

Extending Renewable Energy Tax Incentives

Research Findings Prepared by Global Strategy Group



Methodology

Registered voters

Global Strategy Group conducted a voter file-matched online survey from November 1 to 8, 2019 among **registered voters nationwide (N=800, MOE of +/- 3.5%), in 10 Senate battleground states (Total N=717, MOE of +/- 3.7%), and in 25 Congressional battleground districts (Total N=633, MOE of +/- 3.9%).**

Senate Battleground States

Defend: Michigan, Minnesota

Tier 1: Arizona, Colorado, Maine, North Carolina

Tier 2: Georgia, Iowa, Kansas, Texas

Congressional Battleground Districts

Clinton Won D+6: CA-39, CA-49, CO-06, FL-26, IL-06, IL-10

Clinton Won D+0-6: CA-45, CA-48, NV-04, PA-07

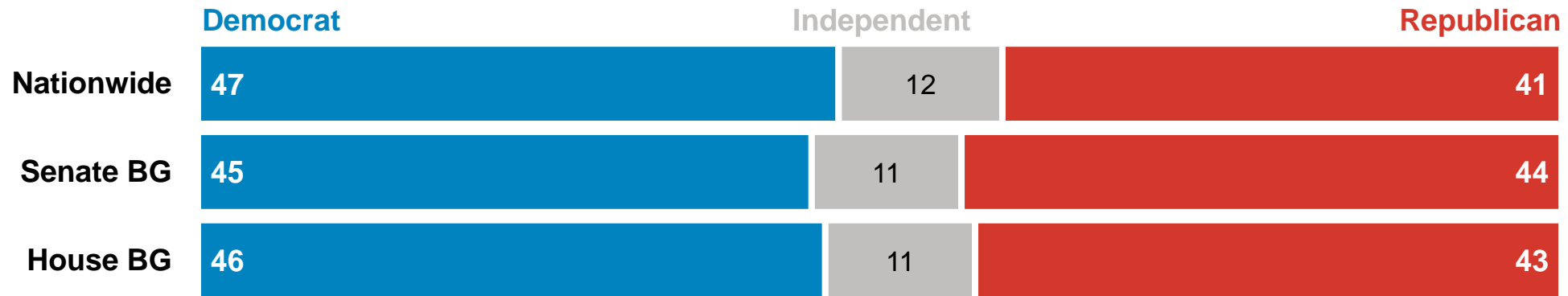
Trump Won R+0-6: IA-03, IL-14, MI-11, NJ-02, NJ-11, NV-03, PA-17, VA-02

Trump Won R+6: ME-02, MI-08, NJ-03, NM-02, NY-11, SC-01, VA-07

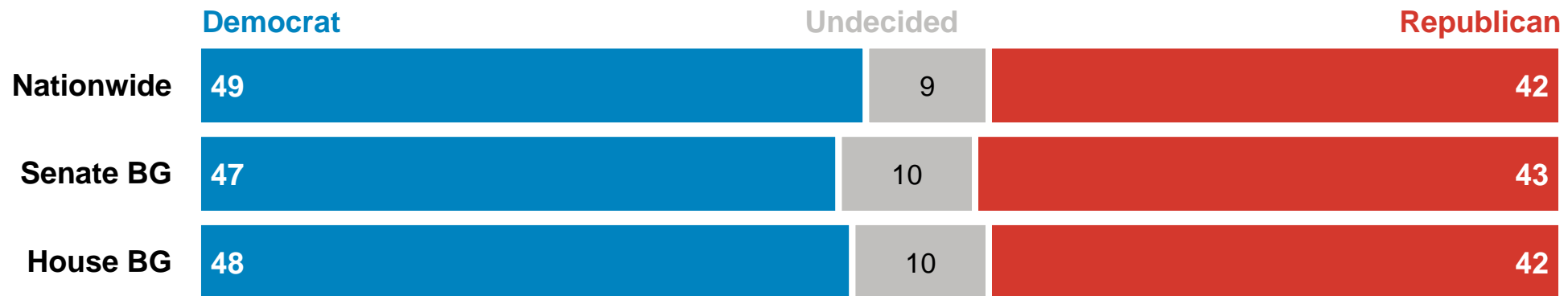
Respondents were selected via online panels or texted a link to complete the survey on their mobile phones. Respondents from both modes were matched back to the voter file. Care has been taken to ensure the political, geographical, and demographic divisions are properly represented.

