# Midterms

Sorry couldn’t sort these into aff and neg

## Dems Good DA

#### The polls are neck-and-neck – Democrats are poised to pull ahead now

Kyle Morris 7/13 [Morris is a political reporter, 7/13/22, “Shock Poll: Democrats closing gap with Republicans ahead of midterm elections,” <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/shock-poll-democrats-closing-gap-republicans-ahead-midterm-elections>] //mh

A new poll has found that Democrats and Republicans are neck and neck in the upcoming midterm elections, with Democrats citing gun violence as their number one concern even as the economy continues to tumble.

The Siena College Research Institute poll, conducted on behalf of the New York Times between July 5 and 7 among 849 registered voters, found the race to control Congress is tight, with voters preferring Democrats to Republicans by just one percentage point, 41%-40%. Nineteen percent of respondents remain undecided.

However, among likely voters, the Times noted that 44% favored Republicans while 43% expressed support for Democrats in congressional races.

While Republicans place significant focus on the economy ahead of the midterm elections, with 29% labeling it as the "most important problem" facing America today, Democrats who took part in the poll believe there are higher priorities.

Only 13% of Democrats labeled the economy as the most pressing crisis in the U.S., compared to the 17% who insisted gun policies are the most important concern. As for inflation and the cost of living, 26% of Republicans and 10% of Democrats listed it as the number one issue.

The poll also found an overwhelming 77% of those surveyed believe the nation is headed in the "wrong direction." Among party lines, 89% of Republicans believe the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction, compared to 63% of Democrats. Ten percent said they are unsure or do not have an opinion.

Of those that took part in the poll, 87% of Republicans stated they are almost certain or very likely to vote in the November general election, compared to 90% of Democrats.

Inflation accelerated more than expected to a new four-decade high in June as the price of everyday necessities remains painfully high, exacerbating a financial strain for millions of Americans and worsening a political crisis for President Biden.

The Labor Department announced Wednesday that the consumer price index, a broad measure of the price for everyday goods, including gasoline, groceries and rents, rose 9.1% in June from a year ago — the highest inflation recorded in over 40 years. Prices jumped 1.3% in the one-month period from May. Those figures were both far higher than the 8.8% headline figure and 1% monthly gain forecast by Refinitiv economists.

#### Trump will cost Republicans the midterms – his forthcoming presidential run and continuous presence in politics will turn swing states blue

Kelsey Vlamis 7/24 [Kelsey is a breaking news reporter for Insider, 7/24/22, “Gov. Larry Hogan said if Trump announces a 2024 run before the midterms GOP governors worry it will 'cost us seats',” <https://www.businessinsider.com/gop-governors-worry-trump-2024-run-cost-them-midterms-hogan-2022-7>] //mh

Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said he and other Republicans are worried about how the party's chances in the midterms could be impacted by former President Donald Trump announcing a 2024 run before election day.

"We had discussions about that at the Republican Governors Association last week," Hogan said during an interview with ABC's "This Week" on Sunday.

"I think most people are very concerned about the damage it does to the party if he announces now," Hogan, who has frequently criticized Trump, said. "And it may help in very red states or very red districts. But in competitive places and purple battlefields, it's going to cost us seats if he were to do that."

Trump has not announced whether or not he will run for president in 2024, but he has repeatedly teased a run, telling his supporters they'll be "very happy" with his decision. Recent reports have suggested he could announce as early as September. But some in the GOP, including his allies, worry it could derail the party's midterms messaging, which has largely consisted of attacks against President Joe Biden and a focus on high inflation and gas prices.

Hogan pointed to prior losses for Republicans that occurred under Trump: "Trump already lost us the White House, the Senate, the House, now he's costing us governor seats and Senate seats."

He also said he was "50/50" on whether or not Trump would actually run again.

"His ego probably can't take another loss. After all, he lost to Joe Biden, which is hard to do. But he likes to be the center of attention," he said.

Hogan, a GOP governor in a blue state, could not run for reelection this fall due to term limits in Maryland. The candidate he endorsed, moderate Republican Kelly Schultz. was defeated in the primary by Trump-endorsed Dan Cox. Hogan said Sunday he thinks there's no chance Cox can win.

