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**FOR RELEASE: SEPTEMBER 24, 2025**

**NEARLY 8 IN 10 VOTERS SAY THE UNITED STATES IS IN A POLITICAL CRISIS,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS;  
OPTIMISM SINKS FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH BEING PROTECTED IN THE U.S.**

In the wake of the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk, 79 percent of voters say the United States is in a political crisis, while 18 percent say it is not, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University national poll of registered voters released today.

Democrats (93 – 6 percent), independents (84 – 14 percent), and Republicans (60 – 35 percent) say the United States is in a political crisis.

“The Kirk assassination lays bare raw, bipartisan concerns about where the country is headed,” said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

**POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE**

Seventy-one percent of voters think politically motivated violence in the United States today is a very serious problem, 22 percent think it is a somewhat serious problem, 3 percent think it is a not so serious problem, and 1 percent think it is not a problem at all.

This is a jump from Quinnipiac University’s June 26 poll when 54 percent thought politically motivated violence in the United States today was a very serious problem, 37 percent thought it was a somewhat serious problem, 6 percent thought it was a not so serious problem, and 2 percent thought it was not a problem at all.

Nearly 6 in 10 voters (58 percent) think it will not be possible to lower the temperature on political rhetoric and speech in the United States, while 34 percent think it will be possible.

A majority of voters (54 percent) think political violence in the United States will worsen over the next few years, while 27 percent think it will remain about the same, and 14 percent think it will ease.

**FREEDOM OF SPEECH**

Fifty-three percent of voters say they are pessimistic about freedom of speech being protected in the United States, while 43 percent say they are optimistic.

This is a reversal from six months ago, when 54 percent of voters said they were optimistic and 43 percent said they were pessimistic about freedom of speech being protected in the United States, in Quinnipiac University’s March 13 poll.

In Quinnipiac University’s January 29 poll, 57 percent of voters said they were optimistic and 38 percent said they were pessimistic about freedom of speech being protected in the United States.

## **DEMOCRACY**

Voters 53 – 41 percent think that the system of democracy in the United States is not working.

Democrats (74 – 21 percent) and independents (61 – 32 percent) think the system of democracy in the United States is not working, while Republicans (74 – 22 percent) think it is working.

“From a perceived assault on freedom of speech to the fragility of the democracy, a shudder of concern and pessimism rattles a broad swath of the electorate. Nearly 80 percent of registered voters feel they are witnessing a political crisis, seven in ten say political violence is a very serious problem, and a majority say this discord won’t go away anytime soon,” added Malloy.

## **POLITICAL DISCOURSE**

A vast majority of voters (82 percent) think the way people talk about politics these days is contributing to violence in the United States, while 15 percent think it is not.

“When asked if political discourse is contributing to violence, a rare meeting of the minds...Republicans, Democrats, and independents in equal numbers say yes, it is,” added Malloy.

## **GUN VIOLENCE**

When it comes to gun violence, 83 percent of voters think political leaders are more interested in blaming others, while 10 percent think they are more interested in finding solutions.

## **PRESIDENT TRUMP**

Thirty-eight percent of voters approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president, while 54 percent disapprove, largely unchanged from Quinnipiac University’s August 27 poll.

Voters were asked about Trump’s handling of seven issues:

- immigration issues: 41 percent approve, while 55 percent disapprove, with 4 percent not offering an opinion;
- foreign policy: 40 percent approve, while 53 percent disapprove, with 7 percent not offering an opinion;
- trade: 39 percent approve, while 54 percent disapprove, with 7 percent not offering an opinion;
- the economy: 39 percent approve, while 56 percent disapprove, with 5 percent not offering an opinion;
- gun violence: 38 percent approve, while 54 percent disapprove, with 9 percent not offering an opinion;
- the Russia – Ukraine war: 33 percent approve, while 56 percent disapprove, with 11 percent not offering an opinion;
- the Israel – Hamas conflict: 31 percent approve, while 56 percent disapprove, with 13 percent not offering an opinion.

## **ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.**

One third of voters (33 percent) approve of the way Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is handling his job as Secretary of Health and Human Services, while 54 percent disapprove, and 13 percent did not offer an opinion.

This compares to Quinnipiac University’s June 11 poll when 38 percent approved, 53 percent disapproved, and 9 percent did not offer an opinion.

Thirty-nine percent of voters are either very confident (17 percent) or somewhat confident (22 percent) in medical information cited by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., while 57 percent are either not so confident (11 percent) or not confident at all (46 percent).

