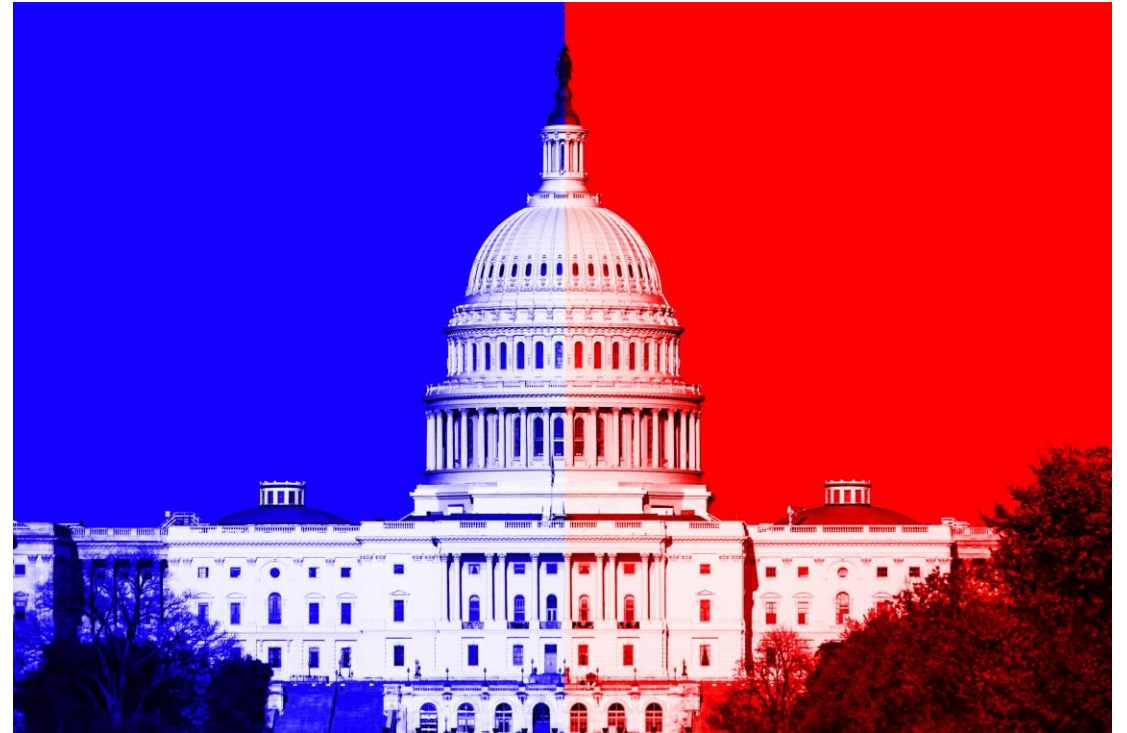


# navigator\*

Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>

Democracy and the  
2024 Election: A Guide  
for Advocates



Credit: Benjamin Clapp/Shutterstock

## Key Takeaways:

- Americans across party lines – particularly outside of MAGA Republicans – agree with a range of positive statements about democracy, including the need to count every vote accurately as opposed to knowing results quickly and that more citizens voting is good for democracy.
- Americans are as confident their ballot will be counted correctly and fairly in 2024 as they were at this time in the 2020 cycle.
- Friends, family, and local figures – from local election officials, to election workers, to state officials, to local news media – are most trusted to deliver the truth about election results.

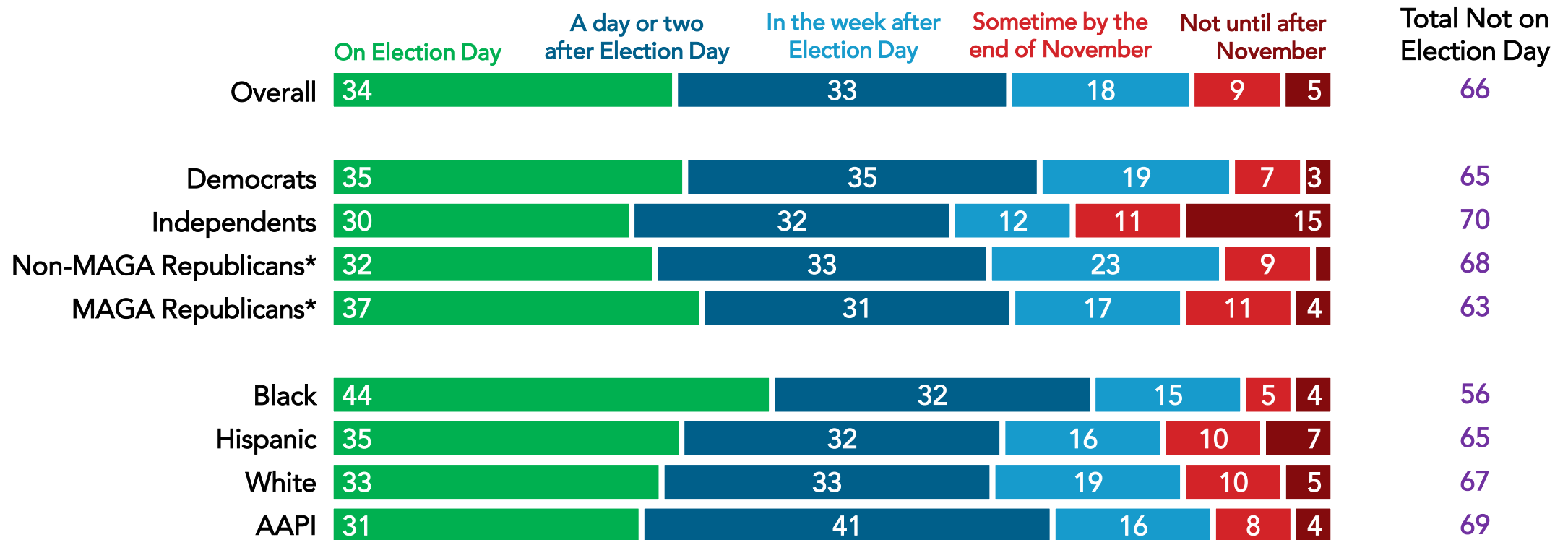
## Key Takeaways:

- Majorities of Americans across party lines say political violence is never acceptable, while a majority say Trump and Republicans' supporters are more likely to resort to political violence if their preferred candidate loses.
- Concerns around democracy are largely partisan: Democrats are concerned about Trump and his supporters trying to overturn results, while Republicans are more concerned about immigrants illegally casting votes.
- The best reasons to accept the results and oppose efforts to challenge the 2024 election are not overly politicized: that losers need to learn to accept results even when they don't like the outcome, that it's not unusual to learn the results of an election until days after, and that we cannot let extremists jeopardize our democracy by questioning legally cast votes.

