

navigator*

Thursday, May 29th

Trump's Corruption: A Guide for Advocates



Credit: Shutterstock/Chip Somodevilla

Key Takeaways:

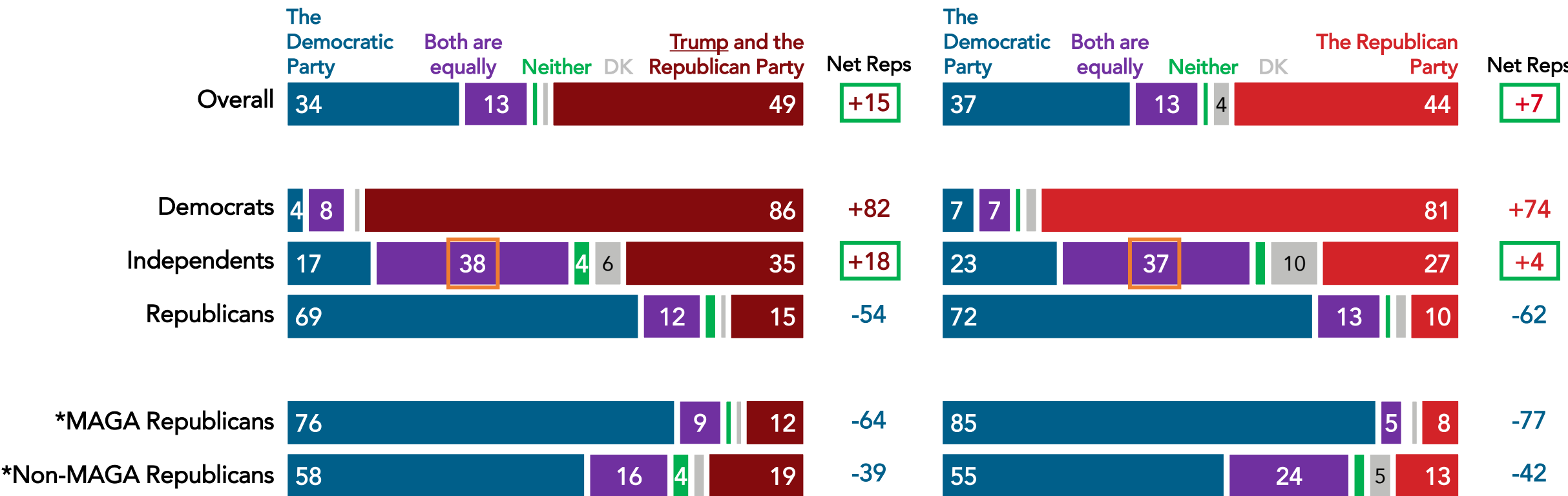
- Trump has a corruption problem. Americans think Republicans are more corrupt than Democrats, a sentiment that grows when Trump is added to the mix. And, a growing number thinks Trump is bringing more corruption to Washington rather than fixing it.
- But, that does *not* mean Americans absolve Democrats on corruption. Rather, it is far more effective to talk about corruption as a problem across both parties that needs to be addressed, than a problem that is unique to President Trump.
- The most bothersome government corruption generally to Americans centers around personal profiteering and abusing power to punish critics or reward allies.
- To that end, Trump's biggest corruption problems right now are Musk benefiting from government contracts (abusing power to reward allies), firing independent watchdogs (abusing power to silence critics), and accepting the luxury jet from Qatar (personal profiteering).

Republicans Are Seen As More Corrupt Than Democrats, Especially With Trump in the Mix

Nearly half say “Trump and the Republican Party” are more corrupt than Democrats (49%), while 44% say the same of just Republicans.

- However, a plurality of independents say both parties are equally corrupt.

Which do you think is more corrupt?

