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Shutdown Week 6
Wednesday, November 12th

The Government Shutdown: A Guide for Advocates

Note: This survey finished fielding on Sunday, November 9, before a deal to end the shutdown was reached in the Senate.



Credit: Shutterstock/Lucky Photographer

Key Takeaways:

- At the end of the shutdown, Americans overwhelmingly reported hearing “a lot” or “some” about it, with Trump and Republicans taking the blame for nearly half of Americans.
- The belief that the shutdown was bad for the country and Americans personally intensified over the shutdown, with most deeply concerned about the loss of food assistance.
- With a deal reached, views of what Democrats in Congress fought for in the shutdown were evenly divided, while ratings of Trump and Republicans in Congress were much more negative.

Key Takeaways:

- Trump's approval ratings overall and on the economy remain deeply underwater, as views of the economy remain pessimistic. And, nearly one in three 2024 Trump voters now say they regret their vote or are disappointed in Trump, citing the shutdown and the economy, respectively.
- On health care: Americans are most concerned about costs doubling for 22 million Americans, 5 million Americans losing their health insurance, and cuts to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act.
- On recent Trump spending: Americans are most troubled by the new ballroom/demolition of the East Wing and the purchase of two private jets for Kristi Noem, described as "selfish," "uncaring," and viewed overwhelmingly as inappropriate and out-of-touch amid the shutdown.

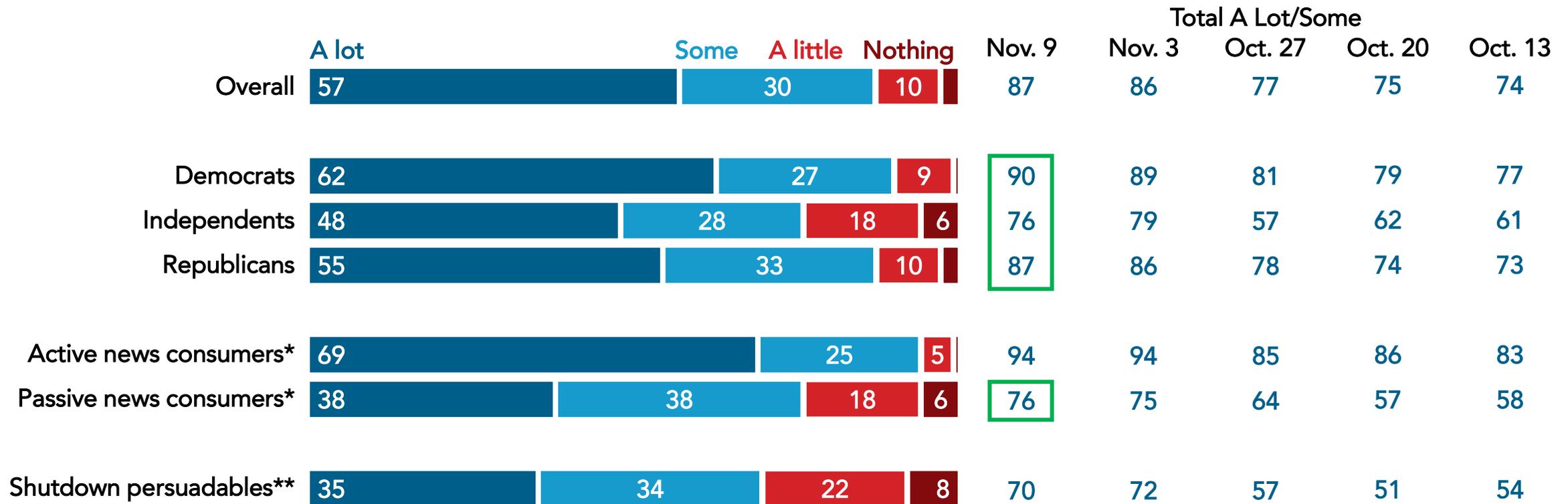
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Public Attitudes at the End of the Shutdown

As the Shutdown Neared a Close, Awareness Peaked

At least three in four Americans across party lines (at least 76%) and passive news consumers* (76%) continued to hear “a lot” or “some” about the government shutdown.

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

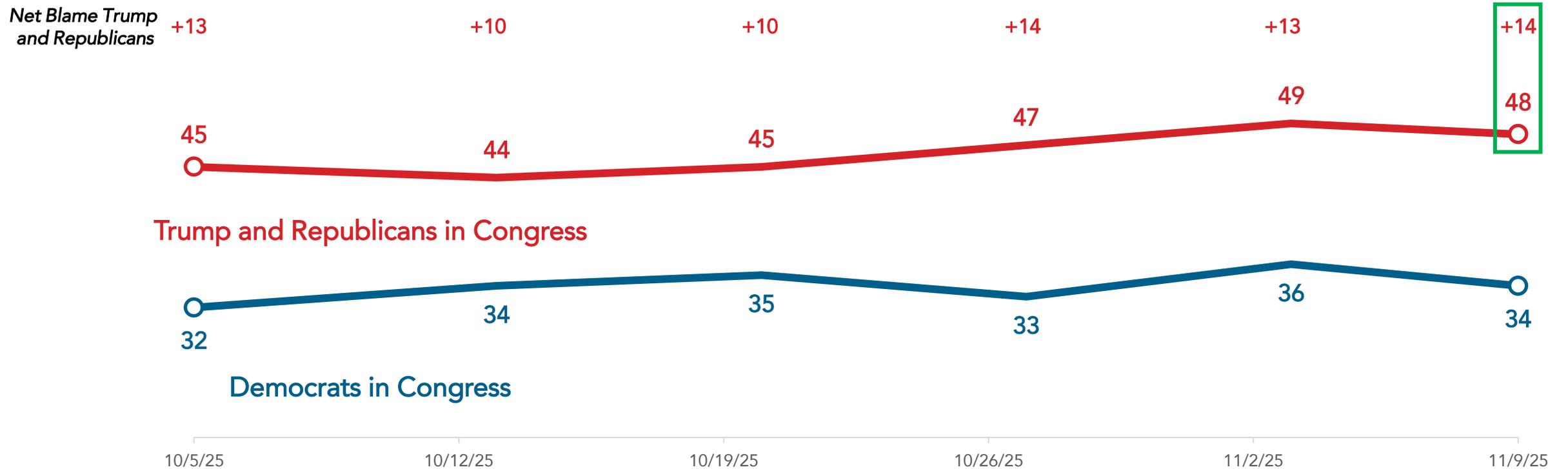


*“Passive news consumers” are those who say, “News comes to me,” while “active news consumers” say, “I seek out news.” **“Shutdown persuadables” are defined as those who say they do not blame the shutdown on either Democrats or Trump and Republicans, blame both of these equally, or don’t know, and excludes 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 6-November 9, 2025. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

In Our Final Shutdown Poll, Democrats Continued to Win the "Blame Game"

Among independents, 46% blamed Trump and Republicans in Congress while just 24% blamed Democrats in Congress.

