

# navigator\*

Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>

## The Supreme Court: A Guide for Advocates

*\*This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics.*



Credit: Gary Blakeley/Shutterstock

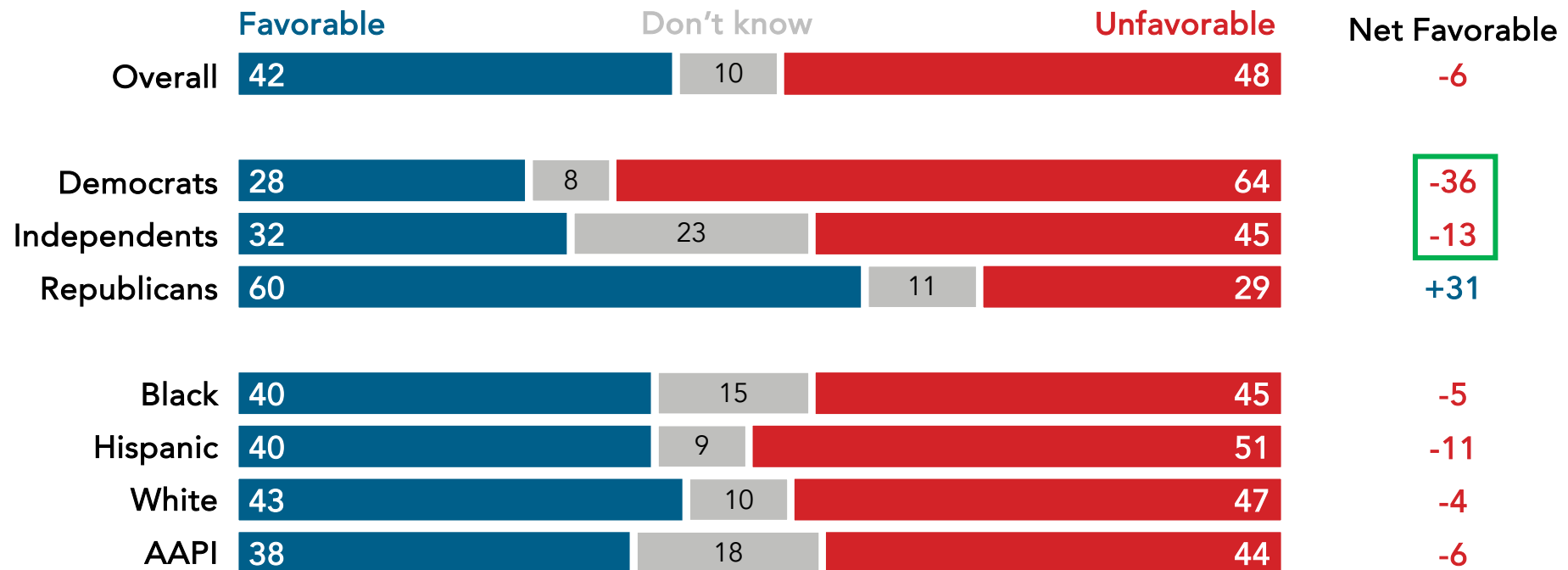
## Key Takeaways:

- Nearly half of Americans view the Supreme Court unfavorably, as a majority say they don't trust the Court to make the right decisions in the future.
- Large majorities support reforming the Supreme Court, including through term limits for justices, Congressional ethics investigations, and legislation that would require the Court to adopt a code of conduct for justices, as a plurality say Congress does not currently have oversight of the Court.
- Those who are unfavorable to the Supreme Court call it "ultra-conservative," "MAGA," "imbalanced," and "politicians in robes" after messaging.

# The Supreme Court Is Viewed Negatively by Nearly Half of Americans

A majority of Democrats (64% unfavorable) and a plurality of independents (45%) view the Court unfavorably, as do majorities or pluralities of every racial group.

