

# navigator\*

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup>

Corruption and Fraud



Credit: Shutterstock/Chip Somodevilla

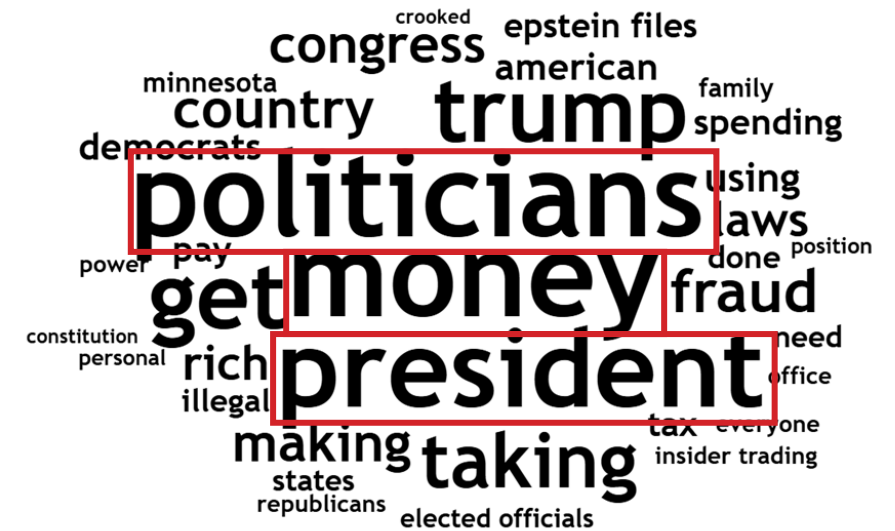
## Key Takeaways:

- Americans who prioritize corruption define it as actions by Trump and his administration, politicians enriching themselves for personal financial gain, and bipartisan missteps.
- Americans are concerned about fraud in a variety of ways: SNAP, but also government contracts and defense spending. They believe that recipients of government benefits, the President, and government contractors are most responsible for fraud.
- Highlighting the need to protect Medicaid, SNAP, and the Affordable Care Act from cuts is the most effective response to a Republican fraud argument. Trying to downplay fraud concerns backfires.

# In Their Own Words, Americans Define Corruption in Terms of Trump, Politicians Enriching Themselves, Special Interests

[If says corruption in government is a top priority; 32% of Americans] You indicated you think corruption in government is one of the most important issues for the President and Congress to focus on. What specifically do you mean by "corruption in government"? [Open end]

	Recoded	Dem	Ind	Rep
Trump and his administration	23%	46	16	5
Self-enrichment and personal gain	21	19	25	21
Bipartisan actions	18	16	22	18
Lobbying and special interests	9	7	12	10
Abuse of power and constitutional violations	9	14	13	3
Fraud and embezzlement	9	2	2	16
Lack of accountability/breaking the law	8	8	13	7
Misuse of taxpayer funds	8	6	4	11
Dishonesty and lies	6	4	12	6
Government waste and spending	6	4	7	8
Epstein files and cover-ups	5	7	11	2
Democratic party corruption	5	0	0	10
Insider trading and financial misconduct	4	2	4	6



"People who get elected to office term after term and never get anything done except line their pockets."

