



The partisan polarization of the pandemic

CVI Pandemic battleground tracking: wave 2

April 29 to May 3, 2020

CAMPAIGNS

CORPORATIONS

ADVOCACY

WORLDWIDE

Definition of Battleground

Total 16-state Presidential and Senate battleground: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin

8 Diverse States = AZ (+5), CO (+1), FL (+2), GA (+5), NV (+1), NM (+3), NC (+3), VA (+1)

8 Blue Wall States = IA (+3), MI (+1), ME (+3), MN (+1), NH (-), OH (+3), PA (-), WI (-)

4 Regions :

- Northeast (ME, NH, PA),
- Midwest (IA, MI, MN, OH, WI)
- South (FL, GA, NC, VA)
- West (AZ, CO, NM, NV)

Methodology

BATTLEGROUNDS WEB POLL, WEIGHTED TO PHONE POLL

APRIL BATTLEGROUNDS WEB POLL: This large-scale web survey of 2,000 registered voters in this 16-state battleground was conducted online April 29-May 3, 2020 from a voter-file sample.

- The registered voter web survey is voter-file matched to produce a high-quality sample of real voters with the added advantage of known vote history. It is also well-suited for conducting experiments to test message strategies and executions.

WEIGHTING TO PHONE POLLS: The web poll was weighted to a rolling average of recent phone polls. The last phone poll of 1,000 registered voters in the battleground that was conducted March 9-16, 2020 from a voter-file sample. 67% of respondents were reached on cell phones. The margin of error is +/- 3.5 percentage points.

- The phone survey includes core demographic and ideological questions, including key thermometer measures, and is used to compare and apply political and cultural weights the web survey results to offset bias of online sample.
- Only with such a survey can we properly weight our web survey, which we know are often biased to be culturally liberal and more educated.



Key Findings:

- The Tea Party-Trump Republican Party was forced to lead the country's response to the pandemic and that accelerated the polarization of the country and marginalization of the GOP — at a very high human cost.
- Trump has cheered governors opening up the economy and protestors liberating their states, and the country and some Republicans fear this will prove tragic.
- Republicans rally behind getting the economy started in an anti-pro-life charge against their party, but Democrats and independents are staunchly behind governors who are keeping people at home until safe.
- The partisan polarization has even shaped how much they fear an immediate family member becoming seriously ill. Half of Democrats score the most worried, 8 to 10 on a 10-point scale, but only a quarter of Republicans. That explains why so many Republican political leaders have so much trouble holding the line on government control.



Key Findings:

- The level of support for new proposals for a possible new CARES package rises to stratospheric levels. At each point in this pandemic crisis, the country becomes even more supportive of the bold options and bigger role for government.
- Some of the reason why people have expressed less worry about their finances rather than health is this massive cash support that people received, so it is not surprising that 86 percent of registered voters approve of the rescue plan.
- The number of voters who could now afford a sudden \$500 expense jumped from two thirds to three quarters, and a remarkable 70 percent of voters received a direct payment into their bank account to deal with the crisis
- Democratic leaders need to do dramatically better if they are to own the amazing rescue of average citizens and small business. Just 28 percent think the Senate and House Democrats are responsible, and 23 percent do not know.

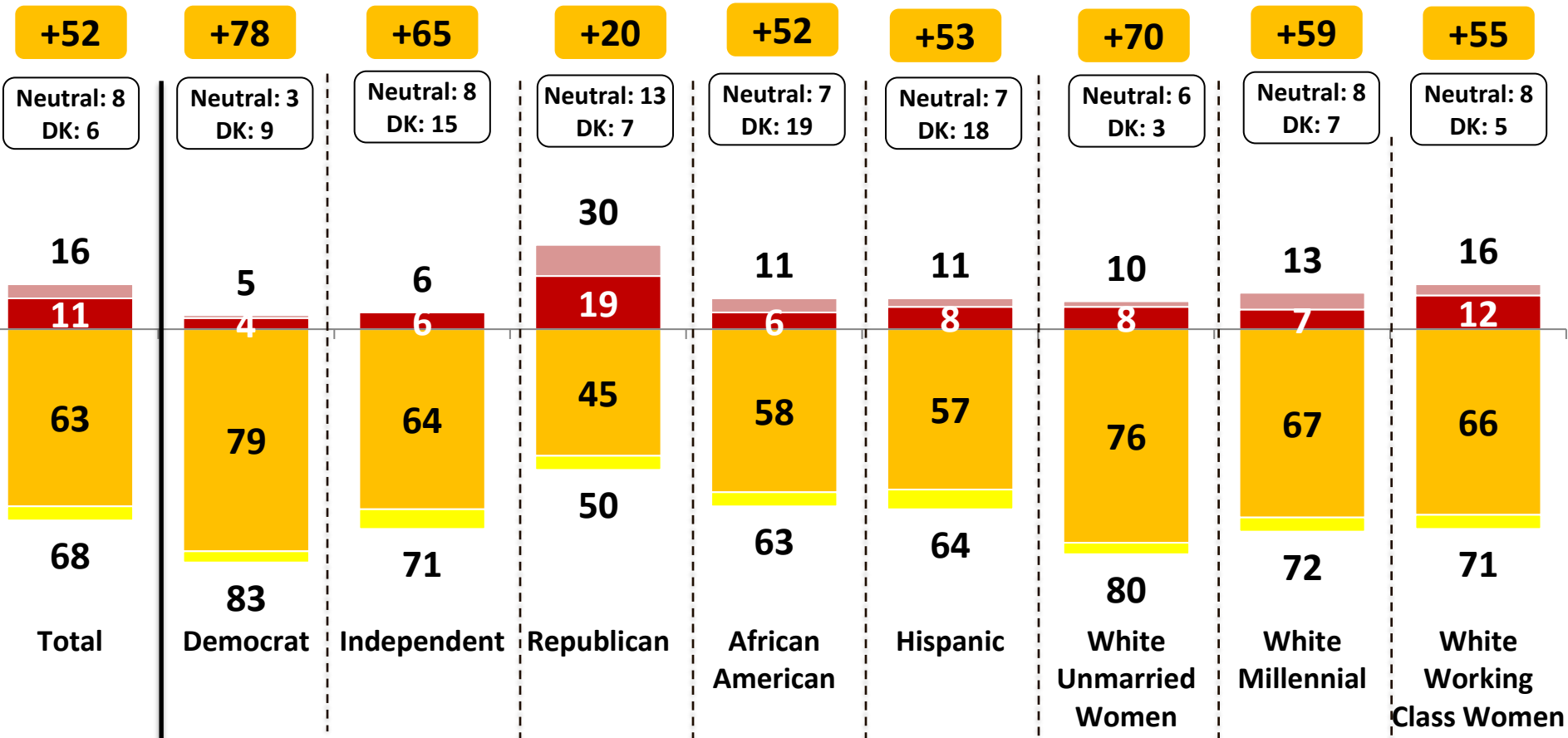


Anti-stay-at-home demonstrators hated by country and half GOP

Please rate your feelings toward some people, organizations, and concepts, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.

The anti-stay-at-home demonstrators

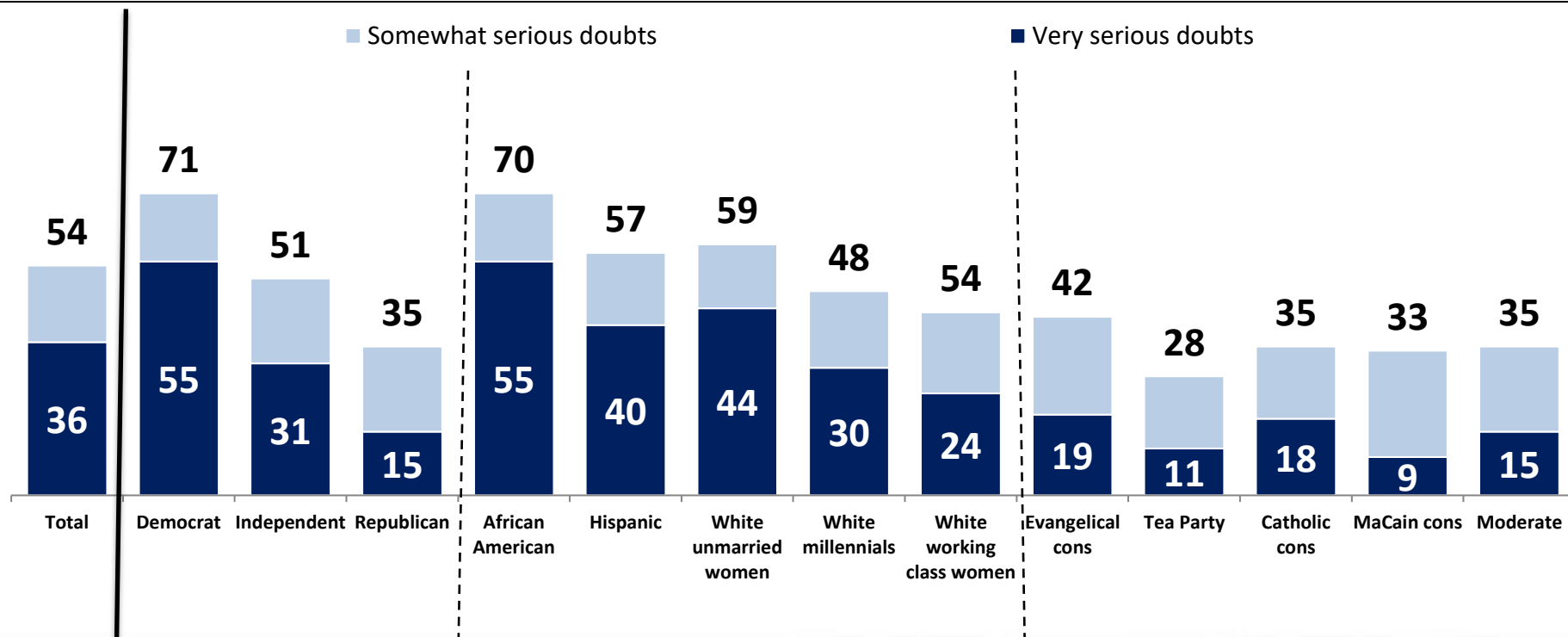
■ Very Warm (76-100) ■ Warm (51-74) ■ Very Cool (0-25) ■ Cool (0-24)



Trump tweeting to “liberate” Democratic-run states raises serious doubts across the board; only Tea Party GOP base unfazed

Here are some statements that are critical of the Trump administration handling of the pandemic. Please read each one and indicate whether it raises very serious doubts, serious doubts, minor doubts, or no real doubts in your own mind about President Trump.

President Trump has tweeted "Liberate" Minnesota, Michigan and Virginia in support of demonstrators that were surrounding state capitol buildings and defying Democratic governors' stay at home orders in states hit hardest by the pandemic. Some sported assault rifles that were legal to carry openly. The president was urging people to defy his own advice on how to fight the virus and save lives

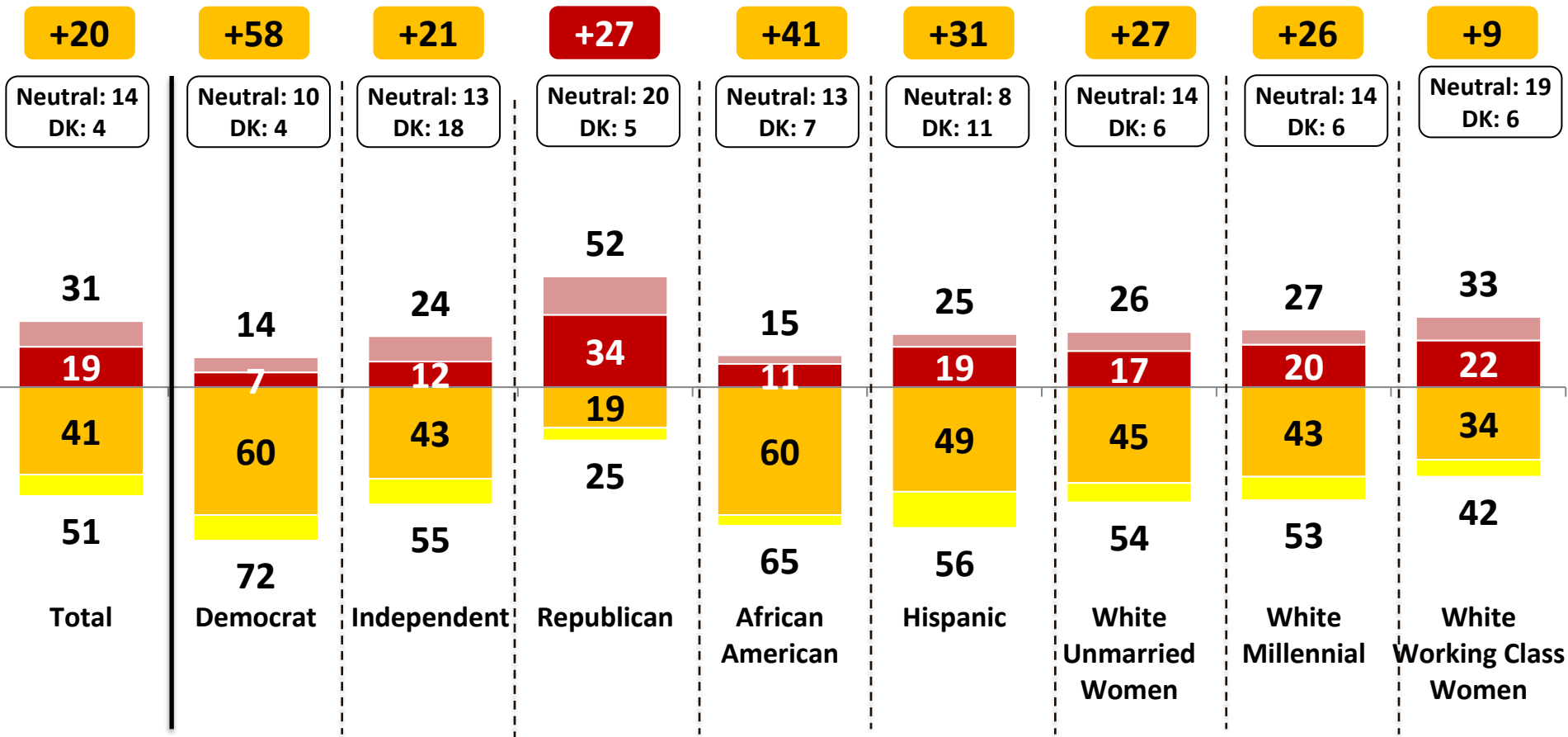


Governors opening up economy viewed warmly by only a third of country

Please rate your feelings toward some people, organizations, and concepts, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.

