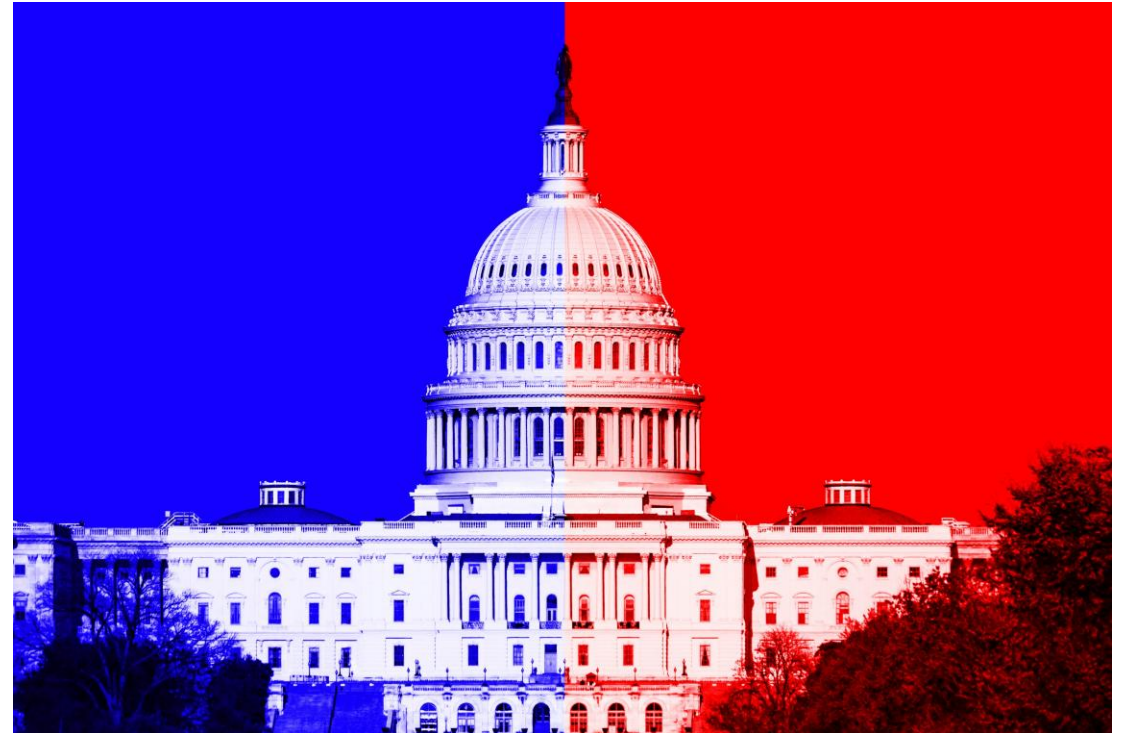


navigator*

Wednesday, August 5th

Election Security



Credit: Benjamin Clapp/Shutterstock

Key Takeaways:

- A strong majority of Americans believe the 2020 election was legitimate, think Trump spends too much time talking about 2020, and aren't buying his misinformation.
- One in five Americans, however, do not strongly agree nor strongly disagree that Biden won the 2020 election, are not “very confident” their ballot in future elections will be counted fairly and correctly, and do not identify as MAGA Republicans: these are key persuadable Americans on election security.
- Americans have a wide range of concerns about election security and integrity, and it would be a mistake to dismiss them. Democrats are concerned about Republican interference and ICE at polling locations, while Republicans cite non-citizens voting and dead people casting ballots.

Key Takeaways:

- Effective messaging to help raise the legitimacy of our elections includes citing paper ballot backups, criminal penalties for fraud, and elections being administered by local offices/neighbors, as well as acknowledging that there are improvements to be made like quickening vote counts.
- In making the case against Trump for his misinformation on elections, focusing on his misplaced priorities – election fraud claims instead of lowering costs, and spending money on investigating these claims while cutting billions from Medicaid and SNAP – raises doubts for Americans.

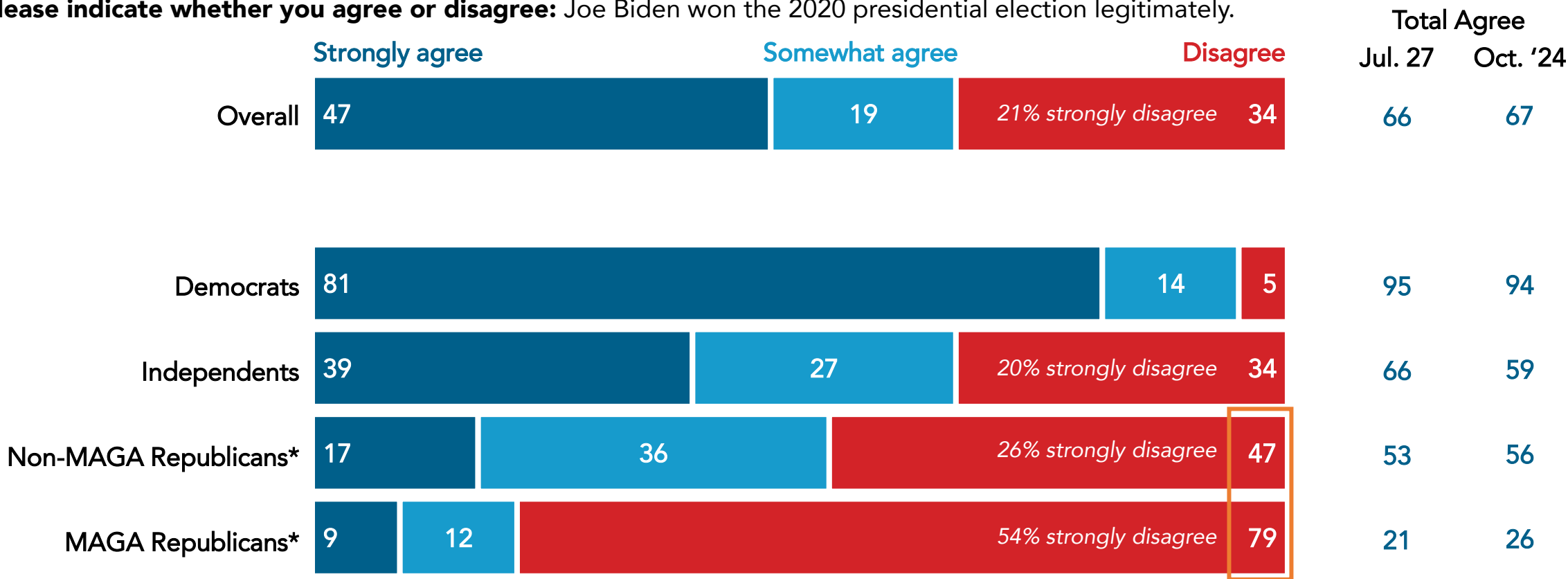
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Landscape

A Strong Majority Agree Biden Won 2020 Legitimately, Though Many Republicans Remain Skeptical

The share who agree Biden won the election in 2020 has remained consistent compared to when asked in the leadup to the 2024 election (67% agree then, 66% now).

