

# **Public Opinion: U.S. Engagement with the World and the U.S. Election**

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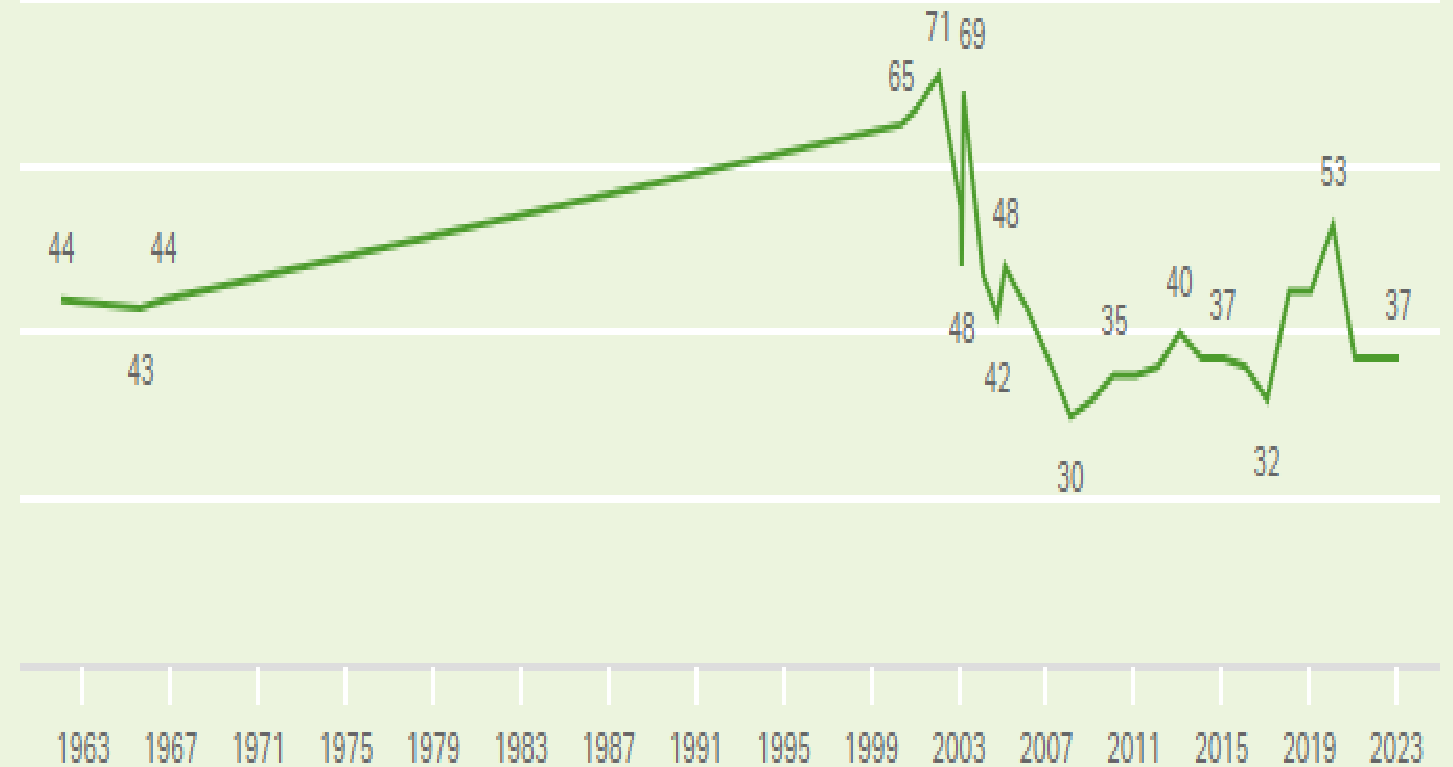
**September 11, 2024**

# **How Americans See Engagement With the World**

# Americans Are Less and Less Satisfied with the U.S. Position in the World

On the whole, would you say that you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the position of the United States in the world today?

— % Satisfied



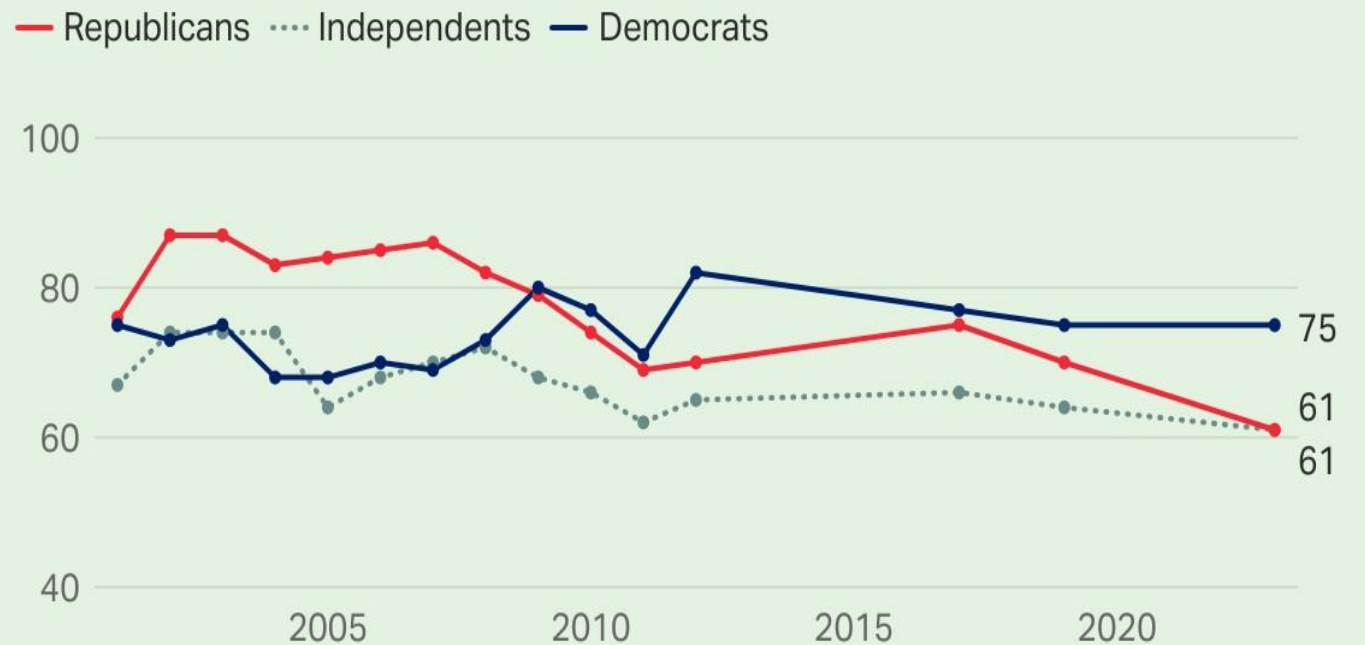
GALLUP

Democrats Are  
More Likely  
Than  
Republicans to  
Want the U.S. to  
Play a Major  
Role in the  
World

## Preference for U.S. Role in World Affairs, by Political Party

Next we would like you to think about the role the U.S. should play in trying to solve international problems. Do you think the U.S. should -- [ROTATED: take the leading role in world affairs, take a major role but not the leading role, take a minor role, (or) take no role at all in world affairs]?

