

CENTERLINE →

National Survey

- N = 400 Registered Voters
- Conducted Online
- August 4-6, 2026
- moe = +/- 5%

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS

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- **Social Isolation**

Two-Thirds of Voters Showed a Sign of Social Isolation In the Last Week
Connection Is a Supply Problem, Not a Quality Problem

- **Artificial Intelligence**

A Third Turn to AI for Company, But Most Doubt It's Usefulness

- **Economic Hardship**

Cost Keeps Americans Home; 43% Went Without Something Critical

- **Political Division**

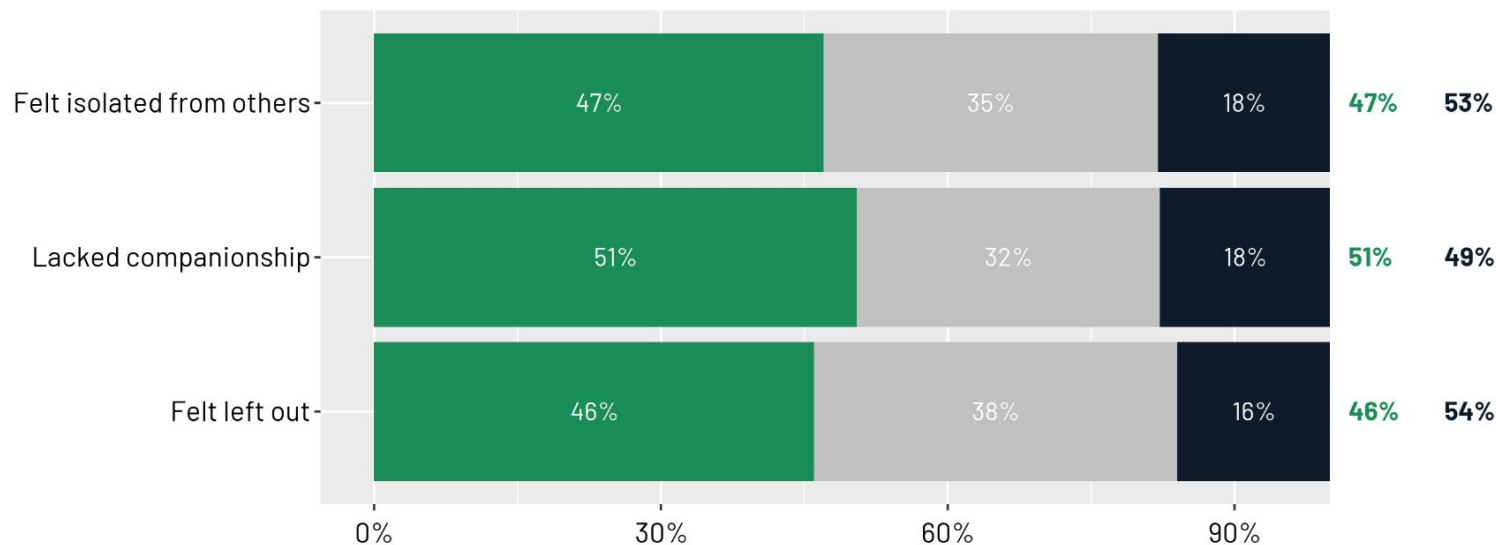
Division is Real, But Politics Isn't Seen As Barrier to Connection

Headlines

SOCIAL ISOLATION

Half the Electorate Felt Left Out, Isolated, or Without Company This Week

How often have you felt this way in the past week?

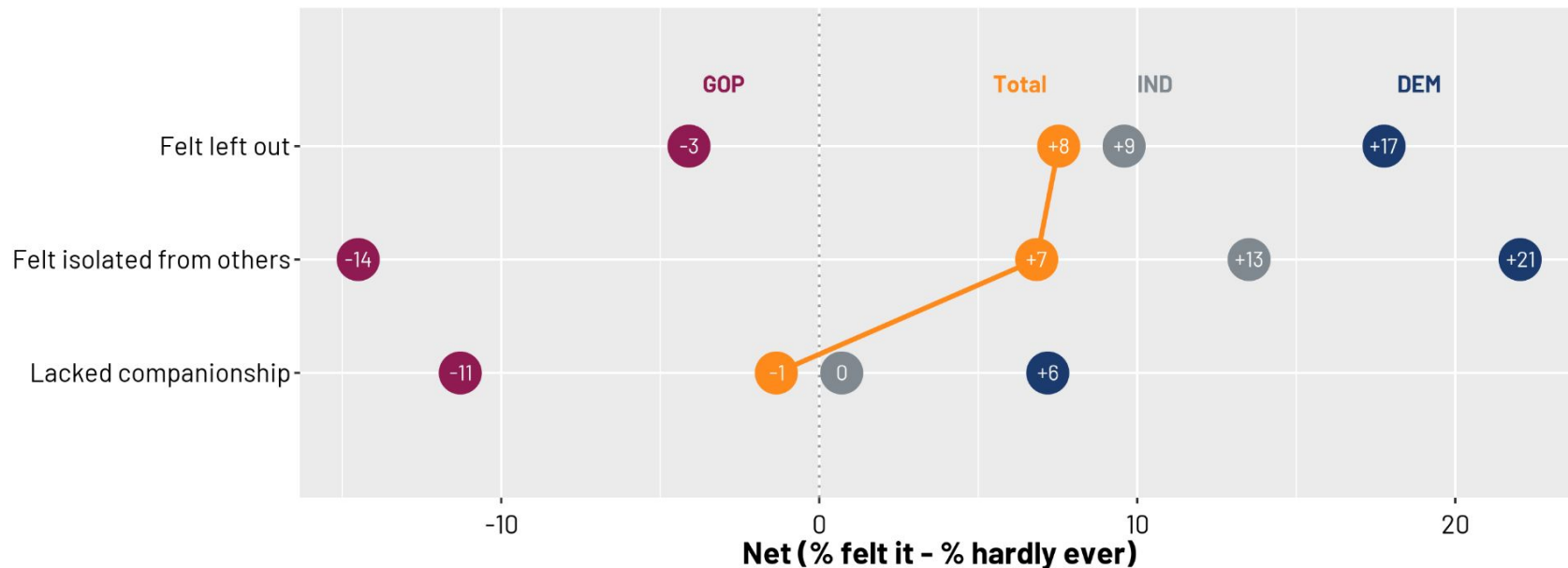


Hardly ever **Some of the time** **Felt this way often**

QCONNECT1-3, the UCLA 3-item loneliness scale.

Isolation Has a Partisan Tilt - Democrats and Independents Feel It Most

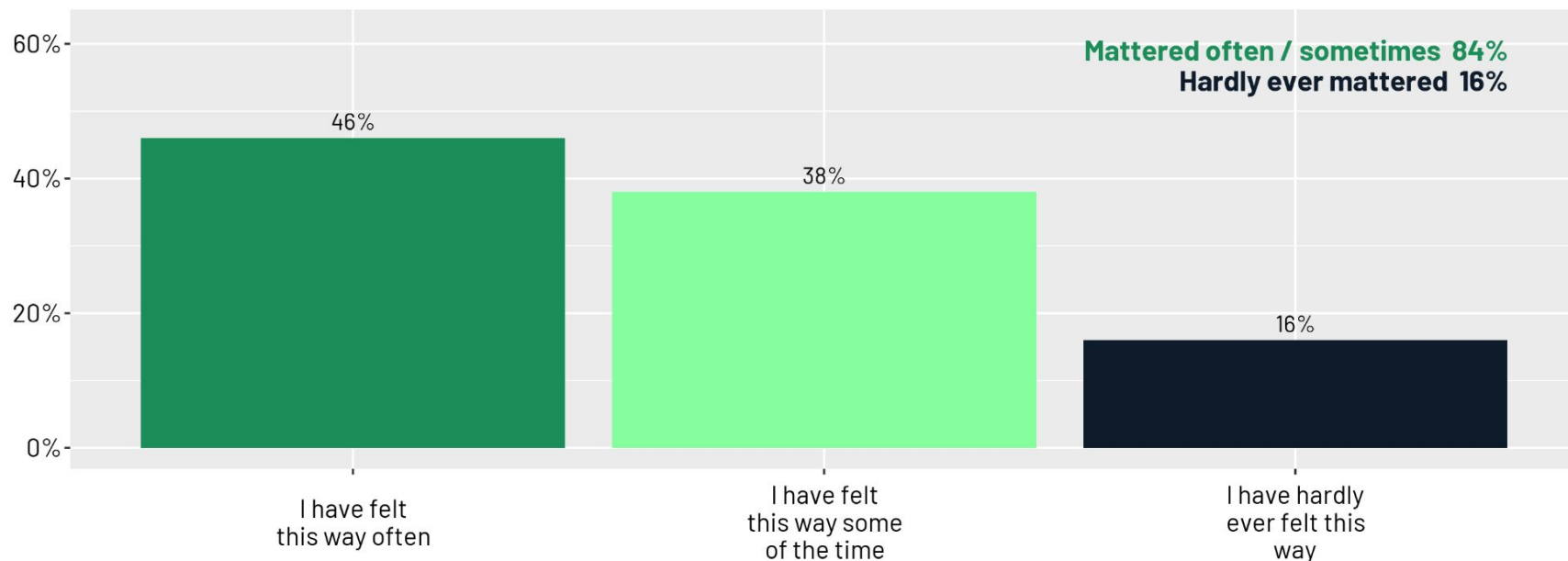
Net isolation (% felt this way often/sometimes - % hardly ever) by party



QCONNECT1-3, past week. Party = QPARTYID self-ID (leaners kept Independent).

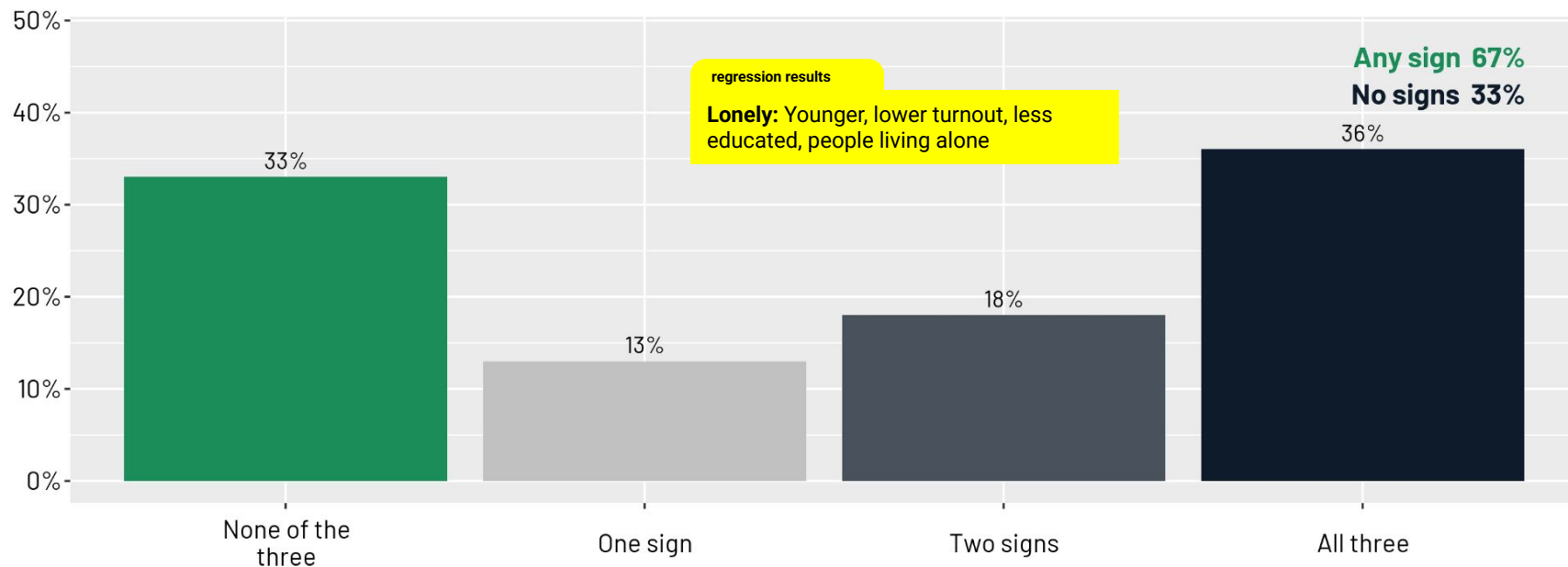
Disconnected but Not Discarded: 84% Still Feel They Matter to Someone

How often in the past week did you feel that you mattered to the people in your life?



