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Shutdown Week 5
Wednesday, November 5th

The Government Shutdown: A Guide for Advocates

Note: This survey fielded entirely after the November 1st deadline for SNAP funding and the beginning of open enrollment for the Affordable Care Act health insurance marketplace.



Credit: Shutterstock/Lucky Photographer

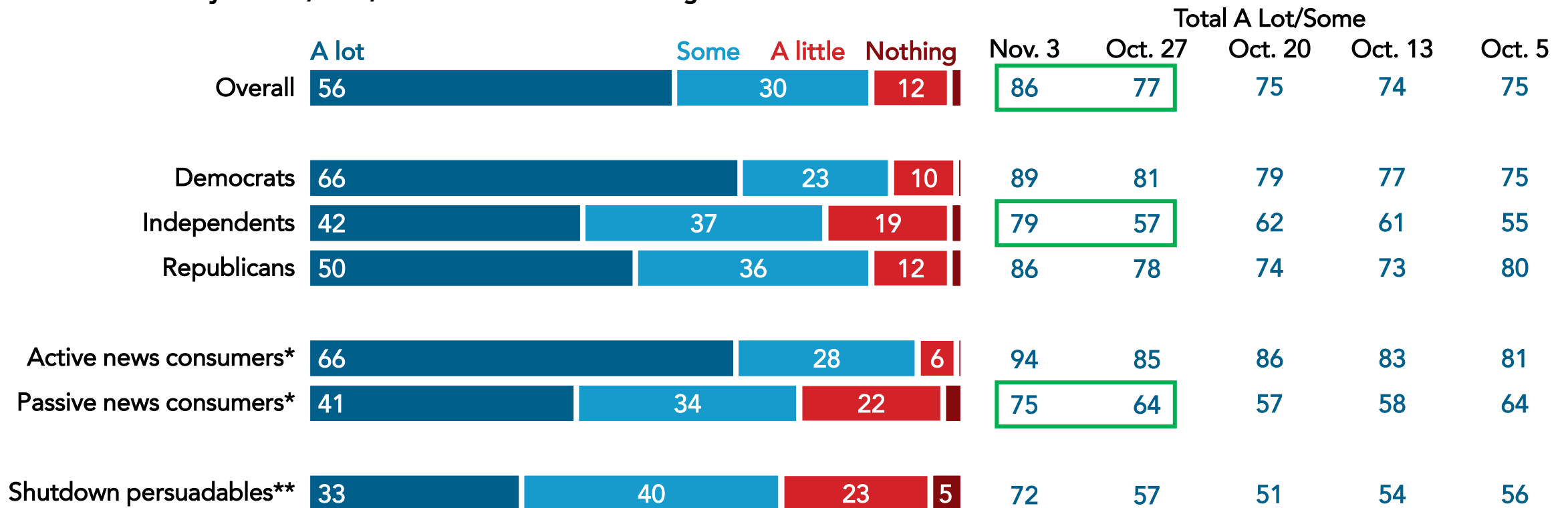
Key Takeaways:

- More Americans are hearing about the shutdown than were last week, with more independents and passive news consumers tuning in. Americans are hearing the most about SNAP running out of funding, the indefinite nature of the shutdown, and rising health care costs – and these are also the most concerning news items this week.
- Nearly half blame Trump and Republicans more for the shutdown, and a majority blame Trump and Republicans more for SNAP running out of funding.
- Growing majorities report their health care costs going up, and nearly half blame Trump and Republicans more than Democrats for health care premiums and costs generally rising.
- Criticisms of Trump and Republicans defunding SNAP are among the most concerning this week when it comes to the shutdown. And, roughly two in three Americans say they would view Trump and Republicans' handling of the shutdown unfavorably both if they reopen the government and millions lose their health care – and, if they keep the government shut down and don't fund SNAP.

More Are Hearing About the Shutdown This Week, With the Increase Driven By Independents & Passive News Consumers

There has been a 9-point increase in the share hearing “a lot” or “some” about the shutdown since last week (from 77% to 86%), driven by increases among independents (from 57% to 79%) and passive news consumers* (from 64% to 75%).

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

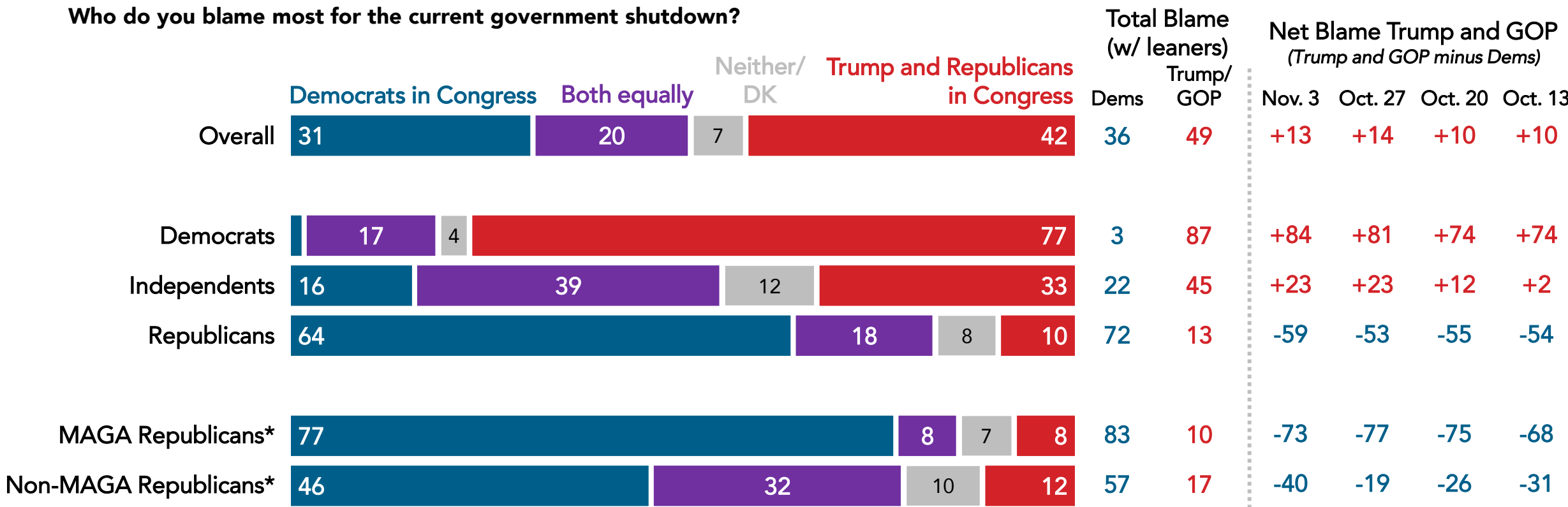


*“Passive news consumers” are those who say, “News comes to me,” while “active news consumers” say, “I seek out news.” **“Shutdown persuadables” are defined as those who say they do not blame the shutdown on either Democrats or Trump and Republicans, blame both of these equally, or don’t know, and excludes 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 November 1-November 3, 2025. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Americans Continue to Blame Trump and Republicans More for the Shutdown Than Democrats