# Majorities of Americans Across Party Lines Believe We Will Not Know Who Won the Presidential Election on Election Night

While roughly one in three Americans say we will know on Election Day (34%), another third say a day or two after (33%) and the remaining third say in the week after Election Day, sometime by the end of November, or not until December (33%).

When do you think we will know who won the presidential election?

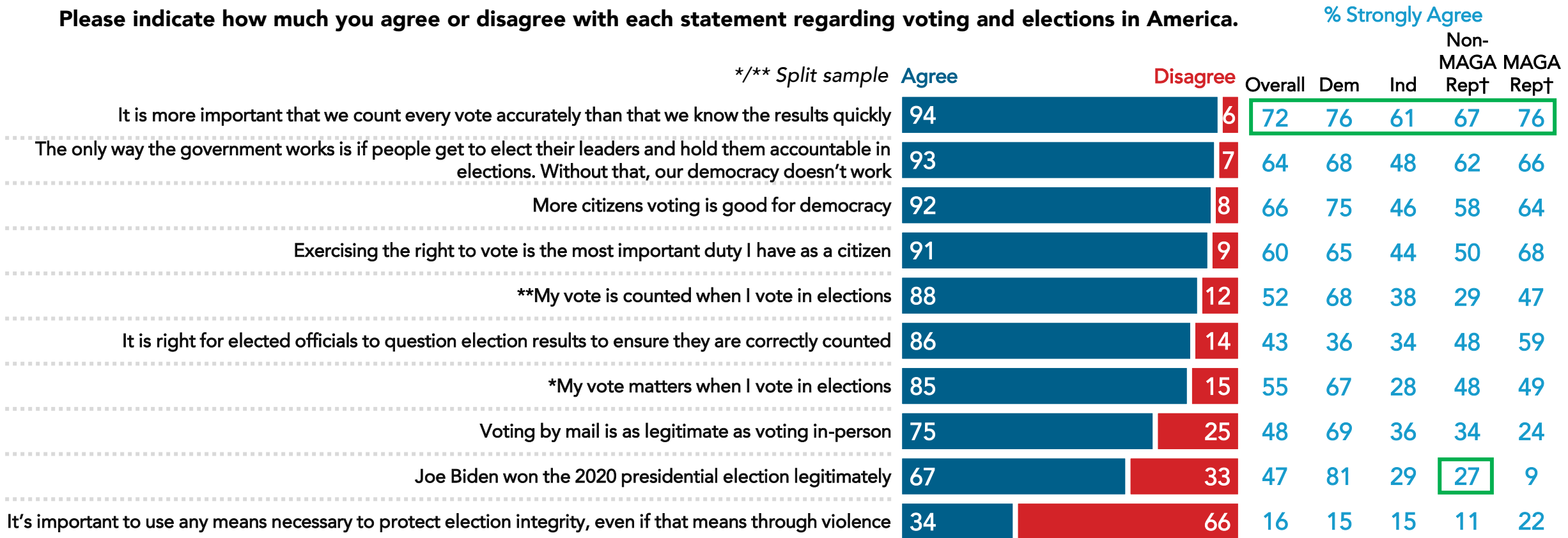


\*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.  
 Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 24-October 28, 2024.  
 For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Majorities of Americans Agree We Need to Count Every Vote & That Government Works Through Accountability

Majorities across party lines, including MAGA Republican†, agree that it is more important that we count every vote accurately than that we know the results quickly.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with each statement regarding voting and elections in America.

