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Suffolk University/USA Today poll: Trump Voters 27% More Likely to Vote for Him After Indictment

BOSTON — Former President Trump’s recent criminal indictment may not have the effect on the 2024 presidential election his opponents hope for.

In fact, the indictment seems to have galvanized Trump’s most loyal supporters, with 27% of Trump voters declaring they are now *more* likely to vote for Trump in a 2024 rematch with President Joe Biden, according to a new Suffolk University/USA Today national poll of registered voters.

The show of loyalty in the face of criminal accusations levied at Trump indicates the power the former president still holds in the race. Of 2020 Trump voters overall, 33% said they are less enthusiastic about him than they were three years ago, but 45% are more enthusiastic—a double-digit upside. Only 4% said they are less likely to vote for him following his March indictment by a New York grand jury.

Mixed support for second Biden term

Meanwhile, President Biden has an 85% approval rating from people who voted for him in 2020, but only 49% say they want him to run for the 2024 Democratic nomination, with 40% saying they do not. Biden’s biggest strength comes from his broad party appeal, with 70% of voters saying his policy positions are “about right,” 21% saying he’s not liberal enough and 6% saying he is too liberal.

Trump voters are divided on whether their loyalty is stronger to Trump or to the GOP (41% to 43%), while Biden voters are more loyal to the Democratic Party than to him (65% to 18%). Some room remains for a potential third-party candidate, with 9% of Biden voters and 6% of

Trump voters saying they would vote for a third-party candidate if there was a Biden-Trump rematch.

“Among Trump 2020 voters, just as many people are loyal to Donald Trump as they are to the Republican Party,” said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center. “This begs the question of what these Trump loyalists will do if he doesn’t win the Republican nomination. Do they still vote Republican, vote third-party, or not vote at all in the general election?”

Impact of candidates’ age

When it comes to age, Biden voters (42%) say they are less likely to vote for him because of his age, while just 17% of Trump voters say his age makes them less likely to support him.

Looking at the Republican primary field, 69% of Trump voters say they’d vote for him now, considering the current field of announced candidates. However, among the subset of those that don’t want Trump to run again, 61% said they’d vote for Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, who has yet to officially announce his candidacy.

In considering what broadcast and cable news sources voters find most trustworthy, 42% of Trump voters say they trust Fox News the most, with Newsmax coming in second at 15%. For Biden voters, 28% say they trust PBS/NPR the most, with CNN and MSNBC tied for second-most trustworthy at 16% each.

Methodology

The nationwide Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* surveys were conducted through live interviews of 600 Joe Biden voters and 600 Donald Trump voters randomly selected from previous Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* national and state polls taken from 2020–22. Field for the separate surveys was conducted from April 15-18, 2023. Demographics of the subsets of Biden and Trump voters correlated with demographic proportions of Biden and Trump voters from previous national surveys and 2020 exit polling data of Biden and Trump voters. Respondents were contacted using cell phones and landlines and were selected by identifying and confirming voter information from previous surveys. Surveys were administered in English and Spanish. The margin of error for each 600-respondent survey is +/- 4 percentage points. Error margins increase for smaller subgroups in the cross-tabulation document. All surveys may be subject to other sources of error, including but not limited to coverage error and measurement error.

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