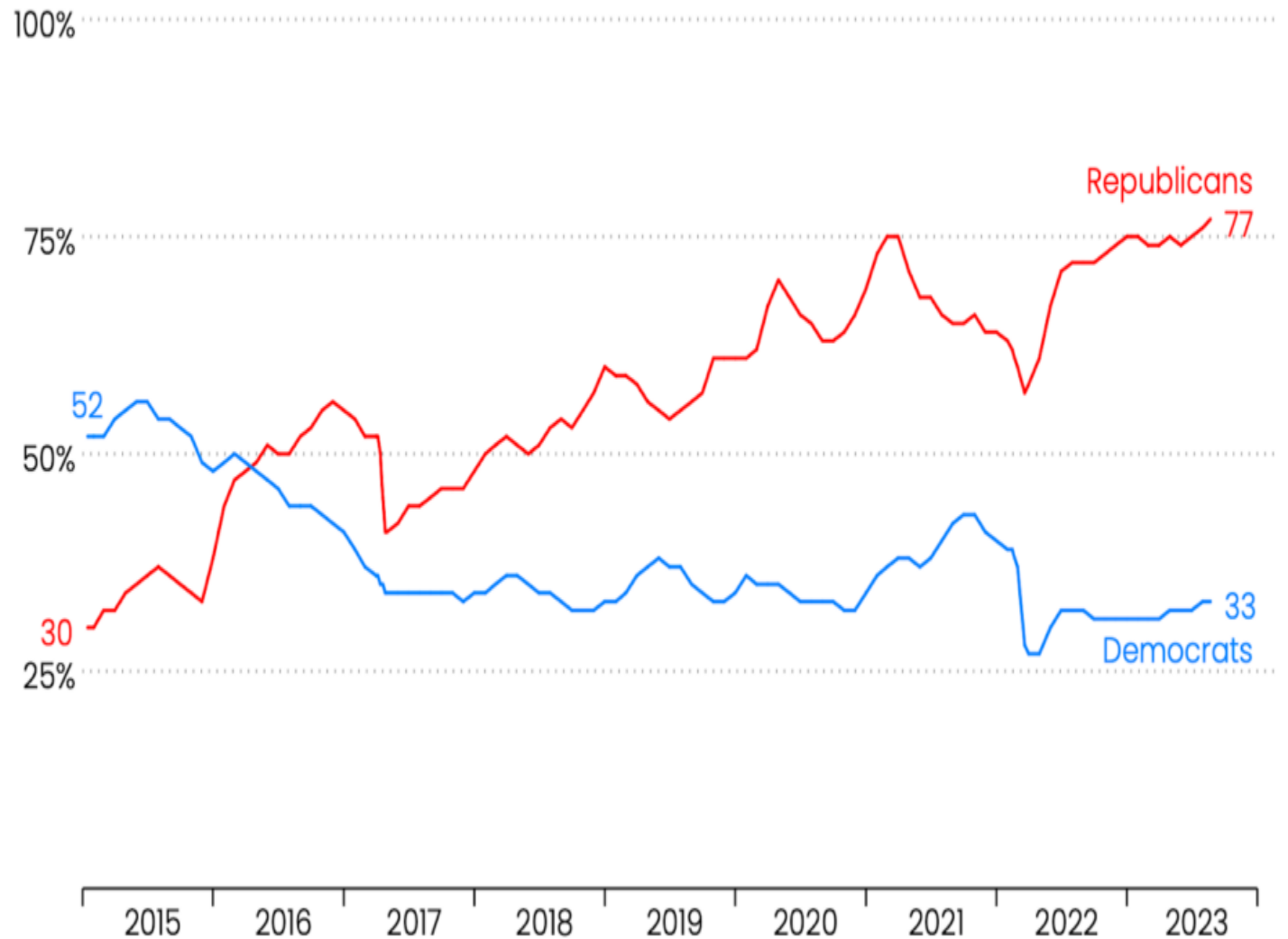
% Leading/Major role



# Starting With President Trump, Isolationism Among Republicans Has Grown

## Republicans are becoming increasingly isolationist

Percent saying the U.S. should be less involved in solving problems overseas

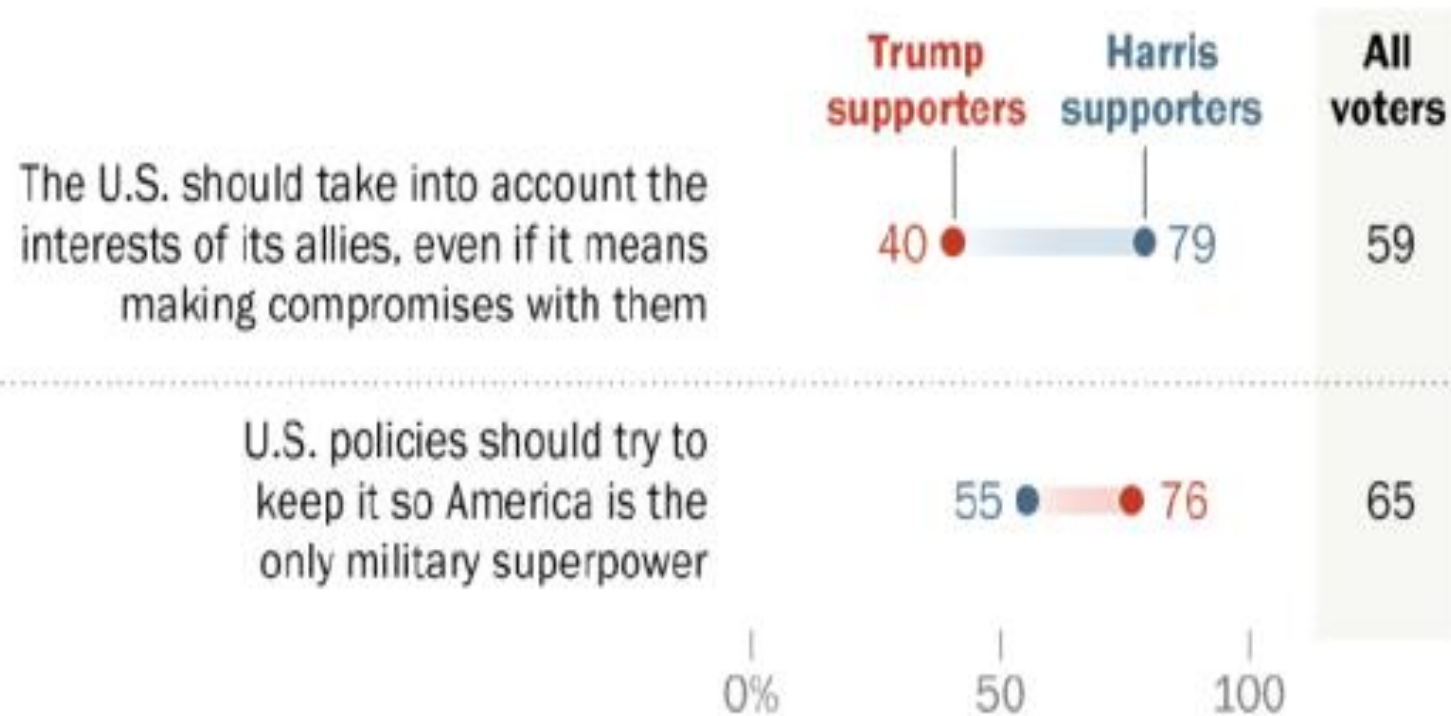


SOURCE: Civiqs tracking polls (accessed August 23, 2023)

Eight-in-ten  
Harris  
Supporters Back  
Comprise With  
Allies, Only  
Four-in-ten  
Trump  
Supporters  
Agree

## Harris and Trump supporters on the importance of working with U.S. allies, America's superpower role

*% of registered voters who say ...*



Note: Based on registered voters.

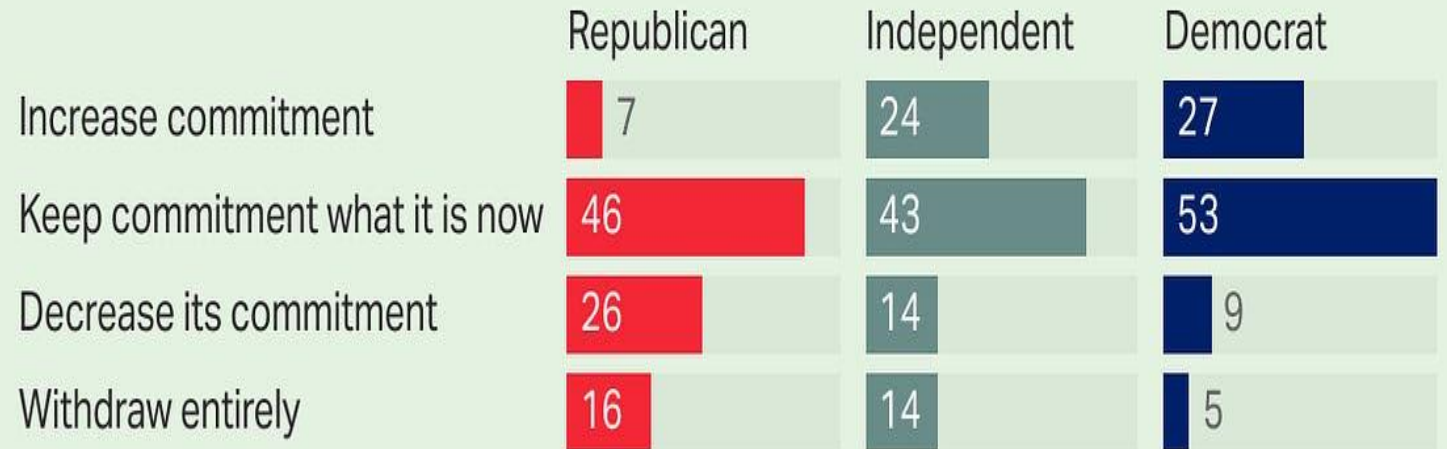
Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14 and Aug. 5-11, 2024.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**