Who do you blame most for the current government shutdown?

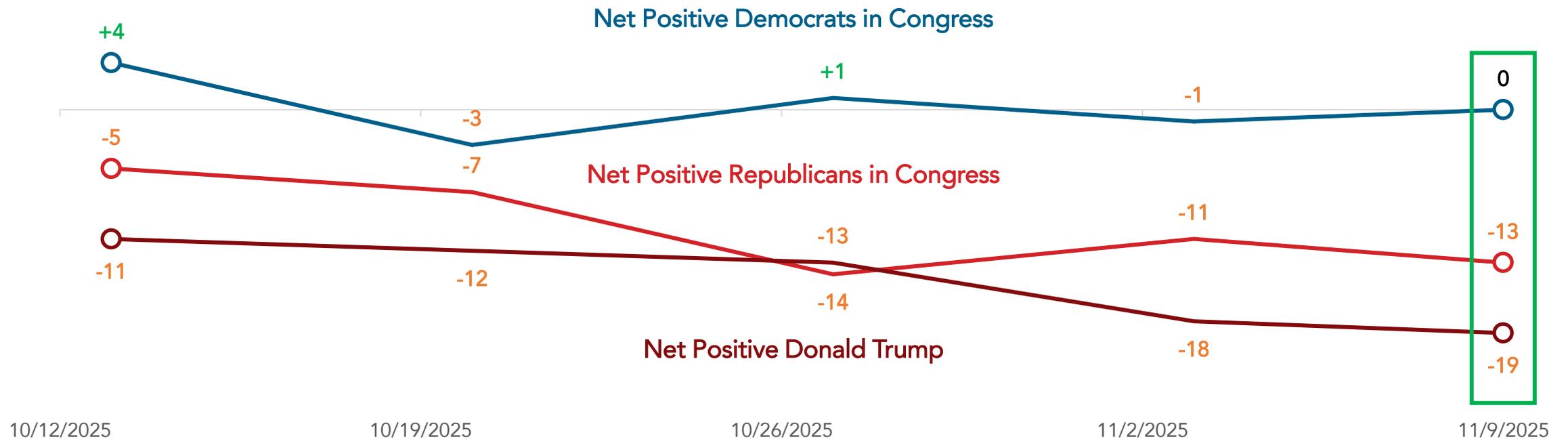


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Views of the GOP Across the Shutdown Were Consistently More Negative Than Those of Democrats, Especially At the End

Views of what Trump and Republicans in Congress had been fighting for in the shutdown were consistently negative, ending at net -19 positive and net -13, respectively, whereas views of Democrats broke even to end the shutdown.

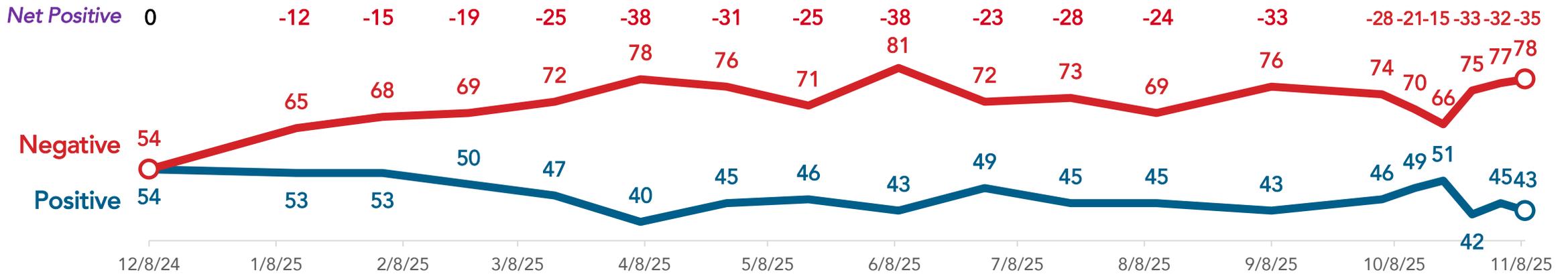
Do you have a positive or negative impression of what _____ is/are fighting for in this government shutdown?



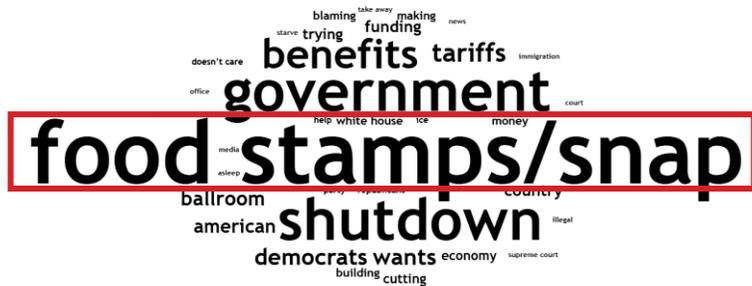
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SNAP and the Government Shutdown Dominated the Negative Conversation Around Trump in Its Closing Days

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



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



"That Donald Trump was trying to **not send out SNAP benefits to people.**"

"Government shutdown and **cutting SNAP benefits.**"

"**Refusing to distribute the SNAP benefits** to the American people."

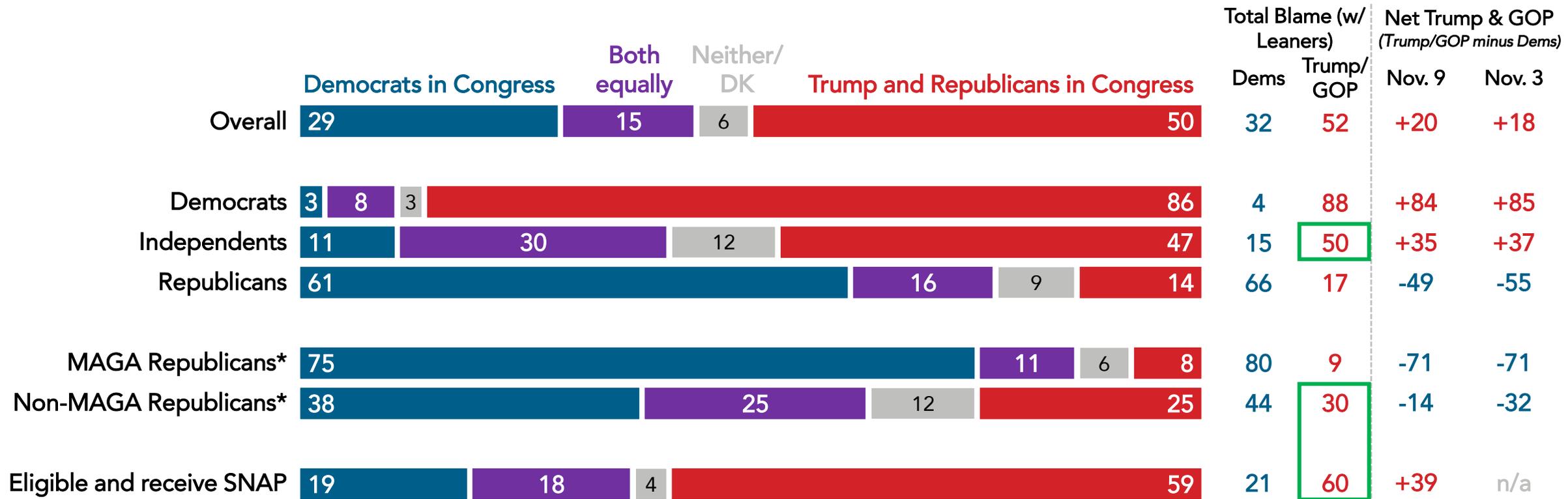
"He is **stalling releasing SNAP benefits**, taking away from the **health care acts**, and more."

