

PewResearchCenter

# The Political Landscape: Major Trends, Current Views

Carroll Doherty

*@CarrollDoherty*

*Director of Political Research*

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## Major Research Areas:

- U.S. Politics & Policy
- Media & Journalism
- Social & Demographic Trends
- Internet, Science & Technology
- Global Attitudes & Trends
- Hispanic Trends
- Religion & Public Life



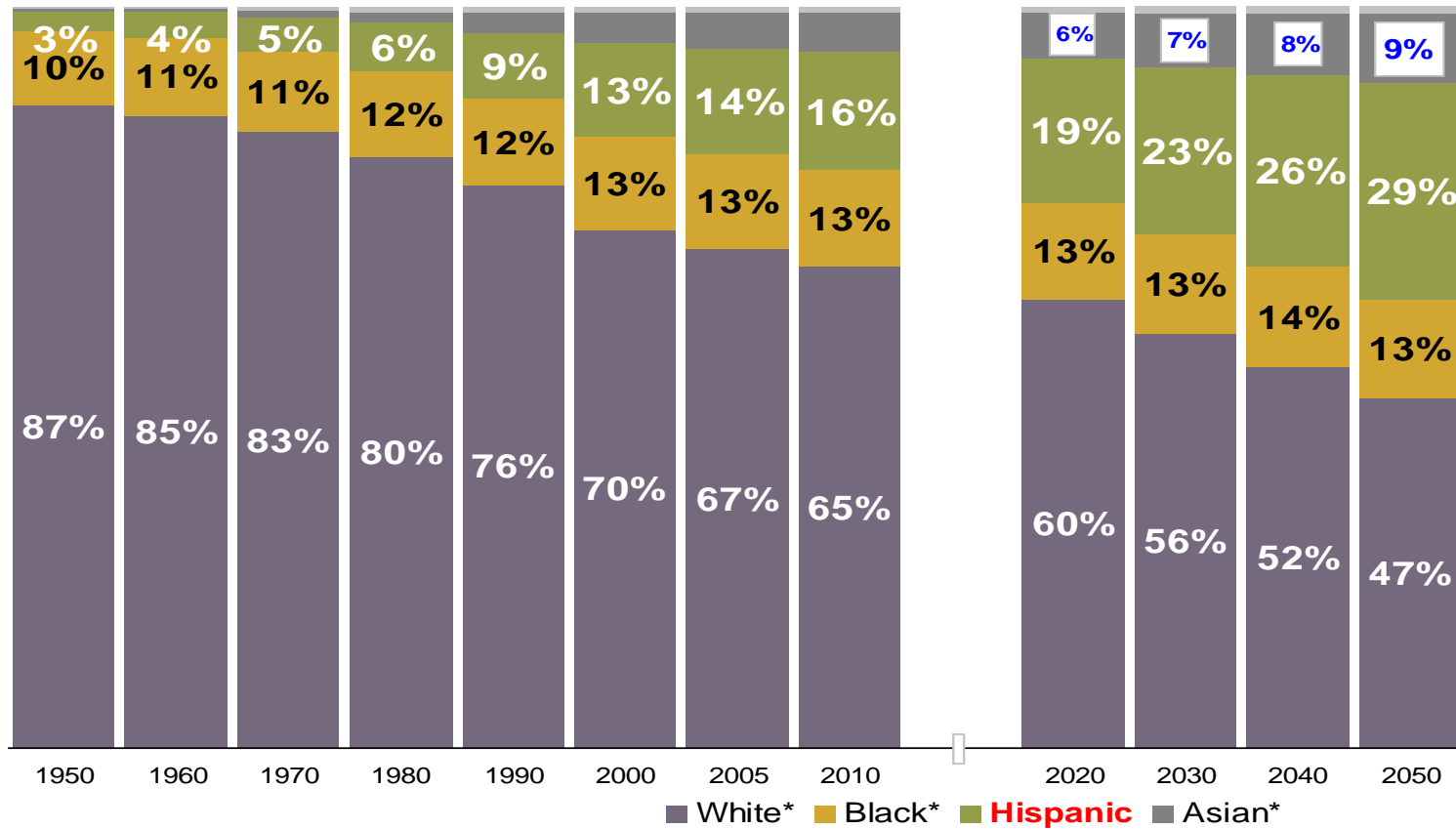
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# The Changing Electorate

