

navigator*

Shutdown Week 4
Wednesday, October 29th

The Government Shutdown: A Guide for Advocates



Credit: Shutterstock/Lucky Photographer

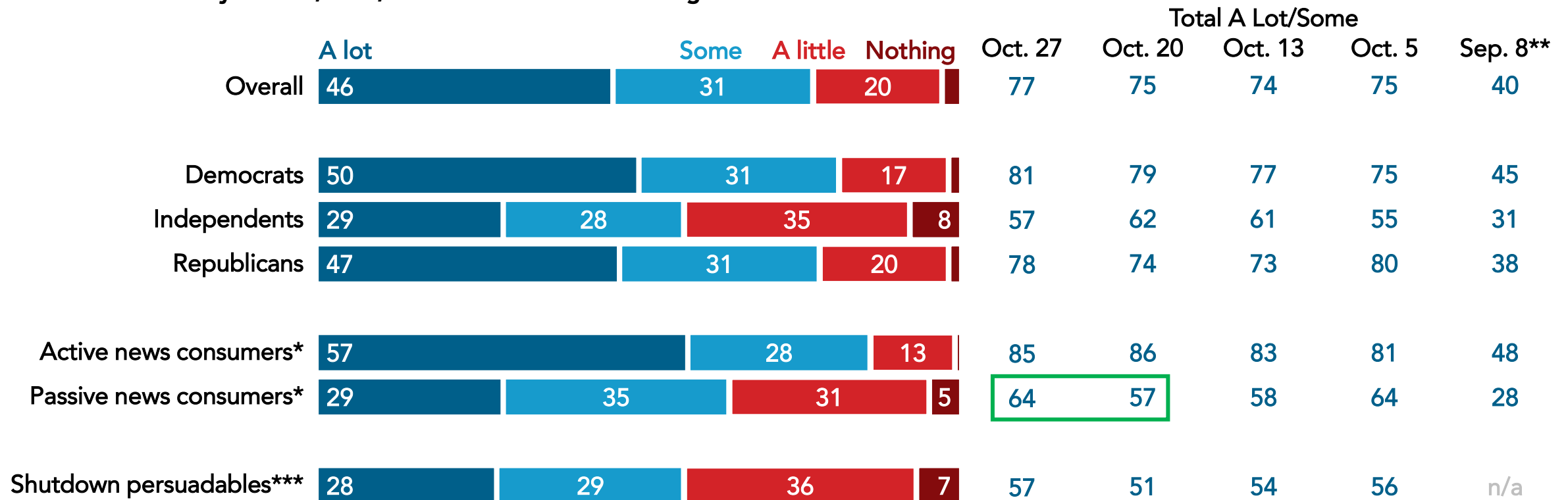
Key Takeaways:

- Slightly more Americans blame Trump and Republicans over Democrats for the shutdown than did last week. Americans also believe that Trump and Republicans have more power to end the shutdown.
- Trump's approval ratings continue to decline, and his economic approval rating is the lowest it has ever been in Navigator tracking. And, Americans continue to have a more negative impression of what Trump and Republicans are fighting for in the shutdown than what Democrats are fighting for.
- Americans from both parties view SNAP overwhelmingly positively. They're most concerned about SNAP losing funding, rising health care costs, and a long government shutdown. Nearly three in four have heard at least some news about SNAP benefits possibly ending, and most say they would blame Trump and Republicans if that happens.
- Growing shares say that the government shutdown will have a negative impact on them personally, especially among Republicans. Almost four in five continue to say the shutdown will have a negative impact on the country as a whole.

A Steady Majority of Americans Are Still Hearing "A Lot" or "Some" About the Government Shutdown

Since last week, there has been a 6-point increase in the share hearing "a lot" about the shutdown (from 40% last week to 46% this week).

How much have you seen, read, or heard about the current government shutdown?

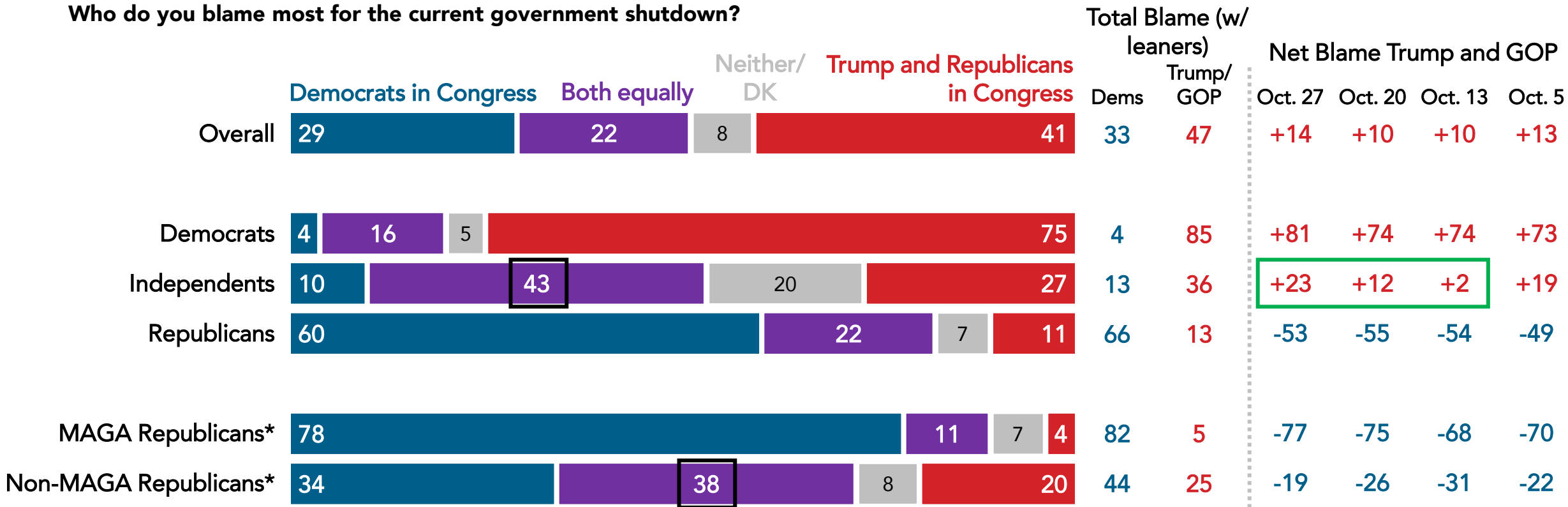


*"Passive news consumers" are those who say, "News comes to me," while "active news consumers" say, "I seek out news." **Previous question text said, "How much have you seen, read, or heard about a potential government shutdown in the coming months if Congress cannot pass their annual spending bills?" ***"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 surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 23-October 27, 2025. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Slightly More Americans Blame Trump and GOP Over Democrats for the Shutdown This Week, Driven by Shifting Independents

Since last week, independents increasingly blame Trump and Republicans more than Democrats for the government shutdown (from net +12 blame Trump and Republicans last week to net +23 now).

