

# The 'No Wave' Election – and What It May Portend

**Carroll Doherty**

*Director of Research*

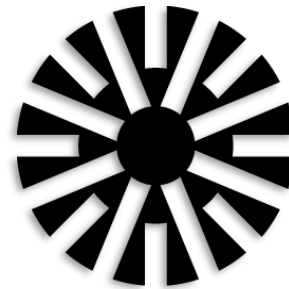
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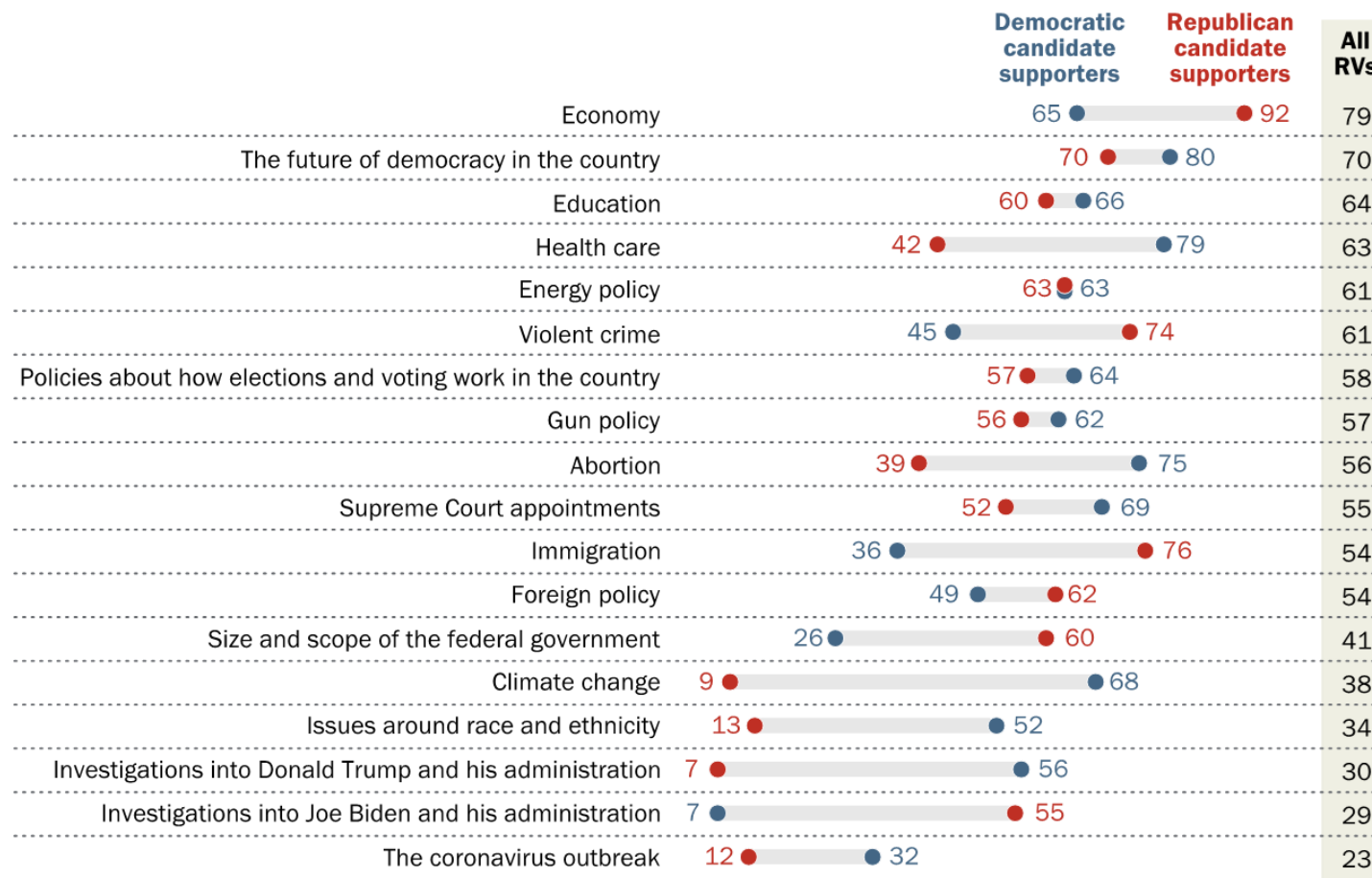
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# Changing political landscape

- **A ‘change’ election, but also a great deal of continuity**
- **Americans remain closely divided – and deeply polarized**
- **Economic attitudes remain stubbornly negative**
- **A persistent question: How much government?**
- **No election meltdown, but 2024 looms**

