

navigator*

Tuesday, March 31st

Budget Priorities



Credit: Shutterstock/Lucky Photographer

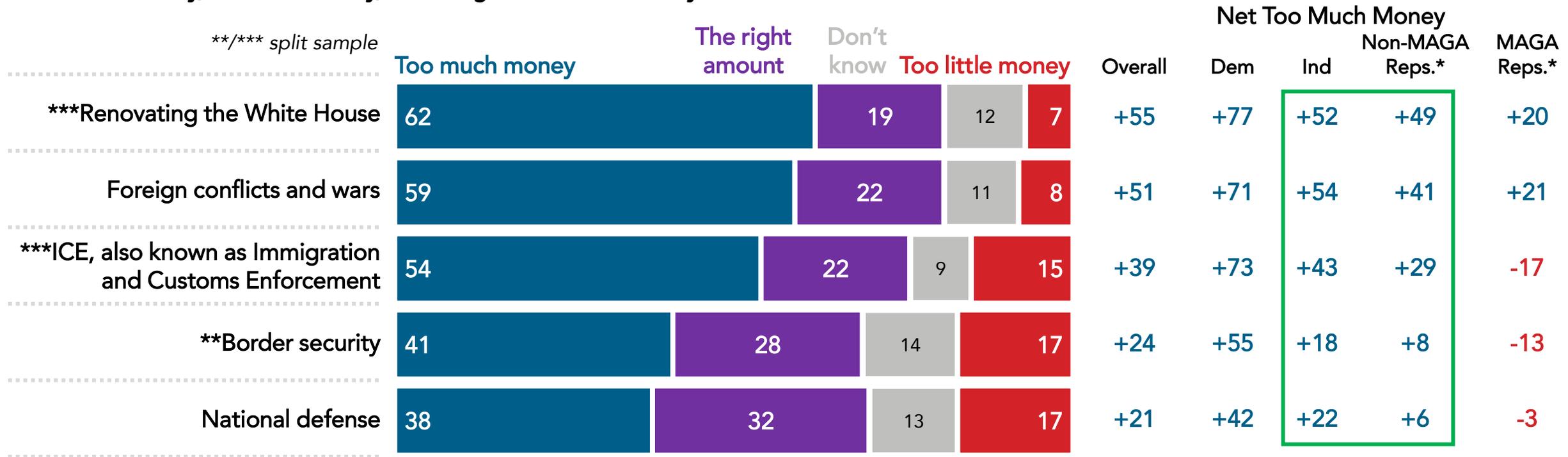
Key Takeaways:

- Americans across party lines feel like the U.S. government is spending too much on White House renovations, ICE, and foreign conflicts and wars. This includes pluralities of both independents and non-MAGA Republicans.
- Americans want to see more spending on retirement programs, health care, public education, and SNAP.

A Majority Say the Government Spends Too Much Money on White House Renovations, Foreign Conflicts/Wars, ICE

Pluralities of independents and non-MAGA Republicans* say the government spends too much money on renovating the White House, foreign conflicts and wars, ICE, border security, and national defense.

When you think about how much money the U.S. government spends on the following things, would you say the government spends too much money, too little money, or the right amount of money on each one?



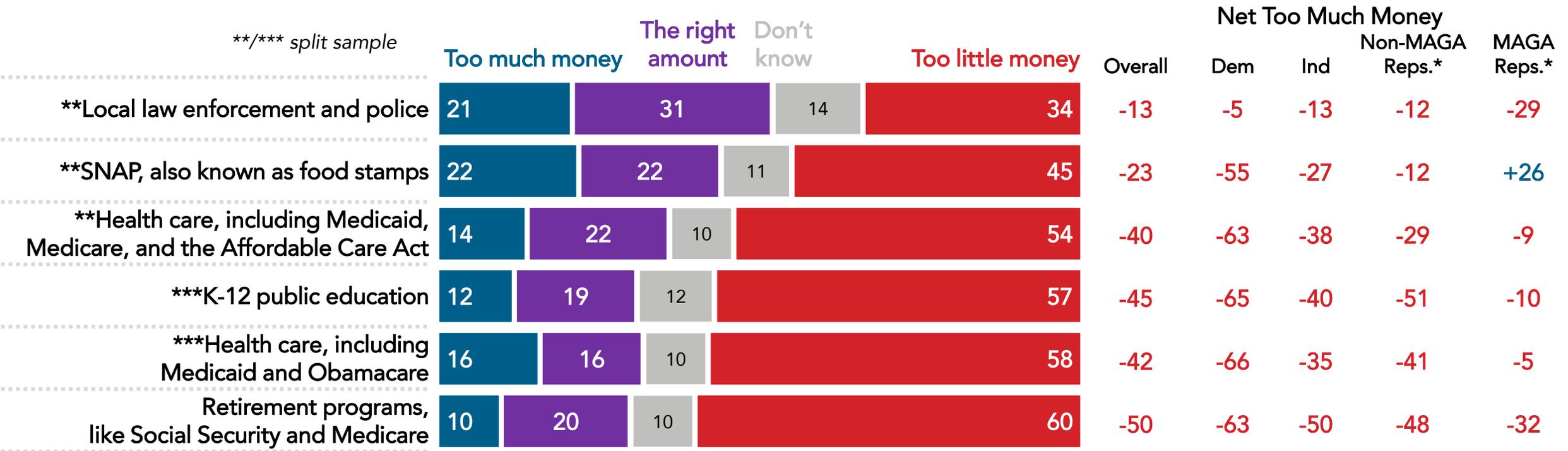
*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted March 12-March 16, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Americans Say the Government Spends Too Little Money on Retirement Programs, Public Education, Health Care

