Spring 2023 - Vanderbilt University Poll

April 19-23, 2023

John G. Geer & Joshua D. Clinton, Co-Directors

1,003 registered voters in Tennessee

MoE: +/-3.6 percentage points
GUNS
As you may know, Governor Bill Lee recently signed an executive order aimed at strengthening background checks for firearm purchases. How much do you support or oppose this executive order?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somewhat or strongly support</th>
<th>Neither support or oppose</th>
<th>Somewhat or strongly oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>82%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total
- Non-MAGA Republican
- MAGA Republican
- Independent
Opinions of Governor Lee’s Background Check Executive Order by NRA Favorability

As you may know, Governor Bill Lee recently signed an executive order aimed at strengthening background checks for firearm purchases. How much do you support or oppose this executive order?
Opinions on “Red Flag” Laws to Prevent School Shootings vs. Gun Related Violence by Party ID

How much do you (support) or (oppose) passing “red flag” laws that temporarily restrict access to guns for individuals who are at a high risk of harming themselves or others to prevent... [gun-related violence]/[school shootings]?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Non-MAGA Republican</th>
<th>MAGA Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>“School Shootings”</strong></td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>“Gun-Related Violence”</strong></td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opinions on “Red Flag” Laws to Prevent School Shootings vs. Gun Related Violence by NRA Favorability

How much do you (support) or (oppose) passing “red flag” laws that temporarily restrict access to guns for individuals who are at a high risk of harming themselves or others to prevent... [gun-related violence]/[school shootings]?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>NRA Very Favorable</th>
<th>NRA Somewhat Favorable</th>
<th>NRA Somewhat Unfavorable</th>
<th>NRA Very Unfavorable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>“School Shootings”</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **“Gun-Related Violence”** |       |                    |                        |                          |                      |
| Support                | 72%   | 53%                | 63%                    | 84%                      | 93%                  |

CSDI Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Opinions on Laws Requiring Secure Storage of Firearms to Prevent School Shootings vs. Gun Related Violence by Party ID

How much do you (support) or (oppose) passing laws that would require gun owners to securely store their firearms to protect against unauthorized access or else face penalties for failing to secure their guns to prevent [gun-related violence/school shootings]?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>&quot;School Shootings&quot;</th>
<th>&quot;Gun-Related Violence&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-MAGA Republican</td>
<td>58%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAGA Republican</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Opinions on Banning Assault-Style Weapons to Prevent School Shootings vs. Gun Related Violence by Party ID

How much do you (support) or (oppose) passing laws that would ban assault-style weapons to prevent [gun-related violence/school shootings]?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Supporting</th>
<th>School Shootings</th>
<th>Gun-Related Violence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-MAGA Republican</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAGA Republican</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSDI  
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions  
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
STATE POLITICS
Approval of State Elected Officials by Party ID

% responding approve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Official</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Non-MAGA Republican</th>
<th>MAGA Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bill Lee</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marsha Blackburn</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bill Hagerty</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>71%</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennessee State Legislature</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSDI - Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Vanderbilt University
Approval of Tennessee State Legislature by Party ID
Fall 2022 / Spring 2023

% Who “Approve”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall 2022</th>
<th>Spring 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>55%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-MAGA Republican</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAGA Republican</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSDI Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Opinions on Compromise by Party ID

Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

I would prefer my elected officials work with members of the other political party even if it means they have to compromise on some of their values and priorities

I would prefer my elected officials pursue their own values and priorities even if it means they are unwilling to work with members of the other political party

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Non-MAGA Republican</th>
<th>MAGA Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I would prefer my elected officials work with members of the other political party even if it means they have to compromise on some of their values and priorities</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I would prefer my elected officials pursue their own values and priorities even if it means they are unwilling to work with members of the other political party</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Top Priorities for Tennessee State Government by Party ID

- **Economy and jobs excluding inflation**: 19% Total, 6% Non-MAGA Republican, 22% MAGA Republican, 4% Democrat, 28% Independent
- **Education**: 18% Total, 16% Non-MAGA Republican, 17% MAGA Republican, 6% Democrat, 40% Independent
- **Guns**: 13% Total, 13% Non-MAGA Republican, 15% MAGA Republican, 4% Democrat, 15% Independent
- **Inflation**: 11% Total, 7% Non-MAGA Republican, 8% MAGA Republican, 4% Democrat, 6% Independent
- **Health care**: 14% Total, 6% Non-MAGA Republican, 15% MAGA Republican, 11% Democrat, 11% Independent
ABORTION
Opinion on Making it a Crime to Help a Tennessee Citizen Get an Abortion in Another State by Party ID

Do you think a person who helps a Tennessee citizen to get an abortion in another state should be charged with a crime or not?

