



Punchbowl News' The Canvass Capitol Hill November 2025 Edition
Powered by LSG
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N=85 Capitol Hill chiefs of staff, legislative directors, communications directors, press secretaries, and staff directors

COLUMN KEY:

TOTAL: n=85 senior Capitol Hill staffers

DEM: n=41 Democratic staffers

GOP: n=44 Republican staffers

HOUSE: n=63 House staffers

SENATE: n=22 Senate staffers

QUESTION S1: What is your gender?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Male	67%	71%	63%	67%	67%
Female	33%	29%	37%	33%	33%
Nonbinary	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

QUESTION S2: And what is your age?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
18-24	3%	0%	7%	5%	0%
25-40	59%	61%	57%	57%	63%
41-56	37%	39%	34%	38%	33%
57-75	1%	0%	2%	0%	4%
76+	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

QUESTION S3: Approximately how many years have you worked in Congress total?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Less than 1 year	4%	2%	4%	5%	0%
1 to 2 years	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%
2 to 3 years	2%	5%	0%	3%	0%
3 to 5 years	13%	14%	13%	11%	19%
5 to 10 years	30%	30%	31%	38%	7%
10+ years	49%	49%	50%	41%	73%

QUESTION S4: Do you work in a Republican or Democratic office? If independent, please choose the party your member caucuses with.

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Democratic	49%	100%	0%	49%	48%
Republican	51%	0%	100%	51%	52%

QUESTION S5: Do you work in the House or Senate?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
House	74%	75%	74%	100%	0%
Senate	26%	25%	26%	0%	100%



QUESTION S6: Which of the following titles best describes your role?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Chief of Staff	37%	40%	34%	37%	39%
Deputy Chief of Staff	8%	5%	11%	11%	0%
Legislative Director	11%	11%	11%	11%	10%
Deputy Legislative Director	2%	3%	0%	0%	6%
Communications Director	23%	26%	21%	21%	31%
Deputy Communications Director	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Press Secretary	2%	2%	2%	3%	0%
Deputy Press Secretary	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Staff Director	7%	5%	8%	6%	7%
Deputy Staff Director	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%
Other	9%	7%	10%	10%	7%

QUESTION S7: If you had to pick one of the following, which best describes your ethnic or racial background?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
African-American, non-Hispanic/Latino	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
White/Caucasian, non-Hispanic/Latino	90%	89%	91%	91%	88%
Hispanic/Latino of any race	7%	6%	7%	5%	12%
Asian	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
2 or more races	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Decline to answer	2%	2%	2%	3%	0%



QUESTION 1A: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Crypto market structure reform

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	56%	50%	62%	55%	57%

Very likely	15%	9%	21%	12%	23%
Somewhat likely	41%	41%	40%	43%	34%
Unlikely	39%	43%	36%	38%	43%

Somewhat unlikely	29%	29%	28%	29%	29%
Very unlikely	11%	13%	8%	10%	13%
I don't know	5%	7%	2%	6%	0%

QUESTION 1B: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Immigration reform and border policy

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	14%	2%	24%	17%	4%

Very likely	7%	2%	11%	9%	0%
Somewhat likely	7%	0%	13%	8%	4%
Unlikely	81%	93%	69%	75%	96%

Somewhat unlikely	35%	44%	25%	35%	33%
Very unlikely	46%	48%	44%	40%	63%
I don't know	6%	5%	7%	8%	0%

QUESTION 1C: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Preemption of state AI rules

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	25%	11%	38%	22%	34%

Very likely	4%	0%	9%	5%	4%
Somewhat likely	21%	11%	29%	17%	31%
Unlikely	70%	81%	60%	72%	66%

Somewhat unlikely	48%	54%	43%	53%	37%
Very unlikely	22%	27%	17%	19%	29%
I don't know	5%	7%	2%	6%	0%



QUESTION 1D: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Energy permitting reform

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	52%	32%	71%	53%	48%

Very likely	7%	3%	11%	6%	10%
Somewhat likely	45%	29%	60%	47%	38%
Unlikely	46%	66%	27%	43%	52%

Somewhat unlikely	36%	51%	23%	32%	49%
Very unlikely	9%	15%	4%	11%	4%
I don't know	2%	2%	2%	3%	0%