#### Dems gaining momentum with women – they’re key

Kaitlin Lewis, 7-18-2022, "As midterm fears mount, Democrats seek to rally on women's issues to win," Newsweek, [https://www.newsweek.com/midterm-fears-mount-democrats-seek-rally-womens-issues-win-1725717 //](https://www.newsweek.com/midterm-fears-mount-democrats-seek-rally-womens-issues-win-1725717%20//) gbs

Hours after the Supreme Court overturned the federal protection for abortion in June, President Joe Biden addressed the nation with a clear statement: "Roe is on the ballot this November." That message has been a focus point for the Democratic Party heading into midterm elections at a time when Biden faces historically-low approval ratings, even among supporters, sinking to 36% in July according to a poll conducted by CNBC. But in the wake of overturning Roe, the issues of abortion access and women's health have been pushed to the top of voters' issue lists, offering Democrats a ray of hope for beating their Republican opponents in key state elections in November. A poll conducted by the The Associated Press and the NORC Center for Public Affairs Research at the University of Chicago (AP-NORC) in the days following the Dobbs vs. Jackson case, in which the Court ended the federal protection for abortion, found that 22% of voters label abortion or women's rights as a top-priority issue for this year's election, nearly triple the percentage the same study found in December 2021. And a report from the Kaiser Family Foundation on June 9, a few weeks before the decision was handed down, found that 25% of women voters ages 18 to 49 say they would be motivated this fall to only support a candidate who wants to protect access to abortion. One expert told Newsweek there is a simple formula for gender politics in an election year. "In general, the strategy for Democrats in a tight year is: win women by more than you lose men by," said Celinda Lake, a leading political strategist in the DNC. According to the Center for American Women and Politics (CAWP), women voters have turned out in higher numbers than men since the 1980s, including in midterm elections, and are more likely to vote for Democratic candidates. In 2020, women outvoted men 68.4% to 65%. But even with an increased focus on women's health, abortion access still falls behind other voter issues approaching the midterms. A New York Times/Siena College poll conducted in early July found that abortion and women's rights were listed as the sixth-highest problem facing the country today, trailing the economy, inflation and gun policies. However, Lake told Newsweek that women voters could still prove to be valuable for the DNC, given that inflation typically impacts their market baskets differently than men. For example, women are more likely to look for support this fall for the rising cost of healthcare, groceries and education – issues on which voters typically trust Democrats more than Republicans. "Men think it's a good day when the government hasn't done anything bad to you," Lake said. "Women think that they and their families might need a safety net program at some time. Many men think, 'I can handle that on my own; I can take care of my family.'" "That's the area of tackling inflation where Democrats have the biggest advantage," Lake added.

#### Trump’s gains don’t apply to the Senate races.

Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas 7-18 Director of Research at UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative, “Latino voters will play pivotal role in 2022 U.S. Senate races”, UCLA Newsroom, [https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/latino-voters-and-2022-midterms //](https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/latino-voters-and-2022-midterms%20//) gbs

Republican inroads with Latino voters: A larger trend? The authors’ analysis shows that Democratic candidates for the Senate outperformed Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden with Latino voters in 2020 in four of the five states analyzed, excluding Texas. Georgia’s hotly contested 2021 Senate runoff elections saw the largest gap, with Democratic Senate candidates outpacing Biden among Latinos by more than 10 percentage points. The report also shows that in Arizona, Colorado and New Mexico, between 2% and 3% of Latinos voted for Donald Trump while voting for the Democratic Senate candidate. Overall, Trump improved his margin with Latino voters between the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, but the data show no evidence of a generalized drop in Latino backing for Democratic candidates in 2020. The authors noted that Trump’s biggest gains were limited regionally to areas of Florida and Texas and emphasized the current report’s findings of strong support among Latinos for Democratic Senate candidates. Still, Latino swing voters could be a decisive factor in some close Senate races, they noted, particularly with the continued rapid growth of the Latino electorate. Between 2016 and 2020, the number of Latino voters who cast ballots increased by almost 31%, nearly double the nationwide 15.9% growth in ballots cast between those four years, said Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas, the institute’s research director and one of the report’s authors. “Our research continues to show the growing power of Latino voters,” Dominguez-Villegas said. “With a million Latinos coming of voting age every year, the Latino electorate will play a pivotal role in the 2022 midterms and beyond.”

