

Key Findings from a National Survey

APRIL 2025

Methodology:

Forbes Tate Partners Insights conducted a national online survey among N=1,538 registered voters from March 25 - 31, 2025.

The margin of error for an N=1,538 sample size is $\pm 2.50\%$ at the 95% confidence interval.

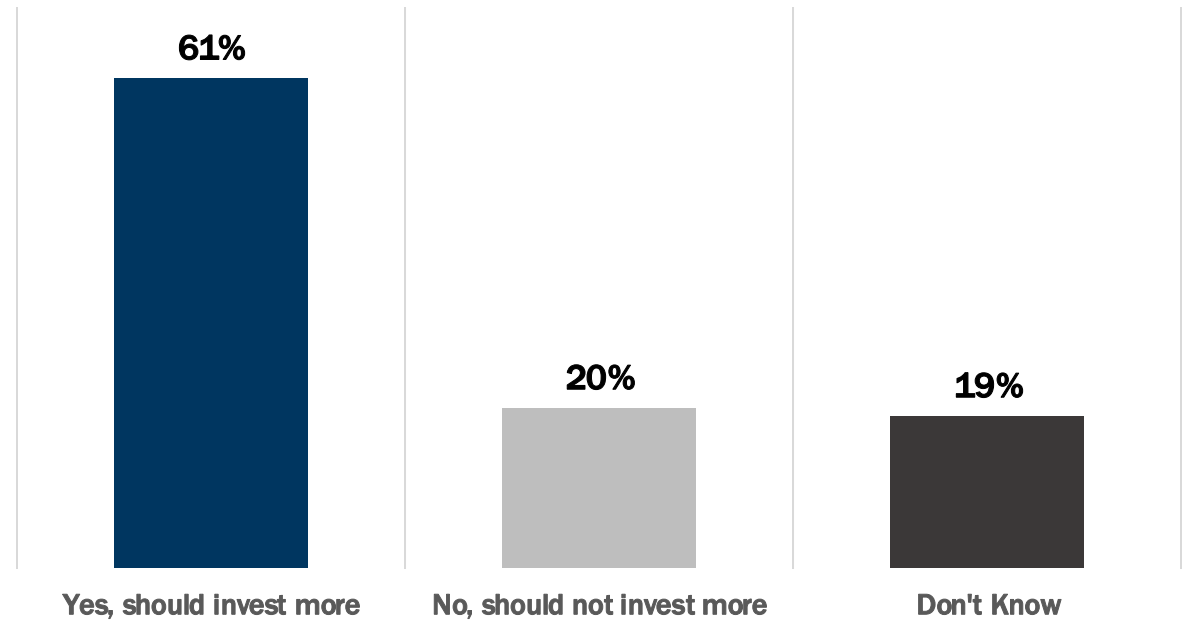
Key Findings:

- 1 A strong majority of voters across party approve of the federal government using taxpayer funds to invest in scientific research – and say we should be investing *more*.
- 2 Top priorities for scientific research investment which resonated throughout the survey:
 - Medical research to prevent or cure diseases
 - Defense technologies to keep Americans safe (especially among Trump voters)
 - Ensuring the U.S. is the global leader in scientific research and technology
- 3 Voters are concerned about the economic impacts of the current administration's policy to reduce or freeze funding for scientific research could have on their state for medical research, defense and security technologies, and jobs.

There is strong agreement that the U.S. should invest more in scientific research, including a majority of Trump voters.

The United States' federal investment in research and development is near its lowest point in 60 years when measured as a percentage of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Do you think that the federal government should invest more in scientific research?