Non-MAGA Republicans* have become increasingly more likely to blame Democrats in Congress for the shutdown than Trump and Republicans (from net -19 blame Trump and Republicans last week to net -40 now).

Who do you blame most for the current government shutdown?



*"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 November 1-November 3, 2025. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Over the past few days, has what you have seen, read, or heard recently about Donald Trump been:



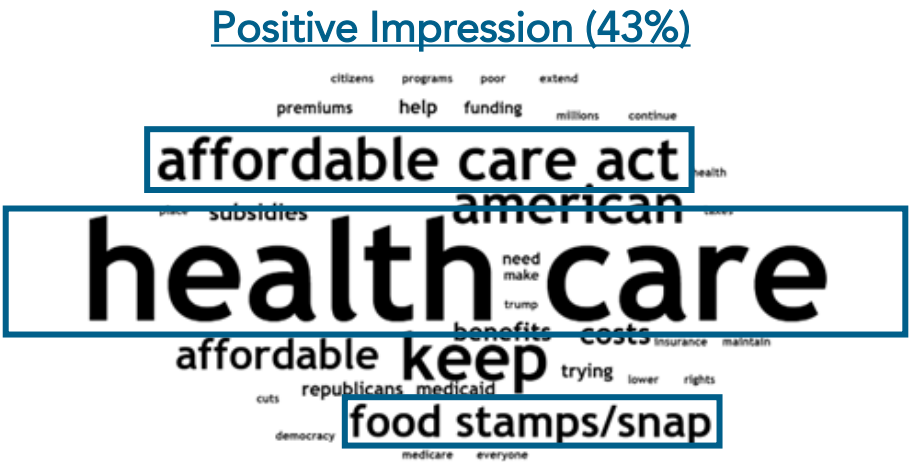
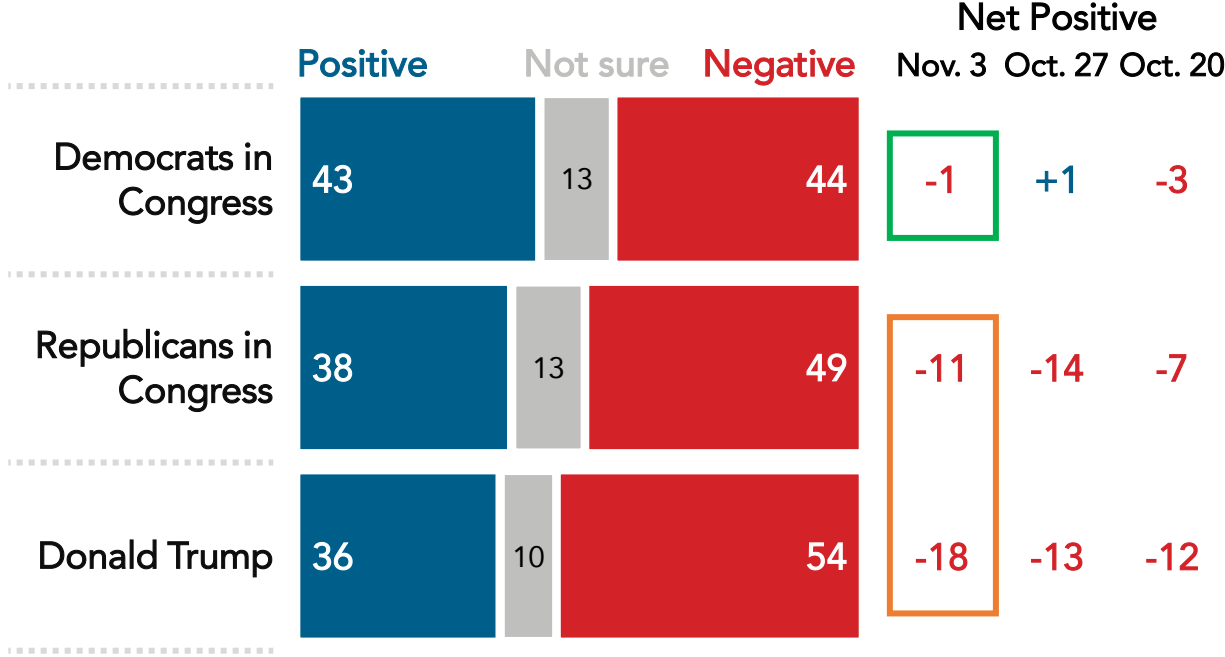
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Views of What Trump and Republicans Are Fighting for in the Shutdown Remain More Negative Than Views of Democrats

Americans remain divided on whether they have a positive or negative impression of what Democrats are fighting for in the shutdown (net -1 positive). Health care, the Affordable Care Act in particular, and food stamps/SNAP break through on the positive.

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?

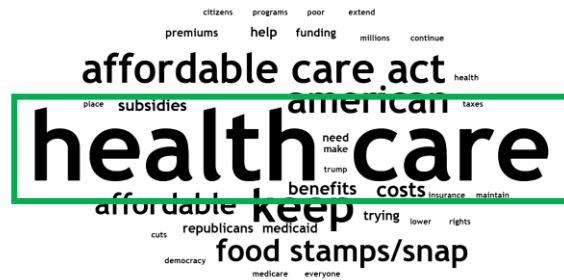


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The Shutdown Debate Continues to Be Seen Through a Health Care Lens; SNAP Also Breaking Through on Negative on GOP

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

Democrats in Congress (Positive, 43%)



"They are trying to **keep as many people on health insurance** as possible."

"To **keep affordable health care** for Americans."