## GOP Good DA

### 1NC – UQ – General

#### GOP wins now – momentum

Blake Hounshell 7/19 [Hounshell is the editor of the NYT On Politics newsletter and a writer for the NYT, 7/19/22, “The Midterm Races That Give Democrats Nightmares,” <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/07/19/us/politics/secretary-of-state-races-trump.html>] //mh

Professional Democrats have many fears about the 2022 midterm elections that keep them up at night.

Chief among them: losing Congress and handing over investigative powers and the ability to set the Washington agenda to Kevin McCarthy and Mitch McConnell. Granting Republicans full control over states where abortion remains contested. Seeing President Biden turned prematurely into a lame duck.

Somewhere near the top of that list is the concern that voters will elect Donald Trump’s preferred candidates to the office of secretary of state, a job that in many states plays a critical role in safeguarding the right to vote, while also ensuring the smooth operation and fairness of the electoral system.

To put it plainly, the widespread worry on the left is that Trump’s loyalists will guarantee his re-election in 2024 if they take power in 2022. It’s not something either Trump or these candidates labor especially hard to rebut.

Secretary of state is not a glamorous gig, generally speaking; it’s primarily an administrative job, and tends to attract little attention from the public and press. That changed significantly in battleground states after the Trump-fueled election chaos in 2020, and now money and attention are pouring into secretary of state races — not least because the former president has made it his mission to elect Republican candidates who back his conspiracy theories.

It’s easy to tell what Trump wants: total fealty. It’s often far harder to figure out what voters want.

Enter a new poll of five swing states — Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Minnesota and Nevada — that was shared with The New York Times in advance of its publication. The survey, which polled 1,400 people who are likely to vote in November, was conducted by David Binder Research on behalf of iVote, a group that backs Democrats in secretary of state races.

Interpreting the findings, which focus not on candidates but on voters’ views about what they think is important in a secretary of state, is a tricky business.

The poll found that 82 percent of likely voters rated “accurately tabulating votes in elections and certifying results” as an extremely important responsibility. Additionally, 67 percent said they would be much more likely to support a candidate “who will prioritize options for all voters and making sure every vote is counted.”

But as is often the case with voters, they are giving us conflicting signals. Fifty-nine percent said they would be much more likely to support a candidate “who says the top priority is to ensure fair elections and make sure that only eligible voters are casting ballots.” That sounds a lot more like what many Republican candidates are saying.

In one indication of just how much traction Trump’s claims still hold over the G.O.P. base, 72 percent of voters who picked Trump in 2020 said the election had been stolen from him. That’s about a third of all voters.

Key Themes From the 2022 Midterm Elections So Far

The state of the midterms. We are now over halfway through this year’s midterm primary season, and some key ideas and questions have begun to emerge from the results. Here’s a look at what we’ve learned so far:

A surprisingly tight race. Despite President Biden’s low approval ratings, Democrats are roughly tied with Republicans among voters ahead of the midterm elections. According to a New York Times/Siena College poll, 41 percent of registered voters said they preferred Democrats to control Congress compared with 40 percent who preferred Republicans.

Trump’s waning influence? While former President Donald J. Trump’s endorsements have helped propel some candidates to primary victories, he’s also had notable defeats. The losses have emboldened Mr. Trump’s rivals, who see an opening for a post-Trump candidate in 2024, and a recent poll found that half of G.O.P. voters are ready to leave Mr. Trump behind.

Democrats’ risky bet. As Democratic leaders warn loudly of right-wing threats to democracy, their campaign arms have been attempting to influence Republicans primaries in hopes of elevating far-right candidates that they believe will be easier to beat in the fall. The governor’s race in Illinois is the most expensive example yet of this high-risk strategy.