The Governors who are ending stay-at-home orders to restart the economy

■ Very Warm (76-100) ■ Warm (51-74) ■ Very Cool (0-25) ■ Cool (0-24)

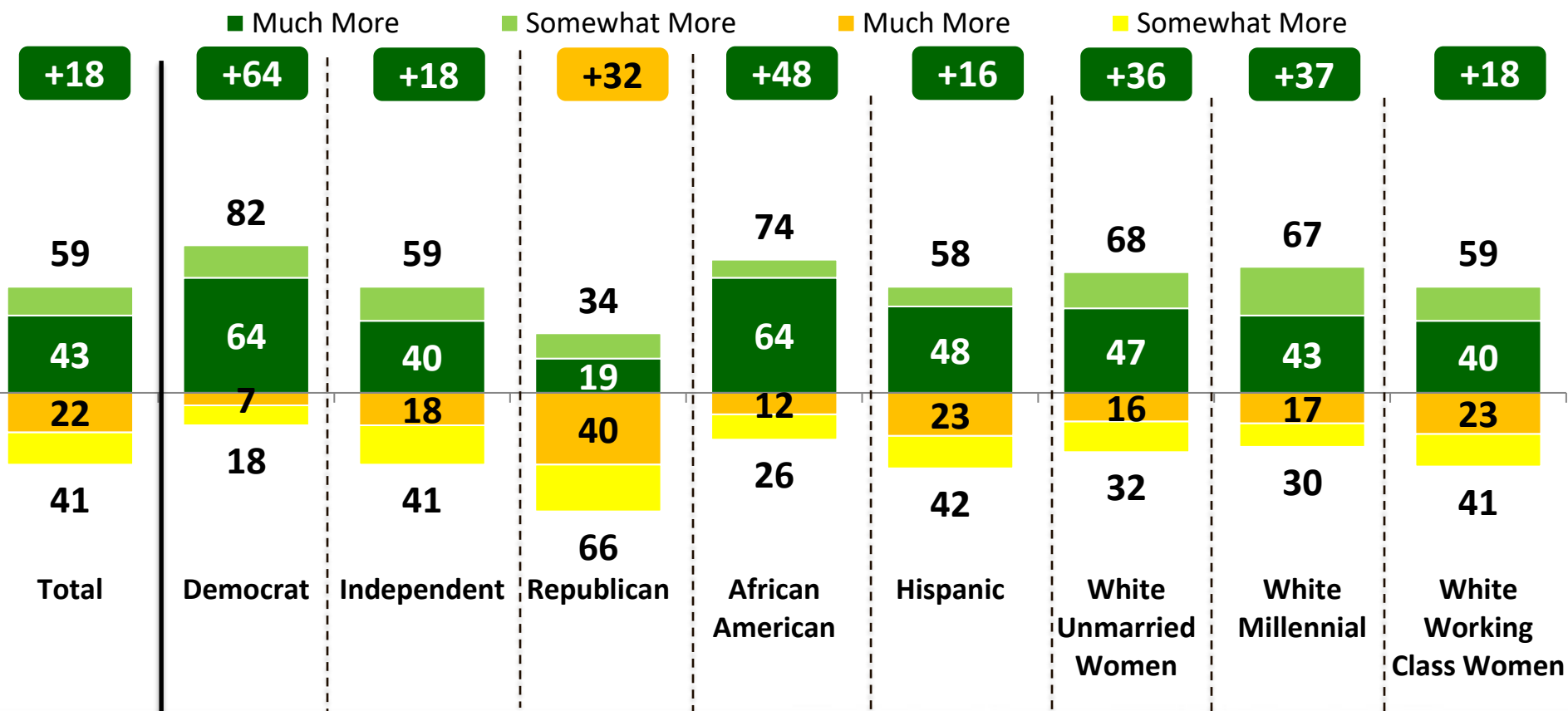


Almost 60 percent of country reject the way opening, including 1/3 of GOP

Which one of the following statements comes closer to your point of view, even if neither is exactly right?

The governors who are calling on people to stay home and separate are doing the right thing.

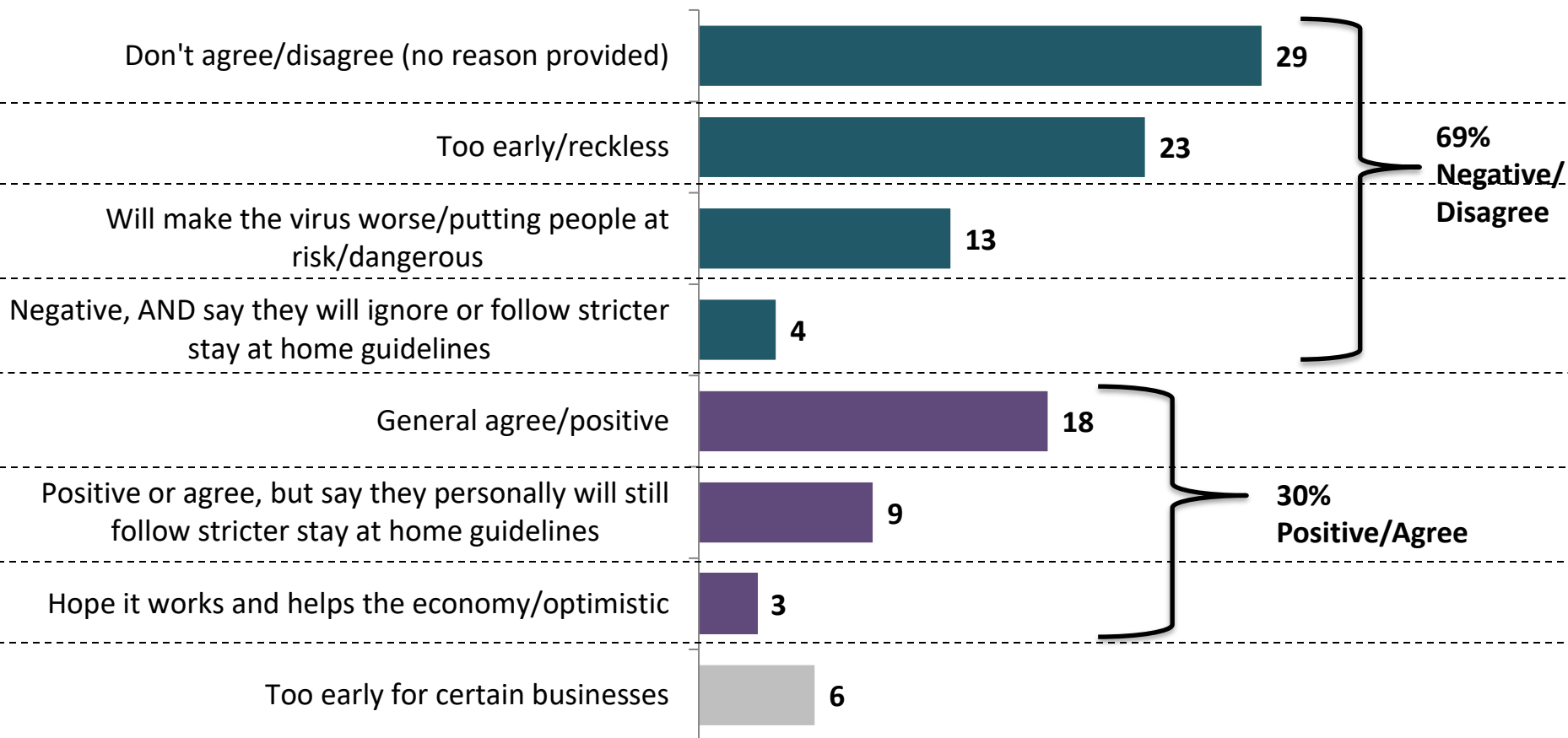
The governors who are ending stay-at-home orders, though keeping social distancing where possible, to open up the economy are doing the right thing.



When asked to share reactions to Georgia opening, comments overwhelmingly negative, and those who agree give few reasons or will still follow guidelines

Please describe your feelings when you heard that. Whatever you want to share.

OPEN END – GEORGIA OPENING



Open-ended reaction to Georgia governor plan reopening safely, including theaters, barbers and dine-in restaurants

You probably heard Georgia Governor, Brian Kemp, declared that he plans to incrementally and safely reopen sectors of the state's economy by Monday. It will include regular sanitation and social distancing. But Georgia will open theaters, bowling alleys, barbers and hair designers, and restaurant dining-in services. Please describe your feelings when you heard that. Whatever you want to share.

VERBATIM RESPONSES

“Unbelievable that a governor would make such a move when the state had not met the criteria for opening businesses. The state’s curve had not begun to flatten, and testing was not fully implemented in the state.”

“He's stupid & nobody is going to follow that.”

“Sick to my stomach that we are in a hot spot and Kemp is letting the Jennie out of the bottle.”

“I believe it is too soon. He opened up businesses that have more direct contact with people because they provide personal services. He said if the count goes up, we are prepared. We don’t have any assurance of having enough.”

“I think it's too early, but then again some businesses can't survive”

“Happiness”



Large majority bothered leaders willing to have a lot of older people die

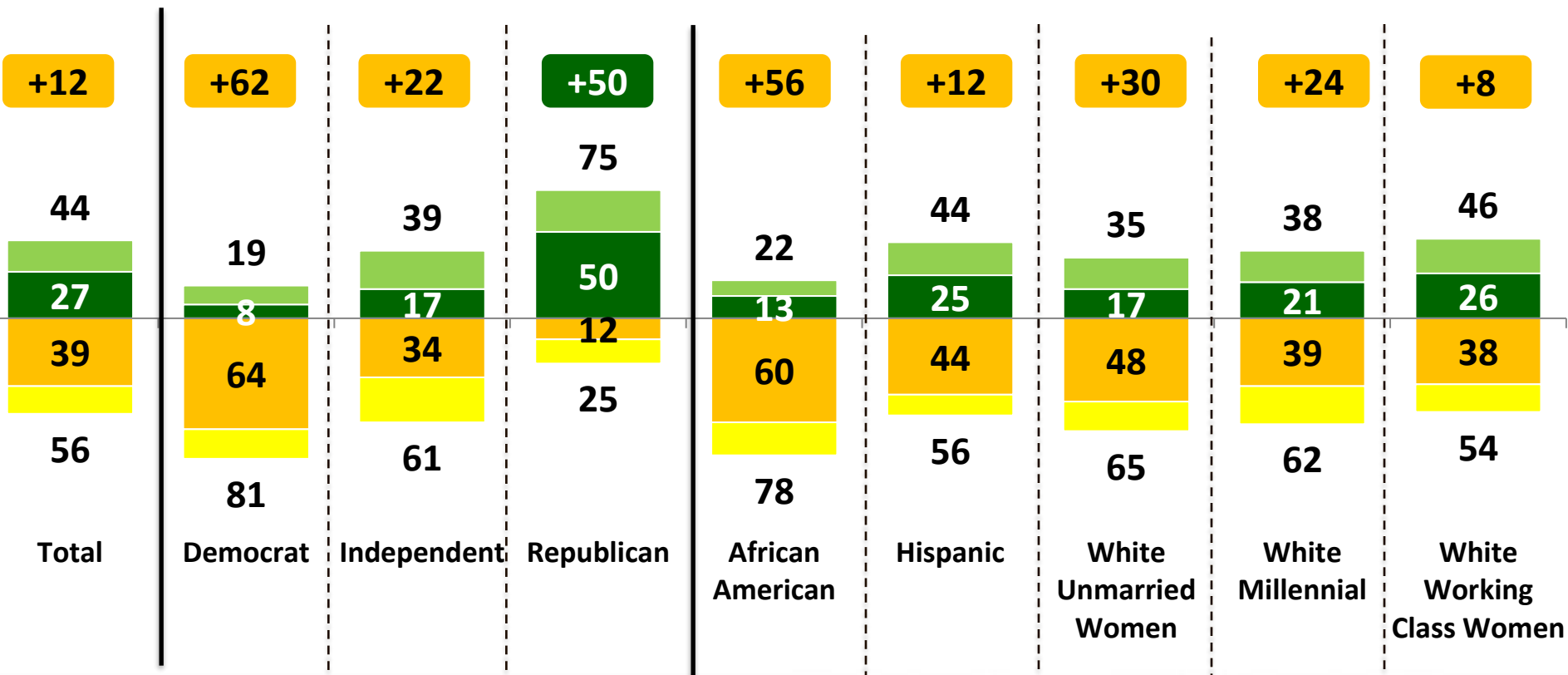
Which one of the following statements comes closer to your point of view, even if neither is exactly right?

