



# America's Views of Public Policy Proposals and Goals



## Overview and Key Findings

This analysis is based on findings from a national survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted online from June 28 to June 30, 2022 for the Congressional Institute.

1. Outlook on the country worsened in the post-Roe environment, going from 32-60 right direction-wrong track at the end of May to 26-65, while President Biden's job approval reached a new low (39-53 approve-disapprove). In terms of the party brand images, both Congressional Republicans and Democrats are at parity with a negative brand image, with independents being even more likely to be unfavorable to either party.
2. Issues pertaining to the economy, jobs, inflation, or gas prices still tend to dominate other issues when voters are asked to identify their top issue. While the share saying abortion increased for both voters overall and among groups like independents and women, it is still by far second to economic issues.
3. The margins for Republicans on handling key issues like the economy, inflation, and gas prices remain strong, with independents also continuing to prefer Republicans on these issues. While Democrats still lead on education and health care, their leads are smaller than they have been in the past. This means that there are opportunities for Republicans to engage, especially on education.
4. In terms of key themes that emerged in the survey, inflation was a priority, with energy, spending and taxes as policy components with the greatest connection to reducing inflation. Securing the supply chain and reducing dependence on Russia and China are concepts that received significant support across the board.
5. The most effective belief statements tended to be Republican statements, while the least believable statements tended to be Democratic statements. These included blaming inflation on the "Putin price hike", that confronting climate change would reduce inflation, and that we should not be drilling for more oil and gas.
6. The concept of Congressional oversight was also well received across party, both as a belief statement and a proposal.
7. Overall, the most effective outcomes were to create a government that works for the people reduce gas prices, and preserve our freedoms under the Constitution. The most effective proposals included lowering drug costs, strengthening the supply chain, stemming the trafficking of illegal guns, conducting Congressional oversight, providing greater privacy and data security protections, ending dependence on China for critical supplies, securing the electrical power grid, and pursuing policies to enhance our economic security.
8. Proposals related to the border and Big Tech were appealing mostly to Republicans; proposals about climate, increased government role and social issues appealed mostly to Democrats.

## Overall Environment

### Outlook on the Country, Presidential Job Approval, and Party Brand Images

Outlook on the country worsened in the post-Roe environment, going from 32-60 right direction-wrong track at the end of May to 26-65. This drop-off is most prominent among Democrats, liberals, women, and Baby Boomers. Democrats went from 57-35 at the end of May to 46-44 presently; liberals went from 55-38 to 43-50. Women dropped from 29-62 to 21-70, while Baby Boomers went from 26-66 to 16-77.

President Biden's job approval is at a new low (39-53 approve-disapprove), having been at 41-51 at the end of May. Independents disapprove 27-57, no change from the end of May.

| Biden Job Approval (approve-disapprove) | May   | June  |
|---|-------|-------|
| Overall                                 | 41-51 | 39-53 |
| Independents                            | 27-57 | 27-57 |

Brand images of the parties are at parity among voters overall and among independents. Both parties have a negative brand image, with independents having a negative view of both by more than 2:1.

| Brand images (favorable-unfavorable) | Overall | Indep |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Republicans in Congress              | 43-51   | 27-62 |
| Democrats in Congress                | 44-51   | 26-63 |

### Top Issue

The economy/jobs/inflation/gas prices is by far the top issue (46%) with abortion (9%) now on par with Social Security/retirement (8%) and health care/RX (7%) in terms of issue importance. Last month, 4% rated it as their top issue. Among independents, abortion increased from 5% to 12%; among women, this issue jumped from 4% to 13%. This issue is now ranked #2 among women and independents, but it is still well behind the economy/jobs/inflation/gas prices (42% among both groups).

| Top Issue                             | May | June |
|---------------------------------------|-----|------|
| The Economy/Jobs/inflation/gas prices | 44  | 46   |
| Abortion                              | 4   | 9    |
| Social Security/Retirement            | 6   | 8    |
| Health care/Rx                        | 9   | 7    |
| Crime and Safety                      | 7   | 5    |
| Environment/Climate Change            | 4   | 4    |
| Immigration                           | 6   | 4    |

## Issue Handling

Republicans have maintained strong leads for handling key issues: +11 on the economy, +13 on gas prices, and +13 on inflation. Independents also prefer Republicans to handle these issues, although their margins are not quite as strong as they are among voters overall. Their strongest preference for Republicans is on the economy (45-25), with about four in ten preferring Republicans on gas prices (41-24) and 43% preferring Republicans on inflation (43-23).

Democrats lead by 7 on health care but this margin is much closer than what we have seen historically. They also lead by 4 on education (10 among independents), but this margin is also closer than what we have seen historically.

| Issue Handling (R-D) | Overall | Indep |
|----------------------|---------|-------|
| Inflation            | 49-36   | 43-23 |
| Gas prices           | 49-36   | 41-24 |
| Economy              | 49-38   | 45-25 |
| Health care          | 39-46   | 24-45 |
| Education            | 41-45   | 30-40 |

## Beliefs

Voters were presented with a series of statements and asked whether they believed or did not believe them, effectively rating them on a 3-point scale where 1 indicated they believed the statement, 2 indicated don't know, and 3 indicated they did not believe the statement. The means for each statement, as well as the share believing each, are presented in the table below. The closer the mean is to 1 for a particular statement, the more believed that statement was; the closer to 3, the less believed the statement was.

