



THE INDEPENDENT CENTER

OPEN PRIMARIES NATIONAL POLL

Toplines — Aggregated Results



Prepared for **A M E R I C A**

About this survey

This document reports topline (aggregated) results for a 1141-respondent survey on open primaries and primary-election reform, conducted by the Independent Center. For each question, percentages reflect the share of all 1141 respondents selecting each response option and may not sum to exactly 100% due to rounding. Counts are unweighted. Subgroup breakdowns by political affiliation, age, and gender are provided in the accompanying crosstabs workbook.

Section A — Respondent Profile

Q1. What is your gender?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Female	56.4%	643
Male	43.0%	491
Non-binary	0.6%	7

Q2. How old are you?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
30-44 years old	25.8%	294
55-64 years old	18.2%	208
65-75 years old	17.3%	197
45-54 years old	16.6%	189
18-29 years old	16.3%	186
75+ years old	5.9%	67

Q3. Are you of Spanish, Hispanic, or Latino origin?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
No	88.4%	1009
Yes	11.6%	132

Q4. Which of the following best describes your race?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
White or Caucasian	79.0%	901
Black or African American	13.4%	153
Asian	3.4%	39
Other	2.9%	33
American Indian / Native American or Alaska Native	1.1%	12
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0.3%	3

Q5. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Bachelor's degree	29.9%	341
High school diploma or GED	21.2%	242
Some college, but no degree	18.2%	208
Graduate or professional degree (MA, MS, MBA, PhD, JD, MD, DDS etc.)	16.6%	189
Associate or technical degree	11.4%	130
Some high school or less	2.7%	31

Q6. What was your total household income before taxes during the past 12 months?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
\$100,000-\$149,999	19.0%	217
\$50,000-\$74,999	18.4%	210
\$150,000 or more	18.0%	205
\$25,000-\$49,999	16.9%	193
\$75,000-\$99,999	16.1%	184
Less than \$25,000	11.6%	132

Q7. Are you a registered voter?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Yes	93.0%	1061
No	7.0%	80

Q8. What is your political affiliation?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Democrat	35.8%	409
Republican	33.6%	383
Independent	23.9%	273
Undecided	6.7%	76

Section B — Awareness & Understanding of Open Primaries

Q9. Before today, had you heard the term "open primary"?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Yes, but I'm not sure exactly what it means	33.2%	379
Yes, and I can explain what it means	26.5%	302
I may have heard it but I'm not sure	21.6%	247
No, I've never heard the term	18.7%	213

Q10. In your own words, which of the following best describes an open primary?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Any registered voter can vote for any candidate, regardless of party	45.7%	522
Candidates from all parties appear on one ballot, and the top two advance to the general election	26.9%	307
I'm not sure	19.2%	219
Voters must be registered with a party to participate in that party's primary	8.2%	93

Q11. Many voters register with a political party specifically to vote in primary elections. Which of the following best describes you?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
I am a registered Democrat/Republican and feel like a loyal member of that party	46.5%	531
I am registered with a party, but I consider myself an independent voter	22.1%	252
I am an independent/unaffiliated voter because I do not want to be a member of any party	16.6%	189
Unsure	9.5%	108
I am an independent/unaffiliated voter but plan to join a party soon	5.3%	61

Section C — Primary Participation & Engagement

Q12. Have you voted in any recent primary election?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Yes	67.4%	769
No	29.6%	338
I don't recall / not sure	3.0%	34

Q13. Which of the following describes how you feel about participating in the most recent primary election?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
I chose not to participate	30.1%	343
I'm registered with a different party than the primary that was held	28.3%	323
I didn't know a primary was happening	19.9%	227
My state's primary was closed to voters not registered with a party, and I am unaffiliated	16.0%	182
I wasn't registered or eligible to vote	5.8%	66

Q14. If you were to participate, or did participate, in a recent primary election, how would you vote?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
I'd vote for the candidate from any party that best represents my views	52.3%	597
I'd vote for my party's candidate all the time	35.4%	404
I wouldn't vote	8.4%	96
I wouldn't vote for a candidate from any of the parties	3.9%	44

Q15. How important do you think participation in primary elections is to our democracy?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Very important	63.1%	720
Somewhat important	26.6%	303
Not very important	4.0%	46
I'm not sure	4.0%	46
Not important at all	2.3%	26

Section D — Attitudes Toward Open-Primary Reform

Q16. In general, do you support or oppose changing to a system where all candidates — regardless of party — appear on one primary ballot, and any registered voter can vote for any candidate?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Somewhat support	36.5%	416
Strongly support	36.0%	411
Not sure	14.1%	161
Somewhat oppose	8.2%	93
Strongly oppose	5.3%	60

Q17. If all candidates — regardless of party — ran on one primary ballot and every registered voter could vote for any candidate, how would that affect how likely you'd be to vote in primary elections?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
It wouldn't change whether I vote	35.1%	400
I'd be much more likely to vote in primaries	30.6%	349
I'd be somewhat more likely to vote	20.2%	230
Not sure	9.9%	113
I'd be somewhat less likely to vote	2.5%	29
I'd be much less likely to vote	1.8%	20

Q18. Some states have already adopted reforms that allow all registered voters to vote for any candidate in primaries regardless of party. Which best describes you?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
I had no idea	28.5%	325
I've heard these states have done something different, but I don't know the details	26.1%	298
I may have heard something but I'm not sure	23.0%	263
I'm familiar with these reforms and have a view on how they've worked	22.3%	255

Q19. Based on what you know, do you think these reforms have worked well in those states?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Mixed results — some good, some bad	27.7%	316
Not sure / no opinion	24.9%	284
Worked well overall	22.8%	260
I haven't heard or followed, so I don't know	20.2%	231
Worked poorly overall	4.4%	50

Q20. Some people worry that open primaries can be manipulated — for example, voters from one party strategically voting in the other party's primary to help elect a weaker opponent. How concerned are you a

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Somewhat concerned	36.5%	416
Very concerned	23.8%	271
Not very concerned	16.7%	191
I hadn't considered this / not sure	15.2%	174
Not at all concerned	7.8%	89

Q21. Which of these comes closest to your view on why reforms like this haven't spread to more states?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
The two major parties actively block these reforms to protect their power	23.8%	272
Not sure	22.2%	253
Voters don't know enough about primary reform to demand change	22.1%	252
State laws and rules make changes too difficult	11.0%	126
The media doesn't cover this issue enough for it to gain traction	11.0%	125
Reforms have been tried in some places and didn't deliver what was promised	9.9%	113

Q22. When you think about a reform that would let all registered voters vote for any candidate in primaries regardless of party, which comes closest to how you feel?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
Supportive	28.7%	327
Hopeful	22.1%	252
Not sure	19.4%	221
Concerned	19.4%	221
Frustrated	4.9%	56
Resigned	3.3%	38
Angry	2.3%	26

Q23. If there were a ballot proposition, referendum, or piece of legislation in your state to make this change, what would be your likely response?

Asked of all respondents · n = 1141

Response	Percent	Count
I'd be supportive and take action to register my support	27.5%	314
I would need more information and more examples to make up my mind	24.8%	283
I'd be supportive but not likely to take action	19.4%	221
Unsure	16.0%	183
I would not support the proposal	12.3%	140