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AUGUST 20, 2021



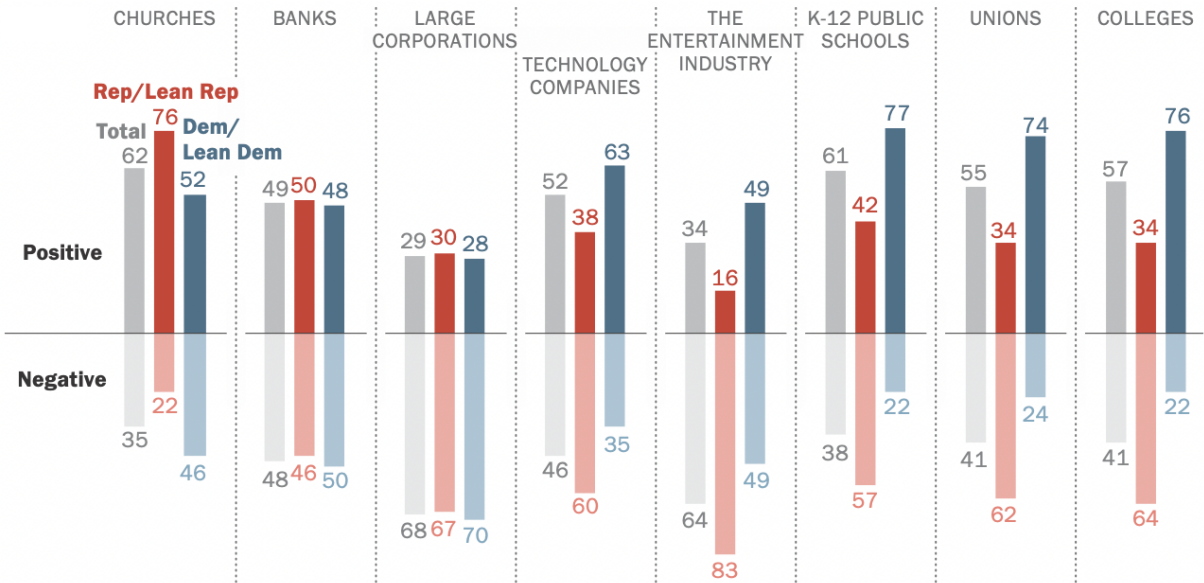
Republicans increasingly critical of several major U.S. institutions, including big corporations and banks

BY [TED VAN GREEN](#)

Republicans are critical of how several major institutions, from large corporations and technology companies to universities and K-12 public schools, are affecting the United States. And in many cases, Republicans' assessments have taken a sharp negative turn in the past few years.

Democrats more likely than Republicans to express positive views of many major institutions; Republicans more likely to say churches have a positive impact

% who say each has a ___ effect on the way things are going in the country



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 8-18, 2021.

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Democrats, by contrast, are more positive than Republicans about the impact of a number of institutions and industries. And while Democrats continue to be less likely than Republicans to say that churches and religious institutions have a positive effect on the country, that gap has narrowed since 2019.

As in the past, some of the widest partisan differences are in views of the effect of colleges and universities. About three-quarters of Democrats and Democratic leaners (76%) say colleges and universities have a positive effect on the way things are going in the country today. Only about a third of Republicans and Republican leaners (34%) say the same, while 64% say they have a negative effect, according to a Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted July 8-18, 2021.

How we did this +

The survey finds that partisan differences extend to views of K-12 public schools: 77% of Democrats say they have a positive effect, compared with 42% of Republicans. A 57% majority of Republicans, including nearly two-thirds of conservative Republicans

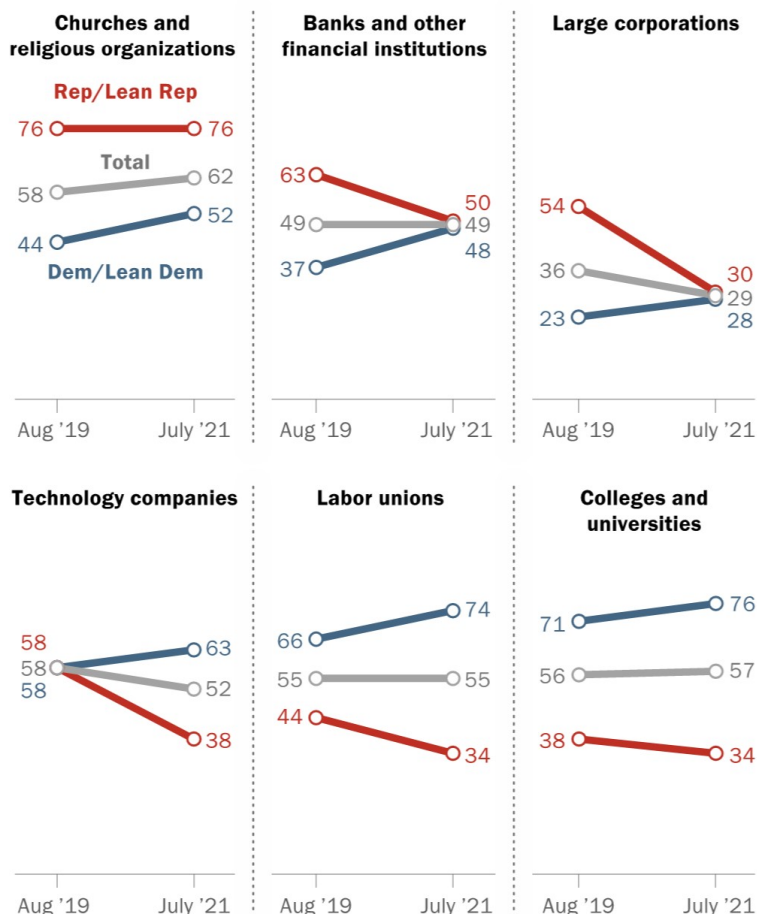
(65%), say public elementary and secondary schools have a negative effect.

While there have long been wide divides amobetween Republicans and Democrats on the impact of most institutions, Republicans' views of several have become more negative in the last two years, while in many cases Democrats have grown more positive in their evaluations.

Since 2019, the share of Republicans who say large corporations have a positive impact on the way things are going in the U.S. has declined 24 percentage points, from 54% to 30%. Democrats have become slightly more positive toward corporations since then; positive views have risen from 23% to 28%. As a result, while there were wide partisan differences in these evaluations two years ago, there is not a significant gap today.

Republicans are less positive about impact of large corporations, tech companies, banks, labor unions

% who say each has a **positive effect** on the way things are going in the country



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 8-18, 2021.

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Measuring views of institutions +

Over the past two years, there also have been declines in the shares of Republicans who express positive views of the impact of technology companies (from 58% to 38%), banks and financial institutions (63% to 50%) and labor unions (44% to 34%) on the country. For each of these institutions, Democratic views have become more positive.

Among eight institutions and industries included in the survey, only one – churches and religious organizations – is viewed by a majority of Republicans as having a positive effect. About three-quarters of Republicans (76%) say churches have a positive effect on

the way things are going in the country. By comparison, 52% of Democrats have positive views of churches, while 46% say they have a negative impact.

Since 2019, the share of Democrats who say churches have a positive effect has increased 8 percentage points (from 44% to 52%), while holding steady among Republicans.

Among the public overall, clear majorities say churches, public schools, colleges and labor unions have a positive effect.

By comparison, the entertainment industry and large corporations are viewed negatively by more than six-in-ten Americans.

Note: Here are [the questions used](#) for the report, along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

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