

A decorative header banner featuring a pattern of interlocking puzzle pieces in shades of blue, purple, and red. The text 'Pew Research Center' is positioned on the right side of this banner.

Pew Research Center



Distrust, dissatisfaction and division: How Americans view their government

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A decorative footer banner featuring a pattern of interlocking puzzle pieces in shades of blue, purple, and red, matching the header banner.

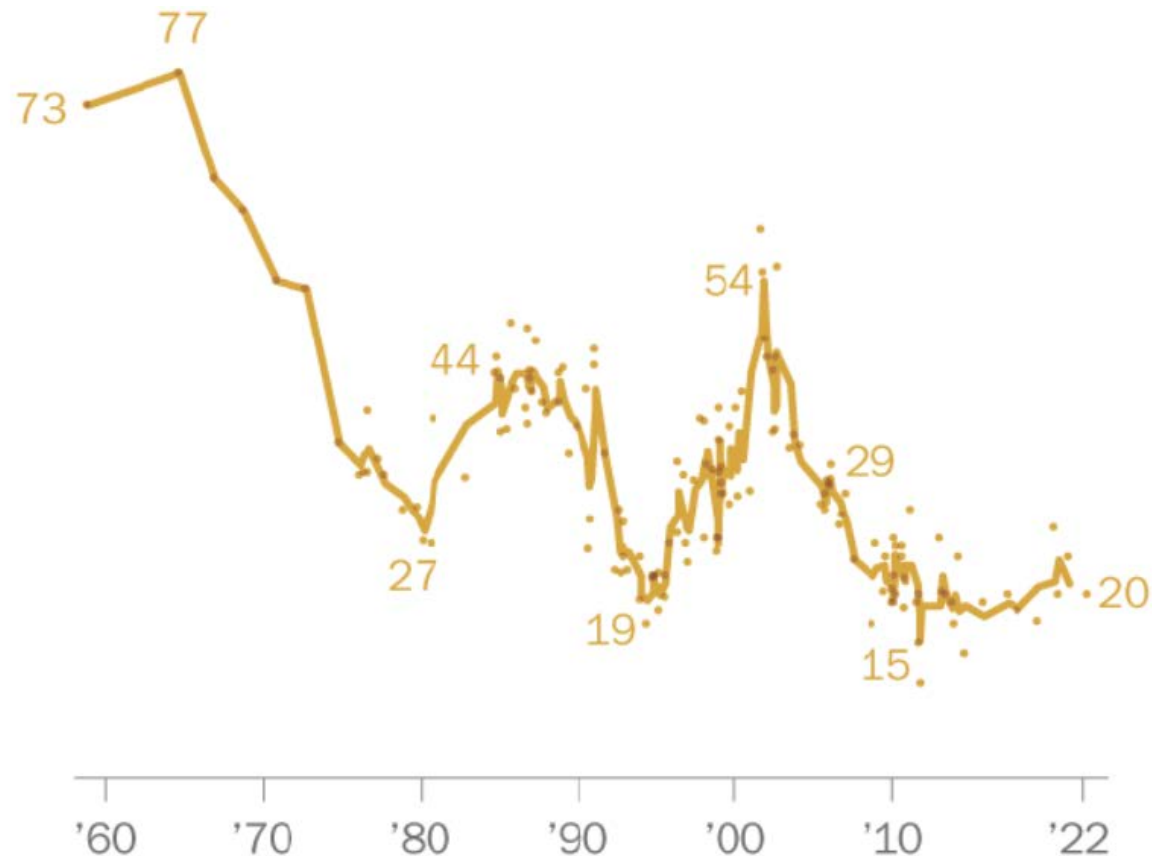
Who we are:

- A nonprofit ‘fact tank’
- Nonpartisan and nonadvocacy
- A subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, our primary funder

What we do: Generate a foundation of facts to enrich public dialogue and support sound decision-making. Our expertise is in public opinion polling, demographic research and computational social science.

