

GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER RESEARCH

December 13, 2007

Winning the Immigration Debate

Democracy Corps

November 29 - December 3, 2007

1,000 likely voters nationwide

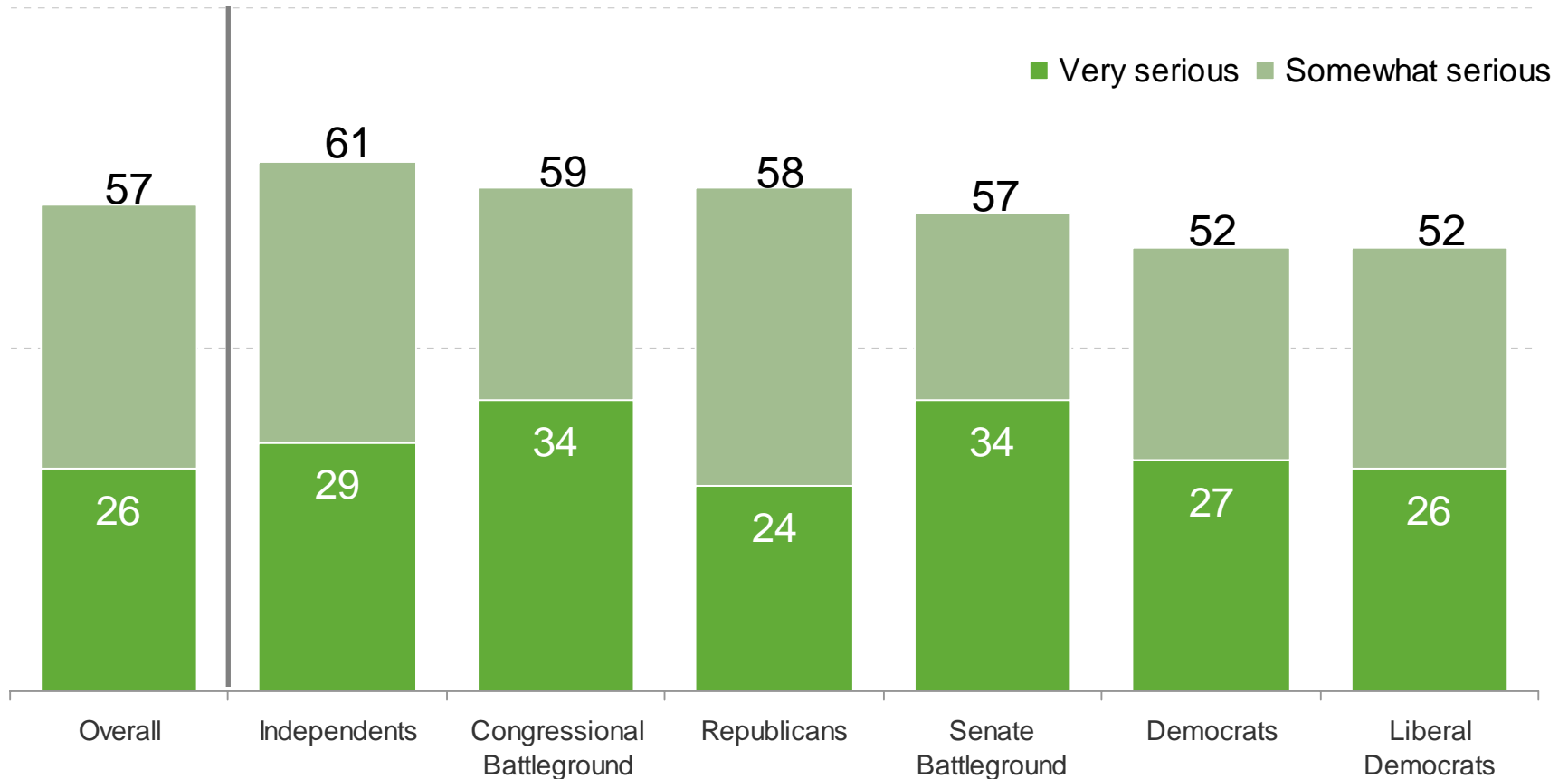


Democracy Corps

Key issue for 2008

Illegal immigration seen as serious problem

How serious of a problem is illegal immigration for the in your community – is it a very serious problem, somewhat serious, just a little serious, or not a serious problem at all?

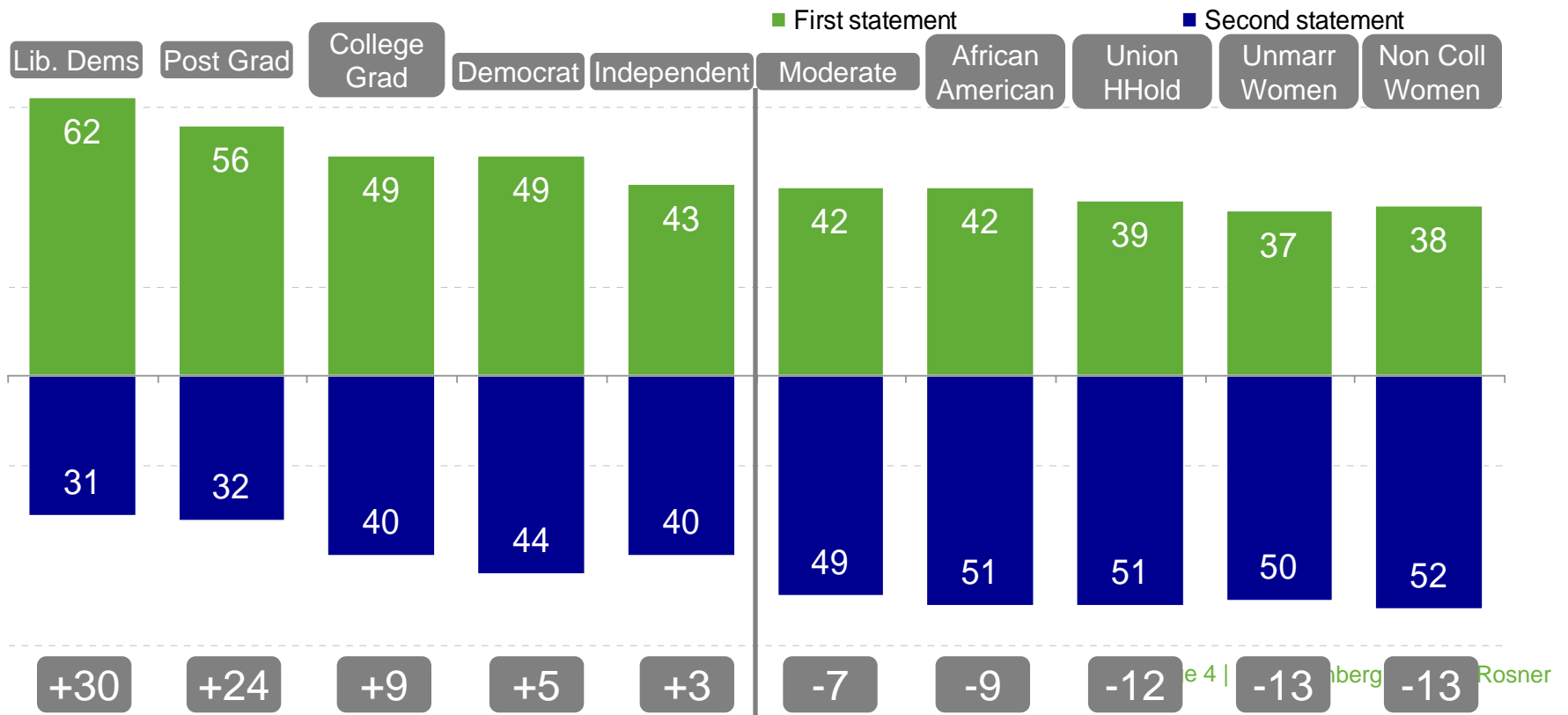


Take more/Give more

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Statement 1: Immigrants give more to our country than they take.

Statement 2: Immigrants take more from our country than they give.

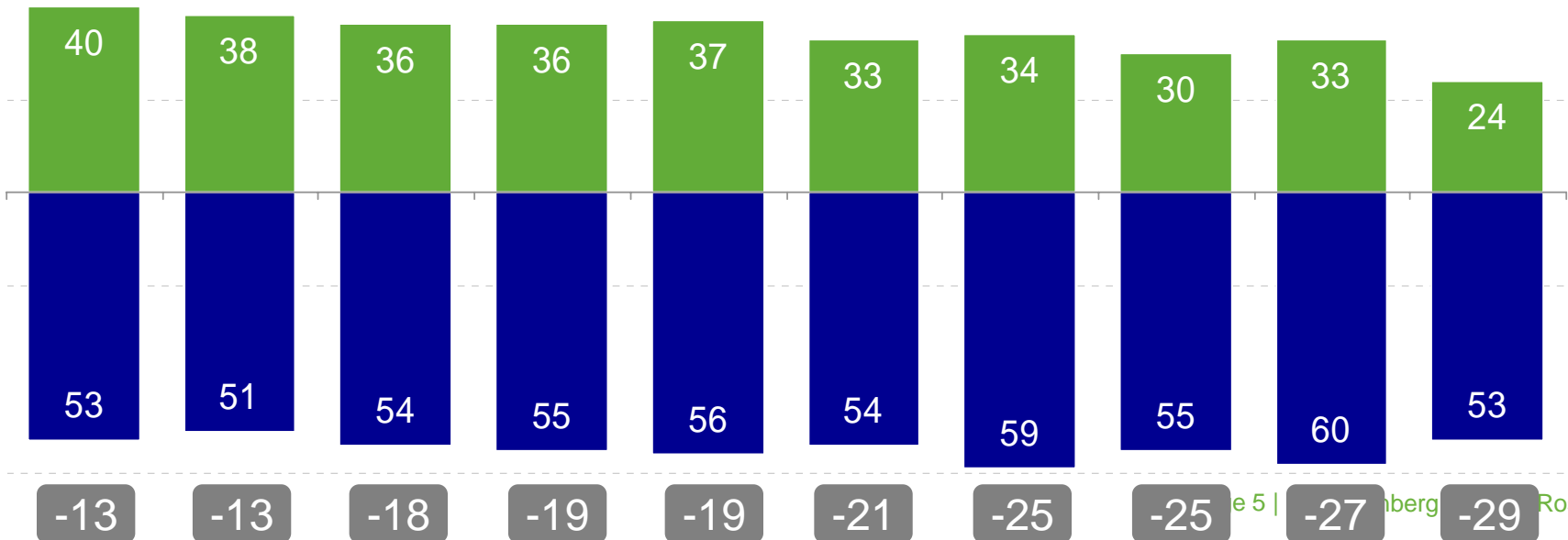


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For many, immigration among top priorities

