

navigator*

Friday, October 20th

The Situation in Ukraine and Foreign Affairs: A Guide for Advocates

**This survey was prepared and fielded as the situation in Israel was developing.*



Credit: Rospoint/Shutterstock

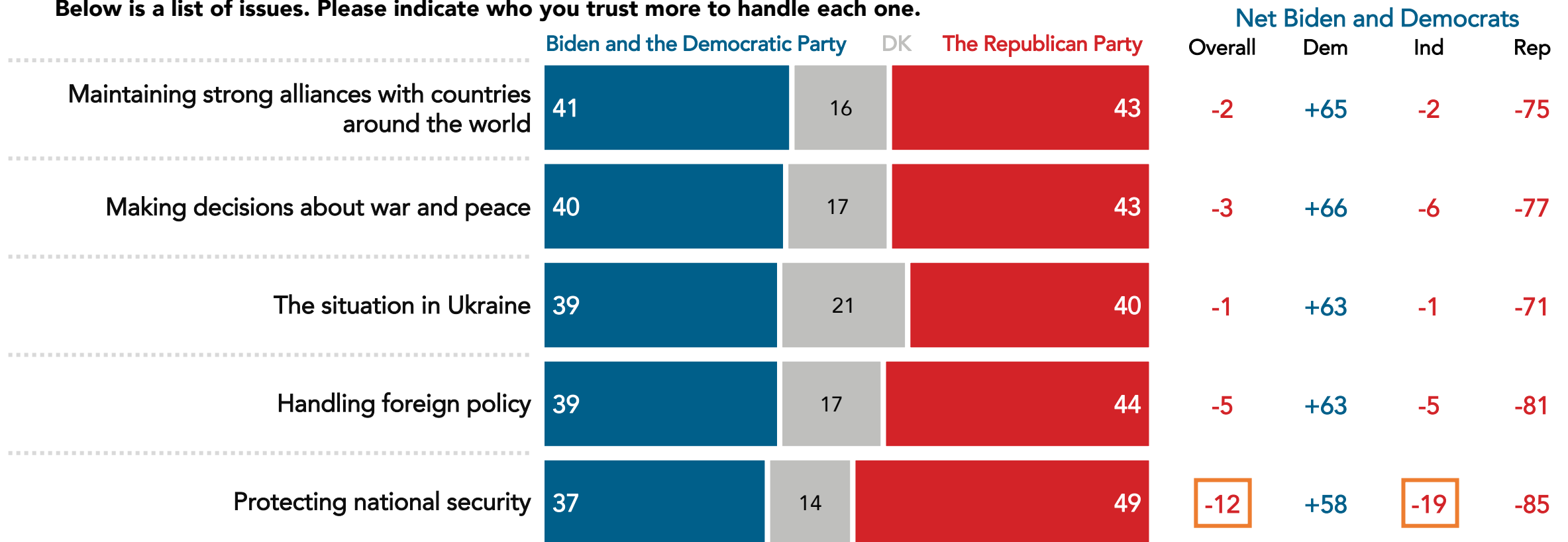
Key Takeaways:

- Americans are divided on which party they trust more on a range of foreign affairs issues – including the situation in Ukraine – while they trust Republicans more on national security.
- While a majority continue to support military aid to Ukraine, support levels are lower than they were after the initial invasion by Russia. After messaging, support moves close to the level seen in the immediate aftermath of the invasion.
- The strongest messages on providing Ukraine with additional funding center on opposing Putin, bolstering our allies around the world including Ukraine and Israel, and stopping Russia from invading other parts of Europe.

Americans Are Divided on Who They Trust More on a Range of Foreign Affairs Issues; National Security Is a GOP Strength

Independents are split on which party they trust more to handle “the situation in Ukraine” (net +1 Republicans) and “maintaining strong alliances” (net +2), while they trust Republicans more on “protecting national security” (net +19).

Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you trust more to handle each one.



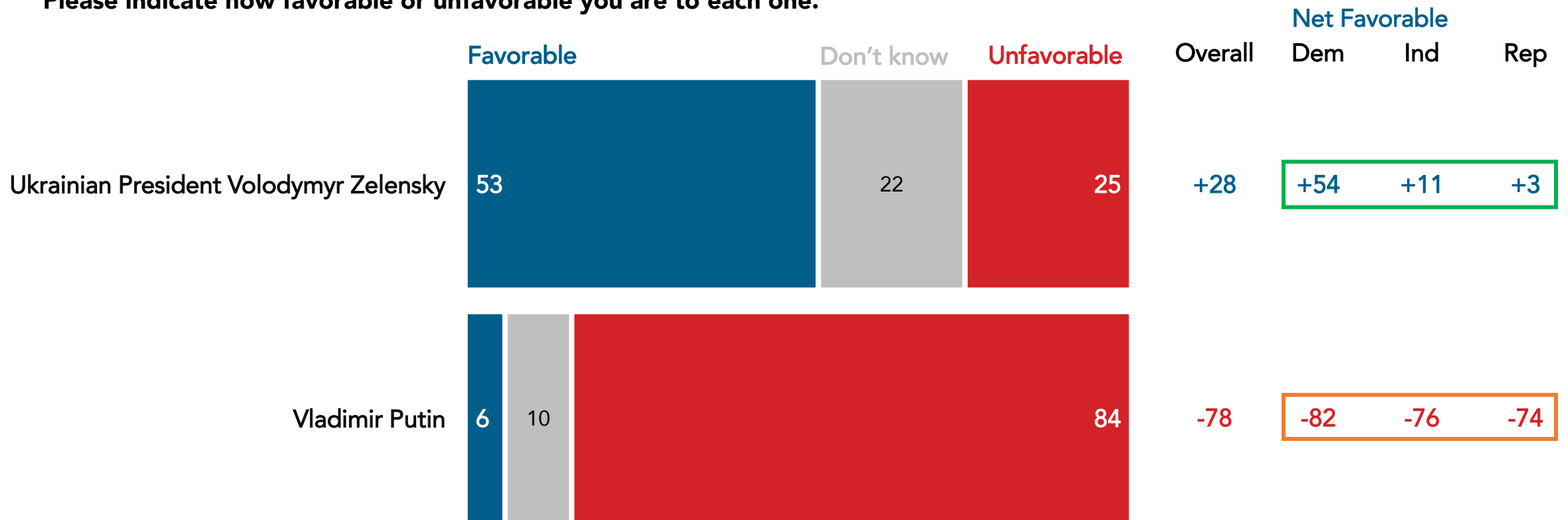
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A Majority of Americans Know Zelensky and View Him Favorably; Putin Is Universally Underwater

Democrats express more favorable views of Zelensky (net +54 favorable) than independents (net +11) or Republicans (net +3).

- Americans across party lines view Putin deeply unfavorably (ranging from net -74 among Republicans to net -82 among Democrats).

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



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A Majority Either Do Not Know How Much the U.S. Spends on Foreign Aid, or Estimate 20%+ of Budget, Far From Reality

In fiscal year 2022, the U.S. government spent less than 1% of its federal budget on foreign aid – however, 68% of Americans believe that figure goes above 1%. Republicans are much more likely to say the U.S. spends 20% or more of the federal budget on foreign aid (34%) than independents (20%) or Democrats (15%).

What percentage of the federal budget do you think the U.S. spends on foreign aid?