Who do you blame most for the current government shutdown?

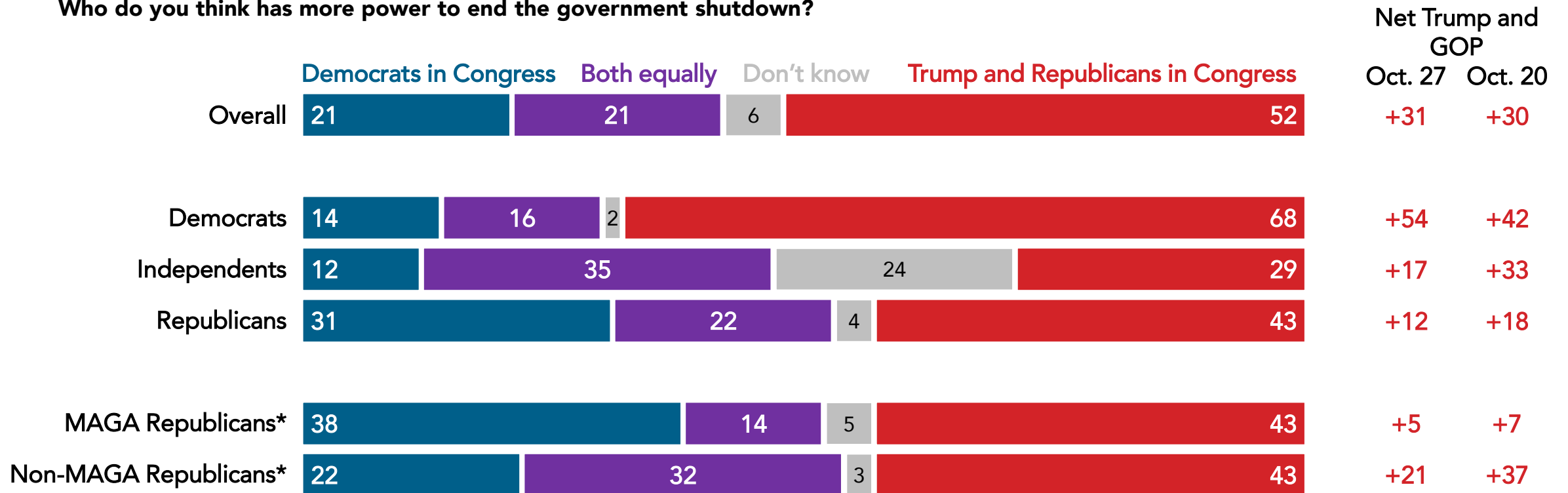


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Americans Remain Steady in Their Belief that Trump and Republicans Have More Power to End the Shutdown

Democrats increasingly say Trump and Republicans have the power to end the shutdown (from net +42 Trump and Republicans last week to net +54 this week).

Who do you think has more power to end the government shutdown?



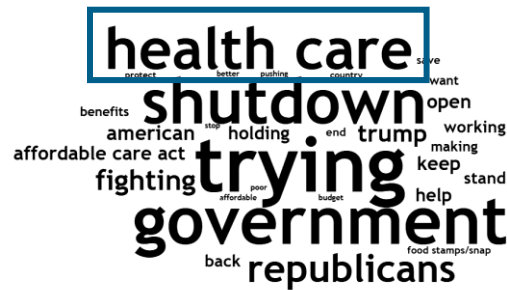
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The Shutdown Remains Top of Mind on Congress; Americans are Hearing the Most Negative on Trump on His New Ballroom

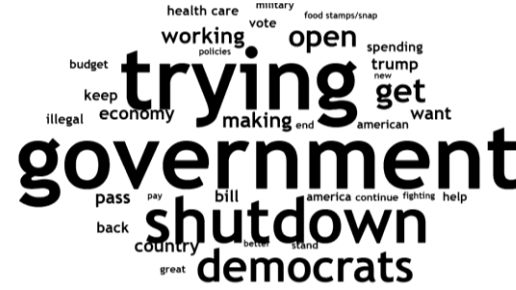
Health care continues to be top of mind on what positive things Americans are hearing about Democrats in Congress.

[If hearing positive/mixed information] In a few words, what **positive** things have you seen, read, or heard recently about...

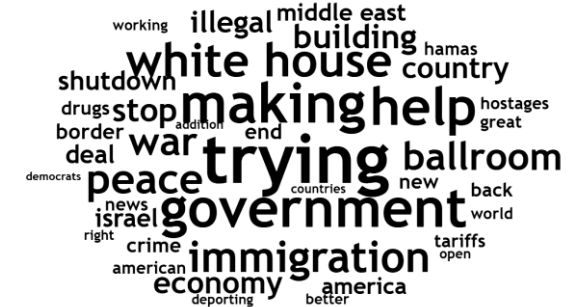
Democrats in Congress (45% hearing positive)



Republicans in Congress (43% hearing positive)



Donald Trump (42% hearing positive)



[If hearing negative/mixed information] In a few words, what **negative** things have you seen, read, or heard recently about...

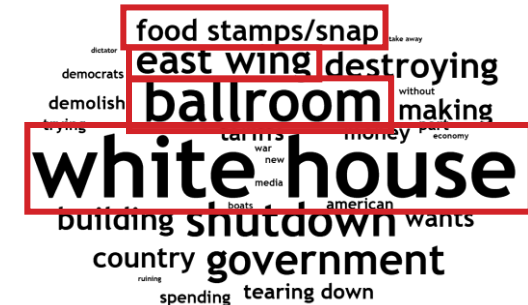
Democrats in Congress (65% hearing negative)



Republicans in Congress (61% hearing negative)



Donald Trump (75% hearing negative)



Amid the Noise, Shutdown Impacts – Including SNAP Running Out and Health Care Costs Rising – Are Top Concerns

Please indicate how concerned you are about each one, where 1 means you're not at all concerned about that item and 5 means you're extremely concerned about that item.

