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# The Canvass Capitol Hill: June 2023 Edition

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

Presented by Punchbowl News & LSG

# Methodology



## Public Opinion Survey

- N=146 respondents
- Survey of Capitol Hill chiefs of staff, legislative directors, communications directors, press secretaries, and staff directors
- Conducted online by LSG June 5-26, 2023

# Summary of Key Findings

- 1 Most senior staffers believe Speaker McCarthy has been **MORE** effective than they initially believed after winning the speakership.
- 2 A majority believe **Democrats** will come out of the debt limit negotiations stronger and also believe the recent debt limit fight will have **no impact** on Congress significantly reforming the debt limit.
- 3 Most believe Congress will **NOT** pass all 12 appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year and an automatic continuing resolution will be triggered.
- 4 A significant number of Democratic lawmakers believe Senator Feinstein **SHOULD** retire before her term ends, but few believe she **WILL** retire before her term ends.
- 5 A plurality believe Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' feud with Disney will **HARM** his chances in a 2024 Republican presidential primary.





# Legislative Issues

# Most believe Speaker McCarthy has been MORE effective than initially believed after winning the speakership

Has Speaker Kevin McCarthy been more or less effective than you initially believed he would be after winning the speakership?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>MORE EFFECTIVE (NET)</b>	<b>85%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>97%</b>
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	8%	15%	1%
LESS EFFECTIVE (NET)	7%	13%	2%



# Republicans believe Speaker McCarthy was most effective in the debt limit debate, while Democrats credit President Biden

Who do you believe has been MOST effective in the negotiations surrounding the debt limit?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>Speaker Kevin McCarthy</b>	<b>49%</b>	21%	<b>78%</b>
<b>President Joe Biden</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>76%</b>	15%
Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell	3%	0%	6%
House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries	2%	4%	1%
Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer	0%	0%	0%



# A majority believe DEMOCRATS will come out of the debt limit negotiations stronger than Republicans

Which party do you believe will come out of the debt limit negotiations stronger?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>The Democratic Party</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>86%</b>	22%
The Republican Party	34%	2%	<b>65%</b>
I don't know	12%	11%	12%

# Most believe the debt limit deal will WEAKEN the Speaker's standing among the GOP's most right-wing members

Do you believe the debt limit deal Kevin McCarthy struck with Joe Biden will strengthen or weaken the Speaker's standing among the Republican Party's most right-wing members?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
STRENGTHEN (NET)	7%	0%	14%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	15%	11%	19%
<b>WEAKEN (NET)</b>	<b>78%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>67%</b>



# A majority believe the recent debt limit fight will have NO IMPACT on Congress significantly reforming or eliminating the debt limit

Do you believe the most recent debt limit fight makes it more or less likely that Congress will significantly reform or eliminate the debt limit?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
MORE LIKELY (NET)	22%	34%	9%
<b>NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>58%</b>
LESS LIKELY (NET)	21%	9%	34%

# Most believe it's more likely that Congress will NOT pass all 12 appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year

Which of the following do you believe is MORE likely to happen?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>Congress will not pass all 12 appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year and an automatic continuing resolution will be triggered</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>76%</b>
Congress will pass all 12 appropriations bills before the end of the fiscal year	16%	15%	17%
I don't know	5%	2%	7%



