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Bipartisan Policy Center

# TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Polling Presentation

FEBRUARY 2022

# KEY FINDINGS

- 1. While there is appetite among voters overall for President Biden, Republican members of Congress, and Democratic members of Congress to be *more conservative* rather than *more liberal*, this is driven by independent voters.** Independent voters are more likely to think President Biden should be *more conservative* (33%) rather than *more liberal* (19%).
- 2. There is a strong partisan divide in the grade voters give to members of Congress and President Biden in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner.** A third (32%) of voters give President Biden an *F* in his ability to work in a bipartisan manner, and 46% of independent voters give President Biden a *D* or *F*. Three in five (61%) Democrat voters give Biden a passing grade, compared to 73% of Republicans who give him a failing grade.
- 3. Voters are pessimistic about the amount of bipartisan legislation that is passed by Congress.** A third of voters (36%) think less than quarter of legislation passed by Congress is bipartisan.
- 4. There is appetite for Republicans and Democrats to work together to pass bipartisan legislation.** It is most important to Republican and Democrat voters that Congress work together to pass bipartisan *economic, health care, criminal justice, and immigration legislation*. Additionally, a bipartisan majority of voters want to see Democrats and Republicans work together on *health care, criminal justice, and working family's* legislation, rather than Democrats or Republicans solely working on the issue.
- 5. Bipartisanship is important to voters in the midterm elections.** Thinking about their vote in the midterm elections, a bipartisan majority of voters are more likely to vote for a member of Congress *who finds compromise and common ground between political parties* rather than a member who *stands their ground and pushes their political party's agenda*.
- 6. Voters are most likely to say *money in politics* (76%), *the spread of misinformation* (73%), *the media* (74%), and *social media platforms* (73%) contribute to partisan polarization in the U.S, however top contributors vary across political party.** Democrat voters are more likely than Republican voters to say *voter suppression* (+26%), *the filibuster* (+22%), *the electoral college* (18%), and *redistricting or gerrymandering* (+17%) contribute to partisan polarization in the U.S, while Republican voters are more likely than Democrat voters to say *election fraud* (+17%) contributes to partisan polarization in the U.S.
- 7. Political beliefs are impacting how voters personally engage and interact with others, specifically Democrats.** Over the past two years, about a third of voters have *avoided conversations with people who have different political views* (33%), *limited time viewing cable news* (32%), and *limited time on social media* (27%) based on their political beliefs. Outside of limiting time viewing cable news and time spent on social media to avoid political content, Democrat voters are more likely than Republican voters to have taken the tested actions over the past two years based on their political beliefs.

**Methodology:** This poll was conducted between February 18-20, 2022 among a sample of 2,005 registered voters. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of registered voters based on gender by age, educational attainment, race, marital status, home ownership, race by educational attainment, 2020 presidential vote, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

**BACKGROUND**

# Setting the Scene: Wave 1 (February 18-20, 2022)

## TOP NEWS STORIES WHILE SURVEY WAS IN THE FIELD

- Biden says U.S. intelligence shows that President Putin has decided to invade Ukraine. Putin gave orders Saturday for his country's military to begin prepare for war.
- Canadian police forces mobilized in response to truckers blocking border crossings and streets in Ottawa.
- A New York judge ruled former President Donald Trump and two of his adult children, Donald Trump Jr. and Ivanka Trump, must testify under oath in investigation about business practices.
- Conclusion of Winter Olympics.

## BIDEN APPROVAL

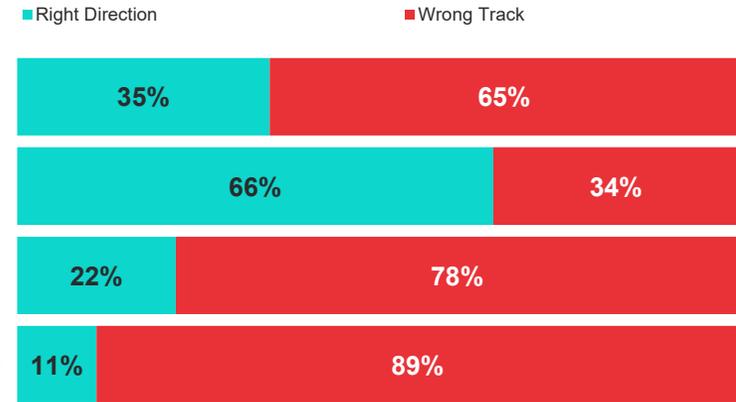
Do you approve or disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as president?

■ Strongly Approve ■ Somewhat Approve ■ Somewhat Disapprove ■ Strongly Disapprove ■ Don't Know / No Opinion



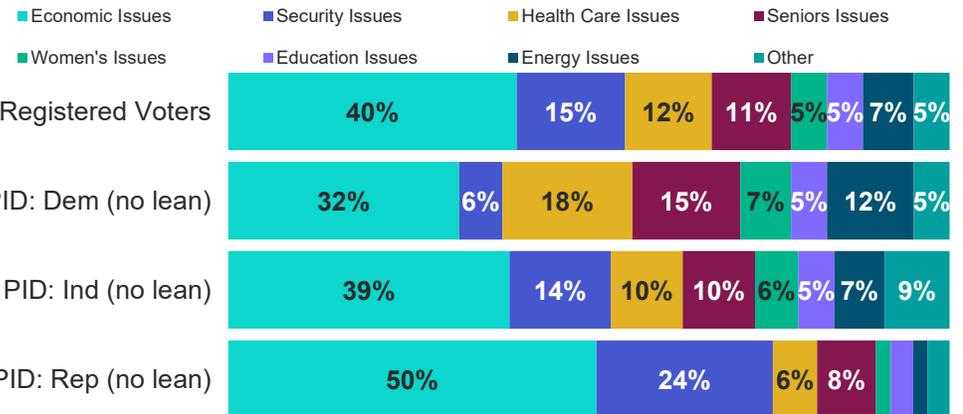
## RIGHT DIRECTION / WRONG TRACK

Now, generally speaking, would you say that things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?



## TOP ISSUE AREA

Now, thinking about your vote, what would you say is the top set of issues on your mind when you cast your vote for federal offices such as U.S. Senate or Congress?



AGENDA

TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

EVALUATING PRESIDENT BIDEN

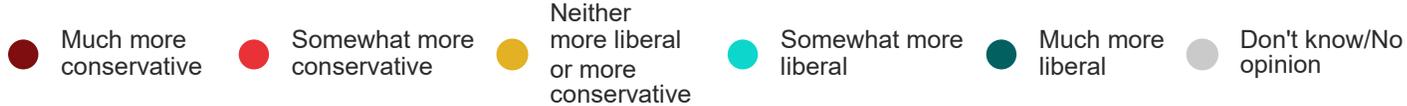
IMPACT OF PARTISAN POLARIZATION



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Overall, voters are more likely to think President Biden, Republican members of Congress, and Democratic members of Congress should be *more conservative* rather than *more liberal*.

Please describe whether you feel each of the following should be more liberal or more conservative?



More Cons. | More Lib.

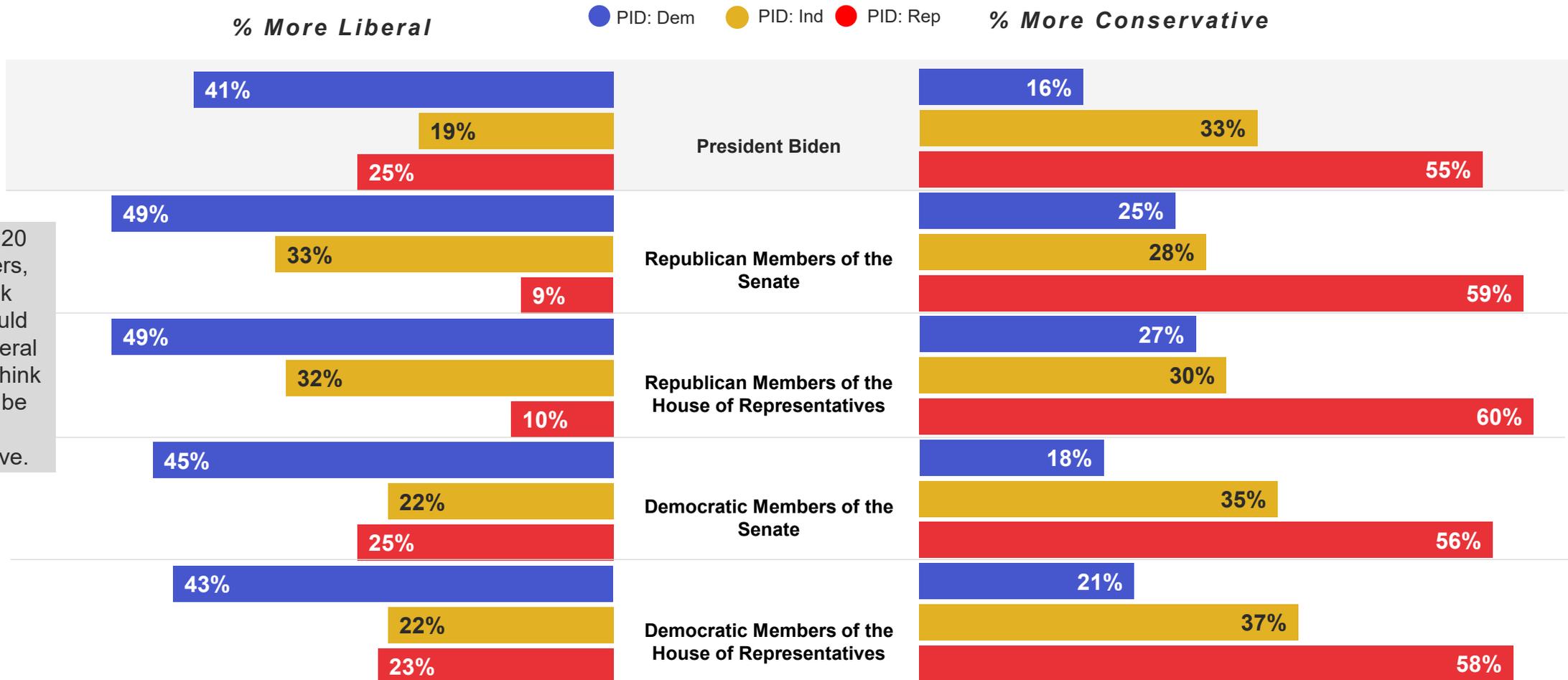


TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

While 41% of Democrat voters think President Biden should be *more liberal*, 16% think he should be *more conservative*. Independent voters are more likely to think President Biden should be *more conservative* (33%) rather than *more liberal* (19%).