	% 5 – Extremely concerning		% Total Concerning (% 4-5)				MAGA Reps.*	Non-MAGA Reps.*
		% 4	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep		
SNAP, or food stamps, running out of funding in November and millions losing access to food assistance if the government shutdown continues	58	15	73	88	73	57	54	61
Health care costs rising and Americans losing health care coverage if Congress does nothing to prevent it	57	17	74	89	70	61	54	70
The government shutdown entering its fourth week with no clear end in sight	55	21	76	87	74	65	60	71
The U.S. giving \$40 billion to Argentina to bail out its economy	53	19	71	84	68	60	57	64
Federal workers not receiving their paychecks	48	21	69	83	64	57	53	62
Trump spending \$300 million to build a ballroom at the White House	47	14	61	86	69	34	21	52
New tariffs being put in place as the trade war with China grows	41	19	60	84	61	36	26	50
Trump ordering the National Guard to be newly deployed to Portland, Oregon and to continue to be deployed to Chicago	41	15	56	84	56	29	19	43
The U.S. conducting multiple lethal strikes against ships in the Caribbean Sea since September	37	16	53	75	56	30	20	42

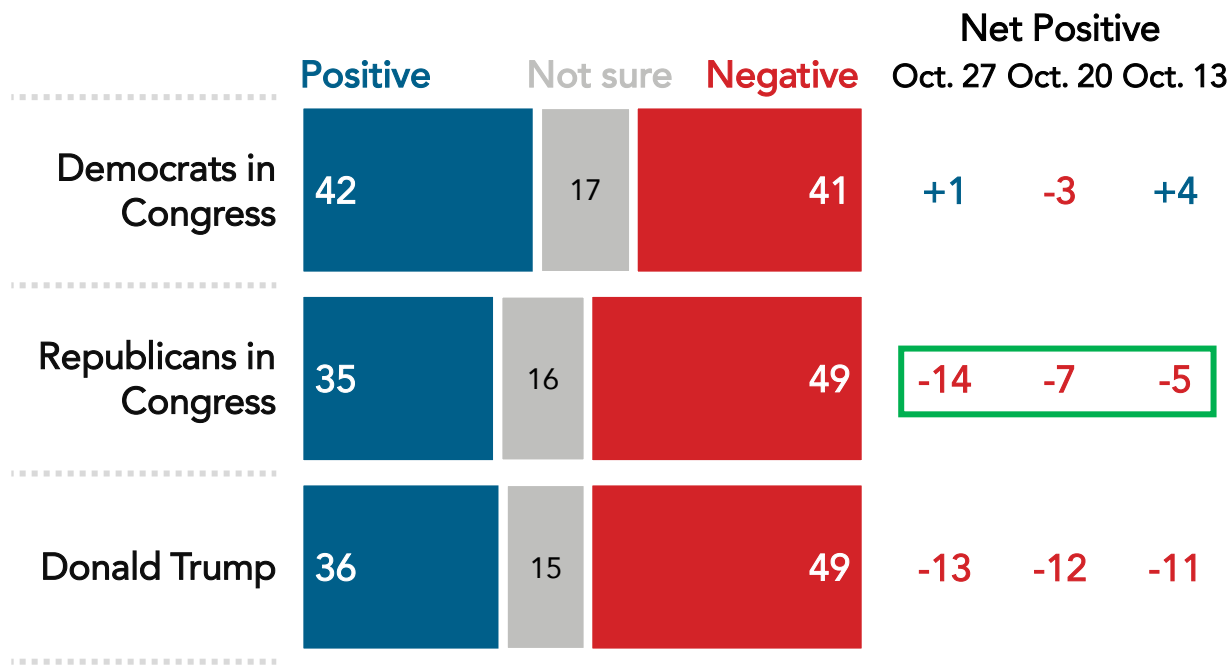
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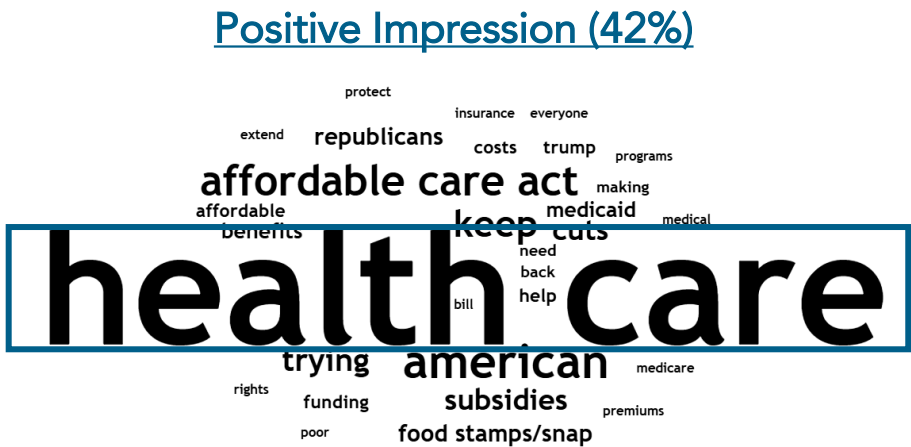
Americans Continue to Have a More Negative View of Trump and GOP's Goals in the Shutdown Than Democrats'

While views of what Trump is fighting for (net -13 positive) and what Republicans in Congress are fighting for (net -14) are in the negative by double digits, Americans are divided on views of what Democrats in Congress are fighting for (net +1).

Do you have a positive or negative impression of what _____ is/are fighting for in this government shutdown?



[If a positive or negative impression] And what, specifically, do you think the Democrats in Congress are fighting for in this government shutdown?



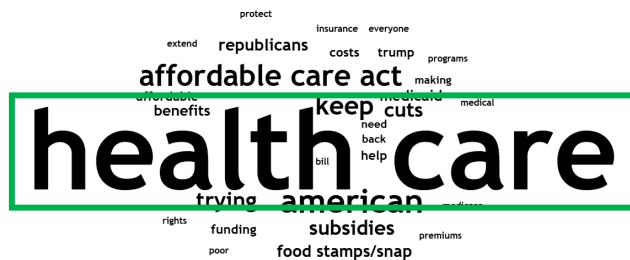
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 23-October 27, 2025. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Health Care Continues to Dominate the Conversation Around What Democrats Are Fighting for in the Shutdown

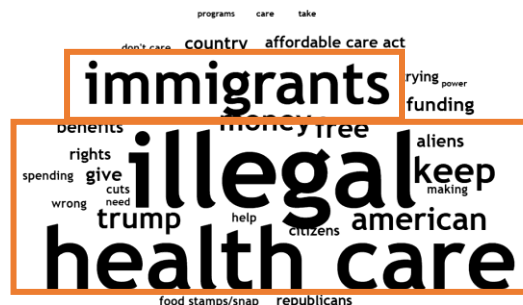
“Health care” defines both the positive and negative conversation around Democrats in the shutdown – on the negative, Americans cite giving health care to illegal immigrants, and on the positive, they cite Democrats fighting to protect health care.

And what, specifically, do you think _____ is/are fighting for in this government shutdown?

