

THE ROCKY Mountaineer

November 2021, Issue 6

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- DEMOCRATS GET STRONG RATINGS ON THEIR HANDLING OF THE PANDEMIC, REPUBLICANS DON'T
- GOP'S EMBRACE OF TX'S ABORTION BAN, THE BIG LIE, AND ANTI-VAXXERS THREATENS TO SINK BRAND FURTHER

Welcome Back to The Mountaineer

Welcome to *The Mountaineer*, a resource for progressives and a guide for advocates across the state of Colorado, published by Global Strategy Group and ProgressNow Colorado. Research presented in this publication is the result of a survey conducted between October 19 and October 24, 2021 among 800 registered voters in Colorado plus an oversample of 100 Latino voters, for a total of 206 Latino voters. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for Colorado voters is +/- 3.5%. The margin of error on sub-samples is greater.

This sixth publication will focus on voters' attitudes on COVID and the Parties' responses to the pandemic, as well as messaging that highlights Republicans' ties to unpopular groups and policies.

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COLORADO VOTERS ARE PRO-VACCINE AND PRO-MASK



Coloradans overwhelmingly consider themselves “pro-mask” and “pro-vaccine” and support efforts to reduce the spread of COVID-19 like masks and vaccine requirements. It’s no surprise, then, that they view anti-vaxxers extremely negatively.

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DEMOCRATS RECEIVE HIGH MARKS FOR THEIR HANDLING OF COVID



Voters give Governor Polis high marks and rate Democrats much more strongly than Republicans on their handling of the pandemic, saying Democrats got the response about right while the GOP didn’t take it seriously enough.

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MESSAGING HIGHLIGHTING GOP SUPPORT FOR TX ABORTION BAN, THE BIG LIE, AND ANTI-VAXXERS PORTRAYS PARTY AS “CRAZY”



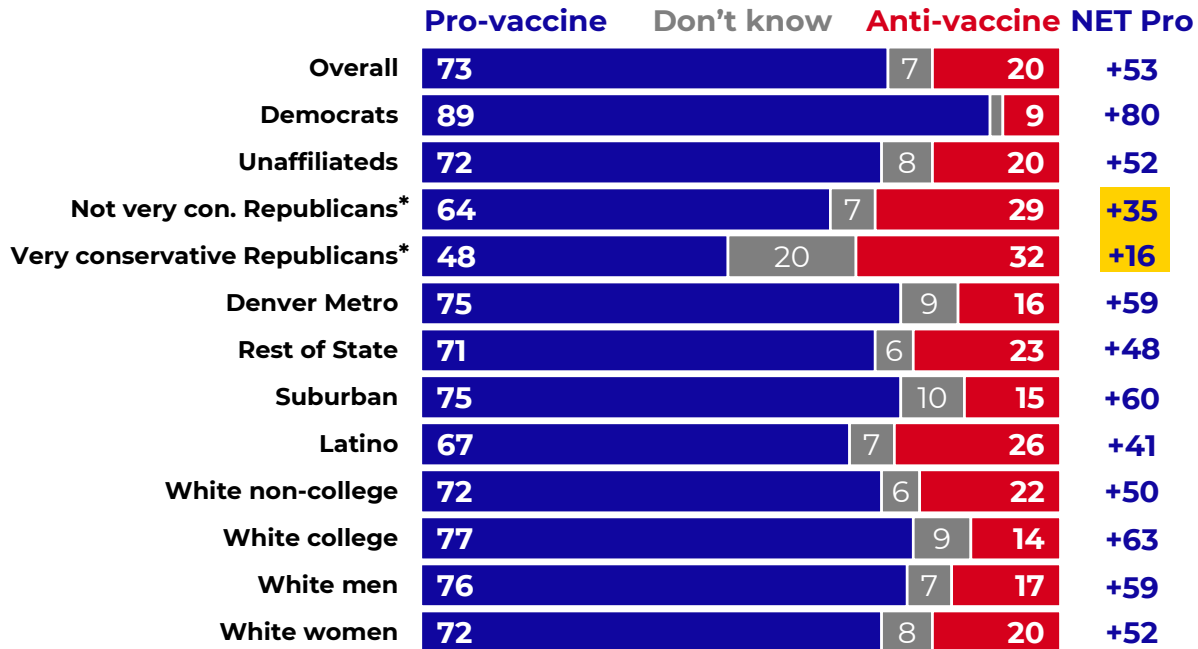
Voters agree Biden won in 2020 and so view both right-wing militias and conspiracy theorists who insist otherwise intensely negatively. Messaging that highlights the GOP’s embrace of these two groups, along with the Texas abortion ban and anti-vaxxers, raise significant doubts for voters, moves the generic legislative ballot in the Democrats’ favor, and leaves Colorado voters calling Republicans “crazy.”

