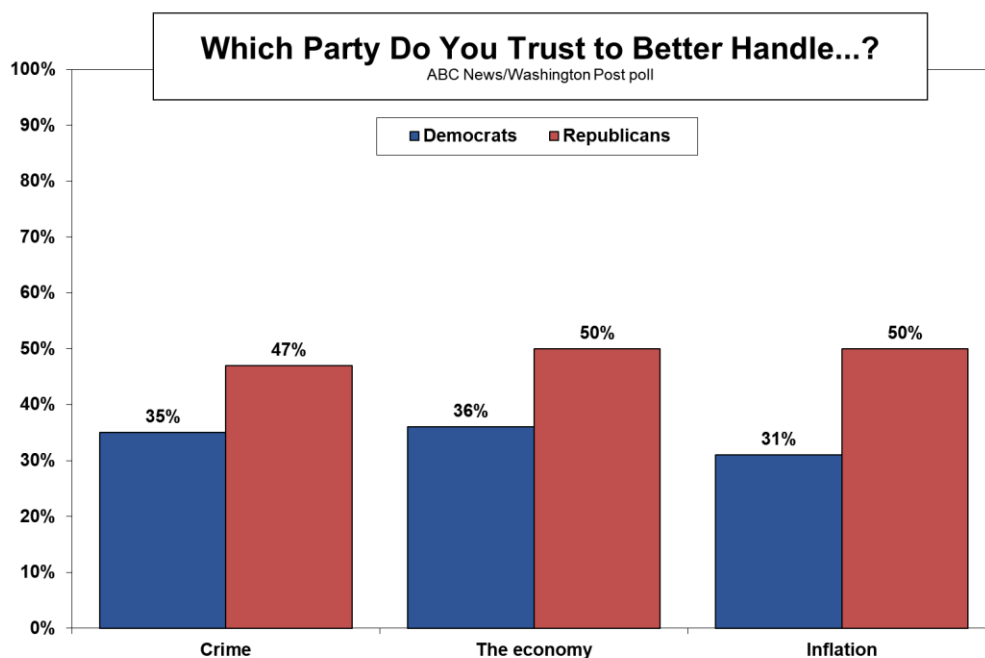


Off its Historic High, GOP is Still Strong, Boosted by Trust on Inflation, Crime

Broad Republican advantages in trust to tame inflation and handle crime are keeping the party in a strong position for the 2022 midterm elections in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll, albeit off the historic peak in vote preference the GOP attained last fall.

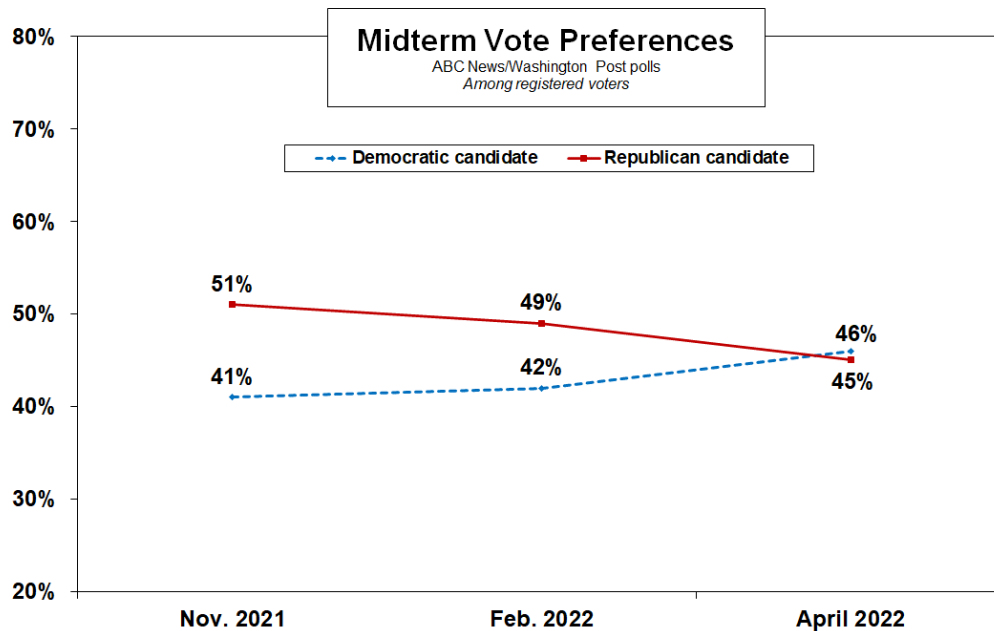
Americans trust the Republican Party over the Democrats to handle inflation, by 19 percentage points; the economy more generally, by 14 points; and crime, by a dozen points. Trust in the Republicans to handle crime is its highest (by a single point) in ABC/Post results back 32 years; trust on the economy, just slightly off its high two months ago.



