

navigator*

Tuesday, January 31st

Classified Documents: A Guide for Advocates



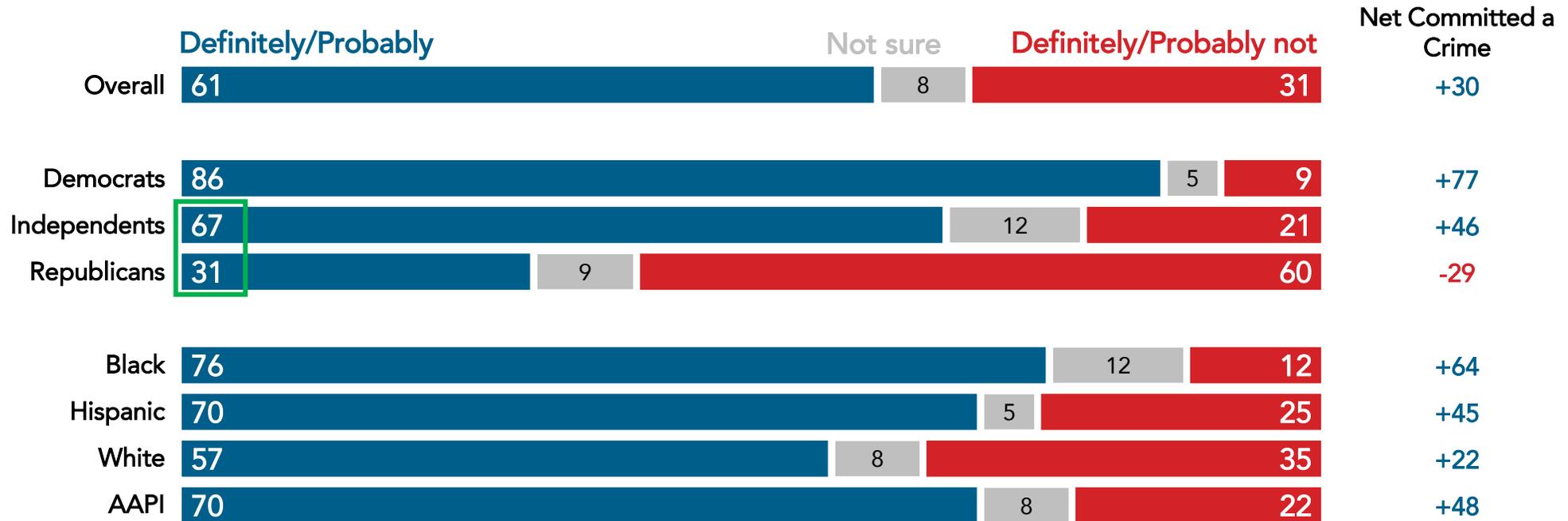
Key Takeaways:

- A growing share believe Congressional Republicans will overreach in conducting investigations, and that share believing they will overreach increases more when asked about investigations specifically into Biden and Democrats.
- When comparing Biden's classified document situation to former President Trump's, a plurality find Trump's situation to be worse; high awareness of Biden's situation still does not increase the share who want House Republicans to prioritize investigating Biden.
- The strongest messages on Biden and Trump's classified documents focus on Biden's cooperation with law enforcement compared to Trump's refusal to comply. Going after Republicans for their obsession with trying to score political points on the issue instead of doing their jobs and being hypocritical when it comes to Biden's documents versus Trump's is also effective.

Three in Five Say Trump Committed a Crime As President

Large majorities of Democrats (net +77) and independents (net +46) believe that Trump “definitely” or “probably” committed a crime as president, while nearly one in three Republicans (31%) agree.

Do you think Donald Trump committed a crime at any point as president?