Please describe whether you feel each of the following should be more liberal or more conservative?

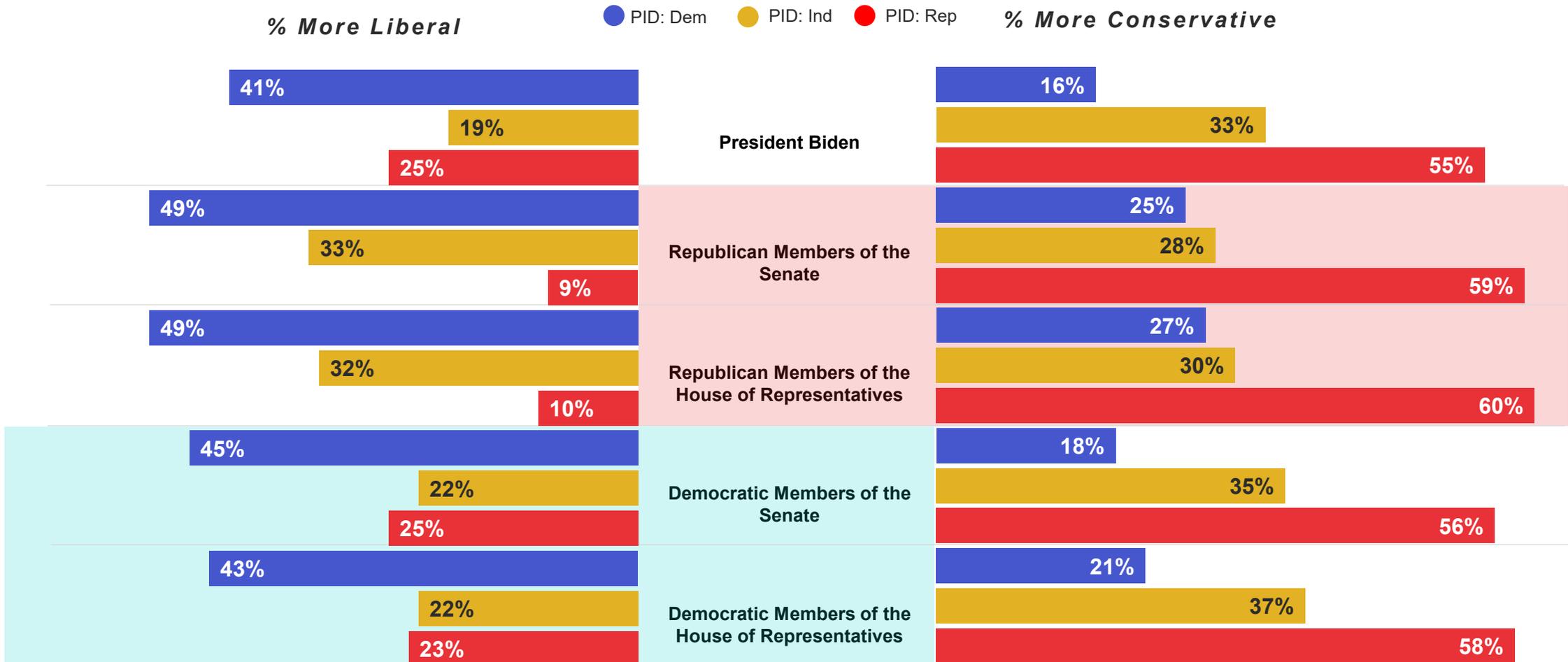
Among 2020 Biden voters, 38% think Biden should be more liberal while 17% think he should be more conservative.



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

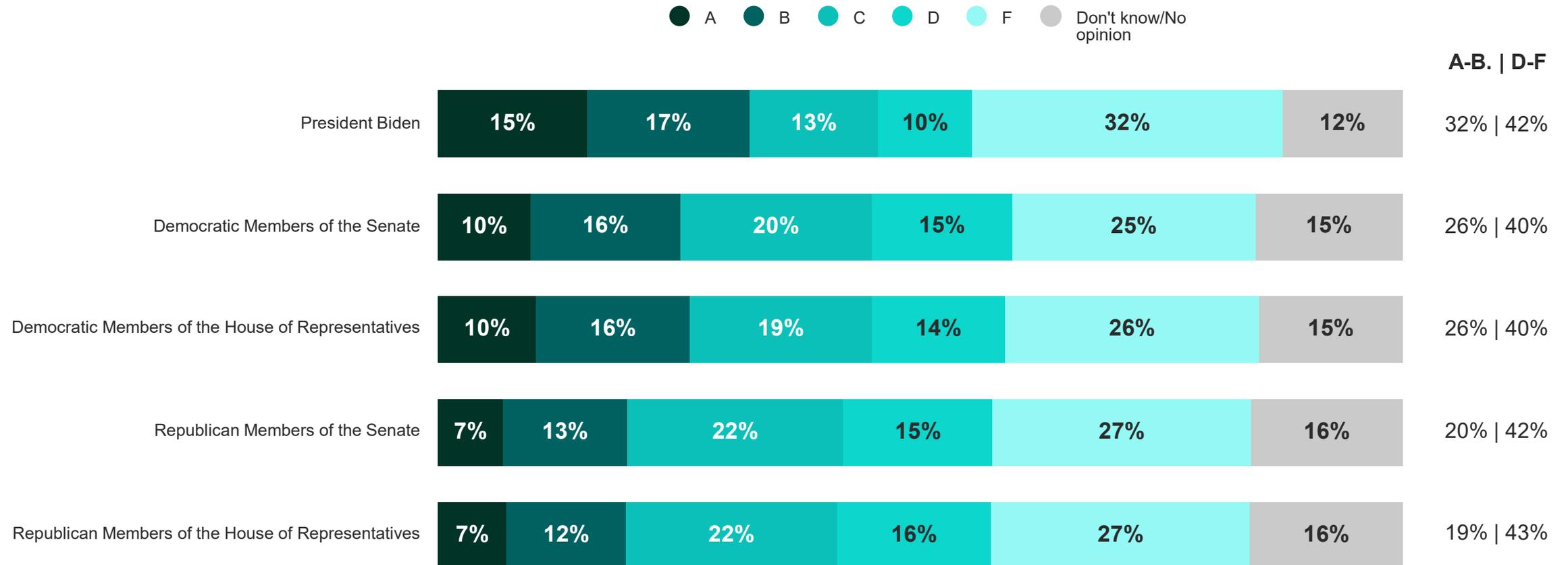
Republican voters are more likely than Democrat voters to think their parties in Congress should respectively be *more conservative* or *more liberal*. A fifth of Democrat voters think Democrats in Congress should be *more conservative*, compared to a tenth of Republican voters who think Republicans in Congress should be *more liberal*.

Please describe whether you feel each of the following should be more liberal or more conservative?



A plurality of voters give the tested bodies of government and President Biden an *F* in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner, including a third (32%) of voters who give Biden an *F*.

How would you grade each of the following in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner?