# What mattered: Economy, democracy, education, health care; investigations ranked far lower

*% of registered voters who say each is **very important** to their vote*

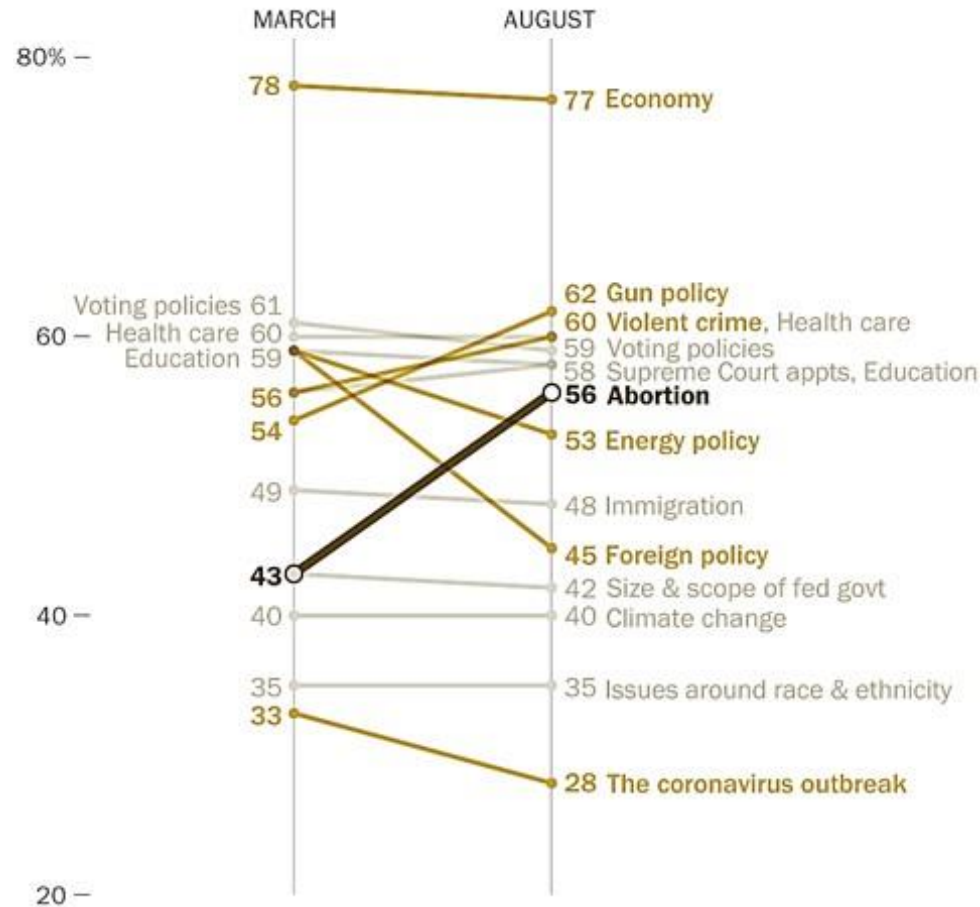


Note: Based on registered voters.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 10-16, 2022.

# How abortion grew in importance as voting issue, post-Dobbs

*% of registered voters saying each is very important to their vote in the 2022 congressional elections*

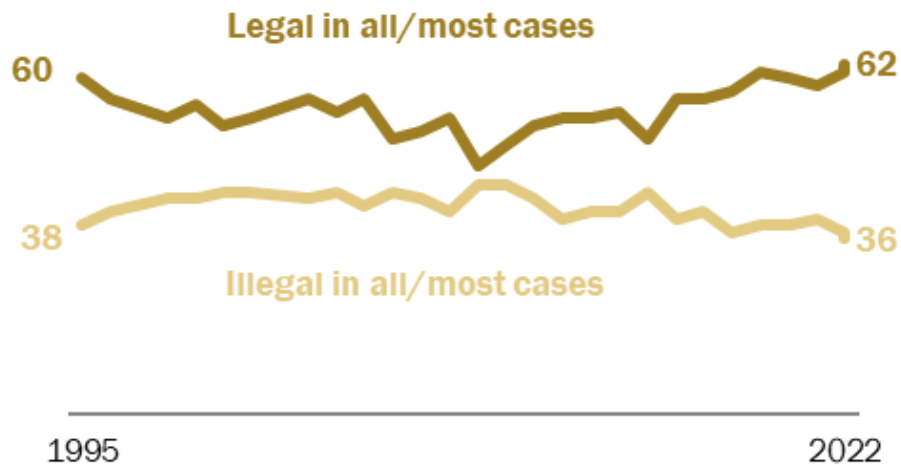


Note: Based on registered voters.

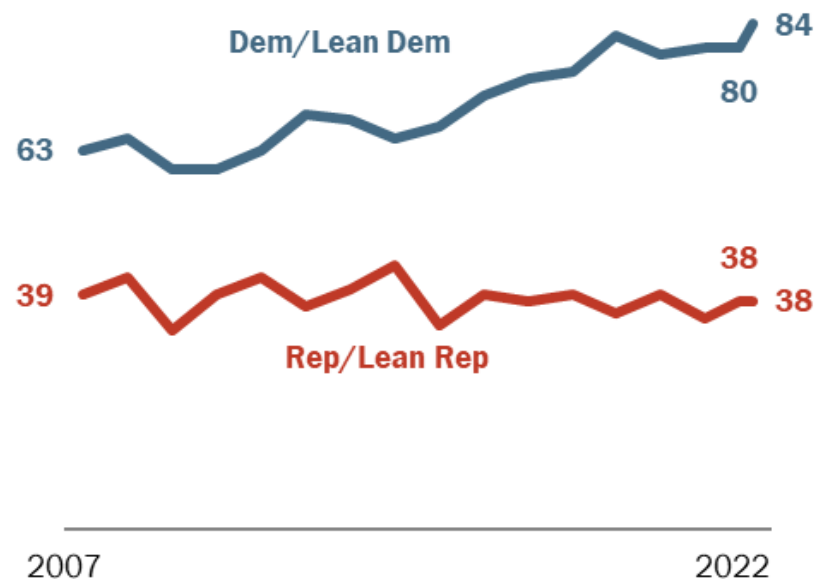
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 1-14, 2022

# Consistent majorities favor legal abortion; partisan gap grew wider after *Roe* was overturned

% who say abortion should be ...



