

GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER RESEARCH

March 19, 2009

The Budget Battle

Democracy Corps



DEMOCRACY CORPS
CARVILLE ♦ GREENBERG

The surveys

This presentation is based primarily on a national Democracy Corps survey of 1,000 2008 voters (830 landline, 170 cell phone weighted; 880 landline, 120 cell phone unweighted) conducted March 4 through 8, 2009. Margin of error: 3.1 percent.

Some data shown reflects results from 830 likely 2010 voters (863 unweighted; margin of error 3.4 percent).

Also included in this presentation as noted:

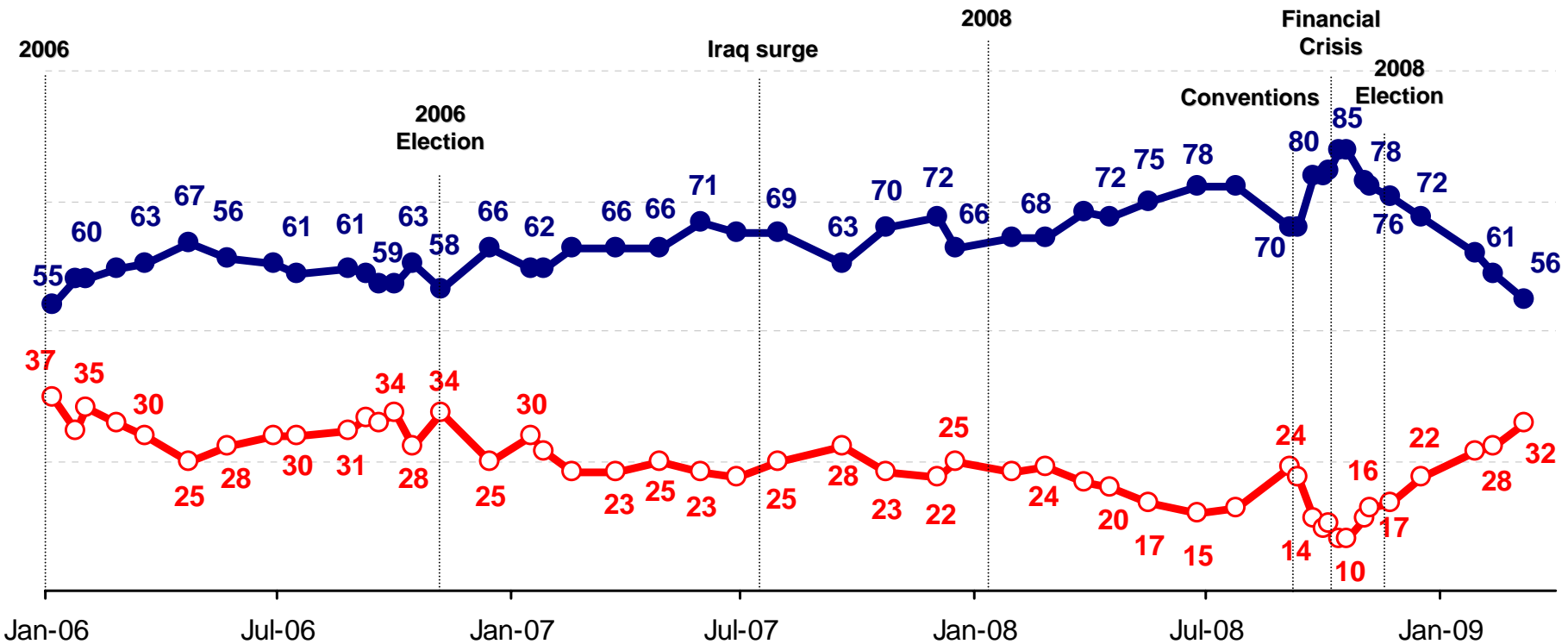
- Survey of 800 likely voters conducted by Public Opinion Strategies in conjunction with Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for National Public Radio March 10-12 & 14.**
- Joint post-election survey by Democracy Corps and Campaign for America's Future of 2,000 voters conducted Election night and the night following: November 4 and 5, 2008.**

The Political Environment

“Wrong track” at 3-year low

Generally speaking, do you think things in the country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

○ Right direction
● Wrong track



Net Difference: -18 -25 -33 -42 -28 -31 -30 -25 -35 -24 -41 -32 -43 -41 -48 -44 -35 -47 -50 -41 -44 -52 -58 -63 -46 -66 -75 -62 -59 -50 -33 -24

*Note: From Democracy Corps surveys conducted over the last several years. Data reflects likely voters. After 2008 election, data reflects likely 2010 voters.

Democratic brand much more popular than Republican

Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.

