THE WINSTON GROUP
making ideas matter™

WINNING THE ISSUES NATIONAL SURVEY
1,000 Registered Voters
January 8-12, 2026

In thinking about this year's election for Congress, based on a scale of 1 to 9, where 1 is that you will not be voting and 9 is that you will absolutely be voting, how likely are you to vote in that election?

MEAN: 8.09

1. Generally speaking, would you say things in the country are headed in the right direction, or are things seriously headed off on the wrong track?

1. Right Direction	**36**
2. Don't Know	**10**
3. Wrong Track	**54**

2. Overall would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing as President?

1. Approve	**40**
2. Don't know	**8**
3. Disapprove	**52**

For each of the following, do you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable impression? (ROTATE 3-4 THEN 5)

		NAME ID	TOTAL FAVORABLE	TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	NO OPINION
3.	**Republicans in Congress**	**100**	**41**	**53**	**6**
4.	**Democrats in Congress**	**100**	**38**	**56**	**7**
5.	**Donald Trump**	**100**	**40**	**57**	**3**

6. Which of the following issues would you say is most important to you in deciding how to vote for Congress? (ROTATE)

1. Education	**2**
2. Social Security	**5**
3. Retirement and Investments	**1**
4. Terrorism	**1**
5. Health care	**10**
6. The Economy	**24**
7. Jobs	**2**
8. Taxes	**3**
9. Crime and Safety	**5**
10. Environment/Climate Change	**4**
11. National Defense/Foreign Affairs	**3**
12. National Deficit/Spending	**3**
13. Energy	**1**
14. Gas prices	*****
15. Immigration	**10**
16. Inflation	**17**
17. Abortion	**2**
18. Prescription Drugs	*****
19. Guns	**1**
20. Other	**4**
21. Don't know	**2**

Which party do you have more confidence in to handle each of the following issues - (ROTATE) the Republican Party or the Democratic Party? (ROTATE 9-16)

		REPUBLICAN PARTY	DEMOCRATIC PARTY	DON'T KNOW
7.	**The Economy**	**45**	**42**	**13**
8.	**Jobs**	**44**	**44**	**13**
9.	**Inflation**	**44**	**41**	**15**
10.	**Education**	**37**	**50**	**13**
11.	**Health care**	**34**	**53**	**13**
12.	**Taxes**	**46**	**40**	**14**
13.	**Tariffs**	**43**	**42**	**15**
14.	**Affordability/cost of living**	**38**	**47**	**16**

15. If the elections were held today for US Congress in your state, would you be more likely to vote for (ROTATE) the Republican candidate or the Democrat candidate?

1. Republican	**39**
2. Lean Republican	**4**
3. Undecided	**11**
4. Lean Democrat	**3**
5. Democrat	**43**
TOTAL REPUBLICAN	**43**
TOTAL DEMOCRAT	**46**

(ROTATE Q16-17)

16. Overall, in thinking about what you heard from Republicans in Congress, did this make you more favorable or less favorable to Republicans in Congress?

1. More favorable	**37**
2. Less favorable	**51**
3. Don't know	**12**

17. Overall, in thinking about what you heard from Democrats in Congress, did this make you more favorable or less favorable to Democrats in Congress?

1. More favorable	**39**
2. Less favorable	**47**
3. Don't know	**14**

NEWS STORIES

On a scale of 1-9 with 1 being not important at all, 3 being somewhat important; 5 being important, 7 being very important and 9 being extremely important, how important is each of the following issues or news stories to you? (ROTATE LIST)

		MEAN
18.	**Inflation/gas prices/grocery costs**	**7.56**
19.	**Health care/Medicare/Medicaid/Affordable Care Act (ACA subsidies)**	**7.10**
20.	**Crime and safety**	**7.00**
21.	**Tariffs**	**6.35**
22.	**The recent bill passed by Congress that some call the One Big Beautiful Bill**	**5.95**
23.	**Jeffrey Epstein investigation/release of the Epstein files**	**5.07**
24.	**Minnesota day care fraud investigation**	**5.58**
25.	**Affordability/cost of living**	**7.70**
26.	**US military action to extradite Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro**	**5.90**
27.	**ICE/Immigration**	**6.59**

(ROTATE Q28-29)

28. Which one of these issues or news stories did you hear about *most* from Republicans in Congress? (ROTATE)

1.	Inflation/gas prices/grocery costs	**5**
2.	Health care/Medicare/Medicaid/Affordable Care Act (ACA subsidies)	**5**
3.	Crime and safety	**4**
4.	Tariffs	**9**
5.	The recent bill passed by Congress that some call the One Big Beautiful Bill	**11**
6.	Jeffrey Epstein investigation/release of the Epstein files	**5**
7.	Minnesota day care fraud investigation	**9**
8.	Affordability/cost of living	**5**
9.	US military action to extradite Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro	**12**
10.	ICE/Immigration	**25**
11.	Something else	**2**
12.	Don’t know	**9**

29. Which one of these issues or news stories did you hear about *most* from Democrats in Congress? (ROTATE)

1. Inflation/gas prices/grocery costs	**4**
2. Health care/Medicare/Medicaid/Affordable Care Act (ACA subsidies)	**21**
3. Crime and safety	**2**
4. Tariffs	**5**
5. The recent bill passed by Congress that some call the One Big Beautiful Bill	**4**
6. Jeffrey Epstein investigation/release of the Epstein files	**16**
7. Minnesota day care fraud investigation	**2**
8. Affordability/cost of living	**8**
9. US military action to extradite Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro	**5**
10. ICE/Immigration	**21**
11. Something else	**2**
12. Don't know	**10**

30. Generally speaking, would you say the economy is headed in the right direction, or are things seriously headed off on the wrong track?

