

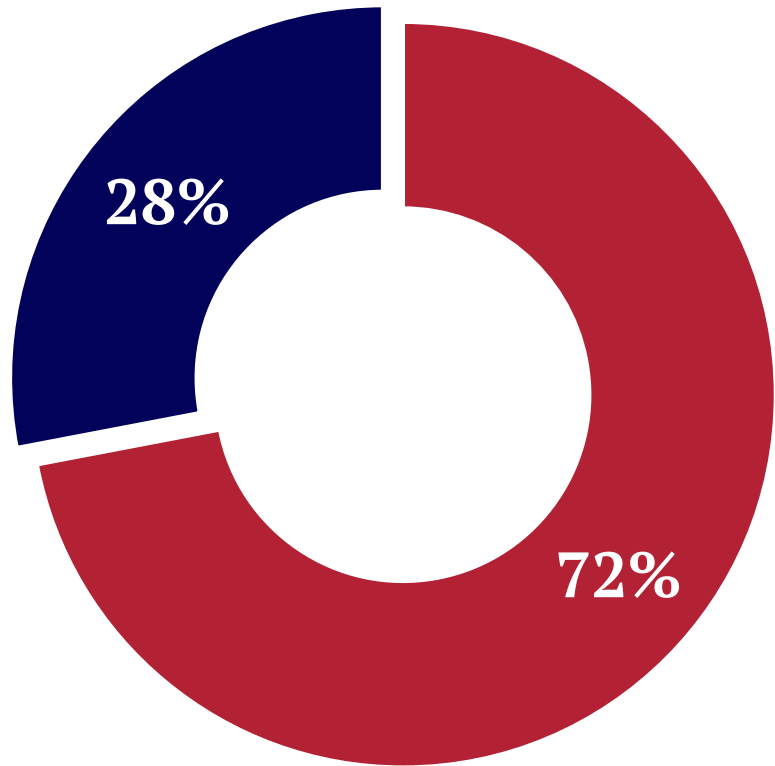


STOP PAYING THE CROOKS
*Perceptions of Fraud in Government
Spending and Priority for Reform*

