NATIONAL SECURITY AND the TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

NATIONAL
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ACTION

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KEY FINDINGS FROM A NATIONWIDE SURVEY AMONG 1,205 LIKELY VOTERS CONDUCTED APRIL 23 TO 27, 2019

Methodology Notes

This survey was conducted online among a nationally representative cross section of people who voted in the 2016 presidential election. Respondents' self-reported vote: 48% Clinton, 46% Trump, 4% Johnson, 2% Stein. Party ID of sample: 46% Democrat, 39% Republican.

In our analysis we pay special attention to three swing groups:

1. **2020 Undecided voters:** voters who are completely undecided about who they will vote for in the 2020 presidential election—13% of the sample.

2. **Mixed view of Trump's national security policy/temperament**: say they are concerned with Trump's temperament or disagree with his policies, but not both—24% of electorate; voted for Trump by 67% to 27%.

3. **Independents:** voters who identify as independents make up 15% of the sample; voters who identify as independent or only lean Democrat or Republican make up 37% of the sample.

Overview of Key Findings

- Democrats must proactively define Trump's record on national security and foreign affairs. As key swing groups hear more about his policies, actions, and approach, they increasingly see his foreign policy record as a reason to replace Trump with someone else, particularly among undecided voters.

- Building on National Security Action's previous nationwide survey from summer 2018, only 38% of voters say Trump has made the United States safer, while 46% say Trump has made it less safe. A majority (57%) say Trump has made us less respected in the world.

- While voters are divided on Trump's policies, 66% of respondents worry that Trump lacks the judgment and temperament we need in a commander-in-chief and world leader. Only 29% approve of both Trump's policies and judgement, while 47% rate him negatively on both dimensions (with 24% approving of only one or the other—a group to potentially target).

- By a large margin, voters want a president who is, first and foremost, "smart" in dealing with national security and foreign affairs. By contrast, the attributes most often associated with Trump are "impulsive," "risky," and "undiplomatic." The attributes least often associated with Trump are "smart" and "effective."
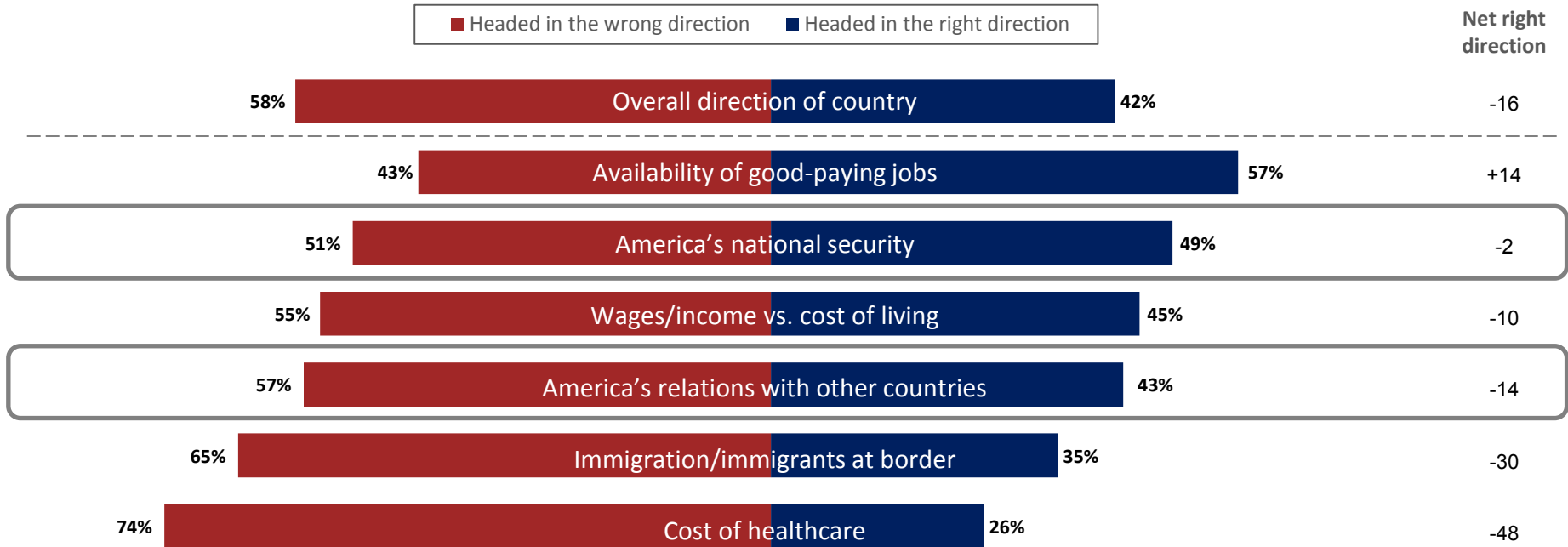
Overview of Key Findings (con't)

- Trump's failure to achieve foreign policy results is a strong argument against him, and connects with voters' perceptions of Trump's chaotic approach. For example, while voters support a decision to negotiate with North Korea, Trump's inability to deliver—to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons—is particularly resonant in this narrative.

- Trump's record of weakening our alliances and alienating our most important democratic allies is also highly concerning to voters, especially because his doing so strengthens Putin's hand at our expense. Relations with Russia continue to be a notable weakness for Trump.

- The negative impact of Trump's trade policies on American workers and farmers is a very important example of the consequences of Trump's impulsive and risky policies. Voters take special note of the 14% drop in farm income last year.

Overview of Key Findings (con't)

- On immigration, it is important for Democrats to press the case that Trump is creating the crisis at the border. There is also a strong case against Trump's immigration priorities—including prosecuting families and children instead of focusing on real threats like drug trafficking, and cutting funding for counterterrorism and emergency management.

- Key priorities among swing voters are protecting Americans from terrorism, keeping America out of war, and standing up for American values like human rights and democracy. Democrats put a high priority on standing up for American values and dealing with global threats like climate change.

- Democrats are more trusted than Republicans on many foreign policy issues (standing up for our values, working with other countries to address threats like climate change), but Republicans are still perceived to be better prepared to protect Americans from terrorist attacks.

CURRENT PERCEPTIONS AND PRIORITIES ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY

Americans are evenly divided on the overall direction of America's national security, but are more negative on our foreign relations and the situation with immigration.

	Net right direction
■ Headed in the wrong direction ■ Headed in the right direction	

	Net right direction
58% Overall direction of country **42%**	-16
43% Availability of good-paying jobs **57%**	+14
51% America's national security **49%**	-2
55% Wages/income vs. cost of living **45%**	-10
57% America's relations with other countries **43%**	-14
65% Immigration/immigrants at border **35%**	-30
74% Cost of healthcare **26%**	-48

Trump's approval on national security and foreign policy issues are better than his approval overall, but he continues to get low ratings on Russia.

DONALD TRUMP'S JOB APPROVAL ON NATIONAL SECURITY/FOREIGN RELATIONS ISSUES

Legend: ■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve ■ Somewhat disapprove ■ Strongly disapprove

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Net Approve
Overall job approval	29%	15%	11%	45%	-12
National security	32%	23%	15%	30%	+10
Border security	35%	16%	11%	38%	+2
Relations with closest allies	23%	28%	18%	31%	+2
Economic/trade relations	26%	24%	18%	32%	0
Immigration	31%	18%	11%	40%	-2
Relations with China	21%	27%	22%	30%	-4
Situation in Venezuela	17%	31%	24%	28%	-4
Relations with other countries	23%	24%	15%	38%	-6
Relations with North Korea	21%	26%	19%	34%	-6
Middle East situation	23%	23%	24%	30%	-8
Trade relations with other countries	20%	26%	22%	32%	-8
Relations with Russia	18%	24%	19%	39%	-16

NET POSITIVE (National security, Border security, Relations with closest allies)

even (Economic/trade relations)

NET NEGATIVE (Immigration through Relations with Russia)

National Security and the Trump Administration – April 2019 – Hart Research for National Security Action

