



Rust Belt Rising

*Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin Poll
March 21-23*

Key Findings

- Positive views of the national economy have dropped 18 points, and strong negative views of the economy have doubled since December. The gap between the national economy and local and personal economies has closed. Voters expect things will be better in a year, but still not to where they said they expected things to be when we last asked them what the future looked like.
- Getting sick and being unable to afford care is still the #1 economic anxiety, and growing, and healthcare and prescription drug costs are still the expenses they most worry about paying.
- There is a huge partisan divide over Trump's handling of COVID, and he gets negative marks for his handling of COVID and other issues, particularly health care costs. His only positive marks come on negotiating trade deals with other countries.
- The crisis has not yet had an impact on the presidential ballot where Trump is in a statistical tie with the generic Democrat in every state but OH. Democrats lead in the congressional ballot in MI, PA and WI.
- Health care is still the #1 voting issue in the Rust Belt, followed by how the candidate's policies will impact their pocketbook. Immigration is the #1 issue for Republicans, health care is the #1 issue for Democrats and independents,
- When it comes to policies to improve the economy, voters support a Democratic policy agenda that starts with reducing prescription drugs costs and protecting Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security.
- Democratic healthcare messages are compelling, particularly when they focus on the pain of high costs and the need to prioritize reducing costs for people, not profits for pharma and insurers, and Democrats win the debate against the GOP message.
- When it comes to COVID messages, voters - Democrats and undecided voters included - want to hear messages that focus on leadership qualities and getting things done now for people who are hurting. More aggressive messages calling out Republicans and Trump for their handling of the crisis are embraced less in this moment.

Methodology

Using its Dynamic Online Sampling Engine to accurately sample the electorate, Change Research surveyed 2,040 likely 2020 voters across four states from March 21-23, 2020.

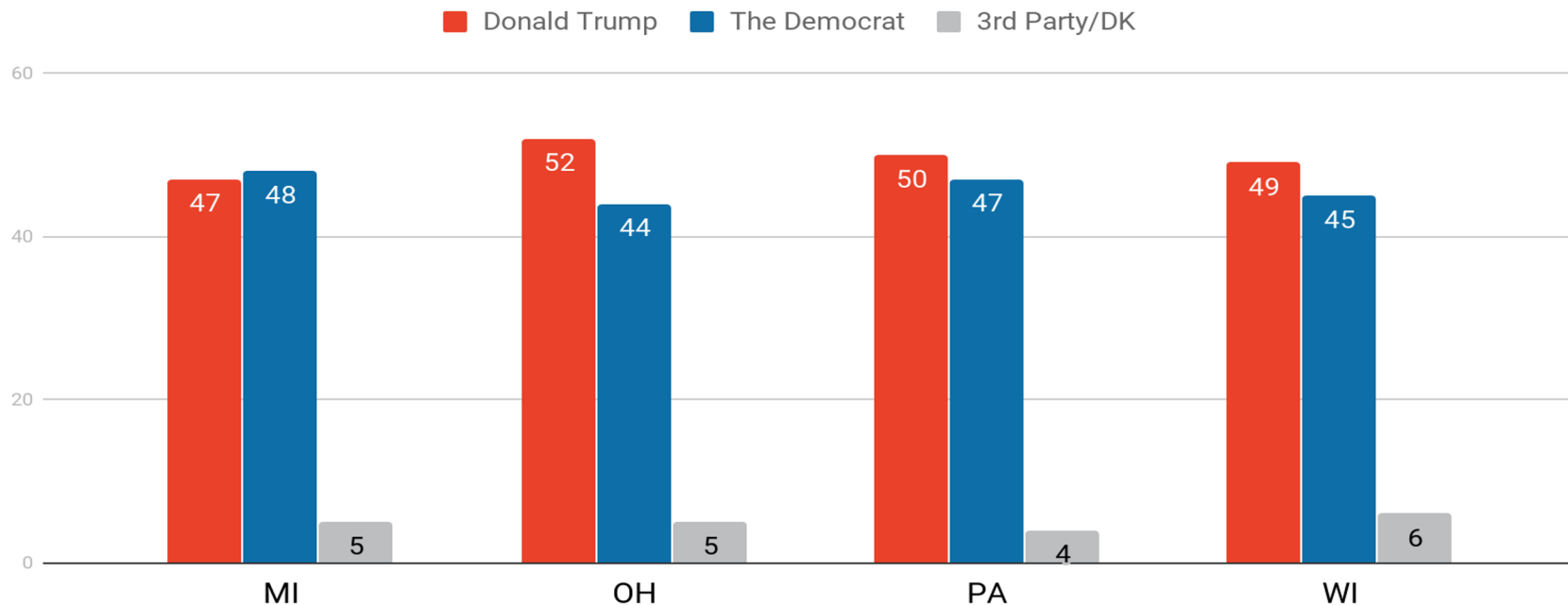
- 510 in Michigan
- 510 in Ohio
- 510 in Pennsylvania
- 510 in Wisconsin

Post-stratification was performed within state on age, gender, ethnicity, education and 2016 Presidential vote. Each state was given equal weight.

This is the third wave of survey research. The first wave was conducted in May 2019 among 1,755 likely voters, and the second wave was conducted December 3-5, 2019 among 2,116 likely voters.

The Electoral College is still up for grabs

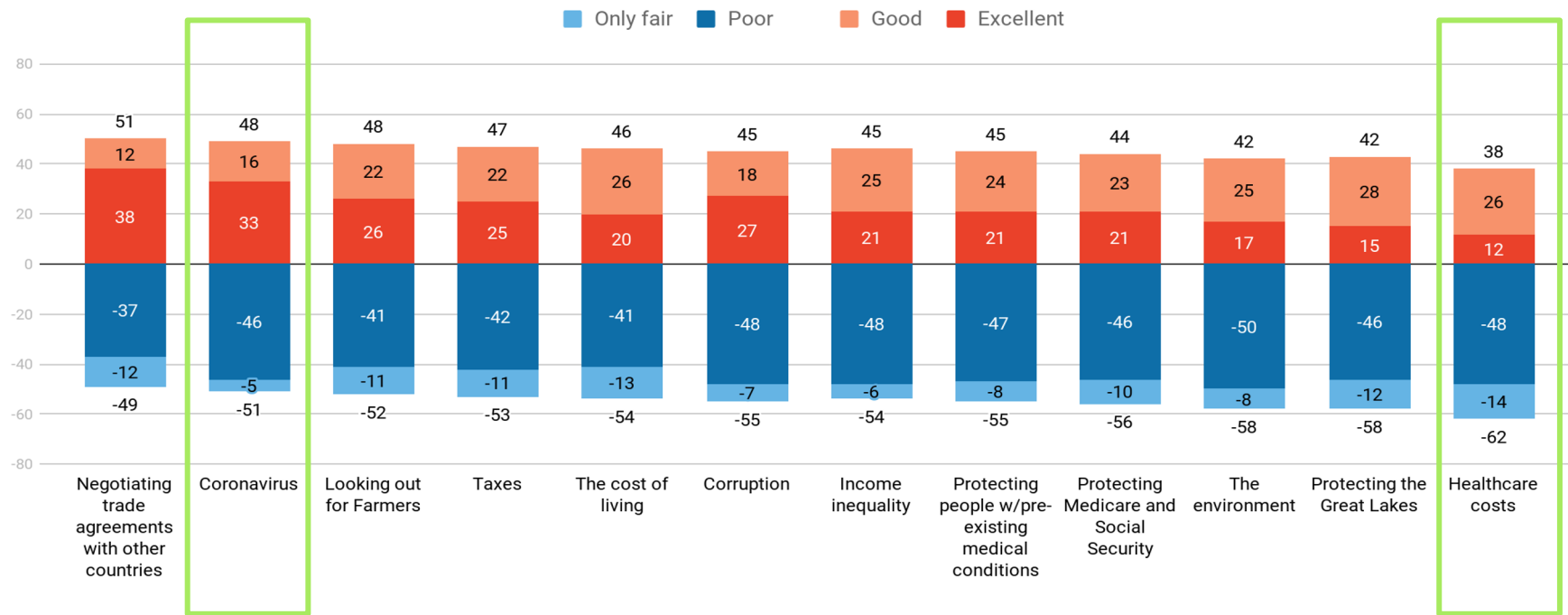
If the election for President were held today, who would you vote for?



Trump gets negative marks on COVID, other issues

Even though underwater, some rallying around Trump on COVID. He is weakest on healthcare costs. Only positive grade for trade.

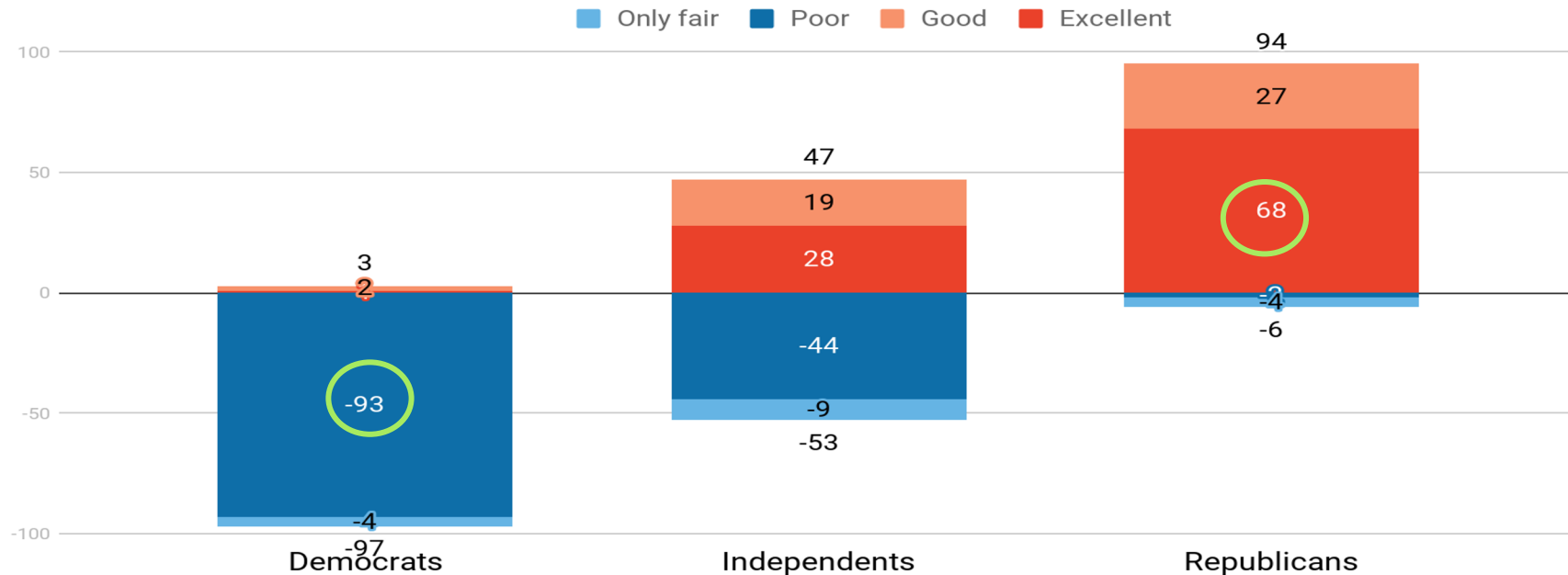
How would you rate Donald Trump's performance on each of the following:



Massive partisan split on COVID handling

Democrats far more intense in disapproval than Republicans in their approval

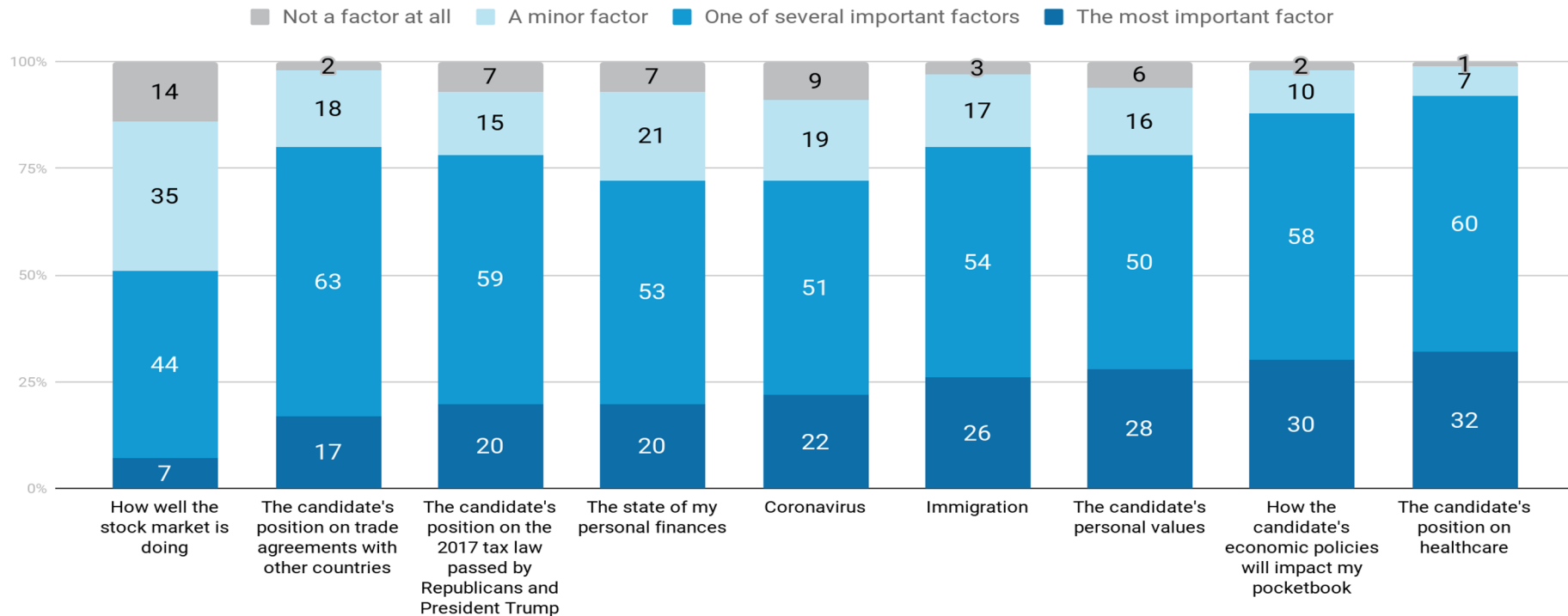
How would you rate Donald Trump's performance on coronavirus?



Healthcare still most important voting issue

Healthcare top factor among Democrats (46%); immigration top factor for Republicans (43%).

Thinking ahead to the November election, how important will each of the following be to your vote?

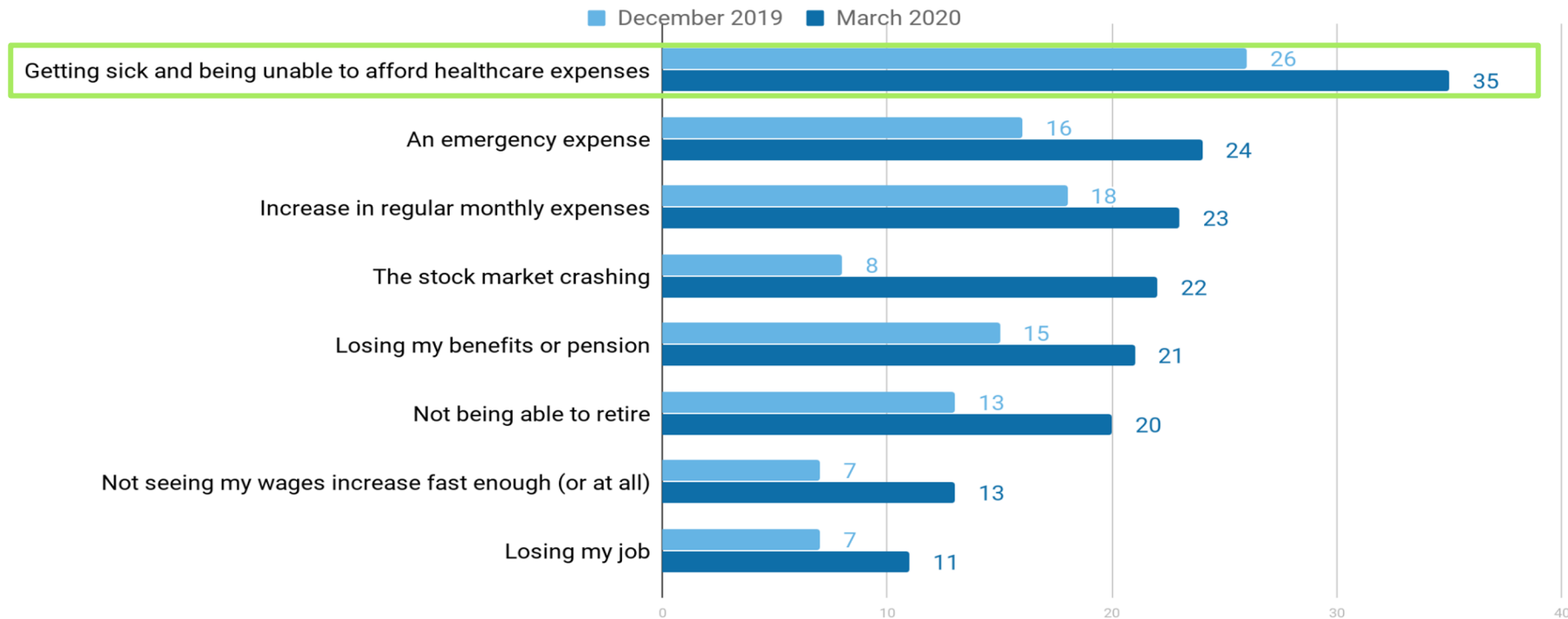


Going broke getting sick still top concern & growing

Voters are more anxious across the board, especially more fearful of a stock market crash

Which TWO of the following economic situations worries you the most?

