



CYGNAL

Deportation, ICE & Rule of Law

National Survey of Likely 2026

Midterm General Election Voters

January 27 – 28, 2026 | n=1,004 | ±3.09%

Democrats are living on a different planet when it comes to the issue of deportation and ICE's enforcement of federal laws to remove those here illegally. Most voters are on one side of the issue, and Democrats are taking a drastically opposition position on every aspect of the issue.

A **huge majority of voters** strongly believe people who came into the country without permission broke the law doing so, proving the term "illegal" is how Americans term the topic. They **support deporting** them back to their countries of origin. And...a **majority supports ICE enforcing** federal immigration laws and removing those here illegally. The mainstream Democrat position to **defund ICE is strongly opposed by most**.

The **media narrative** around the topic of deportation and ICE reflect the Democratic view of the issue in opposition to a large majority of Americans. Maybe that's why a Center for Public Integrity analysis of campaign finance data in 2016 found 97% of journalist donations go to Democrats.

This **push against deportation** from the Left is proven in the polling to **cost Democrats electorally** in the midterms if **Republican say strong** on this "rule of law" issue.

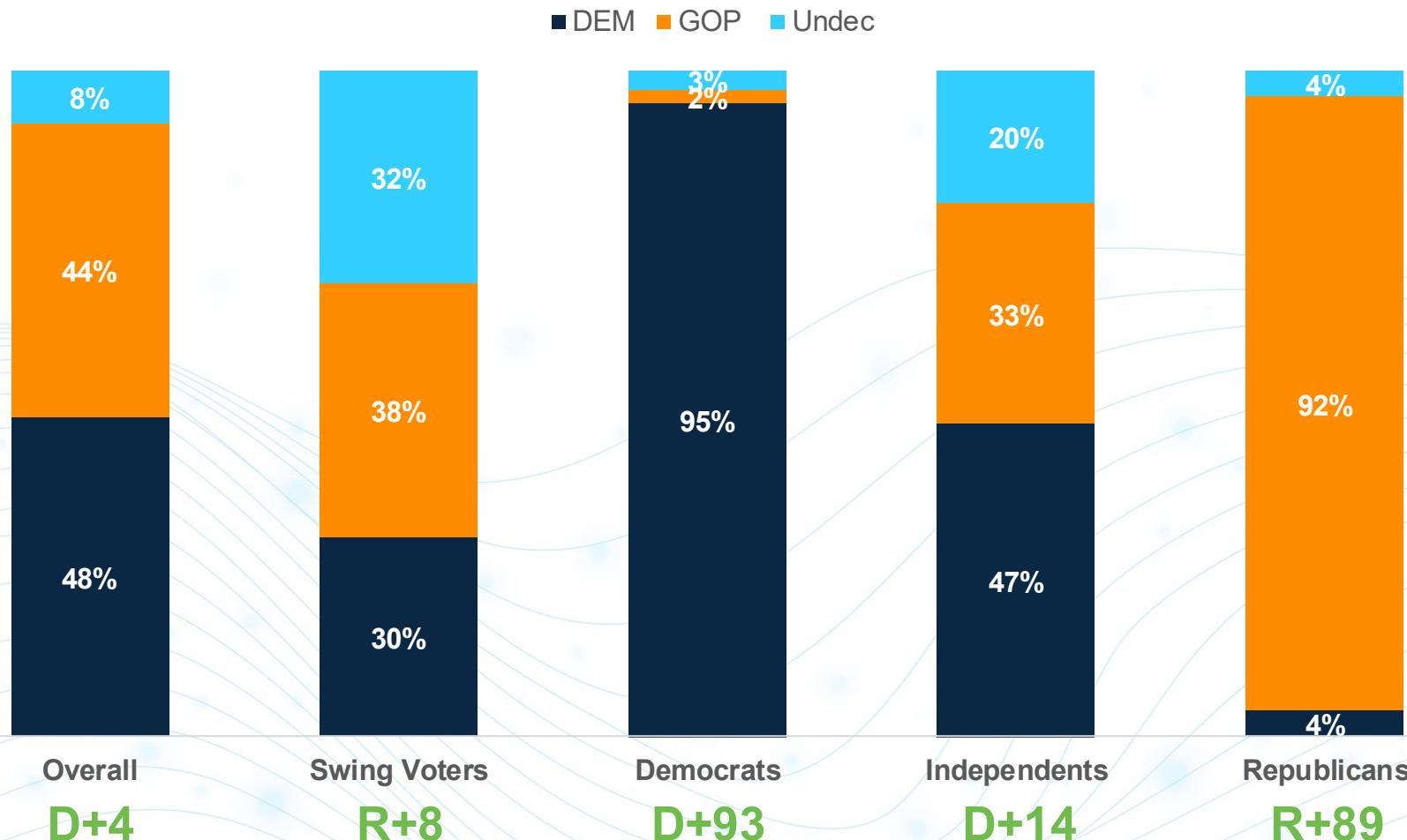
Key Numbers

- 73% say entering the U.S. without legal permission is breaking the law.
- Voters support deporting those here illegally by 2:1 (61 - 34).
- 54% support ICE enforcing federal immigration laws to remove illegal immigrants.
- 58% oppose defunding ICE.

