THE CANVASS

The Canvass Capitol Hill: June 2024 Edition

A survey of senior Capitol Hill staffers on the true issues driving Washington

Presented by Punchbowl News & LSG

Methodology

Public Opinion Survey

- N=148 respondents

- Survey of Capitol Hill chiefs of staff, legislative directors, communications directors, press secretaries, and staff directors

- Conducted online by LSG June 3-21, 2024

Summary of Key Findings

1 A plurality report that the member of Congress they work for **OPPPOSES** the House Agriculture Committee's $1.5 trillion farm bill proposal, which most believe is **UNLIKELY** to pass.

2 Nearly half – including a majority of Republican senior staffers – report that the member they work for **SUPPORTS** the Biden Administration imposing new tariffs on Chinese-made products.

3 A majority of Democratic senior staffers report that their member **SUPPORTS** Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war, while most GOP senior staffers report the member they work for **OPPOSES** it.

4 A majority of senior staffers still believe **Tim SCOTT** is most likely to be former President Trump's running mate in 2024, followed by **JD Vance**, **Doug Burgum**, and **Marco Rubio**.

5 Most senior staffers in both parties believe **DEMOCRATS** will win the Senate races in **AZ**, **PA**, and **WI**, while senior staffers are **SPLIT** by party on who will win in **MD**, **MT**, **NV**, and **OH**.

Legislative Issues

Senior staffers are SPLIT on whether Rep. Mike Johnson is EFFECTIVE as speaker of the House

How effective or ineffective do you believe Mike Johnson is as speaker of the House?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
EFFECTIVE (NET)	**50%**	27%	**73%**
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	12%	16%	7%
INEFFECTIVE (NET)	38%	**57%**	20%

Rep. Mike Johnson

China competition and online safety/social media regulation are the issues most likely to see movement in Congress

How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation to address each of the following issues in 2024? (TOTAL LIKELY)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
China competition	**38%**	**32%**	**44%**
Online safety/social media regulation	**37%**	**36%**	**39%**
Additional funding for border security	18%	16%	21%
Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act	11%	9%	12%
Election infrastructure funding	7%	5%	8%
Credit Card Competition Act	5%	8%	1%
Changes to immigration laws	3%	2%	4%

Members of Congress are SPLIT by party on whether they support the House Ag Committee's $1.5 trillion farm bill proposal

Does the member of Congress you work for support or oppose the House Agriculture Committee's $1.5 trillion farm bill proposal?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	37%	9%	**65%**
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	23%	18%	27%
OPPOSE (NET)	40%	**73%**	7%

Most senior staffers believe it is UNLIKELY the $1.5 trillion farm bill proposal will pass this Congress

How likely or unlikely do you believe is it that the House Agriculture Committee's $1.5 trillion farm bill proposal will pass this Congress?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
LIKELY (NET)	22%	14%	29%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	10%	11%	9%
UNLIKELY (NET)	**68%**	**75%**	**62%**

A plurality SUPPORT the Biden Admin imposing new tariffs on Chinese-made products – including a majority of Republicans

Does the member of Congress you work for support or oppose the Biden Administration imposing new tariffs on Chinese-made electric vehicles, solar panels, medical supplies and semiconductor chips, among other products?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	**49%**	**46%**	**53%**
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	37%	36%	39%
OPPOSE (NET)	13%	18%	8%

Most Dem senior staffers believe Biden's China policy will HELP him in 2024, while most GOP staffers believe it will have NO impact

