

navigator*

Monday, June 15th

Authoritarianism Under Trump



Credit: Shutterstock/Noam Galai

Key Takeaways:

- A range of recent Trump actions are strongly opposed by Americans and reveal he is focused on the wrong things, especially his \$1 billion new White House ballroom, the golden statue of him erected in Florida, and him including his face on passports and the new \$250 bill.
- Most concerning, though, is his proposed slush fund for January 6th rioters, as well as his \$1 billion new White House ballroom. Driving home Trump's waste of taxpayer dollars and corruption are most powerful when framed as him putting himself first at the expense of regular people.
- Trump remains extremely vulnerable, with his approval ratings deeply in the red and the news cycle around him overwhelmingly negative, as Americans continue to hear most about the war with Iran.
- Though his approval ratings on issues like gas prices and inflation are negative, Democrats hold only narrow trust advantages over Trump and Republicans on each.

Americans Most Strongly Oppose Trump's Ballroom, His Gold Statue, the Passports/\$250 Bill With His Face on Them

Please indicate whether you support or oppose each action recently proposed or taken by Trump.

	Support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Overall	Dem	Total Oppose Ind. + Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*
Trump tearing down the East Wing of the White House and requesting \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars for a new White House ballroom	22	13	12	53	66	89	60	31
Trump unveiling a 22-foot golden statue of himself at his golf club in Florida	17	22	12	49	61	84	54	29
Trump's face being included on special edition passports and the new \$250 bill	22	18	11	49	60	87	50	24
Trump awarding a no-competition contract to a favored company to repaint the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which has gone 6 times over its initial budget to the tune of millions of dollars	22	20	13	45	58	82	50	25
Trump staging a UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) fight on the White House South Lawn	28	16	11	45	56	81	48	20
Trump's Justice Department proposing a \$1.776 billion fund to be used to pay those who have allegedly been unfairly "targeted" for prosecution, including convicted January 6 th rioters	28	15	12	45	56	83	45	22
Trump proposing building a 250-foot-tall triumphal arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery	24	18	14	44	58	85	45	24

*"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 June 4-June 8, 2026.
 For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Majorities Say Each of the Actions Tested Show Trump Is Focused on the Wrong Things, Especially Vanity Projects

Please indicate whether you think each one shows Trump is focused on the right things or focused on the wrong things. Total Wrong Things

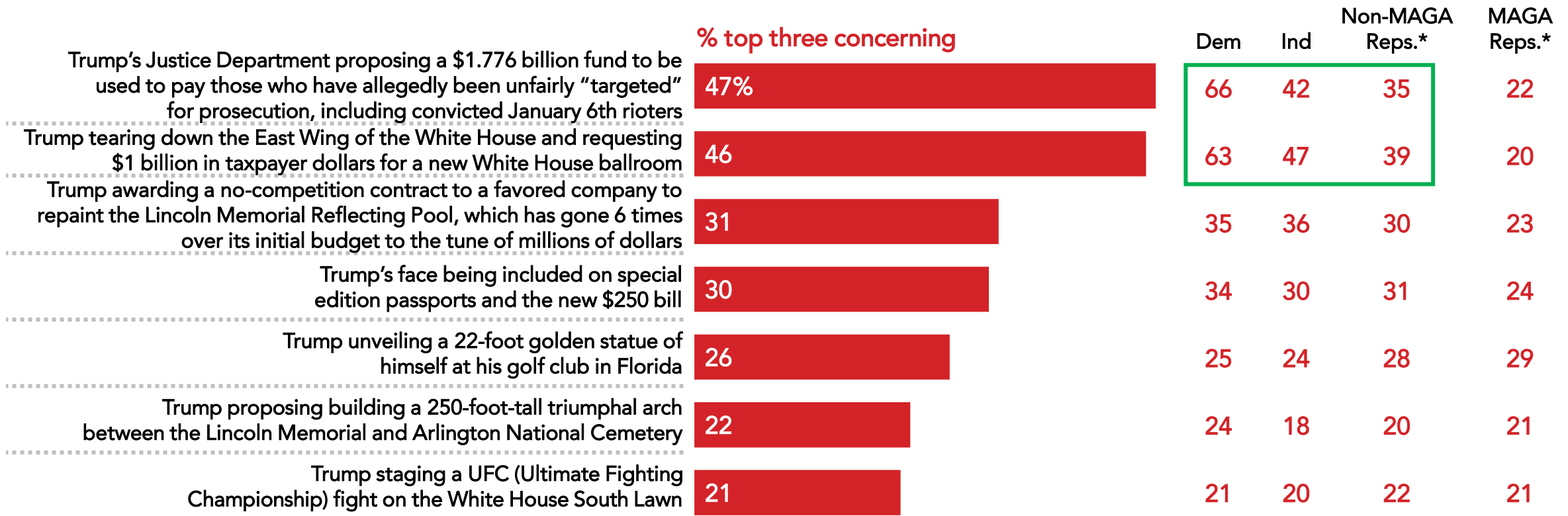
	Right things	Don't know	Somewhat wrong things	Mostly wrong things	Overall	Dem	Ind. + Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*
Trump unveiling a 22-foot golden statue of himself at his golf club in Florida	15	19	11	55	67	87	59	41
Trump's face being included on special edition passports and the new \$250 bill	14	16	16	54	70	89	65	42
Trump staging a UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championship) fight on the White House South Lawn	19	15	15	51	66	87	60	36
Trump tearing down the East Wing of the White House and requesting \$1 billion in taxpayer dollars for a new White House ballroom	23	14	12	51	62	84	56	31
Trump proposing building a 250-foot-tall triumphal arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery	22	15	14	49	63	88	56	25
Trump awarding a no-competition contract to a favored company to repaint the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, which has gone 6 times over its initial budget to the tune of millions of dollars	20	18	14	48	63	85	56	30
Trump's Justice Department proposing a \$1.776 billion fund to be used to pay those who have allegedly been unfairly "targeted" for prosecution, including convicted January 6 th rioters	28	13	15	44	59	83	57	18

