

navigator.*

Wednesday, August 26th

Vote By Mail

This survey was completed before the U.S. Supreme Court recently lifted one injunction blocking the Trump administration's executive order restricting voting by mail. A separate injunction remains in place, so the restrictions have not yet taken effect.



Credit: VectorMine/Shutterstock

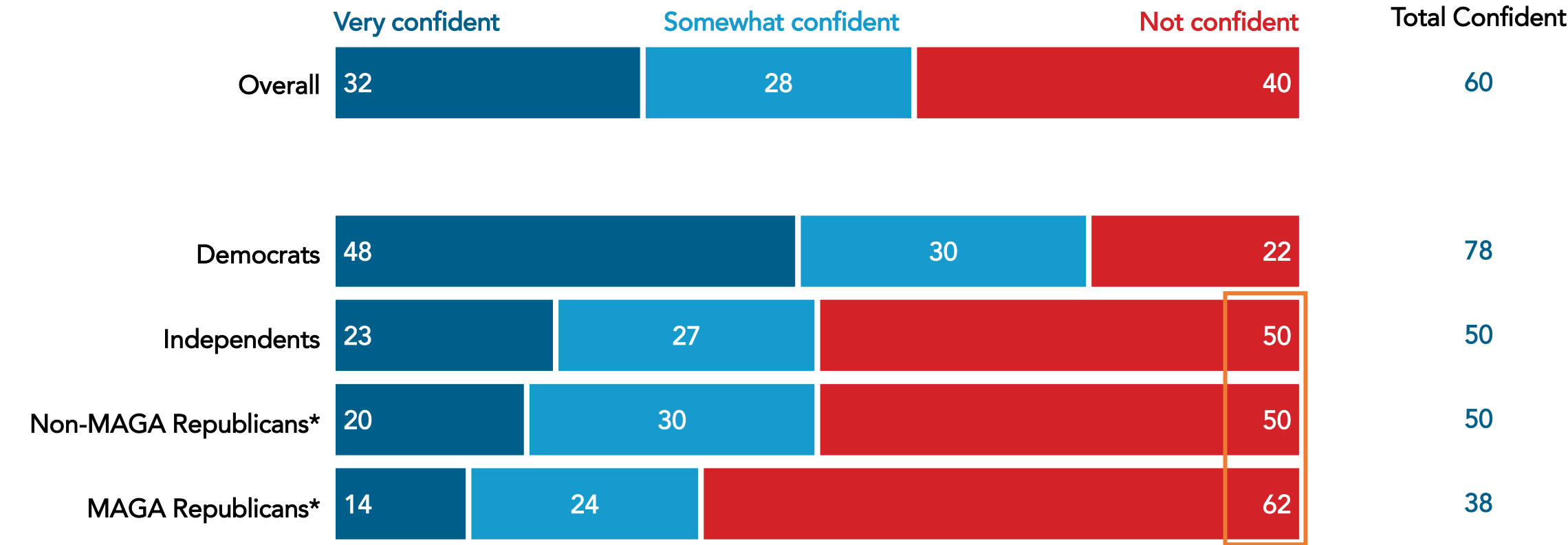
Key Takeaways:

- Three in five Americans are confident in voting by mail – though a notable share have hesitations. Most want to see vote by mail left as is, rather than have the Supreme Court pass new rules that make it harder.
- A majority of Americans prefer to vote in person rather than by mail. And even in a scenario where the Supreme Court makes it harder to vote by mail, similar shares say they would still cast their ballot that way instead of in person.
- In a scenario where it is harder to vote by mail, messaging highlighting that Americans should plan how they're going to vote early and leave additional time for delays is key.

A Majority of Americans Are Confident in Vote By Mail, Though Half of Independents and Non-MAGA Republicans Are Not

Democrats drive the share who are confident in voting by mail (78%).

How confident are you that voting by mail is safe and secure?



