



Battleground State Poll: Political Priorities & Opinions on Climate Change

Key findings from a July 5 – 20, 2022 survey of registered likely and unlikely voters in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania

1. Executive Summary

This report highlights key findings from a survey of 3,296 registered voters in the battleground states of Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania via online survey panel conducted July 5–20, 2022 by [Beacon Research](#) on behalf of the [Environmental Voter Project](#). Large samples of both likely voters and unlikely voters were surveyed to discern differences between low-propensity and high-propensity voters.

- **Democratic Senate and Gubernatorial Candidates Lead despite Republicans' Edge on Generic Congressional Ballots.** Despite likely voters giving Republican congressional candidates a slight edge on generic congressional ballots, all four Democratic US Senate candidates in these states currently lead their Republican opponents, and three out of the four Democratic gubernatorial candidates lead as well (Stacey Abrams (D) trails Georgia Governor Brian Kemp (R)).
- **Democrats could Dominate if they successfully Mobilize Low Propensity Voters.** Democratic gubernatorial, senate, and congressional candidates currently hold commanding leads among registered voters who are less likely to vote in the November midterms (with the sole exception being the Arizona gubernatorial election). Mobilizing low propensity voters will be an essential component of successful Democratic campaigns in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania.
- **Inflation and the Economy Top Voter Concerns by Substantial Margins; Abortion Rights are also now a Significant Voter Concern.** 33% of likely voters in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania list “inflation & cost of living” as their most important issue, followed by 12% listing “the economy & jobs.” 9% of likely voters in these states now list “protecting abortion rights & reproductive rights” as a top priority, with Arizonans even listing abortion rights (12%) ahead of “the economy & jobs” (9%).
- **Climate Change is a Top-3 Voter Concern when Focusing on “Long-Term” Priorities.** 9% of likely voters in battleground states list “climate change & the environment” as their top long-term priority, after only “inflation & cost of living” (30%) and “economy & jobs” (13%). Among liberals, “climate change & the environment” is the #1 long-term priority, among Democrats it is the #2 long-term priority, and even among moderates and Independents it is their #3 long-term priority.

- **Low Propensity Voters are more likely to list Climate as the Most Important Factor when Choosing a Candidate.** Voter turnout remains crucially important for the climate movement. By a 7%–5% margin, low propensity voters are more likely than high propensity voters to list climate as the most important factor when choosing a candidate. In Nevada, low propensity voters are twice as likely to vote based on climate concerns (10%–5%), and in Pennsylvania they are more than twice as likely to choose a candidate based on climate change (7%–3%).
- **Both Democrats and Independents think Congressional Democrats are doing Too Little to Address Climate Change.** 49% of Democrats in battleground states think congressional Democrats are doing too little to address climate change, compared to 35% who think it's the right amount and 6% who think they're doing too much. 43% of Independents think congressional Democrats are doing too little (11% think it's the right amount, 18% too much), and even 33% of Republican voters think congressional Democrats are doing too little on climate change.
- **Large Numbers of Voters are Confused or Unaware of Voting Laws and Logistics.** More than half of Pennsylvanians (57%) are unaware of their in-person early voting options. 34% of Georgians do not know they can vote by mail. Large numbers of voters do not know or mistakenly think identification is required in states that do not require it to vote (52% in Nevada); conversely, many voters do not know that they need approved identification in states that do require it to vote (33% in Arizona).

Topline survey data can be found [here](#). Crosstabs can be found [here](#).

Some percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

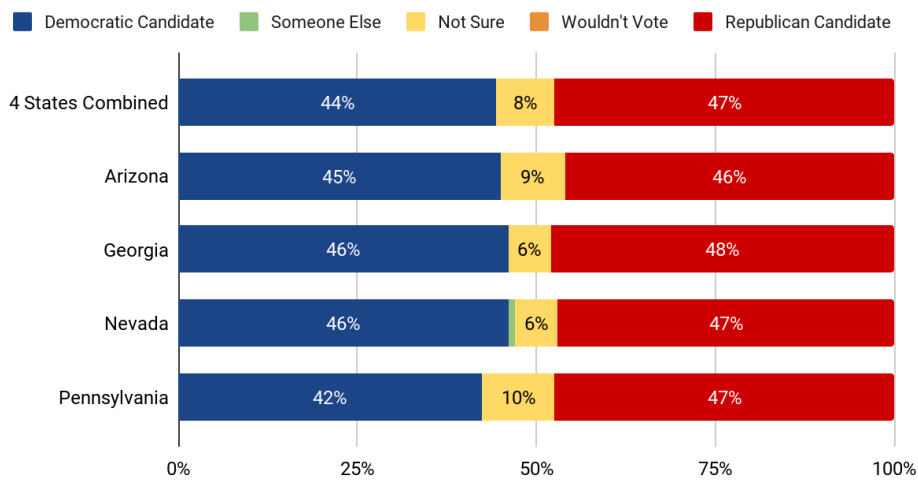
2. Electoral Landscape

A. Generic Congressional Ballot Test

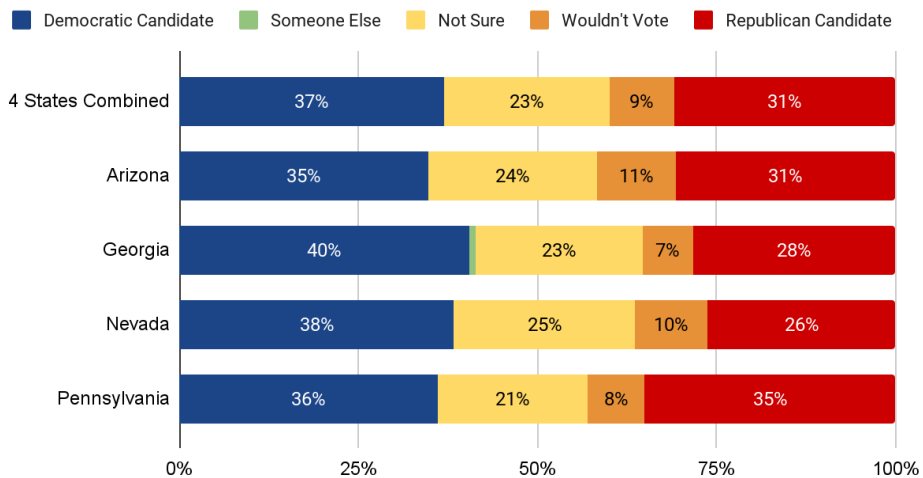
Question: If the election for Congress in your district were today, who would you vote for?

In Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada, likely midterm voters currently favor generic Republican congressional candidates over Democrats by the slightest of margins (1–2 points), while in Pennsylvania the Republican margin grows to 5 points. Among unlikely midterm voters, Democratic congressional candidates have a significant advantage in Arizona, Georgia, and Nevada, but only a 1-point advantage in Pennsylvania.

Likely Voters Congressional Ballot Test



Unlikely Voters Congressional Ballot Test

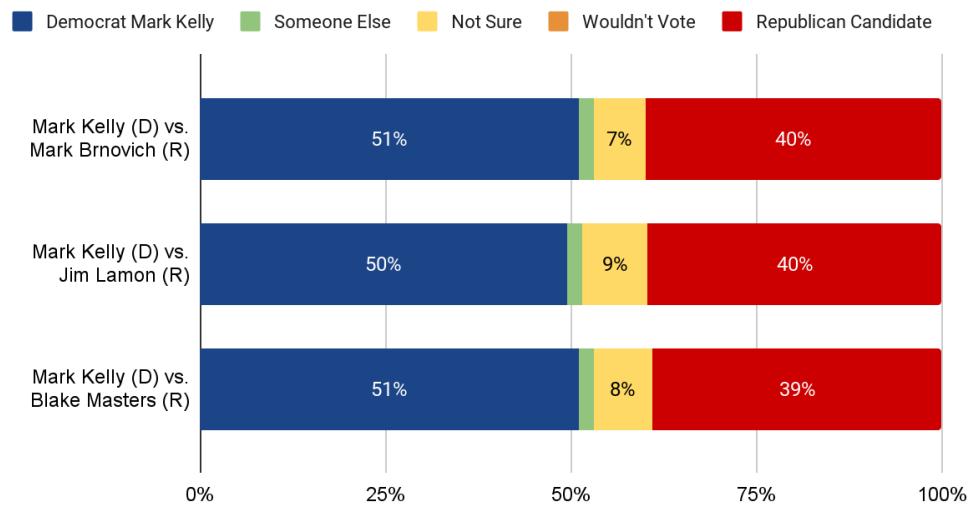


B. Arizona US Senate Race

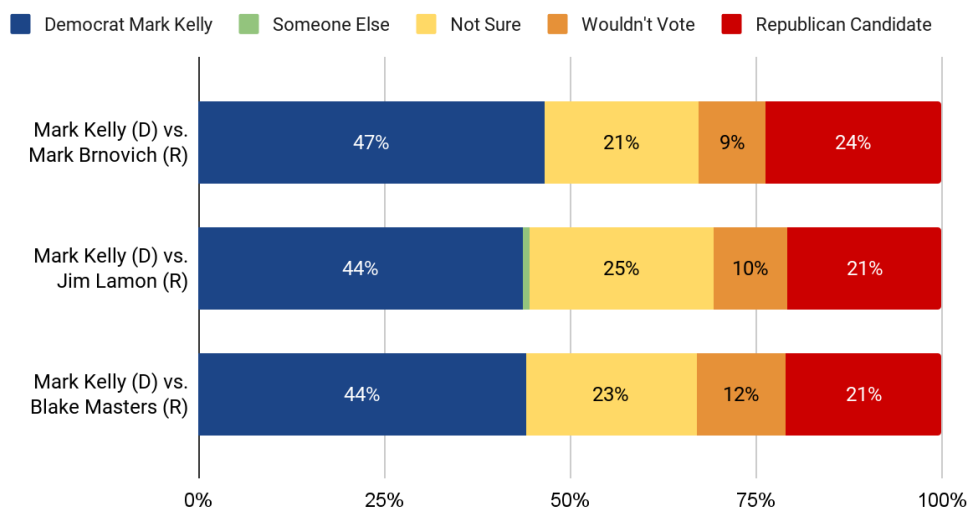
Question: If the general election for Senate were today, who would you vote for?

Among likely midterm voters in Arizona, Democratic incumbent Senator Mark Kelly currently sits above the 50% threshold and holds a double-digit lead over each of his possible Republican opponents. Among unlikely midterm voters, Kelly currently holds a 23-point lead over each of his possible opponents, although a significant number of low propensity voters remain undecided in this race.

Arizona Likely Voters — US Senate



Arizona Unlikely Voters — US Senate

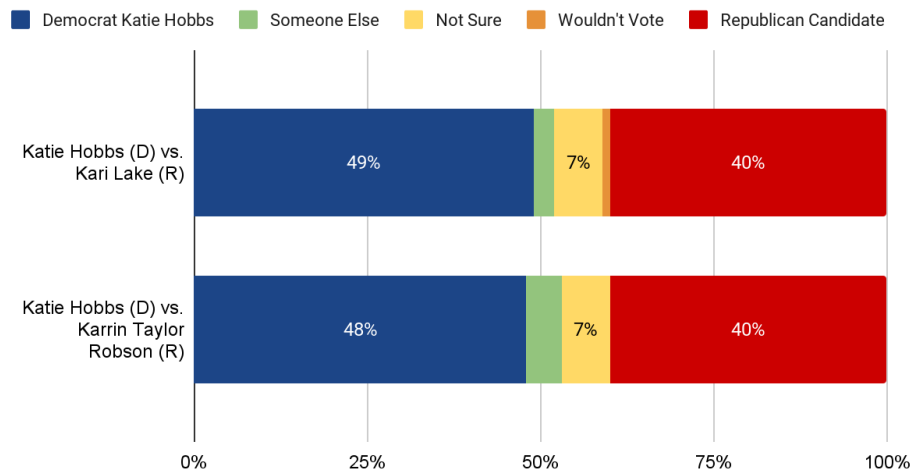


C. Arizona Gubernatorial Race

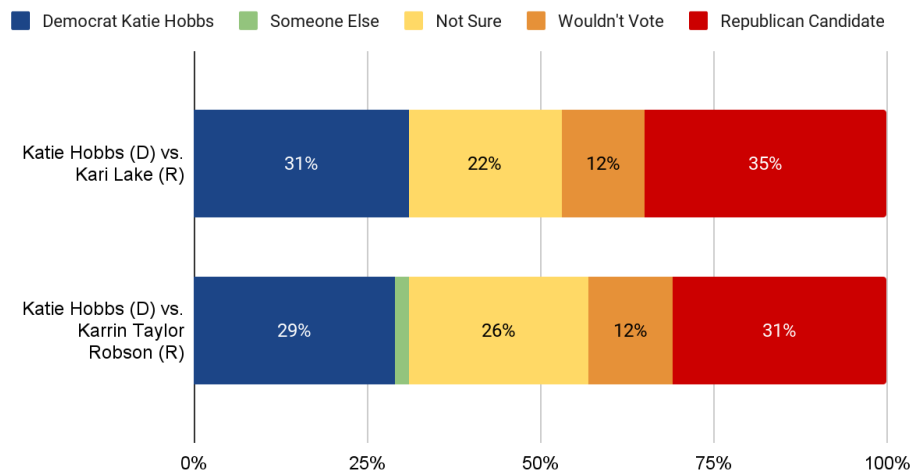
Question: *If the general election for Governor were today, who would you vote for?*

Among likely midterm voters, Democratic Secretary of State Katie Hobbs currently holds an 8–9 point lead over her potential Republican opponents in the Arizona gubernatorial election. However, among less likely voters, Republican candidates Kari Lake and Karrin Taylor Robson currently have a slight edge over Hobbs. This small Republican advantage among unlikely midterm voters is surprising because it runs counter to this poll’s data in the Arizona US Senate race and generic congressional ballot, as well as the data from the senate, gubernatorial, and congressional elections in Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania.

