

THE COOK
**POLITICAL
REPORT**
WITH AMY WALTER



Swing State Project

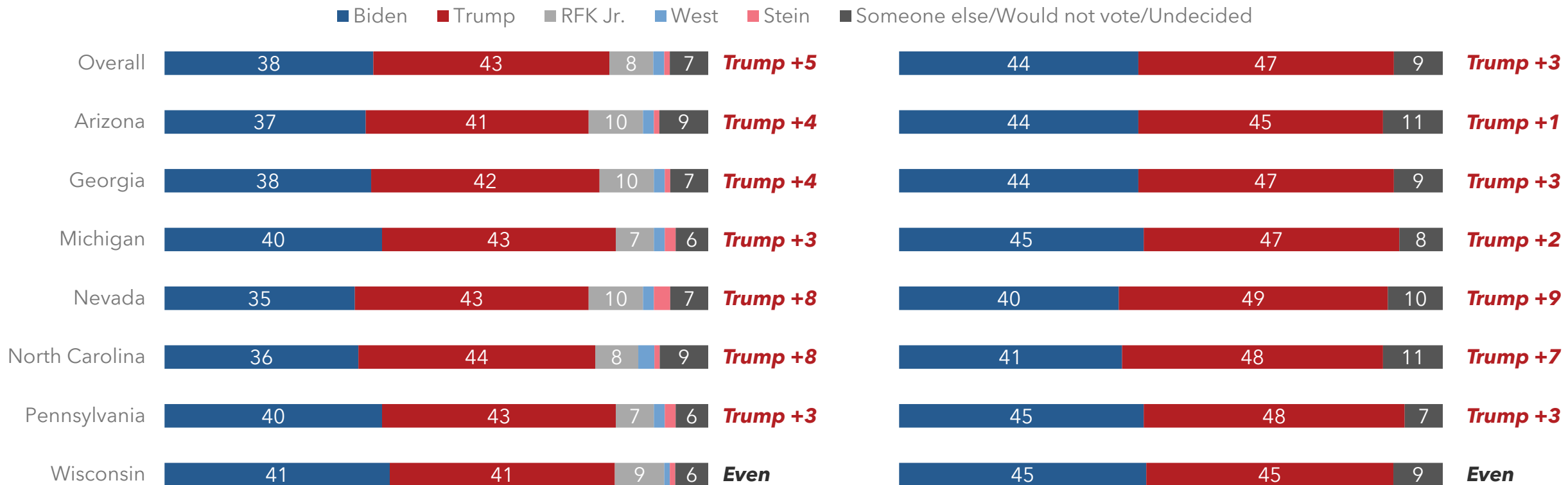


The race is tight, but Trump has the edge at present; Third-party voters are pulling from Biden/Trump 4:3

Presidential horseraces, including leaners

Horserace including 3rd party candidates

Biden vs. Trump head-to-head



When third party voters are pushed to choose between Biden and Trump, 40% back Biden and 30% back Trump

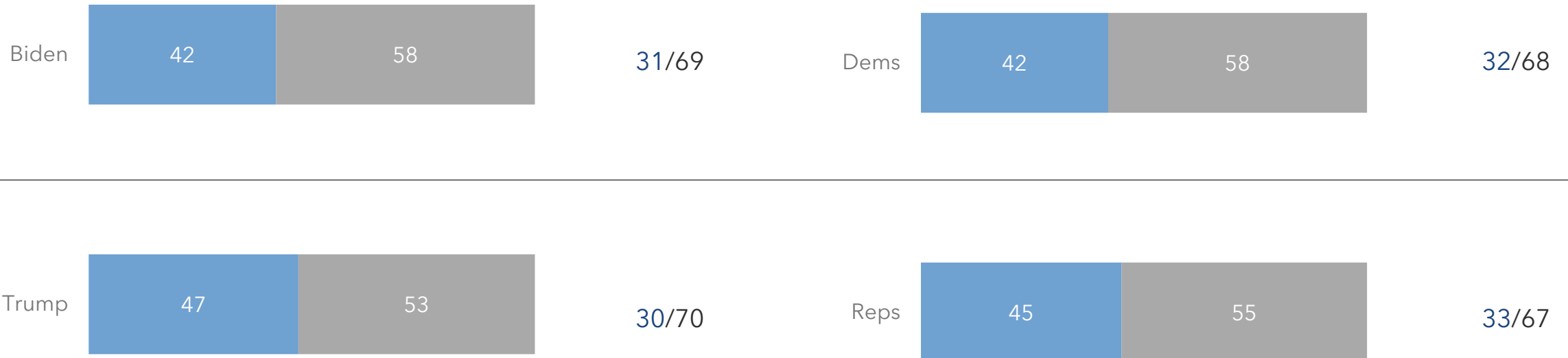
Both candidates and both parties are seen as mostly out of touch with voters - though Trump a little less so

Do you think the ideas and values of...are generally in line or out-of-touch with the views of people like you?

