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# The Canvass Capitol Hill: September 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=135 respondents
- Survey of Capitol Hill chiefs of staff, legislative directors, communications directors, press secretaries, and staff directors
- Conducted online by LSG September 9-27, 2024

# Summary of Key Findings

- 1 Capitol Hill senior staffers believe **taxes**, **inflation**, and **immigration** will be the **TOP** priorities for the next Congress to address.
- 2 Most – including 55% of Republican senior staffers – believe **the Democratic Party** has more momentum heading in the November general election.
- 3 Most believe **Kamala HARRIS** will win the 2024 election. Senior staffers are **SPLIT** by party on who will win PA, GA, and AZ – while majorities in both parties believe Harris will win WI, MI, and NV.
- 4 Most Dem. senior staffers believe the Harris/Walz ticket will **HELP** Democrats down ballot, while nearly half of GOP senior staffers believe the Trump/Vance ticket will **HARM** Republicans down ballot.
- 5 Most believe Democrats will win the Senate races in **AZ**, **PA**, **MI**, **NV**, and **WI**, while split by party on who will win in **MD** and **OH**. Most believe Republicans will win the Senate races in **MT**, **TX**, and **FL**.



# Legislative Issues

# Senior staffers believe it is UNLIKELY that there will be a government shutdown before the end of the year

How likely or unlikely do you believe it is that there will be a government shutdown before the end of the year?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
LIKELY (NET)	8%	9%	8%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	4%	4%	4%
<b>UNLIKELY (NET)</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>88%</b>

# China competition and The Kids' Online Safety Act are the issues most likely to see movement in 2024

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
<b>China competition</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>42%</b>
<b>The Kids' Online Safety Act</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>43%</b>
Additional funding for border security	25%	28%	22%
Election infrastructure funding	11%	11%	11%
American Privacy Rights Act	8%	9%	7%
Securing America's Federal Elections (SAFE) Act	6%	3%	8%
Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act	5%	6%	4%
Credit Card Competition Act	2%	3%	1%
Changes to immigration laws	4%	3%	4%

# Capitol Hill senior staffers believe taxes, inflation, and immigration will be the TOP priorities for the next Congress

What do you believe will be the TOP priorities for the next Congress to address? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>Taxes</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>Inflation and rising cost of living</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Immigration</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>42%</b>
The economy	31%	28%	34%
National security/foreign policy	26%	16%	35%
Affordable housing	18%	34%	3%
Abortion	14%	29%	0%
Trade and tariff policies	11%	5%	17%
Online safety/social media regulation	10%	7%	14%

# Financial reg, education, and the environment are expected to be among the LEAST important issues for the next Congress

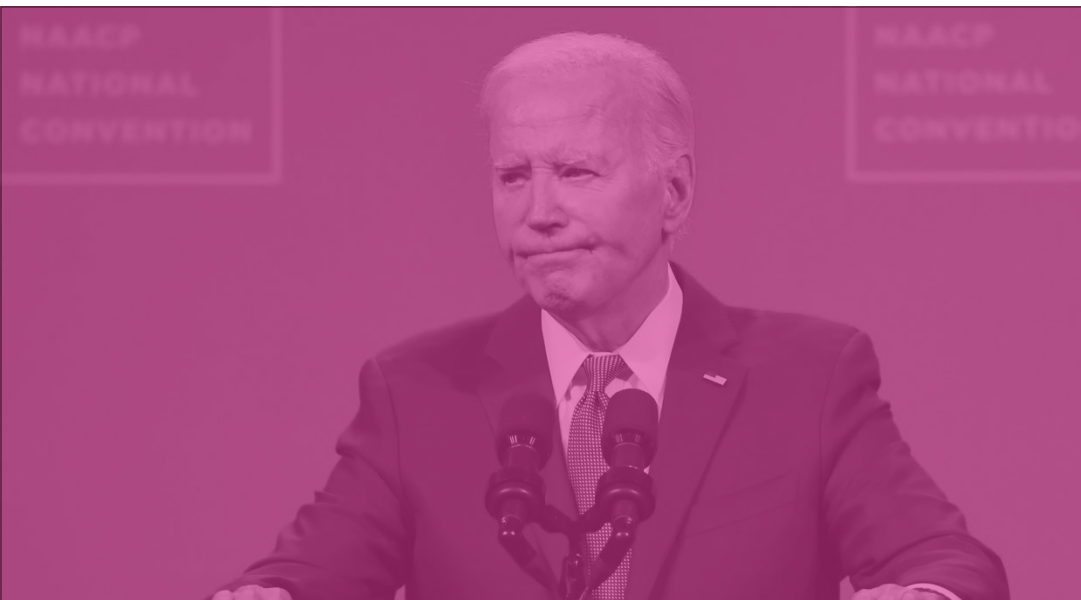
What do you believe will be the TOP priorities for the next Congress to address? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP THREE)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Energy	9%	4%	15%
Crime and public safety	7%	5%	8%
Voting rights/protecting democracy	6%	11%	0%
Health care	5%	5%	6%
Judges and the judiciary	3%	3%	4%
Gun policy	3%	6%	0%
<b>The environment</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Education</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Financial regulation</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>