Democrats nationwide and in battleground regions have an advantage heading into 2020.

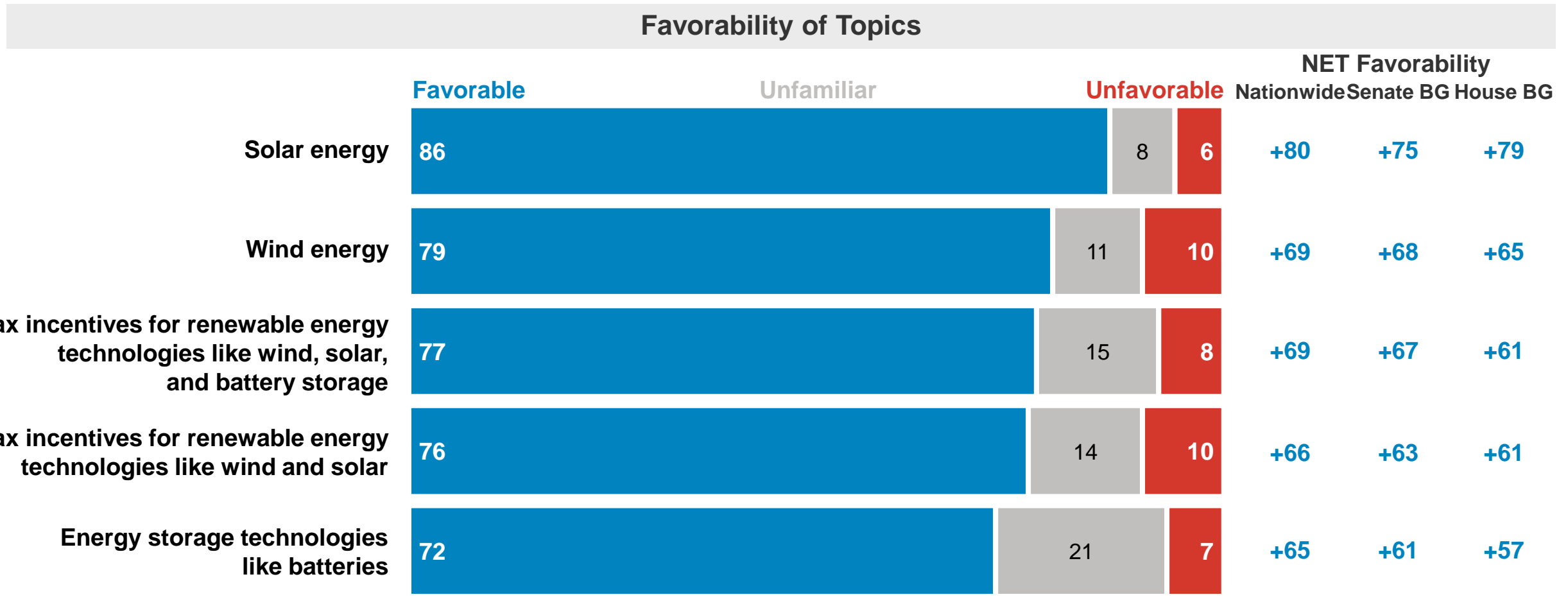
Party Self-Identification



Generic Ballot for Congress



Voters across the country like renewable energy and tax incentives that support it. Solar is especially popular.

