

Fractured Nation: Widening Partisan Polarization ahead of 2020 Presidential Election

*Findings from the 2019
American Values Survey*



Robert P. Jones, Ph.D.

PRRI

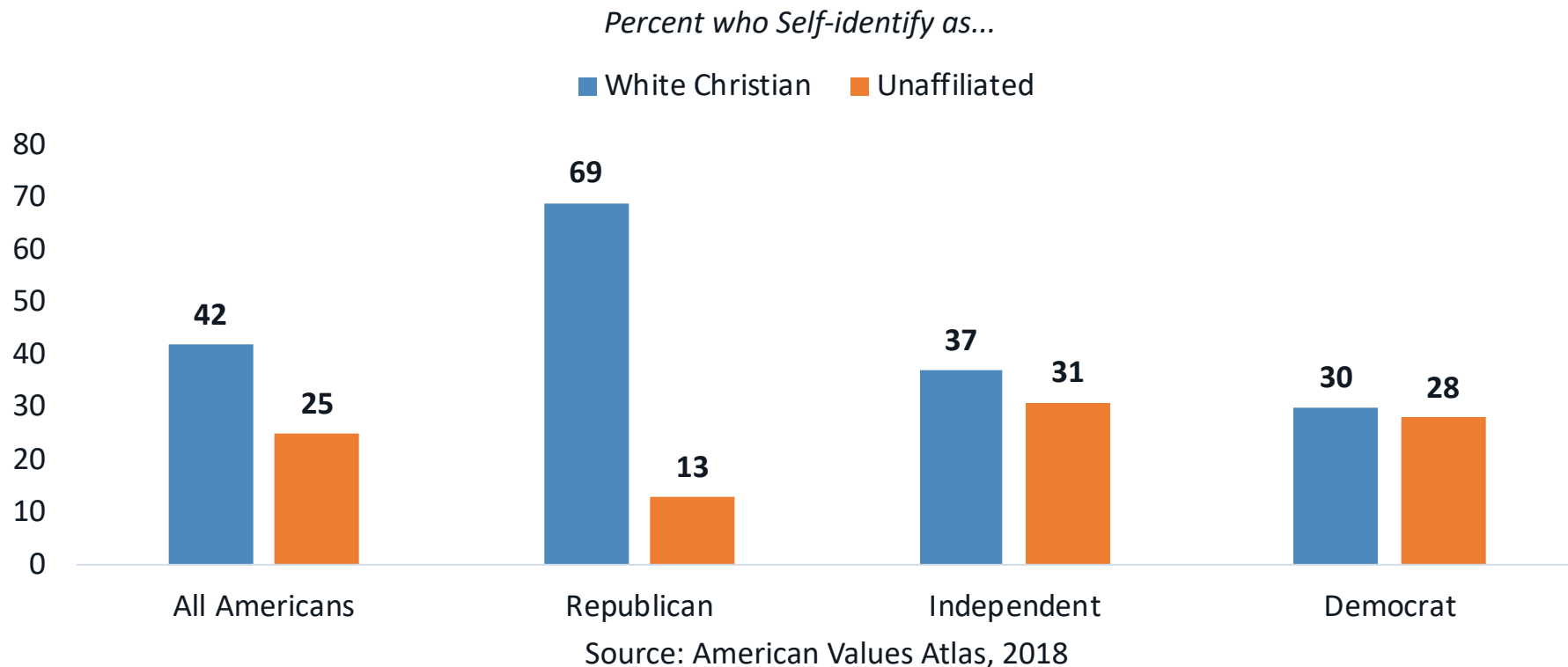
@RobertPJones

The 2019 American Values Survey

- 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

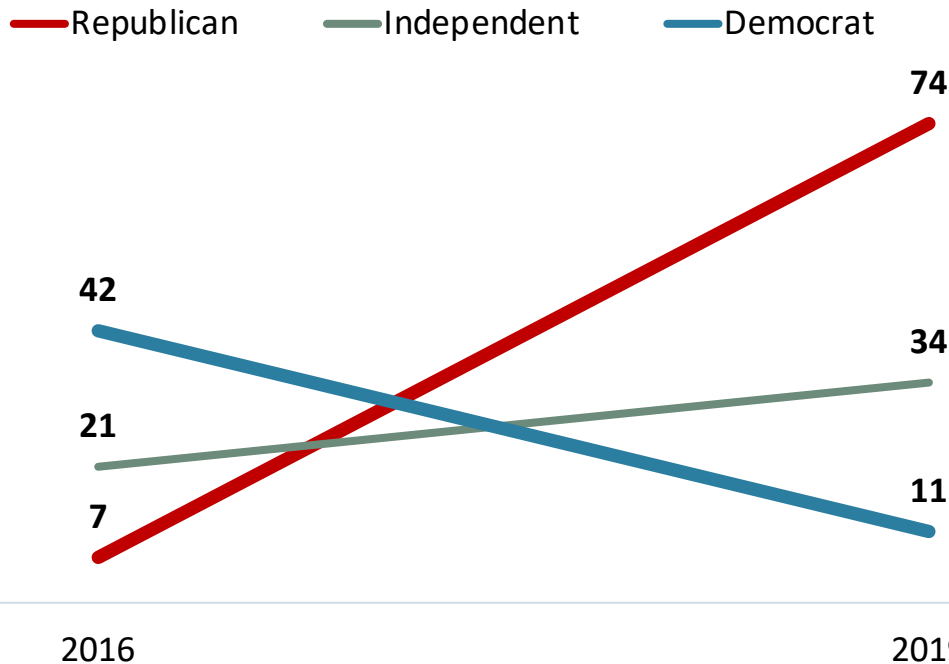
Divergent Religious Identities among Partisans



Partisan Flips on Direction of the Country

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

Percent who agree



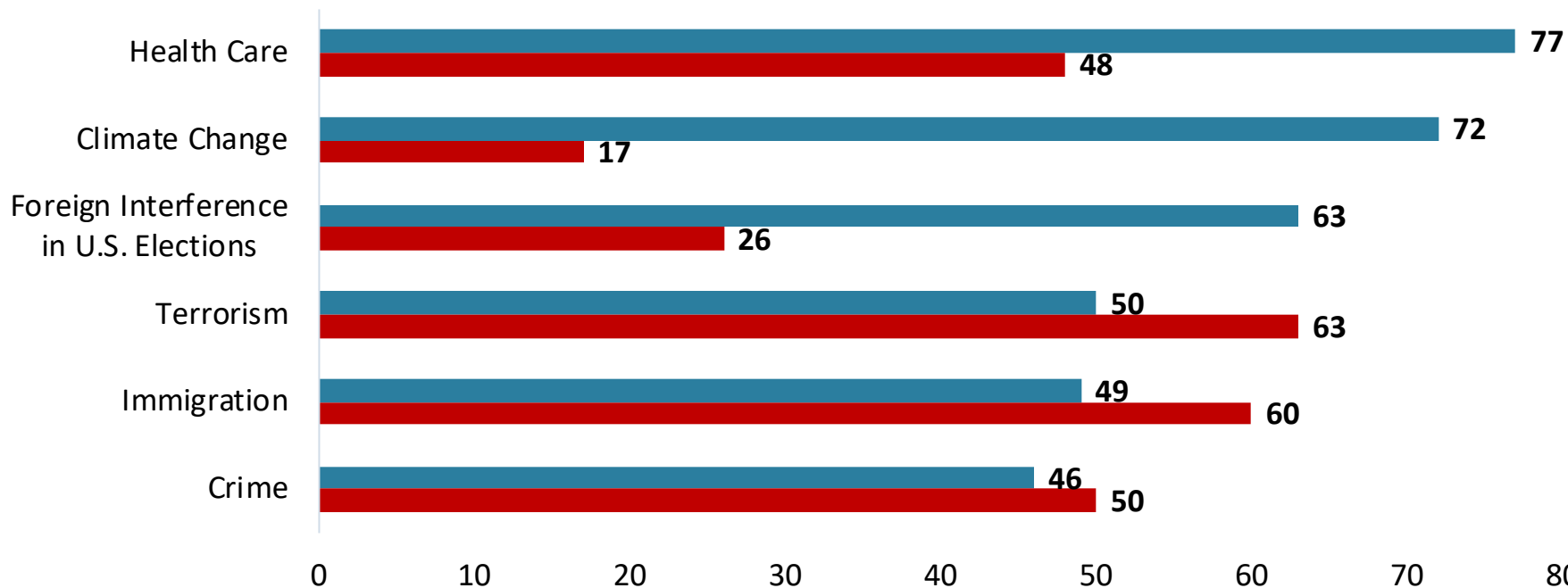
Sources: PRRI 2016 American Values Survey; PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

