

navigator*

Thursday, April 9th

The Conflict With Iran



Credit: Shutterstock/macondofotografcisi

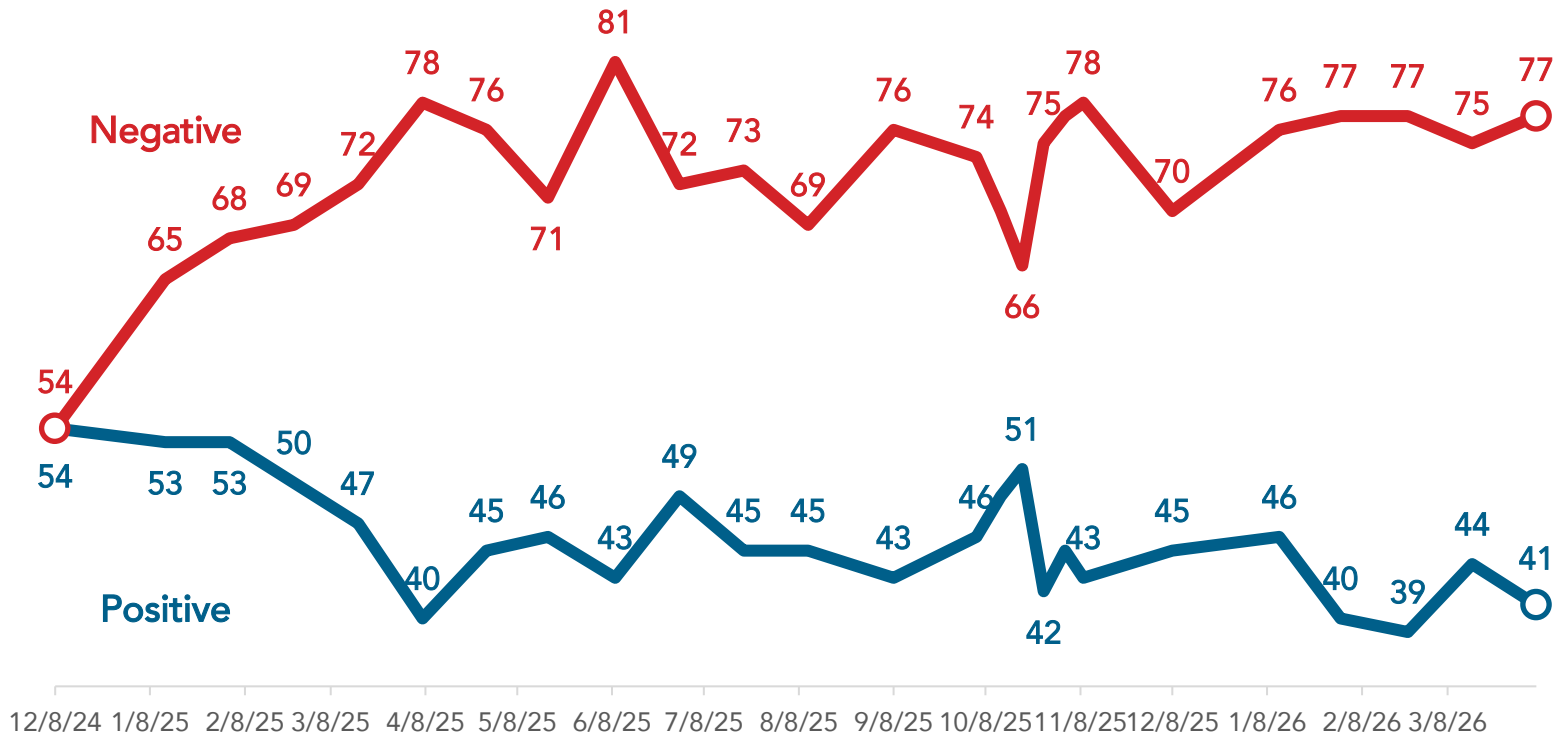
Key Takeaways:

- The Iran war is opposed by half of Americans, and opposition moves significantly higher when specifics are introduced, like more funding or boots on the ground.
- The war with Iran is dominating the conversation around Trump this week, and it is the main reason Trump regretters cite for their dissatisfaction.
- Americans see this war as dangerous, expensive, and unnecessary/a war of choice, not necessity.
- Americans want a focus on the economy but see Trump and Republicans as dialed in on immigration and foreign conflicts instead. In a notable swing since post-inauguration, a majority say Trump is now focused on the wrong things.

The Iran War Dominates Negative Conversation Around Trump

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?



"His **handling of his war in Iran.**"

"Starting **a war with no end in sight.**"

