

navigator*

Wednesday, September 9th

Corruption: Messaging Guidance



Credit: Shutterstock/Wasana Kunpol

Key Takeaways:

- Most Americans say corruption in government is raising their costs.
- Americans say Trump and his family and billionaires/CEOs are most involved in corruption. The industries they think are most involved are oil and gas, drug companies/health insurance companies, and Big Tech.
- The most popular anti-corruption policies focus on getting money back to taxpayers, banning insider trading in government, and cracking down on corporate abuses like price gouging, corporate crime, hidden fees, surveillance pricing, and corporate spending in elections.
- The strongest case for addressing corruption ensures no one is above the law; cracks down on waste, fraud, and abuse; and cracks down on corporate corruption and returns money to Americans.

Overwhelming Majorities Say Corruption Is Driving Up Their Costs

Huge majorities across party lines say corruption in government is raising their costs personally (81%), with nearly half feeling this way strongly (48%).

Which of the following comes closer to your view?

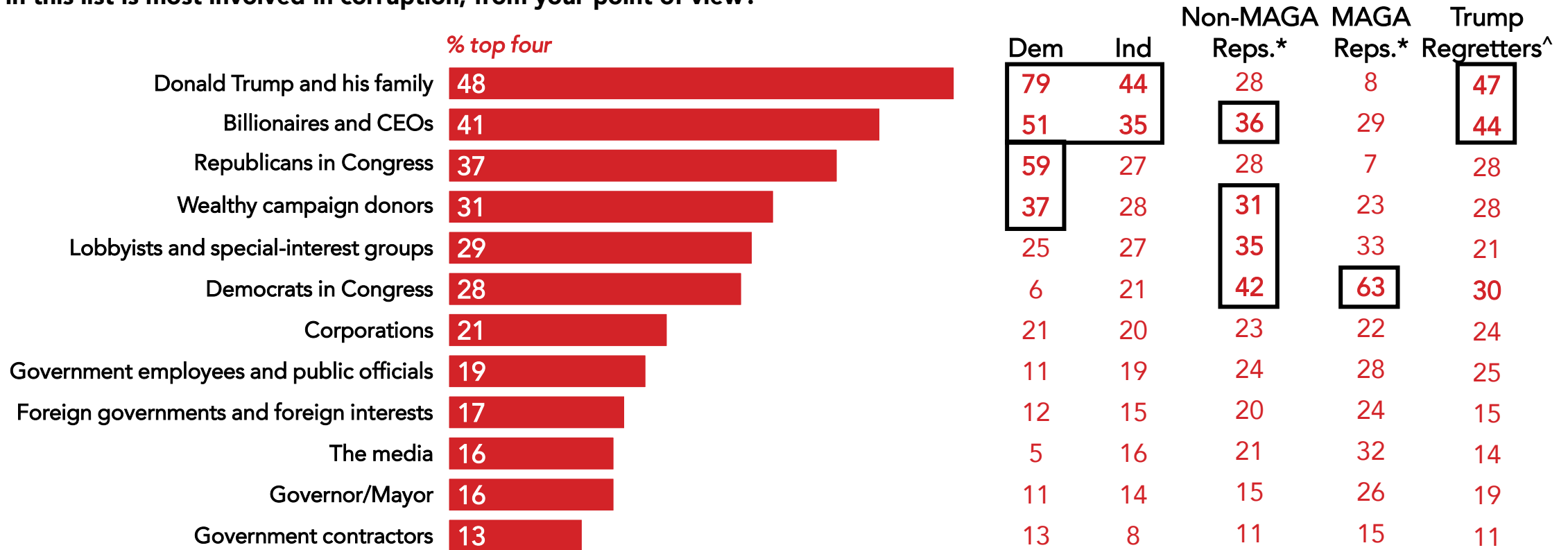


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted August 21-August 24, 2026.
For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Trump Family and Billionaires/CEOs Most Seen as Involved in Corruption

Democrats and independents are most likely to say Trump and his family are involved in corruption (79% and 44%, respectively), as do 28% of non-MAGA Republicans*. MAGA Republicans* overwhelmingly cite Democrats in Congress (63%).

Who in this list is most involved in corruption, from your point of view?

