

**GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER** RESEARCH

# Americans explosively angry with Washington

August 12, 2011



**DEMOCRACY CORPS**  
CARVILLE ♦ GREENBERG



# Methodology and Overview

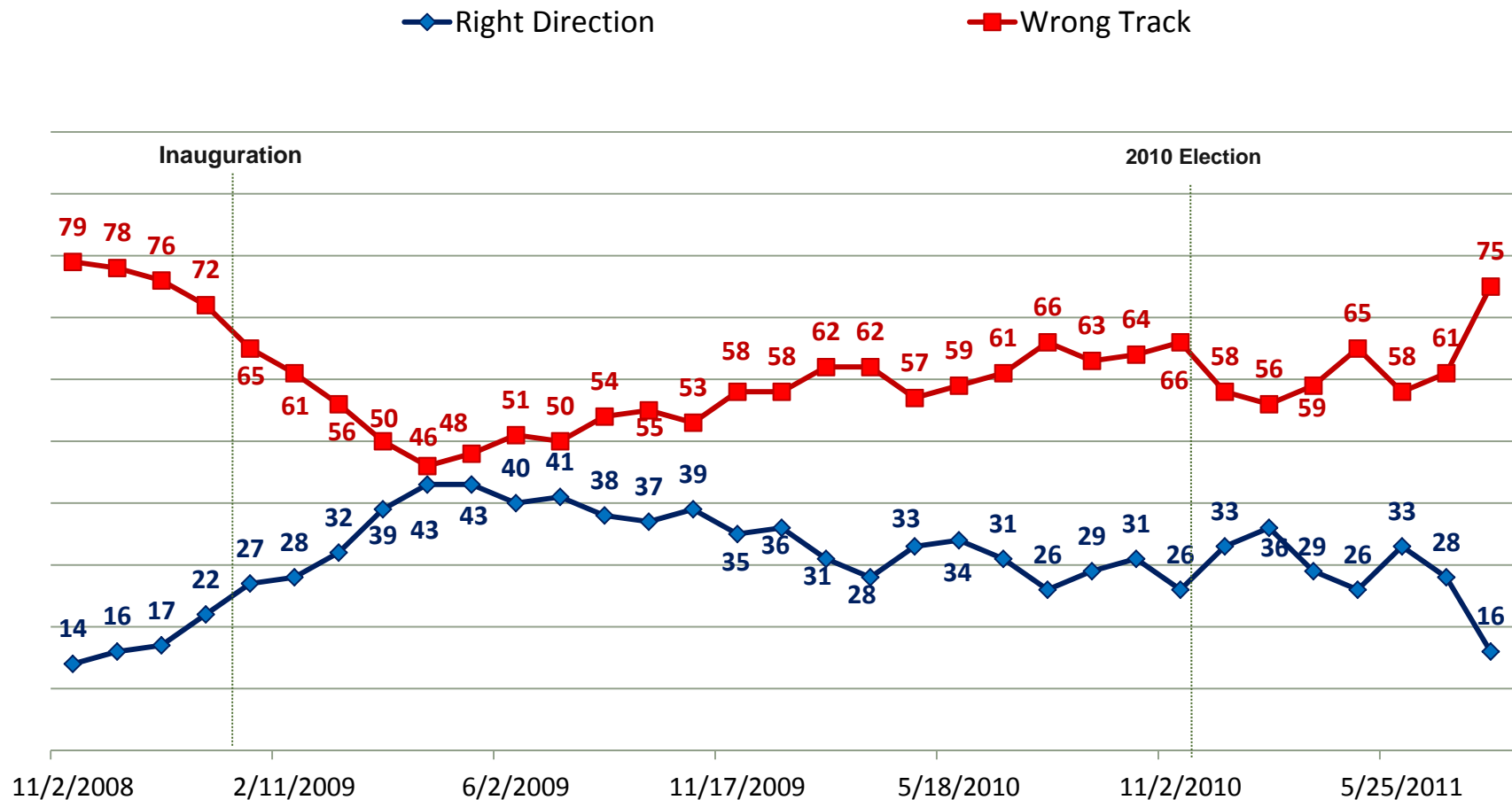
**This presentation is based on a national survey conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research for Democracy Corps and Women's Voices, Women Vote.**

**1481 likely 2012 voters (1000 weighted) interviewed from August 6-10, 2011.**

**Unless otherwise noted, margin of error= +/- 2.5 percentage points at 95% confidence.**

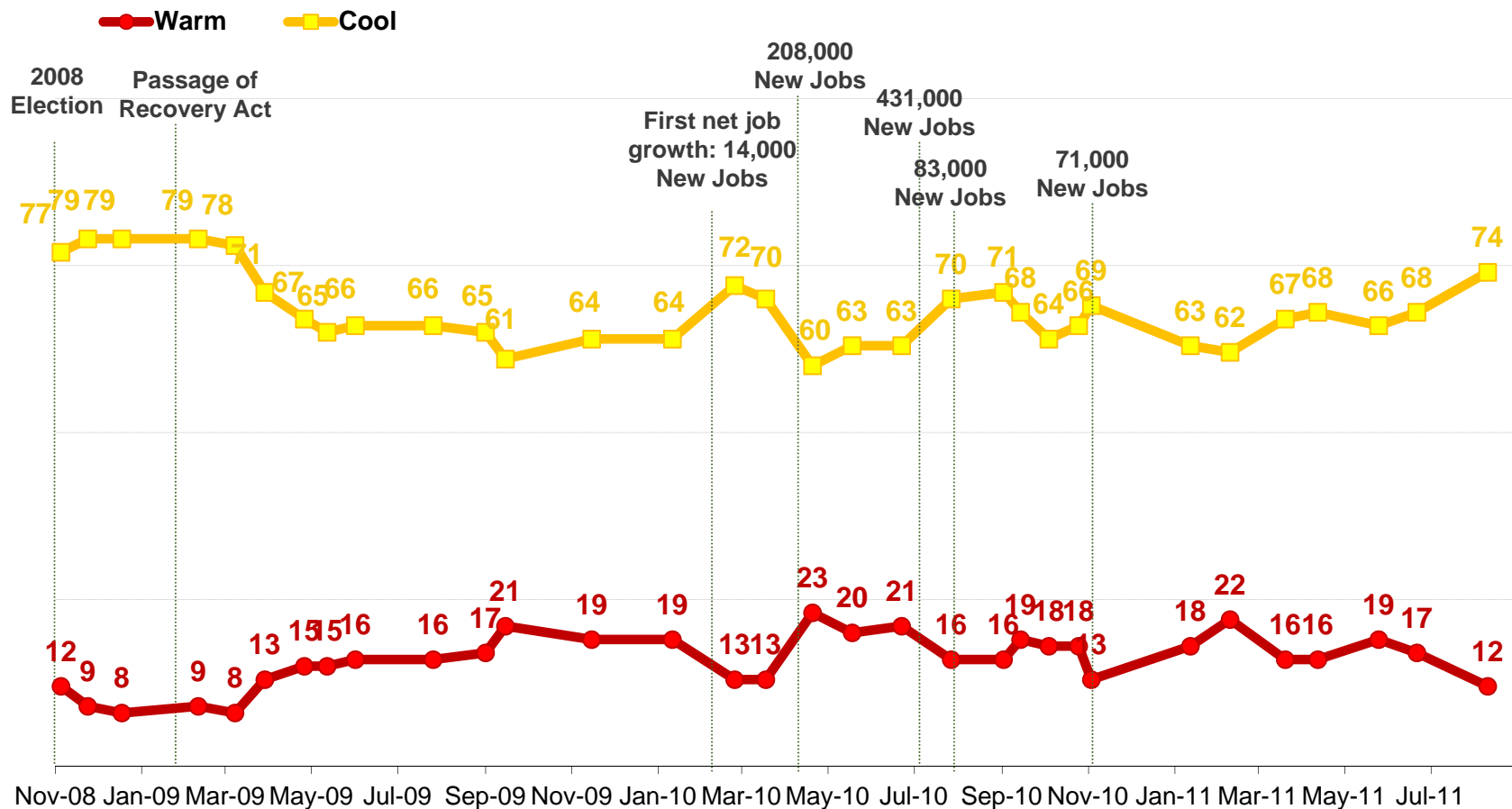
# Wrong track skyrockets; highest since 2008 election

