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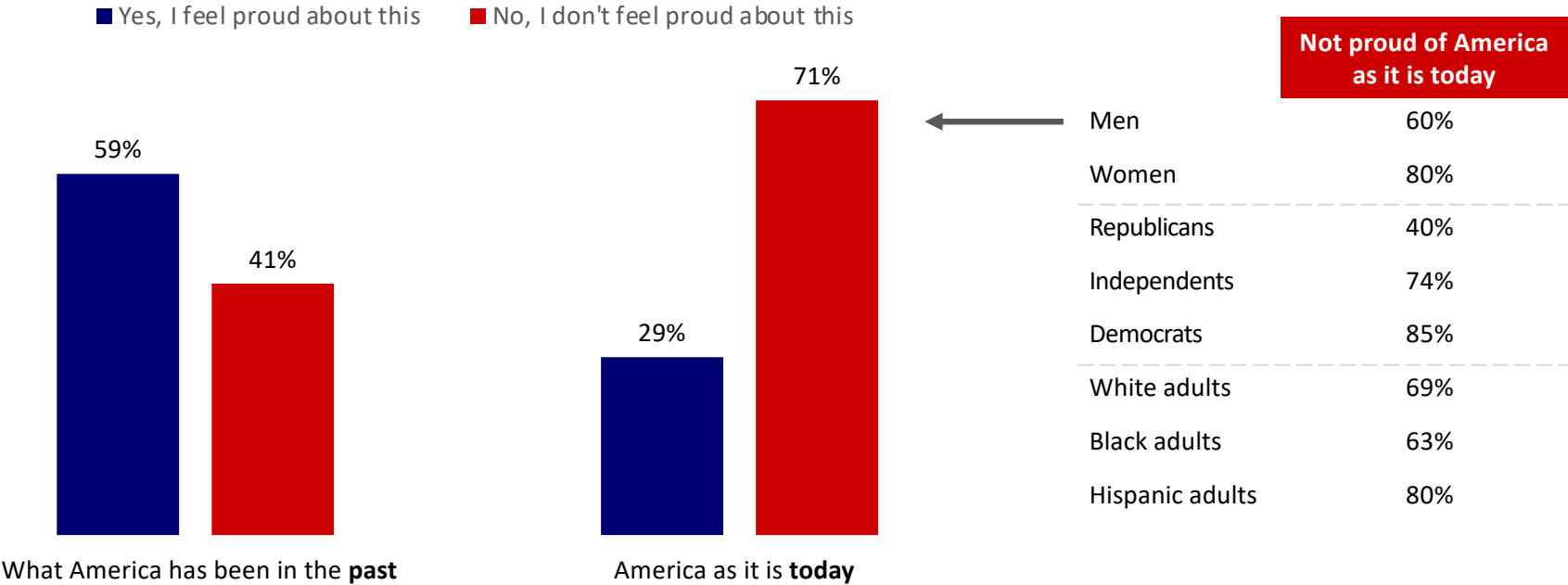
the Generation Lab

The State of the Union: *America Through Young Eyes*

The American Promise at 250

Most young Americans say they are proud of the country’s past, but this sentiment shifts dramatically when they describe how they feel about America today.

When thinking about the United States, do you feel proud about our country when it comes to...?



Overwhelmingly, young Americans offer negative characterizations about the state of the country today.

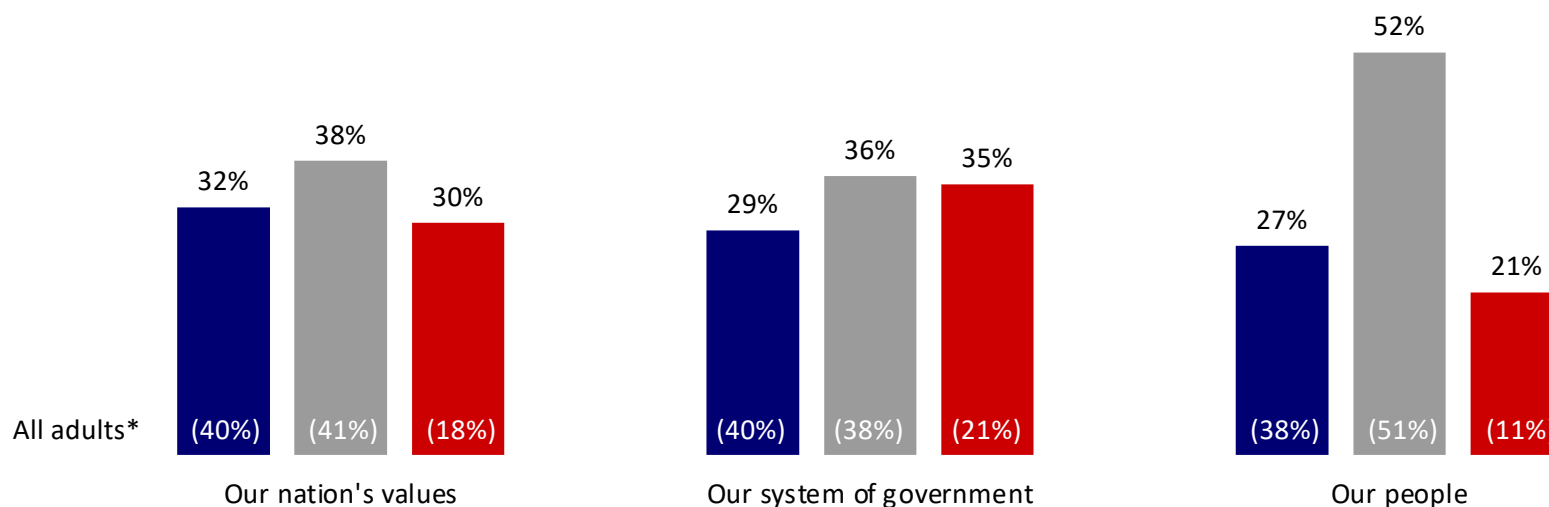
What one word would you use to describe America today? (coded open end)