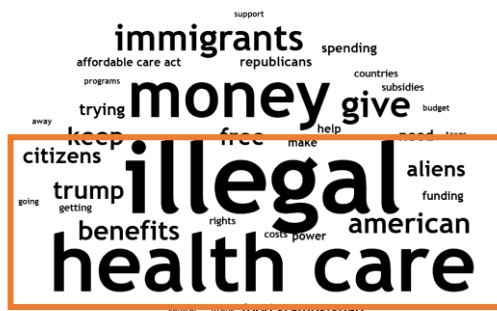
Republicans in Congress (Positive, 38%)



"**Open the government.**"

"To **reopen the government** and **discuss health care** with the Democrats."

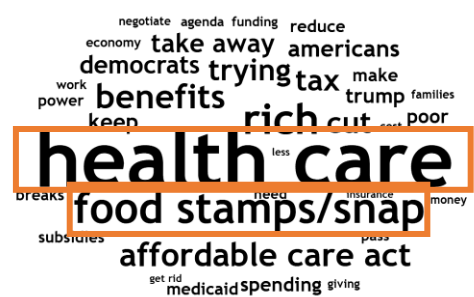
Democrats in Congress (Negative, 44%)



"Health care for **illegal aliens.**"

"They are **fighting for illegals** to have health care over U.S. citizens."

Republicans in Congress (Negative, 49%)



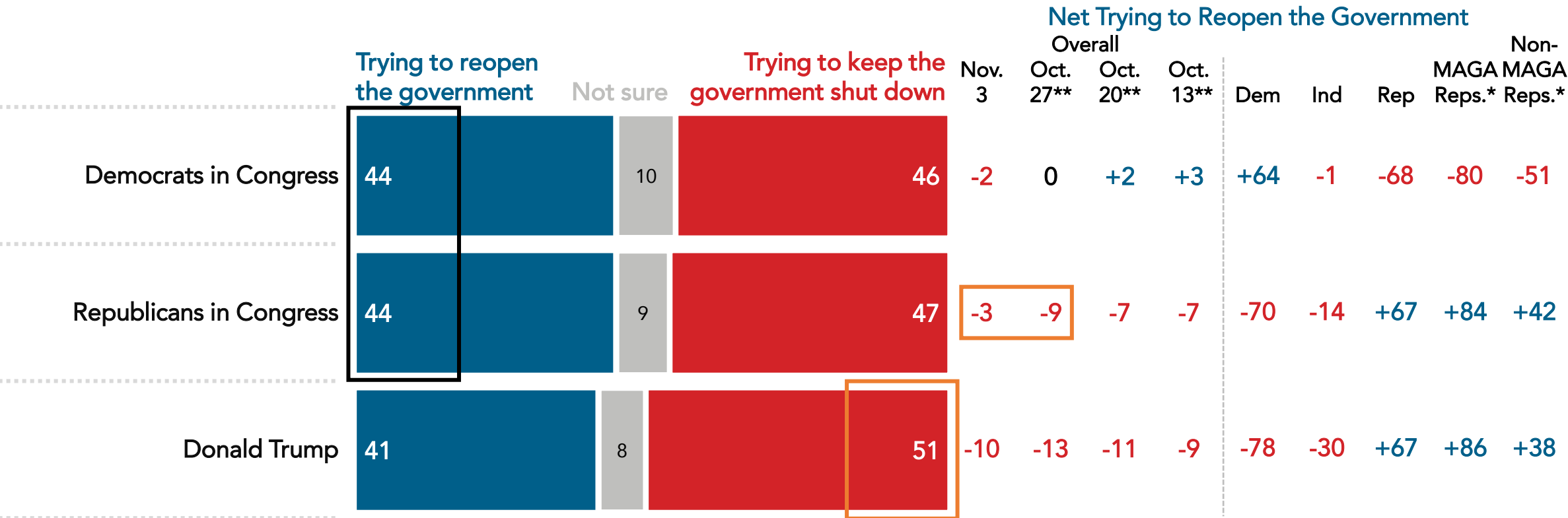
"They want to **take away health care and food stamps.** Which should never be touched."

"They want to **get rid of SNAP** coverage and **health coverage** for millions of people."

Equal Shares Say the Parties in Congress Are Trying to Reopen the Government; Majorities Say Trump Is Trying to Shut It Down

Growing shares of Americans say Republicans in Congress are trying to reopen the government (net -9 have tried to keep the government open last week, now just net -3 trying to reopen the government this week).

Please indicate whether you think each is trying to reopen the government or is trying to keep the government shut down.



*"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. **Previous question text read "Please indicate whether you think each has tried to keep the government open or has tried to shut the government down." Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted November 1-November 3, 2025. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

SNAP Running Out, the Continuing Shutdown, and Health Care Costs Rising Are the Most Concerning News Stories of the Week

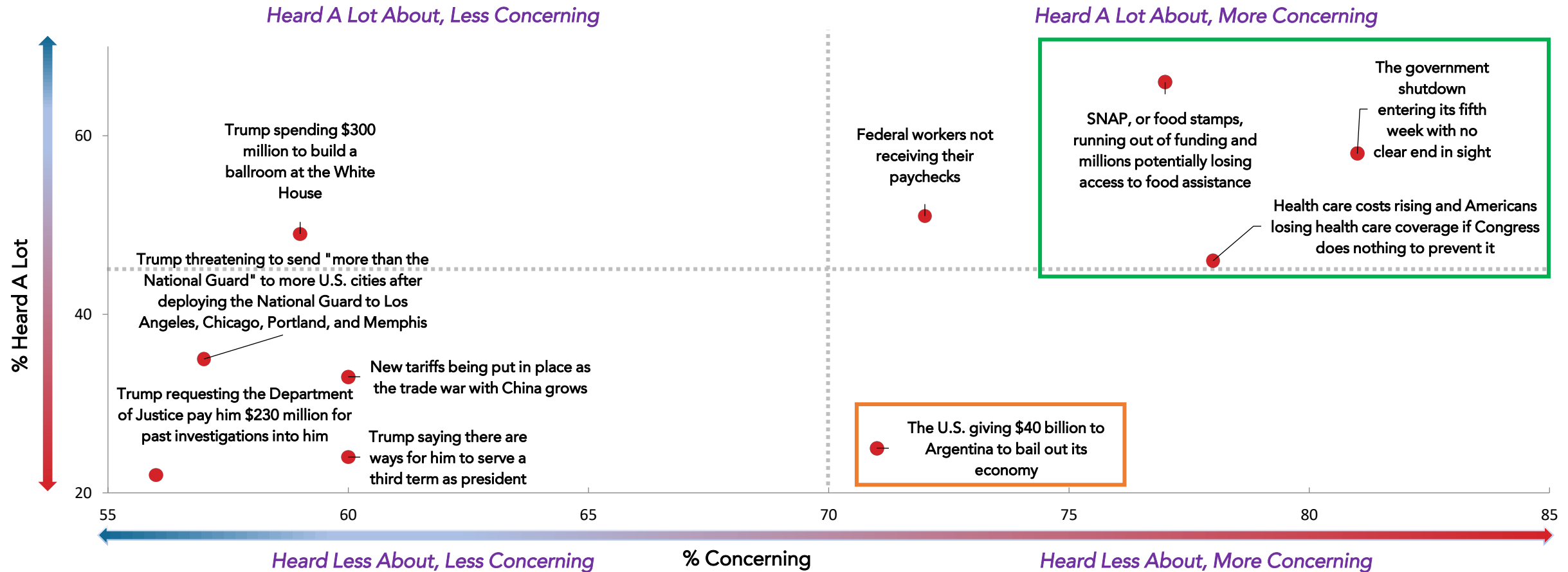
Please indicate how concerned you are about each one, where 1 means you're not at all concerned about that item and 5 means you're extremely concerned about that item.

