

American Edge Project – Tech Sector’s Role in U.S. National Security



Key Findings

Voters are deeply concerned about U.S. tech companies' ability to remain competitive as countries like China play by a different set of rules to get ahead. Concerns over tech leadership come during a period of heightened fears of cyberattacks and waning geopolitical influence – they believe foreign adversaries like China and Russia are gaining a technological advantage over the U.S. If something doesn't change, voters believe America will be surpassed as the world's leader.

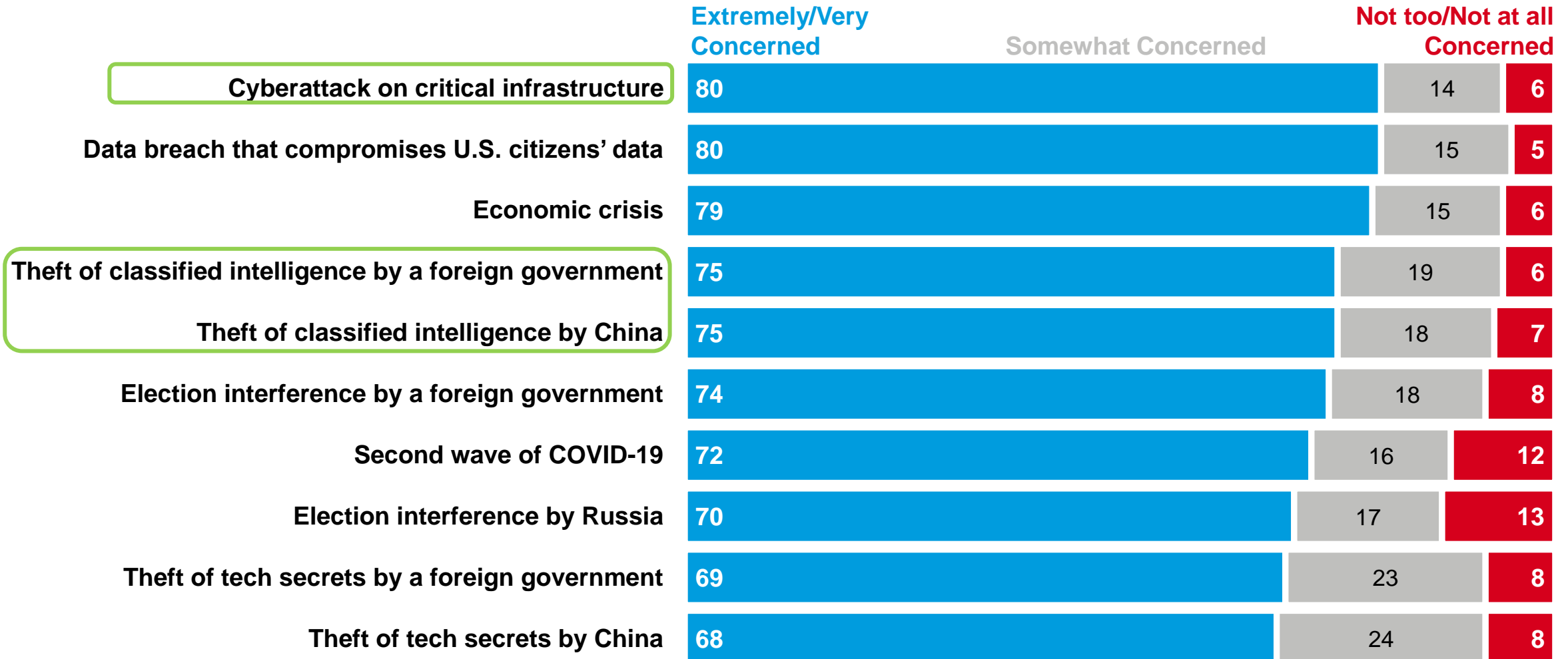
Voters see tech companies as critical partners on issues of national security, values, and the economy. In a world where cyberattacks and the theft of classified intelligence are causing deep fear for voters, voters believe tech companies can help keep America safe. American tech companies are seen as equal to or more critical to national security than even industries with long histories of military partnerships such as aerospace, energy, and manufacturing. To be secure in the future, the country needs a leading tech sector and robust public-private tech partnerships.

As we head into Election Day, voters are looking for a president who will strengthen and protect U.S. tech. Voters express concerns that overregulation could hold our companies back from being the most innovative in the world and threaten American competitiveness. They want the next administration to protect American tech from perceived rule-breakers like China, and to forge partnerships with U.S. tech companies to strengthen national security, including election security and cybersecurity.

Issue Environment

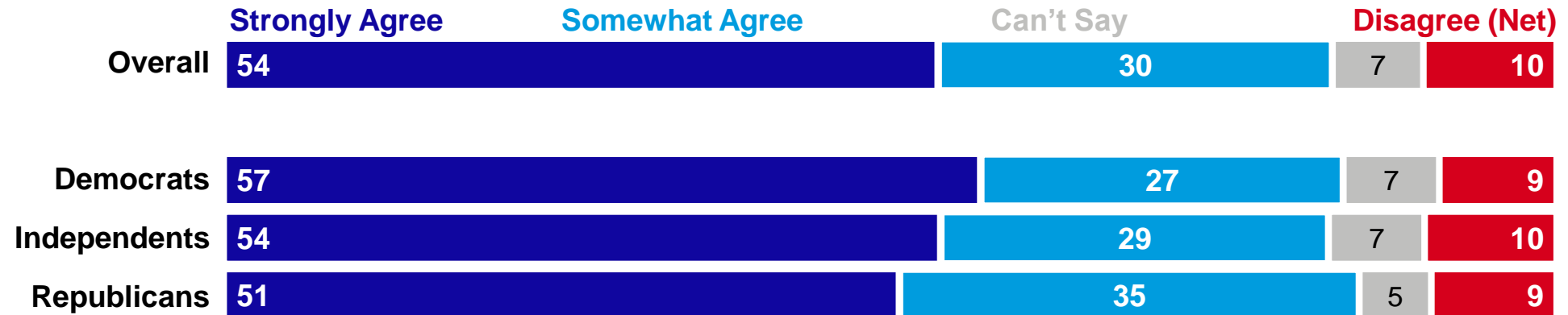
Voters reveal intense concerns about cyberattacks and theft by bad actors

Please indicate how concerning each would be if it were to happen to the U.S.

