

Justice Research Group

Working Families Party

Candidate Preference Poll

Anti-Establishment and Political Change Candidate Preference Poll

Registered voters in Cook Political Report Toss Up Districts (AZ-01, AZ-06, CA-22, CO-08, FL-25, IA-01, IA-3, MI-7, NJ-7, NY—17, OH-09, PA-07, PA-08, PA-10, TX-34, VA-02, WA-03, WI-03) and Voters in Michigan.

N=1,203 with an oversample of Michigan (n=287) and CA-22 (n=153).

Field Dates: July 26-27, 2026

Text-to-web from voter file

MOE: +/-2.83% at the 95% Confidence Interval

Conducted by the Justice Research Group

Section 1: Screening, Stratification, and Voting Behavior

1. What is your age?

18-24	9%
25-34	15%
35-44	16%
45-54	16%
55-64	17%
65-74	16%
75 or older	11%
Prefer not to answer	2%

2. We understand that plenty of people are not registered to vote, but we are wondering if you are registered to vote?

Yes 100%

3. In what state do you live?

4. Please select your gender.

Male	48%
Female	50%
Non-binary	1%
Another identity (please specify)	1%
Prefer not to answer	1%

5. Which of the following category or categories best describes your race or ethnicity? If more than one category applies, please select all that apply.

[MULTI-SELECT]

White, Non-Hispanic _____ 71%
 Black or African American _____ 14%
 Hispanic or Latino/a _____ 12%
 Native American or Alaska Native _____ 2%
 Asian _____ 6%
 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander _____ <1%
 Another race or ethnicity (please specify) _____ 2%
 Prefer not to answer _____ 2%

6. What is the highest level of education you've completed?

Some high school or less _____ 4%
 High school diploma or equivalent _____ 25%
 Some college, but no degree _____ 17%
 Associate's degree or trade school degree _____ 12%
 Bachelor's degree _____ 27%
 Graduate or professional degree _____ 13%
 Doctorate degree _____ 3%
 Prefer not to answer _____ 1%

7. Which of the following elections did you vote in, if any? If you do not remember, please just indicate that.

	Yes, I voted	No, I did not vote	I don't remember	I was not eligible
The November 2020 Presidential election	89%	7%	2%	3%
The 2022 midterm elections	74%	19%	5%	2%
A 2024 Democratic or Republican primary election	23%	57%	8%	10%
The November 2024 Presidential election	88%	8%	3%	1%

8. **[IF VOTED IN NOVEMBER 2024]** In the 2024 Presidential election, for whom did you vote?

[ROTATE HARRIS AND TRUMP]

Kamala Harris _____ 45%
 Donald Trump _____ 48%
 Another candidate _____ 2%
 I don't remember _____ 3%

Prefer not to answer _____ 2%

9. How likely are you to vote in the general election for Congress and other offices in November 2026?

Definitely will vote _____ 70%
Probably will vote _____ 18%
50-50 chance of voting _____ 7%
Probably will not vote _____ 2%
Definitely will not vote _____ 2%
Don't know / Refused _____ 1%

10. If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were held today, would you definitely vote for the Democratic Party's candidate, probably vote for the Democratic Party's candidate, probably vote for the Republican Party's candidate, or definitely vote for the Republican Party's candidate in your district?

[ROTATE PARTY ORDER]

Net: Democratic Party's Candidate _____ 47%

Definitely the Democratic Party's candidate _____ 36%
Probably the Democratic Party's candidate _____ 11%

Net: Republican Party's Candidate _____ 38%

Probably the Republican Party's candidate _____ 7%
Definitely the Republican Party's candidate _____ 31%

Undecided / Don't know _____ 12%
Another candidate or party _____ 1%
Will not vote / Refused _____ 2%

11. All things considered, do you think that things in the country are...

Generally headed in the right direction _____ 30%
Off on the wrong track _____ 64%
Don't know _____ 6%

Section 2: Candidate Preferences and Appetite for Change

12. Here are some statements about politics and political candidates. After each one, please use a scale from 0 to 10, where 10 means you STRONGLY AGREE, 5 means you neither agree nor disagree, and 0 means you STRONGLY DISAGREE. You may use any number from 0 to 10.