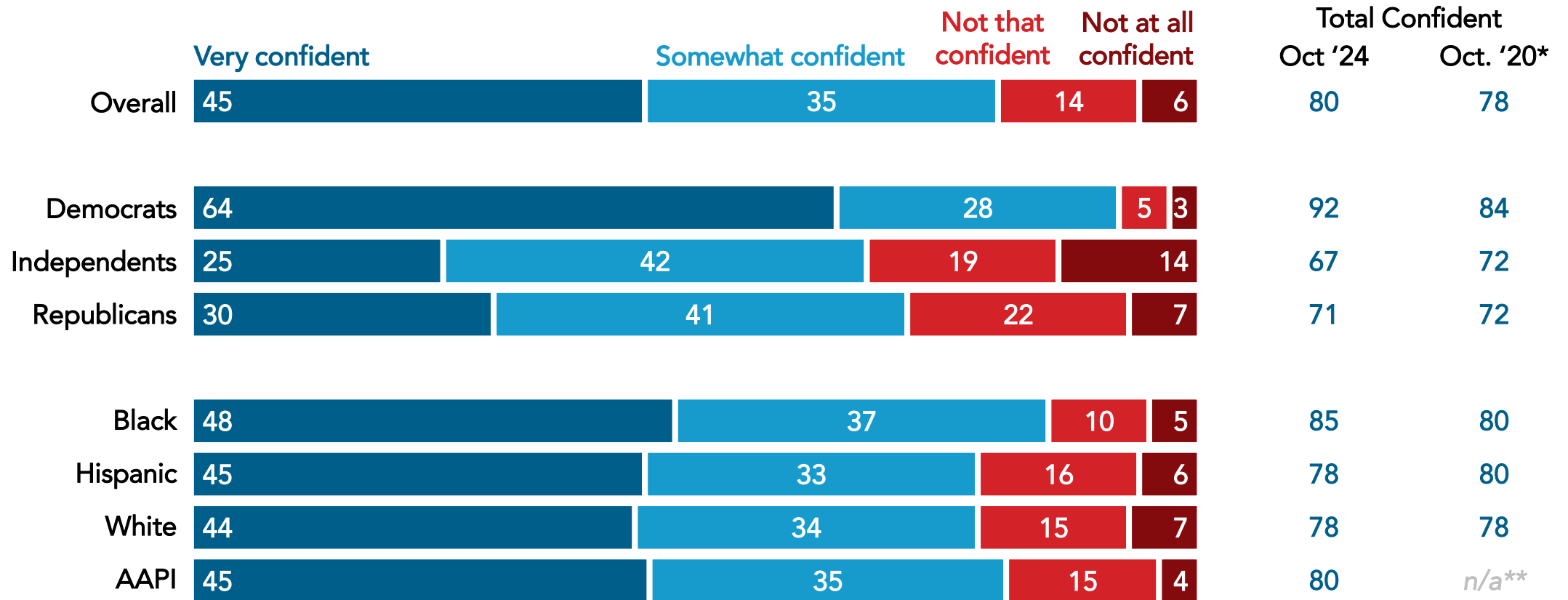


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# Confidence in Ballots Being Counted Correctly and Fairly Is Consistent With Pre-2020 Election Levels

Confidence is consistent among Republicans (71% confident now, 72% then) and is higher with Democrats (92% now, 84% then).

How confident are you that your ballot in the 2024 election will be counted correctly and fairly?



\*Previous question text read: "How confident are you that your ballot in the November presidential election will be counted correctly and fairly?"

\*\*The sample size of this group in the October 2020 poll is too small to report out the results.

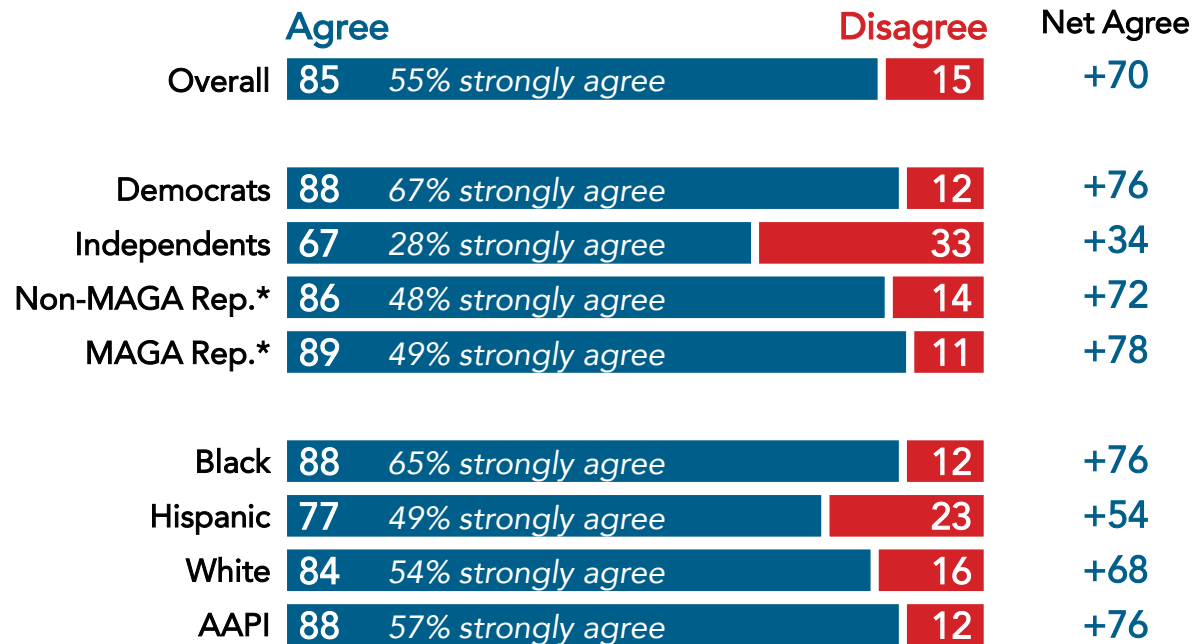
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days.

Latest wave conducted October 24-October 28, 2024. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

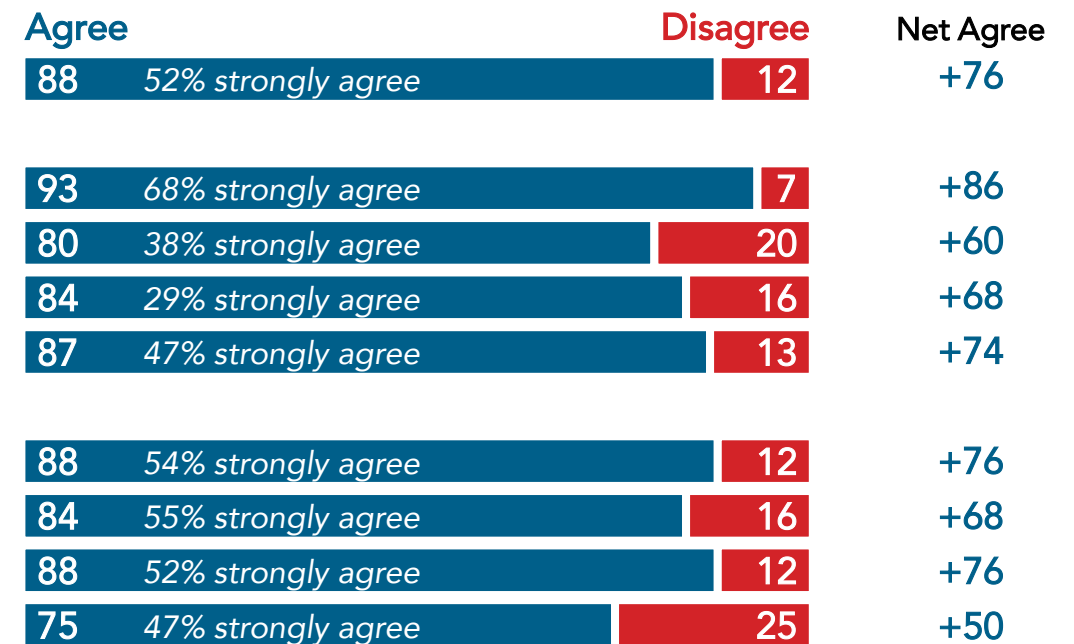
# While the Intensity of Their Agreement Is Partisan, Americans Generally Agree Their Vote Matters And Is Counted

At least four in five Democrats, independents, and both MAGA and non-MAGA Republicans\* agree their vote is counted when they vote in elections, and at least two in three across each of those groups also agree their vote matters when they vote.

