



SALVE
THE PELL CENTER

VOICES_{of}VALUE

August 2026 Survey Report



COMPILED BY

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Katie Sonder is Associate Director and Fellow at the Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina University. Sonder's current research involves applying conflict resolution best practices to U.S. political polarization. Sonder earned her M.A. in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from American University in Washington, DC and her B.A. in Philosophy from New York University. She has lived and worked abroad in Thailand through the Princeton in Asia fellowship and in Ethiopia as a Peace Corps volunteer.

ABOUT THE PELL CENTER

The Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy at Salve Regina is a multidisciplinary research center focused at the intersection of politics, policies and ideas. Dedicated to honoring Sen. Claiborne Pell's legacy, the Pell Center promotes American engagement in the world, effective government at home and civic participation by all Americans.

Our programs are designed to generate new ideas, to expand public understanding of important issues and, ultimately, to help the public and its leaders make better decisions. Working with students and faculty, we don't just study the world, we try to change it.

The Pell Center is animated by Sen. Claiborne Pell's belief that politics is about translating ideas into action to help people. We work to supplement the education available to Salve Regina students by fostering civic participation to make the world a better place.

ABOUT SALVE REGINA UNIVERSITY

Salve Regina University is a Catholic, coeducational institution of higher education founded by the Sisters of Mercy in 1947. It offers rigorous, innovative academic programming in the liberal arts tradition that prepares students to be global citizens and lifelong learners. More than 2,700 students from around the world are enrolled in Salve's 60+ academic programs, which include bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees along with graduate certificates and combined bachelor's/master's programs. Every undergraduate student engages in Salve Compass, a four-year experience that charts a personalized, values-based path connecting college to a successful, fulfilling career and life.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

On behalf of the Pell Center, Embold Research surveyed 857 likely 2026 primary voters in Rhode Island from August 3-11, 2026. Respondents were recruited via dynamic online sampling, and SMS text-to-web sampling to attain a sample reflective of the electorate. Post-stratification weighting was performed on age, gender, ethnicity, education, region, and 2024 presidential vote. Weighting parameters are based on likely electorate demographic composition, based on available voter file data. The modeled margin of error is +/- 3.6%.



SALVE REGINA
UNIVERSITY

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARIES

Helena Foulkes (48%) leads incumbent Governor Dan McKee (28%) in the Democratic primary for Rhode Island governor. While 22% of voters are still undecided, enough to swing the election in either candidate's favor, Foulkes has broad support among likely Rhode Island voters under 50 (58%), those who are college-educated (54%), and those who reside in the Bristol/Newport region (58%).

Incumbent Senator Jack Reed receives strong support for the Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate seat he currently occupies. With 61% of the vote, Reed leads his opponents Connor Burbridge (12%) and Luis Daniel Muñoz (4%) by a wide margin.

A significant portion of likely voters remain undecided in down-ballot statewide races. Nearly half of Democratic voters (48%) are unsure whom they will choose for RI Lieutenant Governor. Incumbent Sabina Matos secured the largest percent of support among the candidates at 18%, with former Newport Mayor Xay Khamsyvoravong close behind at 16%. In the Democratic race for RI Attorney General, 46% of likely voters are unsure but Kim Ahern secured 23% support, the largest by a margin of 10 percentage points.