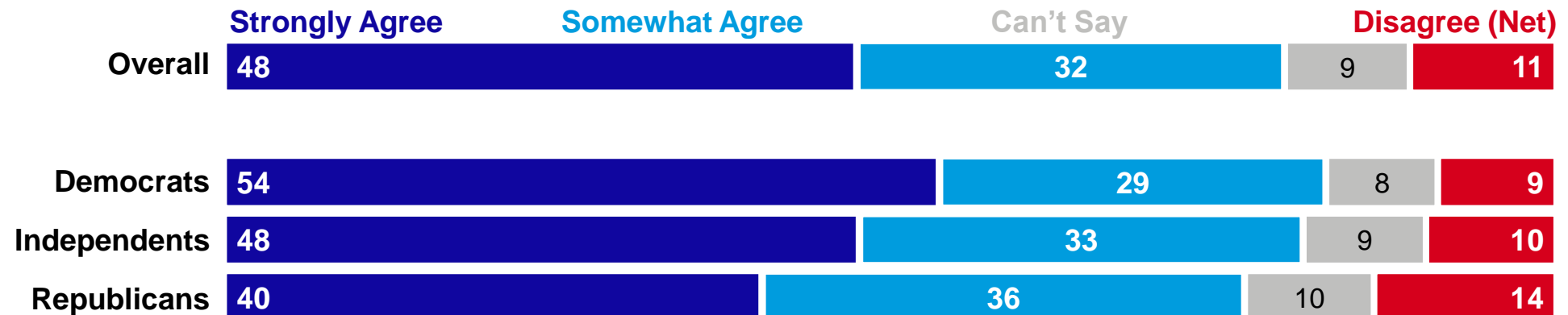


There is a broad and deeply embedded belief that the internet is critical to a healthy democracy and must be protected

Please indicate if you agree or disagree: We must protect an open, accessible, and free internet in America

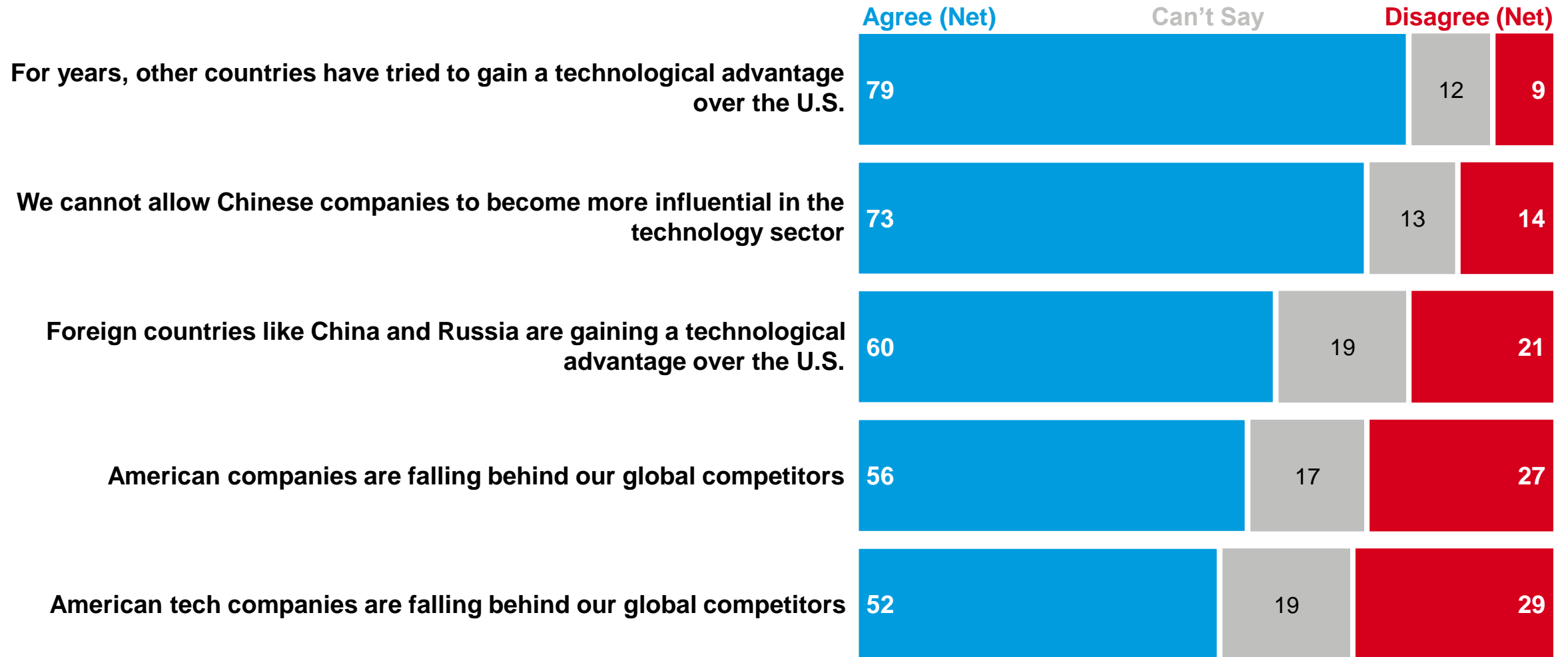


Please indicate if you agree or disagree: An open and free internet is a necessary part of a healthy democracy



