



**AMERICAN ACTION**  

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**NETWORK**

Republican Primary Voters in Safe GOP  
Congressional District Surveys

February/March 2024

Randall Gutermuth, President and CEO

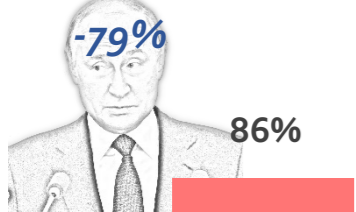
# Methodology

- AAN commissioned American Viewpoint to conduct a survey among likely GOP primary voters in Safe GOP congressional districts to understand attitudes and opinions on Ukraine funding.
- There were three separate studies in, with the first study being conducted February 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The second conducted March 19<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and the final study conducted March 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- For each study, the margin of error in the 187 CDs (n=500) is +/- 4.4% at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error among sub-groups is greater.

# PUTIN IMAGE AND UKRAINE STATEMENTS – SAFE GOP PRIMARY VOTERS

Putin is seen as an enemy and Russia’s actions in Ukraine are seen as wrong by GOP primary voters in safe seats. While there is a debate over how it should be done, a clear majority of GOP primary voters believe that the U.S. should be doing something to help Ukraine.

## Vladimir Putin

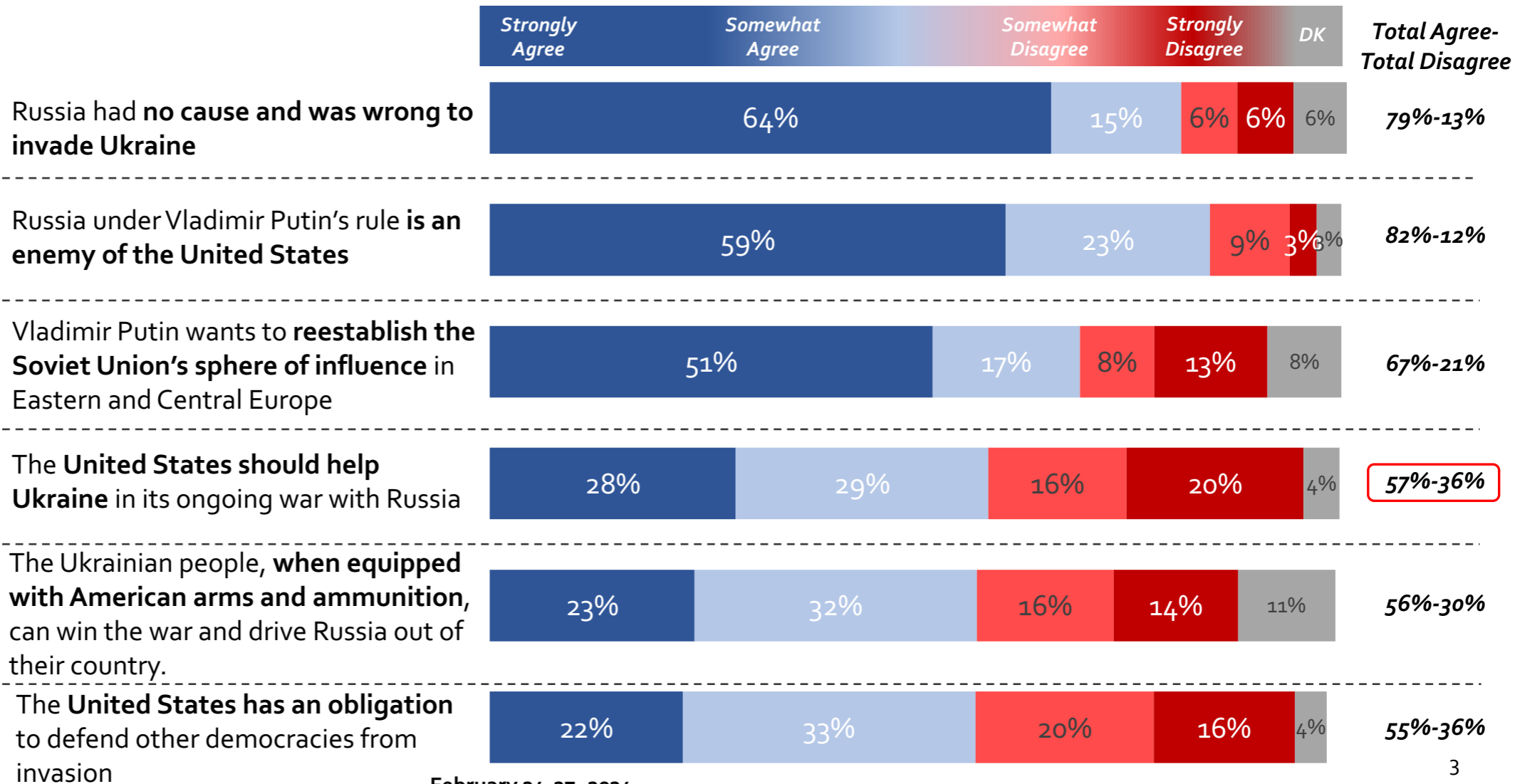


Very Favorable (Dark Blue)  
Somewhat Favorable (Light Blue)  
Very Unfavorable (Dark Red)  
Somewhat Unfavorable (Light Red)

Favorable 7%      Unfavorable 86%

	Fav:Unfav
<b>Total</b>	<b>7:86</b>
Lib./Mod.	3:94
Somewhat Cons.	6:87
Very Cons.	9:83

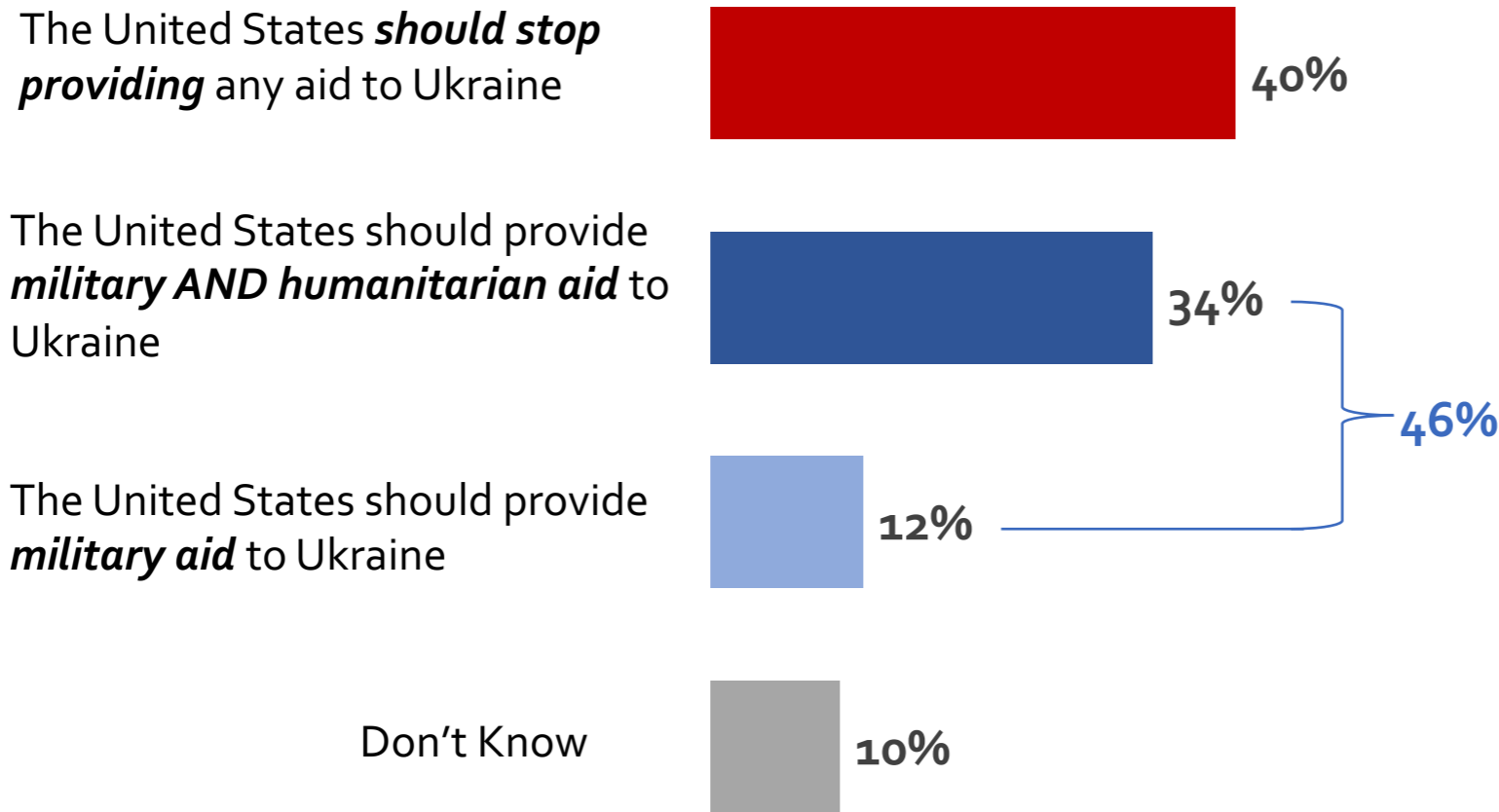
Please indicate if you agree or disagree with each of the following statements.