Do you believe the Biden Administration's approach to China will help or harm Joe Biden in the 2024 presidential election?
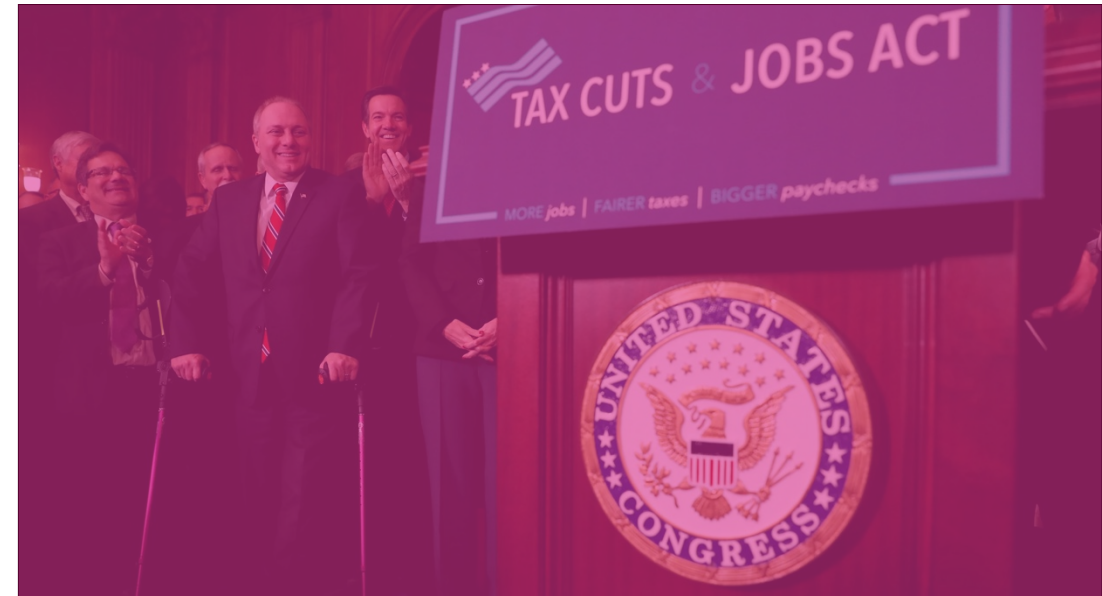

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
HELP (NET)	37%	**60%**	14%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	49%	38%	**59%**
HARM (NET)	15%	2%	27%

Most believe it's LIKELY the next Congress will address the expiring tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act

How likely or unlikely is it that the next Congress will be able to pass legislation to address the expiring tax cuts from the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
LIKELY (NET)	**69%**	**61%**	**77%**
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	12%	20%	4%
UNLIKELY (NET)	19%	19%	19%

Most believe it is UNLIKELY any significant financial services legislation – including crypto reform – will pass this year

How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass any significant financial services legislation this year, such as cannabis banking reform, credit card reform, or reform targeting the crypto sector?
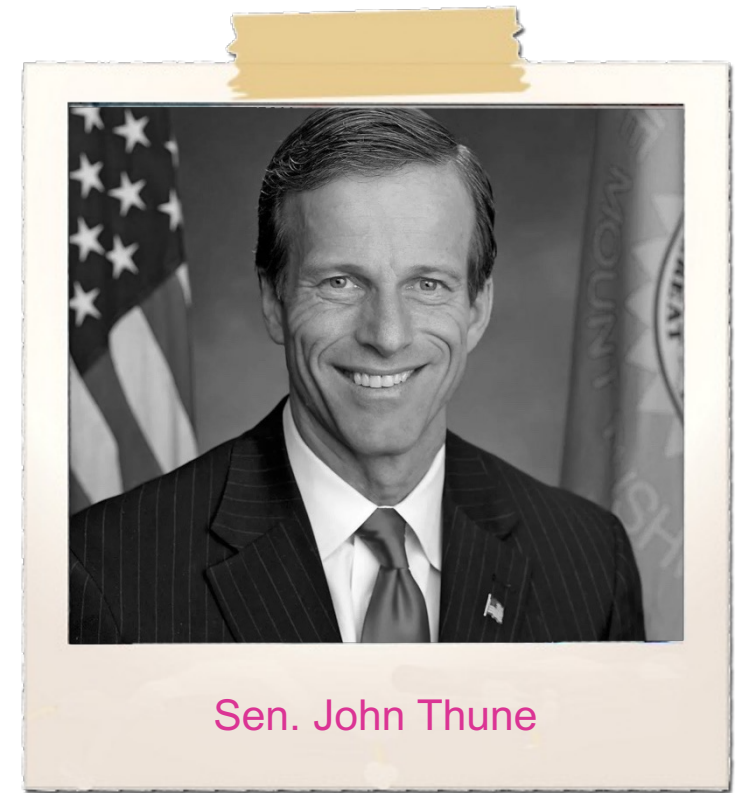
	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
LIKELY (NET)	18%	22%	15%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	14%	12%	15%
UNLIKELY (NET)	**68%**	**65%**	**71%**

The vast majority believe Sen. John THUNE is most likely to succeed Sen. Mitch McConnell as Senate Republican leader