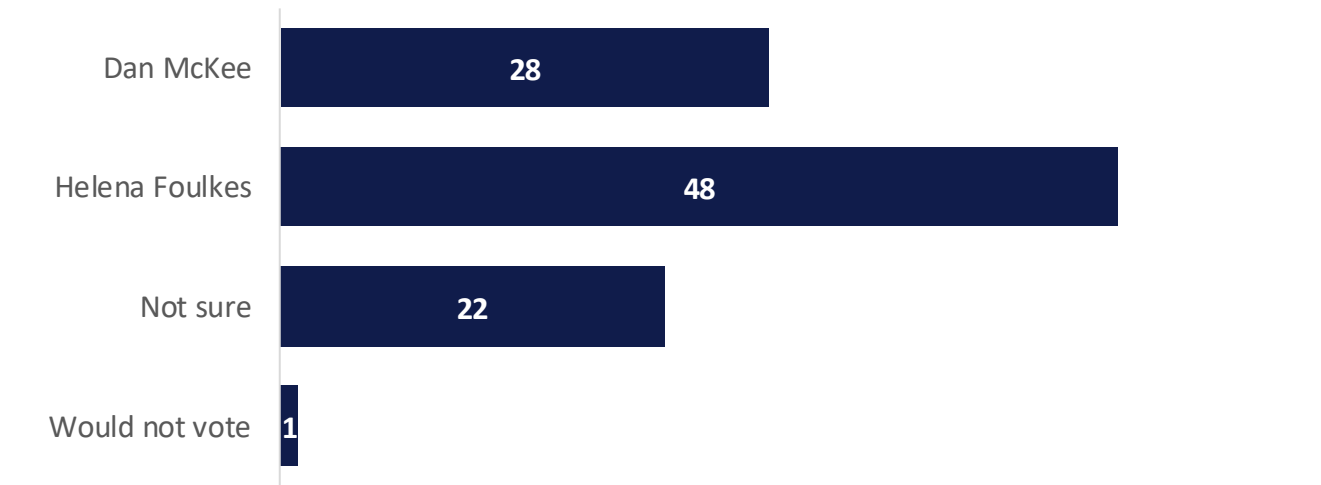
REPUBLICAN PRIMARIES

Likely Republican primary voters are also mostly unsure who they will vote for in the Governor's race and the U.S. House Representative for Congressional District 2. Elaine Pelino (37%) has a 20 percentage point lead over Aaron Guckian (17%) for the Republican governor's primary with 44% not undecided at the time of the survey. Stephen Skoly (29%) leads the GOP House primary in the second Congressional district by 7 percentage points over opponent Victor Mellor (22%), but 48% of respondents said they were undecided in that race.

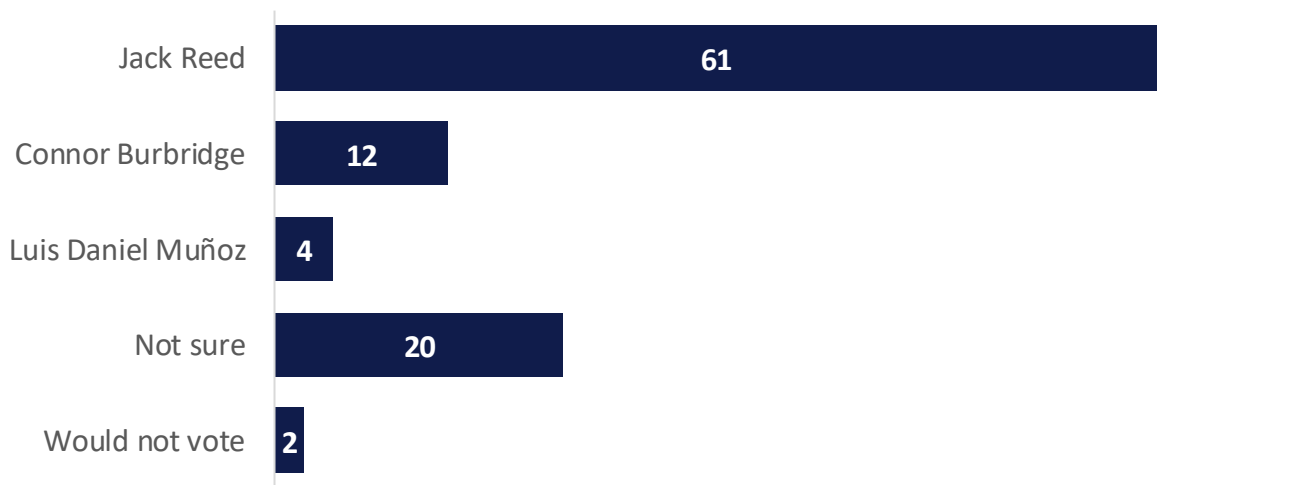
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

If the primary election were held today, % of registered Democrats who would vote for ...

