

FOR RELEASE February 6, 2023

# Economy Remains the Public's Top Policy Priority; COVID-19 Concerns Decline Again

*Increased focus on deficit reduction; Republicans far more likely than Democrats to view it as a top priority*

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## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand which issues the public views as most important for the president and Congress to prioritize in the coming year. For this analysis, we surveyed 5,152 adults from Jan. 18-24, 2023. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. [Read more about the ATP's methodology.](#)

Here are the [questions used for the report](#) and its [methodology](#).

# Economy Remains the Public's Top Policy Priority; COVID-19 Concerns Decline Again

*Increased focus on deficit reduction; Republicans far more likely than Democrats view it as a top priority*

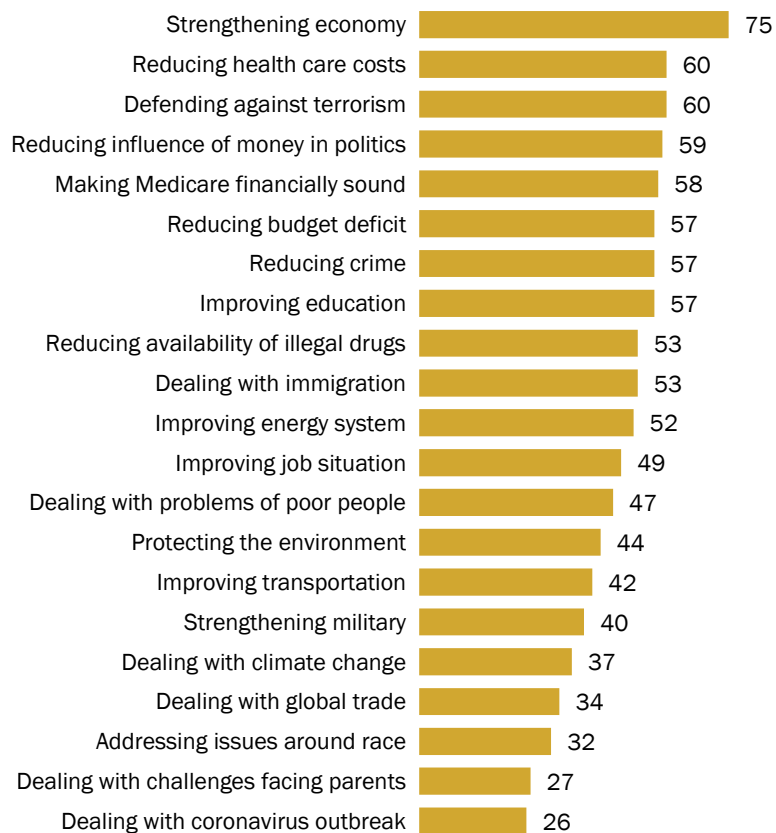
With a new era of divided government beginning in Washington, the public's top policy priority has not changed: Strengthening the economy tops Americans' agenda, as it did [a year ago](#).

However, there have been some notable changes in Americans' priorities for the president and Congress to address this year. Reducing the budget deficit is now a higher priority for the public than in recent years (now 57% vs. 45% a year ago). The change has come among members of both parties, though Republicans and those who lean to the Republican Party (71%) are far more likely than Democrats and Democratic leaners (44%) to view cutting the deficit as a leading priority. And dealing with the coronavirus outbreak is now one of the lowest priorities for Americans – just 26% now say it should be a top priority for the president and Congress, but it was among the top priorities in both 2021 and 2022.

Overall, 75% of Americans say strengthening the economy

## Strengthening the economy is Americans' top policy priority; dealing with COVID-19 is among the lowest

*% who say \_\_\_\_ should be a top priority for the president and Congress to address this year*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

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should be a top priority this year, according to a new Pew Research Center survey conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023, among 5,152 U.S. adults. The public [continues to express](#) negative views of national economic conditions, despite continued job growth and signs that inflation may be easing. Just 21% rate economic conditions as excellent or good, which is only a slight increase from October (17%).

Aside from the economy, no single policy area stands out. About six-in-ten rate several issues as top priorities: reducing health care costs (60%), defending against terrorism (60%), reducing the influence of money in politics (59%), reducing the budget deficit (57%), reducing crime (57%) and improving education (57%).

About half of Americans (53%) say reducing the availability of illegal drugs, including heroin, fentanyl and cocaine, should be a top priority for the president and Congress. Similar shares say the same about dealing with immigration (53%), improving the energy system (52%) and improving the job situation (49%).