■ In line ■ Out of touch

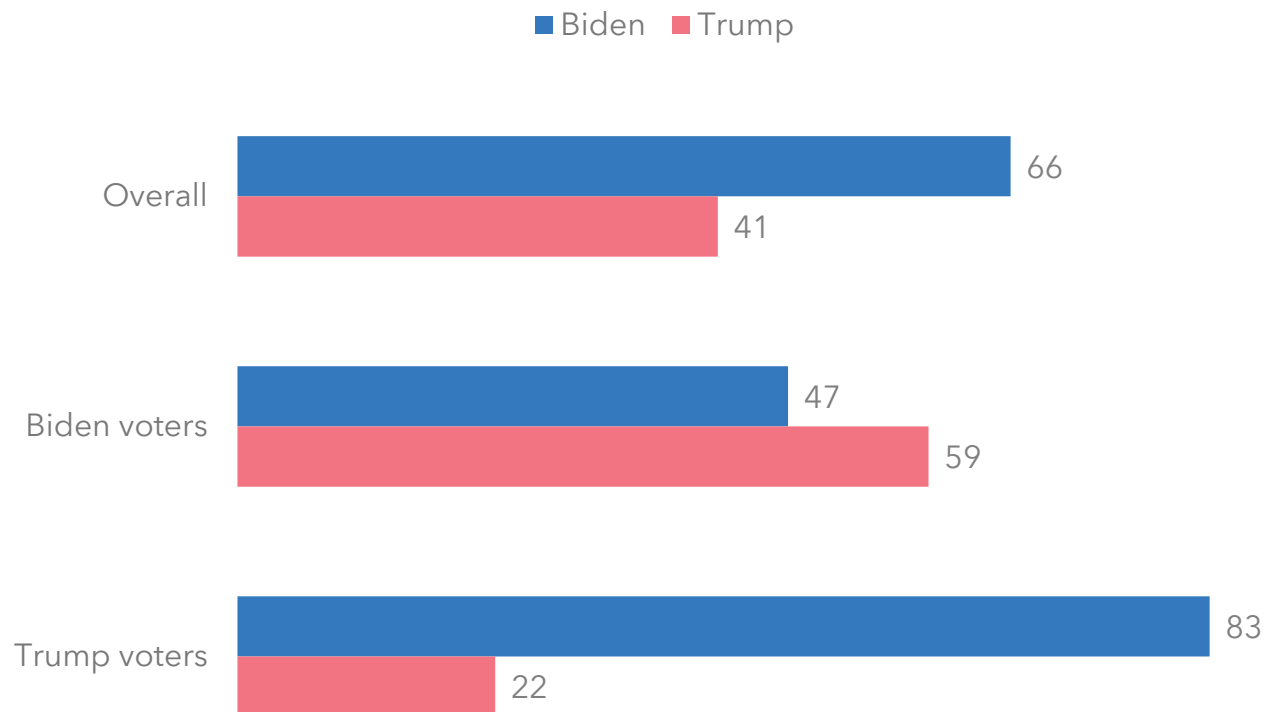
Among 3rd party + undecided voters:

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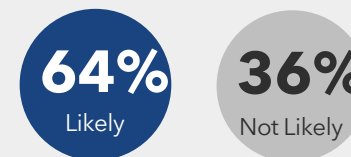
Most voters believe Trump would likely finish a 2nd term, but Biden would not - and half of Biden voters aren't convinced

% Say it is likely that Biden/Trump won't be able finish a 2nd term
Overall and among each candidate's supporters (based on head-to-head)



As a result, most believe a vote for Biden is likely a vote for Harris to eventually become president

Kamala Harris will become president because Biden won't be able to finish his term



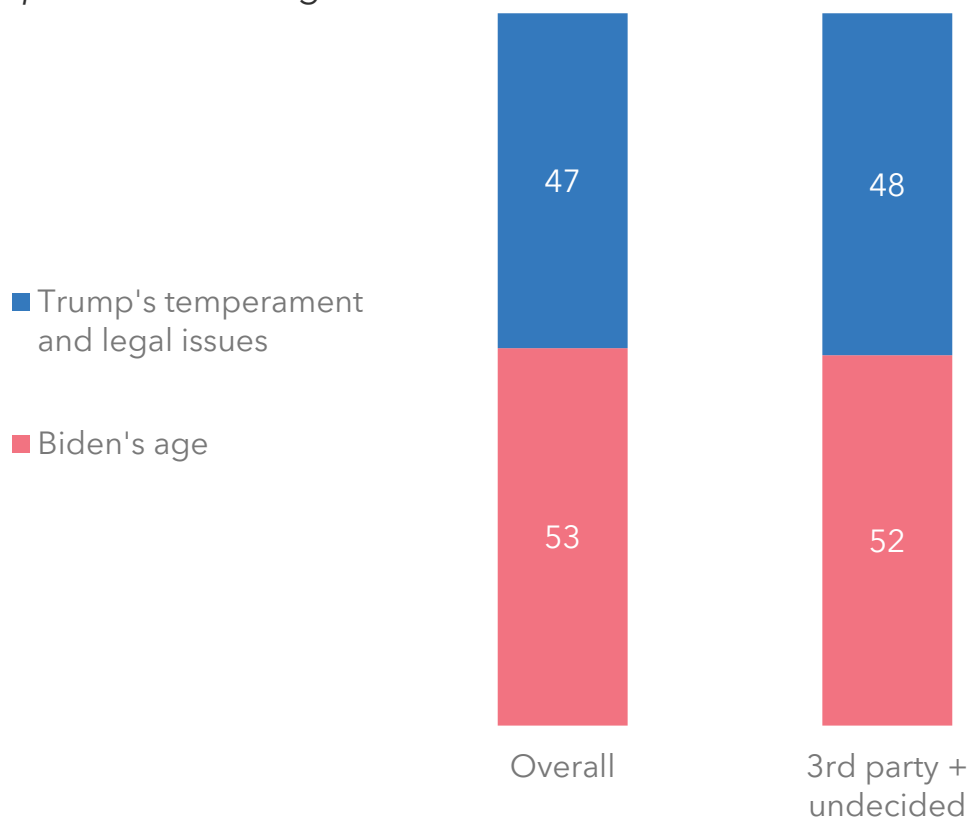
But while Harris is not viewed favorably by most, she is not viewed more unfavorably than Biden



