TOPLINE & METHODOLOGY

FiveThirtyEight/Washington Post/Ipsos Republican Pre-Debate Survey

Conducted by Ipsos using KnowledgePanel®
A survey of Republican primary or cacus voters (ages 18+)
Interview dates: August 15-22, 2023
Number of interviews: 4,968

Margin of error: +/- 1.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for all respondents

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Reduced bases are unweighted values.

NOTE: * = less than 0.5%, - = no respondents, N/A = not applicable

Annotated Questionnaire:

Q1. Thank you for taking our survey! First, how likely is it that you will vote in the 2024 presidential primary or caucus in your state?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Absolutely certain to vote	71%
Very likely	19%
About 50-50	9%
Not too likely	-
Not likely at all	-
Skipped	-
Likely (net)	100%
Not likely (net)	0%

Q2. Now, thinking about the 2024 presidential primary or caucus in your state, would you be...?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Most likely to vote in the Democratic primary or caucus	-
Most likely to vote in the Republican primary or caucus	100%
Not likely to vote in a primary or caucus	-
Skipped	-

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Q3. Which of the following topics are the most important issues facing the country? (Select up to three)

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Inflation or increasing costs	60%
Immigration	42%
Government budget and debt	34%
Political extremism or polarization	21%
Crime or gun violence	19%
Taxes	17%
Election security or fraud	17%
Health care	14%
Abortion	11%
Foreign conflicts or terrorism	9%
Climate change and the environment	9%
Education	8%
Opioid or drug addiction	8%
Unemployment	4%
Economic inequality	4%
Race and racism	3%
Natural disasters	2%
COVID-19/coronavirus	1%
Other	4%
None of these	1%
Skipped	*

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Q4. How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

Total Favorable Summary

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Donald Trump	65%
Ron DeSantis	58%
Mike Pence	40%
Nikki Haley	38%
Tim Scott	37%
Vivek Ramaswamy	30%
Chris Christie	21%
Asa Hutchinson	11%
Doug Burgum	7%
Will Hurd	6%
Francis Suarez	6%

Q4_1. Donald Trump - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	41%
Somewhat favorable	24%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%
Very unfavorable	21%
Heard of, no opinion	2%
Never heard of	*
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	65%
Unfavorable (net)	32%

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Q4_2. Ron DeSantis - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	25%
Somewhat favorable	33%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%
Very unfavorable	14%
Heard of, no opinion	9%
Never heard of	6%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	58%
Unfavorable (net)	25%

Q4_3. Mike Pence - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	8%
Somewhat favorable	32%
Somewhat unfavorable	25%
Very unfavorable	23%
Heard of, no opinion	10%
Never heard of	2%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	40%
Unfavorable (net)	48%

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Q4_4. Doug Burgum - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	1%
Somewhat favorable	6%
Somewhat unfavorable	4%
Very unfavorable	4%
Heard of, no opinion	16%
Never heard of	69%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	7%
Unfavorable (net)	8%

Q4_5. Chris Christie - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	3%
Somewhat favorable	17%
Somewhat unfavorable	23%
Very unfavorable	26%
Heard of, no opinion	14%
Never heard of	15%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	21%
Unfavorable (net)	49%

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Q4_6. Nikki Haley - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	10%
Somewhat favorable	28%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%
Very unfavorable	8%
Heard of, no opinion	14%
Never heard of	27%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	38%
Unfavorable (net)	20%

Q4_7. Will Hurd - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	1%
Somewhat favorable	5%
Somewhat unfavorable	5%
Very unfavorable	5%
Heard of, no opinion	17%
Never heard of	67%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	6%
Unfavorable (net)	9%

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Q4_8. Asa Hutchinson - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	2%
Somewhat favorable	9%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%
Very unfavorable	8%
Heard of, no opinion	21%
Never heard of	51%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	11%
Unfavorable (net)	16%

Q4_9. Vivek Ramaswamy - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	12%
Somewhat favorable	17%
Somewhat unfavorable	5%
Very unfavorable	5%
Heard of, no opinion	15%
Never heard of	44%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	30%
Unfavorable (net)	10%

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Q4_10. Tim Scott - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	13%
Somewhat favorable	23%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%
Very unfavorable	4%
Heard of, no opinion	16%
Never heard of	36%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	37%
Unfavorable (net)	11%

Q4_11. Francis Suarez - How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following Republican presidential candidates?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Very favorable	1%
Somewhat favorable	5%
Somewhat unfavorable	5%
Very unfavorable	4%
Heard of, no opinion	16%
Never heard of	68%
Skipped	1%
Favorable (net)	6%
Unfavorable (net)	9%

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Q5. Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

Total Considering Summary

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Donald Trump	64%
Ron DeSantis	51%
Mike Pence	26%
Tim Scott	25%
Nikki Haley	24%
Vivek Ramaswamy	23%
Chris Christie	14%
Asa Hutchinson	5%
Doug Burgum	4%
Will Hurd	3%
Francis Suarez	3%

Q5_1. Donald Trump - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	64%
Not considering	27%
Don't know	8%
Skipped	1%