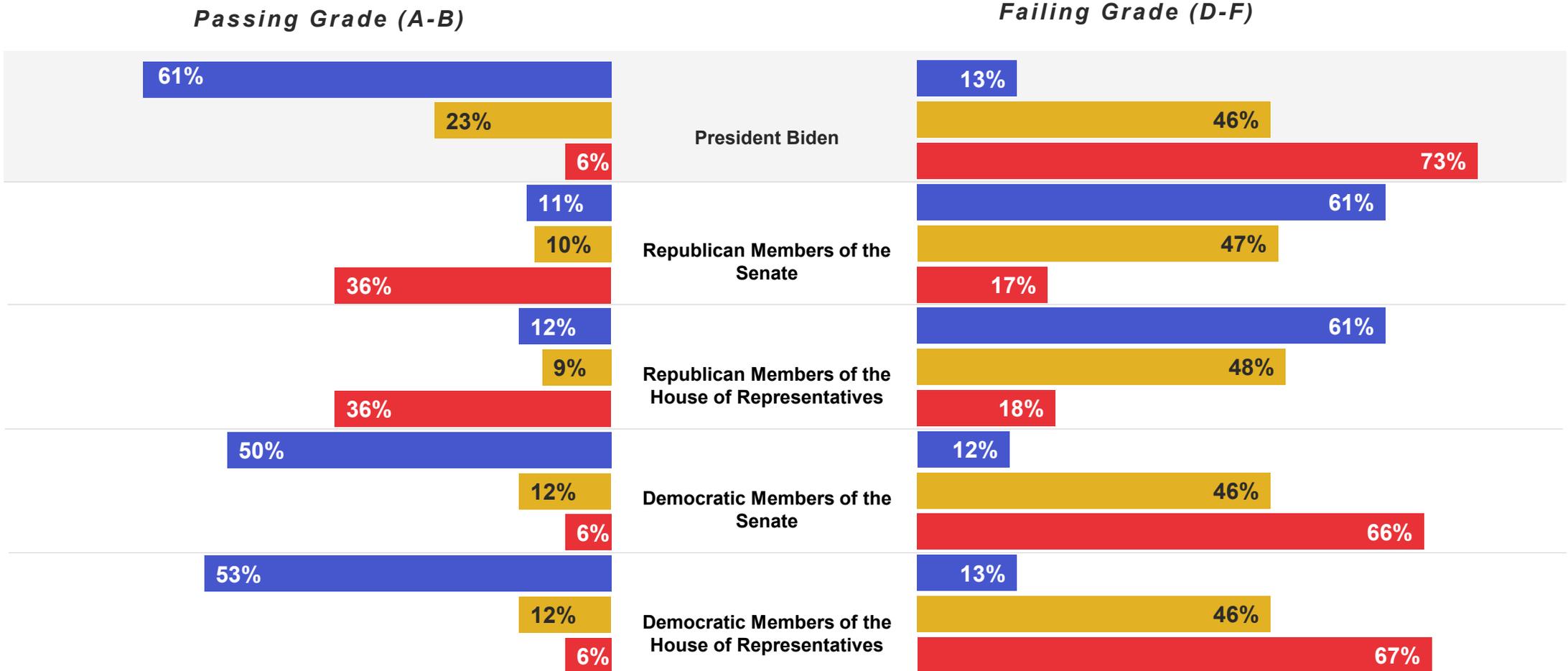


TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Nearly half (46%) of independent voters give President Biden a *D* or *F* in his ability to work in a bipartisan manner.

How would you grade each of the following in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner?

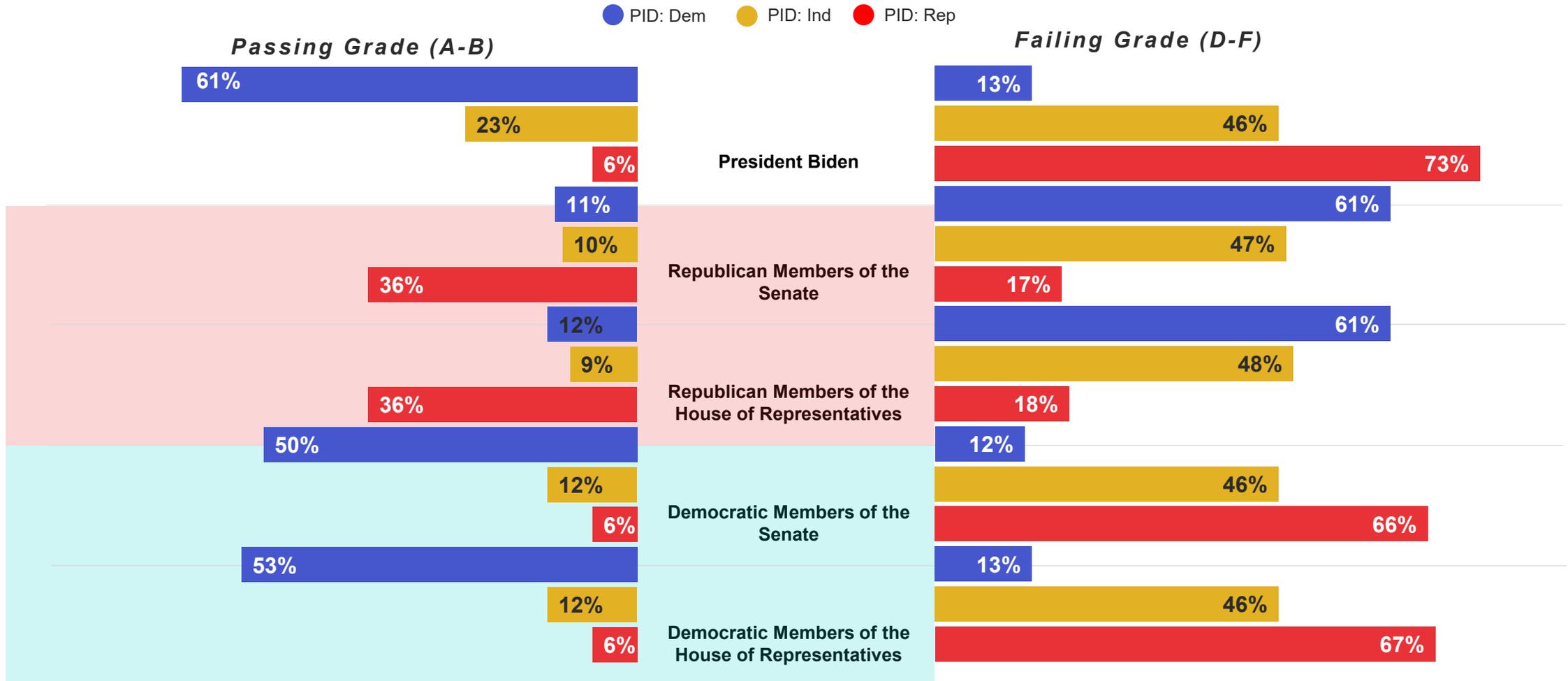
● PID: Dem ● PID: Ind ● PID: Rep



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

While half of Democrat voters give an *A* or *B* to Democratic members in Congress' ability to work in a bipartisan manner, only a third of Republican voters say the same about Republican members in Congress.

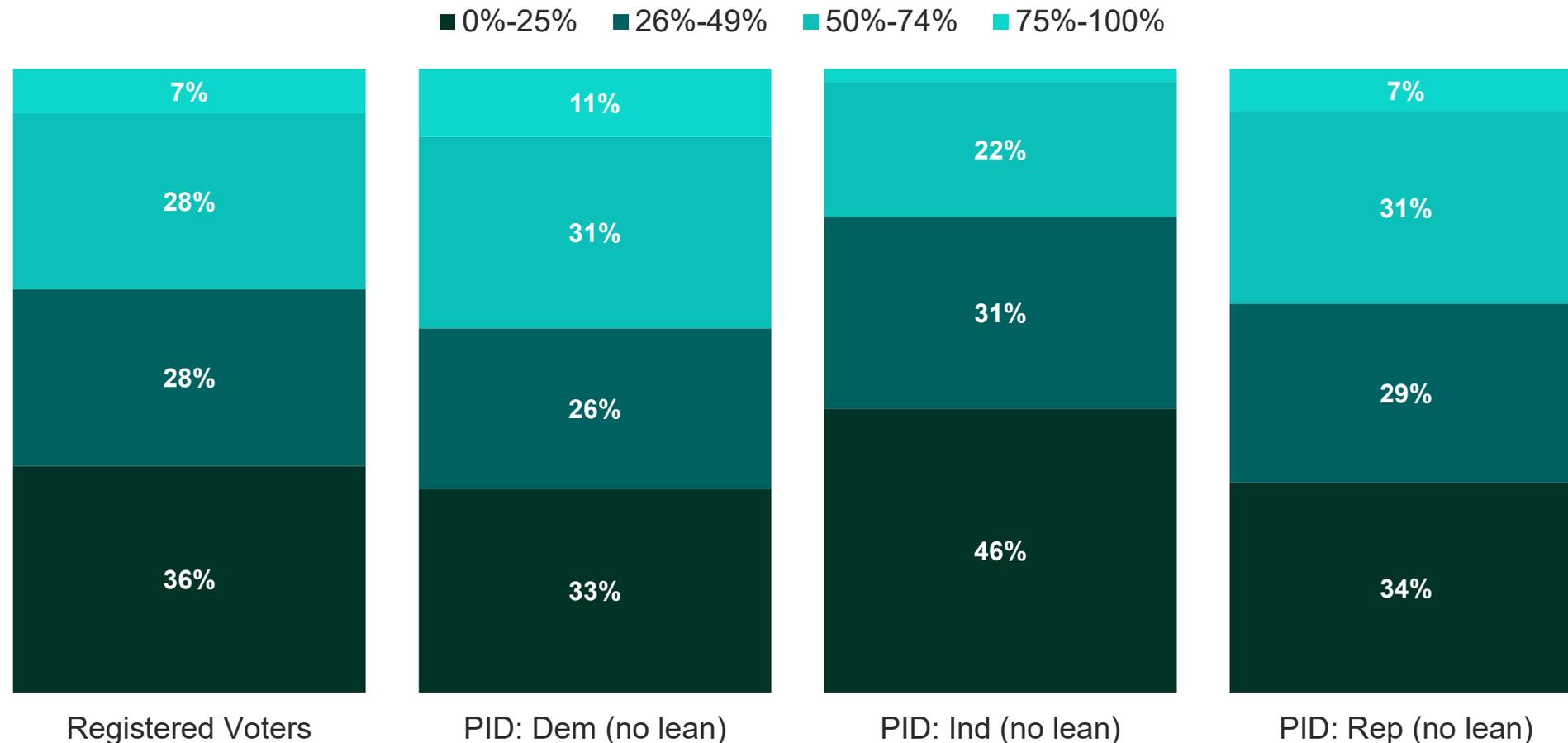
How would you grade each of the following in their ability to work in a bipartisan manner?