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



# Negative feelings on economy highest since Recovery Act

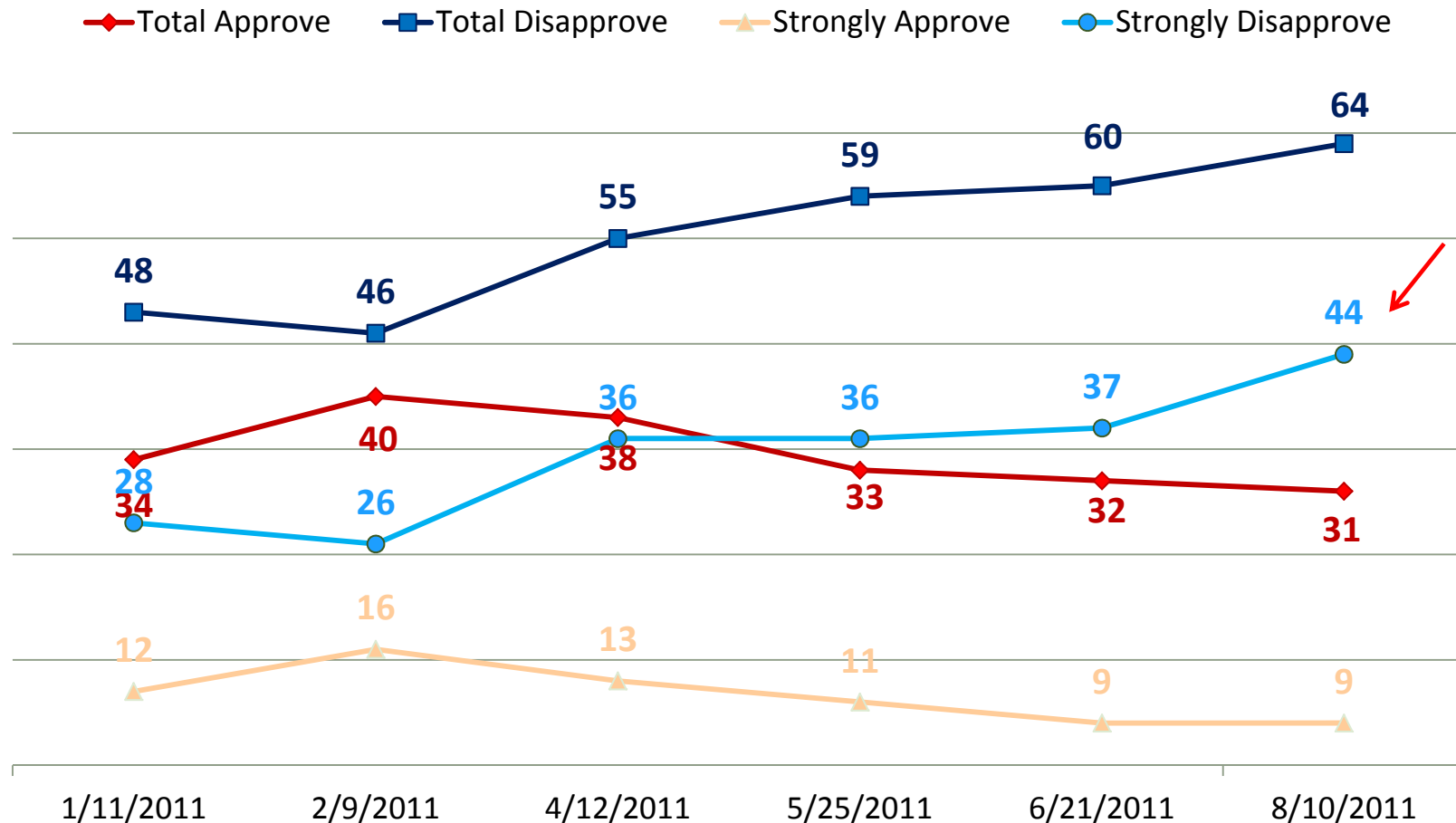
Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. **The state of the economy...**



\*Note: Data from Democracy Corps surveys prior to March 2010. Based on research for Citizen Opinion. Data reflects full sample.

# Almost two-thirds disapprove of Republicans in Congress; 7 point increase in strong disapproval

*Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling their job in charge of the House of Representatives?*



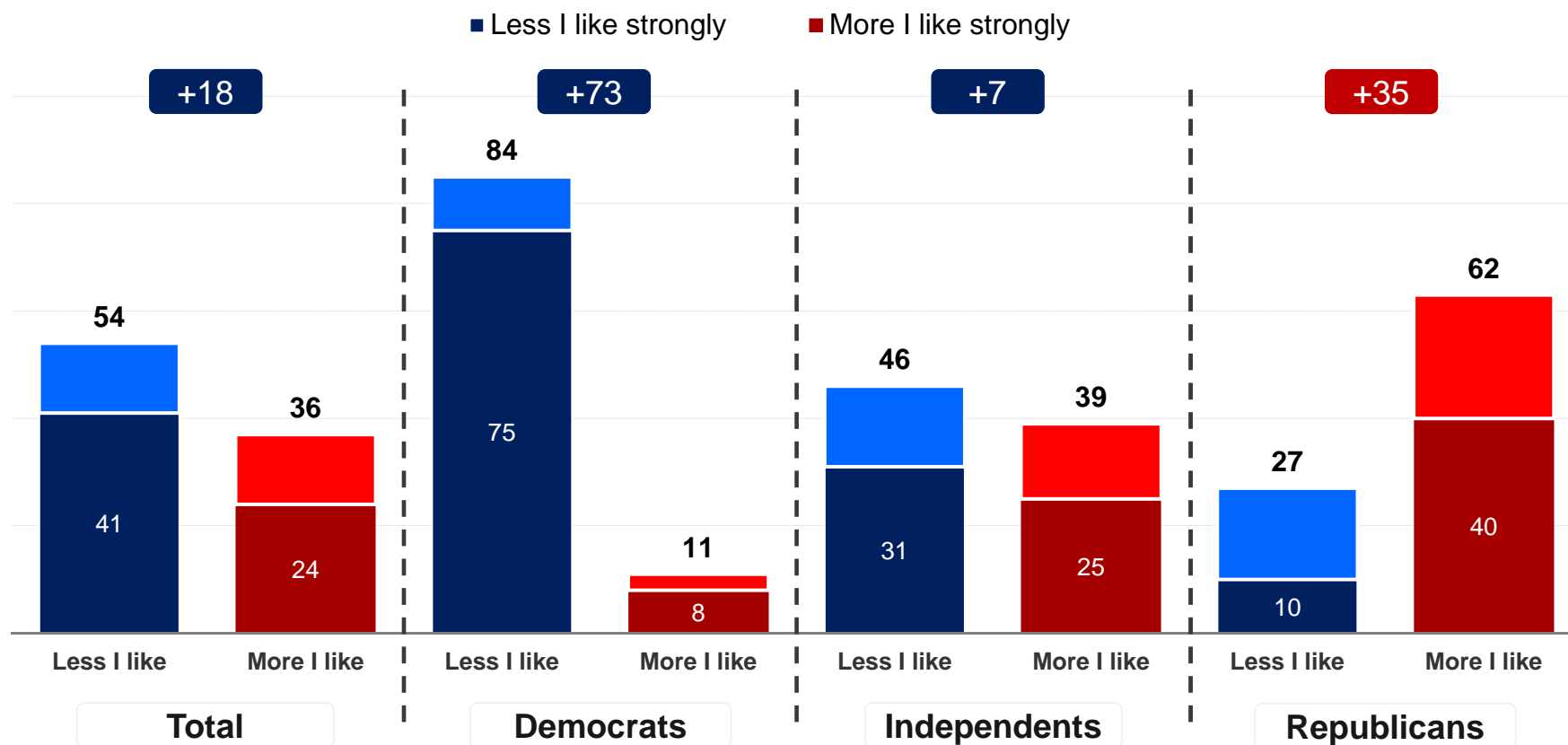
\*Note: Question was not asked in March.

# The more voters hear from Republicans in Congress, the less they like – including independents

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me whether the **FIRST** statement or the **SECOND** statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

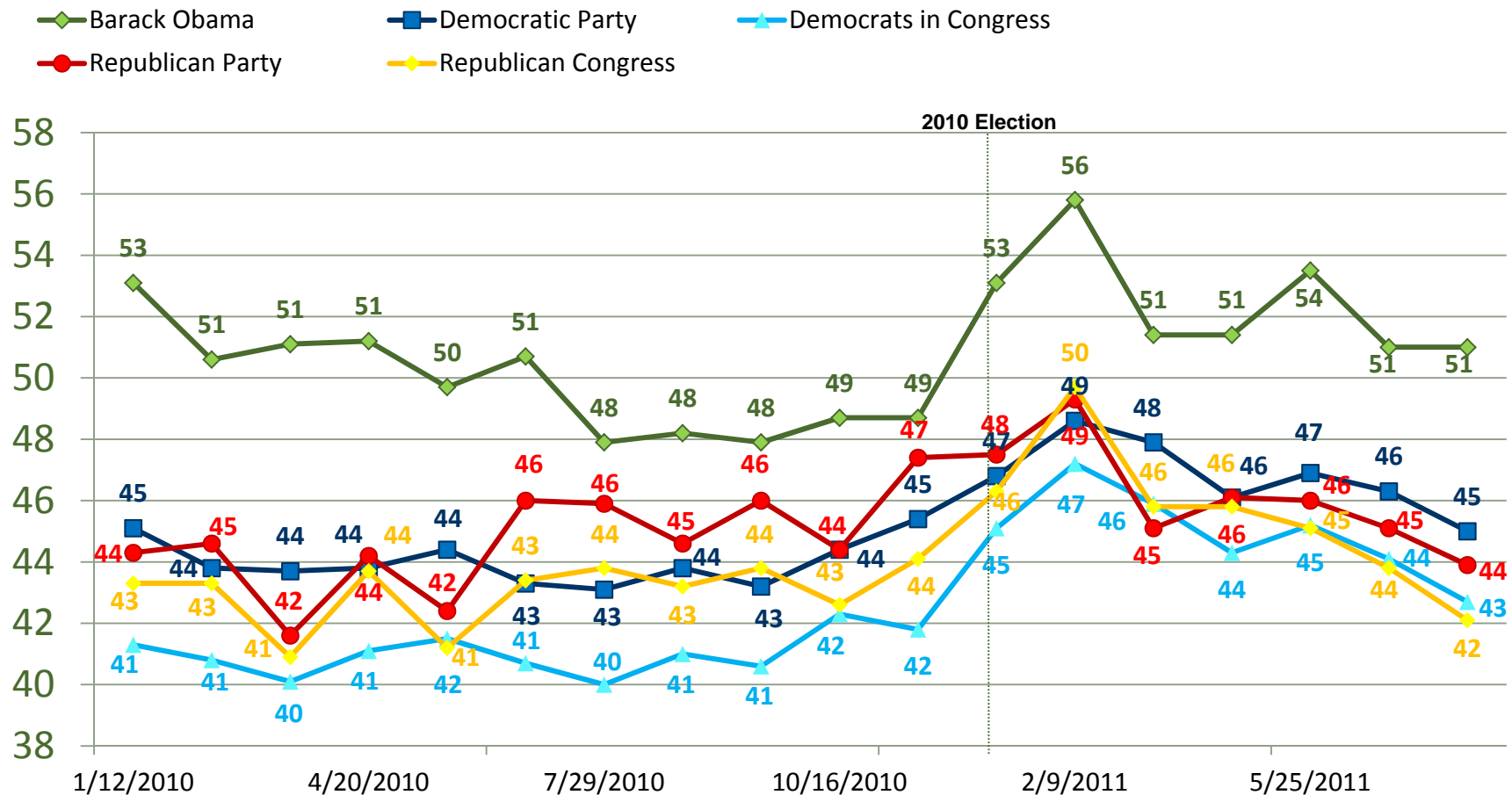
**STATEMENT 1:** The more I hear from Republicans in Congress, the **LESS** I like.