February 24-27, 2024



A plurality of GOP primary voters in safe seats believe the U.S. should provide aid to Ukraine, be it military and humanitarian, or only military aid.



	Stop Aid	Mil. + Hum. OR Mil. Only
<b>Total</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>46%</b>
Men	41%	50%
Women	40%	42%
18-49	59%	32%
50-64	42%	39%
65 And Over	27%	59%
Military HH	38%	51%
Lib./Mod.	30%	68%
Somewhat Cons.	34%	48%
Very Cons.	50%	35%
Traditional GOP	28%	58%
Trump Mvmt.	56%	32%

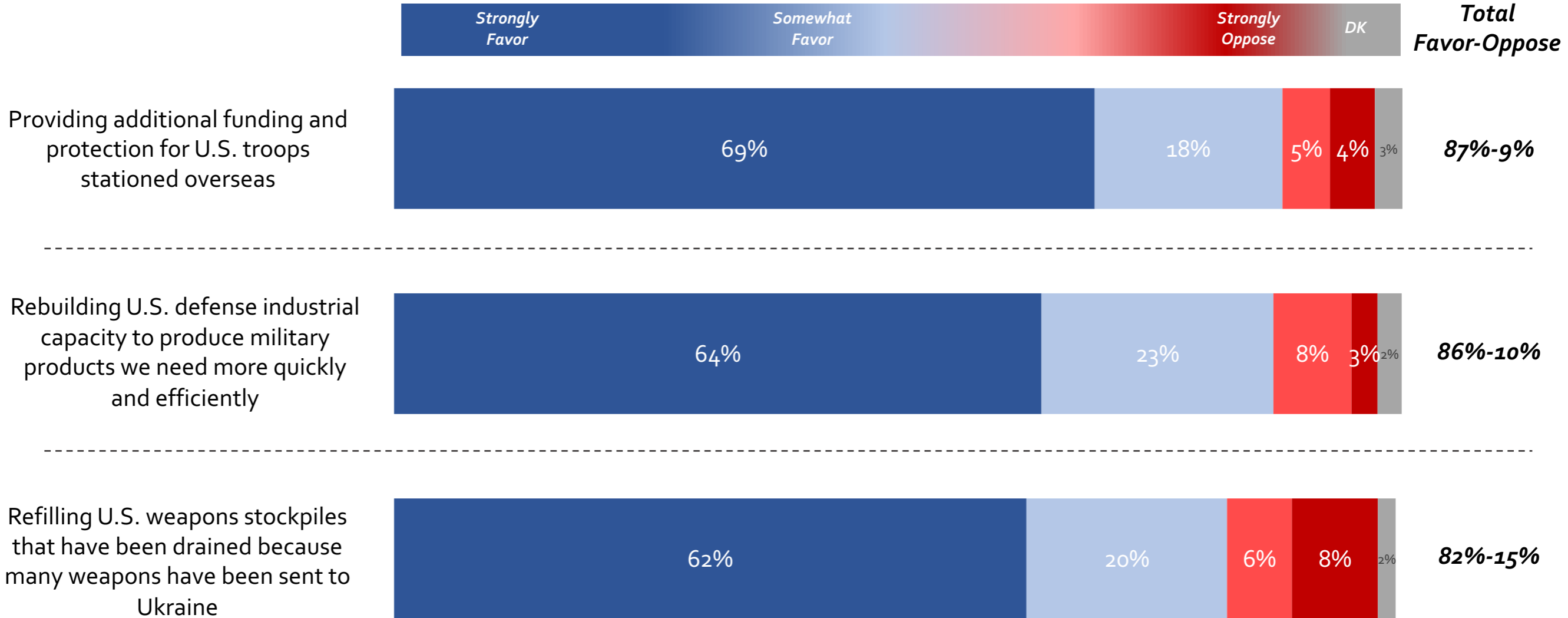
As you may know, the United States has been providing aid to Ukraine in its war with Russia and Congress must soon decide what to do going forward. Which of the following most closely aligns with your views on the issue?