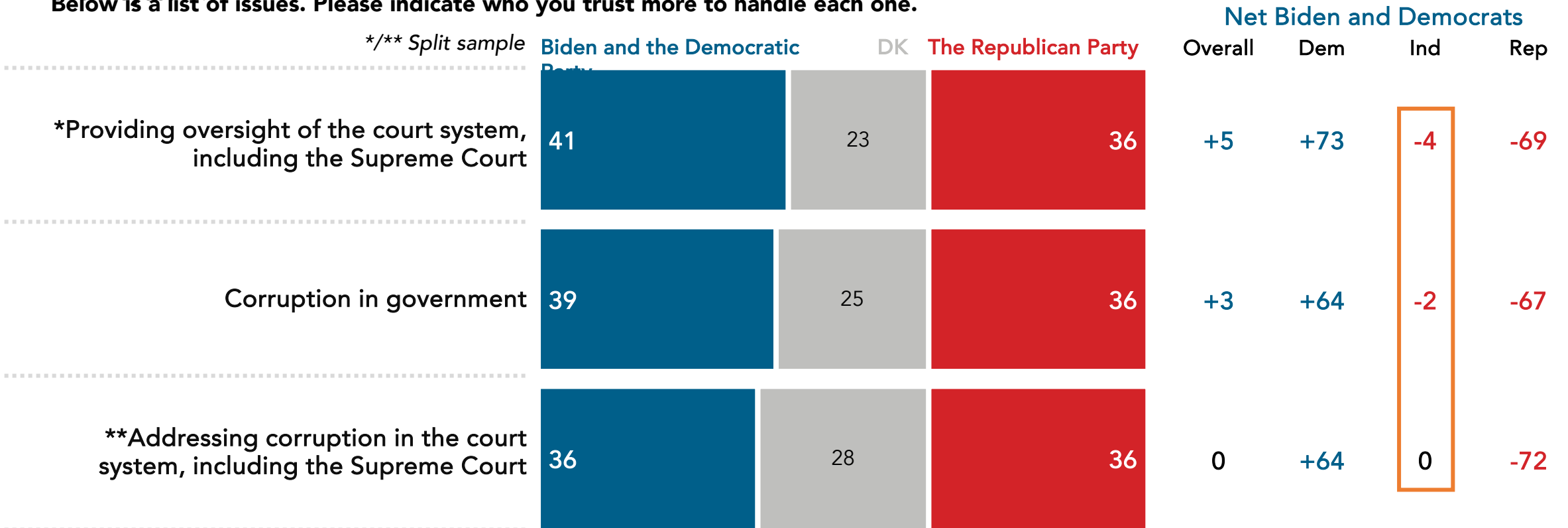
Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: the U.S. Supreme Court.



This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted November 9-November 13, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Biden and Democrats Are More Trusted on SCOTUS Oversight, Less on Addressing Corruption in the Court

Majorities of independents say they don't know enough to say on each of the below: 64% say they do not know enough to say on "providing oversight," 60% say the same on "corruption in government," and 56% say the same on "addressing corruption in the court system." Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you trust more to handle each one.

