

American Attitudes: Opinions on the Latest Outbreak of Violence in Palestine/Israel

January 12, 2024



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Executive Summary

In response to the ongoing violence in Gaza, the Arab American Institute and Rainbow PUSH Coalition commissioned a special nationwide poll of likely voters that was conducted by John Zogby Strategies. What follows are the key summary points:

American public opinion has shifted away from Israel as the invasion of Gaza continues. A plurality of voters (42%) now say they sympathize with both Israelis and Palestinians equally. While more Americans indicated sympathy towards Israelis alone than Palestinians alone, Palestinians have more support among voters who are young (34% to 16%) and people of color (21% to 17%).

Since the start of the current violence in Gaza, sympathy for Palestinians has increased especially among Democrats (23% increased sympathy towards Palestinians versus 17% toward Israelis), younger Americans (37% increased sympathy towards Palestinians versus 27% for Israelis), and people of color (29% increased sympathy towards Palestinians versus 13% for Israelis).

American voters are more likely to vote for candidates that support a ceasefire. Respondents want a ceasefire and an end to the conflict. In responses to two separate questions, by a two-to-one margin, respondents indicated they are more inclined to support a member of Congress who supports a ceasefire and that they are less willing to support members of Congress who oppose calls for a ceasefire.

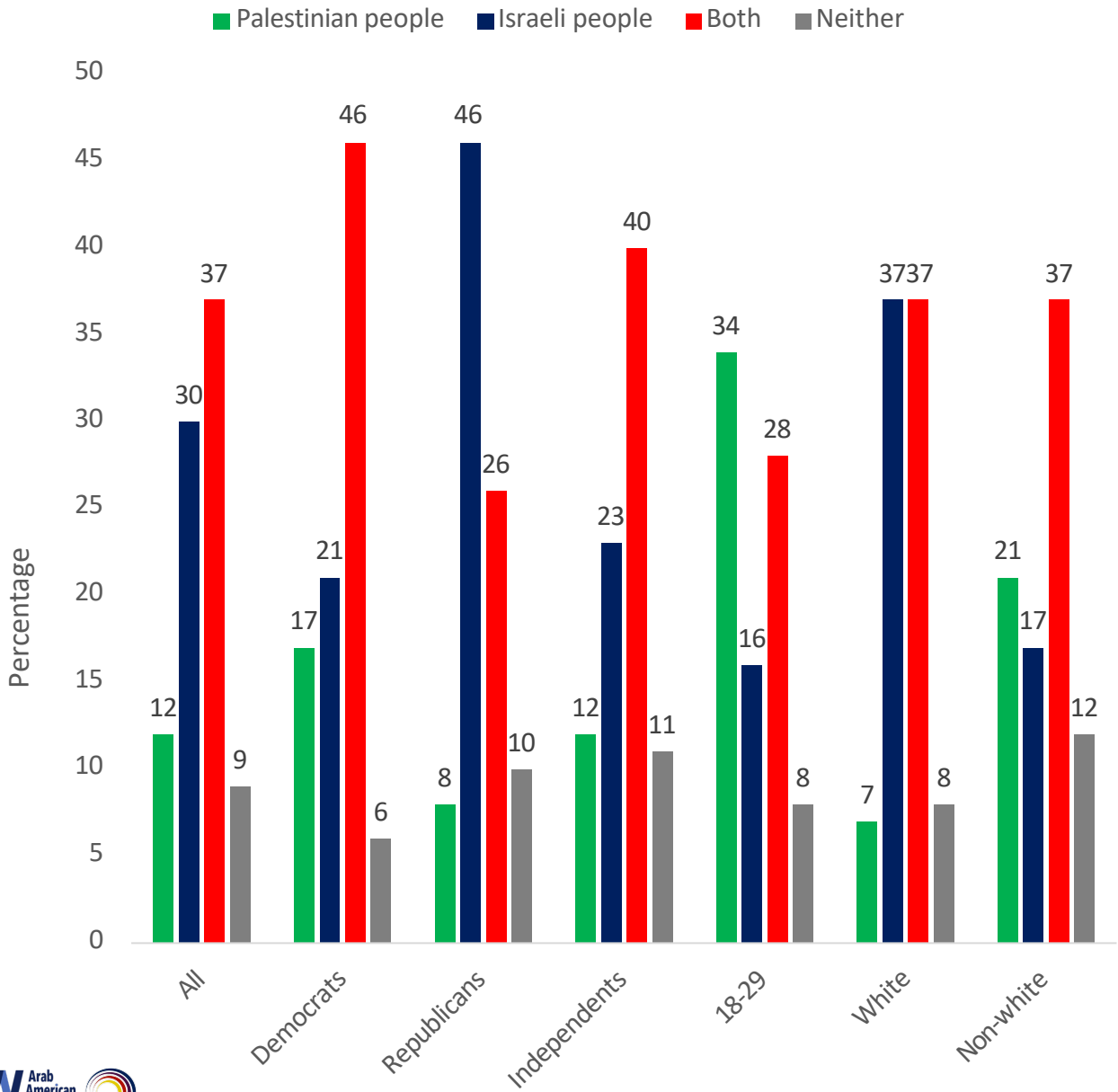
At the same time, Americans are calling into question the Biden Administration's handling of the conflict. When asked to evaluate Biden Administration policy, 50% of Americans believe it favors Israel. But when asked how the Biden Administration *should* conduct U.S. policy, a plurality of respondents (42%) say U.S. policy should be balanced between Israeli and Palestinian needs. By a decisive two-to-one margin, voters say that instead of siding with Israel (a position held by only 26%), the U.S. should strive to be an honest broker between Israelis and Palestinians (a position held by 57%).