	% 5 – Extremely concerning	% 4	% Total Concerning (% 4-5)				MAGA Reps.*	Non-MAGA Reps.*
			Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep		
SNAP, or food stamps, running out of funding and millions potentially losing access to food assistance	60	17	77	94	75	60	54	70
The government shutdown entering its fifth week with no clear end in sight	57	24	81	93	70	72	64	82
Health care costs rising and Americans losing health care coverage if Congress does nothing to prevent it	57	21	78	94	77	62	57	71
Federal workers not receiving their paychecks	51	21	72	87	58	61	56	70
The U.S. giving \$40 billion to Argentina to bail out its economy	51	20	71	85	65	58	53	65
Trump saying there are ways for him to serve a third term as president	50	10	60	89	62	30	25	37
Trump spending \$300 million to build a ballroom at the White House	49	11	59	88	52	34	25	47
Trump requesting the Department of Justice pay him \$230 million for past investigations into him	44	11	56	87	60	23	17	32
Trump threatening to send "more than the National Guard" to more U.S. cities after deploying the National Guard to Los Angeles, Chicago, Portland, and Memphis	43	14	57	88	63	24	17	34
New tariffs being put in place as the trade war with China grows	40	20	60	89	57	32	22	47

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Americans Are Most Concerned and Hearing a Lot About SNAP Running Out, the Shutdown Continuing, Health Care Costs Rising

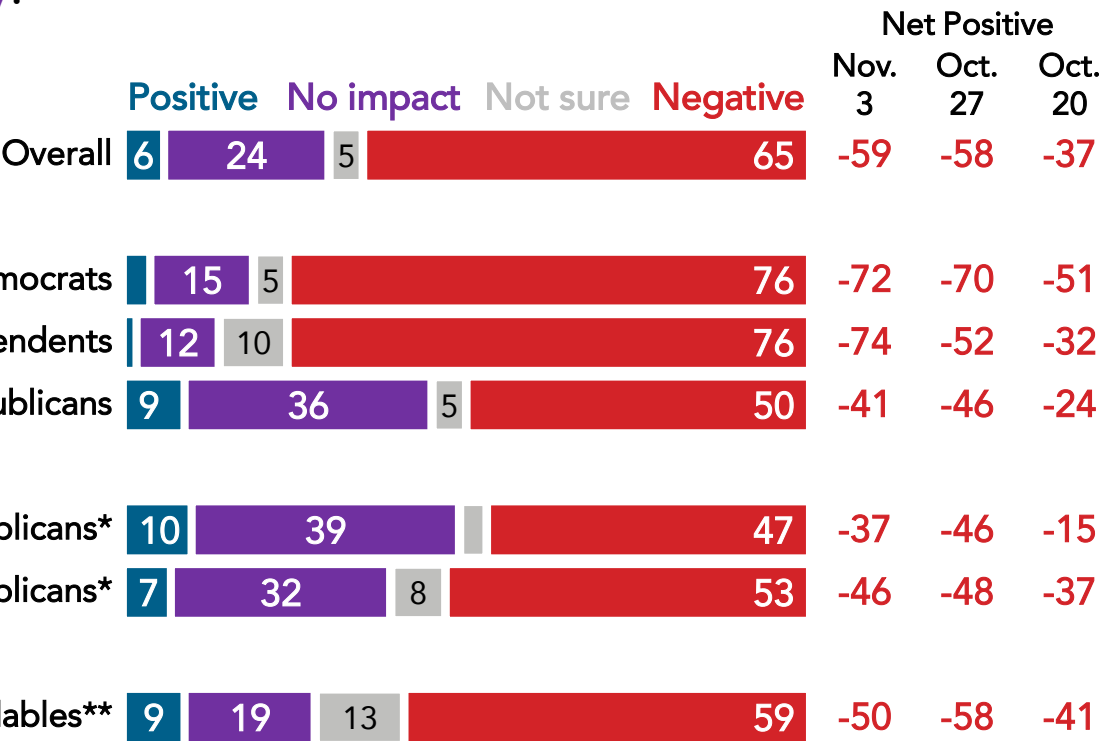


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Two in Three Say the Government Shutdown Will Impact Them Personally Negatively, Overwhelmingly Citing SNAP Cuts

When asked why they said they will be personally negatively impacted by the shutdown, respondents overwhelmingly cited SNAP.

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?



[If believe will be negatively impacted personally by shutdown] You indicated that you think the government shutdown will negatively impact you personally. What makes you say that?



"I got my **EBT benefits** cut off."

"I **receive SNAP benefits** and won't be while the shutdown continues."

"Because I **live off food stamps**."

"**SNAP benefits** are not currently being issued and my family needs them for food assistance."

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A Growing Majority of Americans Say the Country Will Be Harmed By the Shutdown

Widening majorities of Americans say the country will be harmed by the shutdown (from net -68 positive last week to net -78 this week), driven by changes among independents (from net -63 to net -79) and Republicans (from net -53 to net -68).