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree: Joe Biden won the 2020 presidential election legitimately.

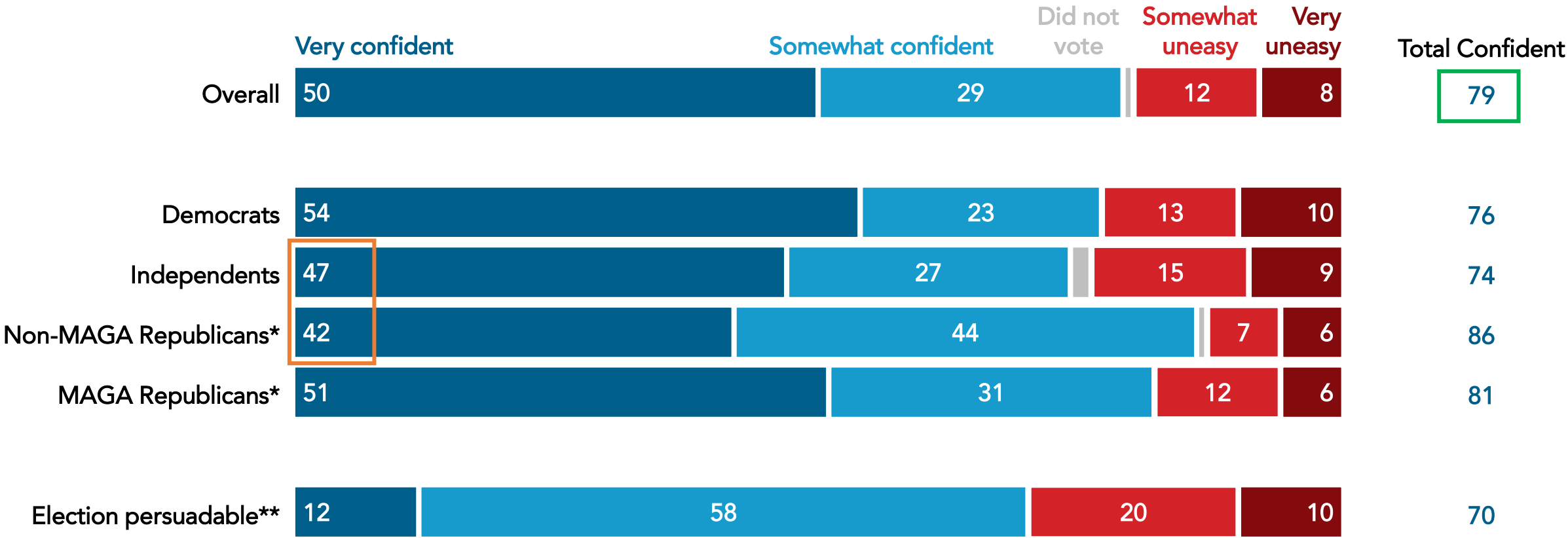


*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted July 23-July 27, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Three in Four Are Confident Their Ballot Was Counted Fairly When Trump Won in 2024, With More Confidence Among GOP

Three in four Americans are confident their ballot was counted in 2024 (79%), including non-MAGA* (86%) and MAGA Republicans* (81%).

How confident are you that your ballot in the 2024 presidential election was counted correctly and fairly?

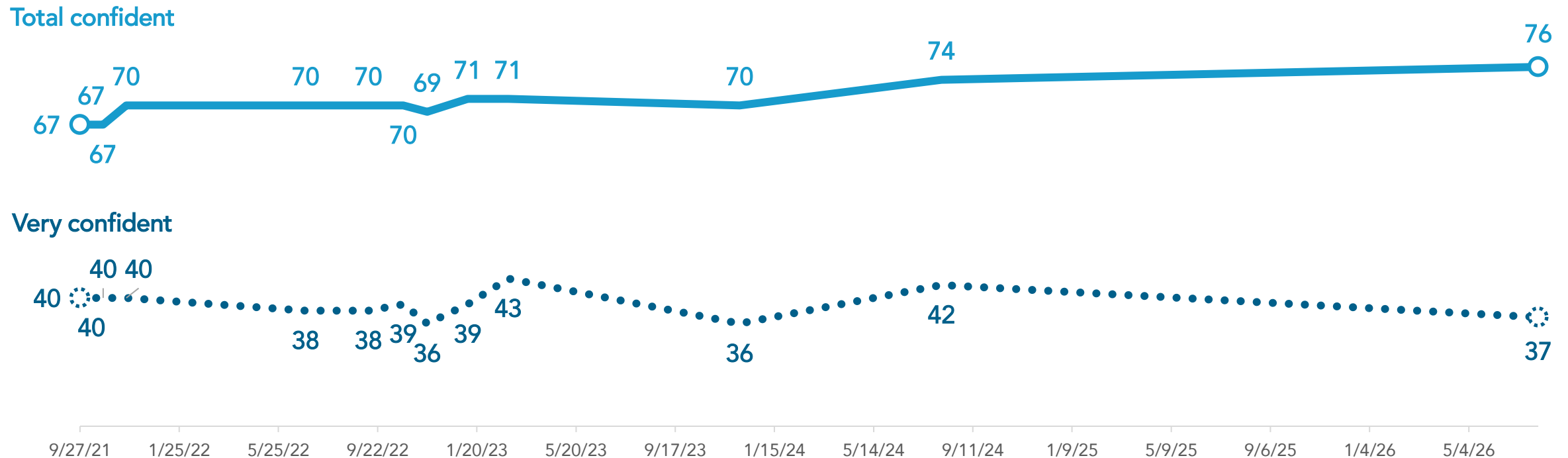


*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. **"Election Persuadable" Americans do not strongly agree or strongly disagree that Biden won the 2020 election, are not very confident their ballot in future elections will be counted fairly and correctly, and do not identify as MAGA Republicans. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted July 23-July 27, 2026. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Americans Remain Confident in Future Elections

At least three in four non-MAGA Republicans* (83% confident), MAGA Republicans* (77%), and Democrats (77%) are confident their ballot in future elections will be counted correctly and fairly. Only three in five independents are confident (61%).

