

## Memorandum

To: Interested Parties  
From: Tony Fabrizio and Bob Ward  
Date: March 23, 2026  
Re: Voters want payment regulations modernized to speed payments & increase competition

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Fabrizio Ward recently polled 1,000 registered voters nationally on the issue of modernizing payments regulations.

### **Bottom Line**

Voters across the political spectrum back reforms modernizing payment regulations to speed up payments and increase competition. Online payments platforms and digital wallets are used by majorities of voters, and there is strong agreement that payments should be faster, easier, always available, more secure and have more competition to improve services and lower fees. Politicians looking to address issues surrounding affordability and court the growing share of voters using digital payments should back reforms of our outdated payments regulation system.

### **Most voters use online payment platforms, which are technologically innovative services**

Overall, 3-in-5 voters use digital wallets or online payment platforms. 72% think these payment platforms are described well as being technologically innovative, a share that jumps to 87% among those who use the products themselves. (Charts 1 & 2)

### **Large majorities agree with statements that underscore the need for modernizing payment regulations**

Sizable majorities of voters from across the political spectrum agree with statements highlighting issues with our current payments system and benefits from modernizing payments regulations:

- It shouldn't take three business days for my paycheck to clear or be available (83% agree/11% disagree)
- When I pay a bill or send money, it should go through right away, as easy as texting or shopping online (83/12)
- In our digital world, electronic financial transactions should not have to rely on bankers' hours (81/13)
- Financial transactions should be instant regardless of the day of the week or time of day (78/16)
- Innovative companies are needed to tackle the ever-evolving security threats to payments (77/12)
- More competition from digital payment companies will force banks to innovate and improve their services (74/15)
- Mergers have produced larger and fewer banks, which has led to less competition and more fees (67/17)
- Other advanced countries have opened their payment systems to more competition and faster payments. The U.S. should do the same and lead the way. (66/17)

- More competition from digital payment companies will force banks to lower their fees (65/19)
- Having banks as the middleman increases fees for consumers and businesses (65/23) (Chart 3)

**3-in-4 voters support modernizing payment regulations to speed up payments and increase competition**

With rules that govern how money moves in the U.S. written decades ago before digital payment companies existed and paper checks and banks were the only way to send or receive money, voters support modernizing payments to speed up payments and increase competition, 76% - 15% (+61). Supermajorities of Trump and Harris voters back reform, with the strongest support coming from those who use the payment platforms themselves, 84% - 10% (+74). (Chart 4)

**Digital payments users support allowing digital payment companies access to payment networks without a bank by a 2:1 margin**

By a 58% - 27% (+31) margin, users of digital and online payments support allowing regulated digital payment companies to access national payment networks directly and to complete financial transactions without needing to partner with a bank. (Chart 5)

**Methodology**

Fabrizio Ward conducted a survey March 1-3, 2026, of 800 registered voters nationally on behalf of the Alliance for Secure & Accessible Payments. Quotas were set by region, age, gender, partisan affiliation, education, and race/ethnicity. Data was weighted by region, age, gender, recalled 2024 vote, education, and race/ethnicity. Margin of sampling error for n800 is  $\pm 3.5\%$  at the 95% confidence level. The interviews were conducted via cell phones (40%), landlines (15%), and SMS-to-Web (45%) to voters sampled from the voter file.

**Key Demographics**

**Party Affiliation**

Republican	35%
Independent	25
Democrat	34
Other/Ref	5

**2024 Vote**

Donald Trump	41%
Kamala Harris	40
Someone else	5
Did not vote	10
Refused	4

**Race/Ethnicity**

White	69%
Latino/Hispanic	12
African American/Black	12
Asian American	2
Native American	2
Other (SPECIFY)	<1
Refused	2

**Age**

18-34	25%
35-49	23
50-64	23
65+	24
Refused	3

**Education**

High School or Less	23%
Some College	38
4-Year College	24
Post-Grad degree	15
Refused	<1