Further analysis looked at the differences between how believable each statement was. The color coding represents the findings of this analysis, showing significant differences in how believable or not believable voters found each statement. Green indicates statements whose means were more than one standard deviation lower than the mean for all statements in that group, meaning these statements were believed significantly more. Red represents statements whose means were more than one standard deviation higher, meaning those statements were believed significantly less.

Starting with the most believable statements, the two belief statements with largest shares believing them by party were future-oriented and, as mentioned, Republican statements. They were *we can help all Americans live better, healthier, and longer lives by providing access to new medicines and cures and lowering out of pocket spending on drugs* (72-15 believe-do not believe); and *we need to develop and build new technology here in the US that is clean, affordable and exportable* (70-17).

Additionally, these two statements were also believed significantly more among voters overall, independents, Democrats, moderate independents, suburban voters, suburban independents, suburban women, Hispanics, and likely voters. Likely voters are defined as those who, on a 1-9 scale where 1 indicated "wondering" and 9 indicated will absolutely be voting, rated their likelihood to vote as a 7, 8, or 9. These voters tended to resemble voters overall.



For Republicans and conservative independents, the only statement of these two that was believed significantly more than the others was about helping all Americans lead healthier and longer lives. However, that *new policies that add trillions of dollars above current levels of spending will cause more inflation* was also believed significantly more among both these groups. This was also a significantly believable statement for independents and Hispanics.

| Belief  | % Belvd | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cns Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|---------|------|------|------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| We can help all Americans live better, healthier, and longer lives by providing access to new medicines and cures and lowering out-of-pocket spending on drugs.   | 72%     | 1.43 | 1.49 | 1.43 | 1.38 | 1.44    | 1.39    | 1.44    | 1.45    | 1.46    | 1.56 | 1.38     |
| We need to develop and build new technology here in the United States that is clean, affordable and exportable.   | 70%     | 1.47 | 1.56 | 1.51 | 1.36 | 1.55    | 1.49    | 1.46    | 1.49    | 1.39    | 1.61 | 1.44     |
| An energy policy that incorporates a wide range of technologies from fossil fuels to green energy will increase energy production in America to lower gas prices and make us less reliant on adversaries like Russia and China. | 59%     | 1.63 | 1.54 | 1.73 | 1.65 | 1.65    | 1.77    | 1.61    | 1.72    | 1.64    | 1.85 | 1.59     |
| Personal income tax cuts would increase take home pay and fight cost of living increases  | 59%     | 1.65 | 1.57 | 1.73 | 1.66 | 1.69    | 1.79    | 1.64    | 1.81    | 1.65    | 1.84 | 1.61     |
| Congress should have more oversight of federal government agencies to hold government bureaucrats accountable.  | 59%     | 1.65 | 1.62 | 1.67 | 1.65 | 1.65    | 1.70    | 1.64    | 1.79    | 1.56    | 1.90 | 1.60     |
| The government paying people more to stay home than work will result in product shortages, small business closures and rising prices.   | 58%     | 1.69 | 1.48 | 1.78 | 1.82 | 1.59    | 1.84    | 1.72    | 1.81    | 1.77    | 1.76 | 1.64     |
| New policies that add trillions of dollars above current levels of spending will cause more inflation.  | 58%     | 1.62 | 1.49 | 1.62 | 1.75 | 1.36    | 1.70    | 1.69    | 1.68    | 1.69    | 1.63 | 1.59     |
| More domestic energy production will reduce inflation.  | 58%     | 1.63 | 1.57 | 1.76 | 1.59 | 1.65    | 1.83    | 1.64    | 1.74    | 1.59    | 1.83 | 1.59     |

| Belief  | % Belvd | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cns Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|---------|------|------|------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Modernization of our health care system will lead to a better quality of health and lower health care costs.  | 58%     | 1.67 | 1.77 | 1.71 | 1.54 | 2.00    | 1.60    | 1.64    | 1.67    | 1.66    | 1.73 | 1.65     |
| By making American energy cleaner, more affordable, and more accessible, we can reduce emissions around the world without killing jobs or increasing costs for the American people. | 58%     | 1.68 | 1.88 | 1.71 | 1.47 | 2.02    | 1.54    | 1.70    | 1.63    | 1.68    | 1.57 | 1.67     |
| Moving supply chains away from China and toward the US and US allies will reduce inflation.   | 57%     | 1.64 | 1.62 | 1.66 | 1.65 | 1.46    | 1.74    | 1.68    | 1.67    | 1.59    | 1.90 | 1.59     |

Statements related to inflation with majority believing them were:

- *An energy policy that incorporates a wide range of technologies from fossil fuels to green energy will increase energy production in America to lower gas prices and make us less reliant on adversaries like Russia and China* (59-23 believe-do not believe).
- *Personal income tax cuts would increase take home pay and fight cost of living increases* (59-24). Note that Democrats also have a higher share believing this statement (59-25) and are likely thinking of the child tax credit component of Build Back Better.
- *New policies that add trillions of dollars above current levels of spending will cause more inflation* (58-21).
- *More domestic energy production will reduce inflation* (58-21).
- *The government paying people more to stay home than work will result in product shortages, small business closures and rising prices* (58-27).
- *By making American energy cleaner, more affordable, and more accessible, we can reduce emissions around the world without killing jobs or increasing costs for the American people* (58-26).
- *Moving supply chains away from China and toward the US and US allies will reduce inflation* (57-21).