Arizona Likely Voters — Governor



Arizona Unlikely Voters — Governor

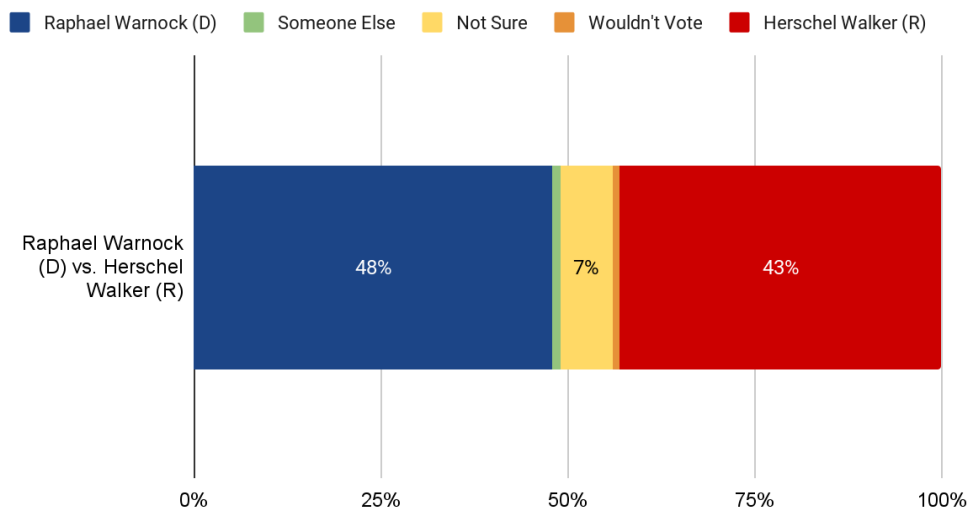


D. Georgia US Senate Race

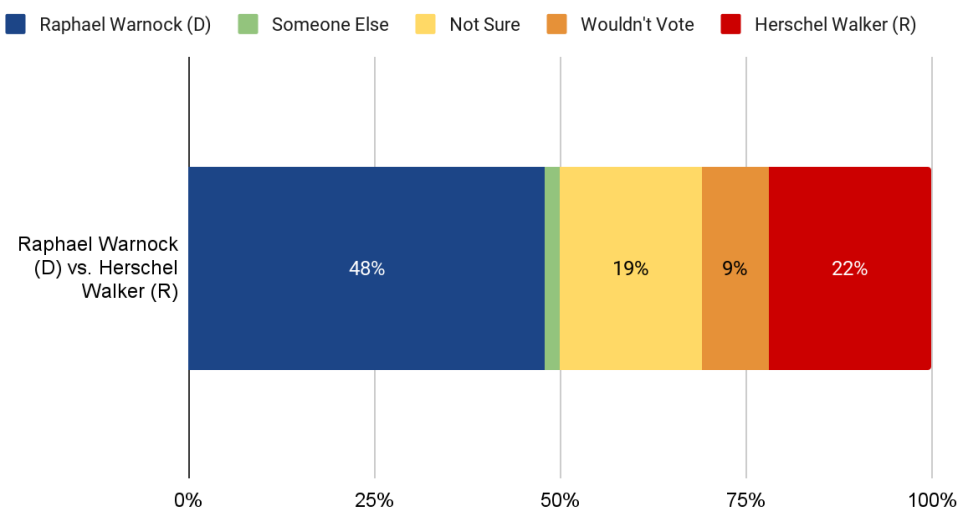
Question: If the general election for Senate were today, who would you vote for?

Incumbent Democratic Senator Raphael Warnock currently leads Republican Herschel Walker by 5 points among likely midterm voters and by a stunning 26 points among voters who are unlikely to vote in the midterm elections. This data reveals a significant turnout opportunity for Georgia Democrats if they are able to bring low propensity voters off the sidelines.

Georgia Likely Voters — US Senate



Georgia Unlikely Voters — US Senate

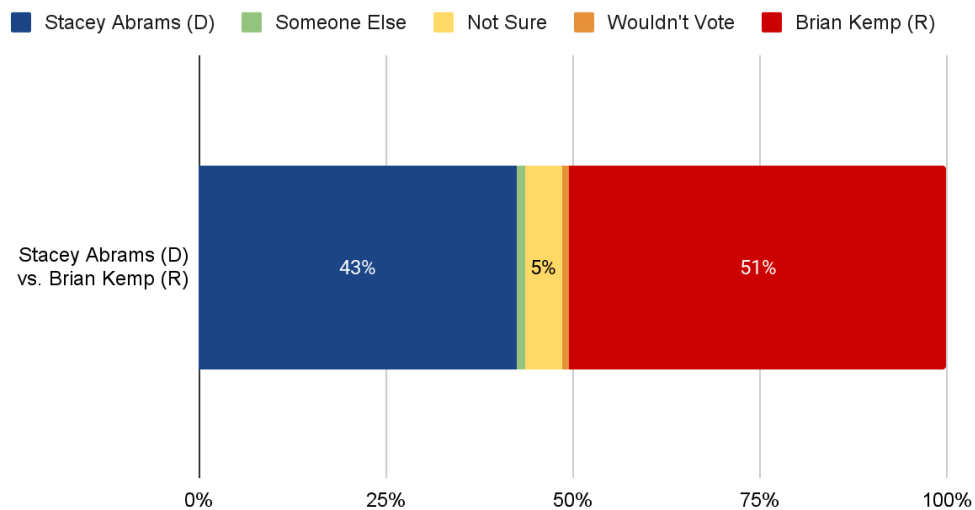


E. Georgia Gubernatorial Race

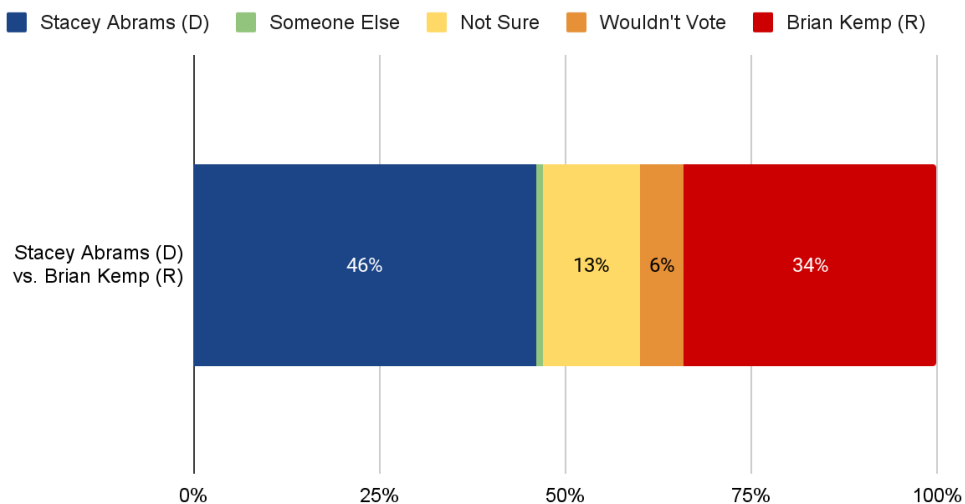
Question: *If the general election for Governor were today, who would you vote for?*

Incumbent Republican Governor Brian Kemp currently leads his rematch against Democrat Stacey Abrams by 8 points (51%–43%) among likely voters. However, in data that mirrors the Georgia US Senate election, there is a 20-point shift towards Abrams among unlikely voters who currently favor the Democrat by a 12-point 46%–34% margin.

Georgia Likely Voters — Governor



Georgia Unlikely Voters — Governor

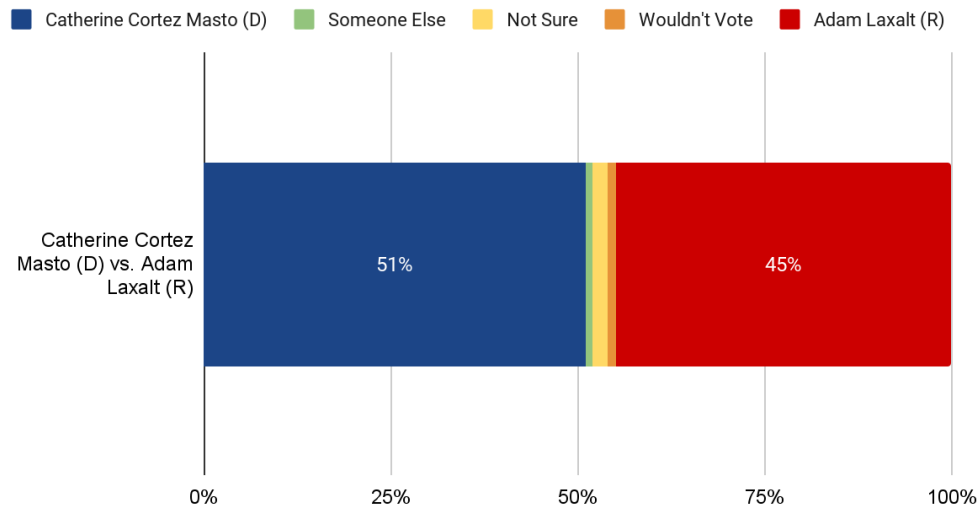


F. Nevada US Senate Race

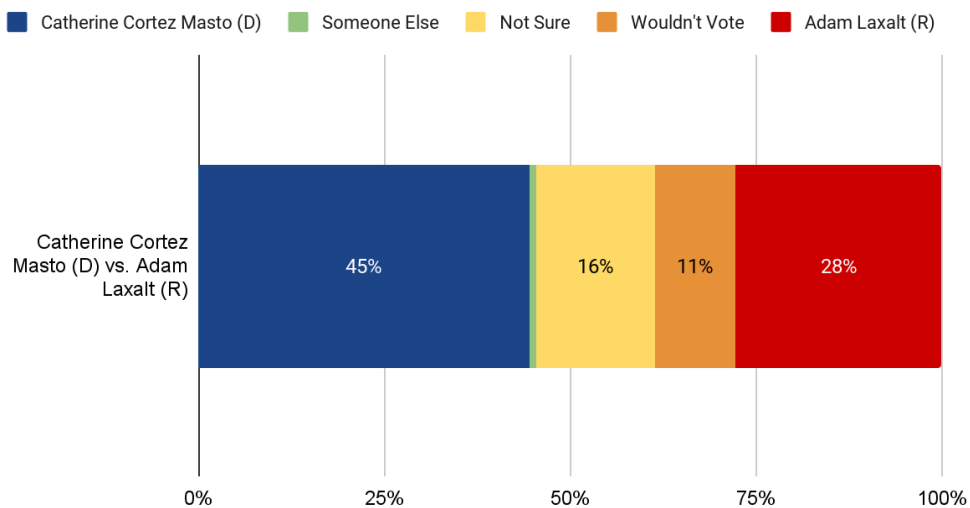
Question: *If the general election for Senate were today, who would you vote for?*

With a remarkable 96% of Nevada likely voters having already made up their mind in the US Senate race, Democratic incumbent Catherine Cortez Masto leads Republican Adam Laxalt by 6 points (51%–45%). Cortez Masto also currently leads handily among Nevadans who are less likely to vote, with a 17-point margin over Laxalt (45%–28%).

Nevada Likely Voters — US Senate



Nevada Unlikely Voters — US Senate

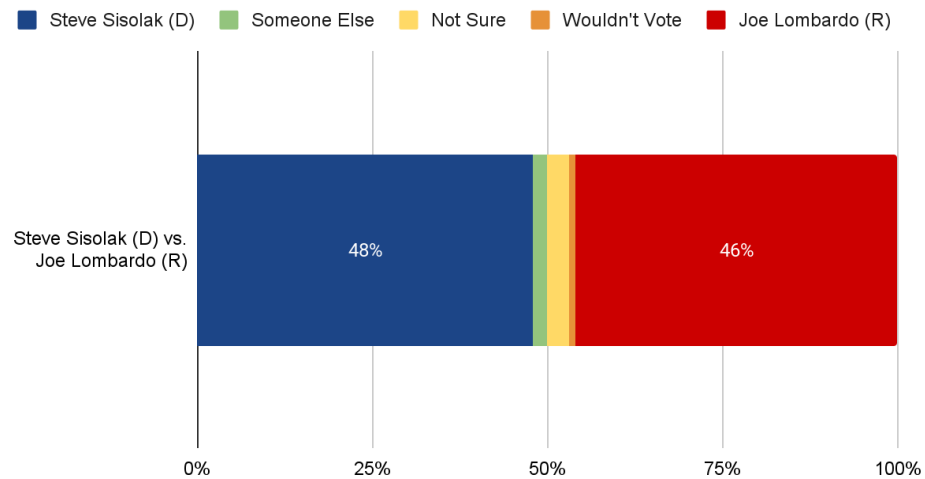


G. Nevada Gubernatorial Race

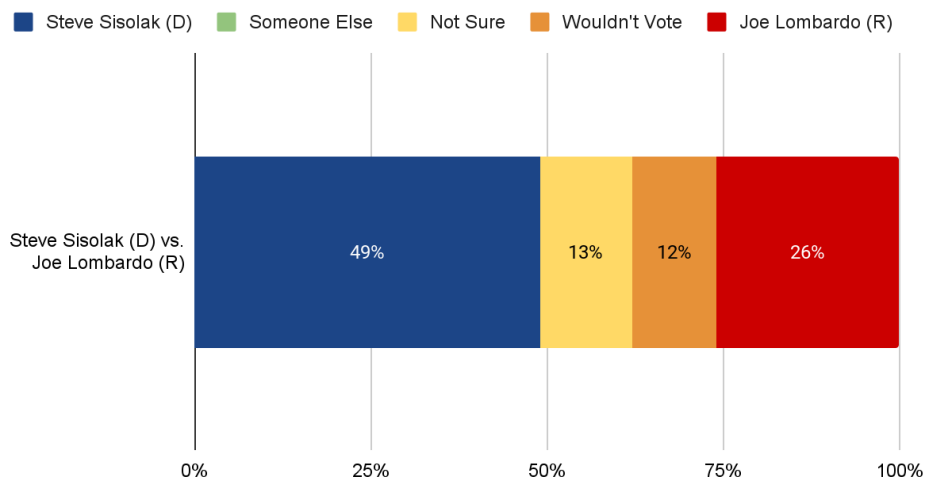
Question: *If the general election for Governor were today, who would you vote for?*

As in the US Senate race, most likely voters in Nevada seem to have already made up their minds about whom to support for Governor, but the race is extraordinarily close with incumbent Democrat Steve Sisolak holding only a 2-point edge over Republican Joe Lombardo (48%–46%). However, if lower propensity voters show up on Election Day, that could rebound to Sisolak’s advantage as he currently leads Lombardo by 23 points among unlikely midterm voters.

Nevada Likely Voters — Governor



Nevada Unlikely Voters — Governor

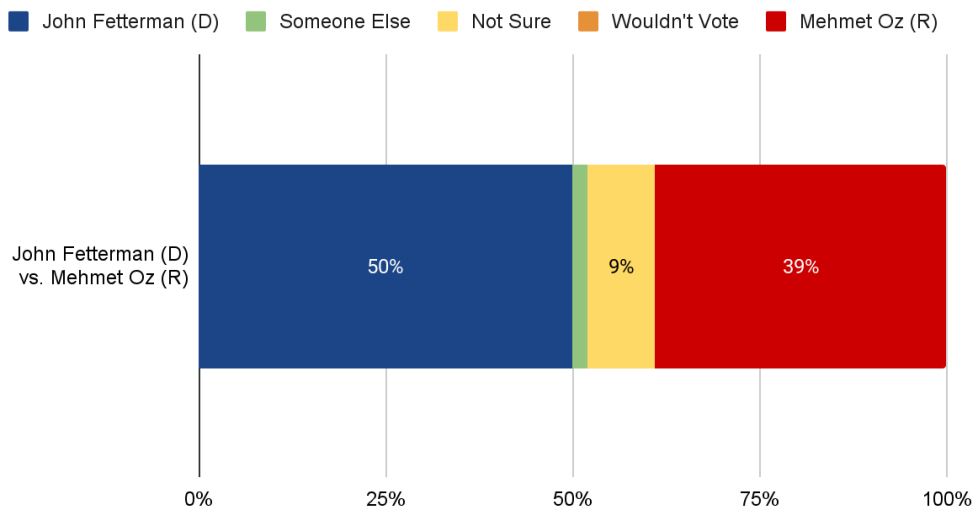


H. Pennsylvania US Senate Race

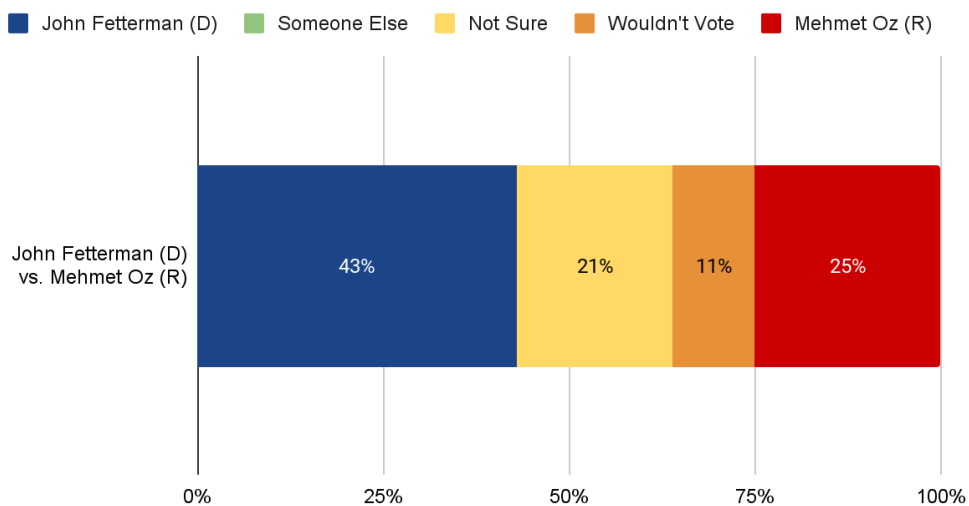
Question: If the general election for Senate were today, who would you vote for?

Democrat John Fetterman currently holds a substantial 11-point lead (50%–39%) over Republican Mehmet Oz among Pennsylvania likely voters. Notably, Fetterman has reached the 50% threshold among likely voters and currently enjoys an 18-point lead among Pennsylvanians who are less likely to vote in the senate race.

Pennsylvania Likely Voters — US Senate



Pennsylvania Unlikely Voters — US Senate

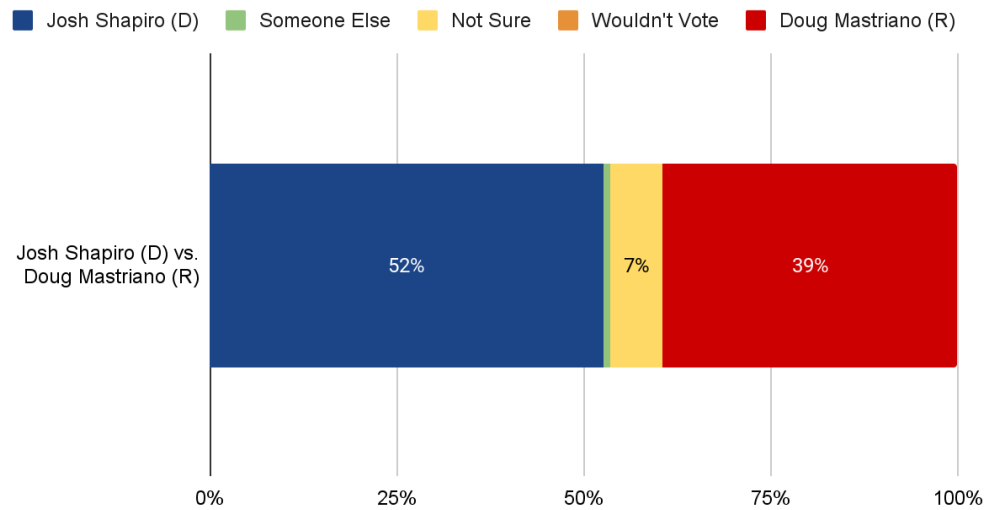


I. Pennsylvania Governor Race

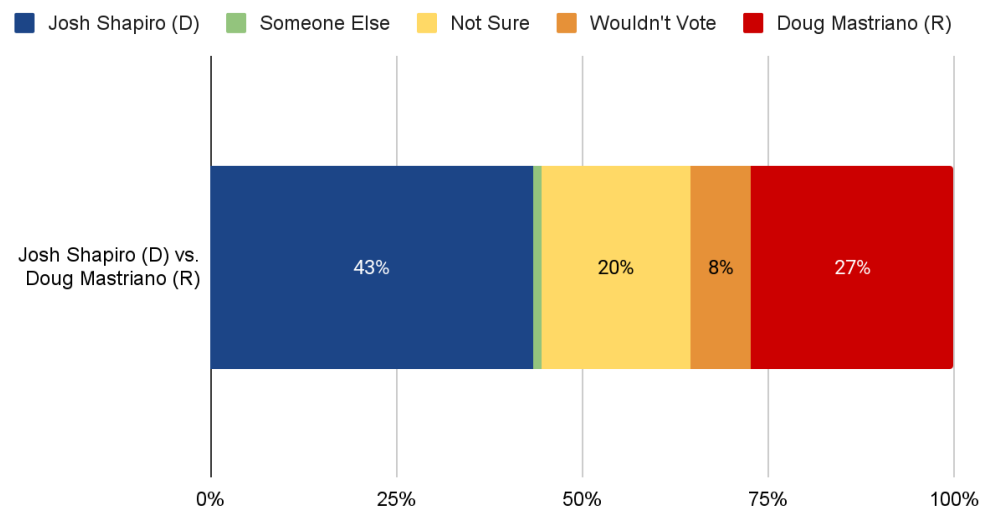
Question: If the general election for Governor were today, who would you vote for?

Among likely voters in Pennsylvania, Democrat Josh Shapiro currently holds a commanding 52%–39% lead over Republican Doug Mastriano in the race for Governor. Among less likely voters, Shapiro currently enjoys an even larger 16-point margin. This gubernatorial race and Pennsylvania’s US Senate race stand in stark contrast to the 5-point lead that Republicans enjoy on Pennsylvania’s generic congressional ballot.

Pennsylvania Likely Voters — Governor



Pennsylvania Unlikely Voters — Governor



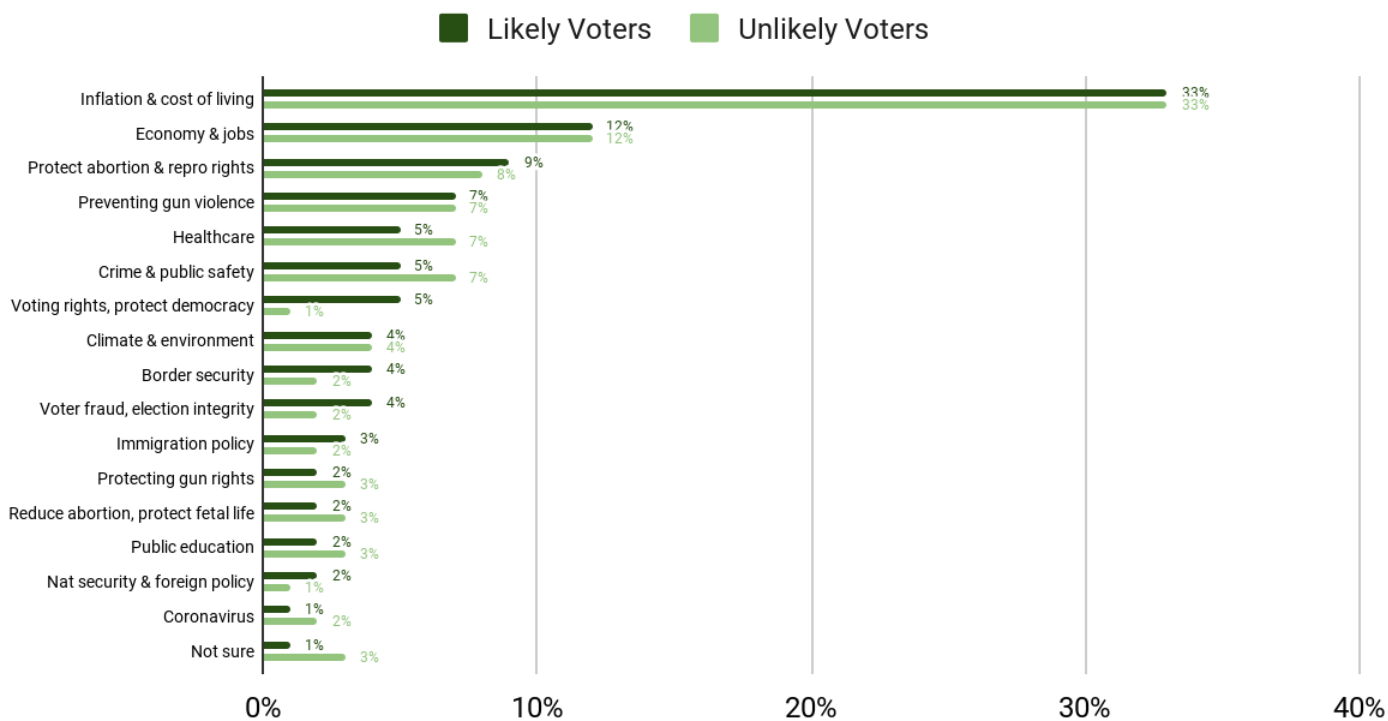
3. Top Issue Priorities and Voter Motivation

A. Top Issue Priorities of Likely Voters and Unlikely Voters

Question: Which one of the following issues is most important to you?

Almost half of likely voters in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania list “inflation & cost of living” or “the economy & jobs” as their most important issue priority. However, in an indication that Supreme Court decisions and mass shootings could be impacting voter priorities, “protecting abortion rights & reproductive rights” and “preventing gun violence” are now the third and fourth most common top priorities of likely voters in these battleground states. Four percent of both likely voters and unlikely voters in these states currently list “climate change & the environment” as their top priority. Coronavirus is now only a top priority for one percent of likely voters.

Four States Combined – Top Issue Priority

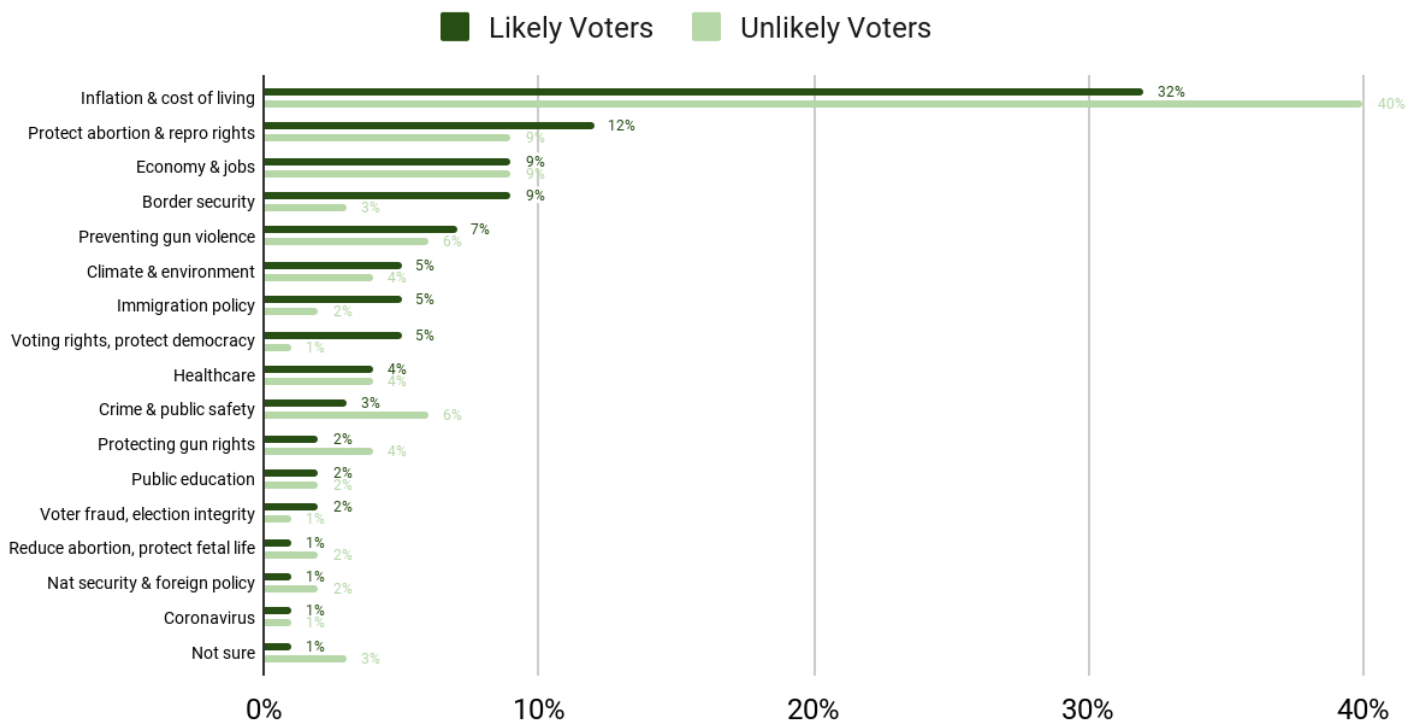


B. Top Issue Priorities for Voters in Arizona

Question: Which one of the following issues is most important to you?

