

# Summary Findings of 2021 Our Revolution Supporters Survey

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## **Our Revolution and Changing American Politics**

The Bernie Sanders campaign of 2016 changed the entire tenor Democratic Party and progressive politics in America. Given virtually no chance of winning the Democratic nomination by the pundits and political analysts, Sanders inspired and mobilized millions of people on his behalf, garnering more than \$180,000,000 with an average contribution of \$27.

Even though Sanders failed to get the Democratic nomination, his campaign's priorities (\$15/hour minimum wage, single-payer health care, reducing inequality through taxes and structural reform, free college tuition) became mainstream concerns within the party. The energy and enthusiasm of the campaign was transferred to Our Revolution, a mass-membership organization devoted to progressive candidates and policies, which formed in August 2016.

OR has continued to play an important role in American politics, endorsing progressive candidates in primaries and general elections, advocating for progressive policies, and pursuing ballot referenda throughout the country. Our Revolution has shown showing a willingness to support progressive candidates even against entrenched Democratic incumbents like Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez against Democratic Caucus Chair Joseph Crowley, and Cori Bush against 10-term incumbent Lacy Clay. It represents an important part of the progressive movement in the US and within the Democratic Party. It is, however, clearly distinct from the Democratic Party, prioritizing a coherent progressive policy agenda over partisan goals. This makes it an especially interesting group to examine to gain insight into current American politics.

Below we summarize key findings from a survey of over 2200 supporters of OR we collected over email from August-October 2021. We asked supporters many different questions, gauging opinions on current policy debates and political figures, their beliefs about the political system, and what they do to be involved politically. The full report can be accessed [here](#).

### **Key Findings**

#### Partisanship and Ideology

- Our Revolution supporters consistently reject the Republican candidates for federal office. Less than 2% voted Republican for President in either 2016 or 2020
- Our Revolution supporters are not, however, uniformly Democratic Party supporters. Although almost none identify with the Republican Party, 16% identify with a party other than the Democrats, and another 5% are pure independents (leaning towards neither party).
- Ideologically, Our Revolution supporters are very left leaning. On a 1 to 7 scale with 1 “Very Left” and 7 “Very Right, they individually place themselves at an average of 1.77—far to the left of the Democratic Party (which they place in the center at 4) and even to the left of their placement of Our Revolution.
- Our Revolution supporters are also on the left across a wide range of issues. Over 86% of respondents favored raising taxes on those making over \$250,000, establishing a single-payer health plan, banning new oil and gas drilling, eliminating the production of new gasoline powered cars after 2035, spending money on infrastructure even if it added larger deficits, and ending cash bail.
- The top issue priorities for Our Revolution supporters were climate, voting rights, healthcare, and income inequality. They believe progressive groups share their priorities to a much greater

degree than the Democratic Party or President Biden. Only about a third of OR respondents thought the Democratic Party or Biden shared their top priority while more than 60% felt that other progressive groups did.

- There was also significant skepticism about Biden's issue positions. On most issue areas, majorities of respondents reported agreeing with Biden's positions 50% or less.

#### Campaign Activity and OR Organizational Activity

- Seventy percent of Our Revolution supporters favored Sanders for the 2020 nomination, and half of the rest supported Warren
- Sanders supporters were far more active for their candidate than were supporters of other candidates.
- There was significant drop-off in campaign activity between the primaries and the general election in 2020.
- OR respondents reported high levels of involvement in the organization beyond involvement in elections or work on behalf of Bernie Sanders's campaigns.
- Almost 90% of respondents reported doing at least one OR organizational activity and more than three quarters did something beyond simply reading the Revolution Report.
- Organizational activity was significantly related to primary activity for Sanders, but not to activity for any other nomination candidate.
- Organizational identification was not related to activity for Biden-Harris.
- Perceived policy program distance from the Democratic Party (and from Biden), socialist identification, and low identification with the Democratic Party depressed activity for Biden-Harris, while agreement with Democratic Party and Biden priorities enhanced activity.

#### Evaluations of Political Figures

- Bernie Sanders was the most favorably evaluated of the figures we presented, but AOC, Nina Turner, and Elizabeth Warren were grouped just below.
- Obama, Biden, Harris, and Pelosi were grouped together significantly below these although viewed favorably.
- Evaluations of Democratic figures are two dimensional—a progressive dimension and an establishment Democrat dimension.
- Only Elizabeth Warren evaluation is significantly related to both dimensions.