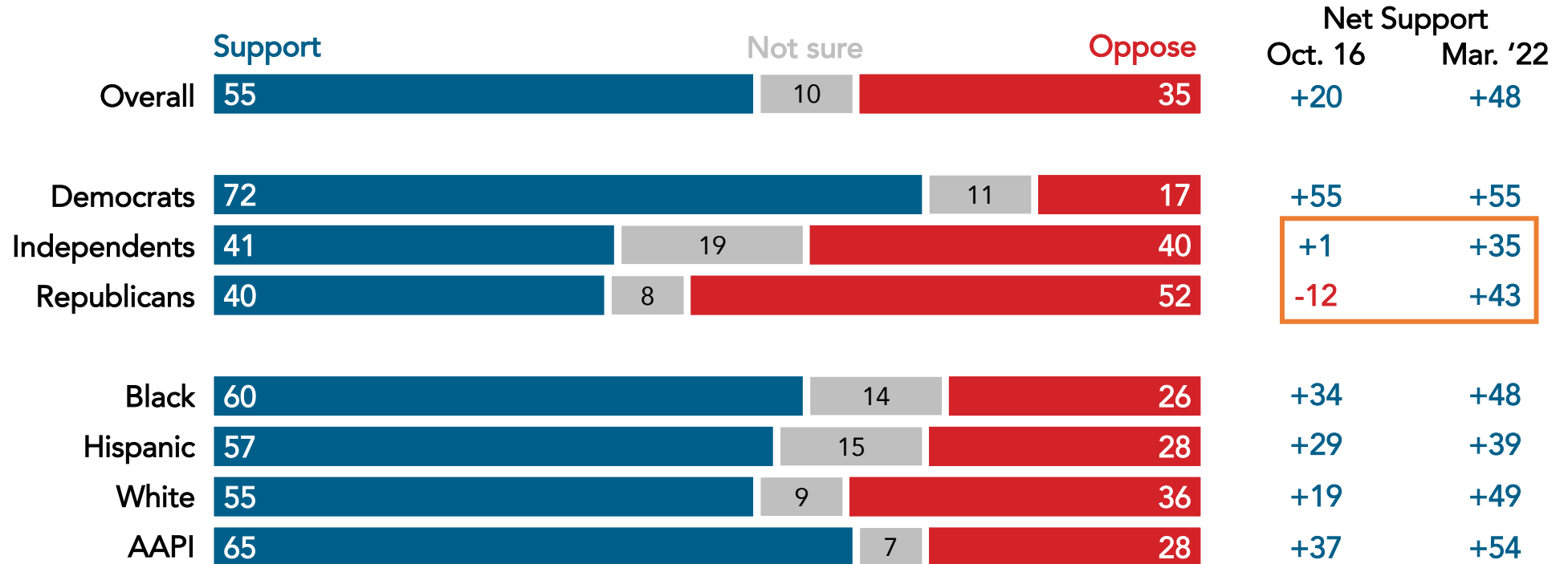


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Majorities Continue to Support the U.S. Sending Military Aid to Ukraine, Though a Slimmer Majority Now

Since March of last year, support has declined most substantially among Republicans (net -12 support now, down from net +43 in March 2022) and independents (net +1 now, down from net +35), while support remains consistent among Democrats (net +55 then and now).

Do you support or oppose the United States sending military aid including arms and air support to Ukraine to fight against Russia?

