

navigator*

Thursday, November 2nd

Speaker Mike Johnson and
Republicans in Disarray: A
Guide for Advocates



Credit: Lev Radin/Shutterstock

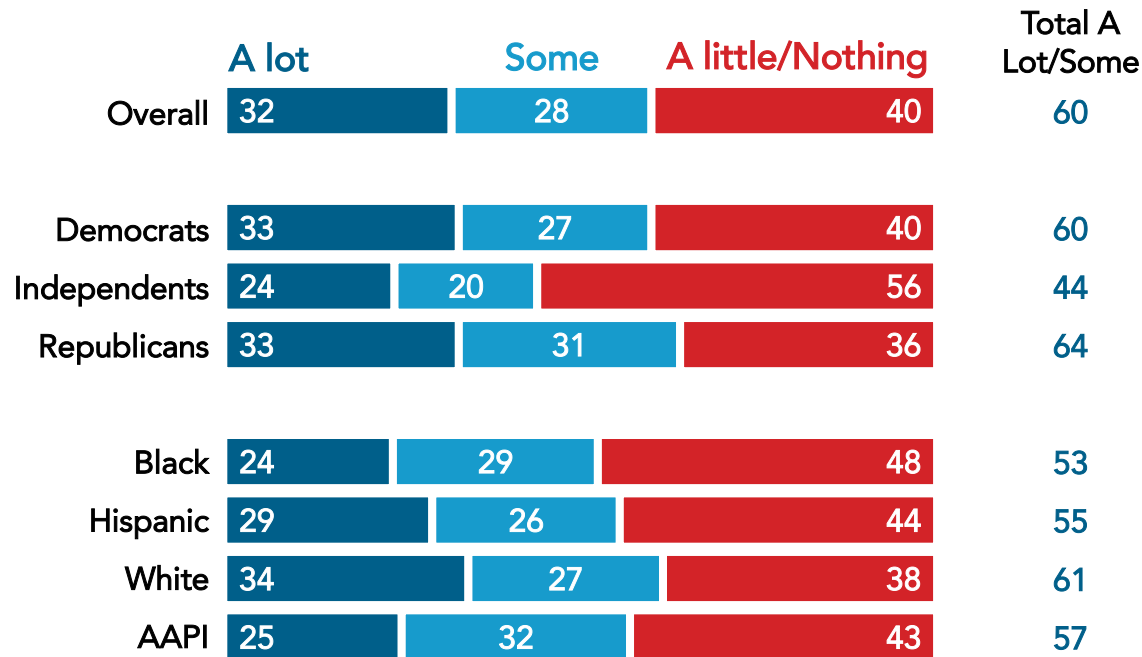
Key Takeaways:

- Three in five Americans report hearing about the recent Speaker elections. Americans most agree that Republicans in Congress have been fighting amongst themselves, have the wrong priorities, and are dysfunctional.
- Americans are more likely to agree Republicans have been focused on the wrong priorities when explicitly naming top issues facing the country, like inflation.
- Views of Speaker Johnson are mixed with many unfamiliar; his votes to cut Social Security/Medicare/Medicaid, against veterans' health care, and against lowering prescription drug costs and insulin costs are most concerning.