Therm. Mean

Warm - Cool

■ Cool ■ Warm

Barack Obama



63.4

+32

Democratic Party



52.3

+10

Democrats in Congress



49.9

+5

Democratic Congress



49.3

+5

Republicans in Congress



44.9

-11

Republican Party



44.4

-13

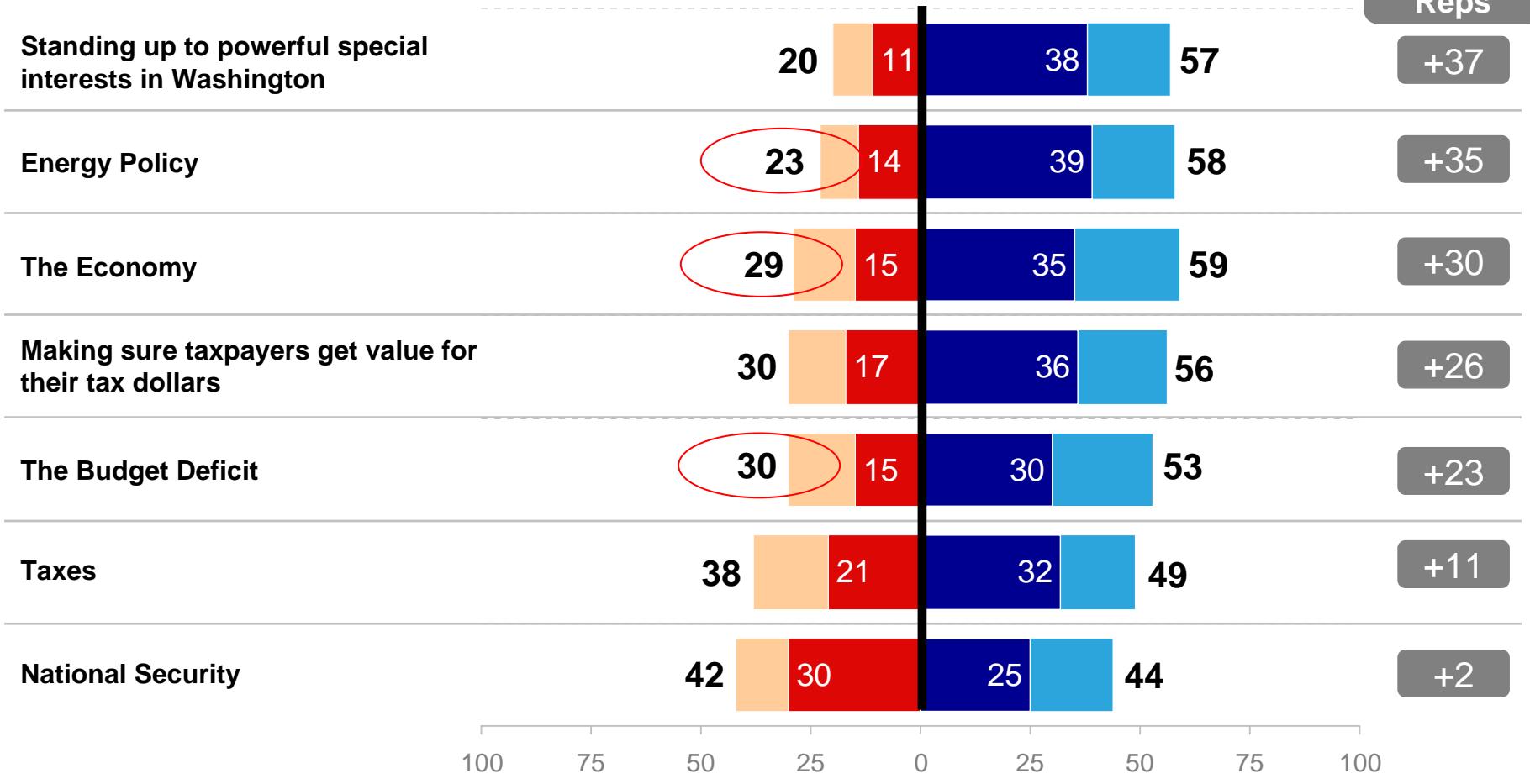


Obama swamps congressional Republicans on almost all issues

Now I am going to ask you something different. I am going to read a list of issues and I want you to tell me whether, overall, you think Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress would do a better job with this issue. If you do not know, just tell me and we will move on to the next item.

■ Reps much better ■ Reps somewhat better ■ Obama much better ■ Obama somewhat better

**Obama –
Reps**



Similar blow-out results among independents

Now I am going to ask you something different. I am going to read a list of issues and I want you to tell me whether, overall, you think Barack Obama or the Republicans in Congress would do a better job with this issue. If you do not know, just tell me and we will move on to the next item.

■ Reps much better ■ Reps somewhat better ■ Obama much better ■ Obama somewhat better

**Obama –
Reps**

Energy Policy



+46

Standing up to powerful special interests in Washington



+36

The Economy



+35

The Budget Deficit



+33

Making sure taxpayers get value for their tax dollars



+30

Taxes



+9

National Security



-2



Democrats dominate virtually all issues

Now I am going to ask you something different. I am going to read a list of issues and I want you to tell me whether, overall, you think the Democrats in Congress or the Republicans in Congress would do a better job with this issue. If you do not know, just tell me and we will move on to the next item.