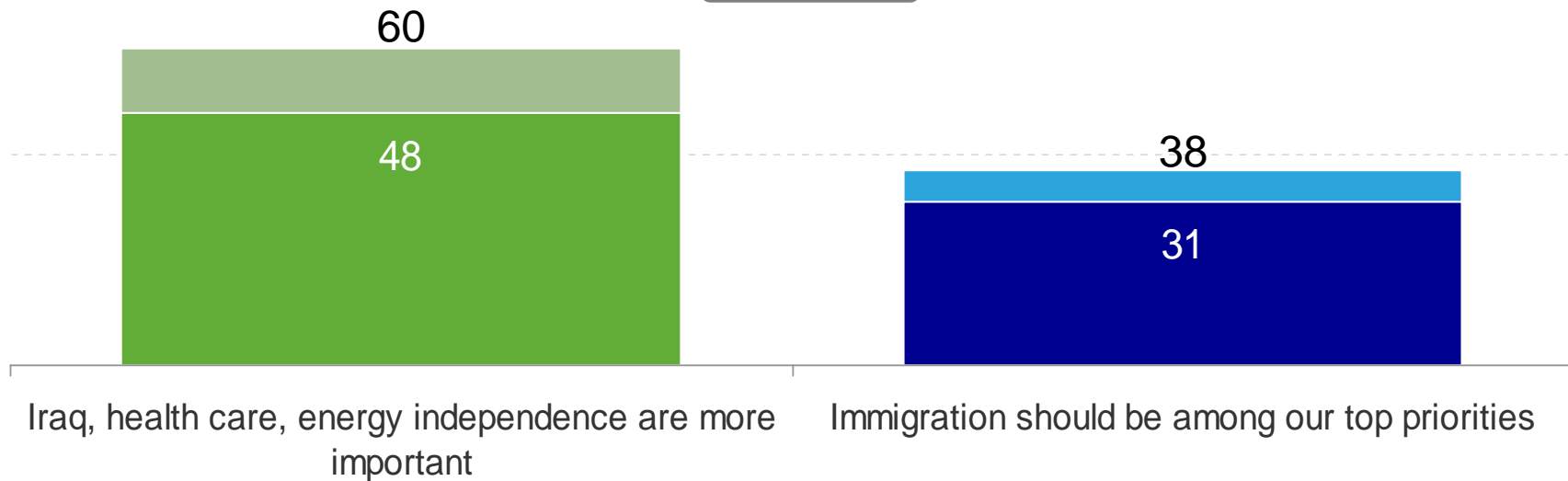
Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Statement 1: We need to address immigration, but we have major issues, such as Iraq, health care and energy dependence, that are more important.

Statement 2: Immigration is among the country's biggest problems and should be among our top priorities.

- First statement strongly
- First statement not so strongly
- Second statement strongly
- Second statement not so strongly

+22



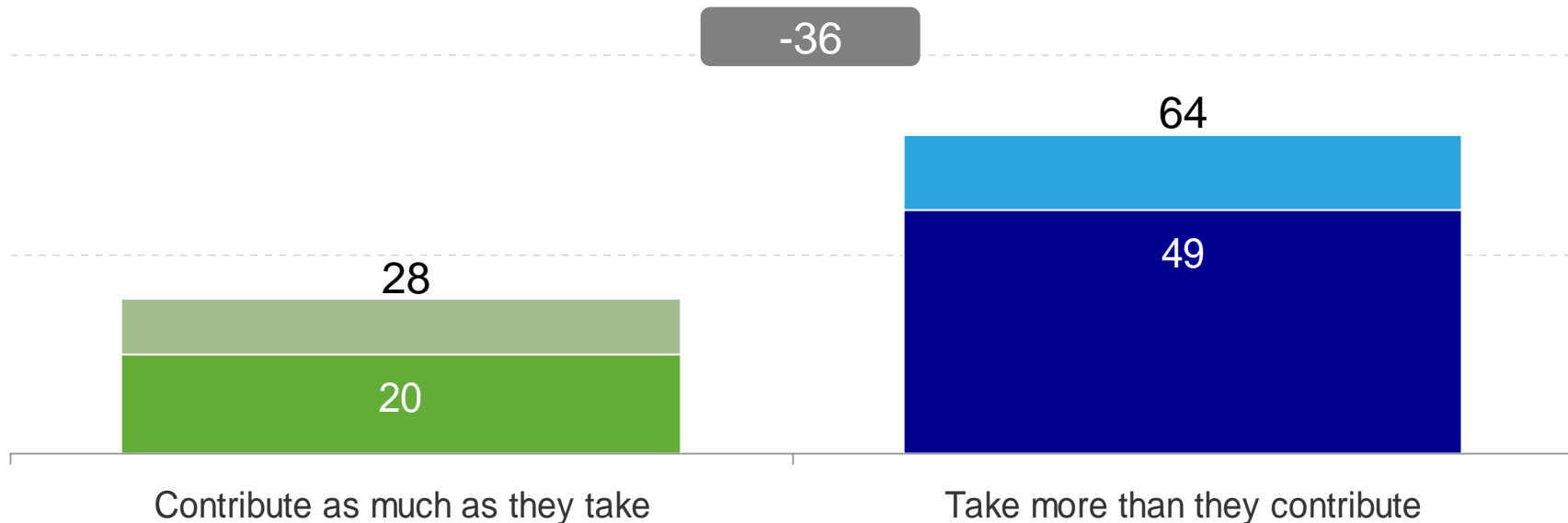
Illegal immigrants seen as taking more than they contribute

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Statement 1: Illegal immigrants contribute with the work they do, and the taxes they pay as much as they take in benefits, such as health and education.

Statement 2: Illegal immigrants take more benefits such as education and health care than they contribute with the work they do and taxes they pay.

- First statement strongly
- First statement not so strongly
- Second statement strongly
- Second statement not so strongly



Positive view of immigration

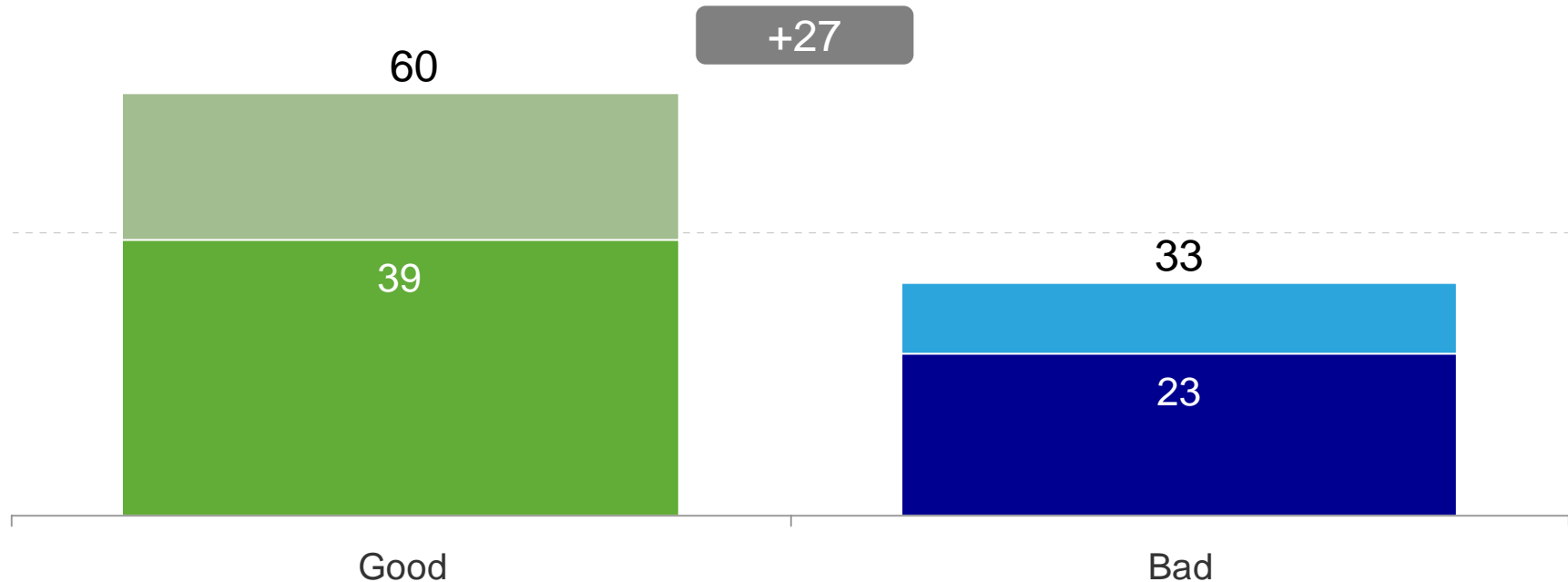
Immigration considered good for America

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Statement 1: Immigration is good for America.

