HART RESEARCH

How Energy Costs Shaped the 2026 Midterm Results

Key findings from an online survey of 1,778 voters across 62 districts rated by *Cook Political Report* as Lean D, Toss Up, Lean R, or Likely R

Interviews conducted October 26-November 6, 2026

Credibility interval = ±2.6 percentage points

CLIMATE POWER

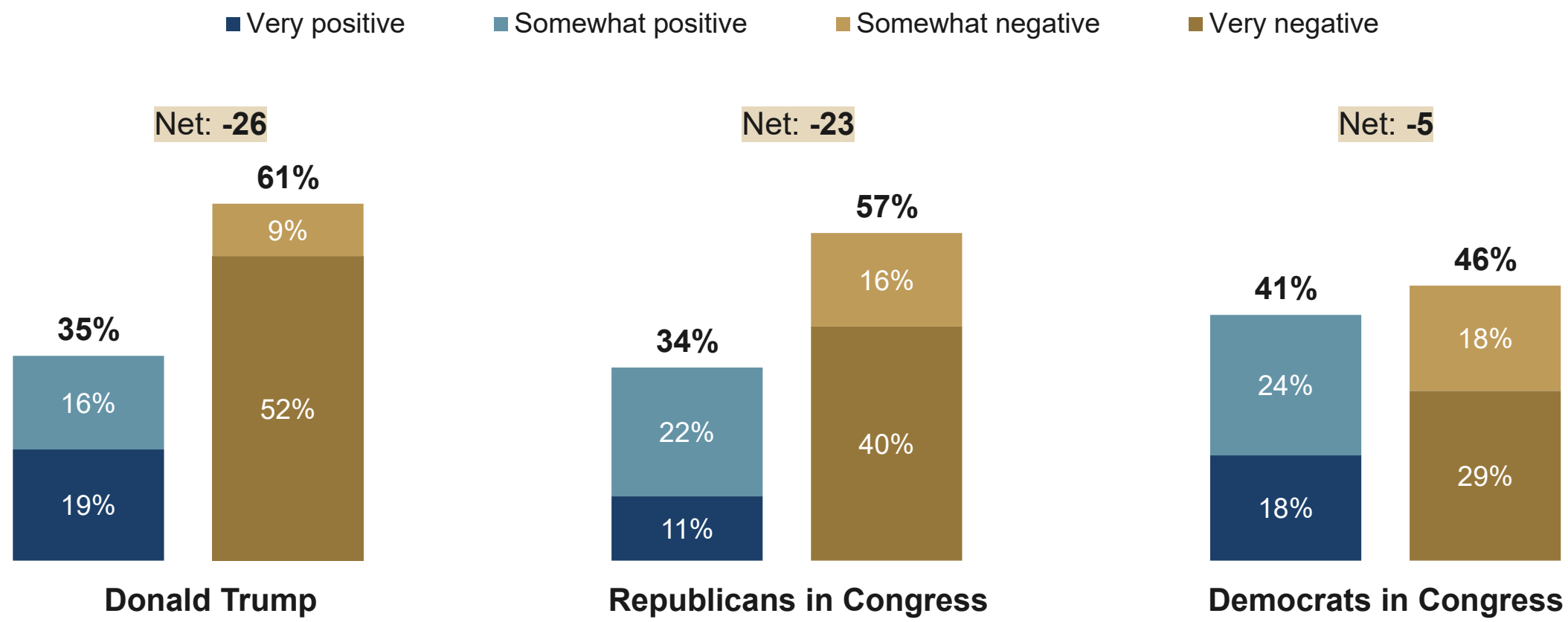
EDF Action

LCV

NRDC ACTION FUND

The election was a rejection of Trump and the GOP. Democrats now have to prove themselves.