Isolation Isn't a Fringe Condition: 67% Felt It, 36% Felt All of It

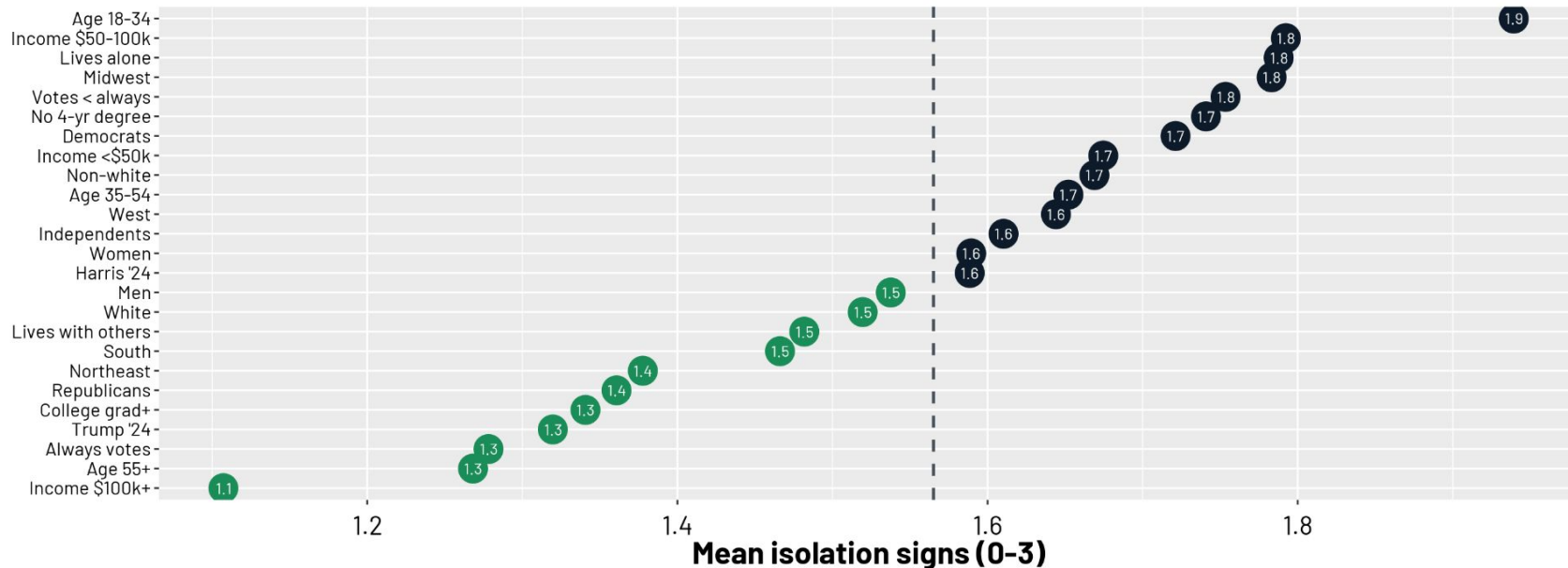
Number of isolation signs felt in the past week (0-3)



Built from QCONNECT1-3: lacked companionship, felt left out, felt isolated – counted if felt often OR some of the time.

Youth and Low Income Drive Isolation; Age and Affluence Buffer It

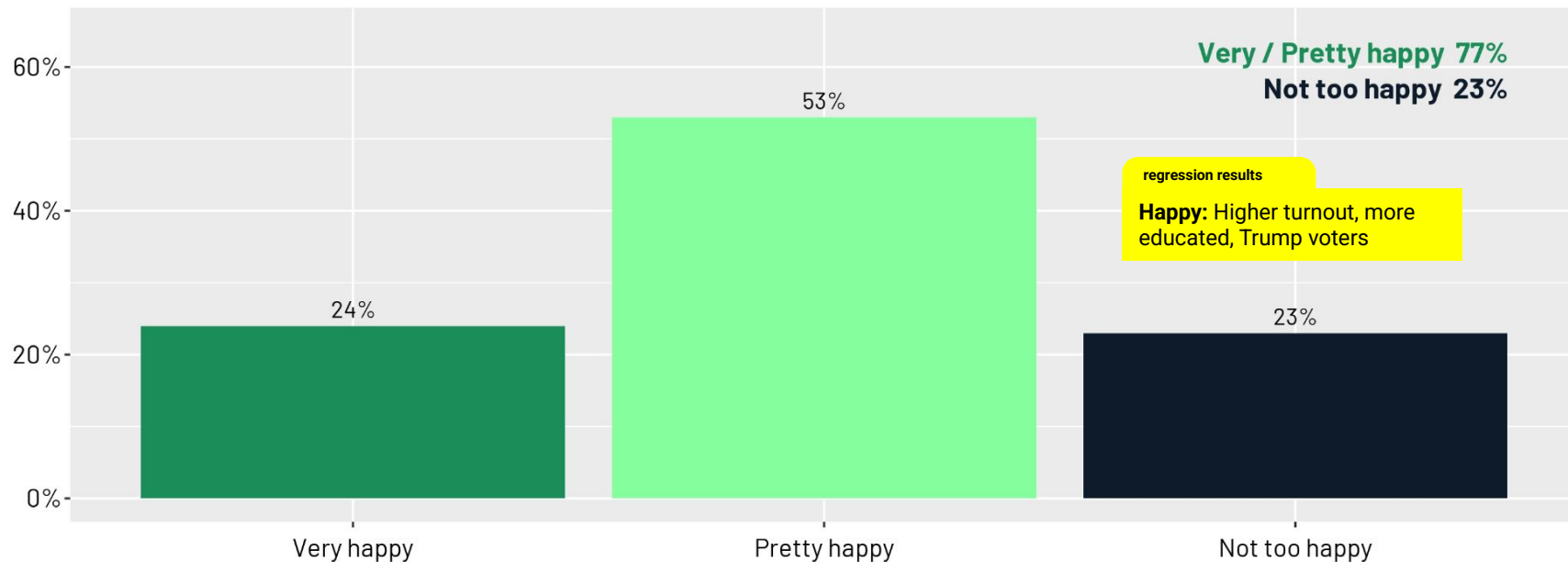
Mean number of isolation signs (0-3) | dashed line = all voters (1.6)



Built from QCONNECT1-3, past week.

A Bell Curve of Happiness: A Quarter Very Happy, a Quarter Not Too Happy

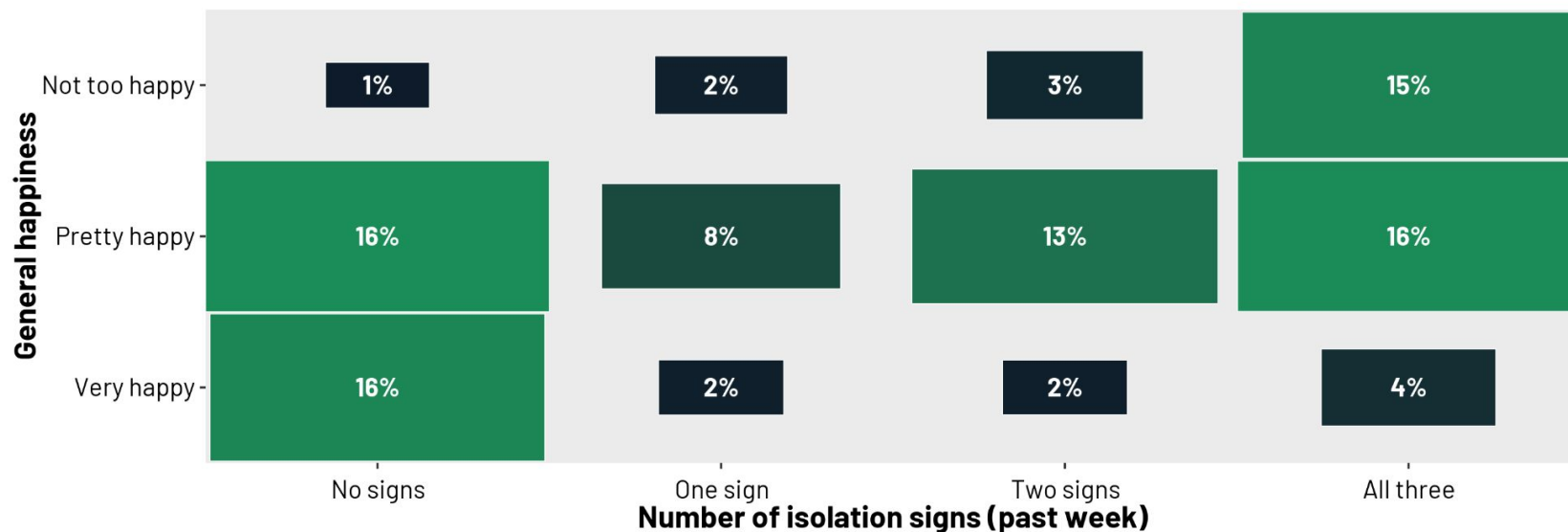
Taken all together, how would you say things are these days?



General Social Survey general-happiness item, reproduced verbatim.

The Strongest Relationship in the Survey: Isolation and Happiness Have a Strong Negative Correlation

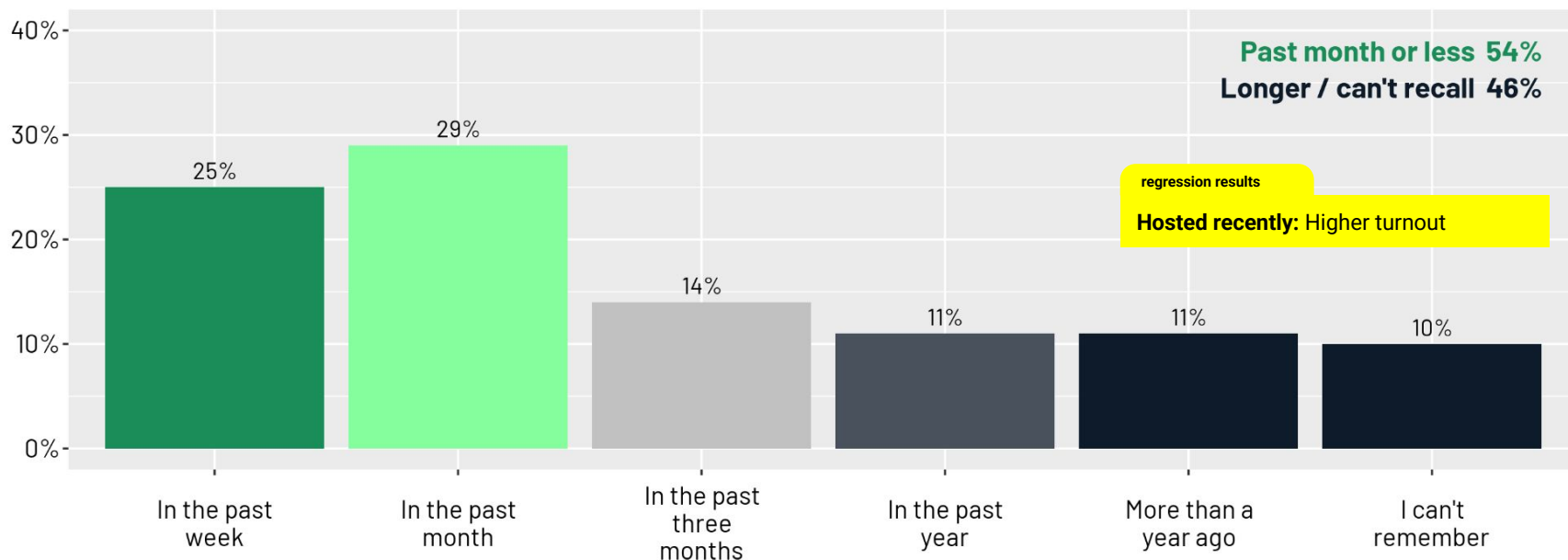
Isolation signs by general happiness



QCONNECT1-3 isolation count by QWELLBEING: 'Taken all together, how would you say things are these days – would you say that you are very happy, pretty happy, or not too happy?' (GSS general happiness item). Cells are % of all voters.

The Vanishing Dinner Guest: Only a Quarter Hosted Anyone This Week

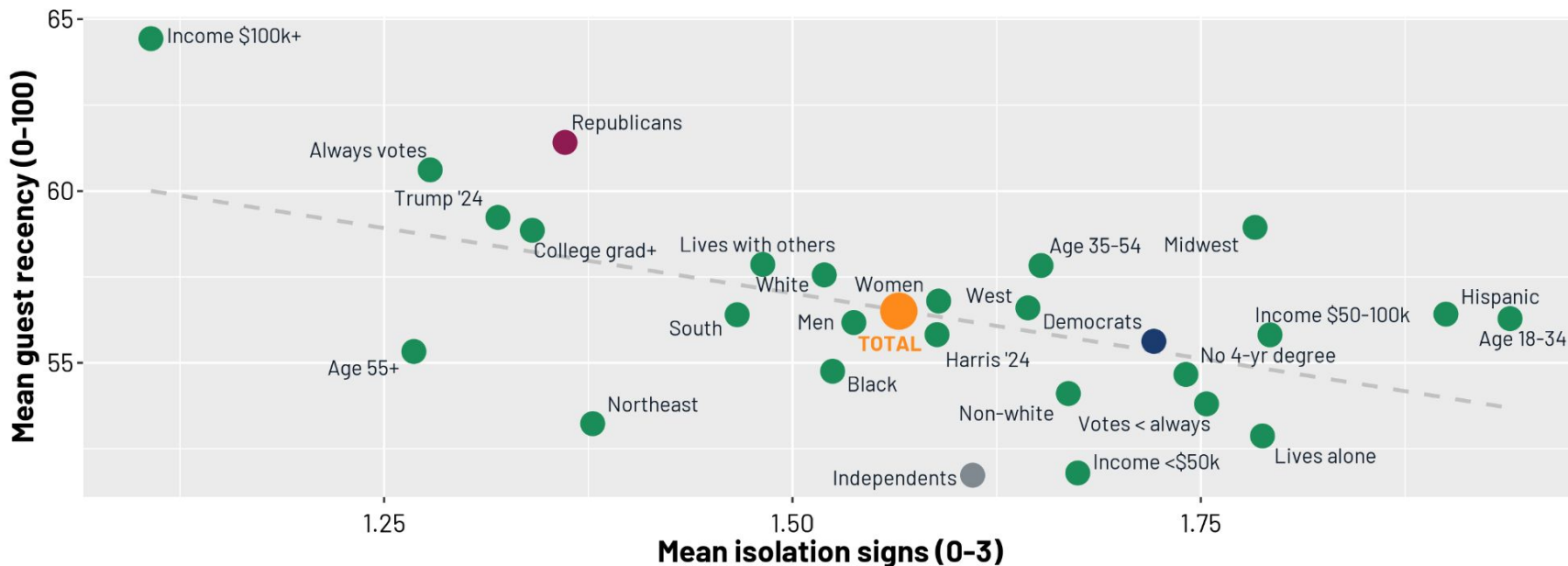
When was the last time you had a guest over to your home?



QSIG2. When was the last time you had someone who doesn't live with you over to your home as a guest? Please do not count workers, repair people, or deliveries.