On the Democratic side, Joe Biden’s job approval remains underwater, but with a 5-point gain since February, aided by better ratings for handling the coronavirus pandemic (+7 points) and the war in Ukraine (+9). Still, 52 percent of Americans disapprove of Biden’s performance overall, vs. 42 percent who approve. Those who “strongly” disapprove outnumber strong approvers by a 2-1 margin, potentially indicating motivation to vote in the fall.

Moreover, with inflation its highest in 40 years, Biden’s rating for handling inflation is dramatically bad in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#): Sixty-eight percent of Americans disapprove. Fewer but still 57 percent disapprove of his work on the economy more broadly.

Looking to November, registered voters divide essentially evenly between Democratic and Republican candidates for Congress, 46-45 percent. That’s a comedown for the GOP from its lead of 7 points in February and 10 points last November – the latter, the largest Republican midterm advantage in ABC/Post polls back 40 years. The change is led by a close contest among political independents, swing voters in most national elections, from a 50-32 percent Republican lead in November to an even 42-42 percent now.

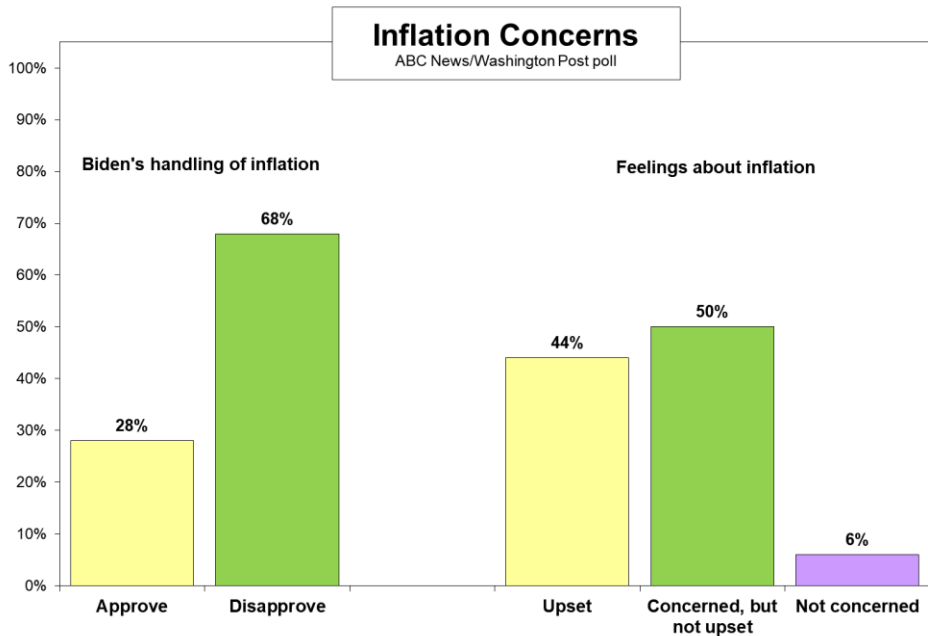


That said, a close overall division in congressional vote preferences among registered voters in pre-election polls historically has been sufficient to signal strong Republican outcomes. That was the case in 2010, when the GOP gained 63 seats in the House; and 1994, when it gained 54 seats. (Less so in 2014, but still a 13-seat GOP win.)