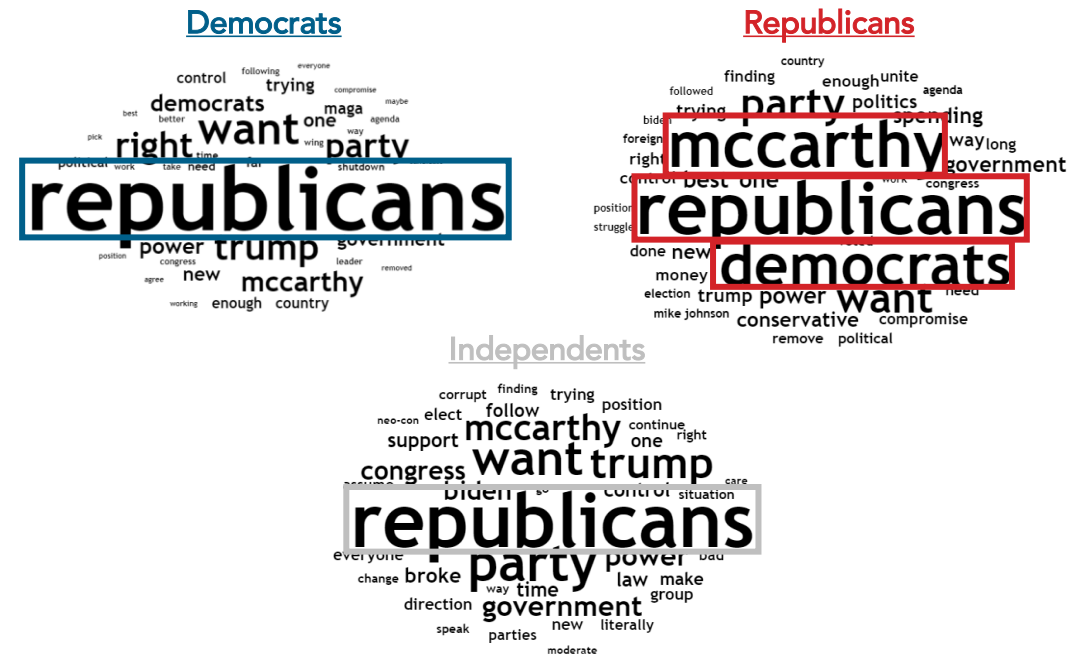
Three in Five Have Been Following the Speaker Election and Know Republicans Have Been at Its Center

In an open-ended follow up, Democrats and independents overwhelmingly mention "Republicans," while Republicans also mention "McCarthy" and "Democrats."

How much have you seen, read, or heard about the elections for Speaker of the House of Representatives?



As you may know, a majority of representatives in the U.S. House voted to remove Kevin McCarthy as Speaker of the House more than three weeks ago. Regardless of how closely you have been following this situation, what do you think the debate over a different Speaker of the House has been about?



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 26-October 30, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

GOP Infighting, Their Focus on the Wrong Priorities, and Their Dysfunction Are Most Concerning on Speaker Fight

As you may know, Republicans have control of the House. Kevin McCarthy was removed as Speaker of the House and the House of Representatives was unable to conduct business for more than three weeks as House Republicans considered who to elect as a new Speaker. Below is a list of descriptions that some have used to describe Republicans' inability to select a new Speaker. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree that each one describes them.

*/** Split sample

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Not sure	Disagree	Overall	Total Agree	Dem	Ind	Rep
They are fighting amongst themselves and neglecting the American people	48	29	7	16	77	89	78	63	
*They have the wrong priorities and are focused on this nonsense instead of issues that actually matter, like inflation	47	27	7	19	74	89	75	57	
*This is just more of their dysfunction that left our country at the brink of shutdown and economic crisis in September because they could not pass spending bills or get things done	38	33	9	20	71	88	67	52	
**They have the wrong priorities and are focused on this nonsense instead of issues that actually matter	41	29	7	23	70	90	72	46	
**This is just more of their dysfunction that has us on track to another potential government shutdown and economic crisis in November because they could not elect a Speaker or pass spending bills	33	32	10	25	66	84	70	43	
They are incompetent and cannot get their act together	37	27	9	27	65	83	65	44	
They are chaotic and do not know how to govern	34	31	8	27	65	82	62	45	
This is not normal: this level of dysfunction is unprecedented in America's history and is a part of the new normal set by this extreme Republican Party	33	29	10	28	62	83	57	40	
**They are beholden to corporate special interests	32	28	15	25	60	79	62	37	
*They do not care about making the government work: they want to undermine government programs and prevent the government from functioning	34	25	11	30	59	81	62	33	
**They do not care about making the government work: they want to make Americans distrustful of government in order to cut programs and benefits so many rely on	30	24	10	36	54	77	55	28	
*They are beholden to MAGA extremists	29	19	24	28	49	76	28	23	

