



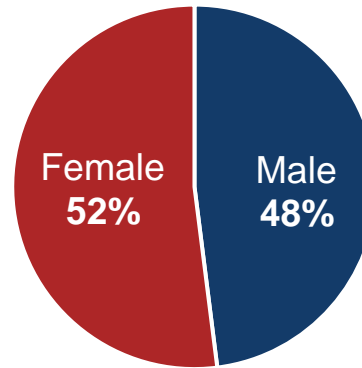
Crime and Safety Issues in the 2022 Midterms

Online national exit poll of 1,806 midterm voters
Fielded November 6 to 8, 2022

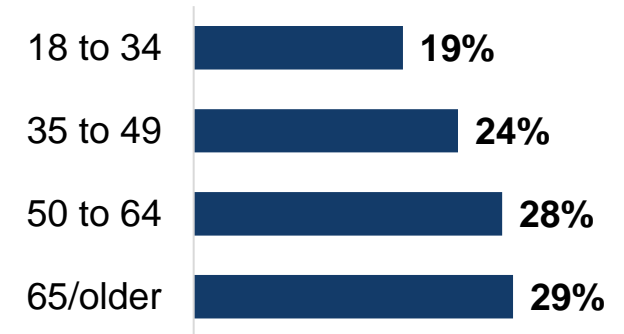
Methodology

- Online survey of 1,806 voters who had already cast their ballots or who were certain to vote and had their minds made up whom to vote for.
- Sample includes oversamples among:
 - Black voters: 330 interviews
 - Latino voters: 302 interviews
- Fielded November 6 to 8, 2022