How confident are you that your ballot in future elections will be counted correctly and fairly?



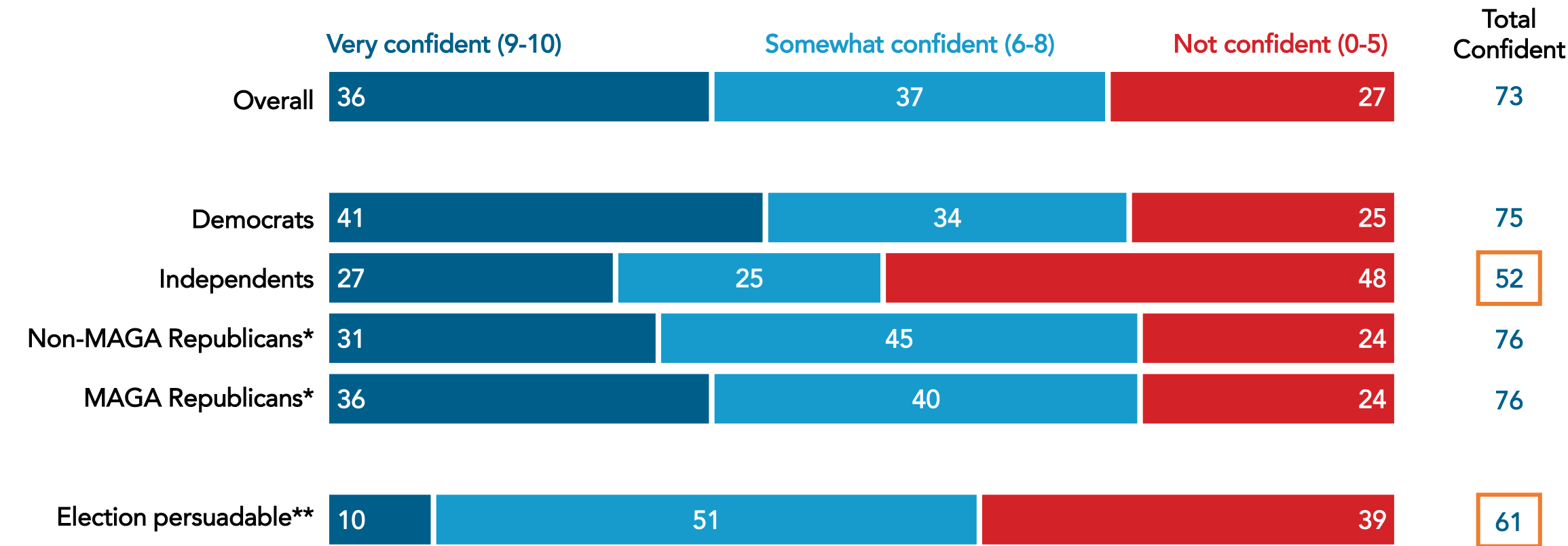
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Most Americans Are Confident Their Ballot Will Be Counted Correctly and Fairly in 2026

Election persuadable** Americans (61%) and independents (52%) are less confident in their ballot for 2026.

How confident are you that your ballot in the 2026 election will be counted correctly and fairly on a scale of 0 to 10?



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Three in Four Say GOP Will Claim 2026 Fraudulent If They Lose; Only Half Say the Same of Democrats

More election persuadables** say Trump and Republicans will claim the election is fraudulent (72% likely) than Democrats in Congress (60%).

(Split Sample) How likely do you think it is that **Trump and Republicans in Congress** will claim that the 2026 election is fraudulent if they do not win a majority in Congress?



(Split Sample) How likely do you think it is that **Democrats in Congress** will claim that the 2026 election is fraudulent if they do not win a majority in Congress?



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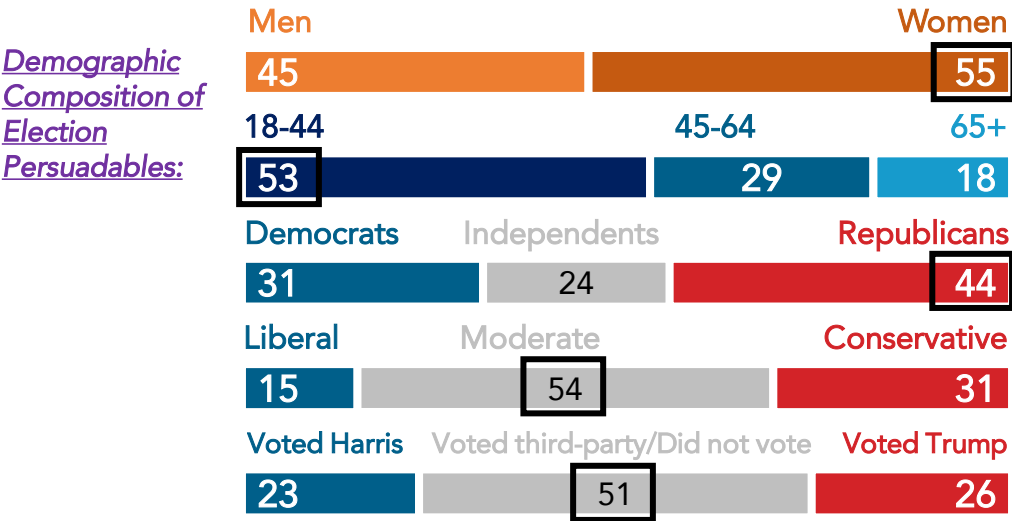
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One in Five Americans are Election Persuadables