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Most Concerning Actions: Proposed DOJ Slush Fund, Ballroom; Less Concerning: UFC Fight, Triumphal Arch

Less concerning of these actions taken by Trump include him staging a UFC fight on the White House South Lawn (21% top three concerning) and him proposing a new triumphal arch between the Lincoln Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery (22%).

Below is the same list of actions recently proposed or taken by Trump. Please indicate which three you find the most concerning, if any.

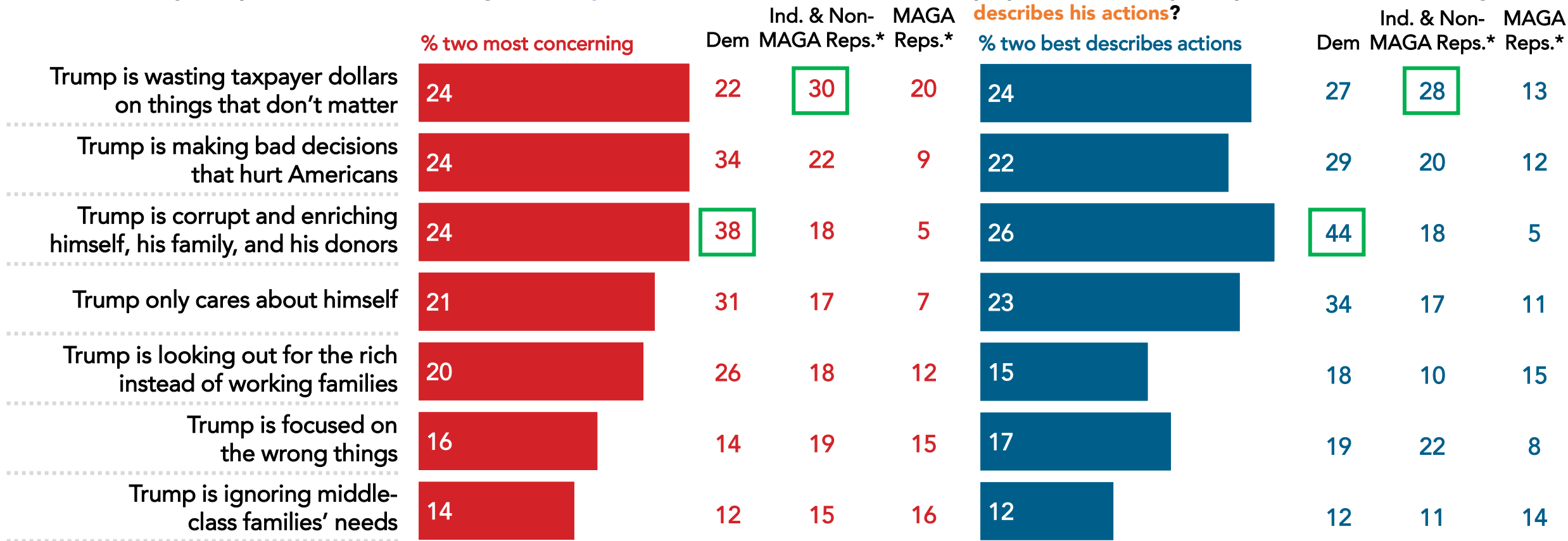


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Americans See and Are Concerned Trump Is Wasting Taxpayer Dollars, Hurting Americans, Corrupt, Putting Himself First