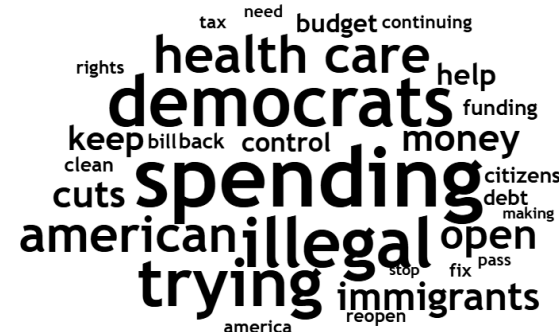
Democrats in Congress (Positive, 42%)



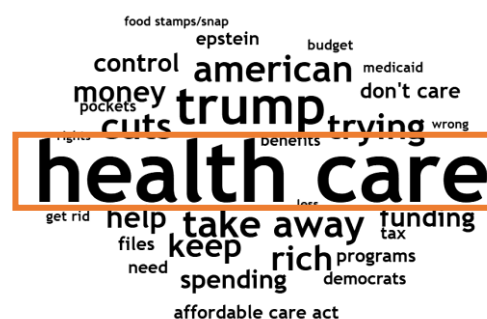
Democrats in Congress (Negative, 41%)



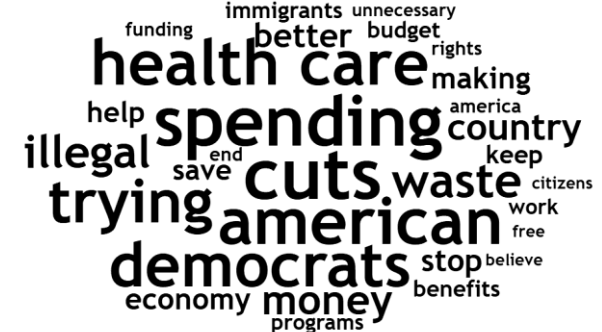
Republicans in Congress (Positive, 35%)



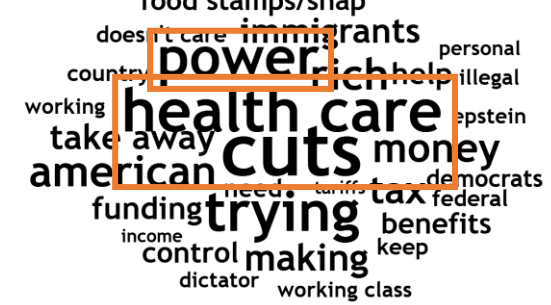
Republicans in Congress (Negative, 49%)



Donald Trump (Positive, 36%)



Donald Trump (Negative, 49%)



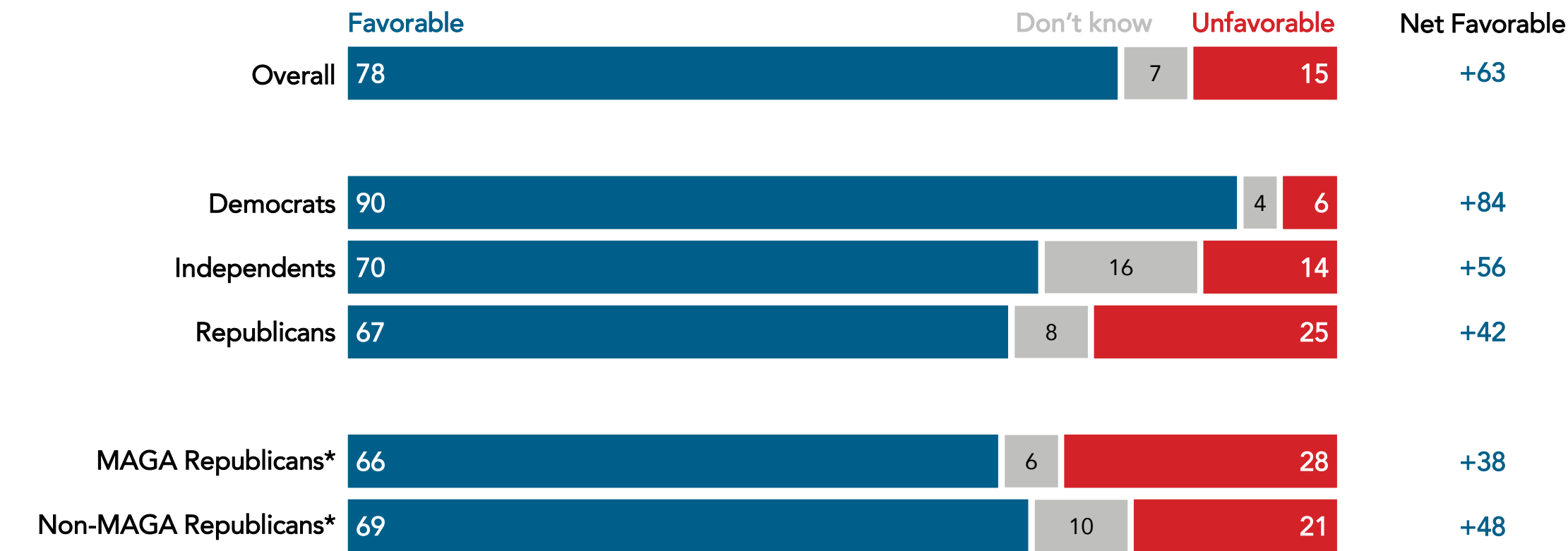
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SNAP Is Deeply Popular Across Party Lines

Nearly four in five Americans view SNAP favorably, including majorities of both MAGA* (net +38 favorable) and non-MAGA Republicans* (net +48).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: SNAP, formerly known as food stamps.



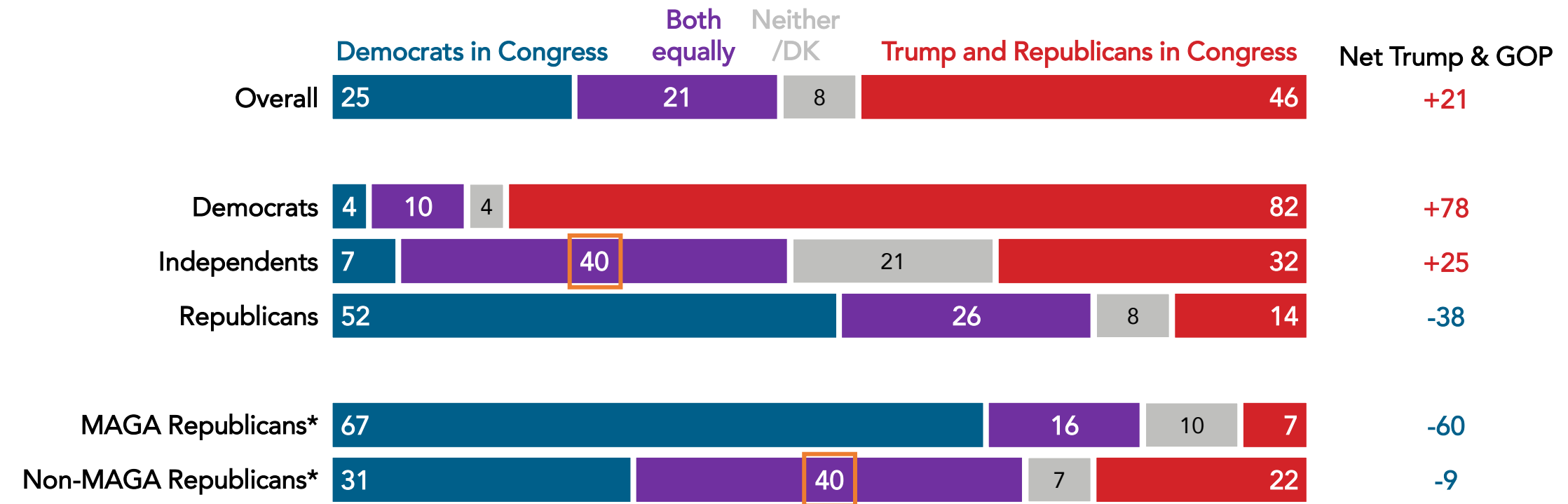
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Almost Half Say They Would Blame Trump and Republicans More If SNAP Benefits Run Out