Generic Congressional Ballot



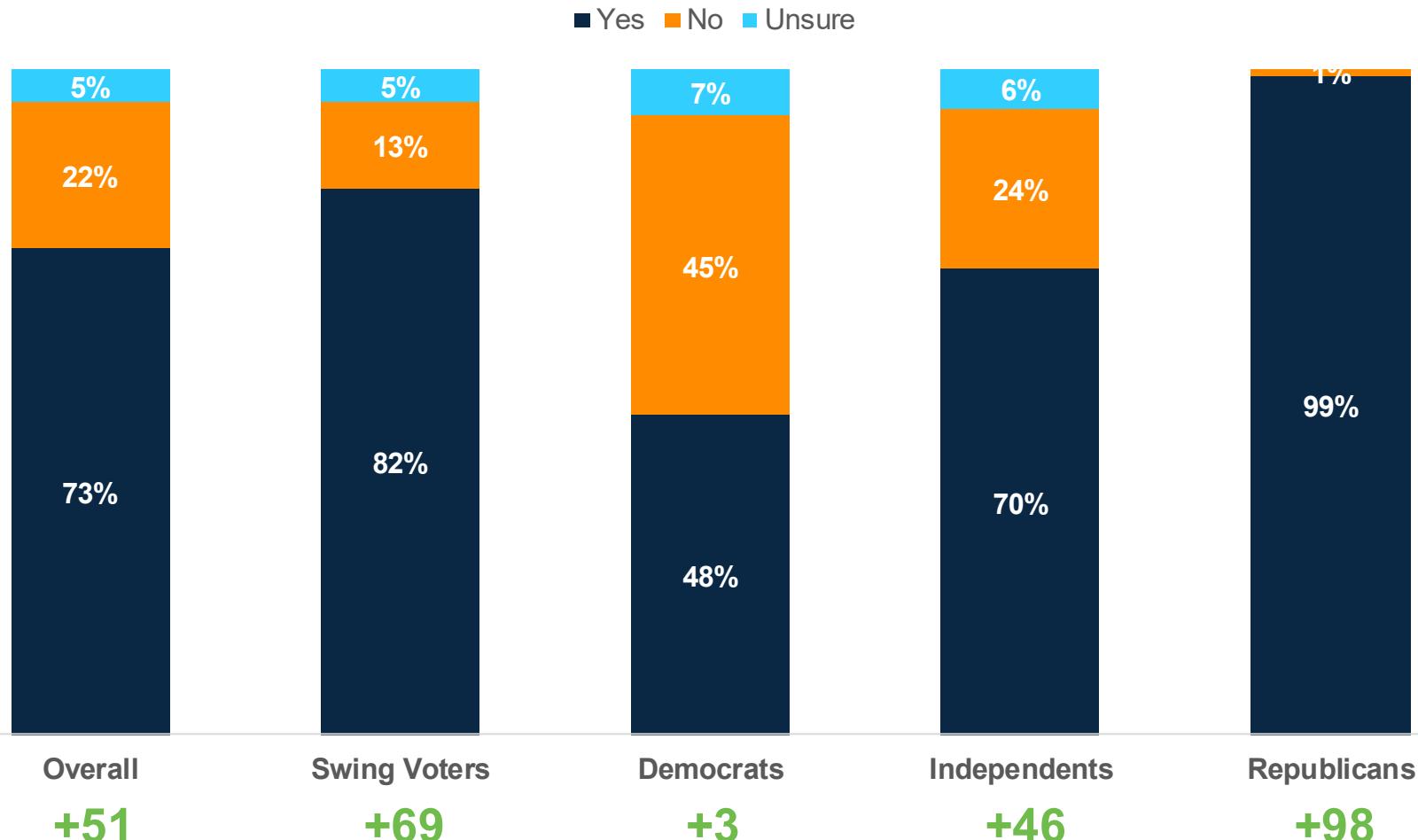
Democrats currently lead Republicans on the midterm generic ballot, including a lead with Independents but a slight deficit among swing voters.



If the election was held today, and you had to make a choice, would you vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate for U.S. Congress?

