

B | Center for
Middle East Policy
at BROOKINGS

American attitudes on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict

A PUBLIC OPINION POLL BY SHIBLEY TELHAMI

A survey sponsored by the

**University of Maryland
Critical Issues Poll***

fielded by

Nielsen Scarborough

*The University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll probes domestic and international issues that are central to our policy discourse and is led by Professors Shibley Telhami and Stella Rouse.

Survey Methodology (October 2016)

The survey was conducted October 5-14, 2016 with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households. A national sample of 1528 panelists completed the survey. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the U.S. Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification.

The margin of error is 2.5%

Note: These questions were fielded as part of a larger poll on foreign and domestic issues. Participants in this study were provided by Nielsen from Nielsen's sample of respondents

Survey Methodology (November 2016)

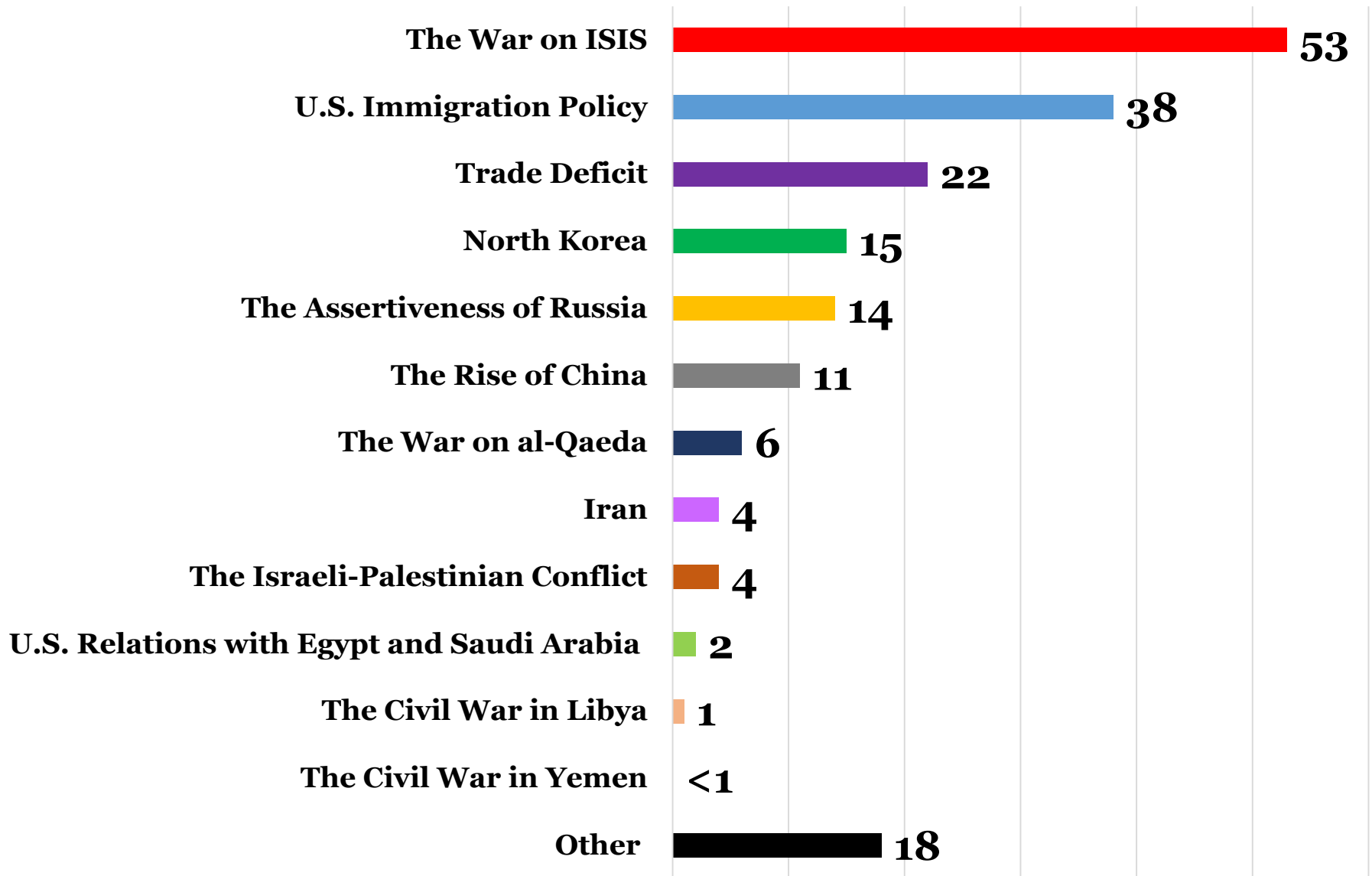
The survey was conducted November 18-23, 2016 with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households. A national sample of 1042 panelists completed the survey. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the U.S. Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification.

The margin of error is 3.04%

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**Which of the
following should be
America's top global
priorities?
(Please Select Two)**

Which of the following issues should be America's top global priorities? (Please Select Two)

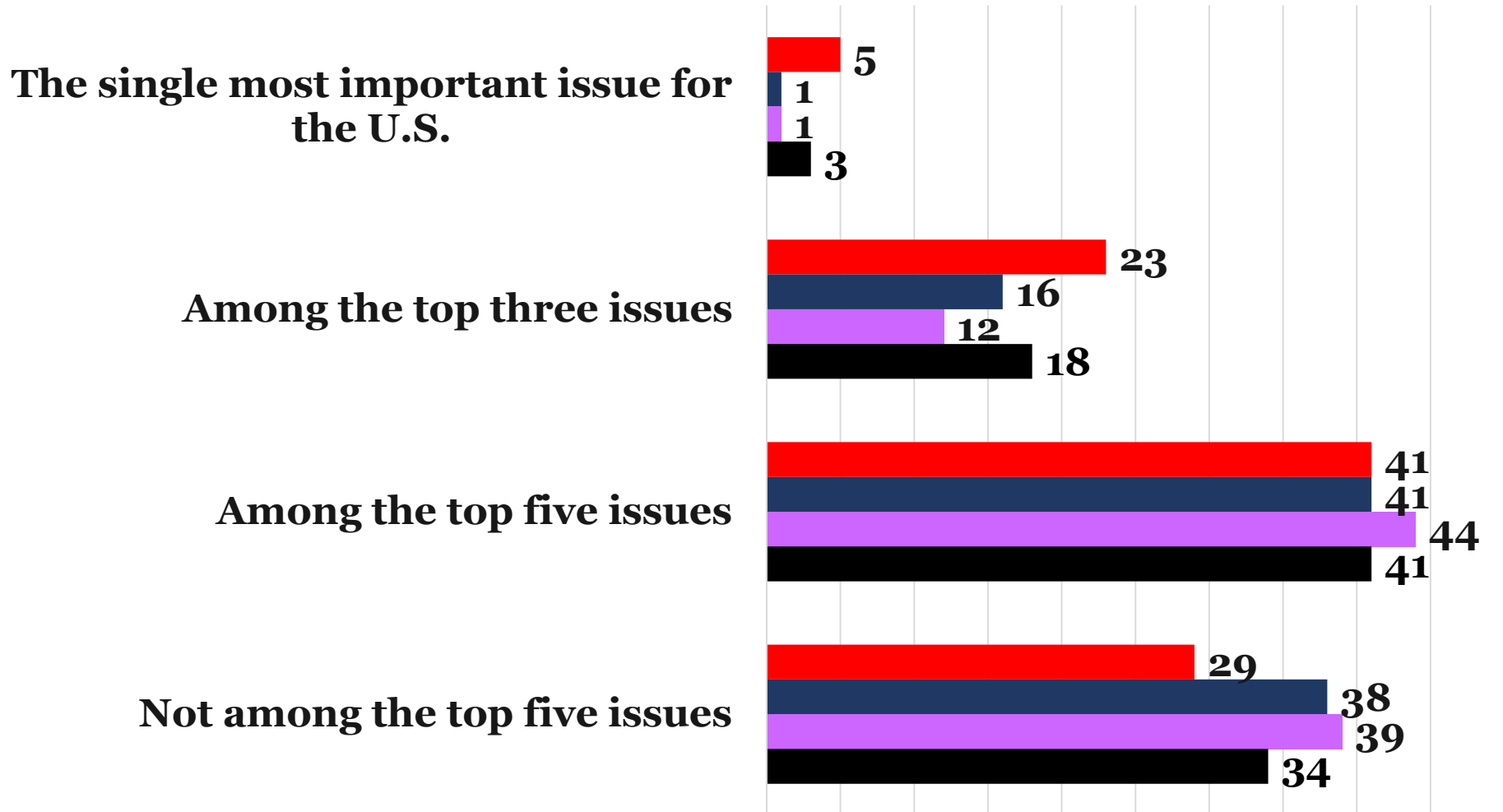


American Attitudes toward the Israeli- Palestinian Conflict

**Thinking about U.S.
interests, how
important of an issue
is the Israeli-
Palestinian conflict?**

Thinking about U.S. interests, how important of an issue is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

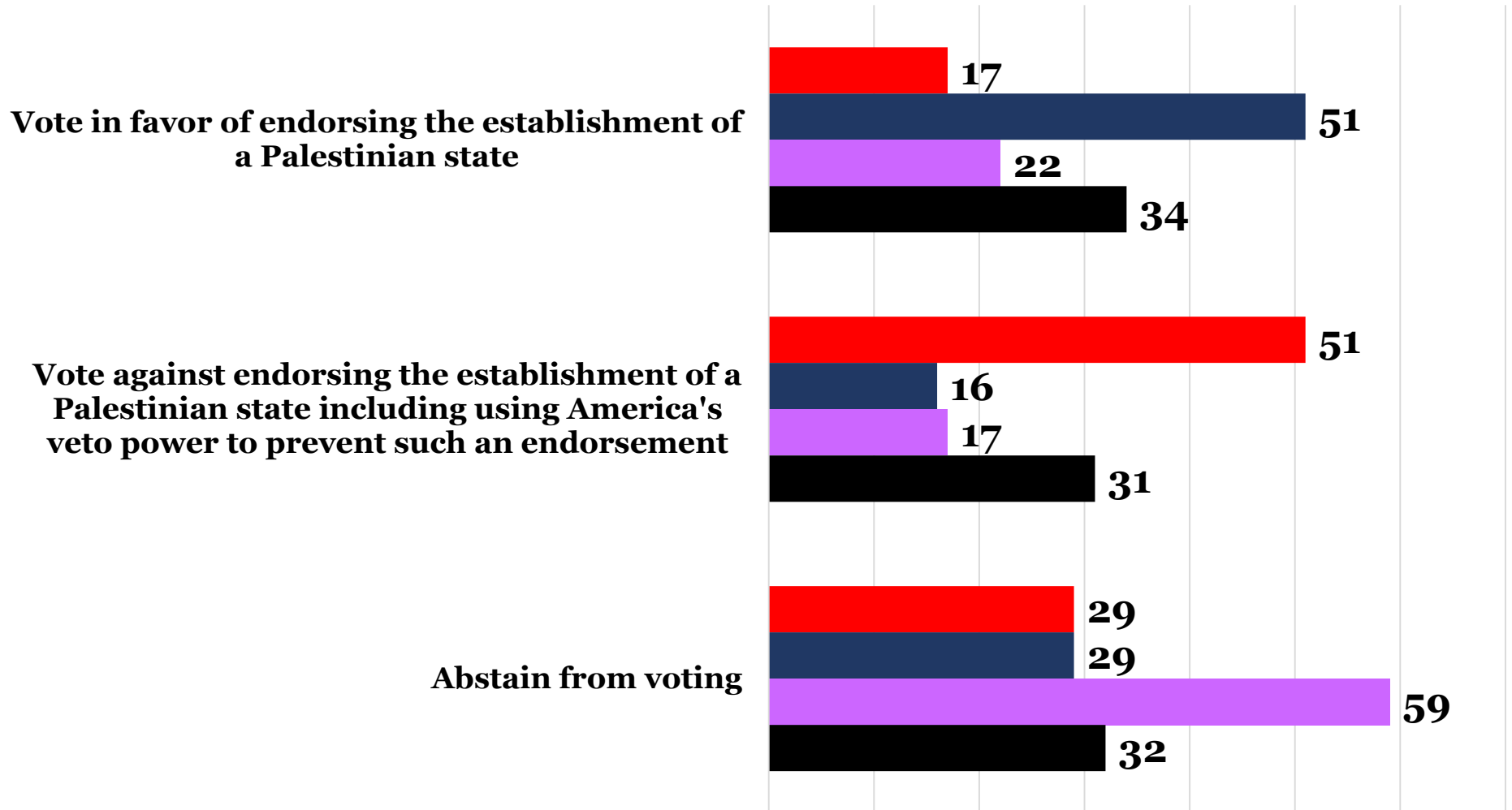
Republican Democrat Independent Total



As you may know, there have been suggestions that the UN Security Council should endorse the establishment of a Palestinian state. This idea has received some support in Europe, but opposition in Israel. If the UN Security Council considers such a plan, what do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council?