Nearly half say they would blame Trump and Republicans for SNAP running out (46%), including a third of independents (32%) and one in five non-MAGA Republicans* (22%). That said, 40% of independents would blame both equally, as would 40% of non-MAGA Republicans*.

- Nearly three in four say they are hearing "a lot" or "some" about SNAP running out of funding on November 1st (72%).

If SNAP, or food stamps, runs out of funding in November due to the government shutdown... Who would you blame most?

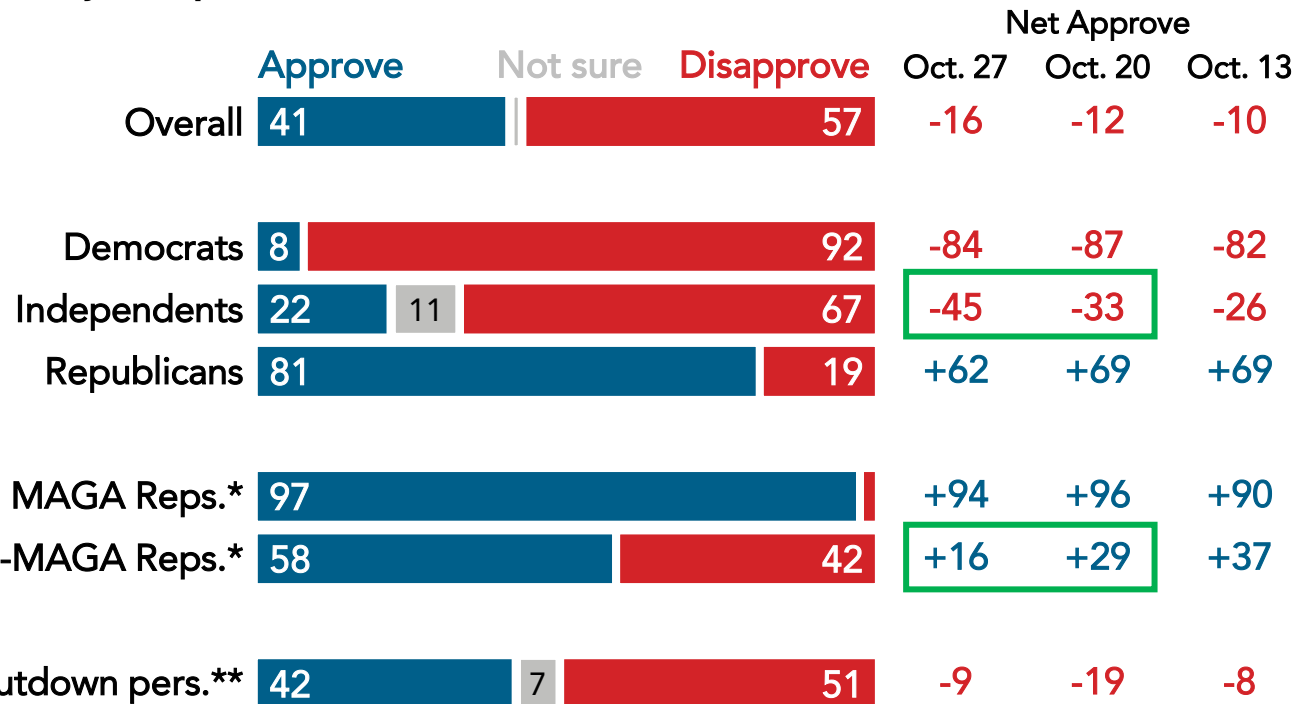


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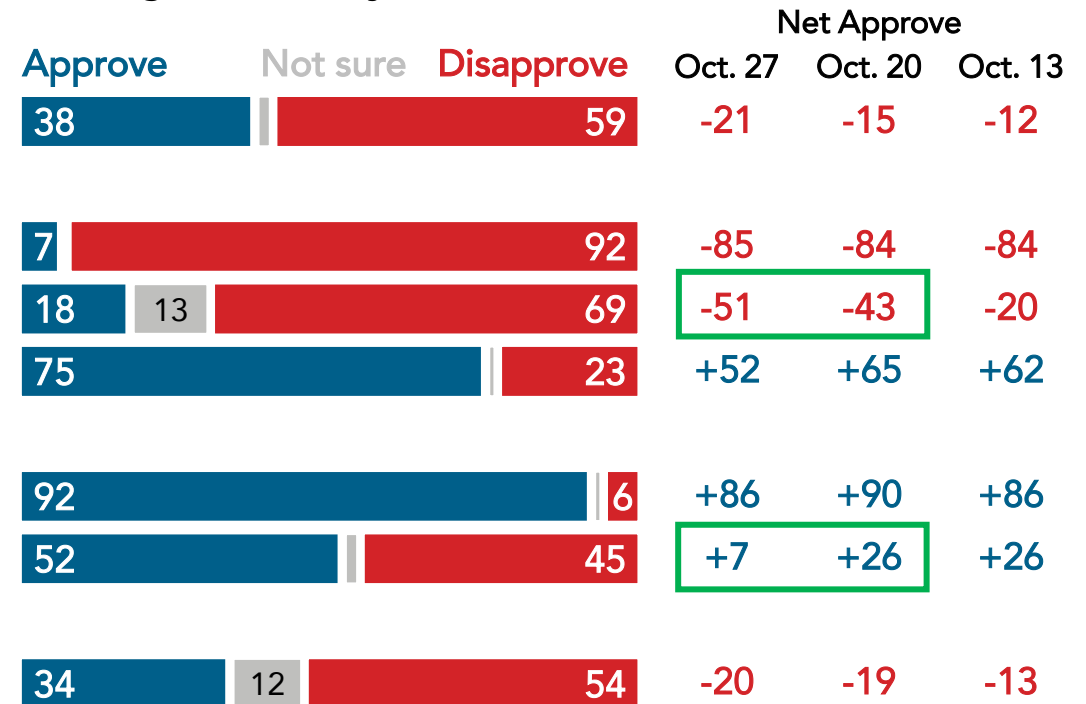
Trump's Approval Ratings Have Declined, With His Economic Rating Hitting a New Navigator Low Including His First Term

Non-MAGA Republicans* and independents have both grown less approving since last week, from net -33 approve overall among independents to net -45, and from net +29 among non-MAGA Republicans* to net +16.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the economy?



