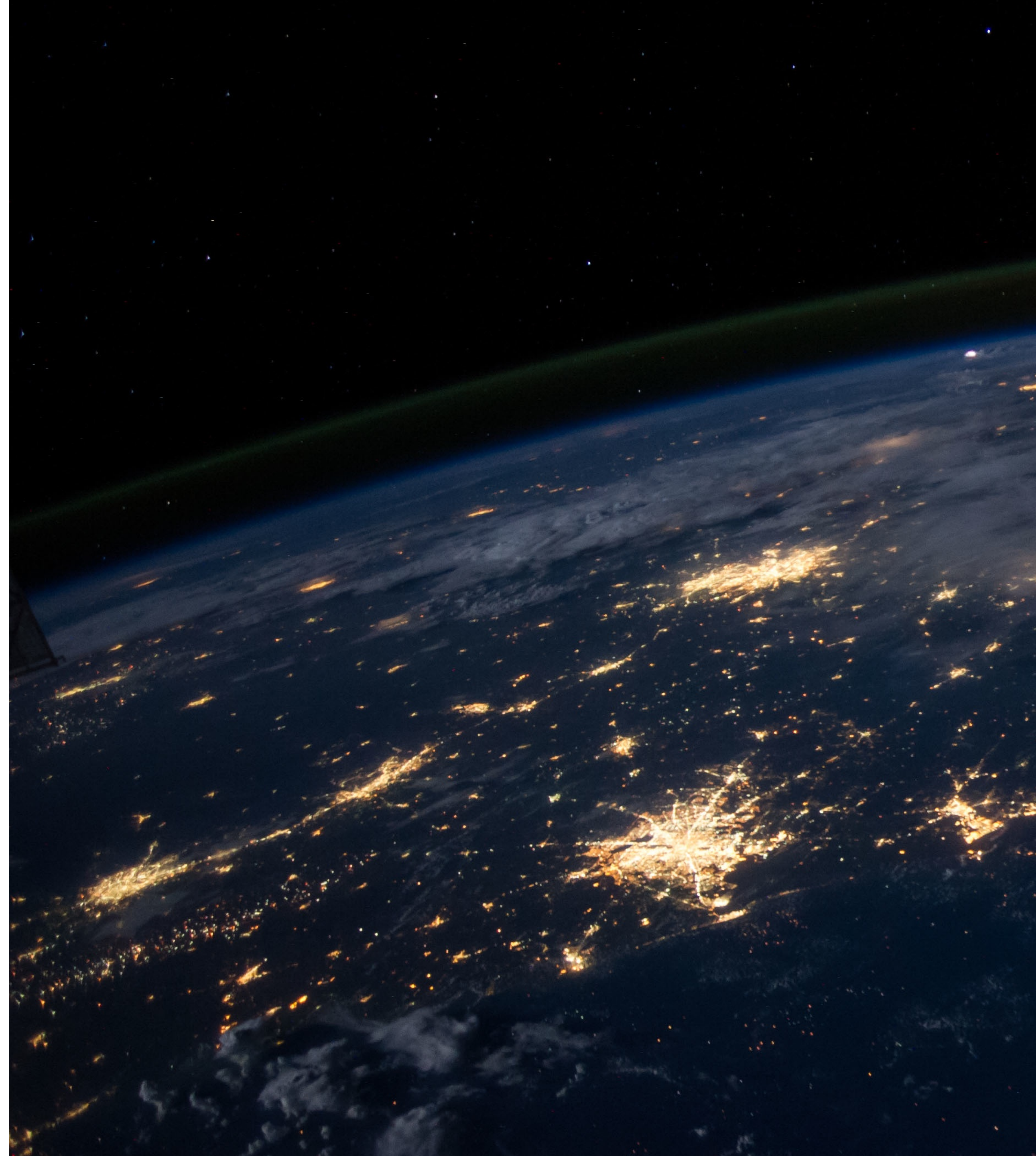# Big Tech and the 2020 Policy Debate

National Survey
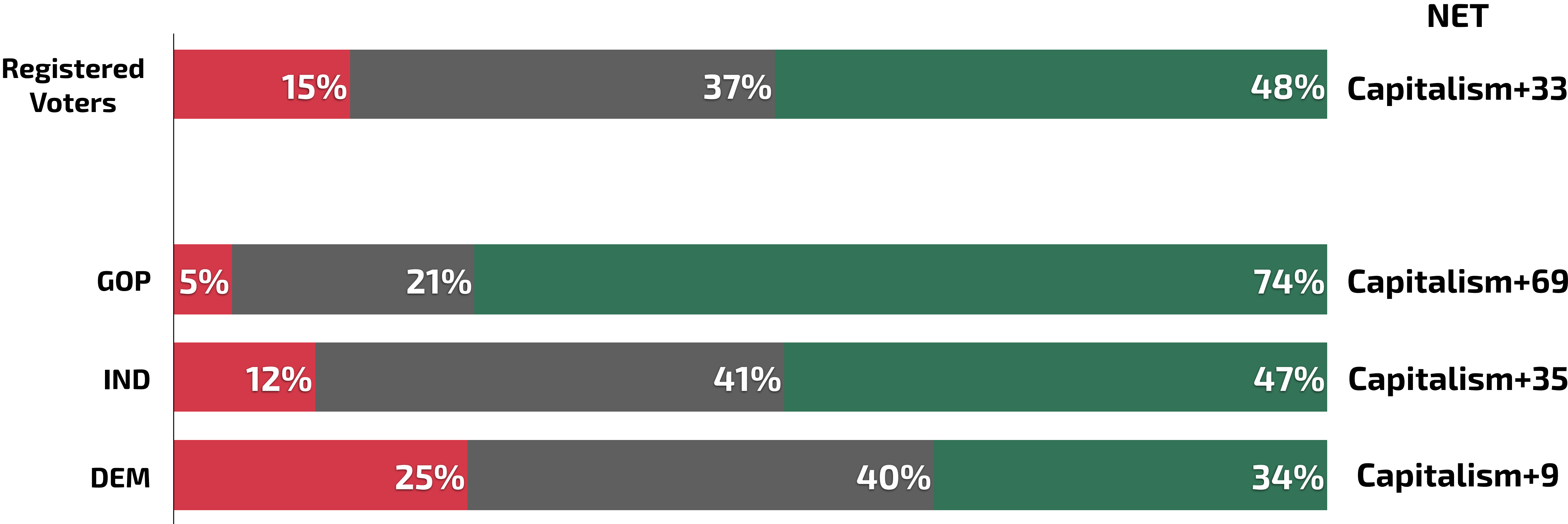N=1,006 National Registered Voters
June 22 – June 25, 2019

