

Public Opinion Attitudes on Immigration

Survey findings prepared by Global Strategy
Group and BSP Research on behalf of
The Immigration Hub

IMMIGRATION HUB

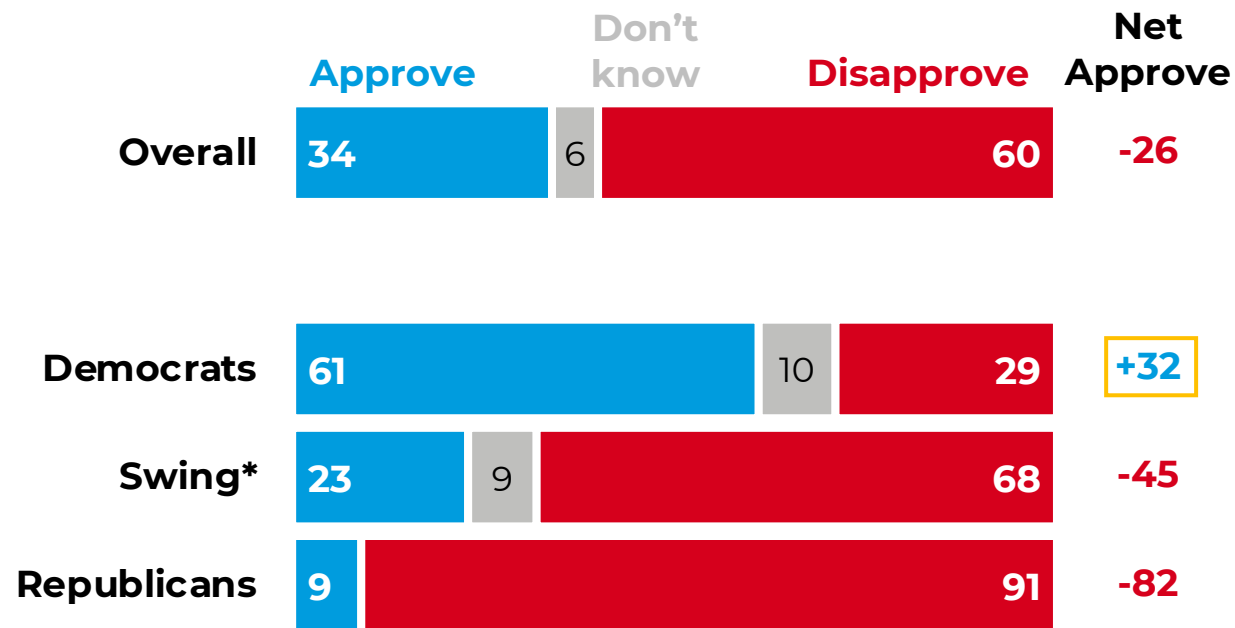
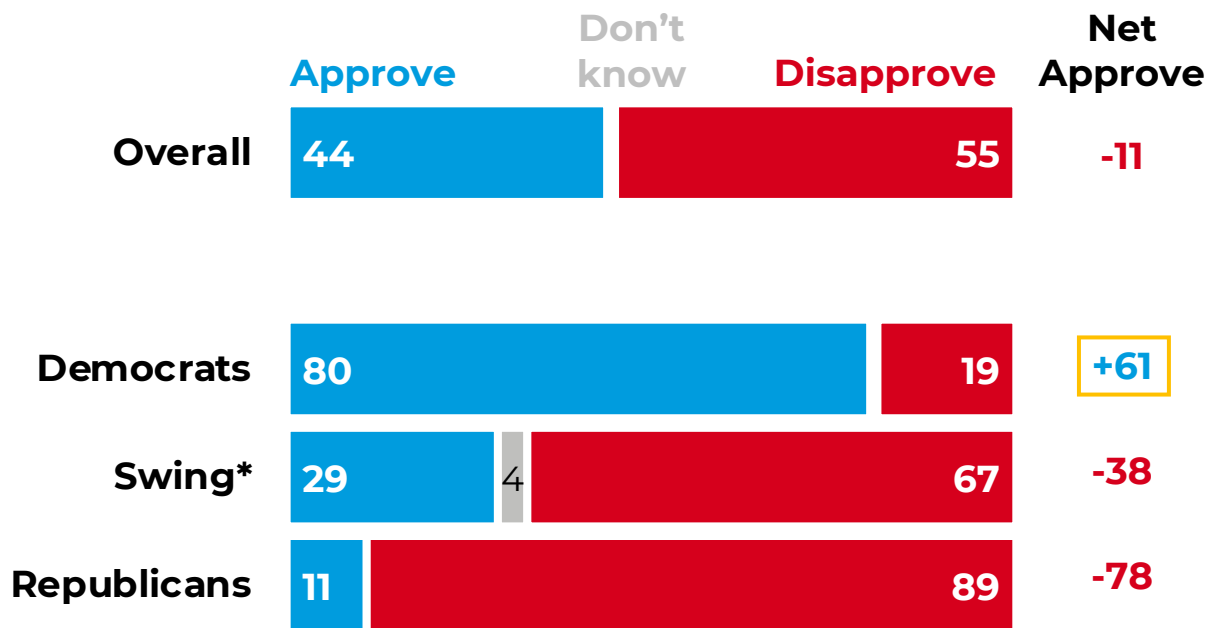
Executive Summary