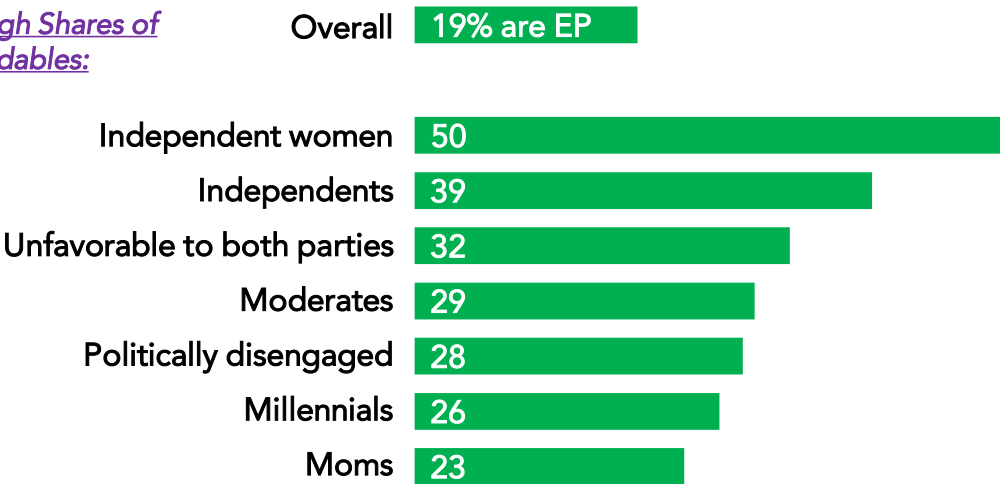
Election persuadable Americans are more likely to be women (55%), younger (53%), moderates (54%), and third-party/non-2024 voters (51%). Groups that are disproportionately likely to include election persuadables include independents (39% are election persuadables), Americans unfavorable to both parties (32%), politically disengaged (28%), millennials (26%), and moms (23%).

Election Persuadables (19% of Americans):

Election persuadables do not strongly agree or strongly disagree that Biden won the 2020 election, are not “very confident” their ballot in future elections will be counted fairly and correctly, and do not identify as MAGA Republicans.



Groups With High Shares of Election Persuadables:

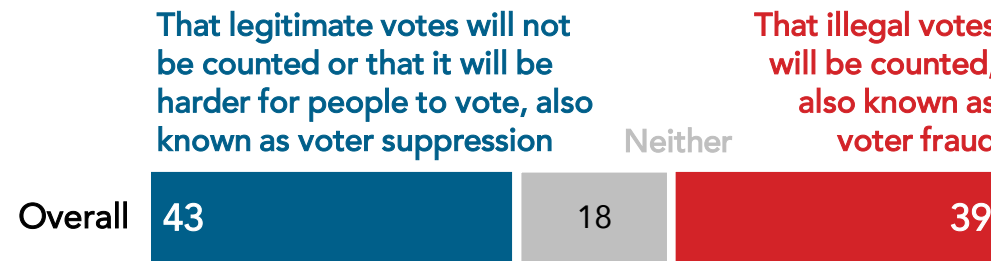


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted July 23-July 27, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

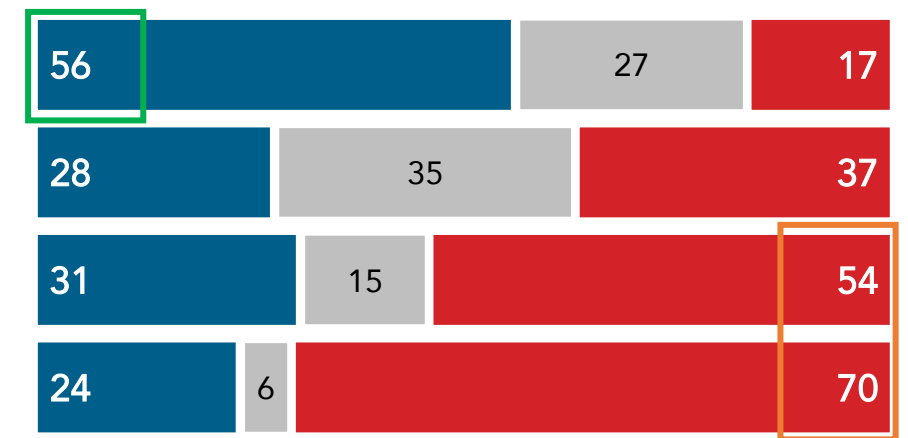
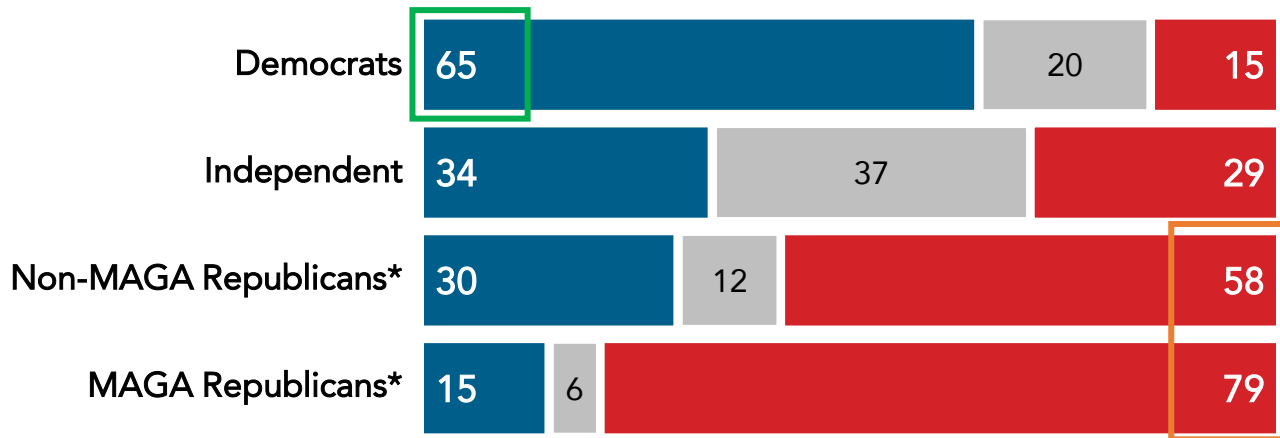
Partisanship Dictates Concerns About Voter Suppression Versus Voter Fraud

Non-MAGA Republicans* think voter fraud is more common (54%) and more concerning (58%).