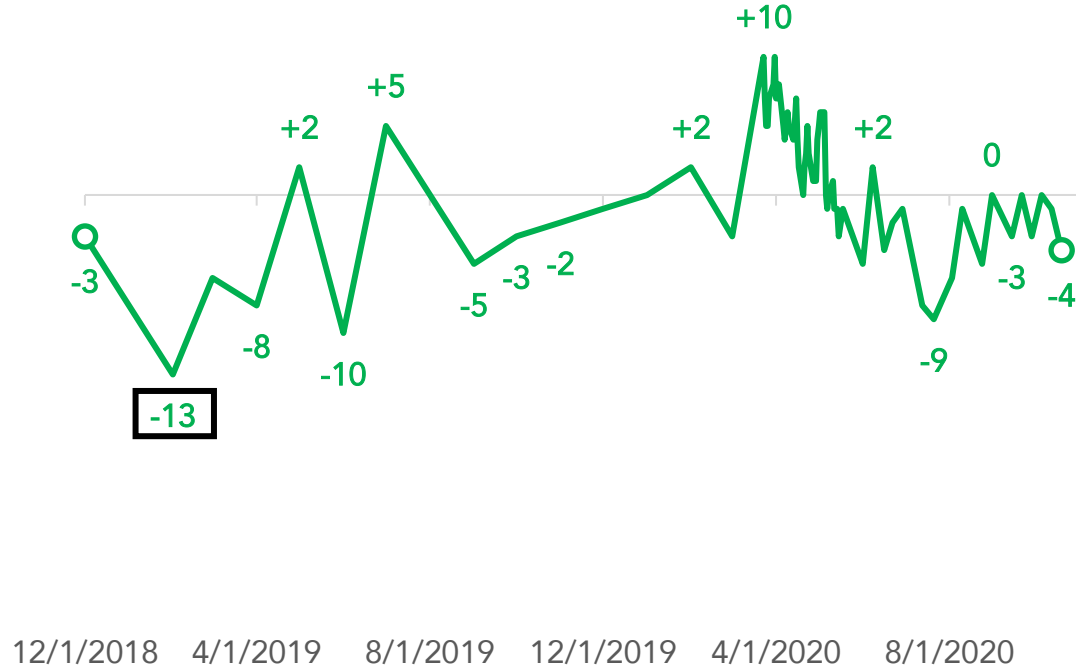
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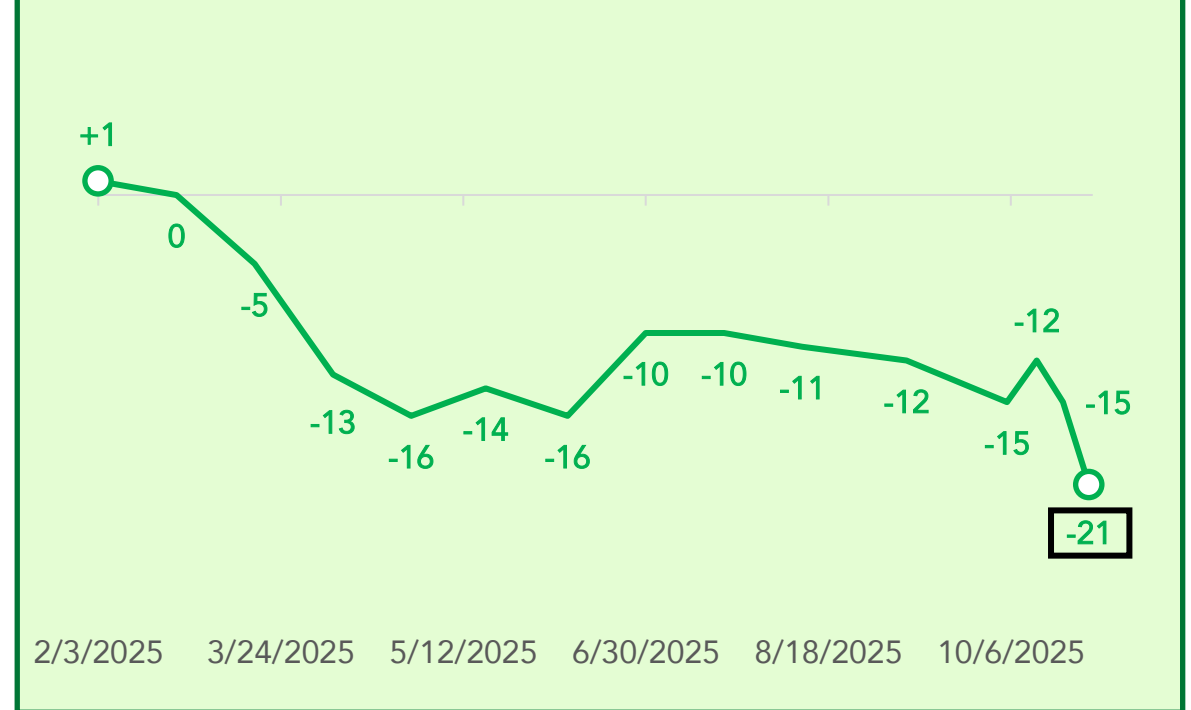
Trump's Economic Approval Rating Is Now at Its Worst in Navigator Tracking History

In his first term, Trump's worst economic approval rating in Navigator tracking was net -13 approve. This week, his net economic approval rating has dropped to net -21.