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Prior to a Deal Being Struck, a Majority Blamed Trump and Republicans for SNAP Running Out of Funding

Half of independents blamed Trump and Republicans more for SNAP running out of funding (50%), as did 30% of non-MAGA Republicans* and 60% of eligible respondents who reported receiving SNAP benefits.

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

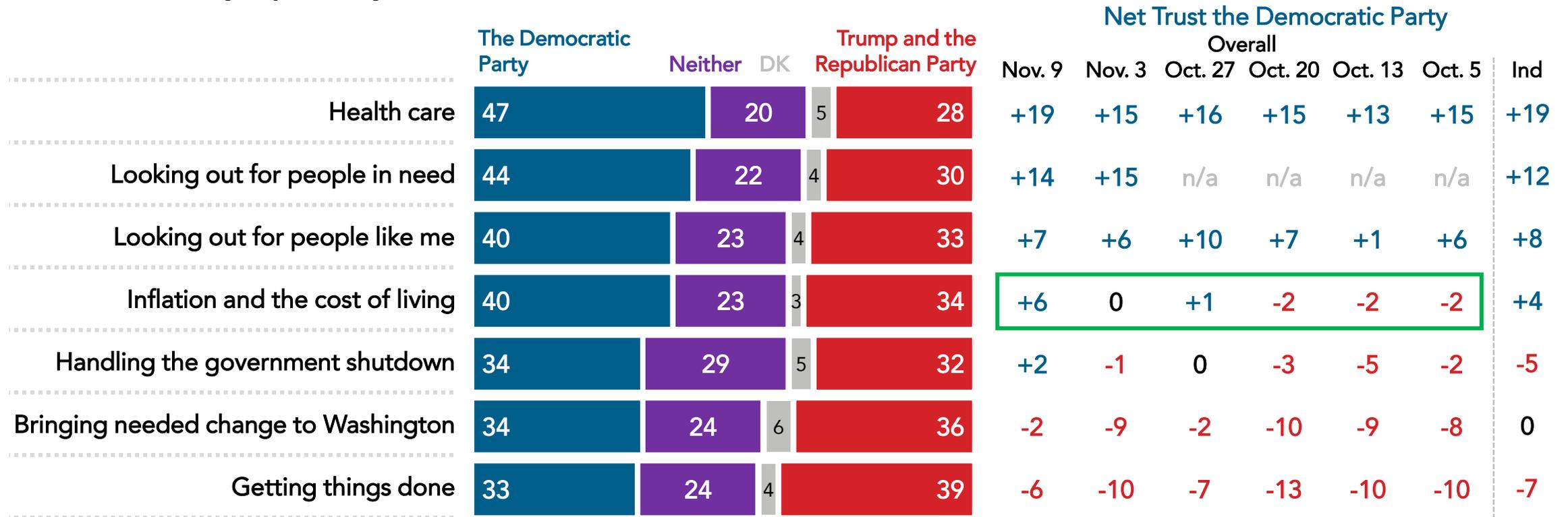


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Democrats Made Inroads on Inflation Over the Shutdown and Ended Far More Trusted Than GOP on Health Care

From the beginning of the shutdown, Democrats grew more trusted to handle health care (from net +15 trust Democrats to net +19 at its end) and inflation and the cost of living (from net -2 to net +6 at its end).

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



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Younger Americans, Non-College, People of Color, Democrats, Independents Moved to Trust Democrats More on Inflation

Please indicate who you personally trust more to handle: Inflation and the cost of living.

	Net Trust the Democratic Party More		Change
	October 5	November 9	
Overall	-2	+6	+8
Men 18-54	-6	+5	+11
Men 55+	-11	-7	+4
Women 18-54	-5	+14	+19
Women 55+	+15	+8	-7
Non-college	-6	+5	+11
College	+7	+9	+2
White	-6	-4	+2
Black	+20	+37	+17
Hispanic	-7	+24	+31
Democrats	+61	+72	+11
Independents	-12	+4	+16
Republicans	-61	-59	+2

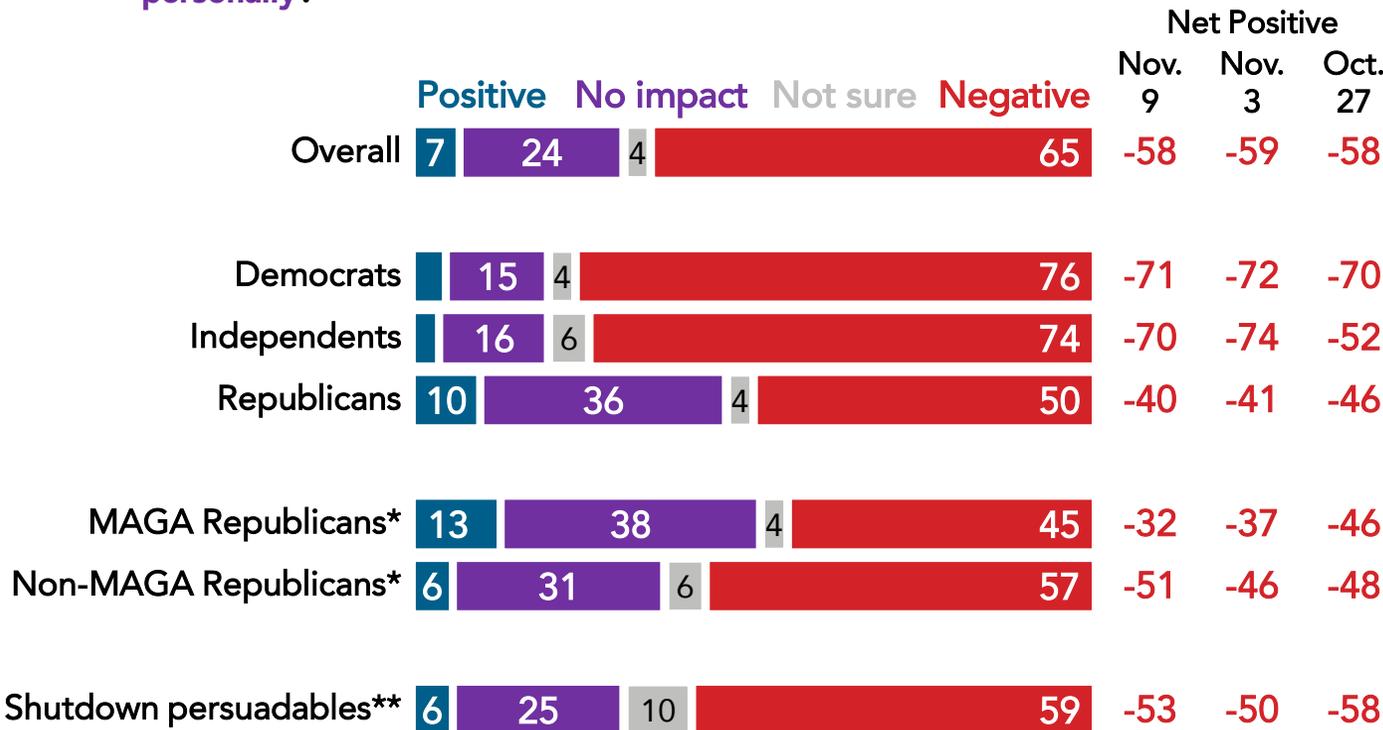
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Two in Three Said the Shutdown Was Personally Harmful Near Its Conclusion, Citing SNAP Most of All as the Reason

