

The Canvass continued surveying Capitol Hill senior staffers and K Street senior leaders about the key issues driving Washington. From legislative priorities to election forecasting, this survey focused on some of the biggest issues confronting Congress and the nation. What follows are our top five takeaways from The Canvass 2024.

**1**

## Despite perceived Democratic momentum after Joe Biden dropped out of the 2024 election, **Donald Trump DEFIED expectations** in Washington once again.

- Back in January, **nearly 80% of GOP K Street respondents** and **66% of GOP Capitol Hill senior staffers** believed Trump was **NOT** the party's strongest choice. However, following the first assassination attempt and a Trump-dominated primary, Republicans briefly rallied around him.
- Once Kamala Harris emerged as the Democratic nominee, both Capitol Hill and K Street leaders **doubted Trump** and **believed Harris would go on** to win.



**2**

## The Canvass demonstrated **PREDICTIVE insight** on key congressional developments in 2024.

- Most Capitol Hill senior staffers (**59%**) believed 2024 would be **Sen. Mitch McConnell's final year** as Senate Republican leader and accurately predicted **Sen. John Thune** would succeed Sen. Mitch McConnell as Senate Majority Leader.
- The Canvass respondents also anticipated the GOP's Senate takeover, with the overwhelming majority consistently predicting **Republicans** would take control of the chamber throughout 2024.



**3**

## Canvass respondents understood that **economic issues DOMINATED voter concerns**, which hurt Democrats in the 2024 election.

- In The Canvass Capitol Hill, senior staffers reported they believed inflation and the rising cost of living (**71%**) and the economy (**61%**) would be the issues **MOST** important to voters in the 2024 election.
- Most K Street leaders believed grocery and food prices (**95%**), housing and rental costs (**71%**), and gas prices (**58%**) would be the **MOST important economic issues** to voters in the 2024 election.



**4**

## As foreign policy took center stage, The Canvass **ACCURATELY predicted** that funding for Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan would pass Congress this year.

- In March, most K Street leaders (**57%**) believed that Congress was **MOST** likely to pass additional funding for Israel (**81%**), the Pentagon (**71%**), Ukraine (**68%**), and Taiwan (**61%**) in 2024.
- Heading into 2025, foreign aid and national security remain central to the legislative agenda, as most (**68%**) Capitol Hill senior staffers believe the incoming administration will have **MORE** influence over Israel.



**5**

## There is hope for a **MORE productive Congress** next session.

- The Canvass respondents have expressed cautious optimism for the incoming 119th Congress, with most (**64%**) of K Street leaders believing it will be **MORE** productive than its predecessor.
- Similarly, **72%** of Capitol Hill senior staffers surveyed in November just after the election said the next Congress will be **MORE** productive.



## METHODOLOGY

- **The Canvass Capitol Hill:** Survey of Capitol Hill chiefs of staff, legislative directors, communications directors, press secretaries, and staff directors conducted online by LSG in February, April, June, September, and November 2024
- **The Canvass K Street:** Survey of senior K Street leaders from across the corporate, lobbying, trade association, non-profit, and think tank industries conducted online by LSG in January, March, May, July, and October 2024
- **The Canvass RNC and DNC Editions:** Surveys of Capitol Hill senior staffers and K Street leaders on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday night of the RNC (July 16-18, 2024) and DNC (Aug. 20-22, 2024)

