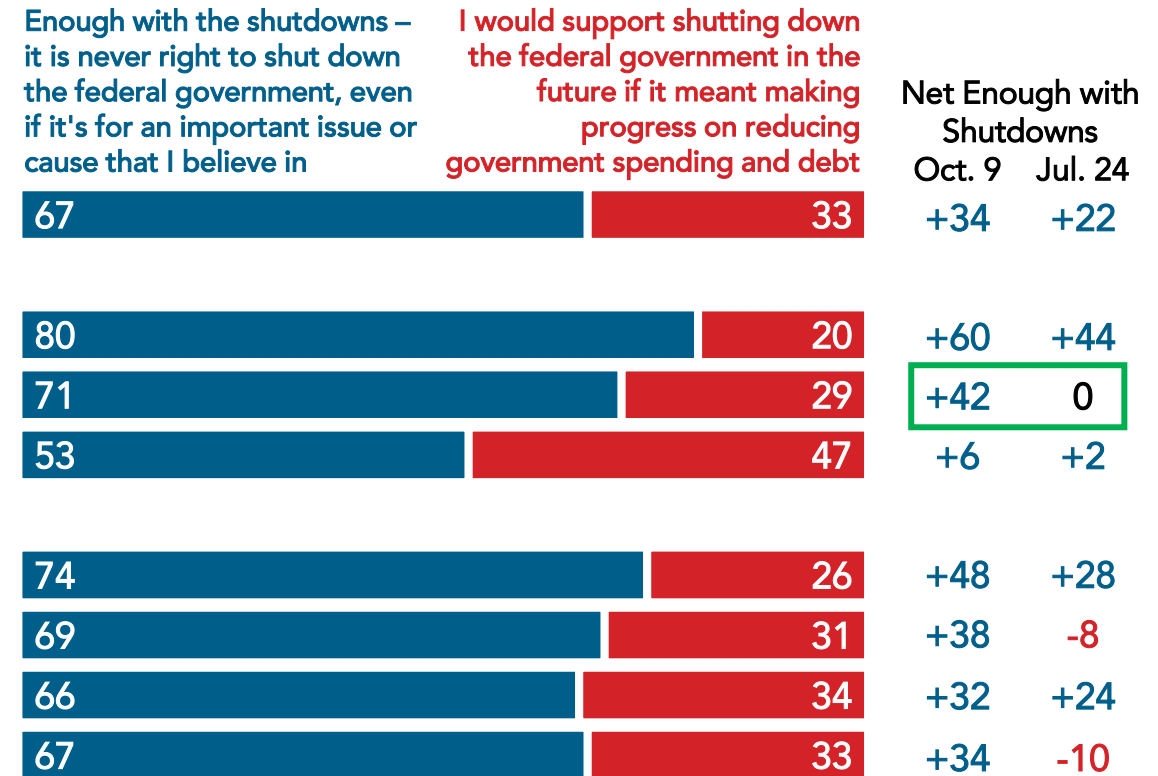
Large bipartisan majorities support the decision to keep the government open, and growing shares say "enough with the shutdowns."

- Independents now say "enough with the shutdowns" by a 42-point margin (up from even in late July).

As you may know, Congress narrowly voted to keep the government open for 6 more weeks, rather than shut down at the end of September. Do you support or oppose this decision?



Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

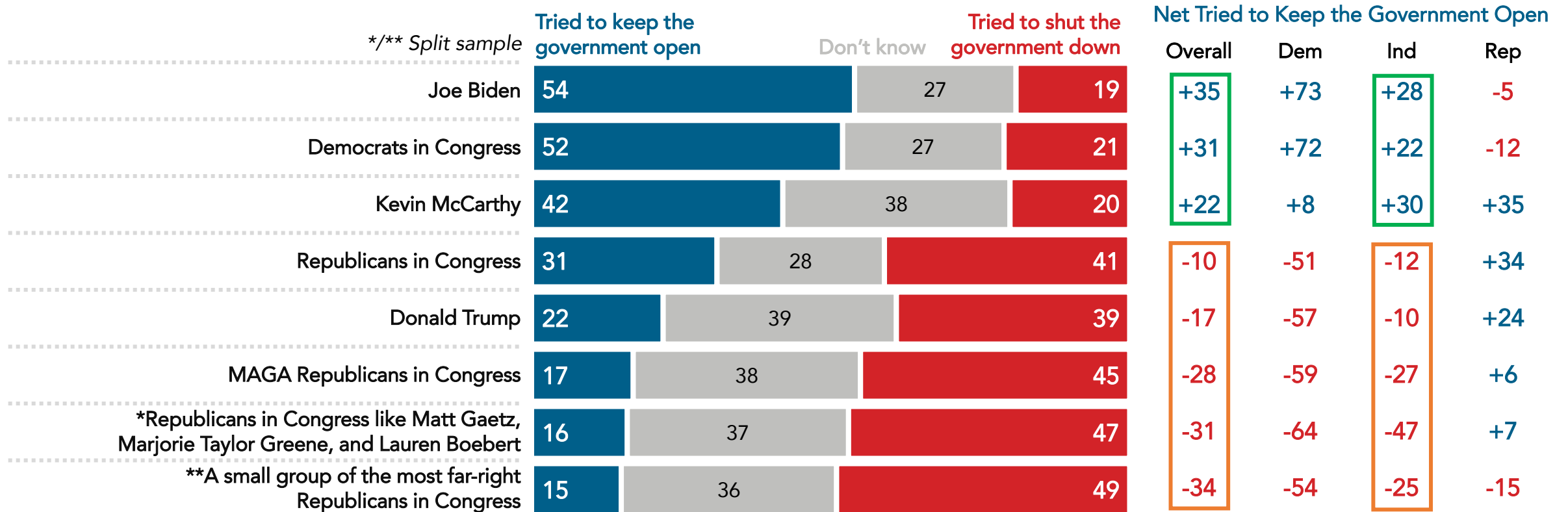


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Majorities Say Biden and Democrats in Congress Tried to Keep the Government Open; Say Republicans Tried to Shut It Down

By wide margins, independents say Biden (net +28), Democrats in Congress (net +22), and McCarthy (net +30) tried to keep the government open, while MAGA Republicans in Congress (net -27) and Gaetz, Greene, and Boebert (net -47) tried to shut it down.

Below is a list of individuals and groups. Please indicate whether you think each tried to keep the government open or tried to shut the government down.

