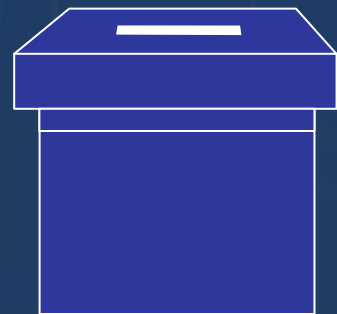




**✓ DEFEND
THE VOTE**





DEFEND THE VOTE

Defend The Vote is a political action committee dedicated to preserving our democracy by electing candidates, up and down the ballot, who will fight to ensure fair elections, voting access, voter education and voter protection.



Defend The Vote Action Fund advocates for legislation to defend and strengthen our democracy and to hold members accountable to their commitment to voting rights.

Protecting Freedom and Democracy

The Freedom to Vote Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act

- Top bills on the Democratic agenda for three consecutive Congresses.
- Leadership has committed to doing so again when Democrats take the majority.

Good Policy

- Protects the freedoms that are essential to making progress on key issues, such as lowering costs, reproductive freedom, health care, gun violence, and more
- Defends against MAGA extremism, misinformation, election denial, and threats of political violence

Good Politics

- Consistently a top issue for voters
- Adds credibility and trust and strengthens message on other issues of concern to voters
- Works across demographics and can be deployed in red and blue parts of your state or district

The Freedom that Protects All Other Freedoms

Threats to Freedom and Democracy	Impact on Your Voters	Solutions: HR1/HR4 Empower the People
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Voter Restrictions and Extreme Gerrymandering● Big Money Corruption● MAGA Extremism● Mis/Dis-information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Loss of Reproductive Freedom● Threats to birth control● Rx drug costs● Higher food and gas prices● Gun violence● Climate change● Corporate Tax Cuts that threaten Social Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Protect and Strengthen Access to Voting● Ensure Safe, Secure, Accessible, Elections● Empower the voices of Everyday Americans instead of Special Interests● End Partisan and Racial Gerrymandering

HR 1 and HR 4: Policy and Provisions

Voter Access

- Vote-by-mail; Early voting; Automatic and Same Day Registration
- Ends improper and partisan voter purges
- Restores Voting Rights Act to prevent implementation of voter restrictions
- Requires lines to vote be no longer than 30 minutes

Safe, Secure, Accessible Elections

- Requires voter-verifiable paper ballots and American-made voting machines
- Provides funding for new and more secure election equipment and physical and cybersecurity improvements
- Nonpartisan, reliable, and secure post-election audits
- Cracks down on misinformation, deceptive practices and voter intimidation
- Prohibits partisan interference, harassment, and removing of election officials

HR 1 and HR 4: Policy and Provisions

Empower Everyday Americans, Not Special Interests

- Bans Dark Money: Super PACs and organizations spending in elections must disclose donors
- Online political ads must meet the same criteria as ads on traditional media
- Empowers the FEC with new authorities
- Stops illicit super PAC campaign coordination
- Incentivizes programs to increase small donor contributions over big, special interest money

End Gerrymandering

- Establishes national, uniform federal criteria for congressional redistricting, with greater transparency
- Includes strengthened protections for communities of color
- Expressly prohibits partisan gerrymandering
- Restores the VRA's preclearance to prevent implementation of racially gerrymandered districts

Republicans Attacks on Freedom and Democracy

ACE Act

A bill written by election deniers and based on misinformation.

- > **Restricts the freedom to vote**
- > **Burdens local election officials and workers**
- > **Expands dark money**
- > **Allows extreme gerrymandering**

SAVE Act

A continuation of the MAGA-led "Big Lie" about the 2020 election.

- > **Creates barriers to voting through unnecessary, restrictive, and burdensome requirements on voters to verify citizenship status**
- > **Existing laws already requiring voters to do so and penalties exist for those who violate these laws**

**Voters support the Democratic bills to protect our freedoms and democracy over the anti-voter, pro-Dark Money Republican legislation.*

Republicans Attacks Based on Misinformation

Republican Attacks: Based on misinformation and outright lies.

The Facts: It's already illegal for non-citizens to cast a ballot in federal elections. States have secure systems in place to prevent noncitizens from voting.

Those who violate the law already face severe penalties. There is no proof it's happening and Donald Trump's own Presidential Advisory Commission on Election Integrity was disbanded because it couldn't find any proof.

Talking Points:

- **This bill is fueled by MAGA misinformation** and conspiracy theories. They want to undermine faith in our elections.
- **It will create barriers to voting for millions of eligible Americans**, including voters of color, military voters, tribal voters, rural voters, and survivors of natural disasters, among others.
- **It's designed to set the stage** for an attempt to overturn the results of the 2024 elections.
- **Instead of spreading misinformation** and outright lies we should pass the Freedom to Vote Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Act. The two bills work in tandem to protect our freedom, democracy, and right to vote.