Three Times as  
Many  
Republicans as  
Democrats Back  
Decreasing or  
Ending U.S.  
NATO  
Commitments

## Partisan Perspectives on U.S. NATO Commitment

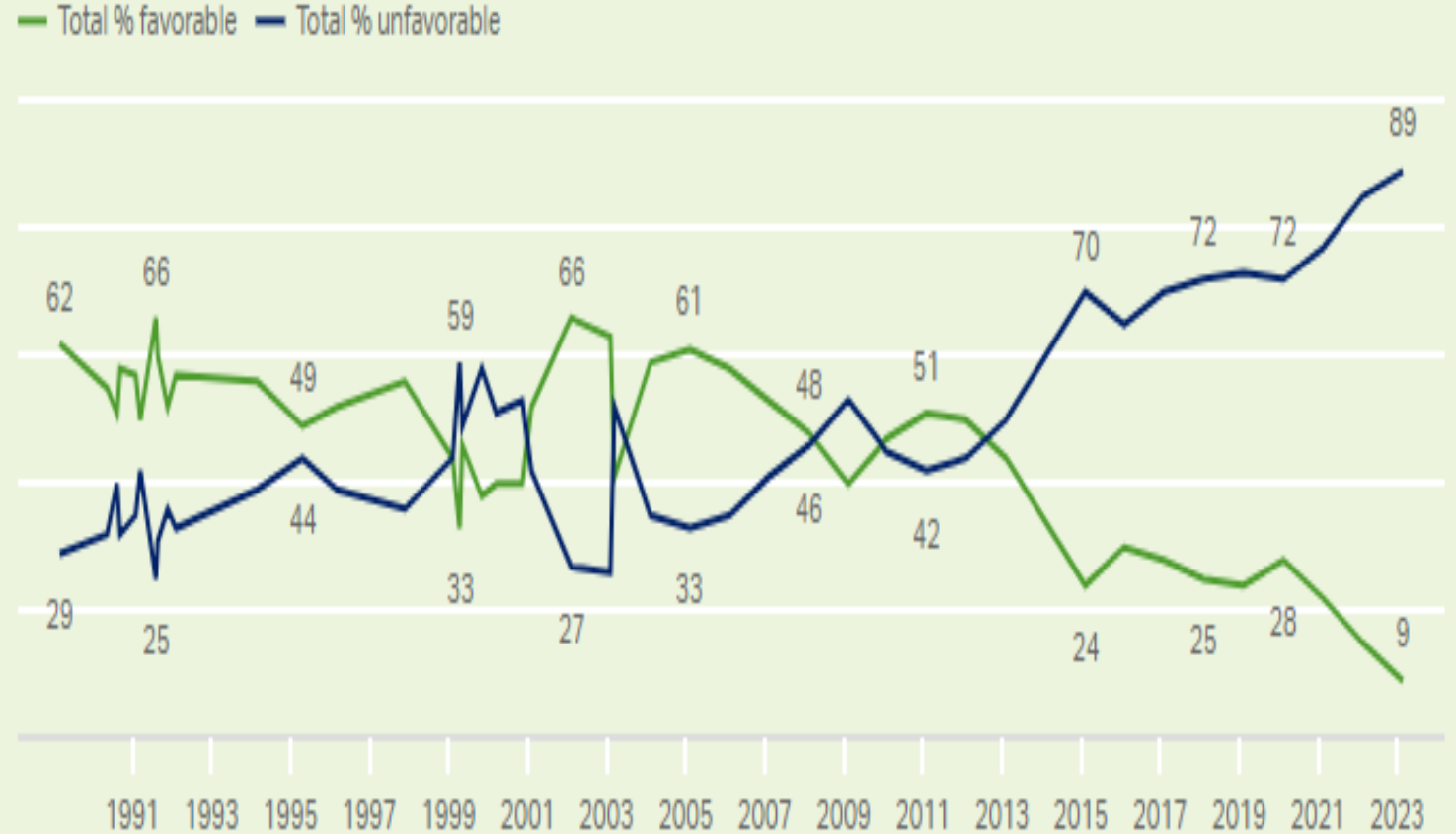
7% of Republicans, 24% of independents and 27% of Democrats support increasing NATO commitment



Do you feel the U.S. should increase its commitment to NATO, keep its commitment what it is now, decrease its commitment but still remain in NATO, or withdraw from NATO entirely?

American  
Views of  
Russia Are  
More  
Unfavorable  
Than at Any  
Time Since the  
Collapse of the  
Soviet Union

Is your overall opinion of Russia very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable or very unfavorable?



1989-1992 wording: The Soviet Union

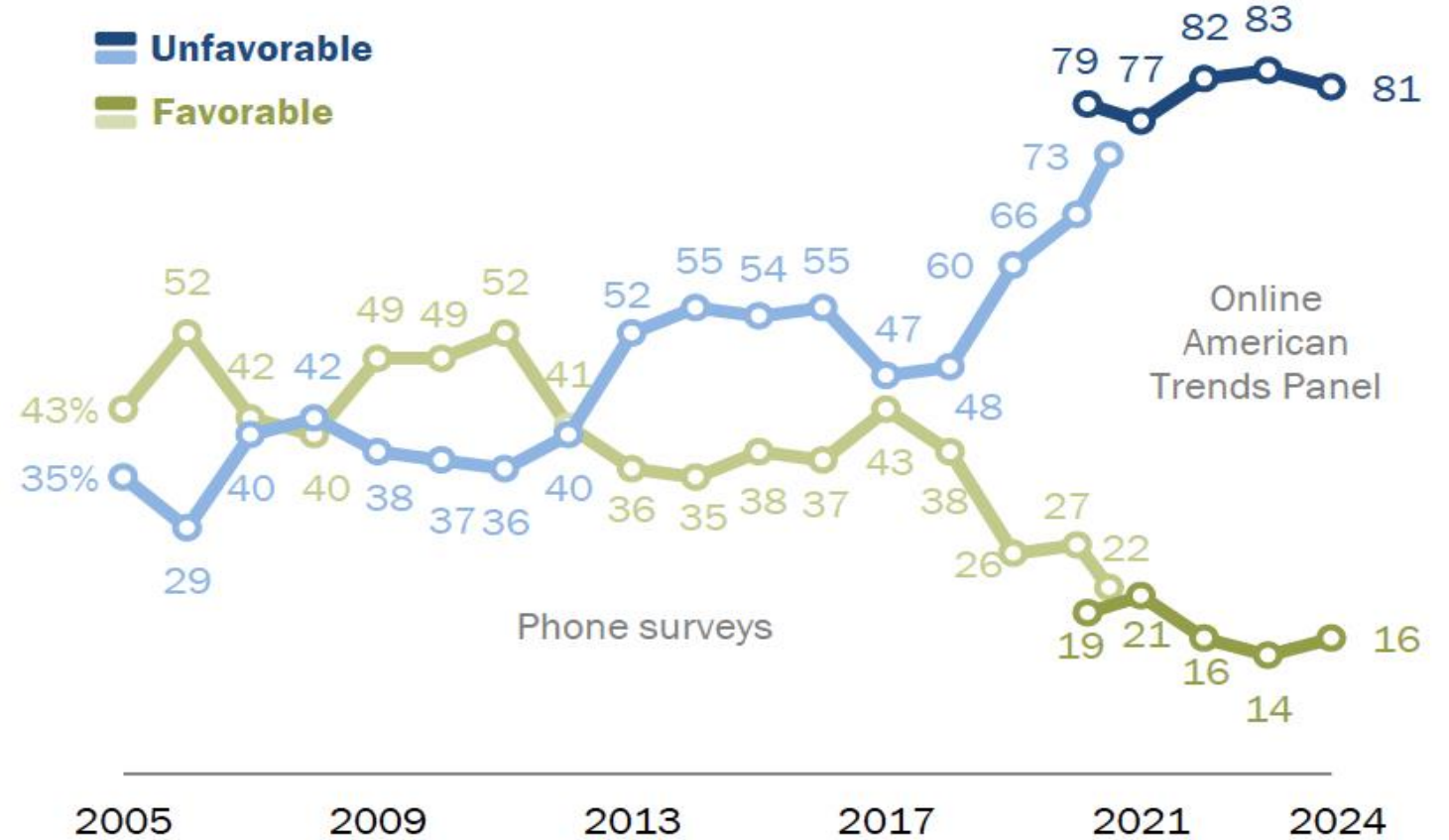
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Americans' Negative Views of China Have Never Been Worse, They Are Now More Negative Than After Tiananmen

## Most Americans hold an unfavorable view of China

% who have a(n) \_\_\_ opinion of China



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 1-7, 2024. Q4b.