*Modernization of our health care system will lead to better quality of health and lower health care costs* was believable to a majority of the electorate and across party (58-25 among voters overall; 52-30 among Republicans; 53-24 among independents; 66-20 among Democrats).

Statements people do not believe tended to be Democratic statements. These included:

- *The Putin price hike is the main cause of inflation* (32-47), which was significantly less believed among all groups listed in the table below except Democrats and Hispanics.
- *Implementing policies to deal with climate change will reduce inflation* (30-47), which was significantly less believed among all groups except Democrats and Hispanics.
- *We should not be drilling for more oil and gas* (29-51), which was significantly less believed among all groups except suburban independents.

| Belief   | % Belvd | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cns Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|--|---------|------|------|------|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| The Putin price hike is the main cause of inflation.                     | 32%     | 2.15 | 2.40 | 2.26 | 1.84 | 2.52    | 2.14    | 2.22    | 2.24    | 2.20    | 1.93 | 2.17     |
| Implementing policies to deal with climate change will reduce inflation. | 30%     | 2.17 | 2.47 | 2.22 | 1.84 | 2.37    | 2.19    | 2.22    | 2.16    | 2.22    | 1.98 | 2.16     |
| We should not be drilling for more oil and gas.                          | 29%     | 2.22 | 2.50 | 2.15 | 2.02 | 2.39    | 2.15    | 2.23    | 2.03    | 2.21    | 2.09 | 2.23     |

## Outcomes

Voters were then presented with a series of potential outcomes of the policy proposals and asked to rate each on a 9-point scale based on how important they thought each was as a goal for the country. One indicated not important at all, 5 was important, and 9 was extremely important.

As on the previous table, the color coding represents significant differences in how important voters found each outcome. Green indicates outcomes whose means were more than one standard deviation higher than the mean for all outcomes in that group, meaning these outcomes were seen as significantly more important. On the next table, red indicates outcomes whose means were more than one standard deviation lower, meaning they were seen as significantly less important.

Overall, most important outcomes and goals for the country, and those seen as significantly more important, were *create a government that works for the people* (mean 7.42); *reduce gas prices* (7.41); and *preserve our freedoms under the Constitution* (7.35). Creating a government that works for the people was a particular priority outcome for independents, Democrats, suburban voters, suburban independents, suburban women, and likely voters.

Reducing gas prices was a particular priority for independents, conservative independents, moderate independents, suburban voters, suburban independents, suburban women, and likely voters.

Preserving our freedoms under the constitution was a particular priority for conservative independents, Hispanics, and likely voters.

| Top Tier of Outcomes (Scale of 1-9 with 1 being not important at all, 5 important, 9 extremely important) | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Create a government that works for the people   | 7.42 | 7.65 | 7.25 | 7.35 | 7.30     | 7.10    | 7.56    | 7.27    | 7.61    | 6.66 | 7.66     |
| Reduce gas prices   | 7.41 | 7.81 | 7.15 | 7.23 | 7.46     | 7.22    | 7.56    | 7.22    | 7.75    | 6.76 | 7.62     |
| Preserve our freedoms under the Constitution  | 7.35 | 7.80 | 7.10 | 7.12 | 7.53     | 6.97    | 7.38    | 6.99    | 7.40    | 6.81 | 7.62     |
| Fight inflation and support working Americans   | 7.33 | 7.72 | 7.04 | 7.16 | 7.02     | 7.16    | 7.43    | 7.12    | 7.59    | 6.66 | 7.55     |
| Reduce inflation and help the family budget   | 7.30 | 7.59 | 7.05 | 7.22 | 7.09     | 7.10    | 7.44    | 7.07    | 7.63    | 6.73 | 7.53     |
| Reduce food and grocery prices  | 7.27 | 7.54 | 7.11 | 7.13 | 7.07     | 7.14    | 7.37    | 7.02    | 7.43    | 6.72 | 7.48     |

| Top Tier of Outcomes (Scale of 1-9 with 1 being not important at all, 5 important, 9 extremely important) | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Ensure faith in our free and fair elections   | 7.26 | 7.51 | 7.10 | 7.15 | 7.57     | 6.87    | 7.28    | 7.07    | 7.24    | 6.52 | 7.52     |
| Reduce crime in our cities and neighborhoods  | 7.22 | 7.68 | 6.95 | 7.00 | 7.17     | 6.96    | 7.32    | 6.94    | 7.26    | 6.97 | 7.44     |
| Protect free speech   | 7.21 | 7.50 | 7.06 | 7.06 | 7.21     | 6.89    | 7.26    | 7.06    | 7.24    | 6.68 | 7.47     |
| Make America energy independent   | 7.16 | 7.66 | 6.74 | 7.00 | 7.05     | 6.74    | 7.34    | 6.86    | 7.42    | 6.56 | 7.45     |
| Strengthen our supply chain and restock our shelves   | 7.12 | 7.55 | 6.77 | 6.99 | 6.75     | 6.98    | 7.17    | 6.84    | 7.27    | 6.54 | 7.37     |
| End the flow of illicit fentanyl and narcotics into our country   | 7.08 | 7.62 | 6.74 | 6.84 | 7.22     | 6.64    | 7.12    | 6.68    | 7.08    | 6.45 | 7.36     |
| Reclaim Congressional oversight and hold government accountable   | 7.05 | 7.35 | 6.76 | 6.99 | 7.14     | 6.70    | 7.10    | 6.73    | 7.18    | 6.31 | 7.34     |
| Improve health outcomes for all Americans   | 7.02 | 6.98 | 6.84 | 7.20 | 6.56     | 6.89    | 7.09    | 6.90    | 7.21    | 6.64 | 7.23     |