# Most do NOT believe the Biden administration will be more effective in advancing its policy agenda since Biden dropped out

Do you believe the Biden administration will be more or less effective in advancing its policy agenda now that President Biden is not running for re-election?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>MORE EFFECTIVE (NET)</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>5%</b>
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	36%	42%	29%
<b>LESS EFFECTIVE (NET)</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>65%</b>

## Most Democratic senior staffers believe recent Supreme Court decisions will **HELP** them, while a third of GOP senior staffers think it will **HURT** them

Do you believe recent Supreme Court decisions will help or harm **Democrats** in the 2024 elections?

DEMOCRATS	DEM
<b>HELP (NET)</b>	<b>66%</b>
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	15%
HARM (NET)	19%

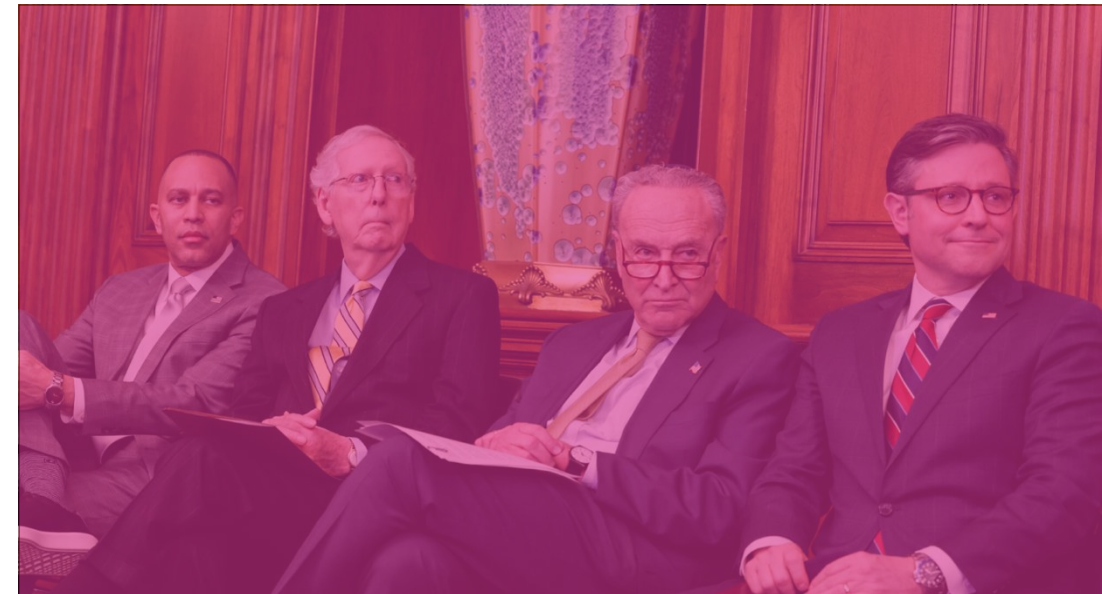
Do you believe recent Supreme Court decisions will help or harm **Republicans** in the 2024 elections?

REPUBLICANS	GOP
HELP (NET)	19%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	47%
<b>HARM (NET)</b>	<b>33%</b>

# Senior staffers are SPLIT on who they believe is the MOST effective congressional leader

Who do you believe is the MOST effective congressional leader?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Mitch McConnell	30%	16%	<b>44%</b>
Chuck Schumer	26%	<b>36%</b>	17%
Hakeem Jeffries	20%	<b>38%</b>	3%
Mike Johnson	9%	0%	18%
None of the above	14%	10%	18%



