



The Canvass Capitol Hill: May 2022 Edition

Key findings from the Punchbowl News-Locust Street Group tracking survey of senior Capitol Hill staff on the true issues driving Washington

Methodology



Online Survey:

- N=173 respondents
- Survey of Capitol Hill chiefs of staff, legislative directors, communications directors, press secretaries, and staff directors
- Conducted online May 4-20, 2022

Summary of Key Findings

1 Most senior staffers believe Congress is **UNLIKELY** to pass federal abortion rights legislation. Most Democratic senior staffers believe the Roe v. Wade opinion leak **HELPS Democrats** while a plurality of Republicans believe it **HURTS the GOP** in the midterms.

2 The most likely issues for Congress to address this year: **Ukrainian aid, China competitiveness, and Russia relations.**

3 Most to blame for inflation: **the supply chain crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Biden Administration.** Least to blame: **the Trump Administration.**

4 Most members of Congress believe lifting Title 42 will **WORSEN** the situation at our Southern border, and the vast majority of Democrats believe lifting Title 42 will **HARM** Democrats in the midterms.

5 A majority of senior staffers believe Elon Musk buying Twitter will have **NO IMPACT** on regulation of social media companies.

Legislative Issues



Most senior staffers believe Congress is **UNLIKELY** to pass federal abortion rights legislation

A leaked majority draft opinion indicates that the Supreme Court may be weeks or months away from overturning Roe v. Wade. How likely or unlikely do you believe it is that this Congress will pass federal abortion rights legislation?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Likely	6%	9%	4%	7%	5%
Neither/I don't know	1%	3%	0%	2%	0%
Unlikely	92%	89%	96%	91%	95%

COLUMN KEY

TOTAL: n=173 senior Capitol Hill staffers

DEM: n=80 Democratic staffers

GOP: n=85 Republican staffers

HOUSE: n=131 House staffers

SENATE: n=42 Senate staffers

*Monthly changes shown in parenthesis

Most believe the Roe v. Wade opinion leak **HELPS Democrats** while a plurality believe it **HURTS Republicans** in the midterms

Does the leak of the majority draft opinion overturning Roe v. Wade help or harm **Democrats'** prospects in the midterm elections? (DEMOCRATIC STAFFERS)

	DEM	HOUSE	SENATE
Help	94%	92%	100%
Neither/I don't know	6%	9%	0%
Harm	0%	0%	0%

Does the leak of the majority draft opinion overturning Roe v. Wade help or harm **Republicans'** prospects in the midterm elections? (REPUBLICAN STAFFERS)

	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Help	8%	8%	6%
Neither/I don't know	45%	43%	51%
Harm	47%	49%	42%