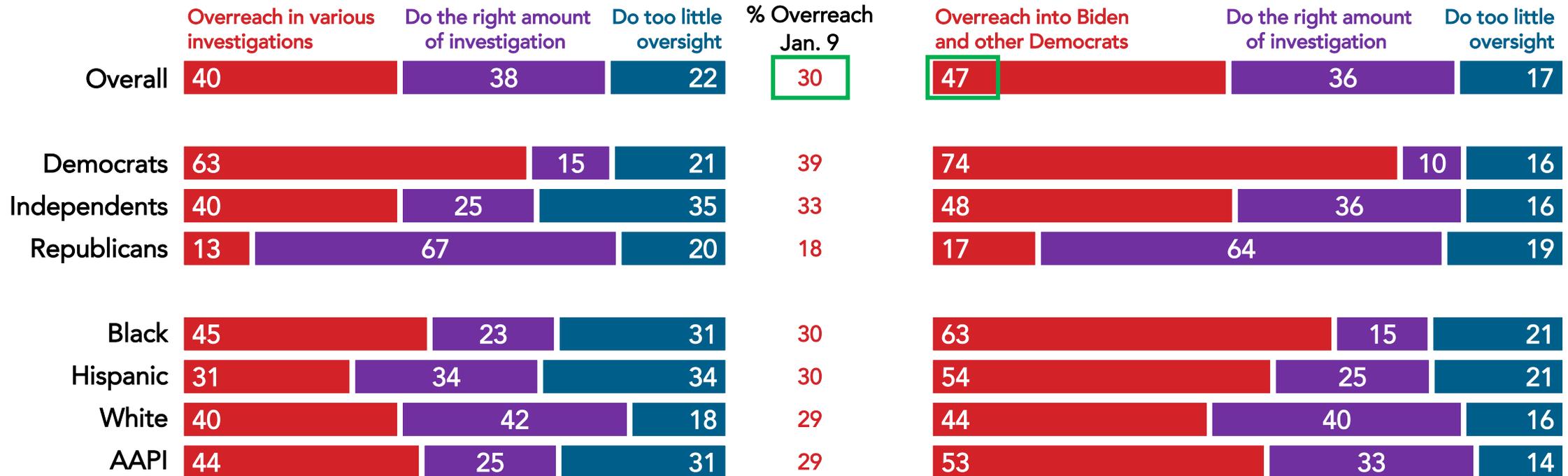
Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 20-January 23, 2023.
For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Plurality Say GOP House Will Overreach Generally; Nearly Half Say They Will Overreach Into Biden and Democrats Specifically

Since early January, there has been a 10-point increase in the share who say that Republicans in Congress will “overreach in investigating various events and individuals” (from 30% to 40%). Explicitly mentioning Biden drives the share who say “overreach” to 47%.

(Split Sample) Do you think that Republicans in Congress will conduct the right amount of investigation, do too little oversight, or overreach in investigating **various events and individuals**?

(Split Sample) Do you think that Republicans in Congress will conduct the right amount of investigation, do too little oversight, or overreach in investigating **Joe Biden and other Democrats**?



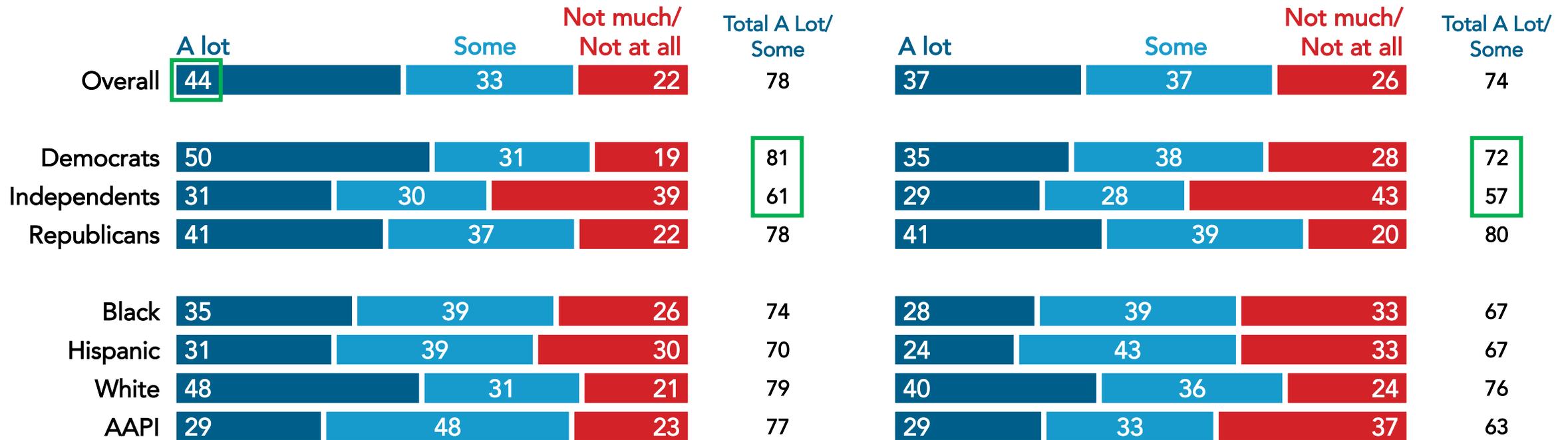
Nationwide surveys of registered voters; Each wave represents approximately 1,000 interviews taken over the prior three-five days. Latest wave conducted January 20-January 23, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org

