

2022 Midterm Elections in Ohio

December 2022

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Ohio Midterms Survey

Results are shown as “Ohio Average”.

More in Common partnered with international polling company YouGov to conduct online survey interviews with n=1,049 Ohio adults from November 10 to 24, 2022. The data was weighted to be representative of Ohio adults using propensity scores, with score functions including gender, age, race, education, and region. The weights were then post-stratified on 2020 presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-category), race (4-category), and education (4-category). The margin of error (adjusted for weighting) is +/- 3.5 for the US average and higher for subgroups.

The sample size for Asian respondents is too low to for data reporting. Also due to small samples size, the margin of error for Hispanics (n=29) is 18%.

US Midterms Survey

Results are shown as “US Average”.

More in Common partnered with international polling company YouGov to conduct online survey interviews with n=1,200 US adults from November 15 to 22, 2022. The data was weighted to be representative of US general population using propensity scores, with score functions including gender, age, race, education, and region. The weights were then post-stratified on 2020 presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-category), race (5-category), and education (4-category). The margin of error (adjusted for weighting) is +/- 3.25 for the US average and higher for subgroups.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Ohioans are frustrated, disappointed, and exhausted.**
 - The top 5 most common emotions toward America today among Ohioans are frustration (73%), disappointment (73%) disgust (61%), exhaustion (60%) and anger (55%).
 - A majority (57%) feel that they do not have a voice in the political conversation.
 - 28% feel they don't belong to any community.
- **Ohioans are wary of the current political climate.**
 - Most think that extremists on both sides of the political spectrum present a threat to America (72%).
 - Most think that the greatest threat to the nation is coming from within (87%).
 - A majority of Ohioans (55%) believe “Some Americans on my side of the political spectrum are too extreme,” 11 points higher than the U.S. average (44%).
 - Ohioans feel the effects of inflation: 78% said it has had at least a medium impact on their life over the last few months. A majority are not sure if or when it will end (56%).
- **Ohio Republican and Democrats have similar criticisms of their own party.**
 - For example, 29% of Democrats say that the party is too preachy, 28% say it is hypocritical, and 27% say their own party focuses too much on attacking the other side.
 - The same is true for Republicans: 45% of Republicans say their own party focuses too much on attacking the other side, 30% of say their own party is too preachy, 28% say their party is hypocritical.
 - Democrats and Republicans agree that their respective parties listen too little to regular Americans (39% and 40%, respectively) and to parents (20% and 25%, respectively). Both said their party listens too much to celebrities (Democrats: 31% and Republicans: 38%).

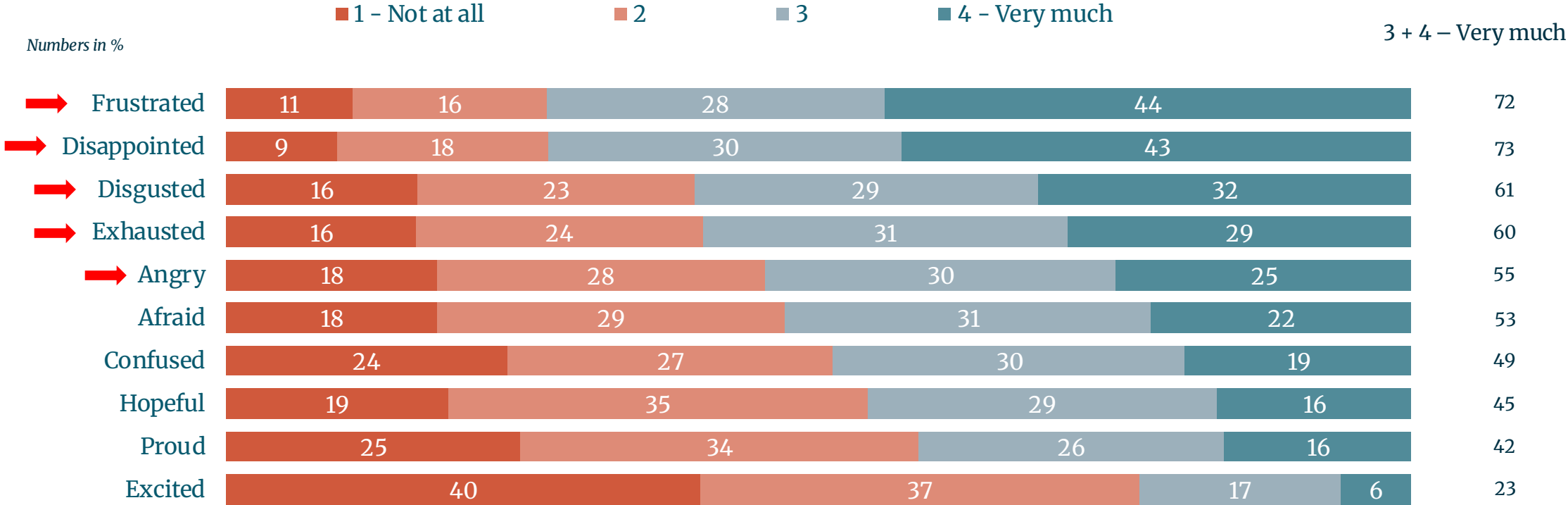
KEY FINDINGS

- **Ohioans also misunderstand their opponents' priorities.**
 - Ohio Democrats overestimate how much Republicans care about election fraud. Democrats say about 40% of Republicans are focused on election fraud, while it's just 17%.
 - Ohio Republicans think that Democrats are very concerned with LGBTQ as a primary political issue (49%), but just 11% listed it as a top political concern.
- **Ohio Republicans are split on the best way forward.**
 - Roughly equal numbers of Republicans believe “The Republican party needs to follow the lead of former President Trump” (47%) and “The Republican party needs to follow the lead of other leaders beyond former President trump” (41%).
 - Republicans are similarly split on if they spend too much (30%), too little (26%), or the right amount (31%) of emphasis on overturning the results of the 2020 election.
- **Ohio Democrats are similarly split on Biden**
 - 55% of Ohio Democrats say to stick with Biden, compared with 35% who want to move on from him. Older generations are more supportive of keeping Biden, while Millennials and Gen Z are more likely to say the party should move on from Biden.

**Ohioans are frustrated. Some feel
unrepresented and lack
community**

Ohioans mostly feel frustrated, disappointed and disgusted by America today. Most use negative words to describe their feelings towards America. 45% feel hopeful.

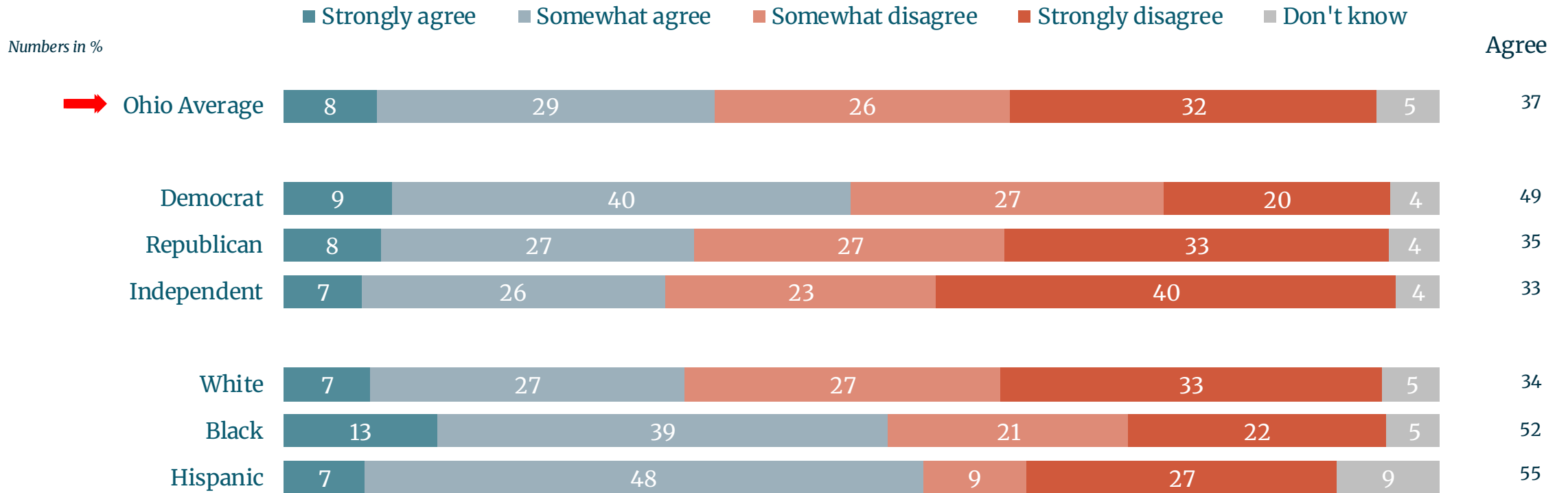
Feelings towards America today



Survey question: To what extent do each of the following reflect your feelings toward America today?

A minority of Ohioans (37%) feel they have a voice in the political conversation.

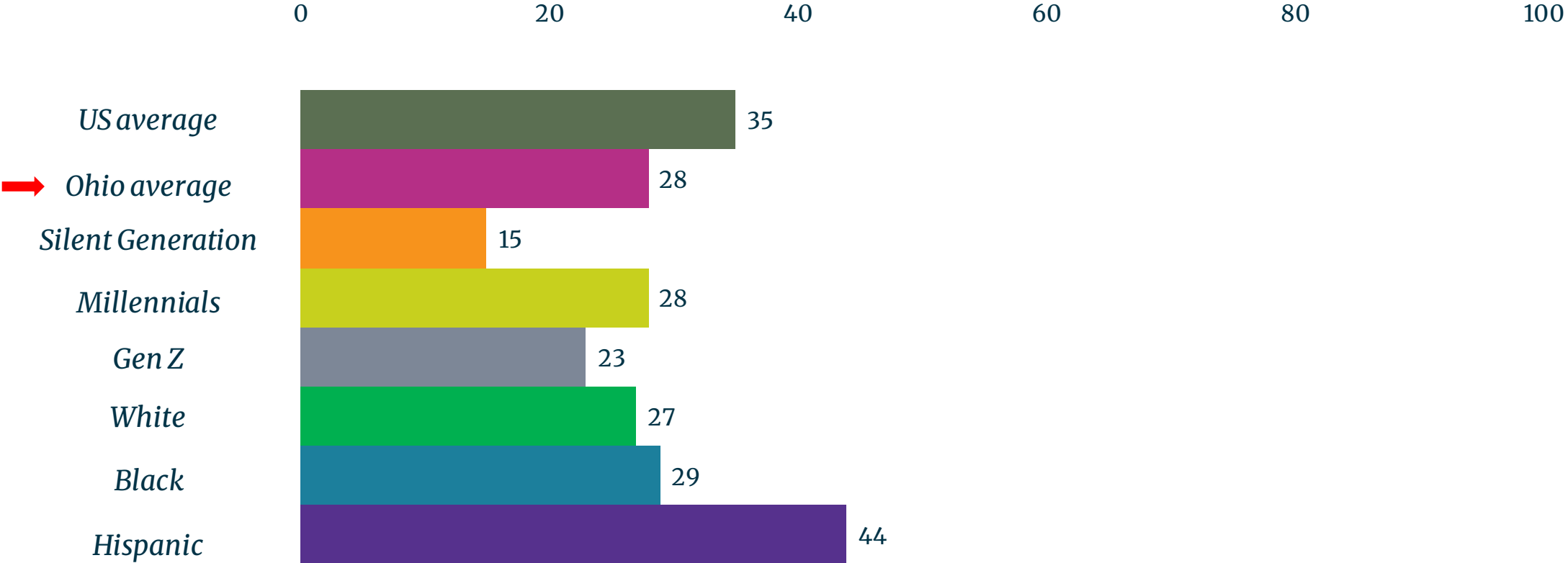
I feel I have a voice in the political conversation



Survey question: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Close to a third of Ohioans do not have a community where they feel a sense of belonging.

There is no community [where I feel a sense of belonging]

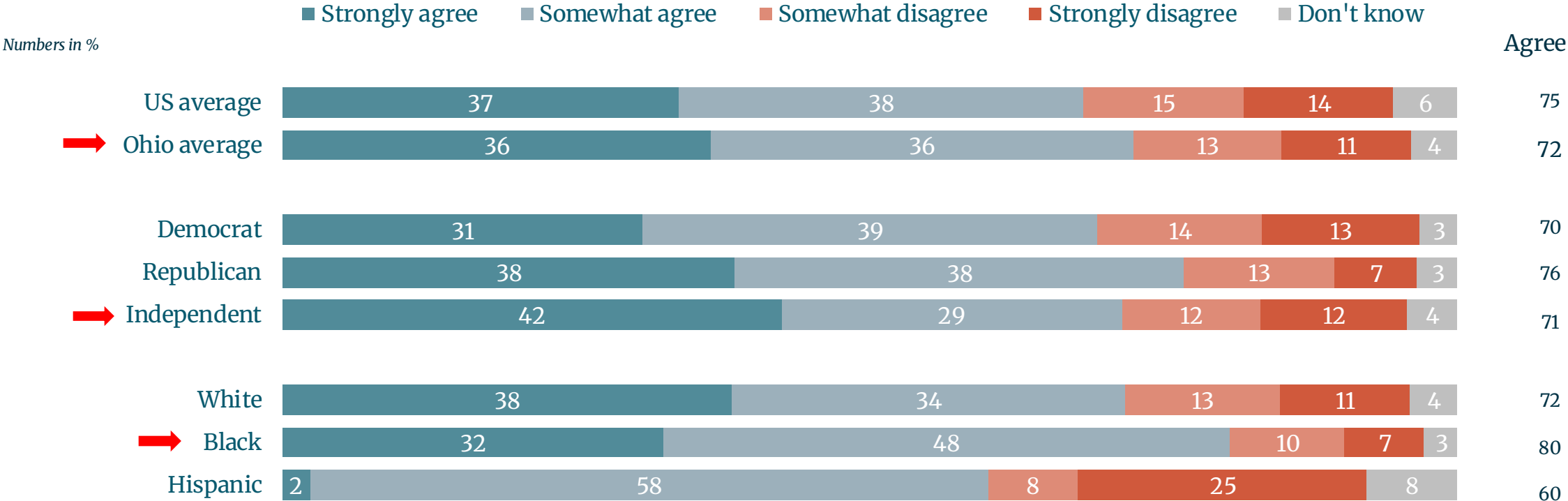


Survey question: Having a sense of belonging means you feel accepted and valued. Outside of your family and friends, please select the community or communities to which you feel the strongest sense of belonging (select up to 3).

**Ohioans are wary of the current
political climate and feel the
impact of inflation**

Most Ohioans think extremists on both sides of the spectrum threaten the US. Black Americans (80% at least somewhat agree) and Independents (81%) especially think this.