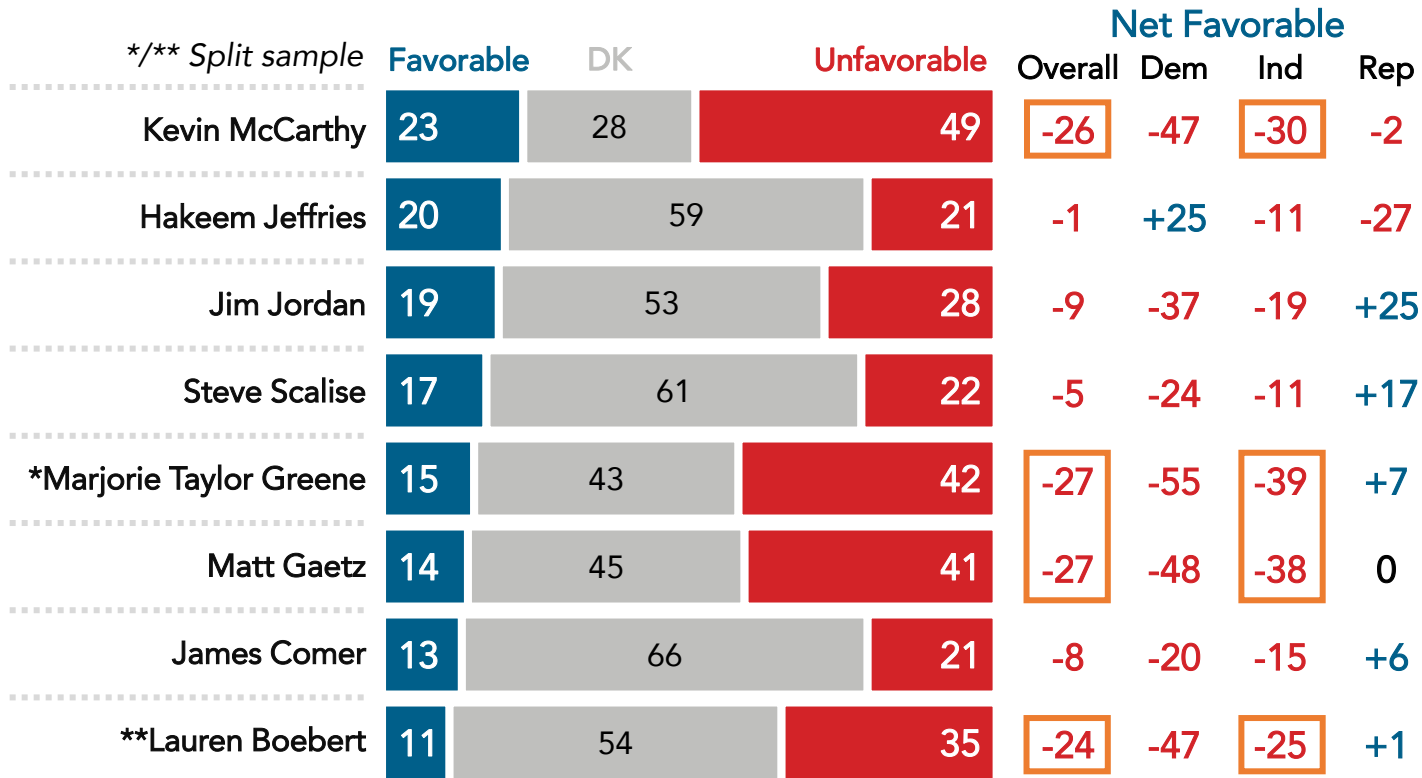


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Gaetz and McCarthy Dominate Shutdown Story; Republicans in Congress Across the Board Are Deeply Underwater

Americans overall – and independents in particular – hold deeply negative views of Kevin McCarthy (net -26 and net -30 favorable, respectively), Marjorie Taylor Greene (net -27 and net -39), Matt Gaetz (net -27 and net -38), and Lauren Boeert (net -24 and net -25).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to each one.



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As you may know, the government nearly shut down at the end of September. Which members of Congress have you heard about in relation to this near shutdown?*

