

navigator*

Thursday, September 24th

Food Safety



Credit: Shutterstock/Monticello

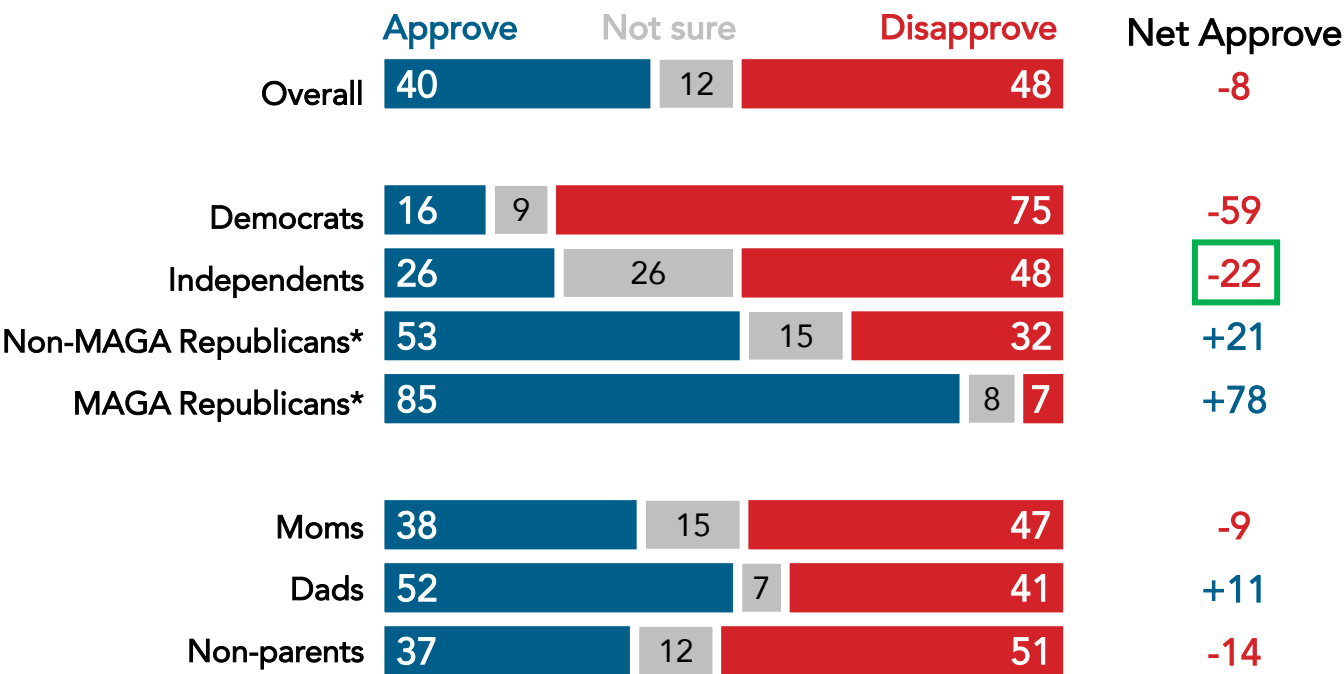
Key Takeaways:

- Americans are worried about food safety and lukewarm on Trump's handling of the issue, but many trust neither party to address it.
- One in five are "food safety skeptics" – concerned but trusting neither party – and skew moderate, independent, female, and younger.
- Majorities say recalls are increasing and are changing their behavior as a result, especially food safety skeptics.
- Criticisms of Trump and Republicans on food safety resonate more than their defenses.