Republican leaders are right to be focused on the economic crisis and getting people back to work.

I am bothered that some leaders seem willing to have a lot more older people die.

■ Much More ■ Somewhat More

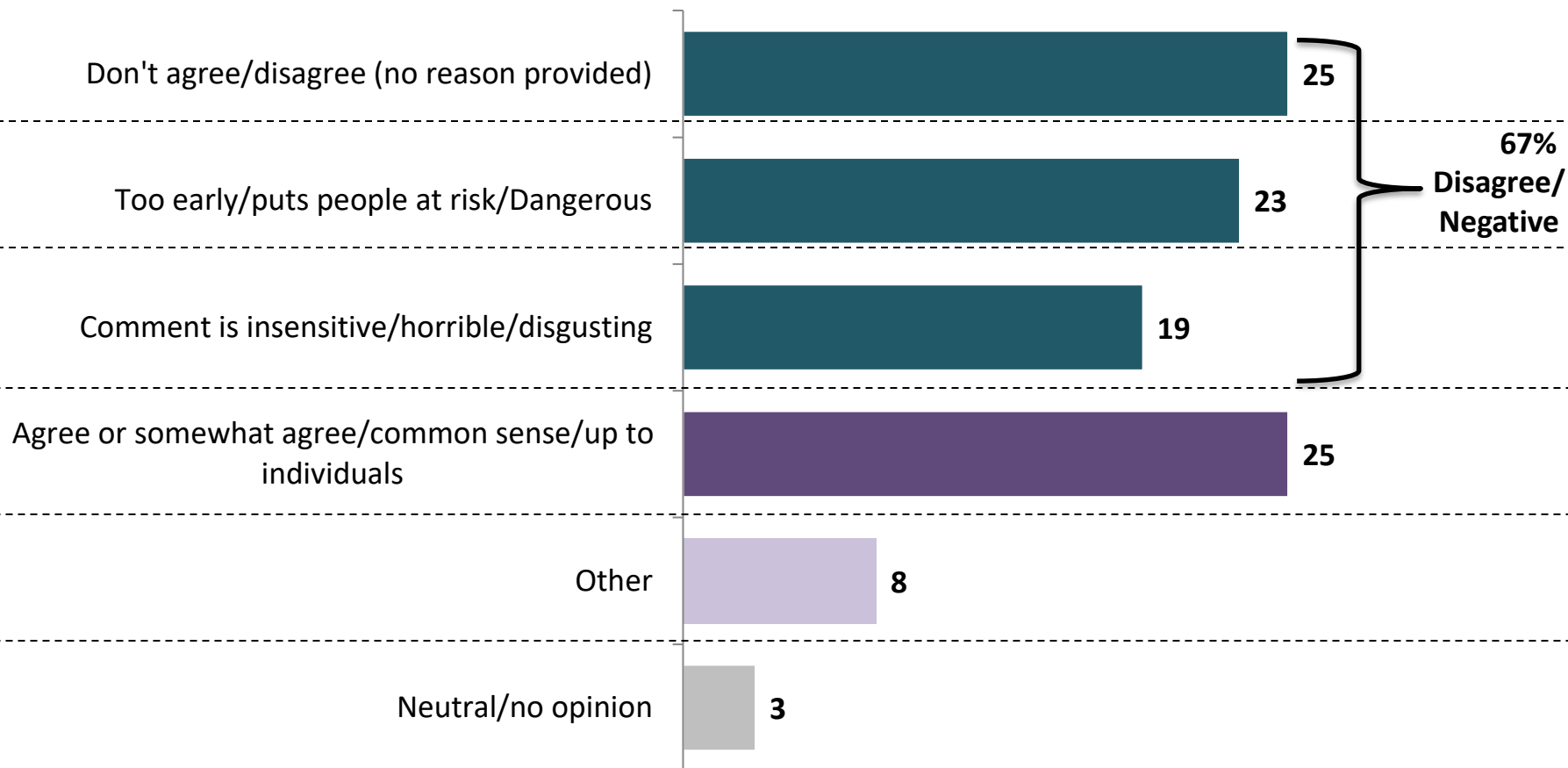
■ Much More ■ Somewhat More



When asked to share feelings after hearing Texas Lt. Governor on seniors, most disagree and and many express outrage

Please describe your feelings when you heard that. Whatever you want to share.

OPEN END – SACRIFICE SENIORS



Open-ended reaction to Texas Lt. Governor statement on seniors

You probably heard the Texas Lieutenant Governor said that as a senior citizen, he and other seniors should be willing to take a chance on their survival in exchange for opening the economy again. Please describe your feelings when you heard that. Whatever you want to share.

VERBATIM RESPONSES

"I think it's a cruel and heartless thing to say."

"I was shocked and appalled by the statement. He basically is saying that senior citizens are expendable, which is absolutely awful."

"I didn't hear that, but it is shocking to think that he/she would ask seniors to lay down their lives"

"Easy to say if you are not at risk."

"Good for him - I'm staying locked-down."

"He can that for himself, but he doesn't have the right to make that decision for others."

"I think we should all be responsible for our own well being. So yes agree with statement."

"It's his choice and if he's willing to take the chance, then he should be able to do so."



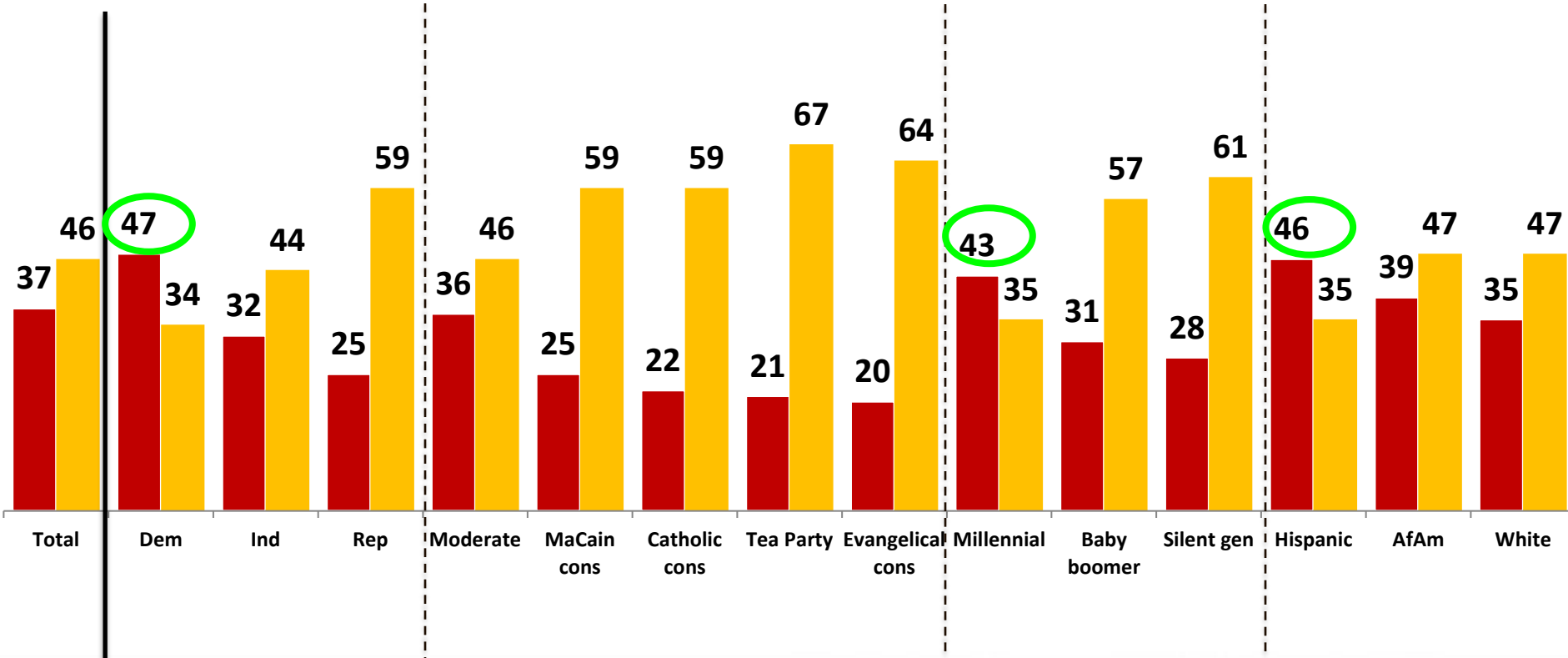
Even fear of losing immediate family member shaped by partisanship & world view

How fearful are you that you will catch COVID-19 and get seriously ill? Please rate your concern from 1 to 10.

FEAR OF FAMILY GETTING SICK (1-10 SCALE)

