

## METHODOLOGY

On behalf of the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina, Embold Research surveyed 876 likely voters in Rhode Island from September 16-20, 2024.

We used the following sources to recruit respondents:

- targeted advertisements using the Meta advertising platform (393 respondents)
- SMS text messages (483 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, unsure if they were registered to vote in Rhode Island, or were registered to vote in Rhode Island but were unlikely to 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 and Spanish.

The survey was conducted online by Embold Research. Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, ethnicity, region, party registration, and 2020 presidential vote. Weighting parameters are based on the demographic composition of 2024 general election voters, based on probabilistic turnout scores provided by Deck. These scores incorporate past vote history and demographic factors, as well as environmental factors including media coverage, fundraising numbers, and candidate demographics. Presidential results and party registration were retrieved from the Rhode Island Secretary of State.

The modeled margin of error\* for this survey is 3.5%, 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 2020 election for President, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

- Joe Biden, the Democrat
- Donald Trump, the Republican
- Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian
- Not registered/Too young/Ineligible
- Did not vote

9. How likely are you to vote in the November 2024 election for President, U.S. Congress, and other offices?

- Yes, definitely
- Yes, probably
- Maybe (50-50)
- No, probably not [TERMINATE]
- No, definitely not [TERMINATE]

10. If the 2024 election for president were held today, and the candidates were the following, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Donald Trump, the Republican
- Kamala Harris, the Democrat
- Not sure
- Another candidate (please specify)

[If not sure] If you had to choose, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Donald Trump, the Republican
- Kamala Harris, the Democrat
- Not sure
- Would not vote

11. If the election for the **U.S. Senator of Rhode Island** were held today, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Sheldon Whitehouse, the Democrat
- Patricia Morgan, the Republican
- Not sure

[If not sure] If you had to choose, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Sheldon Whitehouse, the Democrat
- Patricia Morgan, the Republican
- Not sure
- Would not vote

12a. [IF RI-01] If the election for the **Rhode Island U.S. House** representative were held today, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Gabe Amo, the Democrat

- q. Allen Waters, the Republican
- r. Not sure

[If not sure] If you had to choose, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Gabe Amo, the Democrat
- Allen Waters, the Republican
- Not sure
- Would not vote

12b. [IF RI-02] If the election for the **Rhode Island U.S. House** representative were held today, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- s. Seth Magaziner, the Democrat
- t. Steven Corvi, the Republican
- u. Not sure

[If not sure] If you had to choose, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Seth Magaziner, the Democrat
- Steven Corvi, the Republican
- Not sure
- Would not vote

13. 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 Joe Biden
- Vice President Kamala Harris

14. In general, how satisfied are you with your choice of candidates in this fall's presidential election?

- Very satisfied
- Somewhat satisfied
- Somewhat dissatisfied
- Very dissatisfied
- Not sure

15. Does the selection of Vice President for both the Republican and Democratic parties change your mind about who to vote for in the Presidential election?

- Yes, I'm more likely to vote for Harris now
- Yes, I'm more likely to vote for Trump now
- Yes, I'm more likely to vote for a third party candidate now
- Yes, I'm less likely to vote now
- No, it doesn't impact my vote choice

16. For each of the following, do you believe they are...? [RANDOMIZE] [Very conservative | Somewhat conservative | Moderate | Somewhat liberal | Very liberal]

- Kamala Harris
- Tim Walz
- Donald Trump
- JD Vance

17. What **one** issue is most important in deciding your vote this November? [RANDOMIZE]

- Economy
- Inflation
- Abortion
- Immigration
- Crime
- Gun Policies
- Healthcare
- Education
- Foreign Policy
- Climate change
- Taxes
- Student loans
- The state of democracy
- Something else (please specify):
- Not sure

18. How much trust do you have in the 2024 U.S. elections to be fair and accurate?

- A lot
- Some
- Just a little
- None at all
- Not sure

19. How concerned are you about the following when it comes to the 2024 elections? [Very concerned | Somewhat concerned | Not that concerned | Not concerned at all]

- Inaccurate or misleading information about elections
- Violence or civil unrest after Election Day
- Attempts to overturn the results of a fair election
- Interference from foreign entities
- Voter suppression through overly restrictive voting rules or regulations
- Intimidation at voting locations deterring or preventing people from voting
- Biased or inaccurate counting of ballots
- Illegal or improper use of mail-in ballots or drop boxes
- Voter fraud or the counting of ineligible votes (duplicate, non-citizen, or deceased voters)

20. 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

21. Overall, how would you say things in Rhode Island are going? Are they heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

- Right direction
- Wrong track

22. In the past year, do you think the country has... [ROTATE]

- Become more politically polarized
- Stayed the same
- Become less politically polarized
- Not sure

23. 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]

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.

- Election coverage
- 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
- Other (please specify)[textbox]

27. In what language did you complete this survey?

- English
- Spanish