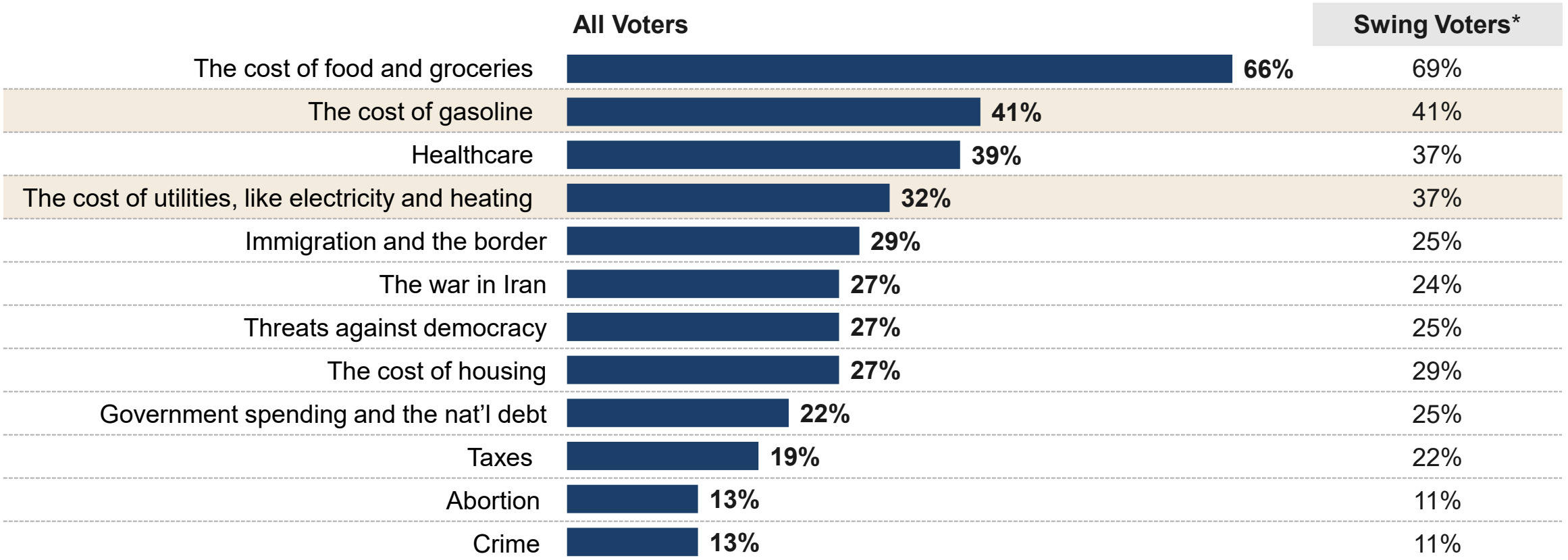
Rate your feelings toward these people and groups.



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This election was all about voters' wallets—including unaffordable energy.

Most important issues to decide congressional vote (3-4 chosen)

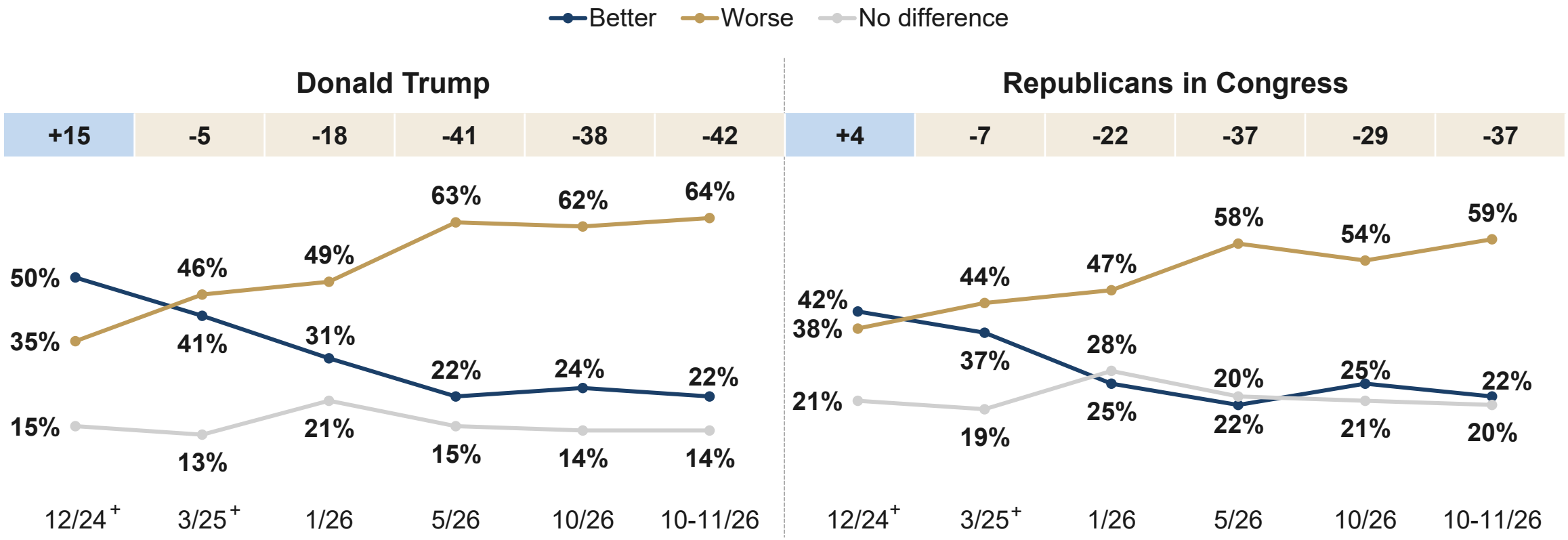


* The 44% of voters who do not identify as strong Democrats, strong Republicans, very liberal, or very conservative

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Voters hold Republicans responsible for high energy bills.