Key Findings

- In a head-to-head question testing what voters consider the better economic system, **capitalism leads socialism 48 to 15%.**

- We also tested three 2020 policy ideas surrounding the tech world:

  - **Andrew Yang's proposal for a universal basic income** — a response to automation — splits voters, with 40% supporting and 43% opposed, winning Democrats 53-26%.

  - **Elizabeth Warren's proposal to break up big tech companies** is underwater 31-46%, and evenly divides Democrats 38-40%.

  - **Sen. Josh Hawley's proposal to regulate social media algorithms for political bias** — a concern amplified by President Trump's campaign — is favored 48-21%, with similar margins among Republicans, Democrats, and Independents.

    - Voters may not favor the Warren proposal to break up tech companies, **but they have significant concerns about bias by social media platforms.** 59% consider it to be a problem, with 34% saying it's a major problem, compared to 23% who say it's not a problem.

Capitalism Leads Socialism 48-15 in a Head-to-Head

Q. Which of the following is the better economic system?

🟥 **Socialism**   ⬛ **Unsure**   🟩 **Capitalism**

NET

	Socialism	Unsure	Capitalism	NET
Registered Voters	15%	37%	48%	Capitalism+33
GOP	5%	21%	74%	Capitalism+69
IND	12%	41%	47%	Capitalism+35
DEM	25%	40%	34%	Capitalism+9

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Large Age Gaps on Socialism

Q. Which of the following is the better economic system?

	Socialism	Unsure	Capitalism

NET

	Socialism	Unsure	Capitalism	NET
Registered Voters	15%	37%	48%	Capitalism+33
18-29	27%	46%	26%	Socialism+1
30-39	24%	48%	28%	Capitalism+4
40-49	10%	44%	46%	Capitalism+36
50-64	13%	35%	52%	Capitalism+39
65+	8%	21%	71%	Capitalism+63

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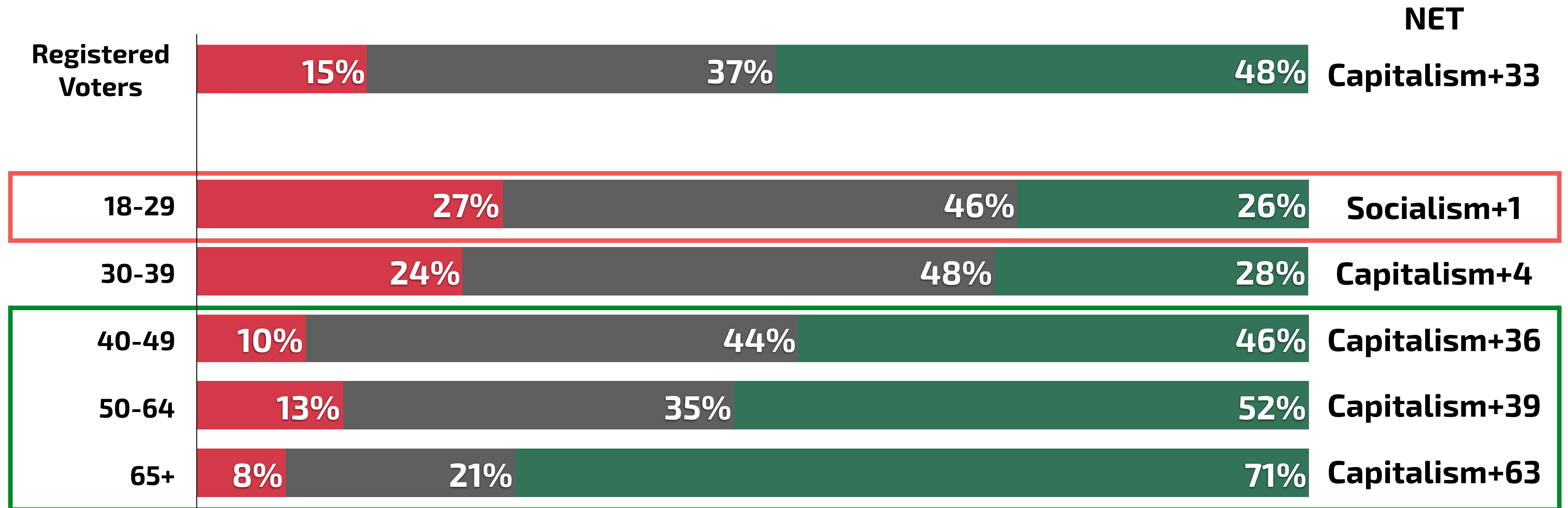
40-43% Split on Andrew Yang's Universal Basic Income Proposal