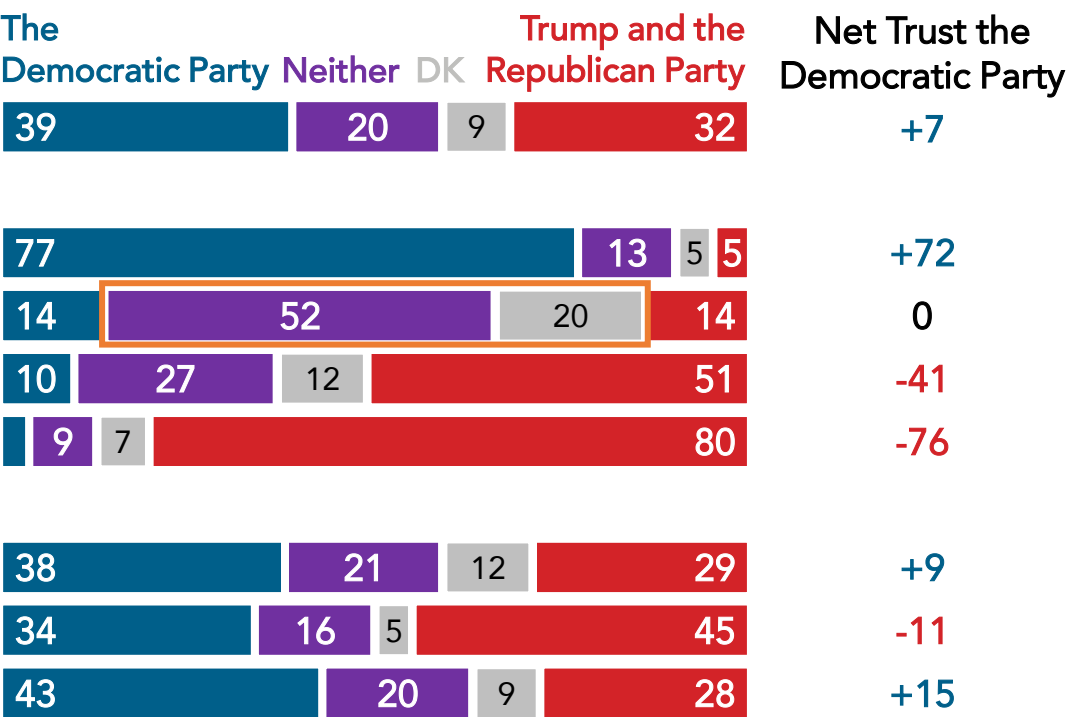
Nearly Half Disapprove of Trump’s Handling of Food Safety – But Many Do Not Trust Either Party on the Issue

While roughly half of independents disapprove of Trump’s handling of food safety (net -22 approve), a majority don’t trust either party to handle this issue (52% trust neither).

Please indicate whether you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling: Food safety.



Please indicate who you personally trust more to handle: Food safety.