1. Right Direction	**36**
2. Don't Know	**13**
3. Wrong Track	**51**

31. Overall would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing in handling the economy?

1. Approve	**40**
2. Disapprove	**54**
3. Don't know	**6**

32. Overall, would you say that you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump is doing in handling inflation?

1. Approve	**37**
2. Disapprove	**56**
3. Don't Know	**8**

33. Do you think inflation is getting … ? (ROTATE 1-2)

1. Better	**27**
2. Worse	**47**
3. It is not changing	**22**
4. Don't know	**3**

34. In thinking more specifically about how the economy is doing, which one comes closer to your view? (ROTATE 1 AND 3)

1. The economy is getting better, but the rate of progress is still unacceptable.	**23**
2. The economy is getting better, and the rate of progress is acceptable.	**23**
3. The economy is not getting better at all.	**49**
4. Don't know	**5**

35. Which comes closest to your economic situation? (ROTATE 1 AND 3)

1. Your wages are increasing faster than cost of living	**7**
2. Your wages and cost of living are increasing at about the same rate	**22**
3. Cost of living is increasing faster than your wages	**65**
4. Don't know	**6**

RECONCILIATION BILL

36. Last July, President Trump signed into law a bill that includes several tax and spending provisions, including extending tax provisions from the 2017 law. Some have called this the "One Big Beautiful Bill." Would you say that you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose this bill? (ROTATE 1-4 TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

1. Strongly favor	**16**
2. Somewhat favor	**26**
3. Somewhat oppose	**16**
4. Strongly oppose	**29**
5. Don't Know	**12**
TOTAL FAVOR	**42**
TOTAL OPPOSE	**45**

37. Do you think this bill does or does not prevent a tax increase on you and your family?

1. Does prevent a tax increase	**30**
2. Does not prevent a tax increase	**46**
3. Don't Know	**25**

38. Do you think you will be using the new federal tax deductions for overtime or tips?

1. Yes	**20**
2. No	**63**
3. Don't Know	**17**

For each of the following, do you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable impression? (ROTATE 39-42)

	NAME ID	TOTAL FAVORABLE	TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	NO OPINION
39. Capitalism	**100**	**53**	**32**	**15**
40. Socialism	**100**	**29**	**54**	**17**
41. The private sector	**99**	**54**	**26**	**16**
42. The federal government	**100**	**32**	**60**	**8**

43. In last fall's shutdown, Senate Democrats refused to allow a vote on the government funding bill unless it included renewing the temporary subsidies for Affordable Care Act health premiums. If Senate Democrats did the same again in the upcoming government funding debate, would you support or oppose this?

1. Support	**44**
2. Oppose	**40**
3. Don't Know	**16**

44. For either party, is shutting down the government an appropriate legislative strategy?

1. Yes	**17**
2. No	**72**
3. Don't Know	**10**

HEALTH CARE

45. Do you have a strongly favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or strongly unfavorable view of the Make America Healthy Again (MAHA) movement? (ROTATE TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

1. Strongly favorable	**22**
2. Somewhat favorable	**24**
3. Somewhat unfavorable	**11**
4. Strongly unfavorable	**27**
5. No opinion	**11**
6. Never heard of	**4**
TOTAL FAVORABLE	**46**
TOTAL UNFAVORABLE	**38**

46. Do you believe or not believe this statement? A Medicare for All health care system would be government-run health care.

1. Believe	**61**
2. Do not believe	**18**
3. Don’t know	**20**

47. Do you have a wearable device to monitor or track fitness or health like a Fitbit or Apple Watch?

1. Yes	**42**
2. No	**56**
3. Don't Know	**3**

48. Some have said that the use of wearable devices to monitor fitness and vital health signs will decrease the cost of health care. Do you believe or not believe that this will occur?

1. Believe	**23**
2. Do not believe	**53**
3. Don't Know	**23**

49. Which of the following health care systems would be better? (ROTATE)

1. The current system	**31**
2. Medicare for All	**47**
3. Don't Know	**22**

50. Which of the following health care systems would be best? (ROTATE)

1. The current system	**12**
2. Medicare for All	**32**
3. A modernized health care system	**45**
4. Don’t Know	**11**

51. Whose policies have caused health care costs to increase more – (ROTATE) Republican policies or Democratic policies? (ROTATE)

1. Republican policies	**43**
2. Democratic policies	**39**
3. Don't Know	**19**

52. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

The Affordable Care Act was passed in 2010 to address the health care system as it existed then. It is now 15 years later and the ACA is obsolete because the health care system has changed significantly with major advances in medical science, treatments, and delivery of care. As a result, the country needs policies to help modernize the health care system so it can effectively deliver on these and future innovations.