As in all four states surveyed, a large plurality of Arizona likely voters (32%) list “inflation & cost of living” as their top priority. However, the second most common top priority for likely voters in Arizona is “protecting abortion rights & reproductive rights” at 12%. At 9%, more voters list “border security” as their top priority than in any of the other states polled. “Climate change & the environment” (5%) is the sixth most common answer when Arizona likely voters provide their most important issue priority.

Arizona Voters – Top Issue Priority

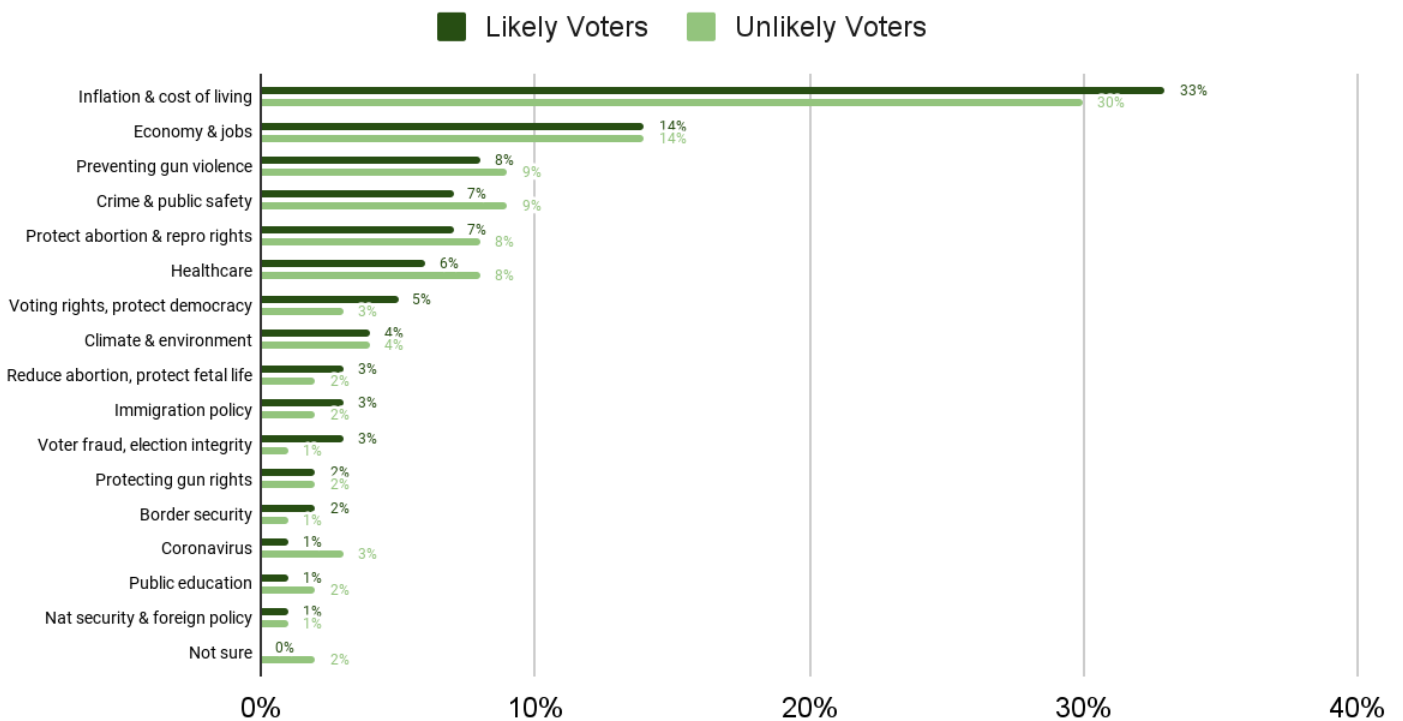


C. Top Issue Priorities for Voters in Georgia

Question: Which one of the following issues is most important to you?

A significant plurality of Georgia likely voters list inflation (33%) and economic issues (14%) as their top priorities, followed by “preventing gun violence” at 8%. “Protecting abortion rights & reproductive rights” is the highest priority for 7% of likely voters in Georgia, which is appreciably lower than in Arizona (12%) and Pennsylvania (11%). “Climate change & the environment” is the eighth most commonly listed top priority for Georgia likely voters (4%).

Georgia Voters – Top Issue Priority

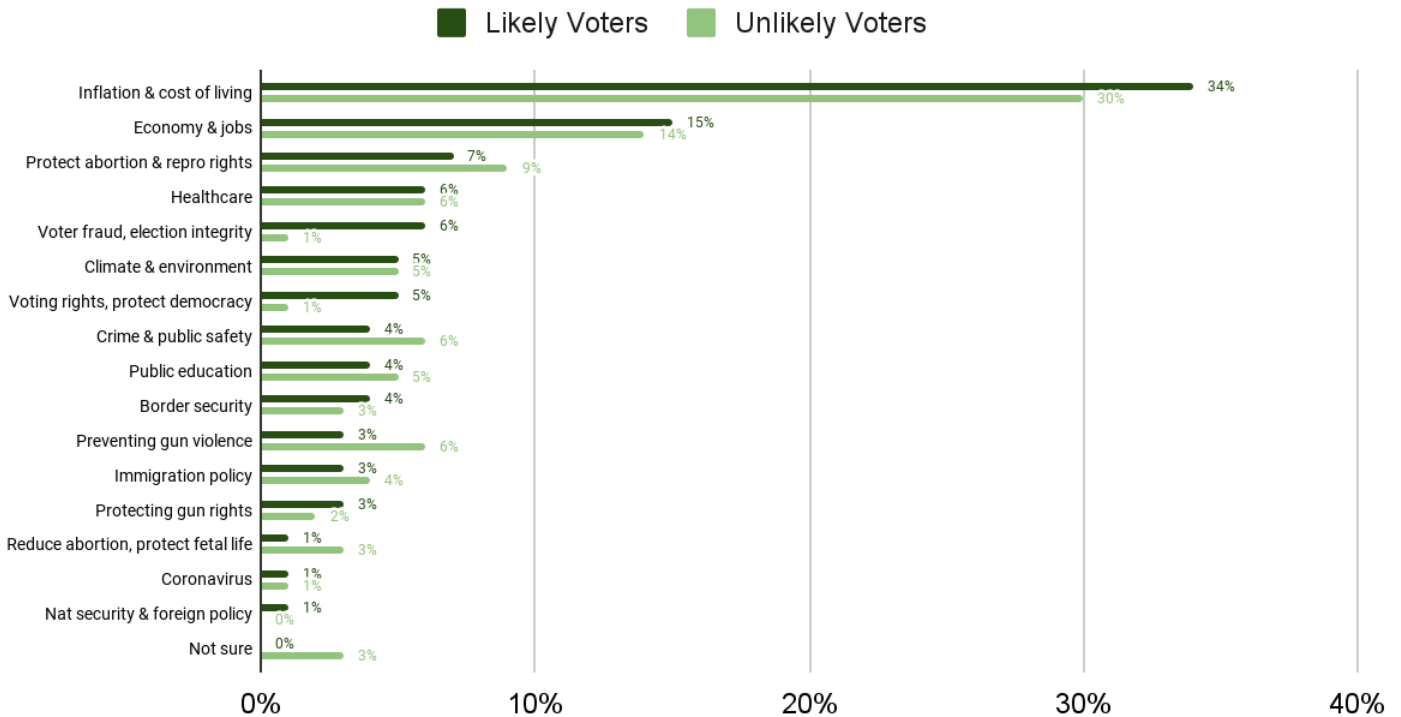


D. Top Issue Priorities for Voters in Nevada

Question: Which one of the following issues is most important to you?

“Inflation & cost of living” (34%) and then “economy & jobs” (15%) top the list of likely voters’ priorities in Nevada. At 5%, “climate change & the environment” is in sixth place on the list of voter concerns. Somewhat surprisingly, “voter fraud & election integrity” is the top concern of 6% of likely voters in Nevada.

Nevada Voters – Top Issue Priority

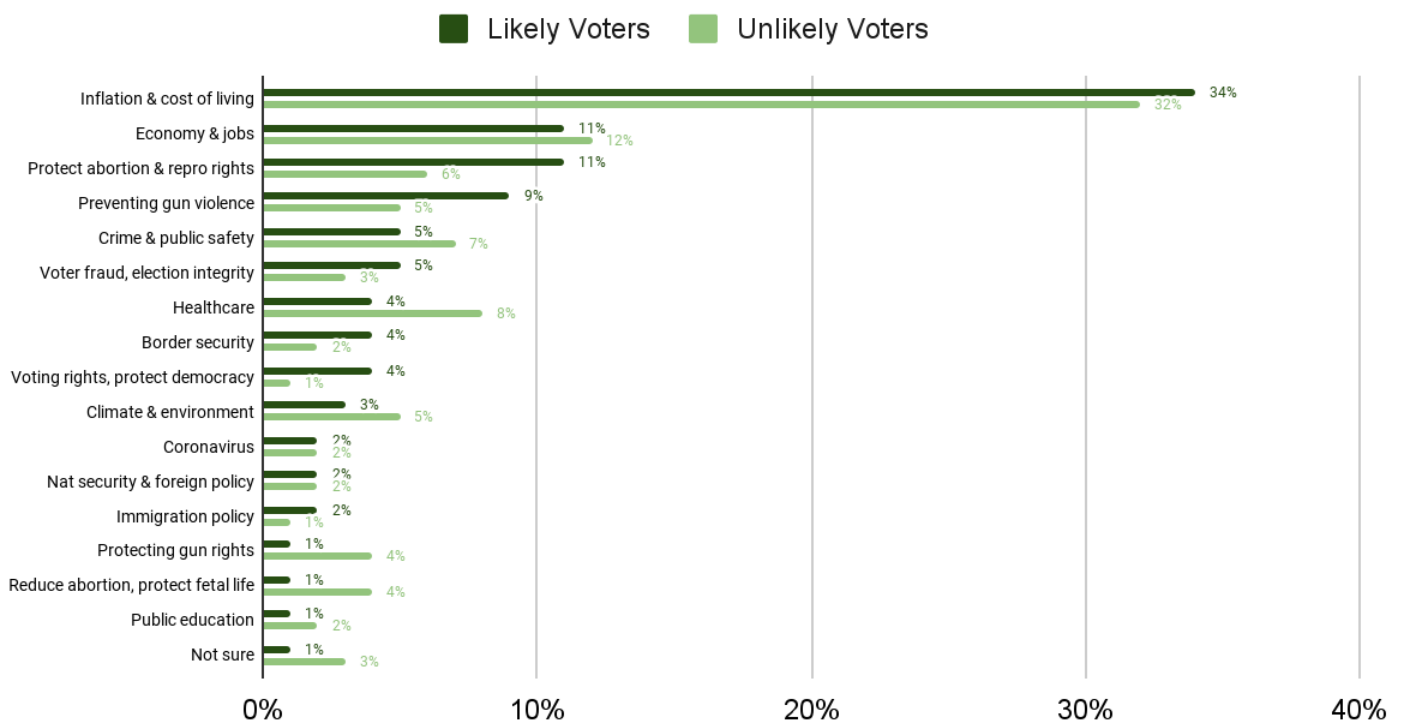


E. Top Issue Priorities for Voters in Pennsylvania

Question: Which one of the following issues is most important to you?

34% of likely voters in Pennsylvania list “inflation & cost of living” as their top priority, after which “economy & jobs” and “protecting abortion rights & reproductive rights” are tied at 11%. Similar to Nevada, a surprising 5% of likely voters list “voter fraud & election integrity” as their top priority in Pennsylvania. 3% of likely voters list “climate change & the environment” as their top priority, and that number grows to 5% among unlikely voters in Pennsylvania.

