



Who Voters Blame For the Government Shutdown

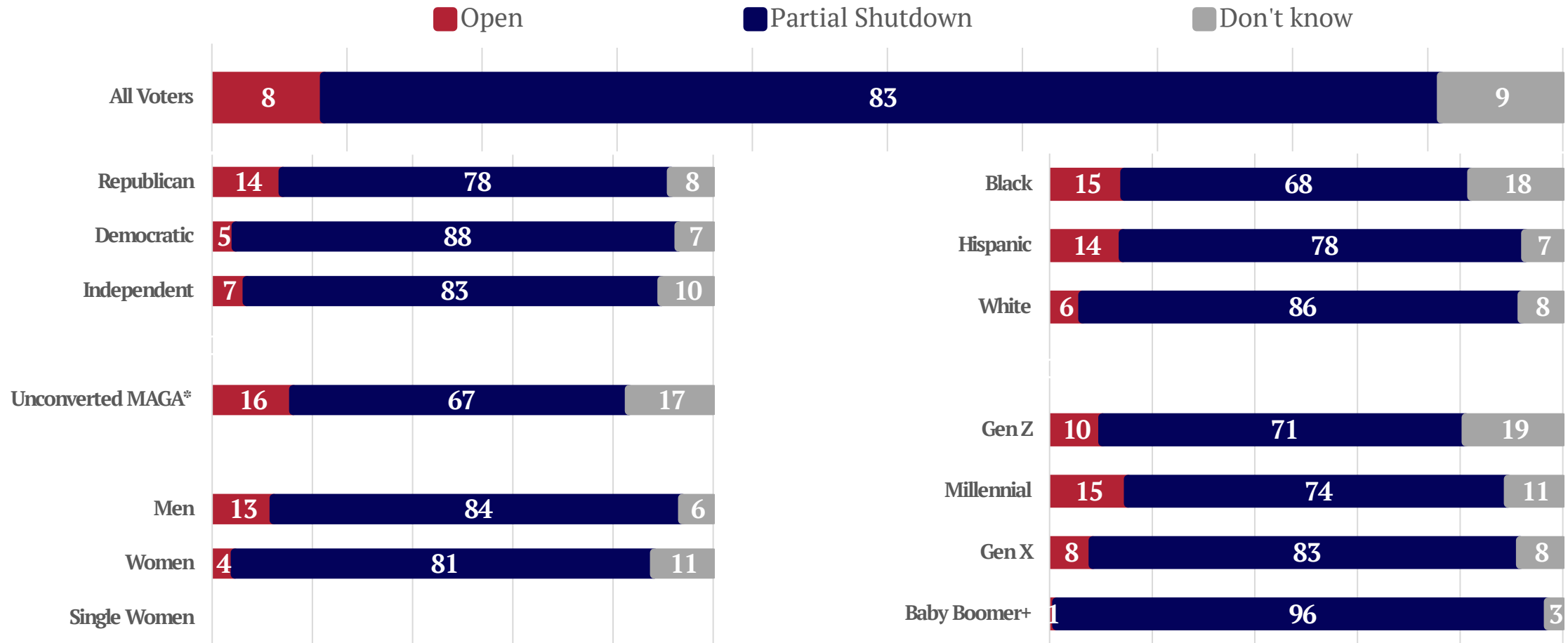


KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Public opinion shifts once context is known.** While Republicans are initially blamed for the government shutdown, blame flips to Democrats (+14 points) after voters learn Republicans passed a short-term bill to reopen government at current spending levels.
- **Voters reject higher spending.** Only 13% of voters want a budget that increases spending, while 45% prefer spending cuts and 27% prefer keeping spending about the same.
- **Reopen first, negotiate later.** A plurality (44%) side with the Republican position to reopen government now and continue negotiating over expiring COVID-era Obamacare subsidies; just 38% agree with Democrats' demand for full subsidy extensions before reopening.
- **Medicaid reform is a winner.** By 44%-39%, voters agree with Republicans that reopening the government should not undo Medicaid work requirements, eligibility checks, or restrictions on covering illegal immigrants.
- **“Hold the line” message resonates.** 45% want Republicans to stand firm against more spending, compared to 39% who say they should concede to reopen government.
- **Priority remains reopening.** Three in four voters (75%) say it's important to quickly reopen the government—including strong majorities of Republicans, Democrats, independents, and the “unconverted MAGA” target group.

