

# navigator\*

*Shutdown Week 3*  
Thursday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>

## The Government Shutdown Messaging: A Guide for Advocates



Credit: Shutterstock/Lucky Photographer

## Key Takeaways:

- More Americans agree Trump and Republicans in Congress have the power to end the shutdown than Democrats, even more so when pointing out the shutdown would end today if Republicans would agree to a compromise on health insurance costs.
- Two in three Americans oppose the U.S. bailing out Argentina, and opposition grows when placed in context about the ongoing government shutdown.
- Three in four Americans support extending health care subsidies to make health care more affordable. Nearly four in five support with a caveat that no benefits will go to undocumented immigrants – but this caveat only increases support among Republicans, while showing minor backlash among Democrats and no change with independents.

# Americans Agree GOP Has Power to End Shutdown, Even More When Highlighting Potential for Compromise on Health Care

Expanded independents\* are more likely to agree with an argument focused on Trump and Republicans having the power to end the shutdown by compromising to protect health care (net +48) rather than one that highlights their control of the government (net +22).

Which side do you agree with more?

[MAJORITIES] Trump and Republicans in Congress have the power to end the shutdown. Trump and Republicans are in full control of the federal government, including the White House and Congress, and are responsible for getting the government back up and running

Democrats in Congress have the power to end the shutdown. The shutdown would end today if Democrats would just vote for a simple, nonpartisan bill to fund the government

Net Agree With Anti-GOP Statement  
Dem. Partisans\* Expanded Ind.\* Rep. Partisans\* Shutdown Pers.\*\*



[HEALTH CARE COMPROMISE] Trump and Republicans in Congress have the power to end the shutdown. The shutdown would end today if Republicans would agree to a compromise that would prevent health insurance costs from going up for millions of Americans

\*"Democratic partisans" are strong Democrats or weak Democrats who say they always vote for Democratic candidates; "Republican partisans" are MAGA-identified Republicans who say they always vote for Republicans; "expanded independents" are weak Democrats who don't always vote for Democrats, independents, and non-MAGA Republicans who don't always vote for Republicans. \*\*"Shutdown persuadables" are defined as those who say they do not blame the shutdown on either Democrats or Trump and Republicans, blame both of these equally, or don't know, and excludes leaners towards either group on a follow-up ask. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted October 16-October 20, 2025. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).



# Democrats Standing Up for Health Care – With or Without “Keeping Government Shut Down” – Is Compelling Against GOP

Shutdown persuadables\*\* are more convinced by a statement that does not highlight how “Democrats are keeping the government shut down” (net +10 agree with anti-Republican statement without the shutdown mention, net 0 with).

Which side do you agree with more?

[STAND UP] Democrats who say Trump and Republicans in Congress are to blame for the shutdown because they are in full control of the federal government, including the White House and Congress. Democrats are just standing up for what Americans want, which is health care they can afford

Trump and Republicans who say Democrats have shut down the government and refuse to work together to reopen it. Democrats are unwilling to cut waste, fraud, and abuse from government spending, and instead want to continue to waste taxpayer dollars on healthcare for illegal aliens

Net Agree With Anti-GOP Statement  
Dem. Expanded Rep. Shutdown  
Overall Partisans\* Ind.\* Partisans\* Pers.\*\*



[SHUTDOWN TO STAND UP] Democrats who say Trump and Republicans in Congress are to blame for the shutdown because they are in full control of the federal government, including the White House and Congress. Democrats are keeping the government shut down to stand up for what Americans want, which is health care they can afford

