

COMPETING VISIONS OF AMERICA: AN EVOLVING IDENTITY OR A CULTURE UNDER ATTACK?

Findings from the 2021 American Values Survey

@PRRIpoll
@RobertPJones
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#AVS2021



About the 2021 American Values Survey

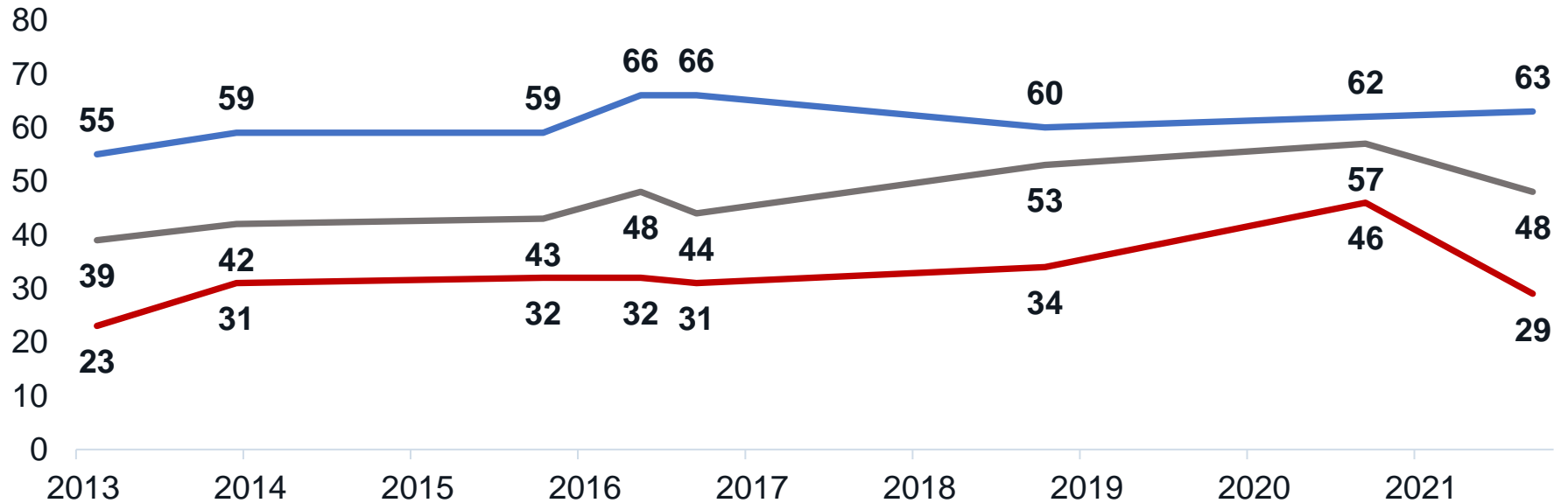
- 12th Annual American Values Survey, conducted by PRRI in partnership with The Brookings Institution
- Survey of 2,508 adults who are members of KnowledgePanel, a probability-based panel run by Ipsos, conducted September 16-29, 2021.
- Supported by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, with additional support from the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation and the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock.

CULTURAL ANXIETIES, CONSPIRACIES, AND POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Change in American Culture and Way of Life Since the 1950s, by Party Affiliation

Percent who say things have changed mostly for the better since the 1950s

— Republican — Independent — Democrat

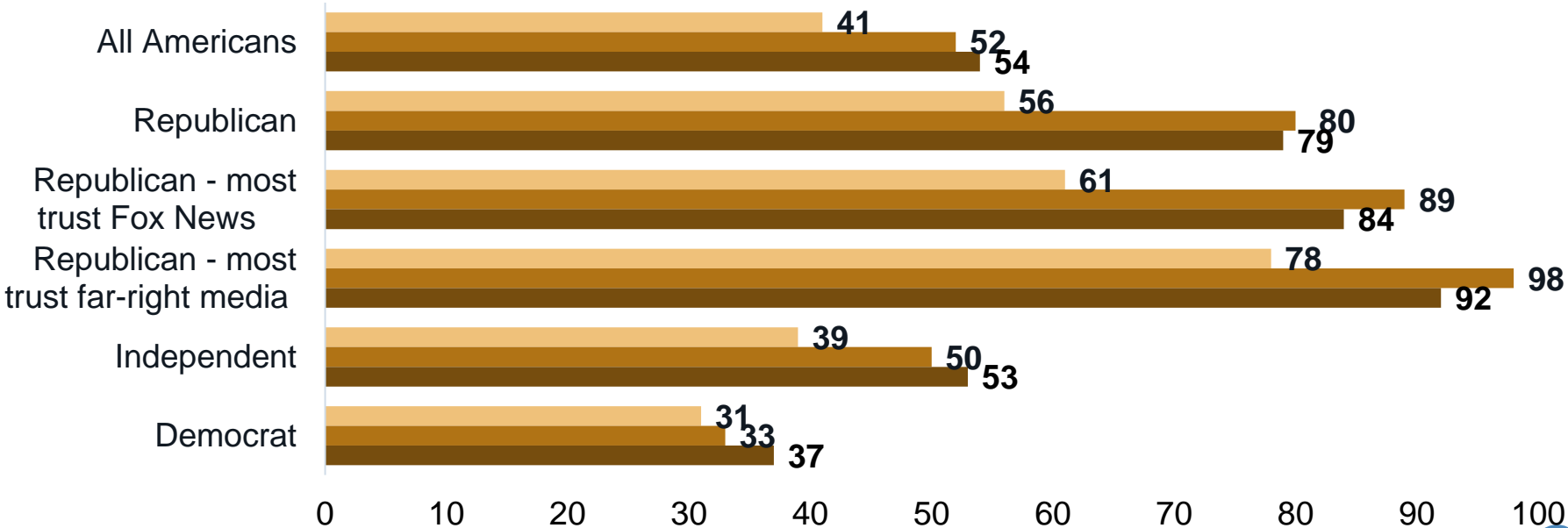


Sources: PRRI 2013-2021 Surveys.

