



Survey of U.S. Likely Voters April 3 – 8, 2024

N = 1,688 U.S. likely general election voters

The sample has an adjusted margin of error of +/-2.7 percentage points

See <http://uml.edu/polls> for full questionnaire/topline results and detailed methodology disclosure.

Survey design and analysis by John Cluverius, director of survey research, University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion.

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HIGHLIGHTS

1. Presidential Race Tied: Biden 42%, Trump 42%

“With the candidates tied, everything in this race matters a lot more. Unfortunately for both candidates, they may be at the mercy of events outside their control, whether it’s voters’ feelings about the economy, who they trust on issues like immigration and abortion, and the progress of Donald Trump’s legal issues. Both candidates are stuck in a place where the future is uncertain and they, two of the most powerful men on the planet, are simply along for the electoral ride,” said Associate Professor John Cluverius, director of survey research at the UMass Lowell Center for Public Opinion.

The presidential race is tied between the two major party candidates with 42% of likely voters saying they support President Joe Biden and 42% saying they support former President Donald Trump. An additional 7% of respondents support independent candidate Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., 2% say they will support another candidate and 6% remain undecided.

Both candidates have the support of the vast majority of members of their own party – 84% of self-identified Republicans support Trump and 86% of self-identified Democrats support Biden. Trump is ahead with independent voters at 37% compared to Biden’s 20% whereas 15% of self-identified independents support Kennedy and 23% remain undecided.

Polling found 42% of respondents approve of the job Biden is doing as president, while 59% disapprove. Overall, more than half of respondents (52%) view the sitting president unfavorably compared to the 41% who support him. Comparatively, 44% of respondents view Trump favorably while nearly half (49%) view him unfavorably.

More than 90% of Trump voters and Biden voters each say they will definitely vote for their preferred candidate, while less than 10% of each major party candidate’s supporters say they could change their mind.

2. Voters Aren't Seeing the Recovery

Despite mostly [positive news](#), voters aren't seeing the effects of the economic recovery. More than half (54%) say it's become much or somewhat harder in the last six months for them to pay for basic necessities. Comparatively, just one in 10 (11%) say affording the basics has eased much or somewhat. A third, (35%) report their budgets holding steady.

Respondents earning less than \$50,000 per year are having a particularly tough time; 64% say things are getting harder for them compared to 45% of respondents earning \$100,000 per year or more.

Voters' economic outlooks are also polarized on partisan lines. Nearly three quarters (70%) of Republicans say it's become much or somewhat harder to make ends meet over the last six months, compared to 36% of Democrats and 65% of independents who say the same.

Respondents also feel they haven't recovered since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Just one quarter say they are doing much (9%) or somewhat (16%) better financially since before the pandemic compared to the 43% who say they are doing much (19%) or somewhat (24%) worse.

Nonetheless, voters remain optimistic about the next president improving things for people struggling financially. More than half (51%) say the next president will make things better for people struggling to make ends meet, while 9% say that person will make things worse. However, nearly half (40%) say the actions of the next leader of the country won't matter much to their personal finances.

3. Voters Support Abortion Rights, but Election Outcome Muddled

Nearly two-thirds (64%) of likely voters say there should be a right to get an abortion in every state in the United States. Abortion is banned in [21 states](#) as of April 9, 2024.

More than half (53%) said it would not affect their vote if Trump were to support a 15-week national abortion ban. If Trump were to support a national ban, 23% of independents said that move would make them less likely to vote for Trump, while 15% said it would make them more likely. (EDITOR'S NOTE: This poll was taken before Donald Trump [announced](#) he would not support a national abortion ban.)

Overall, 65% of voters do not blame Biden for the increase in abortion restrictions across the nation whereas 36% definitely (16%) or somewhat (20%) do. In comparison, 52% of likely voters say they definitely (34%) or somewhat (18%) blame Donald Trump for the increase in abortion restrictions across the country, while 48% don't blame Trump at all. Independent voters in particular are mixed on both candidates. More than 40% (42%) definitely or somewhat blame Trump for more abortion restrictions, while 37% of self-identified independents blame Biden.

In tune with the support of abortion access nationwide, majorities of every demographic in the poll say they oppose a ban on in-vitro fertilization, or IVF. More than half (58%) say they somewhat (19%) or strongly (39%) oppose a ban, while 42% somewhat (24%) or strongly (18%) support a ban. Opposition to such a measure includes more than half of each demographic polled: 59% of women, 57% of men, 65% of Democrats, 52% of Republicans and 54% of independents.

3. Other Notable Findings

- More than half (52%) of likely voters say they strongly (40%) or somewhat (12%) oppose full pardons for those arrested at the U.S. Capitol Jan. 6, 2021, while 48% say they somewhat (20%) or strongly (28%) support such an action.
- Two-thirds of likely voters support federal legislation to force TikTok to find an American buyer or be taken off app stores, compared to 34% who oppose the idea.
- Nearly three quarters (73%) of likely voters support an immediate ceasefire in Gaza, while 26% say they oppose it. A two-state solution with shared governance in Jerusalem is supported by 43%, while 31% support a single bi-national state, and 26% support no change in the current situation.