INFLATION – Inflation is a major irritant. Half of Americans are concerned about it; an additional 44 percent, not only concerned but upset about it. Just 6 percent are unconcerned.

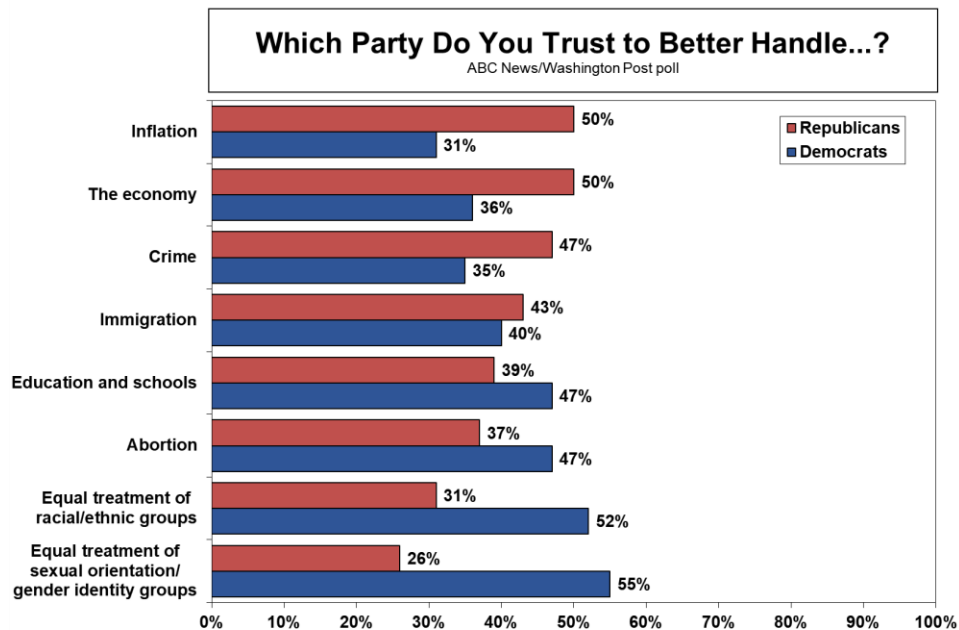
Views on inflation are associated with partisanship and vote preferences. Among registered voters who are upset about inflation (disproportionately Republicans), GOP House candidates lead their Democratic opponents by 63-26 percent. Among those who are concerned but not upset (plus the few who are unconcerned), this reverses to 62-30 percent for the Democrats.

In another economic indicator, with unemployment nearly back to its pre-pandemic level, Americans by 50-43 percent think good-paying jobs are easy to find in their community. That doesn’t help the Democrats, though, because registered voters who say good jobs are available in their area favor Republican candidates by a 10-point margin. And comparatively few people are looking for jobs, while everyone’s paying higher prices.



