

**GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER** RESEARCH



July 2006

# National Public Radio

Competitive Districts Survey Results



## Methodology

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- Field dates: July 19-23, 2006
- 1,000 likely voters
- Margin of error: +/- 3.2%

## Political profile

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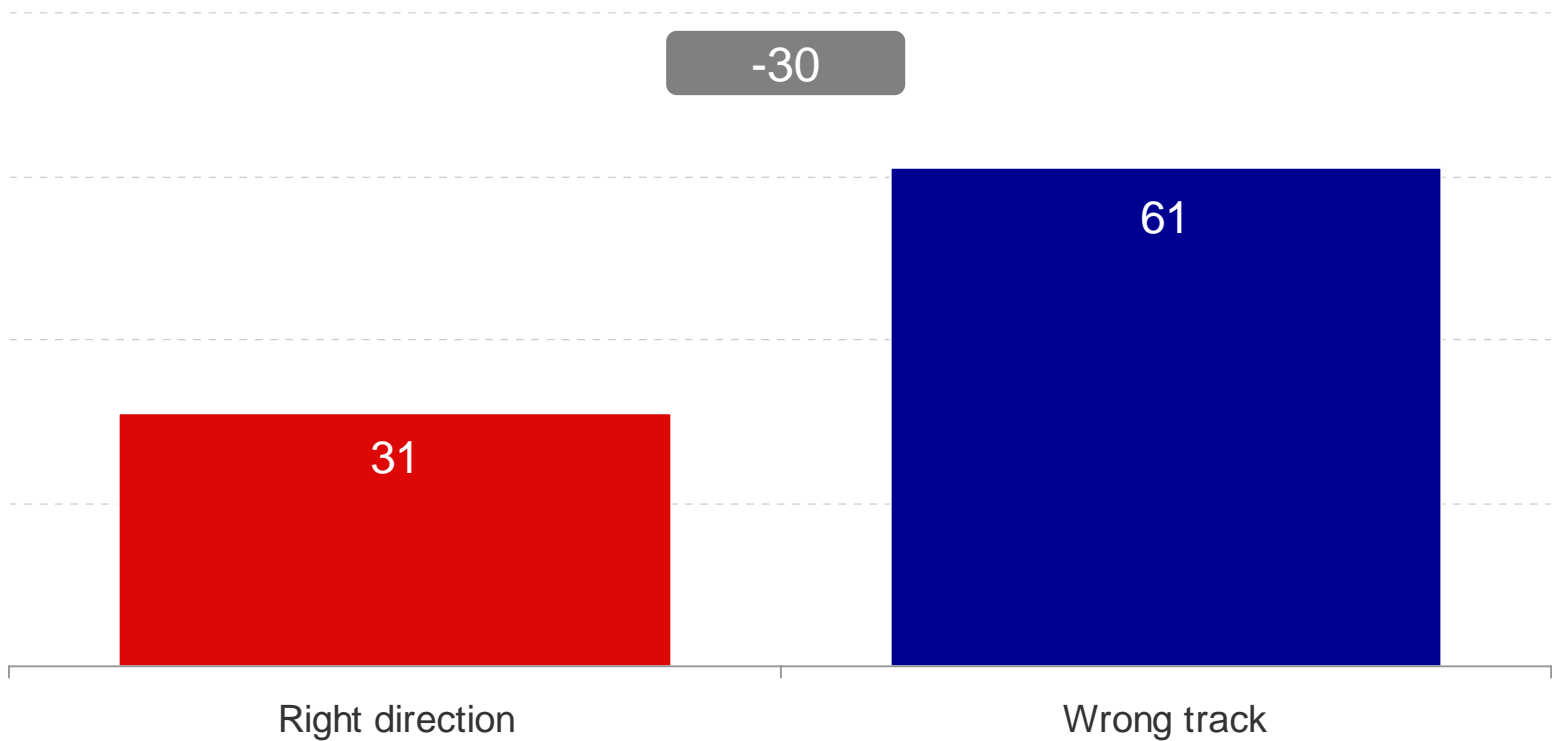
- Survey conducted in 50 most competitive Congressional districts
  
- Based on ranking by Cook Political Report, Larry Sabato's Crystal Ball (UVA Center for Politics), the Rothenberg Political Report, and the National Journal's Hotline
  
- Most competitive Congressional districts include:
  - 40 Republican seats
  - 1 Independent seat
  - 9 Democratic seats
  
- Profile includes 12 Open Seats (10 Republican, 1 Independent, 1 Democrat)

# Direction of the country

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## Respondents say country 'on the wrong track' by 2:1 margin

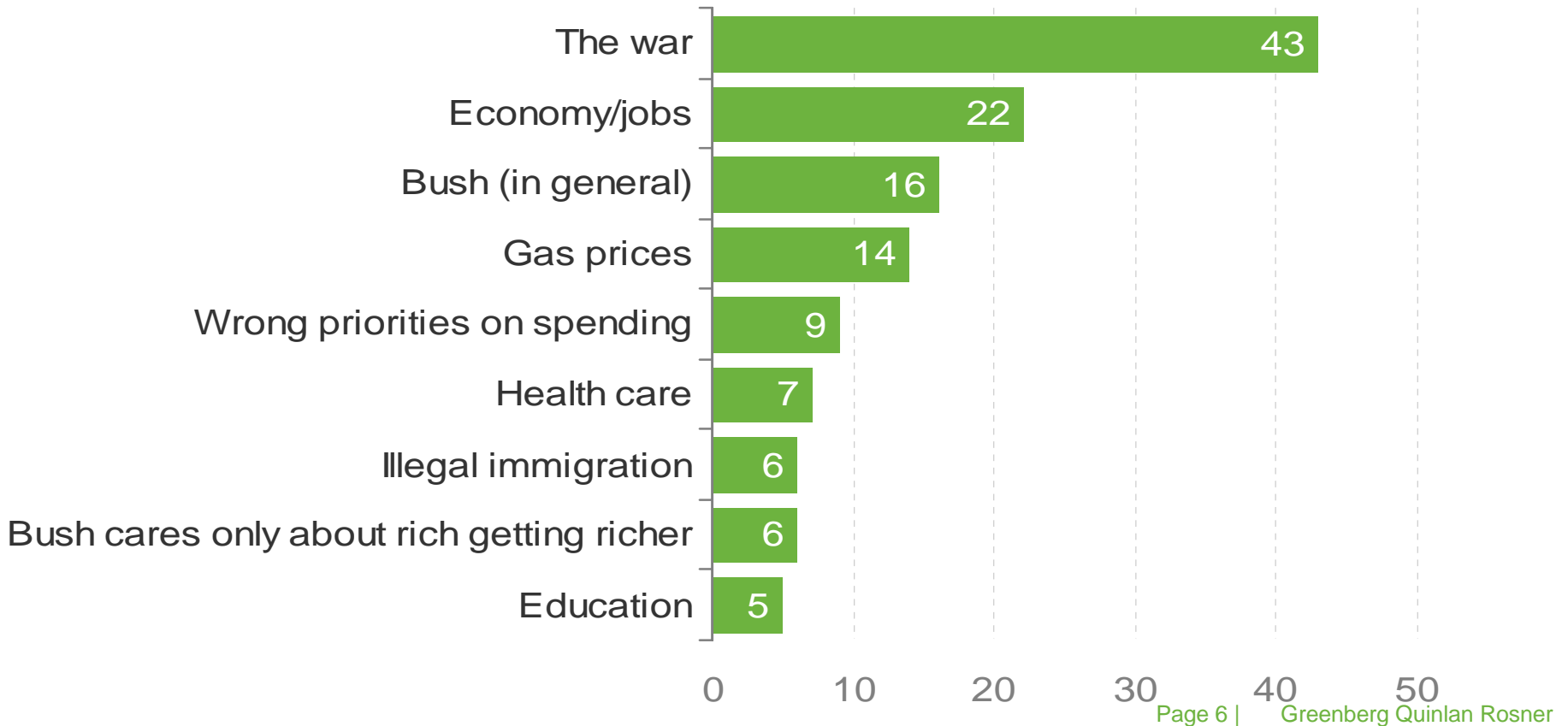
*Generally speaking, do you think things in the country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?*



## The Iraq war dominant factor in country's dark mood

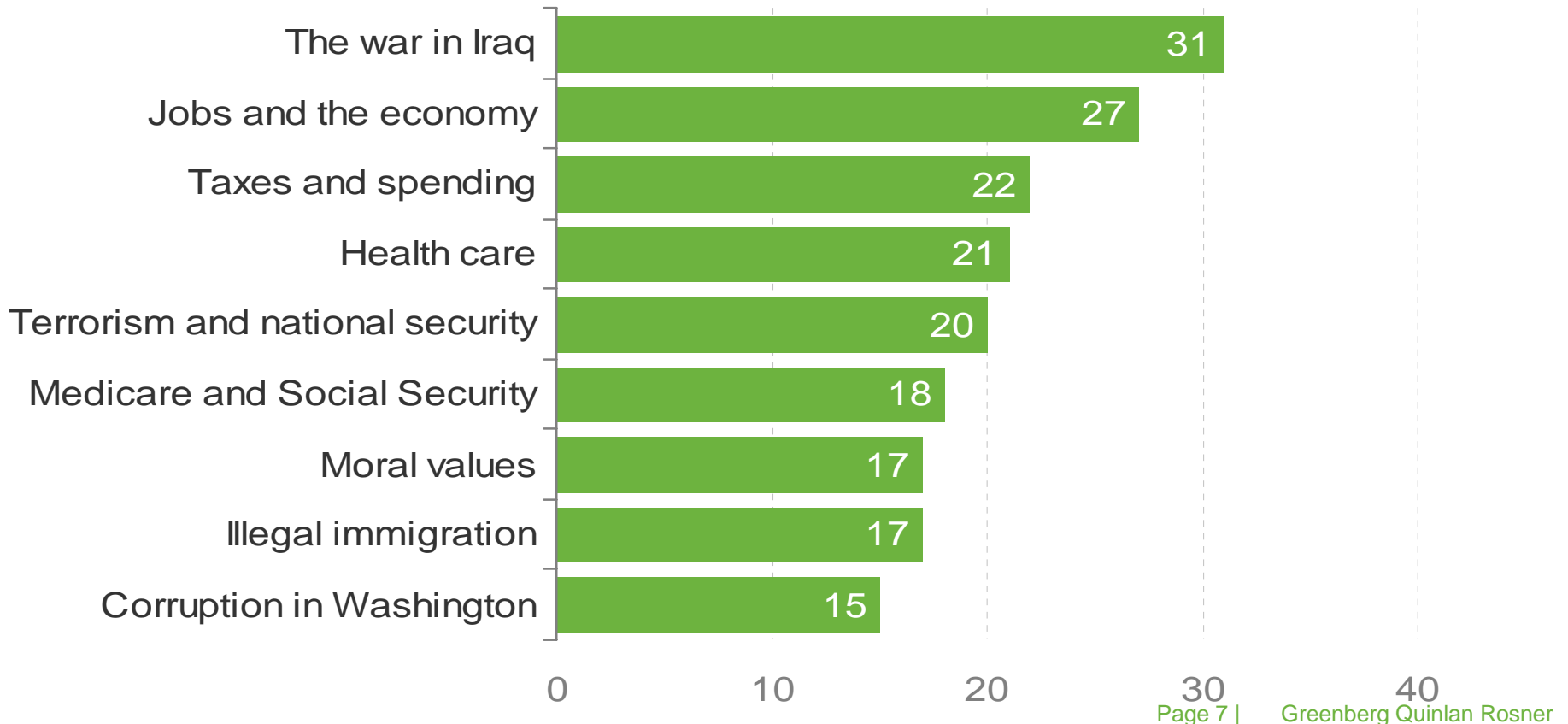
Nearly two-thirds say either the war or the economy are leading country in the wrong direction

(ASKED ONLY OF THOSE THAT SAY 'WRONG TRACK') Why do you say things are going in the wrong direction?



## The war in Iraq and economy are most important issues in vote

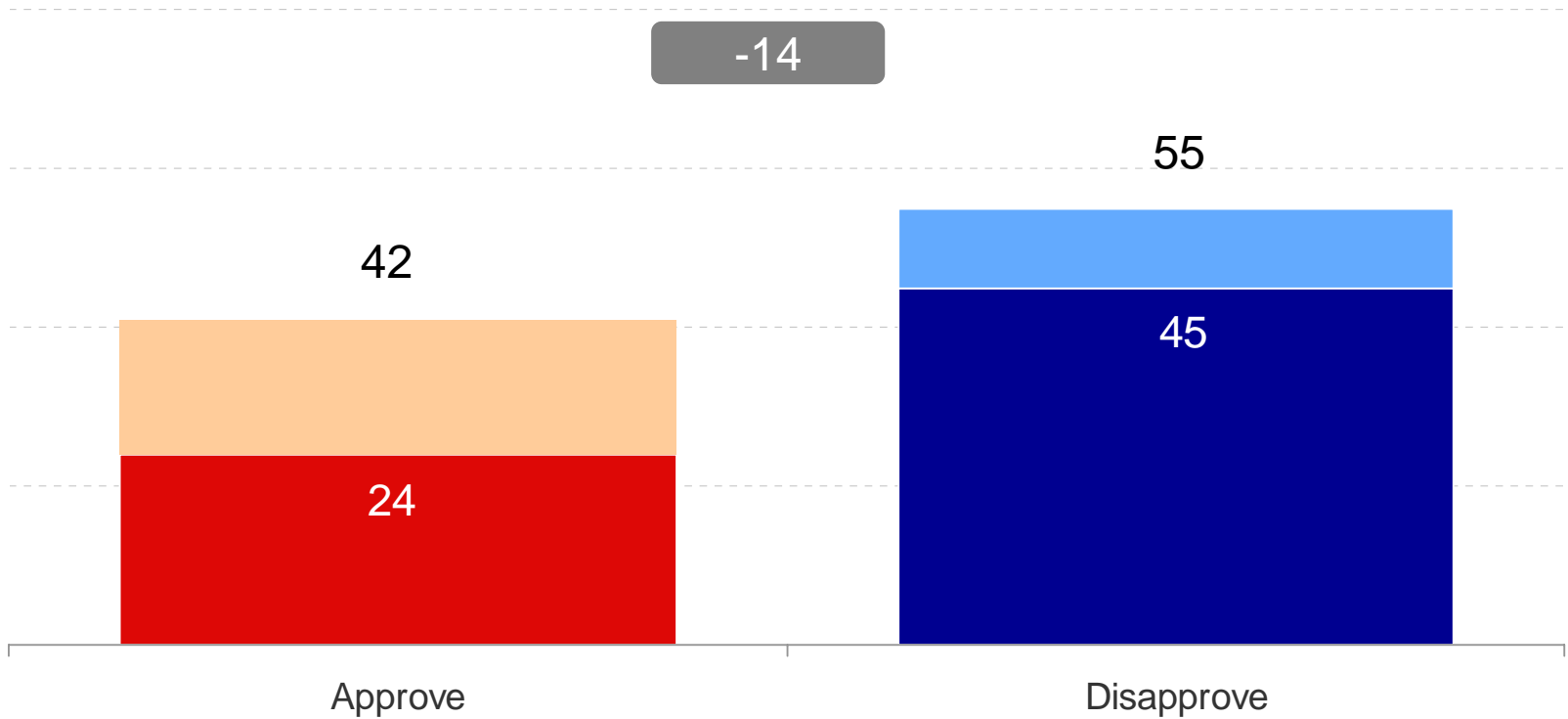
*In deciding how to vote for Congress this year, which ONE of the following issue areas would be MOST important to you in deciding how to vote for a candidate for Congress? Which of the following issues would be NEXT most important to you? (COMBINED)*



## Bush job approval at 42 percent in these mostly GOP seats

*Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling his job as president?*

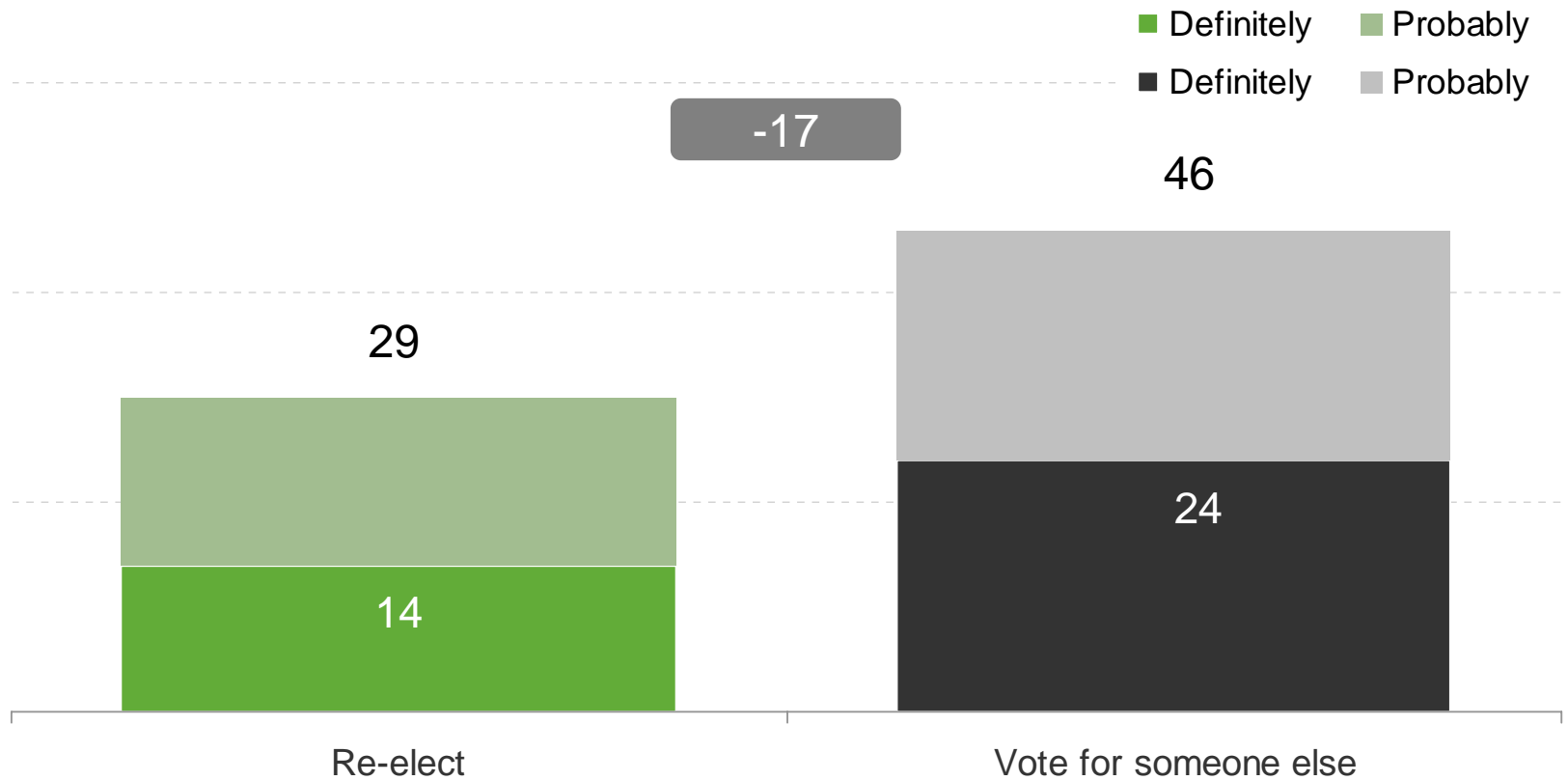
■ Strongly      ■ Somewhat  
■ Strongly      ■ Somewhat





## Only 3-in-10 plan to vote to reelect incumbent

*Understanding that the election is a long way off, do you think you will definitely vote to re-elect (INCUMBENT) to Congress, probably vote to re-elect (INCUMBENT), probably vote for someone else or definitely vote for someone else\*?*



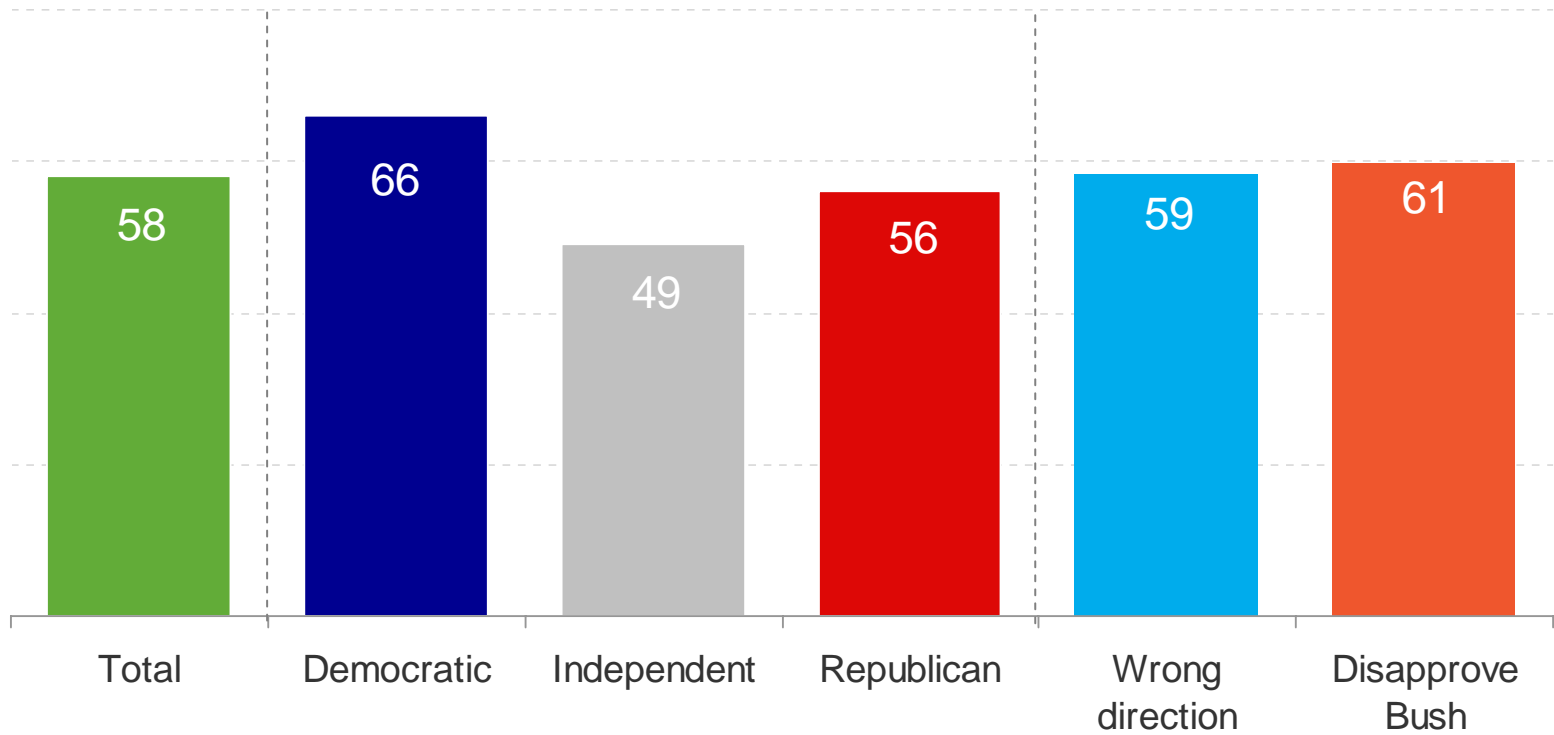
*Note\*: Asked only of respondents that have an incumbent running for re-election*

# Election

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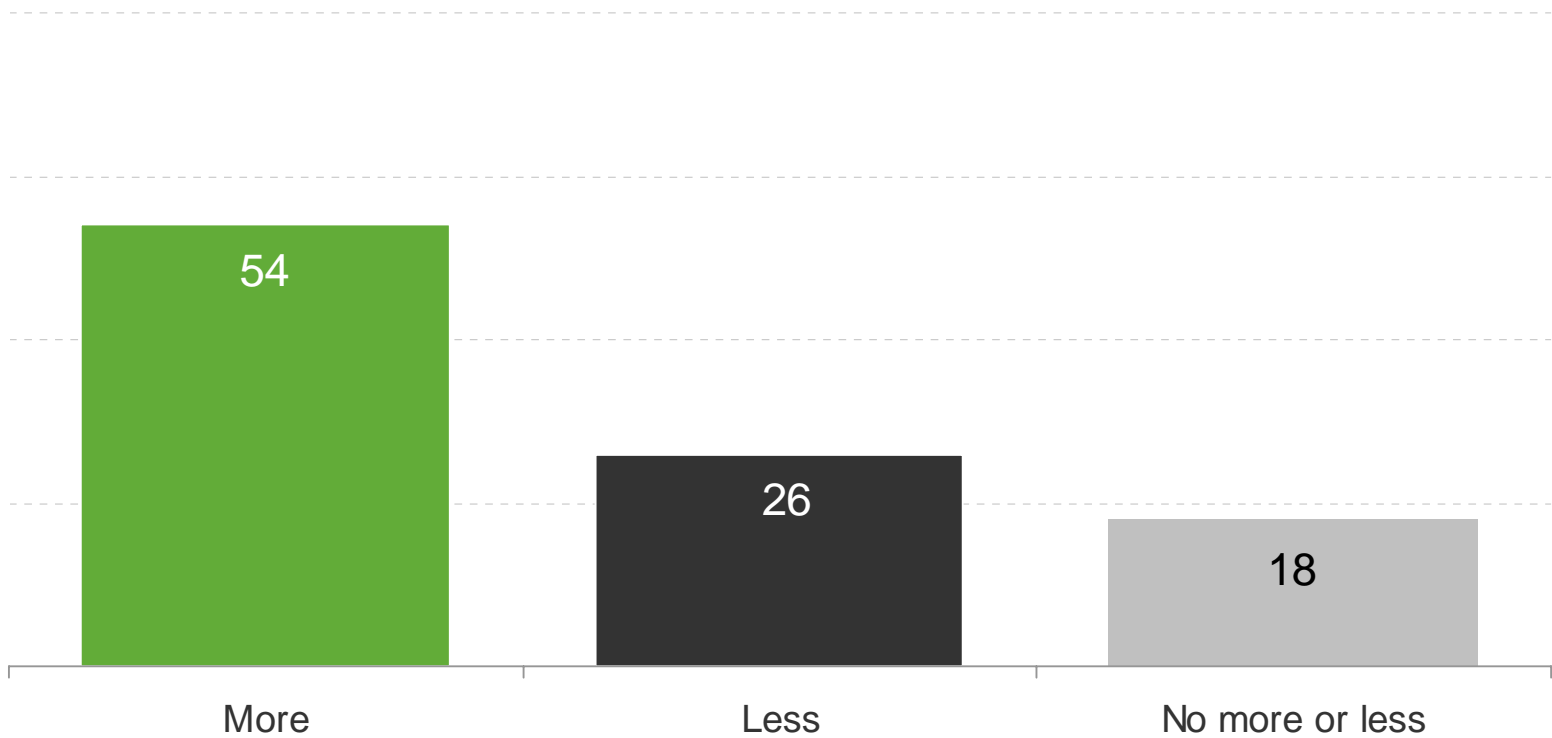
## Democrats much more interested in election: 2/3 rate interest as '10'

*And on a scale of one to ten, with one meaning NOT AT ALL interested and ten meaning VERY INTERESTED, please tell me how interested you are in this year's elections?*



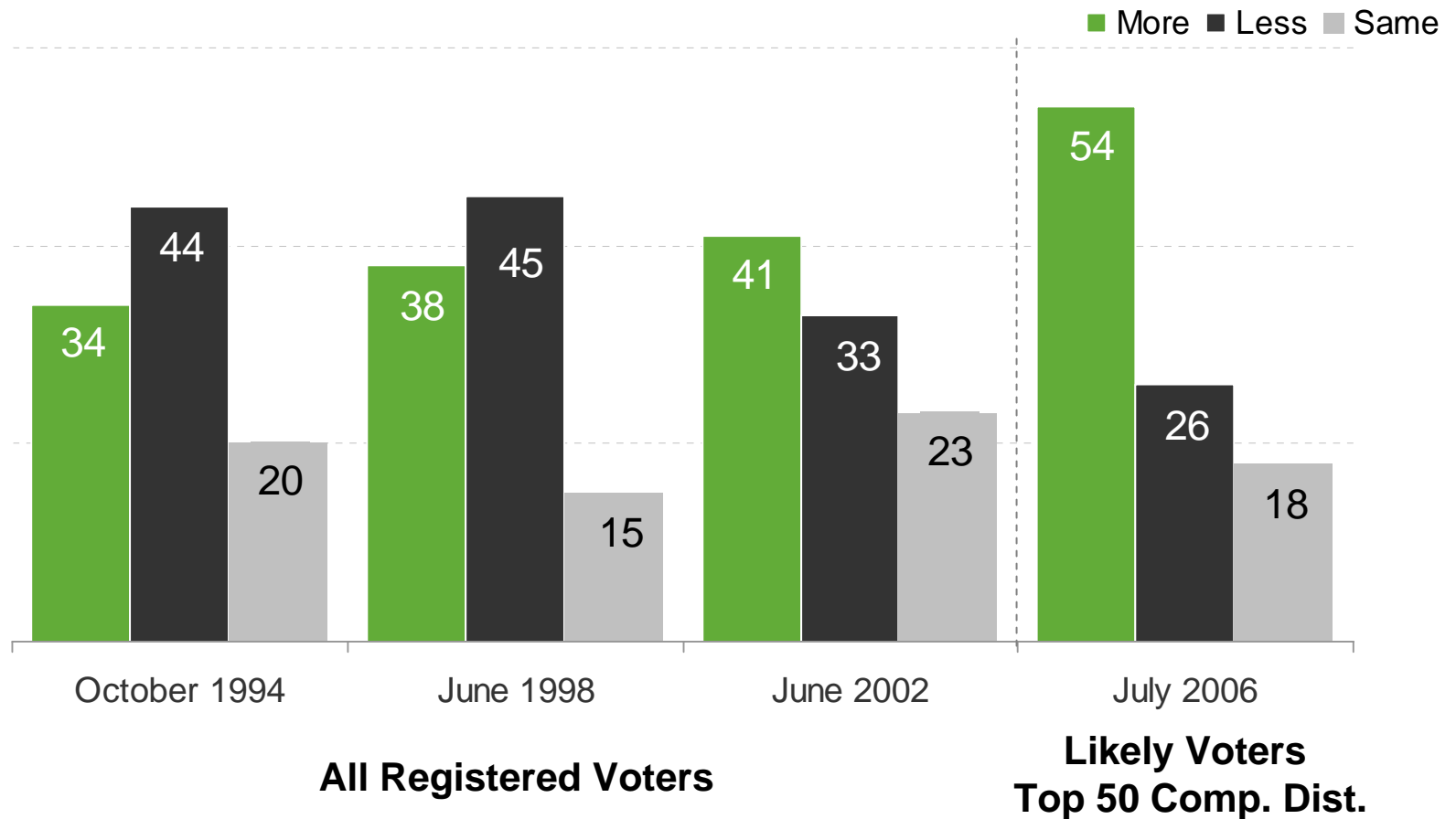
## Roughly half say they are more enthusiastic than usual

*Thinking about the congressional elections that will be held this November, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less?*



## Enthusiasm up since last off year election

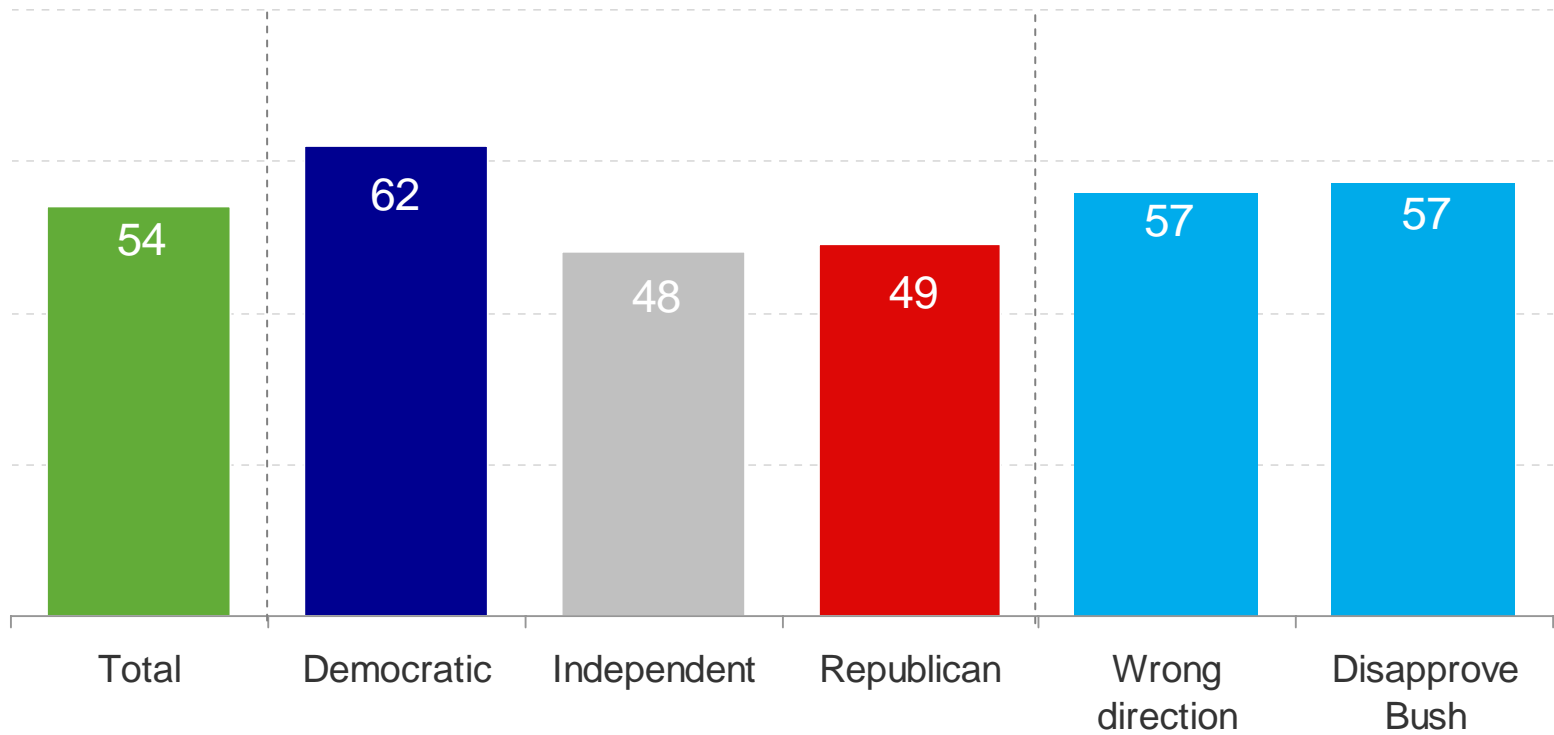
*Thinking about the congressional elections that will be held this November, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less?*



## Democrats indicate much greater enthusiasm

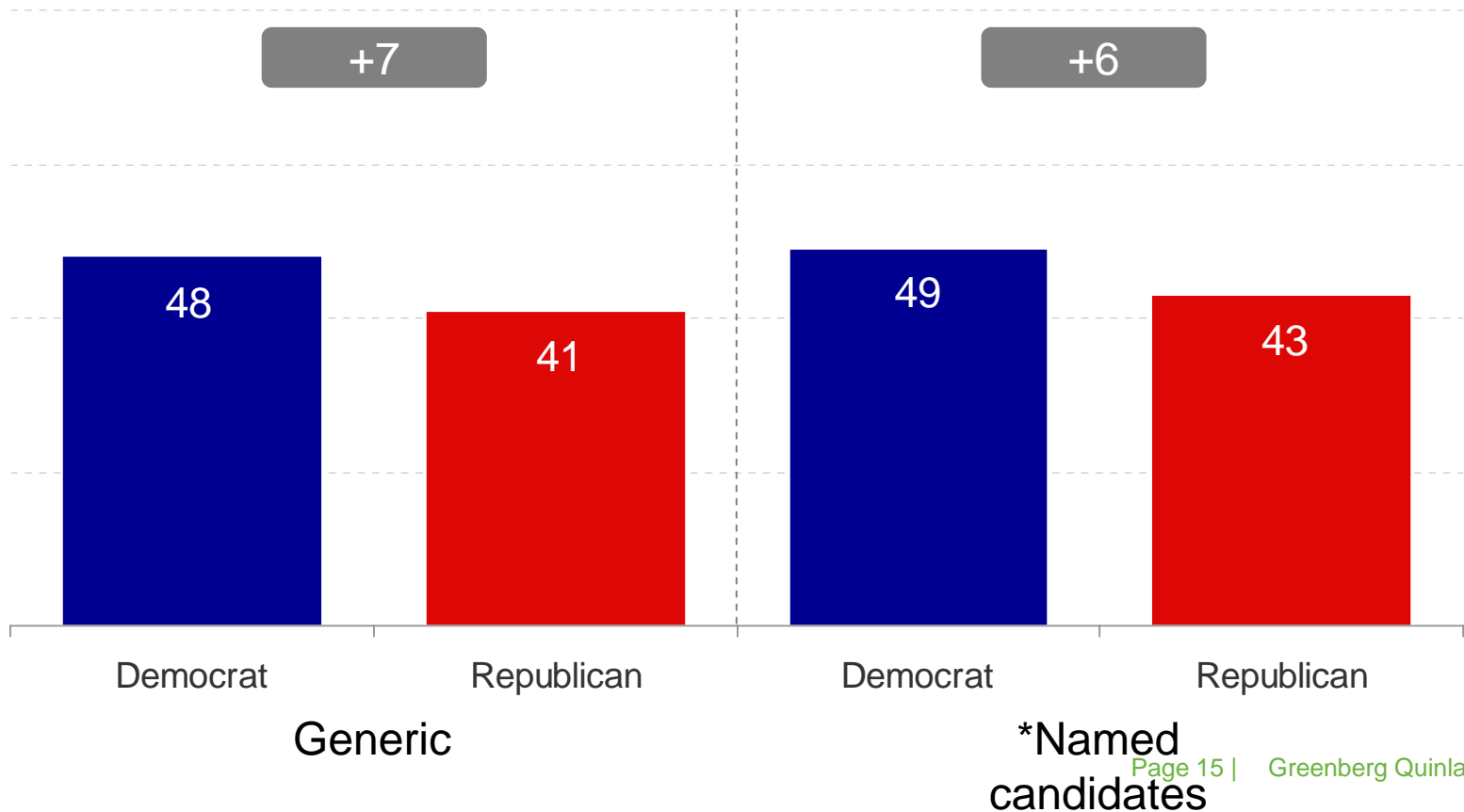
■ “More” enthusiastic

*Thinking about the congressional elections that will be held this November, compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic about voting than usual, or less?*



## Democrats ahead in both generic and named Congressional vote

*I know it is far ahead, but thinking about the election for Congress this November, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you be voting for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?*

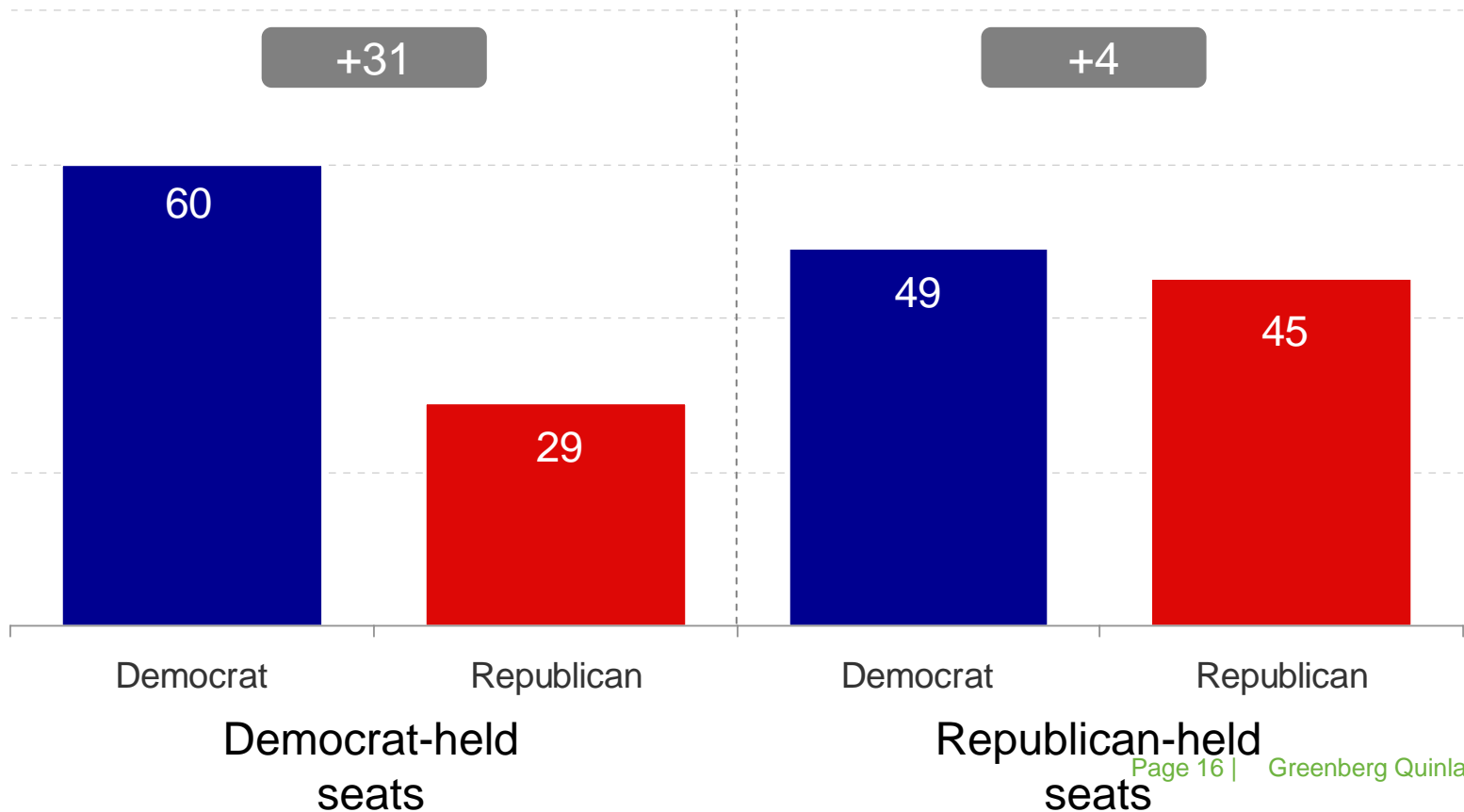


Note\*: Actual names of candidates inserted

## Democrats claim edge in Republican-held seats

### Real Congressional vote

*I know it is far ahead, but thinking about the election for Congress this November, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you be voting for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?*

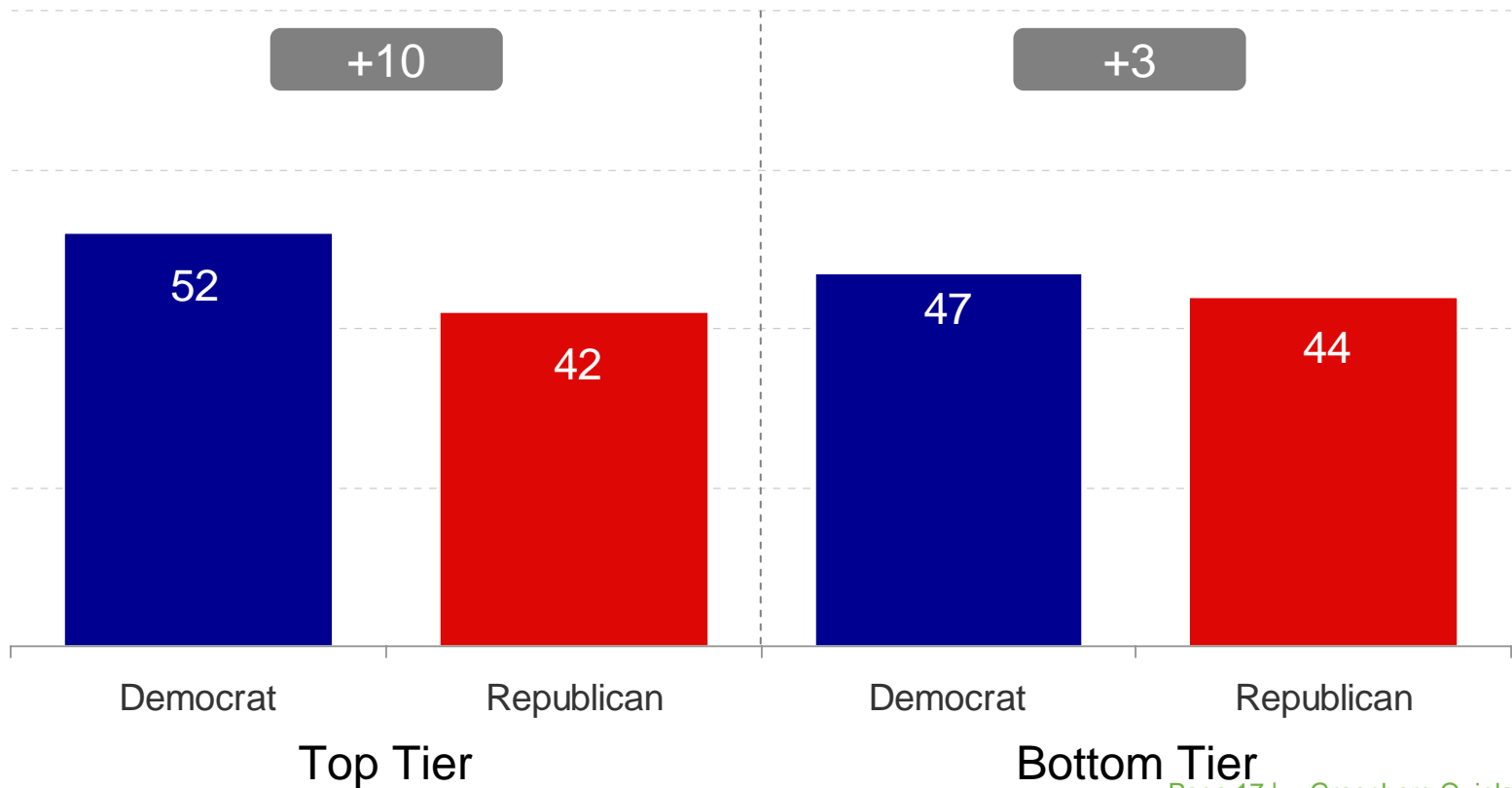




# Republicans trail badly in top competitive seats, but also safer seats

## Real Congressional vote

*I know it is far ahead, but thinking about the election for Congress this November, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you be voting for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?*



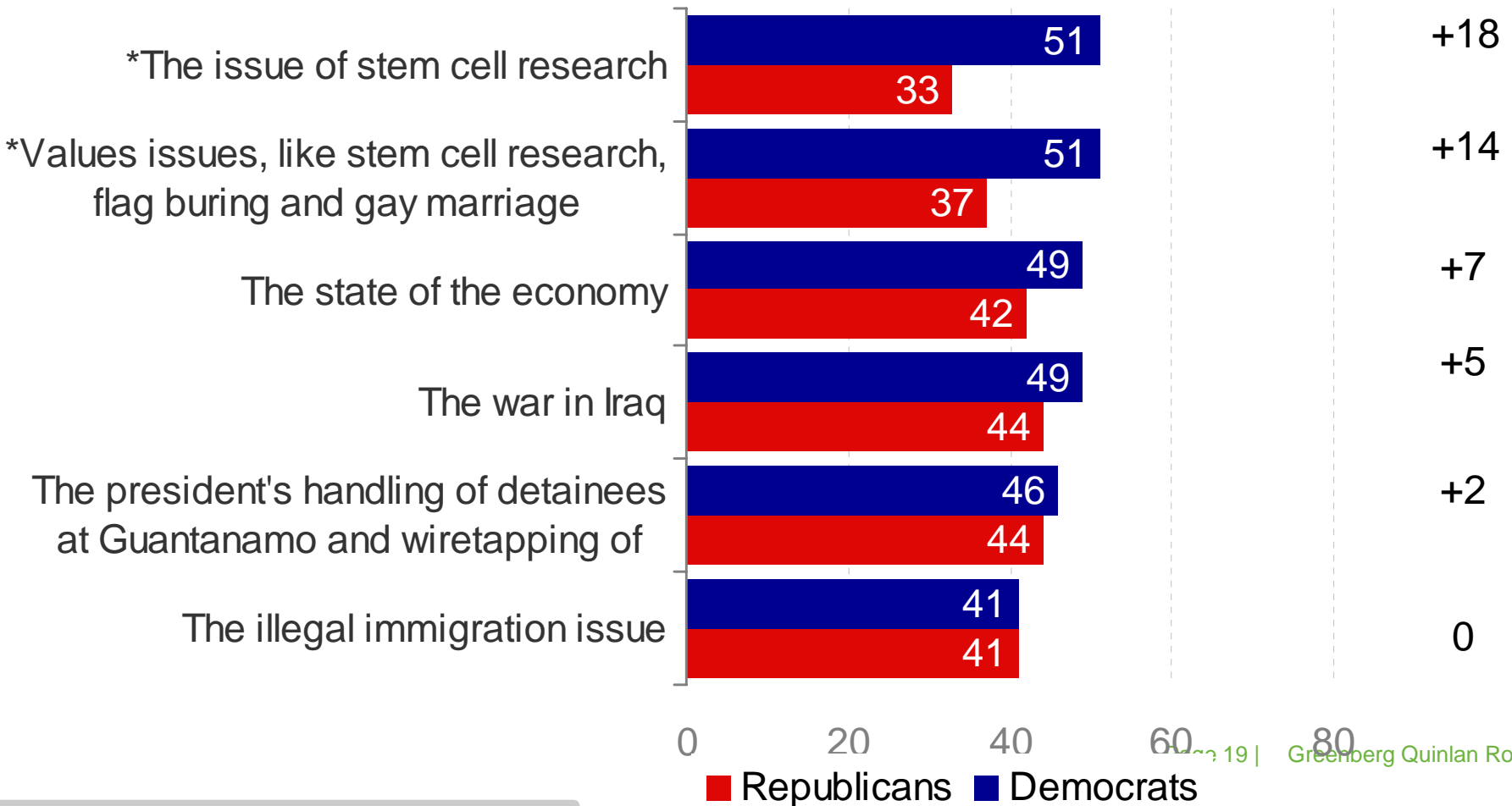
# The impact of high profile issue debates

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# Issue debates move public toward Democrats, particularly stem cell

*I'm going to ask you about a number of issues that are being debated in the Congress and with the President. For each one, based on what you have heard recently, does it make you more likely to support the Democrats or the Republicans for Congress?*

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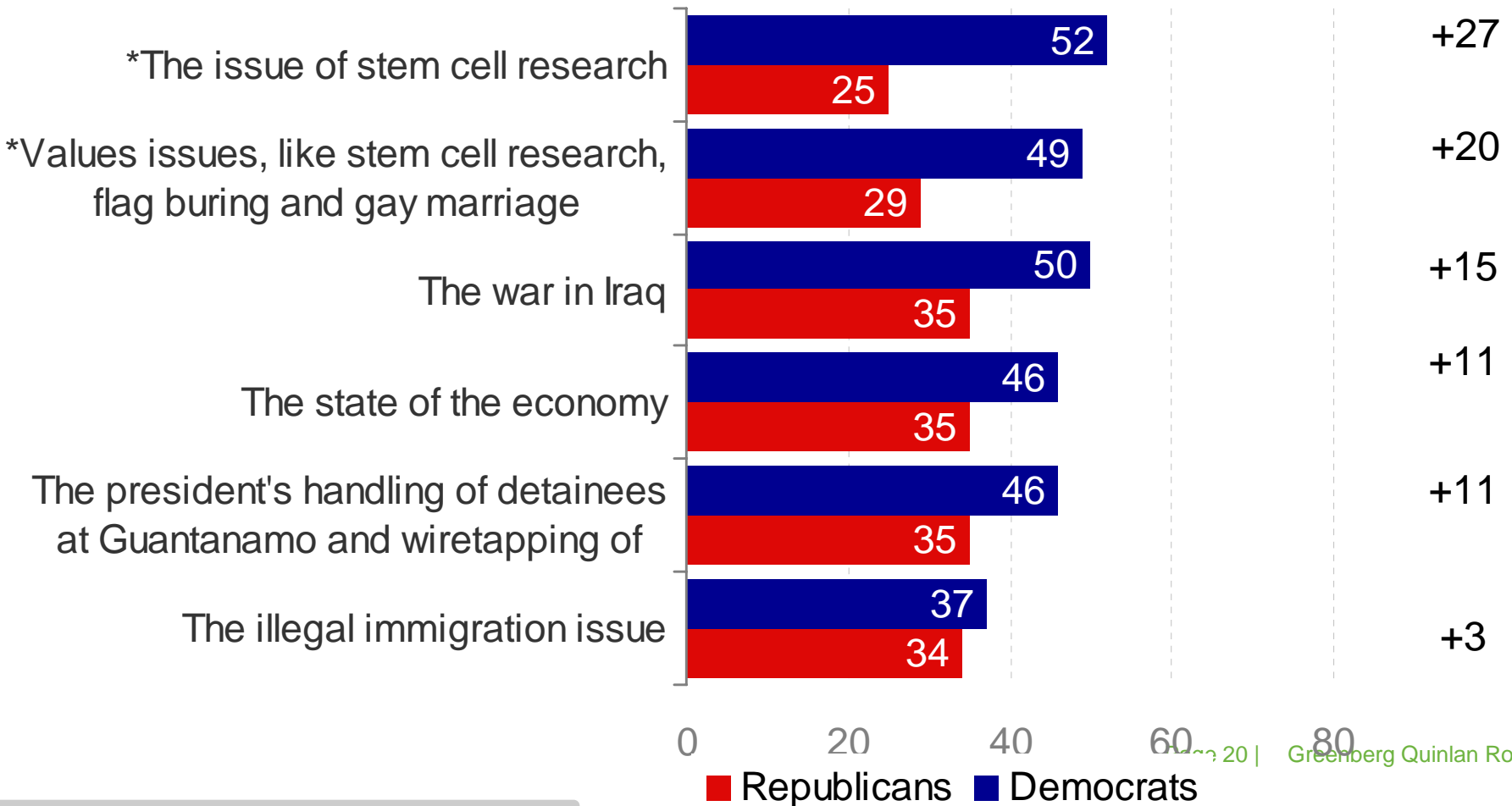


Note\*: Questions were split among the sample

## Democrats also win issue debates among independents

*I'm going to ask you about a number of issues that are being debated in the Congress and with the President. For each one, based on what you have heard recently, does it make you more likely to support the Democrats or the Republicans for Congress?*

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Note\*: Questions were split among the sample