% Responding “No”

- Total: 73%
- Non-MAGA Republican: 62%
- MAGA Republican: 53%
- Democrat: 93%
- Independent: 82%
Opinion on 15-Week Abortion Law by Party ID

Do you think abortion should be illegal after 15 weeks except in cases of rape, incest, or to save the life of the mother?

% Responding “Yes”

- Total: 65%
- Non-MAGA Republican: 83%
- MAGA Republican: 87%
- Democrat: 31%
- Independent: 65%

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Opinion on Abortion Law When Life or Health of the Mother Is at Risk by Party ID

Do you think abortion should be legal in Tennessee if it would prevent the death or “serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant woman?”

% Responding “Yes”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party ID</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Non-MAGA Republican</th>
<th>MAGA Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>72%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSDI: Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Opinion on Upholding FDA Approval of Mifepristone (abortion pill) by Party ID

Mifepristone is a drug in the form of a pill that can be taken to end a pregnancy sometimes called “medication abortion.” This abortion pill has been available for use in the United States since 2000 when it received approval from the Food and Drug Administration. Do you think FDA approval for this medication pill should be upheld or revoked?

% Responding “Upheld”

- Total: 59%
- Non-MAGA Republican: 45%
- MAGA Republican: 29%
- Democrat: 88%
- Independent: 66%
HOT TOPICS
Opinion of State Legislature Expelling Democratic Representatives by Party ID

As you may know, the Republican supermajority in the Tennessee State House recently voted to expel two Democratic lawmakers – one from Nashville and one from Memphis – for a breach in “decorum” after they led a gun control protest on the house floor following the Covenant School shootings. Do you...
Opinion of Tennessee State Legislature’s Handling of LGBTQ Laws by Party ID

How much do you approve or disapprove of the way the state legislature handles laws that affect the LGBTQ community in Tennessee?

- Somewhat or strongly approve
- Somewhat or strongly disapprove
- Don't know

Total | Non-MAGA Republican | MAGA Republican | Democrat | Independent

| Somewhat or strongly approve | 35% | 48% | 56% | 32% |
| Somewhat or strongly disapprove | 47% | 26% | 23% | 80% |
| Don't know | 16% | 21% | 17% | 16% |
Opinion on “Adult Cabaret Entertainment” by Party ID

Do you think “adult cabaret entertainment” and drag shows should be banned on public properties or in locations where it could be viewed by a minor?

% Responding “Yes”

- Total: 63%
- Non-MAGA Republican: 90%
- MAGA Republican: 87%
- Democrat: 31%
- Independent: 57%
Opinion on Legislation Restricting Transgender Americans’ Access to Health Care by Party ID

Overall, do you support or oppose legislation that would place restrictions on transgender Americans’ access to health care?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Somewhat or strongly support</th>
<th>Somewhat or strongly oppose</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-MAGA Republican</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAGA Republican</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Legend:**
- **Total**
- Non-MAGA Republican
- MAGA Republican
- Democrat
- Independent

**Source:** Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Vanderbilt University
NATIONAL POLITICS
Trump v. DeSantis – Fall 2022/ Spring 2023 by Republicans

If you had to choose one of the following, who would you prefer as the Republican candidate for president in 2024?

- Fall 2022
  - Trump: 41%
  - DeSantis: 54%

- Spring 2023
  - Trump: 57%
  - DeSantis: 38%
Preferred Republican Candidate for President 2024 by Republicans

- All Republicans
- Non-MAGA Republicans
- MAGA Republicans

Donald Trump: 74% (All Republicans), 32% (Non-MAGA Republicans), 59% (MAGA Republicans)
Ron DeSantis: 38% (All Republicans), 19% (Non-MAGA Republicans), 25% (MAGA Republicans)
Mike Pence: 11% (All Republicans), 2% (Non-MAGA Republicans), 5% (MAGA Republicans)
Nikki Haley: 8% (All Republicans), 3% (Non-MAGA Republicans), 4% (MAGA Republicans)
Asa Hutchinson: 2% (All Republicans), 2% (Non-MAGA Republicans), 0% (MAGA Republicans)
Tim Scott: 7% (All Republicans), 1% (Non-MAGA Republicans), 3% (MAGA Republicans)

Source: Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI)
If the 2024 presidential general election were being held today, who would you vote for?

- Biden: 26%
- Trump: 42%
- Someone else: 31%

Would you say that your choice for another candidate for President in 2024 is...

- More because you support that specific candidate: 30%
- More because you oppose both Biden and Trump: 65%
If the 2024 presidential general election were being held today, who would you vote for?

- Biden: 24%
- DeSantis: 33%
- Someone else: 40%

Would you say that your choice for another candidate for President in 2024 is:

- More because you support that specific candidate: 50%
- More because you oppose both Biden and DeSantis: 45%