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Bipartisan Policy Center

TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Polling Presentation

JULY 2022

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. There is a strong partisan divide in the grade voters give to members of Congress and President Biden in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner.** A third (34%) of voters give President Biden an *F* in his ability to work in a bipartisan manner, and nearly half (46%) of independent voters give President Biden a *D* or *F*, a 5% increase since April. Three in five (57%) Democrat voters give Biden a passing grade, compared to 75% of Republicans who give him a failing grade.
- 2. Voters remain pessimistic about the amount of bipartisan legislation that is passed by Congress, even after the passage of bipartisan gun safety legislation.** Over a third of voters (38%) think less than quarter of legislation passed by Congress is bipartisan, and about a third of voters (30%) say the bipartisan gun safety bill makes them *more confident* in Congress to work across party lines on future policy, while 43% say it doesn't impact their confidence either way.
- 3. There is an appetite for Republicans and Democrats to work together to pass bipartisan legislation.** It is most important to Republican and Democrat voters that Congress work together to pass bipartisan *economic, health care, and criminal justice* legislation. Three in four voters (76%) say it is very important Democrats and Republicans in Congress work together to pass bipartisan economic legislation, a 9% increase since April.
- 4. Bipartisanship is becoming more important to voters in the midterm elections.** Thinking about their vote in the midterm elections, a bipartisan majority of voters are more likely to vote for a member of Congress *who finds compromise and common ground between political parties* rather than a member *who stands their ground and pushes their political party's agenda*. However, this preference has increased since April. There was an increase among Democrat (+9%), independent (+6%), and Republican (+5%) voters in their preference to vote for a member of Congress who *finds compromise*.
- 5. A bipartisan majority of voters are confident their vote will be counted accurately during the midterm elections, and a bipartisan majority say they will accept the results of the midterm elections regardless of the outcome.** However, among voters not confident their vote will be counted accurately during the midterm elections, 37% are *unsure* if they will accept the outcome of the election.
- 6. Inflation is causing voters to reduce their household spending, and the percentage of voters making changes in their spending because of inflation has significantly increased since April.** Seven in ten voters say they have had to reduce their household spending over the past month due to an increase in gas prices (72%, +7% since April) and price of groceries (69%, +6% since April). There was a 20% increase since April among Hispanic adults who have had to reduce their household spending due to an increase in gas prices (+23%) and groceries (+20%).

BACKGROUND

Setting the Scene: Wave 1 (February 18-20, 2022)

TOP NEWS STORIES WHILE SURVEY WAS IN THE FIELD

- Biden says U.S. intelligence shows that President Putin has decided to invade Ukraine. Putin gave orders Saturday for his country's military to begin prepare for war.
- Canadian police forces mobilized in response to truckers blocking border crossings and streets in Ottawa.
- A New York judge ruled former President Donald Trump and two of his adult children, Donald Trump Jr. and Ivanka Trump, must testify under oath in investigation about business practices.
- Conclusion of Winter Olympics.

Setting the Scene: Wave 3 (June 29-July 1, 2022)

TOP NEWS STORIES WHILE SURVEY WAS IN THE FIELD

- On June 24, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, and the Senate passed guns safety legislation.
- January 6th committee hearings are ongoing, including Cassidy Hutchinson's testimony.
- Increasing concern as inflation continues to rise.
- Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson was sworn in as a Supreme Court justice.

Setting the Scene: Wave 2 (April 15-17, 2022)

TOP NEWS STORIES WHILE SURVEY WAS IN THE FIELD

- Russia-Ukraine war been going on for nearly two months.
- Inflation accelerated to 8.5% in March to 4-year high.
- Twitter's board of directors announce a 'poison pill strategy' to prevent hostile takeover by Elon Musk.
- White House discussing student loan debt forgiveness.

AGENDA

TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

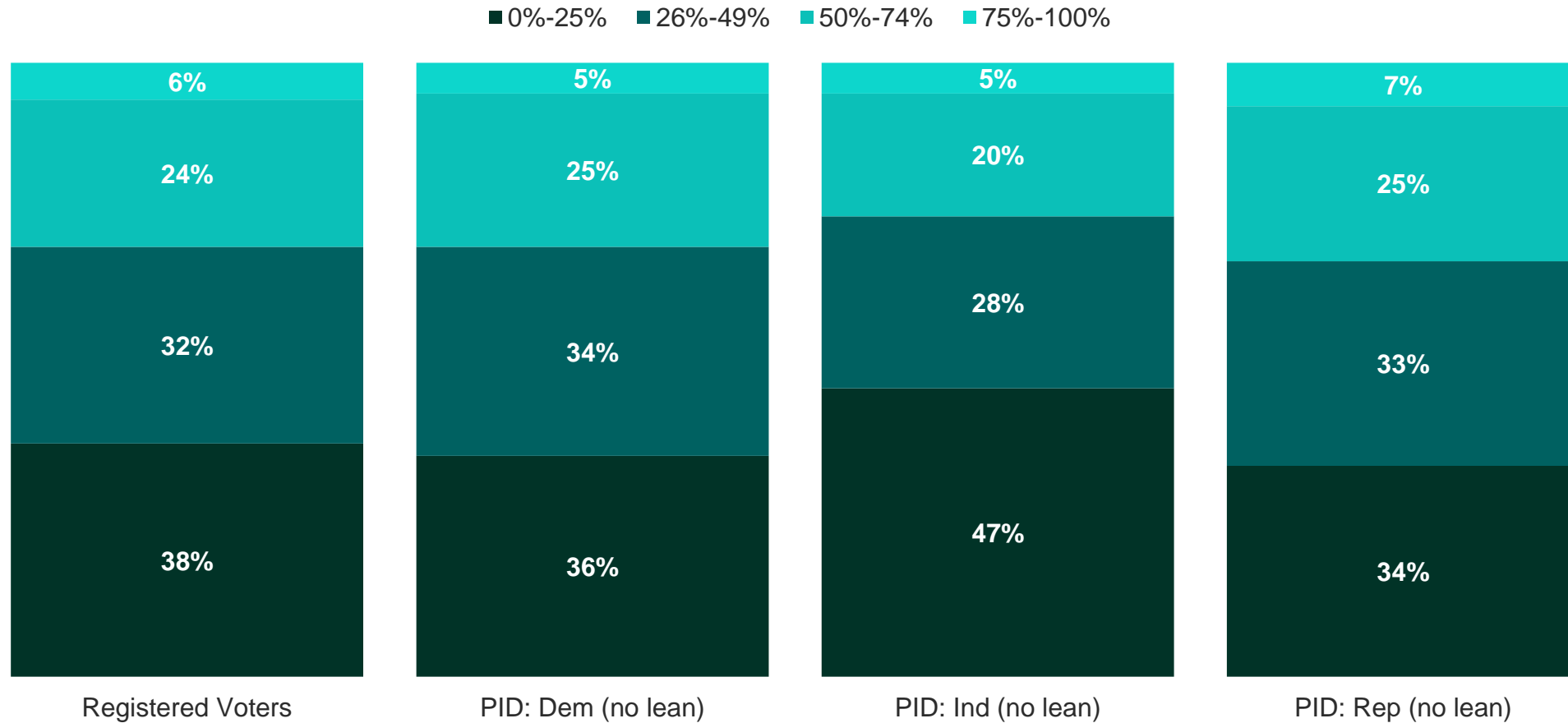
TOPICAL QUESTIONS



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Independent voters are more likely than Democrat and Republican voters to think a *lower percentage* of legislation passed by Congress is bipartisan.

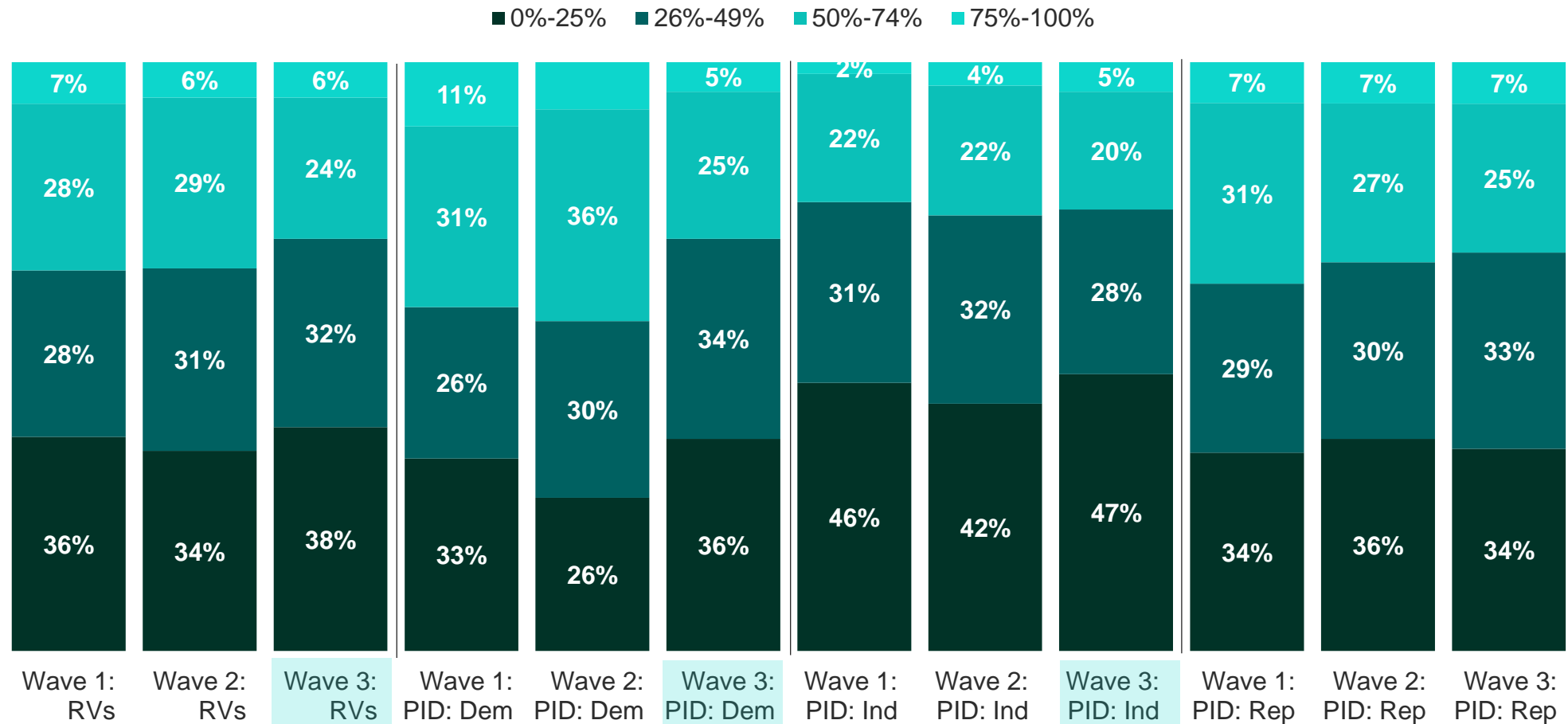
Based on what you know, what percentage of legislation passed by Congress is bipartisan?



