

Congressional generic ballot: Democrats lead 53-43

MAGA Republicans “more motivated” this midterm cycle, non-MAGA Republicans don’t share enthusiasm

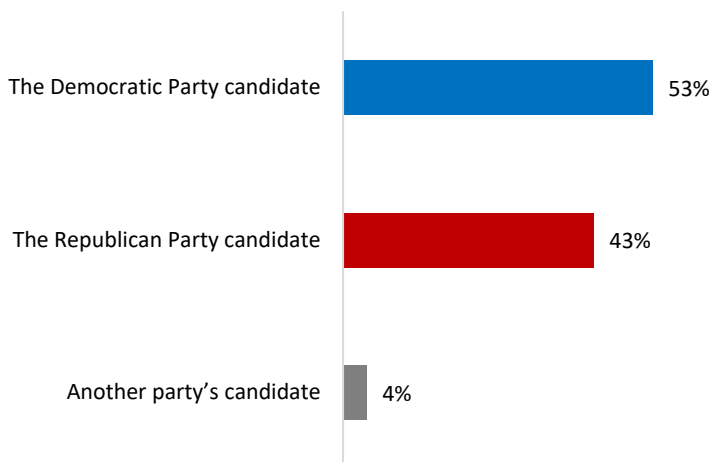
August 27, 2026 – With a little more than two months until Americans vote in the 2026 midterm elections, Democrats hold an early advantage in the race for the U.S. House of Representatives, while Republican enthusiasm is being driven disproportionately by voters who identify with the MAGA movement.

New data from Angus Reid USA finds 45 percent currently support the Democratic candidate in their congressional district, compared with 36 percent who choose the Republican. Ten percent remain undecided. Among decided voters, Democrats lead 53 to 43, with four percent backing another party.

The contest also reveals a divide in Republican motivation. Nearly three-in-five MAGA Republicans (57%) say they are more enthusiastic about voting this year than in previous midterms, compared with three-in-ten (31%) non-MAGA Republicans. Democrats are also energized (53%).

Across the electorate, cost of living and inflation is the dominant issue, named by three-in-five likely voters.’ Importantly, Democrats hold a 10-point advantage on that issue compared to Republicans, with 39 percent saying they trust the former to handle it, compared to 28 percent choosing the latter. One-in-five don’t trust either party (20%).

Thinking about the election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your congressional district, which party’s candidate are you currently most likely to vote for? (Likely voters - Decided)



METHODOLOGY:

Angus Reid USA conducted an online survey from August 8 - 11, 2026 among a representative randomized sample of 1,525 American adults who are members of [Angus Reid Forum USA](#). For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by Angus Reid USA. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

Index:

- **Democrats lead by ten points in congressional vote intent**
- **An enthusiasm deficit among non-MAGA Republicans?**
- **Most important issues for likely voters**
- **Democrats trusted on cost of living and health care, Republicans on immigration, crime**

CONTACT:

Angus Reid, Chairman: angus@angus.org @AngusReid

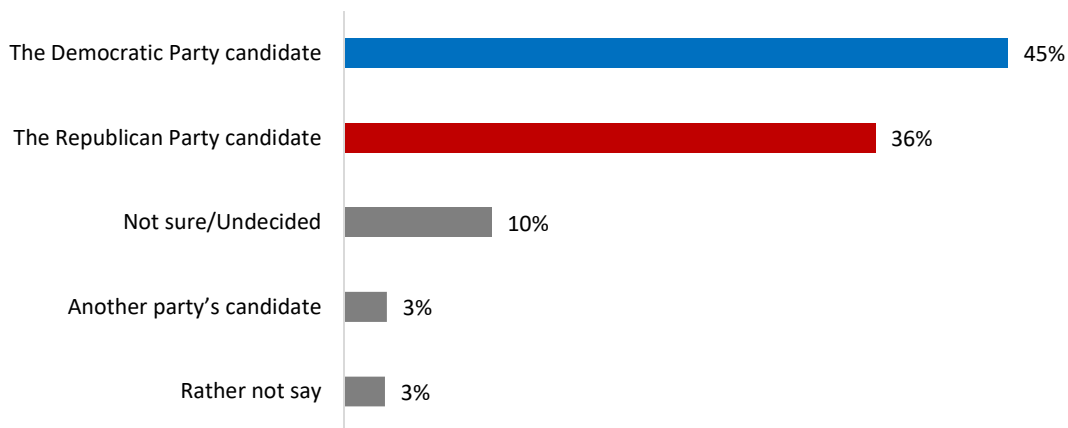
Shachi Kurl, President: 1.604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Democrats lead by nine points in congressional vote intent

President Donald Trump has spent August confronting renewed economic pressure at home and escalating challenges abroad, including an intensifying trade dispute with Canada and the continuing war with Iran. At the same time, his administration's immigration enforcement policies and efforts to tighten rules around mail-in voting have remained prominent political flashpoints. With the full House of Representatives and 35 Senate seats on the ballot Nov. 3, Republicans are increasingly looking to Trump to energize their base, while Democrats are attempting to turn voter concern over prices and the economy into gains in Congress.