Among the 65% who said they would be negatively impacted by the shutdown, Americans overwhelmingly cited SNAP benefits.

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?



"Because I'm a **SNAP recipient** and on **Medicaid**."

"I **didn't get my SNAP benefits on time this month**."

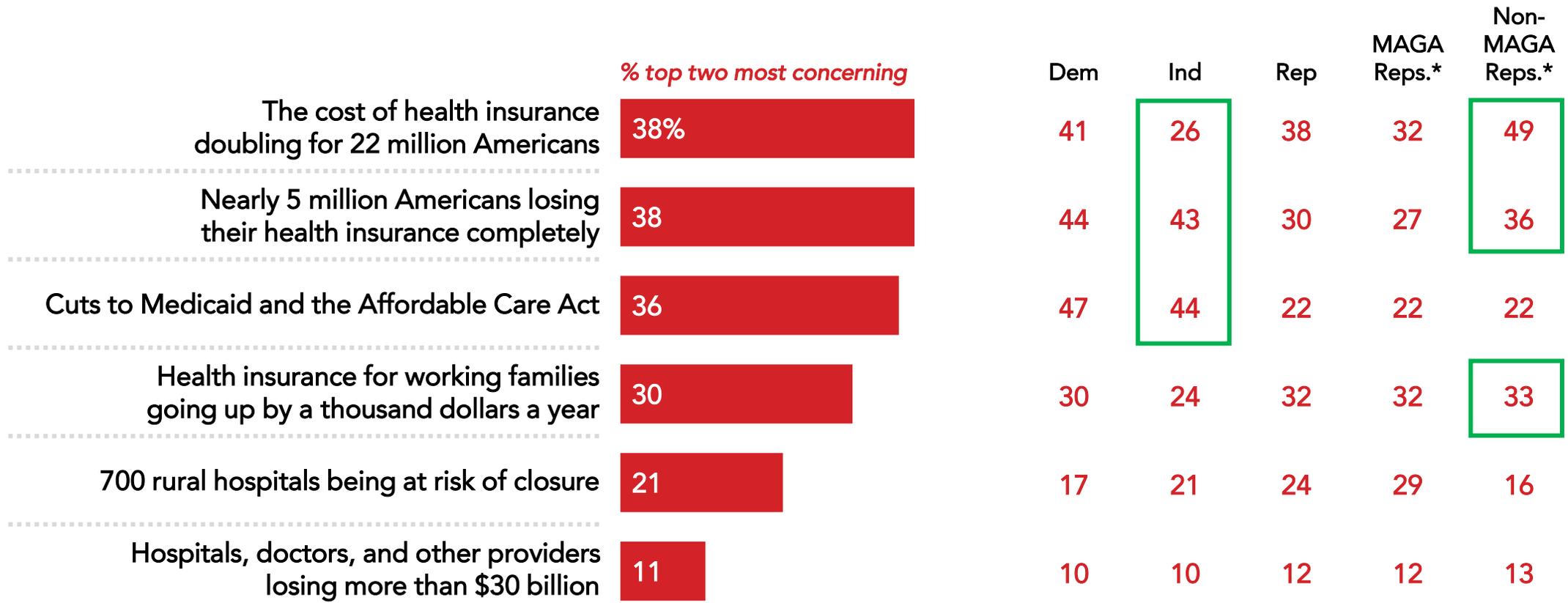
"Because of the **SNAP benefits I get for my household**. I have to be able to feed my family."

"It will make me stop receiving **both health and SNAP benefits**."

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Most Concerning on Health Care at the Shutdown's End: Costs Rising, Millions Losing Insurance, and Cuts to Medicaid/ACA

Below are some concerns some may have about health care as it relates to the government shutdown. These may sound similar, but which two concern you the most?



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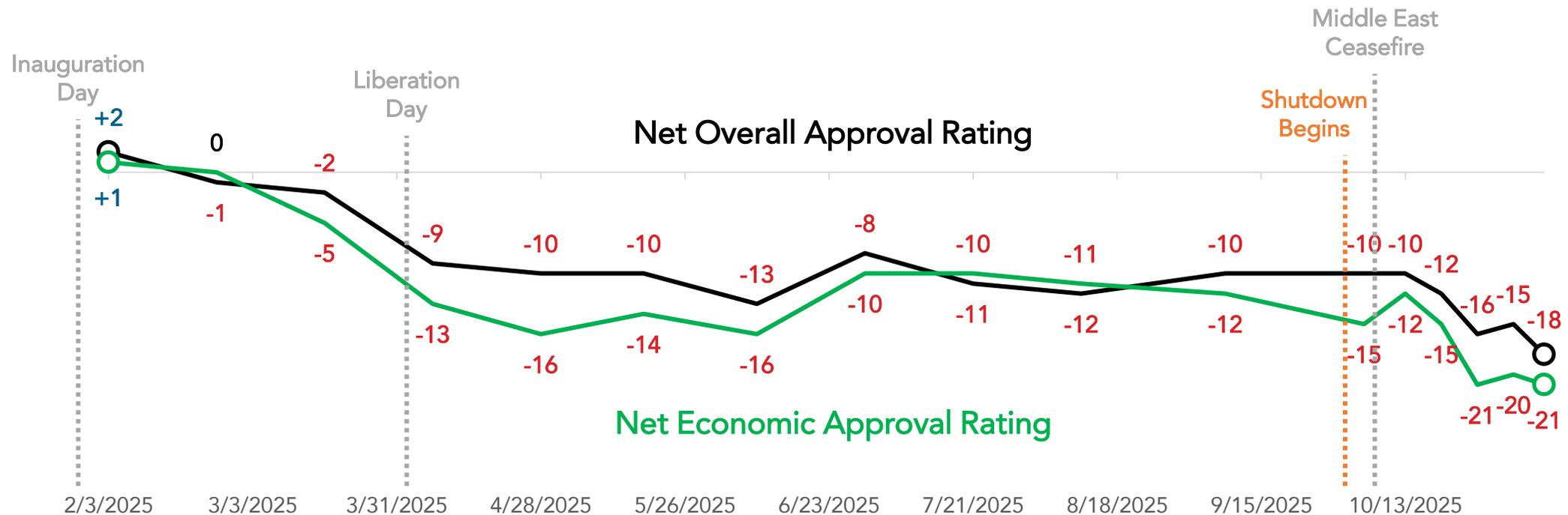
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The Political Environment Coming Out of the Shutdown