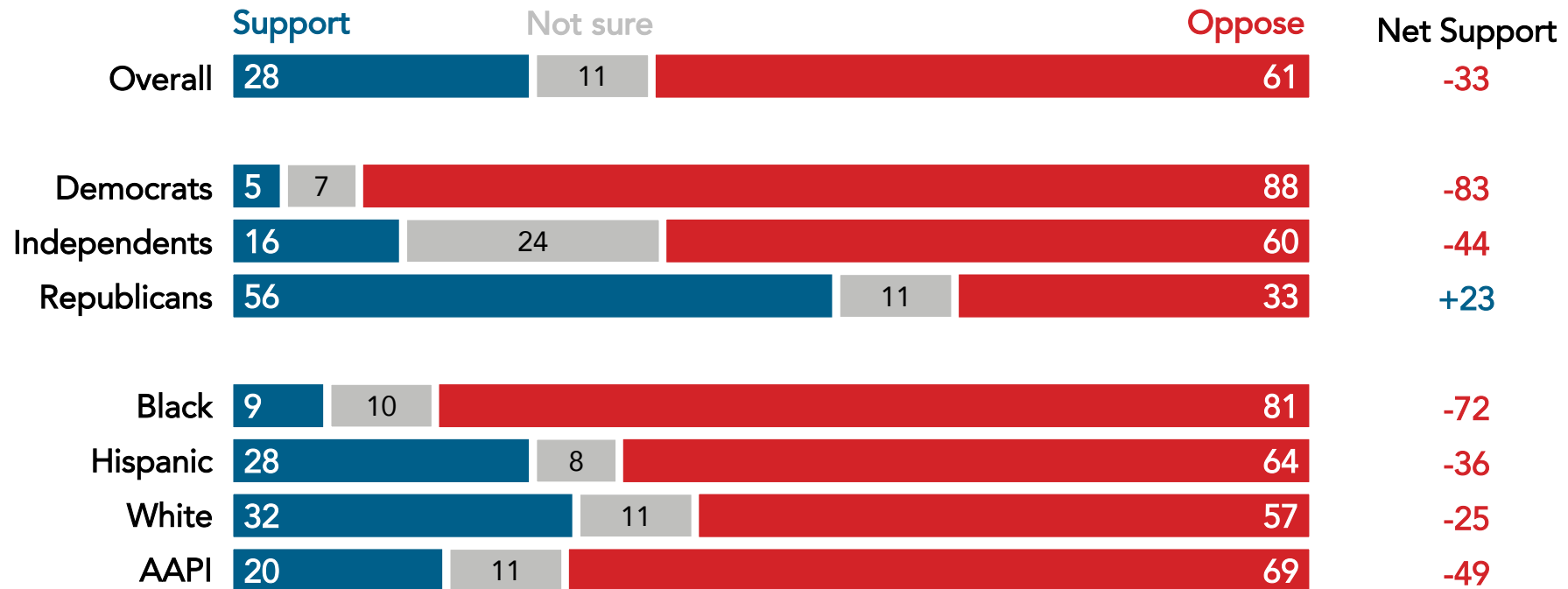


*48% of respondents indicated they did not know enough to say.

Trump as Speaker of the House Is Broadly Panned

Republicans are the only group in which a majority (56%) support nominating Trump to be Speaker of the House; large majorities of Democrats (88% oppose), independents (60%), and each racial group oppose the move.

As you may or may not know, the Speaker of the House does not need to be a member of Congress but can be anyone nominated and elected by members of Congress. Some Republicans have suggested nominating Donald Trump to be the new Speaker of the House. Do you support or oppose Republicans nominating Donald Trump to be Speaker of the House?



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Biggest Concerns on GOP Who Voted to Shut Down Include GOP Chaos Leading to Economic Threats, Including to Paychecks

Below is a list of statements about **Republicans in Congress who voted to shut down the government**.

Please indicate how concerning you find each.

Republicans in Congress...

*/** Split sample

	Very Concerning	Total Concerning				Blame Both ⁺
		Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
*...have a majority in the House, yet they can't work together to get things done within their own party, leaving the country at the constant brink of further economic crisis	52	76	90	83	58	82
...nearly caused a shutdown that would have seriously damaged the economy: it would have cost the economy billions of dollars per week, raised costs on things like groceries and gas, and raised the unemployment rate	51	68	91	71	42	67
...went to the brink of taking away the paychecks of hundreds of thousands of Americans by nearly shutting down the government, showing they are willing to hurt the American people in order to get what they want	49	64	90	68	34	61
*...voted to shut down the government because they would prefer to cut programs like those that provide healthy food for kids in need, rather than raise taxes on the rich and big corporations	48	66	91	71	38	67
*...nearly shut down the government because they've become too extreme and controlled by the MAGA wing of their party, including people like Marjorie Taylor Greene, who do not represent where most Americans stand	47	65	90	70	36	66
**...voted to shut down the government because they want to cut Social Security and Medicare, rather than raise taxes on the rich and big corporations	45	59	86	63	30	55
...are focused on the wrong things like government shutdown chaos, instead of on issues that impact everyday Americans like inflation	44	63	88	73	33	61
*...took the economy hostage with the threat to shut down the government, which is just a political stunt meant to score points against President Biden	43	62	90	70	28	63
*In all of the last six government shutdowns, Republicans were in control of the House. These kinds of crises only happen when Republicans are in charge, because they think when government isn't working as it should, it helps them hold on to power	43	60	86	64	31	54
...do not care about making government work: they nearly let the government shut down because they want to undermine government programs and prevent the government from functioning	42	58	87	62	26	53
**...took the economy hostage with the threat to shut down the government, in order to demand their right-wing ideology get enacted	41	56	86	59	23	48
**...refuse to work with Democrats to get things done, leaving the country at the constant brink of further economic crisis	41	60	88	67	28	53
**...nearly shut down the government because they've become too extreme and controlled by the right wing of their party, including people like Marjorie Taylor Greene, who do not represent where most Americans stand	41	59	88	63	26	54
**In all of the last six government shutdowns, Republicans were in control of the House. These kinds of crises only happen when Republicans are in charge, because they want to prevent the government from functioning	37	54	85	50	22	48

⁺"Blame both" are respondents who would blame both parties equally for a government shutdown on a separate question.

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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 October 5-October 9, 2023. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 76 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 99 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 101 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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