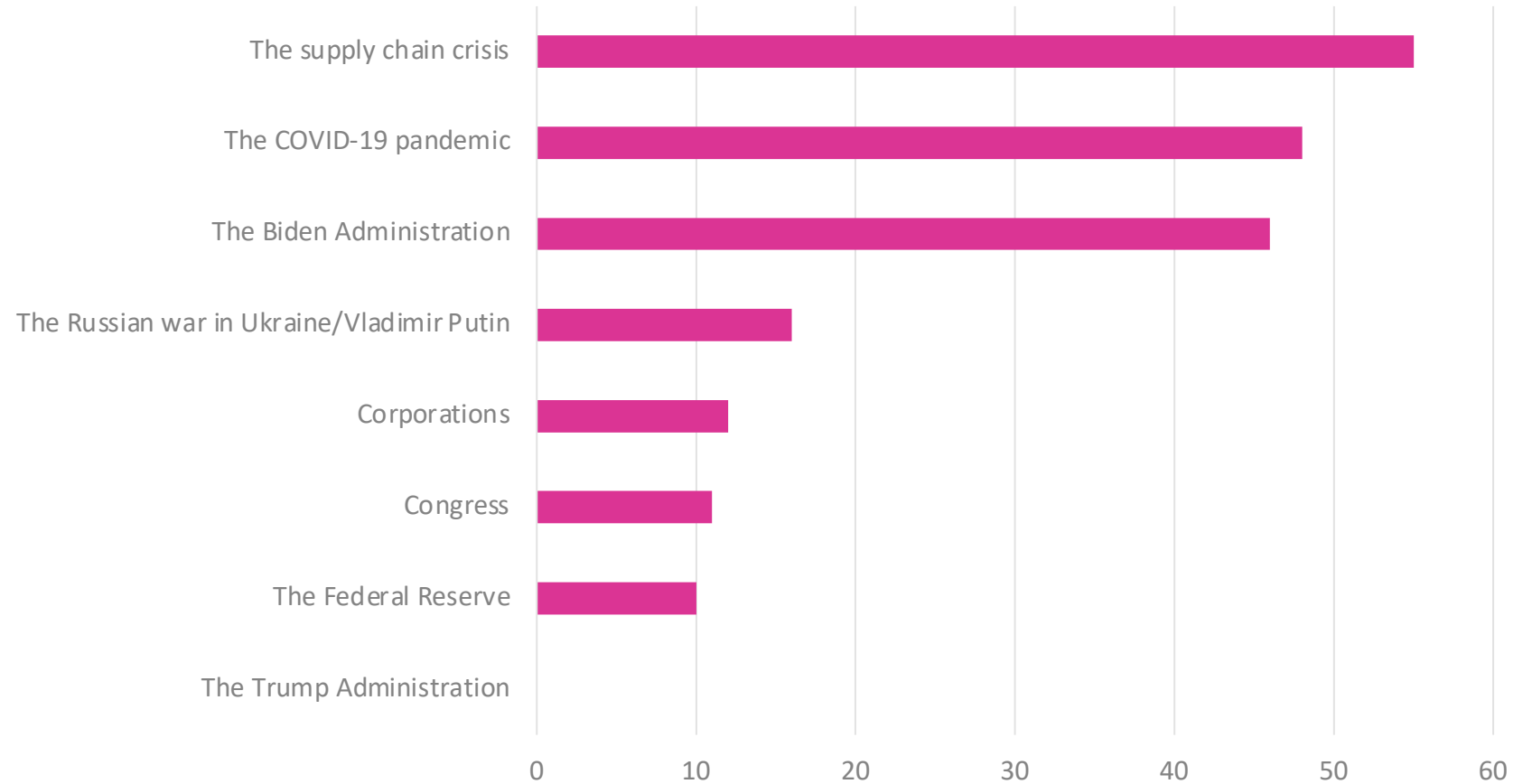
A plurality of lawmakers believe the economy will **WORSEN** before the midterm elections

Does the member of Congress you work for believe the economy will improve, worsen, or stay the same before the November 2022 midterm elections?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Improve	30%	58%	1%	26%	43%
Neither/I don't know	31%	38%	24%	33%	25%
Worsen	39%	4%	76%	41%	32%

Most responsible for inflation: the supply chain crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Biden Administration

Who or what does the member of Congress you work for believe is MOST to blame for inflation or the rising costs of goods and services? (COMBINED – TOP TWO)



Most believe Elon Musk buying Twitter will have **NO IMPACT** on regulation of social media companies

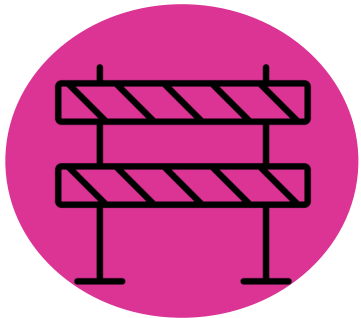
Does Elon Musk buying Twitter increase or decrease the chances that Congress will more strictly regulate social media companies?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Increase	23%	32%	14%	23%	23%
Neither/I don't know	63%	63%	62%	61%	68%
Decrease	15%	5%	25%	16%	10%

Most members of Congress believe lifting Title 42 will **WORSEN** the situation at our Southern border

Does the member of Congress you work for believe that President Biden lifting Title 42 will improve or worsen the situation at our Southern border?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Improve	8%	15%	1%	9%	5%
Neither/I don't know	24%	47%	0%	23%	27%
Worsen	68%	37%	99%	67%	68%

The majority of Democratic senior staffers believe lifting Title 42 will **HARM** Democrats' prospects in the midterms

Do you believe that President Biden lifting Title 42 will help or harm Democrats' prospects in the midterm elections?
(DEMOCRATIC STAFFERS)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Help	2%	3%	0%	1%	5%
Neither/I don't know	21%	41%	1%	22%	18%
Harm	77%	56%	99%	77%	77%