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

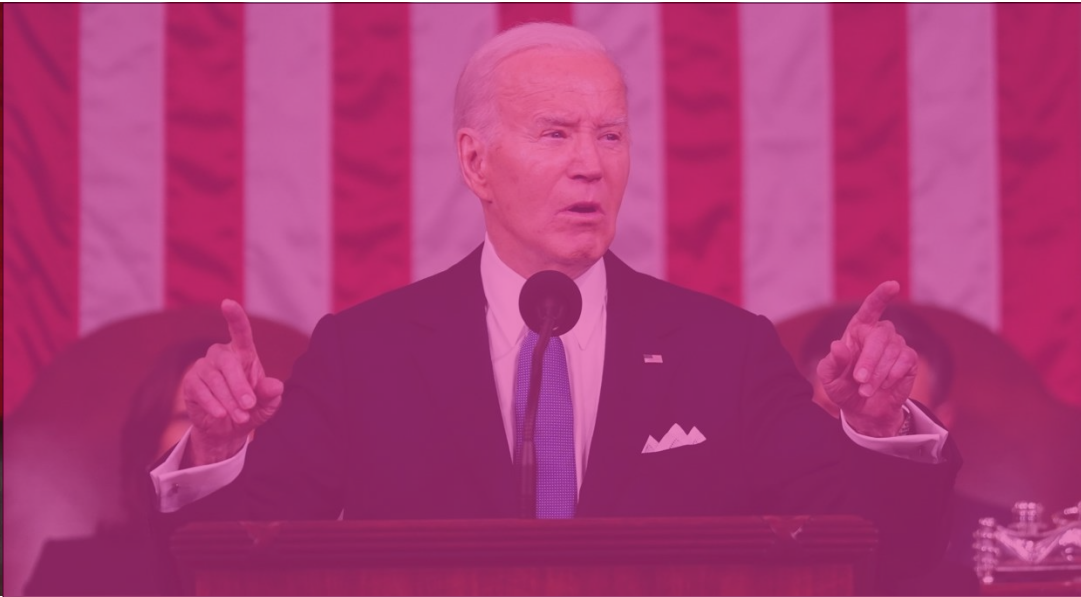
Who is MOST likely to succeed Sen. Mitch McConnell as Senate Republican leader?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>John Thune</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>72%</b>
John Cornyn	21%	26%	16%
Steve Daines	6%	3%	8%
Rick Scott	1%	0%	1%
Someone else	2%	1%	3%



# Senior staffers are SPLIT by party on whether the economy will improve or worsen between now and the end of 2024

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 (NET)	44%	<b>82%</b>	7%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	30%	17%	42%
WORSEN (NET)	26%	1%	<b>51%</b>



# Election Outlook

# Most believe inflation, the economy, immigration, and abortion will be the MOST important issues to voters

What 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
<b>Inflation and rising cost of living</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>78%</b>
<b>The economy</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Immigration</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>73%</b>
<b>Abortion</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>30%</b>
Crime and public safety	29%	25%	<b>34%</b>
Voting rights/protecting democracy	9%	18%	0%
Taxes	7%	3%	10%
Health care	6%	10%	3%

# Less important issues to voters: financial regulation and the judiciary

What 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
Income and wealth inequality	3%	4%	1%
National security/foreign policy	3%	1%	4%
Gun policy	1%	3%	0%
Energy	1%	0%	3%
The environment	1%	2%	0%
Infrastructure	1%	2%	0%
Trade and tariff policies	1%	2%	0%
Social justice	1%	0%	1%
Education	1%	0%	1%
<b>Judges and the judiciary</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Financial regulation</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>0%</b>



# Most are CONCERNED about foreign interference in the 2024 elections

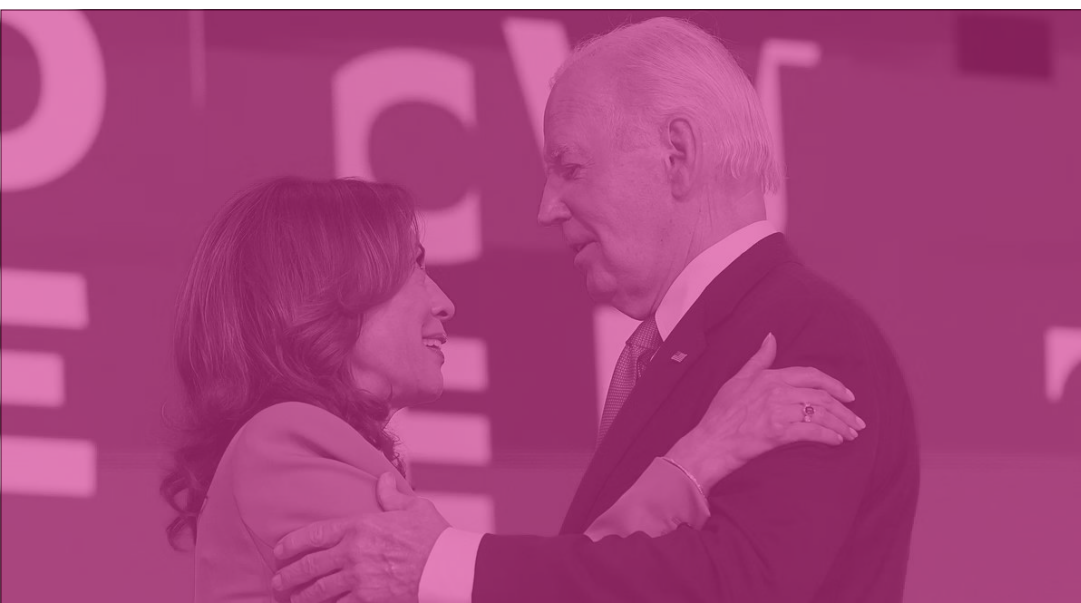
How concerned or unconcerned is the member of Congress you work for about foreign interference in the 2024 elections?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>CONCERNED (NET)</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>97%</b>	<b>62%</b>
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	14%	2%	25%
UNCONCERNED (NET)	7%	0%	14%



