Americans on Immigration Reform

A National Survey of Registered Voters

January 2019

Methodology

Sample Size: 2,407 registered voters

Field Dates: October 1-16, 2018
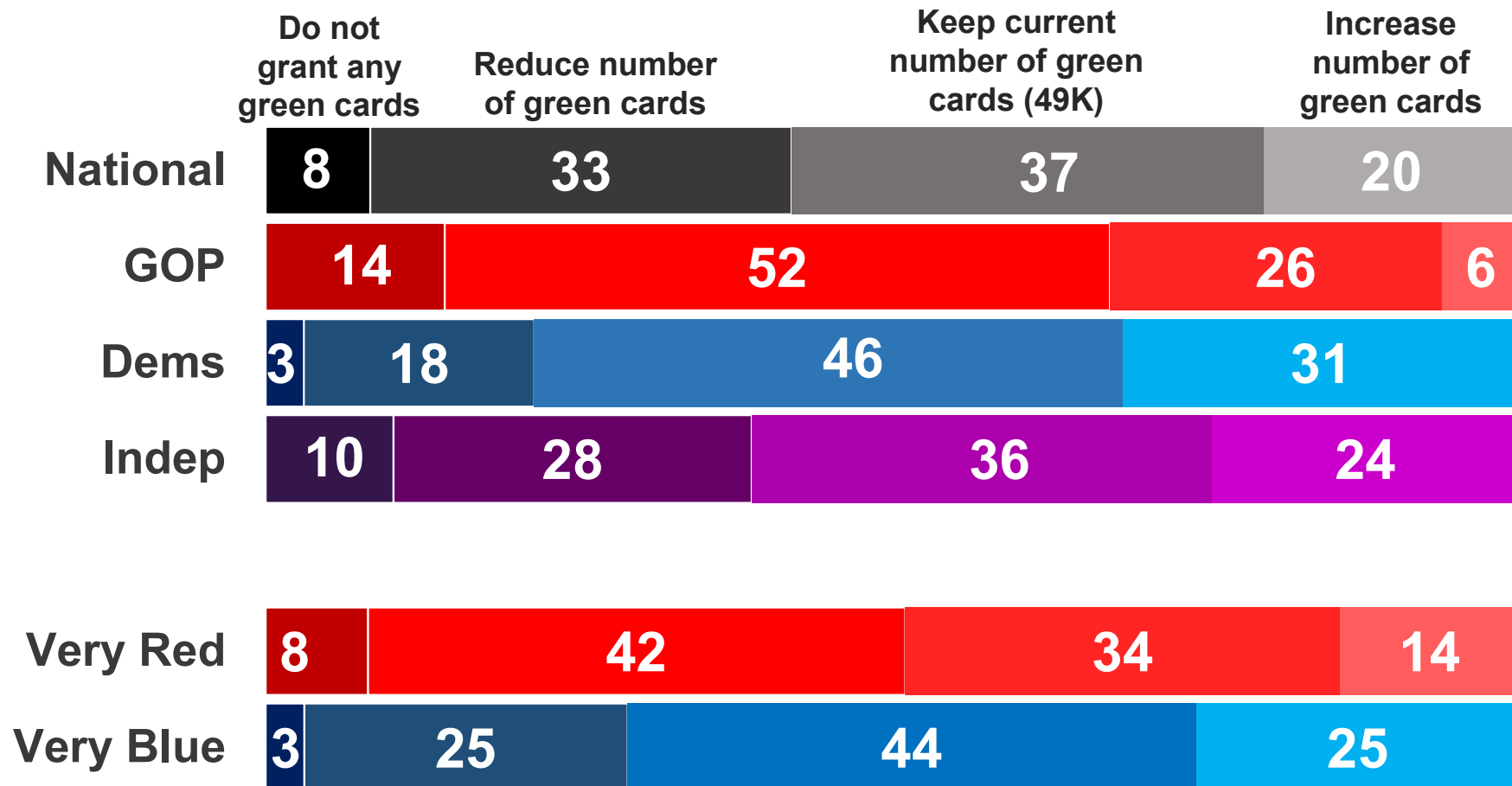
Margin of Error:
- Each Half-Sample: 2.8%
- Full Sample: +/- 2.0%

Fielded by: Nielsen Scarborough

Family-Based Programs

Final Recommendation: Adult Children of U.S. Citizens

Regarding the part of the program that provides about
49,000 green cards for the **adult children** of U.S. citizens:

	Do not grant any green cards	Reduce number of green cards	Keep current number of green cards (49K)	Increase number of green cards
National	8	33	37	20
GOP	14	52	26	6
Dems	3	18	46	31
Indep	10	28	36	24
Very Red	8	42	34	14
Very Blue	3	25	44	25

Family-Based Programs

Final Recommendation: Adult Children of U.S. Citizens

Asked of those who recommended reducing the number of green cards granted to adult children of U.S. citizens:

What do you think the number of green cards granted each year for **adult children of U.S. citizens** should be? (Currently the number is about 49,000 a year.)
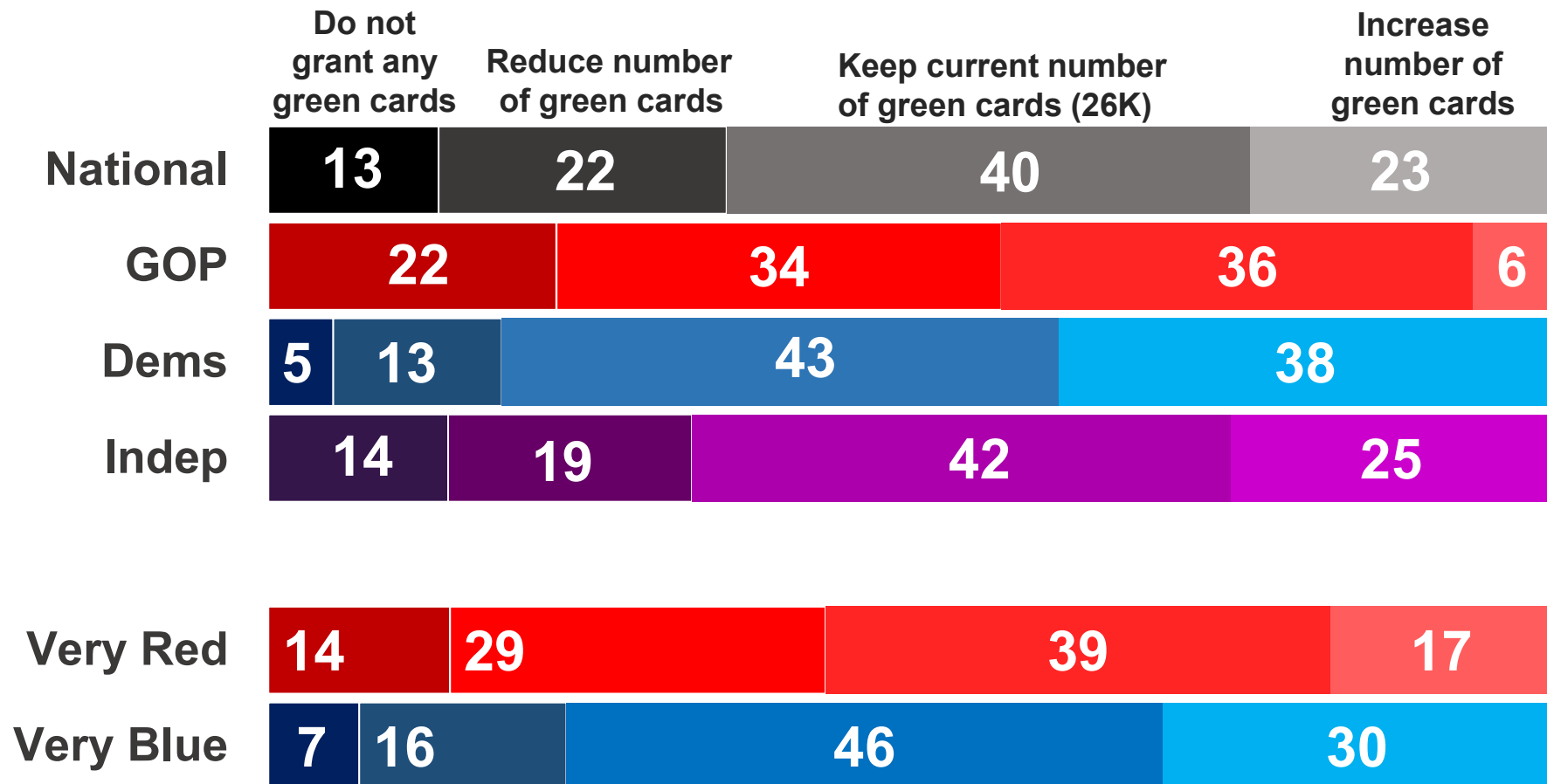
	Median	
National	20,000	
GOP	25,000*	*58% majority
Dem	20,000	
Indep	20,000	

Family-Based Programs

Final Recommendation:
Adult Children of Permanent Residents

Regarding the part of the program that provides about
26,000 green cards for the **adult children** of **permanent residents**:

	Do not grant any green cards	Reduce number of green cards	Keep current number of green cards (26K)	Increase number of green cards
National	13	22	40	23
GOP	22	34	36	6
Dems	5	13	43	38
Indep	14	19	42	25
Very Red	14	29	39	17
Very Blue	7	16	46	30

Family-Based Programs

Final Recommendation: Adult Children of Permanent Residents

Asked of those who recommended reducing the number of green cards granted to adult children of permanent residents:

What do you think the number of green cards granted each year for **adult children of permanent residents** should be? (Currently the number is about 26,000 a year.)
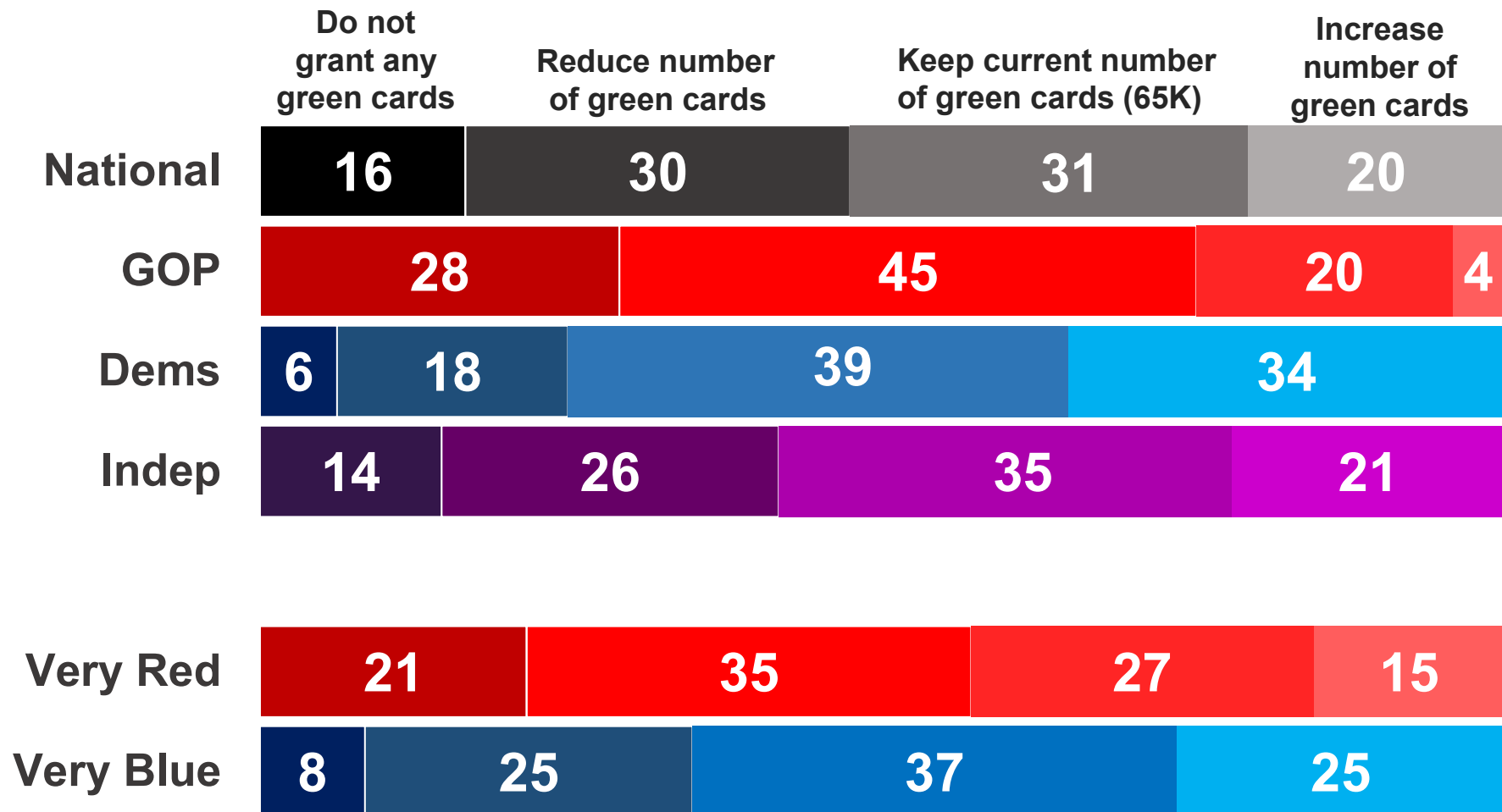
	Median	
National	10,000	
GOP	12,000*	*52% majority
Dem	15,000	
Indep	10,000	

Family-Based Programs

Final Recommendation: Siblings of U.S. Citizens

Regarding the part of the program that provides about **65,000 green cards for siblings** (i.e. brothers and sisters) of **U.S. citizens**:

	Do not grant any green cards	Reduce number of green cards	Keep current number of green cards (65K)	Increase number of green cards
National	16	30	31	20
GOP	28	45	20	4
Dems	6	18	39	34
Indep	14	26	35	21
Very Red	21	35	27	15
Very Blue	8	25	37	25

Family-Based Programs

Final Recommendation: Siblings of U.S. Citizens

Asked of those who recommended reducing the number of green cards granted to siblings of U.S. Citizens:

What do you think the number of green cards granted each year for **siblings of U.S. Citizens** should be? (Currently the number is about 65,000 a year.)

	Median
National	30,000
GOP	30,000*
Dem	32,000
Indep	25,000

*52% majority

Family-Based Programs

Final Recommendation: Parents of U.S. Citizens

Turning now to the parents of US citizens, first it should be clarified that there is not a formal limit on the number of green cards going to them. However, the actual number of green cards granted is about 175,000.
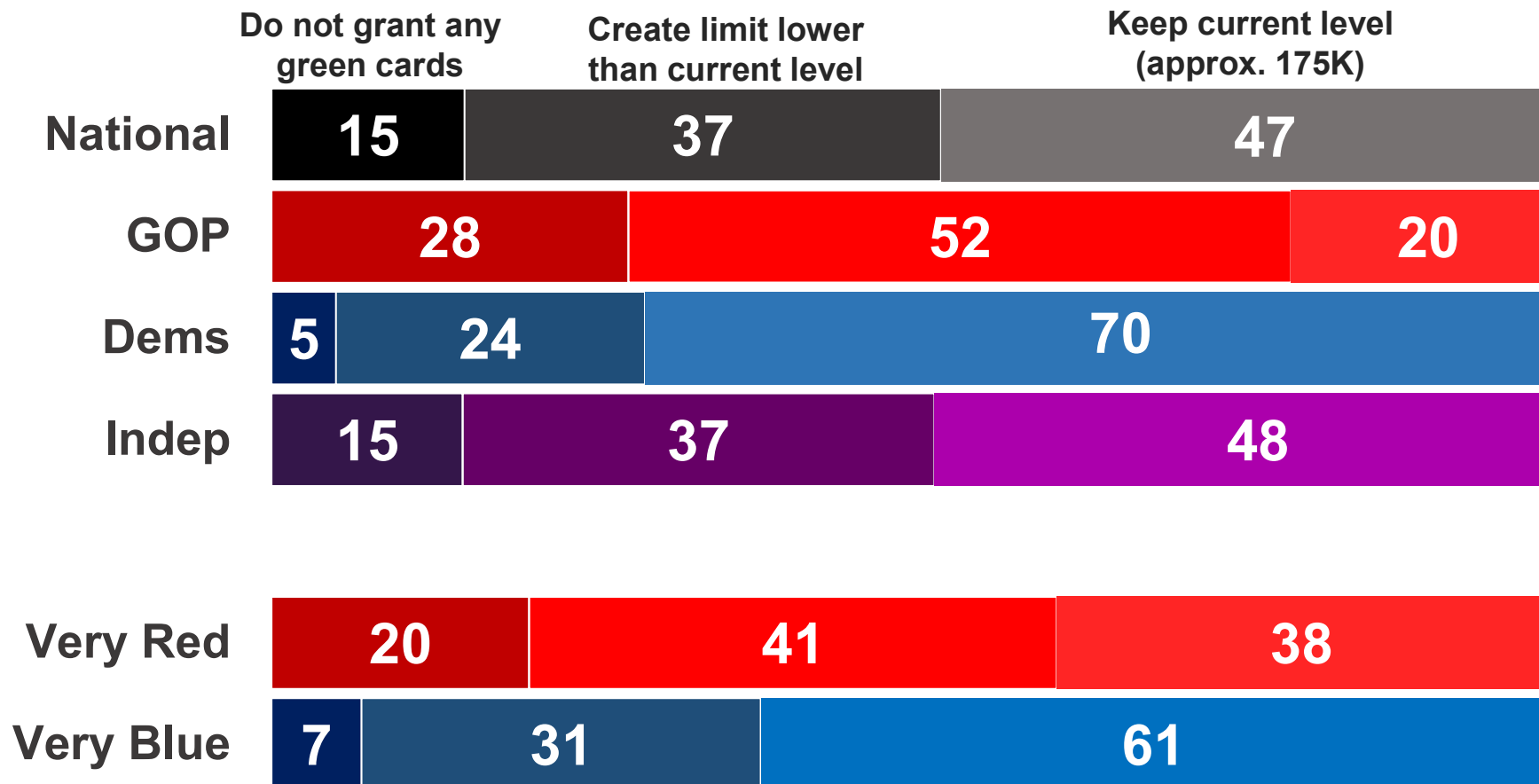
	Do not grant any green cards	Create limit lower than current level	Keep current level (approx. 175K)
National	15	37	47
GOP	28	52	20
Dems	5	24	70
Indep	15	37	48
Very Red	20	41	38
Very Blue	7	31	61

Family-Based Programs

Final Recommendation: Parents of U.S. Citizens

Asked of those who recommended reducing the number of green cards granted to parents of U.S. Citizens:

What do you think the number of green cards granted each year under this program should be? (Currently the number is about 175,000 a year.)