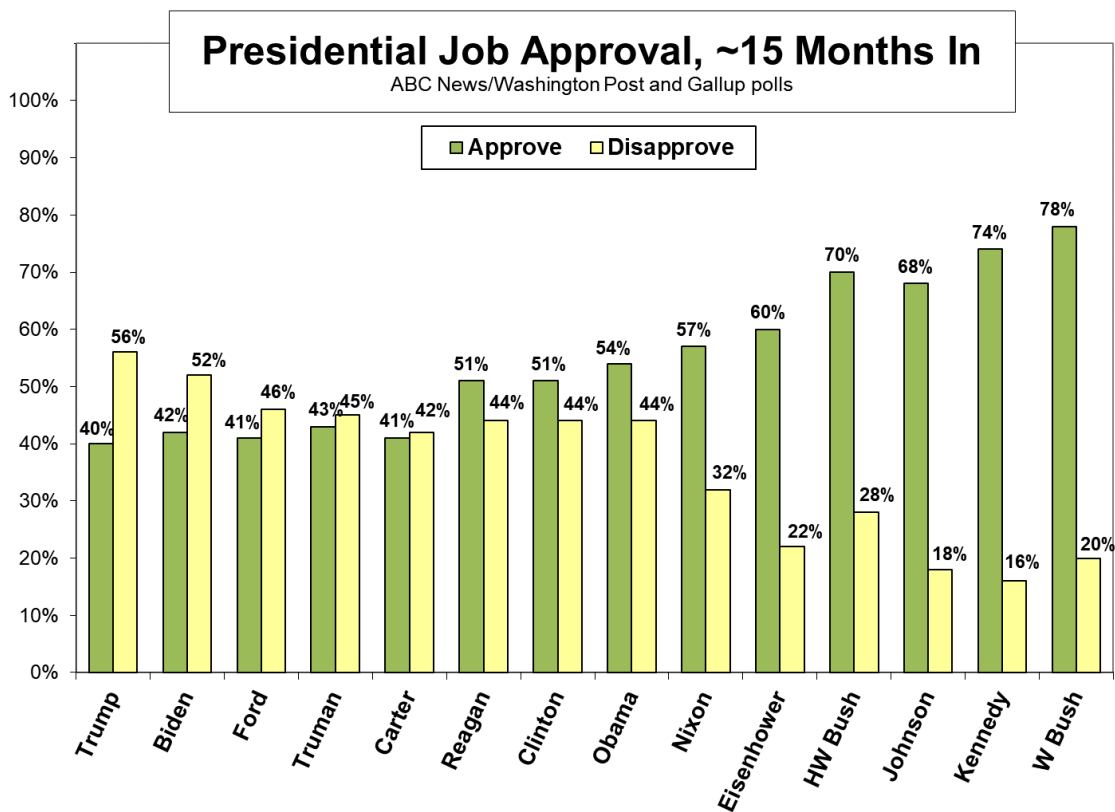
ISSUES – While the GOP leads on the economy and crime, the parties are essentially tied on the issue of immigration and close in trust to handle education. The Democrats have a lead on abortion (+10 points), worth watching as the Supreme Court readies a ruling on a Mississippi law banning abortion after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

The Democratic Party vaults to extensive leads on two other issues, both related to social equity: Equal treatment of racial and ethnic groups, on which it's trusted over the Republican Party by 52-31 percent; and equal treatment of groups regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, a 55-26 percent Democratic advantage.