**(Split sample) Please indicate how much you agree or disagree:** My vote matters when I vote in elections.



**(Split sample) Please indicate how much you agree or disagree:** My vote is counted when I vote in elections.

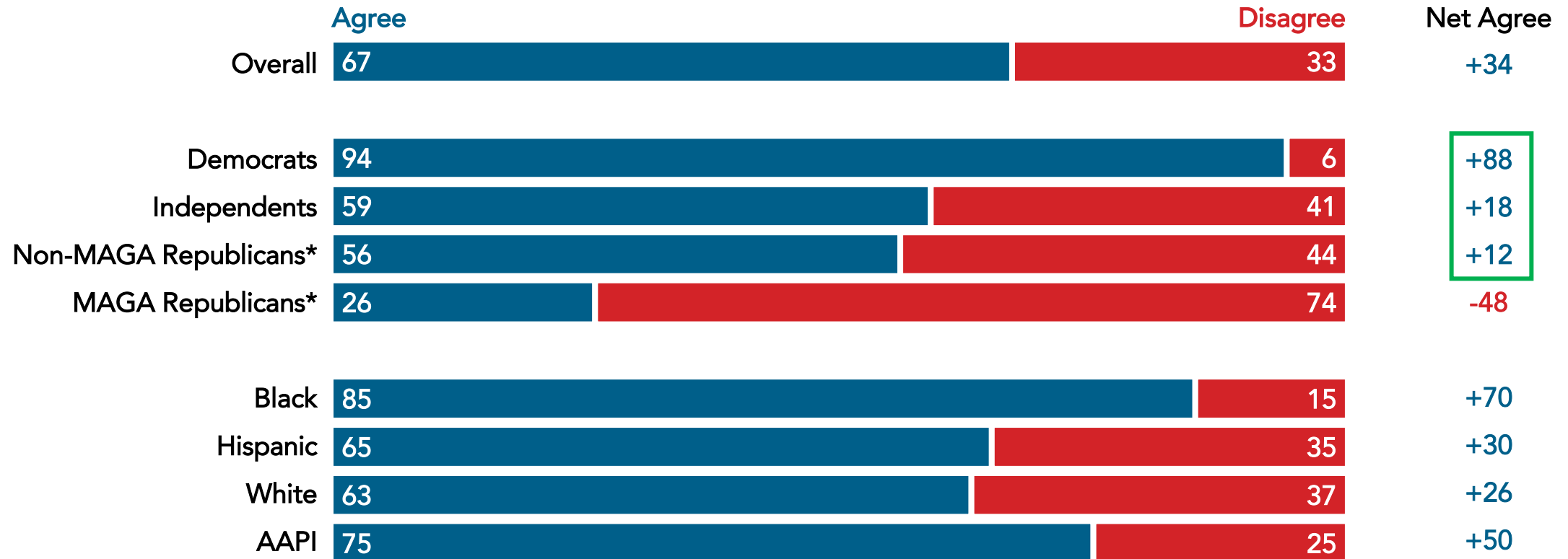


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# MAGA Republicans Stand Alone in Saying Joe Biden Did Not Win the 2020 Presidential Election Legitimately

While a majority of non-MAGA Republicans\* agree that Biden won the 2020 election legitimately, roughly three in four MAGA Republicans\* (74%) disagree.

Please indicate how much you agree or disagree: Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election legitimately.



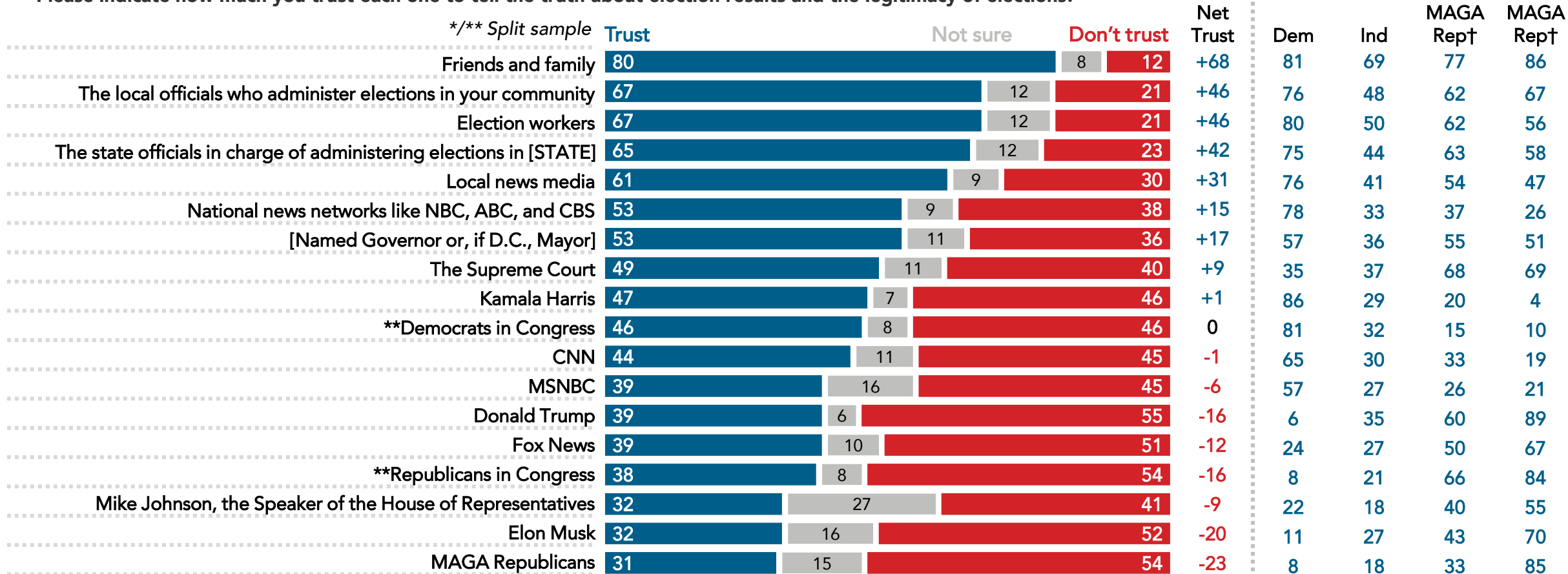
\*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 24-October 28, 2024. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).