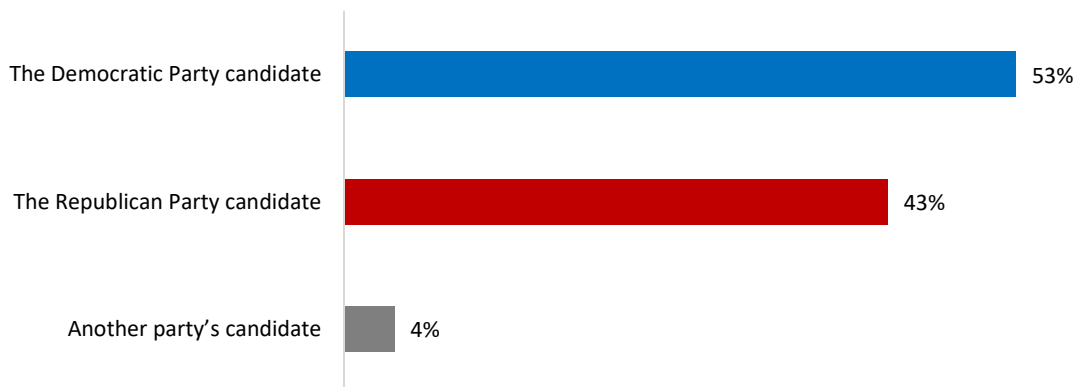
The Democratic advantage is evident as summer wanes. Approaching half of would-be voters (45%) say they would support the Democratic candidate in their district, while 36 percent choose the Republican. Ten percent are not yet sure, and six percent either prefer another party or decline to say.

Thinking about the election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your congressional district, which party's candidate are you currently most likely to vote for?



Looking only at voters who have made a choice, the Democratic share rises to 53 percent, compared with 43 percent for Republicans. The ten-point Democratic advantage offers an early national measure of the midterm environment, though individual House contests will ultimately turn on district-level candidates and conditions.

Thinking about the election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your congressional district, which party's candidate are you currently most likely to vote for? (Decided voters)



CONTACT:

Angus Reid, Chairman: angus@angus.org @AngusReid

Shachi Kurl, President: 1.604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Democratic candidates hold commanding leads in deep blue (63% to 31%) and blue states (61% to 38%), while voters in purple states are nearly evenly divided (50% Democrat, 47% Republican). More strikingly, the divide extends to states that typically lean Republican. In red states, the picture is a statistical tie. Only in deep red states does the GOP retain a substantial advantage, leading Democrats 58% to 38%.

See end of release for state categorization.

Thinking about the election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your congressional district, which party's candidate are you currently most likely to vote for? (Decided voters)				
State category	Republican	Democrat	Other	D-R margin
Deep Blue	31%	63%	6%	D+32
Blue	38%	61%	2%	D+23
Purple	47%	50%	3%	D+3
Red	48%	49%	3%	D+1
Deep Red	58%	38%	4%	R+20
Total	43%	53%	4%	D+10

An enthusiasm deficit among non-MAGA Republicans?

President Trump's personal approval has dropped throughout his term, hitting lows that he did not see in his first four years in office. This, and an unpopular war in Iran, as well as perceived cost of living challenges, may be hampering Republican enthusiasm heading into November.