# AID PACKAGE ELEMENTS – SAFE GOP PRIMARY VOTERS – RANKED BY STRONGLY FAVOR

The elements most popular in a package are focused more on protecting Americans and stopping Russia as a whole than those about Ukraine specifically.

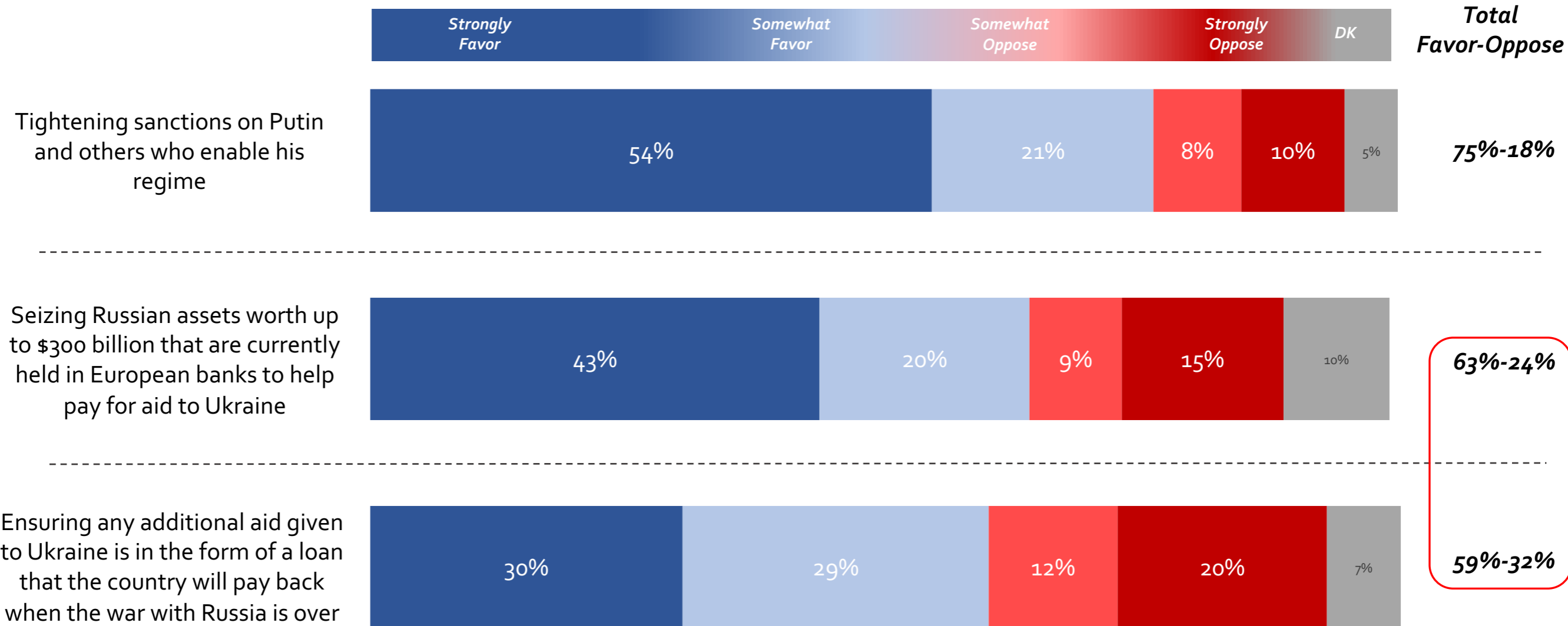
The following are elements of an aid package for Ukraine that could be part of the legislation. Please indicate if you favor or oppose each.



# AID PACKAGE ELEMENTS – SAFE GOP PRIMARY VOTERS – RANKED BY STRONGLY FAVOR

A large majority of GOP primary voters favor aid in the form of a loan and nearly two-thirds favor helping to pay for it by seizing Russian assets.

The following are elements of an aid package for Ukraine that could be part of the legislation. Please indicate if you favor or oppose each.



Key messaging focuses on helping the American military --rebuilding the industrial capacity and refilling stockpiles, as well as stopping Russia in order to keep them from invading other former Soviet countries and to not embolden bad actors.

The following are several arguments some have made in support of providing additional aid to Ukraine and have you indicate whether each is very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or not at all convincing as a reason to support providing additional aid to Ukraine.

	Convincing - Not Convincing	Very Convincing	
		Total	Initial Oppose
<b>(REFILLING STOCKPILES/INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY)</b> Much of this proposal focuses on helping the American military by refilling U.S. weapons stockpiles and rebuilding the defense industrial capacity to produce military products more quickly and efficiently.	65% - 30%	34%	24%
<b>(SOVIET UNION)</b> If the United States does not provide aid to Ukraine in its war against Russia and Putin’s invasion is successful, he will move next to invade other countries in the former Soviet Union, including NATO allies like Poland.	54% - 42%	30%	12%
<b>(BAD ACTORS EMBOLDENED)</b> If the United States does not provide aid to Ukraine in its war against Russia and Putin’s invasion is successful, other bad actors such as China, Iran, and North Korea will be emboldened to take aggressive actions of their own, endangering hundreds of millions of lives around the world.	61% - 36%	30%	12%



Giving the aid as a loan that is supported by President Trump is one of the strongest messages to tamp down anger among those opposed to providing aid. 8% switched to favoring aid and 5% switched to opposing aid after hearing supporting and opposing messages indicating the small number of persuadable voters.

*The following are several arguments some have made in support of providing additional aid to Ukraine and have you indicate whether each is very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or not at all convincing as a reason to support providing additional aid to Ukraine.*