Nearly two decades of low trust in government

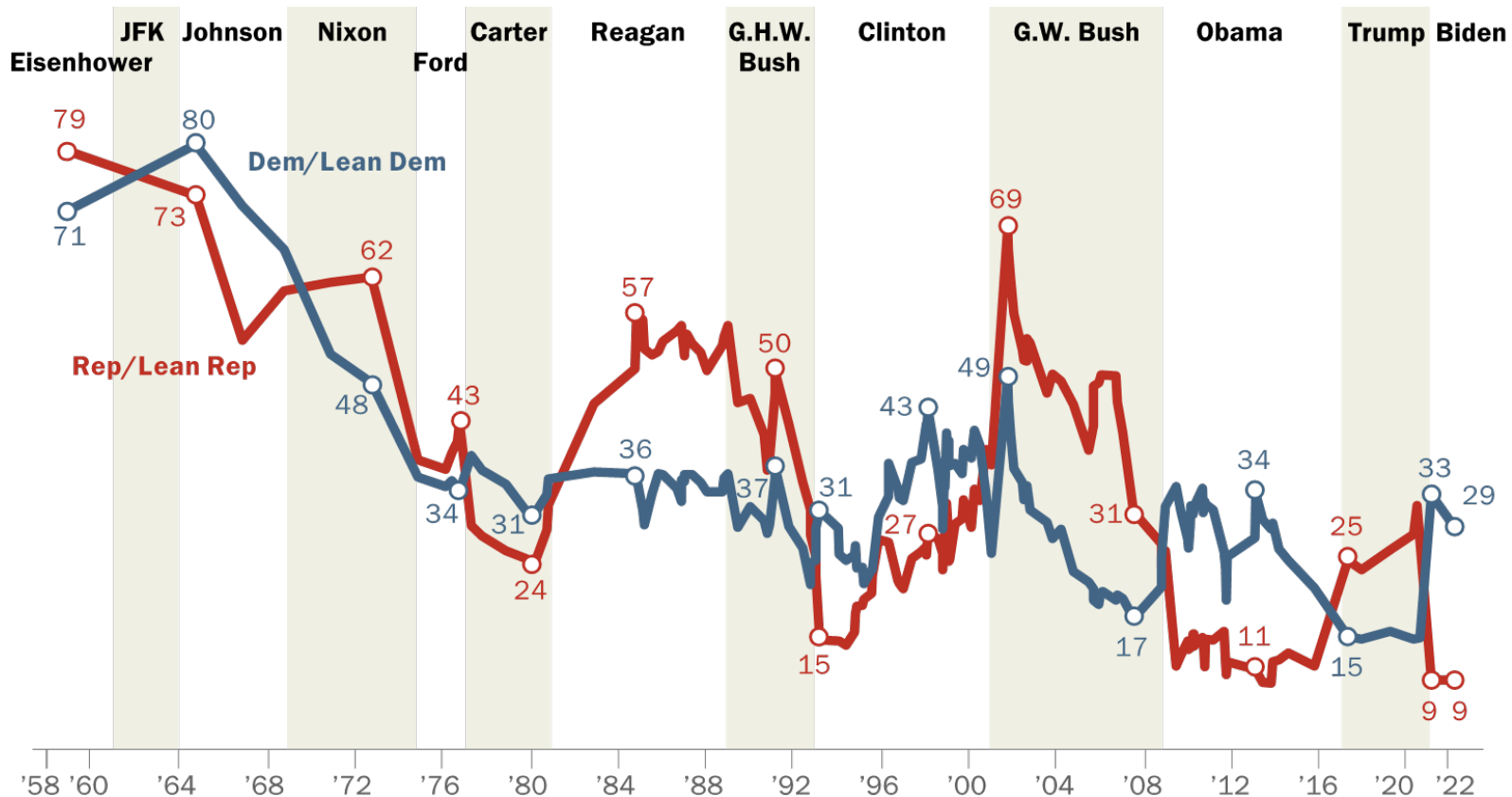
% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right most/all of the time



Note: From 1976-2021 the trend line represents a three-survey moving average. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 25-May 1, 2022. Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-2022). Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier). National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and CNN polls.

Trust in government, by party

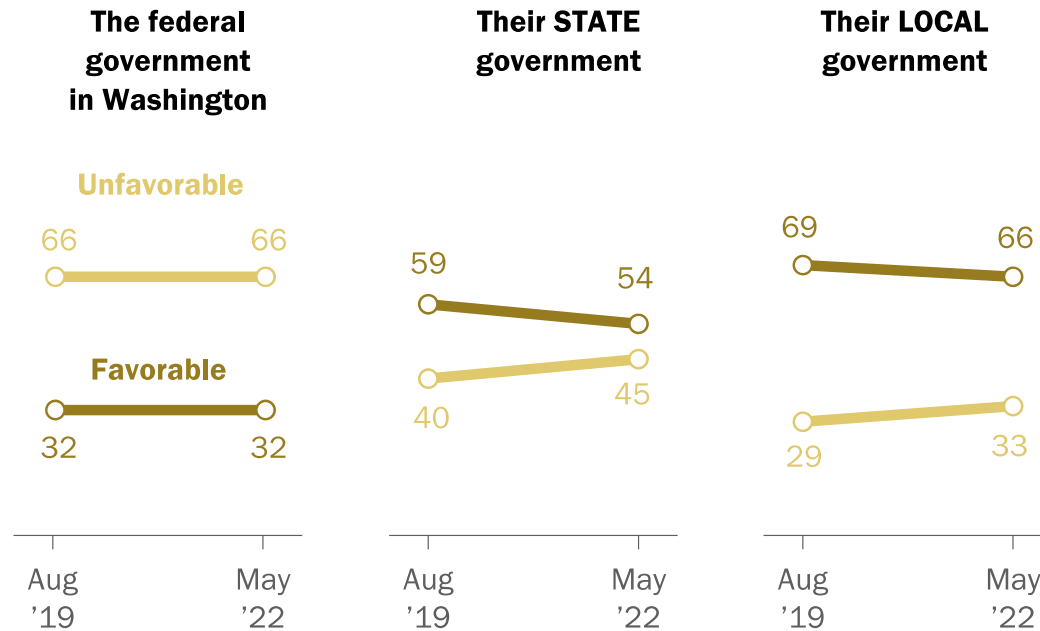
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Americans view the parts of government closer to them more positively

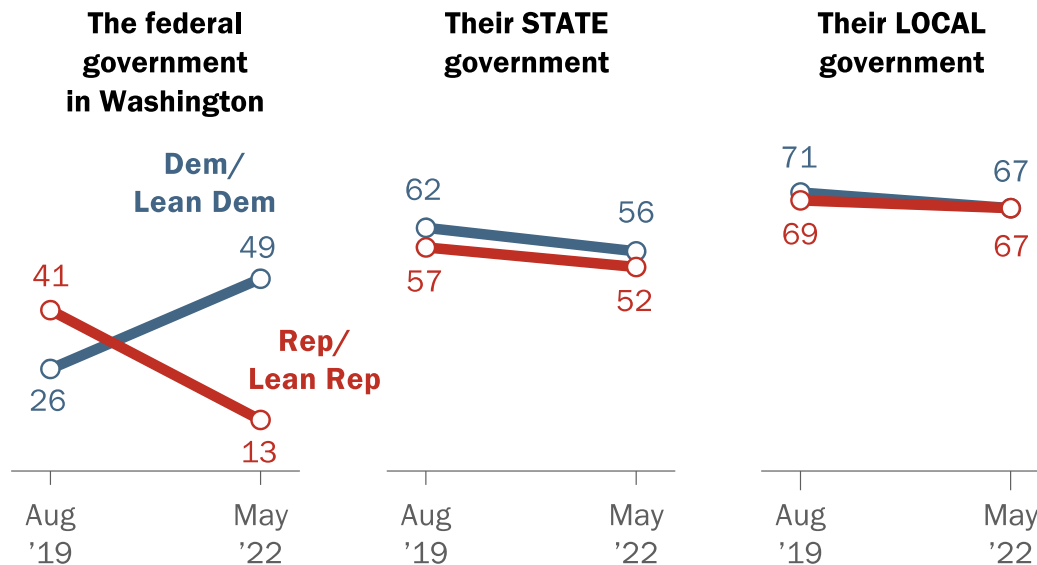
% who have
a(n) ___
opinion of ...



Note: No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 25-May 1, 2022.

Partisanship factors into views of the federal government

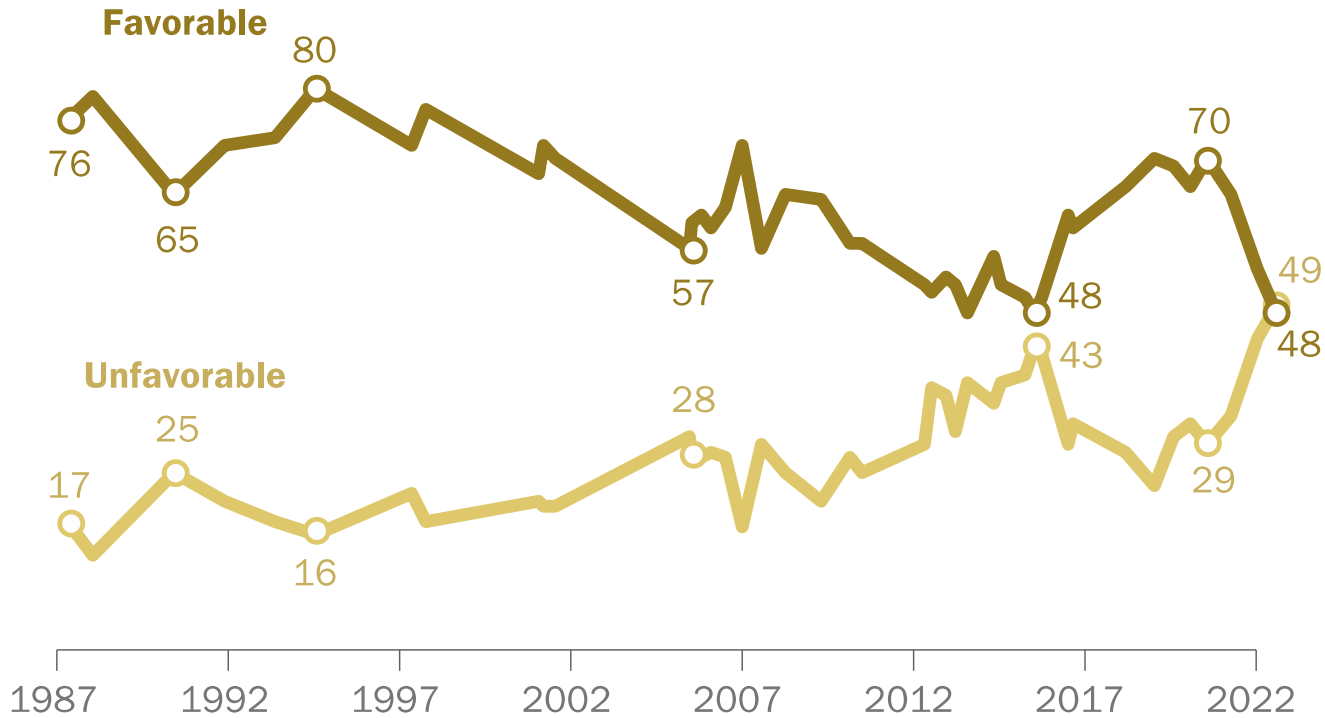
% who have a **favorable** opinion of ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 25-May 1, 2022.