Related: [34 percent approve of President Trump](#)

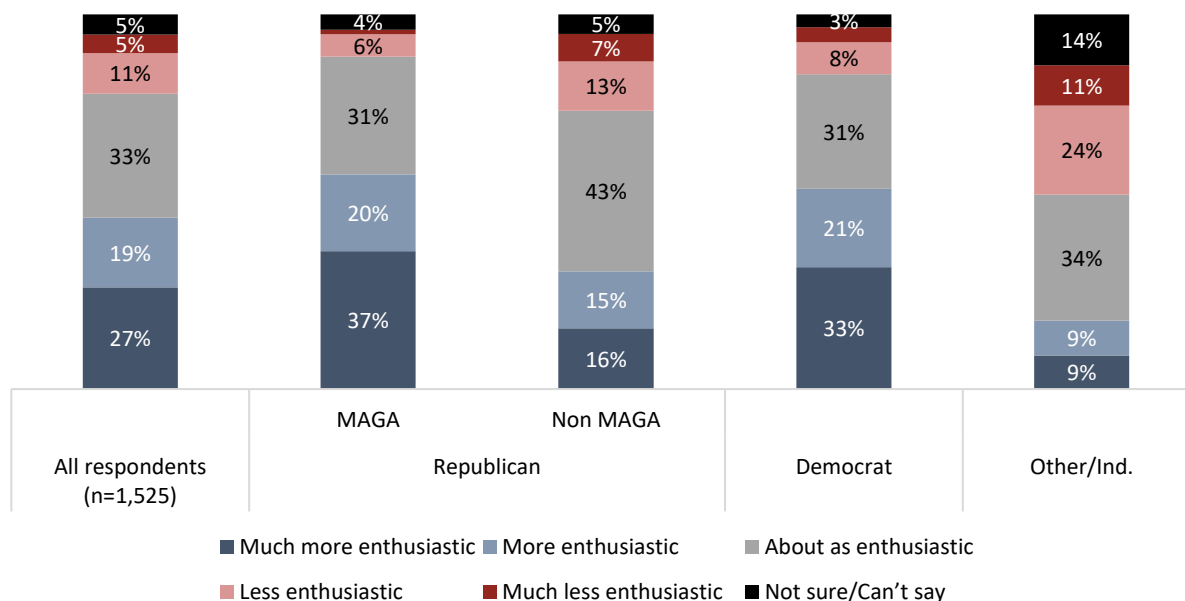
Overall, nearly half of Americans say they are more enthusiastic about voting in this midterm than in previous ones, while 16 percent say they are less enthusiastic and 33 percent feel about the same. That topline masks a sharp divide within the Republican coalition. Three-in-five MAGA Republicans report greater enthusiasm (57%), compared with 31 percent among non-MAGA Republicans. Democrats more closely match the MAGA group, with 53 percent saying they are more enthusiastic.

CONTACT:

Angus Reid, Chairman: angus@angus.org @AngusReid

Shachi Kurl, President: 1.604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Compared with previous midterm elections, would you say you are more enthusiastic, less enthusiastic or about as enthusiastic about voting this year?



Most important issues for likely voters

Pocketbook pressure remains the common denominator across the political map. The cost of living and inflation is the most-selected issue in every state grouping, cited by 57 percent of likely voters overall. Health care costs and access rank second at 33 percent, followed by ethics, corruption, and money in politics at 29 percent. Immigration and border security is selected by 18 percent.

The broad ranking is relatively consistent from Deep Blue through Deep Red states, but some contrasts stand out. ICE enforcement is named by one-quarter (24%) of likely voters in Deep Blue states, while health care reaches 40 percent in Deep Red states. Crime and public safety is also more prominent in Deep Red states (20%) than in the other state groupings.

Thinking of the various issues facing the United States, which ones do you personally care about the most?						
	All respondents	State category				
		Deep Blue	Blue	Purple	Red	Deep Red
The cost of living and inflation	58%	61%	55%	54%	61%	62%
Health care (cost and access)	32%	32%	32%	32%	30%	37%
Ethics, corruption, money in politics	27%	24%	29%	28%	26%	25%
Jobs and unemployment	17%	22%	15%	17%	17%	16%
Income inequality and poverty	17%	18%	16%	15%	18%	16%
Immigration and border security	16%	9%	16%	19%	18%	15%
Crime and public safety / gun violence	16%	16%	15%	13%	16%	19%
ICE enforcement actions in major cities	16%	21%	15%	19%	13%	12%
Climate change/The environment	14%	13%	17%	13%	14%	10%
Taxes	13%	15%	14%	12%	11%	12%

CONTACT:

Angus Reid, Chairman: angus@angus.org @AngusReid

Shachi Kurl, President: 1.604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

