



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Americans worried midterms could bring divided government, gridlock

New Axios/Ipsos poll finds the biggest concern with continued Democratic control is the handling of the economy; concerns about Republicans more mixed

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, October 1, 2022 – With less than six weeks until the 2022 midterm elections, a new Axios/Ipsos poll finds that a slim majority of Americans are worried about divided government and split control of Congress after November. Just under half are concerned about Democrats keeping control of Congress or Republicans winning control of both chambers. Regardless of the outcome, there is one clear concern among those worried the Democrats will maintain both the Senate and House of Representatives: the economy will get worse. On the other side, those worried that Republicans will win control of both chambers of Congress cite a number of possible concerns, rather than just one issue, including: a worsening economy, gridlock, and that Republicans will shift too much of the focus to divisive social issues.

Detailed Findings

1. A slim majority of Americans are worried that the midterm elections will result in divided government and gridlock.
 - Fifty-three percent of Americans are worried about divided government, where one party controls the Senate, and one controls the House of Representatives. Democrats (64%) are more worried about this outcome than Republicans (51%) and independents (44%).
 - Concerns about either party having total control of Congress are relatively even. Forty-nine percent say they are at least somewhat worried that the Democrats will maintain control of both the Senate and House of Representatives after the midterm elections, while a similar percentage (46%) are worried that the Republicans will take control of both chambers.
 - Predictable partisan divides exist as three-fourths of both Democrats and Republicans are worried the other party will have control of both chambers of Congress.
 - Women (50%), Black Americans (56%), and Hispanic Americans (54%) are more worried than their counterparts about the Republican Party winning control of the Senate and House of Representatives. In contrast, Americans aged 55+ (57%) and White Americans (54%) are more worried about the Democratic Party keeping control of both chambers.
 - Setting concerns aside, no one actually agrees on the outcome in November. Roughly a third say the Democrats will control the Senate or House, a third say the same about Republicans, and a third don't know. Among independents, three in five don't have a guess as to which party will control Congress after November.



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2. Among those who are worried that the Democrats will keep control of the Senate and the House of Representatives, there is a single point of concern: the economy and inflation getting worse.
 - More than two in five (43%) say that they are worried the economy or inflation will get worse if Democrats maintain control of both chambers of Congress.
 - Driving this belief are Americans aged 55+ (55%), married Americans (51%) and those earning \$100K+ (49%).
 - While all other issues lag far behind the economy, the second tier of issues includes the Democrats spending too much time investigating Donald Trump (18%), no checks on President Biden's powers (18%), declining confidence in government (16%) and increased political violence (14%).
3. While those that are worried about Republicans winning both the Senate and the House are concerned about a worsening economy, several other factors have them similarly worried.
 - Nearly one in four (24%) are worried that the economy or inflation will get worse if Republicans win control of both chambers.
 - Americans aged 18-34 (29%) and those living in urban areas (33%) are more worried than their counterparts.
 - A similar percentage worry that President Biden will not be able to get anything done (23%) and that Republicans will spend too much time on divisive social issues (21%).
 - Second tier issues include increasing political violence (19%), Donald Trump's claims of election fraud gaining more traction (18%) and declining confidence in government (17%).

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between September 23 – 26, 2022 on behalf of Axios. For this survey, a sample of 1,004 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points for all respondents.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:

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Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. Which political party is currently in control of the following?

a. U.S. Senate

	Total (N=1,004)	Republican (N=356)	Democrat (N=449)	Independent (N=126)
Democratic Party	55%	59%	67%	44%
Republican Party	17%	26%	14%	12%
Don't know	28%	15%	20%	44%

b. U.S. House of Representatives

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Democratic Party	55%	58%	67%	42%
Republican Party	17%	25%	15%	11%
Don't know	27%	17%	18%	47%

2. Regardless of your personal preferences, which political party do you believe will control the following, after the 2022 midterm elections this November?

a. U.S. Senate

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Democratic Party	33%	10%	64%	19%
Republican Party	33%	67%	14%	22%
Don't know	34%	23%	22%	59%

b. U.S. House of Representatives

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Democratic Party	31%	12%	60%	14%
Republican Party	34%	67%	17%	24%
Don't know	34%	22%	23%	62%

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3. Currently, the Democratic Party controls both the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives, meaning they hold the majority of seats in each chamber. Thinking about what could happen after the midterm elections this November, how worried, if at all, are you about the following scenarios happening?

Total Very/Somewhat Worried Summary

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Divided government, where one party controls the Senate and one controls the House of Representatives	53%	51%	64%	44%
Democrats keeping control of both the Senate and House of Representatives	49%	78%	31%	41%
Republicans winning control of both the Senate and House of Representatives	46%	18%	76%	39%

a. Democrats keeping control of both the Senate and House of Representatives

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Very worried	22%	49%	9%	10%
Somewhat worried	27%	29%	22%	31%
Not very worried	29%	16%	35%	44%
Not at all worried	22%	7%	34%	15%
<i>Very/Somewhat Worried (Net)</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>41%</i>
<i>Not very/Not at all Worried (Net)</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>59%</i>

b. Republicans winning control of both the Senate and House of Representatives

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Very worried	23%	5%	44%	12%
Somewhat worried	23%	13%	32%	27%
Not very worried	26%	28%	17%	43%
Not at all worried	28%	54%	7%	19%
<i>Very/Somewhat Worried (Net)</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>39%</i>
<i>Not very/Not at all Worried (Net)</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>82%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>61%</i>

c. Divided government, where one party controls the Senate and one controls the House of Representatives

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Very worried	13%	12%	18%	7%
Somewhat worried	40%	40%	46%	36%
Not very worried	33%	34%	28%	40%
Not at all worried	14%	15%	8%	16%
<i>Very/Somewhat Worried (Net)</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Not very/Not at all Worried (Net)</i>	<i>47%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>56%</i>

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4. What worries you the most if Republicans win control of the Senate and the House of Representatives? You may select up to two.

Base: Selected Very worried, Somewhat worried, or Not very worried for “Republicans winning control of both the Senate and House of Representatives” in Q3

	Total (N=721)	Republican (N=160)	Democrat (N=415)	Independent (N=103)
The economy and/or inflation will get worse	24%	22%	24%	28%
President Biden will be unable to get anything done	23%	17%	29%	19%
Republicans will spend too much time on divisive social issues	21%	19%	25%	16%
Political violence will increase	19%	16%	19%	23%
Donald Trump's claims of election fraud in the 2020 election will gain more traction	18%	14%	23%	14%
Americans' confidence in government will decline	17%	15%	19%	16%
Republicans will gain too much support going into the 2024 presidential election	13%	10%	18%	3%
Republicans will spend too much time investigating President Biden	11%	13%	12%	7%
Something else	3%	4%	2%	4%
None of the above	17%	23%	6%	27%

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5. What worries you the most if Democrats keep control of the Senate and the House of Representatives? You may select up to two.

Base: Selected Very worried, Somewhat worried, or Not very worried for "Democrats keeping control of both the Senate and House of Representatives" in Q3

	Total (N=781)	Republican (N=337)	Democrat (N=291)	Independent (N=105)
The economy and/or inflation will get worse	43%	64%	26%	38%
Democrats will spend too much time investigating Donald Trump	18%	24%	16%	14%
There will be no checks on President Biden's power	18%	28%	11%	10%
Americans' confidence in government will decline	16%	20%	12%	18%
Political violence will increase	14%	9%	19%	13%
Democrats will spend too much time on divisive social issues	13%	17%	9%	16%
Democrats will not do enough to prevent election fraud	8%	7%	10%	10%
Democrats will gain too much support going into the 2024 presidential election	8%	9%	8%	8%
Something else	3%	3%	2%	3%
None of the above	20%	3%	29%	26%



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Axios/Ipsos poll, conducted between September 23 – 26, 2022. For this survey, a sample of 1,004 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 356 Republicans, 449 Democrats, and 126 independents.

The sample was randomly drawn from [Ipsos' online panel](#), [partner online panel sources](#), and "river" [sampling](#) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2019 American Community Survey data, except for 2020 vote history, which comes from the Federal Election Commission. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, education, and past vote.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.8 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following ($n=1,004$, $DEFF=1.5$, adjusted Confidence Interval= ± 5.3 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 6.4 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 5.7 percentage points for Democrats and plus or minus 10.7 percentage points for independents.

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About Ipsos

Ipsos is one of the largest market research and polling companies globally, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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