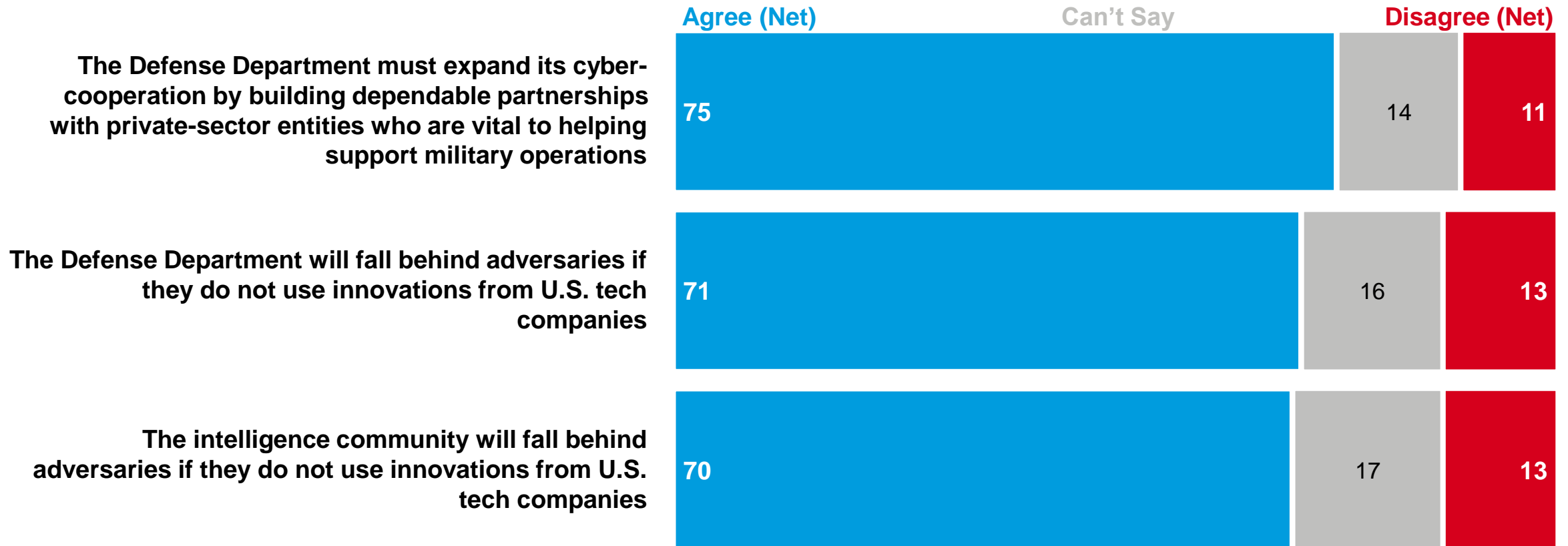
There are widespread concerns about U.S. tech companies' ability to remain competitive

For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree.



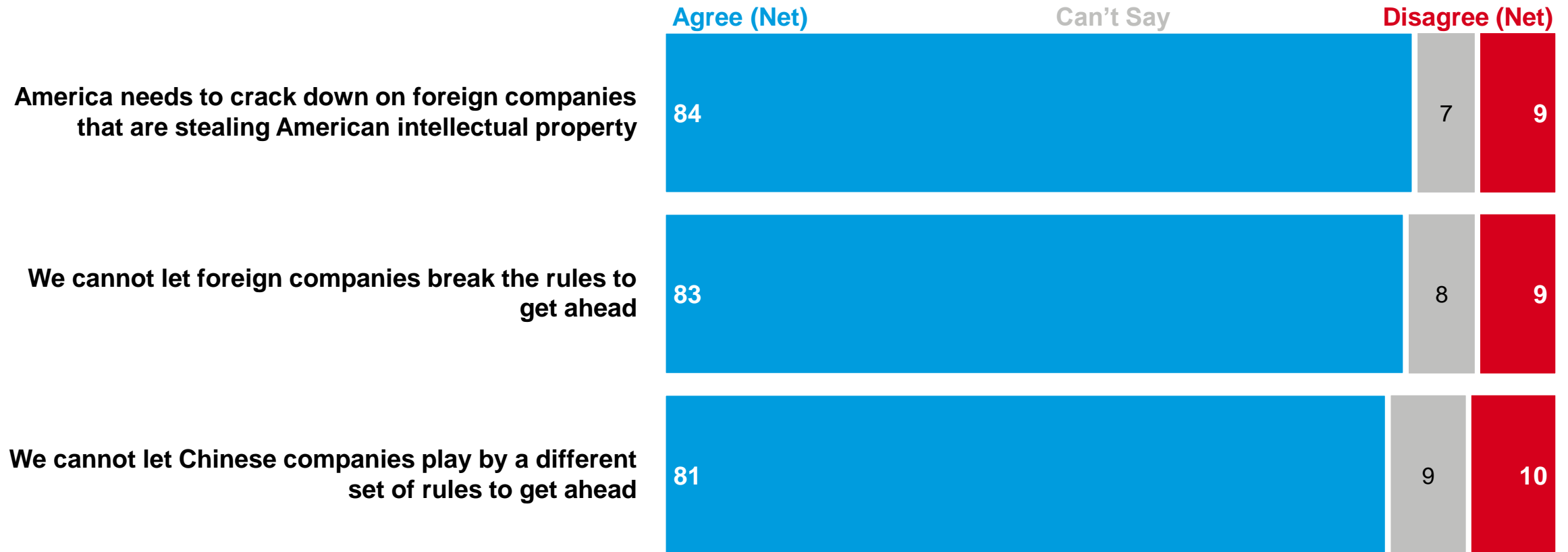
Failure to partner with U.S. tech companies could disadvantage the Department of Defense and intelligence community

For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree.