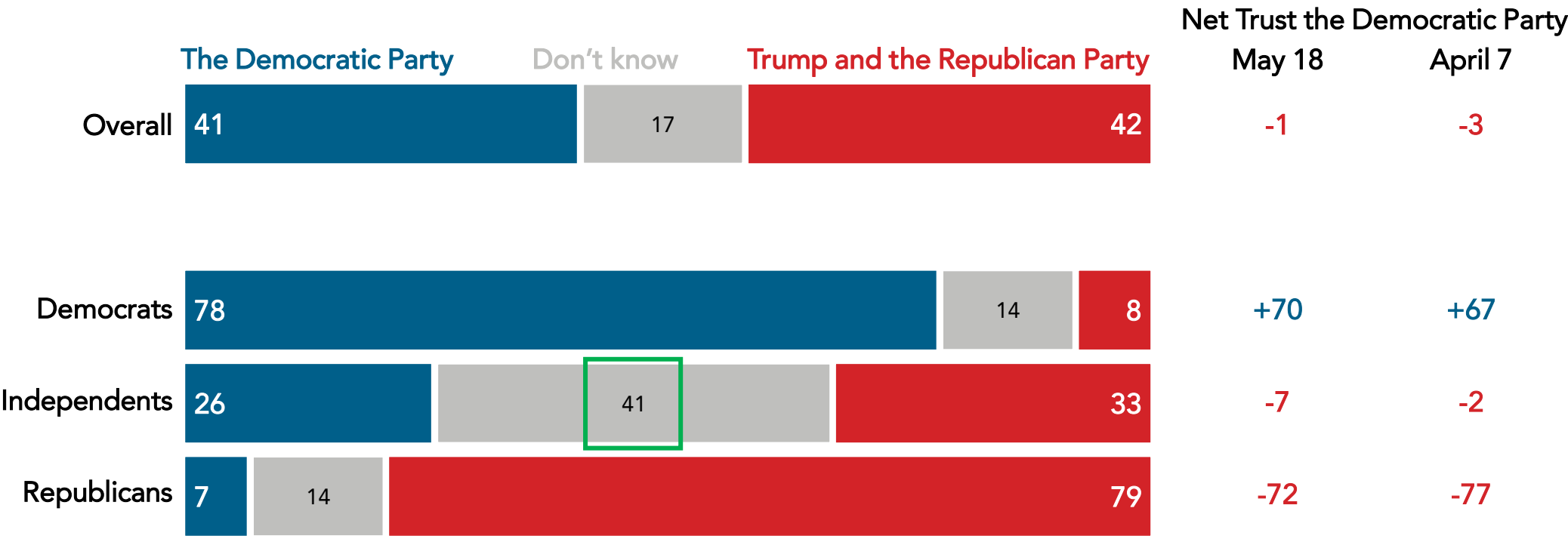


*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted May 15-May 18, 2025.
For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Americans Are Divided on Who They Trust More to Handle Corruption in Government

More than two in five independents are not sure who to trust more when it comes to handling corruption in government (41%).

Please indicate who you personally trust more to handle: Corruption in government.

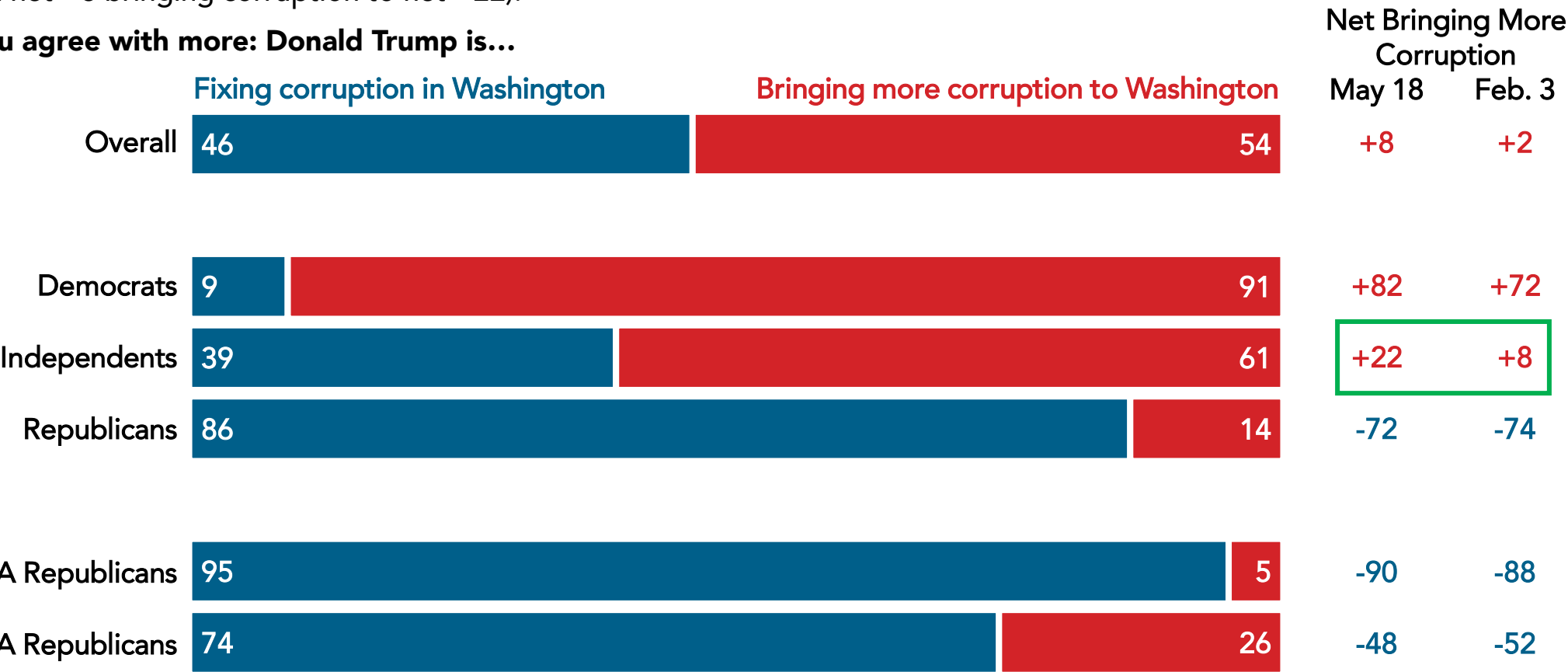


Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted May 15-May 18, 2025. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

