



# INDEPENDENT CENTER

## 2024 Nationwide Survey of Registered Voters

*Online survey among n1002 registered voters nationwide*

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economic & social issues by registering at:**

**<https://independentcenter.org/>**

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**2024 Nationwide Survey of Registered Voters**  
Toplines

Field Dates: 01/19-22/2024  
Margin of error:  $\pm 3.1$

## SCREENER SECTION

You have been selected to participate in a survey on a confidential basis. This is a rare opportunity to voice your opinions. Your responses will be kept confidential; you are not being asked to buy anything or donate money. We simply want to know what you think and how you feel.

Screener 1: Are you, or is anyone in your household, employed by the news media, a market research firm, an elected official, or actively involved with political campaigns?

100% No (**continue**)

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Screener 2: Are you currently registered to vote?

100% Yes

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## GENERAL SENTIMENT

GS1. At this time next year, do you think that you will personally be **(ROTATE)** better or worse **(END ROTATE)** off than you are today?

**63%** **Total Better off**

24% Much better off

39% Somewhat better off

**22%** **Total Worse off**

15% Somewhat worse off

7% Much worse off

15% Unsure

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GS2. At this time next year, do you think America will be **(ROTATE)** better or worse **(END ROTATE)** off than it is today?

**41%** **Total Better off**

16% Much better off

26% Somewhat better off

**38%** **Total Worse off**

23% Somewhat worse off

15% Much worse off

20% Unsure

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GS3. Do you **(ROTATE)** approve or disapprove **(END ROTATE)** of the job President Joe Biden is doing?

**41%** **Total Approve**

20% Strongly approve

21% Somewhat approve

**55%** **Total Disapprove**

14% Somewhat disapprove

41% Strongly disapprove

3% Unsure

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GS4. Do you **(ROTATE)** approve or disapprove **(END ROTATE)** of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?

**29%** **Total Approve**

10% Strongly approve

19% Somewhat approve

**62%** **Total Disapprove**

33% Somewhat disapprove

29% Strongly disapprove

9% Unsure

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GS5. On the following scale, please indicate where you see yourself politically.

**(DO NOT SHOW numeric scale....)**

14%	0 = Progressive Liberal / Strong Democrat
5%	1
4%	2
4%	3
4%	4
29%	5 = Moderate Centrist / Independent
5%	6
6%	7
9%	8
7%	9
14%	10= Staunch-Conservative / Strong Republican

**Mean 5.2**

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GS7. On the following scale, please indicate how you see yourself voting in future elections.

**(DO NOT SHOW numeric scale....)**

20%	0 = Exclusively vote for Democratic candidates
5%	1
5%	2
4%	3
3%	4
23%	5 = Vote Independent / split ticket
5%	6
4%	7
7%	8
6%	9
19%	10= Exclusively vote for Republican candidates

**Mean 5.1**

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GS8. In the perfect world, where on the following scale, would you like to see America's elected officials stand politically?

**(DO NOT SHOW numeric scale....)**

17%	0 = progressive liberal / Strong Democrat
4%	1
6%	2
3%	3
4%	4
27%	5 = Moderate Centrist / Independent
4%	6
5%	7
8%	8
6%	9
15%	10= Staunch-Conservative / Strong Republican

**Mean 5.1**

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# POLITICAL SENTIMENT

Thinking ahead to the general election next November...

NE1. If next year's presidential election were between (ROTATE) Republican Donald Trump (**or**) Democrat Joe Biden (END VOTE), how would you vote?

**47%** **Total Trump**  
38% Definitely Trump  
9% Lean Trump

**42%** **Total Biden**  
10% Lean Biden  
32% Definitely Biden

11% Unsure / Other

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NE2. If next year's presidential election were between (ROTATE) Republican Donald Trump, Democrat Joe Biden, an Independent / third-party candidate (END VOTE), how would you vote?