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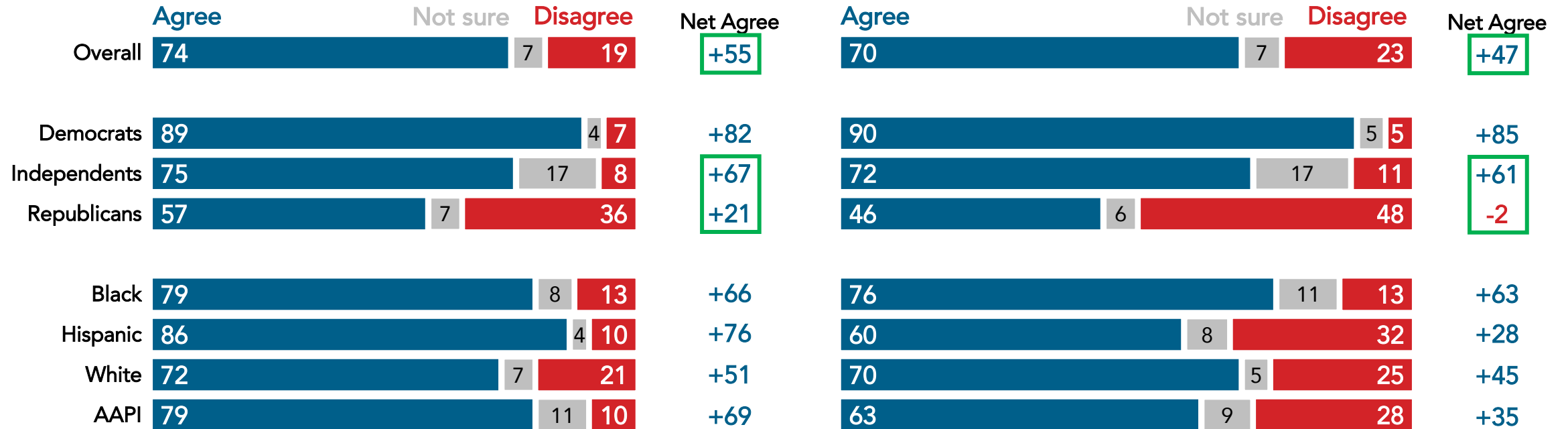
Messaging on GOP Focus on “Wrong Priorities” Is Stronger When Specific Issues – Like Inflation – Are Mentioned

A majority of Republicans agree that Republicans in Congress “have the wrong priorities and are focused on this nonsense instead of issues that actually matter, like inflation” (net +21 agree).