Trump Net Economic Approval: First Term



Trump Net Economic Approval: Second Term

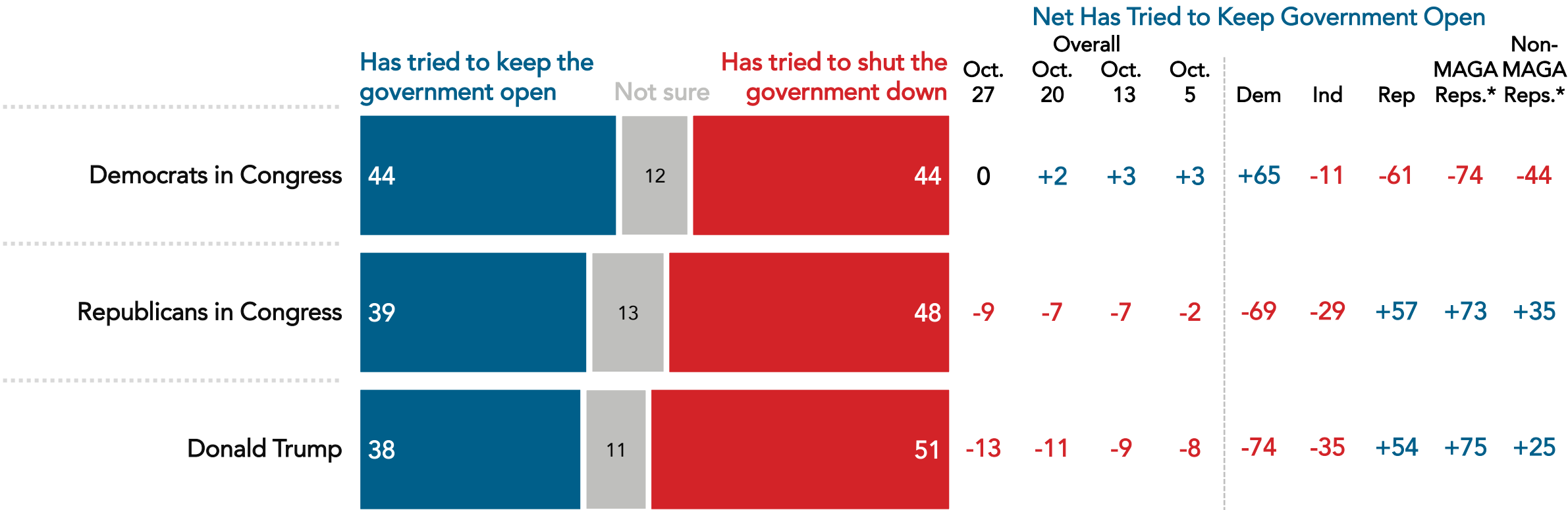


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A Majority Say Trump Has Tried to Shut the Government Down; Similar Shares Say the Same of GOP, Fewer of Democrats

Independents are most likely to say Trump has tried to shut the government down (net -35 keep open), followed by Republicans in Congress (net -29) – with a slimmer plurality saying Democrats have tried to shut it down (net -11).

Please indicate whether you think each has tried to keep the government open or has tried to shut the government down.



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There Has Been an Uptick in Expected Personal Harms From Shutdown; Views of National Impacts Remain Negative

A growing share of both Republican partisans* (from net -12 positive two weeks ago to net -48 now) and expanded independents* (from net -32 to net -54) say the shutdown will have a negative impact on them personally.

(Split Sample) Regardless of how much you have heard about the government shutdown, which of the following best describes the impact you think it will have on **you personally**?

(Split Sample) Regardless of how much you have heard about the government shutdown, which of the following best describes the impact you think it will have on **the country**?



Democratic partisans*

Expanded independents*

Republican partisans*

MAGA Republicans**

Non-MAGA Republicans**

Shutdown persuadables***

Democratic partisans*

Expanded independents*

Republican partisans*

MAGA Republicans**

Non-MAGA Republicans**

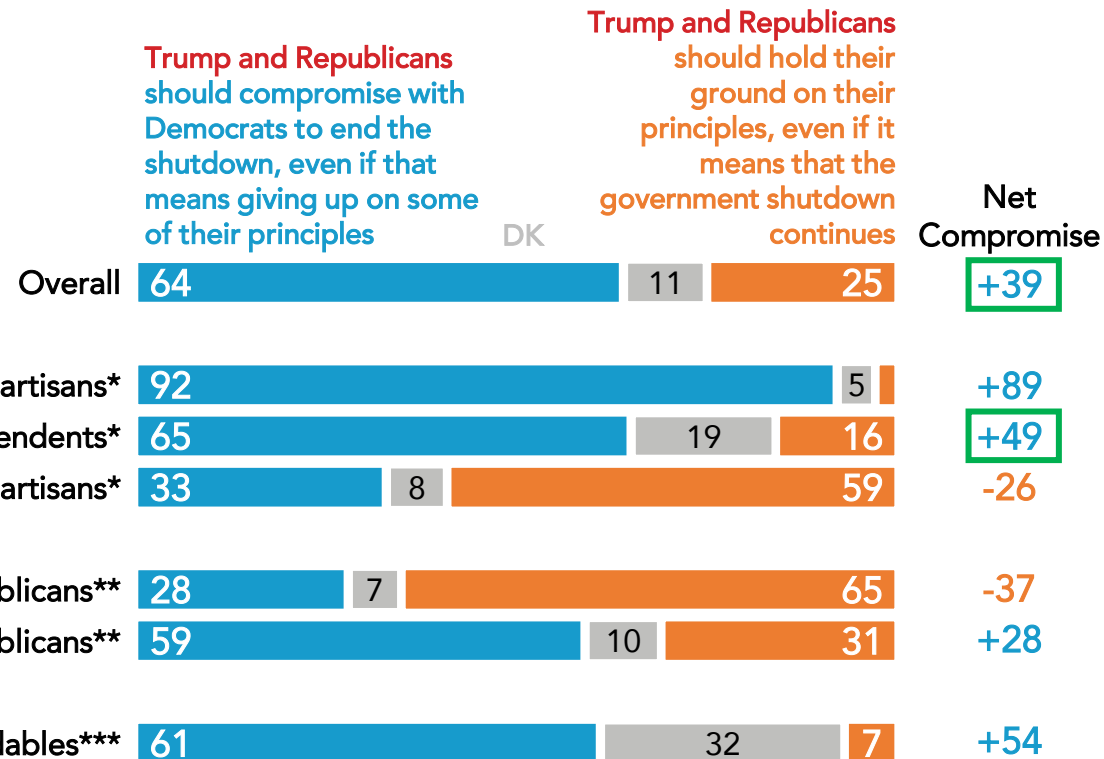
Shutdown persuadables***

*"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. **"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. ***"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 surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted October 23-October 27, 2025. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