*Is each of the following making things better or worse for consumers when it comes to **energy prices**?*

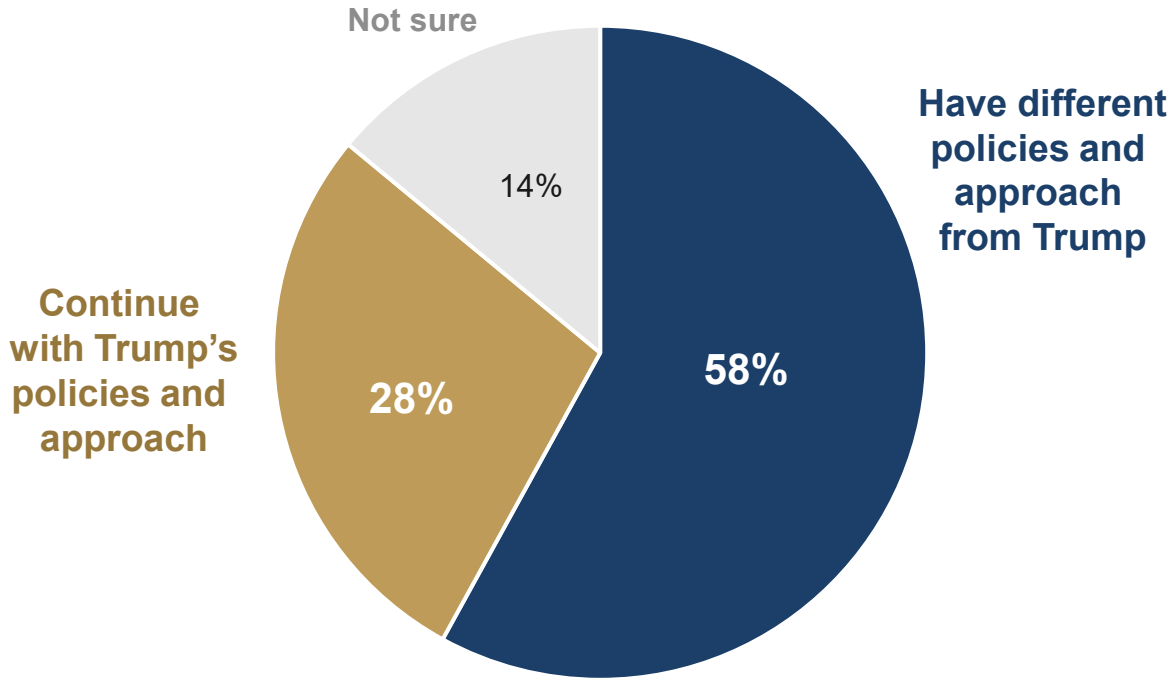


+ *National data for comparison.*

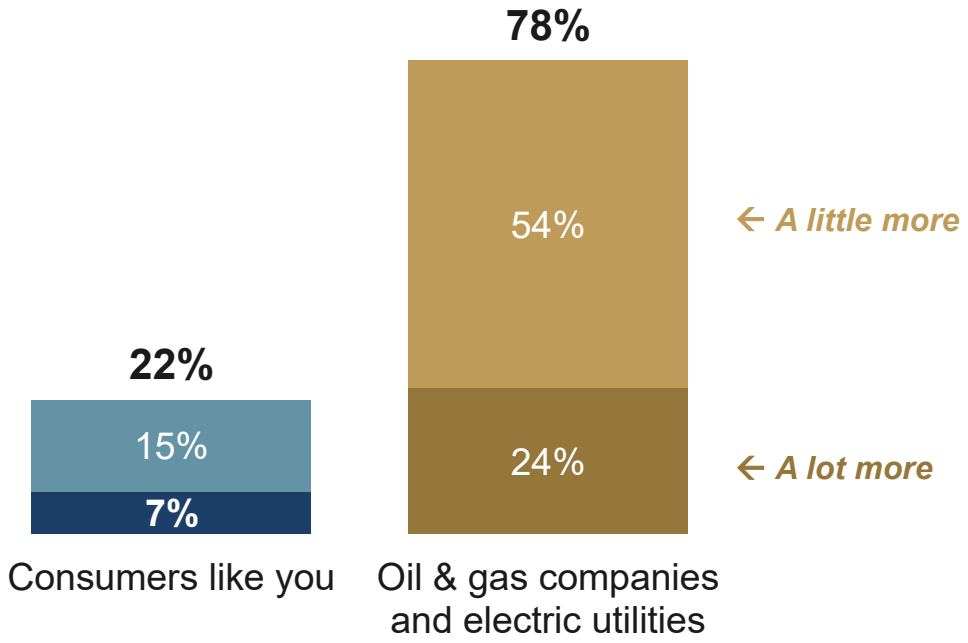
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Voters have rejected and are ready to move past Trump's approach to energy.