### **VACCINES**

Voters 67 – 26 percent support having vaccine requirements for children attending public schools.

Democrats (91 – 6 percent) and independents (70 – 23 percent) support vaccine requirements for children attending public schools. Republicans are mixed, with 46 percent opposing them and 44 percent supporting them.

“Keep mandatory vaccines in place for public school kids, say a large majority of voters. That sentiment is expressed as voters give a clear thumbs down to the overall recommendations by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr.,” said Malloy.

### **DEMOCRATIC & REPUBLICAN PARTIES**

Thirty percent of voters have a favorable opinion of the Democratic party, while 54 percent have an unfavorable opinion, and 10 percent haven’t heard enough about it.

This is the lowest favorability rating for the Democratic party since the Quinnipiac University Poll began asking voters this question in 2008. The previous low was in January of this year when 31 percent of voters had a favorable opinion, 57 percent had an unfavorable opinion, and 9 percent hadn’t heard enough about it.

In today’s poll, 38 percent of voters have a favorable opinion of the Republican party, while 51 percent have an unfavorable opinion, and 7 percent haven’t heard enough about it.

### **ECONOMY**

Given a list of four economic issues and asked which one worries voters the most right now, 53 percent say the price of food and consumer goods, 28 percent say the cost of housing or rent, 8 percent say their job situation, and 7 percent say the stock market.

This compares to Quinnipiac University’s April 9 poll when 47 percent of voters said the price of food and consumer goods, 20 percent said the cost of housing or rent, 17 percent said the stock market, and 6 percent said their job.

Forty-two percent of voters say they have cut spending on non-essential items compared to one year ago, while 14 percent say they have increased spending, and 43 percent say there is no change in their spending on non-essential items compared to one year ago.

### **DEATH PENALTY**

Given a choice between the death penalty or life in prison with no chance of parole for people convicted of murder, 55 percent of voters prefer life in prison with no chance of parole, while 35 percent prefer the death penalty.

### **RUSSIA – UKRAINE WAR**

When voters were asked how confident they are that Russia and Ukraine will agree to a permanent cease fire in the near future, 24 percent say they are either very confident (5 percent) or somewhat confident (19

percent), while 72 percent of voters say they are either not so confident (33 percent) or not confident at all (39 percent).

Voters 64 – 26 percent think supporting Ukraine is in the national interest of the United States, with 10 percent not offering an opinion.

## **ISRAEL**

A plurality of voters (47 percent) think supporting Israel is in the national interest of the United States, while 41 percent think supporting Israel is not in the national interest of the United States, with 12 percent not offering an opinion.

This compares to Quinnipiac University's December 20, 2023 poll when voters 69 – 23 percent thought supporting Israel was in the national interest of the United States, and 8 percent did not offer an opinion.

Twenty-one percent of voters have a favorable opinion of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, while 49 percent have an unfavorable opinion of him, and 28 percent haven't heard enough about him.

1,276 self-identified registered voters nationwide were surveyed from September 18th – 21st with a margin of error of +/- 3.3 percentage points, including the design effect.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on probability-based samples using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

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1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	38%	86%	3%	30%	46%	32%
Disapprove	54	10	93	61	46	61
DK/NA	8	5	5	9	8	7

1a. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?  
COMBINED WITH: (If approve/disapprove q1) Do you strongly or somewhat approve/disapprove?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve strongly	30%	71%	1%	21%	35%	26%
Approve smwht	8	13	2	8	10	5
Disapprove smwht	5	5	4	6	5	5
Disapprove strongly	49	5	89	55	41	56
DK/NA	9	6	5	10	9	8

2. Is your opinion of the Democratic party favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about it?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	30%	5%	70%	25%	22%	37%
Unfavorable	54	88	21	53	61	48
Hvn't hrd enough	10	4	7	14	10	10
REFUSED	6	2	2	8	6	5

3. Is your opinion of the Republican party favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about it?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	38%	86%	5%	27%	42%	34%
Unfavorable	51	8	87	59	45	56
Hvn't hrd enough	7	3	5	9	8	6
REFUSED	4	3	3	5	5	4

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Robert F. Kennedy Jr. is handling his job as Secretary of Health and Human Services?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	33%	71%	4%	28%	38%	28%
Disapprove	54	11	91	61	50	58
DK/NA	13	18	6	12	12	14

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kash Patel is handling his job as Director of the FBI?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	33%	70%	6%	26%	36%	29%
Disapprove	49	10	79	58	47	51
DK/NA	18	20	15	16	17	19