Less important outcomes were priorities for the two party bases. These included confronting Big Tech's political bias, pushing back on woke corporate culture, and eliminating the use of fossil fuels.

| Lowest Tier of Outcomes (Scale of 1-9 with 1 being not important at all, 5 important, 9 extremely important) | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|--|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Confront Big Tech's political bias   | 6.33 | 6.68 | 5.91 | 6.32 | 6.10     | 5.89    | 6.22    | 5.93    | 6.19    | 6.01 | 6.53     |
| Push back on woke corporate culture  | 6.12 | 7.09 | 5.42 | 5.74 | 5.76     | 5.41    | 5.91    | 5.25    | 5.87    | 5.83 | 6.36     |
| Eliminate the use of fossil fuels  | 5.59 | 4.77 | 5.33 | 6.58 | 3.79     | 5.87    | 5.54    | 5.66    | 5.66    | 5.80 | 5.74     |

## Proposals

The top proposals across the board and among key groups like independents included:

- *Lower drug costs for Americans* - note that this could be a Republican statement or a Democratic statement (mean 7.59). This was a priority proposal for independents, Democrats, moderate independents, suburban voters, suburban independents, suburban women, and likely voters.
- *Strengthen and secure our supply chain* (7.57), which was a priority proposal for Republicans, independents, conservative independents, moderate independents, suburban voters, suburban independents, suburban women, and likely voters.
- *Stem the trafficking of illegal guns* (7.55, a Democratic statement). This was a priority proposal for independents, Democrats, moderate independents, suburban voters, suburban women, Hispanics, and likely voters.
- *Conduct Congressional oversight aimed at rooting out corruption and abuse of power* (7.50), was a priority proposal for independents, moderate independents, suburban voters, suburban independents, Hispanics, and likely voters.



- *Provide greater privacy and data security protections for Americans* (7.48). This was a priority proposal for independents, Democrats, moderate independents, suburban voters, suburban independents, suburban women, Hispanics and likely voters.
- *End our dependence on China for critical supplies, minerals, medicines and technologies* (7.45), was a priority proposal for independents and moderate independents, and likely voters.
- *Secure our electrical power grid and prevent rolling blackouts* (7.44), was a priority proposal for suburban voters and likely voters.
- *Pursue policies that bring home critical industries, increase US manufacturing and enhance our economic security* (7.39), was a priority proposal for suburban voters, suburban women, and likely voters.
- *Curb runaway government spending that is making inflation worse* (7.35). Though this was not a priority proposal for voters overall, it was for Republicans and conservative independents.

| Top Tier of Proposals (Ranking on a scale of 1-9 with 1 being not important at all, 5 important, 9 extremely important) | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Lower drug costs for Americans  | 7.59 | 7.42 | 7.51 | 7.82 | 7.46     | 7.48    | 7.55    | 7.28    | 7.71    | 7.26 | 7.75     |
| Strengthen and secure our supply chain  | 7.57 | 7.89 | 7.39 | 7.40 | 7.73     | 7.42    | 7.47    | 7.31    | 7.54    | 7.19 | 7.77     |
| Stem the trafficking of illegal guns  | 7.55 | 7.72 | 7.14 | 7.70 | 7.22     | 7.38    | 7.52    | 7.05    | 7.68    | 7.48 | 7.72     |
| Conduct Congressional oversight aimed at rooting out corruption and abuse of power                                      | 7.50 | 7.63 | 7.33 | 7.51 | 7.39     | 7.44    | 7.38    | 7.39    | 7.37    | 7.44 | 7.72     |
| Provide greater privacy and data security protections for Americans   | 7.48 | 7.56 | 7.24 | 7.58 | 7.19     | 7.37    | 7.39    | 7.16    | 7.47    | 7.35 | 7.68     |
| End our dependence on China for critical supplies, minerals, medicines and technologies                                 | 7.45 | 7.71 | 7.16 | 7.41 | 7.36     | 7.38    | 7.32    | 7.04    | 7.36    | 7.09 | 7.68     |
| Secure our electrical power grid and prevent rolling blackouts  | 7.44 | 7.78 | 7.04 | 7.41 | 7.29     | 7.03    | 7.43    | 7.06    | 7.43    | 7.19 | 7.65     |
| Pursue policies that bring home critical industries, increase US manufacturing and enhance our economic security        | 7.39 | 7.78 | 6.88 | 7.40 | 6.90     | 7.06    | 7.35    | 6.92    | 7.47    | 7.12 | 7.61     |
| Curb runaway government spending that is making inflation worse   | 7.35 | 8.08 | 7.02 | 6.91 | 7.62     | 6.86    | 7.33    | 6.98    | 7.30    | 7.04 | 7.53     |
| Make real investments in communities to prevent gun violence  | 7.33 | 7.25 | 6.94 | 7.70 | 6.61     | 7.15    | 7.38    | 7.13    | 7.41    | 7.60 | 7.51     |
| Use the power of Congress to provide transparency and accountability to the American people                             | 7.33 | 7.51 | 6.96 | 7.43 | 6.45     | 7.36    | 7.27    | 7.16    | 7.38    | 7.26 | 7.55     |

| Top Tier of Proposals (Ranking on a scale of 1-9 with 1 being not important at all, 5 important, 9 extremely important) | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Increase oversight into how tax dollars are being spent   | 7.31 | 7.77 | 6.96 | 7.12 | 7.36     | 6.98    | 7.32    | 6.98    | 7.33    | 7.05 | 7.50     |

Performers at the bottom tended to be base-oriented and generally performed well with these voters. Republicans were very positive about proposals related to the border, as well as Big Tech (though it was seen as less important, a mean of 6.74 indicated that Republicans still saw it as important); prohibiting funds for CRT; defunding prosecutors who are not prosecuting crimes like shoplifting; and hiring bonuses for new officers. Democrats were very positive about proposals related to climate, social agenda, and increased government role.

| Bottom Tier of Proposals (Ranking on a scale of 1-9 with 1 being not important at all, 5 important, 9 extremely important) | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|--|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Declare a state of emergency at the US border to allow for immediate removal of individuals crossing illegally             | 6.66 | 7.88 | 6.02 | 6.00 | 6.93     | 6.11    | 6.47    | 5.78    | 6.36    | 6.13 | 6.84     |
| Raise the age at which the law protects minors from tracking and online advertisement targeting from 13 to 18              | 6.66 | 6.74 | 6.52 | 6.67 | 7.04     | 6.52    | 6.41    | 6.39    | 6.45    | 6.45 | 6.83     |
| Defund prosecutors who are not prosecuting crimes like shoplifting, auto theft, and drug sales                             | 6.63 | 7.52 | 6.20 | 6.12 | 7.16     | 6.21    | 6.42    | 6.13    | 6.26    | 6.61 | 6.81     |
| Provide funds to police departments to use as hiring bonuses for new officers  | 6.54 | 7.43 | 5.84 | 6.23 | 6.27     | 6.01    | 6.28    | 5.68    | 6.20    | 6.29 | 6.73     |
| Provide culturally responsive teaching in schools  | 6.48 | 6.08 | 6.24 | 7.05 | 5.79     | 6.54    | 6.24    | 6.10    | 6.33    | 6.87 | 6.59     |
| Prohibit the use of federal funds to teach Critical Race Theory in schools   | 6.43 | 7.40 | 5.96 | 5.88 | 7.02     | 5.83    | 6.08    | 5.84    | 5.96    | 6.57 | 6.57     |
| Promote diversity in college admissions  | 6.43 | 6.04 | 5.94 | 7.17 | 4.70     | 6.70    | 6.47    | 6.25    | 6.61    | 7.11 | 6.55     |
| Restart building physical barriers at the US-Mexico border   | 6.21 | 7.63 | 5.45 | 5.44 | 6.62     | 5.37    | 5.76    | 5.07    | 5.60    | 5.51 | 6.35     |
| Expand green energy to transition away from fossil fuels   | 6.15 | 5.27 | 5.93 | 7.16 | 4.52     | 6.45    | 6.09    | 6.19    | 6.27    | 6.93 | 6.24     |

## Proposals By Issue Area

This section analyzes the proposals based on their issue area. In the tables below, the color coding represents significant differences in how voters viewed the importance of a particular proposal

relative to other proposals within that issue group. Green indicates proposals whose means were more than one standard deviation above the mean for all proposals within that issue group, meaning they were significant priorities within that particular issue. Red indicates proposals whose means were more than one standard deviation below the mean for all proposals within that issue group.

## Economy and Energy

Inflation was a key priority throughout the survey, and energy, securing the supply chain, spending, and taxes were seen as the policy components with the greatest connection to reducing inflation. As noted in the section addressing beliefs, Democratic claims about addressing climate change and expanding green energy to reduce inflation were not believable. However, statements that connected increased domestic production to reducing inflation were believable and effective.

Looking specifically at the proposals related to the economy and energy, securing the power grid was a top priority for voters overall, as well as suburban voters and likely voters. Curbing runaway spending that is making inflation worse was a key priority for Republicans and conservative independents, while lowering gas prices and reducing dependence on China and Russia by implementing an expansive energy strategy was a key priority for suburban voters and suburban women. Reducing dependence on countries like China was linked to strengthening the supply chain and reducing inflation, a concept that will be discussed in greater detail in the next section.

| All Proposals - Economy and Energy  | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Secure our electrical power grid and prevent rolling blackouts  | 7.44 | 7.78 | 7.04 | 7.41 | 7.29     | 7.03    | 7.43    | 7.06    | 7.43    | 7.19 | 7.65     |
| Curb runaway government spending that is making inflation worse   | 7.35 | 8.08 | 7.02 | 6.91 | 7.62     | 6.86    | 7.33    | 6.98    | 7.30    | 7.04 | 7.53     |
| Increase oversight into how tax dollars are being spent   | 7.31 | 7.77 | 6.96 | 7.12 | 7.36     | 6.98    | 7.32    | 6.98    | 7.33    | 7.05 | 7.50     |
| Implement an all of the above energy strategy to help lower gas prices and reduce dependency on China and Russia                                      | 7.27 | 7.66 | 6.90 | 7.18 | 7.24     | 7.04    | 7.36    | 6.97    | 7.46    | 7.03 | 7.42     |
| Make the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share  | 7.26 | 6.83 | 7.14 | 7.77 | 6.36     | 7.43    | 7.24    | 7.06    | 7.54    | 7.36 | 7.36     |
| Implement an all of the above energy strategy to help lower gas prices and get the supply chain moving  | 7.16 | 7.59 | 6.73 | 7.08 | 7.02     | 6.87    | 7.09    | 6.65    | 7.15    | 6.94 | 7.33     |
| Continue pro-growth tax and deregulatory policies that increase take home pay, reduce cost of living, boost local businesses and encourage innovation | 7.10 | 7.60 | 6.72 | 6.91 | 7.09     | 6.87    | 7.06    | 6.62    | 7.09    | 6.88 | 7.27     |