The Loneliest Demographics Are Also the Least Likely to Have Company Over

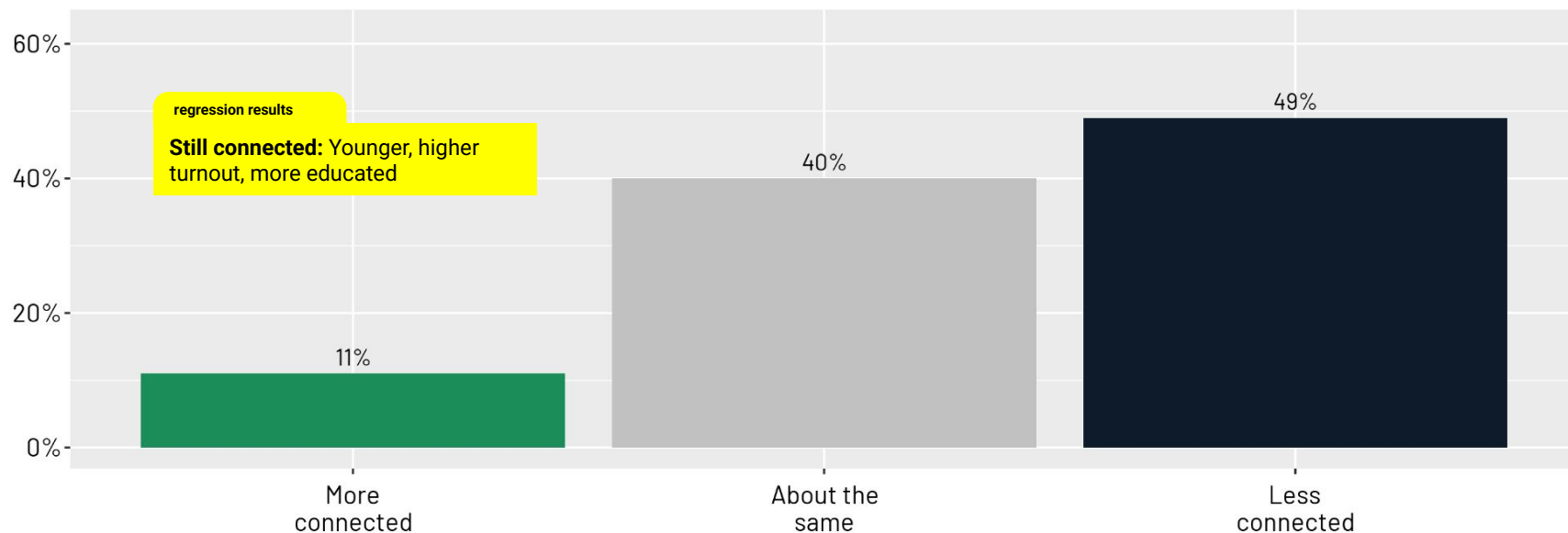
Each point = one demographic group ($r = -0.54$)



Guest recency: 0 = more than a year ago or can't remember, 100 = in the past week.

Nearly Half Say America Is Coming Apart Socially; Only 11% Say the Opposite

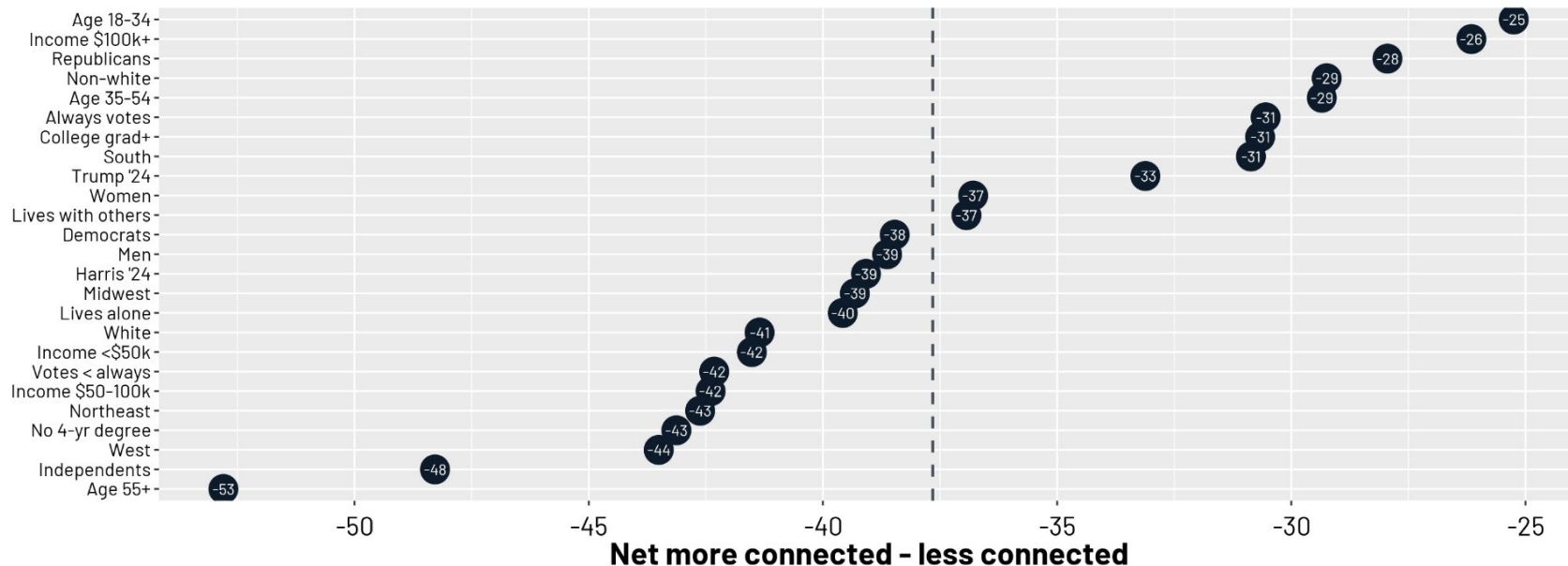
Are Americans today more or less connected than they used to be?



QDISCON. Thinking about how much time Americans spend with friends, family, and neighbors, do you think people today are more connected to one another than they used to be, less connected, or about the same?

Every Group Thinks America Is Coming Apart; Seniors Most of All

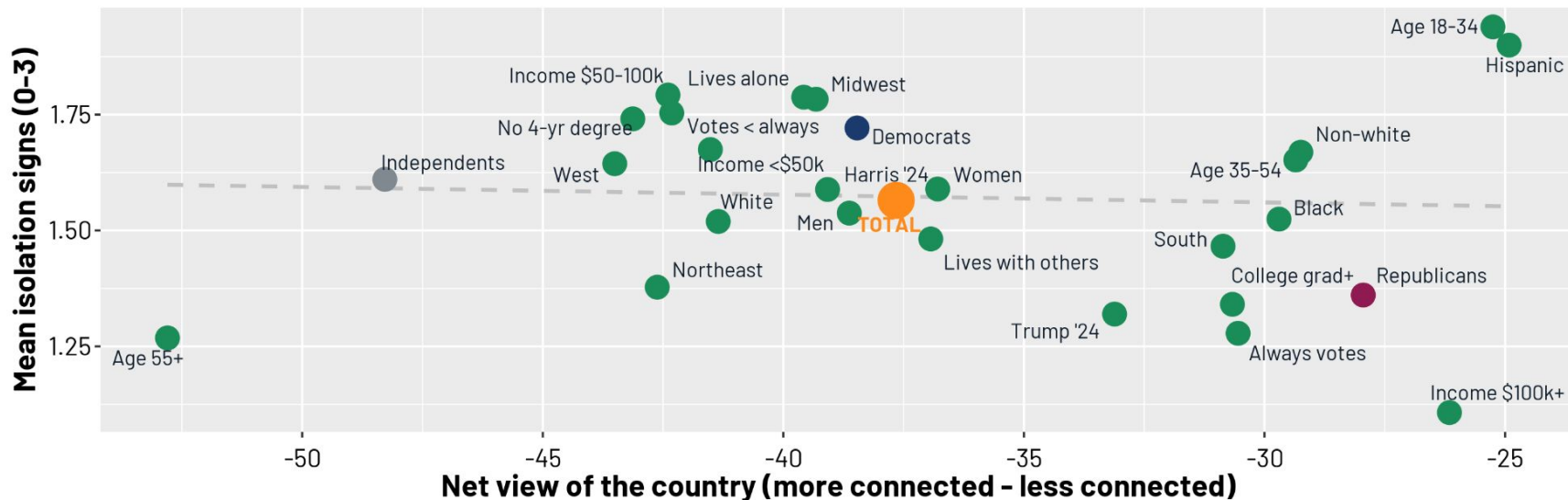
Net perceived connection (% more connected - % less connected) | dashed line = all voters (-38)



QDISCON. Mean of the recoded item: more connected = +100, about the same = 0, less connected = -100.

Personal Isolation Doesn't Predict Believing America Has Come Apart

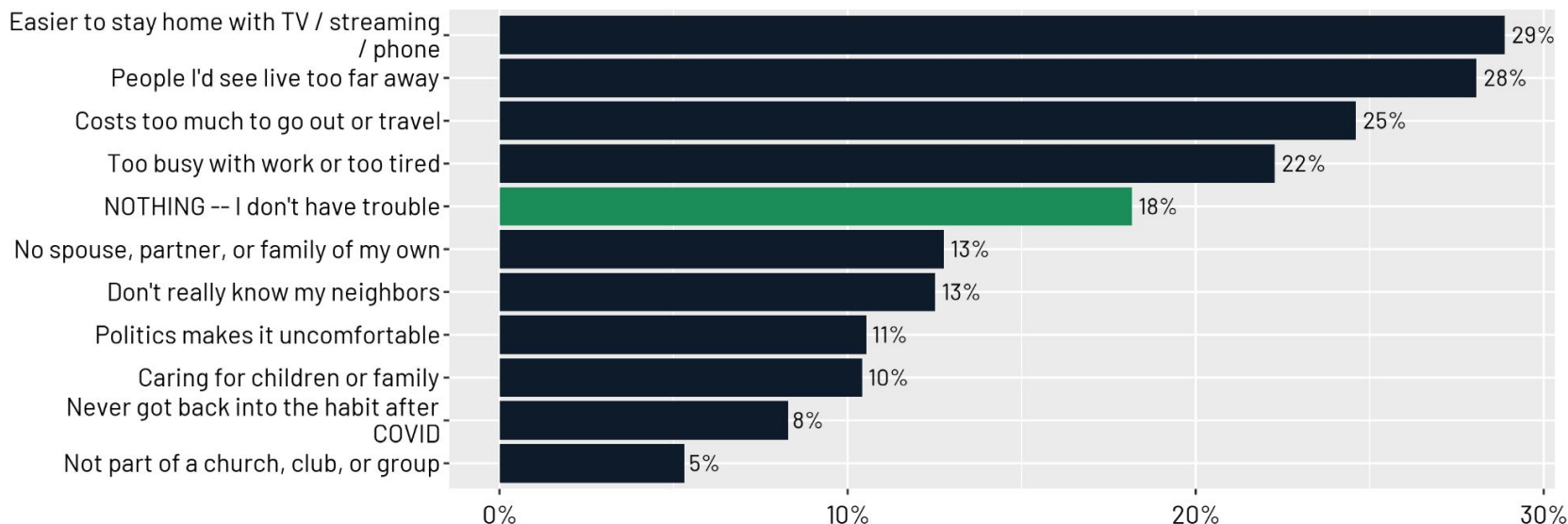
Each point = one demographic group ($r = -0.06$)



QDISCON recoded: more connected = +100, about the same = 0, less connected = -100; every group is net-negative. Across individual voters the two measures correlate at just -0.02. The age groups anchor opposite corners: 18-34s are the most isolated and the least convinced the country has come apart, while 55+ are the most convinced and among the least isolated.

Screens, Distance, and Money: The Three Barriers to Seeing People

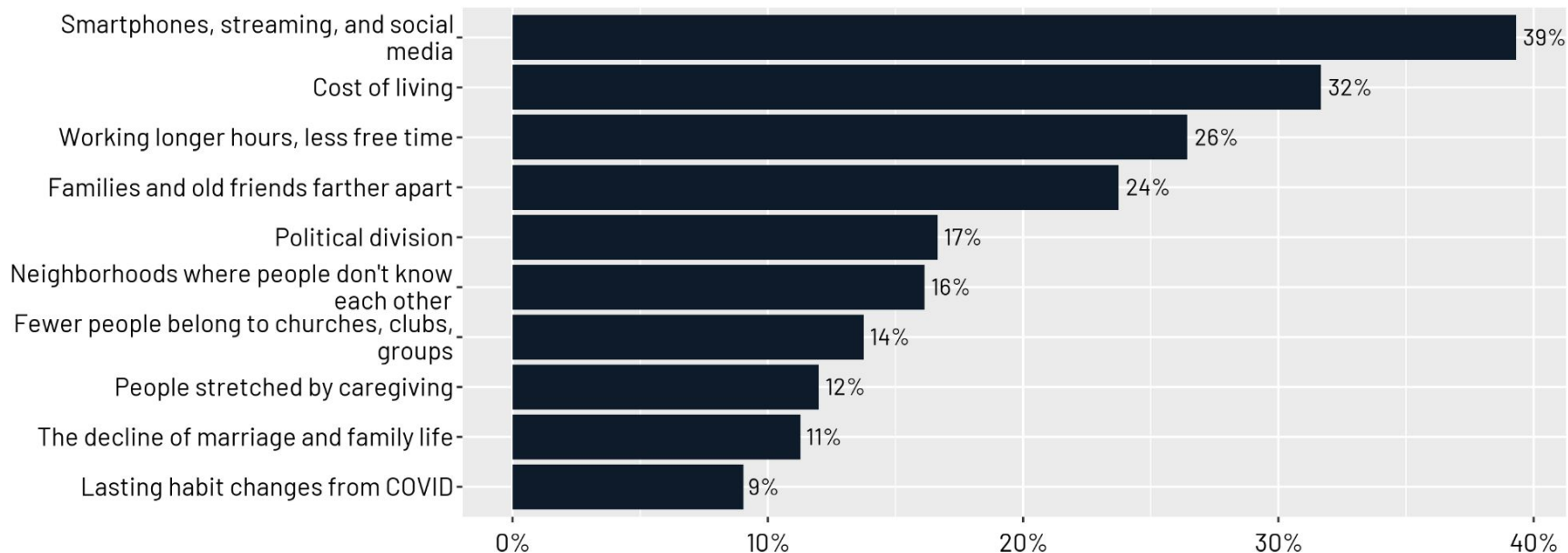
% selecting each (choose two, or the exclusive 'nothing' answer)



Thinking about your own life, what makes it hardest for you to spend time in person with friends or family? Please select two. 'Nothing' was an exclusive answer, so the 18% who chose it contributed one pick rather than two.

