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To: Friends of Democracy Corps

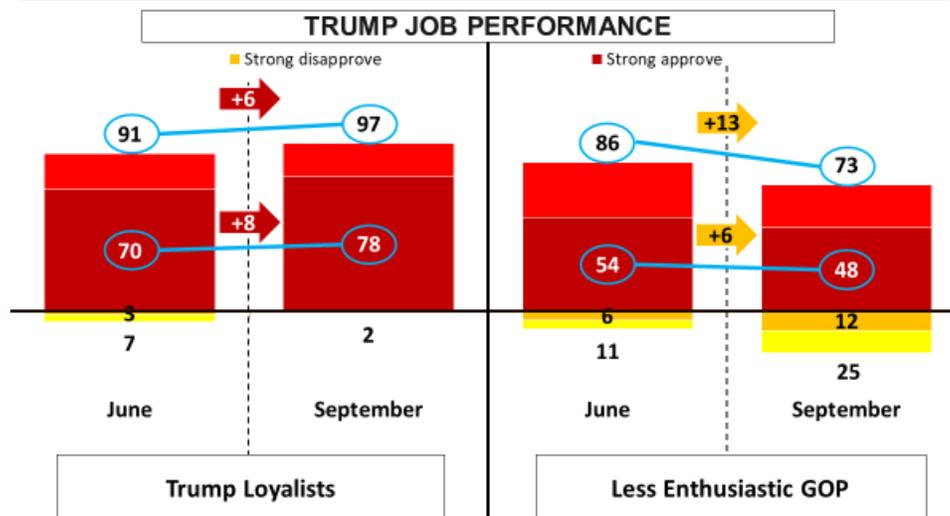
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The GOP Civil War: The Kavanaugh Confirmation & John McCain

President Donald Trump has chosen to crudely heat up the culture war to get his base to erase the Democratic advantage heading into the midterms. The President, Brett Kavanaugh, and most Senate Republicans have made white men a victim of a dominant PC culture giving greater claims to women and professional women in particular.¹ To fully understand how Trump and McConnell's "push through it" partisanship will impact the midterms keep in mind that the major studies from *Democracy Corps* and *Women's Voices. Women Vote Action Fund* have found that the GOP is fractured and polarized.

Trump loyalists grow in approval, other GOP support weakens

Do you approve or disapprove of the way these current leaders are handling their job?



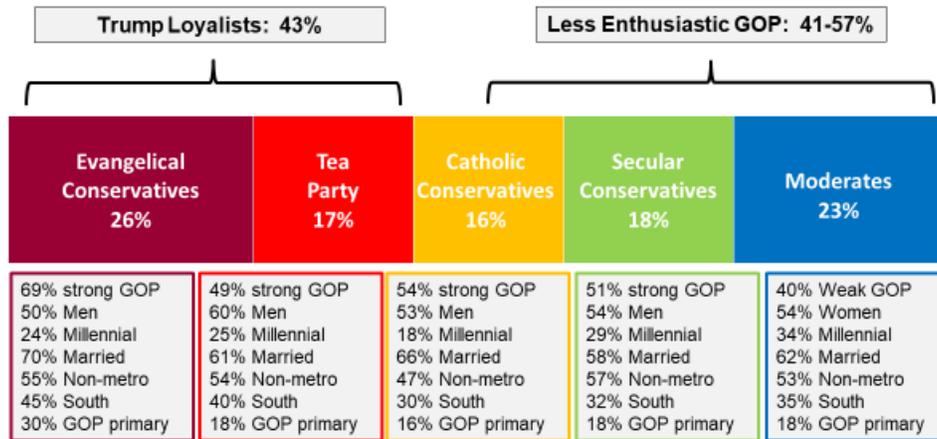
Donald Trump has pushed his job approval among his Evangelical and Tea Party base in the battleground to 97 percent, but it is down 13 points among the moderate, secular and Catholic con-

¹ Trump performance from a phone poll of 1,000 registered voters in a 12-state battleground (Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, New Mexico, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Wisconsin) conducted between September 4-10, 2018 with two-thirds of respondents were reached on cell phones. Tea Party and McCain thermometers from the first in a series of two web-surveys of a recruited panel of 2,200 Republican and Republican-leaning independent registered voters in the battleground between September 5-11, 2018.



