

navigator*

Thursday, February 19th

The State of the U.S. Government



Credit: Shutterstock/Joshua Sukoff

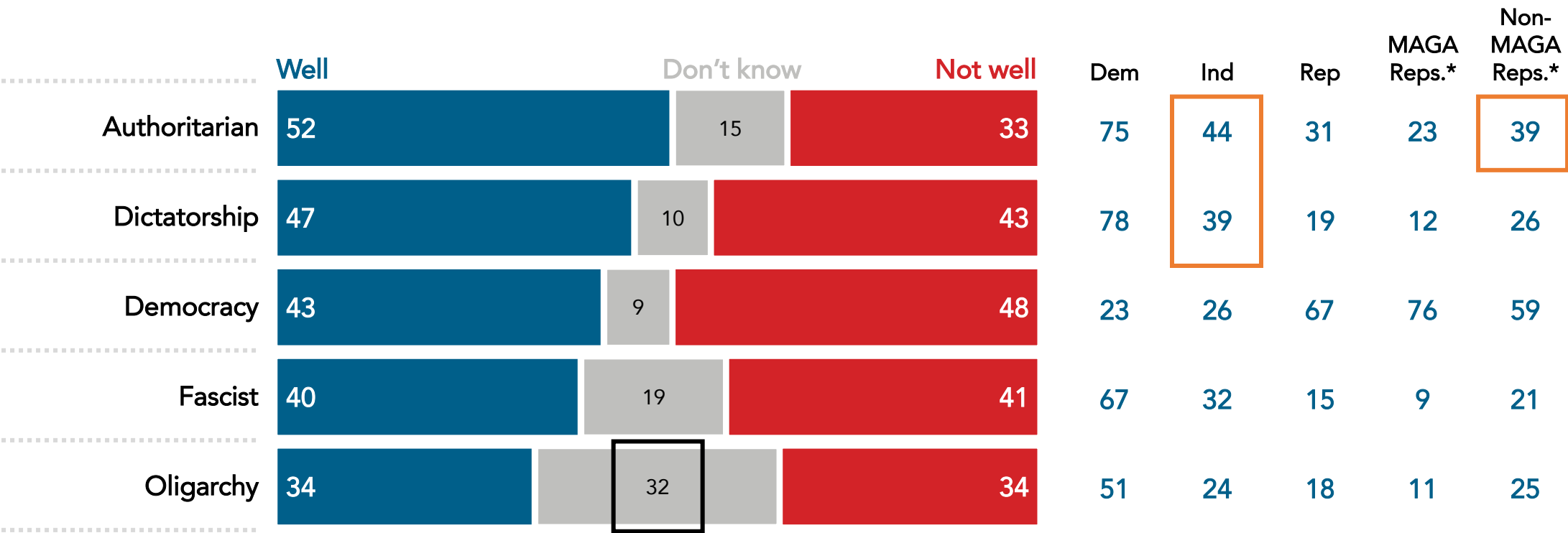
Key Takeaways:

- A majority of Americans describe the current government as “authoritarian,” and nearly half say that it’s a “dictatorship.” Only two in five say the current government is a “democracy.”
- College-educated Americans, Gen Z, and active news consumers are most likely to say that “authoritarian” describes the current federal government well.

A Majority Describe the Current Government as “Authoritarian,” Nearly Half as a “Dictatorship”; Fewer Say It’s a “Democracy”

A majority of Americans (52%) describe the current government as “authoritarian” and 47% say it’s a “dictatorship.” More Americans say that “democracy” does not describe the current government well (48%) than those who say it describes it well (43%).

Below are some potential descriptions of various governments. Thinking about the federal government of the United States right now, please indicate how well each one describes it.