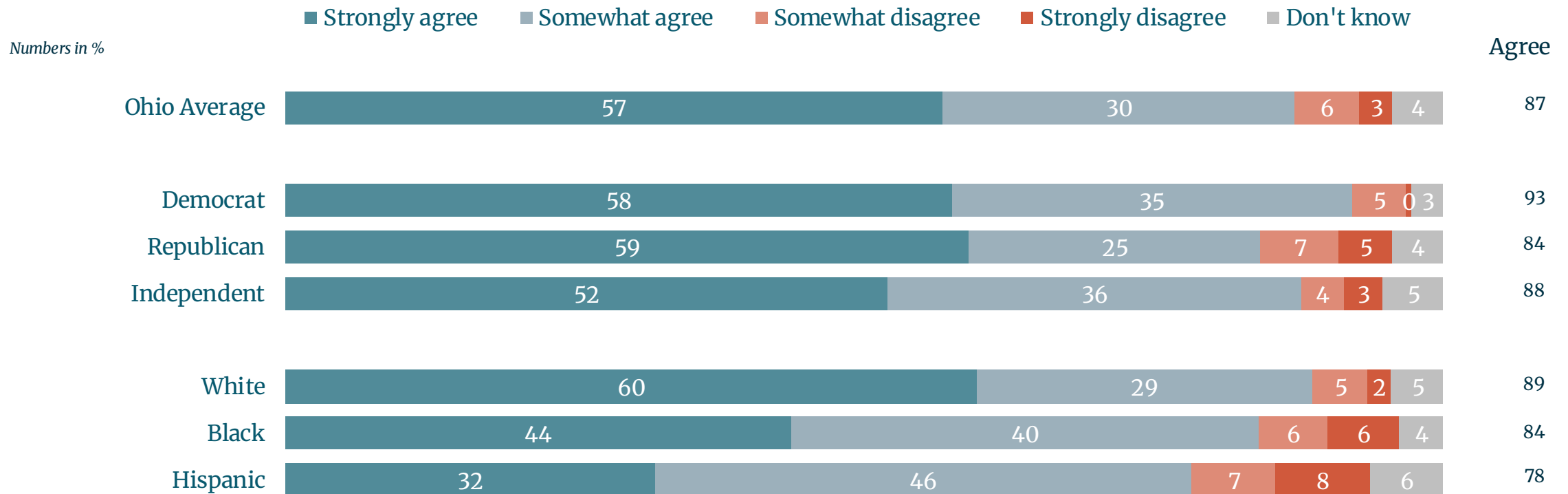
Extremists on both sides of the political spectrum present a threat to America.



Survey question: How much do you agree with the following statements?

Ohioans across party and race overwhelmingly believe the greatest threat to America comes from within.

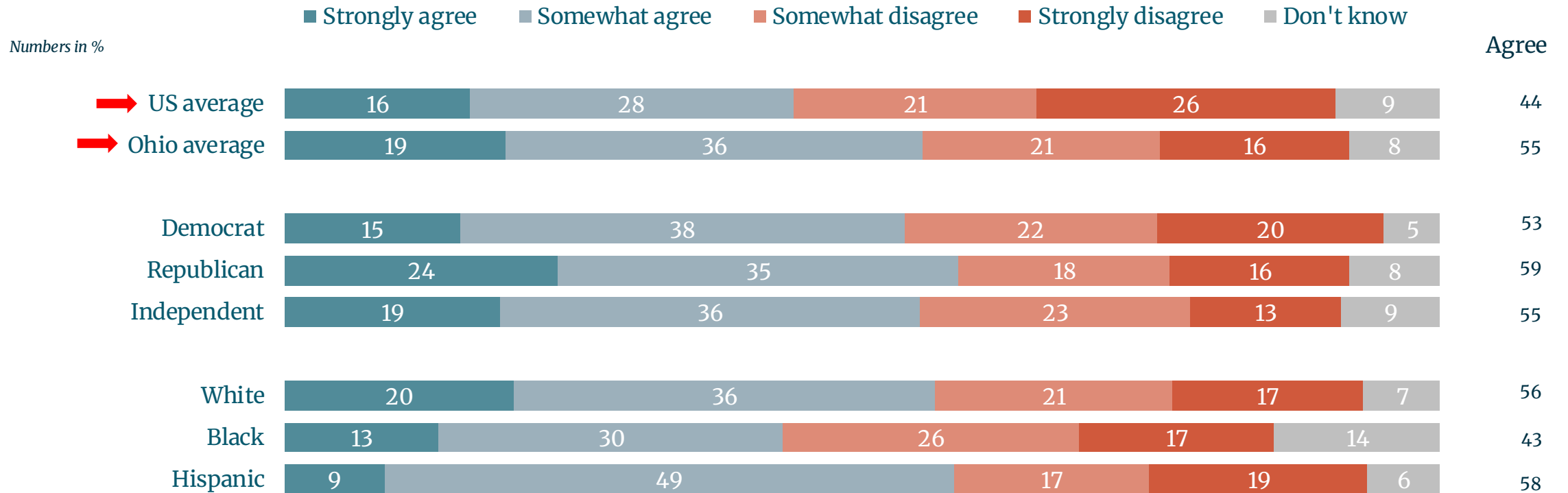
The greatest threat to the nation is coming from within.



Survey question: How much do you agree with the following statements?

A majority of Ohioans (55%) think some Americans on their own political side are too extreme.

Some Americans on my side of the political spectrum are too extreme.



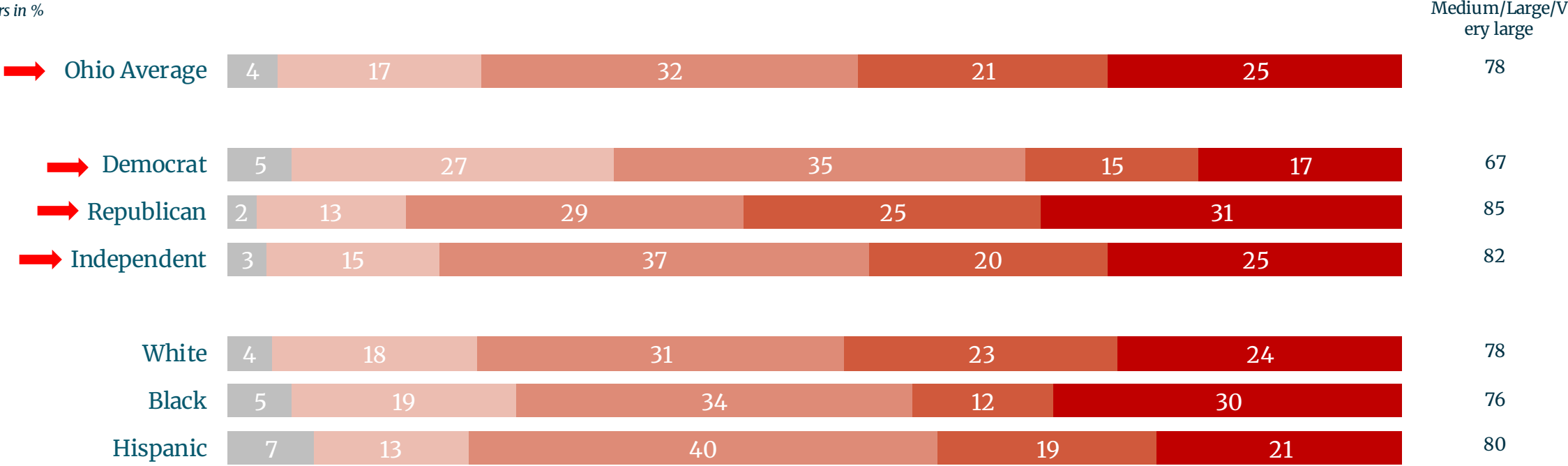
Survey question: How much do you agree with the following statements?

Most Ohioans have felt at least a medium impact of inflation (78%). Republicans and Independents are more likely than Democrats to say inflation is impacting them.

Impact of inflation

■ No impact ■ A small impact ■ A medium impact ■ A large impact ■ A very large impact

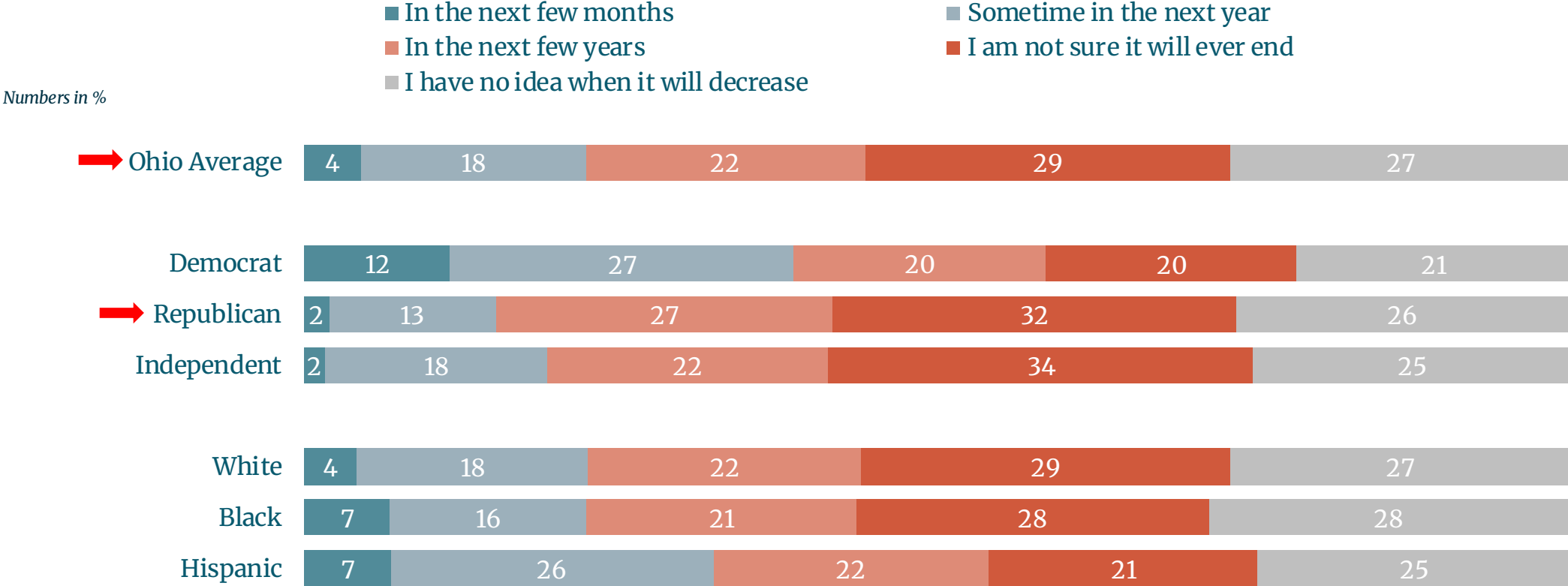
Numbers in %



Survey question: How much of an impact have rising prices for things like food and energy had on your life over the last few months?

Americans are pessimistic when it comes to inflation ending. Most say it will take a few years (22%), it will never end (29%), or they have no idea when it will decrease (27%). Republicans are more pessimistic about when Inflation may end.

Inflation timeline

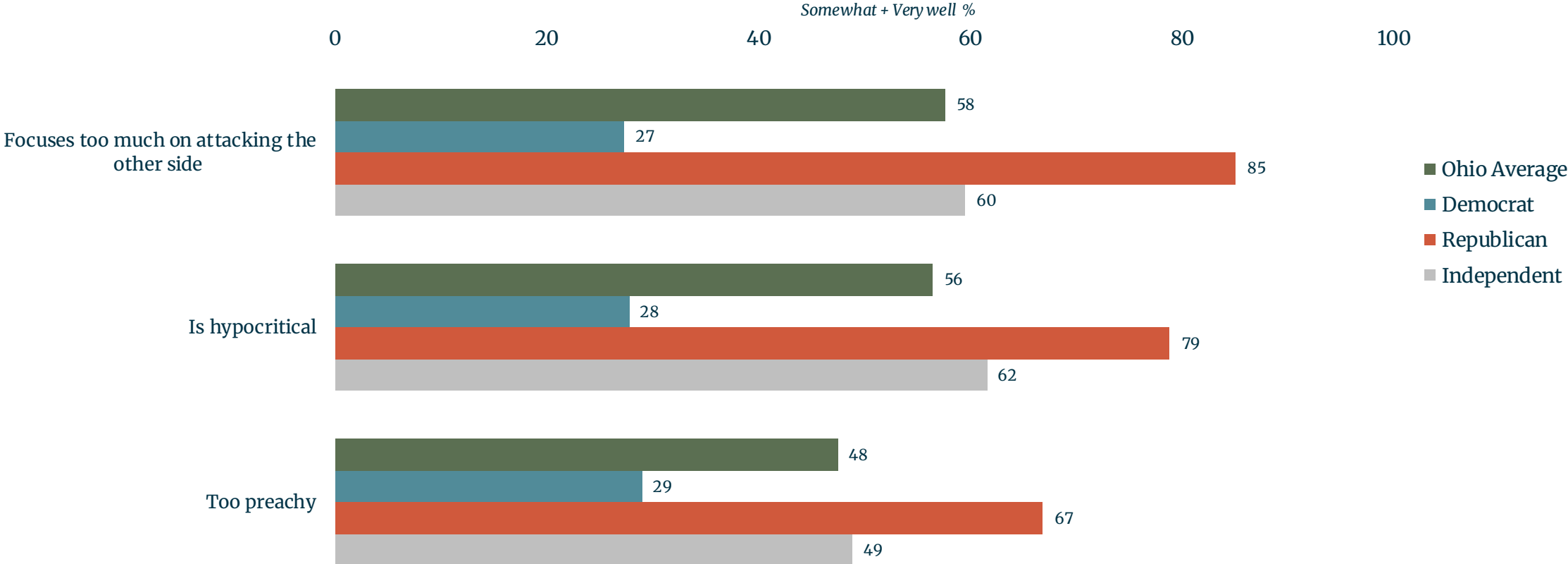


Survey question: When do you expect inflation to decrease?

**Ohio Republican and Democrats
have similar criticisms of their
own party**

Most Ohioans say Democrats are too focused on attacking the other side. About a third of Democrats say the party attacks the other side too much, is hypocritical and preachy. Most Democrats think their party has common sense, cares about those less fortunate, and is focused on everyday Americans. A quarter of Republicans say Democrats care about the less fortunate.

