



Medicare and Social Security in the 2012 Elections

**Findings from survey of 1200 registered
likely 2012 voters.**

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Methodology

- Lake Research Partners designed and administered this pre-election and election night omnibus survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached a total of 1,200 likely, registered voters nationwide. The sample consisted of 1,000 interviews among voters who were reached on landline phones and 200 interviews among voters reached on cell phones. The survey was conducted November 4th through November 6th, 2012.
- Telephone numbers for the base sample was drawn from an RDD sample and the cell phone sample was drawn from a listed sample. The sample was stratified geographically based on the proportion of likely voters in each region. Data were weighted to reflect the aggregated Presidential vote as reported in the 2012 exit polls, as well as by gender, party identification, marital status, race, and census region. The margin of error at the 95% confidence interval is +/- 2.8 percentage points.
- Due to rounding some of the numbers in the presentation will not always add to 100%.

Summary

- The economy and jobs dominated voters issue concerns going into the Presidential election, yet strong majorities of voters across party lines said that Social Security and Medicare was very important in deciding who to vote for.
- Amongst seniors, Social Security and Medicare were strong second tier issues behind the economy.
- A 57 percent majority of voters who said Medicare and Social Security was very important to their vote cast a ballot for President Obama, compared to 42 percent who voted for Governor Romney.
- On Social Security, voters believe that both Democrats in Congress and the President would better handle the issue than Republicans in Congress.
- On Medicare , President Obama ran ahead of Democrats in Congress and had a larger advantage among independents and voters under 50. In fact, independent voters gave Republicans in Congress an edge over Democrats on Medicare.

Summary

- By a three to one margin, voters overwhelmingly preferred the Democratic approach to Medicare over the Republican approach of providing a voucher. Even a plurality of Republican voters preferred the Democratic approach.
- Voters oppose changes to Medicare that would cut benefits for people under 55 or reimbursements to doctors and other health care providers, but overwhelmingly support allowing Medicare to negotiate with prescription drug companies to lower the cost of prescription drugs.
- When it comes to Social Security, the only change that voters support is to remove the wage ceiling on what is taxed for Social Security. Voters oppose means testing, reducing COLAs and raising the retirement age to 69.

Key Findings

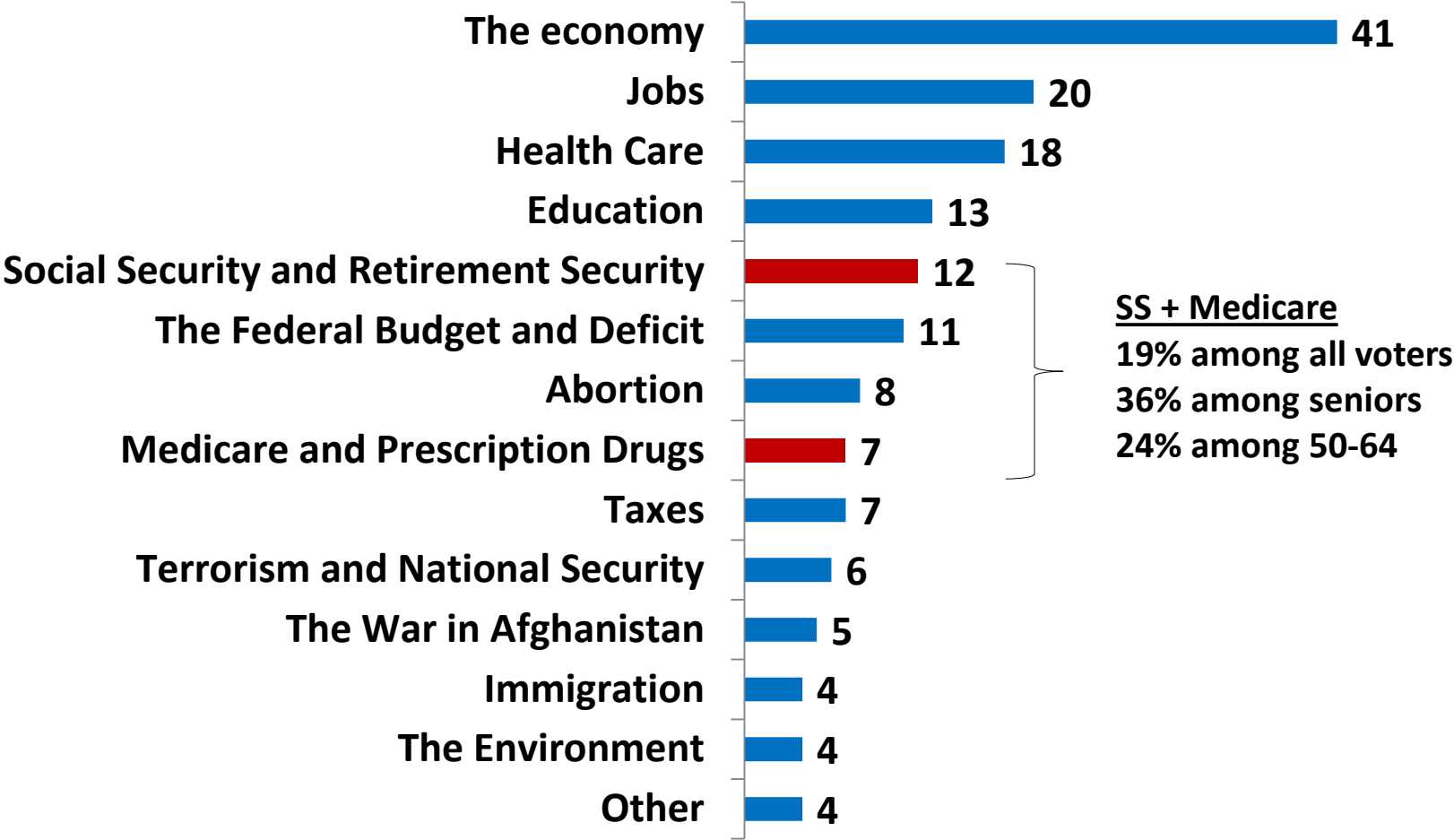


In 2008 we did not lose 50 to 64 year olds, and this year they favored Romney by 5 points.

