

# navigator\*

Wednesday, July 1

America250 Special  
Report: Military Families



Credit: Shutterstock/Miha Creative

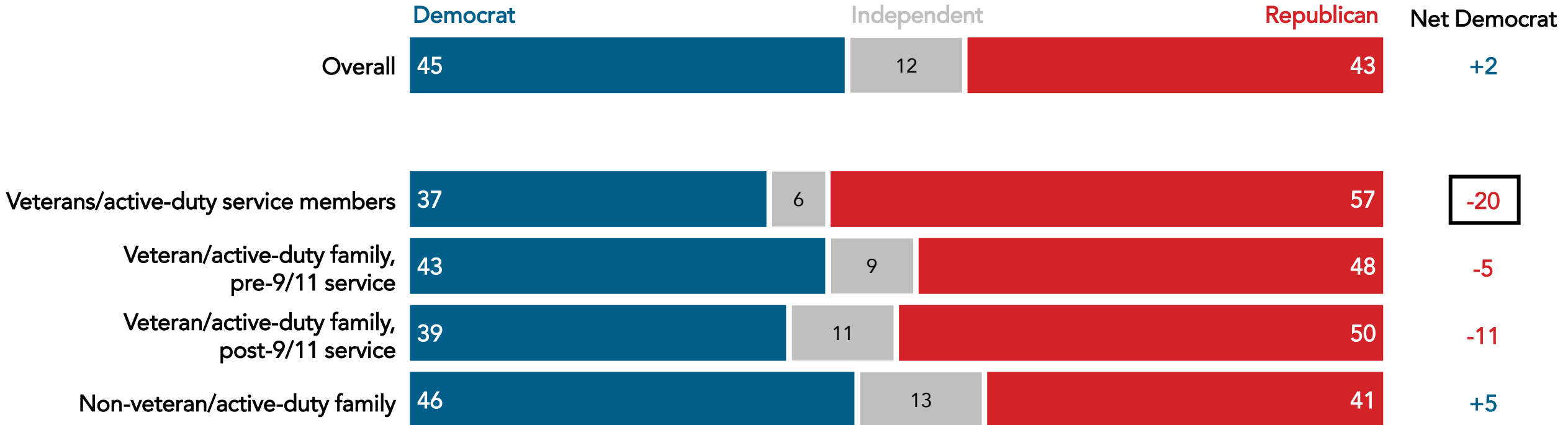
## Key Takeaways:

- Veterans/active-duty service members and their families identify as Republicans more than non-veteran/active-duty families.
- While important to Americans regardless of military status, veterans/active-duty service members feel especially connected to their personal identity as Americans and feel particularly proud and hopeful about being an American.
- Both veteran/active-duty and non-veteran/active-duty families strongly believe you can both criticize and love your country, and all groups value freedom, rights, independence, justice, and liberty.
- In addition to rights and freedoms and founding documents, the military makes veterans/active-duty service members and their families especially proud to be American, and images of a veterans' cemetery and a veteran's homecoming are seen as deeply patriotic.

# A Majority of Veterans/Active-Duty Service Members Identify as Republican, More Than Non-Vet/Active-Duty Families

A majority of veterans/active-duty service members self-identify as Republicans (R+20), while more Americans who are not veterans/active-duty and do not have family members who are either say they are Democrats (D+5).

When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as a...