	Median	Majority
National	75,000	125,000 or more (51%)
GOP	75,000	50,000 or more (55%)
Dem	80,000	
Indep	50,000	100,000 or more (57%)

# Temporary Visa for Parents of U.S. Citizens

Argument in Favor

Under the current system, when US citizens are able to get their parents a green card and bring them into the US, it can put a substantial burden on US taxpayers. Although these older people have not paid taxes to the government they are able to get government services, such as Medicare, which can be quite costly for the government. If US citizens want to bring in their parents, they must take responsibility for ensuring their financial support and that they will not need government-provided services such as healthcare, which is what this proposal does.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	40	26	66
GOP	67	23	89
Dems	19	29	48
Indep	33	27	60
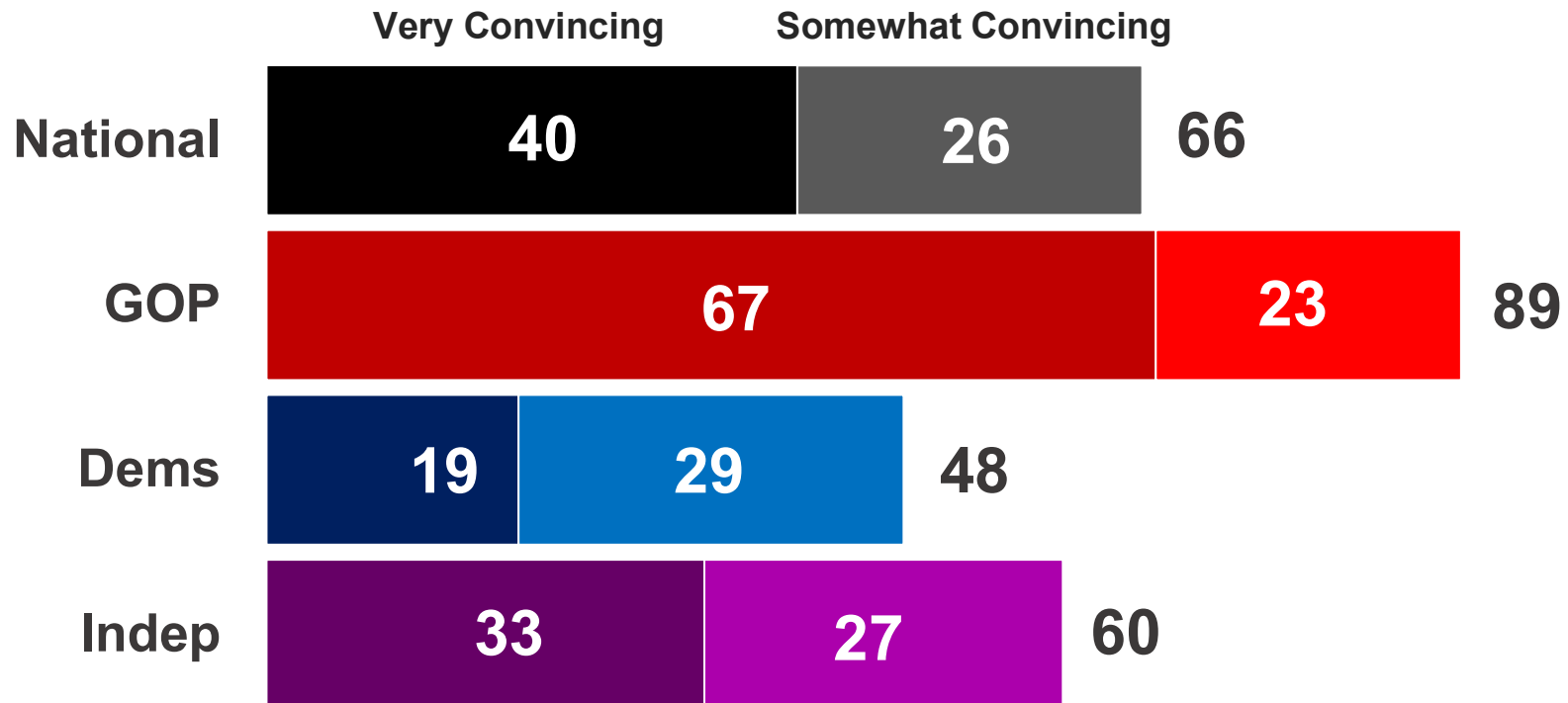
Temporary Visa for Parents of U.S. Citizens
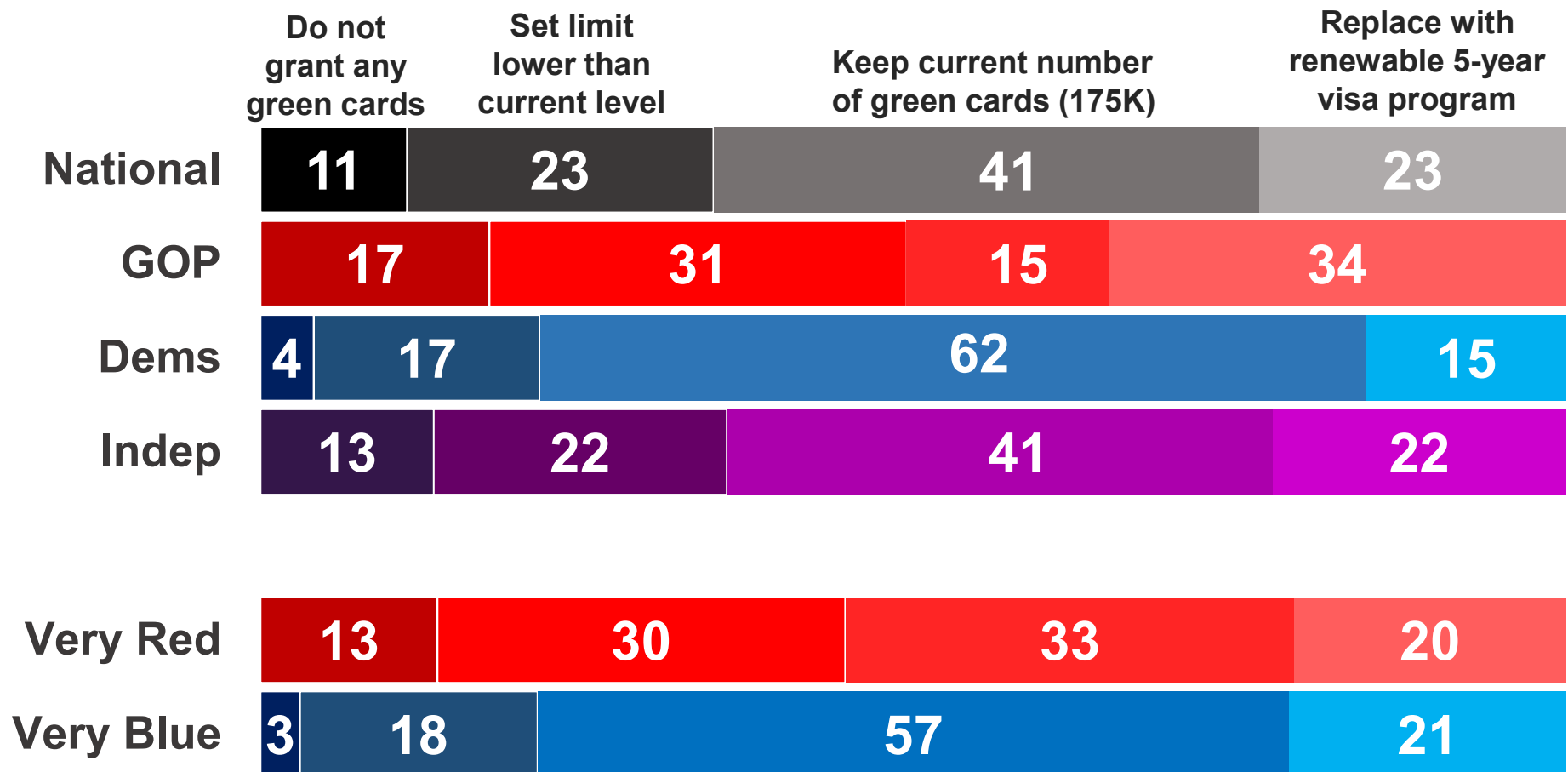
Argument in Favor

This proposal puts the parents in a bind. They would not be allowed to work even though most of them would still be of working age, so that unless they are quite wealthy they would be dependent on their children. This would mean that only wealthy citizens would be able to bring their parents over. This would be discriminatory against low and middle income families—just the ones who are in particular need of help from their parents to raise their families. It would be better if these parents have the right to work and pay taxes and contribute to Social Security and Medicare.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	30	32	62
GOP	9	35	43
Dems	49	32	81
Indep	27	29	56
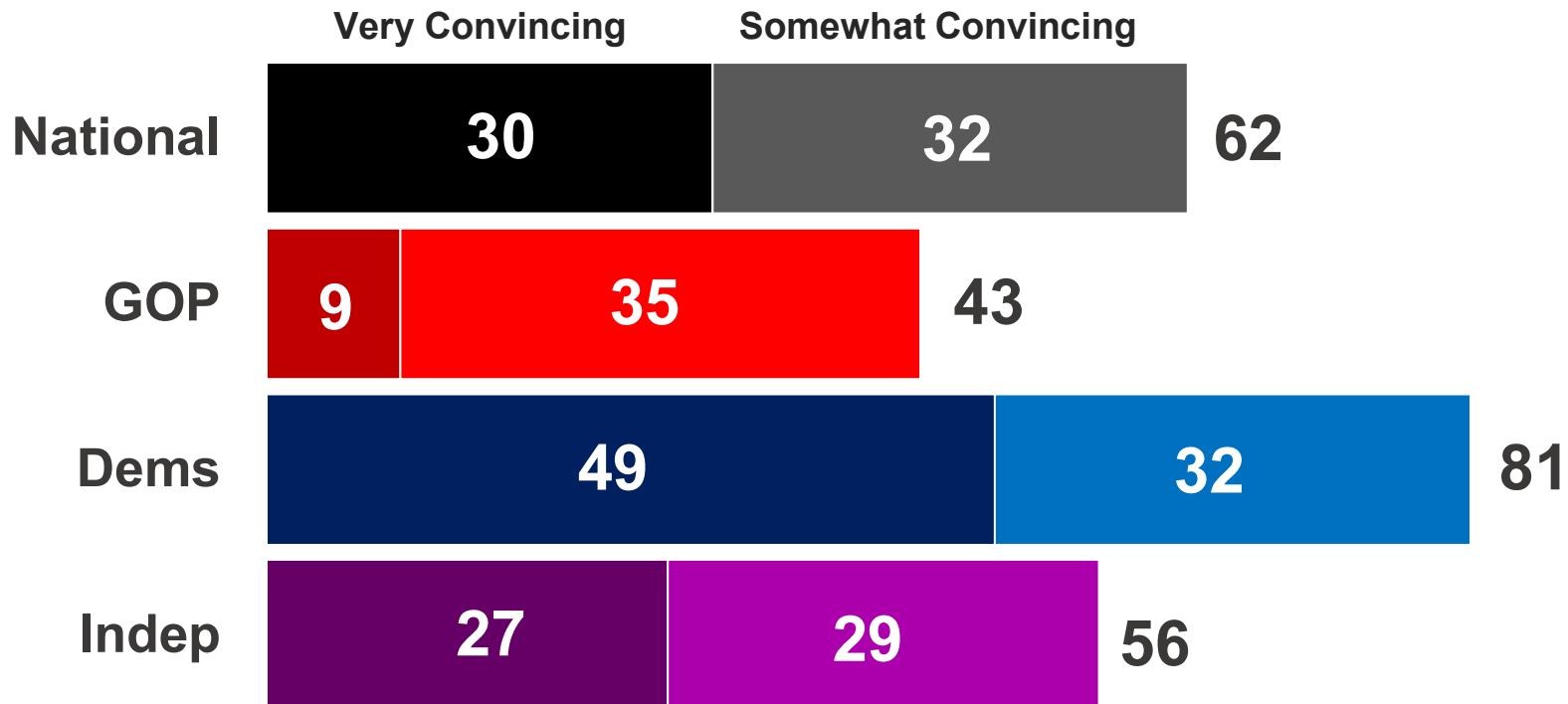
Family-Based Programs

Final Recommendation: Parents of U.S. Citizens

Now, with the **additional option of replacing the green card program** with one that provides **renewable 5 year visas** which prohibit the parents from working and receiving any government benefits, which program do you favor?
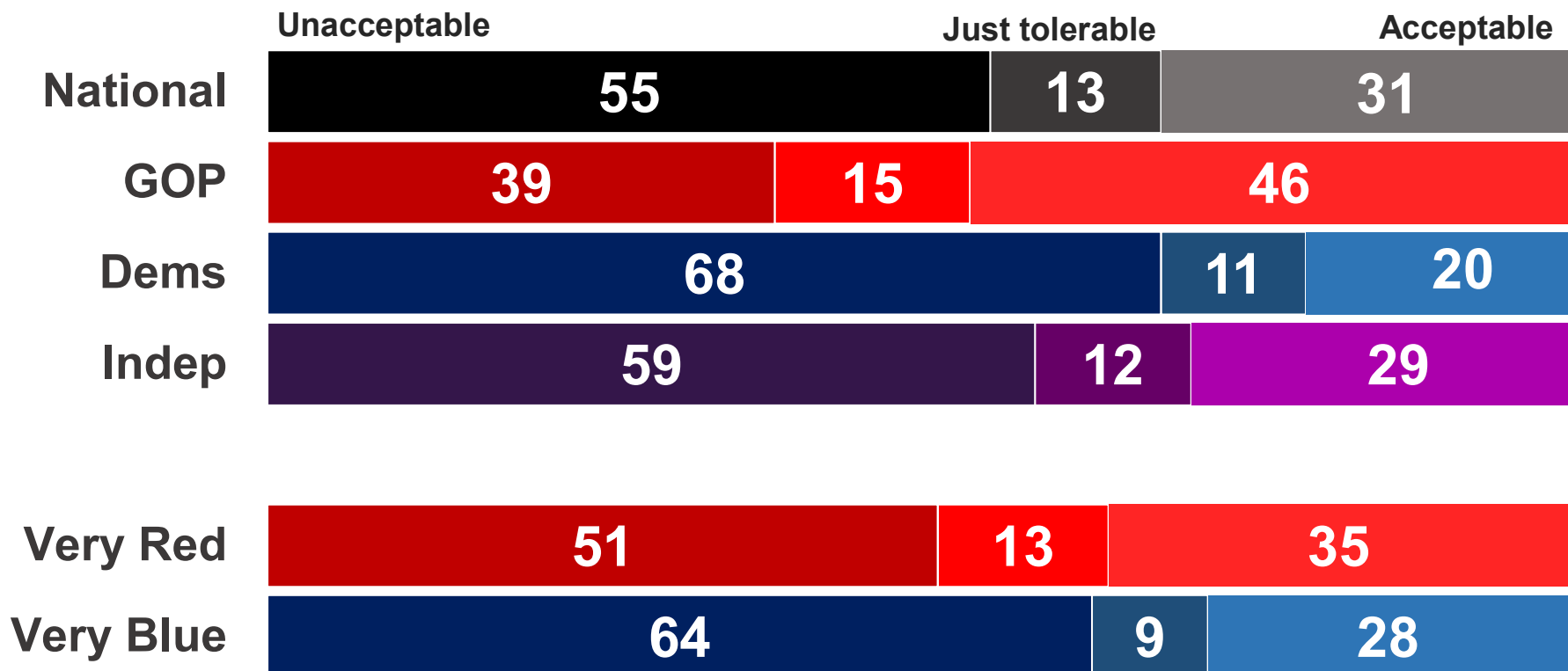
	Do not grant any green cards	Set limit lower than current level	Keep current number of green cards (175K)	Replace with renewable 5-year visa program
National	11	23	41	23
GOP	17	31	15	34
Dems	4	17	62	15
Indep	13	22	41	22
Very Red	13	30	33	20
Very Blue	3	18	57	21

Temporary Visa for Parents of U.S. Citizens

Acceptability

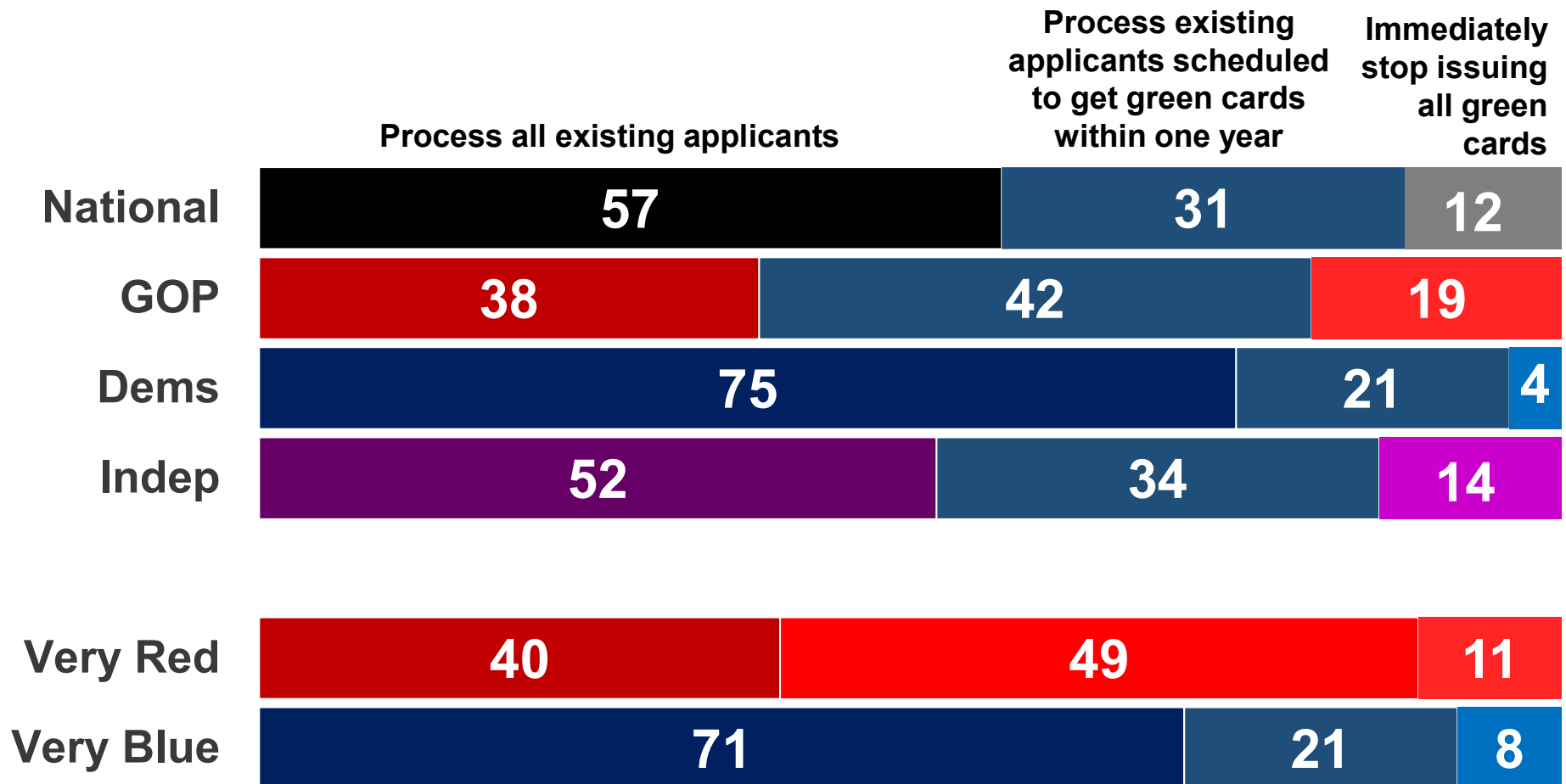How acceptable or unacceptable do you find this proposal?

Replace the current program that provides green cards to parents of US citizens, to one that provides a special renewable visa allowing parents to remain in the US for 5 year periods. The parents would not be allowed to work and would not be eligible for Federal, state or local public benefits, such as Medicare. Their children would be responsible for their parent's support and their healthcare.

	Unacceptable	Just tolerable	Acceptable
National	55	13	31
GOP	39	15	46
Dems	68	11	20
Indep	59	12	29
Very Red	51	13	35
Very Blue	64	9	28

Family-Based Programs
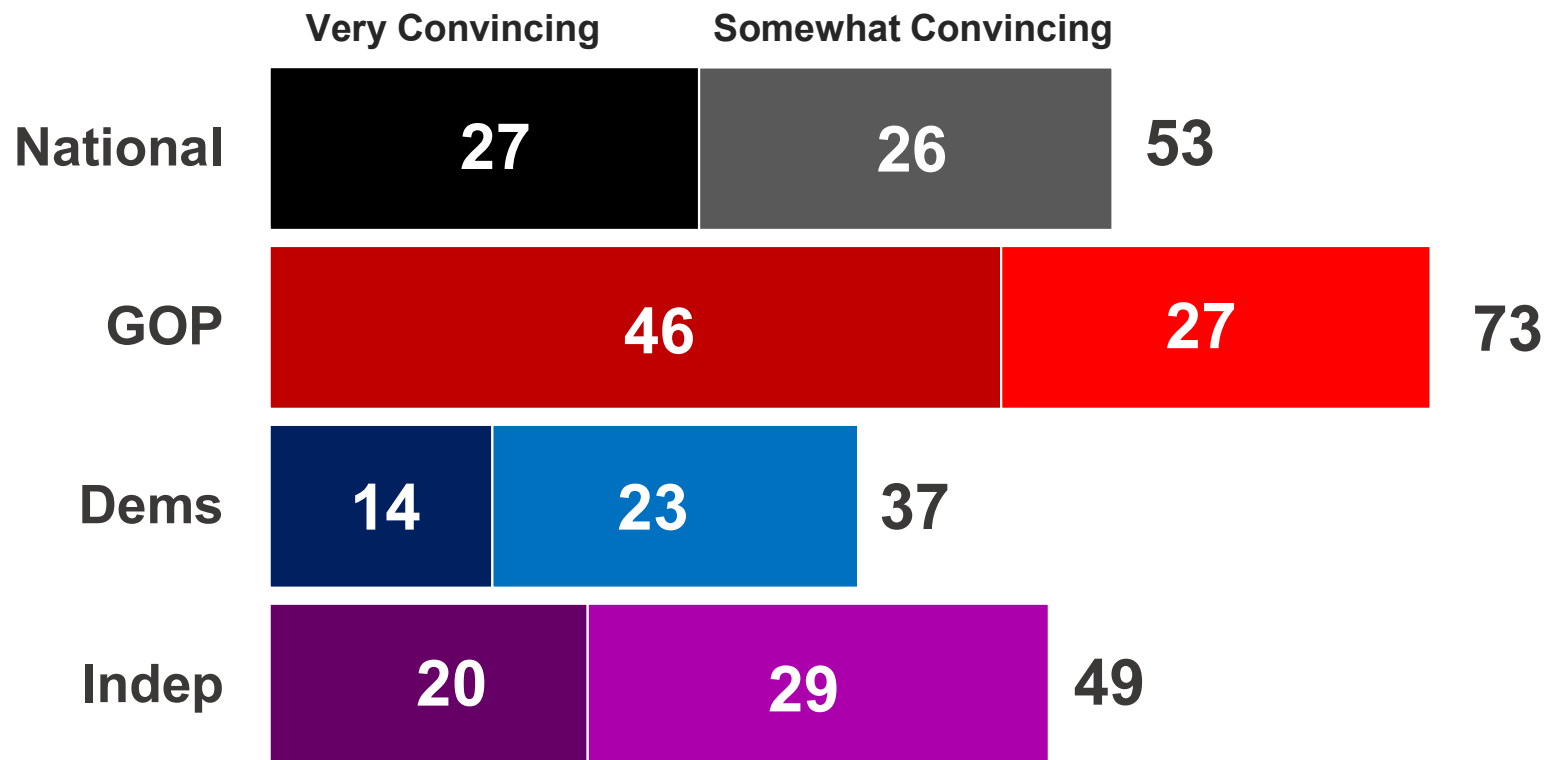
Final Recommendation: Existing Applications

If any of these programs are ended, there is still the question of what should be done with the existing applications that have been accepted but are in a waiting line to get their green card. What do you think would be best?