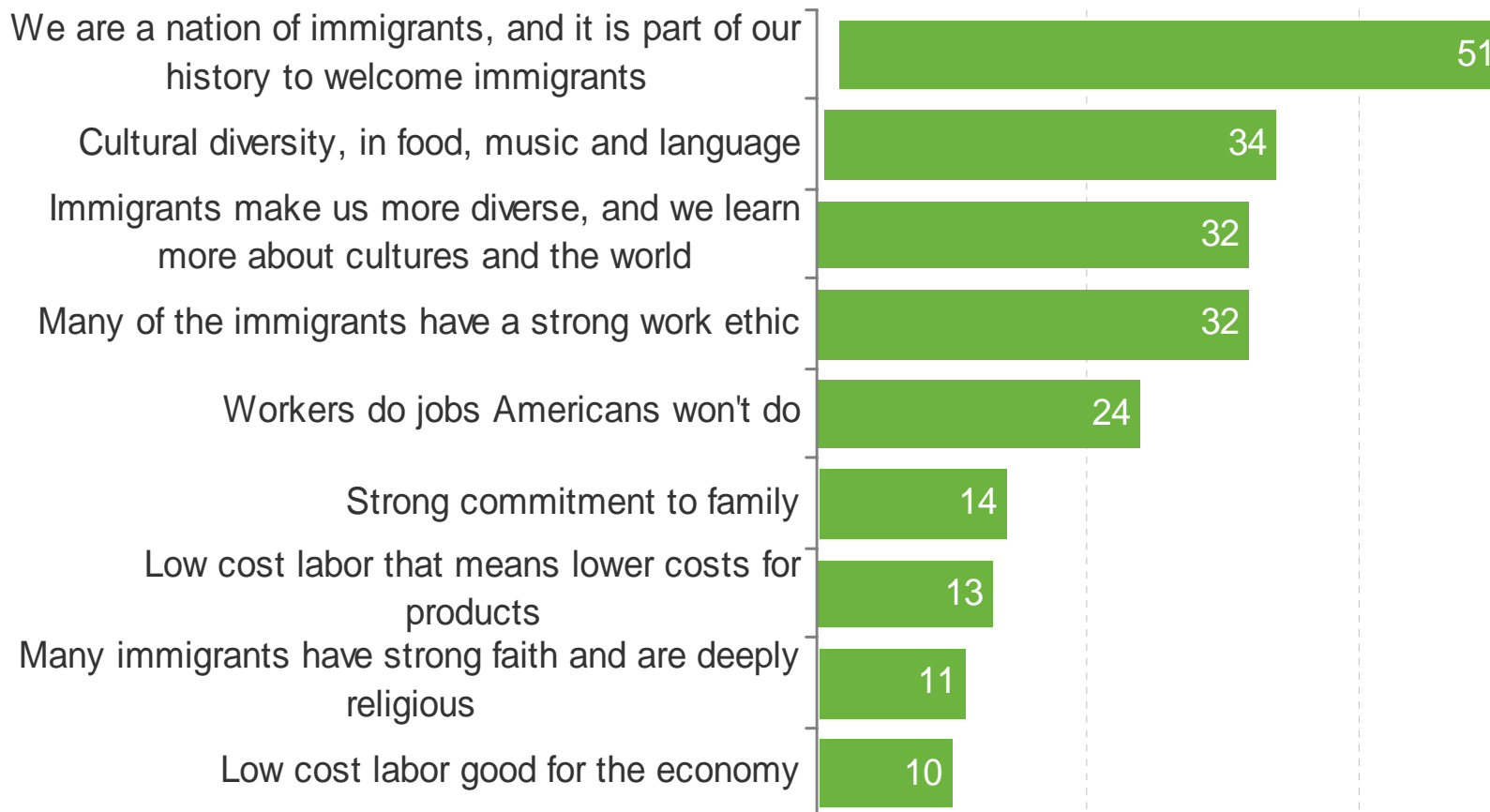
Statement 2: Immigration is bad for America.

- First statement strongly
- First statement not so strongly
- Second statement strongly
- Second statement not so strongly



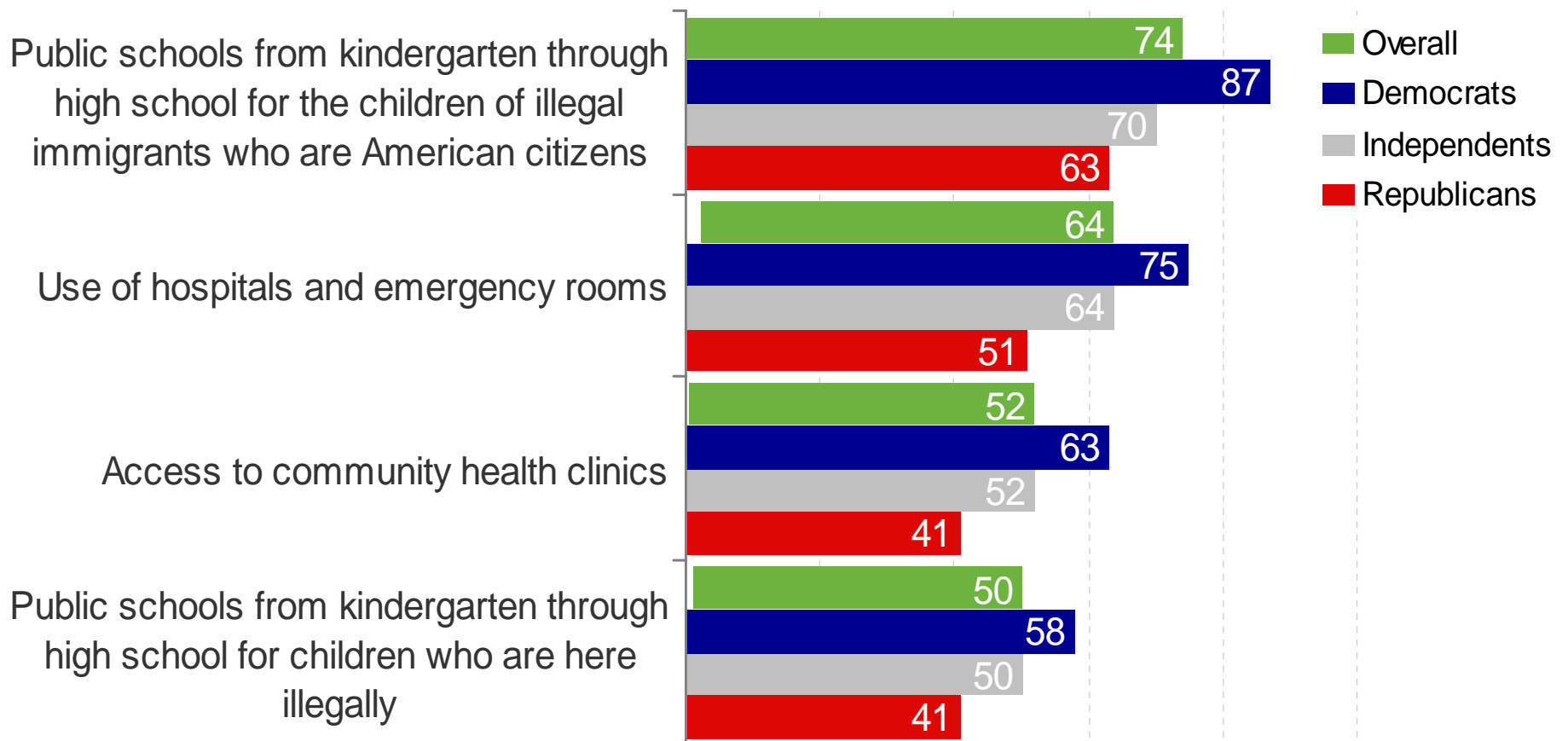
Nation's legacy of immigration a powerful concept

Which two of the following is the most positive aspect of immigration to the United States?



Support for services

I am going to read you a list of public services. After I read each one, I would like you to tell me whether you approve or disapprove of illegal immigrants receiving that service.

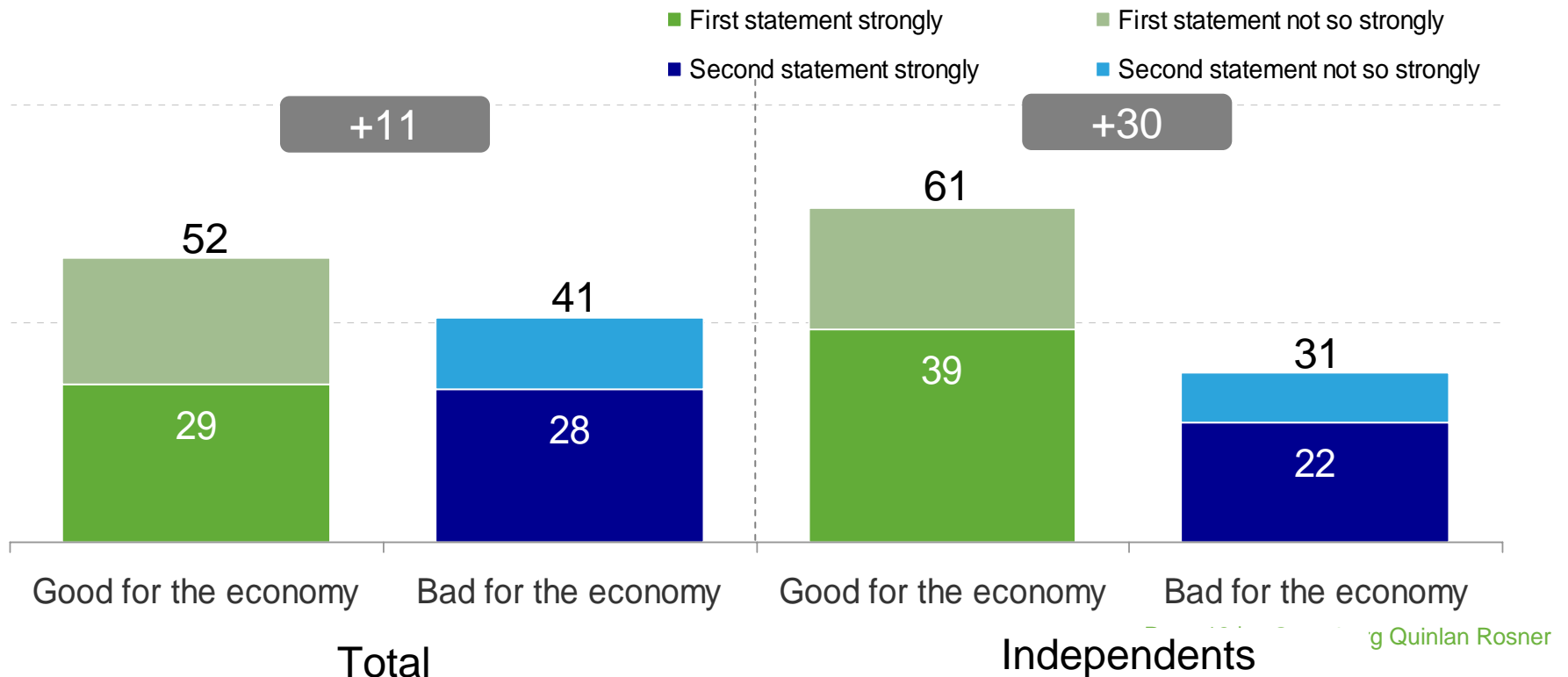


Majority view immigration as good for the economy

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Statement 1: On balance, immigration is good for the U.S. economy.