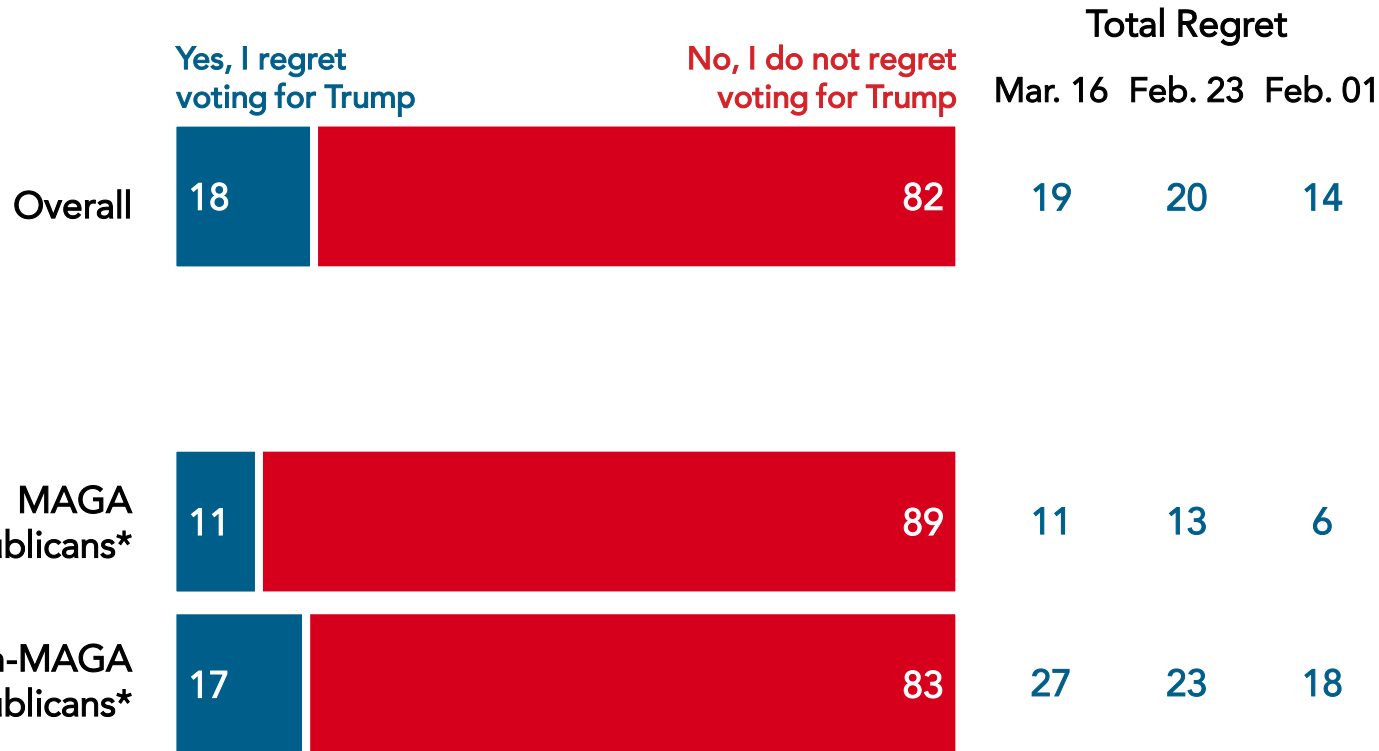
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted April 2-April 6, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

One in Five Continue to Regret Voting for Trump, Citing War

Trump voters who regret their choice primarily cite the war, as well as the economy, tariffs, prices, and broken promises.

[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 regret voting for Trump because **he's starting wars and he is overall making our future terrible and putting everybody's life at risk** without thinking."

"We have **started wars all over the Middle East** and we are losing it."

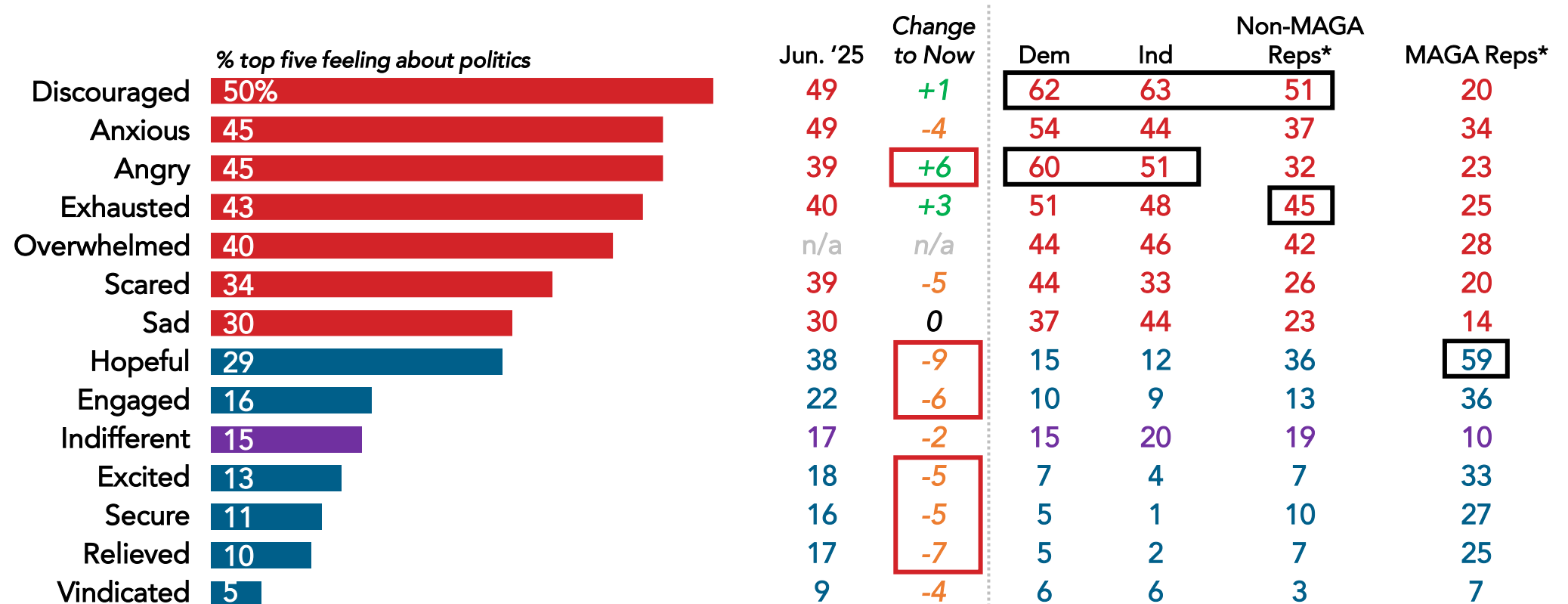
"The economy is in the tank and now we are engaged in a war that could bankrupt the country."