	Process all existing applicants	Process existing applicants scheduled to get green cards within one year	Immediately stop issuing all green cards
National	57	31	12
GOP	38	42	19
Dems	75	21	4
Indep	52	34	14
Very Red	40	49	11
Very Blue	71	21	8

Reducing or Eliminating Diversity Lottery

Argument in Favor

The idea of randomly picking people from all over the world to come into the US makes no sense. These people have no connections here. They create competition for US workers and expose Americans to the risk of terrorism and crime. It is also not certain that they will be needed in the labor market. We should not be creating competition for American workers and risking our safety, just so we can have more diversity in our country.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total
National	27	26	53
GOP	46	27	73
Dems	14	23	37
Indep	20	29	49

Reducing or Eliminating Diversity Lottery

Argument Against

This program is a fair way to bring in new immigrants. It ensures that no one area of the world gets more access to the American Dream than others. Applicants are required to meet education and work experience requirements – nearly four in ten are professionals or experienced managers – and are thoroughly vetted to ensure they pose no security risk. Our immigration system should not be based only on whether someone has family or employment connections.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	27	38	65
GOP	15	36	51
Dems	39	39	78
Indep	21	39	61
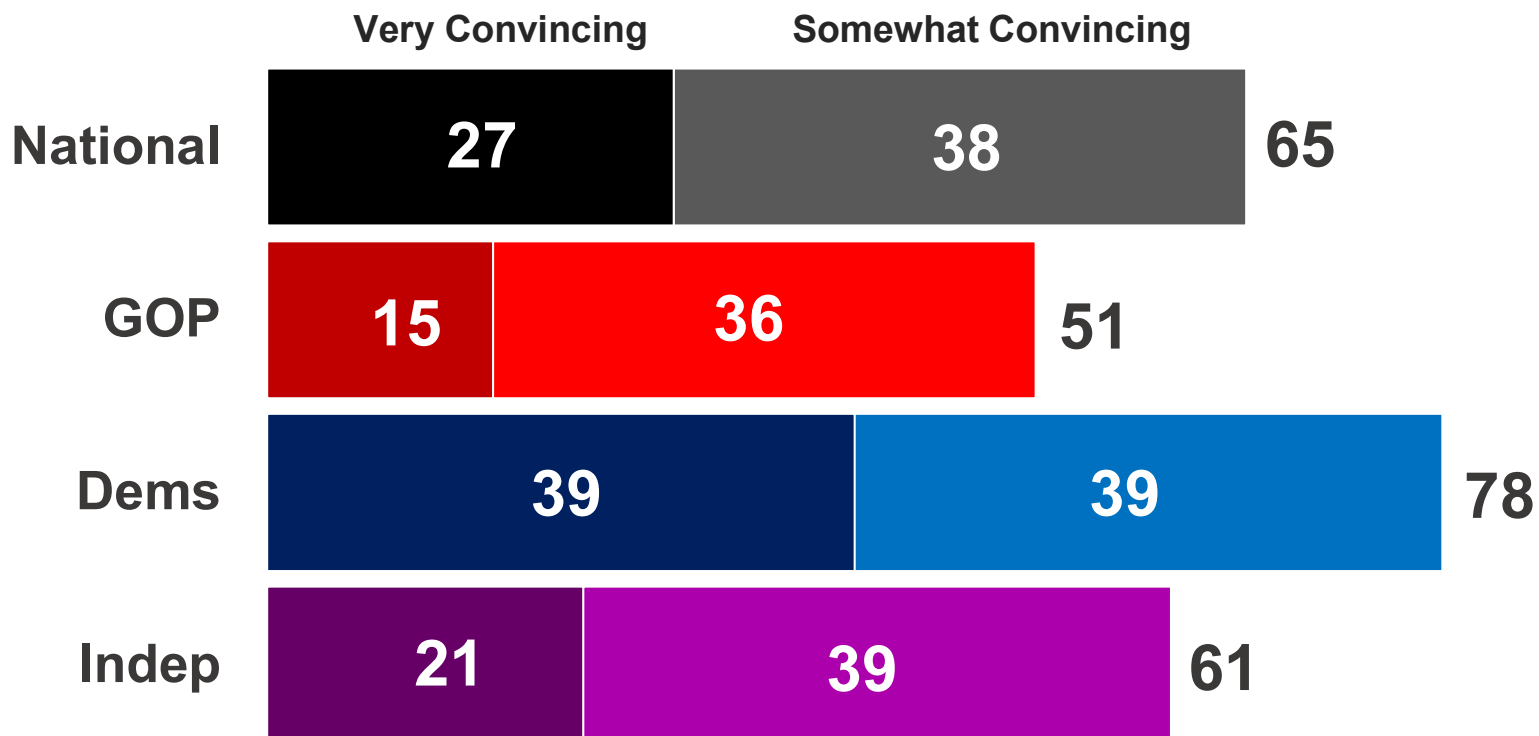
Diversity Lottery

Final Recommendation

Having considered these arguments, what would you recommend for this program?
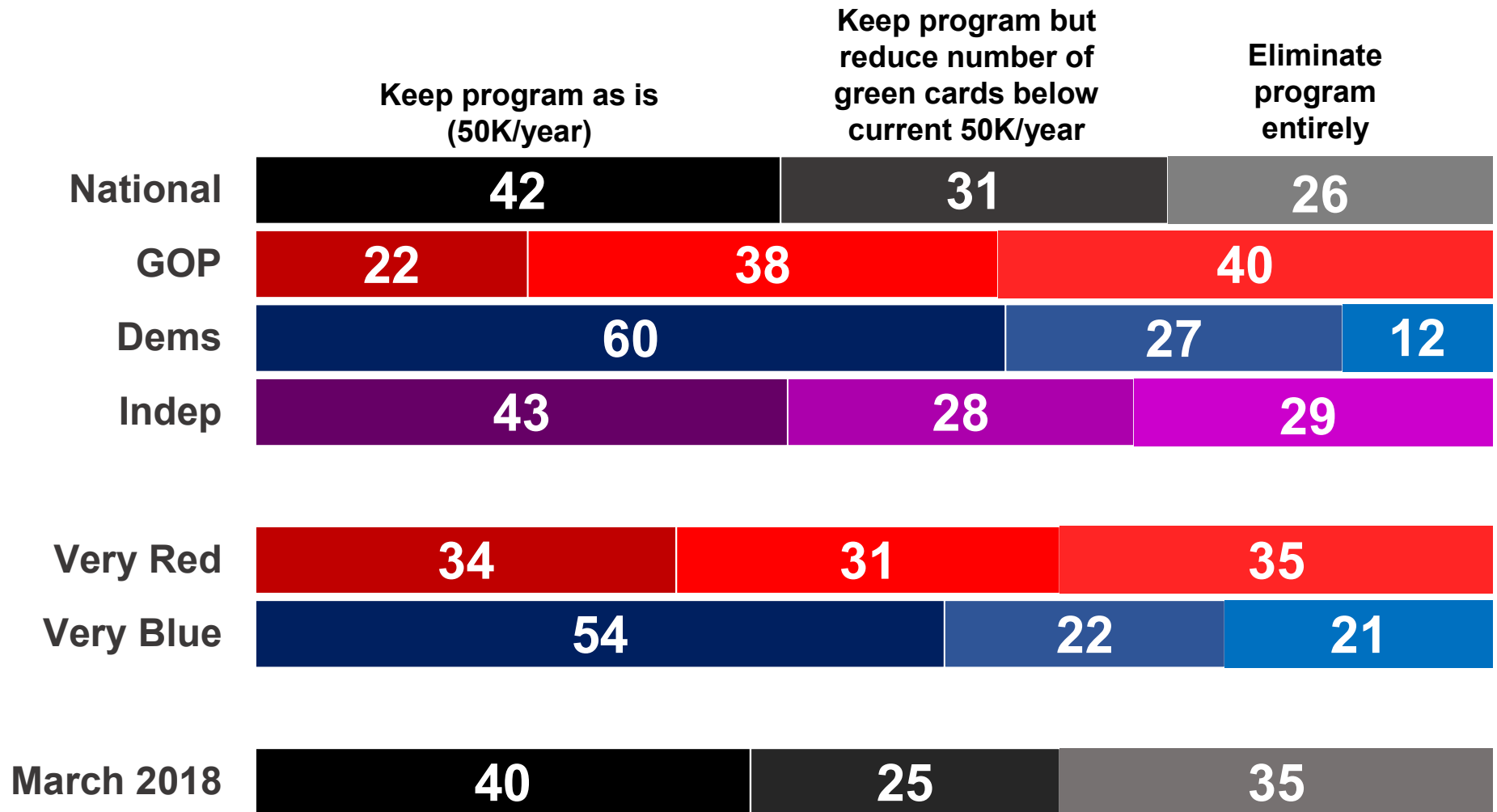
	Keep program as is (50K/year)	Keep program but reduce number of green cards below current 50K/year	Eliminate program entirely
National	42	31	26
GOP	22	38	40
Dems	60	27	12
Indep	43	28	29
Very Red	34	31	35
Very Blue	54	22	21
March 2018	40	25	35

Diversity Lottery

Final Recommendation: Parents of U.S. Citizens

Asked of those who recommended reducing the number of green cards issued for the diversity lottery program:

What do you think the number of green cards granted each year under this program should be? (Currently the number is about 50,000 a year.)

	Median	Majority
National	25,000	40,000 or more (51%)
GOP	25,000	15,000 or more (50.1%) 10,000 or more (53%)
Dem	30,000	
Indep	25,000	40,000 or more (51%)

Increasing Employment-Based Green Cards

Argument in Favor

Companies are asking for more skilled workers in the fields of finance and computer technology, so the United States can remain a leader in innovation and global competition. We have a shortage of nurses and other care workers such as those who provide assistance to the elderly, and it is anticipated that these shortages will increase as the baby boom generation retires. It is simply irrational and bad for our economy not to fill those jobs with qualified immigrants. Also, immigrants who come in under this program do not lower wages as employers legally have to pay them the same amount they pay citizens. This program also brings in investors who create jobs.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	26	44	70
GOP	18	43	60
Dems	35	44	79
Indep	23	44	67
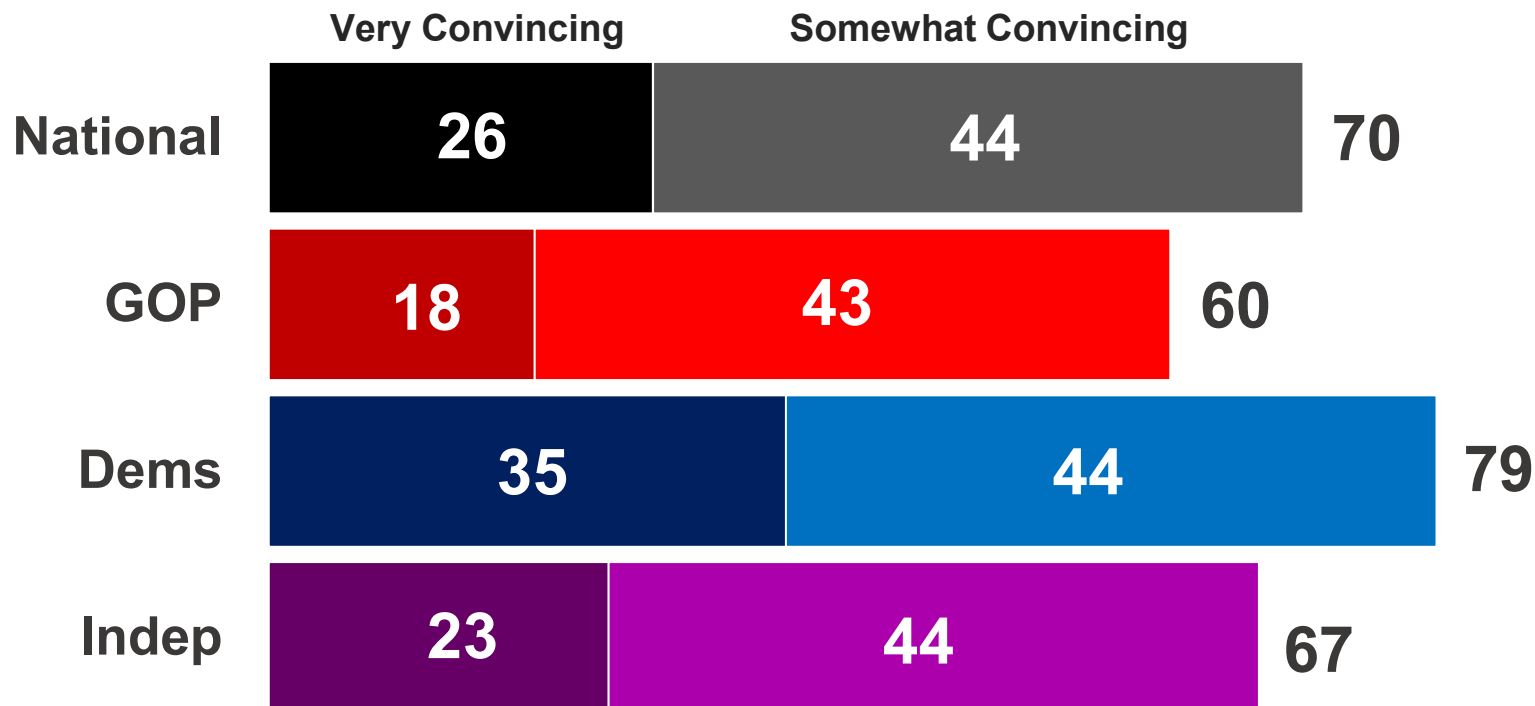
Increasing Employment-Based Green Cards

Argument Against

Even if there are some temporarily open positions in the US economy, we should not give more immigrants green cards that allow them to stay in the US permanently. Rather, we should put more emphasis on educating Americans and do a better job of placing them in skilled jobs. Many of our college graduates are in jobs that don't even require a degree. Furthermore, it is not clear that there really is such a shortage of workers in these highly-skilled jobs. In some cases, the companies just want an oversupply of workers, so they do not have to pay them higher wages. As for investors, there have been a significant number of cases in which so-called investors made fraudulent claims about the amount of money invested or the number of jobs created.
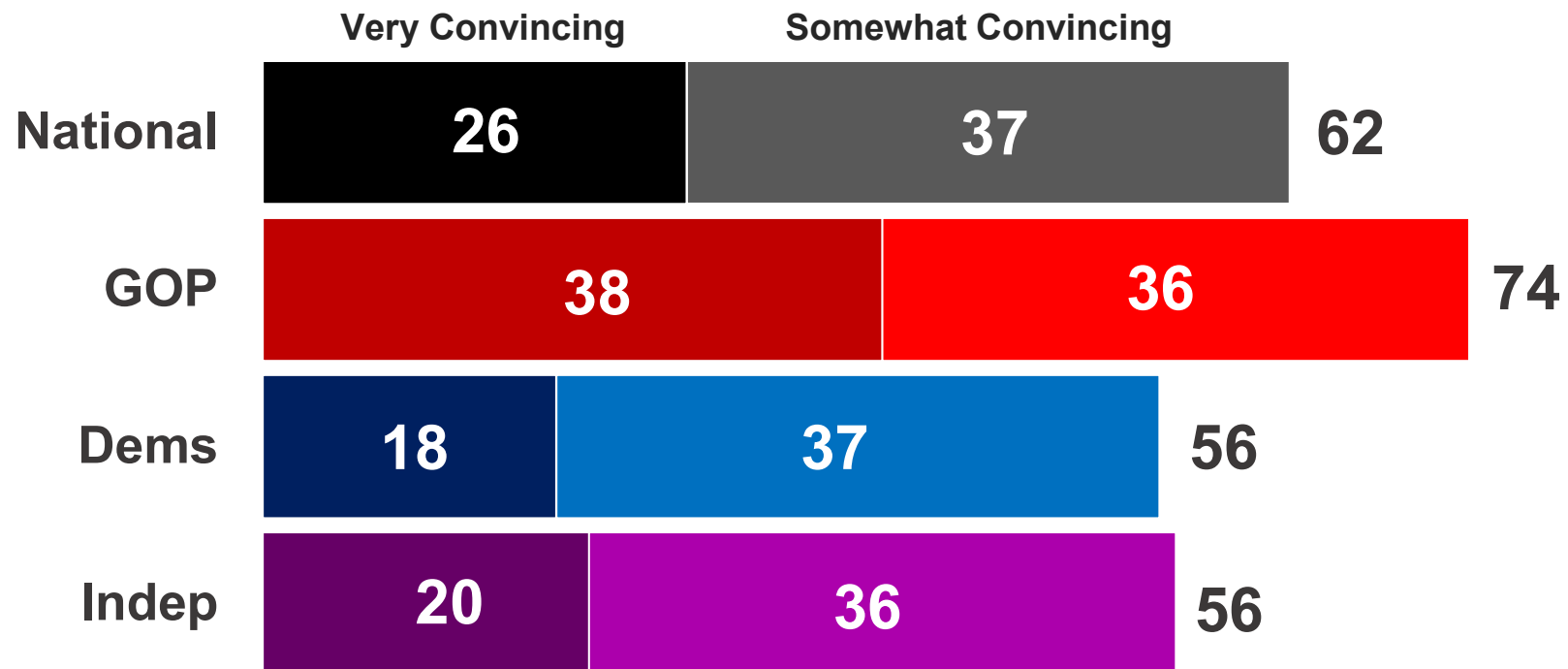
	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	26	37	62
GOP	38	36	74
Dems	18	37	56
Indep	20	36	56

Increasing Employment-Based Green Cards

Final Recommendation

Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

Increase the number of green cards provided to immigrants who are selected because:
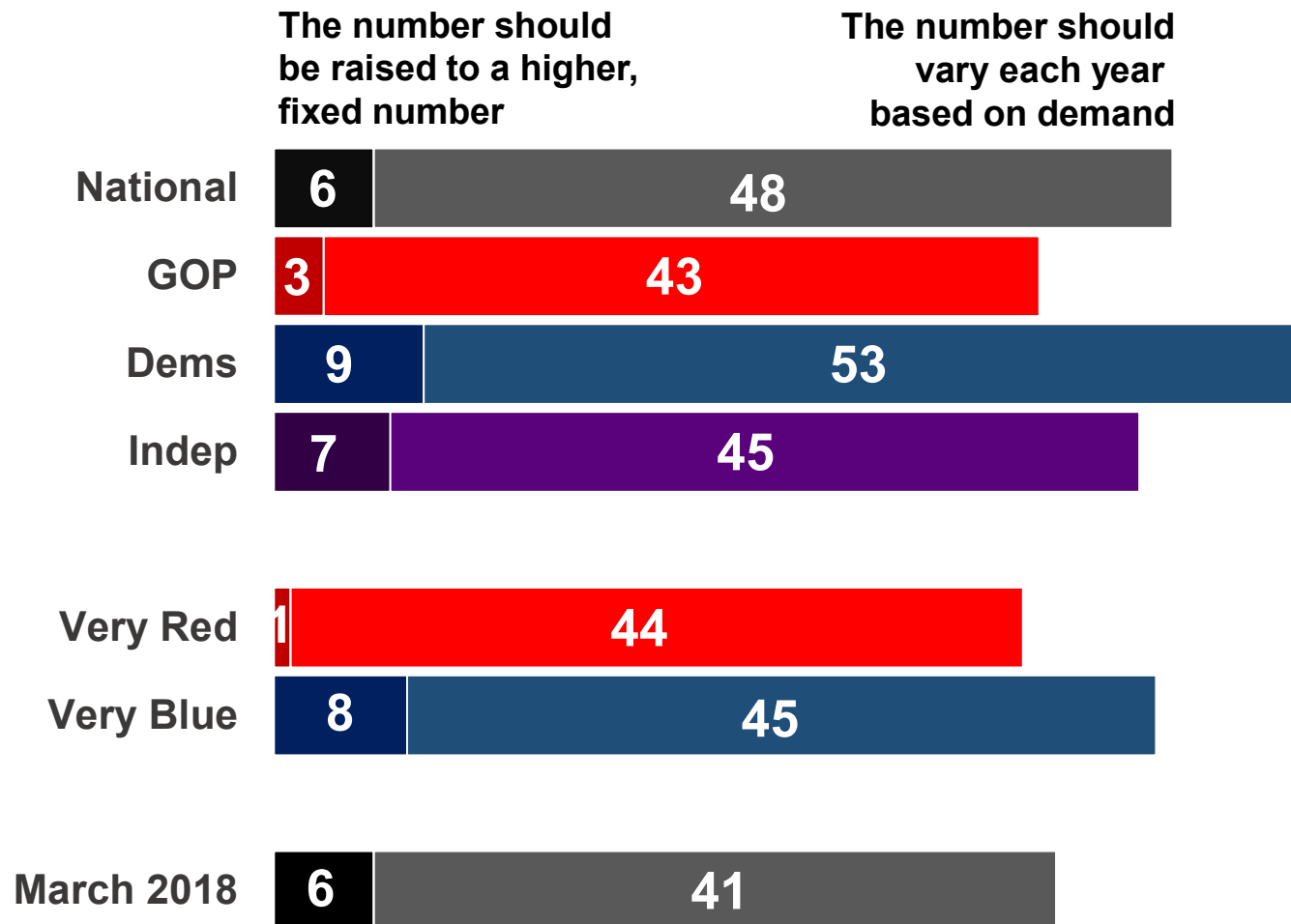
- the Department of Labor has certified that there is a need for their skill in the US economy and that hiring them will not have a negative effect on the wages for American workers

- they are investors that will invest at least $500,000 in the US and create at least 10 jobs

	Favor	Oppose
National	54	44
GOP	46	53
Dems	63	35
Indep	53	46
Very Red	48	51
Very Blue	54	46
March 2018	50	40