**17%** **Total Independent**  
8% Definitely Independent  
9% Lean Independent

**40%** **Total Trump**  
32% Definitely Trump  
8% Lean Trump

**35%** **Total Biden**  
28% Definitely Biden  
7% Lean Biden

8% Unsure

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F9. If next year's congressional election were between (ROTATE) a Republican, A Democrat, an Independent / third-party candidate (END VOTE), how would you vote?

**16%** **Total Independent**  
7% Definitely Independent  
9% Lean Independent

**39%** **Total Republican**  
27% Definitely Republican  
12% Lean Republican

**36%** **Total Democrat**  
27% Definitely Democrat  
9% Lean Democrat

9% Unsure

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F10. Which of the following do you think would be the best candidate to represent you and your neighbors in Congress? **(RANDOMIZE 1-3)**

21% A candidate who works and votes with the Republicans in Congress.

22% A candidate who works and votes with the Democrats in Congress.

47% A candidate who works and votes with both Republicans and Democrats in Congress.

10% Unsure

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## ISSUE IMPORTANCE

II1. Of the following, what would you say is the most pressing issue in America today? **(RANDOMIZE 1-12)**

24%	Jobs and the economy
21%	Immigration
10%	Government leadership
8%	Taxes and government spending
7%	Health care
7%	National security
6%	Abortion
4%	Energy and the environment
3%	Police reform and criminal justice
2%	Education
2%	Free speech and censorship
2%	Social reforms
3%	None of the above
0%	Refused

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II2. Thinking specifically about the issue of inflation, what would you say has the biggest impact on your day-to-day life? **(RANDOMIZE)**

46%	Food/Groceries
18%	Rent/Mortgage
11%	Health insurance/Medical
9%	Gasoline/Transport
7%	Home heating/electric bills
1%	School fees/Tuition
2%	Other
4%	None of the above
2%	Unsure

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Moving on...

II15: Thinking ahead to next year's Presidential election, which of the following do you think will have the biggest impact on your vote? **(RANDOMIZE 1-12)**

22%	Candidates' stance on jobs and the economy
16%	Candidates' stance on immigration
12%	Candidates' stance on taxes and government spending
8%	Candidates' stance on government leadership
7%	Candidates' stance on national security
6%	Candidates' stance on health care
6%	Candidates' stance on abortion
5%	Candidates' stance on energy and the environment
4%	Candidates' stance on police reform and criminal justice
3%	Candidates' stance on social reforms
3%	Candidates' stance on free speech and censorship
1%	Candidates' stance on education
5%	None of the above
1%	Refused

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II16. Which of the following do you believe would make the government more effective? (ROTATE 1-3, 3-1)

- 26% Growing and investing more in government-run programs and regulations
  - 36% Reforming government programs to offer more choice with competition from the private sector
  - 22% Reducing and eliminating government-run programs and regulations
  
  - 16% Unsure
- 

II17. Which of the following do you believe would make our educational system more effective? (ROTATE 1-3, 3-1)

- 39% Growing and investing more in government-run public schools.
  - 48% Reforming education to give parents vouchers to choose public or private options.
  - 13% Eliminating public schools and providing funding to parents to select whatever private options they want.
- 

II18. Which of the following do you believe would help address housing affordability? (ROTATE 1-3, 3-1)

- 47% More government involvement in offering more subsidies and programs targeted at disadvantaged individuals.
  - 34% Reducing regulatory barriers that delay construction and impose higher costs on building housing.
  - 18% Eliminating all government programs and regulation in the housing market to allow private providers to build what they want and where.
- 

II19. On the issue of energy and the environment, which candidate would you be most likely to vote for? (ROTATE 1-3, 3-1)

- 34% A candidate who pledges more government funding for legislation that will eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, and tax companies who leave a carbon footprint.
  - 36% A candidate who recognizes climate change and supports solutions that allow individuals to make choices that best support their goals.
  - 20% A candidate who pledges to oppose any new government spending aimed at curbing "climate change."
  - 10% Unsure
- 

II20. Do you think human actions cause and/or accelerate climate change? (ROTATE 1-4, 4-1)

- 74% Total Yes**
  - 39% Yes, Definitely
  - 34% Yes, to some extent
  
  - 19% Total No**
  - 9% No, not really
  - 10% No, not at all
  
  - 7% Unsure
- 





II21. Over the past year or two, would you say that your household energy/electric bill has **(ROTATE)** become more expensive, become less expensive or stayed about the same? **(ROTATE 1-3,3-1)**

- 65% Become more expensive
  - 25% Stayed about the same
  - 6% Become less expensive
  
  - 4% Other / Unsure
- 

Thinking a moment about Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare...