- **Democrats continue to face a challenging public opinion environment on immigration.** Voters give President Biden low approval ratings on immigration. Republicans aren't seen as handling the issue well either, but voters hear more from them on the issue, leaving Democrats at a disadvantage.
- **Bringing back the unpopular policy of family detention is not the way to address the Democrats' public opinion challenges at the border, especially since more popular alternatives exist.** Even as voters continue to want a secure and orderly border, family detention is an unpopular policy that evokes deeply unpopular Trump-era family separation policies. Alternatives to family detention test better.
- **Voters – especially swing voters and Democrats – respond far more positively to a balanced “orderly and humane” approach to the border than a “get tougher” approach that brings back family detention.** The balanced approach – including fast and fair processing for refugee families and protecting Dreamers and immigrant workers from deportation to address labor shortages – improves President Biden's approval rating on immigration by double digits.

The President's job approval on immigration lags significantly behind his overall approval, particularly due to lack of consolidation of Democrats

President Biden's Job Approval

President Biden's Job Approval on Immigration



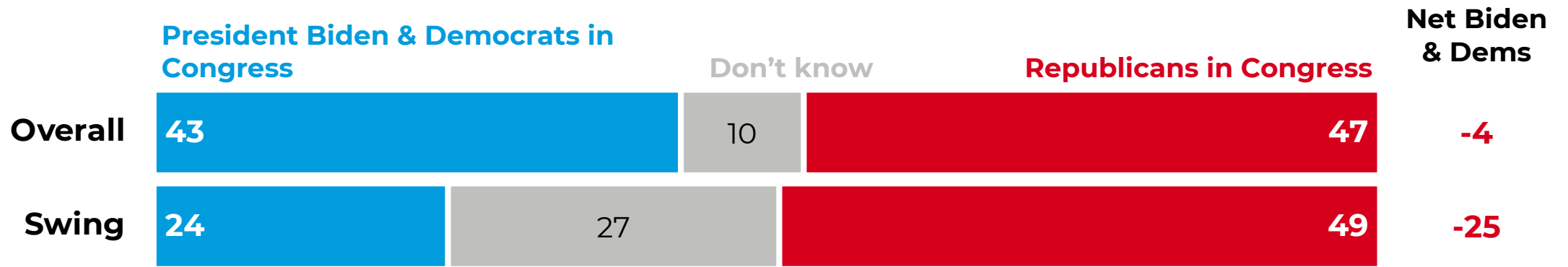
*"Swing voters" described in this report are the 21% of the electorate in the middle of the political spectrum, defined using a combination of party identification, 2020 presidential vote choice, and a question on self-described political voting habits in recent years.