Colorado voters overwhelmingly consider themselves “pro-vaccine” and “pro-mask”

Wide majorities of Coloradans consider themselves pro-vaccine and pro-mask.

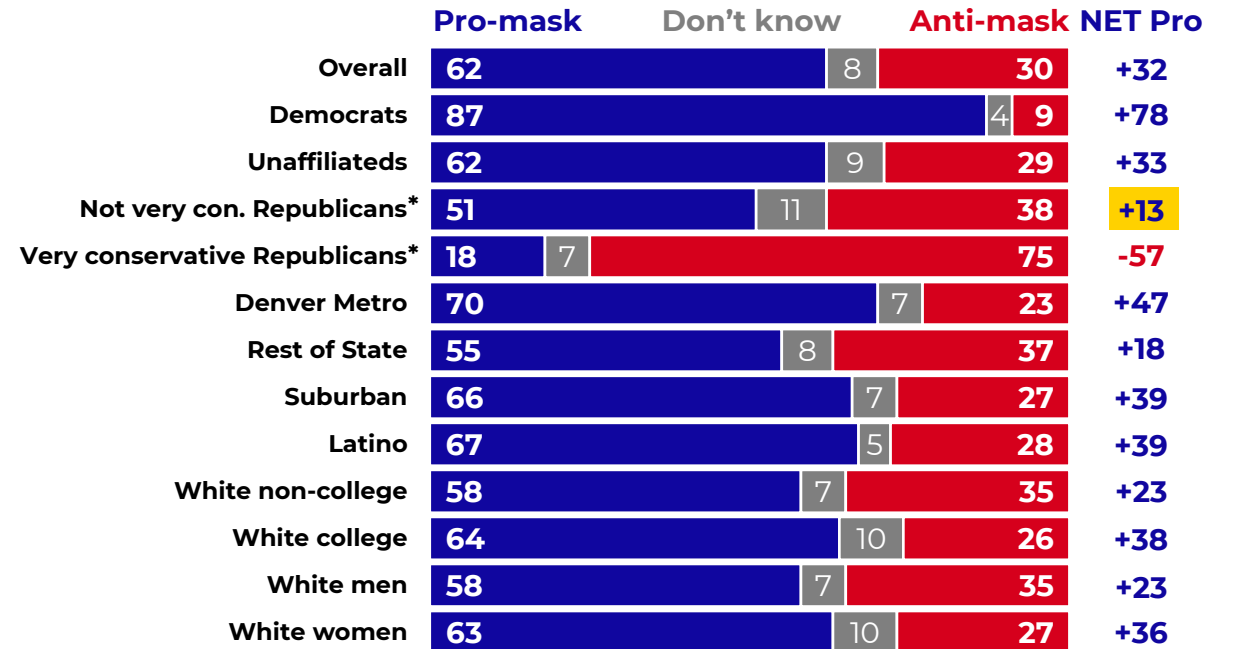
Voters, regardless of race, region, or political affiliation, support the vaccine. Meanwhile, even a majority of non-very conservative Republicans agree with using masks to address the spread of COVID-19, with only the most conservative voters opposed.

There are differing opinions on whether or not people should be getting vaccinated against the coronavirus, but if you had to choose, would you say that you are generally pro-vaccine or anti-vaccine?



* Small sample size

There are differing opinions on whether or not people should be wearing masks right now when they are in public indoor places, but if you had to choose, would you say that you are generally pro-mask or anti-mask?



Mask and vaccine mandates are popular – especially with key voting blocs; anti-vaxxers are not

Voters support various mask and vaccine mandates by solid margins and strongly dislike anti-vaxxers.

