

# Hispanic People: A Group to Watch in the Election Campaign Ahead

Racial and ethnic groups divide sharply in trust to handle key issues in the 2024 presidential election, with Hispanic people a group to watch: While they prefer Kamala Harris over Donald Trump on most issues, her advantage with them is more tenuous than among other people of color.

Hispanic people prefer Harris over Trump by an average of 9 percentage points across 11 issues tested in the latest [ABC News/Washington Post/Ipsos poll](#). That compares with an average of 50 points for Harris among Black people and 23 points among Asian people. Among white people, Trump leads by an average of 12 points.

This analysis, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), also finds that on several issues Hispanic people are more apt than Americans overall to distrust Trump, but not to trust Harris, leaving space for Trump to try to erode her margin. At the same time, Harris leads Trump solidly on personal attributes, potentially a bulwark against doubts on issues.

As things stand, in vote preference if the election were today, Hispanic people divide 56-41 percent, Harris-Trump. That’s a closer margin than typical for this usually Democratic group. In exit polls, Hispanic people favored Joe Biden over Trump by 65-32 percent in 2020, for example, and Hillary Clinton over Trump by 67-27 percent in 2016.

Among 11 individual issues, Harris leads Trump among Hispanic people by double-digit margins, from 13 to 25 points, in trust to handle six: gun violence, Supreme Court appointments, protecting American democracy, health care, abortion and race relations. There’s no significant difference on five others, given the sample size of Hispanic people: the economy and inflation, both Trump +6; crime and safety, Harris +6; immigration, Trump +2; and Israel-Hamas war, Harris +2.

By contrast, Harris, who is Black and South Asian, leads in trust to handle each of these issues by 38 to 61 points among Black people. She leads numerically on each among Asian people, although in this group, only six of 11 differences are statistically significant, given the sample size. Among white people, Trump leads by double digits in trust to handle six of these issues and has significant single-digit leads on three others.

	All	Hispanic people	Black people	Asian people	White people
Trust to handle...					
The economy	T +9	T +6	H+42	H +7	T+21
Inflation	T +9	T +6	H+42	H+12	T+22
Health care	H +7	H+18	H+57	H+30	T +7
Protecting democracy	H +6	H+14	H+56	H+28	T +7

Crime and safety	T +3	H +6	H+47	H+17	T+17
Immigration situation at the U.S.-Mexico border	T+10	T +2	H+38	H +3	T+24
SCOTUS appointments	H +5	H+13	H+56	H+30	T+10
Gun violence	H +5	H+13	H+53	H+32	T +8
Abortion	H+12	H+21	H+58	H+37	T +1
Israel-Hamas war	T +5	H +2	H+42	H+14	T+17
Race relations	H+14	H+25	H+61	H+38	T +1
Average	H +1	H +9	H+50	H+23	T+12

Compared with all adults, Hispanic people are 8 points less likely to pick Trump in trust to handle health care and Supreme Court nominations alike, 7 points less apt to pick Trump on three others (immigration, crime/safety and race relations) and 6 points less apt to pick him on abortion and protecting democracy. At the same time, there are no significant differences between all adults and Hispanic people in preference for Harris on any of these. (Across these and indeed all issues tested, sizable shares don't trust either candidate. See a full table on trust to handle issues by racial and ethnic group at the end of this report.)

**ISSUE IMPORTANCE** – The salience of issues matters, with help for Harris among Hispanic people in three areas. Compared with Americans overall, Hispanic people are 13 points more apt to cite gun violence as a top concern in the election, 9 points more likely to cite race relations and 8 points more apt to cite health care – all issues on which she leads Trump in trust.

Gun violence and health care also are disproportionately high-level concerns among Black people, as are abortion and, especially, race relations. Black and Asian people are less apt than Hispanic and white people to identify immigration as a concern.