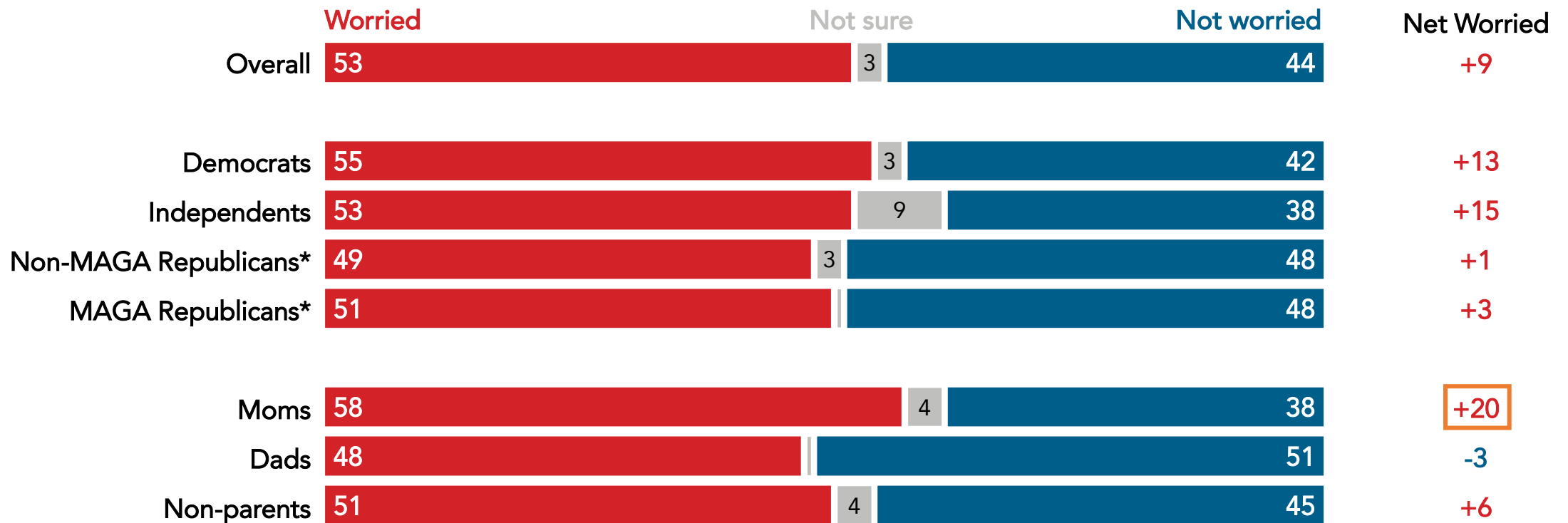


*"MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who identify as "a supporter of the MAGA movement" on a separate question, while "non-MAGA Republicans" are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted September 10-September 14, 2026. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

A Majority Worry About the Safety of the Food They Are Eating or Feeding Their Family

Moms (58% worried) are particularly worried about the safety of the food they're eating or feeding their family.

How worried would you say you are about the safety of the food you're eating or feeding your family?



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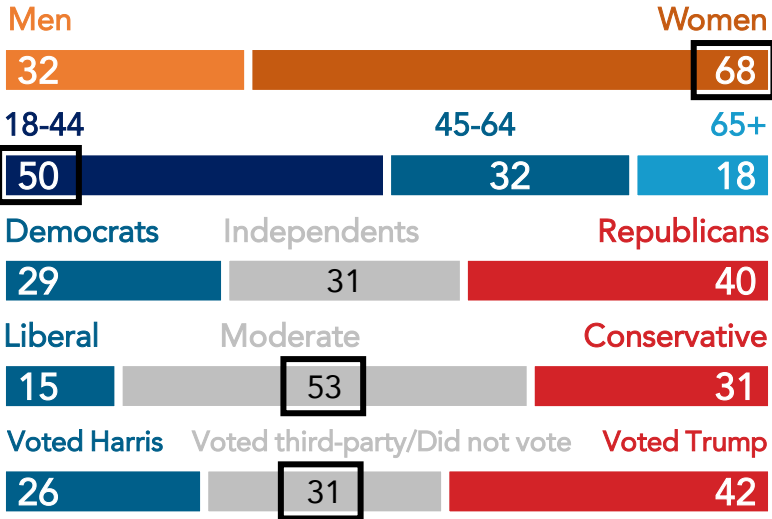
Nearly One in Five Are Food Safety Skeptics

Food safety skeptics are more likely to be women (68% are women), younger (50% 18-44), and moderates (53%). Groups that are disproportionately likely to include food safety skeptics include independents (39% are food safety skeptics), women 18-54 (23%), politically disengaged Americans (22%), and moms (19%).

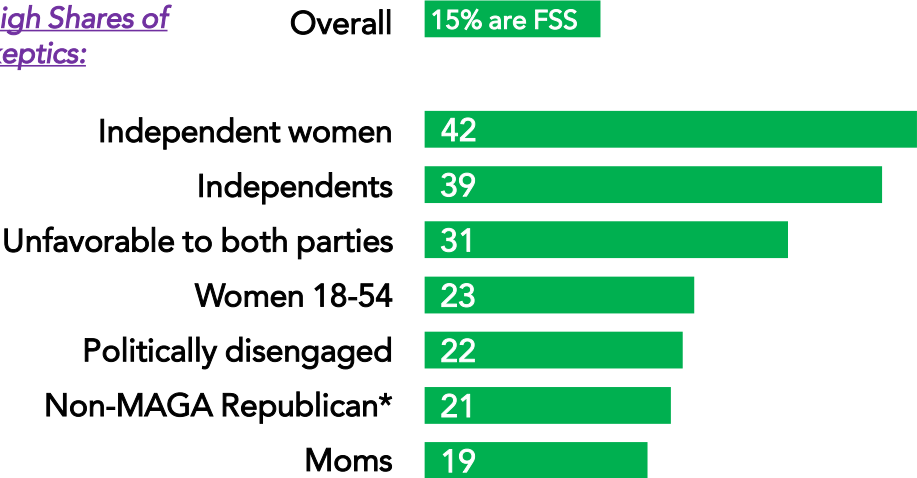
Food Safety Skeptics (15% of Americans):

Food safety skeptics do not trust the Democratic Party or Trump and the Republican Party to handle food safety. They also say that they are very or somewhat worried about the safety of the food they’re eating or feeding their family.