Two thirds of voters support requiring health care workers to be vaccinated, and six in 10 support requiring teachers and students to wear masks in schools. A similar number support requiring faculty and staff being vaccinated at the University of Colorado, a policy that GOP gubernatorial candidate Heidi Ganahl opposed as CU Regent. Suburban and Latino voters are particularly supportive of these measures. Of all the initiatives tested, a requirement that children be vaccinated (once a vaccine has been approved) to be able to attend school receives the most skepticism, but still has majority support. These pro-mandate attitudes directly contradict anti-vaxxer positions, resulting in intense negativity towards this group, including among unaffiliated and suburban voters.

Thinking about the coronavirus pandemic, do you support each of the following initiatives?

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of anti-vaxxers?

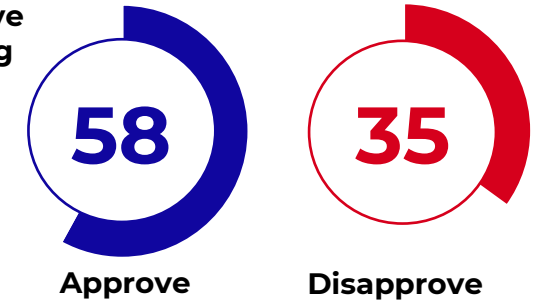
	Favorable	DK	Unfavorable	% Very Unfav	NET Fav
Overall	19	27	54	41	-35
Democrats	14	20	66	55	-52
Unaffiliateds	17	25	58	45	-41
Not very con. Republicans	17	46	37	17	-20
Very conservative Republicans	44	28	28	18	+16
Suburban	16	25	59	45	-43
Latino	24	25	51	43	-27

	Support	DK	Oppose	Overall	NET Support	Unaffiliateds	Suburban	Latino
Requiring health care workers to be vaccinated	66		33	+33	+33	+39	+36	
Requiring teachers and students in schools to wear masks	61		37	+24	+28	+33	+36	
Requiring on-campus students, faculty, and staff at the University of Colorado to be vaccinated	60		38	+22	+19	+29	+17	
Requiring teachers and staff in schools to be vaccinated	59		39	+20	+20	+32	+29	
Requiring businesses with 100 or more employees to ensure that their workers are either vaccinated or tested once a week	58		40	+18	+21	+30	+28	
Requiring proof of vaccination to travel on airplanes	57		41	+16	+7	+22	+26	
Requiring state employees to be vaccinated	56		42	+14	+14	+26	+19	
Once a vaccine for children has been approved, requiring children to be vaccinated in order to attend school	55	3	42	+13	+12	+17	+19	

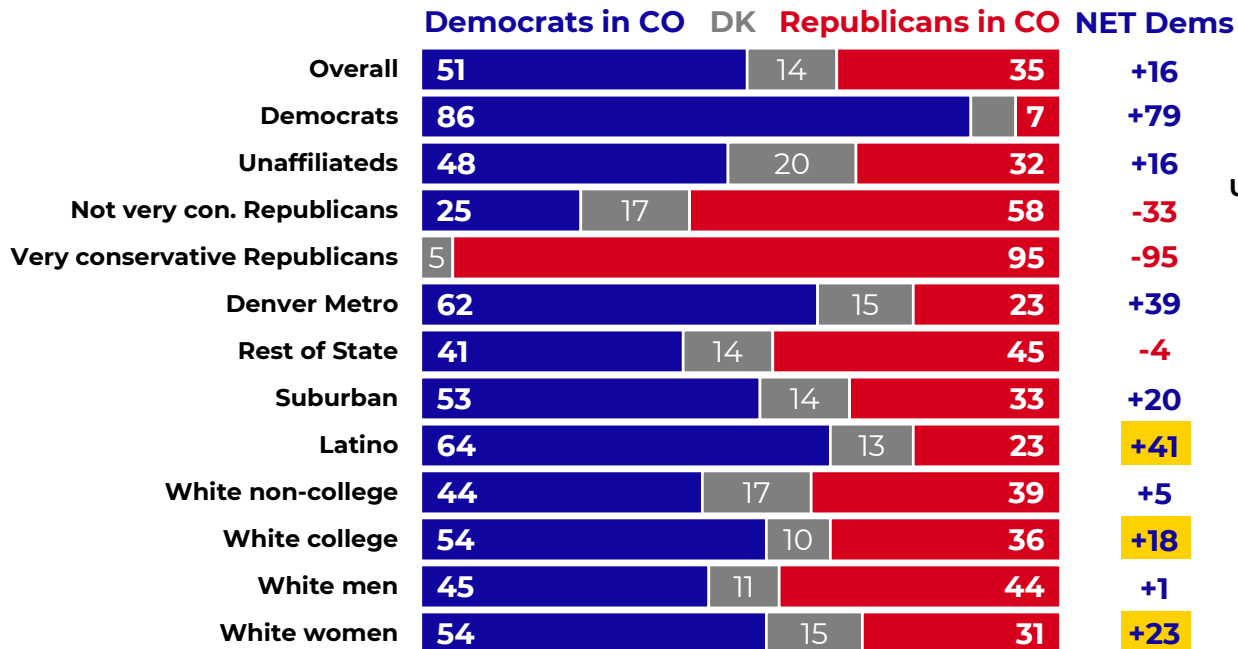
Voters trust Democrats on COVID and say they got it right

