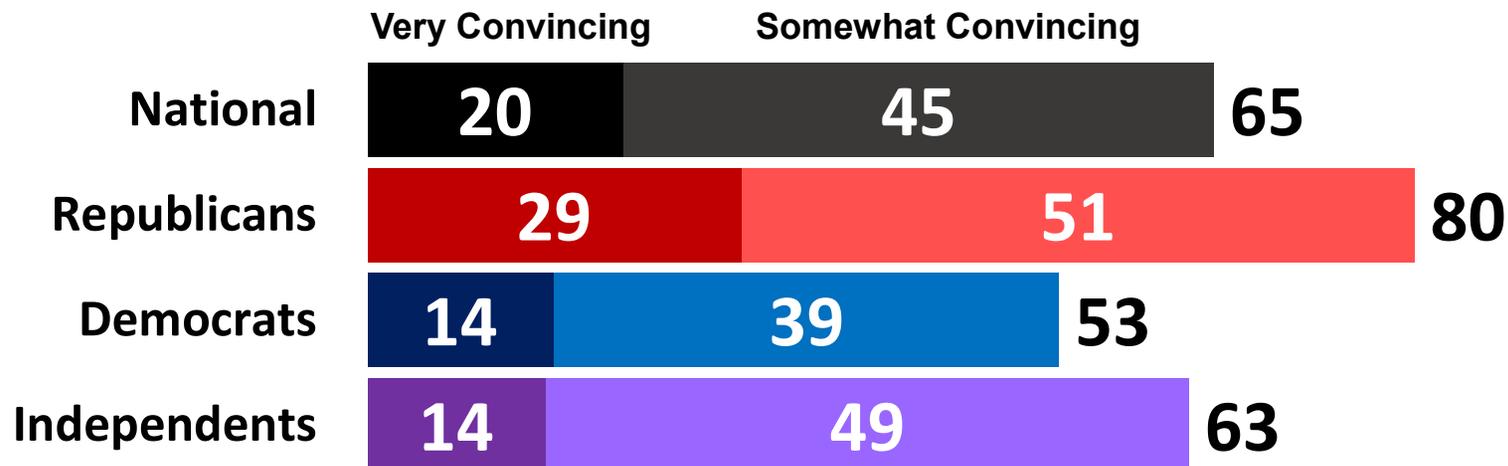


U.S. Initiating Process of Withdrawing from INF Treaty

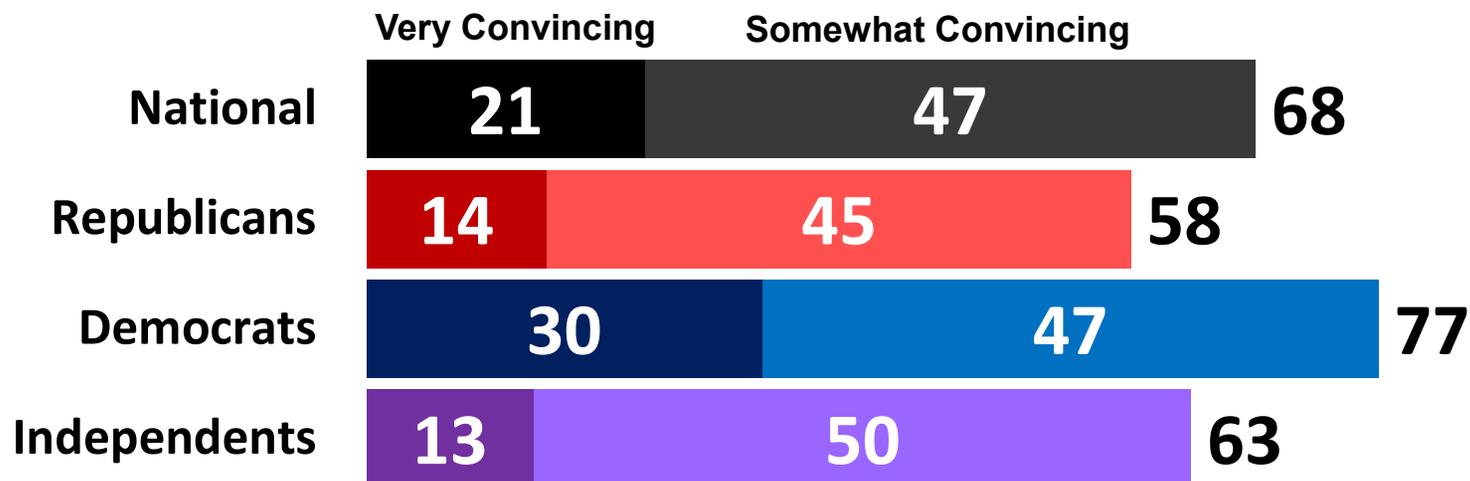
- Argument in Favor -

Russia has violated the INF treaty for years. In dialog with the Russians about this problem — over two presidential administrations — the Russians have refused to admit their violations. We cannot let Russia cheat without consequences. We cannot let them have this new type of weapon while we are constrained. It is time for the U.S. to take strong action and start the process of withdrawing from the Treaty. During the six months that the process takes, the Russians might finally be willing to admit that they've cheated and make the necessary changes. If not, we need to follow through and withdraw. After all, the Treaty has not been very good for the U.S., since it has restrained us from building missiles of the same range that we could deploy in Asia, while China has been free to develop them and has in fact been building a lot of them. So, freeing the U.S. up to develop intermediate range forces may have advantages for us.



U.S. Initiating Process of Withdrawing from INF Treaty - Argument Against -

The INF Treaty has played a very important role in European security for more than thirty years. These weapons were especially dangerous because they were very accurate and powerful, and could destroy leadership and military targets in minutes. Our NATO allies still support the agreement and do not want the United States to make it legal again for Russia to deploy weapons that could destroy European capitals with almost no warning. We should make a more concerted effort to negotiate with the Russians. There are viable ways to address both sides concerns. Russia has said that it will work with the United States to do this. Being free to put new intermediate range land-based missiles in Asia would not provide an important benefit. We have plenty of other nuclear and non-nuclear weapons there that can do what we need. Finally, most of our European and Asian allies do not want us to put intermediate-range missiles on their territory, so it is not clear that we would gain anything from withdrawing from the INF Treaty.



INF Treaty

- Final Recommendation -

Do you think the U.S. should:

Start the six-month process of withdrawing from the INF Treaty, and if the Russians do not make the changes the U.S. seeks, withdraw from the Treaty.

Stay within the INF Treaty and redouble efforts to work with the Russians to address concerns of both sides.