Q. A proposal has recently been made for a Universal Basic Income, a government payment of $1,000 per month to every American adult. This payment would be made regardless of one's work status or any other factor. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Strongly/ Somewhat Favor	Strongly/ Somewhat Oppose	NET
Registered Voters — 23% / 17% / 18% / 13% / 30%	40%	43%	**-3%**
GOP — 12% / 10% / 10% / 12% / 55%	22%	67%	**-45%**
IND — 22% / 18% / 16% / 12% / 32%	40%	44%	**-4%**
DEM — 32% / 21% / 21% / 15% / 11%	53%	26%	**+27%**

Legend: ■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Unsure ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose

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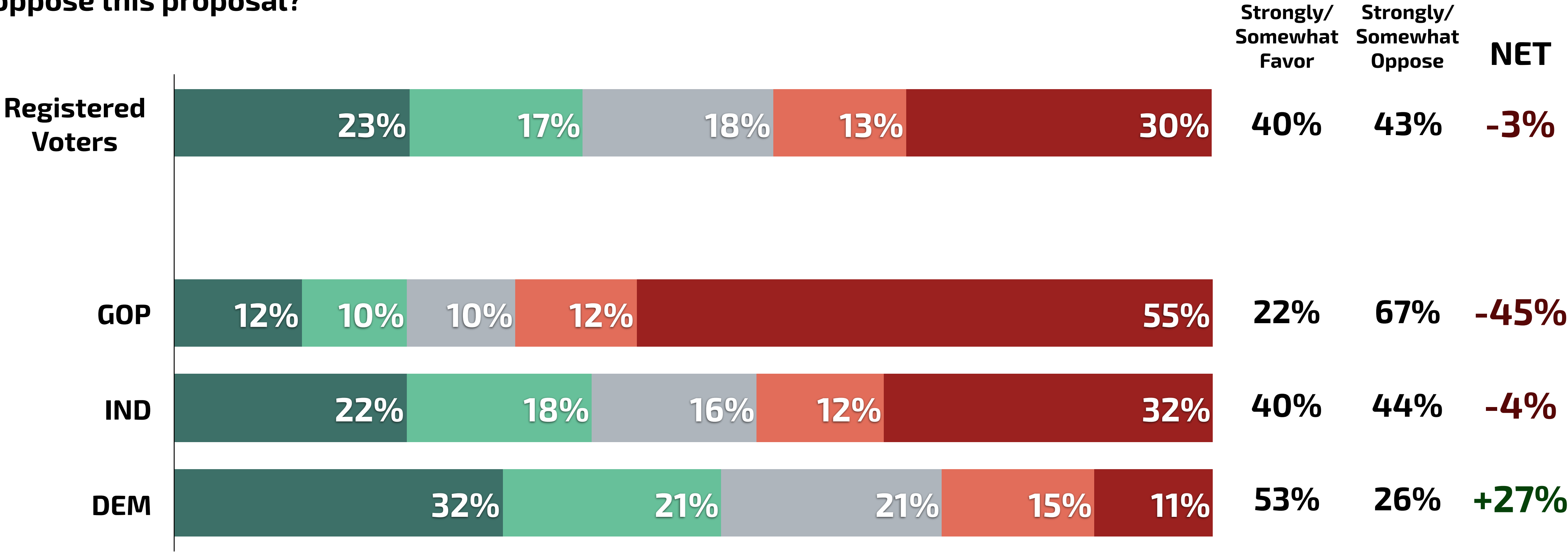
Yang's UBI Proposal Divides Voters by Age...

Q. A proposal has recently been made for a Universal Basic Income, a government payment of $1,000 per month to every American adult. This payment would be made regardless of one's work status or any other factor. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Strongly/Somewhat Favor	Strongly/Somewhat Oppose	NET
Registered Voters — 23% / 17% / 18% / 13% / 30%	40%	43%	**-3%**
18-29 — 37% / 20% / 14% / 16% / 12%	57%	28%	**+29%**
30-39 — 38% / 15% / 21% / 12% / 14%	53%	26%	**+27%**
40-49 — 23% / 21% / 24% / 13% / 20%	44%	33%	**+11%**
50-64 — 18% / 18% / 21% / 9% / 33%	36%	42%	**-6%**
65+ — 8% / 11% / 12% / 15% / 53%	19%	68%	**-49%**

Legend: ■ Strongly favor   ■ Somewhat favor   ■ Unsure   ■ Somewhat oppose   ■ Strongly oppose
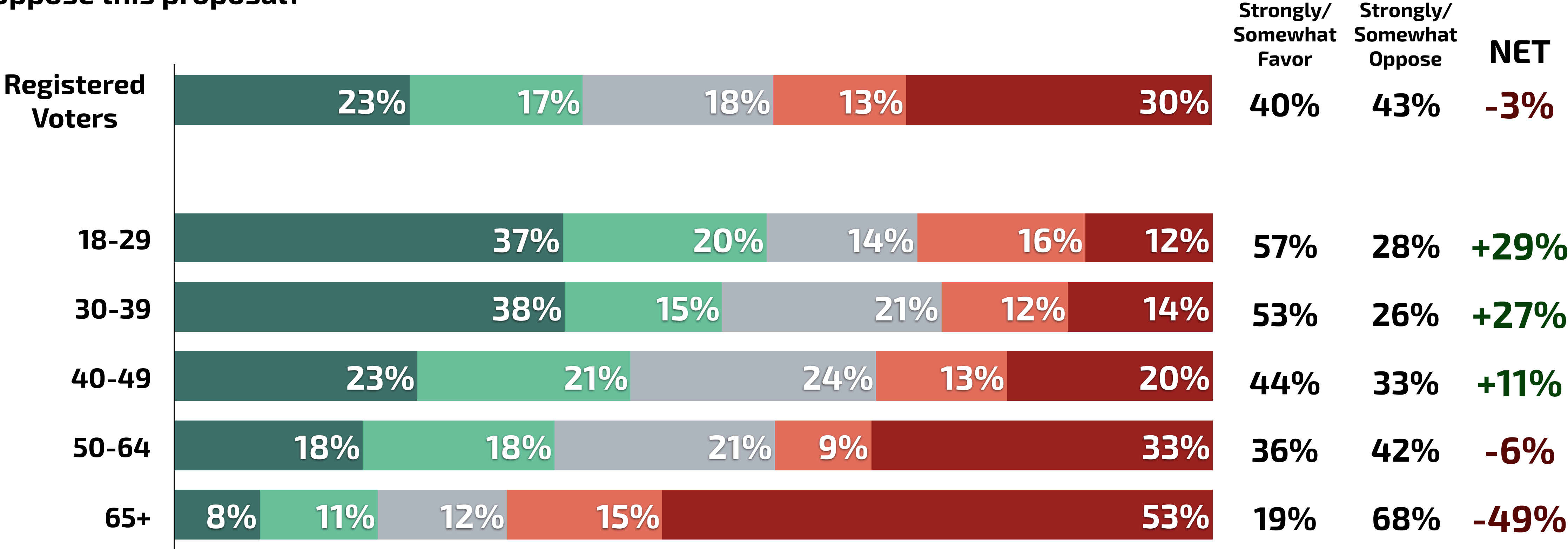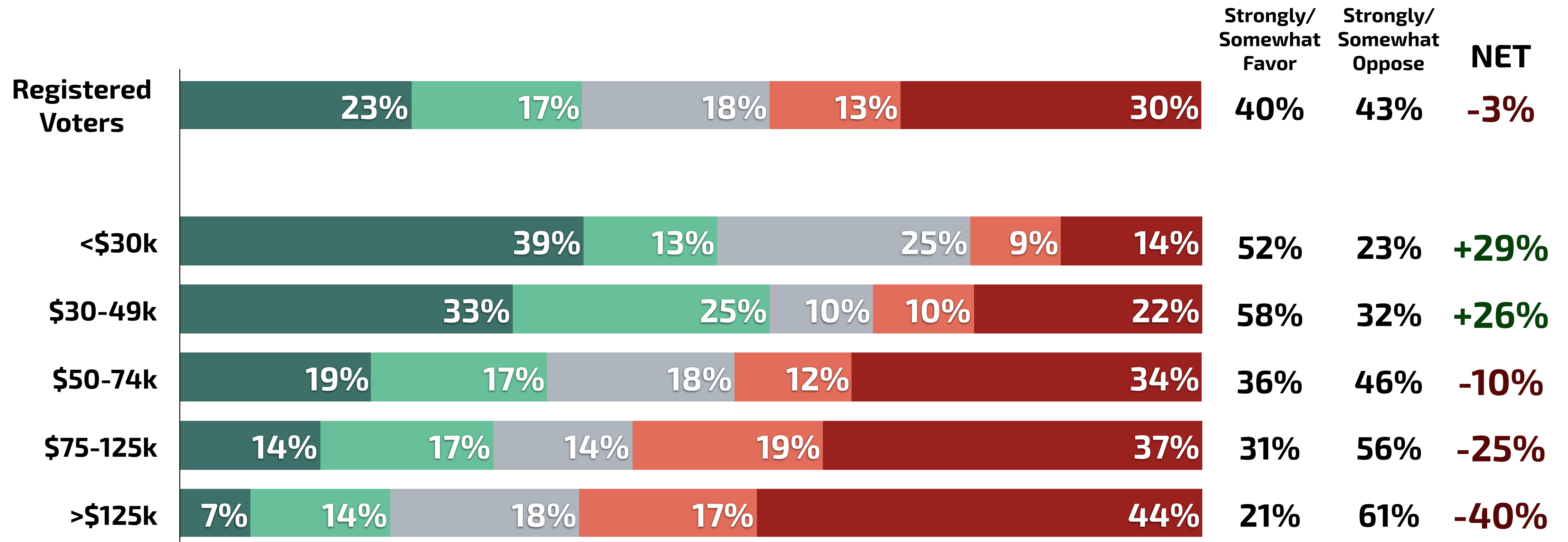
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...and by Income Level

Q. A proposal has recently been made for a Universal Basic Income, a government payment of $1,000 per month to every American adult. This payment would be made regardless of one's work status or any other factor. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Unsure	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Strongly/ Somewhat Favor	Strongly/ Somewhat Oppose	NET
Registered Voters	23%	17%	18%	13%	30%	40%	43%	**-3%**
<$30k	39%	13%	25%	9%	14%	52%	23%	**+29%**
$30-49k	33%	25%	10%	10%	22%	58%	32%	**+26%**
$50-74k	19%	17%	18%	12%	34%	36%	46%	**-10%**
$75-125k	14%	17%	14%	19%	37%	31%	56%	**-25%**
>$125k	7%	14%	18%	17%	44%	21%	61%	**-40%**

Legend: ■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Unsure ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose

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Little Support for Warren's Proposal to Break Up Big Tech, with a Plurality of Democrats Opposed

Q. There has recently been some discussion of the idea of breaking up large technology companies like Facebook, Google, and Amazon. Do you favor or oppose this idea?