Voters Care About Protecting our Freedom and Democracy

HUFFPOST

**New Polling Shows Democracy Mattered In The
2022 Midterms**

The Atlantic

Democracy Was on the Ballot—And
Won

The Washington Post

Opinion | Democracy was on the ballot. And voters
knew it.

Vox

The midterms showed American
democracy won't go down
without a fight

AP

**VoteCast: Inflation top concern, but democracy
a worry too**

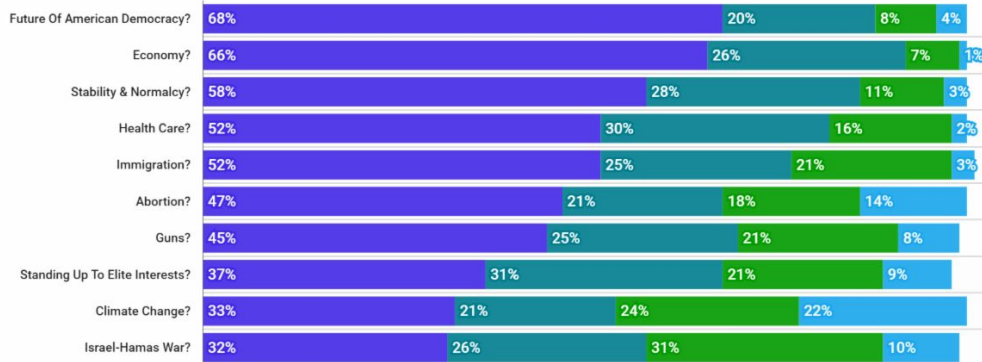
Voters Care About Protecting our Freedom and Democracy



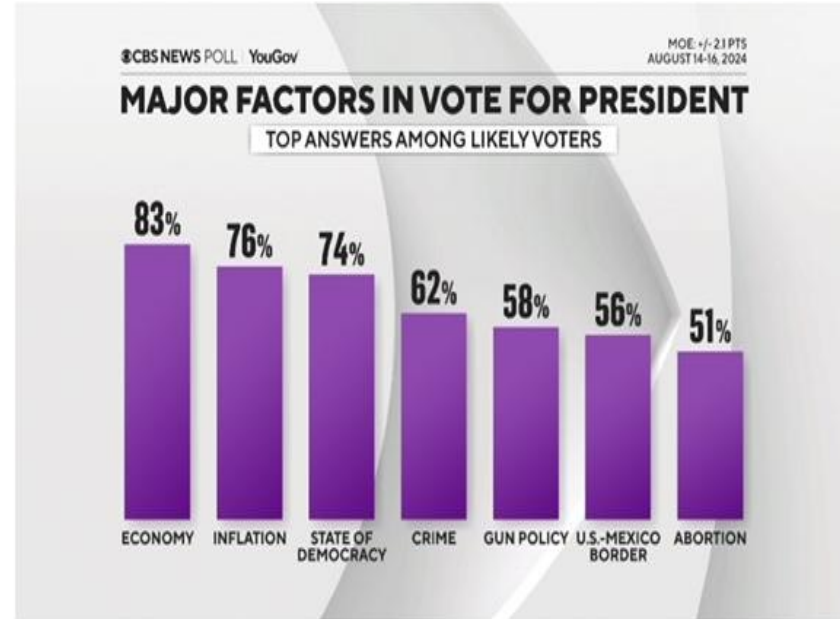
FUTURE OF AMERICAN DEMOCRACY & ECONOMY MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES TO 2024 VOTE FOR PRESIDENT

For each of the following issues, please tell me how important it is in deciding your vote for president.

■ % Extremely Important ■ % Very Important ■ % Somewhat Important ■ % Not At All Important



Source: Fox News Poll -
Conducted: June 14-17, 2024
Registered Voters +/- 3% Pts.