This questioning of the Biden Administration's one-sided support for Israel also has an impact on voters' attitudes toward U.S. military assistance to that state. By a two-to-one margin (51% to 26%), voters reject the notion that the U.S. should give unrestricted military assistance to Israel as long as Israel is putting Palestinian civilian lives at risk.

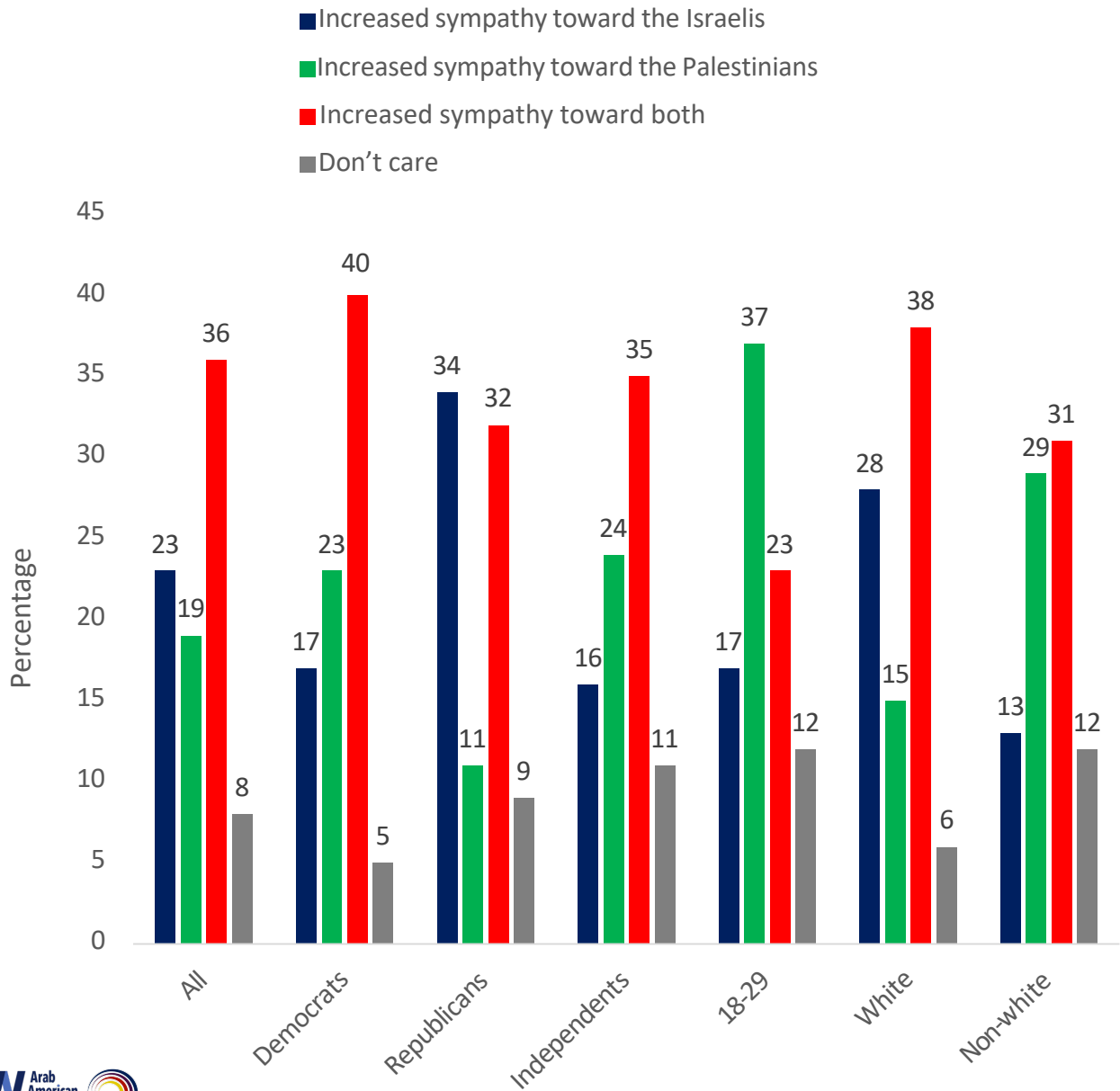
By the same two-to-one margin, respondents said that they sided with those Democratic Senators who objected to the President's recent decision to bypass congressional oversight in sending weapons to Israel. A plurality of voters (41%) now indicate that it is time to consider cutting or conditioning Israel's annual \$3.8 billion appropriation for military assistance.