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

A third of voters (36%) think less than quarter of legislation passed by Congress is bipartisan. Independent voters (46%) are more likely than Democrat (33%) and Republican (34%) voters to think less than a quarter of legislation passed by Congress is bipartisan.

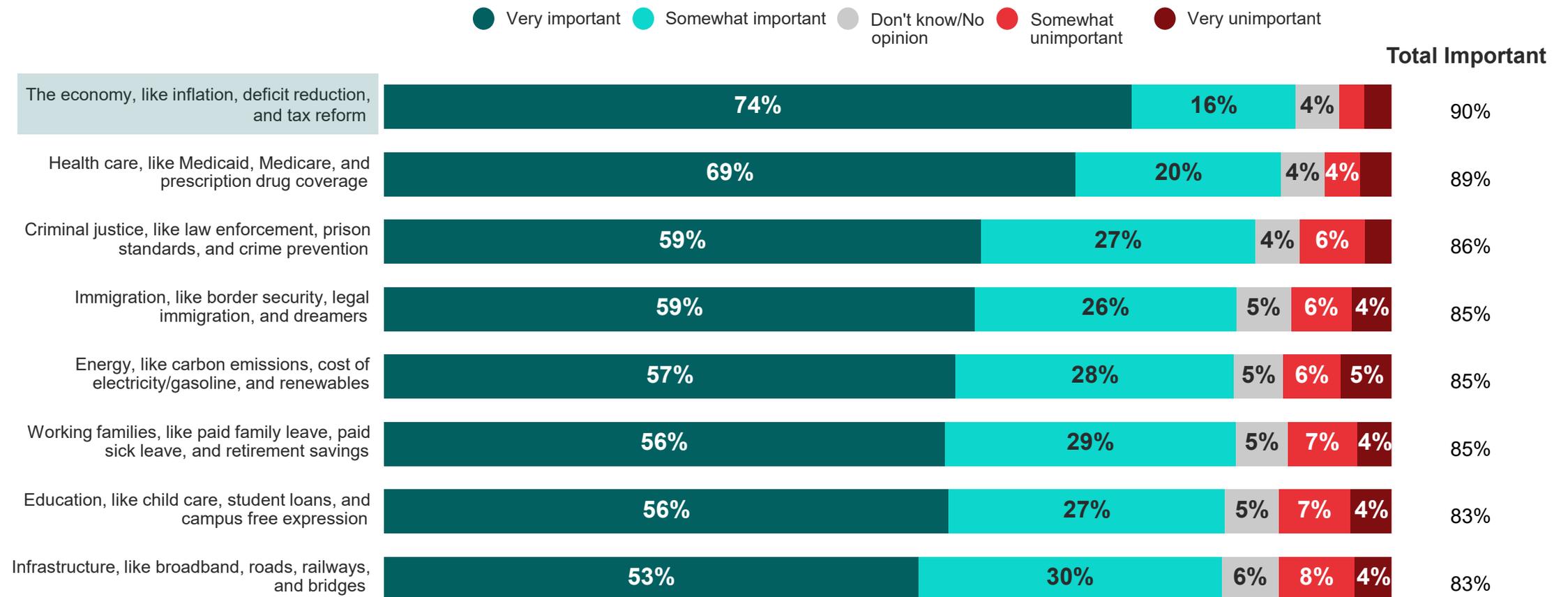
Based on what you know, what percentage of legislation passed by Congress is bipartisan?



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Three quarters of voters (74%) think it is *very important* Democrats and Republicans in Congress work together to pass bipartisan *economic legislation*.

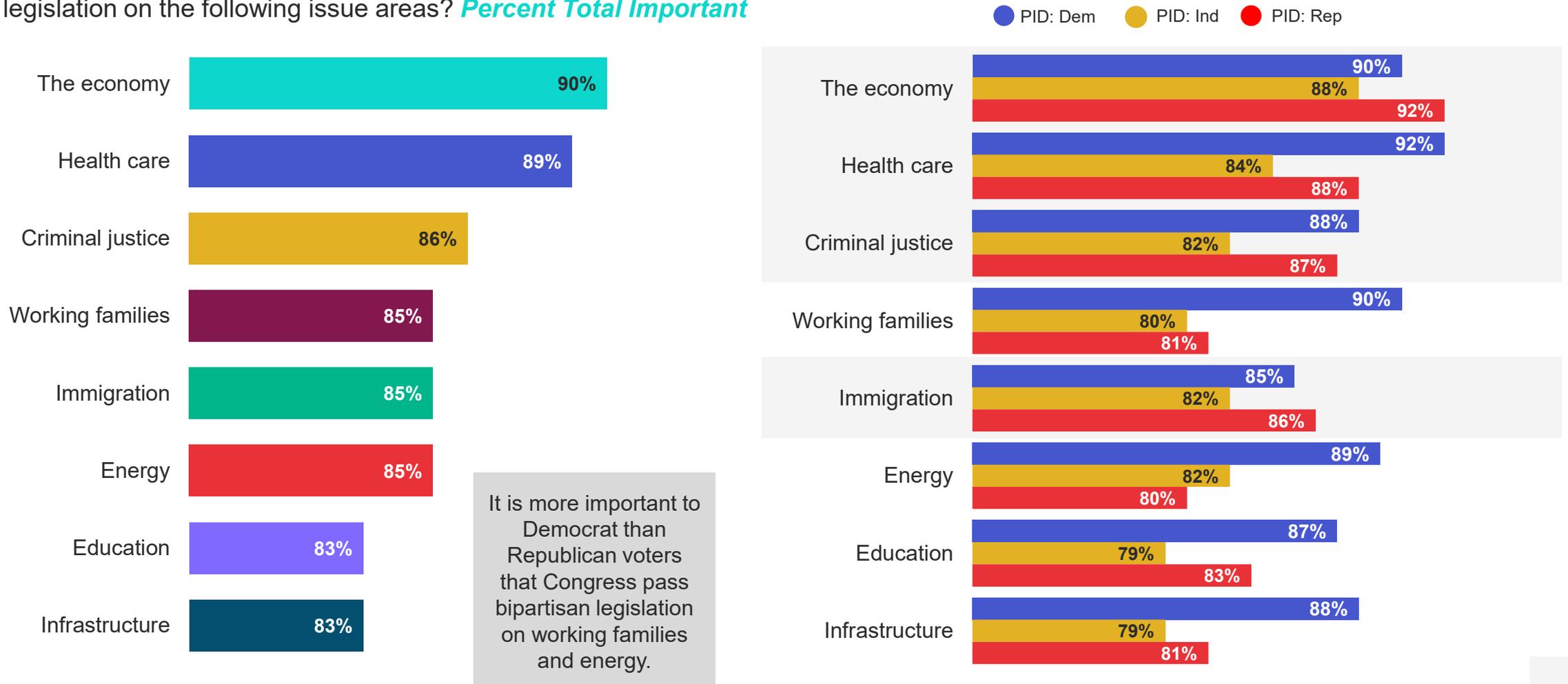
In your opinion, how important or unimportant is it for Democrats and Republicans in Congress to work together to pass bipartisan legislation on the following issue areas?



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

A strong majority of Democrat and Republican voters think it is important Congress work together to pass bipartisan *economic* (90%, 92%), *health care* (92%, 82%), *criminal justice* (88%, 87%), and *immigration* (85%, 87%) legislation.