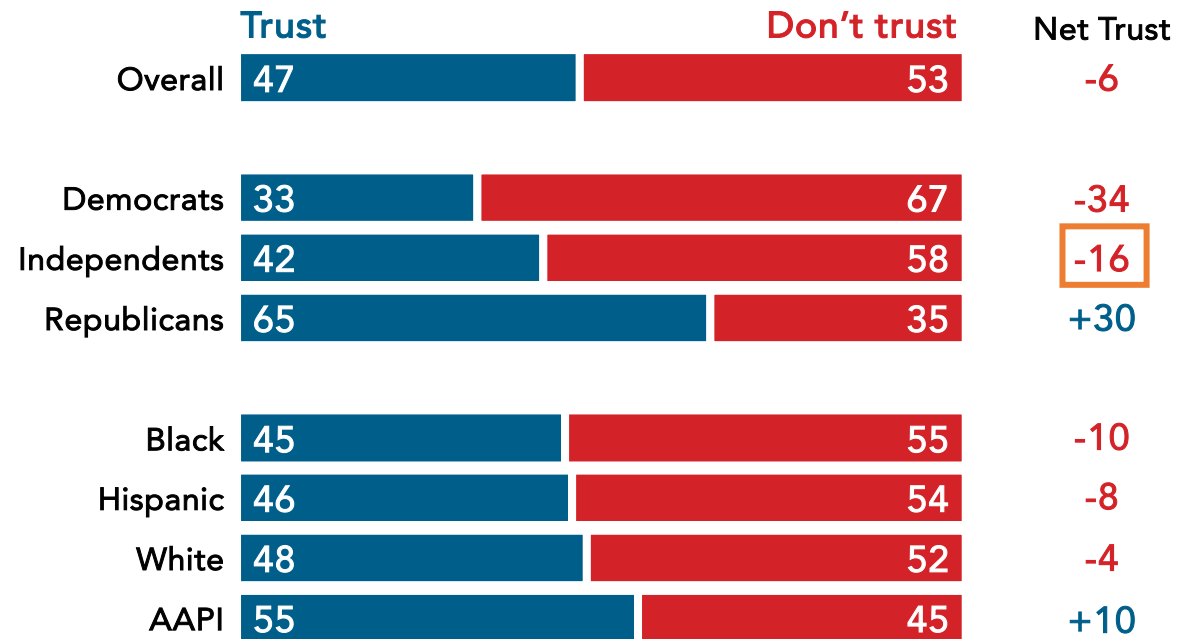


This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted November 9-November 13, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

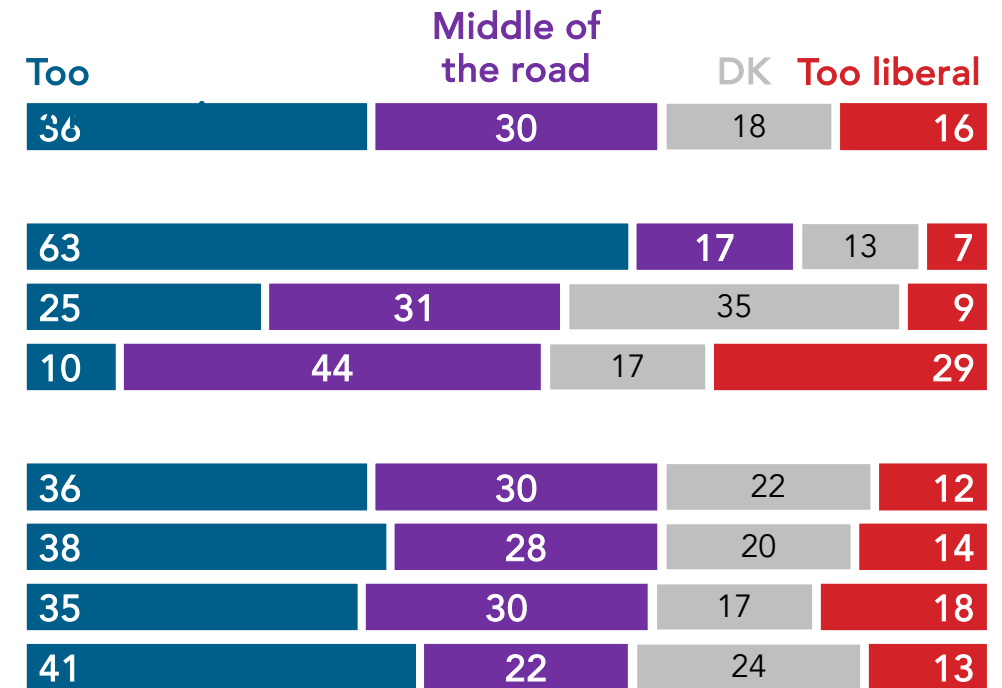
# A Slim Majority of Americans Do Not Trust the Supreme Court, With a Plurality Calling It Too Conservative

Nearly three in five independents (58%) say they don't trust the Supreme Court "that much" or "at all" to make the right decisions in the future. Almost two in five Americans say the Supreme Court is too conservative, including pluralities across racial groups.

How much do you trust the Supreme Court to make the right decisions in the future?



Would you say the United States Supreme Court has been too conservative, too liberal, or middle of the road?

