



Survey Memorandum

To: Interested Parties
From: Centerline
Date: June 23, 2023
Topic: Data on Election Modernization

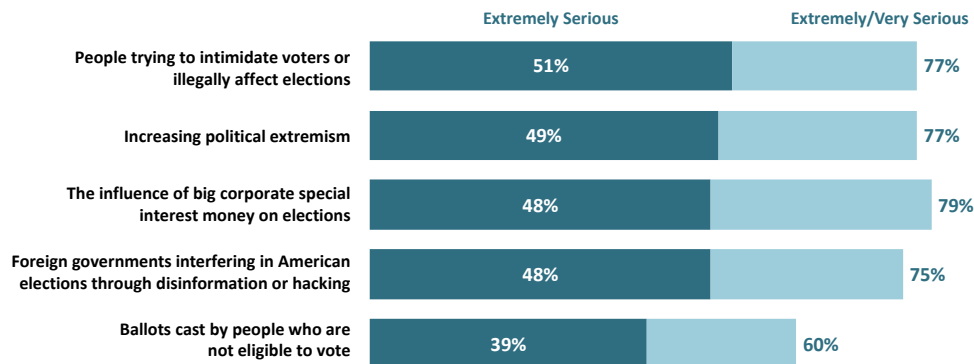
Centerline commissioned a national survey among N=1,000 registered voters with an oversample of N=500 Republican voters. Interviews were conducted online May 24–27, 2023. Quotas and weighting were set to ensure the sample was demographically representative by gender, age, region, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment. The survey was conducted in partnership with New Bridge Strategy, Meeting Street Insights, and TargetPoint Consulting.

Key Findings

1. Overall, voters are largely satisfied with the system of elections and the process of voting in their state. About three-quarters of voters (73%) say they are either very or somewhat satisfied. Two-thirds of Republicans (67%), 61% of Independents, and 83% of Democrats agree. Despite persistent accusations of voting irregularities in the 2020 election, 60% of self-described Trump Republicans are satisfied with the system of elections and the process of voting in their state, as are 59% of Republicans who say they plan to vote for Trump in the 2024 primary.

2. However, voters do perceive some serious election-related problems. Roughly half of voters say they consider four different issues to be *extremely* serious: People trying to intimidate voters or illegally affect elections (51% extremely serious), increasing political extremism (49%), the influence of big corporate special interest money on elections (48%), and foreign governments interfering in American elections through disinformation or hacking (48%). Between three-quarters and four-fifths of voters say they consider all these issues to be either extremely or very serious. There is widespread agreement across party that these problems are serious, though Democrats and Independents express slightly more concern than Republicans.

“The following is a list of issues that some people believe are problems related to politics and elections. Please tell me whether you consider each one to be an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not too serious a problem.”

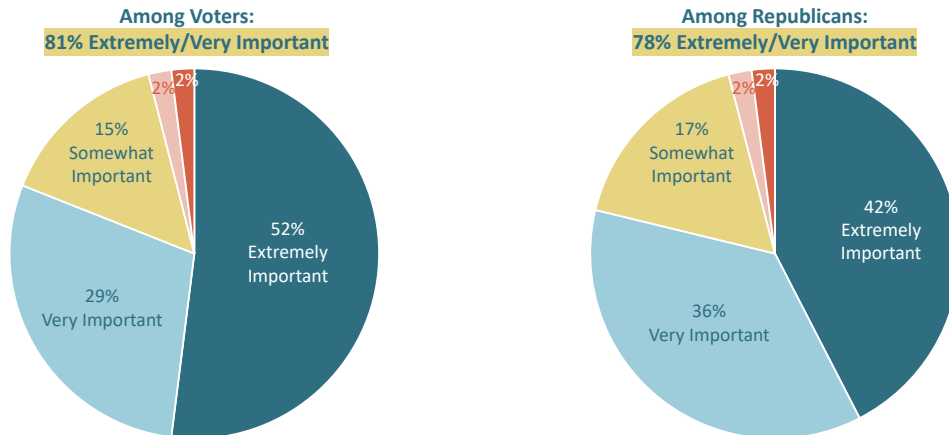


One issue is a much larger concern to Republicans than Democrats, however: Ballots cast by people who are not eligible to vote. This is an extremely serious problem to 58% of Republicans, but only to 20% of Democrats (and 36% of Independents).

3. There is wide support for dedicating \$2 billion in federal funding to help state and local election officials improve their systems in order to protect against foreign interference. About three-quarters of voters (73%) and two-thirds of Republicans (65%) would support this funding. It is supported by majorities of every demographic and attitudinal subgroup. It is notably popular among important swing voter groups, including 65% of Independents, 71% of white college-educated men, and 73% of suburban voters. There is also widespread support among key Republican primary voter groups: 67% of base Republicans, 67% of self-described Trump Republicans, 66% of Republicans ages 65+, and 69% of Evangelical Republicans.