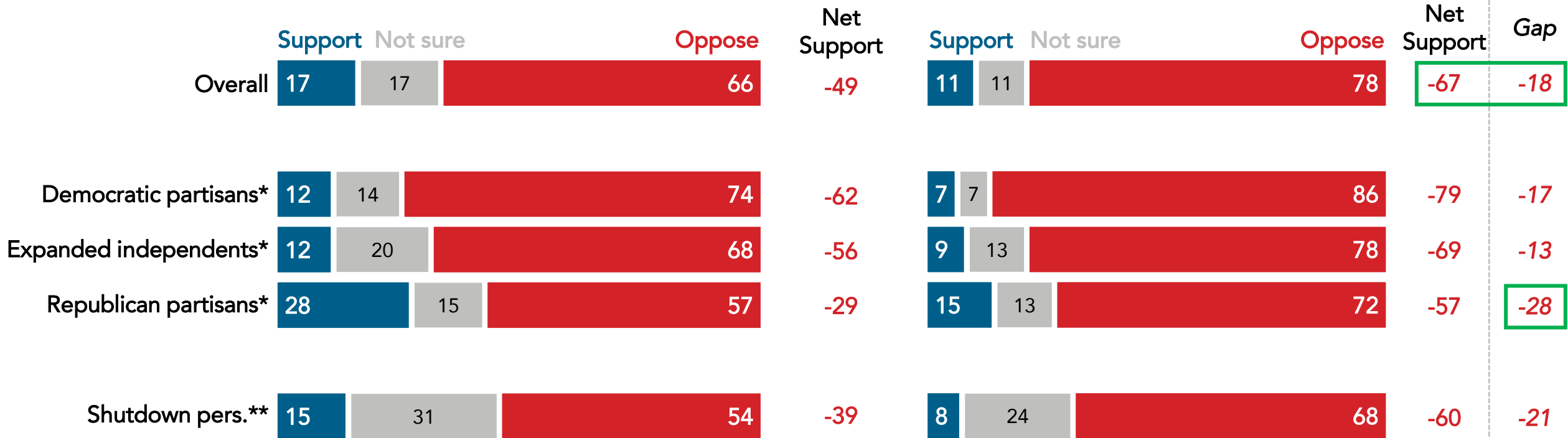
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# At Least Two in Three Oppose the U.S. Bailing Out Argentina, Especially With Simultaneous Shutdown Context

Nearly four in five Americans oppose the U.S. bailing out Argentina with the context of the government shutdown (net -67 support); mention of the shutdown drives opposition higher across the board, but especially with Republican partisans\* (from net -29 to net -57).

**(Split Sample)** Do you support or oppose the U.S. government giving Argentina \$20 billion to bail out its economy?

**(Split Sample)** Do you support or oppose the U.S. government giving Argentina \$20 billion to bail out its economy while the U.S. government remains shut down?