(Split Sample) And thinking more about those recent actions proposed or taken by Trump... Which of the following **concerns you the most?**

(Split Sample) And thinking more about those recent actions proposed or taken by Trump... Which of the following **best describes his actions?**



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Trump's Approval Rating Overall and on the Economy Remain in the Negative

Trump continues to be underwater by double digits on both his overall approval rating (net -18 approve) and his handling of the economy (net -23 approve).

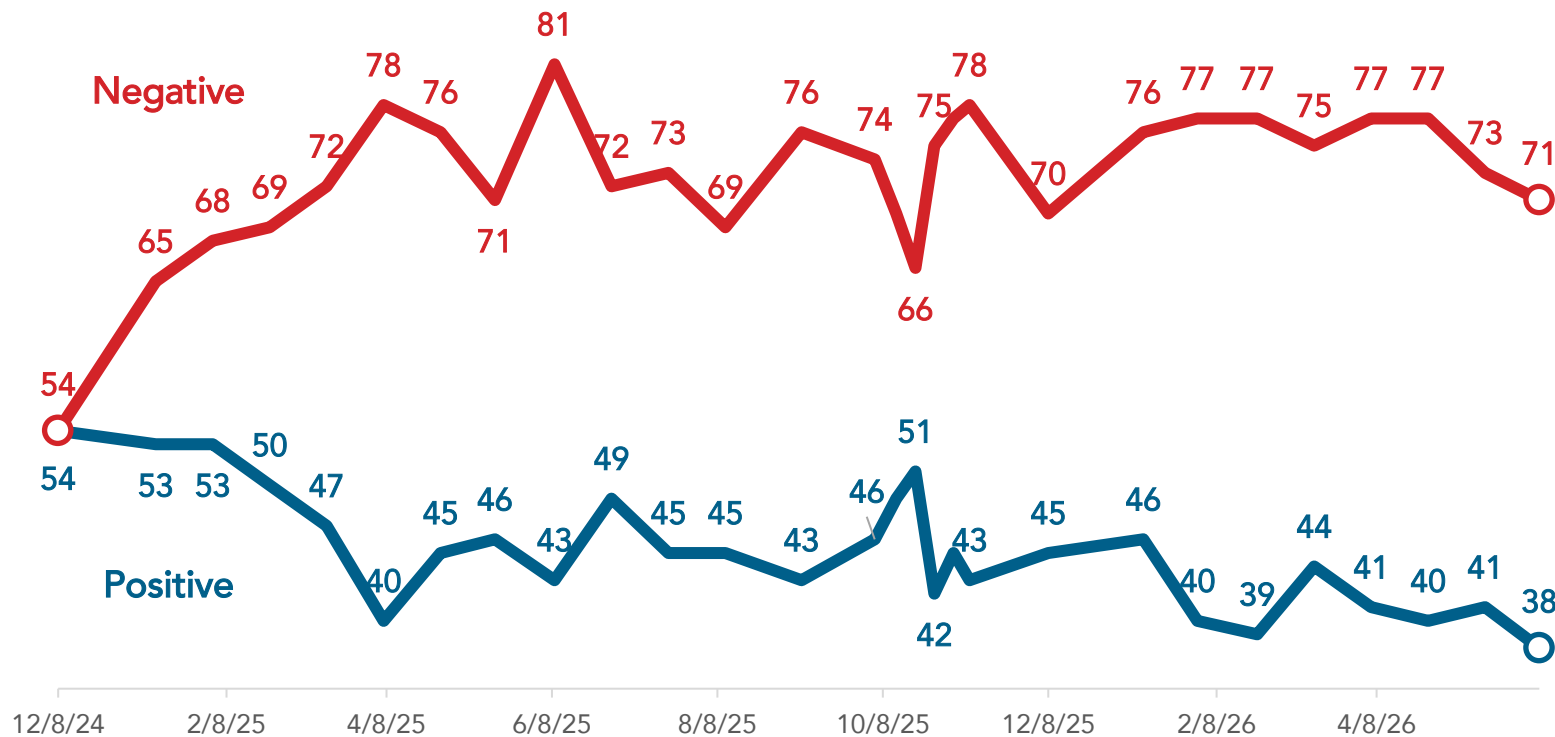
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president/**the economy**?



Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted June 4-June 8, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

The War With Iran Continues to Dominate the News on Trump for the Negative; Others Note Him Falling Asleep, High Prices

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?



"Trump is **losing the war against Iran** and is prolonging it past the expiration date."

"He **isn't doing a good job with the war on Iran** and how he keeps **making everything in price go up.**"

"That he keeps **falling asleep while he's supposed to get work done.**"

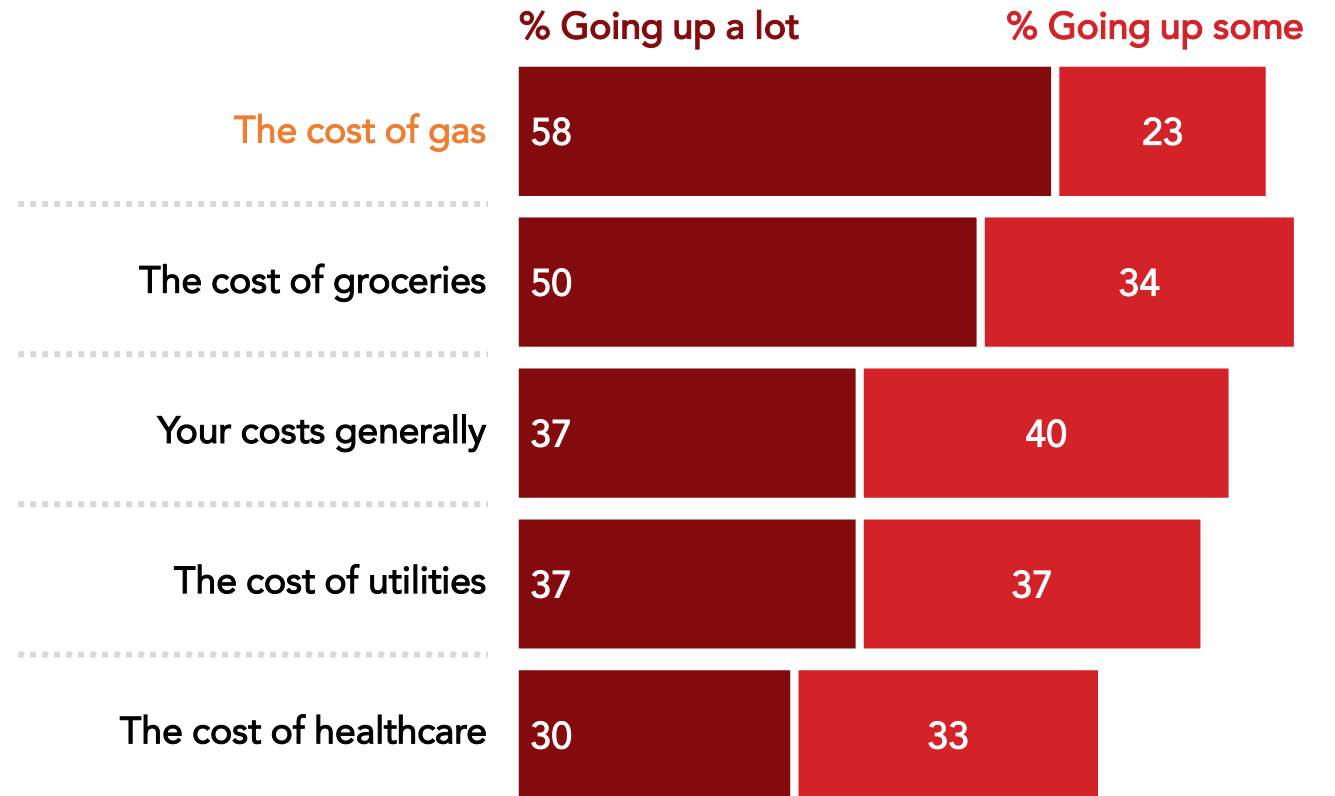
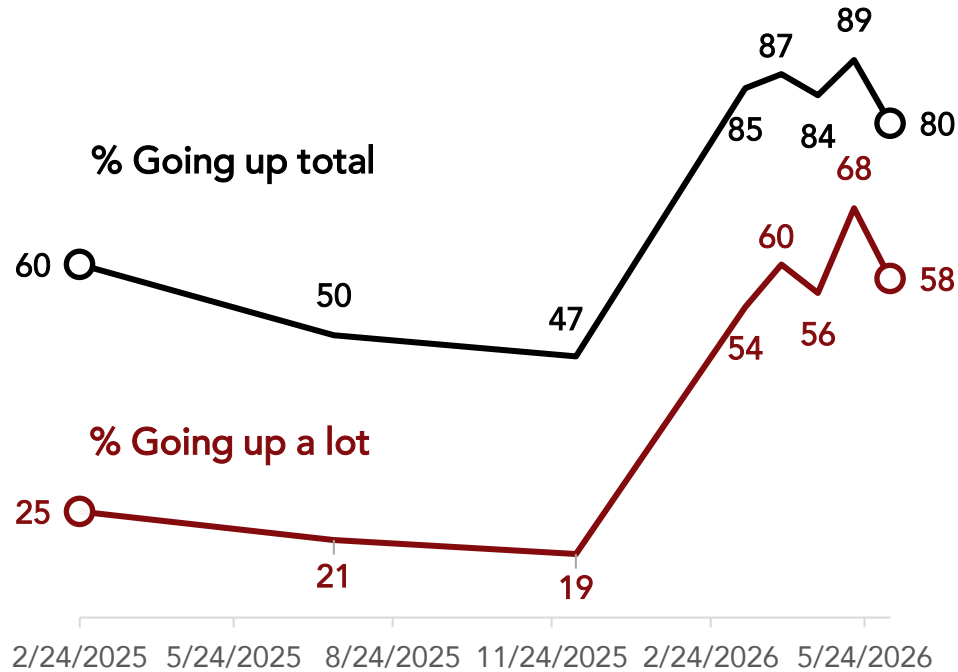
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Gas Prices Remain the Prevailing Cost Pain Point, Though Intensity of Their Rise Has Dipped Slightly Since May