[RANDOMIZE STATEMENT ORDER]

	Net: Agree - Disagree	Strongly Disagree (0-2)	Somewhat Disagree (3-4)	Neutral (5)	Somewhat Agree (6-7)	Strongly Agree (8-10)
Elected officials care more about wealthy donors and powerful interests than about people like me.	68%	5%	7%	8%	24%	56%
The country's political and economic systems need fundamental change, not just small adjustments.	38%	12%	14%	10%	25%	39%
I would rather support a political outsider, even if that person has less government experience.	34%	10%	17%	12%	23%	38%
In a primary election, choosing the candidate most likely to win matters more than choosing the candidate closest to my views.	20%	15%	19%	12%	31%	23%
Most of the country's problems can be solved through practical, gradual improvements.	6%	19%	21%	13%	25%	21%
Being described as outside the mainstream is a serious concern when I consider a candidate.	4%	20%	22%	12%	28%	18%
I would support a candidate whose policies are more liberal than mine if that candidate would take on powerful interests.	3%	23%	18%	15%	24%	20%

13. Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is completely correct?

[ROTATE STATEMENT A AND STATEMENT B]

STATEMENT A

Government works best when experienced leaders make steady, achievable improvements.

STATEMENT B

Government needs leaders who will challenge the political establishment and fight for major change, even when powerful people object.

Net: Statement A _____ **36%**

Strongly agree with Statement A _____ 18%

Somewhat agree with Statement A _____ 18%

Neither / both equally _____ 6%

Net: Statement B _____ **58%**

Somewhat agree with Statement B _____ 22%

Strongly agree with Statement B _____ 36%

14. Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is completely correct?

[ROTATE STATEMENT A AND STATEMENT B]

STATEMENT A

I prefer a candidate who works with leaders of their party, even if that means compromising on some priorities.

STATEMENT B

I prefer a candidate who stands firm on their priorities, even if it angers party leaders.

Net: Statement A _____ **37%**

Strongly agree with Statement A _____ 19%

Somewhat agree with Statement A _____ 18%

Neither / both equally _____ 10%

Net: Statement B _____ **63%**

Somewhat agree with Statement B _____ 30%

Strongly agree with Statement B _____ 33%

15. Now imagine two candidates running for the same office. Please read both descriptions and indicate which candidate you would prefer.

[RANDOMIZE PROFILE ORDER]

ESTABLISHMENT PROFILE

An experienced elected official with a long record of voting for practical reforms that provide more services and help for average Americans, works with business and unions to find a balance between their interests and is funded by both large and small business as well as established organizations and party donors.

CHANGE PROFILE

A political outsider who says the system is broken. This candidate calls for major changes to policy that would dramatically shift resources from corporations and billionaires to working-class people, says they will confront party leaders, and is powered mainly by small donors and volunteers.

Net: Establishment Profile _____ **41%**
Strongly prefer this candidate _____ 22%
Somewhat prefer this candidate _____ 19%

No preference / both equally _____ 4%

Net: Change Profile _____ **55%**
Somewhat prefer this candidate _____ 23%
Strongly prefer this candidate _____ 32%

16. Now suppose opponents of **[CHANGE PROFILE CANDIDATE]** say that candidate is too liberal, outside the mainstream, and less likely to get things done. Knowing this, which candidate would you prefer?