(Split Sample) Thinking about the counting of election results, **which concerns you more?**



(Split Sample) Thinking about the counting of election results, **which do you think happens more in the U.S.?**

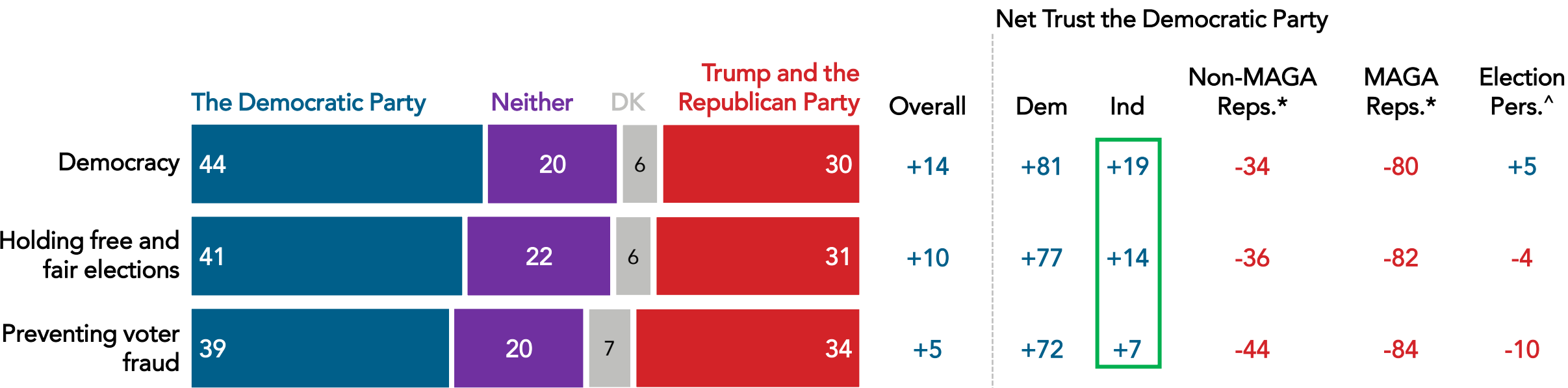


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Democrats Hold Trust Advantages Over Trump and Republicans on Democracy Issues

Independents trust the Democratic Party more on a range of democracy issues, including democracy (net +19 trust Democrats more), holding free and fair elections (net +14), and preventing voter fraud (net +7).

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



When asked without the "neither" option... **

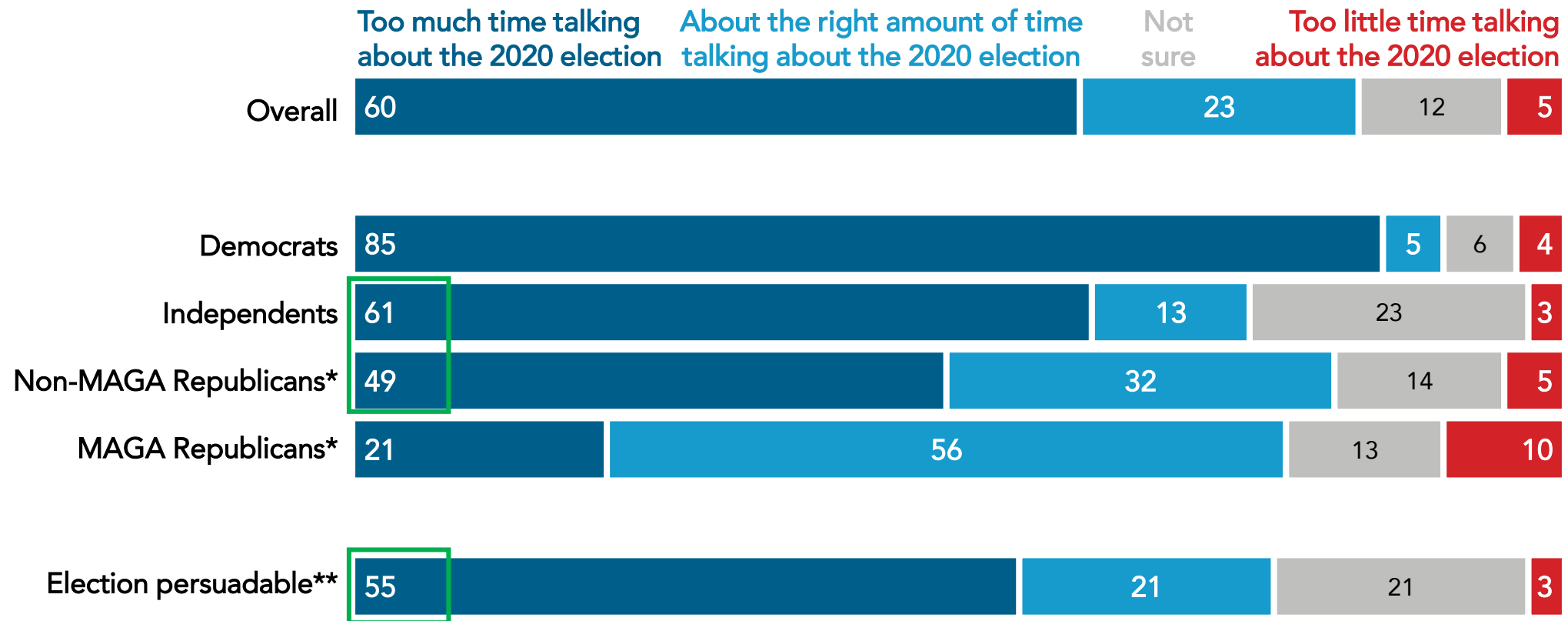
- In June of 2021, Democrats had an 11-point advantage on holding free and fair elections – now, they have a 9-point advantage
- In June of 2021, Democrats had a 4-point advantage on preventing voter fraud – now, they have a 7-point advantage

*"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. **Those who chose "neither" were asked a follow-up question in which they were asked to choose between the parties or "not sure." ^"Election Persuadable" Americans do not strongly agree or strongly disagree that Biden won the 2020 election, are not very confident their ballot in future elections will be counted fairly and correctly, and do not identify as MAGA Republicans. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted July 23-July 27, 2026. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Majorities Believe Trump Is Spending Too Much Time Talking About the 2020 Election

A majority of independents (61% too much time) and election persuadable** Americans (55%), as well as roughly half of non-MAGA Republicans* (49%), say Trump is spending too much time talking about the 2020 election.

Do you think Donald Trump is spending...