Demographic Composition of Food Safety Skeptics:



Groups With High Shares of Food Safety Skeptics:

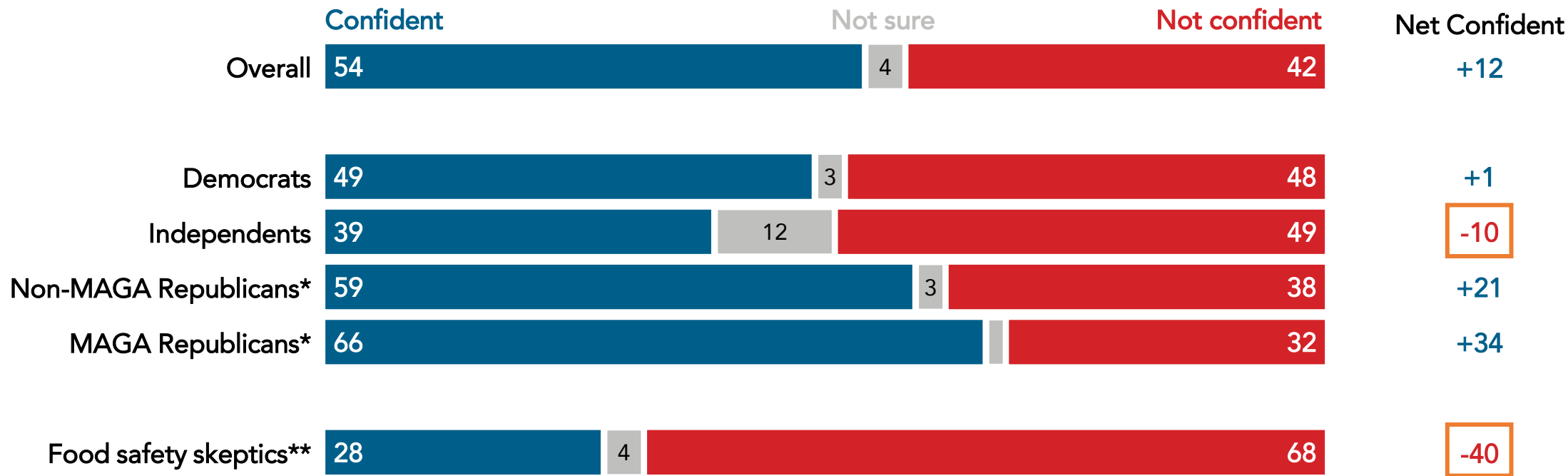


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Two in Five Americans Are Not Confident Their Food Is Generally Safe and Free from Harmful Ingredients and Pesticides

Independents are less confident that their food is generally safe and free from pesticides (just 39% confident).

How confident are you that your food is generally safe and free from harmful ingredients and pesticides?



