



July 2, 2024 – For Immediate Release

For more information, please contact:
Gillian Smith at gillian.smith@suffolk.edu

Suffolk University/USA TODAY National Voter Poll: Trump Opens Slim Lead Over President Biden, Gains Ground as a Second-Choice Candidate

BOSTON—Following their first debate last week, Republican candidate Donald Trump has edged ahead of President Joe Biden, 41%-38%, opening a narrow gap since a May survey that showed the two tied at 37%-37%, according to a new Suffolk University/USA TODAY national poll of registered voters.

The slim lead still shows a tight race, as it remains within the poll's margins of error. The new survey of 1,000 registered voters was taken Friday through Sunday.

There was little change in the standing of third-party candidates: Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. received 8%, while other third-party candidates received 3%, and 8% of overall voters were undecided.

The new poll also shows positive movement for Trump as an alternative choice among voters, with 25% saying Trump was their second choice, compared with 17% for Biden. One-third (33%) gave their second-place nod to independent Cornel West, Green Party candidate Jill Stein, Libertarian candidate Chase Oliver, and Kennedy.

Among all respondents, the issue of inflation/economy (35%) is emerging as the most important in voters' minds, followed by threats to democracy (21%), and immigration (19%). Among those still undecided on their presidential candidate, 46% cited inflation/economy as their No. 1 issue followed by abortion (15%) and immigration (15%).

“This poll tells us that voters are dug in on both sides,” said David Paleologos, director of the Suffolk University Political Research Center. “However, the Biden campaign must be concerned about the defection of second-choice votes of third-party voters, who now favor Trump instead of Biden. The Biden strategy all along was that as third-party candidacies evaporated, those voters would rotate to Biden. This research suggests the tables have turned and the

Stein/West/RFK voters he may have been counting on in November have left him after Thursday's debate.”

Methodology

The nationwide Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* survey was conducted June 28-30, through live interviews of 1,000 registered voters, residing in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Quota and demographic information—including region, race, and age—were determined from 2020 national census data. States were grouped into four general regions. Surveys were administered in English and Spanish. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is +/- 3.1 percentage points. Marginals and full cross-tabulation data are posted on the [Suffolk University Political Research Center](#) website. For more information, contact David Paleologos at 781-290-9310, dpaleologos@suffolk.edu.

Suffolk University, located in historic downtown Boston, provides students with experiential and transformational learning opportunities that begin in the center of Boston, reach across the globe, and lead to extraordinary outcomes for graduates. The University is driven by the power of education, inclusion, and engagement to change lives and positively impact communities. [Suffolk University](#) offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs in its College of Arts & Sciences, Sawyer Business School, and Law School.