*"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 August 21-August 24, 2026. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

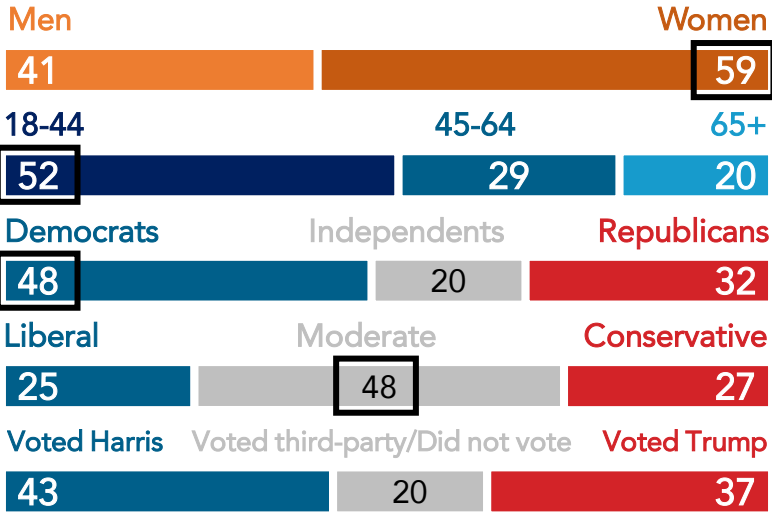
Nearly Half of Americans Are Not “Very Confident” in Vote By Mail, But Are Persuadable on the Issue

Groups that are disproportionately likely to include vote by mail persuadables include independent women (80% are VBMP persuadables), non-MAGA Republicans* (80%), Black Americans (65%), Americans unfavorable to both parties (64%), and Gen Z (59%).

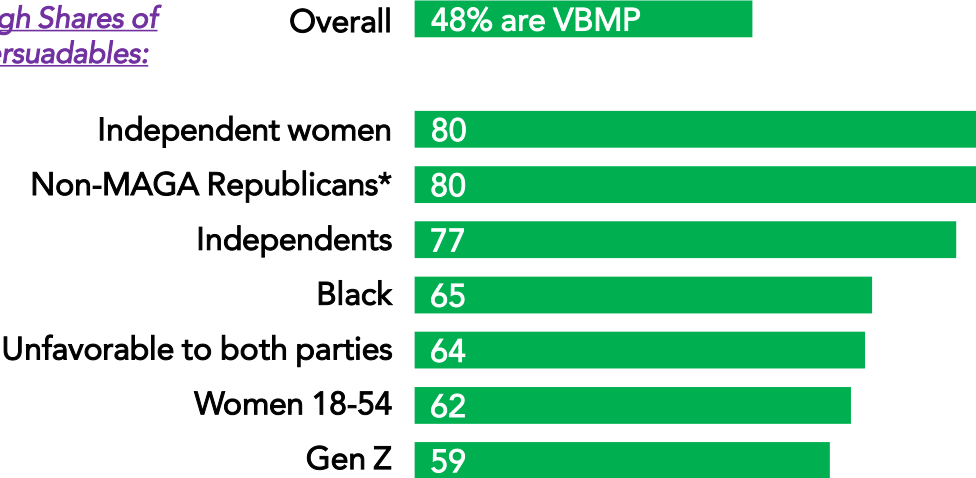
Vote by Mail Persuadables (48% of Americans):

Vote by mail persuadables are not “very confident” that voting by mail is safe and secure; identify as Democrats, independents, or non-MAGA Republicans; and do not identify as MAGA Republicans (an audience that is disproportionately skeptical of vote by mail and deeply aligned with the Trump administration).

Demographic
Composition of
Vote by Mail
Persuadables:



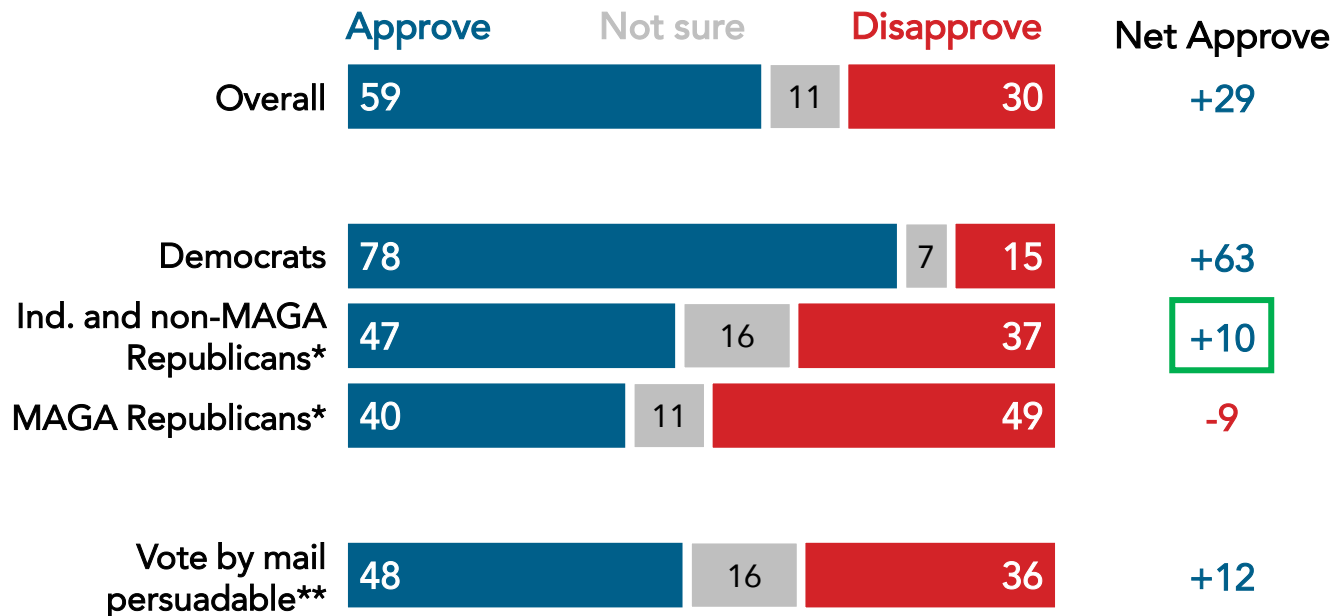
Groups With High Shares of
Vote by Mail Persuadables:



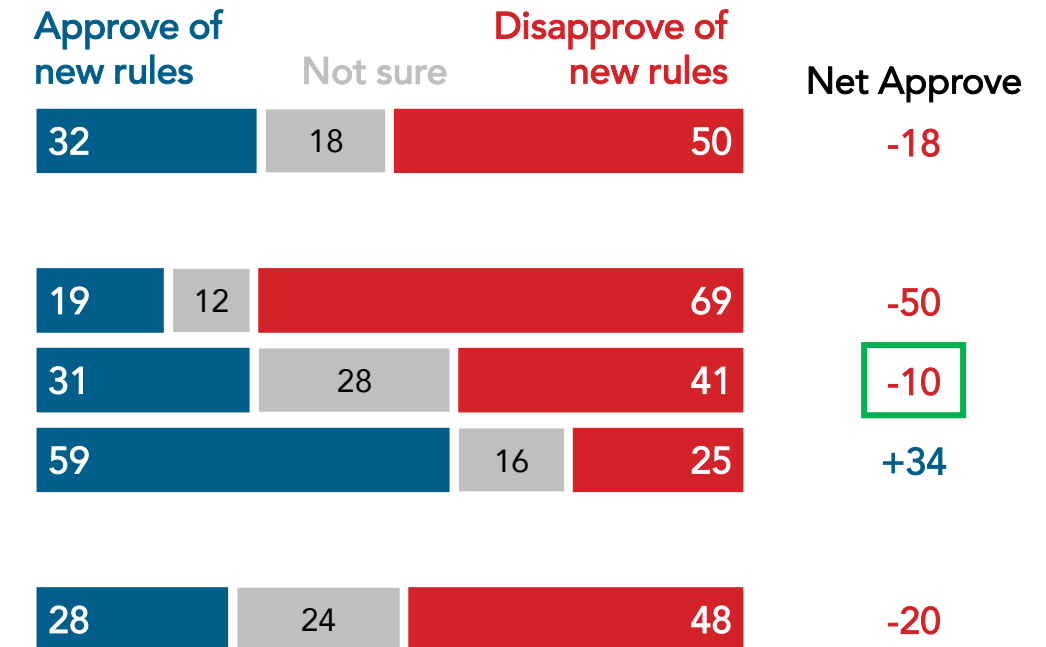
*“MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who identify as “a supporter of the MAGA movement” on a separate question, while “non-MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted August 21-August 24, 2026. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Leaving Mail Voting Alone Is Popular; SCOTUS Making it Harder Is Not

(Split Sample) The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision soon about rules affecting voting by mail. **Suppose the Supreme Court makes a decision that means voting by mail will continue to work the same way it does today, without any major changes.** Would you approve or disapprove of this?



(Split Sample) The Supreme Court is expected to make a decision soon about rules affecting voting by mail. **Suppose the Supreme Court makes a decision that means new rules for voting by mail will take effect, which could cause delays or complications with mail-in ballots.** Would you approve or disapprove of this?