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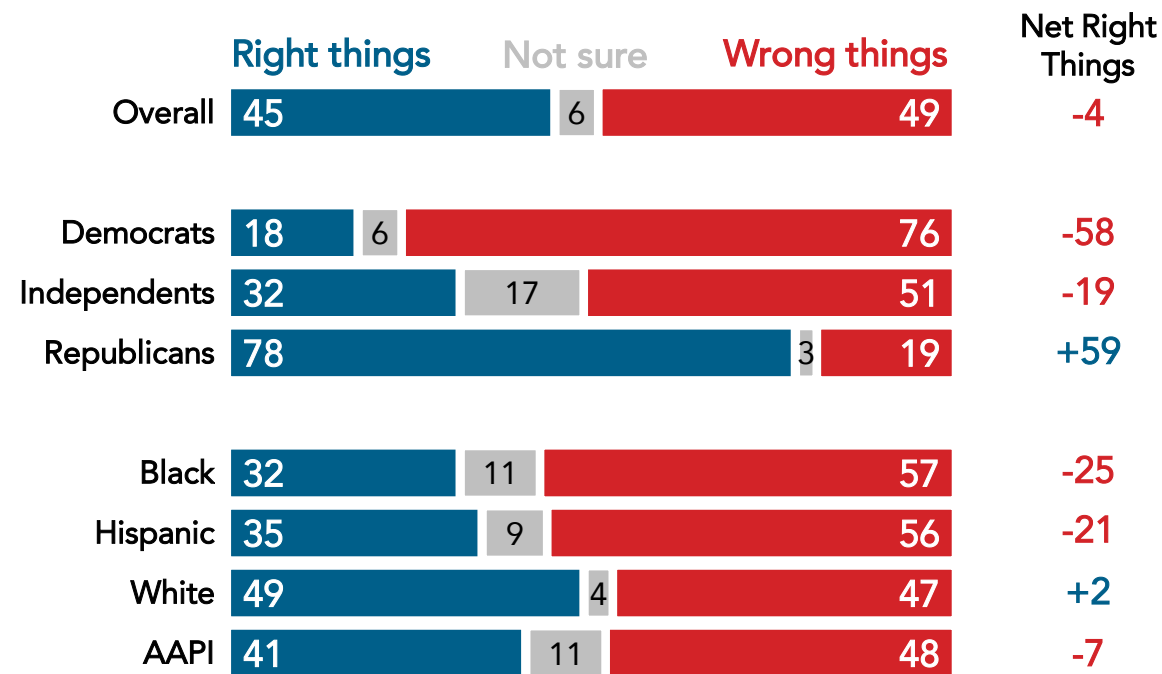


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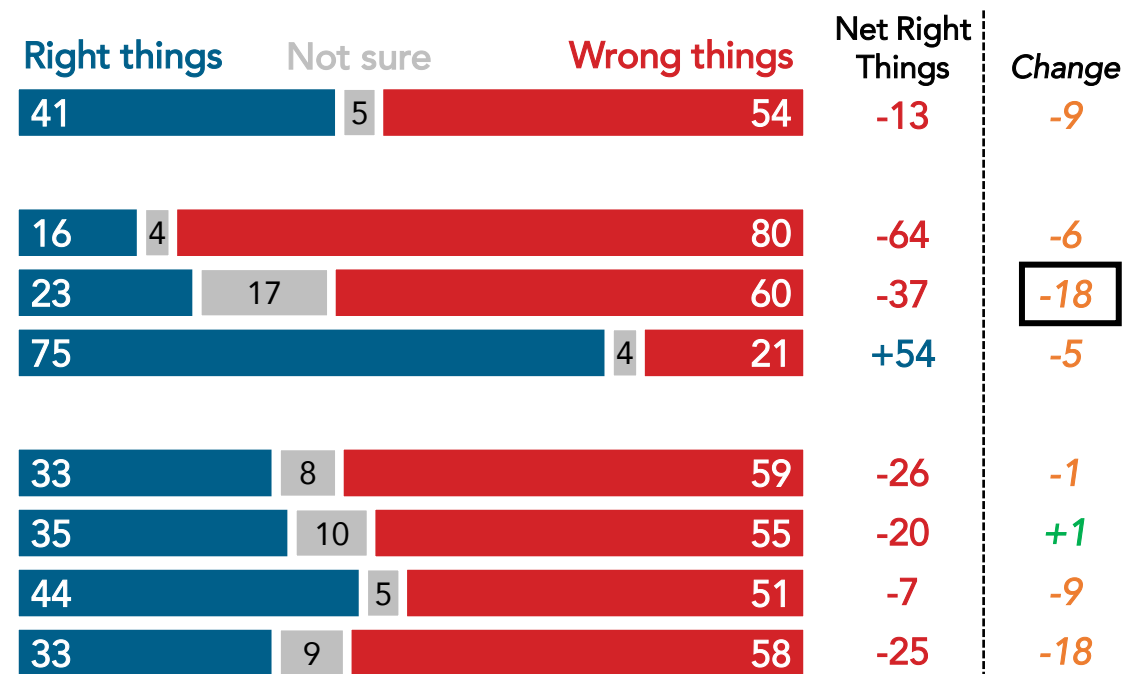
Messages About the Speaker Election Increase the Share of People Who Say the GOP Is Focused on the Wrong Things

After messaging about Republicans' inability to select a new Speaker, the share of independents who say the party is focused on the right things declines by 18 points (from net -19 right things before messaging, to net -37 after messaging).

