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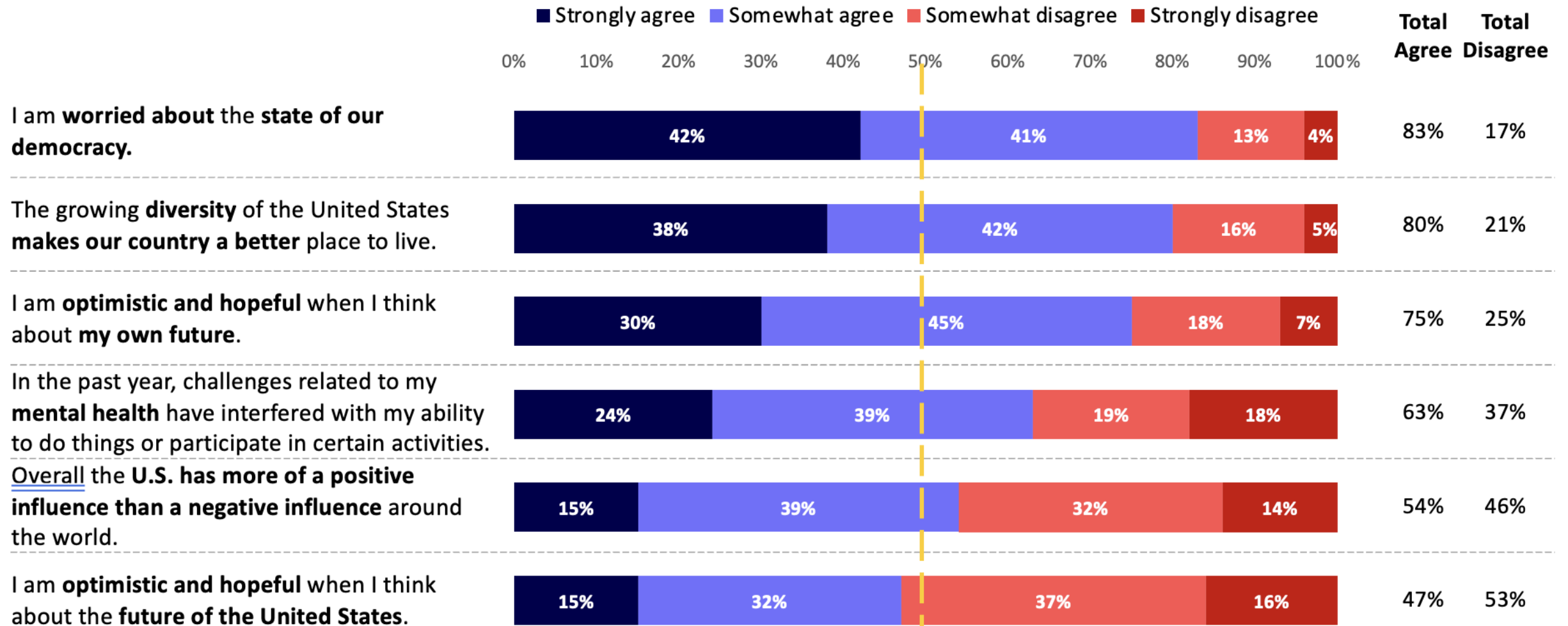
# Reimagining Political Leadership: *The Outlook of Young Americans*

# *The Outlook of Young Americans*

Young Americans report a mix of feelings and experiences that pull them in different directions.

- They are remarkably positive when they think about their own futures (75% optimistic), but significantly less so when they consider the future of the country (just 47% optimistic). Despite feeling hopeful about their own prospects, they also report obstacles: 63% say mental health challenges have interfered with their daily activities in the last year.
- Almost universally, they are worried about the state of American democracy (83% worried), but they generally agree there are positive trends (80% say the growing diversity of the country makes it a better place to live). And they are torn whether the U.S. has a more of a positive or negative impact around the world (54% positive influence, 46% negative influence).
- The report card young Americans deliver on the country is relatively bleak: the areas where they are most likely to give the U.S. failing grades center on having an effective government and competent political leadership.
- Despite their frustration with the political system, young Americans are remarkably engaged in issues and causes that matter to them: direct community service activities and helping children (through tutoring and mentoring) lead the list of their commitments.

# Young Americans display lots of contradictions: optimism for themselves (but not for the country) balanced by worries & struggles with wellness.