Illegals Breaking the Law Opinion

Three-fourths of Americans believes those who came here illegally broke the law. Democrats are 48 points outside the mainstream view of this rule-of-law issue.

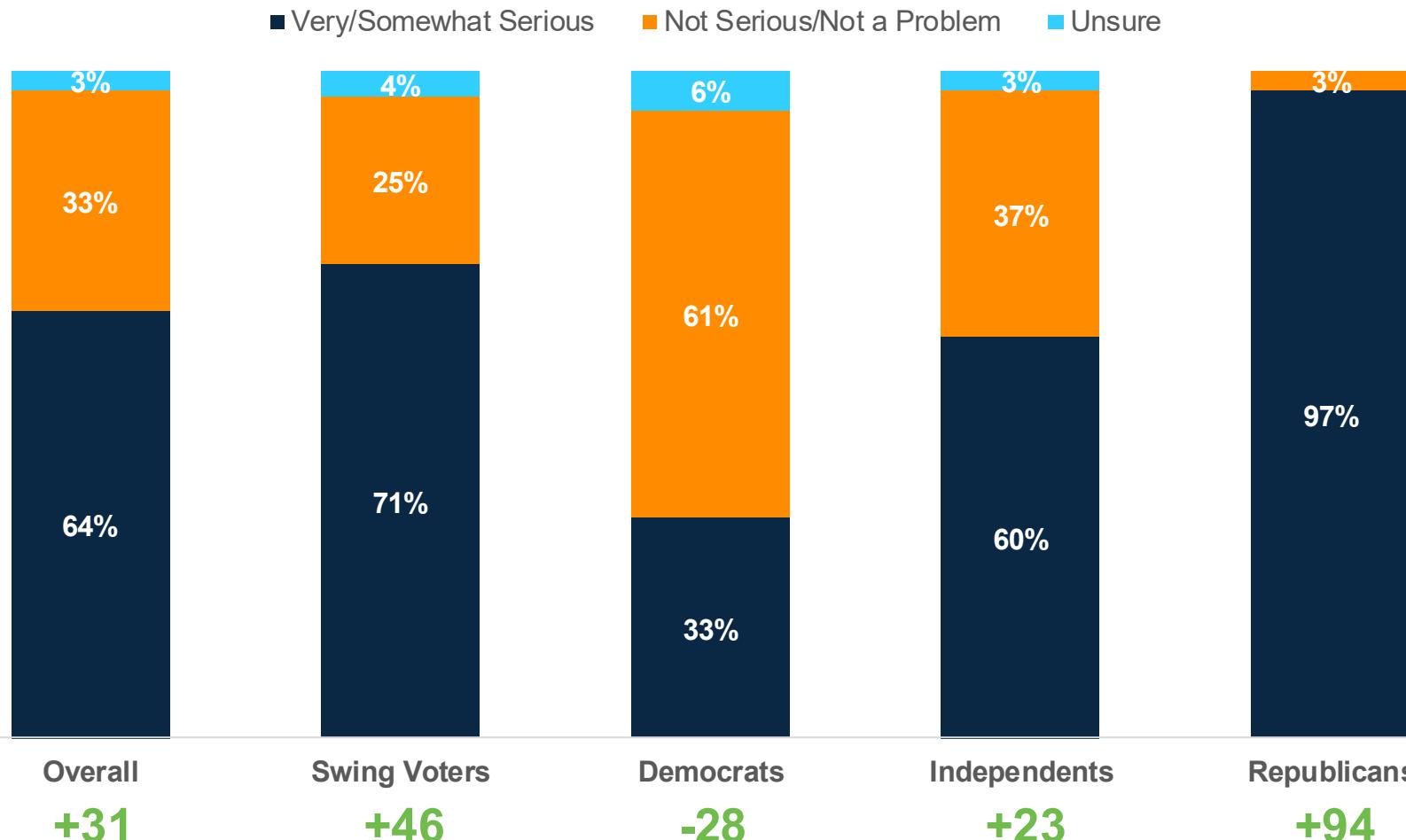


Do you believe that individuals who have entered the United States without legal permission have broken the law?

Illegal Immigration Problem Severity – National



Two-thirds of voters believe illegal immigration is a very to somewhat serious problem. Once again, Democrats are on the complete opposite side of the issue believing it's not a problem.