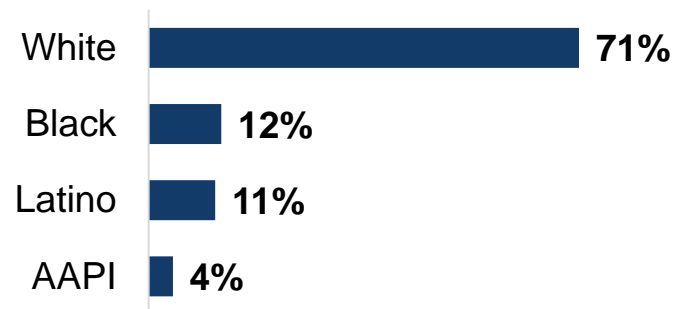
Gender



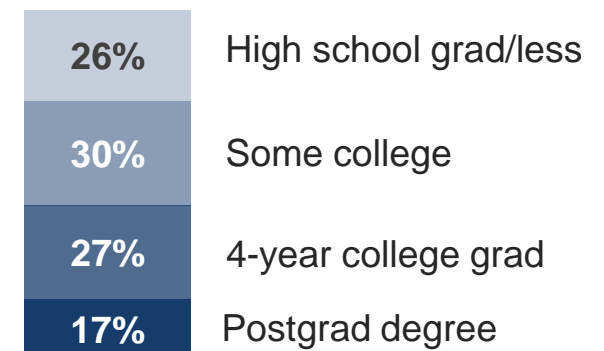
Age



Race/Ethnicity

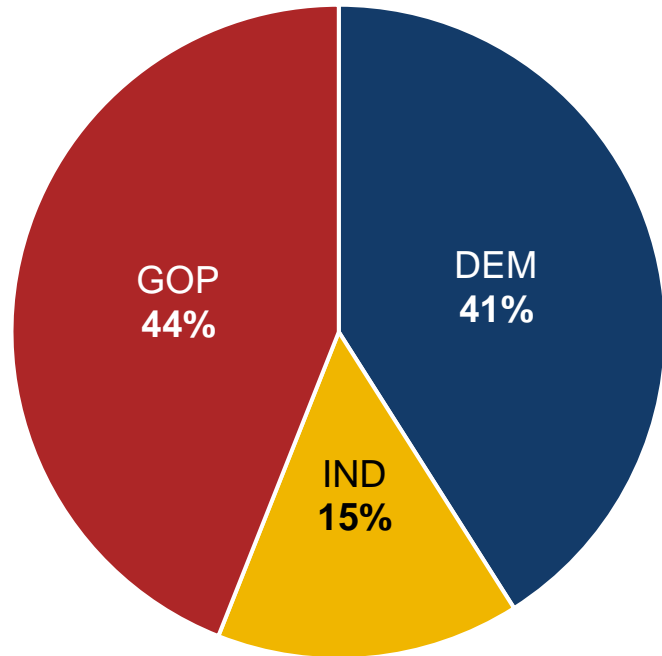


Education

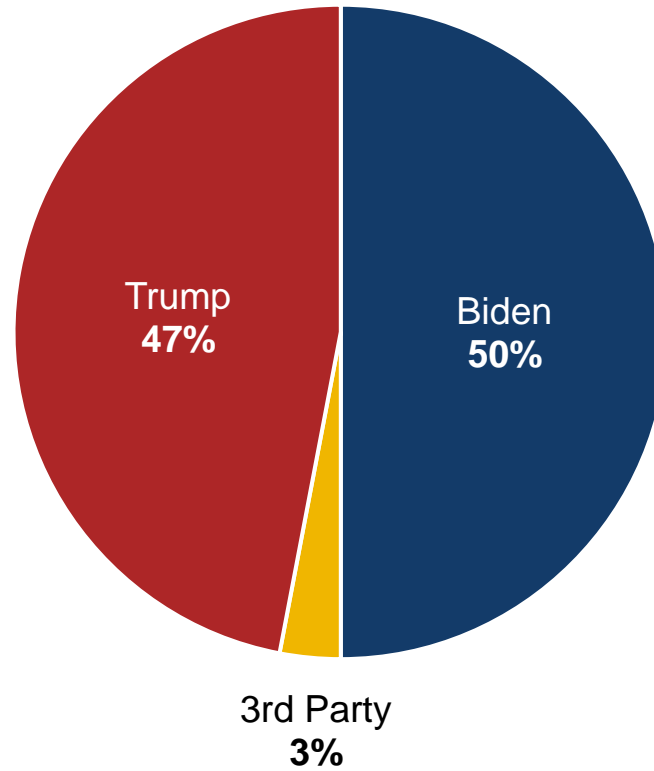


Political Profile of Voters

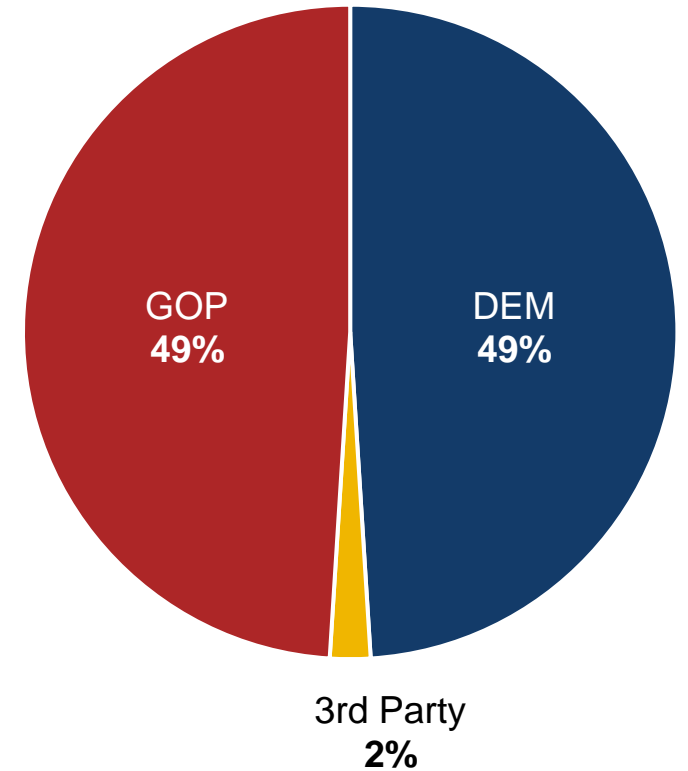
Party ID



2020 Vote



Congressional Vote



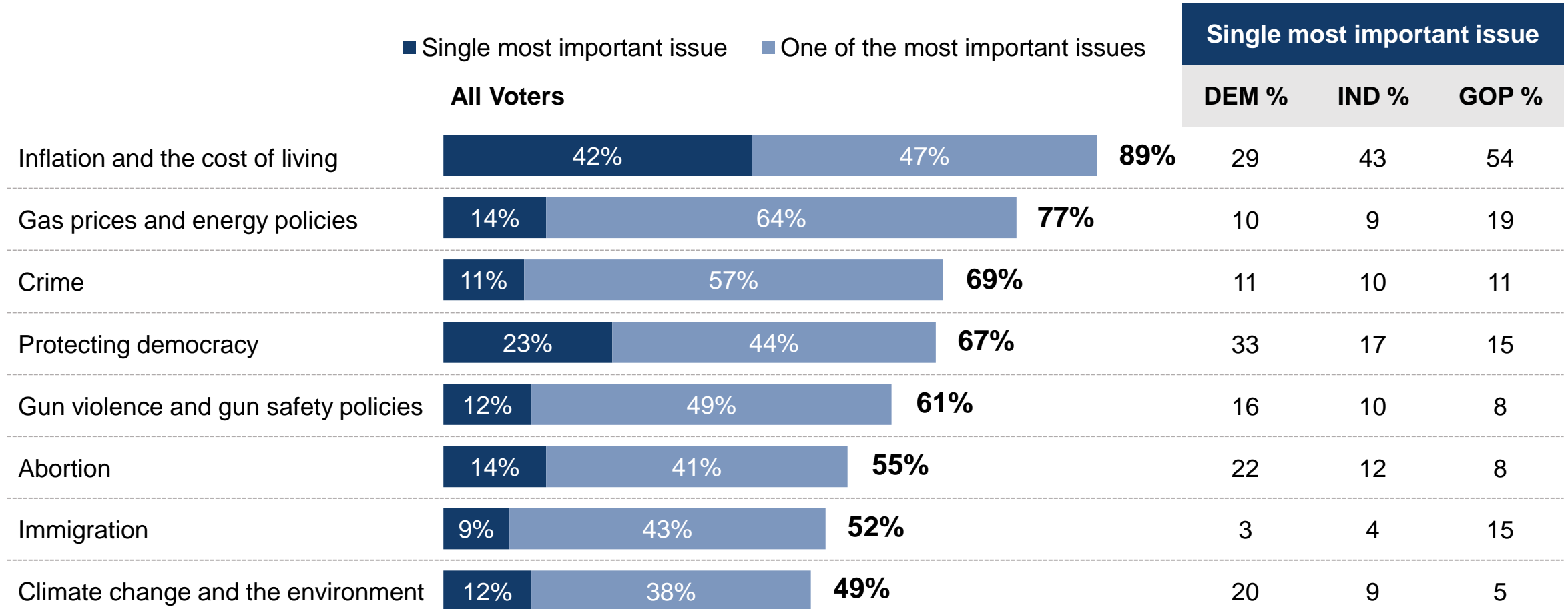
Abortion was a key driver of Democratic votes, while inflation dominated for those who voted Republican.

Issues volunteered as most important in this year's voting in open-ended question

	All Voters %	Voted for Democrat %	Voted for Republican %
Inflation/cost of living	48	38	58
Abortion/women's rights	35	53	16