Pre-Speaker Election Messaging: Do you think the Republican Party is focused on the right things?



Post-Speaker Election Messaging: Again, do you think the Republican Party is focused on the right things?

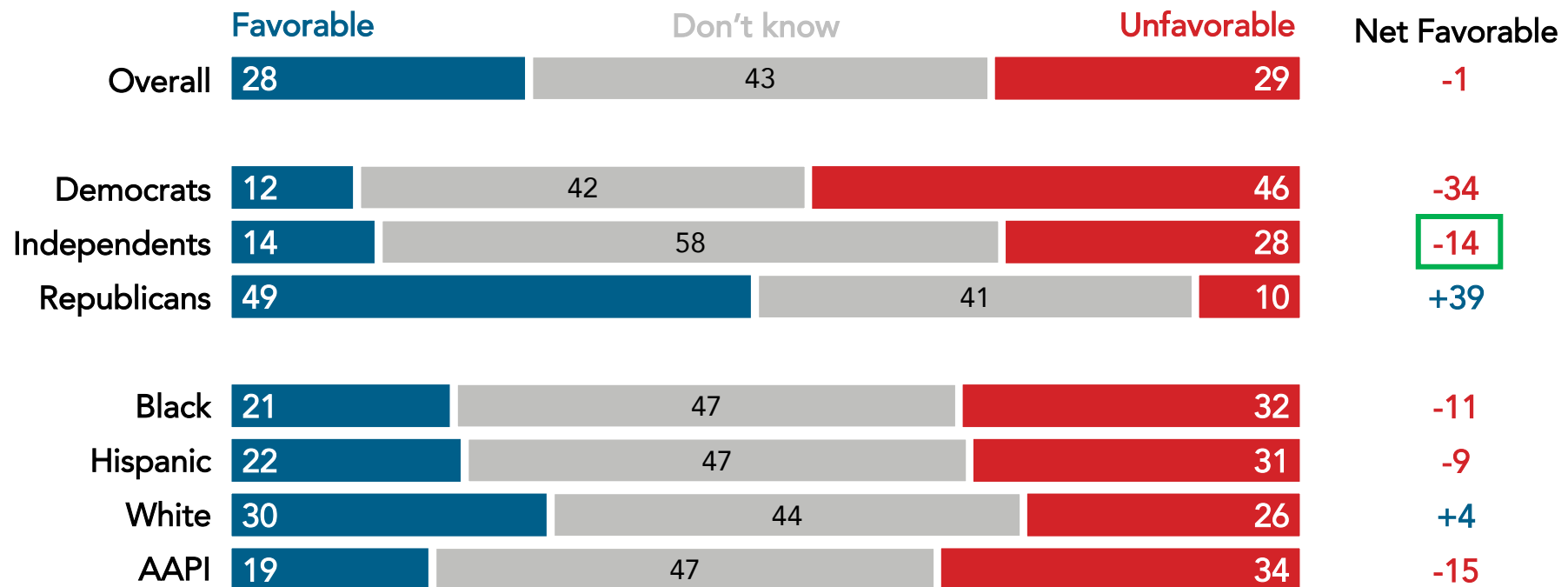


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Three in Five Americans Know Speaker Johnson With His Title, With Views Breaking Evenly

When McCarthy was elected Speaker in January of this year, he was underwater by 10 points (31% favorable/41% unfavorable), while Americans have much more neutral views of the new Speaker by comparison (just 1 point underwater, 28% favorable/29% unfavorable).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Mike Johnson, the new Speaker of the House of Representatives.