**Gender**

Male	48%
Female	51
Other	1

Chart 1

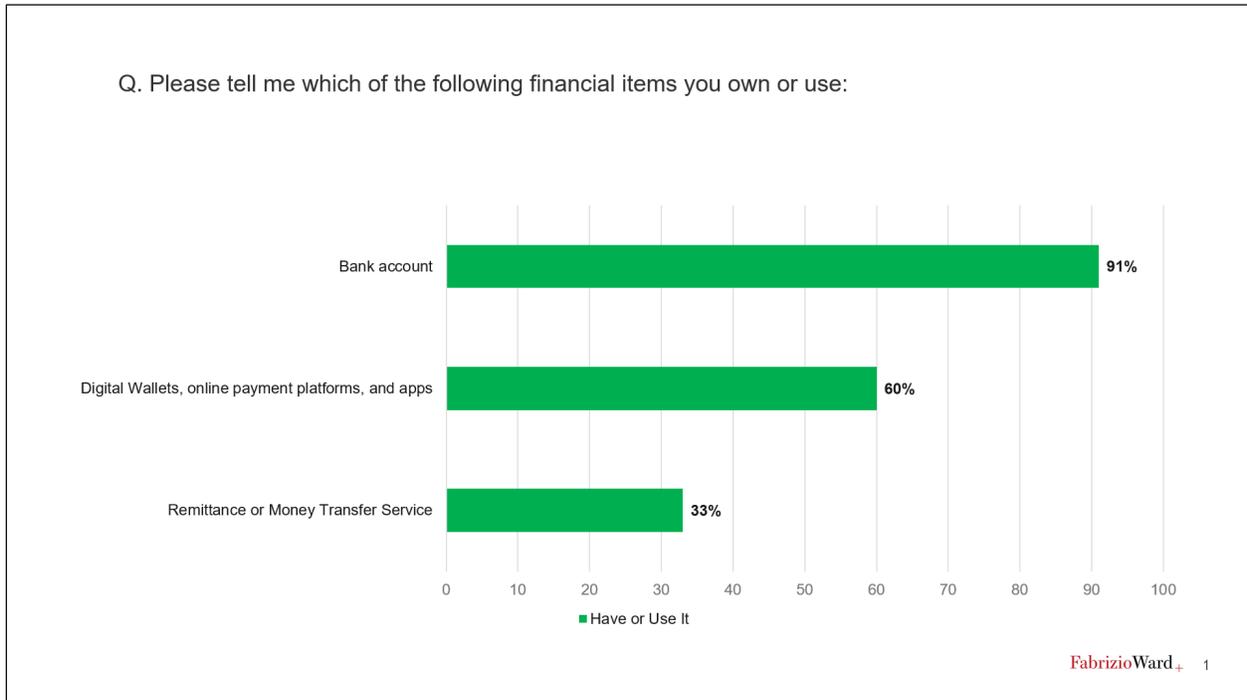


Chart 2

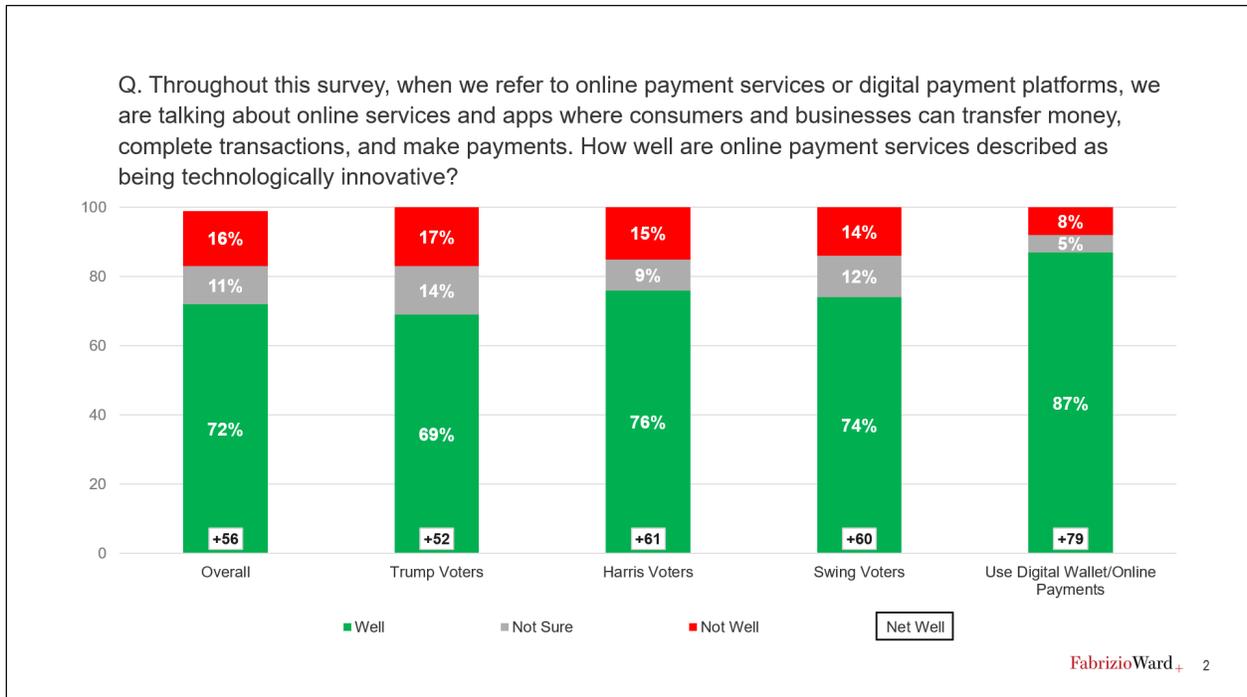


Chart 3

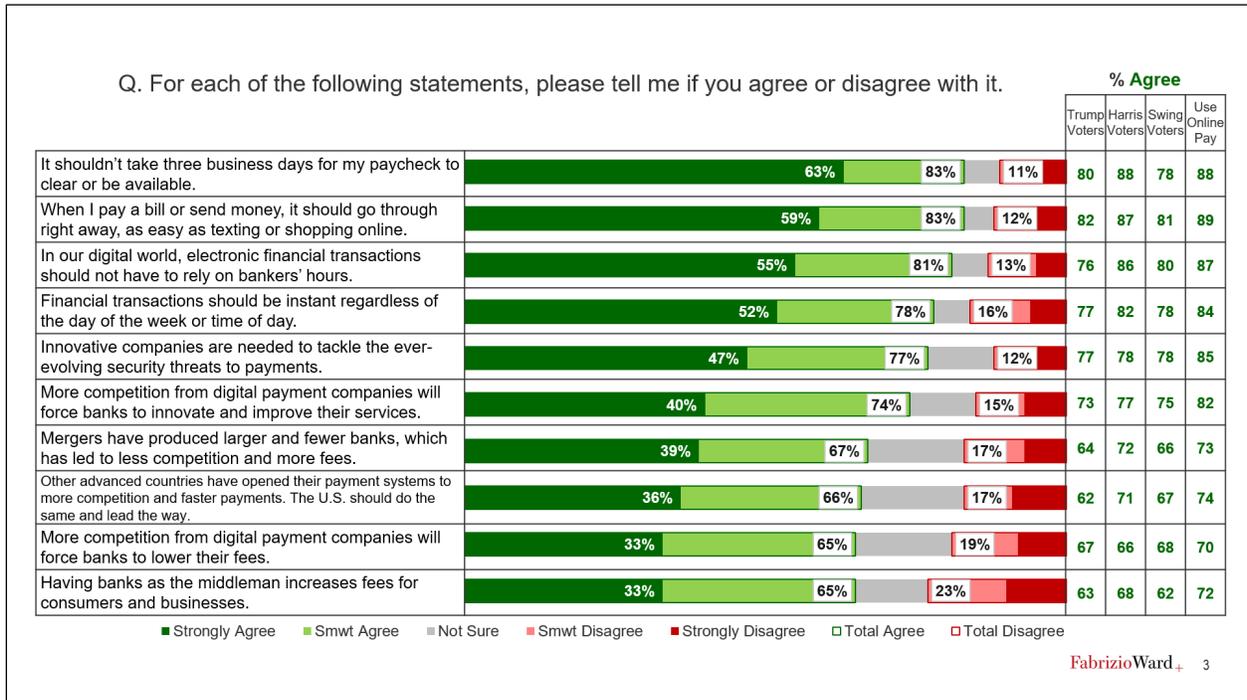