Statement 2: On balance, immigration is bad for the U.S. economy.

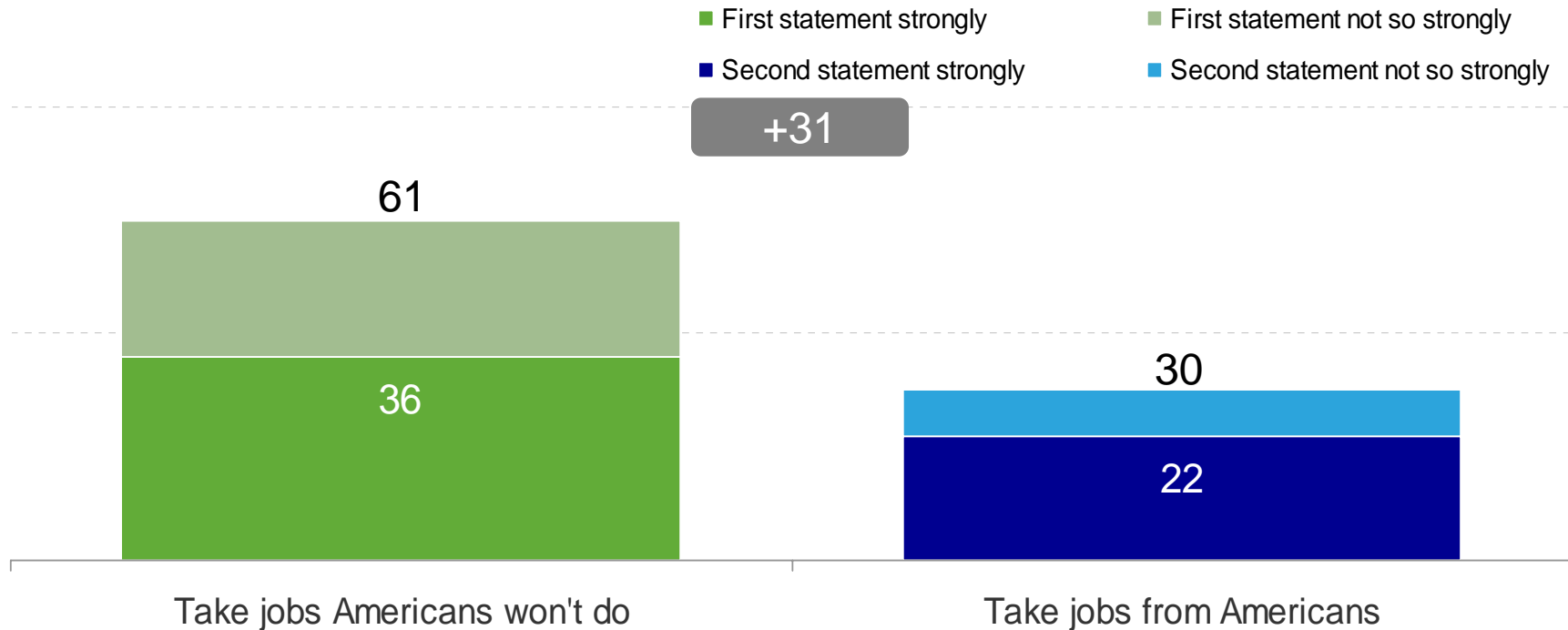


Large majority believe immigrants take jobs Americans won't do

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Statement 1: Immigrants take jobs other Americans won't do.

Statement 2: Immigrants take jobs from Americans.

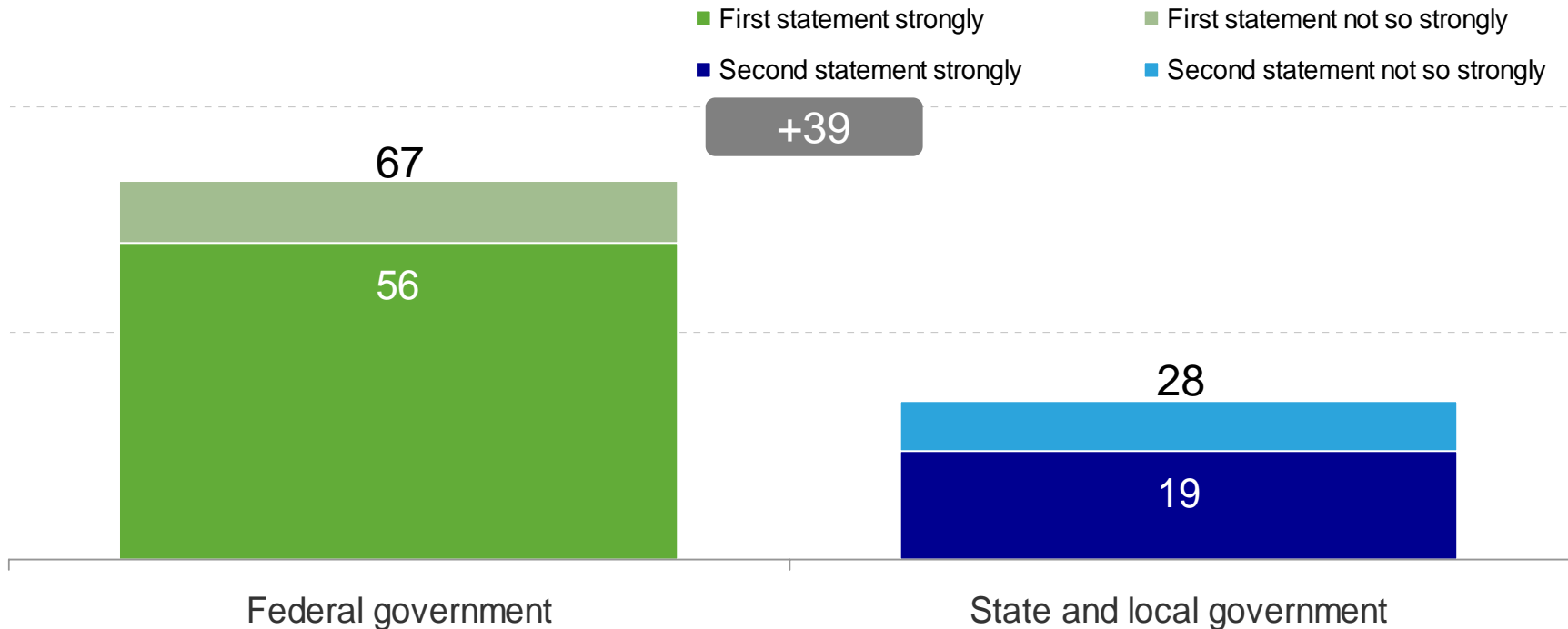


Immigration seen as federal responsibility

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Statement 1: The federal government should be mostly responsible for dealing with immigration.

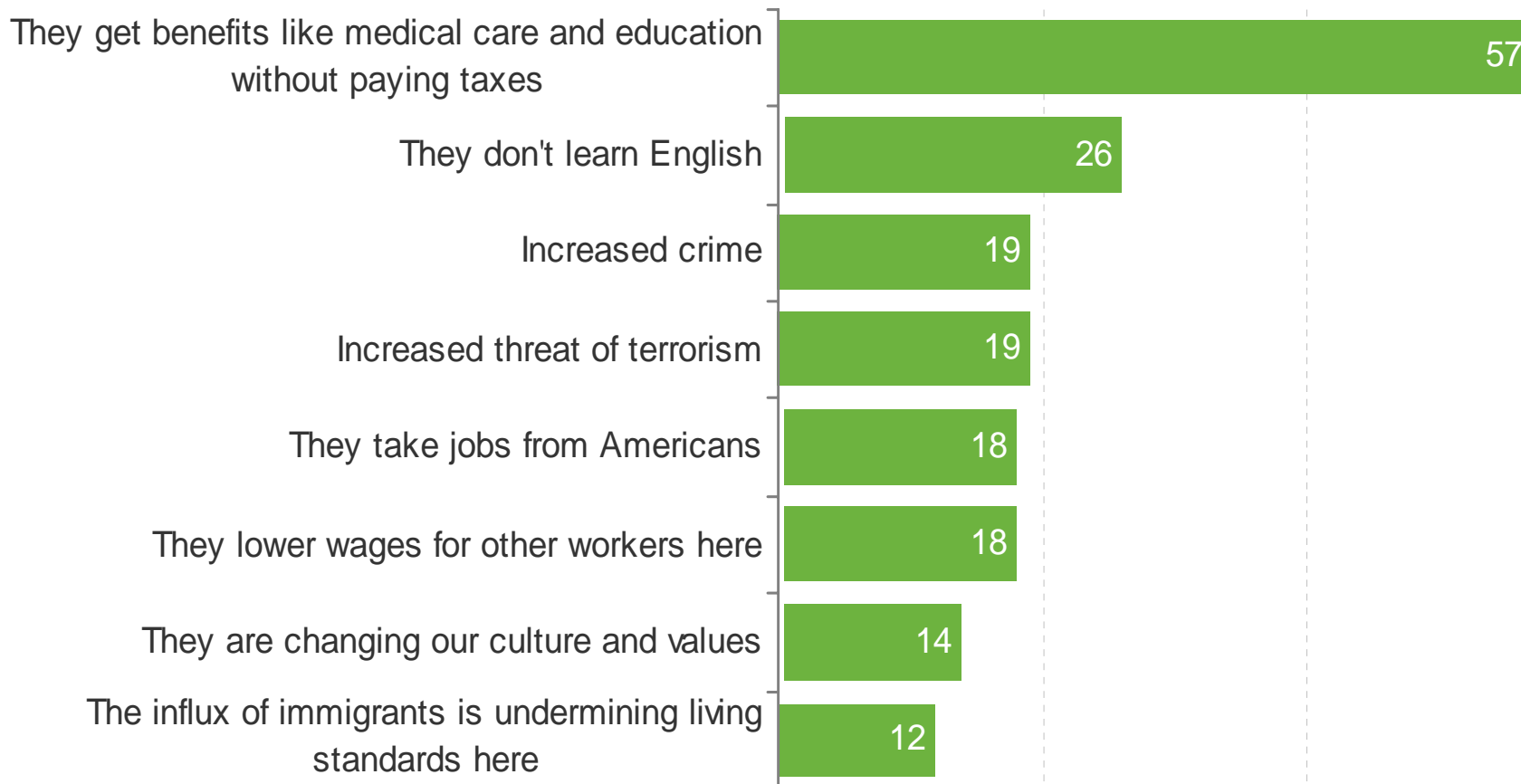
Statement 2: State and local governments should be mostly responsible for dealing with immigration.