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Johnson's Votes on Healthcare – Including Social Security/ Medicare/Medicaid, Veterans, & Drug Costs – Most Concerning

Earlier this week, House Republicans elected Congressman Mike Johnson to be the Speaker of the House. Below are some of the things he has done as a member of Congress before becoming Speaker. Please indicate how concerning you find each one.

Mike Johnson...

	Very concerning	Somewhat concerning	Not concerning	Overall	Total Concerning		
					Dem	Ind	Rep
...has voted to cut programs like Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid and has called cutting them his number one priority	64	20	15	85	95	83	73
...voted against healthcare for veterans exposed to toxic burn pits while serving	58	27	15	85	94	86	74
...voted against giving Medicare the power to negotiate for lower prescription drug prices	55	25	19	81	92	84	66
...voted against capping the cost of insulin	53	26	21	79	91	82	65
...voted against protecting interracial marriage	52	22	26	74	92	74	54
...voted against keeping guns out of the hands of people convicted of domestic abuse and stalking	50	23	27	73	86	70	59
...supports banning abortions, including criminally prosecuting doctors who perform abortions with sentences of 1-10 years of hard labor	49	22	29	71	93	73	46
...called the violent insurrection at the Capitol on January 6 th , 2021 a "legitimate protest"	49	20	31	69	91	70	44
...opposes same-sex marriage and supports arresting people for same-sex intercourse. Johnson even said once that allowing same-sex couples to marry would be like legalizing pedophilia	49	21	30	70	90	72	47
...is a leading election denier in Congress – Johnson personally wrote the legal arguments that were used to try to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election	47	22	32	68	92	69	41
...co-sponsored a national abortion ban	46	21	32	68	90	69	42
...voted to lower corporate taxes by 40%	45	25	31	69	88	66	49
...is the least experienced Speaker of the House in 140 years. He has never served in any senior leadership position, or even chaired a major committee	44	26	30	70	89	68	50

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On Drug Costs, Guns, Elections, and Corporate Taxes, Biden's Record Enjoys Strong Support While Johnson's Raises Concerns

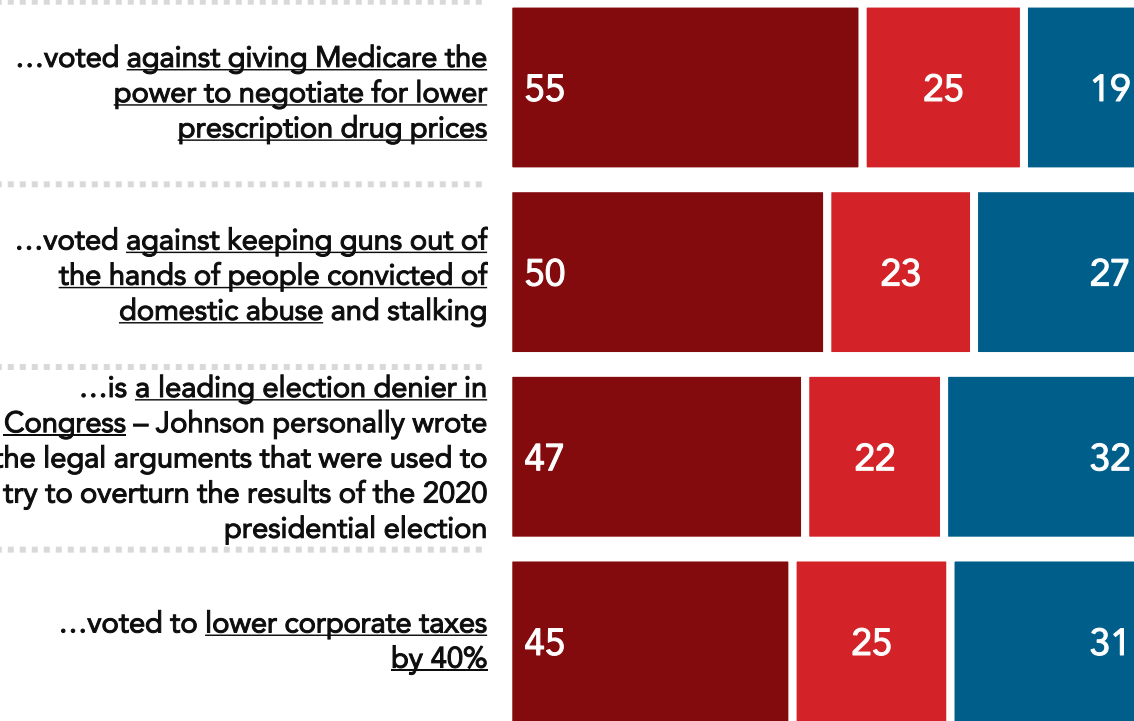
Majorities support Biden's accomplishments on a range of issues, while Johnson's actions on each are concerning to at least two in three.