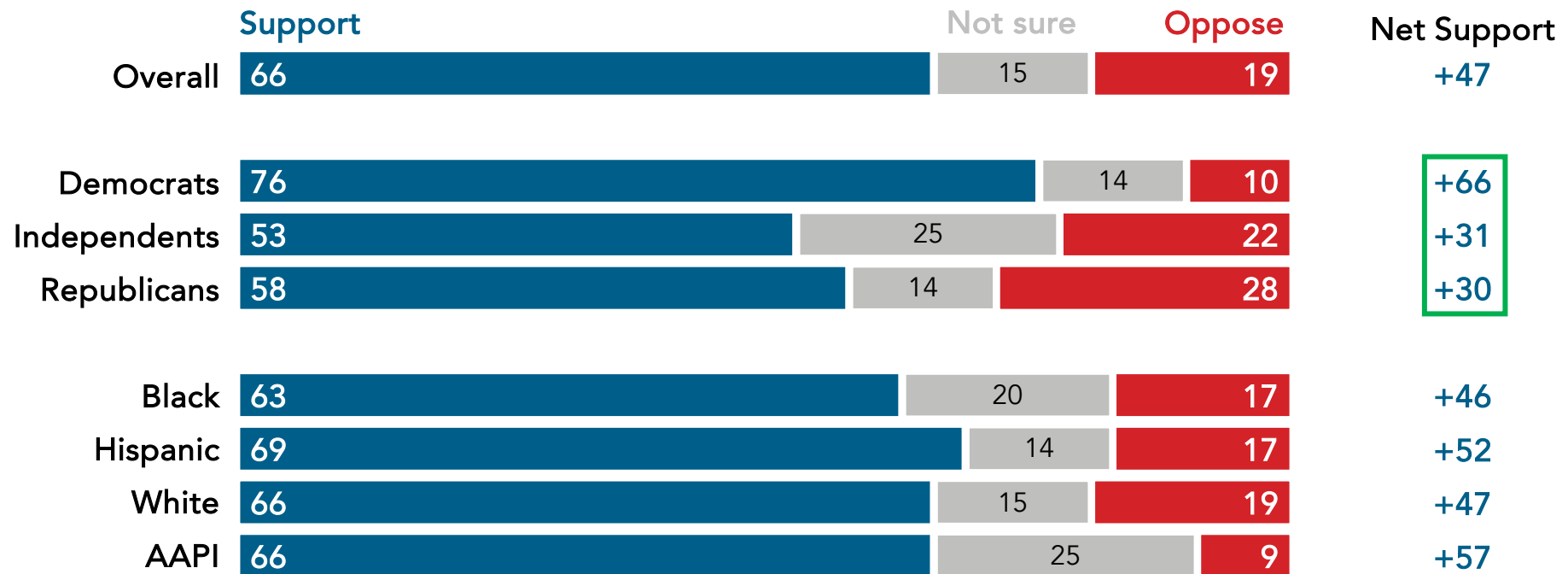


This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted November 9-November 13, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Bipartisan Majorities Support Term Limits for Supreme Court Justices

Majorities across party lines support term limits for justices, including 76% of Democrats, 53% of independents, and 58% of Republicans.