Public views of the Supreme Court at 35 year low

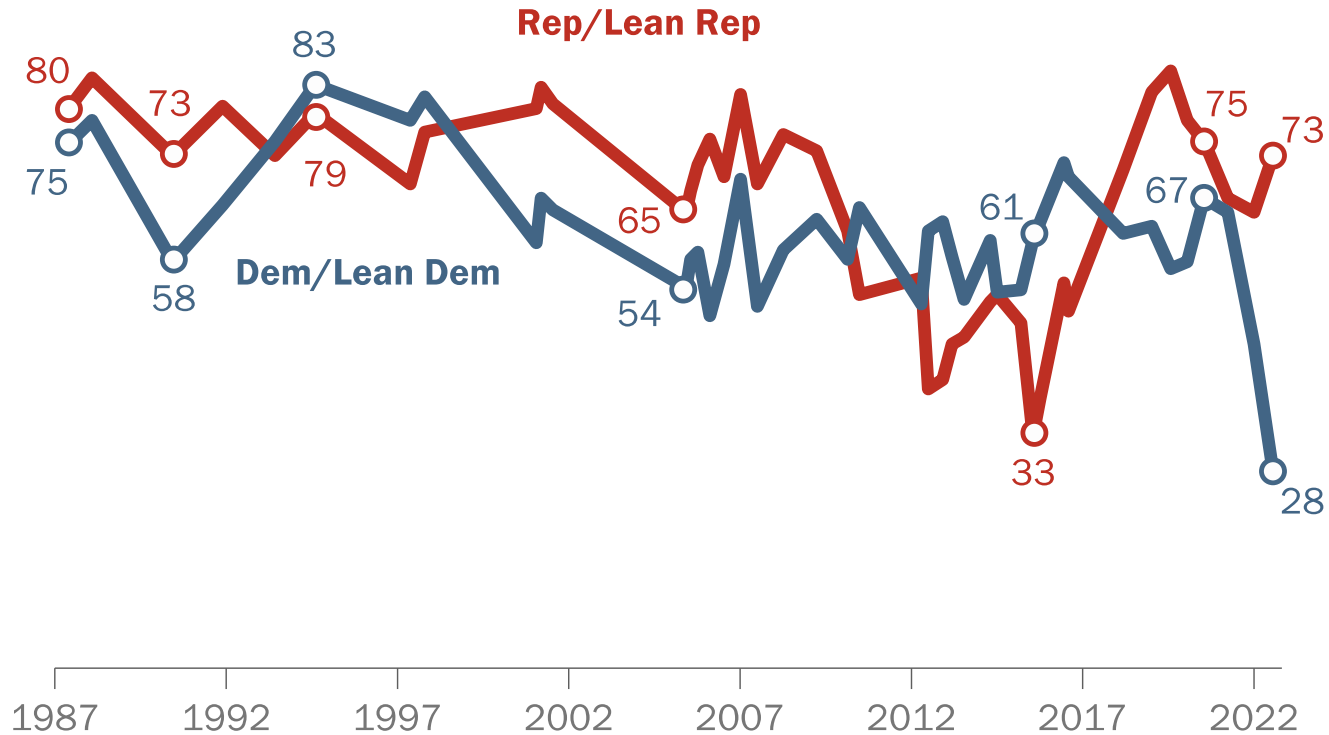
% who say they have a(n) ____ opinion of the Supreme Court



Note: No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug 1-14, 2022.

Partisan gap in views of Supreme Court now wider than at any point in more than three decades

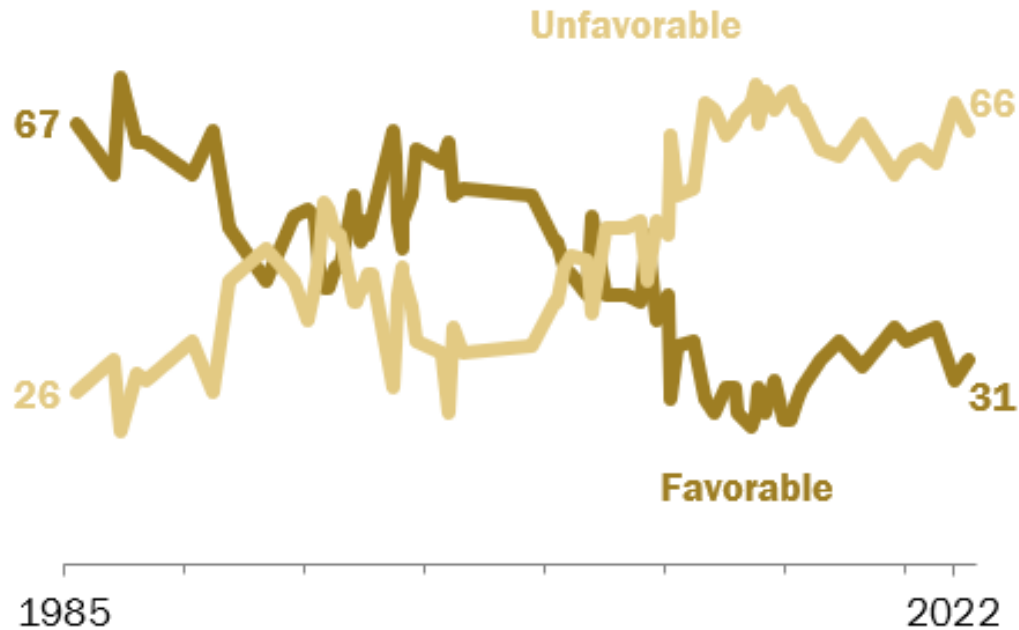
*% who say they have **favorable** opinion of the Supreme Court*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug 1-14, 2022.