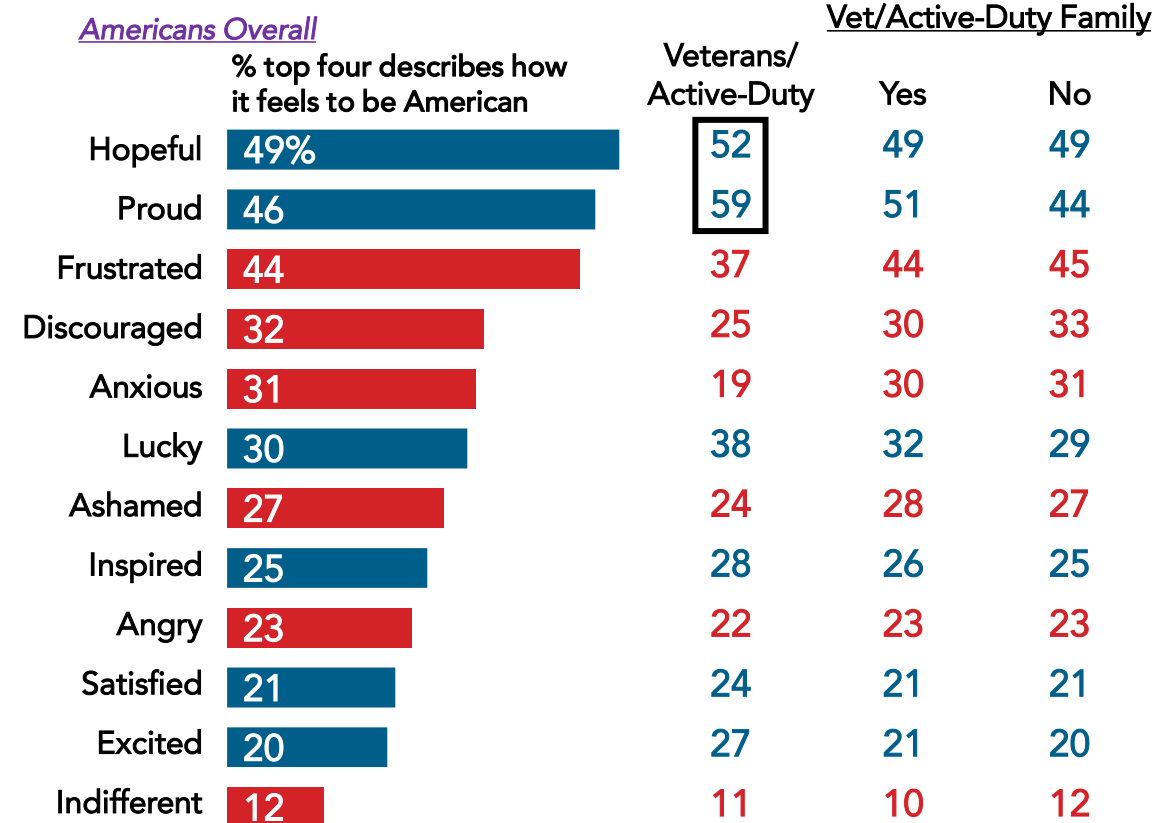
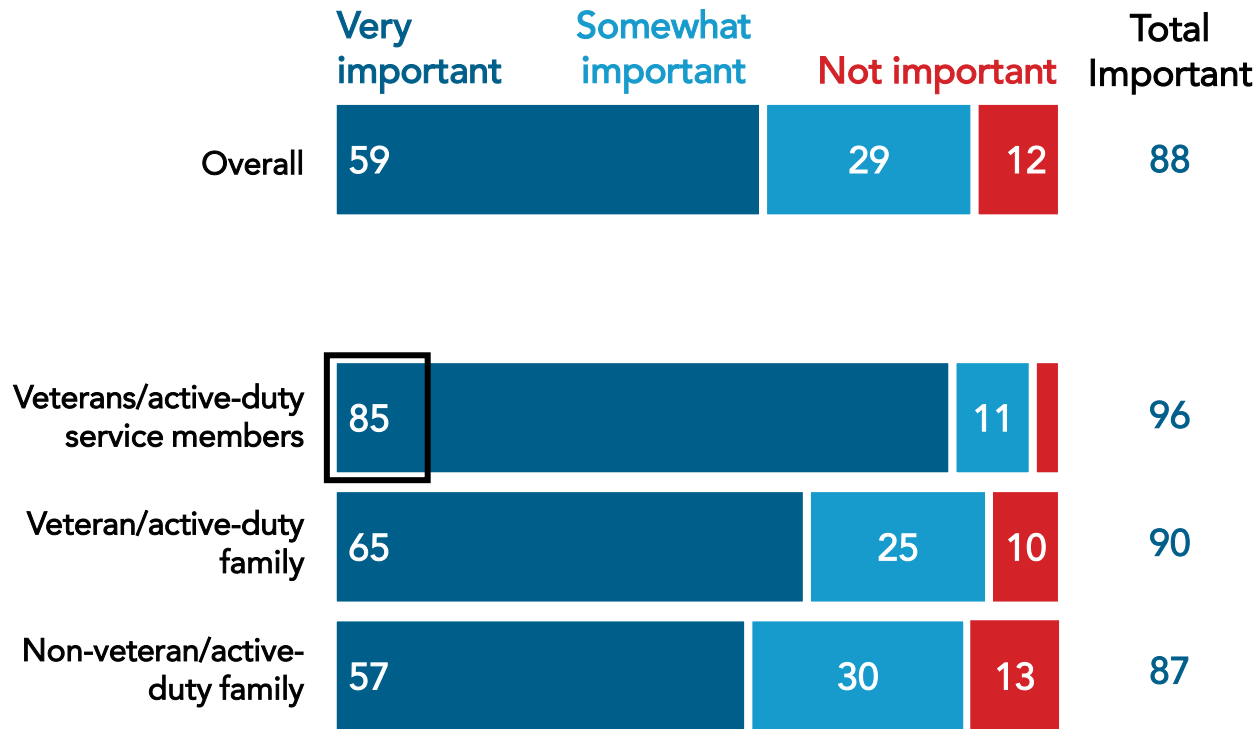