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?



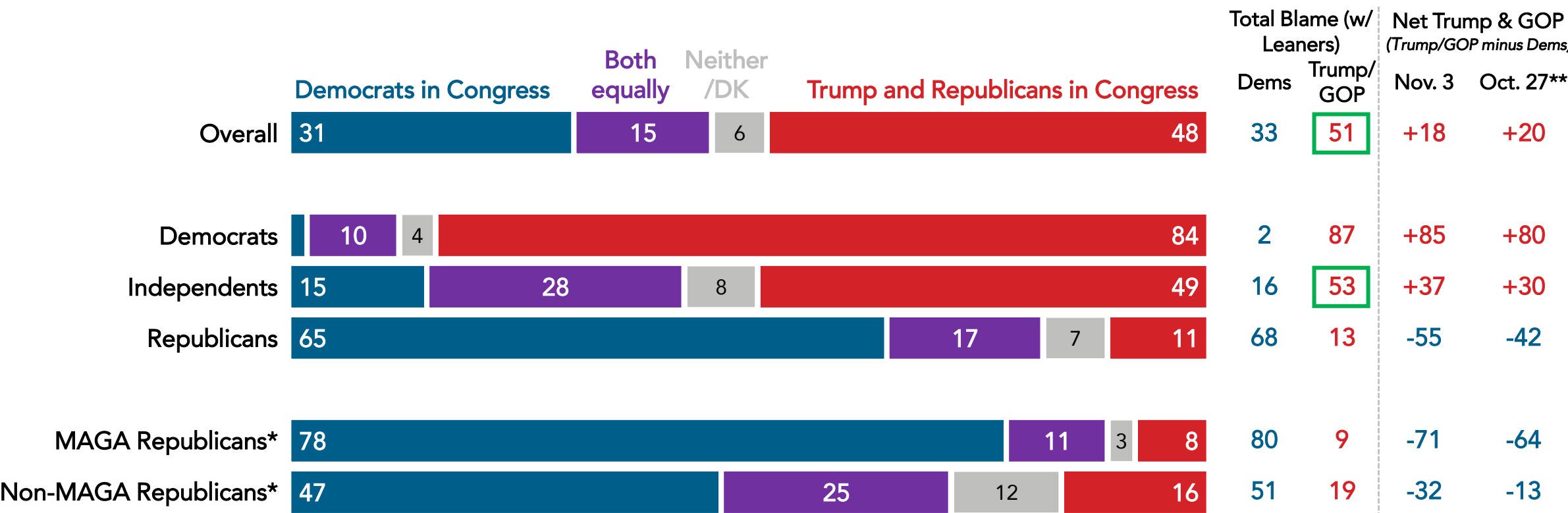
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A Majority of Americans Blame Trump and Republicans for SNAP Running Out of Funding

A majority of independents (53%, with leaners) also blame Trump and Republicans more for SNAP running out of funding.

Who do you blame most for SNAP, or food stamps, running out of funding due to the government shutdown?



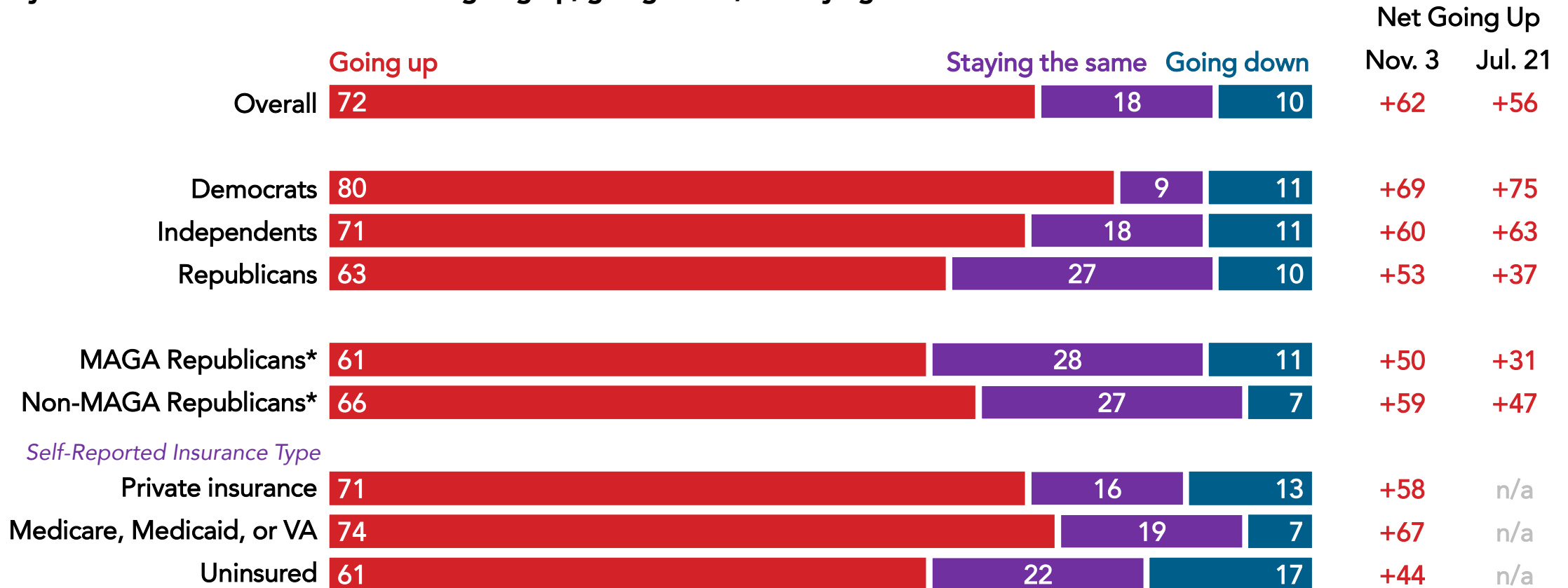
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Bipartisan Majorities Say Health Care Costs Are Going Up

Since July, the share who say the cost of health care is going up has grown from net +56 going up to net +62, driven mostly by increases among Republicans (from net +37 in July to net +53 now).

Do you think the cost of health care is going up, going down, or staying the same?