When it comes to how we produce, deliver, and manage energy in the United States, would you prefer that we…



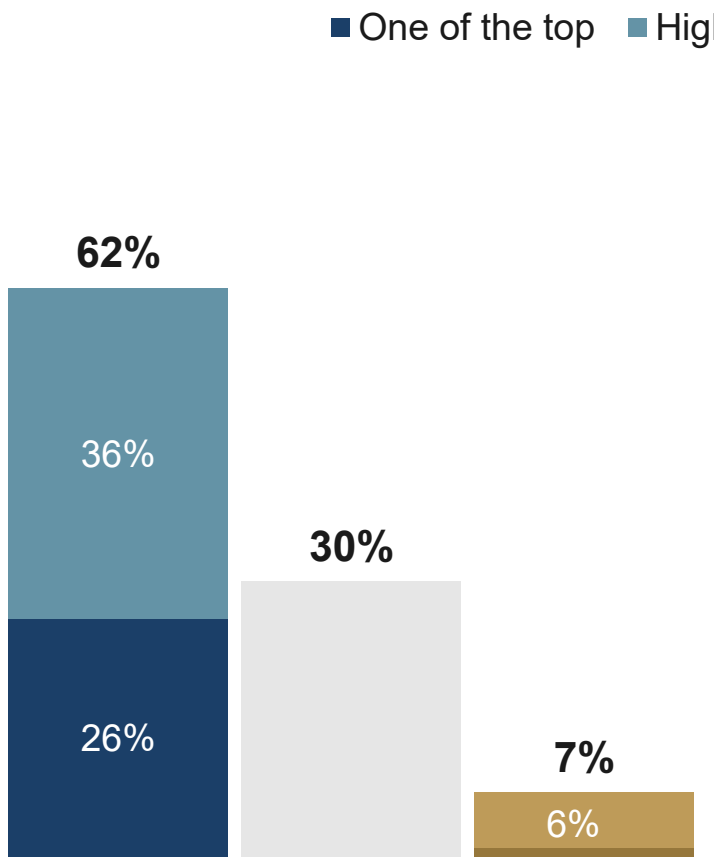
Who do you think has benefitted more from the energy policies that Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress have put into effect over the past couple of years?



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Voters are clear: reining in electricity costs are a crucial part of addressing the affordability crisis.

*Do you think it should or should not be a priority for Congress to **work to bring down electricity prices**?*