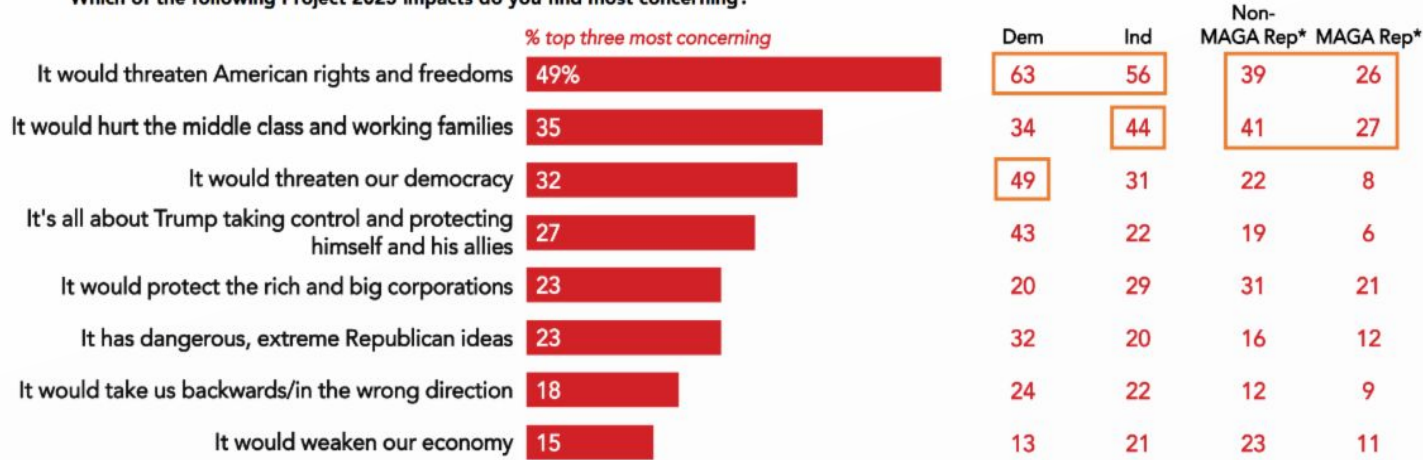
- **Bloomberg/Morning Consult** ([May swing state poll](#)): Two thirds of voters said democracy was very important in deciding who to vote for.
- **NBC News** ([April national poll](#)): Protecting democracy and constitutional rights ranked number one among single issues voters.

“Freedom” Makes the Message Personal and Tangible

Most Concerning on Project 2025: Threats to Rights and Freedoms, Harm to Middle Class, Threats to Democracy

Democrats and independents are most concerned that Project 2025 “would threaten American rights and freedoms” (63% and 56% most concerning, respectively), while roughly equal shares of non-MAGA Republicans* are concerned that it “would hurt the middle class and working families” (41%) as are concerned about the threat it poses to rights and freedoms (39%).

Which of the following Project 2025 impacts do you find most concerning?



**MAGA Republicans* are Republicans who identify as “a supporter of the MAGA movement” on a separate question, while “Non-MAGA Republicans” are Republicans who do not consider themselves supporters of the MAGA movement or are not sure.
 Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted June 20-June 24, 2024.
 For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

navigator*

Kamala Harris Leans Heavily into “Freedom”

“In this election, many other fundamental freedoms are at stake. The freedom to live safe from gun violence in our schools, communities and places of worship. The freedom to love who you love openly and with pride. The freedom to breathe clean air, and drink clean water and live free from the pollution that fuels the climate crisis. And the freedom that unlocks all the others: the freedom to vote. With this election, we finally have the opportunity to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act and the Freedom to Vote Act.”

- [Kamala Harris at the Democratic National Convention](#)



Different Ways to Deliver the Message



[Watch Here](#)

What to Say: Key Talking Points

Topline Message: Protect the freedom to vote and make democracy work for the people, not corporations. Pass the Freedom to Vote Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Act.

General Guidance: Connect democracy to key issues important to your constituents to make it personal and tangible. Don't get bogged down in the details. Note that you have a solution and a plan - give voters something to vote for.

The Contrast:

My opponent wants restrictions on voting because it's the freedom we use to protect all other freedoms.

They are trying to silence our voices with these voter restrictions and with millions of dollars in Dark Money so they can pass their extreme agenda that rolls back reproductive rights, blocks progress on climate change, and gives massive tax cuts to corporations paid for by cutting Medicare and Social Security.

I'm running to protect our freedoms. We can make progress on the issues that matter to our lives by protecting the voice and vote of the people and holding our elected leaders accountable when they don't listen.

Sample Language

- Most of us believe that our elections should give everyone a say in our democracy.
- But Dark Money groups and corporate special interests are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to buy elections and to restrict access to voting so they can pass their extreme agenda that takes away our freedoms.
- They will roll back reproductive rights, block reforms to reduce gun violence, and give massive tax cuts to corporations paid for by cutting Medicare and Social Security.
- I'll fight to ensure everyone's voice is heard and vote is counted so that Congress is accountable to the people, not just billionaires and corporations.
- I'll pass the Freedom to Vote Act and John Lewis Voting Rights Act to ensure everyone is represented and we get things done that help families in our district.