| All Proposals - Economy and Energy                                       | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|--|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Streamline increased production and export of domestic energy            | 6.81 | 7.05 | 6.34 | 6.93 | 6.02     | 6.61    | 6.80    | 6.61    | 6.76    | 6.98 | 6.99     |
| Make the 2017 tax cuts for individuals permanent                         | 6.72 | 7.28 | 6.22 | 6.56 | 6.51     | 6.45    | 6.59    | 6.12    | 6.62    | 6.81 | 6.85     |
| Reduce global emissions to safeguard a cleaner and healthier environment | 6.71 | 6.08 | 6.49 | 7.47 | 5.39     | 6.98    | 6.72    | 6.69    | 6.74    | 7.11 | 6.83     |
| Expand green energy to transition away from fossil fuels                 | 6.15 | 5.27 | 5.93 | 7.16 | 4.52     | 6.45    | 6.09    | 6.19    | 6.27    | 6.93 | 6.24     |

## Supply Chain and Technology

As noted, shoring up the supply chain receives significant support across the board, and is seen as connected to reducing inflation. The statement *moving supply chains away from China and toward the US and US allies will reduce inflation* had a 57% majority belief (57-21 believe-do not believe), and majorities across parties believing it. In terms of proposals, strengthening and securing the supply chain was the top priority, and a key priority across the a variety of groups. Ending dependence on China for critical supplies and pursuing policies to bring home critical industries were also significant priorities for several voter groups.

Within technology, issues and proposals related to censorship or Big Tech were less important priorities outside of Republicans, as noted in the section on outcomes. Issues related to privacy and data security, however, were priorities across party. The only priority proposal among this group that was not related to supply chain was the proposal to provide greater privacy and data security protections for Americans, which was a significant priority for groups like independents, suburban women, and Hispanics, among others.

| All Proposals - Supply Chain and Technology  | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|--|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Strengthen and secure our supply chain   | 7.57 | 7.89 | 7.39 | 7.40 | 7.73     | 7.42    | 7.47    | 7.31    | 7.54    | 7.19 | 7.77     |
| Provide greater privacy and data security protections for Americans  | 7.48 | 7.56 | 7.24 | 7.58 | 7.19     | 7.37    | 7.39    | 7.16    | 7.47    | 7.35 | 7.68     |
| End our dependence on China for critical supplies, minerals, medicines and technologies                          | 7.45 | 7.71 | 7.16 | 7.41 | 7.36     | 7.38    | 7.32    | 7.04    | 7.36    | 7.09 | 7.68     |
| Pursue policies that bring home critical industries, increase US manufacturing and enhance our economic security | 7.39 | 7.78 | 6.88 | 7.40 | 6.90     | 7.06    | 7.35    | 6.92    | 7.47    | 7.12 | 7.61     |

| All Proposals - Supply Chain and Technology   | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Allow parents to monitor the social media accounts of minor children by giving parents the ability to log into their child's account      | 7.04 | 7.24 | 6.99 | 6.88 | 7.64     | 6.92    | 6.98    | 6.88    | 7.11    | 6.64 | 7.21     |
| Eliminate outdated laws that allow the largest technology companies to censor social media and develop new rules that promote free speech | 6.93 | 7.34 | 6.61 | 6.78 | 6.92     | 6.57    | 6.62    | 6.34    | 6.73    | 6.90 | 7.10     |
| Make it illegal for government employees to pressure tech companies to censor free speech   | 6.88 | 7.33 | 6.55 | 6.71 | 7.05     | 6.51    | 6.57    | 6.30    | 6.50    | 6.70 | 7.05     |
| Target anti-competitive behaviors of technology companies with strengthened anti-trust review and enforcement                             | 6.73 | 6.81 | 6.56 | 6.79 | 6.41     | 6.68    | 6.52    | 6.49    | 6.42    | 6.62 | 6.92     |
| Raise the age at which the law protects minors from tracking and online advertisement targeting from 13 to 18                             | 6.66 | 6.74 | 6.52 | 6.67 | 7.04     | 6.52    | 6.41    | 6.39    | 6.45    | 6.45 | 6.83     |

## Immigration, Border Security and Crime

Proposals related to immigration and the border are important, but tend to be driven mostly by Republicans. While independents do find these proposals, as well as police and anti-crime proposals, important, inflation and energy priorities tended to eclipse them among this group. However, Democratic proposals related to gun violence and particularly illegal guns performed well among independents, too.