# It's UNLIKELY that Congress will pass legislation forcing the Supreme Court to adopt a stricter code of ethics

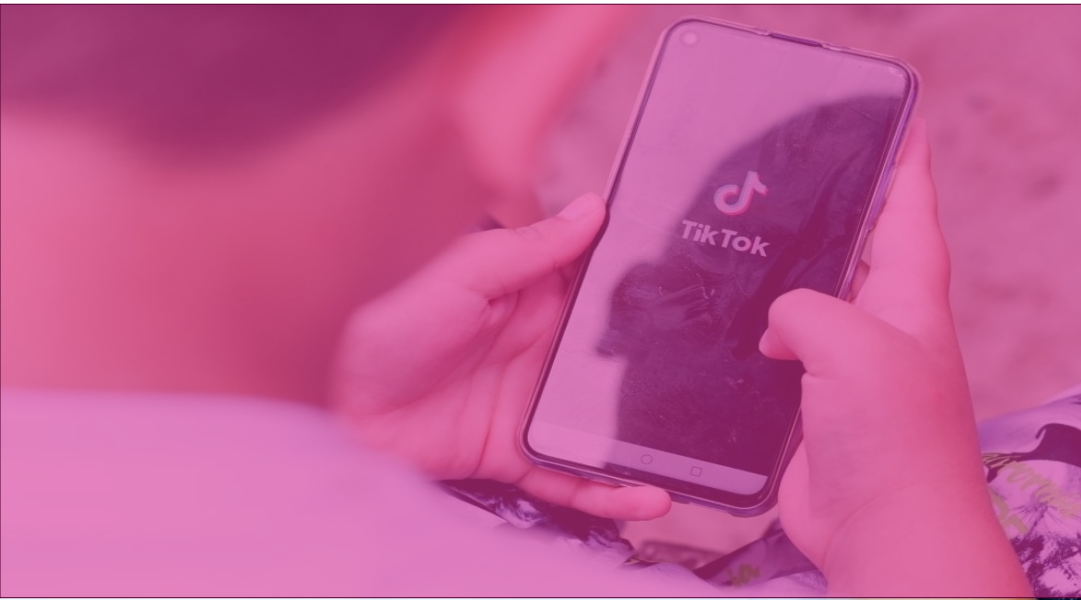
How likely or unlikely is it that this Congress will pass legislation requiring the Supreme Court to adopt a stricter code of ethics or more substantial disclosure requirements?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
LIKELY (NET)	5%	10%	1%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	3%	2%	4%
<b>UNLIKELY (NET)</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>95%</b>



# Support for BANNING TikTok in the United States is much stronger among Republican members than Democratic ones

Does the member of Congress you work for support or oppose the federal government banning TikTok?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>SUPPORT (NET)</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>73%</b>
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	32%	<b>44%</b>	21%
<b>OPPOSE (NET)</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>6%</b>

# Most SUPPORT President Biden's decision to allow Western allies to supply Ukraine with American F-16 fighter jets

Does the member of Congress you work for support or oppose President Biden's decision to allow Western allies to supply Ukraine with American F-16 fighter jets and have American troops train Ukrainian pilots to use them?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>SUPPORT (NET)</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>68%</b>
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	20%	16%	23%
<b>OPPOSE (NET)</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>9%</b>





# Around the Hill

# Few Democratic members believe Sen. Feinstein **SHOULD** serve her full term but nearly half believe she will

Does the member of Congress you work for believe Senator Dianne Feinstein **SHOULD** retire before her term ends or serve the full duration of her term?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Retire before her term ends	31%	38%	25%
Serve the full duration of her term	22%	<b>14%</b>	29%
I don't know	47%	48%	46%

Does the member of Congress you work for believe Senator Dianne Feinstein **WILL** retire before her term ends or serve the full duration of her term?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Retire before her term ends	23%	13%	32%
Serve the full duration of her term	36%	<b>48%</b>	25%
I don't know	41%	39%	49%



# Senior staffers are SPLIT on whether Rep. Santos will resign or serve his full term in Congress

Following Congressman George Santos' felony charges relating to his campaign, what do you believe is the most likely outcome for him?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>He will resign before his term is over.</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>32%</b>
<b>He will serve his full term in Congress.</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>33%</b>
He will be expelled from the House.	13%	8%	17%
He will be censured by the House.	10%	8%	11%
He will be reprimanded by the House.	7%	8%	6%



# A majority believe the sexual abuse/defamation verdict against Trump will have NO impact in the 2024 GOP presidential primary

Do you believe the verdict finding Trump liable for sexual abuse and defamation will help or harm him in the 2024 Republican primary for president?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
HELP (NET)	24%	22%	26%
<b>NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>46%</b>	<b>56%</b>
HARM (NET)	25%	31%	18%



# A plurality of Republicans believe Governor DeSantis' feud with Disney will HELP him in the 2024 Republican primary

Do you believe Florida Governor Ron DeSantis' feud with Disney will help or harm him in the 2024 Republican primary for president?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
HELP (NET)	32%	17%	<b>46%</b>
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	28%	24%	34%
HARM (NET)	<b>39%</b>	<b>59%</b>	20%

# Most believe it is UNLIKELY that any prominent elected Democratic lawmakers will challenge Biden for the 2024 nomination

How likely or unlikely is it that any prominent elected Democratic lawmakers will challenge President Biden for the 2024 Democratic nomination for president now that Biden has announced his reelection?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
LIKELY (NET)	11%	4%	18%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	2%	0%	2%
<b>UNLIKELY (NET)</b>	<b>88%</b>	<b>96%</b>	<b>80%</b>



# Senior House staffers are SPLIT on who is the more effective House leader

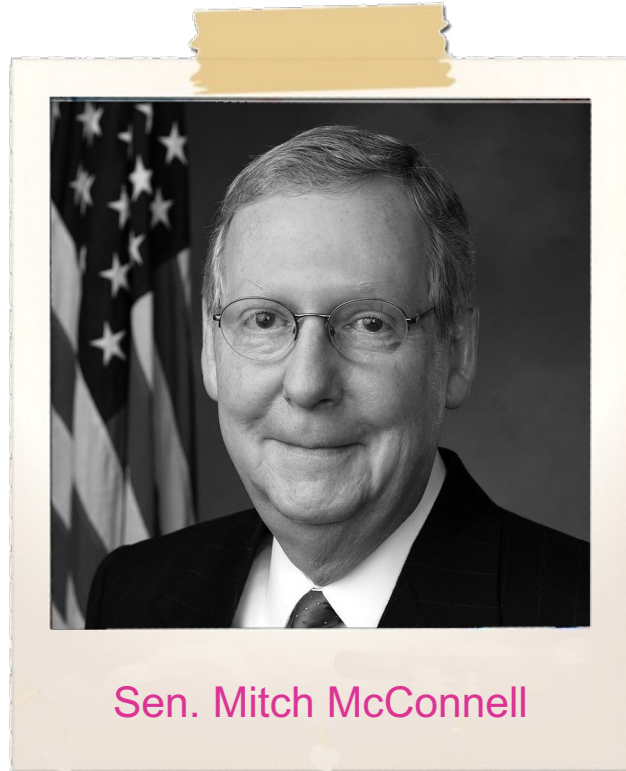
Who do you believe is a MORE effective House leader?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
Hakeem Jeffries	52%	<b>89%</b>	15%
Kevin McCarthy	48%	11%	<b>85%</b>



# Most believe Senator McConnell is a more EFFECTIVE Senate leader than Majority Leader Schumer

Who do you believe is a MORE effective Senate leader?



	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
<b>Mitch McConnell</b>	<b>70%</b>	49%	<b>91%</b>
Chuck Schumer	30%	51%	9%

# A majority believe Rep. McCarthy WILL remain speaker for the entire Congress

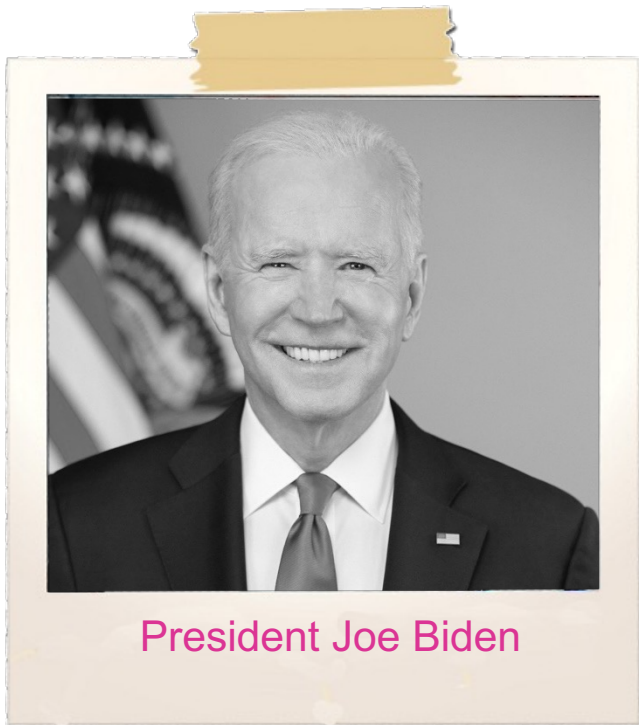
How much longer do you think Kevin McCarthy will remain Speaker of the House?