*"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 April 2-April 6, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Americans Are Feeling Angrier Than Last Summer; Less Hopeful, Engaged, Excited, Secure, and Relieved

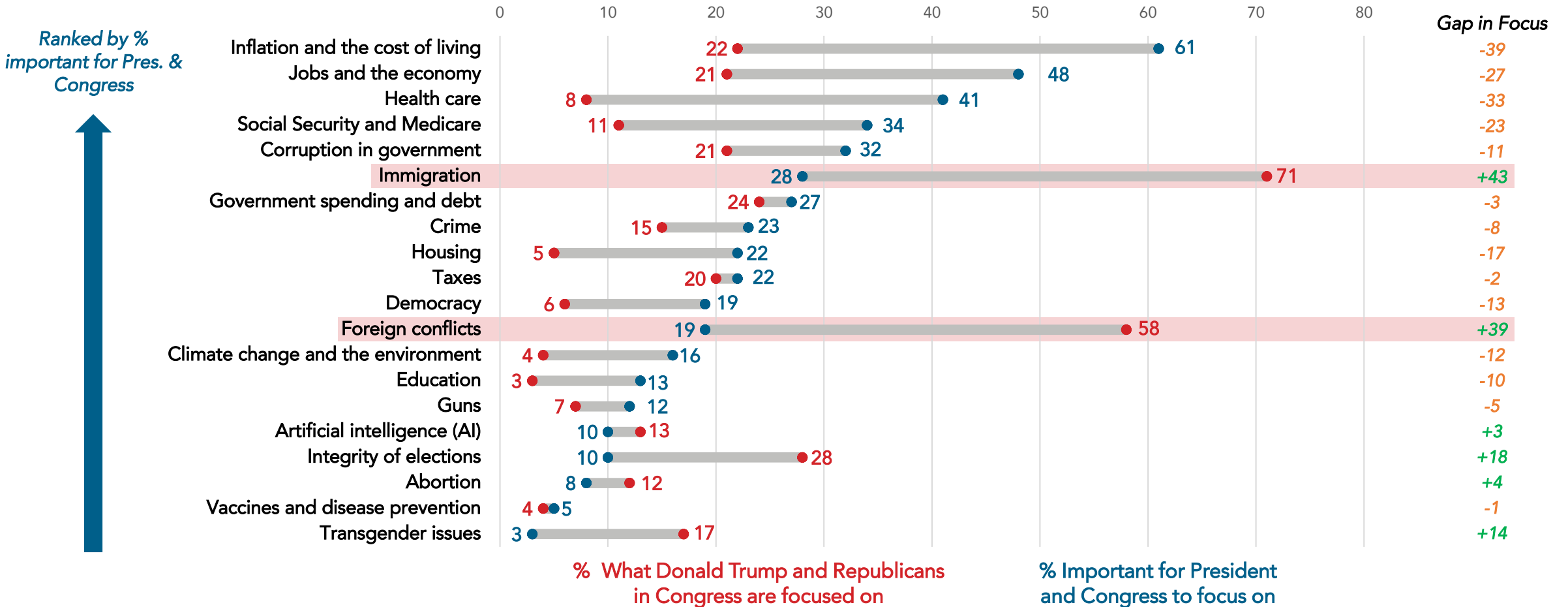
A majority of non-MAGA Republicans* (51%) and independents (63%) say they feel discouraged, and a majority of independents say they feel angry (51%) about politics right now.

Below are some emotions some people feel about politics. Please select up to five that you are feeling about politics right now.



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As Conflict With Iran Persists, Trump and GOP Remain Seen as Most Focused on Immigration, Foreign Conflicts – Not Economy