What do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council?

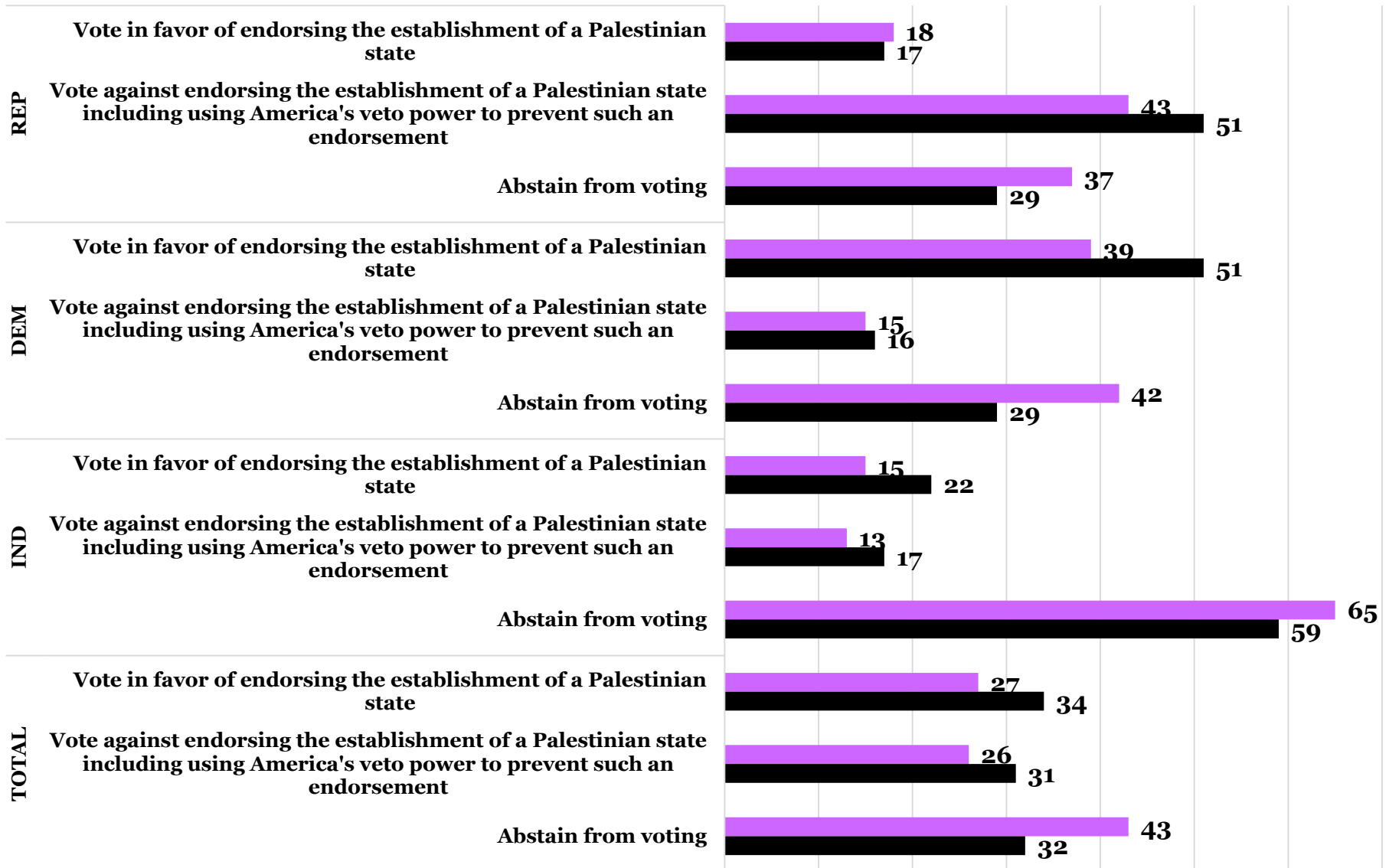
Republican Democrat Independent Total



What do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council?

Nov. 2015

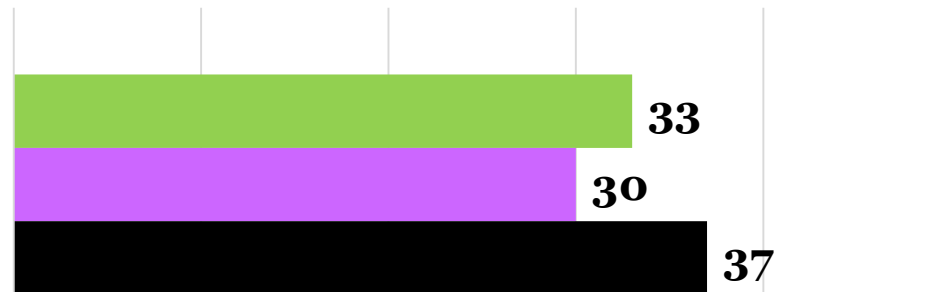
Nov. 2016



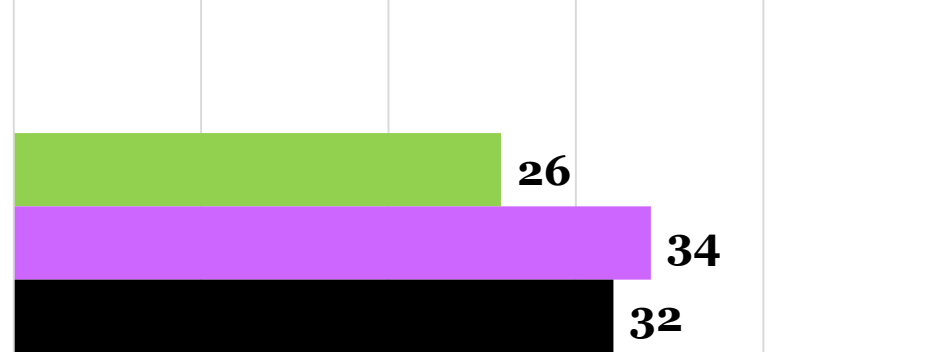
What do you think the U.S. should do as a member of the UN Security Council?

18-34 35-54 55+

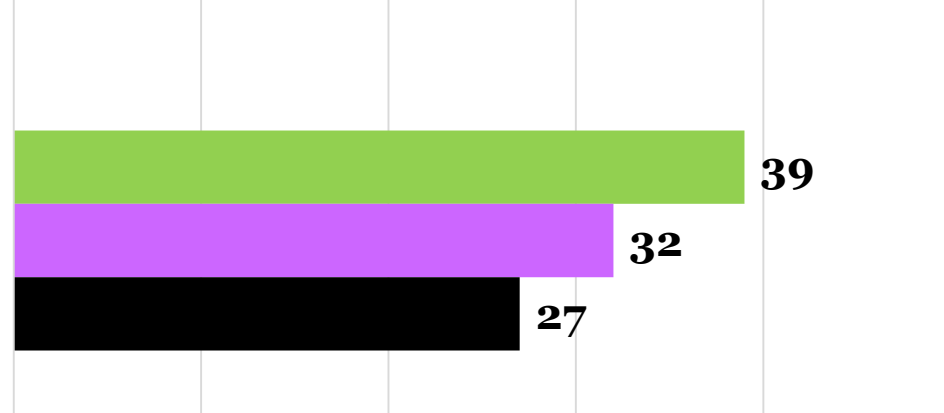
Vote in favor of endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state



Vote against endorsing the establishment of a Palestinian state including using America's veto power to prevent such an endorsement



Abstain from voting

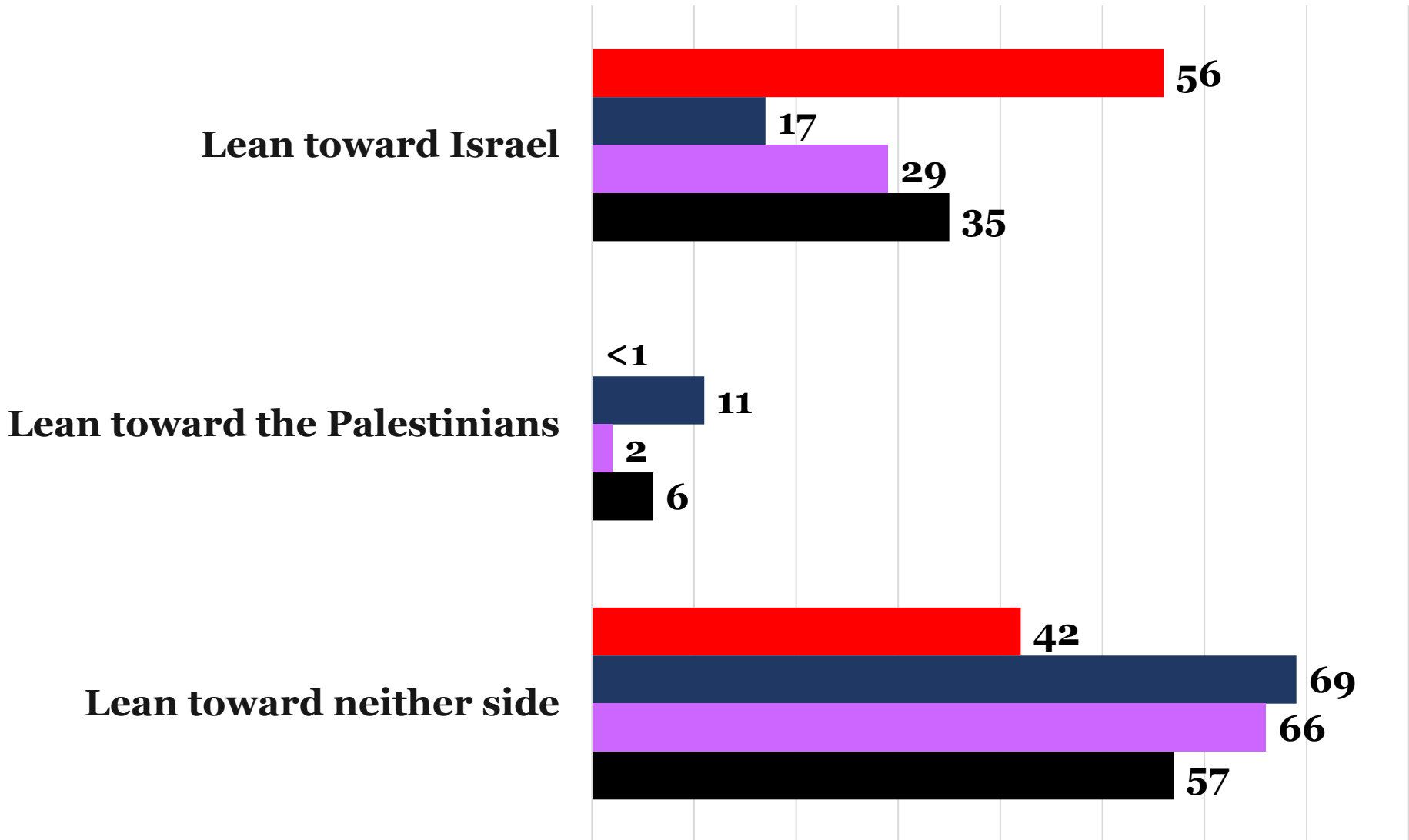


In general, what role do you want the new Trump administration to play in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Should the new Trump administration:

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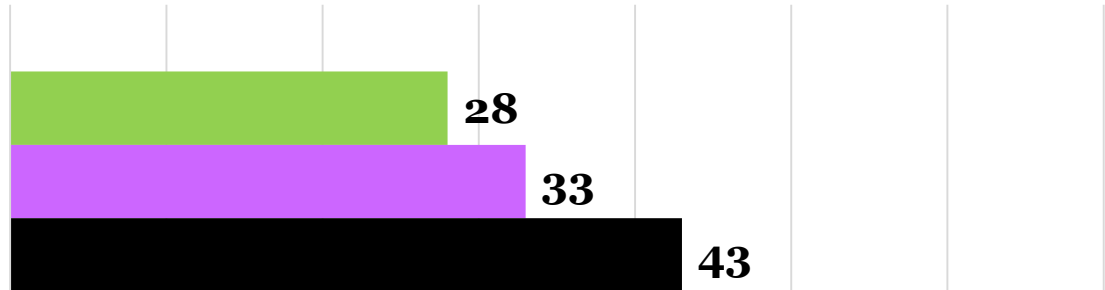
Republican Democrat Independent Total



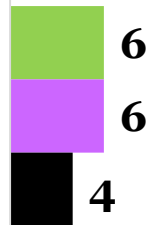
Should the new Trump administration:

18-34 35-54 55+

Lean toward Israel



Lean toward the Palestinians



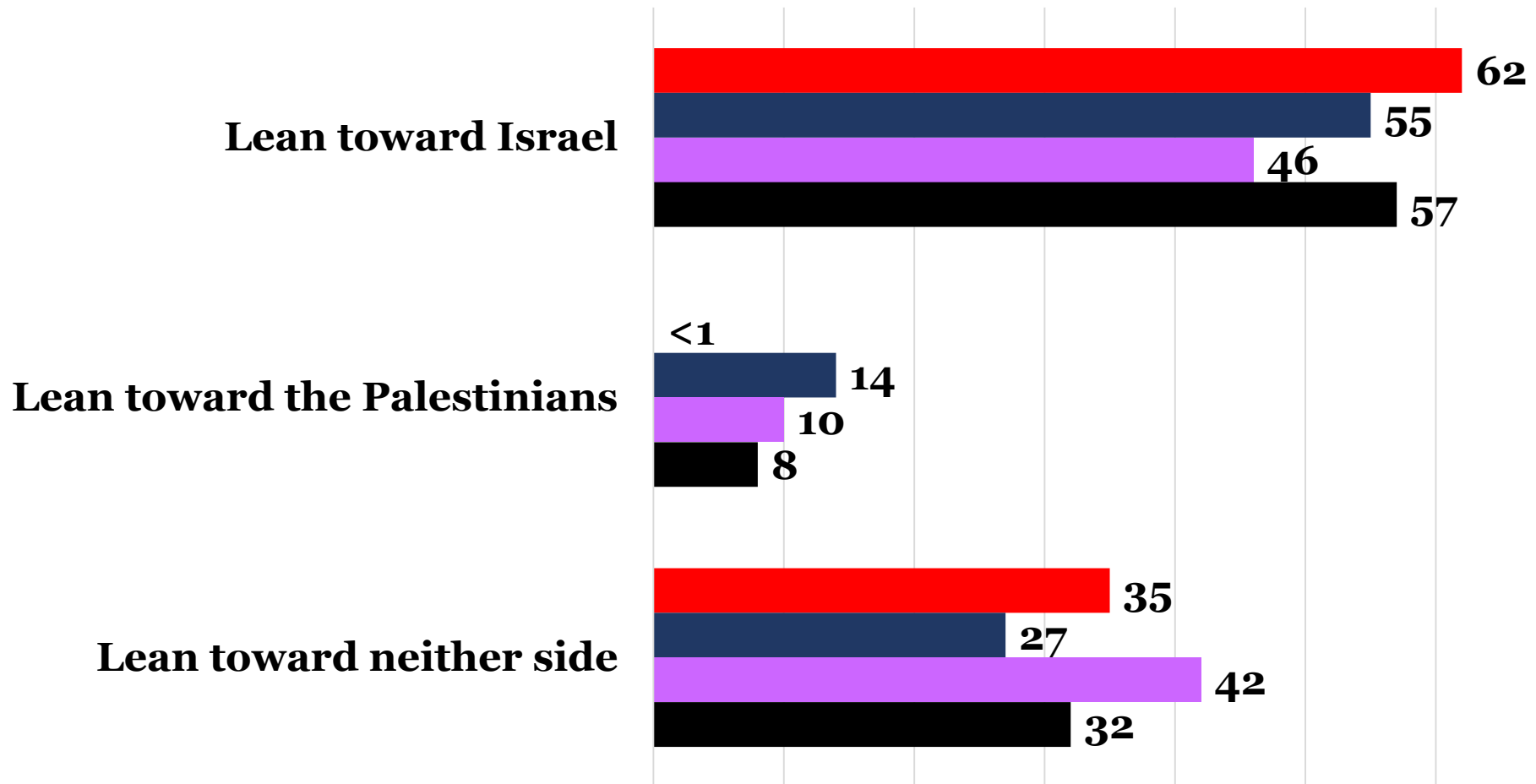
Lean toward neither side



If the new Trump administration engages in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, what do you believe it will, in fact, do?

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Republican Democrat Independent Total

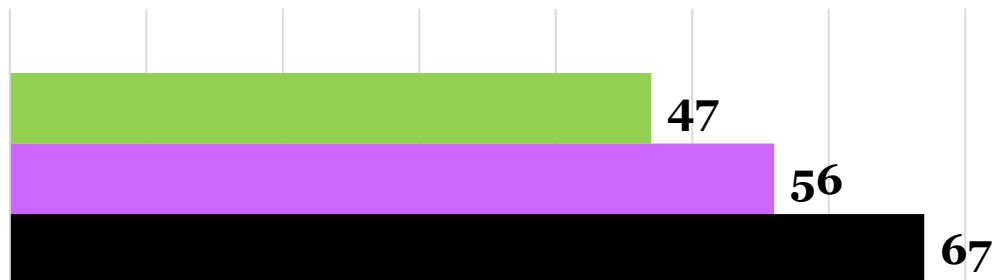


Nov. 2016

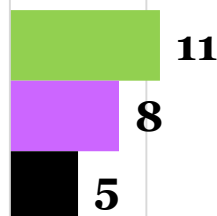
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18-34 35-54 55+

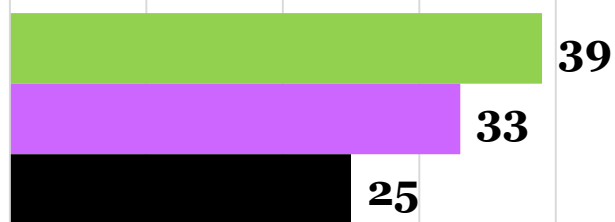
Lean toward Israel



Lean toward the Palestinians



Lean toward neither side

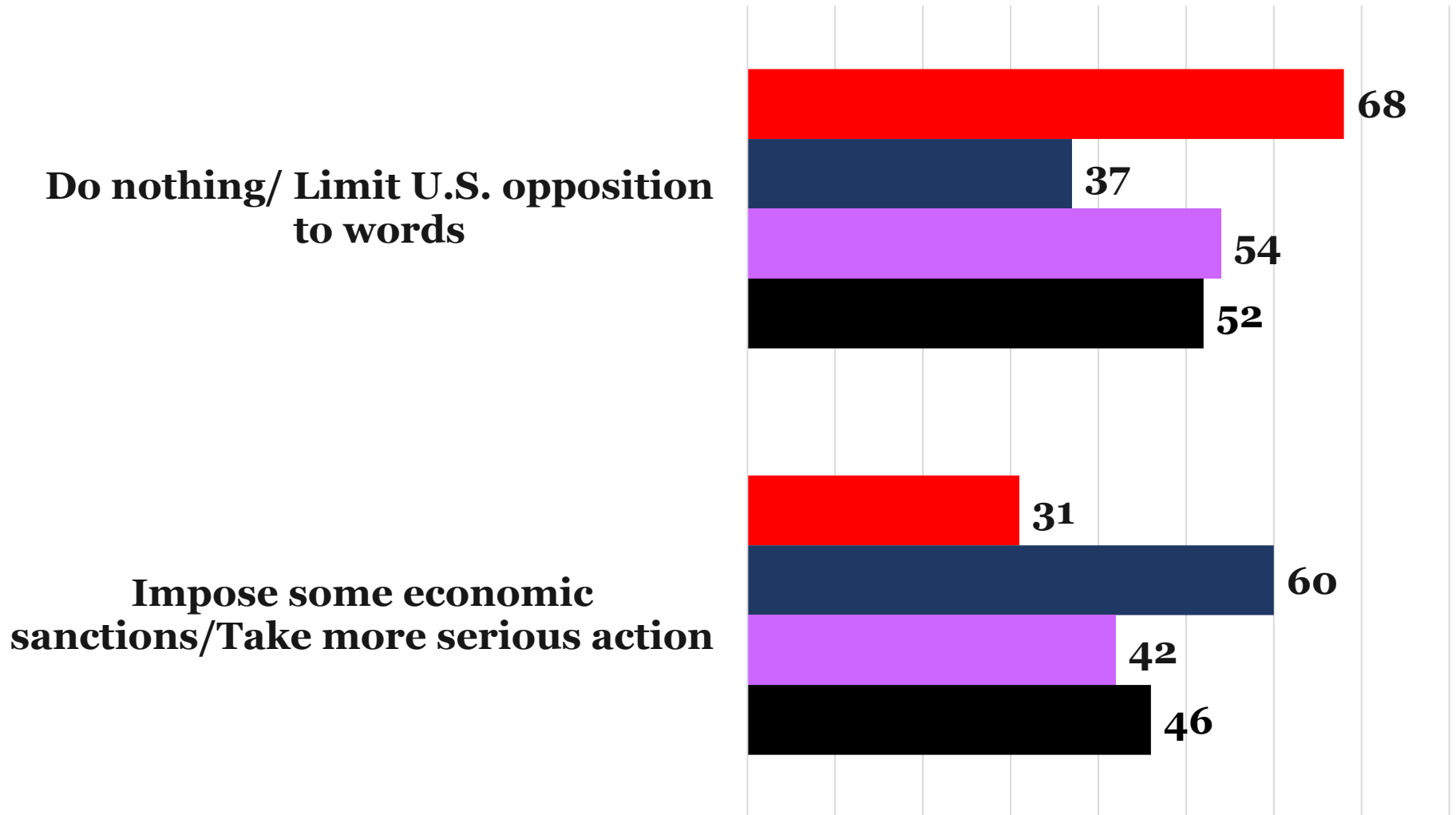


One of the issues of tension between the United States and Israel has been its construction of Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war. These settlements are considered illegal by most of the international community and have been opposed by every U.S. administration, both Republican and Democratic. The Israeli government has continued to build settlements arguing that they have the right to do so, or that these are not obstacles to peace.

How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

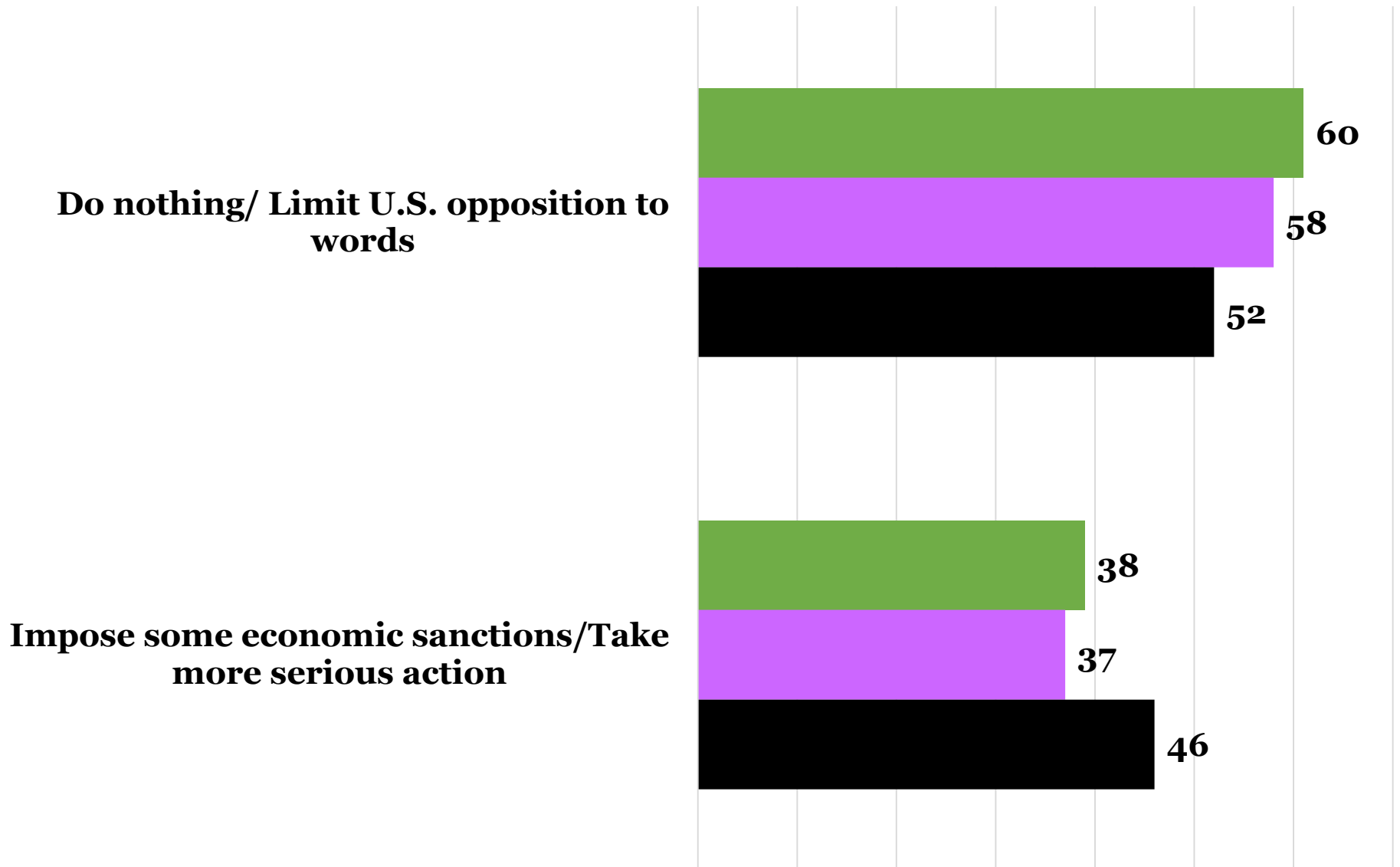
How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