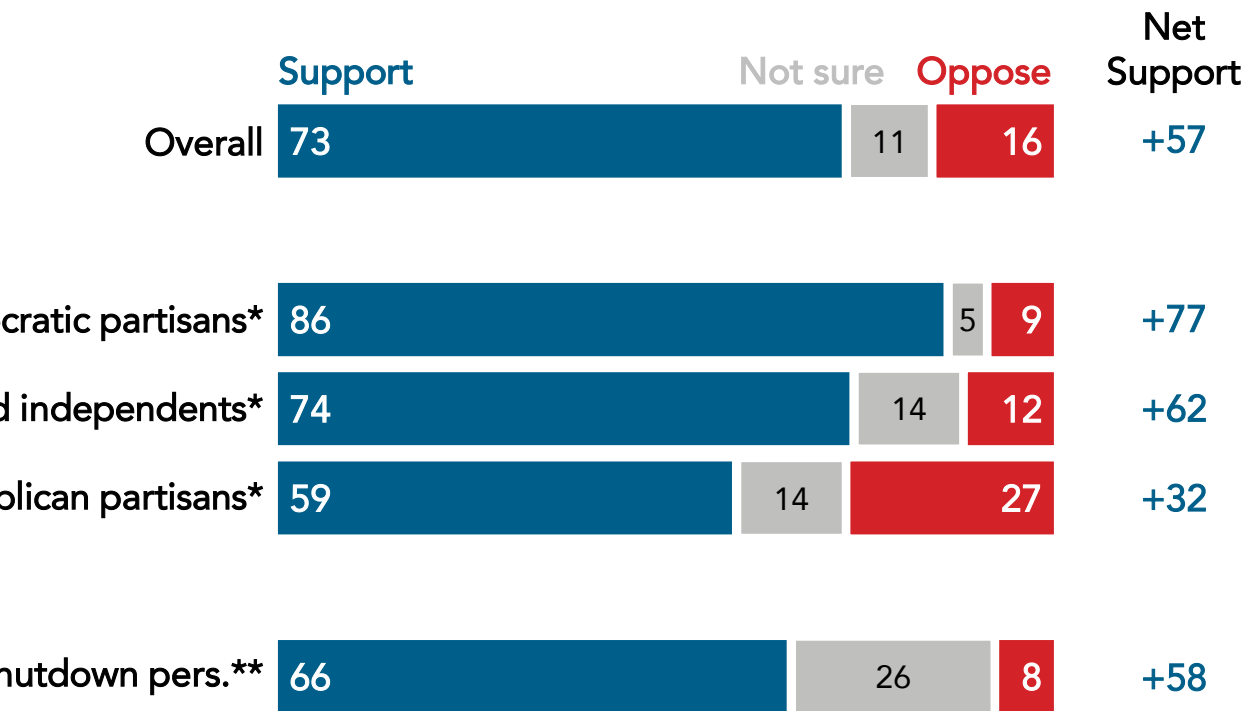
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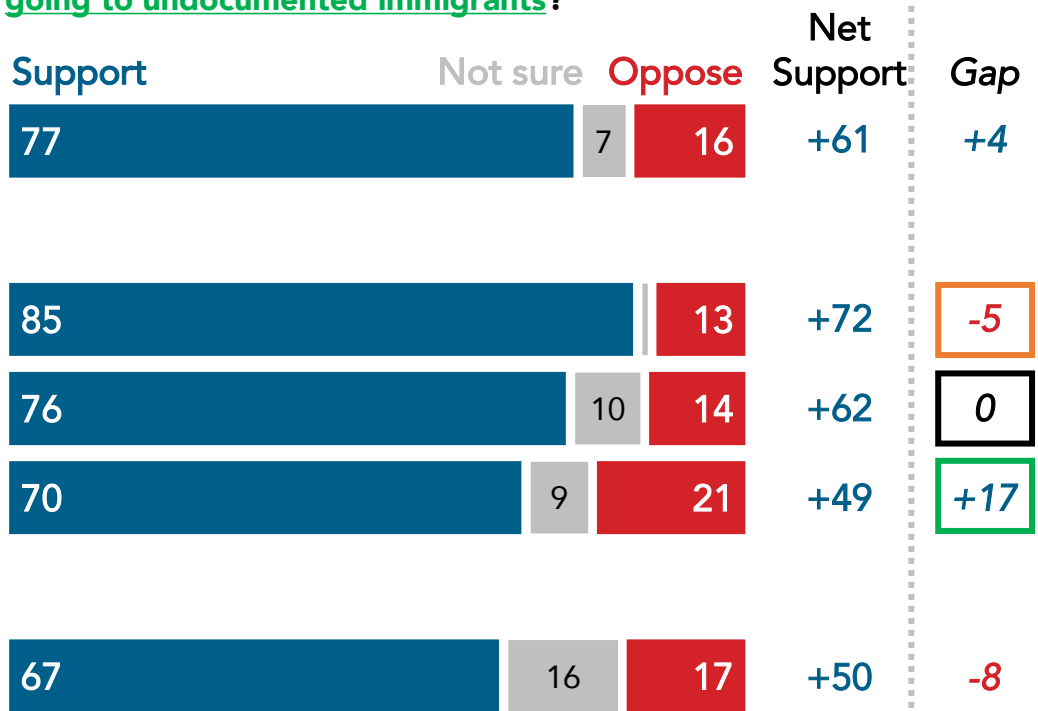
# Majorities Support Extending Health Care Subsidies; Adding Caveat About Immigrants Only Increases Support With GOP

Three in four Americans support extending health care subsidies (73%), and 77% support with a caveat that “none of the benefits are going to undocumented immigrants” – driven by a shift among Republican partisans\* (from net +32 support without to net +49 with).

**(Split Sample)** Do you support or oppose the government extending health care subsidies for millions of Americans that make health care more affordable?



**(Split Sample)** Do you support or oppose the government extending health care subsidies for millions of Americans that make health care more affordable, with a guarantee that none of the benefits are going to undocumented immigrants?



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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; 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 16-October 20, 2025. 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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