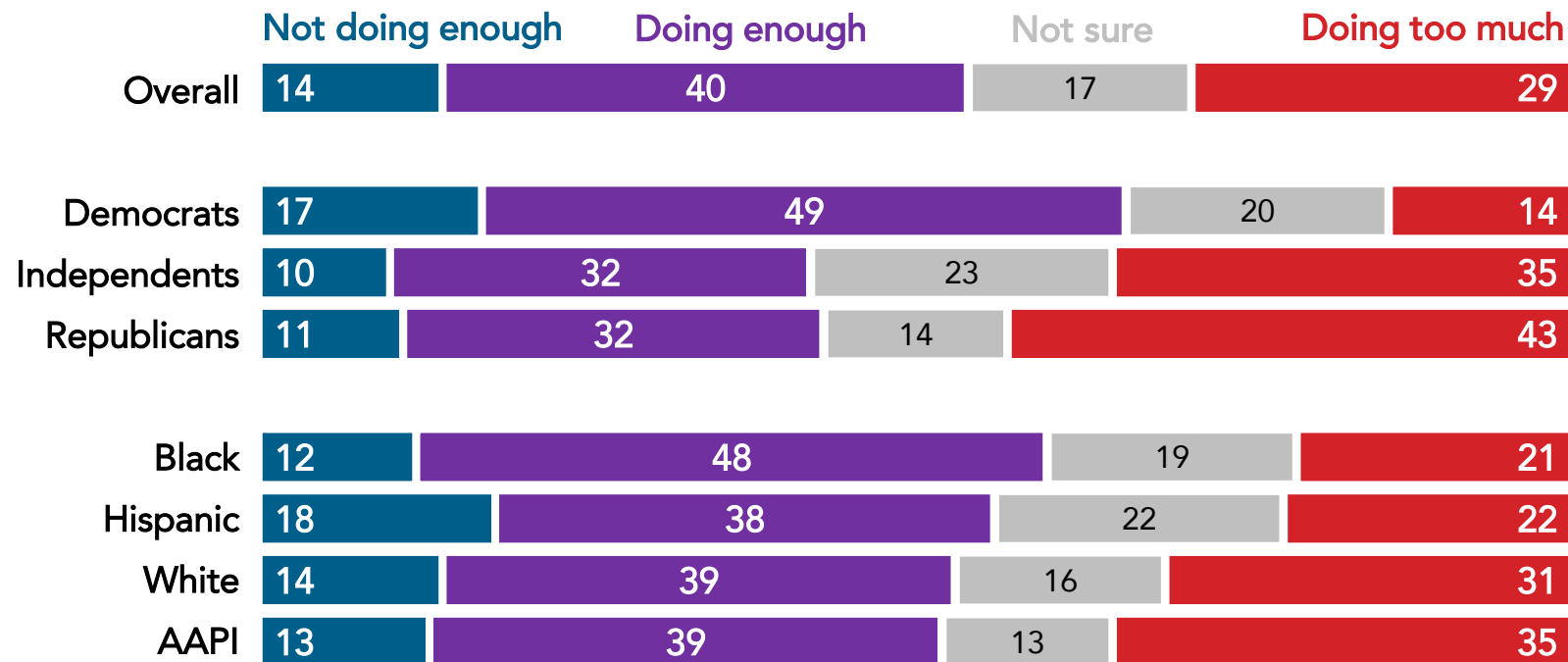


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Only Three in Ten Say the U.S. Is Doing Too Much on Ukraine

Similar to support for sending military aid to Ukraine (55%), a majority (54%) of Americans believe the United States is doing enough (40%) or not doing enough (14%).

When it comes to the United States' response to Russian military actions in Ukraine, do you think the United States is doing enough, doing too much, or not doing enough?



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The Threat of Putin and the National Security Risks of Invasions Are the Best Arguments for Ukraine Funding

Below are statements from some government officials about the upcoming budget as it relates to additional funding to support Ukraine. Please indicate how convincing you find each statement.