% who say abortion should be legal in all or most cases

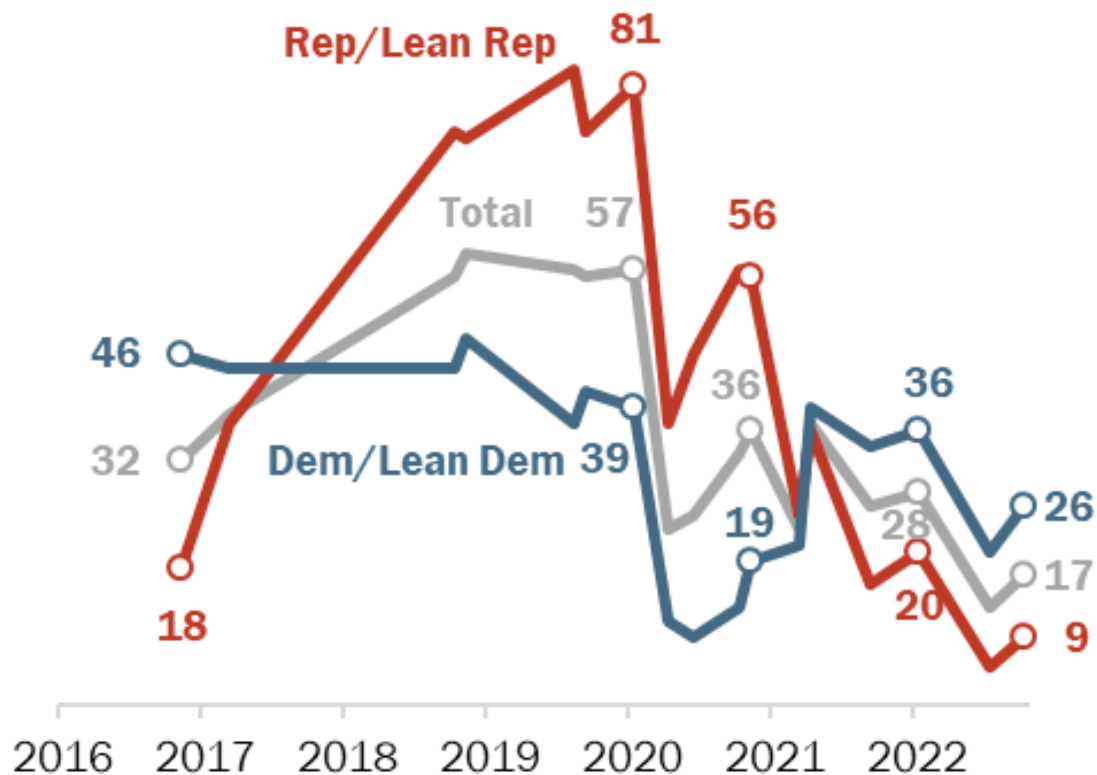


Notes: Trend data from 2018 and earlier from surveys conducted by telephone. Data from 1995-2005 from ABC News/Washington Post polls; data for 2006 from AP-Ipsos poll. Trend lines show aggregated data for years prior to 2022 when more than one survey was conducted. Data from March and July 2022 shown separately.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 27-July 4, 2022.

# Democrats faced strong economic headwinds

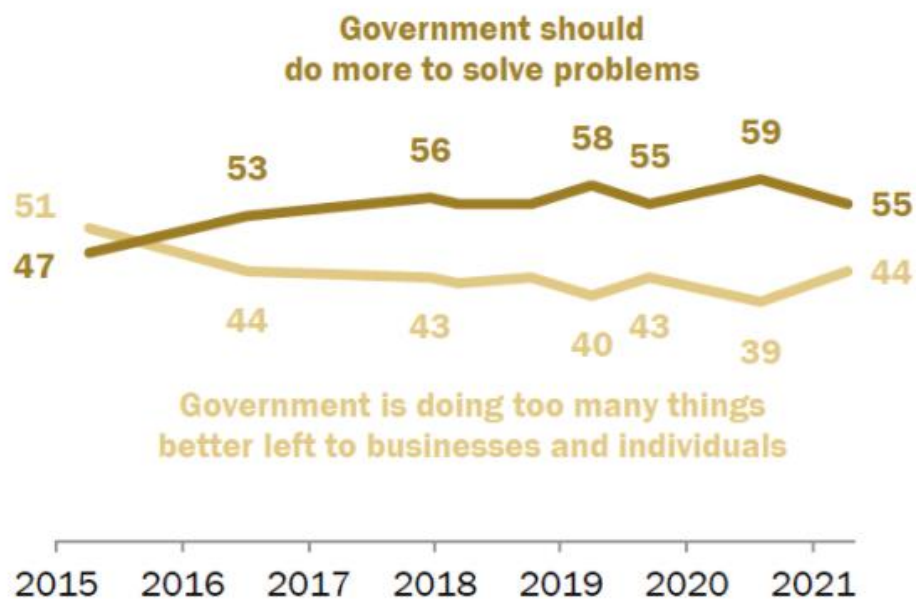
*% who rate economic conditions in the United States today as **excellent or good***



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 10-16, 2022.

# Consistent majorities say government should do more to solve problems

*% who say ...*



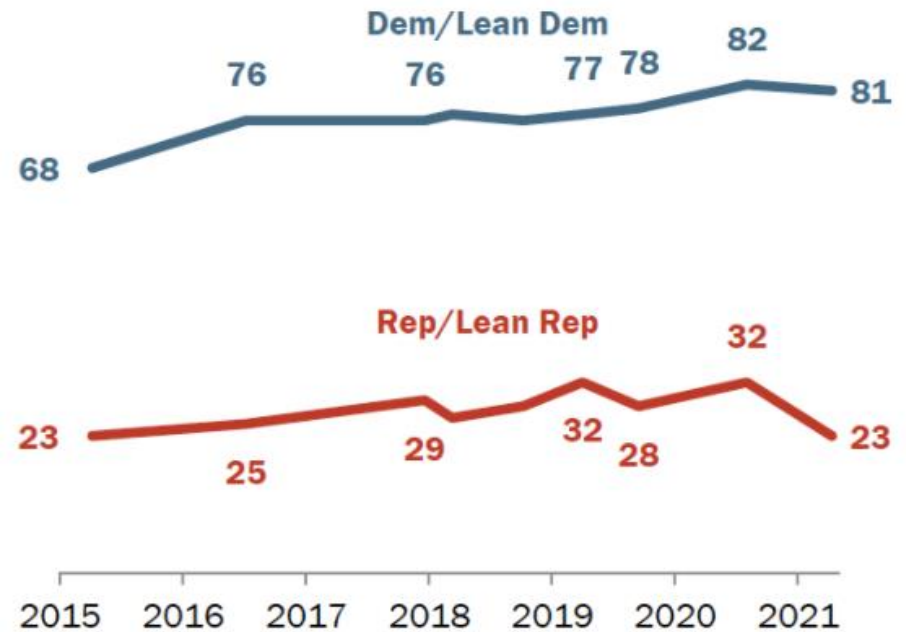
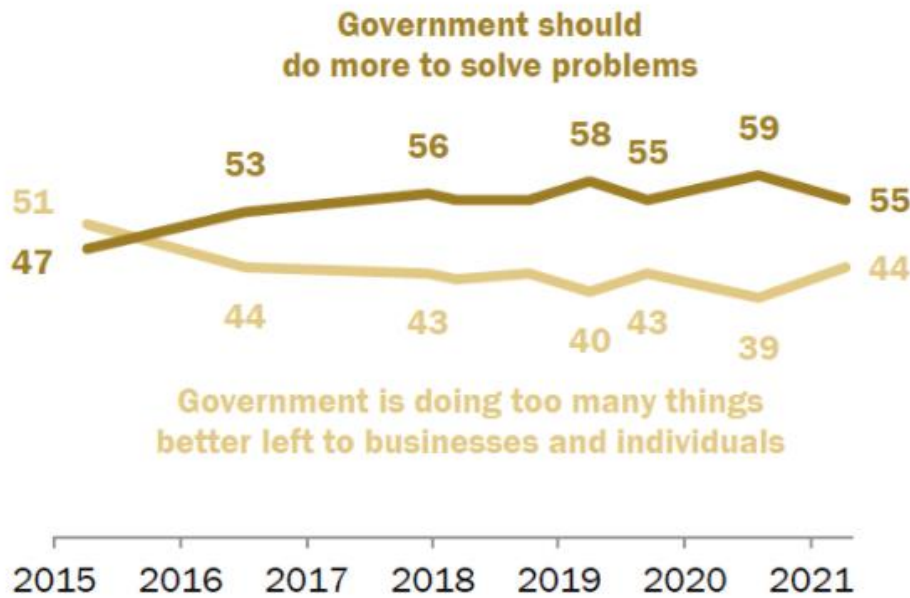
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.