 **McLaughlin & Associates**

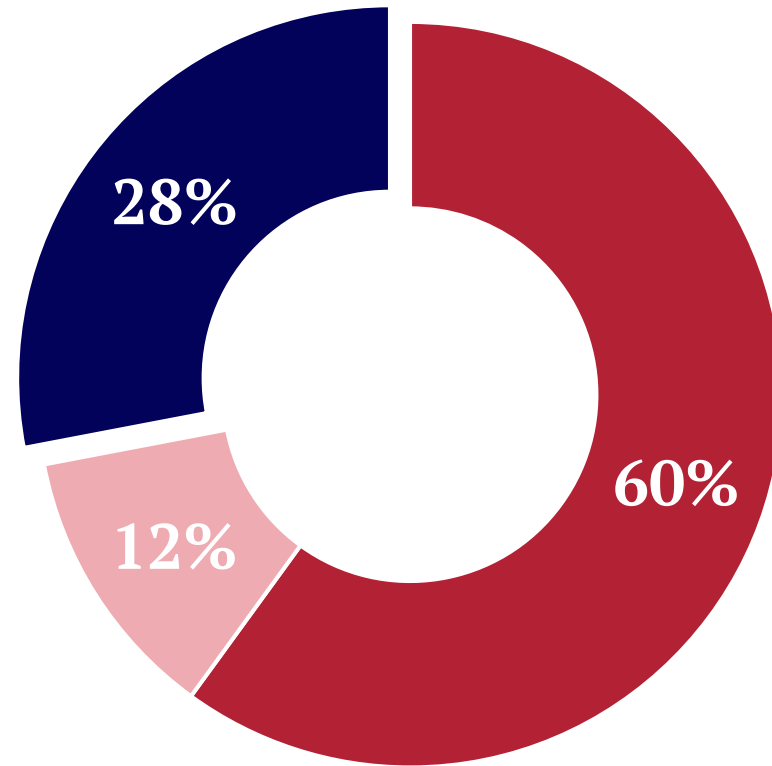


VOTER UNIVERSE – March 4-7, 2025



■ New Majority

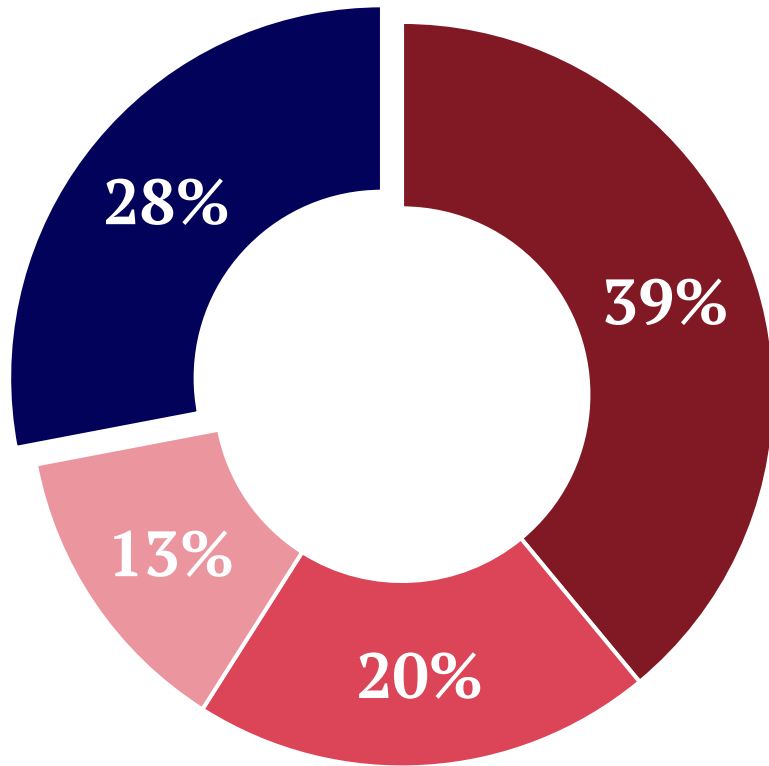
■ Left Minority



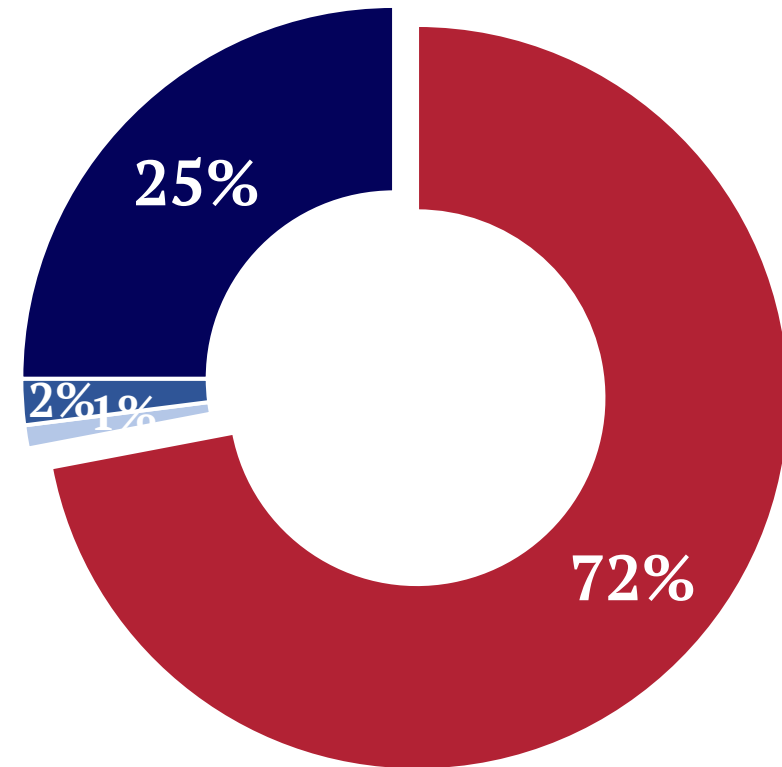
- Core New Majority (All those who scored 7.5 and above AND those who scored between 5.5 and 7.4 who are definitely voting GOP in 2026)
- Expanded New Majority (Scored between 5.5 and 7.4 who are leaning DEM, undecided, leaning GOP, or probably voting GOP in 2026)
- Left Minority (All those who scored between 0 and 5.4 AND those who scored between 5.5 and 7.4 who are probably or definitely voting DEM in 2026)



VOTER UNIVERSE – March 4-7, 2025



- New Majority definitely or probably voting GOP in 2026
- New Majority who are undecided or leaning in 2026
- New Majority who are probably or definitely voting Dem in 2026
- Left Minority



- New Majority
- Left Minority who are undecided or leaning in 2026
- Left Minority who are definitely or probably voting GOP in 2026
- Left Minority definitely or probably voting Dem in 2026



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- On average, Americans believe 25% of all federal spending is lost to fraud. This suggests Americans have a broader definition of fraud than the government's definition.
- More than 8-in-10 voters agree that the government should figure out how to stop paying crooks instead of allowing taxes to increase or cutting safety net programs.
- Most agree that spending reductions coming from reducing fraud in safety net programs should be considered “savings” instead of “cuts” to those programs.
- Most say the savings from reducing fraud should be kept in the programs or used to reduce the debt or deficit.
- Using the savings to pay for “stopping a tax increase” performs better than using it to pay for “extending the Trump tax cuts.”

On Average, Americans Believe 25% of all Federal Spending is Lost to Fraud

SIGNIFICANT DIFFERENCES IN PERCEPTION OF AMOUNT OF FRAUD BY PARTY AND GENDER

“If you had to guess, what percent of federal spending is lost to fraud?”

