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Thursday, April 17th

Constitutional Crisis: A
Guide for Advocates



Credit: Shutterstock/Lev Radin

Key Takeaways:

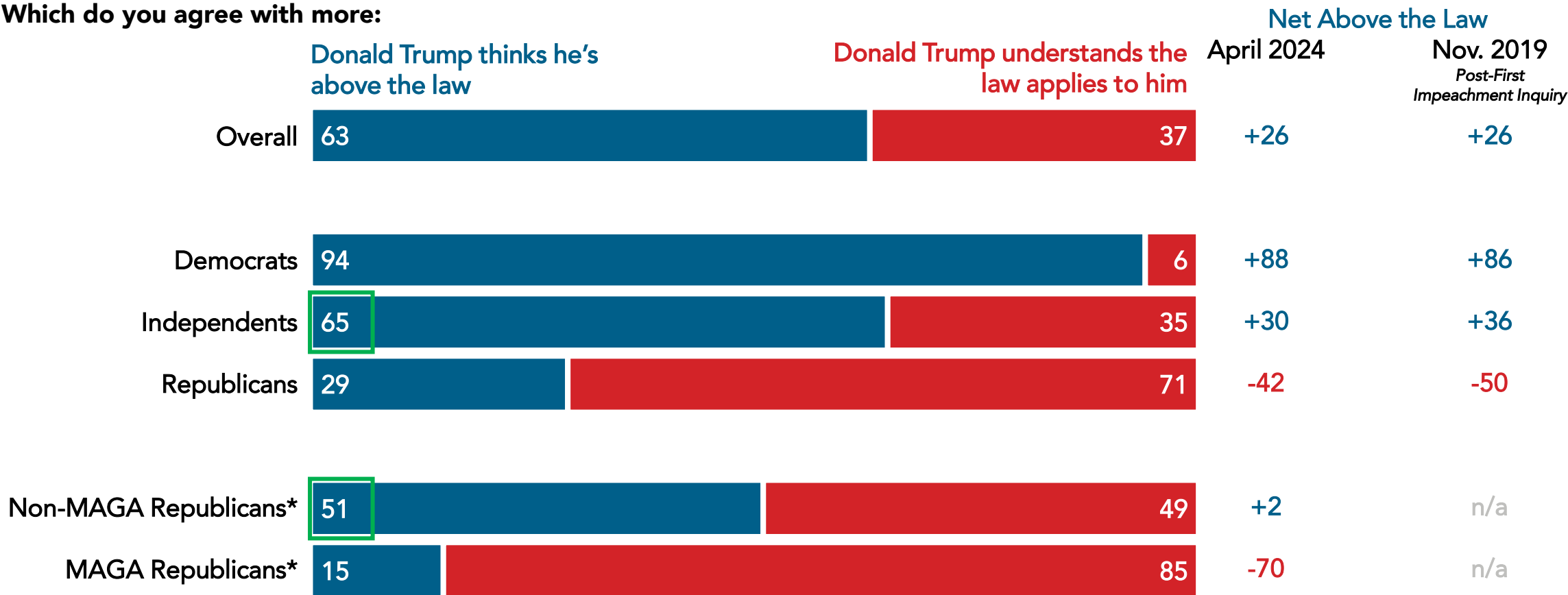
- Roughly two in three Americans say that Trump thinks he's above the law, on par with the share who said the same following the first impeachment inquiry into his actions in 2019.
- A range of actions Trump has taken in his second term are both deeply concerning and seen as a threat to democracy, including Musk accessing Americans' personal data, Trump violating multiple court rulings, and Trump going after federal agencies and employees.
- Americans are most concerned that Trump is abusing his power, violating the Constitution, and acting like he is above the law.

Nearly Two in Three Say Trump Thinks He's Above the Law

Almost two in three Americans say Trump thinks he's above the law (63%), in line with the share who said the same after the first impeachment inquiry into Trump in 2019.

- Roughly two in three independents (65%) and a majority of non-MAGA Republicans (51%) say Trump thinks he's above the law.

Which do you agree with more:



*"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 surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days.
Latest wave conducted April 3-April 7, 2025. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Very Concerning on Trump: Musk Accessing Americans' Data, Violating Court Rulings, Going After Agencies and Public Servants

Nearly two in three independents find Trump letting Musk access personal data "very concerning" (64%).