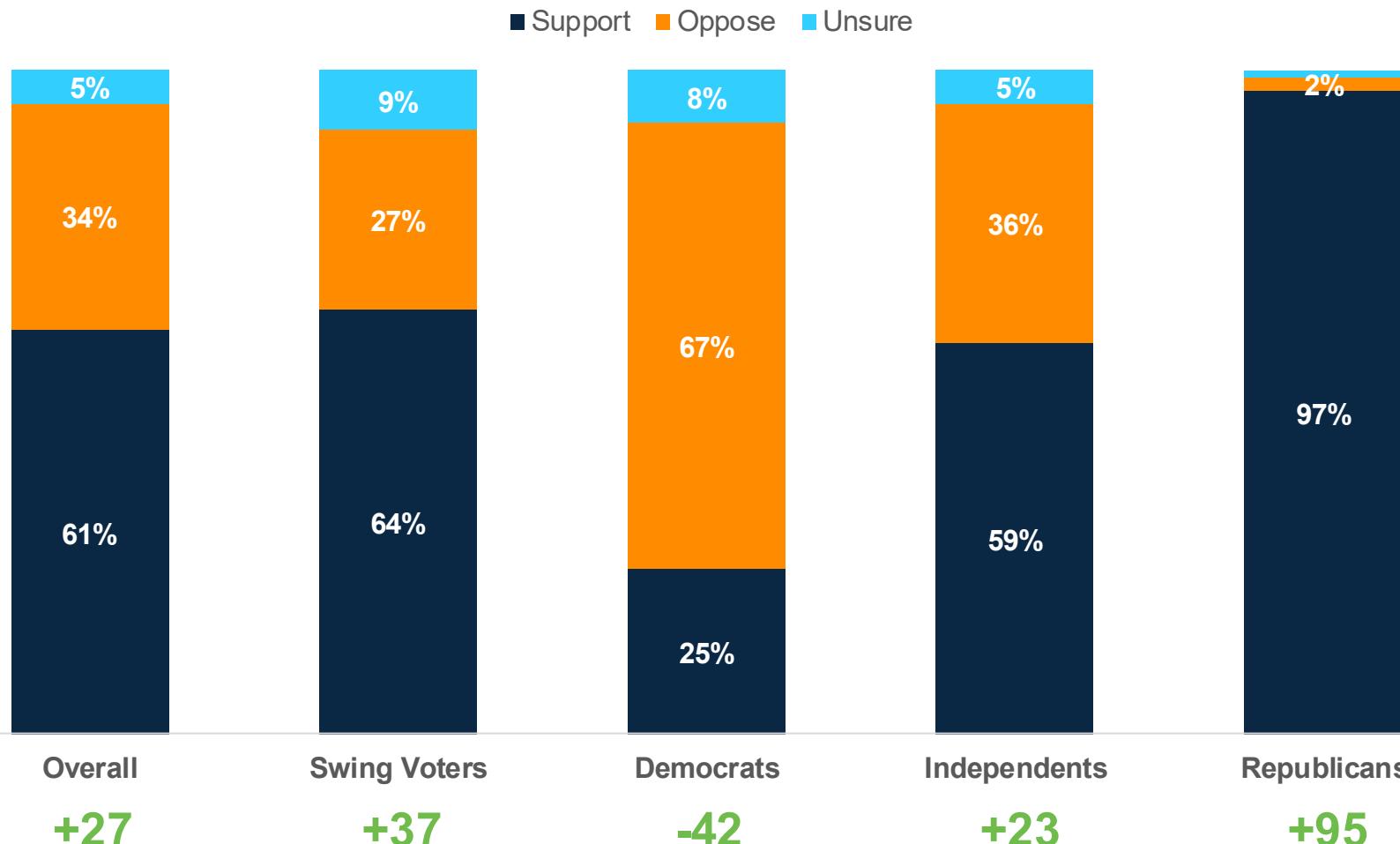


How much of a problem is illegal immigration in the United States?