"Veterans/active-duty" are defined as those who are veterans or active-duty members of the U.S. military. "Veteran/active-duty families" are defined as those who personally are/those with immediate family who are veterans or active-duty members of the U.S. military. Nationwide survey of 2,000 registered voters conducted May 27-June 1, 2026. For more info, visit [navigatorresearch.org](http://navigatorresearch.org).

# Being an American Is Intensely Important to Vets/Active-Duty, and They Feel Particular Pride and Hope About Being an American

How important is being an American to your personal identity?

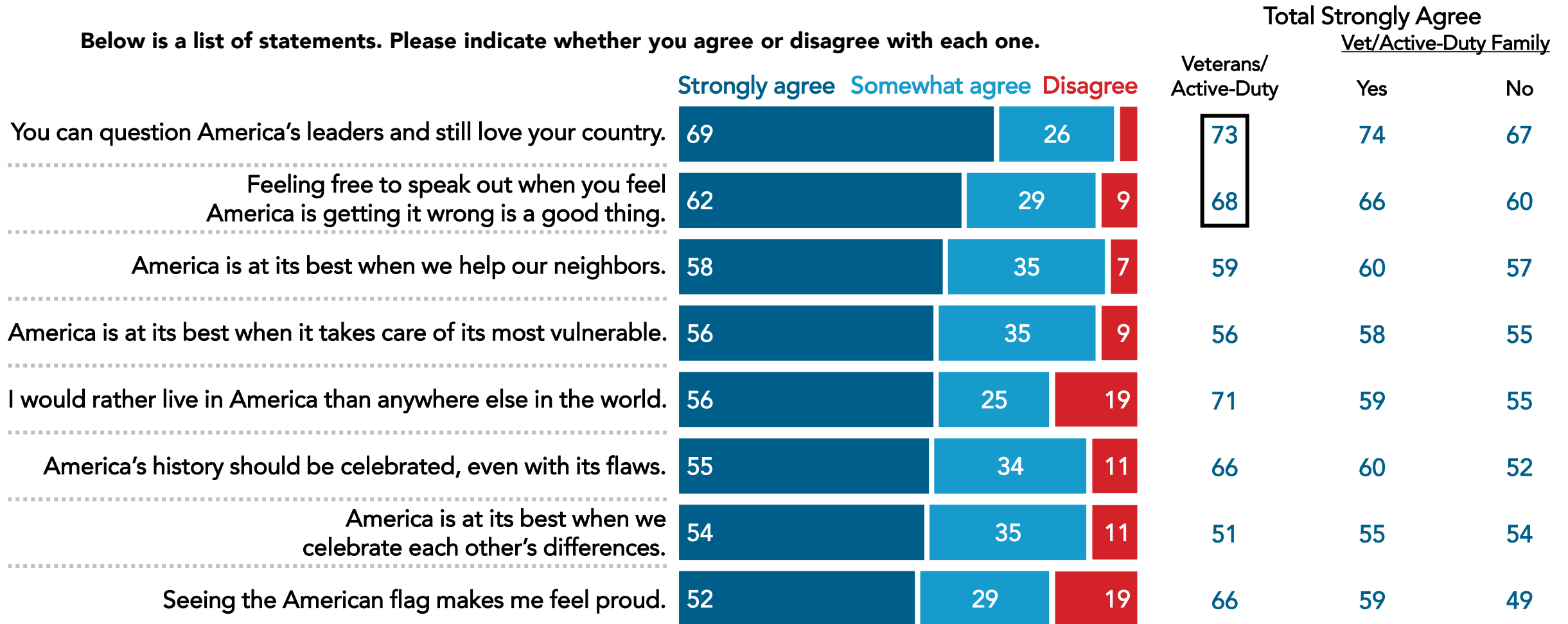
Below is a list of words. Please indicate which four best describe how you feel about being an American today.



