

# navigator\*

Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup>

Trump's Deportations:  
A Guide for Advocates



Credit: Noam Galai/Shutterstock

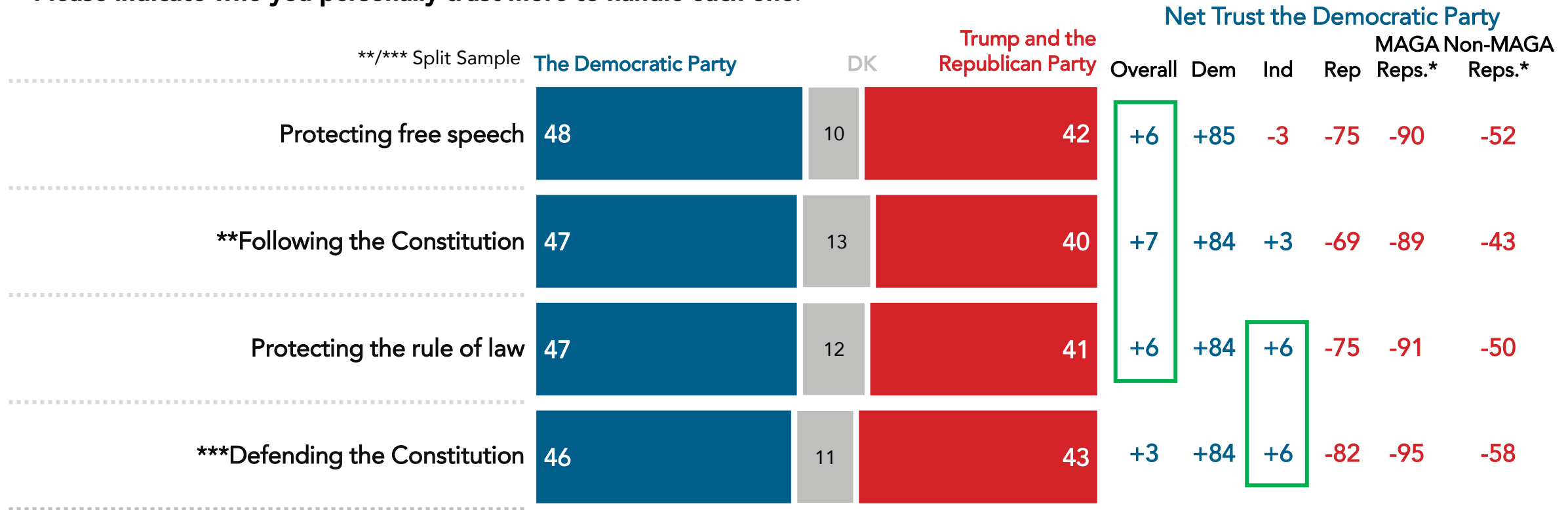
## Key Takeaways:

- More than three in five Americans say Kilmar Abrego Garcia should be brought home to the United States.
- Pluralities think what President Trump is doing on deportations is wrong, as he is narrowly underwater on his handling of immigration.
- The best reasons to bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia back to the United States are the Supreme Court's unanimous ruling ordering Trump to do so and Garcia being deported without a hearing.
- Trump defying the Supreme Court and the absence of a check on his power is more concerning than his cruelty in deportations.

# Democrats Are More Trusted To Protect Free Speech & the Rule of Law, Follow the Constitution

Independents trust the Democratic Party more than Trump and the Republican Party to handle “defending the Constitution” (net +6 trust Democrats more) and “protecting the rule of law” (net +6).

Please indicate who you personally trust more to handle each one.