Most Aware of Shutdown

So far as you know, is the federal government currently open or in a partial shutdown?

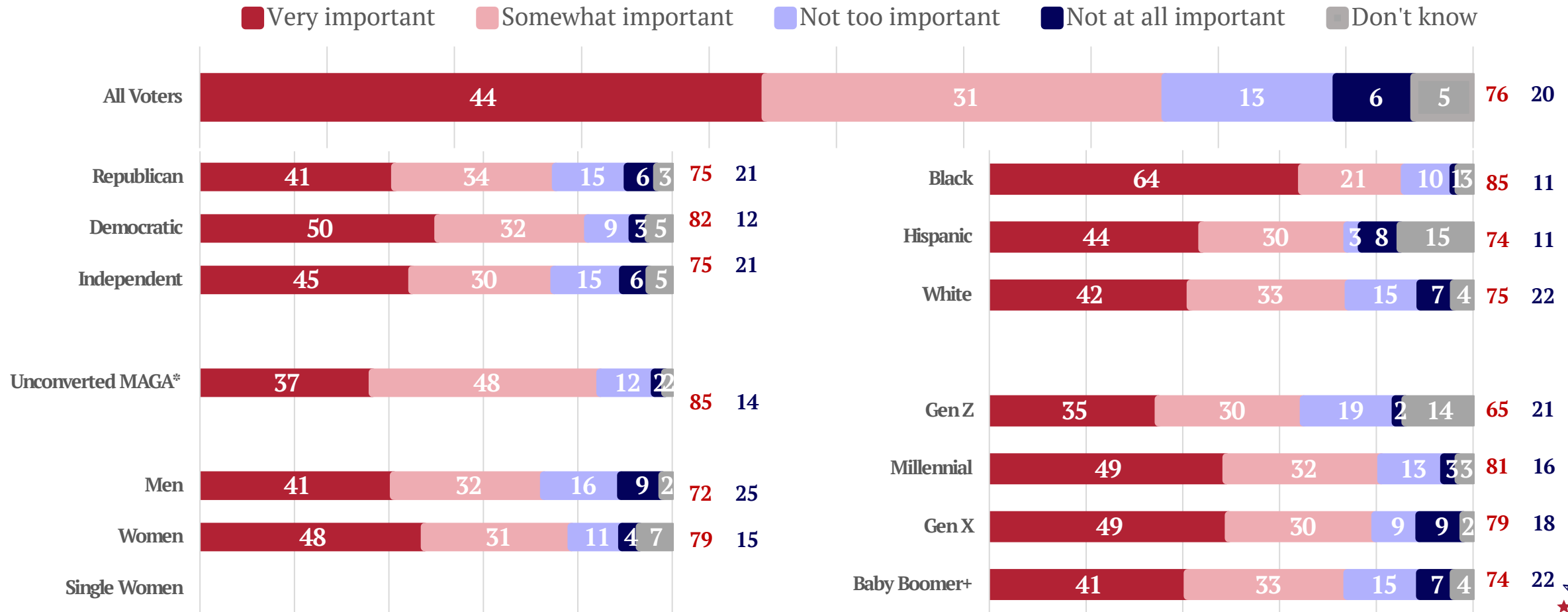


*Unconverted MAGA voters are those who approve of Trump policies but are undecided or voting Democrat on the 2026 generic ballot.



3-in-4 Voters Say It's Important that the Government Quickly Reopen

In fact, the federal government is in a partial shutdown. How important is it to you that the government quickly re-open?