Economy in general	32	26	38
Immigration	24	6	42
Crime	22	13	32
Climate change/environment	14	24	5
Healthcare	13	17	10
Gun violence/gun safety	12	18	6
Democracy/voting rights	9	16	1
Social Security/Medicare	8	11	6
Education	7	7	7

Crime was one of many issues that voters weighed this election but was not the top issue.

Proportion who rate each issue as the single most important issue or one of the most important issues in their voting decisions



Inflation was the top issue across race and age, while crime mattered relatively more to Black voters.

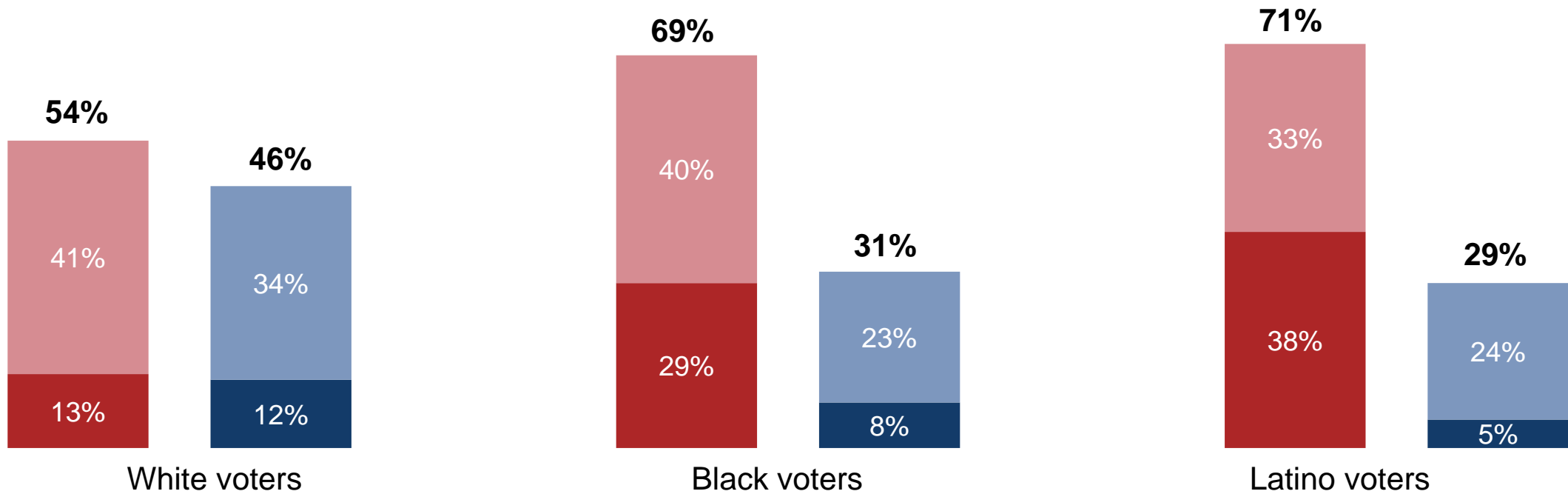
Proportion who rate each issue as the single most important issue in their voting decisions