Borders, the workplace and benefits

Benefits tops concerns about illegal immigration

Which two of the following concerns you the most about illegal immigration to the United States?



Strong support for tougher enforcement at border and in workplace

Now let me read you some immigration policies. For each one, please tell me whether you favor or oppose that measure.

	Strongly Favor	Total Favor
Deport illegal immigrants who commit a crime.	77	87
Tougher enforcement so businesses don't hire illegal workers.	60	80
Double the number of border patrol agents.	58	77
Cut off non-essential public services, such as welfare programs, to illegal immigrants.	48	65
Deport all illegal immigrants.	35	52
Build a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border.	34	51

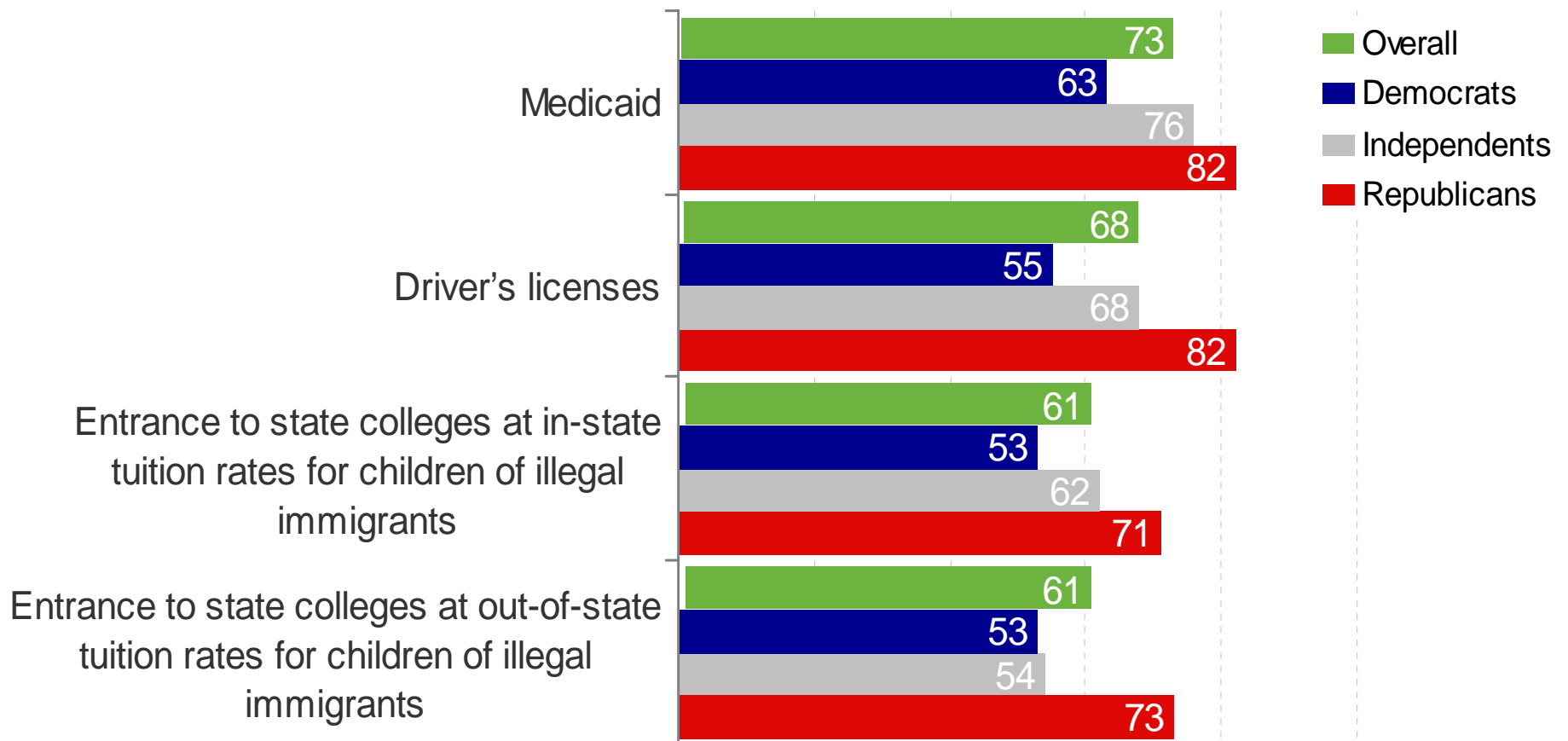
Policies to help

Now let me read you some immigration policies. For each one, please tell me whether you favor or oppose that measure.

	Strongly Favor	Total Favor
Provide expedited citizenship to legal immigrants who serve in the U.S. military.	52	76
Allow illegal immigrants who pay a fine and learn English to be eligible to apply for citizenship.	39	64
Implement a guest worker program to allow immigrants to work here for a set period of time.	37	76
Allow illegal immigrants who pay a fine and learn English to be eligible for legal status, but not citizenship.	22	59

Opposition to college education, Medicaid and driver's licenses

I am going to read you a list of public services. After I read each one, I would like you to tell me whether you approve or disapprove of illegal immigrants receiving that service.



GOP Message playing on fears are strongest

After I read each statement, please tell me whether this would make you much more likely, somewhat more likely, a little more likely, no more likely or less likely to support this Republican candidate for Congress in 2008.

	Much More likely	Much/Smwh t More likely	Total More likely
The first step toward immigration reform must be securing our borders to prevent terrorists from entering our country. We must double the border patrol, build a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border and keep track of foreigners crossing the border by providing them a tamper-proof identification card.	30	48	58
Democrats support giving government benefits including health care, public education and Social Security benefits to illegal aliens. It's not right for hard working American taxpayers to bear the cost of benefits for illegal aliens.	30	51	62
More illegal immigration means more crime and criminal gangs. Democrats make the problem worse by tying the hands of police and preventing them from checking citizenship status when they stop someone who has just committed a crime.	29	55	67
Democrats support amnesty for illegal aliens, but this is not fair to the millions of people who followed the law and entered the country legally. Serious immigration reform must not reward illegal immigrants with amnesty.	28	49	60

Republican Messages: Second Tier

After I read each statement, please tell me whether this would make you much more likely, somewhat more likely, a little more likely, no more likely or less likely to support this Republican candidate for Congress in 2008.

	Much More likely	Much/Smw ht More likely	Total More likely
Democrats are soft on protecting America's borders. They oppose fences, support drivers licenses for illegal aliens and don't understand that after 9/11 we need to protect our borders from the threat of terrorism.	26	44	54
Illegal immigrants take jobs away from Americans because they are willing to work for less and they don't pay taxes into the system. We must implement a guest worker program to get the skilled workers our economy needs but develop a verification system to ensure immigrants are paying taxes.	24	39	52

Democratic message urging crackdown employers top list

After I read each statement, please tell me whether this would make you much more likely, somewhat more likely, a little more likely, no more likely or less likely to support this Democratic candidate for Congress in 2008.

	Much More Likely	Much/Smwht More likely	Total More Likely
We need to put an end to illegal immigration by cracking down on unscrupulous corporations who exploit illegal and legal workers. When corporations hire illegal workers, all workers lose, as wages come down, and basic worker rights are lost. We must prosecute corporations that hire illegal immigrants to protect the rights of all workers.	38	63	75
We need to end illegal immigration - period. We need a plan to secure our borders by doubling the number of border patrols; end the job magnet by imposing tougher fines on employers who hire illegal workers; and prevent illegal immigrants from receiving non-essential services.	37	59	72
Immigration to the United States is a privilege, not a right. To keep it as a privilege, we must secure our border; ensure that employers hire only legal workers; and restrict services, such as higher education and driver's privileges, to people here legally.	36	57	69

Democratic legalization messages

After I read each statement, please tell me whether this would make you much more likely, somewhat more likely, a little more likely, no more likely or less likely to support this Democratic candidate for Congress in 2008.

	Much More Likely	Much/Smwht More likely	Total More Likely
Immigration to the United States is a privilege, not a right. To keep it as a privilege, we must secure our borders; ensure that employers hire only legal workers; and restrict services to legal immigrants. We can't deport 12 million immigrants, so for those already here, we offer the privilege of legalized status, but not citizenship, if they pay a fine and learn English.	27	54	66
The Bush administration refuses to enforce our immigration laws. Since Bush took office, enforcement of immigration laws is down by 30 percent; under Bush a person is more likely to be eaten by an alligator than to be prosecuted for hiring illegal labor. We must do something about illegal immigration because we can't trust Republicans to solve this problem.	24	52	66
We need to end illegal immigration - period. We need a plan to secure our borders; impose tougher fines on employers hiring illegal workers; and prevent illegal immigrants from receiving non-essential services. We cannot deport 12 million immigrants, so for those who pay a fine, pay taxes and learn English, we should offer legal status, but not full citizenship.	23	48	60
We need a realistic plan to stop illegal immigration and deal with those who are here illegally. We cannot deport 12 million people, but we will not give them amnesty. We need a plan that requires illegal immigrants to pay a fine, pay taxes and learn English, and in return we will bring them out of the shadows and offer an opportunity to citizenship.	21	40	47