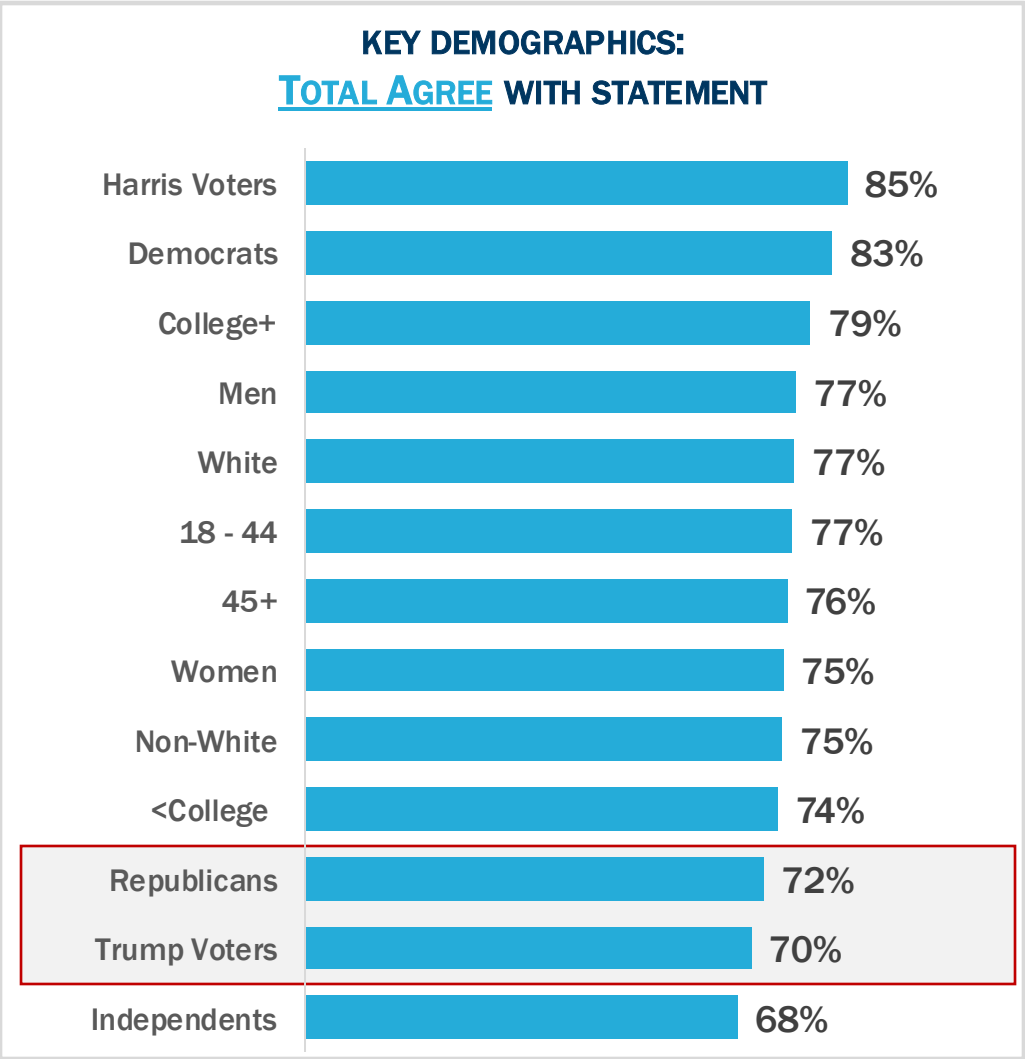
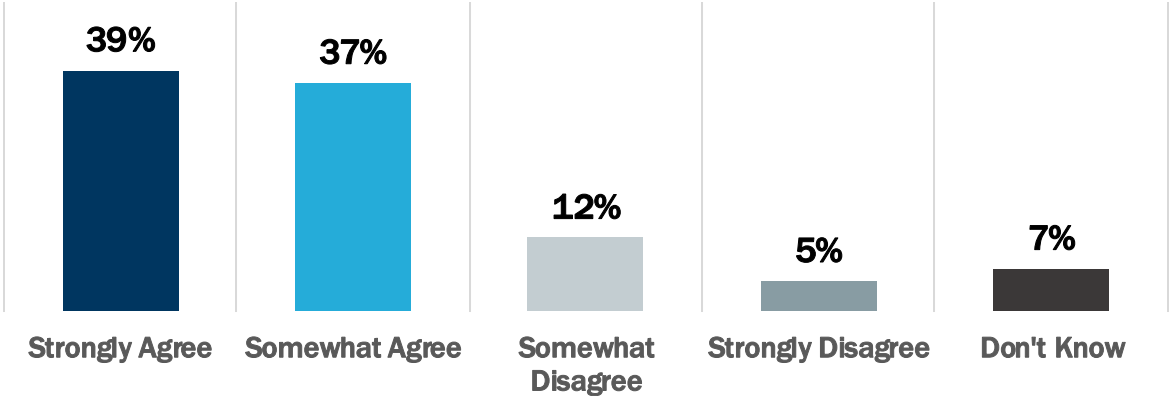
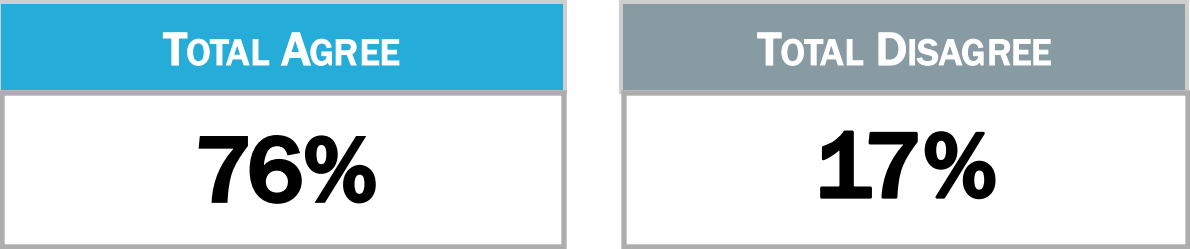
Approve or Disapprove of Investing More Federal Funds into Scientific Research



Key Demographics	Yes	No
College+	74%	15%
Harris Voters	73%	13%
Democrats	69%	15%
Men	68%	20%
Age 18-44	63%	22%
White	61%	19%
Non-White	61%	21%
Age 45+	59%	19%
Independents	56%	19%
Women	55%	21%
Republicans	55%	26%
Trump Voters	55%	25%
<College	54%	23%

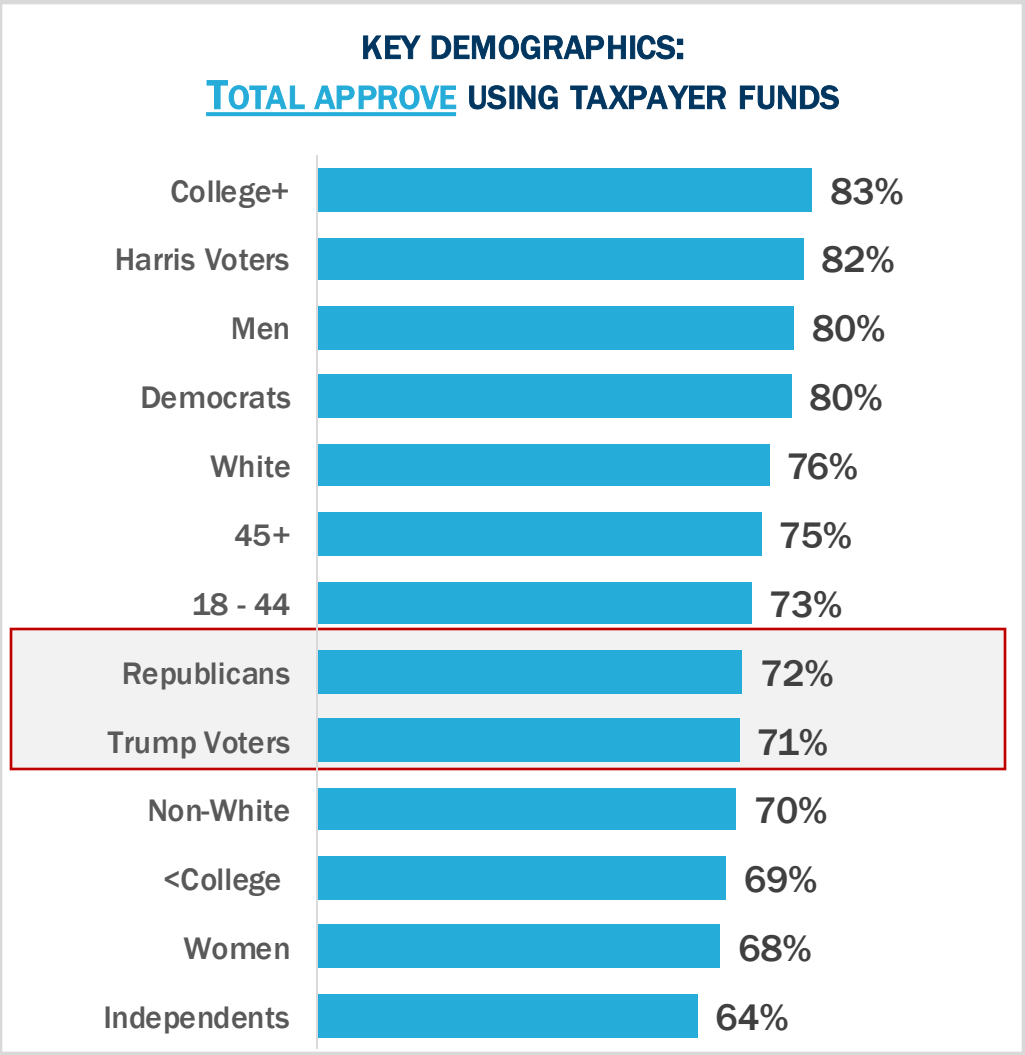
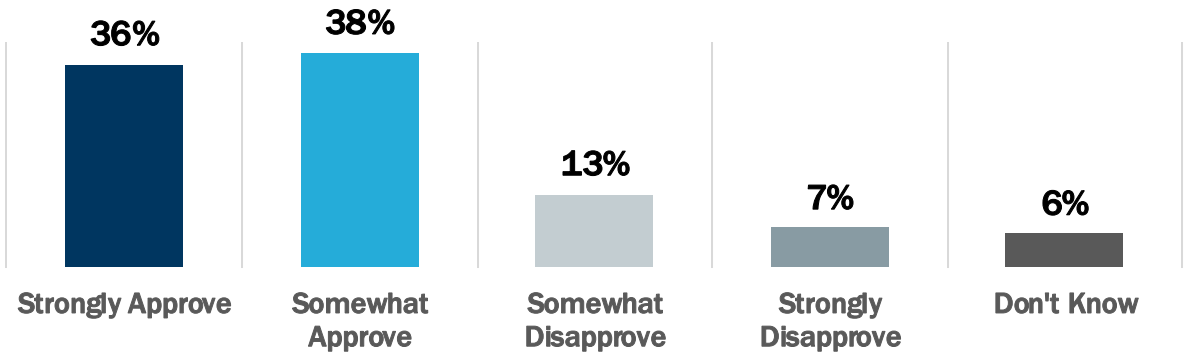
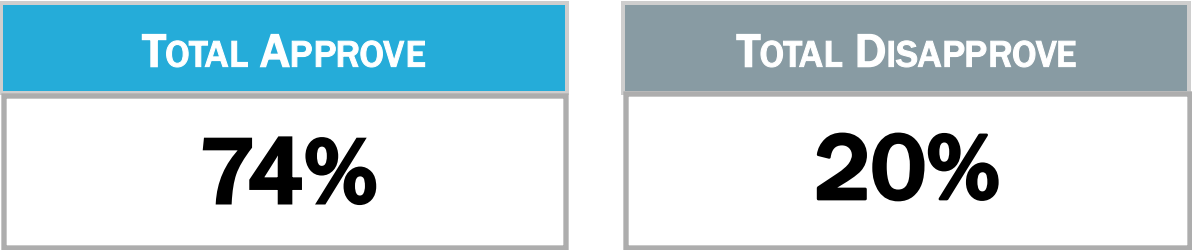
Voters overwhelmingly agree that even in tough economic times, it is crucial for the government to invest in scientific research.

Some people say that even during hard economic times, it is essential that the federal government invests in scientific research. Outcomes of scientific research help power our economy, create jobs, improve health, and strengthen our national security. Do you agree or disagree with this statement?



A strong majority of Americans support the federal government using taxpayer funds to invest in scientific research.

As you may know, the federal government invests public funds to conduct scientific research. Do you approve or disapprove the federal government using taxpayer funds to invest in scientific research?



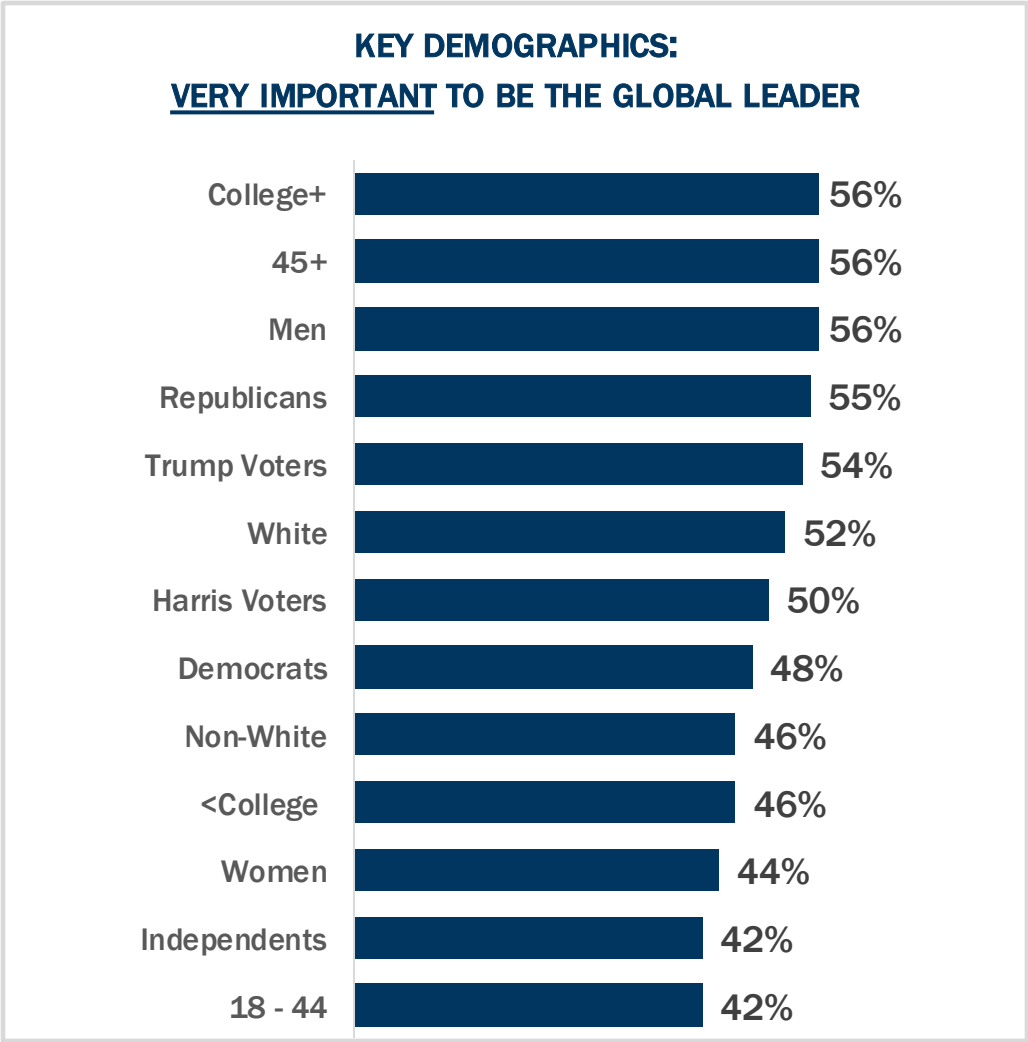
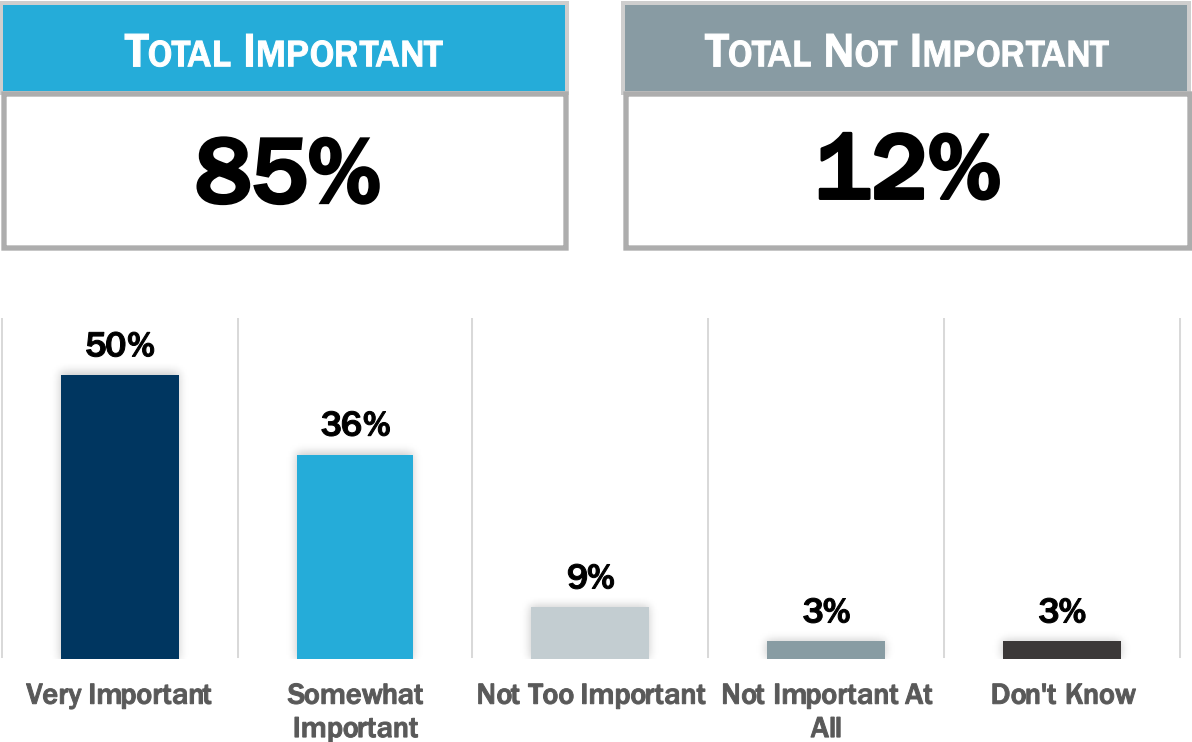
Investing in scientific research to develop new defense capabilities is especially important to Trump voters.