Net: Establishment Profile _____ **44%**
Strongly prefer this candidate _____ 24%
Somewhat prefer this candidate _____ 20%

No preference / both equally _____ 5%

Net: Change Profile _____ **51%**
Somewhat prefer this candidate _____ 20%
Strongly prefer this candidate _____ 31%

17. Thinking about the phrase outside the mainstream, which of the following comes closer to your view?

[ROTATE THE FIRST TWO OPTIONS]

It usually means a candidate's ideas are too extreme or unrealistic. _____ 26%

It can mean a candidate is independent of the political establishment and willing to consider needed change. _____ 31%

It can mean either, depending on the candidate. ____ 38%

Neither / Don't know _____ 5%

Section 3: Candidate Characteristics and Policy Priorities

18. You will now see 15 short sets of things a candidate could stand for or be known for. In each set, choose the ONE that would make you MOST want to support the candidate and the ONE that would make you LEAST want to support the candidate.

MAXDIFF

Which is MOST appealing in a candidate?

Which is the LEAST appealing in a candidate?

	Most	Least	Net: Most - Least	Utility Score
Pushes for major change even if it disrupts the usual way of doing things.	52%	15%	37%	0.65
Will challenge leaders of their own party when they believe the party is wrong.	44%	15%	29%	0.57
Focuses on practical improvements that can be passed and implemented now.	40%	15%	25%	0.52
Supports an end to U.S.-led wars overseas and redirects resources domestically.	36%	14%	22%	0.50
Works across party lines and builds broad coalitions.	37%	15%	22%	0.48
Has been endorsed by the Working Families Party.	12%	5%	7%	0.47
Is a political outsider who has not spent a career in government.	43%	18%	25%	0.46
Raises taxes on wealthy people and large corporations to pay for public services.	40%	19%	21%	0.40
Supports Medicare for All.	36%	18%	18%	0.37
Has a long record of public service and government experience.	22%	33%	-11%	-0.18
Has endorsements from experienced elected officials and established organizations.	21%	33%	-11%	-0.20
Supports health reform that builds on the current system without forcing private-insurance changes.	19%	30%	-11%	-0.20
Makes it easier for workers to form unions and bargain for higher pay.	18%	29%	-11%	-0.21
Avoids broad new programs that could require higher taxes or deficits.	15%	26%	-11%	-0.25
Breaks up or tightly regulates corporations with too much market power.	14%	25%	-11%	-0.26
Partners with business leaders to address costs and create jobs.	13%	24%	-11%	-0.28

July 2026 – Registered Voters (CPR Toss Up Districts + Michigan)

Cuts regulations and business taxes to encourage investment and jobs.	12%	39%	-27%	-0.56
Has supported defunding the police and shifting funding to community services.	8%	33%	-25%	-0.68
Strongly supports Israel, including continued U.S. military aid.	10%	45%	-35%	-0.72

Utility scores reflect each item's relative appeal based on how often it was selected as most versus least favored. Positive scores indicate above-average appeal, while negative scores indicate below-average appeal.

19. Thinking about each of the following candidate characteristics and policy positions, would it make you more likely or less likely to consider supporting a candidate, or would it make no difference?

	Net: More Likely	Net: Less Likely	Much Less Likely	S'What Less Likely	No Diff.	S'What More Likely	Much More Likely
Is a political outsider who has not spent a career in government.	68%	23%	12%	11%	9%	32%	36%
Will challenge leaders of their own party when they believe the party is wrong.	67%	25%	9%	16%	8%	32%	35%
Pushes for major change even if it disrupts the usual way of doing things.	64%	26%	12%	14%	10%	33%	31%
Partners with business leaders to address costs and create jobs.	59%	31%	18%	13%	10%	31%	28%
Supports an end to U.S.-led wars overseas and redirects resources domestically.	56%	31%	16%	15%	13%	18%	38%
Avoids broad new programs that could require higher taxes or deficits.	54%	38%	18%	20%	8%	28%	26%
Makes it easier for workers to form unions and bargain for higher pay.	53%	38%	22%	16%	9%	28%	25%
Raises taxes on wealthy people and large corporations to pay for public services.	51%	37%	21%	16%	12%	21%	30%
Works across party lines and builds broad coalitions.	50%	39%	17%	22%	11%	22%	28%
Focuses on practical improvements that can be passed and implemented now.	48%	35%	20%	15%	17%	22%	26%
Supports Medicare for All.	47%	43%	28%	15%	10%	14%	33%
Breaks up or tightly regulates corporations with too much market power.	47%	35%	15%	20%	18%	18%	29%
Cuts regulations and business taxes to encourage investment and jobs.	44%	35%	13%	22%	21%	27%	17%
Has been endorsed by the Working Families Party.	44%	27%	11%	16%	29%	26%	18%
Has a long record of public service and government experience.	42%	40%	19%	21%	18%	24%	18%
Supports health reform that builds on the current system without forcing private-insurance changes.	41%	38%	26%	12%	21%	24%	17%
Has endorsements from experienced elected officials and established	39%	37%	14%	23%	24%	22%	17%
Strongly supports Israel, including continued U.S. military aid.	34%	60%	44%	16%	6%	13%	21%