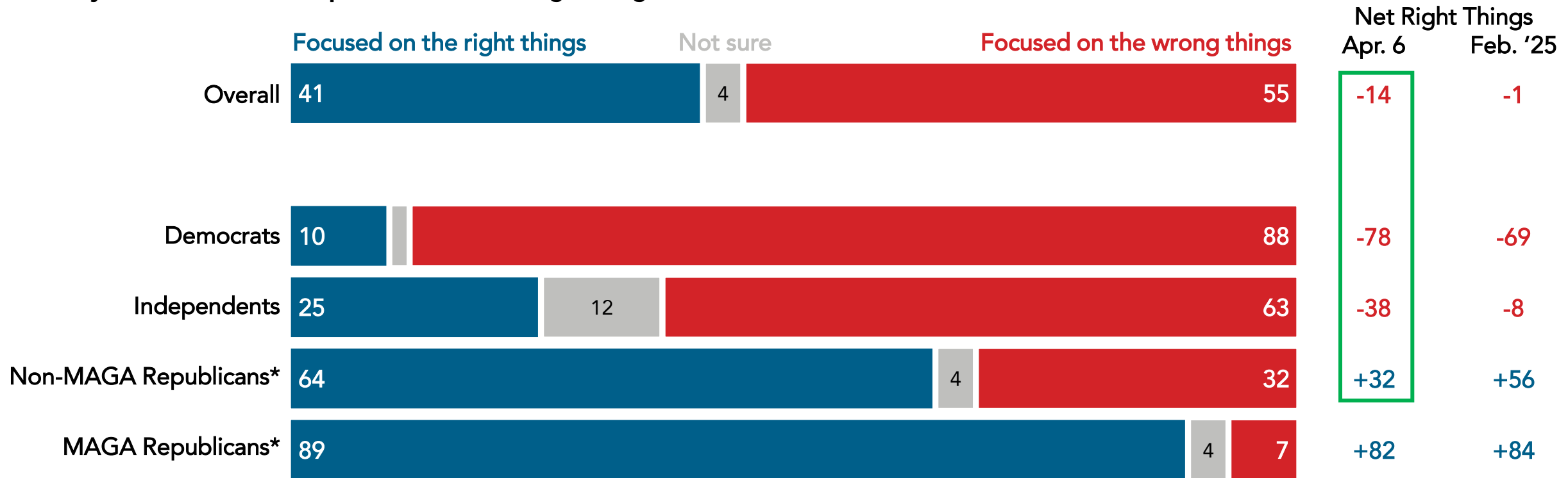


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 2-April 6, 2026.
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Compared to Post-Inauguration, Far More Americans See Trump as Focused on the Wrong Things

The greatest shifts against Trump in perceptions of him being focused on the right things have come from independents (a shift of net -30, from net -8 right things to net -38) and non-MAGA Republicans* (a shift of net -30, from net +56 to +32).

Do you think Donald Trump is focused on the right things?



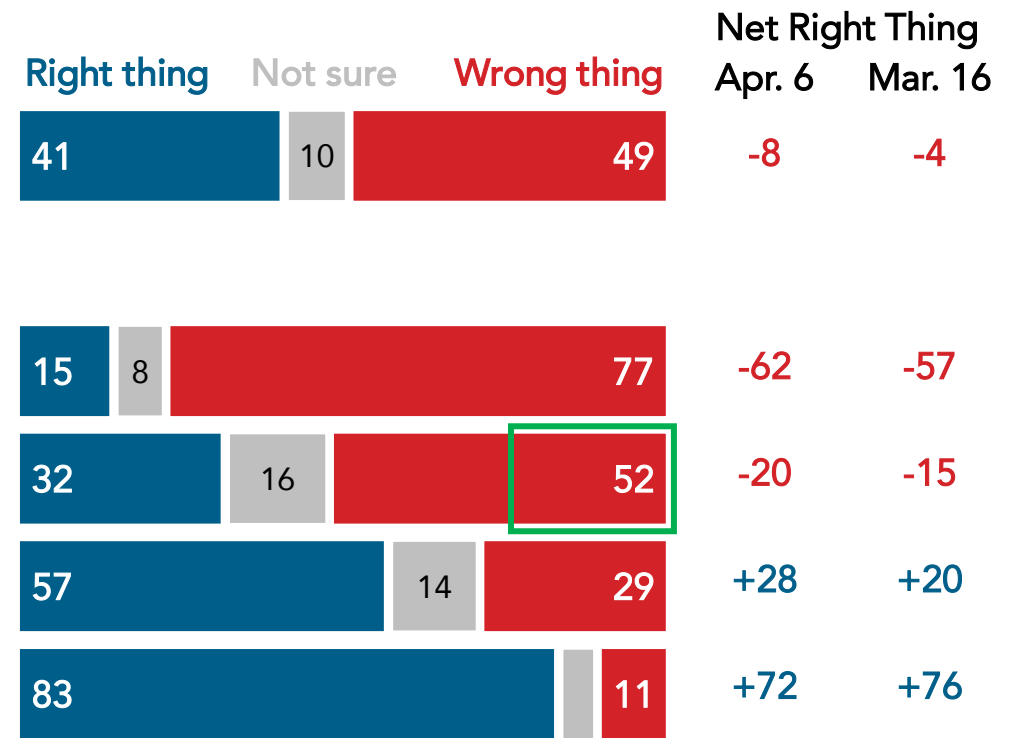
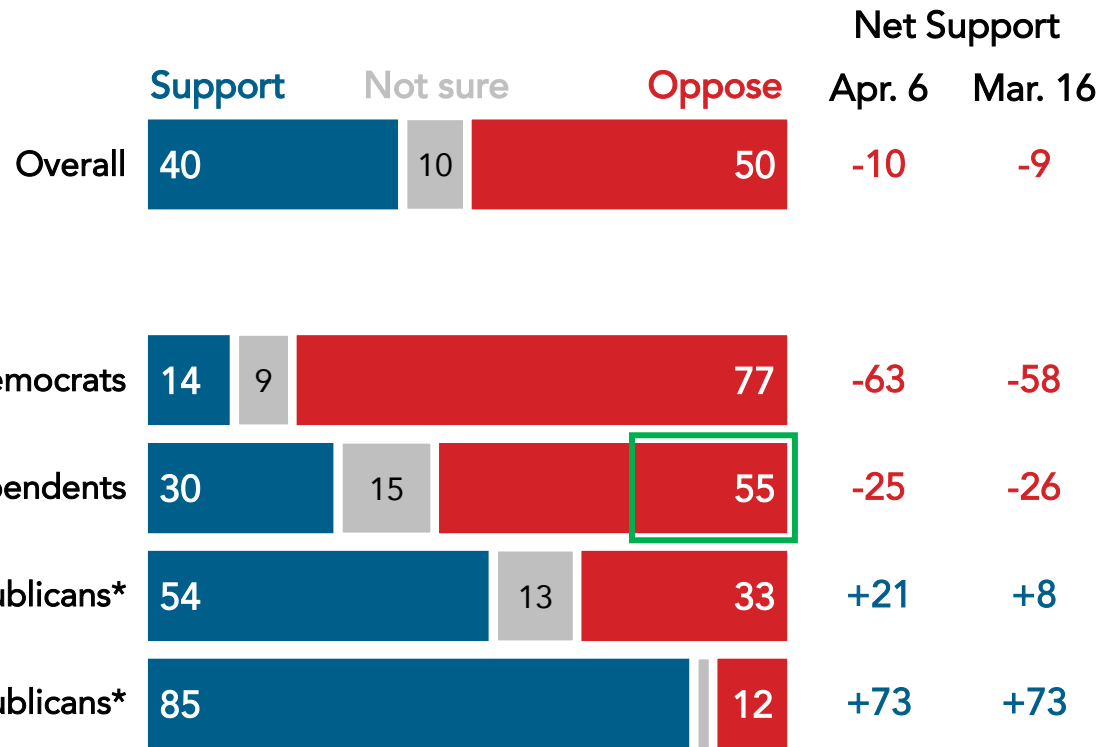
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Roughly Half Oppose the U.S. Taking Action Against Iran and Say the U.S. Has Done the Wrong Thing