# A More Diverse Nation...

Percent of Total Population

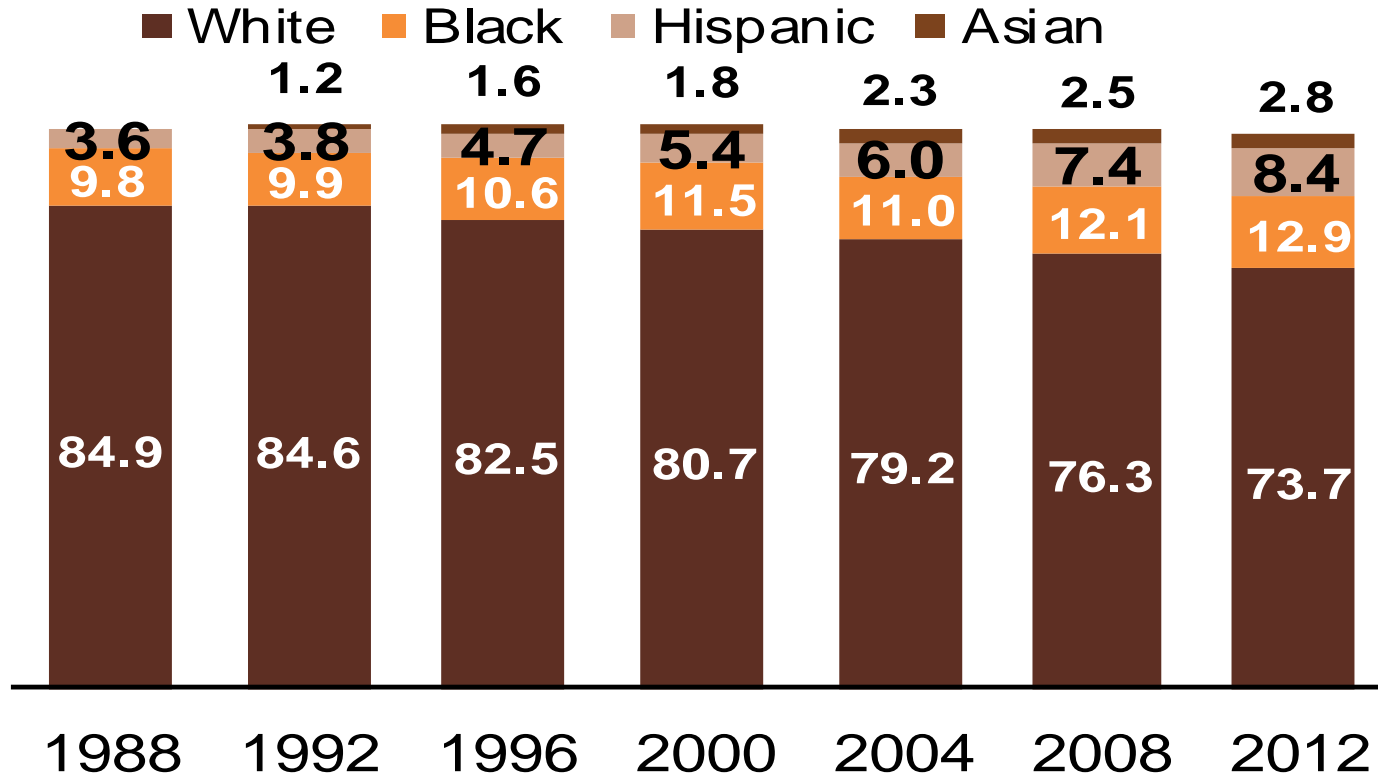


Source: Pew Hispanic Center population estimates & projections \*Not Hispanic.



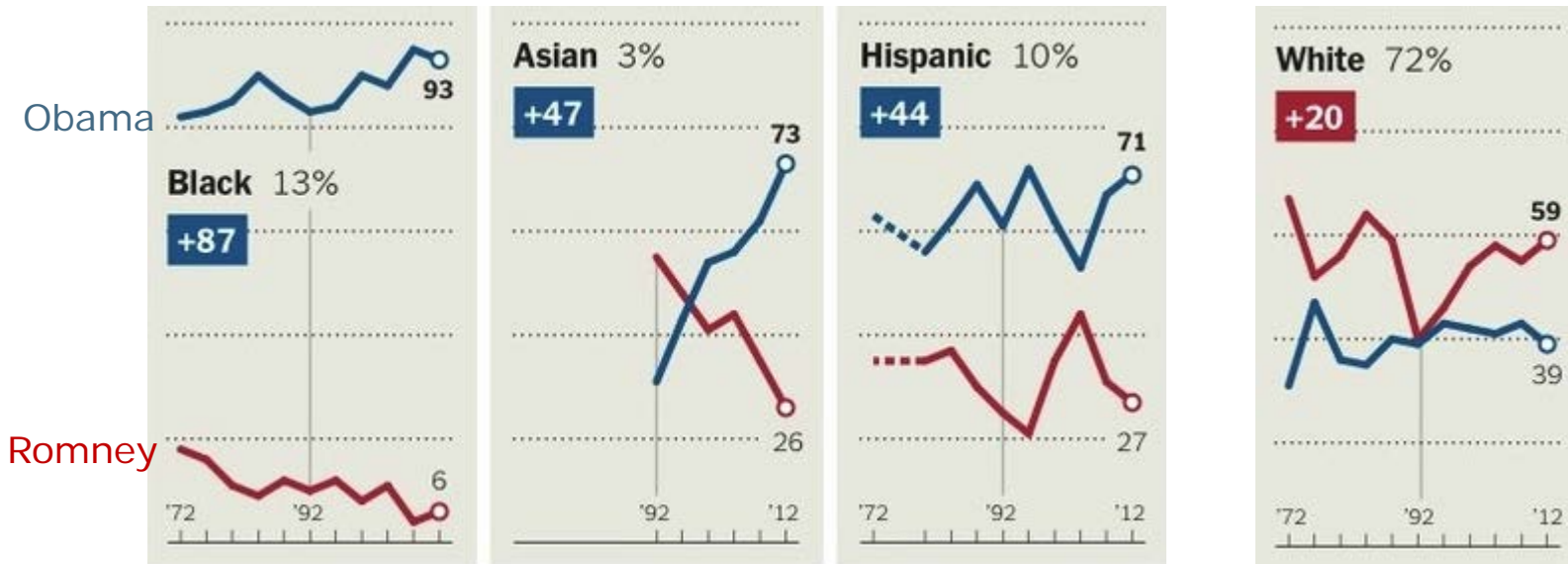
# And Electorate

(% of voters 1988-2012)



Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations from the Current Population Survey