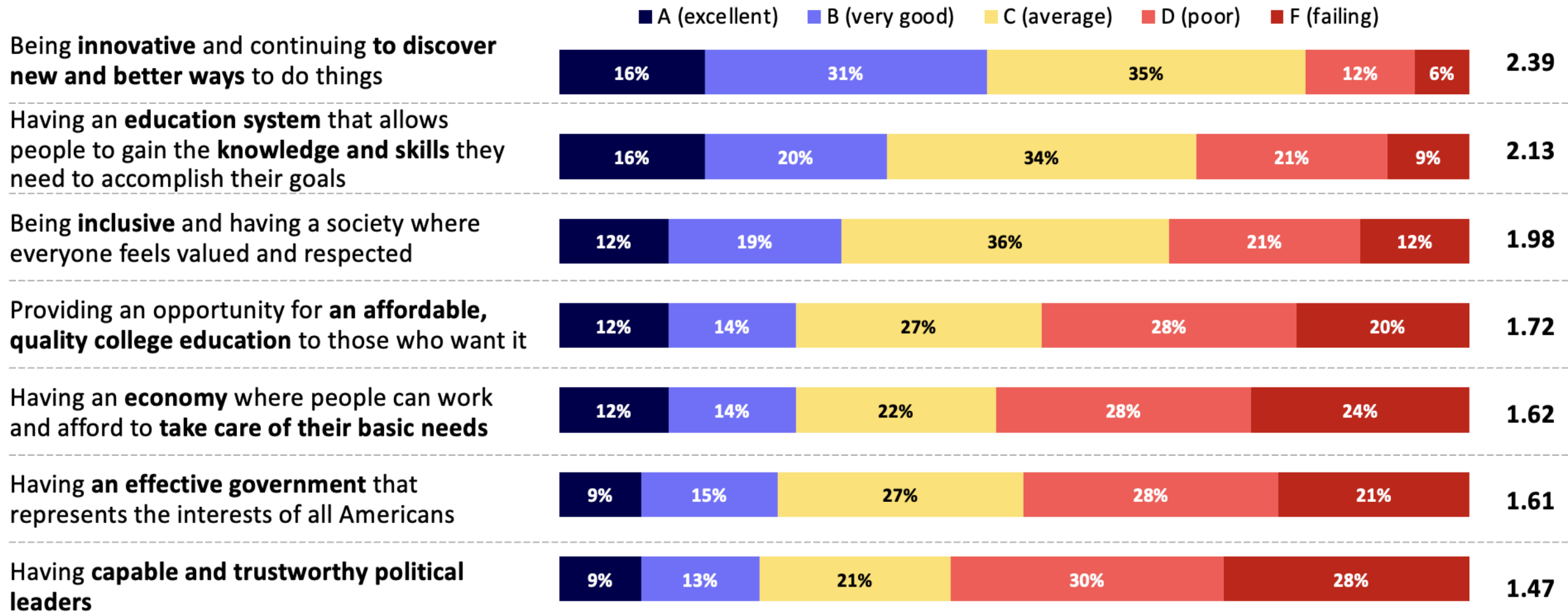


# But the mood varies by demographic and partisan identification.

<i>% who agree with each statement</i>	Mental health challenges	Optimistic about my future	Optimistic about U.S. future	Worried about our democracy	Diversity making U.S. better	U.S. positive influence around world
All young adults	63%	75%	47%	83%	80%	54%
White adults	64%	74%	45%	85%	79%	55%
Black adults	60%	80%	53%	84%	83%	51%
Hispanic adults	58%	74%	42%	84%	85%	58%
Men	57%	70%	54%	82%	83%	61%
Women	69%	73%	40%	88%	81%	44%
Democrats	68%	77%	48%	88%	92%	52%
Independents	62%	73%	38%	83%	77%	43%
Republicans	50%	77%	53%	80%	66%	63%
Cis/Hetero adults	56%	80%	51%	83%	79%	57%
LGBTQI+ adults	76%	63%	33%	92%	89%	37%

# Young Americans issue a poor report card on the country overall: economic needs are not being met and government leaders are vastly underperforming.

Report Card for the United States in Selected Areas



# Young Americans' evaluations vary across demographic lines.

On each of the seven “report card” metrics:

- Men give the country slightly higher grades than women.
  - Republicans give the country slightly higher grades than Democrats.
  - Cisgender/hetero young adults give the country higher grades than their LBGQTQ+ counterparts
- ➔ Notably, **the two lowest scoring categories revolve around political leadership** (having an effective government and having capable & trustworthy leaders), no more than 13% of young Americans in any demographic audience give the country an “A” on either measure.