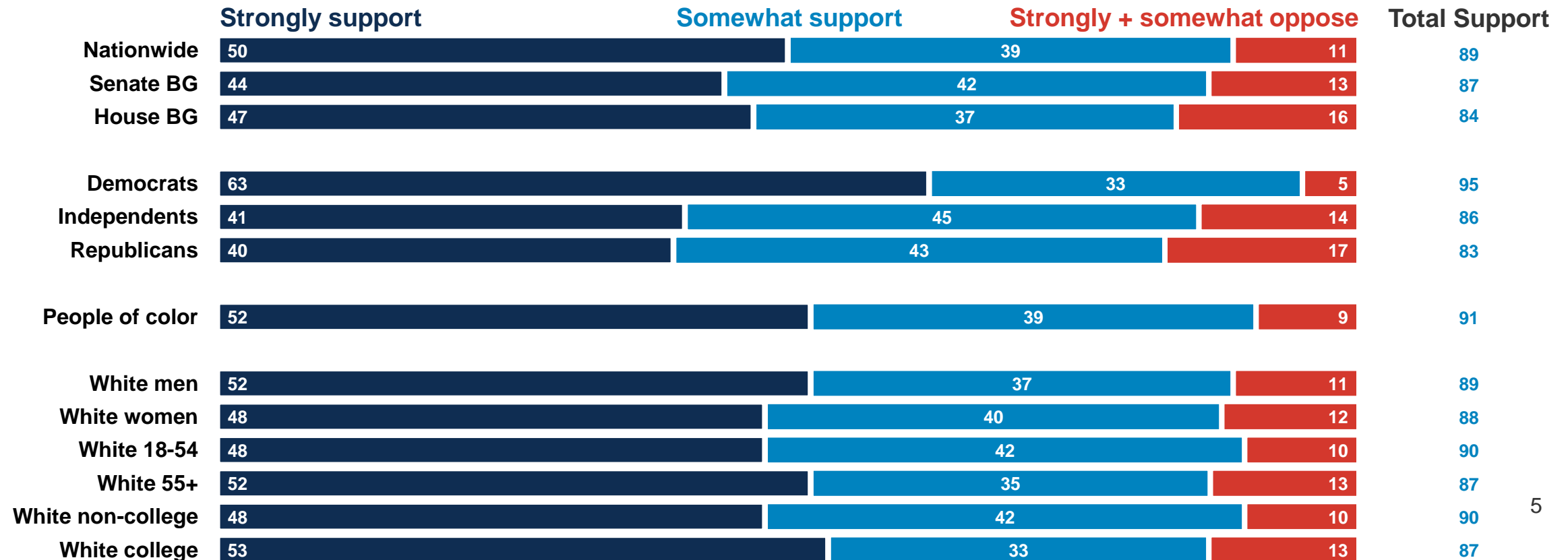


There is overwhelming support for extending renewable tax incentives across partisanship and demographics.