Below are some of the things **Mike Johnson** has done as a member of Congress before becoming Speaker. Please indicate how concerning you find each one.

Below is a list of some of the things that **President Biden** has gotten done during his presidency. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each one.

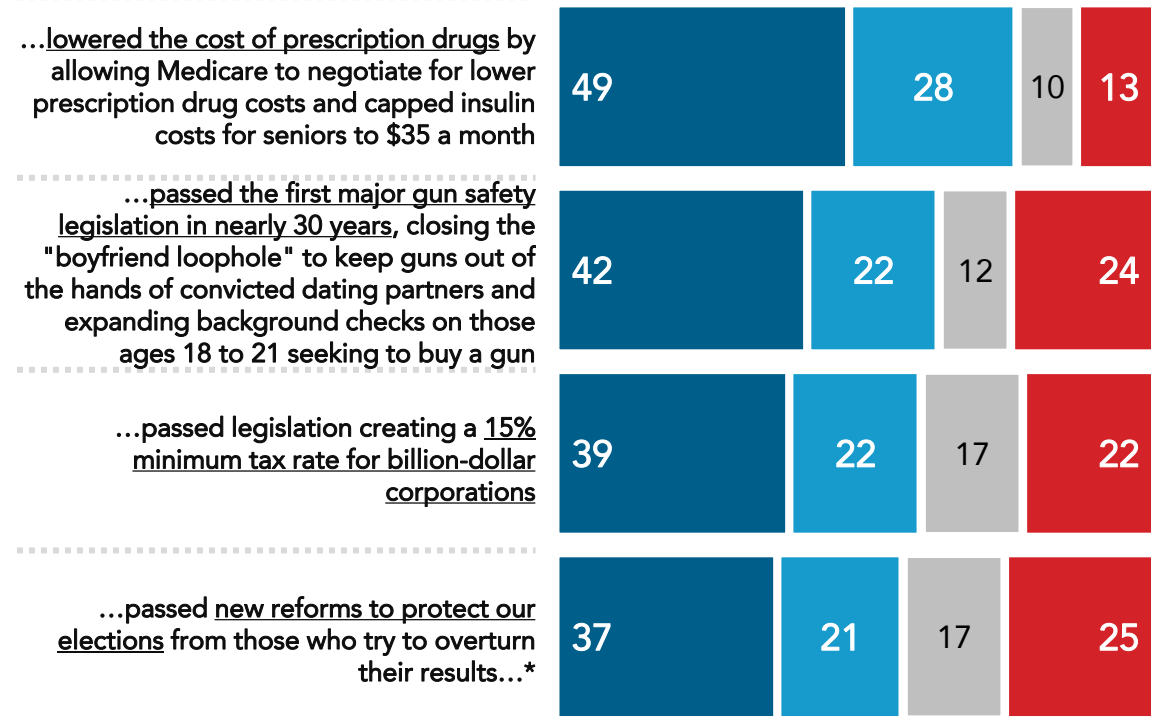
Mike Johnson...

