Five things you need to know 53 days out from the 2022 Mid-Term Elections

September 16, 2022

PREPARED BY:
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#1. The country is not in a good place.
It has been almost two decades since Americans felt the nation was headed in the right direction.

Now, all in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are off on the wrong track?

*NBC News Poll, August 12-16, 2022 N=1000 Registered Voters*
A majority of voters say the government is corrupt and rigged against people like them.

The government is corrupt and rigged against everyday people like me.

*Chicago IOP National Survey, May 19-23, 2022 N=1000 Registered Voters*
Most Americans say they feel more and more like a stranger in their own country.

I feel more and more like a stranger in my own country.

*Chicago IOP National Survey, May 19-23, 2022 N=1000 Registered Voters
More than one-quarter of Americans think “it may be time for citizens to take up arms against the government.”

*Chicago IOP National Survey, May 19-23, 2022 N=1000 Registered Voters*
Americans agree—The country’s democracy is in danger of collapse.

**Do you think the nation's democracy is in danger of collapse, or don't you think so?**

- **Total**: 67% Yes, Danger, 29% No
- **GOP (25%)**: 69% Yes, Danger, 29% No
- **IND (38%)**: 66% Yes, Danger, 30% No
- **DEM (28%)**: 69% Yes, Danger, 28% No

*Quinnipiac Poll, August 31, 2022 N=1584 US Adults*
And, a plurality believe a Civil War is likely in the coming decade.

Looking ahead to the next 10 years, how likely do you think it is that there will be a Civil War in this country?

*The Economist/YouGov, August 20-23, 2022 N=1500 US adult citizens*
#2. You cannot overstate the partisan polarization in the country.
A majority of partisans believe it would be better for their states to secede from the union.

I favor **BLUE STATES** seceding from the union to form their own separate country.

59%

18%

Strongly

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I favor **RED STATES** seceding from the union to form their own separate country.

77%

25%

Strongly

*Center for Politics/Project Home Fire, July 22-August 4, 2021 N=2012*
Republicans consider Democrats “bullies,” and Democrats think the same of Republicans.

**REPUBLICANS** are generally bullies who want to impose their political beliefs on those who disagree.

- Among DEM:
  - 74% Agree
  - 19% Disagree
  - 38% Strongly Agree
  - +55

**DEMOCRATS** are generally bullies who want to impose their political beliefs on those who disagree.

- Among GOP:
  - 73% Agree
  - 20% Disagree
  - 41% Strongly Agree
  - +53

*Chicago IOP National Survey, May 19-23, 2022 N=1000 Registered Voters*
Partisans from both sides believe the other is pushing “disinformation.”

**REPUBLICANS** are generally untruthful and are pushing disinformation.

Among DEM:
- 69% agree
- 33% strongly agree
- 21% disagree

**DEMOCRATS** are generally untruthful and are pushing disinformation.

Among GOP:
- 70% agree
- 35% strongly agree
- 21% disagree

*Chicago IOP National Survey, May 19-23, 2022 N=1000 Registered Voters*
Republicans and DEMs alike claim members of the opposing party don’t listen to them, are too pushy with their beliefs and refuse to find middle ground.

“They're cocky and think they know it all and get mad when I have my own views. It's like they're trying to convert me, and I just want to live my life.” – Strong GOP, Indiana

“They can't tolerate views different than their own. When encountering a different view or someone who doesn't agree, they become aggressive and profane.” – Strong GOP, New Mexico

“They're not willing to listen to other opinions. It's their way or the Highway.” – Strong GOP, Indiana

“They're cocky and think they know it all and get mad when I have my own views. It's like they're trying to convert me, and I just want to live my life.” – Strong DEM, Georgia

“Republicans always think they're freaking right.” – Strong DEM, Wisconsin

“They display an unwillingness to try to understand opposing views.” – IND/Lean GOP, Minnesota

“If they can't have a conversation without getting upset or angry, it is difficult to have a relationship with them.” – Not Strong GOP, Florida

“They display an unwillingness to try to understand opposing views.” – IND/Lean GOP, Minnesota

“Always in your face about why your views are wrong.” – Not Strong DEM, California

“They believe it like it is the gospel. They are so brainwashed and frustrated when they don't get their way.” – Strong GOP, Texas

“T hey can't tolerate views different than their own. When encountering a different view or someone who doesn't agree, they become aggressive and profane.” – Strong DEM, Pennsylvania

“They tend to have no inclination to listen and learn a point of view which differs from their view. They are a pompous outlook and look down on those outside their bubble.” – Strong DEM, Pennsylvania

“They' re not willing to listen to other opinions. It's their way or the Highway.” – Strong GOP, Indiana

“They refuse to listen or hear out the other side. Telling me their views are the only correct ones and the only ones that are valid and anything else is wrong.” – IND/Lean DEM, New York

“They are bull headed and think that their party is the best.” – Strong DEM, Georgia

“They refuse to listen or hear out the other side. Telling me their views are the only correct ones and the only ones that are valid and anything else is wrong.” – IND/Lean DEM, New York

“They refuse to listen or hear out the other side. Telling me their views are the only correct ones and the only ones that are valid and anything else is wrong.” – IND/Lean DEM, New York

“They are very pushy on their ideas and they think I'm completely wrong for what I believe.” – Strong GOP, Minnesota

“They believe it like it is the gospel. They are so brainwashed and frustrated when they don't get their way.” – Strong GOP, Texas

*Chicago IOP National Survey, May 19-23, 2022 N=1000 Registered Voters*
#3. Voters believe the media is biased and trying to get their own viewpoints across.
There isn’t much trust in the media – they are part of the problem.

When consuming news, do you believe that the people who created the news content, that is the reporters, editors and newscasters, are trying to...

- Present the facts with as little bias as possible
- Trying to get their own viewpoint across
- Or are you not sure?

*Chicago IOP National Survey, May 19-23, 2022 N=1000 Registered Voters*
#4. Based on historical trends, President Biden’s approval scores would indicate big GOP gains in November.
Past history indicates the GOP should do well in November.

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**Biden’s Current Job Approval**  
*RCP Average as of 8/28*

42%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Approval</th>
<th>Average Change*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 60%</td>
<td>+1 Seat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49%-59%</td>
<td>-12 Seats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 49%</td>
<td>-39 Seats</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Approve</th>
<th>Disapprove</th>
<th>House Seat Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>+8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biden</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>-63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trump</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>-40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biden</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>??</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Gallup using final presidential approval and midterm election results, 1962-2018, excluding 1974*
But, the GOP edge from the Spring has melted.

And, if the election for U.S. Congress were being held today, for whom would you vote for...The Republican candidate...or...the Democratic candidate...from your district?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democratic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mar. 24, 2022</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apr. 24, 2022</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 24, 2022</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jun. 24, 2022</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jul. 24, 2022</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 24, 2022</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*RCP Average

POS
#5. The *Dobbs* decision has changed the complexion of these mid-term elections.
Of the ten top issues motivating voters, abortion has made the biggest gains in vote importance since the Spring.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Very Important to Vote</th>
<th>March 2022</th>
<th>August 2022</th>
<th>Net Difference</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>77%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gun policy</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>62%</td>
<td>+8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>+4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voting policies</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>-2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supreme Court appointments</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>+2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>+13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy policy</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>-6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>-1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pew Research Center*
And, overturning *Roe* has energized more voters than other issues.

Regardless of the importance of the issue to you, which of the following issues has made you MORE likely to vote in the upcoming Congressional election in November?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>% Made More Likely</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Supreme Court overturning <em>Roe v. Wade</em></td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inflation and rising prices</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal immigration and border security</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gun violence</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The FBI’s search of former President Trump’s Mar-a-Lago home</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Wall Street Journal, August 17-25, 2022 N=1313 Registered Voters*
Key Take-Aways
Take-Away Points

1. There probably is no such thing as a “normal” mid-term election, and 2022 is anything but “normal.” The trajectory of this election is significantly different from what it was six months ago.

2. Look for a higher turnout mid-term, with R’s energized to vote against the Biden Administration, and D’s energized to protect “choice.”

3. The mood of voters in the country has been negative for nearly two decades, and there’s no indication that that will change in the near future.
4. A few years ago, it seemed like partisan polarization couldn’t get any worse. It has, and it’s driving Americans apart – with distrust of the media adding fuel to the fire.

5. It still looks like a GOP tilt on election day, but years from now, we will look back on this election and refer to it as the “Dobbs Election.”