	Overall		GOP	DEM	IND	Swing Voter		Men	Women	Single Women		Asian	Black	Hisp.	White		Gen Z	Millennial	Gen X	Baby Boomers+
0%-4%	12		3	21	13	12		14	11	14		15	14	14	11		9	13	13	12
5%-9%	14		9	18	16	16		17	12	11		13	16	15	14		17	18	13	11
10%-14%	14		13	16	13	16		16	13	13		17	15	15	14		15	16	14	13
15%-19%	8		7	8	8	8		8	8	9		10	6	8	8		9	8	6	8
20%-24%	11		12	10	9	11		12	10	11		12	10	10	11		13	8	8	14
25%-29%	8		9	7	7	7		7	8	7		5	8	7	8		8	8	7	8
30%-39%	10		13	6	11	10		8	11	11		9	10	12	9		7	8	11	11
40%-49%	6		9	4	6	6		5	8	8		3	5	5	7		7	7	5	7
50%+	17		26	10	16	15		15	20	18		18	17	14	18		15	15	23	16
Mean %	25%		33%	19%	24%	23%		23%	28%	27%		25%	25%	24%	26%		24%	24%	28%	25%



Target Voters More Likely to Believe There Is More Fraud

“If you had to guess, what percent of federal spending is lost to fraud?”

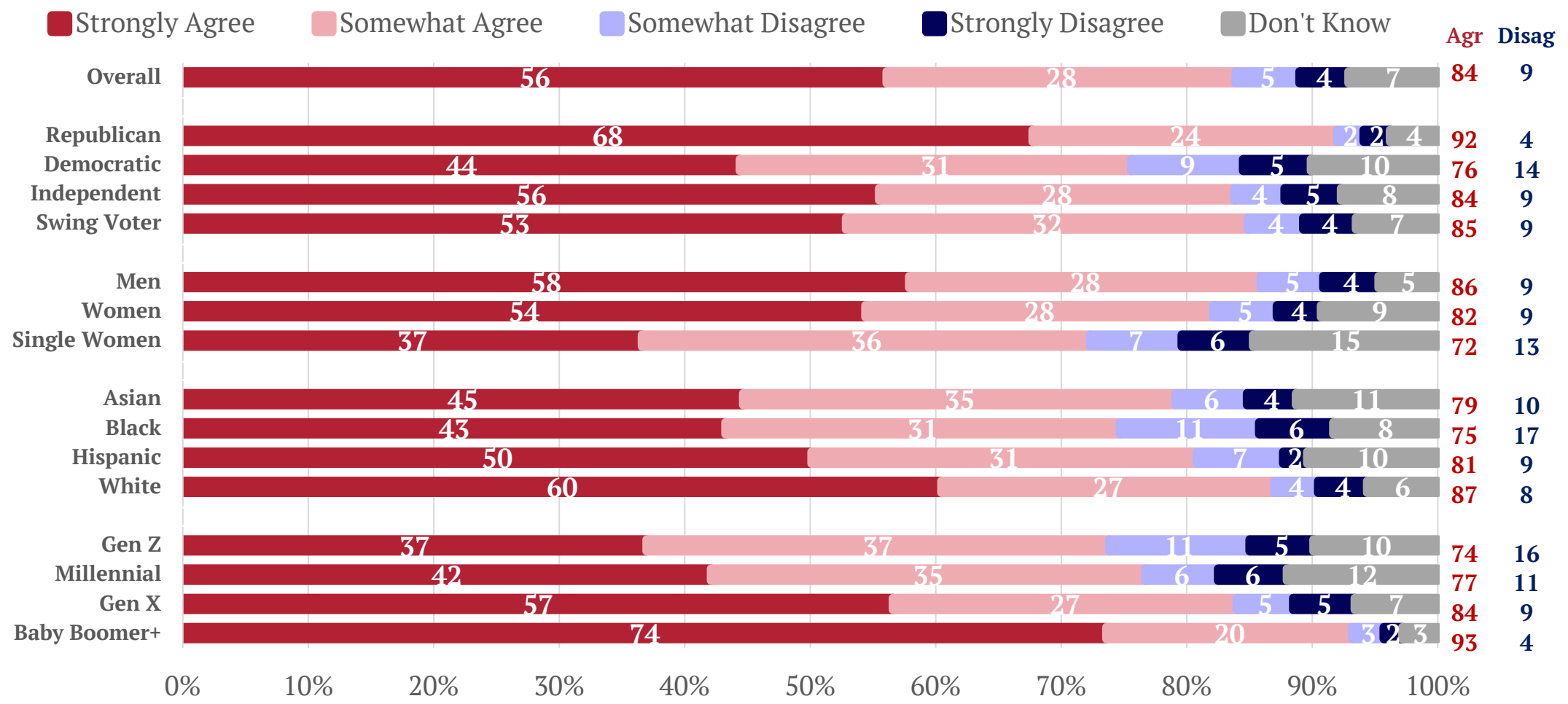
	All	Likely Voter	Less Likely Voter	Trump Persuadables	New Majority (All)	NM Generic Ballot Def/Prob GOP	NM Generic Ballot Leaners & Undecided	NM Generic Ballot Def/Prob Dem	Left Minority (All)
0%-4%	12	13	10	11	7	3	11	13	26
5%-9%	14	14	16	16	12	9	14	19	20
10%-14%	14	15	13	15	14	12	16	15	16
15%-19%	8	8	7	8	8	7	8	8	8
20%-24%	11	10	11	10	11	11	10	13	8
25%-29%	8	7	8	9	9	9	7	10	5
30%-39%	10	9	12	11	12	12	13	9	5
40%-49%	6	6	8	7	7	9	6	4	4
50%+	17	18	15	13	21	27	16	10	8
Mean %	25%	25%	25%	24%	29%	34%	25%	20%	16%

Trump Persuadable** voters are those who approve of Trump policies but are undecided or voting Democrat on the 2026 generic ballot. *New Majority and Left Minority** voters are determined through a screener survey of statements, asking respondents to rank their agreement on a 0 to 10 scale, as well as their generic ballot preference. See “Voter Universe” Slide 4.