■ 8 to 10 - most worried

■ 1 to 5 - less worried

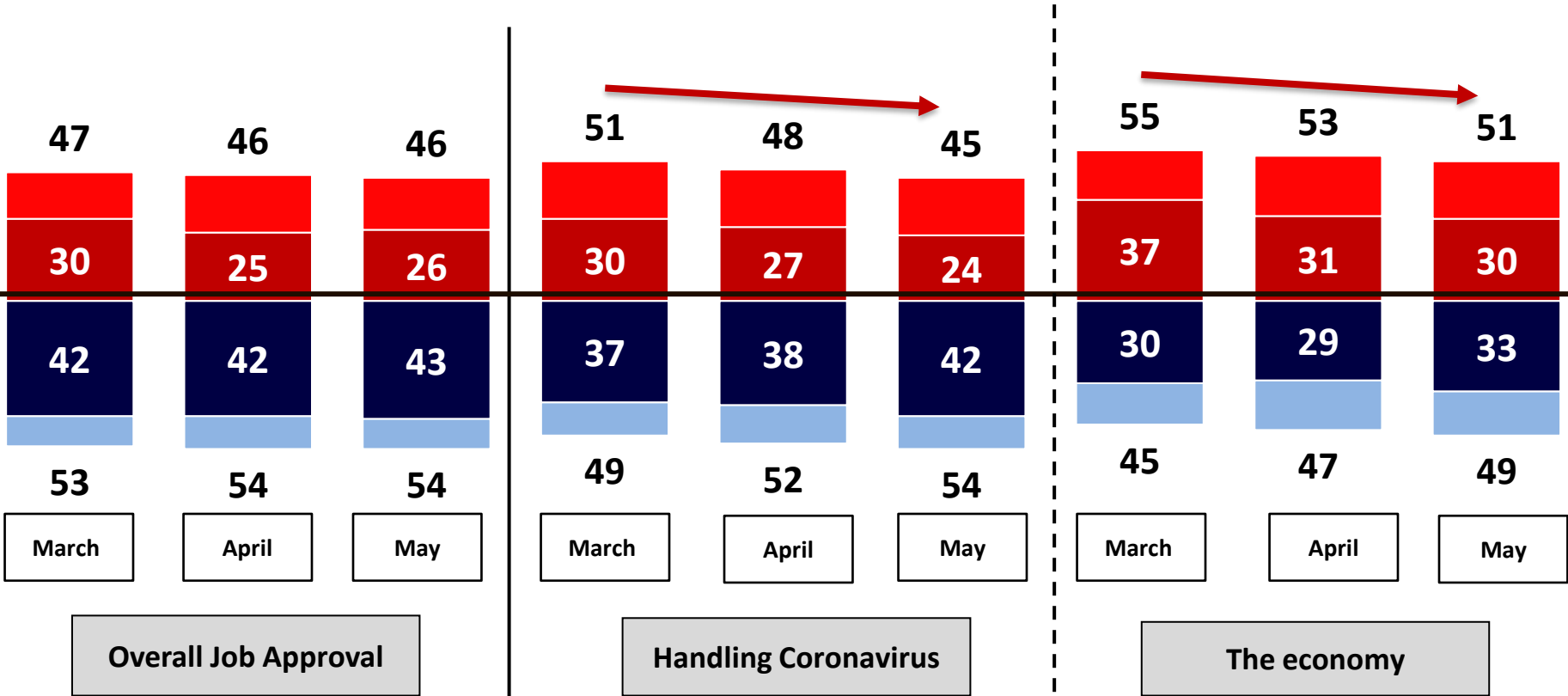


Trump's approval falling on handling coronavirus and economy

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

TRUMP APPROVAL IN PANDEMIC

■ Strong approve ■ Strong disapprove

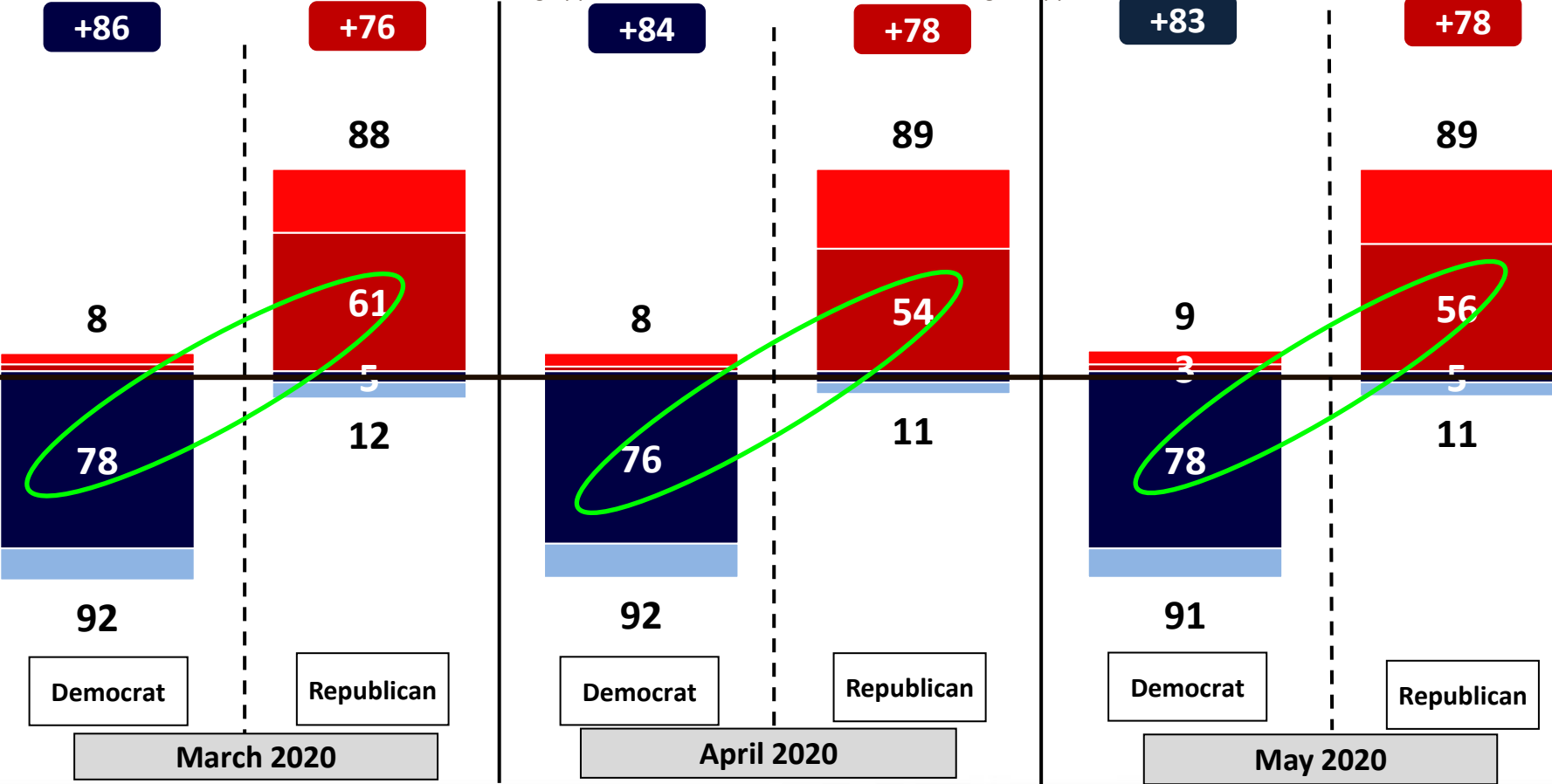


Democrats more anti-Trump than Republicans pro-Trump and more interested in the election

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

TRUMP APPROVAL

■ Strong approve ■ Strong disapprove



Trump losing with increasing certainty the war on coronavirus

Which one of the following statements comes closer to your point of view, even if neither is exactly right?

President Trump is winning the war against the coronavirus.

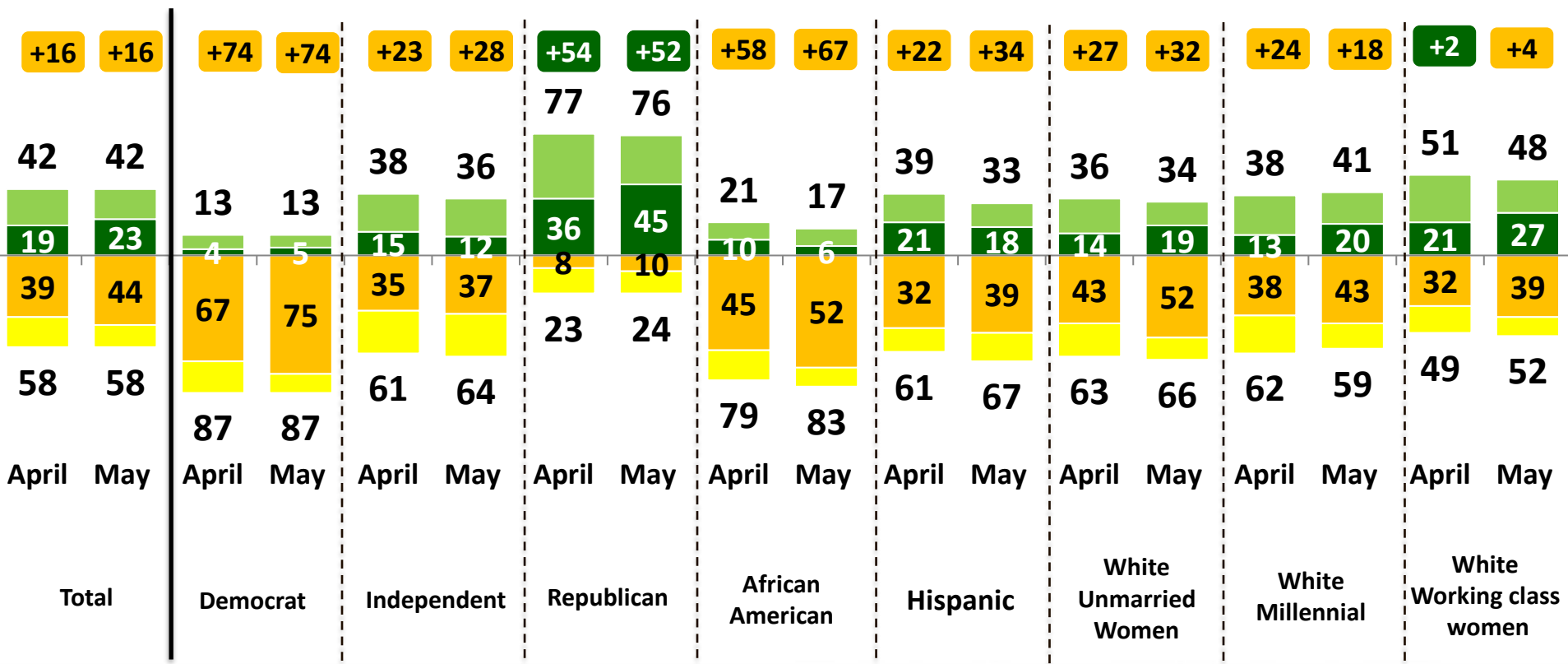
President Trump is not winning the war against the pandemic.

■ Much More

■ Somewhat More

■ Much More

■ Somewhat More

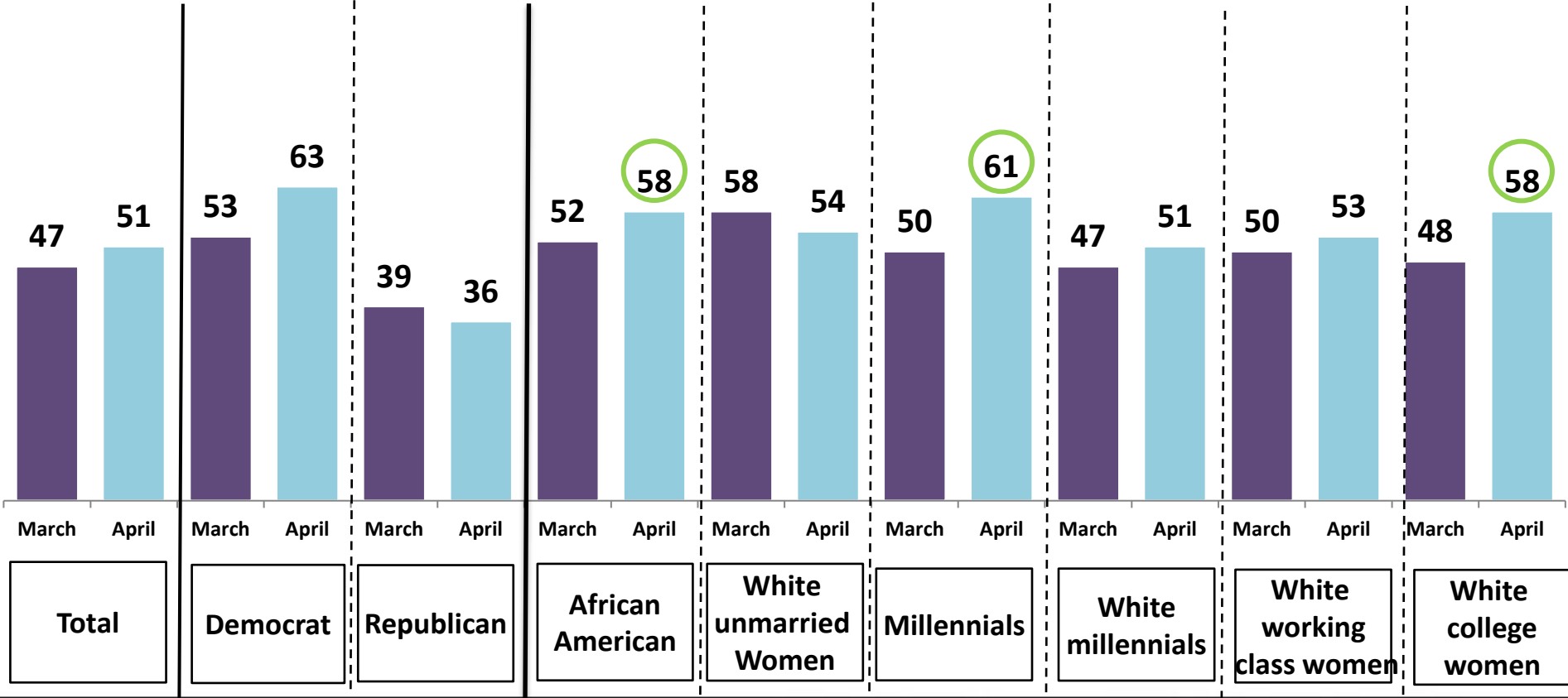


Public answer: vote in safety

A majority now want to vote from home, particularly Democrats and determined voters

Thinking about how you intend to vote in this election, do you think you will vote early at an official voting place, at home with a mail in ballot, or at the polling place on Election Day?