Perceptions of Cultural Change in the U.S. as a Threat, by Party Affiliation

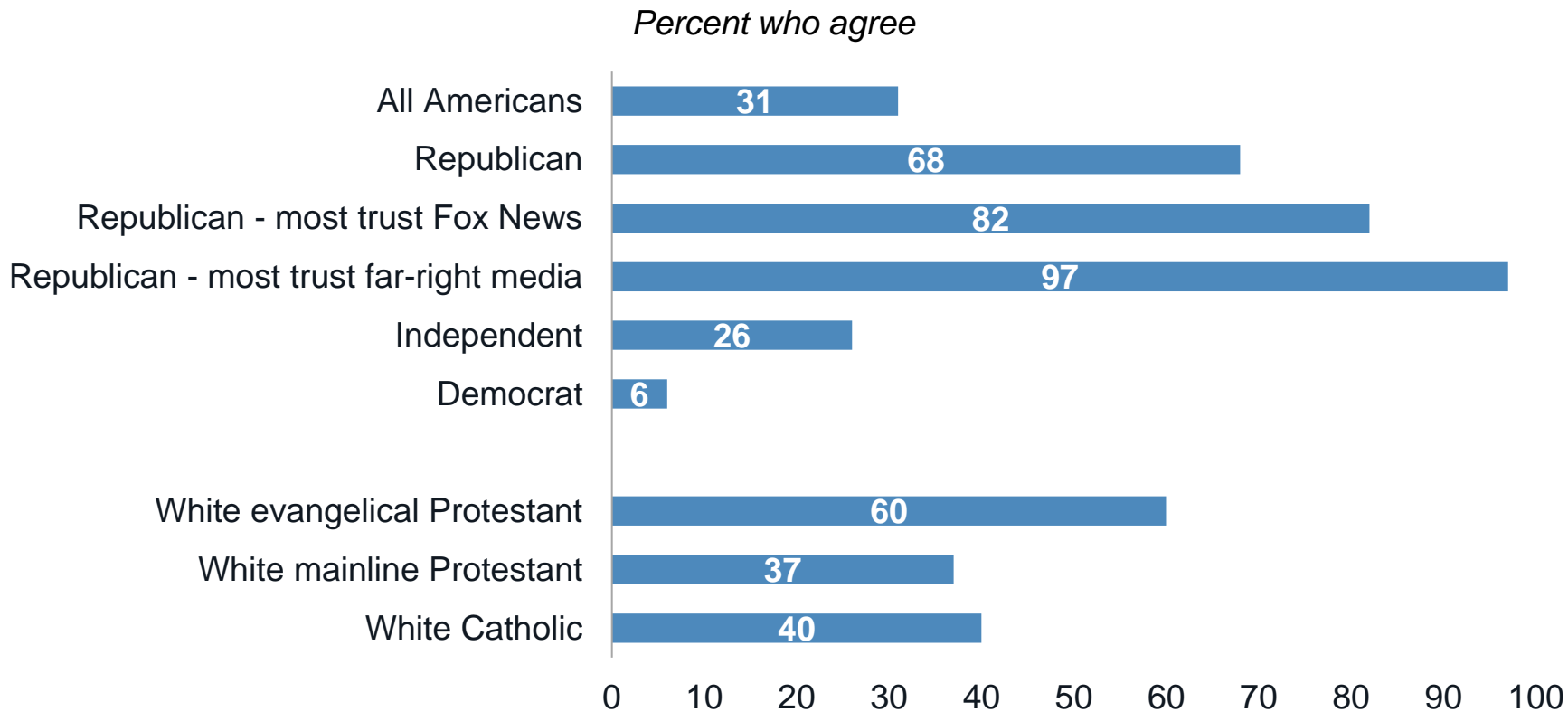
Percent who agree

- Things have changed so much that I often feel like a stranger in my own country
- Today, America is in danger of losing its culture and identity
- The American way of life needs to be protected from foreign influence



Sources: PRRI surveys 2016-2020.

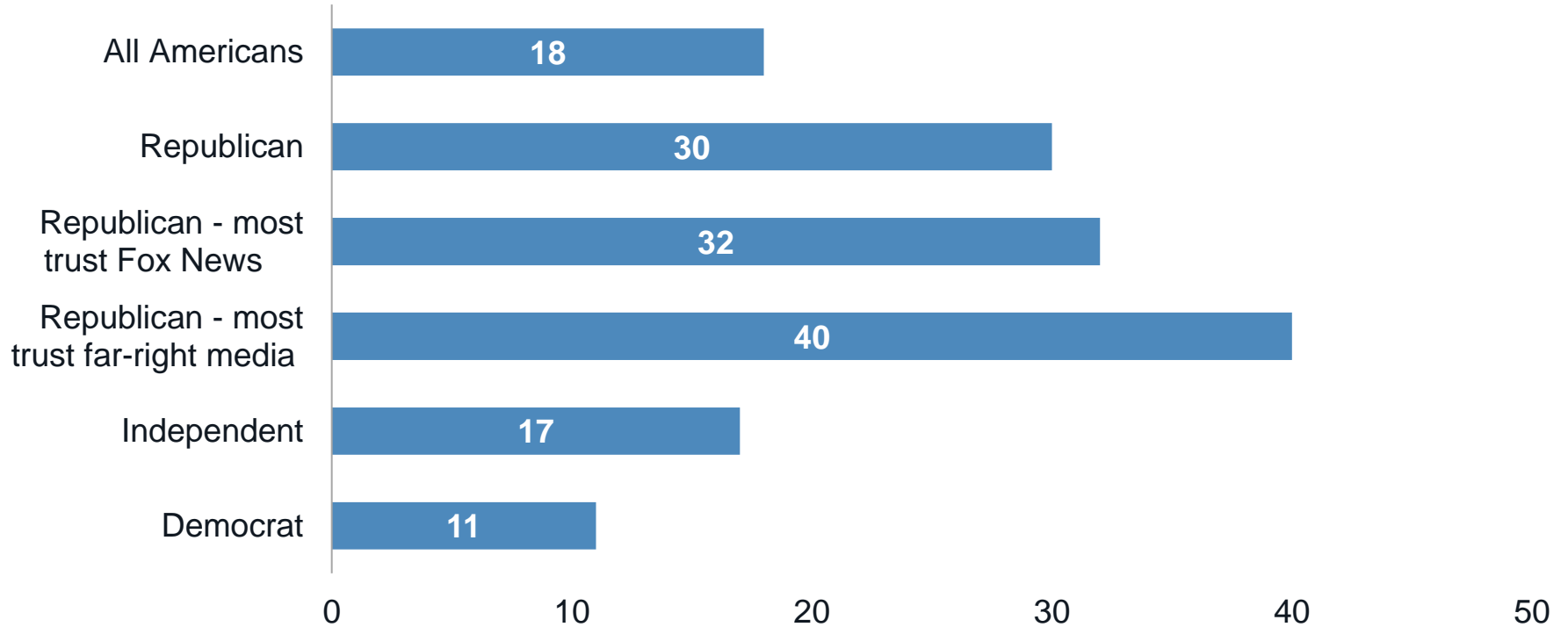
The 2020 Election was Stolen from Donald Trump, By Party Affiliation and White Christian Affiliation



Source: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey.

True American Patriots Might Have to Resort to Violence in Order to Save Our Country, by Party Affiliation