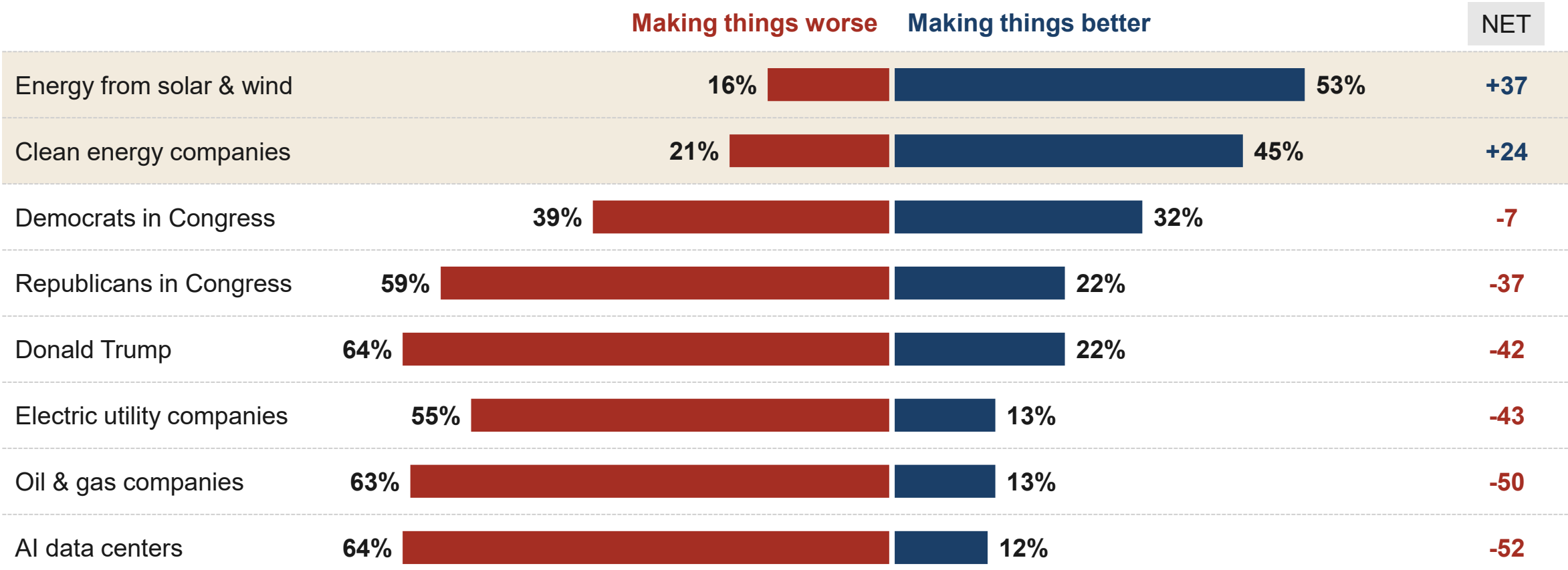


	Top/high priority%
Voted Democrat	69
Voted Republican	53
Red-to-blue districts	59
Independents	58
Black voters	79
Latino voters	68
White non-college	66
18-34	65

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Even in this populist moment, voters trust the clean energy industry to help bring down costs more than they trust Republicans or Democrats.

Are the following making things better or worse for consumers when it comes to energy prices?



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Voters' energy priorities: more affordable and cleaner energy, lowering utility bills and gas prices, and investing in long-term solutions.

If you could change anything about how we produce, deliver, and manage energy in the United States, what changes would you make? ***(OPEN-ENDED QUESTION)***

34% More reliance on/investment in renewable energy, solar, wind

27% Lower the cost of energy, lower utility/gas prices

11% Upgrade/strengthen grids, power lines, transmission, storage

10% Energy solutions that lessen climate change

10% Less reliance on coal, fossil fuels

10% Need to be energy independent, stop relying on foreign sources

9% Increase oil & gas production, open pipelines, more refineries

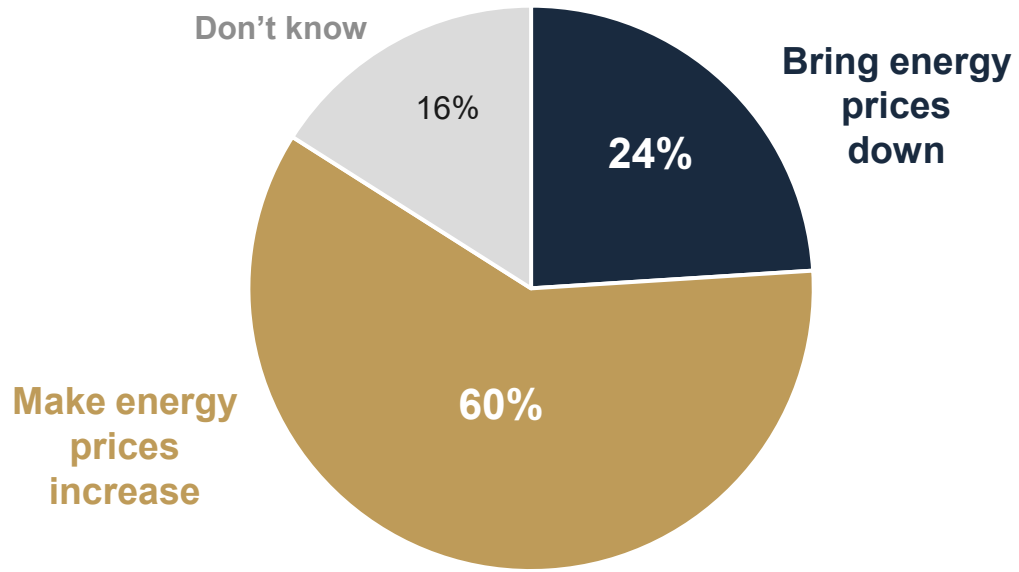
8% Utilize, invest in nuclear/fusion energy