Similarly, Hispanics also identified stemming the trafficking of illegal guns as a top priority pertaining to immigration/crime, though they are also favorable to measures that support police and reducing crime in neighborhoods. Turning to Republicans, though they did not place significant priority on stemming the trafficking of illegal guns, the proposal was still well received. They may be connecting this to violence surrounding illegal immigration and border-related trafficking.

| All Proposals - Immigration, Border Security and Crime       | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|--|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Stem the trafficking of illegal guns                         | 7.55 | 7.72 | 7.14 | 7.70 | 7.22     | 7.38    | 7.52    | 7.05    | 7.68    | 7.48 | 7.72     |
| Make real investments in communities to prevent gun violence | 7.33 | 7.25 | 6.94 | 7.70 | 6.61     | 7.15    | 7.38    | 7.13    | 7.41    | 7.60 | 7.51     |
| Modernize our military while pursuing peace through strength | 7.13 | 7.84 | 6.53 | 6.91 | 7.36     | 6.63    | 6.97    | 6.48    | 6.96    | 7.09 | 7.32     |



|  |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Reduce drug overdoses and expand access to opioid treatment  | 7.09 | 7.15 | 6.87 | 7.21 | 7.06 | 6.72 | 6.94 | 6.88 | 7.08 | 7.14 | 7.25 |
| Increase funding for police to provide training and equipment that police officers need to ensure maximum safety | 7.06 | 7.65 | 6.61 | 6.85 | 7.06 | 6.70 | 6.96 | 6.47 | 7.07 | 7.22 | 7.17 |
| Require proof of legal status in the US to apply for a job   | 6.97 | 7.91 | 6.46 | 6.46 | 7.23 | 6.60 | 6.87 | 6.34 | 6.86 | 6.60 | 7.13 |
| Support our NATO allies and restrain Russian aggression  | 6.96 | 6.97 | 6.52 | 7.29 | 6.27 | 6.69 | 6.87 | 6.63 | 6.89 | 7.21 | 7.20 |
| Require individuals seeking asylum in the United States to apply before physically coming to the US              | 6.91 | 7.75 | 6.32 | 6.58 | 7.44 | 6.24 | 6.79 | 6.15 | 6.81 | 6.49 | 7.10 |
| Oppose efforts to defund the police  | 6.85 | 7.78 | 6.47 | 6.26 | 7.70 | 6.40 | 6.71 | 6.36 | 6.68 | 6.44 | 7.02 |
| Declare a state of emergency at the US border to allow for immediate removal of individuals crossing illegally   | 6.66 | 7.88 | 6.02 | 6.00 | 6.93 | 6.11 | 6.47 | 5.78 | 6.36 | 6.13 | 6.84 |
| Defund prosecutors who are not prosecuting crimes like shoplifting, auto theft, and drug sales                   | 6.63 | 7.52 | 6.20 | 6.12 | 7.16 | 6.21 | 6.42 | 6.13 | 6.26 | 6.61 | 6.81 |
| Provide funds to police departments to use as hiring bonuses for new officers                                    | 6.54 | 7.43 | 5.84 | 6.23 | 6.27 | 6.01 | 6.28 | 5.68 | 6.20 | 6.29 | 6.73 |
| Restart building physical barriers at the US-Mexico border   | 6.21 | 7.63 | 5.45 | 5.44 | 6.62 | 5.37 | 5.76 | 5.07 | 5.60 | 5.51 | 6.35 |

## Education and Health Care

In terms of education, ensuring that parents' voices are heard and addressing pandemic-related learning loss are important priorities. Issues related to critical race theory are more important to Republicans compared to other groups — Republicans and conservative independents were the only groups for whom prohibiting the use of federal funds to teach CRT in schools was *not* significantly less important — but ensuring that parents' voices are heard was more important. Republicans are now more competitive on issue handling for education than we have seen historically, presenting new opportunities for them to engage on this issue.

In terms of health care, modernizing the health care system is a concept that is supported by a majority coalition of voters, including Republicans, independents, suburban voters, and Hispanics. Voters also believe this approach will lower costs and improve quality of health (58-25 believe-do not believe among voters overall). Lowering drug costs was the top priority proposal for many voter groups, and while this has typically been a Democratic strength, there is a Republican plan to address this as well.