Republican job approval on immigration isn't much better, showing neither party is succeeding on the issue. However, Republicans retain a narrow trust advantage on immigration

Republicans in Congress' Job Approval on Immigration

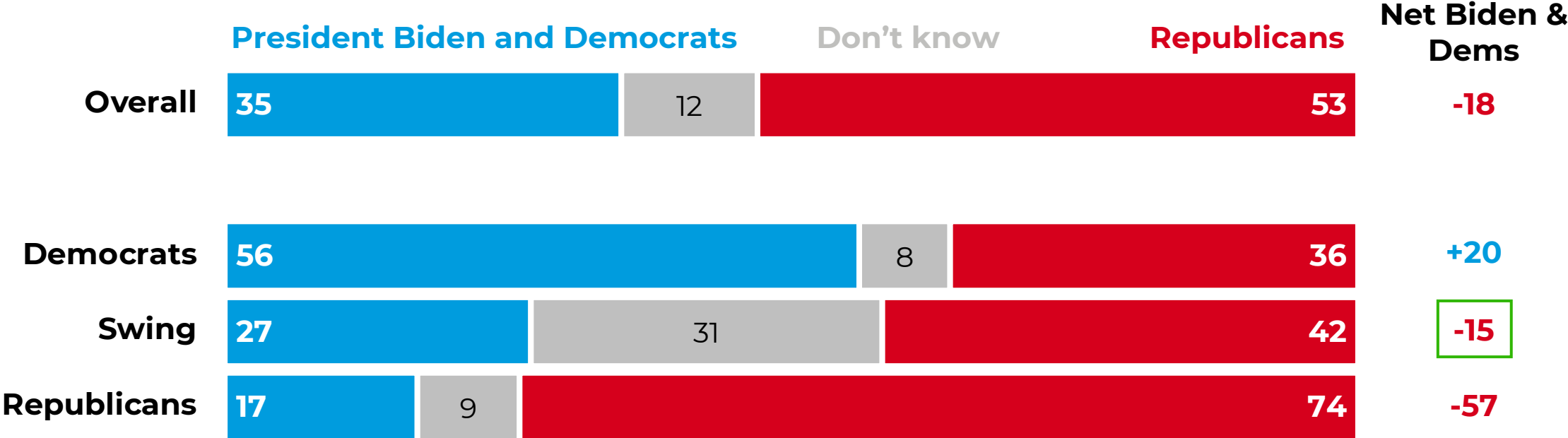


Who do you trust more to handle the issue of immigration – President Biden and the Democrats in Congress or the Republicans in Congress?