A majority of non-MAGA Republicans* (net -41 too much money) and independents (net -35) say the government spends too little money on “health care, including Medicaid and Obamacare.”

When you think about how much money the U.S. government spends on the following things, would you say the government spends too much money, too little money, or the right amount of money on each one?

/ split sample

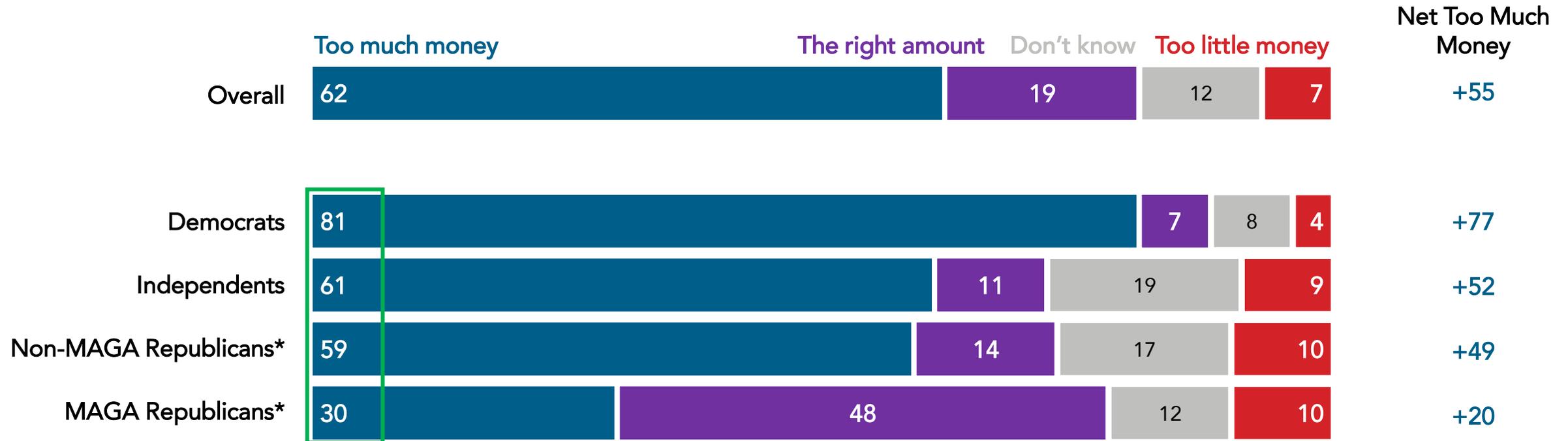


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Nearly Two in Three Americans Think the Government Spends Too Much Money Renovating the White House

Among MAGA Republicans*, nearly half say the government spends the right amount renovating the White House (48%), but three in ten say they spend too much money on it (30%).

When you think about how much money the U.S. government spends on the following things, would you say the government spends too much money, too little money, or the right amount of money on: Renovating the White House.