Most members now believe the January 6 select committee investigation will be **EFFECTIVE**

The select committee investigating the January 6 Capitol insurrection will begin hearings in June. How effective or ineffective do you believe the select committee will be at uncovering relevant information?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Effective	62% (+21%)	95% (+23%)	27% (+19%)	57% (+14%)	76% (+40%)
Neither/I don't know	8% (-3%)	3% (-8%)	14% (+2%)	7% (-2%)	8% (-6%)
Ineffective	30% (-18%)	3% (-15%)	59% (-21%)	35% (-12%)	16% (-34%)

Members are **SPLIT** on reentering the Iran nuclear deal – but there’s a stark partisan divide

Does the member of Congress you work for support or oppose the Biden administration reentering the Iran nuclear deal?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Support	37%	72%	0%	34%	45%
Neither/I don't know	14%	22%	7%	17%	8%
Oppose	49%	6%	93%	50%	47%

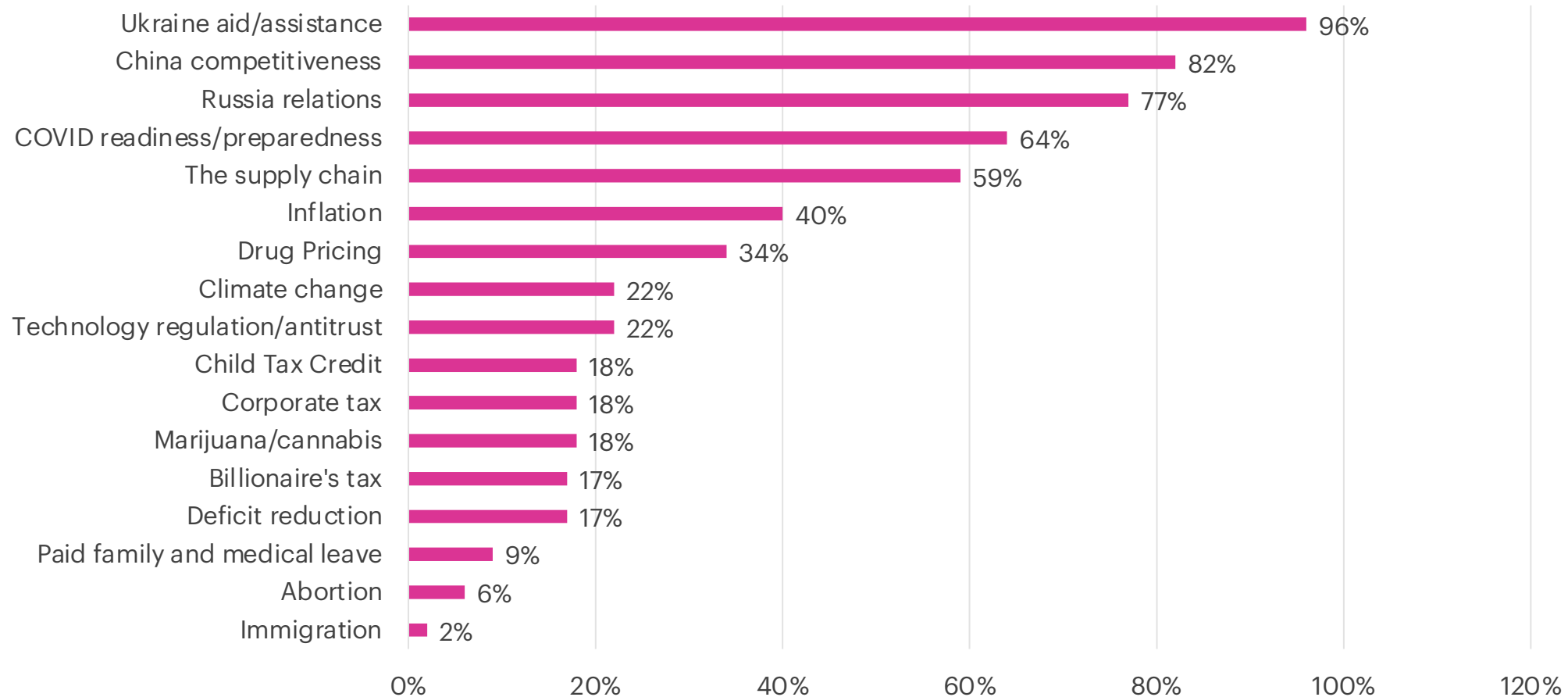
Less than half of Congress would support direct military intervention if Russia used **nuclear weapons** in Ukraine