Similar Majorities Are Hearing About Both Trump and Biden's Classified Documents

While three in four are hearing “a lot” or “some” about both Trump (78%) and Biden’s (74%) classified documents, intensity of awareness is higher around Trump’s situation (44% hearing “a lot” about Trump’s documents, 37% “a lot” about Biden’s documents).

How much have you seen, read, or heard about **Donald Trump** being found wrongfully in possession of classified documents post-presidency?

How much have you seen, read, or heard about **Joe Biden** being found wrongfully in possession of classified documents from his time as Vice President?

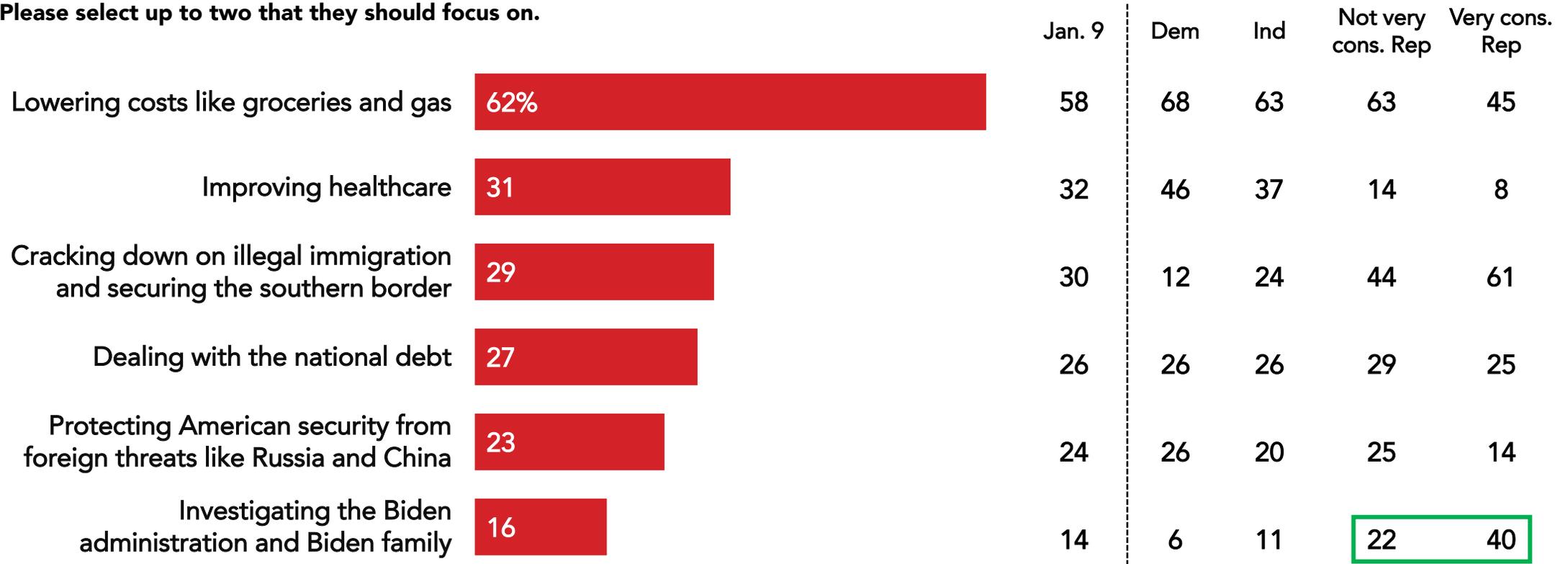


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Investigating Biden Remains Comparatively a Very Low Priority for Americans in Thinking About the GOP House

News about Biden having possession of classified documents has not increased Americans' wanting Republicans to prioritize investigations: investigating the Biden administration and Biden family remains the lowest priority at just 16%.