I. Attitudes Toward Israelis and Palestinians

1. In this current crisis, would you say your sympathies lie more with the Palestinian people or the Israeli people?

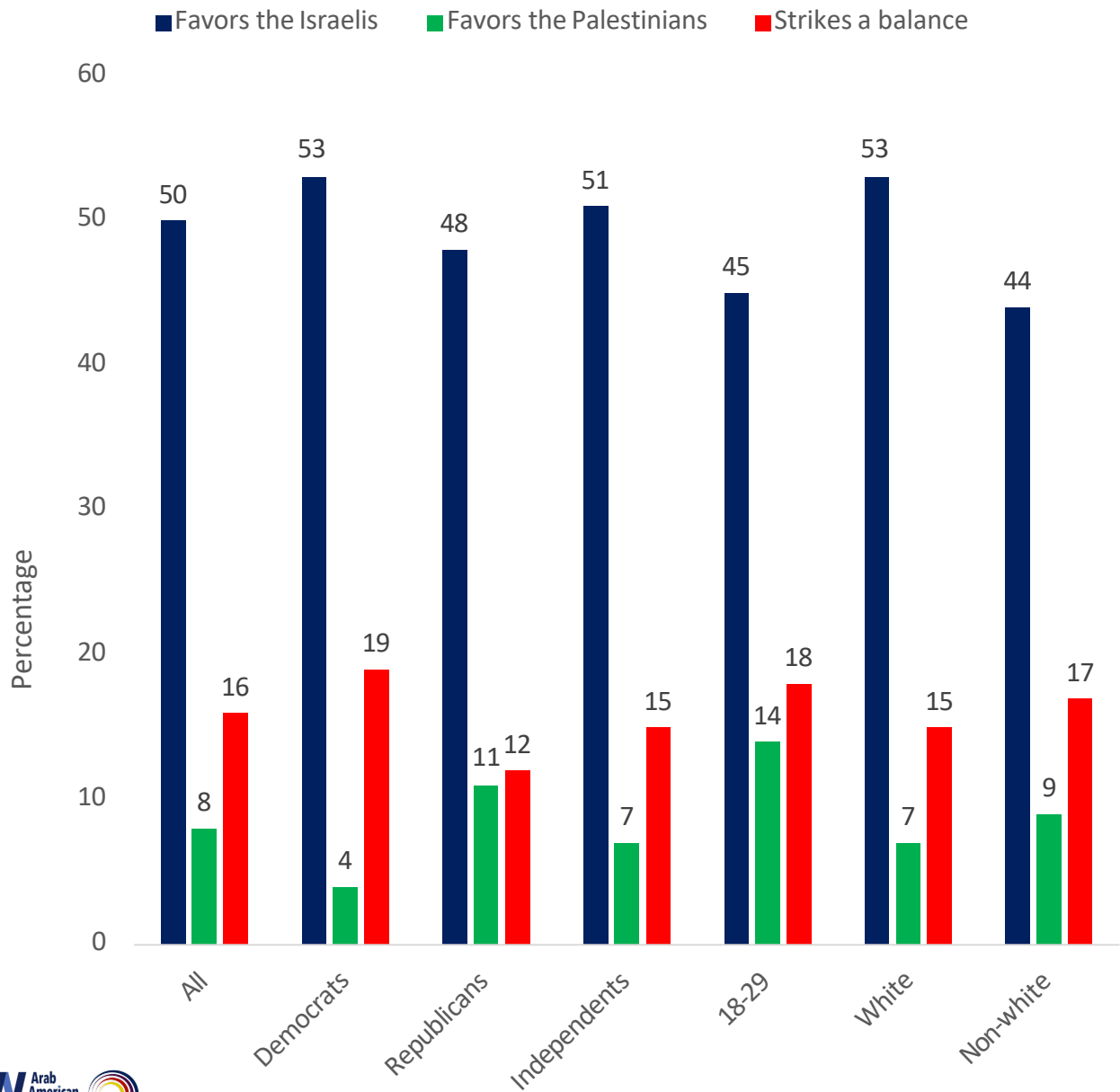


2. As a result of the current conflict, do you have...