Rhode Island Governor



Senator from Rhode Island

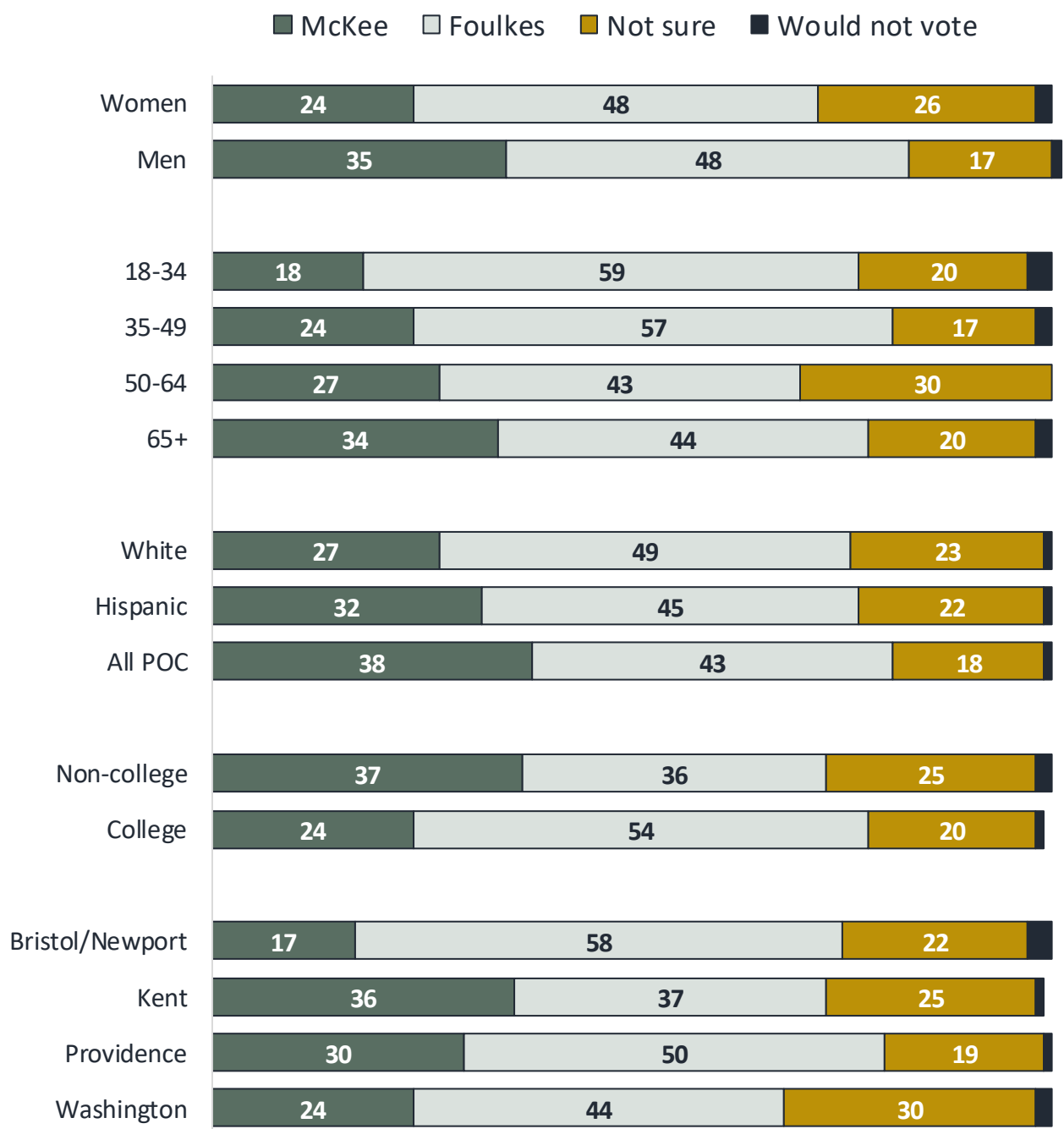


Note: totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

If the primary election were held today, % of registered Democrats who would vote for ...