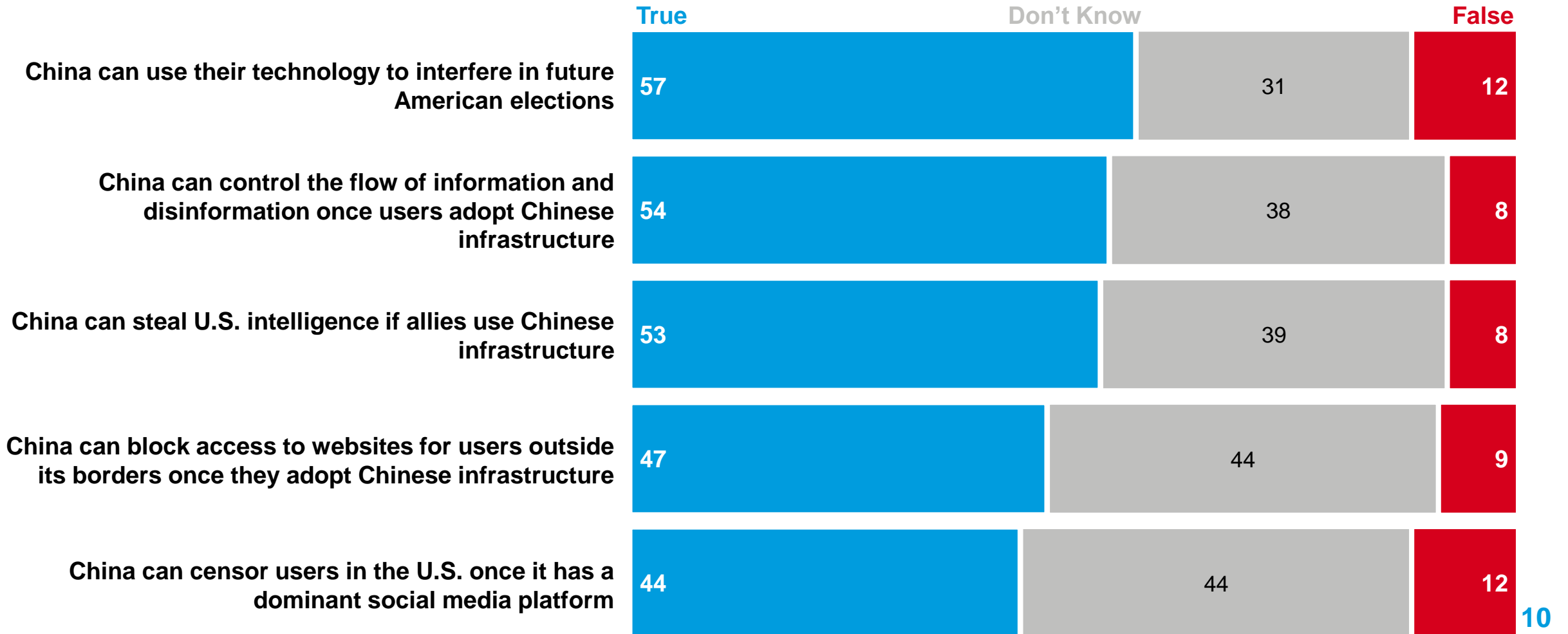
Voters believe we need to ensure that foreign companies are not rewarded for breaking the rules

For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree.



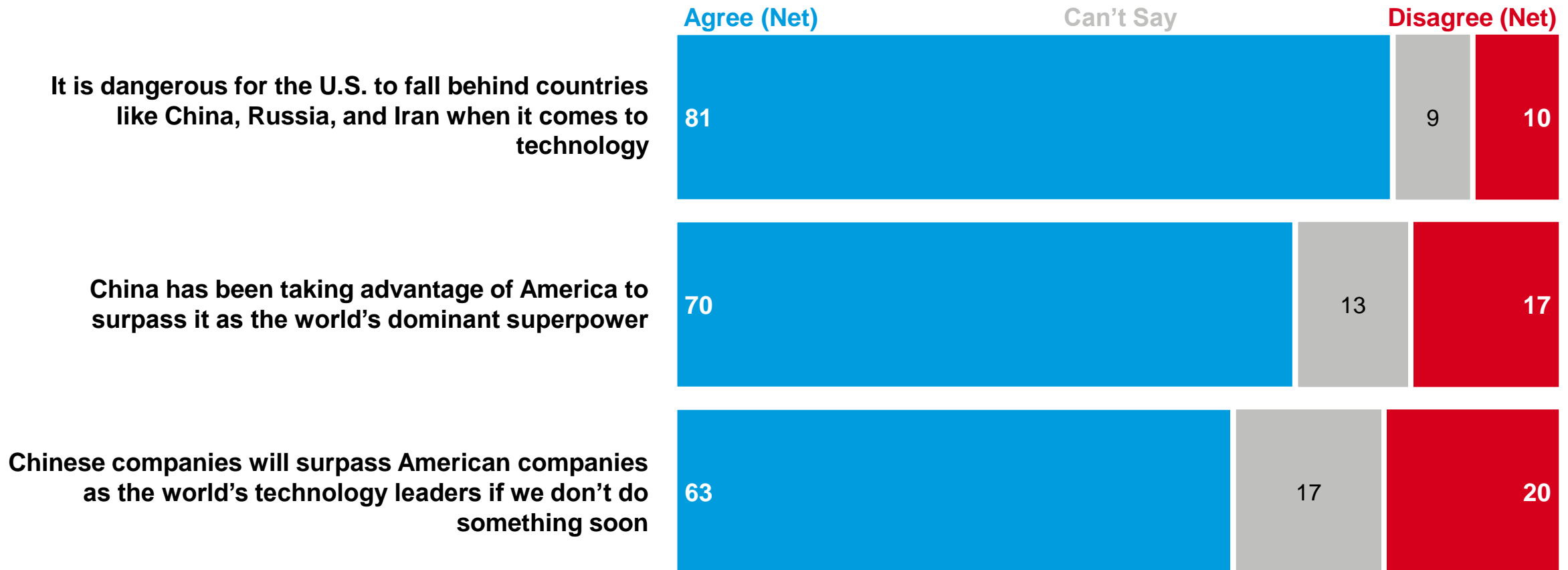
Many voters are aware of China's growing tech influence