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Pam Bondi is handling her job as United States Attorney General?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	30%	67%	8%	21%	33%	27%
Disapprove	48	11	78	57	45	52
DK/NA	22	22	14	23	22	21

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Brendan Carr is handling his job as Federal Communications Commission Chairman?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	19%	39%	5%	14%	23%	16%
Disapprove	40	7	65	46	36	43
DK/NA	41	53	30	39	41	41

8. In general, how satisfied are you with the way things are going in the nation today; are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very satisfied	13%	31%	1%	7%	16%	10%
Smwht satisfied	21	44	4	19	24	19
Smwht dissatisfied	13	13	11	14	15	11
Very dissatisfied	51	11	83	57	42	58
DK/NA	2	1	1	2	2	2

9. In your opinion, what is the most urgent issue facing the country today: the economy, climate change, health care, immigration, abortion, racial inequality, crime, preserving democracy in the United States, international conflicts, or gun violence?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Economy	18%	24%	13%	20%	24%	14%
Climate change	2	1	2	2	2	2
Health care	7	4	9	8	5	9
Immigration	9	17	5	5	12	6
Abortion	1	4	-	-	1	2
Racial inequality	5	1	7	5	3	6
Crime	9	21	2	6	9	10
Preserving democracy	32	14	48	32	26	37
Intl conflicts	4	5	3	5	6	2
Gun violence	6	4	8	8	7	6
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	5	5	2	6	6	5
DK/NA	2	2	1	3	2	3

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - the economy?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	39%	85%	5%	30%	45%	34%
Disapprove	56	12	93	64	51	61
DK/NA	5	3	2	5	4	5

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - trade?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	39%	83%	3%	32%	47%	32%
Disapprove	54	13	92	60	47	60
DK/NA	7	4	5	8	6	8

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - foreign policy?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	40%	85%	4%	31%	47%	33%
Disapprove	53	9	91	61	47	59
DK/NA	7	6	6	7	6	8

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - immigration issues?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	41%	91%	4%	32%	48%	35%
Disapprove	55	7	94	63	48	62
DK/NA	4	2	2	5	4	4

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - gun violence?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	38%	82%	4%	29%	44%	32%
Disapprove	54	9	91	61	47	60
DK/NA	9	9	5	9	9	8

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - the Russia - Ukraine war?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	33%	76%	3%	24%	40%	28%
Disapprove	56	14	90	65	50	61
DK/NA	11	10	7	11	10	12

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling - the Israel - Hamas conflict?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	31%	71%	4%	21%	36%	27%
Disapprove	56	14	88	66	52	60
DK/NA	13	15	8	13	13	13

17. Do you approve or disapprove of President Trump sending the National Guard and law enforcement from federal agencies, including ICE, to cities in the United States in an effort to reduce crime?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Approve	42%	87%	5%	34%	49%	35%
Disapprove	55	9	95	64	48	61
DK/NA	3	5	1	2	3	4

18. How confident are you in medical information cited by Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr.; very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident, or not confident at all?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very confident	17%	39%	-	13%	19%	15%
Somewhat confident	22	42	8	17	24	20
Not so confident	11	6	12	12	13	8
Not confident at all	46	6	78	53	40	50
DK/NA	5	7	2	4	3	6



19. Do you support or oppose having vaccine requirements for children attending public schools?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Support	67%	44%	91%	70%	63%	70%
Oppose	26	46	6	23	29	23
DK/NA	7	10	3	7	7	7

20. Which punishment do you prefer for people convicted of murder: the death penalty or life in prison with no chance of parole?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Death penalty	35%	61%	12%	34%	43%	29%
Life/No parole	55	29	81	58	47	62
DK/NA	10	9	7	8	10	10

21. When it comes to gun violence, do you think political leaders in the United States are more interested in blaming others or finding solutions?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Blaming others	83%	70%	92%	87%	81%	84%
Finding solutions	10	21	5	6	9	11
DK/NA	7	10	3	7	10	5

22. Would you say you are optimistic or pessimistic about freedom of speech being protected in the United States?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Optimistic	43%	76%	20%	36%	45%	41%
Pessimistic	53	21	77	61	51	55
DK/NA	3	3	3	3	3	4

23. Do you think the system of democracy in the United States is working, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Working	41%	74%	21%	32%	51%	32%
No	53	22	74	61	44	62
DK/NA	6	5	5	7	5	6

23a. (If no/democracy not working q23) Who do you blame more for the system of democracy not working in the United States: the Republicans or the Democrats?