	2008				2012			
	% of electorate	% Obama	% McCain	Margin	% of electorate	% Obama	% Romney	Margin
Under 30	18	66	32	+34	19	60	37	+23
30 to 39	18	54	44	+10	17	55	42	+13
40 to 49	21	49	49	-	20	48	50	-2
50 to 64	27	50	49	+1	28	47	52	-5
Over 65	16	45	53	-8	16	44	56	-12

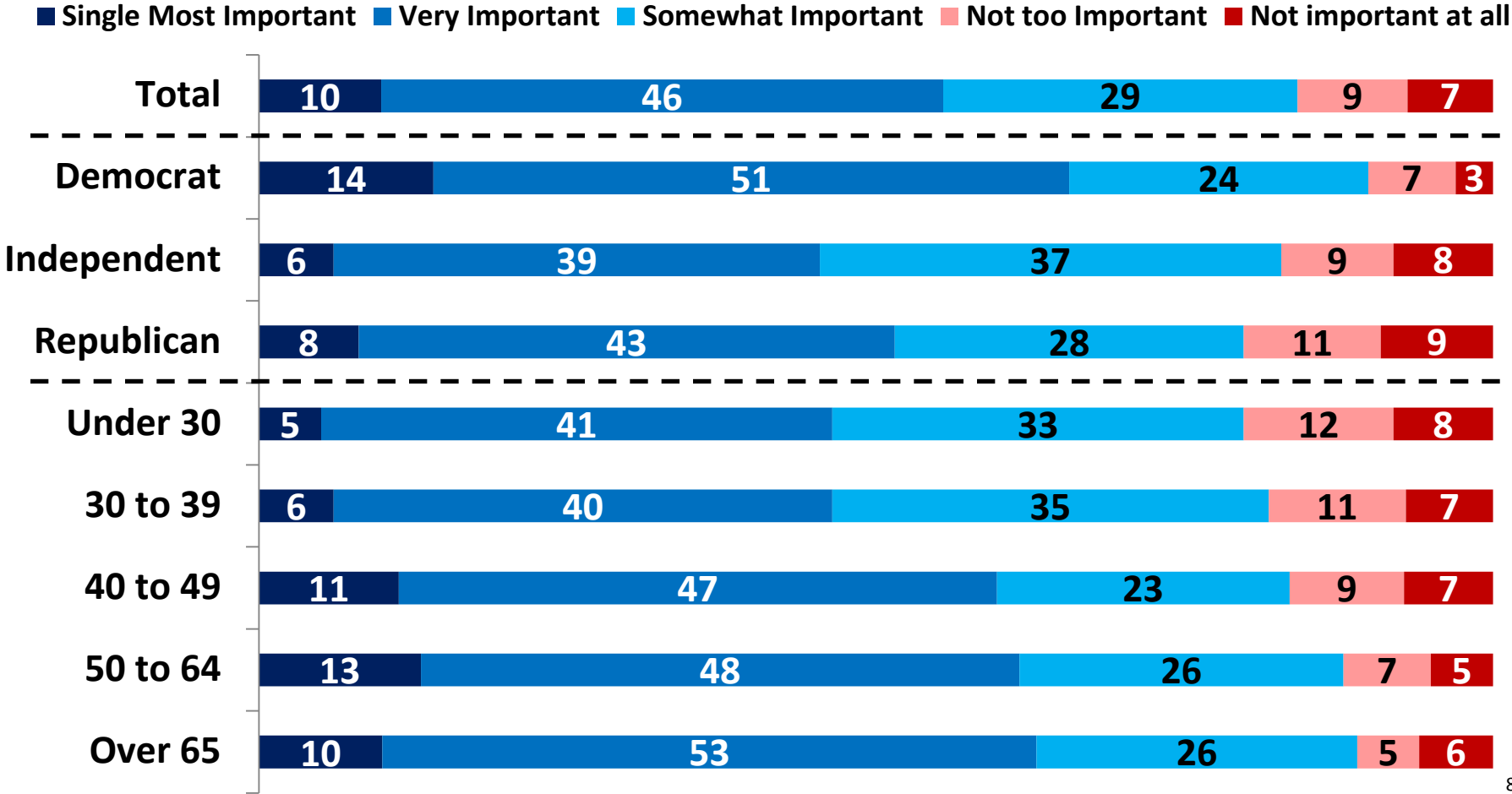
Concerns on the economy and jobs were most important in deciding who to vote for.

Which one of two of these was most important in deciding who to vote for President?



Medicare and Social Security were important issues for Democrats, Seniors, and near retirees.

How Important was Social Security and Medicare in Making Your Decision on Vote For?