**STATEMENT 2:** The more I hear from Republicans in Congress, the **MORE** I like.



# Everybody's falling – with Republicans in Congress lowest

Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with 100 meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and 50 meaning not particularly warm or cold.



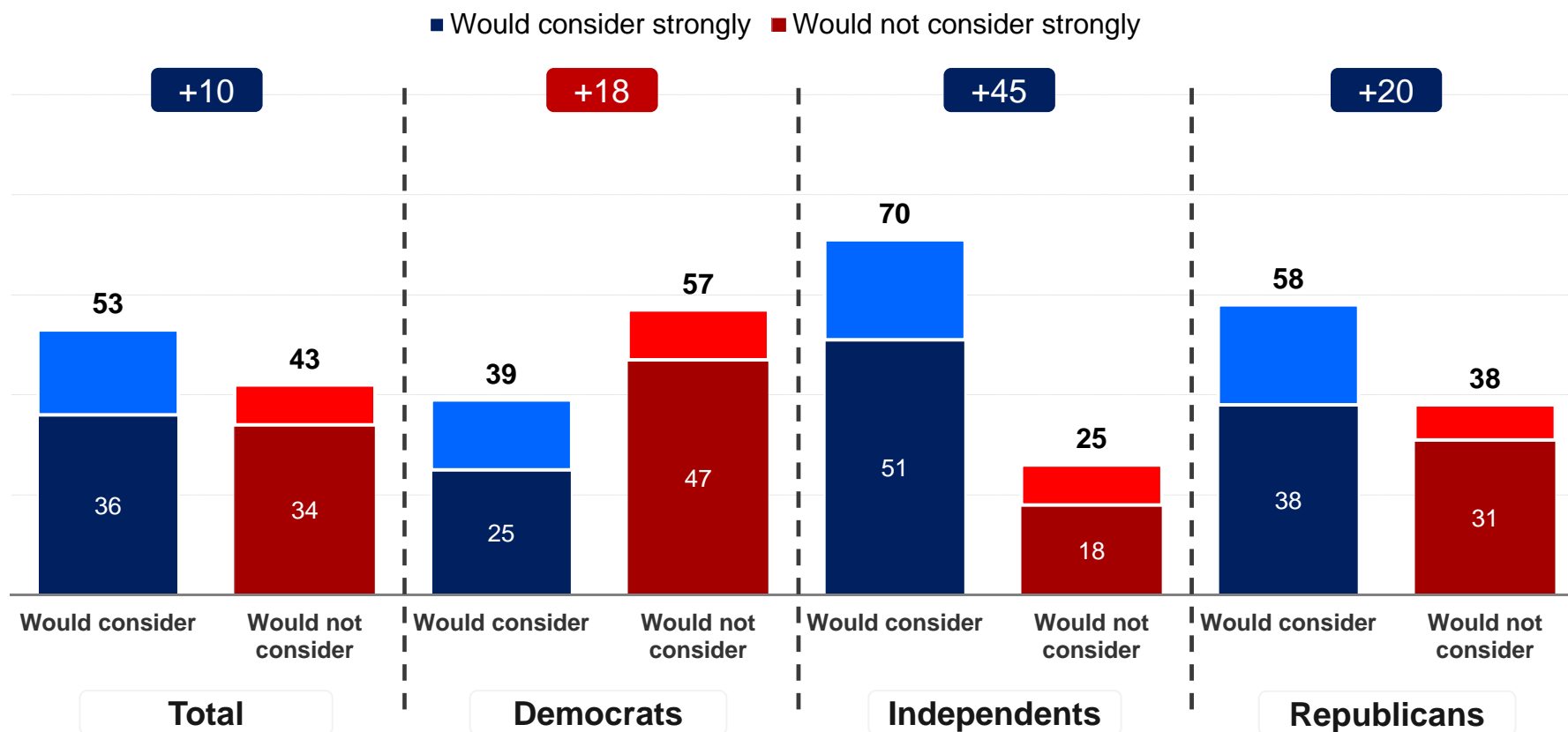
\*Note: From Democracy Corps surveys conducted in the past year. Data represents MEAN ratings, likely voters

# Majority would now consider voting for a third party candidate – more Republicans than Democrats

*Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.*

**STATEMENT 1:** I would consider voting for a third party candidate in next year's presidential election.

**STATEMENT 2:** I would not consider voting for a third party candidate in next year's presidential election.



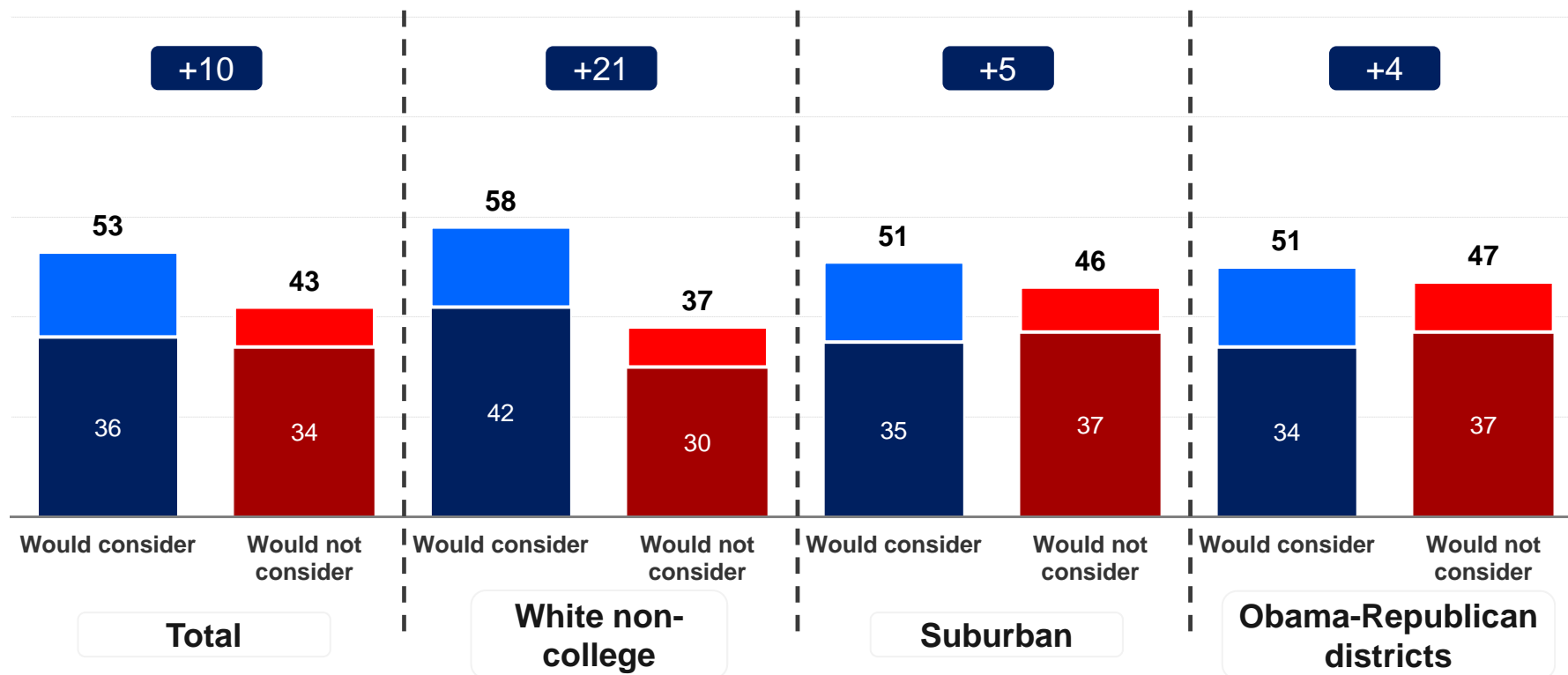
# White non-college voters most open to third party candidate

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me whether the *FIRST* statement or the *SECOND* statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

**STATEMENT 1:** I would consider voting for a third party candidate in next year's presidential election.

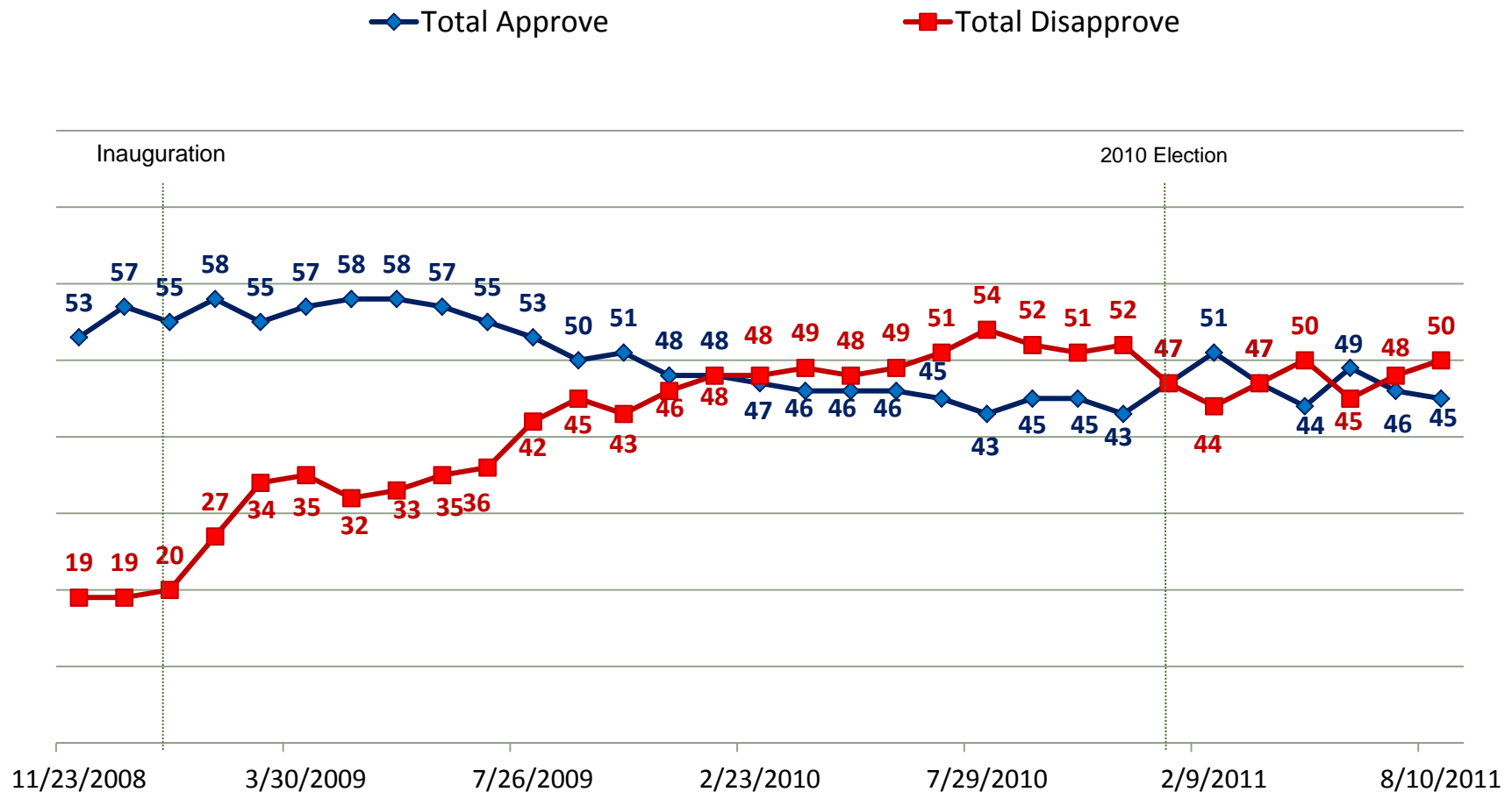
**STATEMENT 2:** I would not consider voting for a third party candidate in next year's presidential election.