Increasing Employment-Based Green Cards

Final Recommendation

*Of those who **favor** the proposal:* Currently, there is a fixed maximum number of green cards granted under this program of 140,000. Do you think that:
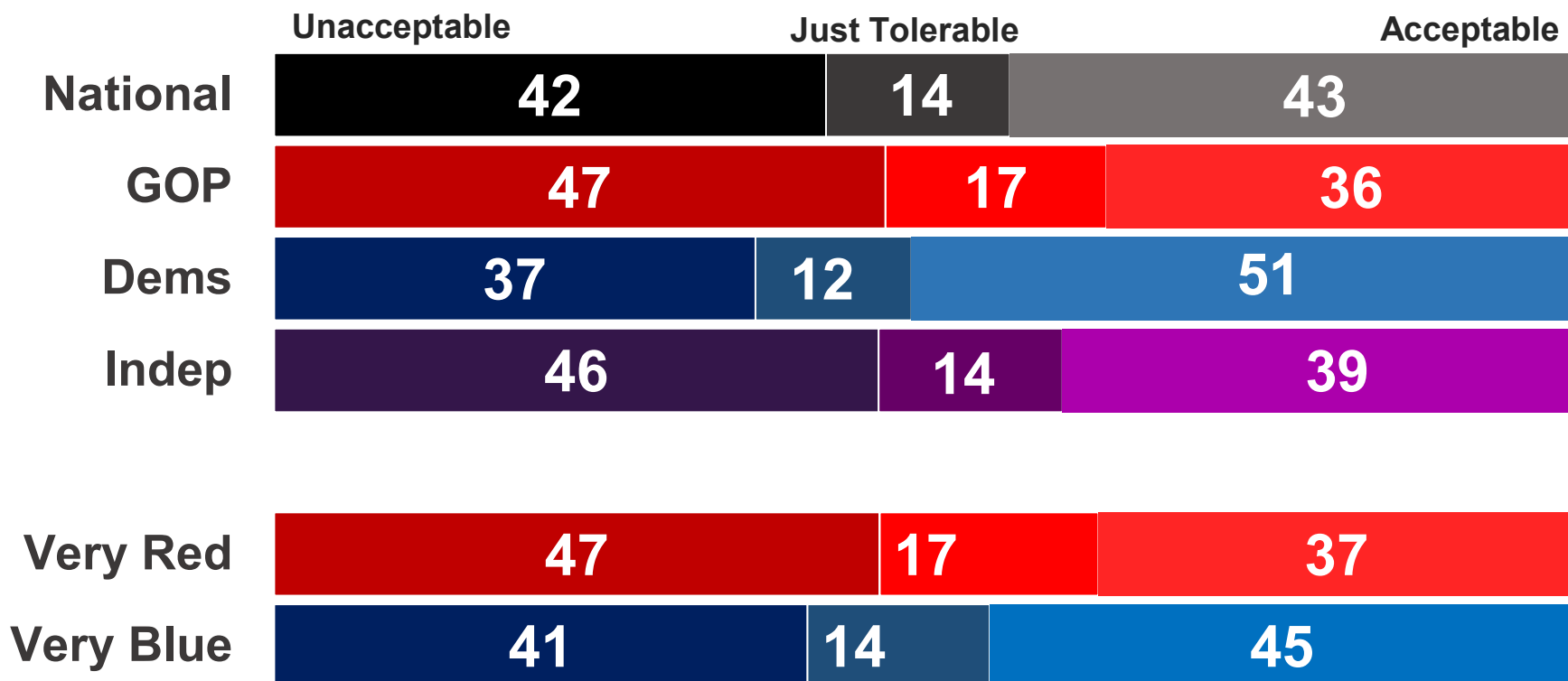
	The number should be raised to a higher, fixed number	The number should vary each year based on demand
National	6	48
GOP	3	43
Dems	9	53
Indep	7	45
Very Red	1	44
Very Blue	8	45
March 2018	6	41

Increasing Employment-Based Green Cards

Final Recommendation

*Of those who **oppose** the proposal:* Currently, there is a fixed maximum number of green cards granted under this program of 140,000. Do you think that:

	The number should stay fixed at 140K	The number should vary each year based on demand but not rise above 140K
National	9	34
GOP	6	47
Dems	11	24
Indep	10	32
Very Red	7	42
Very Blue	12	33
March 2018	11	39

Fewer Requirements for Farm Workers

Argument in Favor

Having so many illegal undocumented workers is not a good thing, but the fact is there is a demand for farm workers. Simply deporting them would be a huge blow to the farm industry and is not an option. We do have a guest worker program, but the current requirements are not realistic. It requires farmers to pay as much $5 an hour more than the actual labor market costs, so they do not use the program and simply hire undocumented workers. Farmers who do use the program are at a competitive disadvantage. If all farmers were to have to pay these higher costs, the price of food would go up, which would be a burden on American families, especially ones with low incomes. This proposed change to the guest worker program would allow for more competitive wages and remove the burdens of providing housing and transportation. This will make it possible for farmers to use the guest worker visa system. More legal employment means more local and state tax revenue, and also more protections for workers. Employers will have better access to a stable supply of workers.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	25	48	72
GOP	31	45	76
Dems	22	49	71
Indep	17	51	67
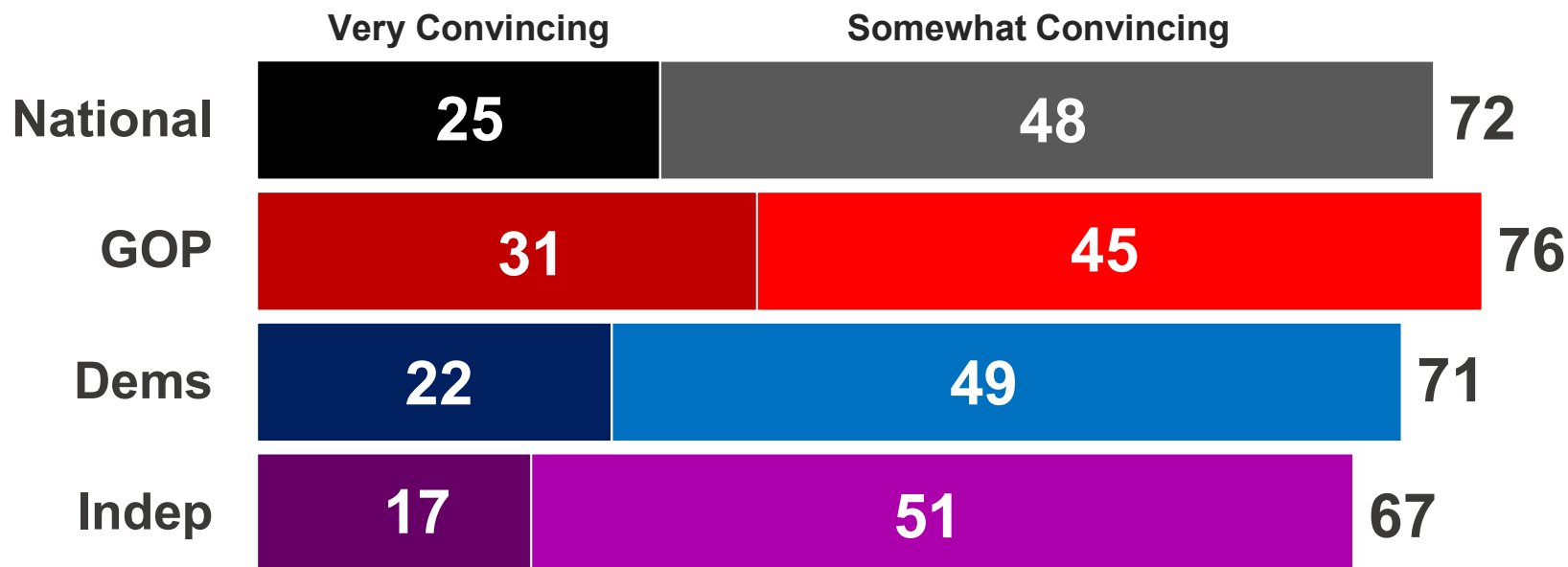
Fewer Requirements for Farm Workers

Argument Against

Right now, farmers already have an option to hire foreign workers through the guest worker visa program and they should be required to use that system, rather than hiring undocumented workers. These proposed changes to the guest workers visa program will reduce wages and conditions for a group of people that work in some of the toughest conditions in the country, and that have for years provided this nation with an affordable source of food. Right now, there are over 500,000 legal workers, including US citizens, whose wages would be reduced by letting farmers hire foreigners to do back breaking work for very low wages. For somebody who is working here under the current guest workers system, sending money back home to their families, a decrease of up to $5 an hour will make it nearly impossible to afford short-term housing and transportation. Basically, this proposal is giving farmers the right to exploit both American and foreign farm workers by opening up the possibility of hiring unlimited numbers of foreign workers at exploitive wage levels.

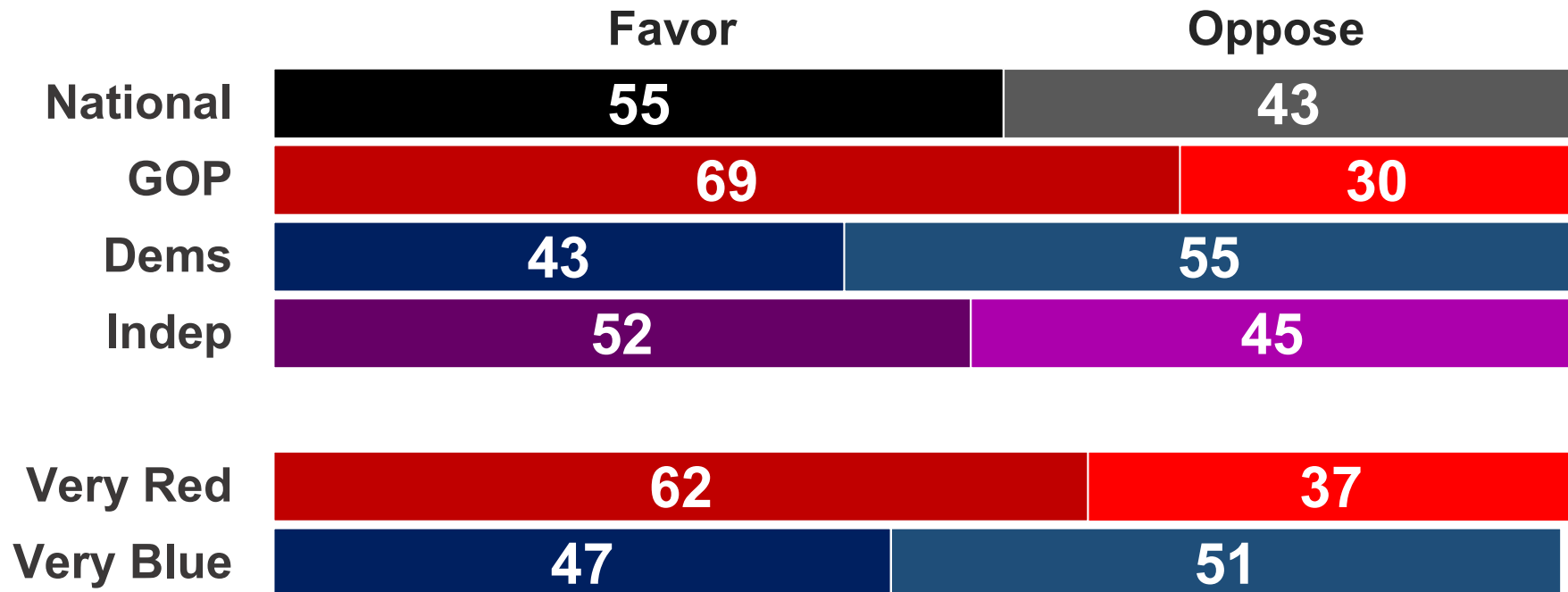|	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	23	39	62
GOP	19	36	55
Dems	29	41	70
Indep	19	39	58
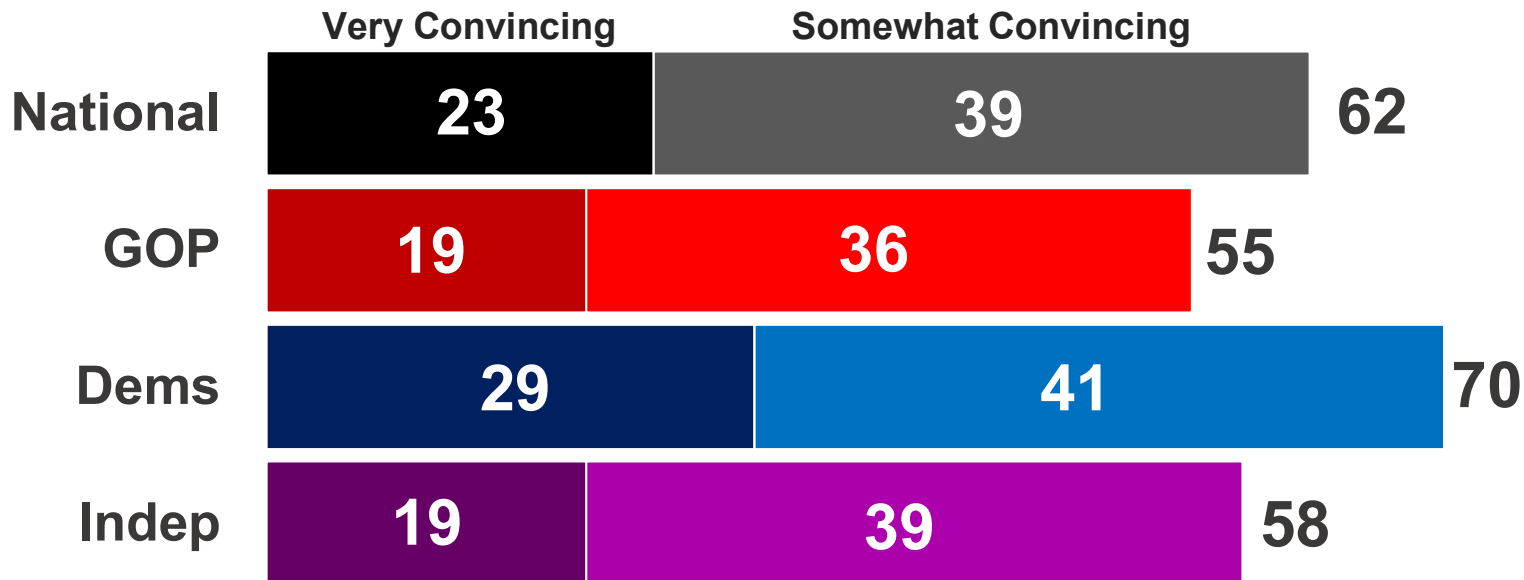
Fewer Requirements for Farm Workers

Final Recommendation

Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

The guest worker visa program that currently requires farmers to pay workers about $11-14 per hour and to provide them housing and transportation would be replaced by one that allows farmers to pay the workers a minimum of $8.43 an hour and removes the requirement to provide them housing or transportation. The length of the visas would be extended from 10 to 18 months, which can be renewed once for up to another 18 months, after which they would be required to return to their home country for a period. This change would be coupled with a stronger effort to require employers to ensure that their workers are legal by imposing penalties on employers who hire undocumented workers.

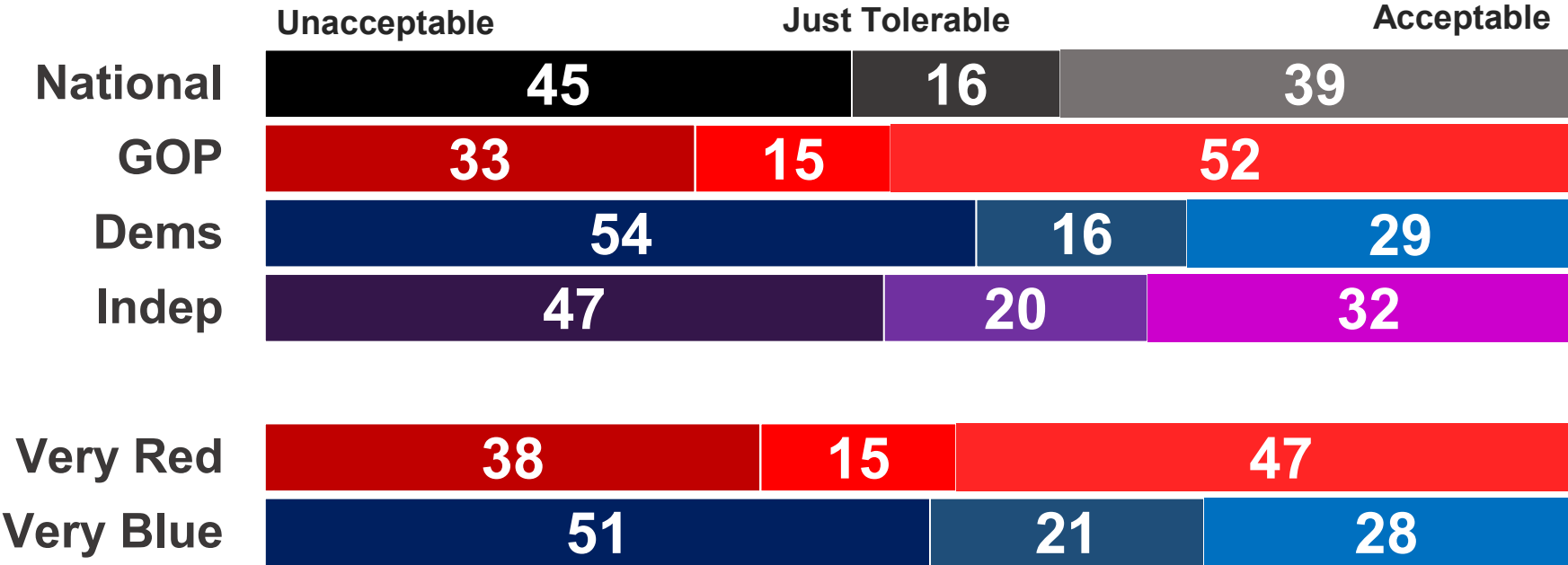|	Favor	Oppose
National	55	43
GOP	69	30
Dems	43	55
Indep	52	45
Very Red	62	37
Very Blue	47	51

Fewer Requirements for Farm Workers

Acceptability
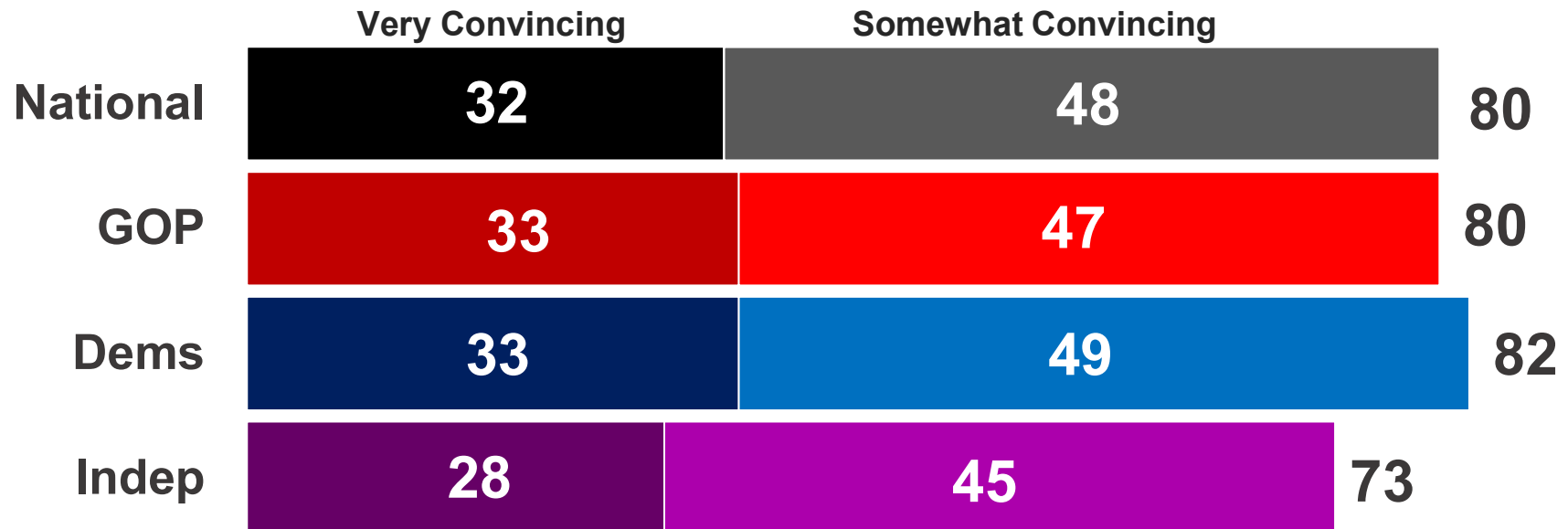
How acceptable or unacceptable do you find this proposal?

The guest worker visa program that currently requires farmers to pay workers about $11-14 per hour and to provide them housing and transportation would be replaced by one that allows farmers to pay the workers a minimum of $8.43 an hour and removes the requirement to provide them housing or transportation. The length of the visas would be extended from 10 to 18 months, which can be renewed once for up to another 18 months, after which they would be required to return to their home country for a period. This change would be coupled with a stronger effort to require employers to ensure that their workers are legal by imposing penalties on employers who hire undocumented workers.