If Russia were to significantly increase its aggression towards Ukraine in each of the following ways, do you believe the member of Congress you work for would support direct American military intervention in Ukraine? (SUPPORT)

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Using nuclear weapons	49%	43%	56%	48%	52%
Using chemical weapons	36%	28%	44%	34%	41%
Using biological weapons	35%	29%	40%	33%	38%

The most likely issues for Congress to address this year: Ukrainian aid, China competitiveness, and Russia relations

How likely or unlikely is it that Congress will pass legislation this year to address the following issues? (LIKELY)



Around the Hill

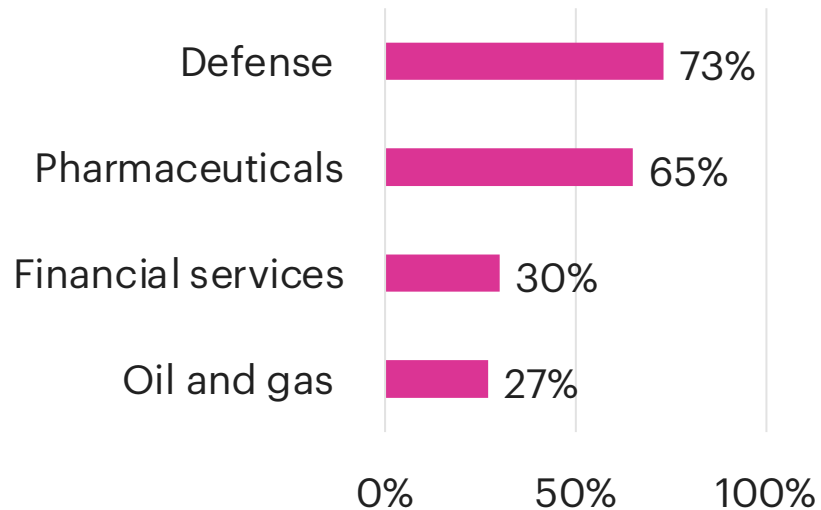


Capitol Hill and K Street **AGREE** that the defense and pharmaceutical industries are **MOST** effective at lobbying

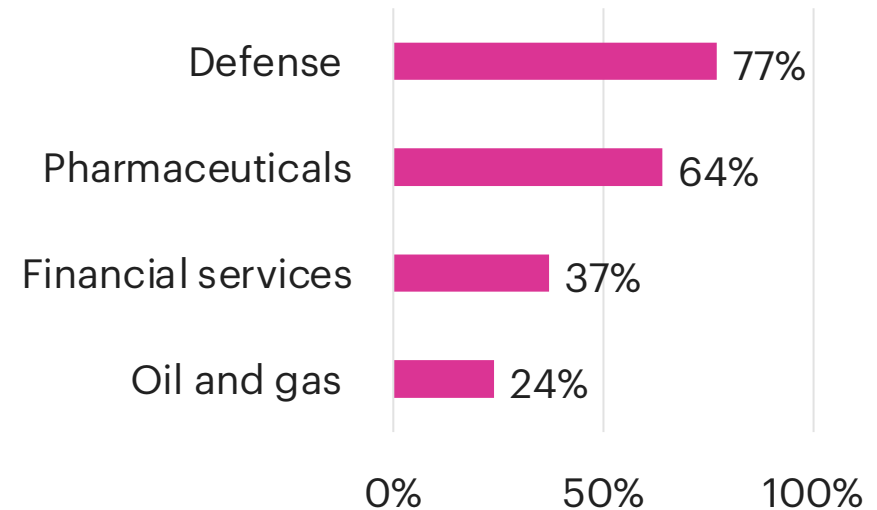
Which industries do you believe are most effective at lobbying Congress? (TOP THREE)



April 2022 Edition



May 2022 Edition



Most believe **REPUBLICANS** will control the House and the parties are split on who will control the Senate

Who do you believe will be in control of the **House of Representatives** after the 2022 elections?