Below is a list of actions that Trump has taken since he became President in his second term. Please indicate how concerning you find each one.

	Top 7 of 14 tested	Very concerning	Somewhat concerning	Dem	Very Concerning Ind	Rep
	Trump let Elon Musk and DOGE access the personal health and financial data of tens of millions of Americans	53	13	84	64	18
	Trump has violated multiple court rulings	51	14	86	59	14
	Trump is attempting to close federal departments and agencies like the Department of Education, even though those departments and agencies can only be shut down by acts of Congress	51	14	85	53	16
	Trump pardoned hundreds of violent criminals convicted of crimes related to the January 6 th , 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol	50	14	85	56	13
	Trump fired thousands of civil servants without cause	50	14	80	61	16
	Trump has said he has not ruled out serving a third term as president, even though the Constitution says presidents can only serve two	49	15	81	61	14
	Trump has fired 17 independent watchdogs that investigate waste, fraud, abuse, and criminal activity in our government, without cause	49	13	80	58	16

Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 3-April 7, 2025.
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Still Concerning on Trump, Though Less So: Trump Deporting Immigrants to El Salvador, Firing FBI Officials

Below is a list of actions that Trump has taken since he became President in his second term. Please indicate how concerning you find each one.

	Bottom 7 of 14 tested	Very concerning	Somewhat concerning	Very Concerning	Dem	Ind	Rep
	Trump announced big, new tariffs of at least 10% across all countries, without Congressional approval	49	17	83	55	13	
	Trump is trying to detain and deport immigrant students who are here legally who have participated in peaceful student protests	49	14	81	53	15	
	Trump has threatened to prosecute people who protest against Elon Musk's role in the government	48	15	80	59	14	
	Trump has ordered the government to not do business with law firms and other businesses he doesn't like, threatening other organizations and individuals to not oppose or go after him	47	18	80	54	12	
	Trump has cut federal funding for research at universities as retaliation for speeches and writings of students and faculty that he disagrees with	47	15	78	52	14	
	Trump has fired career FBI officials and FBI Special Agents without cause	46	15	77	54	12	
	Trump has deported hundreds of immigrants to a prison in El Salvador without due process, including some who were mistakenly deemed gang members but are not involved in any gang activity	46	16	77	52	12	

Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 3-April 7, 2025.
For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Severe Threats to Democracy From Trump: Seeking a Third Term, Musk's Role, Violating Court Rulings, Going After Agencies

Three in five (60%) say Trump letting Musk access personal data is a threat to democracy and 53% say it is very concerning.

Below is a list of actions that Trump has taken since he became President in his second term.

Please indicate how much you think each one poses a threat to American democracy.

	Top 7 of 14 tested		Total Threat to Democracy				% very concerning
	Severe threat	Moderate threat	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
Trump has said he has not ruled out serving a third term as president, even though the Constitution says presidents can only serve two	48	11	60	88	54	31	49
Trump let Elon Musk and DOGE access the personal health and financial data of tens of millions of Americans	48	12	60	92	43	30	53
Trump has violated multiple court rulings	47	10	57	90	43	26	51
Trump is attempting to close federal departments and agencies like the Department of Education, even though those departments and agencies can only be shut down by acts of Congress	46	11	57	92	44	23	51
Trump has threatened to prosecute people who protest against Elon Musk's role in the government	45	13	59	90	42	29	48
Trump pardoned hundreds of violent criminals convicted of crimes related to the January 6 th , 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol	43	13	56	89	37	25	50
Trump has fired career FBI officials and FBI Special Agents without cause	43	12	54	88	41	23	46

Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 3-April 7, 2025.
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Lesser Threats to Democracy: Trump Deporting Hundreds of Immigrants Without Due Process

Below is a list of actions that Trump has taken since he became President in his second term. Please indicate how much you think each one poses a threat to American democracy.