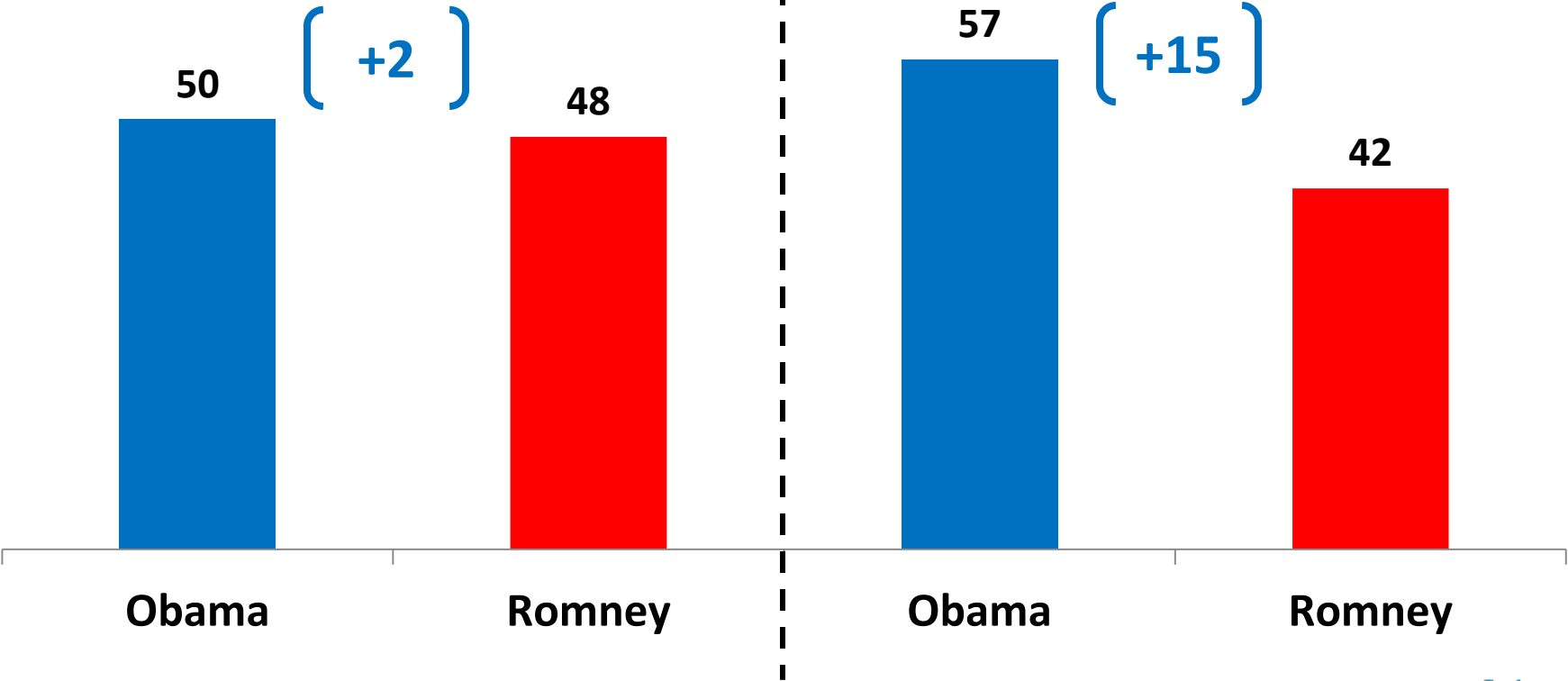


Voters who said SS and Medicare were important to their vote broke for Obama by a 15 point margin.

Presidential Vote (Among those who chose a candidate)

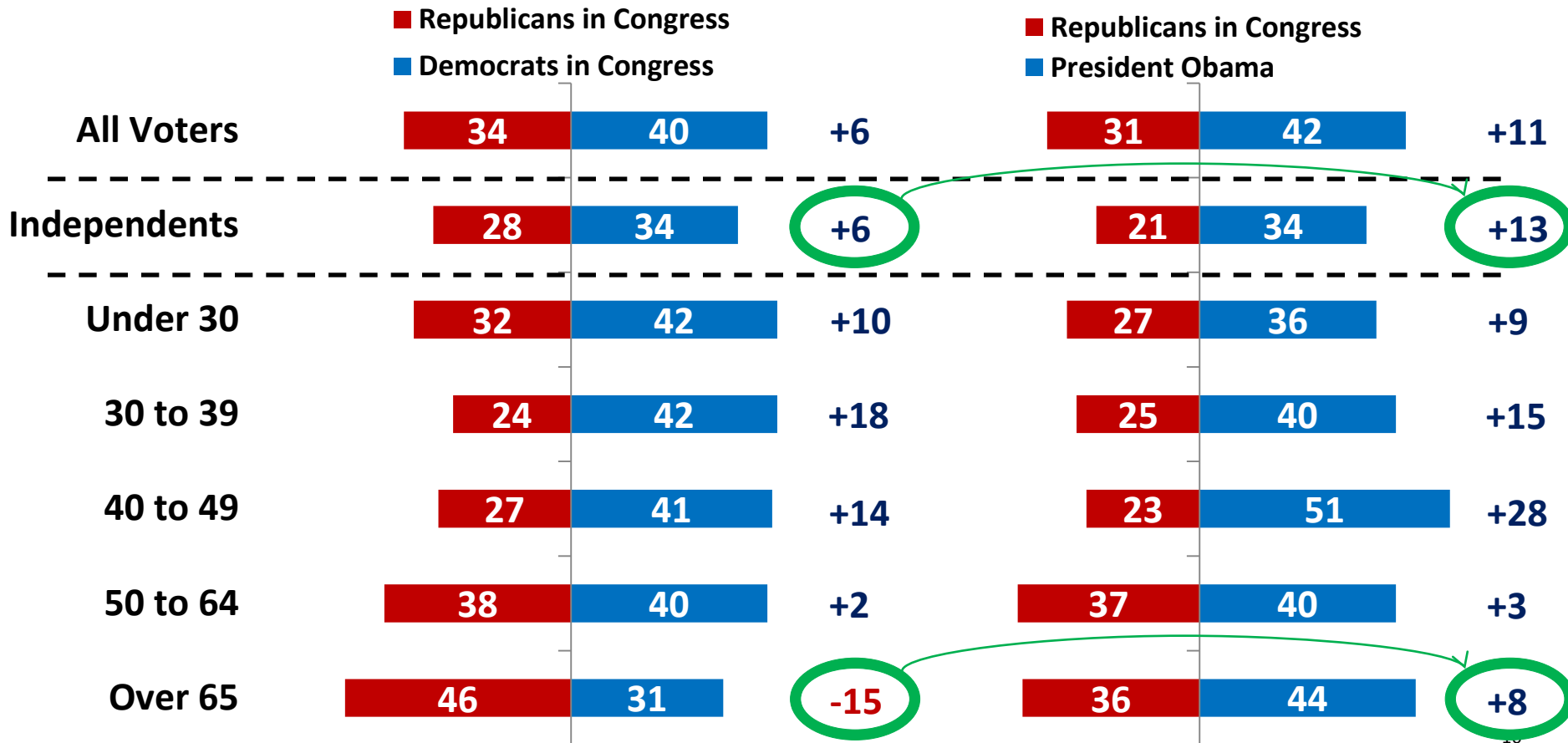
All Voters

Voters who said Medicare and Social Security was the single most important or a very important issue when deciding who to vote for (56% of the electorate).