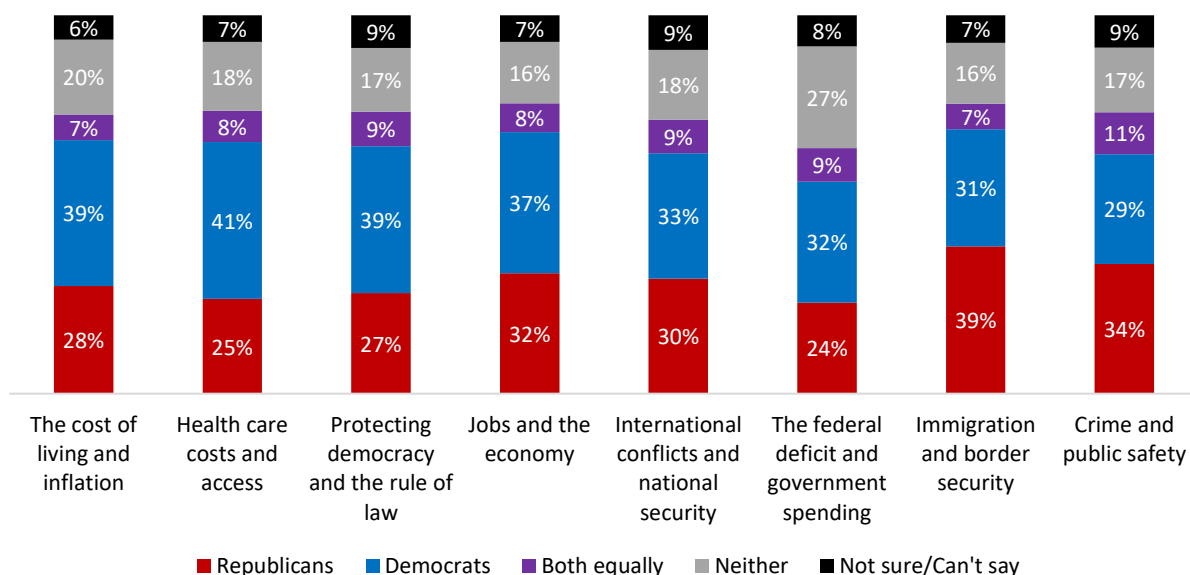
Terrorism and national security	11%	9%	11%	12%	11%	13%
The federal deficit and government spending	11%	7%	11%	13%	10%	12%
Race relations and racism	9%	13%	9%	8%	9%	8%
International conflicts and foreign policy	9%	9%	10%	7%	11%	5%
The strength of democratic institutions	8%	8%	9%	10%	8%	5%
Illegal drugs and addiction	6%	6%	5%	8%	4%	10%
Global trade and tariffs	4%	5%	6%	2%	4%	4%

Democrats trusted on cost of living and health care, Republicans on immigration, crime

Issue salience does not translate into a uniform partisan advantage. On the top-ranked concern, cost of living and inflation, 39 percent trust Democrats more, compared with 28 percent who trust Republicans. Democrats also lead on health care (41% to 25%), jobs and the economy (37% to 32%), and protecting democracy and the rule of law (39% to 27%).

Republicans perform best on immigration and border security, where 39 percent trust the GOP compared with 31 percent who choose Democrats, and on crime and public safety, where Republicans lead 34 to 29. Across the issues tested, notable shares also say they trust both parties equally, neither party, or are unsure.

Which party do you trust more to deal with each of the following issues?



State categorizations:

For geographic comparisons in this report, states are grouped into five political categories ranging from Deep Blue to Deep Red, with Purple representing the most electorally competitive states. These groupings are used only to compare issue priorities by the broader political character of respondents' states.

CONTACT:

Angus Reid, Chairman: angus@angus.org @AngusReid

Shachi Kurl, President: 1.604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl

Deep Blue	Blue	Purple	Red	Deep Red
California	Colorado	Arizona	Alaska	Alabama
District of Columbia	Connecticut	Georgia	Florida	Arkansas
Hawaii	Delaware	Michigan	Indiana	Idaho
Maryland	Illinois	Nevada	Iowa	Kentucky
Massachusetts	Maine	New Hampshire	Kansas	Louisiana
Vermont	Minnesota	North Carolina	Missouri	Mississippi
	New Jersey	Pennsylvania	Ohio	Montana
	New Mexico	Wisconsin	South Carolina	Nebraska
	New York		Texas	Oklahoma
	Oregon		Utah	South Dakota
	Rhode Island			Tennessee
	Virginia			West Virginia
	Washington			Wyoming

For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).

CONTACT:

Angus Reid, Chairman: angus@angus.org @AngusReid

Shachi Kurl, President: 1.604.908.1693 shachi.kurl@angusreid.org @shachikurl