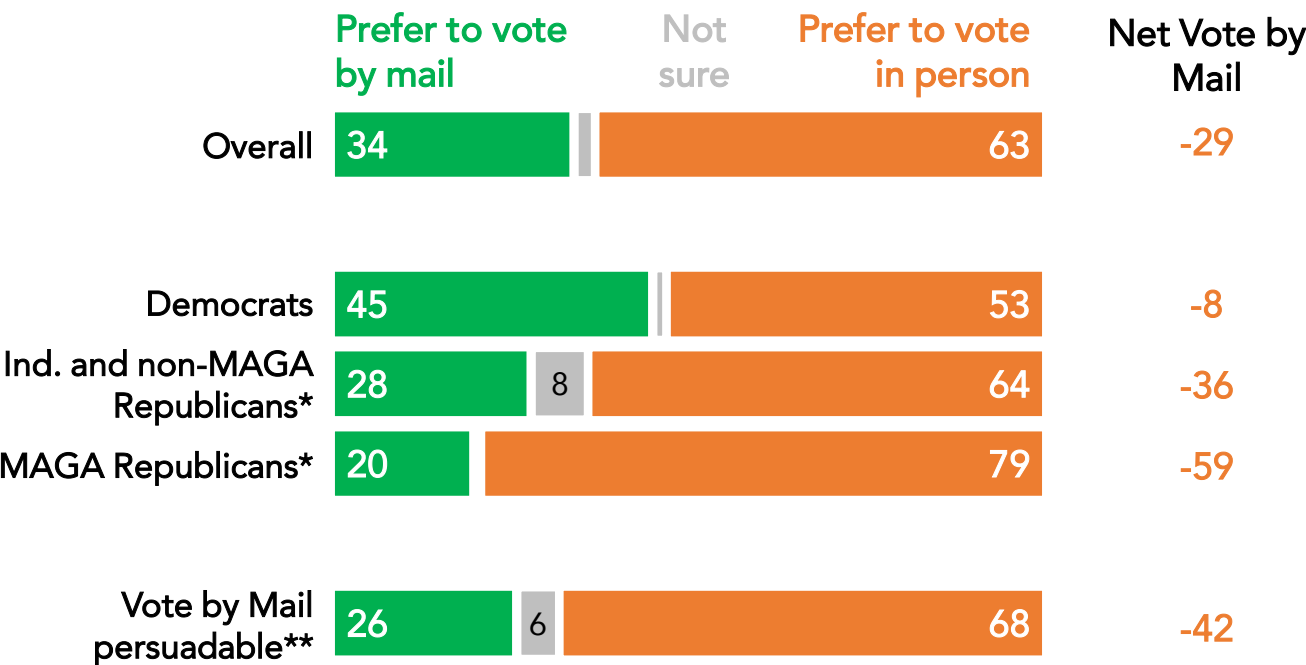


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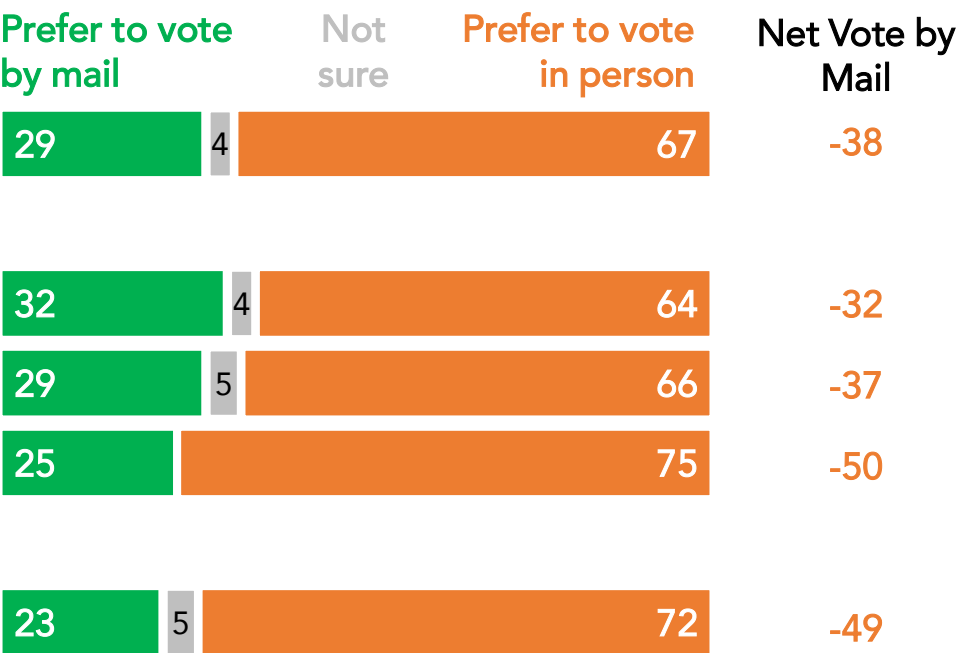
Most Americans Prefer to Vote in Person, Regardless of SCOTUS Making It Harder to Vote By Mail