Chart 4

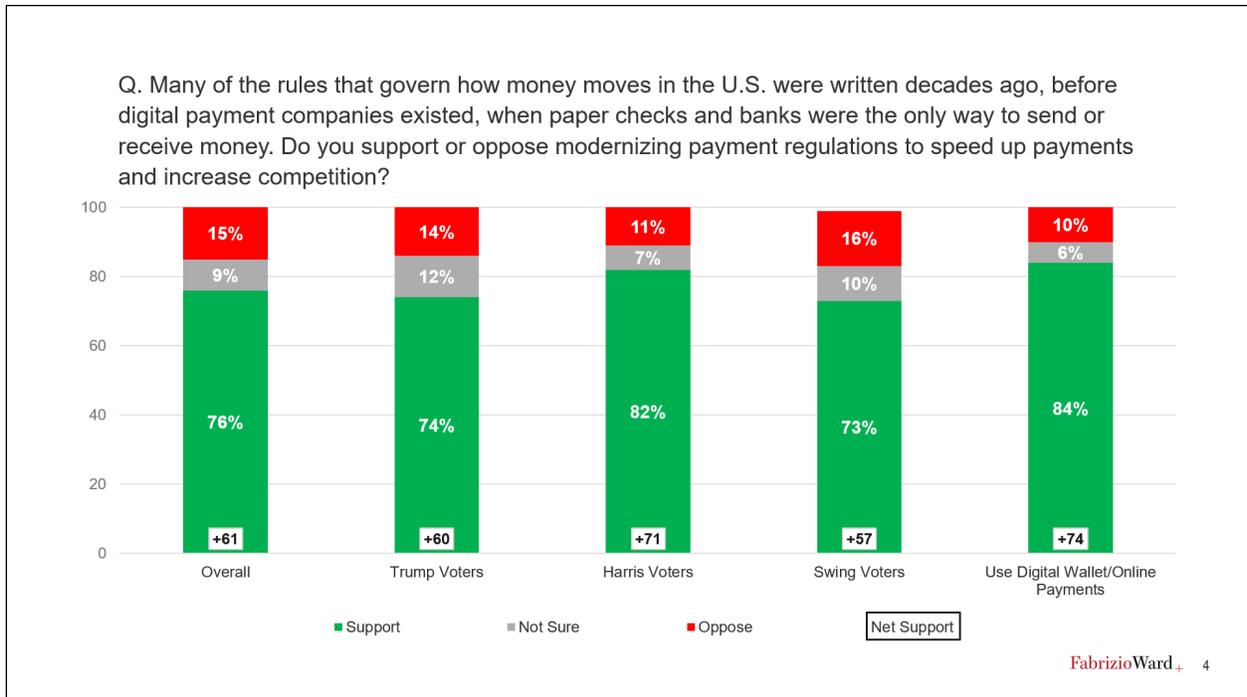


Chart 5

Q. Regulated digital payment companies are blocked from using the same national payment networks that banks use to move money. Do you support or oppose allowing regulated digital payment companies to access those networks directly and to complete financial transactions without needing to partner with a bank?