	All	Hispanic people	Black people	Asian people	White people
Top election issues...					
The economy	89%	89%	87%	88%	89%
Inflation	86	88	84	78	86
Health care	77	85	88	74	73
Protecting democracy	77	74	75	76	78
Crime and safety	76	82	81	76	73
Immigration situation at the U.S.-Mexico border	70	74	60	57	72
SCOTUS appointments	65	66	71	59	64
Gun violence	63	76	82	64	56
Abortion	59	59	67	53	57
Israel-Hamas war	50	54	56	43	49
Race relations	50	59	76	55	42

**ATTRIBUTES** – In contrast with trust to handle issues, as mentioned, Harris leads consistently among Hispanic people on personal attributes – by 17 to 22 points on shared values, understanding your problems, mental sharpness and honesty/trustworthiness, and by 37 points on physical health.

Harris has the same lead among Asian people on understanding people's problems and broader ones on the other attributes, as well as vast leads on each among Black people, who are among the most loyal Democratic voters. Among white people, Harris leads by 20 points on physical

health and by a slight 4 points on honesty/trustworthiness, while Trump holds single-digit leads on understanding people’s problems, values and (slightly) on mental sharpness.

Attributes...	All	Hispanic people	Black people	Asian people	White people
Honest/trustworthy	H+15	H+22	H+52	H+38	H +4
Mental sharpness	H +9	H+21	H+60	H+37	T +5
Physical health	H+30	H+37	H+69	H+48	H+20
Shares your values	H +6	H+17	H+54	H+28	T +7
Understands your problems	H +7	H+21	H+60	H+21	T +8
Average	H+13	H+24	H+59	H+34	H +1

**PARTY ID, IDEOLOGY and TURNOUT** – These attitudes are informed by partisanship and ideology, which differ across these groups. On partisanship, compared with an even split among adults overall, Hispanic people are 16 points more likely to identify themselves as Democrats than as Republicans; it’s a similar 15-point gap among Asian people (a slight difference given the sample size) and a wide 46-point gap among Black people. White people are 15 points more likely to identify with the GOP.

On ideology, there are no significant differences among racial or ethnic groups in self-identifying as liberal, although Black people are marginally more apt to be liberals than white and Hispanic people alike. Rather, Hispanic, Black and Asian people alike are more apt than white people, by double digit margins, to identify as moderate, and similarly less apt to identify as conservative.

	All	Hispanic people	Black people	Asian people	White people
Democrat	29	36	50	35	23
Independent	29	31	29	34	28
Republican	29	20	4	20	38
Liberal	24	22	28	25	23
Moderate	42	54	52	52	36
Conservative	32	21	14	20	40

The size of these groups matters as well. White people account for 61 percent of all adults in this survey, Hispanic people for 17 percent, Black people for 12 percent and Asian people for 5 percent. Actual turnout may differ; among registered voters, the share of white people rises to 66 percent, with Hispanic people at 14 percent, Black people still at 12 percent and Asian people at 4 percent. And white people account for 71 percent of likely voters, with Hispanic people at 12 percent, Black people at 11 percent and Asian people at 3 percent. In a close race, given their differing preferences, it’s turnout among these groups that well may matter most.

Full table: Trust on Issues

		Trust to handle: Harris-Trump-Neither			
	All	Hispanic people	Black people	Asian people	White people
The economy	37-46-16%	37-43-19%	58-16-22%	44-37-18%	32-53-14%
Inflation	36-45-18	36-42-21	57-15-25	43-31-25	31-53-15
Health care	43-36-20	46-28-24	66- 9-22	54-24-22	36-43-19
Protecting democracy	43-37-19	45-31-22	65- 9-24	54-26-20	37-44-18
Crime and safety	39-42-18	41-35-22	60-13-24	46-29-24	33-50-16
Immigration situation at the U.S.-Mexico border	36-46-17	37-39-23	55-17-26	44-41-14	30-54-15
SCOTUS appointments	42-37-20	42-29-26	64- 8-25	51-21-29	36-46-17
Gun violence	42-37-20	45-32-21	63-10-24	56-24-20	36-44-19
Abortion	45-33-20	48-27-24	68-10-20	59-22-19	39-40-20
Israel-Hamas war	33-38-27	35-33-31	52-10-34	41-27-31	29-46-24
Race relations	45-31-22	49-24-25	68 -7-22	58-20-21	38-39-22