% VOTING FROM HOME BY MAIL



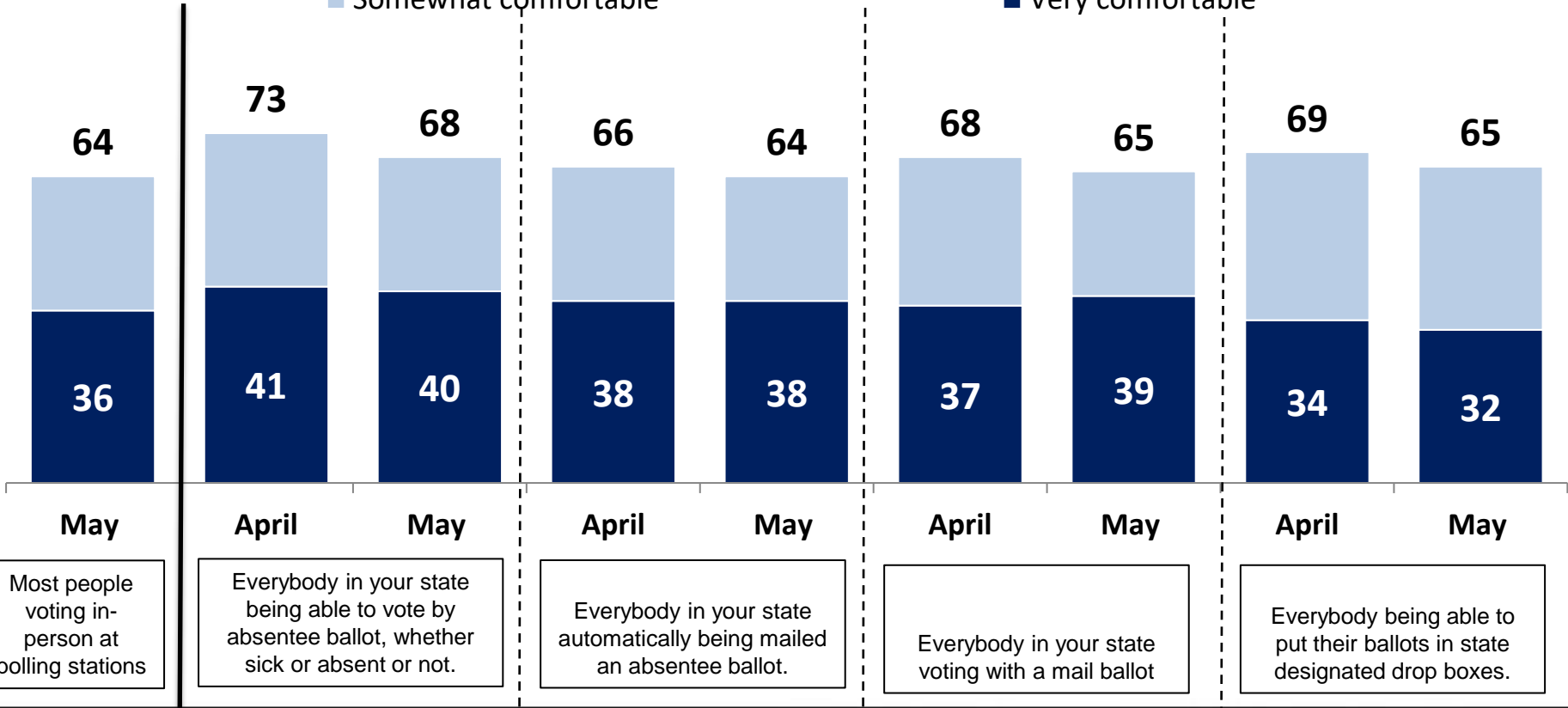
Support for expanded Vote by mail stable and with intensity

Here are some ways people will be voting this year. For each one, please tell me whether you feel very comfortable, somewhat, not comfortable or not at all comfortable with each.

VOTING METHODS

Registered Voters in the Battleground

■ Somewhat comfortable ■ Very comfortable



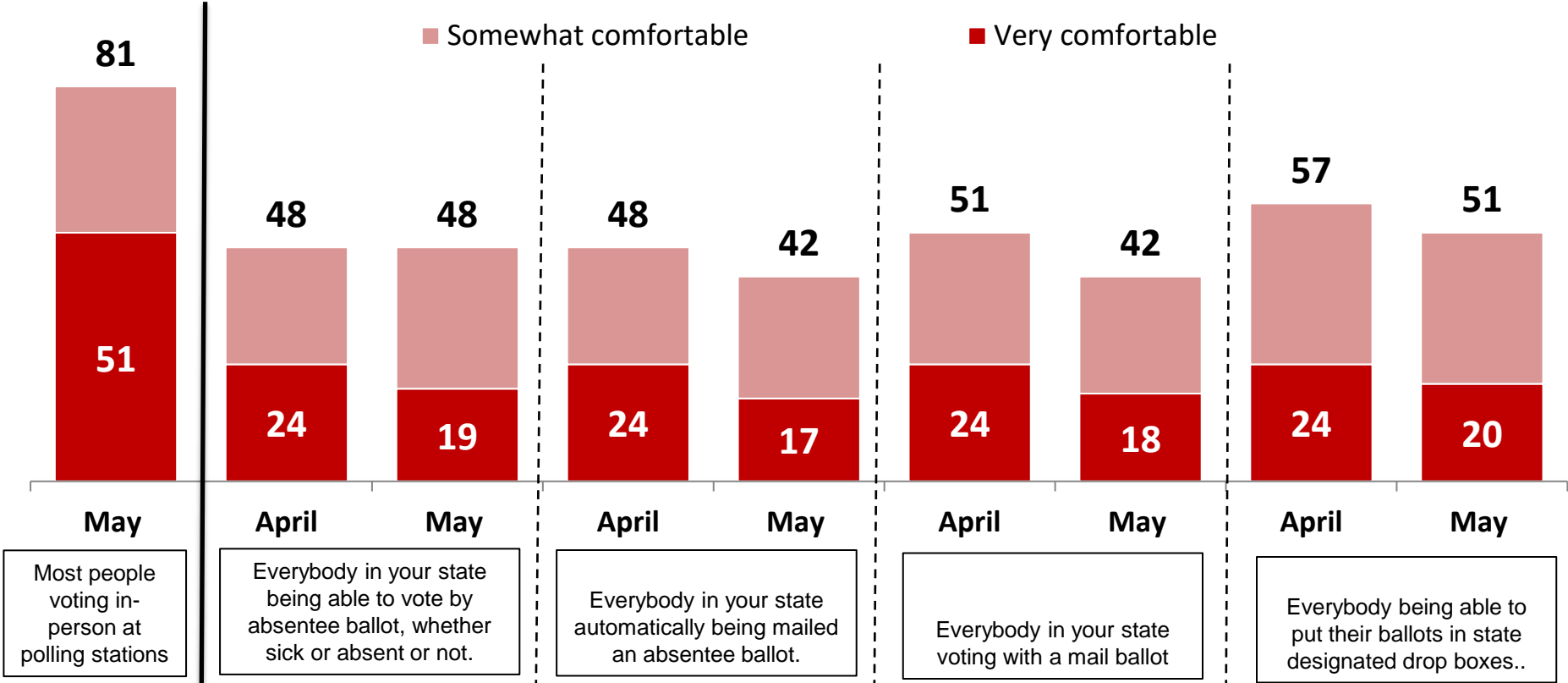
Half of Republicans comfortable with vote by mail, but slipping

Here are some ways people will be voting this year. For each one, please tell me whether you feel very comfortable, somewhat, not comfortable or not at all comfortable with each.

VOTING METHODS Republicans in the Battleground

■ Somewhat comfortable

■ Very comfortable



The government rescue: what's next

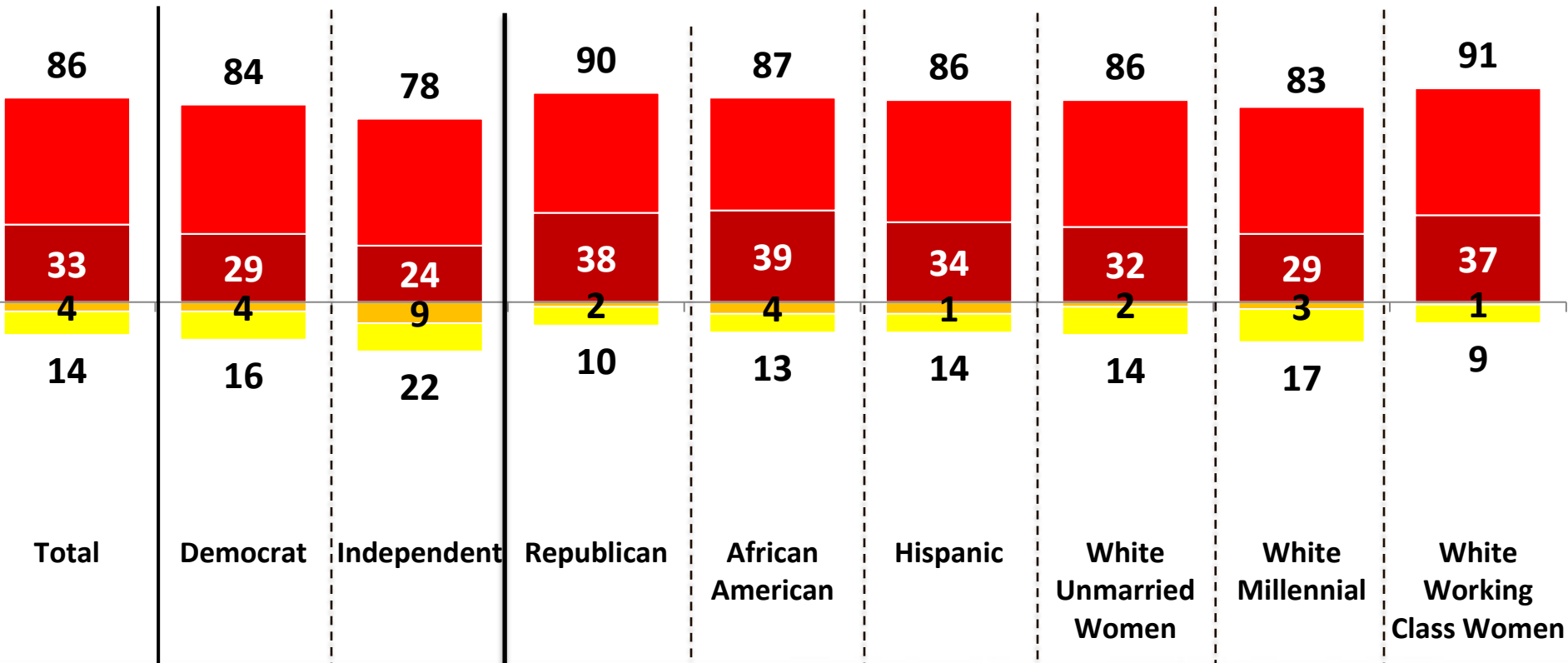


U.S. rescue plan, particularly with Republicans

The U.S. Congress and President Trump have passed a two trillion dollar rescue plan and another \$500 billion that greatly increases unemployment insurance, provides some families an immediate cash payment, provides help for small business and provides loans to major industries threatened with bankruptcy if they maintain employment and accept public oversight.

RESCUE PLAN APPROVAL

■ Strong approve ■ Somewhat approve ■ Strong disapprove ■ Somewhat disapprove



Stunning transfer of funds from government to households

TYPES OF GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Yes - someone I know

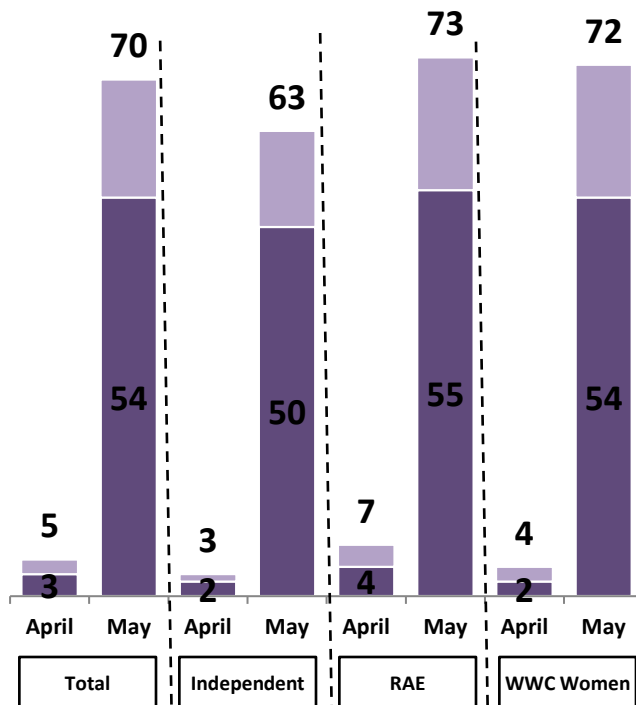
Yes - self

Yes - someone I know

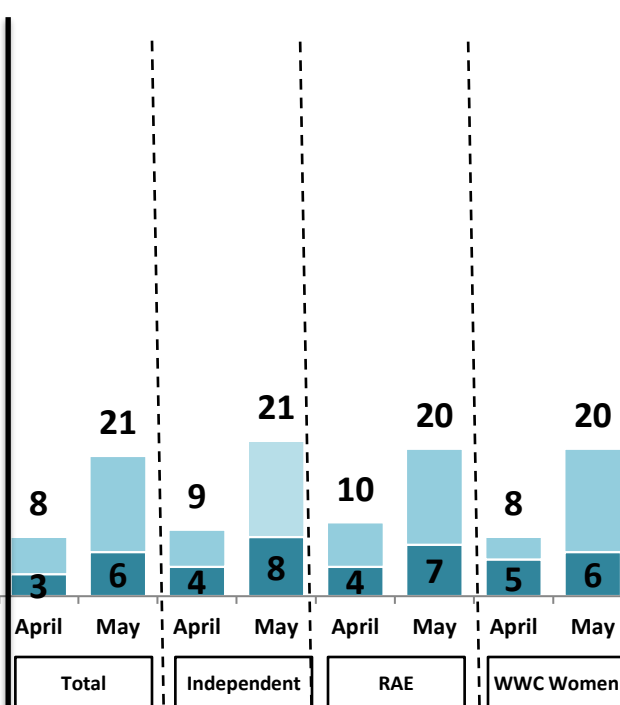
Yes - self

Yes - someone I know

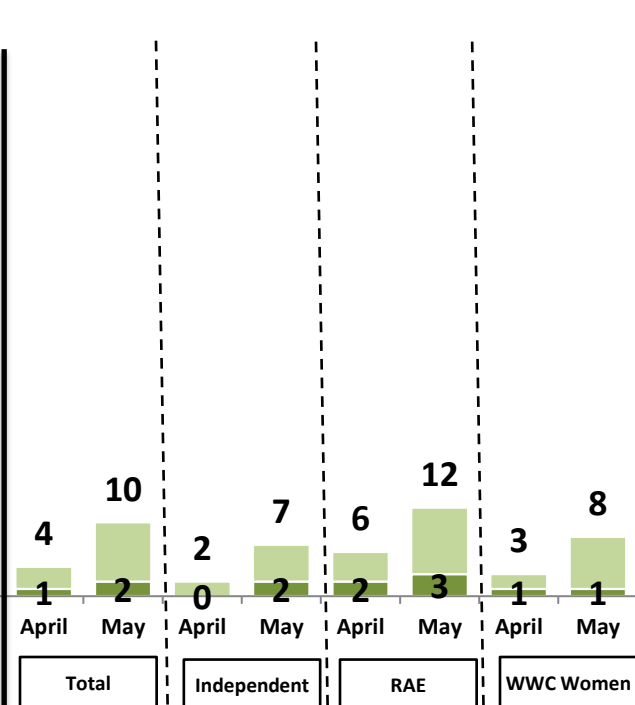
Yes - self



A payment from the government to deal with the crisis directly to your bank account



A new unemployment insurance payment.



A loan from the SBA, Small Business Administration.

Remarkable number can now afford \$500

Which one of the following statements comes closer to your point of view, even if neither is exactly right?

I would not be able to handle a sudden unexpected \$500 expense.

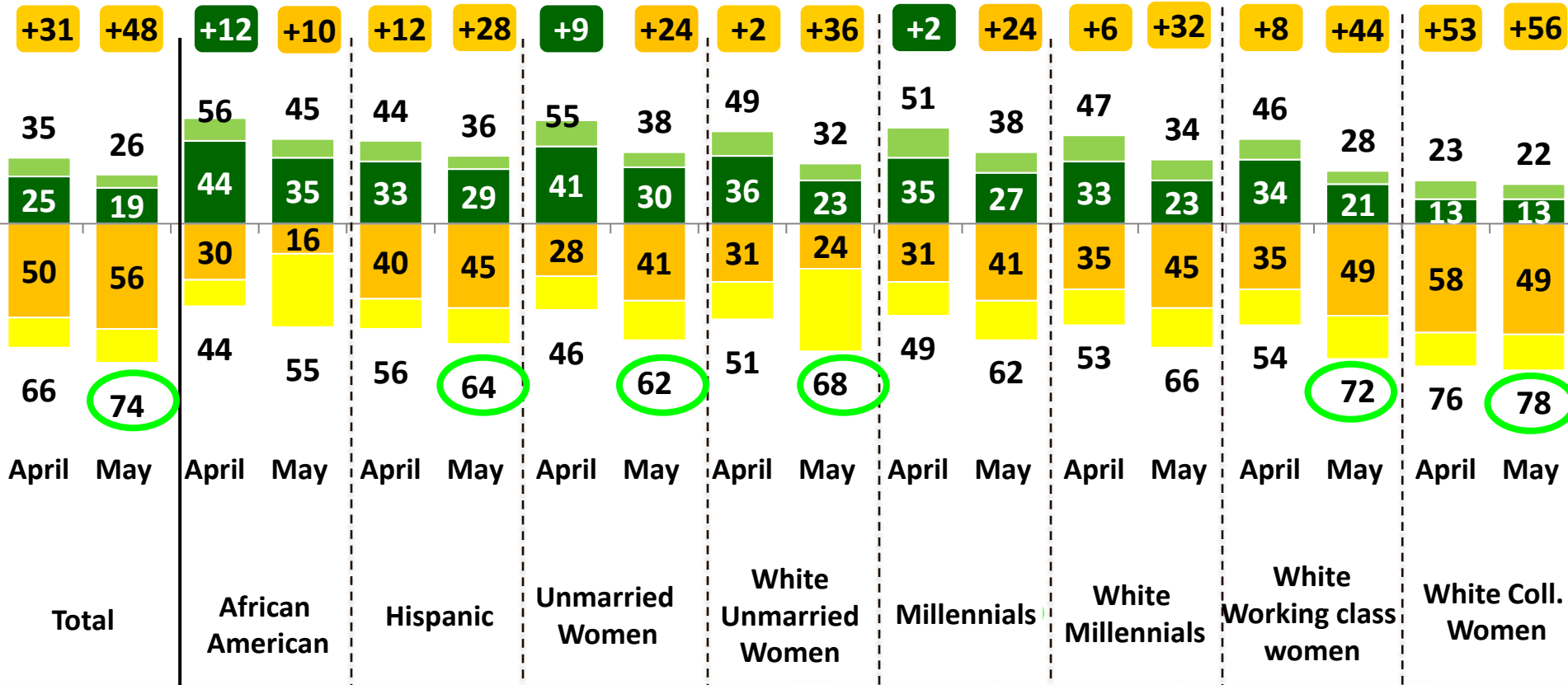
I would be able to handle a sudden unexpected \$500 expense.

■ Much More

■ Somewhat More

■ Much More

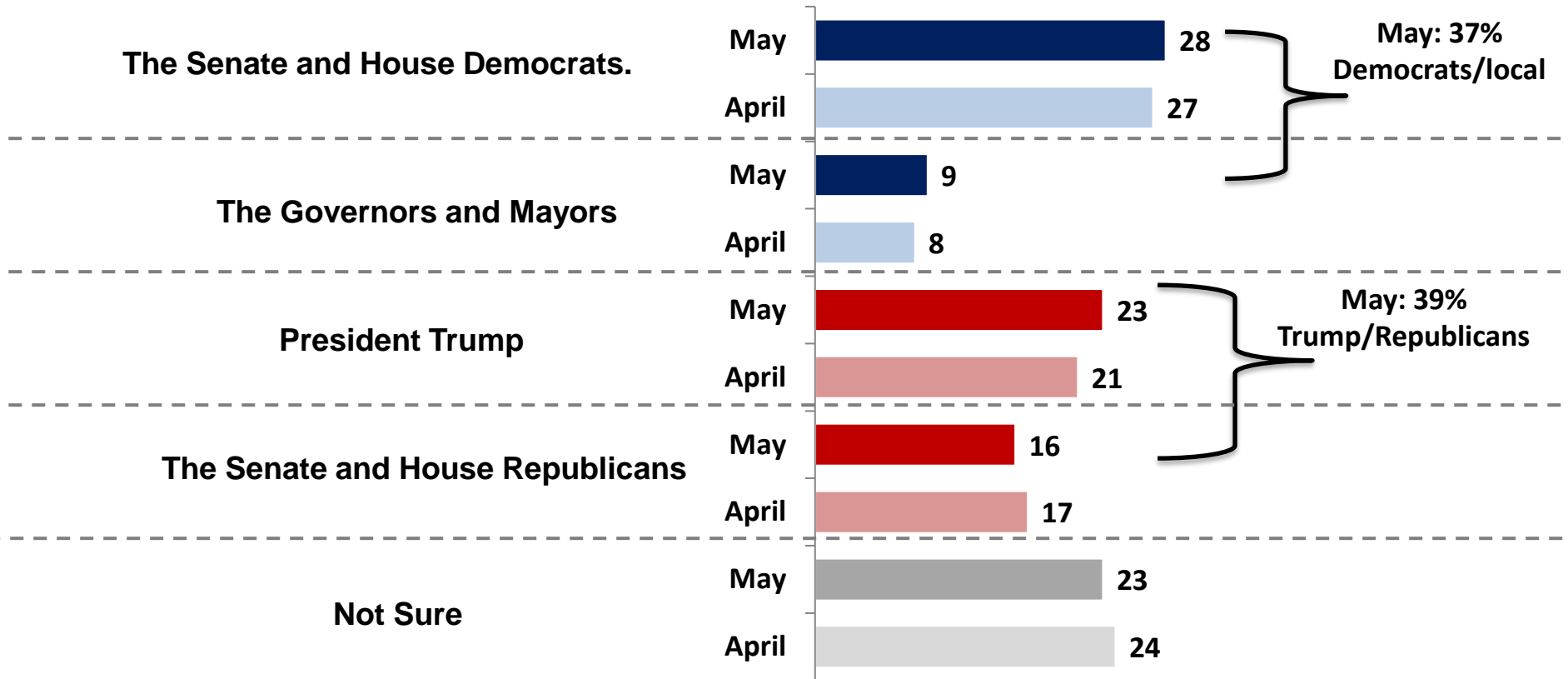
■ Somewhat More



But country still uncertain who is responsible for this historic rescue!

(IF APPROVE) Who do think is mainly responsible for the good things in this rescue law?

RESPONSIBLE FOR GOOD THINGS IN RESCUE LAW



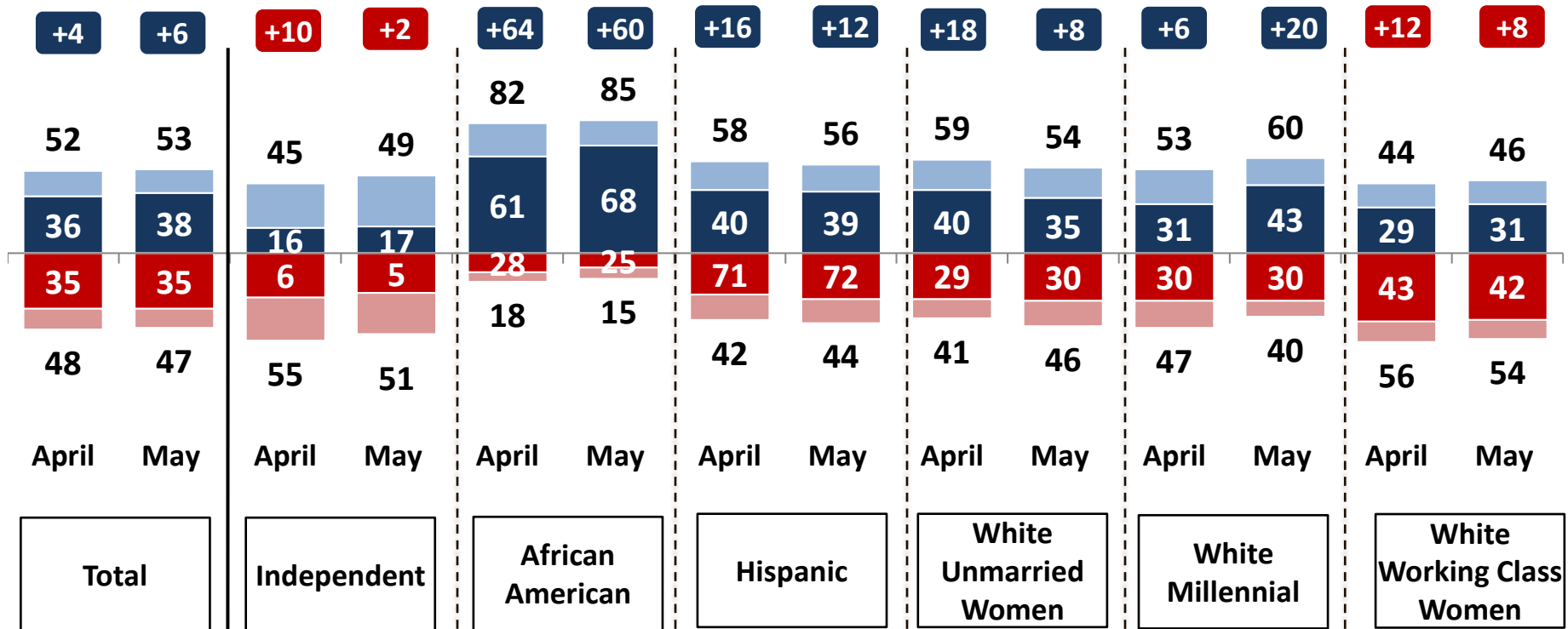
Democratic leaders have only small edge on trust to address crisis

Which one of the following statements comes closer to your point of view, even if neither is exactly right?