No Partisan Overlap in Top Three Critical Issues

Percent who rate the following issues as critical

■ Democrat

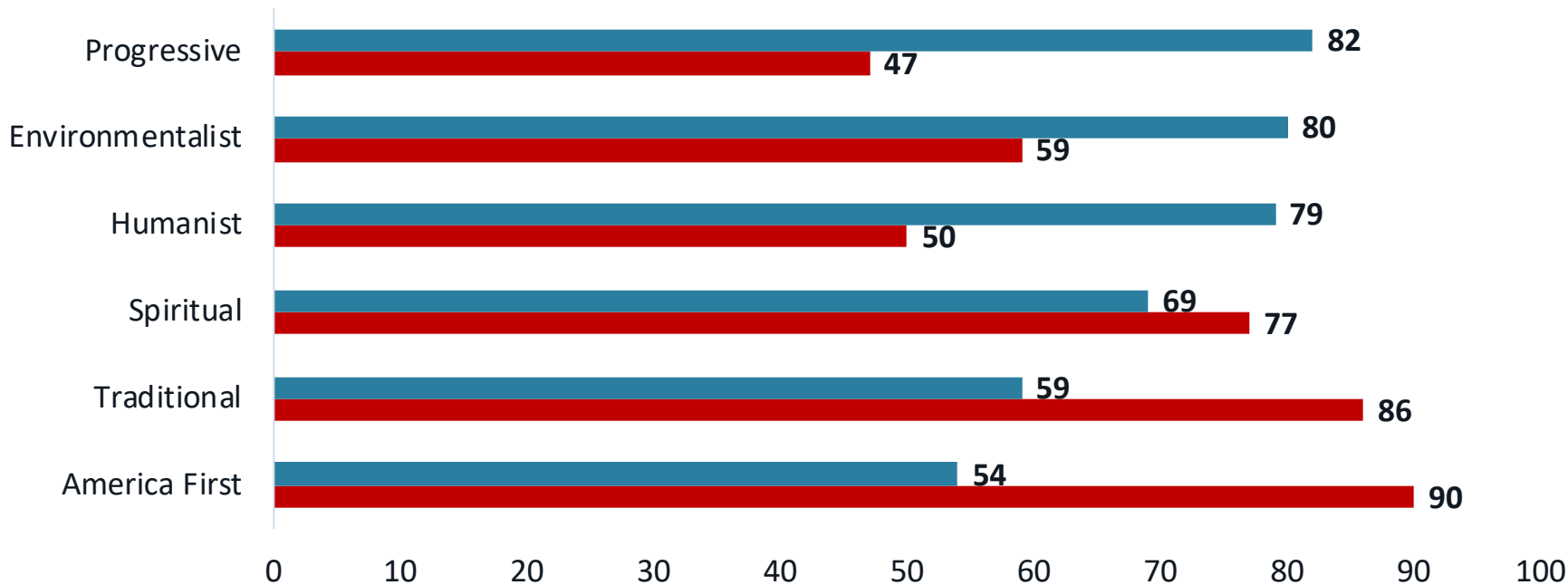
■ Republican



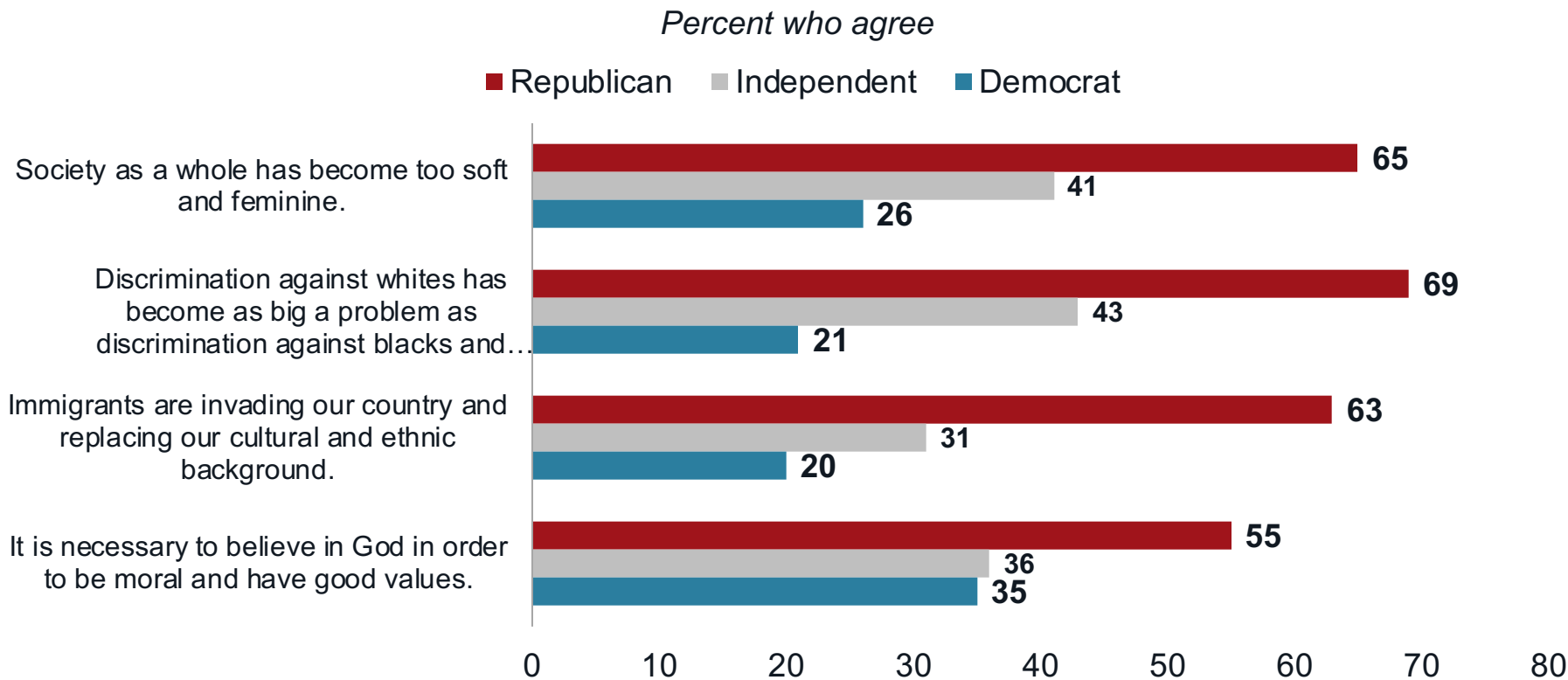
Partisan Divergences in Top Three Personal Labels

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

■ Democrat ■ Republican



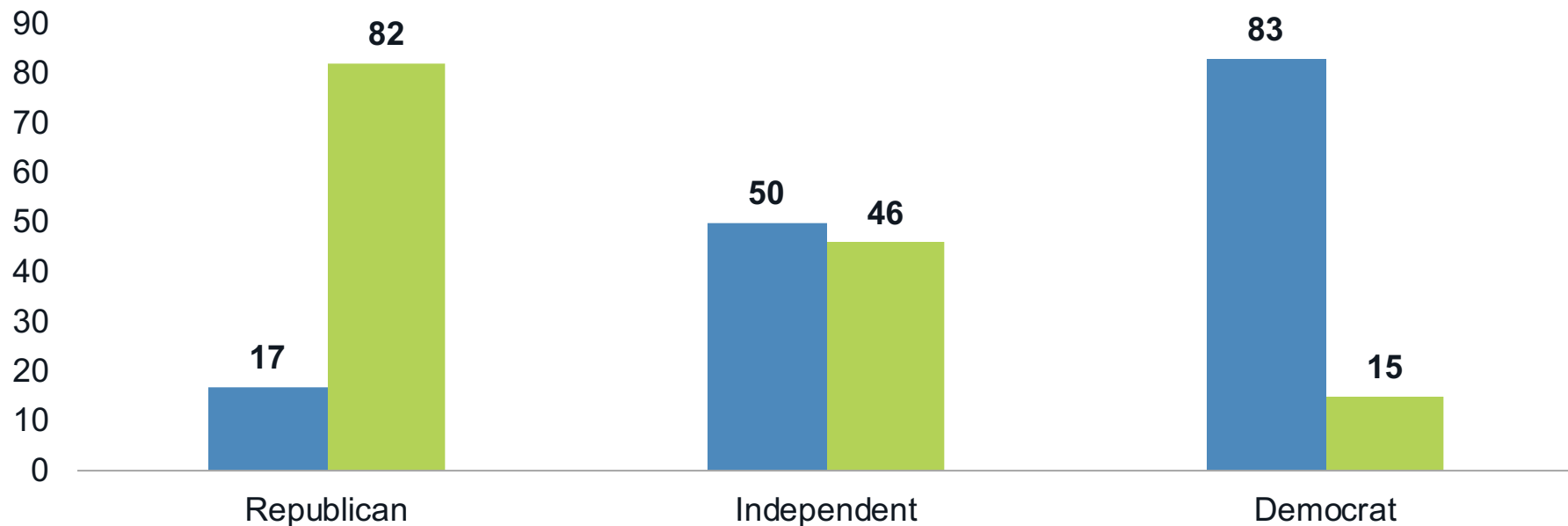
Large Partisan Divides about Changing Norms and Demographics



Republicans believe Democratic Party Has Been Taken Over by Socialists

Percent who say...

