

# navigator\*

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>

The Supreme Court



Credit: Gary Blakeley/Shutterstock

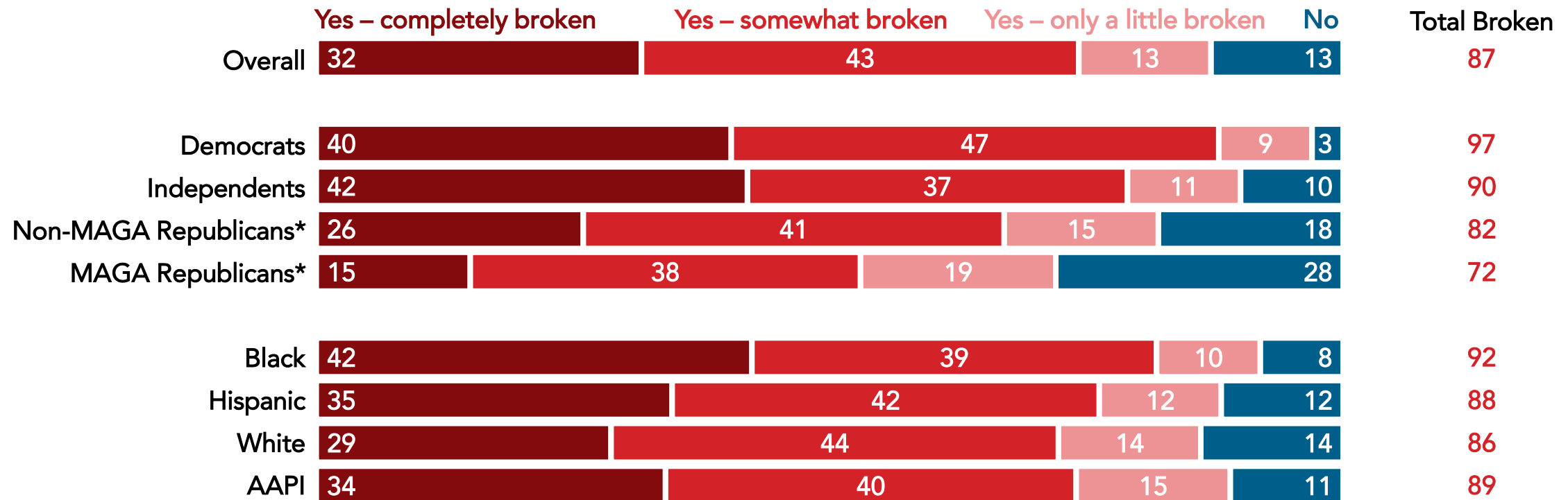
## Key Takeaways:

- Americans see their democracy as broken, and they aren't confident about the state of democracy in the U.S. And while most are confident their ballot will be counted fairly in 2026, they are nearly equally concerned about voter fraud and voter suppression.
- Views of the Supreme Court remain mixed, driven by partisanship.
- Bipartisan majorities support Supreme Court reforms like term limits and investigations into ethics violations, while adding more justices is divided by partisanship.

# A Third Say American Democracy Is Completely Broken

Majorities across partisan and racial/ethnic lines say American democracy is “completely broken” or “somewhat broken”; more than one in four MAGA Republicans\* (28%) say American democracy is not broken.