Responses from December 2019 and March 2020 surveys

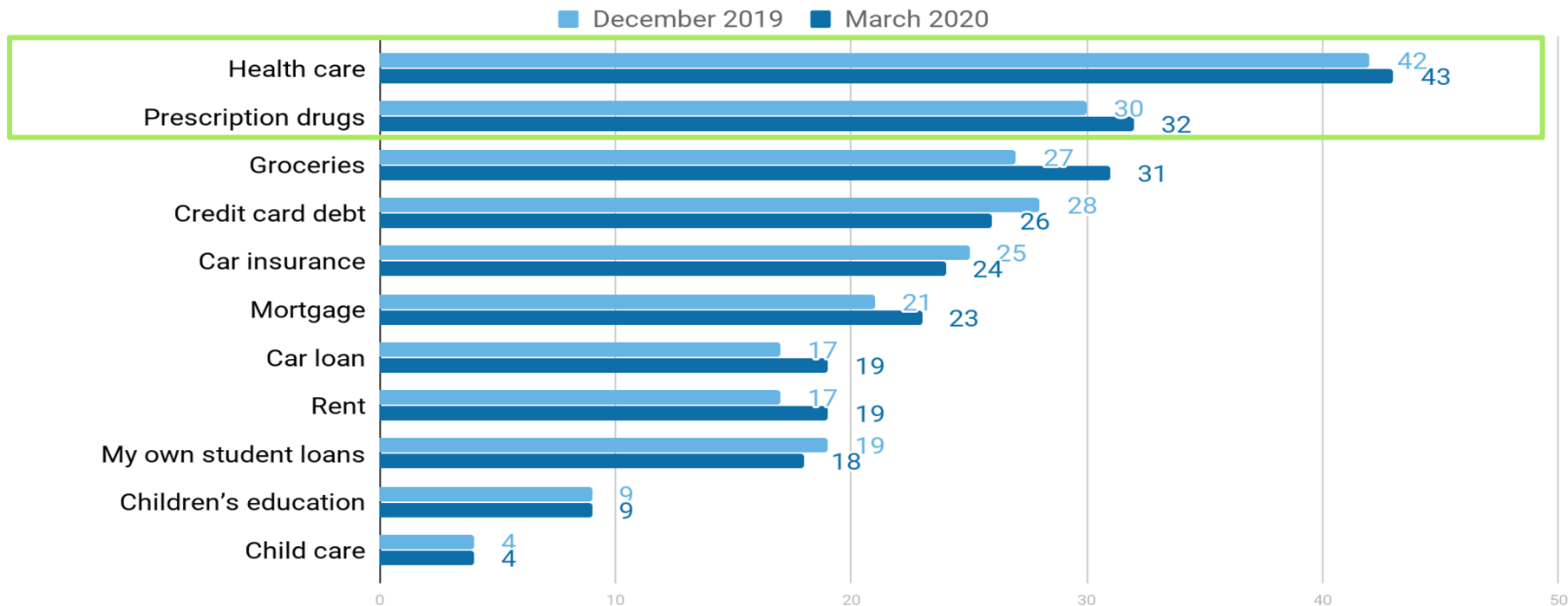


Healthcare & Rx most anxiety inducing expenses

These are the same top expenses as in May and November 2019

Which of the following monthly expenses are you worried about paying for? Please select all that apply.

Responses from December 2019 and March 2020 surveys

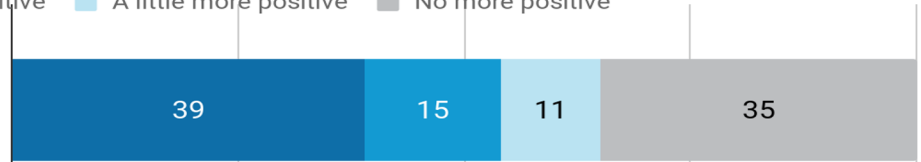


Best COVID messages set as example on tone & say people over political points right now

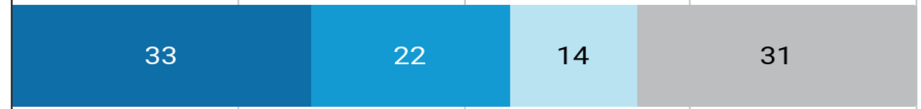
These are some statements from some Democratic leaders in response to the coronavirus. How much more positive do they feel towards someone who says each statement?

■ Much more positive ■ Somewhat more positive ■ A little more positive ■ No more positive

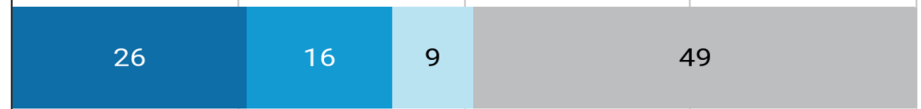
This is a time of national crisis and now more than ever we need leaders who have experience, a steady hand, and compassion. The American people need leaders who listen to the scientists, tell the truth, and accept responsibility. We need leaders who have weathered a crisis, know how to respond effectively, and can be trusted to put your well-being before political games.



I wish the Trump Administration had been more prepared, but now isn't the time for partisan bickering and name calling. What matters right now is getting equipment, treatment, and economic relief to people here as soon as possible. I am staying focused on working effectively with anyone - regardless of party - to get the outcomes we need for people struggling here.



In this time of crisis, our motto is workers first. But Republican leaders were telling voters not to worry about the coronavirus, and then warning their corporate donors that it was going to be much worse and selling their own stocks. Now they are trying to push big bailouts for corporations that just got massive tax cuts into a relief bill. Democrats are fighting to put direct relief for



President Trump's incompetent response to the coronavirus is costing us lives, jobs, economic security, and peace of mind. When he took office, Trump disbanded the pandemic task force assembled to address a situation like this, he refused to release tests months ago because he thought positive cases would look bad, and just last week he was claiming the virus was not an issue.



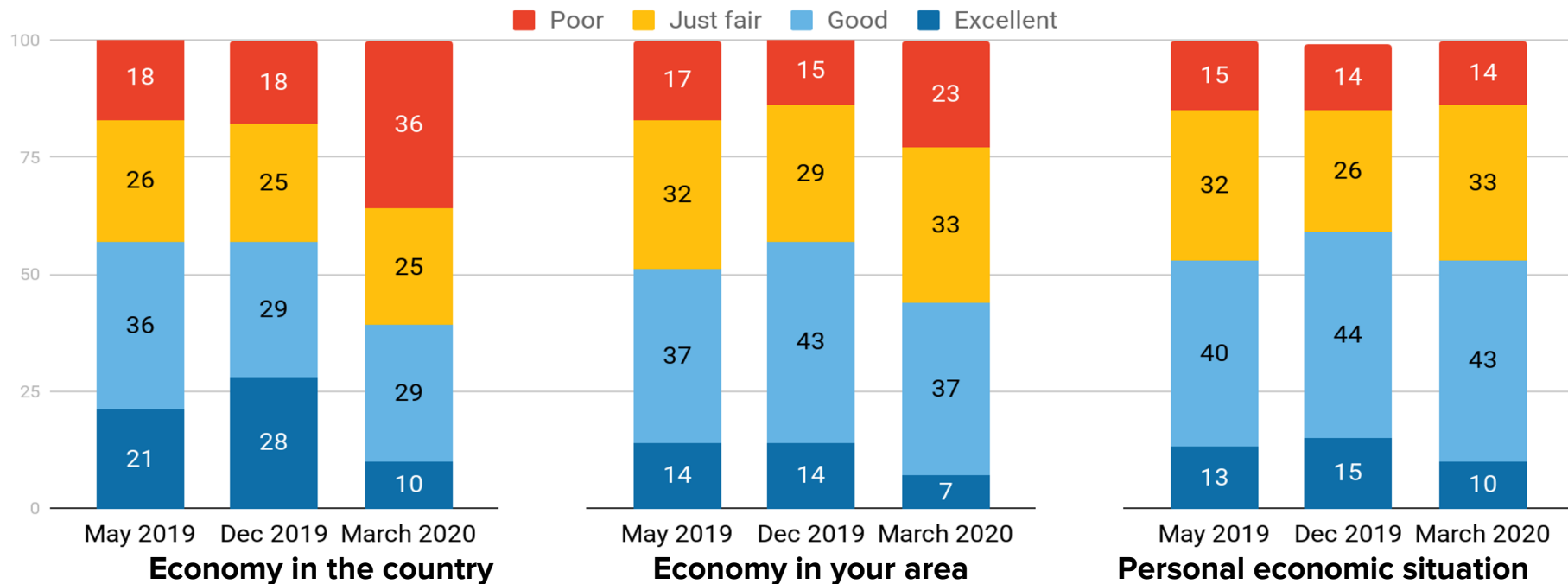
0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Voters' views of the economy in a new place

Reviews of the national economy now look much closer to reviews of the local economy

How would you rate the economic situation in _____ today?

Responses from May 2019, December 2019 and March 2020 surveys

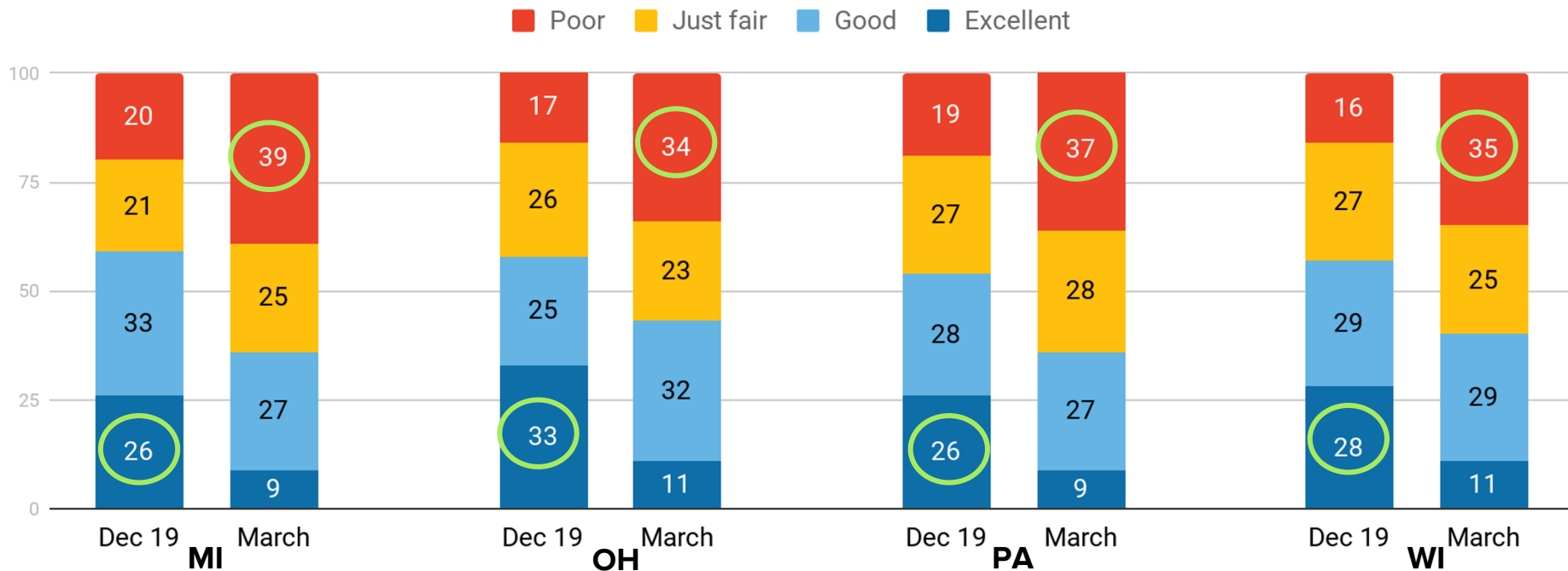


The economy is in a new place

Those saying the national economy is “poor” have doubled

How would you rate the economic situation in the country today?

Responses from December 2019 and March 2020 surveys

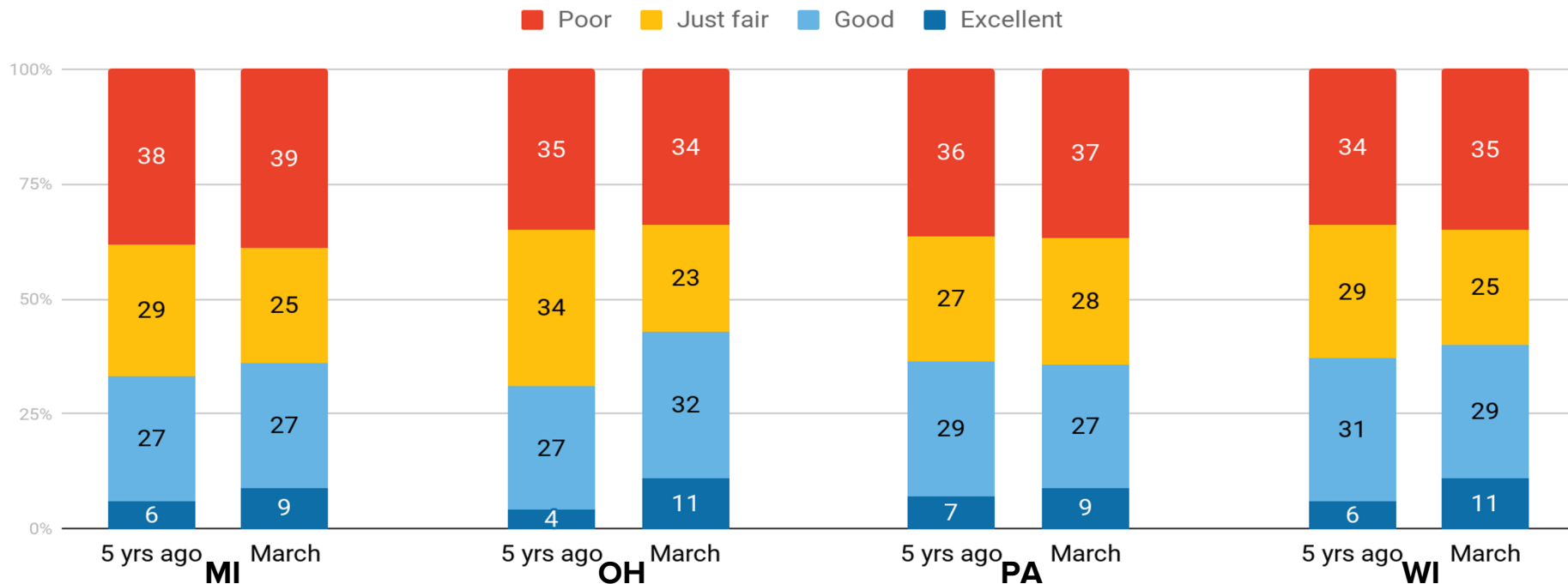


Close to where voters said things were 5 yrs ago

The gains under Trump have been wiped out

How would you rate the economic situation in the country today/five years ago?

Comparing ratings of the national economy today to ratings of the economy 5 years ago from December 2019 survey

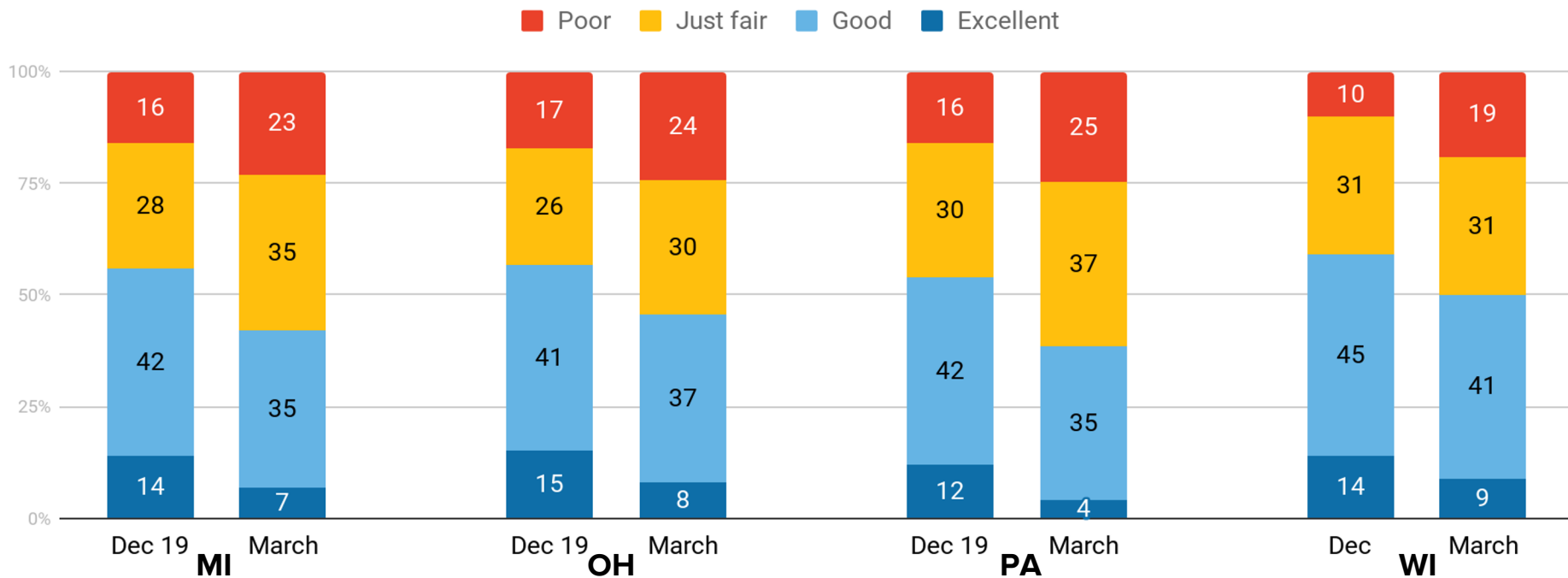


Local economy weaker

Strong positive reviews of local economy cut in half

How would you rate the economic situation in your area today?