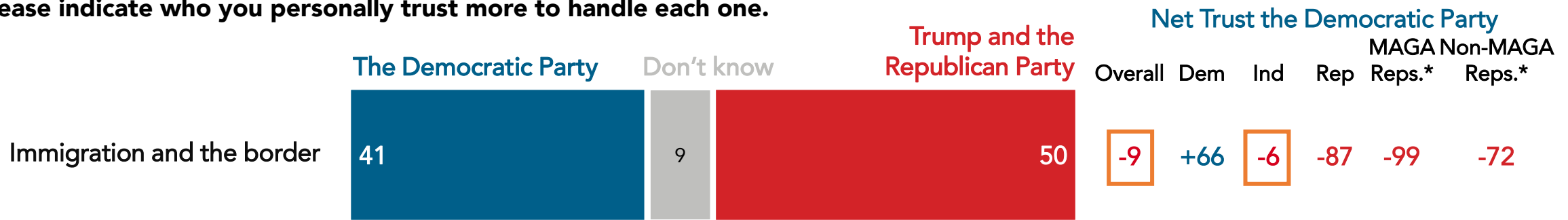


\*MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who identify as “a supporter of the MAGA movement” on a separate question, while “non-MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.  
 Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 24-April 28, 2025.  
 For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Trump and His Party Continue to Have Trust Advantages on Immigration, Though His Approval on the Issue Is Underwater

Independents (net -6 trust Democrats) say they trust Trump and the Republican Party more to handle immigration and the border; at the same time, Trump is underwater by 3 points overall on approval of his handling of immigration and by 24 points among independents.

Please indicate who you personally trust more to handle each one.



Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling:



\*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 April 24-April 28, 2025.  
 For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

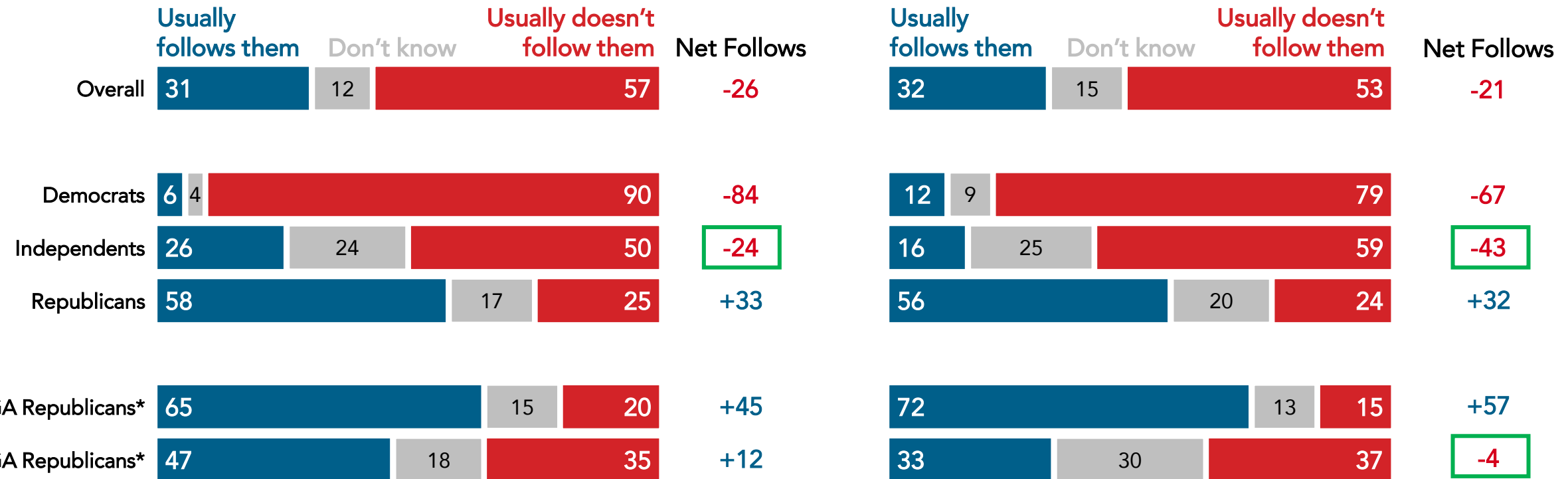
# Majorities Say Trump Does Not Follow Supreme Court Rulings, Court Rulings More Generally

Majorities say both that Trump usually doesn't follow court rulings generally (57%) and specifically, Supreme Court rulings (53%).

- More independents say Trump doesn't follow Supreme Court rulings (net -43 follows) than court rulings more generally (net -24).

[Split Sample] When it comes to **court rulings**, which do you think best describes Trump?