Enforcement reassurance lays groundwork for path for citizenship

Support for path to citizenship

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Deport illegal immigrants who commit a crime.	77	87
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Cut off non-essential public services, such as welfare programs, to illegal immigrants.	48	65
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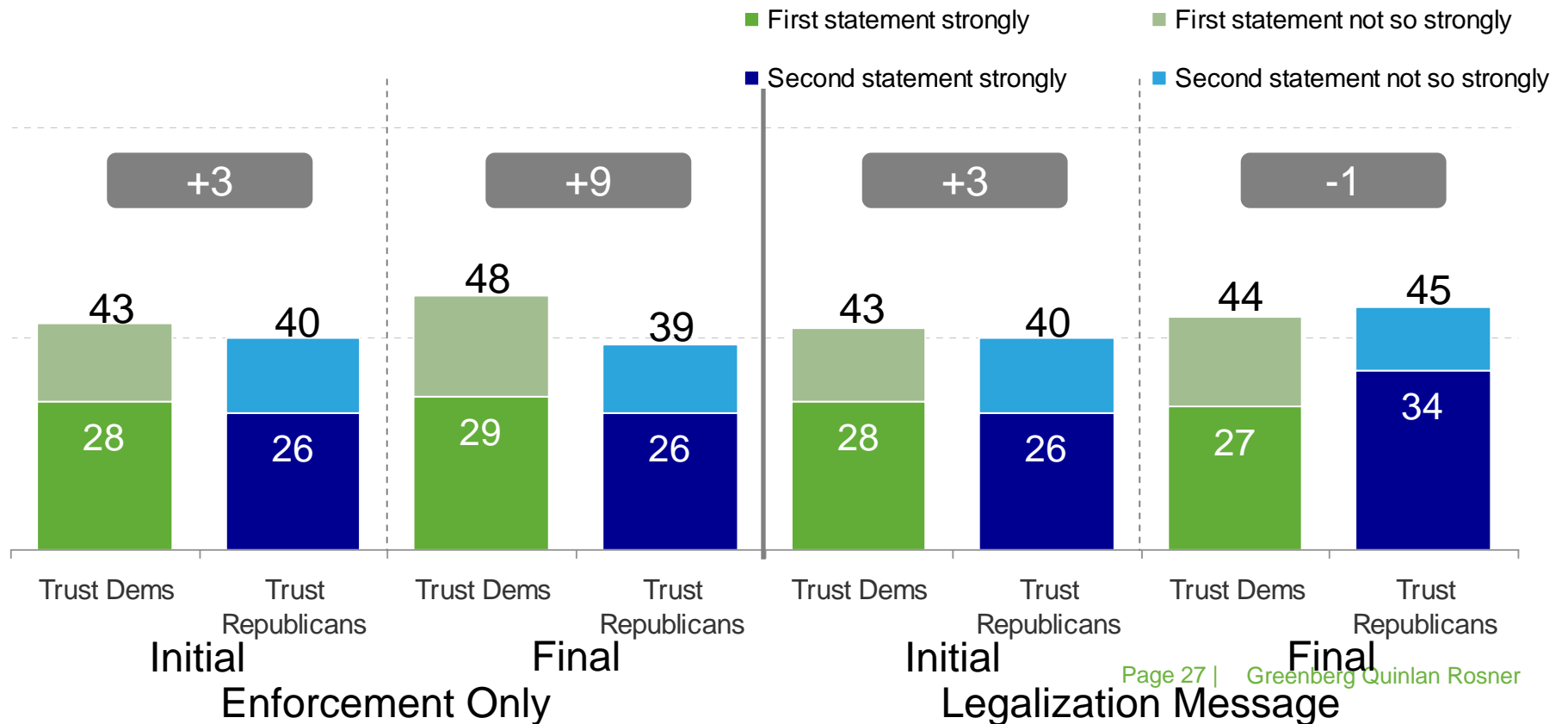
Risk to Democrats

Enforcement-only messages produce shift toward Democrats

Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right:

Statement 1: On immigration, I am more inclined to trust the Democrats right now.

Statement 2: On immigration, I am more inclined to trust the Republicans right now.

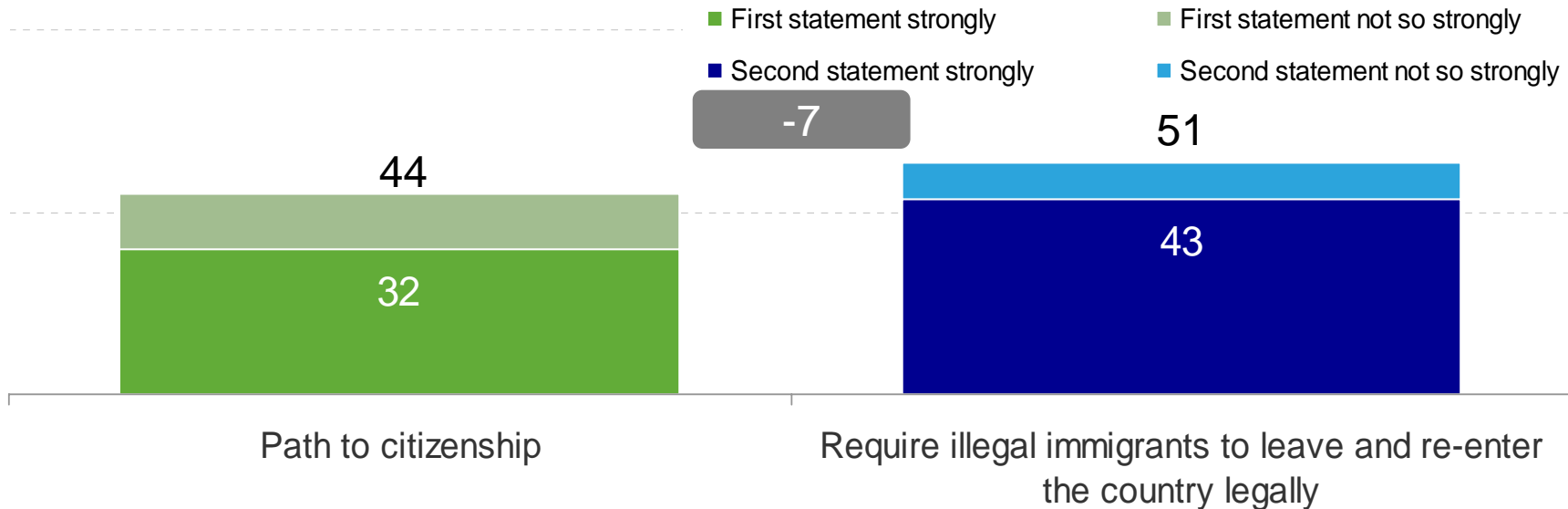


Language with path to citizenship loses

We need tougher controls at the borders and penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants, bar illegal immigrants from getting most government benefits, and expel convicted criminals, while allowing the law-abiding and tax-paying immigrants to remain and get on a long path to citizenship.

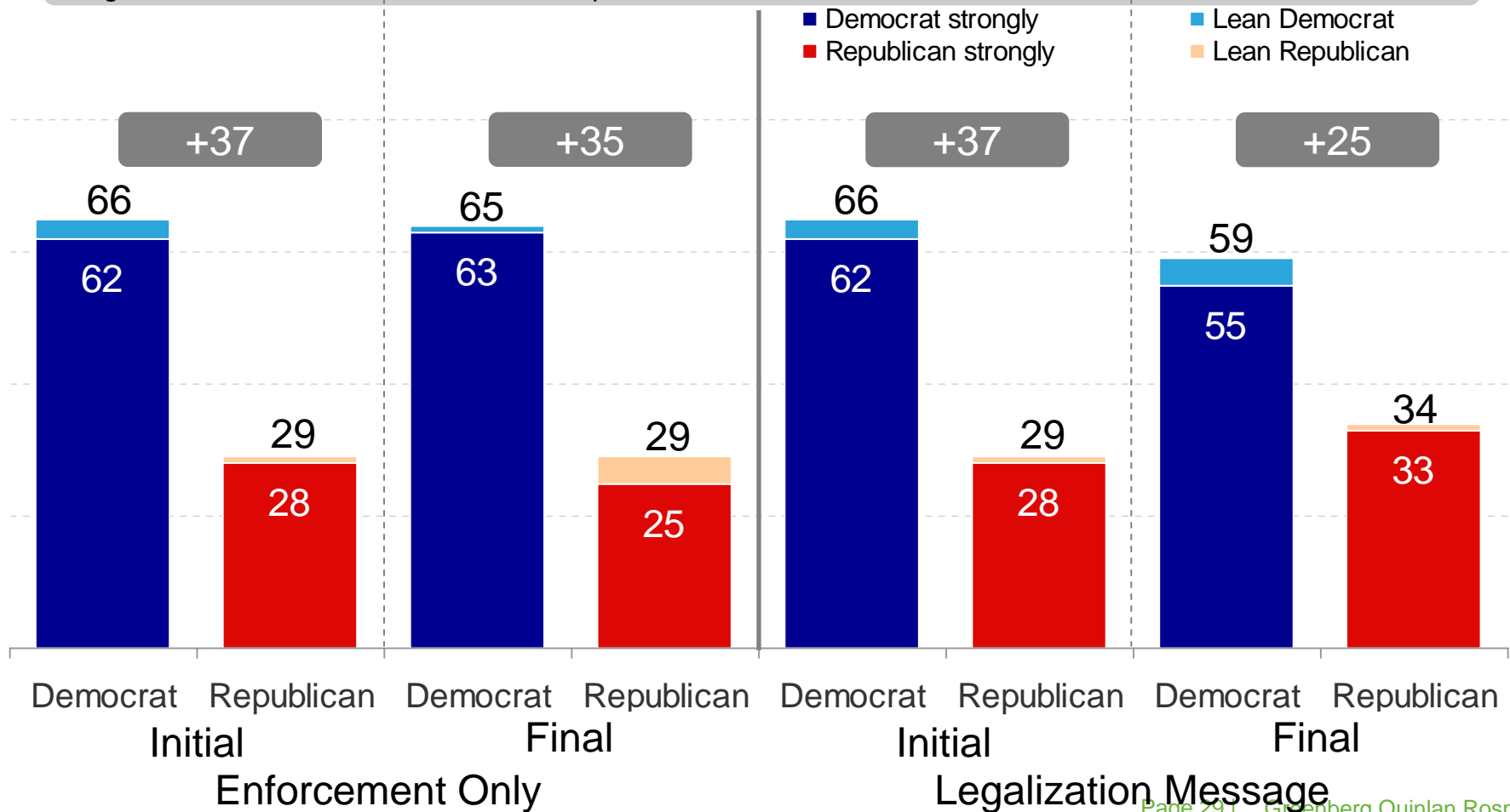
OR

We need to get control of the border, require illegal immigrants to leave and re-enter the country legally, stop illegal immigrants from getting government benefits, and send illegal immigrants who are convicted criminals back to their home country.