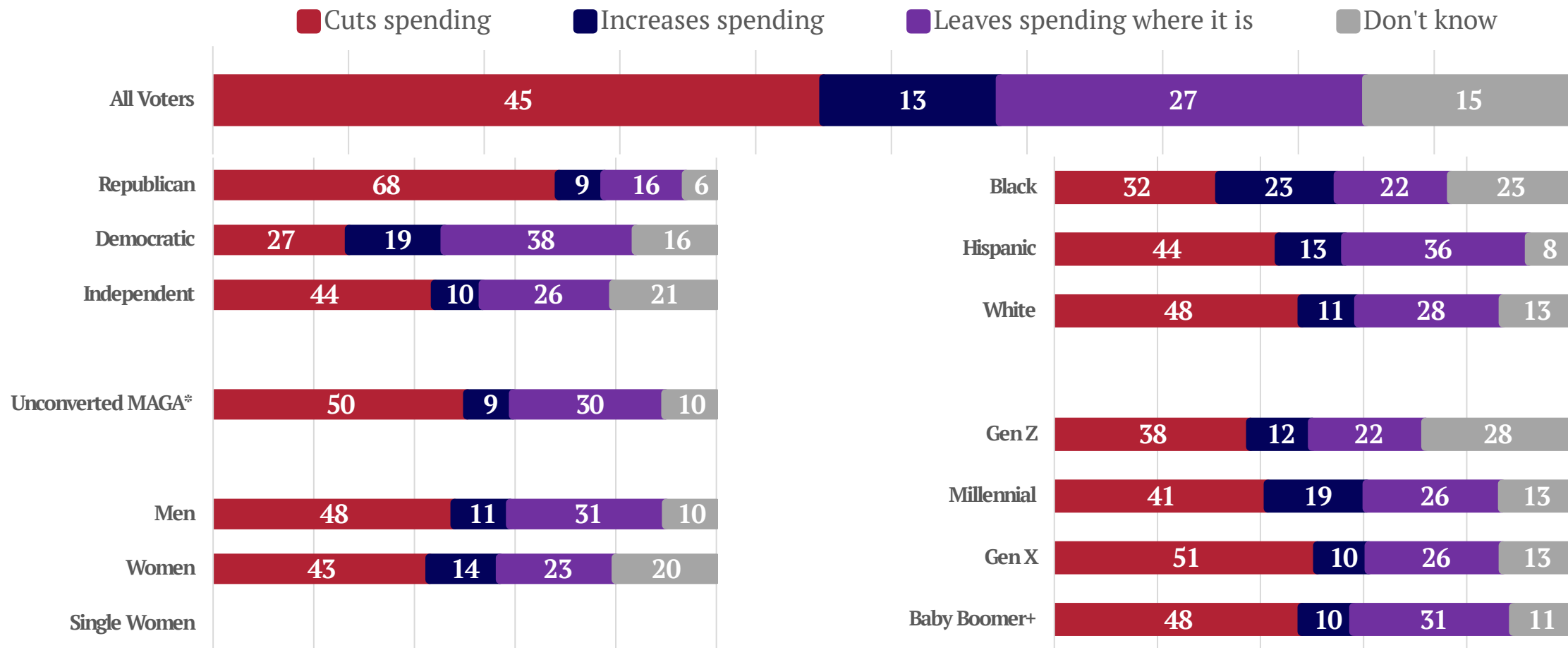


*Unconverted MAGA voters are those who approve of Trump policies but are undecided or voting Democrat on the 2026 generic ballot.



Just 13% Want a Budget to Reopen the Government that Increases Spending

The federal government is in a partial shutdown. To reopen it, Congress must pass a budget. Would you prefer that Congress pass a budget that cuts spending, increases spending, or keeps spending about the same?