QUESTION 1E: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Semiconductor export limits

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	23%	15%	30%	27%	11%

Very likely	2%	2%	2%	3%	0%
Somewhat likely	20%	12%	28%	24%	11%
Unlikely	58%	65%	52%	51%	79%

Somewhat unlikely	42%	45%	40%	38%	54%
Very unlikely	16%	19%	13%	13%	25%
I don't know	19%	21%	18%	22%	10%

QUESTION 1F: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Farm Bill

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	51%	44%	56%	48%	59%

Very likely	9%	8%	10%	6%	17%
Somewhat likely	41%	36%	46%	41%	42%
Unlikely	46%	53%	39%	48%	41%

Somewhat unlikely	29%	32%	26%	32%	22%
Very unlikely	17%	21%	13%	16%	19%
I don't know	4%	2%	4%	5%	0%



QUESTION 1G: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Kids online protection

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	40%	32%	48%	35%	55%

Very likely	3%	0%	6%	3%	4%
Somewhat likely	37%	32%	41%	32%	51%
Unlikely	52%	55%	50%	57%	39%

Somewhat unlikely	39%	38%	40%	41%	31%
Very unlikely	14%	17%	10%	16%	7%
I don't know	8%	13%	2%	8%	6%

QUESTION 1H: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Tariff relief for farmers

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	56%	42%	70%	57%	55%

Very likely	11%	7%	14%	10%	15%
Somewhat likely	45%	34%	56%	47%	40%
Unlikely	40%	53%	28%	38%	45%

Somewhat unlikely	23%	31%	15%	26%	16%
Very unlikely	17%	22%	12%	13%	29%
I don't know	4%	5%	2%	5%	0%

QUESTION 1I: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Full appropriations package

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	39%	31%	46%	38%	42%

Very likely	9%	7%	10%	8%	11%
Somewhat likely	30%	24%	36%	30%	31%
Unlikely	59%	64%	54%	59%	58%

Somewhat unlikely	34%	34%	34%	35%	31%
Very unlikely	25%	30%	20%	24%	28%
I don't know	2%	5%	0%	3%	0%



QUESTION 1J: How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation addressing each of the following in 2026?

Stricter regulations and oversight on nonprofit groups involved in political activity

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	12%	10%	13%	16%	0%

Very likely	2%	2%	2%	3%	0%
Somewhat likely	9%	7%	11%	13%	0%
Unlikely	84%	88%	80%	78%	100%

Somewhat unlikely	40%	42%	38%	38%	44%
Very unlikely	44%	46%	42%	40%	56%
I don't know	5%	2%	7%	6%	0%

QUESTION 2: Which party do you believe will be blamed MOST for the government shutdown?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
The Republican Party	61%	90%	34%	59%	67%
The Democratic Party	39%	10%	66%	41%	33%

QUESTION 3: How effective or ineffective was Sen. Schumer and Rep. Jeffries' messaging around the government shutdown debate?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Effective	42%	69%	15%	48%	22%

Very effective	14%	26%	2%	16%	6%
Somewhat effective	28%	44%	13%	32%	16%
Ineffective	58%	31%	85%	52%	78%

Somewhat ineffective	33%	24%	41%	31%	37%
Very ineffective	26%	6%	44%	20%	42%
I don't know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%

QUESTION 4: How effective or ineffective was Sen. Thune and Speaker Johnson's messaging around the government shutdown debate?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Effective	44%	15%	73%	42%	51%

Very effective	13%	0%	25%	9%	22%
Somewhat effective	32%	15%	48%	33%	29%
Ineffective	56%	85%	27%	58%	49%

Somewhat ineffective	41%	57%	25%	40%	43%
Very ineffective	15%	28%	2%	18%	6%
I don't know	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%



QUESTION 5: How concerned or unconcerned are you that some of America's largest companies laying off workers will continue and become more widespread?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Concerned	75%	95%	56%	70%	89%

Very concerned	29%	47%	13%	31%	25%
Somewhat concerned	46%	48%	44%	40%	63%
Unconcerned	24%	5%	41%	28%	11%

Somewhat unconcerned	18%	0%	35%	20%	11%
Very unconcerned	6%	5%	7%	8%	0%
I don't know	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%