1. Believe	**57**
2. Do not believe	**26**
3. Don't Know	**17**

(ROTATE 53-54)

53. Do you believe Republicans want to address the cost of health care?

1. Believe	**41**
2. Do not believe	**50**
3. Don't Know	**10**

54. Do you believe Democrats want to address the cost of health care?

1. Believe	**56**
2. Do not believe	**35**
3. Don't Know	**9**

55. Do you favor or oppose the US military action to extradite Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro to face charges for drug trafficking?

1. Favor	**45**
2. Oppose	**37**
3. Don't Know	**18**

Now just a few demographic questions for statistical purposes only—

56. In what year were you born?

1. 18-34	**16**
2. 35-44	**19**
3. 45-54	**20**
4. 55-64	**21**
5. 65+	**24**

57. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself (ROTATE) a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

1. Republican	**34**
2. Democrat	**33**
3. Independent	**31**
4. Other	**1**
5. Don't Know	**1**

58. If you had to classify yourself, would you say you are very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative or very conservative in your political beliefs?

1. Very Liberal	**10**
2. Somewhat Liberal	**14**
3. Moderate	**39**
4. Somewhat Conservative	**20**
5. Very Conservative	**15**
6. Don't Know	**2**

59. Generally speaking, how do you vote? (ROTATE 1-7 TOP TO BOTTOM, BOTTOM TO TOP)

1. Straight Republican	**17**
2. Mostly Republican	**18**
3. Slightly more Republican than Democrat	**9**
4. Split your ticket evenly	**10**
5. Slightly more Democrat than Republican	**8**
6. Mostly Democrat	**15**
7. Straight Democrat	**19**
8. Don't know	**3**
TOTAL STRAIGHT/MOSTLY REPUBLICAN	**35**
TOTAL SLIGHTLY MORE REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT/SPLIT EVENLY	**27**
TOTAL STRAIGHT/MOSTLY DEMOCRAT	**34**

60. Are there children in your household under the age of 18 years old?

1. Yes	**27**
2. No	**72**
3. Don't Know	**1**

61. What is your current marital status?

1. Single, never married	**34**
2. Married	**47**
3. Separated	**2**
4. Divorced	**13**
5. Widowed	**4**
6. Don't Know	**1**

62. What is the annual income of your household before taxes? Is it…

1. Less than 15K	**8**
2. 15K-30K	**15**
3. 30K-50K	**16**
4. 50K-75K	**18**
5. 75K-100K	**16**
6. 100-200K	**21**
7. Over 200K	**5**
8. Don't Know	**1**

63. What is your religion?

1. Evangelical Protestant	**15**
2. Mainline Protestant	**12**
3. Catholic	**30**
4. Jewish	**4**
5. Mormon	**1**
6. Atheist/Agnostic	**12**
7. Other	**21**
8. Don't Know	**5**

64. What is your race?

1. Hispanic	**12**
2. African-American	**11**
3. Asian	**3**
4. White	**71**
5. Other	**3**
6. Don't Know	*****

65. What was the last grade of school that you completed?

1. Did not complete high school	**1**
2. High school graduate	**14**
3. Attended college but received no degree	**26**
4. Associates degree	**15**
5. College graduate – Bachelors	**25**
6. Postgraduate study or degree	**19**

66. For which presidential candidate did you vote in the 2024 election? (ROTATE 1-2, THEN 3)

1. Donald Trump, the Republican candidate	**45**
2. Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate	**43**
3. Third party candidate/Other	**5**
4. Did not vote	**6**
5. Don't Know	**1**

67. What is your employment status?

1. Employed, full time	**46**
2. Employed, part-time	**11**
3. Unemployed	**7**
4. Self-employed	**5**
5. Homemaker	**4**
6. Student	**1**
7. Retired	**25**
8. Don't Know	*****

68. Do you consider yourself a part of the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement?

1. Yes	**26**
2. No	**66**
3. Don't know	**8**

69. (AMONG REPUBLICANS ONLY) How likely are you to vote in a Republican primary election? (ROTATE 1-4, 4-1)

1. Very likely	**73**
2. Somewhat likely	**19**
3. Somewhat not likely	**3**
4. Not likely at all	**2**
5. Don't Know	**3**
TOTAL LIKELY	**93**
TOTAL NOT LIKELY	**4**

70. What type of area do you live in?

1. Urban	**27**
2. Suburban	**53**
3. Rural	**19**

GENDER

1. Male	**48**
2. Female	**52**

REGION

1. Northeast	**18**
2. South	**27**
3. Midwest	**20**
4. Plains/Mountains	**21**
5. West Coast	**13**