



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 April Battleground Congressional District Survey
Date: July 22, 2021

1. As inflation fears rise and President Biden's ratings on the economy slide, Battleground Congressional District voters are putting more trust in Republicans in Congress to deal with these economic issues than Democrats.

- Seven out of ten voters in battleground districts express high levels of concern about rising prices and the higher cost of living (70% extremely or very concerned).
- 60% of voters disapprove of President Biden's handling of rising prices and the higher cost of living, with only 30% approving (-30 net approval).
- When asked who or what is most responsible for the recent rising prices and the higher cost of living, President Biden (23%) and Democrats in Congress (19%) top the list. Voters are four times as likely to blame the President and Congressional Democrats (combined 42%) than they are Congressional Republicans (10%).
- Voters trust Republicans over Democrats in Congress on dealing with rising prices and the higher cost of living by a 4-point margin (44% GOP – 40% DEM) and continue to trust Republicans more on the issue of jobs and the economy (45% GOP – 42% DEM). The Republican advantage on jobs and the economy grows to +12 among voters in ticket-splitting districts (52% GOP – 40% DEM).

2. Voters say crime rates are on the rise and fewer voters believe Democrats are equipped to deal with it.

- Nearly three-fourths of Battleground District voters (73%) say the country's crime rate has increased and close to half (43%) say the crime rate in their own communities has increased recently.
- Here again, this is an issue where voters in these battleground districts trust Republicans over Democrats in Congress to deal with crime and public safety (45% GOP – 42% DEM).
- These numbers are even more pronounced in the 16 districts that voted for different parties for President and Congress (either Biden/Republican or Trump/Democratic districts). Fully 79% of voters in these districts say the country's crime rate has increased and 53% say their community's crime rate has too. And, by a nine-point margin, these voters also believe Republicans in Congress are better able to deal with this issue than Democrats (49% GOP – 40% DEM).

3. The border crisis is a major concern for voters and Republicans have a significant lead on this issue.

- Border security ranks second (23%) to the economy and jobs (25%) as the most important issue for the President and Congress to focus on. It's the top issue among Republicans and tied for the top issue among Independents.
- President Biden's job approval rating on this issue remains dismal (38% approve – 55% disapprove). In fact, 43% of all voters in these districts strongly disapprove of Biden's handling of the issue (only 13% strongly approve).
- Swing voters are particularly down on the President's performance addressing border security. Both Independents and Hispanics disapprove of President Biden's handling of the border crisis by a 23-point margin (Independents: 32% approve – 55% disapprove / Hispanics: 36% approve – 59% disapprove). Voters in the ticket-splitting districts similarly disapprove (37% approve – 57% disapprove).
- Voters also say Republicans in Congress are better able to deal with the issue of border security than their Democratic counterparts (49% GOP – 39% DEM). Even more telling is the finding that voters in the battleground districts represented by Democratic Members of Congress still trust Republicans more on this issue (48% GOP – 39% DEM).

This survey was conducted July 8 - 15, 2021 among N=1,000 voters across 85 Battleground Congressional Districts, including an oversample in the 16 ticket-splitting districts, with 65% of the interviews conducted via cell phone, 15% via landline and 20% online.