Trump's approval on gas prices is deeply negative, with three in four Americans disapproving of his handling of gas prices (76%).

Please indicate, for each one, whether you feel like those costs are going up, going down, or staying the same.

Perceptions of the cost of gas

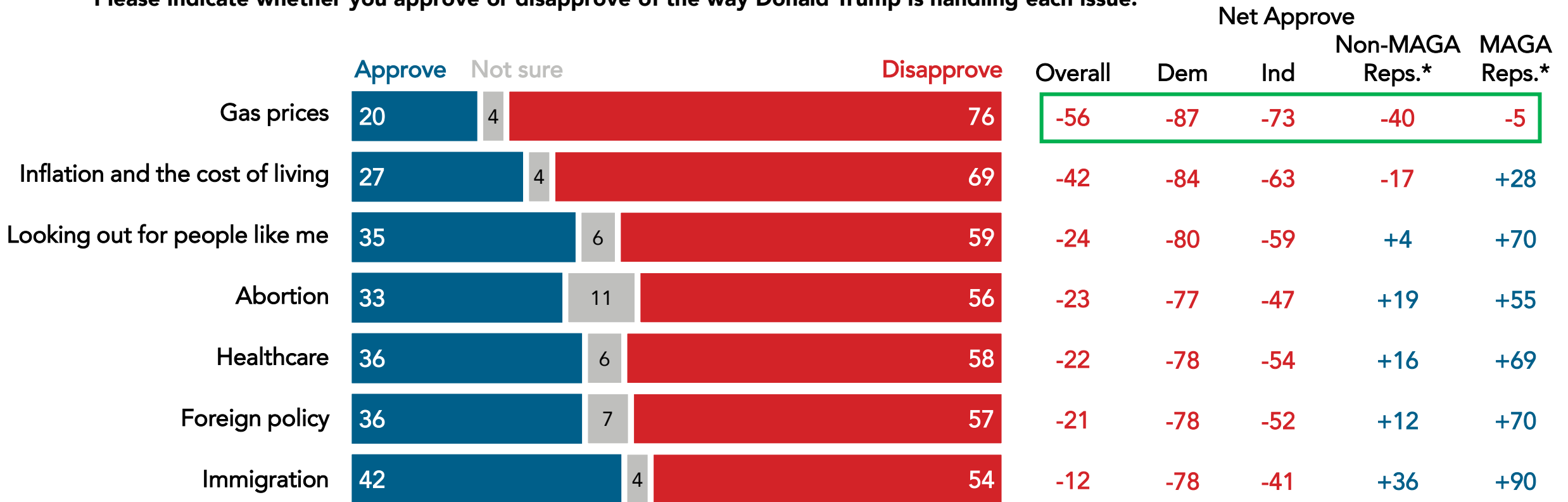