Voters Diagnose the Country's Disconnection as a Technology Problem

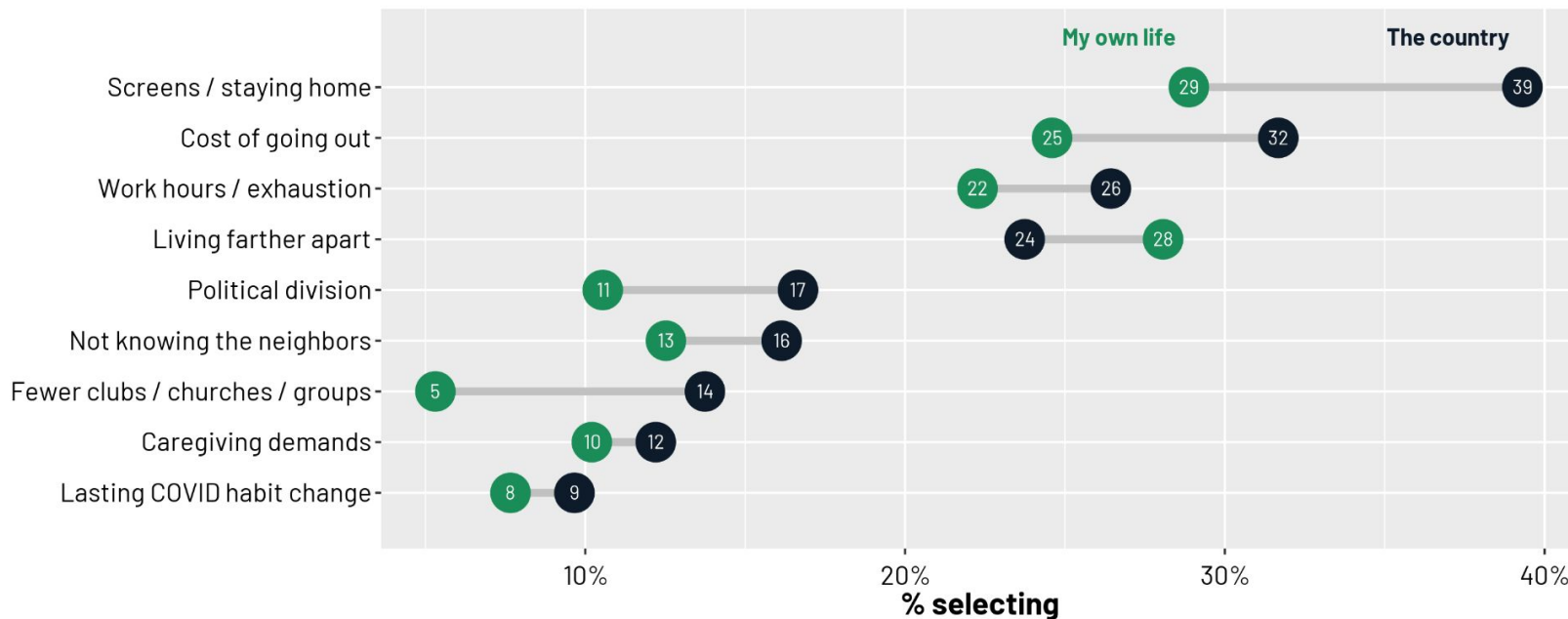
% selecting each (choose exactly two)



Thinking about the country as a whole, which TWO do the most to keep Americans from spending time together in person?

Voters Underrate Distance When Diagnosing the Country

% naming each as a cause – for their OWN life vs. for THE COUNTRY



QCAUSE_S and QCAUSE_C. Read the gaps with care: QCAUSE_C forces exactly two picks, while QCAUSE_S allows an exclusive 'nothing' answer (18% chose it), so the country battery has about 10% more picks to distribute and every gap here is widened by roughly that much. Chart 09a removes the difference.

Only Distance Weighs Heavier in Voters' Own Lives Than in the Country's

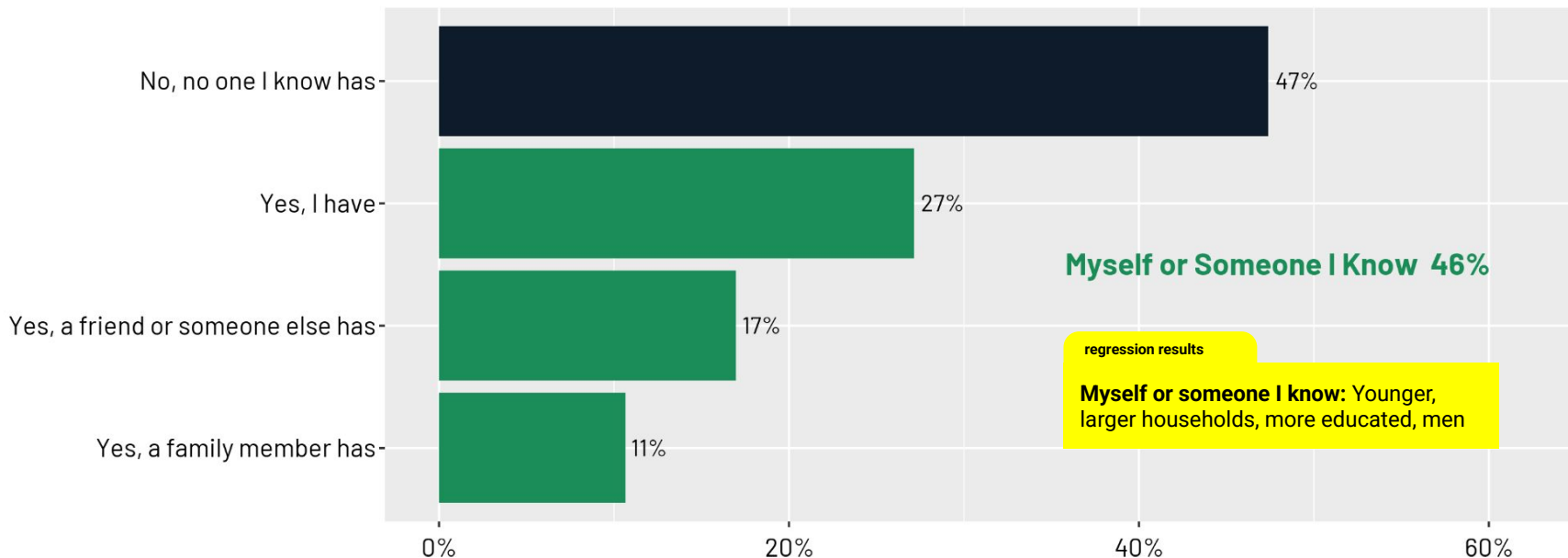
Index: how much more heavily voters weight each cause for THE COUNTRY than for THEMSELVES |
shaded band = parity



Each cause's share of all picks within its own battery, country divided by personal, x100. Computing shares removes the difference in how many picks each battery collects.

More Than a Quarter Have Used an AI Chatbot for Company - and 46% Know Someone Who Has

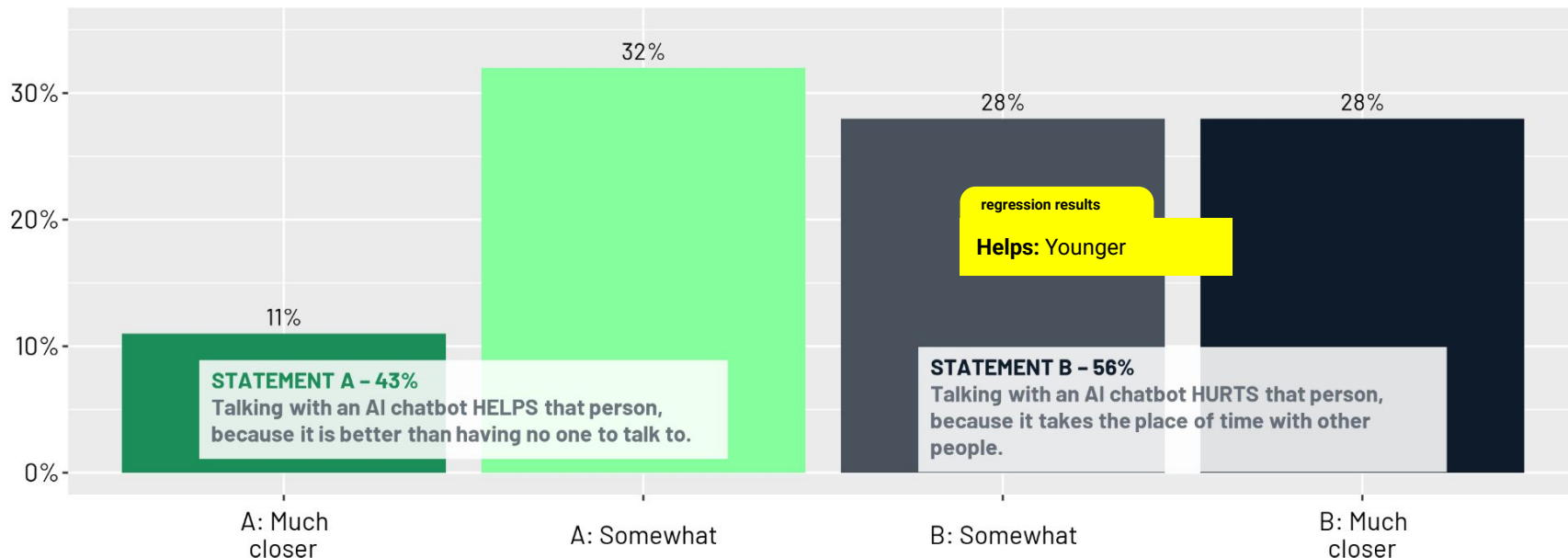
% who say they or someone they know has used an AI chatbot this way



Have you, or anyone you know, used an AI chatbot for conversation, emotional support, or companionship?

Voters Are Skeptical but Not Hostile: 43% See AI Company as Better Than None

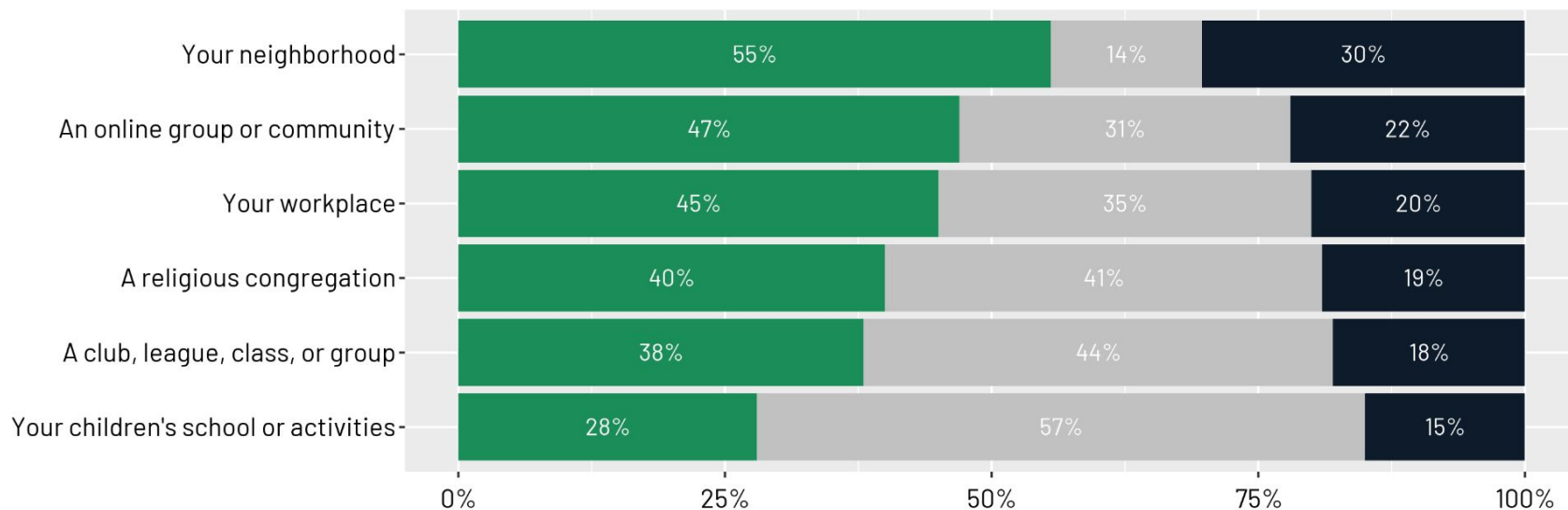
Thinking about someone who is lonely and does not have many people to talk to...



QAICOMP2 – A/B tradeoff on whether AI companionship helps or hurts.

Neighborhoods Lead on Connection – but Access Is the Real Story Here

Did any of the following help you feel more connected over the past year?