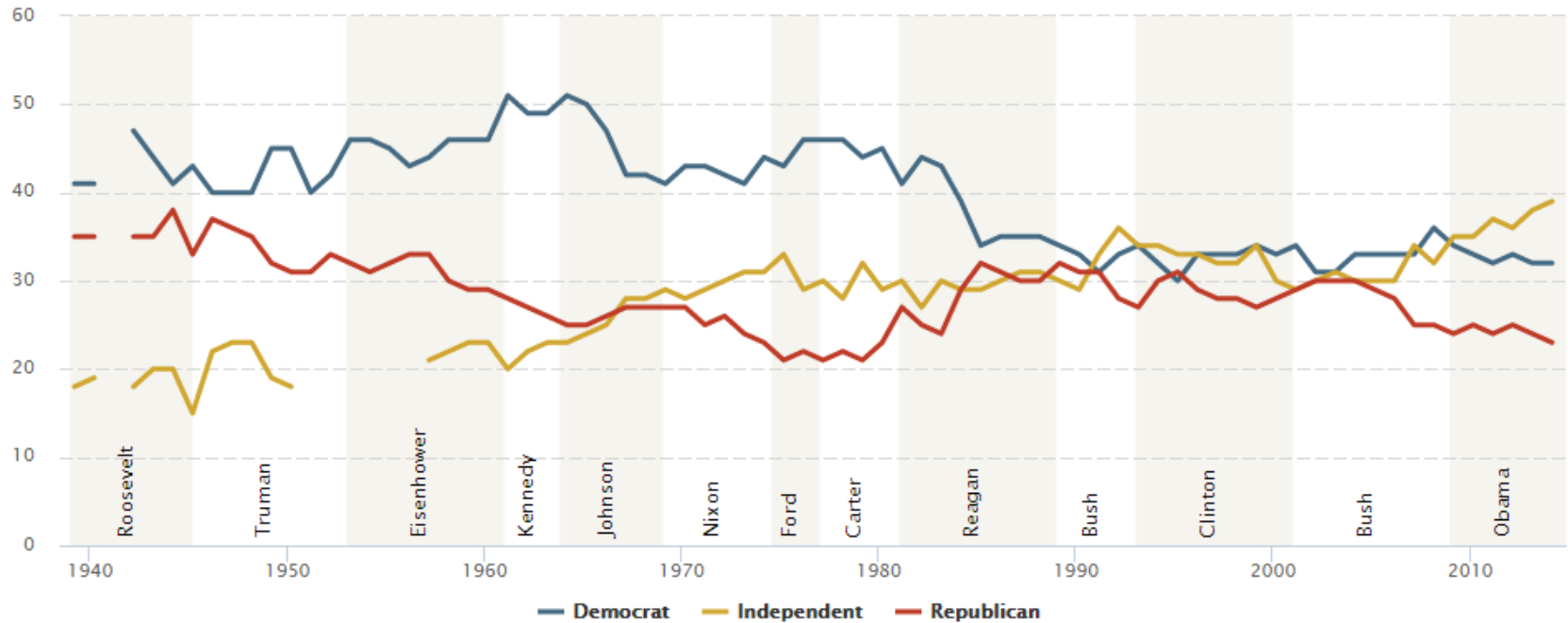
# In 2012, Romney Won Whites by 20 Points – And Lost



Based on exit poll data from National Election Poll

# Trends in Party Identification: 1939-2014

*% of Americans who say they are ...*

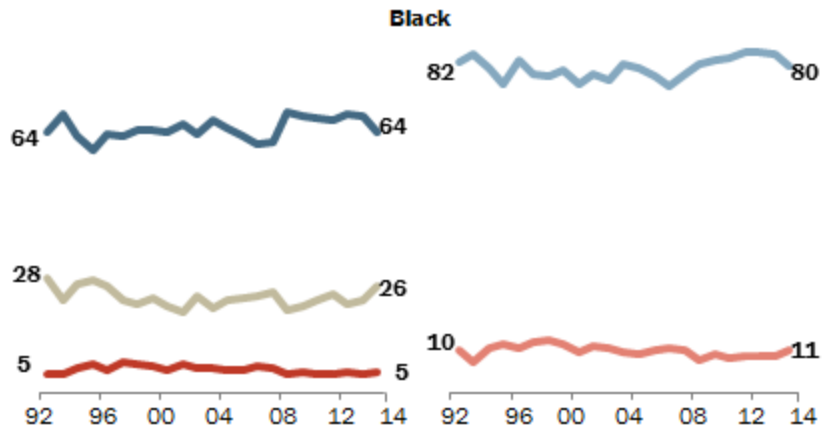
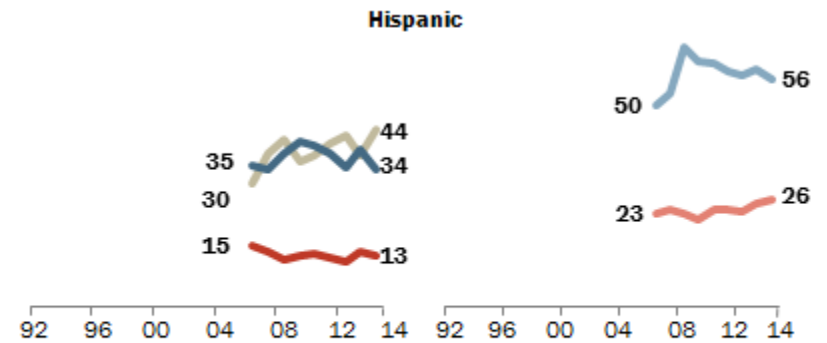
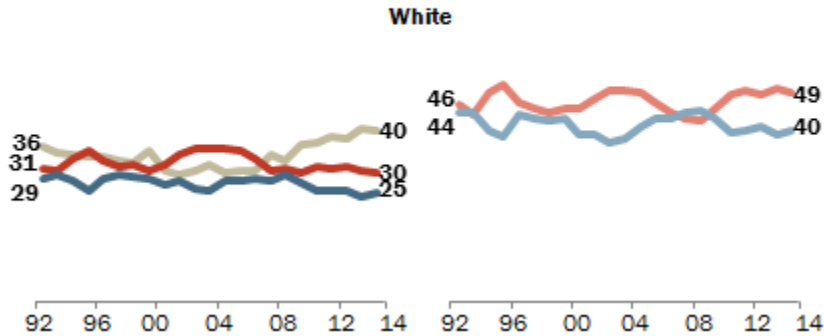


**Note:** 1939-1989 yearly averages from the Gallup Organization interactive website. 1990-2014 yearly totals from Pew Research Center aggregate files. Based on the general public. Data unavailable for 1941. Independent data unavailable for 1951-1956.

# More Whites Lean Republican; Blacks, Hispanics Align With Democrats

% who identify as/lean toward ...