Republican **Democrat** **Independent** **Total**



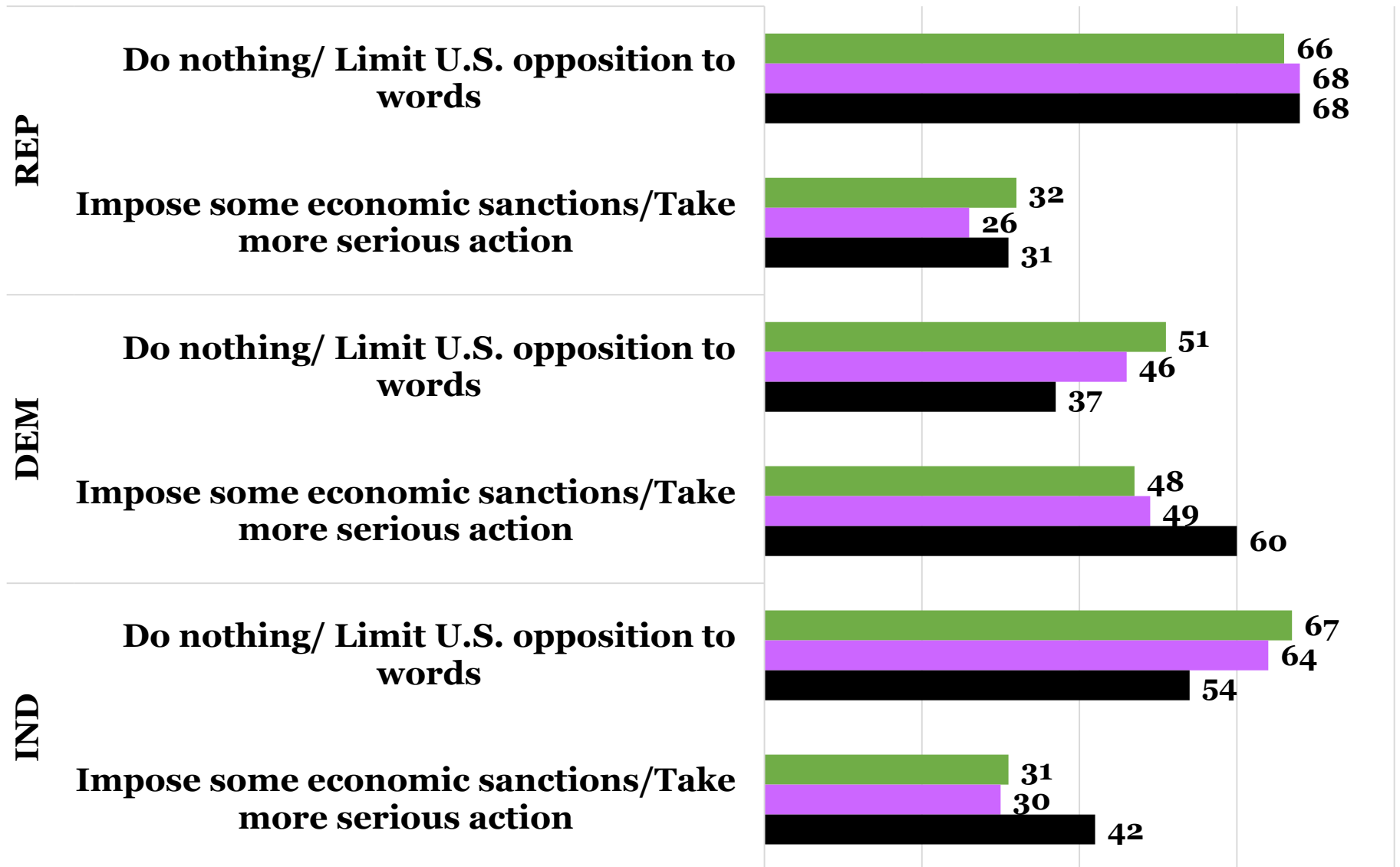
How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

Nov. 2014 **Nov. 2015** **Nov. 2016**



How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

■ Nov. 2014 ■ Nov. 2015 ■ Nov. 2016



How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

18-34 35-54 55+

Do nothing/Limit U.S. opposition to words



Impose some economic sanctions/Take more serious action



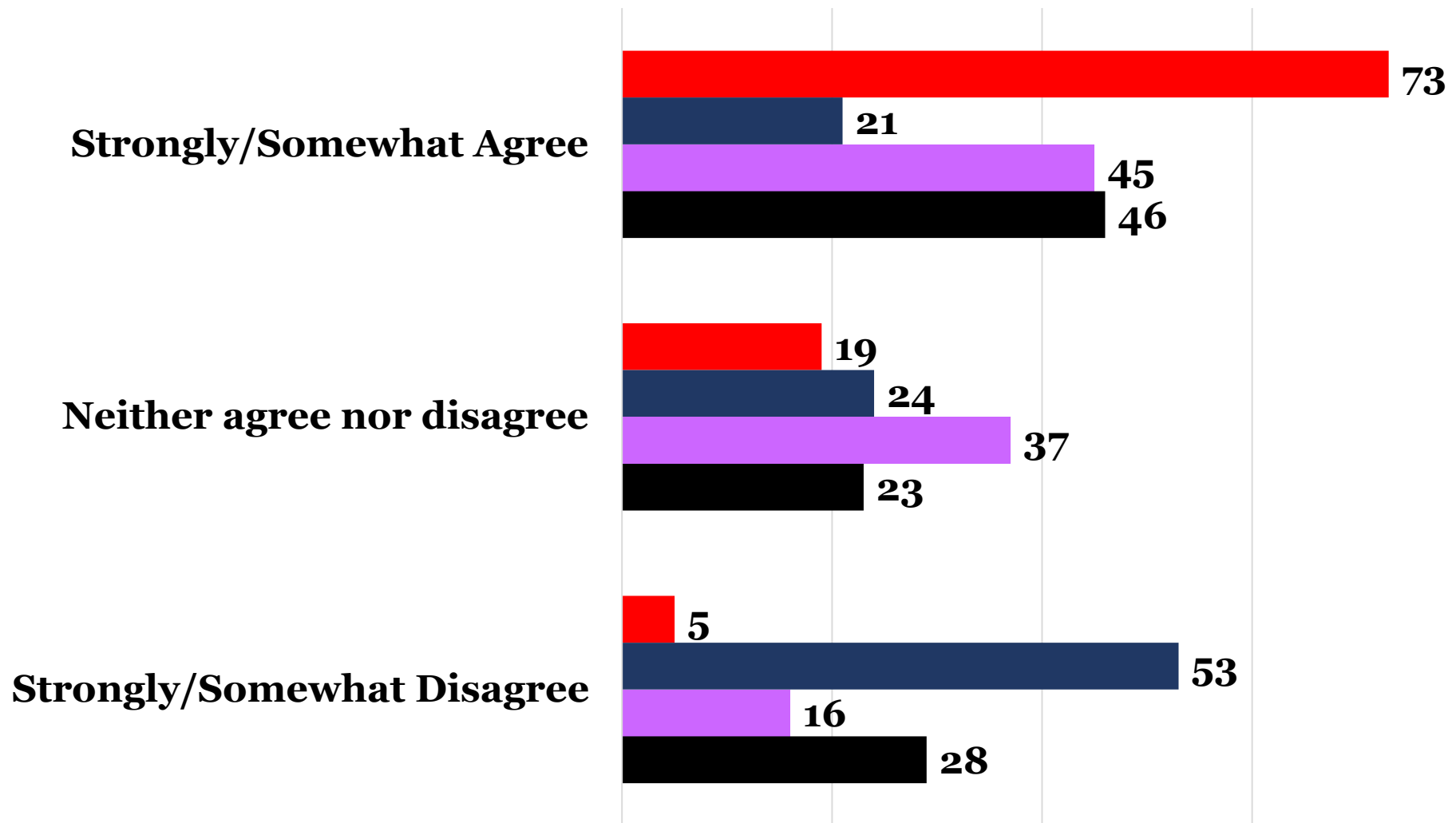
The Obama administration is reportedly considering taking action on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict in the hope that it would preserve the two-state solution that the U.S. supports as a solution to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Two options are reportedly being considered. One is a UN Resolution stating the parameters of a solution. The other is to take steps to limit the Israeli settlement buildup in the West Bank that both Republican and Democratic administrations have opposed. I would like to ask you the following questions related to these proposals.

Now tell me how much you agree or disagree with each of the following:

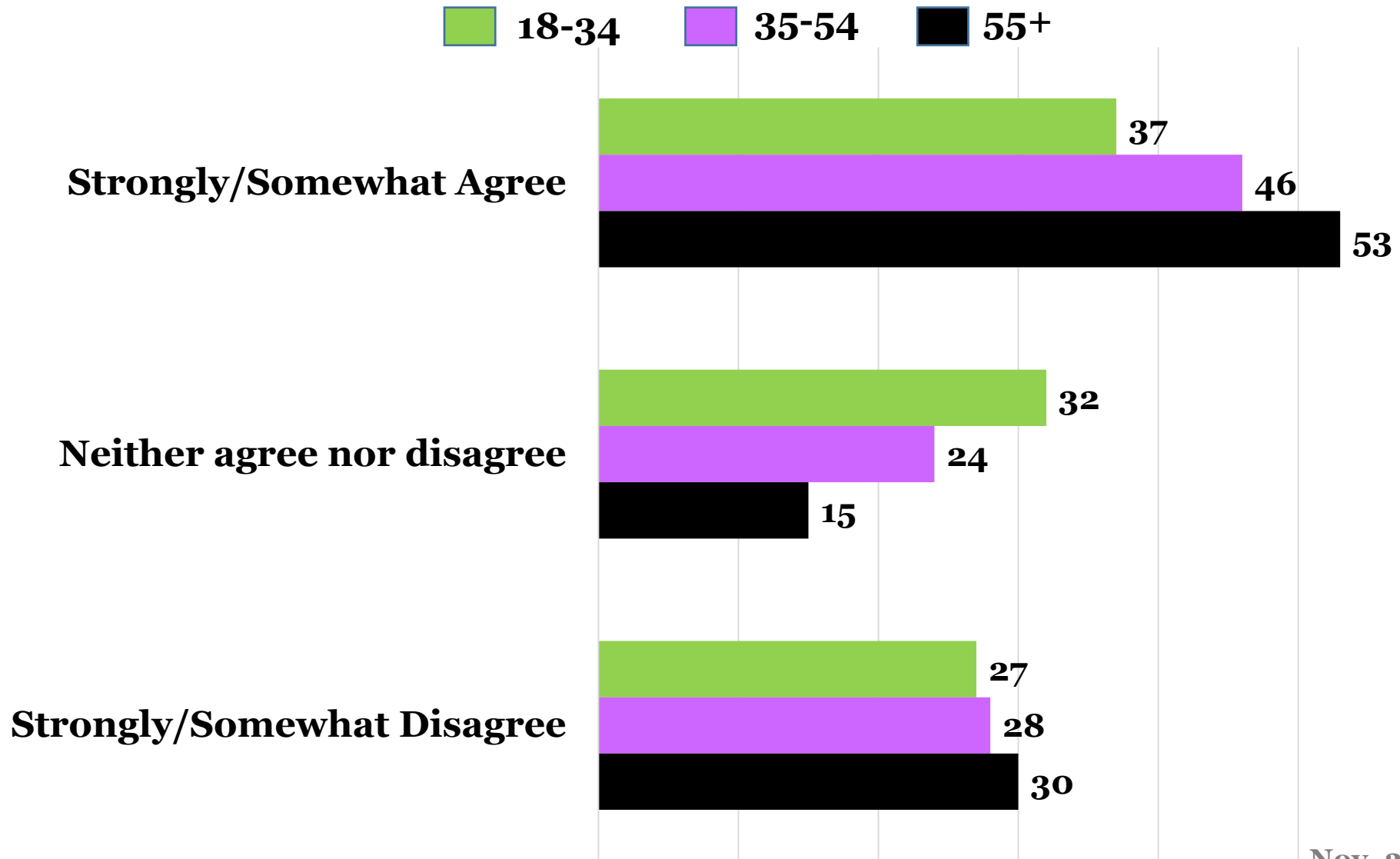
It's wrong for Obama to act on such an important issue during the transition. The decision on this issue should be left to President Trump to deal with, regardless of the complexity of our political system. Besides, it's not up to the United States and the international community to decide the final parameters of the political solution on this issue. This should be left first and foremost to the parties themselves. In addition, the Israeli government has opposed such steps and we must be mindful not to alienate them.

