

ABORTION, GUN POLICIES, AND OTHER HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES IN THE 2022 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION

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ABORTION, GUN POLICIES, AND OTHER HEALTH-RELATED ISSUES IN THE 2022 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION

This report, based on a new POLITICO-Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health poll, examines the views of registered voters as they head into the 2022 congressional election. First, the report focuses on voters' issue priorities when deciding which party's congressional candidate to vote for. Second, looking at registered voters who say each of the 19 issues will be extremely important to their own voting decision, the report shows which party's candidate those issue voters intend to vote for. Third, among registered voters who say three health-related issues – abortion, gun policies, or health care (not including COVID-19) – will be extremely important in their voting decision, the report examines the positions these voters take when it comes to that issue of extreme importance to them. The report focuses on registered voters because it is not clear from the various polls taken to date how many people will actually turn out to vote in the 2022 election.

What is striking about the findings described below is the extraordinary increase in the role of abortion as an issue in the 2022 election compared to the 2018 and 2020 elections, as described later (p. 3).

PART I: VOTERS' ISSUE PRIORITIES

Registered voters were asked to describe how important each of 19 issues will be for their decision about how to vote in this year's congressional election. These issues have been shown in polls by various organizations to be important issues in the coming election. Table 1 shows that the top issues (measured by the proportion saying each issue will be extremely important) named by registered voters are inflation, the economy/jobs, gun policies, and abortion. This is similar to the findings of a recent Gallup poll, which found that the top three voting issues for the public are the economy, gun policy, and abortion.¹

In the new POLITICO-HSPH poll, the other top voting issues for registered voters overall are gas prices, health care (not including COVID-19), race/racism, national security, crime, and schools/education.

¹ Lydia Saad and Megan Brenan, "Americans' Intensity Running High Before U.S. Midterms," July 8, 2021, <https://news.gallup.com/poll/394628/americans-intensity-running-high-midterms.aspx>.

In the poll, registered voters were also asked which party’s candidate they would vote for in the 2022 congressional election. Looking at those registered voters who say each of the top 10 issues are extremely important in their congressional vote, a majority report that they would vote for the Republican candidate on five of those issues: inflation, the economy/jobs, gas prices, national security, and crime. On the other five issues, a majority report that they would vote for the Democratic candidate: gun policies, abortion, health care (not including COVID-19), race/racism, and schools/education (Table 1).

Table 1. Congressional Vote Intention of Registered Voters Who Report That Each of 19 Issues Will Be Extremely Important in Deciding How to Vote in the 2022 Congressional Election

Rank	Issues (% saying the issue will be extremely important)	Congressional vote intention of registered voters who say each issue will be extremely important (in percent)	
		Republican candidate	Democratic candidate
1	Inflation (51)	59	31
2	The economy and jobs (49)	56	35
3	<i>Gun policies (46)</i>	40	54
4	<i>Abortion (44)</i>	33	59
5	Gas prices (40)	60	31
6	<i>Health care, not including COVID-19 (34)</i>	28	61
7	Race and racism (31)	20	71
8	National security (23)	54	39
9	Crime (22)	60	33
10	Schools and education (21)	40	52
11	Taxes (20)	63	28
12	Government budget and debt (18)	63	31
13	Immigration (17)	68	26
14t	Political extremism or polarization (16)	31	65
14t	<i>Covid-19 (16)</i>	28	63
16t	Climate change and the environment (15)	15	77
16t	Criminal justice reform (15)	44	50
18	Inequality (14)	22	71
19	The situation in Russia and Ukraine (9)	37	54

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public, Abortion, Gun Policies, and Other Health-Related Issues in the 2022 Congressional Election, August 5 – 22, 2022. Issues ranked-ordered by the % of total registered voters saying the issue will be “extremely important” in deciding how to vote in the 2022 congressional election. Base: Registered voters. “Don’t know/Refused/Web blank” not shown for vote intention.