Colorado voters credit Democrats with handling COVID well, and a majority approve of the job Polis is doing addressing it. Nearly two-thirds of Latino voters trust Democrats more than Republicans on the issue, along with large majorities of white women and white college voters, though there is a large geographic gap. Overall, Coloradans say Polis and Democrats got their handling of COVID right, including majorities of unaffiliated, suburban, and Latino voters. The same groups also say Republicans didn't take the pandemic seriously enough.

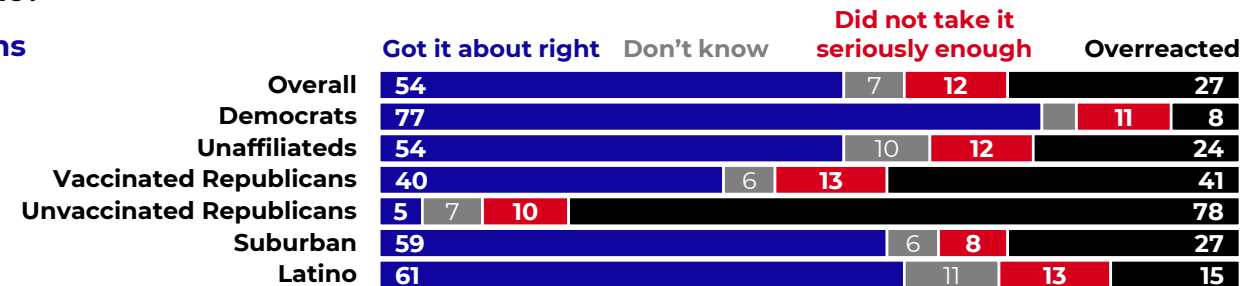
Do you approve or disapprove of the job Jared Polis is doing handling the coronavirus pandemic?



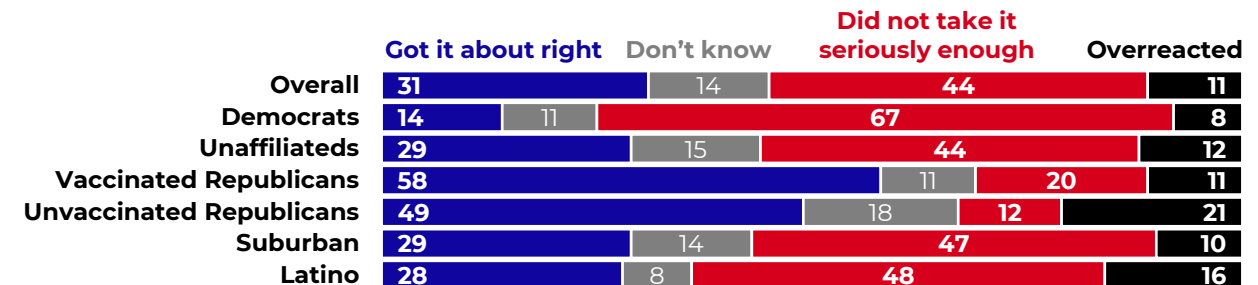
Who do you trust more to handle responding to the coronavirus pandemic?