Rep Dem Ind Rep/Ln Rep Dem/Ln Dem

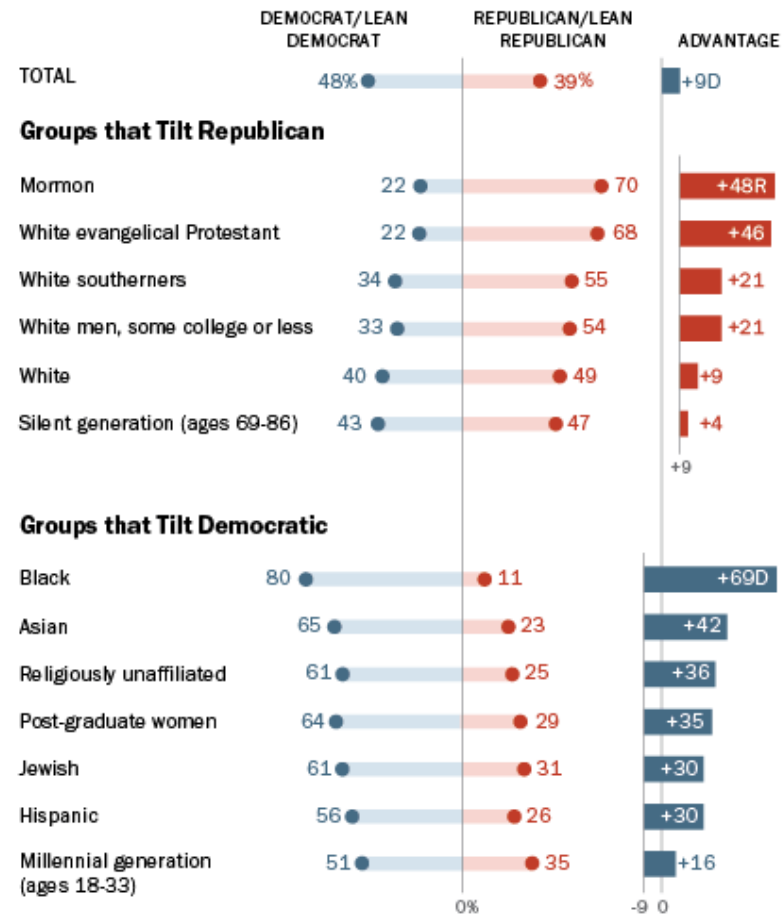


Data points represent annual totals based on monthly political surveys conducted by Pew Research in each calendar year. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.



# Key Groups for Republicans, Democrats

*% of each group that identifies as ...*

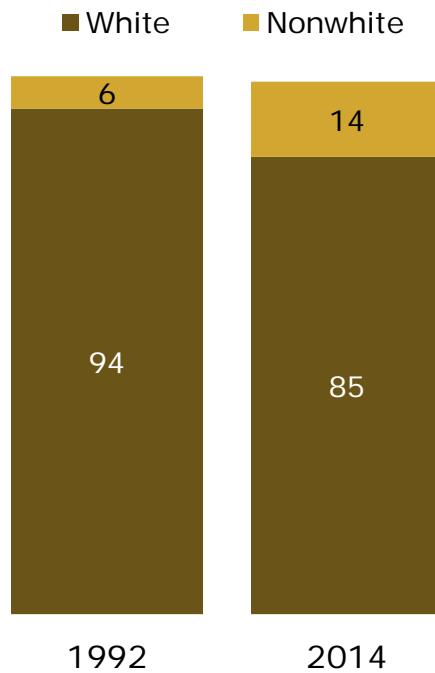


Note: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Asians are non-Hispanic and English-speaking only.

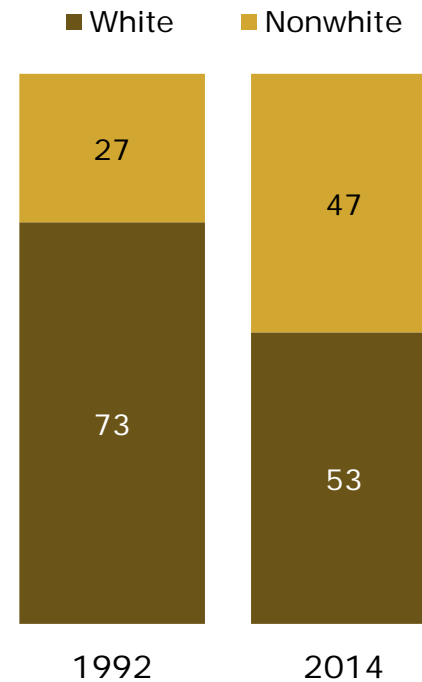
Source: All Pew Research Center political surveys from 2014. Based on the general public.