	Bottom 7 of 14 tested	Severe threat	Moderate threat	Total Threat to Democracy				% very concerning
				Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
	Trump has fired 17 independent watchdogs that investigate waste, fraud, abuse, and criminal activity in our government, without cause	42	13	55	88	42	24	49
	Trump has ordered the government to not do business with law firms and other businesses he doesn't like, threatening other organizations and individuals to not oppose or go after him	42	15	57	90	45	25	47
	Trump is trying to detain and deport immigrant students who are here legally who have participated in peaceful student protests	40	13	53	87	42	19	49
	Trump fired thousands of civil servants without cause	40	15	55	89	41	23	50
	Trump announced big, new tariffs of at least 10% across all countries, without Congressional approval	39	14	53	86	38	22	49
	Trump has cut federal funding for research at universities as retaliation for speeches and writings of students and faculty that he disagrees with	39	14	53	87	41	21	47
	Trump has deported hundreds of immigrants to a prison in El Salvador without due process, including some who were mistakenly deemed gang members but are not involved in any gang activity	37	15	51	83	41	20	46

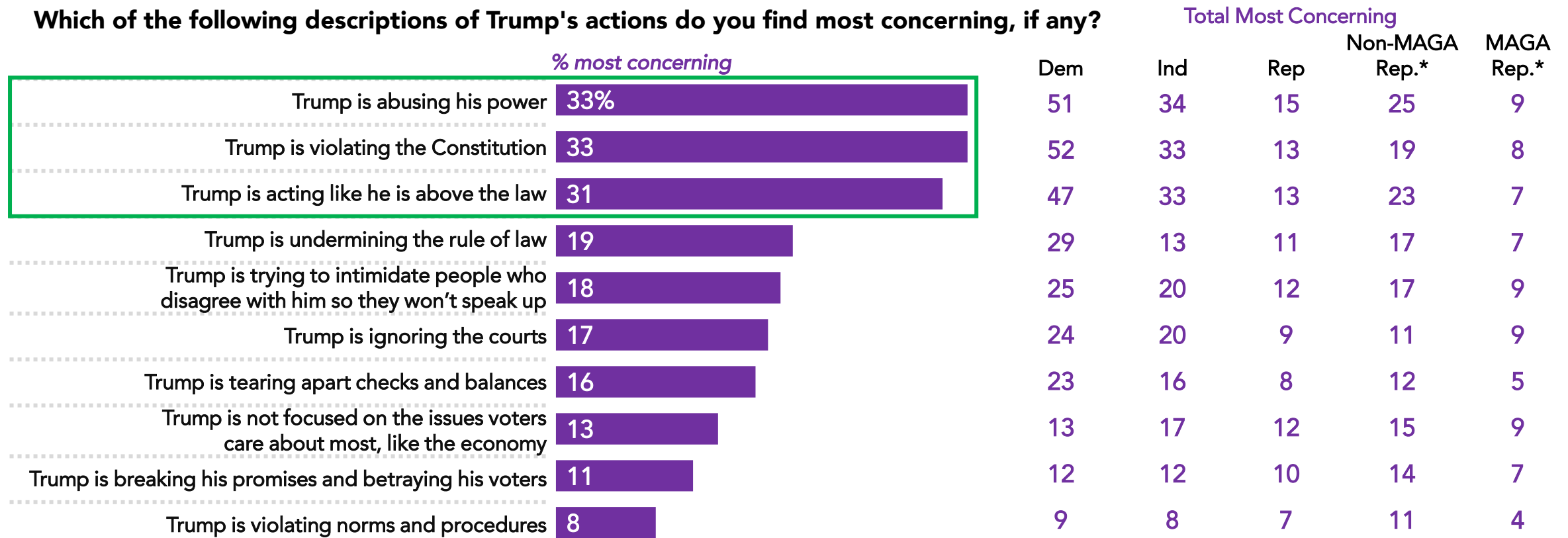
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Trump Abusing His Power, Violating the Constitution, and Acting Like He Is Above the Law Are Most Concerning

Democrats, independents, and non-MAGA Republicans* are most concerned that Trump is abusing his power, violating the Constitution, and acting like he is above the law.

- Americans are least concerned that Trump is “violating norms and procedures” (8%).

Which of the following descriptions of Trump's actions do you find most concerning, if any?



*“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.
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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; Mike Podhorzer; 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 April 3-April 7, 2025. 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. 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.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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