



TO: INTERESTED PARTIES

FROM: JIM HOBART

RE: KEY FINDINGS FROM A RECENT NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISPANIC VOTERS

DATE: AUGUST 23, 2023

Key Findings

1. *“Bidenomics” is not working for Hispanics.*

Despite the spin coming from the Biden Administration and his nascent re-election campaign, Hispanics are pessimistic about both the direction of the country and the economy.

Just 29% of Hispanic voters say the country is headed in the right direction, compared to just 71% who say it is off on the wrong track. These numbers are even worse with Hispanics who identify as Independent, with fully 84% saying the country is off on the wrong track.

This pessimism extends to the economy, as only 21% of Hispanics rate the economy as excellent (4%) or good (17%), while the clear majority (79%) say the state of the economy is fair (31%) or poor (48%).

There is also little optimism that the economy will improve in the next year, as just 21% of Hispanic voters expect the economy to get better, compared to twice as many (42%) who expect the economy to get worse.

Thirty-eight percent (38%) expect the economy to stay the same, but given Hispanics’ current negative economic outlook, the status quo would still be a major problem for national Democrats.

2. *Inflation remains the top issue for Hispanic voters.*

Hispanics across partisan lines say that inflation is the top issue for them, followed by the economy/jobs.

Given the pessimistic economic numbers, this comes as no surprise, but also serves as an important reminder that Hispanic voters are more focused on rising prices and the job market than they are on any other issue.

Inflation also is not just a concern for Hispanic voters, it is an issue that they see as having a negative impact on them personally.

The vast majority (84%) of Hispanics agreeing that inflation has had a negative impact on their quality of life, including 52% who say they strongly agree.

Agreement extends across partisan lines, with 91% of Republicans, 88% of Independents, and 79% of Democrats all agreeing with this statement.

3. ***Hispanic voters are also concerned that the country is declining and that their children will not have the opportunities they had hoped.***

Fully 80% of Hispanics voters agreed with the following statement.

I'm concerned that America is declining, and my children won't have the opportunities I had hoped they would.

This includes 50% of Hispanics who strongly agreed with the statement.

This concern is particularly acute with younger Hispanics, as 85% of 18-34 year olds say they agree that the country is declining and that opportunities could be limited as a result.

4. ***There is also concern that Americans are losing traditional American values.***

The clear majority (70%) of Hispanics agree that

Too many Americans are losing our traditional American values of family, faith, and freedom of opportunity.

Again, this is not a statement where the results are especially partisan, with even more than half (56%) of Democratic Hispanics agreeing with the statement.

This issue is of particular concern to parents, as 76% of Hispanics with children in the household say they agree with the statement.

5. ***One policy issue where there is widespread and strong support is school choice.***

Respondents read the following questions:

Do you support or oppose school choice that allows parents to send their children to any public, charter, or private school and allows state funding to follow the student?

More than three-fourths (77%) of Hispanic voters support school choice, including 46% who are strong supporters. Just 23% are opposed.

Support for school choice is also bipartisan, with 89% of Republicans, 80% of Independents, and 68% of Democrats backing school choice.

School choice is also very popular among those most likely to be affected, as 81% of Hispanic parents support school choice (the numbers are also quite high among those without children in the household, sitting at 74% support).

6. **Another policy area where there is clear and consistent alignment among Hispanics is on immigration.**

More than 80% of Hispanic voters agree that:

More needs to be done to create legal pathways to immigration for those who wish to immigrate to America legally. (87% agree)

...and...

We need to provide DACA recipients and Dreamers, undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children, with a pathway to citizenship. (82% agree)

Once again, these are not particularly partisan issues, with 82% of Republican Hispanics agreeing that more needs to be done to create legal pathways to immigration, and more than 60% (64%) of GOP Hispanics backing giving DACA recipients a pathway to citizenship.

The Bottom Line

The economy is likely to be a significant drag for President Biden and other Democrats with Hispanics in 2024. These voters see the economy as no better than fair, with close to half saying it is poor, and there is little expectation that the economy will improve in the next year.

The central economic concern remains inflation, and it is an issue that is having a definite impact on the quality of life of Hispanic voters.

There is also a clear sense of worry that American is changing in a way that will limit opportunities for future generations.

On policy, there is very strong support for school choice policies, and similarly strong support for improving the legal immigration system, as well as providing a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers.

Methodology

Public Opinion Strategies is pleased to present the key findings of a national online survey. The survey was completed July 18-23, 2023, among 1,000 registered Hispanic voters, and has a credibility interval of $\pm 3.53\%$.