# Friends and Family, Local Officials and Election Workers, Local News Media Most Trusted to Tell the Truth About Elections

MAGA Republicans, Elon Musk, and Mike Johnson are among the least trusted to tell the truth about elections.

Please indicate how much you trust each one to tell the truth about election results and the legitimacy of elections.

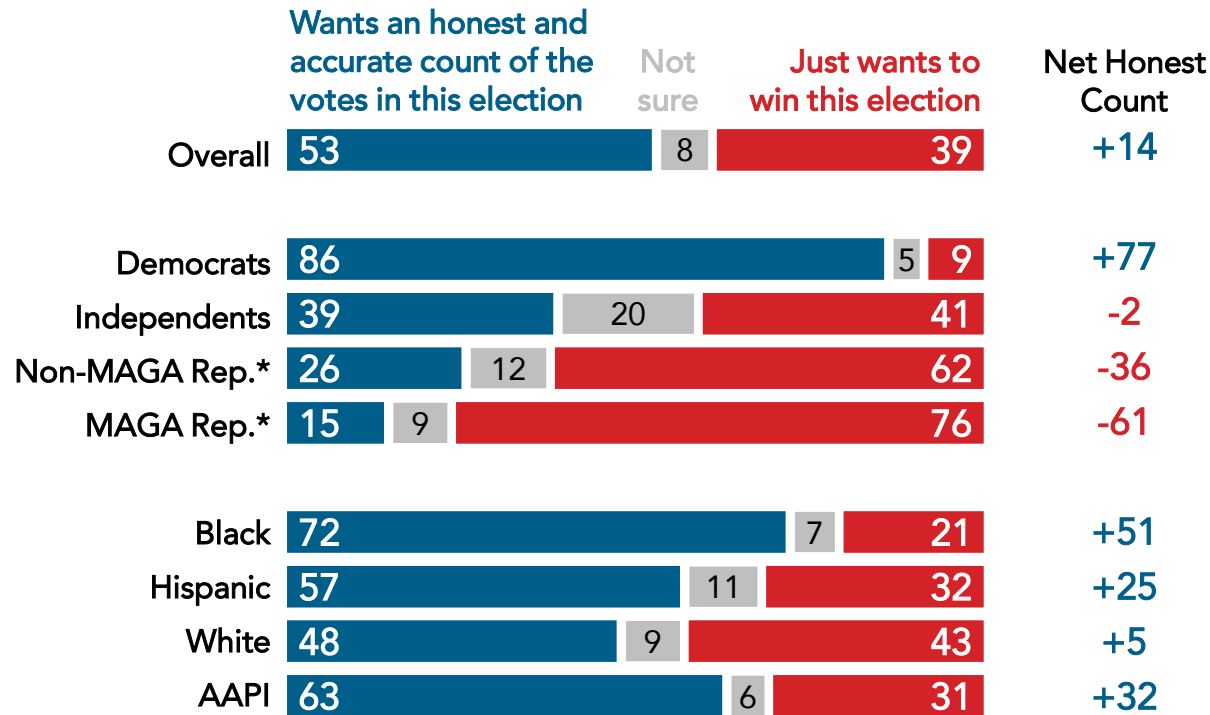


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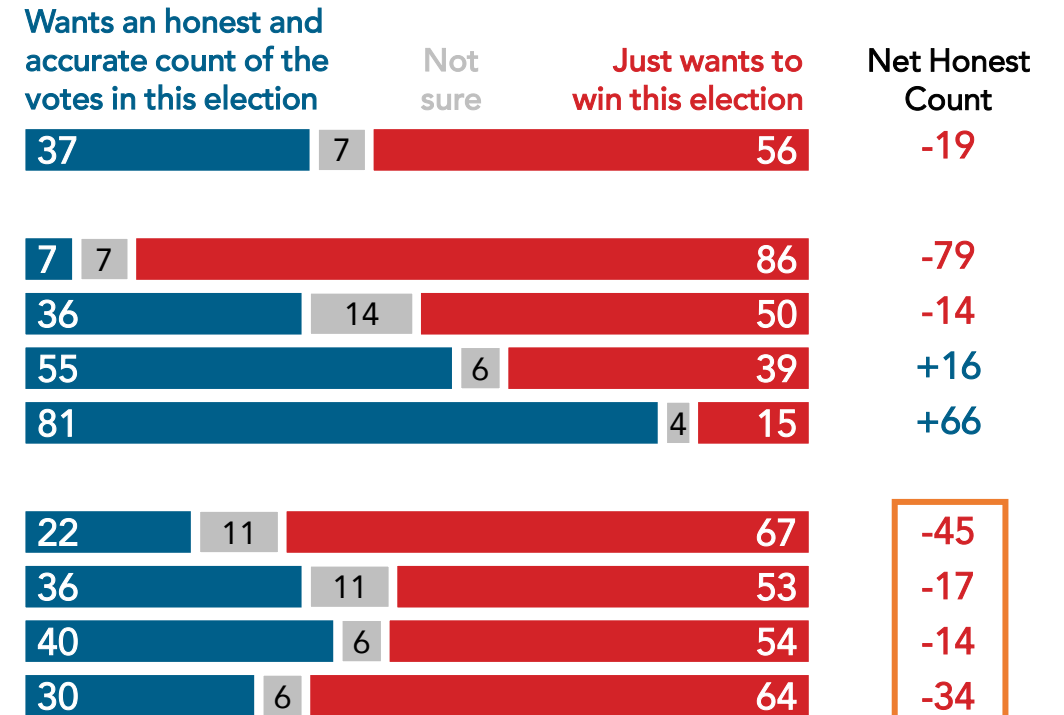
# Most Americans Say Harris Wants Accurate Vote Counting, While a Majority Thinks Trump Just Wants to Win

While independents are evenly split on whether Harris “wants an honest and accurate count” or “just wants to win the election,” they see Trump as just wanting to win by 14 points.