As you may or may not know, Republicans won control of the House in the November 2022 elections. Below is a list of issues some may want them to prioritize. Please select up to two that they should focus on.



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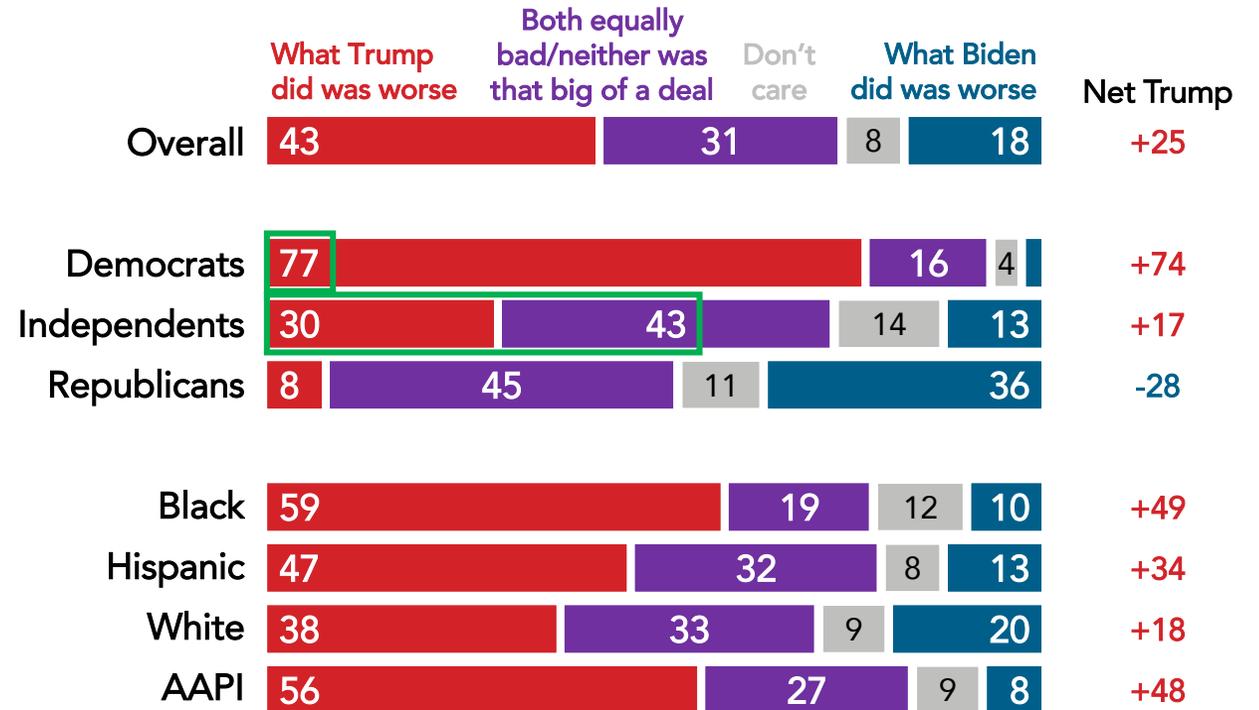
Comparison of Biden and Trump's Documents Situations Leaves Significantly More People Saying Trump's Is Worse

Nearly four in five (77%) Democrats say what Trump did was worse, while a plurality of Republicans (45%) and independents (43%) say what both Biden and Trump did was "equally bad" or neither "was that big of a deal."

Below is a graphic* again comparing what Biden and Trump did with each of their respective classified documents. Please read the graphic and then answer the question that follows.