PART II: ABORTION VOTERS

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, which overturned *Roe v. Wade*, abortion has become a much more important issue for voters in the 2022 congressional election than in earlier recent elections. In a POLITICO-HSPH pre-election poll of likely voters in the 2018 congressional election, abortion was tied for eleventh among 15 issues in the proportion saying it was an extremely important issue in deciding their vote.² Similarly, in a POLITICO-HSPH pre-election poll of likely voters in the 2020 presidential election, abortion was tied for fourteenth out of a list of 19 issues.³ In contrast, abortion is the fourth highest rated issue (among 19) by registered voters in the 2022 congressional election.

In the upcoming election, abortion is an issue that is likely to significantly favor Democrats running for Congress. Nearly six in ten registered voters who say that abortion will be extremely important in their voting decision report that they intend to vote for the Democratic (59%) rather than the Republican candidate (33%) (Table 1).

² Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, “Voters and Health Care in the 2018 Congressional Election,” October 2018, <https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/2018/10/Politico-Harvard-Poll-Oct-2018-Health-Care-2018-Elections.pdf>

³ Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, “The 2020 Presidential Election: Trump vs. Biden Voters on the Most Important Issues in Deciding Their Vote Choice,” September 2020, https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/2020/09/POLITICO_HarvardSept2020.pdf

When we examine who abortion voters are, one demographic characteristic stands out (Table 2). Among registered voters, a majority of women (51%) say that abortion will be extremely important in deciding how they will vote, compared to 36% of men. This suggests that the abortion issue will be even more important if women turn out at higher rates than usual in this off-year election. Nearly six in ten women age 18-34 (59%) say that abortion will be extremely important in deciding how they will vote.

Table 2. Abortion Voters: Proportion of Registered Voters Who Say Abortion Is an Extremely Important Issue in Deciding How to Vote in the 2022 Congressional Election, by Groups

	% saying abortion will be extremely important in deciding their congressional vote
Total registered voters	44
By gender	
Men	36
Women	51
By age	
18-29	47
30+ (net)	44
30-49	47
50-64	41
65+	43
By race/ethnicity	
White	44
Black	45
Latino	43

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Abortion, Gun Policies, and Other Health-Related Issues in the 2022 Congressional Election, August 5 – 22, 2022. Base: Registered voters.

Looking at the positions that abortion voters hold on abortion policy, a large majority (65%) of those who say abortion will be extremely important in their congressional voting decision believe a federal law should be enacted allowing abortion services to be available in most circumstances nationally (Table 3). Abortion voters who intend to vote for the Democratic candidate in the 2022 election are even more overwhelmingly likely to favor this position (90%). In contrast, abortion voters who intend to vote for the Republican candidate heavily favor either each state individually enacting its own abortion law determining whether abortion services should be available in the state (43%) or enacting a federal law prohibiting abortion services from being available in most circumstances nationally (35%).

Table 3. Abortion Voters’ Views on Future Abortion Laws, by Groups (in percent)

	A federal law should be enacted allowing abortion services to be available in most circumstances nationally	Each state individually should enact its own abortion law determining whether abortion services should be available in the state	A federal law should be enacted prohibiting abortion services from being available in most circumstances nationally
Total abortion voters	65	20	15
Abortion voters by congressional vote intention			
Republican	22	43	35
Democrat	90	6	4
Abortion voters by gender			
Men	65	21	14
Women	65	19	16
Abortion voters by age			
18-29	73	16	11
30+ (net)	64	20	15
30-49	71	16	12
50-64	61	22	17
65+	58	24	18
Abortion voters by race/ethnicity			
White	65	19	16
Black	73	18	9
Latino	62	21	17

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Abortion, Gun Policies, and Other Health-Related Issues in the 2022 Congressional Election, August 5 – 22, 2022. Base: Registered voters who say abortion is an extremely important issue in deciding how to vote in the 2022 congressional election. “Don’t know/Refused/Web blank” not shown.

Among those who say abortion will be extremely important in their congressional voting decision, a majority support the availability of abortion in most life circumstances, as shown in Table 4. Republican abortion voters and Democratic abortion voters differ in their views. Democratic abortion voters are overwhelmingly in favor abortion being legal in these life circumstances.