6% Crack down on corporate greed

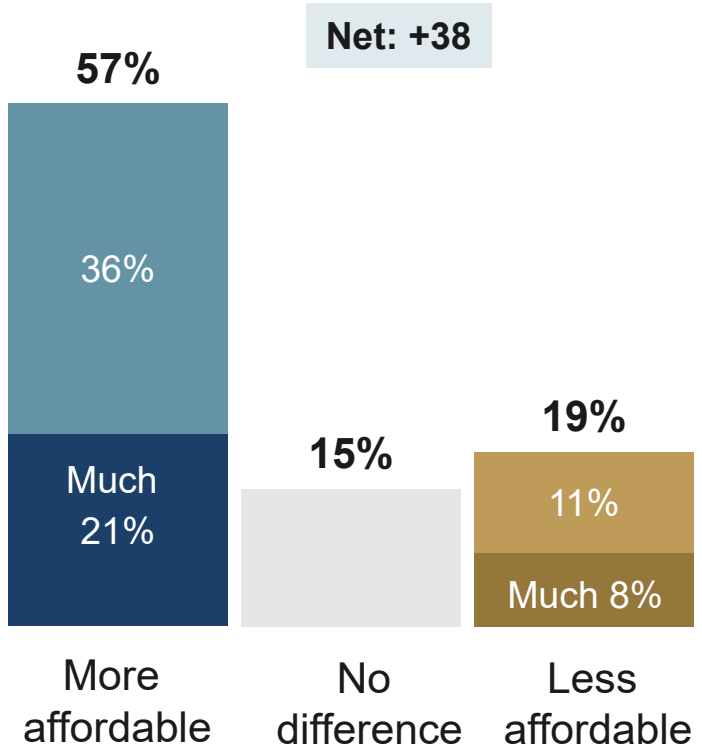
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Voters believe Trump's war on clean energy is driving their costs up.

*Over the past two years, Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress have **cancelled hundreds of projects to produce clean energy** and instead have focused more on expanding production of fossil fuels like oil, coal, and gas.*
Do you think this approach has done more to…



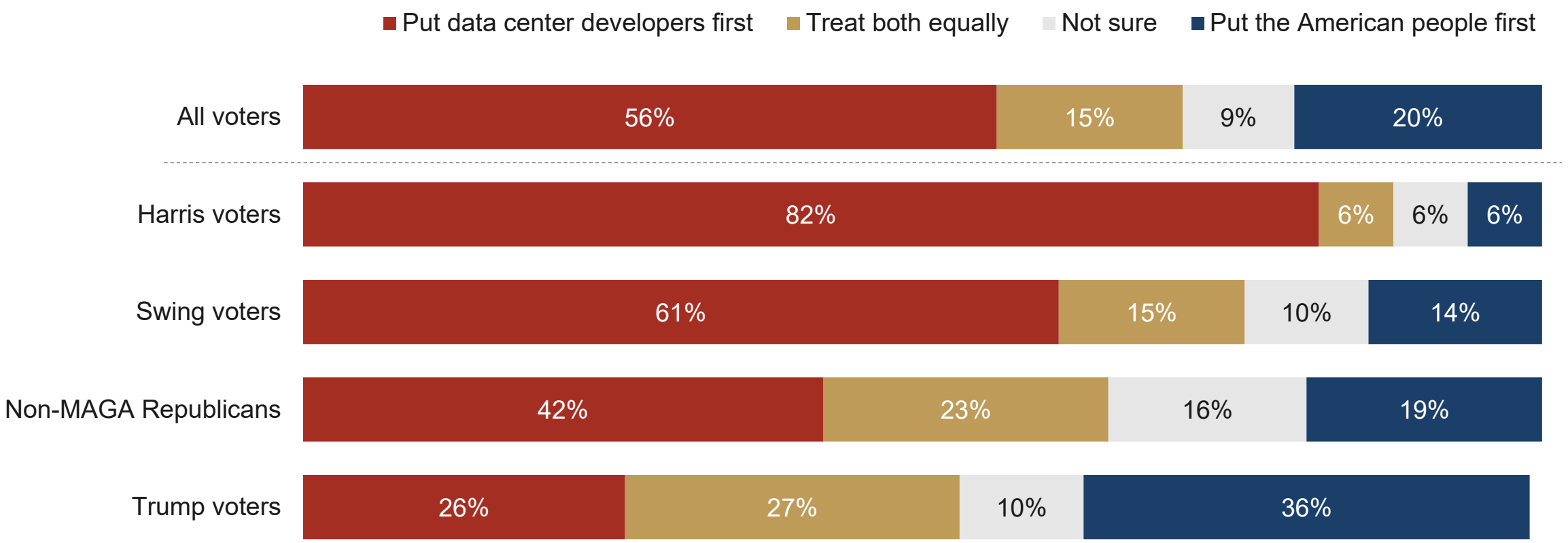
If the United States produces and uses more energy from clean sources like wind and solar, do you think this will make electricity…



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Most say Trump and Republicans put data center developers ahead of the American people.

Do you think the policies of Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress… ?



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Democrats have a chance to show they're ready to deliver big on energy affordability.