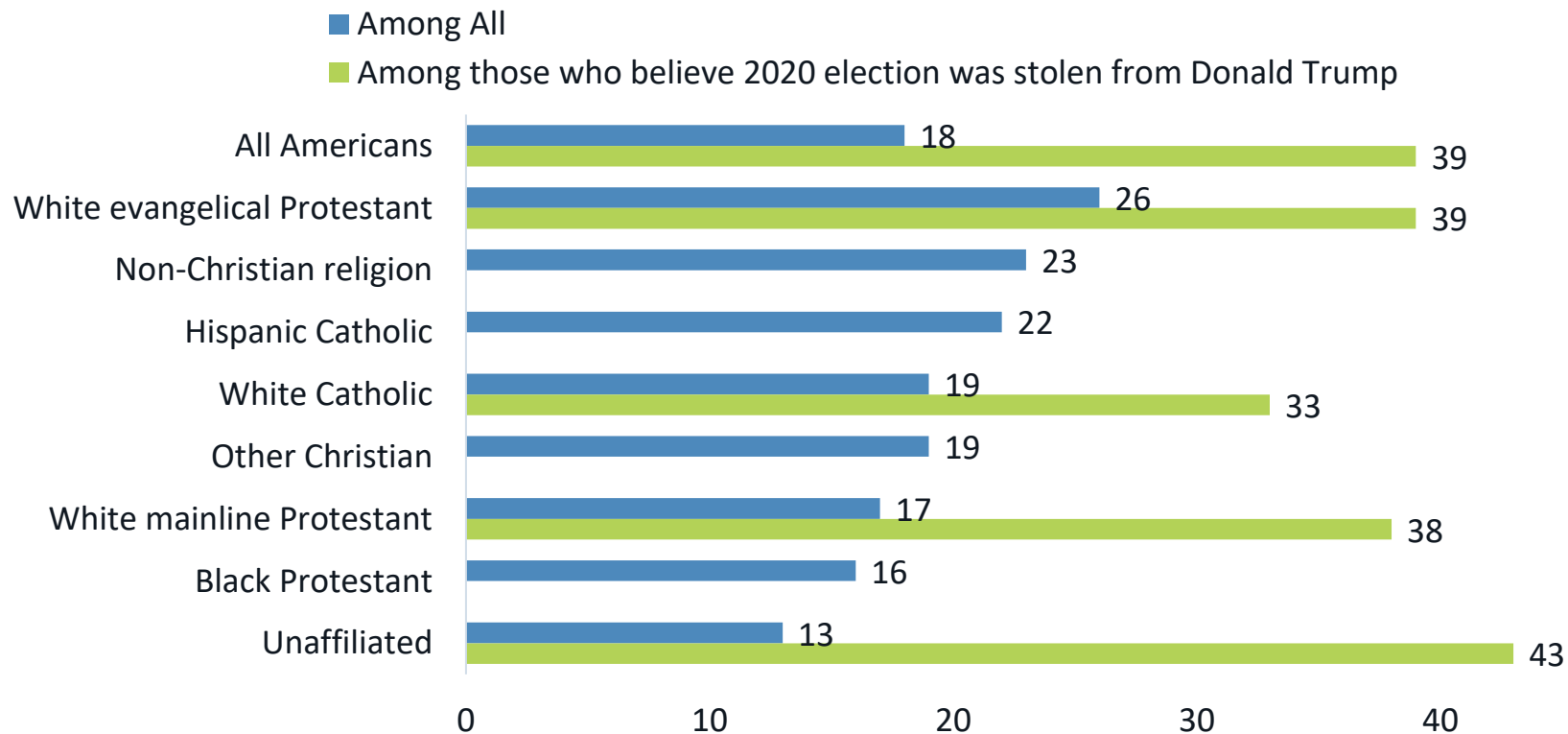
Percent who agree



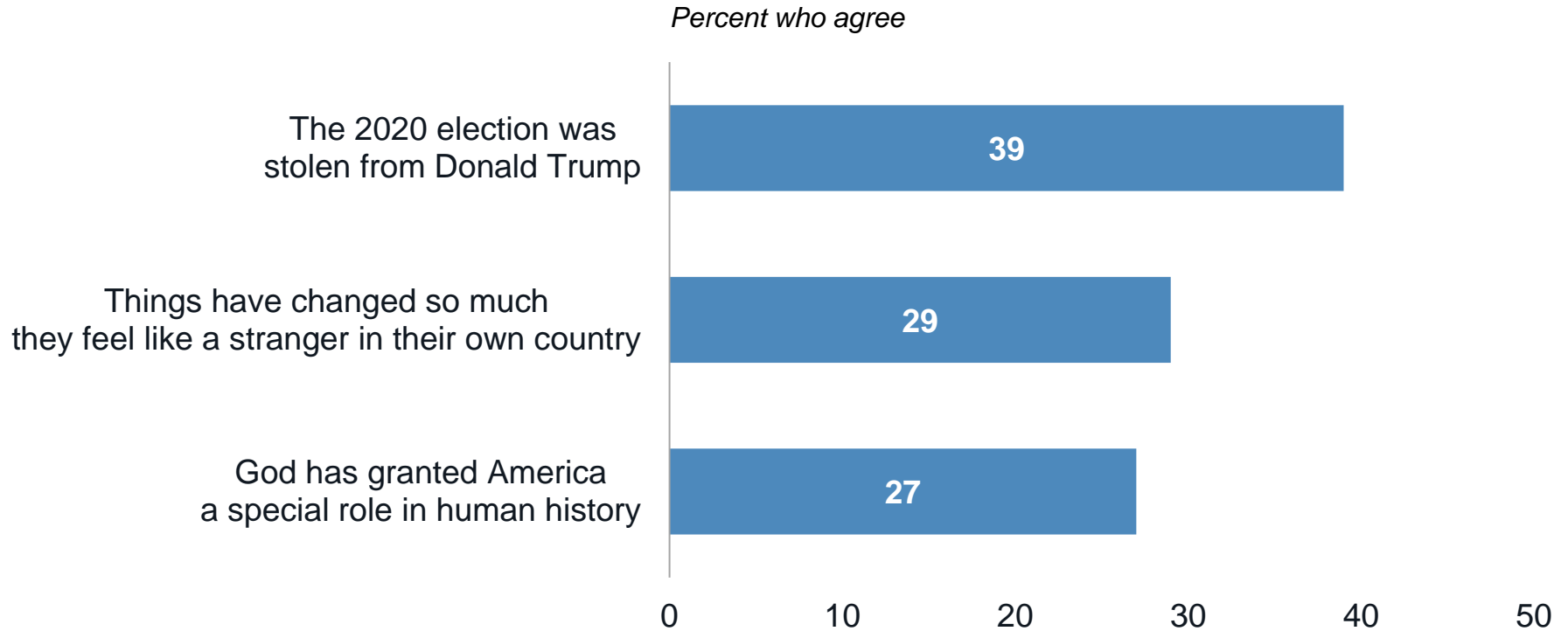
Source: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey.

True American Patriots Might Have to Resort to Violence in Order to Save Our Country, by Religious Affiliation

Percent who agree



True American Patriots Might Have to Resort to Violence in Order to Save Our Country, by Selected Attitudes



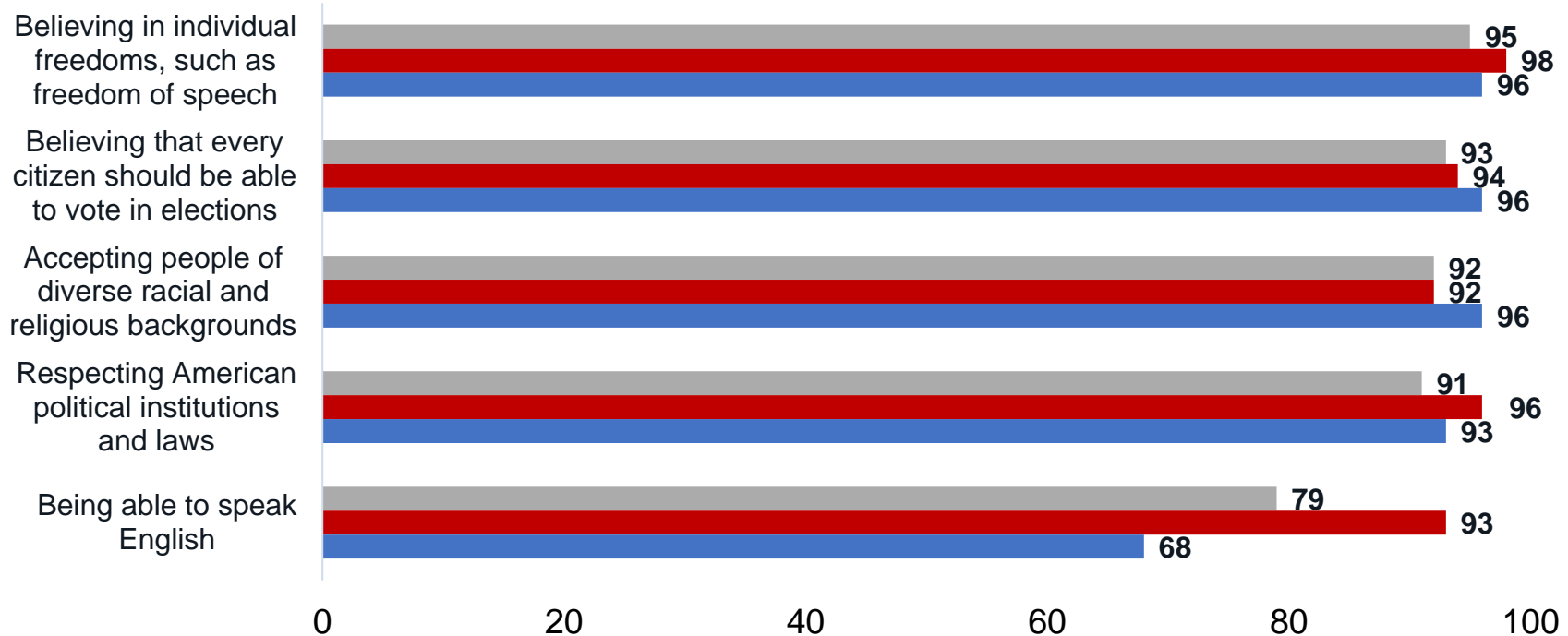
Source: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN AMERICAN?