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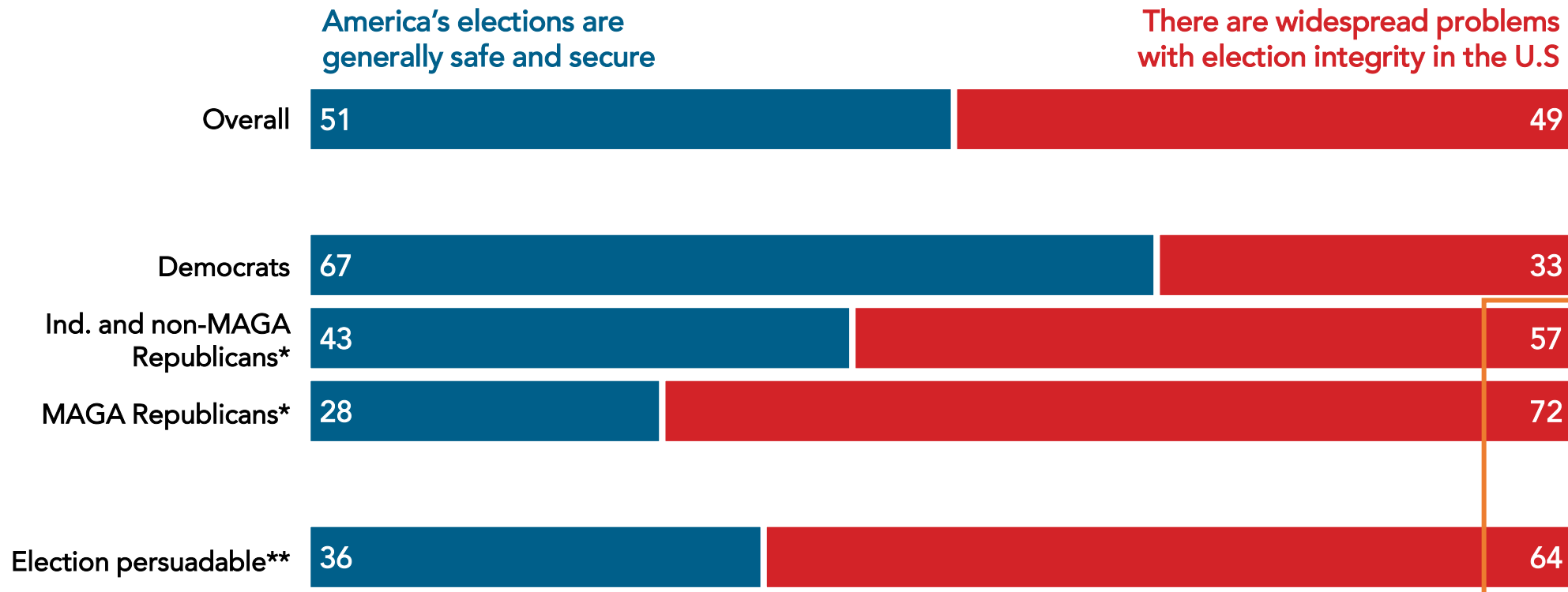
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Message Guidance

Americans Are Mixed About Whether There Are Widespread Election Integrity Problems in the U.S.

Majorities of independents and non-MAGA Republicans* (57% widespread problems), MAGA Republicans* (72%), and election persuadable Americans** (64%) say there are widespread problems with election integrity.

Which of the following comes closer to your view?



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Beyond the Broadest Concerns, Partisanship Drives the Specifics of What Voters Are Concerned About

Below is a list of items some people may be concerned about when it comes to the 2026 election. Please indicate how concerned you are about each one.

	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Total Concerned	Dem	Ind. & non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*	Election Pers.**
<u>Top concerns overall, crossing party lines</u>					<i>Total Concerned</i>		
People's legitimate votes may not be counted	32	37	69	73	59	76	68
Misinformation about the results of the election	35	33	68	73	62	68	61
<u>Top concerns from Democrats</u>							
Republicans trying to rig election laws to make it more likely they will win	35	21	55	84	39	21	46
ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents monitoring polling locations	37	19	56	83	38	25	45
Republicans trying to overturn the results of the election	33	21	53	81	39	20	48
Election workers being intimidated or threatened	30	33	63	78	49	53	52
People who are eligible and want to vote will stay home because they are worried about threats or intimidation when voting	29	31	60	77	47	47	51
<u>Top concerns from MAGA Republicans</u>							
Immigrants illegally casting votes when they aren't citizens	29	21	50	26	58	86	60
People casting fraudulent ballots on behalf of dead people	28	25	53	36	56	83	62
Fraudulent mail ballots being counted	30	26	56	38	60	83	70
Widespread voter fraud, or illegal votes being counted	28	25	53	40	51	82	62
Democrats trying to rig election laws to make it more likely they will win	24	20	44	20	51	80	50

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Election Results Taking a While, Violence, Voting Machine Manipulation Resonate with Ind/Non-MAGA and Persuadables

Below is a list of items some people may be concerned about when it comes to the 2026 election. Please indicate how concerned you are about each one.

	Very Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Total Concerned	Dem	Ind. & non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*	Election Pers.**
<u>Additional concerns</u>					<i>Total Concerned</i>		
Violence during or after the election	30	34	64	75	54	54	56
Misinformation spreading online about where or how to vote	31	31	62	71	53	56	53
Election workers and elected officials refusing to certify the election results for political reasons or because they don't like the results	27	33	60	64	52	65	54
Election administrators trying to manipulate the vote count to help the candidates they personally prefer	30	30	60	60	51	71	56
There will be violence or people intimidating voters at election sites	27	33	60	71	50	51	51
Election results taking days or weeks to be reported	26	34	60	53	57	76	59
Voting machines being hacked or secretly changed to manipulate the vote count	26	32	58	55	54	71	61
People who are eligible to vote won't be allowed to vote	30	28	57	74	42	45	49
Congress refusing to seat winning candidates	26	31	57	68	45	51	49
Foreign countries manipulating the vote count or interfering in the election	23	34	57	55	50	71	52
Another event like January 6 th , 2021 at the Capitol happening again	26	28	54	76	40	32	44
Losing candidates refusing to concede	25	28	53	65	41	44	41
The National Guard being deployed to polling locations	24	23	47	67	34	27	39
Democrats trying to overturn the results of the election	21	19	40	19	44	75	47

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Election Websites, Search Engines, Local News, Friends and Family Most Popular Sources of Voting Info – Fewer Report AI

Across party lines, Americans most use state/local election office websites, search engines, and local news sources.

If you wanted information about where, when, or how to vote in an upcoming election, which of the following sources would you use to find that information?