Election deniers rise. Republican voters have nominated several candidates who have spread falsehoods about the 2020 election and sowed distrust in American democracy, and who are now vying for offices that will hold significant sway over the 2024 presidential election. But in places like Colorado, election denialism has its limits.

### 2NC – UQ – Smear Campaign

#### A smear campaign against Democrats guarantees a Republican win

Jon Raasch 7/20 [Raasch is a journalist and producer for Fox News, 7/20/22, “Midterms because of these key issues, GOP Leader McCarthy says,” <https://news.yahoo.com/republicans-back-house-midterms-because-153854797.html>] //mh

Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy said his party will retake the House this fall because of their stance on inflation, immigration and other key issues that he shared exclusively with Fox News Digital.

"The Democrats have failed the American public," McCarthy said. "I think the extremism on the Democratic side has pushed people away."

Roughly 1.7 million Americans have changed their party affiliation over the past 12 months, and more than one million U.S. voters have switched their party affiliation to the GOP, according to an analysis from the Associated Press. Two-thirds of those have gone to the GOP, while just 630,000 have switched to the Democratic Party, according to the report.

McCarthy said voters "want to see a party that puts people before politics, and that's exactly what the Republican Party is doing."

McCarthy added that the Democrats' approach to key issues such as inflation, energy independence, immigration and crime has failed.

"With the highest inflation we've had in more than 40 years … gas prices that you have never seen like this before, crime in our streets and a border that's wide open that now has fentanyl to be the number one killer of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45," McCarthy said. "If we take the majority, we will make sure we lower the cost of energy and become energy independent, we secure our streets to be safe and then, more importantly, we secure our border at the same time."

Highlighting the success of the Republican's agenda, McCarthy referenced Myra Flores, who recently won in a Texas special election in a historically Democrat-held seat.

"Congresswoman Myra Flores, who's never run for office before, she proved she could do it based upon securing our border, based upon making America energy independent, so your gasoline price gets lower, we lower inflation, parents have a say in their kid's education, the streets become safe again with that type of idea that we can win in a seat like that, I think we can have a really, really big red wave," McCarthy told Fox News.

### 2NC – UQ Doesn’t Overwhelm

#### The midterms are a wash for Democrats – Biden’s failures guarantee a loss

Charlie Cook 7/21 [Cook is an American political analyst who specializes in election forecasts and political trends, 7/21/22, “What Could Save Democrats From a Midterm Catastrophe?,” <https://www.cookpolitical.com/analysis/national/national-politics/what-could-save-democrats-midterm-catastrophe>] //mh

At a time when very little if anything is “normal” about American politics, we have come to expect the unexpected. While the House looks very, very likely to flip into Republican hands and the Senate more likely than not, what kind of event might keep at least one if not both chambers in Democratic control?

Democrats fervently hope that the reversal of Roe v. Wade, gun legislation, and the findings of the Jan. 6 committee (or some combination thereof) might galvanize their voters enough to retain at least one chamber. But data suggests that even a combination of all three is unlikely to be the antidote for their problems.

The public is exhibiting an incredibly high level of pessimism about the direction of the country thanks in part to a variety of economic indicators that are all flashing red. Inflation is running at its highest rate in more than 40 years, the National Association of Realtors reported in May that the ability of buyers to afford a home hit its lowest levels since 2006, and over half of Americans and a majority of economists are bracing for a recession in the next year or 18 months.

With those factors, along with the inability of President Biden and congressional Democrats to even remotely deliver on all they promised, there is plenty to be pessimistic about for Democrats. Midterm elections are basically report cards halfway through a president’s term, an opportunity for voters to choose between “stay the course” or “time for a change.” History shows their proclivity is to opt for a midcourse correction, if not a total reversal of what happened two years earlier. Setbacks from bad elections have enormous consequences. The composition of the U.S. Supreme Court is a prime example of that, but there are other potentially grave consequences—more on that later.