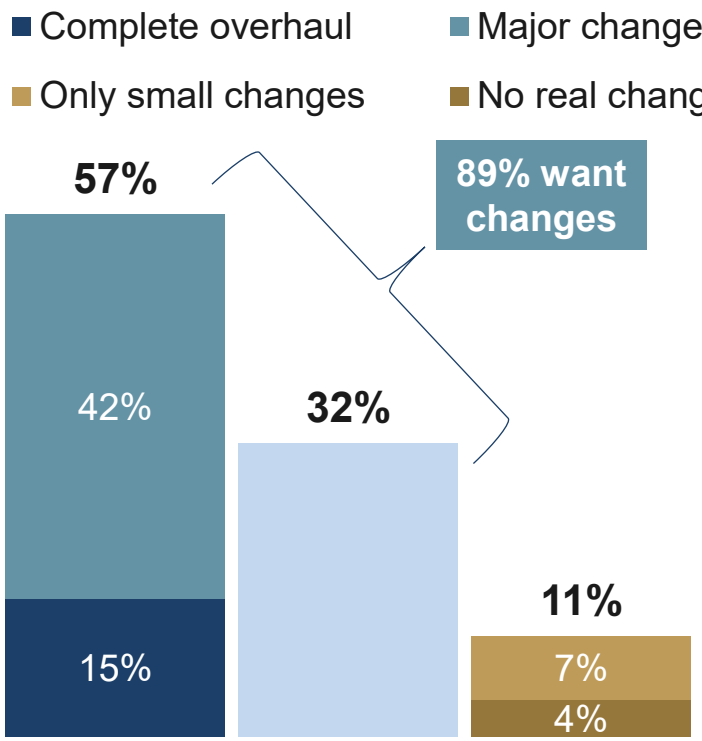
69% to 29%

The most energy-bill-stressed voters (who say their electricity bills have increased *and* who expect them to increase more) voted Democratic by 40 points.

Only 32%

of voters overall say Democrats in Congress are making things better for consumers when it comes to energy prices.

Do you think that how we produce, deliver, and manage energy in the United States needs…



	Overhaul/ major changes %
Voted Democrat	68
Voted Republican	44
Red-to-blue districts	57

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Voters now trust Democrats to fix the U.S. energy system; Democrats have to show they're taking it seriously.

Who do you trust more to do each of the following?



	Jan 2026		DEM Adv.	Oct-Nov 2026		DEM Adv.
Lower monthly utility bills	30%	26%	-4	24%	43%	+20
Prioritize the interests of consumers over corporate profits	*Not asked previously*		*NA*	23%	45%	+22
Regulate AI data centers *(October 5-8, 2026)*	26%	34%	+9	22%	43%	+21
Lower the cost of gasoline and diesel *(May 2026)*	30%	35%	+5	26%	45%	+19
Upgrade and improve the reliability of the electric grid	35%	30%	-5	26%	42%	+16
Have a long-term plan to meet the country's energy needs	38%	27%	-11	29%	39%	+10
Make the United States energy-independent	43%	29%	-14	31%	39%	+7

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Takeaways: Voters Rejected Trump's Energy Approach, Support More Clean Energy as Key Solution to Energy Affordability Crisis

1. **The election was a rejection of Trump and the GOP.** Democrats now have to prove themselves by fighting for real solutions.

2. **Voters hold Republicans responsible for high energy bills.** They have strongly rejected and are ready to move past Trump's approach to energy.

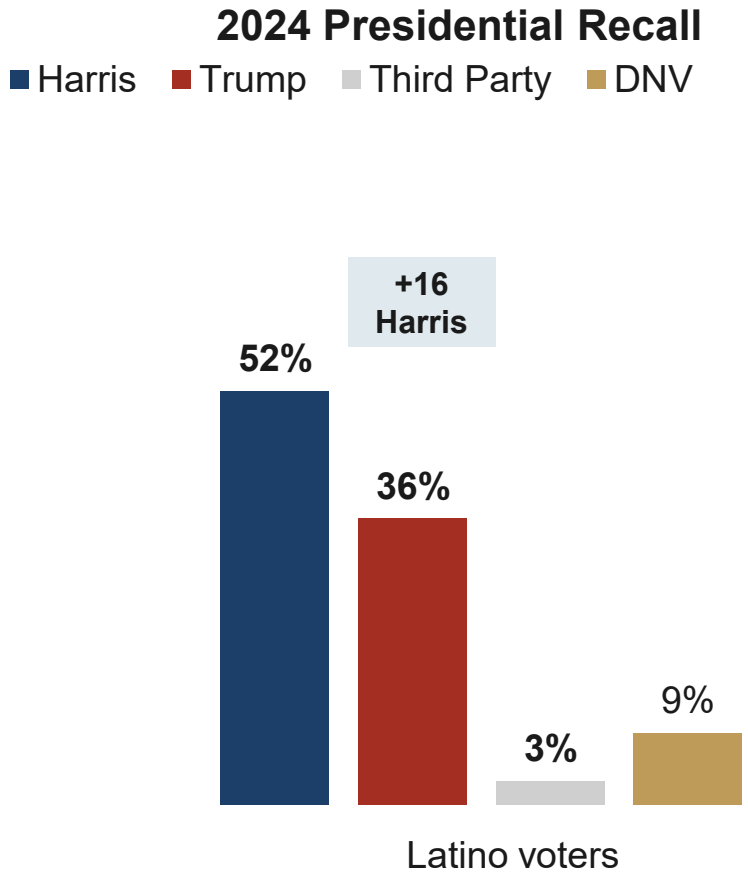
3. **Voters are clear:** reining in electricity costs is a crucial part of addressing the affordability crisis.