Views of Congress remain more negative than in past decades

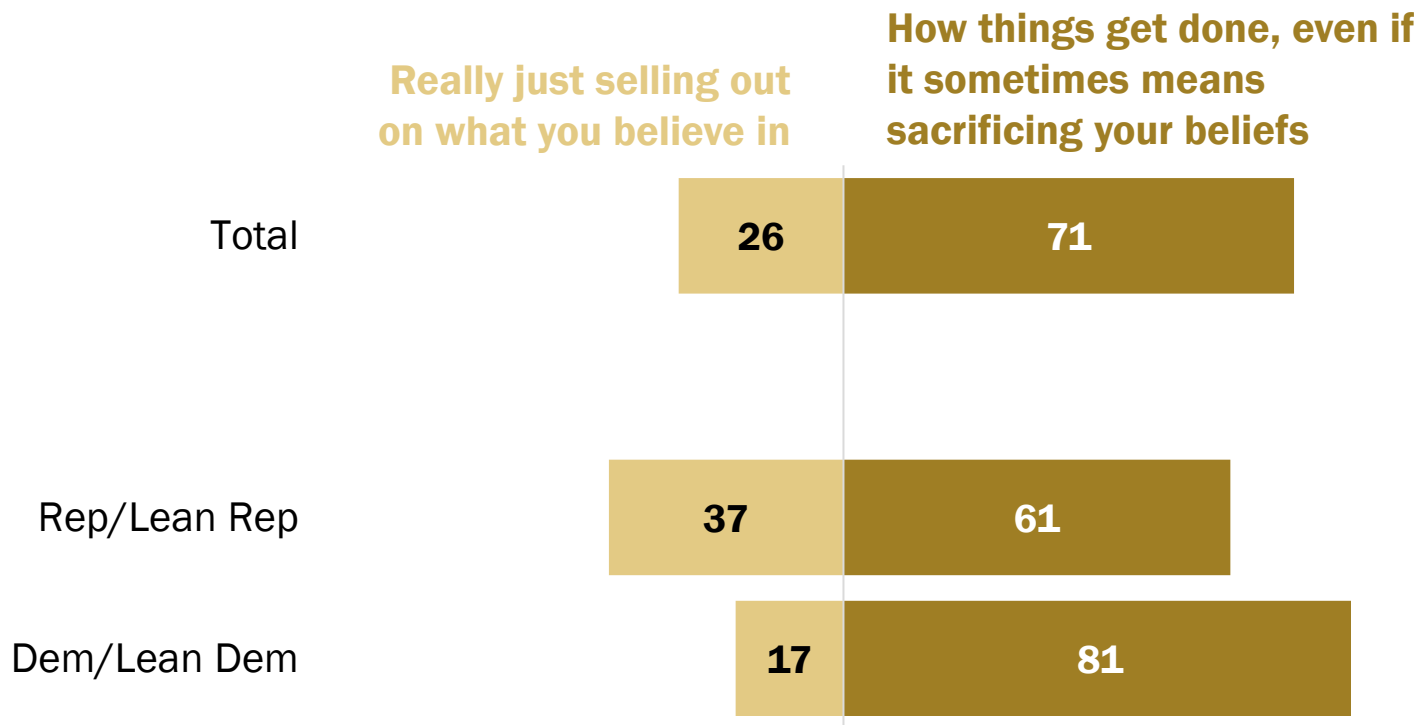
% who have a ___ view of Congress



Note: No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug 1-14, 2022.

Bipartisan acknowledgement that compromise is necessary

*% who say **compromise in politics is ...***

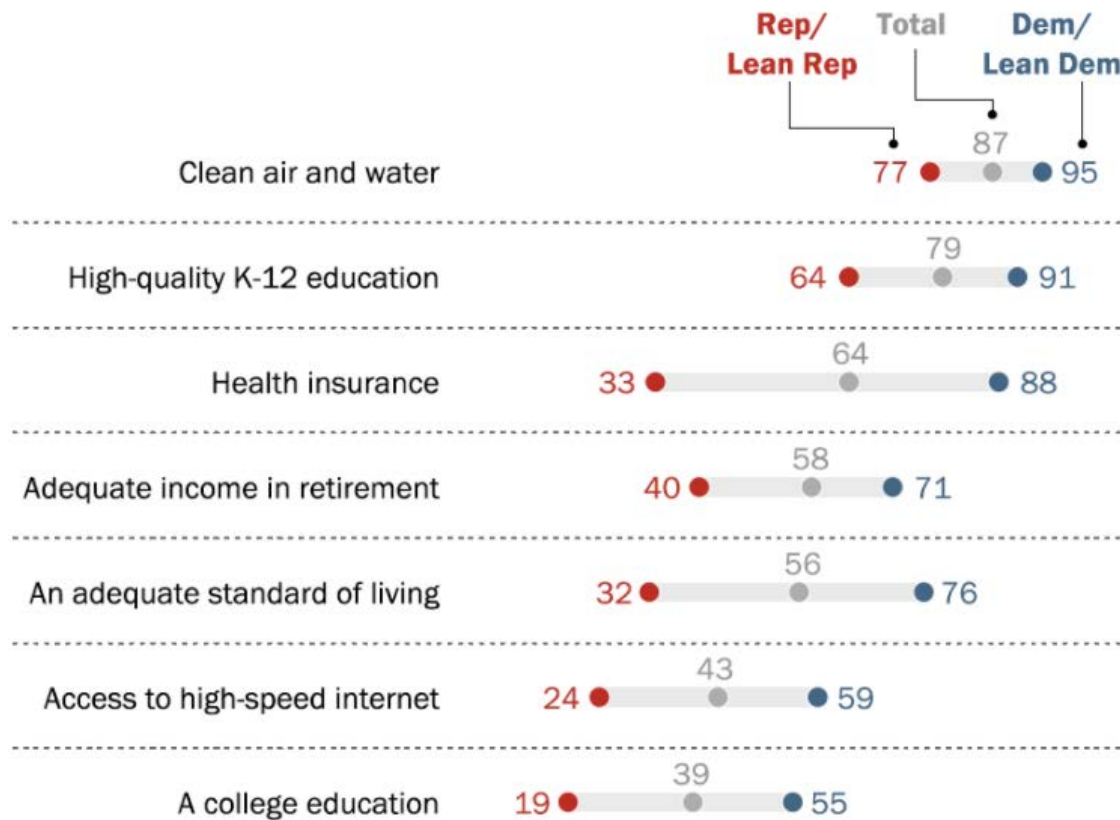


Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July , 2021.

Despite wide partisan divides, there are some areas where members of both partisan groups see a responsibility for government

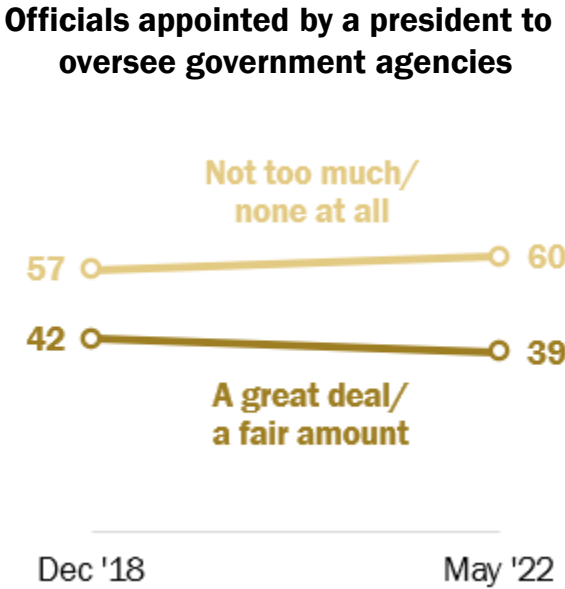
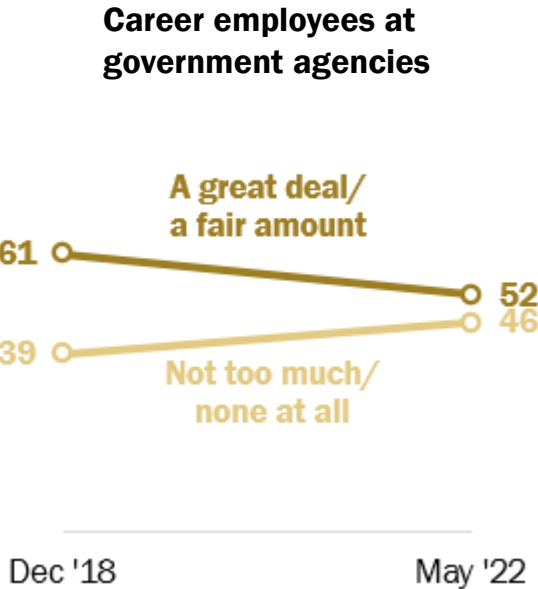
% who say the federal government has a responsibility to provide ___ for all Americans



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11, 2021.

Low confidence in political appointees, and declining confidence in career government employees

% who say they have ____ (of) confidence in

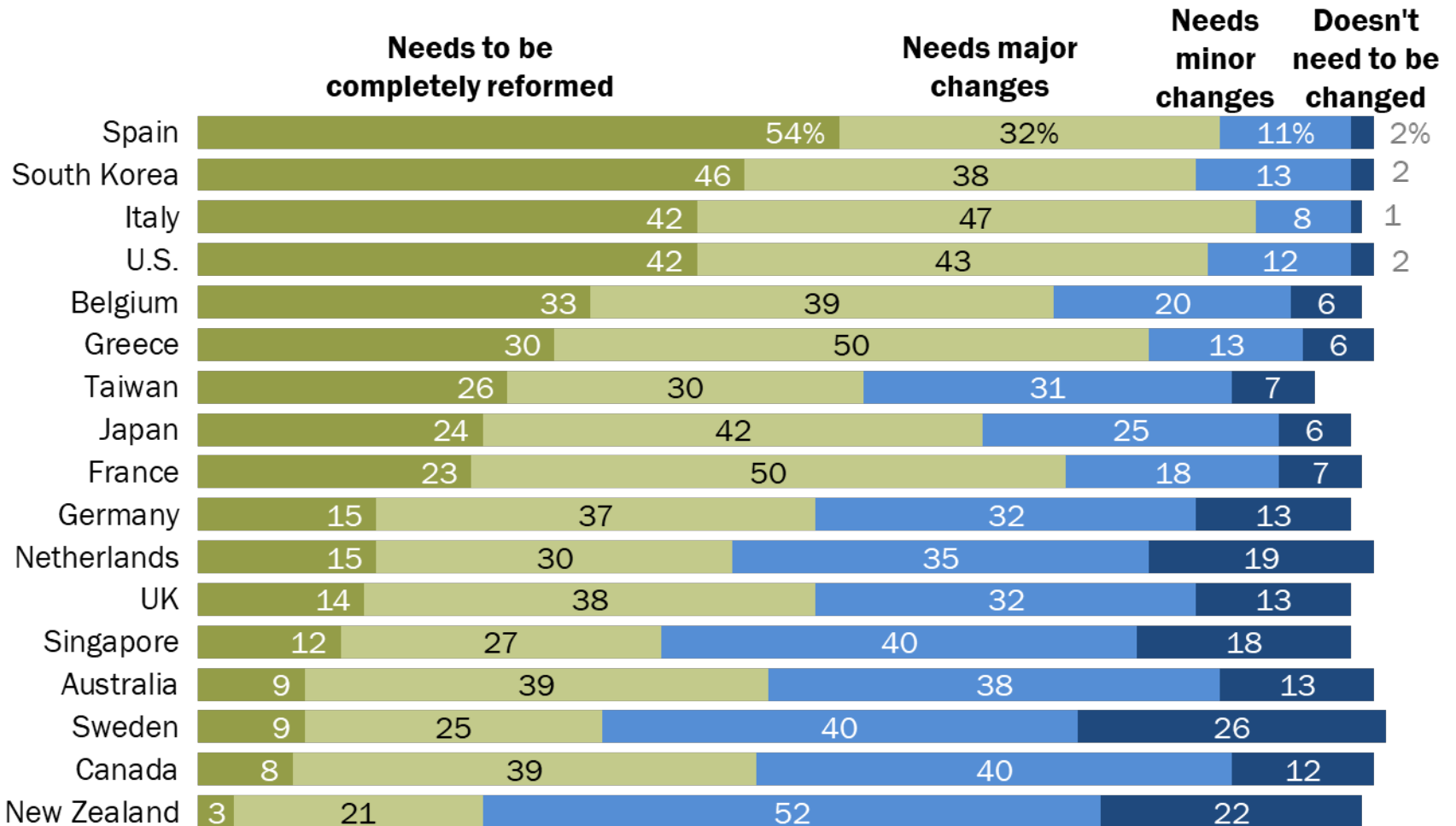


Note: No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 25-May 1, 2022.

Some perspective

Large shares in many publics say their political system needs reform

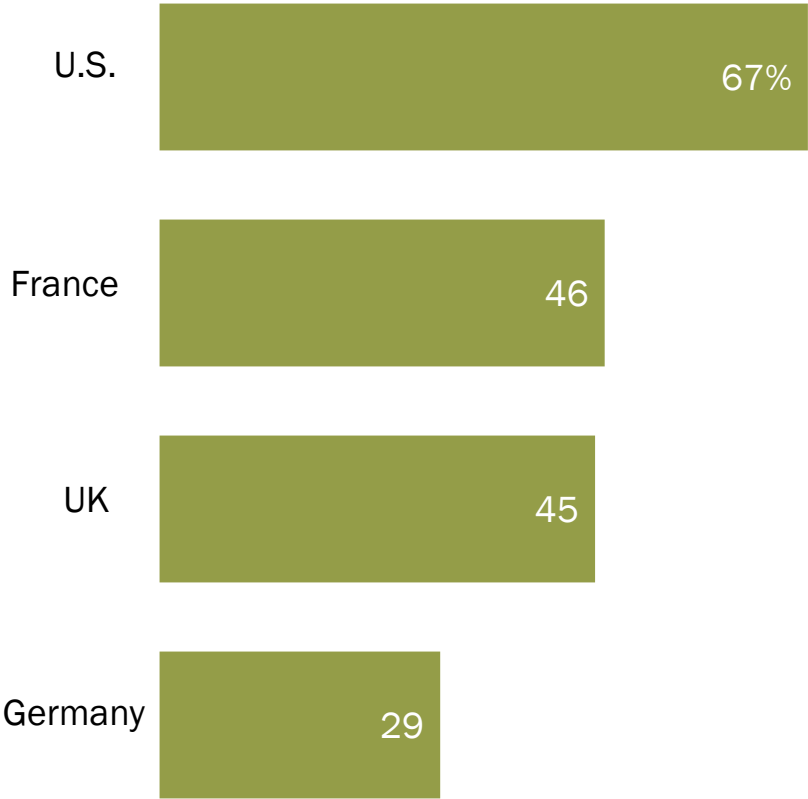
% who say the political system in (survey public) ...



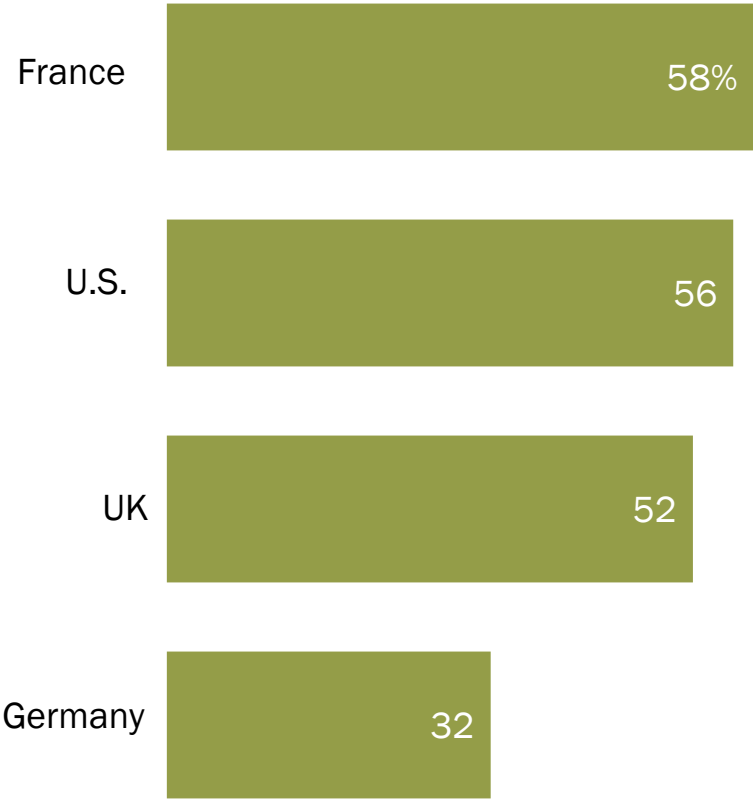
Note: Those who did not answer not shown.
 Source: Spring 2021 Global Attitudes Survey.

Americans more likely than others to say most politicians are corrupt

% who say the statement “most politicians are corrupt” describes their country well



% who say the statement “elected officials care what ordinary people think” does not describe their country well



Source: Fall 2020 Global Attitudes Survey.

Support for basic tenets of democracy

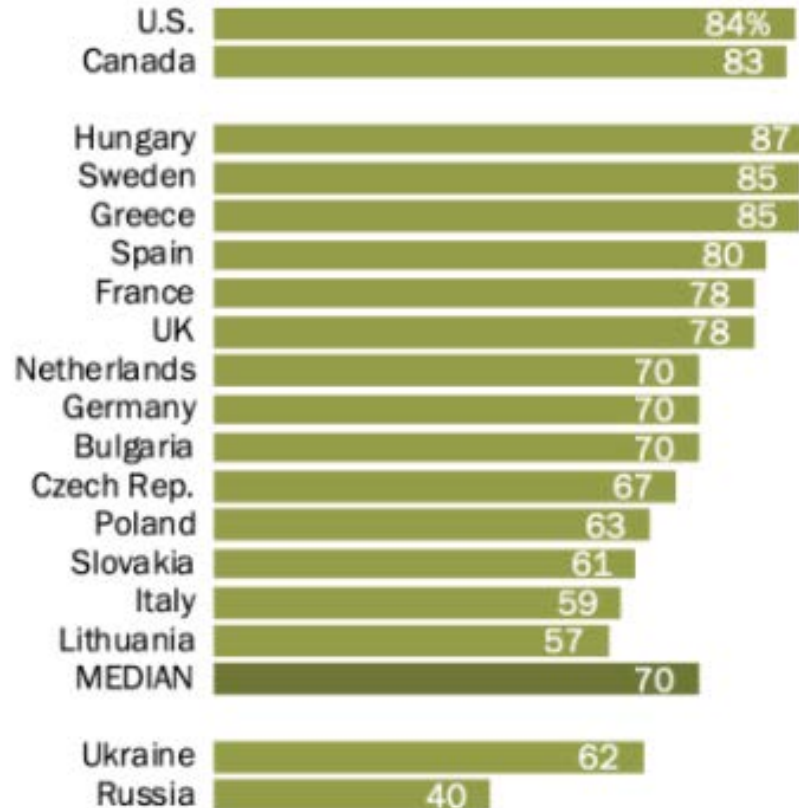
*How important is it to have the following things in our country? (showing % saying “**very important**”)*

	US	UK	Russia
Fair judiciary	93%	92	63
Free religion	86	75	42
Regular elections	84	78	40
Free media	80	77	38
Free speech	77	68	45
Free internet	71	66	40

Source: Spring 2019 Global Attitudes Survey

Majorities in many countries support regular competitive elections

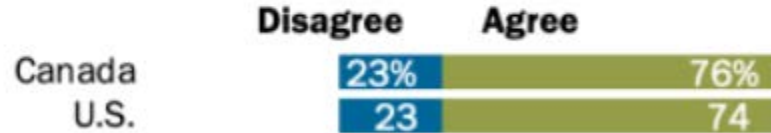
% who say it is very important that honest elections are held regularly with a choice of at least two political parties in their country



Source: Spring 2019 Global Attitudes Survey.

Most believe voting gives them a say

% who ___ voting gives people like them some say about how the government runs things



Including similarly-sized majorities among both
Republicans and Democrats

Source: Spring 2019 Global Attitudes Survey.

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