**This graphic was created before the FBI conducted a search of Biden's Wilmington home and discovered more classified documents, though news of that discovery became public while this survey was fielding. The graphic is from CNN.com.*



*Credit: CNN

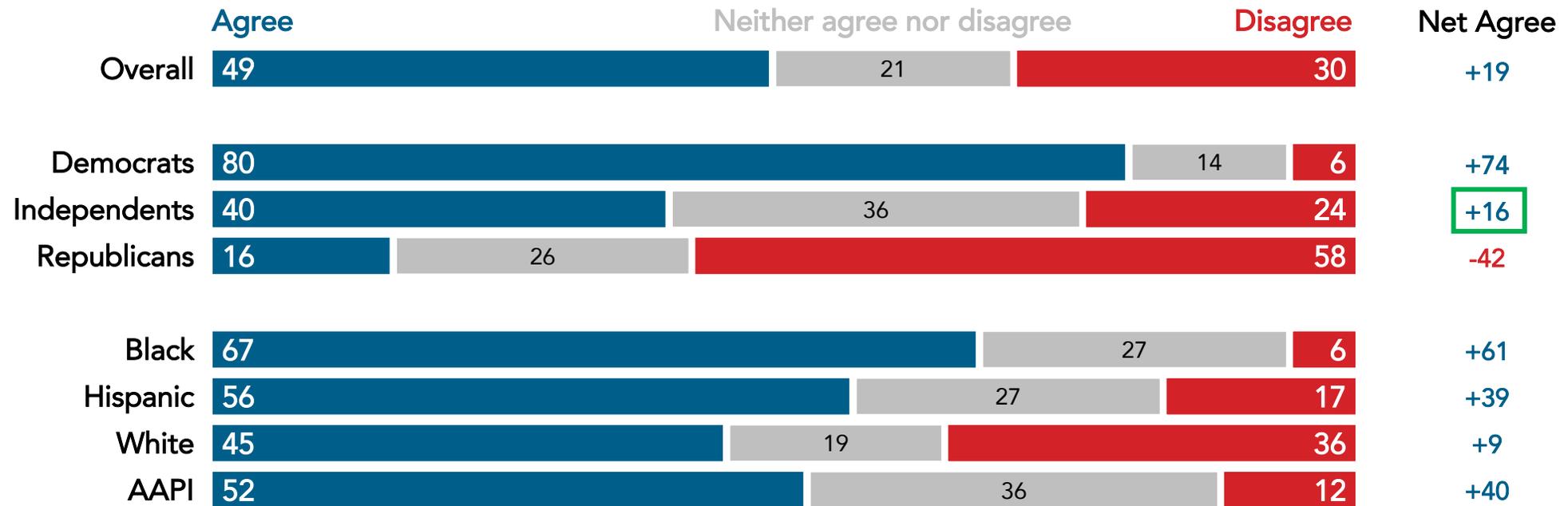
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Nearly Half Say Biden Has Done the Right Thing on His Documents and Releasing Information to the Public

A plurality of independents agree that “Biden has done the right thing so far” (net +16 agree).

- Just 58% of Republicans disagree that Biden’s done the right thing so far; 16% agree he has and 26% are neutral.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Biden has done the right thing so far when it has come to his documents and has released enough information to the American public.