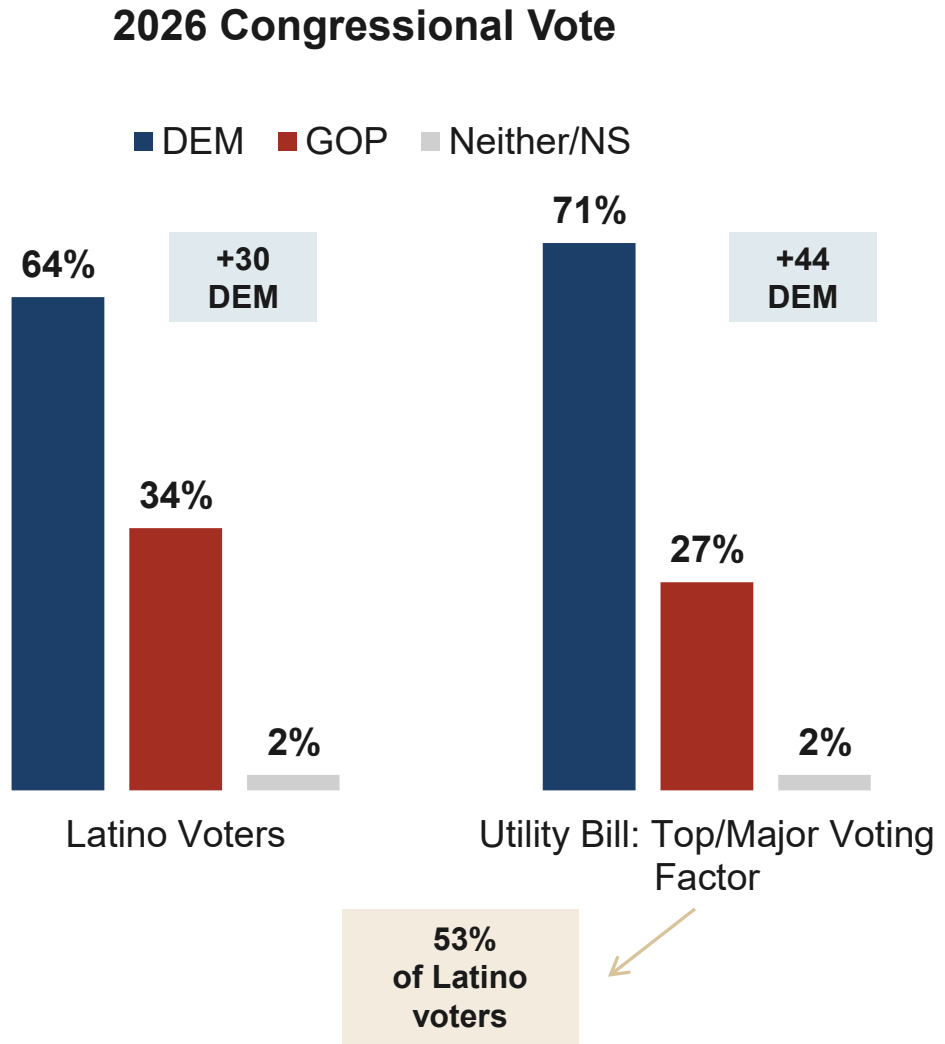
4. **A key part of the change voters are looking for is access to more affordable, clean energy.** In this populist moment, voters trust renewable energy to help bring down their costs more than either Democrats or Republicans.

5. **Democrats have a chance to show they're serious about energy affordability** and ready to fight for the American people.

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Affordability, including concerns about utility prices, played a pivotal role in Democrats' historic margins among Latino voters across the 2026 congressional battlefield.





Latino voters see clean energy as a key part of the solution to rising utility costs.

The rise of utility costs is ubiquitous

80%

say their household's utility costs like electricity and heating have gone up in the past year.

Bringing down electricity prices is a priority

68%

say working to bring down electricity prices should be one of the top/a high priority for Congress.

Clean energy is essential to dealing with the affordability crisis

64%

say the US producing and using more energy from clean sources will make electricity more affordable.

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