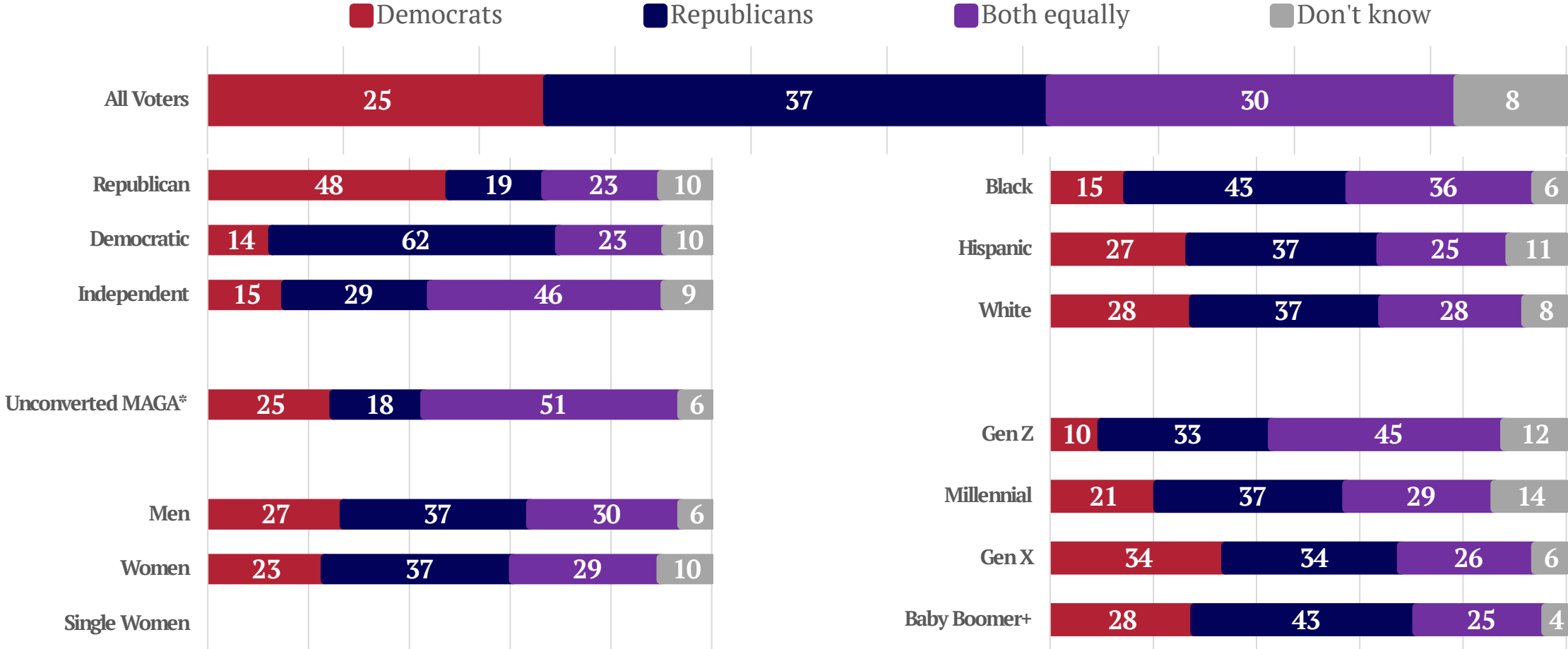


*Unconverted MAGA voters are those who approve of Trump policies but are undecided or voting Democrat on the 2026 generic ballot.



Absent Any Context, Just 1-in-5 Blame Democrats for the Government Shutdown

The federal government is in a partial shutdown. Who do you blame the most for the shutdown and failure to reopen the government?



*Unconverted MAGA voters are those who approve of Trump policies but are undecided or voting Democrat on the 2026 generic ballot.