Voters are slightly more concerned about Biden's age than Trump's legal issues

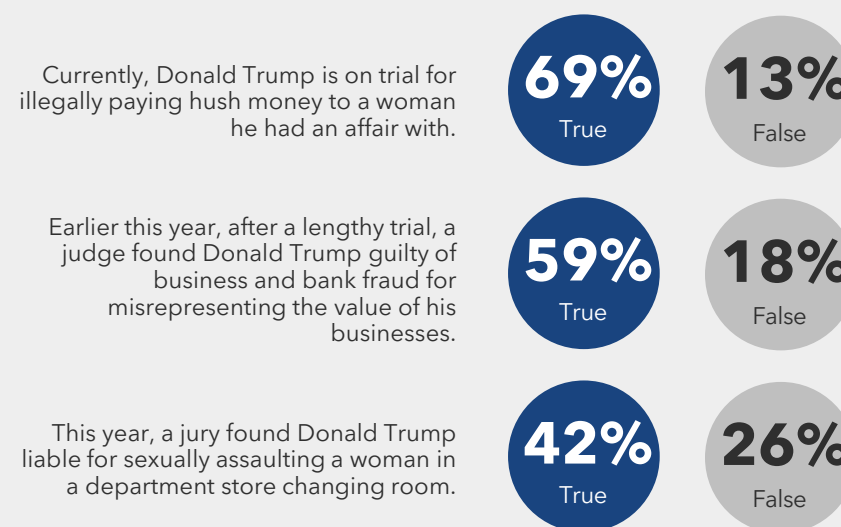
Which is more concerning to you?

Joe Biden's age and ability to perform his duties vs. Trump's temperament and legal issues

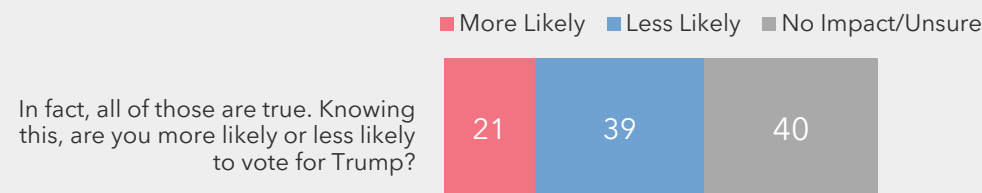


Knowledge is high on Trump's legal issues

Based on what you know, please indicate if the following questions are true or false.



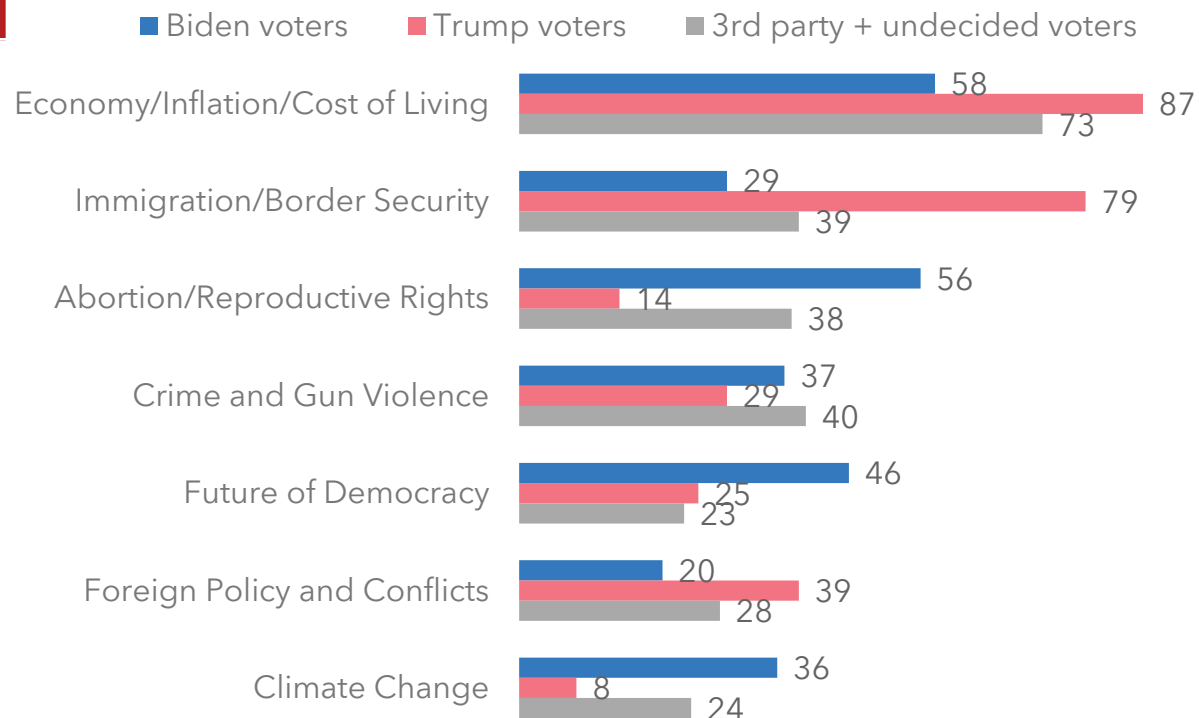
But it isn't compelling for most at the moment



Economic concerns dominate; While most want abortion legal, only for Biden voters is the election equally about abortion and the economy; For non-Biden/Trump voters, immigration is as important as abortion

Which 2-3 of the following are the most important issues for the next president to focus on?