Thinking about how Governor Polis and Democrats in Colorado have handled the coronavirus pandemic, do you think that they...



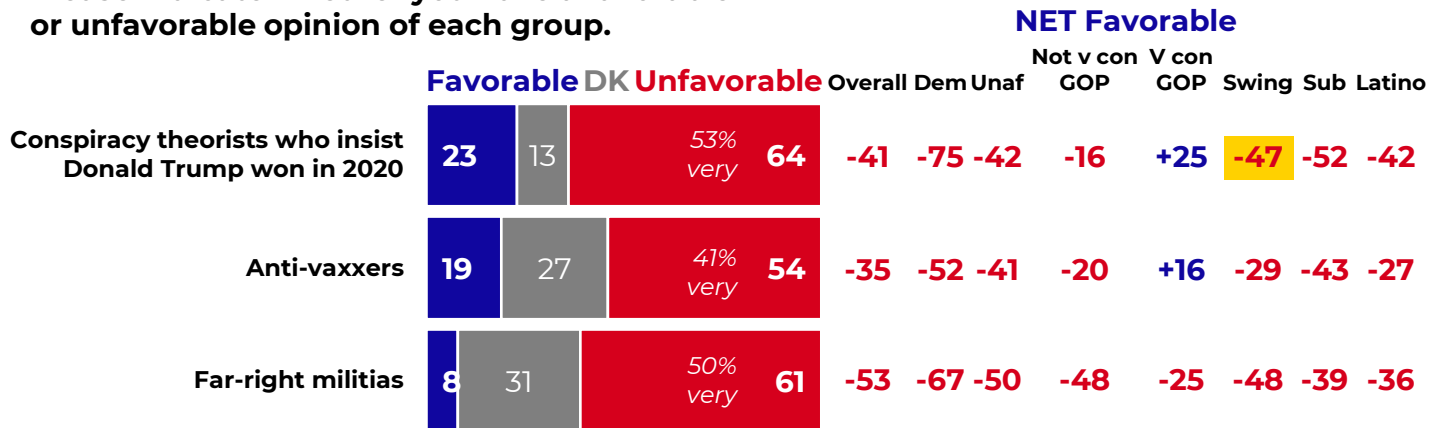
Thinking about how Republicans in Colorado have handled the coronavirus pandemic, do you think that they...



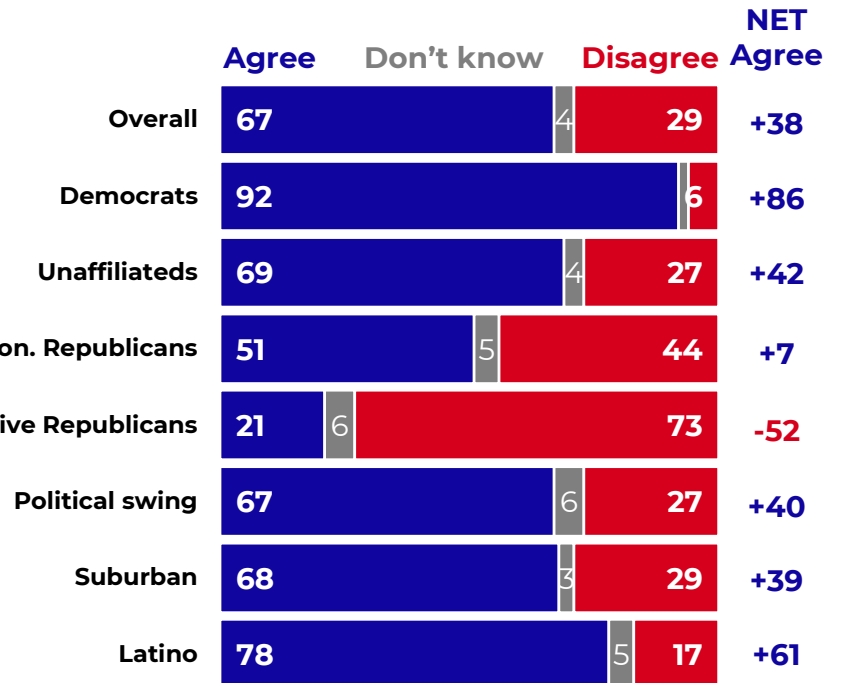
Voters agree that Biden won in 2020 and deeply dislike conspiracy theorists who spread the Big Lie

