

The Public's Views on the Most Important Issues Facing the Country Today, Threats to Democracy, and Abortion

TOPLINE RESULTS

This survey was conducted online and by telephone by SSRS, an independent research company, via the probability-based SSRS Opinion Panel Omnibus. Interviews were conducted July 7 – 11, 2023, in English and Spanish among a nationally representative sample of 1,031 adults (1,001 reached online and 30 reached via telephone). The margin of error for total respondents is +/-3.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. More information about SSRS is available at www.ssrs.com.

PROM1-3. Which one of the following do you think is the most important issue facing the country today? (IF FIRST CHOICE, ASK) Which one of the following do you think is the second most important issue facing the country today? (IF SECOND CHOICE, ASK) Which one of the following do you think is the third most important issue facing the country today?

Table ranked by combined top three choices.

	First choice	Combined top 3 choices		
	Total (n=1,031)	Total (n=1,031)	Republican (n=335)	Democrat (n=332)
Inflation and the cost of living	34	63	67	49
Threats to democracy	14	31	31	40
Gun policies	11	31	13	52
Crime	8	28	32	20
Immigration	7	26	50	10
Jobs and the economy, other than inflation/cost of living	5	26	31	17
Climate change and the environment	6	22	8	38
National security	4	17	24	9
Inequality	4	15	4	27
Taxes	1	13	19	8
Abortion	3	12	9	13
Health care other than COVID-19	2	12	7	14
COVID-19	1	3	3	2

PROM4. People can mean different things when they say that threats to democracy are among the most important issues facing the country today. How much of a threat to democracy do you think the following things are?

Based on those who chose “threats to democracy” as one of the three most important issues facing the country today (n=359).

Ranked by % saying “very serious.”

	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not too serious	Not a threat	No answer
Money corrupting politics	86	13	1	*	-
Ignoring the Constitution	81	14	3	1	-
Extremists	76	18	5	1	-
Attempts to overturn elections	76	16	4	4	-
Voter suppression/limiting people’s ability to vote	73	18	2	3	-
Gerrymandering of election districts	67	27	4	1	1
Censorship	59	30	9	2	-
Interference in U.S. elections by other countries	59	30	9	1	-
Government control over people’s lives	59	24	11	5	-
Election fraud	56	13	16	15	-
Unsecured border	41	21	21	17	*
Prosecution of government officials and candidates for office	29	23	17	31	-

% saying “very serious,” by party identification

	Total (n=359)	Republican (n=109)	Democrat (n=149)
Money corrupting politics	86	90	84
Ignoring the Constitution	81	90	72
Extremists	76	61	85
Attempts to overturn elections	76	62	92
Voter suppression/limiting people’s ability to vote	73	55	87
Gerrymandering of election districts	67	47	82
Censorship	59	70	51
Interference in U.S. elections by other countries	59	54	64
Government control over people’s lives	59	79	44
Election fraud	56	78	38
Unsecured border	41	83	13
Prosecution of government officials and candidates for office	29	46	20

PROM5. How would you rate your financial situation today?

	Total (n=1,031)	Republican (n=335)	Democrat (n=332)
Excellent/Good (net)	48	56	47
Excellent	8	10	8
Good	40	46	39
Only fair/Poor (net)	52	44	53
Only fair	39	31	44
Poor	13	13	9

PROM6. How much have you heard or read about last year’s Supreme Court decision on abortion that overturned the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision?

	Total (n=1,031)	Republican (n=335)	Democrat (n=332)
A lot	53	46	65
A little	40	45	31
Nothing	7	9	4

PROM7. As you may know, the Supreme Court’s decision found that the U.S. Constitution does not guarantee a right to abortion and that abortion laws can be set by each state. All in all, do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

	Total (n=1,031)	Republican (n=335)	Democrat (n=332)
Strongly/Somewhat approve (net)	40	67	14
Strongly approve	21	44	4
Somewhat approve	19	23	10
Strongly/Somewhat disapprove (net)	60	33	86
Somewhat disapprove	17	17	15
Strongly disapprove	43	16	71

PROM8. How important is religion or spirituality in your life?

	Total (n=1,031)	Republican (n=335)	Democrat (n=332)
<i>The most/Very important (net)</i>	46	61	43
The most important thing	18	30	14
Very important	28	31	29
<i>Somewhat important</i>	25	25	21
<i>Not too/Not at all important (net)</i>	29	14	36
Not too important	15	9	18
Not at all important	14	5	18

PROM9-11. What is your religion, if any? (IF "SOME OTHER RELIGION," ASK) Do you consider yourself a Christian? (IF PROTESTANT OR OTHER RELIGION/CHRISTIAN, ASK) Would you consider yourself a born-again or evangelical Christian, or not?

	Total (n=1,031)	Republican (n=335)	Democrat (n=332)
Evangelical Protestant/other Christian	24	39	21
Non-evangelical Protestant/other Christian	23	27	18
Roman Catholic	20	20	25
Jewish	2	1	2
Muslim	1	*	1
Buddhist	1	-	2
Hindu	1	1	*
Other religion, not Christian	5	1	7
No religion/atheist/agnostic	23	10	23