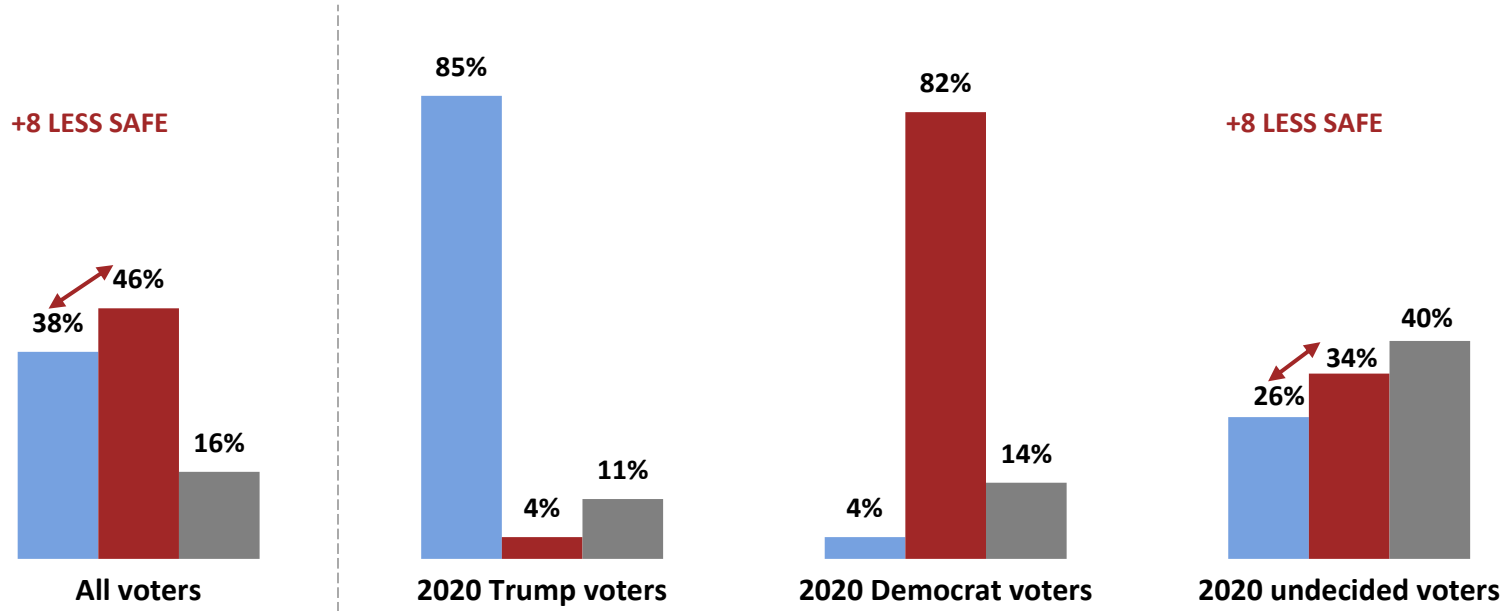# Voters who are undecided on how they will vote in 2020 have a mixed view of Trump on foreign policy issues.

Proportions who approve of Trump's job performance on each

Issue	2020 Democrat voters	2020 Undecideds	2020 DJT voters	All voters
Overall approval	3%	42%	97%	44%
National security	20%	63%	98%	55%
Border security	14%	59%	95%	51%
Relations with closest allies	18%	52%	93%	51%
Economic/trade relations	15%	53%	97%	50%
Immigration	13%	52%	94%	49%
Relations with China	14%	47%	91%	48%
Situation in Venezuela	15%	46%	89%	48%
Relations with other countries	11%	41%	93%	47%
Relations with North Korea	15%	45%	90%	47%
Middle East situation	12%	41%	92%	46%
Trade relations	12%	41%	91%	46%
Relations with Russia	9%	34%	88%	42%

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Fewer than 4 in 10 voters say Trump's policies and actions have made America safer.
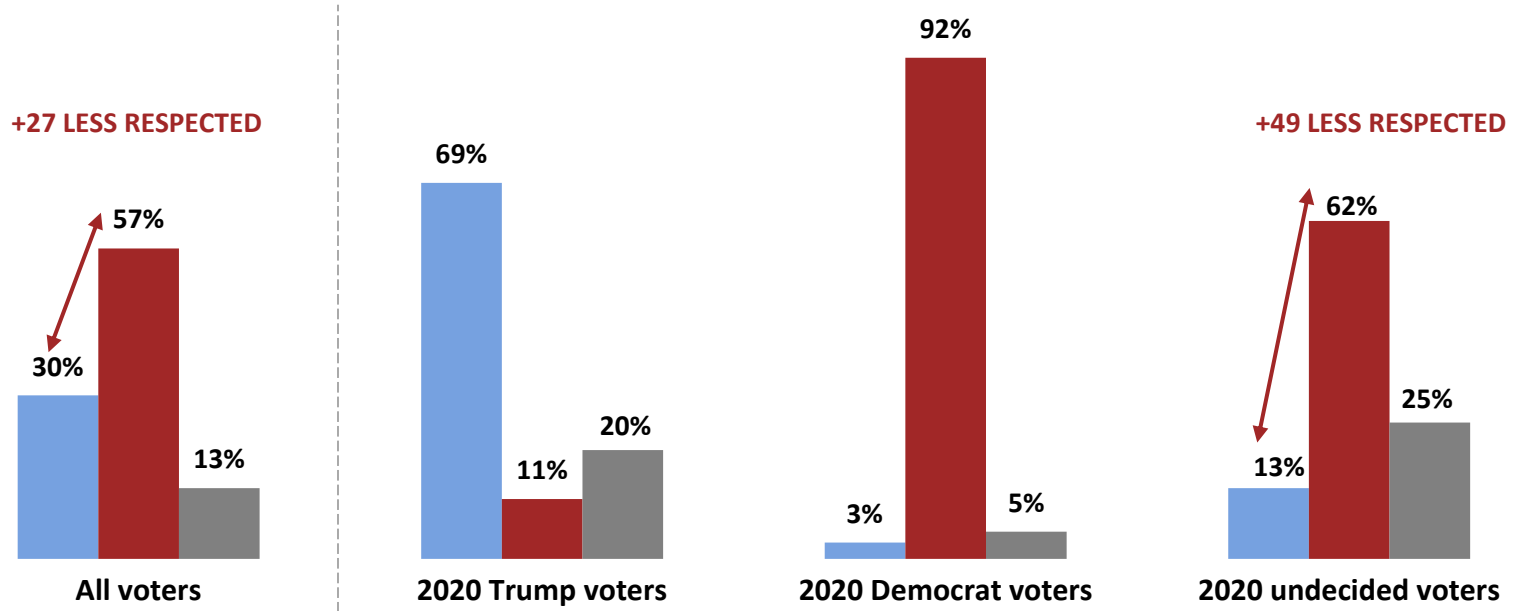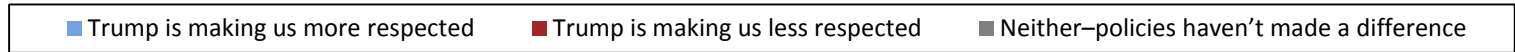
*Do you think Donald Trump's policies and actions as president are making America **more safe or less safe**?*

Legend:
- ■ Trump has made us more safe
- ■ Trump has made us less safe
- ■ Neither–policies haven't made a difference

All voters (+8 LESS SAFE): 38%, 46%, 16%

2020 Trump voters: 85%, 4%, 11%

2020 Democrat voters: 4%, 82%, 14%

2020 undecided voters (+8 LESS SAFE): 26%, 34%, 40%

A significant majority say Trump has made America less respected in the world. This is particularly pronounced with undecided voters.
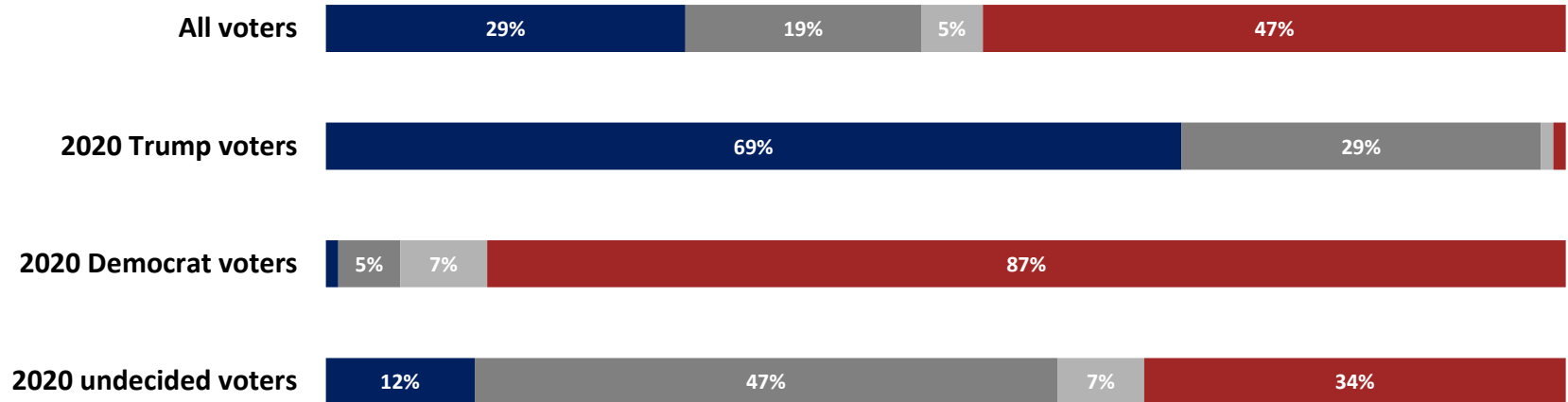
*Are Donald Trump's policies and actions as president making America **more respected or less respected** in the world?*

- ■ Trump is making us more respected
- ■ Trump is making us less respected
- ■ Neither–policies haven't made a difference