Among the lowest items on the public's agenda for the president and Congress are dealing with climate change (37%), dealing with global trade issues (34%) and addressing issues around race (32%). The public gives the lowest priority to dealing with the challenges facing parents (27%) and dealing with the coronavirus outbreak (26%). (For a closer look at the top policy priorities of partisan and demographic groups, see the [detailed tables accompanying this report](#).)

While there are sizable differences in the shares of Americans who rate each of the 21 items included in the survey as a "top priority" for the president and Congress to address this year, in most cases large majorities rate each one as *either* a top priority or as an "important but lower priority." Relatively few Americans say these policies "should not be done" or are "not too important." At most, about 10% say a handful of policies should not be done (including 11% who say this about dealing with climate change and 9% for dealing with the coronavirus outbreak).

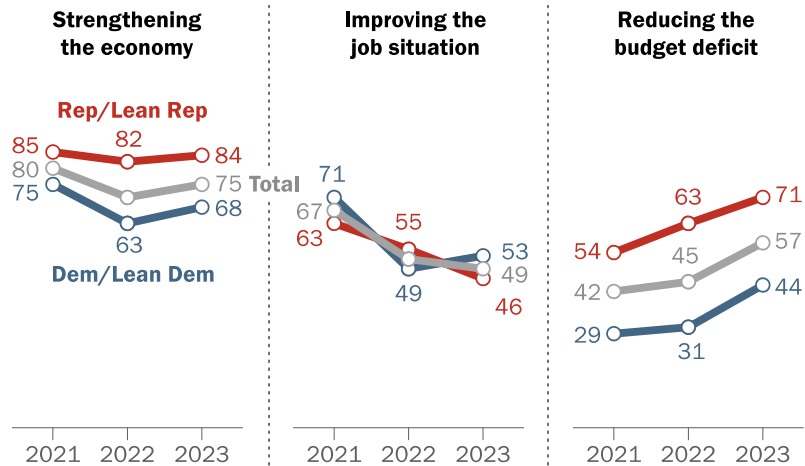
Strengthening the economy has long been among the public's top policy priorities. As has been the case for the last several years, strengthening the economy is a higher priority among Republicans and independents who lean Republican (84% say top priority) than among Democrats and Democratic leaners (68%).

Republicans (71%) also are much more likely than Democrats (44%) to say reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority, though both Republicans and Democrats are more likely to say this now than in either of the past two years. The share saying deficit reduction should be a top priority has increased 8 percentage points among Republicans and 13 points among Democrats since last year.

Fewer Americans now say improving the job situation should be a top priority for Congress and the president than said so in 2021. Today, 53% of Democrats and 46% of Republicans say improving the job situation should be a top priority. Last year, Republicans were modestly more likely than Democrats (55% vs. 49%) to name improving the job situation as a top priority.

## Deficit concerns increase among members of both parties, but Republicans are more likely than Democrats to rate deficit reduction as a top priority

*% who say \_\_\_ should be a top priority for the president and Congress to address this year*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

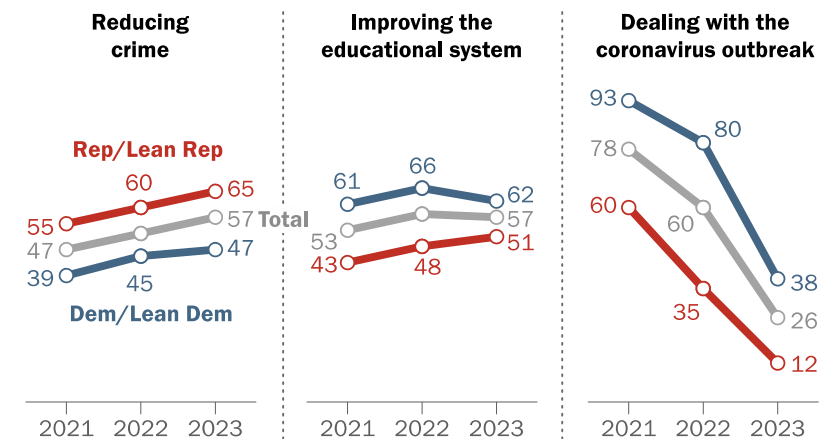
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Since 2021, reducing crime and improving education have risen as priorities for the public – especially among Republicans – while dealing with the coronavirus has declined substantially as a policy priority over the same period.

Crime reduction remains a higher priority among Republicans than among Democrats. Yet, compared with two years ago, the shares of both Republicans and Democrats who view it as a top priority have grown. Currently, 65% of Republicans and 47% of Democrats say it should be a top priority.