	% source would use	Dem	Ind	Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*	Election Persuadable**
Your state or local election office website	53%	56	44	55	51	41
A search engine like Google or Bing	37	41	33	41	27	38
Local news sources	36	38	37	34	34	38
Friends or family	32	33	24	33	31	31
News websites	23	26	20	20	20	20
Social media (such as Facebook, X, Instagram, or TikTok), including content creators	22	22	20	25	20	28
A political party, campaign, or candidate	17	21	10	9	21	10
An artificial intelligence (AI) tool or chatbot, such as ChatGPT, Gemini, Claude, or Copilot	13	12	9	16	15	14
Another website or online source	11	11	10	8	16	9

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Local Election Workers Most Trusted on Election Administration

Non-MAGA Republicans* trust local election administrators (42% trust) and county clerks (29%) the most, compared to MAGA Republicans* who trust Donald Trump (48%) and Republicans in Congress (43%) the most.

Below is a list of people and groups who administer elections in the U.S. Please indicate which three you trust the most to make sure elections are counted fairly, if any.

	% top three trust	Dem	Ind	Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*	Election Persuadable**
Local election administrators and poll workers	43%	51	37	42	33	38
County clerks	27	29	28	29	19	26
The Secretary of State in [STATE]	25	29	15	24	25	23
Judges and courts	25	28	24	27	16	28
Democrats in Congress	24	48	5	3	3	13
The state legislature in [STATE]	23	26	20	26	17	25
Governor [NAME]	20	26	12	14	19	12
Donald Trump	17	1	4	22	48	10
Republicans in Congress	15	1	3	23	43	11
My mayor	9	11	10	8	7	8

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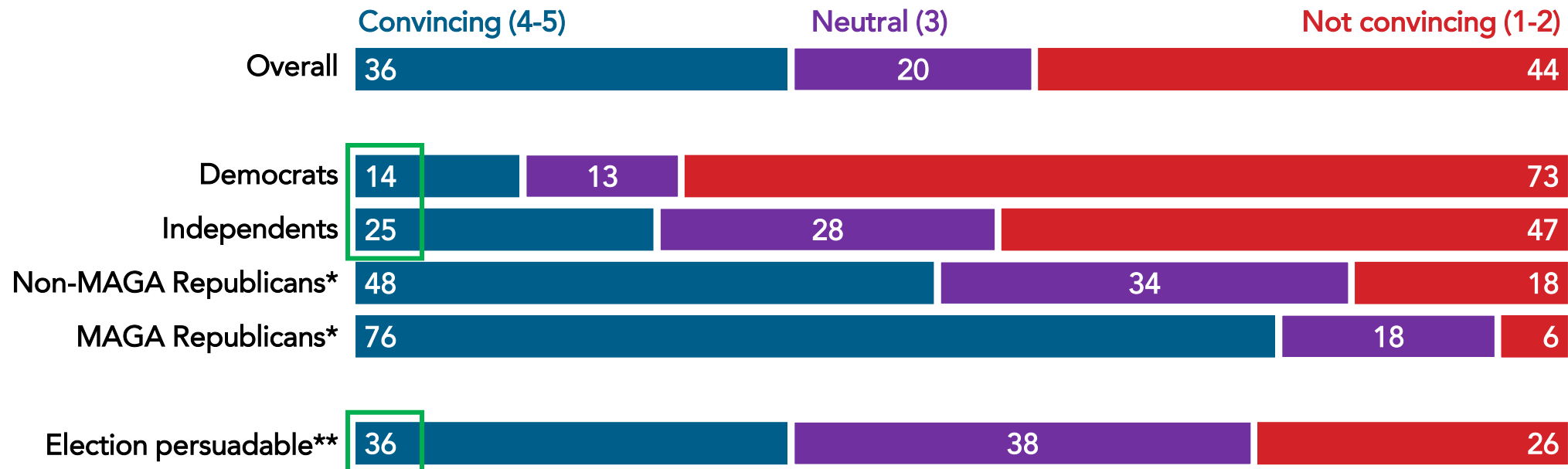
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Few Outside of MAGA Republicans Find Trump's Drumbeat of Election Misinformation Convincing

Fewer than two in five election persuadable** Americans (36%) find this convincing, as do 25% of independents.

Below are some statements that Trump and Republicans in Congress have been making about the 2026 election. Please indicate how convincing you find the following paragraph on a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 means it is not at all convincing and 5 means it is extremely convincing.

Democrats are already trying to rig the next election just like they rigged the last one against Trump and other Republicans. They want to let non-citizens vote, refuse to clean up voter rolls, and oppose commonsense safeguards like requiring proof of citizenship and voter ID to vote. If we don't secure our elections now, Americans may never be able to trust the results again.



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A Range of Facts Bolster Confidence: For Persuadables, Neighbors Running Elections Works; Dismissing Fraud Doesn't

Only 38% say no election outcome being impacted by voter fraud is convincing.

Please indicate how convincing you find each one as a reason to believe that election outcomes are legitimate on a scale of 1 to 5.

	/ Split sample					Total Convincing		
	Extremely Convincing (5)	Somewhat Convincing (4)	Overall	Dem	Ind	Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*	Election Pers.^
Most votes in the U.S. are backed by a paper ballot that can be recounted and audited	29	26	56	65	43	49	49	37
There are already criminal penalties in place for anyone who commits election fraud	32	22	54	67	42	44	42	36
***Elections are administered by thousands of independent state and local election offices, not by the federal government	27	27	54	68	51	42	37	31
Elections involve independent audits, bipartisan poll workers and observers, secure ballot handling, and paper records	28	25	53	65	49	45	41	37
**Your neighbors – not politicians in Washington – volunteer to run elections in your community	26	26	52	59	35	47	51	44
Vote counting machines are not connected to the internet, making hacking and remote manipulation nearly impossible	27	22	48	59	38	46	35	35
***It's hard to find good information about elections, but independent studies have found that voter fraud is extremely rare: over decades, only a handful of documented cases of fraud have been found out of hundreds of millions of votes cast	29	19	48	65	41	35	29	29
Courts have repeatedly reviewed allegations of widespread election fraud and found no evidence of it	29	18	47	66	39	32	29	26
**Independent studies have found that voter fraud is extremely rare: over decades, only a handful of documented cases of fraud have been found out of hundreds of millions of votes cast	30	17	47	65	31	42	24	35
No election outcome in the U.S. has ever been impacted by voter fraud	22	17	38	57	28	26	18	20

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Trump's Misplaced Priorities, Disrespecting Voters Raises Doubts

Below is a list of statements about Trump and Republicans' handling of elections. Please indicate whether each one raises doubts for you about Trump and Republicans' handling of elections on a scale of 1 to 5.