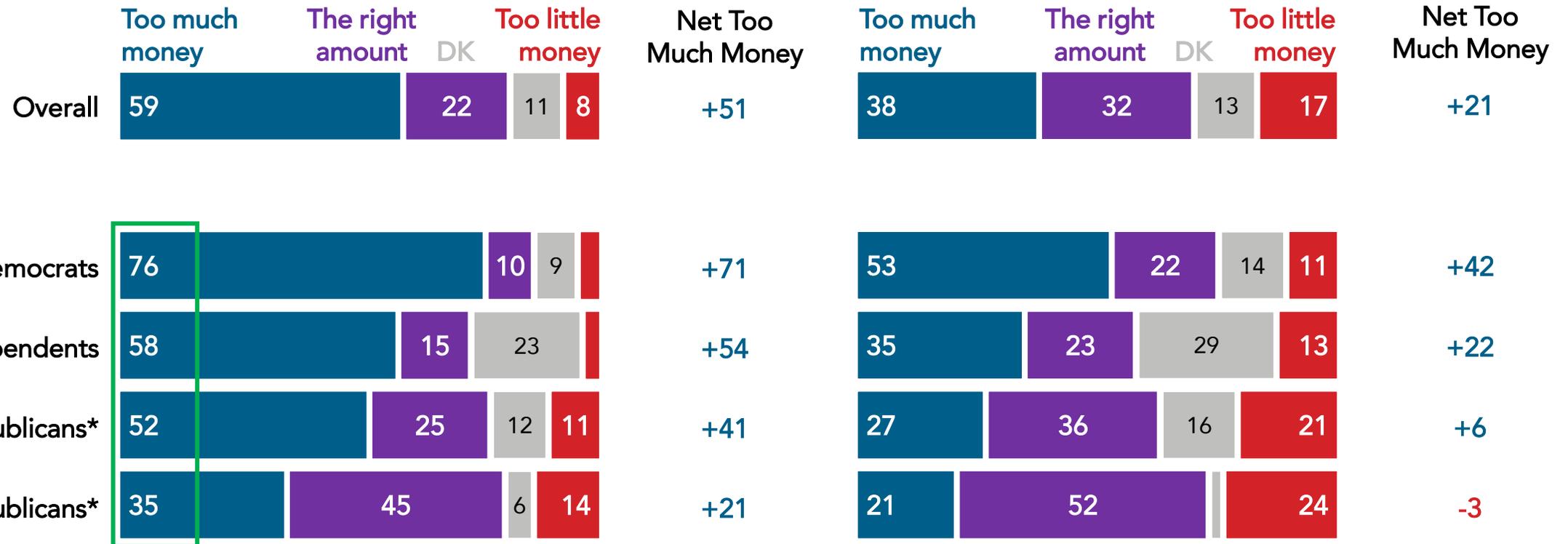
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Three in Five Say the Government Spends Too Much Money on “Foreign Conflicts and Wars”; Fewer on “National Defense”

More Americans say the government spends too much money on foreign conflicts and wars (59%) than they do on national defense (38%).

Would you say the government spends too much money, too little money, or the right amount of money on: Foreign conflicts and wars.

Would you say the government spends too much money, too little money, or the right amount of money on: National defense.



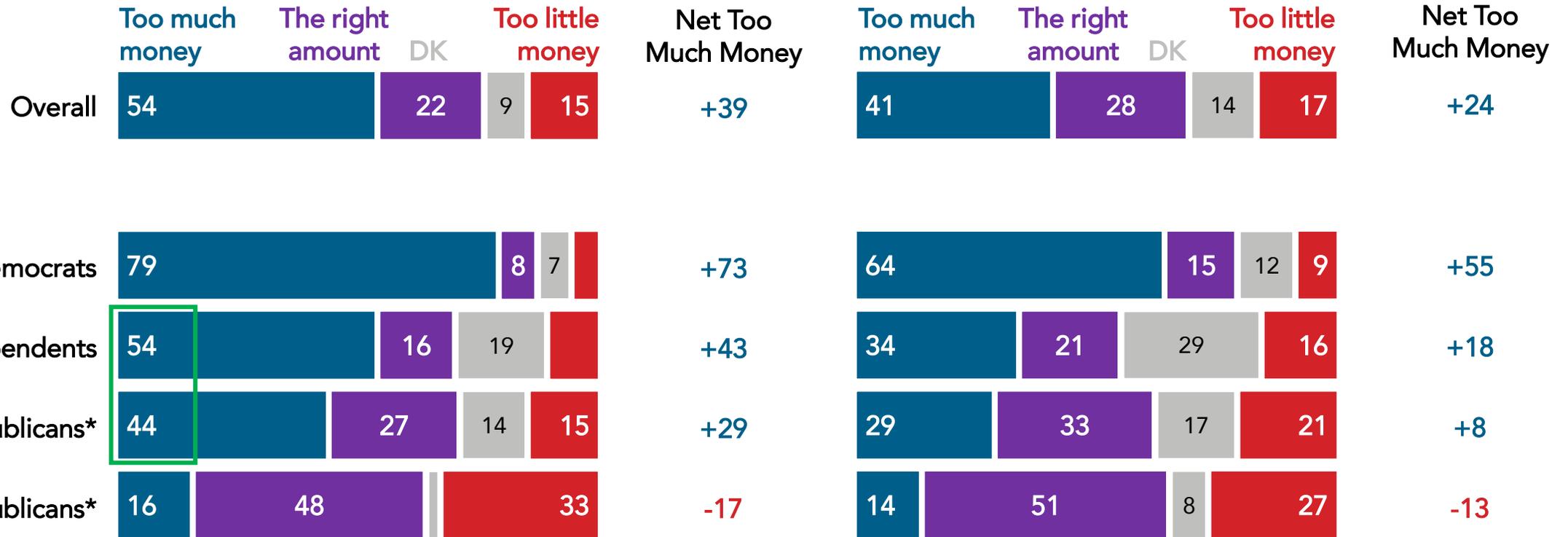
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A Majority Say the Government Spends Too Much Money on ICE; Fewer Say the Same on "Border Security"

Pluralities of independents (54%) and non-MAGA Republicans* (44%) say the government spends too much money on ICE.

Would you say the government spends too much money, too little money, or the right amount of money on: ICE, also known as Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

Would you say the government spends too much money, too little money, or the right amount of money on: Border security.



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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 March 12-March 16, 2026. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 101 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 82 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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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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