	By race/ethnicity			By age			
	White voters %	Black voters	Latino voters %	18 to 34 %	35 to 49 %	50 to 64 %	65+ %
Inflation and the cost of living	42	41	44	40	44	47	37
Gas prices and energy policies	13	18	17	13	16	15	12
Crime	8	24	13	15	13	11	7
Protecting democracy	23	25	19	15	17	24	32
Gun violence and gun safety policies	9	24	16	12	14	11	11
Abortion	12	21	20	22	15	11	12
Immigration	9	8	8	6	8	10	10
Climate change and the environment	10	17	14	17	10	9	12

Large majorities of Black and Latino voters worry about being a victim of crime.

How much do you personally worry about being a victim of crime?

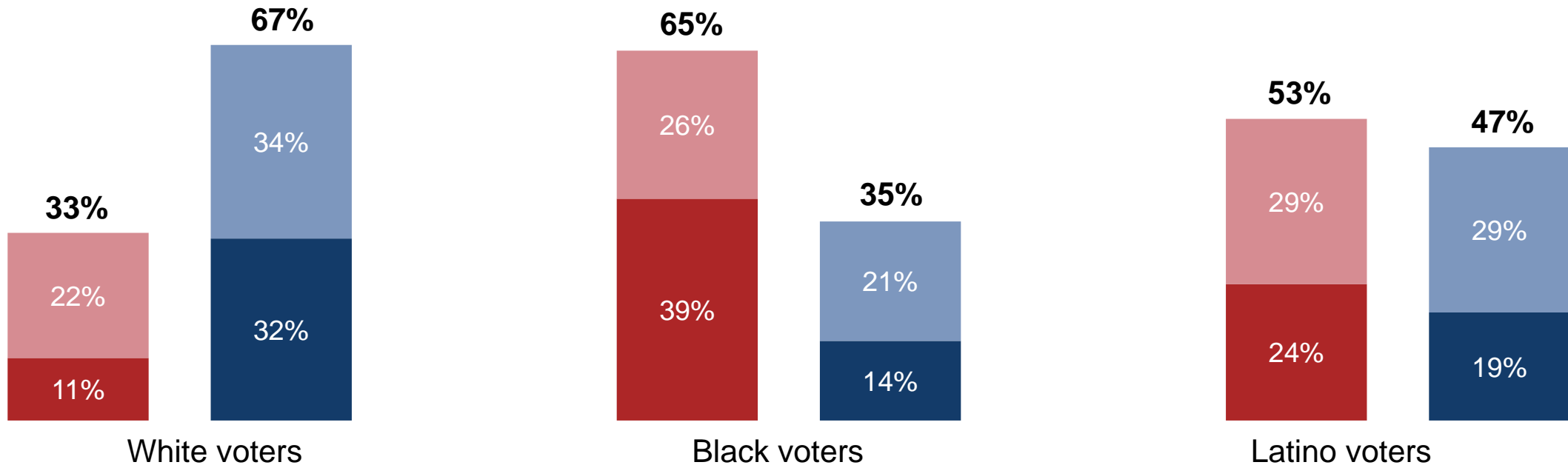
■ A lot ■ Some ■ Just a little ■ None



Three in five Black voters and more than half of Latino voters say crime is a big problem in their neighborhoods.