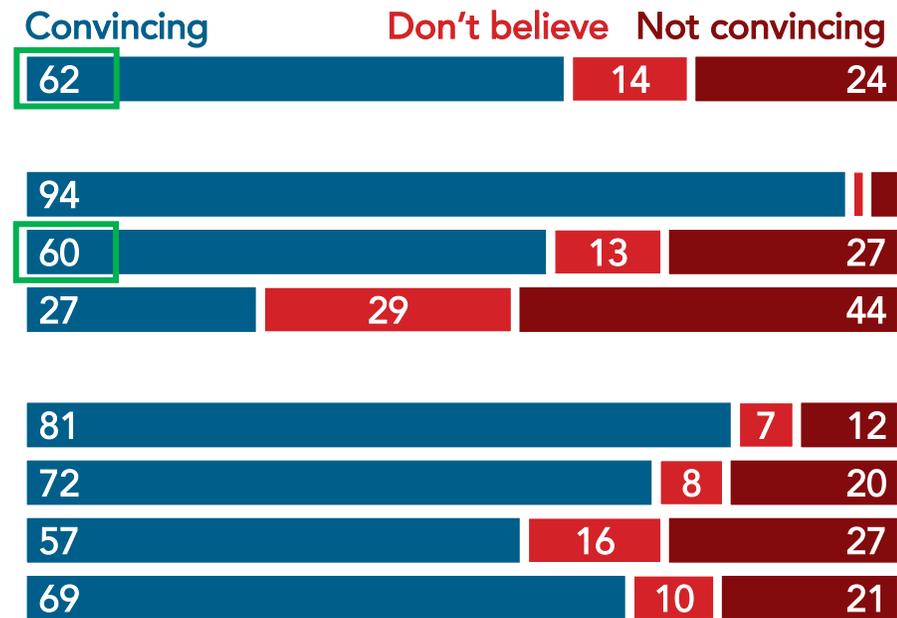
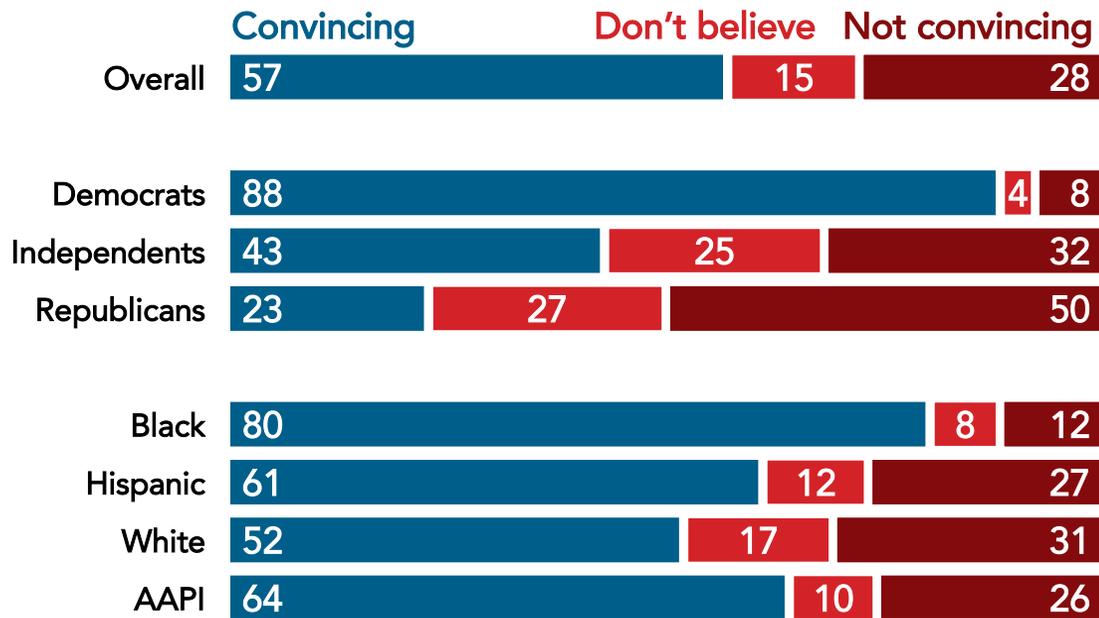
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Focusing on Biden's Cooperation With Investigations Compared to Trump's Non-Compliance Is Most Effective

Independents find the cooperation message more convincing (60% convincing) than one focused on the document locations (43%).

(Split Sample) Joe Biden had a small number of classified documents that were misplaced at his think tank in Washington and his home in Delaware, which his representatives immediately turned over to the government upon their discovery. Donald Trump, on the other hand, deliberately took hundreds of documents and kept them in an insecure location at Mar-a-Lago, a golf club that people pay to visit, including international figures. How convincing do you find this statement?

(Split Sample) Joe Biden voluntarily came forward with his documents as soon as they were discovered and is fully complying with investigations, including the one led by a special counsel appointed by his own Attorney General. Donald Trump refused to cooperate with investigations into him possessing classified documents, tried to deny their existence, and is now even being investigated for obstruction of justice. How convincing do you find this statement?



