

## METHODOLOGY

*On behalf of the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina, Embold Research surveyed 804 likely voters in Rhode Island from June 16-22, 2025.*

*We used the following sources to recruit respondents:*

- *targeted advertisements using the Meta advertising platform (571 respondents)*
- *SMS text messages (233 respondents)*

*Regardless of which of these sources a respondent came from, they were directed to a survey hosted on SurveyMonkey's website.*

*Ads placed on social media targeted likely voters in Rhode Island. Those who indicated that they were not currently registered to vote in Rhode Island and did not vote in the 2024 general elections were terminated. As the survey fielded, Embold Research used dynamic online sampling: adjusting ad budgets, lowering budgets for ads targeting groups that were overrepresented, and raising budgets for ads targeting groups that were underrepresented. The survey was conducted in English.*

*The survey was conducted online by Embold Research. Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, ethnicity, region, party registration, and 2024 presidential vote. Weighting parameters are based on the demographic composition of registered voters in Rhode Island, based on voter file data. That is, if x% of registered voters in the city were women, women would be weighted to x%. Presidential results and party registration were retrieved from the Rhode Island Secretary of State.*

*The modeled margin of error\* for this survey is 3.6%, which uses effective sample sizes\*\* that adjust for the design effect of weighting.*

*\* We adopt The Pew Research Center's convention for the term "modeled margin of error" (1) (mMOE) to indicate that our surveys are not simple random samples in the pure sense, similar to any survey that has either non-response bias or for which the general population was not invited at random. A common, if imperfect, convention for reporting survey results is to use a single, survey-level mMOE based on a normal approximation. This is a poor approximation for proportion estimates close to 0 or 1. However, it is a useful communication tool in many settings and is reasonable in places where the proportion of interest is close to 50%. We report this normal approximation for our surveys assuming a proportion estimate of 50%.*

*\*\* The effective sample size adjusts for the weighting applied to respondents and is calculated using Kish's approximation (2).*

*(1) <https://www.pewresearch.org/methods/2018/01/26/for-weighting-online-opt-in-samples-what-matters-most/>*

*(2) Kish, Leslie. Survey Sampling, 1965.*

## REPORTED QUESTIONS

1. Are you:
  - Male
  - Female
  - Other
2. In what year were you born? [TEXT BOX]
3. In what ZIP code do you currently live? [TEXT BOX]

\*3b. Here is a map of Rhode Island's two congressional districts. In which district do you live? [SHOW MAP]

- 1
  - 2
  - Not sure
4. What is your race?
    - White / Caucasian
    - Hispanic or Latino/a
    - Black or African American
    - Asian / Pacific Islander
    - American Indian or Alaska Native
    - Other (please specify): [TEXT BOX]

\*5a. [If Hispanic/Latino not selected] Are you from a Hispanic, Latino/a, or Spanish-speaking background?

- Yes
  - No
5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?
    - High school diploma or less
    - Some college, but no degree
    - Associate's degree, or two-year college degree
    - Bachelor's degree, or four-year college degree
    - Graduate degree
  6. Are you registered to vote in Rhode Island?
    - Yes
    - No [Terminate]
    - Not sure [Terminate]
  7. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a: [RANDOMIZE DEM/REP]
    - Democrat
    - Republican
    - Independent/Other

[IF DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN] Do you consider yourself a:

- Strong Democrat/Republican
- Not so strong Democrat/Republican

[IF INDEPENDENT/OTHER] Do you consider yourself closer to: [RANDOMIZE DEM/REP]

- The Democrats

- The Republicans
- Neither

\*7b. Regardless of what you think of the political parties, which party are you registered to vote with?

- The Democratic Party
- The Republican Party
- Registered to vote, but not with a political party
- Some other political party

8. How did you vote in the 2024 election for President, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

- Kamala Harris, the Democrat
- Donald Trump, the Republican
- A minor third-party candidate
- Not registered/Too young/Ineligible [Terminate]
- Did not vote [Terminate]

9. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a: [RANDOMIZE DEM/REP]

- Democrat
- Republican
- Independent/Other

9a. [IF DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN] Do you consider yourself a:

- Strong Democrat/Republican
- Not so strong Democrat/Republican

9b. [IF INDEPENDENT/OTHER] Do you consider yourself closer to: [RANDOMIZE DEM/REP]

- The Democrats
- The Republicans
- Neither

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the job performance of the following individuals? [RANDOMIZE][Strongly approve | Somewhat approve | Somewhat disapprove | Strongly disapprove | Not sure]

- Senator Jack Reed
- Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
- [IF RI-01] Representative Gabe Amo
- [IF RI-02] Representative Seth Magaziner
- Governor Dan McKee
- Lieutenant Governor Sabina Matos
- Attorney General Peter Neronha
- General Treasurer James DiOSSa
- Secretary of State Gregg Amore
- President Donald Trump
- Vice President JD Vance

11. For each of the following, indicate whether you support or oppose the proposed Rhode Island state policy. [RANDOMIZE] [Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Not sure]

- A statewide assault weapons ban that blocks the purchase, sale, and possession of certain weapons, like semi-automatic shotguns
- A millionaire's tax which includes a 3% income tax surcharge on highest earners
- Increased Medicaid reimbursements to primary care doctors, at the same level as Medicare reimbursements

- A one-time minimum wage increase for tipped workers to \$6.75
  - A gradual minimum wage increase for tipped workers through 2031
  - A state bottle refund program which includes a 10-cent deposit on recyclable beverage containers
12. Rhode Island state officials estimate that the Washington Bridge will be rebuilt by November 2028 and cost \$427 million to rebuild. In your opinion, how likely do you think the project will be completed within this timeframe and budget?
- Very likely
  - Somewhat likely
  - Not that likely
  - Not likely at all
  - Not sure
13. Do you think Donald Trump's policies have helped you personally, hurt you personally, or have not made much of a difference either way?
- They have helped me personally
  - They have hurt me personally
  - They have not made much of a difference in my life
14. Do you approve or disapprove of the Trump administration's decision to nationally deploy U.S. military troops in response to protests over the federal government's immigration enforcement?
- Strongly approve
  - Somewhat approve
  - Neither approve nor disapprove
  - Somewhat disapprove
  - Strongly disapprove
15. For each of the following, would you like to see federal spending increase, decrease, or stay about the same? [RANDOMIZE] [Increase | Decrease | Stay the same | Not sure]
- Medicare
  - Medicaid
  - Social security
  - Education
  - Defense
  - Border/immigration enforcement
  - Foreign aid
16. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? [RANDOMIZE] [Strongly agree | Somewhat agree | Somewhat disagree | Strongly disagree | Not sure]
- The US is in a constitutional crisis
  - The US is a democracy
  - The US economy is in a recession
  - The US government has a strong system of checks and balances
  - The US is a dictatorship
  - The US economy is thriving
17. How important are the following aspects to your identity? [Extremely important | Very important | Moderately important | Slightly important | Not important at all] [RANDOMIZE]
- Being a Rhode Islander
  - Being an American

18. And how important is being a [Republican / Democrat / independent - based on answer to Q8] to your identity?
- Extremely important
  - Very important
  - Moderately important
  - Slightly important
  - Not important at all
19. In your opinion, how healthy is the U.S. system of democracy? [RANDOMLY FLIP]
- Not at all healthy
  - Slightly healthy
  - Moderately healthy
  - Very healthy
  - Extremely healthy
20. In the past year, do you think the country has... [ROTATE]
- Become more politically polarized
  - Stayed the same
  - Become less politically polarized
  - Not sure
21. What are the strongest contributors to polarization? Please select your top three. [RANDOMIZE]
- Disinformation and fake news
  - Partisan media
  - Social media platforms
  - Lack of civic engagement
  - Lack of exposure to diverse perspectives
  - Income inequality
  - Neighborhood segregation
  - Racism and sexism
  - Politically motivated violence
  - Political leaders
  - Money in politics
  - Political campaign propaganda
  - Voter suppression
  - Redistricting or gerrymandering
  - Election fraud
  - Foreign interference in elections
  - The filibuster
  - The electoral college
  - Democratic officials
  - Republican officials
  - Other (please specify)[textbox]
22. What do you think are the most important problems facing the country today? Please select your top three. [RANDOMIZE]
- Economy
  - Inflation or cost of living
  - Reproductive rights (abortion)
  - Immigration
  - Crime

- Gun policies
- Healthcare
- Education
- Climate change
- The state of democracy
- Election integrity
- Polarization/division
- Racism/racial issues
- Trump/Republicans
- Biden/Democrats
- War in Ukraine
- Israel-Hamas War
- Relations with China
- International terrorism
- Domestic terrorism
- Other (please specify)

23. Would you say: [Very | Somewhat | Not at all] [RANDOMIZE]

- Republicans are \_\_\_\_ close-minded compared to other Americans.
- Democrats are \_\_\_\_ close-minded compared to other Americans.
- Republicans are \_\_\_\_ immoral compared to other Americans.
- Democrats are \_\_\_\_ immoral compared to other Americans.
- Republicans are \_\_\_\_ dishonest compared to other Americans.
- Democrats are \_\_\_\_ dishonest compared to other Americans.
- Republicans are \_\_\_\_ unintelligent compared to other Americans.
- Democrats are \_\_\_\_ unintelligent compared to other Americans.
- Republicans are \_\_\_\_ lazy compared to other Americans.
- Democrats are \_\_\_\_ lazy compared to other Americans.

24. How do you get most of your news about national and local politics and issues? Please select all that you watch, read or listen to for at least an hour per week.

- CNN
- MSNBC
- FOX News
- Network news (CBS, ABC, NBC, PBS)
- Local TV news
- Newsmax
- Local newspapers (like The Providence Journal or The Newport Daily News)
- National newspapers (like The Washington Post or New York Times)
- NPR or local public radio
- Local talk or news radio
- Local Spanish-language radio, newspapers, or television
- National Spanish-language radio, newspapers or television
- Facebook
- Twitter/X
- Threads
- Instagram
- TikTok
- YouTube
- Somewhere else (please specify)

25. Do you find yourself actively trying to avoid news these days?

- Yes
- Sometimes

- No

26. [IF YES OR SOMETIMES] You said that you actively try to avoid news these days. Which of the following news topics do you try to avoid? Please select all topics that you try to avoid.

- National politics
- Social justice news
- War in Ukraine
- Israel-Hamas War
- Climate change and the environment
- Entertainment/celebrity
- Health news
- Local news
- Crime or gun violence
- Immigration
- Other (please specify)[textbox]