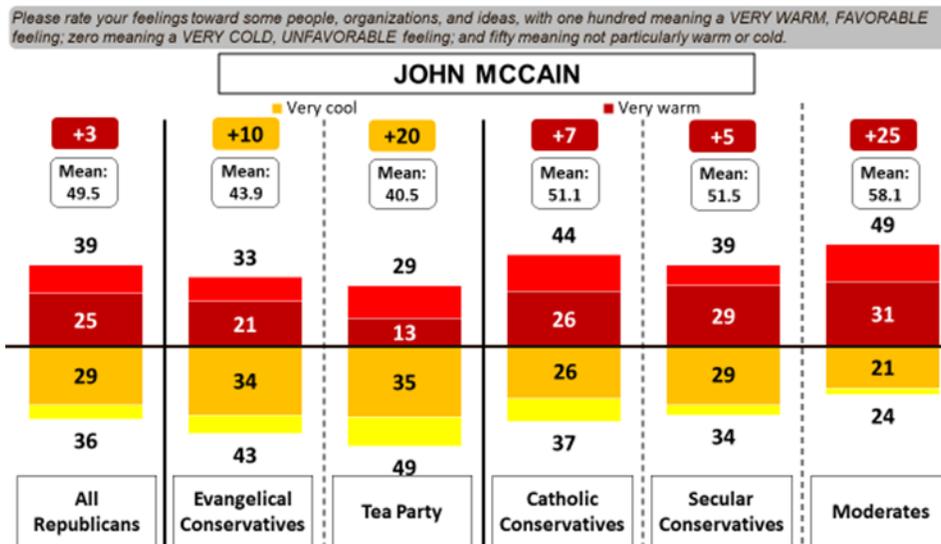
servative GOP. The Tea Party-Evangelical bloc is a bigger factor in Republican primaries, in the South, and in most rural areas, and they respond to Trump’s ugly strategy. But as John McCain’s funeral showed, many in the GOP have an aversion to the ugly partisanship and polarization pressed by President Trump and the Tea Party in particular.

Composition of the GOP base



Senator McCain’s hope for a return to bipartisanship and civility was on full display at his carefully staged funeral. The Tea Party, which McCain had to defeat in his own primary challenge, represents an uncompromising conservatism that must defeat the other party at all costs. Despite such a momentous funeral, Trump’s Tea Party and Evangelical base were affirmed in their negative view of the war hero lost to cancer (+13 unfavorable), with strong negative opinions outnumbering warm ones. Meanwhile, Catholic conservatives and secular conservatives were positive on balance (+7 and +5 favorable, respectively) and the moderates emerged dramatically more favorable (+25). Catholic women were as strong in their embrace of Senator McCain as the moderates, though moderate women are the portion of the GOP base that honored him most (48 and 51 percent favorable).

The McCain divide

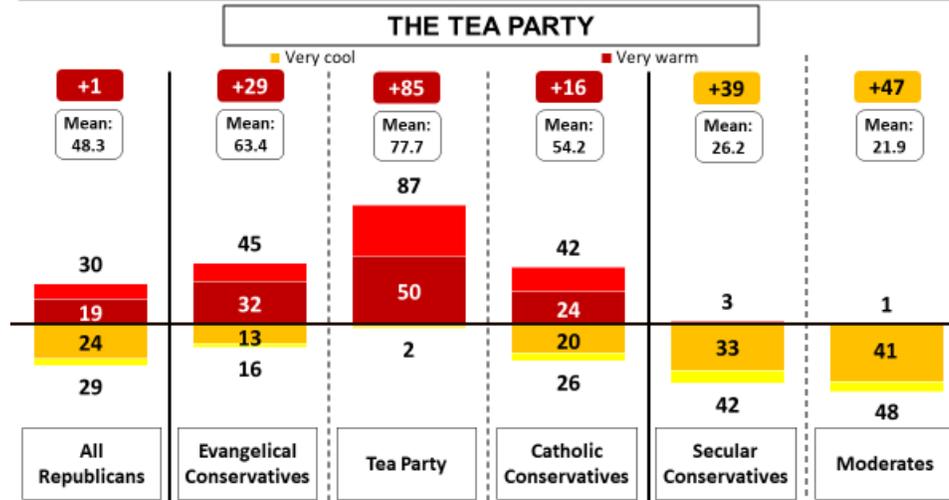




What’s going on? This is a Republican Party divided over the intense partisanship that Senator McCain hated and tried to address at his funeral. You can see that in the GOP’s view of the Tea Party movement that has shaped GOP politics and was President Trump’s base from his “birther” beginning. Trump’s loyalist base of Tea Party supporters and Evangelicals, not surprisingly, give positive marks for this social movement that has been fighting the “PC” trends in the country. But moderates and secular conservatives view the Tea Party with as negative scores as you can imagine within the same party.

Huge divide over the Tea Party within the GOP

Please rate your feelings toward some people, organizations, and ideas, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.



These are the dynamics that will play out as Trump moves into the most polarizing period of his presidency yet to shape the upcoming election. His effectiveness is diminished by fractures so evident after Senator McCain’s funeral, and progressives must engage those voters too if they’re to have the biggest possible impact in November.