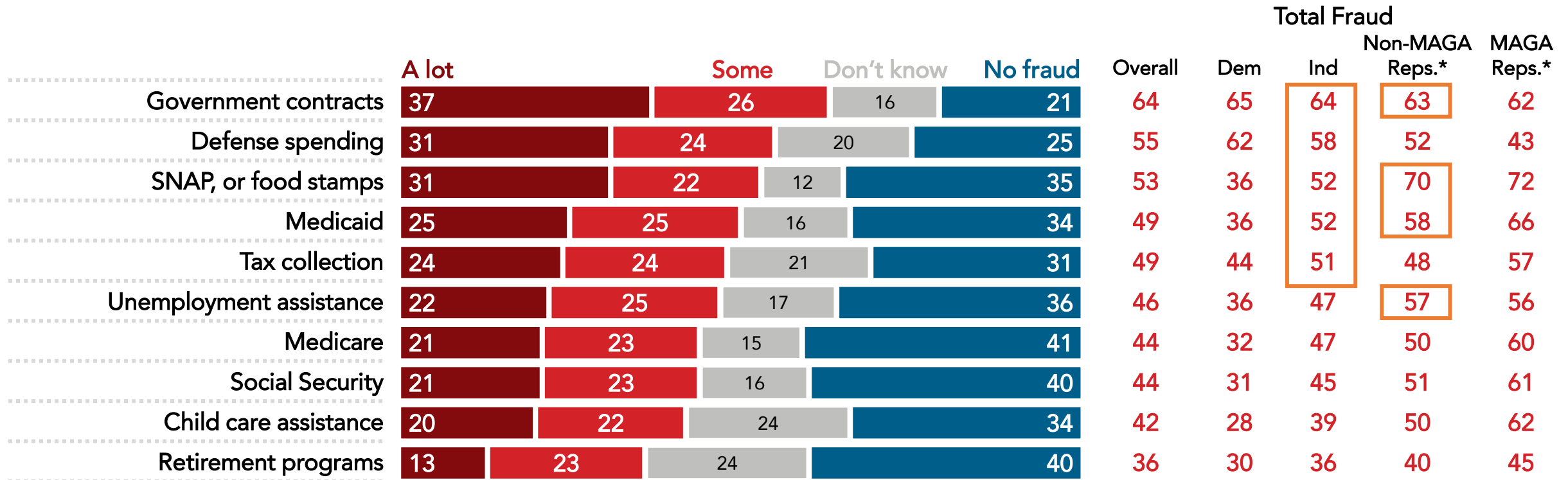
"I feel that there are many underhanded things going on, such as the Epstein files, the sitting President and his family getting rich off of the tax payers, etc."

Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 2-April 6, 2026. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Government Contracts, Defense Spending, SNAP Seen as Having Most Fraud

Independents see the most fraud in government contracts (64% a lot/some) and defense spending (58%); non-MAGA Republicans\* see it in government contracts (63%) and SNAP (70%).

Below is a list of government programs. Please indicate how much fraud you believe is present in each one.

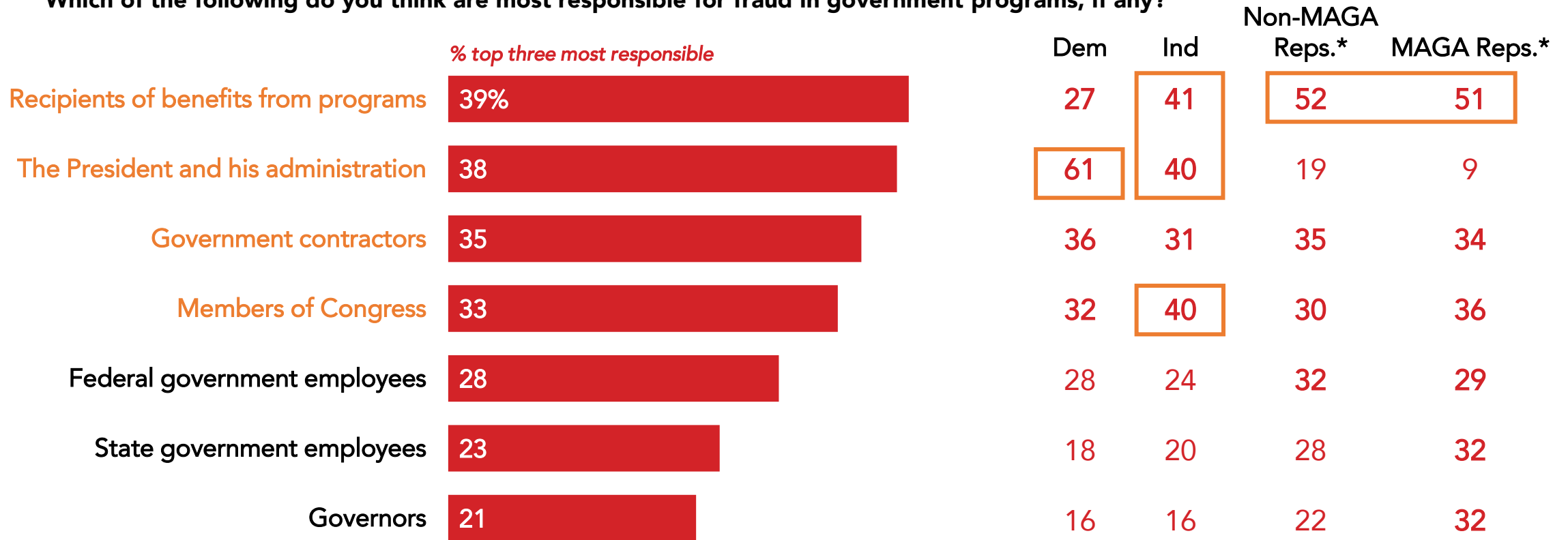


\*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted April 2-April 6, 2026. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Program Recipients, the President/His Administration, Government Contractors, Congress Most Blamed for Fraud

While Democrats most blame the President and his administration (61%), both MAGA\* and non-MAGA Republicans\* most blame recipients of benefits from programs for fraud (51% and 52%, respectively).