## Do you think American democracy is broken?



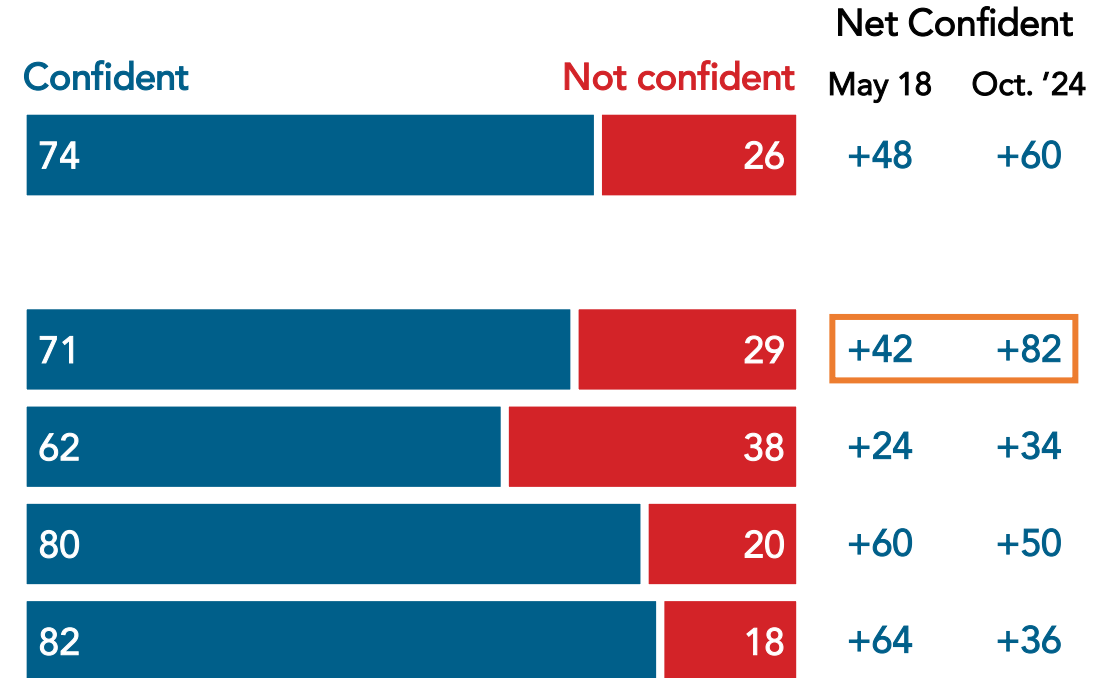
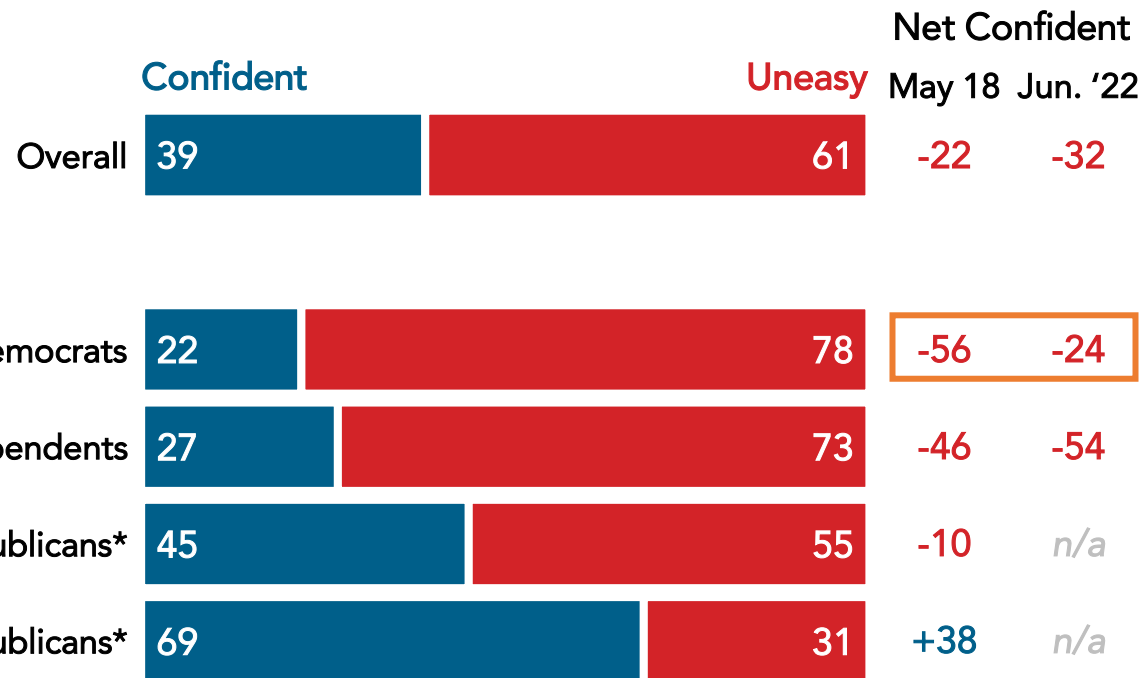
\*“MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who identify as “a supporter of the MAGA movement” on a separate question, while “non-MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.  
 Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted May 13-May 18, 2026. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Most Feel Confident Their 2026 Ballot Will Be Counted Fairly, But Unease Persists About American Democracy

Among Democrats, confidence in American democracy has declined since 2022 (net -56 confident now, down from net -24 in 2022), as has their confidence their ballot will be counted fairly (net +42 confident now, down from net +82 in October 2024).