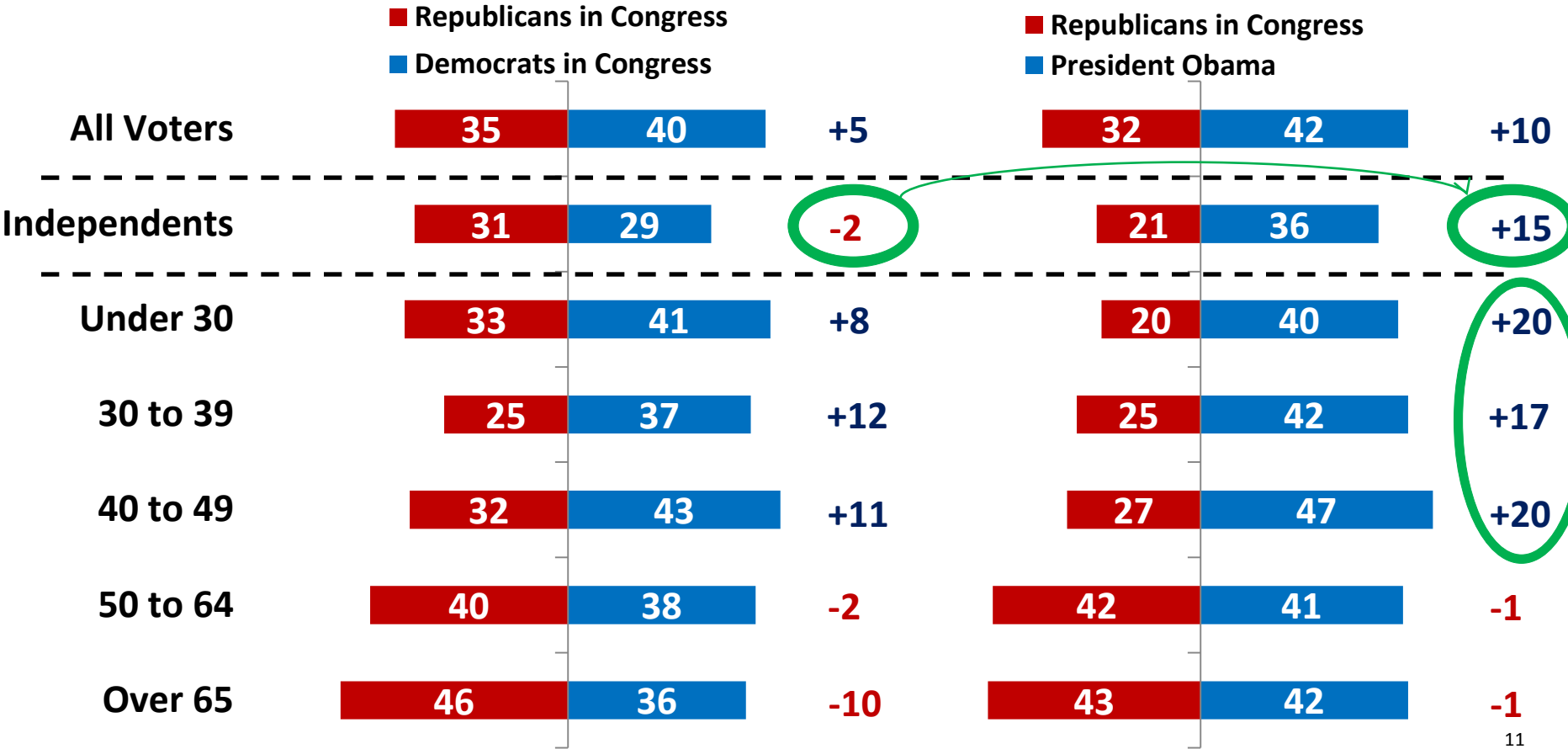
Obama outperformed Democrats in Congress on who would do better on Social Security against Republicans in Congress particularly among Seniors and Independents

Who Would Better Handle Social Security?



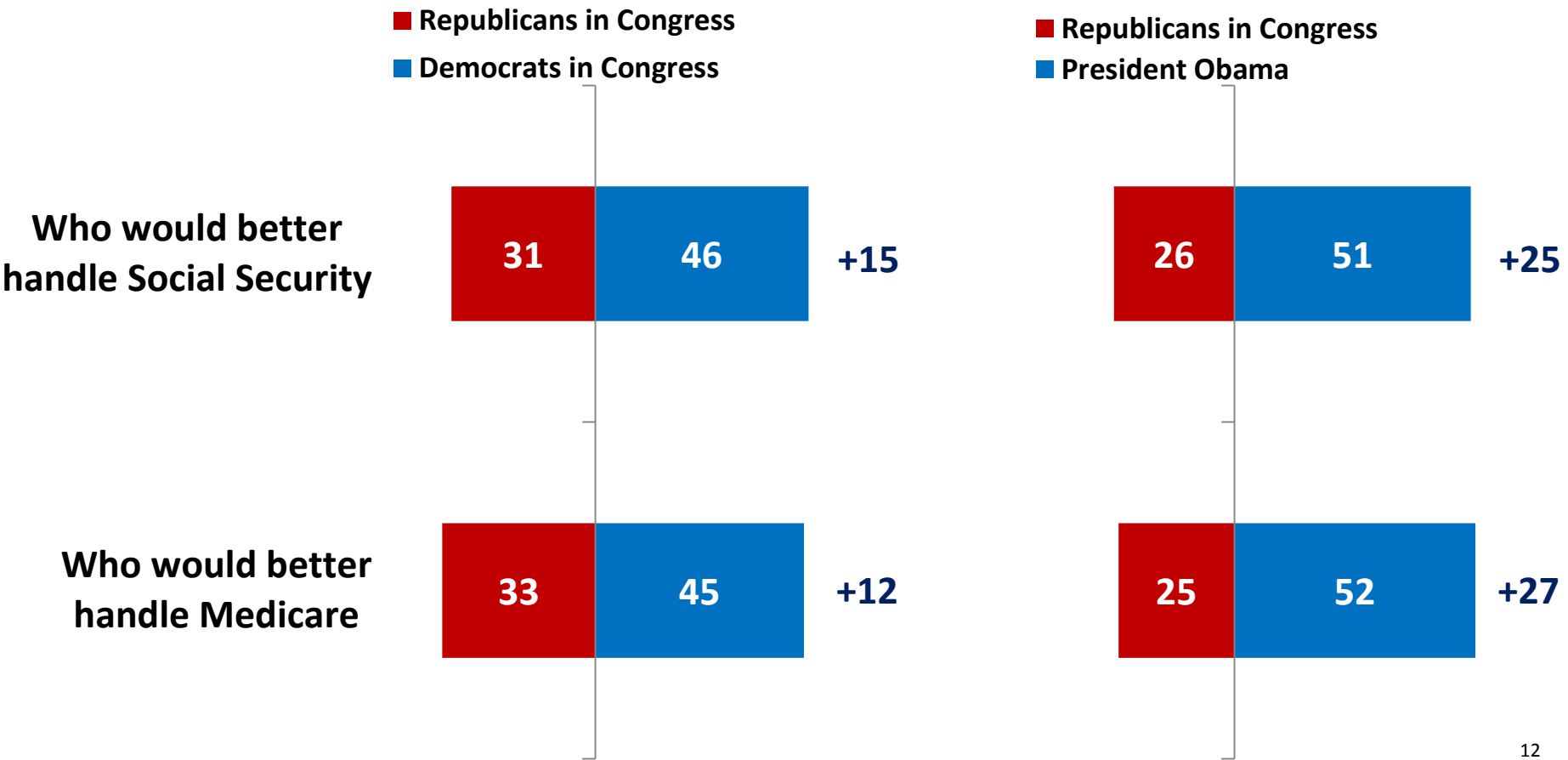
Older voters were more divided on Medicare and gave Democrats less of an advantage, but younger voters and Independents believed Obama would better handle Medicare by large margins.

Who Would Better Handle Medicare?



Voters who said Social Security and Medicare were important to their vote believed Democrats and President Obama would better handle each issue.

Among voters who said SS and Medicare were the single most important or very important issue in deciding vote:



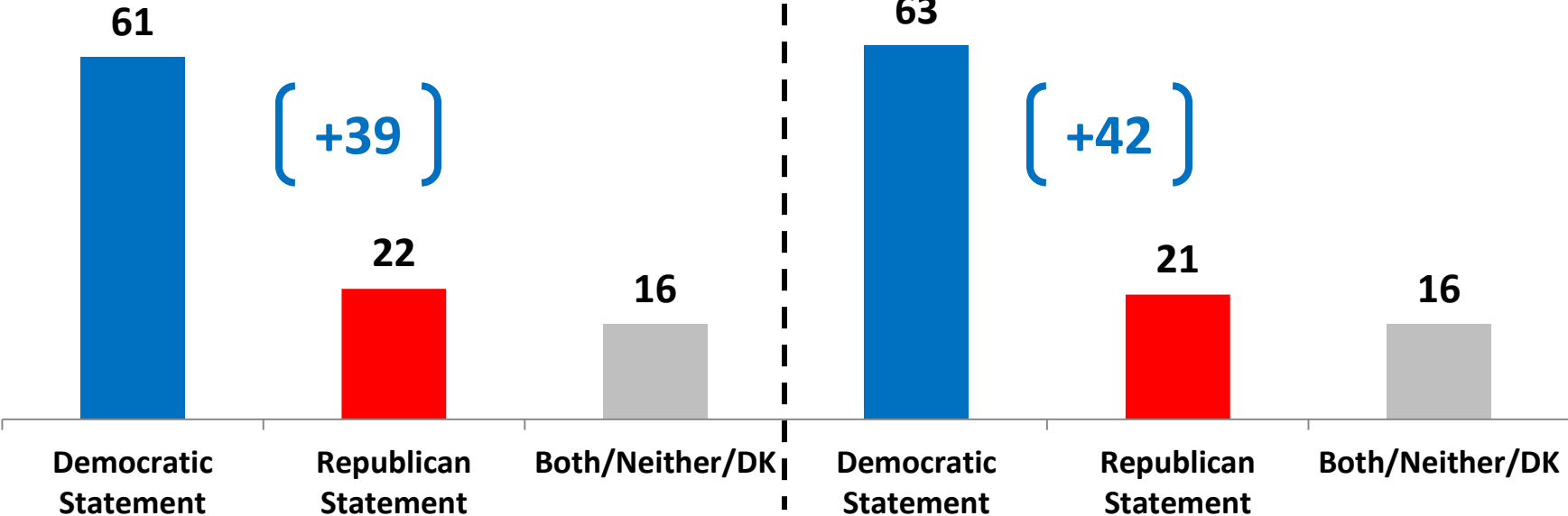
Voters overwhelmingly preferred the Democratic approach to Medicare over giving retirees a voucher.

Which approach to Medicare to you prefer?

Changing Medicare by giving future retirees a voucher to help pay for a choice of private insurance plans.

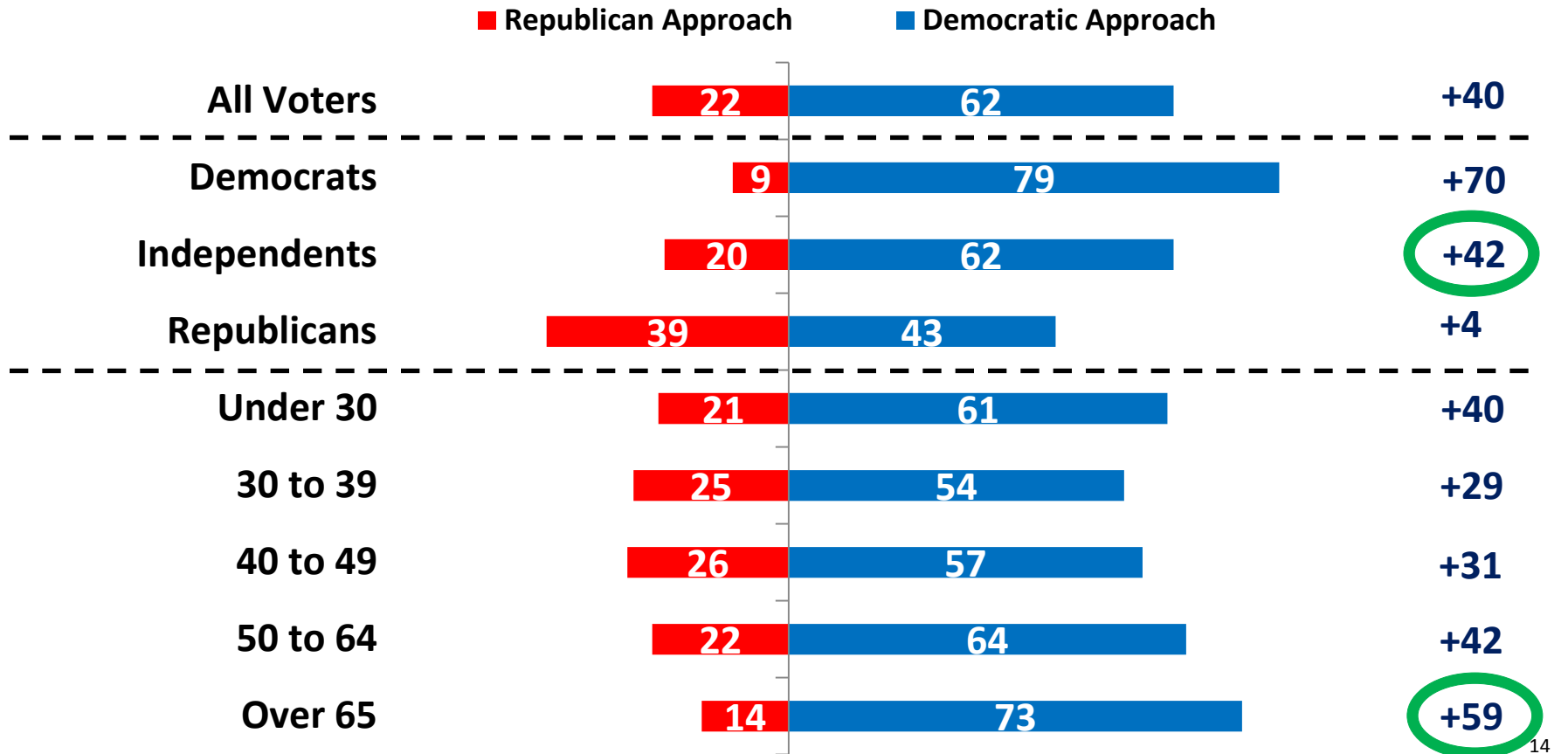
Keeping Medicare as we know it today for current seniors and future retirees.

Protecting traditional Medicare and keeping the choice of doctor for current seniors and future retirees.



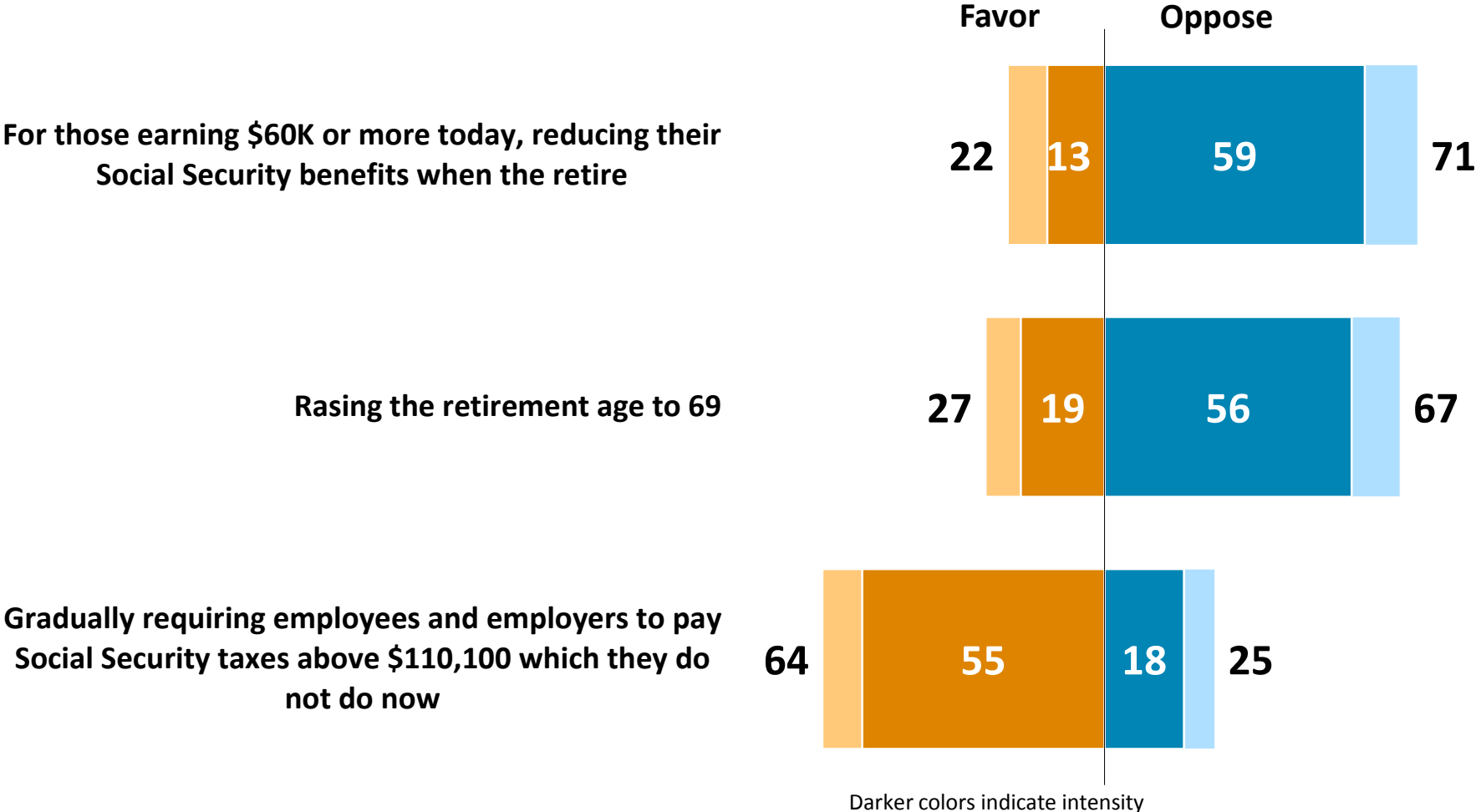
Older voters overwhelmingly preferred the Democratic approach; even a plurality of Republicans favored keeping traditional Medicare.

Which Approach to Medicare do you Prefer? (Combined)



Voters strongly oppose proposals that would reduce Social Security benefits, and strongly support increasing the cap on Social Security for higher income earners.

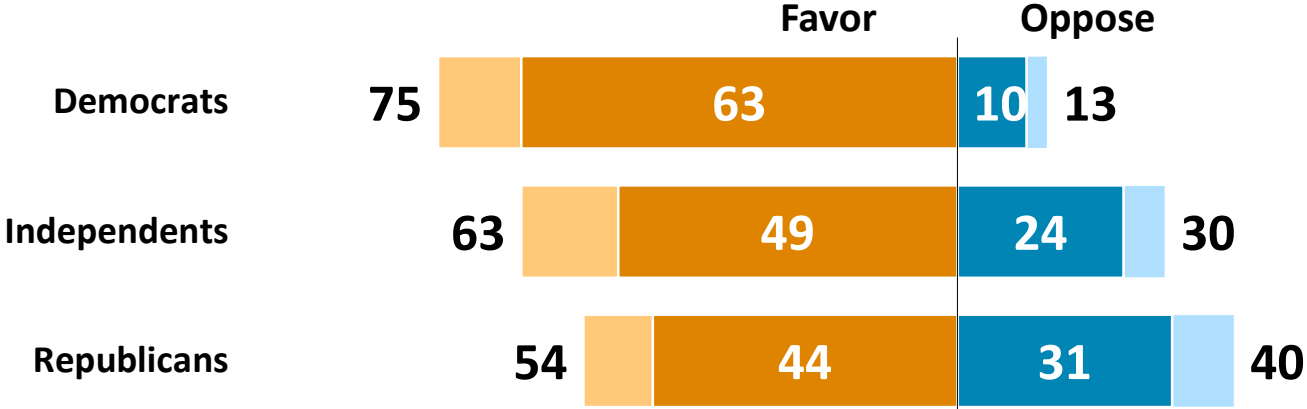
Possible Changes to Social Security



Support for raising the cap extends across party lines, with or without raising the deficit, with intensity even among Republicans.

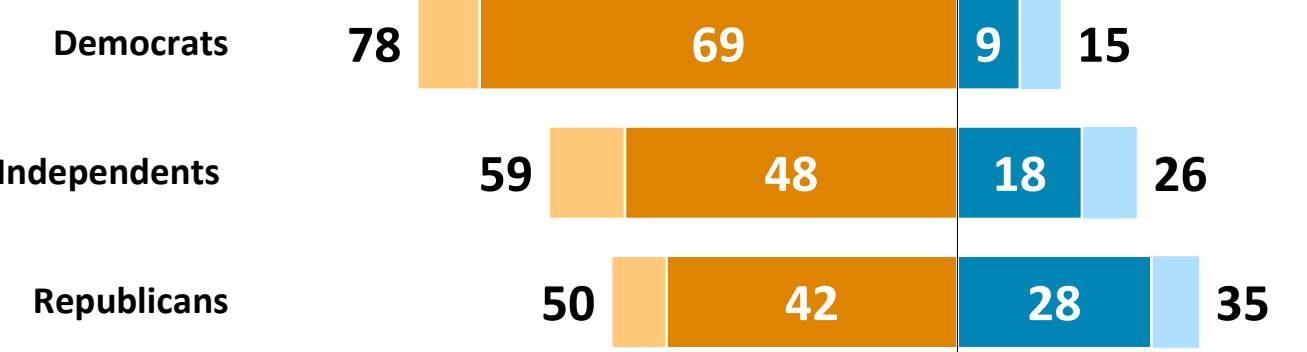
NEGOTIATING A BUDGET TO REDUCE THE DEFICIT:

Gradually requiring employees and employers to pay Social Security taxes on all wages above \$110,100 which they do not do now



CHANGES PEOPLE ARE PROPOSING TO SOCIAL SECURITY:

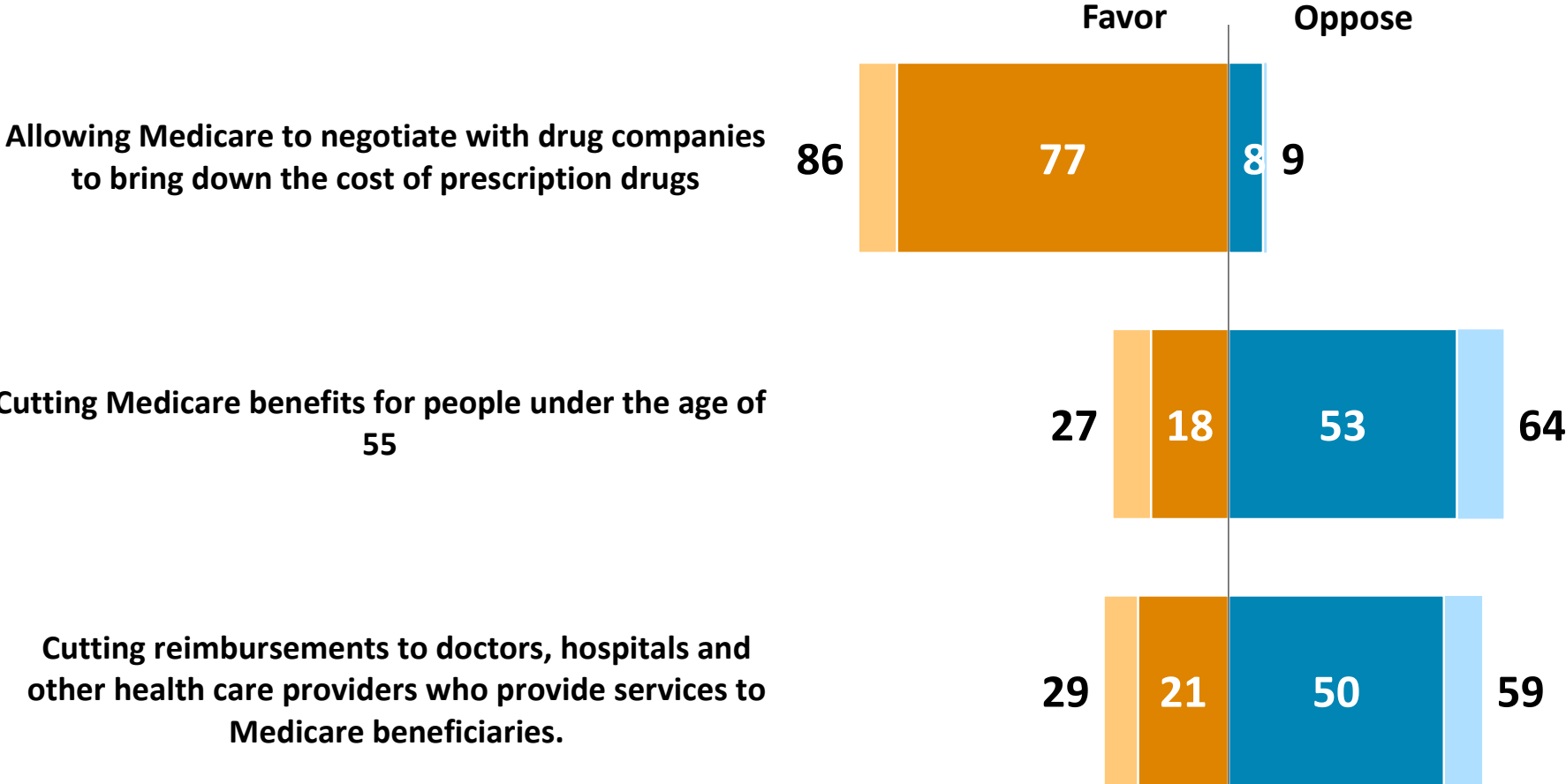
Gradually requiring employees and employers to pay Social Security taxes on all wages above \$110,100 which they do not do now



Darker colors indicate intensity

Voters overwhelmingly want Medicare to negotiate lower prescription drug prices, and strongly oppose cutting benefits or reimbursements to doctors.

Possible Changes to Medicare

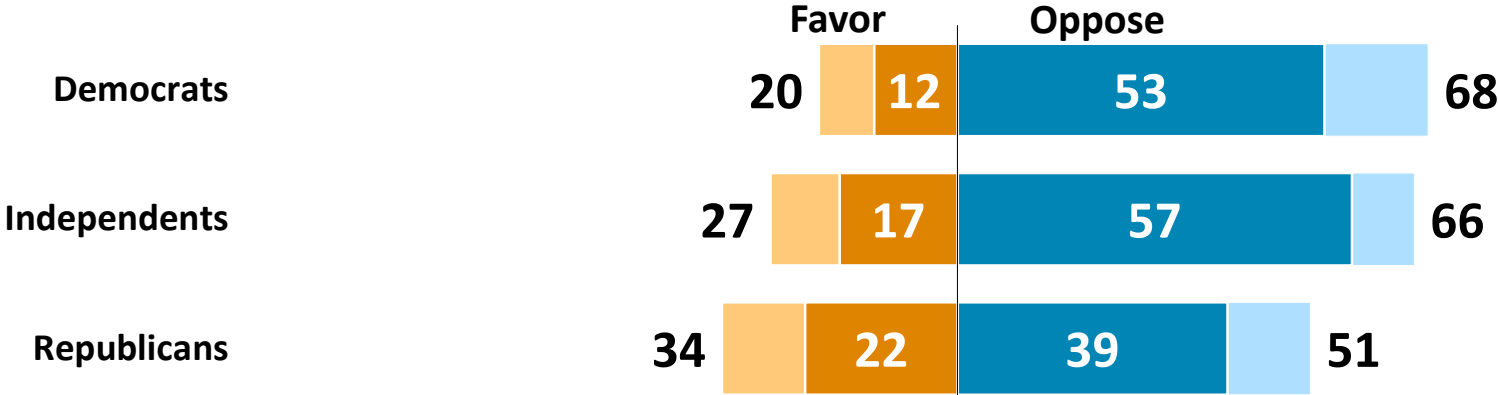


Darker colors indicate intensity

Voters across party lines oppose cutting benefits, and overwhelmingly favor allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices.

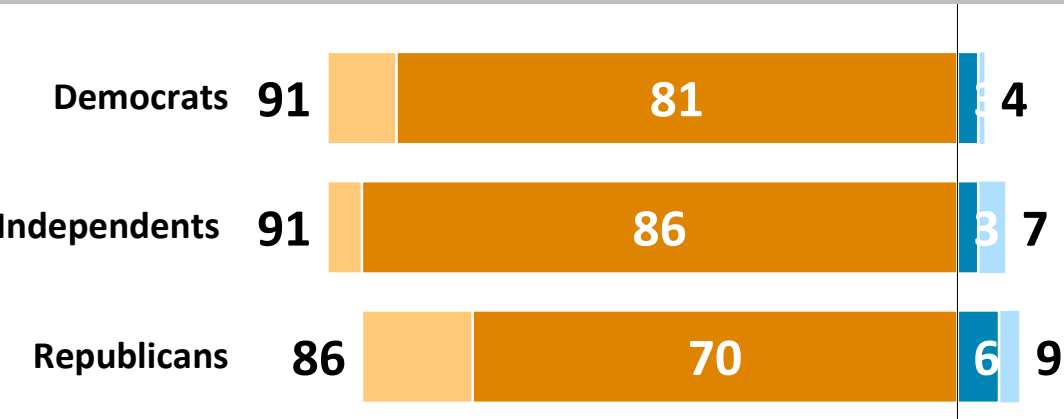
CHANGES PEOPLE ARE PROPOSING TO SOCIAL SECURITY

Cutting benefits for people under the age of 55



CHANGES PEOPLE ARE PROPOSING TO SOCIAL SECURITY:

Allowing Medicare to negotiate with drug companies to bring down the cost of prescription drugs



Darker colors indicate intensity





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