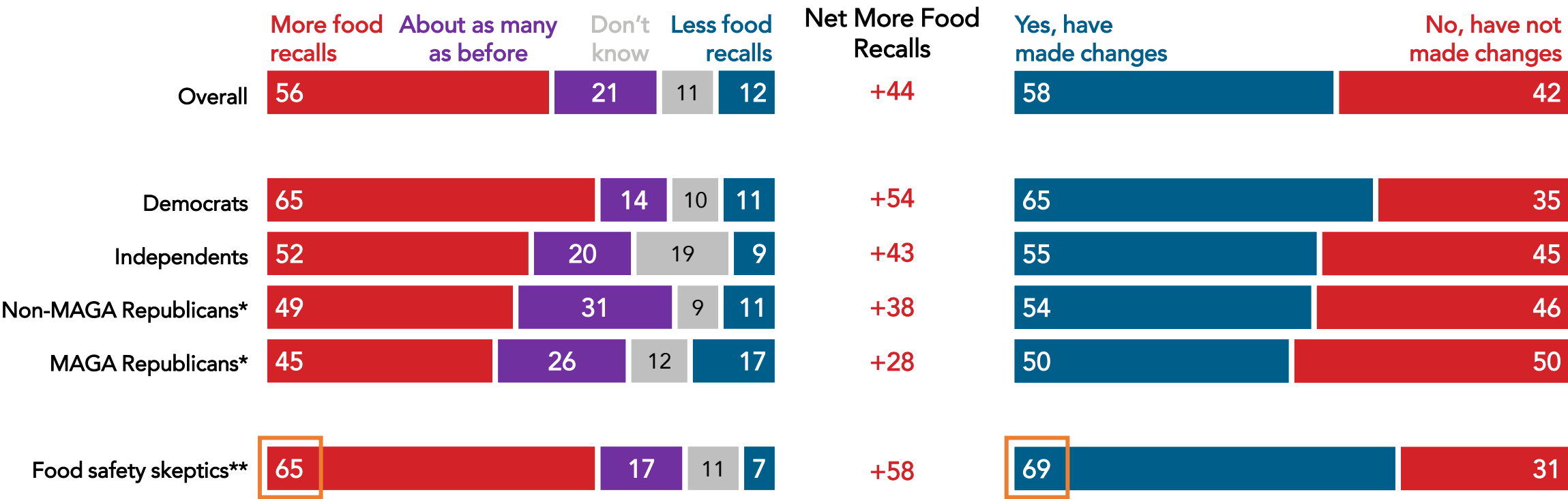
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Nearly Three in Five Say There Have Been More Food Recalls Recently and That They've Changed Their Behavior as a Result

Two in three food safety skeptics** say there have been more food recalls recently (65%) and that they have made changes to what they eat because of it (69%).

Which of the following comes closest to your view about food recalls in recent months? There have been...

Have you personally made any changes to what you eat because of food recalls in recent months?



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Americans Blame Government Regulators and Food Corporations for Recent Food Recalls, Though Partisanship Plays a Role

Below is a list of people, groups, and organizations that some blame for recent food recalls. Please indicate which four you blame the most, if any.

	% top four blame most	Dem	Ind	Non-MAGA Reps.*	MAGA Reps.*	Food Safety Skeptics**
Government regulators like the Food and Drug Administration, or FDA	42%	44	46	38	40	55
Large food corporations	41	34	39	50	48	42
Donald Trump	34	56	28	19	8	28
Factory farms and Big Agriculture	32	27	27	38	41	37
Chemical and pharmaceutical companies	28	22	27	33	36	41
The Department of Health and Human Services, or HHS	27	33	30	19	23	37
Robert F. Kennedy Jr.	25	46	14	10	5	17
Republicans in Congress	22	36	19	10	4	16
Democrats in Congress	13	6	8	19	23	14
Grocery stores	11	8	9	14	17	12
Farmers	10	8	8	15	12	8

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Americans Agree With Democrats' Critiques of Trump and GOP on Food Safety, Including Those Persuadable on Food Safety

Which side do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?

Democrats who say recent food safety problems are caused by Trump putting people with no medical training, like Robert F. Kennedy Jr., in charge of our public health agencies. Instead of relying on experienced medical experts, Trump is putting unqualified, political leadership in charge, putting all of us in harm's way

Trump and Republicans who say food recalls are a sign that the Food and Drug Administration is working, and we are actually on track to have fewer food recalls than in previous years. Democrats are politicizing food safety while also promoting costly and burdensome regulations