QUESTION 6: Do you believe the economy will be stronger, weaker, or about the same one year from now?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Stronger, avoiding a recession	23%	0%	45%	25%	19%
Weaker, but avoiding a recession	40%	52%	29%	39%	44%
Weaker, and into a recession	26%	46%	6%	23%	34%
About the same	11%	2%	20%	14%	4%

QUESTION 7: How responsible do you believe President Trump is for the current state of the U.S. economy?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Responsible	89%	95%	83%	87%	93%

Fully responsible	14%	24%	4%	11%	22%
Very responsible	46%	66%	27%	42%	56%
Somewhat responsible	29%	5%	52%	34%	15%
Not Responsible	10%	5%	15%	11%	7%

Slightly responsible	9%	5%	13%	11%	4%
Not at all responsible	1%	0%	2%	0%	4%
I don't know	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%

QUESTION 8: Which party do you think will benefit more in the November 2026 midterm elections from some states pursuing redistricting?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Republicans	37%	47%	28%	42%	25%
Democrats	33%	27%	40%	28%	48%
Neither	29%	26%	32%	30%	27%



QUESTION 9: How united or divided do you believe the Republican Party currently is?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
United	62%	56%	68%	59%	71%

Very united	20%	17%	22%	19%	22%
Somewhat united	42%	38%	45%	39%	49%
Divided	37%	42%	32%	40%	29%

Somewhat divided	29%	37%	22%	30%	25%
Very divided	8%	5%	11%	9%	4%
I don't know	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%

QUESTION 10: How united or divided do you believe the Democratic Party currently is?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
United	28%	41%	15%	31%	19%

Very united	6%	8%	4%	6%	6%
Somewhat united	21%	33%	10%	24%	13%
Divided	71%	56%	85%	68%	81%

Somewhat divided	42%	48%	37%	43%	41%
Very divided	29%	8%	48%	25%	39%
I don't know	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%

QUESTION 11: Which party do you believe is in a stronger position entering the campaign season ahead of the November 2026 midterm elections?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
The Democratic Party	78%	95%	62%	77%	81%
The Republican Party	22%	5%	38%	23%	19%

QUESTION 12-14: Which of the following events from 2025 do you believe will have the greatest impact on the November 2026 midterm elections? (COMBINED CHOICE - TOP THREE)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Trump's tariff and trade negotiations	80%	79%	80%	75%	94%
Mid-decade redistricting outcomes	70%	76%	63%	76%	51%
The administration's Immigration and deportation policies	57%	66%	49%	59%	52%
The reconciliation package implementation	51%	53%	49%	49%	56%
Zohran Mamdani winning the New York City mayoral election	19%	7%	29%	19%	19%
The Epstein files controversy	10%	11%	10%	8%	17%
The assassination of Charlie Kirk	6%	2%	10%	5%	11%
The federal government shutdown	5%	2%	7%	6%	0%
The ceasefire agreement in Gaza	1%	2%	0%	2%	0%
Military strikes in the Pacific and Caribbean	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%
The war in Ukraine	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%



QUESTION 15: Which of the following paths do you believe Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is MOST likely to pursue in the next three years?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Run for Senate	67%	67%	68%	72%	55%
Stay in the House	14%	13%	15%	14%	13%
Run for President	17%	20%	15%	13%	31%
None of the above	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%

QUESTION 16: Who do you believe is the MOST effective congressional leader?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
John Thune	50%	54%	46%	41%	73%
Mike Johnson	33%	13%	52%	37%	21%
Hakeem Jeffries	14%	27%	2%	20%	0%
Chuck Schumer	3%	6%	0%	2%	6%

QUESTION 17-19: Who do you believe is MOST likely to emerge as the leader of the Democratic Party during the second Trump administration? (COMBINED CHOICE - TOP THREE)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Gavin Newsom	82%	81%	82%	83%	78%
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	41%	29%	53%	43%	38%
Josh Shapiro	28%	26%	30%	30%	21%
Zohran Mamdani	26%	13%	38%	24%	32%
JB Pritzker	18%	26%	11%	19%	16%
Hakeem Jeffries	18%	16%	19%	19%	13%
Chris Murphy	17%	24%	11%	19%	12%
Andy Beshear	12%	22%	2%	8%	22%
Pete Buttigieg	10%	19%	2%	10%	12%
Wes Moore	10%	5%	15%	11%	7%
Gretchen Whitmer	6%	5%	6%	6%	4%
Mark Kelly	6%	2%	9%	6%	4%
Kamala Harris	5%	9%	2%	2%	16%
Ruben Gallego	5%	7%	2%	6%	0%
Jon Ossoff	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%
Chuck Schumer	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%
Cory Booker	3%	3%	2%	2%	6%
Roy Cooper	2%	0%	4%	3%	0%
Tim Walz	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Amy Klobuchar	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Other	4%	6%	2%	2%	12%