But in two of these circumstances – the woman does not want any more children (27%) and she cannot afford to have a child (26%) – fewer than three in ten Republican abortion voters favor abortion being legal. Majorities of Republican abortion voters do favor abortion being legal when the woman’s physical health is endangered (76%) and when the pregnancy is caused by rape or incest (62%).

Table 4. Abortion Voters’ Views About Whether Abortion Should Be Legal in Various Circumstances, by Groups

% of abortion voters who say abortion should be legal in the following circumstances

	The woman’s physical health is endangered	The pregnancy was caused by rape or incest	There’s evidence of serious birth defect	The woman does not want any more children	The woman cannot afford to have a child
Total abortion voters	90	86	80	68	67
Abortion voters by congressional vote intention					
Republican	76	62	50	27	26
Democrat	99	98	97	91	90
Abortion voters by gender					
Men	89	83	77	67	65
Women	91	87	81	68	68
Abortion voters by age					
18-29	96	93	88	76	78
30+ (net)	89	84	78	67	65
30-49	91	87	81	73	72
50-64	87	82	78	63	60
65+	89	83	76	62	61
Abortion voters by race/ethnicity					
White	89	83	77	65	64
Black	93	93	83	80	74
Latino	97	94	92	72	73

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Abortion, Gun Policies, and Other Health-Related Issues in the 2022 Congressional Election, August 5 – 22, 2022. Base: Registered voters who say abortion is an extremely important issue in deciding how to vote in the 2022 congressional election.

Views on abortion have two different dimensions: (1) Under what circumstances should abortion be legally available? (2) At what points in the pregnancy should abortion be allowed or not?

Polling conducted since the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision shows that the public generally favors the legality of abortion in a large range of life circumstances. However, the proportion of the public favoring the availability of abortion declines over the course of the woman's pregnancy. While nearly three-fourths of the public (74%) believe their state should allow legal abortion six weeks into the pregnancy, support declines to 53% at 15 weeks. Only one-third (33%) of the public believes abortion should be legal 24 weeks in the pregnancy.⁴

⁴ AP-NORC, "More Americans disapprove than approve of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade," July 21, 2022, <https://apnorc.org/projects/more-americans-disapprove-than-approve-of-the-supreme-courts-decision-to-overturn-roe-v-wade/>

PART III: GUN POLICY VOTERS

Among all registered voters, gun policies are the third-ranked issue in terms of the proportion who say the issue will be extremely important in their congressional voting decision. In a POLITICO-HSPH pre-election poll of likely voters in the 2020 presidential election, gun policies ranked seventh out of a list of 19 issues.⁵

In terms of voting, 54% of those who say gun policies will be an extremely important issue report that they intend to vote for the Democratic congressional candidate, 40% for the Republican candidate (Table 1).

A large majority of registered voters who say gun policies will be an extremely important issue in their vote choice want gun laws to be more restrictive than they currently are (64%) (Table 5). This is especially true for gun policy voters who intend to vote for Democratic congressional candidates: 96% prefer stricter gun laws in the future. In contrast, more than three-fourths of Republican gun policy voters want gun laws to be made less strict (38%) or kept as they are (40%).

Table 5. Gun Policy Voters’ Preferences for Future Gun Laws, by Groups (in percent)

	Should be made more strict	Should be made less strict	Should be kept as they are
Total gun policy voters	64	17	19
Gun policy voters by congressional vote intention			
Republican	21	38	40
Democrat	96	2	2
Gun policy voters by gender			
Men	53	28	19
Women	72	10	18
Gun policy voters by age			
18-29	69	17	13
30+ (net)	63	17	19
30-49	69	16	15
50-64	58	21	21
65+	63	15	22
Gun policy voters by race/ethnicity			
White	55	22	23
Black	94	4	2
Latino	78	8	14

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Abortion, Gun Policies, and Other Health-Related Issues in the 2022 Congressional Election, August 5 – 22, 2022. Base: Registered voters who say gun policies are an extremely important issue in deciding how to vote in the 2022 congressional election. “Don’t know/Refused/Web blank” not shown.

⁵ Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, “The 2020 Presidential Election: Trump vs. Biden Voters on the Most Important Issues in Deciding Their Vote Choice,” September 2020, https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/2020/09/POLITICO_HarvardSept2020.pdf

PART IV: HEALTH CARE VOTERS (NOT INCLUDING COVID-19)

Among all registered voters, health care (not including COVID-19) is the sixth-ranked issue in terms of the proportion who say the issue will be extremely important in their congressional voting decision. In a POLITICO-HSPH pre-election poll of likely voters in the 2020 presidential election, health care (not including COVID-19) ranked eighth out of a list of 19 issues.⁶

In terms of voting, 61% of those who say health care (not including COVID-19) is an extremely important issue in their 2022 congressional vote report that they intend to vote for the Democratic congressional candidate, 28% for the Republican candidate (Table 1).

There are many health issues being discussed in the 2022 congressional campaign. Registered voters who said that health care, not including COVID-19, will be extremely important to their congressional vote were asked what health care issue was most important in their vote choice.

Table 6. Health Care Voters’ Top Health Care Issues, Not Including COVID-19, in Deciding How to Vote in the 2022 Congressional Election, by Congressional Vote Intention (in percent)

	Priorities for each group		
	Total health care voters	Health care voters by congressional vote intention	
		Repub health care voters	Dem health care voters
High health care and drug costs/prices	56	60	56
The need for federal government programs to pay for home care services for seniors and people with disabilities	10	11	10
Medicare	9	13	7
The problem of large medical bills	9	8	8
Problems getting access to health care	8	2	10
The problems of the nation’s uninsured	7	6	8

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Abortion, Gun Policies, and Other Health-Related Issues in the 2022 Congressional Election, August 5 – 22, 2022. Base: Registered voters who said health care, not including COVID-19, was an extremely important issue in deciding how to vote in the 2022 congressional election. “Don’t know/Refused/Web blank” not shown.

⁶ Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, “The 2020 Presidential Election: Trump vs. Biden Voters on the Most Important Issues in Deciding Their Vote Choice,” September 2020, https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/2020/09/POLITICO_HarvardSept2020.pdf

As shown in Table 6, high health care and drug costs/prices are the dominant issue among those who say health care will be an extremely important issue (56%). This is true of both Republican health care voters (60%) and Democratic health care voters (56%).

Similarly, as shown in Table 7, high health care and drug costs/prices are the dominant issue among health care voters by gender, age, and race/ethnicity.

Table 7. Health Care Voters’ Top Health Care Issues, Not Including COVID-19, in Deciding How to Vote in the 2022 Congressional Election, by Gender, Age, and Race/Ethnicity (in percent)

	Total health care voters	Priorities for each group						
		Health care voters by gender		Health care voters by age		Health care voters by race/ethnicity		
		Men	Women	Age 18-49	Age 50+	White	Black	Latino
High health care and drug costs/prices	56	63	53	56	58	59	49	59
The need for federal government programs to pay for home care services for seniors and people with disabilities	10	9	11	7	13	10	15	6
Medicare	9	9	10	6	12	10	8	9
The problem of large medical bills	9	9	9	12	5	8	10	12
Problems getting access to health care	8	3	11	12	4	6	9	8
The problems of the nation’s uninsured	7	7	7	6	8	7	8	7

POLITICO/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Abortion, Gun Policies, and Other Health-Related Issues in the 2022 Congressional Election, August 5 – 22, 2022. Base: Registered voters who said health care, not including COVID-19, was an extremely important issue in deciding how to vote in the 2022 congressional election. “Don’t know/Refused/Web blank” not shown.

The poll asked registered voters about the importance of COVID-19, separately from other health-related issues, as an issue in deciding their congressional vote choice. COVID-19 currently ranks tied for fourteenth among the 19 issues in the 2022 poll. This is a sharp decline since 2020, when COVID-19 was ranked by likely voters as third-highest issue in terms of being extremely important in their presidential vote.⁷

⁷ Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, “The 2020 Presidential Election: Trump vs. Biden Voters on the Most Important Issues in Deciding Their Vote Choice,” September 2020, https://cdn1.sph.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/94/2020/09/POLITICO_HarvardSept2020.pdf

CONCLUSIONS

It is important to realize that the top two health-related issues cited by registered voters as extremely important in their congressional voting choice in 2022 are gun policies and abortion, ranking third and fourth overall among 19 issues. Problems with the health care system ranked sixth in the proportion of registered voters saying it will be extremely important in their voting decision. Of note, for this latter group of health care voters, the issue in terms of voting is all around high health care and drug costs/prices.

On all three of the prominent health-related issues highlighted in this report, a majority of those who say the issue is extremely important in their vote report that they will vote for the Democratic congressional candidate.

The highest-ranked issues for registered voters overall in deciding which party's candidate to vote for are inflation and the economy/jobs. On both of those issues the Republicans hold a wide margin over the Democrats among those who say these issues will be extremely important to their vote.

One important caveat is that we live in rapidly changing times, and other issues could emerge or the importance of the issues examined here could change before the November election. For example, abortion was unlikely before the Supreme Court's *Dobbs* decision to have been a major election issue, as abortion was not one of the top issues in either the 2018 congressional or 2020 presidential election.

METHODOLOGY

The results are based on polling conducted by *Politico* and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Representatives of the two organizations worked closely to develop the survey questionnaires and analyze the results of the polls. *Politico* and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health paid for the surveys and related expenses.

The project team was led by Robert J. Blendon, Sc.D., Professor of Public Health and Professor of Health Policy and Political Analysis Emeritus, at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, and Dan Goldberg, Deputy Health Care Editor at *Politico*. The Harvard research team also included John M. Benson and Chelsea Whitton Pearsall.

Interviews were conducted online and via telephone (cell phone and landline) with a nationally representative sample of 1,815 randomly selected U.S. registered voters by SSRS of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania. The interviewing period was August 5 – 22, 2022. The interviews were conducted in English and Spanish.

When interpreting these findings, one should recognize that all surveys are subject to sampling error. The margin of error for the full sample is ± 2.5 percentage points.

Possible sources of non-sampling error include non-response bias, as well as question wording and ordering effects. Non-response produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population. To compensate for these known biases and for variations in probability of selection within and across households, sample data are weighted by household size, cell phone/landline use, party identification, and demographics (sex, age, race/ethnicity, education, and region) to reflect the true population.

Politico/Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health Poll

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IN THE 2022 CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION**

This survey was conducted for *Politico* and Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health online and via telephone (cell phone and landline) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted **August 5 – 22, 2022**, among a nationally representative sample of 1,815 registered voters. The margin of error for total respondents is ± 2.5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. More information about SSRS can be obtained by visiting www.ssrs.com

POLQ2. Thinking ahead to the November 2022 election, please tell me/indicate how important each of the following issues will be when you decide how to vote for the U.S. House of Representatives. How about... **(INSERT ITEM)**? Will that be extremely important in your vote, very important, somewhat important, not very important, or not at all important?

(Asked of registered voters; n=1,815)

a. COVID-19?

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	16	10	21
Very important	24	12	36
Somewhat important	31	27	33
Not too important	17	26	8
Not important at all	12	24	2
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*	1	-

(Asked of registered voters; n=1,815)

b. Health care, not including COVID-19

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	34	22	45
Very important	38	35	41
Somewhat important	21	32	12
Not too important	4	7	1
Not important at all	2	4	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1	-	-

(Asked of registered voters; n=1,815)

c. Abortion

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	44	33	56
Very important	23	21	23
Somewhat important	19	23	14
Not too important	8	14	5
Not important at all	6	9	2
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of registered voters; n=1,815)

d. Gun policies

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	46	42	54
Very important	29	27	29
Somewhat important	17	19	13
Not too important	6	9	2
Not important at all	2	3	2
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of registered voters; n=1,815)

e. The economy and jobs

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	49	62	37
Very important	36	29	41
Somewhat important	14	8	19
Not too important	1	1	2
Not important at all	*	*	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of registered voters; n=1,815)

f. Inflation

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	51	68	34
Very important	29	24	36
Somewhat important	16	6	25
Not too important	3	1	4
Not important at all	*	-	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1	1	-

(Asked of registered voters; n=1,815)

g. Gas prices

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	40	55	26
Very important	31	31	30
Somewhat important	19	10	26
Not too important	7	4	14
Not important at all	3	*	4
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*	-	*

(Asked of registered voters; n=1,815)

h. Race and racism

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	31	14	48
Very important	25	20	30
Somewhat important	21	25	16
Not too important	12	21	4
Not important at all	10	20	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1	-	1

(Asked of half sample A registered voters; n=906)

i. Schools and education

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	42	39	46
Very important	36	36	36
Somewhat important	17	20	13
Not too important	4	3	5
Not important at all	1	2	*
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of half-sample A registered voters; n=906)

j. Political extremism or polarization

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	33	23	45
Very important	29	33	27
Somewhat important	26	28	21
Not too important	6	9	4
Not important at all	5	7	3
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1	*	-

(Asked of half-sample A registered voters; n=906)

k. Immigration

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	33	52	18
Very important	29	29	30
Somewhat important	26	12	36
Not too important	9	5	13
Not important at all	2	2	3
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1	-	-

(Asked of half-sample A registered voters; n=906)

l. Government budget and debt

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	35	51	23
Very important	33	31	33
Somewhat important	24	14	33
Not too important	6	1	9
Not important at all	2	3	2
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of half-sample A registered voters; n=906)

m. Criminal justice reform

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	29	30	31
Very important	34	30	38
Somewhat important	28	27	26
Not too important	6	9	4
Not important at all	2	4	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1	-	-

(Asked of half-sample A registered voters; n=906)

n. National security

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	47	58	38
Very important	32	32	33
Somewhat important	17	9	22
Not too important	3	1	6
Not important at all	1	*	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of half-sample B registered voters; n=909)

o. The situation in Russia and Ukraine

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	18	15	21
Very important	32	28	37
Somewhat important	33	35	28
Not too important	11	15	8
Not important at all	6	7	6
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of half-sample B registered voters; n=909)

p. Taxes

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	39	56	24
Very important	35	29	37
Somewhat important	21	13	31
Not too important	4	2	6
Not important at all	1	-	2
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of half-sample B registered voters; n=909)

q. Crime

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	44	60	32
Very important	34	29	37
Somewhat important	19	10	25
Not too important	2	1	4
Not important at all	1	-	2
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of half-sample B registered voters; n=909)

r. Climate change and the environment

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	30	10	51
Very important	23	14	31
Somewhat important	25	32	15
Not too important	11	22	2
Not important at all	11	22	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*	-	*

(Asked of half-sample B registered voters; n=909)

s. Inequality

	Total reg voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep	Dem
Extremely important	27	13	42
Very important	30	21	40
Somewhat important	21	27	13
Not too important	11	19	3
Not important at all	10	20	2
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1	-	-

POLQ2(a-s) Extremely Important Summary Table
Based on total registered voters asked

Congressional Vote Intention of Registered Voters Who Report That Each Issue Will Be Extremely Important in Deciding How to Vote in the 2022 Congressional Election
(%s read across)

Rank	Issues (% saying the issue will be extremely important)	Congressional vote intention of registered voters who say each issue will be extremely important	
		Republican candidate	Democratic candidate
1	Inflation (51)	59	31
2	The economy and jobs (49)	56	35
3	Gun policies (46)	40	54
4	Abortion (44)	33	59
5	Gas prices (40)	60	31
6	Health care, not including COVID-19 (34)	28	61
7	Race and racism (31)	20	71
8	National security (23) ^a	54	39
9	Crime (22) ^b	60	33
10	Schools and education (21) ^a	40	52
11	Taxes (20) ^b	63	28
12	Government budget and debt (18) ^a	63	31
13	Immigration (17) ^a	68	26
14t	Political extremism or polarization (16) ^a	31	65
14t	Covid-19 (16)	28	63
16t	Climate change and the environment (15) ^b	15	77
16t	Criminal justice reform (15) ^a	44	50
18	Inequality (14) ^b	22	71
19	The situation in Russia and Ukraine (9) ^b	37	54

^a = Asked of half-sample A registered voters (n = 906)

^b = Asked of half-sample B registered voters (n = 909)

Voting intention responses of "Don't know/Refused/Web blank" not shown.

(Asked of “abortion voters” = registered voters who said abortion will be extremely important in deciding how to vote for the U.S. House of Representatives; n=829)

POLQ4. Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, eliminating the constitutional right to an abortion after almost 50 years and leaving each state to set its own abortion laws. In the wake of this decision, which of the following do you think should happen in the future?

	Total abortion voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep abortion voters	Dem abortion voters
A federal law should be enacted allowing abortion services to be available in most circumstances nationally	65	22	90
A federal law should be enacted prohibiting abortion services from being available in most circumstances nationally	15	35	4
Each state individually should enact its own abortion law determining whether abortion services should be available in the state	20	43	6
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

(Asked of “abortion voters” = registered voters who said abortion will be extremely important in deciding how to vote for the U.S. House of Representatives; n=829)

POLQ5. Do you think abortions should be legal or illegal (INSERT ITEM)?

- a. when the woman’s physical health is endangered

	Total abortion voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep abortion voters	Dem abortion voters
Legal	90	76	99
Illegal	10	24	1
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*	-	*

- b. when there’s evidence of serious birth defects

	Total abortion voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep abortion voters	Dem abortion voters
Legal	80	50	97
Illegal	20	50	3
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

- c. when the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest

	Total abortion voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep abortion voters	Dem abortion voters
Legal	86	62	98
Illegal	14	38	2
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	-	-	-

d. when the woman cannot afford to have a child

	Total abortion voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep abortion voters	Dem abortion voters
Legal	67	26	90
Illegal	33	74	10
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*	*	*

e. if the woman does not want any more children

	Total abortion voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep abortion voters	Dem abortion voters
Legal	68	27	91
Illegal	32	73	9
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	*	-	-

POLQ5 Legal Summary (% saying each should be legal)

Based on "abortion voters" = registered voters who said abortion will be extremely important in deciding how to vote for the U.S. House of Representatives; n=829

	Total abortion voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep abortion voters	Dem abortion voters
When the woman's physical health is endangered	90	76	99
When the pregnancy was caused by rape or incest	86	62	98
When there's evidence of serious birth defects	80	50	97
If the woman does not want any more children	68	27	91
When the woman cannot afford to have a child	67	26	90

(Asked of “gun policy voters” = registered voters who said gun policies will be extremely important in deciding how to vote for the U.S. House of Representatives; n=865)

POLQ6. Should gun laws in the U.S. be...?

	Total gun policy voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep gun policy voters	Dem gun policy voters
Made more strict	64	21	96
Made less strict	17	38	2
Kept as they are	19	40	2
Don't know/Refused/Web Blank	*	1	-

(Asked of “health care (not including COVID-19) voters” = registered voters who said health care not including COVID-19 will be extremely important in deciding how to vote for the U.S. House of Representatives; n=637)

POLQ3. Which **one** of the following is the most important health care issue for you in the election?

	Total health care (not incl. COVID-19) voters	Responses by cong. vote intent	
		Rep health care (not incl. COVID-19) voters	Dem health care (not incl. COVID-19) voters
High health care and drug costs/prices	56	60	56
The need for federal government programs to pay for home care services for seniors and people with disabilities	10	11	10
Medicare	9	13	7
The problem of large medical bills	9	8	8
Problems getting access to health care	8	2	10
The problems of the nation's uninsured	7	6	8
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	1	-	1

(Asked of registered voters; n=1,815)

POLQ1. If the 2022 congressional election were being held today, would you vote for... (the Republican candidate), or (the Democratic candidate)?

	Total registered voters
Republican candidate	44
Democratic candidate	47
Don't know/Refused/Web blank	9