| All Proposals - Education and Health Care   | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Lower drug costs for Americans  | 7.59 | 7.42 | 7.51 | 7.82 | 7.46     | 7.48    | 7.55    | 7.28    | 7.71    | 7.26 | 7.75     |
| Ensure health care equity   | 7.28 | 6.95 | 7.14 | 7.70 | 6.97     | 7.16    | 7.20    | 6.89    | 7.34    | 7.20 | 7.43     |
| Protect First Amendment rights in schools and on campuses   | 7.28 | 7.59 | 6.97 | 7.23 | 6.97     | 7.07    | 7.21    | 6.86    | 7.18    | 7.02 | 7.48     |
| Unleash new innovative medicines, devices, diagnostics and cures for patients                               | 7.27 | 7.18 | 7.09 | 7.49 | 6.93     | 7.25    | 7.27    | 6.99    | 7.36    | 7.22 | 7.46     |
| Ensure parents' voices are heard when it comes to their children's education                                | 7.24 | 7.65 | 6.89 | 7.12 | 7.42     | 6.83    | 7.12    | 6.99    | 7.26    | 7.23 | 7.40     |
| Modernize and personalize the health care system to provide affordable options that fit individual needs    | 7.23 | 7.03 | 7.03 | 7.58 | 7.08     | 7.06    | 7.29    | 7.01    | 7.45    | 7.18 | 7.37     |
| Promote opportunities for career and technical education, workforce development and lifelong learning       | 7.18 | 7.09 | 6.92 | 7.46 | 6.90     | 7.04    | 7.12    | 6.96    | 7.12    | 7.37 | 7.36     |
| Empower health care patients and lower prices across the board through choice, competition and transparency | 7.14 | 7.15 | 6.85 | 7.34 | 6.34     | 7.18    | 7.12    | 6.95    | 7.09    | 7.05 | 7.32     |
| Support gifted and talented programs in schools   | 7.06 | 7.06 | 6.87 | 7.21 | 6.95     | 7.05    | 6.95    | 6.89    | 7.02    | 7.04 | 7.23     |
| Expand access to affordable telemedicine, mental health services and drug treatment                         | 7.03 | 6.90 | 6.83 | 7.30 | 6.43     | 7.03    | 7.06    | 6.89    | 7.19    | 7.12 | 7.18     |
| Require school districts to return federal funds if schools are not open and serving students               | 7.03 | 7.44 | 6.74 | 6.86 | 7.12     | 6.97    | 7.01    | 6.72    | 7.03    | 6.90 | 7.20     |
| Protect female athletes and fairness in women's sports  | 6.97 | 7.12 | 6.71 | 7.04 | 7.11     | 6.71    | 6.87    | 6.69    | 7.03    | 6.92 | 7.16     |
| Set high achievement standards for all students   | 6.96 | 7.08 | 6.70 | 7.05 | 6.74     | 6.87    | 6.86    | 6.67    | 6.81    | 6.79 | 7.18     |
| Expand school choice so students can attend the school parents believe is best for them                     | 6.76 | 6.90 | 6.45 | 6.88 | 6.49     | 6.69    | 6.52    | 6.22    | 6.61    | 7.11 | 6.87     |
| Provide culturally responsive teaching in schools   | 6.48 | 6.08 | 6.24 | 7.05 | 5.79     | 6.54    | 6.24    | 6.10    | 6.33    | 6.87 | 6.59     |
| Prohibit the use of federal funds to teach Critical Race Theory in schools                                  | 6.43 | 7.40 | 5.96 | 5.88 | 7.02     | 5.83    | 6.08    | 5.84    | 5.96    | 6.57 | 6.57     |

| All Proposals - Education and Health Care | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Promote diversity in college admissions   | 6.43 | 6.04 | 5.94 | 7.17 | 4.70     | 6.70    | 6.47    | 6.25    | 6.61    | 7.11 | 6.55     |

## Oversight and Accountability

Independent of the proposals, voters believed that Congress should have more oversight of federal government agencies to hold government bureaucrats accountable (59-23 believe-do not believe). Both Republicans (62-25) and Democrats (59-24) believed this, but they are likely coming from different issue perspectives.

In terms of proposals, Congressional oversight to root out corruption and abuse of power was significantly prioritized among voters overall, independents, moderate independents, suburban voters, suburban independents, Hispanics, and likely voters. Providing transparency and accountability to the American people was also a priority for moderate independents and suburban independents.

| All Proposals - Oversight and Accountability  | All  | GOP  | Ind  | Dem  | Cons Ind | Mod Ind | Sub-urb | Sub Ind | Sub Wom | Hisp | Lkly Vtr |
|---|------|------|------|------|----------|---------|---------|---------|---------|------|----------|
| Conduct Congressional oversight aimed at rooting out corruption and abuse of power          | 7.50 | 7.63 | 7.33 | 7.51 | 7.39     | 7.44    | 7.38    | 7.39    | 7.37    | 7.44 | 7.72     |
| Use the power of Congress to provide transparency and accountability to the American people | 7.33 | 7.51 | 6.96 | 7.43 | 6.45     | 7.36    | 7.27    | 7.16    | 7.38    | 7.26 | 7.55     |
| Use Constitutional oversight powers of Congress to pursue the truth                         | 7.14 | 7.35 | 6.54 | 7.38 | 5.88     | 7.01    | 7.01    | 6.62    | 6.99    | 6.98 | 7.37     |

## Conclusion

One of the key global findings from this survey was the importance placed on inflation as a priority, a finding which underlay many of the other findings within this survey. Energy, spending, taxes, and the supply chain were seen as closely connected to inflation and if approached in the right way, as having the potential to reduce inflation. In contrast, voters did not believe the Democratic statement blaming Vladimir Putin for the situation with inflation, or that expanding green energy would reduce inflation. In this light, securing the supply chain and reducing dependence on Russia and China received significant support across the electorate.

There were other proposals outside of those related to inflation and the economy that were also well received. For example, stemming the trafficking of illegal guns was highly prioritized in the context of other proposals, and even Republicans were favorable to this proposal, but this reaction may reflect Republicans' thinking on illegal immigration and violence at the border. Furthermore, while issues related to crime and immigration were important, they tended to be surpassed by issues related to inflation, especially among independents. Greater Congressional oversight was

also well received across party. This likely also reflects that Republicans and Democrats may be defining oversight differently, and that greater clarity will be needed to flesh out this concept to voters. Turning to technology, greater privacy and data security was also well-received across the board, while issues related to Big Tech/woke corporate culture/censorship tended to be mostly important to Republicans.

On health care, the concept of modernizing the health care system is supported by a majority coalition of the electorate, and voters believe this approach will improve quality of care while lowering costs. Lowering drug costs was a key priority — both within health care and in the context of all the proposals. While typically a Democratic strength, there is also a Republican plan to address this priority for voters.

Another key global finding is that voters have more confidence in Republicans on their most important issue priorities, specifically inflation and the economy. This creates a positive context for introducing solutions. Additionally, on issues like health care and education which have been more challenging, they are now more competitive, providing an opportunity to re-engage on those issues. This strong standing in confidence in Republicans to handle key issues is a significant asset in shaping the policy debate.