## Sharp decline since 2021 in share of Americans saying addressing COVID-19 should be a top priority; crime concerns have risen modestly since then

*% who say \_\_\_ should be a top priority for the president and Congress to address this year*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

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While a larger share of Democrats (62%) than Republicans (51%) say improving education should be a top federal priority this year, the share of Republicans saying this has increased by 8 percentage points since 2021.

The share of Americans who view dealing with the coronavirus outbreak as a top priority has declined about 50 points since 2021 (from 78% to 26%), including a drop of more than 30 points in the last year. As was the case in previous years, Democrats (38%) are more likely than Republicans (12%) to say dealing with COVID-19 should be a top priority for the president and Congress this year.

There are wide partisan differences over many of the policy areas included in the survey.

The largest gaps between Republicans and Democrats are on protecting the environment and dealing with global climate change. Two-thirds of Democrats say environmental protection should be a top priority, compared with 20% of Republicans. Similarly, 59% of Democrats say this about climate change versus just 13% of Republicans.

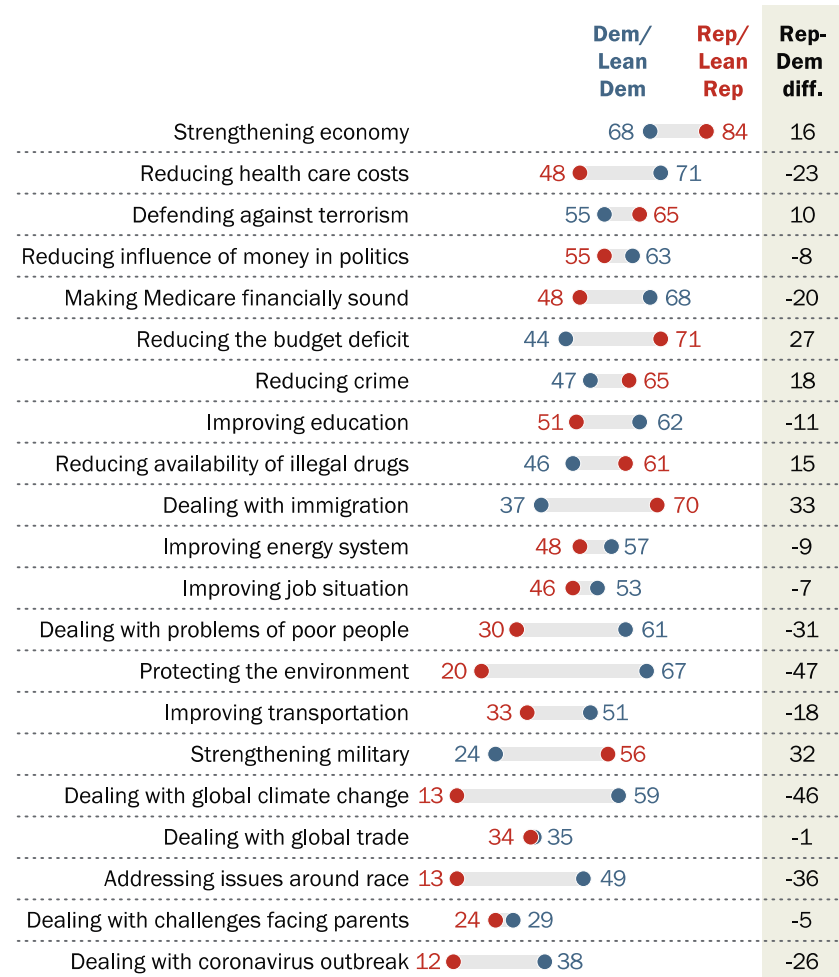
Democrats also are much more likely than Republicans to prioritize addressing issues around race (49% top priority among Democrats vs. 13% among Republicans) and dealing with the problems faced by the poor (61% vs. 30%, respectively).

Conversely, Republicans are more likely than Democrats to rate dealing with immigration (70% among Republicans vs. 37% among Democrats), strengthening the military (56% vs. 24%) and reducing the budget deficit (71% vs. 44%) as top priorities for the president and Congress.

In one area – dealing with global trade – there is no partisan gap in prioritization, though relatively few among either Republicans (34%) or Democrats (35%) rate this as a top priority for the president and Congress. There are also only modest partisan differences in the shares naming

## Widest partisan gaps are on whether the environment and climate change should be top policy priorities

% who say \_\_\_\_ should be a top priority for the president and Congress to address this year



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

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dealing with the challenges facing parents (24% among Republicans, 29% among Democrats) and improving the job situation (46% to 53%, respectively).