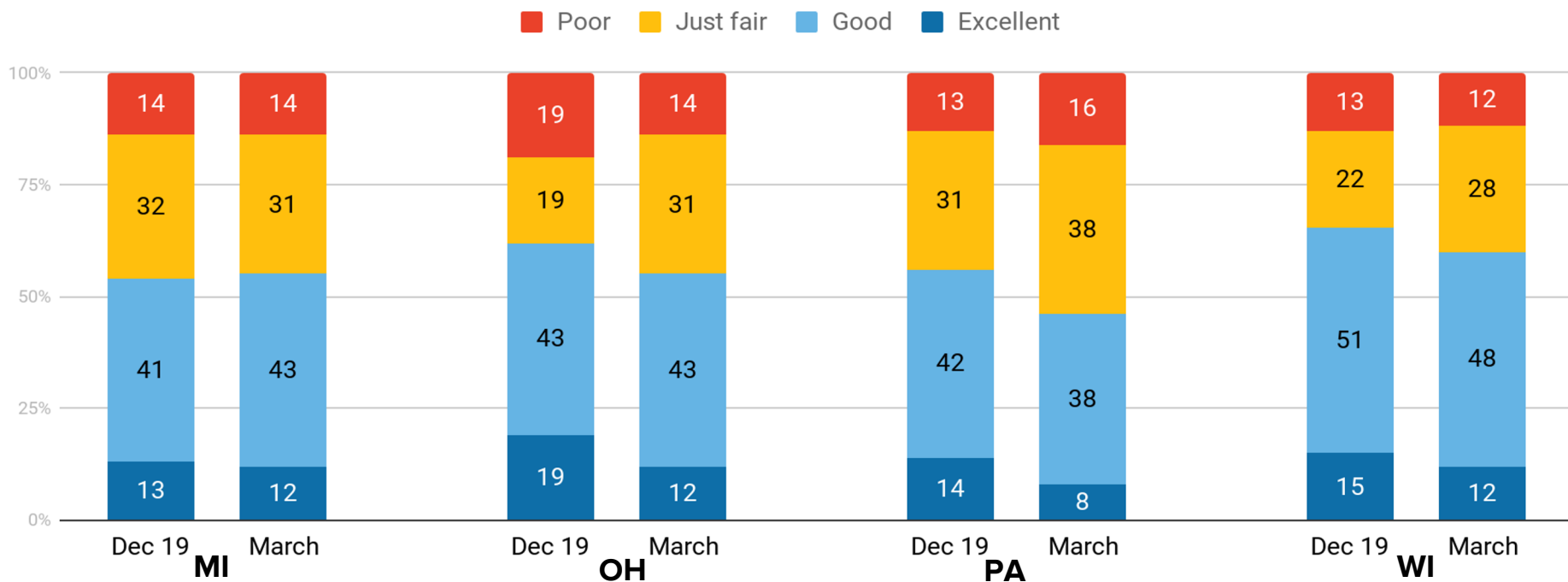
Responses from December 2019 and March 2020 surveys



Less impact on personal finances, which were already getting the lowest ratings

How would you rate your own economic situation today?

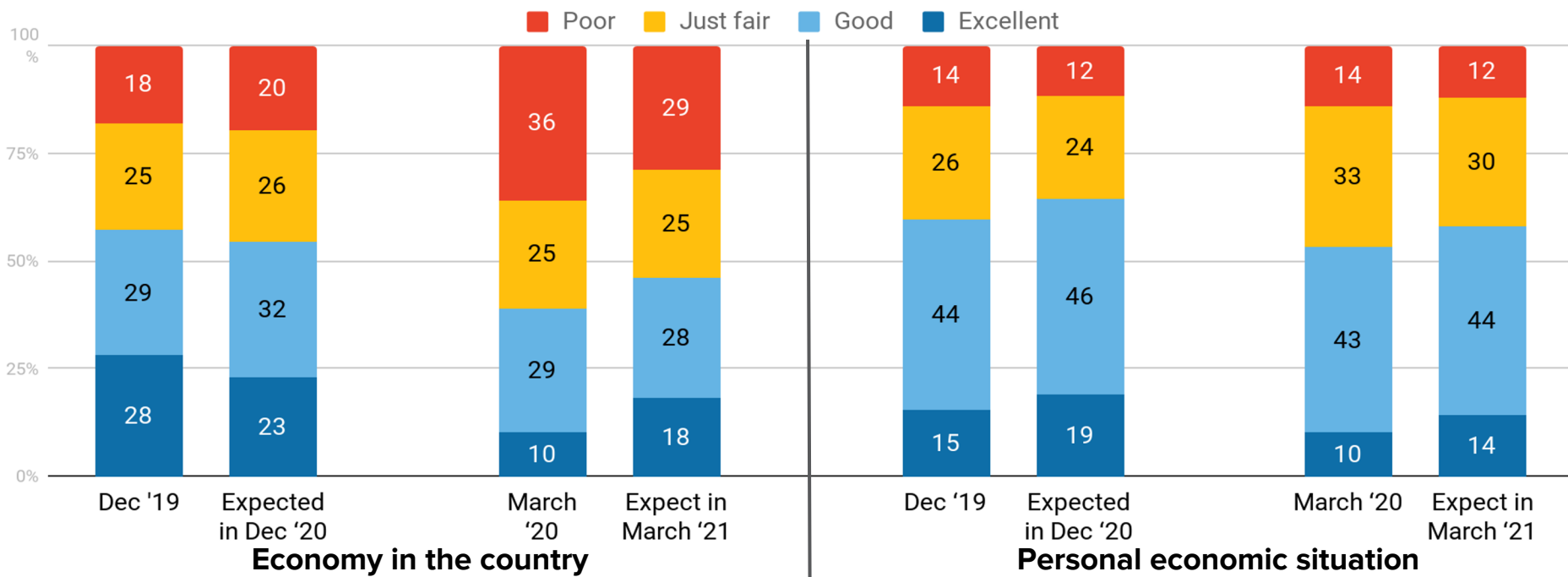
Responses from December 2019 and March 2020 surveys



Voters expect things to improve, but not where they expected things to be last year

How would you rate the economic situation in the country/your personal finances today/in one year?

Comparing ratings of the national economy today and expectations in 1 year from December 2019 and March 2020 surveys



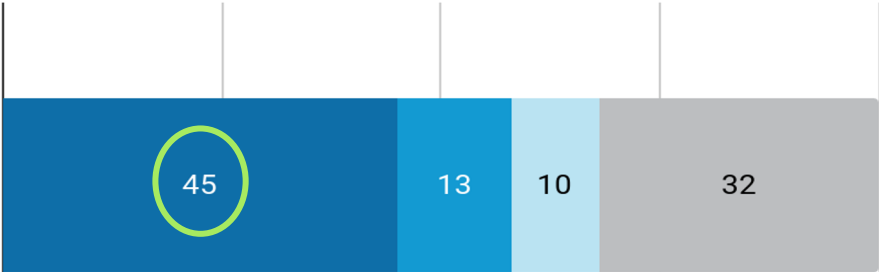
Democratic health care messages compelling

Especially one focused in a relatable, personal way on costs.

These are some statements from a Democratic candidate for office in [State]. For each, please indicate how it makes you feel toward the candidate.

■ Much more positive ■ Somewhat more positive ■ A little more positive ■ No more positive

People shouldn't have to decide between buying groceries and taking their medicine or seeing a doctor and going into medical debt. Healthcare is a right and it needs to be accessible and affordable. But premiums are rising faster than wages, and deductibles and out of pocket costs are sky high. We need to prioritize lower costs for Americans, not profits for pharmaceutical drug companies and insurers.