More than 8-in-10 Voters Agree: Stop Fraud Instead of Allowing Taxes to Increase

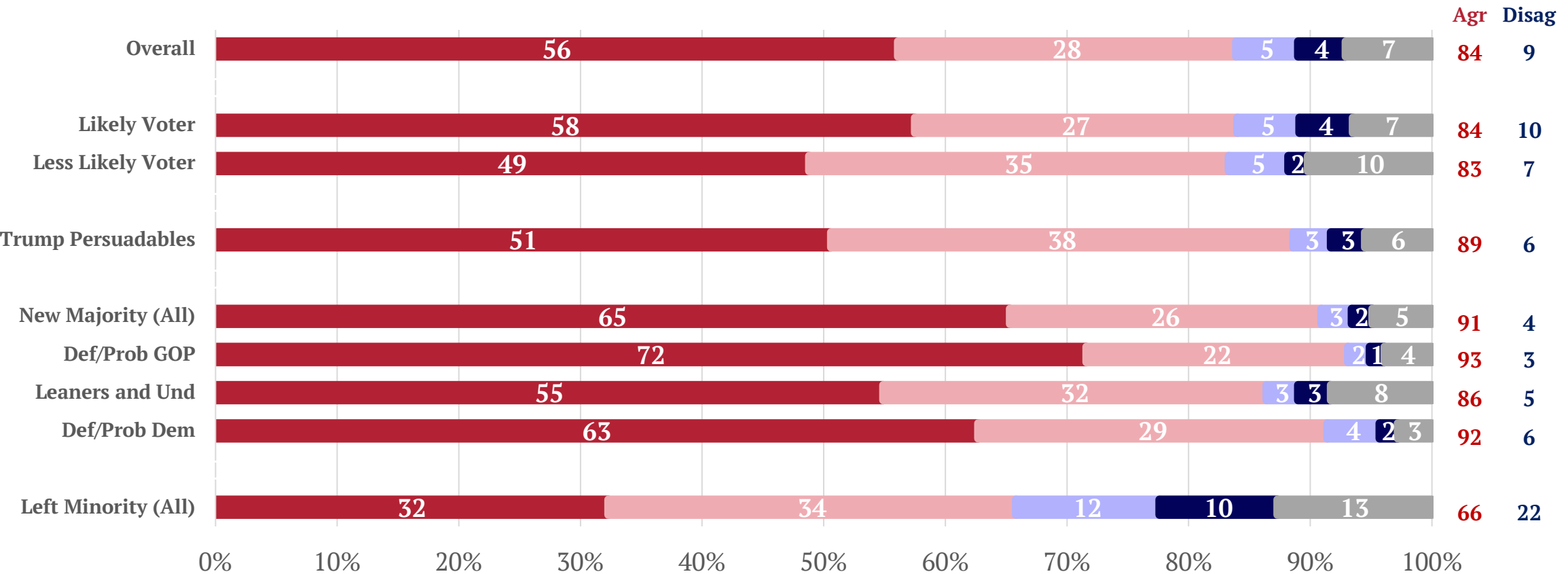
“According to the Government Accountability Office, the government pays between \$233 and \$521 billion per to crooks defrauding government programs. That’s between 3 and 7 percent of all federal spending. Do you agree or disagree that instead of letting taxes go up, the government should figure out how to stop paying crooks?”



9-in-10 Target Voters Agree: Stop Fraud Instead of Allowing Taxes to Increase

“According to the Government Accountability Office, the government pays between \$233 and \$521 billion per to crooks defrauding government programs. That’s between 3 and 7 percent of all federal spending. Do you agree or disagree that instead of letting taxes go up, the government should figure out how to stop paying crooks?”