## Policy priorities of Black, Hispanic and White Americans

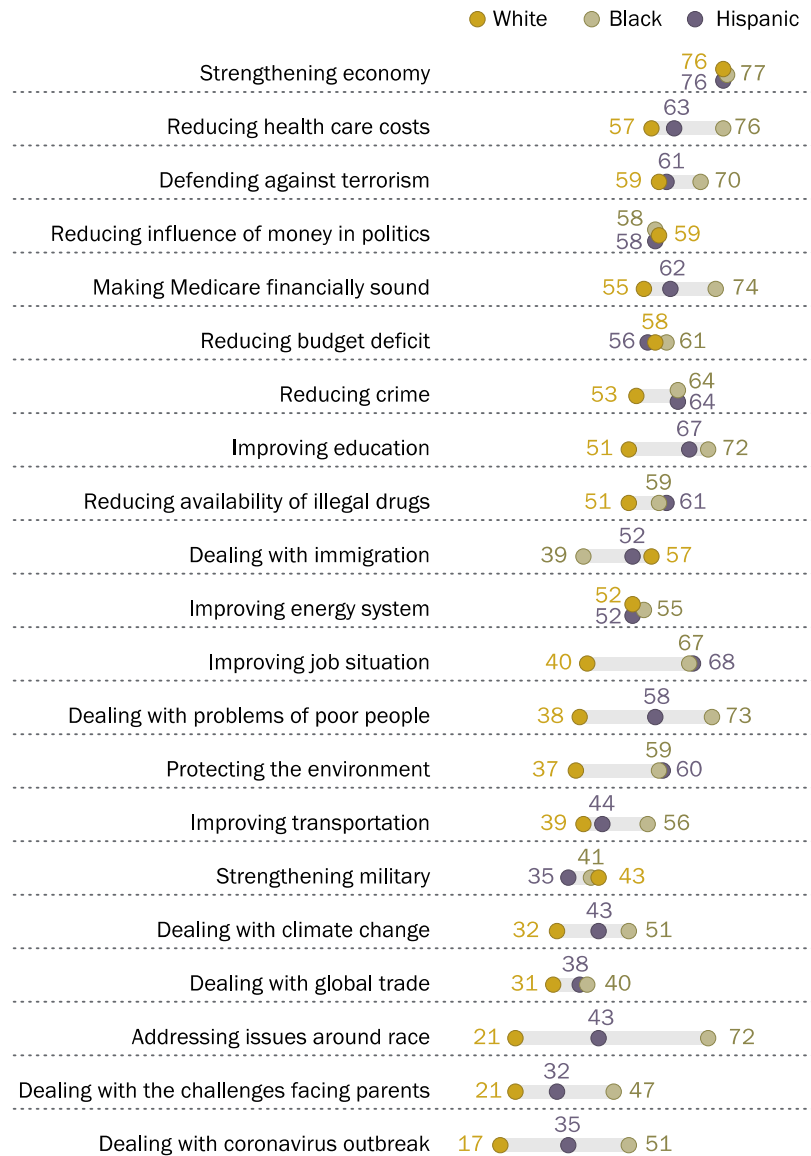
Strengthening the nation’s economy stands out as a top priority across racial and ethnic groups, with about three-quarters of White (76%), Black (77%) and Hispanic (76%) adults saying it should be a focus for the president and Congress this year. Roughly six-in-ten White, Black and Hispanic adults also say reducing the influence of money in politics (59%, 58% and 58%, respectively) and reducing the budget deficit (58%, 61% and 56%) should be top priorities.

Black adults are more likely than White and Hispanic adults to say that several other issues should be at the top of the agenda this year. About seven-in-ten Black adults (72%) say that addressing issues around race should be a top priority. By comparison, far smaller shares of Hispanic (43%) or White adults (21%) rate this as a top priority.

In addition, 73% of Black adults view dealing with problems associated with poverty as a top priority for

### Black Americans are more likely than White or Hispanic adults to view several issues as top priorities

% who say \_\_\_\_ should be the top priority for the president and Congress to address this year



Notes: White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

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the administration and Congress, compared with 58% of Hispanic adults and 38% of White adults.

While dealing with the coronavirus outbreak has declined as a top priority across racial and ethnic groups, Black adults (51%) remain more likely than Hispanic (35%) and White (17%) adults to view dealing with the pandemic as a top priority.

As with the general public, there are significant racial and ethnic differences among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents across racial and ethnic groups in what they want this year's national policy agenda to focus on.