	Unacceptable	Just Tolerable	Acceptable
National	45	16	39
GOP	33	15	52
Dems	54	16	29
Indep	47	20	32
Very Red	38	15	47
Very Blue	51	21	28

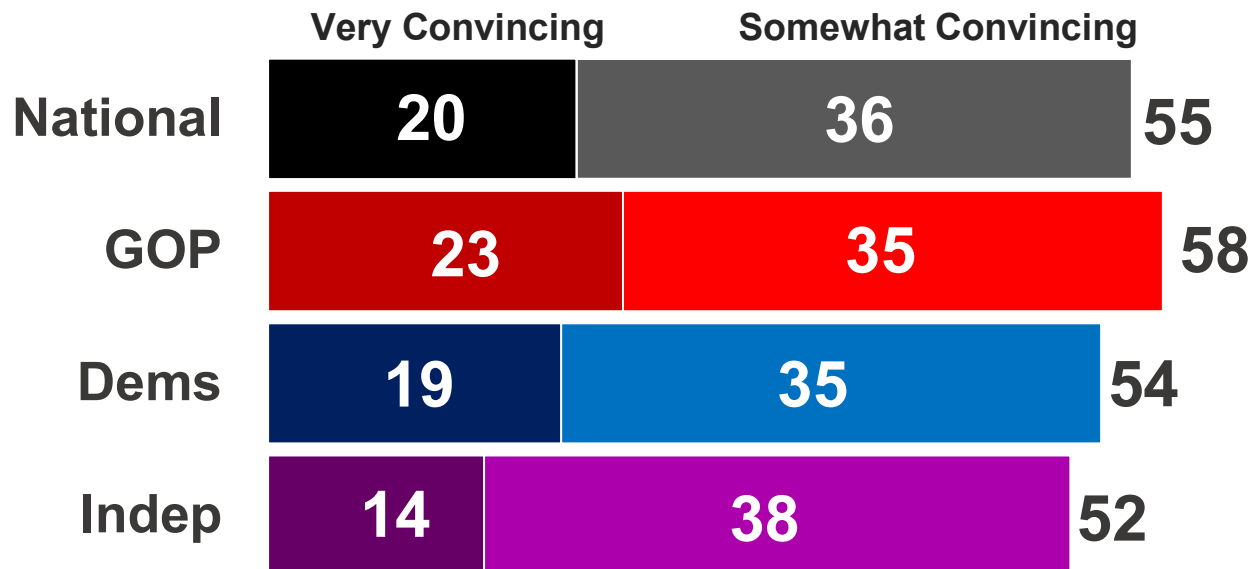# Expand Program for Guest Workers

Argument in Favor

The fact is that there are many industries in the United States that need immigrant labor which is why they currently hire millions of them. It would be much better if this process was done in a legal way. It is essential to ensure that American workers get the first crack at those jobs. It is also important that the workers are paid the kinds of wages that go to Americans so that the immigrant workers do not undercut American workers. All this can only be done if we have a legal system of guest workers. American companies don't want to break the law by hiring illegal immigrants, but they have to be provided a way to do it legally when there is the need for those workers. And if they have that option to do it legally it will be more feasible to put more pressure on them to stop hiring illegals. By bringing immigrant workers out of the shadows it will also be possible to get tax revenue from them, as well as to provide them protection from the abuses that are so common in the shadow economy.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	32	48	80
GOP	33	47	80
Dems	33	49	82
Indep	28	45	73

Expand Program for Guest Workers

Argument Against

This whole idea of trying to solve the problem of illegal workers by replacing them with legal temporary workers fails to address the reason that illegal workers are a problem in the first place. Wages have been stagnant for decades now, especially in the lower wage industries that want to hire guest workers. It is Economics 101 that when wages are low it is because there is too big of a supply of workers. So many American workers have been frustrated in their effort to get a good job that the percentage of the population in the workforce is historically low. None of these things will improve as long as there is a ready availability of illegal workers ready to take jobs at low wages and with few benefits. While advocates of this proposal for guest workers may claim that it will think of American workers first, the chances are that the government will think of corporations first, and the corporations want an oversupply of labor so that they can keep wages low. That means they will pressure the government to look the other way and let the corporations hire guest workers who will undercut American workers, even when there are American workers still in need of a good-paying job.

|	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	20	36	55
GOP	23	35	58
Dems	19	35	54
Indep	14	38	52

Expand Program for Guest Workers

Final Recommendation

Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

Making it possible to substantially increase the number of temporary work visas, called H-2B visas, for industries that rely on temporary, often seasonal, labor, such as landscaping, construction, hotels, conservation, and amusement parks. Such increases would only be allowed if the government determines that there are no American workers who want those jobs and employers pay the same wage that is paid to American workers in those jobs. Guest workers are not allowed to collect any public benefits, but they do pay federal, state and local taxes and are required to periodically return to their home country.

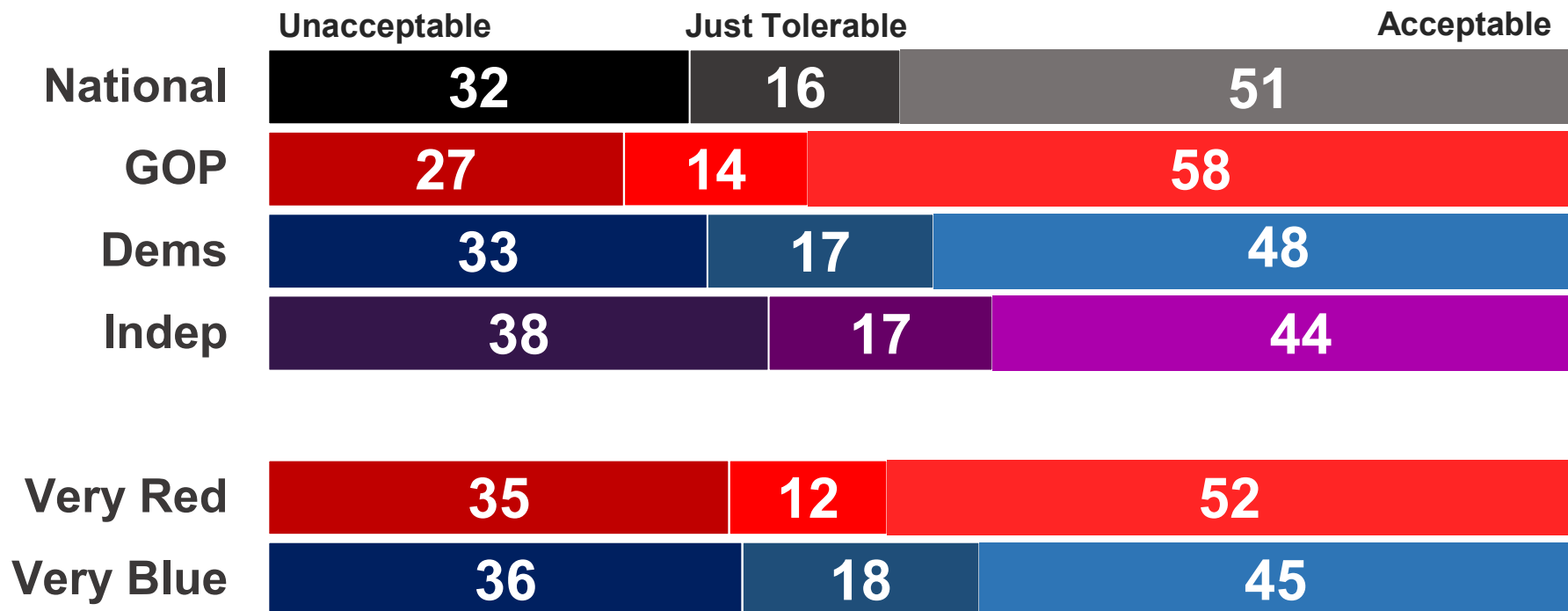|	Favor	Oppose
National	69	29
GOP	73	25
Dems	67	31
Indep	65	32
Very Red	69	30
Very Blue	68	30
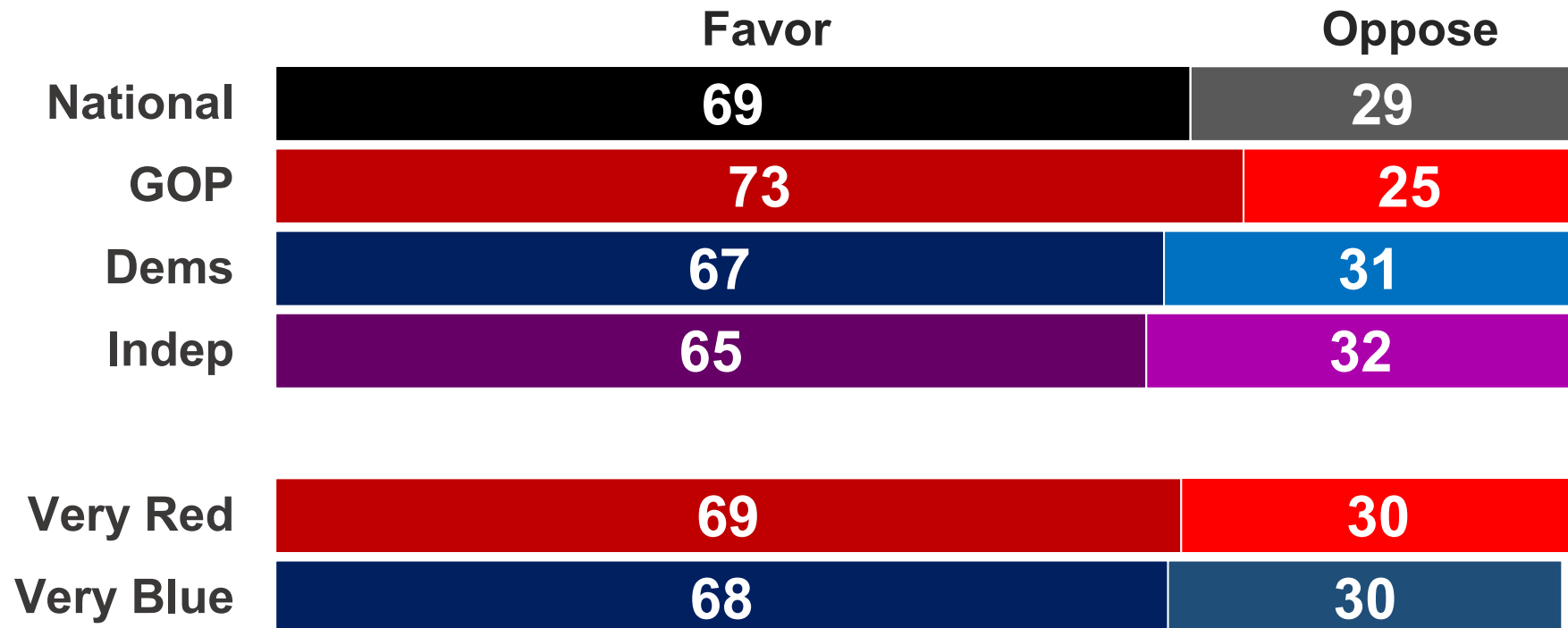
Expand Program for Guest Workers

Acceptability

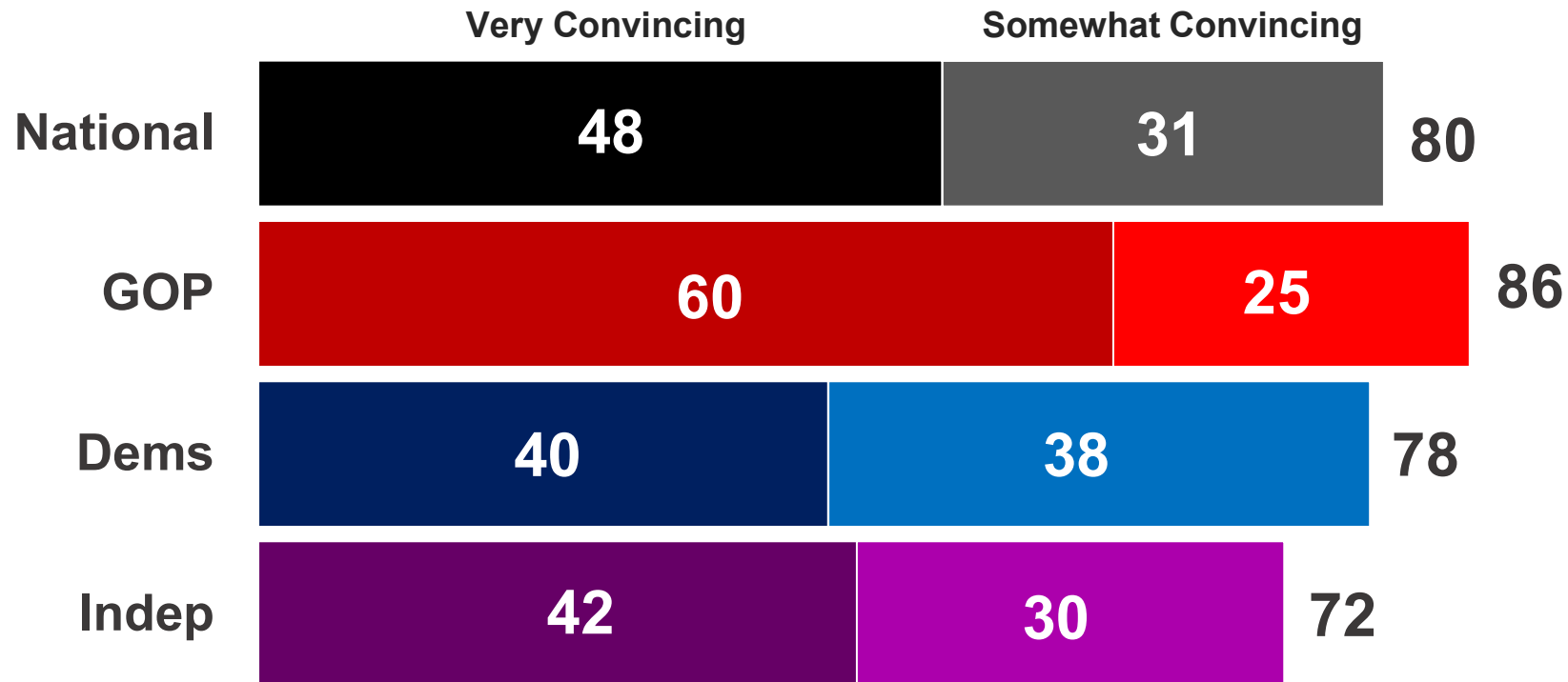How acceptable or unacceptable do you find this proposal?

Making it possible to substantially increase the number of temporary work visas, called H-2B visas, for industries that rely on temporary, often seasonal, labor, such as landscaping, construction, hotels, conservation, and amusement parks. Such increases would only be allowed if the government determines that there are no American workers who want those jobs and employers pay the same wage that is paid to American workers in those jobs. Guest workers are not allowed to collect any public benefits, but they do pay federal, state and local taxes and are required to periodically return to their home country.

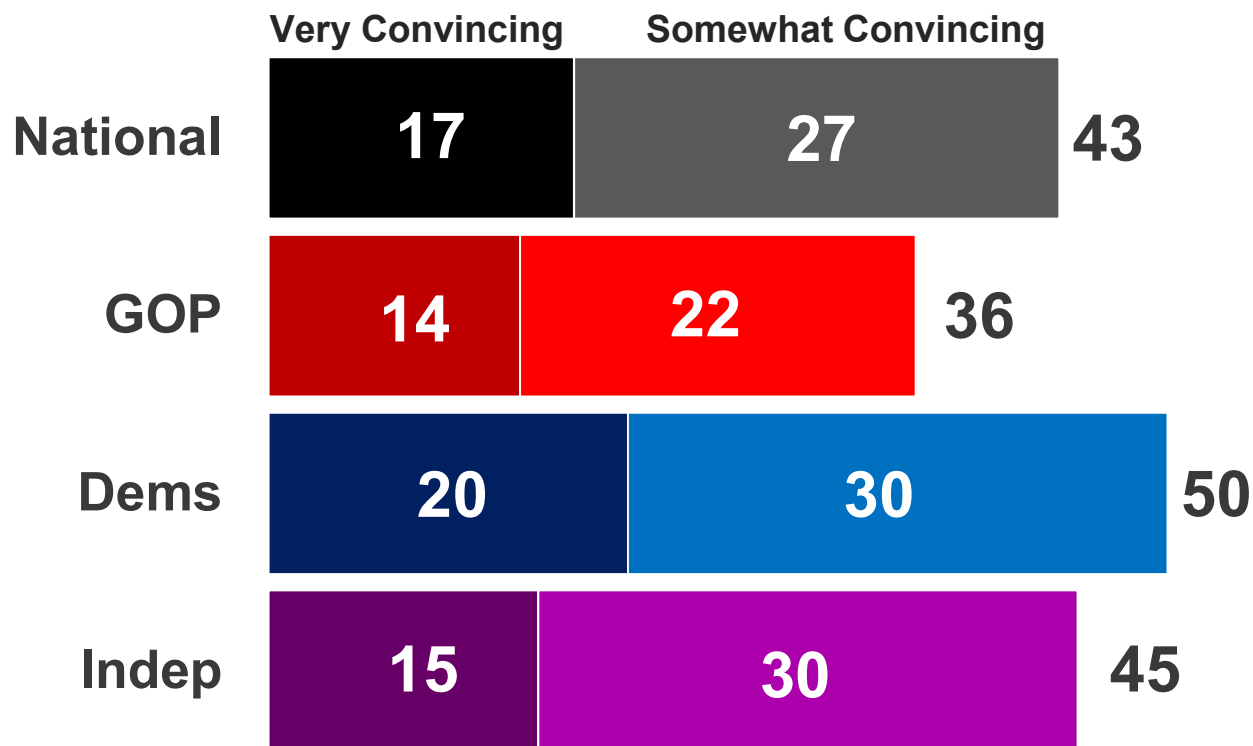|	Unacceptable	Just Tolerable	Acceptable
National	32	16	51
GOP	27	14	58
Dems	33	17	48
Indep	38	17	44
Very Red	35	12	52
Very Blue	36	18	45

Expand E-Verify Program

Argument in Favor

The primary reason that people immigrate to the US illegally is because they are looking for a job. The reason that the US is such a job magnet is that so many employers do not bother to check whether the people they employ are legal--often turning a blind eye because they want to pay the lower wages that illegal immigrants will accept. Honest employers who do check to make sure their employees are legal are put at a disadvantage. This clearly needs to stop. All US employers should be required to verify that their employees are legal.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	48	31	80
GOP	60	25	86
Dems	40	38	78
Indep	42	30	72

Expand E-Verify Program
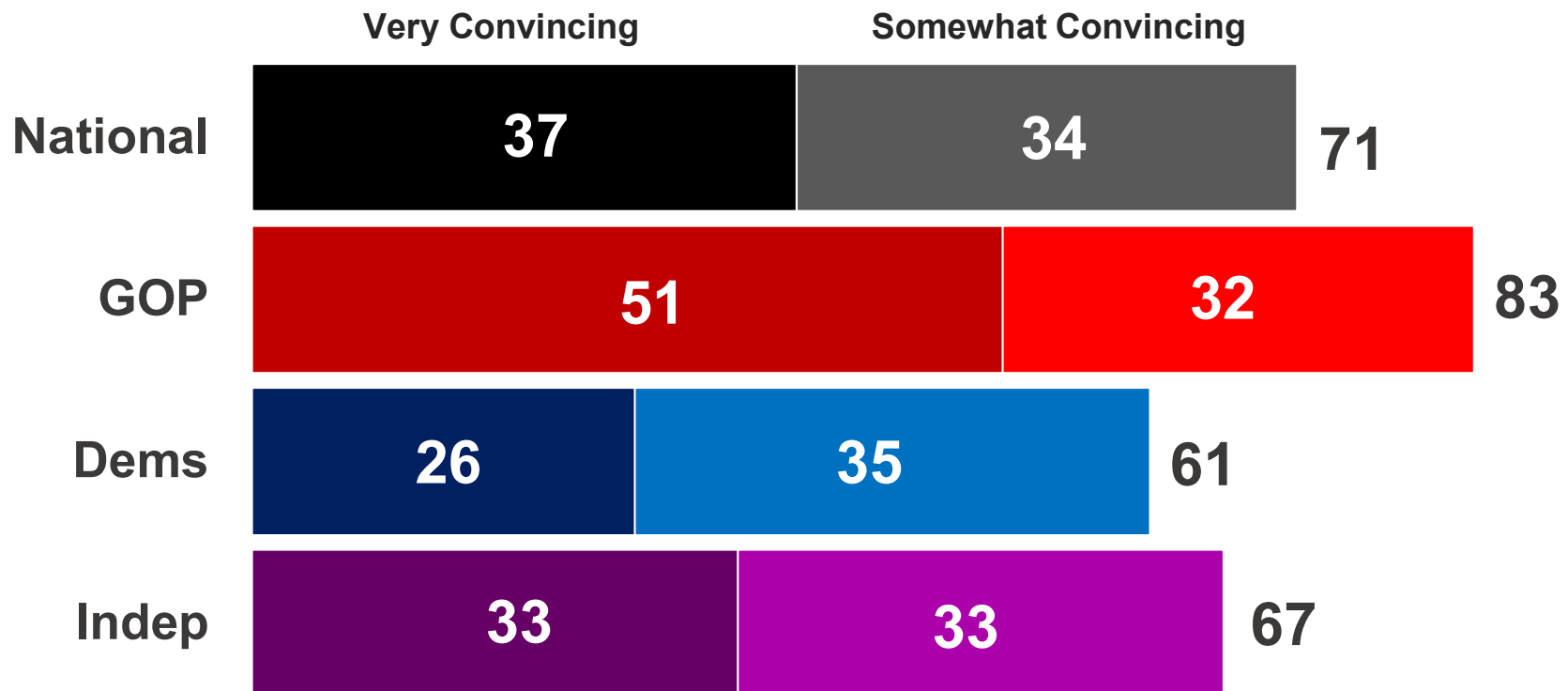
Argument Against