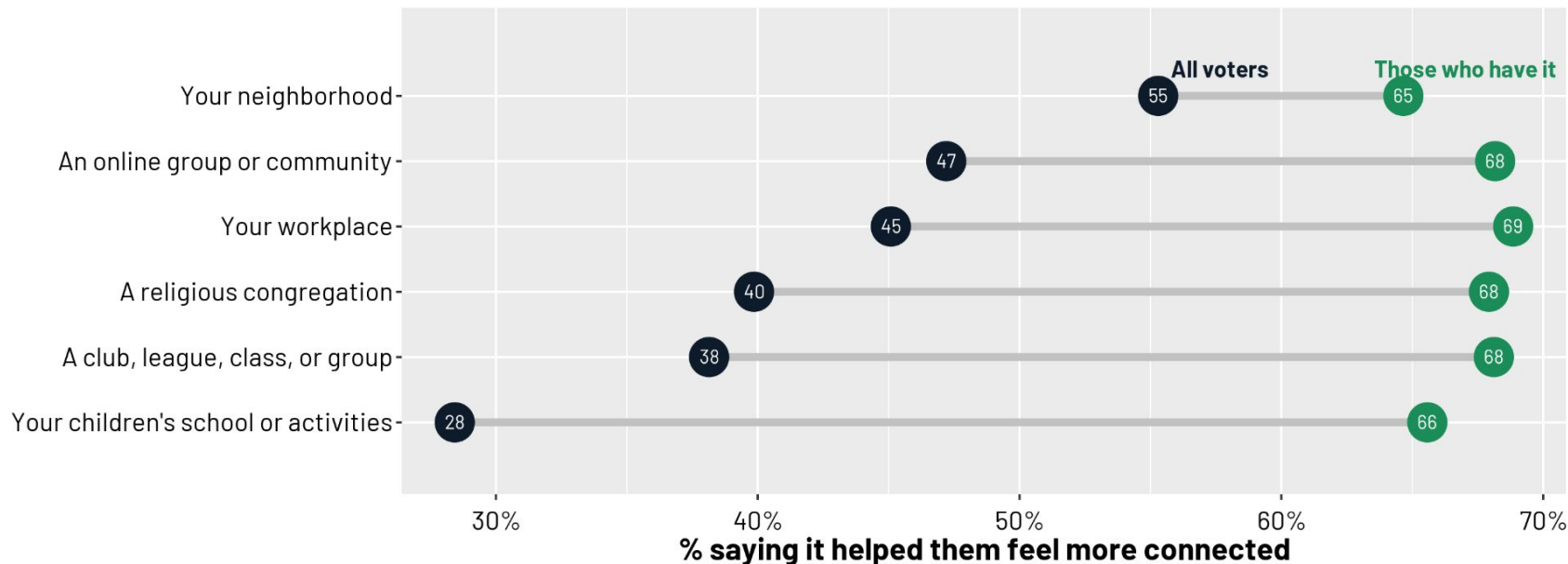


Helped me feel more connected **Isn't part of my life** **Did not help**

QRESP1-6. Note the middle category: the share for whom each institution is not part of life at all ranges from 14% to 57%.

Connection Is a Supply Problem, Not a Quality Problem; Every Institution Works About Equally Well

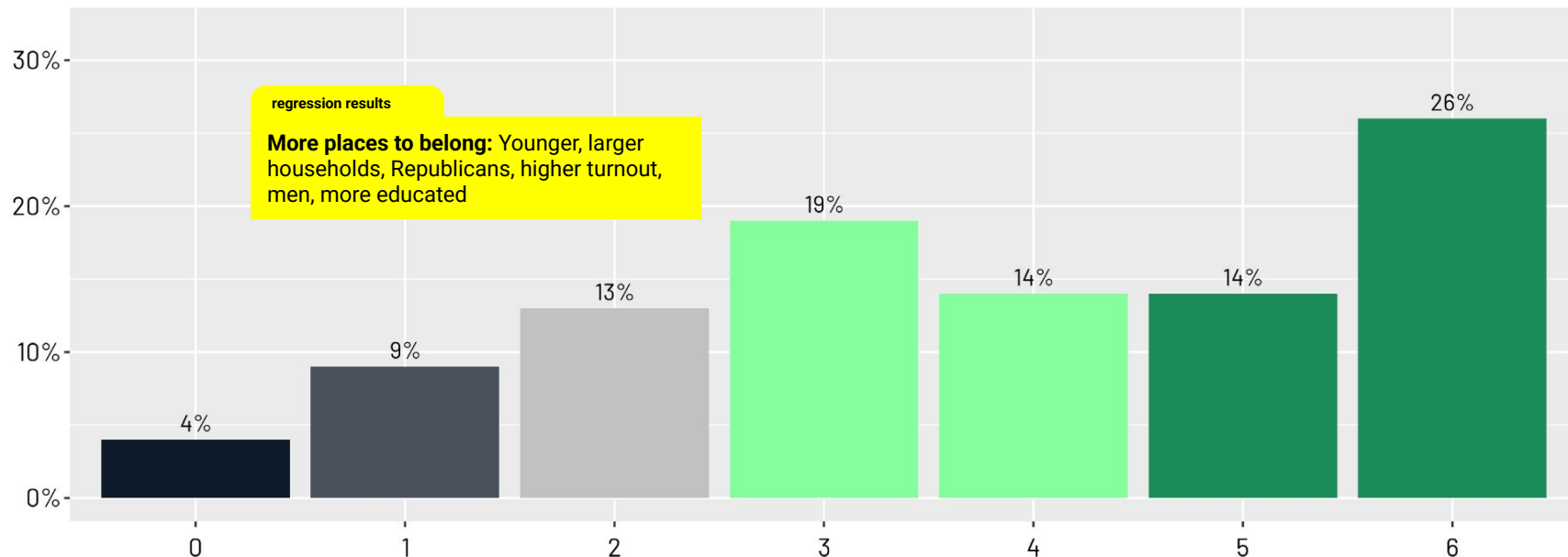
% helped by each source – among ALL voters vs. among only those who HAVE it in their life



QRESP1-6. The left dot is the published topline. The right dot removes everyone who answered 'this isn't part of my life' from the base.

A Long Tail of Disconnection: One in Four Has Two or Fewer Places to Belong

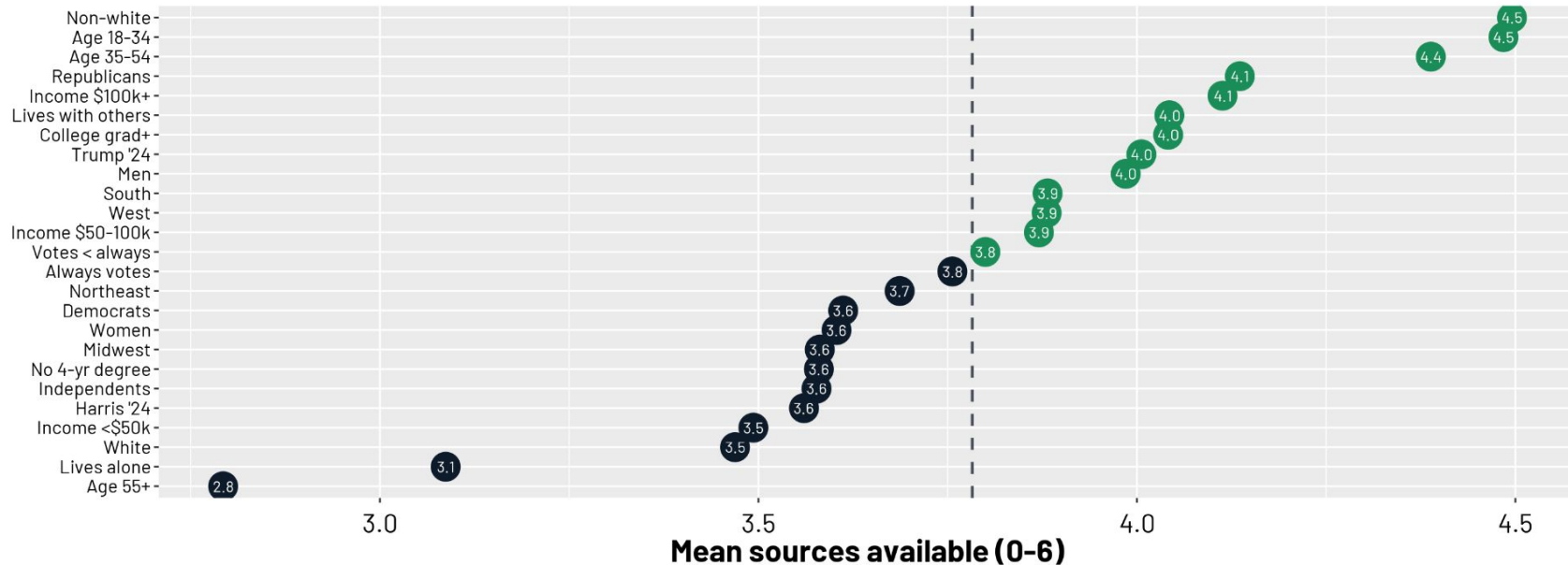
Number of the six connection sources present in the respondent's life (0-6)



Built from QRESP1-6: counts every source NOT answered 'this isn't part of my life'.

Who Has Somewhere to Belong: The Supply of Connection by Demographic

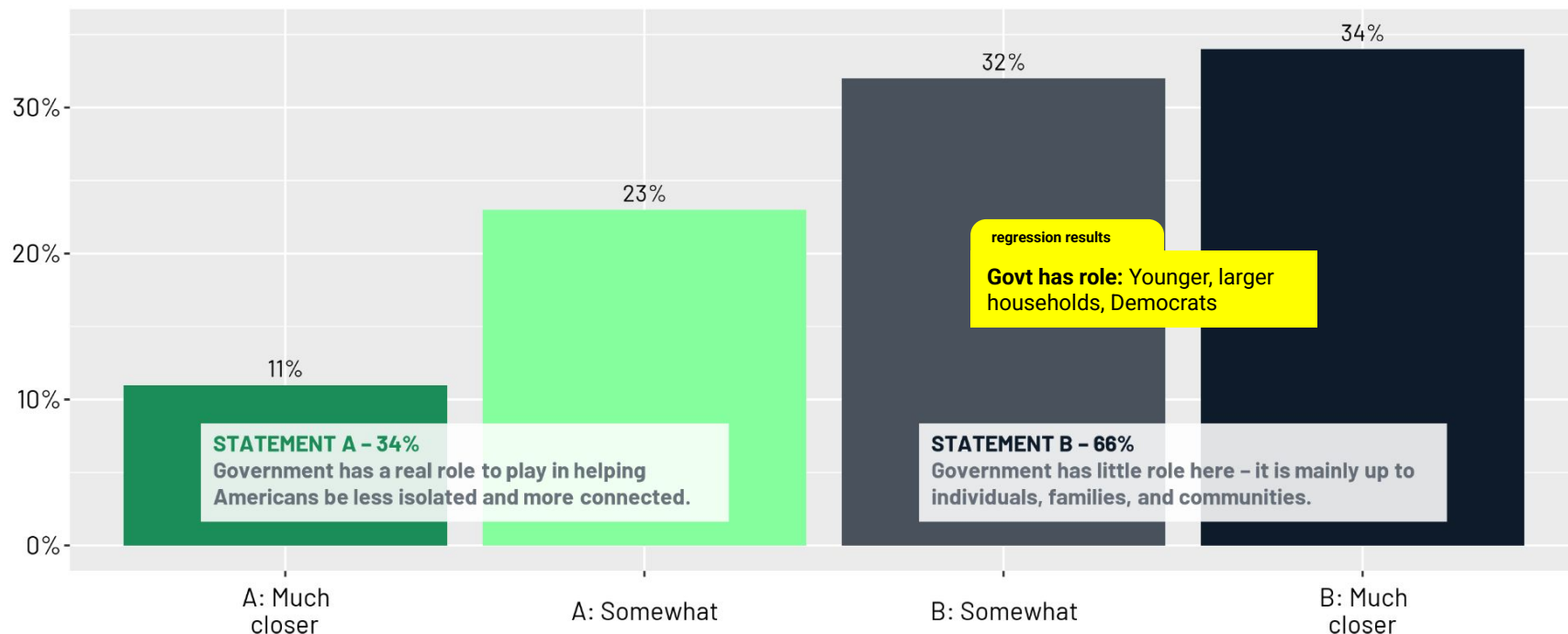
Mean number of connection sources available (0-6) | dashed line = all voters (3.8)



Built from ORESP1-6.

Two-Thirds Say Social Isolation Isn't Government's Job

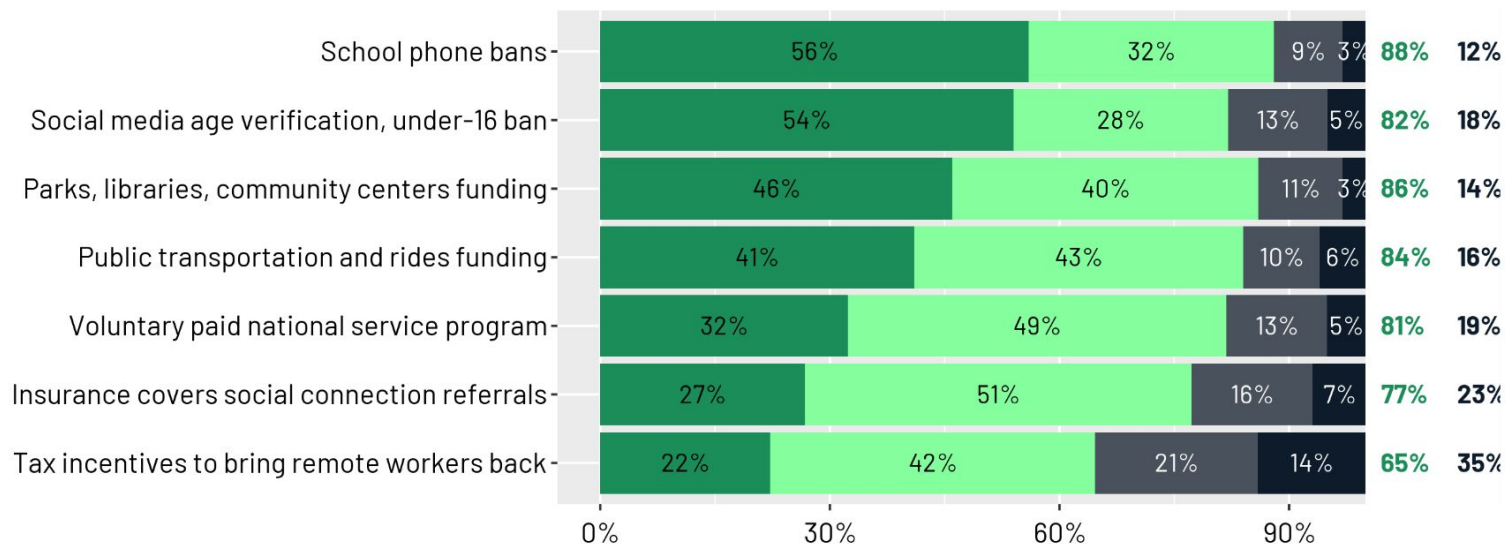
Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?