+27 LESS RESPECTED

All voters
- 30%
- 57%
- 13%

2020 Trump voters
- 69%
- 11%
- 20%

2020 Democrat voters
- 3%
- 92%
- 5%

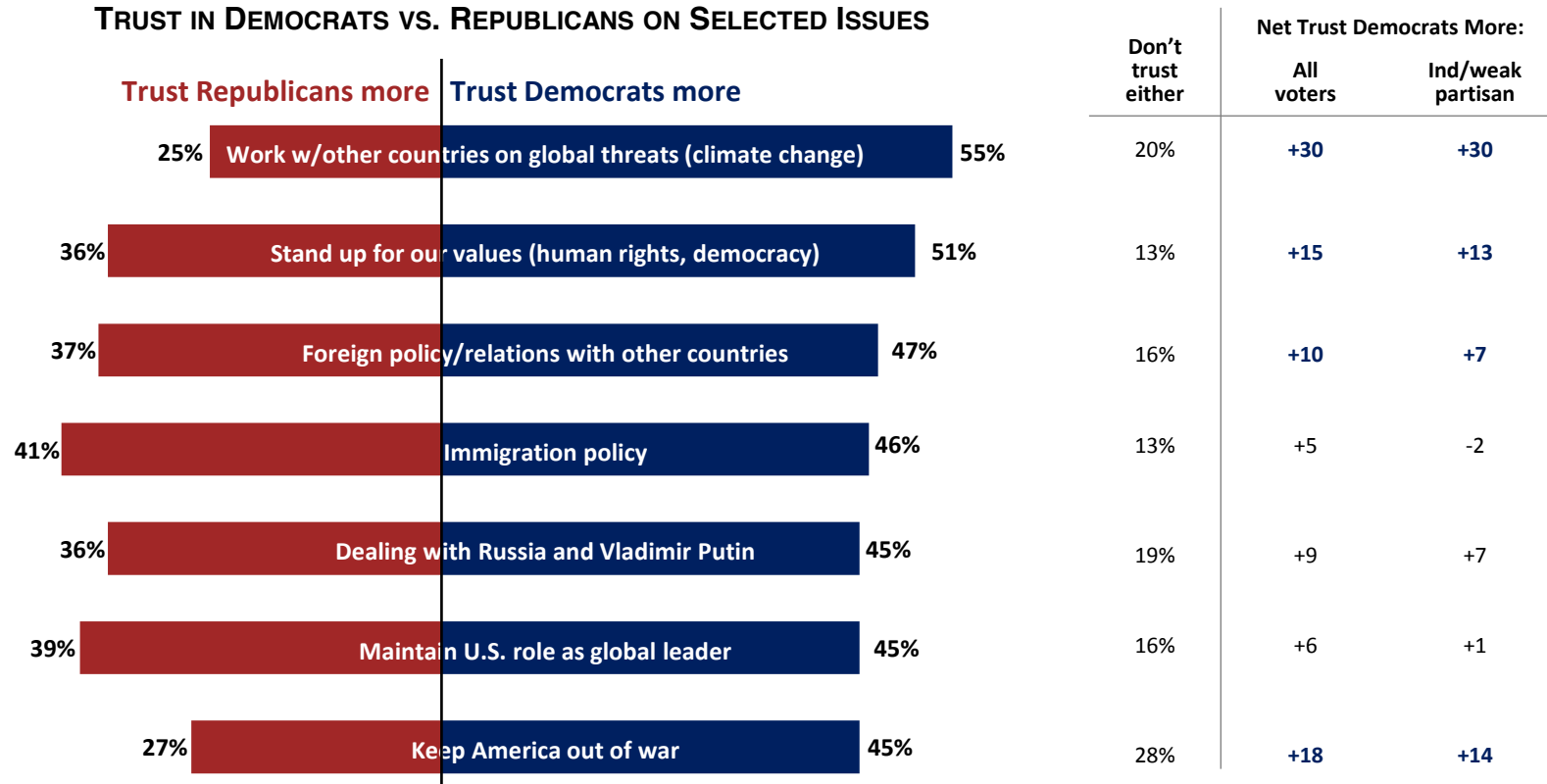**+49 LESS RESPECTED**

2020 undecided voters
- 13%
- 62%
- 25%

We asked voters to rate Trump on two dimensions: policy and temperament/judgment. Only 29% say he is good on both, while 47% say he is bad on both and 24% are mixed.

Which statement comes closest to your own point of view?

■ Approve of Trump's policies on national security/he has the temperament we need in a commander-in-chief/world leader

■ Approve of Trump's policies on national security/worry that he lacks the temperament we need in a commander-in-chief/world leader

■ Disapprove of Trump's policies on national security/he has the temperament we need in a commander-in-chief/world leader

■ Disapprove of Donald Trump's policies on national security/worry that he lacks the temperament we need in a commander-in-chief/world leader
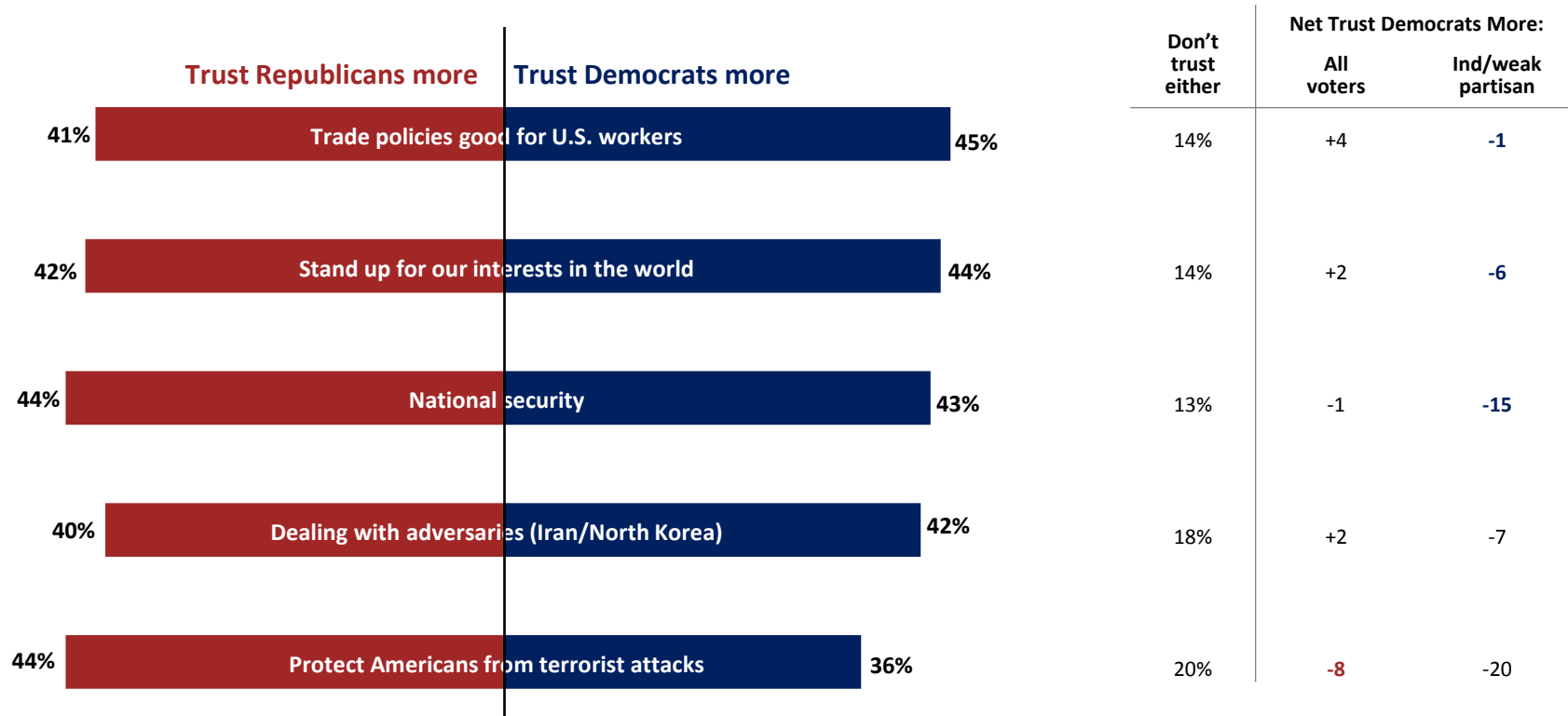
All voters	29%	19%	5%	47%
2020 Trump voters	69%	29%		
2020 Democrat voters	5%	7%		87%
2020 undecided voters	12%	47%	7%	34%

Democrats are more trusted than Republicans to work on global threats like climate change and to stand up for American values.