# Most – including 55% of GOP senior staffers – believe the DEMOCRATIC Party has more momentum headed into November

Which party do you believe currently has MORE momentum headed into the November general elections?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>The Democratic Party</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>55%</b>
The Republican Party	23%	0%	45%

## Nearly all Democratic senior staffers believe the Harris/Walz presidential ticket will **HELP** Democrats down the ballot

Do you believe the Harris/Walz presidential ticket will help or harm Democrats down the ballot?

	DEM
<b>HELP (NET)</b>	<b>96%</b>
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	2%
HARM (NET)	2%



# Nearly half of GOP senior staffers believe the Trump/Vance presidential ticket will HARM Republicans down the ballot

Do you believe the Trump/Vance presidential ticket will help or harm Republicans down the ballot?



GOP	
HELP (NET)	31%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	22%
<b>HARM (NET)</b>	<b>46%</b>

# Senior staffers are SPLIT by party on who appeals more to swing voters in swing states

Who do you believe appeals MORE to swing voters in swing states?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Kamala Harris	67%	<b>95%</b>	40%
Donald Trump	33%	5%	<b>60%</b>

# Most senior staffers believe Kamala HARRIS will win the 2024 presidential election

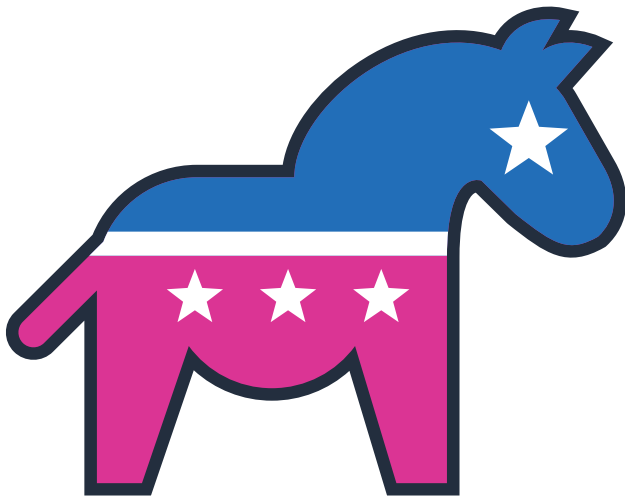
Who do you believe will win the 2024 presidential election?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Kamala Harris	72%	99%	46%
Donald Trump	28%	1%	54%

# Senior staffers believe DEMOCRATS will win MORE critical Senate elections this November

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%	3%
Florida – Debbie Mucarsel-Powell (D), Rick Scott (R)	2%	94%	4%
Maryland – Angela Alsobrooks (D), Larry Hogan (R)	67%	25%	8%
Montana – Jon Tester (D), Tim Sheehy (R)	21%	73%	6%
Michigan- Elissa Slotkin (D), Mike Rogers (R)	78%	16%	6%
Nevada – Jacky Rosen (D), Sam Brown (R)	82%	13%	5%
Ohio – Sherrod Brown (D), Bernie Moreno (R)	67%	26%	7%
Pennsylvania – Bob Casey (D), David McCormick (R)	77%	18%	5%
Texas – Colin Allred (D), Ted Cruz (R)	4%	92%	4%
Wisconsin – Tammy Baldwin (D), Eric Hovde (R)	94%	4%	2%

# 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
<b>Republicans</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>97%</b>
Democrats	17%	31%	3%

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

House	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>Democrats</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>97%</b>	43%
Republicans	30%	3%	<b>57%</b>





# A majority of senior staffers believe HARRIS will win WI, MI, NV, and PA and Trump will win GA, but they're SPLIT on AZ

Which candidate do you believe will win each of the following swing states?



	HARRIS	TRUMP	DON'T KNOW
Arizona	50%	46%	5%
Georgia	40%	57%	3%
Michigan	81%	18%	1%
Nevada	77%	21%	2%
Pennsylvania	61%	33%	6%
Wisconsin	85%	14%	1%

# Both Democratic and Republican 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
<b>Moderate Democrats</b>	<b>88%</b>
Progressive Democrats	12%

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

	GOP
<b>Moderate Republicans</b>	<b>77%</b>
Conservative Republicans	23%

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