# How the Parties Have Changed Since 1992

*% of **Republicans** who are ...*

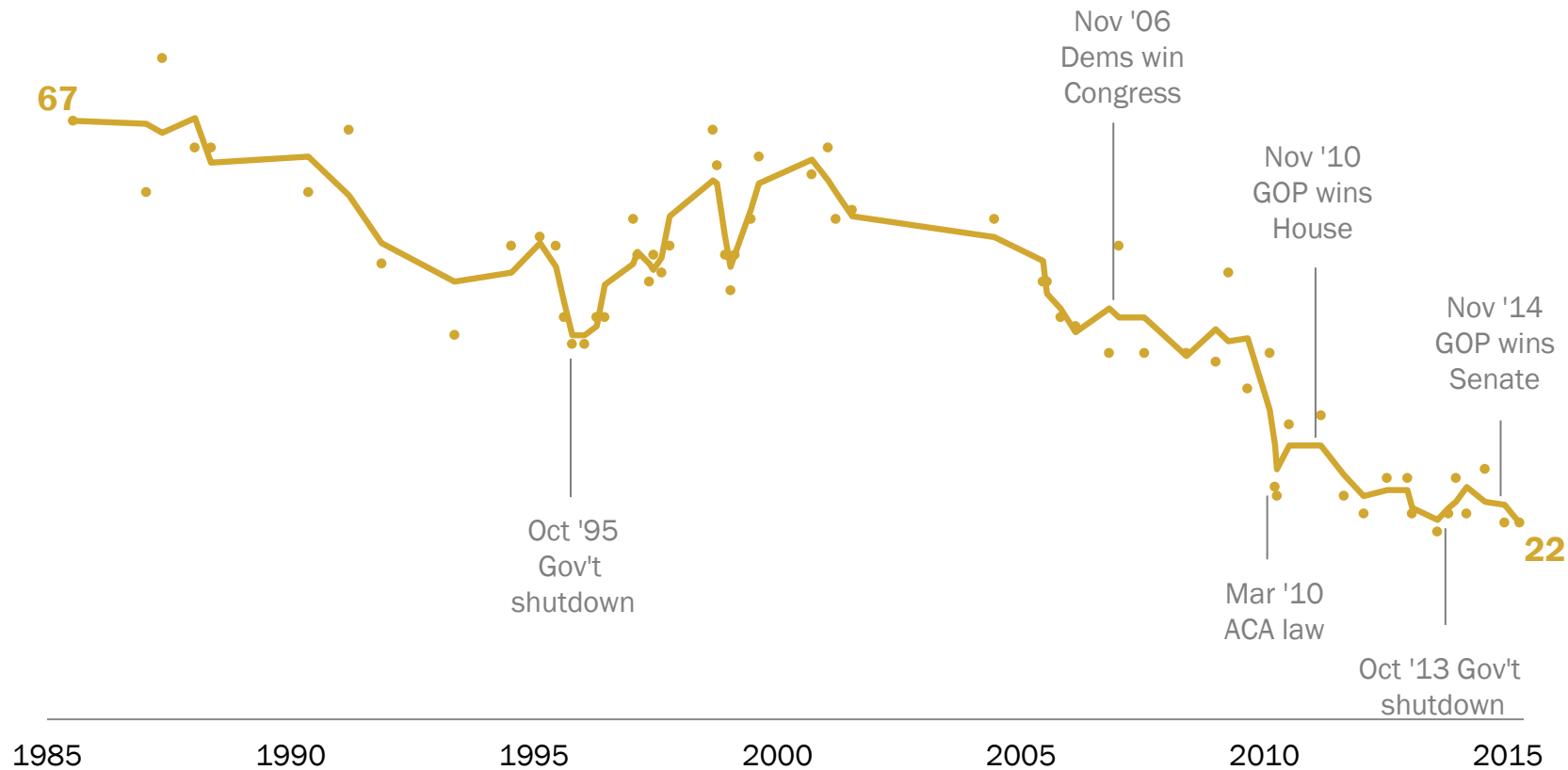


*% of **Democrats** who are ...*



# Current Political Views

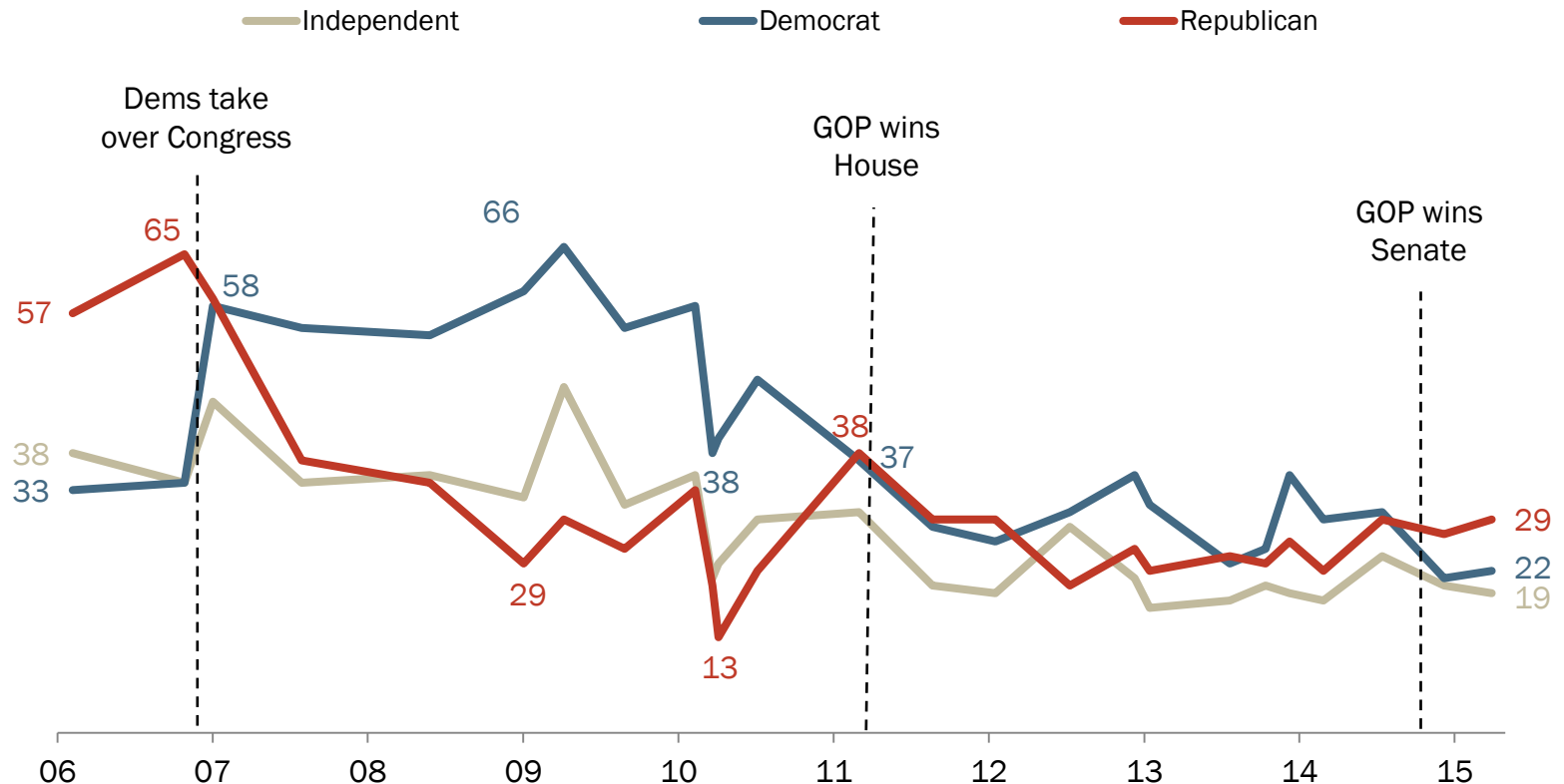
# Favorable Views of Congress: 1985-2015



Survey conducted March 25-29, 2015. Line based on three-survey average; dots show individual surveys.