Majorities of independents oppose the action (55%) and say it was the wrong thing for the U.S. to do (52%).

Do you support or oppose the U.S. taking military action against Iran?

From what you know now, do you think the U.S. did the right thing or the wrong thing by taking military action against Iran?



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Nearly Two in Five Report Feeling Less Safe Because of Conflict With Iran

A plurality of independents (44%) say they feel less safe because of the war in Iran.

Do you think the U.S. military operation against Iran has made your family and community safer, less safe, or has it made no difference?



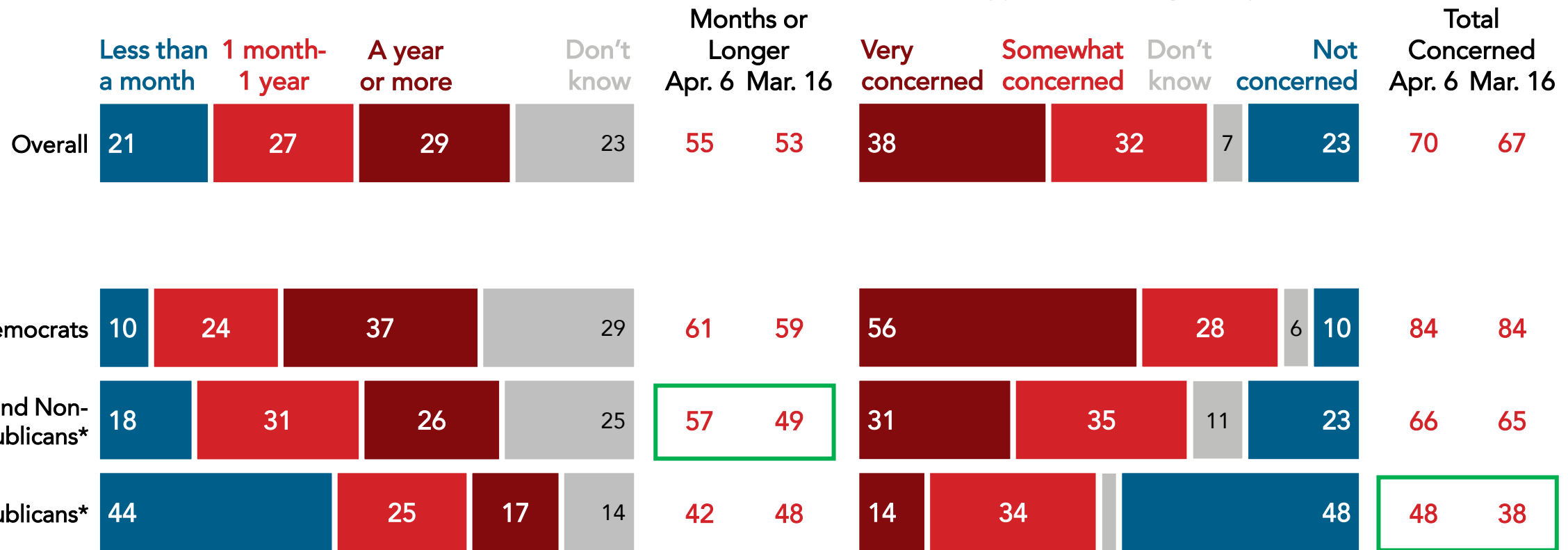
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A Majority Say the Conflict With Iran Will Last Months or Longer, With Seven in Ten Concerned About Prolonged Conflict

A majority of independents and non-MAGA Republicans* say the conflict will go on for months or longer (from 49% in March to 57% now).

(Split Sample) How much longer do you think the U.S. involvement in the conflict with Iran will last?

(Split Sample) How concerned are you that the U.S. will become bogged down in a prolonged conflict with Iran?