QISOGOV - the instrument's only measure of whether voters want government involved at all.

Voters Reject a Government Role in the Abstract but Accept It in Every Particular

Support or oppose each proposal to help Americans be less isolated

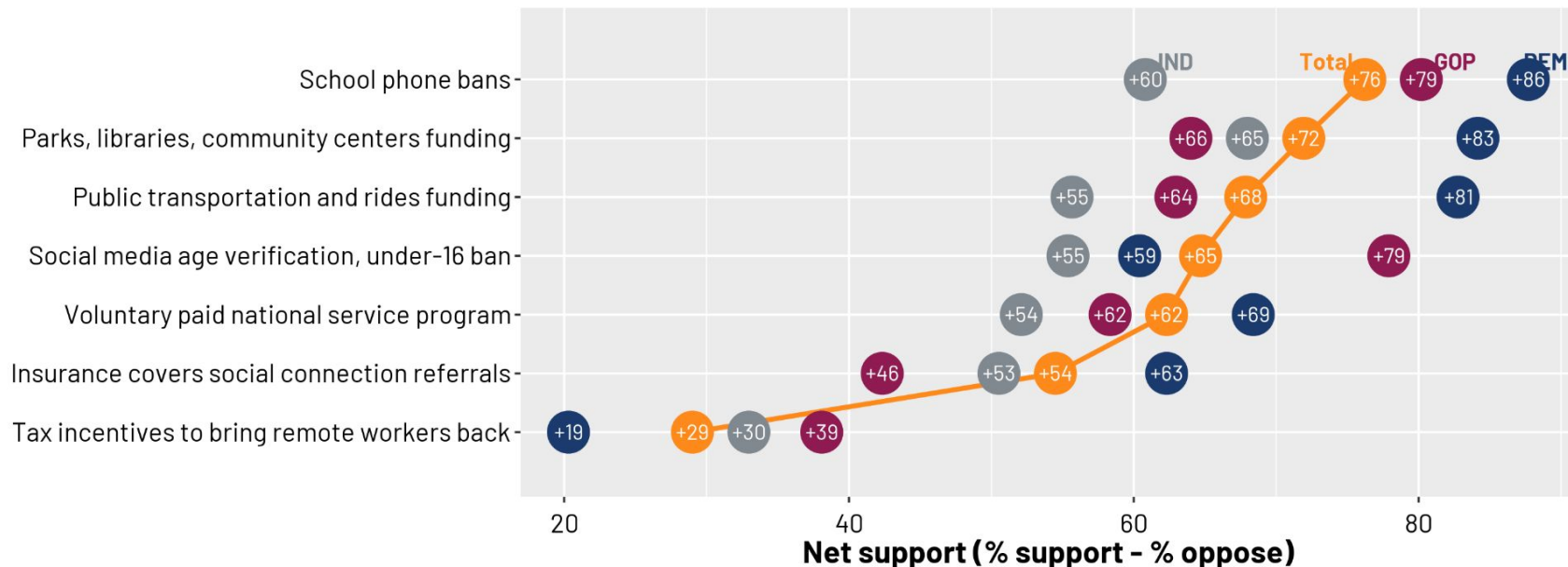


Strongly support **Somewhat support** **Somewhat oppose** **Strongly oppose**

QISOPOL1-7, order randomized.

Every Party Is Net-Positive on Every Proposal - Six of Seven by 30 Points or More

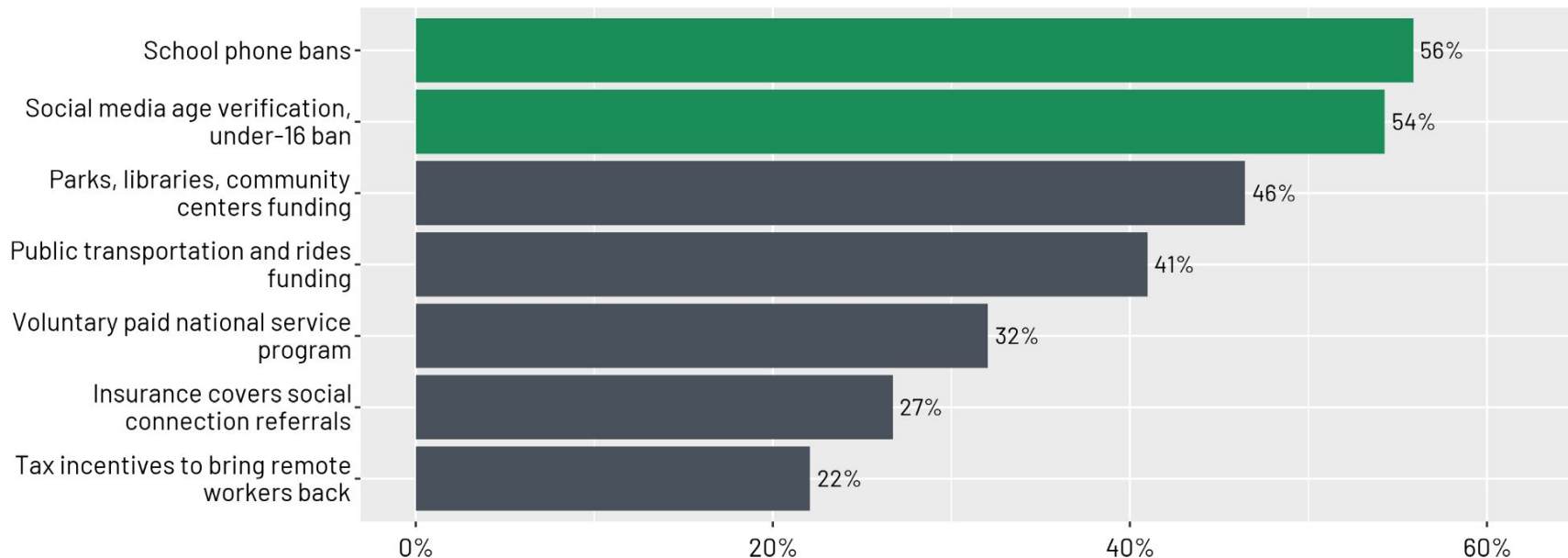
Net policy support (% support - % oppose) by party



QISOPOL1-7 battery. Party = QPARTYID self-ID (leaners kept Independent).

Passion Concentrates Where Children Are Involved - 56% and 54% Strongly Support

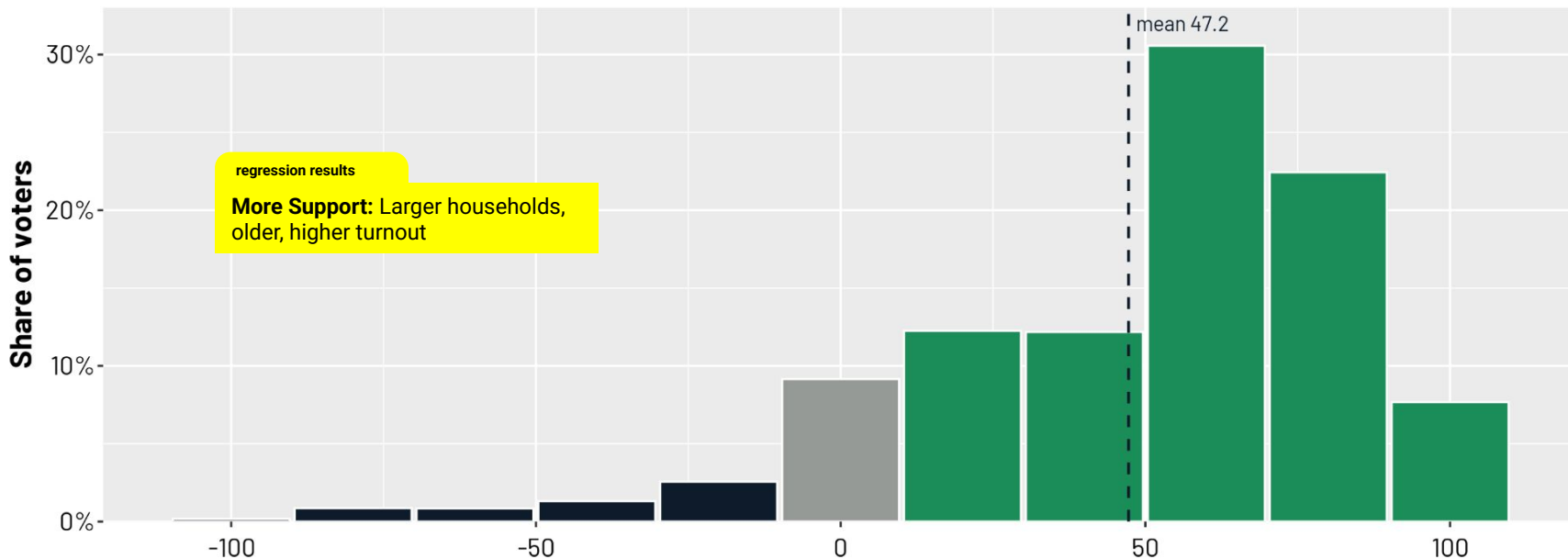
% STRONGLY support (every proposal clears 65% on total support)



QISOPOL1-7. Total support runs 65-88%, so intensity - not the topline - is what separates these proposals.

Almost Nobody Opposes the Connection Agenda Across the Board

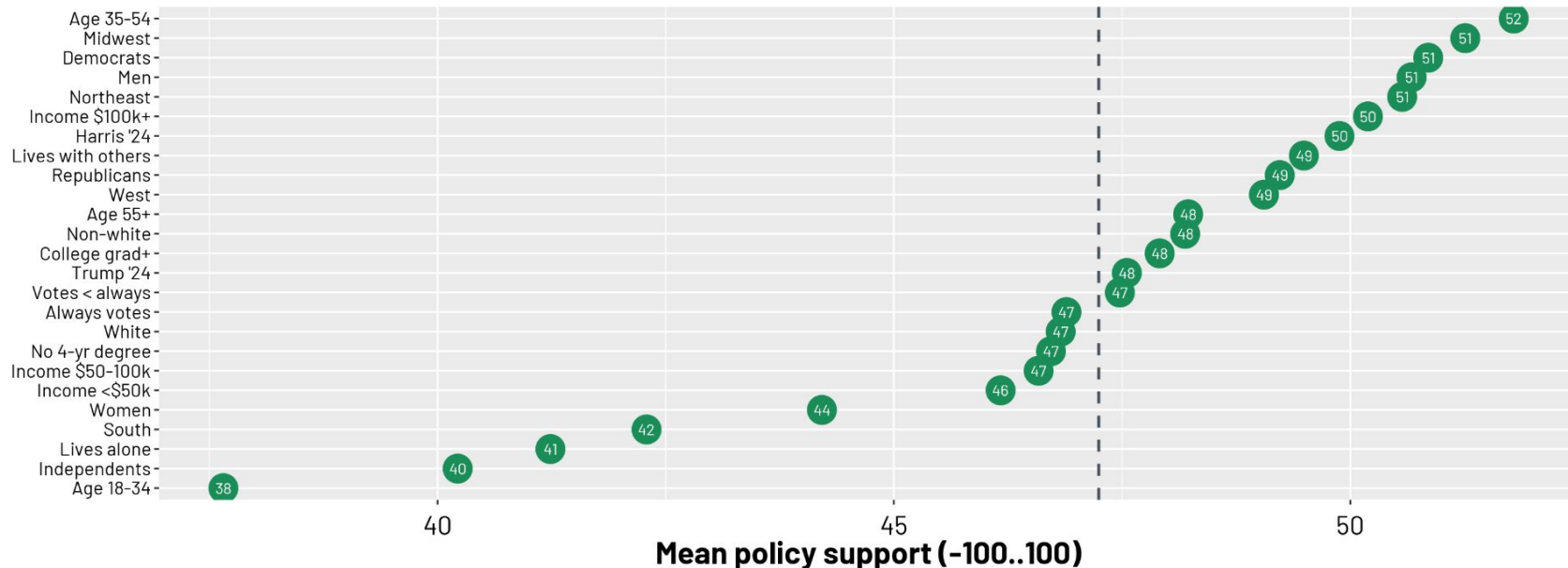
-100 = oppose all seven proposals, +100 = strongly support all seven



Mean of the seven QISOPOL items.