# Low Ratings for Congress Cross Party Lines

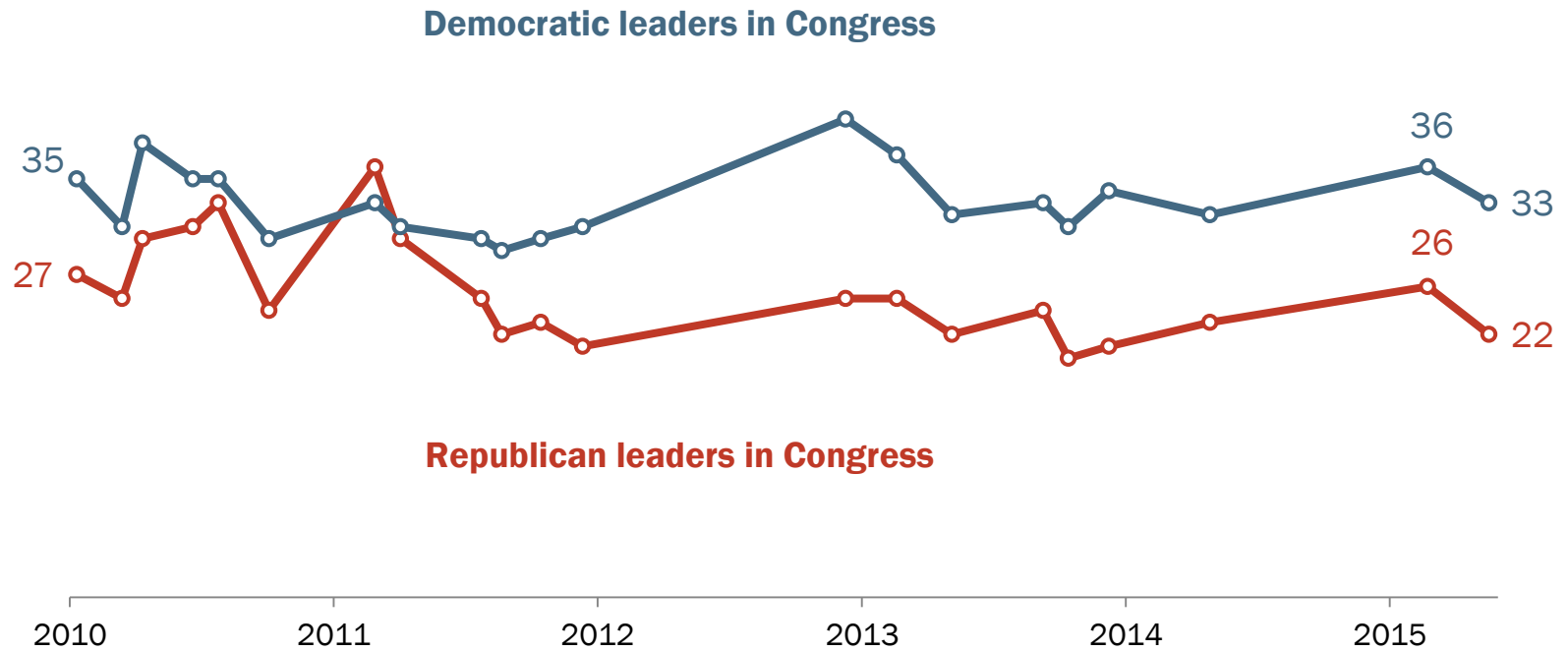
% with a **favorable** view of Congress



Survey conducted March 25-29, 2015. Individual surveys shown.

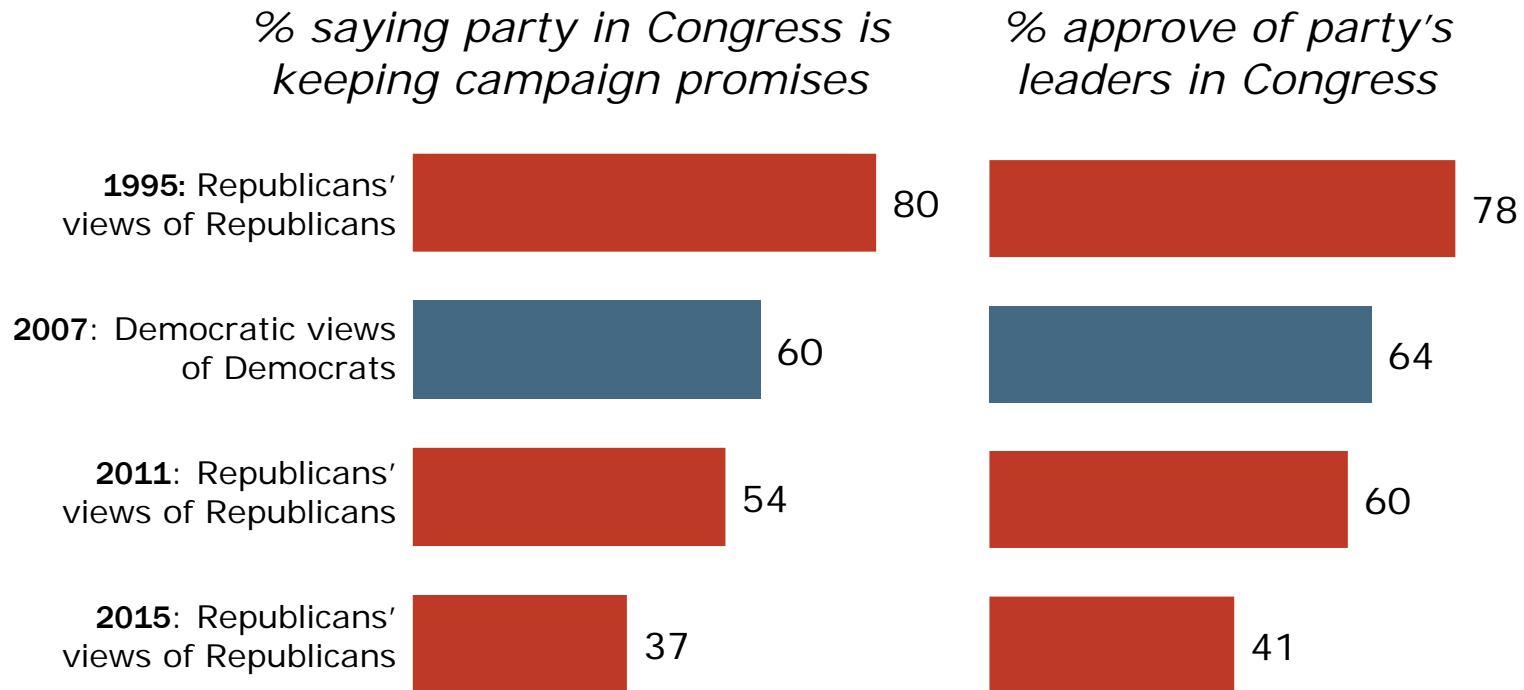
# Poor Marks for Congressional Leaders

*% who approve of the way \_\_\_\_ are handling their jobs*



Survey conducted May 12-18, 2015.