When it comes to the current health care and economic crisis, I trust more Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, and congressional Democrats to address it.

When it comes to the current health care and economic crisis, I trust more Donald Trump, Mitch McConnell, and congressional Republicans to address it.

■ Much More ■ Somewhat More ■ Much More ■ Somewhat More

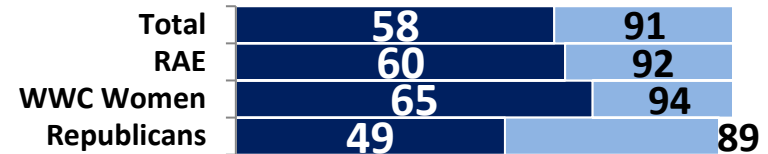


New Cares package - starts with food and paid leave

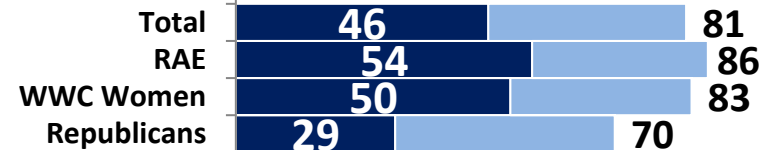
Congress has passed major new laws to deal with the pandemic and the economic crash and bring back small and big businesses. Please indicate whether you would favor or oppose each of the following proposals.

■ Favor strongly ■ Favor somewhat

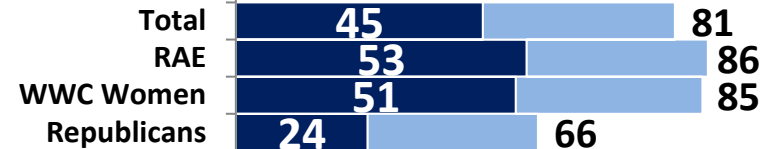
Purchase the crops of farmers and use trucks to transfer those to food banks in the cities.



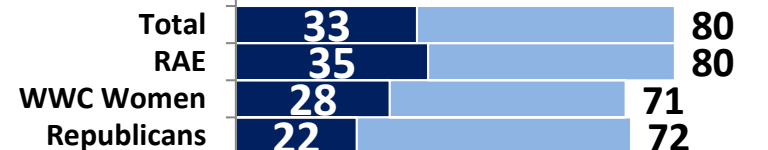
Allowing people who use the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to be able to order and pay for groceries and delivery online so they don't have to go into stores.



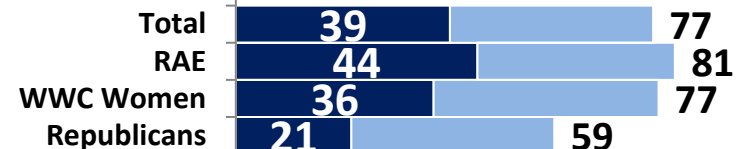
Create a government funded program of up to 12 weeks of paid family leave for anyone who can't work because of the coronavirus.



Invest \$500 billion to create 12 months of employment in local and state infrastructure and construction projects



Give \$500 billion to the states and cities that pay for schools, police and fire.

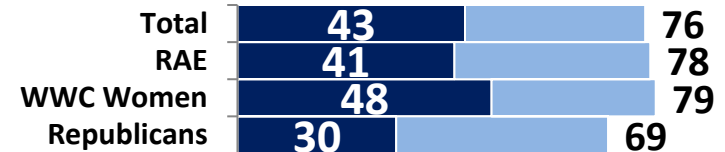


Employment and child tax credit also strong

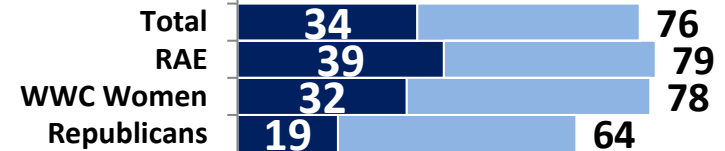
Congress has passed major new laws to deal with the pandemic and the economic crash and bring back small and big businesses. Please indicate whether you would favor or oppose each of the following proposals.

■ Favor strongly ■ Favor somewhat

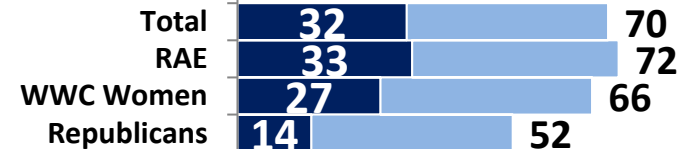
Repeal the \$135 billion tax break for real estate investors and hedge fund managers put into the last economic relief package passed by Congress



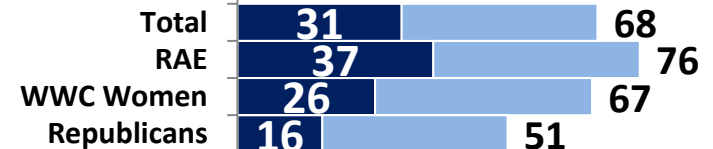
The government increasing the amount of the child tax credit for all families and more for those with young children to keep millions from falling into poverty.



Add \$20 billion for the relief fund for the U. S. Post Office so it doesn't go bankrupt because of the big drop off in mail



Institute a new wage guarantee where all those who lost their jobs after the state of emergency would resume receiving 100 percent of their wages and health care benefits from the employer - who would be reimbursed by the government



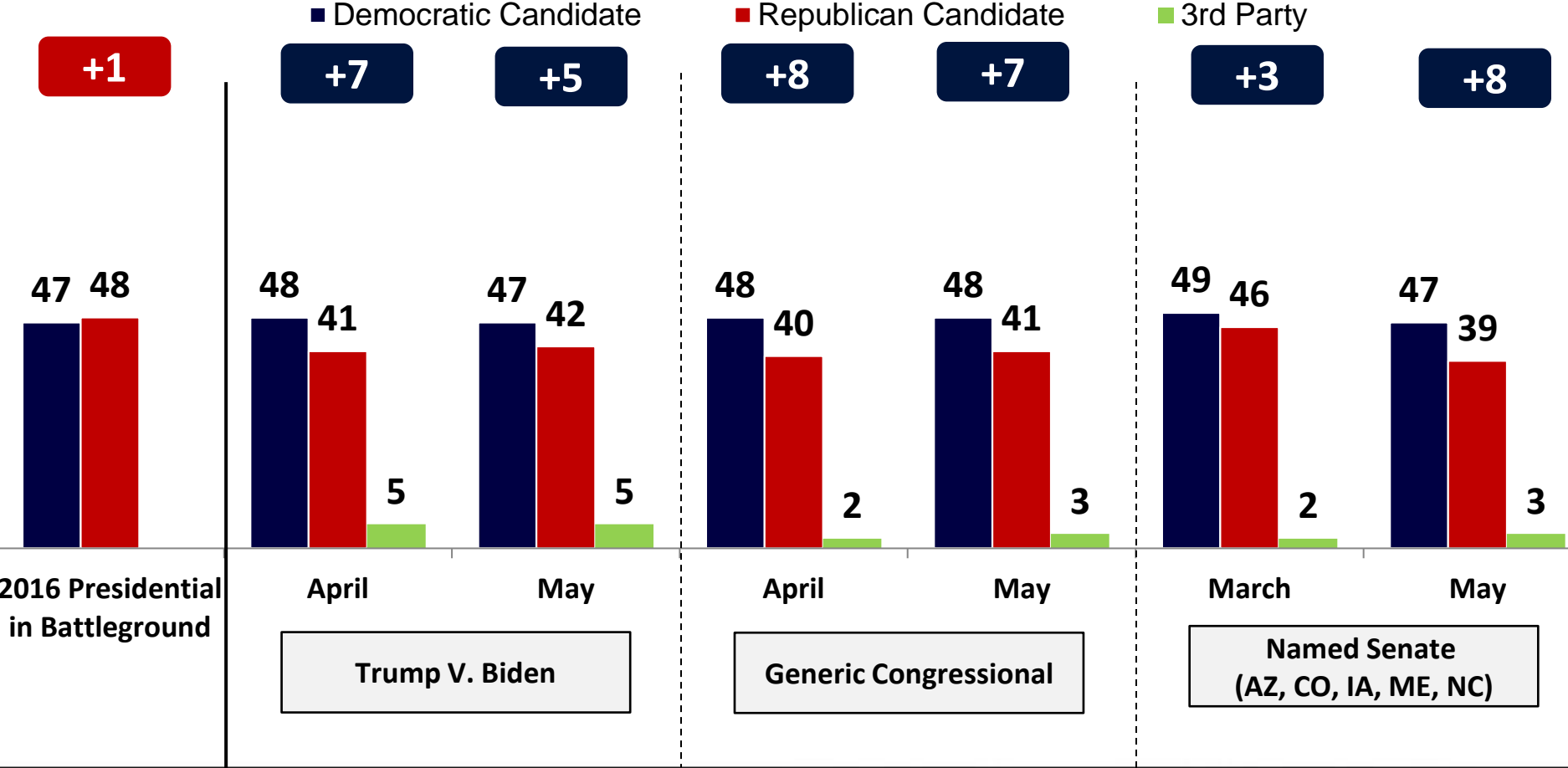
All without health insurance will be enrolled in Medicaid unto the end of 2020 with costs covered by the federal government



Presidential race at precipice

Democrats at edge of sweep in battleground, including Senate – though Biden has edged down since Sanders endorsement

