

**TO: INTERESTED PARTIES**

**FROM: NRCC COMMUNICATIONS**

**DATE: MAY 5, 2024**

**RE: SIX MONTHS UNTIL HOUSE REPUBLICANS GROW THE MAJORITY**



## **OVERVIEW:**

For eighteen months, all eyes were fixated under the Capitol dome as the NRCC diligently laid the foundation for election season 2024. Now, six months from Election Day - as attention shifts from the Capitol to races outside the Beltway - Republicans have put ourselves in a strong position to grow our House majority.

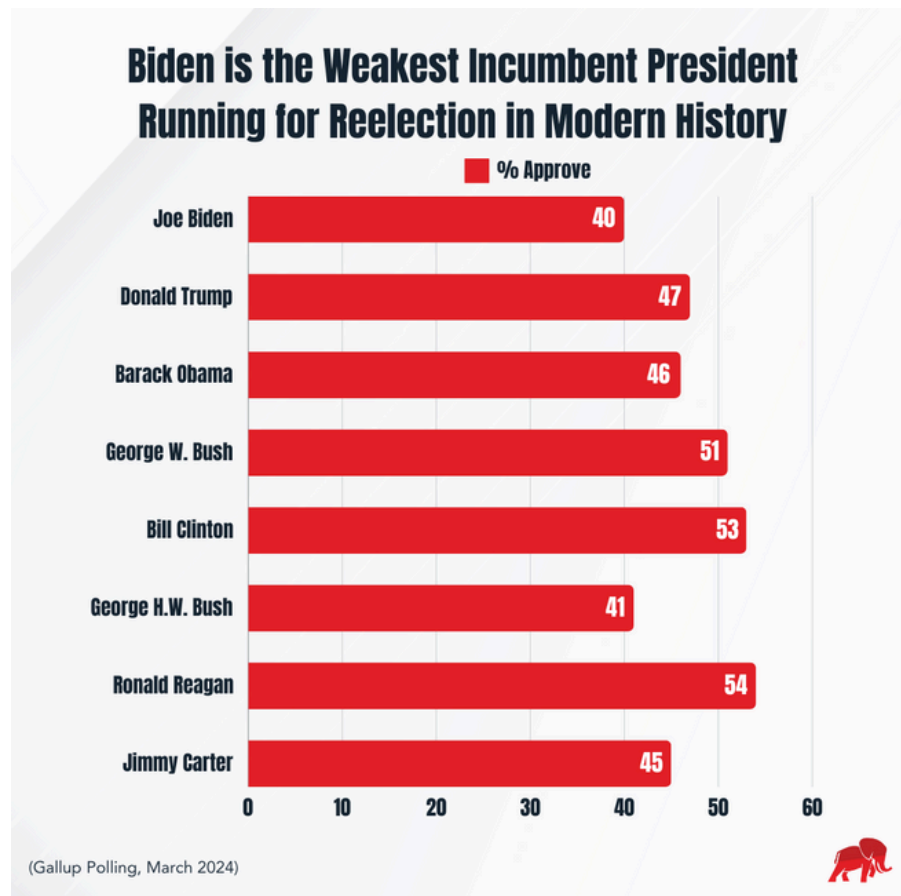
President Biden and congressional Democrats' ineptitude is reflected at the border, in antisemitic chaos on college campuses, on crime-infested city streets, and in ever-shrinking family wallets. This toxic issue cocktail of extreme policies created one of the most favorable political environments for Republicans in recent history. Republicans have recruited a stellar class of high-quality recruits to capitalize on this environment, inspired to serve their country by stopping these failures destroying their communities. These candidates have sprinted to raise the resources needed to win, building unprecedented war chests to unleash in the fall. This equation - environment, recruitment, and resources - all add up to Republican victory.

## **ENVIRONMENT:**

President Biden remains an anchor tied around the ankles of House Democratic candidates. Biden's image is 16 points underwater and his disapproval rating nears 60% according to the Real Clear Politics polling average.