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Q5_2. Ron DeSantis - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	51%
Not considering	32%
Don't know	15%
Skipped	2%

Q5_3. Mike Pence - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	26%
Not considering	56%
Don't know	15%
Skipped	3%

Q5_4. Doug Burgum - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	4%
Not considering	57%
Don't know	36%
Skipped	3%

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Q5_5. Chris Christie - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	14%
Not considering	61%
Don't know	22%
Skipped	3%

Q5_6. Nikki Haley - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	24%
Not considering	46%
Don't know	27%
Skipped	3%

Q5_7. Will Hurd - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	3%
Not considering	58%
Don't know	35%
Skipped	3%

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Q5_8. Asa Hutchinson - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	5%
Not considering	58%
Don't know	34%
Skipped	3%

Q5_9. Vivek Ramaswamy - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	23%
Not considering	43%
Don't know	31%
Skipped	3%

Q5_10. Tim Scott - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	25%
Not considering	41%
Don't know	31%
Skipped	3%

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Q5_11. Francis Suarez - Which of the following Republican candidates for president are you considering voting for in the Republican primary?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Considering	3%
Not considering	58%
Don't know	35%
Skipped	3%

Q6. Which of the following issues are the most important in determining who you will vote for in the Republican presidential primaries? Select up to three

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Getting inflation or increasing costs under control	53%
Controlling immigration	36%
Ability to beat Joe Biden	25%
Someone fighting against liberalism and the woke agenda	25%
Cutting government spending	23%
Keeping America safe from foreign conflicts or terrorism	20%
Combatting political extremism or polarization	15%
Lowering taxes	15%
Reducing crime or gun violence	13%
Protecting gun rights	12%
Improving health care	10%
Improving election security or fighting election fraud	10%
Strengthening education	7%
Limiting abortion	6%
Fighting against opioid or drug addiction	5%
Reducing unemployment	3%
Something else	4%
Don't know	1%
Skipped	*

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Q7. Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

Total Excellent/Very good Summary

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Donald Trump	59%
Ron DeSantis	44%
Vivek Ramaswamy	25%
Nikki Haley	23%
Tim Scott	23%
Mike Pence	21%
Chris Christie	14%
Asa Hutchinson	4%
Doug Burgum	3%
Will Hurd	2%
Francis Suarez	2%

Q7_1. Donald Trump - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	33%
Very good	26%
About average	13%
Poor	8%
Terrible	11%
Don't know	8%
Skipped	1%
Excellent/Very good (net)	59%
Poor/Terrible (net)	19%

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Q7_2. Ron DeSantis - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	14%
Very good	30%
About average	23%
Poor	6%
Terrible	6%
Don't know	19%
Skipped	2%
Excellent/Very good (net)	44%
Poor/Terrible (net)	12%

Q7_3. Mike Pence - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	4%
Very good	17%
About average	36%
Poor	15%
Terrible	10%
Don't know	17%
Skipped	1%
Excellent/Very good (net)	21%
Poor/Terrible (net)	25%

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Q7_4. Doug Burgum - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	*
Very good	2%
About average	10%
Poor	5%
Terrible	4%
Don't know	77%
Skipped	1%
Excellent/Very good (net)	3%
Poor/Terrible (net)	9%

Q7_5. Chris Christie - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	3%
Very good	11%
About average	26%
Poor	15%
Terrible	12%
Don't know	31%
Skipped	1%
Excellent/Very good (net)	14%
Poor/Terrible (net)	27%

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Q7_6. Nikki Haley - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	5%
Very good	18%
About average	25%
Poor	6%
Terrible	4%
Don't know	41%
Skipped	2%
Excellent/Very good (net)	23%
Poor/Terrible (net)	10%

Q7_7. Will Hurd - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	*
Very good	2%
About average	10%
Poor	6%
Terrible	4%
Don't know	76%
Skipped	2%
Excellent/Very good (net)	2%
Poor/Terrible (net)	10%

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Q7_8. Asa Hutchinson - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	1%
Very good	3%
About average	13%
Poor	8%
Terrible	5%
Don't know	68%
Skipped	1%
Excellent/Very good (net)	4%
Poor/Terrible (net)	13%

Q7_9. Vivek Ramaswamy - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	10%
Very good	15%
About average	11%
Poor	4%
Terrible	3%
Don't know	55%
Skipped	1%
Excellent/Very good (net)	25%
Poor/Terrible (net)	7%

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Q7_10. Tim Scott - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	5%
Very good	18%
About average	19%
Poor	4%
Terrible	2%
Don't know	51%
Skipped	2%
Excellent/Very good (net)	23%
Poor/Terrible (net)	6%

Q7_11. Francis Suarez - Thinking about the upcoming Republican presidential debates, how well do you think each of these candidates is likely to do in a debate with the other Republicans?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Excellent	1%
Very good	2%
About average	9%
Poor	6%
Terrible	4%
Don't know	77%
Skipped	1%
Excellent/Very good (net)	2%
Poor/Terrible (net)	10%