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# Military and Non-Military Families Alike Value Speaking Out

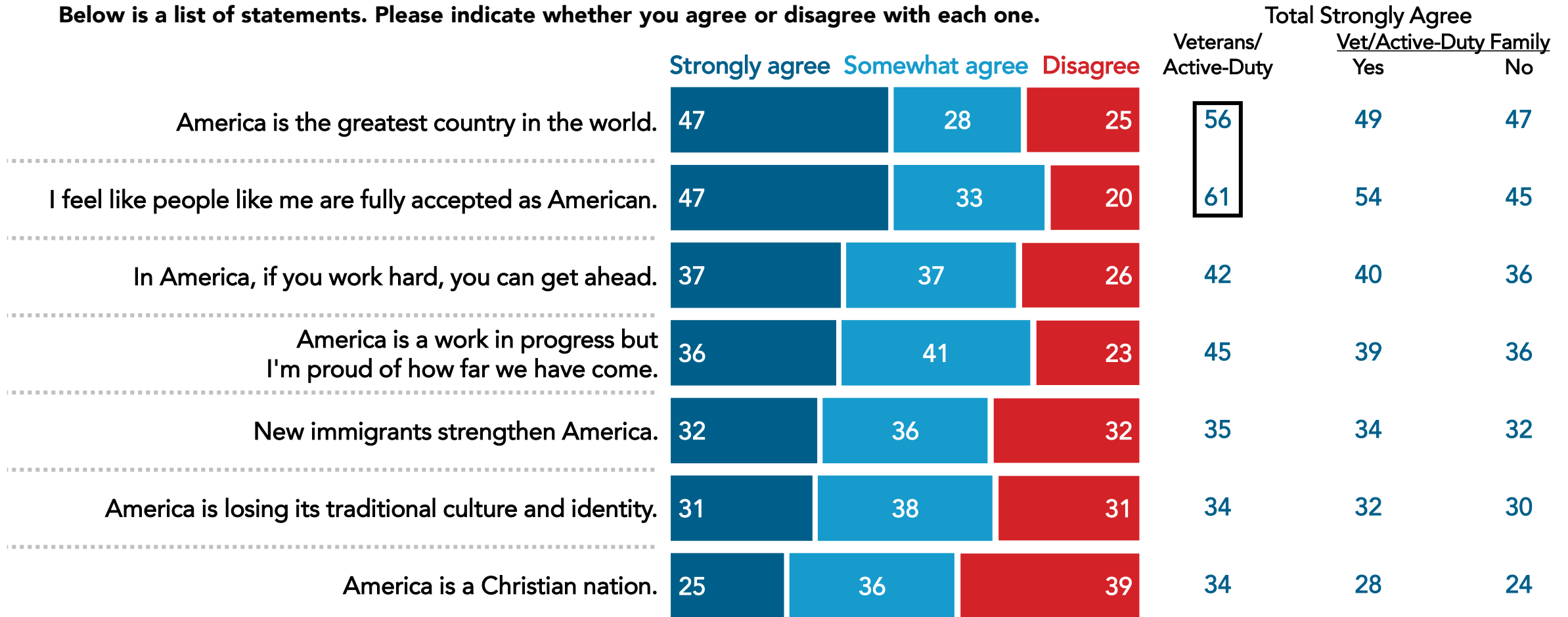
Below is a list of statements. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each one.