	TOTAL	DEM	GOP
1-3 months	5%	6%	5%
4-6 months	13%	21%	6%
7-12 months	18%	21%	15%
13-18 months	9%	10%	8%
<b>The entire Congress</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>66%</b>



# 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)

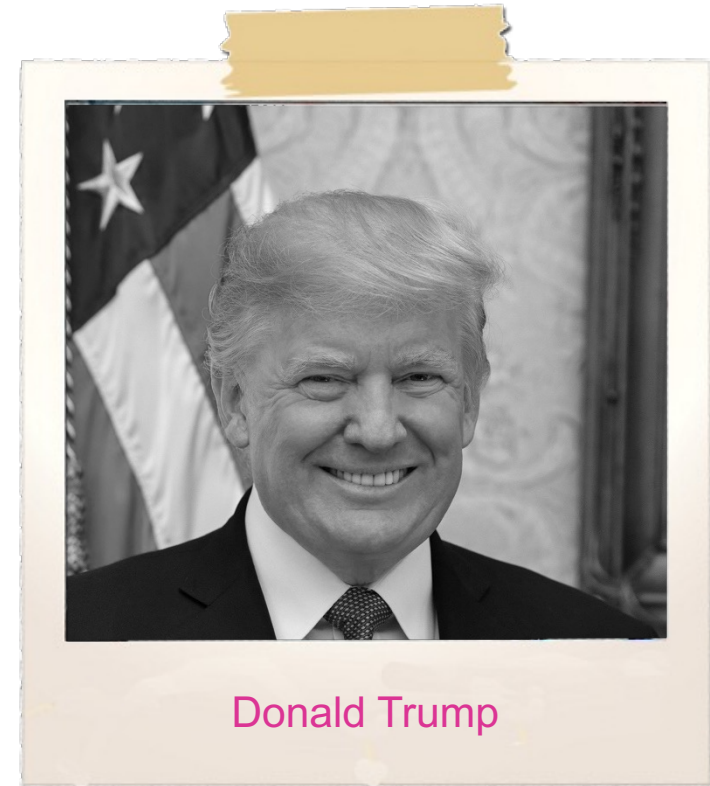


	DEM
<b>AGREE</b>	<b>79%</b>
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	7%
DISAGREE	13%

# Nearly all GOP senior staffers 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	5%
NEITHER/I DON'T KNOW	2%
<b>DISAGREE</b>	<b>93%</b>



# Democrats think Gretchen Whitmer, Kamala Harris, or Pete Buttigieg are most likely to be the Democratic candidate if not Biden

If Biden does not win the Democratic nomination for president, who is most likely to be the party's nominee for president in 2024? (COMBINED CHOICE – TOP TWO) (DEMOCRATS ONLY)



	DEM
<b>Gretchen Whitmer</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Kamala Harris</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Pete Buttigieg</b>	<b>36%</b>
J.B Pritzger	15%
Gavin Newsom	11%
Cory Booker	4%
Roy Cooper	4%
Amy Klobuchar	1%
Kirsten Gillibrand	0%
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	0%
Bernie Sanders	0%
Elizabeth Warren	0%
Robert F. Kennedy Jr	0%
I don't know	24%

# Most Republican senior staffers think Ron DESANTIS is most likely to be the Republican candidate if Trump doesn't win

If former President Trump does not win the GOP nomination for president, who is most likely to be the Republican nominee for president in 2024?  
(COMBINED CHOICE – TOP TWO) (REPUBLICANS ONLY)



	GOP
<b>Ron DeSantis</b>	<b>85%</b>
Tim Scott	59%
Nikki Haley	17%
Glenn Youngkin	16%
Mike Pence	12%
Chris Christie	6%
Tucker Carlson	2%
Kristi Noem	1%
Vivek Ramaswamy	1%
Liz Chaney	0%
Asa Hutchinson	0%
Mike Pompeo	0%
Kim Reynolds	0%
Mark Cuban	0%
I don't know	1%

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