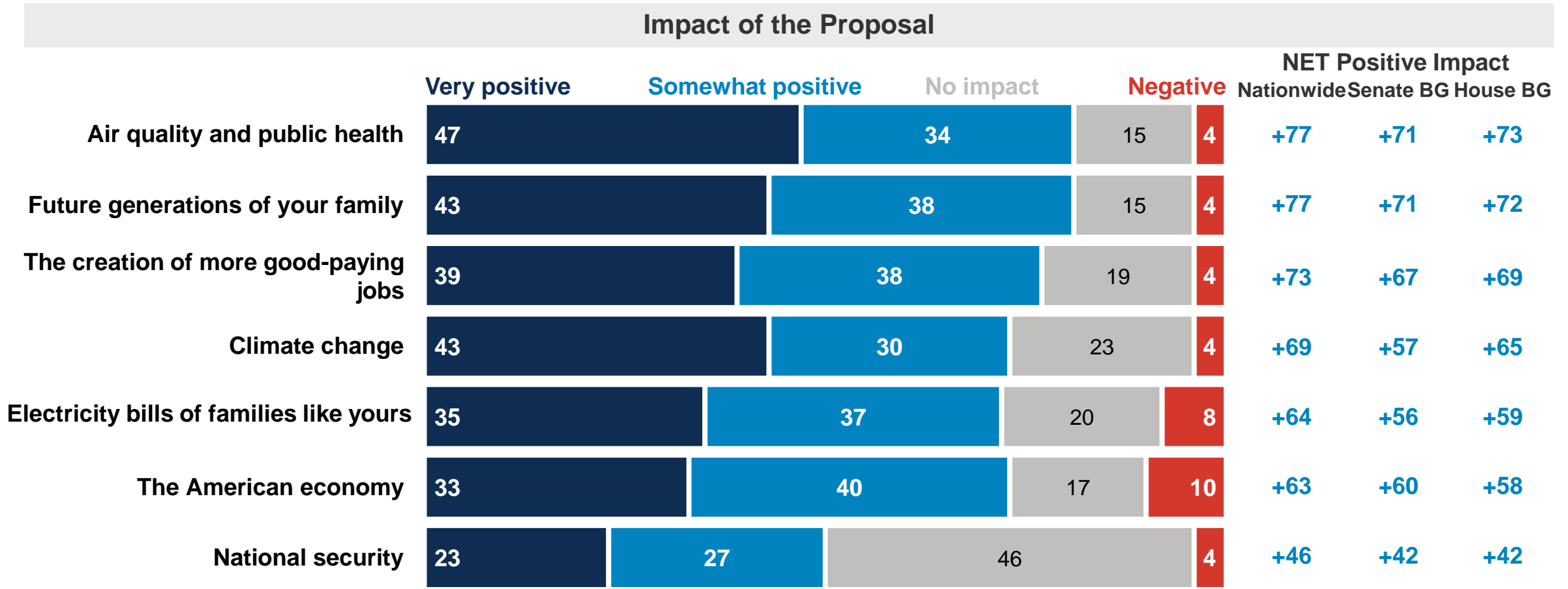
Initial Proposal Support

As you may know, governments often provide tax incentives to encourage the use of certain technologies by making them cheaper for consumers or businesses. The federal government currently provides tax incentives for investments in renewable energy technologies like wind and solar. Most of these tax incentives are set to decline in value starting at the end of this year and expire completely by 2021. Some people have proposed extending these tax incentives rather than allowing them to expire.

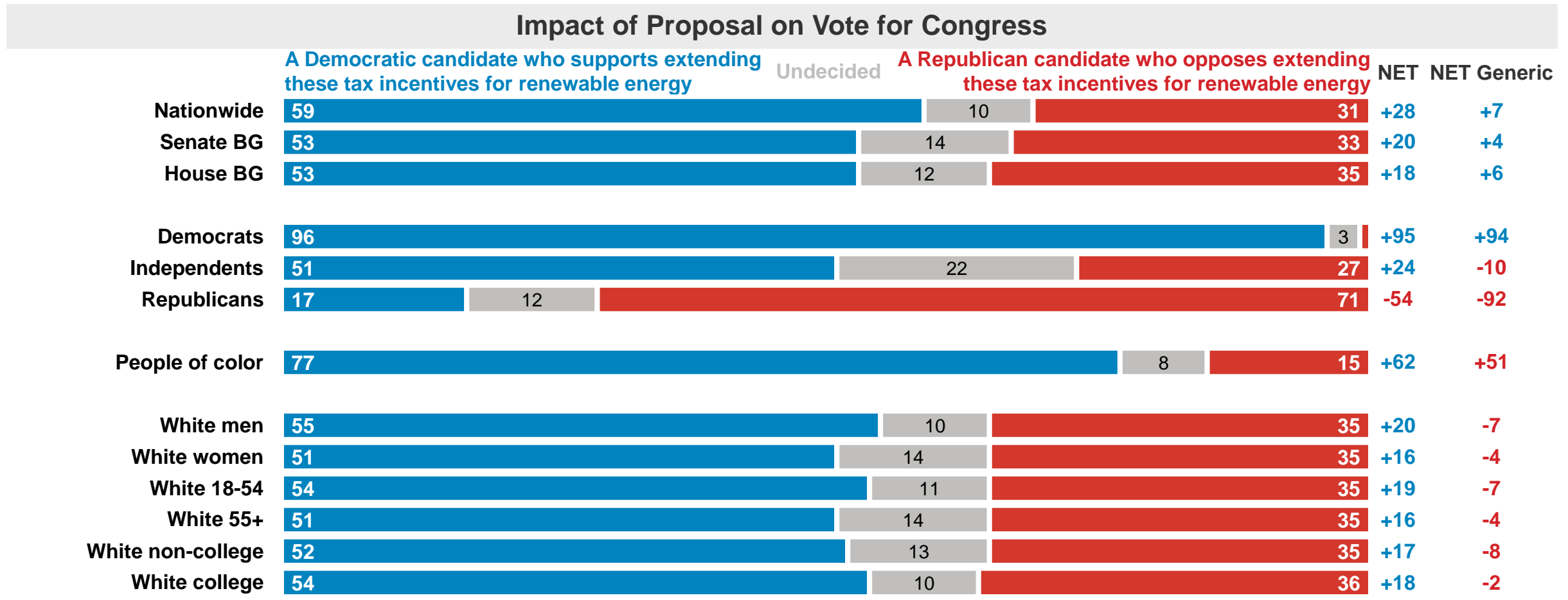
Just based on what you know, do you support or oppose this proposal to extend these tax incentives for renewable energy?



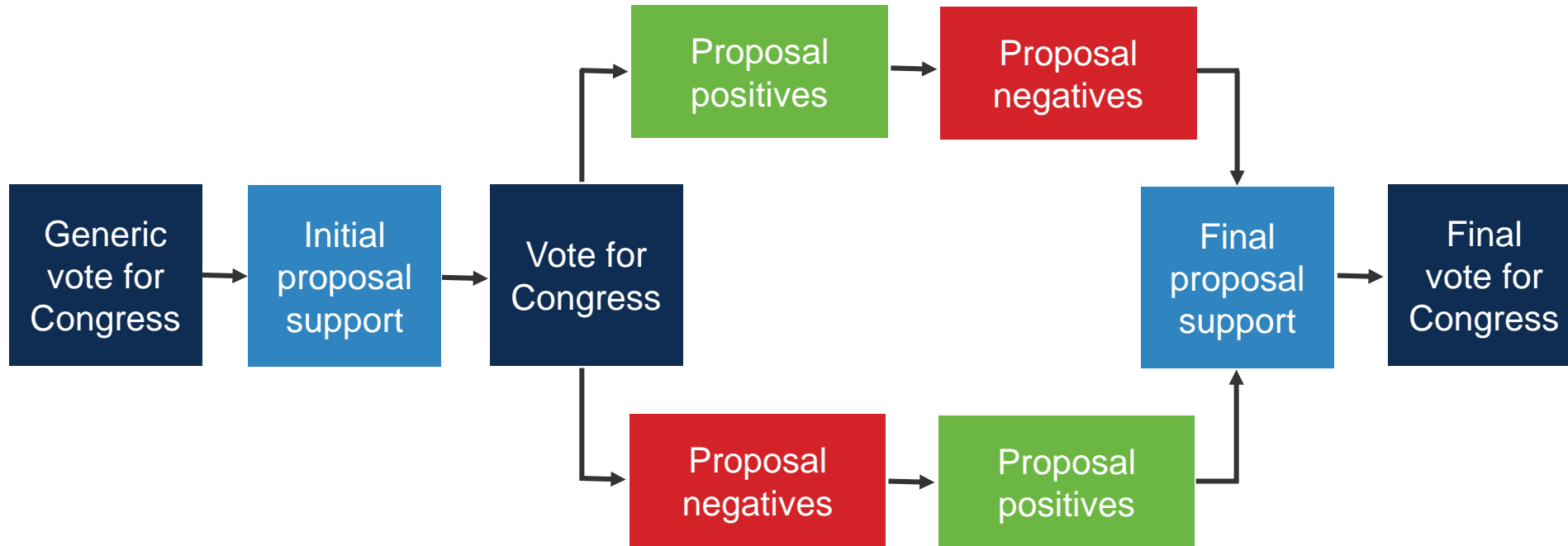
Voters believe that extending these incentives will have a positive impact on air quality and health, future generations, good paying jobs, climate change, electricity bills, and the US economy.



A candidate who supports the proposal sees big electoral benefits nationwide and in the Senate and House battlegrounds.



Survey Structure



Arguments in favor of extending tax credits around health, climate, and the economy resonate with voters.

Positive Messages

Nationwide	Senate BG <i>% very convincing</i>	House BG	
50	47	49	[Health] Scientists say that extending these tax incentives would be like eliminating the pollution from 77 million cars or 93 coal plants. That would sharply reduce the sulfur and mercury pollution that come from burning coal and oil and leave a better and healthier world for our children and grandchildren. Doctors say this will dramatically reduce the rates of heart disease, asthma attacks, respiratory diseases, and even cancer - especially for children and seniors.
50	45	43	[Economic/Success] These tax incentives have been a huge success, reducing the cost of wind and solar power for consumers, helping to expand the use of renewable energy 13 times over in the last 13 years, and creating over 350,000 high-paying jobs. But we still get less than 10% of our energy from wind and solar. Economists say that extending these tax incentives would nearly double solar deployment alone, help drive innovation and economic growth, and create over 100,000 more good jobs.
46	43	45	[Climate] We have a basic responsibility to leave a better world for our children, but experts say that allowing these clean energy incentives to expire would mean we'd end up relying on more dirty coal power - and less on wind and solar - and pump an additional 363 million tons of the carbon pollution that causes climate change into our air. These incentives are the only federal policy we currently have on the books to encourage clean energy, reduce carbon pollution, and combat climate change. Now is not the time to let them expire.

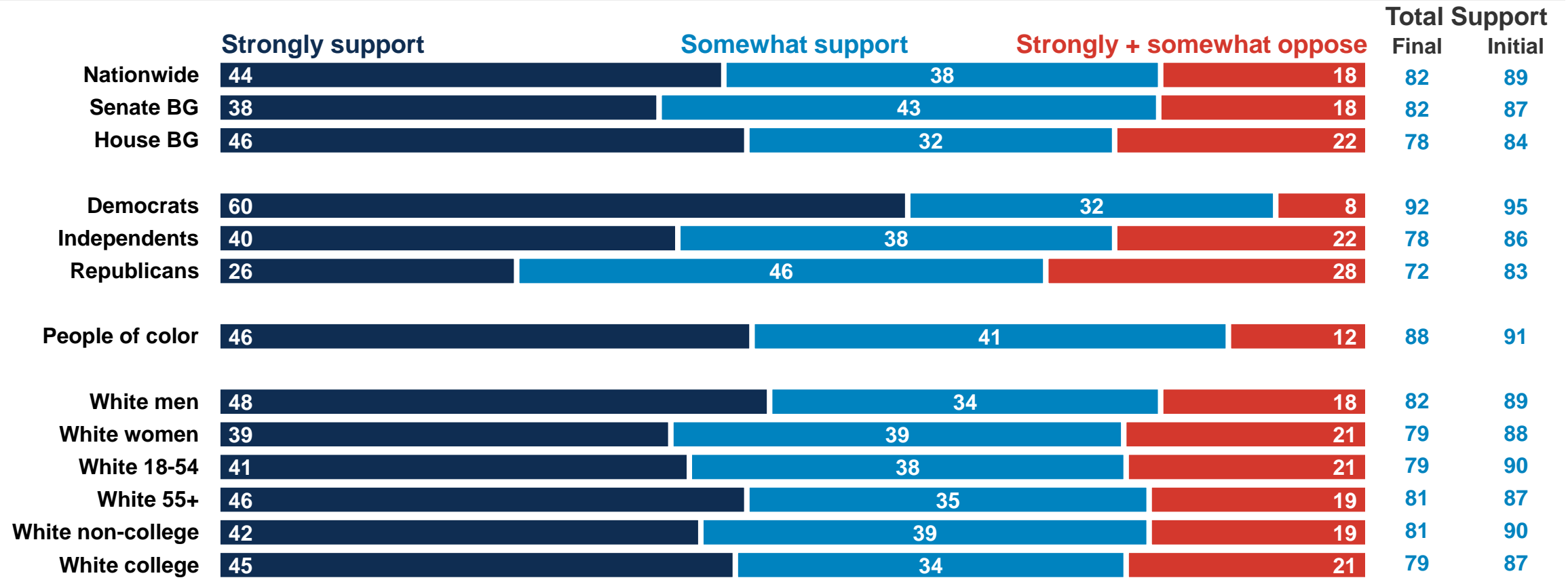
Attacks do little damage, even one that argues negative economic consequences.

Negatives Messages

Nationwide	Senate BG <i>% major doubts</i>	House BG	
32	33	34	[Cost and Taxes] At a time when we have record deficits and national debt, we just can't afford these expensive giveaways to renewable energy companies. Extending these taxpayer-funded subsidies would cost American taxpayers up to \$20 billion over the next 10 years, putting our children deeper into debt and forcing the government to raise taxes on regular families to pay for it.
24	28	28	[Winners and Losers] The federal government shouldn't be in the business of picking winners and losers by providing expensive taxpayer subsidies for different energy technologies. Instead, we should let these technologies compete on the open market and the best ones will thrive - providing us the energy we need at the lowest possible cost. By distorting the market, these subsidies will mean higher energy prices for regular Americans.
20	24	27	[Don't Need] When the government created these subsidies more than a decade ago, they were meant to be temporary help to boost renewable energy until it was cost-competitive with other sources. Now, wind and solar are profitable and cheaper than coal and gas in much of the country. Economists say renewable energy will continue expanding without taxpayer support, and even many wind and solar companies say that these subsidies aren't needed anymore.

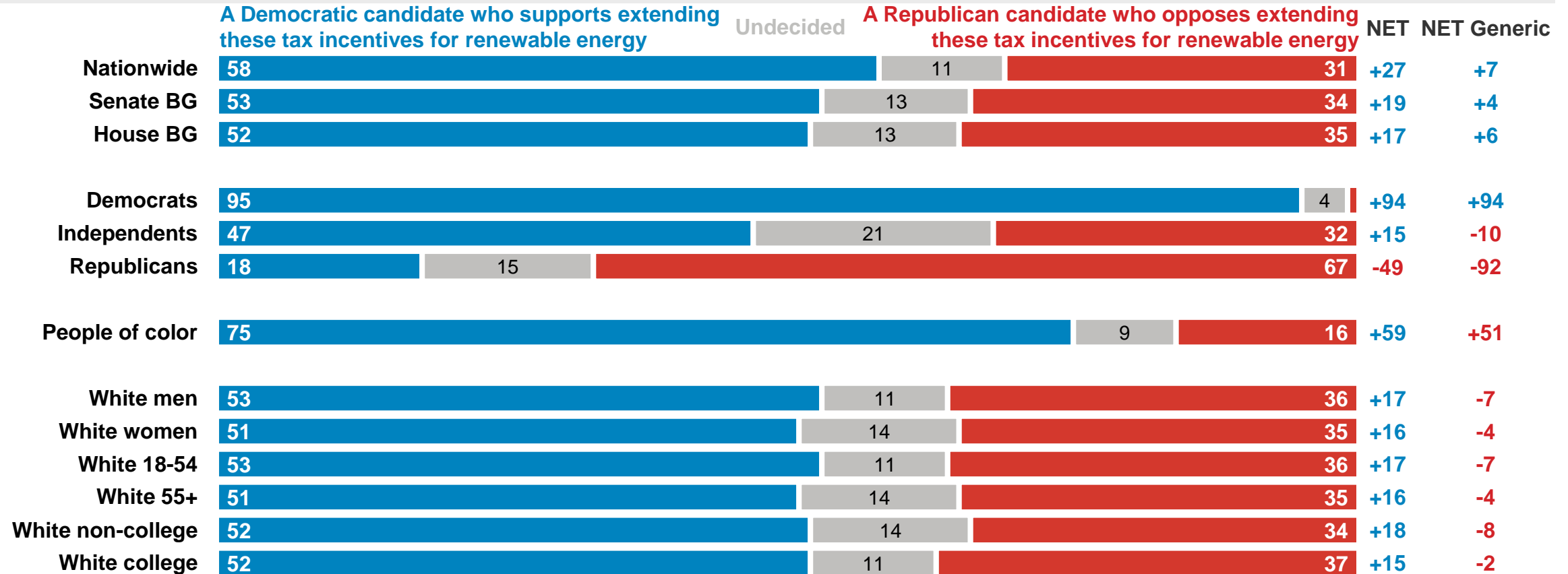
Support in the Senate battleground remains overwhelming after a simulated debate.

Final Proposal Support



After a simulated debate, a candidate who supports the policy sees a net 20-point boost nationwide, a net 15-point boost in the Senate battleground, and a net 11-point boost in the House battleground.

Final Impact of Proposal on Vote for Congress



Conclusions

Voters across the political spectrum overwhelmingly support extending renewable energy tax credits. Support nationwide is at 89%, with support at 83% or higher among every partisan and demographic group, even Republicans. In an era of such hyper partisan polarization, this kind of cross-partisan consensus is remarkable and rare.

Voters overwhelmingly believe that these tax credits are not only an effective tool to combat climate change but are also beneficial to the economy and public health. Huge majorities of voters say that extending these tax credits will have a positive impact on the American economy, job creation, electricity bills, air quality and public health, and climate change.

This issue can move votes in a supportive candidate's favor, especially with center-right voters. Voters not only support extending tax credits; they are also willing to change their vote on it – to the benefit of candidates who support such an extension. Framing the generic ballot around an extension expands the Democratic margin on the generic congressional ballot by 20 points, creating the largest Democratic gains with center-right voters.

Arguments in favor of an extension resonate much more strongly than arguments against, and both support and electoral impact remain robust after a simulated debate. Proponents of an extension have strong arguments on climate, health and the economy that resonate with voters, while opponents' messaging mostly falls flat. This is reflected in the fact that both support and the positive electoral impact for supportive Democrats barely changes after a balanced simulated debate.

Thank You

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