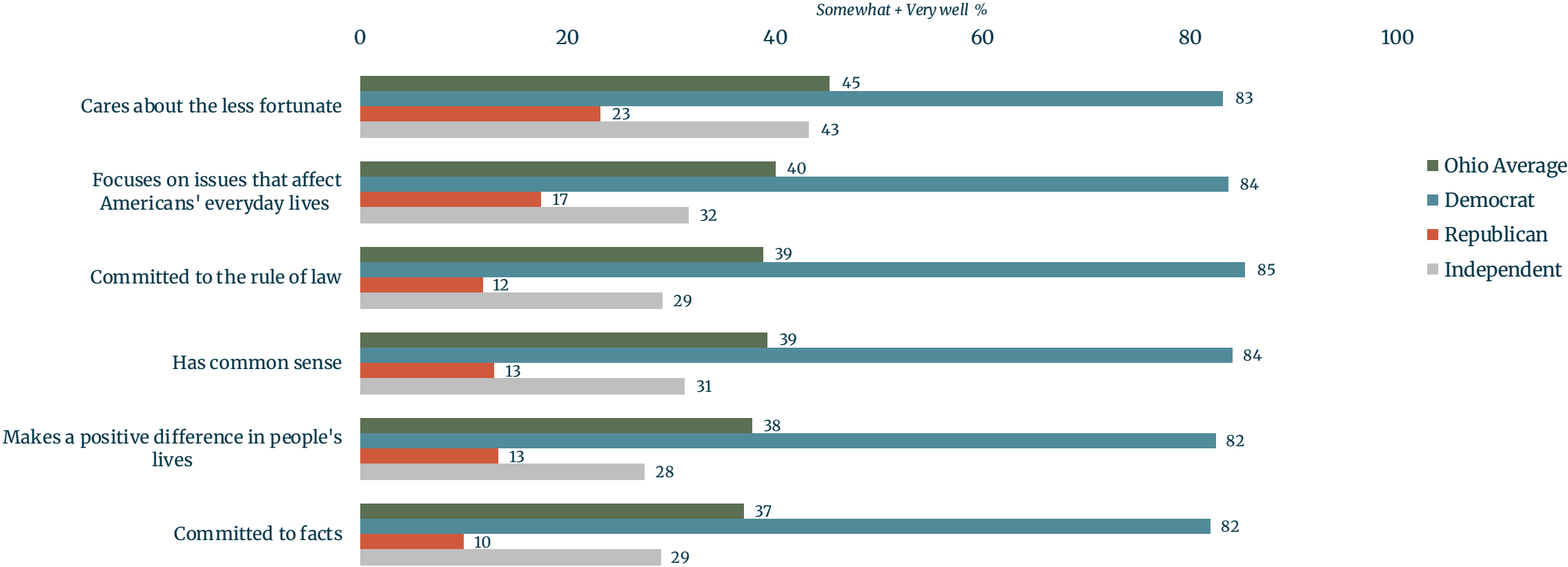
The Democratic Party



Survey question: Here are some words and phrases people might use to describe the Democratic party. For each one, do you think it describes the Democratic party very well, somewhat well, not that well, or not well at all?

Most Ohioans say Democrats are too focused on attacking the other side. About a third of Democrats say the party attacks the other side too much, is hypocritical and preachy. Most Democrats think their party has common sense, cares about those less fortunate, and is focused on everyday Americans. A quarter of Republicans say Democrats care about the less fortunate.

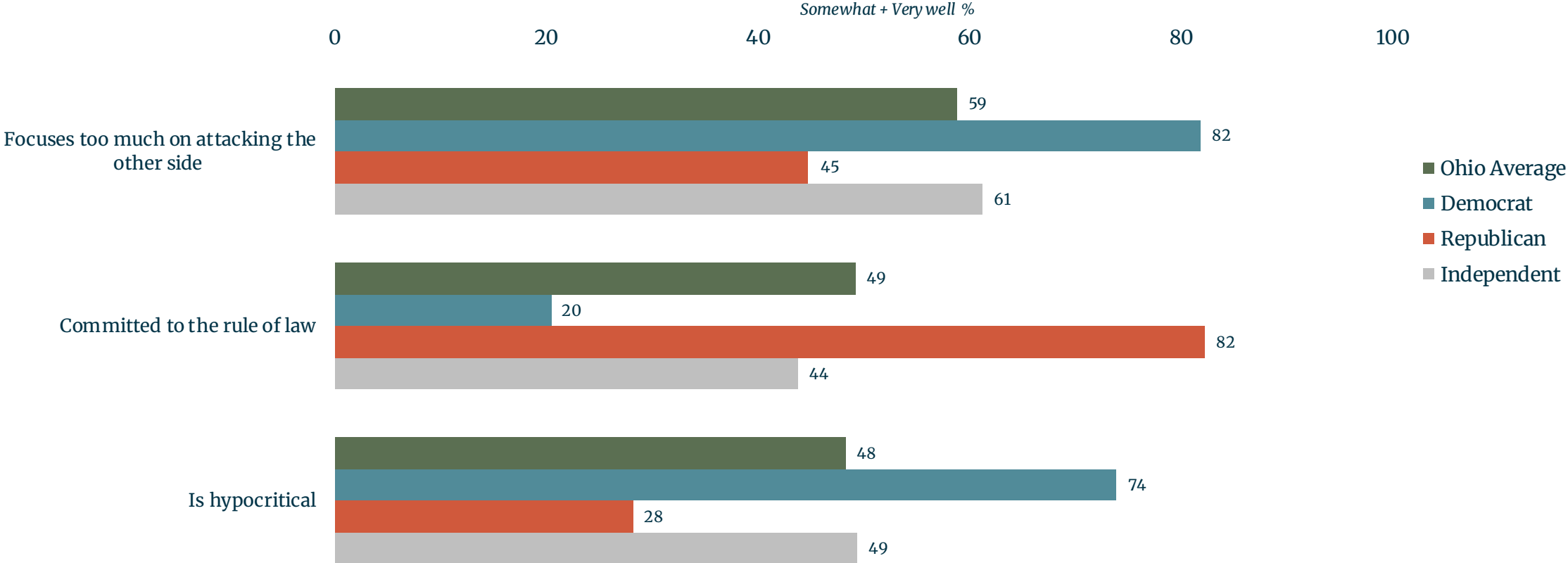
The Democratic Party



Survey question: Here are some words and phrases people might use to describe the Democratic party. For each one, do you think it describes the Democratic party very well, somewhat well, not that well, or not well at all?

Most Ohioans say Republicans are too focused on attacking the other side. Nearly half of Republicans say their own party attacks the other side too much (45%), and about a third of Republicans say their party is hypocritical and preachy. Most Republicans think their party has common sense, cares about those less fortunate, and is focused on everyday Americans.

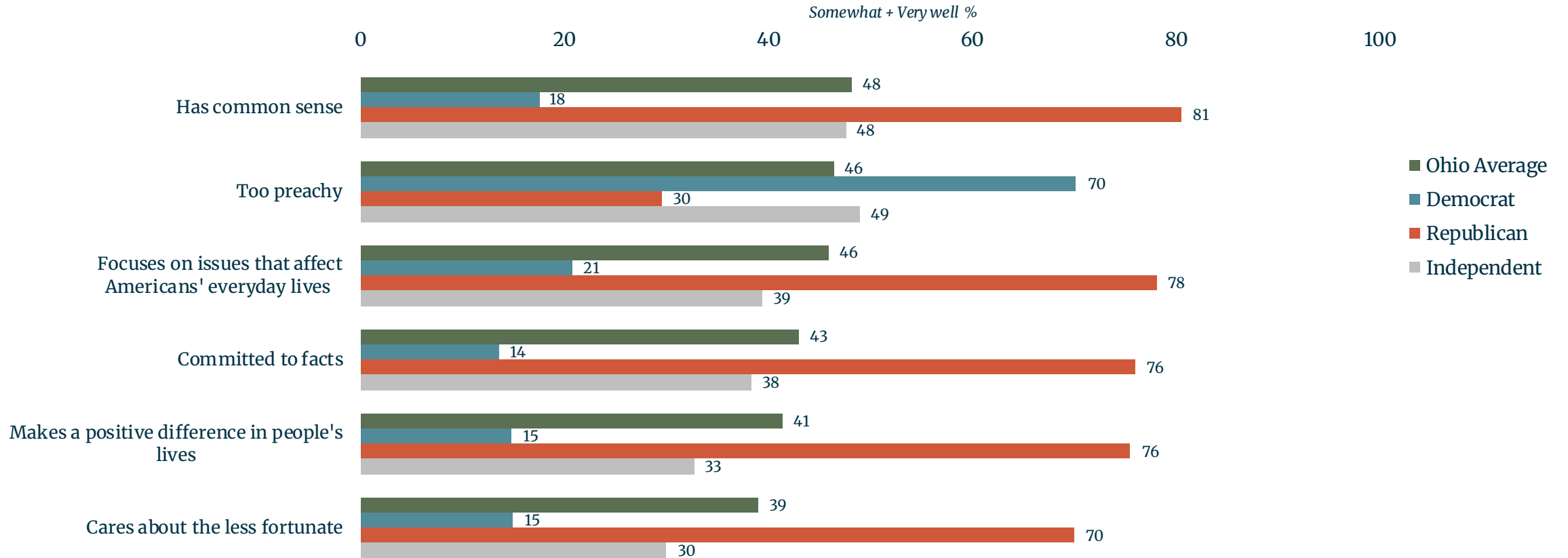
The Republican Party



Survey question: Here are some words and phrases people might use to describe the Republican party. For each one, do you think it describes the Republican party very well, somewhat well, not that well, or not well at all?

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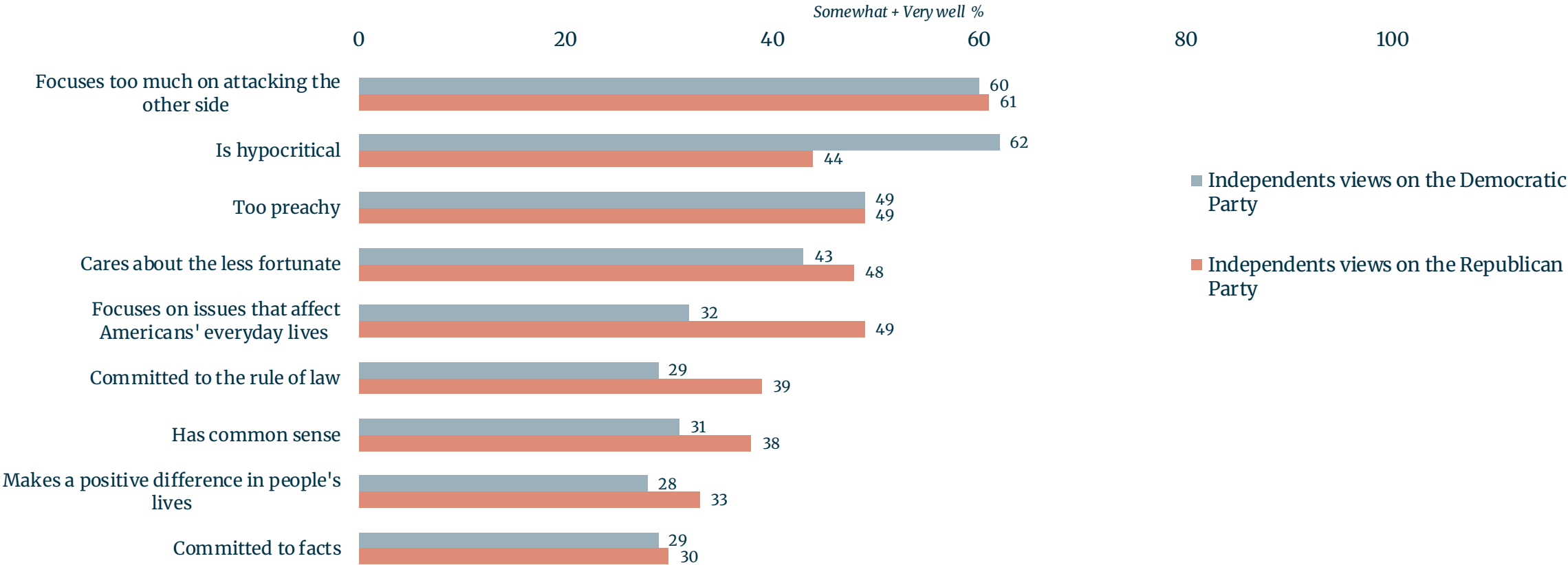
The Republican Party



Survey question: Here are some words and phrases people might use to describe the Republican party. For each one, do you think it describes the Republican party very well, somewhat well, not that well, or not well at all?

Independents say both parties focus too much on attacking the other side, but see more hypocrisy from the left.

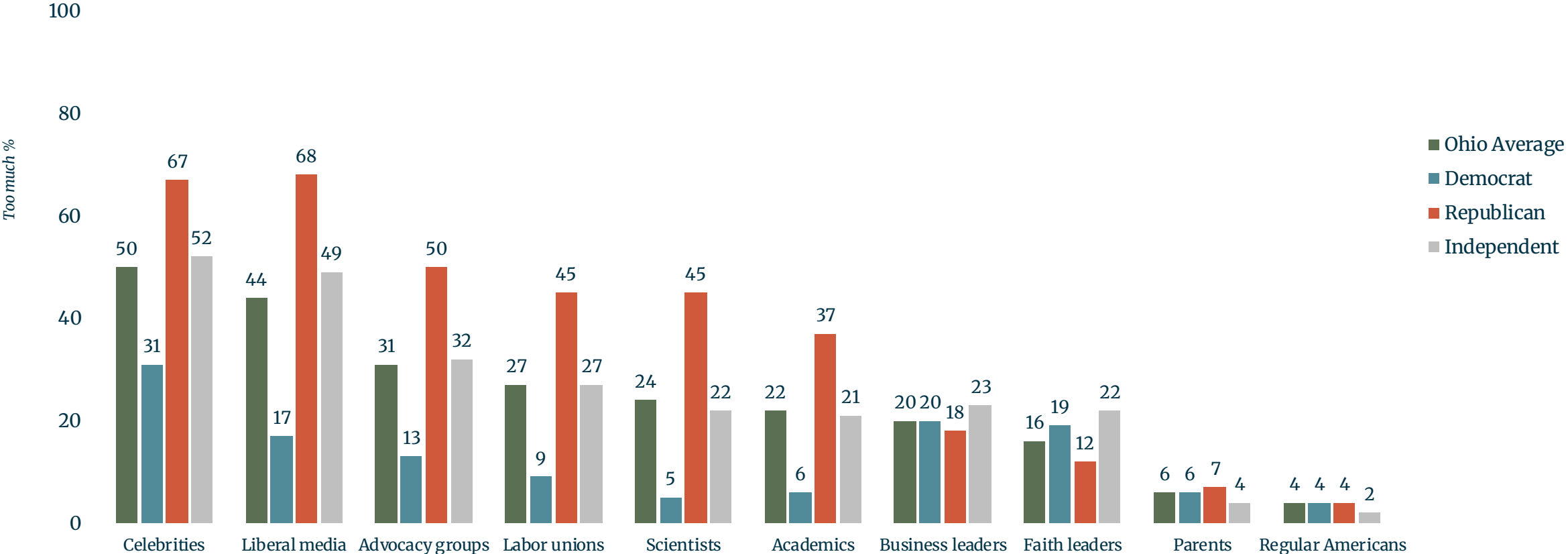
Independents' views on the Democratic and Republican Parties



Survey question: Here are some words and phrases people might use to describe the Democratic party. For each one, do you think it describes the Democratic party very well, somewhat well, not that well, or not well at all?