Changing/evolving
Corrupt/unjust
Chaotic/unstable
Positive/strong/free
Broken/bad
Divided/polarized
Declining/struggling
Fearful/anxious/uncertain

Young Americans pushback on the traditional view of ‘American exceptionalism.’

In thinking about the United States, how do you feel about each of the following compared to the rest of the world?

■ We are better than most countries ■ We are about as good as other countries ■ We are worse than most countries

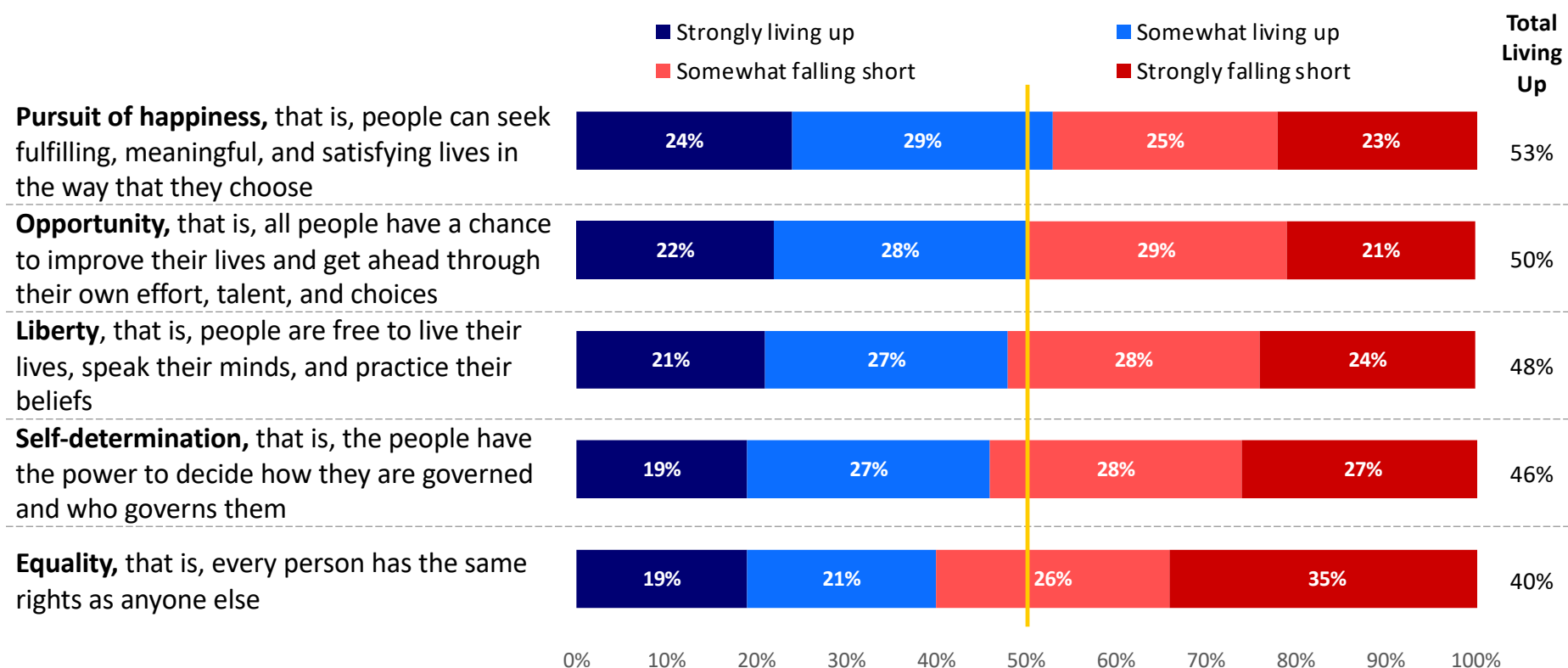


On each of these three measures, the plurality of young Americans say the U.S. is ‘about as good’ as other countries, not ‘better.’

**Data in parentheses in each column shows the results among all Americans from Echelon Insights June 2026 National Omnibus poll*

Young Americans give the country mixed grades in delivering on core principles of the Declaration of Independence.

Please indicate whether you think America is living up to or falling short on each of these principles.



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