[Split Sample] When it comes to **Supreme Court rulings**, which do you think best describes Trump?

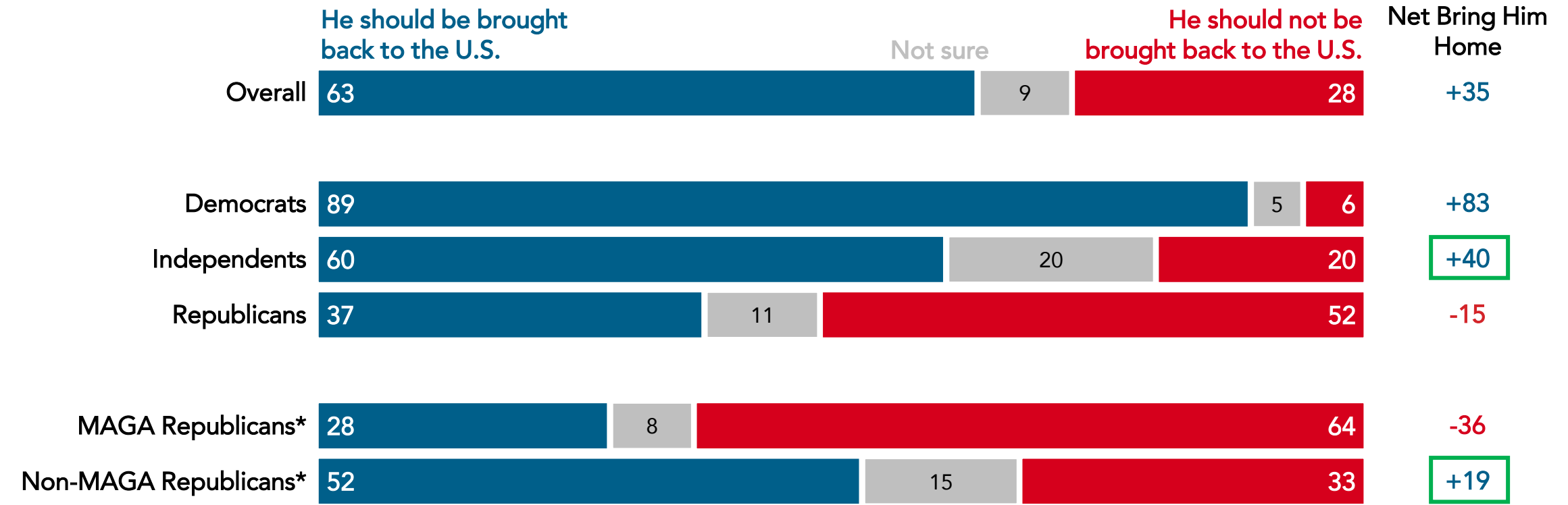


\*MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.  
 Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 24-April 28, 2025.  
 For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Three in Five Want To See Kilmar Abrego Garcia Brought Home

Majorities of independents (net +40 bring him home) and non-MAGA Republicans\* (net +19) want to see the Trump administration bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia home to the United States from El Salvador.

As you may know, the Trump administration mistakenly deported a Maryland man who was in the U.S. legally, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, to El Salvador. The Supreme Court recently ruled that the Trump administration needs to bring him back to the U.S., but the Trump administration has refused. What do you think should happen now?



\*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 April 24-April 28, 2025.  
 For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Nearly One in Five Approve of Trump on Immigration, But Also Want Garcia Returned; Disproportionately College/GOP Men