	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Don't believe	Not convincing	Total Convincing				
					Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Movers*
Russia's President, Vladimir Putin, is a dangerous tyrant. Allowing him to continue to grow his power and conquer more land is a mistake. Our next budget should continue to support Ukraine in its fight against him	35	31	8	26	66	77	60	55	69
Russia has invaded Ukraine in one of the biggest attacks on a European country since the Second World War, and Hamas just committed an unthinkable act of violent terrorism against Israeli civilians. The United States needs to remain committed to its allies and democracies around the world and stand up to tyranny and terrorism	34	35	8	23	69	77	58	64	79
If the Russian military is able to conquer Ukraine, they will keep going into Poland and other parts of Europe that are in NATO. If that happens, the U.S. will be obligated by treaty to respond, which is why we have to support Ukraine in our next budget now to prevent that from happening	30	30	12	28	60	71	49	51	68
If the Russian military is able to conquer Ukraine, they will keep going into other parts of Europe...We have to support Ukraine in our next budget to keep the risk from spreading and expanding	28	33	10	29	60	75	53	46	64
For less than 6% of our defense budget, we have supported the Ukrainian military in destroying more than 50% of the Russian tank infrastructure. This is one of the most efficient military operations possible to weaken Russia with limited financial cost to us and zero American lives lost...	26	35	11	28	61	76	49	48	63
When our allies are under attack, America has to stand ready to support their defense just as we would expect them to stand ready to support our defense if we were under attack...	26	35	9	30	61	78	47	47	66
America gave Ukraine our word that we would support them in defending themselves against the Russian invasion. America has to keep its word and support Ukraine in our next budget	24	36	7	33	60	75	46	47	67
Our next budget should support the people of Ukraine because it's the right thing to do. They are being targeted and oppressed by Russian occupiers and are in need of support.	23	33	8	36	56	74	43	40	56
There is a global struggle right now to protect democracy. Russia is trying to spread autocracy and authoritarianism by invading Ukraine. To help preserve democracy around the world, our next budget has to support Ukraine in fighting back against Russia	23	34	9	34	56	74	40	42	54
Our next budget should support Ukraine in defending itself because Ukrainian troops are weakening the Russian military for us, without us ever having to put our own troops in harm's way	19	30	11	40	49	65	40	35	57
The Ukrainian military has outperformed expectations and used American military resources responsibly and effectively. The support we're giving them is outdated American military technology and equipment that is no longer in use. So, we are supporting our allies without weakening America's military strength	19	35	12	34	54	67	41	45	57

*"Ukraine movers" are respondents who do not initially support sending military aid to Ukraine but do support it after messaging.

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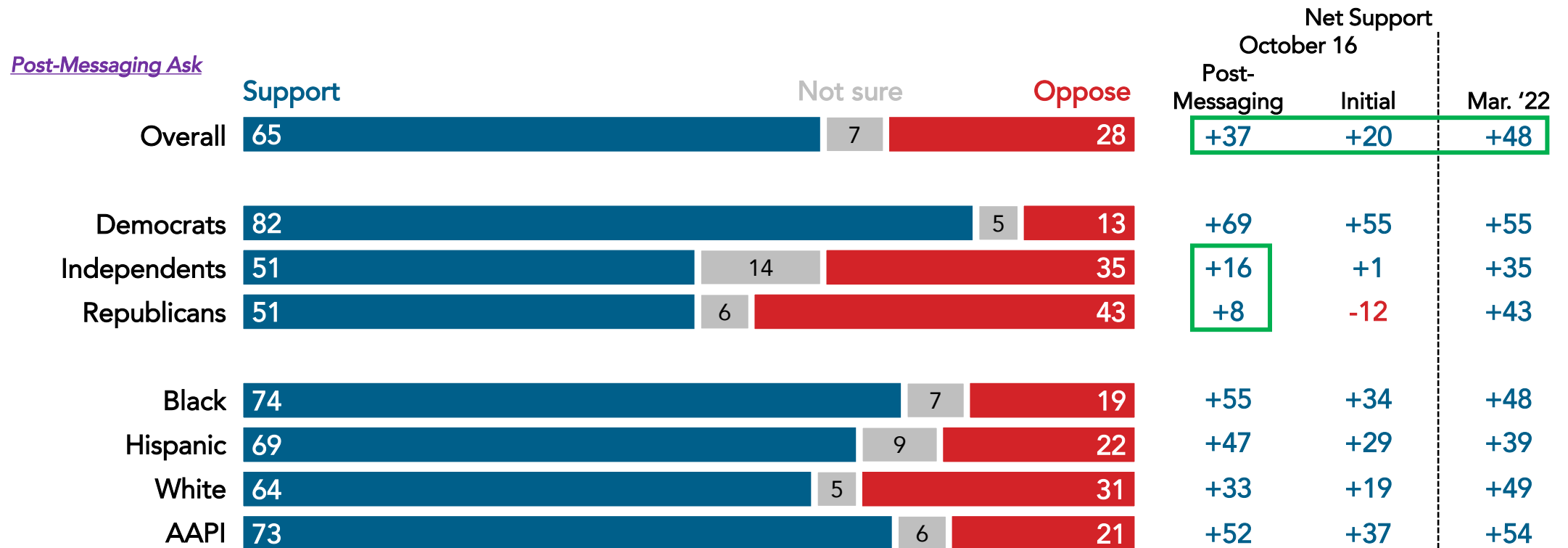
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After Messaging, Support for Military Aid to Ukraine Grows and Nears Levels Immediately Following the Invasion in 2022