HOUSE	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Republicans	83% (-2%)	68% (-4%)	99% (+0%)	85% (+0%)	77% (-9%)
Democrats	17% (+2%)	32% (+4%)	1% (+0%)	15% (+0%)	23% (+9%)

Who do you believe will be in control of the **Senate** after the 2022 elections?

SENATE	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Republicans	49% (-4%)	19% (-3%)	80% (-4%)	52% (+0%)	39% (-15%)
Democrats	51% (+4%)	81% (+3%)	20% (+4%)	48% (+0%)	61% (+15%)

Majorities in each party still believe they should **follow a MODERATE strategy** into the 2022 midterms

Which of the following do you believe is MORE likely to help **Democrats preserve their congressional majorities** in the 2022 midterm elections? The political strategy of the... (DEMOCRATIC STAFFERS)

	DEM	HOUSE	SENATE
Moderate Democrats	66% (-6%)	69% (-4%)	55% (+16%)
Progressive Democrats	34% (+6%)	31% (+4%)	45% (-16%)

Which of the following do you believe is MORE likely to help **Republicans retake control of Congress** in the 2022 midterm elections? The political strategy of the... (REPUBLICANS STAFFERS)

	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Moderate Republicans	56% (-3%)	53% (-3%)	65% (-3%)
Conservative Republicans	44% (+3%)	47% (+3%)	35% (+3%)

Most Democratic senior staffers believe **Rep. Jeffries will be the next House Democratic leader** after Speaker Pelosi

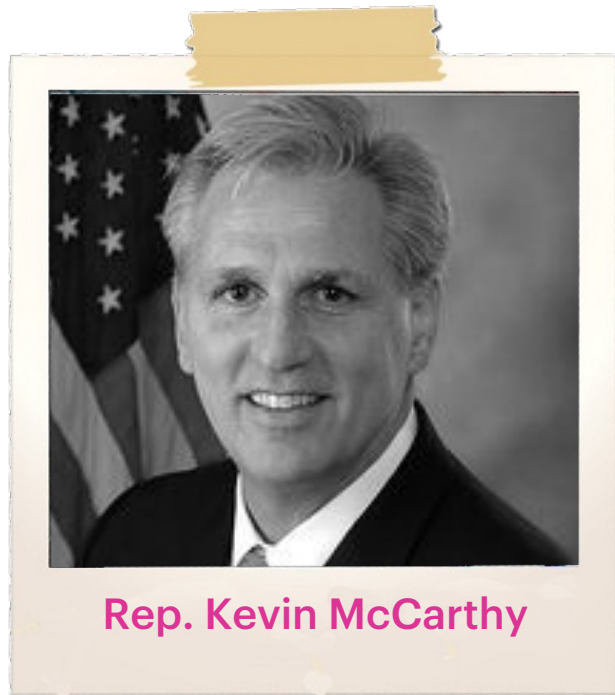
Who do you believe is MOST likely to be the next House Democratic leader after Nancy Pelosi?

	DEM	HOUSE	SENATE
Rep. Hakeem Jeffries	82%	85%	73%
Rep. Katherine Clark	6%	8%	0%
Rep. Jim Clyburn	4%	0%	18%
Rep. Adam Schiff	4%	5%	0%
Rep. Steny Hoyer	3%	2%	9%
Rep. Karen Bass	0%	0%	0%
Rep. Pramila Jayapal	0%	0%	0%



Most believe the release of recorded conversations will have **NO IMPACT** on Rep. Kevin McCarthy becoming Speaker

Do you believe the release of recorded conversations and text messages of Rep. Kevin McCarthy discussing the January 6 insurrection will help, harm, or have no impact at all on McCarthy becoming Speaker of the House if Republicans take back the majority in the House?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Help	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Neither/I don't know	71%	64%	78%	72%	67%
Harm	29%	36%	22%	28%	33%

A majority of **GOP** senior staffers believe Rep. Scalise is **NEXT in line** behind Rep. McCarthy as House Republican leader