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Compared to April, there was an increase among voters overall (+4%), Democrat voters (+10%), and independent voters (+5%) who think 0-25% of legislation passed by Congress is bipartisan.

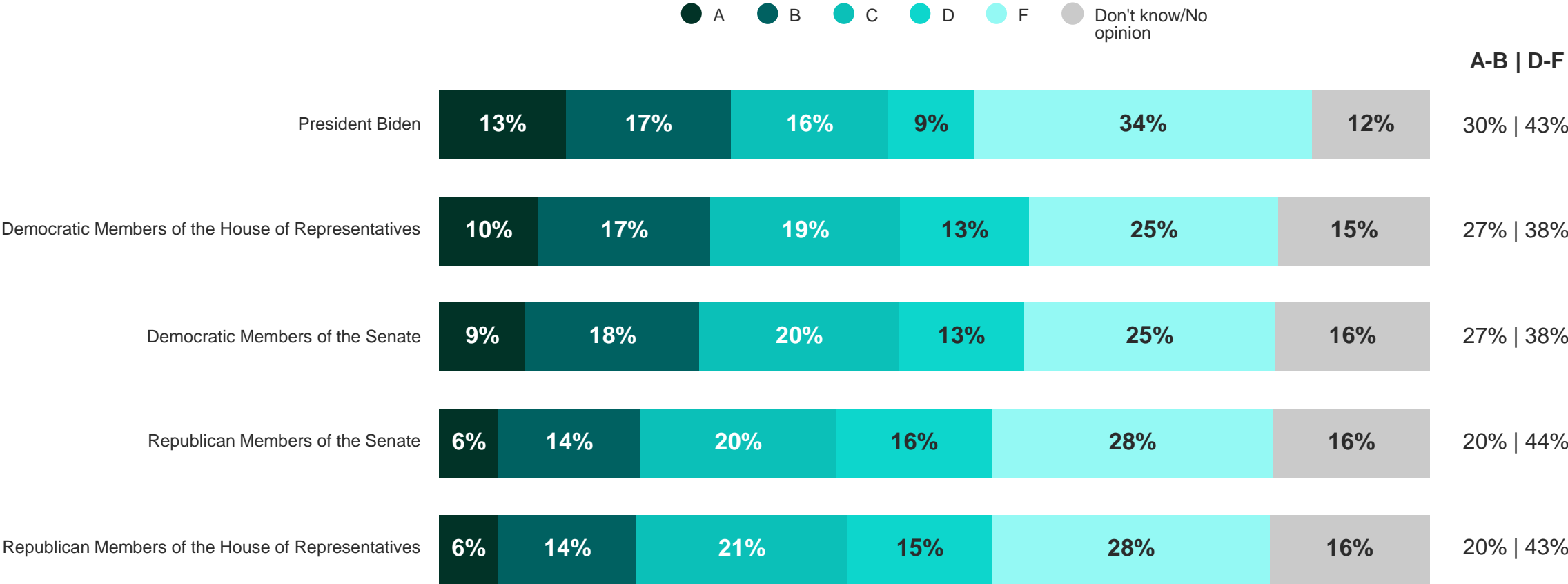
Based on what you know, what percentage of legislation passed by Congress is bipartisan?



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

A plurality of voters give the tested government bodies a failing grade in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner, including 43% of voters who give a *D* or *F* to President Biden.

How would you grade each of the following in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner?

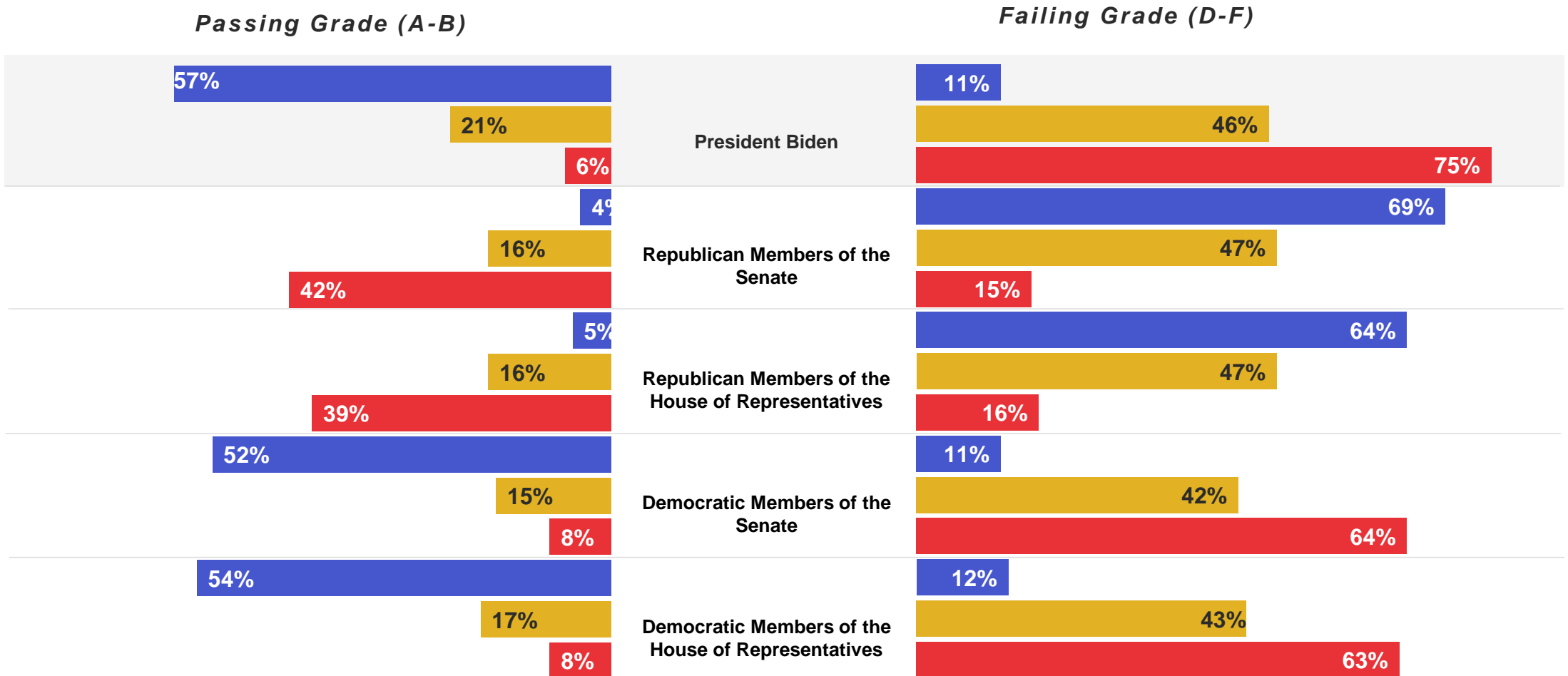


TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Nearly half (46%) of independent voters give President Biden a *D* or *F* in his ability to work in a bipartisan manner, a 5% increase since April.

How would you grade each of the following in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner?

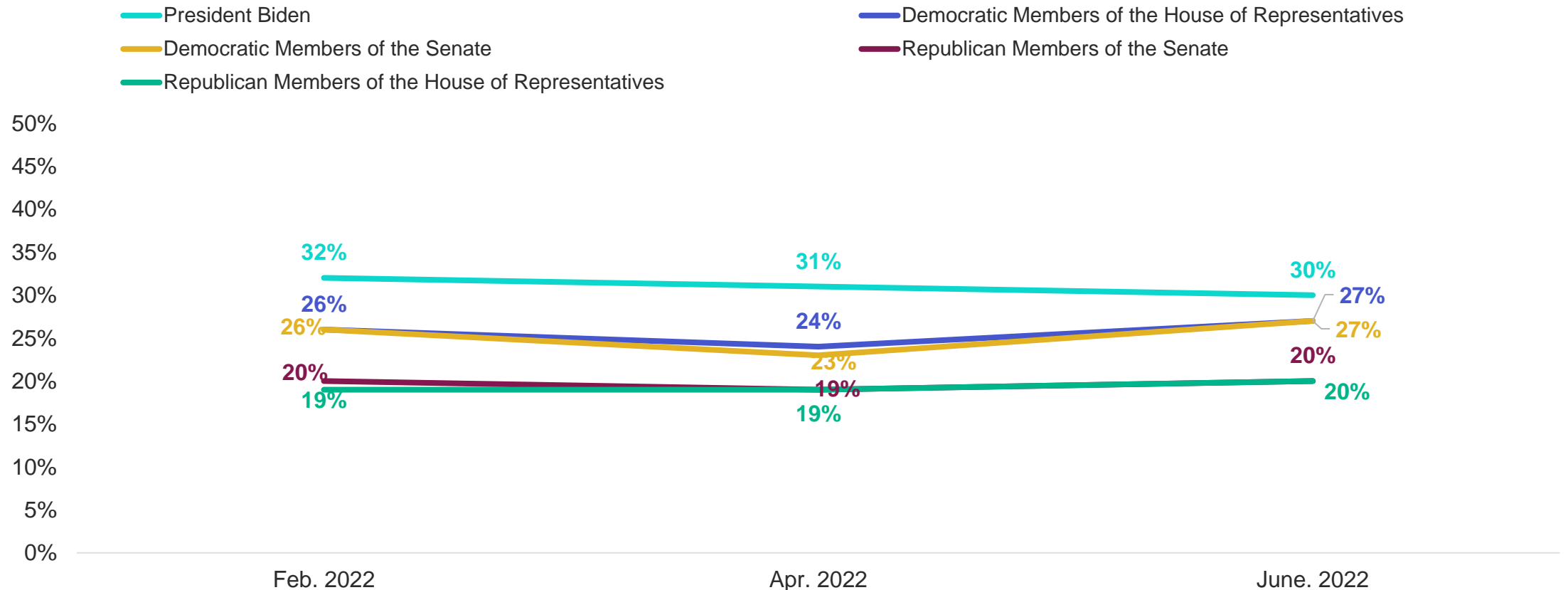
● PID: Dem ● PID: Ind ● PID: Rep



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Compared to April results, there was a 4% increase in voters giving a passing grade to Democratic Members of the Senates' ability to work in a bipartisan manner.

How would you grade each of the following in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner? % **Passing Grade, A-B**

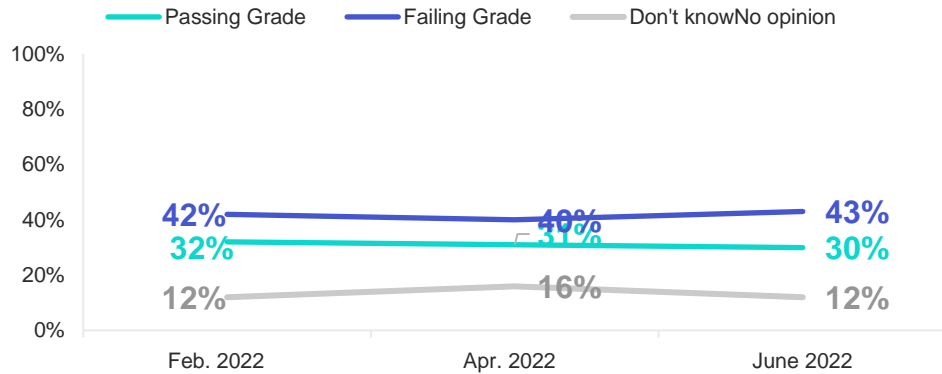


TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

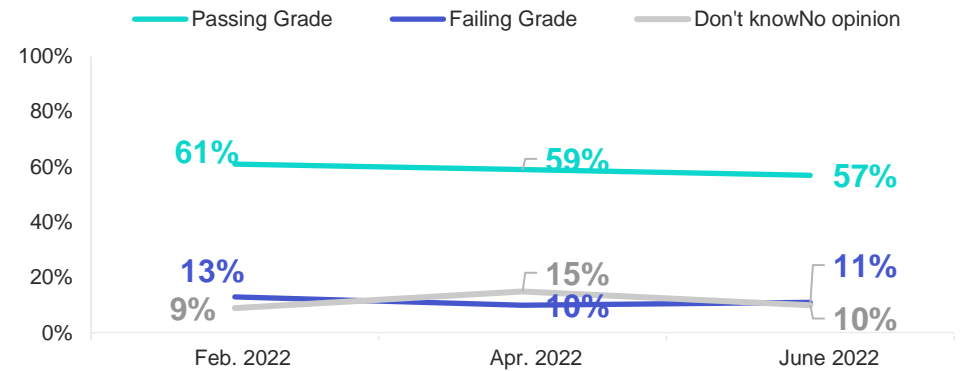
The grade of President Biden's ability to work in a bipartisan manner has remained consistent since February across political party.

How would you grade each of the following in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner? **President Biden**

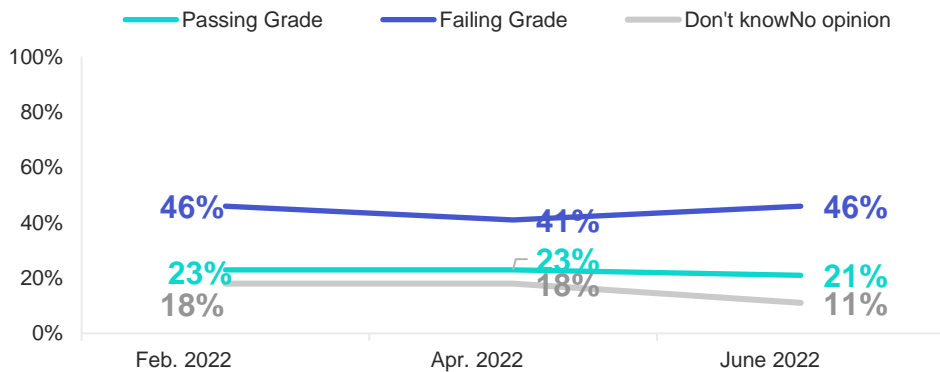
VOTERS



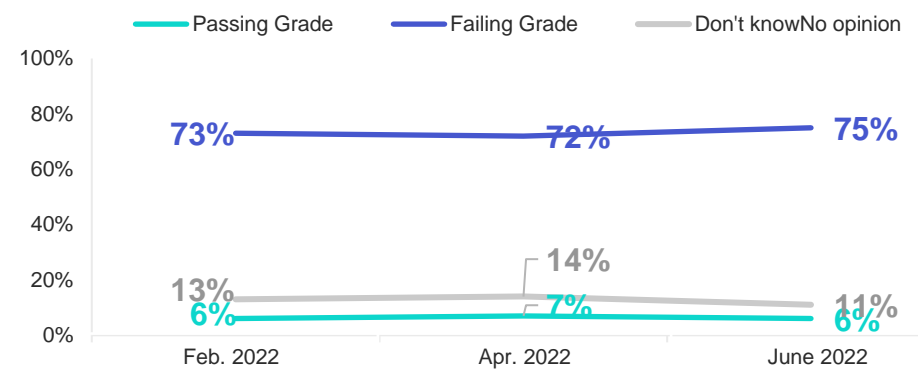
DEMOCRATS



INDEPENDENTS



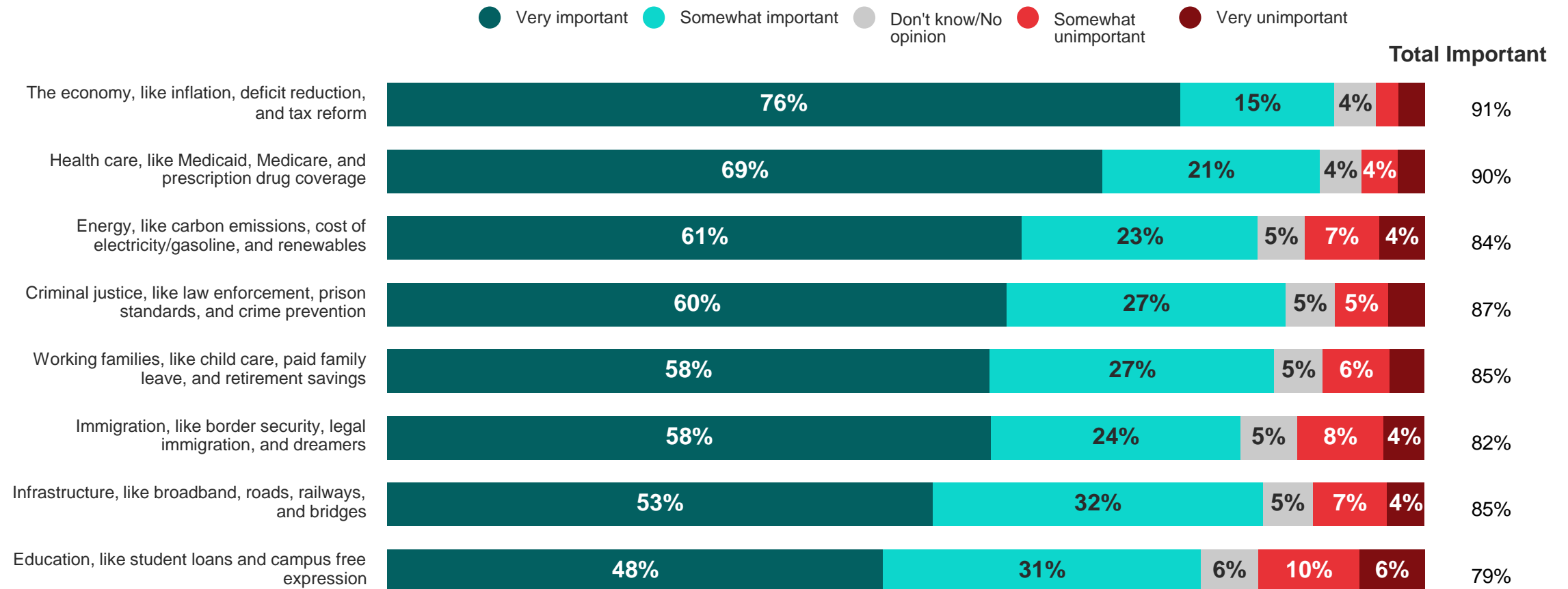
REPUBLICANS



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Three in four voters (76%) say it is *very important* Democrats and Republicans in Congress work together to pass bipartisan economic legislation, a 9% increase since April.

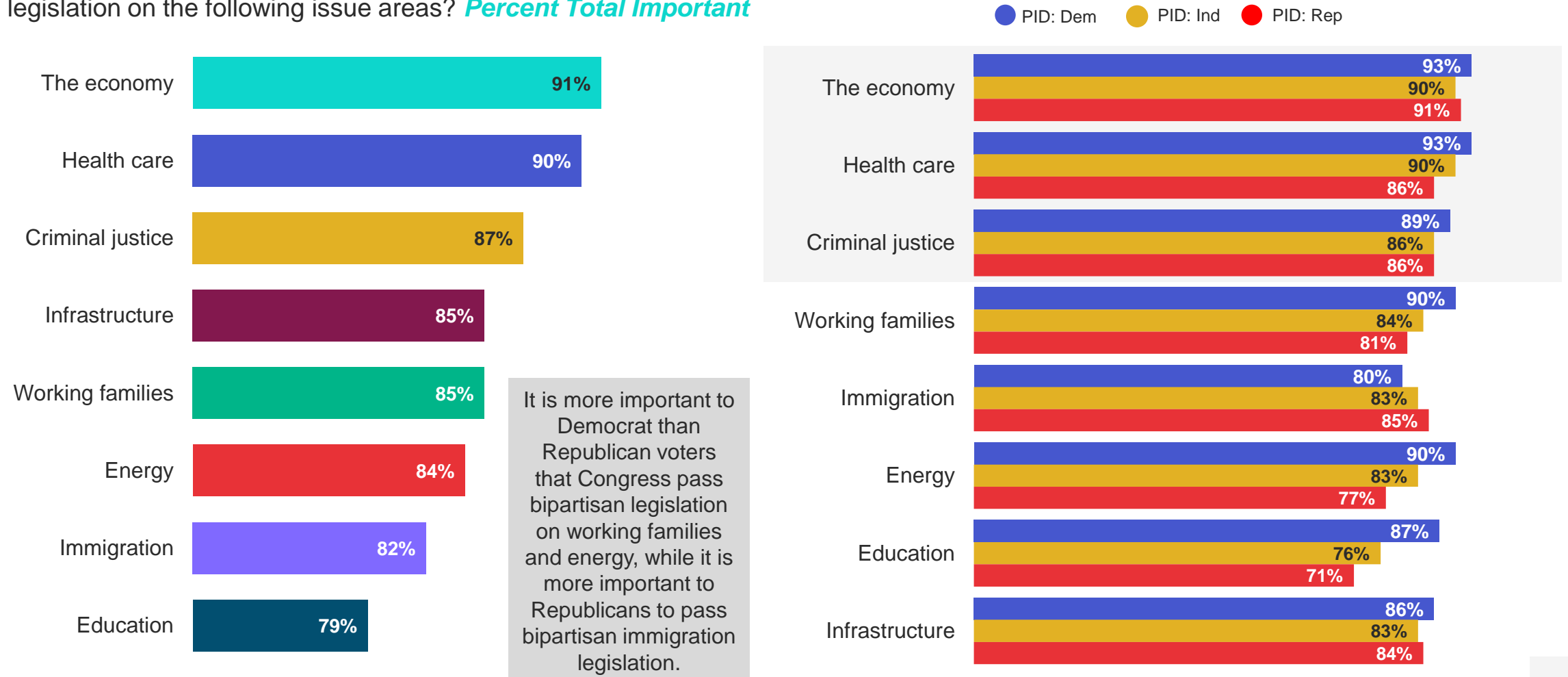
In your opinion, how important or unimportant is it for Democrats and Republicans in Congress to work together to pass bipartisan legislation on the following issue areas?



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

A strong bipartisan majority of voters think it is important for Congress to work together to pass bipartisan *economic, health care, and criminal justice* legislation.

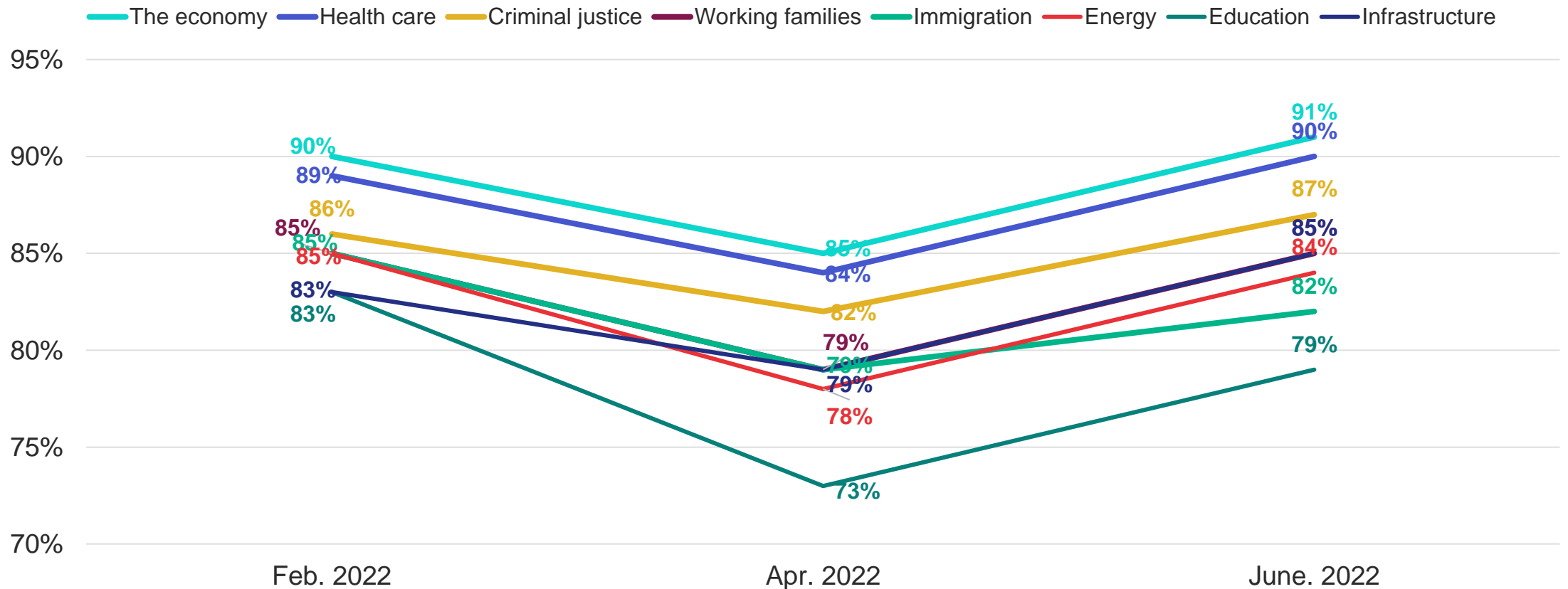
In your opinion, how important or unimportant is it for Democrats and Republicans in Congress to work together to pass bipartisan legislation on the following issue areas? *Percent Total Important*



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Since April, there has been an *increase* in the percentage of importance placed on Congress passing bipartisan legislation on each of the tested issue areas.

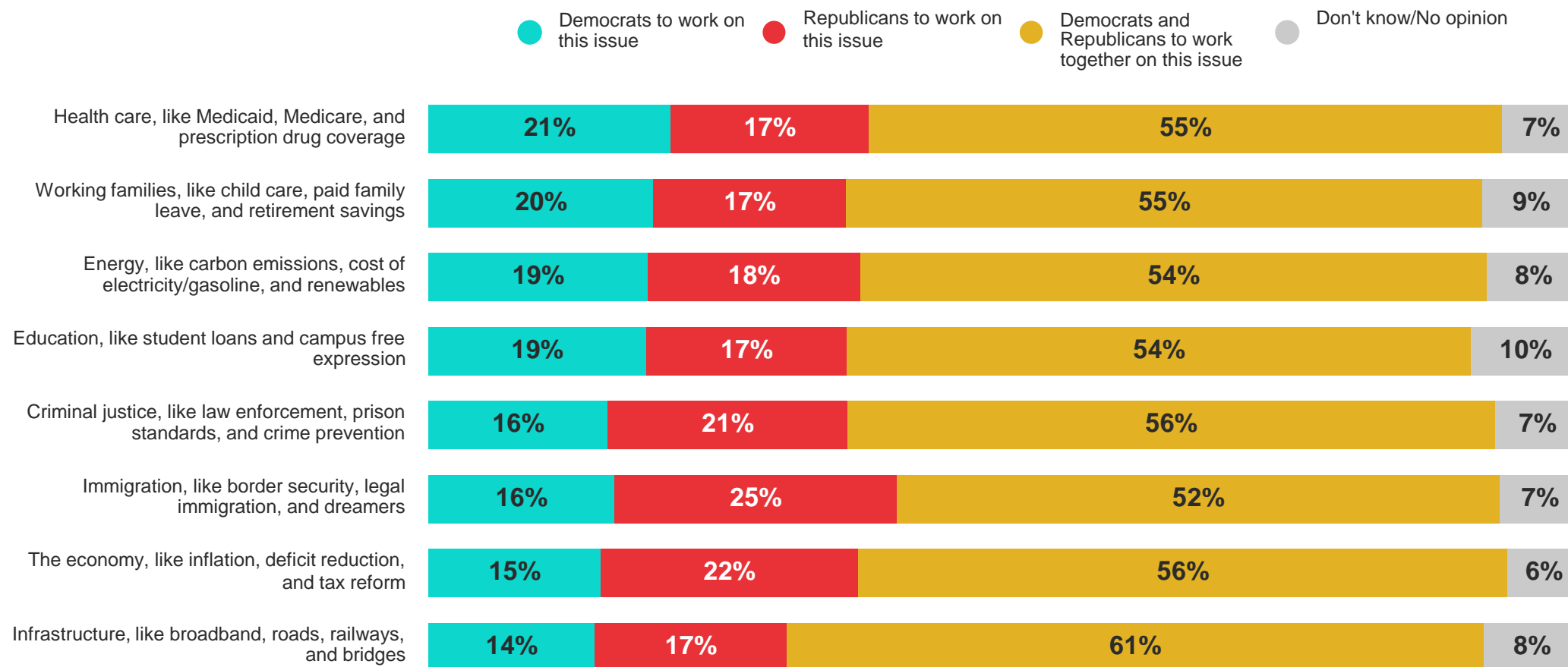
In your opinion, how important or unimportant is it for Democrats and Republicans in Congress to work together to pass bipartisan legislation on the following issue areas? *Percent Total Important*



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Voters are more likely to want to see Republicans rather than Democrats work on immigration (25%) and economic policy (22%).

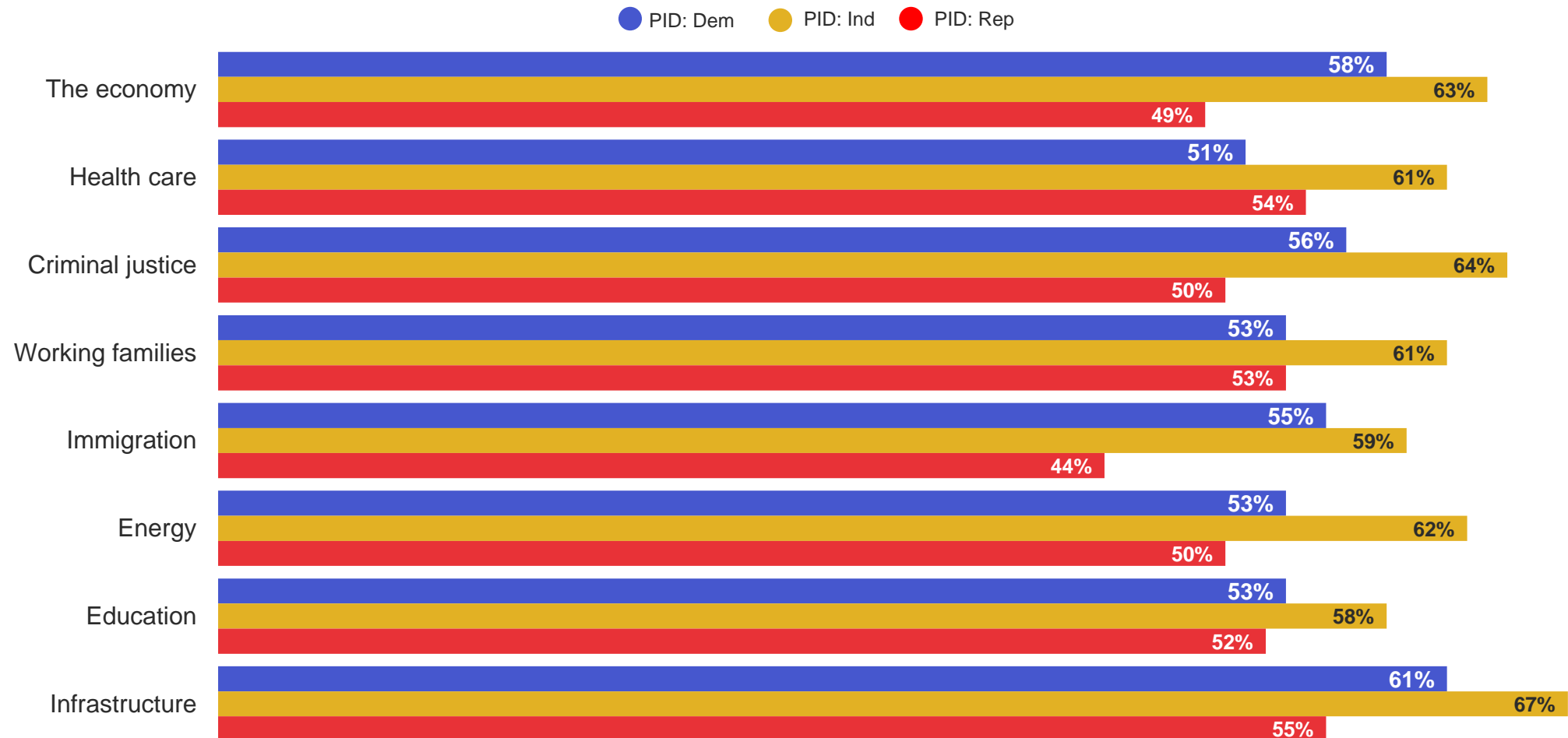
Who would you most like to see work on each of the following issue topics?



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A bipartisan majority of voters would like to see Democrats and Republicans to work together on each of the tested issues, excluding immigration.

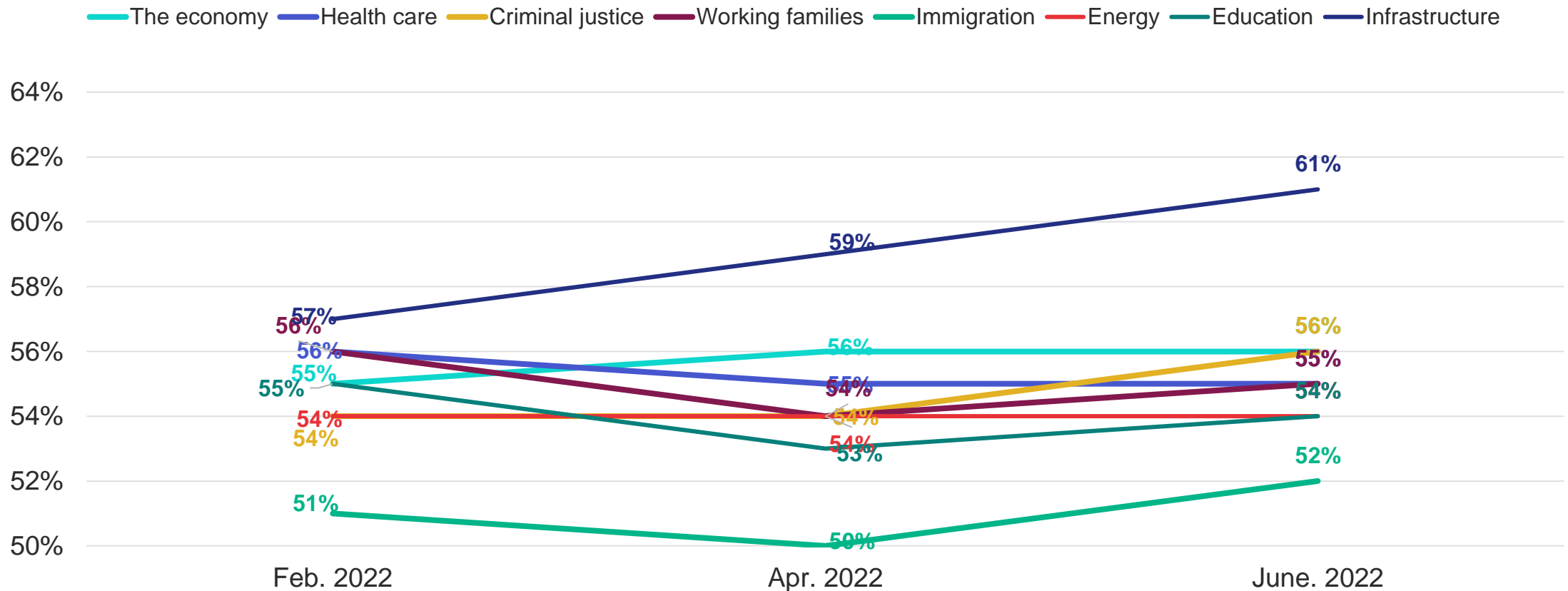
Who would you most like to see work on each of the following issue topics? *Percent Democrats and Republicans Work Together*



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

The percent of voters who want to see *Democrats and Republicans work together* on the tested issue areas remained consistent with results from April.

Who would you most like to see work on each of the following issue topics? *Percent Democrats and Republicans Work Together*



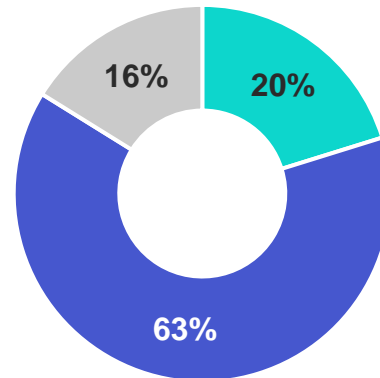
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Thinking about their vote in the midterm elections, a bipartisan majority of voters are more likely to vote for a member of Congress who *finds compromise and common ground between political parties* rather than a member who *stands their ground and pushes their political party's agenda*.

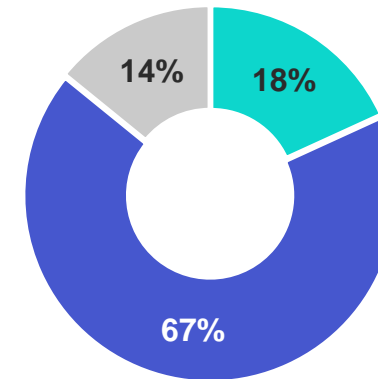
Thinking about your vote in the November 2022 midterm elections, which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly correct?

- I am more likely to vote for a member of Congress who **finds compromise** and **common ground** between political parties
- I am more likely to vote for a member of Congress who **stands their ground** and pushes their **political party's own agenda**
- Don't know/No opinion

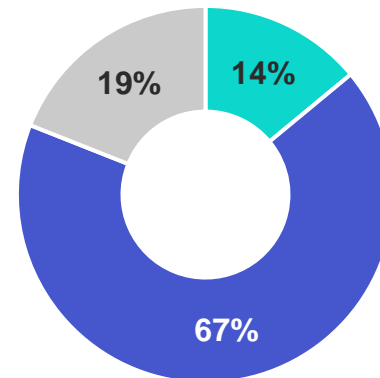
REGISTERED VOTERS



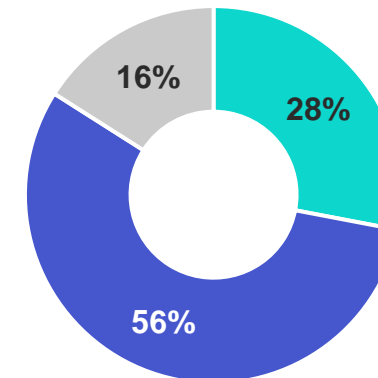
PID: DEM



PID: IND



PID: REP



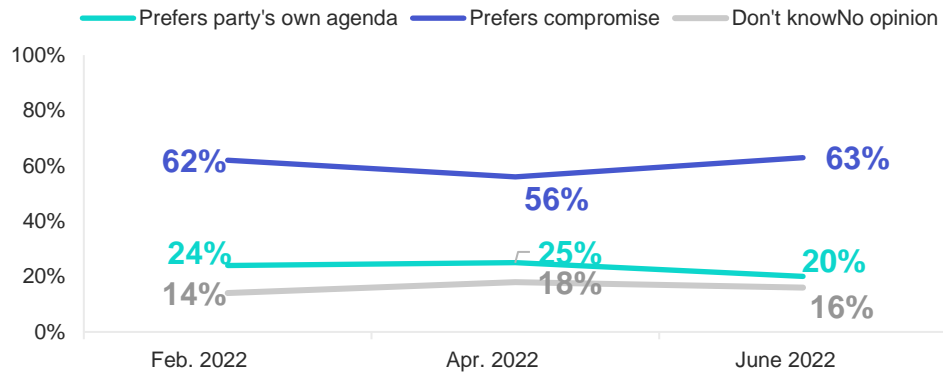
A third of Republican voters (34%) are more likely to vote for member of Congress who stands their ground and pushes their political party's own agenda. Additionally, a quarter (25%) of independent voters are unsure if they prefer to vote for a candidate who compromise or their party's agenda.

TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

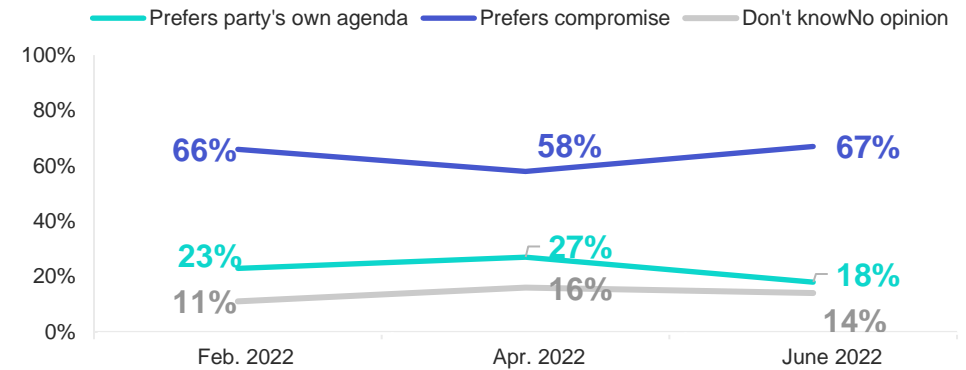
Since April, there was an increase among Democrat (+9%), independent (+6%), and Republican (+5%) voters who would prefer to vote for a member of Congress who finds compromise between political parties.

Thinking about your vote in the November 2022 midterm elections, which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly correct?

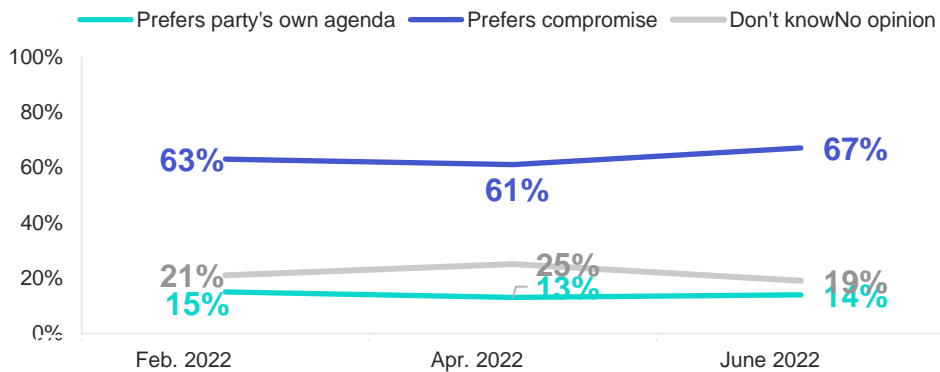
VOTERS



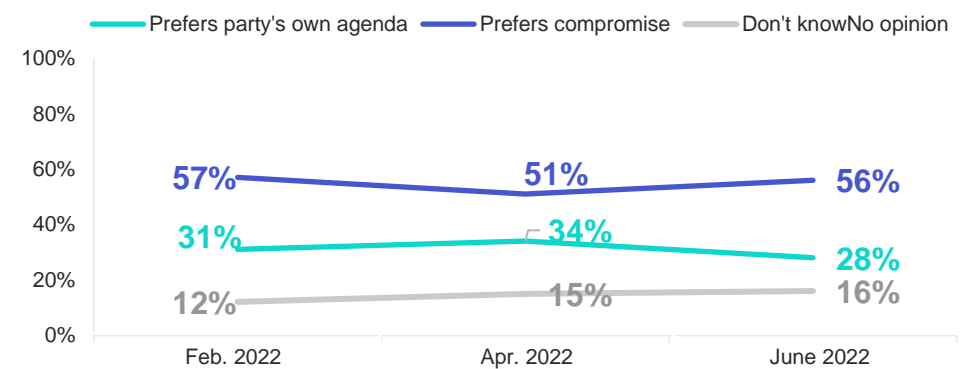
DEMOCRATS



INDEPENDENTS



REPUBLICANS



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AGENDA

TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

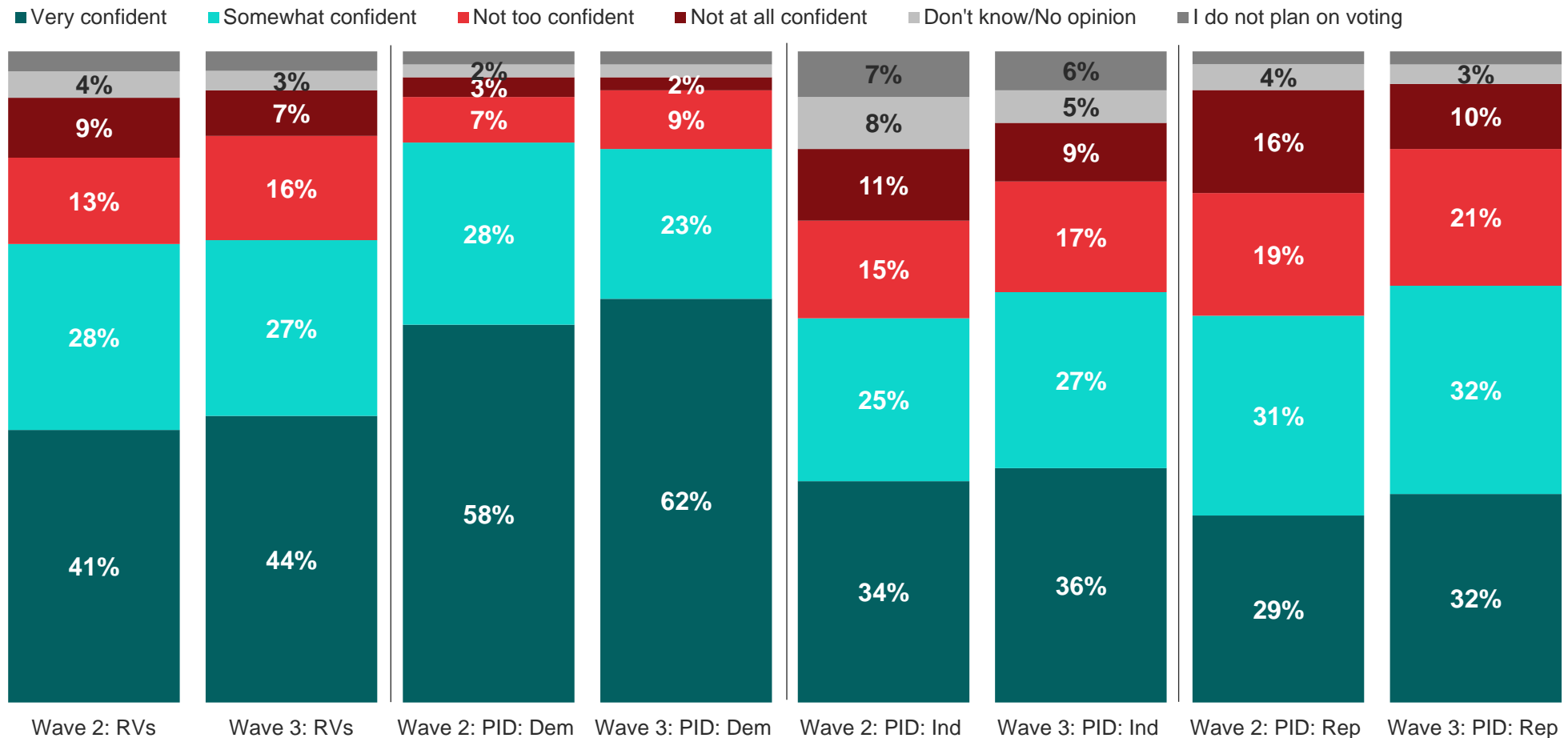
TOPICAL QUESTIONS



TOPICAL: MIDTERM ELECTIONS

A bipartisan majority of voters are *confident* their vote will be counted accurately during the midterm elections. However, strong confidence is higher among Democrats (62%) compared to independents (36%) and Republicans (32%).

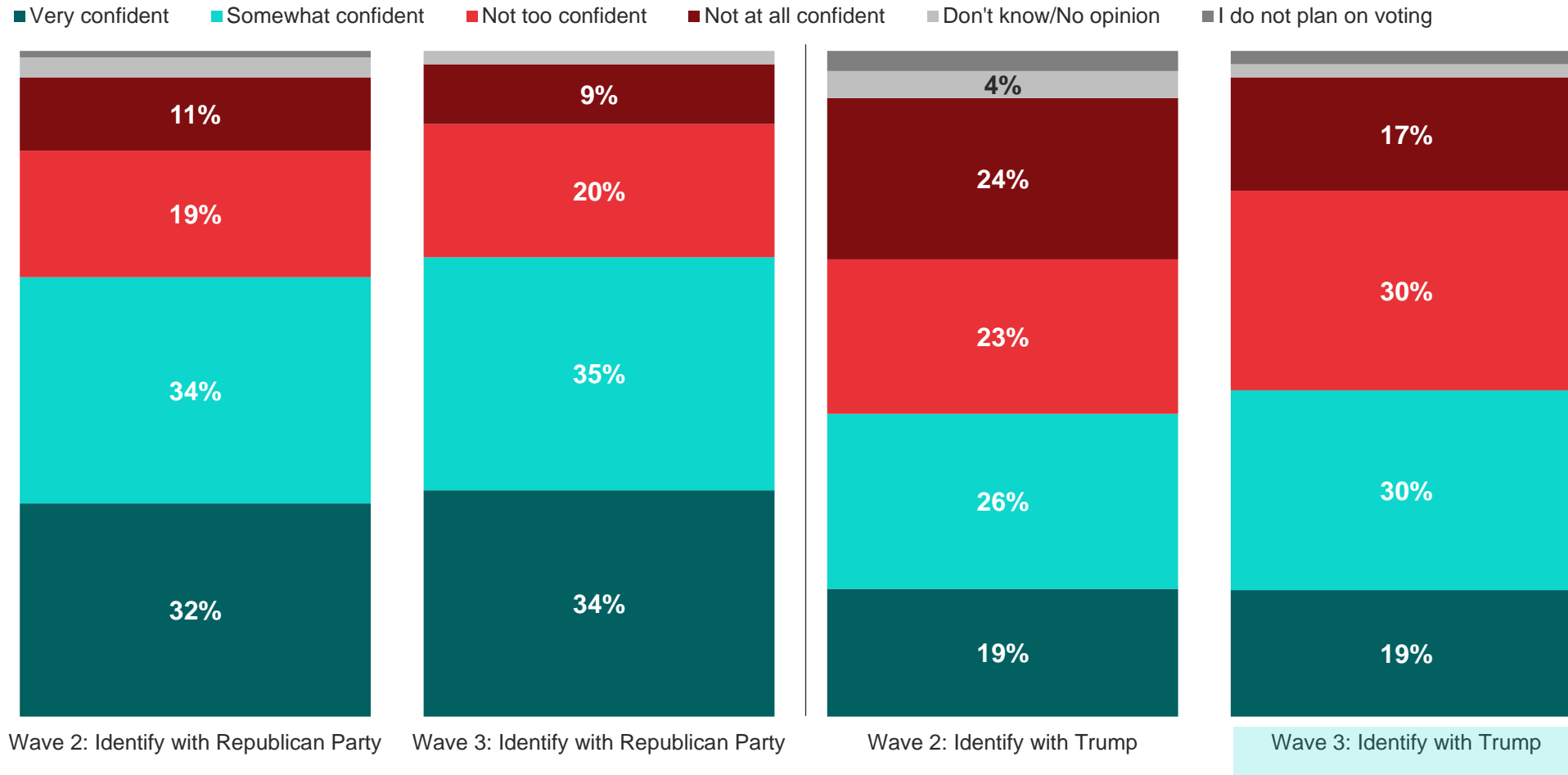
The midterm elections will be held in November 2022. How confident are you, if at all, that your vote will be counted accurately during the midterm elections?



TOPICAL: MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Among Republican voters who identify closer to Donald Trump compared to the Republican Party, they are split on their confidence in their vote will be counted accurately during the midterm elections (49% confident vs 47% not confident).

The midterm elections will be held in November 2022. How confident are you, if at all, that your vote will be counted accurately during the midterm elections?

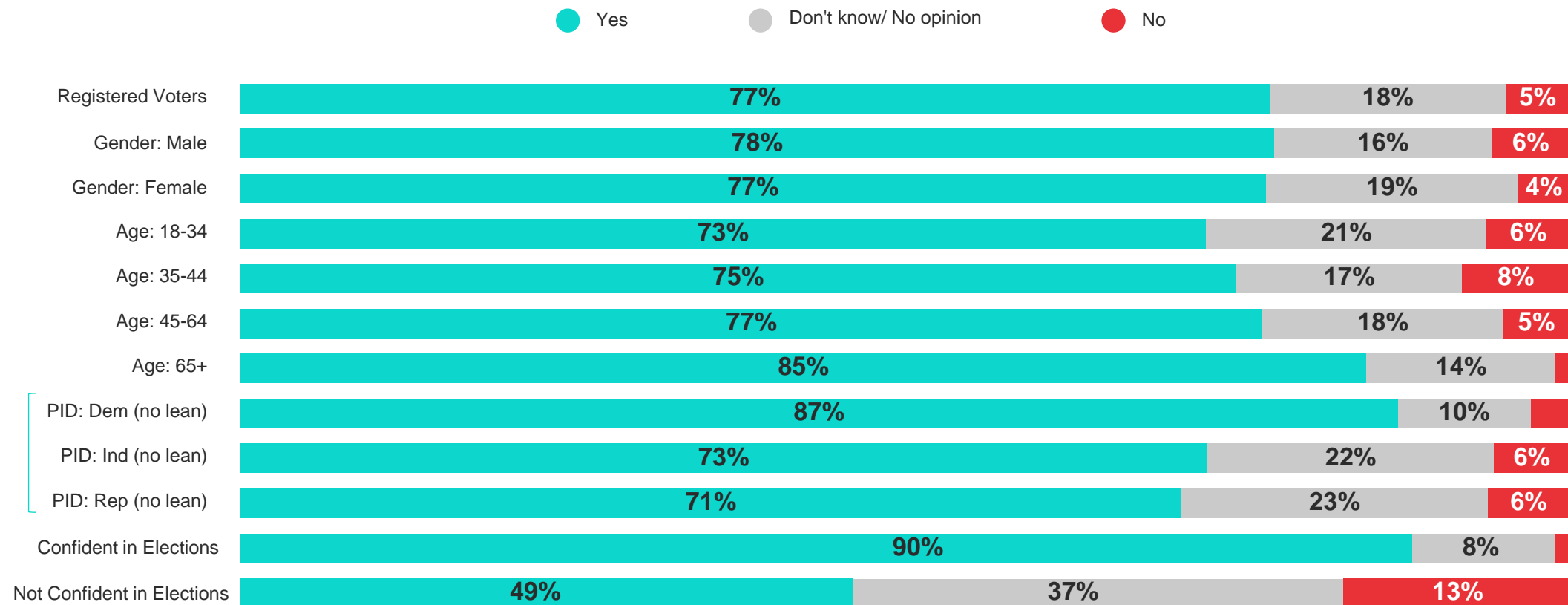


*Asked among Republicans: Thinking about your political views, which of the following do you identify more strongly with? Republican Party vs. Donald Trump

TOPICAL: MIDTERM ELECTIONS

A majority of voters (77%) will accept the results of the midterm elections regardless of the outcome of the election, including a bipartisan majority of voters.

Will you accept the results of the midterm elections regardless of the outcome of the election?

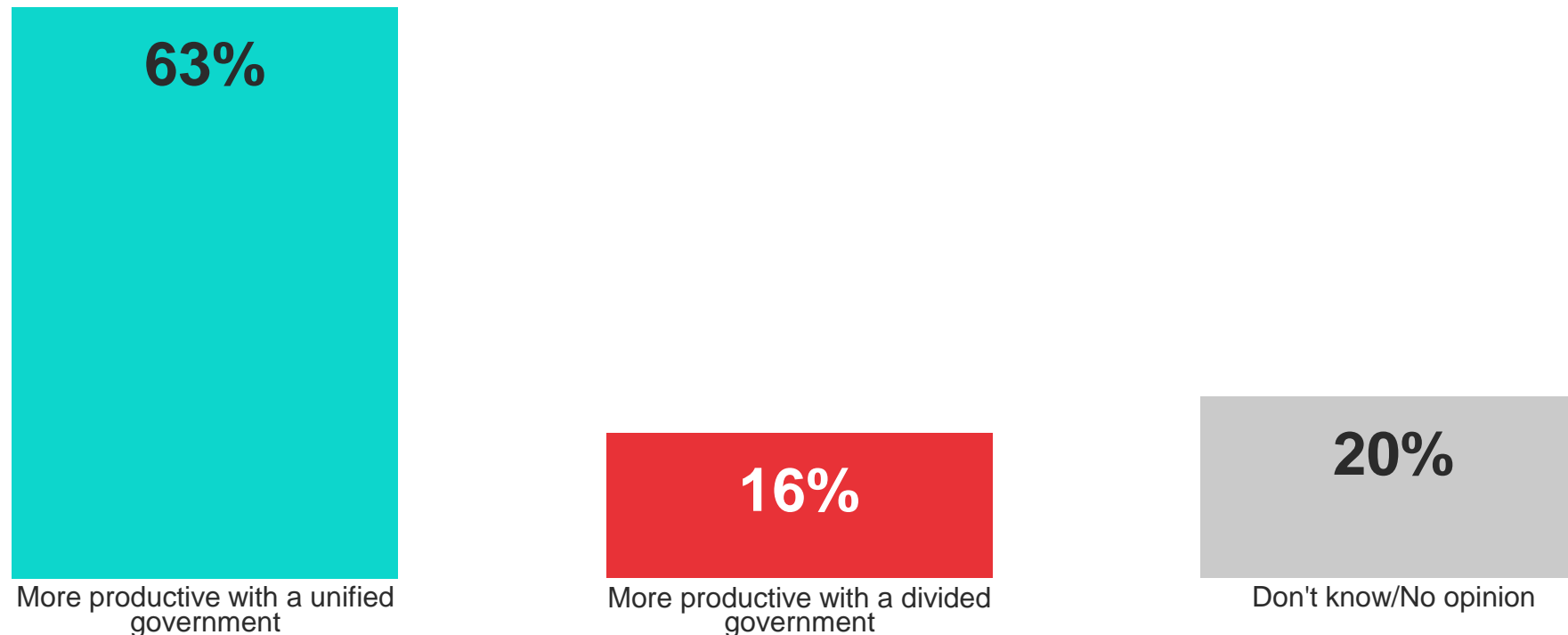


Among voters not confident their vote will be counted accurately during the midterm elections, 37% are *unsure* if they will accept the outcome of the election.

TOPICAL: MIDTERM ELECTIONS

A majority of voters (63%), including a bipartisan majority of voters (Dem. 71%, Ind. 59%, Rep. 58%), think the federal government is more productive with a unified government rather than a divided government.

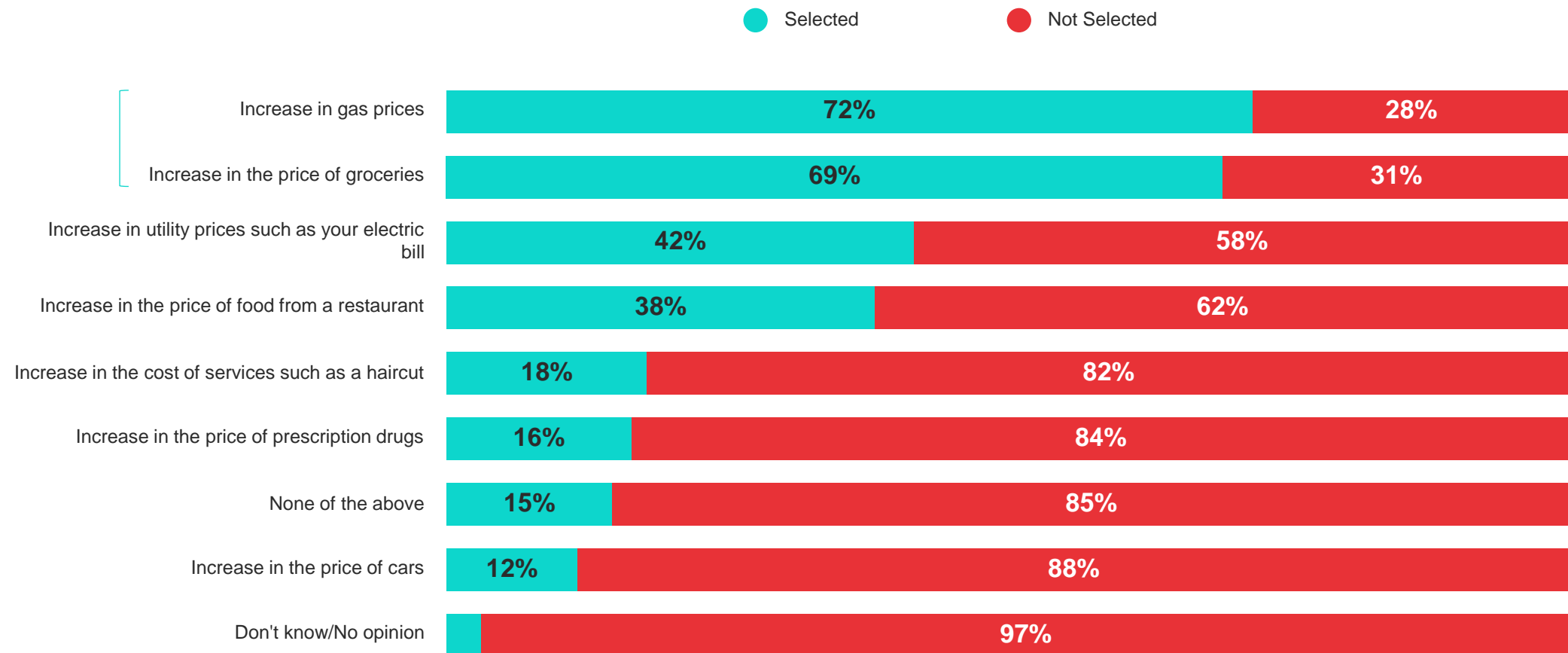
As you may know, a divided government describes a situation in which one political party controls the presidency, while another political party controls one or both houses of Congress. A unified government is when the same political party controls both the presidency and one or both houses of Congress. Do you think the federal government is more or less productive with a divided or unified government?



TOPICAL: IMPACTS OF INFLATION

Seven-in-ten voters say they have had to reduce their household spending over the past month due to an *increase in gas prices* (72%) and *price of groceries* (69%).

Over the past month, have you personally had to reduce your household spending due to any of the following? Please select all that apply.



TOPICAL: IMPACTS OF INFLATION

Across age groups, about 7 in 10 voters have had to reduce their household spending over the past month due to an *increase in gas prices* and an *increase in the price of groceries*.

Over the past month, have you personally had to reduce your household spending due to any of the following? Please select all that apply.

% Selected	Voters	Age: 18-34	Age: 35-44	Age: 45-64	Age: 65+
Increase in gas prices	72%	76%	72%	71%	68%
Increase in the price of groceries	69%	69%	70%	71%	66%
Increase in utility prices such as your electric bill	42%	41%	44%	47%	32%
Increase in the price of food from a restaurant	38%	38%	42%	39%	35%
None of the above	15%	8%	13%	15%	23%
Increase in the price of prescription drugs	16%	18%	13%	18%	15%
Increase in the cost of services such as a haircut	18%	19%	17%	20%	14%
Increase in the price of cars	12%	15%	15%	12%	6%

TOPICAL: IMPACTS OF INFLATION

Lower income adults are more likely to have had to reduce their household spending due to an increase in prices of a variety of products and services.

Over the past month, have you personally had to reduce your household spending due to any of the following? Please select all that apply.

% Selected	Voters	Income: Under 50k	Income: 50k-100k	Income: 100k+	Ethnicity: White	Ethnicity: Hispanic	Ethnicity: Black	Ethnicity: Other
Increase in gas prices	72%	76%	72%	62%	72%	77%	64%	75%
Increase in the price of groceries	69%	77%	67%	55%	70%	71%	66%	65%
Increase in utility prices such as your electric bill	42%	47%	42%	30%	42%	42%	36%	44%
Increase in the price of food from a restaurant	38%	40%	38%	33%	40%	38%	26%	37%
None of the above	15%	10%	15%	25%	15%	6%	14%	12%
Increase in the price of prescription drugs	16%	20%	15%	10%	17%	14%	12%	15%
Increase in the cost of services such as a haircut	18%	20%	17%	15%	19%	14%	12%	19%
Increase in the price of cars	12%	12%	10%	13%	12%	16%	7%	17%

TOPICAL: IMPACTS OF INFLATION

Compared to results from April, younger adults are more likely to say they have had to reduce their household spending due to an increase in gas and grocery prices.

Over the past month, have you personally had to reduce your household spending due to any of the following? Please select all that apply.

% Change From April	Voters	Age: 18-34	Age: 35-44	Age: 45-64	Age: 65+
Increase in gas prices	+7%	+8%	+12%	+4%	+7%
Increase in the price of groceries	+6%	+9%	+13%	+3%	+4%
Increase in utility prices such as your electric bill	+5%	+5%	+5%	+6%	+1%
Increase in the price of food from a restaurant	+3%	+5%	+11%	-3%	+4%
None of the above	-4%	-1%	-1%	-5%	-9%
Increase in the price of prescription drugs	+1%	+3%	+1%	+1%	0%
Increase in the cost of services such as a haircut	+3%	+1%	+3%	+5%	+2%
Increase in the price of cars	0%	-2%	+6%	0%	-4%

TOPICAL: IMPACTS OF INFLATION

There was a 20% increase since April among Hispanic adults who have had to reduce their household spending due to an increase in gas prices (+23%) and groceries (+20%).

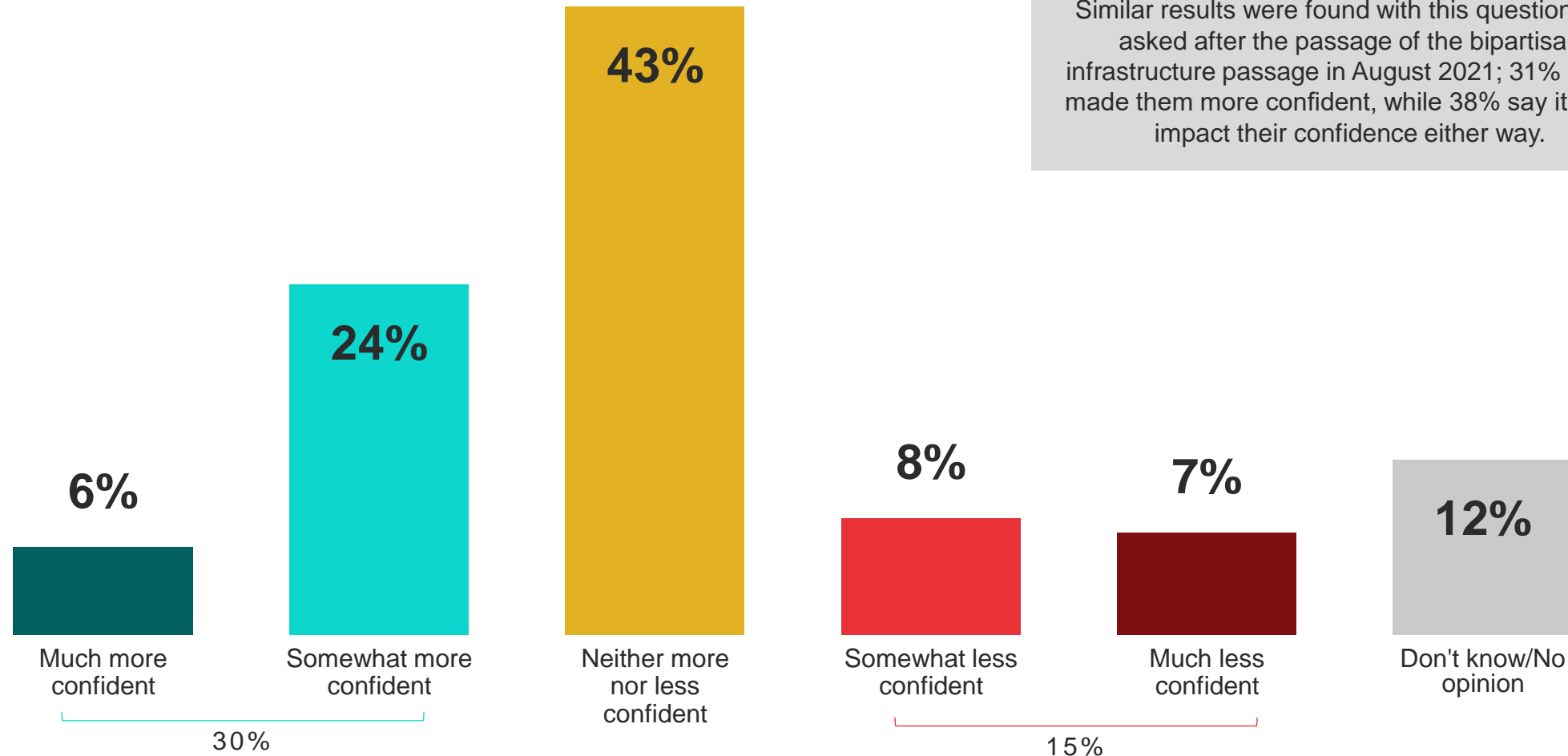
Over the past month, have you personally had to reduce your household spending due to any of the following? Please select all that apply.

% Change From April	Voters	Income: Under 50k	Income: 50k-100k	Income: 100k+	Ethnicity: White	Ethnicity: Hispanic	Ethnicity: Black	Ethnicity: Other
Increase in gas prices	+7%	+11%	+4%	+5%	+5%	+23%	+8%	+16%
Increase in the price of groceries	+6%	+13%	+2%	-1%	+4%	+20%	+15%	+9%
Increase in utility prices such as your electric bill	+5%	+6%	+5%	+1%	+3%	+7%	+9%	+11%
Increase in the price of food from a restaurant	+3%	+10%	-1%	-6%	+3%	+5%	+1%	-1%
None of the above	-4%	-4%	-4%	-5%	-6%	-3%	+1%	-6%
Increase in the price of prescription drugs	+1%	+1%	+3%	-3%	+1%	-5%	-4%	+2%
Increase in the cost of services such as a haircut	+3%	+4%	+2%	+2%	+4%	-5%	-1%	+1%
Increase in the price of cars	0%	0%	-1%	-2%	0%	-2%	-3%	+1%

TOPICAL: CONFIDENCE IN CONGRESS

About a third of voters (30%) say the bipartisan gun safety bill makes them *more confident* in Congress to work across party lines on future policy, while 43% say it doesn't impact their confidence either way.

Does the passage of the bipartisan gun safety bill make you more or less confident that Congress can work across party lines on future policy, or does it not impact your confidence either way?



Similar results were found with this question was asked after the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure passage in August 2021; 31% said it made them more confident, while 38% say it didn't impact their confidence either way.



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