July 2026 – Registered Voters (CPR Toss Up Districts + Michigan)

Has supported defunding the police and shifting funding to community services.	28%	58%	41%	17%	14%	18%	10%
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Section 4: Political Identity and Closing Demographics

20. When it comes to politics, which of the following do you generally think of yourself as:

Net: Democrat _____ **47%**

A strong Democrat _____ 16%

A regular Democrat _____ 14%

Independent, leaning Democrat _____ 17%

Unaffiliated or independent _____ 7%

Net: Republican _____ **44%**

Independent, leaning Republican _____ 15%

A regular Republican _____ 13%

A strong Republican _____ 16%

Another party (please specify) _____ 1%

Don't know _____ 1%

21. When it comes to most political issues, do you think of yourself as a...?

Progressive or liberal _____ 19%

Moderate, leaning progressive or liberal _____ 17%

Moderate _____ 15%

Moderate, leaning conservative _____ 16%

Conservative _____ 22%

I have a mix of conservative and
progressive or liberal views _____ 10%

Don't know _____ 1%

22. On a scale of 0 to 10, where 0 means not at all engaged and 10 means very engaged, how politically engaged are you?

0 - Not at all engaged _____ 3%

1 _____ 2%

2 _____ 2%

3 _____ 4%

4 _____ 5%

5 _____ 11%

6 _____ 9%

7 _____ 16%

8 _____ 17%

9 _____ 10%

10 - Very engaged _____ 21%

23. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Employed full-time	34%
Employed part-time	11%
Self-employed	6%
Not employed and looking for work	7%
Not employed and not looking for work	10%
Homemaker	13%
Student	2%
Retired	14%
Unable to work	3%
Prefer not to answer	2%

24. The next question is about the total income of YOUR HOUSEHOLD for the PAST 12 MONTHS. Please include your income plus the income of all members living in your household.

Less than \$25,000	20%
\$25,000-\$49,999	27%
\$50,000-\$74,999	22%
\$75,000-\$99,999	13%
\$100,000-\$124,999	6%
\$125,000-\$149,999	5%
\$150,000-\$199,999	2%
\$200,000 or more	2%
Don't know	1%
Prefer not to answer	2%

25. Which of the following best describes the area in which you live?

Urban	21%
Suburban	55%
Small town	8%
Rural	15%

26. Which of the following economic categories best describes your household?

Lower-income	18%
Lower middle / working class	35%
Middle class	42%
Upper middle class	5%
Upper class	1%
Don't know	1%
Prefer not to answer	1%

Methodology

This survey, which was conducted using a text-to-web methodology of registered voters from the TargetSmart voter file, carries a margin of error equivalent of 2.83% at the 95 percent credibility level. Weights were calculated based on Census and American Community Survey. Gender, age, race and ethnicity, education, income and geography. The survey included a total of N=987 voters in 18 districts defined as Toss Ups by the Cook Political Report on July 24, 2026. An additional n=287 interviews were conducted with registered voters in Michigan. Weights were calculated independently for the two samples, then a blending weight was used for full the full population.