Colorado voters, even many Republicans, widely acknowledge that Joe Biden won the race for president. This widespread belief leads voters to intensely dislike conspiracy theorists who disagree, along with other Republican-leaning groups like anti-vaxxers and far-right militias who supported the January 6th insurrection. The only voters to report positive impressions of conspiracy theorists are the most conservative Republicans; meanwhile, the majority of voters have a very unfavorable impression, including unaffiliated voters and political swing voters (those who do not consistently back Democrats or Republicans in their votes for state legislature, Governor, or Senate).

Please indicate whether you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each group.



Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?
Joe Biden legitimately won the 2020 presidential election.

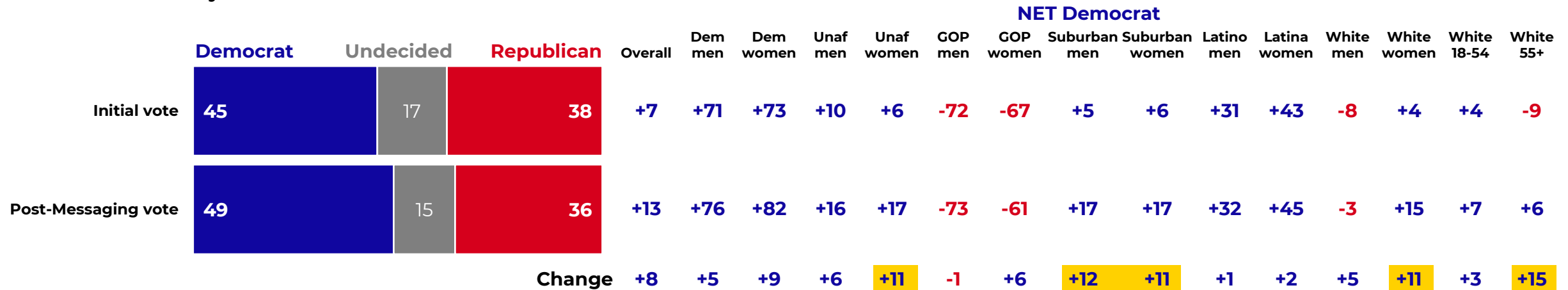


Messaging on the GOP is effective at moving the generic ballot in Democrats' favor, particularly with key groups

A generic Democrat for state legislature starts with a +7 advantage over a Republican, and this lead doubles to +13 after voters learn about the GOP's "crazy" positions. Democrats make particularly large gains with unaffiliated and white women, as well as suburban voters.

Their backing of the Texas abortion ban is especially bothersome to women voters, whose support for a Democrat increases after messaging, regardless of political party or race – with unaffiliated women and white women shifting substantially. Notably, older white voters change their vote preference significantly after messaging, starting off voting for a Republican by a 9-point margin but then choosing a Democrat by +6 on the final ballot.

If the general election for state legislature were held today, for whom would you vote?



About The Mountaineer

Colorado has a long history as a leader in developing and implementing ground-breaking progressive policy, but as the state's leaders continue to build on this progressive tradition, they also face unique challenges that range from the state's TABOR amendment to its rapid growth.

The Mountaineer is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, and responsive tool to help inform the unique political and policy debates in Colorado. By conducting methodologically sound research and providing reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press, *The Mountaineer* will help progressive leaders and communicators shape the debate on the issues that matter most to Coloradans.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted a public opinion survey among a sample of 800 registered voters in Colorado October 19-24, 2021, including an oversample of 100 Latino voters for a total of 206 Latino voters. The margin of error at the 95% confidence level for Colorado voters is +/- 3.5%. The margin of error on sub-samples is greater. The survey was conducted over the phone and online, with online respondents recruited from multiple opt-in online panel vendors. Respondents were verified against a voter file, and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of Colorado's registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables including party registration, race, gender, age, education, region, and population density.

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