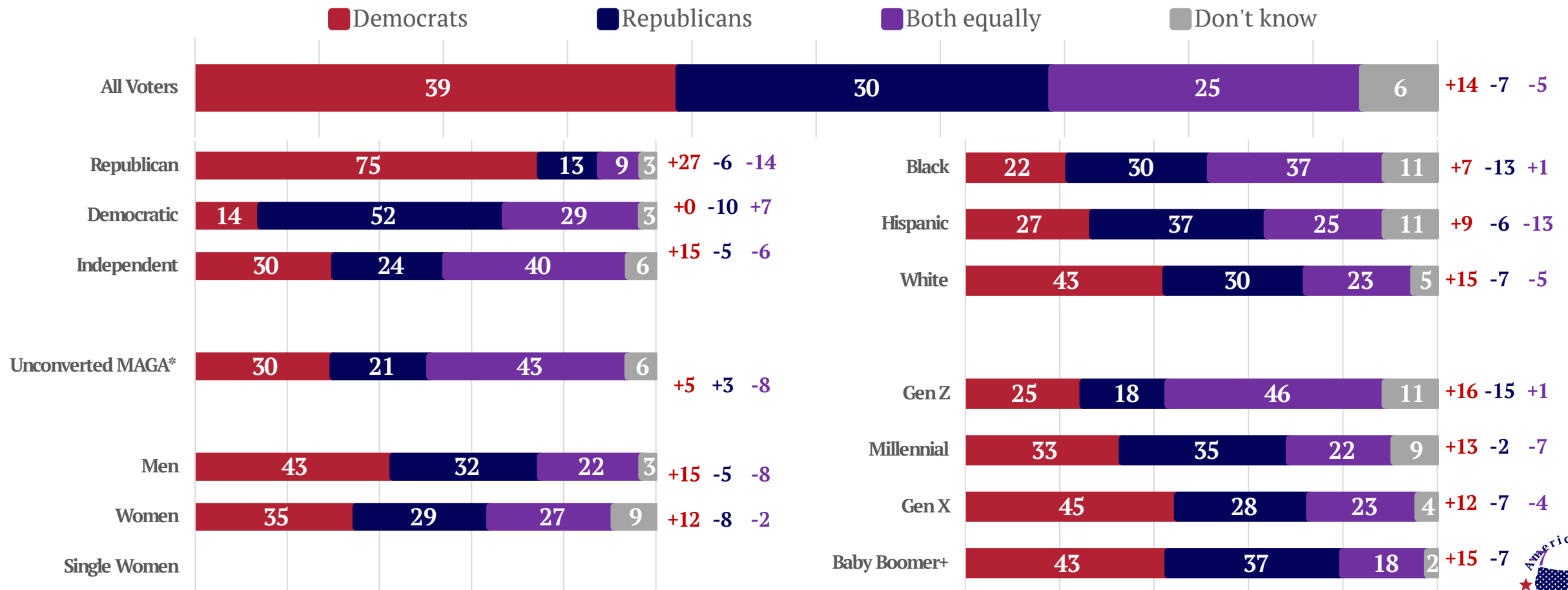


Given Context About Democrats Demands and Republican Clean CR, 4-in-10 Blame Democrats

The federal government is in a partial shutdown. To reopen it, Congress must pass a budget.

The House passed a budget that would have kept the government open without increasing spending. In the Senate, Democratic votes were needed for it to pass, but Senate Democrats voted against the budget because it did not increase spending.

Now, who do you blame the most for the shutdown and failure to reopen the government?