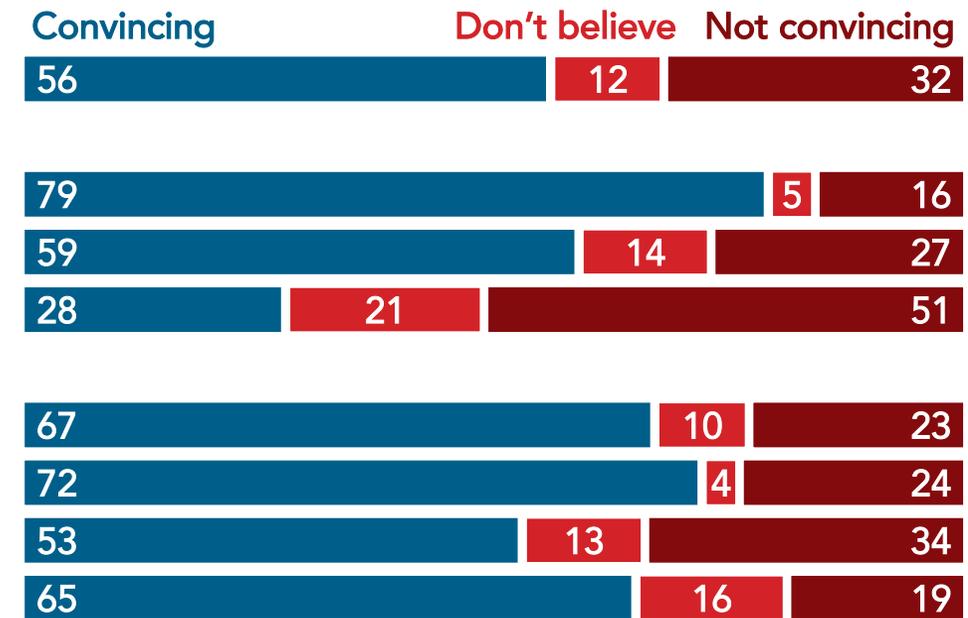
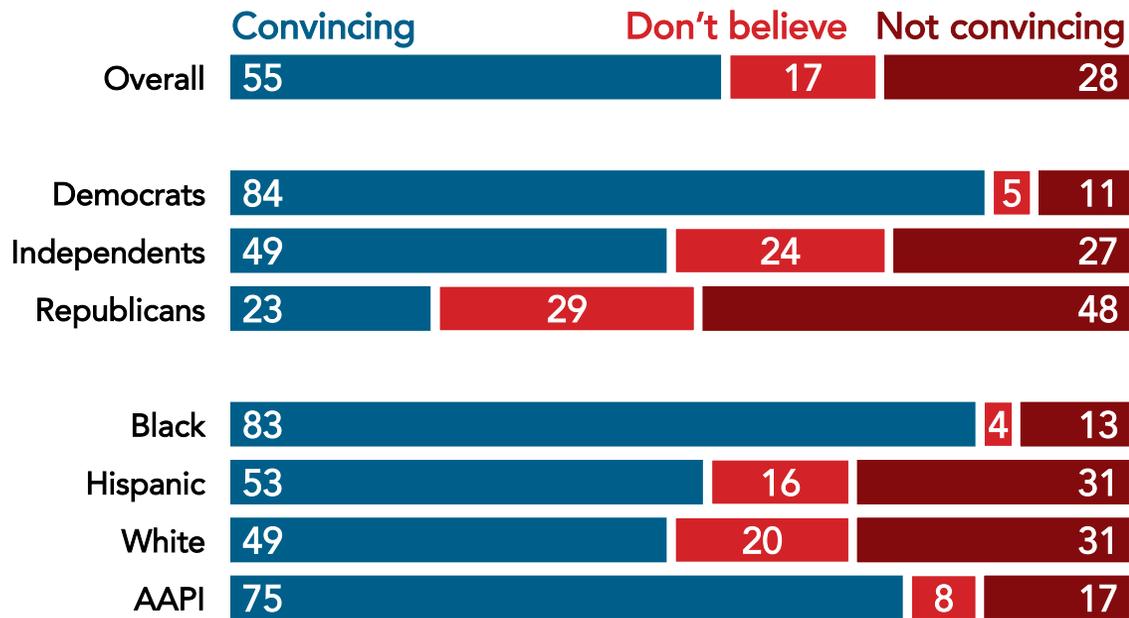
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Criticisms of GOP for Not Focusing on Things That Matter and Not Caring About Trump's Documents Are Both Convincing