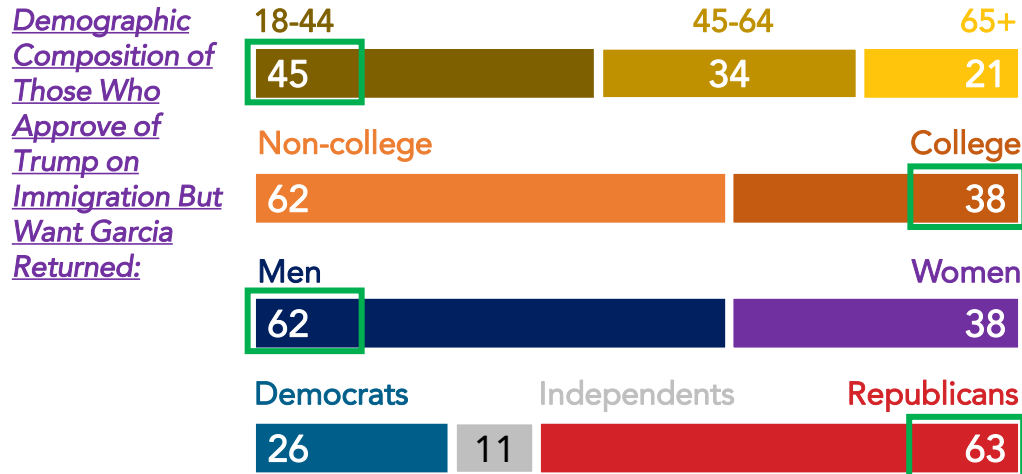
Groups that are particularly likely to fall into this “immigration conflicted” category include Republican men (31% are immigration conflicted), non-MAGA Republicans\* (31%), and college-educated men (28%).

## Immigration Conflicted (18% of Americans):

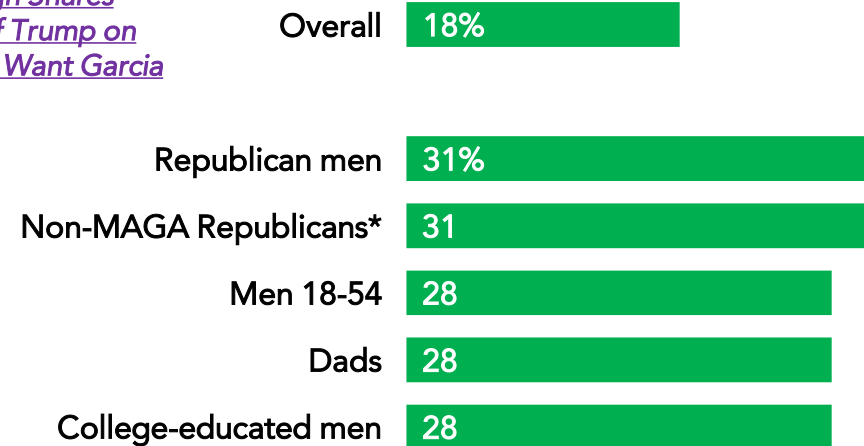
**Approve of Trump on immigration/deportations but want Garcia to be returned:**

Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling each one: immigration/deportations – *Approve*, and

The Trump administration mistakenly deported a Maryland man who was in the U.S. legally, Kilmar Abrego Garcia, to El Salvador. The Supreme Court recently ruled that the Trump administration needs to bring him back to the U.S., but the Trump administration has refused... – *He should be brought back to the U.S.*



Groups With High Shares Who Approve of Trump on Immigration But Want Garcia Returned:

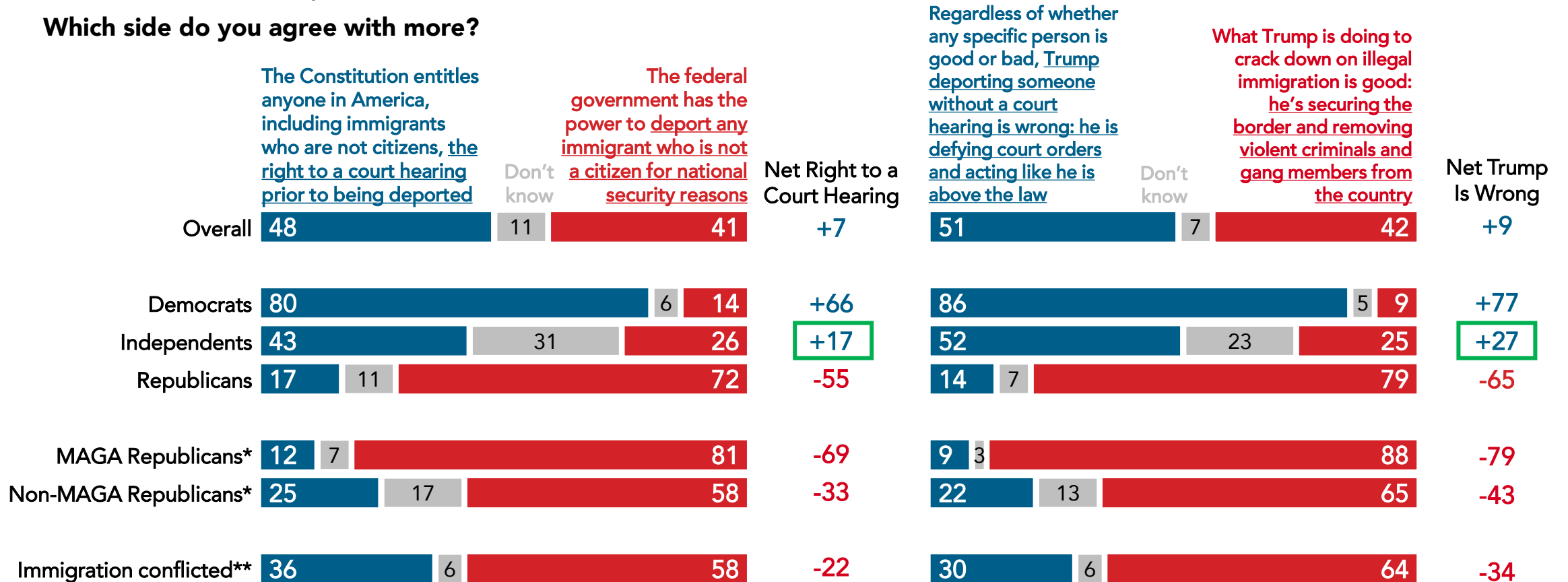


\*MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who identify as “a supporter of the MAGA movement” on a separate question, while “non-MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.  
 Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 24-April 28, 2025.  
 For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Pluralities Think What Trump Is Doing Is Wrong & Say the Constitution Entitles Immigrants to Hearings Before Deportation

Roughly a third of immigration conflicted\*\* respondents say what Trump is doing is wrong (30%) and that anyone in America is entitled to a hearing before being deported (36%).

Which side 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. \*\*"Immigration conflicted" are respondents who approve of the job Trump is doing handling immigration or deportations but think his administration should bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia back to the United States. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 24-April 28, 2025. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).



# Best Reasons to Bring Garcia Back: SCOTUS Ruling, Him Being Here Legally and Deported Without Hearing

Below are some details in the case of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, the man mistakenly deported to El Salvador. Which TWO do you think are the strongest reasons Garcia should be brought back to the United States?

	% top two strongest	Dem	Ind	Rep	MAGA Reps.*	Non-MAGA Reps.*	Imm. Conflicted**
The Supreme Court unanimously ruled the Trump administration needs to bring Garcia back	33%	48	32	19	17	23	36
Garcia was in the United States legally as ruled by a judge but then was deported without a court hearing	32	46	33	18	17	20	32
Garcia has no criminal record, is married to a U.S. citizen, and has three children who are also American citizens	28	36	22	21	18	25	39
The Trump administration admitted deporting Garcia was an "administrative error"	27	29	28	25	23	29	40
Garcia fled El Salvador due to gang threats to his family, and is now imprisoned in a maximum security prison in El Salvador filled with the same gang members he was trying to flee	15	16	12	15	14	16	21

\*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. \*\*"Immigration conflicted" are respondents who approve of the job Trump is doing handling immigration or deportations but think his administration should bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia back to the United States. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 24-April 28, 2025. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# A Range of Messages on Immigration and Due Process Are Concerning Around Trump's Recent Actions

Please indicate whether each statement raises concerns for you about how Trump is acting.