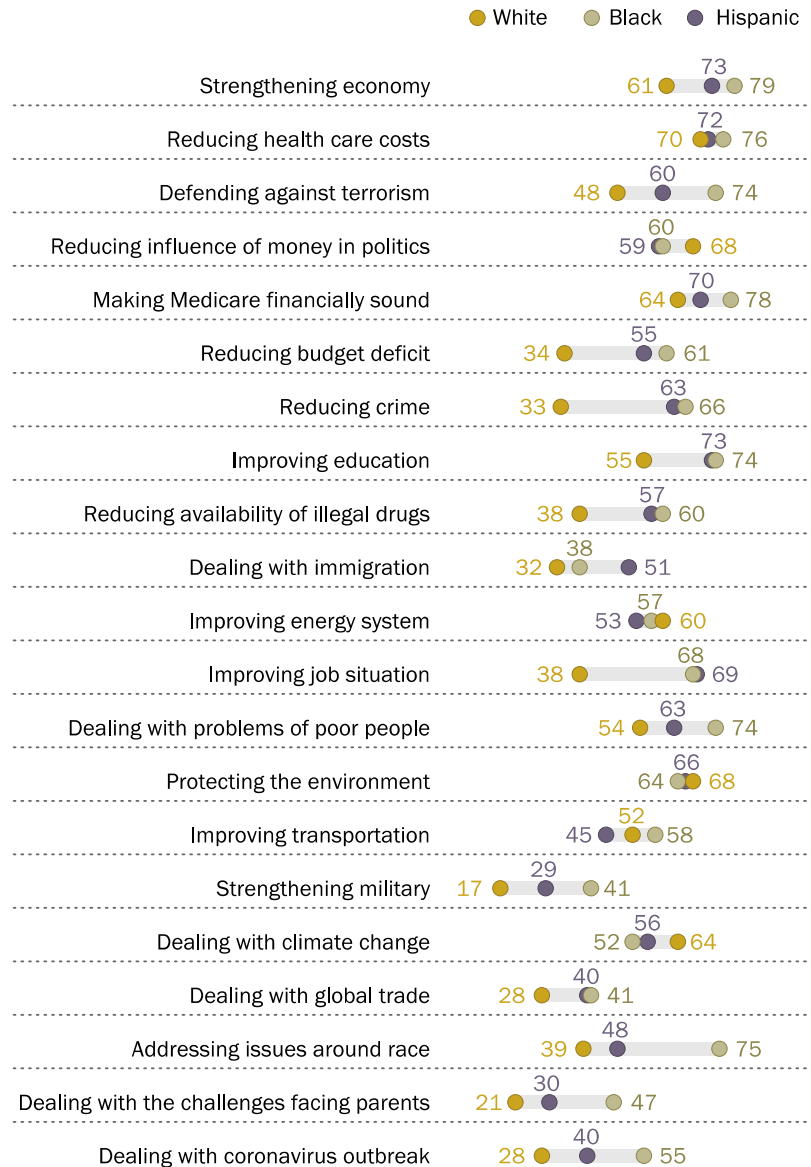
For example, 51% of Hispanic Democrats view dealing with immigration as a top priority, compared with 38% of Black Democrats and 32% of White Democrats.

On the issue of reducing crime, Black (66%) and Hispanic (63%) Democrats are roughly twice as likely as White Democrats (33%) to view it as a top priority.

White Democrats (64%) are somewhat more likely than Hispanic (56%) and Black (52%) Democrats to view dealing with global climate change as a top priority this year.

### Improving job situation, reducing crime and budget deficit rate as top priorities for Black and Hispanic Democrats, are lower priorities for White Democrats

Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, % who say \_\_\_ should be a top priority for the president and Congress to address this year



Notes: Based on Democrats and Democratic leaners. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

## Age and policy priorities

There are a few issues that similar shares of older and younger adults regard as top priorities for the year. For instance, about six-in-ten in all age groups say reducing the influence of money in politics should be a top priority. And, [in contrast to last year](#), there is now little difference across age groups in seeing the coronavirus outbreak as a priority, with no more than three-in-ten in any age group saying this.