Among each candidate's supporters (based on horserace including 3rd party voters)



Most want abortion to be legal

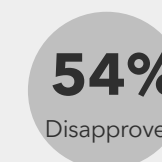
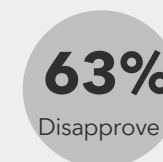
For statistical purposes only, to ensure we have a wide range of viewpoints, which of the following statements comes closest to your view of abortion? Should it be...



Most disapprove of Trump and SCOTUS on abortion

Do you approve or disapprove of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade, meaning there is no longer a constitutional guarantee to a right to an abortion?

Thinking back to when Donald Trump was president, do you approve or disapprove of the job he did on abortion and reproductive rights?

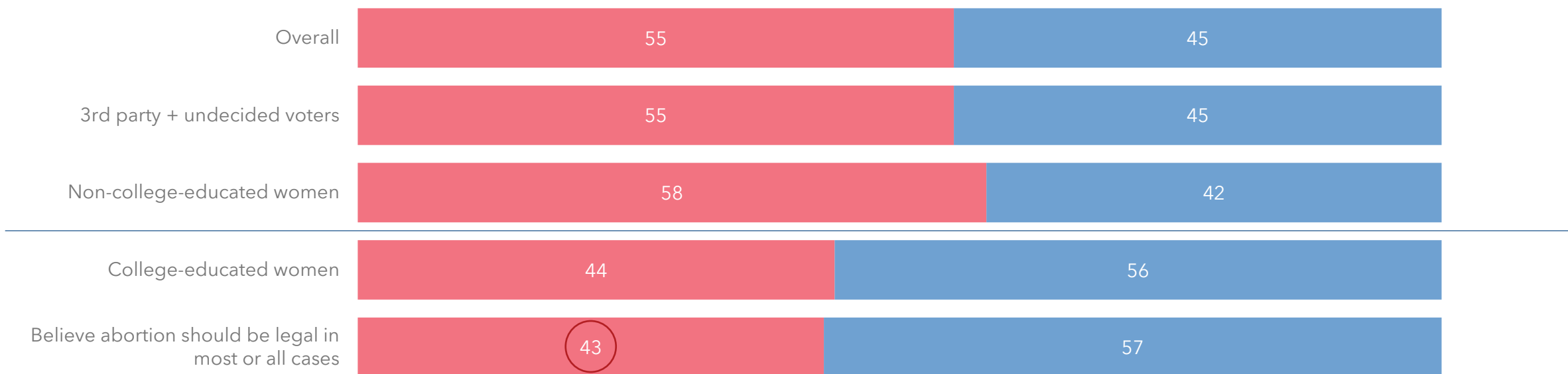


If the election is a choice between opposing Trump on abortion or Biden on econ, Trump is currently positioned to win; even many who want legal abortion are more worried about econ under Biden

If you had to choose, which concerns you more?

Biden setting economic policy or Trump setting policy on abortion rights

■ Biden setting economic policy ■ Trump setting policy on abortion rights



While there's more pessimism about what would happen on abortion if Trump wins, there is not enough optimism about what Biden can do on abortion to overcome his other negatives