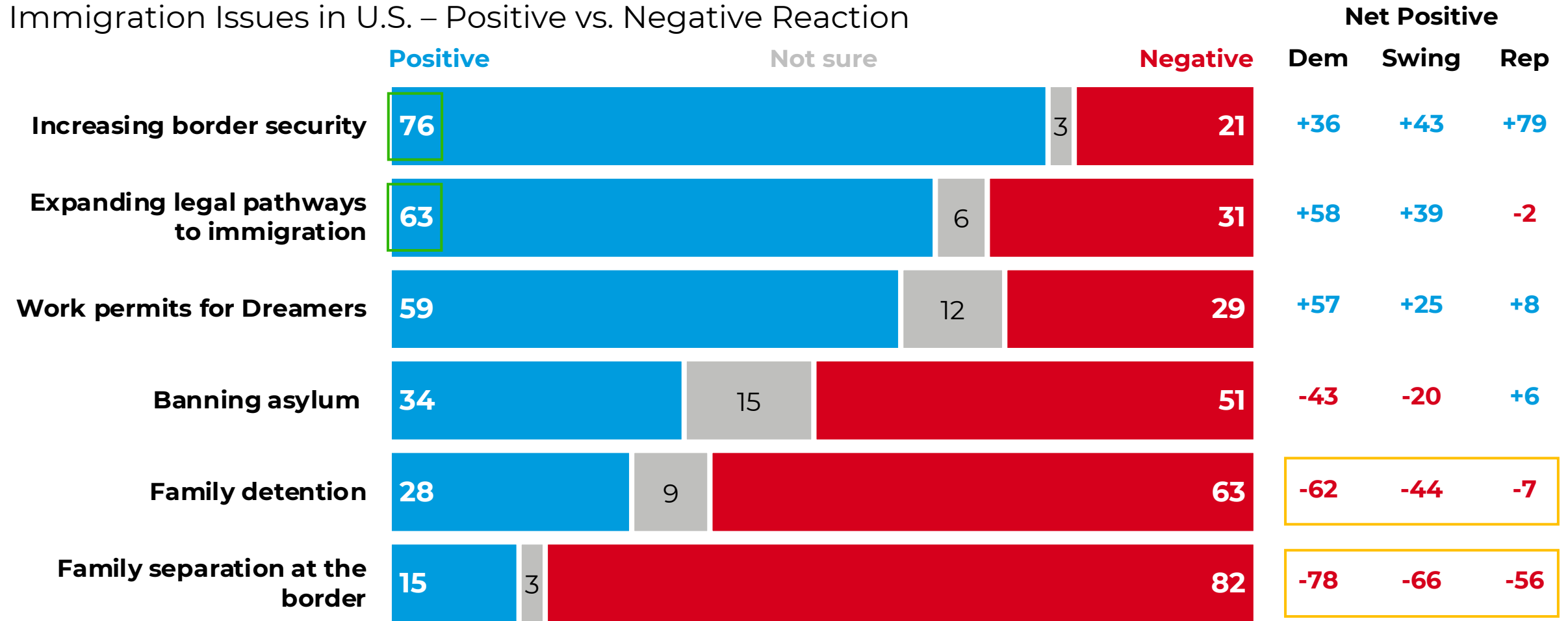
Part of Republicans' advantage comes from views they are dominating the conversation, leaving Democrats at a greater disadvantage because fewer voters are hearing from them

Regardless of who you trust more, who do you feel like you hear from more on the issue of immigration?



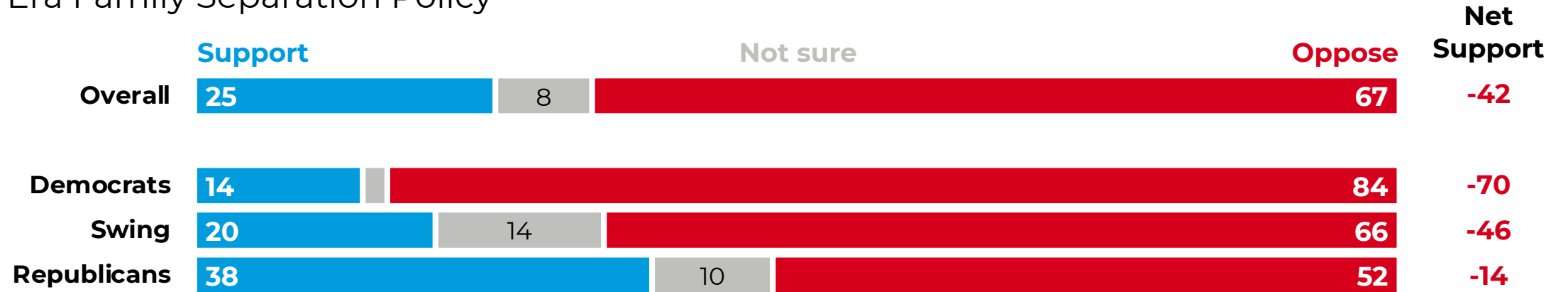
The phrase “family detention” connotes negativity and is nearly as unpopular as Trump’s deeply toxic “family separation” policy

Immigration Issues in U.S. – Positive vs. Negative Reaction



The Trump-era family separation policy remains deeply unpopular, while President Biden's executive order to reverse the policy remains an incredibly popular immigration achievement

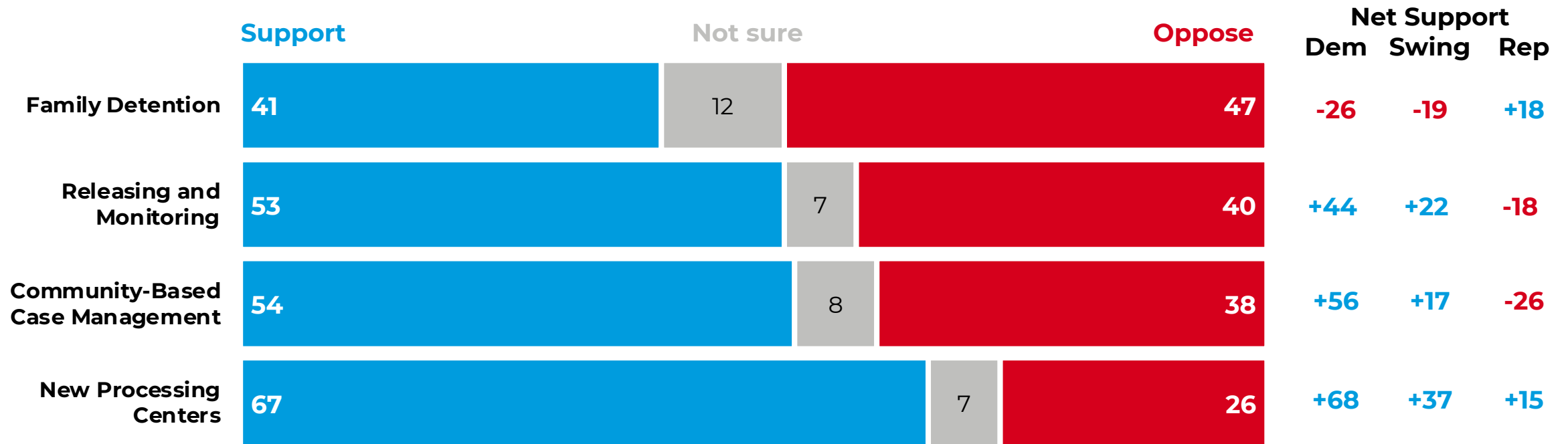
Trump-Era Family Separation Policy



President Biden's Executive Order to Reunite Separated Migrant Children With Their Families



Voters oppose President Biden bringing back family detention. Other popular alternatives exist, like community-based management & releasing and monitoring



Question Wording:

Family Detention

As you may know, President Biden is considering bringing back the policy of family detention. Under this policy, families and children seeking asylum at the border would be put in jails and detention centers until their cases are resolved. Do you support or oppose President Biden putting back in place this family detention policy?

Releasing and Monitoring

Do you support or oppose the following approach to migrant families at the border: Releasing migrant families into the U.S. to live with family and friends temporarily where they would be tracked using ankle monitors and electronic supervision and be required to report into Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Community-Based Case Management

Do you support or oppose the following approach to migrant families at the border: Releasing migrant families into the U.S. and having community and faith groups assign case managers and lawyers to each family to ensure they show up to their hearings and comply with the decision about their legal status.

New Processing Centers

Do you support or oppose the U.S. government building new migrant processing centers at the border that can handle greater capacity and process cases more efficiently without jailing migrant families?

When the alternatives are presented to voters head-to-head against family detention, both policies are seen as better alternatives overall and among persuadable voters

Which approach to migrant families at the border do you prefer?

Community-based case management – that migrant families would be released into the U.S. and have community and faith groups assign case managers and lawyers to each family to ensure they show up to their hearings and comply with the decision about their legal status

Family detention – that migrant families and children seeking asylum at the border would be put in jails and detention centers until their cases are resolved



Which approach to migrant families at the border do you prefer?

Releasing and monitoring – that migrant families would be released into the U.S. to live with family and friends temporarily where they would be tracked using ankle monitors and electronic supervision and be required to report into Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

Family detention – that migrant families and children seeking asylum at the border would be put in jails and detention centers until their cases are resolved



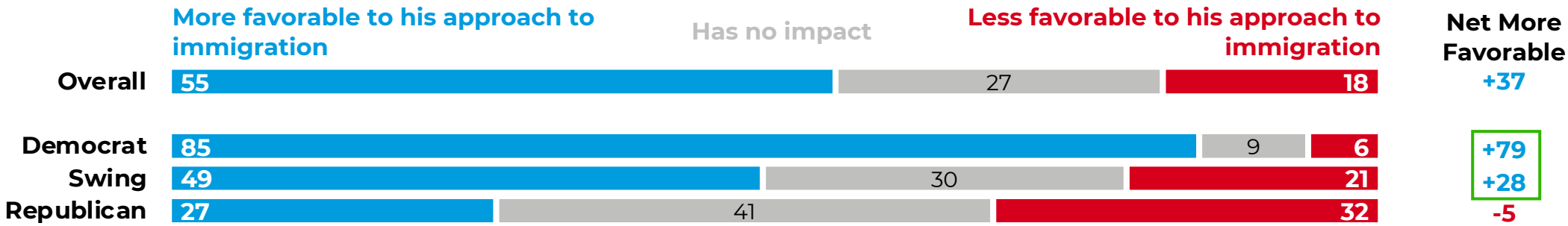
The best path forward to improving President Biden’s ratings on immigration stresses a balanced “orderly and humane” approach

Approaches to Immigration	Impact on Views of Biden’s Handling of Immigration		Post-Messaging Biden Approval on Immigration	
	% More Fav to Biden	% Less Fav to Biden	% Approve	% Disapprove
<p>Approach #1: Balanced “Orderly and Humane”</p> <p><i>President Biden thinks we need an orderly and humane immigration system. That's why he's pushing for fast and fair processing of refugee families at the border by increasing investments in facilities, technology, and judges, while protecting Dreamers and other long-term immigrant workers from deportation to address labor shortages.</i></p>	55%	18%	47%	47%
<p>Approach #2: Get Tougher</p> <p><i>President Biden thinks we need a new approach on immigration that gets tougher at the border. That's why Biden is now proposing to bring back family detention and asylum restrictions, while expanding legal pathways to immigration.</i></p>	37%	28%	39%	55%

Democrats and swing voters are much more receptive to a balanced approach, while a “tougher” lane with family detention is slightly more appealing only to unwinnable Republicans

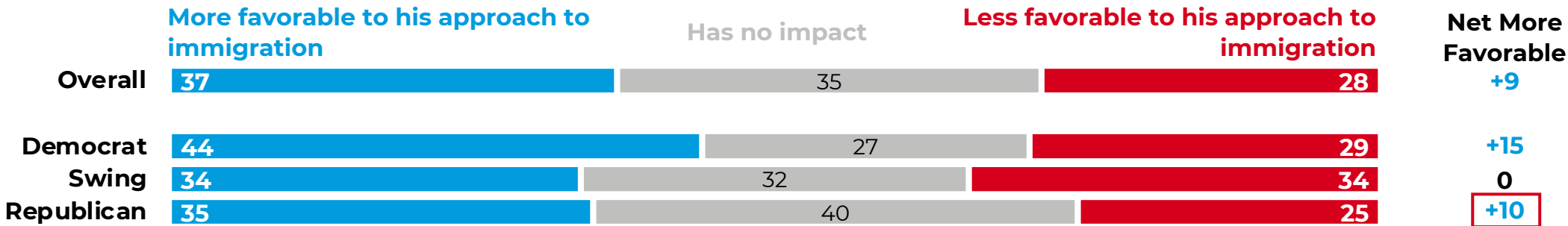
Approach #1: Balanced “Orderly and Humane”

Does this make you more or less favorable towards Joe Biden's approach to immigration?



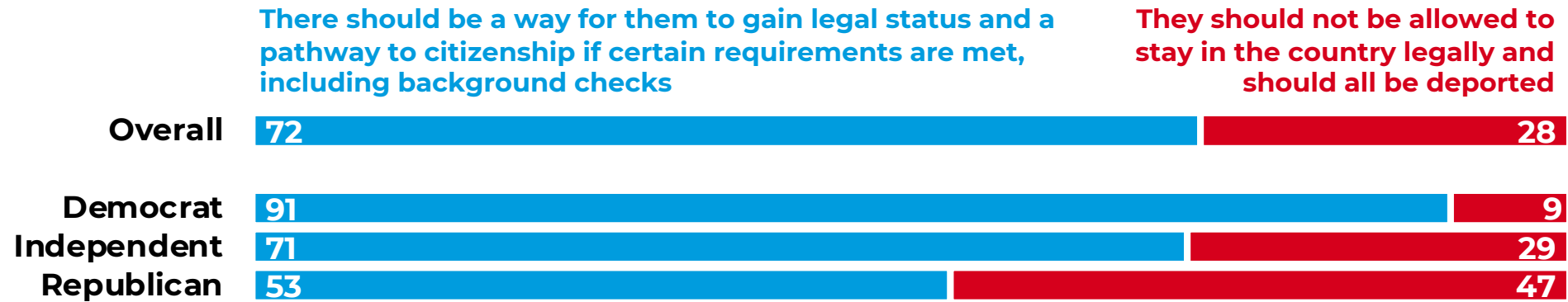
Approach #2: Get Tougher

Does this make you more or less favorable towards Joe Biden's approach to immigration?

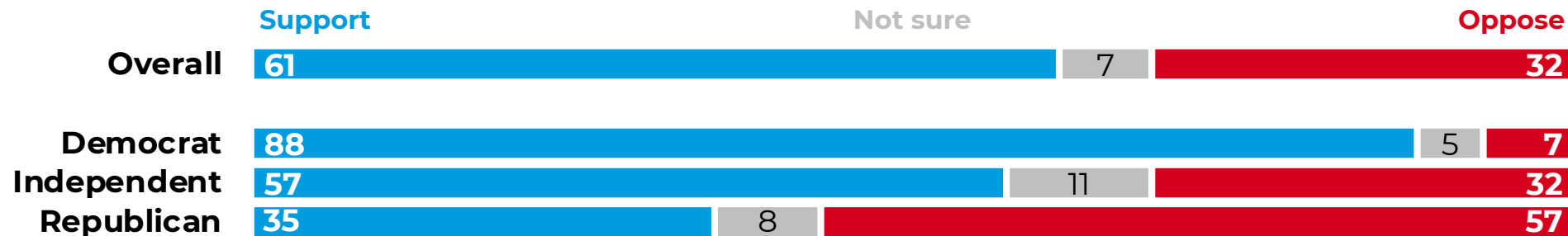


There is strong support for a pathway to citizenship and using TPS to allow undocumented immigrants to stay and work in the U.S.

Which comes closer to your view about how to handle undocumented immigrants now living in the U.S.?



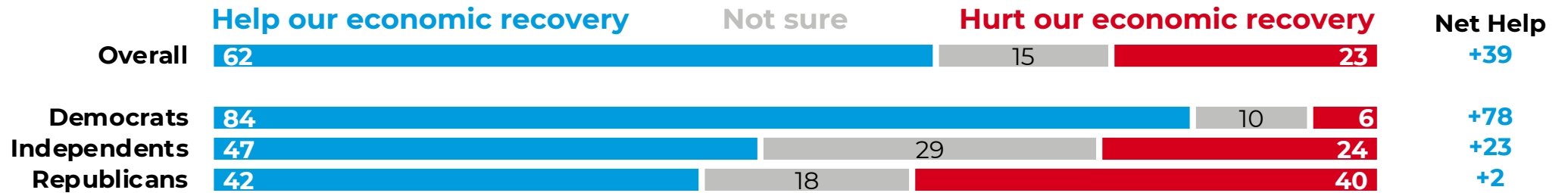
As you may know, there is a government program called the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program that gives temporary status to immigrants who have gone through background checks, are already living in the United States, and have come from countries that have been severely affected by dangerous conditions, political turmoil, or natural disasters. **Do you support President Biden using this program to provide Temporary Protected Status to undocumented immigrants who meet these requirements, allowing them to stay and work in the U.S.?**



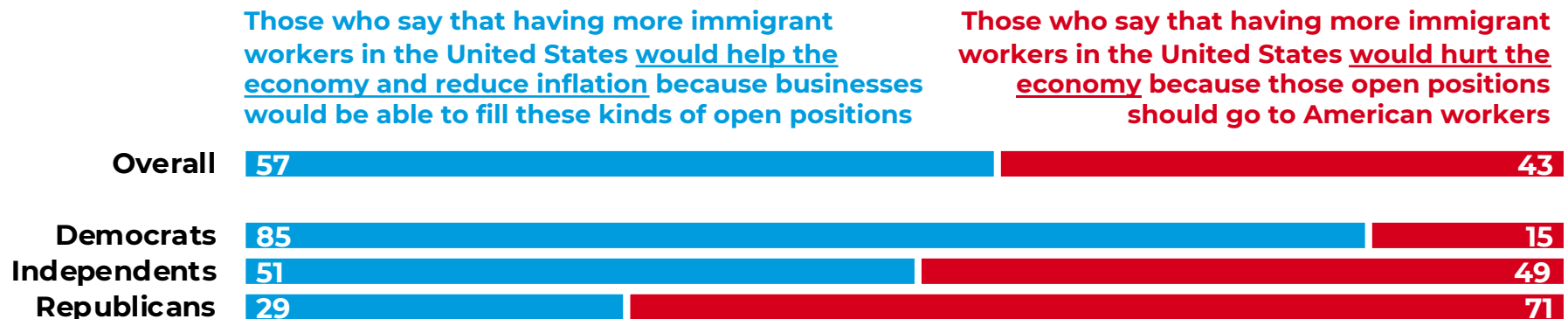
Data comes from a survey of 1,204 likely 2022 battleground voters (comprised of roughly 600 Senate battleground interviews and 600 House battleground interviews), with an oversample of 500 likely 2022 battleground Latino voters in those same geographies between March 3 and March 16, 2022

Voters across party lines say paths to citizenship for undocumented workers would help the economy, and majorities say having more immigrant workers in the U.S. would help the economy and inflation

Do you think that providing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented workers – like farmworkers, those who work in medical care, and those who have supported America's small businesses throughout the pandemic – will generally help our economic recovery or hurt our economic recovery?



As you may or may not know, one problem facing the economy right now is that businesses are facing staff shortages and unfilled positions, which is leading to supply chain issues and causing inflation. In thinking about how immigration relates to this problem, who do you agree with more?



Data comes from a survey of 1,204 likely 2022 battleground voters (comprised of roughly 600 Senate battleground interviews and 600 House battleground interviews), with an oversample of 500 likely 2022 battleground Latino voters in those same geographies between March 3 and March 16, 2022

Recommendations & Conclusions

- **Neither party is seen as having a plan on immigration,** and whoever can implement a serious and well-defined plan will win public opinion on this issue.
- **Republicans are not "winning" on the issue – their only advantage comes from constantly criticizing the President about the border.** Democrats can gain an advantage by taking steps to do something about the border and also address the situation of undocumented migrants already living and contributing to the United States.
- **Virtually every segment of the American public strongly supports solutions for immigrants already here, rather than leaving them languishing with no protections whatsoever.** A strong plan that provides border security and solutions for immigrants already here like Dreamers – including solutions that simultaneously help the economy and can ladder into a broader economic agenda – can break through as a major accomplishment on a 30-year-old stalemate.

Thank You

New York | Washington, DC | Chicago | Denver | Hartford | Los Angeles | Nashville | Seattle