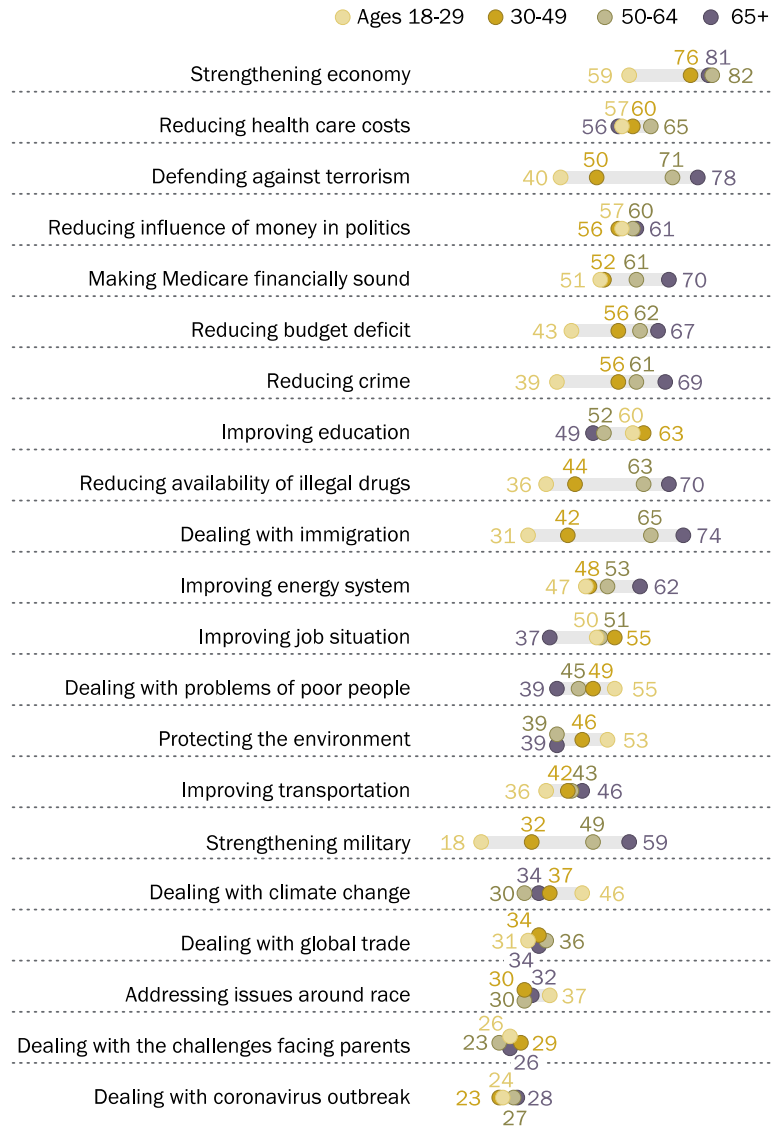
In general, older adults prioritize a number of issues significantly more than younger adults.

About seven-in-ten adults ages 50 and older (69%) say that dealing with immigration should be a top priority, compared with about four-in-ten of those under 50 (38%). Similarly, 75% of those 50 and older say defending the country against terrorism should be a top priority, compared with 46% of adults ages 18 to 49.

Older adults are also more likely than younger adults to prioritize several other issues, including strengthening the military, reducing crime and reducing the availability of illegal drugs like heroin, fentanyl and cocaine.

### Older adults more likely than younger to prioritize dealing with immigration, strengthening the military

*% who say \_\_\_ should be the top priority for the president and Congress to address this year*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

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By contrast, adults under age 50 place higher priority on improving the educational system (62% say this is a top priority vs. 50% among those age 50 and older), improving the job situation (54% vs. 44%) and protecting the environment (49% vs. 39%).

## Few say policy priorities ‘should not be done’

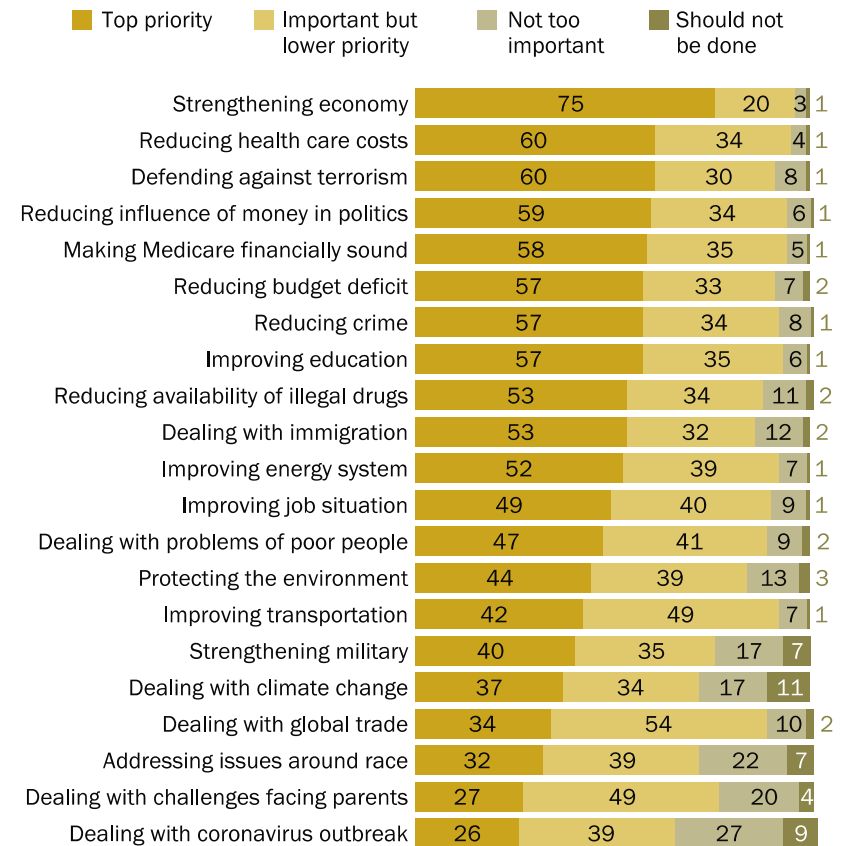
For all 21 priorities asked about on the survey, about two-thirds of Americans or more say each should be a top priority or that it is an important but lower priority.

No more than about one-in-ten Americans say any of these priorities *should not* be done. Only four policy areas have more than 5% of the public saying they should not be done: dealing with climate change (11%), dealing with the coronavirus outbreak (9%), strengthening the military (7%) and addressing issues around race (7%).

These same areas are the only ones in which one-in-ten or more in a partisan group say they should not be done. About a quarter of Republicans (24%) say dealing with climate change should not be done, while roughly two-in-ten (18%) say the same about dealing with COVID-19; 14% of Republicans say addressing issues around race should not be done by the president and Congress, while a similar share of Democrats (12%) say this about strengthening the military.

### About two-thirds or more say every issue asked about should at least be an ‘important’ priority this year

% who say each should be a \_\_\_\_ for the president and Congress to address this year



Note: No answer responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023.

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## Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

#### Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted from Jan. 18 to Jan. 24, 2023. A total of 5,152 panelists responded out of 5,715 who were sampled, for a response rate of 90%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is less than 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 5,152 respondents is plus or minus 1.7 percentage points.

#### Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to

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#### American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,504
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	881
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	434
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	4,117
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,475
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,542
May 29 to July 7, 2021; Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	788
May 24 to Sept. 29, 2022	ABS	3,354	2,869	1,701
	<b>Total</b>	<b>42,894</b>	<b>30,283</b>	<b>12,442</b>

Note: RDD is random-digit dial; ABS is address-based sampling. Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Sampled households receive mailings asking a randomly selected adult to complete a survey online. A question at the end of the survey asks if the respondent is willing to join the ATP. In 2020 and 2021 another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that did not respond to the online survey were sent a paper version of the questionnaire, \$5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults who returned the paper version of the survey were invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults received a follow-up mailing with a \$10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the five address-based recruitments, a total of 23,176 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 20,341 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, one adult was selected and asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 30,283 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 12,442 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.<sup>1</sup> The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

### **Sample design**

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which Hispanic men, Non-Hispanic Black men, and Non-Hispanic Asian adults were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

### **Questionnaire development and testing**

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

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<sup>1</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.](#)"

## Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$15 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

## Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Jan. 18 to Jan. 24, 2023. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on Jan. 18.

Invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on Jan. 18. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Jan. 19.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

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### Invitation and reminder dates, ATP Wave 120

	<b>Soft launch</b>	<b>Full launch</b>
Initial invitation	January 18, 2023	January 19, 2023
First reminder	January 21, 2023	January 21, 2023
Final reminder	January 23, 2023	January 23, 2023

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## Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, four ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

## Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey. These weights are then rescaled and adjusted to account for changes in the design of ATP recruitment surveys from year to year. Finally, the weights are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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### American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2021 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2021 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2022 American Trends Panel Annual Profile Survey/2019 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2022 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	
<i>Additional weighting dimensions applied within Black adults</i>	
Age	2021 American Community Survey (ACS)
Gender	
Education	
Hispanic ethnicity	
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2022 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. Volunteerism is estimated using a model to account for potential changes in volunteering behavior due to the coronavirus outbreak that began in February 2020.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

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### Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 120