To the best of your knowledge, please indicate whether they are true or false.



China, Russia, and Iran are viewed as significant threats to U.S. tech superiority

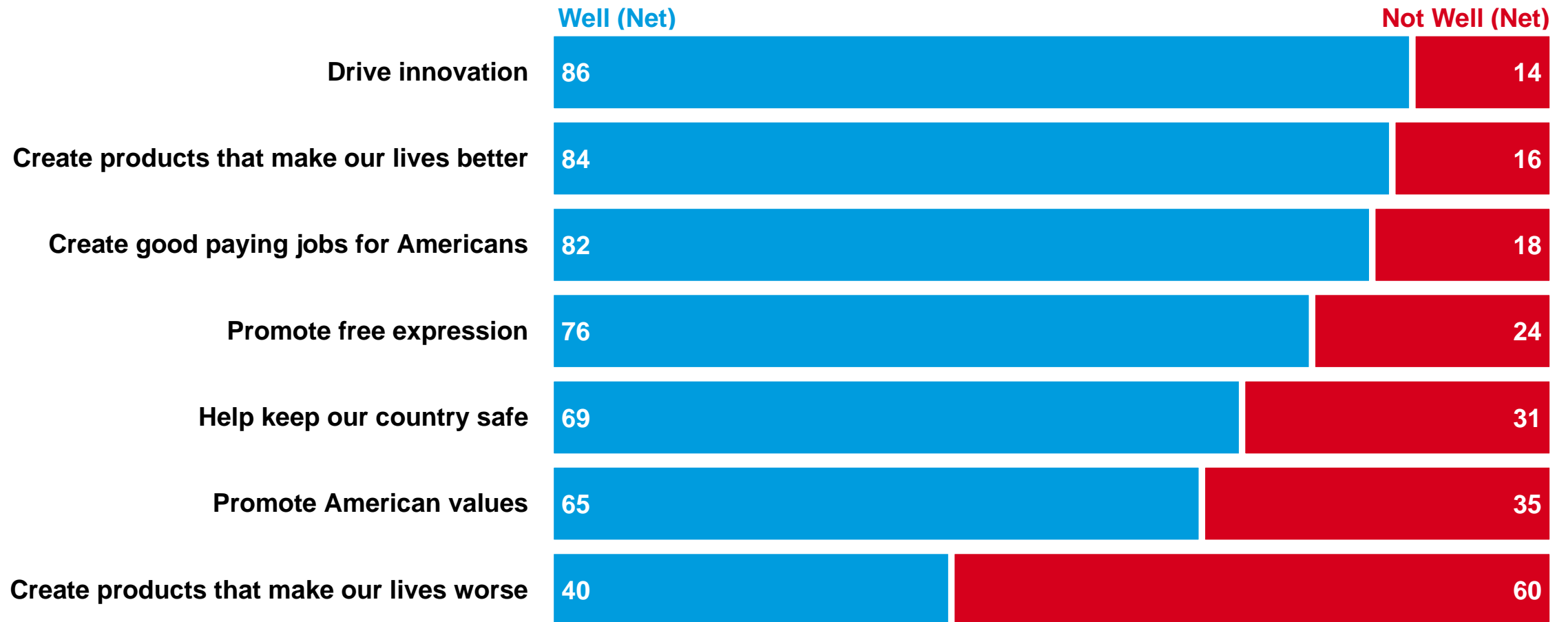
For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree.