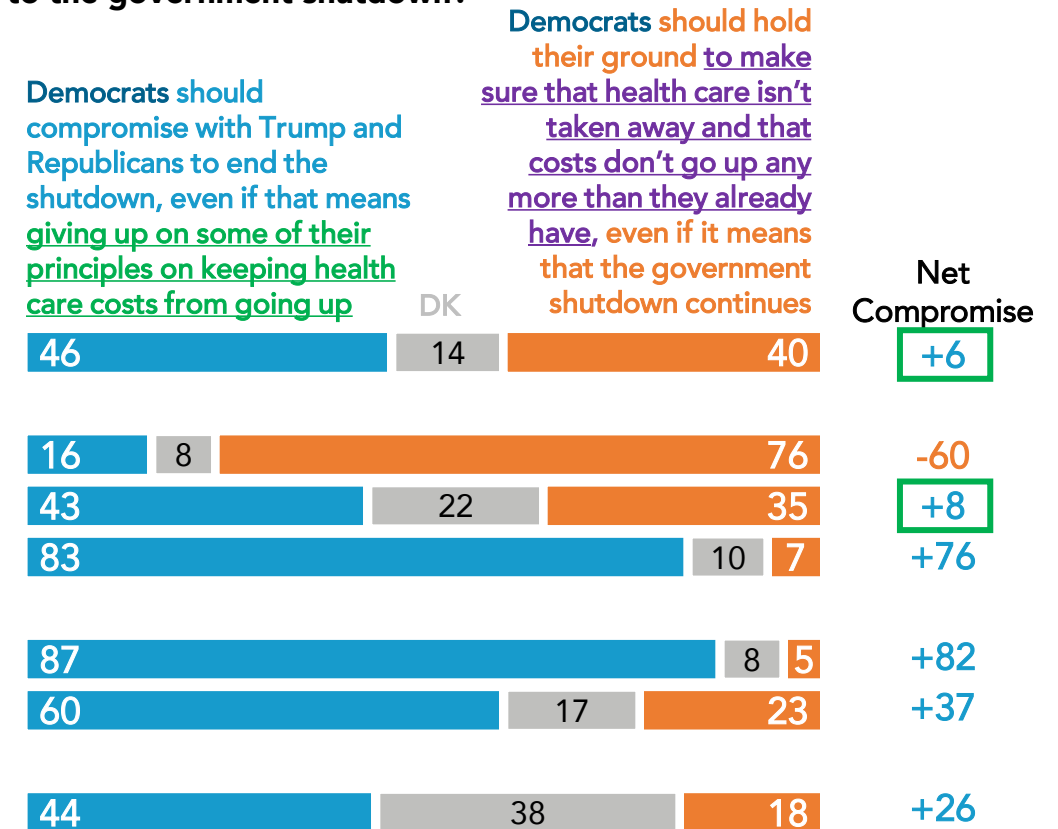
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More Want to See Trump and GOP Compromise to End the Shutdown Than Say So of Democrats With Health Care Frame

What do you think **President Trump and Republicans in Congress** should do in relation to the government shutdown?



What do you think **Democrats in Congress** should do in relation to the government shutdown?



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Democrats Retain Health Care Advantage, See New Leads on Looking Out for People, Acting Responsibly, Spending

A plurality of Americans trust Democrats in Congress more than Trump and Republicans on health care (net +16 trust Democrats more), “looking out for people like me” (net +10), “acting responsibly” (net +7), and “spending money in a way that benefits my family” (net +7).

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

Please indicate who you personally trust more to handle each one.					Net Trust the Democratic Party									
	The Democratic Party	Neither	DK	Trump and the Republican Party	Overall									
					Oct. 27	Oct. 20	Oct. 13	Dem	Ind	Rep	MAGA Reps.*	Non-MAGA Reps.*		
Health care	47	17	5	31	+16	+15	+13	+83	+26	-54	-73	-27		
Looking out for people like me	42	22	4	32	+10	+7	+1	+80	+8	-59	-77	-34		
Acting responsibly	40	22	5	33	+7	+1	+1	+79	+3	-63	-82	-37		
Spending money in a way that benefits my family	38	24	7	31	+7	n/a	n/a	+74	+6	-60	-77	-36		
Fighting for what is right	40	18	5	37	+3	+1	+2	+78	+6	-73	-92	-48		
Inflation and the cost of living	37	21	6	36	+1	-2	-2	+68	+2	-66	-79	-48		
Being fiscally responsible	35	23	7	35	0	-7	-7	+66	+2	-66	-82	-44		
Handling the government shutdown	32	30	6	32	0	-3	-5	+62	+3	-60	-79	-36		
Bringing needed change to Washington	35	22	6	37	-2	-10	-9	+68	-5	-70	-87	-47		
Fixing a broken political system	31	30	5	34	-3	-5	-7	+62	-2	-68	-87	-40		
Getting things done	34	20	5	41	-7	-13	-10	+64	-7	-76	-90	-56		

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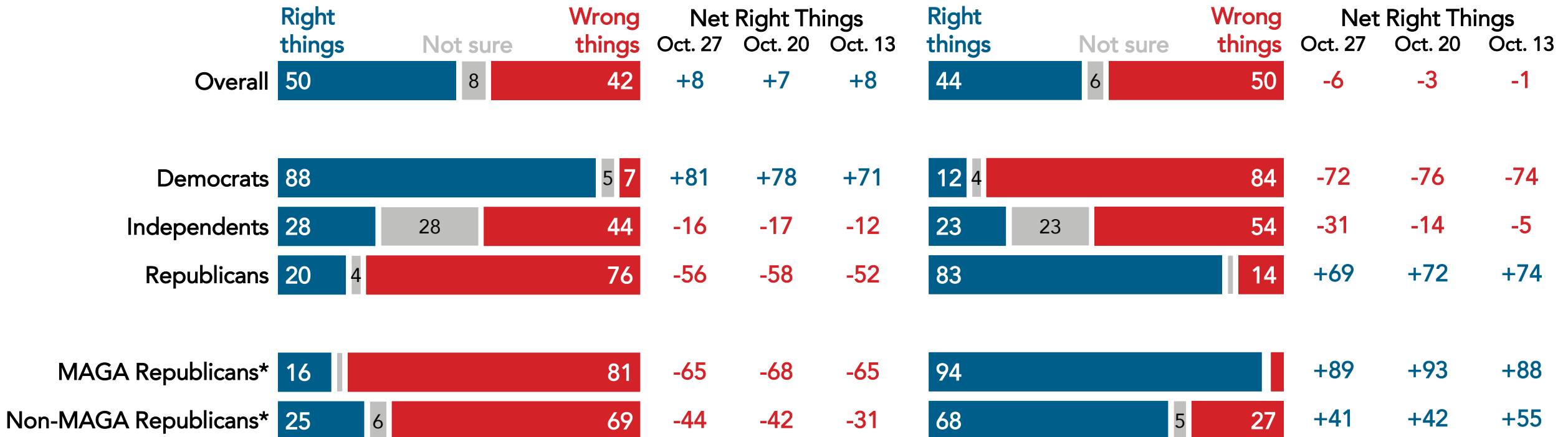
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Half Continue to Say Democrats Are Focused on the Right Things While Half Say Republicans Are Focused on Wrong Things

A growing majority of independents say the Republican Party is focused on the wrong things (54% wrong things).

Do you think the **Democratic Party** is focused on the right things?

Do you think the **Republican Party** is focused on the right things?



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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 23-October 27, 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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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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