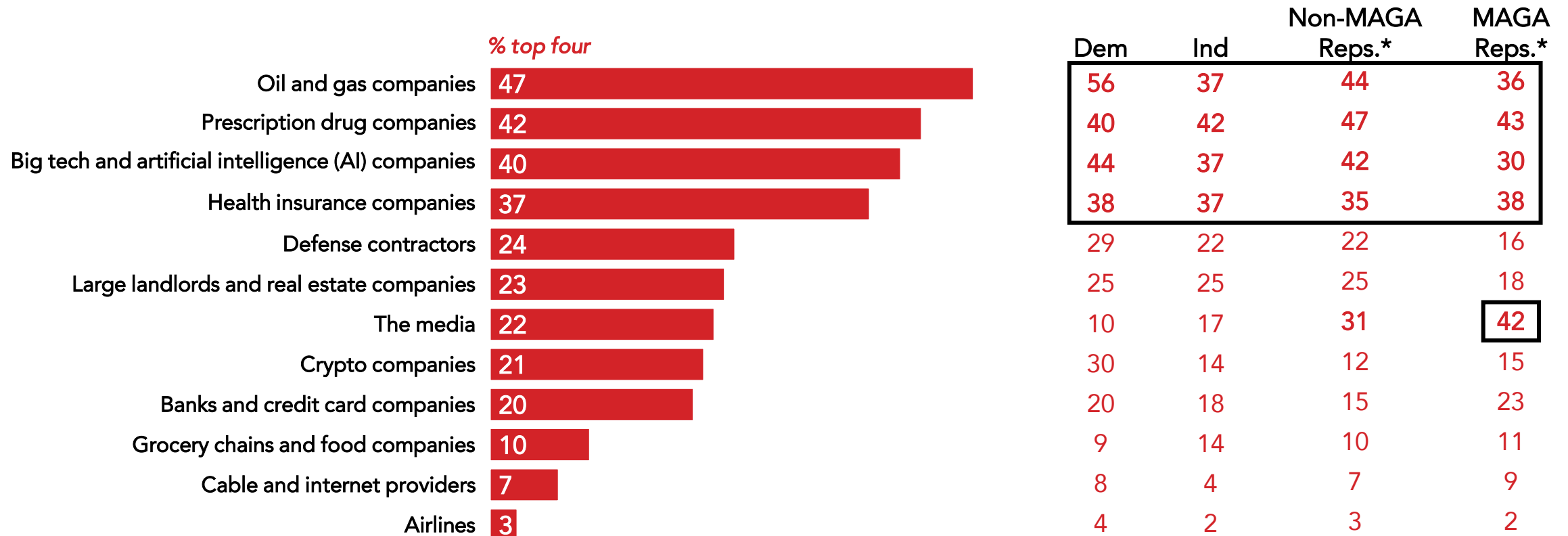


*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. ^"Trump regretters" voted for Trump in 2024 and indicate that they regret their vote. Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted August 21-August 24, 2026. For more info, visit navigatortresearch.org.

Oil and Gas, Drug Companies/Health Insurance, Big Tech Companies Seen as Most Involved in Corruption

Americans across party lines agree that these industries are most corrupt, while MAGA Republicans* also rank the media as among the most corrupt of the industries tested (42%).

Which of these industries do you think is most corrupt, in terms of using its money and influence to rig the rules in its favor?



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Wasting Taxpayer Dollars & Protecting Monopolies Seen as Most Raising Costs; Secondly, Special Interest/Wealthy Favors

Please indicate, for each one, how much it raises costs for people like you.