Tech's Role in America

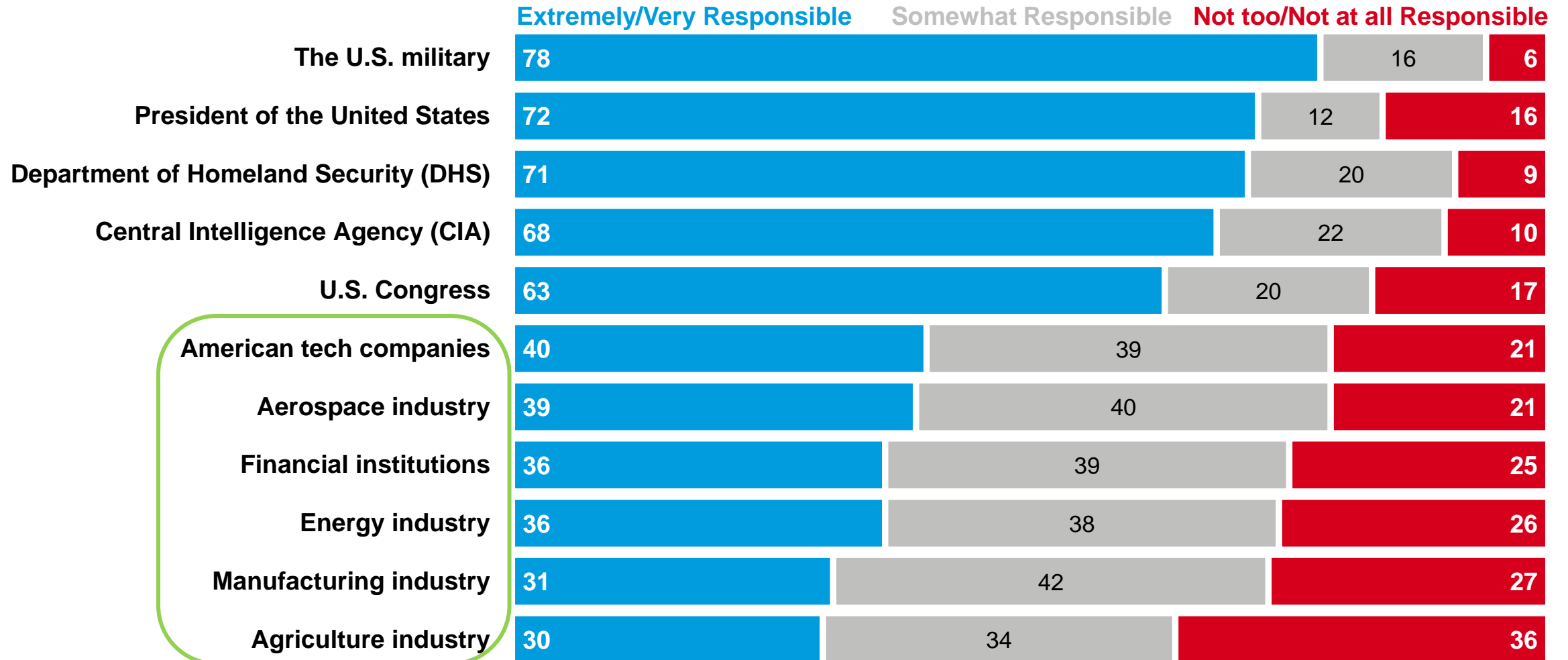
American tech companies play a critical role in driving innovation, creating jobs, and promoting free expression

Please indicate how well each of the following describe American tech companies.



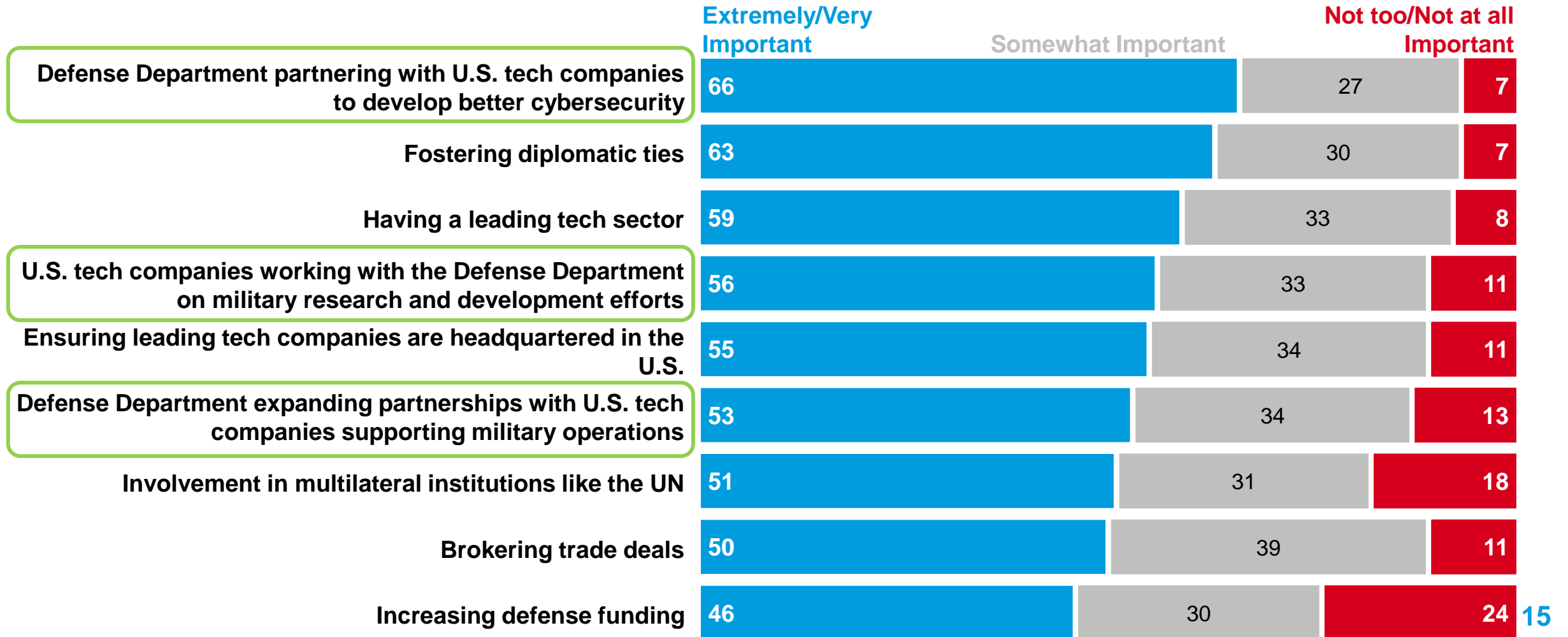
U.S. tech companies have an important role to play when it comes to protecting national security

Please indicate how responsible each is for protecting U.S. national security.