Independents find the message on Republicans' lack of focus more convincing (59%) than one about hypocrisy (49%).

(Split Sample) Republicans have been up in arms about Biden's discovered documents, but they are hypocrites: what Trump did was worse and a greater security threat, yet they tried to shut down the investigation into his documents repeatedly, stood behind him when he refused to cooperate with any investigation, and repeatedly showed no interest in the issue when he was the one under scrutiny. How convincing do you find this statement?

(Split Sample) Republicans have been up in arms about Biden's discovered documents, but they are showing once again their focus on the wrong things and their obsession with trying to score political points instead of doing their jobs. They are focused on Biden's documents and pointless, baseless investigations into things like this instead of lowering costs, creating jobs, and doing what they can to improve the economy. How convincing do you find this statement?



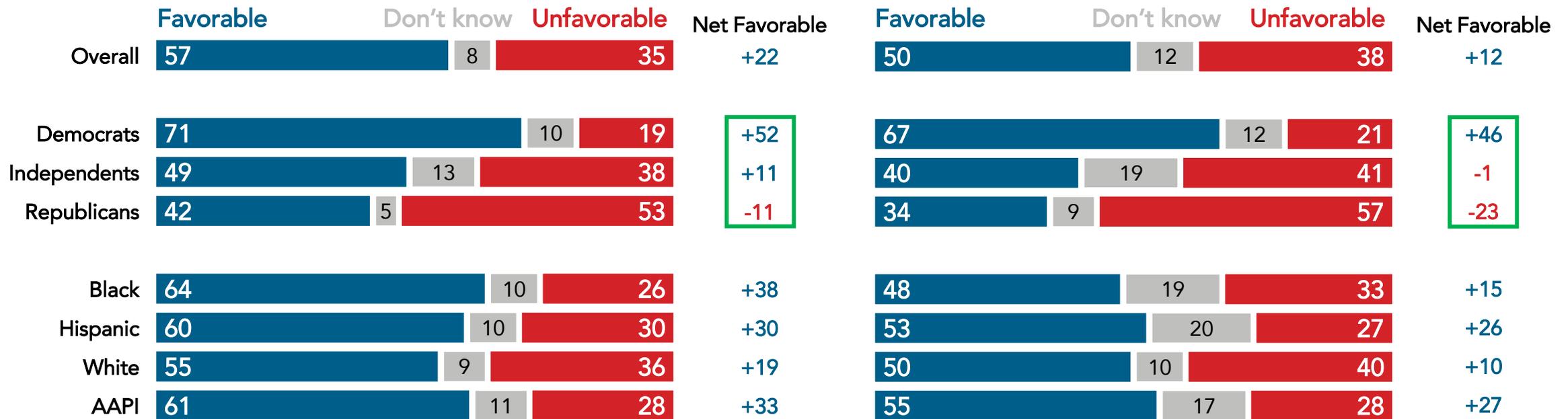
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Both the FBI and DOJ Are Viewed Favorably, Though With Partisan Differences

Democrats hold mostly favorable views of both the FBI and the DOJ (net +52 favorable and net +46 favorable, respectively), while Republicans hold unfavorable views of each (net -11 and net -23). Independents are more favorable toward the FBI (net +11) and split on the DOJ (net -1).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to:
The Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI.

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to:
The Department of Justice.



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About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Jessica Floyd, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; Mike Podhorzer, AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted public opinion surveys among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from January 20-January 23, 2023. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 75 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among independent voters. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from an opt-in online panel vendor. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables.

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To learn more about Navigator:

<http://navigatorresearch.org>

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