Trump's Approval Ratings Declined Notably in the Shutdown

Since the start of Trump's second term, his overall approval rating has dropped from net +2 approve to net -18. His economic approval rating has dropped by even more, declining from net +1 approve to net -21 since February.

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



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Trump's Ratings Have Declined Most With Young Americans, POC (Especially Men), Independents, Passive News Consumers

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

Net Approve

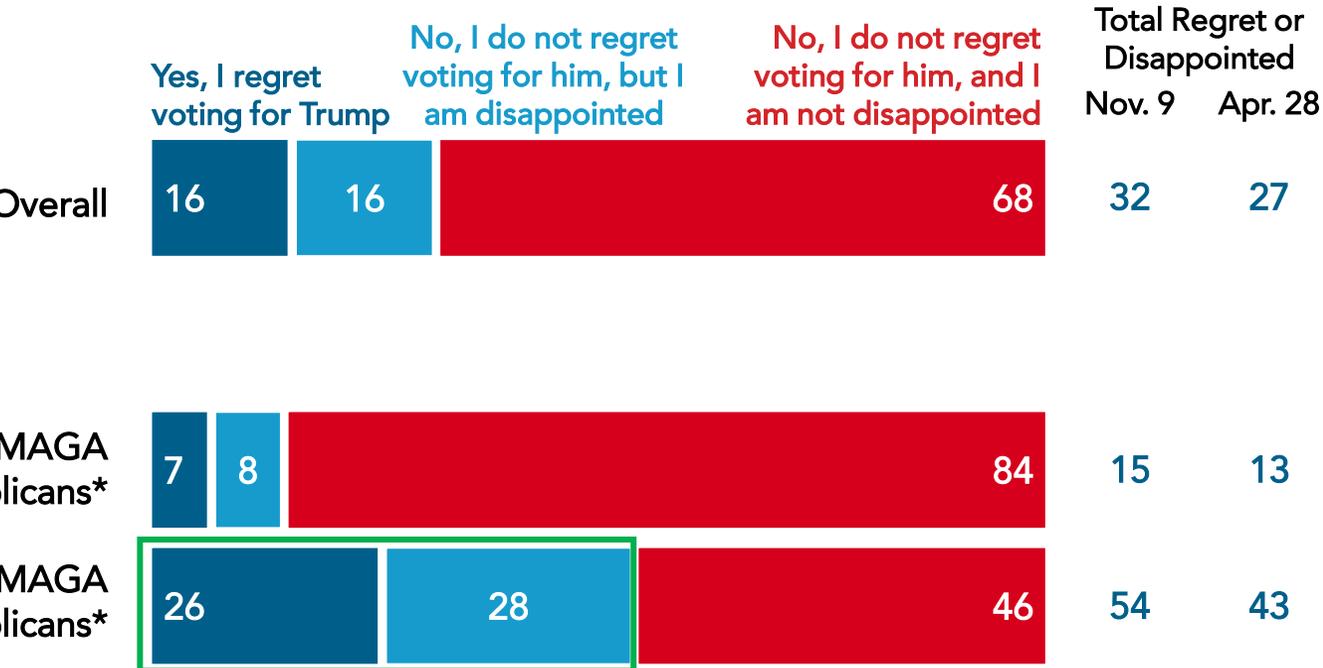
	October 5	November 9	Change
Overall	-10	-18	-8
Men 18-54	+4	-11	-15
Men 55+	0	-2	-2
Women 18-54	-19	-41	-22
Women 55+	-25	-12	+13
White men	+3	+8	+5
White women	-11	-19	-8
POC men	-1	-41	-40
POC women	-46	-50	-4
Non-college	-6	-15	-9
College	-19	-25	-6
White	-4	-6	-2
Black	-42	-64	-22
Hispanic	-20	-32	-12
Democrats	-80	-90	-10
Independents	-20	-48	-28
Republicans	+62	+63	+1
Active news consumers*	-13	-17	-4
Passive news consumers*	-6	-21	-15

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Nearly a Third of 2024 Trump Voters Regret Their Vote or Are Disappointed

Among those who regret voting for him, they overwhelmingly cite the shutdown; for those who are disappointed, they cite the economy.

[If 2024 Trump voter] You indicated you voted for Donald Trump in 2024. Do you regret voting for Donald Trump? **[If do not regret voting for Trump]** Would you say you are disappointed or not disappointed in how Donald Trump has handled his first few months of being president?



[If voted for Trump and regret voting for Trump] You indicated you regret voting for Donald Trump in 2024. What makes you say that?



[If voted for Trump and disappointed in Trump] You indicated you are disappointed in how Donald Trump has handled his first year of being president in his second term. What makes you say that?



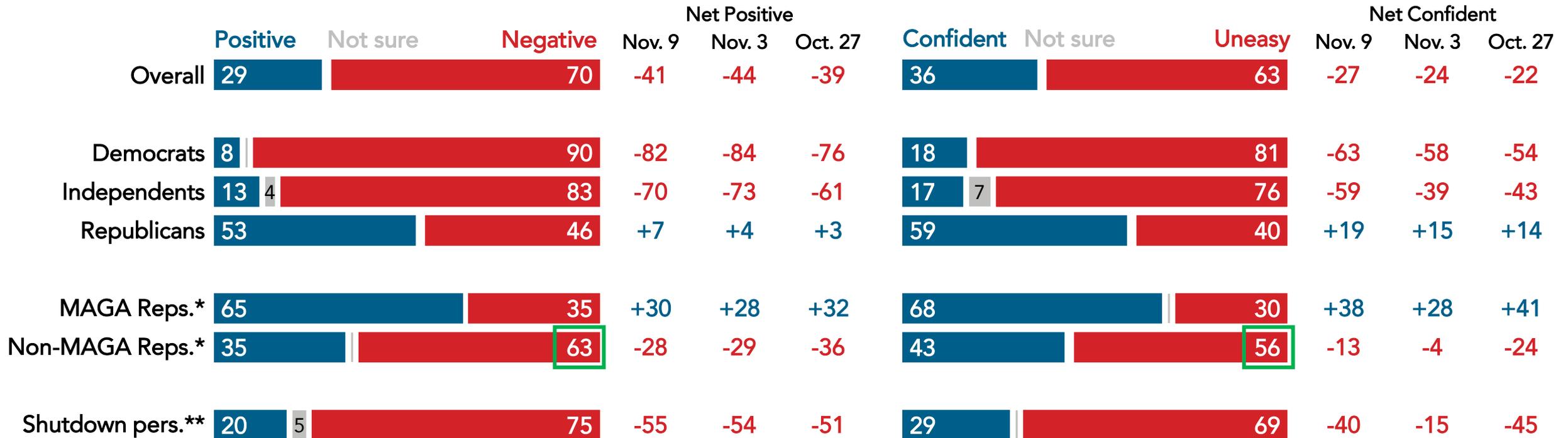
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Views of the Economy Remain Extremely Pessimistic

Seven in ten Americans say they feel negatively about the U.S. economy (70%), including 63% of non-MAGA Republicans*. Roughly two in three (63%) say they feel uneasy about their personal financial situation, including 56% of non-MAGA Republicans*.

How would you rate the state of the U.S. economy today?

Thinking about your personal financial situation over the next few months, do you feel confident or uneasy?



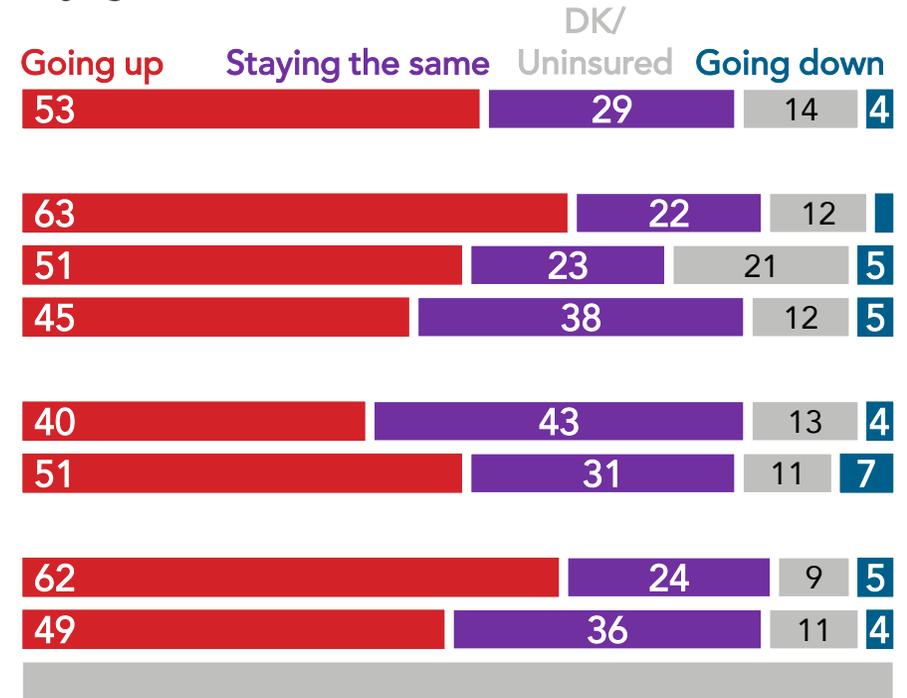
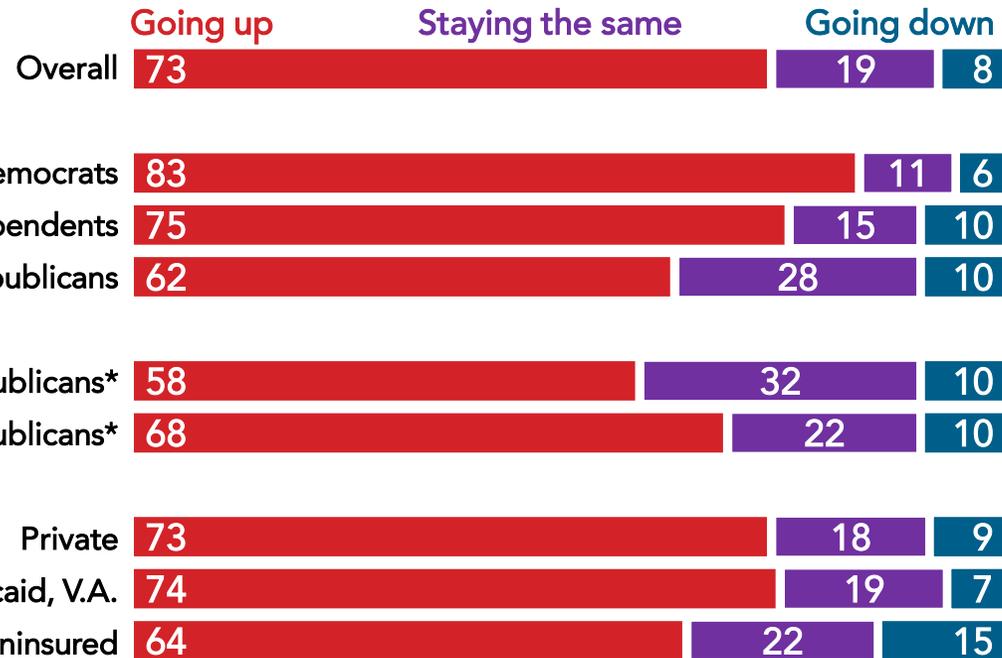
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With Open Enrollment Underway, Americans See Health Care Costs Rising Generally and Their Premiums More Specifically

A majority of Americans say their health care premiums are going up (53%), including half of independents (51%) and a plurality of Republicans (45%).

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

More specifically... Are your health care premiums, or the amount you pay each month for health insurance, going up, going down, or staying the same?

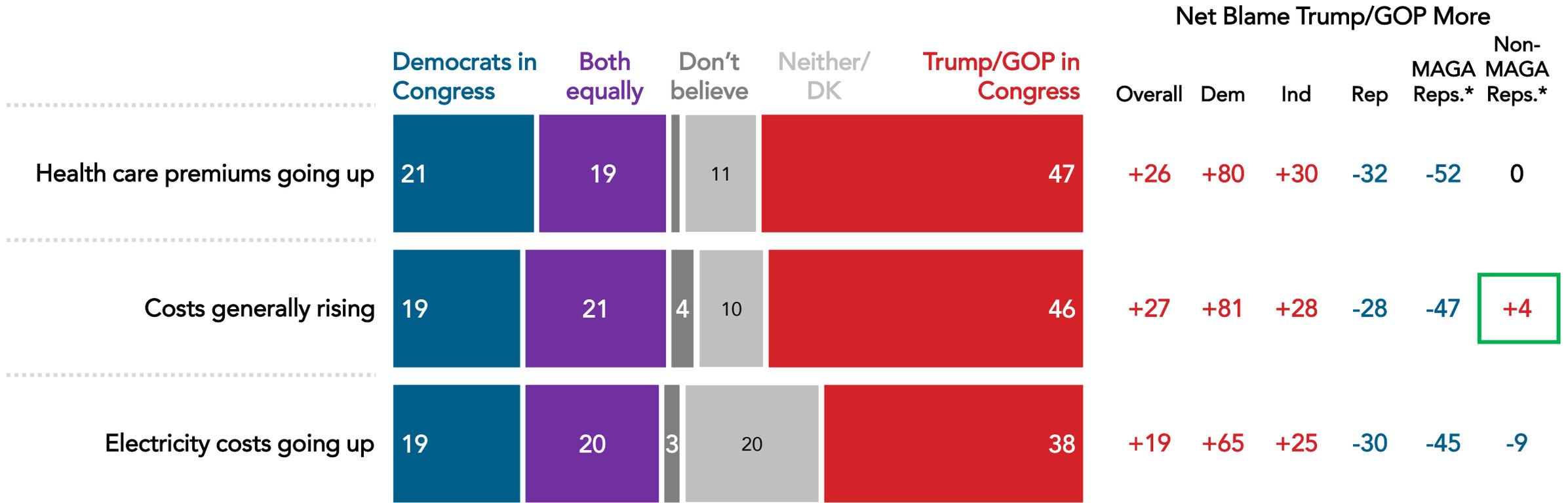


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Americans Blame Trump and Republicans for Higher Health Care Costs, Costs Generally, and Electricity Costs

Nearly half of Americans blame Trump and Republicans more for higher health care costs (47%) and costs generally rising (46%). Non-MAGA Republicans* blame Trump and Republicans more for costs generally rising (net +4 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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Overwhelming Majorities See Recent GOP Spending As Inappropriate While So Many Are Struggling Economically

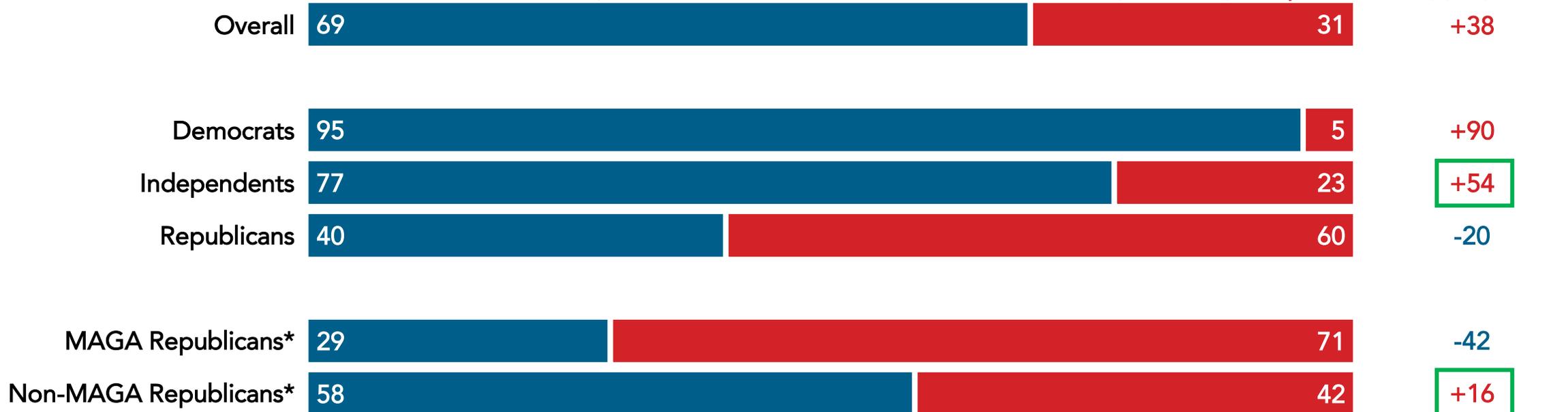
Roughly seven in ten (69%), including 77% of independents and 58% of non-MAGA Republicans*, say their spending is inappropriate.

Who do you agree with more?

Excessive spending on lavish expenses like a new White House ballroom, gold fixtures in a bathroom, and private jets is totally inappropriate at a time when millions of Americans aren't receiving the basic food assistance and health care they need

This is all an overreaction – most of these things are being paid for by private donors and have nothing to do with the shutdown. This is all just another example of people being obsessed with every little thing Trump does

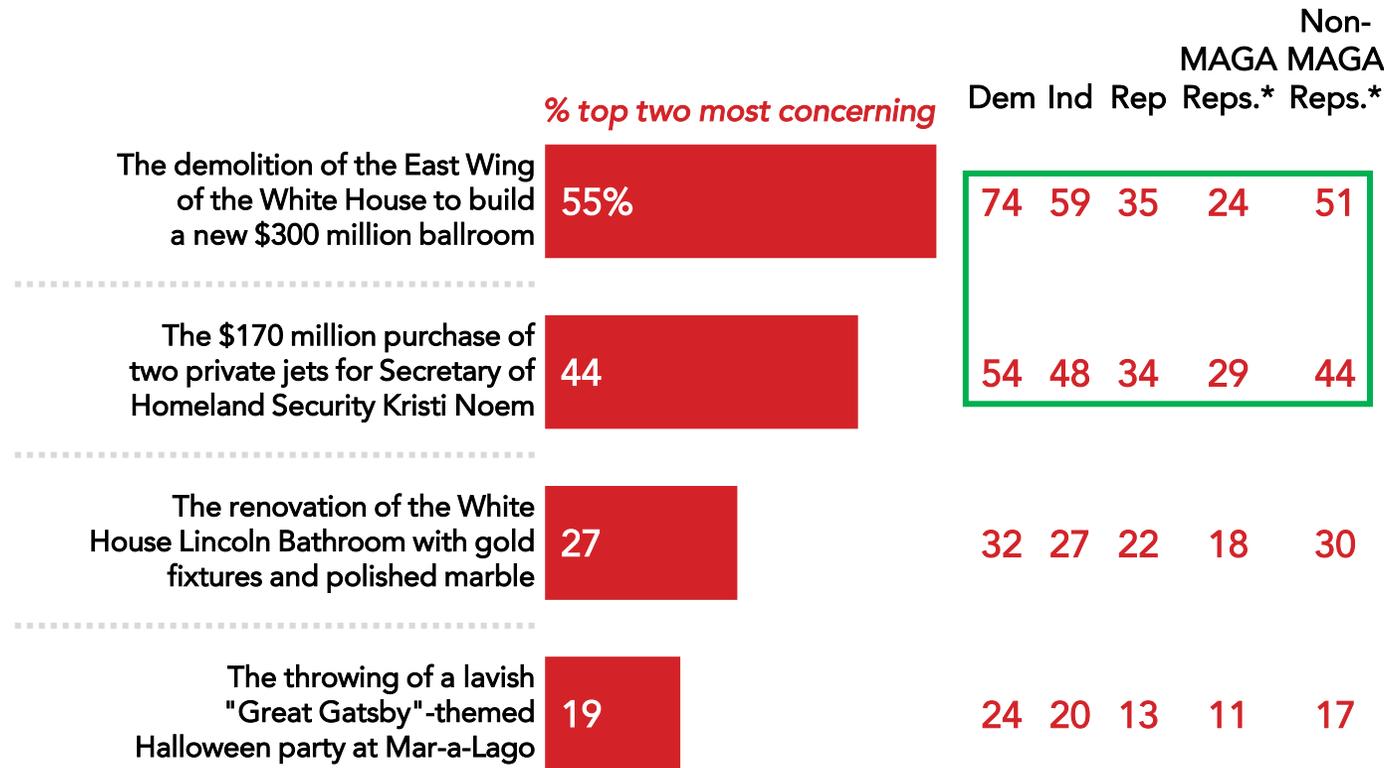
Net Inappropriate



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Best Examples of GOP's Excessive Spending and Misplaced Priorities Are the White House Ballroom and Noem's Jets

Some people have criticized Trump and his administration for spending on various things as the government remains shut down. From this list of examples, please indicate which two concern you the most.



[If at least one item concerning] Thinking more about the list of items you just saw...what words or phrases come to mind when you think of Trump and his administration's behavior while the government remains shut down and millions lose access to food assistance?



"They are being very *nonchalant and uncaring* about the situation." – Democrat

"Wasteful, *selfish, out of touch, careless with taxpayer money.*" – Republican

"I think it's *selfish and shows that he's not about the American people.*" – Independent

"*Nonchalant, uncaring, selfish, doesn't care about average Americans.*" – Republican

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Looking Forward: A Refresher on the Republican Budget Bill and Its Harms

Pre-Shutdown, Loss of Food Assistance/Health Care Coverage, Rising Health Care Costs Still Most Concerning from GOP

Below is a list of potential impacts from the budget plan that was recently passed by Trump and Republicans in Congress. Please indicate how concerning you find each one on a scale of 1 to 5. [Top 10 items]

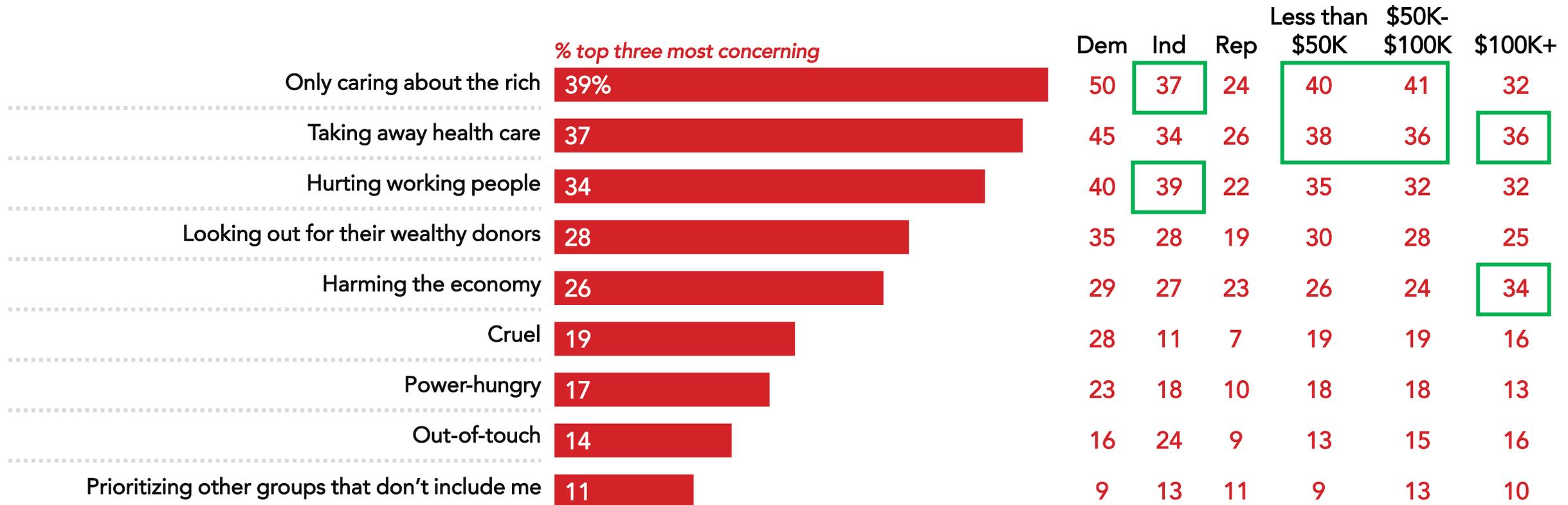
	Extremely concerning (5)	Somewhat concerning (4)	Total Concerning Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep
As many as 18 million children could lose school meals	59	10	69	90	70	47
As many as 17 million Americans could lose their health care coverage	57	11	68	89	71	47
Health insurance premiums could rise by as much as 75%	57	12	69	90	66	49
Up to 22 million American families could lose some or all of their food assistance	56	11	67	91	62	45
Up to 700 rural hospitals – or roughly 1 in 3 rural hospitals nationwide – could close due to Medicaid cuts	53	14	67	87	69	46
Up to 1 in 4 nursing homes in the U.S. say they could shut down due to Medicaid cuts	52	14	66	89	63	43
The national debt will increase by more than \$3 trillion	51	14	65	88	63	43
The majority of the tax cuts will go to the wealthiest Americans and big corporations	50	13	63	88	65	38
Electricity prices could increase by an average of \$280 a year per household because there will be less solar and wind energy on the grid, creating a shortage	49	14	64	86	64	41
Pollution in our air and water could get worse	49	13	62	87	64	37

Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted July 16-July 21, 2025.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

(From July) Biggest Concerns: GOP Only Caring About the Rich, Taking Away Health Care, Hurting Working People

Independents were most concerned about Republicans hurting working people (39%) and only caring about the rich (37%), and Americans earning less than \$100,000 a year were most concerned they were only caring about the rich and taking away health care.

[If don't strongly support budget plan] Which of the following best describes your concerns about the Republicans who voted to pass the budget bill?



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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 6-November 9, 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

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To learn more about Navigator:

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