Who is MOST likely to succeed Sen. Mitch McConnell as Senate Republican leader?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
John Thune	**73%**	**75%**	**71%**
John Cornyn	22%	25%	19%
Rick Scott	2%	0%	4%
Someone else	3%	0%	6%

Sen. John Thune

A plurality of GOP staffers believe Rep. French HILL is MOST likely to to succeed Rep. McHenry as House Financial Services chair

Who is MOST likely to become the next top Republican on the House Financial Services Committee?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
French Hill	**36%**	**28%**	**44%**
Andy Barr	11%	5%	17%
Frank Lucas	8%	5%	11%
Bill Huizenga	7%	6%	7%
Other	1%	0%	1%
I don't know	38%	56%	20%

Rep. French Hill

Senior staffers are SPLIT on whether ByteDance will sell its stake in TikTok to avoid a U.S. ban
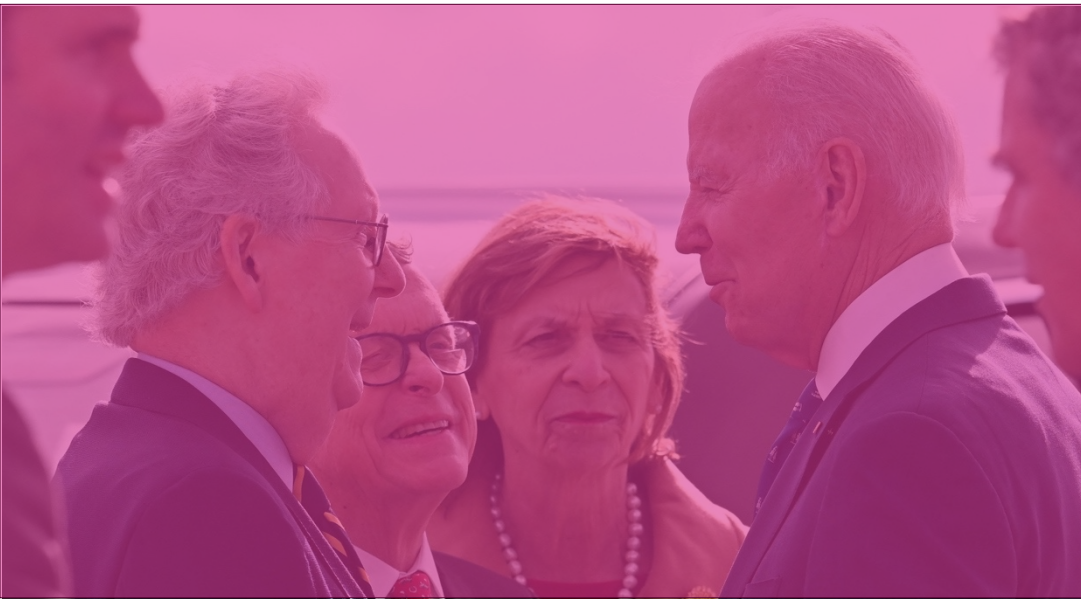
How likely or unlikely do you believe it is that social media app TikTok will divest from its China-based parent company ByteDance to avoid a ban in the U.S.?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
LIKELY (NET)	41%	40%	41%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	15%	18%	13%
UNLIKELY (NET)	44%	42%	46%

Most Dem staffers believe Biden is the biggest political winner of foreign aid passing, while a plurality of GOP staffers believe McConnell is

Who is the biggest political winner of the foreign aid package passing this Congress?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Joe Biden	**43%**	**69%**	17%
Mitch McConnell	28%	8%	**46%**
Chuck Schumer	10%	9%	11%
Mike Johnson	6%	3%	8%
None of the above	9%	5%	13%
I don't know	4%	5%	4%

A plurality believe congressional Democrats are the biggest political winner this of this Congress

Who do you believe is the biggest political winner of the 118th Congress so far?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Congressional Democrats	**41%**	**63%**	19%
Donald Trump	15%	4%	**26%**
Joe Biden	11%	16%	7%
Congressional Republicans	4%	0%	7%
None of the above	26%	17%	35%
I don't know	0%	0%	6%

Most senior staffers do NOT believe the failure of the bipartisan immigration bill will harm their party in the 2024 elections

Do you believe that the failure of the bipartisan immigration bill will help or harm congressional Democrats / Republicans in the 2024 congressional elections?

	DEM	GOP
HELP (NET)	72%	30%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	18%	58%
HARM (NET)	**10%**	**12%**

Senior staffers report their members are SPLIT by party on whether they support or oppose the Biden's handling of the Israel-Hamas war

Does the member of Congress you work for support or oppose the Biden Administration's handling of the Israel-Hamas war?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
SUPPORT (NET)	42%	**69%**	16%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	9%	13%	4%
OPPOSE (NET)	49%	18%	**80%**

Most Capitol Hill senior staffers report their member believes the next Congress will be MORE productive than this one
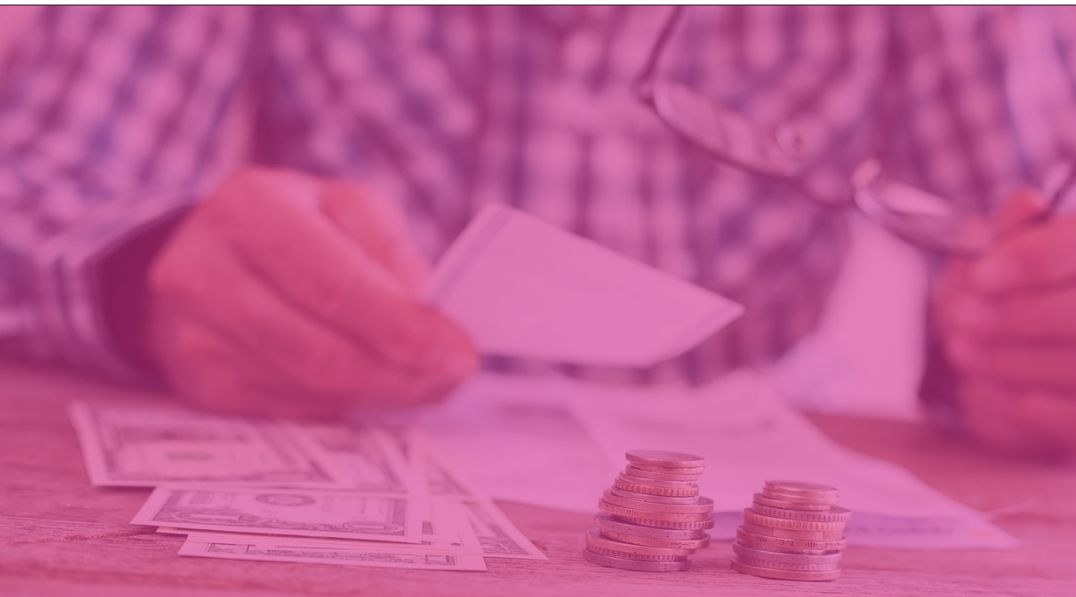
Does the member of Congress you work for believe the next Congress will be more or less productive than this one?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
MORE PRODUCTIVE	**68%**	**63%**	**73%**
Neither / I don't know	27%	30%	26%
LESS PRODUCTIVE	4%	7%	1%

Most Dem members believe the economy will IMPROVE, while half of GOP members believe it will WORSEN this year

Does the member of Congress you work for believe the economy will improve or worsen between now and the end of 2024?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
IMPROVE	**43%**	**78%**	9%
Neither / I don't know	31%	23%	40%
WORSEN	25%	0%	**50%**

Around the Hill

MOST important economic issues to voters: grocery and food prices & housing and rental costs

Which of the following economic issues do you believe will be MOST important to voters as they consider who to vote for in this year's presidential and congressional elections? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Grocery and food prices	**93%**	**91%**	**96%**
Housing and rental costs	**82%**	**83%**	**71%**
Gas prices	47%	29%	**66%**
The job market	22%	27%	18%
Health care costs	19%	**35%**	5%
Utility costs	13%	10%	17%
Taxes	11%	11%	12%
Federal deficit and debt	9%	4%	14%
New and used car prices	2%	1%	3%
None of the above	0%	0%	0%

Most senior staffers believe inflation, the economy, and crime will be the MOST important issues to voters of color