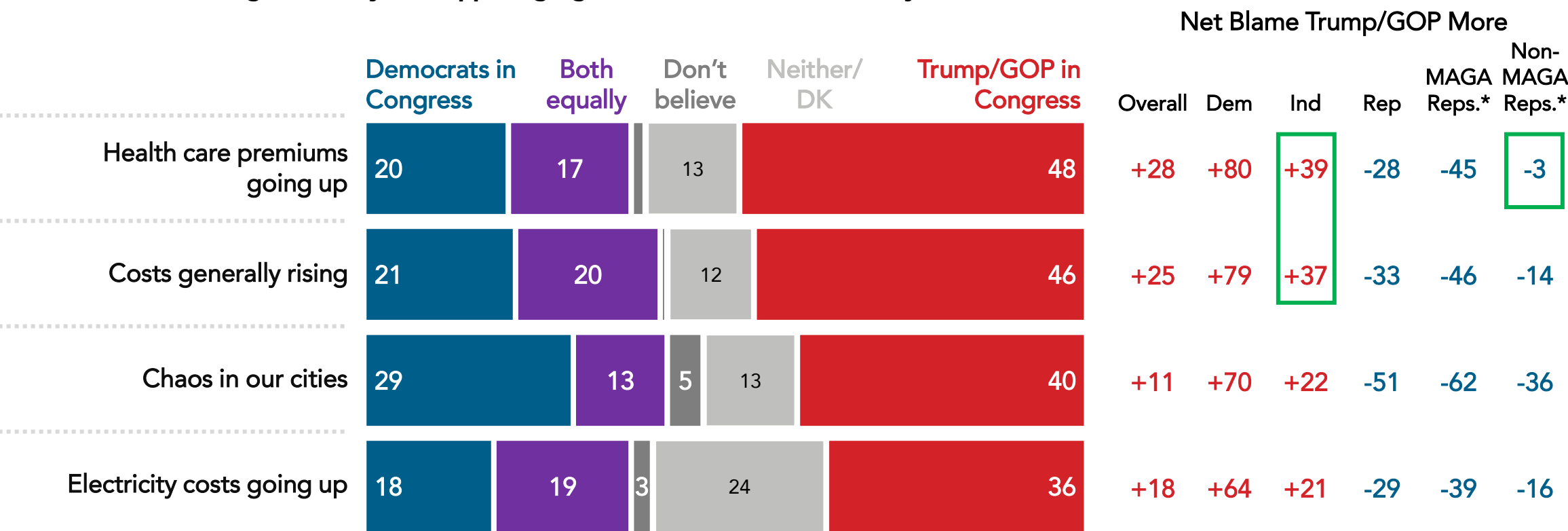


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Pluralities Blame Trump and GOP for a Range of Issues, From Rising Health Care Costs to Costs Generally to Chaos in Cities

Independents blame Trump and Republicans in Congress more for health care premiums going up (by 39 points) and costs generally (by 37 points). Non-MAGA Republicans* are divided on who they blame more on health care (net -3 blame Trump and Republicans more).

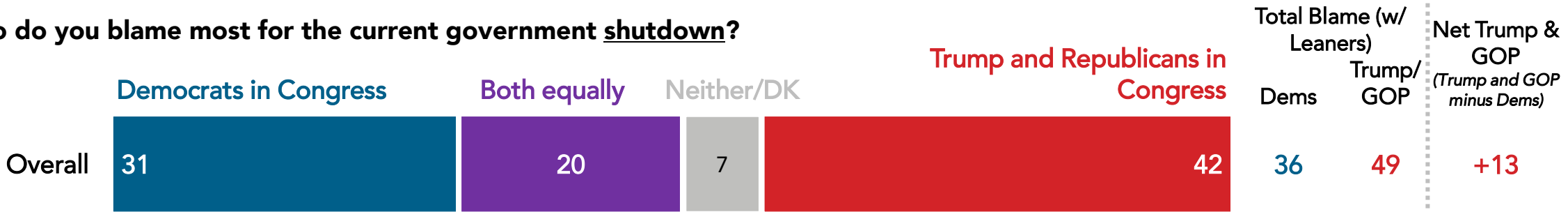
Below is a list of things some say are happening right now. Please indicate who you blame more for each one.



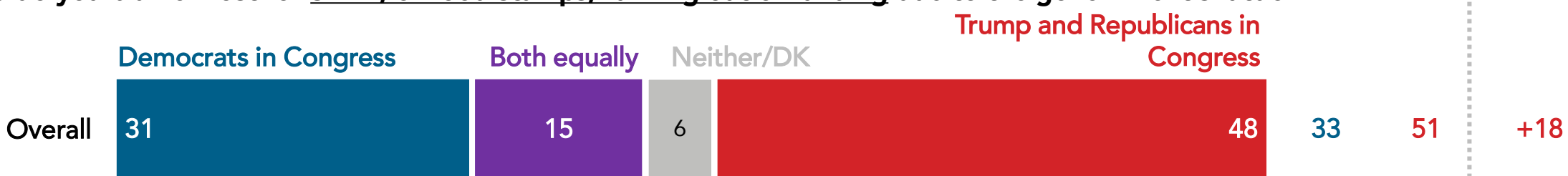
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Trump and Republicans in Congress Seen as Bearing the Blame for the Shutdown and Its Consequences on Health Care, SNAP

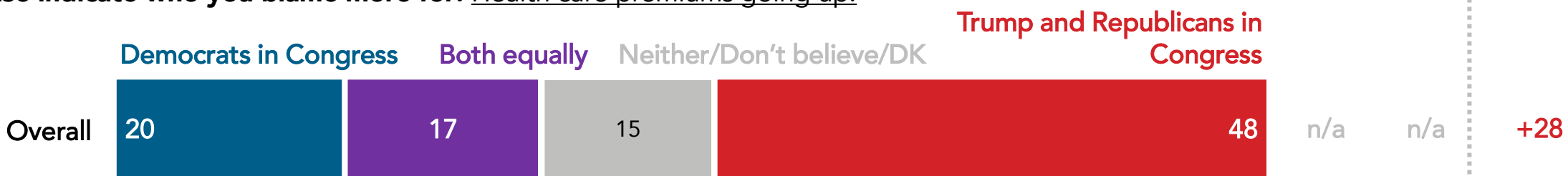
Who do you blame most for the current government shutdown?



Who do you blame most for SNAP, or food stamps, running out of funding due to the government shutdown?



Please indicate who you blame more for: Health care premiums going up.