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Trump's Ratings Across Issues Is Weak – Especially on Gas Prices

Even a plurality of MAGA Republicans* (net -5 approve) disapprove of Trump's handling of gas prices.

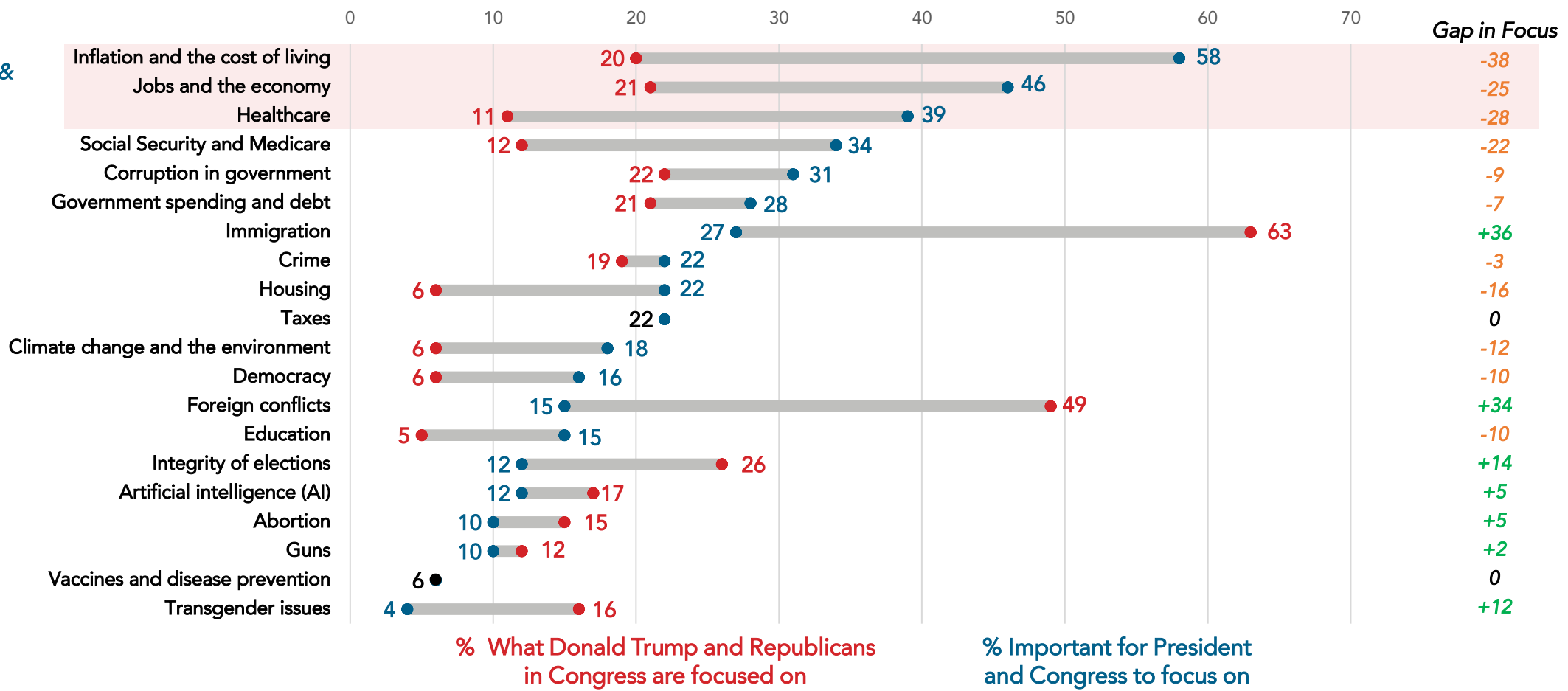
Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling each issue.



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Americans Continue to Say Trump and Republicans Are Not Focused Enough on Inflation, the Economy, Healthcare

Ranked by % important for Pres. & Congress

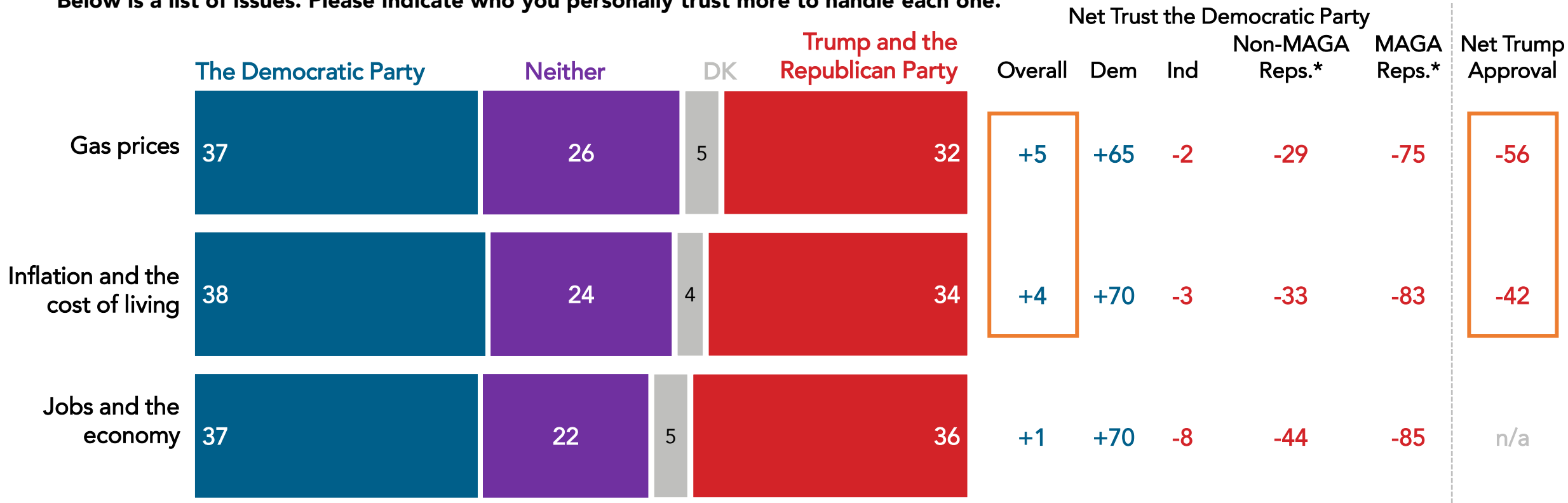


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Democrats Are More Trusted on Economic Measures, Though Only Narrowly So Compared to the Negativity of Trump's Ratings

While Trump's approval ratings on gas prices (net -56 approve) and inflation and the cost of living (net -42) are deeply negative, Democrats only have a trust advantage of net +5 and net +4 on these issues over Trump and Republicans, respectively.

Below is a list of issues. Please indicate who you personally trust more to handle each one.



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The War Continues to Break Through the Most in News Awareness, Though America250 Also Is Breaking Through

Awareness around America250 has risen since May, from 60% hearing “a lot” or “some” then to 67% now.

Below are some recent events. Please indicate how much you have seen, read, or heard about each one.

	% A lot	% Some	Overall	Dem	Ind	Total A Lot/Some Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*	Active News**	Passive News**
The ongoing conflict with Iran	52	26	78	80	70	72	84	87	64
America250 celebrations of the 250th anniversary of U.S. independence	32	35	67	65	54	64	79	75	54
Trump putting his face on the new \$250 bill	19	27	45	49	37	39	49	53	33
Trump’s third in-person visit to Walter Reed Medical Center for a check-up in just over a year	17	26	43	48	36	38	42	50	33

*“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. **Active news consumers say they “seek out news” while passive news consumers say “news come to me.” Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted June 4-June 8, 2026. For more info, visit 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 June 4-June 8, 2026. 101 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 103 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 77 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 102 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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