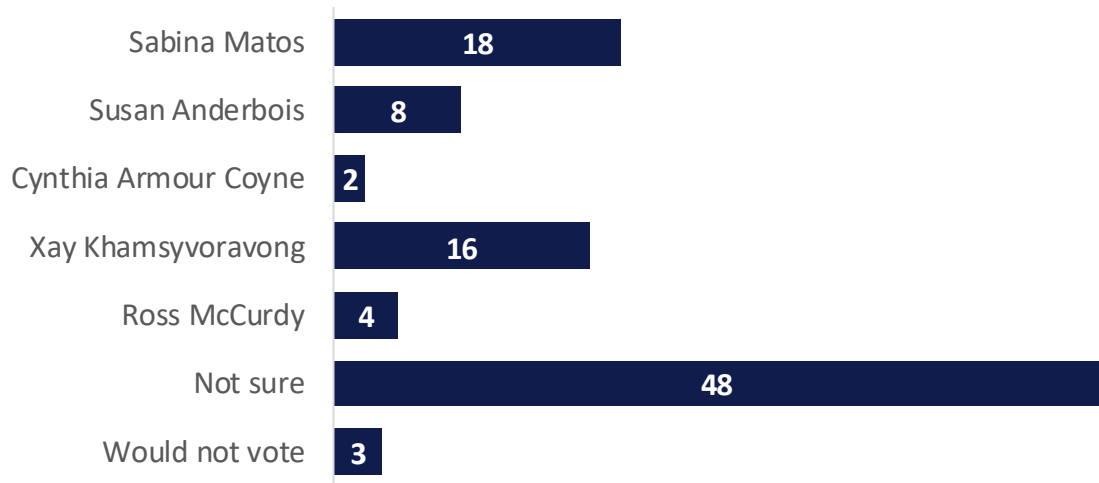
Rhode Island Governor



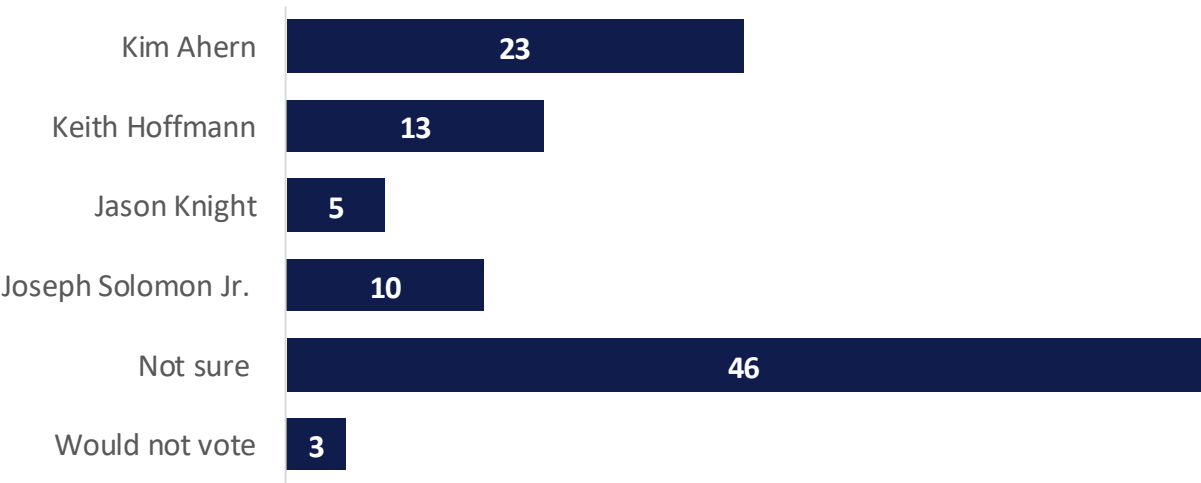
DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY VOTERS

If the primary election were held today, % of registered Democrats who would vote for ...

Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor



Rhode Island Attorney General

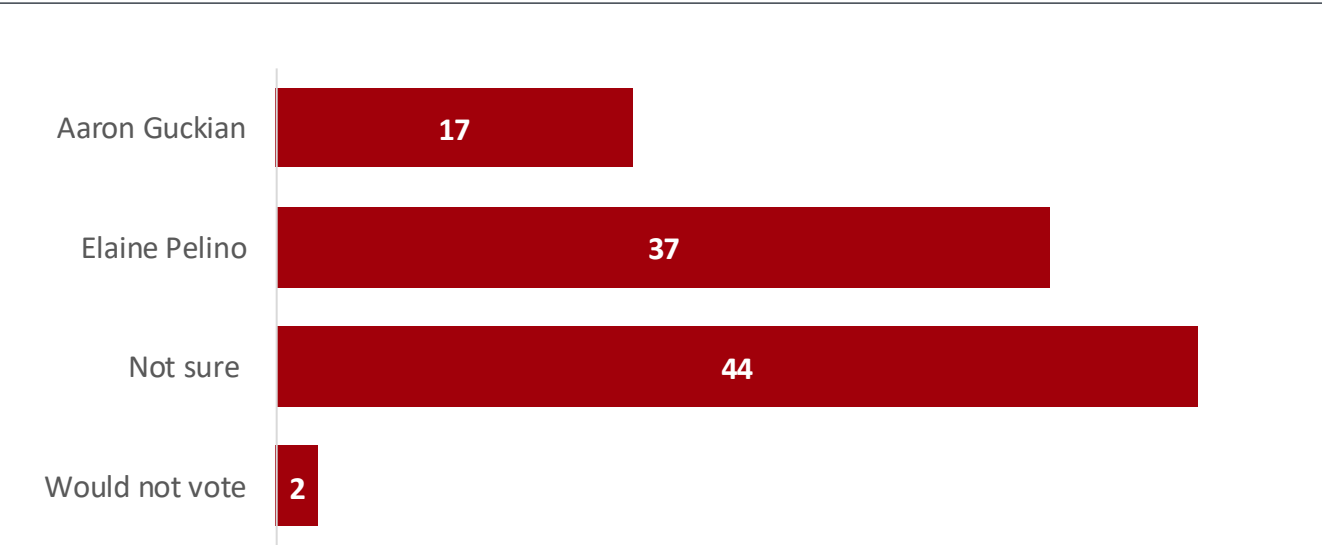


Note: totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

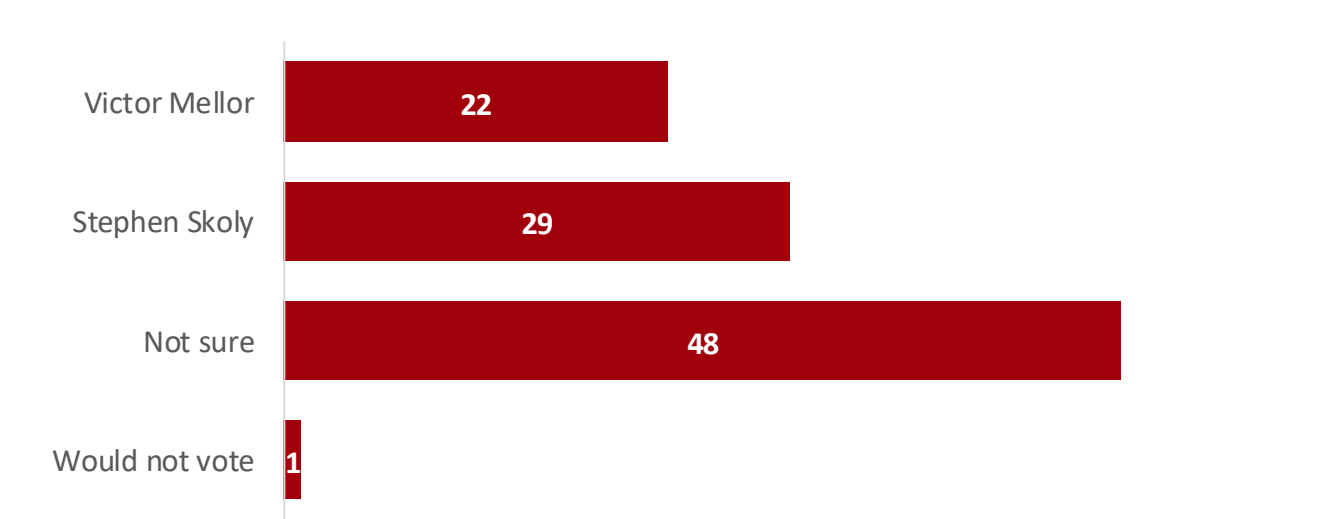
REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

If the primary election were held today, % of registered Republicans who would vote for ...