Net Agree With Progressive

58	POLITICIANS INSTEAD OF EXPERTS	42	+16	+76	-8	-70	+32
56	WEAKENED OVERSIGHT	44	+12	+80	-18	-76	+40

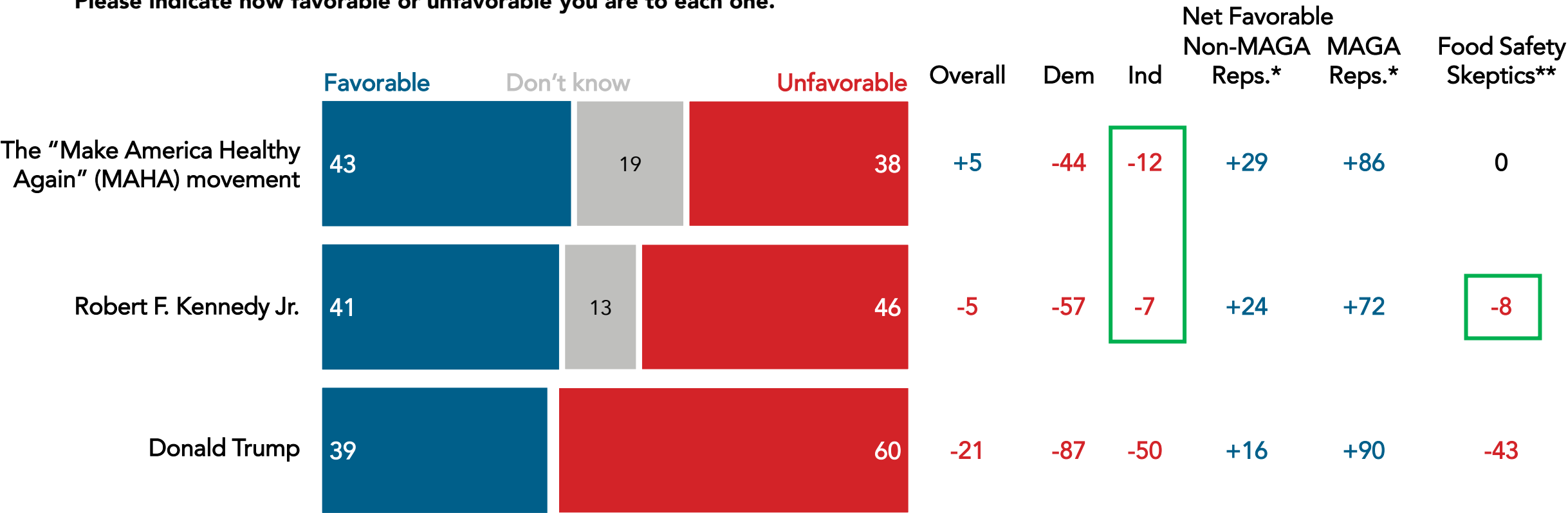
Democrats who say recent food safety problems are caused by Trump's cuts to public health agencies and weakened oversight of big food corporations, putting Americans at risk. Republicans are gutting the safeguards that keep our food safe while letting powerful corporations cut corners and put us all in harm's way

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Views of MAHA and RFK Are Mixed

Independents are more unfavorable than favorable toward both the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement (net -12 favorable) and Robert F. Kennedy Jr. (net -7). While food safety skeptics** are mixed on MAHA (net 0), they are negative on RFK (net -8).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to each one.

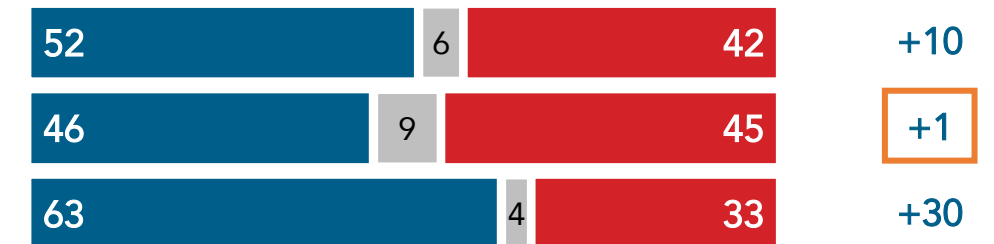


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Americans Are Less Confident Their Drinking Water Is Safe from PFAS Than They Are from Pesticides Overall

(Split sample) How confident are you that your water is generally safe and free from harmful chemicals like pesticides?

(Split sample) How confident are you that your water is generally safe and free from harmful chemicals like PFAS, also known as "forever chemicals"?



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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 September 10-September 14, 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.

For Press inquiries contact:

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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