U.S. tech companies are a critical partner on issues of national security

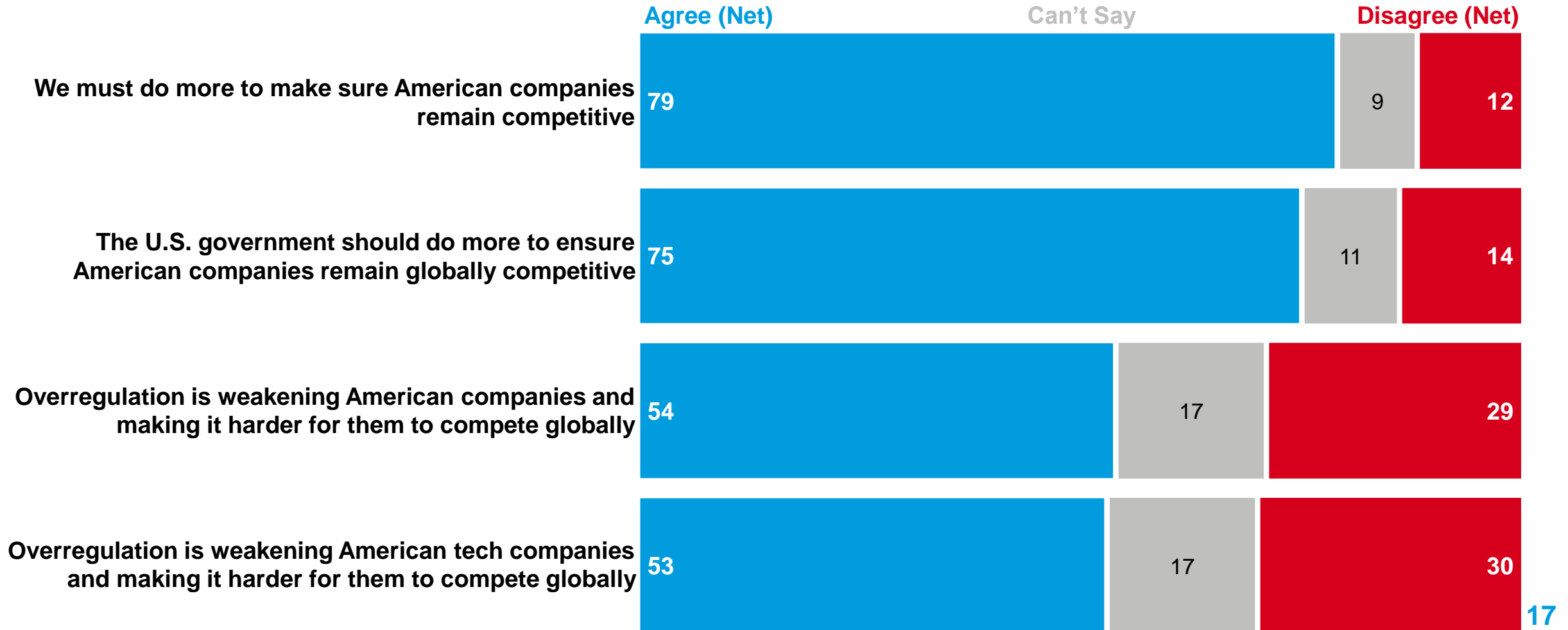
Please indicate how important each is to U.S. national security.



Moving Forward

Voters call for the U.S. government to do more to support domestic tech companies

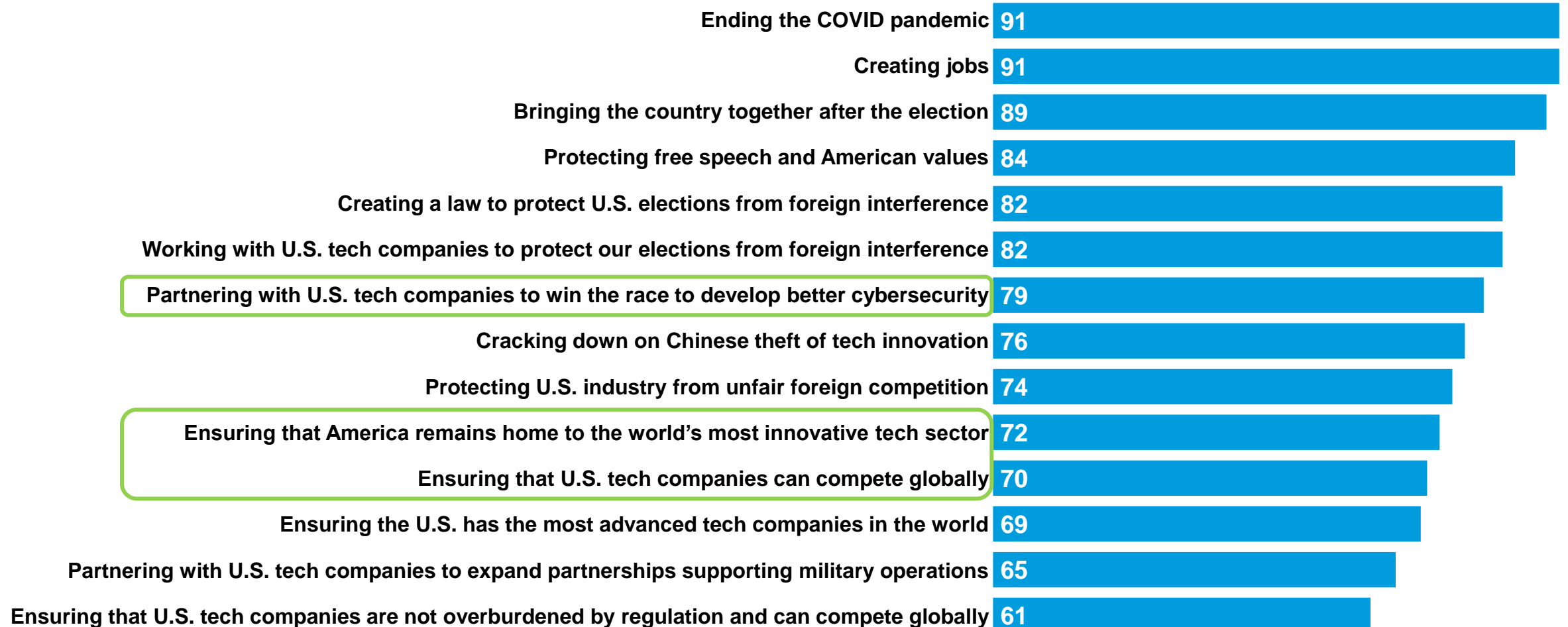
For each of the following statements, please indicate if you agree or disagree.