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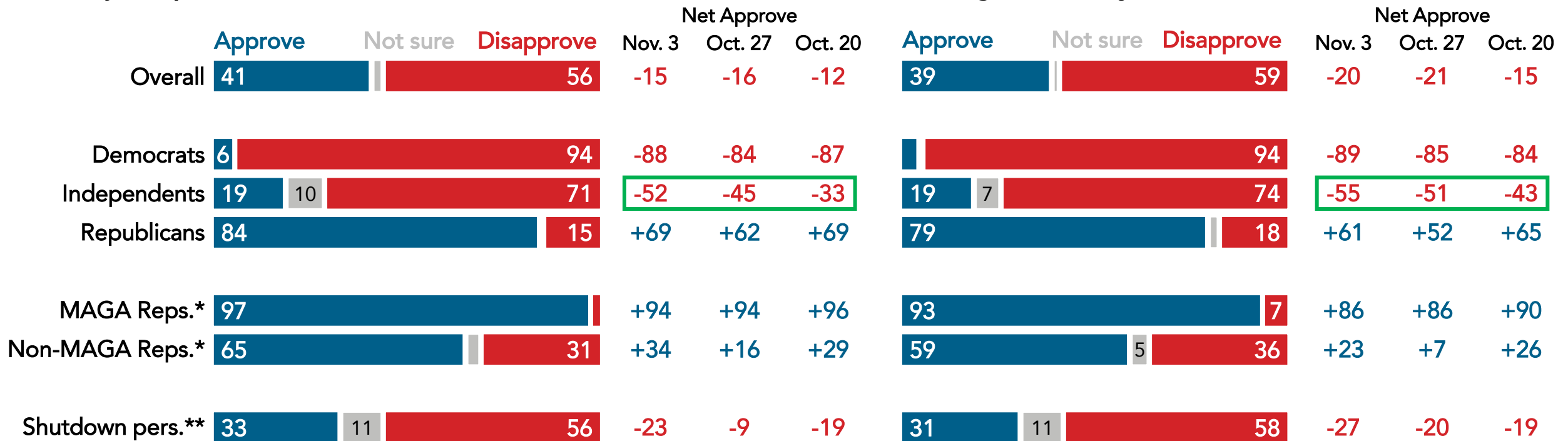


Trump's Overall and Economic Approval Ratings Remain Negative

Independents continue to grow more disapproving of Trump, both overall (from net -33 approve October 20th to net -52 now) and on the economy (from net -43 to net -55).

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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Direct Loss of Food Assistance Is the Most Powerful; WIC Less So

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not concerning at all and 5 is extremely concerning, please indicate how concerning you find each one.

SNAP/WIC Items Tested	**/** Split Sample	% 5 – Extremely concerning	% 4	% Total Concerning (% 4-5)				Shutdown Pers.*
				Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
***42 million Americans losing food assistance, including 16 million children		66	15	81	95	81	67	82
***Some families losing access to food assistance		66	13	79	96	82	60	79
**Families on SNAP having to decide between paying for food and paying their rent, their electricity bills, or for their prescriptions		64	13	77	95	78	59	73
SNAP, formerly known as food stamps, running out of funding		63	14	77	94	75	61	73
The halting of \$8 billion in SNAP payments to Americans		63	15	77	94	71	63	71
***Grocery stores, farmers, and the economy overall suffering without SNAP funding, and food prices going up for everyone		63	16	79	94	79	63	79
Pregnant women, infants, and children losing food assistance, including losing access to affordable formula and fruits and vegetables		62	17	80	96	74	65	75
**Families losing access to millions of meals a month		62	17	79	96	78	62	74
***SNAP losing funding and causing what some are predicting to be the greatest hunger crisis since the Great Depression		62	13	75	94	77	56	75
**The new burdens on society from SNAP running out and health care costs rising, pushing more people into debt and homelessness		61	17	78	94	80	61	73
**One in eight Americans losing food assistance, including one in five children		60	18	78	94	77	62	77
WIC, the supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, running out of funding		57	18	76	92	72	61	68

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Cuts to Health Care, Rising Health Care Costs Remain Deeply Troubling

On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is not concerning at all and 5 is extremely concerning, please indicate how concerning you find each one.

Health Care Items Tested

Health Care Items Tested			% Total Concerning (% 4-5)				Shutdown Pers.*	
	/ Split Sample	% 5 – Extremely concerning	% 4	Overall	Dem	Ind		Rep
The cost of health insurance doubling for Americans		63	16	79	96	80	62	74
**Nearly 5 million Americans losing their health insurance completely		60	16	77	95	77	59	75
Cuts to health care and higher costs meaning more Americans will be uninsured, raising costs in the emergency room for all Americans		60	17	78	96	78	59	76

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Messages That Lead With the Harms to Americans Most Effective

Please indicate how concerning you find each statement on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means it is not at all concerning and 5 means it is extremely concerning.

	/ Split Sample	% 5 – Extremely concerning	% 4	Total Concerning (% 4-5)				Shutdown Pers.*
				Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	
[SNAP – NO OBBBA] ***Trump and Republicans are threatening the food assistance of millions of Americans, including low-income families, pregnant women, and children. They're keeping the government shut down and have refused to help 42 million hungry Americans afford the food they need to survive.		57	12	69	93	84	40	74
[SNAP – OBBBA] **Trump and Republicans are threatening the food assistance of millions of Americans, including low-income families, pregnant women, and children. After Trump and Republicans already voted to cut SNAP by almost \$200 billion, they're now keeping the government shut down and have refused to help 42 million hungry Americans afford the food they need to survive.		55	12	67	98	72	36	74
[TRUMP SPENDING] Trump and Republicans are spending money on everything except helping American families. They've announced the spending of \$40 billion on a bailout of Argentina and \$300 million to build a White House ballroom, while cutting taxes for the rich and big corporations by \$4.5 trillion. At the same time, they are keeping the government shut down because they refuse to help with rising health care costs, and instead could strip nearly 5 million of their health insurance and double the cost of health insurance for 22 million Americans.		55	12	67	94	70	39	72
[SOCIETAL IMPACTS] ***Trump and Republicans are hurting all of us with the shutdown. Millions of Americans – even servicemembers and veterans – are not receiving their paychecks, and they may never even get the back pay they earned. Millions could lose access to affordable food they need to get by and to the health care they need to avoid the emergency room, which will raise hospital bills for everyone. Without a salary, food, or health care, people could end up in debt or homeless, placing new burdens on society.		54	13	67	91	74	40	75
[HEALTH CARE] Trump and Republicans in Congress are using a government shutdown to force through their budget, with massive cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. They are pushing to strip 5 million Americans of their health care and more than double health care costs for 22 million Americans by taking away the tax credits millions use to pay for health care.		53	12	65	95	68	34	70
[RICH OVER REST] **Trump and Republicans are only looking out for the rich and big corporations and leaving the rest of us behind. They're pushing to completely strip health care from 5 million people, double health care costs for 22 million Americans, and strip funding from SNAP and take millions of meals away from families – all to pay for Republicans' tax breaks for the rich and big corporations, while the rest of us struggle to get by.		52	12	65	97	65	32	64