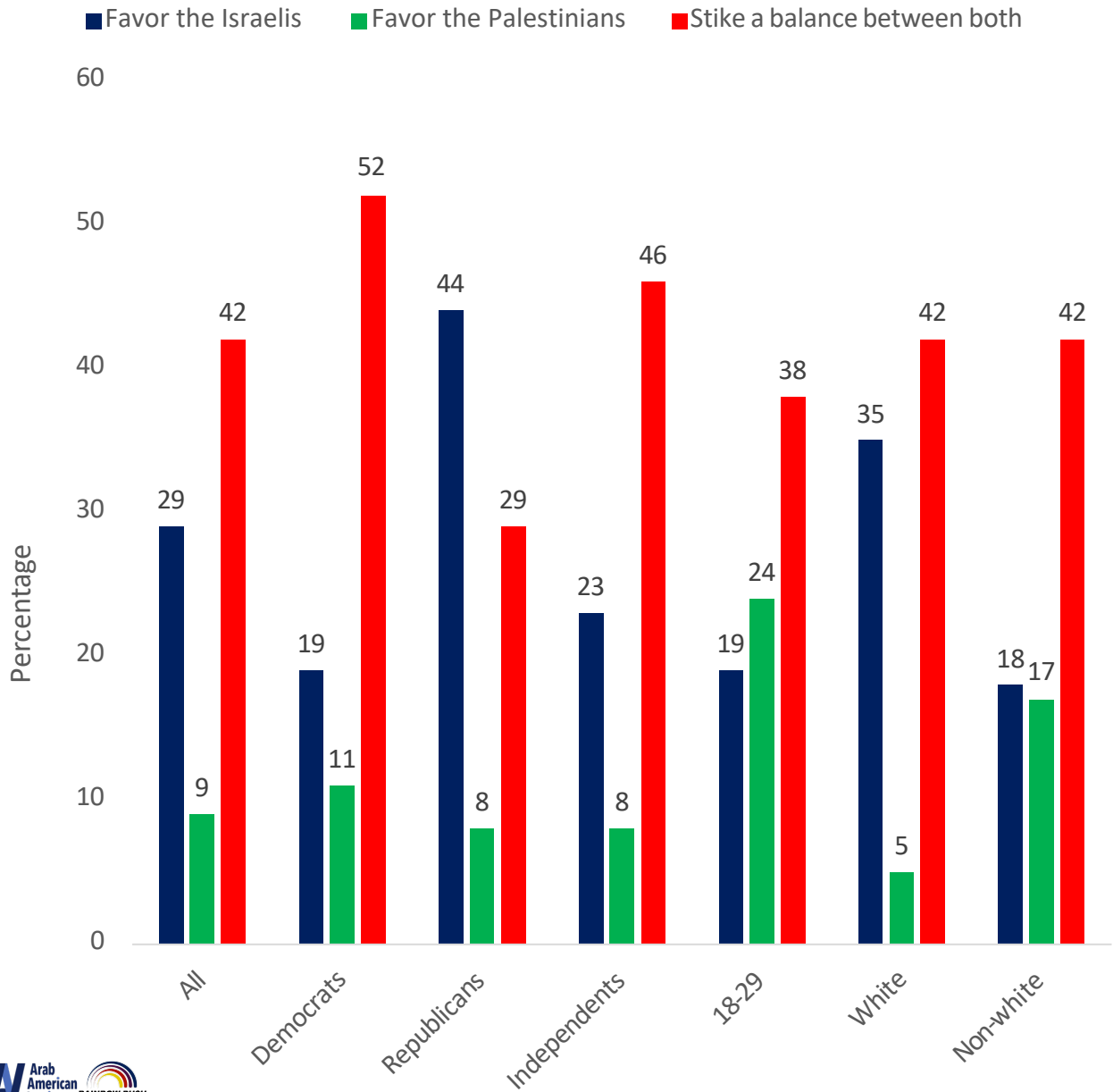


II. Attitudes Toward US Policy on the Conflict

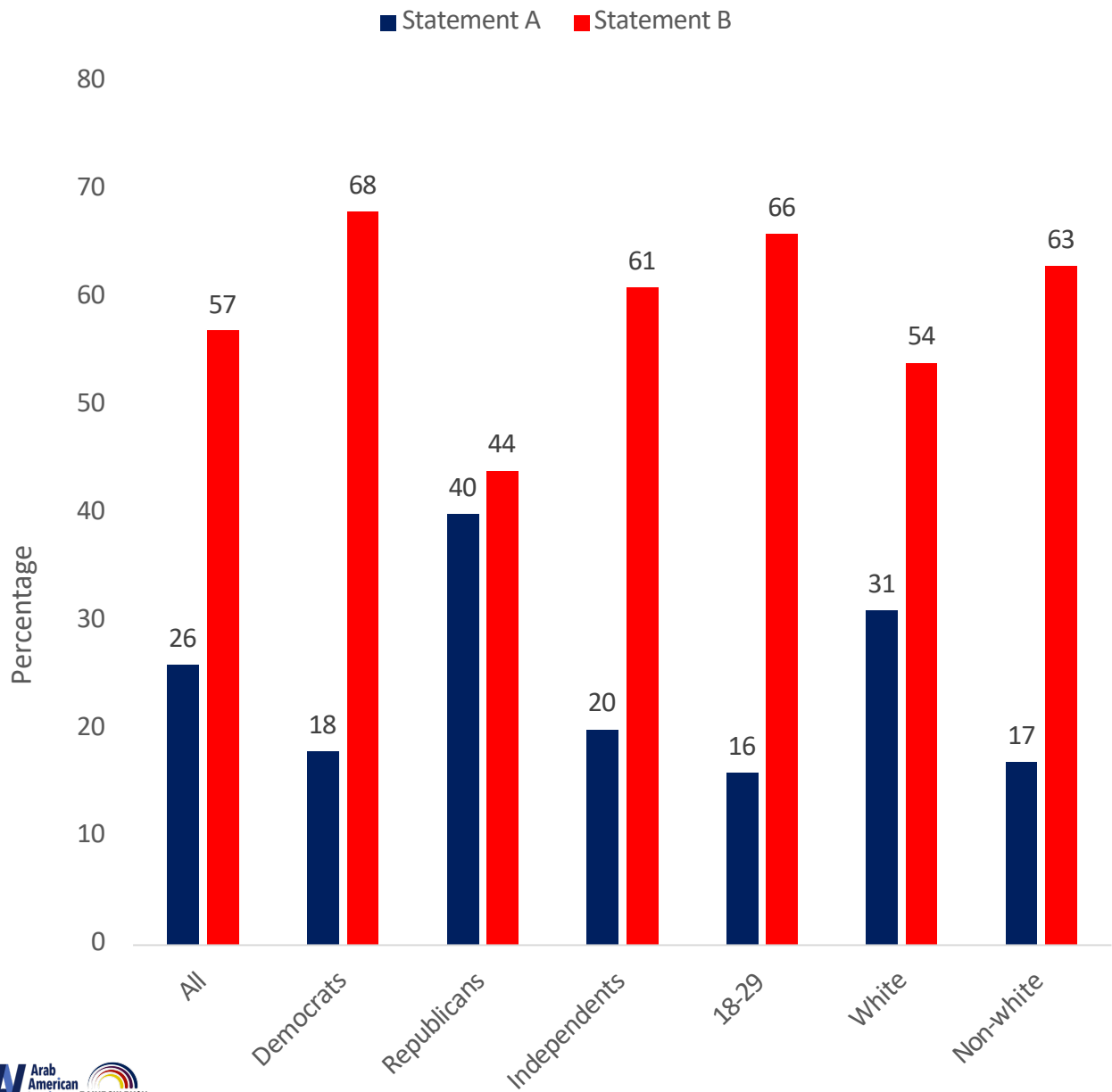
3. In handling the Israeli-Palestinian situation, how would you describe the current policy of the U.S. toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?



4. How do you feel the Biden Administration should conduct policy toward the Israeli/Palestinian conflict?



5. Which statement comes closer to your own view:
Statement A: The United States should always side with Israel.
Statement B: The United States should act as a fair and impartial broker between Israelis and Palestinians

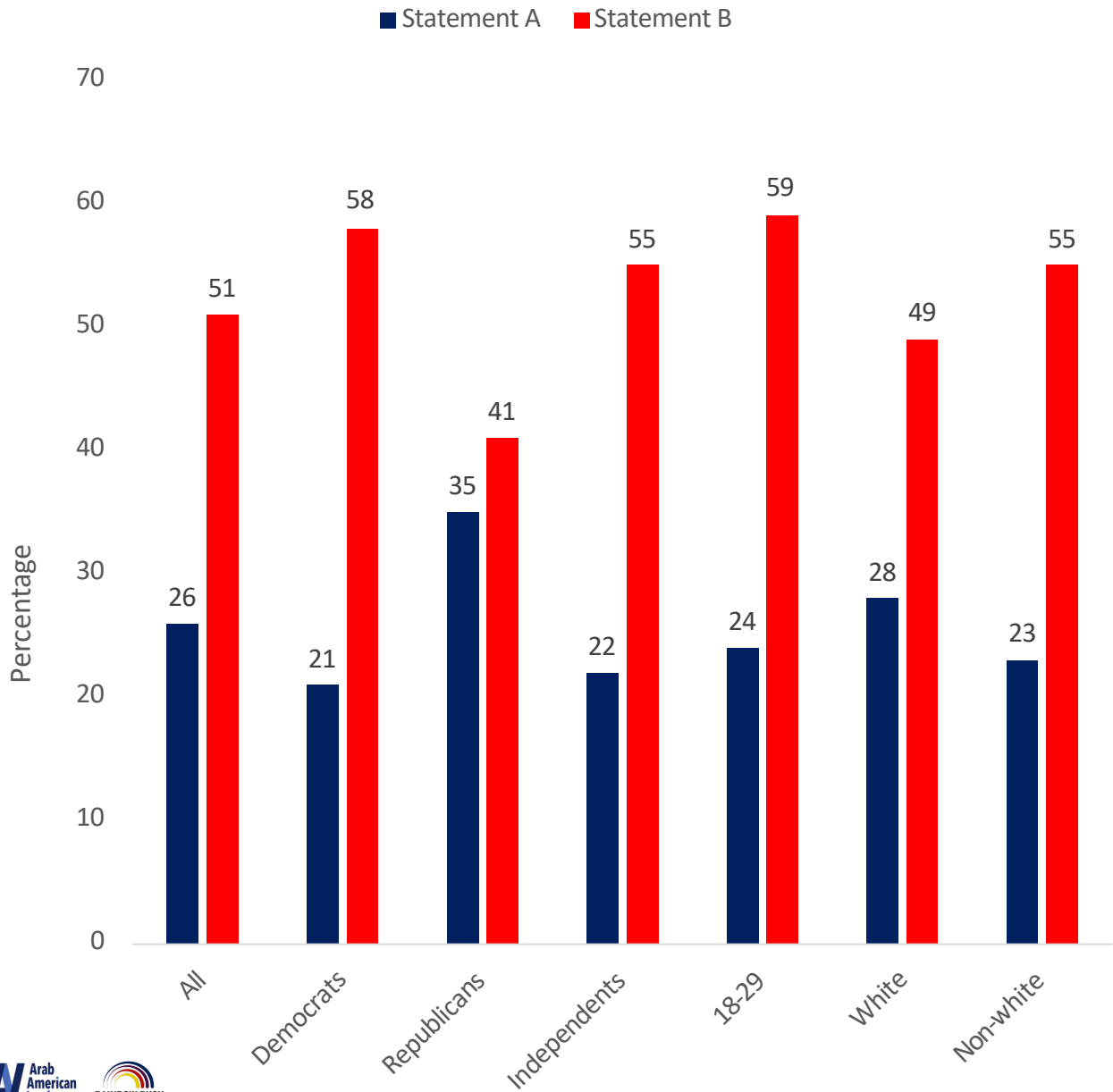


III. Attitudes on US Military Assistance to Israel

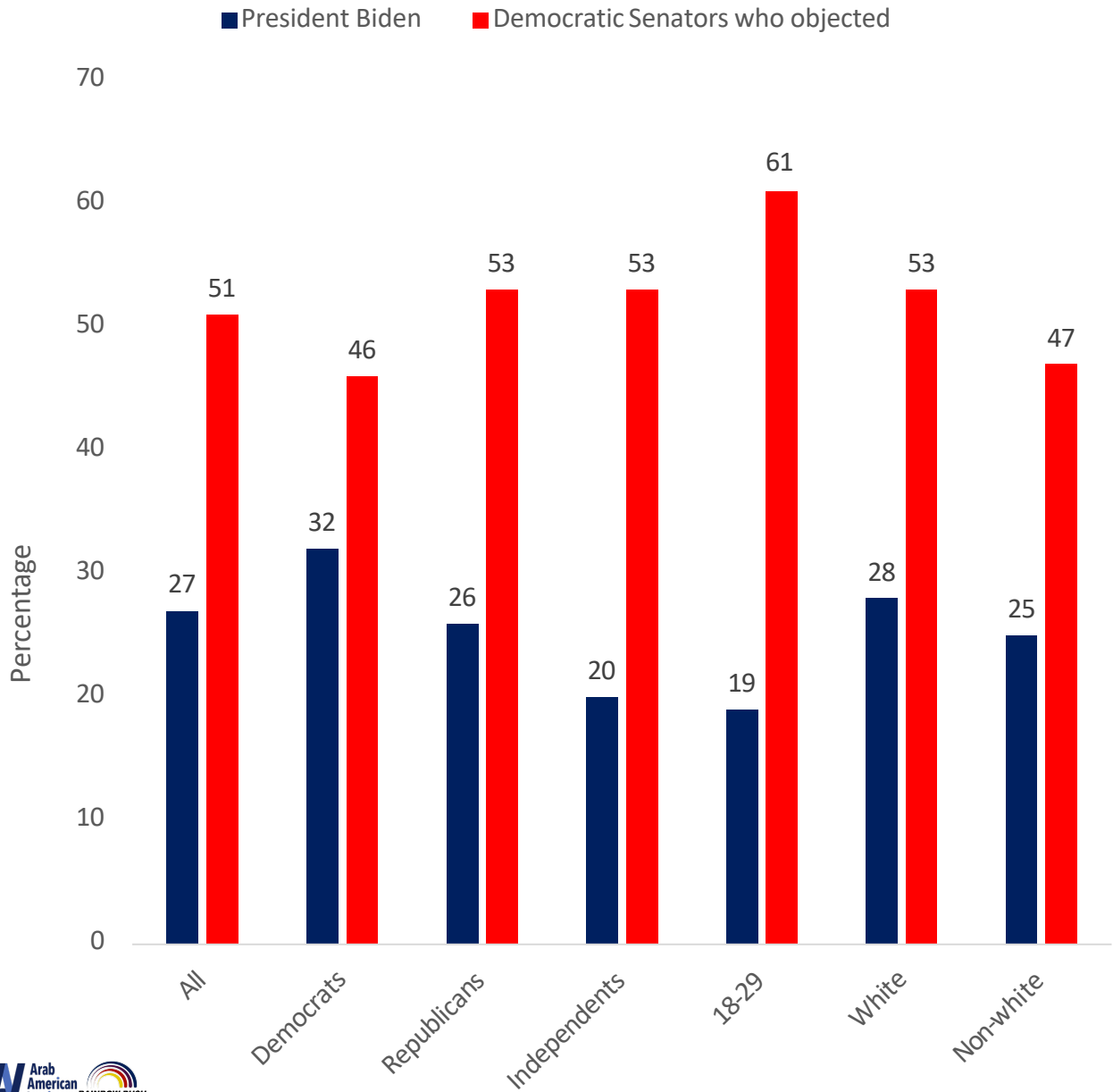
6. Which statement comes closer to your own view:

Statement A: The United States should always provide unrestricted financial and military assistance to the Israeli government.

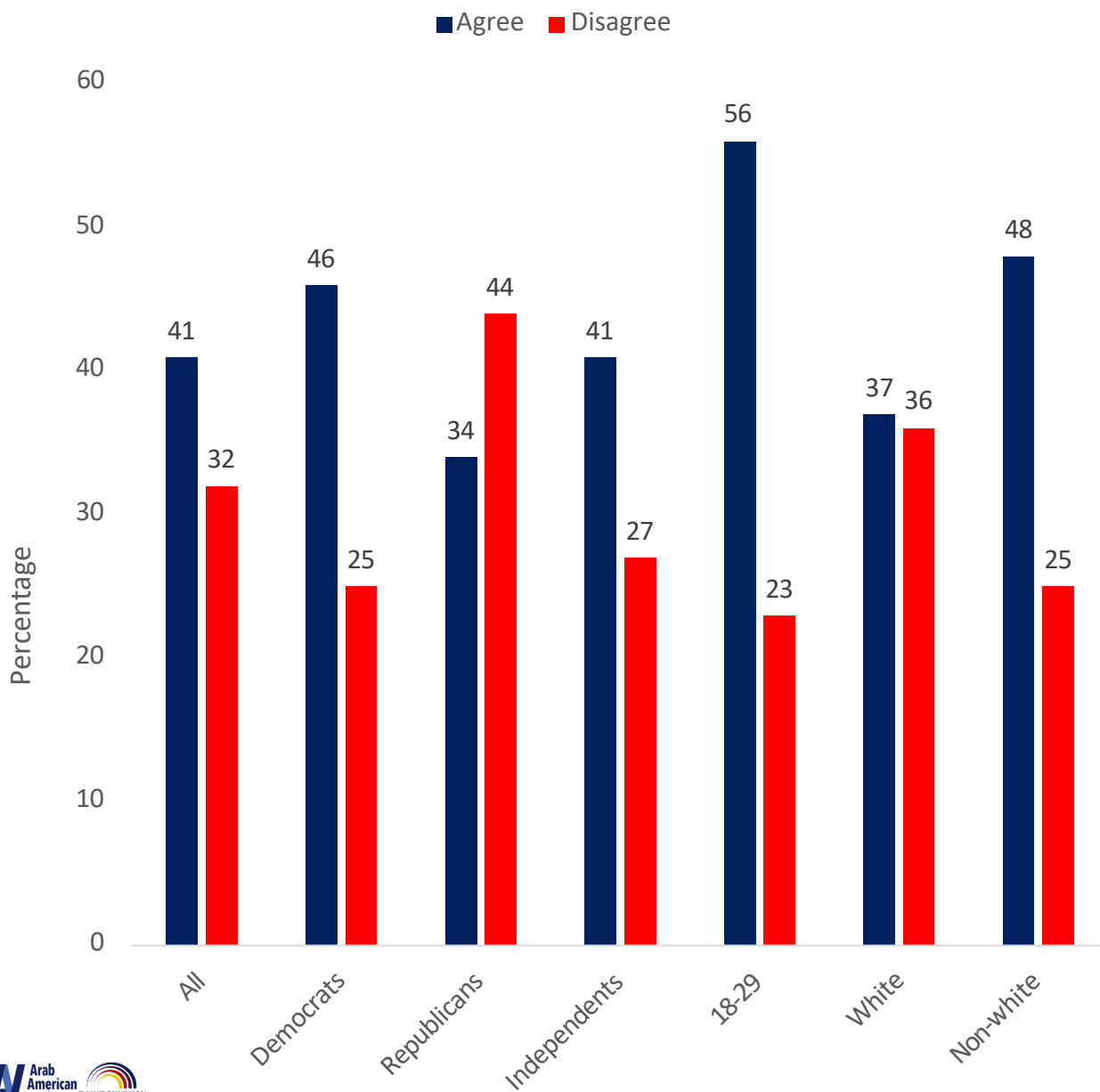
Statement B: The United States should not provide unrestricted financial and military assistance to the Israeli government if it continues to operate in a way which puts civilian lives at risk in Gaza.



7. Last month, the Biden Administration approved \$147.5 million in weapons sales to Israel without congressional approval for the second time since October 7 leading to some Democratic Senators objecting. Do you agree more with...

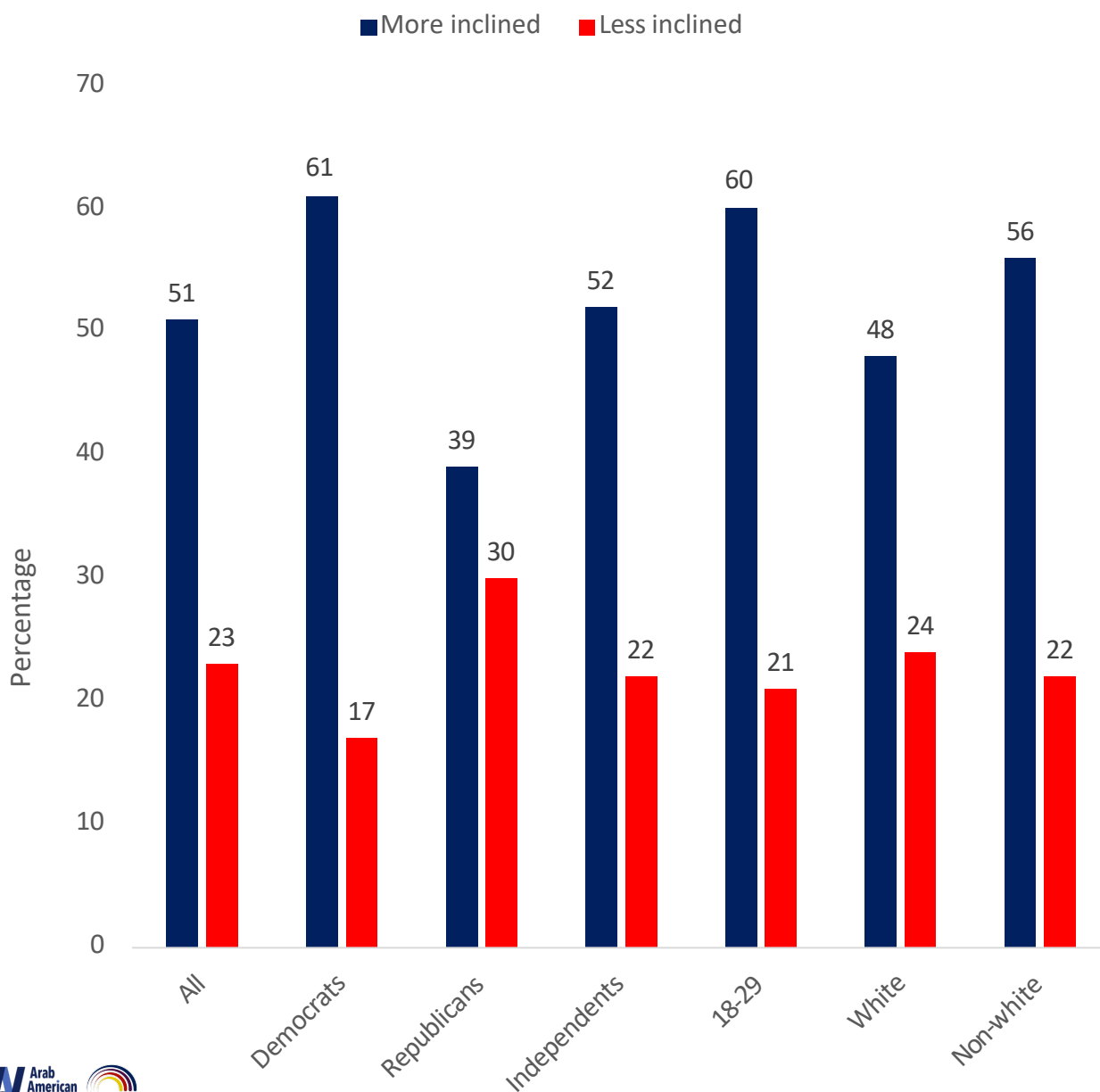


8. The United States provides Israel with \$3.8 billion annually in foreign military assistance. Given Israel's action in Gaza, resulting in more than 20,000 deaths, do you agree/disagree that it is time to condition or cut military assistance to Israel?

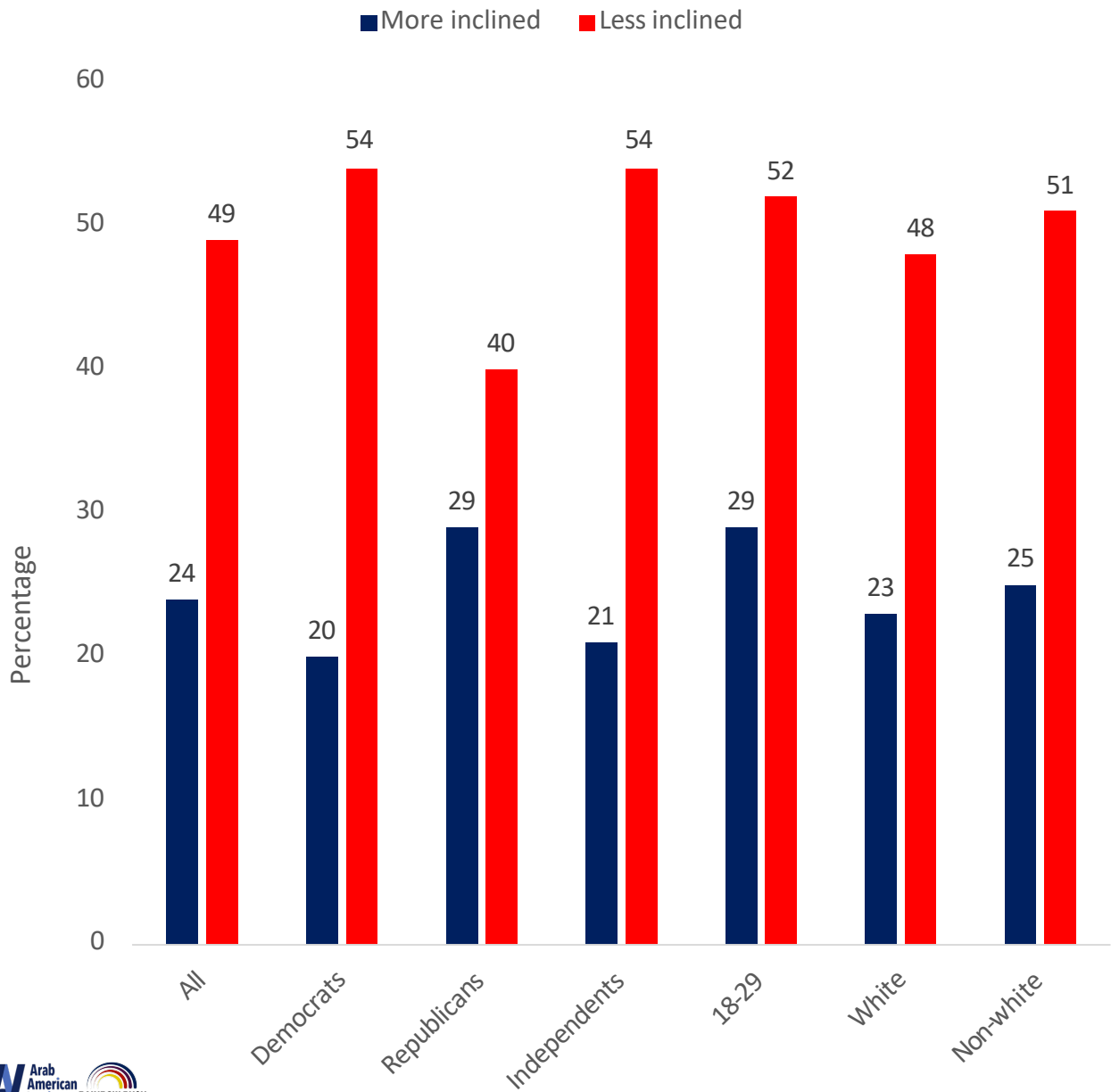


IV. Attitudes on Ceasefire

9. Members of Congress have debated over supporting or opposing a ceasefire in Gaza. Are you more or less inclined to support a member of Congress who supports a ceasefire?



10. Members of Congress have debated over supporting or opposing a ceasefire in Gaza. Are you more or less inclined to support a member of Congress who opposes a ceasefire?



Demographics and Methodology



Demographics and Methodology

John Zogby Strategies was commissioned by AAI and Rainbow PUSH Coalition to conduct an online poll of 1,000 Americans. The poll was conducted January 4-5, 2024. The margin of error is +/- 3.2 percentage points.

Gender	Percent
Male	48%
Female	52%
Race	Percent
White	66%
Hispanic	13%
Black	13%
Asian	4%
Other	4%
Education	Percent
College	42%
No College	58%
Ideology	Percent
Very Liberal	7%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	37%
Conservative	23%
Very Conservative	12%