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Unsure	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Strongly/ Somewhat Favor	Strongly/ Somewhat Oppose	NET
Registered Voters	10%	21%	23%	23%	23%	31%	46%	-15%
GOP	5%	17%	20%	30%	28%	22%	58%	-36%
IND	12%	22%	23%	20%	23%	34%	43%	-9%
DEM	14%	24%	23%	21%	19%	38%	40%	-2%

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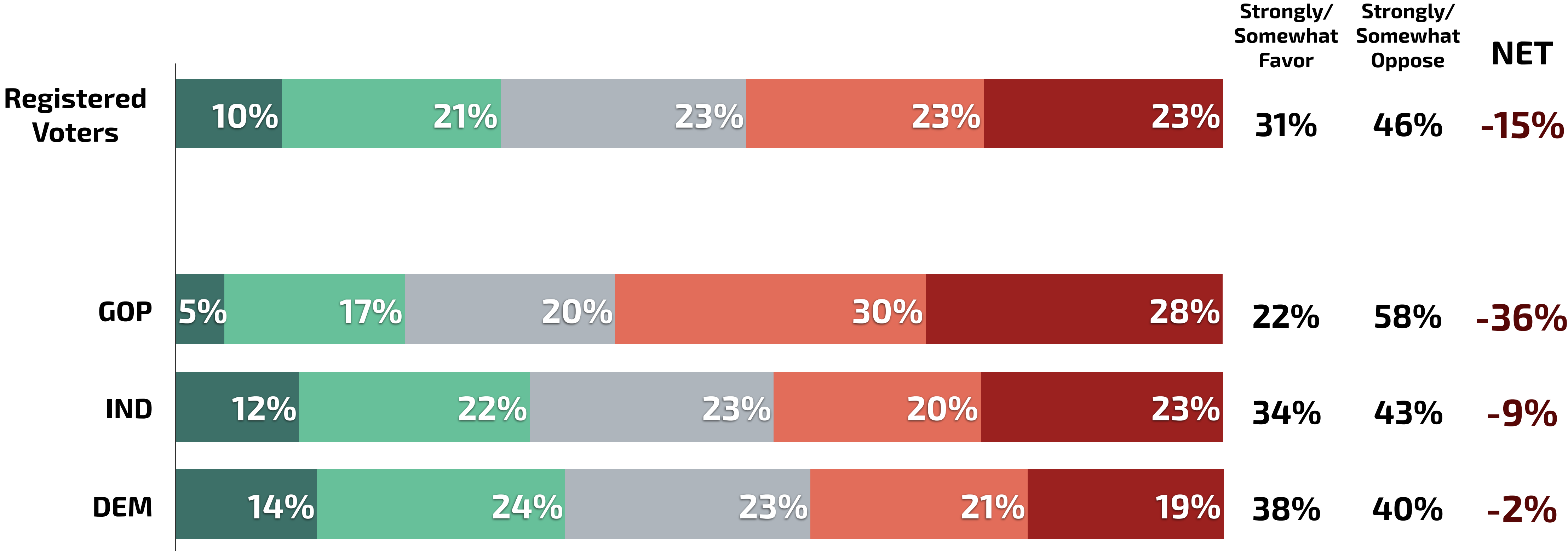
Political Bias & Social Media

Most Think Social Media Bias is a Problem

Q. There has recently been some discussion of the idea that websites like Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter are politically biased and are suppressing views they disagree with. Do you consider this a problem?

	Yes, it's a major problem	Yes, it's a minor problem	Unsure	No, it's not a problem	Total Who Consider This a Problem
Registered Voters	34%	25%	19%	23%	**59%**
GOP	43%	25%	13%	19%	**68%**
IND	35%	26%	16%	23%	**61%**
DEM	27%	26%	22%	25%	**53%**