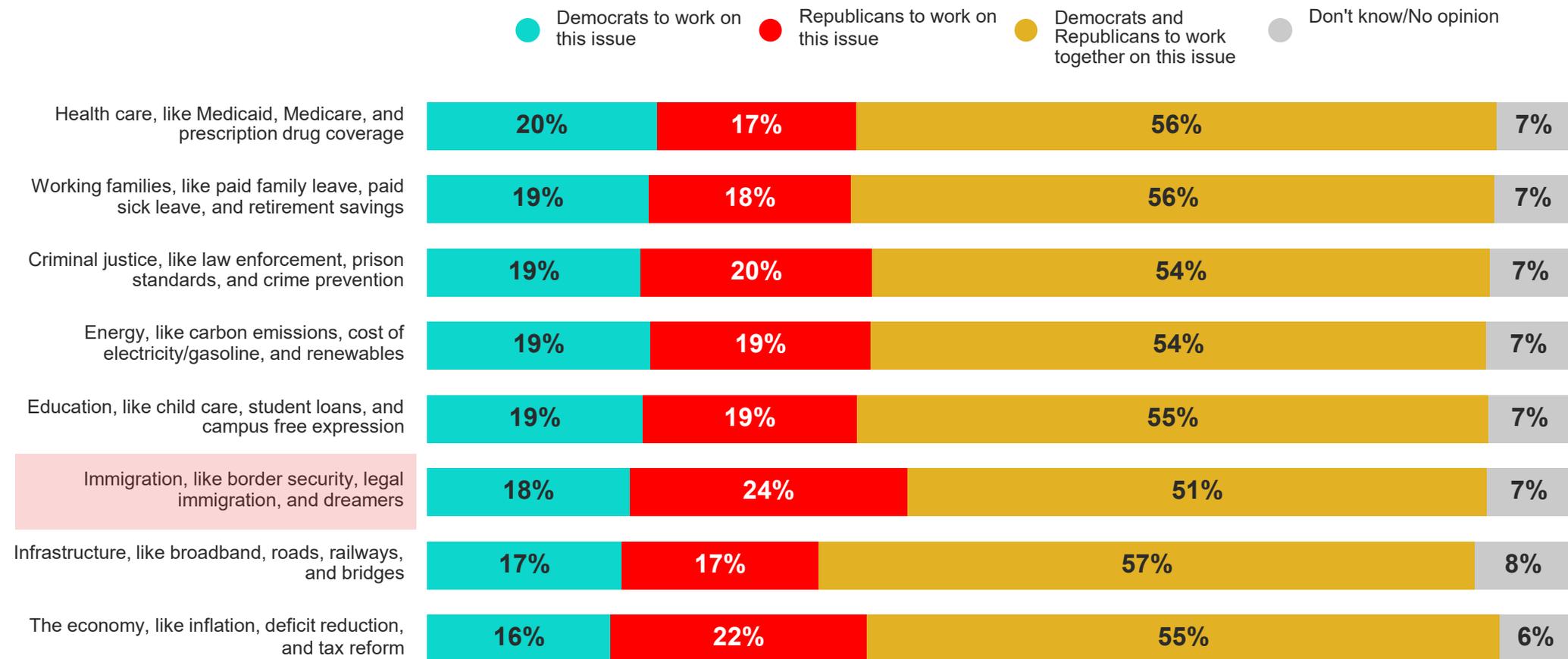
In your opinion, how important or unimportant is it for Democrats and Republicans in Congress to work together to pass bipartisan legislation on the following issue areas? *Percent Total Important*



TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

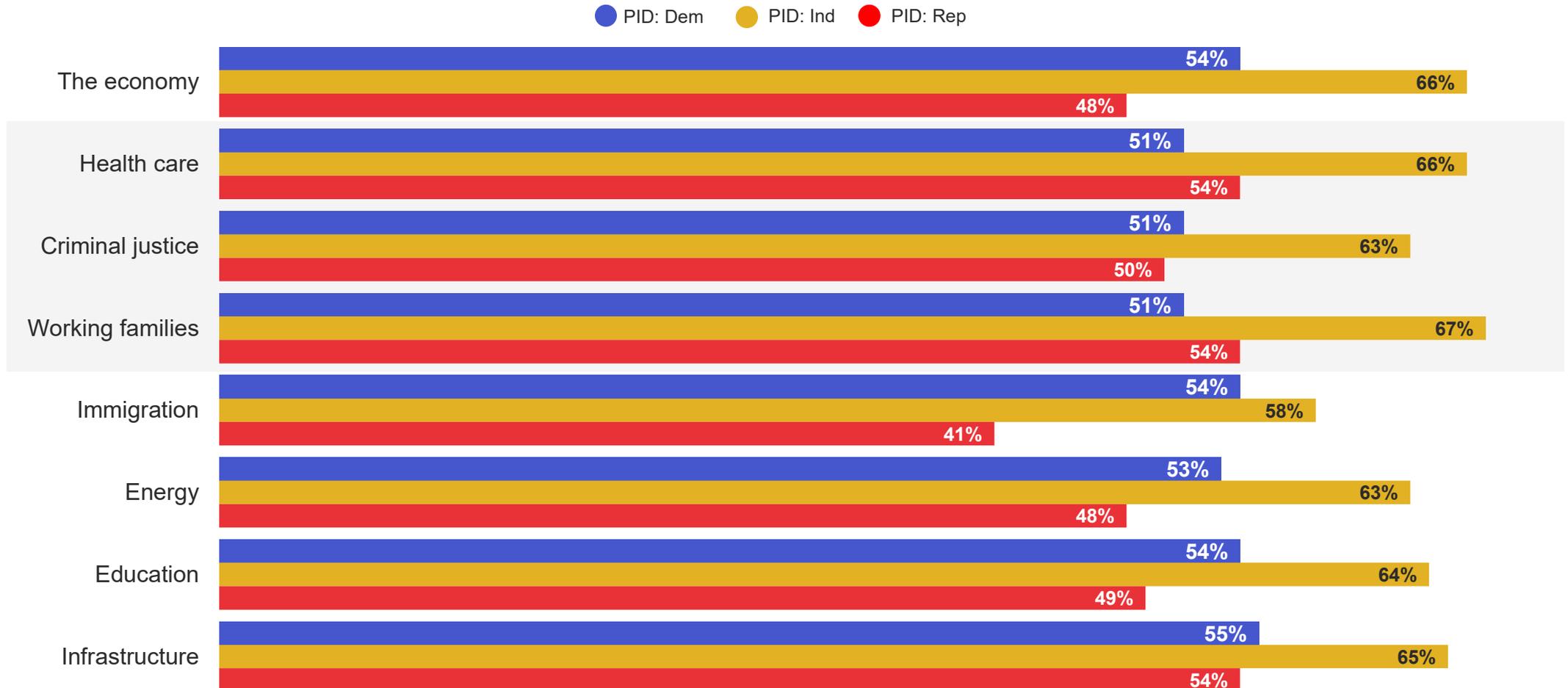
A majority of voters want *Democrats and Republicans to work together* on each of the tested issue areas together rather than Democrats or Republicans solely working on the issue. Voters are most likely to want *Republicans to work on immigration* (24%).

Who would you most like to see work on each of the following issue topics?



A bipartisan majority of voters want to see *Democrats and Republicans work together* on health care, criminal justice, and working family's legislation.

Who would you most like to see work on each of the following issue topics? *Percent Democrats and Republicans Work Together*



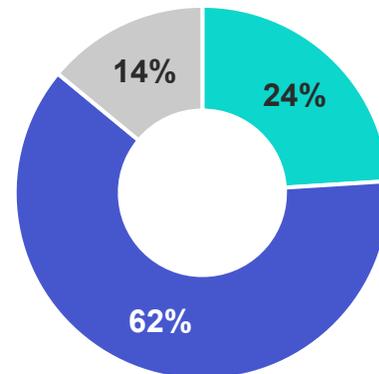
TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

Thinking about their vote in the midterm elections, a bipartisan majority of voters are more likely to vote for a member of Congress who *finds compromise and common ground between political parties* rather than a member who *stands their ground and pushes their political party's agenda*.

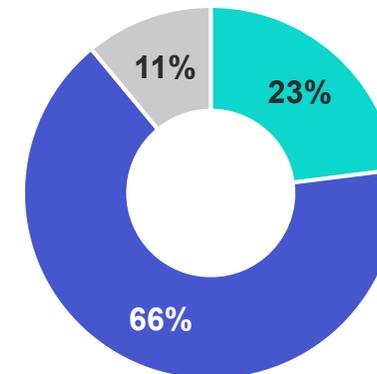
Thinking about your vote in the November 2022 midterm elections, which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly correct?

- I am more likely to vote for a member of Congress who **finds compromise and common ground** between political parties
- I am more likely to vote for a member of Congress who **stands their ground and pushes their political party's own agenda**
- Don't know/No opinion

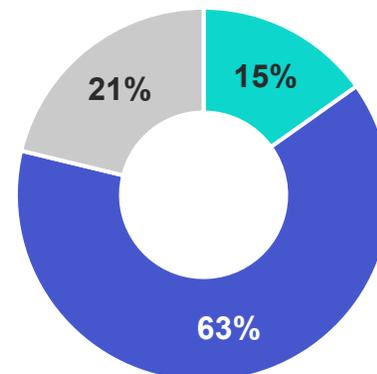
REGISTERED VOTERS



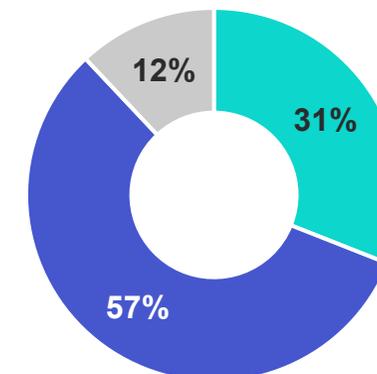
PID: DEM



PID: IND



PID: REP



A third of Republican voters (31%) are more likely to vote for member of Congress who stands their ground and pushes their political party's own agenda.