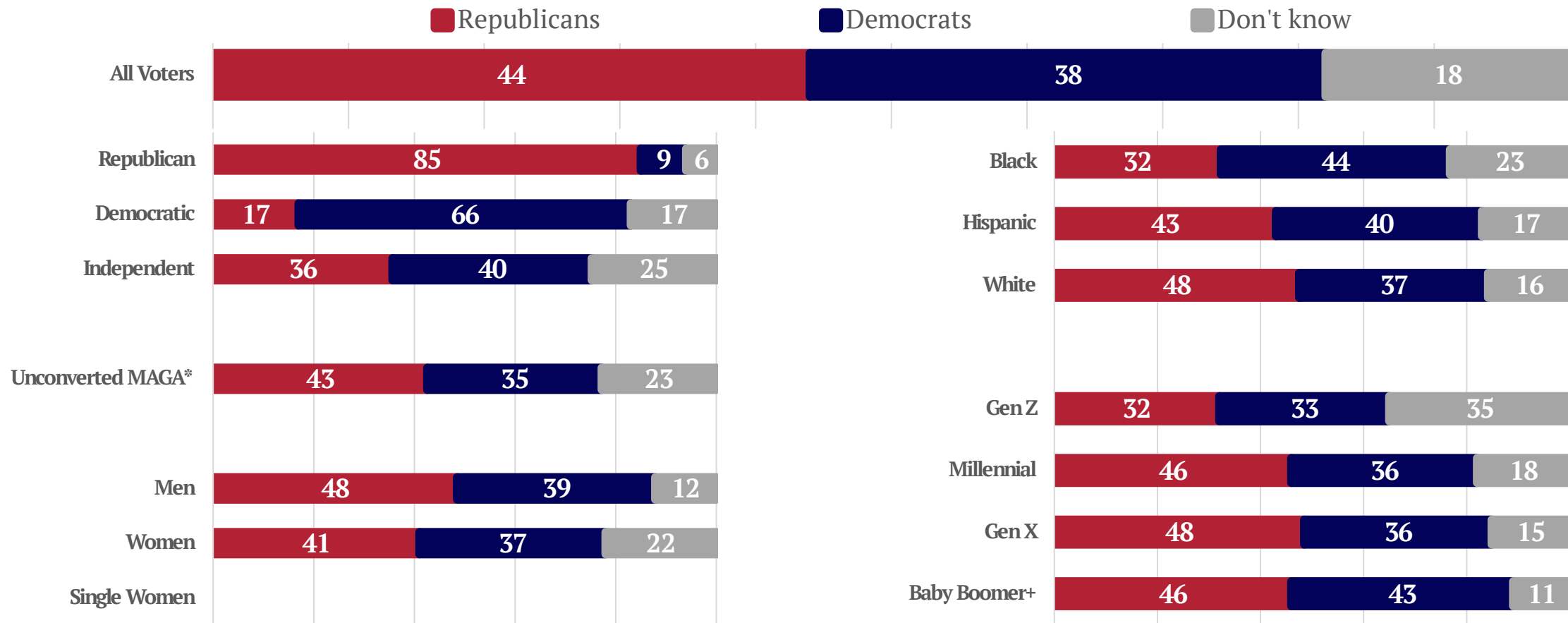
*Unconverted MAGA voters are those who approve of Trump policies but are undecided or voting Democrat on the 2026 generic ballot.



More Agree with Republicans on Passing a Clean CR Then Fixing Covid-era Obamacare Subsidies

Democrats say that to re-open the government, the budget must include \$350 billion over the next ten years for COVID-era subsidies paid directly to insurance companies to lower or eliminate premiums for more people. These enhanced subsidies for Obamacare health plans were created during the COVID emergency and are scheduled to expire in 2025. Who do you agree with more?

1. Republicans, who want a short-term 6-week funding bill at current spending levels that would reopen the government and give time to negotiate a long-term solution on these subsidies.
2. Democrats, who say they will not vote for any budget bill to reopen the government – even a short-term one – unless it extends the COVID-era subsidies.