PRESIDENTIAL, HOUSE & SENATE BALLOTS BATTLEGROUND

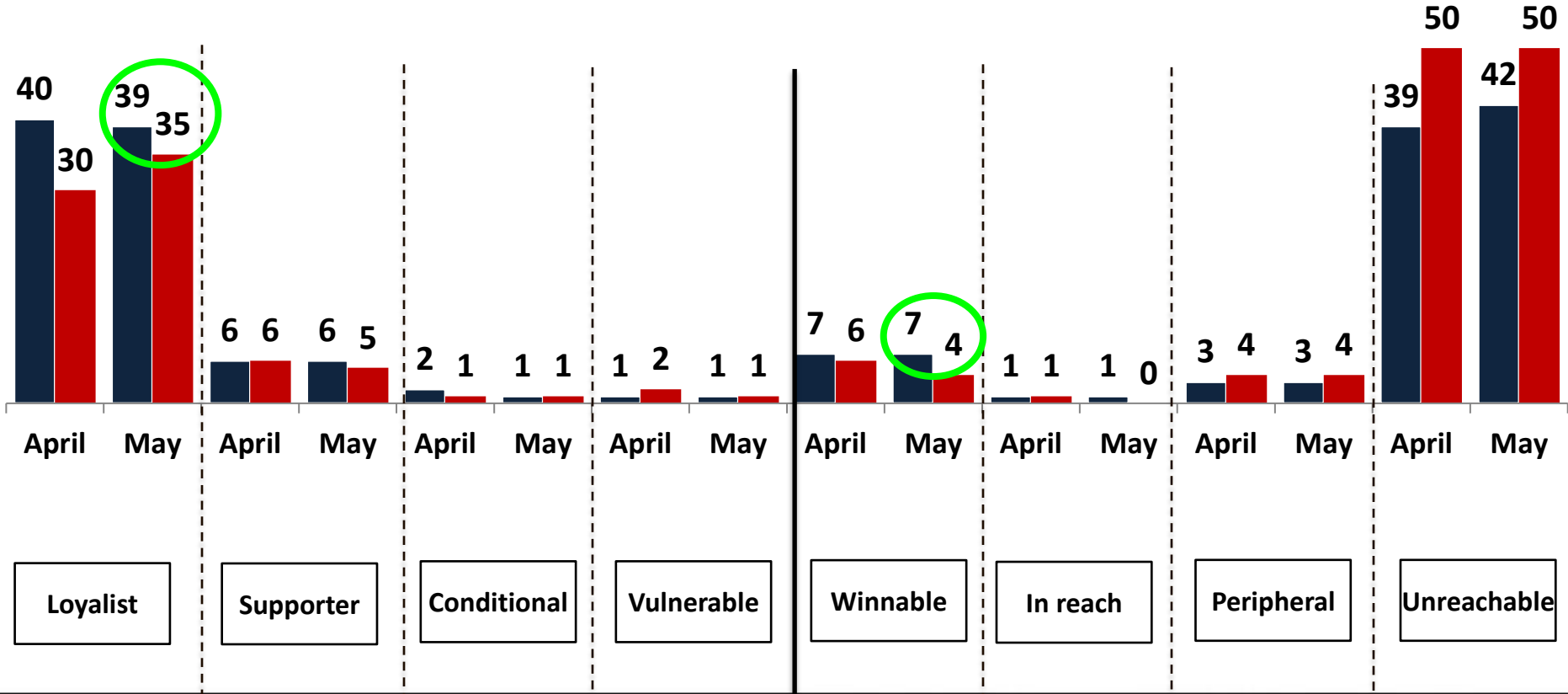


Trump vote consolidates, but many more winnable voters for Biden

VOTER CHOICE SCALE: BIDEN V. TRUMP

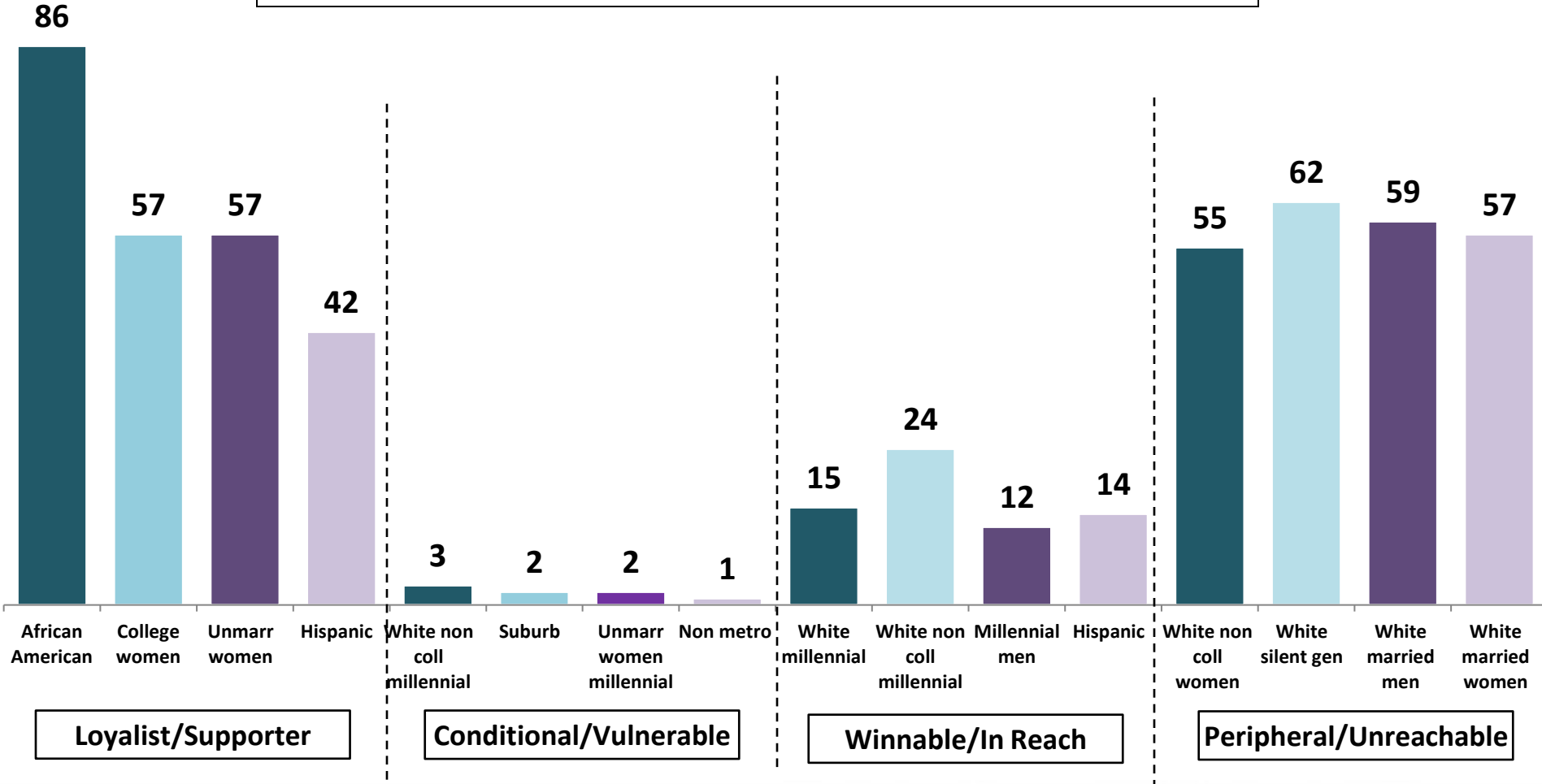
REGISTERED VOTERS IN BATTLEGROUND

■ Democrat Joe Biden ■ Republican Donald Trump



Biden can make most gains with white millennials and millennials, Hispanics and white unmarried women

VOTER CHOICE SCALE: JOE BIDEN

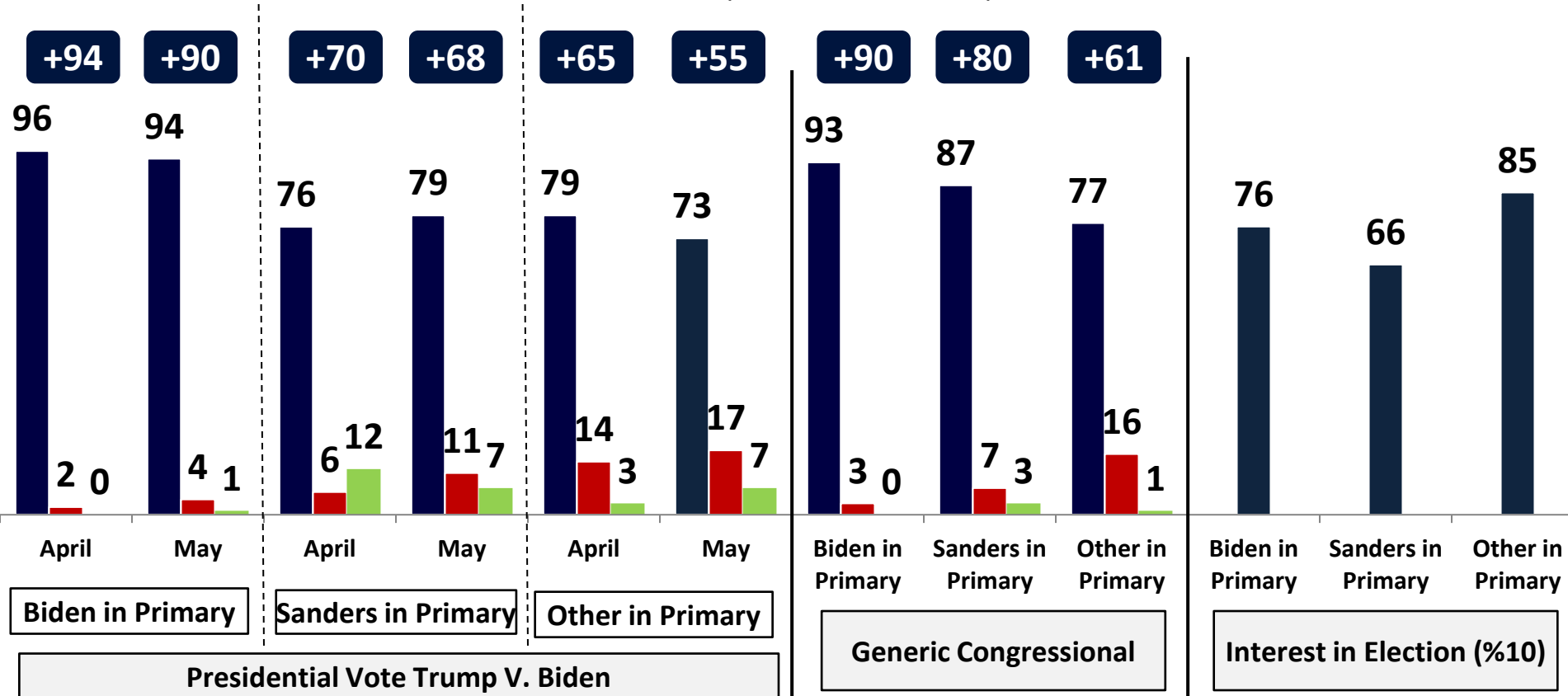


Biden has not yet consolidated the non-Biden voter - and a real threat to sweep

2020 PRESIDENTIAL BALLOT

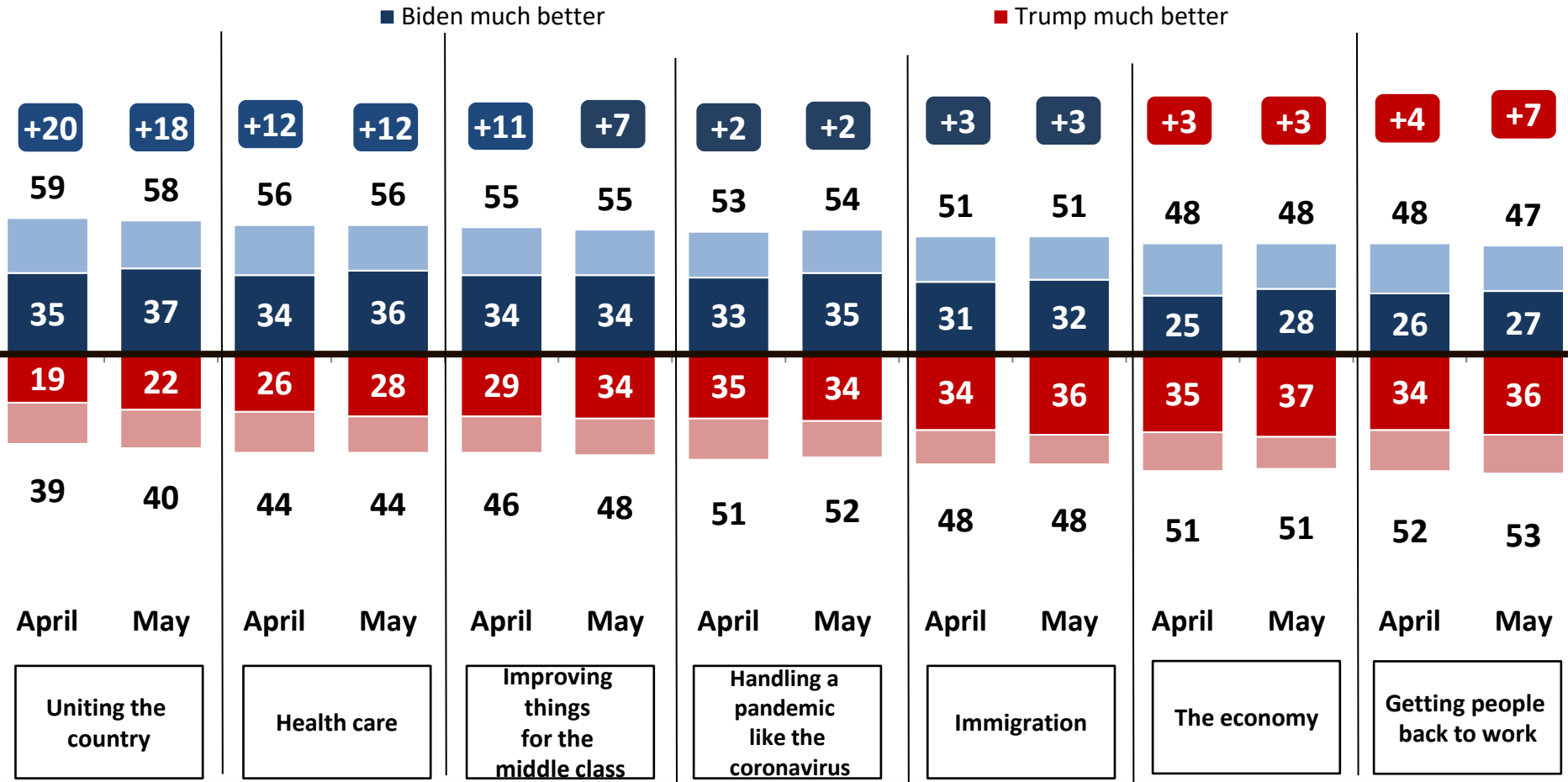
Registered Voters in Battleground

■ Democrat Joe Biden ■ Republican Donald Trump ■ Libertarian/Other



Biden has modest edge on handling crisis, but Trump a strong one on getting people back to work

Now you will read some issues. For each issue, please say whether you think Joe Biden or Donald Trump would do a better job with handling that issue.



CONTACT US



DEMOCRACY CORPS

1440 G Street. NW
Floor 10
Washington, DC 20005

Phone: +1 202 250 3645

www.democracycorps.com

GREENBERG RESEARCH

1440 G Street NW
Floor 10
Washington, DC 20005

Phone: +1 202 499 6901

www.greenbergresearch.com

CENTER FOR VOTER INFORMATION

1707 L Street, N.W.
Suite 300
Washington, DC 20036

Phone: +1 202 659 9570

www.centerforvoterinformation.org