The Connection Agenda Travels Everywhere - No Demographic Group Is Net-Negative

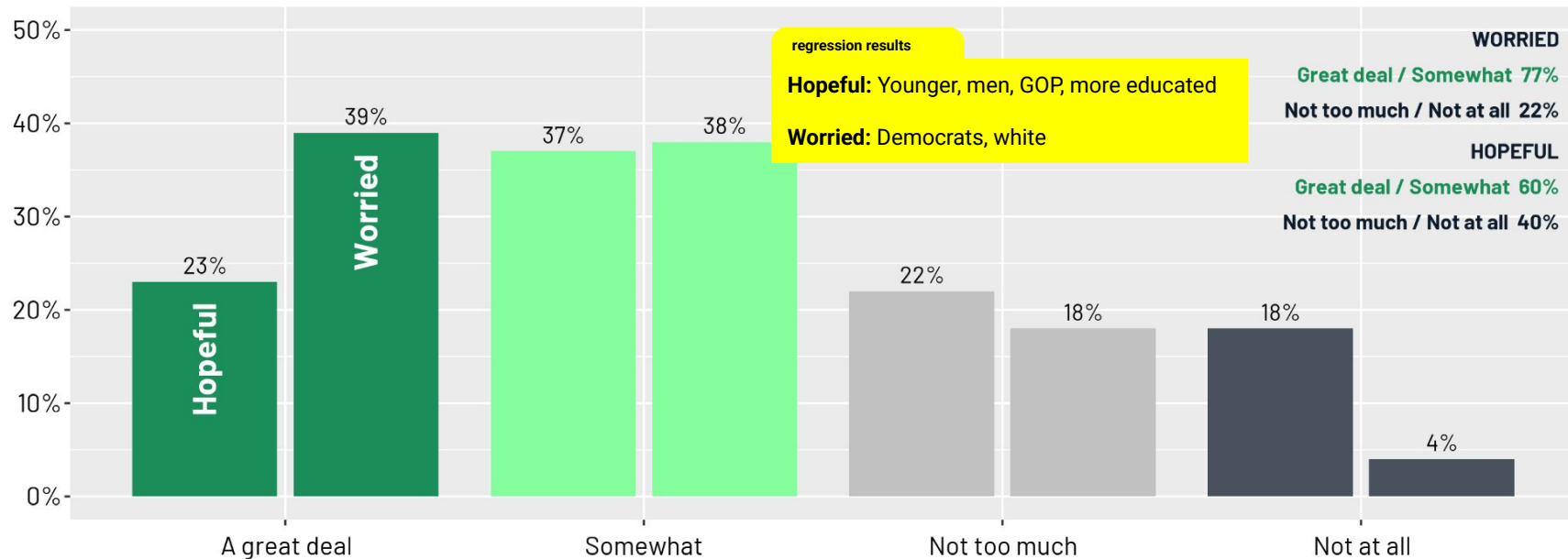
Mean policy support index (-100..100) | dashed line = all voters (47)



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Two-to-One, Voters Are More Worried About AI Than Hopeful About It

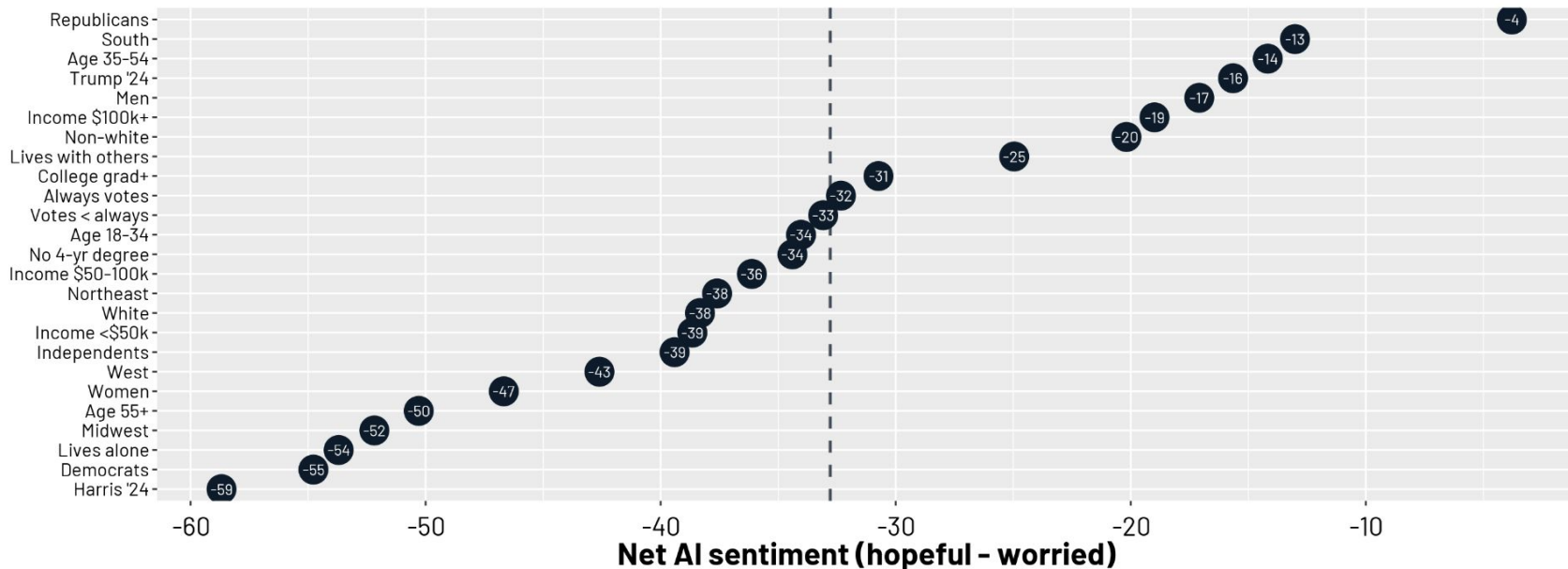
HOPEFUL: AI could improve your own daily life . WORRIED: AI could be misused or cause harm



Thinking about the increased use of AI in daily life, how does this describe how you feel?

Worry Beats Hope on AI in Every Demographic Group - Republicans Come Closest to Even

Net AI sentiment: mean hopeful minus mean worried (-200 to +200) | dashed line = all voters (-33)

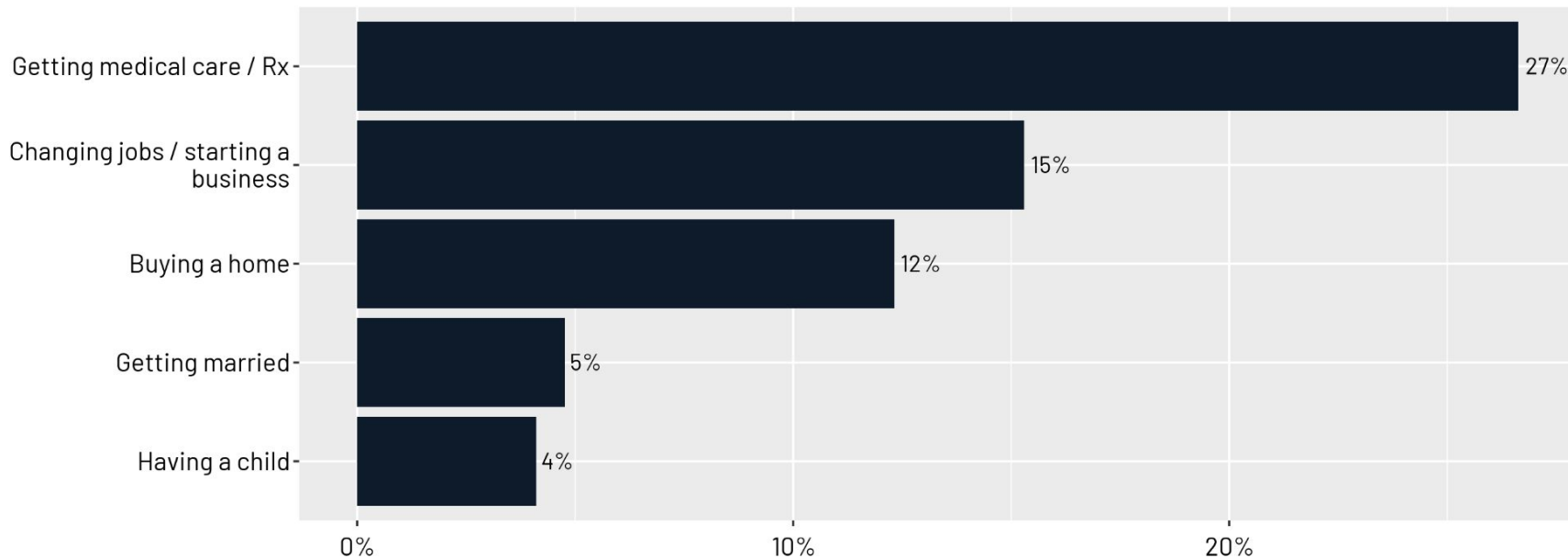


QAI_IND minus QAI_SOC , each recoded a great deal = 100, somewhat = 50, not too much = -50, not at all = -100. Negative = worry outweighs hope.

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

Medical Care Is What Americans Give Up First - 27%, Twice Any Other Sacrifice

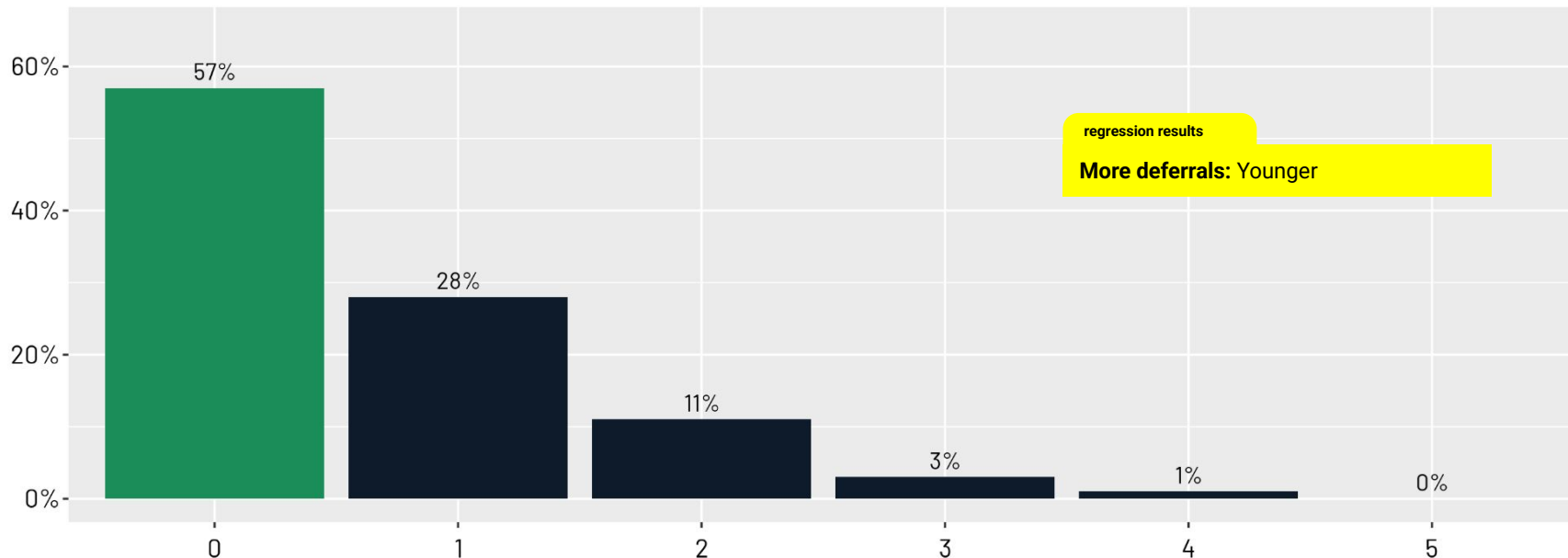
% who delayed or went without, due to finances



In the past year, have you or anyone in your household delayed, postponed, or gone without any of the following because of financial concerns?

43% Went Without Something This Year for Financial Reasons

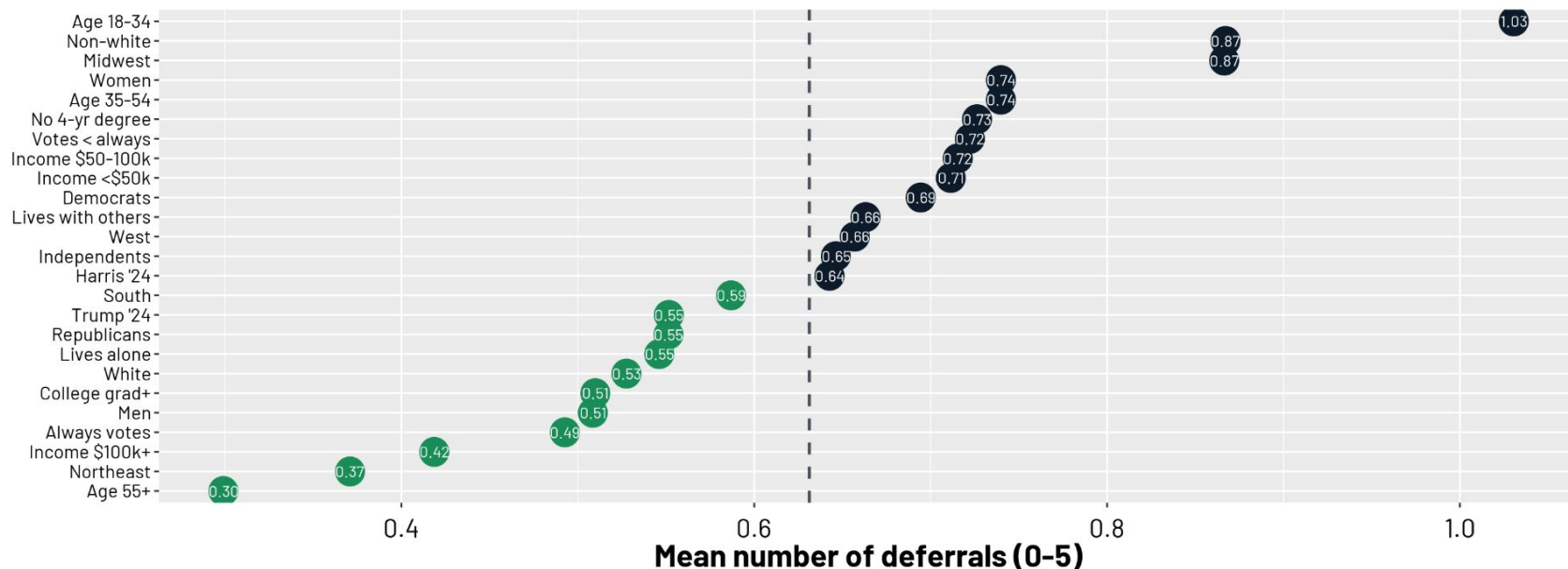
Count of life events delayed or forgone for financial reasons (0-5)



Built from the QDEFER select-all items.