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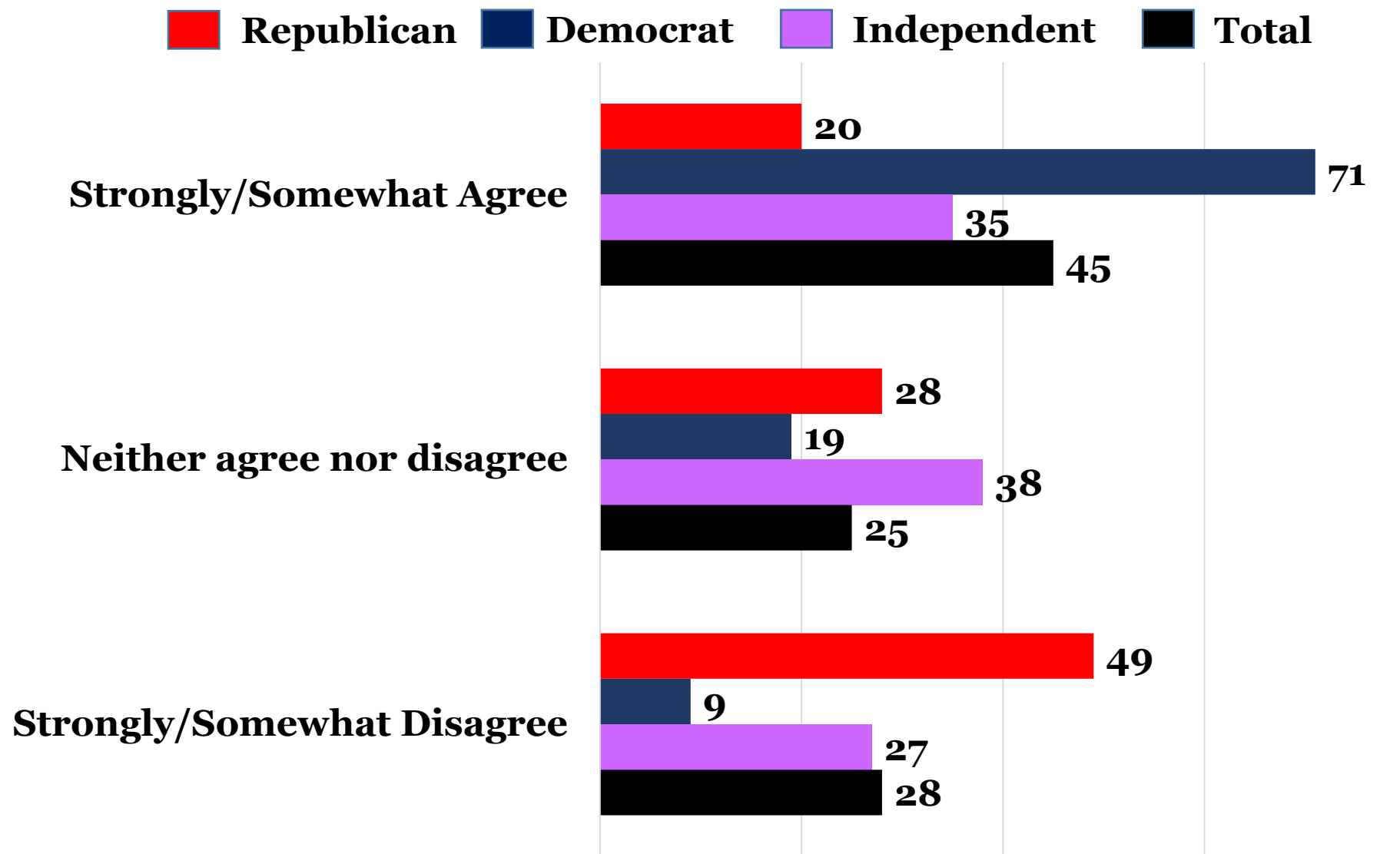


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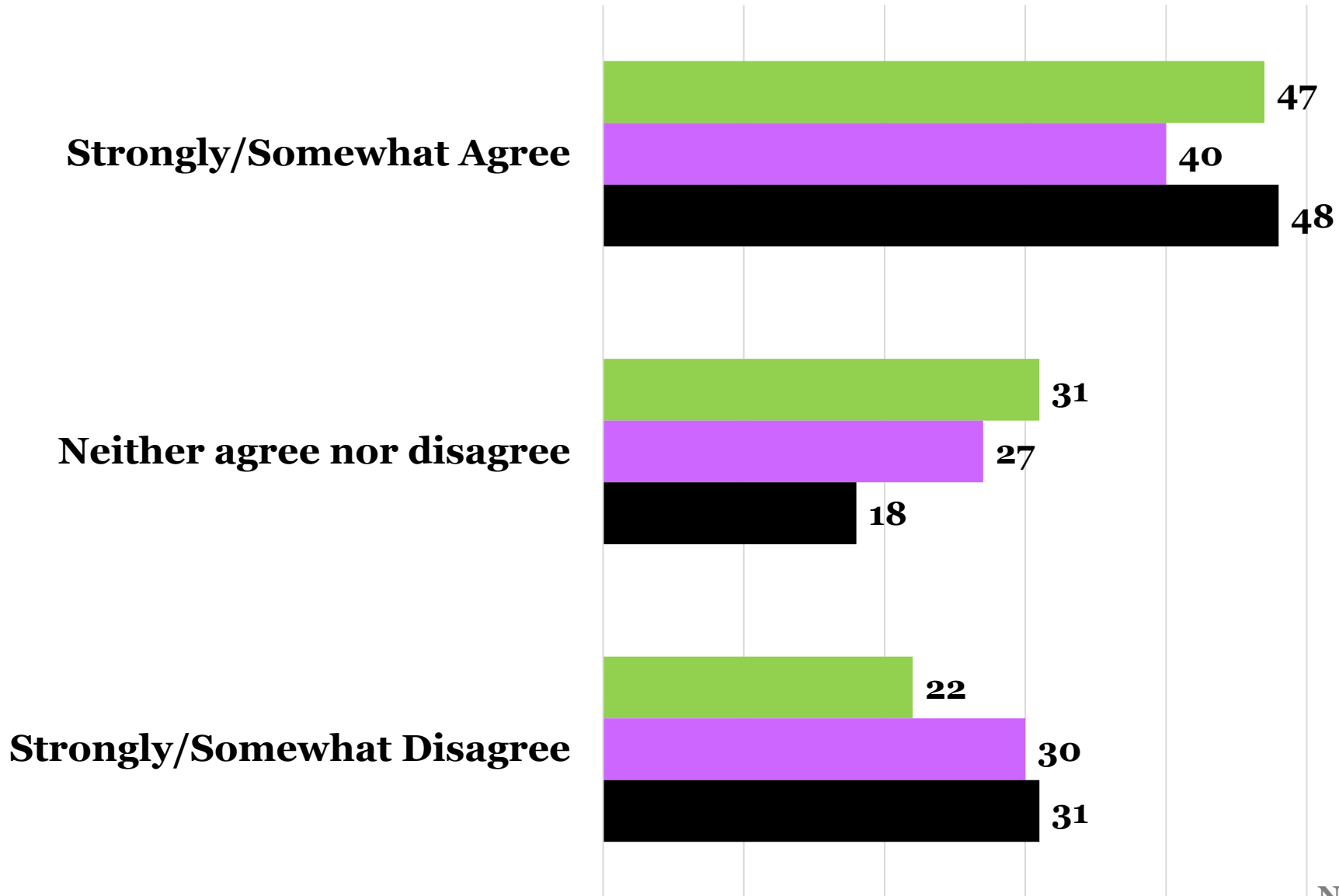
One reason the United States has been ineffective in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is that American Presidents face domestic political constraints in Congress, campaign contributions, and lobbies. Presidents have an opportunity to act effectively to advance the national interest during the Presidential transitions when they face fewer constraints. President Ronald Reagan did this before he left office in starting a dialogue with the Palestine Liberation Organization that may have helped bring the PLO and Israel together five years later. The US has a stake in this issue and it's clear the parties have not been able to resolve it on their own. Obama should seize the opportunity.

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18-34 **35-54** **55+**

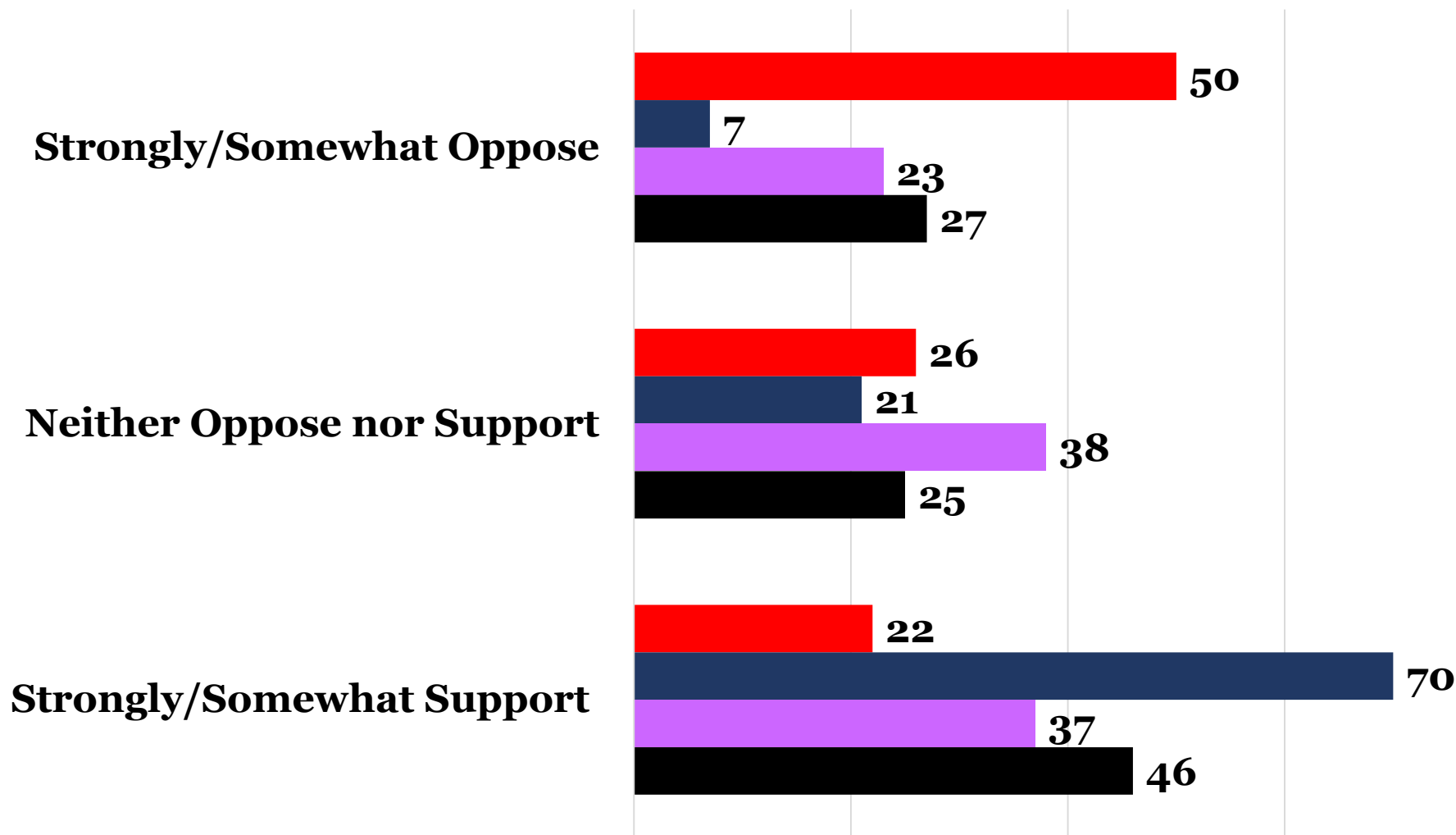


Now tell me how you feel about the following possibilities:

President Obama's support or sponsorship for a United Nations resolution that outlines the parameters for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict before he leaves office.