Traits Associated With Being “Truly American,” Areas of Agreement by Party Affiliation

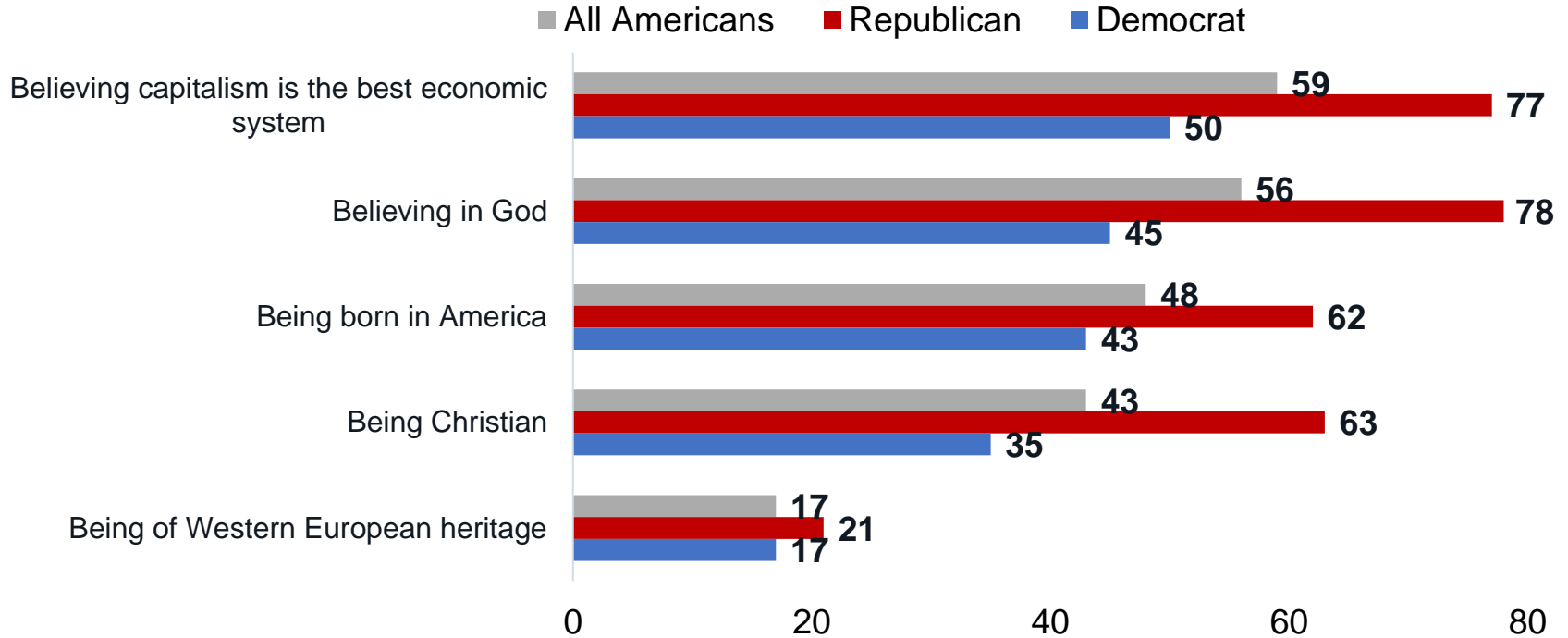
Percent who say trait is very or somewhat important to being “truly American”

■ All Americans ■ Republican ■ Democrat



Traits Associated With Being “Truly American,” Areas of Disagreement by Party Affiliation

Percent who say the following is very or somewhat important to being “truly American”

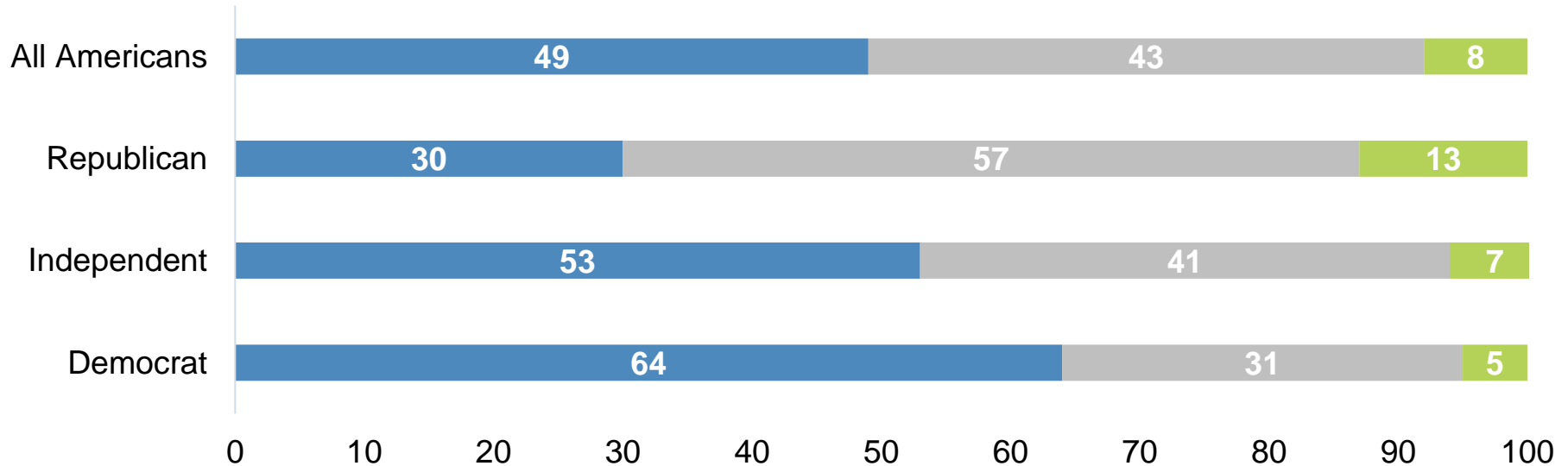


Source: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey.

Preference for Racial and Ethnic Diversity vs. Western European Majority in U.S., by Party Affiliation

Percent who would prefer the U.S. to be a nation primarily made up of...

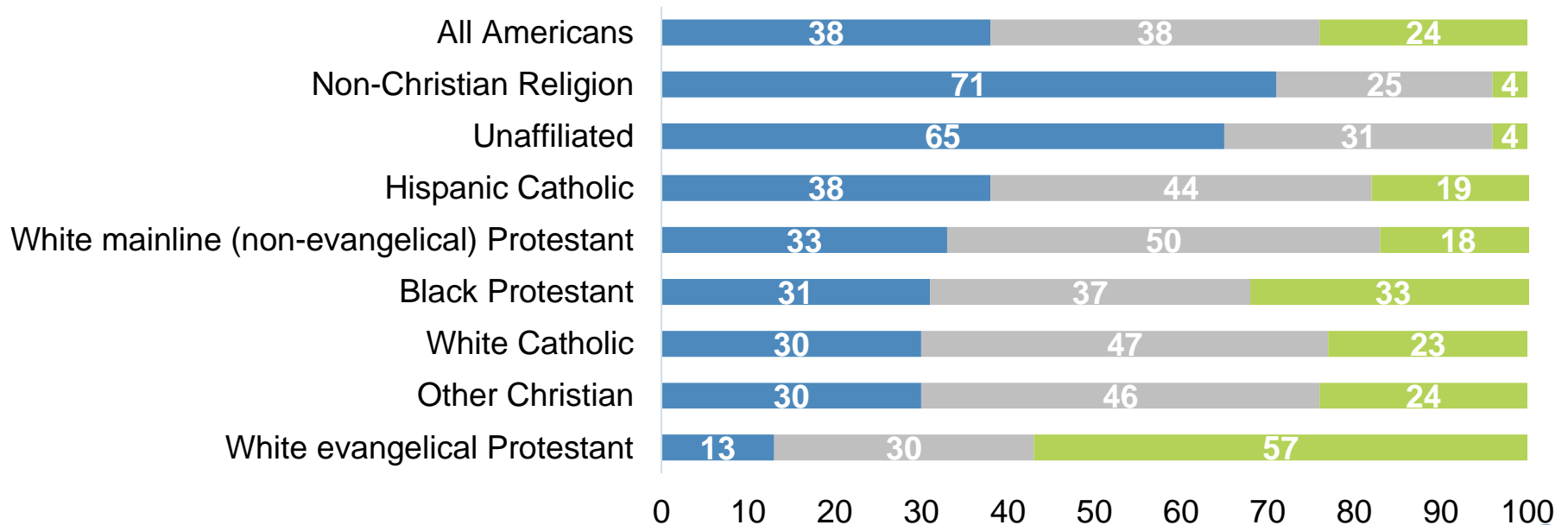
- People from all over the world
- Middle of the scale
- People of Western European heritage



Preference for Religious Diversity vs. Christian Majority in U.S., by Religious Affiliation

Percent who would prefer the U.S. to be a nation primarily made up of...

- People belonging to a wide variety of religions
- Middle of the scale
- People who follow the Christian faith



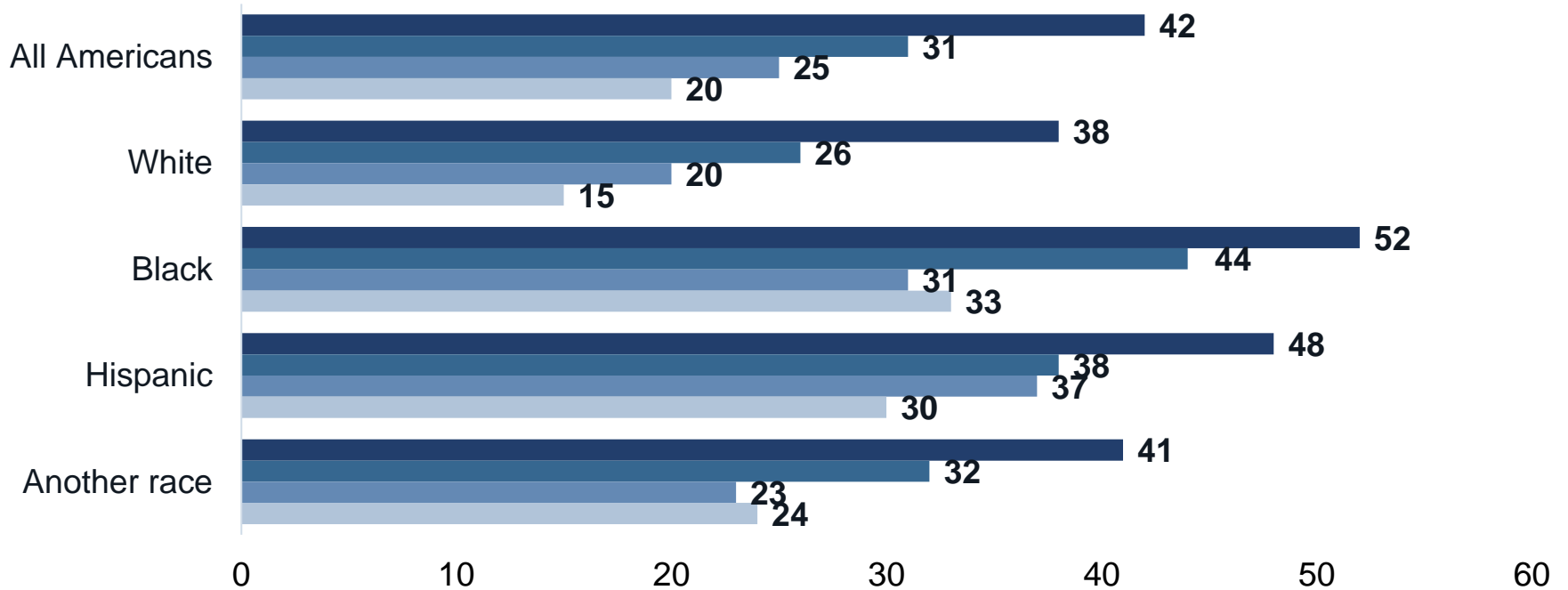
Source: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey.

ECONOMIC ANXIETIES

Concerns About Ability to Pay for Household Expenses, by Race and Ethnicity

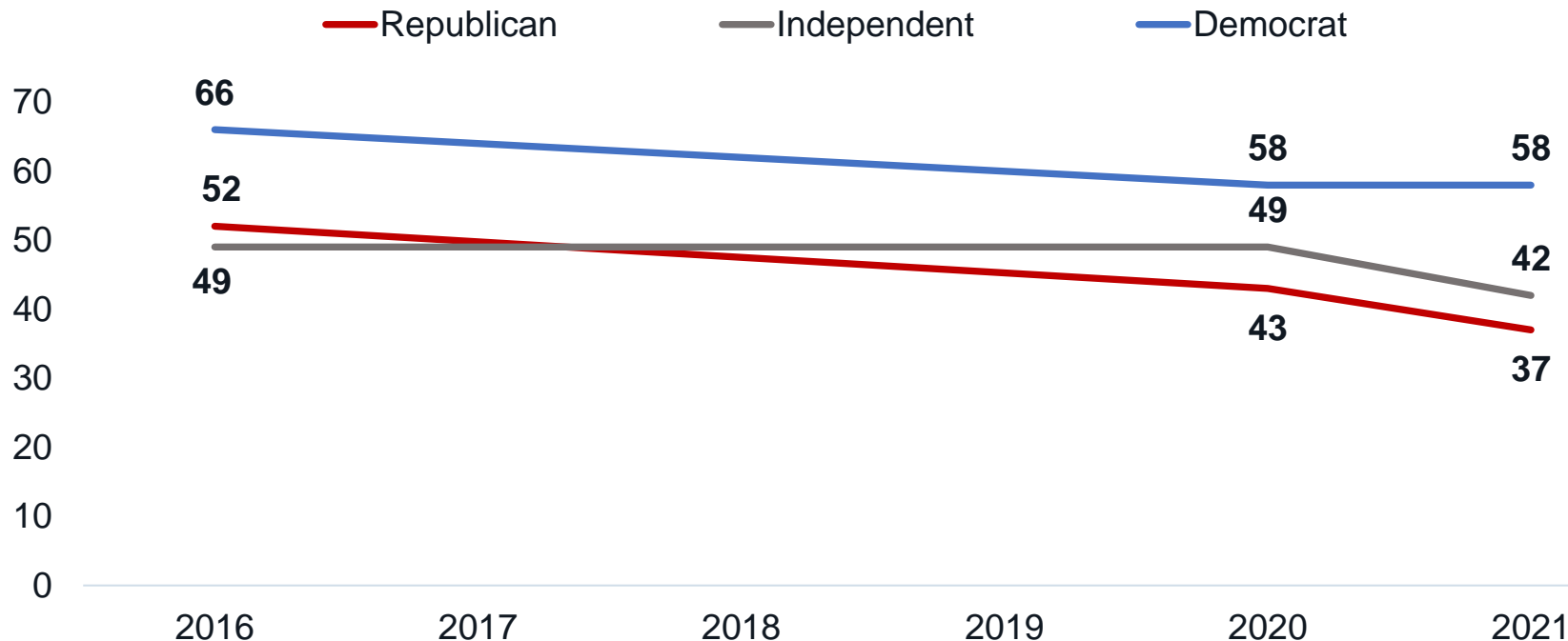
Percent who are somewhat or very concerned about being able to pay for:

■ Basic goods ■ Rent or mortgage ■ Credit card debt ■ Student loans



Perception of a College Education as a Smart Investment in the Future vs. A Gamble That Might Not Pay Off, by Party Affiliation