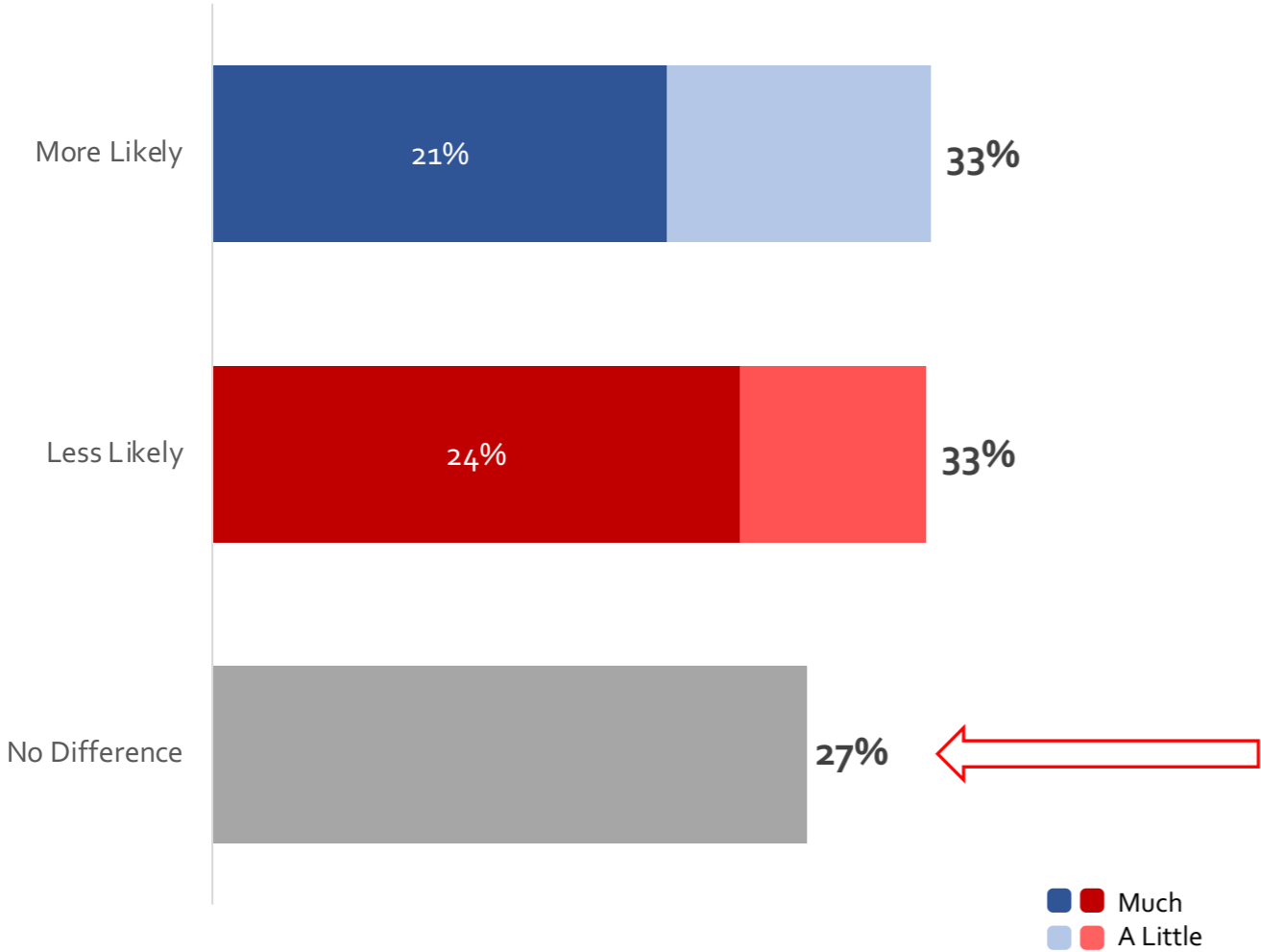
	Convincing - Not Convincing	Very Convincing	
		Total	Initial Oppose
<b>[HALF SAMPLE](TRUMP LOAN)</b> Many conservatives who support the America First agenda such as former President Trump support a plan to make any additional aid given to Ukraine a loan that the country will pay back when the war with Russia is over.	57% - 37%	22%	23%
<b>[HALF SAMPLE](LOAN-NO TRUMP)</b> Many conservatives support a plan to make any additional aid given to Ukraine a loan that the country will pay back when the war with Russia is over.	51% - 46%	21%	21%
<b>(AUDITS)</b> The money being sent to Ukraine is being spent as it should be, as there have been nearly a hundred audits or oversight reports on Ukrainian use of United States aid and none of them have found any evidence of funding diversion, theft, or misuse.	37% - 56%	14%	5%



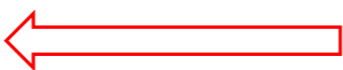


# CONGRESSIONAL UKRAINE AID SUPPORT EFFECT – SAFE GOP PRIMARY VOTERS

GOP primary voters split on whether they would be more or less likely to vote for a Member who supports providing additional aid to Ukraine. There is a large portion of voters who say it won't make a difference underscoring that this is not likely a top issue Members need to worry about in a primary.



	More Likely	Less Likely	No Diff.
<b>Total</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>27%</b>
Men	38%	32%	25%
Women	29%	34%	30%
18-49	21%	44%	28%
50-64	30%	34%	28%
65 And Over	43%	25%	27%
Military HH	33%	33%	28%
Lib./Mod.	57%	16%	26%
Somewhat Cons.	33%	31%	28%
Very Cons.	22%	42%	28%
Traditional GOP	47%	19%	28%
Trump Mvmt.	17%	50%	26%



■ Much  
■ A Little



Would you be more or less likely to vote for a Member of Congress who supports providing additional aid to Ukraine, or does it not make a difference?