Three in ten Americans say they will still vote by mail, even if the Supreme Court makes it harder to do so (29% prefer to vote by mail).

(Split Sample: Scenario Without Changes to Vote By Mail) Knowing this, if you were deciding how to vote in an upcoming election, would you prefer to vote by mail or vote in person?



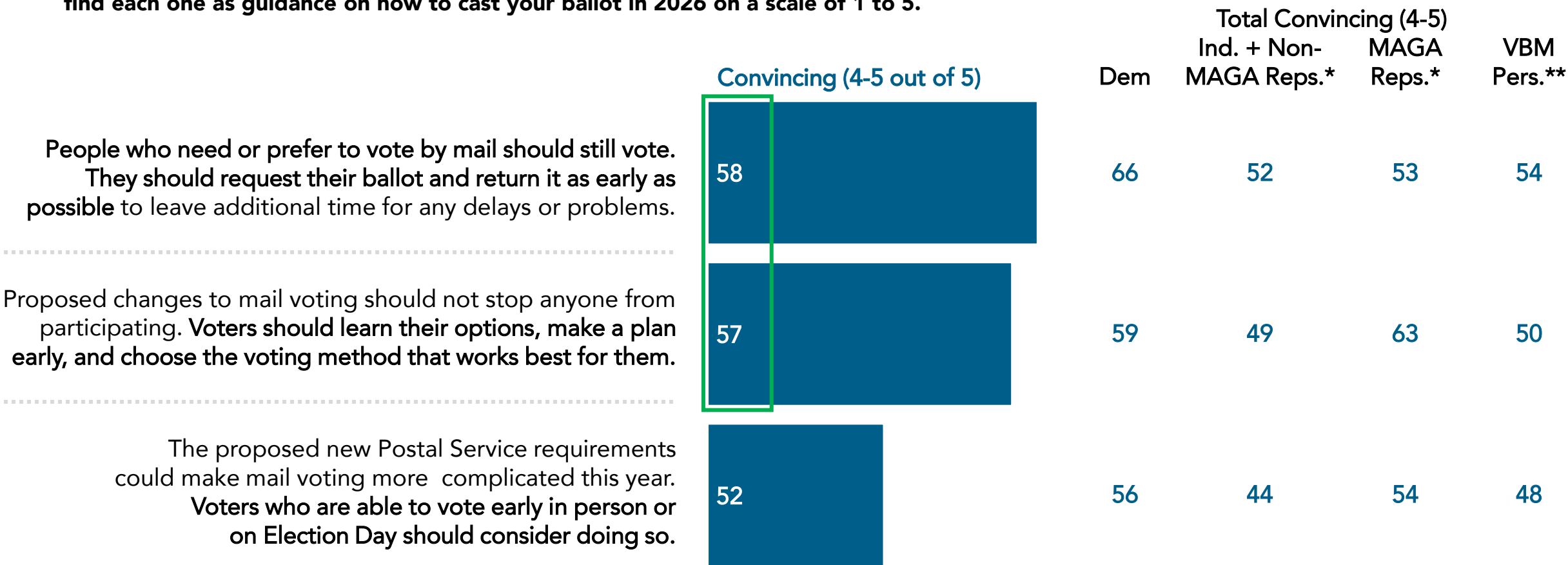
(Split Sample: Scenario Where Harder to Vote By Mail) Knowing this, if you were deciding how to vote in an upcoming election, would you prefer to vote by mail or vote in person?



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If Vote By Mail Is Restricted, Messages Should Focus on Planning Early and Leaving Additional Time For Delays

(Split Sample: Scenario Where Harder to Vote By Mail) Below are some statements about voting. Please indicate how convincing you find each one as guidance on how to cast your ballot in 2026 on a scale of 1 to 5.