■ Repls much better ■ Repls somewhat better ■ Dems much better ■ Dems somewhat better

Dems – Repls

Energy Policy



Standing up to powerful special interests in Washington



The Economy



Making sure taxpayers get value for their tax dollars



The Budget Deficit



Taxes



National Security



100 75 50 25 0 25 50 75 100

Obama and Democrats trying to be bipartisan

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

First Statement: President Obama and the Democrats in Congress have attempted to work with Congressional Republicans to come up with bipartisan solutions to our problems.

Second Statement: President Obama and the Democrats in Congress have used their large majorities to push through a partisan agenda without Republican input.

■ First Statement Strongly ■ First Statement Somewhat ■ Second Statement Strongly ■ Second Statement Somewhat

First – Second

All Voters

54 35 28 40

+14

Republicans

19 11 59 76

-57

Independents

51 27 25 41

+10

Democrats

83 59 6 11

+72

100 75 50 25 0 25 50 75 100

Republican opposition to Obama seen as genuine

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

First Statement: Republicans in Congress are obstructing President Obama's agenda because they are playing politics and want to deny him political victories.

Second Statement: Republicans in Congress are opposing President Obama's agenda out of principle because they genuinely believe that his plans are bad for the country.

■ First Statement Strongly ■ First Statement Somewhat ■ Second Statement Strongly ■ Second Statement Somewhat

First – Second

All Voters

44 35 30 50

-6

Republicans

17 11 49 77

-60

Independents

42 30 34 50

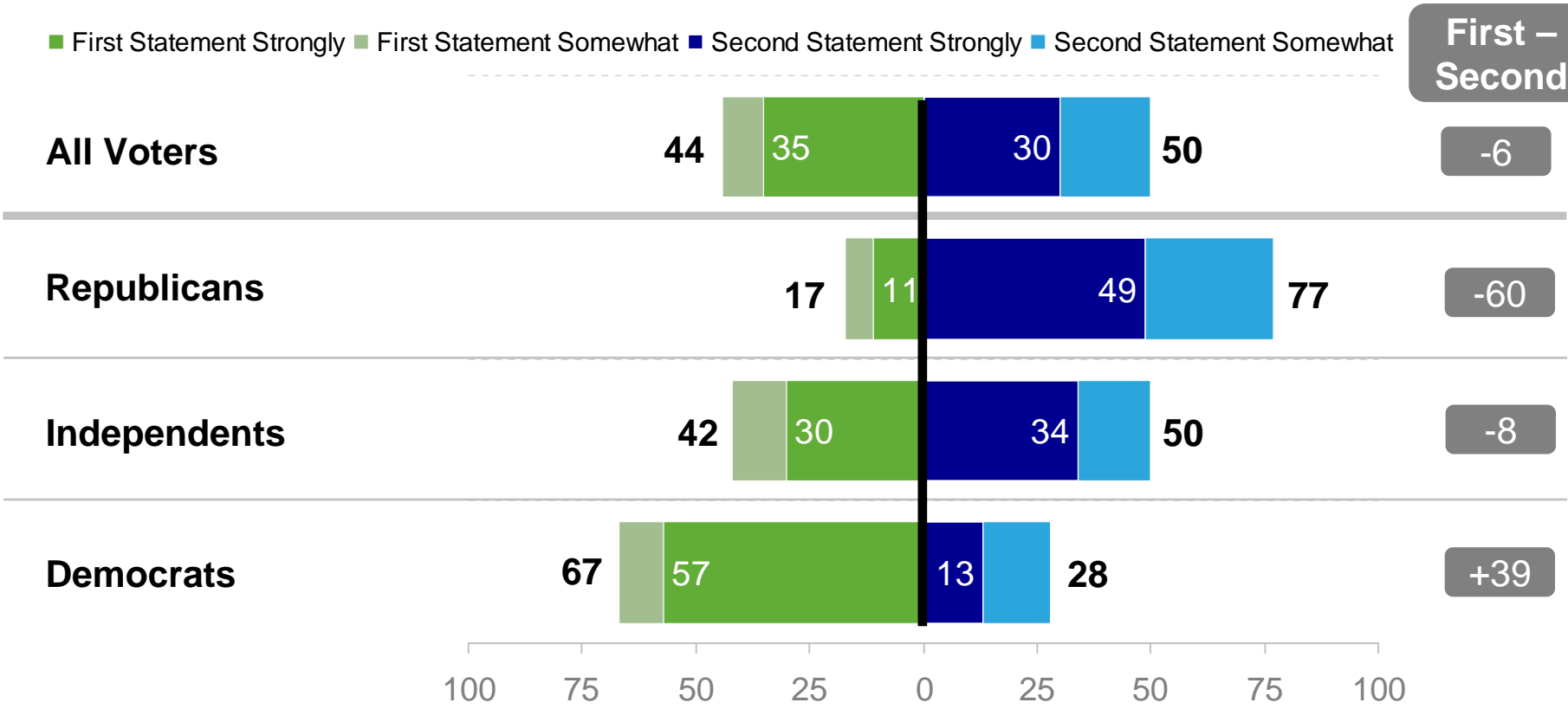
-8

Democrats

67 57 13 28

+39

100 75 50 25 0 25 50 75 100

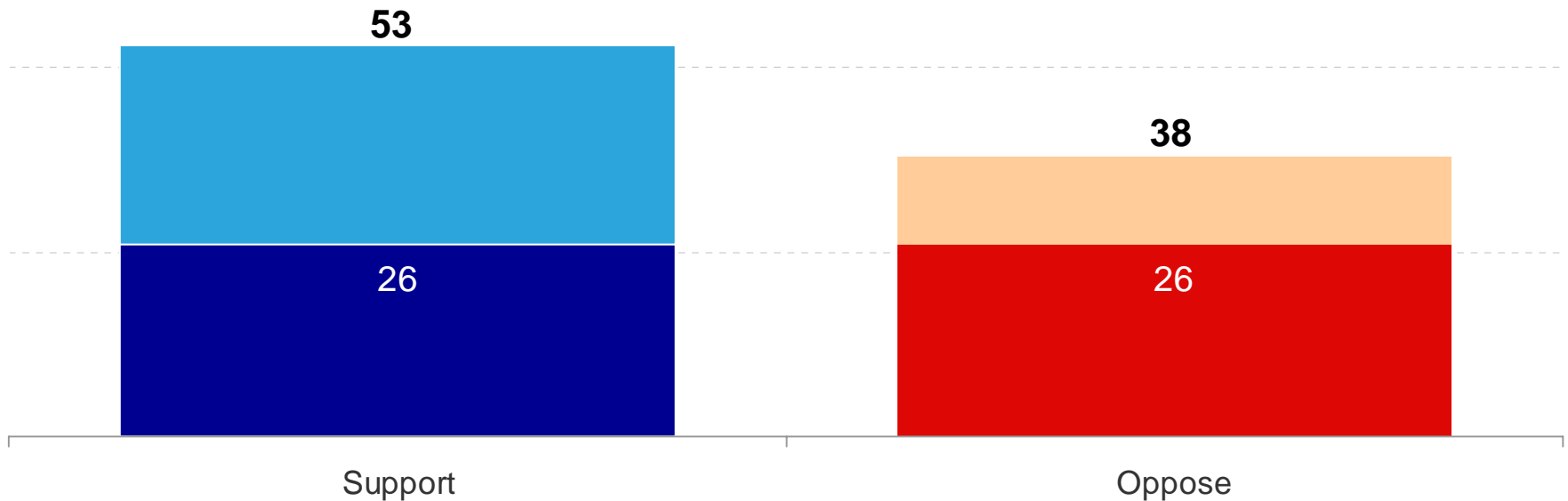


Support for Tenants of Obama Budget

53 percent support President Obama's budget proposal

As you may have heard, President Obama recently released his plan for the federal budget. From what you have heard about Obama's budget plan, do you favor or oppose it?