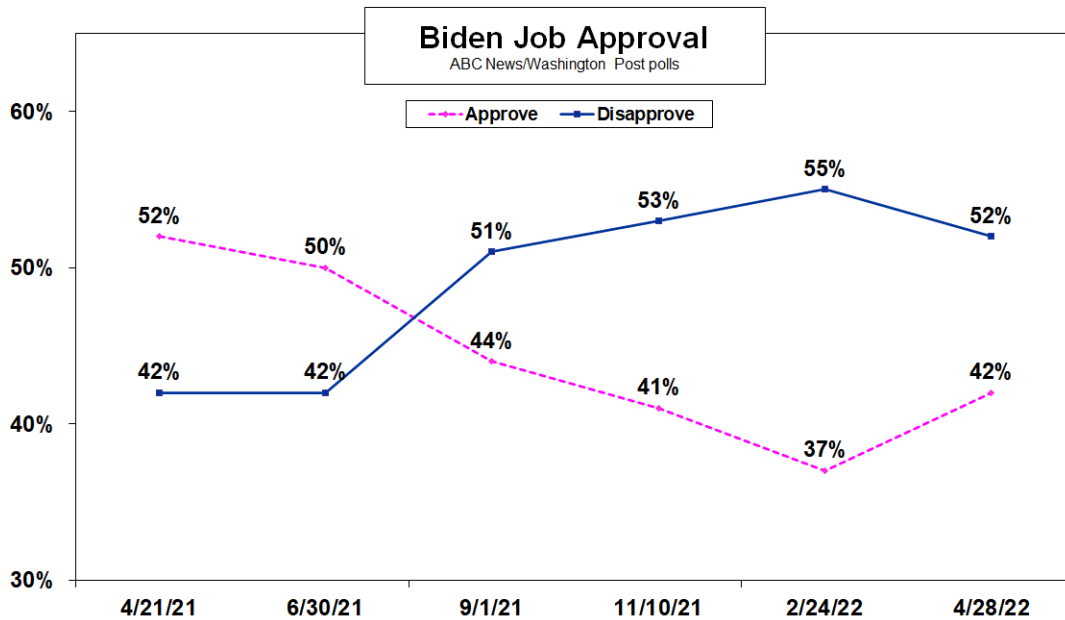


Among groups, women generally are more apt than men to trust Democrats on the issues tested; in one example, the Republican Party has a 56-29 percent lead on the economy among men, compared with a split, 44-43 percent, among women. Similar to men, whites trust the GOP on the economy by 30 points; people in racial and ethnic minority groups favor the Democrats, but by a slimmer 11-point margin. Independents tilt Republican by 16 points; 15 percent of independents volunteer that they don't trust either party on the economy.

BIDEN – Biden's approval rating does not place him in enviable company. Only one previous president at about this point in office had higher disapproval – Donald Trump, at 56 percent – in polls dating to the Truman administration. (Four of his 13 predecessors have had about Biden's level of approval.)



Looking at it another way doesn't offer Democrats any more encouragement. While Biden's standing just ahead of the November election remains to be seen, it's currently similar to Trump's going into his first midterm (40 percent; his party lost 40 seats). It's worse than Barack Obama's approval in October 2010 (50 percent, loss of 63 seats); Bill Clinton's in 1994 (48 percent, loss of 54 seats) and Ronald Reagan's in 1982 (49 percent, loss of 26 seats). The exception is Jimmy Carter, who lost fewer seats, but still 15, in his first midterm, with 49 percent approval. There's time, of course, for Biden's approval rating to change.



Specifically on the economy, Biden’s poor rating is essentially unchanged from February; it includes a 25-point deficit among independents. In terms of his even worse rating on inflation, 38 percent within his own party disapprove, as do 42 percent of liberals, a stalwart Democratic group. Disapproval on inflation rises to 65 percent among moderates, 74 percent among independents and nine in 10 Republicans and conservatives alike.

Again, given low unemployment, Biden does less poorly – but not well – on creating jobs; 41 percent approve, 46 percent disapprove. His rating is similar on handling the war in Ukraine, 42-47 percent, approve-disapprove. In this case, while still underwater, approval is up 9 points since February, with a corresponding drop in those with no opinion. Disapproval is unchanged.

Biden peaks above 50 percent on handling one remaining issue tested in this survey, the pandemic: Here he has a 51-43 percent approval rating, a turnaround from 44-50 percent as the Omicron variant raged two months ago.

Overall, as mentioned, Biden’s general job approval rating is up 5 points, to 42 percent, from his low as president in February. That includes his best rating among Hispanic people (62 percent approve) since just after he took office and +9 points since February among urban residents.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone April 24-28, 2022, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults, including 907 registered voters. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions in the full sample are 29-25-40 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents, and 30-26-38 percent among registered voters.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates. See details on the survey’s methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on all new poll releases.

Media contacts: [Van Scott](#) (212-456-7243) or [Caragh Fisher](#) (212-456-3437).

Full results follow.

8-22 held for release. *= less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?
Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
4/28/22	42	21	21	52	10	42	6
2/24/22	37	20	18	55	11	44	7
11/10/21	41	19	22	53	10	44	6
9/1/21	44	25	19	51	9	42	5
6/30/21	50	30	19	42	7	35	8
4/21/21	52	34	18	42	7	35	6

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Biden is handling [ITEM]?

4/28/22 - Summary table

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
a. the economy	38	57	5
b. the coronavirus pandemic	51	43	7
c. the situation involving Russia and Ukraine	42	47	11
d. inflation, that is, rising prices	28	68	4
e. creating jobs	41	46	13

*full sample asked a-c, half sample asked d, other half asked e

Trend:

a. the economy

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
4/28/22	38	57	5
2/24/22	37	58	5
11/10/21	39	55	6
9/1/21	45	49	5
4/21/21	52	41	7

b. the coronavirus pandemic

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
4/28/22	51	43	7
2/24/22	44	50	5
11/10/21	47	49	4
9/1/21	52	41	6
6/30/21	62	31	7
4/21/21	64	31	11

c. the situation involving Russia and Ukraine

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
4/28/22	42	47	11
2/24/22	33	47	20

Compare to:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling the situation involving Russia and Ukraine?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
4/27/14	34	17	17	46	14	31	20
3/9/14	42	16	26	43	16	27	15

d-e. No trend.

3. How likely are you to vote in the congressional election in November - are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

	Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than 50/50	Don't think will vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.
4/28/22	68	13	11	6	2	NA	*
4/28/22 RV	75	13	9	3	1	NA	*
2/24/22	67	13	10	5	4	NA	1
2/24/22 RV	75	12	9	2	1	NA	*

Compare to:

I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the congressional election in your district [insert time frame]: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

	Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than 50/50	Don't think will vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.
11/1/18* RV	65	9	8	2	1	14	1
10/11/18 RV	76	12	7	3	*	*	*
8/29/18 RV	75	13	10	2	*	NA	*
4/11/18** RV	67	13	13	5	1		1
1/18/18** RV	62	17	14	5	1		*
11/1/17** RV	62	19	14	3	1		*
7/13/17** RV	66	17	11	4	1	"	1
10/26/14 RV	59	15	11	7	1	6	*
10/12/14 RV	63	15	15	5	2	1	0
9/7/14 RV	71	16	9	2	1	NA	*
6/1/14 RV	74	12	9	4	1		*
4/27/14 RV	68	15	12	4	1	"	*
10/28/10 RV	64	13	11	5	1	7	0
10/3/10 RV	70	15	9	5	2	NA	*
9/2/10 RV	70	14	14	1	1		0
7/11/10 RV	73	13	11	2	*		*
6/6/10 RV	72	14	11	3	*	"	0
11/4/06 RV	70	11	7	4	2	5	*
10/22/06 RV	75	14	7	3	*	1	2

* 11/1/18 "next week"; 10/26/14 "the week after next"; 10/11/18 and 10/12/14 "next month"; 8/29/18, 9/7/14 and previous "in November" except for 10/28/10 and 11/04/06 "next week's Congressional election"

** "How likely are you to vote in the congressional election in 2018"

4. If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for (the Democratic candidate) or (the Republican candidate) in your congressional district? Would you lean toward the (Democratic candidate) or toward the (Republican candidate)?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - REG VOTERS

