



To: Interested Parties
From: Rob Autry, Meeting Street Research; David Kanevsky, 3D Strategic Research;
Patrick Lanne, Public Opinion Strategies; B.J. Martino and Dave Sackett, The Tarrance Group
Re: NRCC October Battleground Congressional District Survey
Date: October 26, 2021

The latest NRCC battleground survey makes it clear the political environment is moving decisively toward Republicans.

- Republicans are leading on the generic ballot and with key demographic groups, like independents and college-educated white voters.
- Republicans are winning on the issues most important to voters.
- Voters understand the negative consequences of Democrats' policies.

1. It is not just that the Biden honeymoon is over. Voters are now having “Biden Remorse” due to Democrats’ incompetence.

- President Biden’s job approval has flipped from 51% approve – 45% disapprove in July to 45%-51% now.
- The shift in Biden’s approval is almost entirely coming from independents, as just 39% approve versus 54% who disapprove of his performance.
- Many of the groups that powered Biden to the presidency have now soured on him, as he is underwater with Hispanics (-5%) and college-educated white voters (-3%).
- A majority of voters (53%) do not believe Joe Biden is competently running the country. Among independents, 62% do not believe Biden is competent.

2. As a result of Democrats’ incompetence, Republicans now lead across battleground Congressional districts.

- Across the 85 battleground Congressional districts, Republicans lead 43%-40%. This is a 6% positive swing from the start of this cycle.
- Republicans are leading with independents by 8% (35% GOP – 27% Dem).
- Even though college-educated white voters supported Biden in 2020, they are now voting Republican by 3% (44% GOP – 41% Dem).
- The gains that Republicans made with Hispanic voters in 2020 are continuing into 2022. Among Hispanic voters, the generic ballot in these battleground districts is tied at 42% GOP – 42% Dem.

3. Republicans have a decisive advantage on the issues most important to voters.

- When asked what the top issues are for President Biden and Congress to focus on, voters cite jobs and the economy (16%), border security (15%) and inflation/cost of living (12%).
- Republicans have an advantage among voters on which party can best handle these issues, and their advantage has grown significantly since July.

	July 8-15, 2021			October 16-21, 2021		
	GOP	Dem	Net	GOP	Dem	Net
Border Security	49%	39%	+10%	54%	27%	+27%
Making the country prosperous	n/a	n/a	n/a	48%	31%	+17%
Jobs and the economy	45%	42%	+3%	47%	36%	+11%
Rising prices and the higher cost of living	44%	40%	+4%	43%	36%	+7%

- Among independents, Republicans have a +37% advantage on the border, +24% advantage on making the country prosperous, +18% advantage on jobs and the economy, and +9% advantage on cost of living.

4. Voters understand the negative consequences of Democrats’ policies.

- In these battleground districts, a solid majority of voters (59%) say government is doing too many things versus just 35% who say government should do more.
- Independents believe government is doing too much by a two-to-one margin (62% too much vs 31% do more).
- Voters’ belief that Democrats’ tax and spend agenda will raise *their own taxes* has grown by 6% from 51% in July to 57% now.
- More importantly, 66% of voters say the Democrats’ proposed spending will increase *their own cost of living*, while just 5% say the bill would bring their cost of living down.
- A majority (52%) of voters say Democrats do NOT enforce our nation’s laws, especially regarding violent crime, the border, and illegal drugs.
- A majority (58%) of voters believe the “defund the police movement” has caused crime to go up.
- Voters trust Republicans to keep American communities safe from crime by 13% (45% GOP – 32% Dem).

This survey was conducted October 16-21, 2021 among N=1,000 voters across 85 Battleground Congressional Districts, with 60% of the interviews conducted via cell phone, 20% via landline and 20% online.