March 27-28, 2024

# Conclusions & Recommendations

1. GOP primary voters are relatively split on the issue of aid for Ukraine, but a plurality of primary voters in safe seats support some type of aid. Moreover, a clear majority of these primary voters think that in general the United States should be helping Ukraine as they see Putin as an enemy and Russia as in the wrong for their invasion of Ukraine.
2. There is a core group of about 1/3 of GOP primary voters who are very difficult to move. As a whole, the persuadable vote on this issue is small and this is not likely a driving factor in a primary outside of that 1/3 of primary voters.
3. The focus of any package is protecting the United States. This includes funding our troops, refilling military stockpiles, ensuring Putin doesn't become even more ambitious in his invasions, and stopping our enemies such as North Korea, China, and Iran from becoming emboldened. Similarly, our best messages focus on Russia, not Ukraine.
4. Support for aid for Ukraine is much stronger with older voters (both general and primary) as well as more centrist and Traditional Republicans. The inverse is the case with very conservative and Trump Movement voters.
5. Giving the aid in the form of a loan is supported by a majority of GOP primary voters in safe districts and general election voters in battleground districts. Similarly, seizing Russian assets to help pay for the aid to Ukraine is widely supported by GOP primary voters.



# Contact Information

For more information, please feel free to contact Randall Gutermuth at:

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# *Addendum*

The strongest arguments from those opposed to providing aid to Ukraine are simpler and have greater intensity than do the strongest supporting arguments.

The following are several arguments some have made **in support of** providing additional aid to Ukraine and have you indicate whether each is very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or not at all convincing as a reason **to support** providing additional aid to Ukraine.

	Very Convincing
<b>(REFILLING STOCKPILES/INDUSTRIAL CAPACITY)</b> Much of this proposal focuses on helping the American military by refilling U.S. weapons stockpiles and rebuilding the defense industrial capacity to produce military products more quickly and efficiently.	34%
<b>(SOVIET UNION)</b> If the United States does not provide aid to Ukraine in its war against Russia and Putin’s invasion is successful, he will move next to invade other countries in the former Soviet Union, including NATO allies like Poland.	30%
<b>(BAD ACTORS EMBOLDENED)</b> If the United States does not provide aid to Ukraine in its war against Russia and Putin’s invasion is successful, other bad actors such as China, Iran, and North Korea will be emboldened to take aggressive actions of their own, endangering hundreds of millions of lives around the world.	30%
<b>[HALF SAMPLE](TRUMP LOAN)</b> Many conservatives who support the America First agenda such as former President Trump support a plan to make any additional aid given to Ukraine a loan that the country will pay back when the war with Russia is over.	22%
<b>[HALF SAMPLE](LOAN-NO TRUMP)</b> Many conservatives support a plan to make any additional aid given to Ukraine a loan that the country will pay back when the war with Russia is over.	21%
<b>(AUDITS)</b> The money being sent to Ukraine is being spent as it should be, as there have been nearly a hundred audits or oversight reports on Ukrainian use of United States aid and none of them have found any evidence of funding diversion, theft, or misuse.	14%

The following are several arguments some have made **in opposition to** providing additional aid to Ukraine and have you indicate whether each is very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or not at all convincing as a reason **to oppose** providing additional aid to Ukraine.

	Very Convincing
<b>(OUR BORDERS)</b> Rather than using American tax dollars to protect another country’s borders, our tax dollars are better spent here at home, including being used to secure our southern border.	58%
<b>(EUROPE NOT ENOUGH)</b> It is not fair for the United States to continue to be the primary source of aid to Ukraine. Other European countries need to step up and provide assistance in our place.	55%
<b>(BLANK CHECK)</b> It is wrong to continue providing a blank check of American tax dollars to a country involved in a war with no end in sight and which Ukraine ultimately may not be able to win.	44%
<b>(CORRUPTION)</b> There is a long history of corruption among public officials in Ukraine and the United States has no idea how the tax dollars we are sending Ukraine are being spent.	44%
<b>(NOT OUR RESPONSIBILITY)</b> It is not the United States’ responsibility to be the world’s policeman protecting everyone. The Ukraine-Russia War is a European problem, and it is their responsibility to end the conflict, not ours.	34%