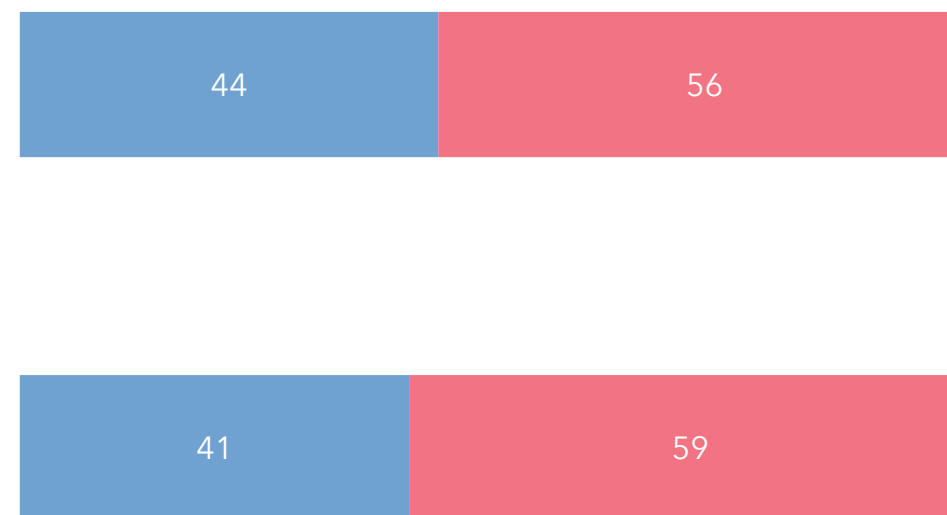
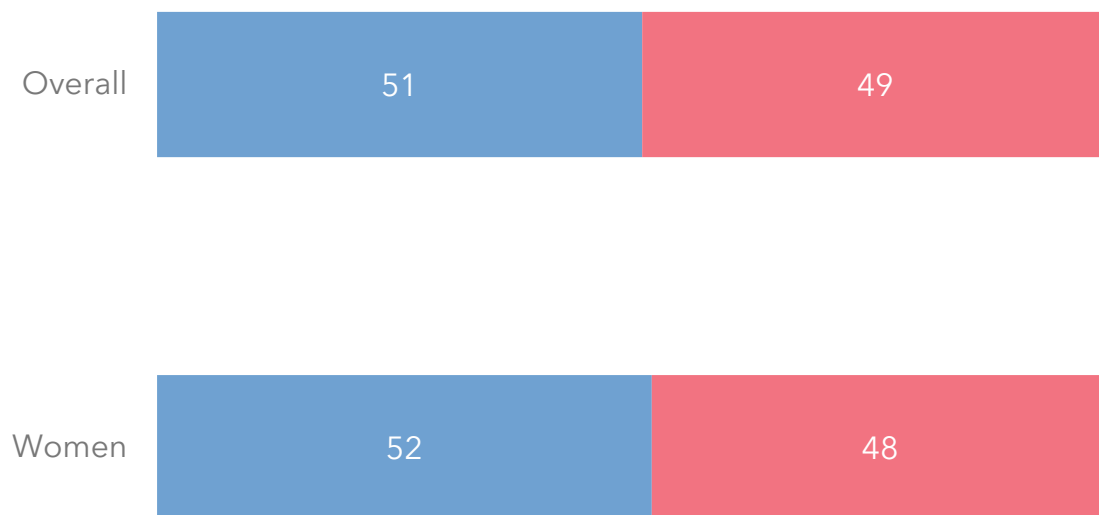
If Biden/Trump were elected to a second term, how would you feel about how abortion would be addressed?

Optimism vs. Pessimism

■ Optimistic ■ Pessimistic

If Biden wins

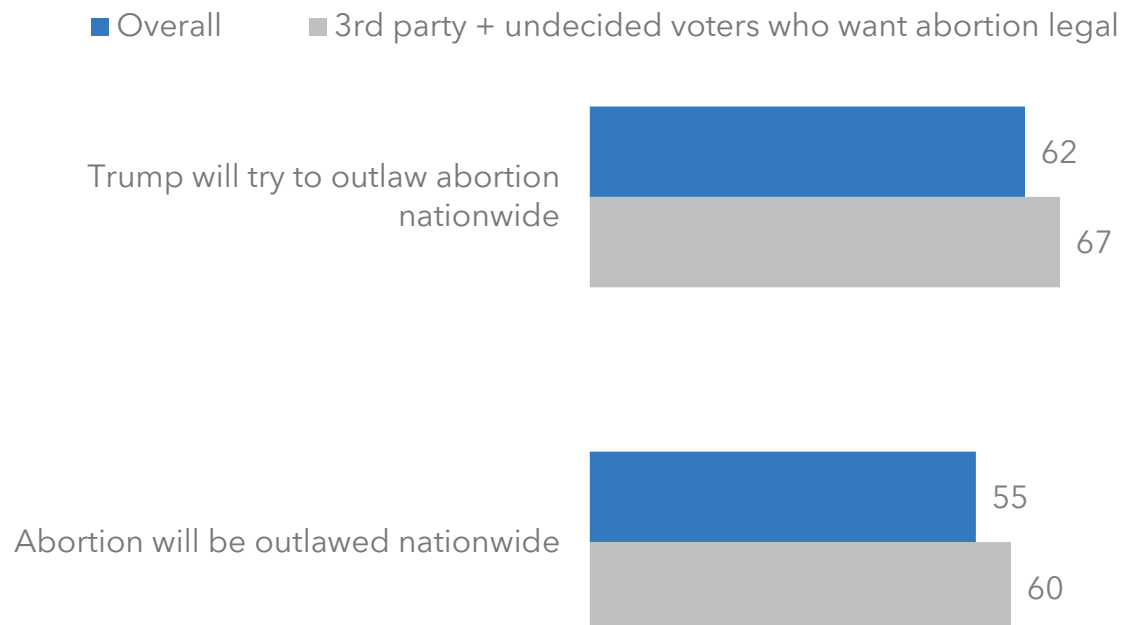
If Trump wins



One challenge for Biden is that most swing state voters are okay with Trump's new position on abortion; Bigger issue is some pro-choice voters are not backing Biden despite understanding the risk

% Say it is at least somewhat likely each would happen if Trump is president

Overall and among third-party and undecided voters who say abortion should be legal in most or all cases



Just over half of swing voters are comfortable with Trump's new position on abortion legality

Donald Trump has said the issue of abortion should be left up to each individual state.

Which comes closest to your view? His position is...

Legend: Too restrictive (Blue), About right (Light Red), Not restrictive enough (Dark Red)

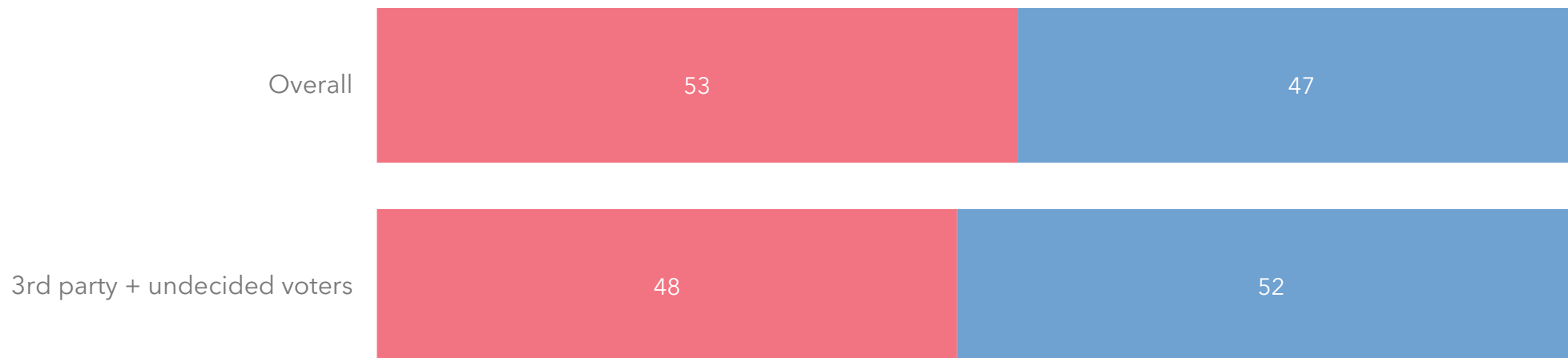


Voters are slightly more likely to worry about Biden on immigration than Trump on abortion - but the inverse is true among third-party and undecideds

If you had to choose, which concerns you more?

Biden setting immigration policy or Trump setting policy on abortion rights

■ Biden setting policy for immigration and border security ■ Trump setting policy on abortion rights

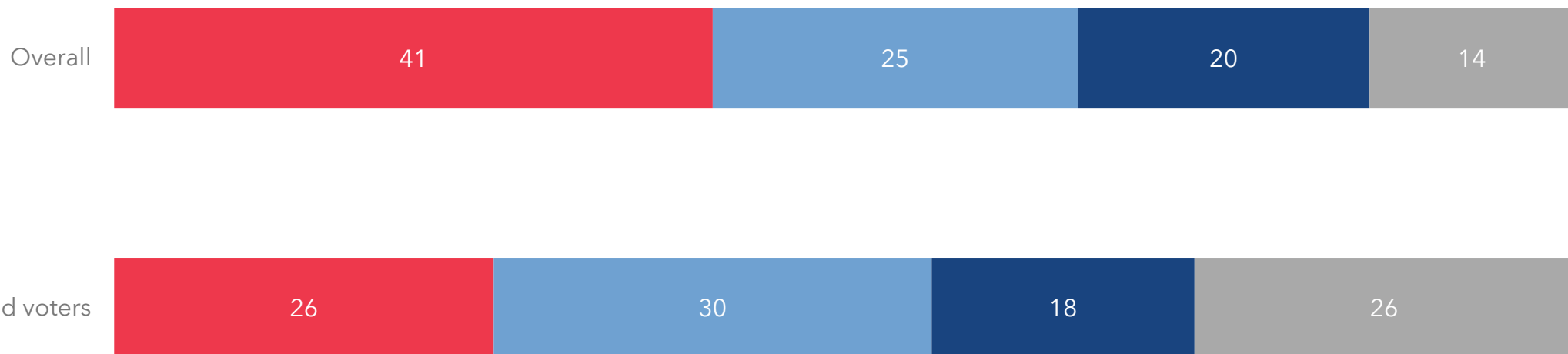


Many voters who think Trump would try to or even succeed at becoming a dictator aren't finding that a compelling enough reason to decide to back Biden

If Trump is elected, what is the most likely outcome?