What issues do you believe will be MOST important to voters of color as they consider who to vote for in this year's presidential and congressional elections? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Inflation and the rising cost of living	**76%**	**71%**	**81%**
The economy	**58%**	**54%**	**62%**
Crime and public safety	**48%**	**41%**	**54%**
Immigration	24%	14%	35%
Income and wealth inequality	17%	25%	9%
Voting rights/protecting democracy	15%	26%	5%
Abortion	14%	20%	9%
Health care	13%	19%	8%

Less important issues to voters of color: financial reg, infrastructure, trade/tariffs, the environment, and the judiciary
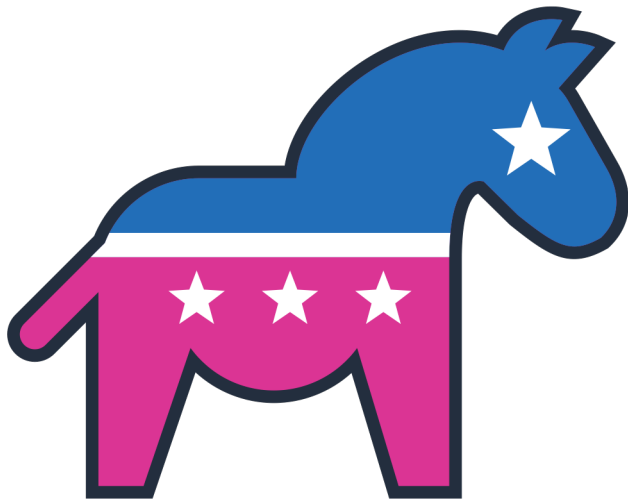
What issues do you believe will be MOST important to voters of color as they consider who to vote for in this year's presidential and congressional elections? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Social justice	9%	11%	7%
Education	6%	9%	4%
Taxes	6%	2%	10%
Energy	5%	0%	10%
Gun policy	3%	4%	1%
National security/foreign policy	3%	1%	4%
Judges and the judiciary	1%	1%	1%
The environment	1%	2%	0%
Trade and tariff policies	1%	0%	1%
Infrastructure	0%	0%	0%
Financial regulation	0%	0%	0%

Senior staffers believe DEMOCRATS will win MORE critical Senate elections in the midterms

Which candidate do you believe will win each of the following Senate races?

	DEM	GOP	DON'T KNOW
Arizona – Ruben Gallego (D), Kari Lake (R)	**89%**	8%	4%
Maryland – Angela Alsobrooks (D), Larry Hogan (R)	**63%**	33%	4%
Montana – Jon Tester (D), Tim Sheehy (R)	47%	46%	7%
Nevada – Jacky Rosen (D), Sam Brown (R)	**58%**	32%	10%
Pennsylvania – Bob Casey (D), David McCormick (R)	**74%**	24%	2%
Ohio – Sherrod Brown (D), Bernie Moreno (R)	**56%**	35%	9%
Wisconsin – Tammy Baldwin (D), Eric Hovde (R)	**85%**	10%	5%

Most believe Tim SCOTT is most likely to be Trump's running mate, followed by JD Vance, Doug Burgum, and Marco Rubio

If Donald Trump wins the Republican nomination for president, who is most likely to be his running mate? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Tim Scott	**64%**	**69%**	**60%**
JD Vance	**52%**	**58%**	**46%**
Doug Burgum	**46%**	32%	**59%**
Marco Rubio	**42%**	**43%**	**41%**
Elise Stefanik	38%	**46%**	29%
Sarah Huckabee Sanders	15%	11%	18%
Byron Donalds	15%	18%	12%

After the 2024 elections, most believe REPUBLICANS will take control of the Senate, while DEMOCRATS will flip the House

Who do you believe will be in control of **the Senate** after the 2024 elections?

Senate	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Republicans	**85%**	**73%**	**98%**
Democrats	15%	27%	2%

Who do you believe will be in control of **the House** after the 2024 elections?