Rhode Island Governor



U.S. House Representative – Rhode Island’s 2nd Congressional District



Note: totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Survey Demographics	Likely Voters
n = 857; modeled margin of error 3.6%	
Registered Party	
Republican	26%
Democrat	46%
Registered to vote, but not with a political party	27%
Some other political party	1%
Party Identification	
Base Republicans	28%
Independents + Leaners	30%
Base Democrats	42%
Vote in 2024 elections	
Kamala Harris, the Democrat	54%
Donald Trump, the Republican	41%
A minor third-party candidate	3%
Did not vote	3%
Age	
18-34	10%
35-49	18%
50-64	29%
65+	43%
Race	
White	86%
Hispanic	6%
Black	5%
AAPI	1%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0%
Other	2%
Identity	
Man	45%
Woman	54%
Another identity	1%

Note: 'not sure' responses not shown

Survey Demographics cont.	Likely Voters
n = 857; modeled margin of error 3.6%	
Highest level of education completed	
High school diploma or less	13%
Some college, no degree	22%
Associate's degree	9%
Bachelor's degree	29%
Graduate degree	28%
Congressional district	
1	45%
2	52%
Not sure	4%

Note: 'not sure' responses not shown

SURVEY QUESTIONS

Demographics

1. Are you:
 - A man
 - A woman
 - Another identity
2. In what year were you born?
3. In what ZIP code do you currently live?
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)
- 4b. [IF NOT HISPANIC] 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?
 - Yes
 - No [TERMINATE]
 - Not sure [TERMINATE]
7. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a:
 - Democrat
 - Republican
 - Independent/Other
- *7a. [If 7 = Democrat/Republican] Do you consider yourself a:
 - Strong Democrat/Republican
 - Not so strong Democrat/Republican
- *7b. [If 7 = Ind/Other] Do you consider yourself closer to:
 - The Democrats
 - The Republicans
 - Neither
8. Regardless of what you think of the political parties, which party are you registered to vote with?
 - The Democratic Party
 - The Republican Party
 - A third party
 - Registered to vote, but not with a political party

9. 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 third party candidate
- Not registered/Too young/Ineligible
- Did not vote

10. Ahead of the November 2026 election for U.S. Congress and other offices, there will be primary elections on September 9, 2026 to determine which candidates will run for the general election. Do you plan to:

- Vote in the Democratic primary
- Vote in the Republican primary
- Wait until the November general election to vote [TERMINATE]
- Not sure [TERMINATE]

Democratic Primary Asks

11. If the Democratic primary election for **U.S. Senator from Rhode Island** were held today, who would you vote for?

- Jack Reed
- Connor Burbridge
- Luis Daniel Munoz
- Not sure

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for?

- Jack Reed
- Connor Burbridge
- Luis Daniel Munoz
- Not sure
- Would not vote

12. If the Democratic primary election for **the Rhode Island Governor** were held today, who would you vote for?

- Daniel McKee
- Helena Foulkes
- Not sure

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for?

- Daniel McKee
- Helena Foulkes
- Not sure
- Would not vote

13. If the election for the **Rhode Island Lieutenant Governor** were held today, who would you vote for?

- Sabina Matos
- Susan Anderbois
- Cynthia Armour Coyne
- Xaykham Khamsyvovong
- Ross McCurdy
- Not sure

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Sabina Matos
- Susan Anderbois
- Cynthia Armour Coyne
- Xaykham Khamsyvovong
- Ross McCurdy
- Not sure
- Would not vote

14. If the election for the **Rhode Island Attorney General** were held today, who would you vote for?

- Kim Ahern
- Keith Hoffmann
- Jason Knight
- Joseph Solomon Jr.
- Not sure

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for? [RANDOMIZE CANDIDATES]

- Kim Ahern
- Keith Hoffmann
- Jason Knight
- Joseph Solomon Jr.
- Not sure
- Would not vote

Republican Primary Asks

15. [SHOW RI-02 ONLY] If the Republican primary election for the **Rhode Island U.S. House representative** were held today, who would you vote for?

- Victor Mellor
- Stephen Skoly
- Not sure

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for?

- Victor Mellor
- Stephen Skoly
- Not sure
- Would not vote

16. If the Republican primary election for the **Rhode Island Governor** were held today, who would you vote for?

- Aaron Guckian
- Elaine Pelino
- Not sure

[IF NOT SURE] If you had to choose, who would you vote for?

- Aaron Guckian
- Elaine Pelino
- Not sure
- Would not vote