Messaging about the importance of sending military aid to Ukraine boosts support close to levels seen in the immediate aftermath of the Russian invasion in March of 2022 (net +37 support, compared to net +48 in March of 2022).

- Among Democrats, messaging moves support levels even higher than in 2022 (net +69 support post-messaging, net +55 in 2022).

One more time... Do you support or oppose the United States sending military aid including arms and air support to Ukraine to fight against Russia?

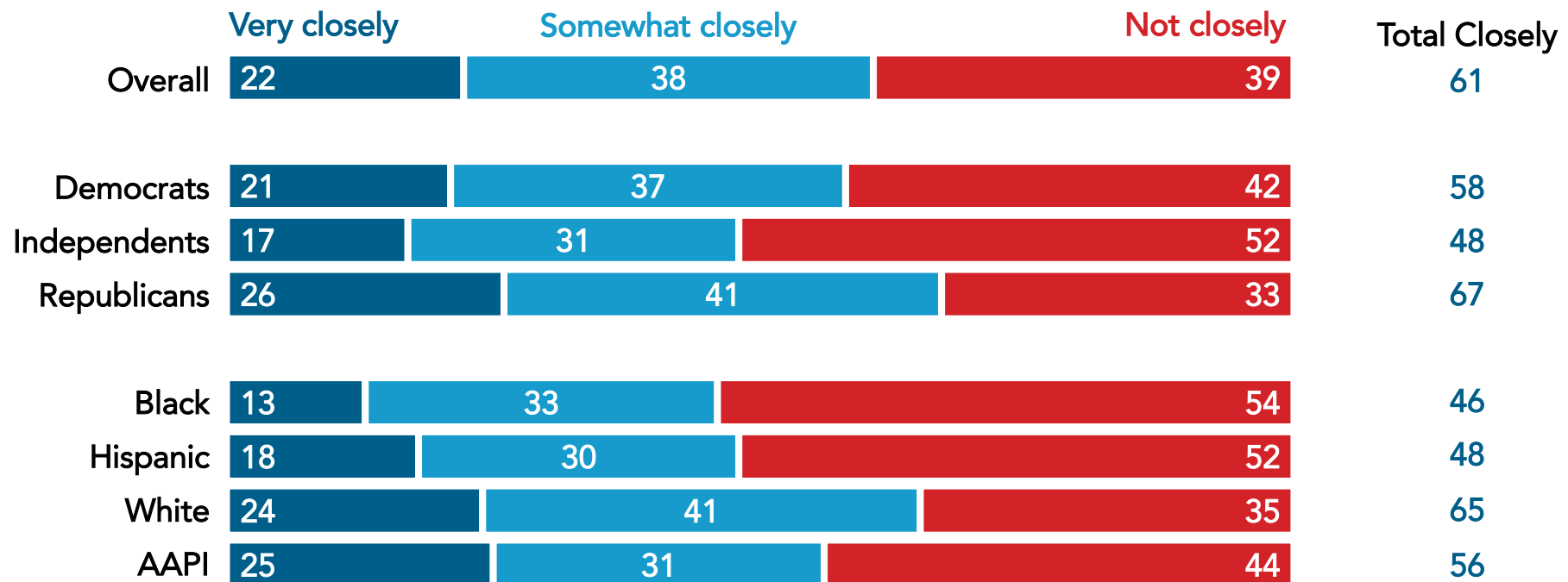


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Three in Five Americans Say They Are Following the News Around the Attack on Israel By Hamas Closely

