

# [***Trump Opens Largest-Ever Lead In New York Times Polling***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BG2-TR91-DXVP-5005-00000-00&context=1516831)

Forbes.com

March 2, 2024 Saturday

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**Length:** 661 words

**Byline:** James Farrell, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** New polling data suggests both Biden and Trump are unpopular but Trump is edging out Biden.

**Body**

**Topline**

A new New York Times/Siena College poll released Saturday has former President Donald Trump leading President Joe Biden 48% to 43%, representing thelargest leadthat Trump has ever held in either a New York Times/Siena or New York Times/CBS poll since he launched his first presidential campaign in 2015.

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FILE - Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally Feb. 23, 2024, in Rock Hill, S.C. (AP Photo/Chris Carlson)

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**Key Facts**

The poll also found that 47% of voters strongly disapprove of Biden s handling of the presidency higher than any other Times/Siena poll since his presidency began, the New York Timesreported.

The New York Times highlighted several emerging weaknesses for Biden and Democrats, particularly an erosion in support among working class voters of color who did not attend college Biden amassed 72% of those voters in 2020, but today s poll showed Biden leading Trump only slightly in this category with 47% support.

The numbers paint a picture of an election led by two unpopular candidates while Biden has only a 38% favorability rating, Trump s approval numbers are also weak at 44%.

According to the New York Times, 19% of voters said they disapproved of both nominees, and Biden leads among those voters 45% to 33%, though the Times Nate Cohn notesthat Biden led this category by a three-to-one margin in 2020.

It s one of several recent polls that haveflaggedsome weaknesses for Biden, with aHarrisX/Forbes pollshowing Trump with a 46% to 42% edge Real Clear ***Politics*** pollingaverage shows Trump with a roughly 2% lead over Biden in a 2024 general election.

**Key Background**

The New York Times/Siena poll is considered the most reliable poll in the country, according to aranking by FiveThirtyEight. The poll was conducted between Feb. 25 and 28 and gauged the opinions of 980 registered voters. It comes as Biden is facing headwinds on multiple fronts:concernsabout his old age, particularly after a controversial special counselreport questioned his memory earlier this month, as well ascriticism from within his own party over his handling of the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and mounting pressure from Republicans over his handling of a surge of migrants crossing the southern border. Still, Trump has significant vulnerabilities, most notably dozens of criminal charges across four different cases that are still pending, a pair of damagingcivil rulings making him liable for hundreds of millions of dollars in damages and a recent surge in campaign spending to coverlegal costs.A January Bloomberg/Morning Consultpollfound 53% of voters including 23% of Republicans in seven key swing states would rule out voting for Trump if he were convicted.

**Contra**

In a statement to Forbes, Biden campaign spokesperson Michael Tyler said: Polling continues to be at odds with how Americans vote, and consistently overestimates Donald Trump while underestimating President Biden." He argued that in special elections and presidential primaries, voter behavior has suggested that Biden is outperforming while Trump is underforming. Our campaign is ignoring the noise and running a strong campaign to win - just like we did in 2020, Tyler said. The campaign argues early primaries have shown strong support for the president including amassing 60% of the vote total in New Hampshire, where he was not even listed on the ballot and that Democrats running on Biden s agenda have consistently performed well in special elections, 2023 off-year elections and 2022 midterms.

**Chief Critics**

Others echoed that view Jim Messina, former President Barack Obama s campaign manager in 2012,tweetedthat Trump fared below polling numbers in the New Hampshire, South Carolina and Michigan primaries. NYT chases headlines while ignoring what s happening, Messina wrote. Best predictor of elections = how voters vote.

**Further Reading**

**Load-Date:** March 3, 2024

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