

Health Care in the Midterms

Key Findings from KFF Polls

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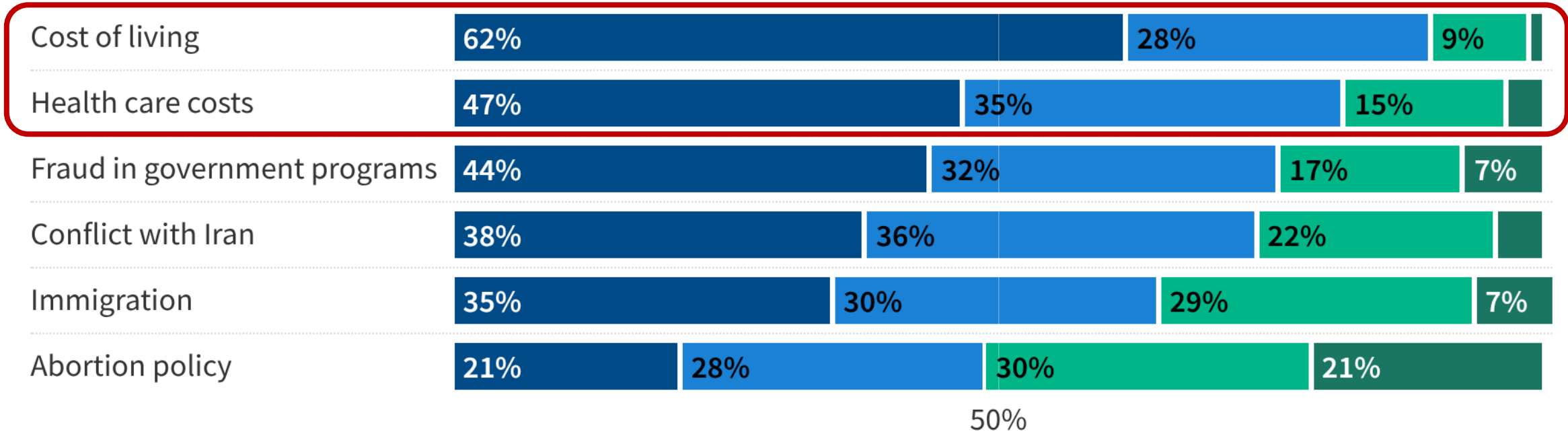
KFF

The independent source for health policy research, polling, and news.

Affordability Is the #1 Issue in the 2026 Midterm

How important, if at all, do you think it is for candidates in the 2026 midterm elections to talk about each of the following?

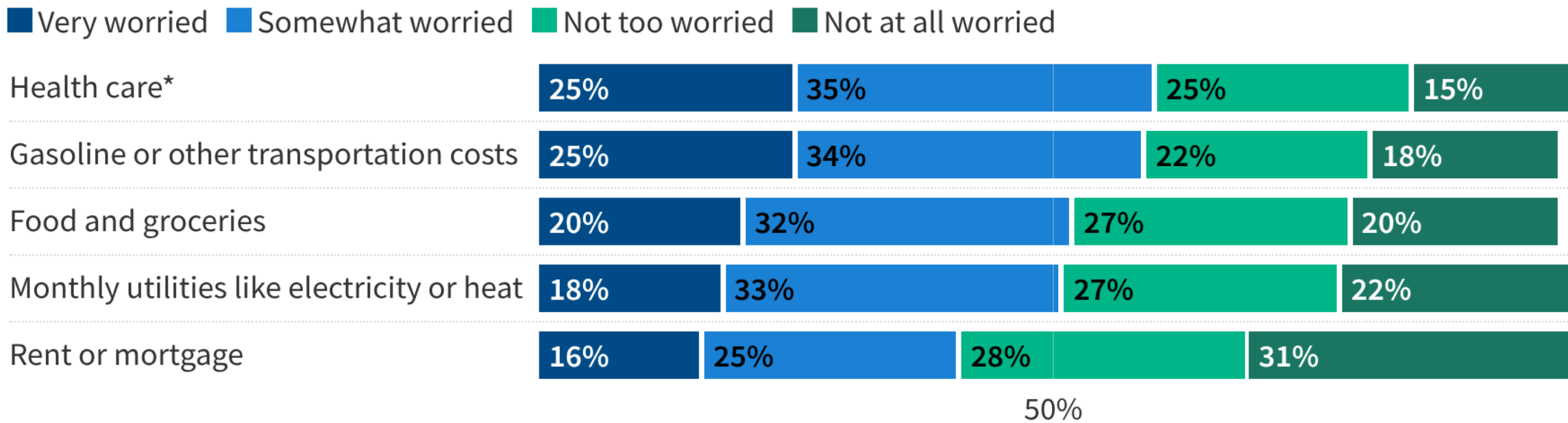
Extremely important Very important Somewhat important Not important



Note: Among registered voters. See topline for full question wording.
Source: KFF Health Tracking Poll (September 16-21, 2026)

Health Care Costs Are a Fundamental Part of Affordability Concerns

How worried, if at all, are you about being able to afford each of the following for you and your family?



Note: The item "health care costs" includes the cost of health insurance and out-of-pocket costs for things like office visits and prescription drugs.
Source: KFF Health Tracking Poll (September 16-21, 2026)

What Voters Agree on Across Party Lines

Health care is too expensive

More than half of Democrats, independents, and Republicans are **worried about affording health care**, ranking #1 or #2 on the list of affordability worries across groups

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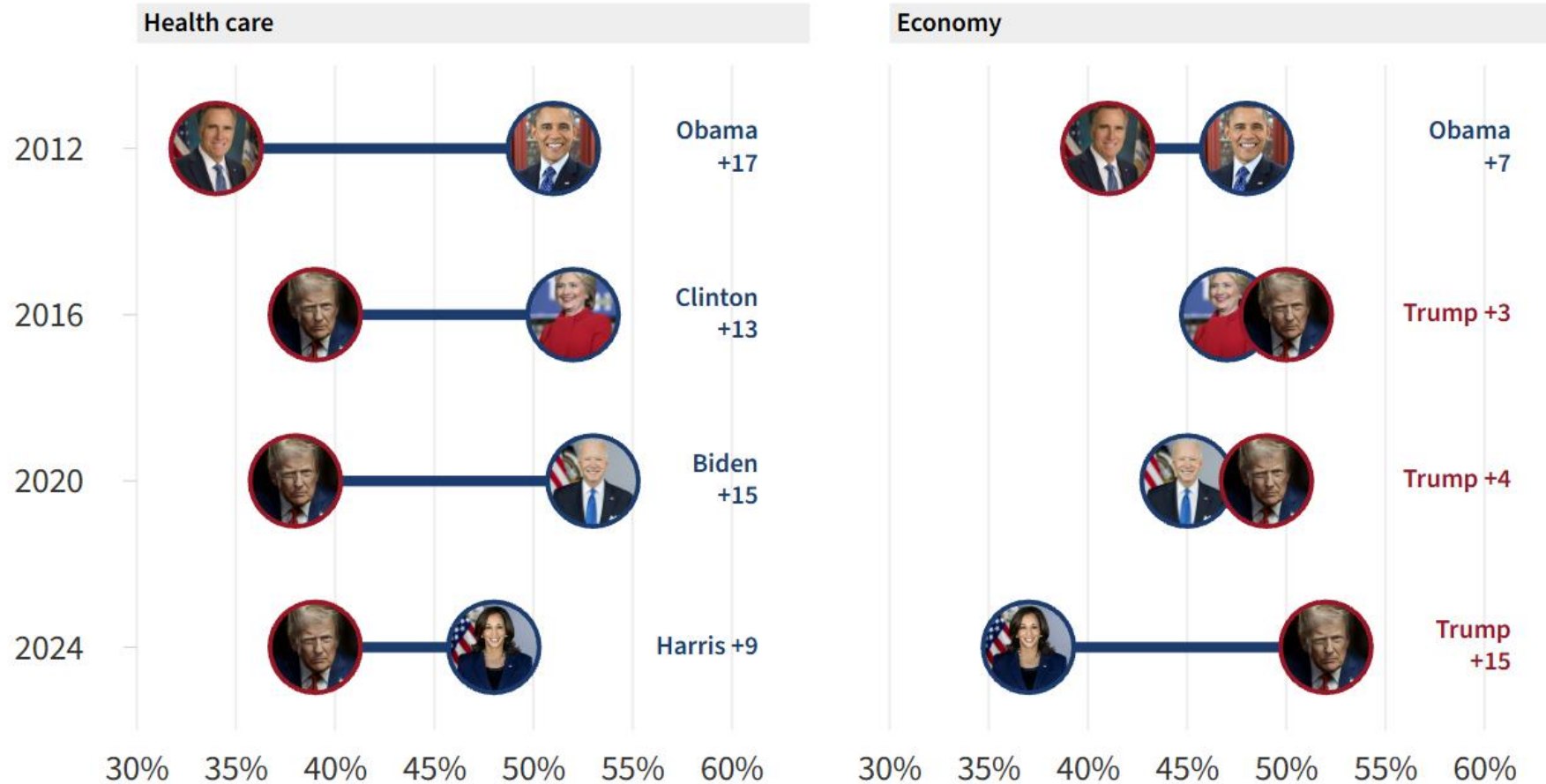
More than half of Democrats, independents, and Republicans are **worried about affording health care**, ranking #1 or #2 on the list of affordability worries across groups

The system needs major changes

At least three-quarters of Democrats, independents, and Republicans say the U.S. **health care system needs at least major changes**, if not a **complete overhaul**

Historically, Democrats Have Been More Trusted on Health Care; Republicans on Economy

Which presidential candidate do you trust more on the following issues:



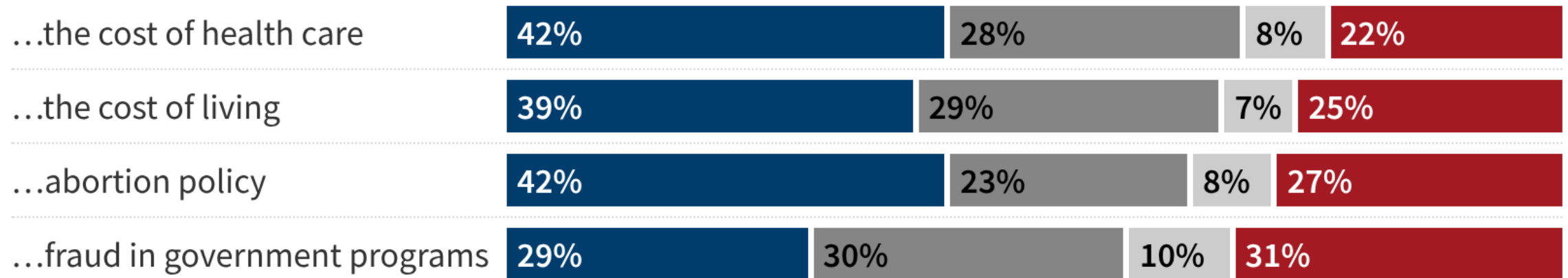
Note: Among registered voters.

Source: KFF Health Tracking Polls (2012, 2020, 2024); Gallup (2016) for the economy and KFF (2016) for health care

Democratic Party Has Strong Advantage on Cost of Living and Health Care; Voters More Divided on Addressing Fraud

Which political party do you trust to do a better job handling...?

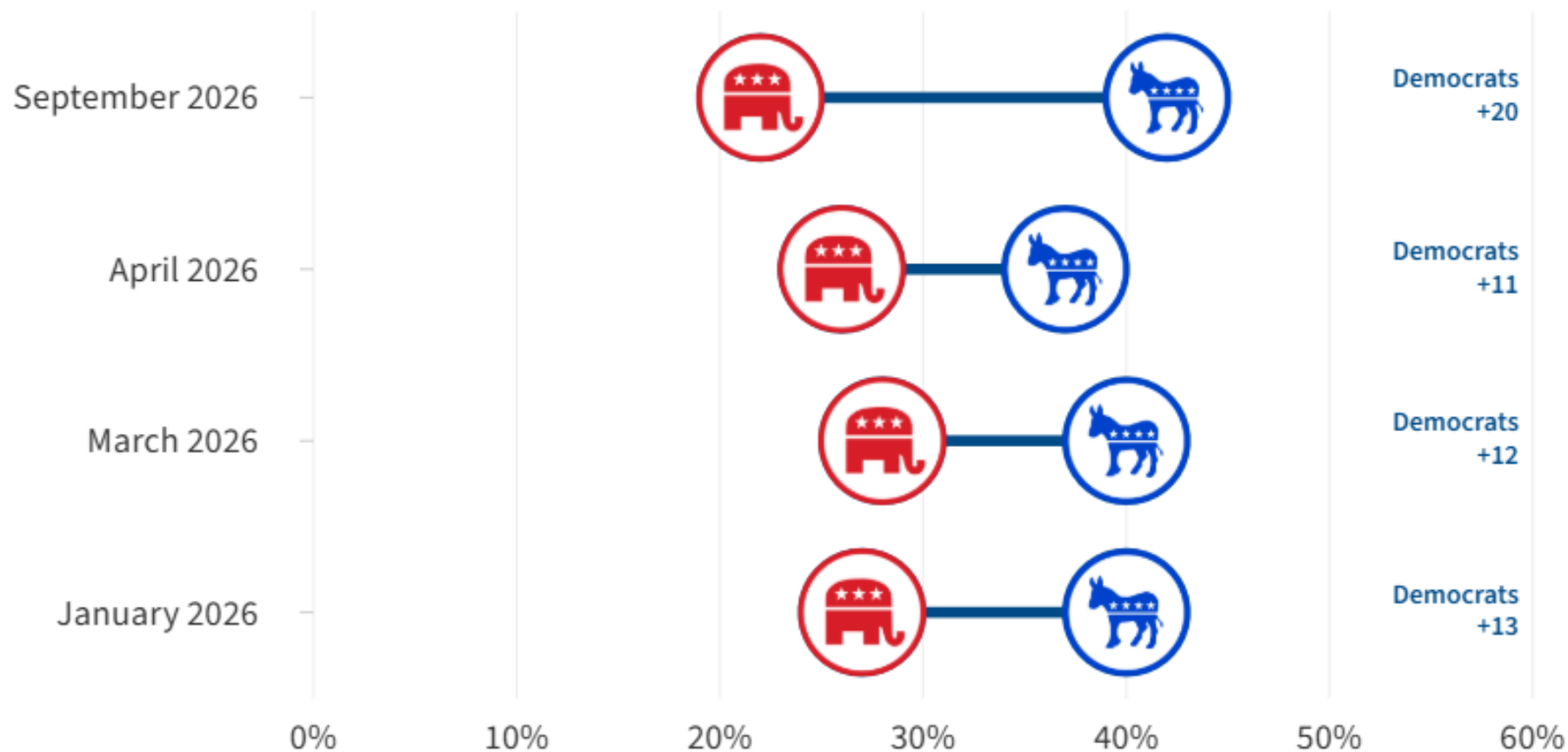
■ The Democrats ■ Neither ■ Both equally ■ The Republicans



Note: Among registered voters. See topline for full question wording.
Source: KFF Health Tracking Poll (September 16-21, 2026)

Democratic Party's Advantage on Health Care Costs Has Widened in Recent Months

Which political party do you trust to do a better job handling the cost of health care?

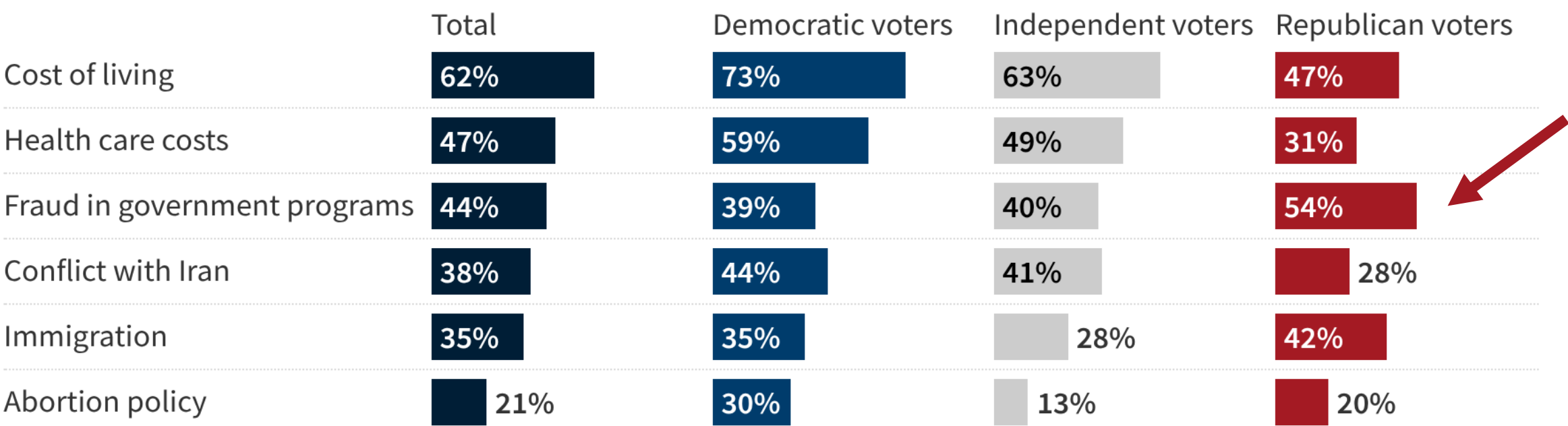


Note: Among registered voters. See topline for full question wording.

Source: KFF Health Tracking Polls (September 16-21, 2026, April 14-19, 2026, February 24-March 2, 2026, and January 13-20, 2026)

Cost of Living is Top Concern, But Talking About Fraud in Government Programs Resonates with Republican Voters

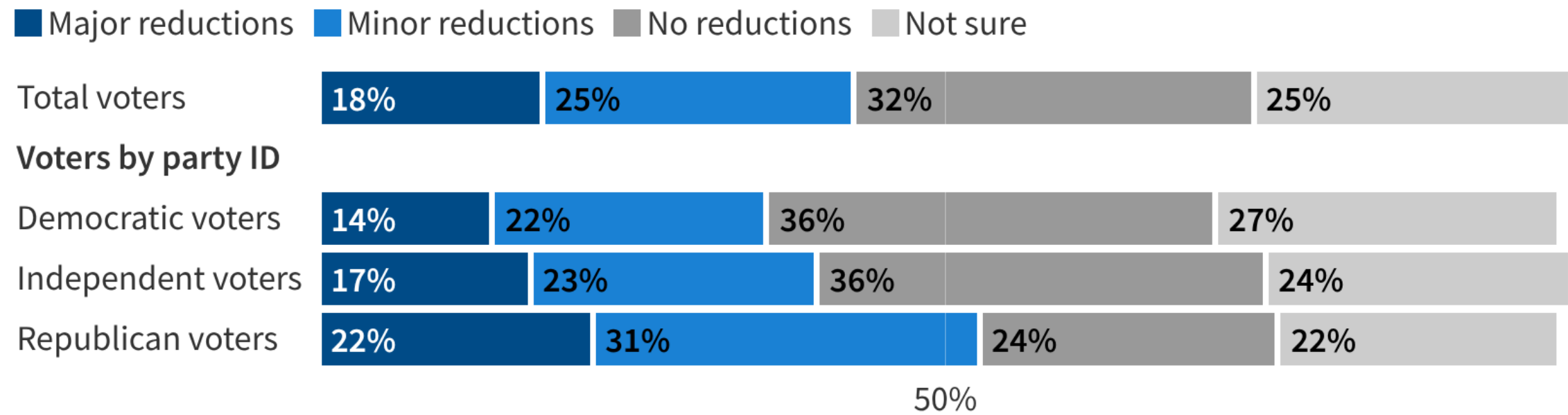
Percent of voters who say each of the following are **extremely important** for candidates in the 2026 midterm elections to talk about:



Note: Among registered voters. See topline for full question wording.
Source: KFF Health Tracking Poll (September 16-21, 2026)

Few Voters Think Reducing Fraud Will Lead to Major Reductions in Their Own Health Care Costs

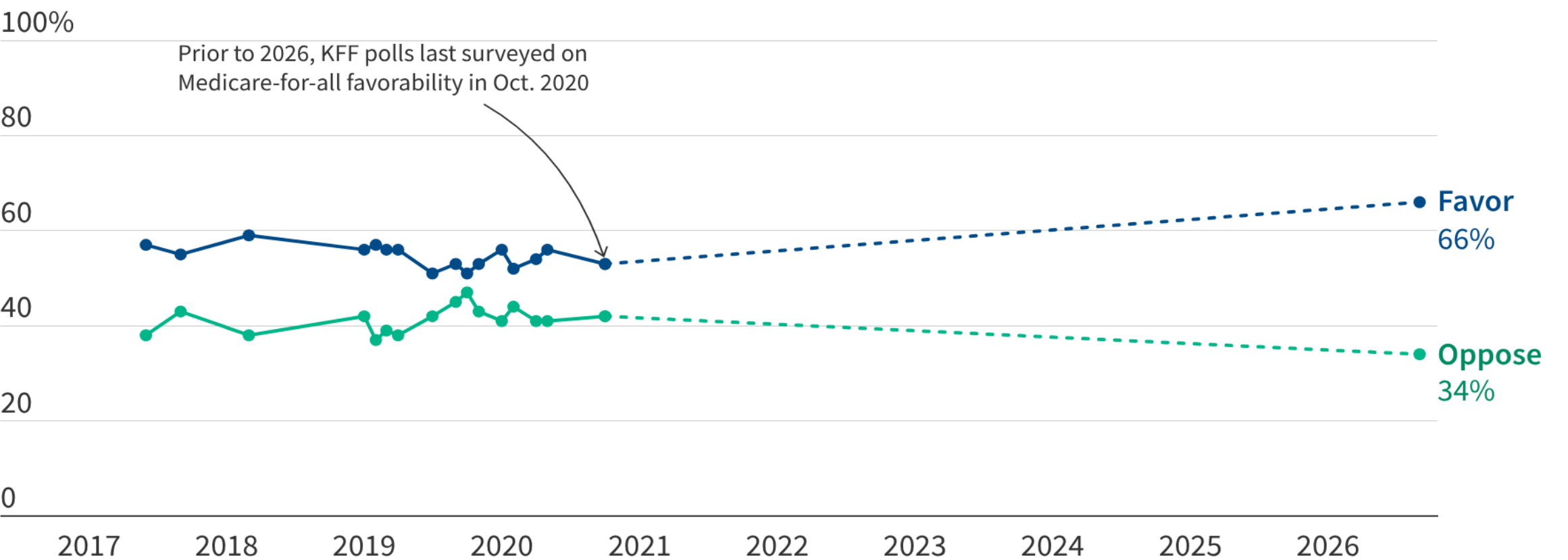
Do you think reducing fraud in government health programs would lead to major, minor, or no reductions in **your own health care costs**?



Note: . Among registered voters. See topline for full question wording.
Source: KFF Health Tracking Poll (June 25-30, 2026)

Initial Appetite for “Medicare-for-all” Higher than Previous Cycles

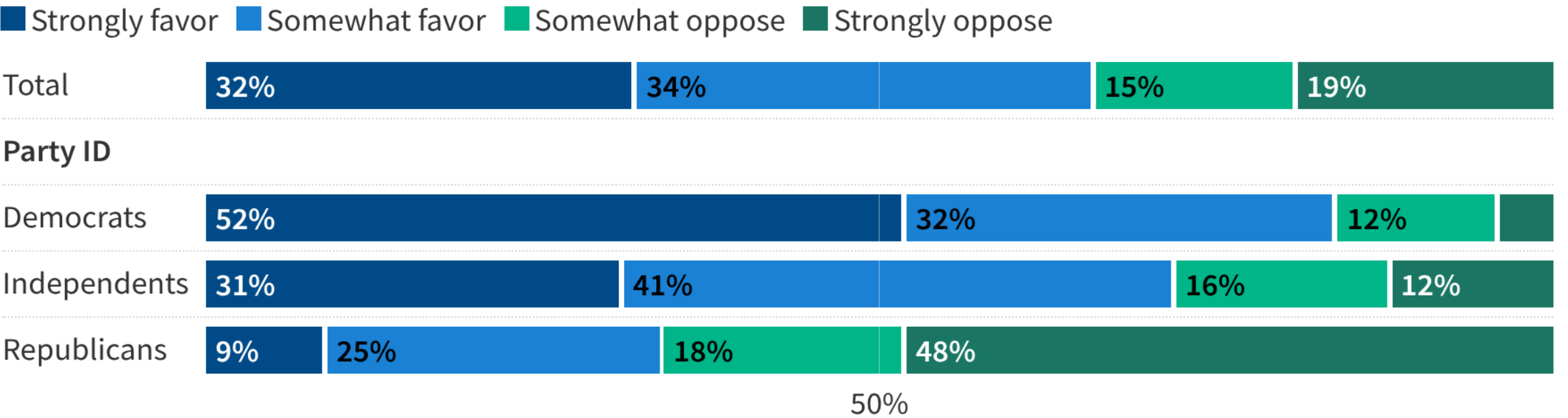
Do you **favor** or **oppose** having a national health plan, sometimes called Medicare-for-all, in which all Americans would get their insurance from a single government plan?



Note: See topline for full question wording.
Source: KFF Health Tracking Poll (September 16-21, 2026)

Medicare-for-All Support Remains Deeply Divided on Partisan Lines

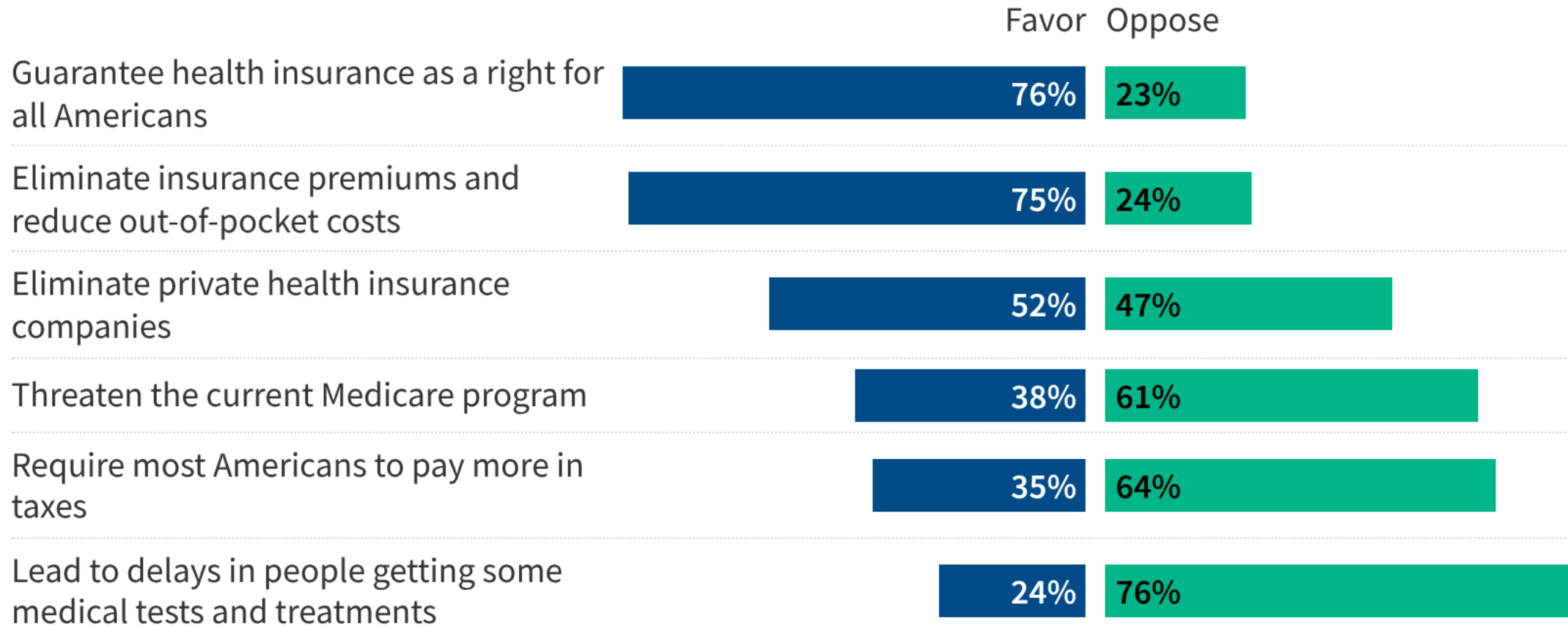
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Arguments Likely to Be Made on Both Sides Shift Support for Medicare-for-All Dramatically

Would you favor or oppose a national Medicare-for-all plan if you heard it would...?



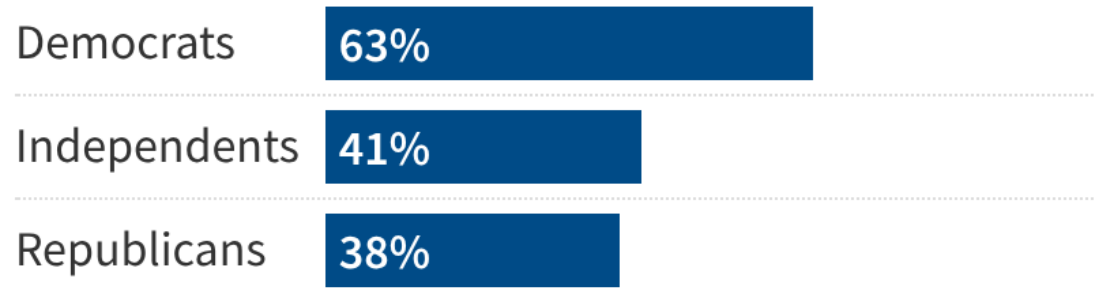
Note: See topline for full question wording.

Source: KFF Health Tracking Poll (September 16-21, 2026)

Democrats Have Edge in Voter Motivation, at Least Partially Fueled by Economic Dissatisfaction

Among voters nationally

Percent of voters who say they are **more motivated** to vote than usual:



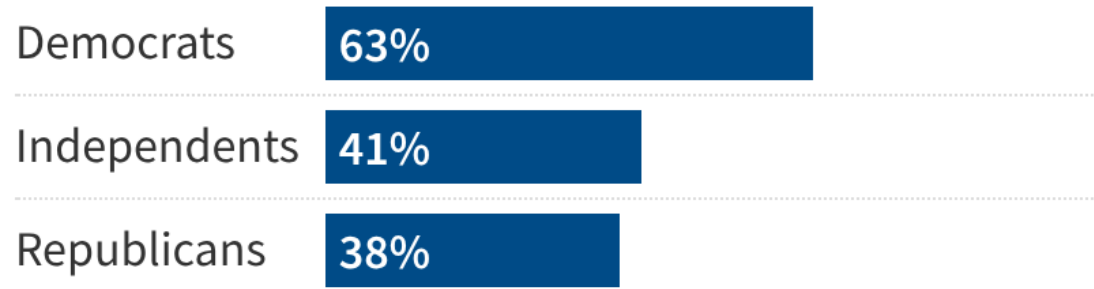
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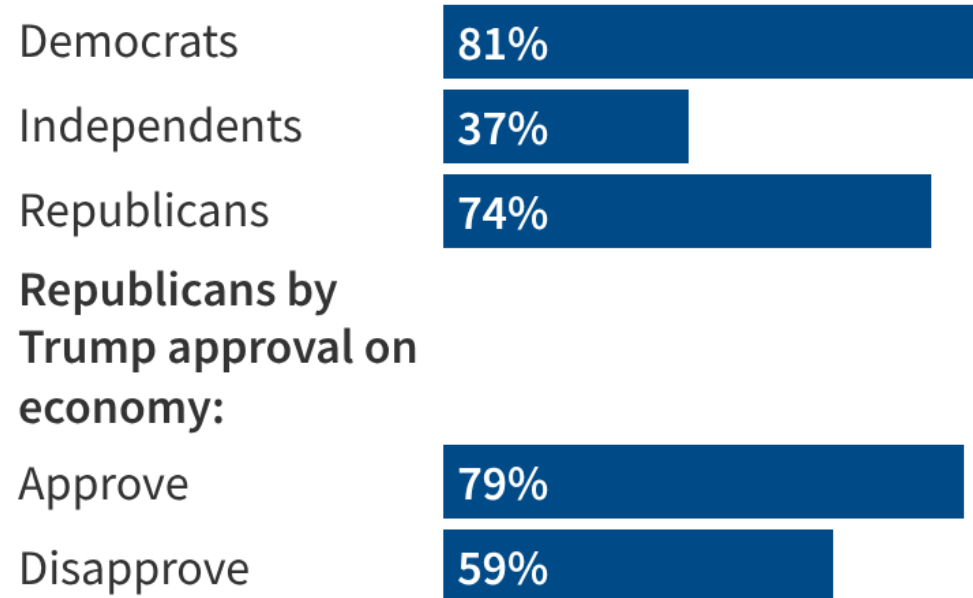
Among voters nationally

Percent of voters who say they are **more motivated** to vote than usual:



Among rural voters

Percent who say they are **absolutely certain** they will vote in the upcoming November 2026 election:



Note: Among registered voters. See topline for full question wording.

Source: KFF Health Tracking Poll (September 16-21, 2026); KFF/AP Rural Voters Survey (August 12-24, 2026)