How big a problem is crime where you live?

■ A very big problem ■ A fairly big problem ■ Somewhat of a problem ■ Not that much/at all a problem



When voters talk about crime and violence, they are talking about a variety of concerns.

Top one or two concerns about crime, violence, and public safety

	All	DEM %	IND %	GOP %
Gun violence	38%	58	42	19
Mass shootings	36%	46	40	26
Street crimes, such as robberies, muggings, assaults	34%	23	32	47
Theft and home break-ins	21%	14	17	28
Untreated mental illness	21%	20	19	22
Drug use and substance abuse	20%	15	16	26
Homelessness and people living on the streets	16%	16	14	17

Concerns about gun violence and mass shootings are especially salient among voters of color and younger voters ages 18 to 34.

Top concerns about crime, violence, and public safety

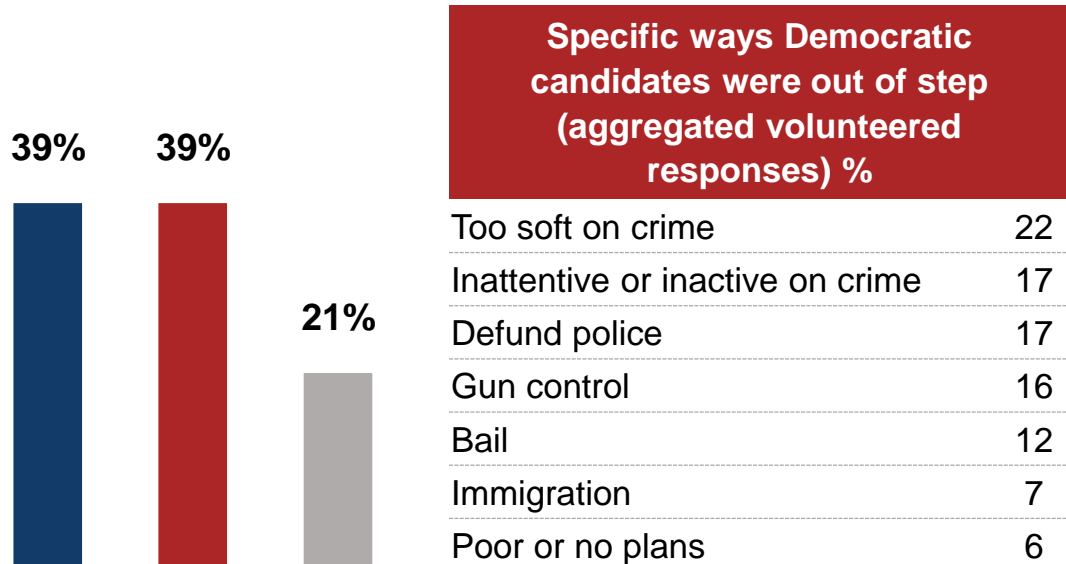
	By race/ethnicity %			By age %				Crime problem %	
	White voters	Black voters	Latino voters	18 to 34	35 to 49	50 to 64	65+	Local	National/ not local
Gun violence	35	52	48	47	37	29	43	39	35
Mass shootings	35	42	36	44	36	33	34	33	36
Street crimes, such as robberies, muggings, assaults	34	32	34	28	31	40	36	43	36
Theft and home break-ins	22	16	21	17	25	20	20	16	22
Untreated mental illness	22	14	16	18	19	25	19	22	21
Drug use and substance abuse	22	12	17	17	24	19	20	17	23
Homelessness and people living on the streets	15	15	21	17	17	19	12	19	14

Republican candidates had an advantage with voters on the issue of crime and violence, with voters split on whether Democrats are in step with them.