Employers should not have the responsibility to enforce US immigration laws. It is also costly for the employer. According to one study, requiring employers to use E-Verify would cost small businesses $2.7 billion to implement, an average of $127 per new employee. It is the government's job to ensure that illegal immigrants do not come into the US in the first place, rather than expecting employers to police them.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	17	27	43
GOP	14	22	36
Dems	20	30	50
Indep	15	30	45

Expand E-Verify Program
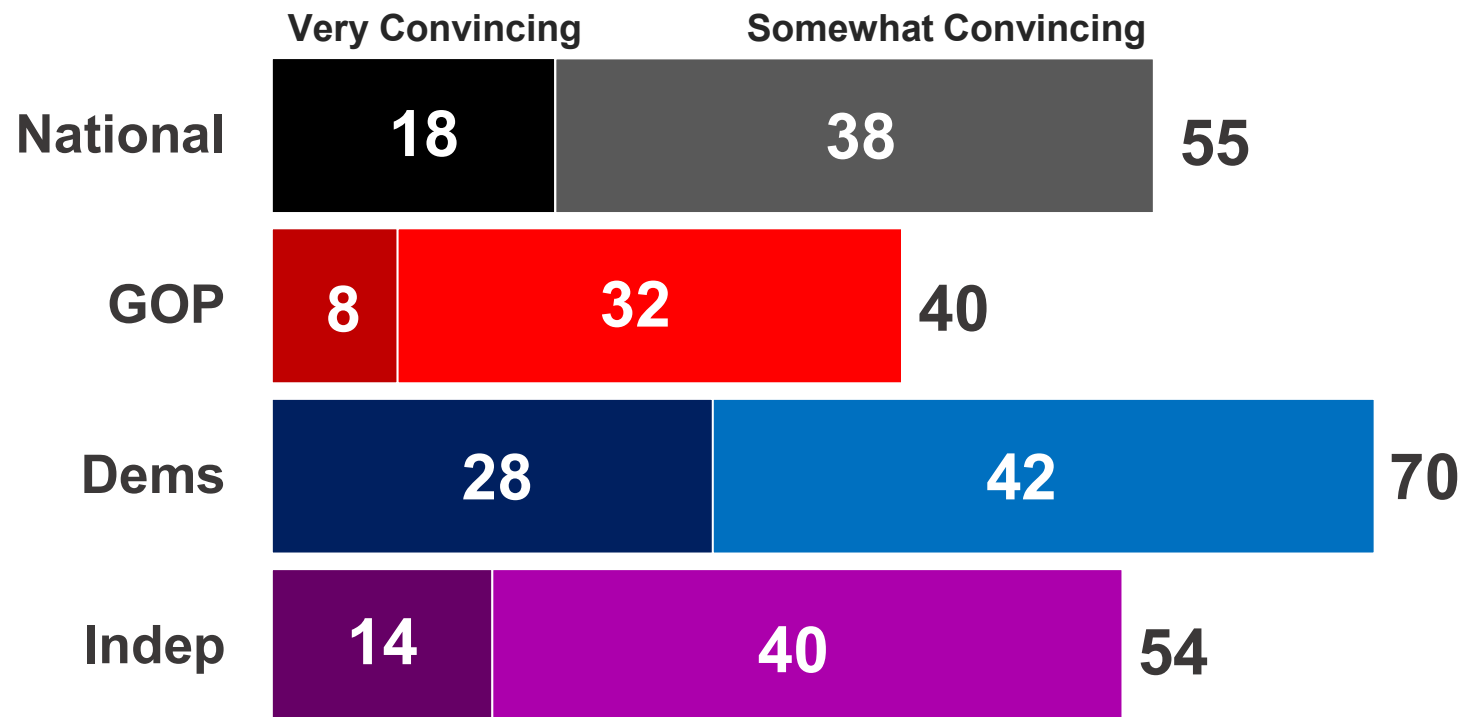
Argument in Favor

Approximately 7 million illegal immigrants hold jobs in the U.S. At the same time there are 23 million American citizens and legal residents who are currently unemployed or can't find full-time work. This is not right. Requiring employers to verify that their employees can work legally, would open up millions of jobs for citizens and legal immigrants, lowering their unemployment rate. Our first responsibility should be to ensure that legal workers have a job.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	37	34	71
GOP	51	32	83
Dems	26	35	61
Indep	33	33	67

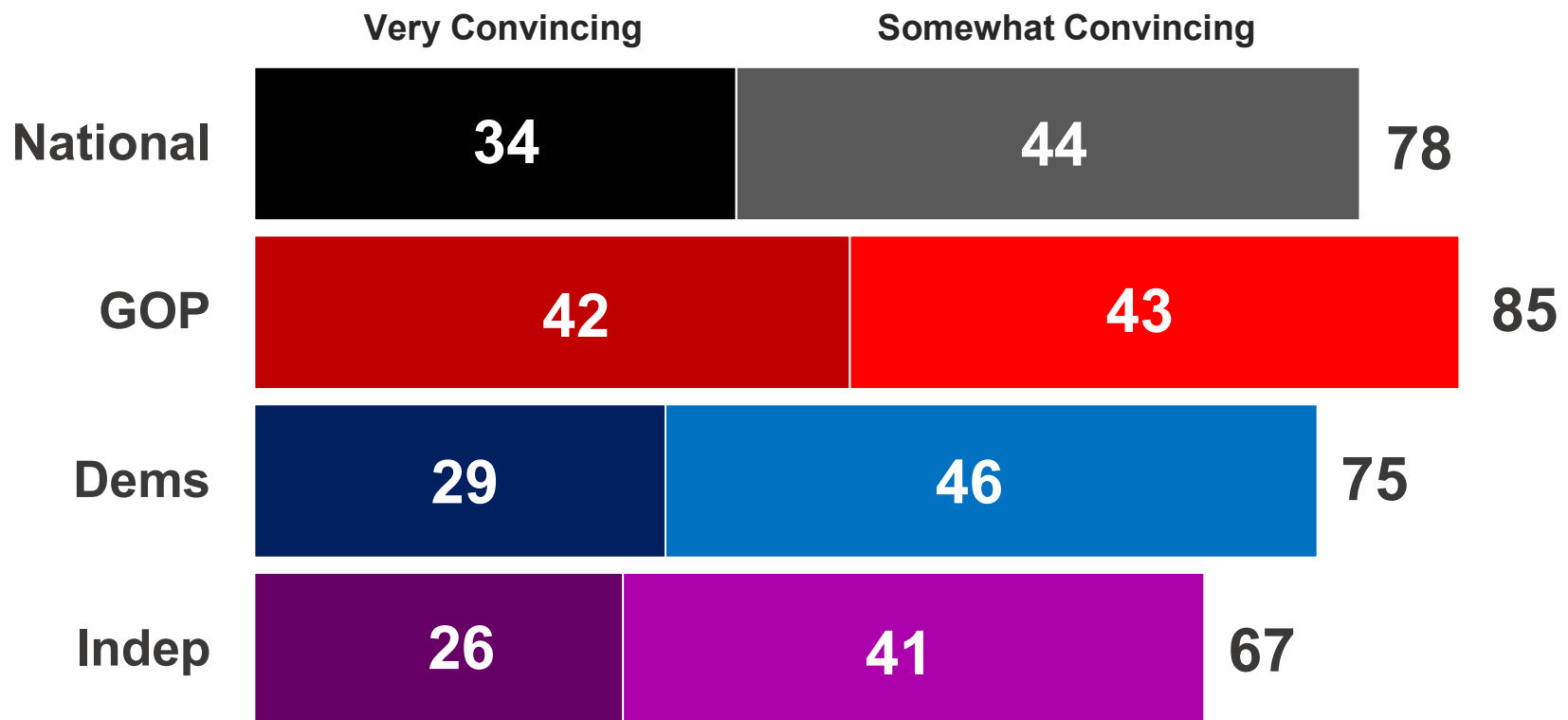# Expand E-Verify Program

Argument Against

The idea that the government is going to effectively keep track of who is and who isn't legal is really dubious. There are many cases of the E-Verify system saying that someone is not legal, when they really are. For example, this can happen when someone changes their name--something that is particularly likely to happen to women. Also, the idea that driving illegal immigrants out of their jobs is going to free up jobs for Americans is doubtful. Americans do not want many of the jobs they take --like farm work--and driving them out will likely lead to major labor shortages that will hurt American businesses.

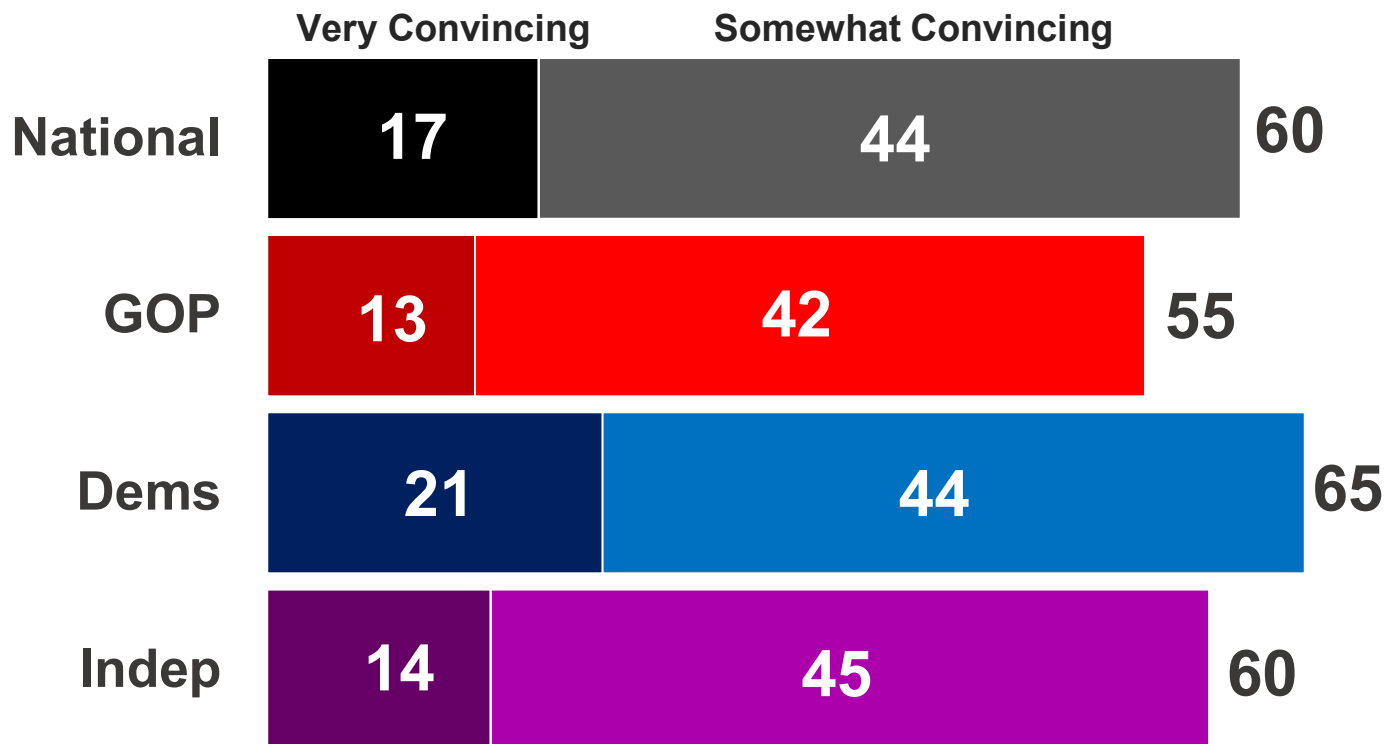|	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	Total
National	18	38	55
GOP	8	32	40
Dems	28	42	70
Indep	14	40	54

Expand E-Verify Program

Argument in Favor

The E-Verify system has proven to work very well. An overwhelming 87% of employers who use the system report satisfaction. There have been few cases of legal workers being flagged as illegal. In any case, as we make a commitment to use the system and it plays a more important role, improvements will be made and new technology will raise the performance level every year just as is the case with all technology. It can also catch people who are already here, which other systems, like a wall, cannot do. And its cost for taxpayers is quite low.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	34	44	78
GOP	42	43	85
Dems	29	46	75
Indep	26	41	67

Expand E-Verify Program

Argument Against

While the E-Verify system sounds good on paper it can be easily fooled. A government funded study found that E-Verify mistakenly approved of 54 percent of unauthorized immigrants, mostly due to the fraudulent use of Social Security numbers. Such numbers are readily available on the black market from people who, for example, find ones associated with people who have died. Also, employers can evade some E-Verify requirements by hiring people as contractors rather than employees, which is probably why states that currently have E-Verify mandates have seen increases in the use of contractors.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	17	44	60
GOP	13	42	55
Dems	21	44	65
Indep	14	45	60

Final Recommendation

Do you favor or oppose this proposal?

All employers must use the E-Verify system to verify that current employees and all new job applicants have the legal right to work in the US. Employers who do not verify their employees and are found to be employing undocumented immigrants will be fined. Employers who repeatedly fail to use the verification system and hire undocumented immigrants may be sentenced up to 18 months in prison and their business license may be revoked.

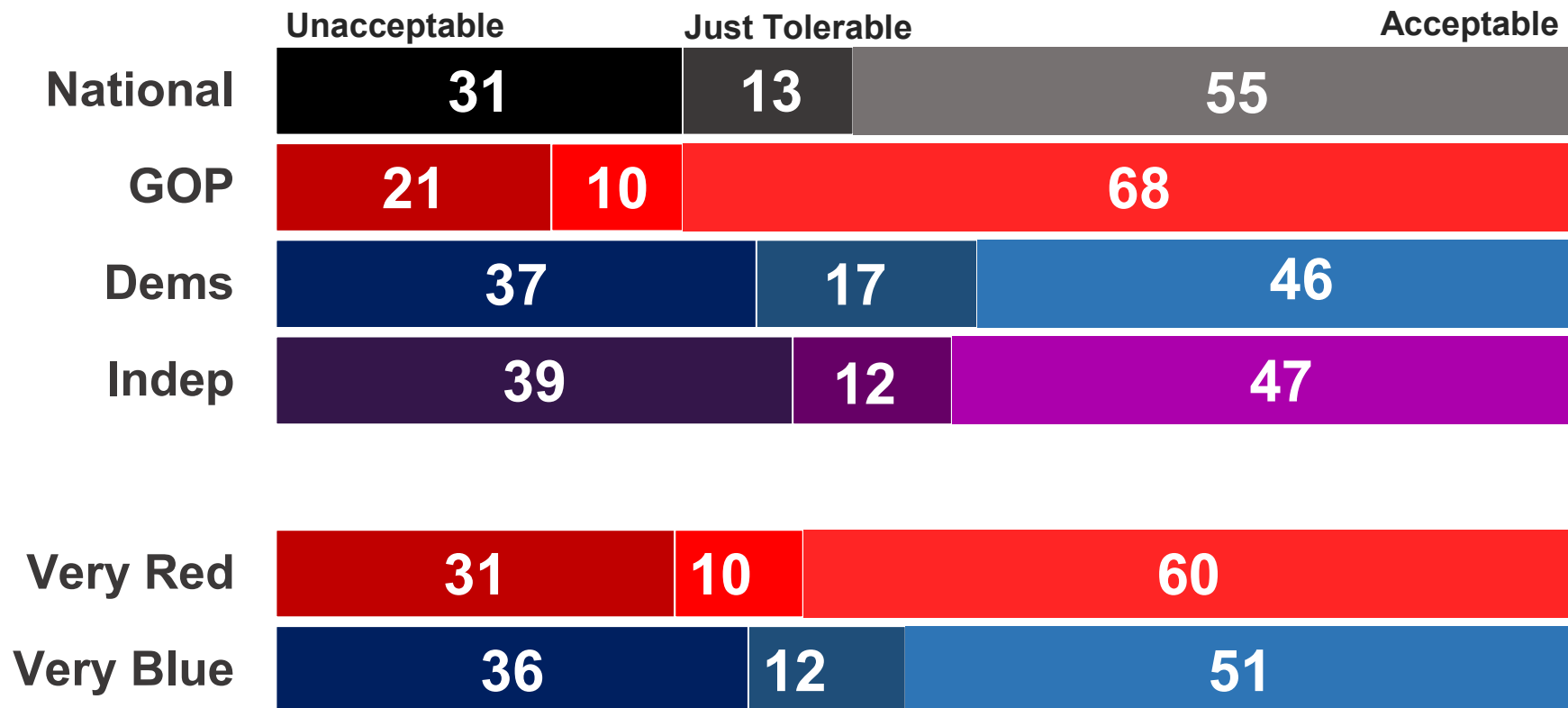|	Favor	Oppose
National	72	26
GOP	83	17
Dems	66	32
Indep	64	33
Very Red	74	25
Very Blue	69	30
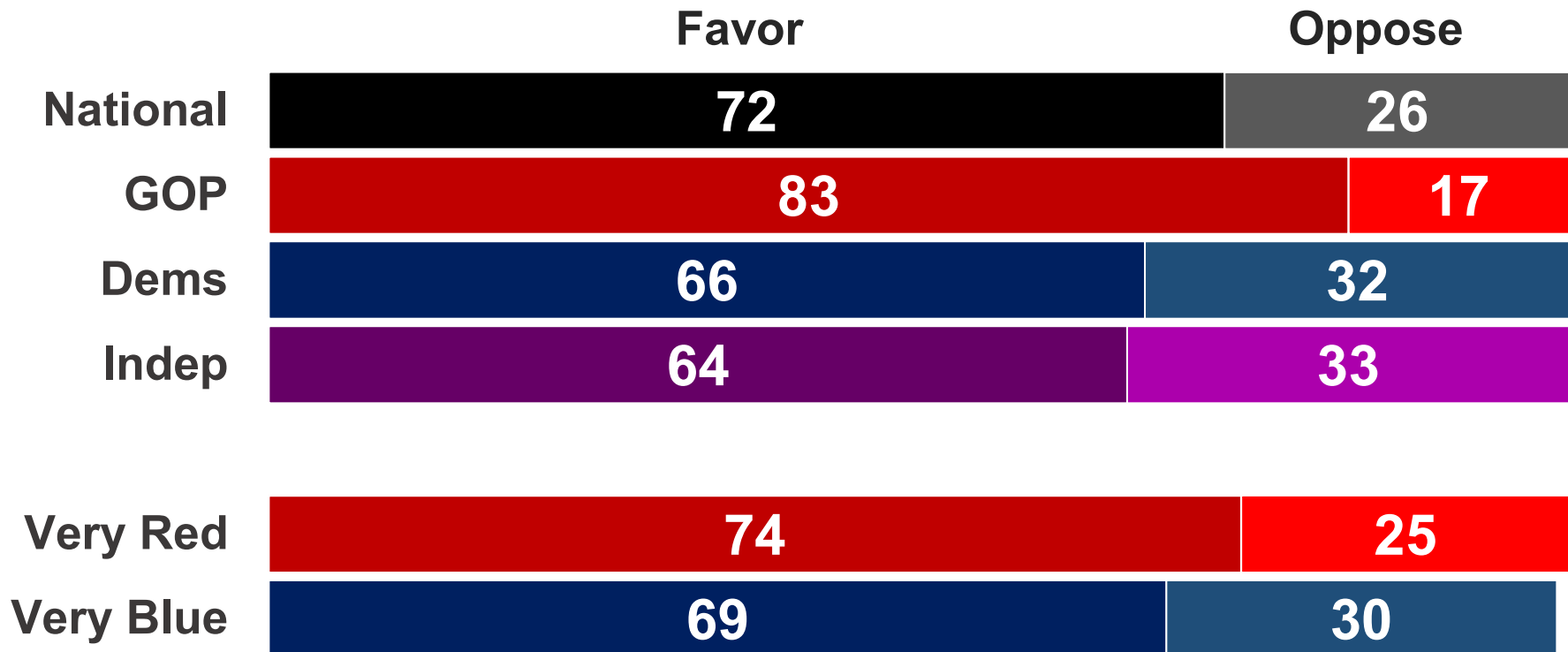
Expand E-Verify Program

Acceptability

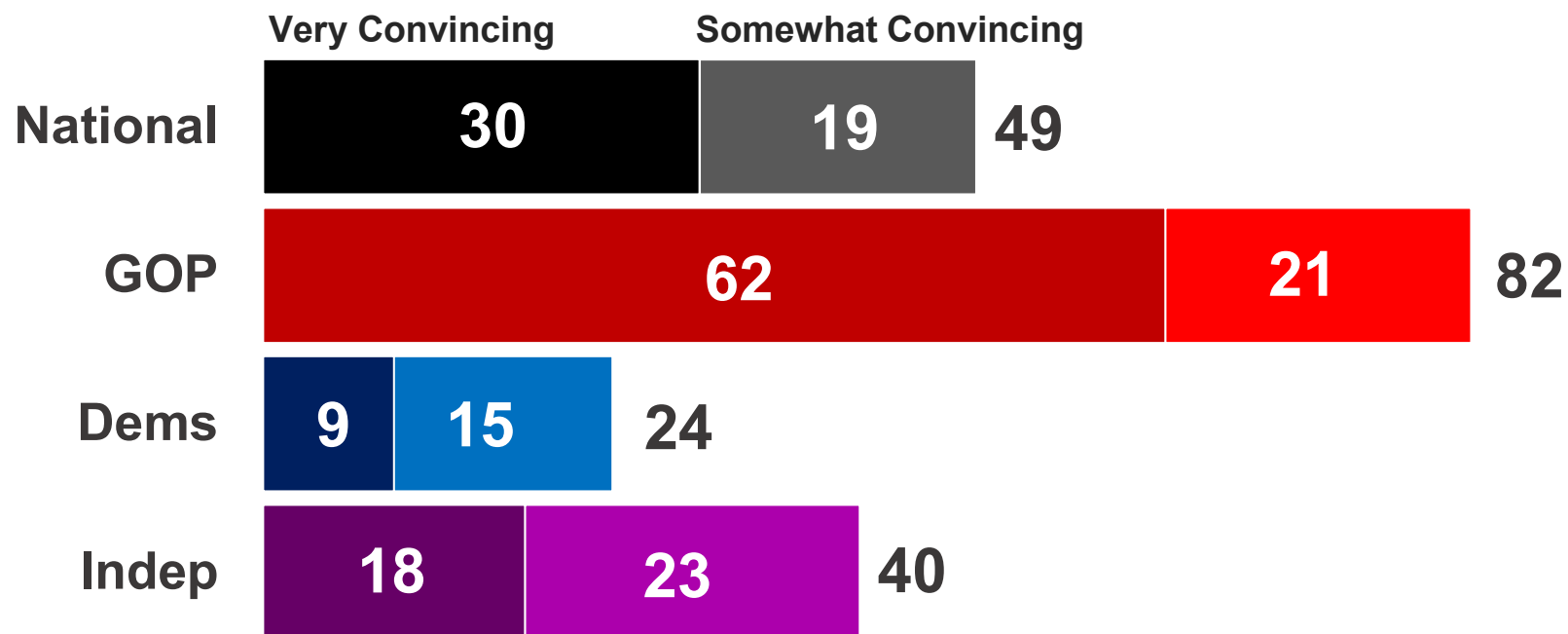How acceptable or unacceptable do you find this proposal?