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# More Than Americans Overall, Veterans/Active-Duty Feel Strongly U.S. Is Greatest Country in the World, Feel Fully Accepted

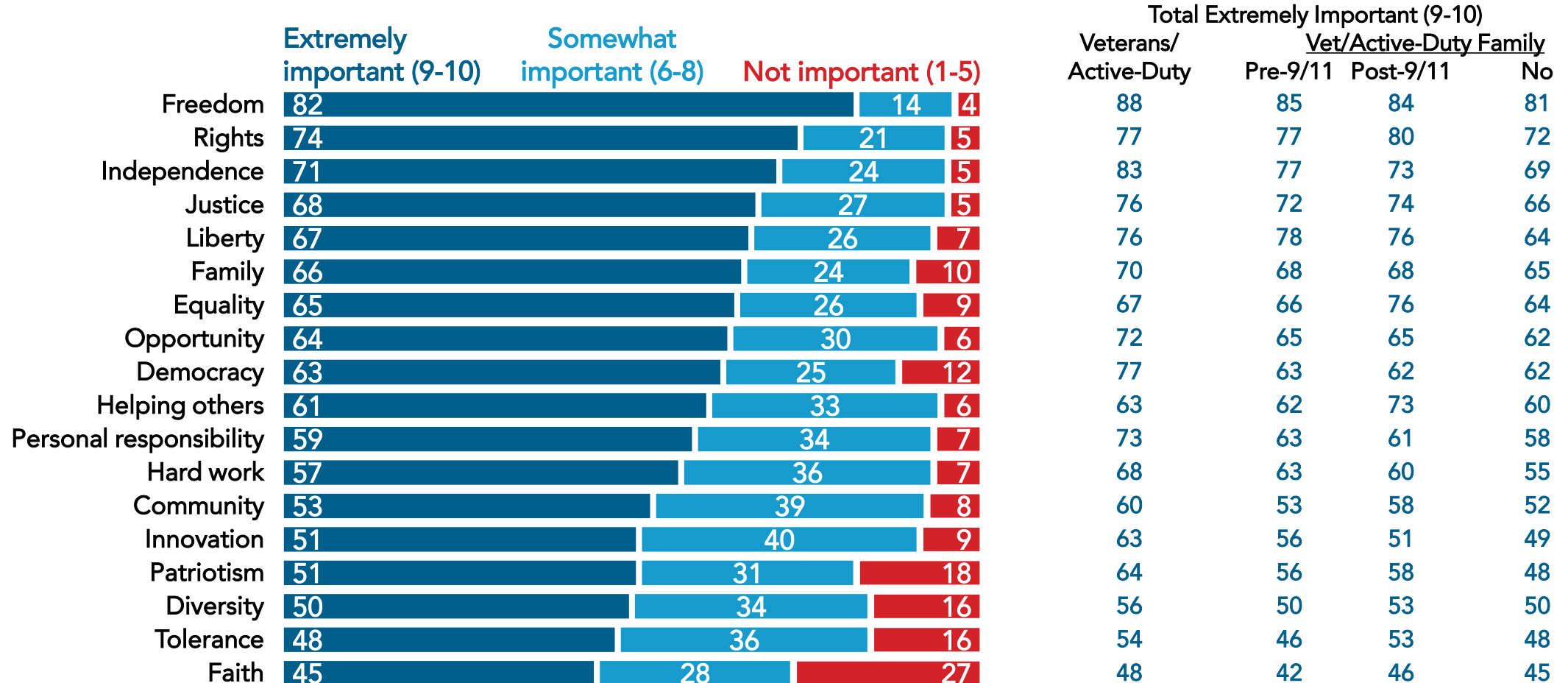
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# Most Important Values Across Military Status: Freedom, Rights, Independence, Justice, Liberty