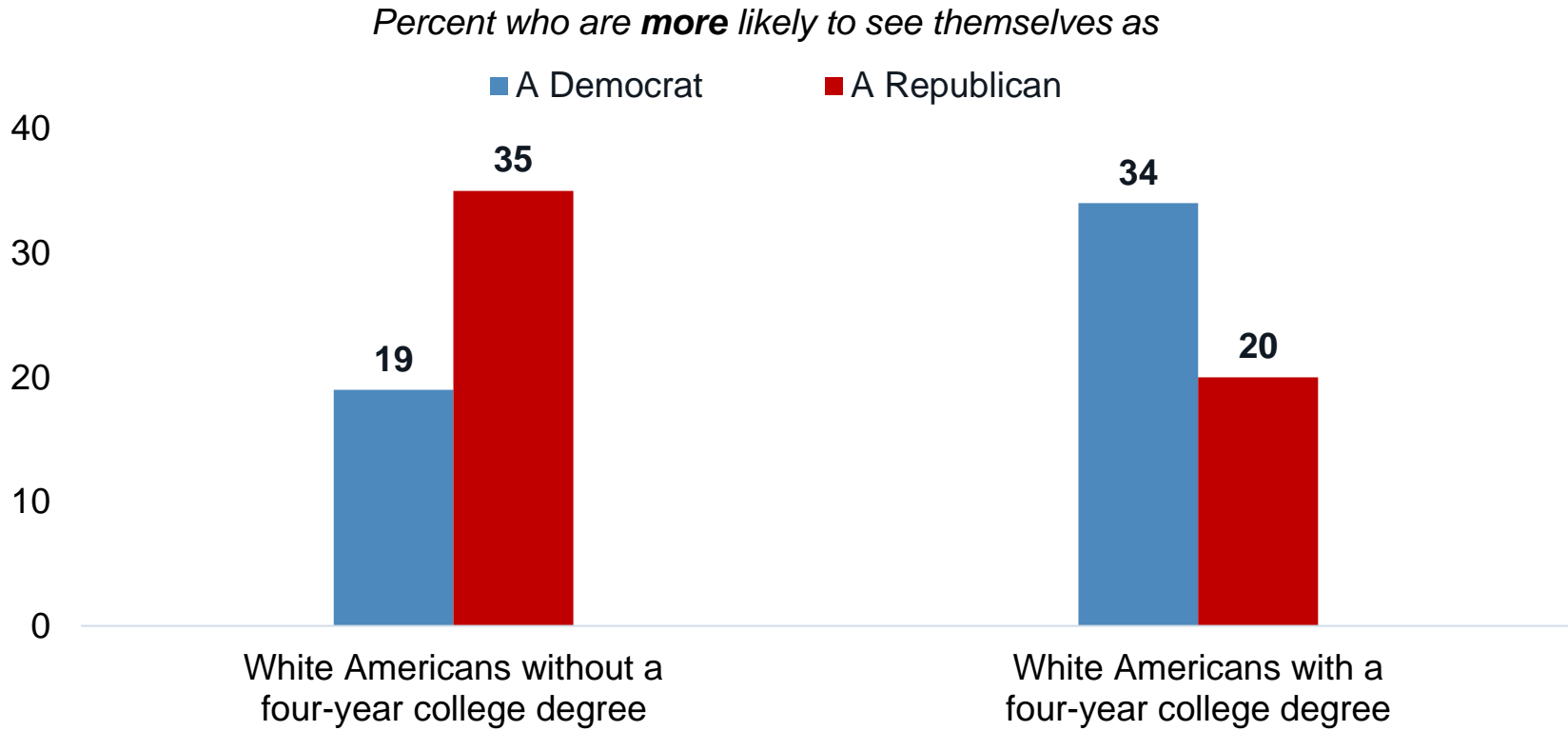
Percent who say a college education is a smart investment in the future:



Source: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey

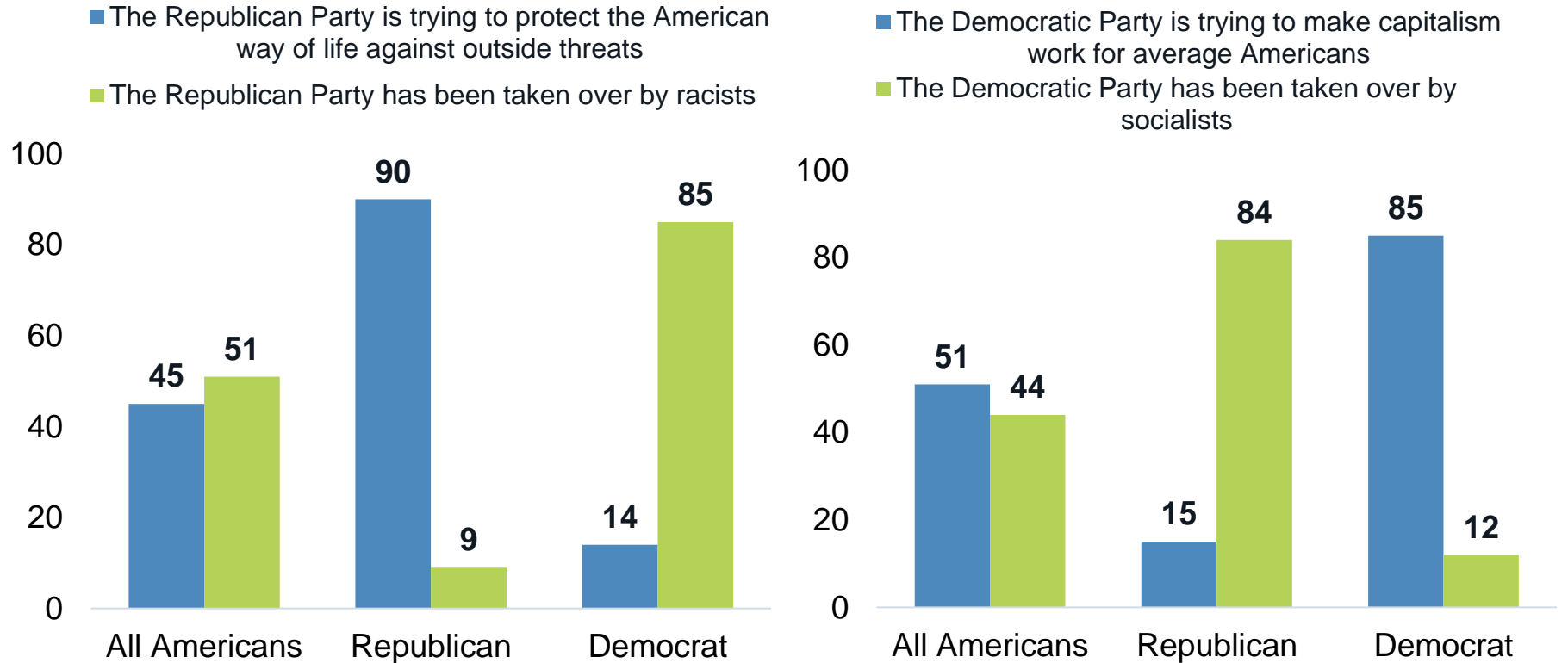
POLARIZATION AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES

Self-Reported Shifts in Partisan Identity Over Last Five Years, Among Whites by Education Level



Source: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey.

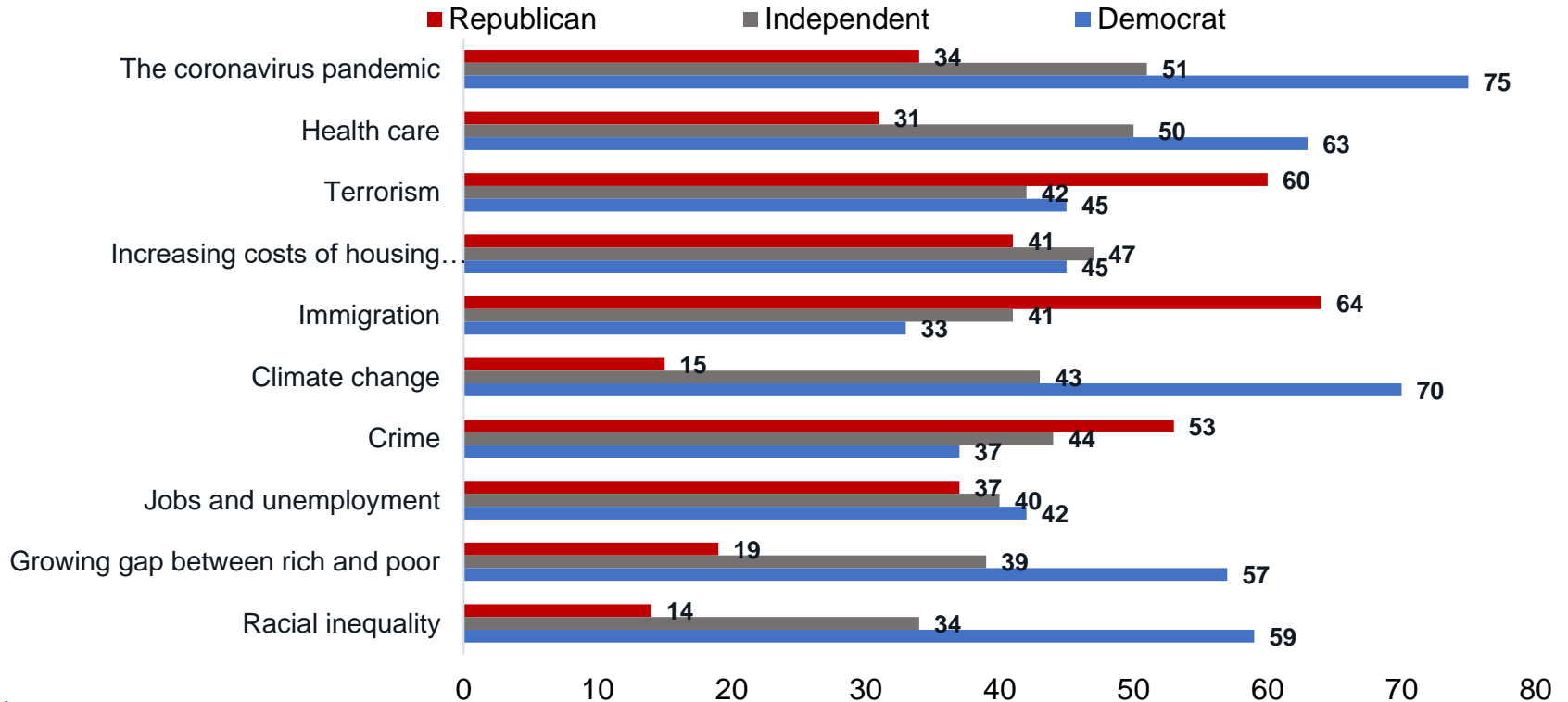
“Racists” and “Socialists”: Perceptions of Political Parties, by Party Affiliation



CRITICAL ISSUES

Perceptions of Critical Issues Facing the Country, by Party Affiliation

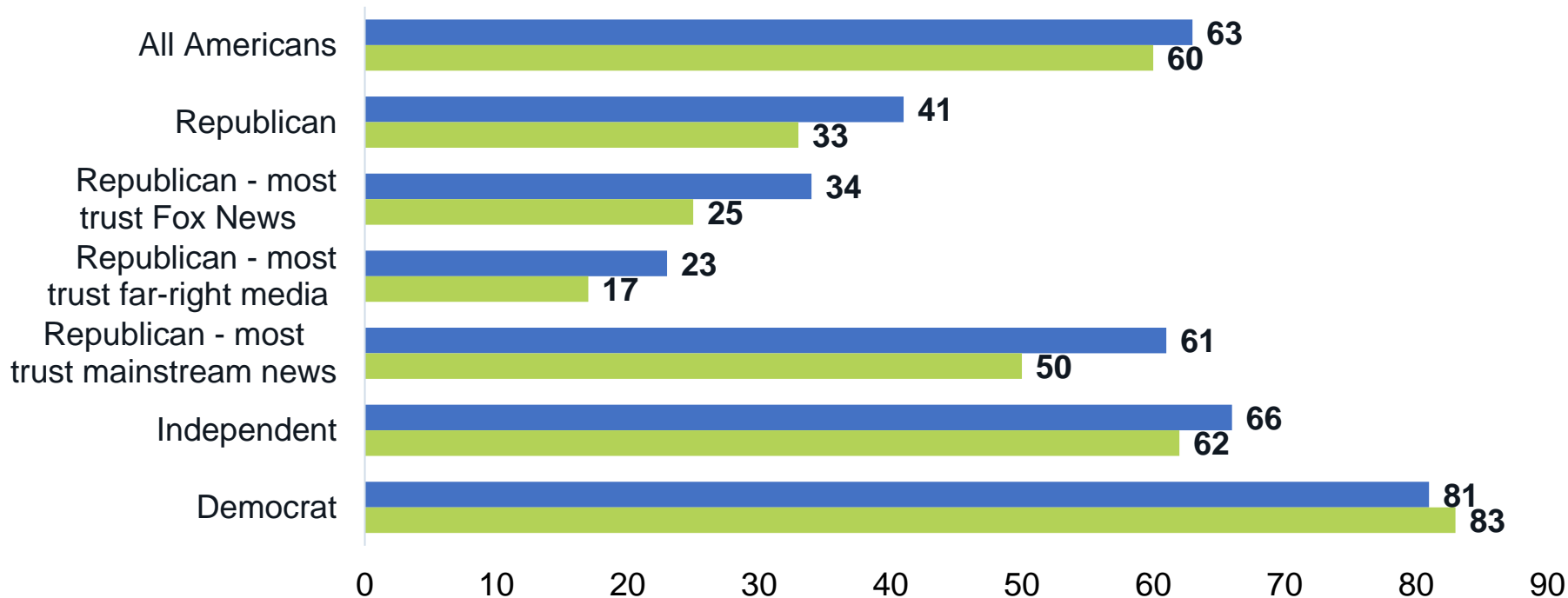
Percent who say the following is a critical issue:



Source: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey.

Support for Roe v. Wade and the Legality of Abortion, by Party Affiliation

- Agree Roe v. Wade was the right decision and should be upheld
- Say abortion should be legal in all or most cases

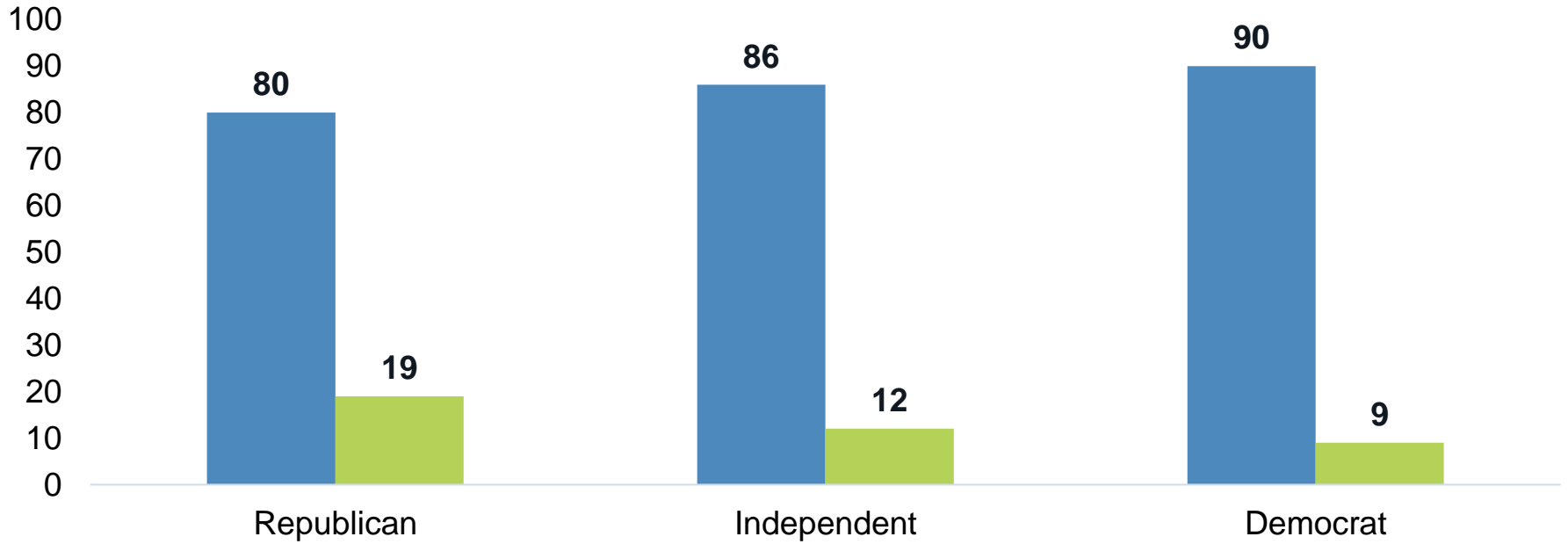


Sources: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey.