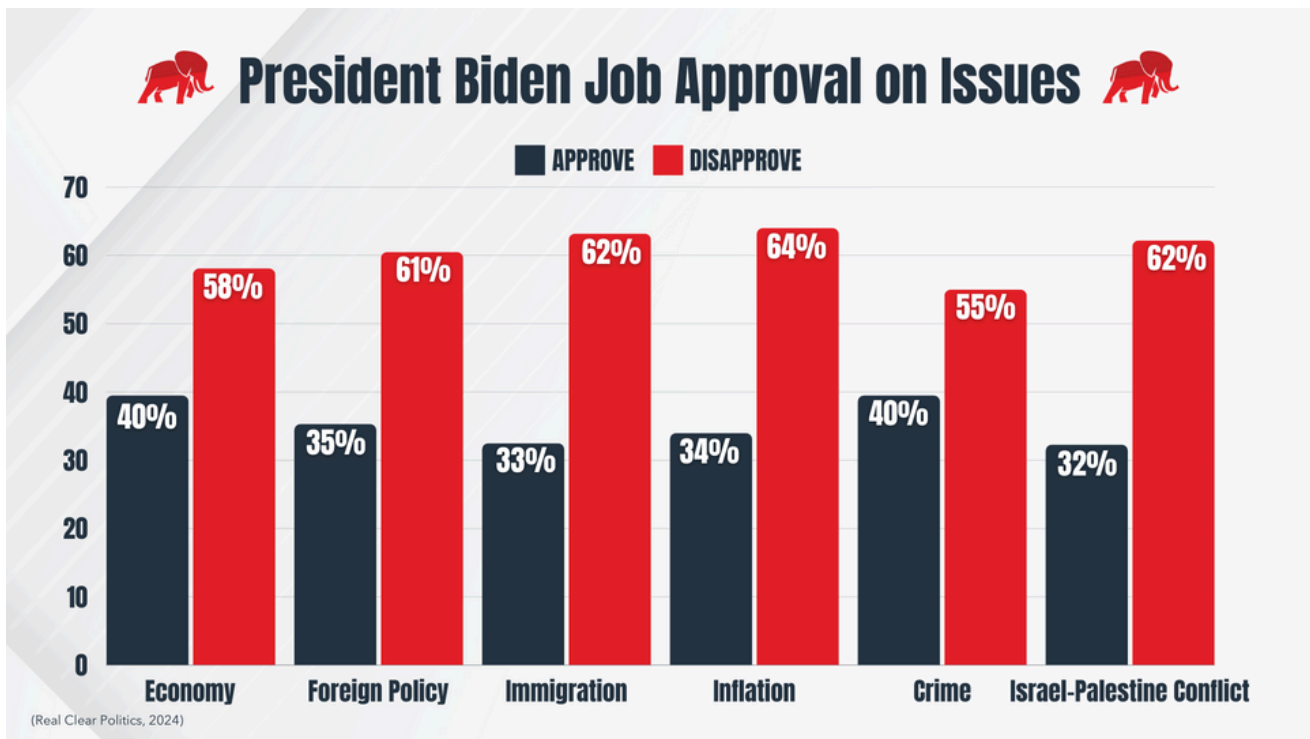
**No president in modern history has ever begun their reelection campaign with such low approval ratings - period.**

Voters continue to give Biden failing grades on nearly every key issue as the border, crime, and cost of living crises continues to wreck families' safety and security.

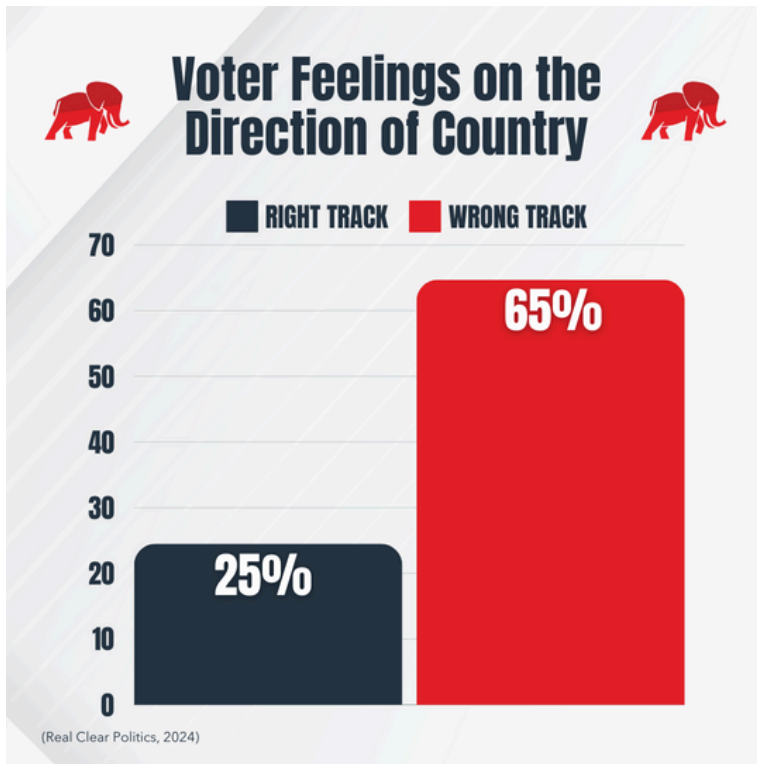


In poll after poll at the Congressional district level, one thing remains true: House Democratic incumbents fail to create separation from the top of the Democratic ticket or establish individual brands locally that would allow them to win in November.

- In CO-08, for example, a majority of voters in the District are either unfamiliar with first-term Democrat Yadira Caraveo or have no opinion of her as voters consistently say they do not approve of the job Biden is doing. Among critical independent voters, this allows first-time Congressional candidate Gabe Evans to hold a 6-point polling advantage.



- The grandson of a Mexican immigrant, Marine veteran, and current Mayor of Stockton, Kevin Lincoln enjoys a similar net-favorability rating as long-term incumbent Josh Harder in CA-09 – despite being a first time congressional candidate. Lincoln bests Harder among independent voters and internal polling shows Lincoln winning on the informed ballot.
- In **TX-34**, a Hispanic majority district Biden won by 16 points in 2020, Republican Mayra Flores is in a statistical tie with Democrat incumbent Vicente Gonzalez. Yet, undecided swing voters prefer Trump by +12%, dislike President Joe Biden by -12%, and vote for a Republican on the generic Congressional ballot by a 24% margin.



**There is not a single NRCC-targeted Democrat in the country who has been willing to openly create separation from the historically unpopular head of their party.** This is the most under-covered dynamic of the election cycle. We expect Democrats to wake up and furiously backpedal away from Biden in the fall.

## **THE BATTLEGROUND:**

The battle for the majority will be won or lost in just a handful of districts. After redistricting, the universe of competitive seats diminished dramatically.

Neither side can afford to allow a race to fall off the map, resulting in trench warfare in each individual swing seat. However, Republicans hold the higher ground.

Don't take our word for it though. Top election handicappers agree: **"the GOP is better-positioned to maintain control of the House."**

To begin the cycle, Democrats banked their hopes and dreams at regaining the majority on redistricting. Yet from Florida to Georgia to South Carolina to Wisconsin and New York, they failed to produce a clear path to net seats.

As The Cook Political Report noted about New York redistricting: "After Democrats spent millions suing to kickstart the redistricting process over again for 2024, many on the left are wondering, 'All this trouble for that?'" as the "lofty ambitions of D.C., Democratic strategists" took "a backseat to the parochial wishes of Albany power brokers." Every single House Republican in New York has a pathway to reelection, and the NRCC has a golden opportunity to pick up a seat in NY-18. **In his home state, Hakeem Jeffries failed.**

Meanwhile in North Carolina, redistricting gains resulted in the transformation of the state's current 7D-7R delegation into either a 10R-4D or 11R-3D map, as "freshman Democratic Rep. Don Davis will be forced to run for reelection in a true Toss Up seat that's steadily trended Republican owing to population loss," elections analyst Dave Wasserman wrote.

Now six months from Election Day, both The Cook Political Report and Inside Elections note that there are an evenly divided number of "Toss-Up" seats for each political party. Yet House Republicans hold a key advantage: **"Republicans need to win just two of the 10 Toss-up races to get to 218," but "Democrats need to win nine of 10 Toss-up races to get to 218,"** as Inside Elections' Nathan Gonzalez pronounced.

## **CANDIDATE QUALITY:**

Democrats are in a doom loop when it comes to candidate recruitment. The same retread candidates who lost key races as Republicans seized the gavels last cycle are back running again this cycle. **13 of 20 of the DCCC's supposed "top recruit" candidates in their "Red to Blue" program lost in 2022.**

Meanwhile, Republicans have produced a diverse and engaging class of GOP candidate recruits who are running for Congress because they share a similar life stories and experiences as the people they are running to represent.



For example:

- In NY-18, former NYPD detective **Alison Esposito** is running in a district where the issue of crime and the migrant crisis impacts the daily lives of New Yorkers.
- Pro-union stoplight manufacturer owner **Rob Bresnahan** is running in PA-08 where good-paying blue collar jobs have been hollowed out.
- Judge **Joe McGraw** is running in IL-17 where the impacts of a state cashless bail law have begun to spark a crime crisis.

- **Laurie Buckhout** is a trailblazer who translated her experience as a veteran into the business world, founding a company specializing in cyber warfare consulting - now Laurie is running in NC-01.
- Former Army helicopter pilot and police officer **Gabe Evans** is running in CO-08 as the migrant crisis grips Denver.
- NASCAR driver **Austin Theriault** grew up in northern Maine and came back after a successful career in sports - now he is pedal to the medal in ME-02.

This dynamic class of recruits builds upon the House Republican recruitment playbook developed in 2020 and refined in 2022, which has produced Republican all-stars like Young Kim, Michelle Steel, Mike Garcia, Monica De La Cruz, John James, Zach Nunn, Lori Chavez-DeRemer, Juan Ciscomani, Anthony D'Esposito, Jen Kiggans, and many more.

## **FUNDRAISING:**

In 2022, Republican candidates running for the House were outspent by their Democratic counterparts by nearly \$100 million on television. Without the financial ability to respond to Democrats' false attacks, many GOP candidates were swept up in a tsunami of cash in otherwise-winnable races.

The 2024 cycle will be different.

The NRCC established the "Million Dollar Mission" to cut the candidate-to-candidate spending deficit in half from the 2022 cycle.

## Q1 2024 Fundraising



- The results so far are unprecedented:
- NRCC Patriots hold a \$854,750 cash-on-hand average advantage over their Democratic challengers.
- NRCC Patriots Hold an average \$118,000 cash-on-hand advantage over DCCC Frontliners.
- 19 of 24 NRCC Patriots hold a cash-on-hand advantage over their Democratic challengers.



At the Committee level, the NRCC continues to be in a strong financial position.

Powered by incredible contributions by our leadership and Conference, the delta between the NRCC and the DCCC's cash-on-hand has narrowed compared to this point in the 2020 or 2022 cycle. In 2020, the DCCC held a \$31.9 million advantage at this point in the cycle. In 2022, the DCCC held a \$18.5 million advantage. Even still, the NRCC picked up seats in both of those cycles - proving in a strong environment, with better recruits and campaigns, we don't need more money than Democrats - we just need enough to be competitive. **With a stronger relative cash position to Democrats both at the candidate and Committee level than at this point in previous cycles, Republicans are poised to pick up seats again in 2024.**

## **SPRINT TO THE FINISH LINE:**

Set everything aside and look closely at the numbers. **All signs point to two undeniable facts: it will be a hard-fought and close battle for the gavels, but Republicans begin election season with the advantage.** The NRCC's meticulous work on recruitment, fundraising, and messaging laid the foundation for success in November.

**Now watch us sprint through the tape.**