Total Raises Doubts (4-5)		
Major Doubts (5)	Some doubts (4)	Overall
		Dem Ind Non-MAGA Rep* MAGA Rep* Election Pers.**
[TRUMP'S PRIORITIES] Trump only cares about himself and helping Republicans get re-elected, no matter what it takes, not bringing down the cost of living or helping Americans who are struggling to get by	37	14 52 73 43 39 25 41
[WRONG SPENDING PRIORITIES] Trump and Republicans are spending taxpayer money investigating fake claims of voter fraud, while cutting billions of dollars from critical programs like Medicaid and SNAP	37	14 51 72 46 39 23 42
[WEAPONIZATION FOR PROFIT] Instead of helping working Americans, Trump and Republicans have weaponized the government to make billions of dollars for themselves. Now, they are threatening our elections so they can hold onto power and continue to make money off their positions	35	16 50 73 44 37 22 39
[DISRESPECTING VOTERS] Every eligible American deserves to have their vote counted. When Trump repeatedly claims elections are rigged whenever he loses, he is telling millions of Americans that their votes don't count	34	16 50 71 38 41 24 43
[STUCK IN THE PAST] Trump continues to focus on rehashing the 2020 election because he can't accept that he lost, instead of focusing on the challenges Americans are facing today, like lowering costs, creating jobs, and making life more affordable	34	15 49 70 45 38 20 40
[IGNORING THE FACTS] Even after recounts, audits, and election officials and courts reviewing claims of widespread fraud and finding nothing, Trump continues to repeat the same false claims about the 2020 election because he can't accept the fact that he lost in 2020 – and he only protests elections when he loses	33	14 47 69 40 32 22 35
[ATTACKING ELECTION WORKERS] Trump has repeatedly attacked local election officials and poll workers who are simply doing their jobs, making it harder to recruit the people communities rely on to run safe and secure elections	33	14 47 70 39 32 20 36
[CONCESSION] It is critical that our elections are safe, secure, and fair – and that includes prosecuting those who commit voter fraud. But Trump and Republicans are trying to make it harder for eligible citizens to vote, including by mail. We need to make sure every eligible voter can have their vote counted	32	16 47 70 38 31 21 36

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Acknowledging States Like CA Need to Count Faster Is Helpful in Pushing Back on Slow Election Conspiracies

(Split Sample) Which side do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?

Democrats who say that the vote counting process in states like California needs to be improved, but that there is no evidence of widespread fraud and our elections continue to be free and fair

Trump and Republicans who say that the very slow vote count in Democratic states like California is just another example of Democrats trying to rig elections

Overall

60

40

Democrats who say that there is no evidence of widespread fraud in states like California and our elections continue to be free and fair

Trump and Republicans who say that the very slow vote count in Democratic states like California is just another example of Democrats trying to rig elections

57

43

Democrats

95

95

Ind. and non-MAGA
Republicans*

48

52

43

57

MAGA Republicans*

8

92

5

95

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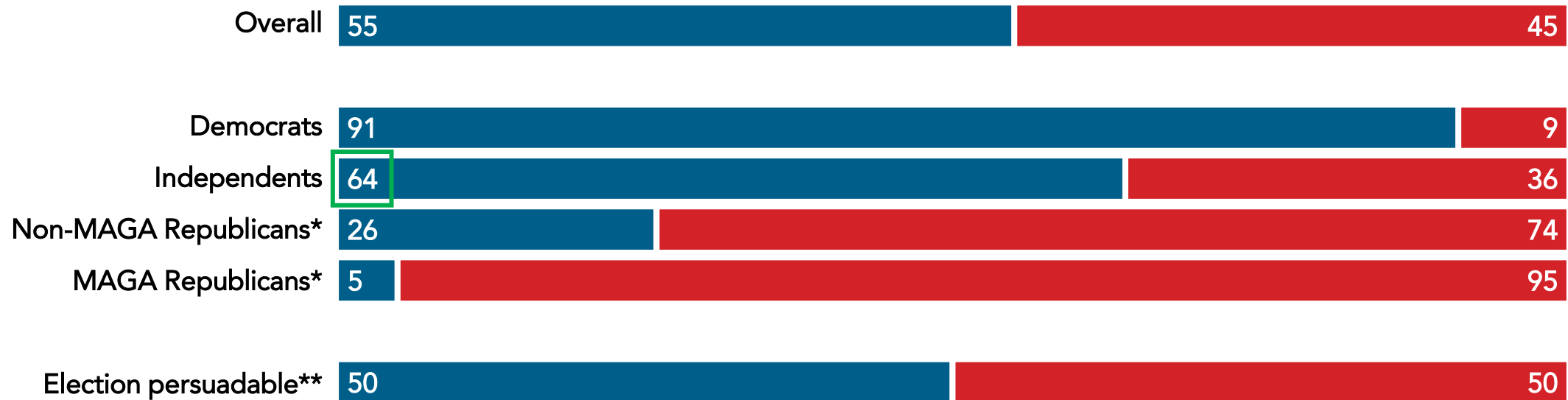
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Americans Agree More With the Dem Defense on NJ – Do Not See This As a Reason to Push For Restrictive Voting Policies

As you may know, New Jersey Governor Mikie Sherrill recently announced several thousand non-citizens were accidentally added to the state’s voter rolls due to a software error in the state’s DMV system, with around 400 of them casting ballots in elections since 2023. Which side do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?

Democrats who say this was a very serious error, but there’s no evidence that it changed any election outcomes. Cases like this are extremely rare, and don’t justify Trump and Republicans’ obsession with voter fraud and making it harder for millions of eligible citizens to vote

Trump and Republicans who say that this is just one example of the kind of widespread voter fraud that takes place in our elections. Cases like this are why we need to implement policies like universal voter ID and require proof of citizenship to register to vote



*"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. **"Election Persuadable" Americans do not strongly agree or strongly disagree that Biden won the 2020 election, are not very confident their ballot in future elections will be counted fairly and correctly, and do not identify as MAGA Republicans. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted July 23-July 27, 2026. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.



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 July 23-July 27, 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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