All employers must use the E-Verify system to verify that current employees and all new job applicants have the legal right to work in the US. Employers who do not verify their employees and are found to be employing undocumented immigrants will be fined. Employers who repeatedly fail to use the verification system and hire undocumented immigrants may be sentenced up to 18 months in prison and their business license may be revoked.

	Unacceptable	Just Tolerable	Acceptable
National	31	13	55
GOP	21	10	68
Dems	37	17	46
Indep	39	12	47
Very Red	31	10	60
Very Blue	36	12	51

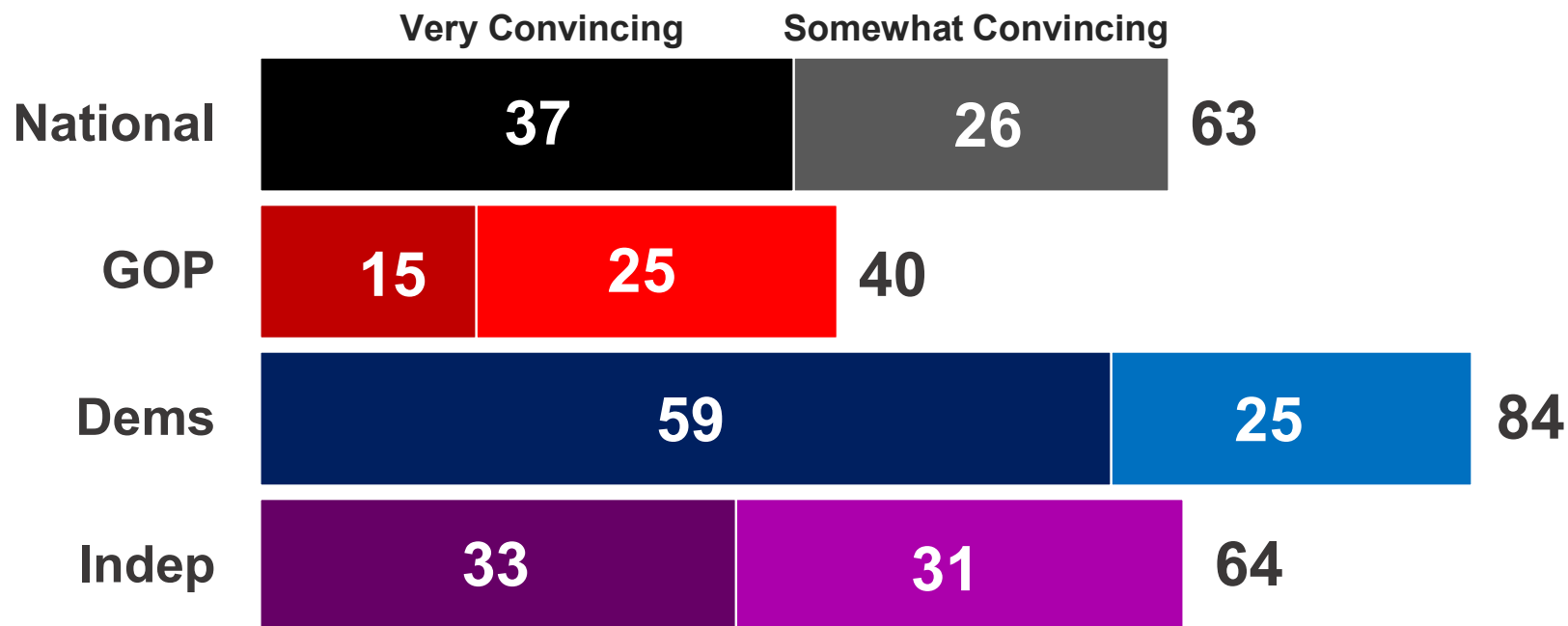# Investing in a Wall on the Southern Border

Argument in Favor

Spending $25 billion on securing our southern border is a good investment. Every day hundreds of immigrants succeed in entering the US illegally through the southern border. Many are immigrants who come here and use government social services, in addition to taking jobs that should be going to American citizens. Many are criminals, bringing in drugs and undermining the fabric of our society. Some are members of terrorist groups. New research suggests that the large build-up in border security and enforcement in the last decade contributed to the decline in illegal crossings. By preventing large numbers of economic migrants from crossing, our border patrol agents can focus more of their resources on the most serious traffickers causing the most harm. Ultimately, we need to recognize that a nation is only as strong as its borders. A country that can so easily be entered is a weak country. We need to make a statement to the world that we are in control of our destiny. ich other systems, like a wall, cannot do. And its cost for taxpayers is quite low.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	30	19	49
GOP	62	21	82
Dems	9	15	24
Indep	18	23	40

Investing in a Wall on the Southern Border
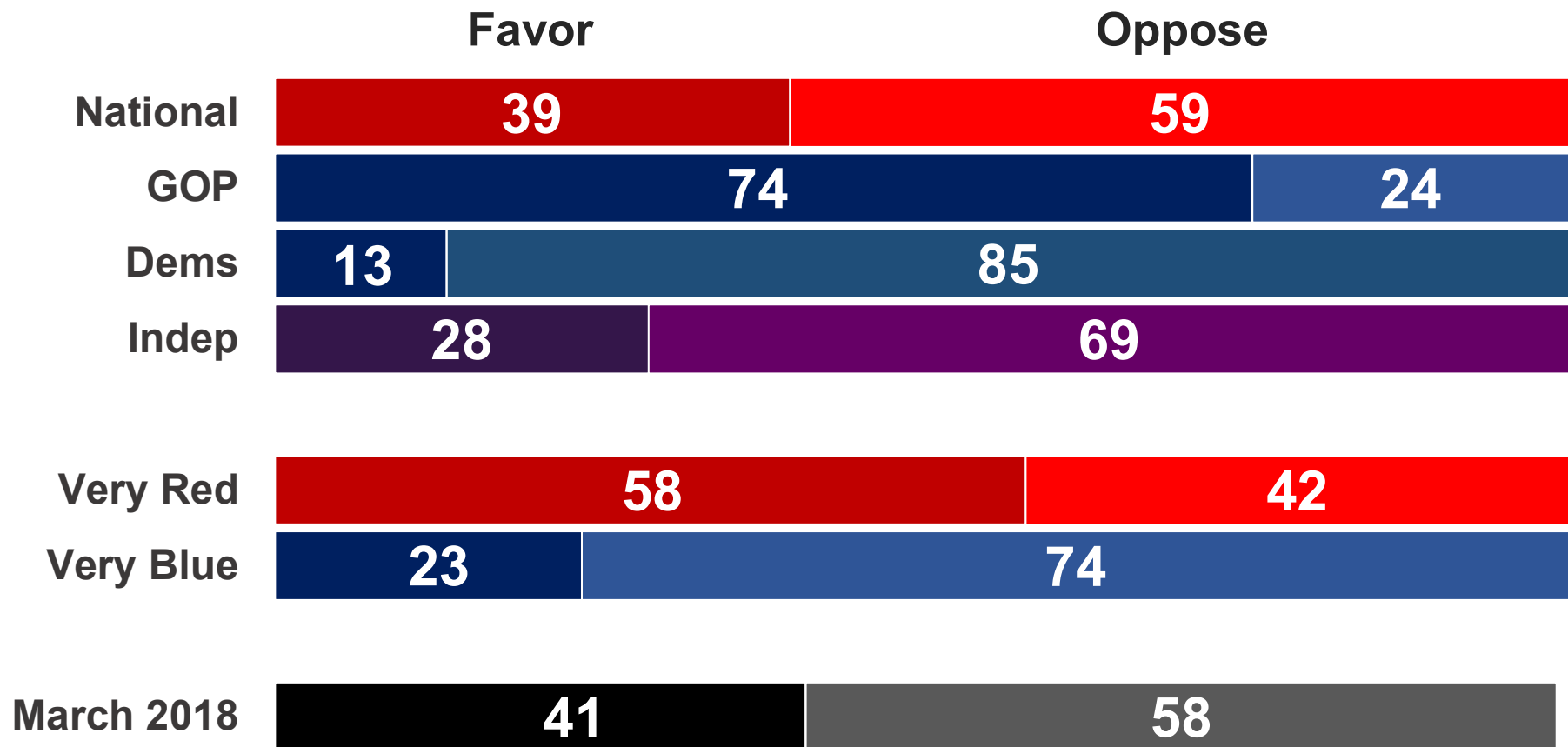
Argument Against

Building a wall sounds bold and dramatic, but, realistically, it will not significantly reduce the number of people crossing the border illegally. Walls can be scaled with ladders. More importantly, if one route is blocked people will use others already in use. Hundreds of tunnels have been dug under the border. People can be smuggled by boat. People can be hidden in trucks and vans crossing the border, as there is no way that the border guards can check all of the millions of vehicles that cross over every month. Surely, there are a lot of big companies out there eager for the opportunity to get lucrative contracts building such a wall, but in the end we will see it was all just a boondoggle. If we want to get serious about reducing the number of people coming here illegally, there are more effective means, like discouraging them from coming by making sure that employers do not hire them once they get here.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	37	26	63
GOP	15	25	40
Dems	59	25	84
Indep	33	31	64

Investing in a Wall on the Southern Border

Final Recommendation

Of those who **oppose** the proposal, would you favor spending on the southern border:

No more than the current $3.8 billion per year on policing the border

An additional one-time amount to build a stronger barrier, but less than additional $25 billion proposed

	No more than the current $3.8 billion	An additional one-time amount
National	49	9
GOP	13	10
Dems	76	8
Indep	57	9
Very Red	34	7
Very Blue	69	5
March 2018	47	10
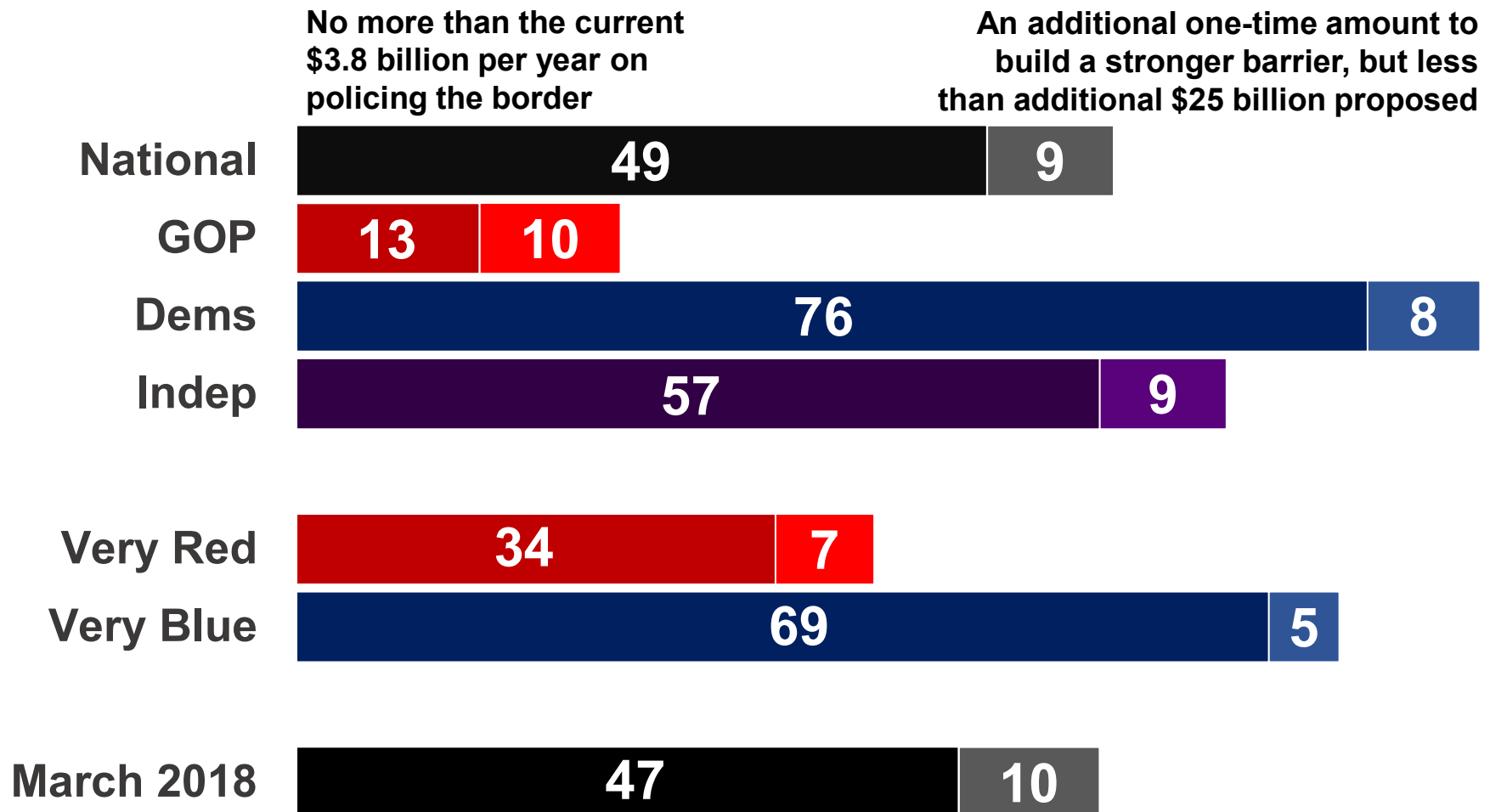
DACA Proposal #1

Path to Citizenship

People who entered the country illegally under the age of 18 will be able to apply for a special eight year green card, provided that they:

- Have not committed any significant crimes or pose a threat to national security; and

- Are currently enrolled in school or have received their high school diploma

After 8 years, they will be able to apply for a permanent green card if they have:
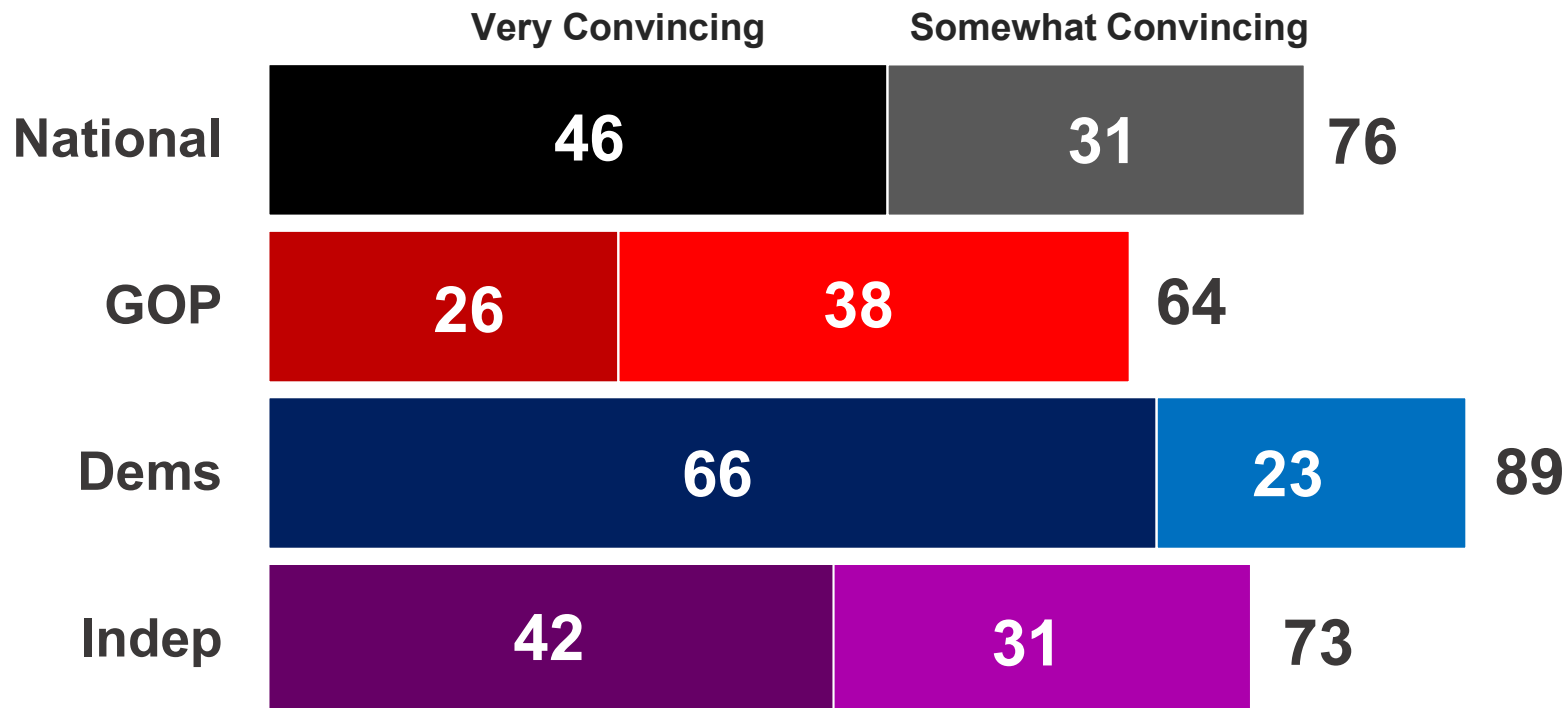
- Remained within the U.S. since being granted their conditional green card; and

- Either completed at least 2 years of college, served at least 2 years in the military, or have been employed continuously for a total of at least 3 years (with exceptions for people who have a disability, or are full-time caregivers with a minor child).

Once granted a permanent green card, after another 5 years they may apply for citizenship.

DACA: Path to Citizenship
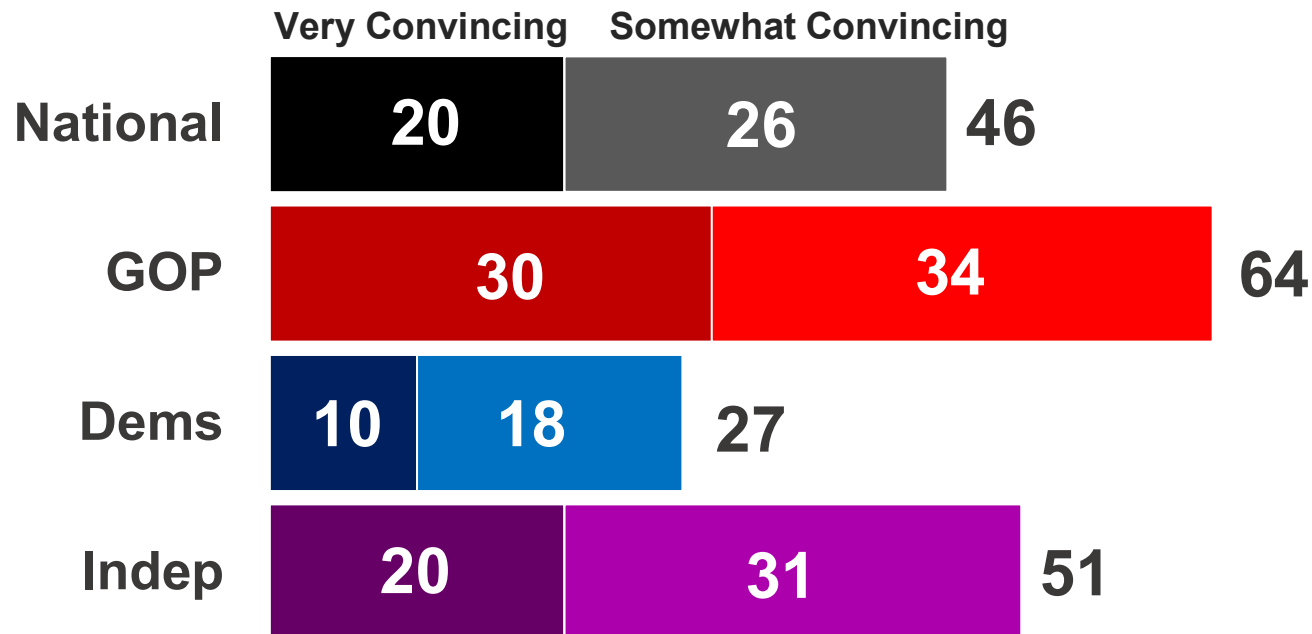
Argument in Favor

We must recognize that these young people grew up here, have become part of American society and make their contribution and pay taxes just like the rest of us. It is not their fault that their parents brought them here. The current program that gives them a few years reprieve is no solution, leaving them in a limbo state where they cannot really be sure they will be able to stay. America is their home and they are not criminals. They need to settle in and move on with their lives, building their careers and families, not worrying if this program might suddenly be ended. It makes no sense and is very unfair to send them off to a country that they have not lived in since they were children. It is time for us to make a final and long term plan for fully accepting them into American society.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	46	31	76
GOP	26	38	64
Dems	66	23	89
Indep	42	31	73

DACA: Path to Citizenship

Argument Against

We must remember that by coming to the US without a visa the law was broken. We should not reward such illegal behavior. That would simply be amnesty. If we give DACA recipients a special path to citizenship, we will encourage others to break the law too. This plan will also make it easier for immigrants who came here illegally as children to compete with young American citizens. This might be good for corporations who want an oversupply of workers so they can pay them less and offer little to no benefits, but it is bad for young Americans who are already having a hard time. Just recently, the unemployment rate for 18-29-year-olds reached a whopping 11% and many more are underemployed. A recent study found that on average they earn 20% less than their baby-boomer parents did at the same age and have more student debt. This is no time to introduce a surge of new young people into the legal job market.