## Do you think Kamala Harris...



## Do you think Donald Trump...

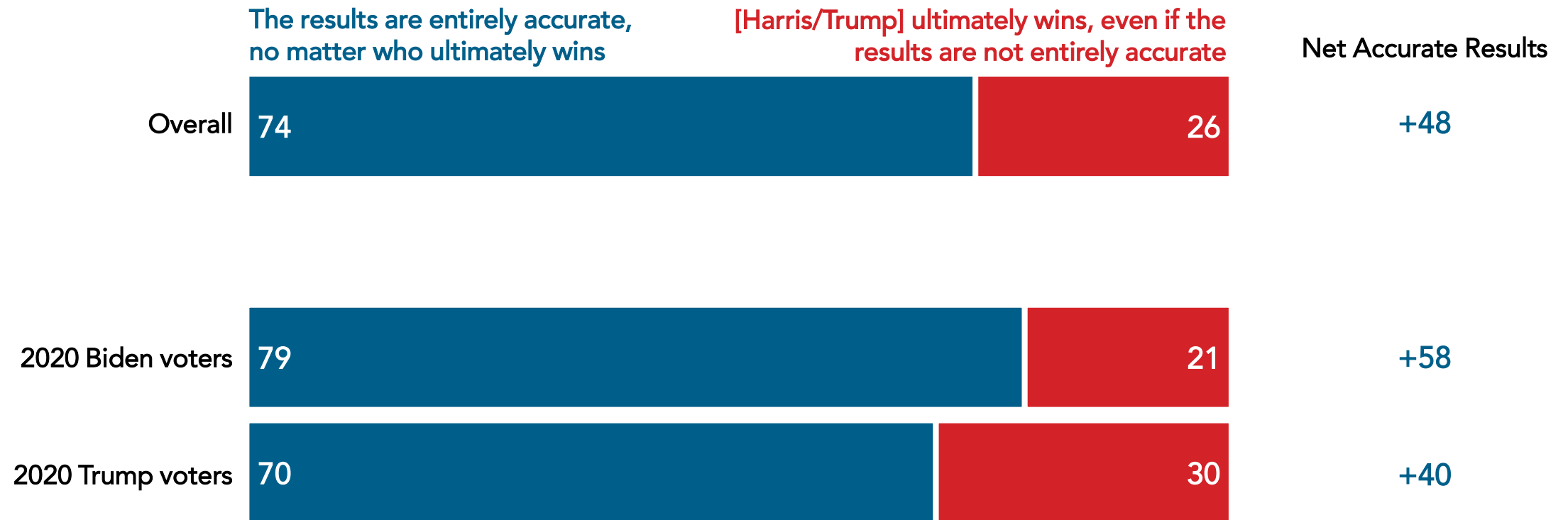


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# Majorities Across Party Lines Say It Is More Important Election Results Are Accurate Than That Their Preferred Candidate Wins

Both 2020 Biden voters (net +58 more important the results are entirely accurate) and 2020 Trump voters (net +40) agree that it is more important that the results are accurate than that their candidate wins.

When it comes to the way states tally the presidential election results this November, which is more important to you?

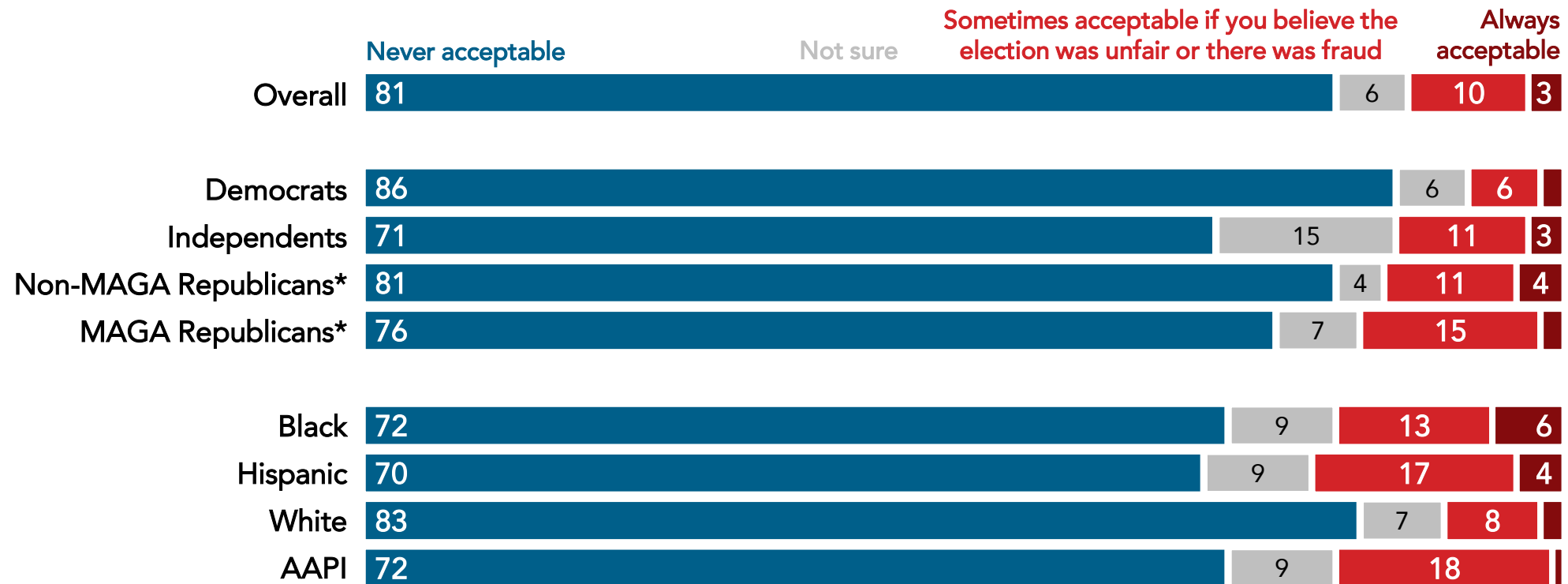


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 24-October 28, 2024.  
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# The Vast Majority of Americans Across Party Lines Agree Political Violence Is Never Acceptable

Large majorities of Americans across party lines say it is “never acceptable” to engage in political violence, including three in four MAGA Republicans\* (76% never acceptable) and more than four in five non-MAGA Republicans\* (81%) and Democrats (86%).