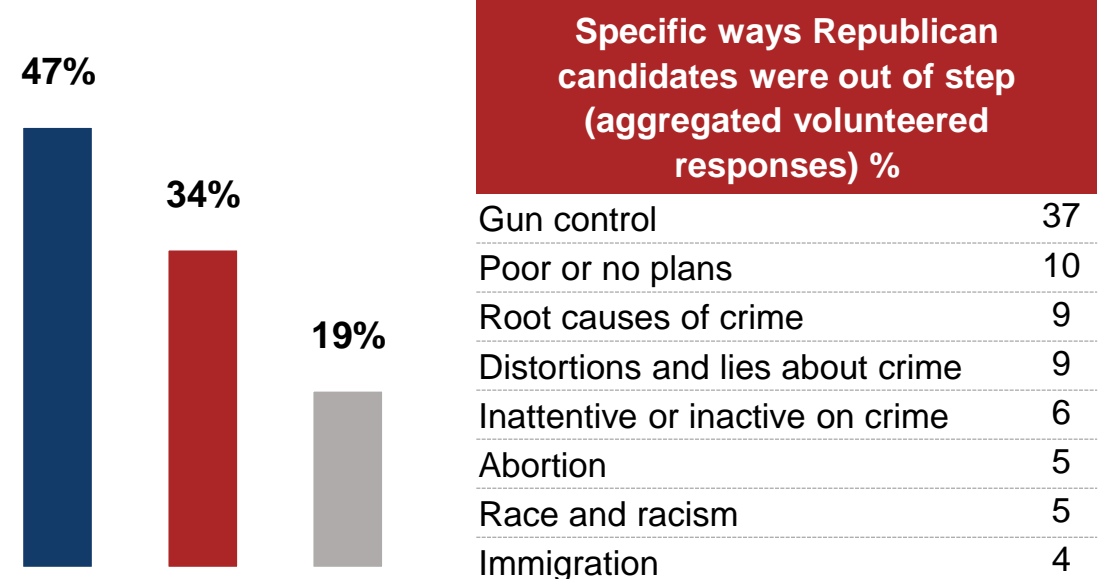
Would you say that most Democratic/Republican candidates this year were mainly in step or out of step with your views on crime and violence?

■ In step ■ Out of step ■ Did not hear from candidate

Democratic candidates



Republican candidates

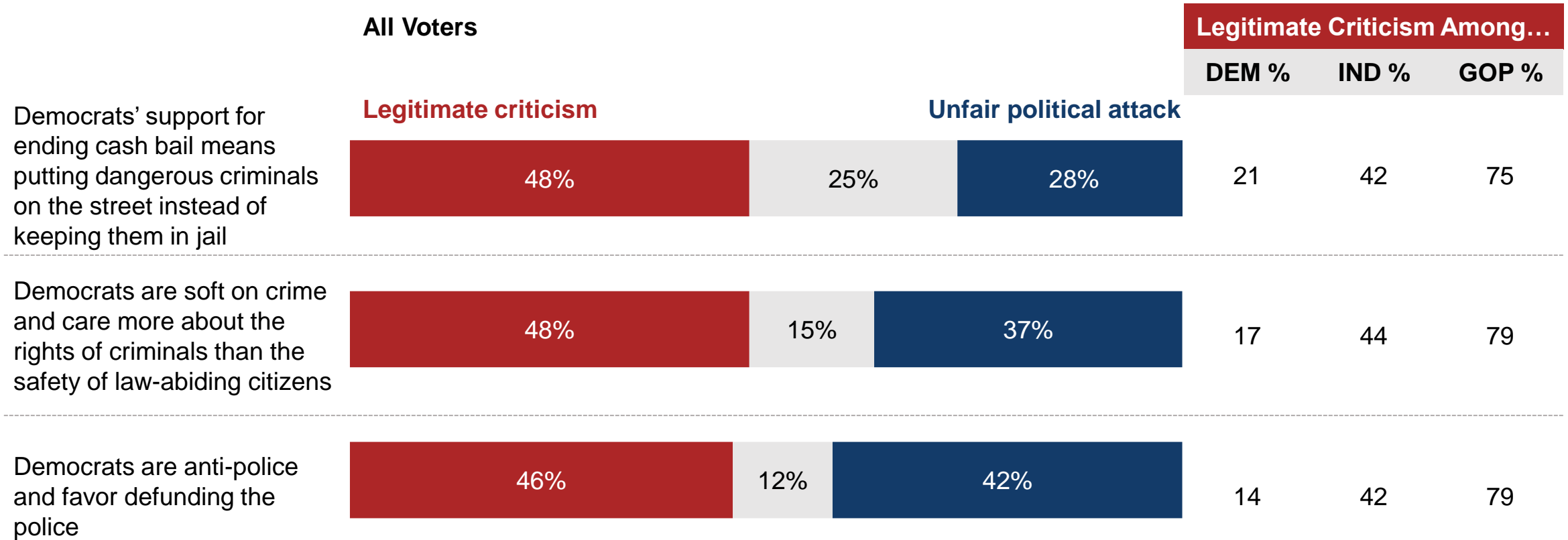


Independents, white voters, and older voters viewed Republican candidates as more in step with their views on crime than Democratic candidates.