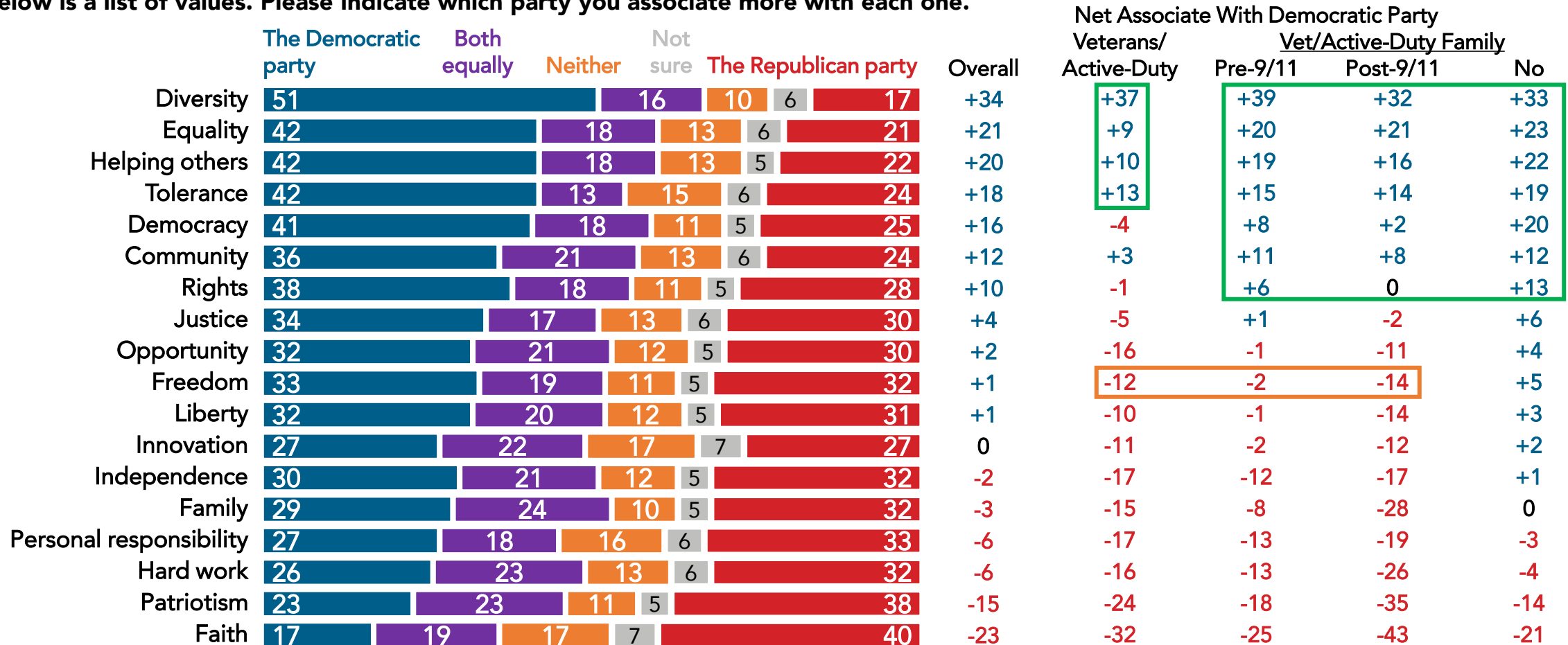
Below is a list of values. Please indicate how important each value is to what being an American means to you personally.



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# Veterans/Active-Duty Most Associate the Democratic Party With Diversity, Tolerance, Helping Others, Equality, Community

Below is a list of values. Please indicate which party you associate more with each one.



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# The Military Makes Veterans/Active-Duty Families Especially Proud to Be American, Alongside Rights and Founding Docs

While 37% of Americans overall say the military is one of the top five things that makes them most proud to be an American, 57% of veterans/active-duty service members say the same.

Below is a list of things. Please select the five that make you most proud to be an American.