### 2NC – Latino Voters

#### Republicans winning Latino voters now

Will Weissert 3/11 and Adriana Gomez Licon, “Texas results hint GOP Hispanic gains may endure post-Trump”, Associated Press, <https://apnews.com/article/2022-midterm-elections-immigration-texas-mexico-donald-trump-2175dfb6a6678b3f266d7780147b269e> //gbs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just 46 residents of Starr County, Texas, cast ballots in the state’s Republican primary two years ago. But last week, nearly 1,100 Republicans voted in the sparsely populated county that hugs the Mexican border. A similar surge in Republican turnout unfolded across South Texas, a longtime Democratic stronghold dominated by Latino voters. In five U.S.-Mexico border counties, nearly 30,000 people voted in the GOP primary, an increase of more than 25% in participation from 2020. The Texas primary, which ushered in the 2022 midterms, is emerging as an urgent warning for Democrats who are clinging to narrow majorities in Congress. The drift of Latino support toward Republicans that surfaced while former President Donald Trump was in office may prove to be a more enduring political trend that could force Democrats to reassess how they win elections. The reverberations are being felt far beyond Texas. In South Florida, where Democrats were caught off guard by losing two House seats in 2020 that they’d flipped the previous cycle, some say the party must intensify on-the-ground operations that were largely suspended during the pandemic. Perhaps more fundamentally, they say, Democrats must do more to listen to the priorities of Latino voters and make fewer assumptions about their support. “It plays to this elitist branding that the Democratic Party is trying so hard to shake,” said Devon Murphy-Anderson, the Florida Democratic Party’s former finance director. “You can’t do that when you’re pointing the finger at somebody and saying, ‘We know what’s best for you, and it’s our candidate.’” Murphy-Anderson, is co-founder of Mi Vecino, a Florida Democratic advocacy group that plans to spend at least $2.3 million in the midterm cycle and register a minimum of 30,000 new voters in heavily Hispanic areas. Overall, Latinos still support Democrats by wide margins. Biden carried them in 2020, 59% to 38%, but that was 17 percentage points lower than Hillary Clinton’s 2016 margin, according to Pew Research Center data. Kellyanne Conway, a Trump adviser and his 2016 campaign manager, said she presented data on GOP inroads with Hispanic voters during last weekend’s Republican National Committee retreat. “The left just sees them as immigration voters,” Conway said of Hispanic voters. By contrast, she said, Trump has helped Republicans win over Hispanics on issues including job creation, education and traditional religious beliefs: “We connected with them intellectually, economically and spiritually.” Abel Prado, executive director of the Democratic advocacy group Cambio Texas in the Rio Grande Valley, acknowledged that Republicans have intensified candidate recruitment efforts that may have contributed to small gains in primary participation. But “when you look at the raw votes, we’re still outvoting them 3-to-1.” Prado also said Republican efforts could backfire, ultimately energizing local Democrats. “Hopefully the bad headlines do encourage candidates to invest way more heavily in the Rio Grande Valley,” he said. “Republicans are throwing money at the Valley without any remorse. You don’t see the same thing from Democrats.” Mayra Flores, who won the Republican nomination for an open South Texas congressional seat last week, said former president Donald Trump “played a huge role” in energizing Latinos in part by labeling Democrats as socialists. Still, she said the party’s gains aren’t dependent on him being on the ballot — as last week’s turnout shows. She said she personally connected with voters. “They’re finally seeing a Republican that looks like them, that has a similar story to them and shares their values,” Flores, who was born in Mexico and immigrated to the U.S. at age 6, said of voters in her district, which includes the border city of Brownsville. “I think that’s very important.” Improving Republican primary turnout in GOP primaries could buck decades of Democratic suggestions that Texas’ booming Hispanic population would eventually flip America’s largest Republican state. A ballooning Hispanic community, after all, helped transform once GOP-leaning California into the nation’s biggest blue state in the 1990s. Flores voted for Barack Obama in 2008, but later became a Republican, after becoming more politically engaged and deciding that the party better represented her community’s traditional family and religious values. She later worked as a Hispanic organizer for Trump’s 2020 campaign, trying to woo voters who had long voted Democratic more out of habit than political conviction. “Unfortunately, most of the people did not know who they were voting for,” Flores said of longtime South Texas Democrats she’s now looking to flip in her own race. Flores said the National Republican Campaign Committee has pledged financial support despite her being an underdog in the general election. Democratic U.S. Rep. Vicente Gonzalez switched districts and is now competing with Flores in November, and got 23,000-plus votes in securing the Democratic nomination, more than double Flores’ total. Texas gained more residents than any state between 2010 and 2020, with Latinos driving the growth that swelled its population to 29.1 million. Trump won 35% of the Hispanic vote nationally in 2020, about the same as he won in Texas, according to AP VoteCast, a nationwide survey of the electorate. But VoteCast showed he made inroads with Latino voters in some states, including Florida (45%) and Nevada (42%). Florida also saw its Hispanic and overall population boom according to last year’s census, and Trump won the state twice as Republicans ousted Democratic U.S. Reps. Donna Shalala and Debbie Mucarsel-Powell in Miami in 2020. Juan-Carlos Planas, an election attorney and former Republican Florida state representative who is now a Democrat, said there’s time before the state’s Aug. 23 primary for Democrats to make up ground. “Things could look bad today, but you never know what will happen next,” Planas said. “Do I think Democrats need to step up in voter registration? Yes, absolutely. Democrats need to step up their ground game.” Florida voters register by party, unlike open-primary Texas. Last year, registered Florida Republicans outnumbered Democrats for the first time in modern history, and the GOP’s lead of active registered voters has widened in more recent months. Trump performed well with Cuban-American voters in South Florida and greatly narrowed Democrats’ lead in Miami-Dade County in 2020. Republican Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is up for reelection this fall and is a potential 2024 presidential candidate, organized roundtables in support of last summer’s anti-governmental protests in communist Cuba. The Biden administration has also approached oil-rich Venezuela and its socialist President Nicolás Maduro after canceling U.S. oil imports from Russia — potentially alienating exiled Venezuelan-American voters in Florida who fled the unrest in that country. Dan Smith, a University of Florida political scientist who studies elections, said 2016 voters in heavily Cuban precincts had not heavily backed Trump, but that changed in 2020. “Certainly Democrats have lost any advantage they once had,” Smith said, adding that GOP efforts to label Democratic candidates as socialist was effective among Cuban and Venezuelan exiles.

