

# [***Donald Trump Has a Suburban Problem***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6BMR-J711-JBR6-9003-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 620 words

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**Highlight:** Trump is struggling to connect with suburban voters, according to a top political scientist.

**Body**

Donald Trump is "alienating to large swathes of suburbia," according to a prominent political scientist speaking after the presumptive [*Republican*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/republican?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) presidential nominee performed poorly in a number of suburban areas during his GOP primary campaign.

On March 12, Trump established himself as the presumptive Republican presidential candidate for 2024 with a [*string of primary victories*](https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-georgia-republican-primary-nikki-haley-wins-thousands-votes-1878608?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) which gave him enough declared delegates to formally clinch the GOP nomination at the party's national convention in July.

He [*secured further primary victories*](https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-gop-primary-voters-nikki-haley-1881155?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) on March 19 in Florida, Ohio, Arizona, Illinois and Kansas. However, in a warning sign for Trump, he lost more than 500,000 votes to [*Nikki Haley*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/nikki-haley?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), the former South Carolina governor who had already dropped out of the race and is currently declining to say whether she will [*endorse the presumptive nominee.*](https://www.newsweek.com/if-nikki-haley-withholds-endorsement-donald-trump-she-could-do-real-damage-1876229?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)

During the primaries, Trump struggled in a number of firmly suburban areas, traditional Republican strongholds which have been drifting away from the party in recent years.

In Arizona's Maricopa County, which includes the state capital Phoenix, Trump won 77 percent of the GOP primary vote against 20 percent for Haley and two percent for Florida Governor [*Ron DeSantis*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/ron-desantis?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), both of whom had already dropped out of the race.

Similarly in Franklin County, Ohio, containing the state capital Columbus, Trump got 70 percent of the vote with Haley once again picking up 20 percent.

For the largely suburban DuPage County in Illinois, just to the west of Chicago, Trump got 72 percent of the vote against 22 percent for Haley.

Reacting to preliminary results from these three counties on X, formerly [*Twitter*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/twitter?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships), [*ABC*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/abc?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) News data analyst G. Elliott Morris posted: "Look, I'm not one to read too much into the voting patterns of the GOP primary; Trump is going to win something like 90-95 percent of Republican voters come November. But even if 10 percent of these suburban Haley voters don't turn out for him or vote Biden in Nov, that could be the difference."

These concerns were echoed by Thomas Gift, a political scientist who heads the Centre on U.S. ***Politics*** at University College London, in comments provided to *Newsweek*.

He said: "Trump is doubtlessly alienating to large swathes of suburbia, which tend have higher concentrations of wealthier and college-educated voters that have broadly turned away from the GOP.

"Trump's insistence on base mobilization at the expense of trying to widen his circle of support leads to a ceiling in his approvals that's most pronounced among upscale, suburban moderates."

Gift argued this is the continuation of broader electoral trends which have made the [*Democrats*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/democrats?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships) more attractive to white-collar workers in recent years.

Describing Trump's low suburban support, he said: "This is partially reflective of a broader realignment in American ***politics*** that's seen the GOP become the party of the working class, while skilled, white-collar professionals gravitate increasingly to the [*Democratic Party*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/democratic-party?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)."

A similar point was made by Brent Peabody, a Harvard Kennedy School graduate student and social media commentator, in response to early results from Ohio which put Trump on 72.6 percent versus 21.4 percent for Haley.

He posted: "Wow—Trump only pulling 72 percent in the Ohio primary. Support softest in 3C (Columbus, Cincinnati, Cleveland) suburbs. Huge opening for Dems."

Trump's performance in the Ohio primary had improved somewhat when the final result came in, which put him on 79.2 percent versus 14.4 percent for Haley, though he still performed relatively poorly in the counties containing Columbus, Cincinnati and Cleveland.

*Newsweek* has contacted representatives of [*Donald Trump*](https://www.newsweek.com/topic/donald-trump?utm_source=Synacor&utm_medium=Attnet&utm_campaign=Partnerships)'s 2024 presidential election campaign for comment by email.

[*Link to Image*](https://d.newsweek.com/en/full/2366306/former-president-donald-trump.jpg)

**Graphic**

Former president Donald Trump

Scott Olson/GETTY

Republican presidential candidate former President Donald Trump speaking to supporters during a rally at the Dayton International Airport on March 16, 2024 in Vandalia, Ohio. Trump is is “alienating to large swathes of suburbia” according to a leading political scientist.

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