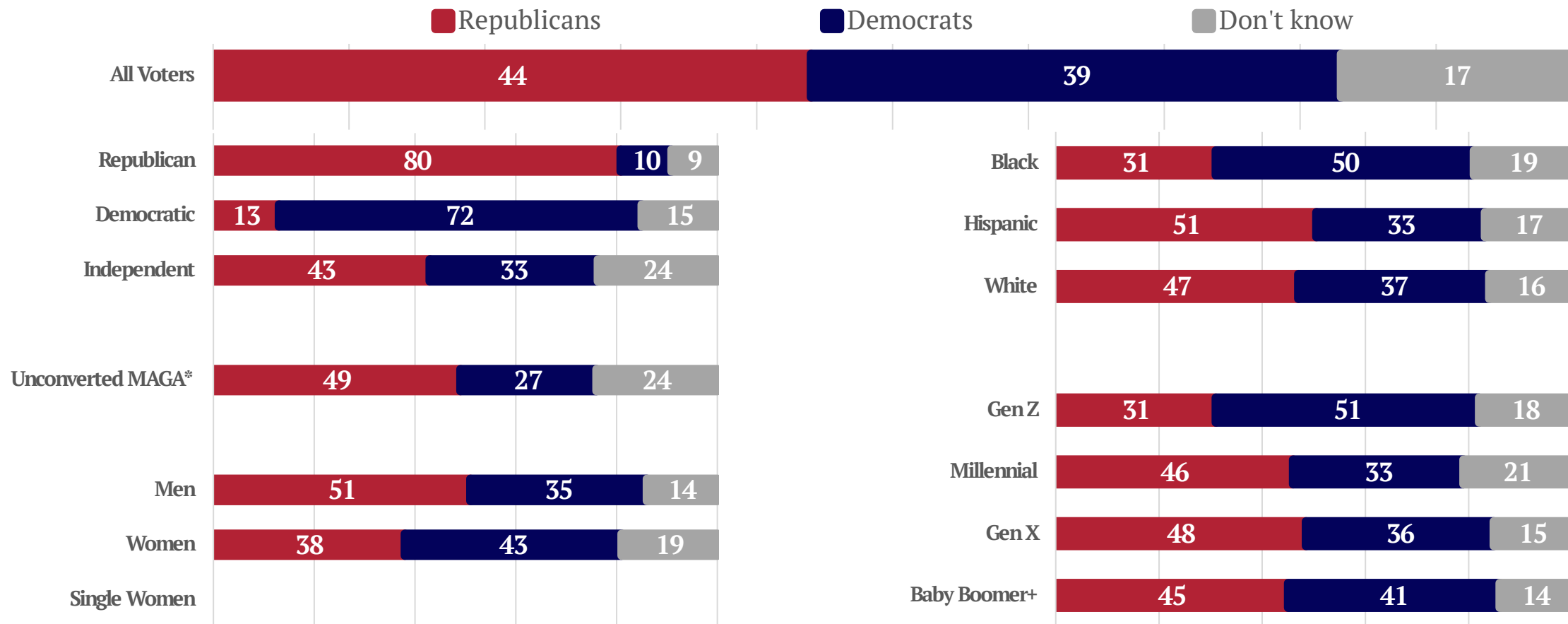
*Unconverted MAGA voters are those who approve of Trump policies but are undecided or voting Democrat on the 2026 generic ballot.



More Agree with Republicans on Keeping Medicaid Reforms

Democrats say that to reopen the government, the budget must undo reforms to Medicaid passed earlier this year that tightened program rules, including work requirements for able-bodied adults, stronger eligibility checks, and rules preventing states from covering illegal immigrants. Undoing these and other reforms to Medicaid would cost over \$1 trillion over the next ten years.

Who do you agree with more? 1. Republicans, who say they will not vote for a budget that increases Medicaid spending by over \$1 trillion over ten years by removing work requirements, weakening eligibility checks, and allowing states to cover illegal immigrants. 2. Democrats, who say they will not vote for a budget unless it removes work requirements, rolls back stronger eligibility checks, and lifts restrictions on states covering illegal immigrants.