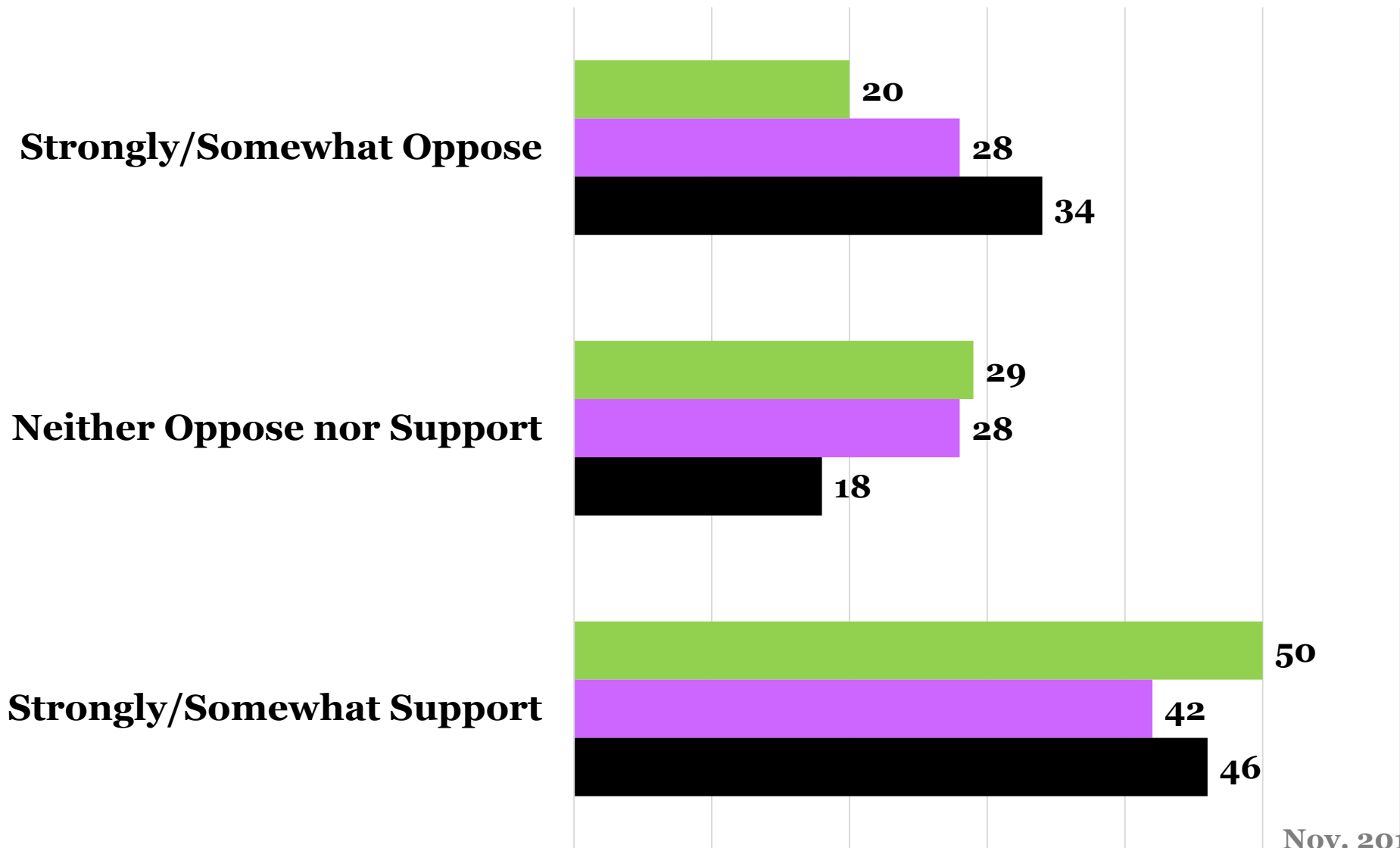
President Obama's support or sponsorship for a United Nations resolution that outlines the parameters for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict before he leaves office.

■ Republican ■ Democrat ■ Independent ■ Total



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18-34 35-54 55+

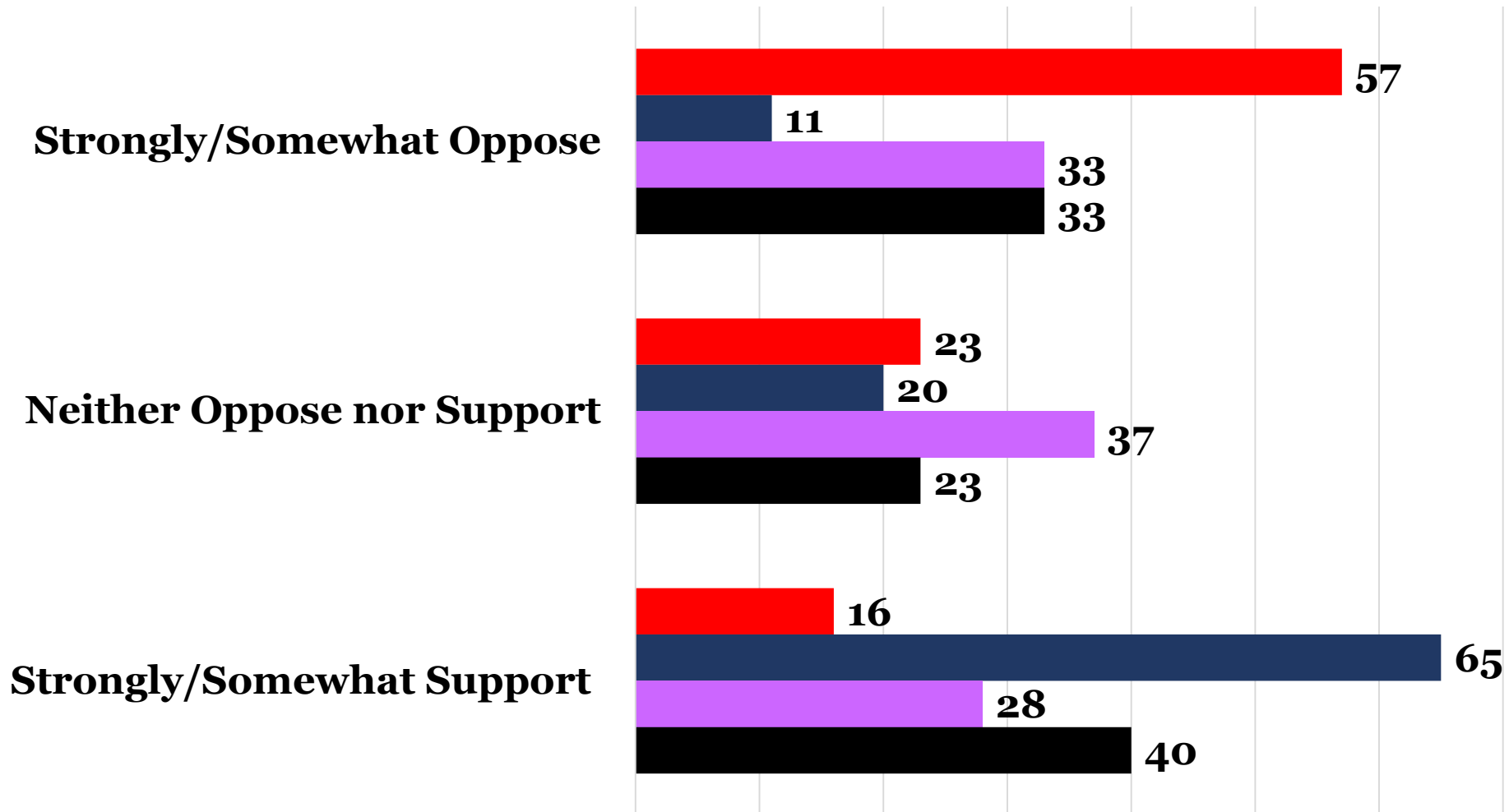


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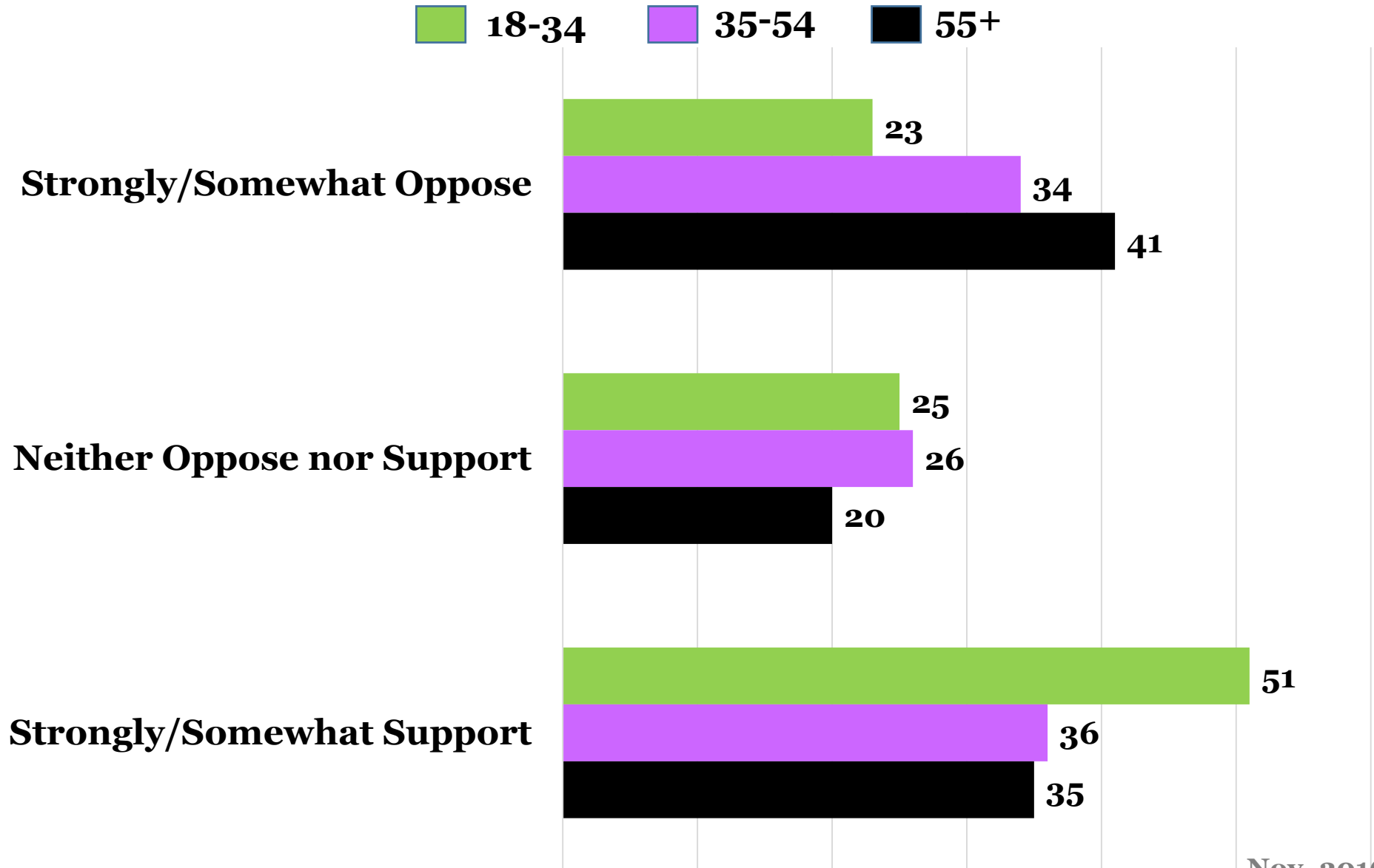
**President Obama's support or
sponsorship for a United
Nations Resolution to end
Israeli settlement
construction in the West
Bank before he leaves office.**

President Obama's support or sponsorship for a United Nations resolution to end Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank before he leaves office.

Republican Democrat Independent Total



President Obama's support or sponsorship for a United Nations resolution to end Israeli settlement construction in the West Bank before he leaves office.

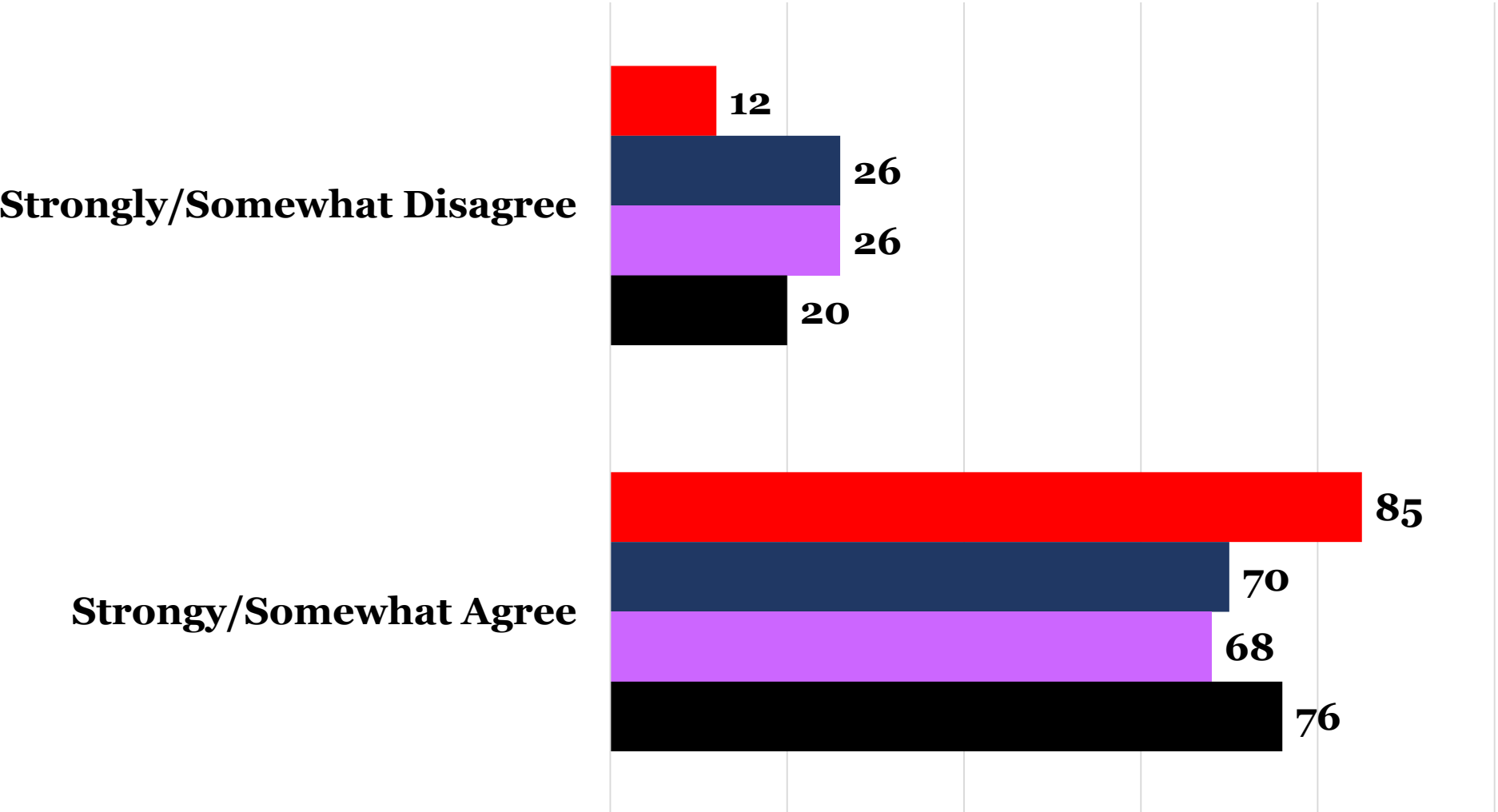


Generally speaking, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements on the U.S.-Israeli relationship?

Israel is an important ally to the United States as it provides essential military and intelligence cooperation and plays a regional role that's helpful to American interests.

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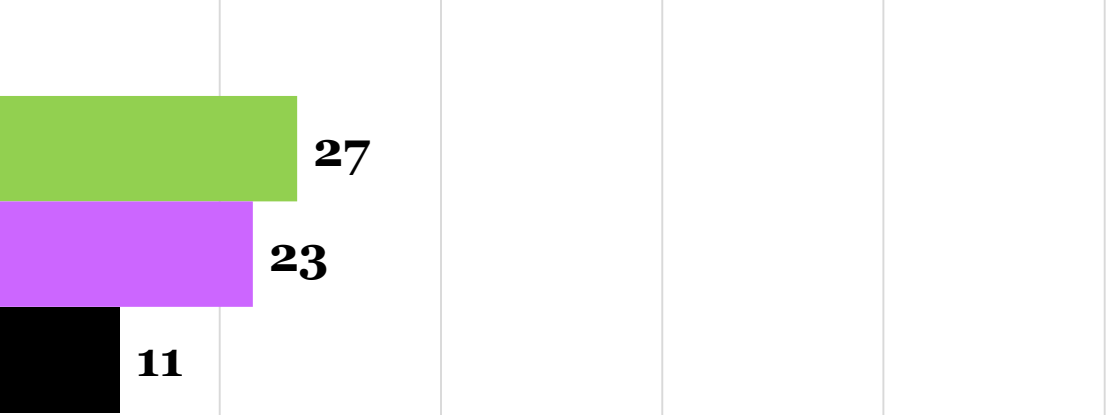
Republican **Democrat** **Independent** **Total**



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18-34 35-54 55+

Strongly/Somewhat Disagree



Strongly/Somewhat Agree

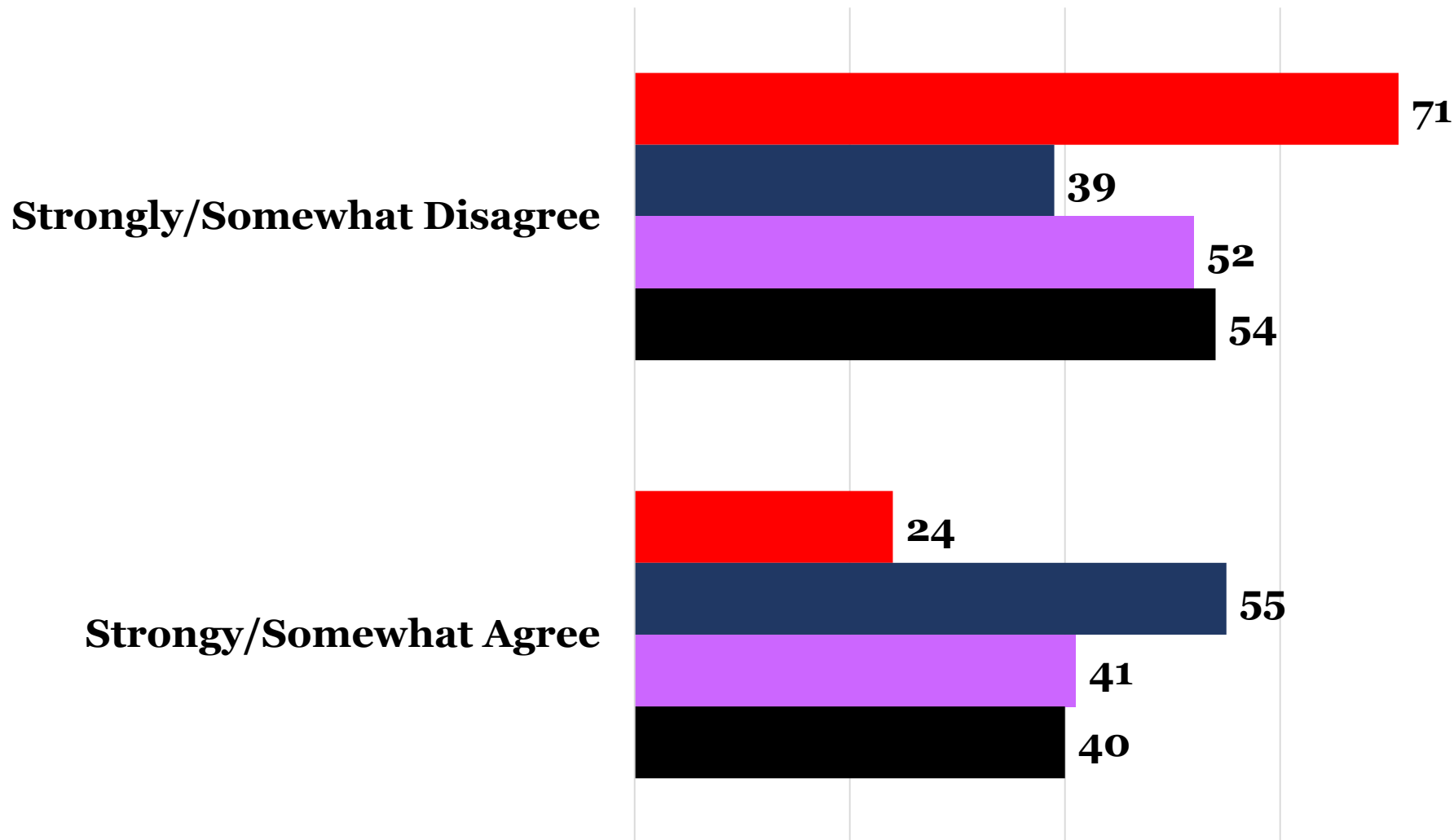


Generally speaking, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements on the U.S.-Israeli relationship?

Israel is a burden to the U.S. as Israel's actions in the region generate hostility toward the United States in Arab and Muslim-majority countries.