Pennsylvania Voters – Top Issue Priority

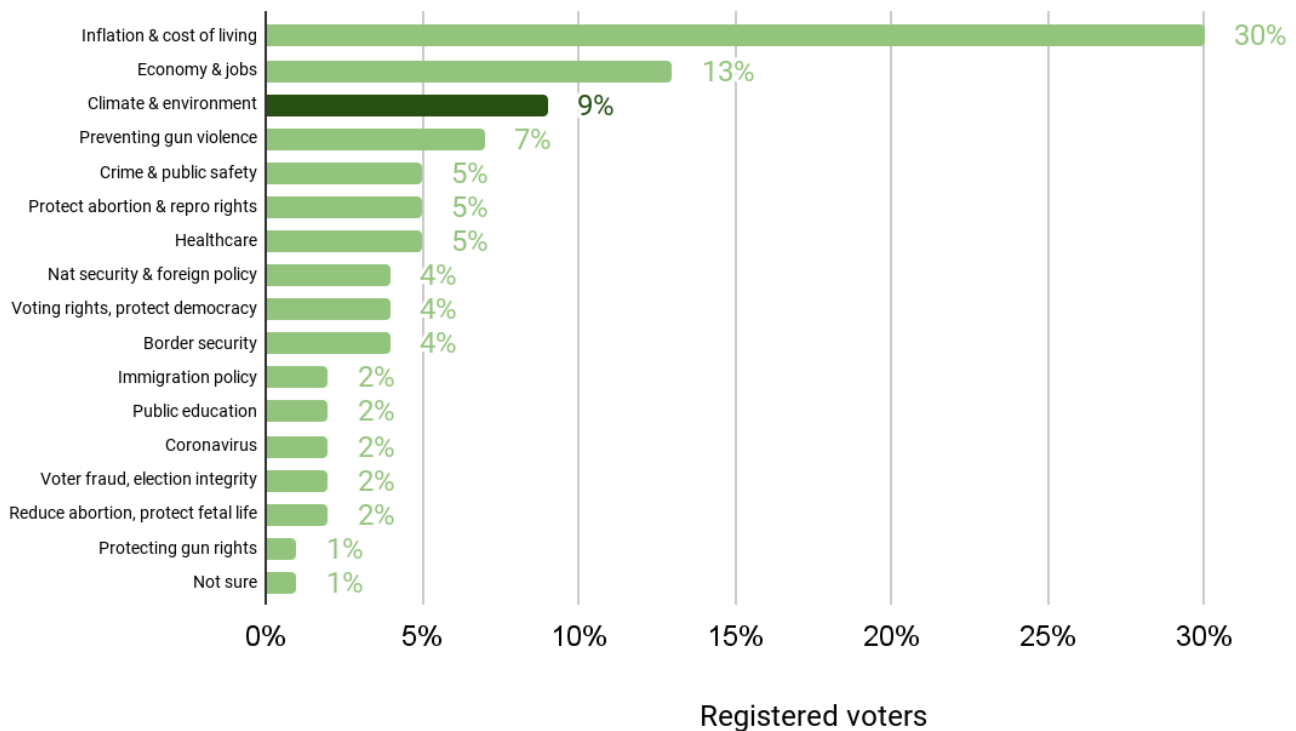


F. Top "Long Term" Issue Priority

Question: Over the long term, which of these issues do you think will be most important for the country to focus attention on?

"Climate change & the environment" jumps to third place on the issue priorities list when voters are asked to focus on their top "long term" priority. "Climate change & the environment" is also the first-place long-term priority for self-described liberals, the second-highest priority for both Democrats and 2020 Biden voters, and the third-highest priority for self-described moderates and for Independents.

Top "Long-Term" Priority

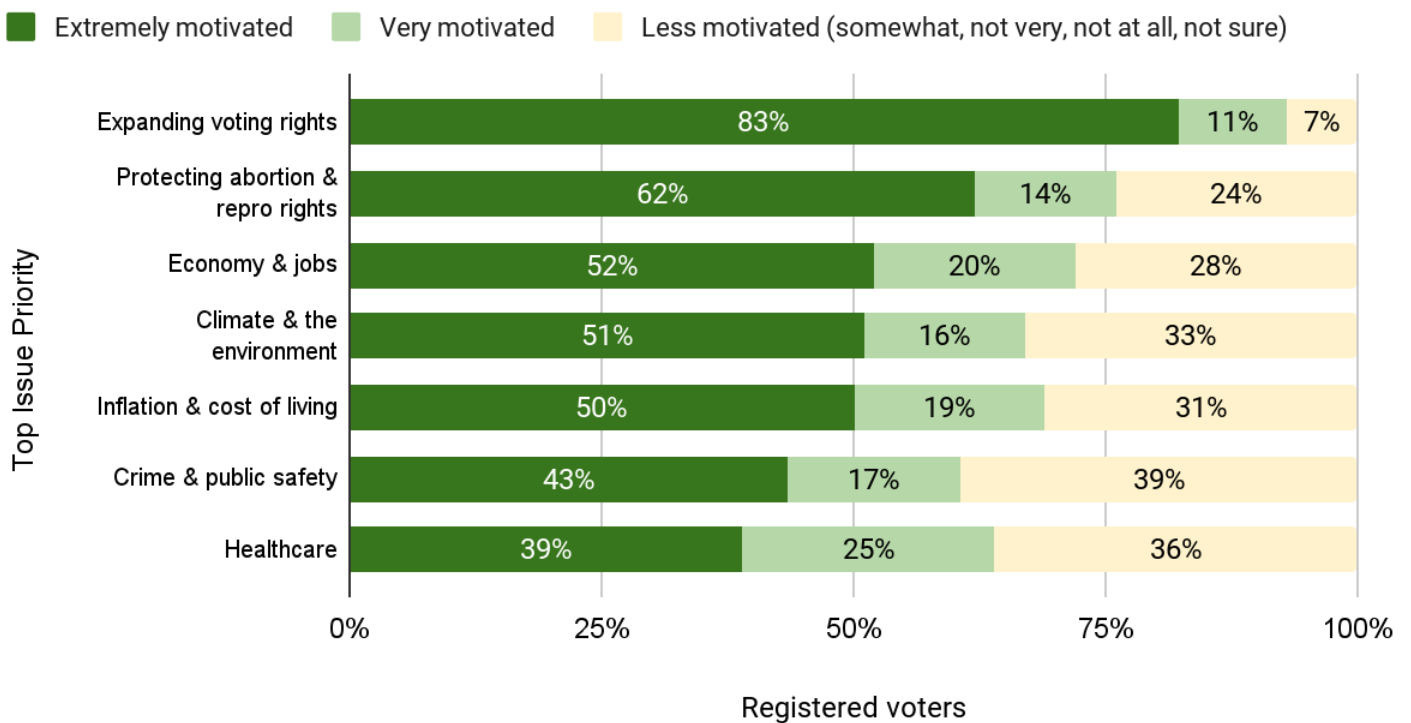


G. Voter Motivation by Issue Constituency Group

Question: how motivated are you to vote in the election this fall?

A stunning 83% of voters who list “expanding voting rights” as their top priority are “extremely motivated” to vote this fall, with an additional 11% reporting they are “very motivated” to cast ballots. Voters who list “protecting abortion rights & reproductive rights” as their top priority are also extremely motivated to vote (62%). Although a good number of climate-first voters are extremely motivated to cast ballots this fall (51%), a fair number of climate-first voters are less motivated to vote (33%).

Motivation to Vote by Top Issue Priority Group

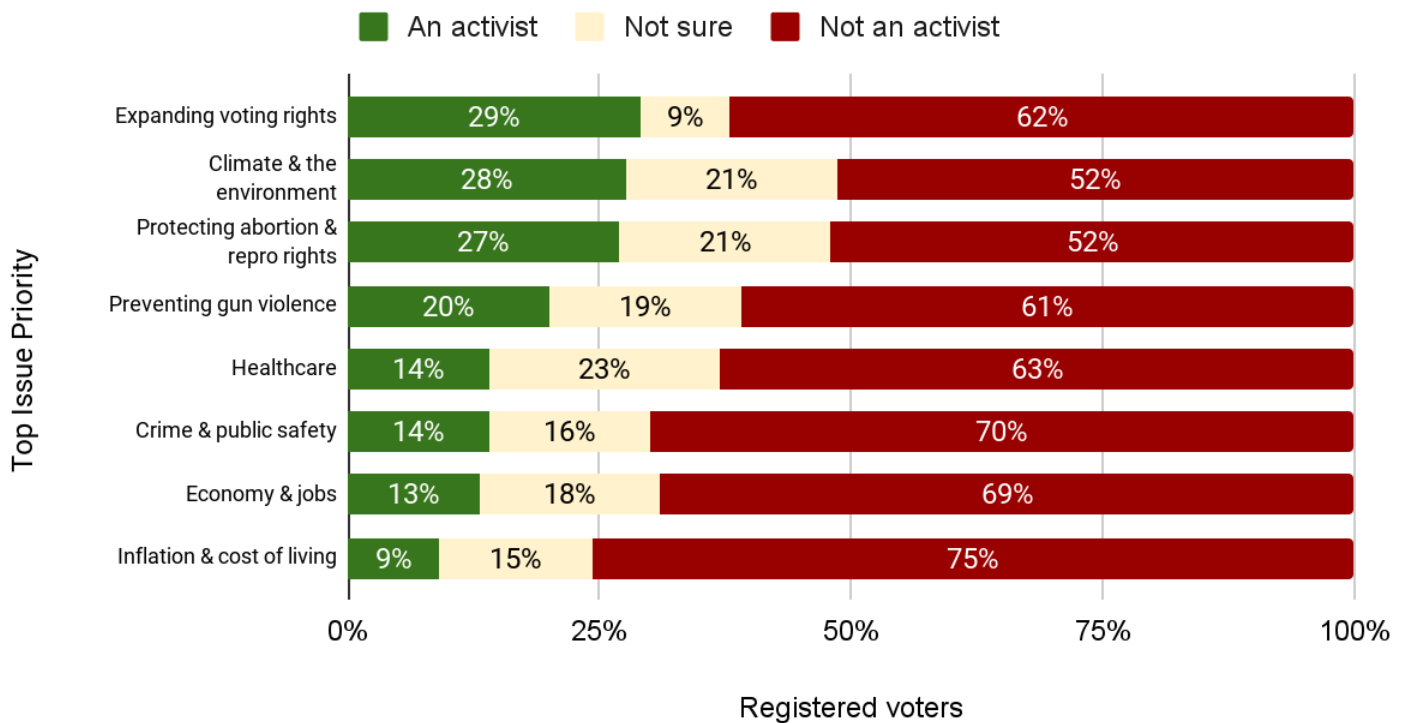


H. Voter Activism by Issue Constituency Group

Question: Thinking about your own involvement in political, social, or economic issues – do you consider yourself to be: (1) An activist, (2) Not an activist, (3) Not sure?

Self-described activists make up a disproportionately large percentage of the voters who list “expanding voter rights” (29%), “climate change & the environment” (28%), or “protecting abortion rights & reproductive rights” (27%) as their top priority. Among those three highly activist constituencies, though, climate-first voters are currently the least motivated to vote.

Self-identify as Activist by Top Issue Priority Group



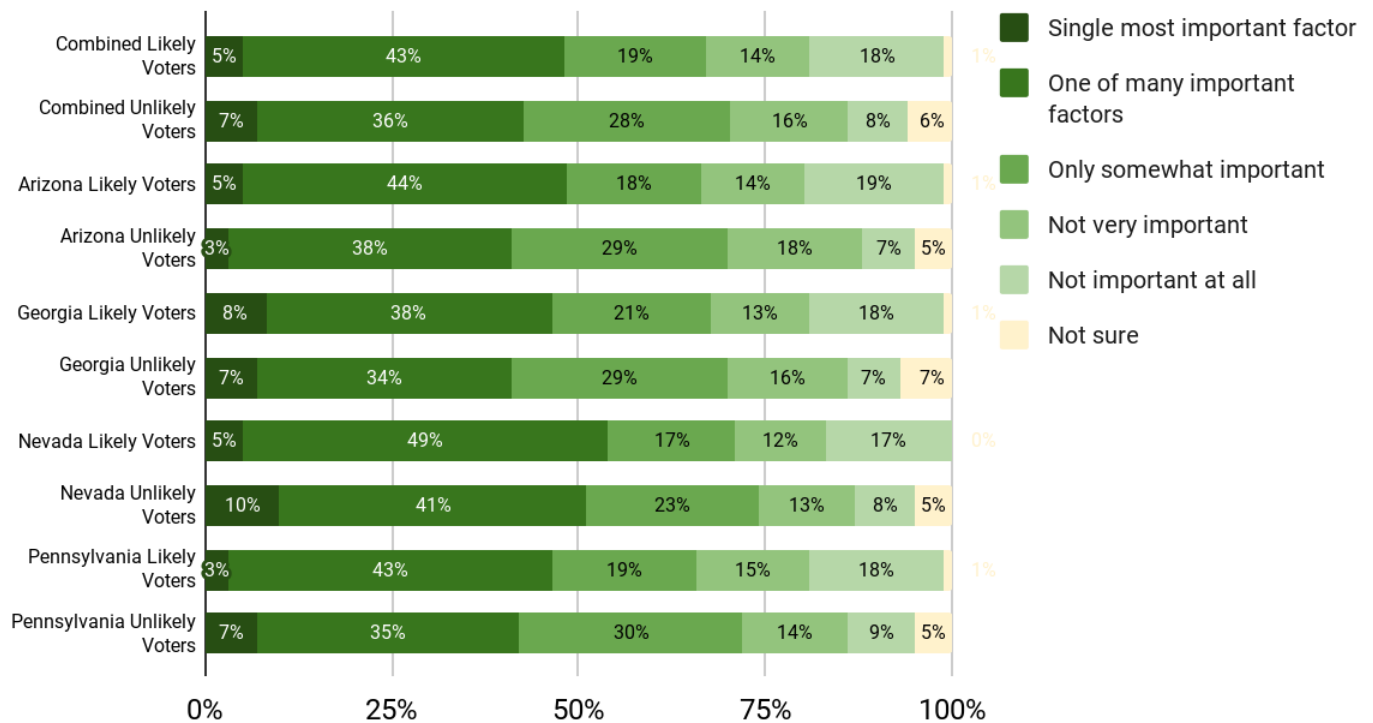
4. Opinions on Climate Change

A. Importance of Climate when Choosing a Candidate

Question: In general, how important a factor is the candidate's position on climate change in determining who you choose to vote for?

On average, only 5% of likely voters in these battleground states list climate change as their “single most important factor” when choosing a candidate, but 7% of unlikely voters list it as their most important factor and in some states this “likely voter” vs. “unlikely voter” split is quite significant. In Nevada, only 5% of likely voters list climate change as their most important factor when voting, but that number is twice as big (10%) among unlikely midterm voters. In Pennsylvania, the difference is even larger, with a mere 3% of likely voters choosing candidates based on climate change, whereas more than twice as many (7%) unlikely voters list climate change as the most important factor determining their vote.

Importance of Climate When Choosing a Candidate

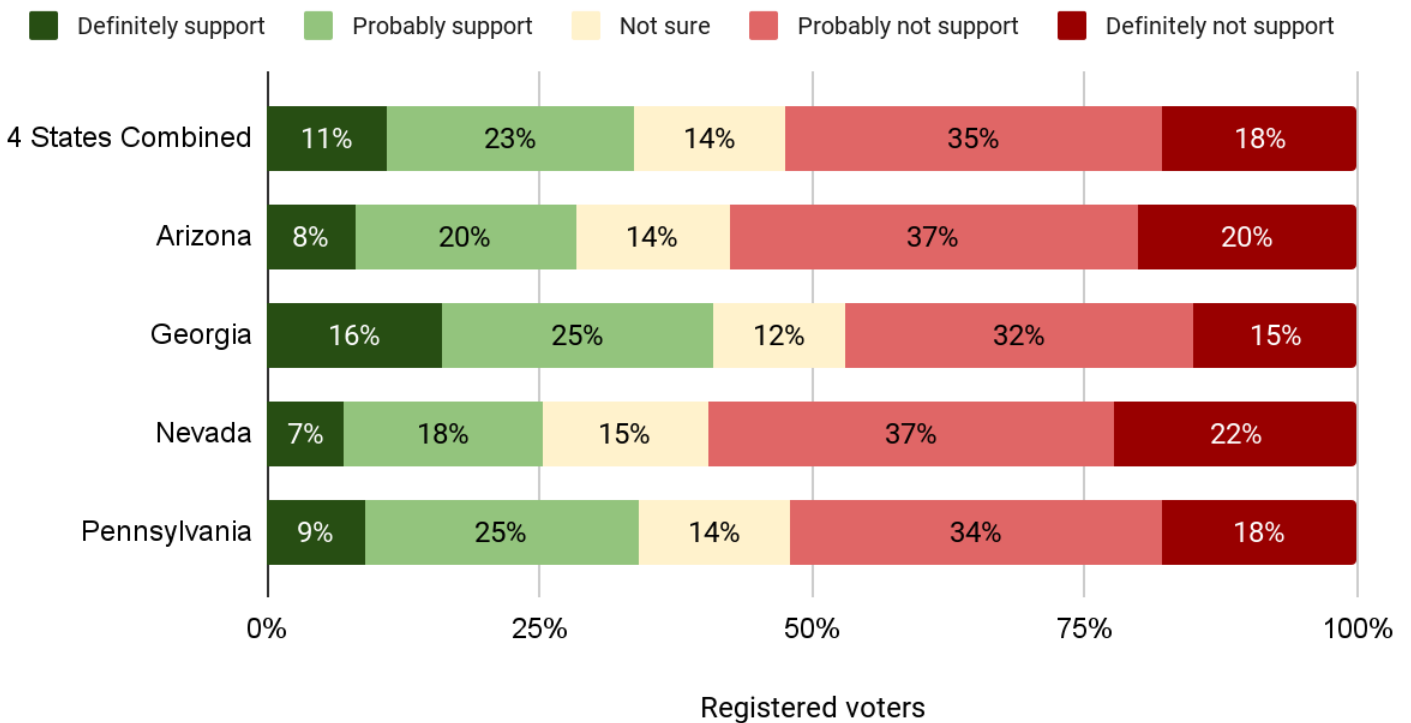


B. Democrats' Opinions of Fossil Fuel Supporting Democrats

Question of Democrats: How likely would you be to support a Democratic politician who supported increasing US use of fossil fuels, like oil, gas, and coal?

Despite high gas prices, Democrats are so opposed to increasing the use of oil, gas, and coal that a majority (53%) say they would not support a Democratic politician who wanted to expand the use of fossil fuels. Even in Pennsylvania – a state where fracking is often viewed as the “third rail” of statewide Democratic campaigns – only 34% of Democratic voters say they would support a fossil fuel-friendly Democrat, whereas 52% would oppose a Democrat who wanted to expand the use of fossil fuels.

Democrats on Fossil Fuel Friendly Democrats

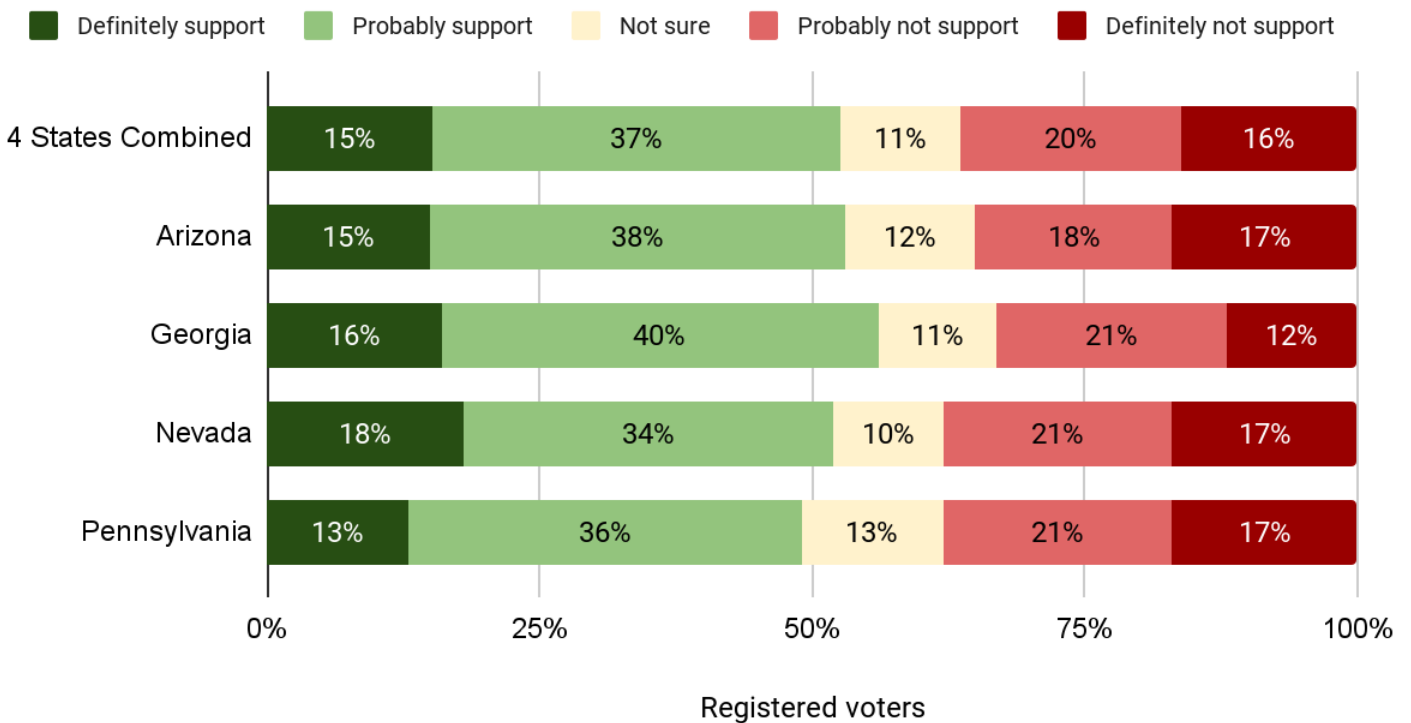


C. Republicans' Opinions of Clean Energy Supporting Republicans

Question of Republicans: How likely would you be to support a Republican politician who supported increasing US use of green energy, like wind and solar power?

Although 36% of Republican voters probably or definitely would not support a Republican politician who wanted to expand clean energy, 52% of Republicans said they would support clean energy Republicans. In short – in these four battleground states – a fossil fuel-friendly Democrat risks upsetting Democratic voters much more than a clean energy Republican risks upsetting Republican voters.

Republicans on Clean Energy Republicans

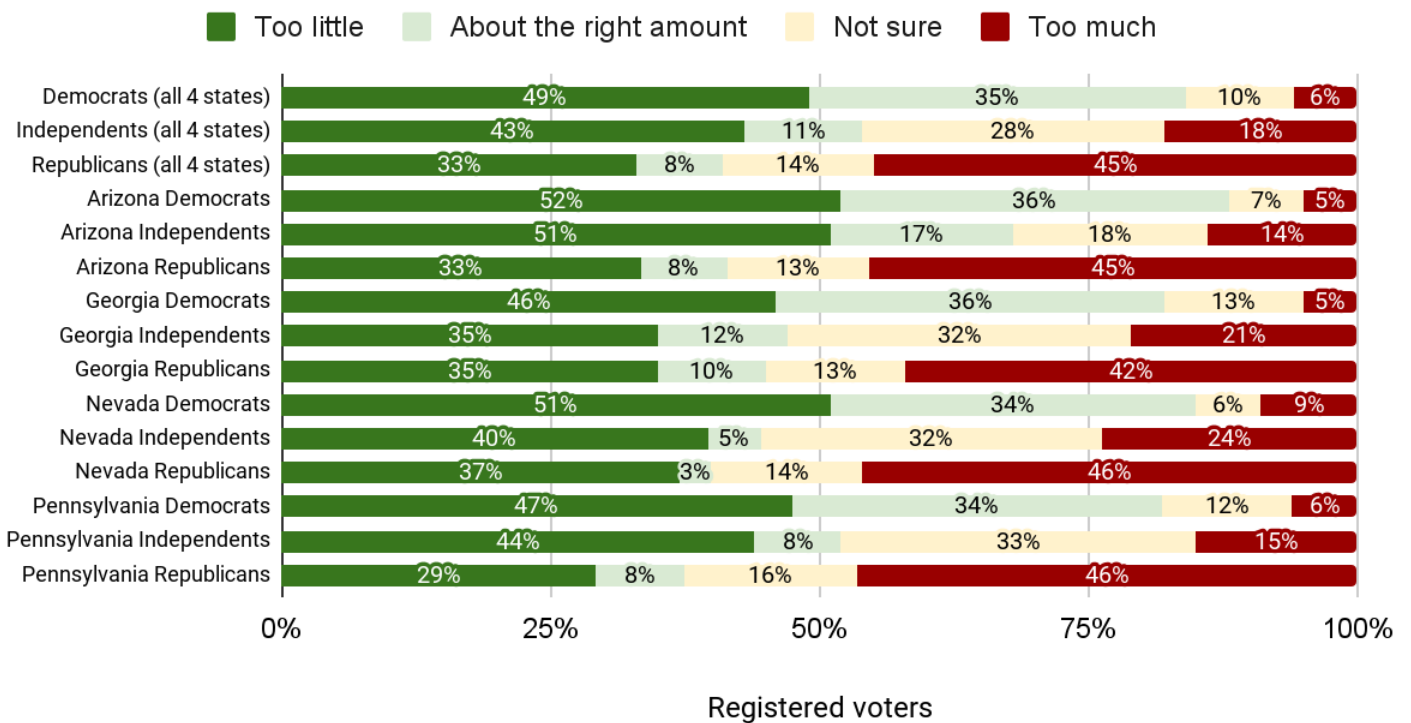


D. Are Democrats in Congress Doing Enough to Combat Climate Change?

Question: Do you think Democrats in Congress are doing too much, too little, or about the right amount when it comes to climate change?

43% of Independents think Democrats in Congress are doing too little to address climate change compared to only 18% who think they're doing too much. Even 33% of Republicans think that congressional Democrats are doing too little to address climate change.

Are Democrats in Congress Doing Enough on Climate Change?

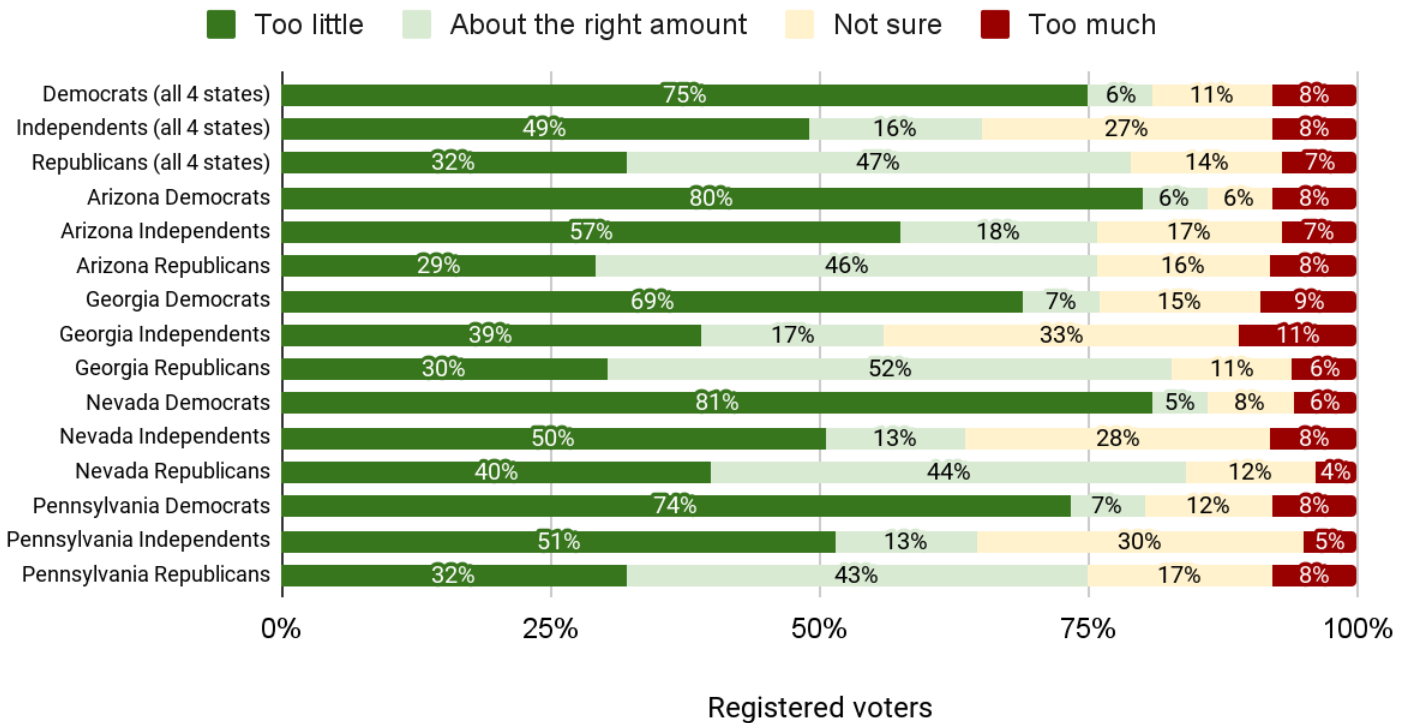


E. Are Republicans in Congress Doing Enough to Combat Climate Change?

Question: Do you think Republicans in Congress are doing too much, too little, or about the right amount when it comes to climate change?