Candidates mainly in step or out of step with voters' views on crime and violence

	Democratic candidates		Republican candidates	
	In step %	Out of step %	In step %	Out of step %
Democrats	75	10	10	65
Independents	31	40	42	33
Republicans	8	67	85	6
White voters	33	45	54	31
Black voters	65	23	22	47
Latino voters	50	28	37	39
18 to 34	46	33	39	39
35 to 49	39	40	44	34
50 to 64	35	43	53	29
65+	39	40	49	36
Urban	52	28	35	39
Suburban	40	39	46	38
Small town/rural	27	50	60	23

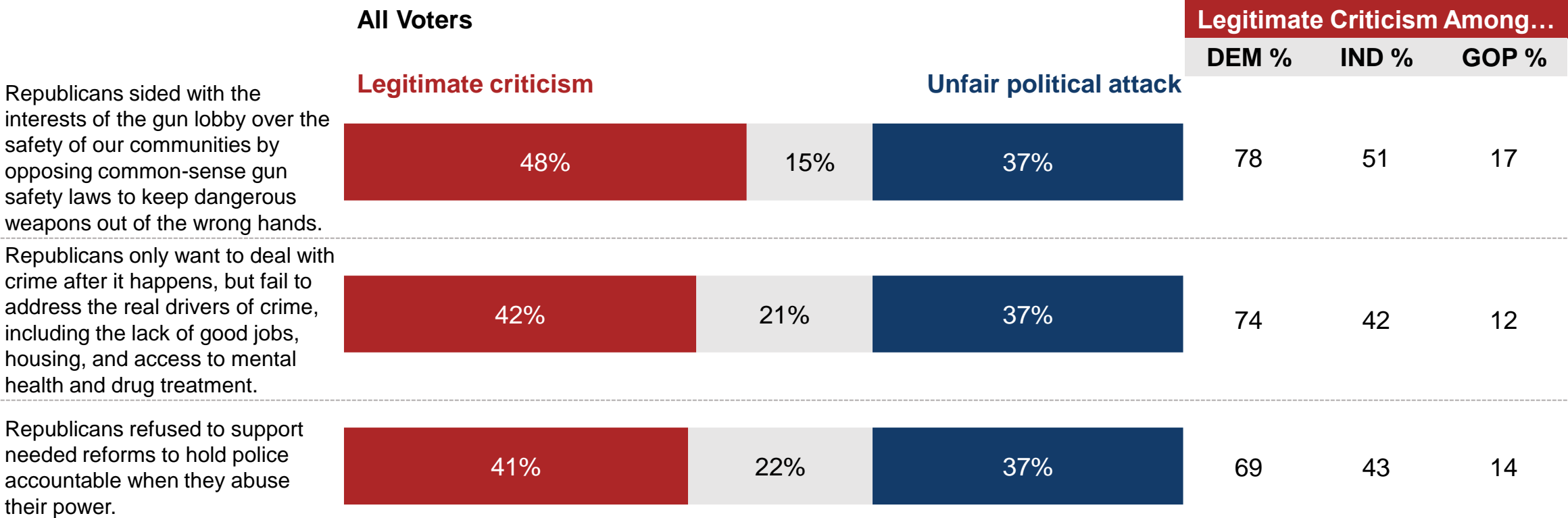
Several criticisms about Democrats' approach to crime had traction with voters.



Highest legitimate criticism of Democrats: **Black voters:**
Ending cash bail: **33%**

Highest legitimate criticism of Democrats: **Latino voters:**
Ending cash bail (**40%**) and being soft on crime (**39%**)

However, Republicans' ties to the gun lobby and opposition to gun safety laws are just as concerning to voters as the criticisms of Democrats, and in fact, even more so to independents.



All three are legitimate criticisms for **Black voters**: siding with gun lobby (**64%**), failing to deal with drivers (**62%**), refusing to hold police accountable (**61%**)

Top legitimate criticisms for **Latino voters**: Siding with gun lobby (**59%**) and refusing to hold police accountable (**56%**)

White voters are split between crime prevention and a "tough on crime" approach, but a decisive majority of young voters and voters of color prefer prevention.

Which approach to public safety would you be more likely to support?

Tough on crime: Doing more to get tough on crime, like having stricter sentences for people convicted of violent crimes, maintaining strong bail laws to keep potentially dangerous people in jail, and giving police more support and resources.