■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Somewhat Agree
 ■ Somewhat Disagree
 ■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Don't Know

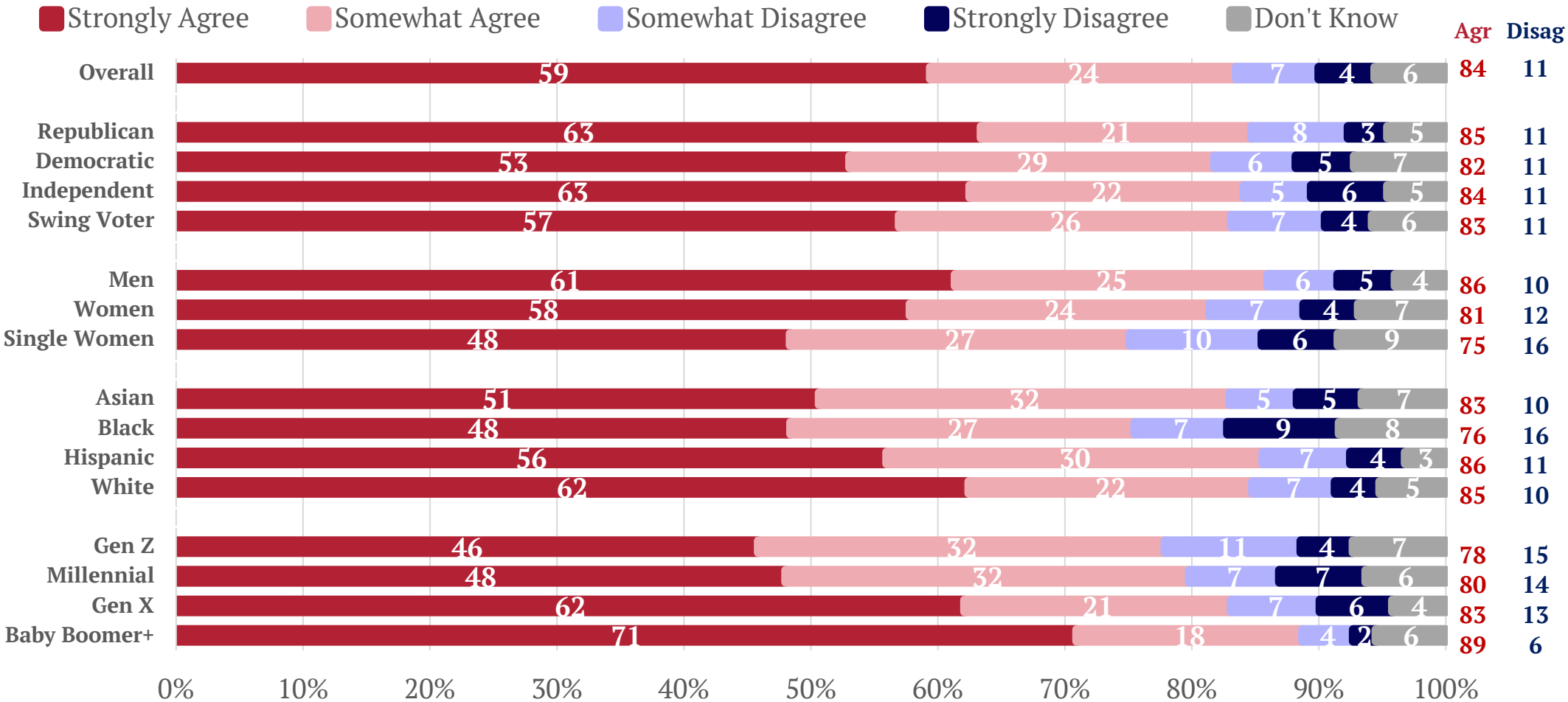


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More than 8-in-10 Voters Agree: Stop Fraud Instead of Cutting Safety Net Programs

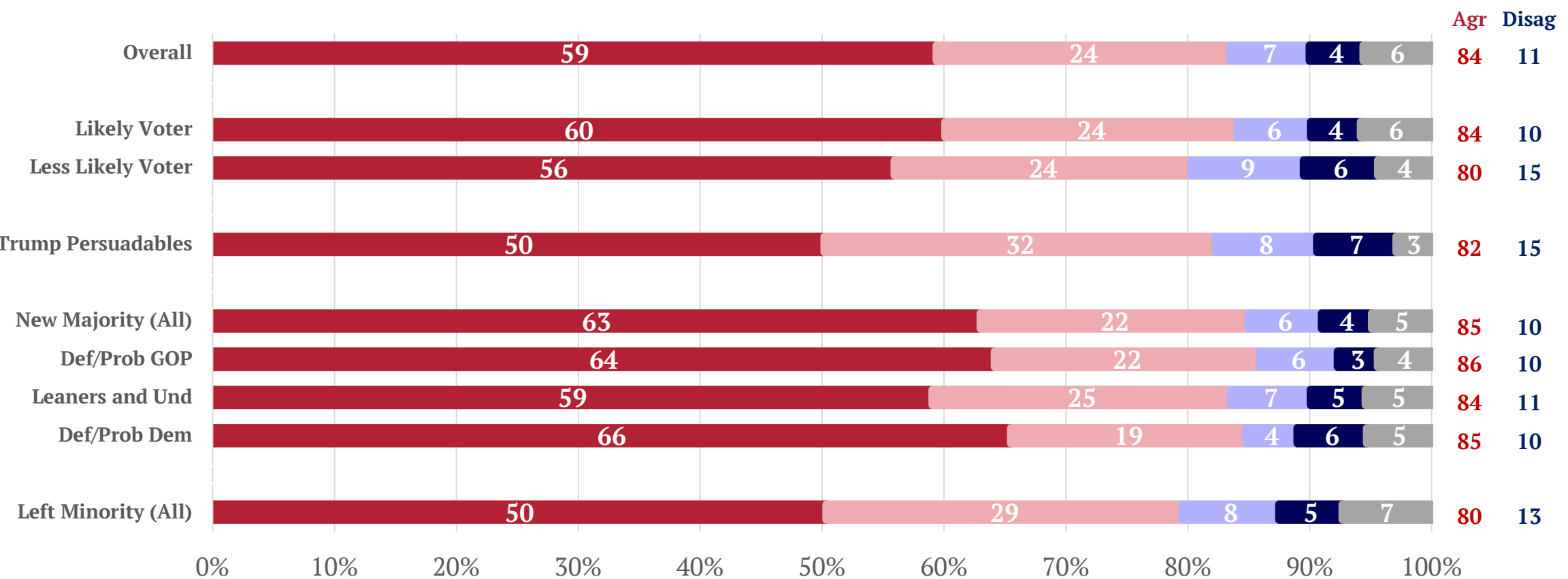
“Do you agree or disagree that instead of cutting spending on safety net programs like Medicaid, food stamps, and income assistance, the government should figure out how to stop paying crooks?”