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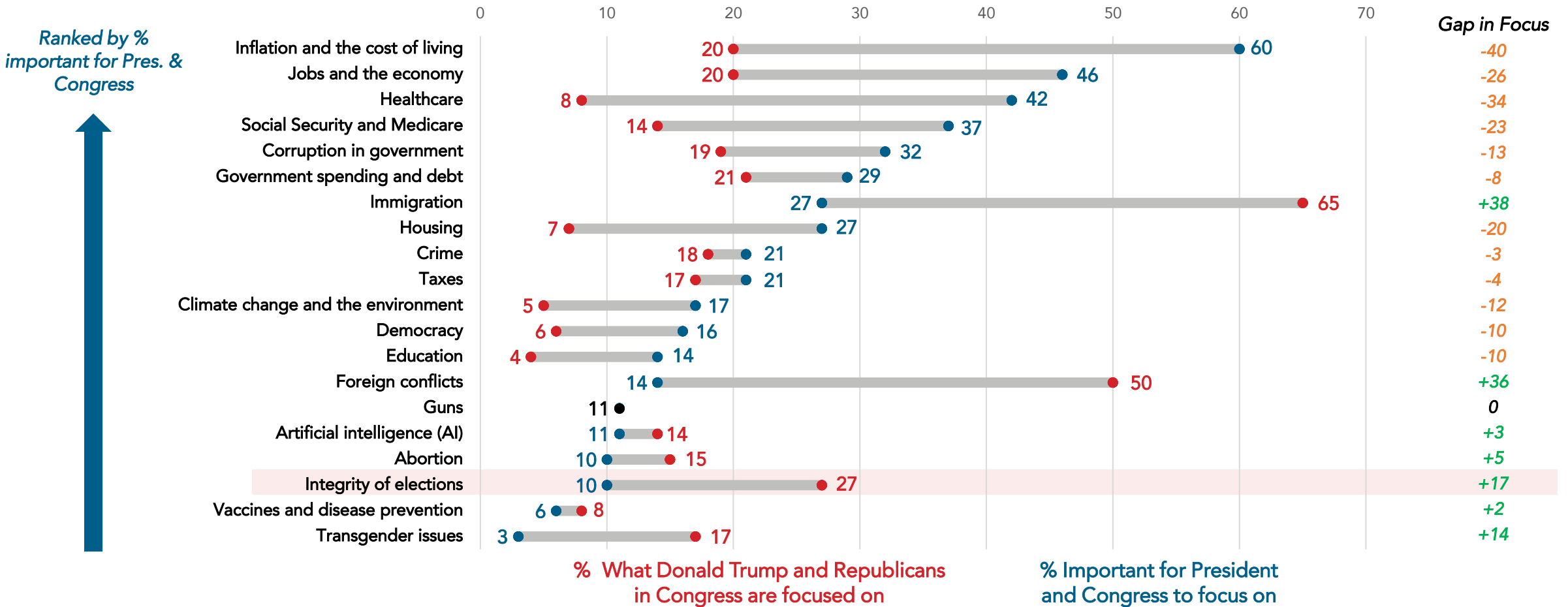
If Vote By Mail Is Left As-Is, Highlighting Options and the Idea of Making a Plan to Vote Are Persuasive

(Split Sample: Scenario Without Changes to Vote By Mail) Below are some statements about voting. Please indicate how convincing you find each one as guidance on how to cast your ballot in 2026 on a scale of 1 to 5.

	Convincing (4-5 out of 5)	Dem	Total Convincing (4-5) Ind. + Non- MAGA Reps.*			MAGA Reps.*	VBM Pers.**
Voters should use the voting method that works best for them, whether that means voting by mail, voting early in person, or voting on Election Day.	62	78	47	51	49		
However you choose to vote, making a plan ahead of time is the best way to have your voice heard. If you vote by mail, request and return your ballot early.	59	70	54	46	51		
Voting by mail remains a safe and secure option. Voters who choose to vote by mail should make a plan, follow the instructions carefully, and return their ballot by the recommended deadline.	51	68	40	34	36		

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Americans Want a Focus on Costs and the Economy; See Trump and GOP as Too Focused on Election Integrity



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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 August 21-August 24, 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. 230 additional interviews were conducted among regretful Trump 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

press@navigatorresearch.org

To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

@NavigatorSurvey on Twitter

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