House	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Democrats	**64%**	**96%**	**32%**
Republicans	36%	4%	68%

Both Democratic and GOP senior staffers believe the MODERATE wing of their party will help them more in 2024

Which of the following do you believe is MORE likely to help **Democrats** in the 2024 general election? The political strategy of the…

	DEM
Moderate Democrats	**81%**
Progressive Democrats	19%

Which of the following do you believe is MORE likely to help **Republicans** in the 2024 general election? The political strategy of the…

	GOP
Moderate Republicans	**74%**
Conservative Republicans	26%

Senior staffers are SPLIT by party on who they believe will win the 2024 election
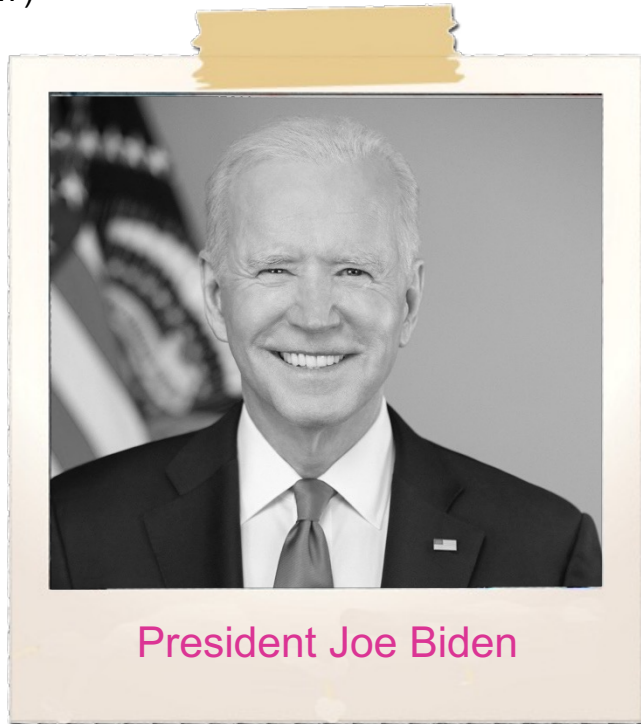
Who do you believe will win the 2024 presidential election?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Donald Trump or the Republican candidate	51%	14%	**87%**
Joe Biden or the Democratic candidate	49%	**86%**	13%

A majority of Democratic senior staffers AGREE Biden is the party's best option for winning the 2024 election

Do you agree or disagree that President Joe Biden is the Democratic Party's best option to win the 2024 presidential election? (DEMOCRATS ONLY)
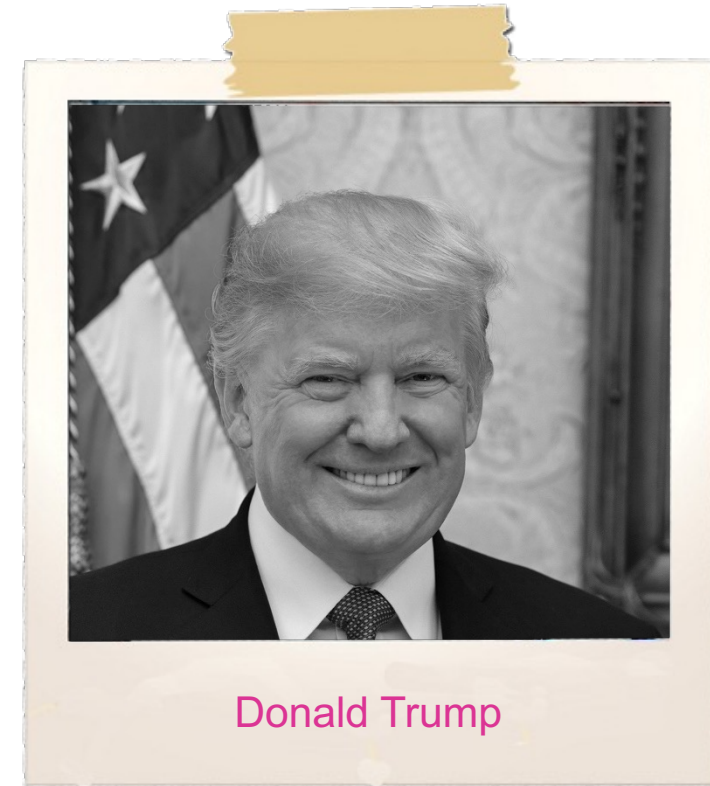
President Joe Biden

	DEM
AGREE (NET)	**60%**
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	14%
DISAGREE (NET)	26%

Nearly half of GOP senior staffers still do NOT believe Trump is the party's best option for winning the 2024 election

Do you agree or disagree that former President Donald Trump is the Republican Party's best option to win the 2024 presidential election? (REPUBLICANS ONLY)

	GOP
AGREE (NET)	37%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	14%
DISAGREE (NET)	**49%**

Donald Trump

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