More than 8-in-10 Target Voters Agree: Stop Fraud Instead of Cutting Safety Net Programs

“Do you agree or disagree that instead of cutting spending on safety net programs like Medicaid, food stamps, and income assistance, the government should figure out how to stop paying crooks?”

■ Strongly Agree
 ■ Somewhat Agree
 ■ Somewhat Disagree
 ■ Strongly Disagree
 ■ Don't Know

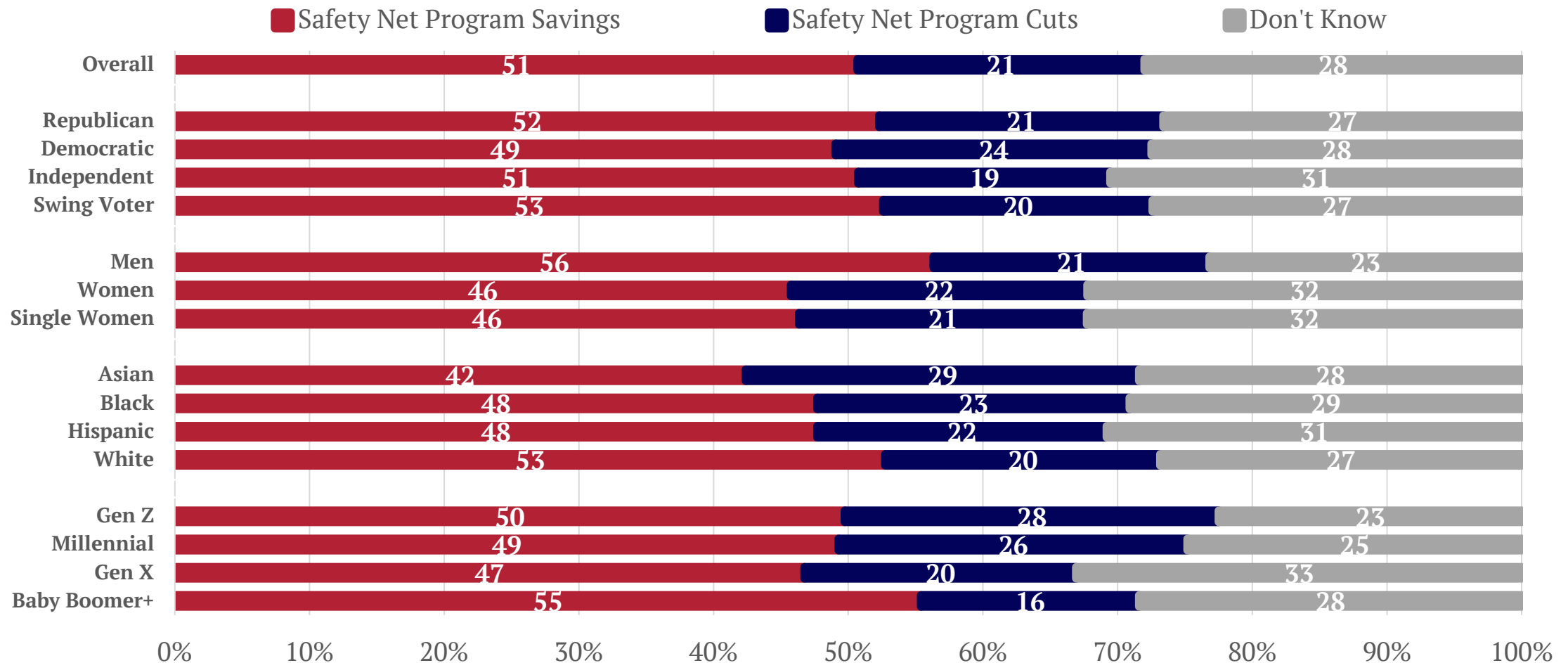


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Most Would Consider Reducing Fraud In Safety Net Programs As “Savings” Instead of “Cuts”