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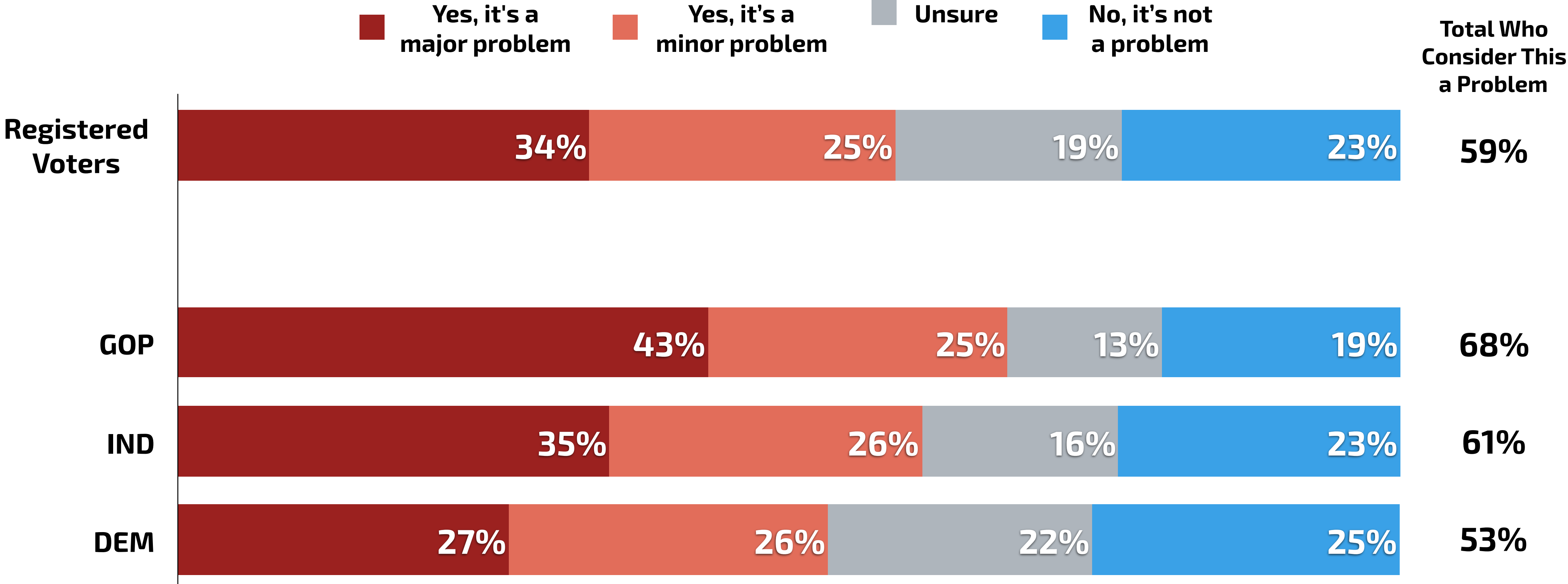
And Those Who Share Political Content Are More Likely to Think It's a Problem

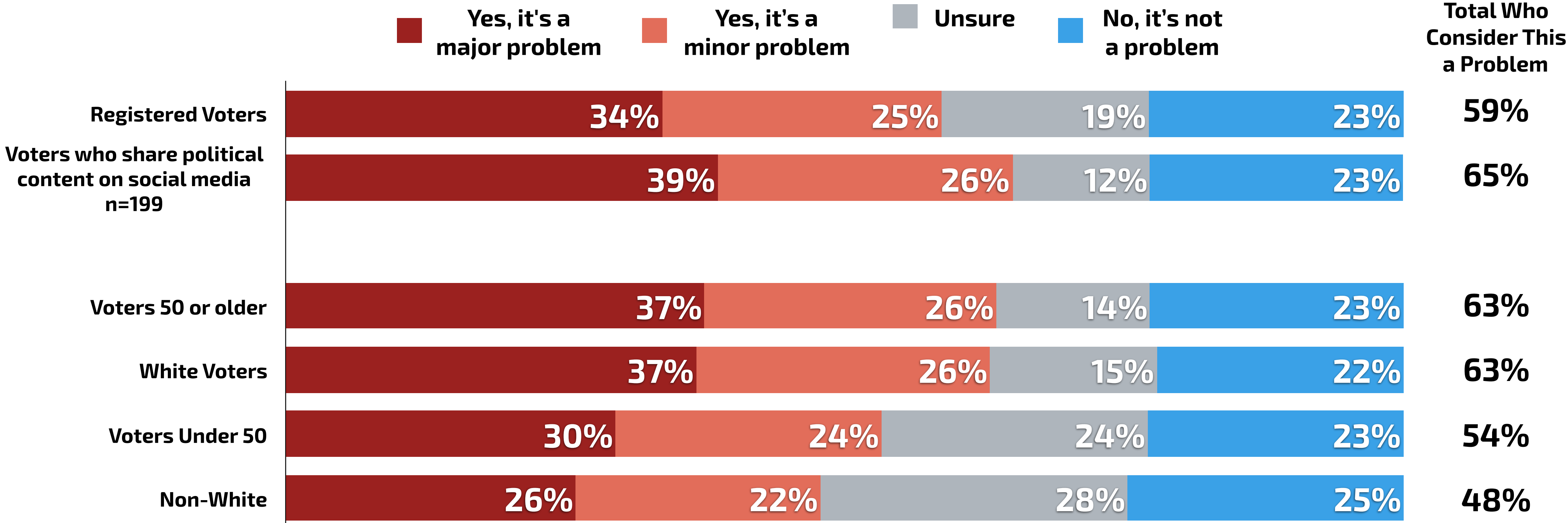**Q. There has recently been some discussion of the idea that websites like Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter are politically biased and are suppressing views they disagree with. Do you consider this a problem?**

	Yes, it's a major problem	Yes, it's a minor problem	Unsure	No, it's not a problem	Total Who Consider This a Problem
Registered Voters	34%	25%	19%	23%	59%
Voters who share political content on social media n=199	39%	26%	12%	23%	65%
Voters 50 or older	37%	26%	14%	23%	63%
White Voters	37%	26%	15%	22%	63%
Voters Under 50	30%	24%	24%	23%	54%
Non-White	26%	22%	28%	25%	48%

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A Plurality Supports Regulation of Tech Companies for Bias

Q. A proposal has recently been made that large technology companies like Facebook and Google prove to the government that their practices for deciding which content appears on their platforms are politically neutral. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Strongly/ Somewhat Favor	Strongly/ Somewhat Oppose	NET
Registered Voters — 20% / 28% / 30% / 14% / 7%	48%	21%	**+27%**
GOP — 23% / 30% / 23% / 16% / 8%	53%	24%	**+29%**
IND — 25% / 28% / 27% / 12% / 9%	53%	21%	**+32%**
DEM — 17% / 29% / 33% / 14% / 6%	46%	20%	**+26%**

Legend: Strongly favor · Somewhat favor · Unsure · Somewhat oppose · Strongly oppose

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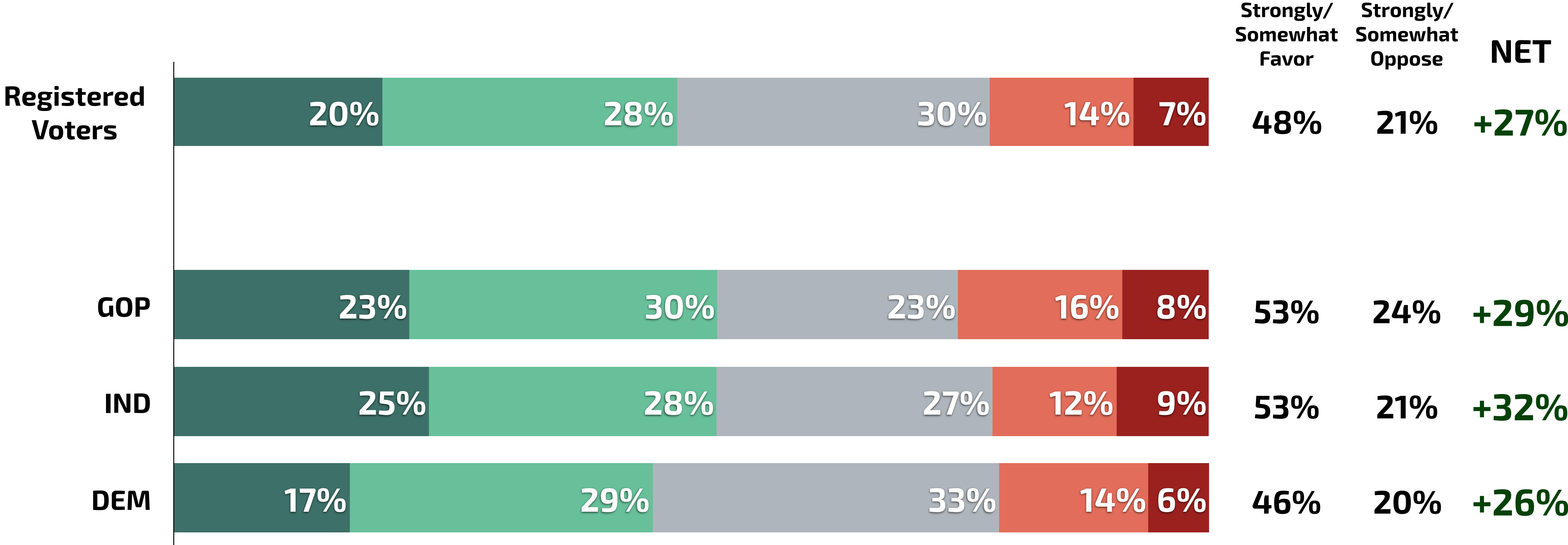
Politically Active & Older Voters Lead the Way in Supporting Tech Company Regulation
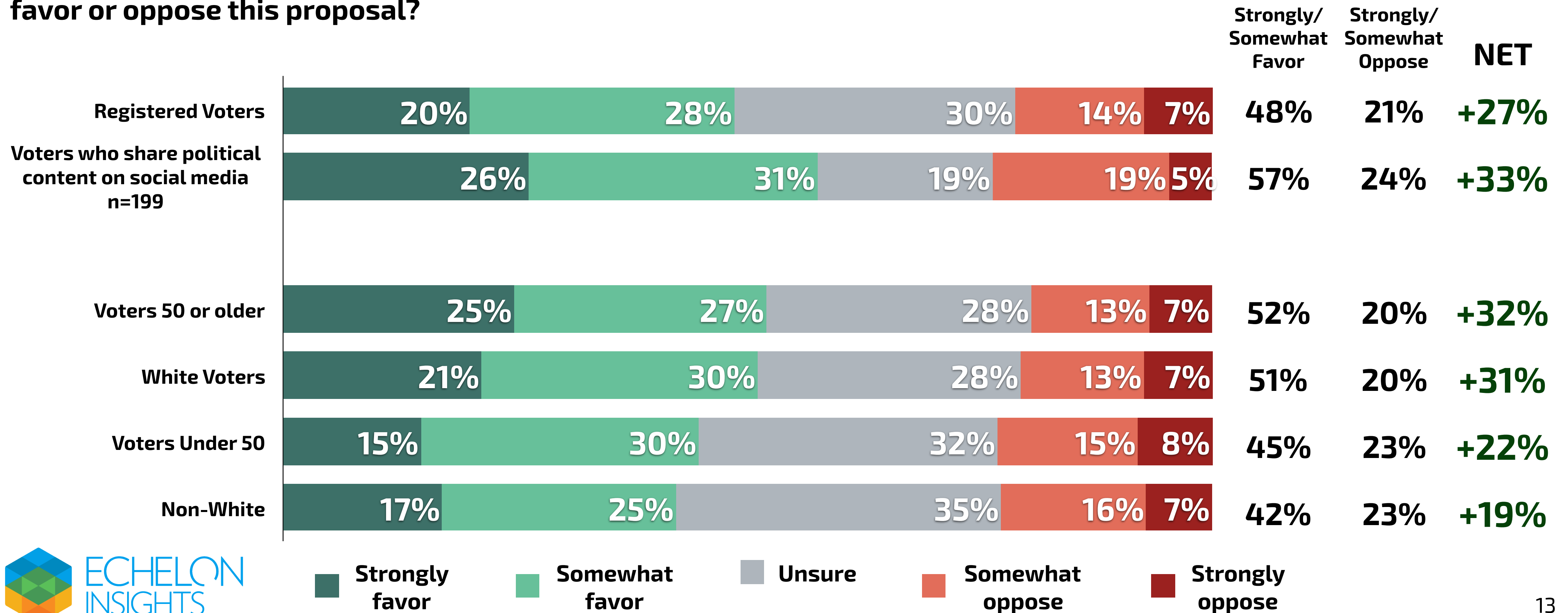
Q. A proposal has recently been made that large technology companies like Facebook and Google prove to the government that their practices for deciding which content appears on their platforms are politically neutral. Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

	Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Unsure	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Strongly/ Somewhat Favor	Strongly/ Somewhat Oppose	NET
Registered Voters	20%	28%	30%	14%	7%	48%	21%	+27%
Voters who share political content on social media n=199	26%	31%	19%	19%	5%	57%	24%	+33%
Voters 50 or older	25%	27%	28%	13%	7%	52%	20%	+32%
White Voters	21%	30%	28%	13%	7%	51%	20%	+31%
Voters Under 50	15%	30%	32%	15%	8%	45%	23%	+22%
Non-White	17%	25%	35%	16%	7%	42%	23%	+19%

Legend: ■ Strongly favor ■ Somewhat favor ■ Unsure ■ Somewhat oppose ■ Strongly oppose

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Social Media Trends

Democrats Are More Likely to Use Social Media for Politics

Q. What type of content do you typically share on social media?

	TOTAL	GOP	IND	DEM
Personal updates or photos	63%	64%	65%	60%
Photos or memes that I find interesting or inspirational	40%	37%	43%	39%
Articles from news websites	21%	15%	20%	27%
Updates about my community or organizations I belong to	16%	16%	12%	17%
Political opinion and commentary	15%	12%	16%	18%
Photos, posts, or videos from political leaders	15%	11%	13%	19%
Professional updates	11%	6%	14%	13%

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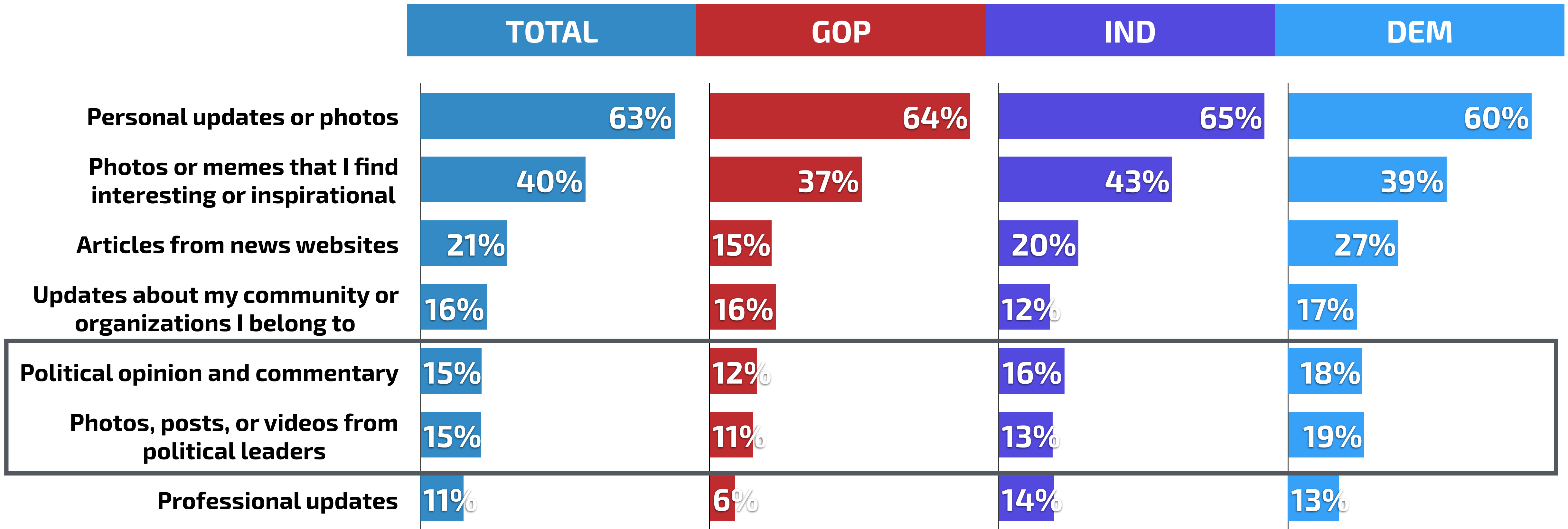
Age is the Primary Driver of Political Social Media Activity

Q. What type of content do you typically share on social media?

	TOTAL	MEN	WOMEN	UNDER 50	50 OR OLDER
Personal updates or photos	63%	57%	67%	65%	60%
Photos or memes that I find interesting or inspirational	40%	29%	50%	46%	35%
Articles from news websites	21%	19%	23%	24%	19%
Updates about my community or organizations I belong to	16%	14%	18%	16%	16%
Political opinion and commentary	15%	16%	14%	14%	16%
Photos, posts, or videos from political leaders	15%	14%	15%	19%	10%
Professional updates	11%	11%	10%	14%	7%

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