Deportation Opinion



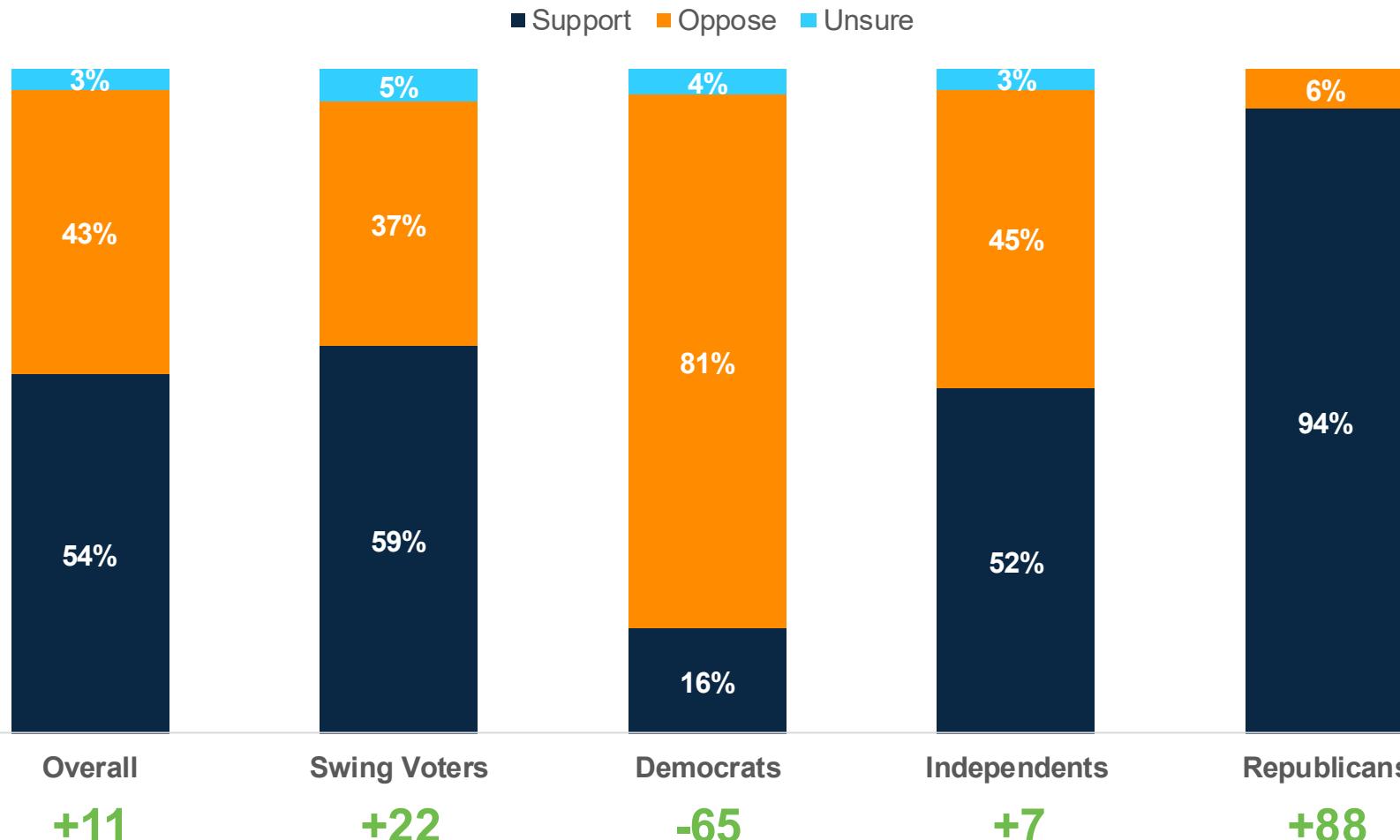
Over 60% of midterm voters support deporting those illegally in the United States. Democrats live in an alternate world and completely disagree, with 67% opposing deportations.



Do you support or oppose deporting those illegally in the United States back to their country of origin?

ICE Enforcement

Despite the mainstream media narrative, a majority support ICE enforcing immigration laws to remove illegal immigrants. Democrats are strongly in opposition.