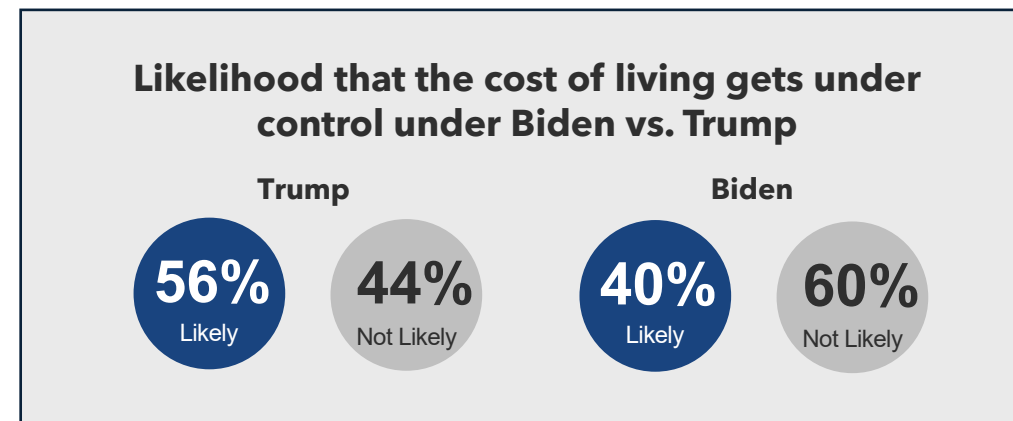
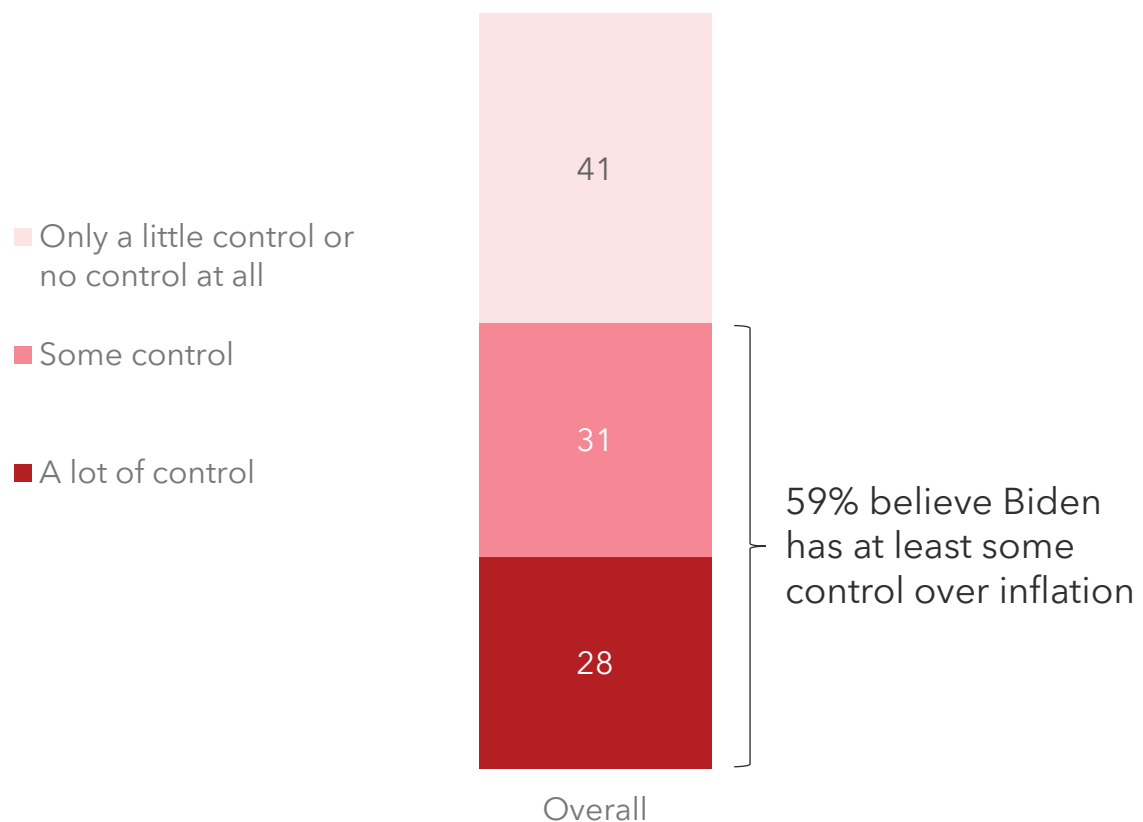
■ America will remain a democracy ■ Trump will try to become a dictator but America will remain a democracy ■ Trump will become a dictator ■ Not sure

59% aren't certain America would remain a democracy or Trump wouldn't try to end democracy



Most voters believe Biden has at least some control over rising costs - and that Trump would get the cost of living under control

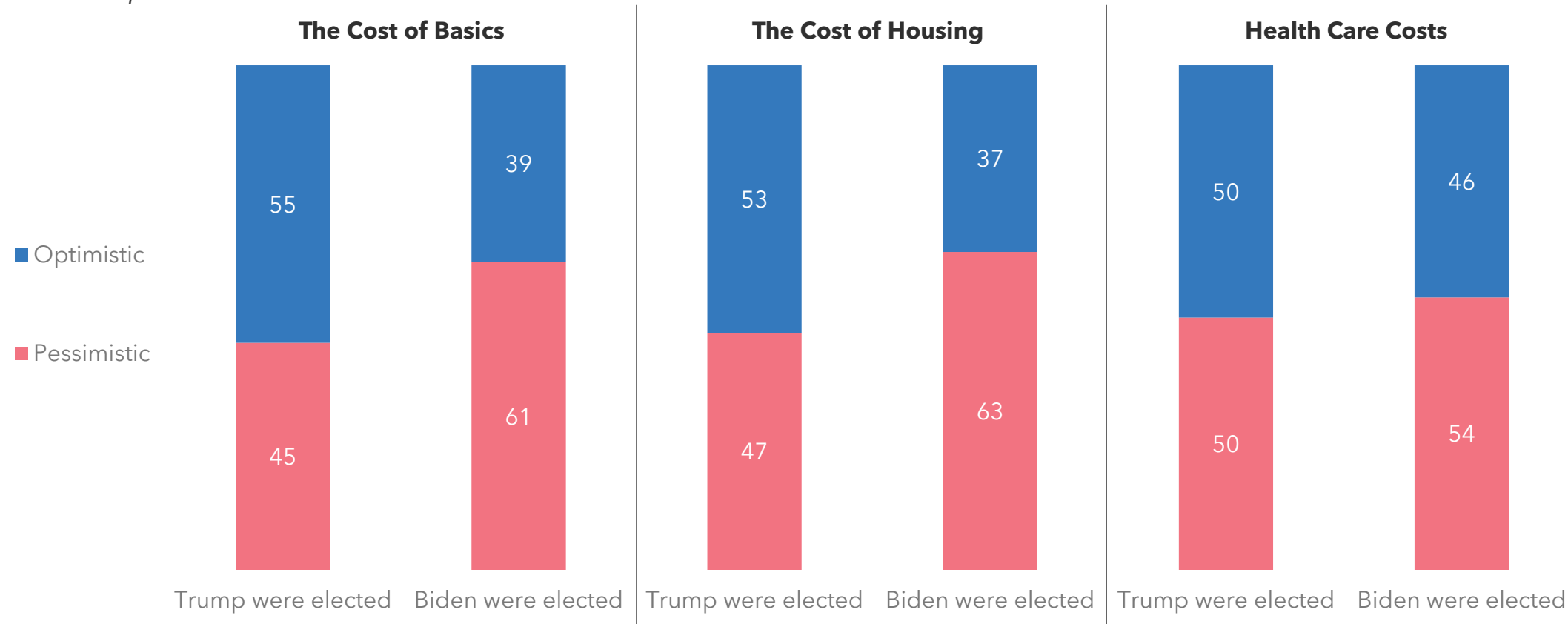
Generally, how much control do you think President Biden has over inflation and rising costs?



On costs, voters are more optimistic about Trump; While Biden does better on health care costs - it appears that that is not currently an advantage for him, despite traditionally being better for Democrats

If Biden/Trump were elected to a second term, how would you feel about each of the following issues?

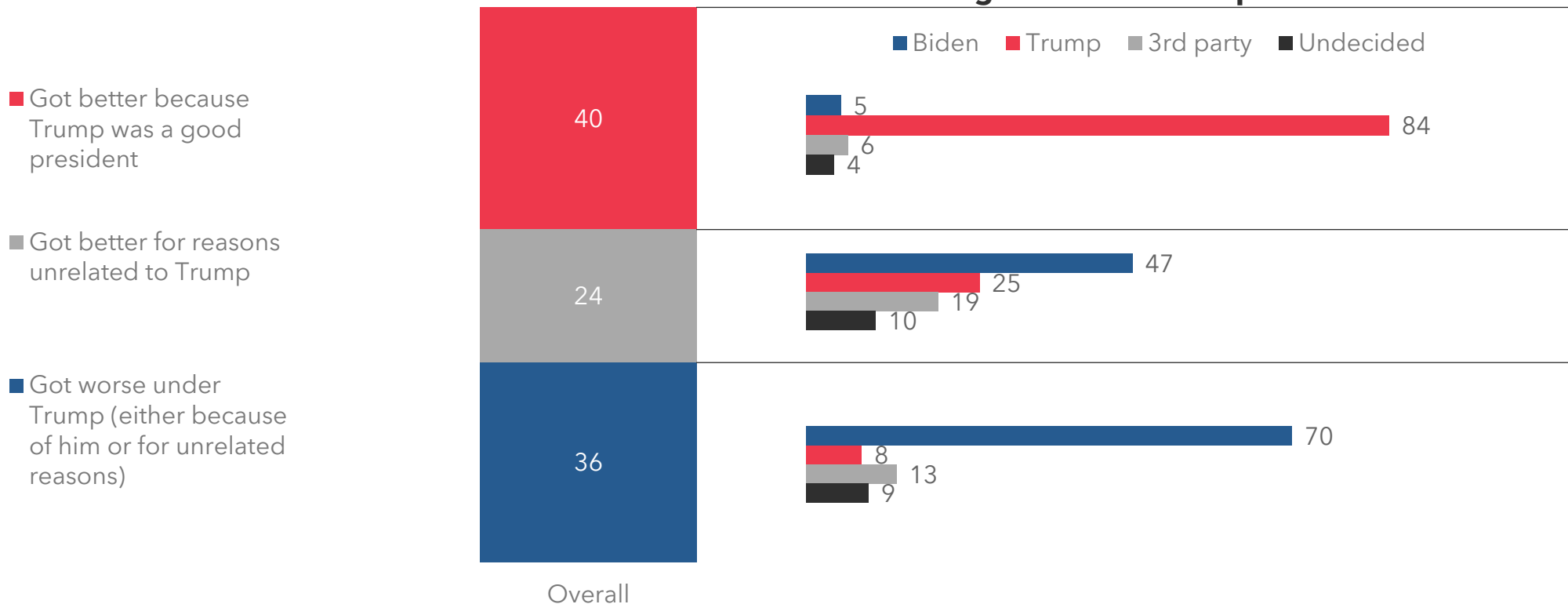
Optimism vs. pessimism



Voters who feel that things got better for them financially under Trump but don't credit him for those gains appear to be the most in-play

Thinking about you and your family's financial situation a few years ago, do you think it got better or worse under Trump...?

How voters who gave each answer plan to vote in 2024



Key highlights

- The race is tight, but Trump has the advantage currently. Both Biden and Trump are seen as out of touch.
- Most are aware of Trump's legal problems, but Biden's age is a bigger concern. More voters worry about Biden's age than Trump's and even many Biden voters are expressing worries about his age.
- The economy is the dominant issue in the presidential election, ahead of abortion. And as many third-party and undecided voters are focused on immigration as are focused on reproductive rights.
- Voters believe the president has control over rising costs and most are optimistic about Trump on costs and pessimistic about Biden.
- As a result, some voters appear open to risking reproductive rights, and even potentially America remaining a democracy, because they believe Trump can get costs under control.

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