Republicans (67% "very" or "somewhat closely") report hearing more about the attack than Democrats (58%) and independents (48%).

How closely would you say you are following news about the attack on Israel by Hamas?

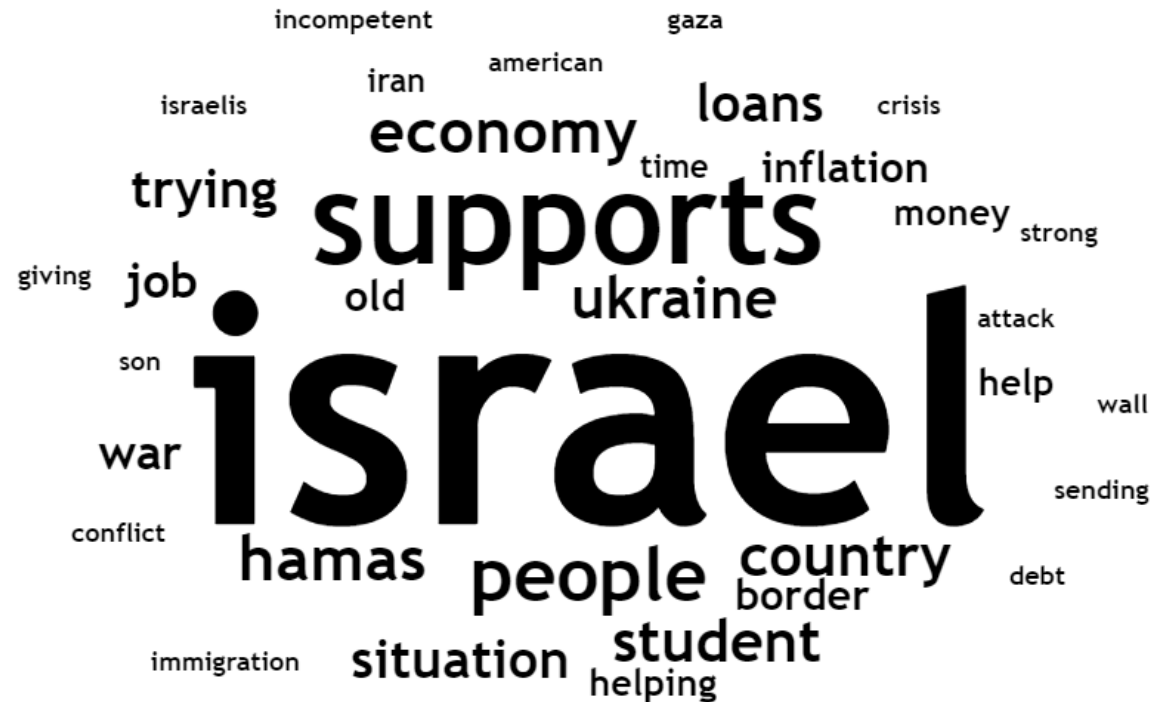


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Even Prior to His Visit to Israel, Biden's Actions on Israel Dominated What Americans Were Hearing About Him

Biden's support for Israel clearly stands out, while others mention "Ukraine," the "economy," and "student loans."

In a few words, what **positive/negative** things have you seen, read, or heard recently about Joe Biden?



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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 October 12-October 16, 2023. 99 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 74 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

press@navigatorresearch.org

To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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