■ Would consider strongly ■ Would not consider strongly



# Obama approval at 45 percent

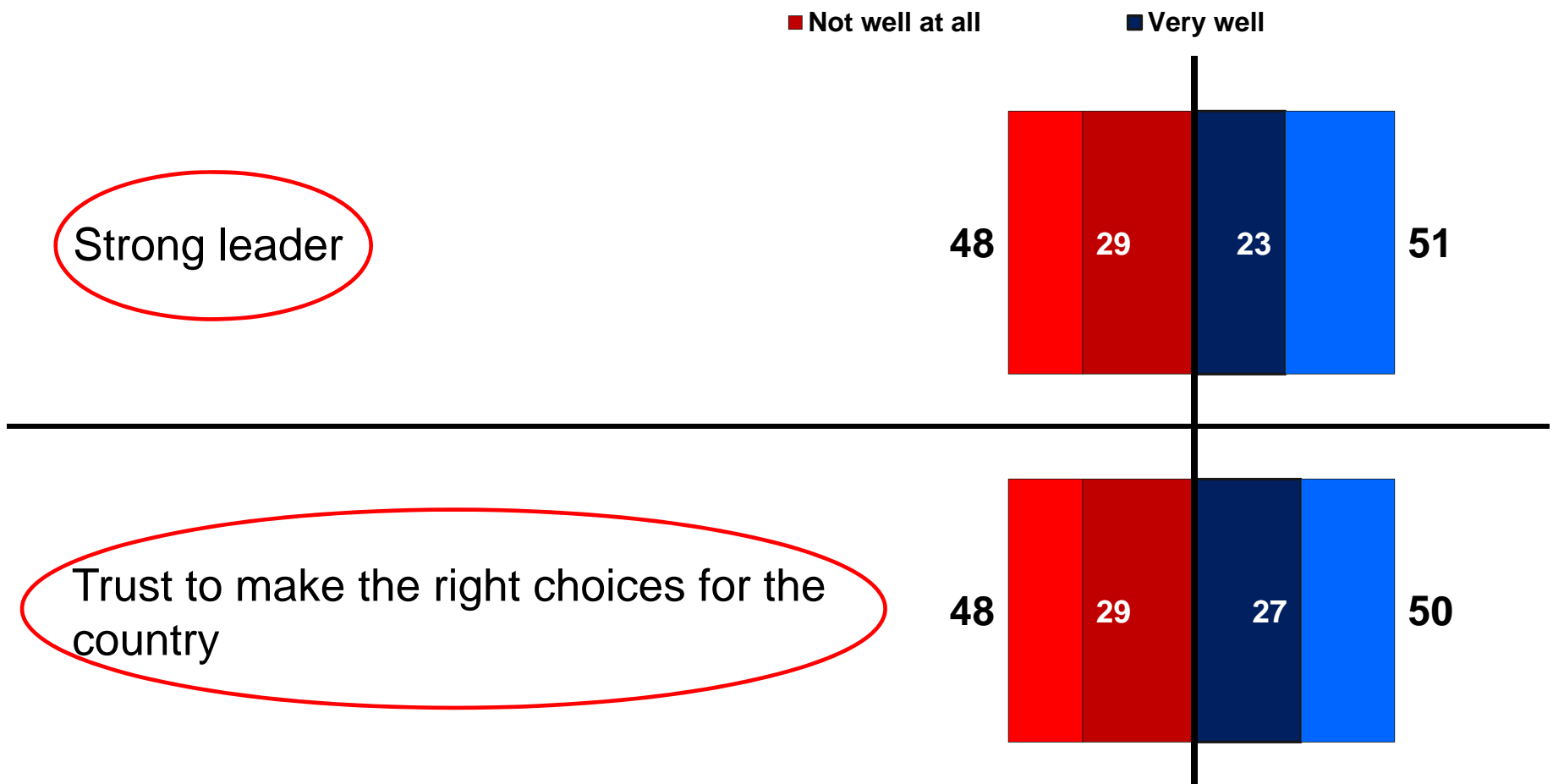
*Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?*



*\*Note: From Democracy Corps surveys since the 2008 election. Before inauguration, question read: "Do you approve or disapprove of the job being done by Barack Obama as president-elect?"*

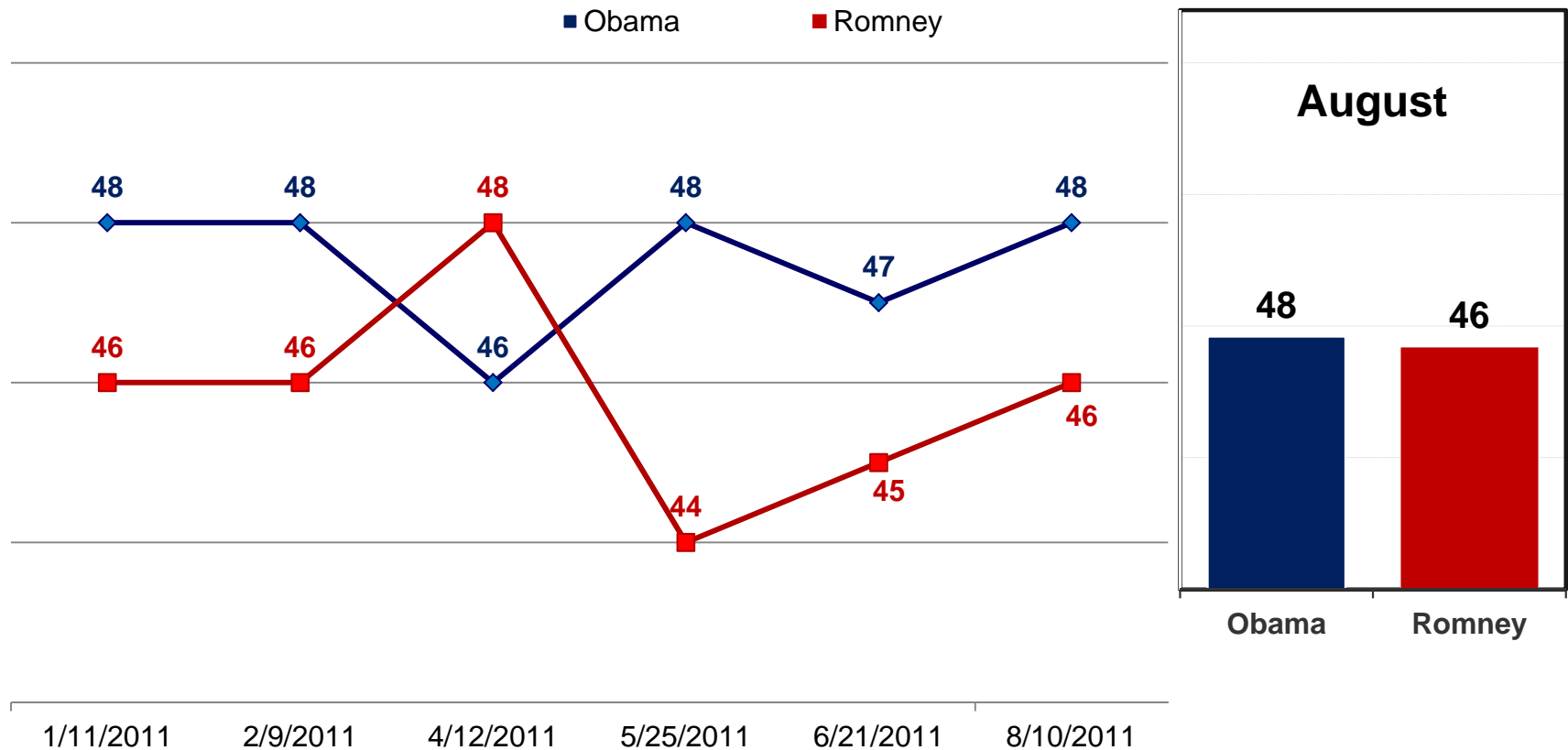
# Obama positive attributes just at 50 percent

*Below is a list of words and phrases which people use to describe political figures. For each word or phrase, please tell me whether it describes Barack Obama very well, well, not too well, or not well at all.*