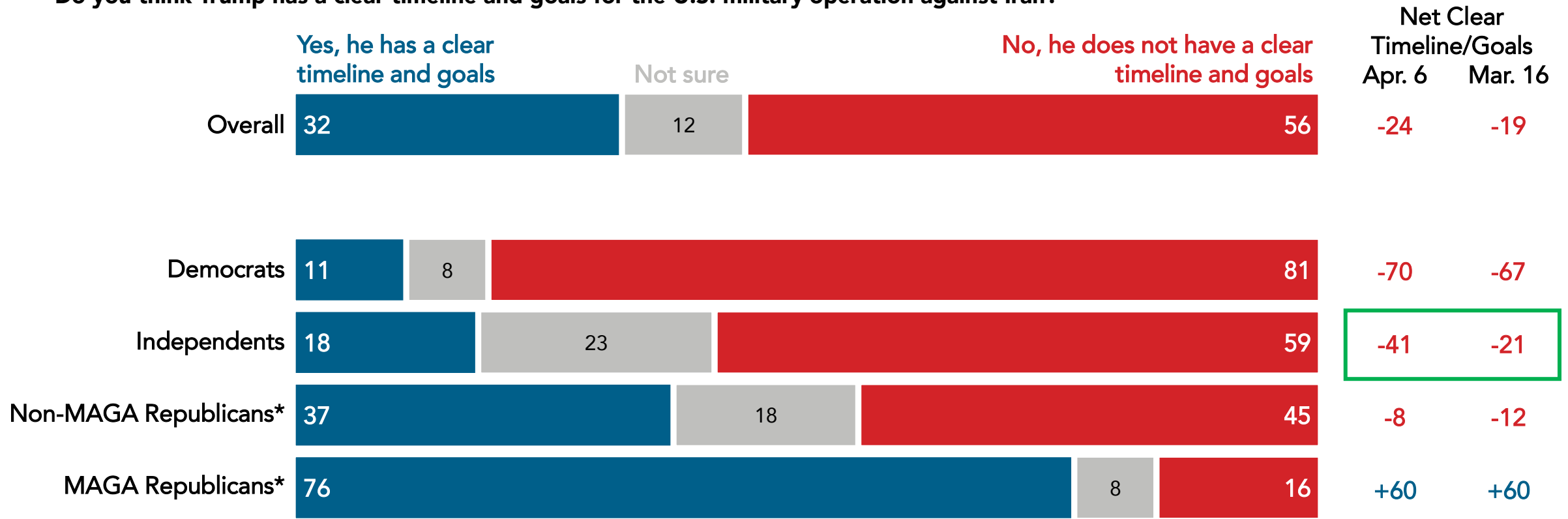


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Nearly Three in Five Say Trump Lacks a Clear Timeline and Goals With Iran

A majority of independents (59% lacks a clear timeline and goals) and a plurality of non-MAGA Republicans* (45%) say Trump does not have a clear timeline or goals.

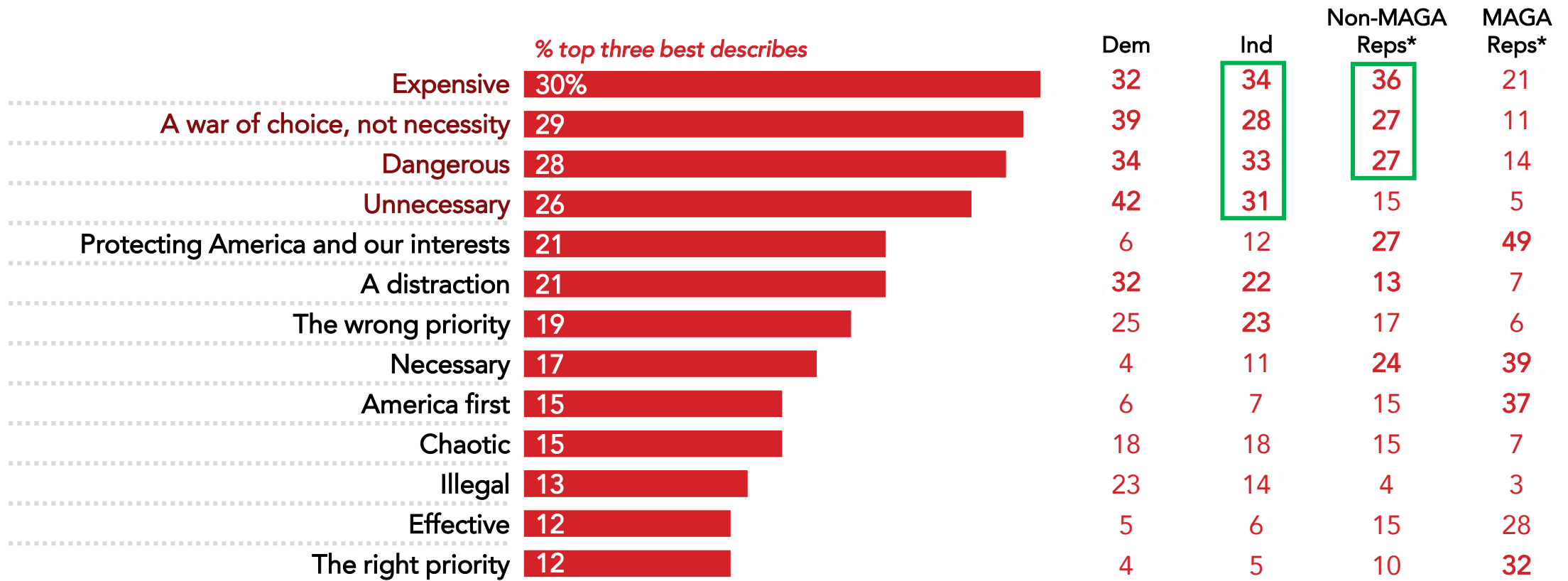
Do you think Trump has a clear timeline and goals for the U.S. military operation against Iran?