QUESTION 20-22: In your opinion, which of the following Republicans has been MOST successful in increasing their prominence among Trump's base this year? (COMBINED CHOICE - TOP THREE)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
JD Vance	75%	74%	76%	75%	77%
Marco Rubio	61%	55%	68%	60%	65%
Pete Hegseth	31%	34%	28%	32%	29%
Mike Johnson	28%	18%	38%	28%	28%
Kristi Noem	24%	39%	9%	26%	18%
Marjorie Taylor Greene	21%	31%	11%	23%	16%
Scott Bessent	19%	5%	33%	17%	26%
Pam Bondi	19%	28%	11%	16%	28%
John Thune	17%	13%	22%	19%	13%
Ted Cruz	4%	2%	4%	5%	0%

QUESTION 23A: How likely or unlikely do you believe it is that each of the following lawmakers will either retire or lose reelection?

Jon Ossoff

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	27%	8%	44%	25%	32%

Very likely	7%	3%	10%	5%	13%
Somewhat likely	20%	5%	34%	20%	19%
Unlikely	71%	92%	51%	72%	68%

Somewhat unlikely	43%	52%	34%	45%	39%
Very unlikely	28%	39%	17%	27%	29%
I don't know	2%	0%	4%	3%	0%

QUESTION 23B: How likely or unlikely do you believe it is that each of the following lawmakers will either retire or lose reelection?

John Cornyn

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	54%	52%	56%	60%	37%

Very likely	17%	21%	13%	19%	10%
Somewhat likely	37%	31%	43%	41%	27%
Unlikely	44%	48%	39%	37%	63%

Somewhat unlikely	36%	41%	31%	29%	56%
Very unlikely	8%	7%	8%	8%	7%
I don't know	2%	0%	4%	3%	0%



QUESTION 23C: How likely or unlikely do you believe it is that each of the following lawmakers will either retire or lose reelection?

Susan Collins

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	41%	66%	18%	45%	30%

Very likely	11%	18%	4%	13%	6%
Somewhat likely	30%	48%	13%	32%	24%
Unlikely	58%	34%	80%	53%	70%

Somewhat unlikely	38%	26%	49%	36%	42%
Very unlikely	20%	8%	31%	17%	28%
I don't know	1%	0%	2%	2%	0%

QUESTION 23D: How likely or unlikely do you believe it is that each of the following lawmakers will either retire or lose reelection?

Bill Cassidy

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	35%	43%	28%	33%	41%

Very likely	9%	9%	9%	6%	16%
Somewhat likely	27%	34%	19%	27%	25%
Unlikely	60%	52%	68%	60%	59%

Somewhat unlikely	43%	37%	49%	43%	44%
Very unlikely	17%	15%	19%	18%	15%
I don't know	5%	5%	4%	6%	0%

QUESTION 24: Who do you believe will win the Senate Republican primary in Texas?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
John Cornyn	54%	48%	59%	48%	71%
Ken Paxton	41%	52%	30%	45%	29%
Wesley Hunt	6%	0%	11%	8%	0%

QUESTION 25: Who do you believe will win the Senate Democratic primary in Maine?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Janet Mills	59%	66%	53%	59%	60%
Graham Platner	37%	32%	43%	36%	40%
Other	4%	2%	4%	5%	0%



QUESTION 26: Who do you believe will win control of the House in the 2026 midterms?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Democrats	76%	92%	61%	75%	79%
Republicans	24%	8%	39%	25%	21%

QUESTION 27: Who do you believe will win control of the Senate in the 2026 midterms?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Republicans	90%	84%	96%	90%	88%
Democrats	10%	16%	4%	10%	12%