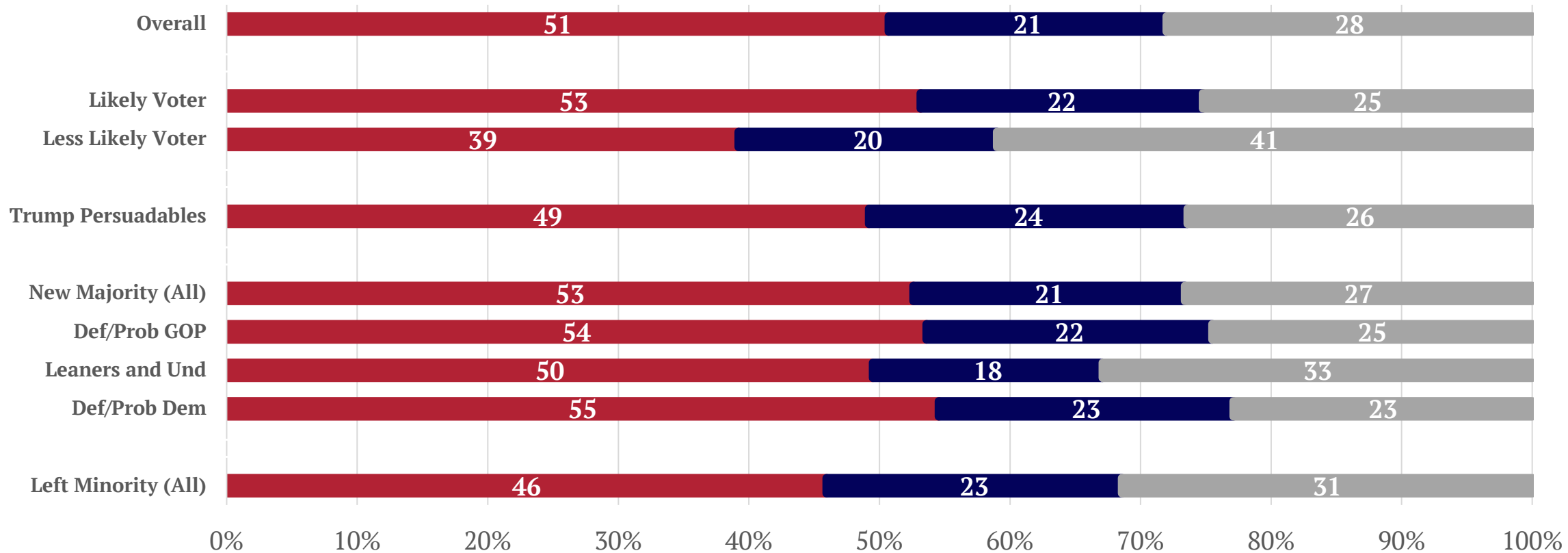
“If Congress did pass a bill that reduces the amount stolen by crooks from taxpayer-funded safety net programs like Medicaid, food stamps, and income assistance, and as a result the programs had to spend less money, are you more likely to consider it to be...?”



Most Target Voters Would Consider Reducing Fraud in Safety Net Programs As “Savings” Instead of “Cuts”

“If Congress did pass a bill that reduces the amount stolen by crooks from taxpayer-funded safety net programs like Medicaid, food stamps, and income assistance, and as a result the programs had to spend less money, are you more likely to consider it to be...?”

■ Safety Net Program Savings ■ Safety Net Program Cuts ■ Don't Know



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Most Say Savings Should Stay In Programs or Used to Reduce the Debt and Deficit

If the government were able to reduce the amount stolen by crooks from taxpayer-funded safety net programs like Medicaid, food stamps, and income assistance, what should Congress do with the money saved?

SPLIT A = 1,000 RV

SPLIT B = 1,000 RV

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Pay for stopping the scheduled tax increase | 1. Pay for extending the Trump Tax Cuts |
| 2. Keep the money in the safety net programs | |
| 3. Reduce the debt and deficit | |
| 4. Pay for other priorities | |

	Overall	GOP	DEM	IND	Swing Voter	Men	Women	Single Women	Asian	Black	Hisp.	White	Gen Z	Mill Ennial	Gen X	Baby Boomers+
Keep the Money	31	23	39	31	30	29	33	37	26	30	30	32	30	31	35	28
Reduce the Debt/Deficit	31	37	22	35	32	35	27	25	34	23	34	32	24	29	29	37
Stopping/Tax Increase	23	26	20	21	22	23	23	20	22	22	22	23	24	22	22	22
Pay for Other Priorities	11	9	15	8	11	11	11	11	13	18	10	9	17	12	7	9
None of the Above	5	6	5	4	4	3	7	8	4	6	5	5	5	6	7	3

	Overall	GOP	DEM	IND	Swing Voter	Men	Women	Single Women	Asian	Black	Hisp.	White	Gen Z	Mill Ennial	Gen X	Baby Boomers+
Reduce the Debt/Deficit	39	47	30	39	42	42	36	33	43	32	36	41	38	29	36	48
Keep the Money	32	23	41	32	31	30	34	41	27	35	31	32	34	33	33	30
Extending Trump Tax Cuts	14	18	9	13	12	14	13	8	12	11	14	14	8	18	15	11
Pay for Other Priorities	12	9	14	12	11	11	12	13	12	20	13	10	15	18	10	7
None of the above	4	3	6	4	4	3	5	5	7	2	5	4	5	2	7	3

If the government were able to reduce the amount stolen by crooks from taxpayer-funded safety net programs like Medicaid, food stamps, and income assistance, what should Congress do with the money saved?