About a third of Democrats say their own party leaders listen too much to celebrities. Republicans especially think Democratic leaders listen too much to celebrities, liberal media, and advocacy groups.

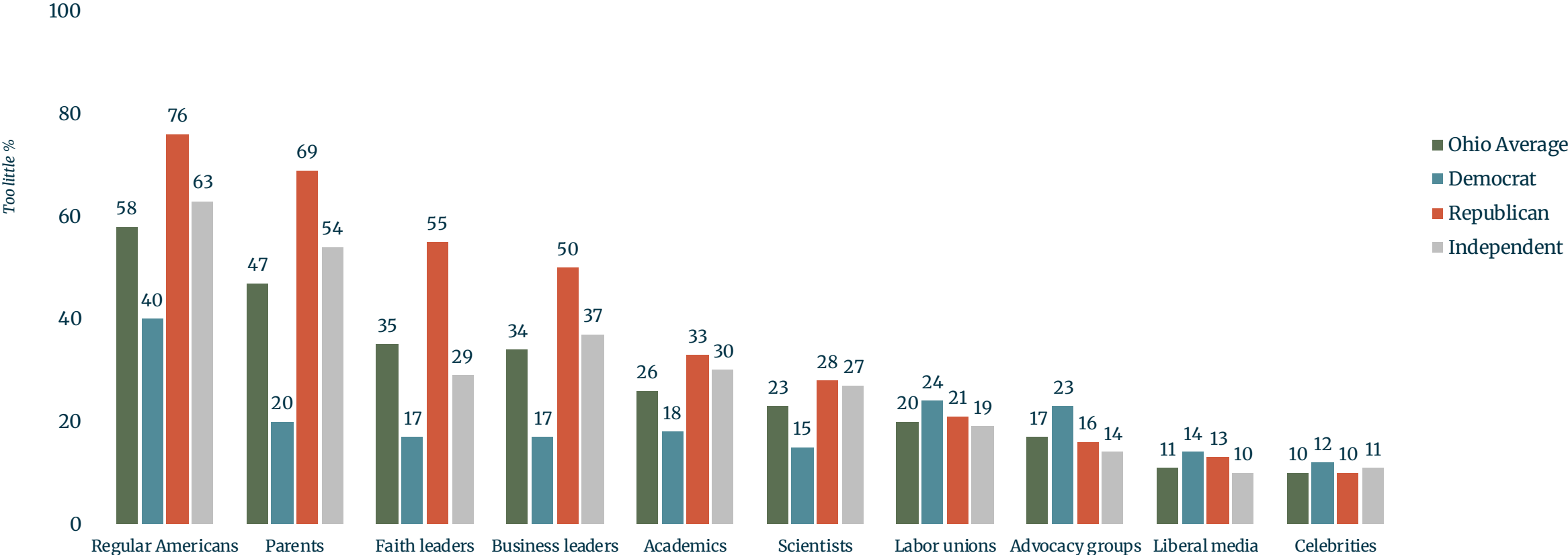
Democratic Party leaders: Listen too much



Survey question: Do you feel that leaders in the Democratic Party listen too much, too little, or the right amount to the following groups?

Many Democrats say their own party leaders listen too little to regular Americans, labor unions and advocacy groups. Republicans especially think Democratic leaders listen to little to regular Americans, parents, faith leaders, and business leaders.

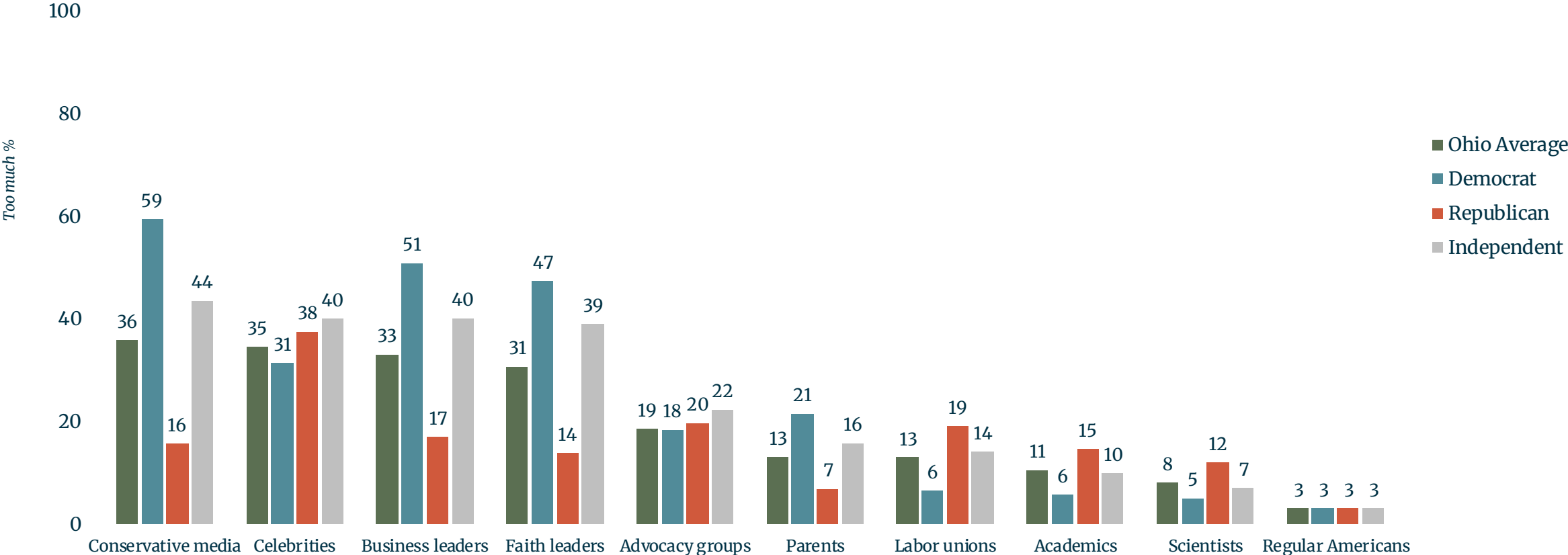
Democratic Party leaders: Listen too little



Survey question: Do you feel that leaders in the Democratic Party listen too much, too little, or the right amount to the following groups?

Some Republicans say their own party leaders listen to much to celebrities and advocacy groups. Democrats especially think Republican leaders listen too much to conservative media, business leaders, faith leaders, and celebrities.

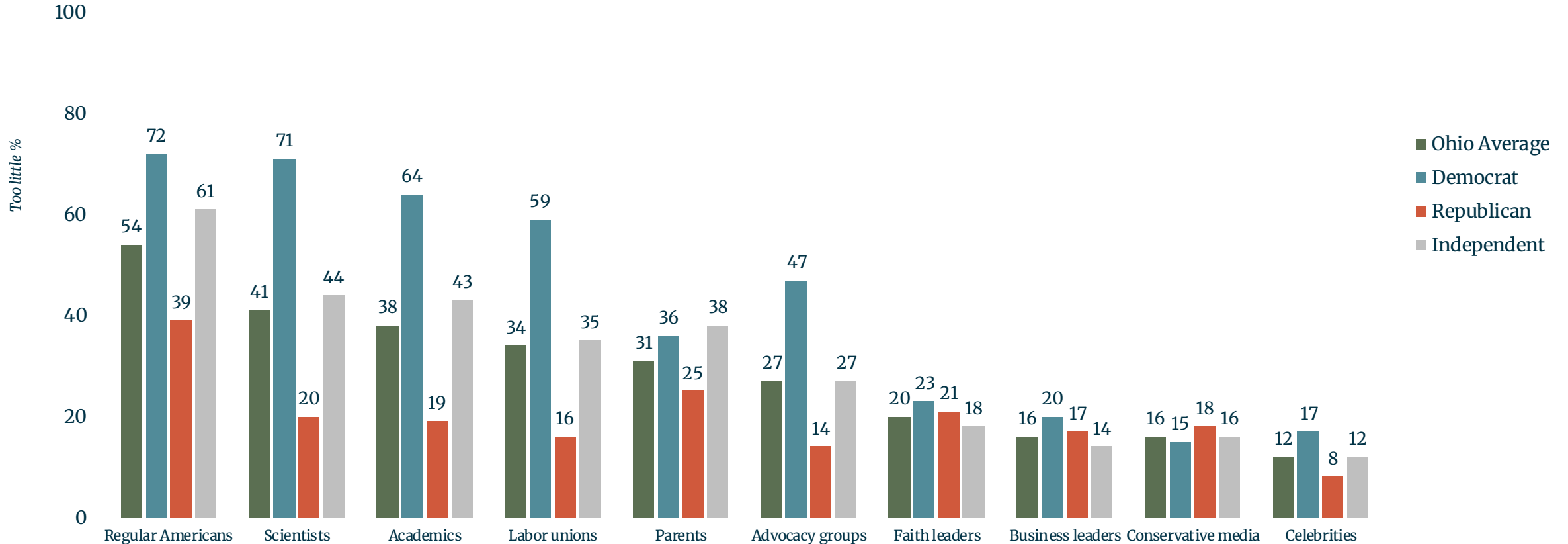
Republican Party leaders: Listen too much



Survey question: Do you feel that leaders in the Republican Party listen too much, too little, or the right amount to the following groups?

Some Republicans say their own party leaders listen too little to regular Americans, parents, and faith leaders. Democrats especially think Republican leaders listen too little to regular Americans, scientists, academics and labor unions.

Republican Party leaders: Listen too little

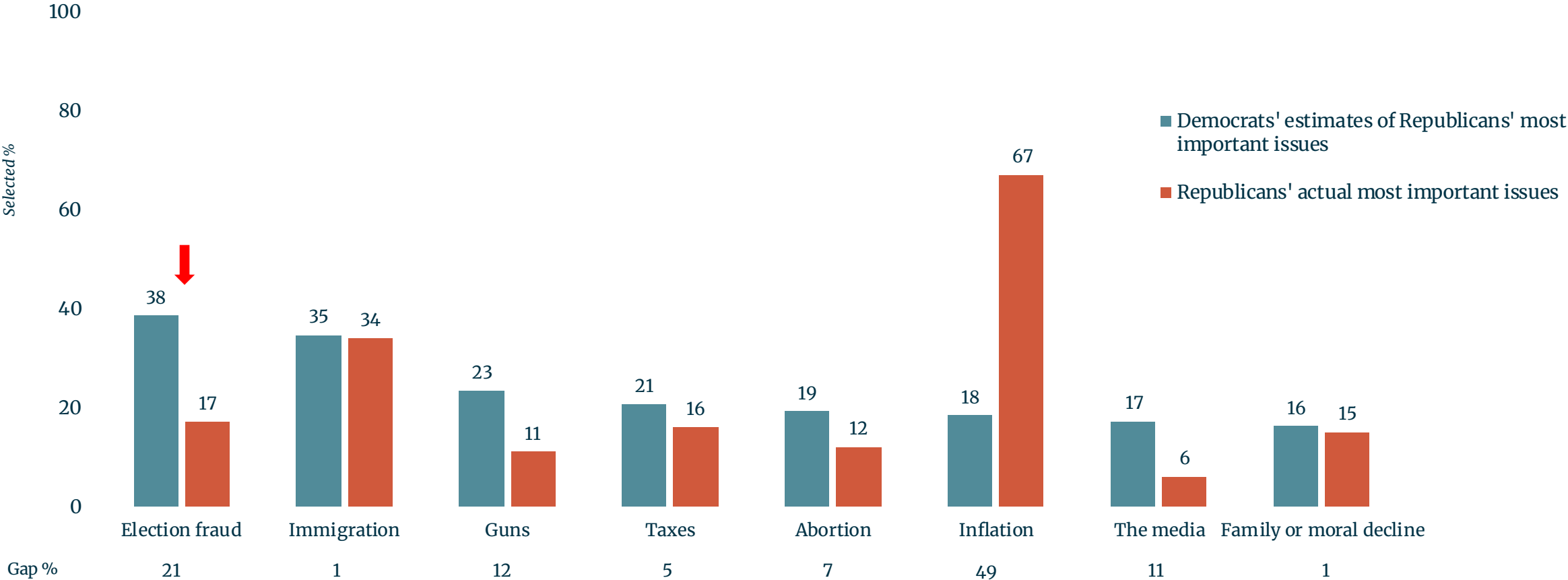


Survey question: Do you feel that leaders in the Republican Party listen too much, too little, or the right amount to the following groups?

**Ohioans misunderstand their
political opponents' priorities**

We asked what Republicans' most important political issues are, then asked Democrats what they believed Republicans' most important issues to be. Democrats think that Republicans care most about election fraud, but they actually care primarily about inflation.

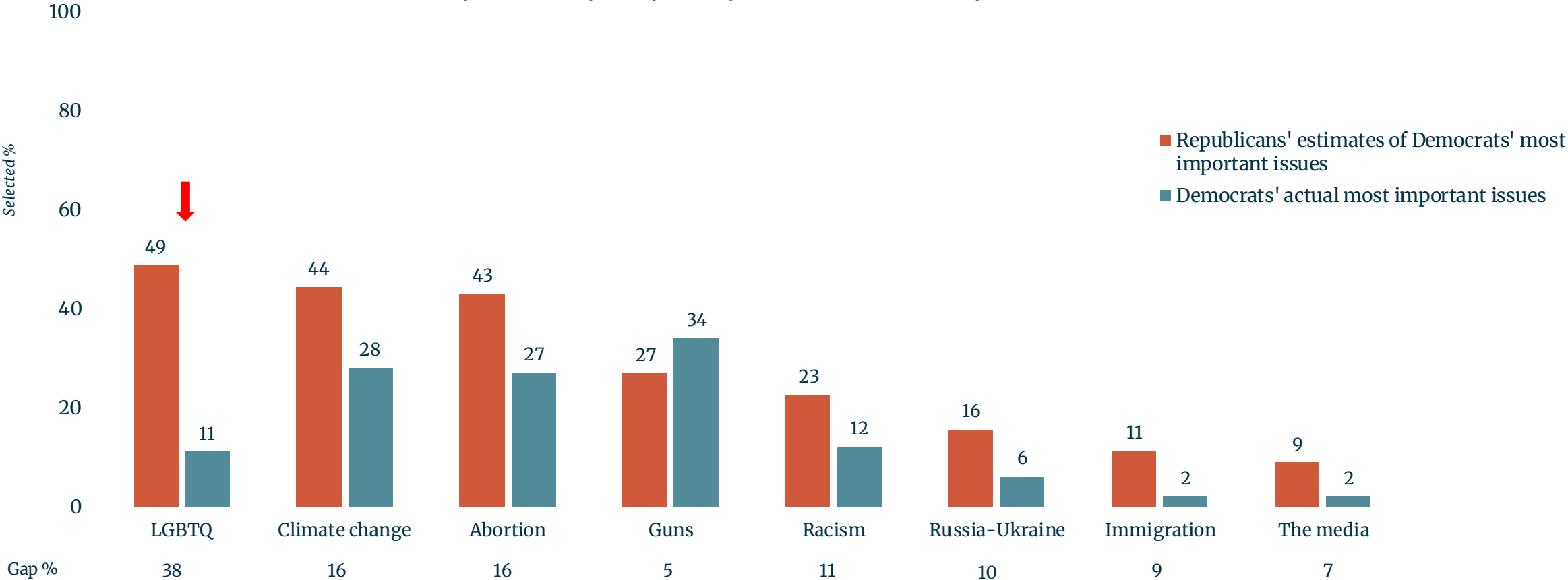
Democrats' perception of Republicans' Most important issues



Survey question: [Republicans] Which political or social issues are most important to you today, if any? Please select up to 3 issues. [Democrats] Now we'd like you to say which issues you think are most important to Republicans. Please select the top 3 issues.

We asked what Democrats' most important political issues are, then asked Republicans what they believed Democrats' most important issues to be. Republicans think that Democrats care most about LGBTQ, but they actually care primarily about guns and climate change.

Republicans' perception of Democrats' Most important issues



Survey question: [Democrats] Which political or social issues are most important to you today, if any? Please select up to 3 issues. [Republicans] Now we'd like you to say which issues you think are most important to Democrats. Please select the top 3 issues.

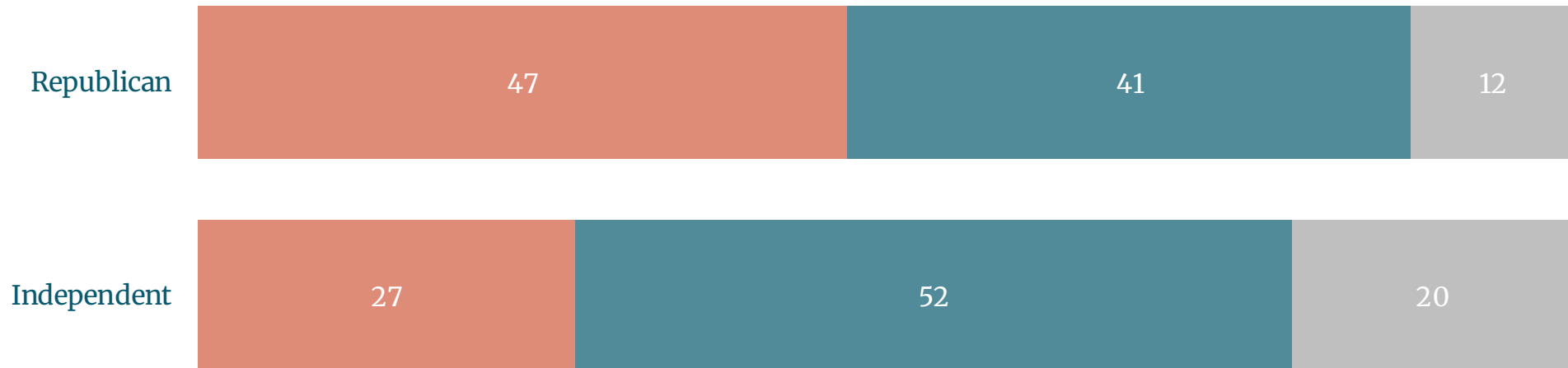
**Ohioans are split on party
leaders and priorities**

Ohioans are split on if Trump is the future of the Republican Party. Republicans are split but lean somewhat towards Trump. Independents lean towards a new face of the Republican Party.

Trump and the Republican Party

- The Republican party needs to follow the lead of former President Trump
- The Republican party needs to follow the lead of other leaders beyond former President Trump
- Don't know

Numbers in %



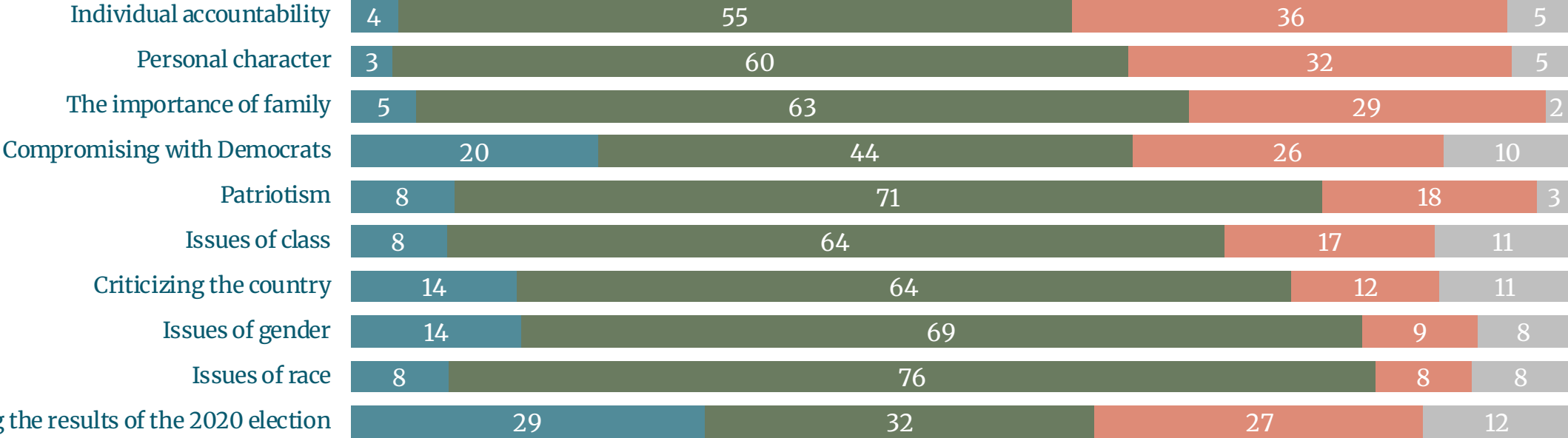
Survey question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Republicans say they do not place enough emphasis on individual accountability, personal character, family, and compromise with Democrats. 1 in 5 say the party focuses too much on compromise, and to a lesser extent gender and critiques of America.

Republican Party priorities

Republican Numbers in %

■ Too much emphasis ■ About right ■ Not enough emphasis ■ Don't know



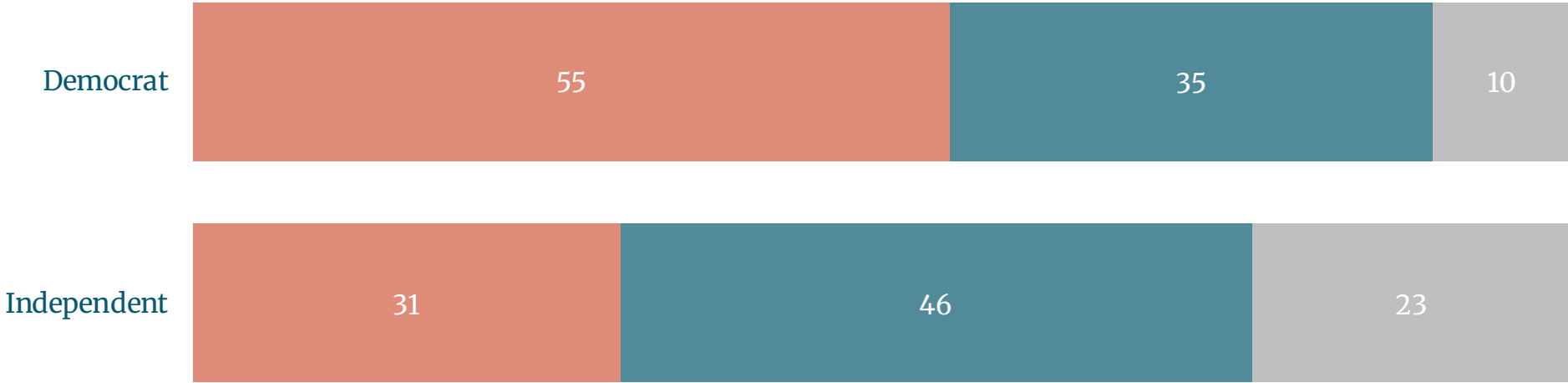
Survey question: Would you say the Republican party places too much emphasis, not enough emphasis, or about the right amount of emphasis on each of the following topics?

Democrats lean somewhat towards continuing to support Biden in the future. Independents lean towards moving on from Biden.

Biden and the Democratic Party

- The Democratic party needs to follow the lead of President Biden
- The Democratic party needs to follow the lead of other leaders beyond President Biden
- Don't know

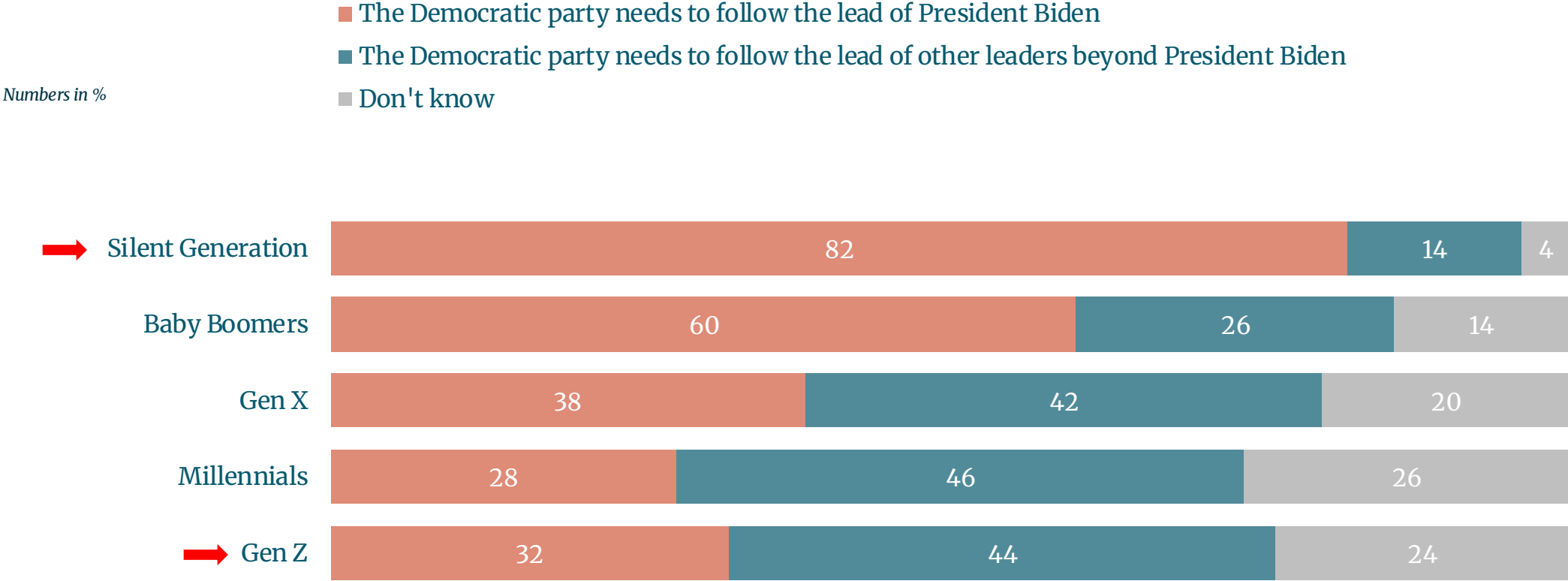
Numbers in %



Survey question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Older generations especially support Biden, while younger generations are less sure but lean more towards moving on from Biden.

Biden and the Democratic Party



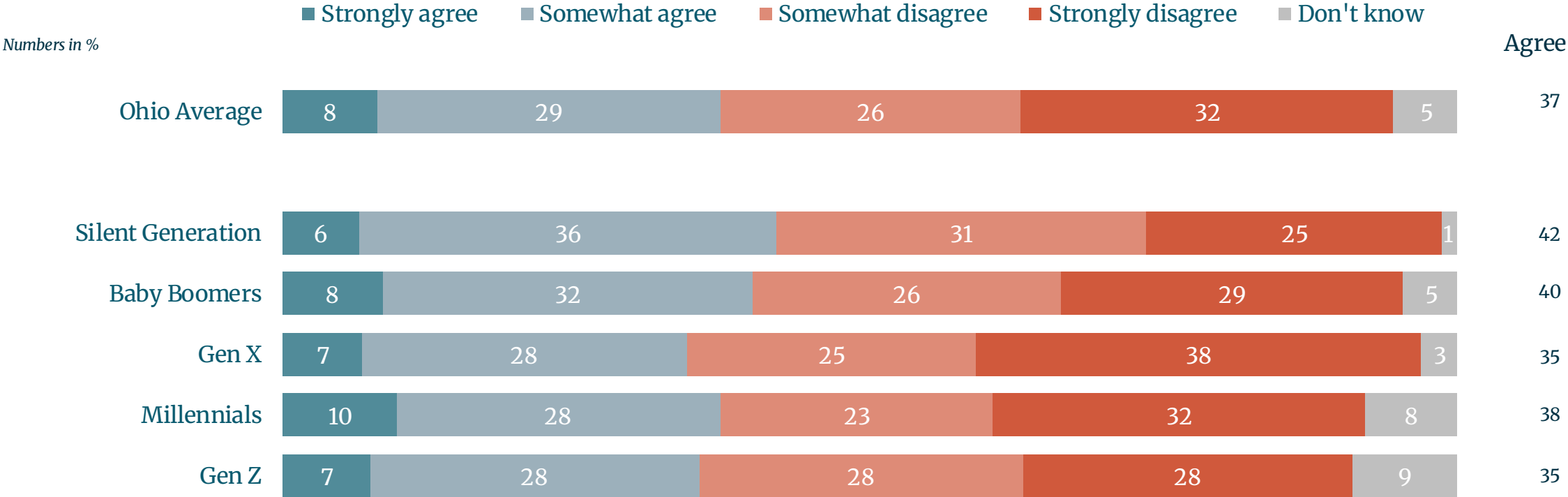
Survey question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Appendix

Issues and the current political climate

Younger generations generally feel they have less of a voice in politics compared to older ones.

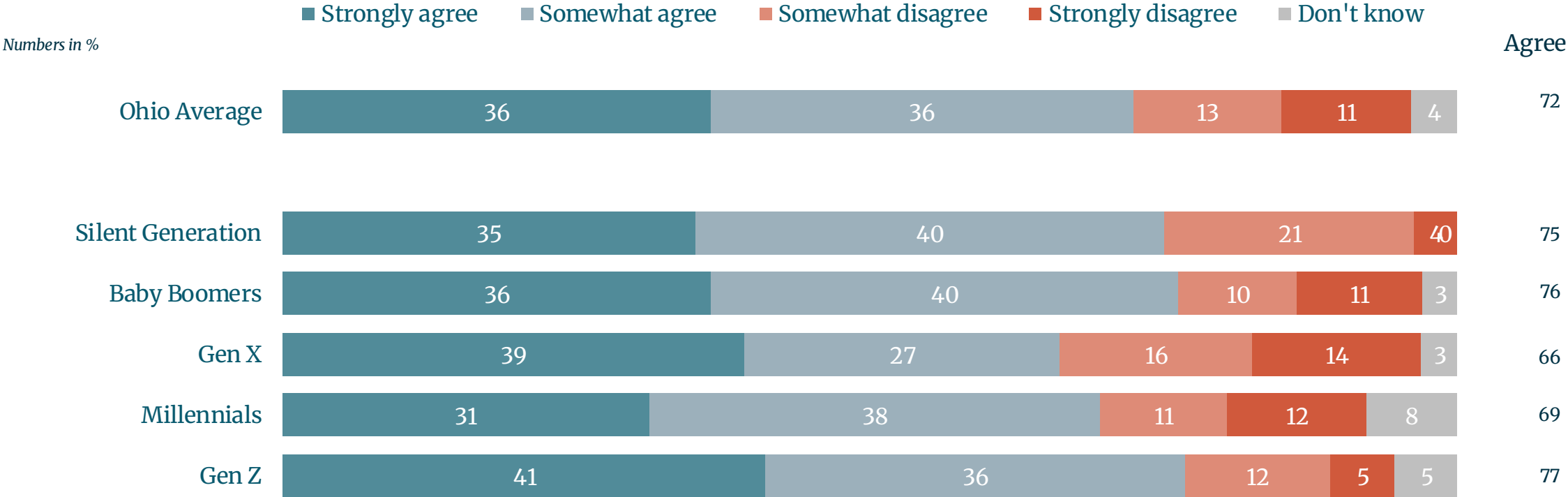
I feel I have a voice in the political conversation



Survey question: To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

Most generations see extremists on both sides as a threat. Gen Z is most likely to agree (77%).

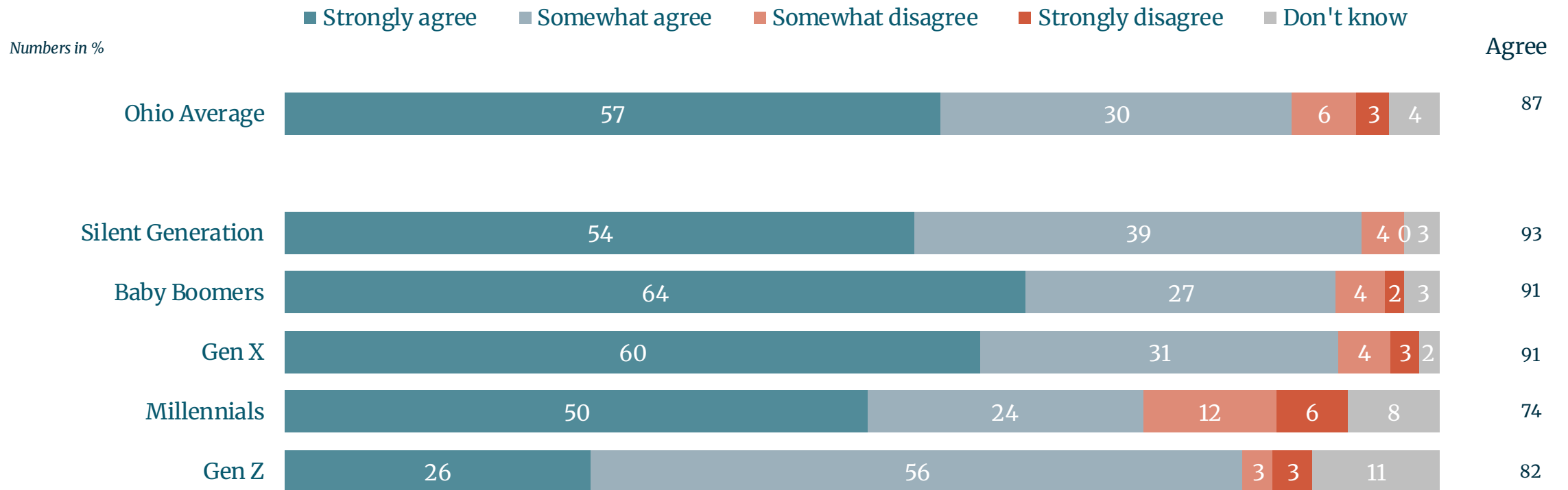
Extremists on both sides of the political spectrum present a threat to America.



Survey question: How much do you agree with the following statements?

Older generations feel more strongly about threats from within compared to younger generations, especially Gen Z.

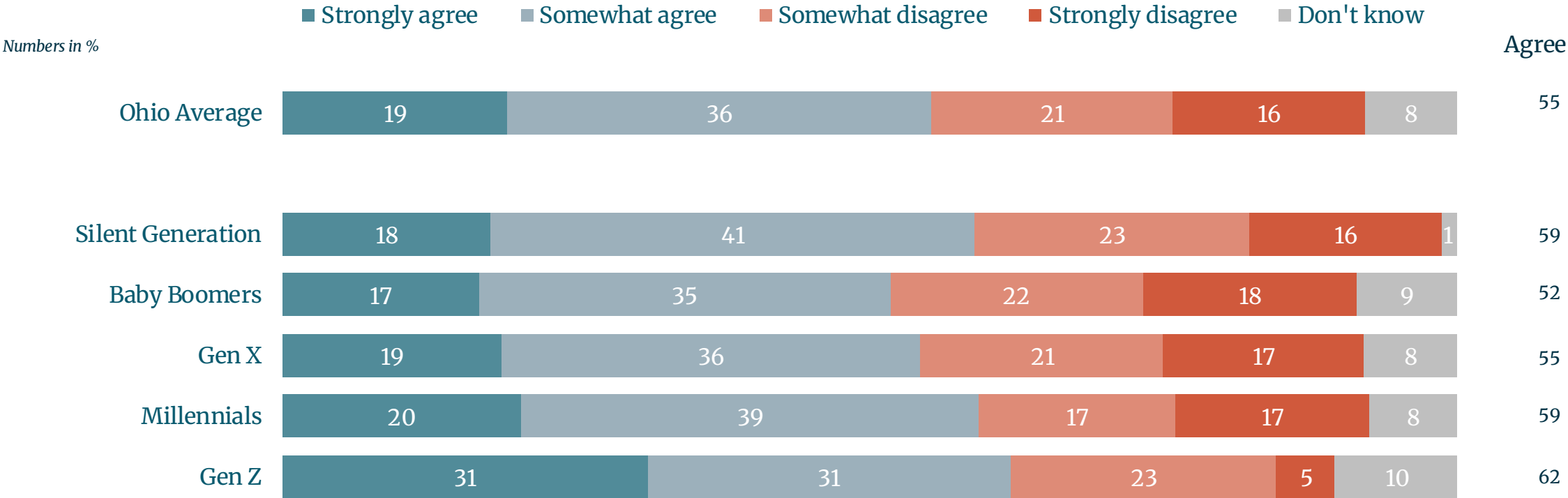
The greatest threat to the nation is coming from within.



Survey question: How much do you agree with the following statements?

Gen Z is most likely to say that some Americans on their political side are too extreme.

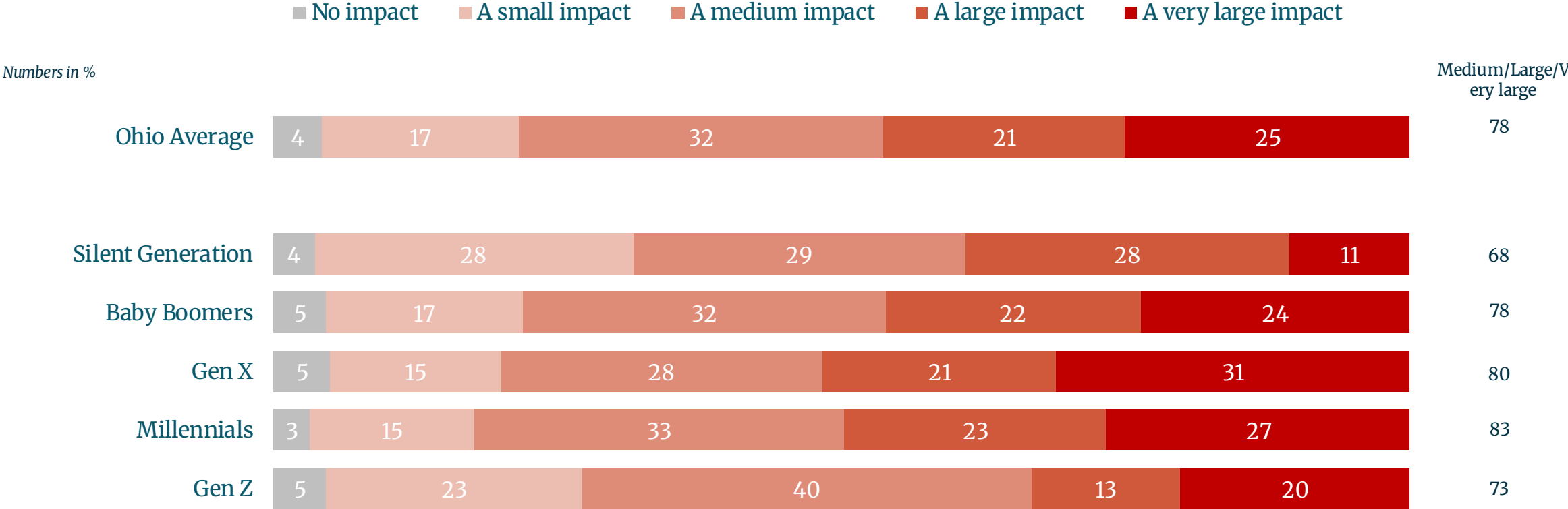
Some Americans on my side of the political spectrum are too extreme.



Survey question: How much do you agree with the following statements?

Most Ohioans across generations feel the impact of inflation.

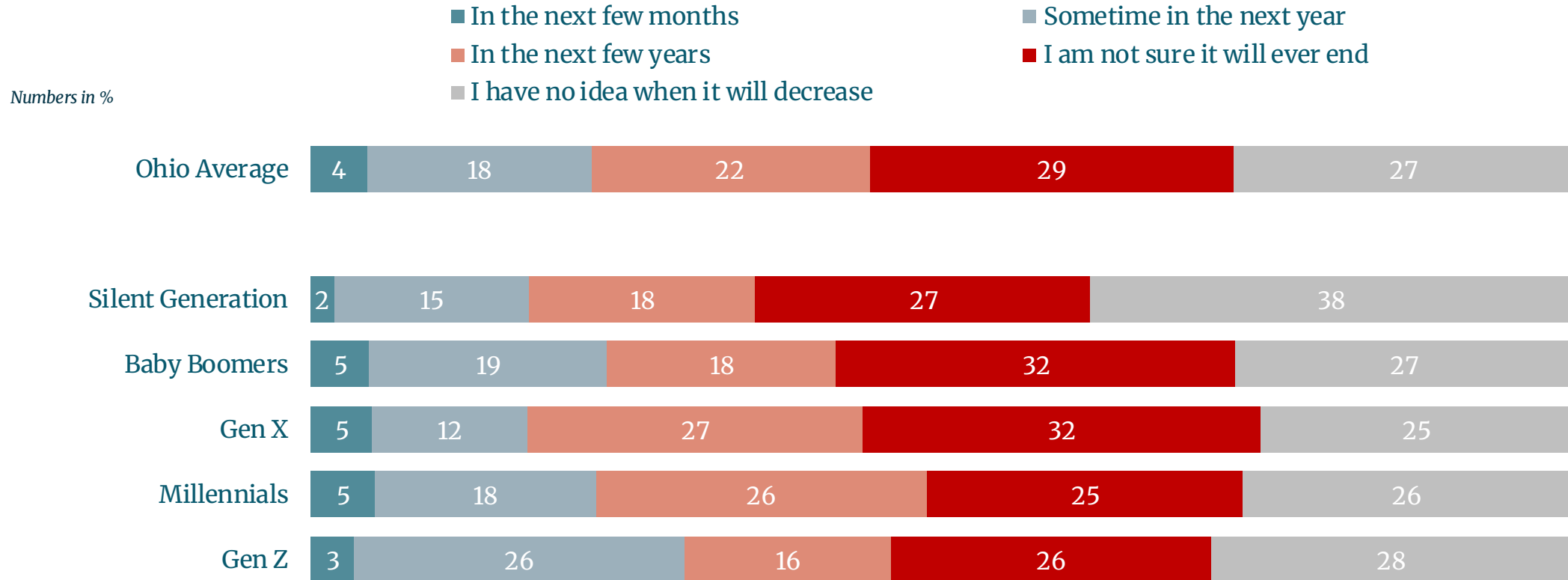
Impact of inflation



Survey question: How much of an impact have rising prices for things like food and energy had on your life over the last few months?

Americans across generations do not see an end in sight for inflation.

Inflation timeline

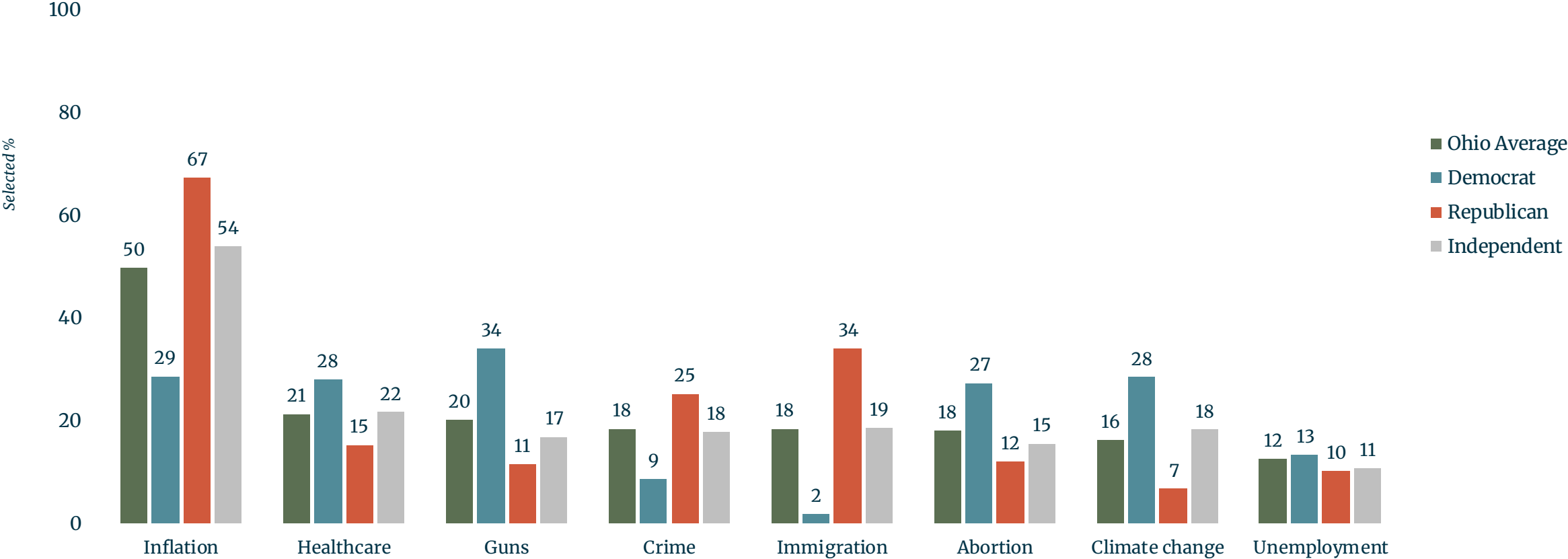


Survey question: When do you expect inflation to decrease?

Most important issues

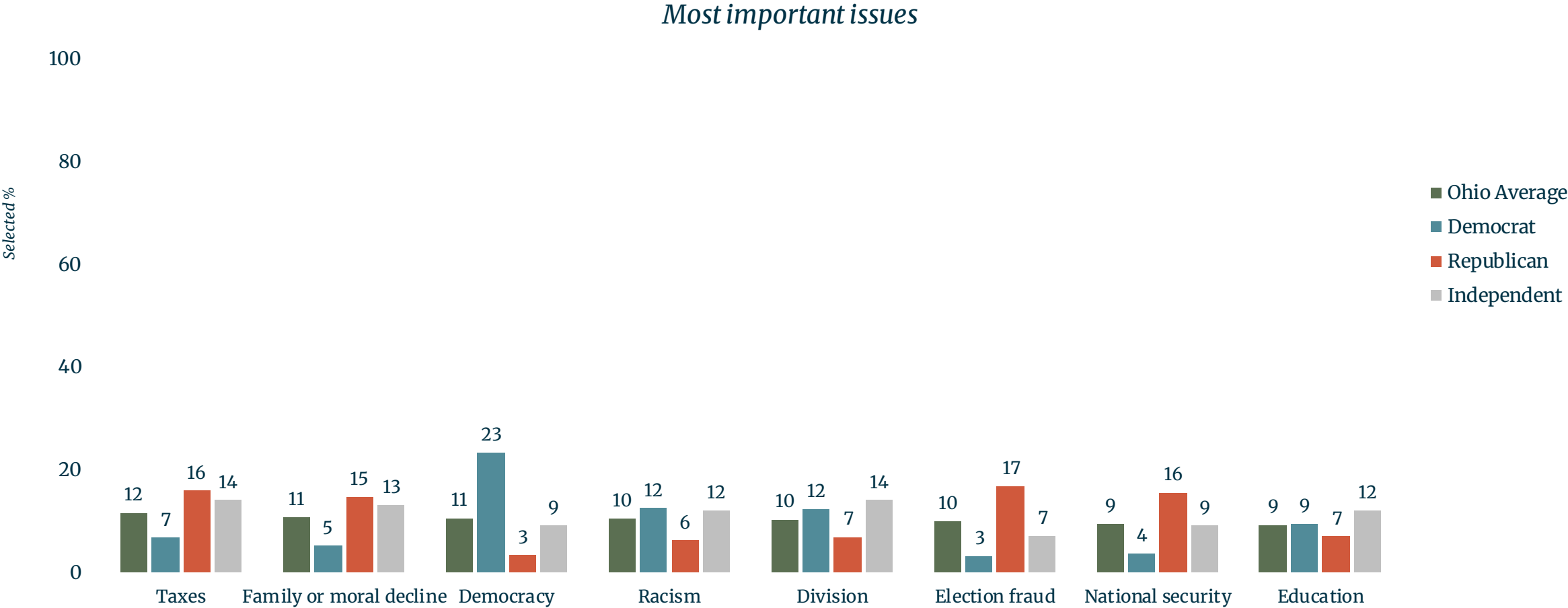
Inflation is by far the most important issue to Ohioans. Democrats care most about guns, climate change, inflation and health care. Republicans care most about inflation, immigration and crime. Republicans care most about inflation, immigration and crime.

Most important issues



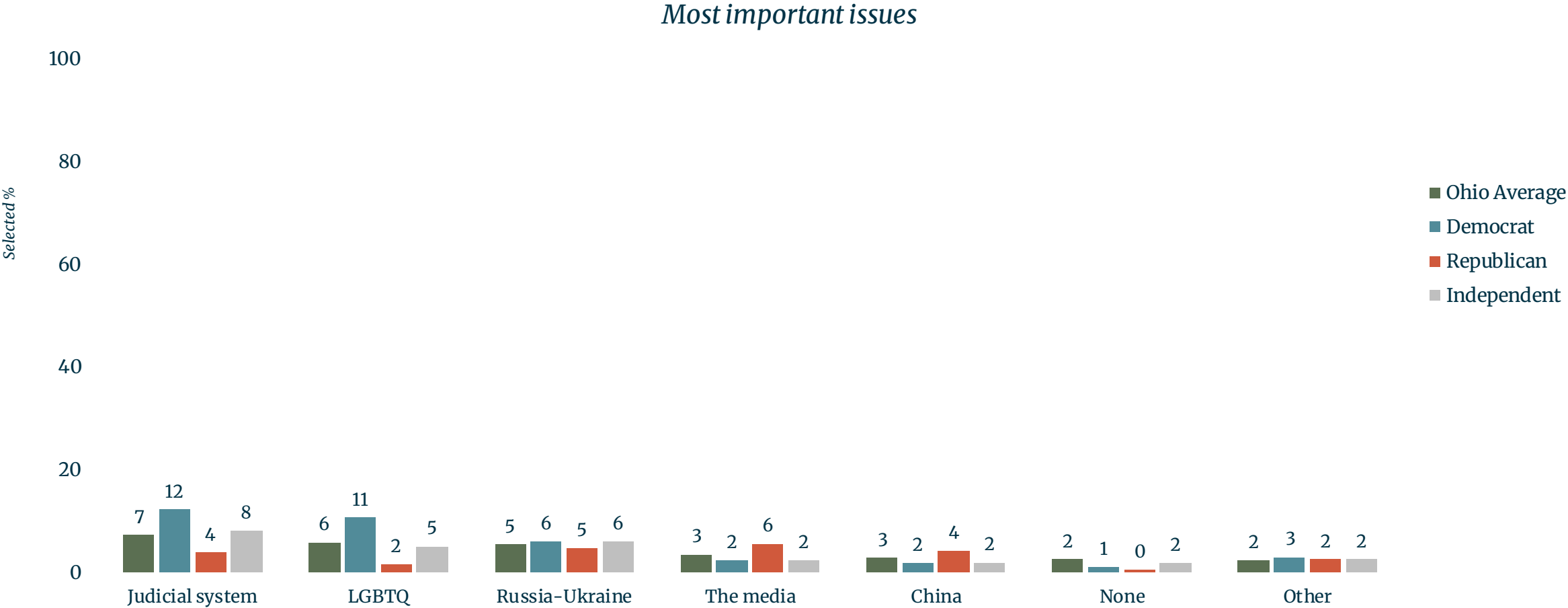
Survey question: Which political or social issues are most important to you today, if any? Please select up to 3 issues.

A quarter of Democrats say democracy is a priority, while about 1 in 5 Republicans see election fraud as a priority.



Survey question: Which political or social issues are most important to you today, if any? Please select up to 3 issues.

About 1 in 10 Democrats are concerned with the judicial system and LGBTQ issues.

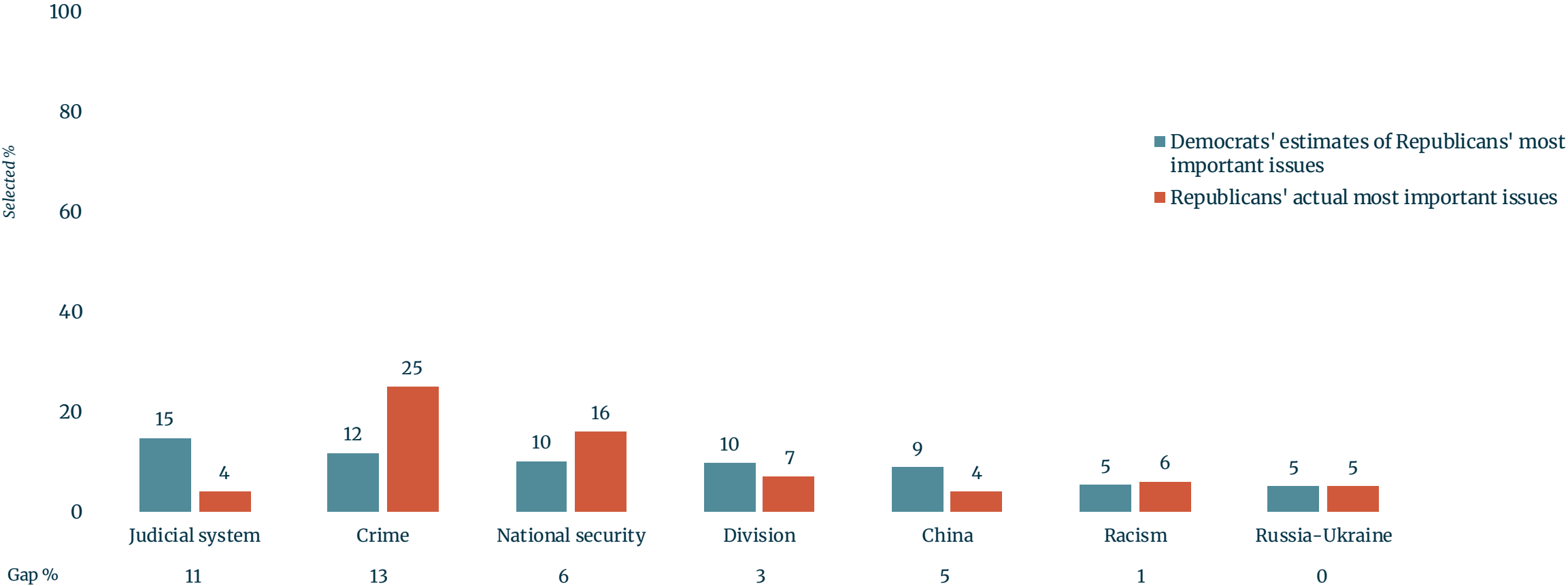


Survey question: Which political or social issues are most important to you today, if any? Please select up to 3 issues.

Perception gaps on issue priorities

Democrats think that Republicans care a little about the judicial system, crime, national security and division.

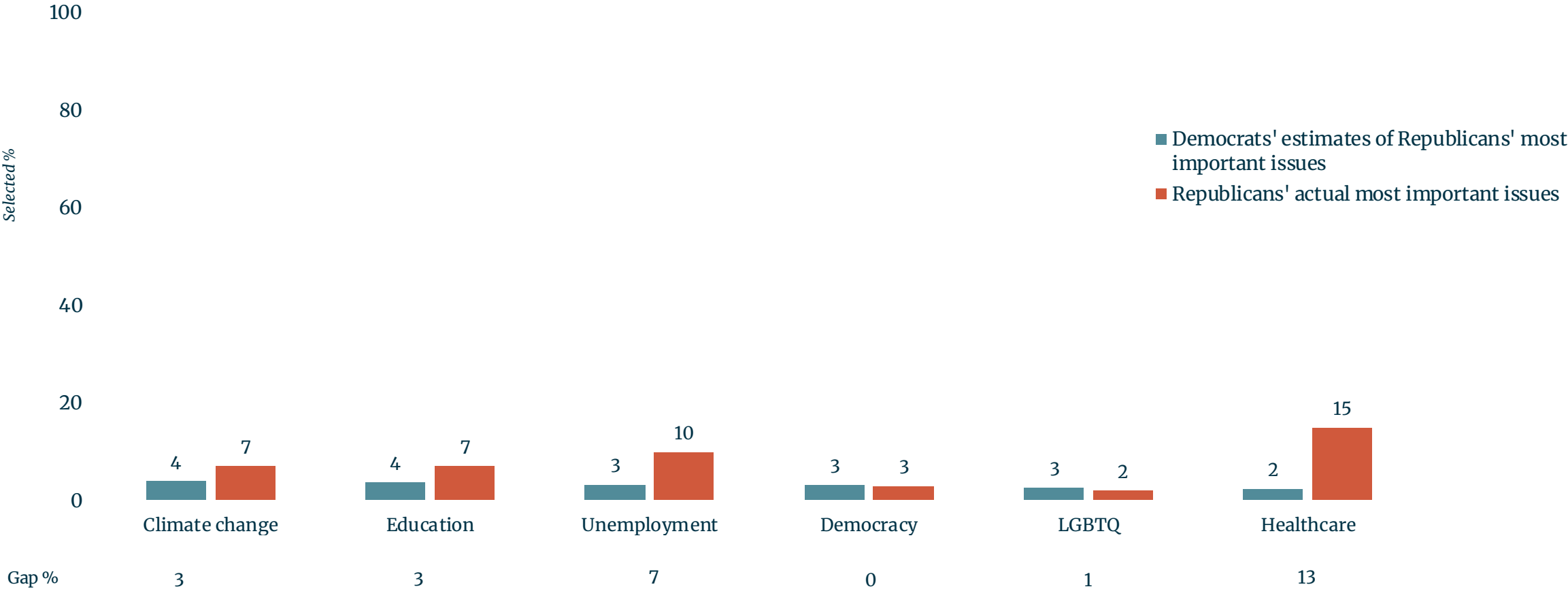
Democrats' perception of Republicans' Most important issues



Survey question: [Republicans] Which political or social issues are most important to you today, if any? Please select up to 3 issues. [Democrats] Now we'd like you to say which issues you think are most important to Republicans. Please select the top 3 issues.

Democrats do not think Republicans care about issues like climate change, education, unemployment and democracy.

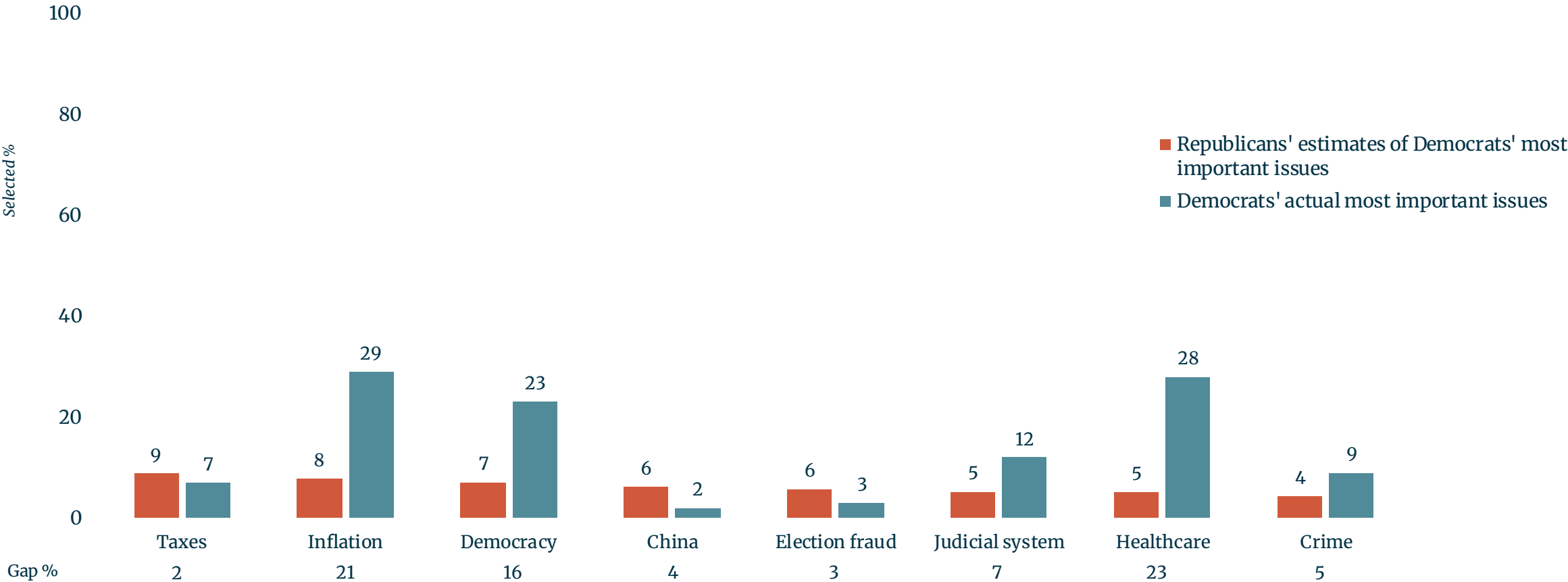
Democrats' perception of Republicans' Most important issues



Survey question: [Republicans] Which political or social issues are most important to you today, if any? Please select up to 3 issues. [Democrats] Now we'd like you to say which issues you think are most important to Republicans. Please select the top 3 issues.

Republicans think that Democrats care a little about the taxes, inflation, and democracy.

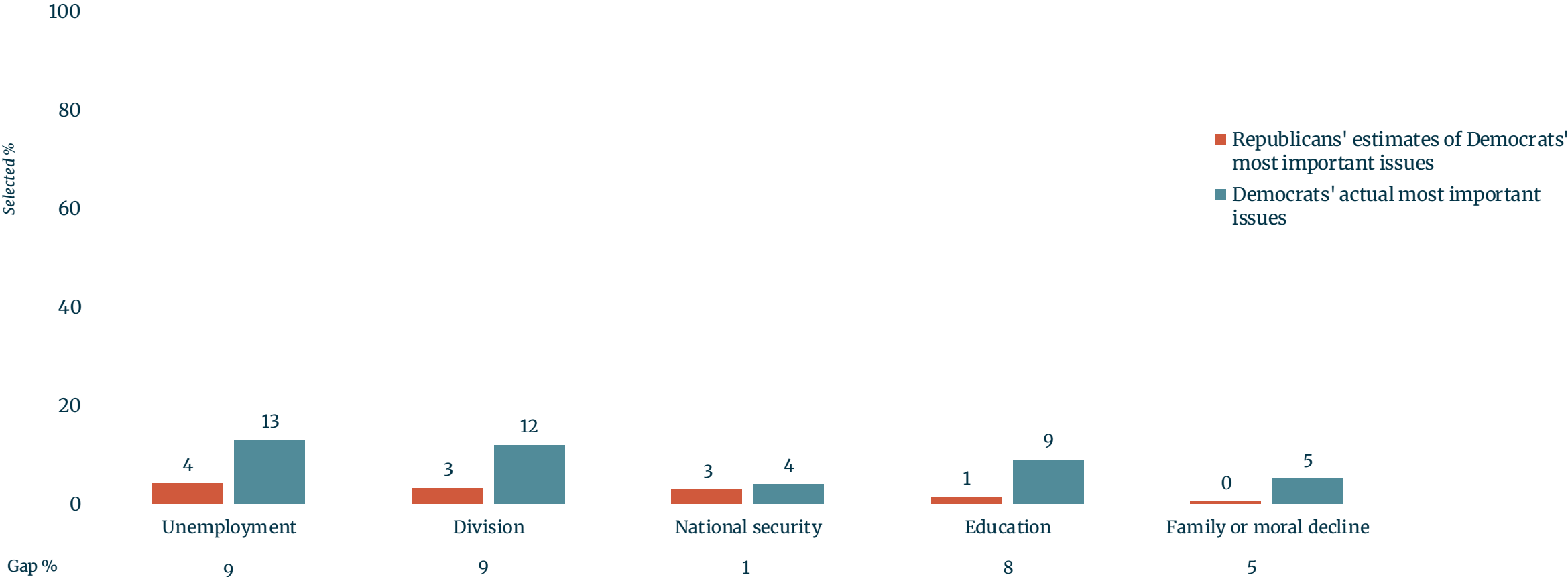
Republicans' perception of Democrats' Most important issues



Survey question: [Democrats] Which political or social issues are most important to you today, if any? Please select up to 3 issues. [Republicans] Now we'd like you to say which issues you think are most important to Democrats. Please select the top 3 issues.

Republicans do not think Democrats care about issues like unemployment, division, national security, education, and family decline.

Republicans' perception of Democrats' Most important issues

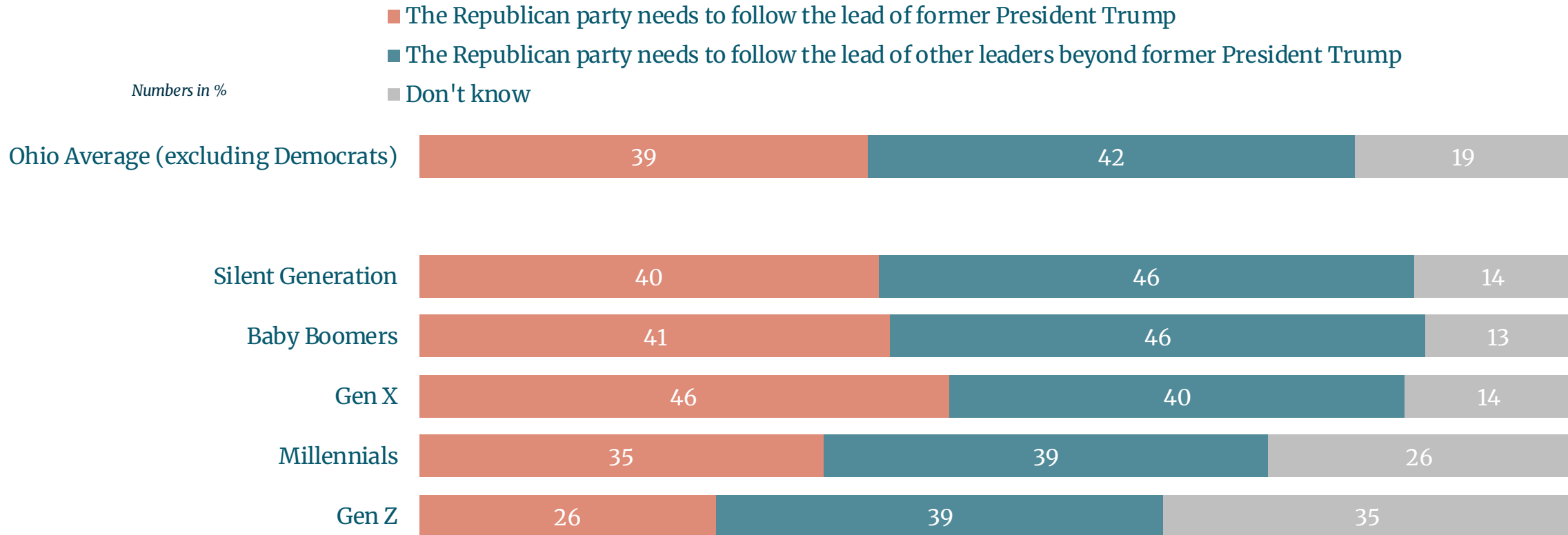


Survey question: [Democrats] Which political or social issues are most important to you today, if any? Please select up to 3 issues. [Republicans] Now we'd like you to say which issues you think are most important to Democrats. Please select the top 3 issues.

Future priorities for political parties

Younger generations are more unsure of how the Republican Party should proceed, but lean towards moving on from Trump.

Trump and the Republican Party



Survey question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

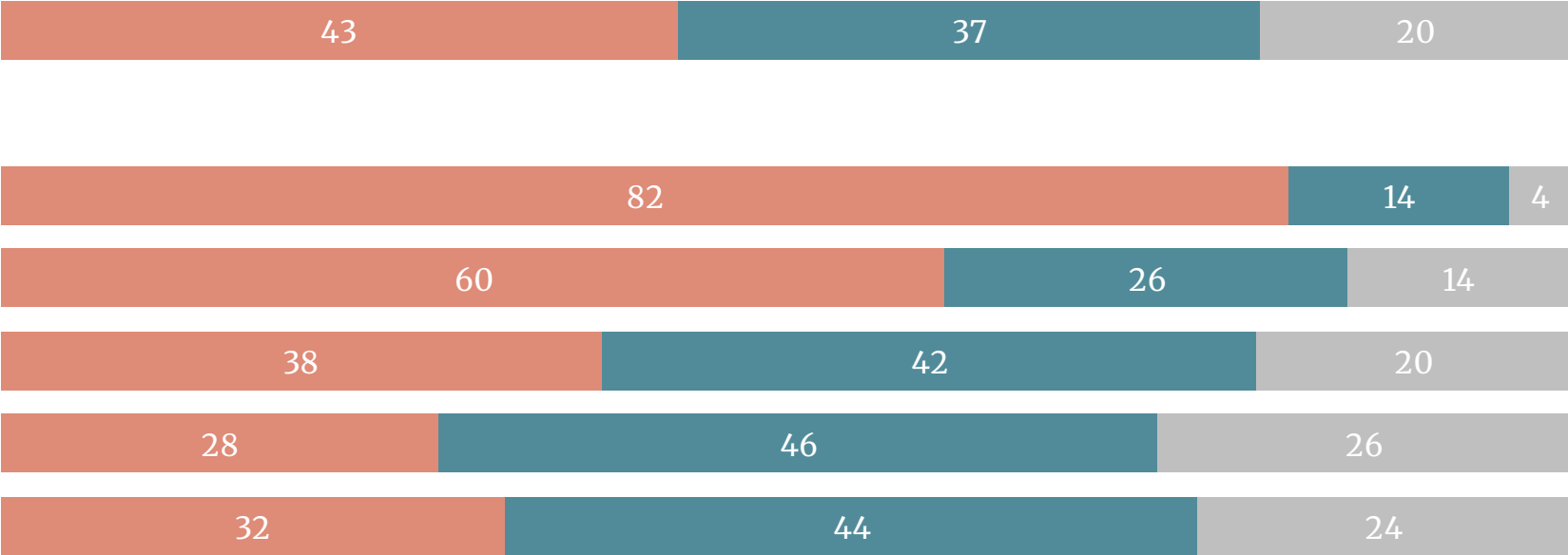
Older generations especially support Biden, while younger generations are less sure but lean more towards moving on from Biden.

Biden and the Democratic Party

- The Democratic party needs to follow the lead of President Biden
- The Democratic party needs to follow the lead of other leaders beyond President Biden
- Don't know

Numbers in %

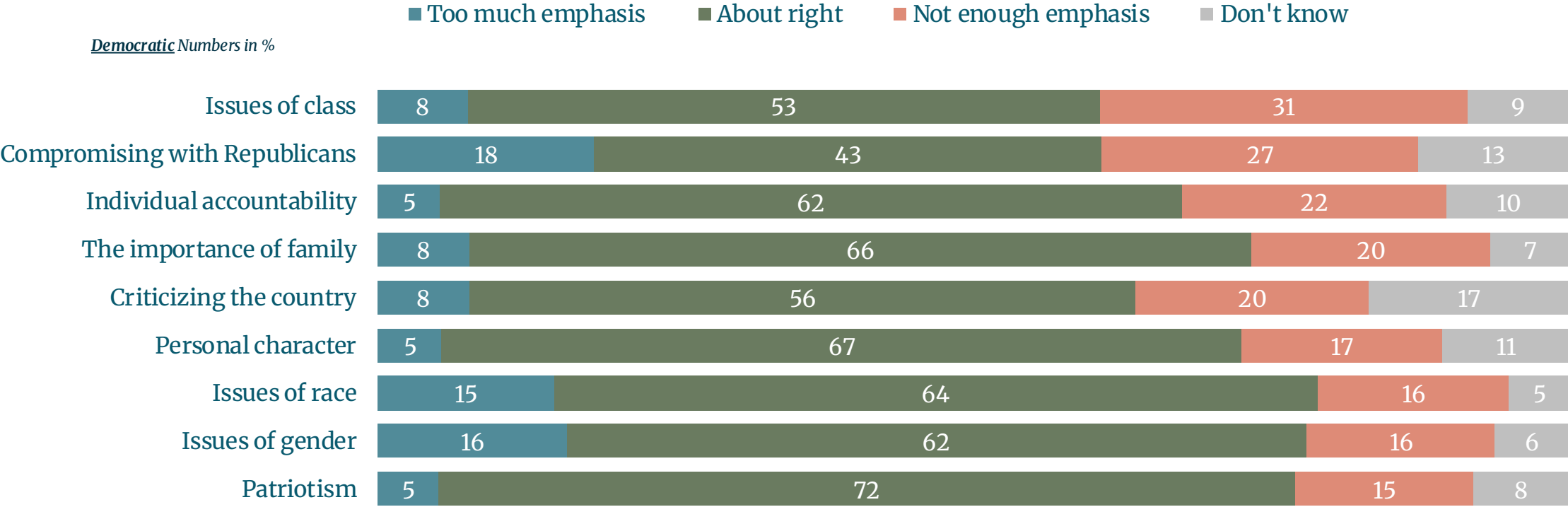
Ohio Average (excluding Republicans)



Survey question: Which of the following statements do you agree with more?

Democrats say they do not place enough emphasis on issues of class, compromise with Republicans, family and individual accountability. Over 1 in 10 say the party focuses too much on compromise, race and gender.

Democratic Party priorities



Survey question: Would you say the Democratic party places too much emphasis, not enough emphasis, or about the right amount of emphasis on each of the following topics?