

# Fractured Nation: Widening Partisan Polarization ahead of 2020 Presidential Election

*Findings from the 2019 American Values Survey*



# The 2019 American Values Survey

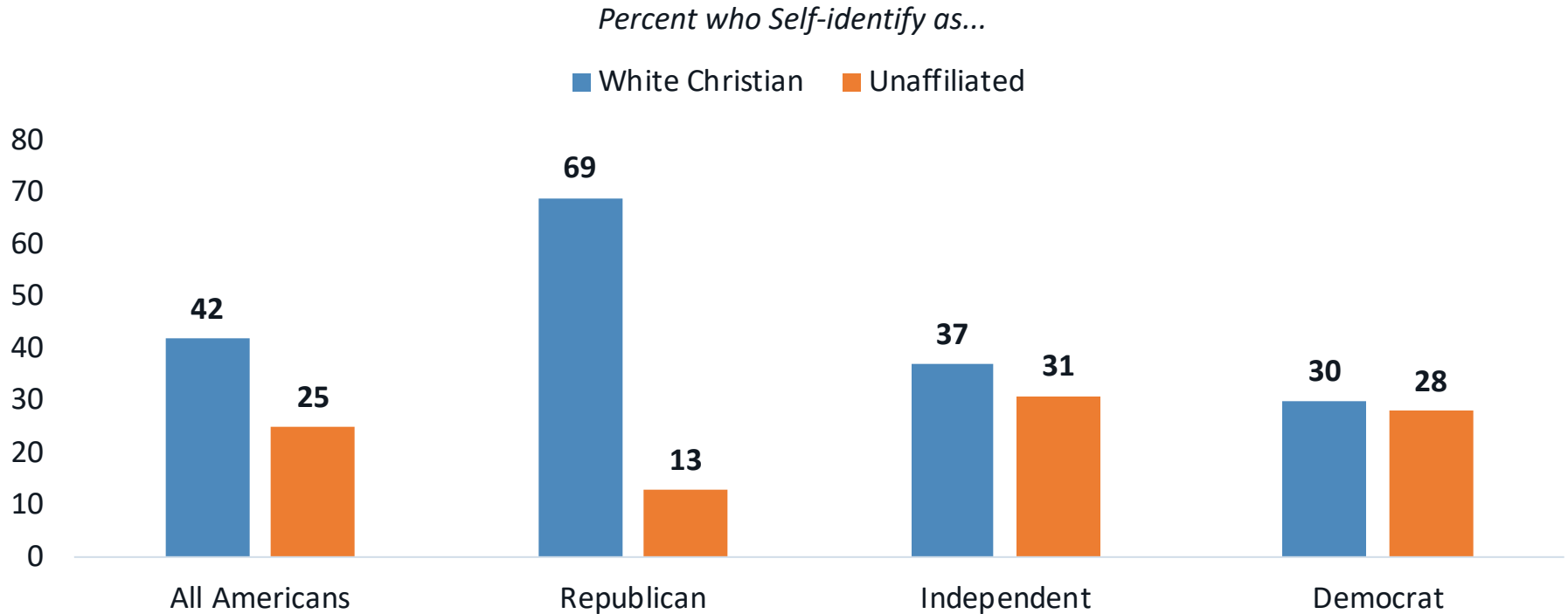
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- Tenth Annual American Values Survey, hosted by The Brookings Institution
- Survey of 2,527 adults in AmeriSpeak, a probability-based panel run by NORC at University of Chicago, conducted 08/22-09/15, 2019.
- Supplemental survey of 1,032 adults conducted 10/10-13, 2019.
- Supported by Carnegie Corporation of New York, Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock, and the New World Foundation.

# FRACTURED NATION: DRAMATIC PARTISAN POLARIZATION

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# Divergent Religious Identities among Partisans



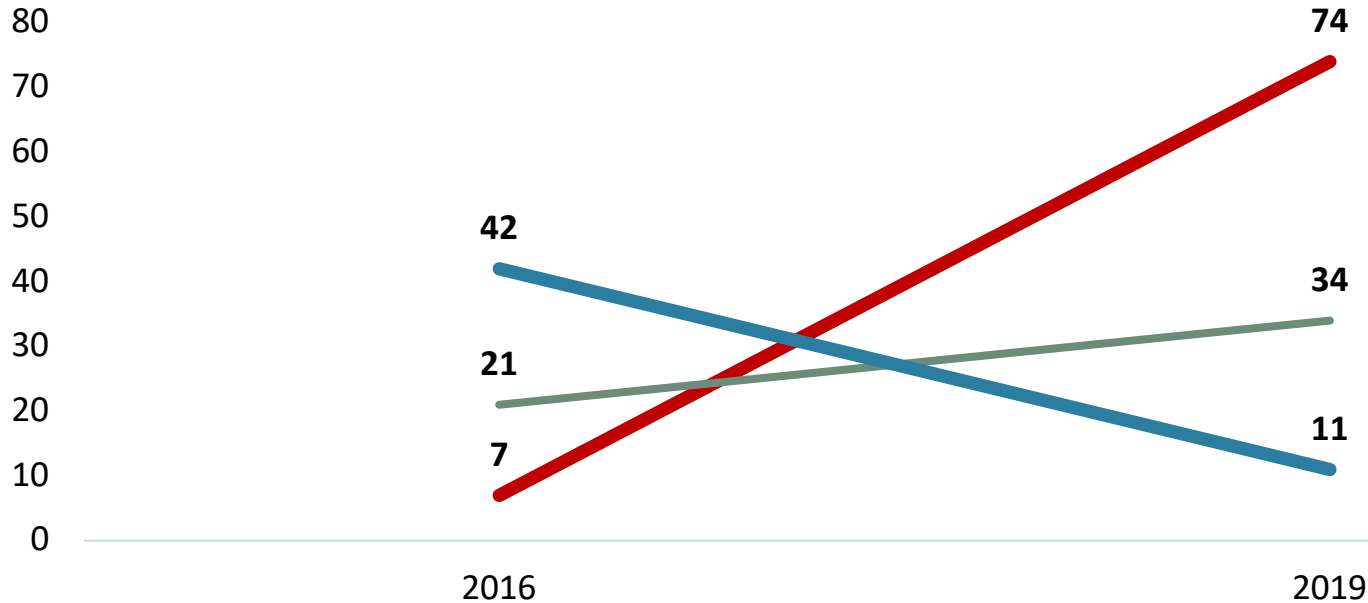
Source: American Values Atlas, 2018

# Partisan Flips on Direction of the Country

## Country Heading in the Right Direction, 2016 vs. 2019, by Party Affiliation

*Percent who agree*

— Republican    — Independent    — Democrat

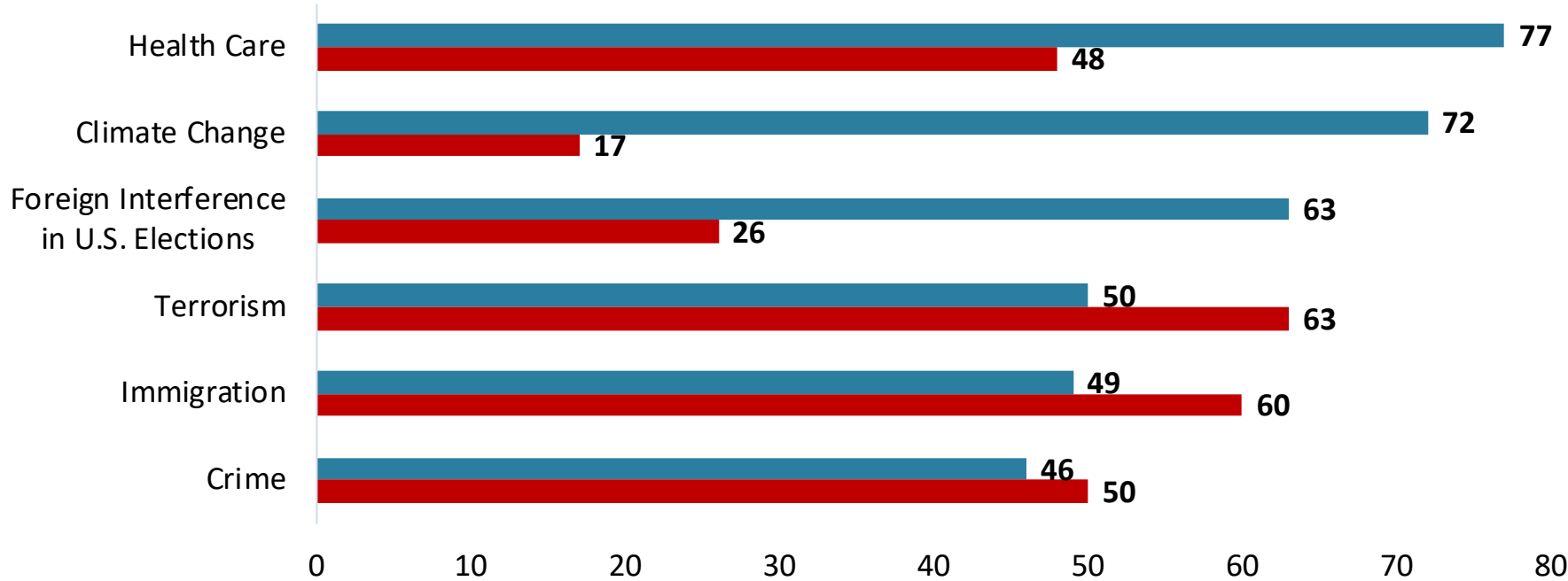


Sources: PRRI 2016 American Values Survey; PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

# No Partisan Overlap in Top Three Critical Issues

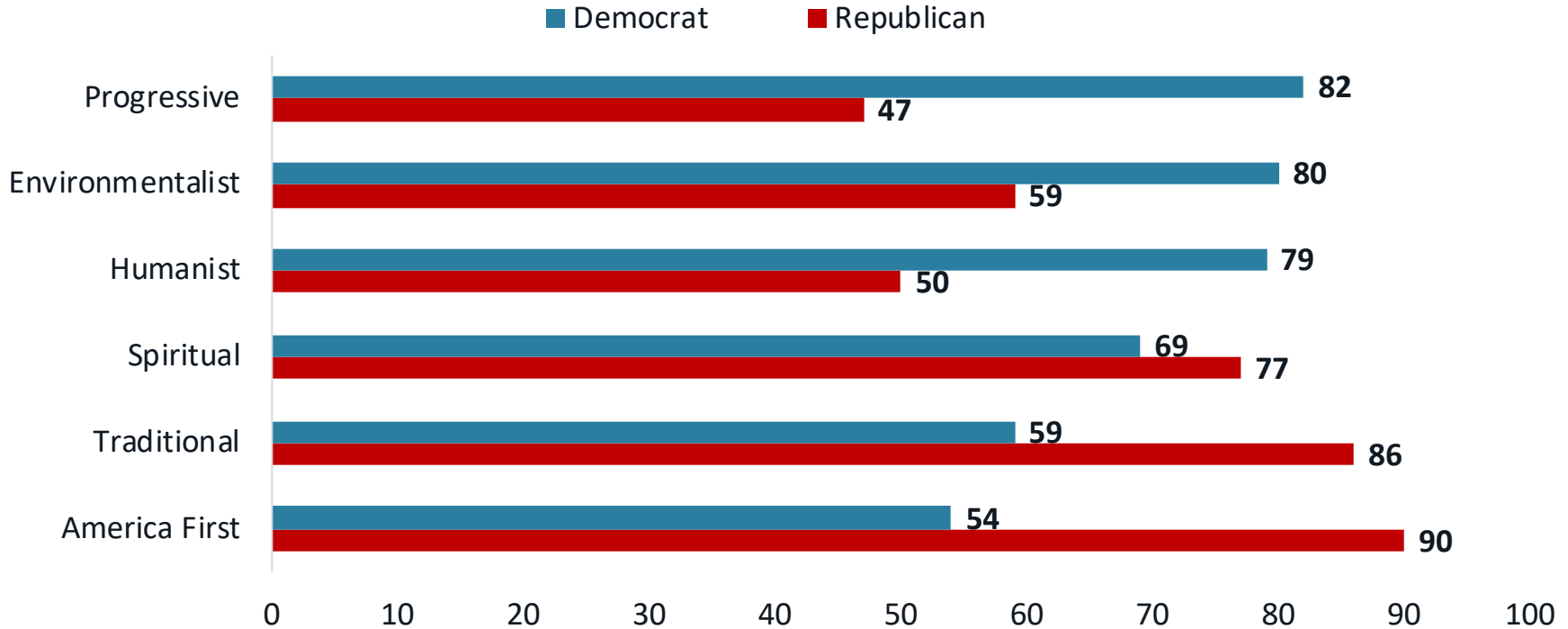
*Percent who rate the following issues as critical*

■ Democrat     ■ Republican

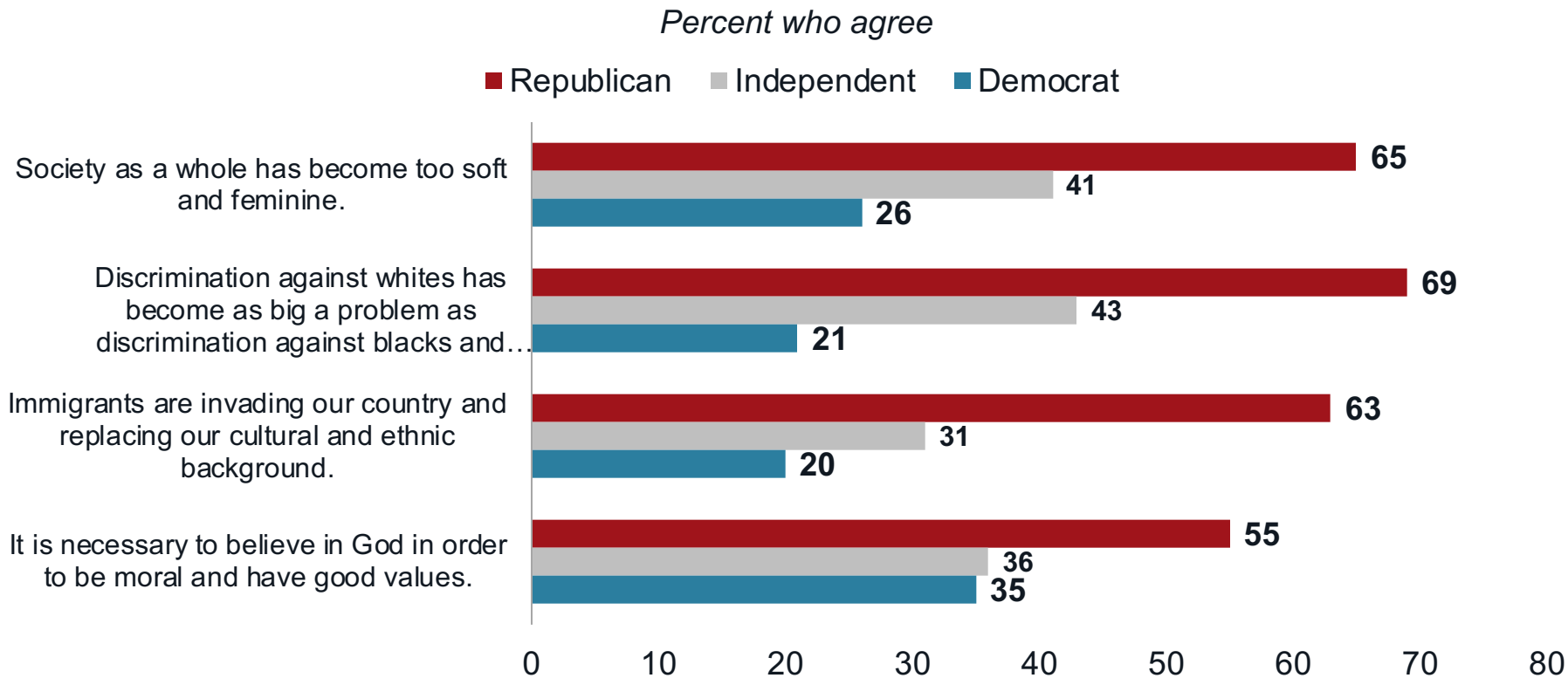


# Partisan Divergences in Top Three Personal Labels

*Percent who report the following terms describe them somewhat or very well*



# Large Partisan Divides about Changing Norms and Demographics

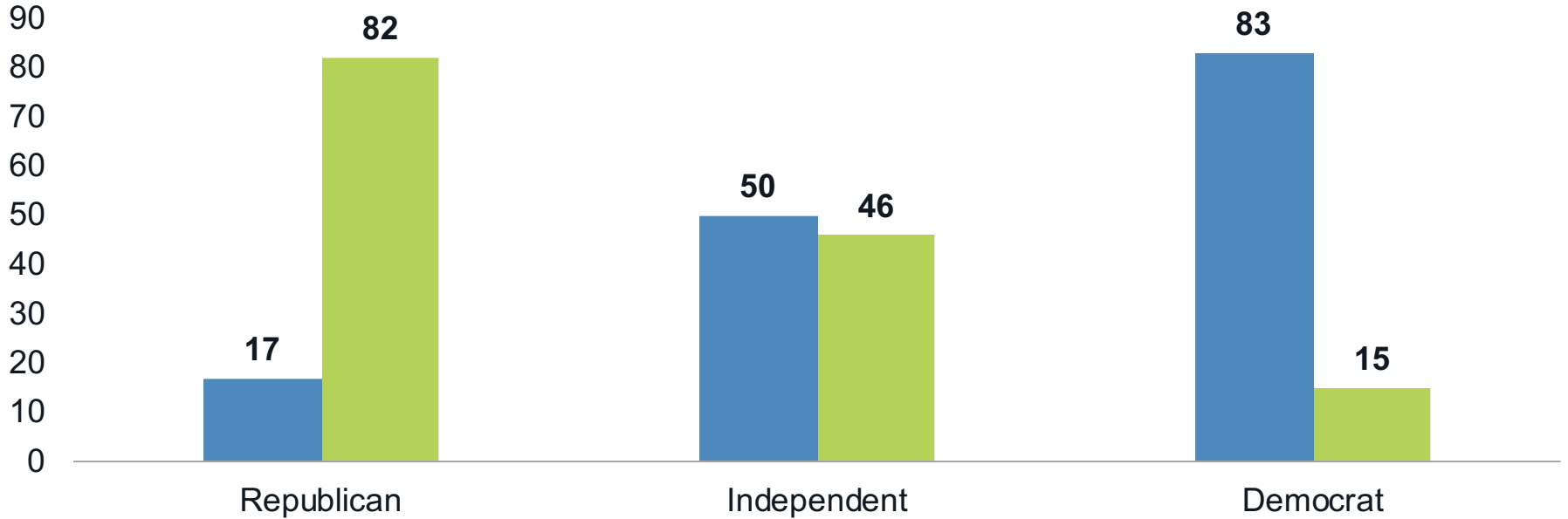




# Republicans believe Democratic Party Has Been Taken Over by Socialists

*Percent who say...*

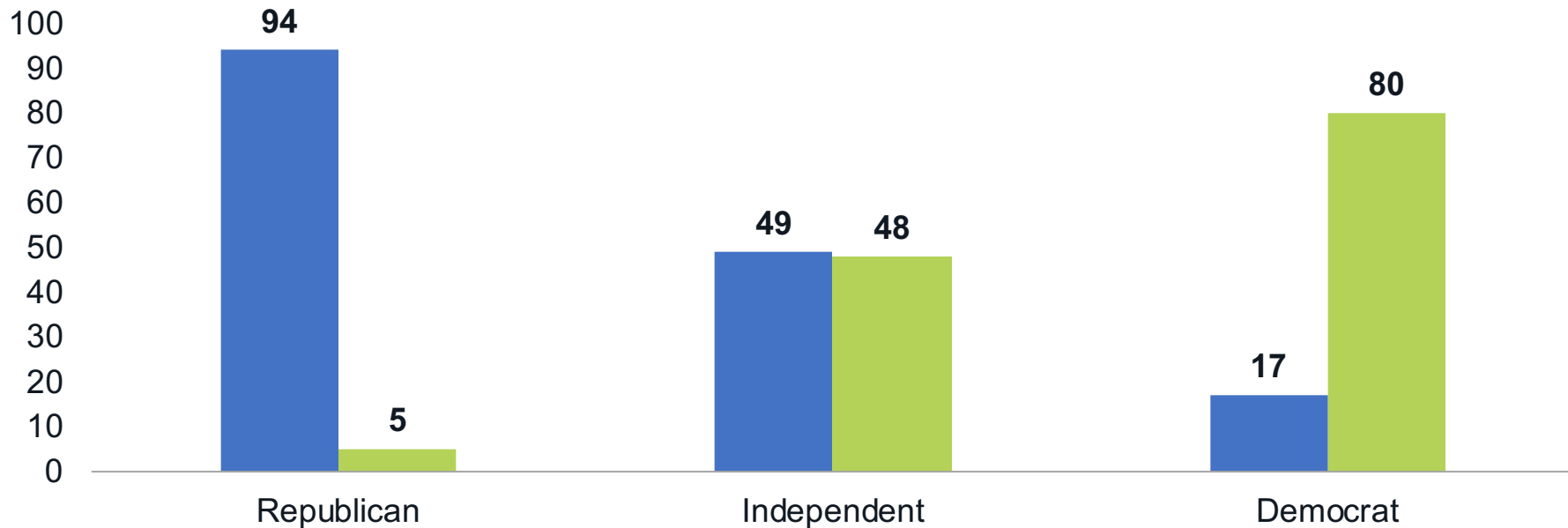
- The Democratic Party is trying to make capitalism work for the average American.
- The Democratic Party has been taken over by socialists.



# Democrats Believe Republican Party Has Been Taken Over by Racists

*Percent who say...*

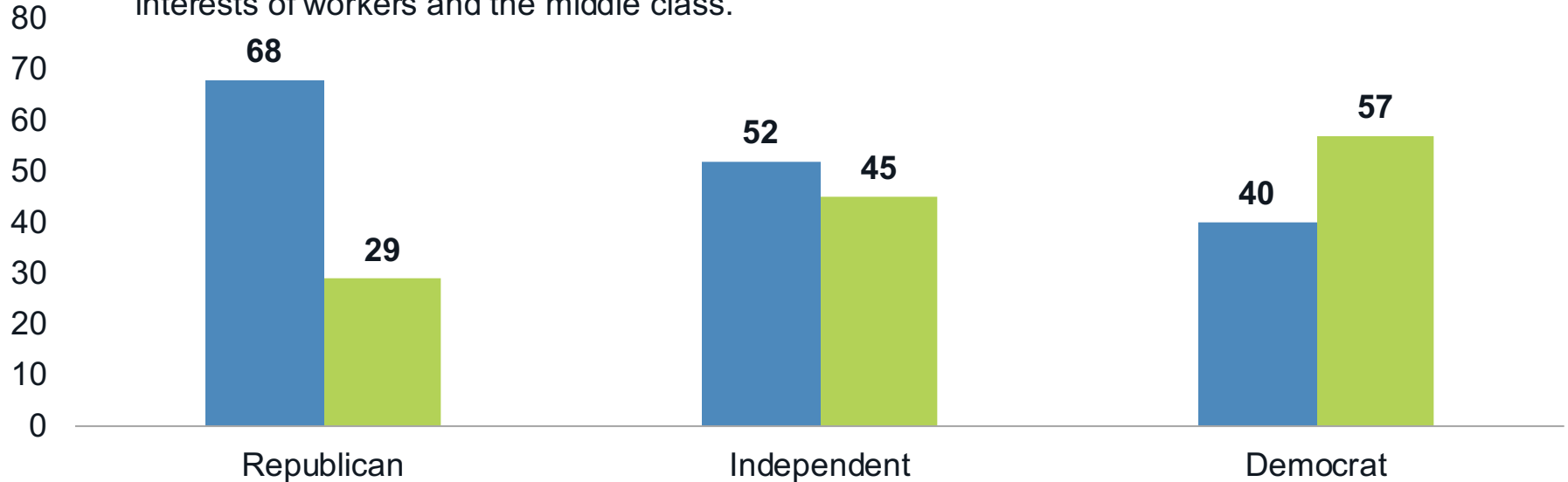
- The Republican Party is trying to protect the American way of life against outside threats.
- The Republican Party has been taken over by racists.



# Divergent Partisan Conceptions of Capitalism

*Percent who say capitalism is...*

- A system in which government stays out of the way and allows private businesses to succeed and make a profit.
- A system where the interests of businesses and company shareholders are placed above the interests of workers and the middle class.

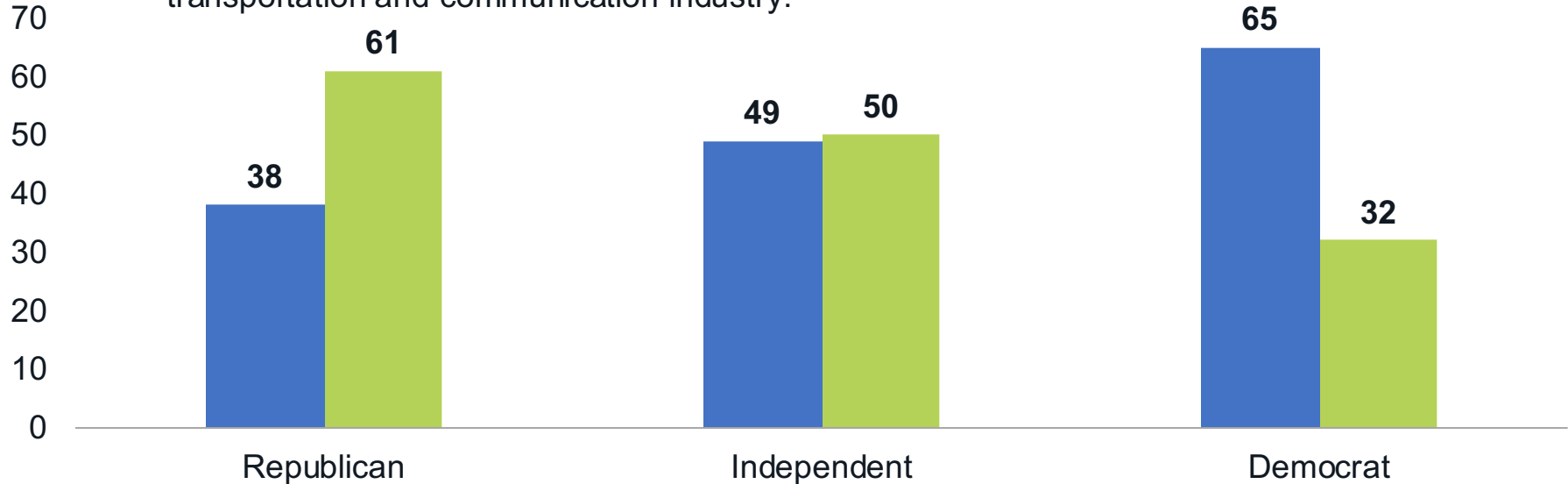


Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

# Divergent Partisan Conceptions of Socialism

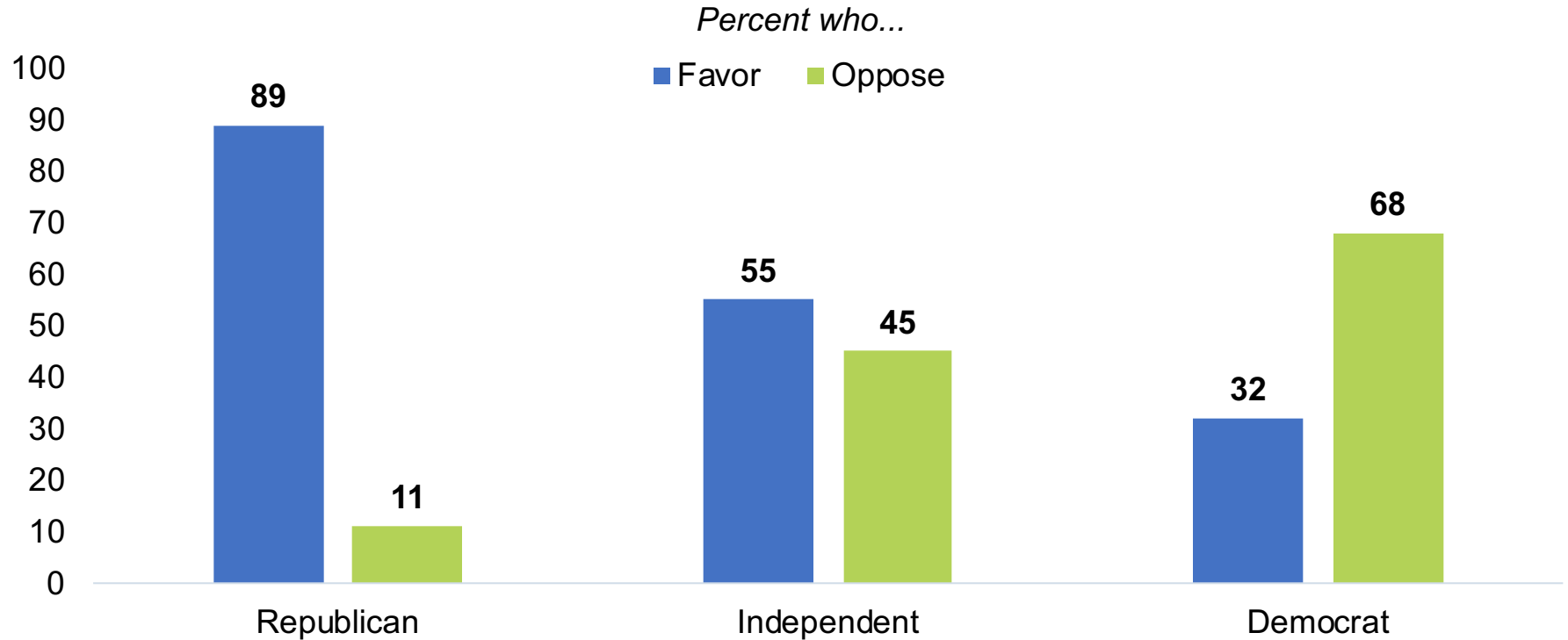
*Percent who say socialism is...*

- A system in which government provides citizens with health insurance, retirement support and access to free higher education.
- A system where the government controls key parts of the economy such as utilities, transportation and communication industry.



Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

# Partisan Divides on Restrictive Immigration Scale

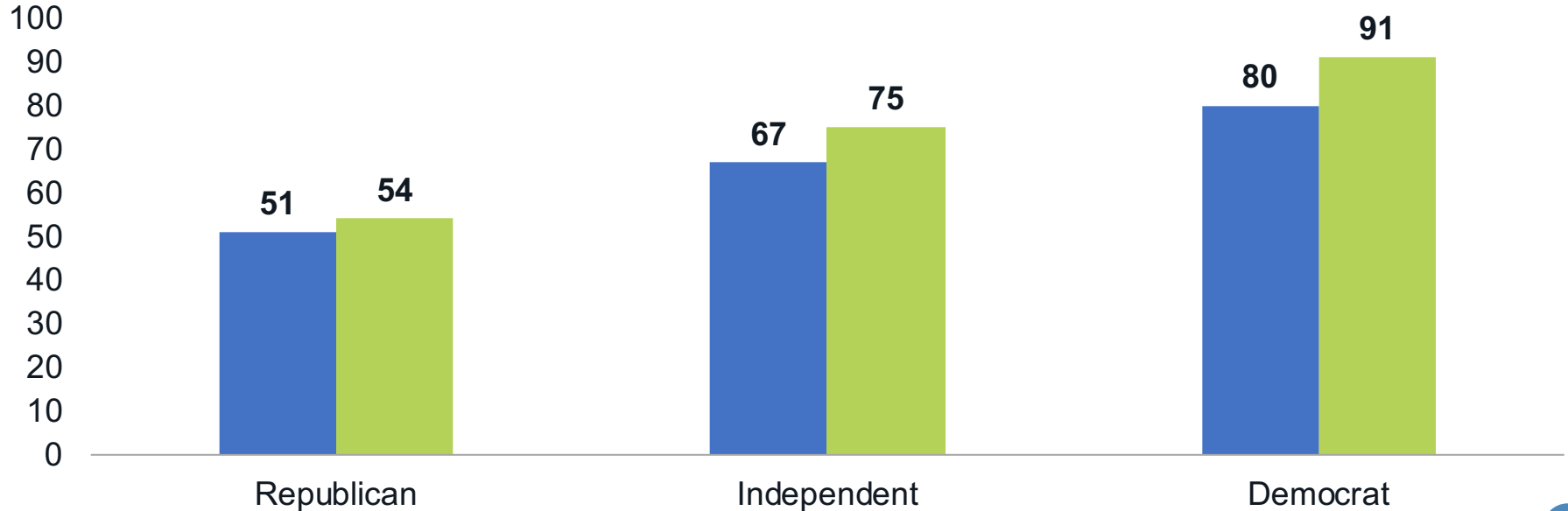


Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

# BUT More Partisan Agreement on Path to Citizenship and Family Separation

*Percent who...*

- **FAVOR:** Allowing immigrants living in country illegally a way to become citizens, provided they meet certain requirements.
- **OPPOSE:** An immigration border policy that separates children from their parents and charges parents as criminals when they enter the country without permission



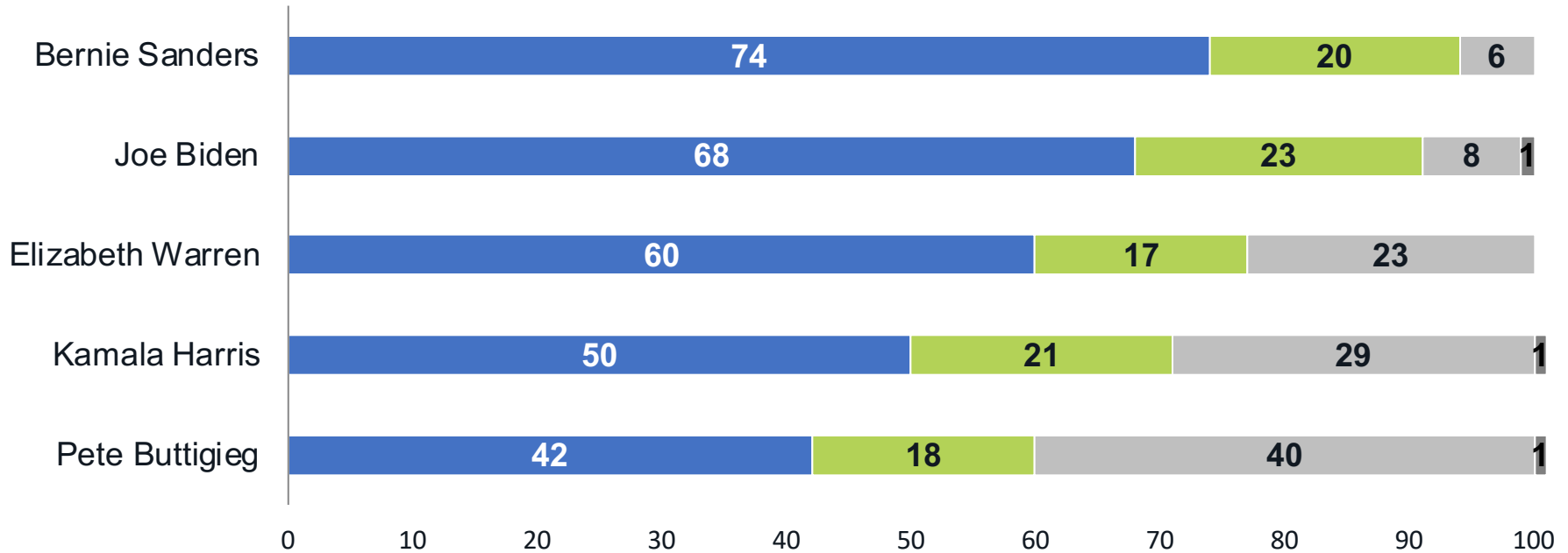
# 2020 AND SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES: AMONG DEMOCRATS AND LEANERS

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# Favorability of Top Five Democratic Candidates

*Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents*

■ Favorable   ■ Unfavorable   ■ Don't know enough to say   ■ Don't know/Refused

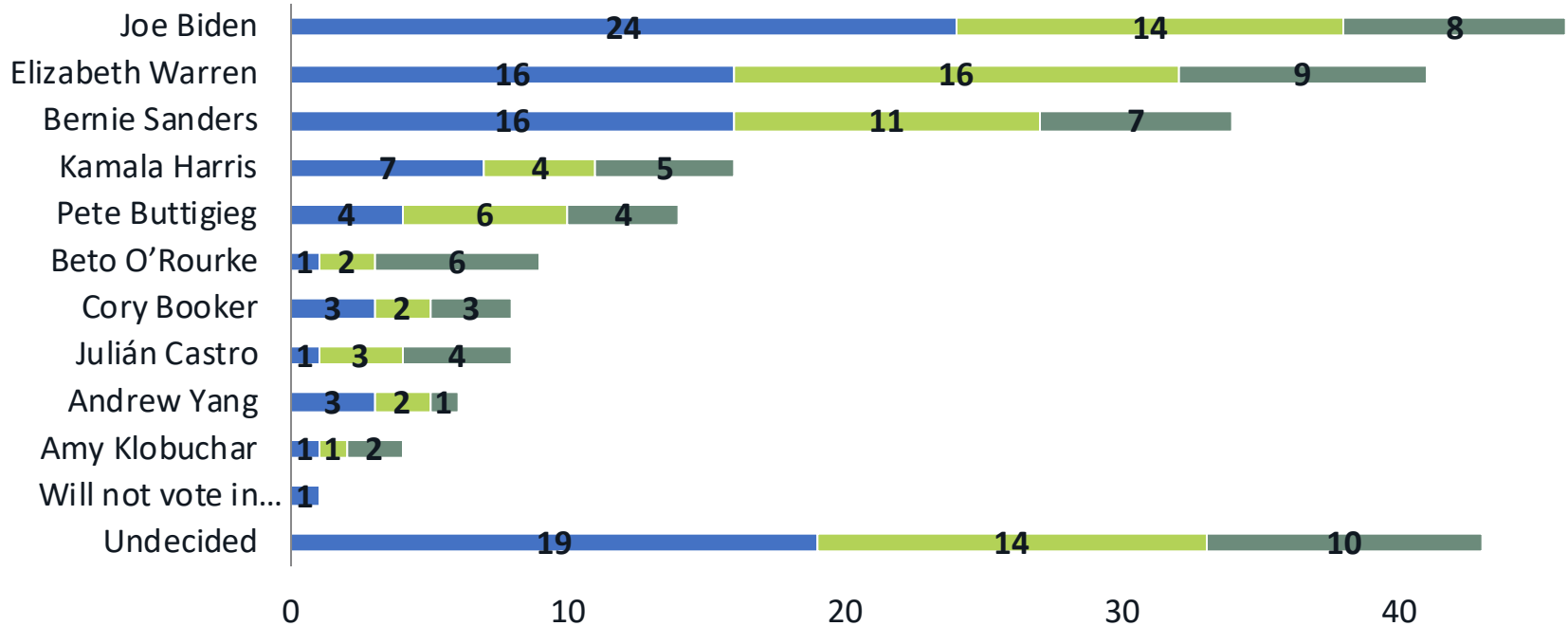




# Top Three Choices for Democratic Nominee for President

*Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents*

■ First Choice ■ Second Choice ■ Third Choice



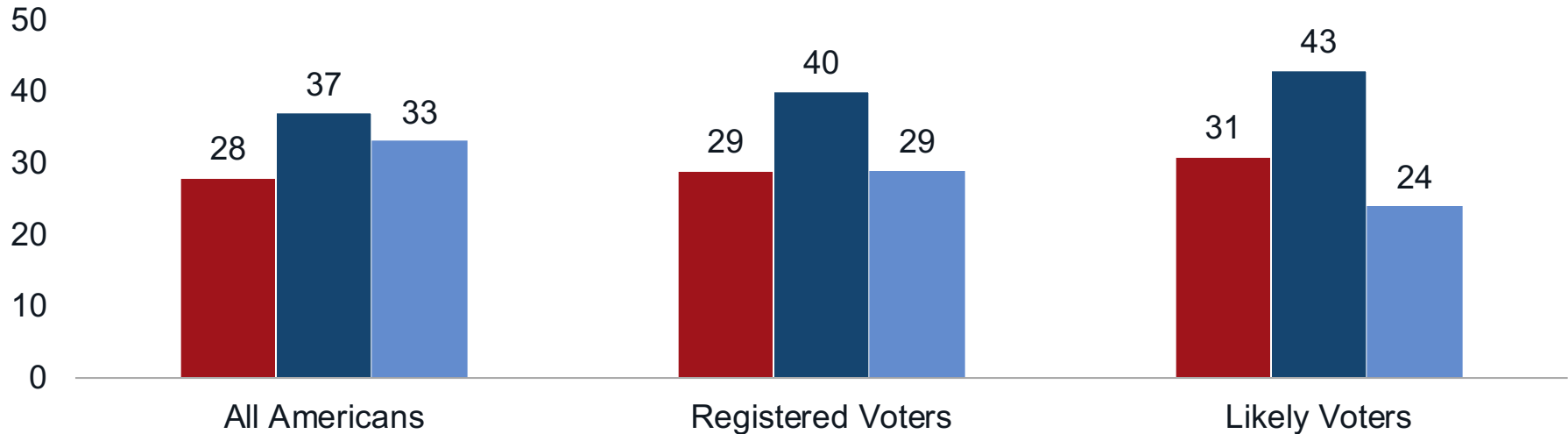
# 2020 AND SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES: AMONG UNCOMMITTED AMERICANS

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# One Third of Americans Say 2020 Vote will Depend on Democratic Nominee

*Thinking ahead to the 2020 election for president, which of the following describes how you are thinking about your vote?*

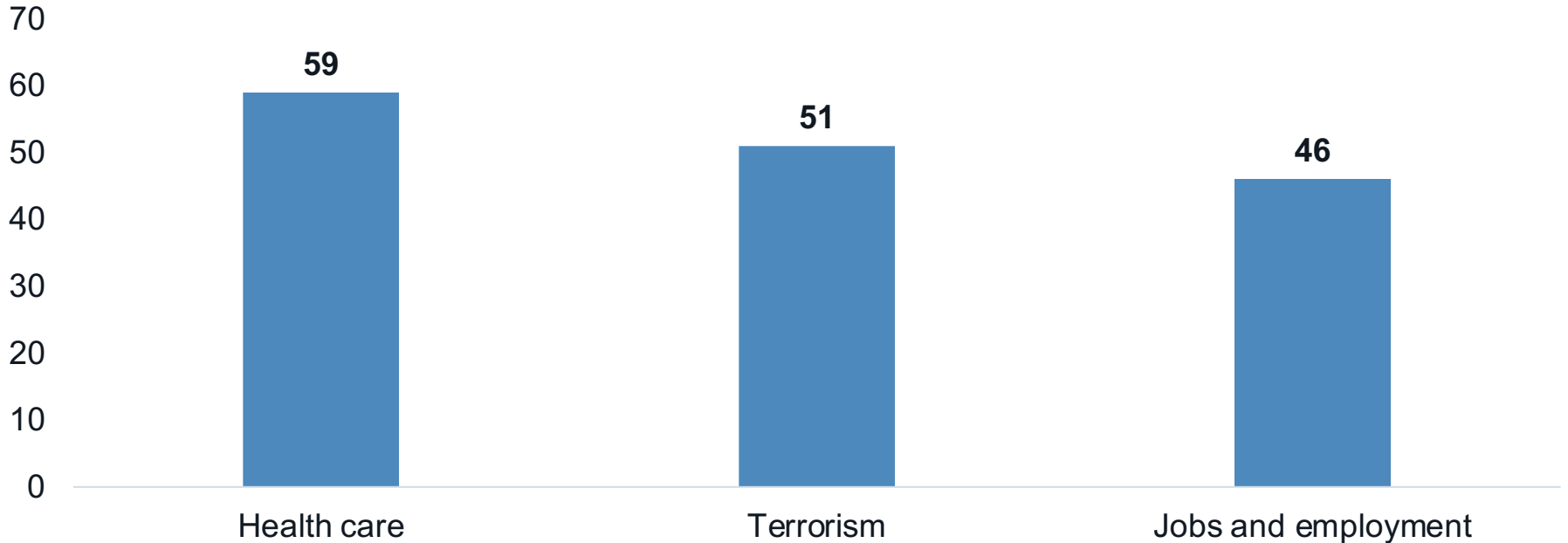
- I will support Donald Trump no matter who the Democratic candidate is.
- I will support the Democratic candidate no matter who it is.
- My vote will depend on who the Democratic candidate is.



Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

# Top Three Critical Issues Among Uncommitted Americans

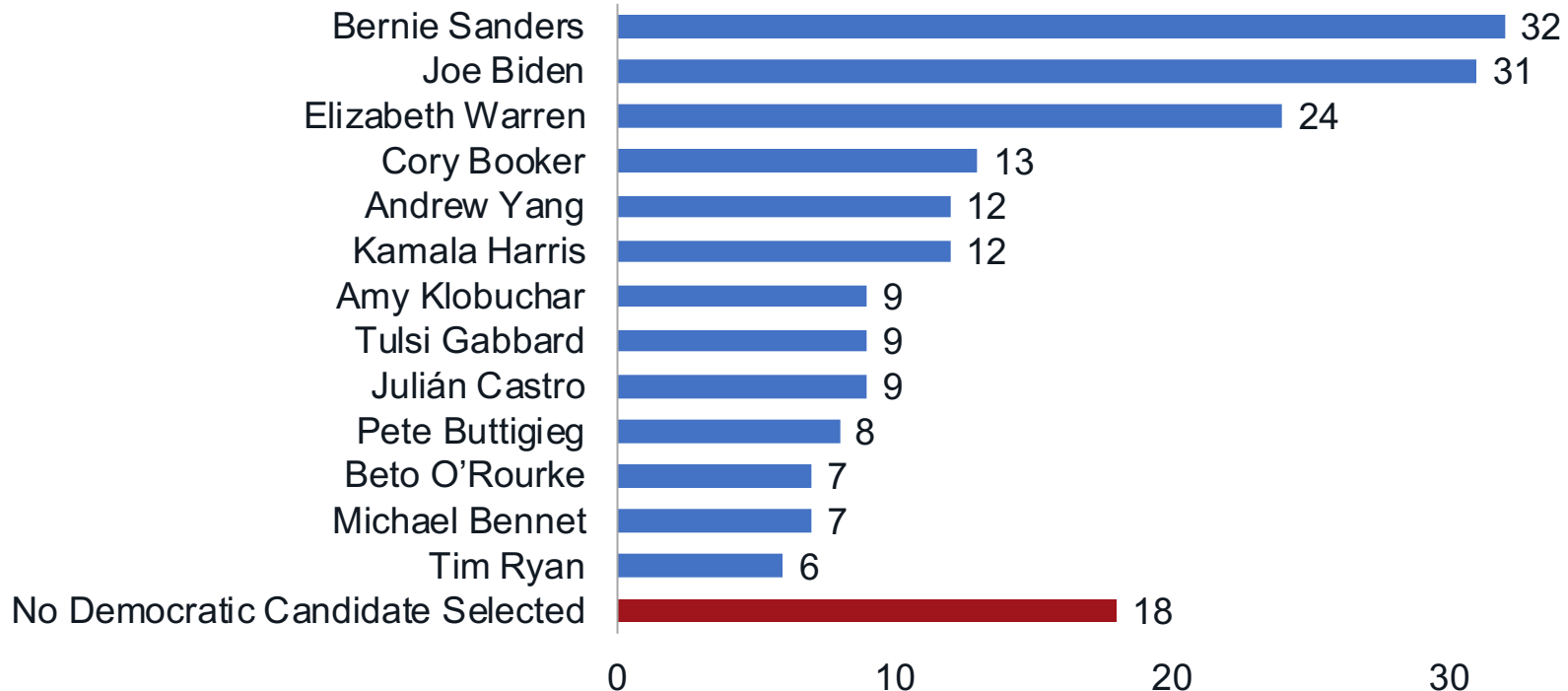
*Among Uncommitted Americans Who Say Candidate Issue Positions Most Important,  
Percent who rate the following issues as critical*



Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

# Top Candidate Preferences over Trump, Among Uncommitted Americans

*Select all that apply*



Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey Supplement.

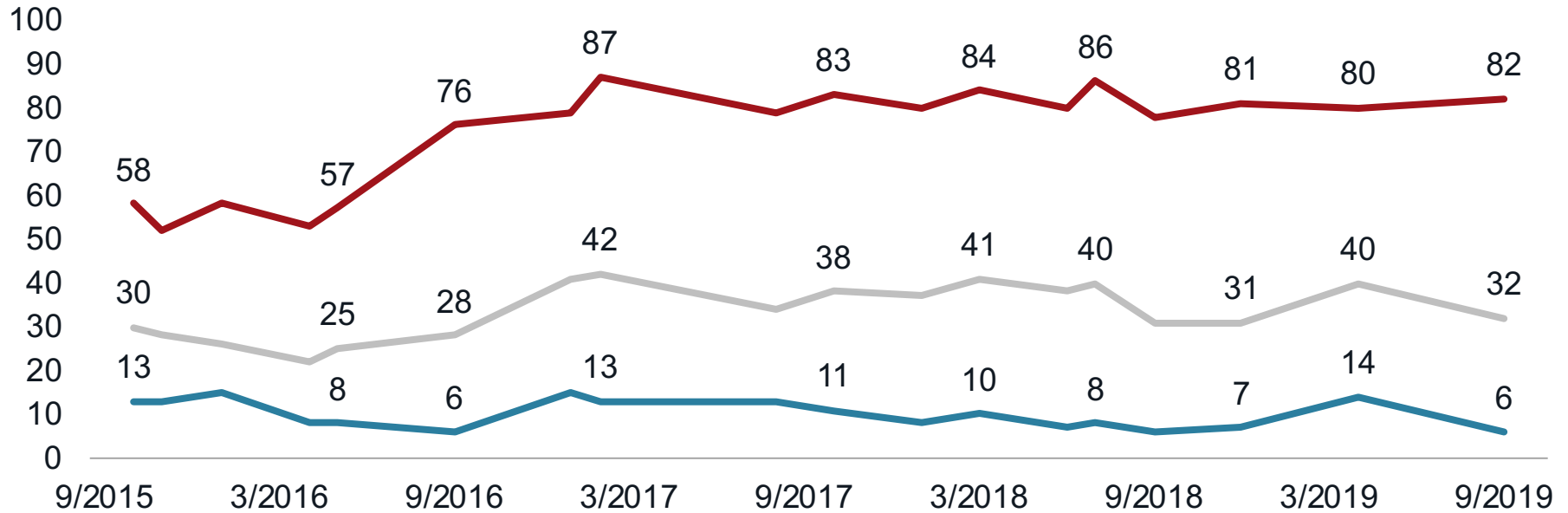
# LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020: PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SUPPORT

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# Trump Favorability, 2015-2019

Percent who say they have favorable or very favorable view

— Republicans — Independents — Democrats

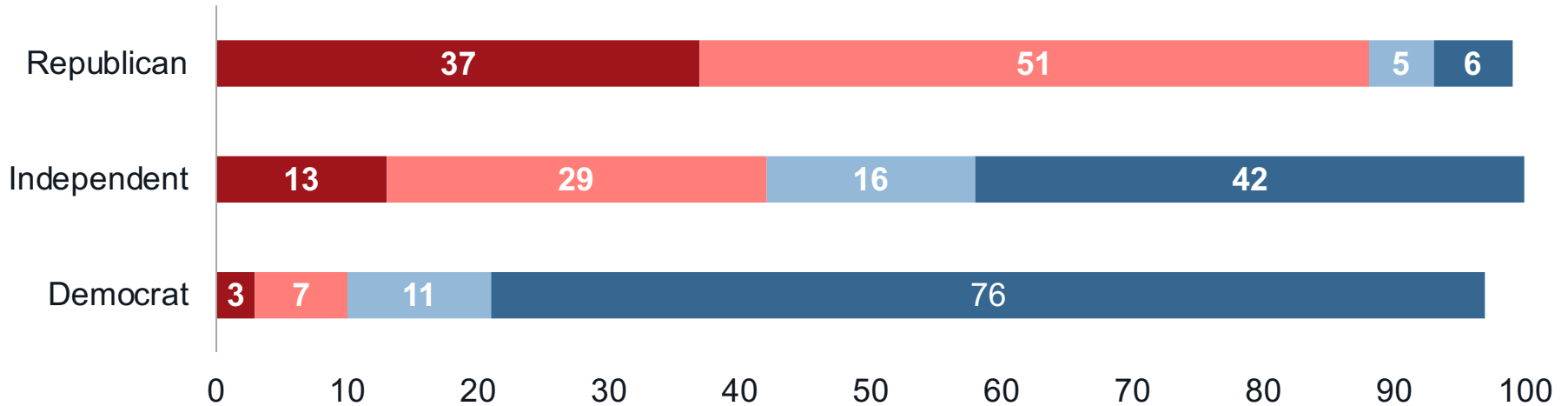


Source: PRRI Trend, 2015-2019

# Partisan Evaluations of President Trump's Job Performance

*Percent who...*

- Approve, and almost nothing Trump could do to lose approval
- Approve, but Trump could lose approval
- Disapprove, but Trump could win approval
- Disapprove, and almost nothing Trump could do to gain approval

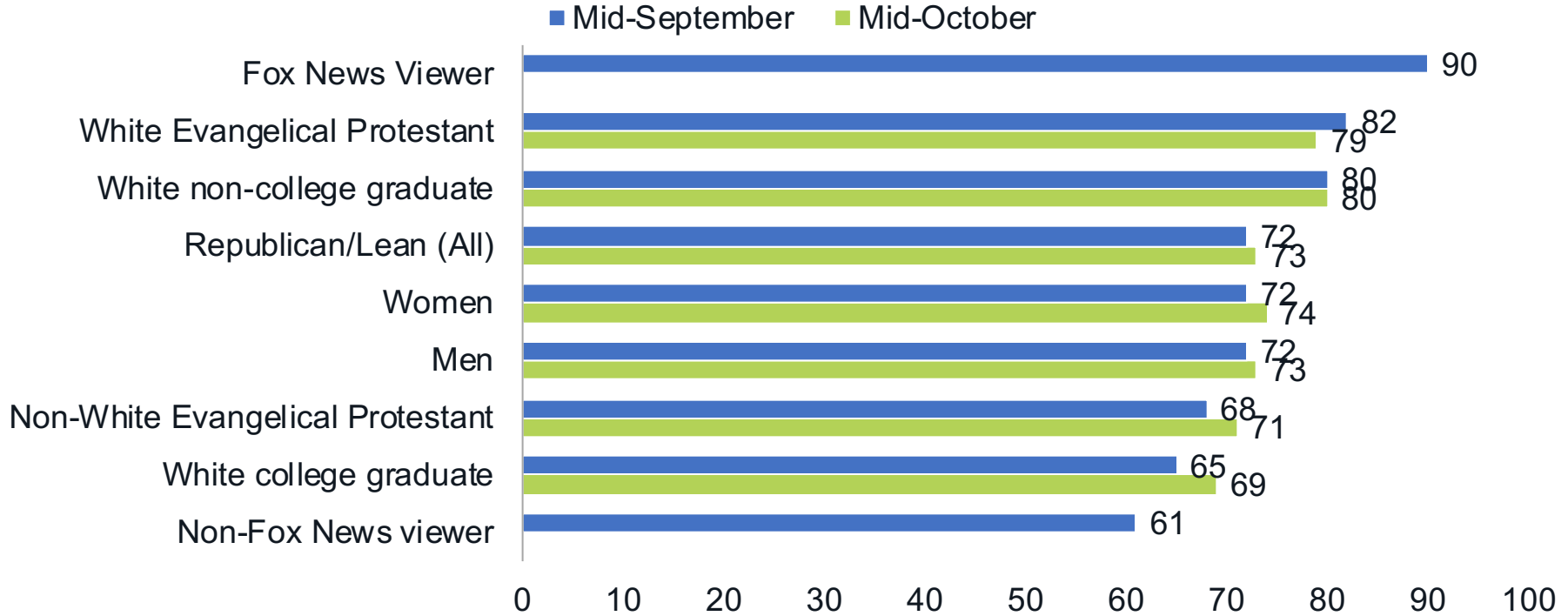


Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey Supplement.



# Preference for Trump over Other Republican Candidate, Among Republican Subgroups

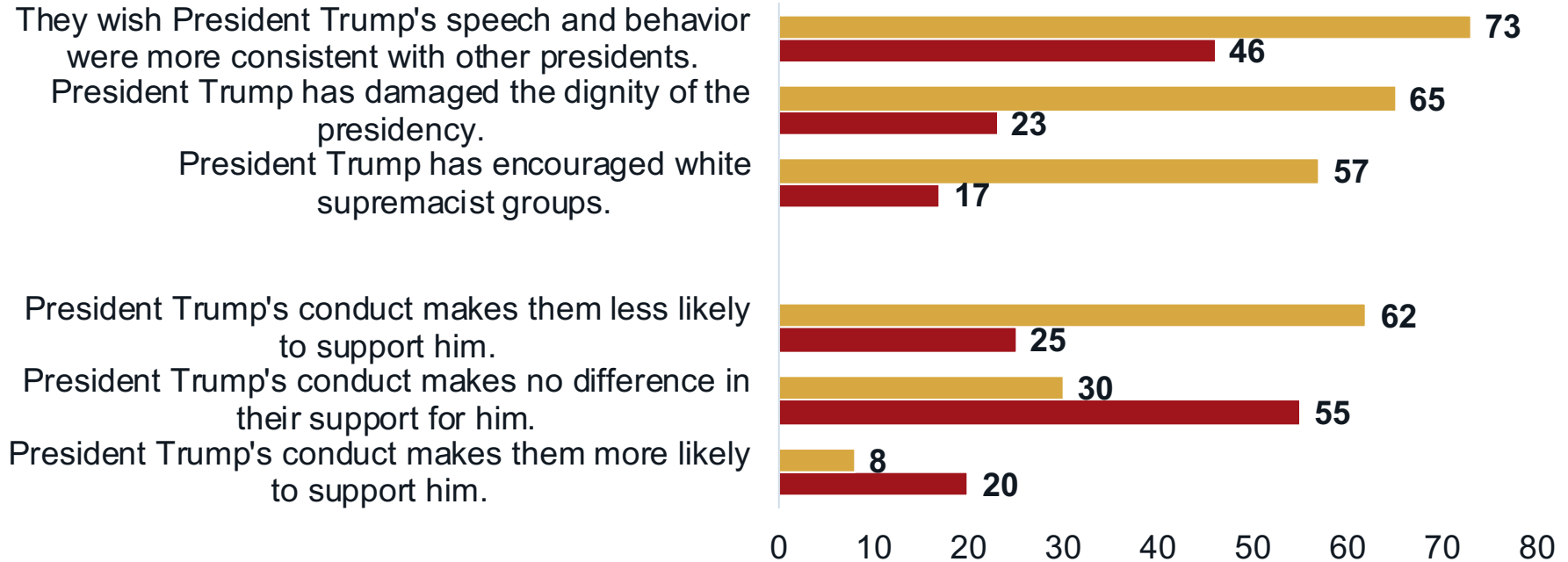
*Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents*



# Judgments about Trump's Speech and Behavior

*Percent who say*

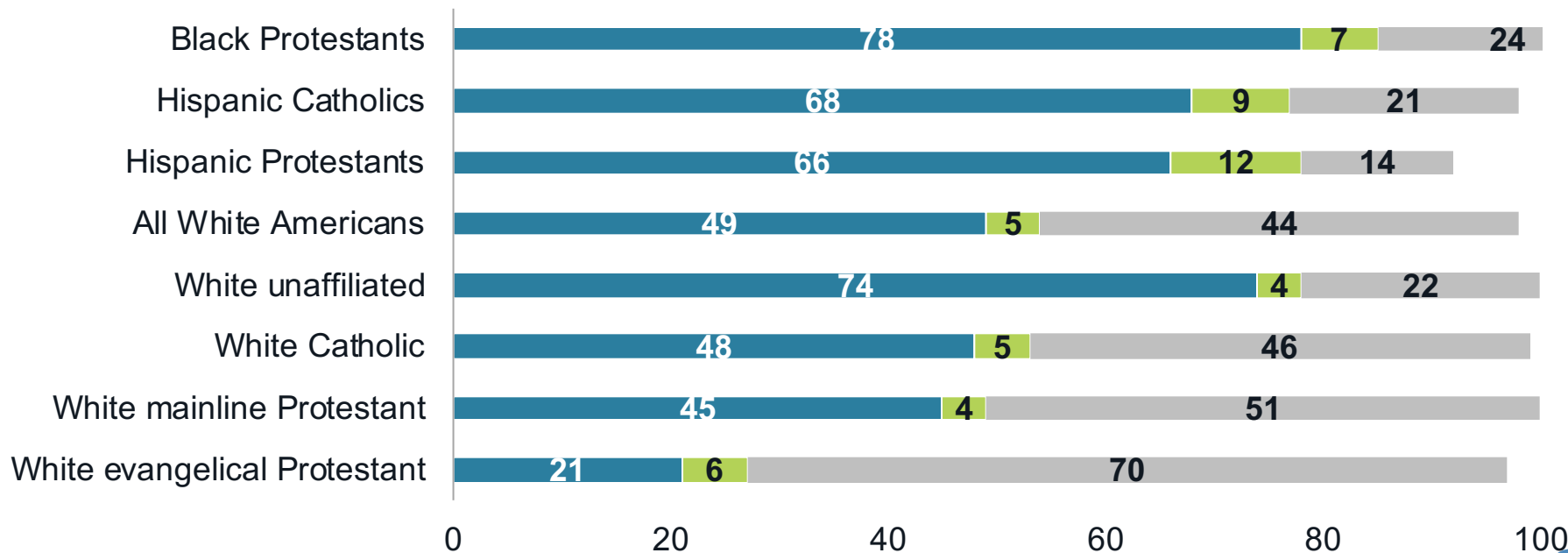
■ All Americans ■ Republican



# Is Trump Encouraging White Supremacists? A Look at White Americans by Religion

*Do you think that President Trump's decisions and actions have...*

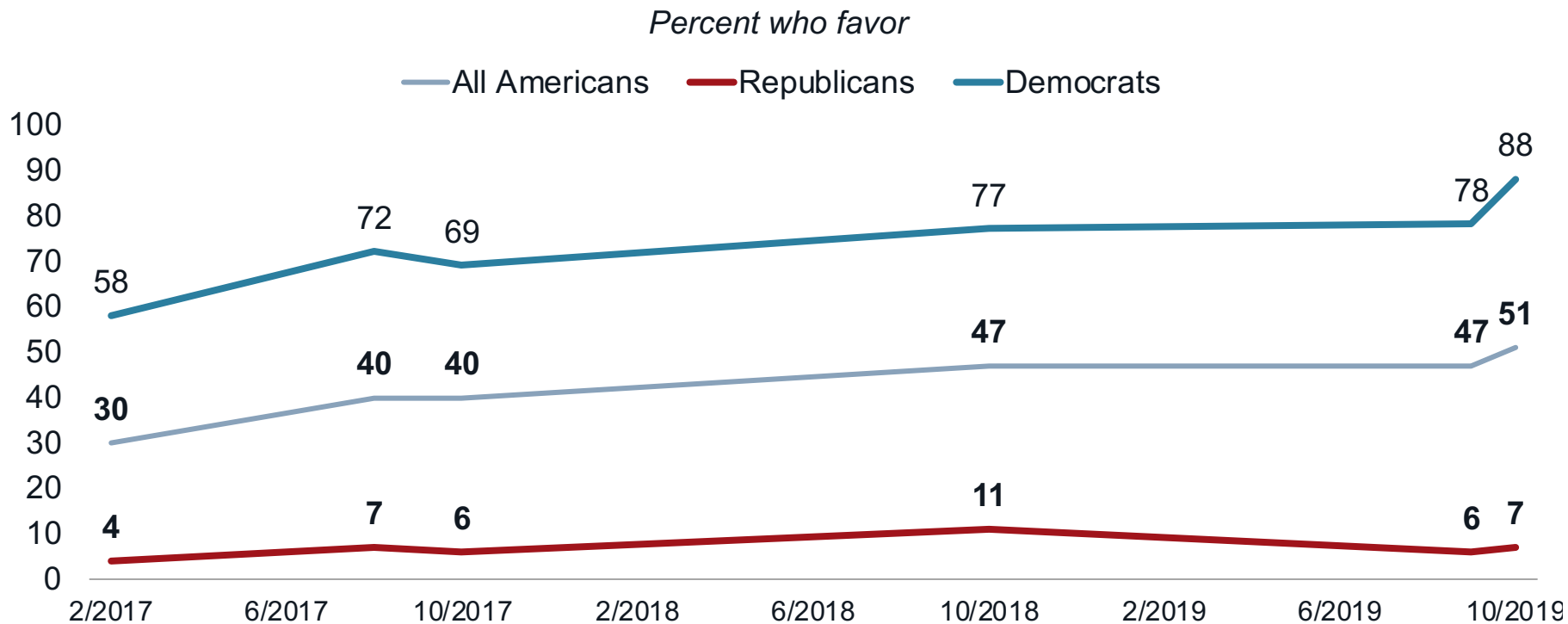
- Encouraged white supremacist groups
- Discouraged white supremacist groups
- Not had an impact either way



# INCREASING SUPPORT FOR IMPEACHMENT

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# Support for Impeaching and Removing President Trump from Office, 2017-2019

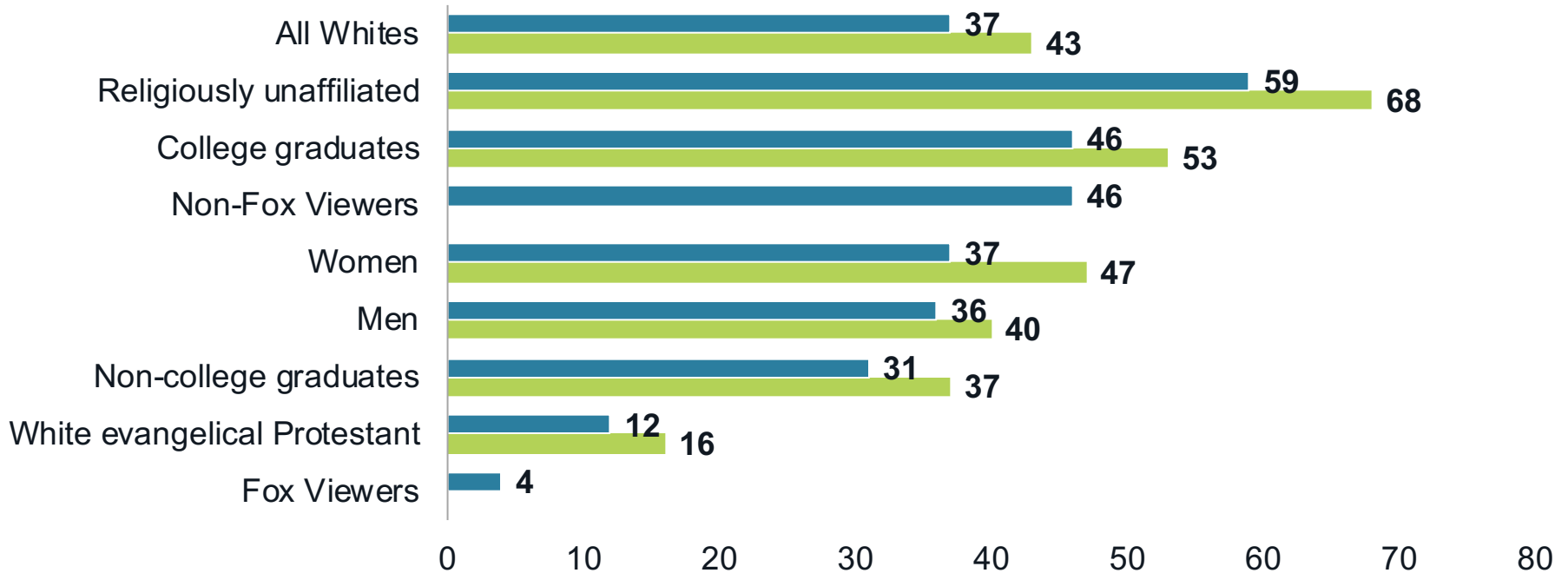


Sources: PRRI 2017-2019 American Values Survey; PRRI February 2017 Survey; PRRI August 2017 Survey.

# Support for Impeaching and Removing President Trump from Office

*Among Key White Groups, Percent who favor*

■ Mid-September ■ Mid-October



Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey; PRRI 2019 American Values Survey Supplement.

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