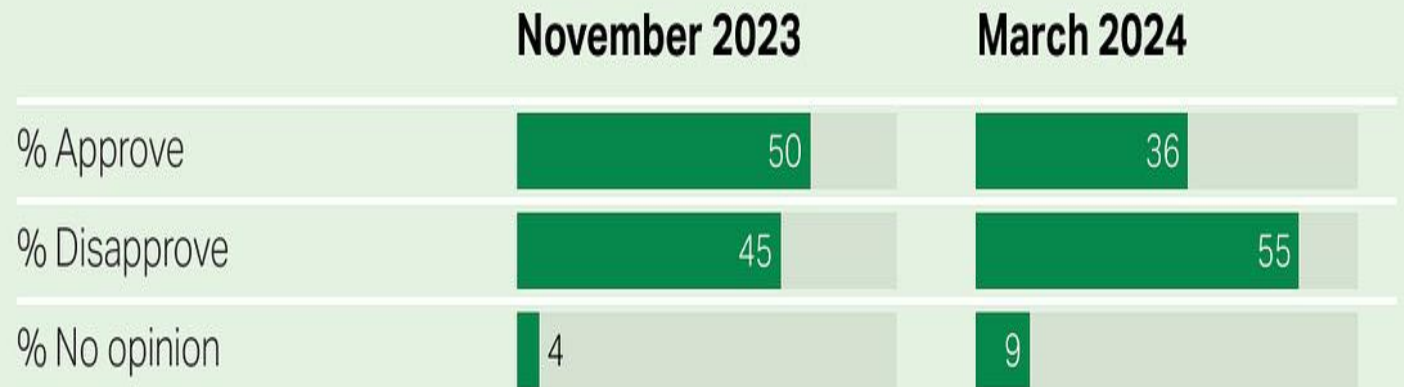
"Americans Remain Critical of China"

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Most Americans  
Now  
Disapprove of  
Israeli Military  
Action in Gaza

## Americans Have Shifted to Disapproval of Israeli Military Action in Gaza

Do you approve or disapprove of the military action Israel has taken in Gaza?



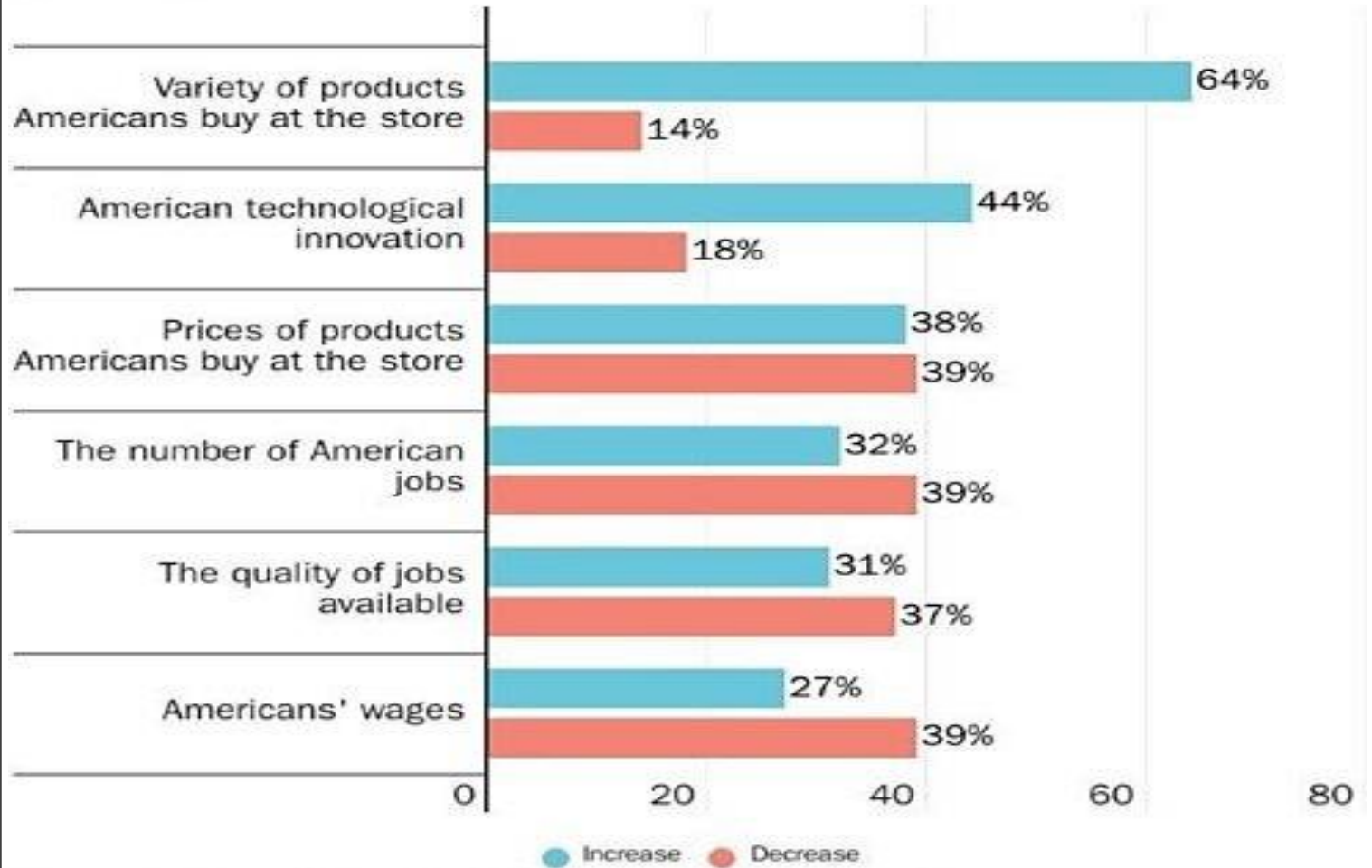
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Americans Believe Trade Has Boosted Consumer Choice and Innovation, But That It Has Also Destroyed Jobs and Lowered Wages

Figure 2

## Most Say Global Trade Has Increased the Variety of Products Americans Can Buy

Do you think free trade agreements with other countries generally increase or decrease...



Source: Cato Institute 2024 Globalization and Trade National Survey

Note: Share saying "no difference" not shown

# **The 2024 Election**

The Pace of Social and Economic Change Has Accelerated, Fueling a Sense of “Stop the World, I Want to Get Off”

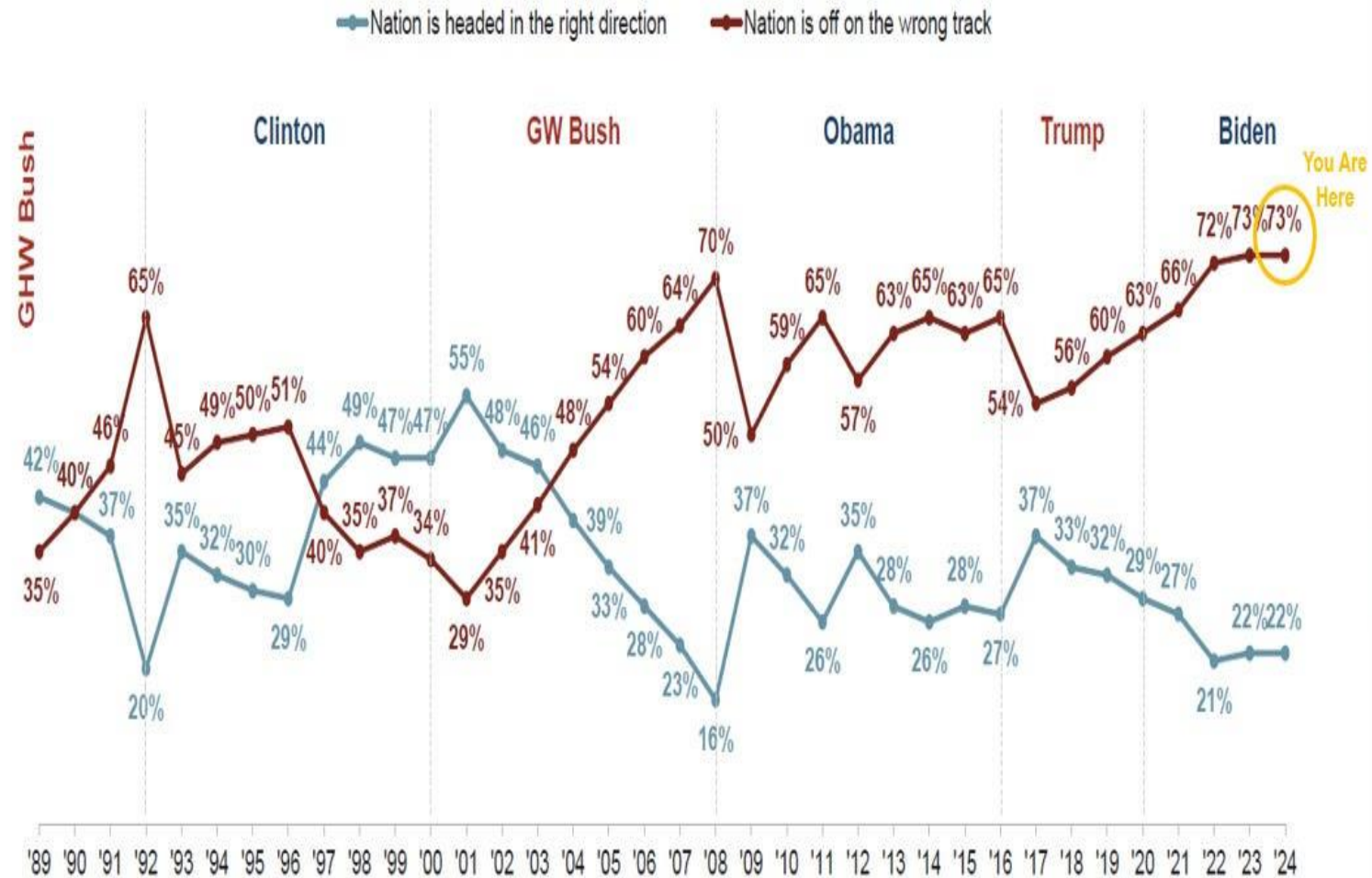
## Americans Have Experienced Dramatic Change in One Lifetime

	1967	2017
	%	%
Non-white	12	38
Foreign-born	4.9	14
White, no college education	75	39
18-34, living with parents	22	32
Births to unmarried women	8.5	40.3
Women in the workforce	41	57
Share of wealth owned by top 1%	27	42

Source: Mehlman, Castagnetti, Rosen & Thomas analysis based on data from U.S. Census Bureau, Pew Research Center, U.S. Dept. of Labor and T. Piketty.

A Record High Percentage of People Think the Nation is on the Wrong Track, But They Have Felt This Way for 28 of the Last 36 Years

## PERCEIVED DISORDER IS DRIVING DISCONTENT IN 2024

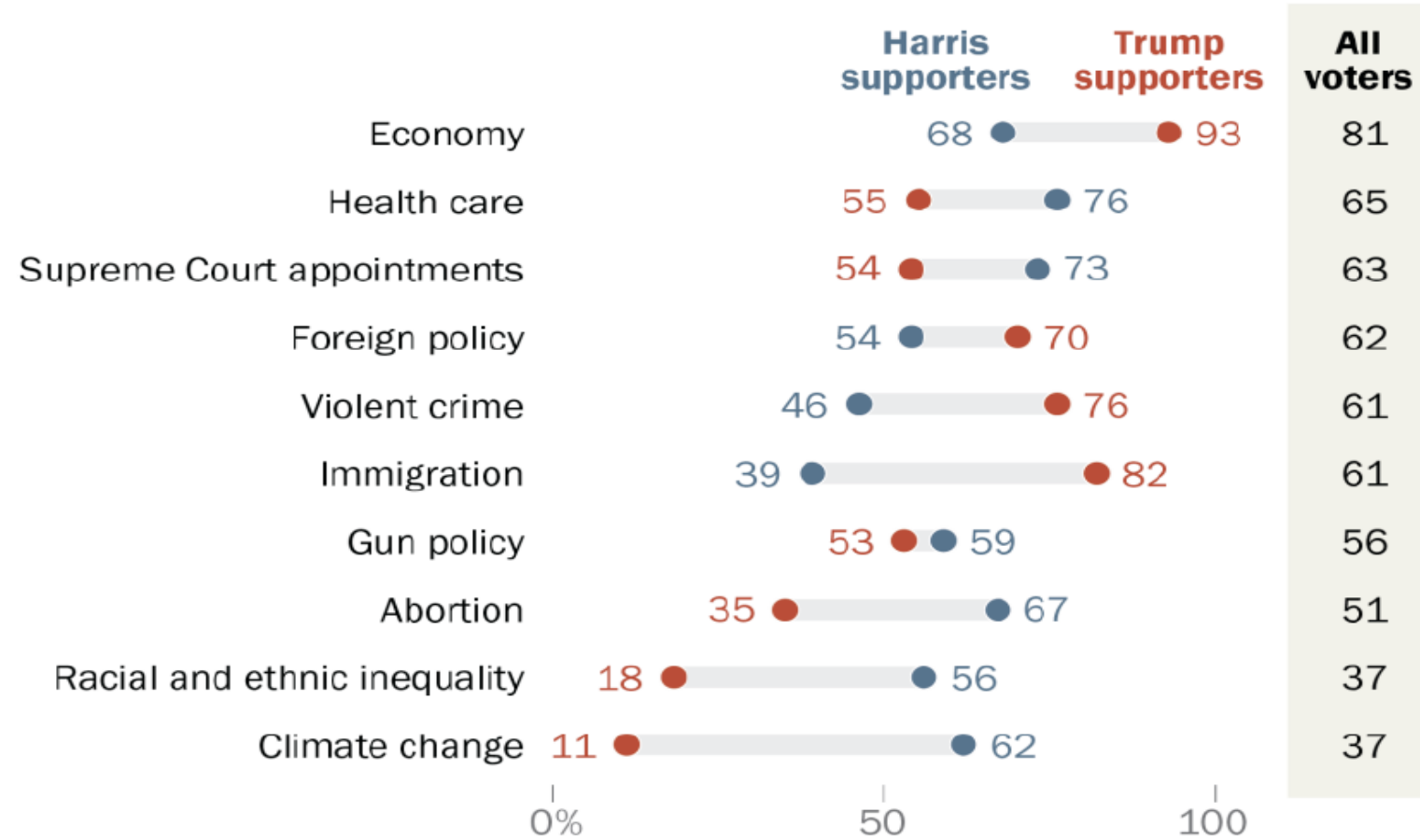




Polarization  
Over Priorities is  
Stark: 51 Points  
on Climate, 43  
Points on  
Immigration, 32  
Points on  
Abortion

## The economy is the top issue for voters in the 2024 election

*% of registered voters who say each is **very important** to their vote in the 2024 presidential election*



Note: Based on registered voters.

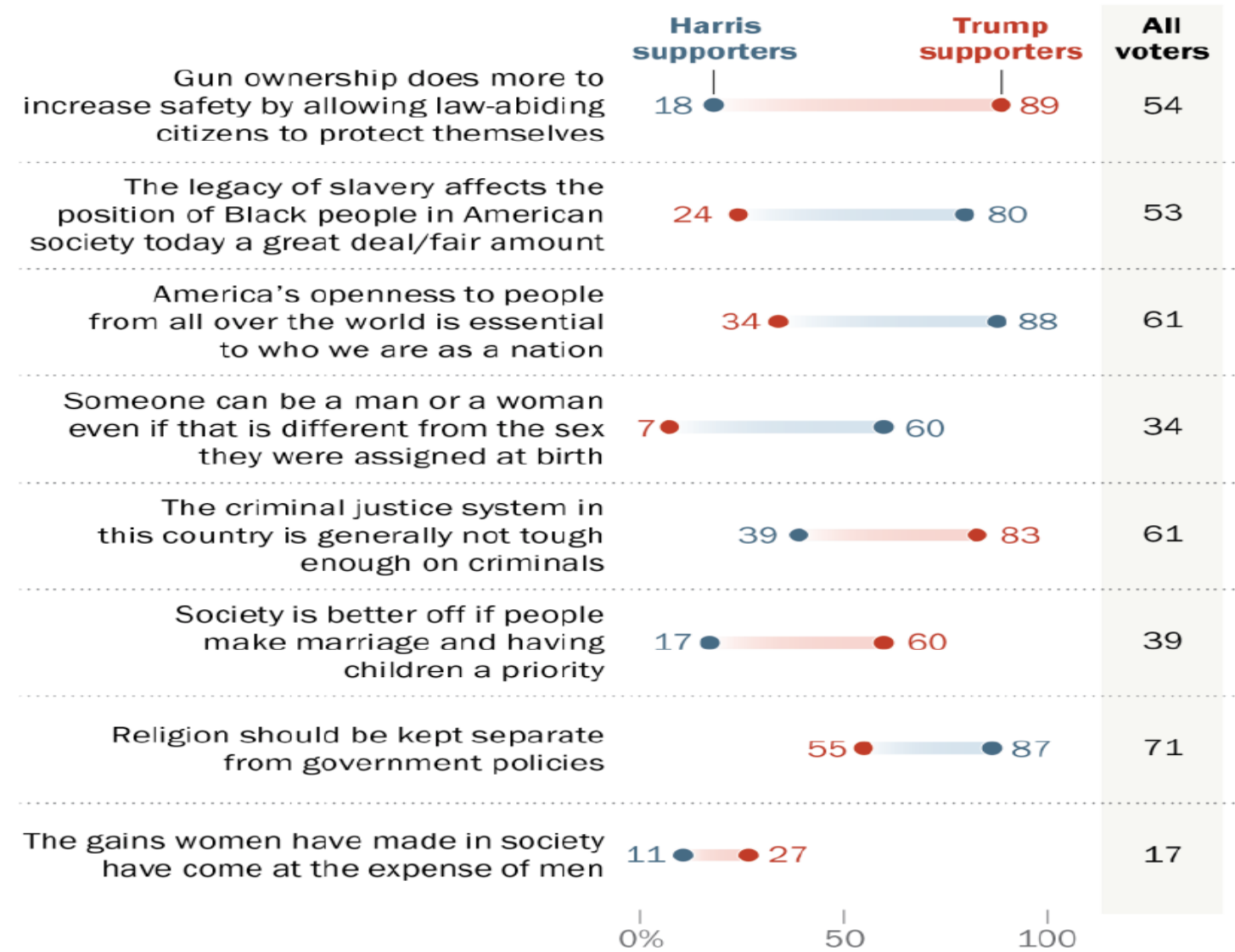
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 26-Sept. 2, 2024.

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Cultural Polarization Also Could Not Be Starker: 71 Points on Guns, 56 Points on the Legacy of Slavery, 53 Points on Sexual Identity,

## How Harris, Trump supporters view key cultural issues

% of registered voters who say ...



Note: Based on registered voters.

Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14 and Aug. 5-11, 2024.

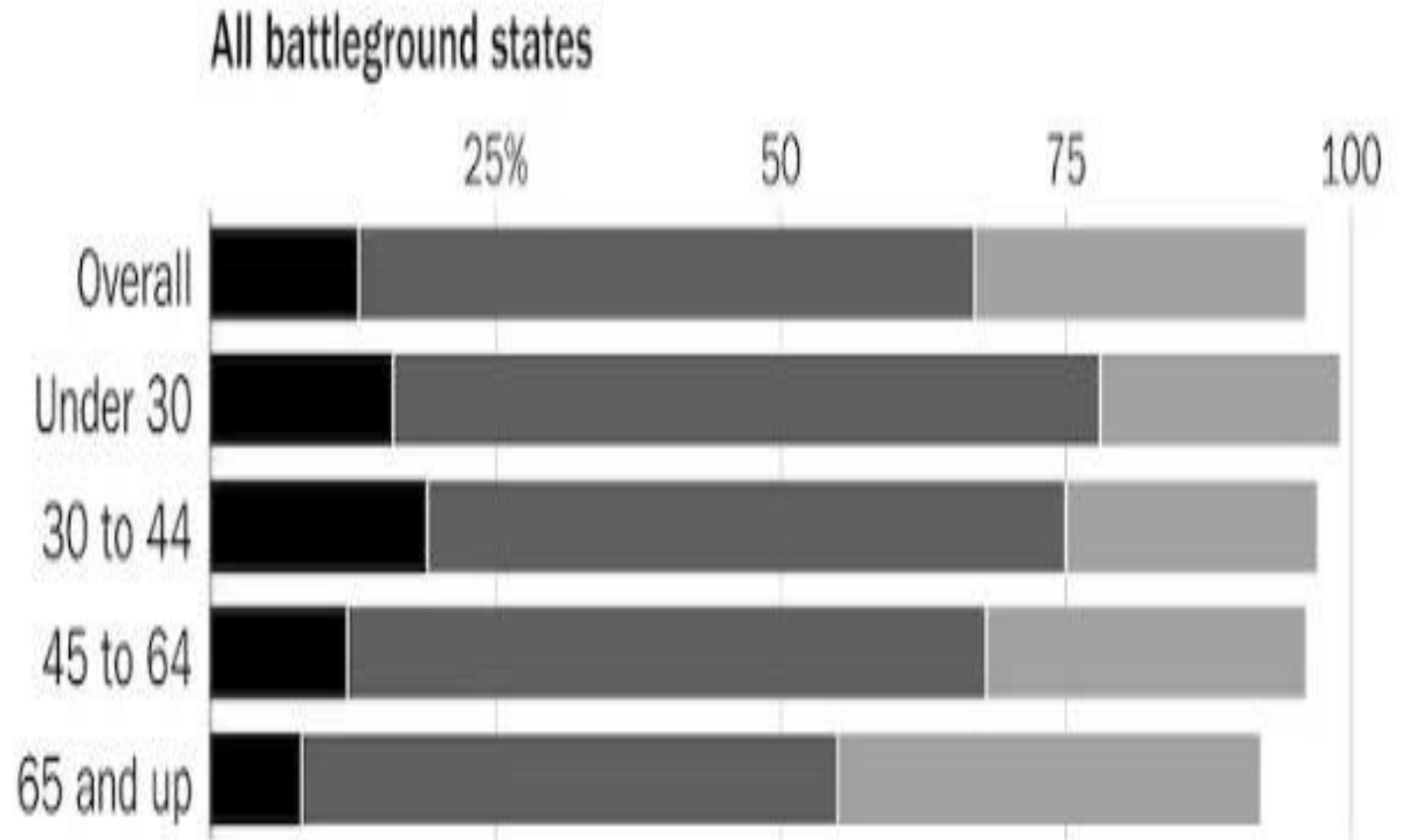
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Two-Thirds of Americans Say The U.S. Political and Economic System Needs Major Change or To Be Torn Down

## When it comes to the political and economic system...

● Tear it down completely   ● Needs major changes   ● Needs minor changes



Source: Times-Inquirer-Siena College, May 2024

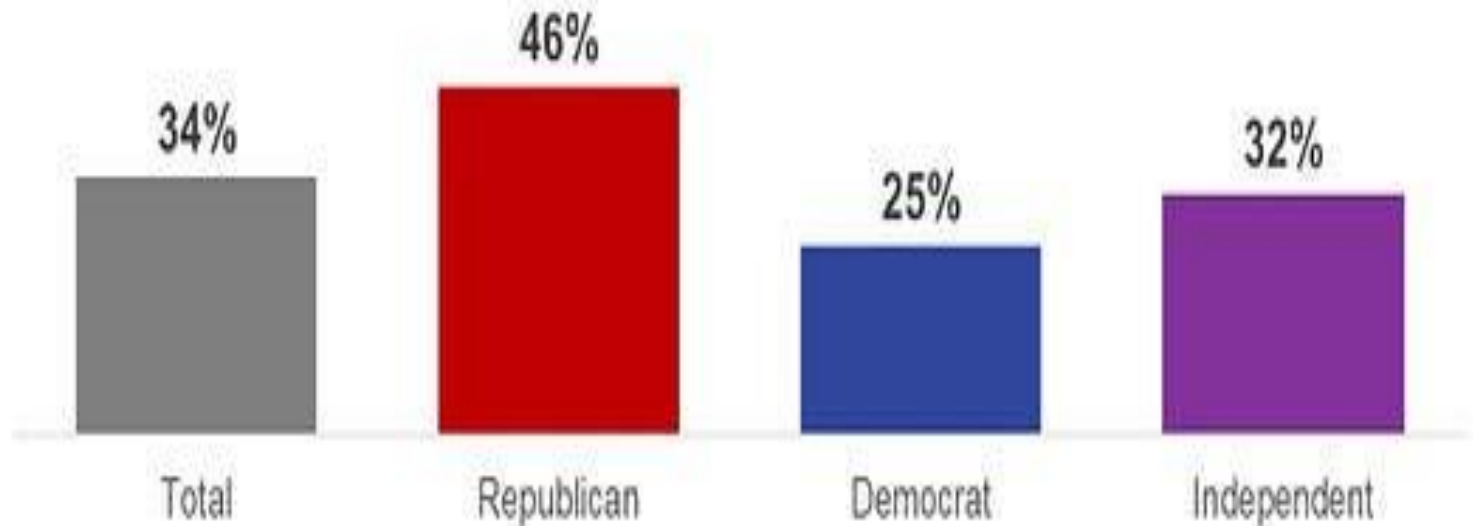
THE WASHINGTON POST

And Nearly Half  
of Republicans  
and a Quarter of  
Democrats Want  
a Strong Leader  
Not Impeded by  
the Courts and  
Congress

## Republicans are more receptive to a leader with fewer limitations

The country is in a crisis and needs a strong president who should be allowed to rule without too much interference from courts and Congress

*% Agree*



# **The Horse Race**

Trump and Harris Are Effectively Tied in These Polls Taken Before the Debate

## How the Times/Siena poll compares

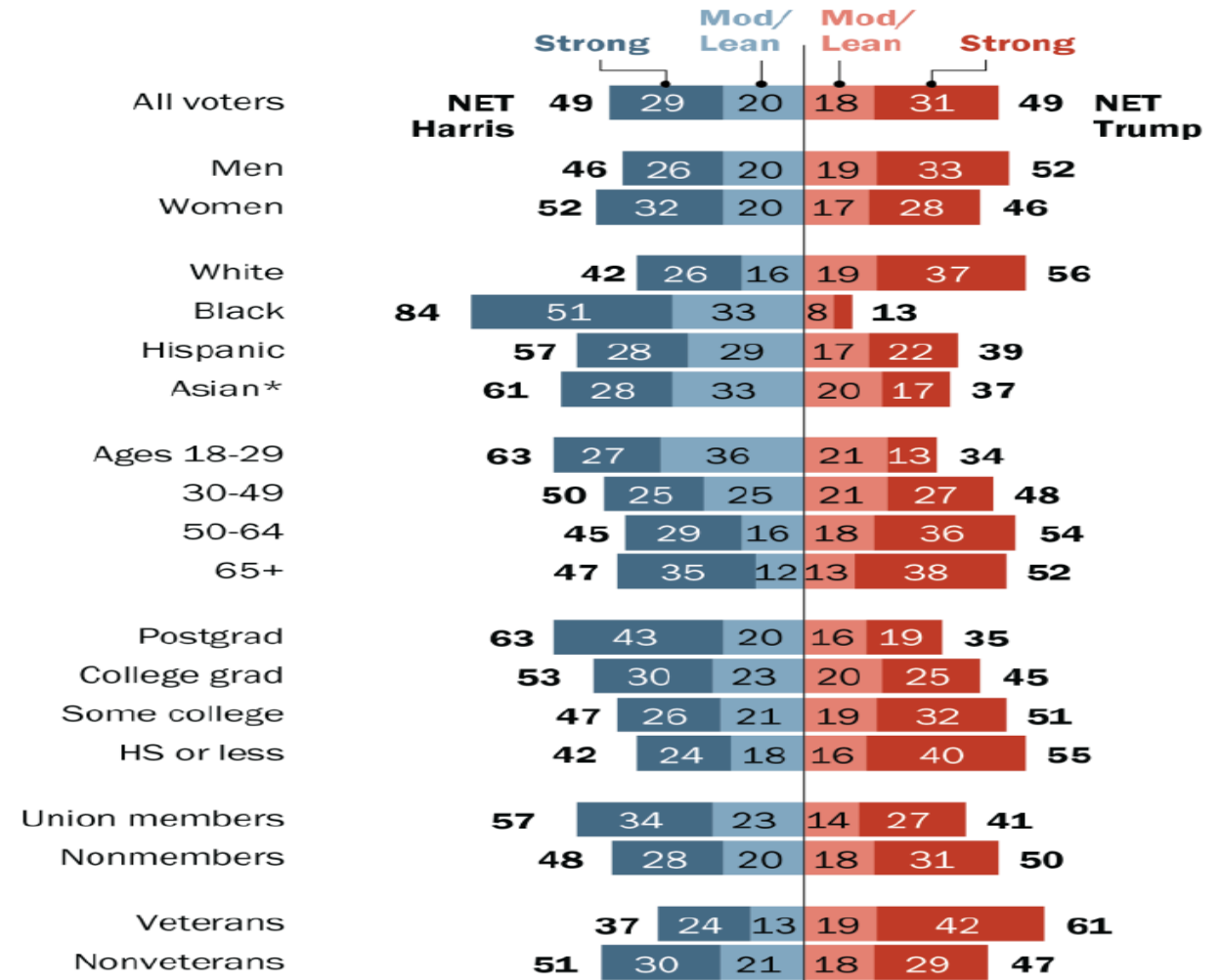
	HARRIS	TRUMP	MARGIN
<b>Times/Siena</b> Likely voters Sept. 3-6	47%	48%	Trump +2
<b>Polling average</b> As of 5 a.m. Sept. 8	49%	47%	Harris +2
Fabrizio, Lee & Associates/GBAO/Wall Street Journal Registered voters Aug. 24-28	48%	47%	Harris +1
Quinnipiac University Likely voters Aug. 23-27	49%	48%	Harris +1
Ipsos/ABC News Likely voters Aug. 23-27	52%	46%	Harris +6

Notes: Margins are calculated using unrounded vote shares when available. The Times's polling average is as of 5 a.m. Eastern on Sept. 8. • By Lily Boyce and Andrew Park

Trump's Support  
is Strongest  
Among White  
Men With No  
More Than a High  
School Education,  
Blacks, the Highly  
Educated and  
Young People

## In a closely divided race, wide differences in vote preferences by race and ethnicity, age, education

% of registered voters who say that if the 2024 presidential election were held today, they would vote for ...



\* Estimates for Asian voters are representative of English speakers only.

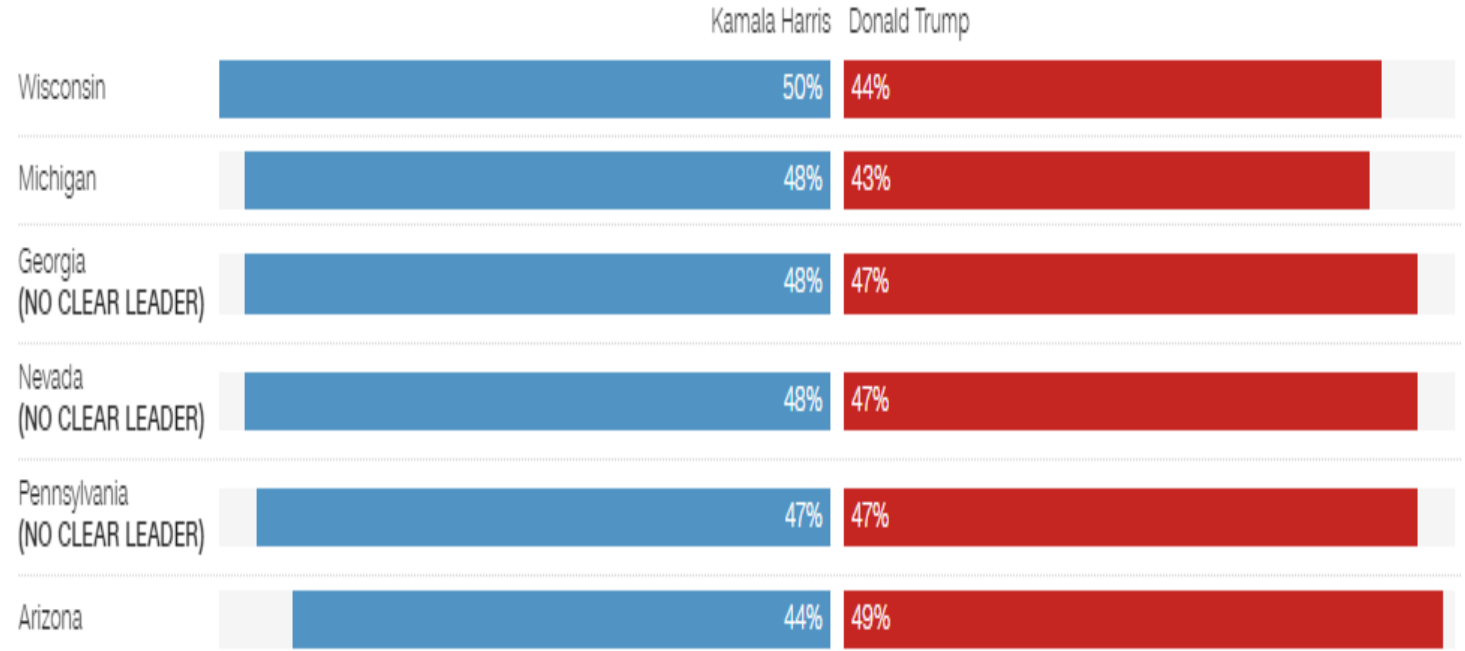
Note: Based on registered voters. White, Black, and Asian voters include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic voters are of any race. No answer responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 26-Sept. 2, 2024.

In These Six Battleground States That Will Determine the Electoral College Outcome, Harris Leads in Two, Trump in One, and Three Are Tied

## New polling shows a close race in several key swing states

In a set of CNN polls conducted by SSRS, likely voters say they're currently supporting:



Methodology: The CNN polls were conducted by SSRS from August 23-29 using representative samples of registered voters in Arizona (n=682), Georgia (n=617), Michigan (n=708), Nevada (n=626), Pennsylvania (n=789) and Wisconsin (n=976). Results for likely voters include all registered voters interviewed for the poll weighted by their predicted probability of voting in the 2024 general election.

Results among the full sample in each state have a margin of sampling error of up to  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points.

Source: CNN/SSRS polling

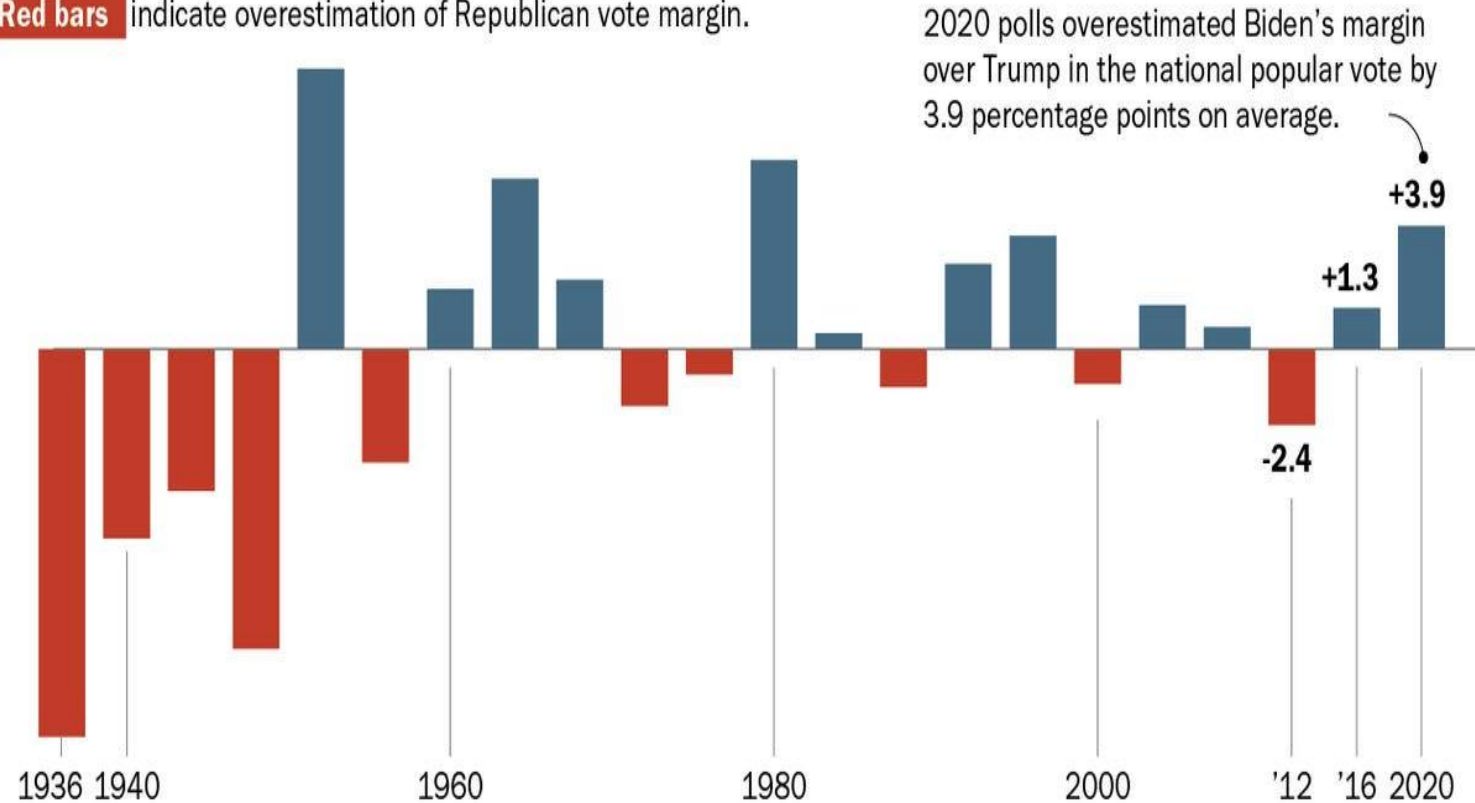
Graphic: Ariel Edwards-Levy, CNN

## Polling errors in U.S. presidential elections

Bars represent average signed error

**Blue bars** indicate overestimation of Democratic vote margin.

**Red bars** indicate overestimation of Republican vote margin.



Note: The average signed error is the difference between the actual margin separating the candidates in the general election and the average margin in the polls. A negative error means that the Republican candidate's margin was overstated and a positive error means the Democratic candidate's margin was overstated.

Source: American Association for Public Opinion Research (AAPOR) Task Force on 2020 Pre-Election Polling: An Evaluation of the 2020 General Election Polls

Going Back to 1952, Polls Have Been More Likely to Overestimate the Democratic Vote Margin in Presidential Elections

Whoever Wins the White House  
 However,  
 Americans  
 Increasingly Prefer  
 Divided  
 Government, So  
 Such an Outcome  
 May Be the Most  
 Likely



## No Consistent Governing Alignment >2 Years Since 2014

	<u>2013-2014</u>	<u>2015-2016</u>	<u>2017-2018</u>	<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>2021-2022</u>	<u>2023-2024</u>
WH						
S						
H						

### Average Duration of Control

	House	Senate
20 <sup>th</sup> Century	<b>11.1</b> yrs	<b>9.0</b> yrs
21 <sup>st</sup> Century	<b>4.8</b> yrs	<b>4.0</b> yrs



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