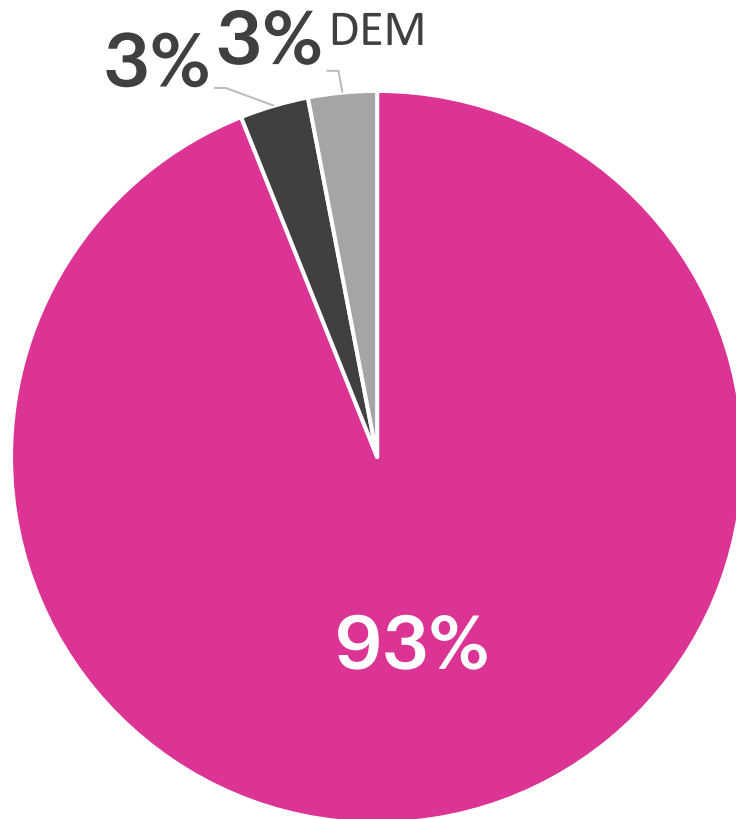
If not Rep. Kevin McCarthy, who do you believe is MOST likely to be the next House Republican leader?



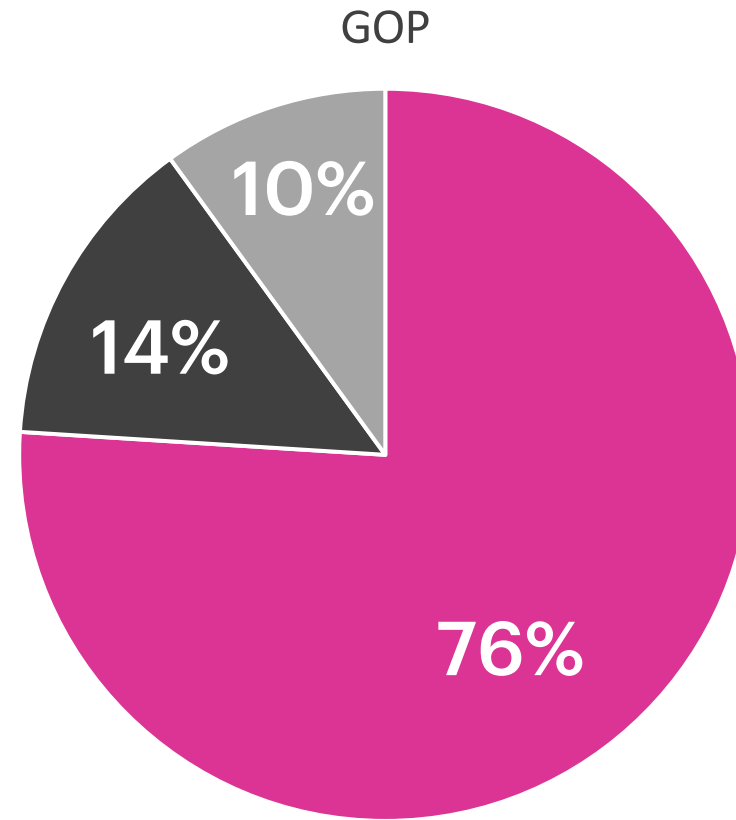
	GOP	HOUSE	SENATE
Rep. Steve Scalise	71%	69%	74%
Rep. Jim Jordan	7%	6%	10%
Rep. Elise Stefanik	4%	3%	6%

The vast majority of senior staffers – especially Democratic staffers – have gotten a **RAISE** following the MRA increase

Since the House has increased the Members Representational Allowance (MRA), has your boss given staff a salary raise?
(HOUSE)



■ YES ■ NO ■ I DON'T KNOW



■ YES ■ NO ■ I DON'T KNOW

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THE

 **CANVASS**

POWERED BY LOCUST STREET GROUP