Very concerning Somewhat concerning Not concerning



President Biden...

Strongly support Somewhat support Not sure Oppose

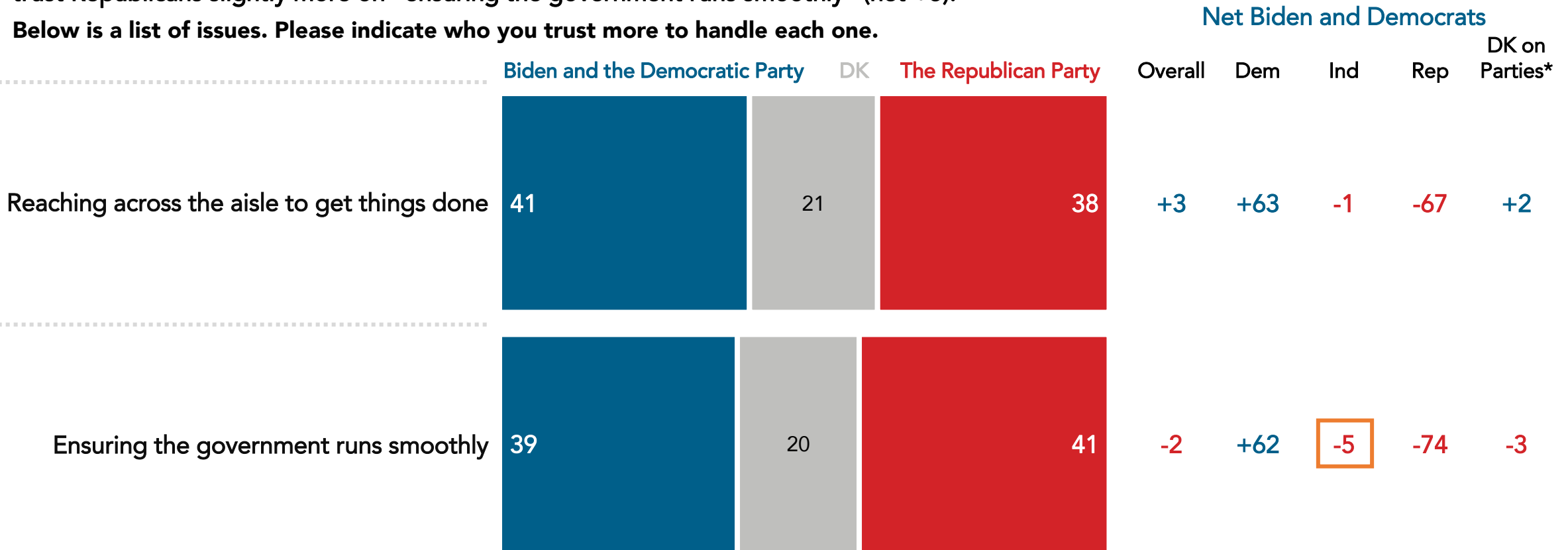


*Full question text included: "limiting the ability of incumbents to stop the certification of election results, making it harder for members of Congress to object to election results, and speeding up the process for court review of election results."
 Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days.
 Latest wave conducted October 26-October 30, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Americans Remain Divided on Who They Trust More to Get Things Done and Run the Government

Independents are split on which party they trust more on “reaching across the aisle to get things done” (net +1 Republicans), while they trust Republicans slightly more on “ensuring the government runs smoothly” (net +5).

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



*“DK on Parties” indicates respondents who don’t know which party they trust more on at least one of a range of issue areas. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 26-October 30, 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 October 26-October 30, 2023. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 75 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. 100 additional interviews were conducted among voters ages 18-34. 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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