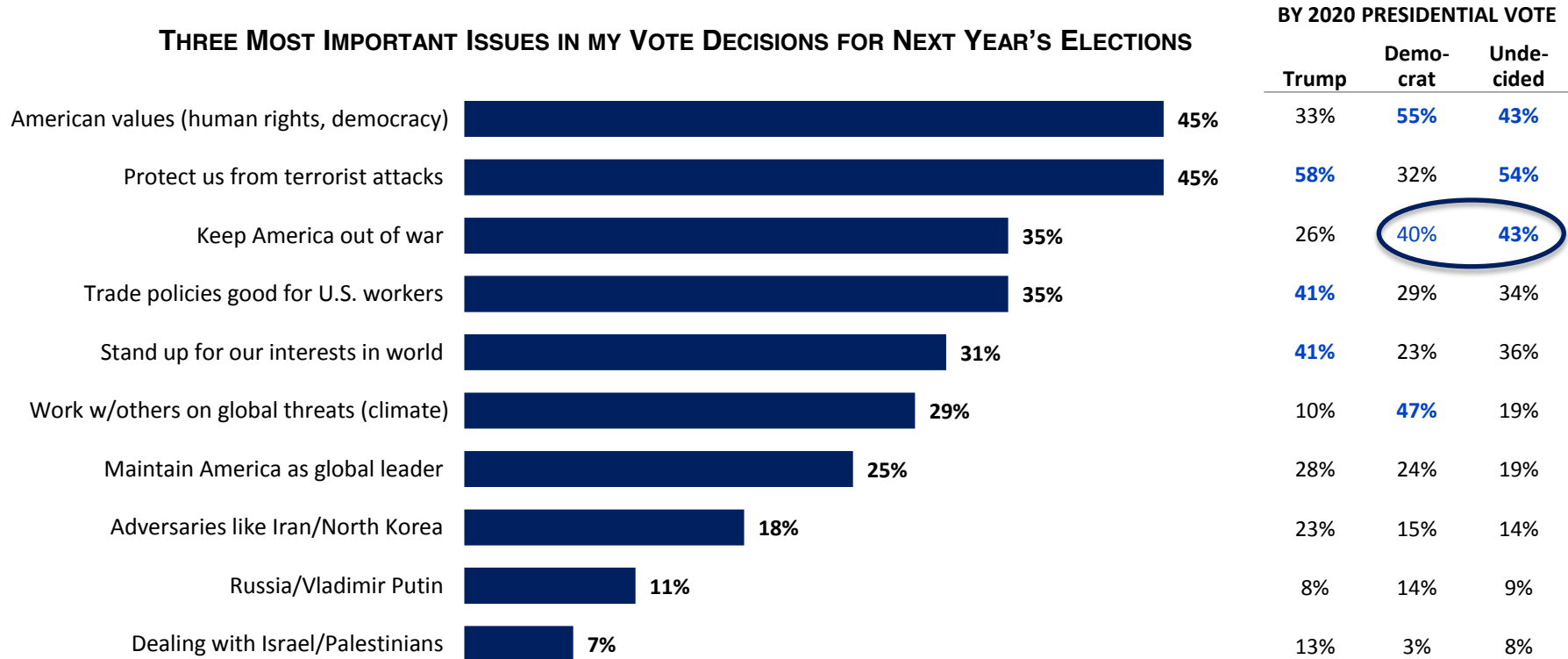## TRUST IN DEMOCRATS VS. REPUBLICANS ON SELECTED ISSUES

Trust Republicans more   **Trust Democrats more**

Issue	Republicans	Democrats	Don't trust either	Net Trust Democrats More: All voters	Net Trust Democrats More: Ind/weak partisan
Work w/other countries on global threats (climate change)	25%	55%	20%	+30	+30
Stand up for our values (human rights, democracy)	36%	51%	13%	+15	+13
Foreign policy/relations with other countries	37%	47%	16%	+10	+7
Immigration policy	41%	46%	13%	+5	-2
Dealing with Russia and Vladimir Putin	36%	45%	19%	+9	+7
Maintain U.S. role as global leader	39%	45%	16%	+6	+1
Keep America out of war	27%	45%	28%	+18	+14

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But Democrats are less trusted to protect Americans from terrorism.

TRUST IN DEMOCRATS VS. REPUBLICANS ON SELECTED ISSUES

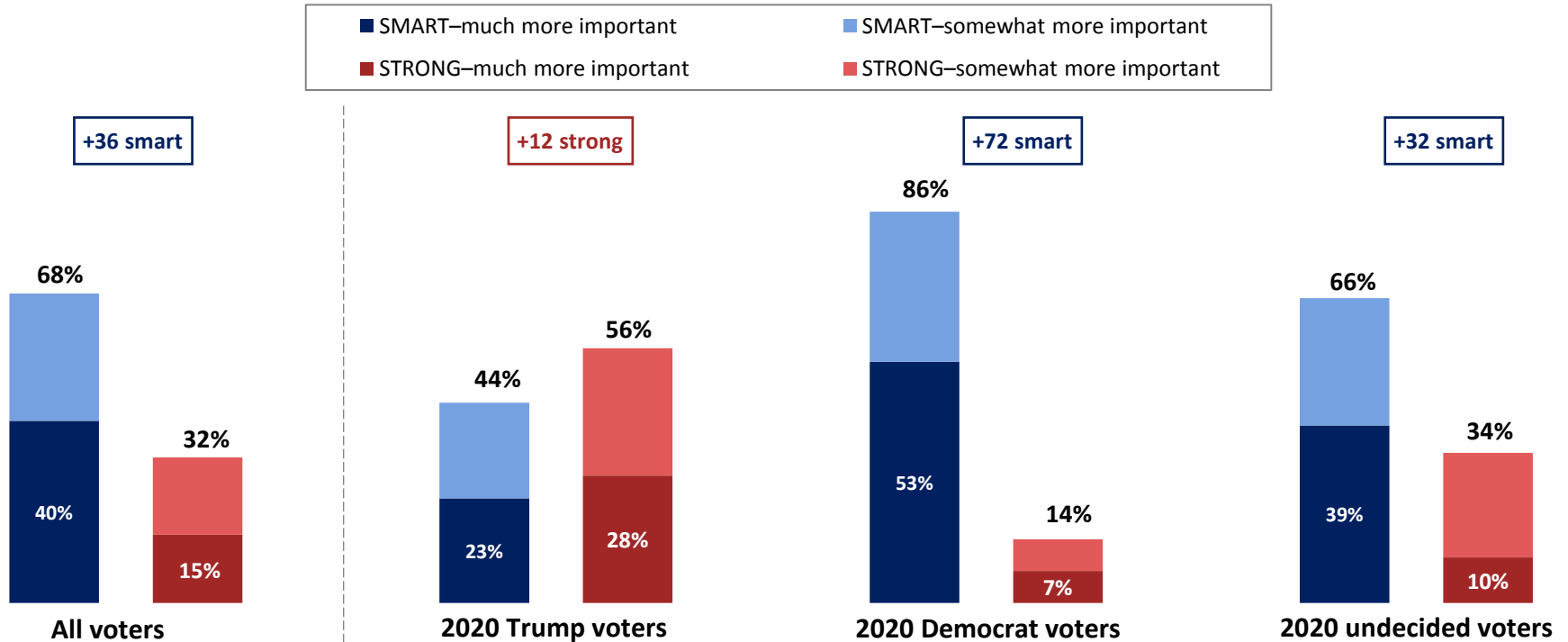|	Trust Republicans more	Trust Democrats more	Don't trust either	Net Trust Democrats More: All voters	Net Trust Democrats More: Ind/weak partisan
Trade policies good for U.S. workers	41%	45%	14%	+4	-1
Stand up for our interests in the world	42%	44%	14%	+2	-6
National security	44%	43%	13%	-1	-15
Dealing with adversaries (Iran/North Korea)	40%	42%	18%	+2	-7
Protect Americans from terrorist attacks	44%	36%	20%	-8	-20

Democratic Voter Priorities: Values, global threats like climate.
Trump Voter Priorities: Terrorism, trade, standing up for the United States.
Undecided Voter Priorities: Values, terrorism, staying out of war.

THREE MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES IN MY VOTE DECISIONS FOR NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS

BY 2020 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE

Issue	Percent	Trump	Democrat	Undecided
American values (human rights, democracy)	45%	33%	**55%**	**43%**
Protect us from terrorist attacks	45%	**58%**	32%	**54%**
Keep America out of war	35%	26%	40%	43%
Trade policies good for U.S. workers	35%	**41%**	29%	34%
Stand up for our interests in world	31%	**41%**	23%	36%
Work w/others on global threats (climate)	29%	10%	**47%**	19%
Maintain America as global leader	25%	28%	24%	19%
Adversaries like Iran/North Korea	18%	23%	15%	14%
Russia/Vladimir Putin	11%	8%	14%	9%
Dealing with Israel/Palestinians	7%	13%	3%	8%

By a large margin, voters want a president who is smart first and foremost in dealing with national security and foreign affairs.

Which is the more important quality for a president in dealing with America's national security and foreign affairs?

Legend:
- ■ SMART–much more important
- ■ SMART–somewhat more important
- ■ STRONG–much more important
- ■ STRONG–somewhat more important

All voters
- +36 smart
- 68%
- 40%
- 32%
- 15%

2020 Trump voters
- +12 strong
- 44%
- 23%
- 56%
- 28%

2020 Democrat voters
- +72 smart
- 86%
- 53%
- 14%
- 7%

2020 undecided voters
- +32 smart
- 66%
- 39%
- 34%
- 10%

Voters most often see Trump as impulsive, risky, and undiplomatic; he is least often seen as smart and effective.

Top Trump words

Impulsive
(57% all, 52% undecideds)*

Undiplomatic
(49% all, 41% undecideds)*

Risky
(51% all, 44% undecideds)*

Erratic
(47% all, 45% undecideds)*

Chaotic
(49% all, 41% undecideds)*

Out for himself
(49% all, 41% undecideds)*

Reckless

Inconsistent

Destructive

Dangerous

Strong   **Bigoted**   **Ignorant**

Cruel

Ineffective   **Tough**

Smart   *Successful*   *Effective*

Bottom Trump words

* Proportions who feel each describes Donald Trump very well: 8-10 ratings on 0-to-10 scale
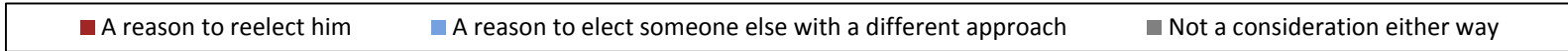
MESSAGING

When Trump promotes his own record, there are many aspects that win voters' approval.

Legend: ■ Strongly approve ■ Somewhat approve

Statement	Strongly approve	Total
Pushed **NATO** countries to increase defense spending, U.S. won't pay unfair share	38%	**70%**
Pushed military to **bring American troops home** from Syria and Afghanistan	34%	**70%**
Negotiated directly with Kim Jong-Un to prevent war/N. Korea give up nuclear weapons	38%	**69%**
Cracking down on China's unfair trade/industrial espionage by using large tariffs	37%	**66%**
Priority on **rebuilding military strength:** large increases in military/national defense spending	37%	**64%**
Protect us from terrorists: much harder for refugees from Syria/Middle East to come to U.S.	39%	**63%**
Strong supporter of Israel: moved embassy, Israel's right to do what's necessary to protect	34%	**63%**
Strong stand on **southern border:** emergency for funding wall/other barriers on border	41%	**55%**
Withdrew U.S. from Obama's **Iran nuclear deal**	31%	**50%**
Withdrew U.S. from **Paris Climate Agreement** he says imposes unfair/costly enviro standards	28%	**47%**

Even after hearing about many Trump policies they like, most voters do not see Trump's national security and foreign policy record as a reason to reelect him.

The way President Trump has handled national security and foreign relations is:

Legend:
- A reason to reelect him
- A reason to elect someone else with a different approach
- Not a consideration either way

All voters: 41%, 45%, 14%
Democrats: 10%, 75%, 15%
Independents: 33%, 40%, 27%
Republicans: 80%, 11%, 9%
2020 Trump voters: 90%, 5%, 5%
2020 Democrat voters: 4%, 80%, 16%
2020 undecideds: 32%, 31%, 37%
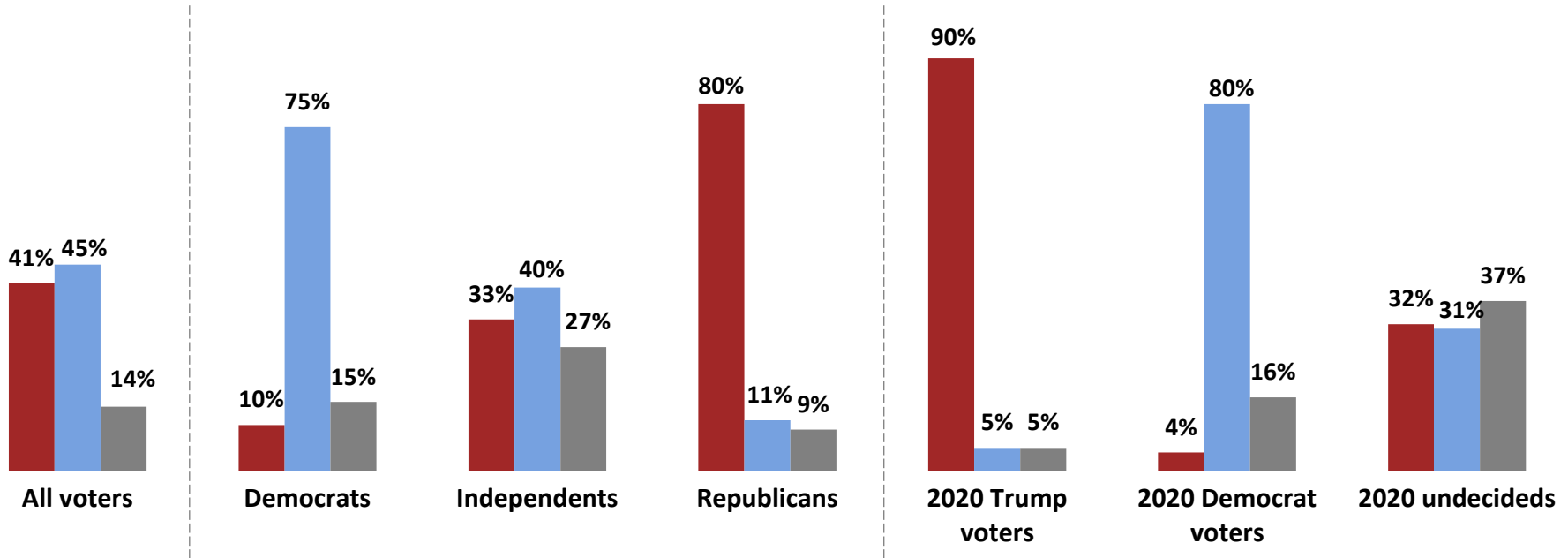
Negative Messages Tested

Donald Trump's **trade policies have left America's workers and farmers worse off.** Trump's trade wars have put American jobs at risk, slowed manufacturing, and impacted the U.S. economy more than China's. Trump's trade wars have made it impossible for American farmers to export many of their crops. Farm income dropped by 14% last year–pushing many farmers into bankruptcy.

Despite his bragging and bluster, Donald Trump has **failed to achieve foreign policy results**. There is constant turnover and in-fighting in his national security team, and many key positions are unfilled, making it impossible to do the hard work of diplomacy. Trump failed to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. He's nowhere near securing a "better deal" with Iran. Trump's trade deals just tinker at the edges, and our trade deficits continue to grow. The situation at our border and in Central America is getting worse rather than better.

Donald Trump **consistently weakens our alliances**, leaving America more isolated on the world stage and playing into the hands of our adversaries. Trump has gone out of his way to alienate many of our oldest and most important democratic allies, reducing the likelihood that we can count on them to support us when we need them in the future. Trump has undermined NATO, America's most important military alliance, strengthening Putin's aggressive efforts to destabilize democracy in Europe.

Donald Trump has been **erratic and reckless as commander-in-chief**. Trump casually authorized the first operation of his administration–a commando raid in Yemen that led to the death of a Navy SEAL–over dinner, with the input of Steve Bannon and Jared Kushner. He took our allies and his own advisers by surprise when he announced the U.S. would cancel military exercises with South Korea. Most recently, his impulsive announcement to pull out of Syria without a clear plan to prevent terrorists from returning left our military leaders in the dark and drove a wedge between America and its allies.

There are far too many instances of **conflicts, cronyism, and corruption** in the way Donald Trump's administration handles our foreign relations. Trump family businesses have received special deals from China, and Trump and his family members have raised their own private interests during official meetings with world leaders. Trump's overseas business dealings have left him in debt to foreign powers and compromise his ability to act in America's national interest. The Mueller investigation revealed that Trump was not honest about his financial dealings in Russia and his family's ties to Russian oligarchs.
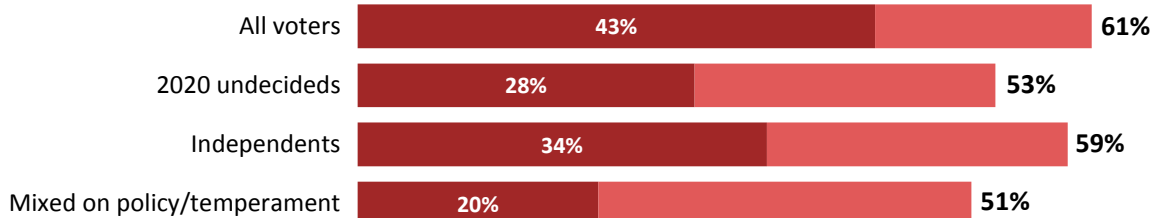
Donald Trump's **approach to border security leaves us less safe**. His obsession with building a border wall and extreme policies have forced law enforcement officials to prosecute children and families, instead of focusing on real threats like drug traffickers. To pay for his wall, Trump proposed cutting funding for counterterrorism programs, emergency management, and countering drug smugglers. While slashing programs that counter gangs and address the root causes of migration in Central America, Trump refuses to provide resources to streamline the asylum process and address backlogs. Stoking fears and skewing priorities, Trump is creating the real crisis.

America is less respected and has less influence around the world under President Trump. Global approval of American leadership has fallen to just 31%–the lowest level of any of the past three administrations, and lower than approval of China's leadership. Polling reveals that our closest allies don't trust Trump to do the right thing. Trump withdrew the U.S. from the UN Human Rights Council, leaving authoritarian states to fill the void, and Trump's Muslim ban and family separation policy have earned widespread condemnation from world leaders and eroded America's moral leadership.
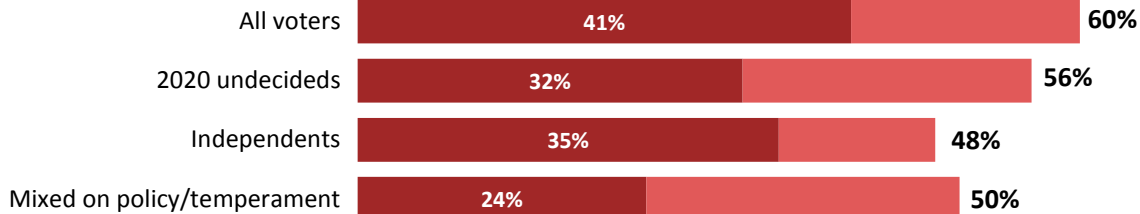
Messaging about Trump's trade policies, ineffectiveness, and weakening alliances performs well among important swing audiences.

Legend: ■ VERY MAJOR concern about Trump's handling of national security/foreign affairs ■ Fairly major concern
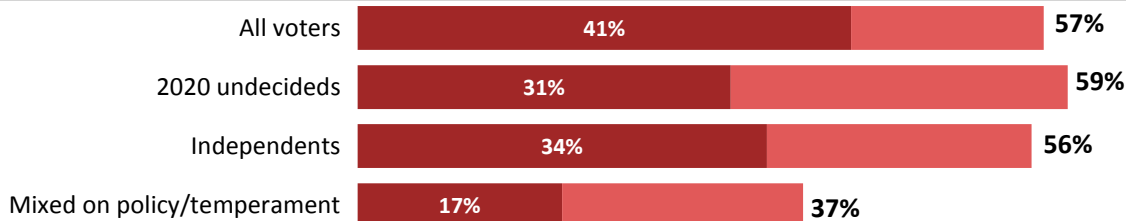
Trade policies have left America's workers and farmers worse off

Audience	VERY MAJOR	Total
All voters	43%	61%
2020 undecideds	28%	53%
Independents	34%	59%
Mixed on policy/temperament	20%	51%

Failed to achieve foreign policy results

Audience	VERY MAJOR	Total
All voters	41%	60%
2020 undecideds	32%	56%
Independents	35%	48%
Mixed on policy/temperament	24%	50%

Consistently weakens our alliances

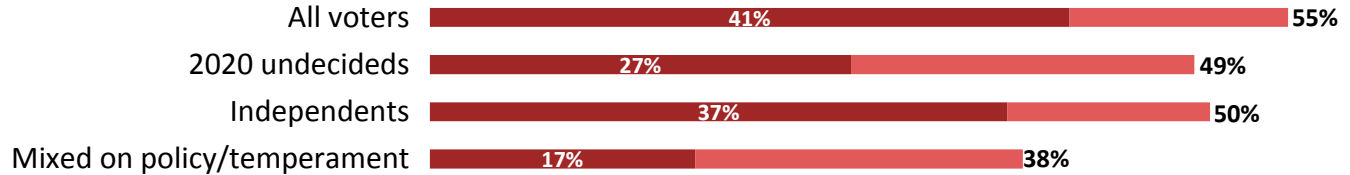| Audience	VERY MAJOR	Total
All voters	41%	57%
2020 undecideds	31%	59%
Independents	34%	56%
Mixed on policy/temperament	17%	37%

Other negative Trump messaging also yields majority concerns.

Legend: ■ VERY MAJOR concern about Trump's handling of national security/foreign affairs ■ Fairly major concern
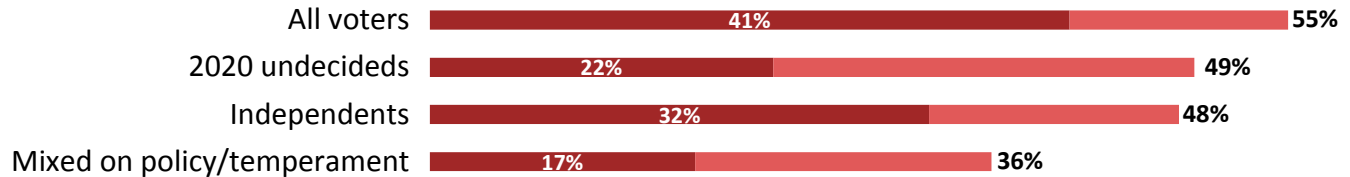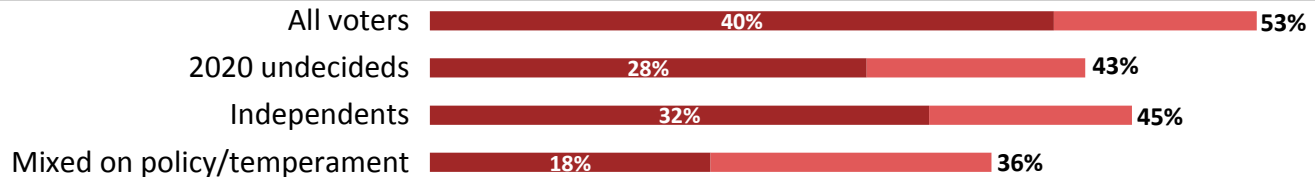
Erratic and reckless as Commander-in-Chief
	VERY MAJOR	Total
All voters	43%	57%
2020 undecideds	33%	52%
Independents	40%	52%
Mixed on policy/temperament	18%	41%
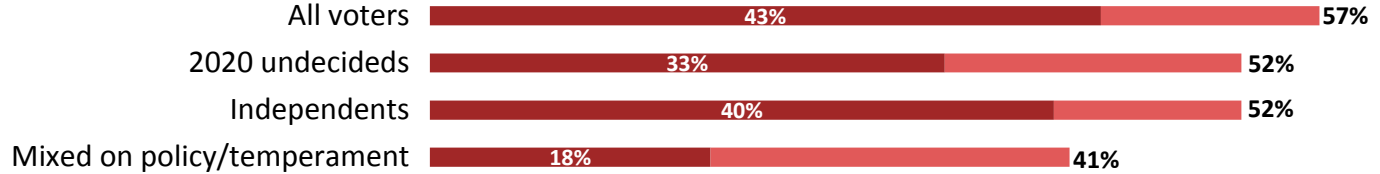
Conflicts, cronyism, corruption in Trump administration handling foreign relations
	VERY MAJOR	Total
All voters	41%	55%
2020 undecideds	27%	49%
Independents	37%	50%
Mixed on policy/temperament	17%	38%

Approach to border security leaves us less safe
	VERY MAJOR	Total
All voters	41%	55%
2020 undecideds	22%	49%
Independents	32%	48%
Mixed on policy/temperament	17%	36%

America is less respected/has less influence around the world
	VERY MAJOR	Total
All voters	40%	53%
2020 undecideds	28%	43%
Independents	32%	45%
Mixed on policy/temperament	18%	36%

Shorter Negative Messages Tested

When foreign dictators like Kim Jong-Un and Mohammed bin Salman **murder Americans**, as occurred with college student Otto Warmbier and journalist Jamal Khashoggi, **Donald Trump defends the dictators**, makes excuses for them, and continues doing business as usual with them.

Many of Donald Trump's **immigration policies–including the separation of families and keeping children in cages**–are cruel and inhumane.

By siding with dictators like North Korea's Kim Jong-Un, Saudi Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman, and Russia's Vladimir Putin, Donald Trump is sending a signal that **America can no longer be counted on to stand up for freedom, democracy, and human rights**.

Donald Trump has **spent billions and billions of dollars on wasteful Pentagon programs that line the pockets of defense contractors** but do not actually meet the most important needs of our military.

Donald Trump's reckless **trade policies have raised prices, cost jobs, slowed manufacturing, and taken away markets for American farmers**.

Donald Trump's decision to spend billions on new nuclear weapons and pull out of arms control treaties is **leading to a new nuclear arms race** that could spin out of control.

By withdrawing from the seven-country agreement to stop Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and surrounding himself with advisors who champion war over diplomacy, Donald Trump is **increasing the chances that the United States will be dragged into another war in the Middle East**.

Donald Trump has continued to turn a blind eye to Russia's attack on our democracy, even to the point of **siding with Vladimir Putin over our own intelligence** agencies at the Helsinki summit.

By making the United States less respected in the world and giving up America's leadership role, Donald Trump is **creating new openings for China and Russia to increase their global influence at America's expense**.

The military has identified climate change as an important threat to our national security, but Donald Trump's **refusal to be part of a global solution to climate change leaves America more isolated and more at risk**.

Donald Trump's single-minded **focus on building the border wall has taken resources away from more important priorities** like stopping drug trafficking and violent crime. By his political decision to send troops to the border and shifting money from the military budget to the border wall, Donald Trump is leaving us less prepared to deal with real threats to our security.

Donald Trump has **made Americans less safe at home by ignoring the problem of domestic terrorism** and failing to address the rise of violent white nationalism.

After campaigning on ending America's wars, Trump has **failed to live up to his promises to bring our troops home** from the war in Afghanistan, now in its 18th year and where two generations of American service members have fought.

Majorities express major concerns about Trump's national security/foreign policy record on a variety of key fronts.

| | VERY MAJOR concern about Trump's handling of national security/foreign affairs | Fairly major concern |

Issue	VERY MAJOR concern	Total	2020 undecideds/ leaners
Defends dictators who murder Americans	43%	60%	59%
Immigration policies cruel and inhumane	46%	59%	56%
Siding with dictators: we no longer stand for freedom, democracy, human rights	45%	59%	58%
Spent billions on wasteful Pentagon programs	41%	58%	57%
Trade policies raised prices, cost jobs, etc.	41%	58%	60%
Spending on weapons/pulling out of treaties leading to a new nuclear arms race	40%	58%	56%
Increasing chance U.S. in another Mid-East war	45%	57%	58%
Siding with Putin over our own intelligence	44%	57%	56%
U.S. less respected: openings for China/Russia	40%	57%	56%
Refusal to be part of climate change solution leaves us more isolated	41%	56%	51%
Wall takes resources from important priorities	40%	55%	52%
Ignoring domestic terrorism/white nationalism	38%	55%	45%
Failed promises to bring our troops home	31%	51%	43%

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HART RESEARCH

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION

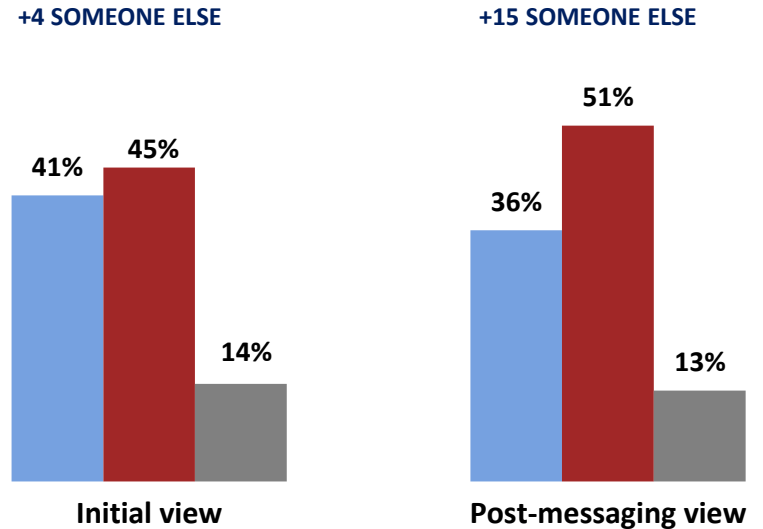# Laying out the case against Trump on national security and foreign affairs moves voters away from him.

Trump's Job Approval on National Security and Foreign Relations
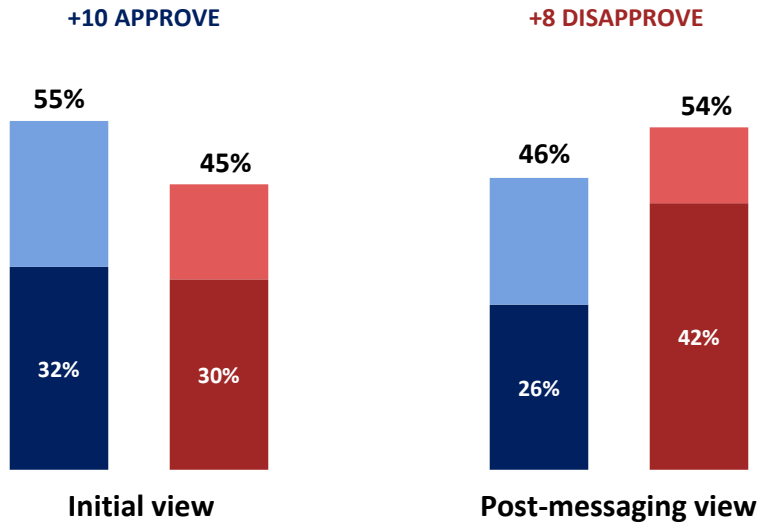
- ■ Strongly approve
- ■ Somewhat approve
- ■ Strongly disapprove
- ■ Somewhat disapprove

+10 APPROVE

+8 DISAPPROVE

55%
45%
46%
54%
32%
30%
26%
42%

Initial view

Post-messaging view

The way President Trump has handled national security and foreign relations is:

- ■ Reason to reelect Trump
- ■ Reason to elect someone with different approach
- ■ Not a consideration

+4 SOMEONE ELSE

+15 SOMEONE ELSE

41%
45%
51%
36%
14%
13%

Initial view

Post-messaging view
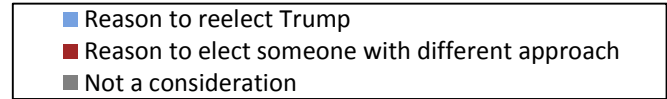
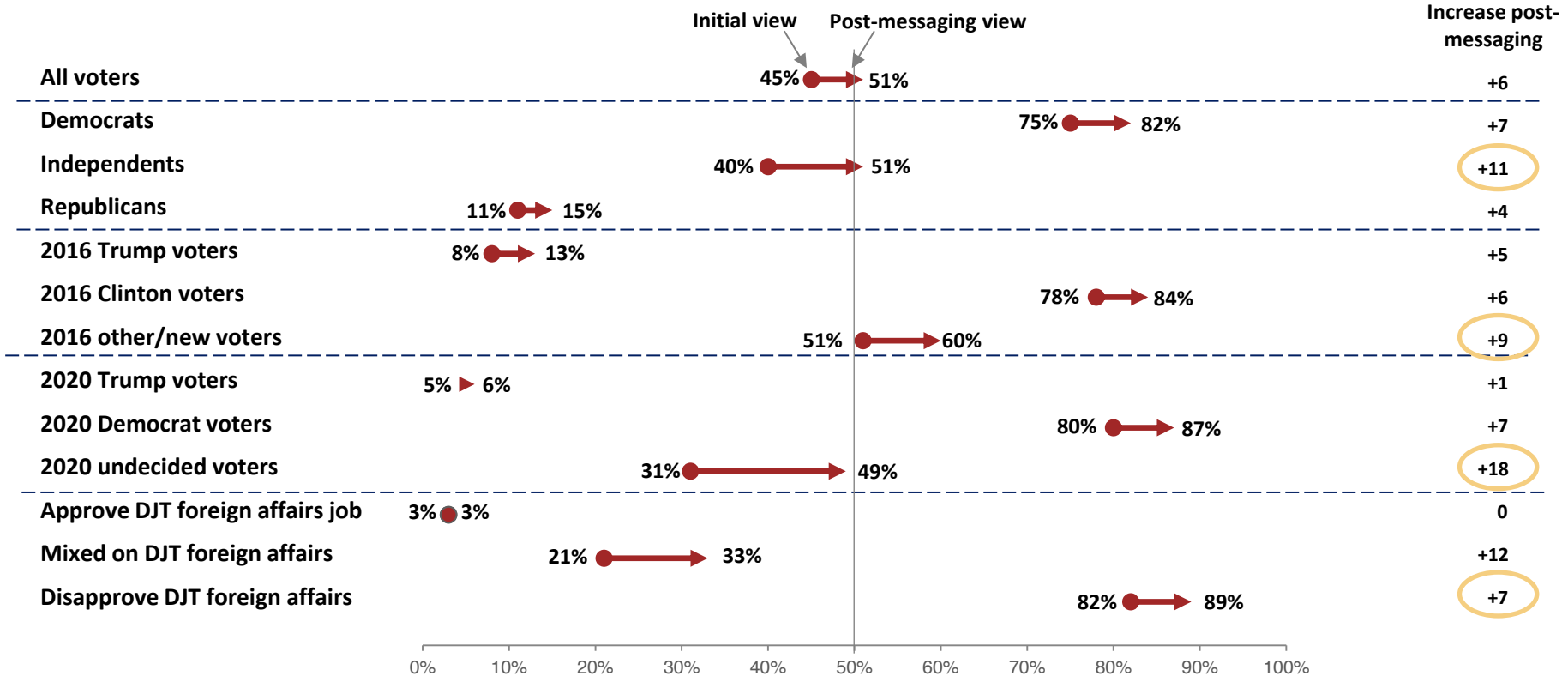# Encouragingly, we move important swing groups on Trump disapproval.

Proportions who DISAPPROVE of Trump's handling of national security/foreign relations

Initial view   **Post-messaging view**

Increase post-messaging

Group	Initial	Post	Increase
All voters	45%	54%	+9
Democrats	74%	86%	+12
Independents	41%	56%	+15
Republicans	12%	15%	+3
2016 Trump voters	7%	13%	+6
2016 Clinton voters	76%	88%	+12
2016 other/new voters	57%	67%	+10
2020 Trump voters	2%	4%	+2
2020 Democrat voters	80%	92%	+12
2020 undecided voters	37%	57%	+20
Approve DJT foreign affairs job	1%	3%	+2
Mixed on DJT foreign affairs job	16%	33%	+17
Disapprove DJT foreign affairs job	86%	96%	+10

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%   60%   70%   80%   90%   100%

National Security and the Trump Administration – April 2019 – Hart Research for National Security Action

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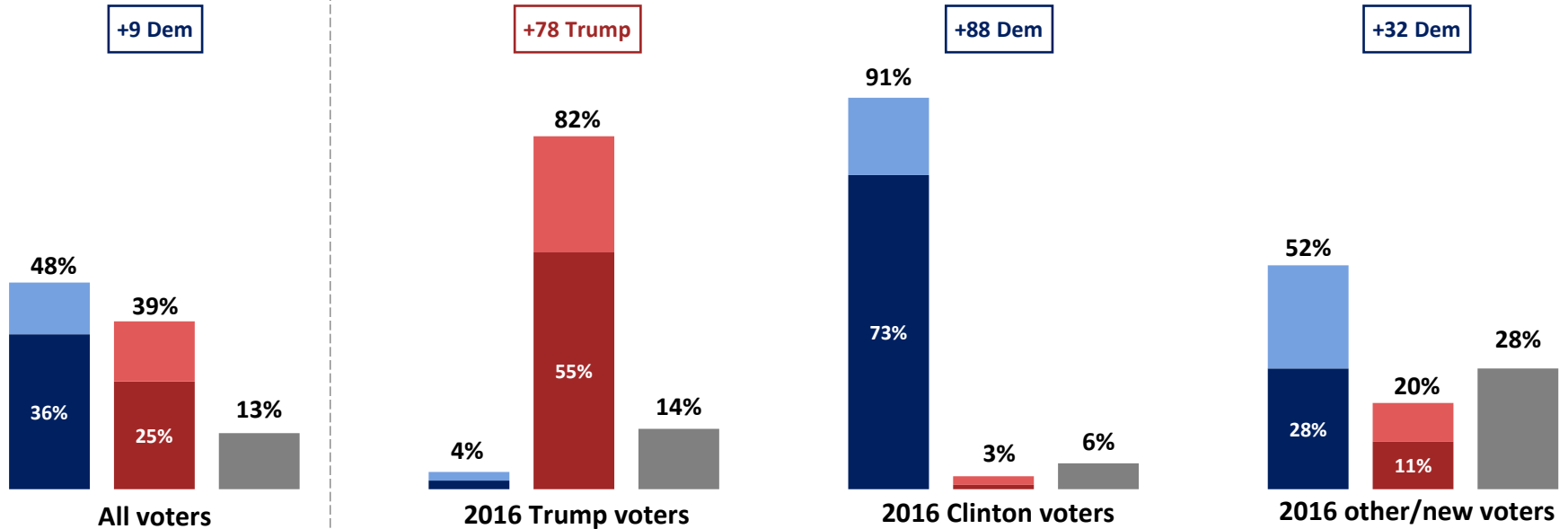# And after both positive and negative messaging voters move to want to elect a new president.

Proportions who say Trump's handling of national security/foreign relations is more reason to ELECT SOMEONE NEW

	Initial view	Post-messaging view	Increase post-messaging
All voters	45%	51%	+6
Democrats	75%	82%	+7
Independents	40%	51%	+11
Republicans	11%	15%	+4
2016 Trump voters	8%	13%	+5
2016 Clinton voters	78%	84%	+6
2016 other/new voters	51%	60%	+9
2020 Trump voters	5%	6%	+1
2020 Democrat voters	80%	87%	+7
2020 undecided voters	31%	49%	+18
Approve DJT foreign affairs job	3%	3%	0
Mixed on DJT foreign affairs	21%	33%	+12
Disapprove DJT foreign affairs	82%	89%	+7

0%   10%   20%   30%   40%   50%   60%   70%   80%   90%   100%

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APPENDIX

Looking toward 2020, Trump is facing headwinds and does not have his 2016 voters fully solidified for his reelection.

TRIAL HEAT FOR PRESIDENT

Legend:
- ■ Definitely vote for Democrat
- ■ Probably/leaning Democrat
- ■ Definitely vote for Trump
- ■ Probably/leaning Trump
- ■ Undecided

	All voters	2016 Trump voters	2016 Clinton voters	2016 other/new voters
Margin	+9 Dem	+78 Trump	+88 Dem	+32 Dem
Definitely vote for Democrat	36%		73%	28%
Probably/leaning Democrat (Dem total)	48%	4%	91%	52%
Definitely vote for Trump	25%	55%		11%
Probably/leaning Trump (Trump total)	39%	82%	3%	20%
Undecided	13%	14%	6%	28%

When asked to volunteer their own views of what they liked/disliked about Trump's national security, voter's negative comments focus on his temperament.

VOLUNTEERED FAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF THE WAY TRUMP HAS HANDLED AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY

VOLUNTEERED UNFAVORABLE IMPRESSIONS OF THE WAY TRUMP HAS HANDLED AMERICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY

ISIS **TRADE**
CHINA **TELLS IT LIKE IT IS**
THE BORDER **NATO** SAFETY
RUSSIA **GOOD PRESIDENT**
TERRORISM **NORTH KOREA** IRAN
HONEST
DOESN'T BACK DOWN
IMMIGRATION **STRONG** MILITARY
STANDS FOR AMERICAN VALUES
THE WALL DIPLOMACY
ISRAEL **AMERICA FIRST**
TRADE WITH CHINA

POOR TEMPERAMENT
CHILDISH IGNORES ADVICE OF US INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES
LACK OF ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE IRAN DEAL WITHDRAWAL
EGOTISTICAL TOO FRIENDLY WITH DICTATORS
IMMATURE TOO EASY ON NORTH KOREA
RUINING RELATIONS WITH ALLIES
CONCERNING RELATIONSHIP WITH RUSSIA
MISUSES TWITTER DISRESPECTFUL
THREATENS TO PULL OUT OF NATO INEXPERIENCED
RUINING TRADE RELATIONS STUBBORN
FEAR HIS RECKLESSNESS WILL GET US INTO WAR ACTS LIKE A BULLY
DANGEROUS IMMIGRATION POLICIES
EMBARRASSES THE COUNTRY IMPULSIVE

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTING RESULTS: TRADE

RESPONDENTS HIGHLIGHTED SPECIFIC POINTS THAT RAISED THE BIGGEST DOUBTS AND CONCERNS

Focus on American workers and jobs

> Donald Trump's trade policies have left America's <u>workers</u> and <u>farmers worse off.</u> Trump's trade wars have put <u>American jobs</u> at <u>risk,</u> slowed manufacturing, and impacted the U.S. economy more than China's. Trump's trade wars have made it impossible for American farmers to export many of their crops. <u>Farm income dropped</u> by <u>14%</u> last year–pushing many <u>farmers</u> into <u>bankruptcy.</u>

Highlight concrete effects of Trump trade policies

Voters respond to language about administration dysfunction

Despite his bragging and bluster, Donald Trump has failed to achieve foreign policy results. There is constant turnover and in-fighting in his national security team, and many key positions are unfilled, making it impossible to do the hard work of diplomacy. Trump failed to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons. He's nowhere near securing a "better deal" with Iran. Trump's trade deals just tinker at the edges, and our trade deficits continue to grow. The situation at our border and in Central America is getting worse rather than better.

North Korea example generates concerns for voters

Voters value our democratic allies

Donald Trump consistently weakens our alliances, leaving America more isolated on the world stage and playing into the hands of our adversaries. Trump has gone out of his way to alienate many of our oldest and most important democratic allies, reducing the likelihood that we can count on them to support us when we need them in the future. Trump has undermined NATO, America's most important military alliance, strengthening Putin's aggressive efforts to destabilize democracy in Europe.

The Putin example is a powerful messaging point

In talking about immigration voters are concerned about Trump's treatment of children

Donald Trump's approach to border security leaves us less safe. His obsession with building a border wall and extreme policies have forced law enforcement officials to prosecute children and families, instead of focusing on real threats like drug traffickers. To pay for his wall, Trump proposed cutting funding for counterterrorism programs, emergency management, and countering drug smugglers. While slashing programs that counter gangs and address the root causes of migration in Central America, Trump refuses to provide resources to streamline the asylum process and address backlogs. Stoking fears and skewing priorities, Trump is creating the real crisis.

Counterterrorism programs are an effective talking point