4. Voters almost unanimously say it is important to them personally that public leaders respond to those who encourage violence related to elections and disrupt vote counting. A majority of voters (52%) say this is extremely important to them, while eight-in-ten (81%) say it is either extremely or very important. A further 15% say it is somewhat important, while only 2% each say it is not very important and not at all important. The data is much the same with Republicans, as 78% say it is extremely or very important, 17% say it is somewhat important, and just 2% each say it is not very and not at all important.

“How important is it to you personally that public leaders respond to those who encourage violence related to elections and disrupt vote counting?”



5. State and local elected officials are the most trusted sources of information about elections and voting. We asked respondents to choose who they trust most from a list of people and organizations that may take a position on issues related to elections and voting. Governors top the list, followed by election judges and Secretaries of State. These officials would be more trusted than county clerks, election volunteers, and county sheriffs and other law enforcement leaders. Republican and Democratic Party officials are most trusted by 39% and 41% of their own partisans respectively, but very few people outside their own parties see them as trustworthy. Faith leaders garner the least amount of trust overall on this issue.

Centerline – National Survey Data

Methodology: Online
Field Dates: May 24–27, 2023
Sample Size: N=1,000 Registered Voters and Oversample of N=500 Republicans

* Denotes result less than 0.5%.

NOTE: Due to rounding, some figures may be higher or lower by less than one-half of one percent.

Turning to a different topic, thinking about our system of elections and the process of voting in your state, would you say you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, not very satisfied, or not at all satisfied?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
30%	23%	VERY SATISFIED
43%	44%	SOMEWHAT SATISFIED
17%	19%	NOT VERY SATISFIED
11%	14%	NOT AT ALL SATISFIED
73%	67%	TOTAL SATISFIED
27%	33%	TOTAL NOT SATISFIED

The following is a list of issues that some people believe are problems related to politics and elections. Please tell me whether you consider each one to be an extremely serious problem, a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, or not too serious a problem.

	TOTAL SERIOUS	TOTAL NOT SERIOUS	EXTREMELY SERIOUS	VERY SERIOUS	SOMEWHAT SERIOUS	NOT TOO SERIOUS
The influence of big corporate special interest money on elections						
<u>REG. VOTERS</u>	79%	21%	48%	31%	17%	5%
<u>GOP</u>	77%	23%	43%	34%	19%	4%
Ballots cast by people who are not eligible to vote						
<u>REG. VOTERS</u>	60%	40%	39%	21%	17%	23%
<u>GOP</u>	82%	18%	58%	25%	12%	5%
Increasing political extremism						
<u>REG. VOTERS</u>	77%	23%	49%	28%	18%	5%
<u>GOP</u>	73%	27%	39%	34%	20%	7%
People trying to intimidate voters or illegally affect elections						
<u>REG. VOTERS</u>	77%	23%	51%	26%	15%	8%
<u>GOP</u>	76%	24%	49%	27%	15%	9%
Foreign governments interfering in American elections through disinformation or hacking						
<u>REG. VOTERS</u>	75%	25%	48%	27%	16%	10%
<u>GOP</u>	71%	29%	42%	29%	18%	11%

Thinking about one of these—foreign governments interfering in American elections—would you support or oppose dedicating \$2 billion in federal funding to help state and local election officials improve their systems in order to protect against foreign interference?

<u>REG.</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
<u>VOTERS</u>		
28%	23%	STRONGLY SUPPORT
45%	42%	SOMEWHAT SUPPORT
18%	23%	SOMEWHAT OPPOSE
9%	12%	STRONGLY OPPOSE
73%	65%	TOTAL SUPPORT
27%	35%	TOTAL OPPOSE

How important is it to you personally that public leaders respond to those who encourage violence related to elections and disrupt vote counting?

<u>REG.</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
<u>VOTERS</u>		
52%	42%	EXTREMELY IMPORTANT
29%	36%	VERY IMPORTANT
15%	17%	SOMEWHAT IMPORTANT
2%	2%	NOT VERY IMPORTANT
2%	2%	NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL
96%	95%	TOTAL IMPORTANT
4%	5%	TOTAL NOT IMPORTANT

Here is a list of people and organizations that may take a position on these issues related to elections and voting. Which two or three of the following types of people would you trust most for additional information about elections and voting?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
35%	34%	YOUR GOVERNOR
30%	24%	ELECTION JUDGES
26%	23%	YOUR SECRETARY OF STATE
23%	21%	COUNTY CLERKS
21%	18%	ELECTION VOLUNTEERS
21%	29%	YOUR COUNTY SHERRIFF OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT LEADERS
20%	2%	DEMOCRATIC PARTY OFFICIALS
20%	39%	REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIALS
13%	21%	YOUR FAITH LEADER
21%	21%	NONE OF THESE

In what year were you born?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
7%	5%	18 - 24
16%	15%	25 - 34
18%	16%	35 - 44
16%	16%	45 - 54
18%	20%	55 - 64
25%	27%	65 AND ABOVE

What is your gender?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
48%	52%	MALE
52%	48%	FEMALE

In politics today, do you consider yourself a...