#### Latino voters are crucial for both sides.

Rodrigo Dominguez-Villegas 7-18 Director of Research at UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative, “Latino voters will play pivotal role in 2022 U.S. Senate races”, UCLA Newsroom, [https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/latino-voters-and-2022-midterms //](https://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/latino-voters-and-2022-midterms%20//) gbs

The Latino electorate played a decisive role in key U.S. Senate races in 2020 and will again be crucial in determining outcomes in the 2022 midterm elections, according to a report published today by the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute. The report analyzes the choices of Latinos in 2020 Senate elections in five states where Latino voters were pivotal either because of their large numbers or the part they played in close races: Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, New Mexico and Texas. And with an eye toward 2022’s most contested races, the authors spotlight the frequency with which Latinos selected one party’s candidate for president and another’s for the Senate. In all these states, the authors found, Latino voters supported Democratic Senate candidates by wide margins in 2020. In Arizona, Colorado and Georgia, they voted for Democratic Senate candidates over Republican candidates by a 3-to-1 margin, and in New Mexico and Texas by a 2-to-1 margin. Yet despite this overwhelming support for Democratic Senate candidates, a considerable number of Latino voters — between 2% and 10%, depending on the state — split their ballots between parties when choosing Senate and presidential candidates in 2020. These swing voters will likely be a critical segment in this year’s midterm elections, particularly in states like Arizona and Georgia where Senate races are currently considered toss-ups, the authors said. Importantly, determining the future balance of power in the currently divided Senate and elsewhere will depend heavily on Latino voter turnout efforts, especially continued investments by all political parties in direct voter engagement and mobilizations by political campaigns, said the institute’s founding director, Sonja Diaz. “Voting patterns show the critical role Latinos play in pivotal midterm elections, but these votes must be earned,” Diaz said. “Campaigns for House and Senate seats should ensure they are reaching the Latino electorate by addressing the needs of this community and utilizing tailored outreach techniques proven to result in voter mobilization.”