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

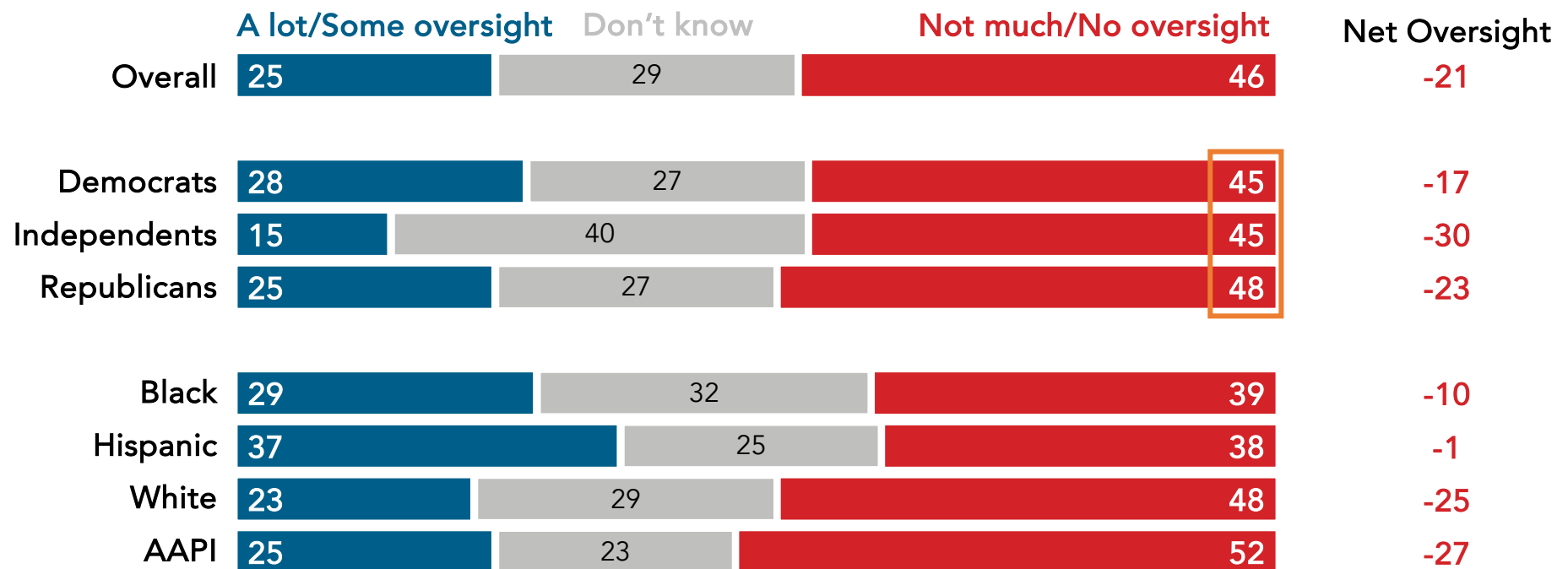


This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted November 9-November 13, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# While One in Three Don't Know Enough to Say, a Plurality Say Congress Does Not Have Oversight Over the Supreme Court

Pluralities across party lines say Congress has “not much oversight” or “no oversight” over the Supreme Court (45% of Democrats and independents and 48% of Republicans).

As far as you know... how much oversight does Congress have over the Supreme Court?

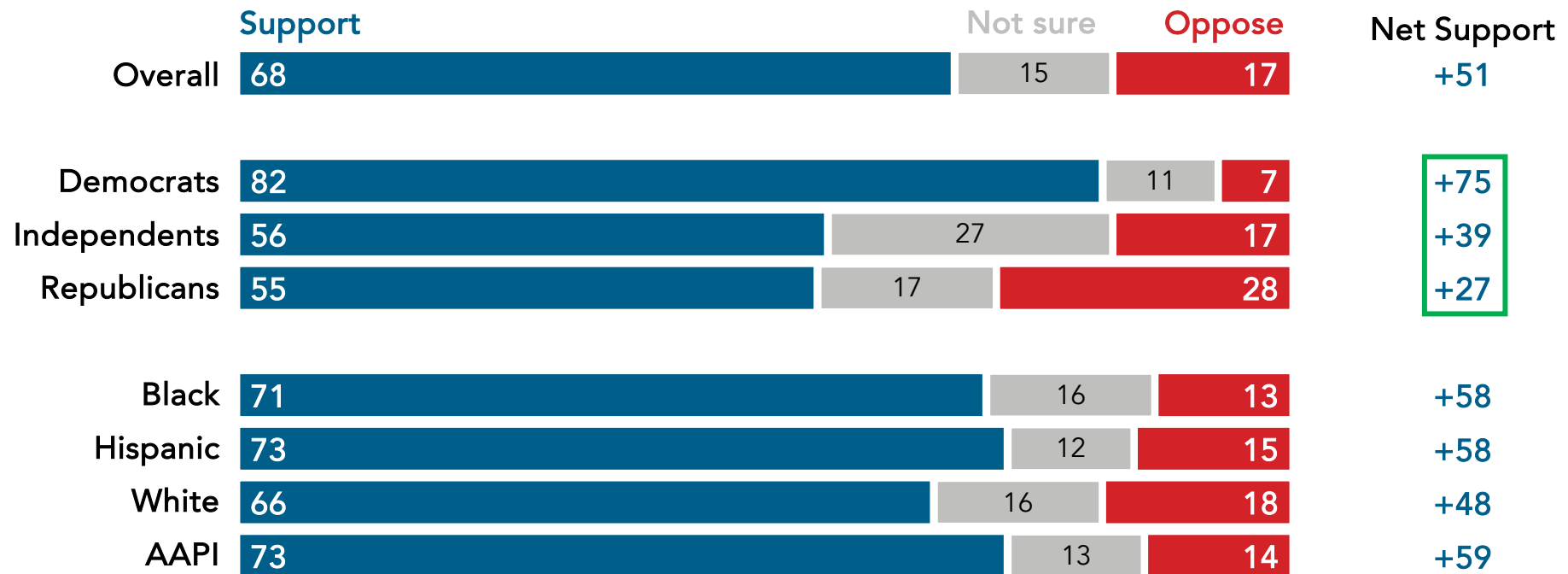


This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted November 9-November 13, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Nearly Seven in Ten Support Congressional Investigations of Ethics Violations by Supreme Court Justices

Four in five Democrats (82% support), along with majorities of independents (56%) and Republicans (55%), support Congressional investigations of potential ethics violations by Supreme Court justices.