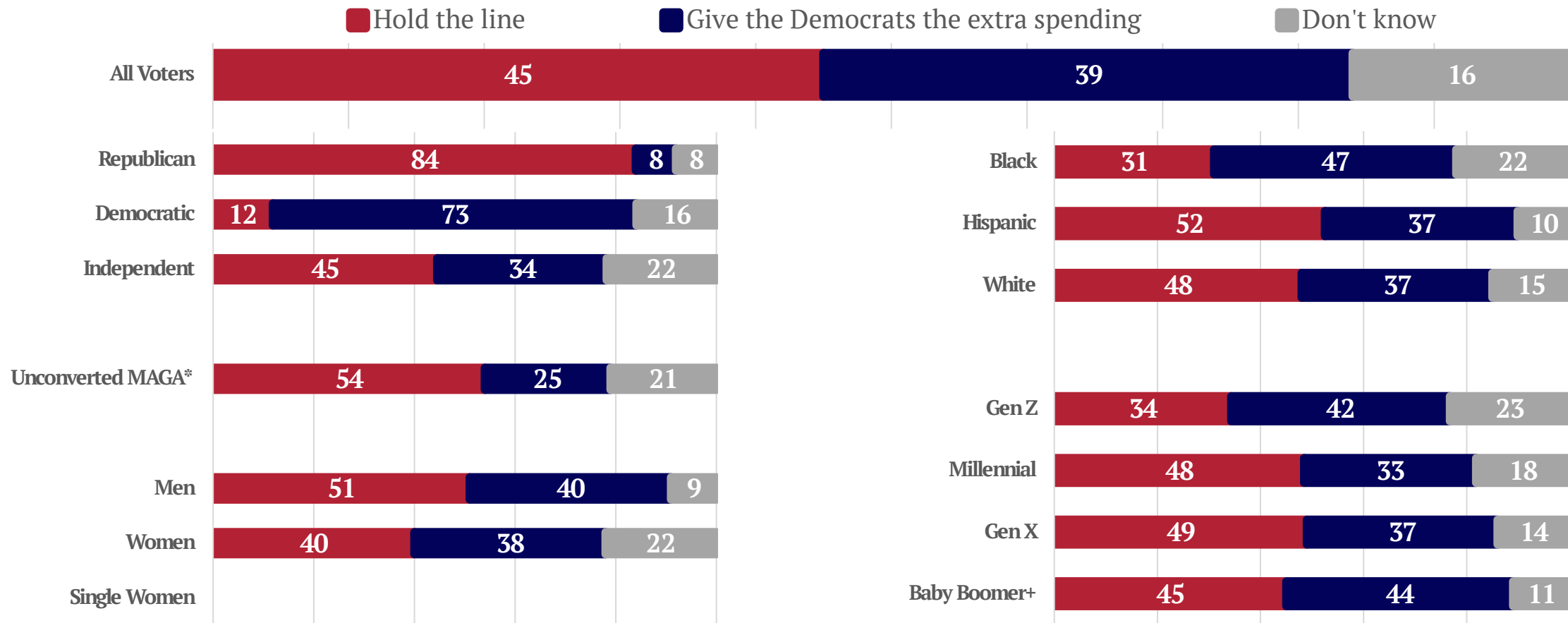


*Unconverted MAGA voters are those who approve of Trump policies but are undecided or voting Democrat on the 2026 generic ballot.



More Want Republicans to Hold the Line on Spending Even if the Government Stays Closed Longer

Senate Democrats say they will not vote for a budget unless it includes \$1.5 trillion in additional spending over the next ten years. This includes extending COVID-era subsidies for insurance companies to lower or eliminate premiums for more people on Obamacare health plans, and undoing reforms to Medicaid reforms that added work requirements for able-bodied adults, stronger eligibility checks, and rules preventing states from covering illegal immigrants. What do you think Republicans should do? 1. Hold the line, even if that means the government stays shut down for longer. 2. Give the Democrats the extra spending to end the shutdown.



*Unconverted MAGA voters are those who approve of Trump policies but are undecided or voting Democrat on the 2026 generic ballot.



Methodology

AlphaROC conducted a national survey for Gingrich 360, on behalf of America's New Majority Project, among 846 registered voters between October 3-5, 2025.

All interviews were conducted online. Survey invitations were randomly distributed, with demographic balances approximating U.S. census benchmarks.

The sample of 846 registered voters carries a margin of error of $\pm 3.4\%$ at the 95% confidence level.