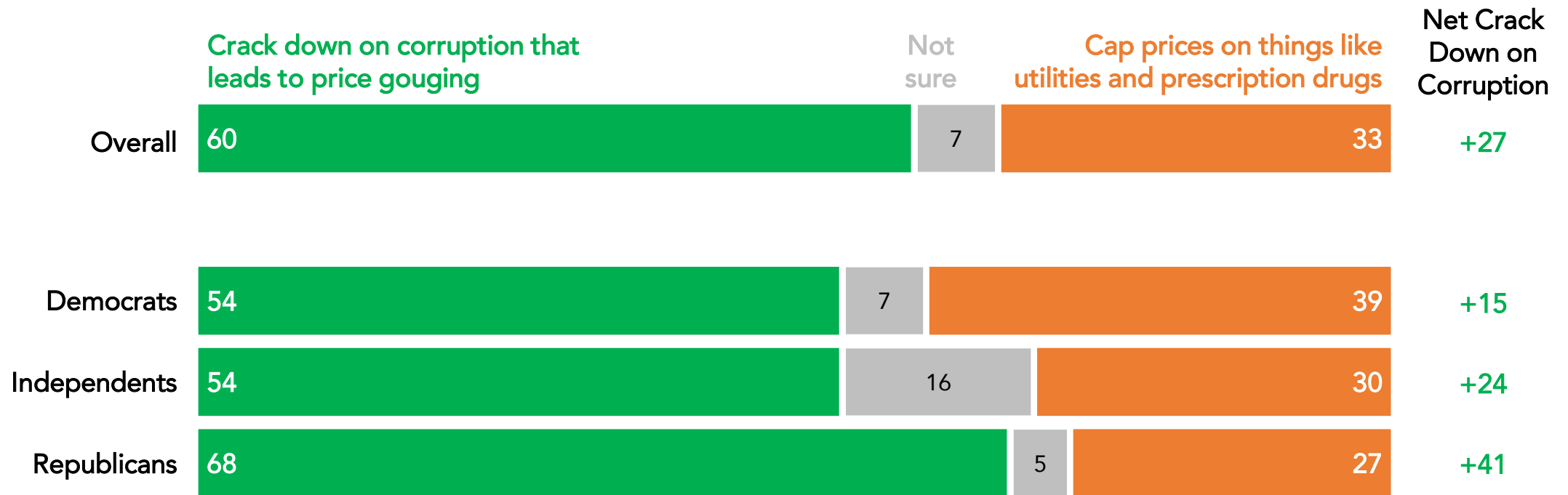
<i>Elected officials...</i>	Total Raises Costs		Overall	Dem	Ind	Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*
	Raises costs a lot	Raises costs somewhat					
...allowing waste, fraud, and abuse of taxpayer dollars	52	30	82	80	77	91	81
...protecting monopolies and large corporations that limit competition and price gouge consumers	49	32	82	85	75	84	78
...allowing lobbyists and special interests to have more influence than ordinary people	43	34	77	82	72	73	74
...giving wealthy donors and large corporations special treatment from the government	40	37	77	82	70	78	71
...writing legislation that benefits their own or a family member's private business	39	33	72	76	69	71	69
...giving contracts, jobs, or other favors to friends, donors, and political insiders	39	33	71	74	66	72	68
...refusing to follow or enforce the law	38	33	71	75	68	66	69
...trading stocks using information that is not available to the public	35	26	61	63	59	58	60

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Americans See Cracking Down on Price Gouging as a Better Solution to Lowering Costs Than Price Caps

Americans see cracking "down on corruption that leads to price gouging" as the solution (60%) to lowering costs, rather than price caps.

Which do you think is the better way for Congress to reduce costs?



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Strongest on Corruption: Returning Stolen Money, Prosecuting Companies for Fraud, Banning Price Hikes

Below are some potential policies to address corruption. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each one.

% Strongly Support

Dem Ind/Non-MAGA Reps.* MAGA Reps.*

Strongly support Somewhat support Not sure Oppose

Taking action to recover the money stolen through corruption and return it to American taxpayers	66	17	9	8	64	64	71
Prosecuting corporate fraud, wage theft, and other crimes companies and CEOs commit	65	17	8	10	66	60	69
Banning companies from raising prices unfairly during emergencies or shortages	62	20	8	10	67	58	56
Limiting the amount of money corporations can spend to influence elections	61	20	10	9	66	54	61
Banning companies from using personal data to charge different consumers different prices	60	21	9	10	63	54	62
Capping the amount corporations can charge consumers through hidden fees	59	20	12	9	65	54	56
Banning elected officials and judges from stock trading while in office using insider information	59	19	11	11	63	51	62
Enacting term limits for members of Congress	57	21	12	10	57	51	63
Banning the president from pardoning their own donors, business partners, or employees	53	20	12	15	68	46	36
Requiring the Justice Dept. to make prosecution decisions independently of the White House	48	23	17	12	62	39	34
Banning elected officials from becoming lobbyists after leaving office	47	23	16	14	47	45	48
Requiring the president and their family to sell their shares in private companies while in office	38	20	18	24	54	31	20

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Most Important to Bring Down Costs: Banning Price Hikes, Capping Fees, Prosecuting Companies, Returning Money

Please indicate how important you think each policy would be as a step toward bringing down costs for Americans.