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



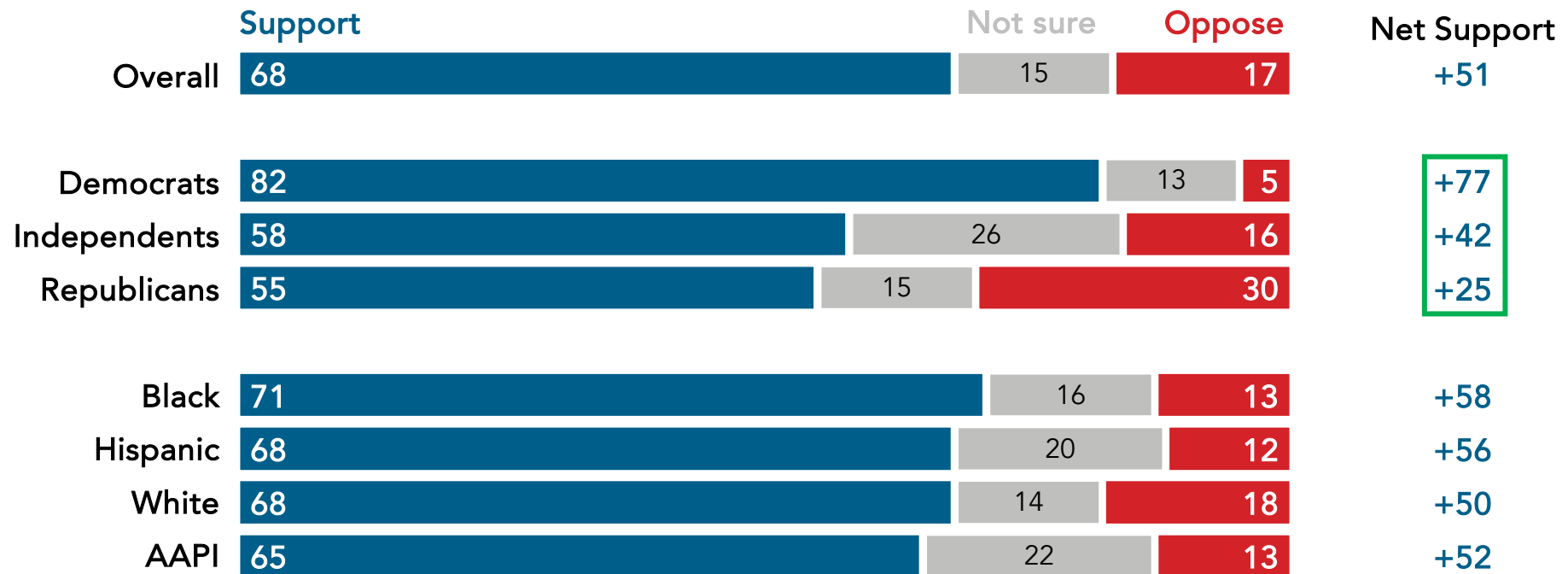
This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted November 9-November 13, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).



# Bipartisan Majorities Support a Supreme Court Code of Ethics, Stricter Financial Disclosure Rules, and Formal Complaints

Four in five Democrats (82% support), along with majorities of independents (58%) and Republicans (55%), support legislation to require the Supreme Court to adopt a code of conduct for justices, expand financial disclosure rules, and allow for the investigation of formal complaints against justices.