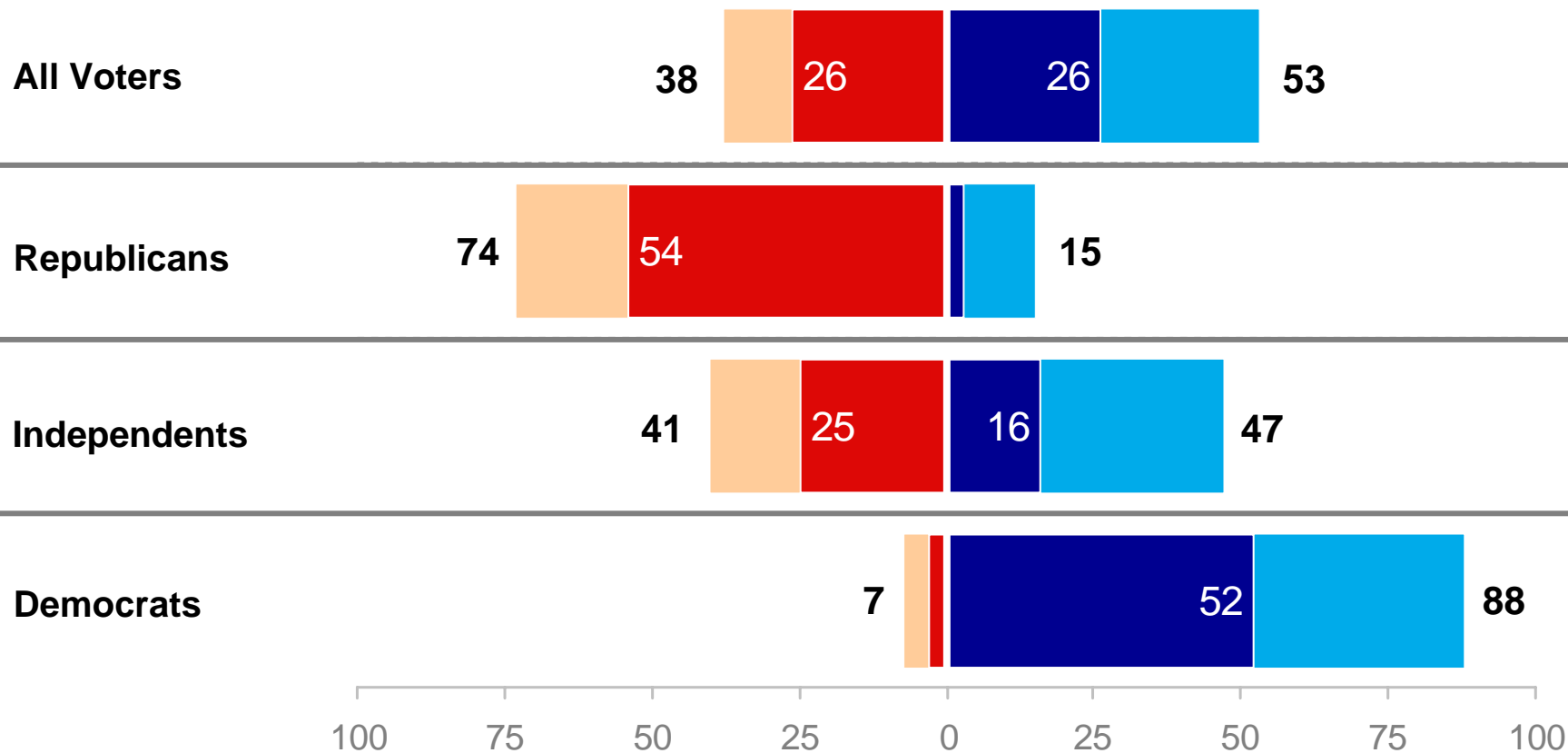
- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Strongly oppose
- Somewhat oppose



Plurality of independents support Obama budget

As you may have heard, President Obama recently released his plan for the federal budget. From what you have heard about Obama's budget plan, do you favor or oppose it?

- Strongly oppose
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly support
- Somewhat support



Support to rebalance tax code crosses ideological divide

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

First Statement: We need to rebalance our tax code so the middle class pays less in taxes and the wealthiest pay their fair share after getting so many breaks for so long.

Second Statement: Raising taxes on those with high incomes is class warfare that punishes successful Americans and would damage our economy.

■ First Statement Strongly ■ First Statement Somewhat ■ Second Statement Strongly ■ Second Statement Somewhat

First – Second

All Voters

62 51 23 32

+30

Conservative Republicans

30 23 54 67

-37

Moderate Republicans

55 40 29 38

+17

Independents

57 45 20 31

+26

Democrats

84 72 6 12

+72

100 75 50 25 0 25 50 75 100

Target groups agree with need to rebalanced tax code

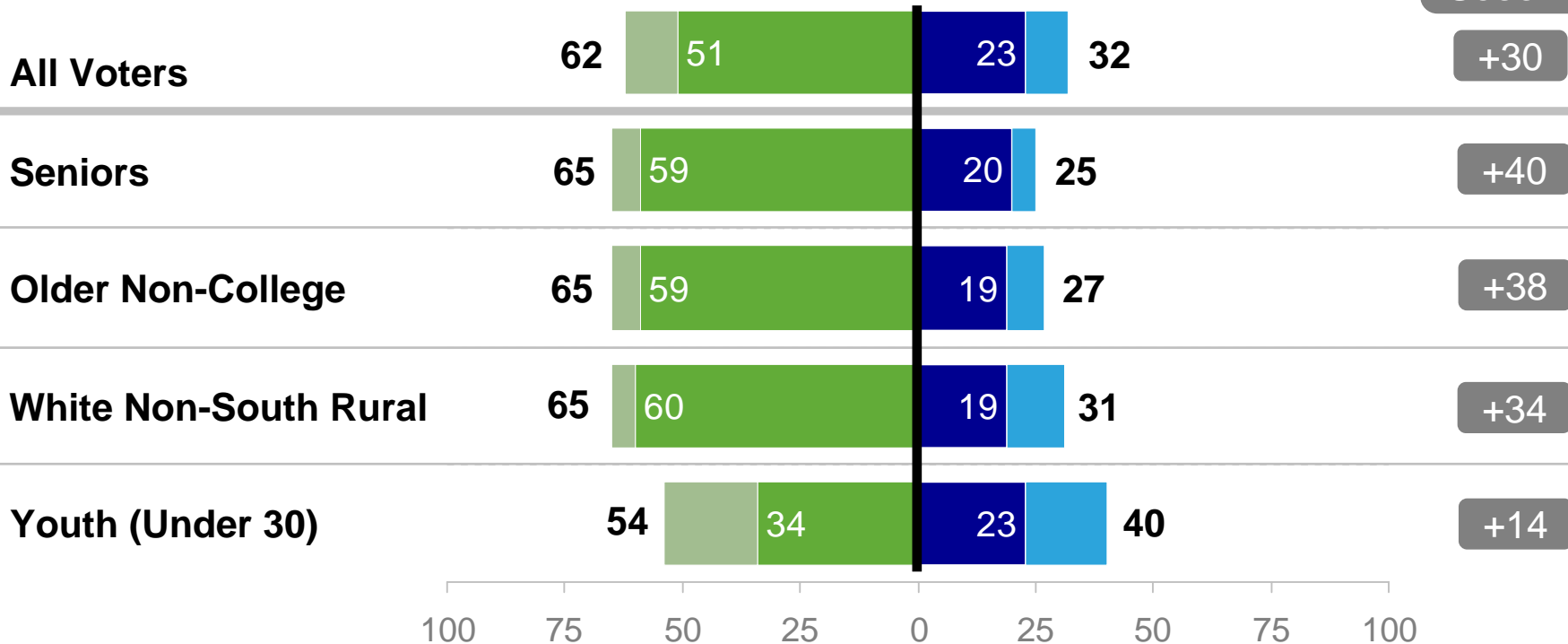
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Second Statement: Raising taxes on those with high incomes is class warfare that punishes successful Americans and would damage our economy.

■ First Statement Strongly ■ First Statement Somewhat ■ Second Statement Strongly ■ Second Statement Somewhat

First – Second



Voters believe Obama's tax plans will help the economy

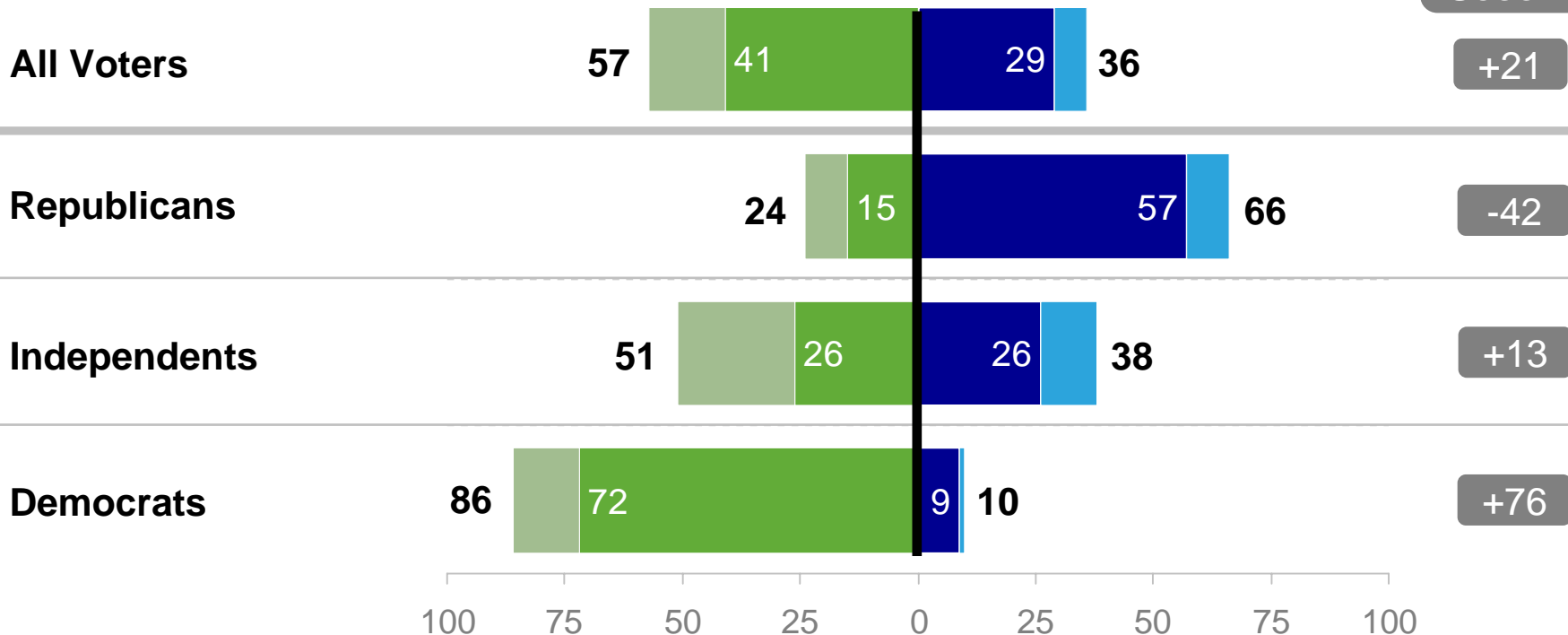
Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

First Statement: President Obama's budget will help the economy because it implements tax cuts on the middle class and small businesses, while waiting until the recession is over to raise any taxes, and then only on those making over 250,000 a year.