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Conflict With Iran: An Expensive, Dangerous, and Unnecessary War of Choice

Below is a list of terms that some have used to describe the U.S. military operation against Iran. Which of the following do you think best describe it, if any?



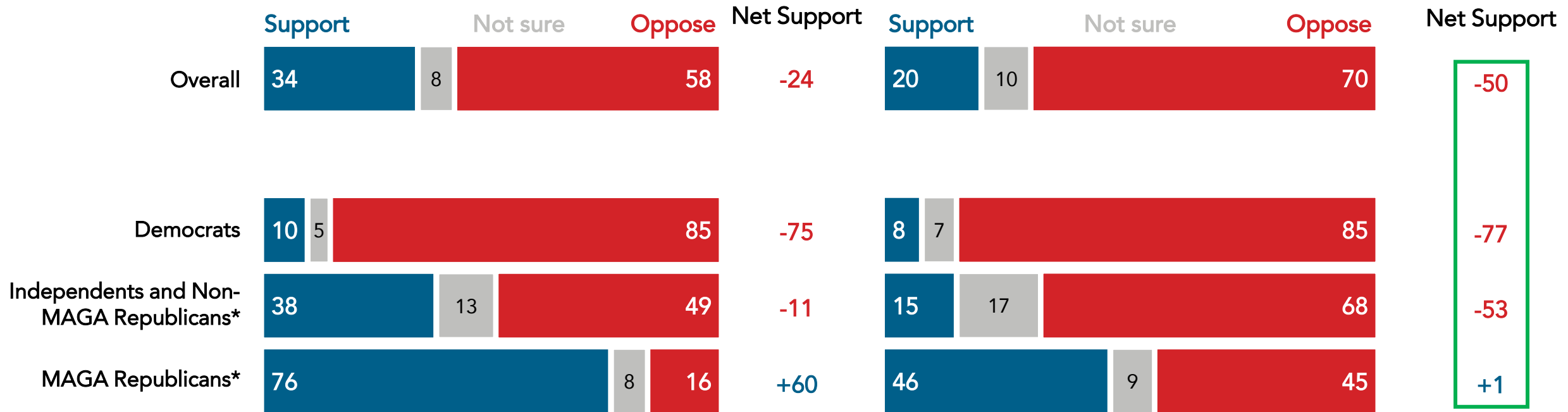
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Additional Funding for the War Is Unpopular and Can Be Driven to Be Even More So When Contrasted With Health Care Cuts

When mentioning health care cuts, additional funding for the conflict with Iran is opposed by 50 points overall, including net -77 support among Democrats, net -53 among independents and non-MAGA Republicans*, and even just net +1 among MAGA Republicans*.

(Split Sample) Do you support or oppose Congress providing an additional \$200 billion for the U.S. military operation against Iran?

(Split Sample) Do you support or oppose **Congress cutting health care** to provide an additional \$200 billion for the U.S. military operation against Iran?

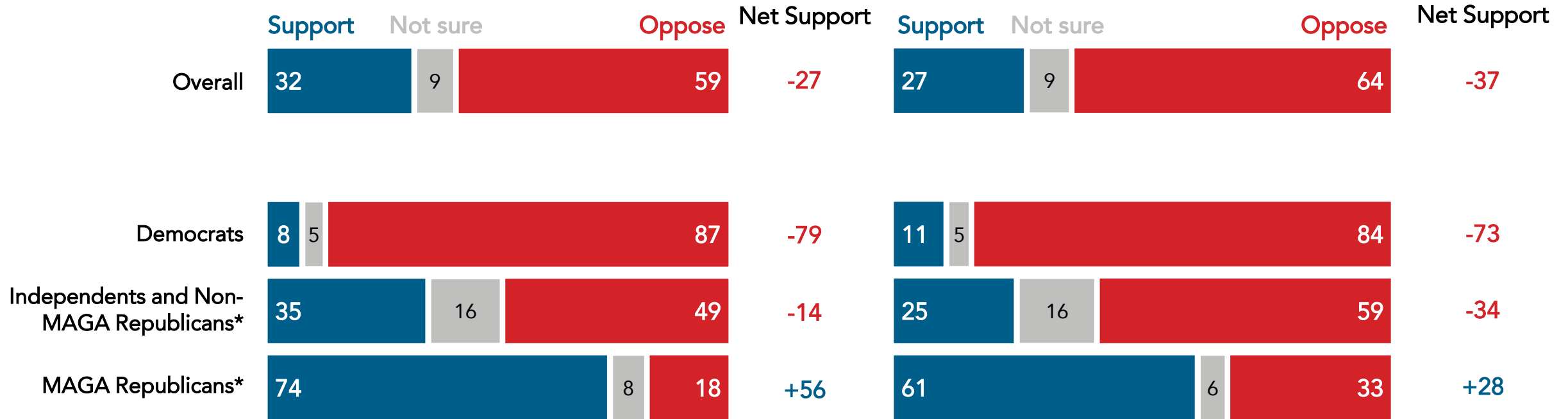


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Americans Do Not Support Trump Deploying More Soldiers to the Middle East, Nor Putting Boots on the Ground

(Split Sample) Do you support or oppose Trump deploying 7,000 troops to the Middle East as part of the U.S. military operation against Iran?