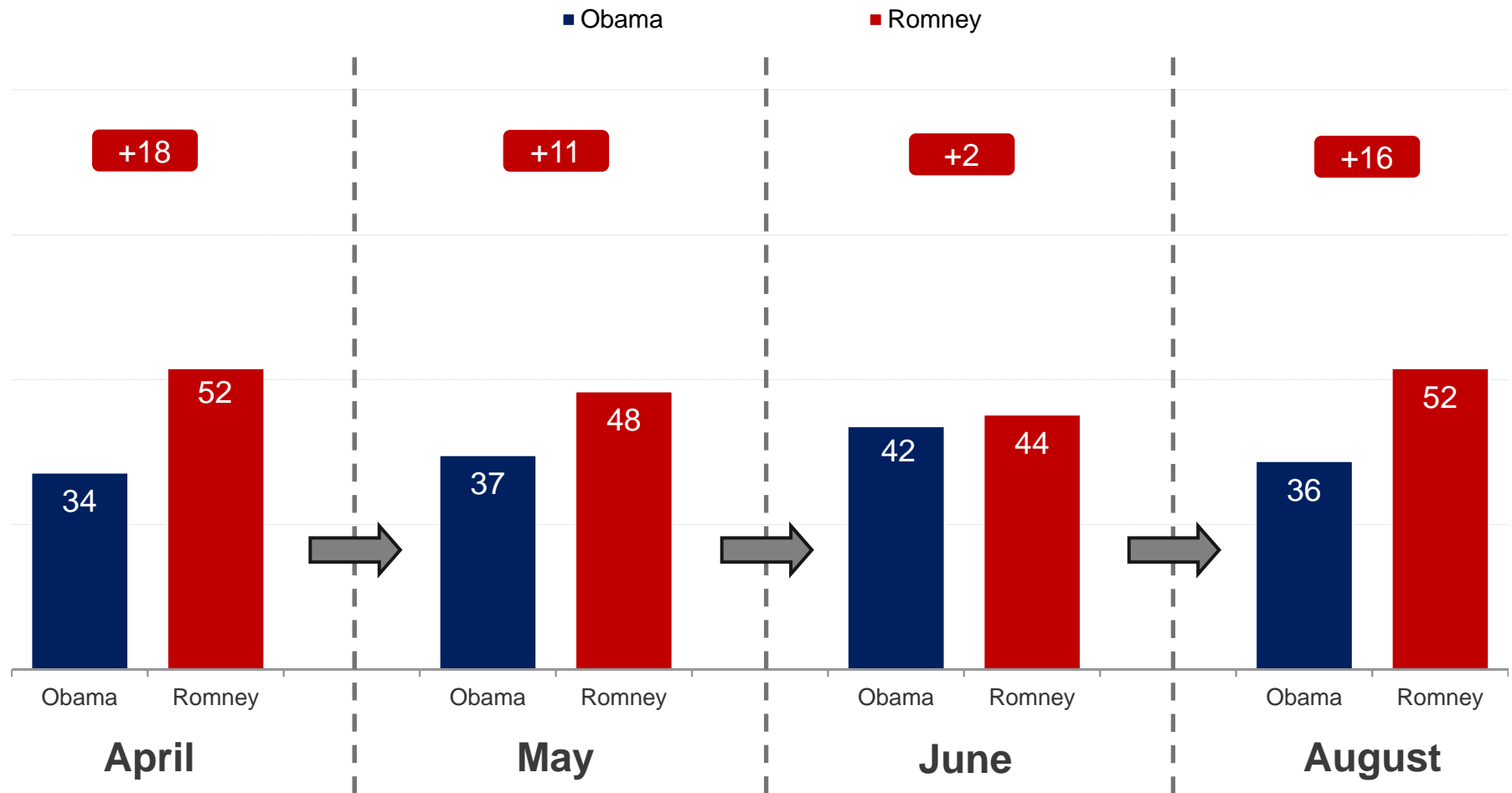
# Obama vote remains at 48 percent

*I know it's a long way off, but thinking about the presidential election in 2012, if the election for president were held today and the candidates were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, for whom would you vote?*

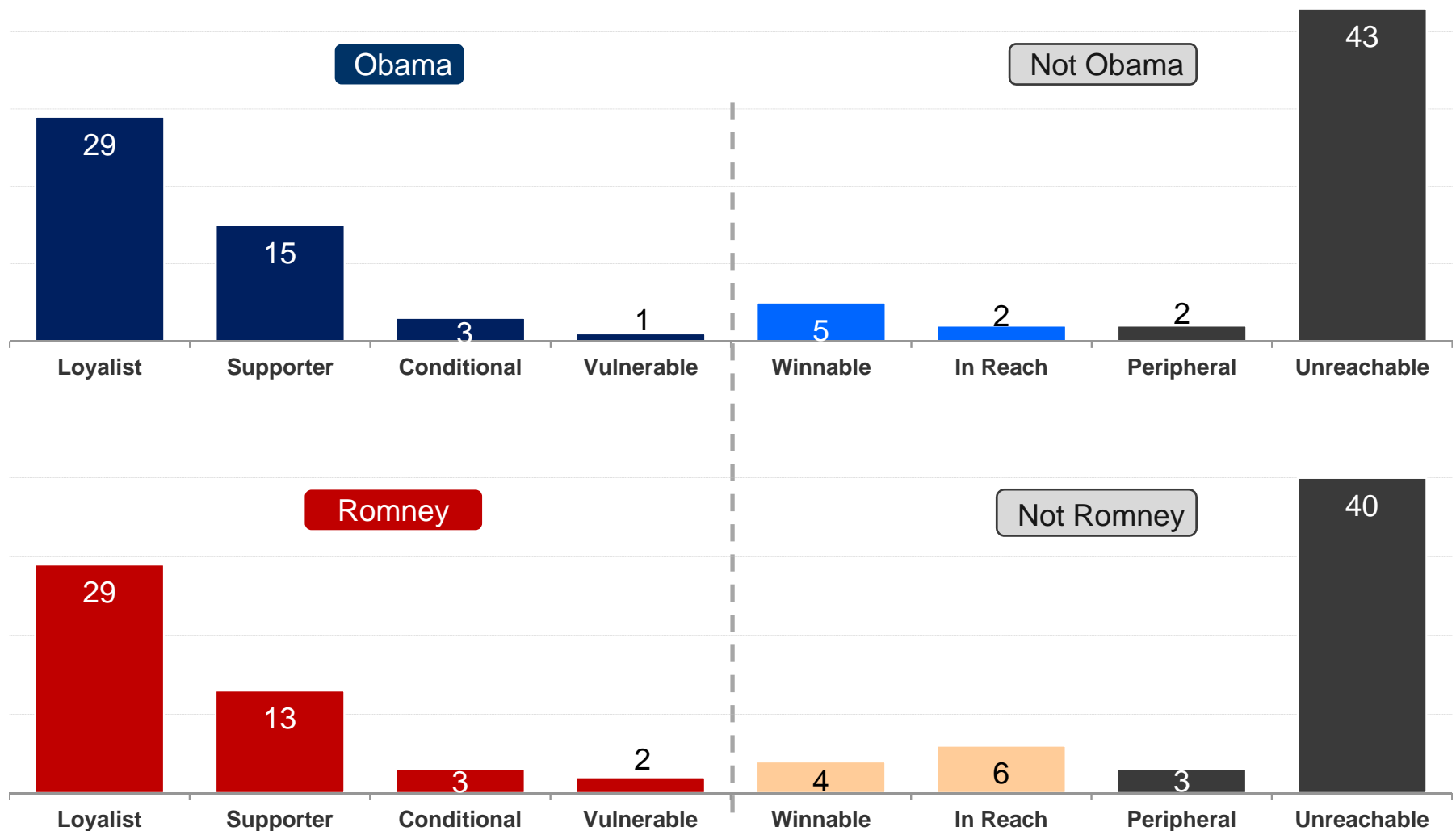


# Obama loses ground among Independents in past month

*I know it's a long way off, but thinking about the presidential election in 2012, if the election for president were held today and the candidates were Democrat Barack Obama and Republican Mitt Romney, for whom would you vote?*

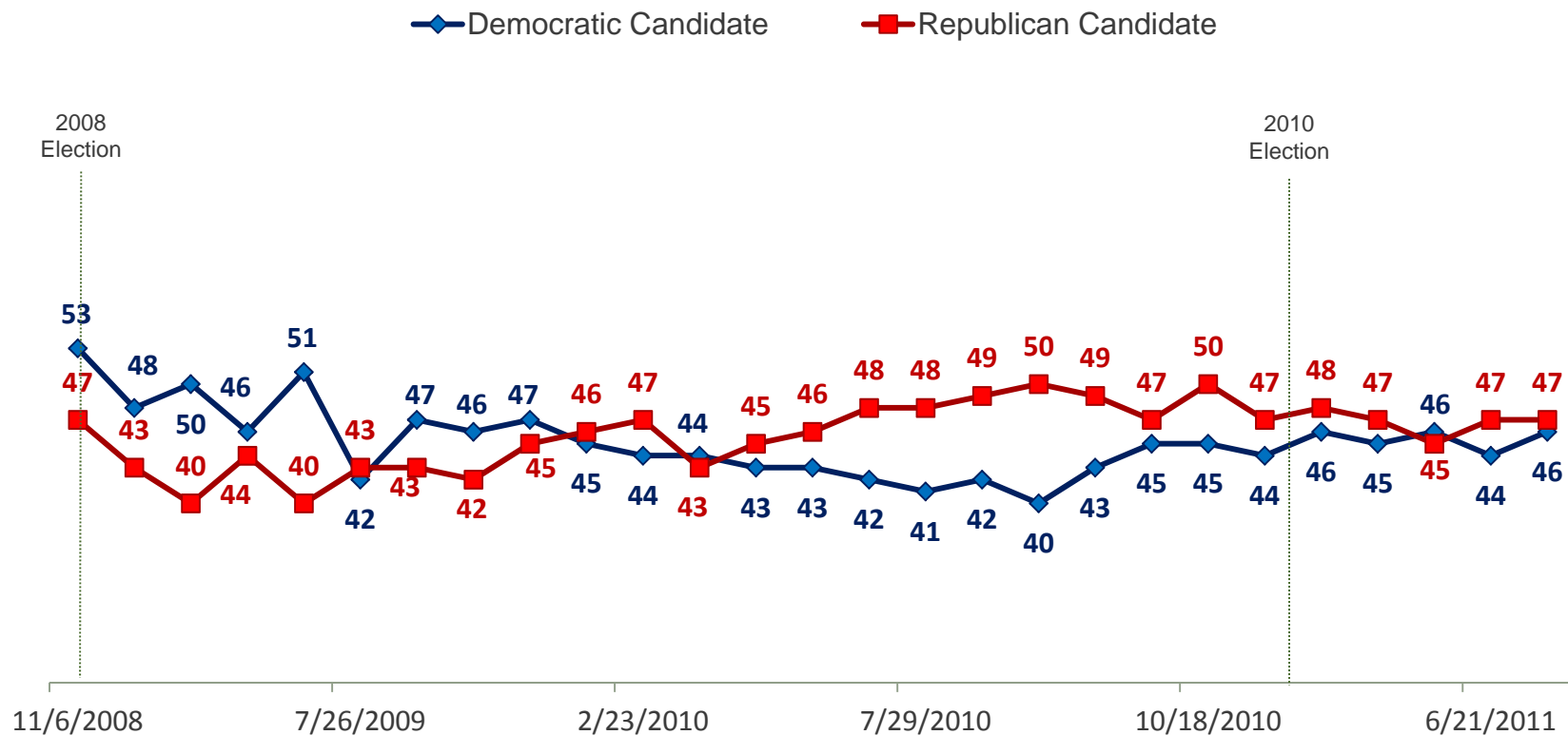


# Obama and Romney have identical patterns of support



# Congressional vote a toss-up

*I know it is a long way off, but thinking about the elections for Congress in 2012, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you be voting for DEMOCRATIC HOUSE CANDIDATE or REPUBLICAN HOUSE CANDIDATE?\**



\* In the landline sample, the incumbent names were inserted preceded by party identification. Generic "the Democratic candidate" or "the Republican candidate" were inserted for the opposition. For the cell phone sample and open seat districts, both candidates were given as generic.



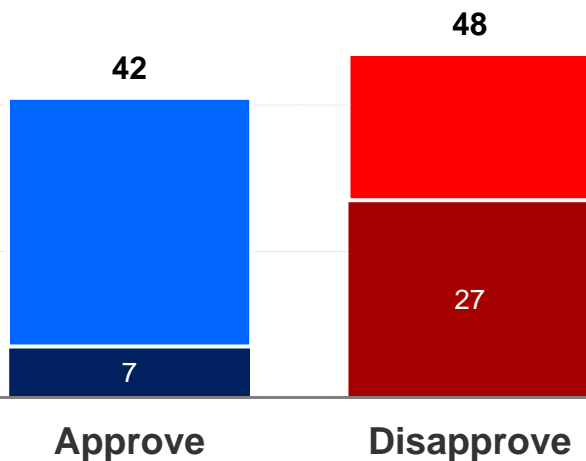
# **Debt Ceiling Agreement**



# Country divided on debt ceiling agreement

*Barack Obama and the Republicans and Democrats in Congress recently reached an agreement on the federal debt limit. From what you know, do you approve or disapprove of this agreement?*

■ Strongly approve ■ Strongly disapprove

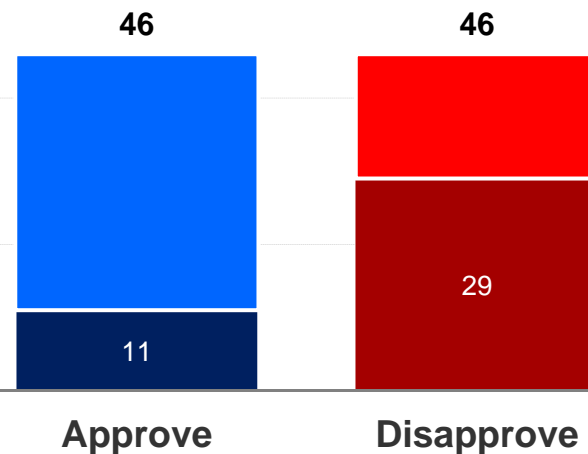


+6

Debt deal without information

*Barack Obama and the Republicans and Democrats in Congress recently reached an agreement to cut a trillion dollars in spending over 10 years, create a bi-partisan commission to identify more than a trillion in spending cuts, and raise the federal debt limit until 2013. From what you know, do you approve or disapprove of this agreement?*

EVEN



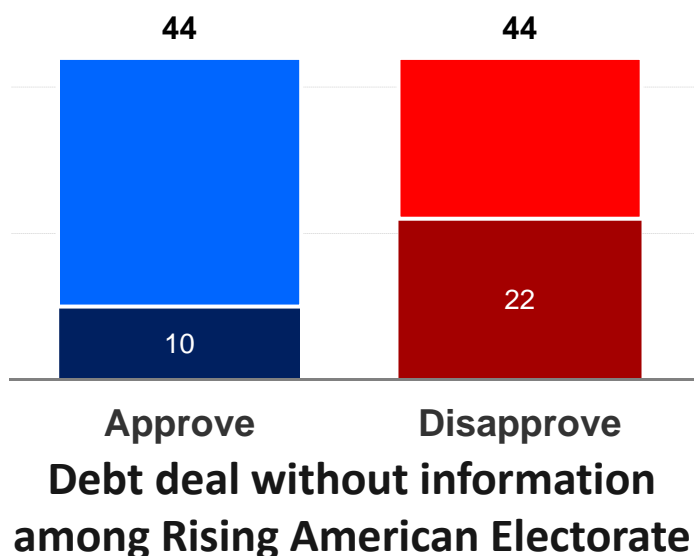
Debt deal with information

# Support for debt ceiling agreement among Rising American Electorate when framed in context of spending cuts

*Barack Obama and the Republicans and Democrats in Congress recently reached an agreement on the federal debt limit. From what you know, do you approve or disapprove of this agreement?*

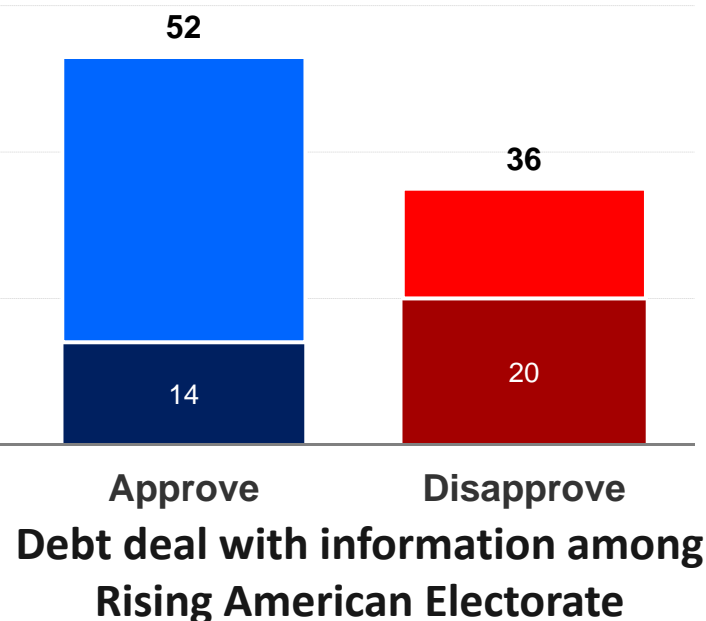
■ Strongly approve ■ Strongly disapprove

**EVEN**



*Barack Obama and the Republicans and Democrats in Congress recently reached an agreement to cut a trillion dollars in spending over 10 years, create a bi-partisan commission to identify more than a trillion in spending cuts, and raise the federal debt limit until 2013. From what you know, do you approve or disapprove of this agreement?*

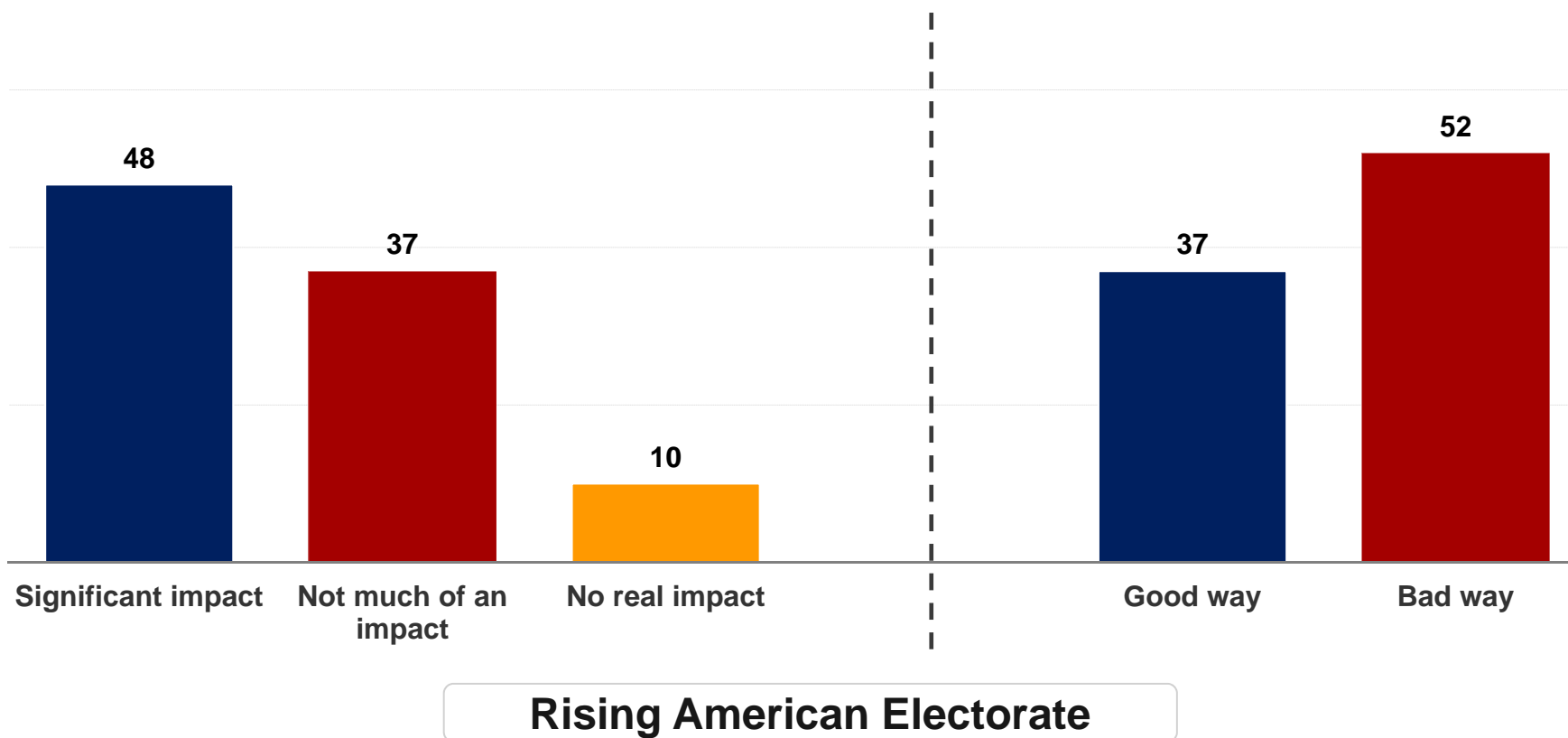
**+16**



# Support among Rising American Electorate comes despite belief that the agreement will significantly impact their own families in a bad way

*Based on what you know, does this agreement have a significant impact on your life and the lives of your family, not much of an impact or no real impact?*

*Do you believe this will have an impact in a good way or a bad way?*

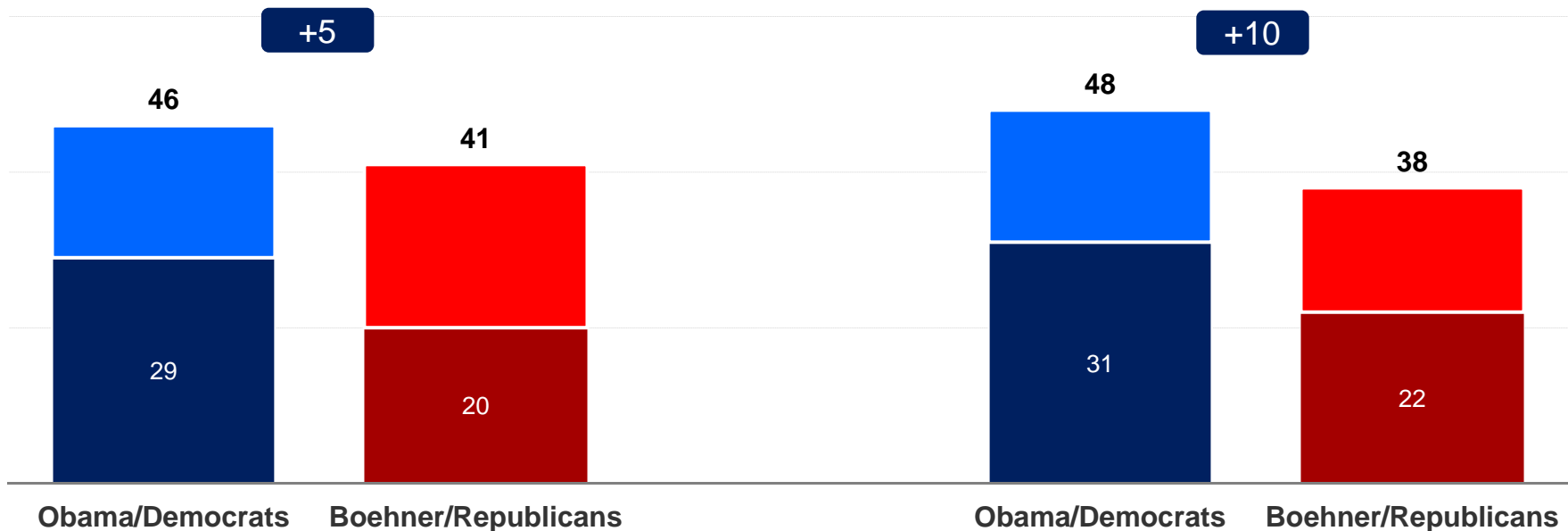


# Obama and Democrats more looking out for country and family

*From what you know of the agreement, who would you say was looking out for the best interests of the **country** more -- Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress or John Boehner and the Republicans in Congress?*

*From what you know of the agreement, who would you say was looking out for the best interests of **you and your family** more -- Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress or John Boehner and the Republicans in Congress?*

■ Obama/Dems much more ■ Boehner/Reps much more



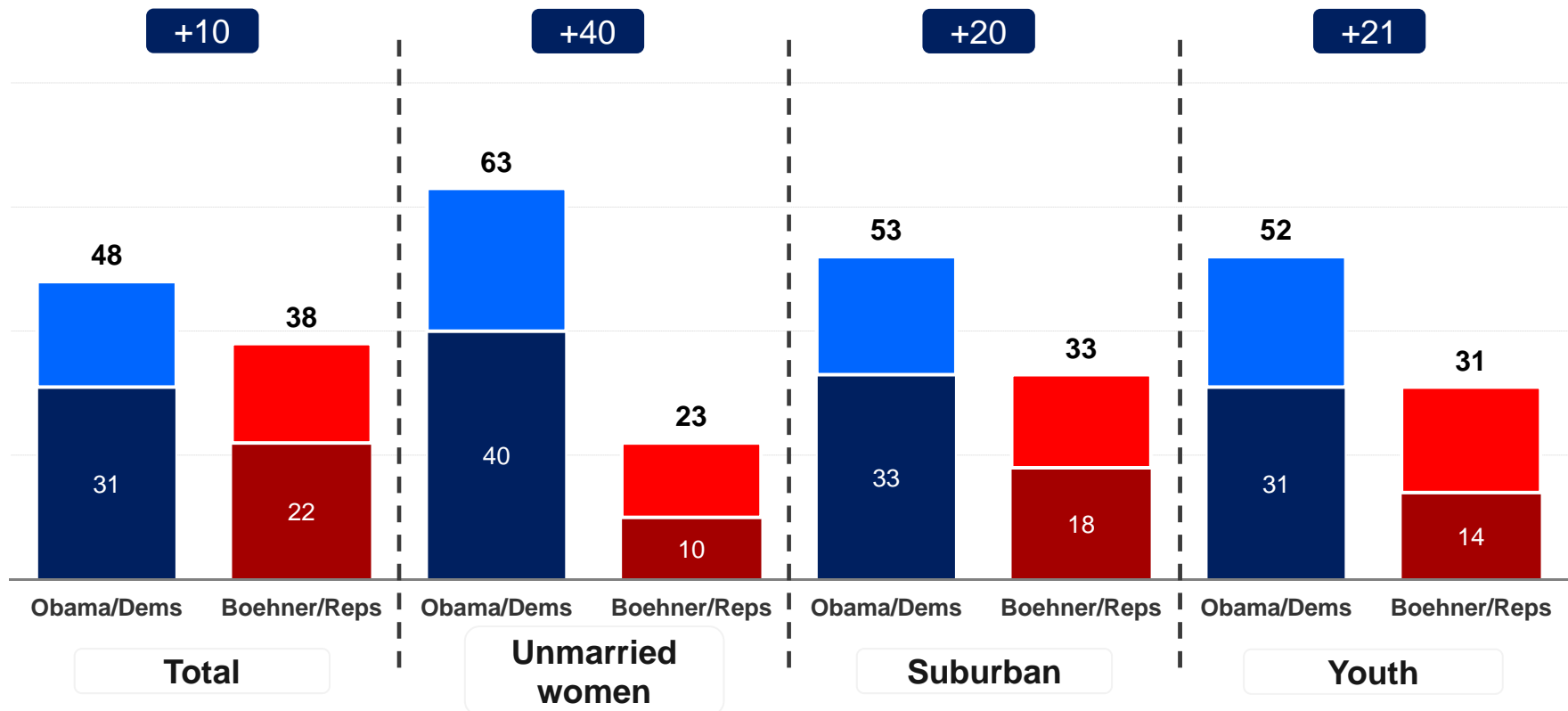
**Looking out for best interests of the country**

**Looking out for best interests of you and your family**

# Unmarried women see Obama and Democrats looking out for family

*From what you know of the agreement, who would you say was looking out for the best interests of you and your family more -- Barack Obama and the Democrats in Congress or John Boehner and the Republicans in Congress?*

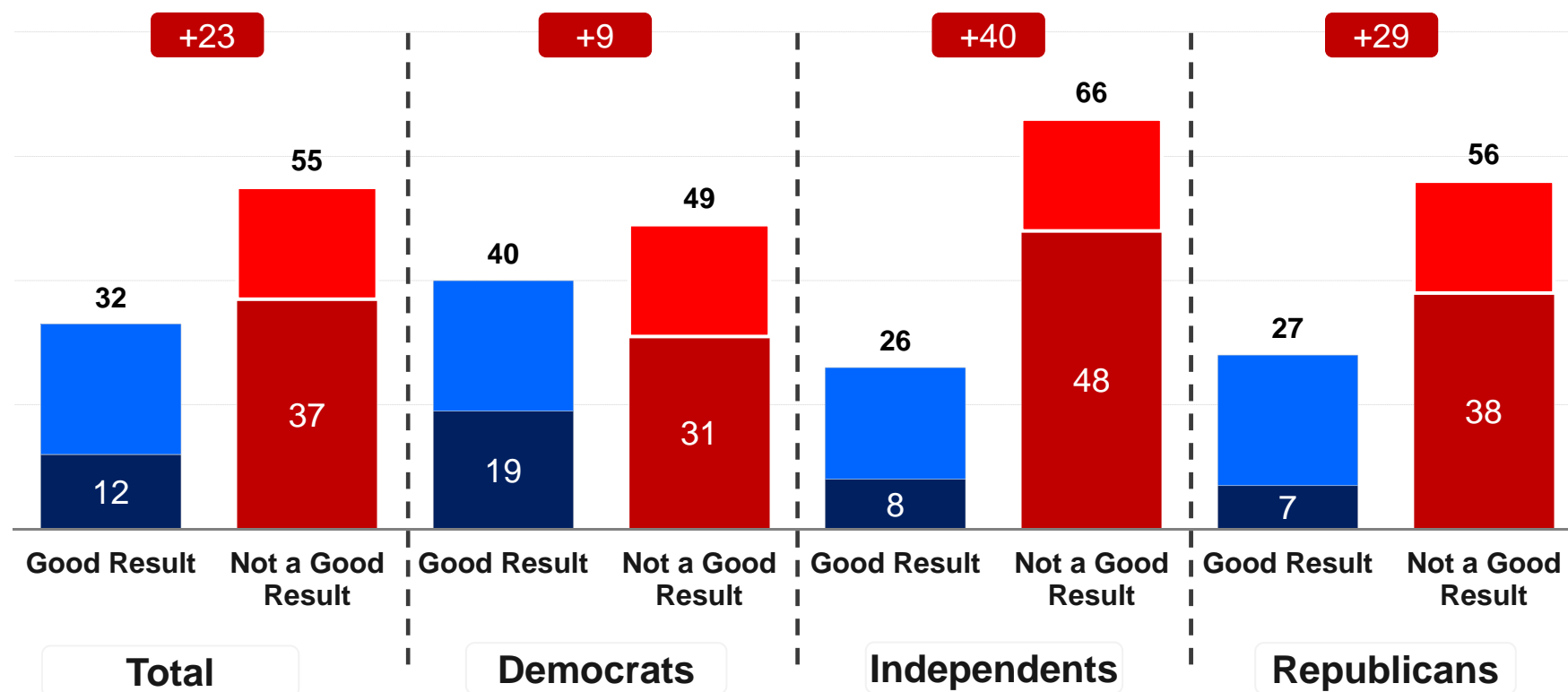
■ Obama/Dems much more ■ Boehner/Reps much more



# Majority believe the bipartisan debt committee will not be able to produce a good result

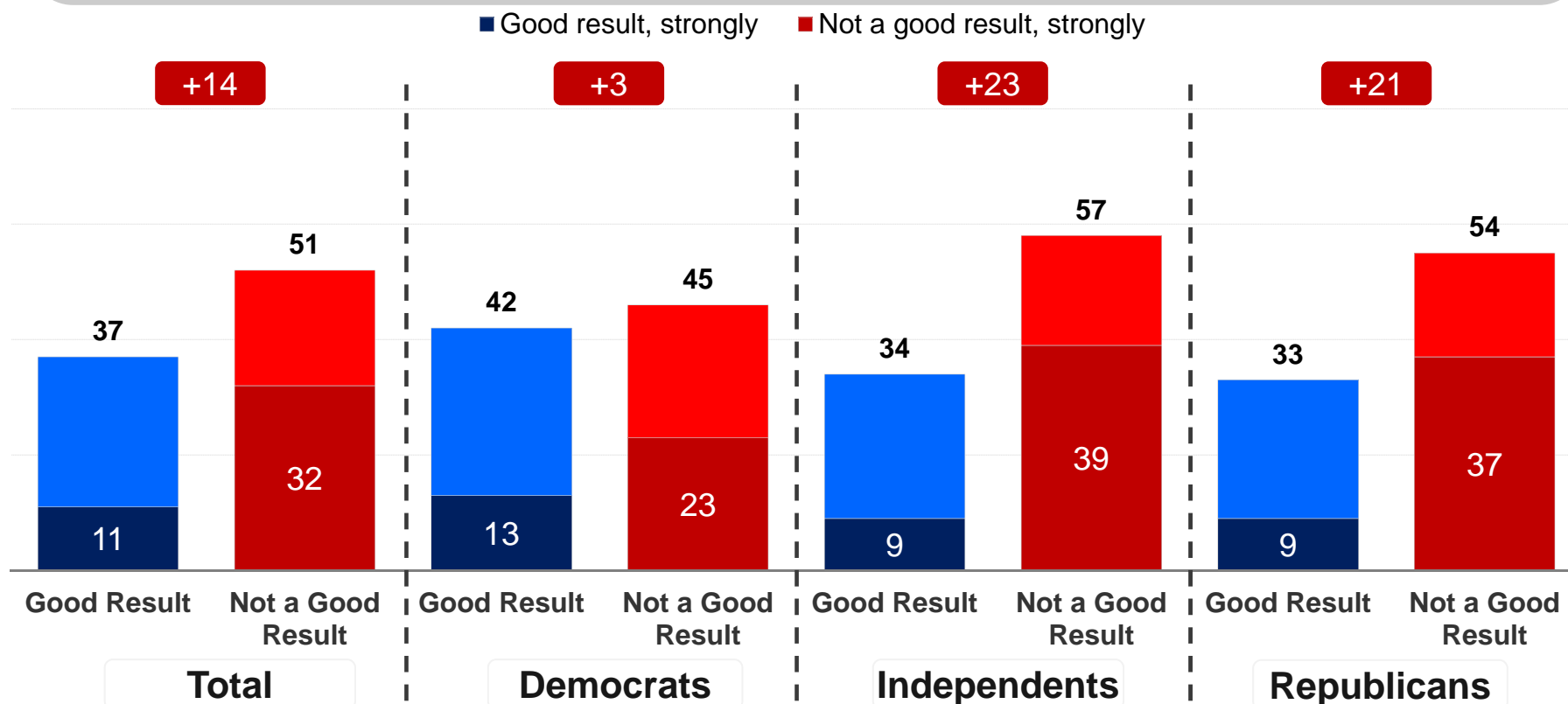
*The recently passed debt agreement established a 12-member bipartisan Congressional committee to propose by the end of the year a specific plan to reduce the deficit by 1.5 trillion dollars over the next 10 years. They will be considering big changes in government programs, Social Security and Medicare and changes in the tax code. If they reach an agreement, Congress will be required to vote on their deficit plan. Do you think this bipartisan committee will be able to produce a good result or not be able to produce a good result?*

■ Good result, strongly ■ Not a good result, strongly



## But a pledge not to take donations from lobbyists increases optimism for debt committee – but still doubtful

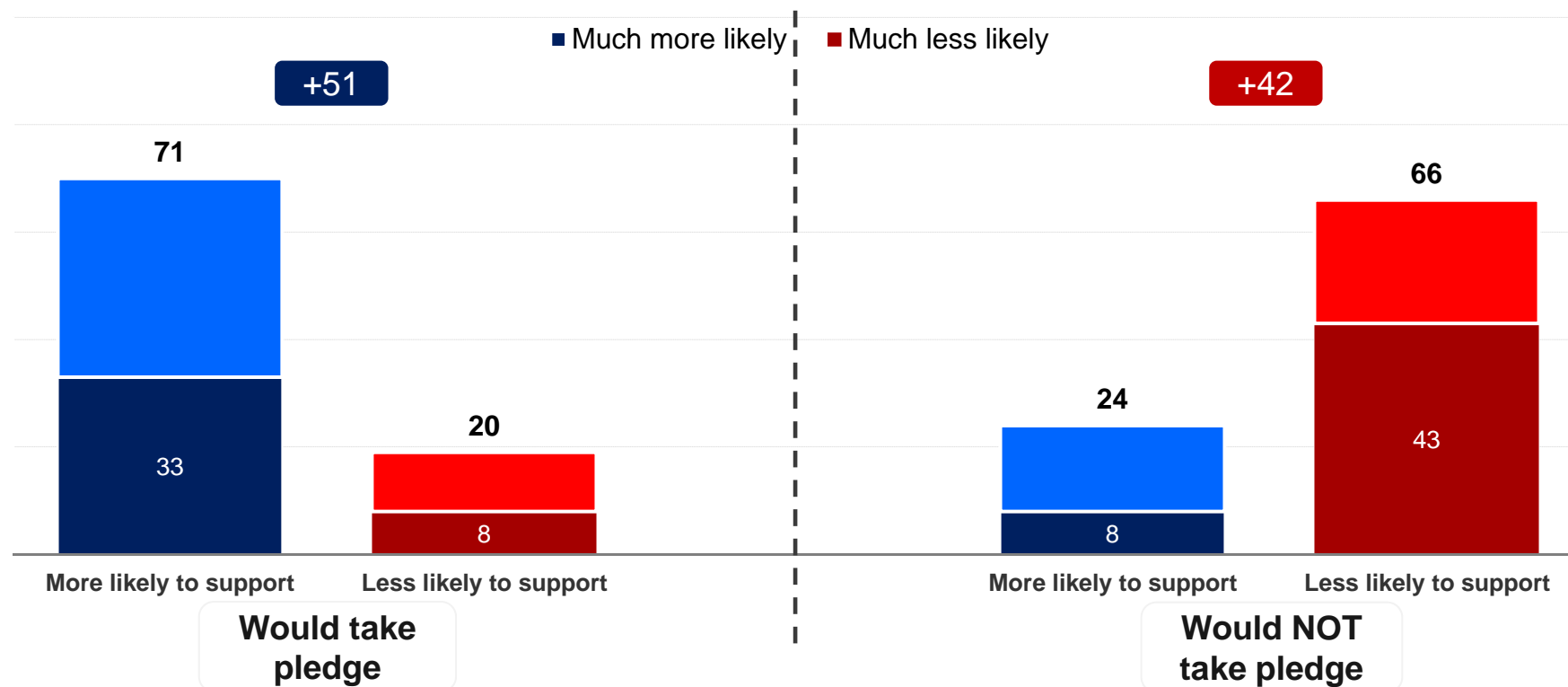
*The recently passed debt agreement established a 12-member bipartisan Congressional committee to propose by the end of the year a specific plan to reduce the deficit by 1.5 trillion dollars over the next 10 years. They will be considering big changes in government programs, Social Security and Medicare and changes in the tax code. If they reach an agreement, Congress will be required to vote on their deficit plan. Most members of this committee have pledged that their campaigns will take no donations from lobbyists and other political donors and will notify the public of any meetings with lobbyists and interest groups. Do you think this bipartisan committee will be able to produce a good result or not be able to produce a good result?*



# Voters much more likely to support politicians who take pledge not to take donations from lobbyists

Imagine your member of Congress is on this bipartisan committee on the deficit and announced that their campaign will take no donations from lobbyists or other political donors and will notify the public of any meetings with lobbyists and interest groups until the committee reports. Would this make you more or less likely to support them?

Imagine your member of Congress is on this bipartisan committee on the deficit and continued to hold fundraisers, take campaign donations from lobbyists and declined to disclose meetings with lobbyists and interest groups until the committee reports. Would that make you more or less likely to support them?



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