AGENDA

TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

EVALUATING PRESIDENT BIDEN

IMPACT OF PARTISAN POLARIZATION

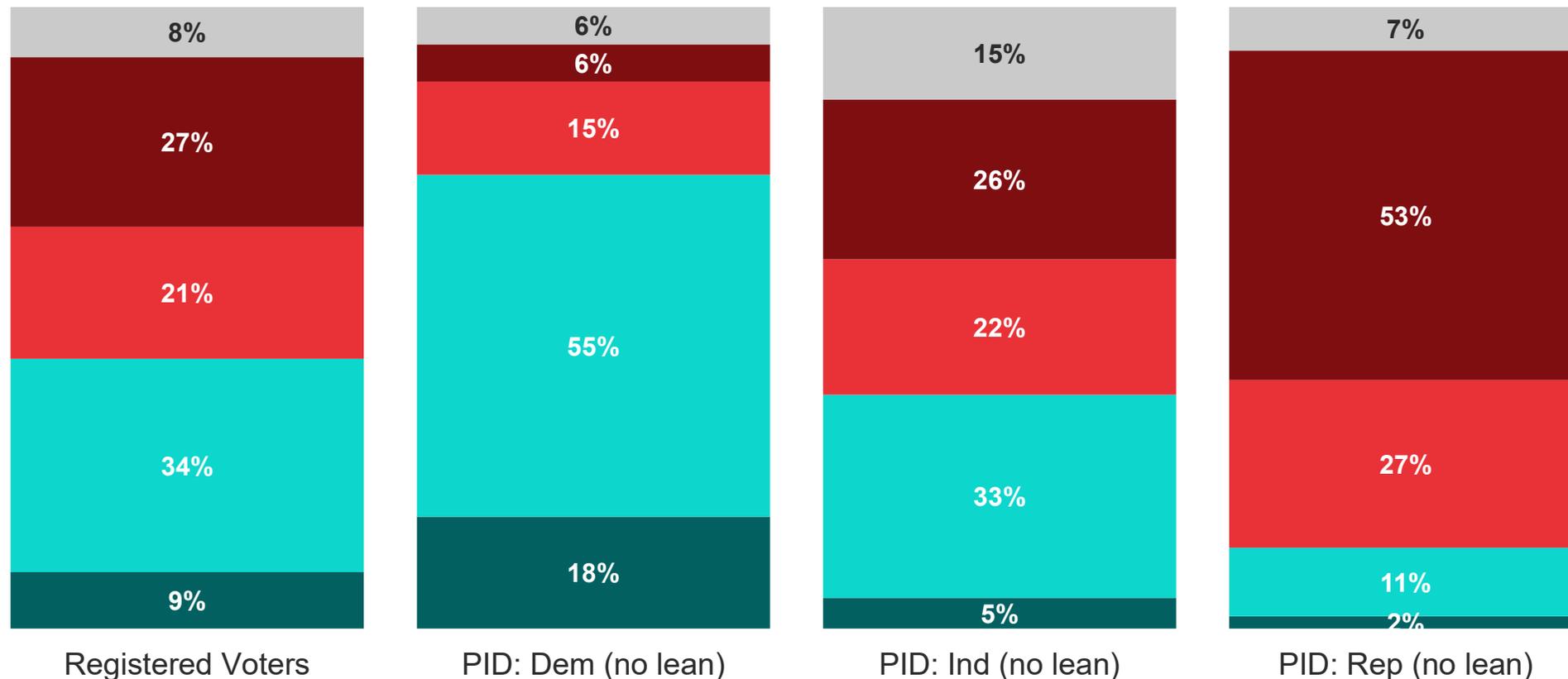


EVALUATING PRESIDENT BIDEN

Voters are more likely to think Biden has *not kept many or none* (48%) than *all or some* (43%) of the promises he made on the campaign trail.

Thinking about the promises President Biden made on the campaign trail, which of the following best represents your view?

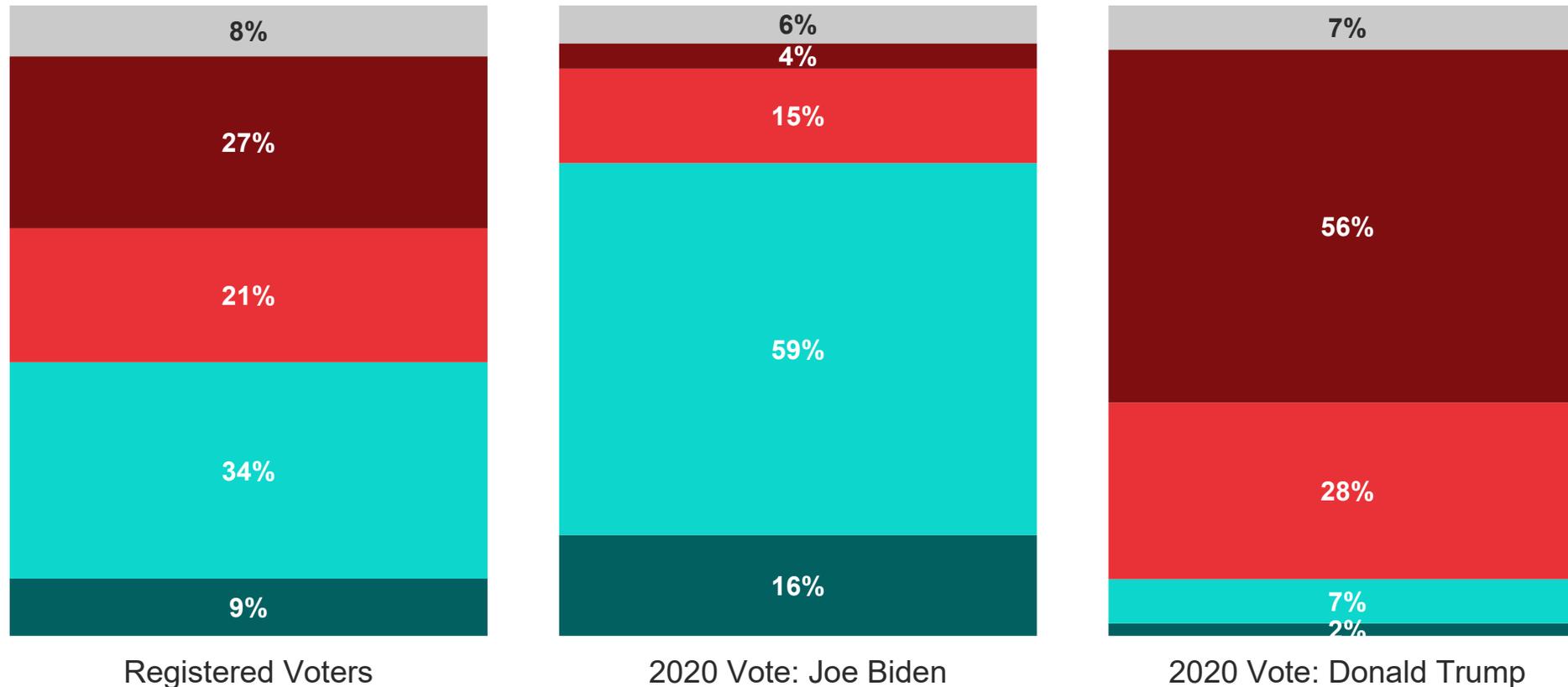
- Biden kept all the promises made on campaign
- Biden kept some the promises made on campaign
- Biden not kept many promises made on campaign
- Biden none of the promises made on campaign
- Don't know/No opinion



EVALUATING PRESIDENT BIDEN

Sixteen percent of 2020 Biden voters think he has kept *all of the promises* he made on the campaign trail, compared to 56% of 2020 Trump voters who think Biden has kept *none of the promises* made. Thinking about the promises President Biden made on the campaign trail, which of the following best represents your view?

- Biden kept all the promises made on campaign
- Biden kept some the promises made on campaign
- Biden not kept many promises made on campaign
- Biden none of the promises made on campaign
- Don't know/No opinion



AGENDA

TRACKING BIPARTISANSHIP

EVALUATING PRESIDENT BIDEN

IMPACT OF PARTISAN POLARIZATION



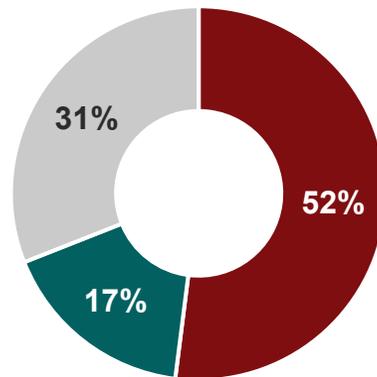
IMPACT OF PARTISAN POLARIZATION

Voters are more likely to think partisan polarization has *increased* (52%) rather than *decreased* (17%) over the past two years.

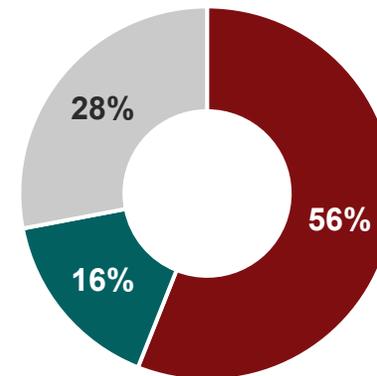
In your view, has partisan polarization increased or decreased in the past two years?