**Do you think it is acceptable to engage in violence to protest the results of an election? Political violence is...**



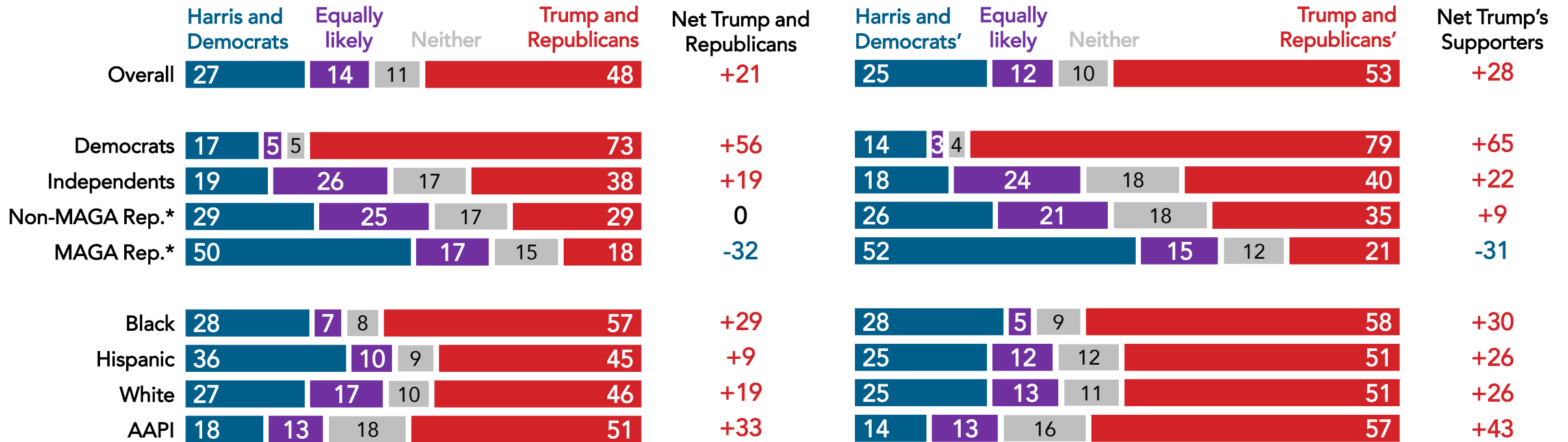
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# Trump and Republicans, and Their Supporters, Seen As More Likely to Try to Overturn Election Results and Resort to Violence

Among non-MAGA Republicans\*, equal shares say Harris and Trump would try to overturn the results of the election (29% each), but a plurality say Trump and Republicans' supporters would resort to violence (35%), more than say Harris and Democrats' (26%).

Who do you think is more likely to try to overturn the results of the election?

And which side's supporters do you think are more likely to resort to violence if their preferred candidate does not win?



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# Democrats Are Most Concerned About Trump Trying to Overturn the Election; Republicans About Immigrants Illegally Voting

MAGA Republicans\* are more concerned about immigrants illegally casting votes (88%) than non-MAGA Republicans\* (72%).

Below is a list of items some people may be concerned about when it comes to the 2024 election. Please indicate how concerned you are about each one.

## Top 9 Most Concerning

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	DK	Not concerned	Overall	Total Concerned			
						Dem	Ind	Non-MAGA Rep*	MAGA Rep*
Donald Trump and his supporters trying to overturn the results of the election	37	19	7	37	56	84	45	36	21
Immigrants illegally casting votes when they aren't citizens	33	21	8	38	54	31	50	72	88
Another event like January 6 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 at the Capitol happening again	32	27	9	32	59	79	46	47	36
Republicans trying to rig election laws to make it more likely they will win	29	21	9	41	50	76	38	29	19
Foreign countries manipulating the vote count or interfering in the election	27	34	10	29	61	61	53	54	70
People's legitimate votes may not be counted	27	34	8	31	61	54	53	63	76
Civil unrest breaking out as we wait for the election results to be finalized	27	36	10	27	63	72	50	54	61
Widespread voter fraud, or illegal votes being counted	27	27	8	38	54	40	52	58	79
Democrats trying to rig election laws to make it more likely they will win	25	19	8	48	44	17	40	65	84

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# Americans Are Less Concerned About a Premature Election Call, Long Lines, and Democrats Trying to Overturn the Results

A majority of Americans (52%) say they are not concerned about Harris trying to overturn the results of the election.

Below is a list of items some people may be concerned about when it comes to the 2024 election. Please indicate how concerned you are about each one.

## Bottom 10 Least Concerning

\*\*/\*\* Split sample

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	DK	Not concerned	Overall	Dem	Ind	Non-MAGA Rep*	MAGA Rep*
Voting machines being hacked or secretly changed to manipulate the vote count	24	29	9	38	54	46	49	55	69
***A candidate prematurely claiming victory in the election	24	28	10	38	53	60	39	43	53
Election administrators trying to manipulate the vote count to help the candidates they personally prefer	24	34	9	33	58	53	53	54	72
There will be violence or people intimidating voters at election sites	24	35	8	33	59	65	48	52	59
Election workers and elected officials refusing to certify the election results for political reasons or because they don't like the results	24	30	9	37	54	53	48	47	64
People who are eligible to vote won't be allowed to vote	23	27	9	41	50	56	43	41	51
Kamala Harris and her supporters trying to overturn the results of the election	21	18	9	52	40	16	40	56	74
People who are eligible and want to vote will stay home because they are worried about threats or intimidation when voting	20	35	9	36	55	62	43	50	54
There will be long lines for voters, and people will be turned away from casting their ballots	19	26	8	47	45	50	34	40	45
**A winner of the election may be prematurely announced	16	31	11	42	47	46	41	49	51

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# Most Convincing Reasons to Accept Results: Losers Need to Accept Results, Election Normalcy, Blocking Extremists

Democrats, independents, and non-MAGA Republicans\* say the most convincing reasons to trust the electoral process are that “every election has winners and losers,” “it’s not unusual” for counting to take a few days, and “we can’t let extremists jeopardize our elections.”