Voters call for the next president to partner with tech on cybersecurity and protect the tech industry so it can compete and innovate

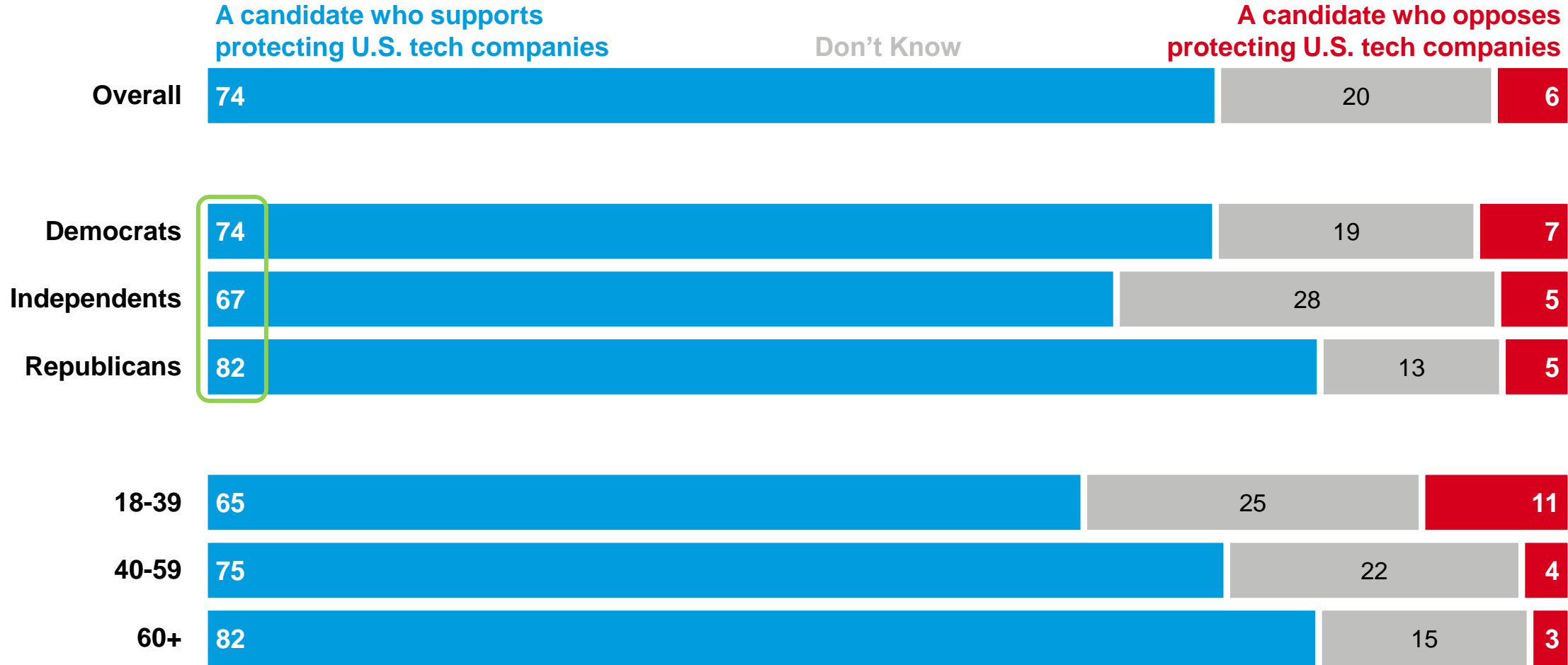
For each, please indicate whether it should be a priority for the next U.S. president.

Top/High Priority



Overwhelmingly, voters favor a presidential candidate who supports protecting U.S. tech

If the general election for president were held today, which candidate would you be more likely to support, even if neither is perfect?
[IF DON'T KNOW] If you had to decide today, which candidate would you lean towards supporting?



Takeaways

The Story

Voters believe **we can't let other countries become more influential in the technology sector** and feel **American companies are falling behind foreign competitors who are playing by different rules**. They know that the rapid rise of Chinese technology could jeopardize a free and open internet, and that losing domestic tech leadership could mean a less safe country.

They see American technology companies as critical to **creating good jobs, protecting national security, and safeguarding our values**. They see the tech industry as more crucial to national security than any other strategic sector and see the industries' **partnerships with the Defense Department as critical**.

Because of this, they want a president who **protects U.S. tech companies** from unfair foreign competition. That means partnering with tech companies on crucial national security issues like **election security, cybersecurity and military operations**. That means ensuring American companies remain competitive and unburdened by cumbersome regulations so that the U.S. can remain home to the **most innovative and competitive tech sector in the world**.

Methodology

Voters

Ipsos conducted a survey of **1,362 registered voters nationwide**, between September 17 and September 23, 2020.

Margin of error

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.

The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.0 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965).

This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,362, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval= ± 3.0 percentage points).