% Very Important

	Dem	Ind/Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*
Very important			
Somewhat important			
Banning companies from raising prices unfairly during emergencies or shortages	66	56	52
Capping the amount corporations can charge consumers through hidden fees	63	56	50
Banning companies from using personal data to charge different consumers different prices	61	51	54
Prosecuting corporate fraud, wage theft, and other crimes companies and CEOs commit	63	53	47
Taking action to recover the money stolen through corruption and return it to American taxpayers	60	52	51
Limiting the amount of money corporations can spend to influence elections	61	48	48
Banning elected officials and judges from stock trading while in office using insider information	56	45	54
Enacting term limits for members of Congress	46	44	43
Banning the president from pardoning their own donors, business partners, or employees	57	36	25
Banning elected officials from becoming lobbyists after leaving office	45	37	41
Requiring the Justice Dept. to make prosecution decisions independently of the White House	52	34	24
Requiring the president and their family to sell their shares in private companies while in office	50	22	23

Very important

Somewhat important

Banning companies from raising prices unfairly during emergencies or shortages

60

25

Capping the amount corporations can charge consumers through hidden fees

57

25

Banning companies from using personal data to charge different consumers different prices

56

25

Prosecuting corporate fraud, wage theft, and other crimes companies and CEOs commit

56

27

Taking action to recover the money stolen through corruption and return it to American taxpayers

55

30

Limiting the amount of money corporations can spend to influence elections

54

26

Banning elected officials and judges from stock trading while in office using insider information

52

29

Enacting term limits for members of Congress

45

28

Banning the president from pardoning their own donors, business partners, or employees

43

25

Banning elected officials from becoming lobbyists after leaving office

42

30

Requiring the Justice Dept. to make prosecution decisions independently of the White House

40

29

Requiring the president and their family to sell their shares in private companies while in office

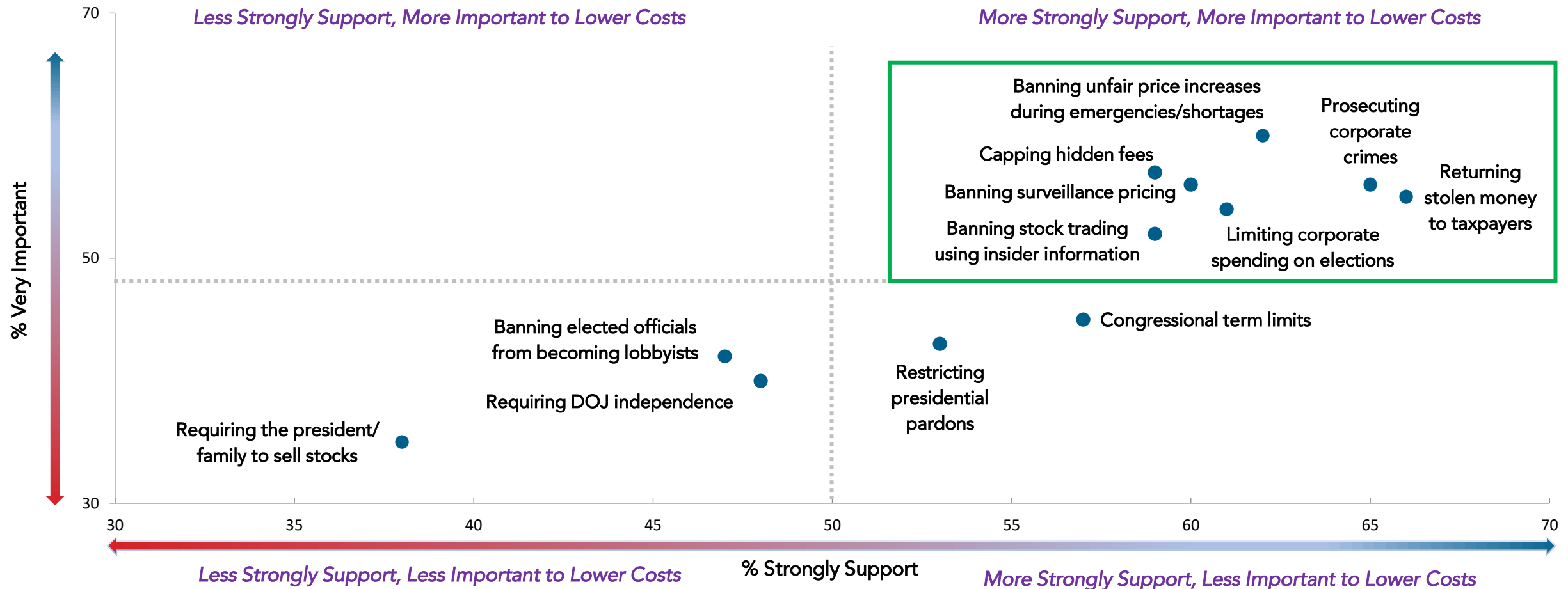
35

23

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Most Popular/Cost-Lowering Against Corruption: Taking on Corporations, Returning Money, Banning Insider Trading



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On Corruption: No One Should Be Above the Law, We Should Crack Down on Waste, and We Need to Return Stolen Money

Please indicate how convincing you find each statement as a reason to address corruption.