A Slim But Growing Majority Say Trump Is Bringing More Corruption to Washington, Driven By Shifts With Independents

Since February, independents have moved a net 14 points toward saying Trump is bringing more corruption to Washington rather than fixing it (from net +8 bringing corruption to net +22).

Which do you agree with more: Donald Trump is...



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The Best Way to Talk About Trump's Corruption Acknowledges It As a Problem Across Washington, As Opposed to Just Trump

Both independents (net +49 agree with progressive view versus net +12) and non-MAGA Republicans* (net +16 versus net -32) agree more with an argument that acknowledges "Washington has a major corruption problem in both parties" than one that doesn't.

Which side do you agree with more?

TRUMP UNIQUELY CORRUPT: The scale of corruption under Trump massively outweighs that of any past presidency, Democrat or Republican, and we need to do something about it

Trump isn't any more corrupt than any other president in American history. Anyone who says otherwise just wants to hurt Trump

Don't know



Net Agree With Progressive View

	Overall	Ind	Non-MAGA Reps.*
TRUMP UNIQUELY CORRUPT	+13	+12	-32
A PROBLEM IN BOTH PARTIES	+41	+49	+16

A PROBLEM IN BOTH PARTIES: Washington has a major corruption problem in both parties, and we need to enact significant reforms and overhaul the system to hold Trump, as well as other Republicans and Democrats, accountable for corruption

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Most Concerning on Government Corruption: Abusing Government Power to Punish Critics, Profiting Personally

MAGA and non-MAGA Republicans* are most concerned about government officials profiting personally from government decisions or information, while Democrats and independents are most concerned about officials abusing power to punish critics or reward allies.

Which of the following types of government corruption do you find most concerning, if any?

	% top two most concerning	Dem	Ind	Rep	MAGA Reps.*	Non-MAGA Reps.*
Abusing government power to punish critics or reward allies	45%	56	49	31	30	33
Profiting personally from government decisions or information	43	41	41	45	46	45
Giving government jobs or perks in exchange for loyalty	27	28	23	26	28	25
Interfering with government watchdogs or independent investigations	23	28	23	18	18	17
Accepting valuable gifts from foreign governments	23	29	17	18	14	22

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Most Corrupt on Trump: Musk Benefiting from Government Contracts and Subsidies, Firing Watchdogs, \$400 Million Jet Gift

Below is a list of events that have happened since Trump became President in his second term. Please indicate how corrupt you think each one is.

	Extremely corrupt	Very corrupt	Somewhat corrupt	Overall	Dem	Total Corrupt Ind	MAGA Reps*	Non-MAGA Reps.*
[REWARDING ALLIES] Elon Musk's companies, including SpaceX and Tesla, have received billions in government contracts, loans, subsidies, and tax breaks under the Trump administration while Musk served as a close Trump advisor	42	14	12	67	94	69	22	59
[PUNISHING CRITICS] Trump has fired, without cause, 17 independent watchdogs that investigate waste, fraud, abuse, and criminal activity in our government	39	12	12	63	93	69	20	47
[PROFITING PERSONALLY] Trump is planning to accept a \$400 million luxury jet from the government of Qatar as a gift	38	11	15	64	92	65	21	53
[PROFITING PERSONALLY] Trump's family made a \$2 billion cryptocurrency deal with a firm based in Abu Dhabi	36	14	13	63	92	66	22	47
[PROFITING PERSONALLY] Trump's administration rolled back cryptocurrency regulations, benefiting his family's crypto ventures	35	15	15	65	92	68	22	54
[REWARDING ALLIES] Trump has offered private White House tours and invitations to a private dinner for the top investors in his new cryptocurrency	32	14	16	62	90	63	21	46

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Learning About Specific Trump Offenses on Corruption Leads More to Say He Is Bringing More Corruption to Washington

Non-MAGA Republicans* move the most towards saying Trump is bringing more corruption after learning more (from net -48 to net -30).

Post-Examples Ask: Which do you agree with more: Donald Trump is...

		Net Bringing More Corruption		Initial	Change
		Post-Examples			
Overall	Fixing corruption in Washington	42	Bringing more corruption to Washington	58	
Overall				+16	+8
Democrats				+84	+82
Independents				+22	+22
Republicans				-58	-72
*MAGA Republicans				-78	-90
*Non-MAGA Republicans				-30	-48

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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 May 15-May 18, 2025. 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.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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