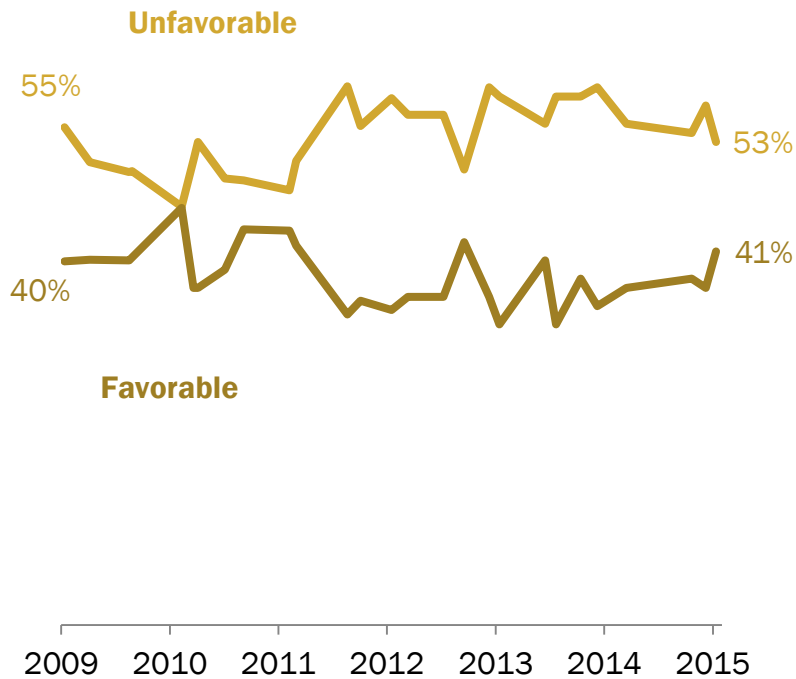
# Republicans Critical of the New Congress and Its Leaders



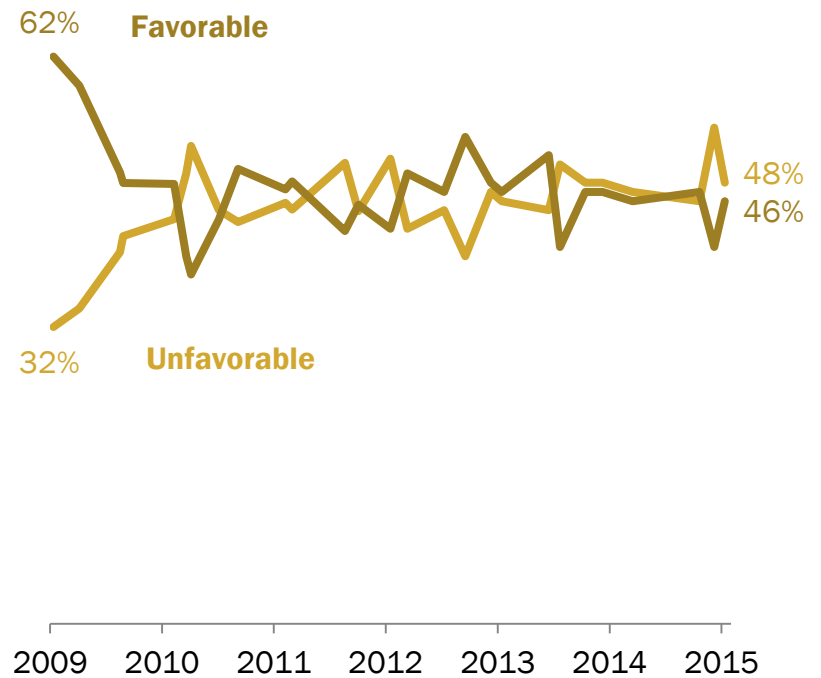
Survey conducted March 25-29, 2015.