# This remains a core dividing line between the parties

% who say ...

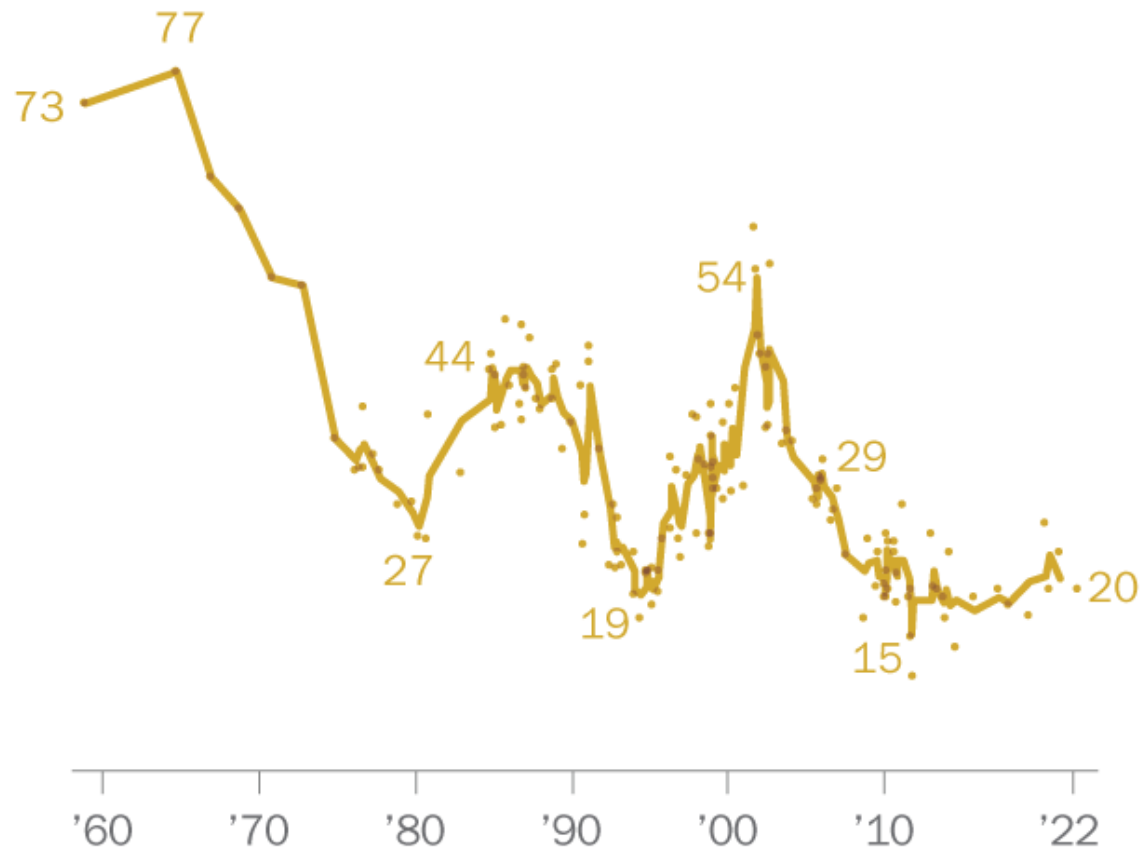
% who say government should do more to solve problems...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

# Low public trust in government has persisted for nearly two decades

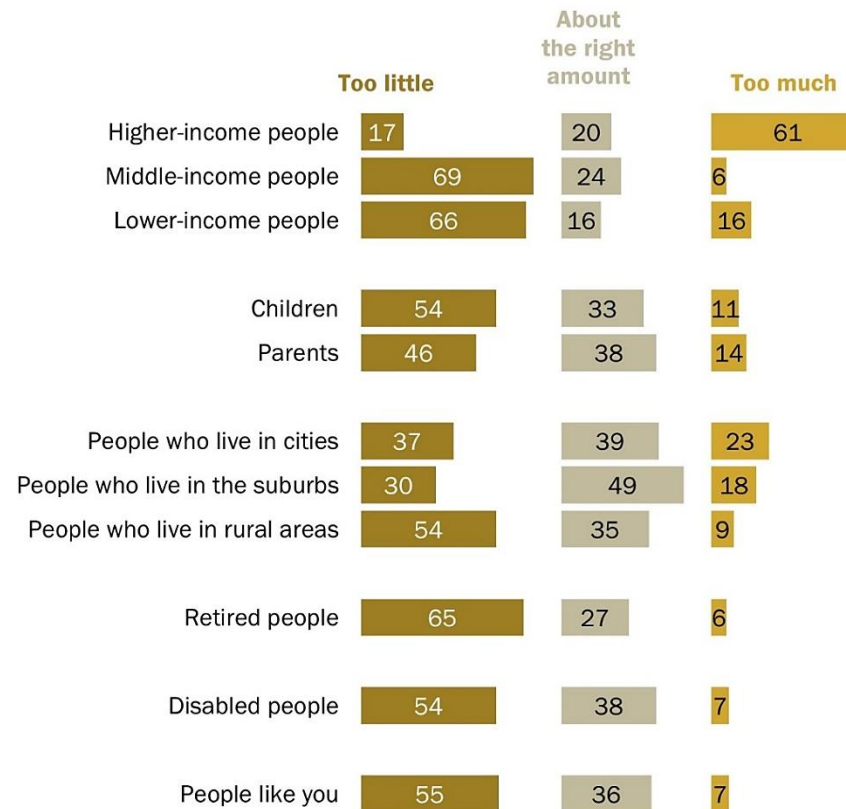
*% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right most/all of the time*



Note: From 1976-2020 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 25-May 1, 2022. Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-2022). Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier). National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and CNN polls.

# Large shares say federal government does ‘too little’ on issues affecting children, people with middle and low incomes

*% who say the federal government does \_\_\_ to address issues affecting each of the following people*

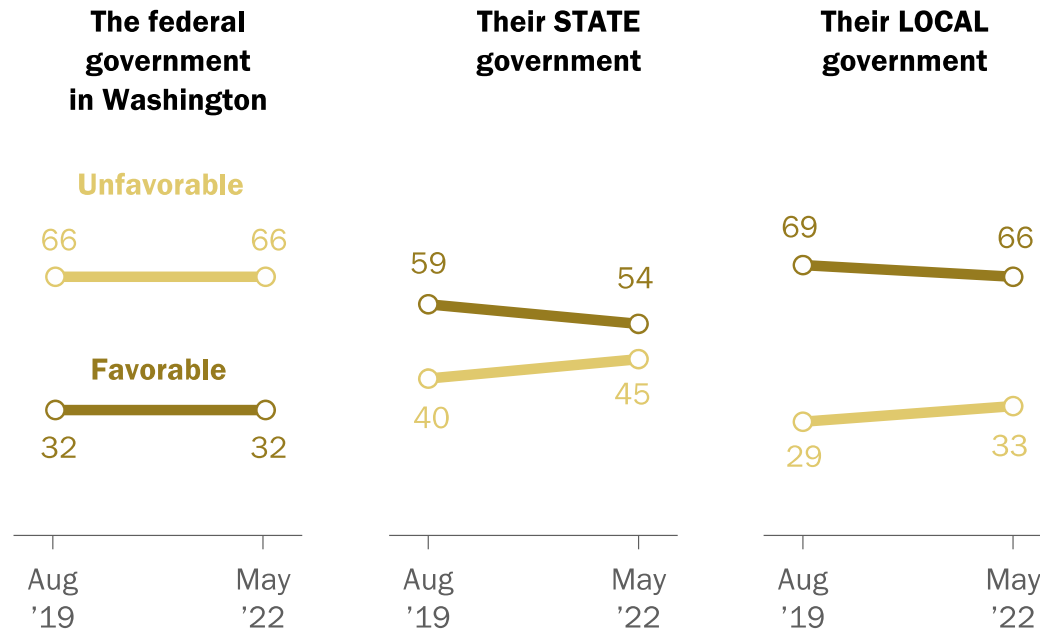


Notes: Family income tiers are based on adjusted 2020 earnings; see methodology for details. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 25-May 1, 2022.

# Americans view the parts of government closer to them more positively

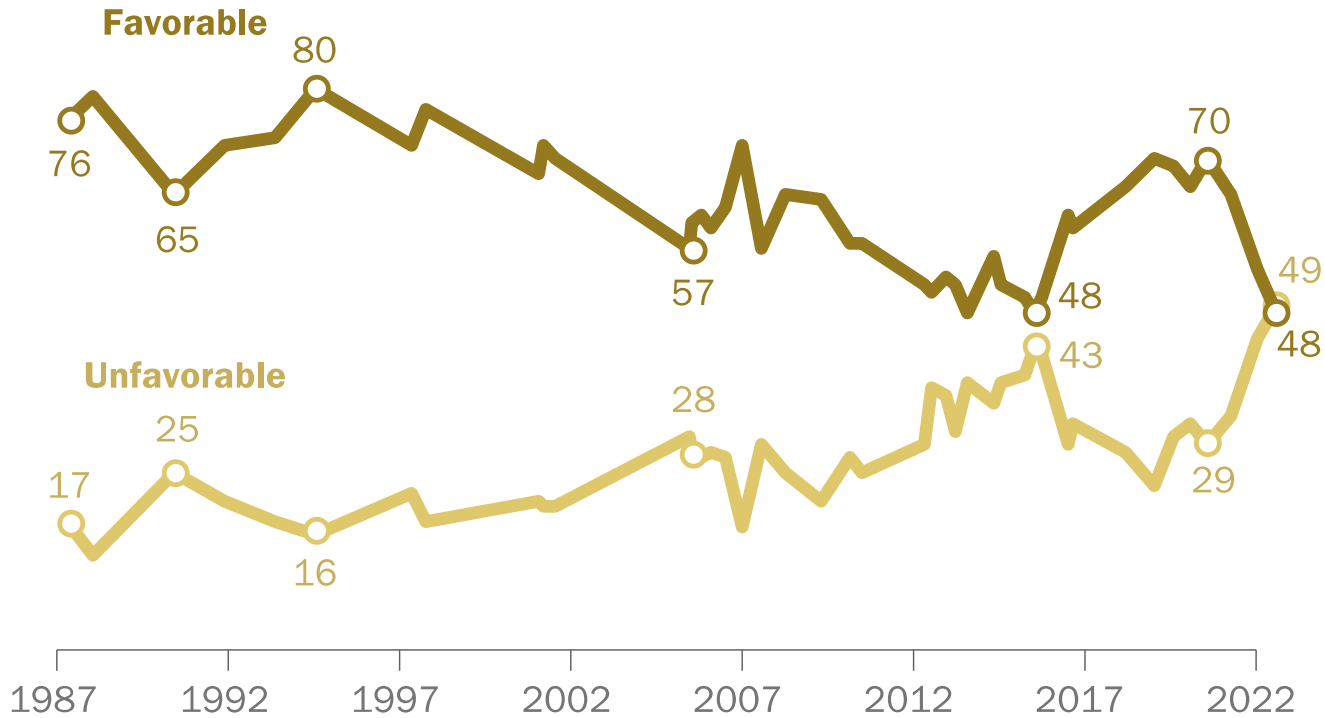
% who have  
a(n) \_\_\_  
opinion of ...



Note: No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 25-May 1, 2022.

# Public views of the Supreme Court at 35-year low

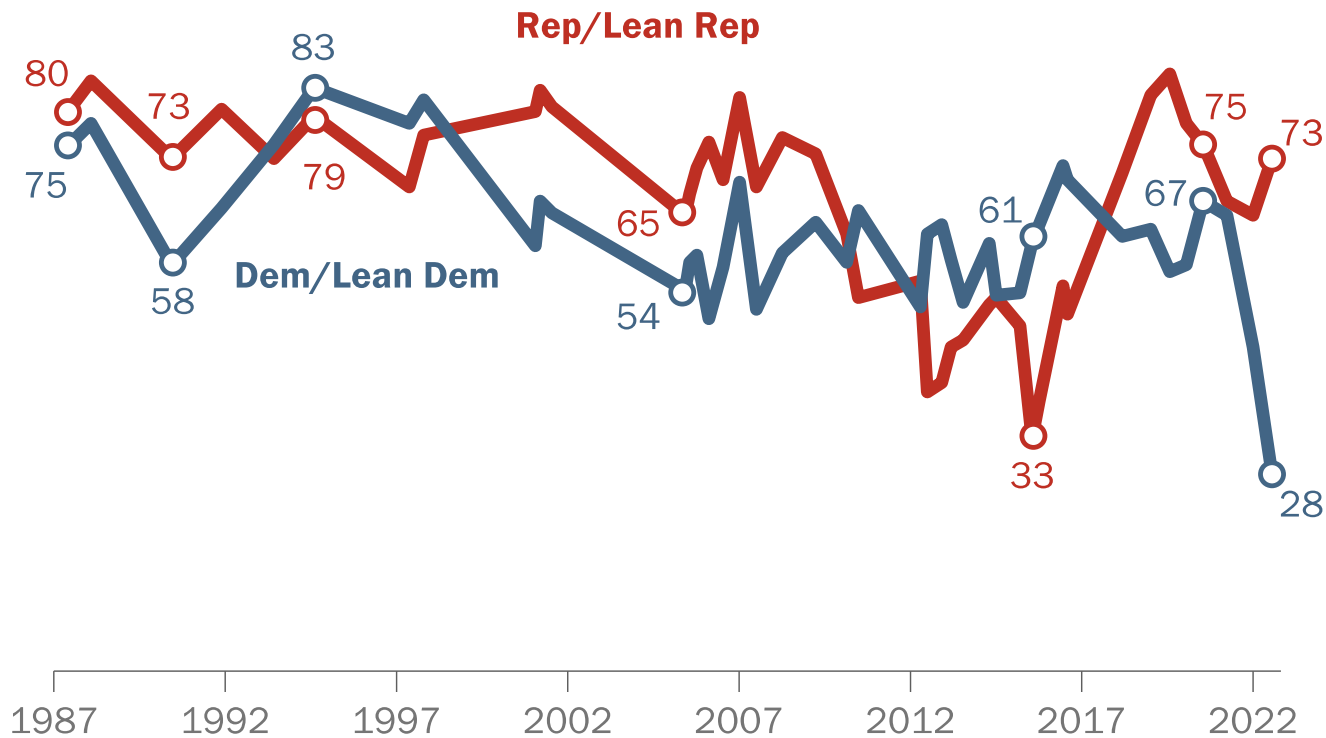
*% who say they have a(n) \_\_\_ opinion of the Supreme Court*



Note: No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug 1-14, 2022.

# Partisan gap in views of Supreme Court now wider than at any point in more than three decades

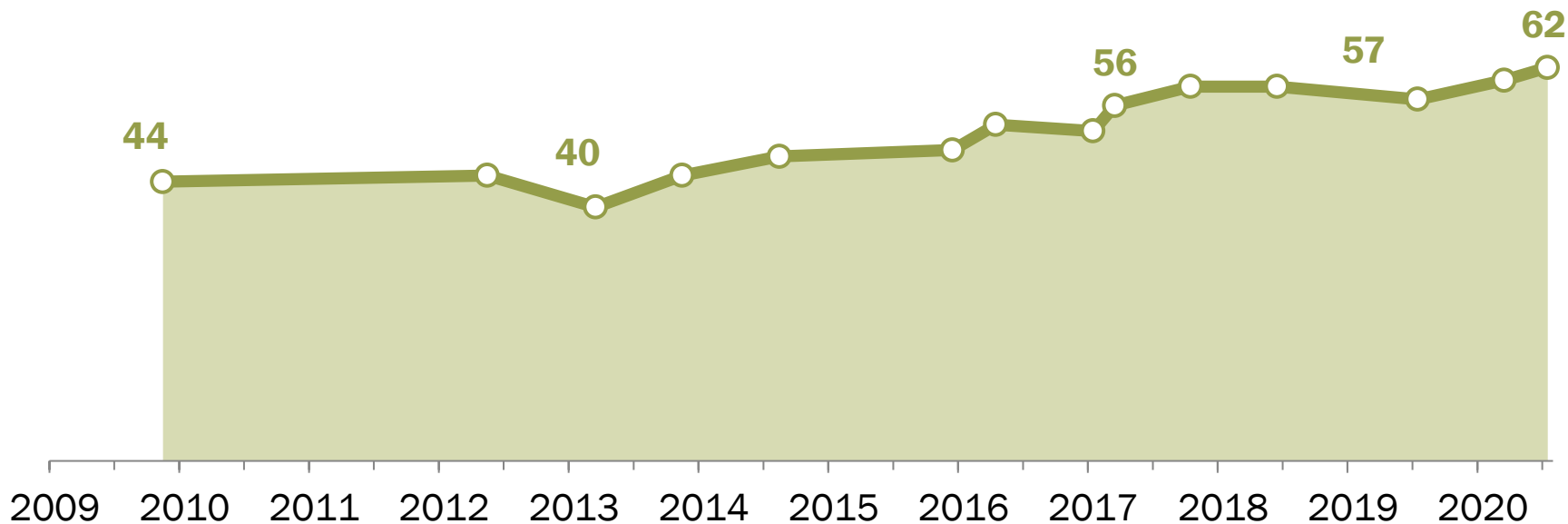
*% who say they have **favorable** opinion of the Supreme Court*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug 1-14, 2022.

# Most Americans now view climate change as a 'major threat' to the country

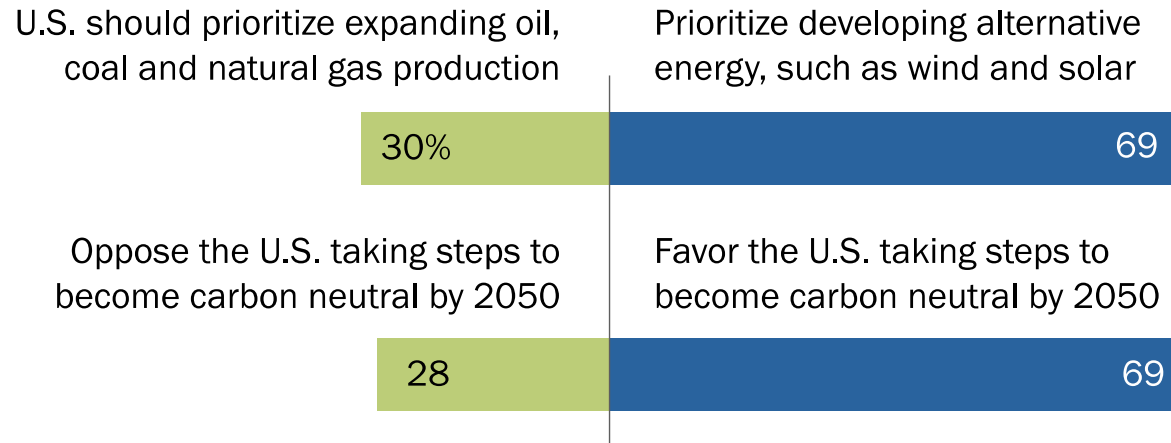
*U.S. adults who say global climate change is a major threat to the well-being of the United States*



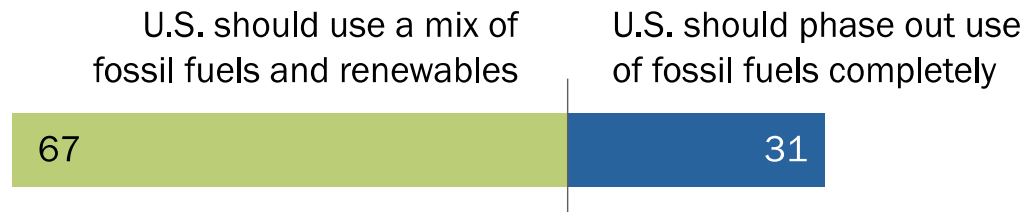
Source: Survey conducted March 3-29, 2020.

# Majority favors prioritizing alternative energy, but most do not want to abandon fossil fuels

% of U.S. adults



## But two-thirds want U.S. to keep a mix of fossil fuel and renewable energy sources

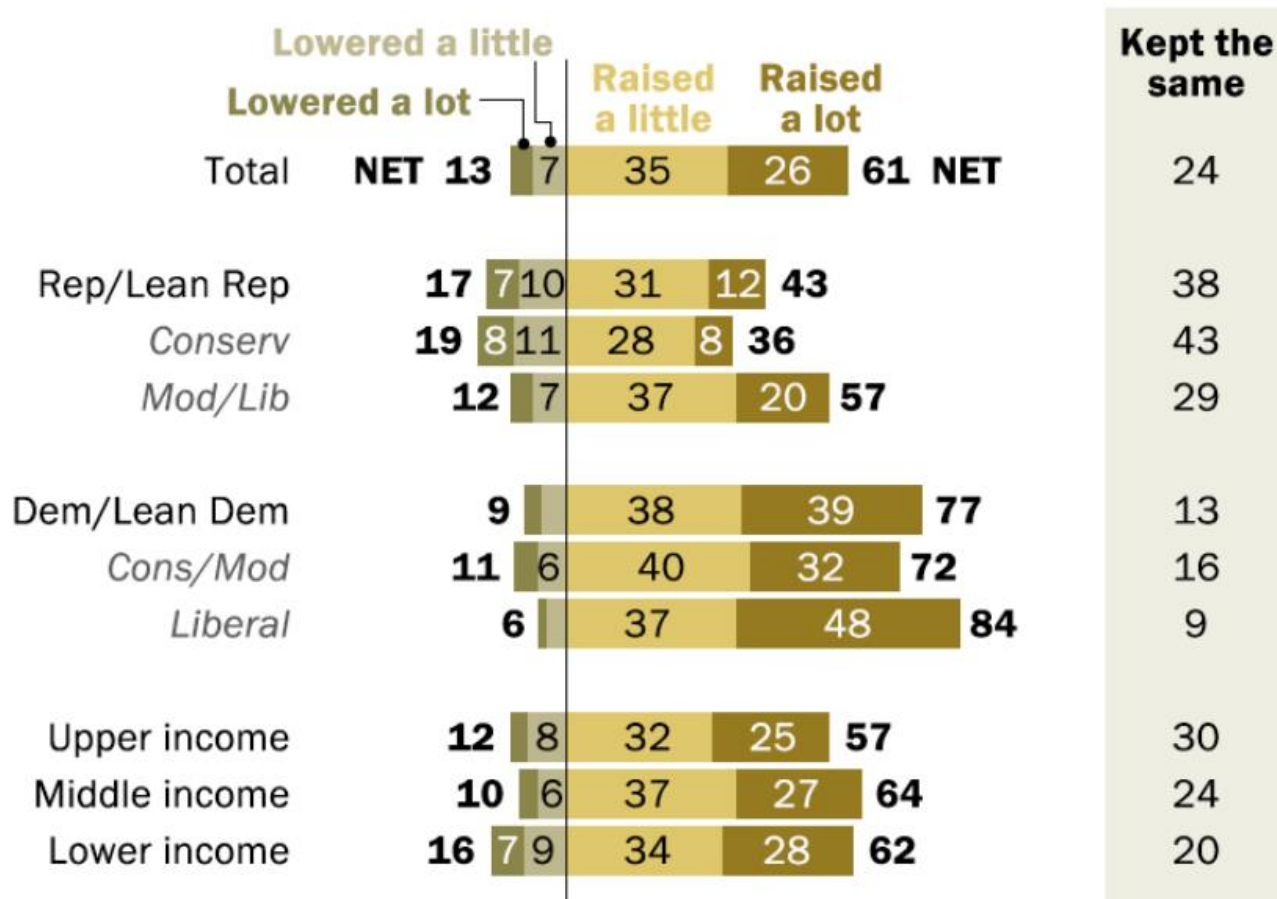


Source: Survey conducted Jan. 24-30, 2022.