49% of Independents think congressional Republicans are doing too little to address climate change compared to only 16% who say it's the right amount and only 8% who say Republicans are doing too much. In Arizona, the numbers are particularly stark with 57% of Independents saying that Republicans in Congress are doing too little on climate compared to only 18% who say it's the right amount and 7% who say it's too much.

Are Republicans in Congress Doing Enough on Climate Change?



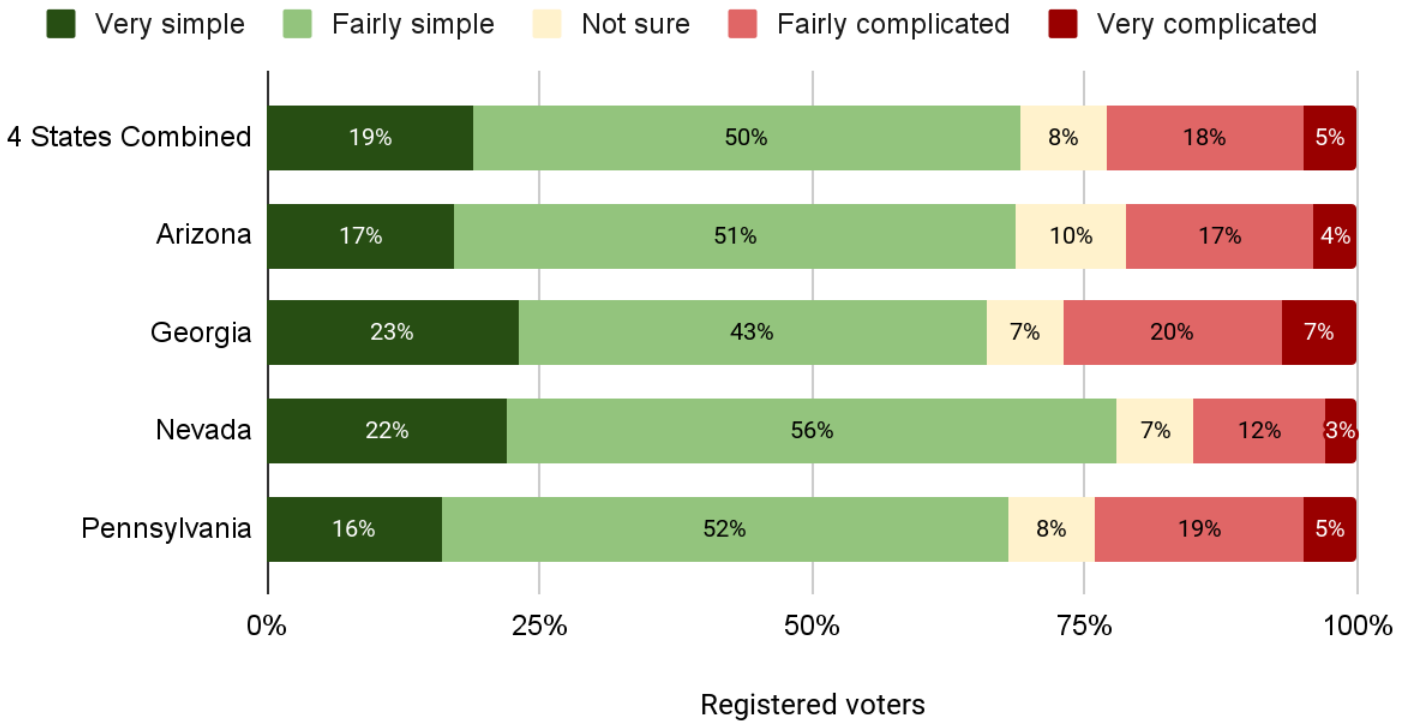
5. Knowledge and Perception of Voting Logistics

A. Perceived Difficulty of Voting

Question: Do you think that laws around voting in your state are simple or complicated?

Across the four states, Georgians are the most likely to see their state’s voting laws as complicated (27%), and Black voters in Georgia are particularly likely to think their state’s laws are complex (37%, including 11% “very complicated”).

Perception of How Complicated Voting Laws Are



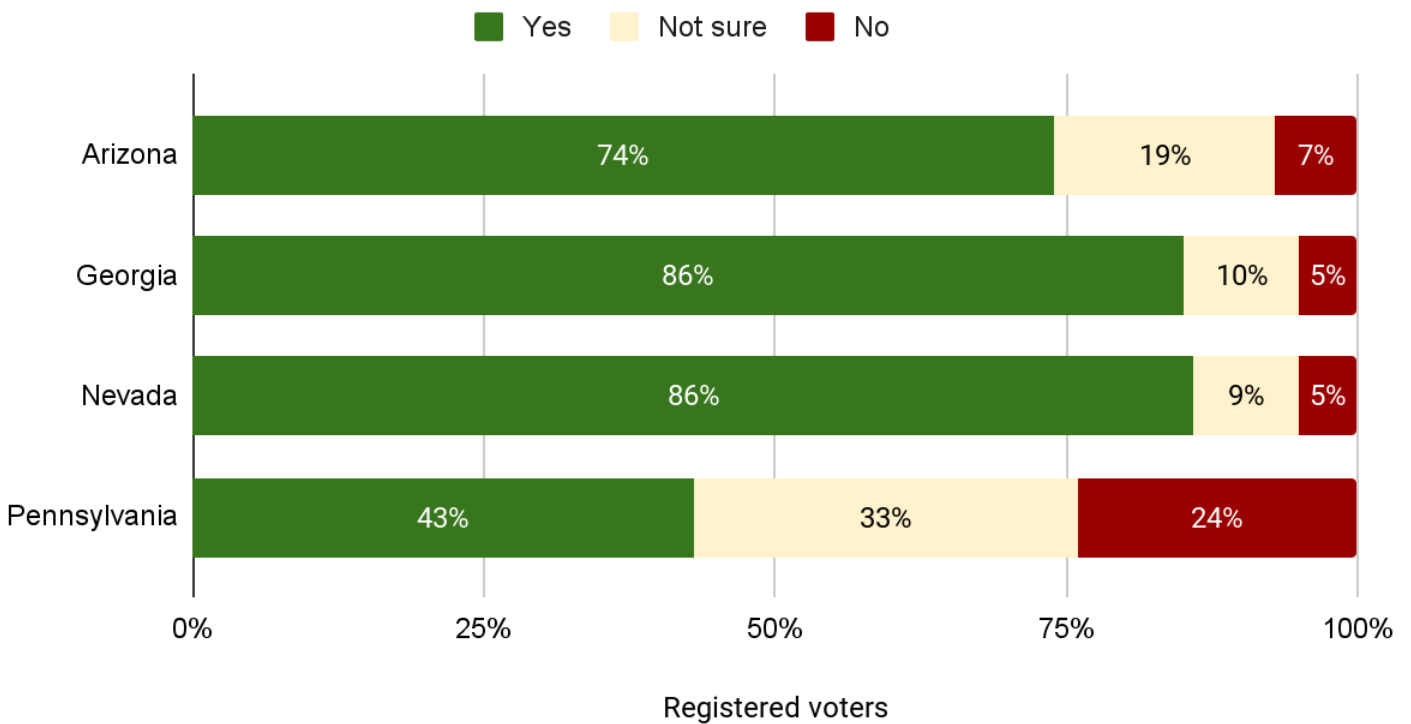
B. Awareness of Early Voting

Question: To the best of your knowledge does your state have 'early voting': meaning people can vote in person before Election Day?

Background: All four states offer opportunities to vote early in person.

Although Pennsylvania does offer in-person early voting at county election offices and other designated locations, fewer than half of Pennsylvania registered voters (43%) are aware of this early voting option. Even in Arizona – which has a more established and expansive early voting system than Pennsylvania – 26% of voters are either unsure or do not think they can vote early.

Does Your State Have Early Voting?



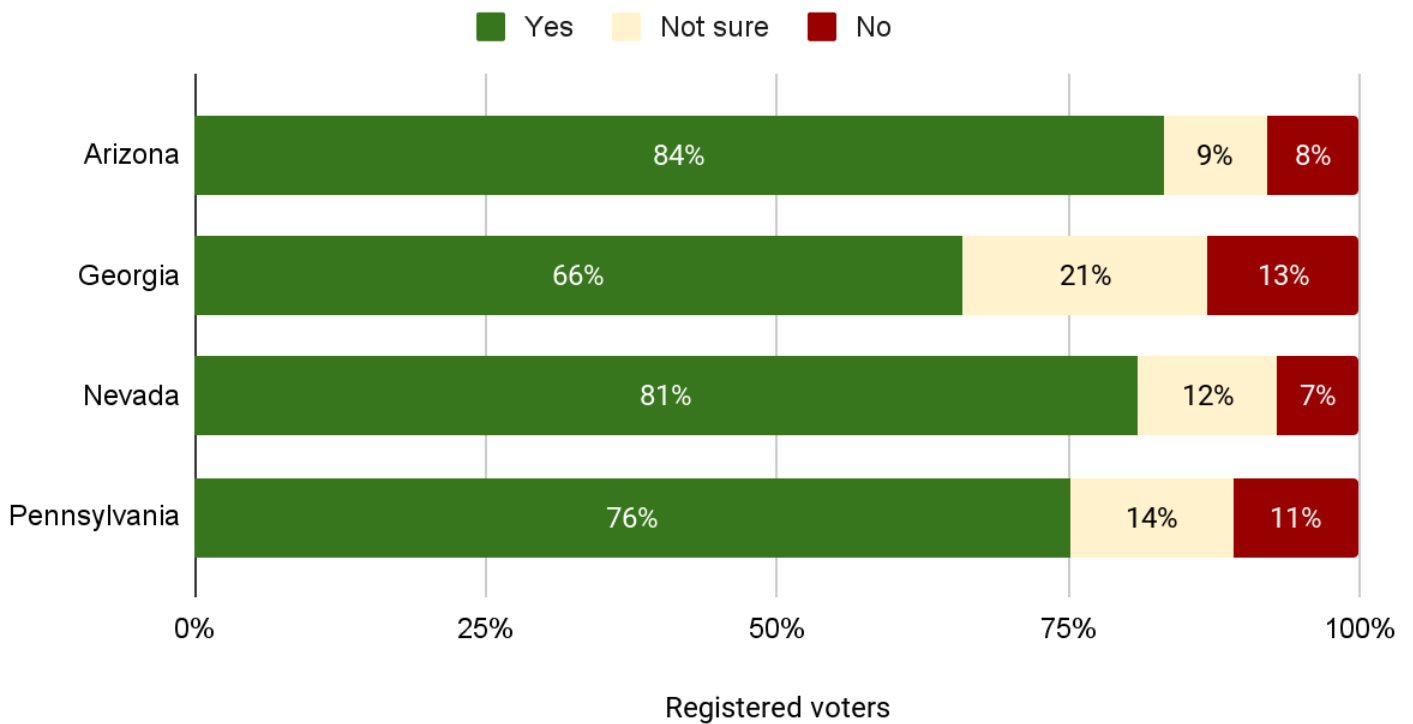
C. Awareness of Vote-by-Mail

Question: To the best of your knowledge does your state have 'vote-by-mail': meaning people can mail in their ballot without an excuse or return it to an authorized ballot drop-off location?

Background: All four states offer voting-by-mail. In Nevada, active registered voters are automatically mailed ballots.

Millions of registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania are unaware that they can request a ballot and then mail it back or return it to an authorized drop-off location. Fully one-third (34%) of Georgians do not know they can vote by mail and one-quarter (25%) of Pennsylvanians are unaware of the option.

Does Your State Have Voting-by-Mail?



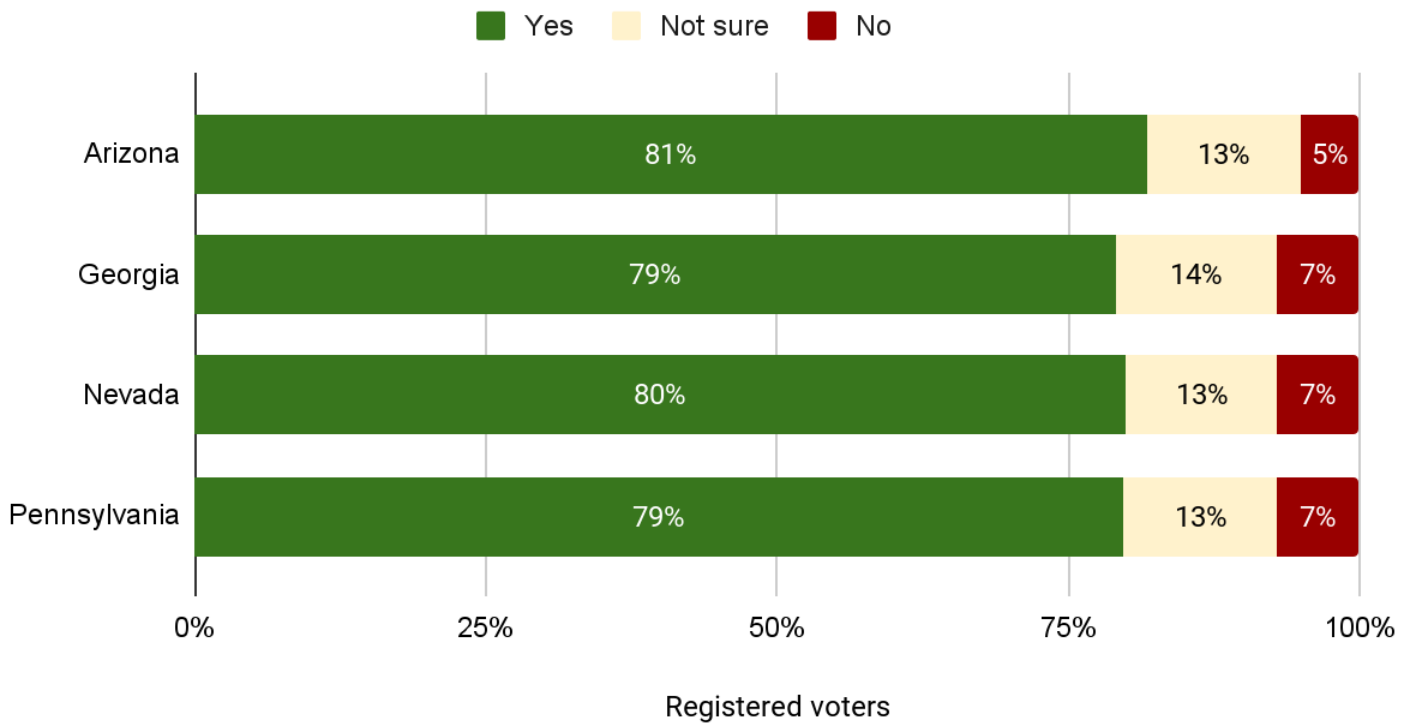
D. Awareness of Absentee Voting

Question: To the best of your knowledge does your state have 'absentee voting': meaning people who can't vote in person can mail in their ballot?