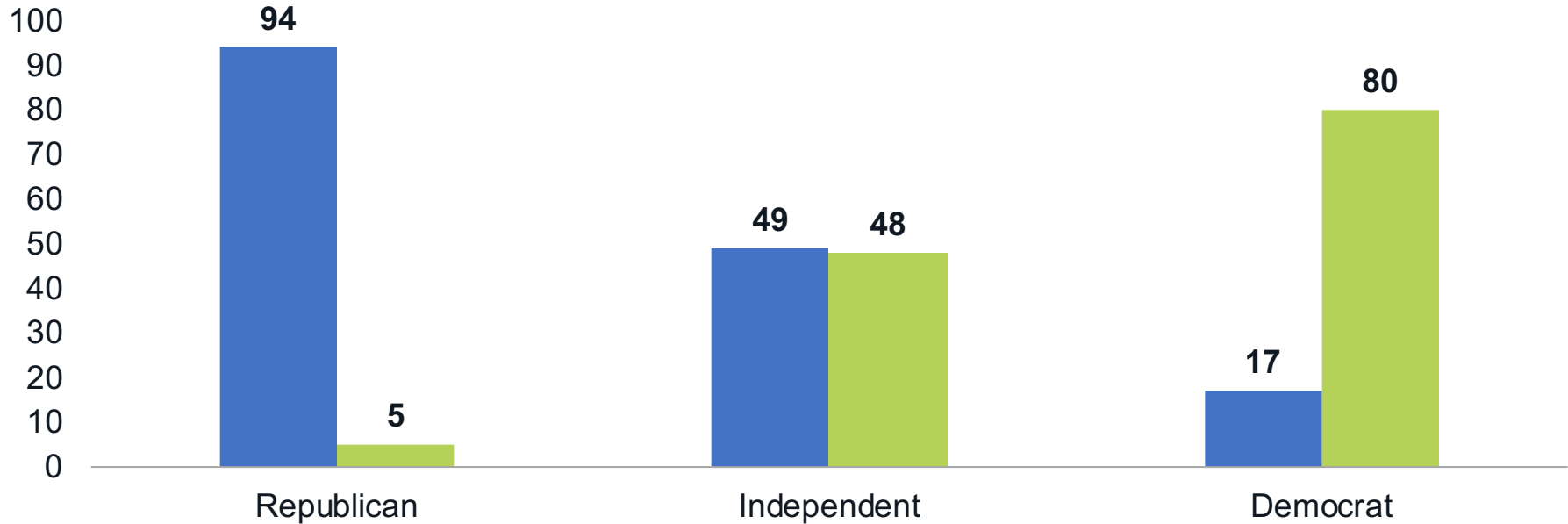
- The Democratic Party is trying to make capitalism work for the average American.
- The Democratic Party has been taken over by socialists.



Democrats Believe Republican Party Has Been Taken Over by Racists

Percent who say...

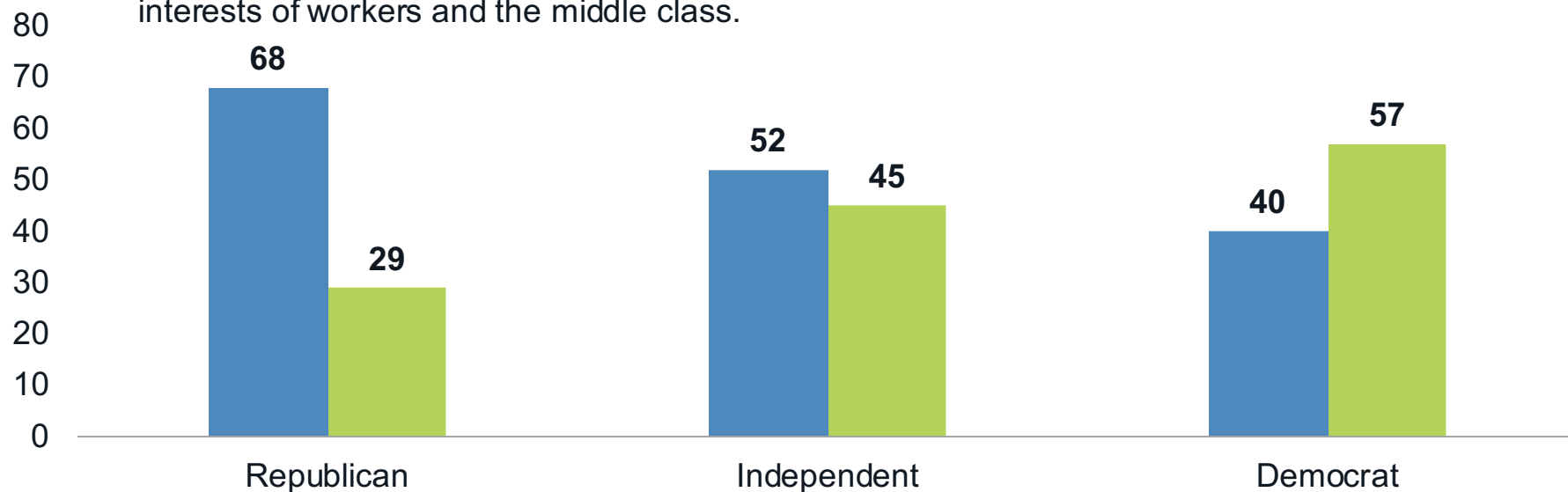
- The Republican Party is trying to protect the American way of life against outside threats.
- The Republican Party has been taken over by racists.



Divergent Partisan Conceptions of Capitalism

Percent who say capitalism is...

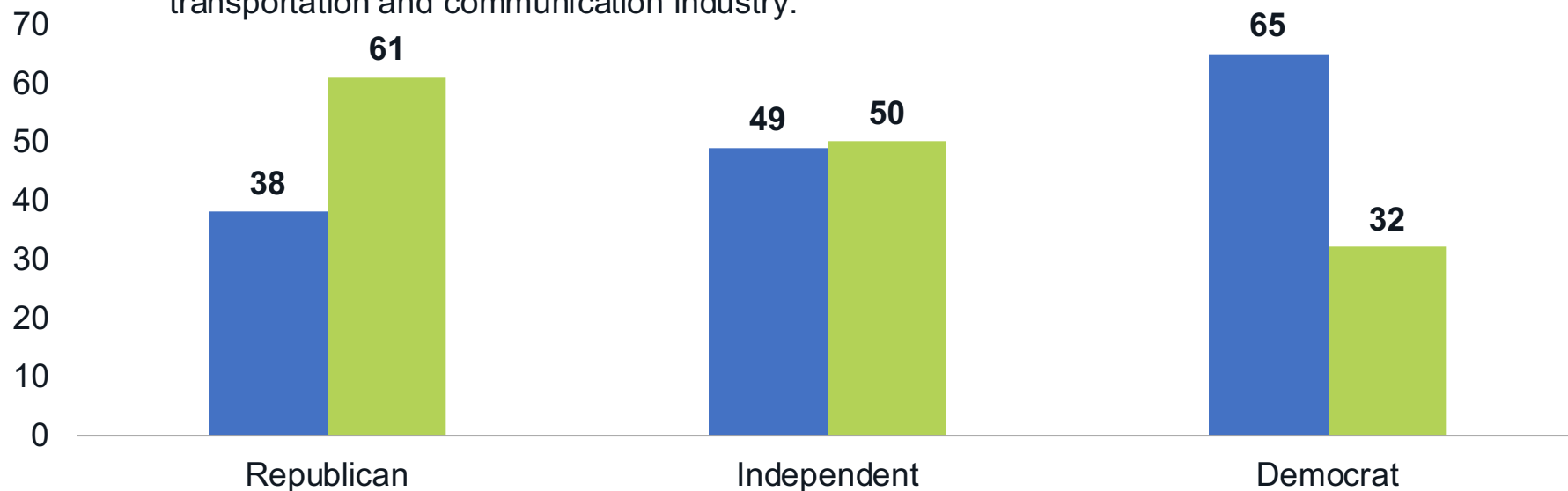
- A system in which government stays out of the way and allows private businesses to succeed and make a profit.
- A system where the interests of businesses and company shareholders are placed above the interests of workers and the middle class.



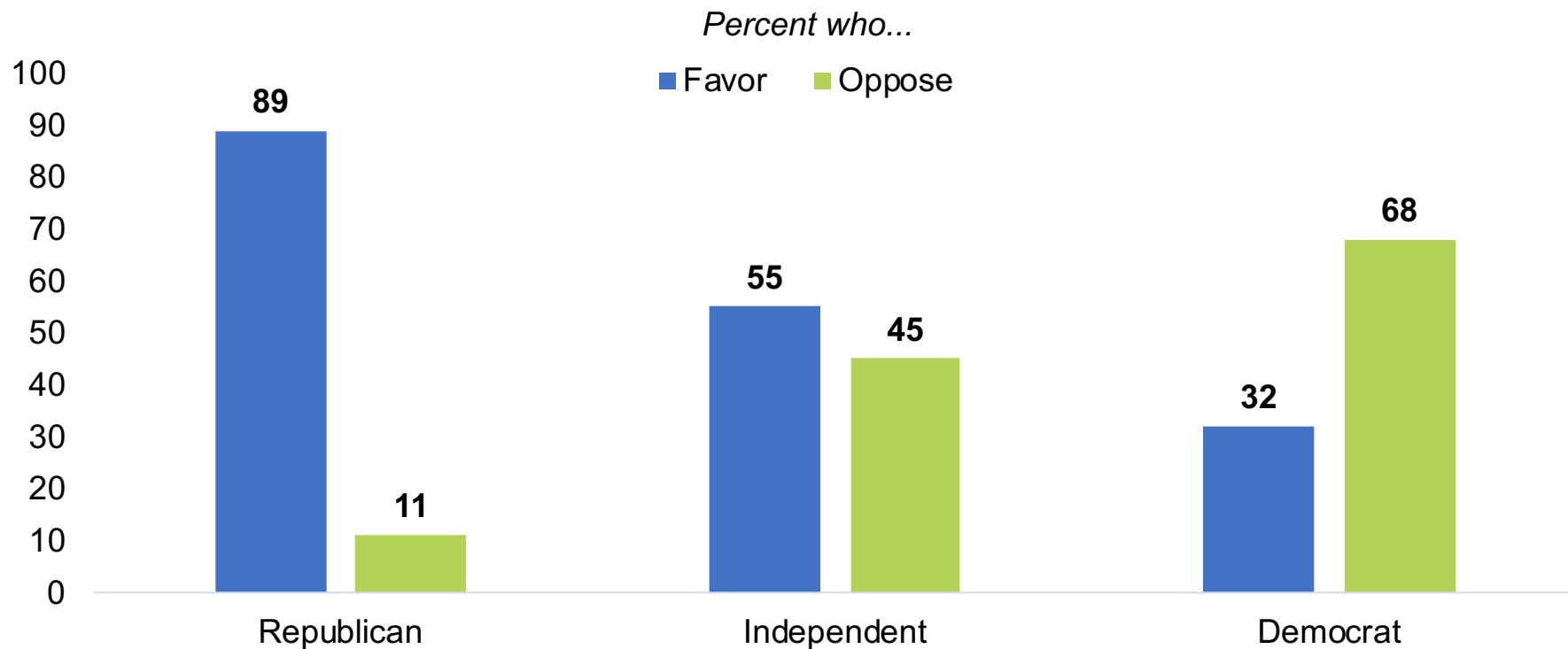
Divergent Partisan Conceptions of Socialism

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.



Partisan Divides on Restrictive Immigration Scale

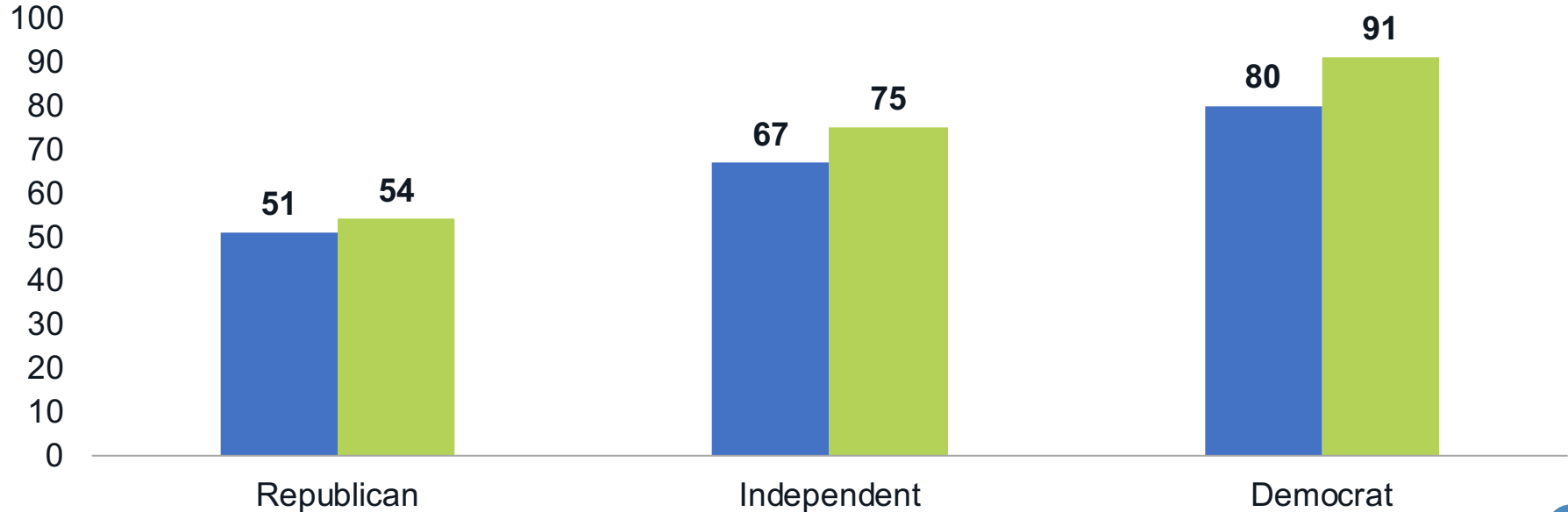


Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

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

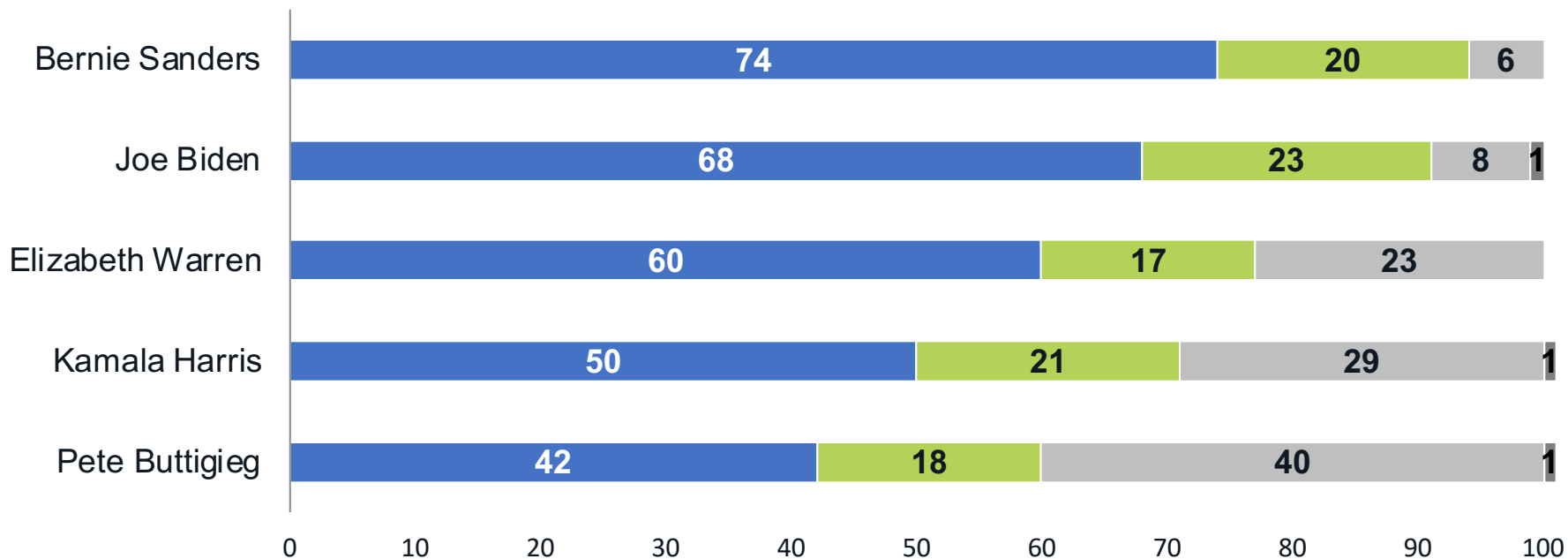


2020 AND SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES: AMONG DEMOCRATS AND LEANERS

Favorability of Top Five Democratic Candidates

Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents

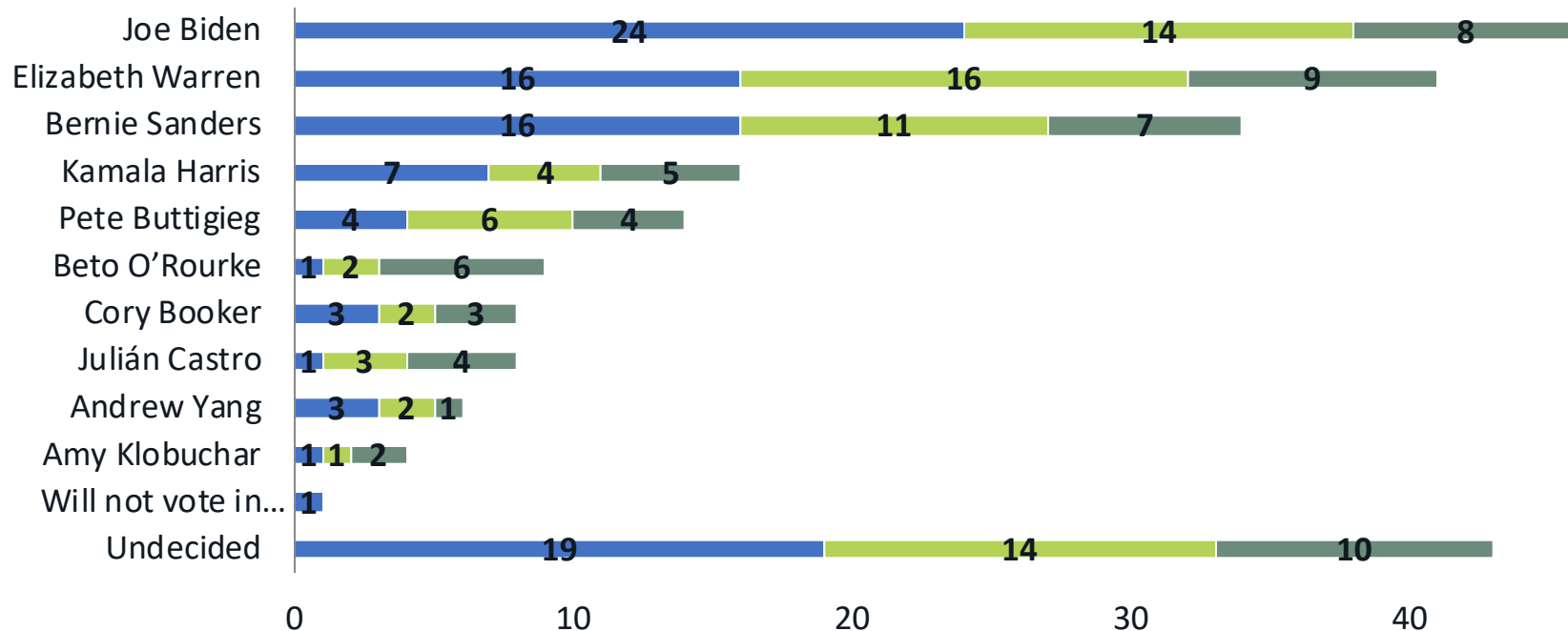
■ Favorable ■ Unfavorable ■ Don't know enough to say ■ Don't know/Refused



Top Three Choices for Democratic Nominee for President

Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning Independents

■ First Choice ■ Second Choice ■ Third Choice

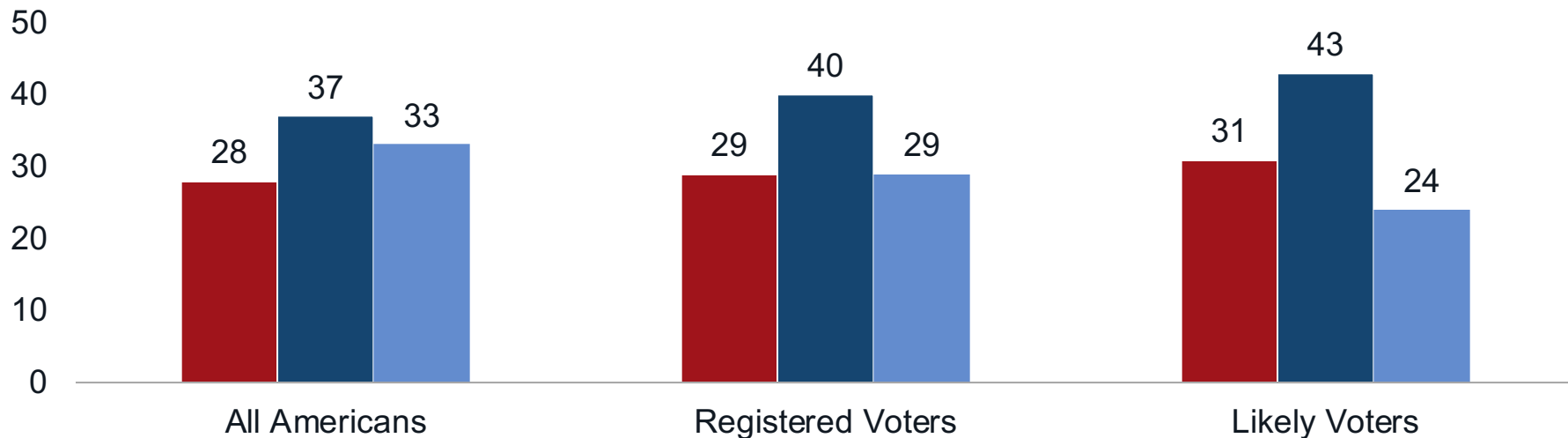


2020 AND SUPPORT FOR DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES: AMONG UNCOMMITTED AMERICANS

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?

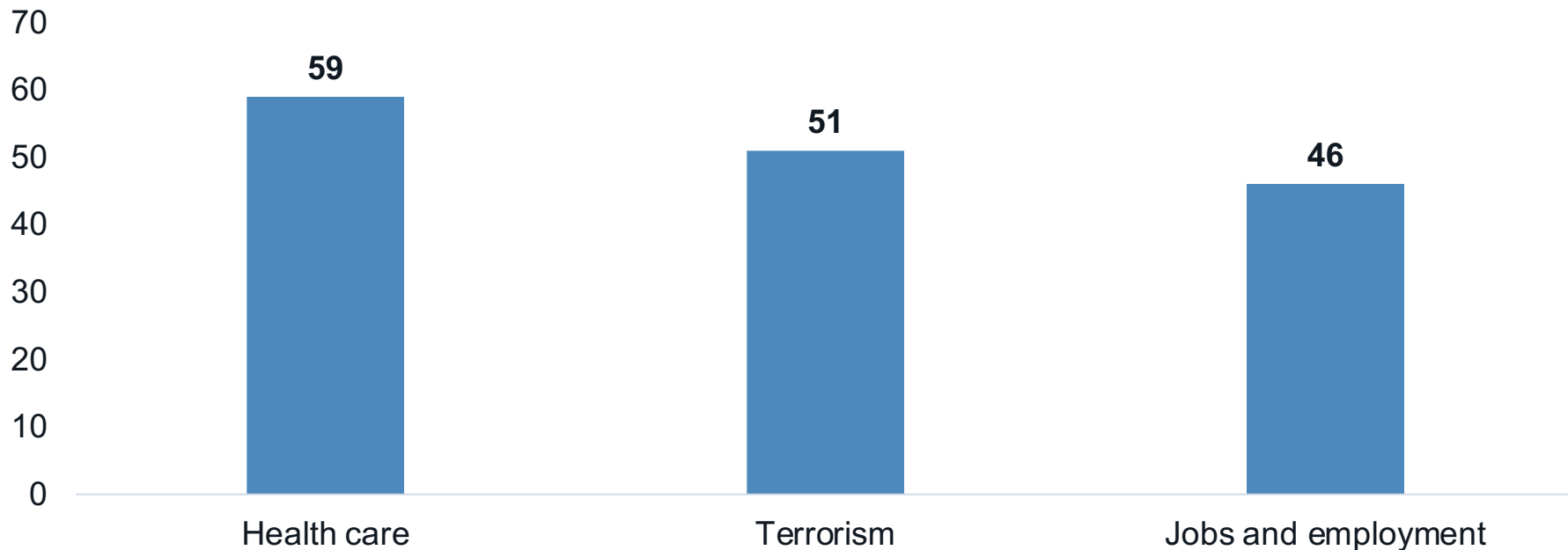
- I will support Donald Trump no matter who the Democratic candidate is.
- I will support the Democratic candidate no matter who it is.
- My vote will depend on who the Democratic candidate is.



Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

Top Three Critical Issues Among Uncommitted Americans

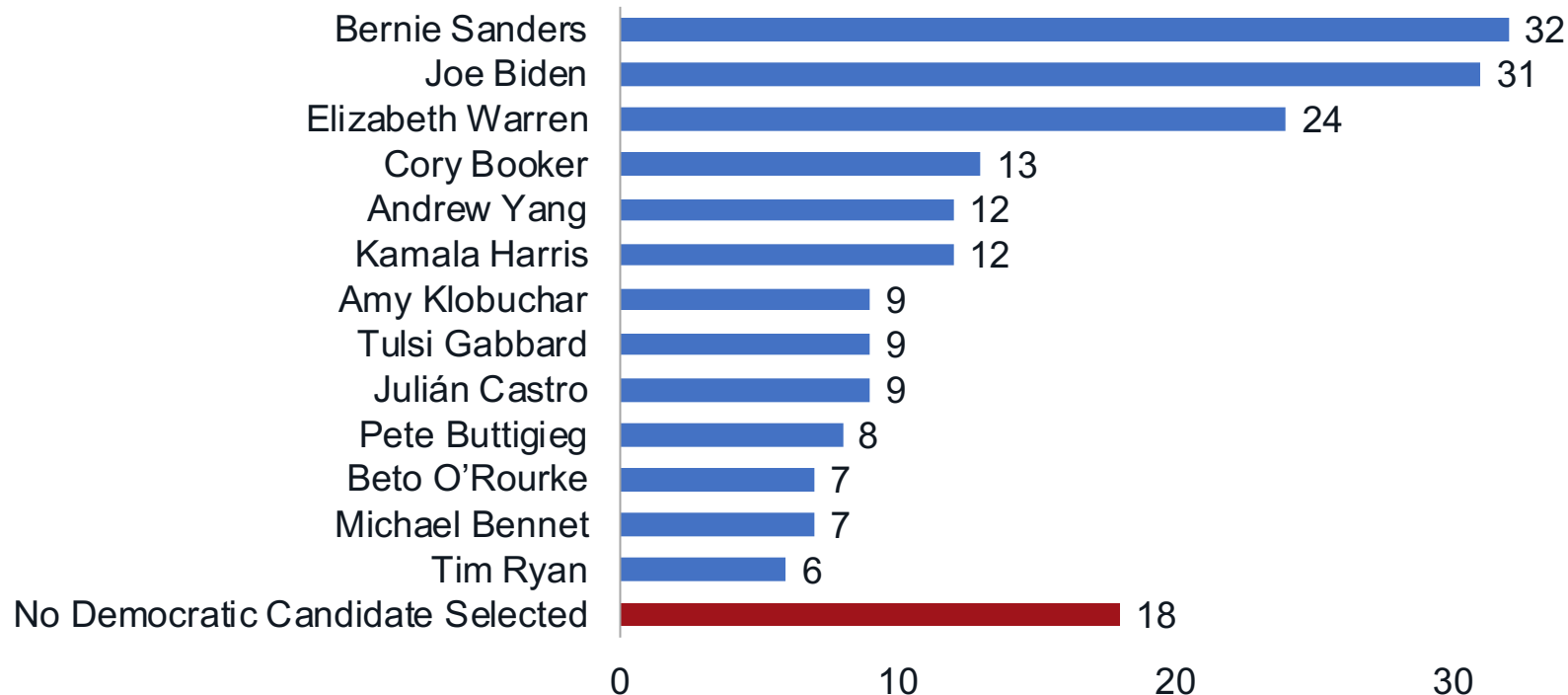
*Among Uncommitted Americans Who Say Candidate Issue Positions Most Important,
Percent who rate the following issues as critical*



Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey.

Top Candidate Preferences over Trump, Among Uncommitted Americans

Select all that apply



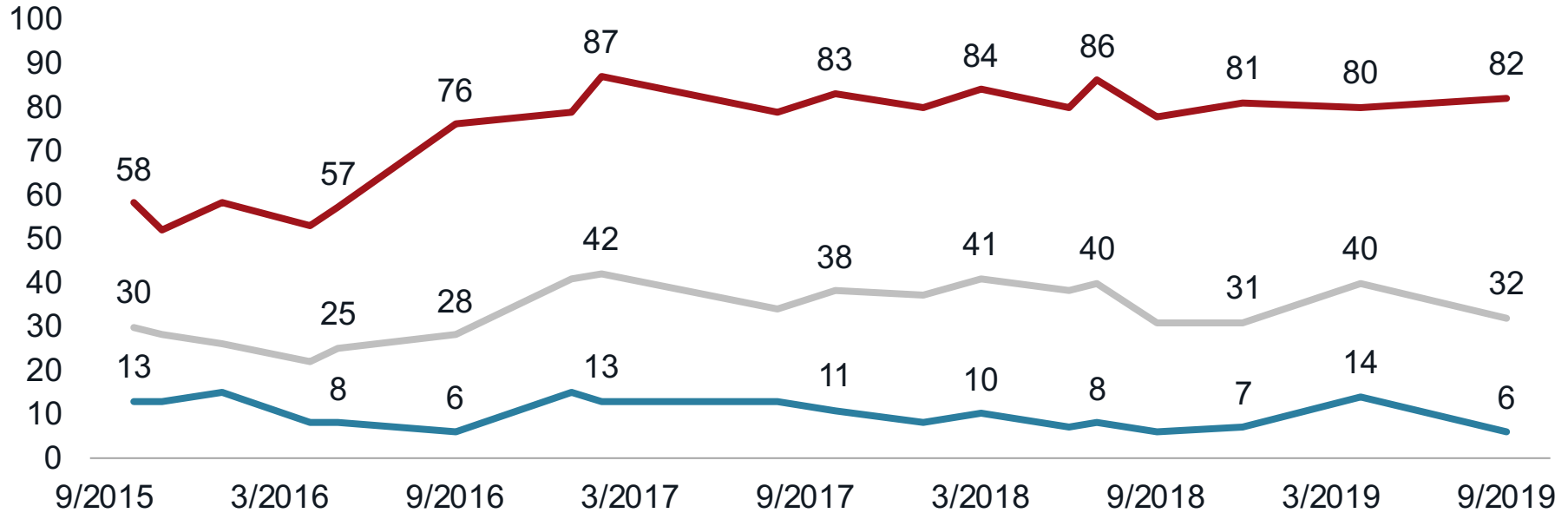
Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey Supplement.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2020: PRESIDENT TRUMP'S SUPPORT

Trump Favorability, 2015-2019

Percent who say they have favorable or very favorable view

— Republicans — Independents — Democrats

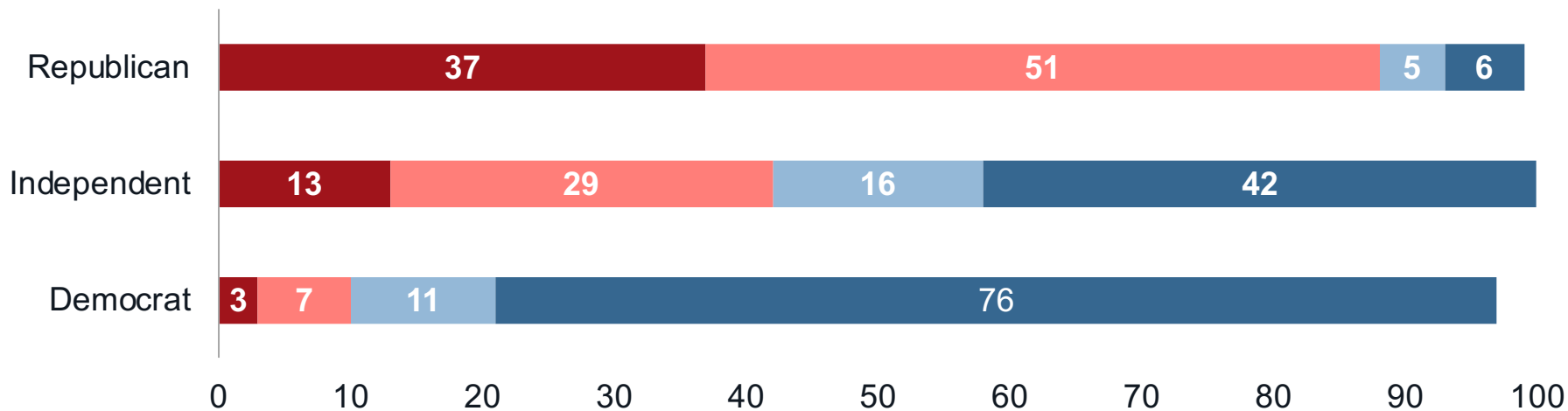


Source: PRRI Trend, 2015-2019

Partisan Evaluations of President Trump's Job Performance

Percent who...

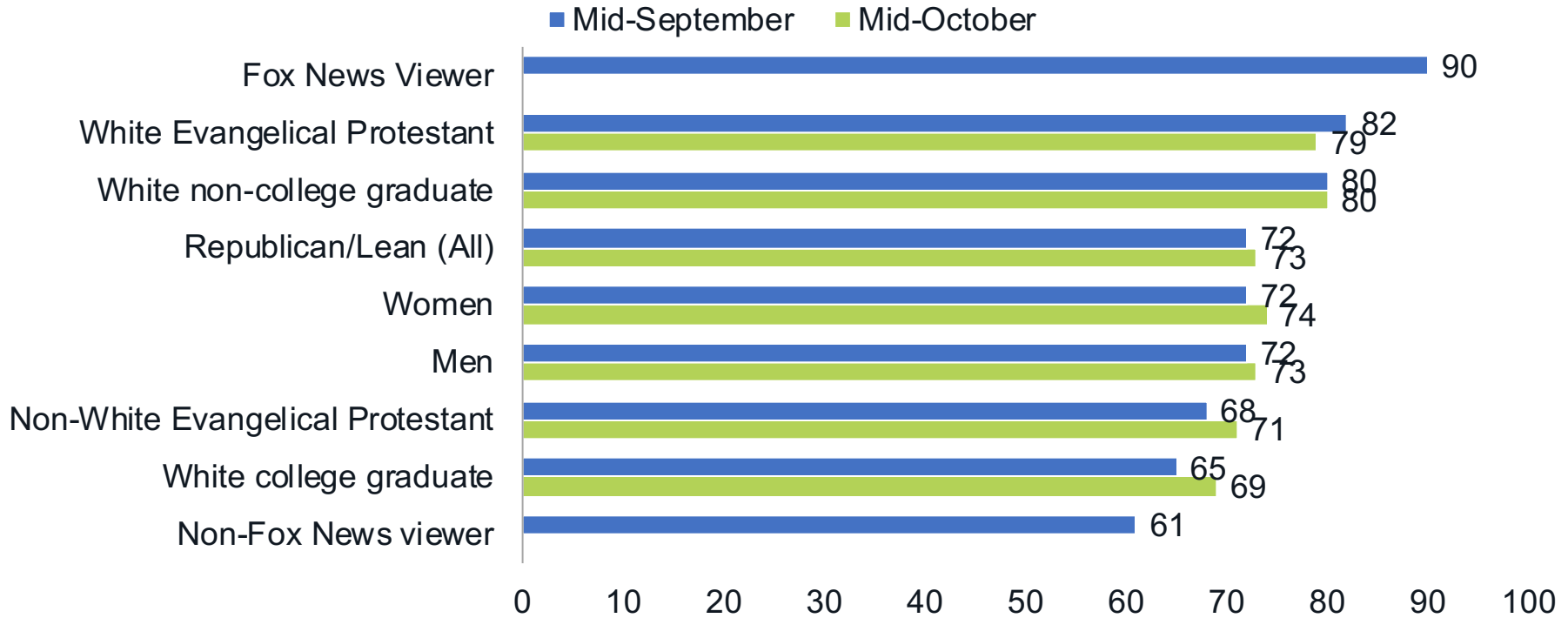
- Approve, and almost nothing Trump could do to lose approval
- Approve, but Trump could lose approval
- Disapprove, but Trump could win approval
- Disapprove, and almost nothing Trump could do to gain approval



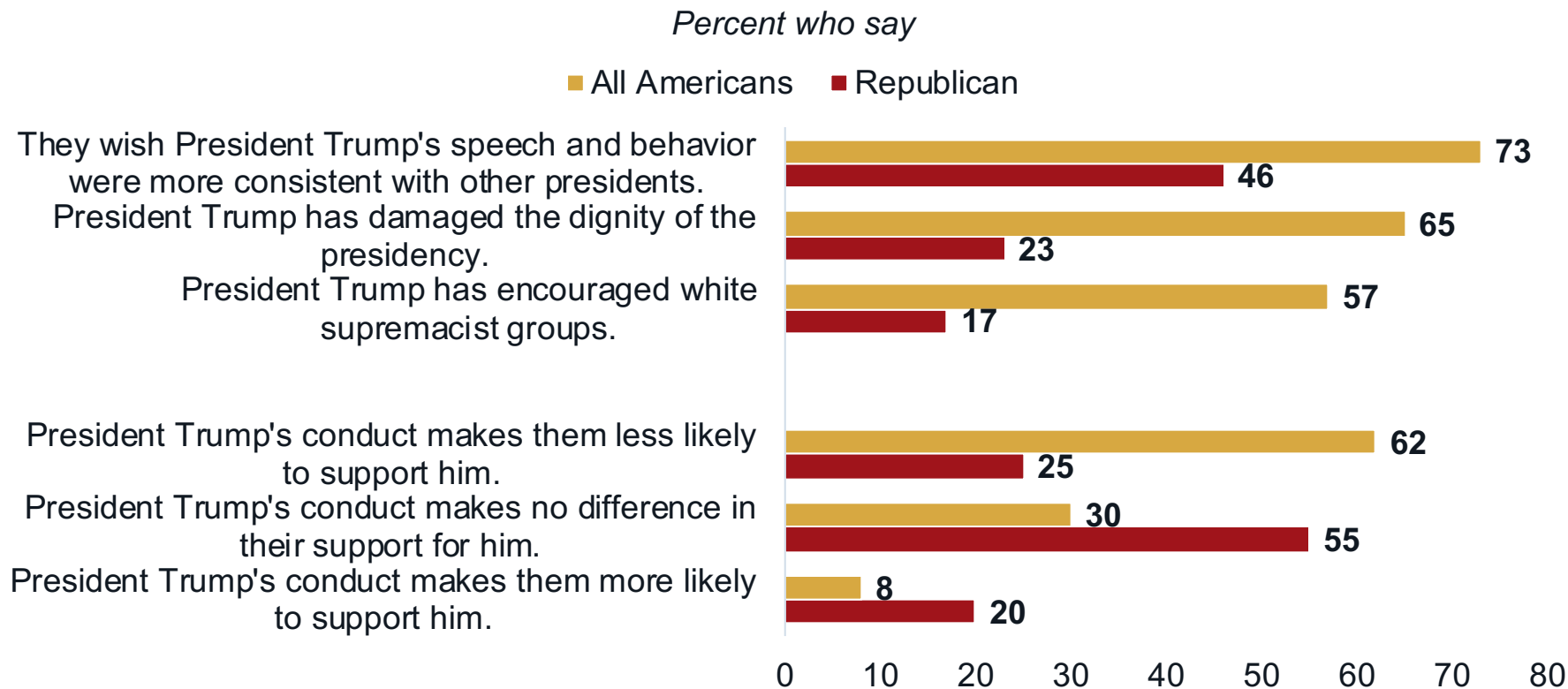
Source: PRRI 2019 American Values Survey Supplement.

Preference for Trump over Other Republican Candidate, Among Republican Subgroups

Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents



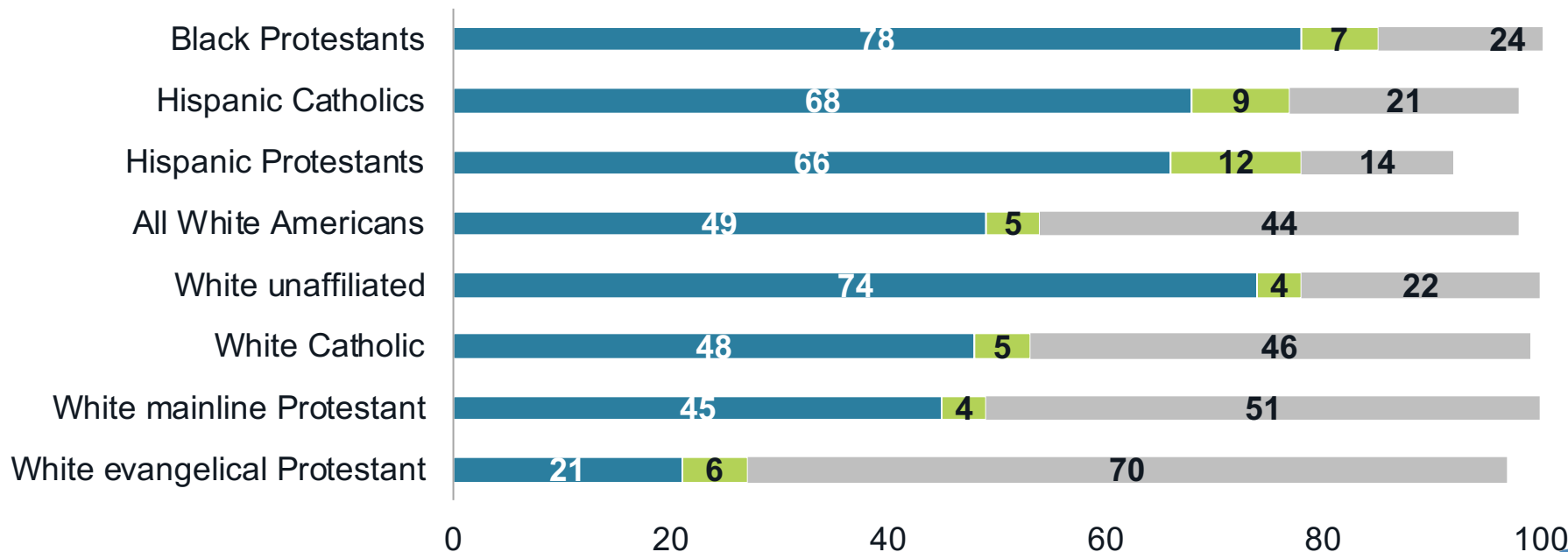
Judgments about Trump's Speech and Behavior



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

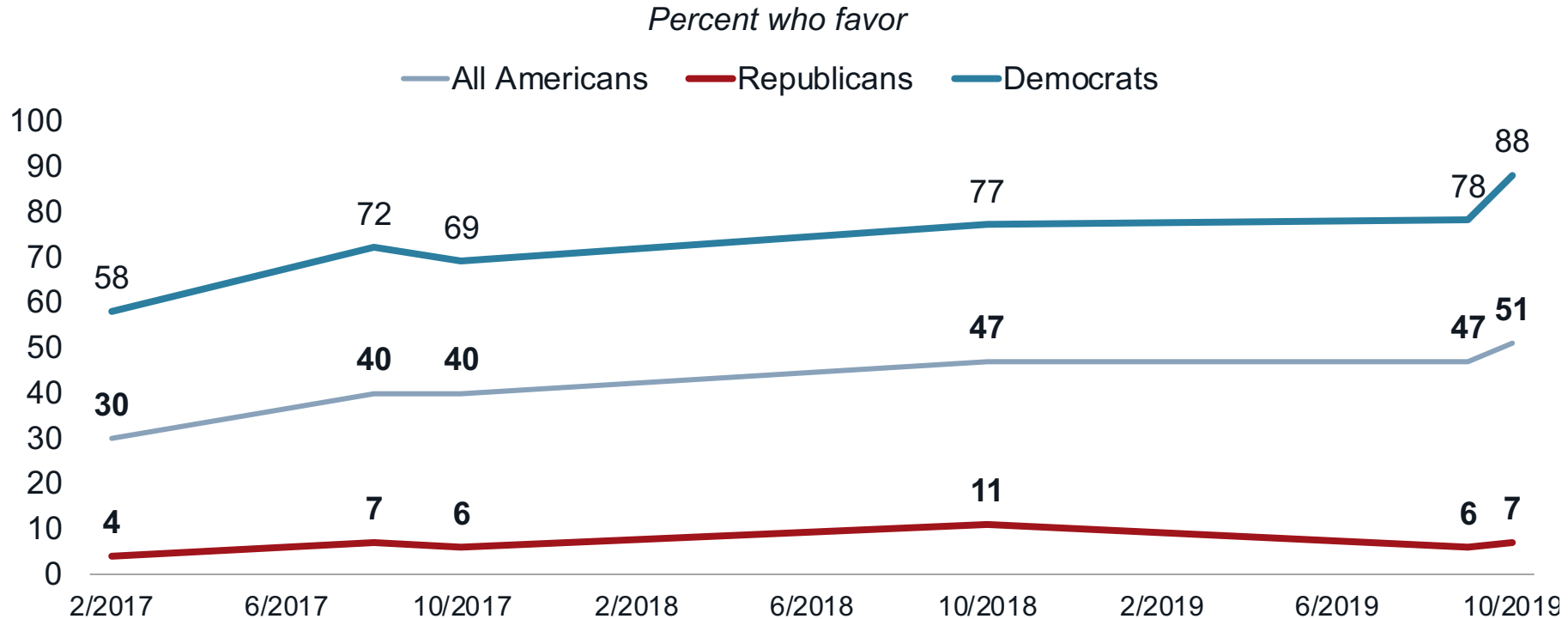
Do you think that President Trump's decisions and actions have...

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



INCREASING SUPPORT FOR IMPEACHMENT

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

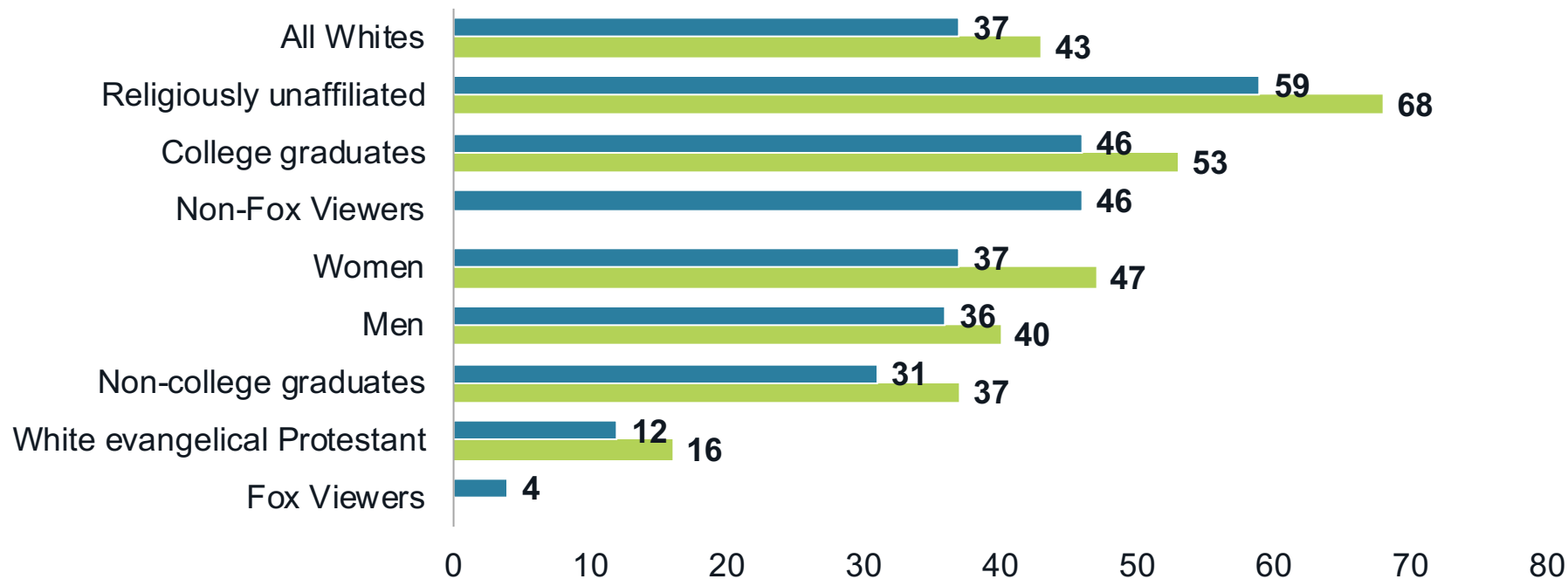


Sources: PRRI 2017-2019 American Values Survey; PRRI February 2017 Survey; PRRI August 2017 Survey.

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.

Fractured Nation: Widening Partisan Polarization ahead of 2020 Presidential Election

*Findings from the 2019
American Values Survey*



Robert P. Jones, Ph.D.

PRRI

@RobertPJones