Second Statement: President Obama's budget will damage the economy because it raises taxes on the entrepreneurs and small businesses that are the engines of economic growth while we are in the middle of a recession.

■ First Statement Strongly ■ First Statement Somewhat ■ Second Statement Strongly ■ Second Statement Somewhat

First – Second



Long-term investments far more important than watching the deficit

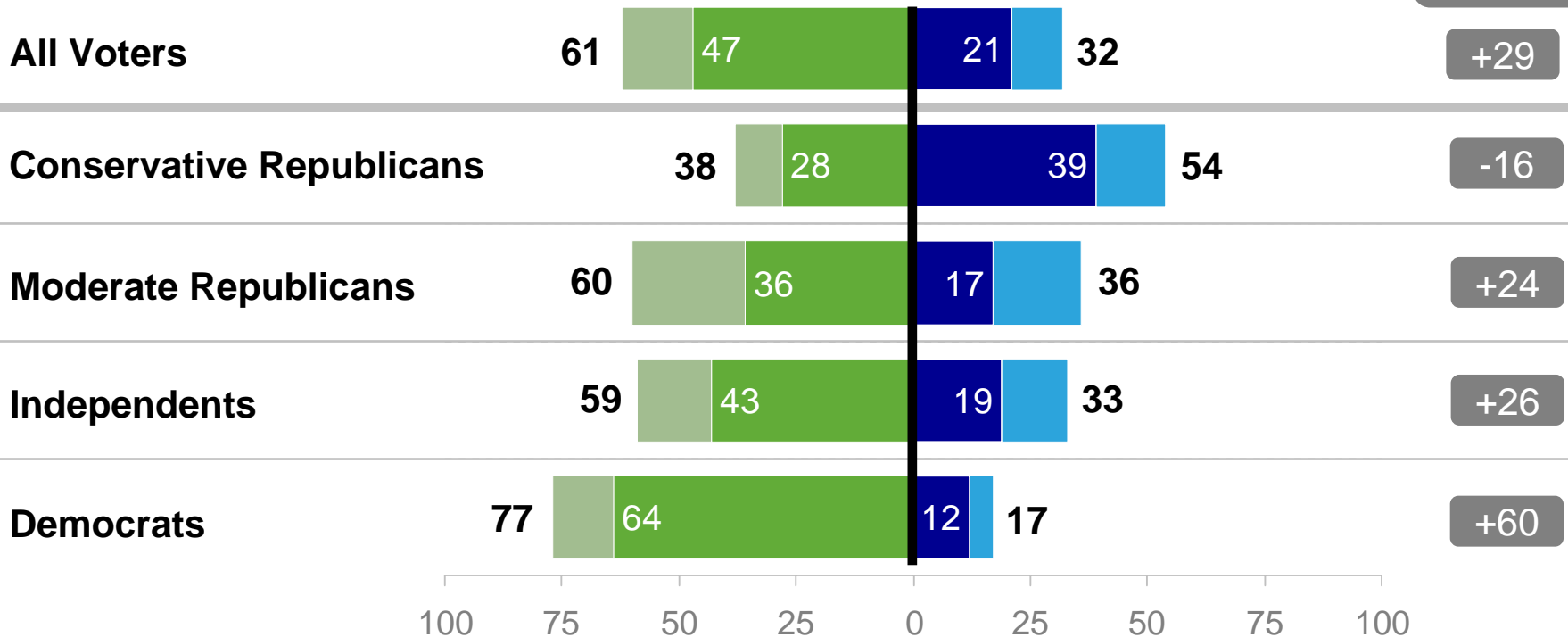
Now I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

First Statement: In order to fully restore America's economic strength it is more important to make long-term investments that will lead to new jobs and new industries.

Second Statement: In order to fully restore America's economic strength it is more important to reduce the deficit and pay down the national debt.

■ First Statement Strongly ■ First Statement Somewhat ■ Second Statement Strongly ■ Second Statement Somewhat

First – Second



Cutting the deficit in half is solid goal

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

First Statement: President Obama's goal of cutting the budget deficit in half over the next four years is about the best we can hope for given our economic and fiscal problems.

Second Statement: President Obama's goal of cutting the budget deficit in half over the next four years is not aggressive enough, he should make reducing the deficit an even higher priority.