Crime Prevention: Fully fund things that are proven to create safe communities and improve people's quality of life, like good schools, a living wage, and affordable housing, and do more to prevent crime by increasing treatment for mental health and drug addiction and cracking down on illegal gun sales.

	% More likely to support	
	Tough on crime %	Crime prevention %
All Voters	47	53
White Voters	51	49
Black Voters	36	64
Latino Voters	40	60
Democrats	24	76
Independents	48	52
Republicans	69	31
Urban	45	55
Suburban	46	54
Rural	52	48
18 to 34	34	66
35 to 49	43	57
50 to 64	53	47
65+	54	46

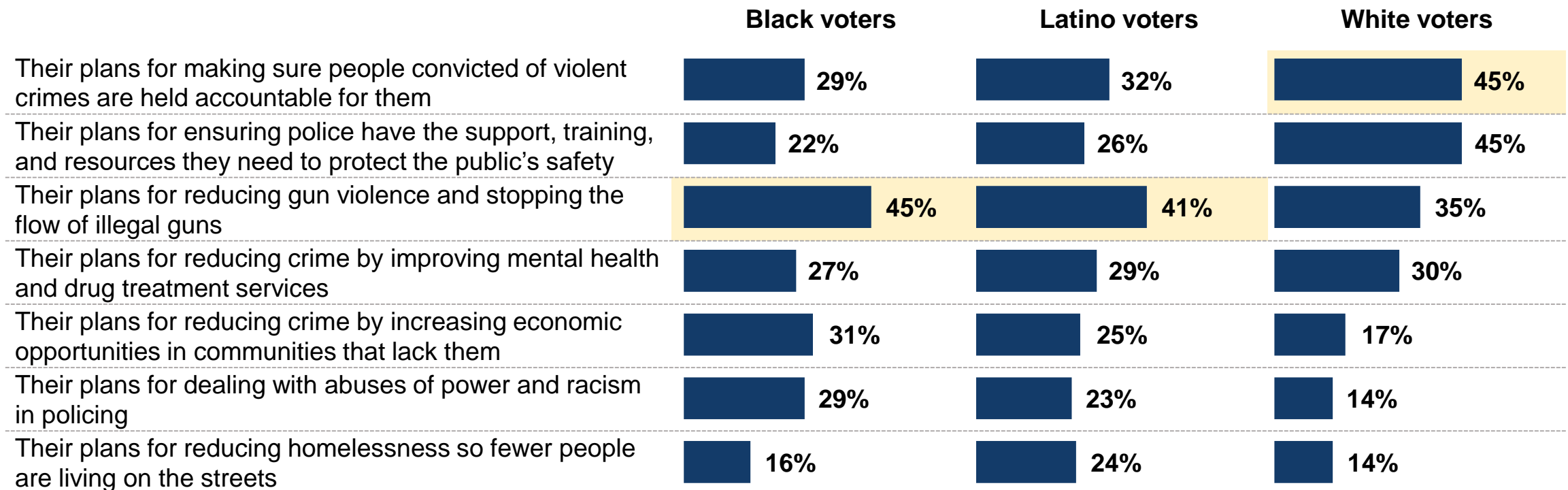
Democratic plans to address gun violence appeal to both base and independent voters. Accountability and support for police matters more to center and Republican voters.

Combined top two most important issues for a candidate to address when it comes to crime, violence, and public safety

	All Voters	DEM %	IND %	GOP %
Their plans for making sure people convicted of violent crimes are held accountable for them	41%	24	40	58
Their plans for ensuring police have the support, training, and resources they need to protect the public's safety	40%	23	41	55
Their plans for reducing gun violence and stopping the flow of illegal guns	37%	56	37	20
Their plans for reducing crime by improving mental health and drug treatment services	29%	32	25	28
Their plans for reducing crime by increasing economic opportunities in communities that lack them	20%	26	24	13
Their plans for dealing with abuses of power and racism in policing	16%	24	19	9
Their plans for reducing homelessness so fewer people are living on the streets	16%	16	15	16

When it comes to dealing with crime and public safety, Black and Latino most want to hear candidates' plans for reducing gun violence.

% Two most important topics for candidates to address when it comes to dealing with crime, violence, and public safety



The challenge for Democratic candidates on crime this cycle was more about awareness than quality of ideas.

Democratic plans for holding violent criminals accountable is a notable gap.

Democratic ideas

■ DEMs offered good ideas ■ Don't recall DEMs addressing ■ Disagree with DEM ideas