	Dem cand.	Rep cand.	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
4/28/22	46	45	1	5	*	4
2/24/22	42	49	1	3	1	4
11/10/21	41	51	1	4	*	4
11/1/18	50	43	1	3	1	3
10/11/18	53	42	*	2	*	3
8/29/18	52	38	1	3	0	6
4/11/18	47	43	1	3	*	5
1/18/18	51	39	1	2	1	6
11/1/17	51	40	1	3	1	4
10/24/16 LV	47	46	1	1	1	4
10/13/16	48	42	1	3	1	5
5/19/16	45	45	*	3	1	6
10/26/14	47	44	1	2	1	5
10/12/14	46	44	1	3	1	5
9/7/14	46	44	1	4	1	4
6/1/14	47	45	1	3	1	4
4/27/14	45	44	1	2	1	7
3/2/14	46	45	1	3	*	5
1/23/14	45	46	1	3	1	5
12/15/13	47	45	1	4	1	3
10/20/13	48	40	1	5	1	4
5/19/13	48	40	2	4	1	6
10/28/10	49	44	1	2	*	3
10/3/10	47	43	1	3	1	5
9/2/10*	45	47	1	2	1	5
7/11/10	46	47	*	2	*	5
6/6/10	47	44	2	2	1	4
4/25/10	48	43	1	2	1	6
3/26/10	48	44	1	2	*	4
2/8/10	45	48	*	3	*	4
10/22/06	54	41	*	1	*	3
10/8/06	54	41	*	1	1	3
9/7/06	50	42	*	3	2	4
8/6/06	52	39	*	2	1	5
6/25/06	52	39	1	3	1	4
5/15/06	52	40	1	3	1	4
4/9/06	55	40	*	2	*	3
1/26/06	54	38	1	3	1	5
12/18/05	51	41	1	3	1	4
11/2/05	52	37	1	4	2	6
7/15/02	47	46	1	1	1	4
1/27/02**	43	50	NA	2	1	5
9/6/00	49	42		2	1	6
7/23/00	46	45		3	1	5
2/27/00	45	46		2	1	5

Call for full trend.

*9/2/10 and previous: "Will not vote (vol.)"

**1/27/02 and previous: No "other candidate" option recorded

5. Which political party, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans) do you trust to do a better job handling [ITEM]?

4/28/22 - Summary table

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. the economy	36	50	2	10	3
b. equal treatment of racial and ethnic groups	52	31	3	10	4
c. crime	35	47	3	11	5
d. education and schools	47	39	1	10	3
e. abortion	47	37	1	10	5
f. equal treatment of groups regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity	55	26	3	8	8
g. immigration	40	43	2	13	3
h. inflation	31	50	1	12	6

*full sample asked a-b, half sample asked c-e, other half asked f-h

Trend:

a. the economy

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
4/28/22	36	50	2	10	3
2/24/22	35	54	1	7	3
11/1/18 RV	39	48	3	7	4
10/11/18 RV	40	47	3	6	3
10/11/18	41	45	3	7	4
10/12/14	37	42	3	13	5
9/7/14	40	45	1	10	4
4/27/14	41	38	2	14	5
3/2/14	41	41	2	12	3
1/23/14	37	44	2	15	3
10/3/10	44	37	4	14	2
9/2/10	42	40	2	15	2
7/11/10	42	34	3	17	5
3/26/10	44	36	3	16	1
2/1/08	52	33	2	10	3
12/9/07	51	33	2	9	5
11/1/07	50	35	3	9	4
9/30/07	51	33	2	11	3
10/22/06 RV	50	41	2	5	2
10/8/06	54	37	3	6	1
9/7/06	50	39	1	7	4
6/25/06	52	39	1	5	3
5/15/06	52	34	3	9	2
4/9/06	49	43	1	4	3
3/5/06	49	40	2	8	2
1/26/06	55	37	2	5	2
11/2/05	56	34	1	8	1
12/15/02	44	45	4	6	1
10/27/02* LV	43	48	3	3	2
9/26/02*	47	39	3	6	5
7/15/02**	38	48	3	6	5
1/27/02**	39	48	5	6	3
4/22/01***	47	43	4	4	3
9/28/98	53	40	NA	NA	7
7/12/98	49	37	4	5	6
1/19/98	45	44	3	6	3
7/8/97	43	39	5	12	2
10/23/94	38	43	3	14	2
9/11/94	39	43	3	11	4
2/27/94	47	36	3	11	3