Young Voters Defer More Than Three Times as Many Life Events as Seniors

Mean number of life events delayed for financial reasons (0-5) | dashed line = all voters (0.63)

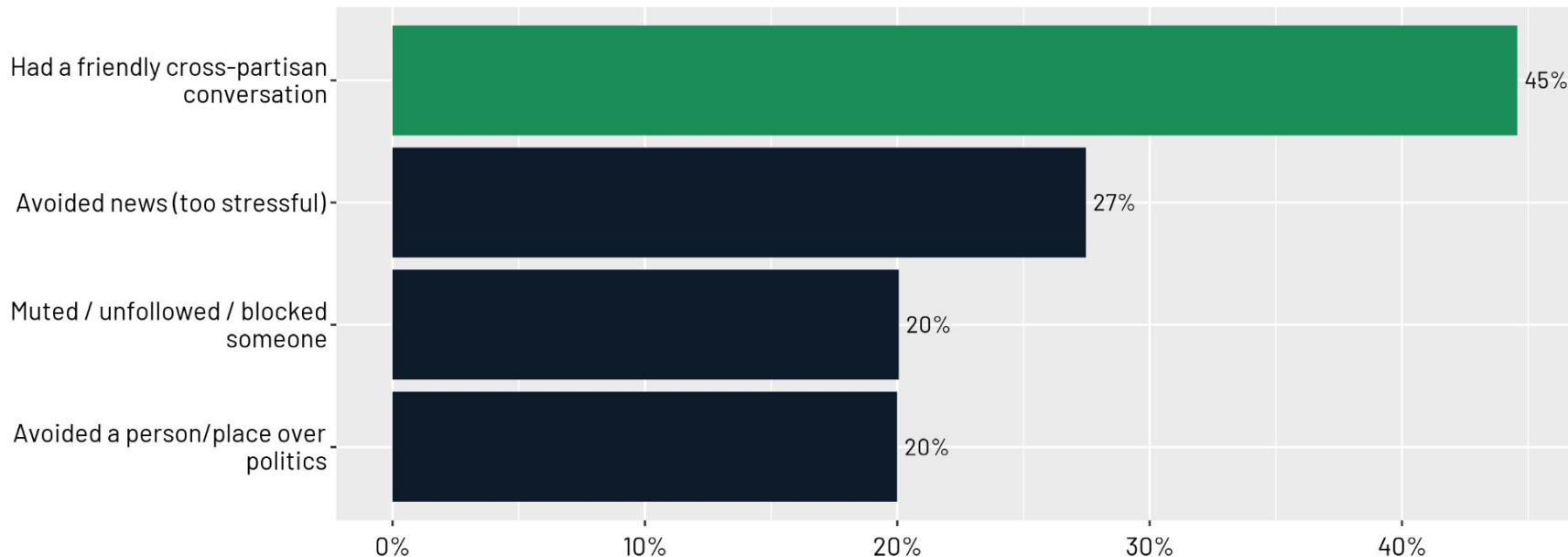


Built from the QDEFER select-all items.

POLITICAL DIVISION

Nearly Half Had a Friendly Conversation Across the Divide In the Past Week

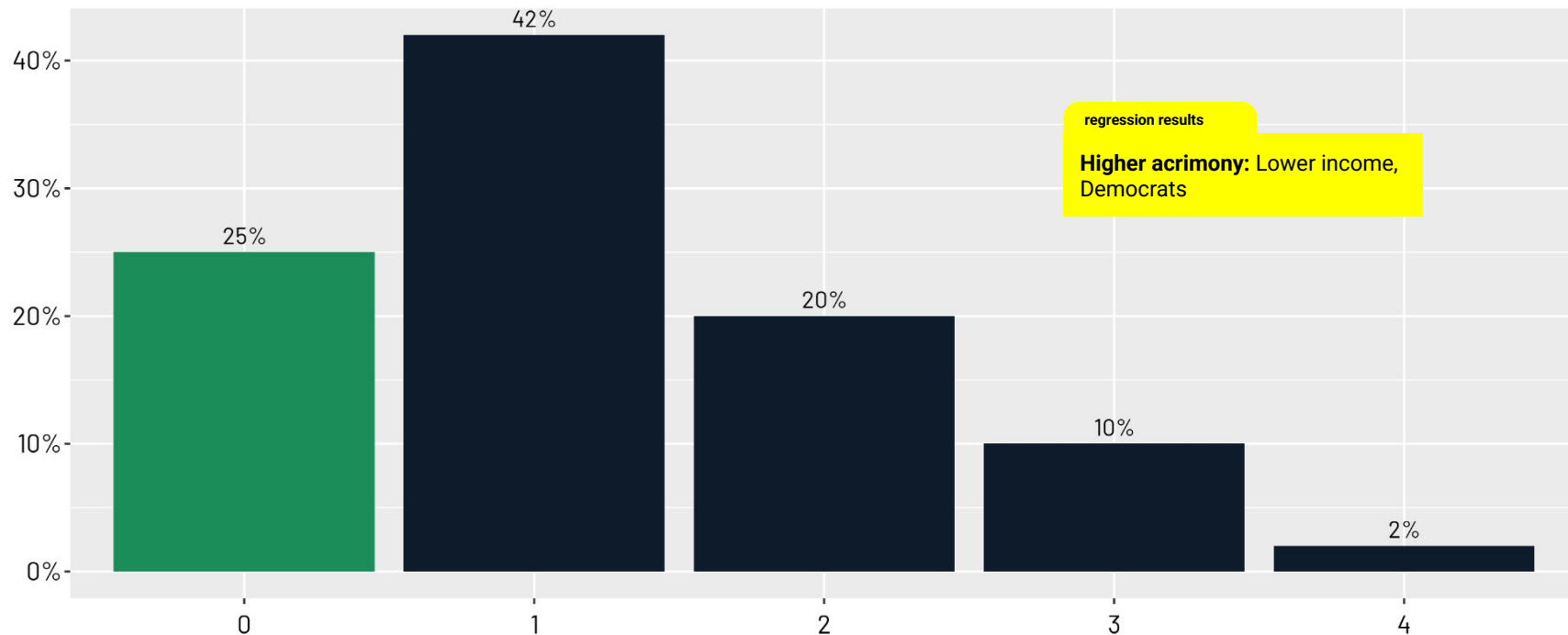
% who did each in the past week



In the past week, did you do any of the following?

A Quarter of Voters Show No Political Acrimony at All

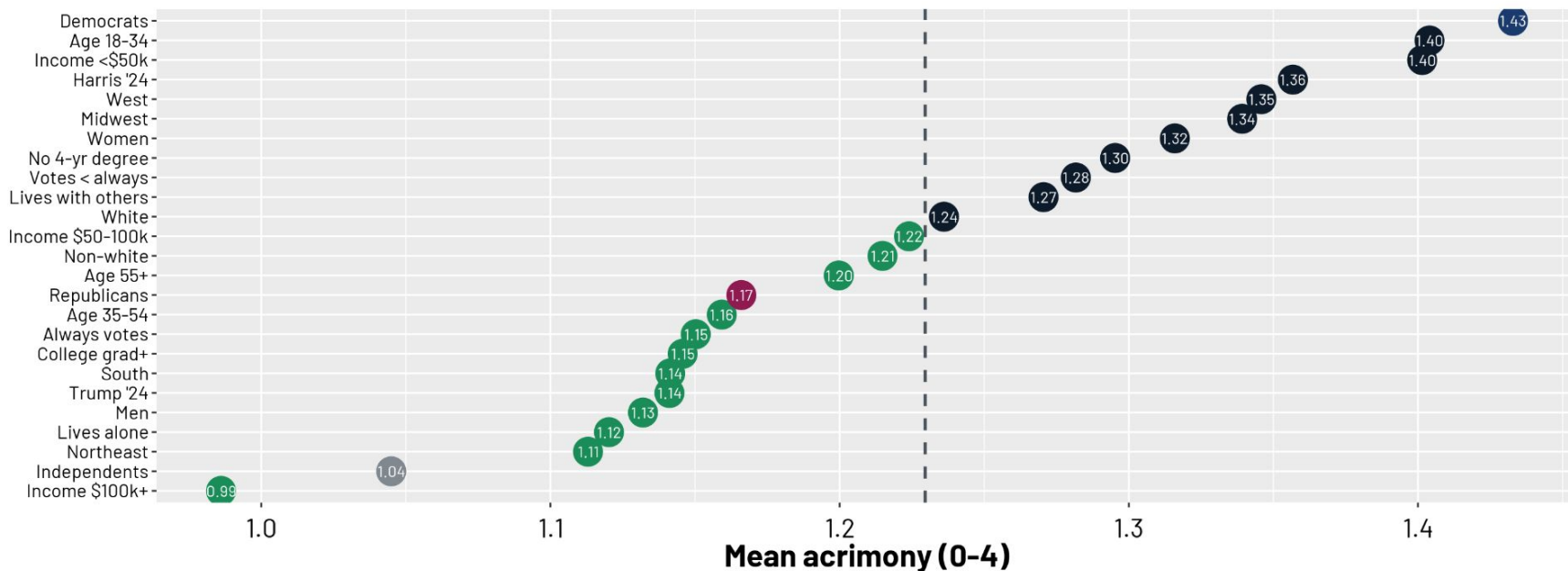
Partisan acrimony index (0-4): withdrawal behaviors + no civil conversation



Built from QWEEK: avoided news, avoided a person/place, or muted/blocked someone – plus NOT having a friendly cross-partisan conversation.

Democrats Show the Most Political Acrimony, Independents the Least

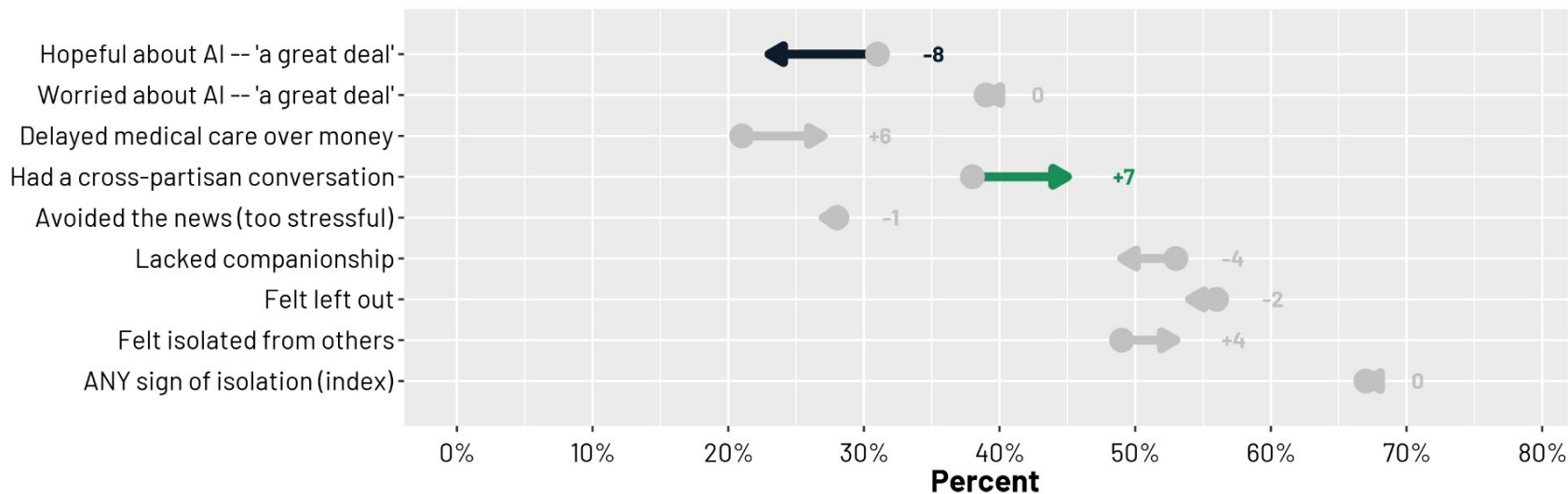
Mean partisan-acrimony index (0-4) | dashed line = all voters (1.23)



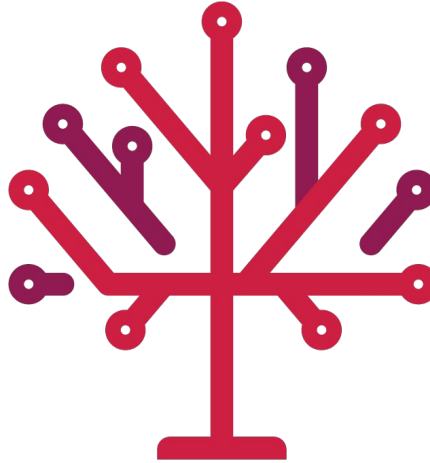
Built from QWEEK: avoided news, avoided a person or place, or muted/blocked someone – plus NOT having a friendly cross-partisan conversation.

What Actually Changed Since July: Two Moves Clear the Bar, the Rest Is Noise

Grey dot = July 2026, arrow head = August 2026. Moves smaller than 7 points are drawn in grey – they are not distinguishable from sampling noise.



Both waves n=400 national RVs. Design-adjusted MoE is about +/-5 per wave; because a trend compares two surveys, each carrying its own error, a change needs roughly 7 points before it is real.



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