	% 5 (extremely convincing)	% 4 (somewhat convincing)		% 5 (extremely convincing)	
			Dem	Ind/Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*
We need to crack down on corruption because no one should be above the law , whether they are a politician, billionaire CEO, or wealthy donor	54	21	59	50	49
We need to crack down on corruption to restore Americans' trust and confidence in their government and elected officials	49	25	51	43	52
We need to crack down on corruption to cut waste, fraud, and abuse from government spending... *	47	27	48	46	47
We need to crack down on corruption because corporate favoritism and political influence are raising the cost of groceries, housing, healthcare, and other necessities	45	28	49	41	45
We need to crack down on corruption to unrig the system and make it work for everyone , not just for the wealthy elites who pay for it to work in their favor	45	25	51	39	43
We need to crack down on corporate corruption and return money to the people who were overcharged, underpaid, or cheated	45	24	47	43	43
We need to crack down on corruption because every dollar a corporation gets from rigging the rules is a dollar taken out of your paycheck and put into a CEO's bonus	43	24	46	39	40

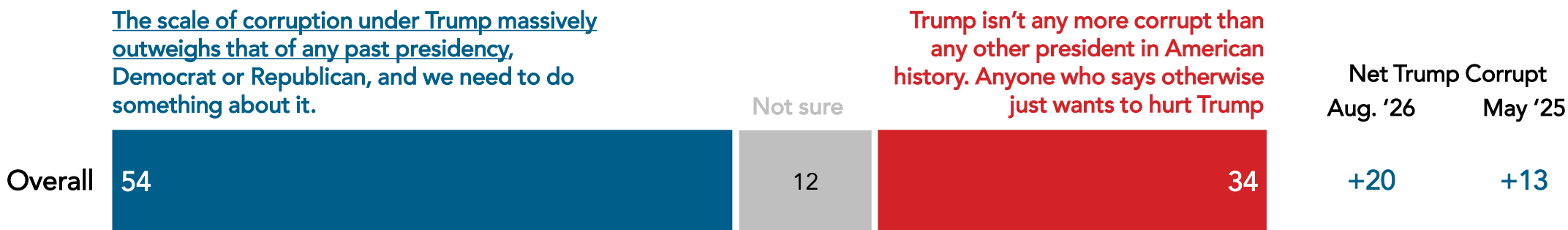
*Full question text read: "...as Washington wastes your tax dollars on insider deals, no-bid contracts, and programs that enrich the wealthy and well-connected."
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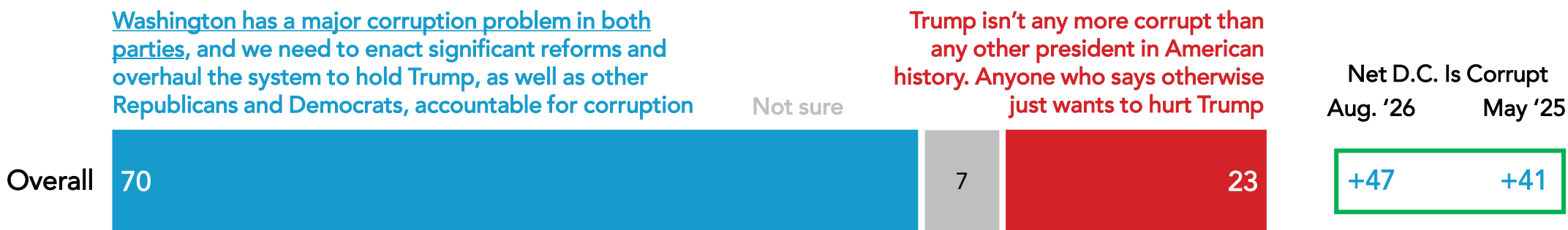
Americans Continue to Be More Convinced D.C. Has a Bipartisan Corruption Problem More Than Think Trump Is Singular Culprit

While a majority of Americans agree that “the scale of corruption under Trump massively outweighs that of any past presidency” (54%), an even larger majority agree that “Washington has a major corruption problem in both parties” (70%).

(Split sample) Which side do you agree with more?



(Split sample) Which side do you agree with more?



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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.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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