■ First Statement Strongly ■ First Statement Somewhat ■ Second Statement Strongly ■ Second Statement Somewhat

First – Second

All Voters

68 46 16 24

+44

Republicans

51 23 22 35

+16

Independents

64 39 20 26

+38

Democrats

86 69 8 12

+74

100 75 50 25 0 25 50 75 100

Democrats Win Budget Debates

Democrats win budget debate on taxes

Next, I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right. On the issue of the budget and taxes...

Dem Statement: Middle class first

Democrats say that President Obama's budget will put the middle class first again, by cutting taxes for those earning under \$250,00 and small businesses and asking the very wealthiest and big corporations to pay their share. Bush's approach hurt average people and the economy. This budget cuts Bush's deficit in half and raises taxes on the wealthy to make health insurance more affordable. To grow the economy, it cuts taxes for 95 percent of Americans.

■ Total Democratic Statement



Total Democratic Statement

Rep Statement: Tax increase untimely

Republicans say that the Democratic budget is a job-killer that leaves all of us less economically secure. It takes \$1.4 trillion dollars in higher taxes from American families and small businesses when they can least afford it. These tax increases will hurt the small businesses that create most new jobs and force middle class Americans to tighten their belts to pay for a huge new energy tax while the federal government goes on a wasteful spending spree.

■ Total Republican Statement



Total Republican Statement

**Note: Survey of 800 likely voters conducted by Public Opinion Strategies in conjunction with Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for National Public Radio March 10-12 & 14.*

Democrats win debate on energy, cap and trade

Next, I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right. On the issue of the budget and energy...

Dem Statement: Energy for the economy

Democrats say President Obama's budget will help build a clean energy economy that creates jobs, kick starts new businesses and cuts our dependence on foreign oil. We're falling behind Germany and Japan in renewable energy and it's time for America to lead again. The plan caps global warming pollution, makes corporate polluters pay a fee and rewards alternative energy like wind and solar while cutting taxes for the middle class.

■ Total Democratic Statement



Total Democratic Statement

Rep Statement: Energy tax on all

Republicans say the Democratic budget creates a huge new tax on energy that will send American jobs overseas to places like China and India, and raise taxes on anyone who uses electricity or drives a car. America needs to develop alternative energy sources like wind, solar, and biofuels and tap proven energy reserves here at home. But energy taxes that fall disproportionately on the poor and middle class are unfair and wrong.

■ Total Republican Statement



Total Republican Statement

*Note: Survey of 800 likely voters conducted by Public Opinion Strategies in conjunction with Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for National Public Radio March 10-12 & 14.

Americans ready to fix healthcare

Next, I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right. On the issue of the budget and healthcare...

Dem Statement:

Address health care costs

Democrats say President Obama's budget finally addresses health care, after years of skyrocketing costs and millions losing health insurance, particularly now. The budget for the first time sets aside the funds for health care reform, but the president is calling on both parties and business to work together to ensure that affordable insurance is available to all. By addressing health care costs, we help small business, employees and American companies.

■ Total Democratic Statement



Total Democratic Statement

Rep Statement:

Trade choice for bureaucracy

Republicans say that health care reform must preserve choice, promote competition, and reward healthy lifestyle choices. The Democratic budget, however, will create an undependable and inefficient government-run health care system that would lead to rationing of care, runaway costs, and bureaucrats making healthcare decisions that should be made by doctors and patients.

■ Total Republican Statement



Total Republican Statement

**Note: Survey of 800 likely voters conducted by Public Opinion Strategies in conjunction with Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for National Public Radio March 10-12 & 14.*

Democratic deficit message wins narrow edge

Next, I'm going to read you some pairs of statements. After I read each pair, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right. On the issue of the budget and the deficit...

Dem Statement: Honest, responsible budget

Democrats say that President Obama's budget commits America to cutting the federal deficit in half in four years. Thanks to irresponsible policies from both parties, Obama has inherited a trillion-dollar deficit, but this is the first budget to honestly account for all costs and it reduces our deficit by cutting spending and restoring Clinton-era tax rates for the wealthiest. It returns to greater responsibility, cutting the deficit while meeting national needs.

■ Total Democratic Statement



Total Democratic Statement

Rep Statement: Wealth redistribution

Republicans say that the Democratic budget puts the government before the people. It is a combination of out-of-control spending and job-killing taxes that breaks their promise of fiscal responsibility. It penalizes charities with higher taxes. It redistributes wealth by giving government checks to people who don't pay taxes. It will prolong the recession and leave a mountain of debt for our children and grand children to pay off.

■ Total Republican Statement



Total Republican Statement

**Note: Survey of 800 likely voters conducted by Public Opinion Strategies in conjunction with Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for National Public Radio March 10-12 & 14.*

GREENBERG QUINLAN ROSNER RESEARCH

www.greenbergresearch.com

Washington, DC

10 G Street NE,
Suite 500
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