**(Split sample) How confident are you in the state of American democracy today?**

**(Split sample) How confident are you that your ballot in the 2026 election will be counted correctly and fairly?\***

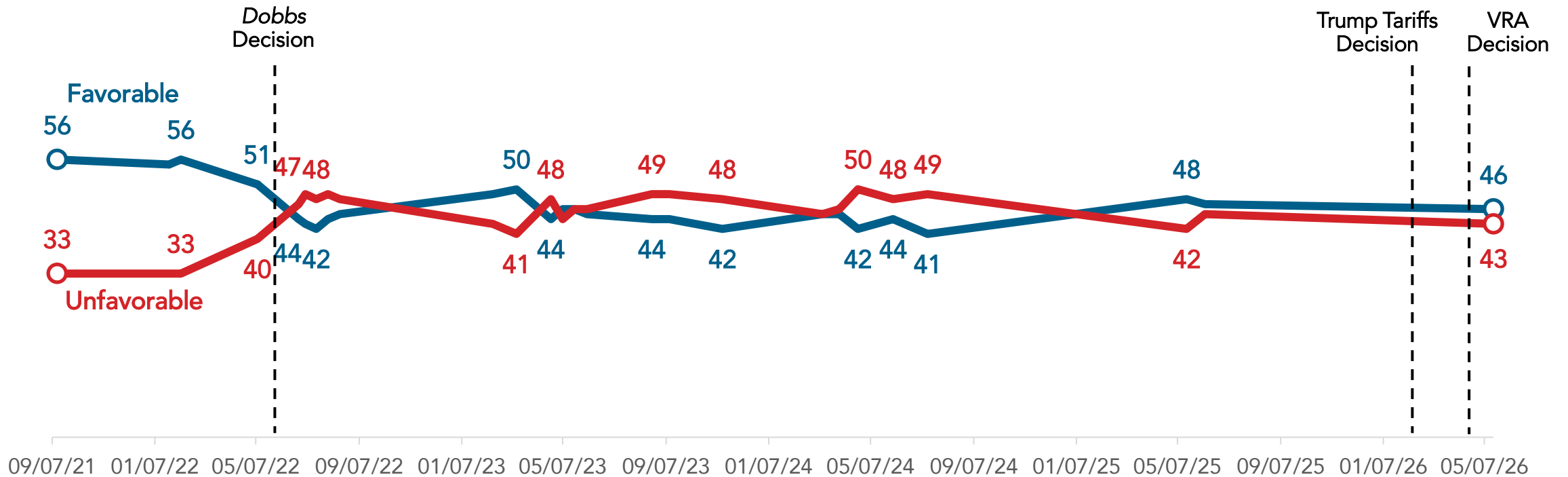


\*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. \*\*Previous question text read: "How confident are you that your ballot in the 2024 election will be counted correctly and fairly?" Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted May 13-May 18, 2026. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# Views of the Supreme Court Remain Mixed

Democrats remain more negative on the Supreme Court (net -38 favorable), while independents skew negative but more mixed (net -8) and Republicans are net positive (net +48).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: The U.S. Supreme Court.