II22. Do you believe that a large portion of our national debt comes from unfunded Social Security and Medicare spending obligations?

- 31% Yes
  - 40% No
  
  - 30% Unsure
- 

II23. Do you think that your Social Security contributions will: **(ROTATE 1-4,4-1)**

- 10% More than cover all your benefits
  - 12% Cover all your benefits
  - 34% Cover part of your benefits
  - 30% Not come close to covering your benefits
  
  - 14% Unsure
- 

II24. Do you expect to receive Medicare benefits in your lifetime?

- 67% Yes
  - 16% No
  
  - 17% Unsure
- 

II25. Do you expect the United States to experience a fiscal crisis during your lifetime?

- 64% Yes
  - 13% No
  
  - 23% Other / Unsure
- 

II26. What do you think would be the best path forward regarding entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicaid, and Medicare? (ROTATE 1-3)

- 23% We should reform the way entitlement programs are paid for and distributed
  - 38% We should modernize the way entitlement programs are paid for and distributed
  - 25% We should maintain the current policies with how entitlement programs are paid for and distributed
  
  - 14% Other / Unsure
- 



II27. How worried are you to hear that the Social Security Board of Trustees projects that the Social Security Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2033?

**75% Total Worried**

43% Very worried  
33% Somewhat worried

**17% Total Not Worries**

11% Not that worried  
6% Not at all worried

8% Other / Unsure

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II28. How worried are you to hear that the Medicare Board of Trustees projects that the Medicare Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2031?

**76% Total Worried**

43% Very worried  
34% Somewhat worried

**16% Total Not Worried**

10% Not that worried  
6% Not at all worried

8% Other / Unsure

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## NEXT ELECTION SERIES

### (ROTATE NEXT TWO)

NE6. Do you trust the Democrat party to listen to you and your neighbors on key issues that matter most if they were to win the next Presidential election? **(ROTATE 1-2)**

38% Yes  
46% No  
16% Unsure

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NE7. Do you trust the Republican party to listen to you and your neighbors on key issues that matter most if they were to win the next Presidential election? **(ROTATE 1-2)**

38% Yes  
45% No  
17% Unsure

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### (END ROTATE)

NE8. Do you think having independent candidates in Congress will make the next president more trustworthy?

33% Yes  
32% No  
36% Unsure

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NE13: Thinking ahead to next year's Presidential election, which of the following specific issues would you like to see candidates focusing their efforts on? **(SELECT ALL THAT APPLY) (RANDOMIZE 1-10)**

67% Affordability / inflation  
46% Safety / criminal reforms  
46% Health care reform  
43% Social security reform  
30% Discrimination / equality  
25% Training and apprenticeship work programs  
21% Cannabis legalization  
20% Social security reform  
19% Paid maternity leave  
13% Trans issues  
  
9% Other  
4% None of the above  
1% Refused

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M1. How do you view the current political climate in America? **(ROTATE 1-4, 4-1)**

**24% Total Positive**  
10% Very positively  
13% Somewhat positively

**68% Total Negative**  
33% Somewhat negatively  
35% Very negatively

8% Unsure

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You will now read a list of potential candidates running for President of the United States. After each, please indicate how **(ROTATE)** scared or comforted **(END ROTATE)** you would feel for America's well-being and global standing if the candidate were to become the next President of the United States.