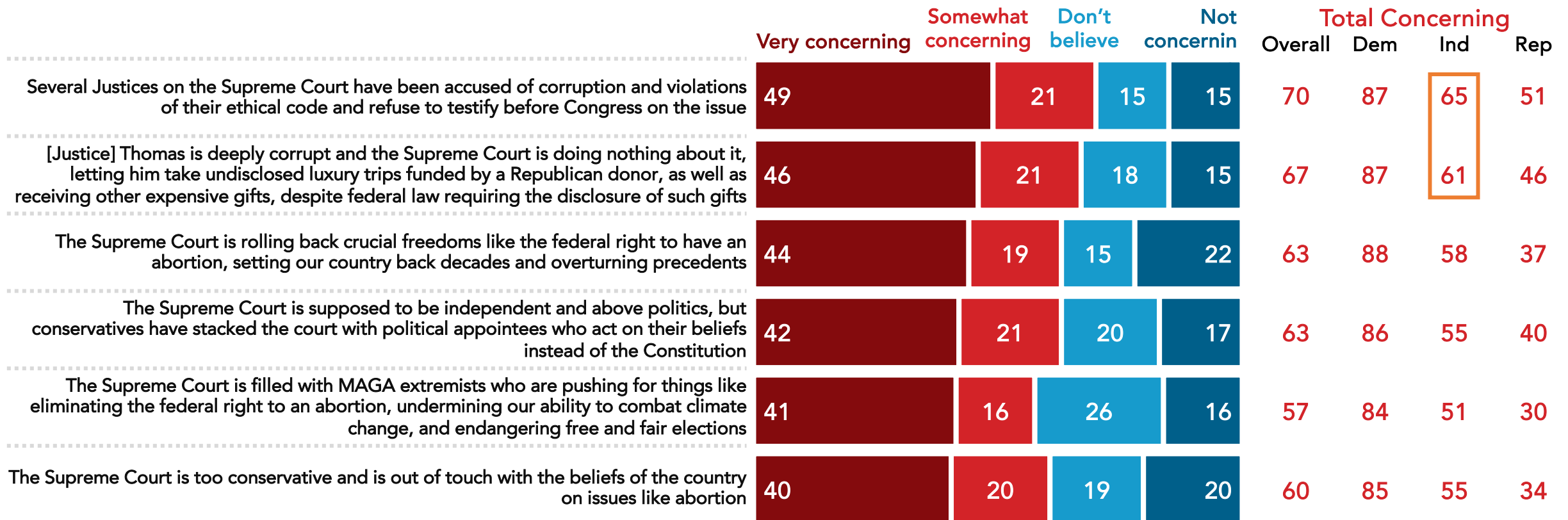
As you may know, several Senators introduced a bill that would require the Supreme Court to adopt a code of conduct for justices, implement stricter financial disclosure rules, and allow formal complaints against justices to be investigated by judges serving on lower courts. Knowing this, do you support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



This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted November 9-November 13, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Justices' Refusal to Testify Before Congress on Ethics, Thomas' Actions Most Concerning on the Supreme Court

Independents say several justices' refusal to testify before Congress (65% concerning) and Thomas' actions (61%) are most concerning. Below is a list of statements about the Supreme Court. Please indicate whether you find each one concerning.



This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted November 9-November 13, 2023. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Those Unfavorable to SCOTUS Describe the Court as “Ultra-Conservative,” “MAGA,” “Imbalanced,” “Politicians in Robes”

Independents and Republicans who view the Court unfavorably are most likely to describe it as “politicians in robes” (32% and 31%, respectively) and “imbalanced” (26% and 23%), while Democrats drive the share saying it is “ultra-conservative” and “MAGA” (35% each).

[Among unfavorable to SCOTUS] Which of the following phrases do you think best describes the current Supreme Court?

		Dem	Ind*	Rep
Ultra-conservative Court	28%	35	23	12
MAGA Court	25	35	12	7
Imbalanced Court	25	26	26	23
Politicians in robes	25	22	32	31
Trump Court	24	33	12	8
Republican Court	21	27	14	9
Political Court	14	11	24	18
Extreme Court	12	12	8	14
Activist Court	5	3	9	7
McConnell Court	4	5	3	3

\*Small sample size; results are directional.  
 This survey was prepared and fielded before the Supreme Court announced its new code of ethics.  
 Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted November 9-November 13, 2023.  
 For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# navigator\*

## 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 November 9-November 13, 2023. 105 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 72 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 103 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](mailto:press@navigatorresearch.org)

**To learn more about  
Navigator:**

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter