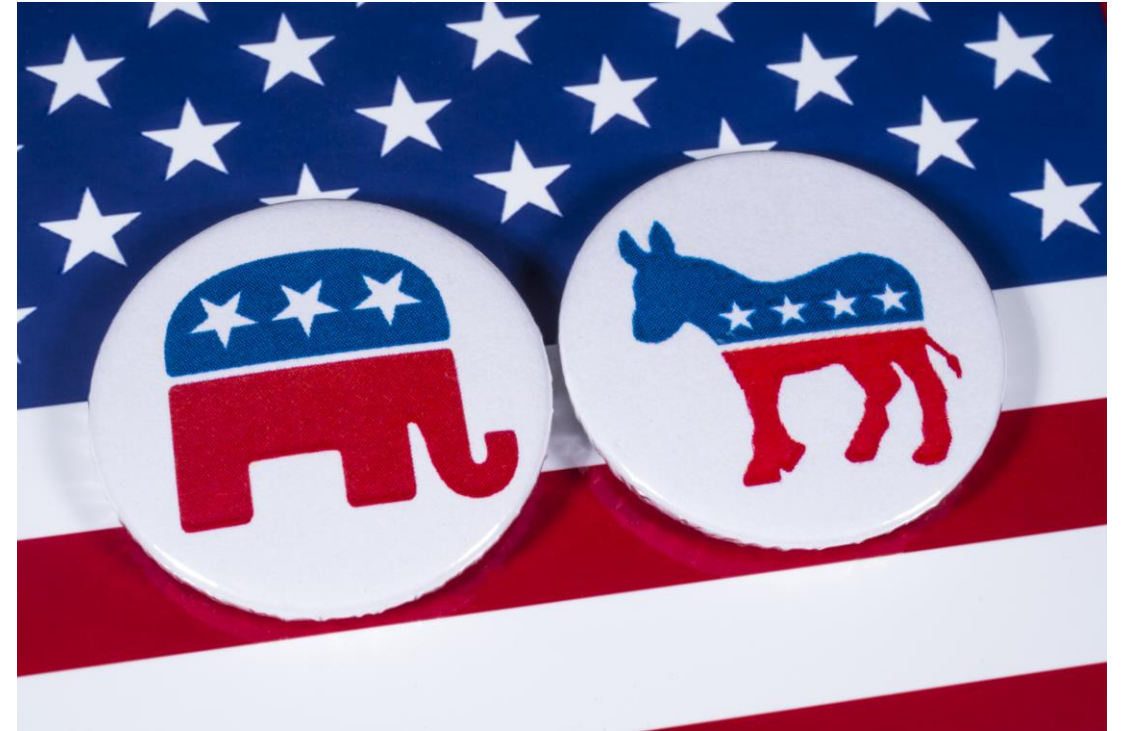


# navigator.\*

Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup>

## Public Trust in Elected Officials



Credit: Chris Dorney/Shutterstock

## Key Takeaways:

- Americans say the biggest obstacles preventing elected officials from getting things done include them focusing on enriching themselves and their donors, being unwilling to work across party lines, being out of touch with everyday Americans, and being unwilling to stand up to extreme members of their party.
- More Americans say the top drivers of elected officials' inefficacy – including self-enrichment, being beholden to corporate donors, and more – better describe Republicans than Democrats.
- Policies that help generate trust include committing to term limits, refusing to take money from corporate donors and PACs, and non-partisan Congressional redistricting processes.

# Biggest Obstacles to Electeds Getting Things Done: Self-Enriching, Partisanship, Out of Touch, Extreme, Working for Corporations

Please indicate how much you blame each issue for preventing elected officials from getting things done.

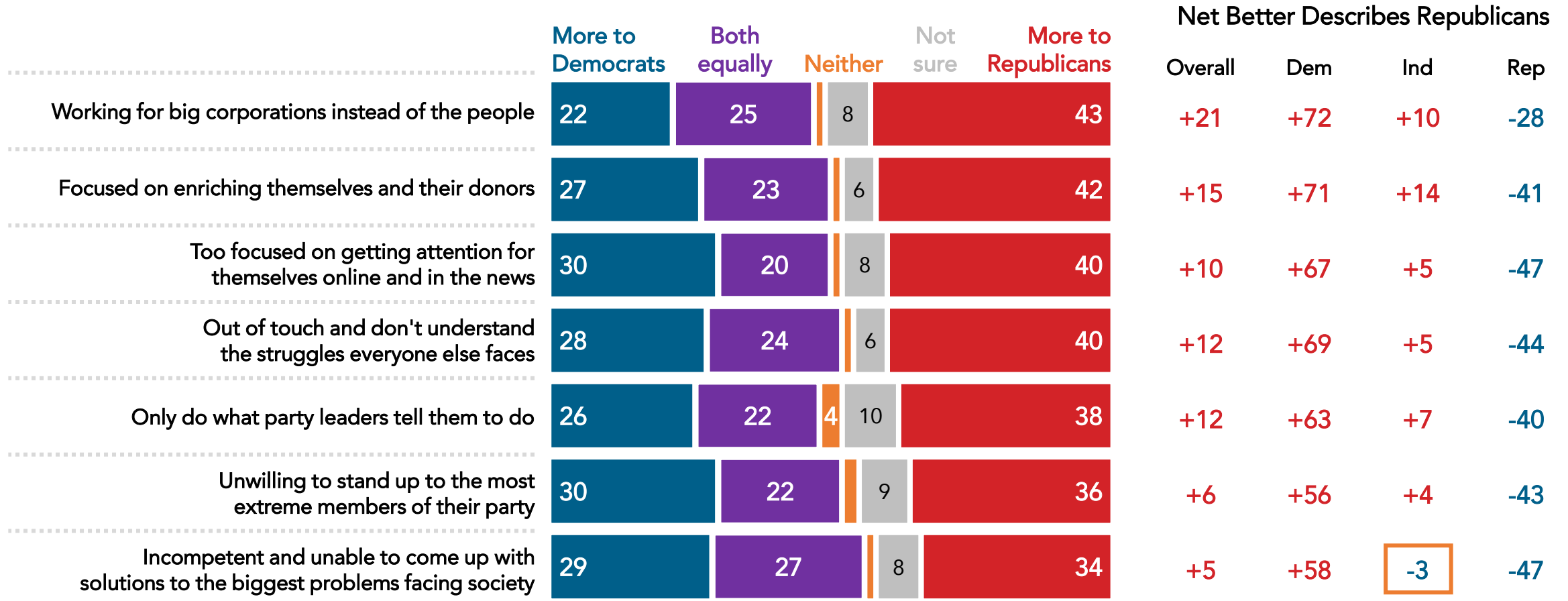
	Total A Lot/Some				
	A lot	Some	Overall	Ind	Non-MAGA Reps.*
They are focused on enriching themselves and their donors	53	27	80	78	68
They are unwilling to reach across the aisle and work across party lines	52	25	77	72	71
They are out of touch and don't understand the struggles everyone else faces	50	27	77	80	66
They are unwilling to stand up to the most extreme members of their party	48	30	78	70	69
They are working for big corporations instead of the people	46	30	76	74	67
They only do what party leaders tell them to do	44	33	76	72	73
They are incompetent and unable to come up with solutions to the biggest problems facing society	40	31	71	73	60
They only do what lobbyists and special interests tell them to do	40	37	77	74	70
They are too focused on getting attention for themselves online and in the news	38	34	72	70	63
They are distracted by unimportant issues, like the latest headlines	37	34	71	72	62
They allow red tape and bureaucracy to get in the way of progress	37	34	71	72	64
They are ineffective and weak	35	29	64	55	56

\*"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 survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 29-February 1, 2026.  
 For more info, visit [navigatortresearch.org](https://navigatortresearch.org).

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# GOP Most Seen as Pro-Corporation, Self-Enriching, Attention-Focused, Out of Touch, Bowing to Party Leadership

Please indicate if each description applies more to Democrats, Republicans, both parties equally, or neither party.

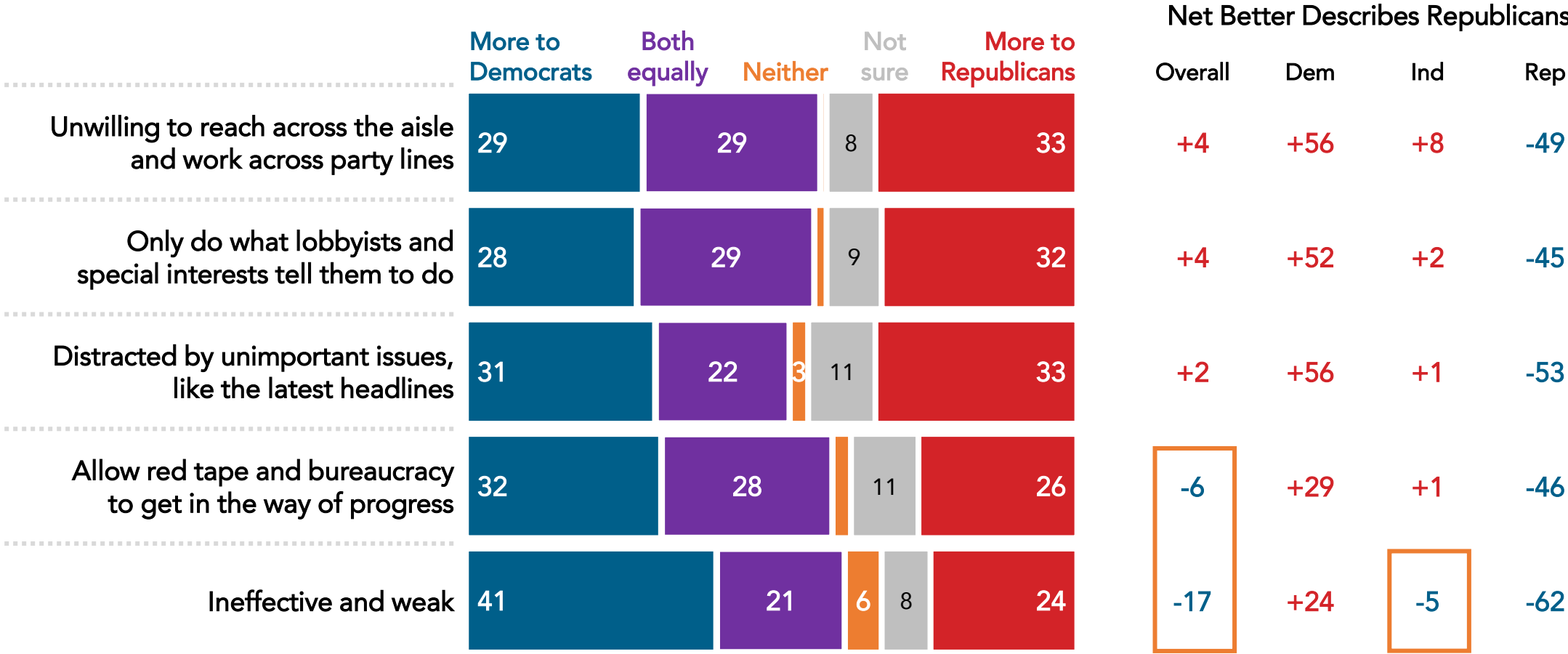


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 29-February 1, 2026.  
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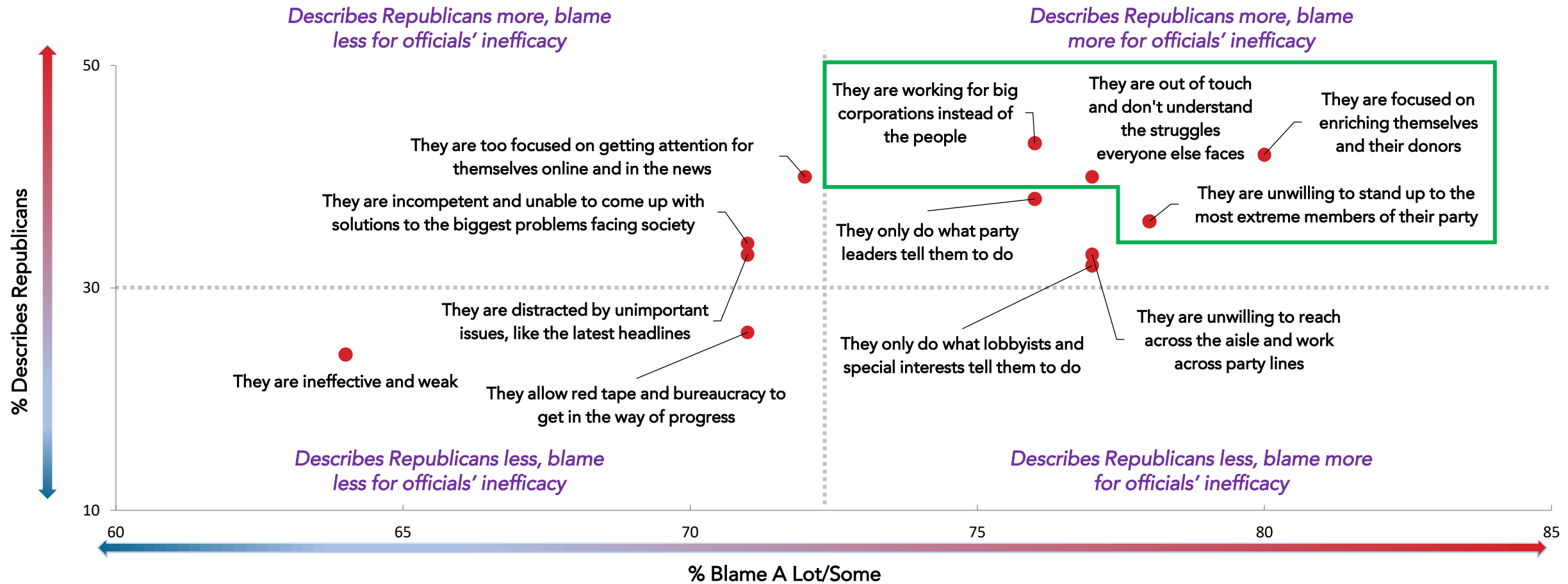
# Democrats Are More Viewed as Ineffective, Weak, Allowing Red Tape to Get in the Way of Progress

Please indicate if each description applies more to Democrats, Republicans, both parties equally, or neither party.



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 29-February 1, 2026.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# GOP Most Vulnerable on Self-Enrichment, Extremism, Being Out of Touch, Putting Corporations First



Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 29-February 1, 2026.  
For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Best Policies to Build Trust in Elected Officials: Term Limits, No Corporate Dollars, No Gerrymandering

Below is a list of actions elected officials could take. Please indicate whether each one would make you more likely to trust an elected official, less likely, or if it would make no difference.

					Total More Likely		
	More likely	No difference	Not sure	Less likely	Dem	Ind	Rep
**Committing to term limits for elected officials	67	19	6	8	68	55	69
**Refusing to take money from corporate donors and PACs	63	18	9	10	69	60	59
**Creating a non-partisan, open process to draw fair Congressional district maps	61	21	9	9	67	55	57
Committing to not owning or trading individual stocks while they are in office	57	23	10	10	61	47	56
Publicly releasing multiple years of their personal tax returns	57	26	8	9	64	45	53
***Ending the partisan process known as gerrymandering nationwide, where district maps are manipulated for party advantages	56	16	16	12	65	42	52
***Committing to age limits for elected officials	56	26	10	8	60	40	56
***Refusing to receive help from Super PACs	47	22	22	9	49	37	47

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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.

## About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from January 29-February 1, 2026. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 75 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter