

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

The Canvass continued surveying Capitol Hill senior staffers and K Street senior leaders about the key issues driving Washington. From legislative priorities to election forecasting, this survey focuses on some of the biggest issues confronting Congress and the nation. What follows are our top five takeaways from The Canvass 2023.

METHODOLOGY

- Capitol Hill: Survey of Capitol Hill chiefs of staff, legislative directors, communications directors, press secretaries, and staff directors conducted in Feb., April, June, Sept., and Nov. 2023
- K Street: Survey of senior K Street leaders from across the corporate, lobbying, trade association, non-profit, and think tank industries conducted in Jan., March, May, July, and Oct. 2023

1

Despite dysfunction, Congress has been able to work together when it counts.

- In our May Canvass K Street survey, a majority of K Street leaders (57%) were correctly **CONFIDENT** in Biden, Schumer, and McCarthy's ability to negotiate a solution to raise the debt ceiling.
- More recently, a majority of K Street leaders in July (80%) and Capitol Hill senior staffers in September (82%) correctly predicted that FAA Re-authorization was **MOST** likely to pass this year.



2

Congress was **INEFFECTIVE** at passing meaningful legislation this year.

- At the start of the year, 86% of K Street leaders said they believed this Congress will be **INEFFECTIVE** at passing meaningful legislation, a prediction that has proven largely accurate.
- Senior Capitol Hill staffers and senior K Street leaders have consistently predicted issues like the Senate Banking Clawback bill, federal cannabis reform, and A.I. regulation will **NOT** pass this Congress.



3

The House Republican conference was defined by its **INSTABILITY**.

- In January 2023, a majority of K Street leaders (69%) originally predicted that Rep. Kevin McCarthy would **NOT** remain speaker for the entire Congress, and in February, most Capitol Hill senior staffers (60%) believed the same.
- In the June Capitol Hill, most senior staffers (78%) believed the debt limit deal **WEAKENED** McCarthy's standing among the GOP's most right-wing members which portended his ouster a few months later.



4

Trump had a **STRONG** primary campaign start, but Canvass respondents **DOUBT** his prospects in the general election.

- Canvass respondents generally agree that Trump's strategy of not participating in debates along with his current legal peril is actually **BOOSTING** him in the Republican primary.
- However, there's a consensus that these same factors might **HARM** the broader Republican Party, particularly in congressional races, and will not be effective in the general election.



5

There is Democratic Party **UNITY** behind Biden.

- Most K Street leaders in July (82%) and senior staffers in September (86%) reported they believe it's **UNLIKELY** any prominent Democratic lawmakers will challenge Biden for the 2024 nomination. They also **AGREE** Biden is the party's best option for winning in 2024.
- However, most believe "Bidenomics" is an **INEFFECTIVE** campaign message for congressional Democrats in 2024 and that the **ECONOMY** and his **AGE** will have the greatest impact on Biden's 2024 presidential re-election campaign.