- Increased
- Decreased
- Don't know/No opinion

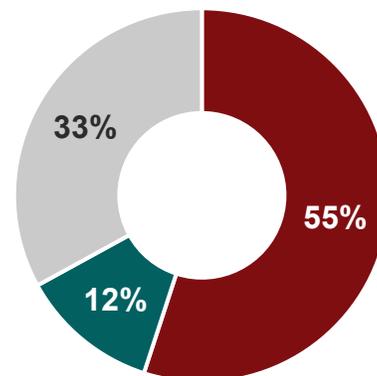
REGISTERED VOTERS



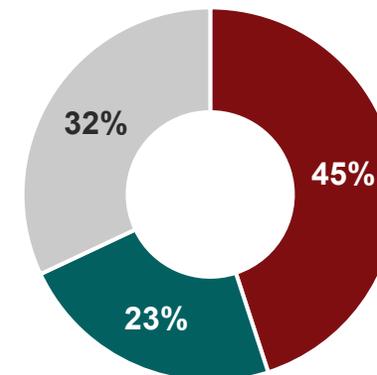
PID: DEM



PID: IND



PID: REP

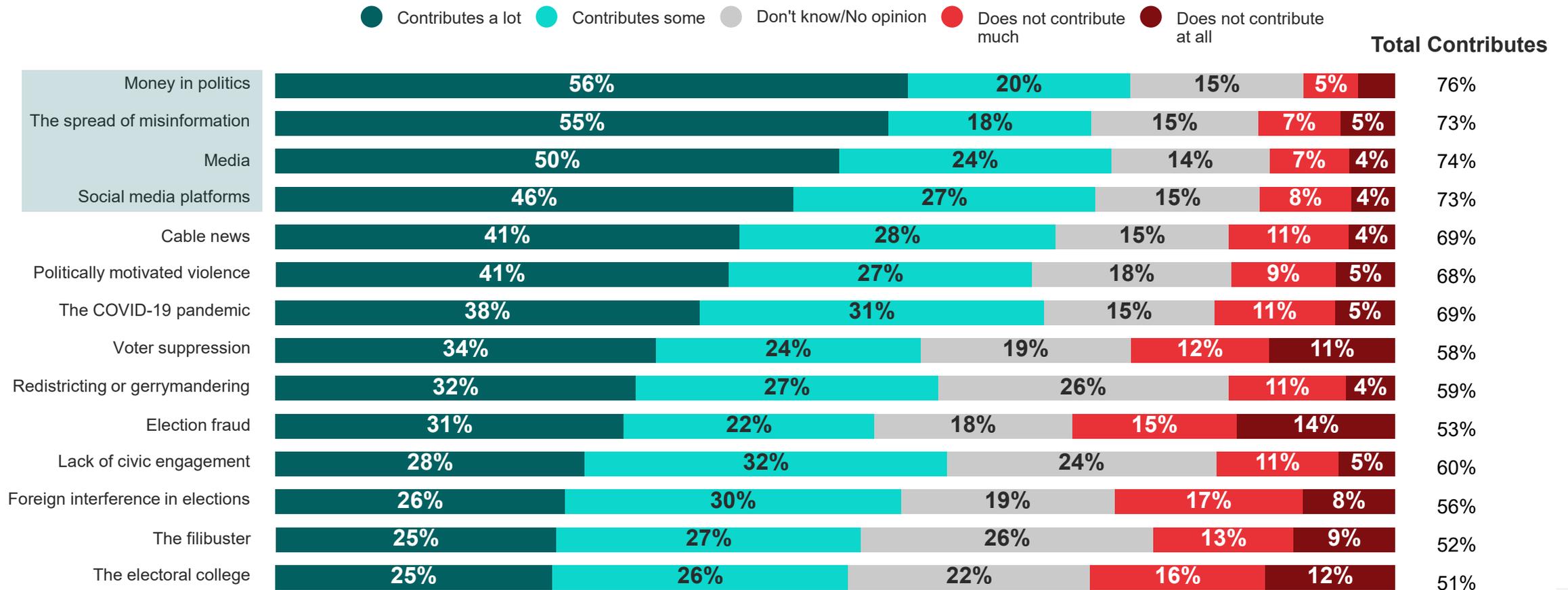


A quarter of Republican voters (23%) say partisan polarization has decreased over the past two years.

IMPACT OF PARTISAN POLARIZATION

Voters are most likely to say *money in politics* (76%), *the spread of misinformation* (73%), *the media* (74%), and *social media platforms* (73%) contribute to partisan polarization in the U.S.

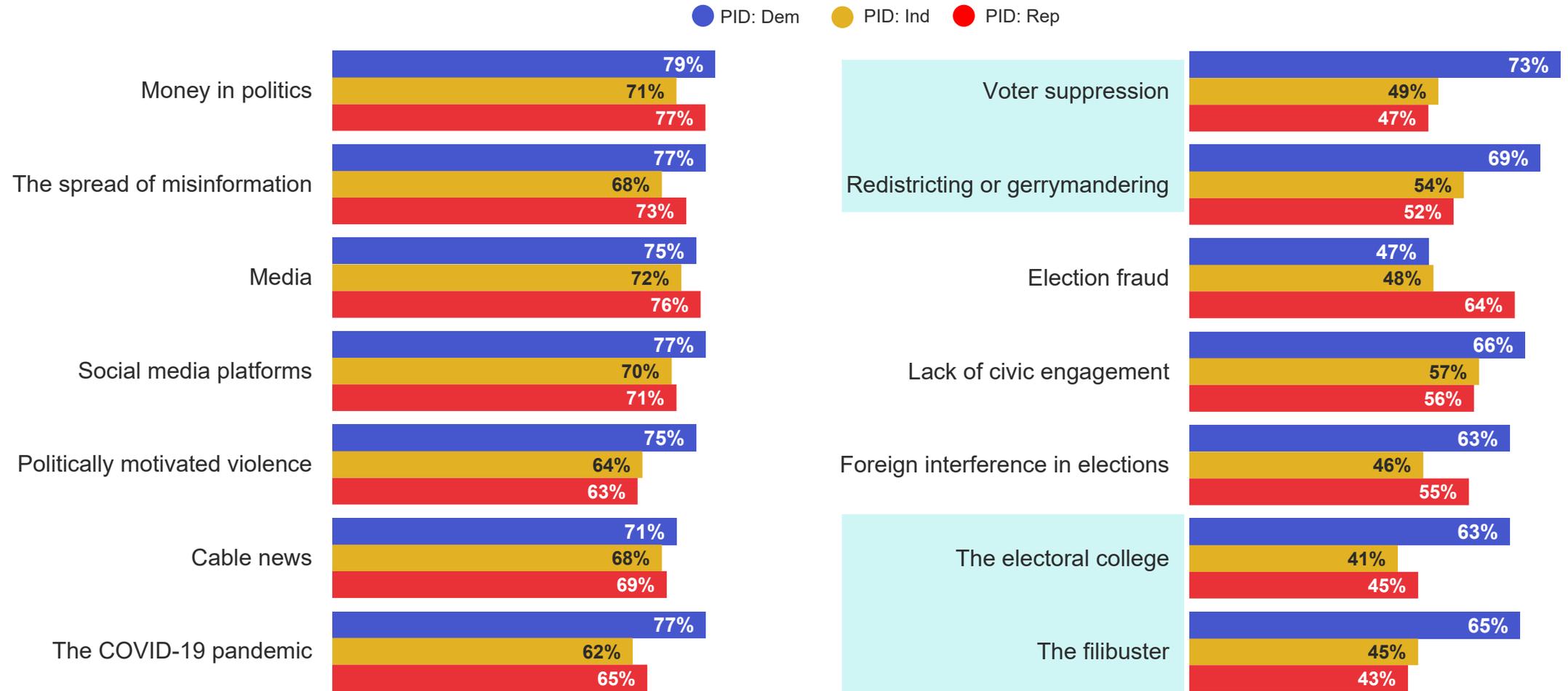
In your view, how much, if at all, do each of the following contribute to partisan polarization in the U.S.?



IMPACT OF PARTISAN POLARIZATION

Democrat voters are more likely than Republican voters to say *voter suppression* (+26%), *the filibuster* (+22%), *the electoral college* (18%), and *redistricting or gerrymandering* (+17%) contribute to partisan polarization in the U.S.

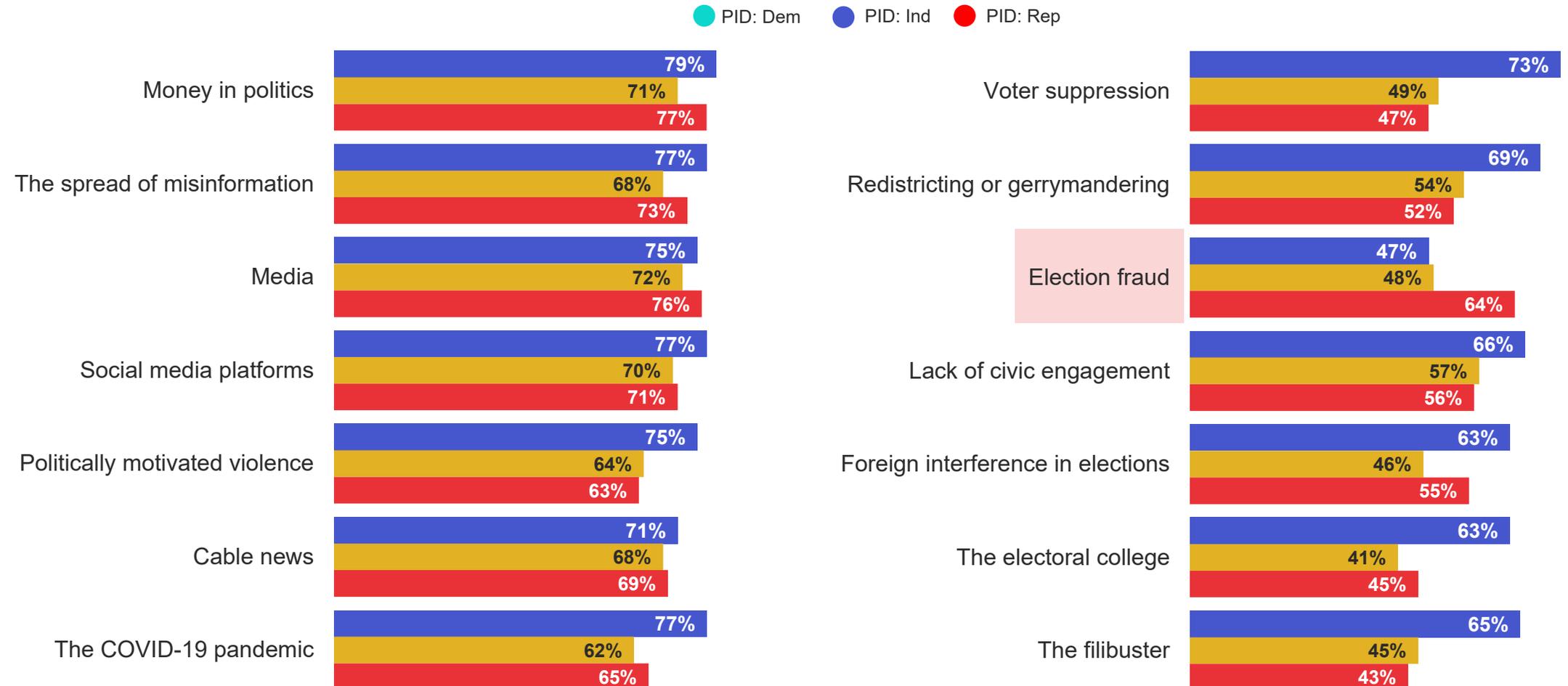
In your view, how much, if at all, do each of the following contribute to partisan polarization in the U.S.? *Percent Total Contributors*



IMPACT OF PARTISAN POLARIZATION

On the other hand, Republican voters are more likely than Democrat voters to say *election fraud* (+17%) contributes to partisan polarization in the U.S.

In your view, how much, if at all, do each of the following contribute to partisan polarization in the U.S.? *Percent Total Contributes*

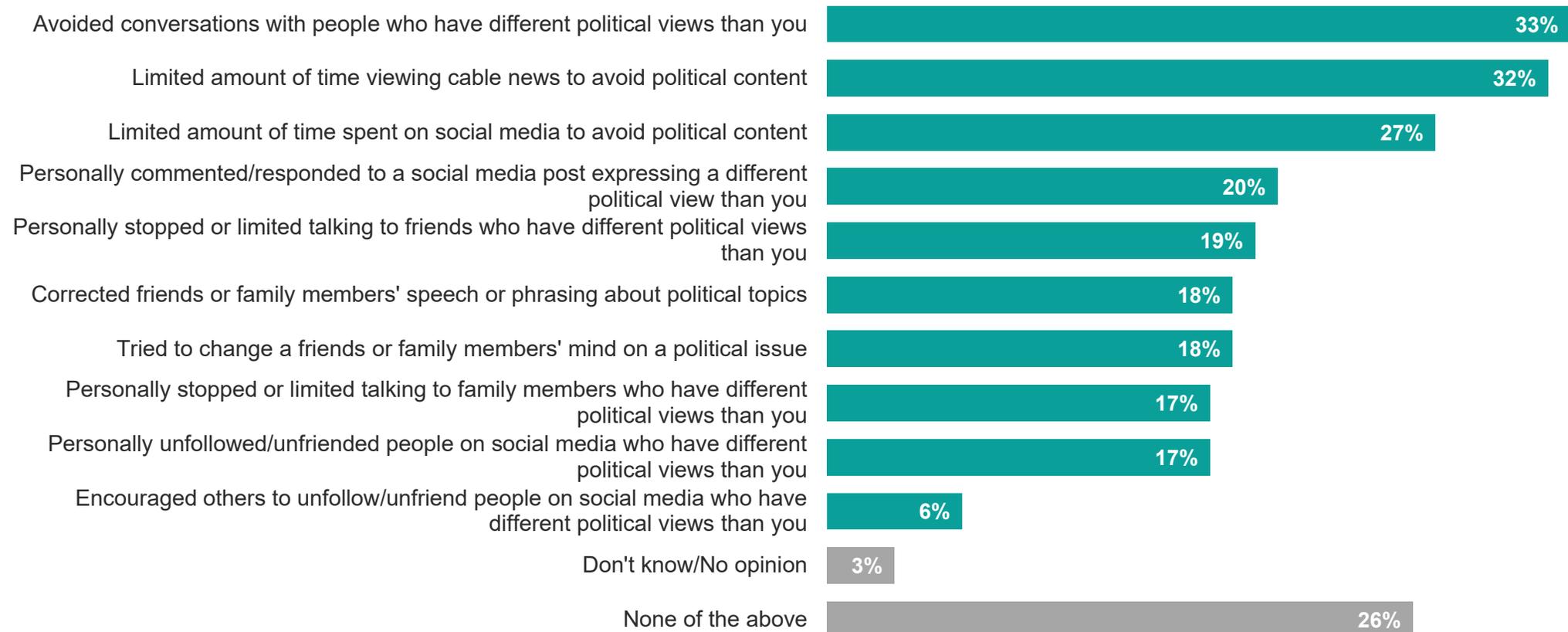


## IMPACT OF PARTISAN POLARIZATION

Over the past two years, about a third of voters have *avoided conversations with people who have different political views* (33%), *limited time viewing cable news* (32%), and *limited time on social media* (27%) based on their political beliefs.

Have you done any of the following based on your political beliefs in the past two years? Please select all that apply.

### Percent Selected

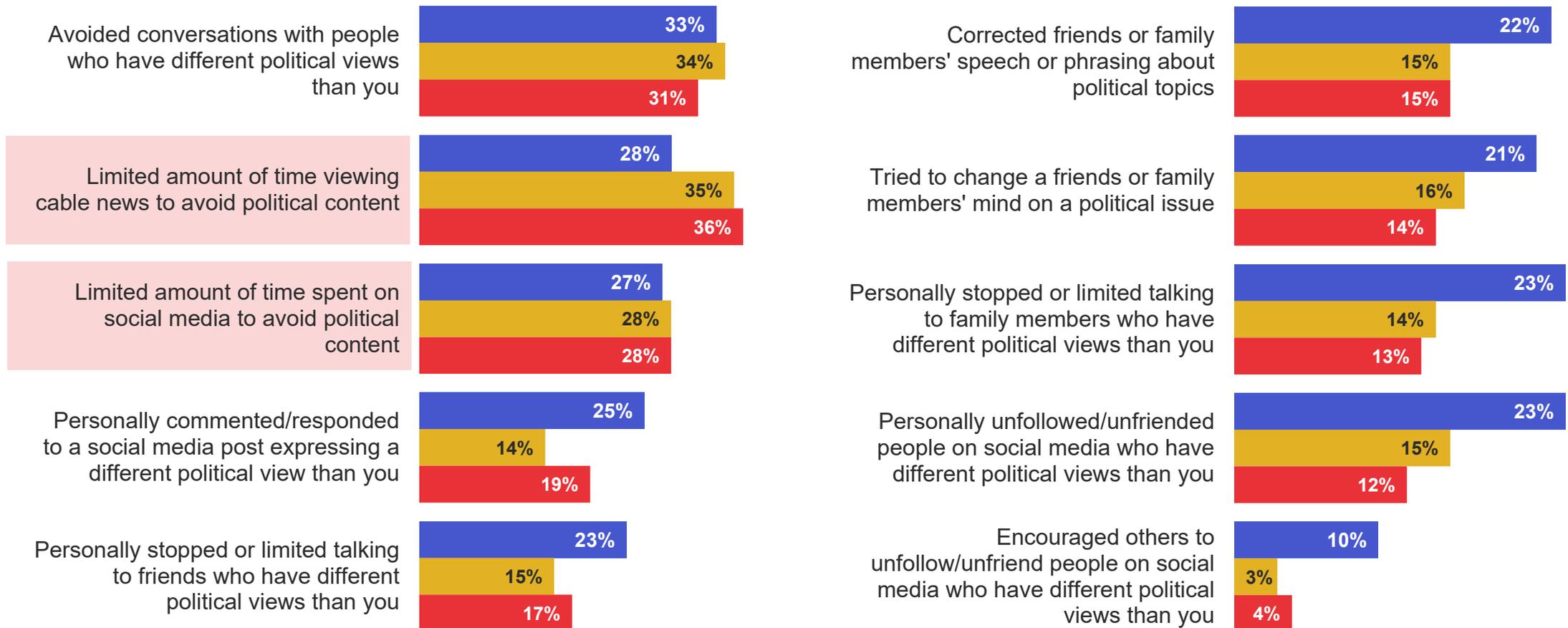


IMPACT OF PARTISAN POLARIZATION

Outside of *limiting time viewing cable news* and *time spent on social media to avoid political content*, Democrat voters are more likely than Republican voters to have taken the tested actions over the past two years based on their political beliefs.

Have you done any of the following based on your political beliefs in the past two years? Please select all that apply. *Percent Selected*

● PID: Dem ● PID: Ind ● PID: Rep





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