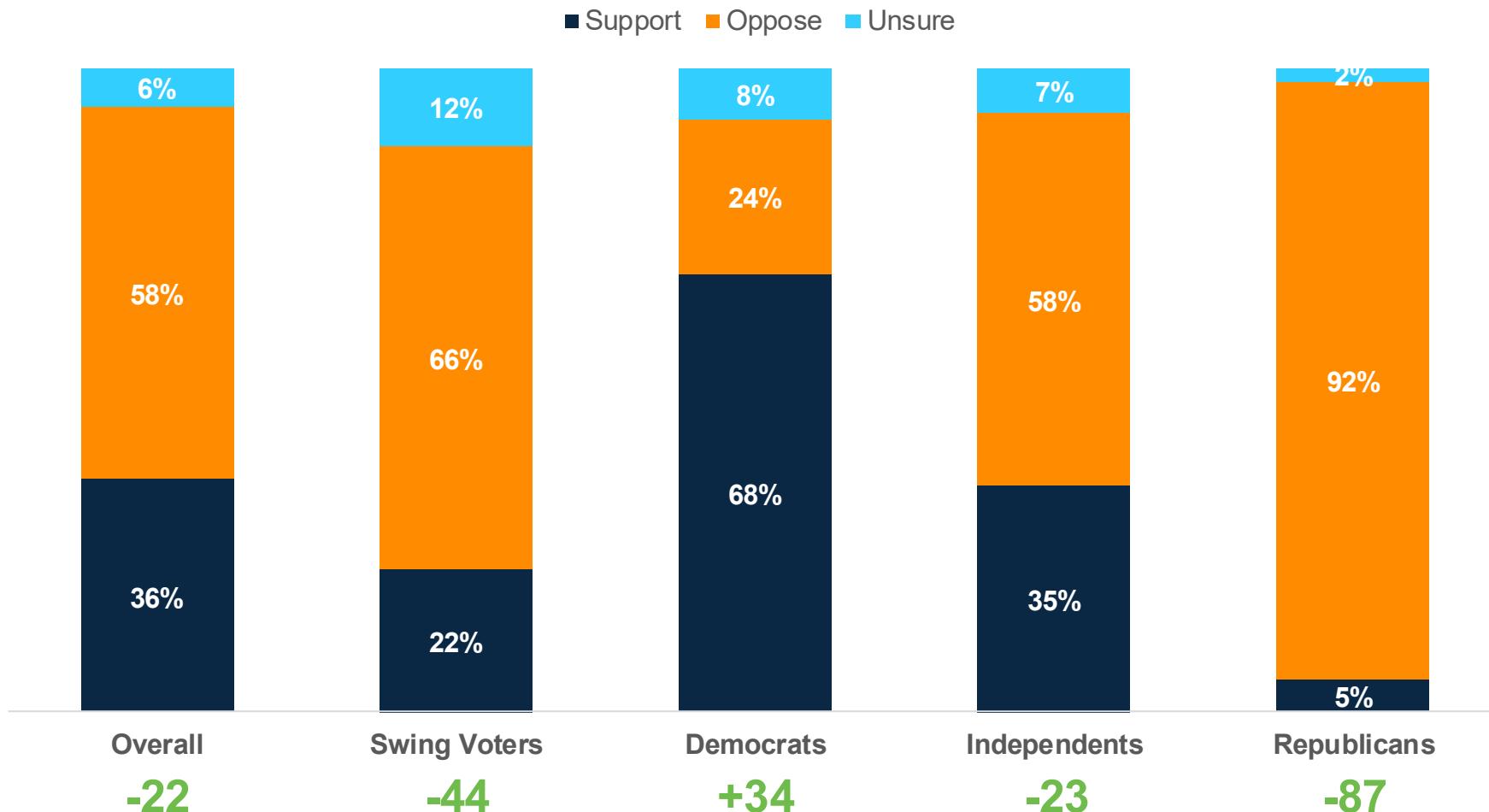


Do you support or oppose Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) enforcing federal immigration laws to remove illegal immigrants from the U.S.?

Defund ICE Shutdown Position



Voters are staunchly against shutting down the government to defund ICE, except for Democrats where nearly 70% would shut down the government over the issue.