Please indicate which **three** are most convincing as reasons to trust the electoral process and oppose any efforts to challenge the results of the 2024 election.

	% top three most convincing	Dem	Ind	Non-MAGA Rep*	MAGA Rep*
Every election has winners and losers: we can't have the losers challenge the results every time just because they don't like the outcome	40%	46	33	41	31
It's not unusual for it to take a few days for election results to be counted accurately and finalized, and we should wait and trust the process	39	45	31	40	32
We can't let extremists jeopardize our elections with these doubts every time they don't like the outcome of an election	38	45	36	36	25
Election workers are our neighbors and everyday Americans who just want to do their jobs and should be trusted	32	36	29	33	26
Common sense Americans on both sides of the aisle agree our elections are free and fair	27	28	25	28	25
Trump wasted valuable time and hundreds of millions in taxpayer dollars in 2020 to investigate baseless voter fraud claims, and we shouldn't do that again	26	40	23	18	7
Republicans passed new state and local laws that are going to make it slower to count ballots, so we just have to wait	11	9	7	17	14

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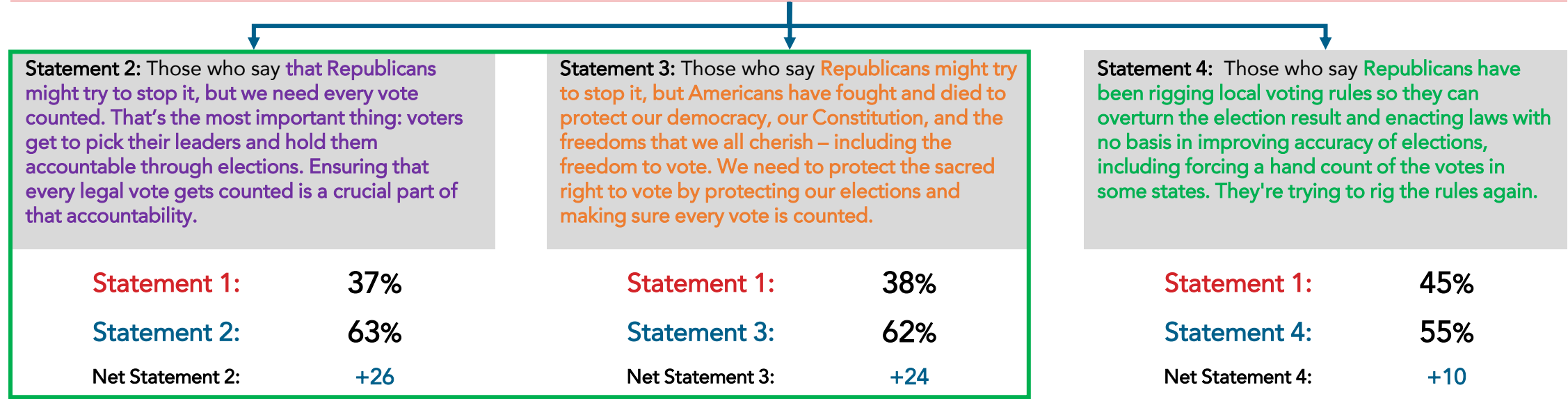


# Best Messaging to Hold GOP Accountable Focus on Values: Counting Every Vote, Protecting the Right to Vote

In response to a conservative statement that “Democrats have a history of cheating in elections, and they’re trying to do it again,” messaging that emphasizes that “we need every counted” and “voters get to pick their leaders and hold them accountable through elections” is most compelling (net +26 agree more), as is messaging that emphasizes that “Americans have fought and died to protect our democracy, our Constitution, and the freedoms that we all cherish” and “we need to protect the sacred right to vote” (net +24).

Which side do you agree with more?

**Statement 1:** Those who say that Democrats have a history of cheating in elections, and they’re trying to do it again this time by letting illegal immigrants vote, rigging voting machines, and counting illegal votes.



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 24-October 28, 2024. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# “Every Vote Counts” Rated as the Best Descriptor for How Americans Feel About Certifying the Election Results

The next top descriptors for how Americans feel about counting votes and certifying the 2024 election results include “Respect Our Constitution” (27%) and “Respect the Results” (26%).

Which five of these phrases best describe how you feel about counting votes and certifying the 2024 election results?

	<i>% top five best describes (top 11 of 22 tested)</i>	Dem	Ind	Non-MAGA Rep*	MAGA Rep*	Black	Hisp	White	AAPI
Every Vote Counts	37%	38	35	36	36	36	32	38	25
Respect Our Constitution	27	25	27	26	32	17	22	29	27
Respect the Results	26	30	24	22	22	26	22	27	26
Protect the Vote	25	26	24	22	26	32	26	24	25
Respect Our Votes	23	22	22	23	26	19	22	23	22
Protect Our Elections	22	21	15	24	26	23	23	22	29
Respect the Voters	21	24	19	21	18	16	19	22	24
Value Every Vote	21	23	17	22	19	18	15	22	17
Protect Our Election Results	20	20	14	20	22	22	19	19	23
Protect the Results	19	20	15	21	18	22	15	19	23
Will of the People	18	20	16	17	17	13	17	18	27

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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 a public opinion survey among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from October 24-October 28, 2024. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 76 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. The margin of error for the full sample at the 95 percent level of confidence is +/- 3.1 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

For Press inquiries contact:

[press@navigatorresearch.org](mailto:press@navigatorresearch.org)

To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter