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FRONT PORCH FOCUS GROUP

What 5,300 Voters Told Us About
the Fractures in Trump's Base in
Competitive States and Districts

2025

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Introduction

"I support the President, but he has got to get this tariff stuff under control. My 401(k) is not looking very good right now."

– Wyatt, white man in his 30s, Iowa 3rd
(Rep. Zach Nunn, R, and Sen. Joni Ernst, R)

"Tariffs against other countries are going to cost us more. ...I'm angry. I'm going to lose a lot of money."

– Dhana, Black woman in her 50s, Nebraska 2nd
(Rep. Don Bacon, R, and Sen. Pete Ricketts, R)


These two quotes may represent the key to a strategic resistance of Trump 2.0. Both live in highly competitive Congressional districts and Senate seats represented by Republican incumbents. Republicans who want to serve in these districts and states know that they—more so than their colleagues in “safer” seats—must be more responsive to the needs and desires of their constituents. That makes them the only targets both vulnerable to political pressure and with power in this moment to stop Trump’s legislative agenda.

Both of these voters hated Trump’s tariff policy at a visceral level and saw it impacting them personally.

But Wyatt is a die-hard, regular Republican primary voter who broadly approved of Trump’s presidency. Dhana is a solidly Democratic voter who disapproved of Trump’s leadership.

Topline approval polling, and our data, shows that people like Wyatt are still standing behind President Trump. But underneath that automatic partisan loyalty, our data shows anxiety and discontent is growing in the Republican base.

The policies of the Trump Administration are far less popular than Trump himself.



In April of 2025 we had 5,306 in-depth phone conversations and 2,756 online survey interviews with voters in 19 of the most competitive Congressional districts and five of the most competitive 2026 US Senate states. Republicans are currently holding office in 13 of those 19 competitive districts and all five of the Senate seats.

Those representatives and senators in these frontline districts and states are not, themselves, Trump. They will carry the political burden of these policies without the benefit of Trump's personal cult of personality. They are the top targets in any plan to face down Trump's unprecedented assault on the laws, institutions, and conventions that have defined our democracy. Congress can still slow or stop Trump's assault, if political pressure on these vulnerable members of the House and Senate Republican majorities can force them to break from the President.

Until now, most narratives about vulnerable Republican office-holders have focused on the danger they face from the right when defying a vindictive and deep-pocketed President. But our data suggests they face a more complex threat.

The Trump coalition that elected these representatives in 2024 is already fracturing. As the impact of Trump's policies becomes more and more clear, the discontent of the Republican base could combine with an enraged Democratic base and sizable skepticism from less partisan voters to form a toxic mix in these districts. It creates potential for a smart, targeted strategy to build a new coalition—a coalition of voters (and, by extension, a coalition in Congress) that cares more about an orderly, responsible, and functional government than partisanship.

In this Front Porch Focus Group, we will dig into what we learned from the voters in these politically crucial Congressional districts and states and how Trump's first 100 days is laying the foundation for this new bipartisan coalition of voters invested in a working government.



5,306
in-depth conversations

2,756
survey interviews



We examine how economic anxiety, concern over sweeping tariffs, threats to government programs, a tumultuous stock market, and rising prices are combining to create a new level of uncertainty for all voters, including Trump's strongest supporters. How some of the issues that have received the most media attention in post-election political analysis and coverage of the Administration—like immigration, DEI, and Elon Musk—are less central to building the type of constituent pressure needed. And how decades of conservative messaging about the evils of big government are meeting up against the stark reality that Trump's slashing of the government is broadly unpopular.



Methodology

We interviewed 5,306 voters by phone and surveyed 2,756 online between April 1 and April 15. Voters selected from a list of registered voters in 19 competitive Congressional districts. Of these, 13 are currently held by Republicans and 6 are held by Democrats. Voters in some of these districts will also vote in five of the most competitive 2026 Senate contests (AK, IA, ME, NC, NE). Voters are listed with the name of the incumbent representative or senator facing re-election. See Appendix for additional data about these cross-pressured districts.

- AK-At Large
- AZ-06
- CA-13
- CA-22
- CA-27
- CA-41
- CA-45
- CO-08
- IA-01
- IA-03
- ME-02
- MI-07
- NC-01
- NE-02
- NY-04
- NY-22
- PA-07
- PA-08
- PA-10

Voters' demographic, income, and education data are derived from information in the voter file.

Voters have been categorized into one of five partisan identities based on the widely-used Vote Choice Index (VCI) model that takes into account their voting history, demographic, and geography: **Strong Republican, Lean Republican, Unknown Voter** (a voter whose partisan beliefs are not predictable, based on our interpretation of the VCI model), **Lean Democrat, Strong Democrat**. When available, a voter's partisan voting registration or partisan self-identification is also included or cited instead.

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Economic Anxiety is a Bipartisan Reality

Jobs and the economy was the top issue for voters across the partisan spectrum. And [just as they did a year ago](#) under Biden, most think it's not going well.

We spoke to voters just before and just after Trump's announcement of a new global tariff system that sent stock markets reeling and filled content streams with dire predictions of rising prices. The broad economic anxiety we heard from voters in the days before the announcement became more focused after. Without prompting, voter after voter raised the issue of tariffs when asked about the economy. Many saw them as contributing to higher consumer prices, which was the second most important issue for many voters.



"This tariff stuff is crushing me. The billionaires don't care. They don't need the money. ... Make sure to put down that this tariff stuff is outrageous."

– Caleb, white man in his 30s, Strong Republican, North Carolina 1st (Rep. Don Davis, D, and Sen. Thom Tillis, R)

"He only made a turnaround with tariffs because he almost blew everything that quick. I lost \$10,000 in a week. ... [Trump] caused the world to go into a panic."

– Marie, white woman in her 60s, Unknown Voter, New York 4th (Rep. Lauren Gillen, D)

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"The wipes that I buy for my baby have gone up two dollars. President Trump has been championing a better economy his whole campaign and I hope he backs his promises. I'm not really sure what's going on politically, I just know everything is going up almost every day."

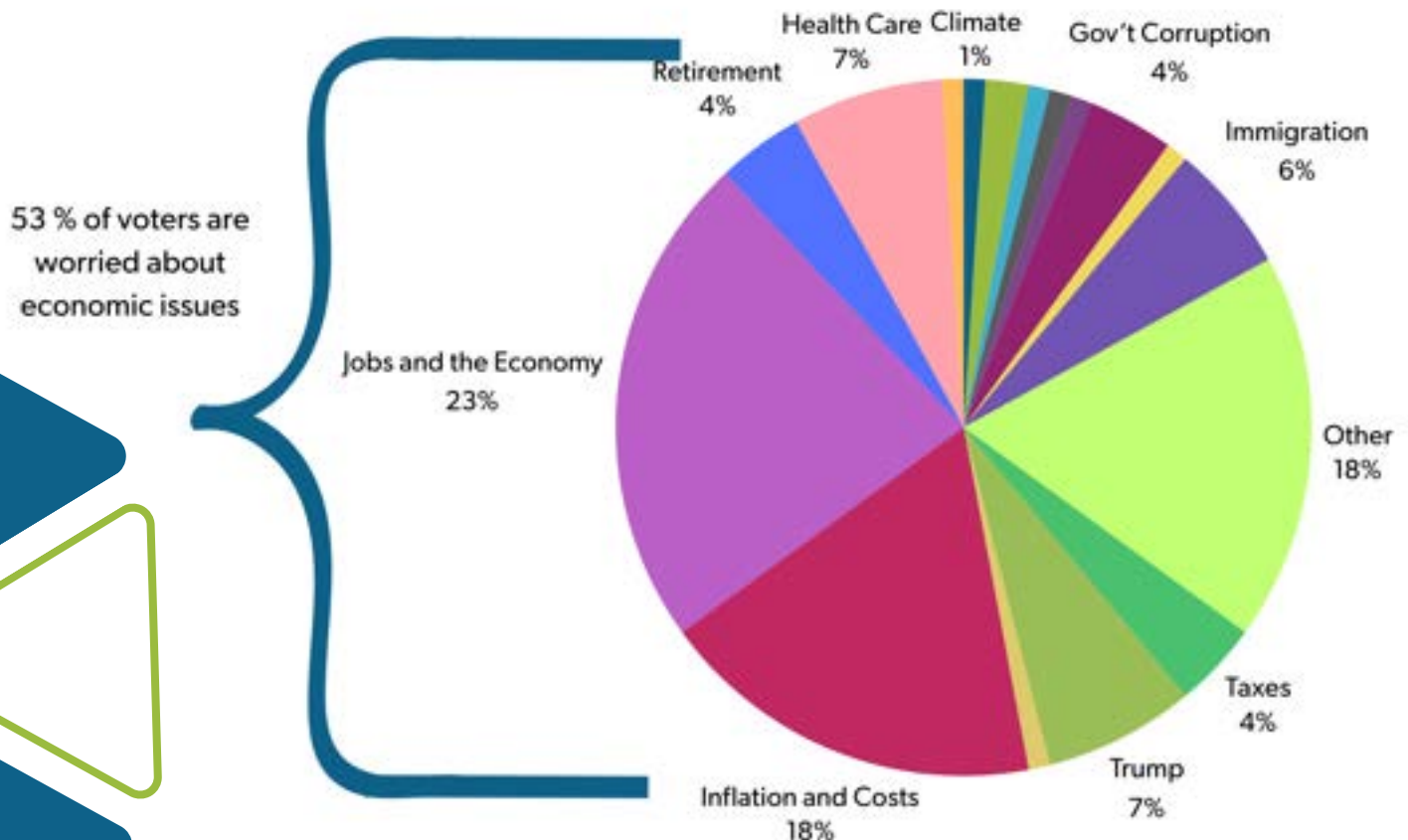
(Also reported that she has been out of work for 6 months and is unable to afford childcare.)

– Mallory, white woman in her 20s, Strong Republican, Pennsylvania 10th (Rep. Scott Perry, R)

Although we were careful to record voters who cited jobs or the economy separately from voters who told us their top concern was rising costs, voters themselves did not always draw so bright a distinction. Many voters who initially told us that their concern was the economy cited the rising cost of groceries, child care, and housing when we asked them to say more. Others also raised their concern about possible cuts to Social Security, or the drop in their 401(k)s brought on by tariffs.

When we combine the voters who are concerned about the economy and rising costs with voters who raised concerns about the stability of their retirement or worries about health care and housing—which are largely about the affordability of both—they make up a majority of voters in every demographic bucket

ISSUES OF TOP CONCERN FOR VOTERS



"He has personally hurt every retiree that's invested in the stock market."

– Paul, white man in his 70s, Strong Republican, Michigan 7th (Rep. Tom Barrett, R)

"Tariffs got people scared and they don't know what to do."

– Bruce, white man in his 70s, Strong Democrat, Alaska-AL (Rep. Nick Begich, III, R, and Sen. Dan Sullivan, R)

"Trump tariffs have screwed everybody."

– Kari, white woman in her 50s, Strong Republican, regular voter 2016-2022 but did not vote in 2024, Pennsylvania 10th (Rep. Scott Perry, R)

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"He acts like he knows what he's doing, but he's bankrupted every company he's ever run and he's destroying this country."

– Miranda, white woman in her 30s, Strong Democrat, infrequent voter, Pennsylvania 10th (Rep. Scott Perry, R)

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"Increased costs, tariffs are killing small businesses, the quality of life will continue to spiral downwards."

– Justen, white man in his 40s, registered Republican but self-identifies as a swing voter, California 13th Congressional (Rep. Adam Gray, D)

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"These tariffs are going to kill a lot of people in my opinion, between food and medication."

– James, white man in his 20s,
Unknown Voter, Colorado 8th
(Rep. Gabe Evans, R)

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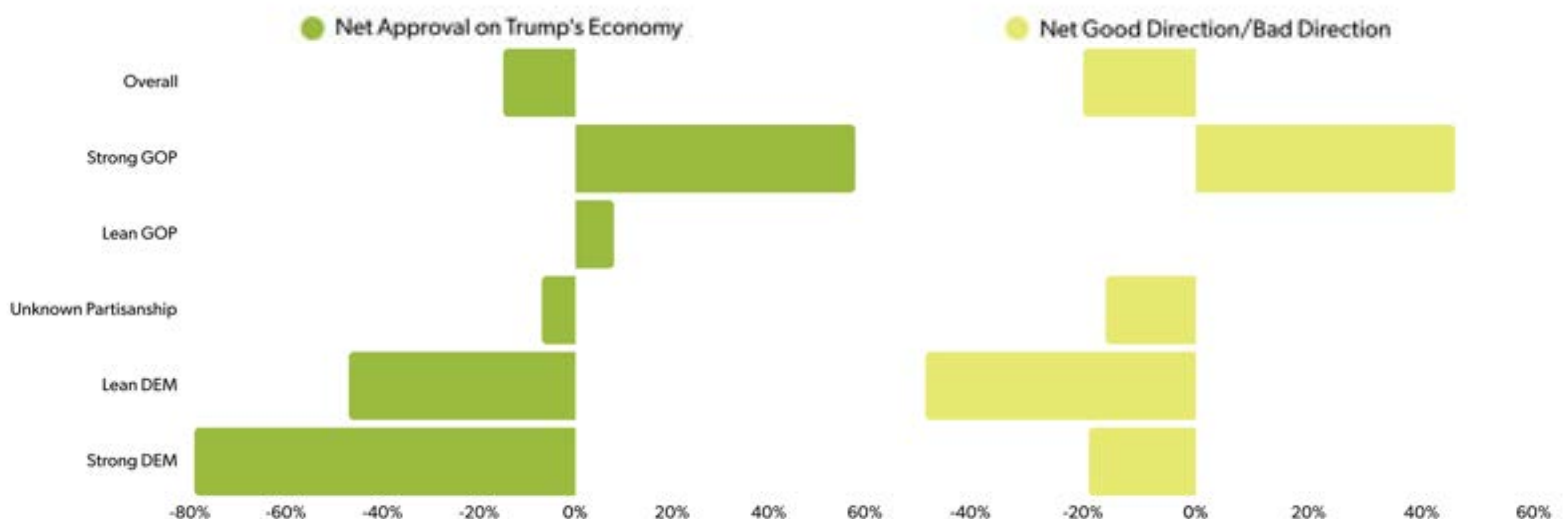
"I was just watching the news about these tariffs. It's like he wants to create a recession on purpose."

– Isabelle, Hispanic woman in
her 20s, California 45th (Rep.
Derek Tran, D)

Topline Approval, But Personal Anxiety

We've seen before (in our own research and from [many others](#)) how confidence in the economy is heavily tied to partisanship—supporters of the current president tend to be more positive about the state of the economy writ large. In these conversations, Republicans generally had a more positive view of the economy than Democrats (we saw the opposite during Biden's leadership). Predictably, a solid majority of Strong Republican voters also approved of Trump's handling of the economy.

But Lean Republican voters were split evenly in their rating of the economy, and only a small majority of them approved of Trump's economic leadership. Both Unknown Voters and Democratic voters were overwhelmingly negative on both, and the combination of fractured Republican support and united Democratic opposition pushes the overall electorate in these communities sharply negative.

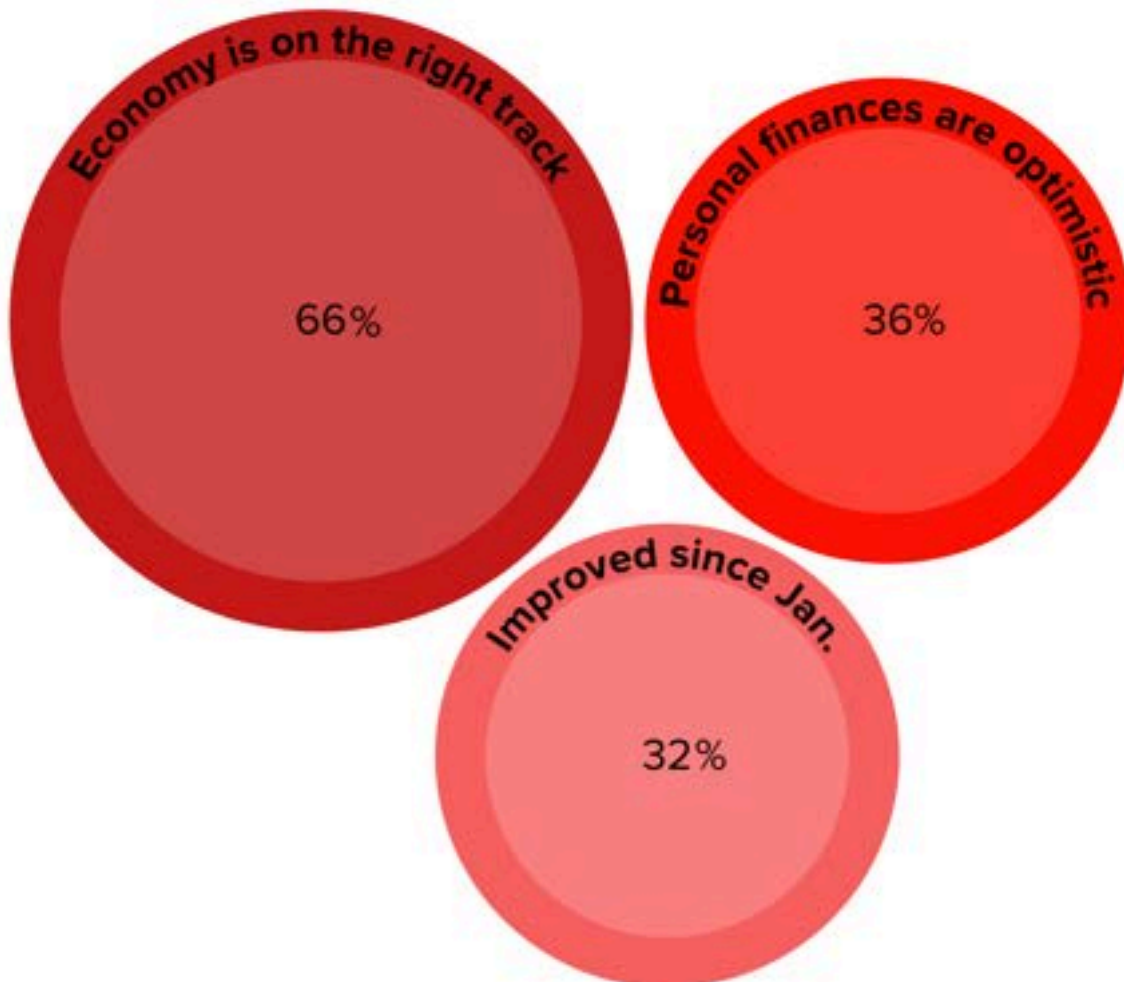


But this is where the data gets interesting.

Crucially for the Republican House and Senate incumbents occupying these 13 districts and 5 states, Republican base voters' approval of the economy appears to be superficial. Strong Republican voters are not translating that economic optimism to their own personal lives.

- Only 36 percent of Strong Republicans said they felt positive ("confident" or "excited") about their own financial future, while another 29 percent said they felt "hopeful."
- Only 32 percent of Strong Republicans said their own financial situation had improved since the start of the year, with the remainder saying it was worse or they were not sure.

Although 66% of GOP voters feel the economy is on the right track, only 36% feel optimistic about their own personal finances.





PA



Pennsylvania Republican Voters

"I voted for Trump this time because of the economy and the stimulus from last time—he needs to focus on the Americans who suffer. ...He's tone deaf."

– Nicole, white woman in her 50s, registered and Leans Republican, infrequent voter, Pennsylvania 8th *(Rep. Rob Bresnahan, R)*

"All this talk about tariffs has definitely affected the stock market negatively, therefore my 401(k) and retirement has suffered."

– William, white man in his 40s, Strong Republican, regular voter, Pennsylvania 10th *(Rep. Scott Perry, R)*

"He has a plan, he's not a dummie, he's financially successful. People just need to listen to his strategies."

– Marie, white woman in her 60s, Leans Republican, no history of voting, Pennsylvania 8th *(Rep. Rob Bresnahan, R)*

"I'm anxious (about personal finances). I think long-term, things will be better. . . But the economy is moving in a good direction. The tariffs will be a good thing."

– Roger, white man in his 60s, registered and Strong Republican, frequent voter, Pennsylvania 10th *(Rep. Scott Perry, R)*



Iowa Republican Voters

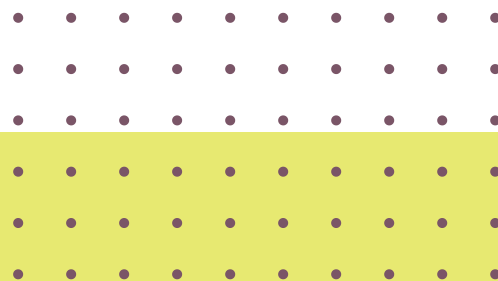
"The trade war is (already) affecting us and the tariffs just got put in place."

– Lucas, white man in his 30s, registered and Strong Republican, regular voter, Iowa 1st (Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R, and Sen. Joni Ernst, R)

"The market will be down by the end of the year, and prices will escalate ...but things will start improving next year."

– Dennis, white man in his 60s, Strong Republican, Iowa 1st (Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R, and Sen. Joni Ernst, R)

In our open-ended conversations with Strong Republican voters, over and over we heard a hope for change in the economy, even if they said they approved of the President's economic leadership. Many of these voters talked about giving the president "more time" for his plan to have a positive impact. Others took to blaming Biden or local Democratic officials. But in all cases, they were not happy with how things were going.



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“Trump is doing what he was hired to do. Don’t know, you have to break some eggs to make an omelet.”

– Jeffrey, white man in his 60s, Strong Republican,
Michigan 7th
(Rep. Tom Barrett, R)

“The current Democrat party [sic] is messing up the economy”

– Kristopher, white man in his 40s, Strong Republican,
Pennsylvania 7th Congressional District
(Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, R)

“Prices have been worse for me here in California, but that’s the Governor’s fault.”

– William, white man in his 70s, registered and Strong
Republican, California’s 41st
(Rep. Ken Calvert, R)

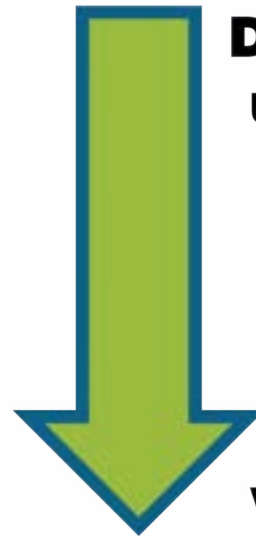
“There’s no reason I should be paying \$8 for a dozen eggs. It’s not Trump’s fault, but he also hasn’t helped in regards to that either.”

– Susan G., white woman in her 60s, Unknown Voter,
North Carolina 1st
(Rep. Don Davis, D, and Sen. Thom Tillis, R)

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This was a stark contrast to the more unified position of Strong Democratic voters, who said things were bad both globally and personally and laid the blame clearly on Trump. Overall, more than twice as many voters said that their personal finances were worse off since the President took office versus those who said they had improved.

There is a compelling story that could be told—one that voters already started telling us—that combines the sense of financial insecurity, the impact of tariffs on the economy, and Trump's cuts to the government. Voters often raised one when we asked about the other. The confluence of chaos was making them uneasy about the future.



Democrats, voters under 40, lower-income voters, and nonwhite voters think the economy is headed in the wrong direction.

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“The cost of living, goods, and my light bill, all my service fees are high. I live in a rural area and my cell phone fees are horrible. The infrastructure is bad in the rural area, we don't have mansions ... The lower middle class has been forgotten. I worked for the state and I was low on the totem pole. I am in survival mode with my income.”

--Ginger, white woman in her 50s,
Strong Democrat, Pennsylvania 8th
(Rep. Rob Bresnahan, R)

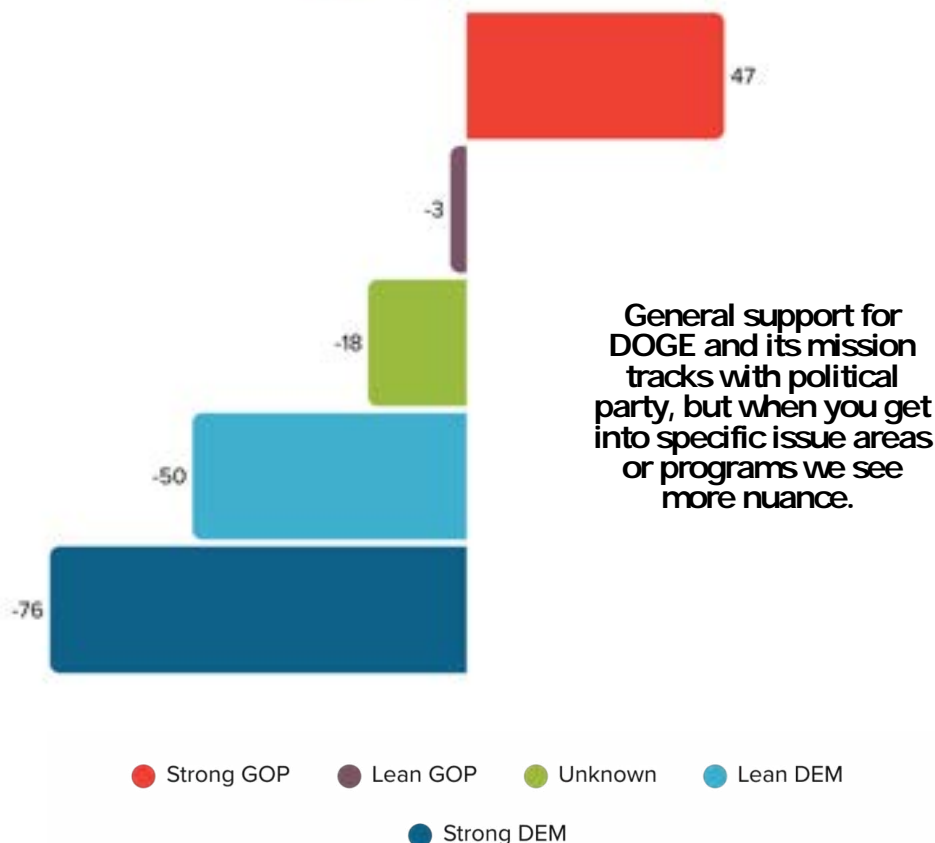


Government is No Longer the Problem

The Republican Party has campaigned for decades on the idea that, as Ronald Reagan famously said, “government is the problem.” The party has campaigned and governed on the premise that cuts to government spending (at least, the non-defense portions of the budget) were always desirable, especially if they could be used as political and legislative cover for reducing taxes.

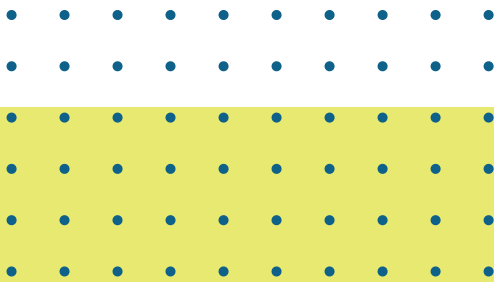
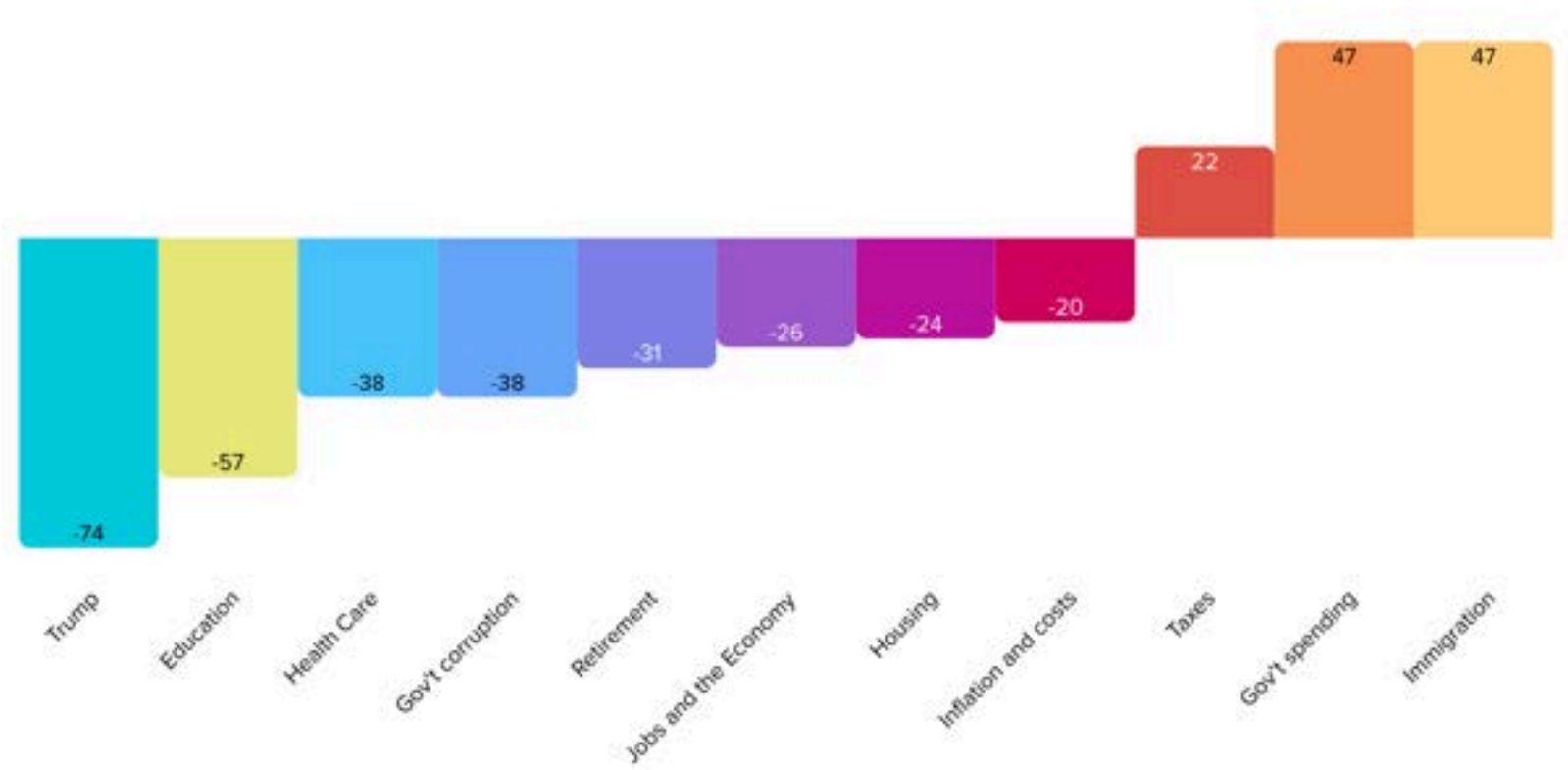
But no president since Reagan has cut the government as aggressively as Trump, who has started to realize some of the more extreme proposals from the conservative playbook. Our conversations with voters in these Republican-held districts suggest that now that voters can see these ideas in action, they are not nearly as supportive of all of the cuts as may have been expected. And the tax cuts being envisioned by Republicans in Congress may not fare better.

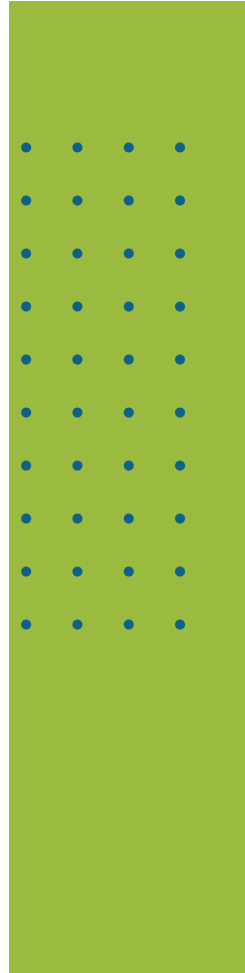
Similar to the pattern we saw on the economy, most solidly Republican voters approved of Trump’s job performance on federal spending, but then told us later in the conversation that they were worried about the cuts and the way they were being implemented. “Hatchet” was the word we heard most often used to condemn the approach. This skepticism could be seen in the difference between voters’ approval of Trump and their approval of the agency that has come to symbolize the government cuts – the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).



Voters who named the economy as their top concern overwhelmingly thought that DOGE was hurting their community and family. That was even more the case for voters who named “government corruption” as a top concern, suggesting that these voters do not view DOGE’s actions as being aimed at targeting such corruption.

SUPPORT FOR DOGE BY TOP ISSUE OF CONCERN





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More Fear From Voters

“Don't cut the budgets of people working the front lines, the nurses, cops, firefighters, people working with vulnerable populations.”

– Tara, white woman in her 40s, Strong Republican, regular voter, California 22nd (Rep. David Valadao, R)

“Regarding the cuts to the Department of Education, Justice, etc., I just don't feel I have enough info for a solid answer. If he is cutting those funds to create new programs and reallocate them, then I believe it could be a good thing, but if not, then I don't see it doing any good.”

– Jeremy, white man in his 50s, registered and Leans Republican, no voting history, Iowa 1st (Rep. Marianne Miller-Meeks, R, and Sen. Joni Ernst, R)

“I'm a truck driver and if the EPA is gone, that's the end of making engines run cleaner. He's bringing back unsafe, old trucks.”

– Tremonte, Black man in his 50s, Strong Democrat and regular voter, North Carolina 1st (Rep. Don Davis, D, and Sen. Thom Tillis, R)

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The Department of Education, a longtime target for conservative activists and one Trump promised to eliminate during his campaign, proved surprisingly resilient. It was the number one discretionary spending target that voters said they wanted to protect. That could also explain why Trump's leadership on education was his lowest-performing issue among our sample.

47%
of strong Republican voters approve of how Trump is handling education and DEI, which is a lower approval rating than any other issue

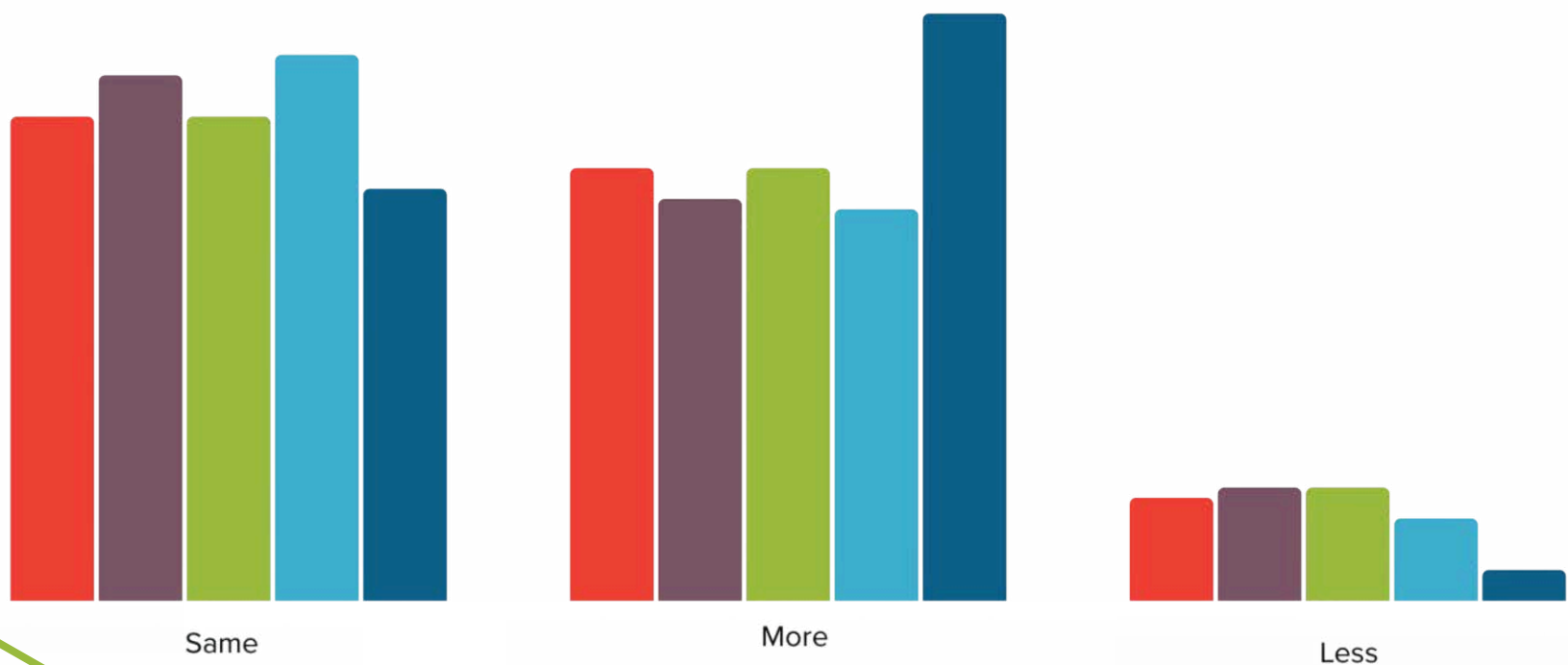
Social Security and Veterans are Sacred

But Republicans and Democrats alike said that the top thing that they wanted to protect from DOGE was Social Security. Many voters, even those who said they trusted Trump's campaign pledge to leave the beloved retirement program untouched, named it as a concern, and many said they wanted spending on the program increased. Nor is the fear of cuts to the program an irrational one, given reductions that have already been made to the Social Security Administration and some of the budget discussions circulating in Congress.

Bipartisan support for Social Security showed up strongly in our online survey data as well, with almost 90 percent of Strong Republicans saying the government should spend the same or more on the program.

How much should the Government spend on Social Security & Medicare?

● Strong GOP ● Lean GOP ● Unknown ● Lean Dem ● Strong Dem



This was another example of an observable link between Trump's two major initiatives: tariffs and DOGE. Many voters who mentioned a concern about Social Security also made reference to the impact that tariffs had on the market and the value of their 401(k)s.

Veterans enjoyed similar strong bipartisan support, with 95 percent of voters (98 percent of Strong Republicans) in our online survey saying they should get the same or increased amounts of funding.

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“I'm 100% in favor of getting rid of the fraud, the waste, and the abuse. But Medicare and Social Security comes from taxes, they get plenty from our paychecks, so those shouldn't be cut. ...I only get Social Security and Medicare, I don't anticipate that changing. If it does, we would never see another Republican administration in office ever again.”

–Dolores white woman in her 70s, registered and Strong Republican, regular voter, North Carolina 1st (Rep. Don Davis, D, and Sen. Thom Tillis, R)

“(After this) 90 day hold (on tariffs) hopefully they don't mess with my Social Security, they are dismantling everything.” (Answer given in response to question about why tariffs were her top concern)

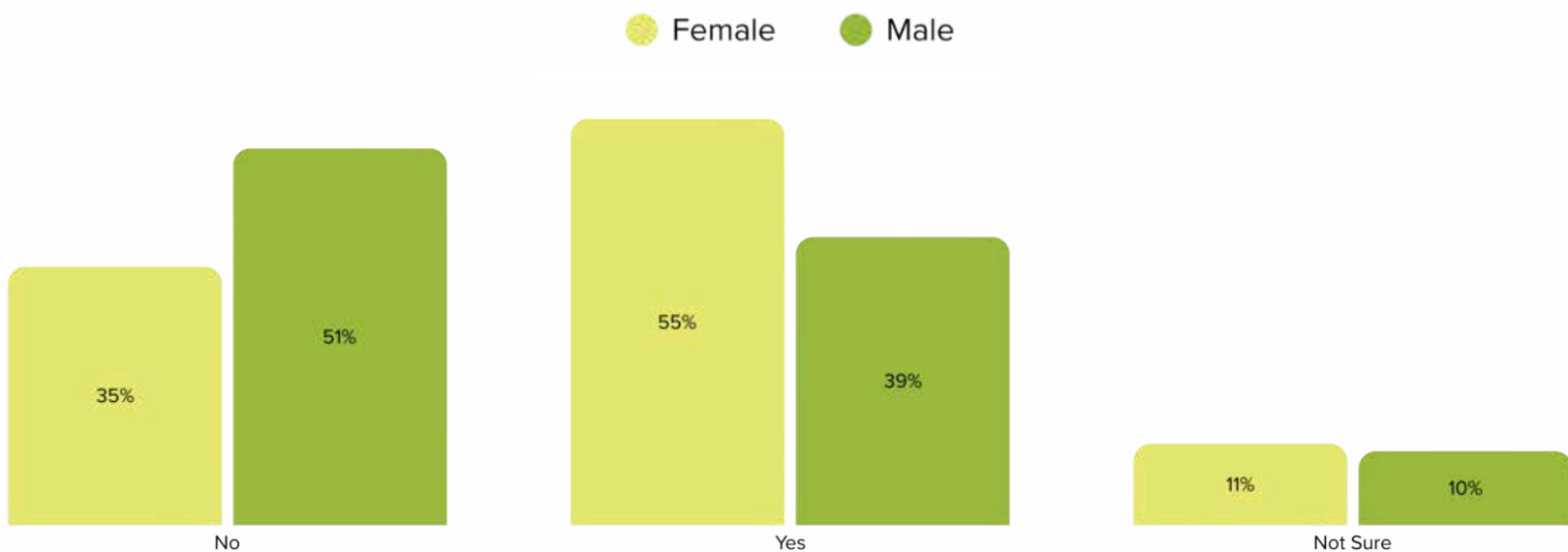
–Patricia, Hispanic woman in her 70s, Strong Democrat, Arizona 6th (Rep. Juan Ciscomani, R)

“Don't want to see cuts to VA services or Social Security (because he is a beneficiary of both programs). But the President is not going to cut those things.”

–Richard, white man in his 60s, Unknown Voter who has voted in primaries of both parties, New York 22nd (Rep. John Mannion, D). Apparently unaware that both agencies have already faced cuts.

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Are you worried about cuts to public services?

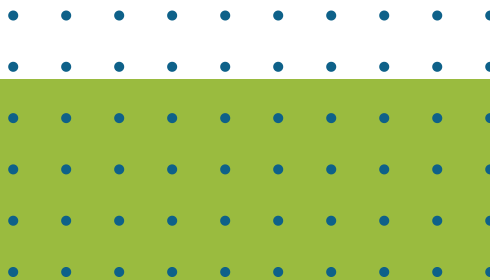
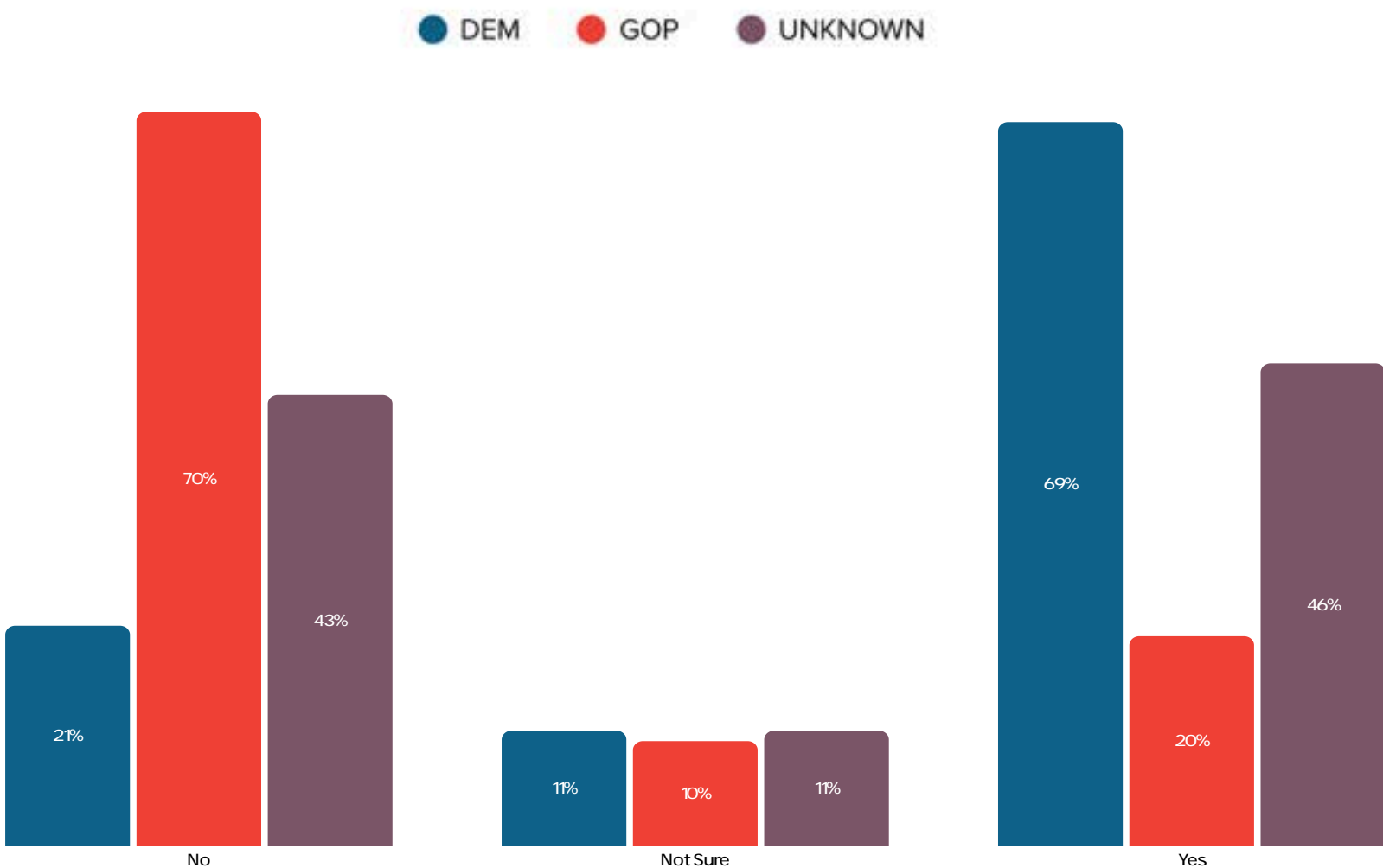


Cuts Not Felt Deeply... Yet

Voters were evenly split over whether they were or were not worried about their own access to government services changing because of Trump's cuts. There was a stark division here along partisan lines, but also across gender, with women far more likely than men to be worried about a loss of government support.

Even without experiencing the cuts directly, voters seemed to think that spending cuts were more useful in the abstract than in practice. A majority of voters in our online survey, including a majority of Strong Republicans, did not think the cuts would help their personal financial situation or the community's economy.

Are you worried about cuts to public services?



Those who were concerned about the impact of cuts often named worsening service at the Social Security Administration as the biggest concern. Problems with the IRS and veterans' benefits also came up often.

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"I use the VA and they're laying off people from the VA, the post office"

– Jakob, white male in his 20s, Leans Republican, infrequent voter, Michigan's 7th (Rep. Tom Barrett, R)

"I've seen (Veterans Affairs') appointments get delayed and care get worse"

– Lisa, white woman in her 50s, registered and solid Republican, regular voter, Pennsylvania 10th (Rep. Scott Perry, R)

"(Supports Trump but doesn't know how to feel about DOGE) because my brother is a veteran and his benefits are on hold."

– Tiana, Black woman in her 40s, registered Republican, regular voter, Pennsylvania 7th (Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, R)

"Cuts to the VA hurt."

– Maria O, Black woman in her 50s, Strong and registered Democrat, Iowa 1st (Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R, and Sen. Joni Ernst, R). Works as a healthcare professional and said she doesn't get paid for healthcare services when Medicare, Medicaid, and the VA are cut

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Voters were also connecting the cuts with personal stories that were not their own. Many said they were worried about someone they knew who had lost a job—either a federal worker or someone in education or healthcare whose position was eliminated because of grant cuts. While the Trump Administration has tried to paint all of the fired federal workers as lazy Washington parasites, the daily lives of thousands of federal workers spread across these districts are already providing a powerful counter-narrative. In our online survey, 2 out of 3 voters said they knew at least one federal worker personally.

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"Yes I am worried about DOGE. My husband is a federal employee!"

– Bonita, white woman in her 60s, leans Republican, presidential-year voter, North Carolina 1st (Rep. Don Davis, D, and Sen. Thom Tillis, R)

"I have friends and family who all work in the VA that lost their jobs. (There are) major cuts in the hospital."

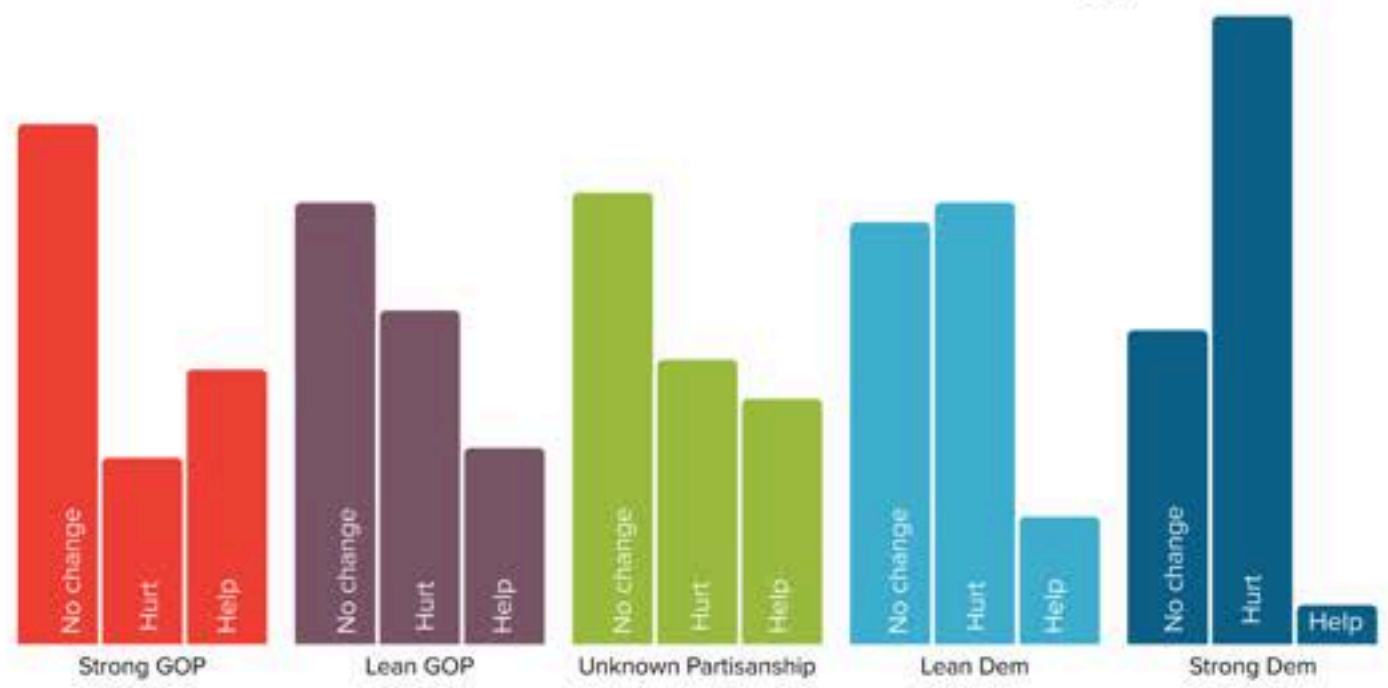
– Brandilyn, white woman in her 40s, Strong Democrat, Michigan's 7th (Rep. Tom Barrett, R)

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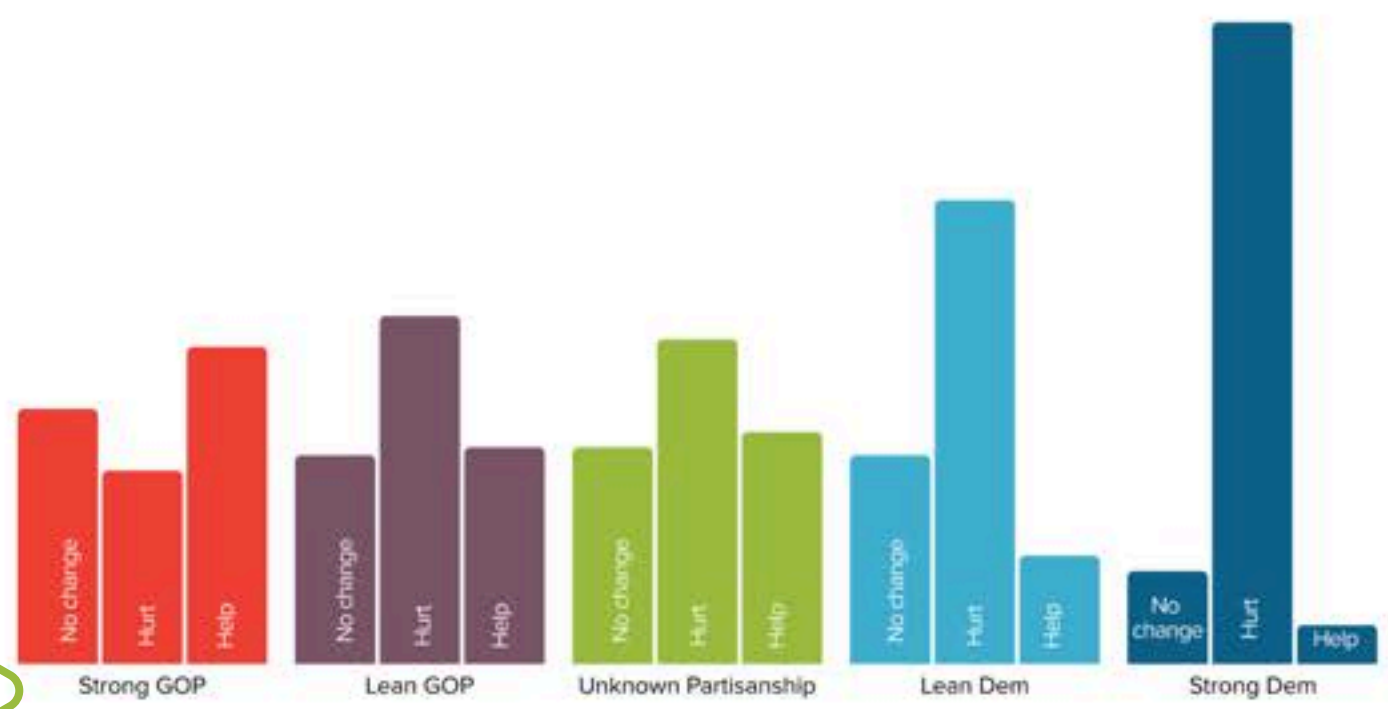


How do you believe federal spending cuts will effect the following?

The national economy

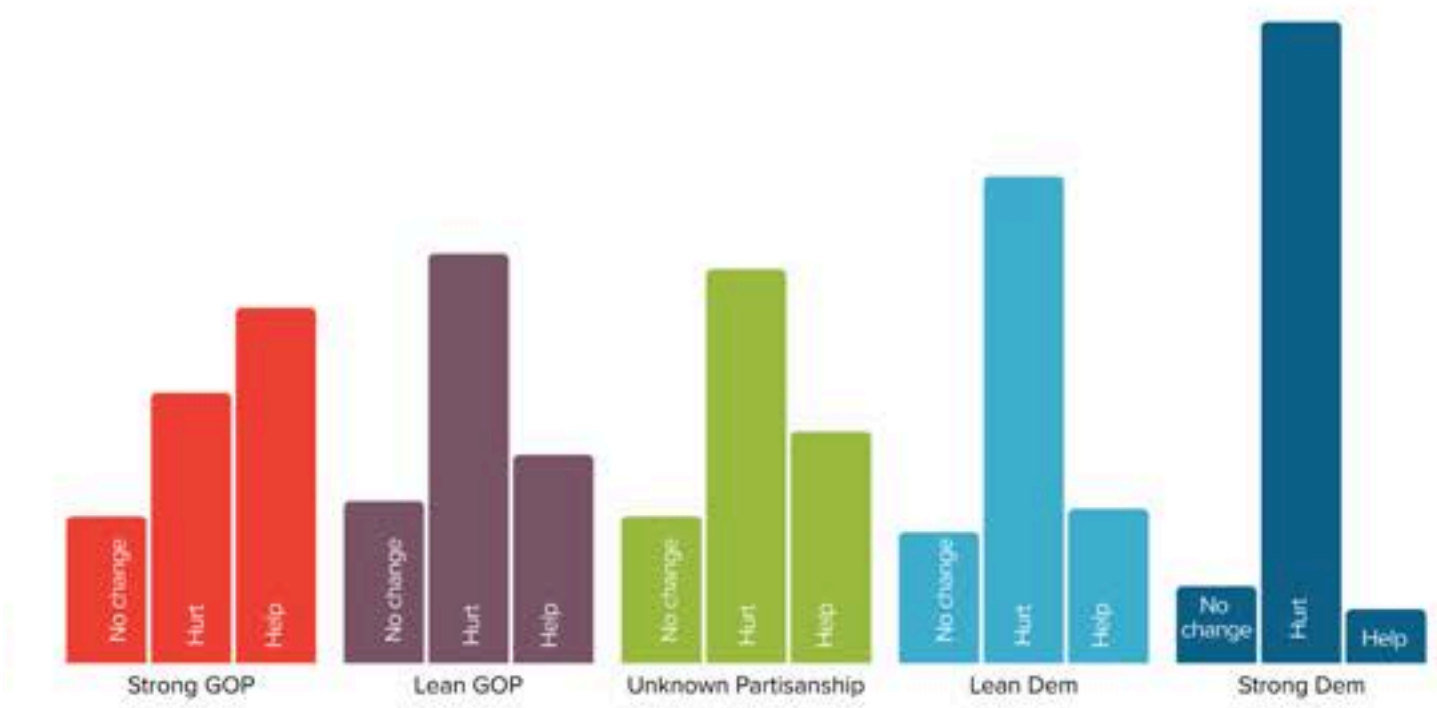


My community's economy

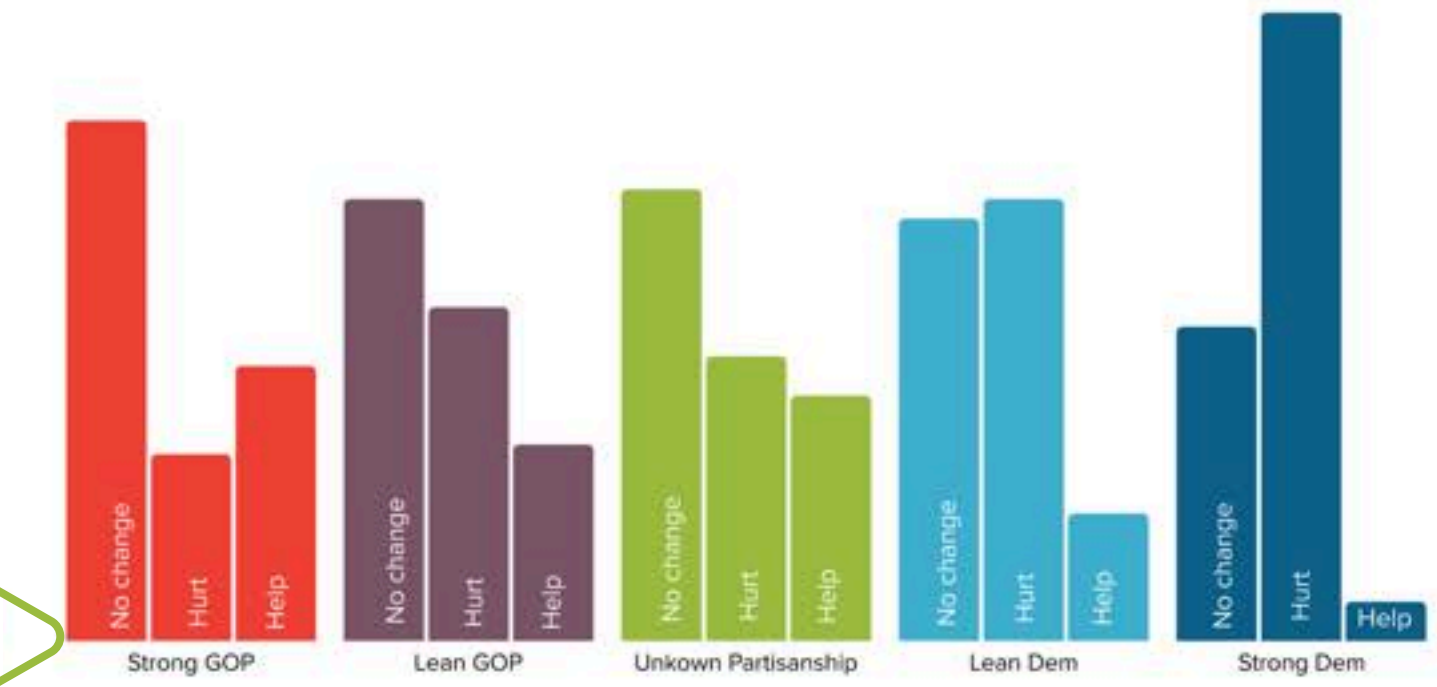


How do you believe federal spending cuts will effect the following?

Inflation



My personal financial situation



Federal Civilian Employees by Congressional District

AK-AL	21,790	IA-03	8,439
AZ-06	14,803	ME-02	7,137
CA-13	4,750	MI-07	5,597
CA-22	3,792	NC-01	7,838
CA-27	9,146	NE-02	8,621
CA-41	6,821	NY-04	6,870
CA-45	6,609	NY-22	9,677
CO-08	7,318	PA-07	4,345
IA-01	10,633	PA-08	10,214
<i>Source: Congressional Research Service Report, Dec. 20, 2024.</i> https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R47716		PA-10	12,963

*Source: Congressional
Research Service Report,
Dec. 20, 2024.*
<https://www.congress.gov/crs-product/R47716>

End Tax Breaks for Richest 2%

www.AmericansForTaxFairness.org

From Spending Cuts to Tax Cuts?

While Trump has carried out these cuts through executive orders so far, most of which are being actively challenged in court, if try to “lock in” these cuts through legislation, those votes will present the incumbents in these competitive districts with a crucial choice over whether or not to align with their constituents. That choice could be even more complex if votes on budget cuts are tied to votes on the Republican tax cut plan.

Our online survey data in these districts suggests unified opposition to that plan, which centers around extension of Trump’s 2017 tax cuts that [overwhelmingly benefited the wealthiest households](#). Without action by Congress, these cuts will expire, raising taxes on the rich. According to our survey, increasing taxes on individuals making more than \$400,000 and lowering taxes on those making less than \$100,000 were the most popular policy choices Congress could make among 20 different possible options we tested. **Even Strong Republicans were heavily in favor of raising taxes on the rich.**

As with the economy, the popularity of all of these proposals is impacted by partisanship. Many Republican voters who hated the cuts were eager to find someone besides Trump to blame. Many focused their ire on DOGE’s highly visible leader, Elon Musk.

**Strong GOP
approve of
higher taxes on
\$400K per year**

64%

**Strong GOP
approve of
lower taxes on
\$100K per year**

74%

“He wasn't elected.”
(explaining why ‘Elon Musk’ was his top concern)

– Earl, white man in his 80s,
Strong and registered
Republican, California 41st

Musk as a Fall Guy

Trump, of course, has been a singular figure for motivating Democratic voters, who view him in apocalyptic terms. The President himself was listed as the top issue facing the country by 11 percent of Strong Democratic voters we spoke to.

But Elon Musk has emerged as a potentially dangerous distraction, as he seems uniquely brilliant at raising the ire of both Democratic and Republican voters. Many Strong and Lean Republican voters raised Musk's name, not the President's, when discussing the agency's cuts.

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“Bring in someone neutral, not billionaire Elon to look at the economy.”

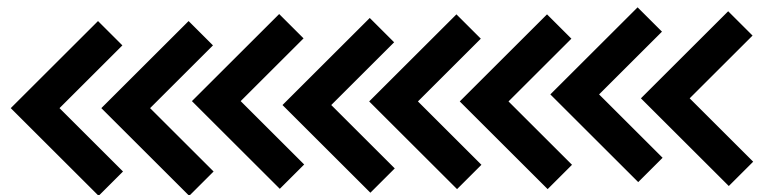
– Patrick, white man in his 30s, leans Republican, Pennsylvania 7th (Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, R)

“Elon Musk is not an elected official and his cuts could prevent me from having access to the medical care that I need!”

–Robert, Hispanic man in his 40s, Solid Republican, Arizona 6th (Rep. Juan Ciscomani, R)

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Given the discrepancy between support for Trump's leadership on government spending and support for DOGE, Musk may be playing a role in shielding Trump and Republican members of Congress from voters' anger.



Immigration Can Still be a Wedge for Trump

Since taking office, Trump has made good on his campaign promises to attack DEI programs across government, education, and business, and has moved aggressively against immigrants, both documented and undocumented, living in the U.S. Although much of the media analysis of the 2024 election concluded that Trump's victory could be at least partially credited to his stance on these issues, neither issue was named as a top concern by many of the voters we spoke to.

Still, Trump's work on immigration was where he received his strongest approval ratings, suggesting that the more voters' attention is focused on the issue, the better for Republicans. It was the only issue where Trump scored positively with Unknown Voters, and it's where he gets the most support from Strong Republican voters. His work on the issue scores particularly well with men.

”

“Immigrants should follow our laws of entry as we would have to follow the laws if we went to another country. It would make no sense to just let anyone and everyone in. There are criminals and gangs that need to go!”

– Jayne, white woman in her 50s, Strong Democrat, Iowa 3rd (Rep. Zach Nunn, R, and Sen. Joni Ernst, R)

“Slowed down border crossings, vetting less people should make (immigration) it a lower number. [We need] safer and better immigrants.”

– James, white man in his 60s, Strong and registered Republican, Arizona 6th (Rep. Juan Ciscomani, R)

“Immigrants out, Veterans in.”

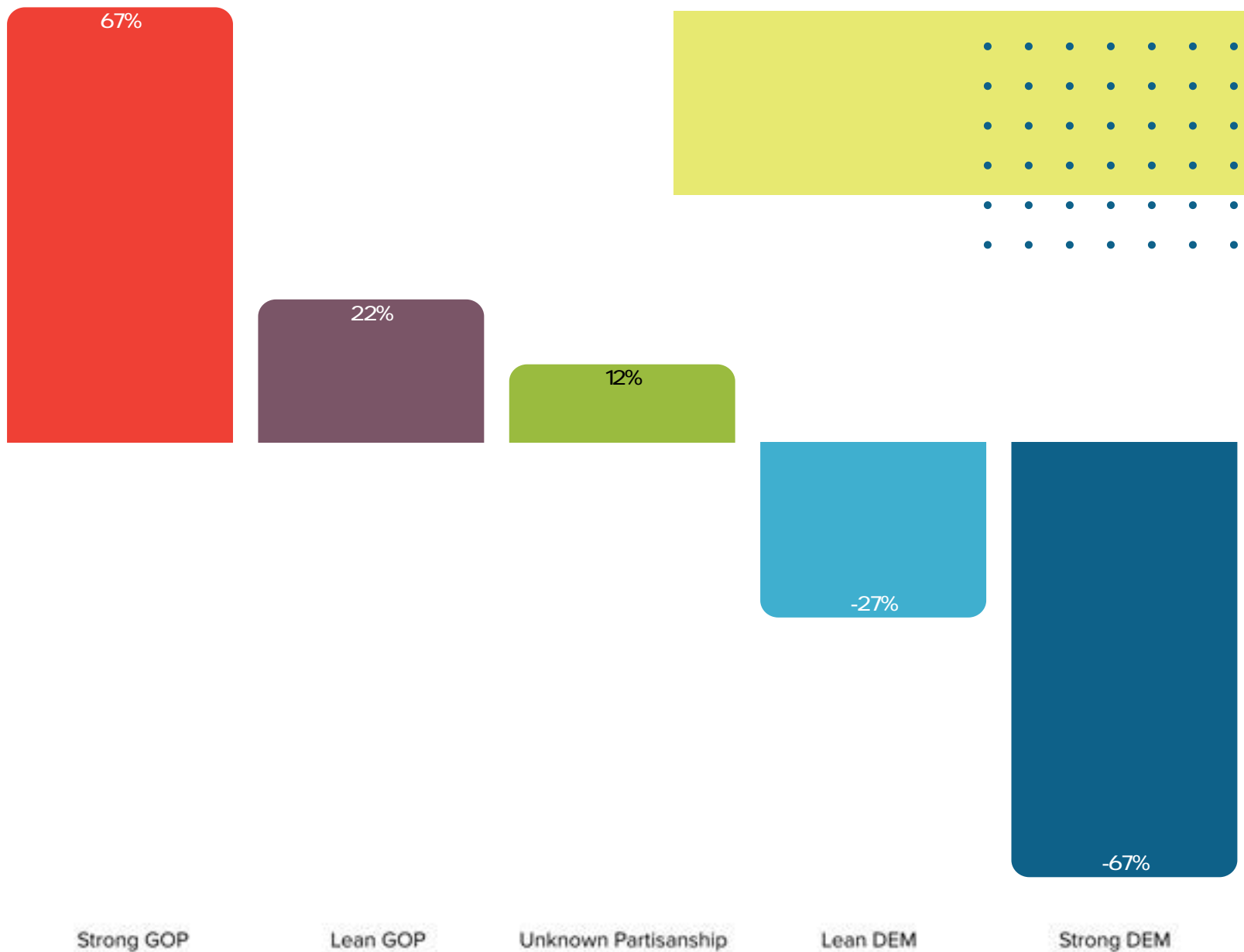
– Brenda, white woman in her 50s, Leans Democrat, Iowa 1st (Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks, R, and Sen. Joni Ernst, R)

“I feel safer with him trying to get rid of these illegal immigrants.”

– John, white man in his 50s, Strong Democrat, Pennsylvania 7th (Rep. Ryan Mackenzie, R)

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Approval of Trump's handling of Immigration by Partisanship



Approval of Trump's handling of Immigration by Gender

-23%

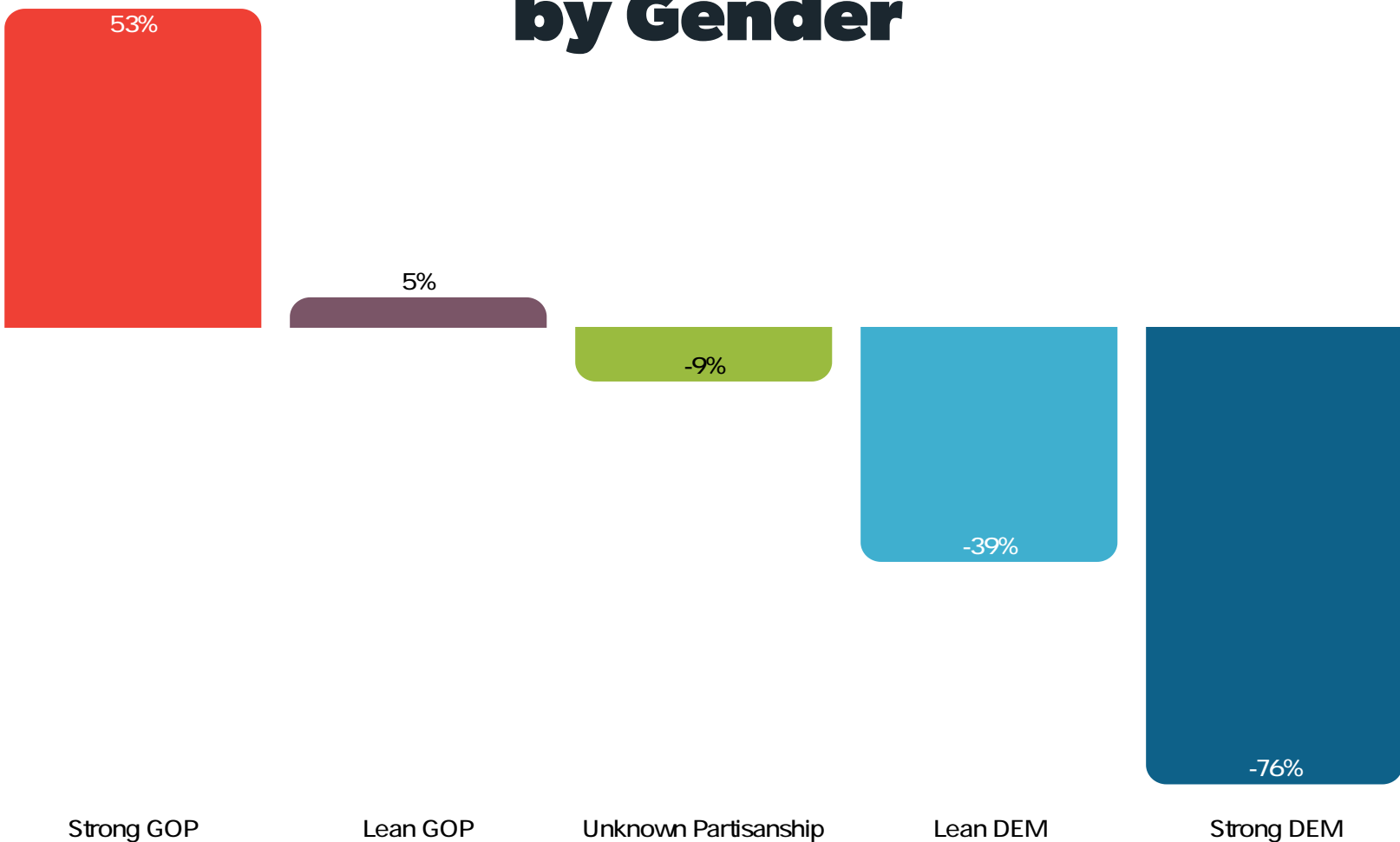
Female

14%

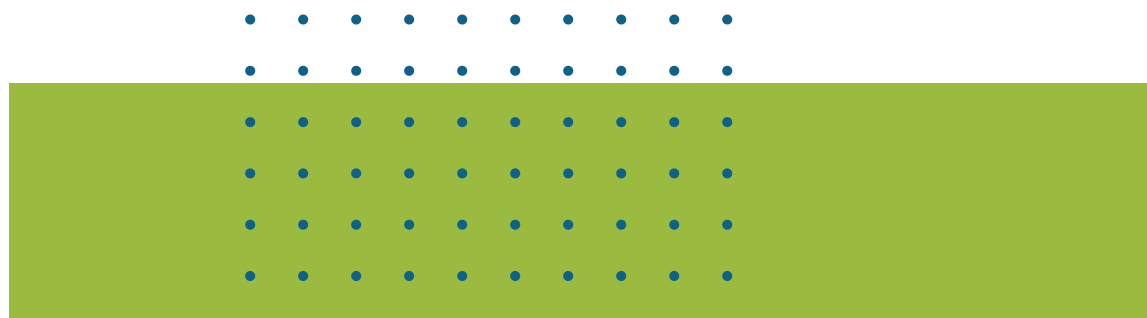
Male

But Trump's broadsides against DEI are proving less popular with the Republican base. It was his second-weakest job approval area with solidly Republican voters, behind education. Predictably, support for Trump's work in this area varies widely by race and gender.

Approval of Trump's handling of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion by Gender



Right now, both issues seem less important to voters than the economic chaos that has been unleashed by the President. Which issues become more or less prominent in voters' minds in the months ahead may help determine how the Republicans representing these competitive districts and states respond when faced with a tough vote on the Trump 2.0 agenda.



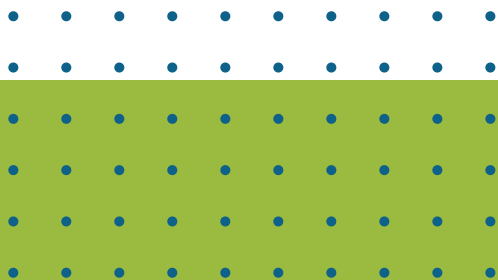
GOP Members of Congress Should be Nervous– Like their Voters Are.

Republican members of Congress in these communities should be nervous. Their voters, even their base voters, are anxious and unhappy with the effect of Trump's first 100 days in office. Despite their persistent personal loyalty to Trump, the Republican base is not yet seeing how all of his chaos works out in their favor.

Stopping Trump's agenda now– before the next election– will mean pushing those Republican representatives and senators from nervous to scared. Scared enough to risk defying a vindictive President to join Democrats in blocking his legislative plans. That means demonstrating to Republican office-holders that they are out of step with their constituents.

What's clear already is that the real lived experience of voters in these districts – even Republican base voters – provides a solid foundation for arguments that the Trump 2.0 legislative agenda does not serve constituents' interests. Even if Trump remains popular, Trump policy is– or could be made to be– political poison in these districts.

What Trump is doing with the economy and the government is not working for voters. Helping people understand why– and who in Congress is to blame– may or may not be enough to stop it, but it is the option before us.



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Appendix

District	Incumbent	Incumbent Party	2024 Win Margin	2024 Voting Electorate-Strong R VCI	2024 Voting Electorate-Strong D VCI	2024 Voting Electorate-Other VCI	#FPFG Interviews
AK-AL	Nicholas Begich	GOP	-2.03%	37.48%	18.97%	43.55%	19
AZ-06	Juan Ciscomani	GOP	-2.50%	39.98%	33.87%	26.15%	441
CA-13	Adam Gray	DEM	0.09%	33.05%	37.12%	29.83%	96
CA-22	David Valadao	GOP	-6.80%	32.45%	34.39%	33.16%	65
CA-27	George Whitesides	DEM	2.60%	33.15%	41.71%	25.13%	123
CA-41	Ken Calvert	GOP	-3.40%	41.56%	33.80%	24.64%	203
CA-45	Derek Tran	DEM	0.20%	36.03%	36.76%	27.21%	74
CO-08	Gabe Evans	GOP	-0.74%	34.29%	30.23%	35.47%	235
IA-01	Mariannette Miller-Meeks	GOP	-0.19%	37.26%	27.50%	35.24%	491
IA-03	Zachary Nunn	GOP	-3.83%	38.62%	28.30%	33.09%	529
ME-02	Jared Golden	DEM	0.70%	41.37%	29.01%	29.62%	222
MI-07	Tom Barrett	GOP	-3.72%	30.25%	23.79%	45.96%	484
NC-01	Don Davis	DEM	1.68%	45.17%	35.25%	19.58%	409
NE-02	Don Bacon	GOP	-1.86%	35.98%	32.76%	31.26%	317
NY-04	Laura Gillen	DEM	2.22%	33.50%	42.43%	24.07%	158
NY-22	John Mannion	DEM	9.13%	33.31%	38.44%	28.25%	174
PA-07	Ryan Mackenzie	GOP	-1.00%	43.82%	39.02%	17.17%	390
PA-08	Rob Bresnahan	GOP	-1.62%	45.38%	34.70%	19.92%	393
PA-10	Scott Perry	GOP	-1.26%	48.85%	37.48%	13.67%	483

District	Incumbent	Incumbent Party	2024 Presidential Win Margin	2024 Voting Electorate-Strong R VCI	2024 Voting Electorate-Strong D VCI	2024 Voting Electorate-Other VCI	#FPFG Interviews
AK	Dan Sullivan	GOP	-13.13%	37.48%	18.97%	43.55%	19
IA	Joni Ernst	GOP	-13.21%	41.31%	24.42%	34.27%	1,020
ME	Susan Collins	GOP	-8.93%	34.12%	37.84%	28.04%	222
NC	Thom Tillis	GOP	-3.21%	44.05%	34.56%	21.40%	409
NE	Pete Ricketts	GOP	-20.57%	50.35%	21.05%	28.61%	317