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	5,152		1.7 percentage points
Half form	At least 2,574		2.4 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	2,311	45	2.4 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,147		3.4 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	2,640	48	2.4 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,318		3.4 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Hispanic men, Non-Hispanic Black men, and Non-Hispanic Asian adults. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## Dispositions and response rates

### Final dispositions, ATP Wave 120

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	5,152
Logged on to survey; broke off	2.12	14
Logged on to survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	49
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	496
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		4
Screened out		0
<b>Total panelists in the survey</b>		<b>5,715</b>
Completed interviews	I	5,152
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	563
Non-contact	NC	0
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,715</b>
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		90%

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### Cumulative response rate as of ATP Wave 120

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	71%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 120	49%
Response rate to Wave 120 survey	90%
<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>4%</b>

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
FINAL TOPLINE  
WAVE 120 JANUARY 2023  
JANUARY 18-24, 2023  
N=5,152**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

PRIPRES How much of a priority should each of the following be for the president and Congress to address this year?

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF SCREENS 1 AND 2 FOR EACH FORM]**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	No answer
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,578]: [SCREEN 1, RANDOMIZE ITEMS ON SCREEN]</b>						
JOB	Improving the job situation					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	49	40	9	1	*
	Jan 10-17, 2022	52	37	8	2	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	67	29	2	1	1
BD	Reducing the budget deficit					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	57	33	7	2	1
	Jan 10-17, 2022	45	40	11	3	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	42	44	11	2	1
DTRD	Reducing the availability of illegal drugs like heroin, fentanyl and cocaine					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	53	34	11	2	*
ENV	Protecting the environment					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	44	39	13	3	1
TER	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	60	30	8	1	*
	Jan 10-17, 2022	55	32	8	3	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	63	30	6	1	*
CVD	Dealing with the coronavirus outbreak					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	26	39	27	9	*
	Jan 10-17, 2022	60	25	10	5	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	78	14	6	2	*
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,578]: [SCREEN 2, RANDOMIZE ITEMS ON SCREEN]</b>						
GT	Dealing with global trade issues					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	34	54	10	2	1
	Jan 10-17, 2022	35	52	9	2	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	32	56	10	2	1

**PRIPRES CONTINUED...**

		<u>Top priority</u>	<u>Important but lower priority</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<u>No answer</u>
INF	Improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	42	49	7	1	*
	Jan 8-12, 2021	32	54	13	1	1
RA	Addressing issues around race in this county					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	32	39	22	7	*
	Jan 10-17, 2022	37	34	19	9	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	49	32	13	5	1
PAR	Dealing with the challenges facing parents					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	27	49	20	4	*
MCR	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	58	35	5	1	*

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,574]: [SCREEN 1, RANDOMIZE ITEMS ON SCREEN]**

EC	Strengthening the nation's economy					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	75	20	3	1	1
	Jan 10-17, 2022	71	24	4	1	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	80	16	2	1	*
GCC	Dealing with global climate change					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	37	34	17	11	*
	Jan 10-17, 2022	42	30	17	10	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	38	33	18	10	1
EDU	Improving the educational system					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	57	35	6	1	1
	Jan 10-17, 2022	58	33	6	3	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	53	39	5	2	1
HC	Reducing health care costs					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	60	34	4	1	1
	Jan 10-17, 2022	61	31	4	3	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	58	36	4	2	*
CRI	Reducing crime					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	57	34	8	1	1
	Jan 10-17, 2022	52	36	8	2	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	47	42	9	1	1

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,574]: [SCREEN 2, RANDOMIZE ITEMS ON SCREEN]**

POOR	Dealing with the problems of poor people					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	47	41	9	2	1
	Jan 10-17, 2022	44	42	11	2	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	53	39	6	2	*



**PRIPRES CONTINUED...**

		<u>Top priority</u>	<u>Important but lower priority</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<u>No answer</u>
MIL	Strengthening the U.S. military					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	40	35	17	7	1
	Jan 10-17, 2022	37	34	20	9	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	37	35	20	7	*
NRG	Improving the nation's energy system					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	52	39	7	1	*
MON	Reducing the influence of money in politics					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	59	34	6	1	1
IMM	Dealing with the issue of immigration					
	Jan 18-24, 2023	53	32	12	2	1
	Jan 10-17, 2022	49	37	11	2	1
	Jan 8-12, 2021	39	44	13	4	1

Note about trend: In [2020](#) and earlier, the priorities list was asked on phone surveys. As a result of mode differences, phone and web data on this question is not directly comparable.

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...<sup>2</sup>

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
28	28	28	15	2	18	19

**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

<sup>2</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.