Legalization language hurts candidates in Democratic districts

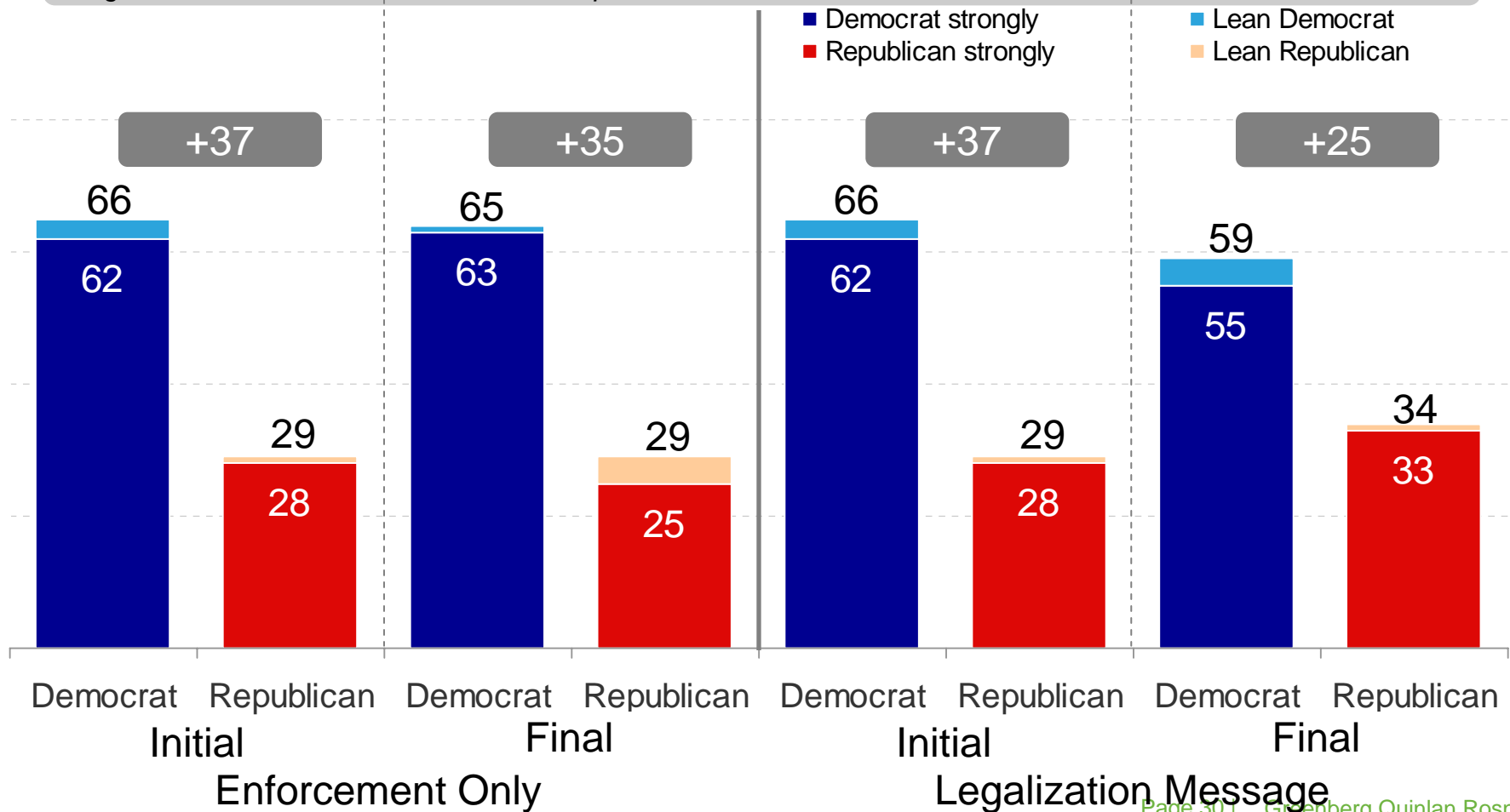
Thinking about the election for Congress in 2008, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you be voting for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate*?



For each district, the incumbent's name was inserted, and a generic candidate ("the Democratic candidate" or "the Republican candidate") was inserted for the opposition.

Legalization language hurts candidates in Democratic districts

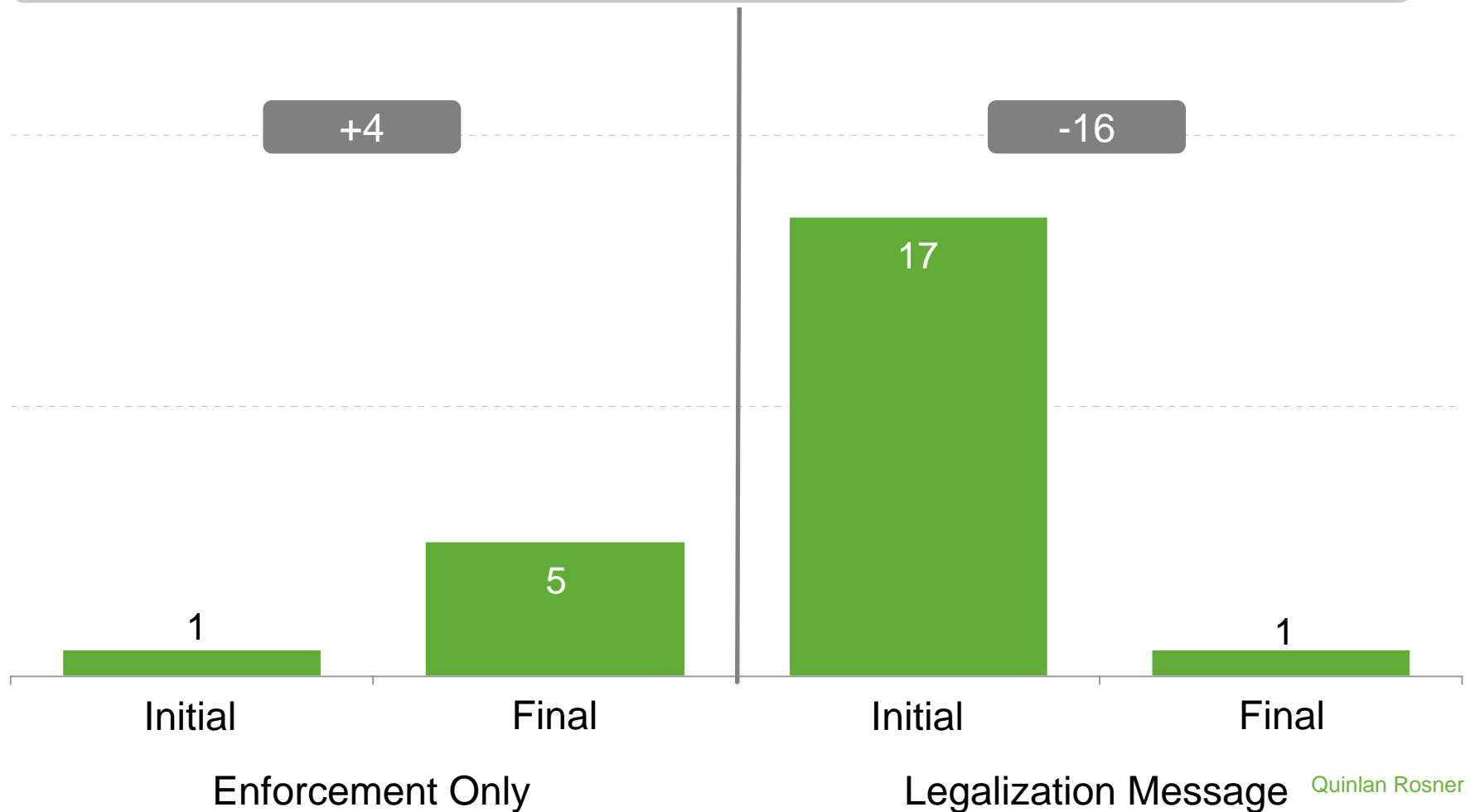
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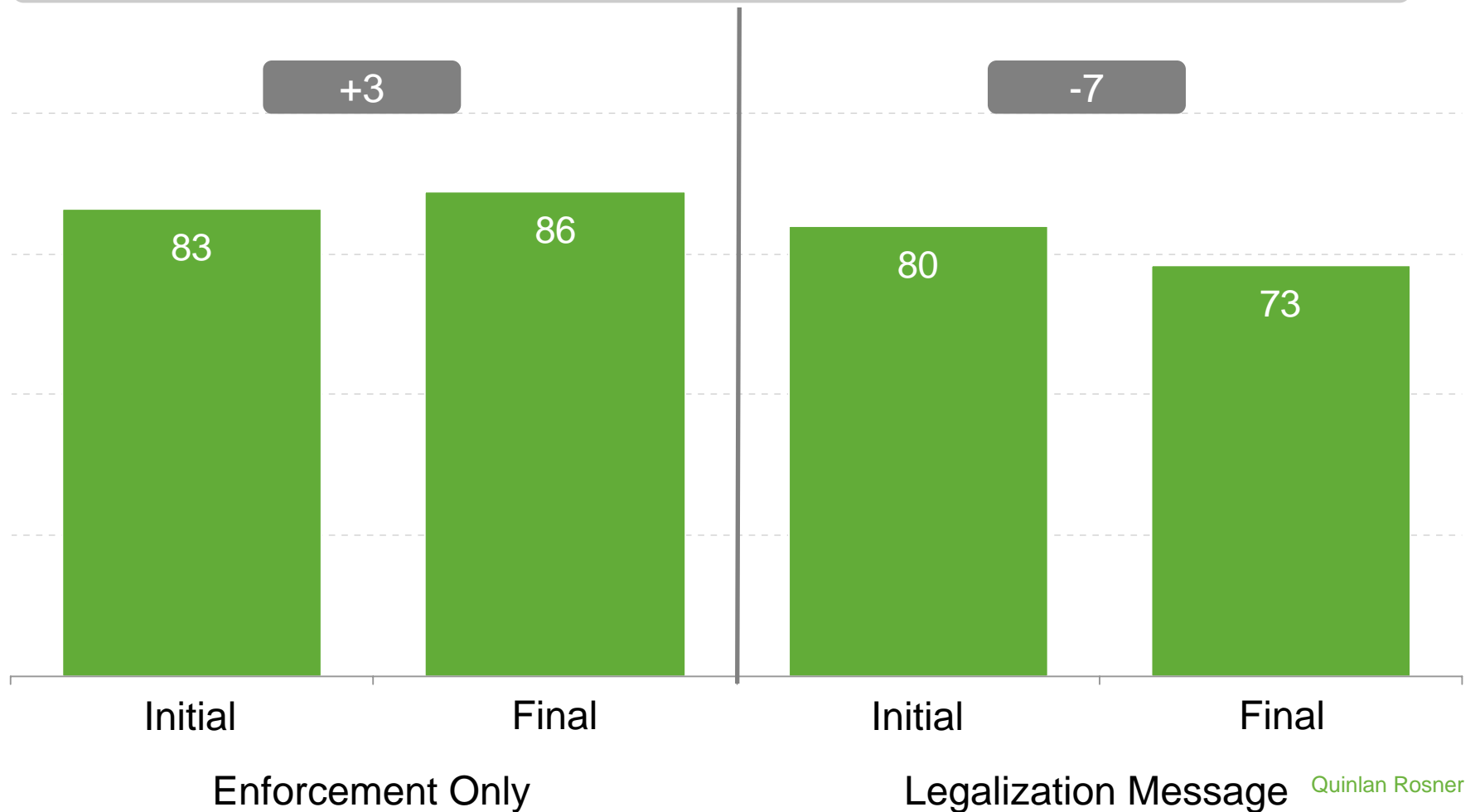
Legalization message produces negative net-shift among independents