Beyond the “Critical Race Theory” Jargon, Common Ground about What We Should Teach Children about American History

We should teach American history to our children in school that:

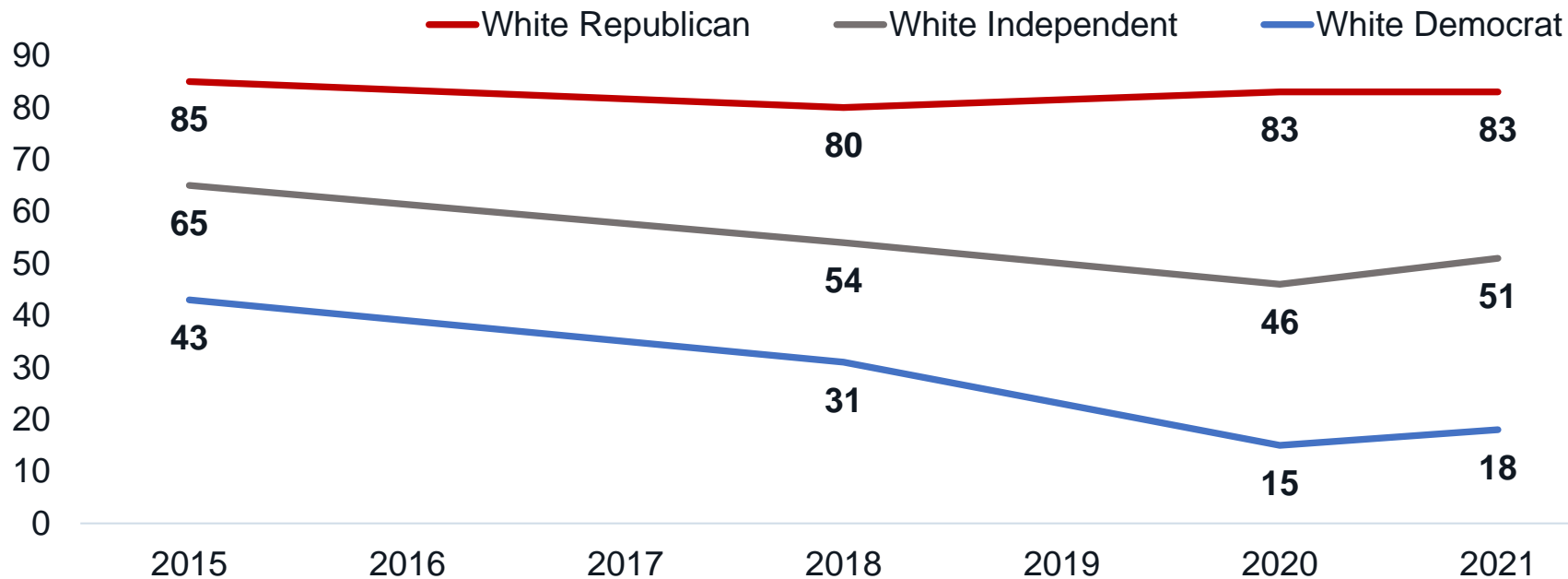
- Includes both our best achievements and our worst mistakes as a country
- Focuses on what makes this country exceptional and great



Source: PRRI 2021 American Values Survey.

Recent Killings of Black Americans by Police are Isolated Incidents vs. Part of a Pattern (2015-2021), Among Whites by Party Affiliation

Percent who say recent killings of Black Americans by police are ISOLATED INCIDENTS

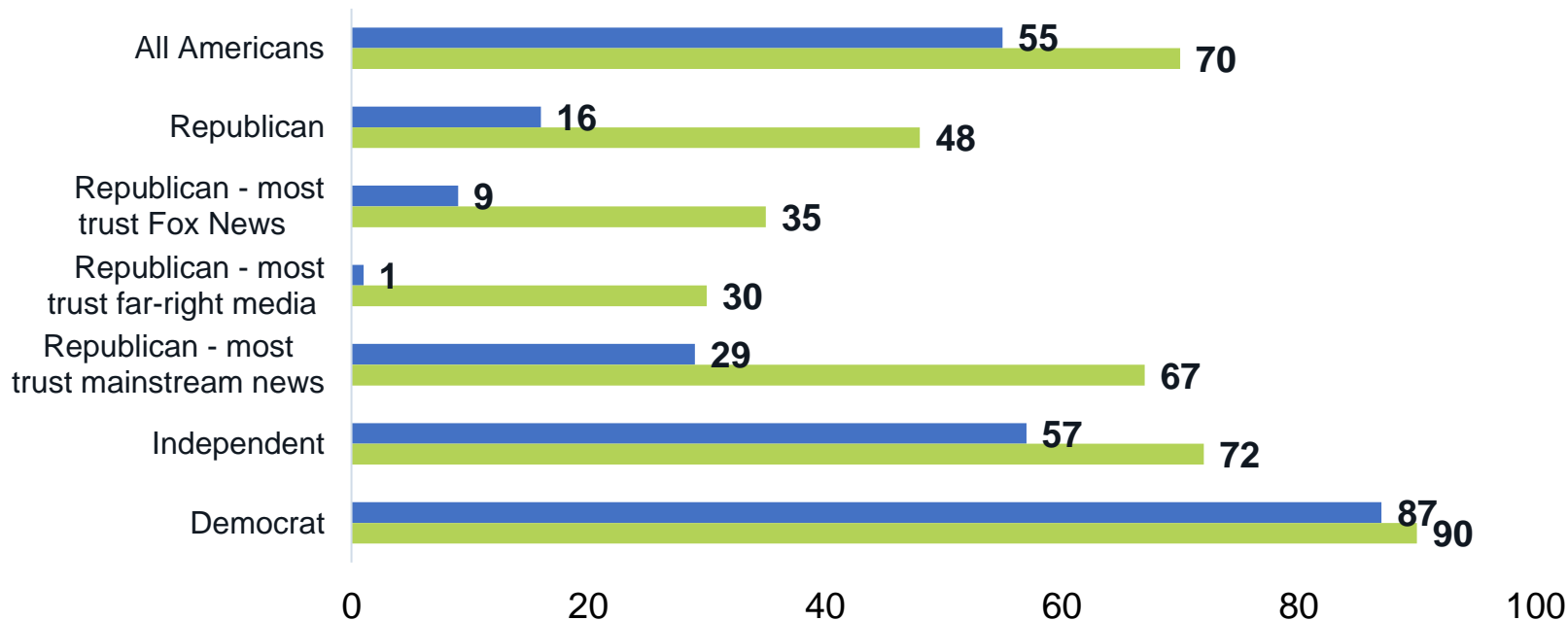


Source: PRRI Surveys, 2015-2021.

Perceptions of the Need to Protect Voting Access, by Party Affiliation

Percent who say

- Bigger problem is eligible voters being denied right to vote
- Congress should pass a voting rights law to guarantee every citizen access to the ballot



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