Even as we are facing a global pandemic, the Trump Administration and Republican governors are still trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act. That would kick millions of people off of their health insurance plans, including millions of people with pre-existing conditions, young adults on their parents plans, and low-wage full-time workers on Medicaid. We need to defend the Affordable Care Act, build on it and improve it, not repeal it.



0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Democrats still win the health care contrast

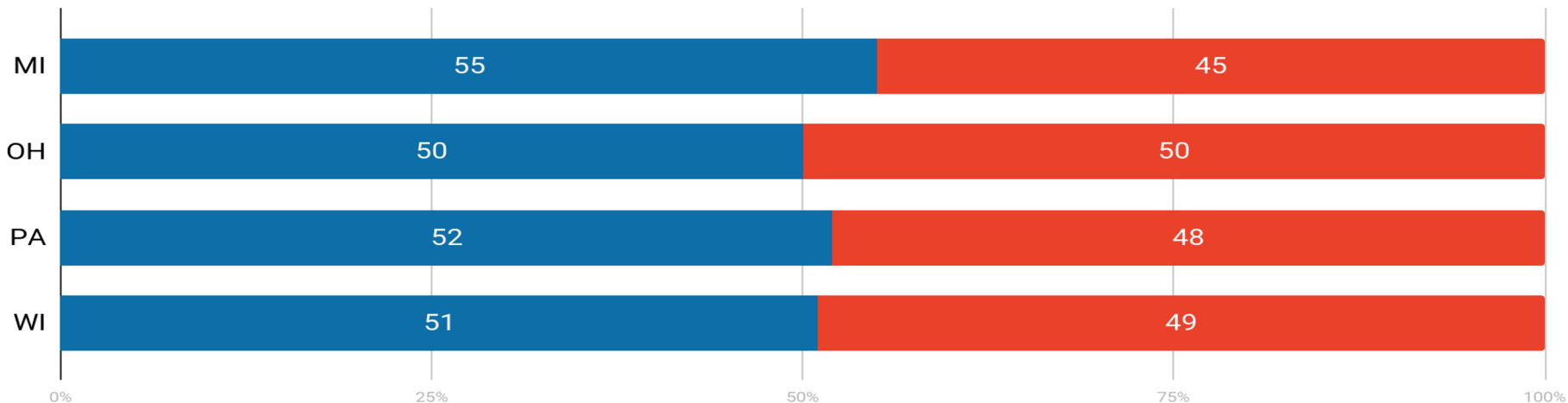
Compared to the GOP argument on health care

Which of the following comes closer to your point of view, even if neither is exactly right:

■ Democratic statement ■ Republican statement

Democrats say health care costs are killing us, but Republicans are taking millions from prescription drugs companies and insurance lobbyists and voting against new measures to reduce drug costs, and Republicans are still trying to repeal the Affordable Care Act's protections for preexisting conditions.

Donald Trump says the Democrats want to spend trillions of dollars on a socialist health care plan that would kick voters off of their private health insurance plans, eliminating Americans' freedom to make their own health care choices or see their preferred doctor.

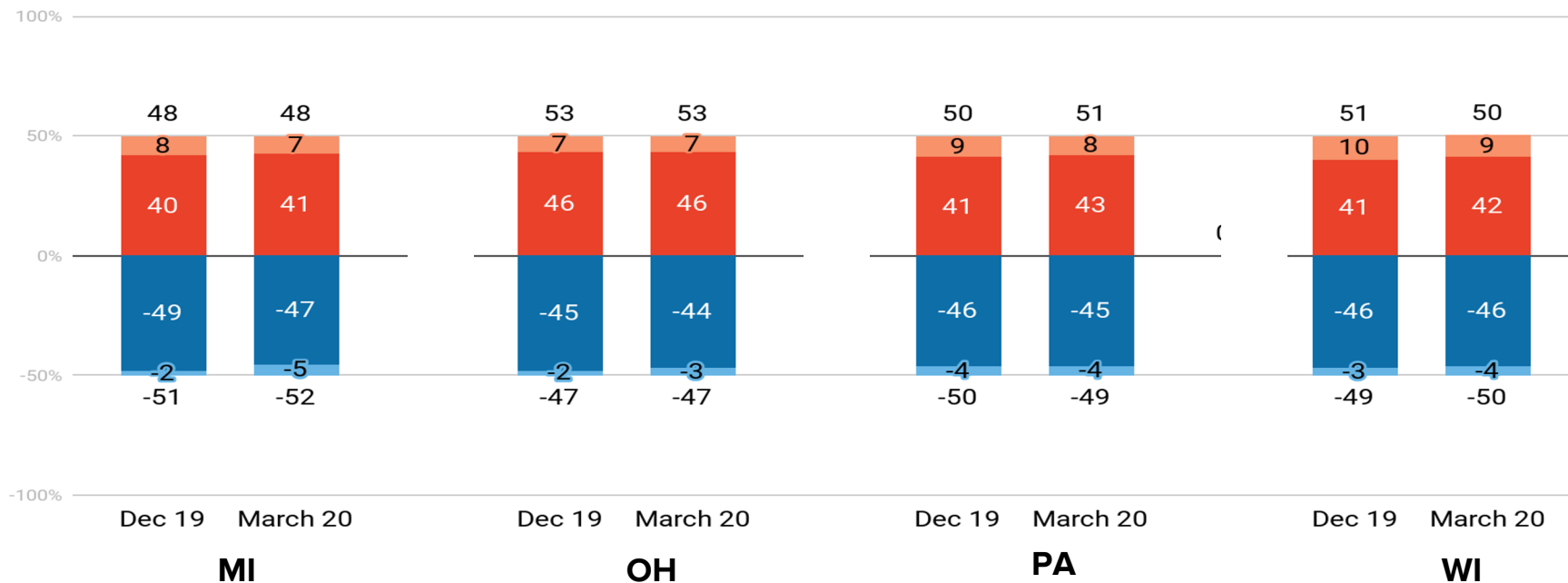


Trump support steady despite COVID & economic crisis

Voters are divided on Trump, but intense disapproval still outpaces strong approval in MI, PA, and WI

Do you approve or disapprove of the job that Donald Trump is doing as President?

Somewhat disapprove Strongly disapprove Somewhat approve Strongly approve



Dems leading down ballot

If the election for U.S. Congress were held today, who would you vote for?