Here are some specific types of scientific research areas. For each, please indicate how important it is that we invest in scientific research for that area:

Statements by % Total Important	All Voters	Trump Voters	Harris Voters
Developing new medicines to prevent or cure diseases that impact millions of Americans, including cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer’s	92%	91%	95%
Developing new medicines to prevent or cure diseases	92%	91%	96%
Developing advanced technologies and products that help drive economic growth and increase wages for American workers	90%	88%	93%
Identifying the best ways to protect our environment and have clean air and water	88%	82%	95%
Developing innovative manufacturing processes and materials to boost domestic production capabilities and bring manufacturing jobs back to American shores	88%	91%	87%
Developing new defense capabilities and national security technologies to keep America safe	86%	91%	83%
Developing new energy technologies to make America more energy independent	86%	86%	90%
Advancing artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies to enhance productivity and create new job opportunities across industries	63%	67%	64%
Exploring space to better understand the solar system and the broader universe and make new discoveries	63%	65%	64%

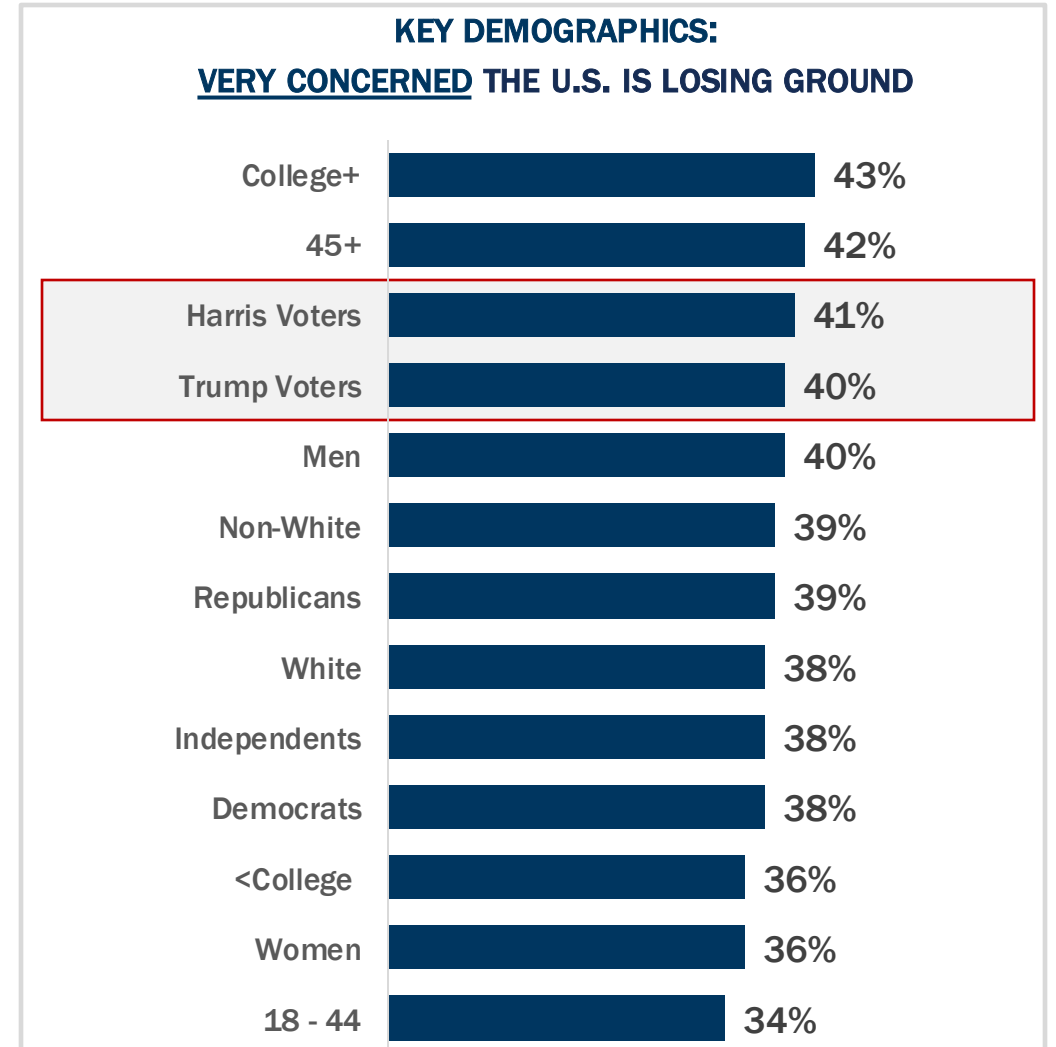
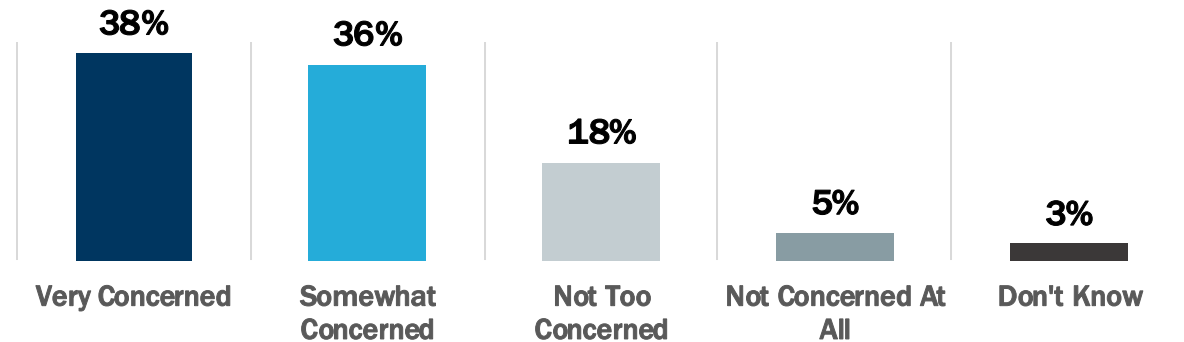
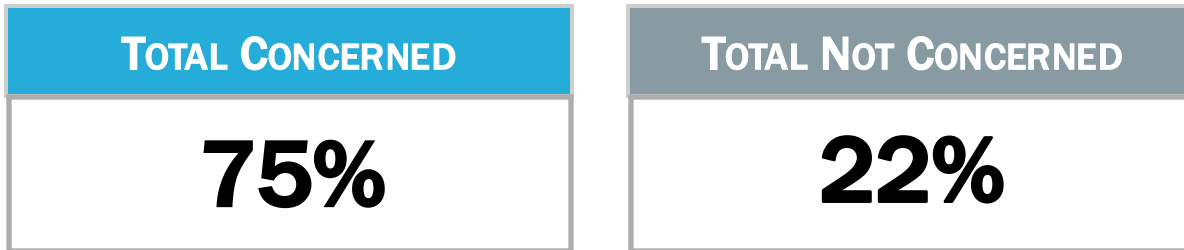
Americans across political party believe it is very important for the U.S. to be the global leader in scientific research and technology.

How important do you believe it is for the United States to be the global leader in scientific research and technology?



Trump and Harris voters are equally concerned about the U.S. losing ground to countries like China and other competitors.

Thinking about the United States' global role in scientific research and technology, how concerned are you that the U.S. is losing ground to countries like China and other competitors?



When it comes to potential economic impacts of the policy, voters are most concerned about slowdowns in medical research.

Below are some different ways that the Trump administration’s recent policy to reduce or freeze funding for scientific research grants to universities, research institutions, and labs could have an economic impact on your state. For each, please indicate how concerned you are about that potential economic impact:

		Total Concerned	Total Not Concerned
Slowdown in medical research and lifesaving health care advancements in your state	45% Very Concerned	75%	21%
Falling behind in defense and national security technologies that keep Americans in your state safe	41%	72%	24%
Jobs losses for research teams, lab technicians, materials and equipment manufacturers, and others who support scientific research	40%	72%	24%
Reduced funding for scientific research may force universities to raise tuition, making higher education less affordable and accessible in your state	38%	69%	27%
Long-term reduction in your state’s skilled technical workforce	37%	69%	25%
Reduced academic programs and course offerings for students at universities in your state	37%	68%	28%

While voters are still concerned, they place less emphasis on their state’s competitiveness in attracting high-tech industries.

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		Total Concerned	Total Not Concerned
Decreased economic growth and state GDP	35% Very Concerned	68%	26%
Loss of high-skilled talent to other states or countries	35%	68%	27%
Decreased ability to attract and retain the top faculty and professors who focus on scientific and medical research	34%	68%	27%
Reduced innovation and development of new technologies from research institutions and universities in your state	34%	68%	27%
Negative impact on local businesses that support scientific research activities	34%	67%	28%
Decreased state tax revenue due to reduced economic activity	33%	66%	28%
Decline in your state’s competitiveness in attracting high-tech industries	32%	66%	29%



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