Background: All four states offer absentee voting.

Approximately 20% of registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania are unaware that they can request an absentee ballot.

Does Your State Have Absentee Voting?



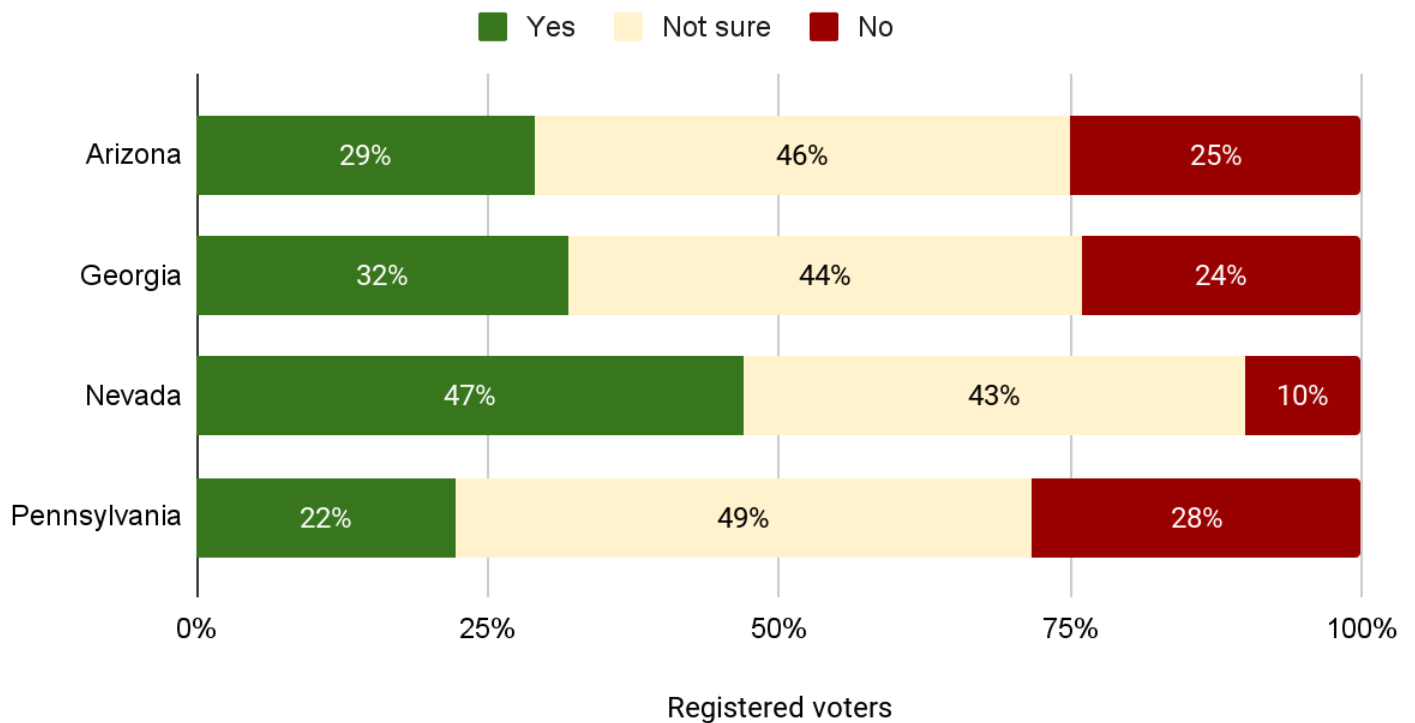
E. Awareness of Same-Day Registration

Question: To the best of your knowledge does your state have 'same-day registration': meaning people can register and vote on the same day?

Background: Of these four states, only Nevada offers same-day registration.

There is significant confusion around same-day registration in the battleground states of Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania. In Nevada – which does offer same-day registration – only 47% of registered voters are aware of the option to register and vote on the same day. On the other hand, in Arizona, Georgia, and Pennsylvania, millions of people believe that same-day registration exists when in reality it does not. Although this poll only surveyed already-registered voters, it is reasonable to expect that unregistered voters in these states might have the same misconceptions about same-day registration as registered voters do.

Does Your State Have Same-Day Registration?



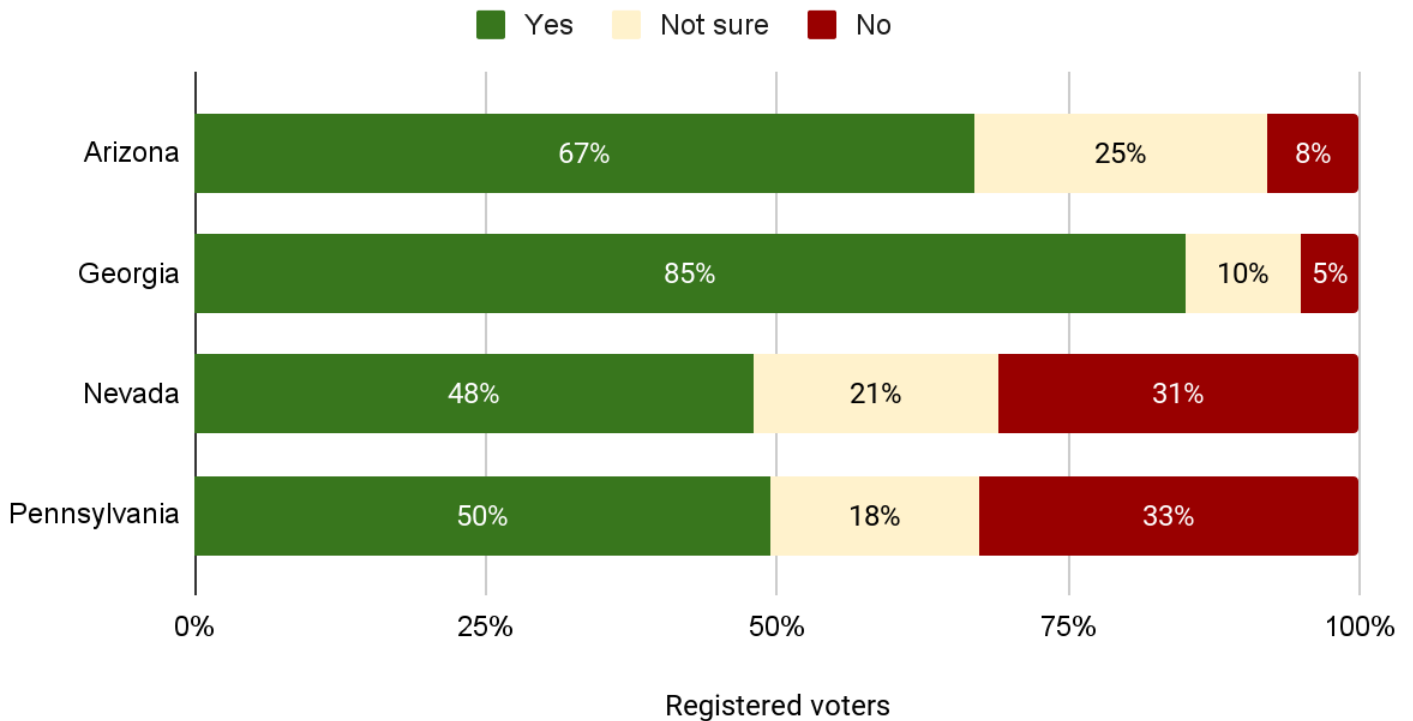
F. Awareness of Voter ID Requirements

Question: To the best of your knowledge does your state have 'voter ID requirements': meaning people are required to show an approved type of ID before voting?

Background: Arizona and Georgia require people to show approved ID before voting. Nevada and Pennsylvania do not require people to show approved ID before voting.¹

33% of registered voters in Arizona do not know they need to show approved identification before voting (8%) or they aren't sure of the requirement (25%). In Nevada and Pennsylvania – which mostly do not require identification to vote – half of all voters incorrectly assume that they do need an ID to vote. Both of these types of misconceptions can suppress voter turnout.

Does Your State Require Approved ID Before Voting?



¹ Pennsylvania only requires people to show approved ID if it is their first time voting at a particular polling place. See Section 5.G.

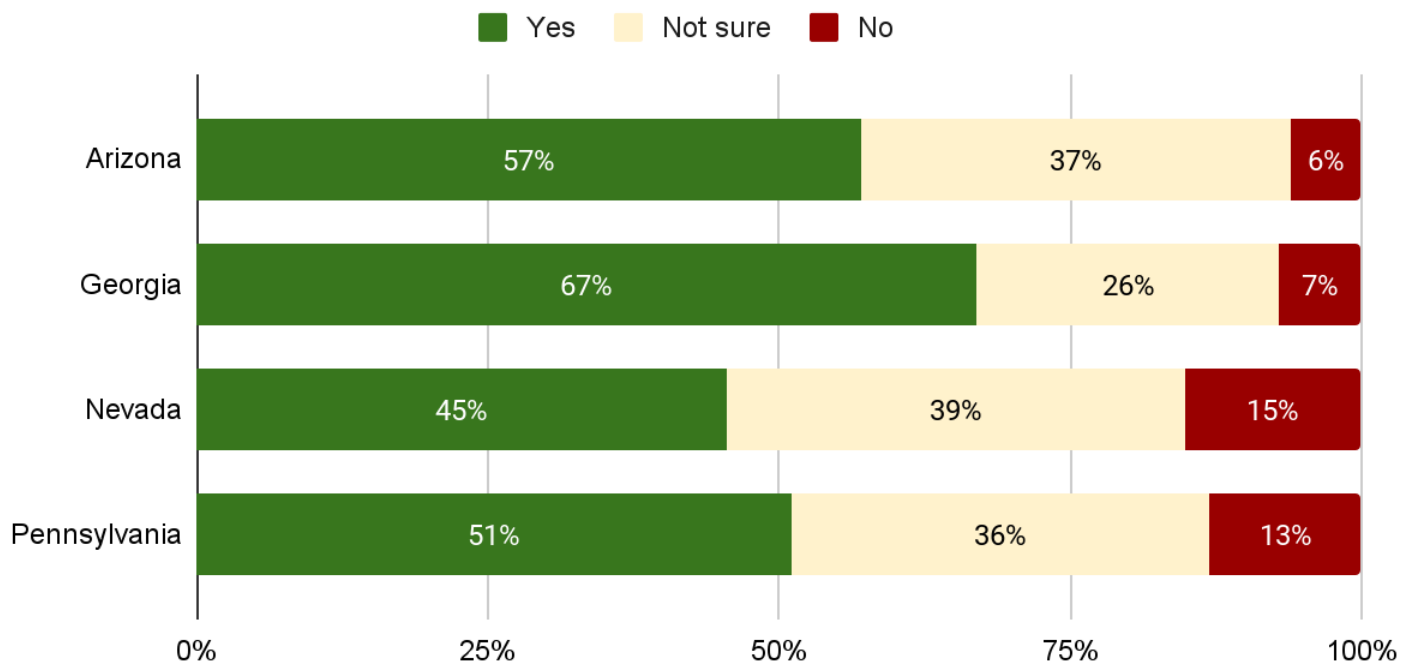
G. Awareness of First-Time Voter ID Requirements

Question: To the best of your knowledge does your state have ‘first-time voter ID requirements’: meaning people are required to show an approved type of ID before they vote at a particular polling place for the first time?

Background: Arizona, Georgia, and Pennsylvania require people to show approved ID before voting at a particular polling place for the first time. Nevada does not require people to show approved ID before voting at a polling place for the first time.

Except in rare and special circumstances, Nevada does not require voters to show an approved ID before voting, yet 45% of registered voters in Nevada think this requirement exists for first-time voters at a particular polling place. On the other hand, Pennsylvania does have a first-time-at-a-polling-place ID requirement, but only 51% of registered voters in the state are aware of the requirement.

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6. Environmental Voter Project

The Environmental Voter Project (EVP) is a non-partisan nonprofit that uses data analytics to identify environmentalists who don't vote and then applies cutting-edge behavioral science messaging to nudge them into being more consistent voters. Working in 17 states with over 6,000 volunteers, EVP will canvass, call, mail, and send digital ads to over 5 million low propensity environmental voters in hundreds of local, state, and federal elections in 2022.

7. Methodology

This battleground state poll of 3,296 self-identified registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, and Pennsylvania was conducted between July 5th and 20th by Beacon Research. Respondents were sourced from a marketplace of online panels, and quotas based on age, gender, ethnicity, and education were used to recruit a representative sample of registered voters across each state.

Weights were applied after fielding to ensure the results accurately reflected the demographic profile of each state's registered voter population.

Respondents were also categorized as likely or unlikely to vote based on their responses to vote likelihood questions within the survey. Sample sizes for the overall dataset, likely voters, and unlikely voters – as well as the same information broken out by state – are presented below, along with associated credibility intervals (in parentheses). Subgroup results carry larger credibility intervals.

	All respondents	Likely voters	Unlikely voters
All four states	3,296 (±1.7)	2,016 (±2.2)	1,280 (±2.7)
Arizona	802 (±3.5)	504 (±4.4)	298 (±5.7)
Georgia	1,003 (±3.1)	602 (±4.0)	401 (±4.9)
Nevada	479 (±4.5)	301 (±5.6)	178 (±7.3)
Pennsylvania	1,012 (±3.1)	609 (±4.0)	403 (±4.9)