Which of the following do you think are most responsible for fraud in government programs, if any?



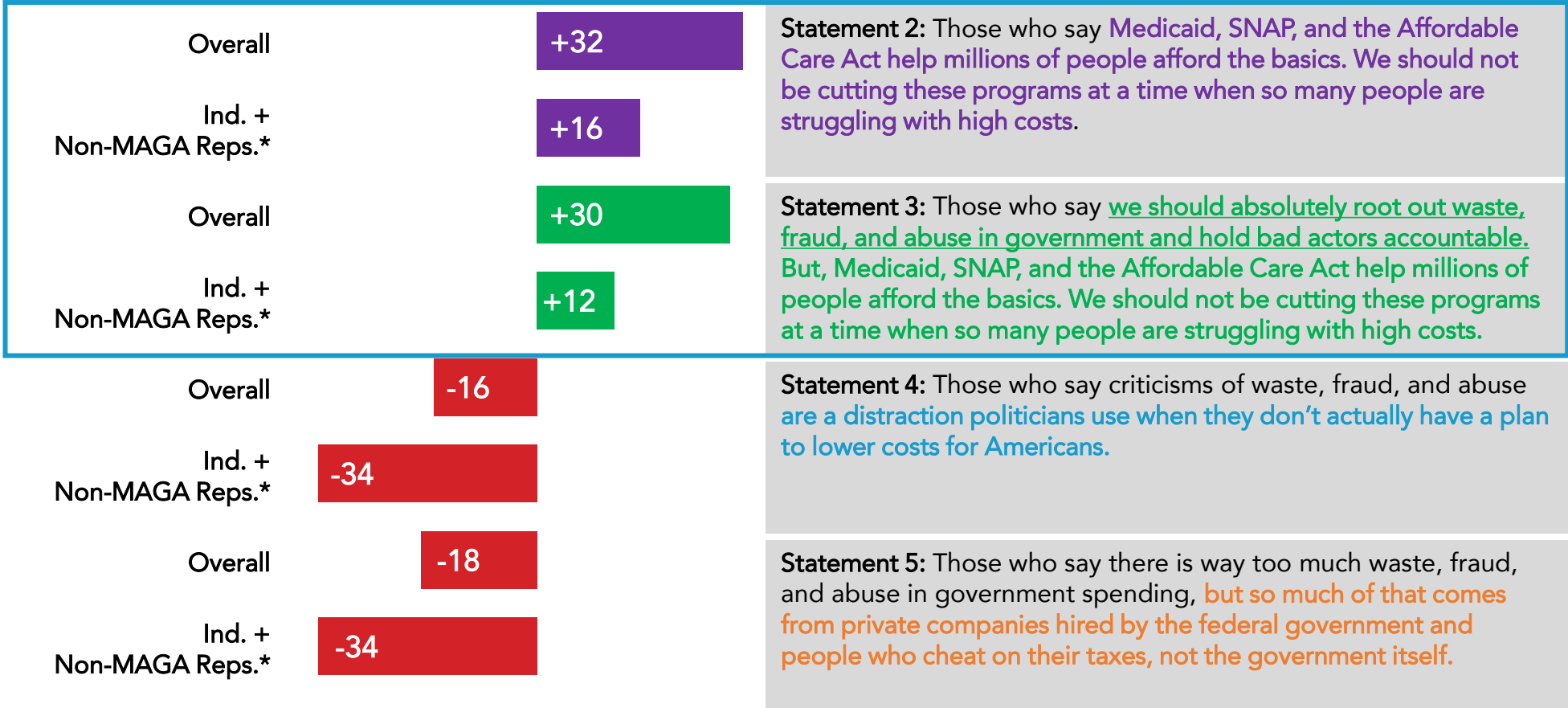
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# Protecting Medicaid, SNAP, ACA Most Persuasive Against Cuts for Fraud; Trying to Downplay Fraud Backfires

Which side do you agree with more?

Net Agree With Anti-Conservative Position

Statement 1: Those who say there is way too much waste, fraud, and abuse in government spending, and we need to cut back to reduce fraud and prevent out-of-control spending.



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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.

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To learn more about Navigator:

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