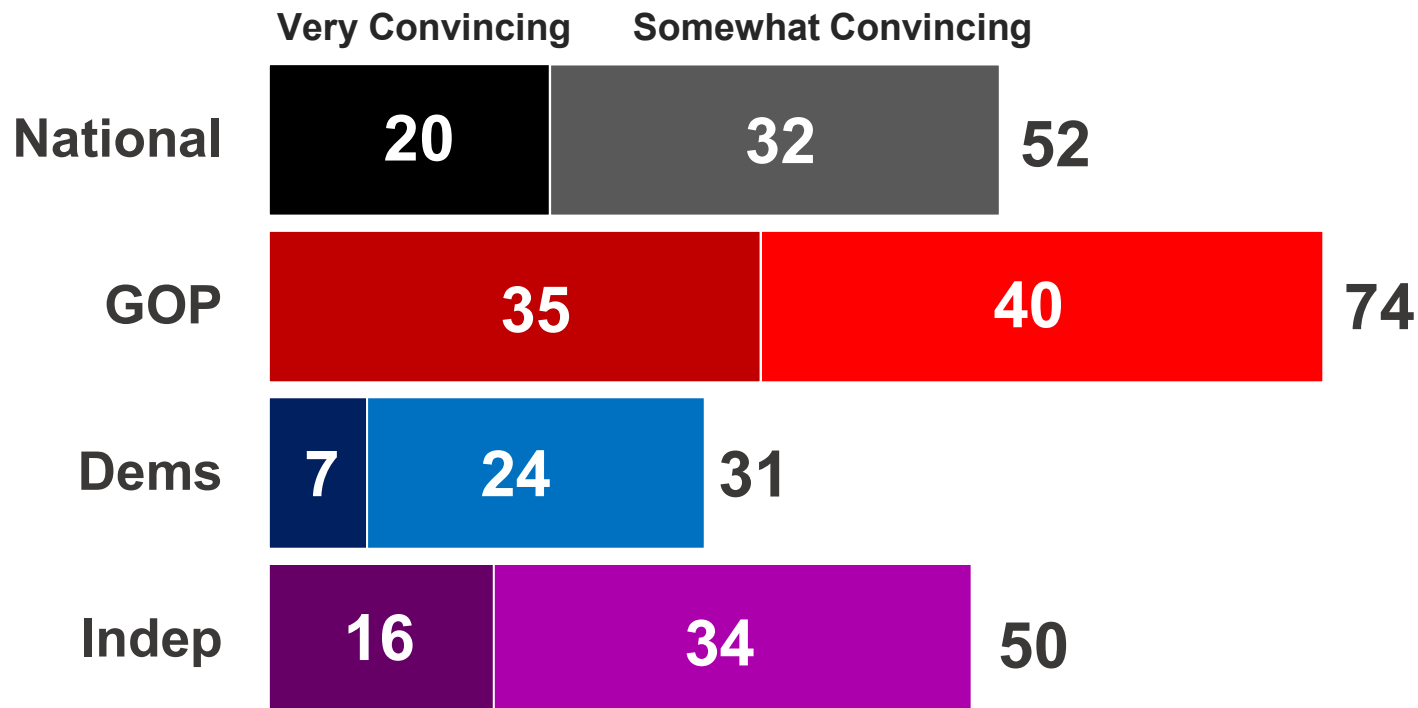|	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	20	26	46
GOP	30	34	64
Dems	10	18	27
Indep	20	31	51

DACA: 700,000 Limit

Argument in Favor

Letting almost 700,000 young people with DACA status stay for another 3 years, with the possibility of renewal is a generous gesture. Though it is not assured, many of them would probably get renewals. They would also have the option of going to the back of the line and applying for a green card and a pathway to citizenship, just like everybody else. But they should not have a special path to a green card. The people who would be subject to deportation would also have the option of applying for a green card, but with no special privileges. Most were given a chance to apply for DACA, but did not apply or failed to renew when they were eligible to do so. The bottom line is that when they came here they were breaking the law and that should not be rewarded with a path to citizenship. Giving almost half of them a renewable status for 3 years at a time is generous enough.

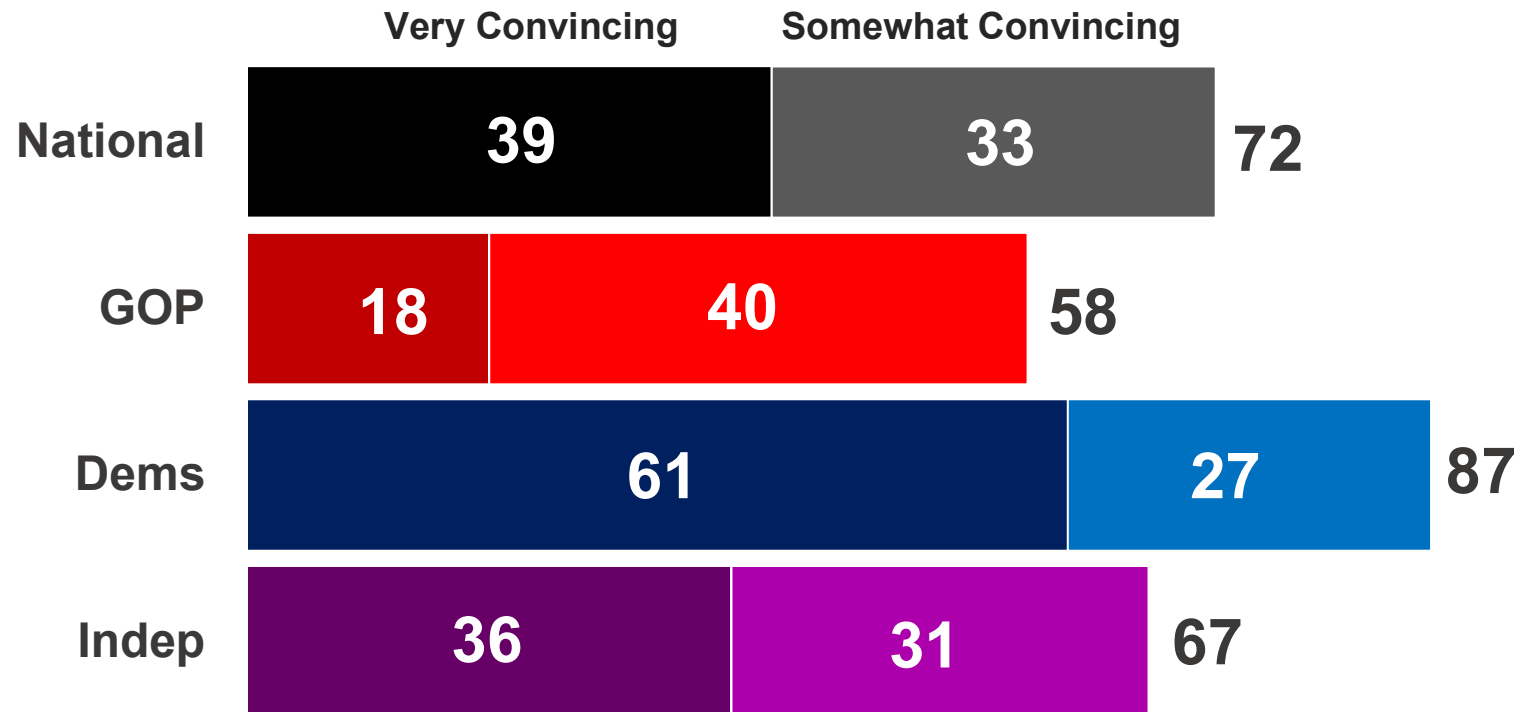|	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	20	32	52
GOP	35	40	74
Dems	7	24	31
Indep	16	34	50

DACA Proposal #2

700,000 Limit

The 700,000 people who currently have DACA status would receive a temporary legal status for another three years. After that they may reapply if they have met certain requirements. Renewal would not be assured and would require the approval of the Secretary of Homeland Security. They would not be allowed to apply for a green card or citizenship while they are in the US under this program.

No additional people would be allowed to apply for DACA status. The roughly 500,000 to 1,100,000 young people who were brought here illegally as minors but do not currently have DACA status would be subject to deportation.
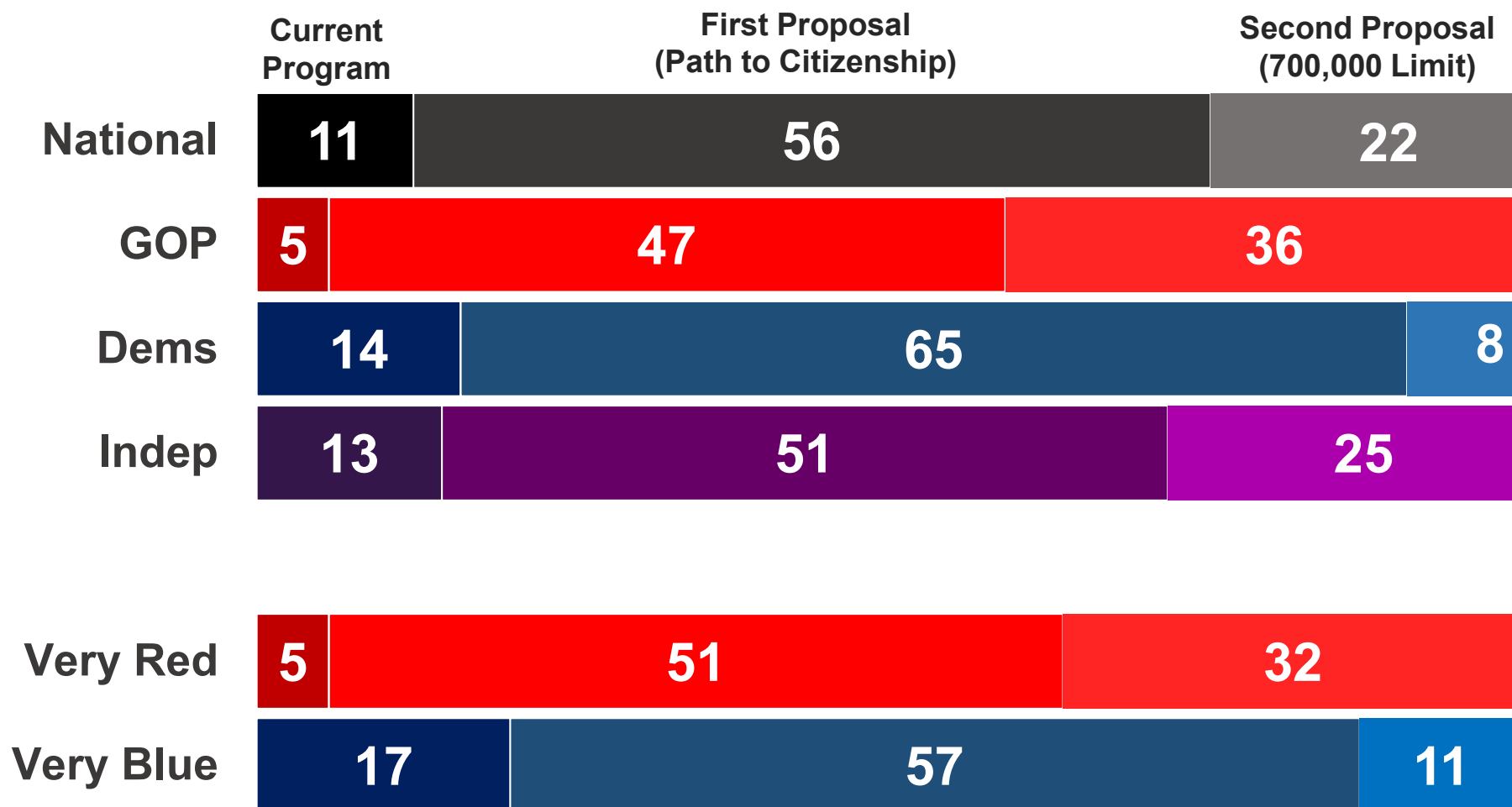
DACA: 700,000 Limit

Argument Against

The idea that we are going to deport hundreds of thousands of people who have lived here since they were children is unrealistic and inhumane. It has been estimated that this would cost $4 to $6 billion. Furthermore, we have invested a lot as a society to educate them and it makes no sense to prevent them from making their contribution as adults. Also, many of them have US-born children (and are now citizens) who would have to either uproot their lives as well or be left living with relatives. As for giving some of them a permit to stay for 3 years with uncertainty about the possibility of renewal, this just kicks the can down the road. If it's wrong to deport them now it will be wrong to deport them then. So, we need to go ahead and do the right thing and give them a realistic path to citizenship, provided that they have a clean record and make a contribution to society.

	Very Convincing	Somewhat Convincing	
National	39	33	72
GOP	18	40	58
Dems	61	27	87
Indep	36	31	67

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)

Final Recommendation

Having considered these different proposals,
which of the following do you think is the best policy?

	Current Program	First Proposal (Path to Citizenship)	Second Proposal (700,000 Limit)
National	11	56	22
GOP	5	47	36
Dems	14	65	8
Indep	13	51	25
Very Red	5	51	32
Very Blue	17	57	11

DACA: Path to Citizenship

Acceptability: Proposal #1

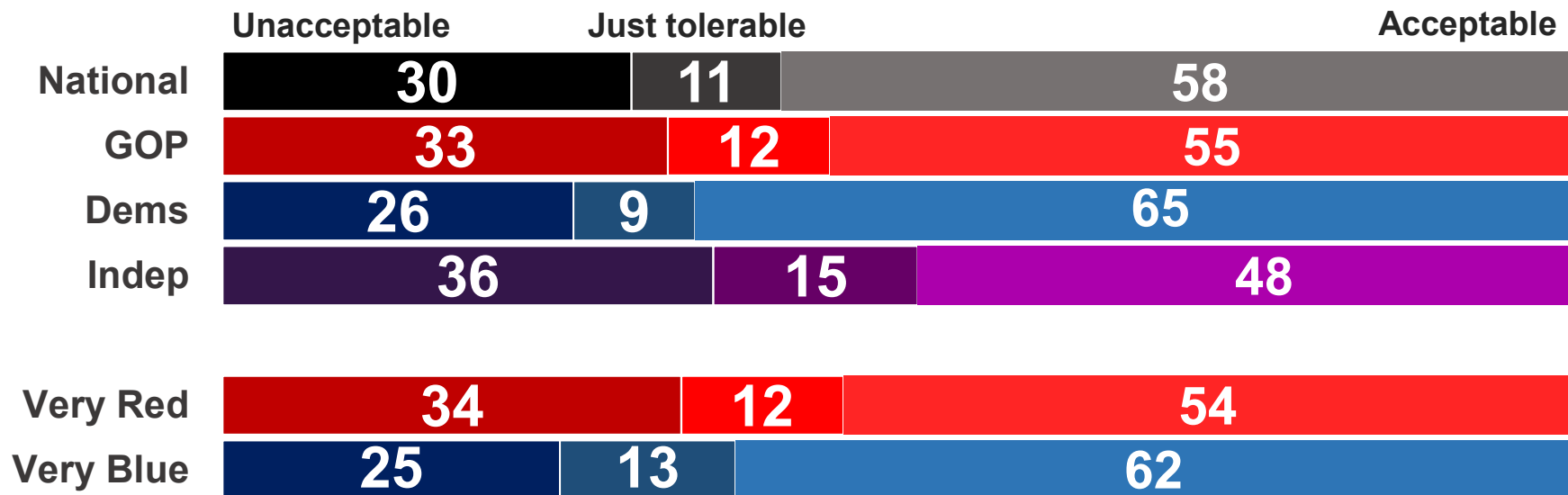How acceptable or unacceptable do you find this proposal?

People who entered the U.S. illegally under age 18 may apply for a special 8 year green card, provided they:

- Have not committed any significant crimes or pose a threat to national security; and

- Are currently enrolled in school or have received their high school diploma.

After 8 years, they will be able to apply for a permanent green card so long as they have:

- Remained within the United States since being granted their conditional green card; and

- Either completed at least two years of college, served at least two years in the military, or have been employed continuously for a total of at least three years (with exceptions for people who have a disability, or are full-time caregivers with a minor child).

Once granted a permanent green card, after another 5 years they may apply for citizenship.

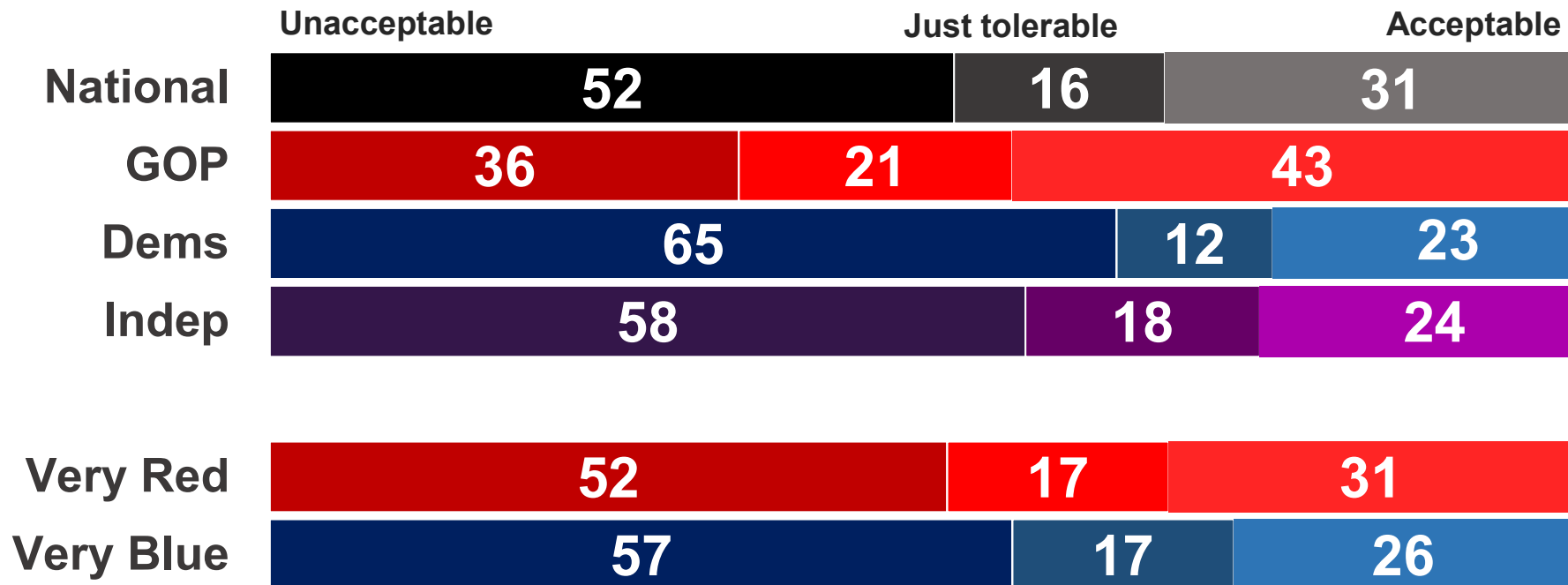|	Unacceptable	Just tolerable	Acceptable
National	30	11	58
GOP	33	12	55
Dems	26	9	65
Indep	36	15	48
Very Red	34	12	54
Very Blue	25	13	62

DACA: 700,000 Limit

Acceptability: Proposal #2

How acceptable or unacceptable do you find this proposal?

The 700,000 people who currently have DACA status would receive a temporary legal status for another three years. After that they may reapply if they have met certain requirements. Renewal would not be assured and would require the approval of the Secretary of Homeland Security. They would not be allowed to apply for a green card or citizenship while they are in the US under this program.

No additional people would be allowed to apply for DACA status. The roughly 500,000 to 1,100,000 young people who were brought here illegally as minors but do not currently have DACA status would be subject to deportation.

	Unacceptable	Just tolerable	Acceptable
National	52	16	31
GOP	36	21	43
Dems	65	12	23
Indep	58	18	24
Very Red	52	17	31
Very Blue	57	17	26

Americans on Immigration Reform

A National Survey of Registered Voters

January 2019