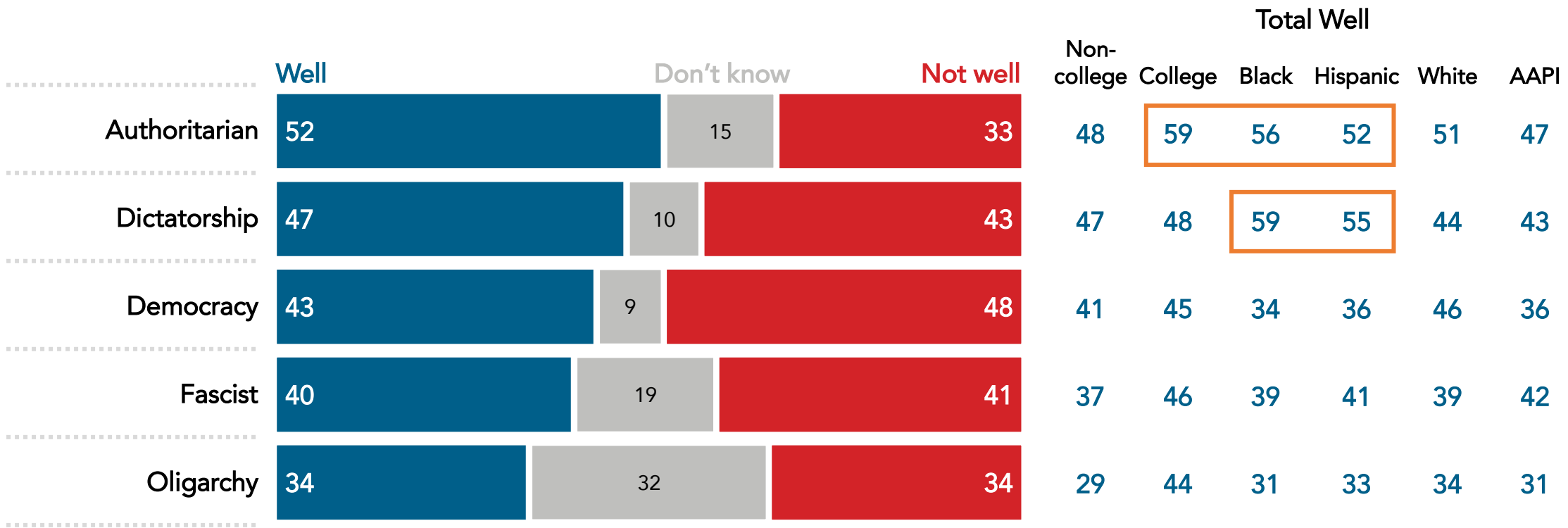


*“MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who identify as “a supporter of the MAGA movement” on a separate question, while “non-MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 29-February 1, 2026.
For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

A Majority of College-Educated, Black, and Hispanic Americans Describe the Current Government as "Authoritarian"

A majority of Black Americans describe the current government as "authoritarian" (56%) and as a "dictatorship" (59%). Hispanic Americans most describe it as a "dictatorship" (55%).

Below are some potential descriptions of various governments. Thinking about the federal government of the United States right now, please indicate how well each one describes it.

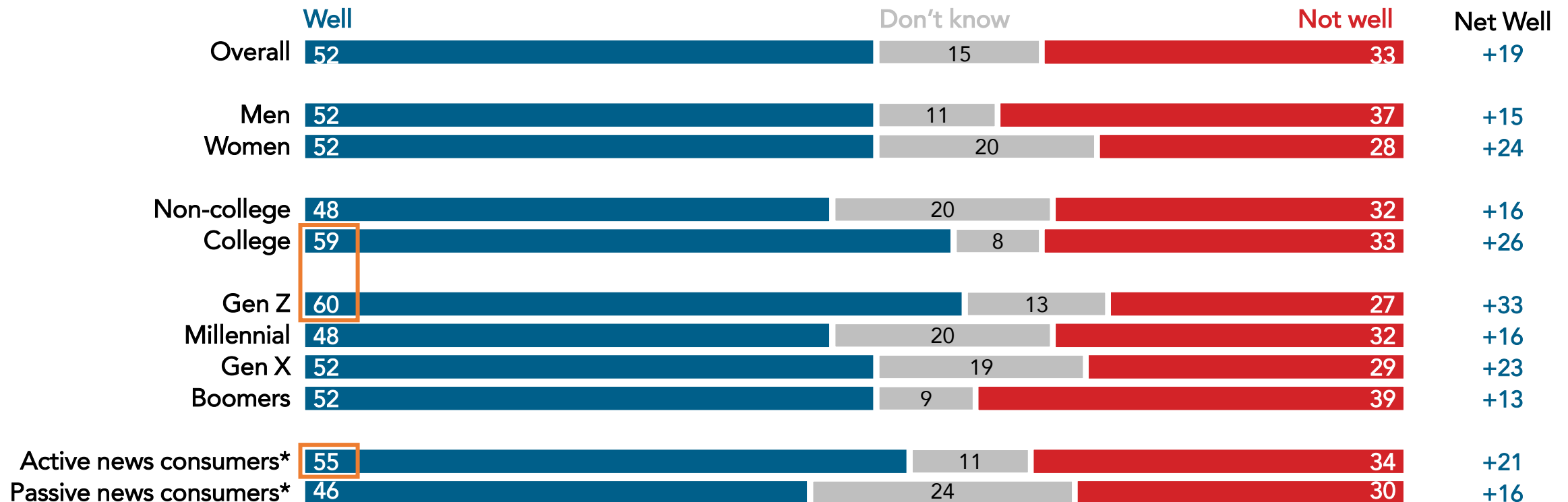


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 29-February 1, 2026.
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College Graduates, Gen Z, and Active News Consumers Say “Authoritarian” Describes the Current Government Well

A majority of Americans say the federal government of the U.S. is currently well-described as “authoritarian” (52%), including a majority of college-educated Americans (59%), Gen Z (60%), and active news consumers* (55%).

Thinking about the federal government of the United States right now, please indicate how well authoritarian describes it.



*"Passive news consumers" are those who say, "News comes to me," while "active news consumers" say, "I seek out news."
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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.

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