SPLIT A = 1,000 RV

SPLIT B = 1,000 RV

1. Pay for stopping the scheduled tax increase

1. Pay for extending the Trump Tax Cuts

2. Keep the money in the safety net programs

3. Reduce the debt and deficit

4. Pay for other priorities

	All	Likely Voter	Less Likely Voter	Trump Persuadables	New Majority (All)	NM Generic Ballot Def/Prob GOP	NM Generic Ballot Leaners & Undecided	NM Generic Ballot Def/Prob Dem	Left Minority (All)
Keep the Money	31	31	29	33	25	22	26	32	47
Reduce the Debt/Deficit	31	32	23	32	37	41	35	32	15
Stopping/Tax Increase	23	22	26	19	24	24	24	23	19
Pay for Other Priorities	11	10	14	13	10	10	10	11	12
None of the Above	5	4	9	3	4	4	6	3	7

	All	Likely Voter	Less Likely Voter	Trump Persuadables	New Majority (All)	NM Generic Ballot Def/Prob GOP	NM Generic Ballot Leaners & Undecided	NM Generic Ballot Def/Prob Dem	Left Minority (All)
Reduce the Debt/Deficit	39	40	33	39	44	47	42	37	26
Keep the Money	32	31	36	23	26	23	29	30	47
Extending Trump Tax Cuts	14	14	13	21	16	18	13	16	7
Pay for Other Priorities	12	12	12	15	11	10	11	15	13
None of the above	4	4	7	3	3	3	5	2	7

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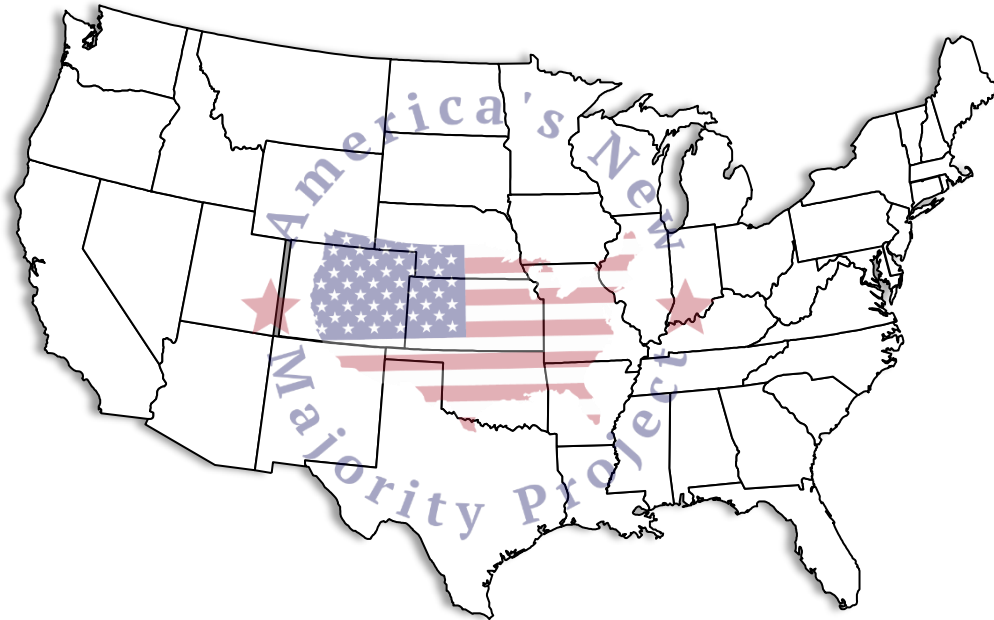


Methodology

Mclaughlin & Associates partnered with Gingrich360 to conduct a national survey for America's New Majority Project. This national survey was conducted among 2,000 registered voters between March 4-7, 2025.

All interviews were conducted online. Survey invitations were distributed randomly within predetermined geographic units. These units were structured to correlate with actual general election turnout.

The sample of 2,000 registered voters has an accuracy of +/- 2.2% at a 95% confidence interval. The numbers in this presentation have been rounded and may not equal 100%.



New England	5%
Middle Atlantic	13%
East North Central	16%
West North Central	6%
South Atlantic	21%
East South Central	6%
West South Central	11%
Mountain	7%
Pacific	15%

18-29	16%
30-40	17%
41-55	25%
56-65	19%
66+	23%

White	68%
Hispanic	13%
Black	13%
Asian	4%
Other	2%

Male	47%
Female	53%

Democratic	36%
Republican	37%
Independent	27%

Less/4yr College	65%
Bachelor's/P.G	35%