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Q8. As you may know, Donald Trump has not committed to participating in the Republican primary debate scheduled next Wednesday. If he decided to skip the debate, would you [approve] or [disapprove] of that decision, or don't you have an opinion?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Approve	30%
Disapprove	26%
Don't know / No opinion	44%
Skipped	*

Q9. If Donald Trump chooses to skip the Republican primary debate, do you think that shows strength/weakness, or neither on the part of Trump?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Strength	16%
Weakness	24%
Neither	60%
Skipped	*

Q10. Which of the following is closer to your opinion?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
I prefer a Republican presidential nominee who will do whatever it takes to win	13%
I prefer a Republican presidential nominee who respects the customs and rules of American elections	85%
Skipped	2%

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Q11. From the following, who do you think has a better chance of winning the 2024 presidential general election?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
A Republican candidate who is an outspoken conservative	39%
A Republican candidate who is a consistent conservative, but seeks to avoid controversy	17%
A Republican candidate who is willing to moderate their positions when necessary	42%
Skipped	2%

Q12. As you may know, Donald Trump has been indicted by several grand juries on charges including retaining sensitive government documents, falsifying business documents, and events around trying to overturn the 2020 election. Do you think the charges against Donald Trump are politically motivated or not?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Yes	75%
No	16%
Don't know	9%
Skipped	*

Q13. Do you think the indictments against Donald Trump make him more likely to win in a general election against Joe Biden, less likely to win, or do they not make a difference?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
More likely to win	40%
Less likely to win	25%
Does not make a difference	35%
Skipped	1%

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Q14. Do you think Donald Trump should or should not suspend his presidential campaign because of these indictments?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
Should suspend	23%
Should not suspend	63%
Don't know	13%
Skipped	*

Q15. Which of these is your main source of news?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
FOX News	18%
ABC, CBS, or NBC News	16%
Digital or online news	16%
Social media or YouTube	9%
Newsmax, OANN, Daily Wire, Daily Caller, or other conservative media	8%
Public television or radio	5%
New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, or USA Today	3%
Your local newspaper	3%
CNN or MSNBC	2%
Telemundo or Univision	1%
Other	8%
None of these	12%
Skipped	*

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Q16. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as ... ?

	Those voting in the Republican Primary or Caucus (N=4,968)
A Democrat	2%
A Republican	62%
An independent	33%
Something else	3%
Skipped	*

Q17. Do you generally lean towards the Republican or towards the Democrats?

	Independent/Something else/Skipped (N=1,692)
Lean Democrat	9%
Lean Republican	70%
Neither	21%
Skipped	*

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About the Study

This FiveThirtyEight/Washington Post/Ipsos poll was conducted August 15 to 22, 2023, by Ipsos using the probability-based KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a nationally-representative probability sample of adults age 18 or older. Questions presented in this document were only asked of those who are likely to vote in the Republican primary or caucus (N=4,968).

The survey was conducted using KnowledgePanel, the largest and most well-established online probability-based panel that is representative of the adult U.S. population. Our recruitment process employs a scientifically developed addressed-based sampling methodology using the latest Delivery Sequence File of the USPS – a database with full coverage of all delivery points in the U.S. Households invited to join the panel are randomly selected from all available households in the U.S. Persons in the sampled households are invited to join and participate in the panel. Those selected who do not already have internet access are provided a tablet and internet connection at no cost to the panel member. Those who join the panel and who are selected to participate in a survey are sent a unique password-protected log-in used to complete surveys online. As a result of our recruitment and sampling methodologies, samples from KnowledgePanel cover all households regardless of their phone or internet status and findings can be reported with a margin of sampling error and projected to the general population. KnowledgePanel members receive a per survey incentive, usually the equivalent of $1 (though for some it is $2) in points, that can be redeemed for cash or prizes. No prenotification email for this study was sent prior to field. Panelists receive a unique login to the survey and are only able to complete it one time. Non-responders were sent reminders to increase participation.

The study was conducted in both English and Spanish. The full sample, pre screening, was weighted to adjust for gender by age, race/ethnicity, education, Census region, metropolitan status, household income, and party identification. The demographic benchmarks came from 2022 Current Population Survey (CPS) from the U.S. Census Bureau. Party ID benchmarks are from recent ABC News/Washington Post telephone polls. The weighting categories were as follows:

- Gender (Male, Female) by Age (18–29, 30–44, 45–59, and 60+)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Other or 2+ Races Non-Hispanic, Hispanic)
- Education (High School graduate or less, Some College, Bachelor and beyond)
- Census Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)
- Metropolitan status (Metro, non-Metro)
- Household Income (Under $25,000, $25,000-$49,999, $50,000-$74,999, $75,000-$99,999, $100,000-$149,999, $150,000+)
- Party ID (Democrat, Republican, Independent, Something else)

Twenty-eight respondents were removed from the final data for refusing all of the survey items.

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The margin of sampling error among those likely to vote in the Republican primary or caucus is plus or minus 1.6 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.33. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. Sampling error is only one potential source of error. There may be other unmeasured non-sampling error in this or any poll. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.

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About Ipsos

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