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
22%	53%	STRONG REPUBLICAN
12%	32%	NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN
7%	15%	LEAN REPUBLICAN
13%	--	INDEPENDENT
7%	--	LEAN DEMOCRAT
15%	--	NOT-SO-STRONG DEMOCRAT
24%	--	STRONG DEMOCRAT
42%	100%	TOTAL REPUBLICAN
13%	--	INDEPENDENT
46%	--	TOTAL DEMOCRAT

On most economic and fiscal issues, such as taxes and government spending, do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate, or liberal?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
20%	40%	VERY CONSERVATIVE
21%	37%	SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE
35%	21%	MODERATE
15%	2%	SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
10%	1%	VERY LIBERAL
41%	77%	TOTAL CONSERVATIVE
35%	21%	MODERATE
24%	3%	TOTAL LIBERAL

On most social issues, such as abortion and LGBT issues, do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate, or liberal?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
22%	43%	VERY CONSERVATIVE
15%	24%	SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE
29%	23%	MODERATE
14%	7%	SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
20%	2%	VERY LIBERAL
37%	67%	TOTAL CONSERVATIVE
29%	23%	MODERATE
35%	10%	TOTAL LIBERAL

What is your main racial or ethnic heritage? Please choose only one option.

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
70%	87%	WHITE
12%	3%	BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN
11%	3%	HISPANIC
3%	2%	ASIAN
1%	1%	AMERICAN INDIAN, NATIVE AMERICAN, OR ALASKA NATIVE
--	--	HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER
2%	2%	OTHER
1%	1%	PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

What is the highest degree or level of education you have completed?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
*	*	LESS THAN 9 YEARS GRADE SCHOOL
2%	2%	1-3 YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL
22%	24%	GRADUATED 4 YEARS HIGH SCHOOL
34%	35%	1-3 YEARS OF COLLEGE
25%	22%	GRADUATED 4 YEARS COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY
17%	16%	MORE THAN 4 YEARS COLLEGE
*	*	PREFER NOT TO ANSWER
58%	61%	TOTAL <COLLEGE
42%	38%	TOTAL COLLEGE+

How would you describe the area where you currently live?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
30%	19%	CITY
47%	50%	SUBURBAN AREA
9%	13%	SMALL TOWN
14%	18%	RURAL AREA
76%	69%	TOTAL CITY/SUBURBS
24%	31%	TOTAL SMALL TOWN/RURAL

Do you have any children under the age of 18 living in your household?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
28%	26%	YES
71%	74%	NO
*	--	PREFER NOT TO ANSWER

Which of the following best describes your current employment status? White collar work is usually done in an office or other professional environment, while blue collar refers to jobs that involve manual labor.

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
18%	17%	FULL-TIME WORKER/BLUE COLLAR
22%	22%	FULL-TIME WORKER/WHITE COLLAR
5%	5%	PART-TIME WORKER/BLUE COLLAR
4%	5%	PART-TIME WORKER/WHITE COLLAR
2%	2%	WORK MULTIPLE JOBS
7%	8%	HOMEMAKER
3%	2%	STUDENT
10%	7%	UNEMPLOYED AND LOOKING FOR WORK
30%	32%	RETIRED
51%	51%	TOTAL EMPLOYED
49%	49%	TOTAL NOT EMPLOYED

Are you, or is anyone in your household, a member of a labor union or a teachers' association or employed by the city, county, state, or federal government, including as a firefighter or law enforcement officer?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
7%	6%	LABOR UNION
5%	3%	TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION
3%	3%	GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE
1%	2%	FIREFIGHTER OR LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER
84%	86%	NO
2%	2%	NOT SURE
14%	12%	TOTAL YES

Which of the following best describes what your total household income was last year?

<u>REG.</u>		
<u>VOTERS</u>	<u>GOP</u>	
10%	9%	UNDER \$20,000
22%	22%	\$20,000 - \$39,999
19%	20%	\$40,000 - \$59,999
16%	14%	\$60,000 - \$79,999
10%	10%	\$80,000 - \$99,999
17%	19%	\$100,000 - \$200,000
3%	2%	MORE THAN \$200,000
3%	3%	PREFER NOT TO SAY
33%	31%	TOTAL <\$40K
35%	34%	TOTAL \$40K-80K
30%	32%	TOTAL \$80K+