**(RANDOMIZE NEXT THREE)**

F1. Donald Trump

<b>48%</b>	<b>Total Comforted</b>
29%	Very comforted
19%	Somewhat comforted
<b>45%</b>	<b>Total Scared</b>
11%	Somewhat scared
35%	Very scared
1%	Never heard of
5%	Unsure

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F2. Joe Biden

<b>39%</b>	<b>Total Comforted</b>
19%	Very comforted
20%	Somewhat comforted
<b>54%</b>	<b>Total Scared</b>
15%	Somewhat scared
39%	Very scared
2%	Never heard of
5%	Unsure

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F3. A nonpartisan politician that works with both sides of the aisle

<b>53%</b>	<b>Total Comforted</b>
15%	Very comforted
38%	Somewhat comforted
<b>26%</b>	<b>Total Scared</b>
18%	Somewhat scared
8%	Very scared
5%	Never heard of
16%	Unsure

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# DEMOGRAPHICS SECTION

## (ASK FULL SAMPLE)

Now just a few questions to make sure we have a representative sample:

Gender                      Your gender identification?

52%	Female
48%	Male
0%	Other

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Screener 3:                      In what year were you born?  
\_\_\_\_ \_

Age Range                      **IF UNSURE OR REFUSED, ASK:** Which of the following categories best describes your age?

9%	18 to 24
7%	25 to 29
16%	30 to 39
16%	40 to 49
30%	50 to 64
22%	65 or older

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Ethnicity                      Do you consider yourself to be of Hispanic or Latino descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, or some other Central or Latin American background?

13%	Yes
87%	No
0%	Unsure

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Race                              And which of the following best describes your racial background?

67%	White or Caucasian
13%	Black or African American
13%	Hispanic
4%	Asian or Pacific Islander
1%	Native American
2%	Other

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Party ID: In politics today, and regardless of how you are registered, do you consider yourself to be a...  
**(ROTATE 1-7: TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)**

<b>31%</b>	<b>Total Democrat</b>
23%	Strong Democrat
8%	Not so strong Democrat
<b>39%</b>	<b>Total Independent</b>
7%	Independent leaning Democrat
22%	Independent
9%	Independent leaning Republican
<b>30%</b>	<b>Total Republican</b>
9%	Not so strong Republican
21%	Strong Republican
0%	Other
1%	Unsure

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Ideology: Thinking for a moment about your social, economic, and political views...Do you consider yourself to be... **(ROTATE VALUES 1-5; TOP-TO-BOTTOM / BOTTOM-TO-TOP)?**

<b>22%</b>	<b>Total Liberal</b>
10%	Very Liberal
12%	Somewhat Liberal
33%	Moderate
<b>38%</b>	<b>Total Conservative</b>
19%	Somewhat Conservative
19%	Very Conservative
1%	Libertarian
5%	Unsure

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2020 Vote For whom did you vote in the 2020 Presidential election **(ROTATE 1-2)?**

42%	Donald Trump
44%	Joe Biden
4%	Someone Else
9%	Did not vote
1%	Don't recall
1%	Refused

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Education What is the highest level of formal education that you have completed?

3%	Less than high school
24%	High school graduate
19%	Some college
12%	College graduate with associate or 2-year degree
22%	College graduate with bachelor's or 4-year degree
14%	Post-graduate degree
3%	Technical or vocational school graduate
1%	Unsure

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LGBTQ+ Do you consider yourself to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning?

7% Yes  
91% No  
1% Unsure  
1% Prefer not to answer

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Marital Status What would best describe your marital status?

33% Single or never married  
43% Married  
2% Separated  
15% Divorced  
7% Widowed  
1% Other

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Children Do you have children currently living in your household?

36% Yes  
64% No  
0% Refused

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Neighborhood Would you best describe the neighborhood or area you live in as...

33% Urban  
41% Suburban  
24% Rural  
2% Unsure

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401K Do you invest into an IRA or 401k?

46% Yes  
54% No

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Income We want to classify people into broad income groups only. Would you estimate your total household income to be...?

39% Below \$40,000  
29% Between \$40,000 and \$79,999  
13% Between \$80,000 and \$124,999  
14% Above \$125,000  
2% Unsure  
2% Prefer not to answer

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Homeowner Do you currently own (outright/pay mortgage) your residence?

59% Own (outright/pay mortgage)  
41% I do not own my residence (rent/other)

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