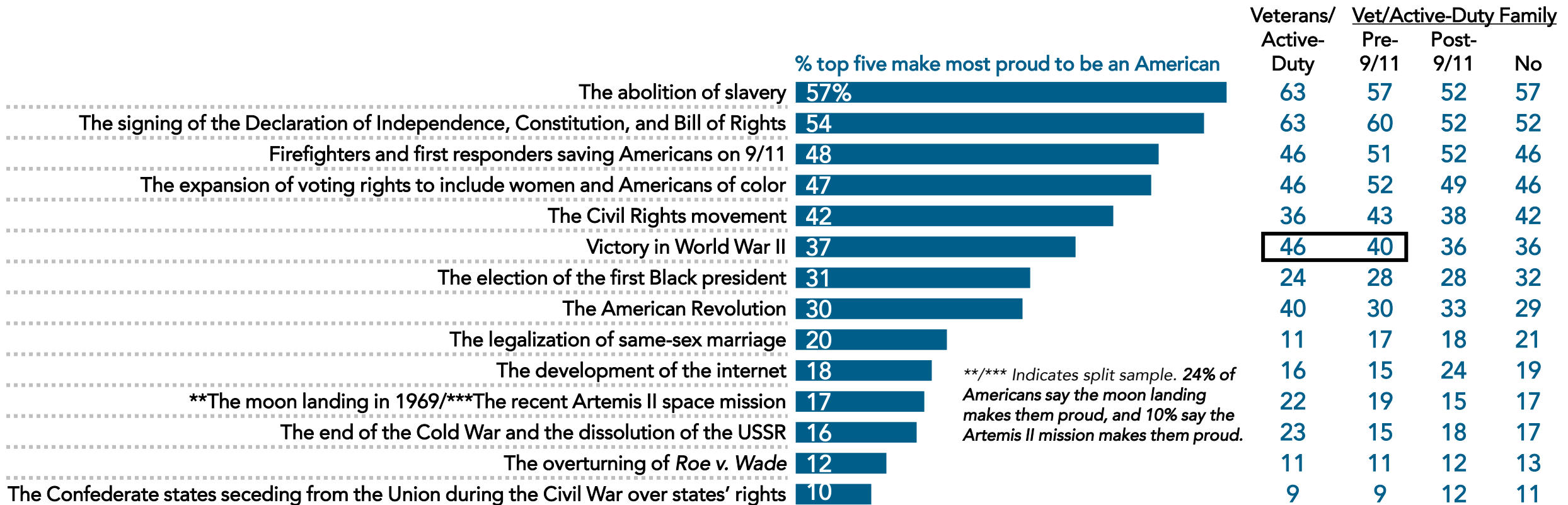
	% top five make most proud to be an American	Vet/Active-Duty Family			
		Veterans/ Active-Duty	Pre-9/11	Post-9/11	No
Rights and freedoms in the U.S.	61%	59	63	58	61
The Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration of Independence	55	59	60	51	54
America's history	41	38	38	34	42
The American Dream	38	33	34	39	38
The American military	37	57	52	41	33
American national parks and natural beauty	34	32	36	35	33
America's diversity	34	33	34	35	34
American music	21	15	21	21	21
American sports teams	18	15	16	24	19
American tech and innovation	16	26	18	16	16
America's small businesses	16	16	16	17	15
American movies	15	13	11	13	16
America's space program	13	14	13	14	14
The American economy	13	16	13	16	12
Upward mobility in the U.S.	9	10	10	11	9
The American political system	9	11	9	10	9
America's business leadership around the world	6	11	7	5	5

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# Americans Across Military Status Proudest of Abolition of Slavery, Founding Documents

For veterans/active-duty (46% make most proud) and pre-9/11 service families (40%), victory in WWII is also a top historical moment.

Below is a list of events that have happened over the last 250 years of U.S. history. Please select the five that make you most proud to be an American.



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# Veterans' Cemetery and a Veteran's Homecoming Seen as Deeply Patriotic Across Military Status

Below is a series of images. On a scale of 1 to 10, where 10 means very patriotic and 1 means not patriotic at all, please indicate how patriotic you think each one is. (Top 5 of 9)



Credit: Shutterstock/Orhan Cam



Credit: Shutterstock/Ungvar



Credit: Shutterstock/Monkey Business Images Credit: Shutterstock/Gorodenkoff



Credit: Shutterstock/Roberto Galan

## Total Very Patriotic (9-10)

Overall	75	72	71	59	54
Veterans/active-duty service members	81	73	75	68	54
Veteran/active-duty family, pre-9/11 service	80	73	78	66	58
Veteran/active-duty family, post-9/11 service	78	68	78	61	54
Non-veteran/active-duty family	73	73	69	57	53

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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 2,000 registered voters from May 27-June 1, 2026. 242 interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 285 interviews were conducted among African American voters. 137 interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 234 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 +/- 2.2 percentage points. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

For Press inquiries contact:

[press@navigatorresearch.org](mailto:press@navigatorresearch.org)

To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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