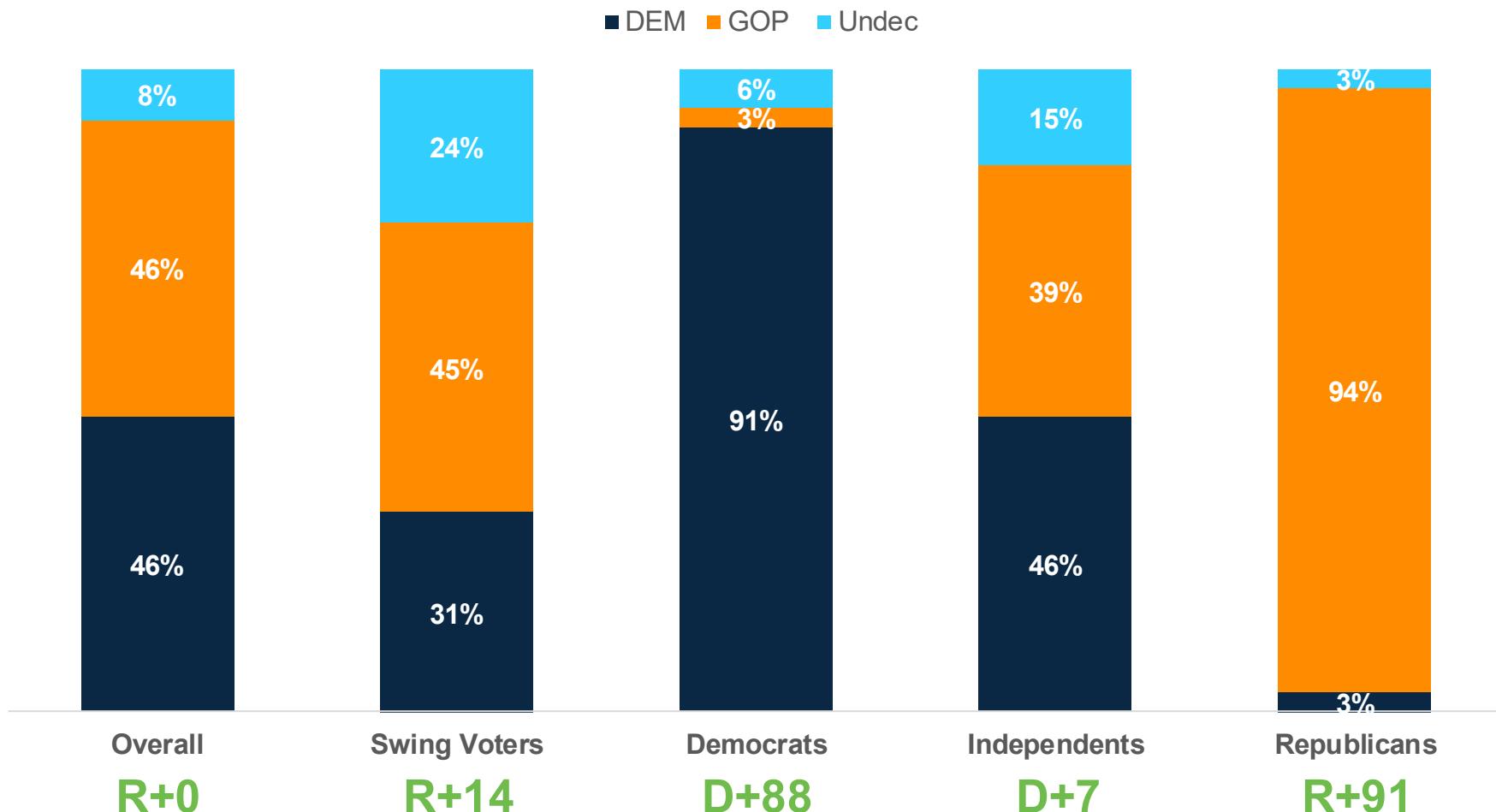


Do you support or oppose shutting down the federal government to defund ICE?

ICE Congressional Election Impact



When voters hear Democrats oppose ICE enforcing immigration laws and the Republicans support ICE enforcing immigration laws, the generic ballot erases the Democratic lead, making it a tie and adding margin to the GOP among swing voters.



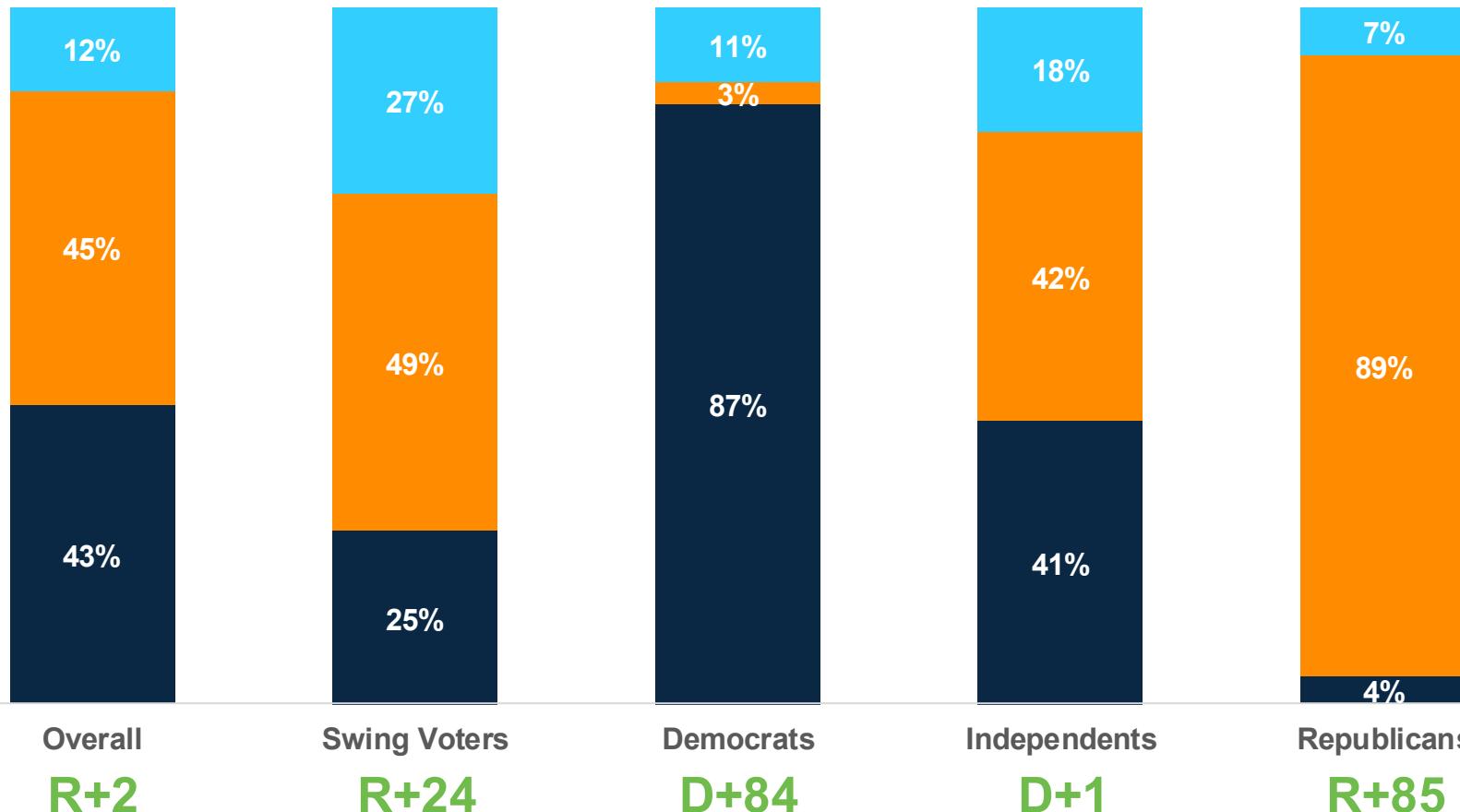
If the Republican candidate for Congress supports ICE's ability to enforce federal immigration laws and the Democrat candidate for Congress opposed ICE enforcing federal immigration laws, who would you vote for?