# Far more Americans want to raise than lower tax rates on high personal incomes

% who say tax rates on household income over \$400,000 should be...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 13-19, 2021.

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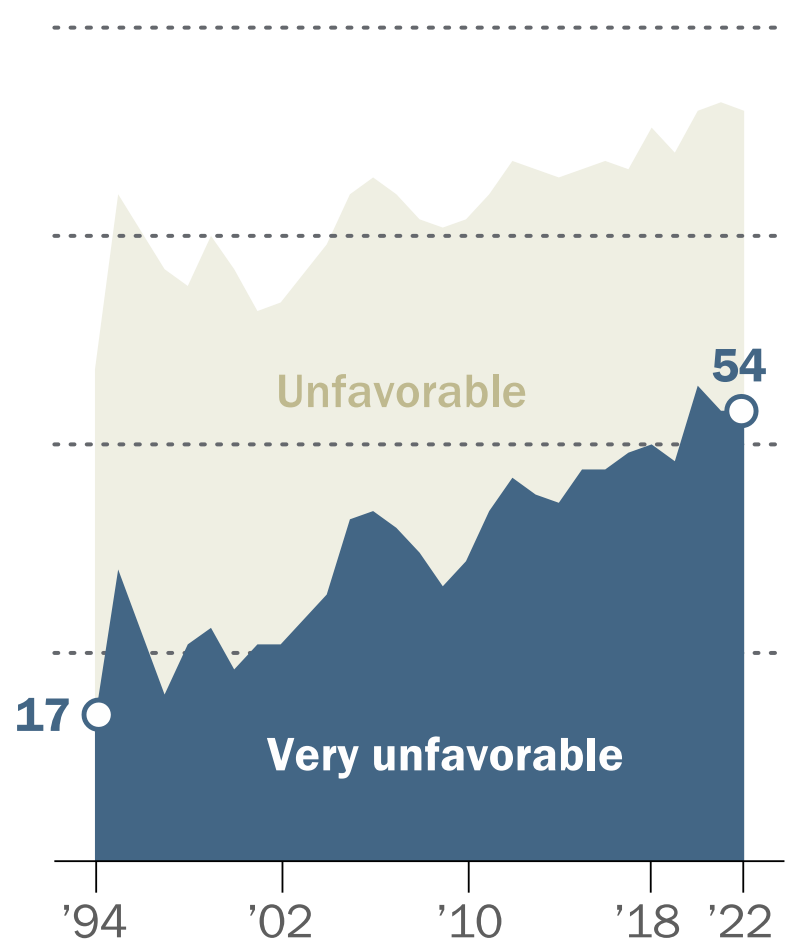
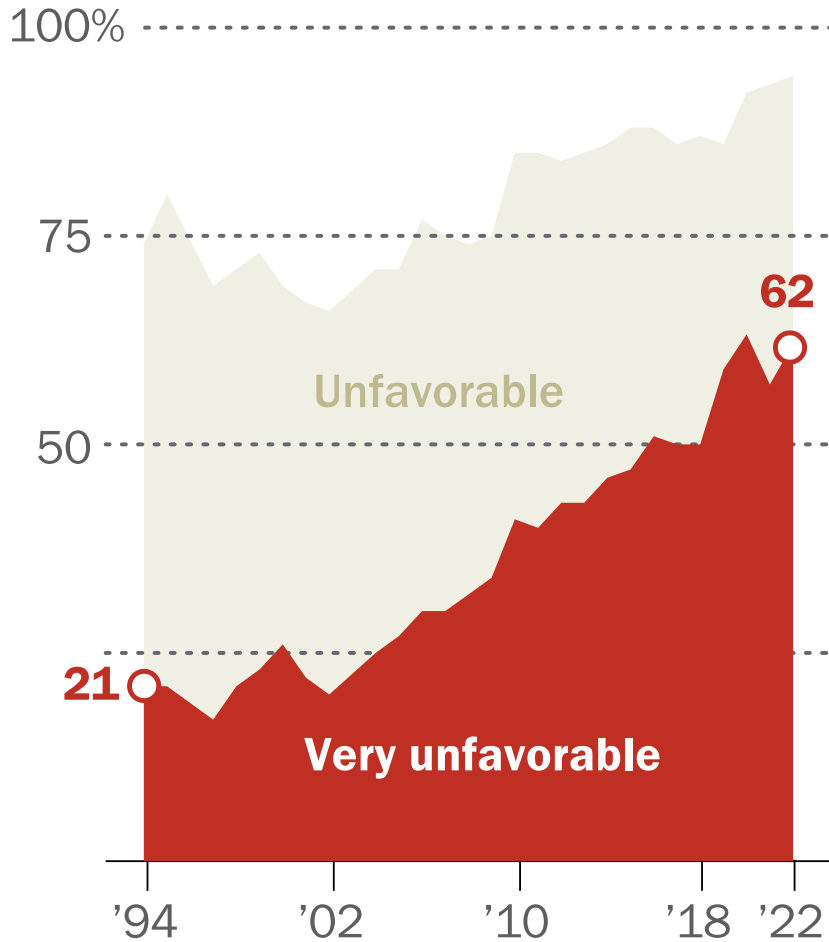
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# Two decades of growing partisan antipathy

% of *Republicans* with a(n) \_\_\_ view of the *Democratic Party*

% of *Democrats* with a(n) \_\_\_ view of the *Republican Party*



Note: Based on partisans and does not include those who lean to each party.

Source: Yearly averages of survey data from Pew Research Center American Trends Panel (2020-2022) and Pew Research Center phone surveys (1994-2019).

# More Americans hold unfavorable views of both parties

*% who have an unfavorable view of the Republican and Democratic parties*



Note: Based on those who rated both the Republican and Democratic parties.

Source: Yearly averages of survey data from Pew Research Center American Trends Panel (2020-2022) and Pew Research Center phone surveys of U.S. adults (1994-2019).

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