



June 13, 2023 – For Immediate Release
For more information, please contact:
Gillian Smith, gillian.smith@suffolk.edu
Greg Gatlin, ggatlin@suffolk.edu

New Poll Shows Biden and Trump Are Neck-and-Neck With Voters *Voters express concern about Biden’s age, Trump’s legal woes*

BOSTON – If the 2024 presidential election were held tomorrow, President Joe Biden and former President Donald Trump would be running neck-and-neck, according to a new *USA TODAY*/Suffolk University poll.

Biden leads Trump slightly (34%-32%) with voters, as support for both men has seen significant erosion among voters due to concerns about Biden’s age and Trump’s legal woes. Voters also identified inflation as their top overall issue of concern at the ballot box.

While more than half of voters in each party say those issues make no difference in how they will vote, 37% of Democrats said the 80-year-old president’s age makes them less likely to vote for him, while 34% of Republican voters said Trump’s legal situation made them less likely to support him in a future election.

The diminishing appeal of both men among one-third of their party’s supporters could open the door to other candidates for the Republican and Democratic nominations, said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center.

“The same choices aren’t working this time around,” Paleologos said. “With one-in-four voters opting for an unnamed candidate, voters are disrupting the calculus that they will automatically vote for one of the two major party choices.”

But second-place candidates on both sides continue to run well behind the frontrunners, with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis garnering just 23% of Republican voter support for the presidential nomination, compared to Trump’s comfortable lead of 48%.

The poll was conducted after Trump was indicted on state charges in New York and found civilly liable of sexual abuse and defamation, but before the former president announced he

expected to face arraignment on June 13 on federal charges related to his handling of sensitive government documents after he left the White House.

Although DeSantis leads second-tier Republican candidates in popularity, his poll numbers are not high enough to threaten his chief Democratic rival. In a hypothetical matchup between Biden and DeSantis for the presidency, voters chose the president 33% to 26%, with 25% of respondents supporting a third-party candidate, and 14% undecided.

No other GOP candidate even cracked double digits with voters. South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott received 6% of the vote, former vice president Mike Pence and former UN ambassador Nikki Haley received 4%, and former New Jersey governor Chris Christie received 2%. Ten percent of Republican voters remained undecided.

Among Democratic voters, 58% said they back Biden, with the next-closest challenger, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., garnering just 15% of support, and self-help author Marianne Williamson trailing with 6%. But the poll showed significant ambivalence among voters, with 21% of Democrats undecided on their choice if the election were held tomorrow.

Methodology

This survey of 1,000 registered voters was conducted June 5-9, and is based on live telephone interviews of adults 18 years of age or older, residing in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Quota and demographic information-including region, race, and age-were determined from 2020 national census data. Samples of both cell phones and standard landlines were called using a probability-proportionate-to-size method, which means that the phone numbers assigned to each state were proportional to the number of registered voters in each state. States were grouped into four general regions. Surveys were administered in English and Spanish. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is +/-3.1 percentage points. Error margins increase for smaller subgroups in the cross-tabulation document above. All surveys may be subject to other sources of error, including but not limited to coverage error and measurement error.

Results are posted on the [Suffolk University Political Research Center](#) website. For more information, contact David Paleologos at 781-290-9310, dpaleologos@suffolk.edu.

Suffolk University, located in historic downtown Boston, with an international campus in Madrid, provides students with experiential and transformational learning opportunities that begin in the center of Boston, reach across the globe, and lead to extraordinary outcomes for graduates. The University is driven by the power of education, inclusion, and engagement to change lives and positively impact communities. Suffolk University offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in its College of Arts & Sciences, Sawyer Business School, and Law School.