Defund ICE Congressional Election Impact



If Democrats push to shut down the government over ICE funding, midterm voters punish them even further, giving Republicans a 2-point generic ballot lead, tying Independents, and pushing swing voters further to the right.

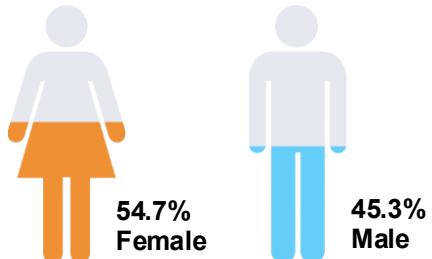
■ DEM ■ GOP ■ Undec



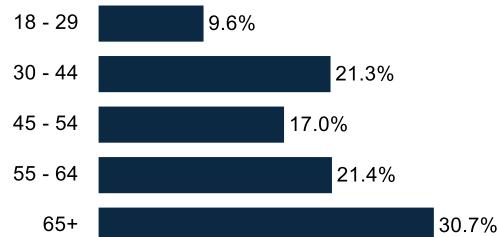
If the Republican candidate for Congress opposed shutting down the government to defund ICE, and the Democrat candidate for Congress supported shutting down the government to defund ICE, who would you vote for?

Demographics

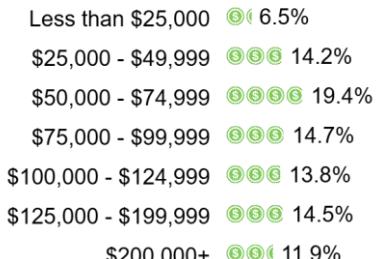
Sex



Age Range



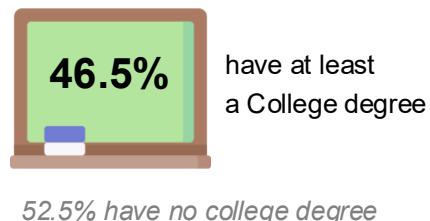
Household Income



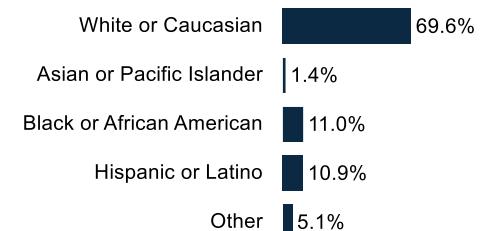
Geo



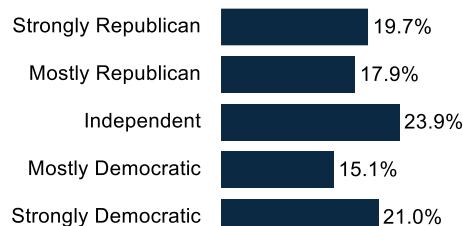
Education



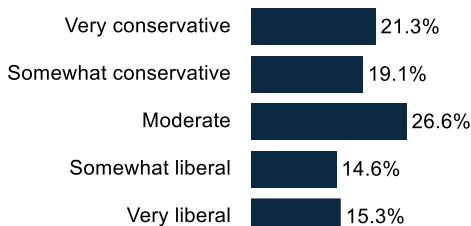
Race/Ethnicity



Partisanship



Ideology



General Election X of 4