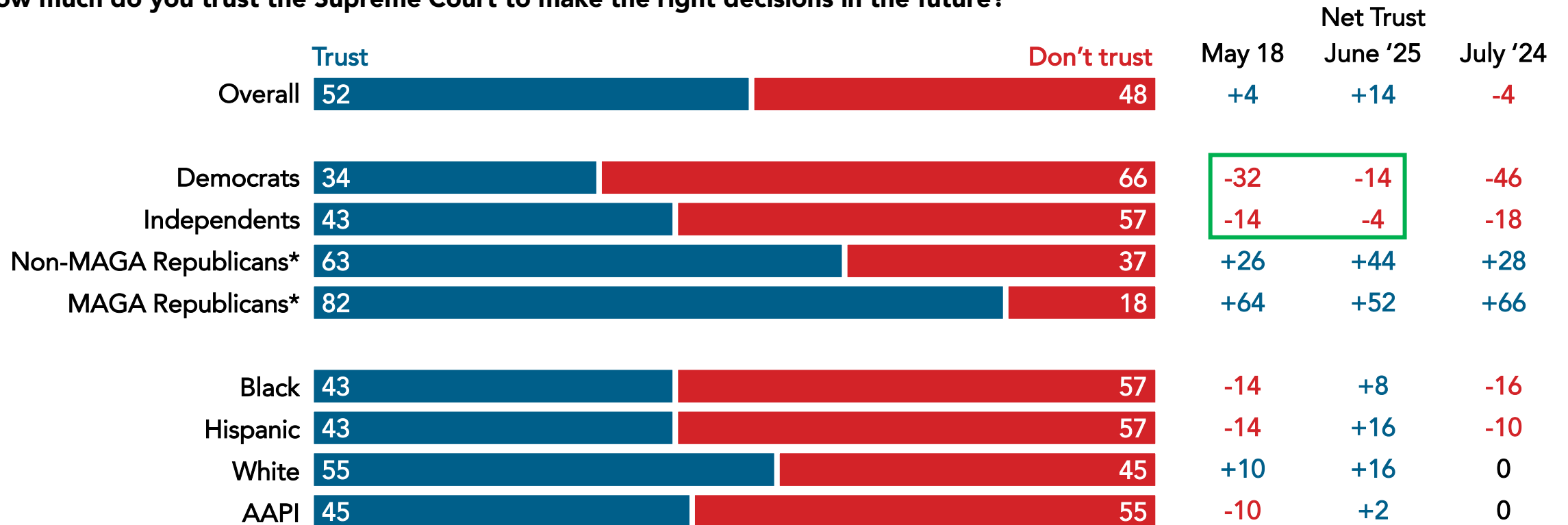


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# Americans Narrowly Trust the Court, Driven By White Americans and Republicans

Since last June, trust in the Supreme Court has declined among Democrats (from net -14 trust to net -32), independents (from net -4 to net -14), and non-MAGA Republicans\* (from net +44 to net +26).

How much do you trust the Supreme Court to make the right decisions in the future?

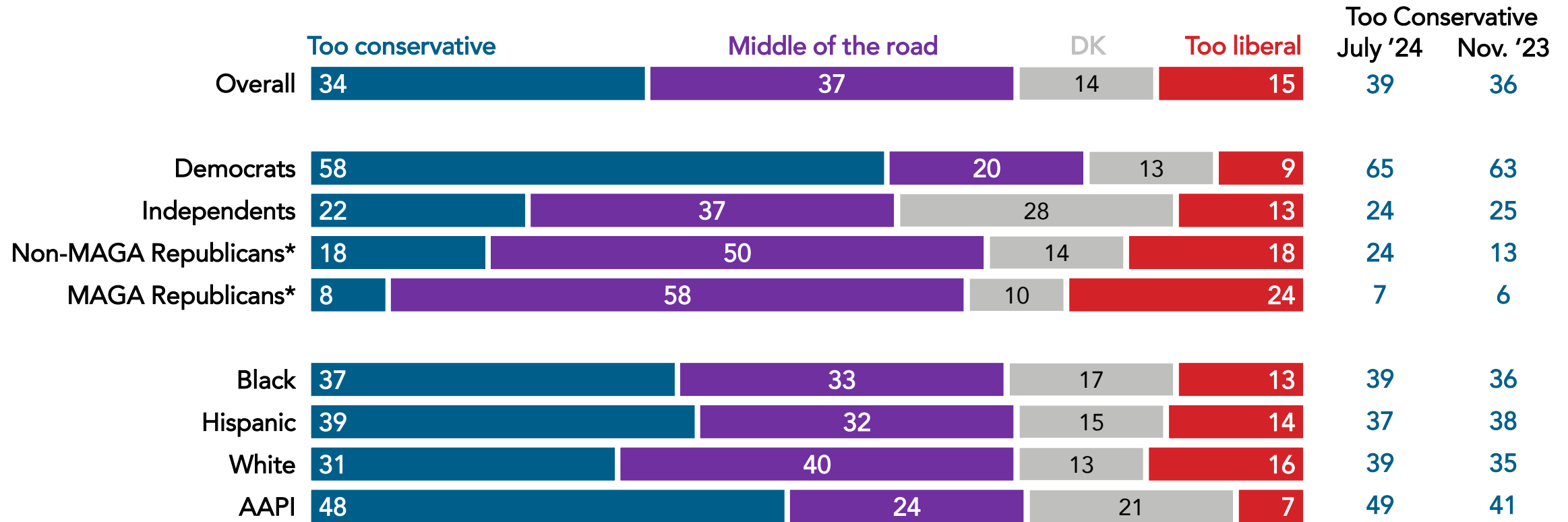


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# A Narrow Plurality Says SCOTUS Is Middle of the Road; a Third Say It's Too Conservative

Pluralities of Black (37%), Hispanic (39%), and AAPI Americans (48%) say the Supreme Court is too conservative, while a plurality of white Americans (40%) say it is middle of the road.

Would you say the United States Supreme Court has been too conservative, too liberal, or middle of the road?

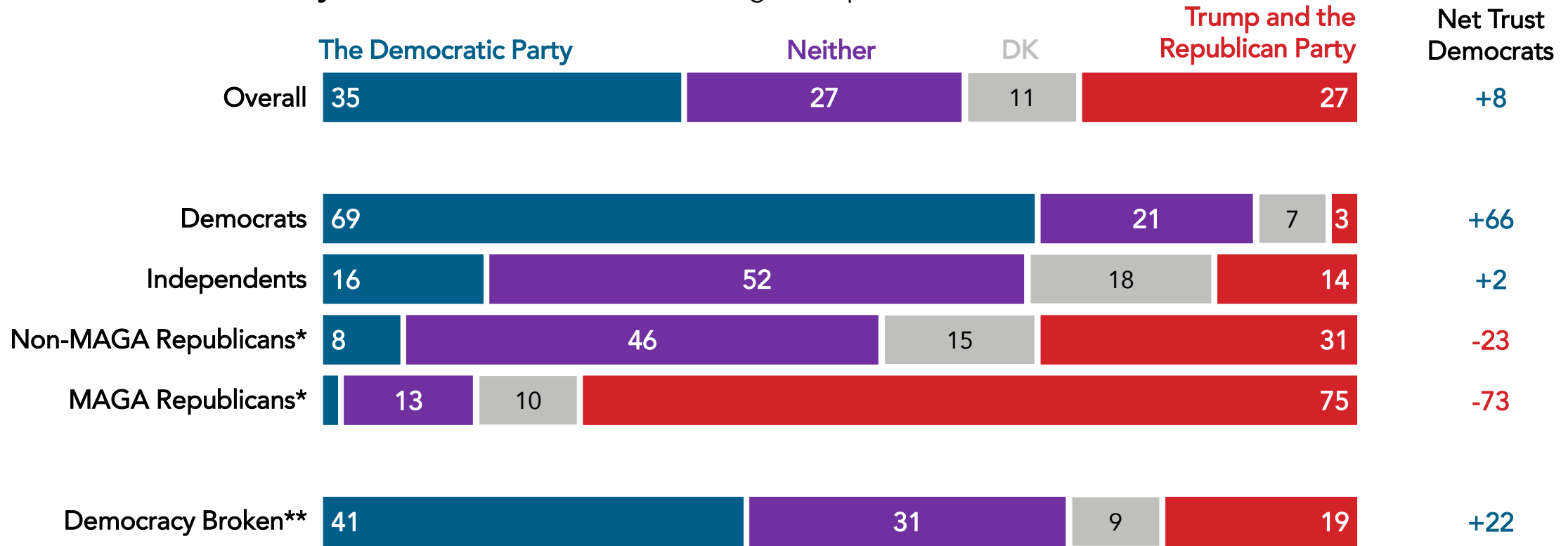


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# Democrats Are More Trusted on Reforming the Supreme Court, Though Many Trust Neither Party

More than half of independents (52%) say they don't trust either party when it comes to "reforming the Supreme Court," as do nearly half of non-MAGA Republicans\* (46%).

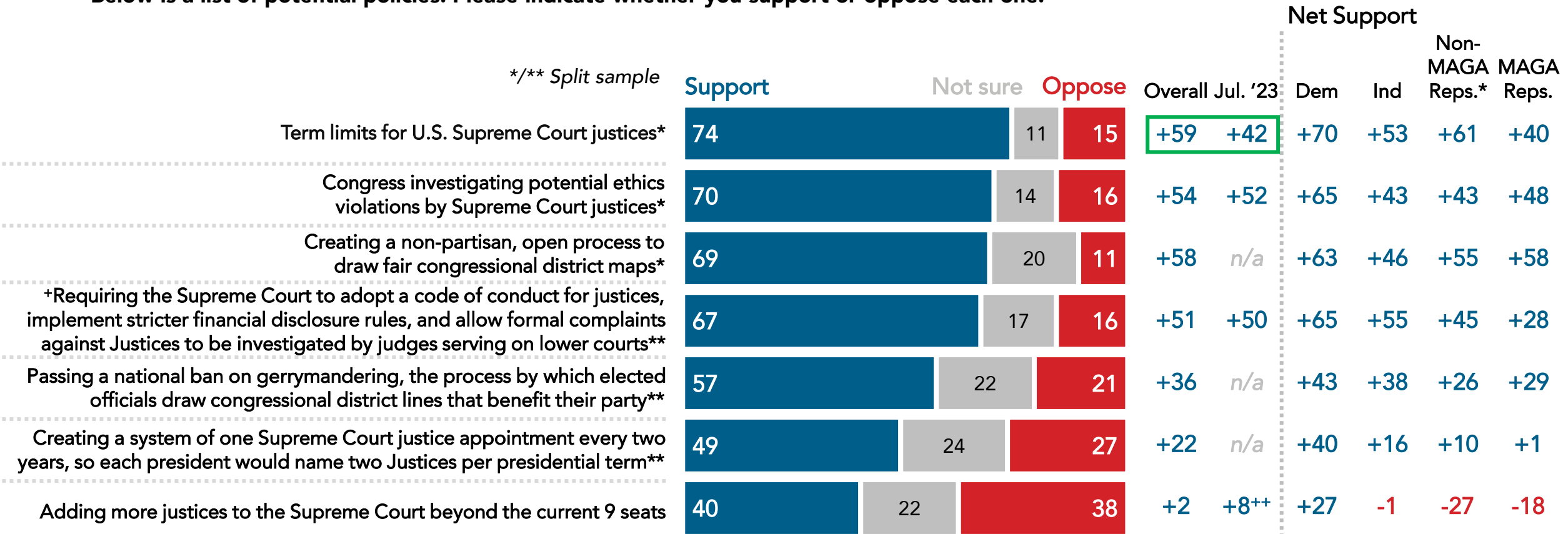
**Please indicate who you trust more to handle:** Reforming the Supreme Court.



\*"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. \*\*"Democracy Broken" are respondents who indicate that American democracy is "completely" or "somewhat broken" on a separate question. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted May 13-May 18, 2026. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).

# The Most Popular Supreme Court Reforms Are Term Limits, Ethics Investigations, and a Code of Conduct for Justices

Below is a list of potential policies. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each one.



\*Previous question text read: "As you may know, several Senators introduced a bill that would require the Supreme Court to adopt a code of conduct for justices, implement stricter financial disclosure rules, and allow formal complaints against justices to be investigated by judges serving on lower courts. Knowing this, do you support or oppose this legislation?" \*\*Previous results are from May 2022. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted May 13-May 18, 2026. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](https://navigatorresearch.org).



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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 May 13-May 18, 2026. 102 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 101 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 75 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 101 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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