2/2/92	49	38	2	7	4
12/15/91	43	36	4	11	5
3/4/91	32	49	5	10	4
1/16/90	33	52	4	7	4

**"The economy and jobs"

**"Improving the economy"

***4/22/01 and previous: "The nation's economy"

b. No trend.

c. crime

	Democrats	Republicans	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
4/28/22	35	47	3	11	5
6/30/21	35	36	3	20	7
10/27/06*	38	36	5	9	12
10/25/02*	27	40	11	7	15
9/1/02**	31	45	7	7	11
6/6/99***	40	37	4	12	8
3/14/99	38	42	6	7	7
9/28/98****	44	45	NA	NA	12
7/12/98	40	39	5	8	8
1/19/98	39	42	5	9	5
7/8/97	38	34	7	16	4
10/23/94	36	34	5	19	6
9/11/94	43	33	6	13	6
2/27/94	39	32	7	18	3
2/2/92	39	35	7	11	7
12/15/91	34	35	8	15	7
3/4/91	28	46	9	12	4
1/16/90	31	43	8	12	6

*Newsweek

**Post/KFF/Harvard University

***Washington Post poll

****1998 and previous: "Handling the crime problem"

d. education and schools

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
4/28/22	47	39	1	10	3
2/24/22	44	41	2	10	3
11/10/21	44	41	1	9	5
5/15/06*	56	33	3	6	3
11/2/05	55	32	4	7	2
12/15/02	49	40	4	5	2
10/27/02 LV	44	45	4	3	3
9/26/02	46	39	4	5	6
9/1/02**	40	39	6	6	9
7/15/02***	41	41	4	7	7
1/27/02	40	45	8	4	3
4/22/01	48	40	5	5	3
9/28/98	56	35	NA	NA	9
7/12/98	52	31	5	5	7
1/19/98	54	34	4	5	3
7/8/97	51	30	5	9	4
10/23/94	45	30	6	13	6
9/11/94	48	33	6	8	5
2/27/94	53	28	5	11	3
2/2/92	55	29	6	5	5
12/15/91	47	31	6	10	6
3/4/91	39	41	8	9	4

1/16/90 45 36 7 9 3
 *5/15/06 and previous: "handling education"
 **Post-KFF-Harvard
 ***7/15/02 and previous: "improving education and the schools"

e. abortion

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
4/28/22	47	37	1	10	5

Compare to:

Which political party is closer to your own opinion on the issue of abortion, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans)?

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/12/14	48	33	1	5	13
4/27/14	43	35	1	6	15
1/23/14	46	37	1	6	10

f. No trend.

g. immigration

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
4/28/22	40	43	2	13	3
4/28/22 RV	40	44	2	12	3
11/1/18 RV	47	42	1	7	3
10/11/18	50	38	2	6	4
7/19/15*	37	40	1	15	7
10/12/14	37	40	2	13	7
9/7/14	39	43	1	10	6
4/27/14	40	34	3	14	9
3/2/14	44	36	1	13	7
1/23/14	39	37	2	15	7
10/3/10	37	37	3	17	6
9/2/10	37	40	5	14	4
3/26/10	38	35	3	16	8
2/1/08	40	37	2	12	9
11/1/07	42	35	4	13	6
10/8/06	49	36	4	10	3
6/25/06	45	40	1	9	5
5/15/06	48	34	1	14	4
4/9/06	50	38	1	7	4

*7/19/15 and previous "immigration issues"

h. inflation

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
4/28/22	31	50	1	12	6
3/4/91*	34	49	5	10	3
1/16/90	33	50	3	10	5

*1991 and previous "controlling inflation"

6. Do you think good-paying jobs are (hard) to find or (easy) to find in your community?

Hard Easy No opinion

4/28/22 43 50 7

7. Thinking about the current rate of inflation, meaning rising prices - is this something you are (upset about), (concerned about but not upset), or (not concerned about)?

	Upset	Concerned but not upset	Not concerned	No opinion
4/28/22	44	50	6	*

*** END ***