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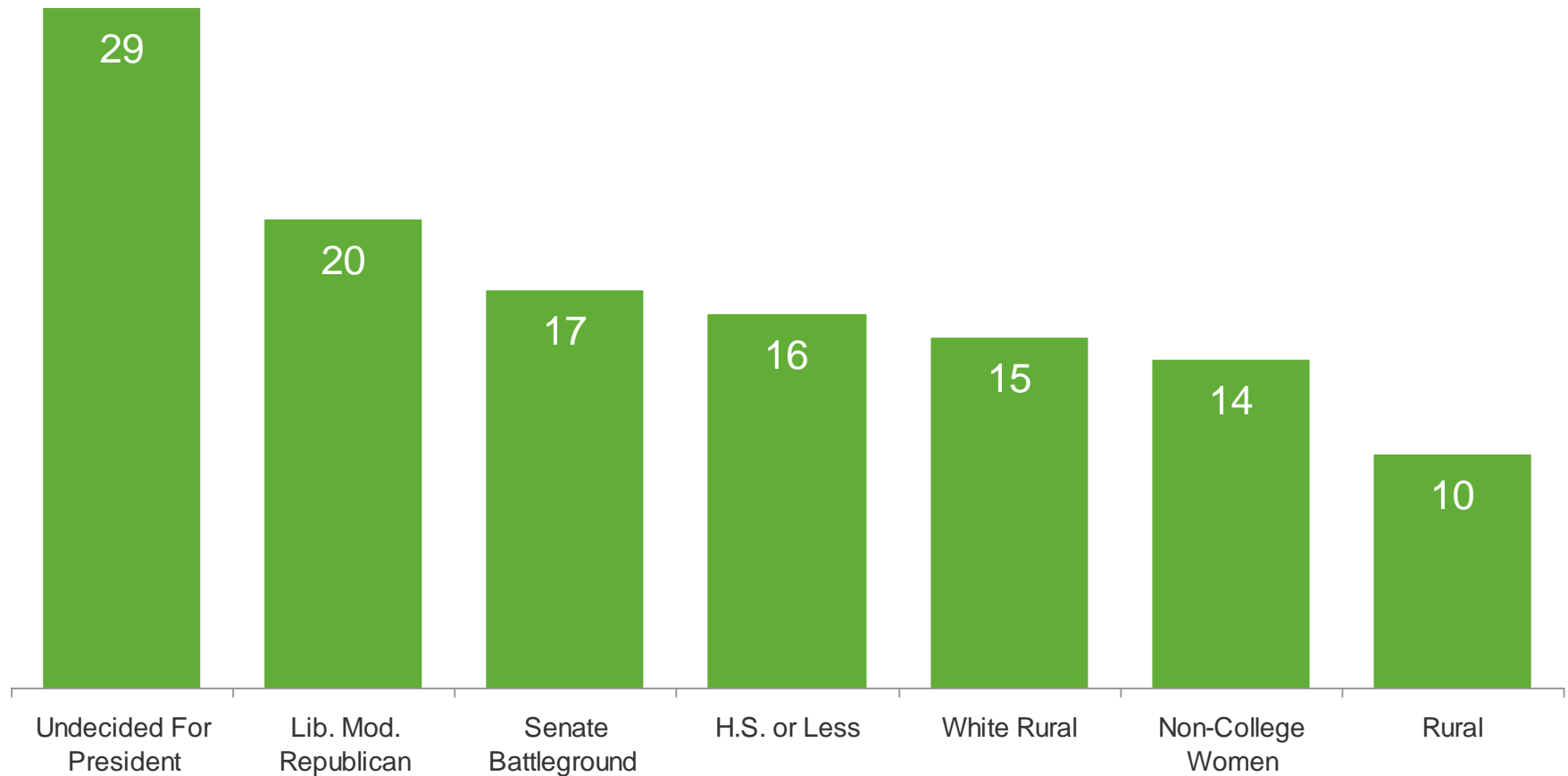


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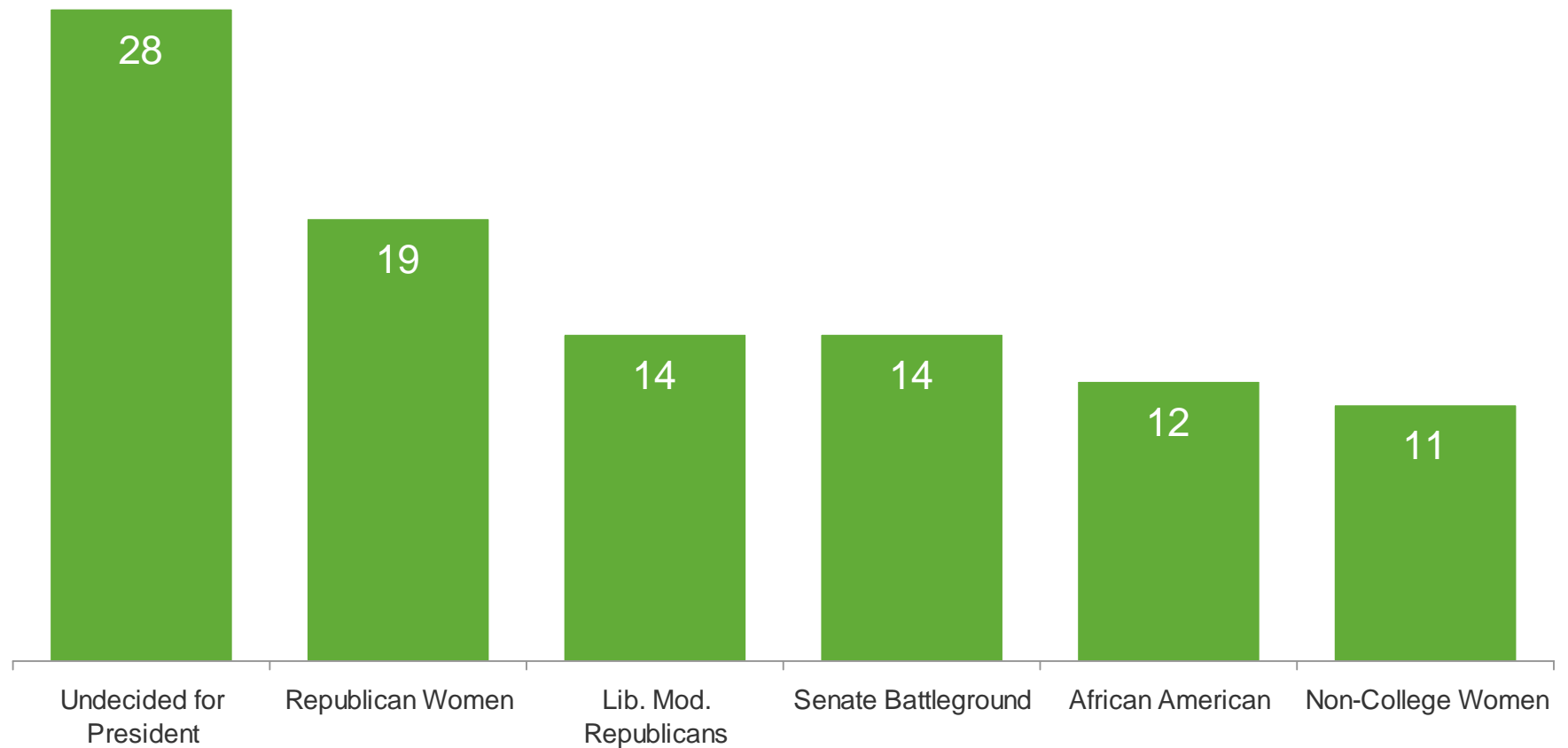
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Largest net-shifts against Democrats in Democratic districts



Largest shifts against Democrats in Democratic districts



Key's to a Democratic Message

- **Recognition of the problem**
- **Enforcement: Border and workplace**
- **No to non-essential benefits (No to driver's licenses, yes to health care and k-12 education)**
- **Open to solution:**
 - **Path to citizenship**
 - **Open to legal immigration**

GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER RESEARCH

www.greenbergresearch.com

Washington, DC
10 G Street NE,
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20002

Ph: +1 202 478 8300
Fax: +1 202 478 8301

California
50 California Street,
Suite 1500
San Francisco, CA 94111

Ph: +1 415 277 5403
Fax: +1 415 358 9599

London, UK
405 Carrington House,
6 Hertford Street
London, UK W1J 7SU

Ph: +44 (0) 207 499 5204
Fax: +44 (0) 207 499 5284