# Neither Party Viewed Very Favorably

## View of Republican Party



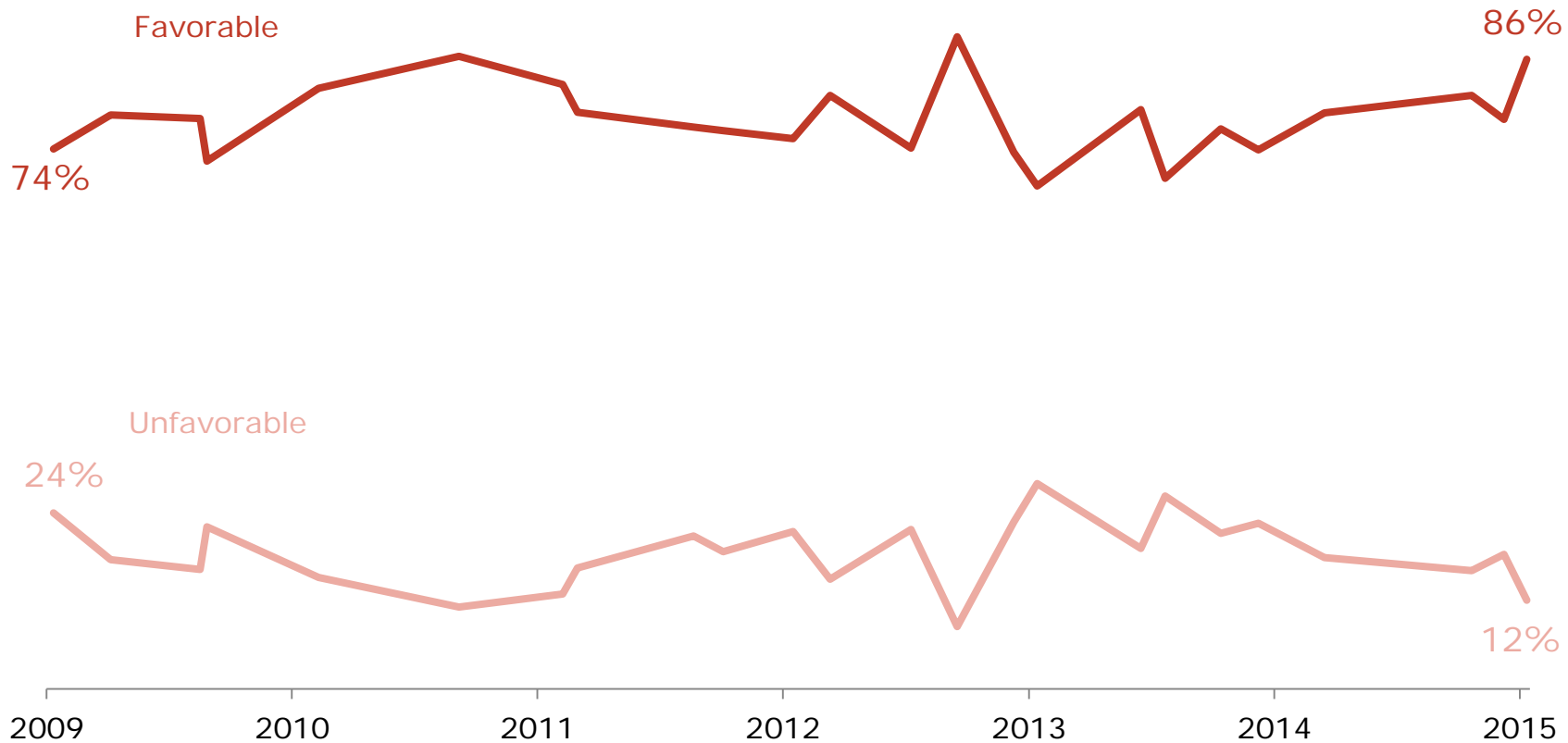
## View of Democratic Party



Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.



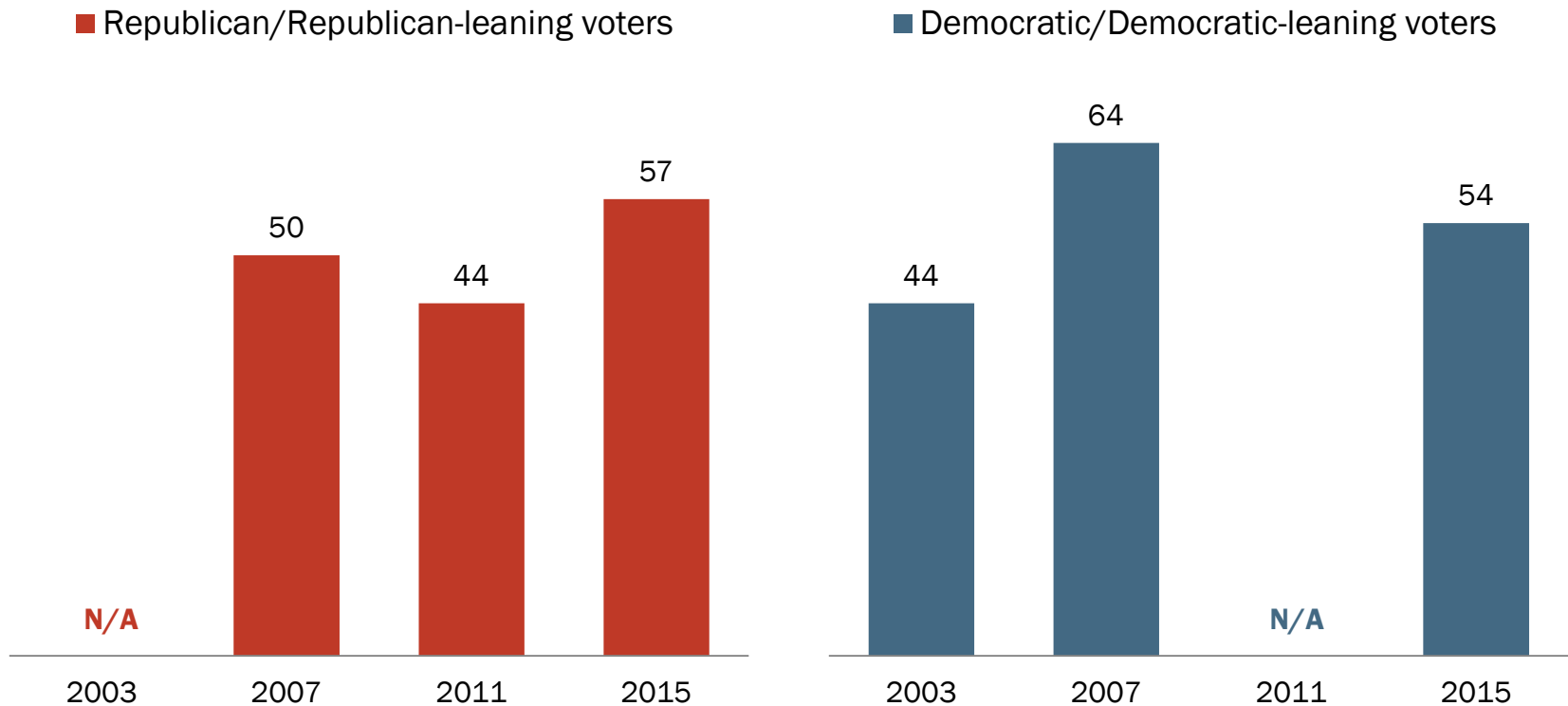
# Republicans View the GOP Favorably



Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

# Republicans More Positive About GOP Presidential Candidates Than in 2007, 2011

*% saying they have excellent/good impressions of the candidates running for their party's nomination*



Survey conducted May 12-18, 2015. Based on registered voters. Each year shows earliest point question was asked.