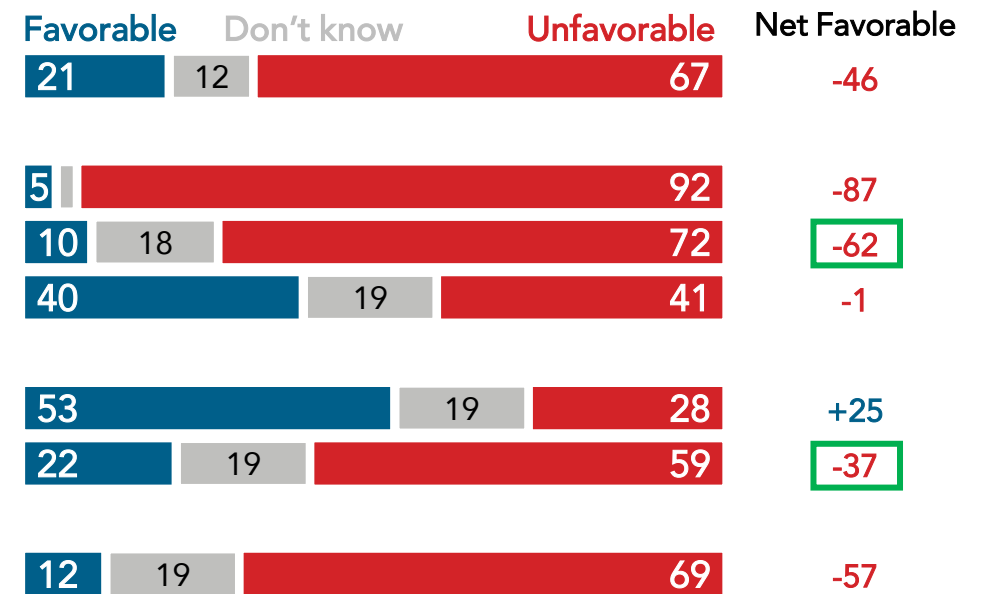
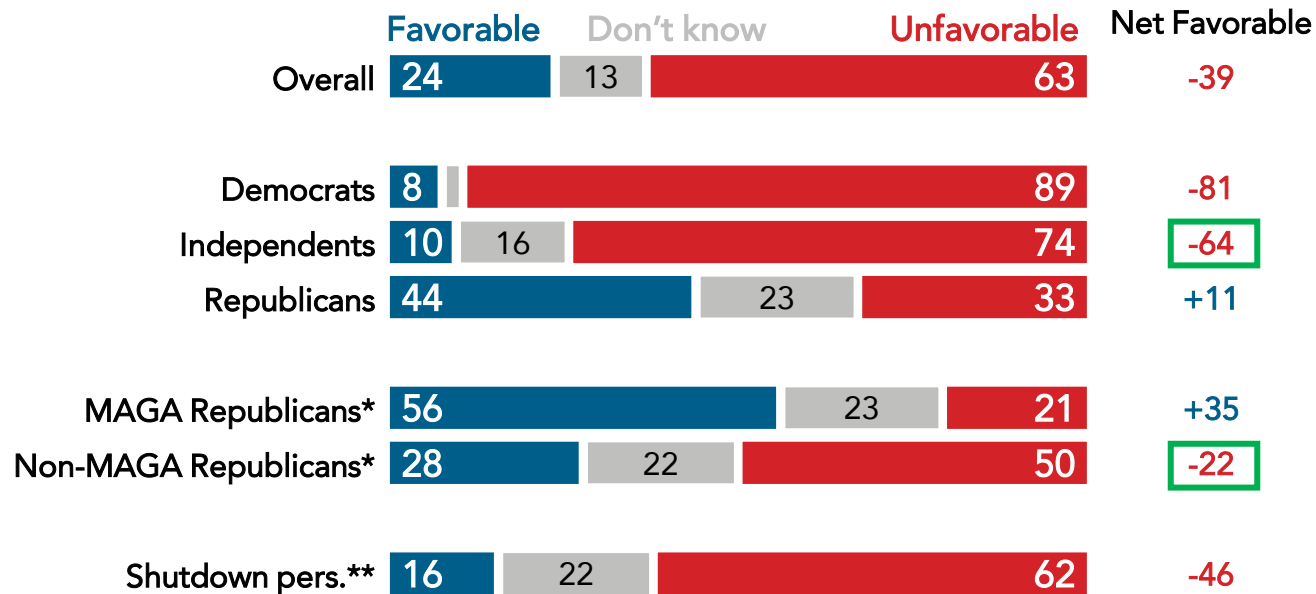
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Whether They Cut Health Care or Extend the Shutdown/Defund SNAP, the GOP Are Putting Their Political Standing At Deep Risk

As you may know, dedicated funding for SNAP, or food stamps, has run out because of the government shutdown, meaning **42 million Americans could lose access to food assistance while the government remains shut down**. If Trump and Republicans' proposed budget is passed to reopen the government, it will mean **5 million Americans will lose their health care completely and 22 million Americans will see their health care costs double**.

If a deal is reached to end the shutdown and fund SNAP for 42 million Americans, but 5 million Americans lose their health care and 22 million Americans see their health care costs double because of Trump and Republicans in Congress' budget... Would that leave you with a favorable or unfavorable view of how Trump and Republicans in Congress handled the shutdown?

If a deal is **not reached to end the shutdown and 42 million Americans lose food assistance...** Would that leave you with a favorable or unfavorable view of how Trump and Republicans in Congress are handling the shutdown?



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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 November 1-November 3, 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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