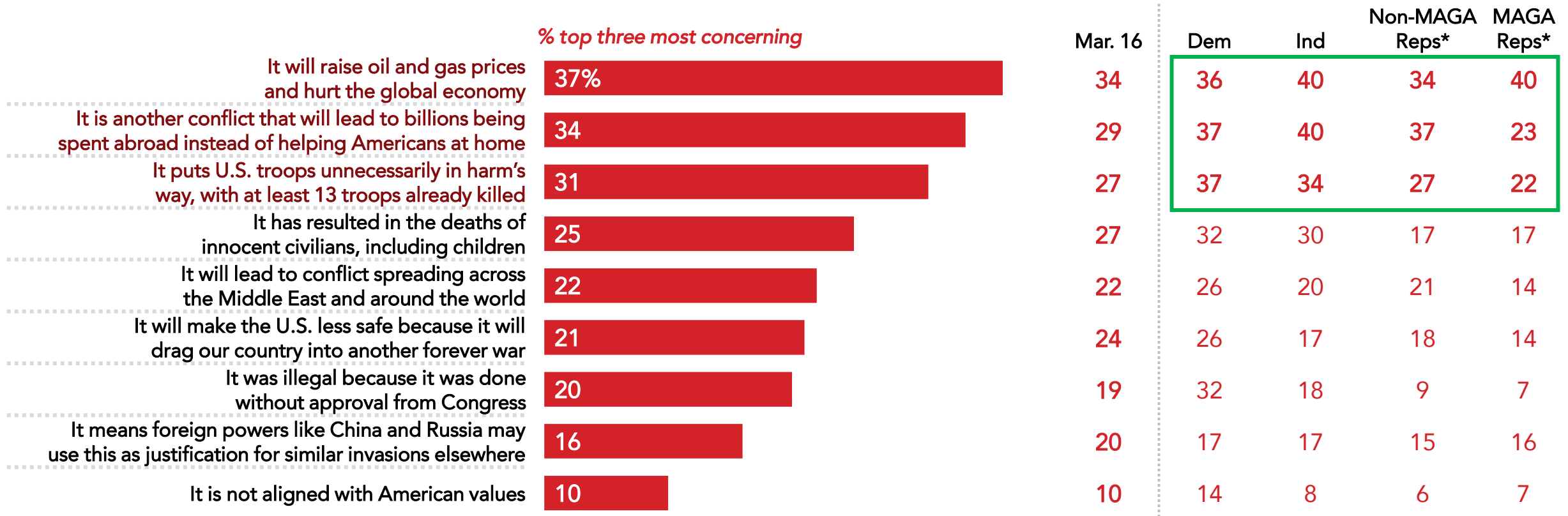
(Split Sample) Do you support or oppose Trump sending troops into Iran for a ground war?



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Rising Gas Prices, Money Spent Abroad Instead of at Home, Danger for U.S. Troops Remain Top Concerns on Iran

Below are concerns some have about the recent U.S. military operation against Iran. Which of the following raise the most concerns for you, if any?

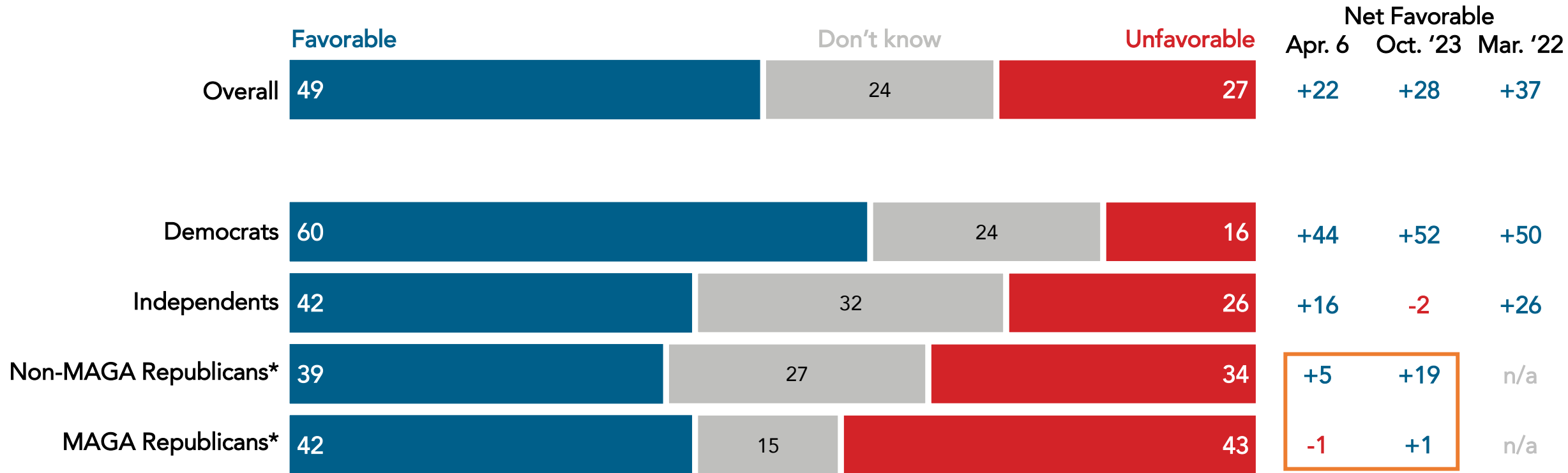


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Views of NATO Are More Positive Than Negative, But Ratings on It Have Soured With Republicans

Since 2023, non-MAGA Republicans* (from net +19 in 2023 to net +5 now) have become increasingly more negative toward NATO.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization, or NATO.



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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 April 2-April 6, 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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<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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