REGISTERED VOTERS.....			
DEMOCRACY NOT WORKING Q23			
	Tot	Men	Wom
Republicans	59%	52%	64%
Democrats	15	18	14
BOTH (VOL)	20	23	19
NEITHER (VOL)	4	6	2
DK/NA	1	1	1

24. In thinking about people you know who hold political views different than your own, would you say you are mostly able to talk with them about your differences, or would you say you mostly avoid talking with them about your differences?

REGISTERED VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Talk	49%	54%	37%	52%	54%	45%
Avoid	47	44	60	44	43	51
DK/NA	4	2	3	4	3	4

25. Would you say the United States is in a political crisis, or not?

REGISTERED VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Crisis	79%	60%	93%	84%	72%	85%
No	18	35	6	14	25	11
DK/NA	3	5	1	2	3	3

26. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

REGISTERED VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Excellent	2%	5%	1%	2%	3%	2%
Good	33	65	10	26	37	29
Not so good	36	24	47	37	35	36
Poor	27	5	40	34	23	31
DK/NA	2	1	2	1	1	2

27. As you think about your financial situation, which one of the following economic issues worries you the most right now: the price of food and consumer goods, your job situation, the stock market, or the cost of housing or rent?

REGISTERED VOTERS.....						
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Price of food/goods	53%	59%	56%	46%	50%	55%
Your job situation	8	5	11	7	10	6
Stock market	7	9	3	8	7	6
Cost of housing/rent	28	21	27	35	28	28
SOMETHING ELSE (VOL)	2	3	2	2	3	2
DK/NA	2	3	1	2	2	2

28. Compared to one year ago, would you say you have cut spending on non-essential items, increased spending on non-essential items, or is there no change?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Cut	42%	27%	52%	47%	37%	47%
Increased	14	16	11	13	13	14
No change	43	56	36	39	49	38
DK/NA	1	-	1	-	1	1

29. How confident are you that Russia and Ukraine will agree to a permanent cease fire in the near future; very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident, or not confident at all?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very confident	5%	10%	-	5%	8%	3%
Somewhat confident	19	35	8	16	20	18
Not so confident	33	27	38	36	30	35
Not confident at all	39	25	52	39	37	40
DK/NA	4	4	2	4	5	4

30. Which comes closer to your line of thinking: supporting Ukraine is in the national interest of the United States or supporting Ukraine is not in the national interest of the United States?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
In U.S. interest	64%	50%	82%	66%	61%	67%
Not in U.S. interest	26	37	10	27	30	22
DK/NA	10	12	9	8	8	12

31. Which comes closer to your line of thinking: supporting Israel is in the national interest of the United States or supporting Israel is not in the national interest of the United States?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
In U.S. interest	47%	75%	36%	37%	48%	46%
Not in U.S. interest	41	19	49	53	43	40
DK/NA	12	7	15	11	9	14

32. Is your opinion of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu favorable, unfavorable or haven't you heard enough about him?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Favorable	21%	47%	4%	14%	22%	19%
Unfavorable	49	20	70	58	50	48
Hvn't hrd enough	28	31	26	25	25	30
REFUSED	3	3	1	2	3	2

33. How serious a problem do you think that politically motivated violence is in the United States today; a very serious problem, a somewhat serious problem, a not so serious problem, or not a problem at all?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Very serious	71%	72%	74%	70%	66%	77%
Smwht serious	22	21	23	24	26	19
Not so serious	3	4	3	2	5	1
Not a problem at all	1	1	-	2	2	-
DK/NA	2	2	1	2	1	2

34. Do you think that the way people talk about politics these days is contributing to violence in the United States, or don't you think so?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Contributes	82%	80%	81%	84%	80%	83%
Doesn't contribute	15	17	17	12	17	13
DK/NA	4	3	2	4	4	4

35. Over the next few years, do you think political violence in the United States will ease, worsen, or remain about the same?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Ease	14%	26%	6%	12%	14%	15%
Worsen	54	39	63	58	51	56
Remain same	27	30	26	26	31	23
DK/NA	5	5	4	4	4	6

36. As you may know, there have been calls for lowering the temperature on political rhetoric and speech in the United States. Do you think this will be possible, or not?

	REGISTERED VOTERS.....					
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom
Yes/Possible	34%	43%	28%	32%	36%	32%
No	58	49	66	61	58	58
DK/NA	8	9	6	7	5	11