

navigator*

Thursday, December 18th

2025 Wrapped:
Trump's Year in Review
A Guide for Advocates



Credit: Shutterstock/Chip Somodevilla

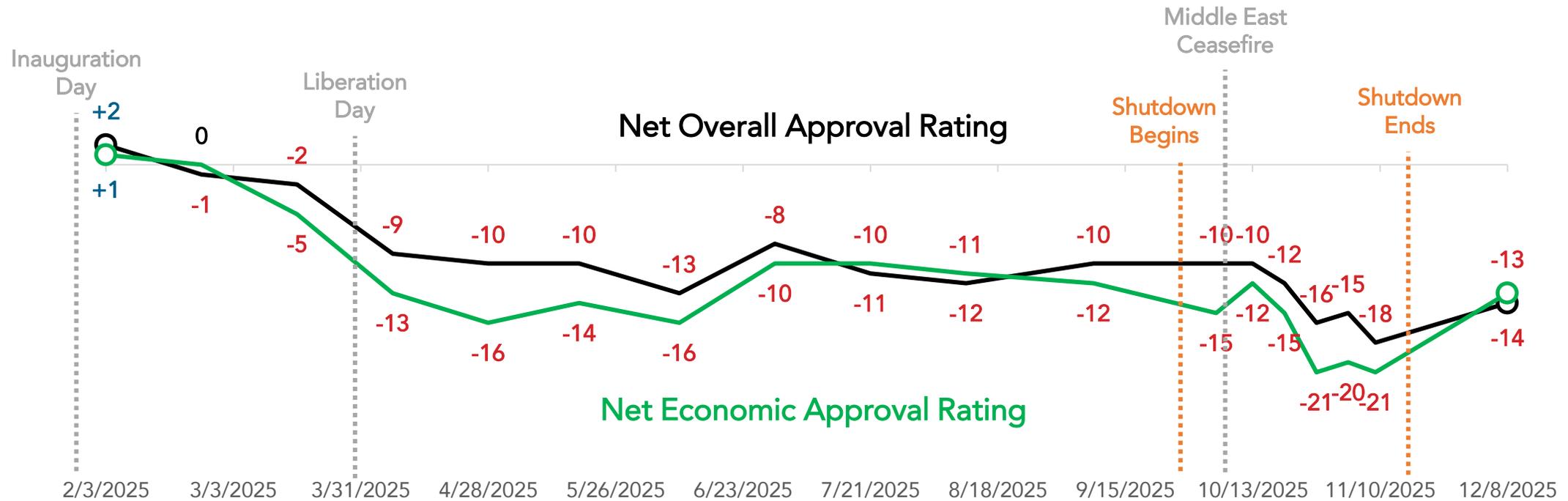
Key Takeaways:

- Trump's overall and economic approval ratings remain deeply negative.
- On the issues, Trump is especially underwater on inflation and the cost of living, health care, tariffs, government spending, and his handling of the Epstein files.
- Inflation and the cost of living remains a top priority for Americans, alongside jobs and the economy, health care, and Social Security and Medicare – and they don't see Trump and Republicans focused on any of these.
- Americans are most concerned by Trump's broken promises on looking out for forgotten Americans, putting Americans first, and lowering costs. They are also most troubled by him cutting programs like Medicaid and SNAP and his abuse of powers/ignoring of the Constitution, including his use of ICE.

Trump's Ratings Are As Bad As They Were Before the Shutdown Began

Since the shutdown, Trump has seen the most improvement in his overall approval with independents (from net -48 approve in November to net -38 now), and Republicans have become more approving of his handling of the economy (from net +56 to net +66).

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



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted December 4-December 8, 2025. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Trump's Ratings Are Especially Poor on Inflation, With a Real Decline on Health Care

Since April, Trump's approval rating on health care has declined (from net -8 approve in April to net -21 now).

Net Approve

Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling each one.

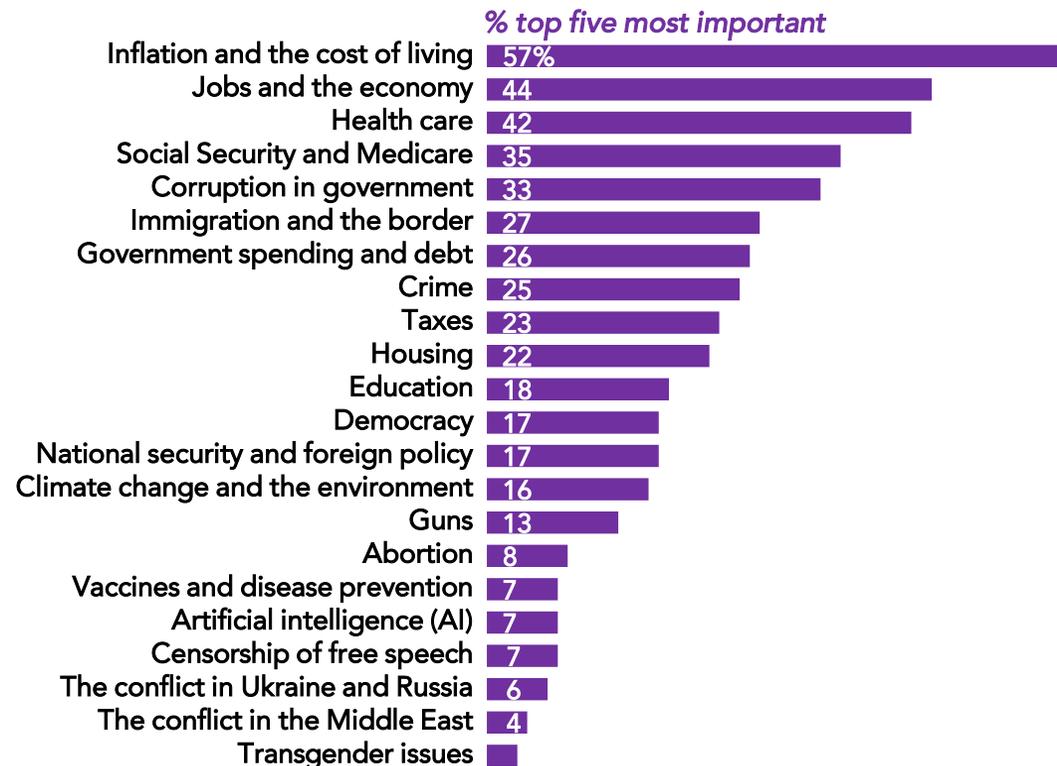
	Approve	Not sure	Disapprove	Dec. 8	Jun. 30	Apr. 28	Dem	Ind	Rep	MAGA Reps.*	Non-MAGA Reps.*
The Epstein files	28	17	55	-27	n/a	n/a	-76	-35	+24	+45	-7
Inflation and the cost of living	35	4	61	-26	-23	-29	-81	-53	+38	+63	+4
Health care	36	7	57	-21	-15	-8	-77	-37	+41	+62	+9
Tariffs	38	6	56	-18	-22	-26	-79	-42	+50	+77	+10
Government spending and debt	38	7	55	-17	n/a	-13	-75	-43	+48	+71	+17
Foreign policy	40	11	49	-9	-6	-8	-74	-23	+62	+83	+32
Immigration	45	3	52	-7	-3	-3	-73	-21	+64	+85	+34

*"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 December 4-December 8, 2025. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

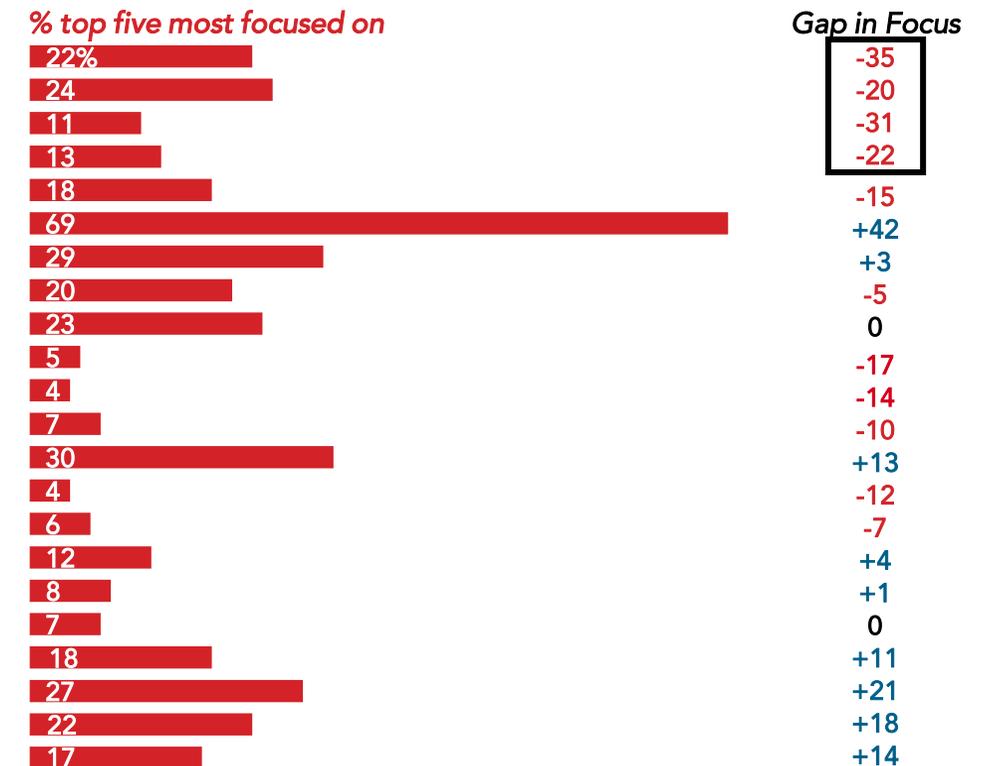
Inflation Remains a Priority, As Does the Economy, Health Care; Trump & GOP Are Not Seen As Prioritizing Any of Them

Trump and Republicans are not seen as prioritizing Americans' top issues, including inflation (net -35 gap between desired and perceived focus), jobs and the economy (net -20 gap), health care (net -31 gap), and Social Security and Medicare (net -22 gap).

Which do you feel are most important for the President and Congress to focus on?



Which do you think Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress are most focused on?



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Americans See Democrats As More Focused on Health Care

Compared to the last time we asked this question – before the presidential election in September 2024 – Americans see Democrats now as more focused on health care (from 25% then to 39% now) and inflation (from 23% then to 27% now) and less on abortion (from 53% then to 28% now), guns (from 31% then to 19% now), and the environment (from 37% then to 31% now).

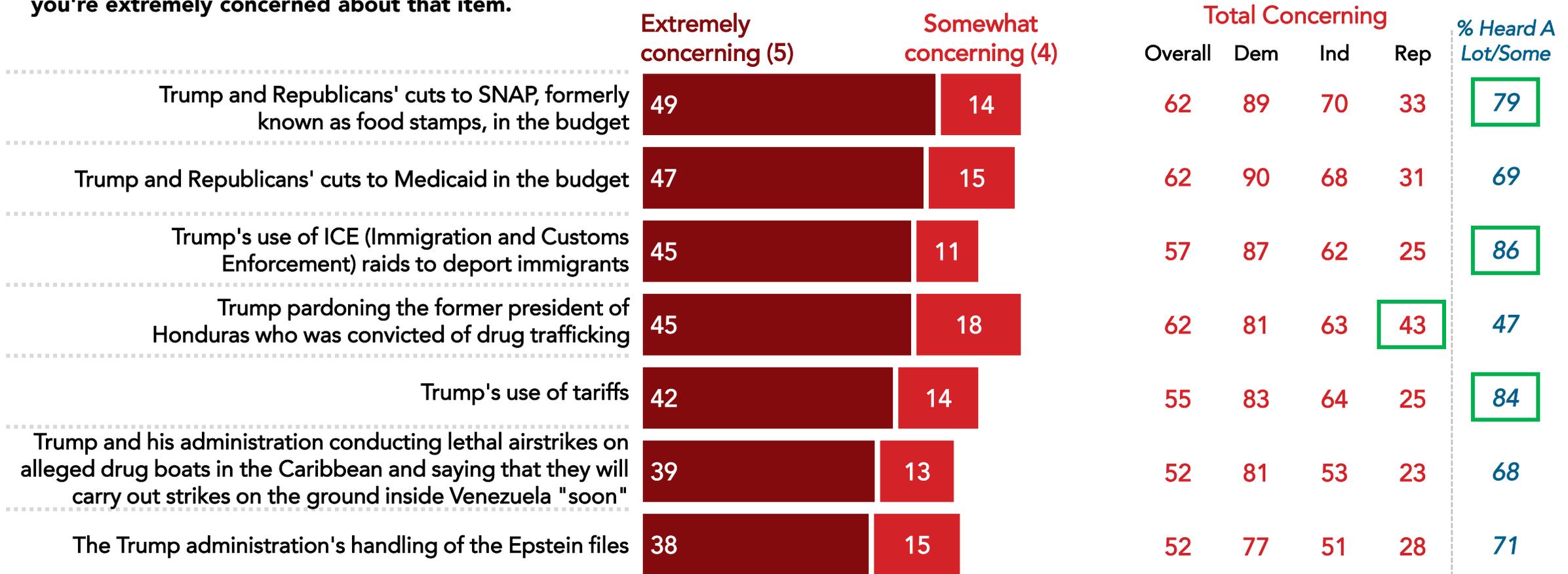
Which do you think Democrats in Congress are most focused on?

	% top five most focused on	Sep. '24	Change	Dem	Ind	Rep
Health care	39%	25	+14	55	29	25
Climate change and the environment	31	37	-6	24	22	41
Transgender issues	30	n/a	n/a	8	27	52
Social Security and Medicare	29	24	+5	43	29	14
Abortion	28	53	-25	14	27	43
Inflation and the cost of living	27	23	+4	41	26	13
Democracy	27	23	+4	41	16	16
Jobs and the economy	25	26	-1	37	23	14
Guns	19	31	-12	15	19	23
Corruption in government	18	10	+8	30	12	8
Censorship of free speech	16	n/a	n/a	11	12	23
Housing	15	n/a	n/a	17	18	11
Education	14	11	+3	19	12	11
Government spending and debt	14	n/a	n/a	18	16	9
Immigration and the border	14	19	-5	10	24	15
Taxes	13	n/a	n/a	14	18	11
Vaccines and disease prevention	12	n/a	n/a	10	9	14
The conflict in Ukraine and Russia	10	n/a	n/a	9	7	11
Crime	9	11	-2	10	10	8
National security and foreign policy	8	13	-5	11	9	6
Artificial intelligence (AI)	6	n/a	n/a	3	7	9
The conflict in the Middle East	5	n/a	n/a	4	4	7

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On Trump, Americans Hearing Most on SNAP, ICE, & Tariffs – And Have Concerns About Each and Around Medicaid Cuts

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.



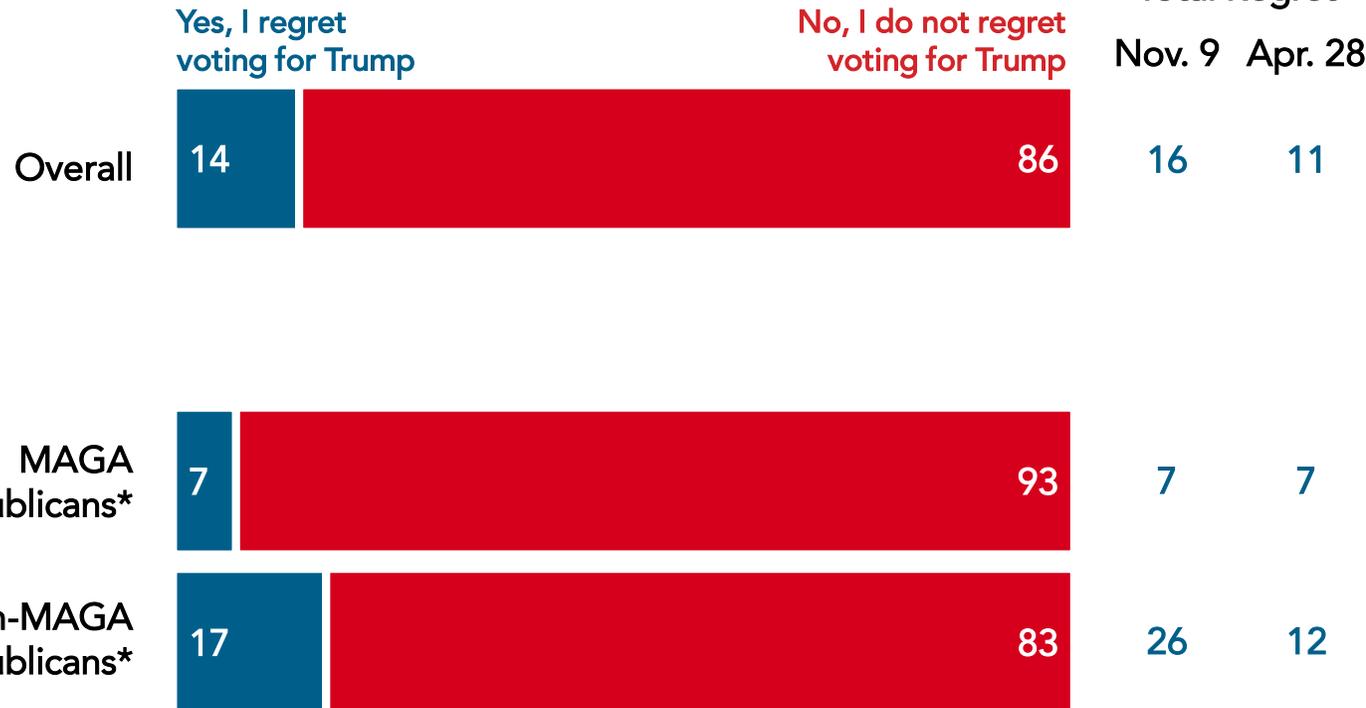
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Nearly One in Six Trump Voters Regret Their 2024 Vote Choice, Citing Trump's Broken Promises – Especially on the Economy

Non-MAGA Republicans* have become less regretful of their choice since the shutdown (from 26% regret in November to 17% now).

[If 2024 Trump voter] You indicated you voted for Donald Trump in 2024. Do you regret voting for Donald Trump?

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



"I was **disappointed** in how he handled economic issues, particularly inflation and healthcare, **which directly affected my family.**"

"Too much chaos, **broken promises** and constant stress every day."

"Because he's **broken more of his promises** than he's kept."

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Americans Most Concerned By Trump's Broken Promises: Instead of Looking Out for People, They See Cuts, War, Spending, Costs

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

	/ split sample		Total Concerning			MAGA	Non-MAGA	
	Extremely concerning (5)	Somewhat concerning (4)	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Reps.*	Reps.*
[CUTS AND TAXES] ***Trump promised to look out for forgotten Americans, but he's cut SNAP funding for food assistance and health care, while passing big tax cuts for the rich and big corporations	50	13	64	90	70	35	27	44
[CUTS] **Trump promised to look out for forgotten Americans, but he's cut SNAP funding for food assistance and health care	49	13	62	87	66	36	27	50
[FOREIGN – VENEZUELA] ***Trump promised to put Americans first, but instead he's spending billions on foreign conflicts around the world and has said that the U.S. will strike on the ground in Venezuela "soon," dragging the U.S. into another war	47	15	62	88	63	36	28	47
[LAVISH SPENDING] ***Trump promised to lower costs, but instead he is spending money on lavish expenses like demolishing the East Wing of the White House to build a \$300 million ballroom and nearly \$600 million on private jets for himself and his cabinet	47	12	59	86	61	32	26	41
[COSTS – TARIFFS] **Trump promised to lower costs, but his policies like tariffs have only increased costs on everyday goods by thousands of dollars a year per household	46	14	60	88	67	30	22	42
[ICE] Trump promised he'd focus on deporting criminals, but his immigration approach has been too broad, using ICE to tear families apart, separating U.S. citizen kids from their parents, zip-tying children, and deporting legal residents	44	13	57	84	59	29	22	40
[COSTS – DISTRACTION] **Trump promised to lower costs, but instead he's focused on consolidating his power and taking retribution on people that he sees as political enemies	44	12	56	85	57	27	20	37
[FOREIGN] **Trump promised to put Americans first, but instead he's spending billions on foreign conflicts around the world	43	15	58	83	62	31	25	41
[EPSTEIN] Trump promised he'd go after the Washington elite, but he tried to cover up what's in the Epstein files	42	14	56	83	55	29	22	39
[ENERGY] ***Trump promised to bring down costs including energy costs, but he has limited the energy available on our electric grid by banning cleaner, cheaper energy, leading to shortages and rate hikes	41	16	57	83	58	30	24	39

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Americans Most Concerned By Trump Cutting Programs Like Medicaid/SNAP, Abusing His Powers and Violating Constitution

Independents are most concerned about cuts to programs like Medicaid and SNAP (44%) and Trump abusing his powers (33%).

And when it comes to Trump's handling of his job as president, which of the following concerns you the most?

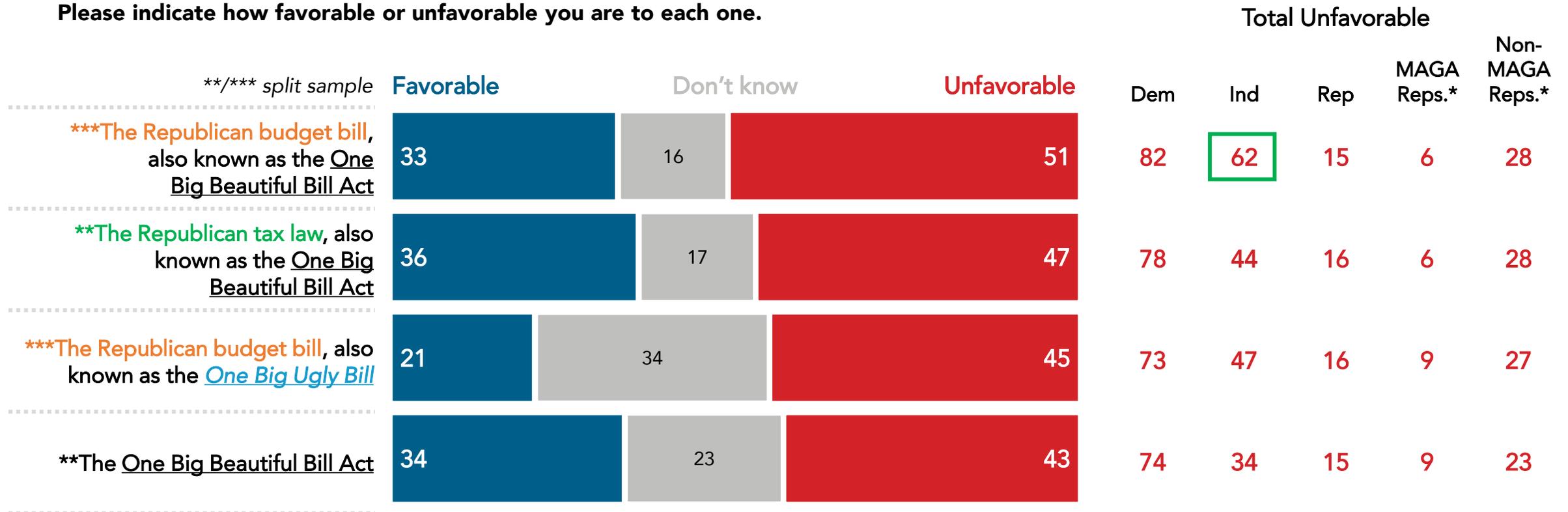
	% top three most concerning	Dem	Ind	Rep	MAGA Reps.*	Non-MAGA Reps.*
[CUTS/HEALTH CARE] Trump has cut critical programs like Medicaid, raised health care costs for millions, and taken SNAP, or food stamps, away from millions	40%	54	44	24	19	31
[CONSTITUTION/ICE] Trump is abusing his powers and ignoring the Constitution, directing masked ICE agents to separate families without due process and launching military strikes in the Caribbean that violate international law	38	59	33	17	10	28
[CORRUPTION] Trump is corrupt and only looking out for himself and his rich donors, enriching himself and his family with cryptocurrency deals and payments from foreign governments	29	50	26	9	6	14
[SPENDING] Trump is wasting money on himself and his team instead of helping working people, building a \$300 million White House ballroom and spending nearly \$600 million on private jets for himself and his cabinet	26	37	28	16	11	23
[COSTS AND TARIFFS] Trump has raised costs through policies like tariffs	24	27	29	21	16	27
[FOREIGN] Trump has been too focused on foreign conflicts instead of problems here at home, spending billions abroad including \$40 billion to bail out Argentina and vowing ground attacks in Venezuela "soon"	21	18	26	21	19	26
[EPSTEIN] Trump spent months protecting the elites in Washington by holding up the release of the Epstein files	15	17	18	13	12	14

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OBBBA Is Best-Known & Viewed Most Negatively When Called the “Republican Budget Bill”

Calling the bill “Beautiful” instead of “Ugly” adds to its recognition with the electorate (84% familiar on the former, 66% on the latter) – while both are seen deeply negatively (51% unfavorable on the former, 45% on the latter).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to each one.



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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 December 4-December 8, 2025. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 102 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 78 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 102 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.

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