



January 14, 2025 – For Immediate Release

For more information, please contact:  
Greg Gatlin at 617-573-8428; [ggatlin@suffolk.edu](mailto:ggatlin@suffolk.edu)  
Gillian Smith at [gillian.smith@suffolk.edu](mailto:gillian.smith@suffolk.edu)

### **Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* National Poll: Voters Want Trump to Focus on the Economy, Not Political Retribution or Pardons**

BOSTON—With just one week until President Biden turns the Oval Office back over to former President Trump, voters from both parties say they want the new administration to keep an urgent focus on the economy and not become sidetracked by political retribution or pardons, according to a new Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* national poll of registered voters taken January 7-11.

Forty-seven percent of voters polled said Trump should make “addressing the economy” his top priority. When asked what they most do not want Trump to address in the early stages of his presidency, voters listed investigating Biden administration officials and congressional Democrats (24%) and issuing pardons to those indicted or convicted for the January 6, 2021, insurrection at the US Capitol (23%).

Voters are divided on the issue of illegal immigration, with 21% responding that the No. 1 issue Trump should pursue is mass deportation of those living in the US illegally, while 16% said that is the top issue they do not want him to pursue.

On the topic of presidential pardons, just 31% of voters approve of Biden’s pardon of his son, Hunter Biden, on gun charges, tax evasion, and other crimes, while 61% disapproved. However, when respondents were asked what they would do if they were in the exact same situation as Biden, 39% said they would pardon their own son.

A slight majority (52%) say they oppose preemptive pardons in the final week of government officials like Liz Cheney and Dr. Anthony Fauci, who have been harshly criticized by incoming President Trump. Nearly four in ten (38%) of those polled support those potential pardons.

With the Biden term nearly completed, respondents were roughly split on their level of optimism heading into Trump's second term. While 49% said they felt "excited" or "satisfied" about Trump taking office again, 43% said they felt "afraid" or "depressed."

Those surveyed were markedly undecided on Biden's most notable achievements, with fewer than one in five (19%) picking "investing in infrastructure," followed by 14% citing "supporting Israel against Hamas," 12% choosing "opposing the Russian invasion of Ukraine," and 10% said "fighting the COVID pandemic." All other options were in single digits, while nearly one in four (23%) were undecided. On the flip side, 31% of voters said Biden's biggest failure was "dealing with immigration" and 20% said "withdrawing from Afghanistan." Overall, Biden leaves office with a job approval of 43%, while 54% of these voters disapproved of his performance in office.

## **Methodology**

The nationwide Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* survey was conducted January 7-11, through live interviews of 1,000 likely voters residing in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Quota and demographic information—including region, race, and age—were determined from current census data and recent exit polling. 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. Marginals and full cross-tabulation data are posted on the [Suffolk University Political Research Center](#) website. For more information, contact David Paleologos at 781-290-9310, [dpaleologos@suffolk.edu](mailto:dpaleologos@suffolk.edu).

----

Suffolk University, located in historic downtown Boston, 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.