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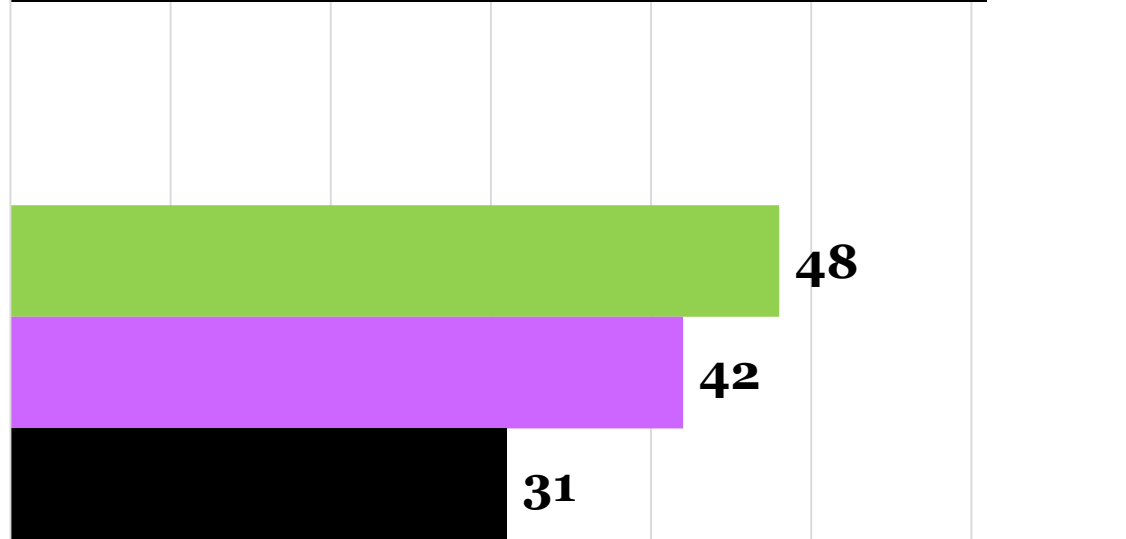
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18-34 35-54 55+

Strongly/Somewhat Disagree



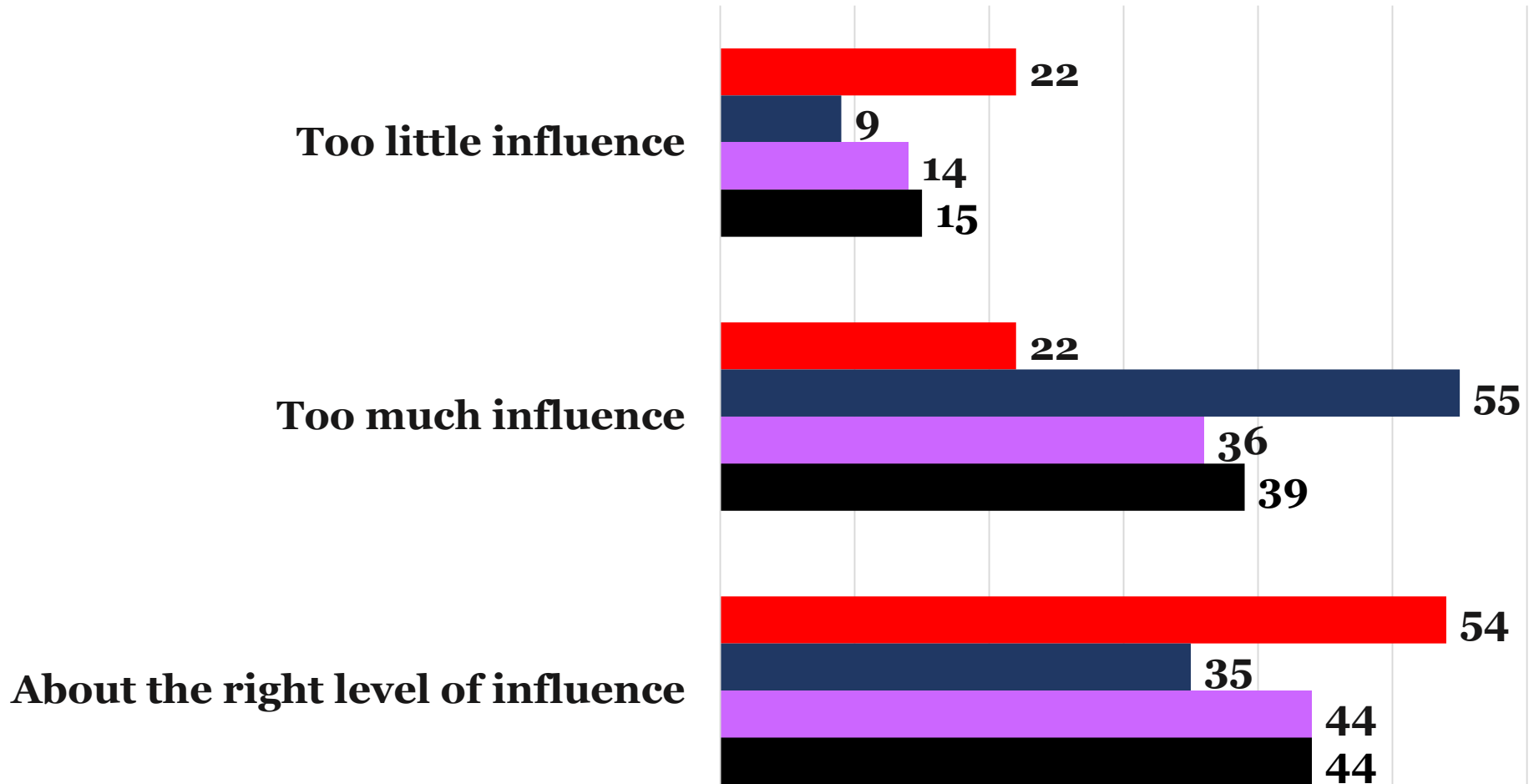
Strongly/Somewhat Agree



**How much influence do
you believe the Israeli
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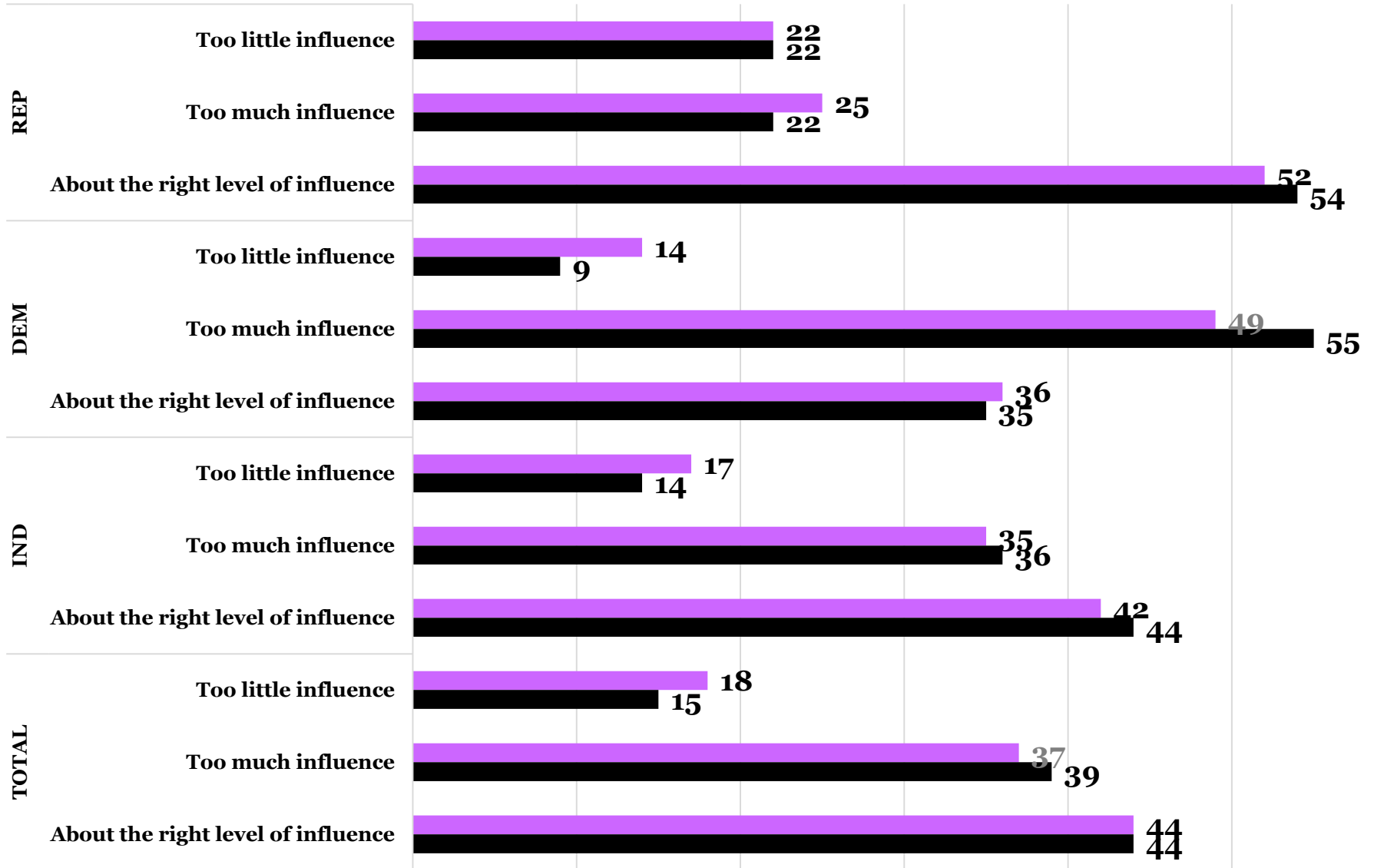
Republican Democrat Independent Total



Nov. 2016

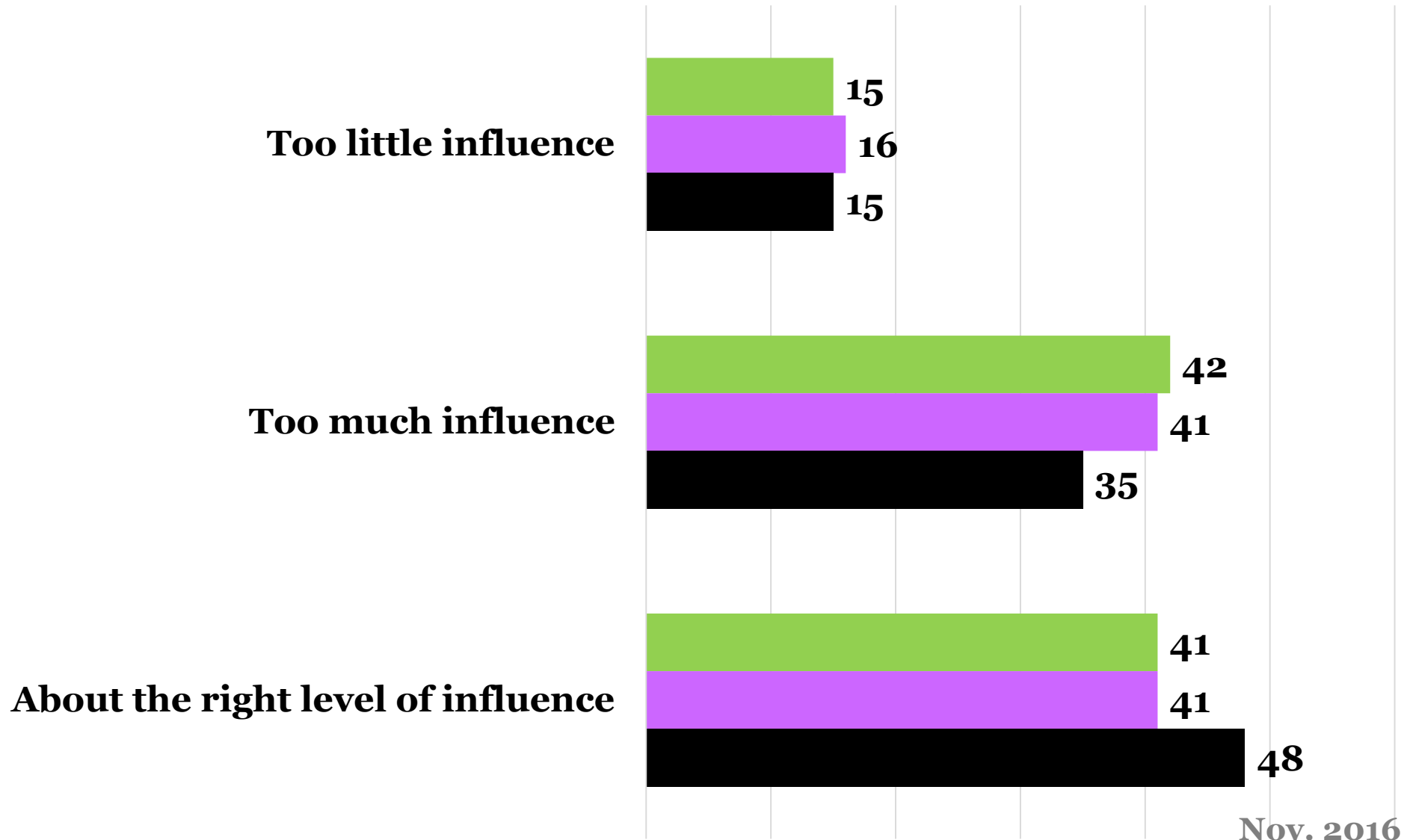
How much influence do you believe the Israeli government has on American politics and policies?

Nov. 2015
 Nov. 2016



How much influence do you believe the Israeli government has on American politics and policies?

18-34 35-54 55+



[Open-Ended Question]

**Please name a national or
world leader you admire
most**

[Open-Ended Question]

Please name a national or world leader you admire most