	Major concerns	Minor concerns	Overall	Total Concerns			Immigration Conflicted*
				Dem	Ind	Rep	
<p><small>**/** Split Sample</small></p> <p><b>***[FAMILY SEPARATION GARCIA]</b> Trump sending Kilmar Abrego Garcia, an immigrant who was here legally and has no criminal record, to a maximum security prison meant for violent gang members is cruel. Separating Garcia from his U.S. citizen wife and three children who are also citizens after years of lawfully living and working in the U.S. is inhumane and not how America should treat anyone.</p>	53	15	68	94	73	40	76
<p>[COURTS] Trump is openly defying rulings from the Supreme Court, including a unanimous Supreme Court ruling against his administration. He thinks he is above the law and continues to openly defy the courts, which are supposed to serve as a check on the presidency.</p>	53	14	67	95	71	38	72
<p>[NATION OF LAWS] America is a nation of laws, where everyone gets a fair trial – even immigrants or people suspected of a crime. Trump is deporting people who have not even been accused of a crime, and have not had a chance to argue their case in court. This goes against the Constitution and hundreds of years of American law.</p>	49	17	66	94	67	37	72

*Ranked by most concerning to Immigration Conflicted\**

\*"Immigration conflicted" are respondents who approve of the job Trump is doing handling immigration or deportations but think his administration should bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia back to the United States. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 24-April 28, 2025. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# A Range of Messages on Immigration and Due Process Are Concerning Around Trump's Recent Actions

Please indicate whether each statement raises concerns for you about how Trump is acting.

	**/** Split Sample		Overall	Total Concerns			Immigration Conflicted*
	Major concerns	Minor concerns		Dem	Ind	Rep	
**[FAMILY SEPARATION] Trump sending immigrants who are here legally, with no criminal record, to a maximum security prison meant for violent gang members is cruel. Separating fathers and husbands from their families without court hearings is inhumane and not how America should treat anyone.	53	15	68	95	64	41	70
[CITIZENS] Trump is threatening to deport U.S. citizens who break the law, which has never been done before and is against the Constitution. If Trump can send anyone he wants to another country in defiance of the Constitution, none of us are safe.	53	14	67	94	71	39	69
[CONCESSION] Trump is deporting hardworking members of our community and members of American families, without court hearings. While we should deport violent, criminal immigrants from our country, Trump is recklessly deporting members of our community.	50	15	65	92	71	37	67
[FIRST AMENDMENT] Trump is violating First Amendment rights to free speech by deporting or detaining people here legally who peacefully protest or hold beliefs that he doesn't personally agree with. Trump is a danger to the freedom of speech and our constitutionally protected freedom.	50	14	64	93	69	33	64

*Ranked by most concerning to Immigration Conflicted\**

\*"Immigration conflicted" are respondents who approve of the job Trump is doing handling immigration or deportations but think his administration should bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia back to the United States. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 24-April 28, 2025. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Americans Are Most Concerned Trump Is Overriding a Unanimous SCOTUS Decision, Lack of Checks on His Power

Immigration conflicted\*\* are most concerned Trump is overriding a unanimous Supreme court order (38%) and is being cruel and inhumane in deporting immigrants who are here legally to a maximum security prison (32%).

Below is a list of statements. Please indicate which TWO concern you the most about Trump's recent actions, if any concern you.

	% top two most concerning	Dem	Ind	Rep	MAGA Reps.*	Non-MAGA Reps.*	Imm. Conflicted**
Trump is overriding a unanimous court order from the Supreme Court, meaning there is no check and balance on his power	37%	55	28	20	15	27	38
It shows none of us are safe if Trump is threatening to deport U.S. citizens who break the law, which has never been done before	28	42	31	12	9	16	26
It's cruel and inhumane for Trump to deport immigrants who are here legally to a maximum security prison in another country	23	30	25	15	14	16	32
It's against the law, and the American right to a fair trial, to deport immigrants who are here legally without a chance to argue their case in court	22	30	24	14	13	16	23
It's a danger to free speech and our freedoms that Trump is deporting people who hold beliefs that he doesn't agree with	21	27	21	15	12	21	23

\*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. \*\*"Immigration conflicted" are respondents who approve of the job Trump is doing handling immigration or deportations but think his administration should bring Kilmar Abrego Garcia back to the United States. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 24-April 28, 2025. 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; 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 24-April 28, 2025. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 68 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