

# SOUTH CAROLINA STATEWIDE GOP PRIMARY SURVEY

Interview Schedule



PUBLIC OPINION  
STRATEGIES

turning questions into answers

May 30-June 1, 2023

Project: 232020

N= 400 GOP Primary Voters

Margin of Error: + 4.9%

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D4A. And, in politics today, do you consider yourself ...

a Republican,  
a Democrat,  
or something else?

61% STRONG REPUBLICAN  
13% NOT-SO-STRONG REPUBLICAN

12% LEAN TO REPUBLICANS  
14% UNAFFILIATED / INDEPENDENT / SOMETHING ELSE

**74% TOTAL REPUBLICAN**  
**26% TOTAL LEAN/INDEPENDENT**

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PP1. And, how likely are you to vote in the 2024 Republican Presidential Primary Election here in South Carolina?

86% EXTREMELY LIKELY  
14% VERY LIKELY

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Now, I would like to read you several names of different people active in politics. For each one, please tell me, first, whether you have heard of the person. If you have, please tell me whether you have a FAVORABLE impression of that person or an UNFAVORABLE impression of that person. If I name someone you have not heard of or someone who you do not know too much about, just tell me and we will go to the next one.

	TOTAL FAV	TOTAL UNFAV	VERY FAV	SMWT FAV	SMWT UNFAV	VERY UNFAV	HEARD OF/NO OPIN	NEVER HRD	REF	
<b>RANKED BY % VERY FAVORABLE</b>										
N2.	Donald Trump	<b>73%</b>	<b>26%</b>	49%	25%	10%	16%	*	*	—
N6.	Tim Scott	<b>79%</b>	<b>14%</b>	45%	35%	8%	6%	5%	2%	—
N1.	Ron DeSantis	<b>73%</b>	<b>18%</b>	43%	31%	9%	9%	6%	2%	*
N4.	Nikki Haley	<b>68%</b>	<b>29%</b>	30%	38%	13%	16%	3%	1%	—
N5.	Mike Pence	<b>44%</b>	<b>48%</b>	10%	34%	24%	24%	7%	*	*
N3.	Vivek Ramaswamy	<b>22%</b>	<b>10%</b>	7%	15%	5%	5%	23%	45%	*

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1. Thinking ahead to the 2024 Republican Presidential Primary, for whom would you vote if the candidates were...

Ron DeSantis

...and...

Donald Trump

27% DEFINITELY DeSANTIS

12% PROBABLY DeSANTIS

1% LEAN DeSANTIS

10% HARD UNDECIDED/NOT SURE

4% LEAN TRUMP

8% PROBABLY TRUMP

37% DEFINITELY TRUMP

1% REFUSED

**40% TOTAL DESANTIS**

**45% TOTAL TRUMP**

**15% TOTAL LEAN/UNDECIDED**

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2. And, thinking ahead to the 2024 Republican Presidential Primary, for whom would you vote if the candidates were...

Ron DeSantis,  
 Donald Trump,  
 Vivek Ramaswamy,  
 Nikki Haley,  
 Tim Scott,  
 Asa Hutchinson,  
 ...and...  
 Mike Pence

14%	DEFINITELY DeSANTIS	*	DEFINITELY HUTCHINSON
10%	PROBABLY DeSANTIS	*	PROBABLY HUTCHINSON
2%	LEAN DeSANTIS	—	LEAN HUTCHINSON
32%	DEFINITELY TRUMP	1%	DEFINITELY PENCE
7%	PROBABLY TRUMP	*	PROBABLY PENCE
2%	LEAN TRUMP	*	LEAN PENCE
1%	DEFINITELY RAMASWAMY	6%	HARD UNDECIDED/NOT SURE
*	PROBABLY RAMASWAMY	—	REFUSED
*	LEAN RAMASWAMY		
		<b>24%</b>	<b>TOTAL DeSANTIS</b>
5%	DEFINITELY HALEY	<b>39%</b>	<b>TOTAL TRUMP</b>
5%	PROBABLY HALEY	<b>1%</b>	<b>TOTAL RAMASWAMY</b>
2%	LEAN HALEY	<b>10%</b>	<b>TOTAL HALEY</b>
		<b>10%</b>	<b>TOTAL SCOTT</b>
6%	DEFINITELY SCOTT	*	<b>TOTAL HUTCHINSON</b>
5%	PROBABLY SCOTT	<b>1%</b>	<b>TOTAL PENCE</b>
1%	LEAN SCOTT	<b>14%</b>	<b>TOTAL LEAN/UNDECIDED</b>

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Next, it's still early, but for each of the following people, please tell me whether you are considering supporting them for the 2024 Republican nomination for president or are not considering them?

	<b>TOTAL CONSIDER</b>	<b>DEFINITELY CONSIDER</b>	<b>PROBABLY CONSIDER</b>	<b>WILL NOT CONSIDER</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>REF</b>
<b>RANKED BY % DEFINITELY CONSIDER</b>						
4.	Donald Trump <b>74%</b>	50%	24%	25%	*	—
3.	Ron DeSantis <b>73%</b>	42%	31%	24%	2%	*
6.	Tim Scott <b>73%</b>	33%	40%	27%	*	—
5.	Nikki Haley <b>57%</b>	24%	33%	42%	1%	—

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Now, I'd like to read you a series of attributes and I'd like to know if this attribute describes Ron DeSantis or Donald Trump better...

	<b>DeSANTIS</b>	<b>TRUMP</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>BOTH</b>	<b>NEITHER</b>	<b>REF</b>
<b>RANKED BY % DeSANTIS</b>						
7.	Is honest and trustworthy 51%	39%	1%	4%	4%	—
10.	Is a strong conservative 48%	42%	1%	6%	1%	*
12.	The best candidate to defeat Joe Biden 46%	48%	1%	4%	1%	—
15.	Is a strong defender of the unborn 44%	48%	3%	6%	*	*
13.	Has the qualities needed to be President 41%	50%	1%	6%	2%	—
8.	Cares about people like me 40%	50%	1%	6%	2%	—
14.	Will stand up to the woke left and their policies 40%	52%	1%	7%	*	—
9.	Is a strong leader 36%	56%	1%	6%	1%	—
11.	Can fix our economy 21%	72%	2%	3%	2%	—

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16. Thinking about the attributes you just heard, which attribute is most important to you when deciding who you will support in the Republican primary for President?

- 27% Can fix our economy
  - 15% Is a strong leader
  - 12% The best candidate to defeat Joe Biden
  - 10% Will stand up to the woke left and their policies
  - 9% Is honest and trustworthy
  - 9% Has the qualities needed to be President
  - 7% Cares about people like me
  - 3% Is a strong conservative
  - 3% Is a strong defender of the unborn
  
  - \* Other
  - 3% DON'T KNOW
  - \* REFUSED
-

17. And, do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Ron DeSantis is ready to be President.

32% STRONGLY AGREE  
33% SOMEWHAT AGREE  
19% SOMEWHAT DISAGREE  
14% STRONGLY DISAGREE

3% DON'T KNOW  
– REFUSED

**65% TOTAL AGREE**  
**32% TOTAL DISAGREE**

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18. And, do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

Too much drama and conflict surround Donald Trump.

44% STRONGLY AGREE  
28% SOMEWHAT AGREE  
11% SOMEWHAT DISAGREE  
17% STRONGLY DISAGREE

\* DON'T KNOW  
\* REFUSED

**72% TOTAL AGREE**  
**27% TOTAL DISAGREE**

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Now, thinking a bit more about Donald Trump...

19. And, which ONE of the following statements comes closest to your opinion...

49% I like Donald Trump and I will be voting for him for President  
35% I like Donald Trump, but it's time to give someone new a chance  
...or...  
15% I do not like Donald Trump and I will NOT be voting for him for President

\* DON'T KNOW/UNSURE  
1% REFUSED

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And, turning to issues, do you feel that each of the following has gotten better, gotten worse, or stayed about the same over the past few years...

	<b>GOTTEN BETTER</b>	<b>GOTTEN WORSE</b>	<b>STAYED SAME</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>REF</b>
<b>RANKED BY % GOTTEN WORSE</b>					
23.	The cost for daily living expenses like groceries and gasoline. <b>(SAMPLE A)</b>				
	3%	95%	2%	—	—
21.	The level of crime in your local area. <b>(SAMPLE B)</b>				
	4%	66%	29%	1%	—
20.	The quality of your local public school. <b>(SAMPLE A)</b>				
	6%	64%	26%	4%	*
22.	The number of jobs available in your local area. <b>(SAMPLE B)</b>				
	27%	30%	38%	4%	1%

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24. Next, which ONE of the following is the biggest threat to the American Way of Life?

- 32% Democrats' embrace of woke racial and transgender ideologies  
...or...
  - 61% Democrats' attack on our economic system with a socialist agenda
  
  - 5% BOTH
  - 2% DON'T KNOW
  - \* REFUSED
- 

Now, thinking about the economy for a moment...

**(ASKED OF SAMPLE A)**

25. Would you rate the condition of the economy as...

- Excellent
  - 4% Good
  - 22% Only fair  
...or...
  - 74% Poor
  
  - DON'T KNOW
  - REFUSED
  
  - 4% TOTAL EXCELLENT/GOOD**
  - 96% TOTAL FAIR/POOR**
- 

**(ASKED OF SAMPLE B)**

26. Do you believe that the economy is...

- 2% Getting better
  - 90% Getting worse  
...or...
  - 8% Staying about the same?
  
  - DON'T KNOW
  - REFUSED
-

Moving on and thinking again about national security and foreign affairs...

27. Do you believe...

- 64% Americans are better off when the United States is seen as a strong leader around the world  
...or...
  - 33% Americans are better off when the United States focuses on its own interests at home and lets the rest of the world take care of itself?
  - 2% DON'T KNOW
  - 1% REFUSED
- 

Next, thinking about the conflict between Russia and Ukraine...

**(ASKED OF SAMPLE A)**

28. Do you think the United States is...

- 58% Doing too much to help Ukraine
  - 19% Not doing enough to help Ukraine  
...or...
  - 21% Helping Ukraine the right amount?
  - 1% DON'T KNOW
  - 1% REFUSED
- 

**(ASKED OF SAMPLE B)**

29. Which ONE of the following comes closest to your own opinion?

- 44% Ukraine's war is our war. If Vladimir Putin wins, vital U.S. interests and values are threatened  
...or...
  - 51% The war in Ukraine is a tragedy, but vital U.S. interests and values are not at stake in this conflict
  - 4% DON'T KNOW
  - 1% REFUSED
-

Now, I have just a few questions for statistical purposes only...

D2. Gender.

49%	MALE
51%	FEMALE

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D1. In what year were you born?

2%	18 - 24
8%	25 - 34
12%	35 - 44
18%	45 - 54
23%	55 - 64
37%	65 AND ABOVE
*	REFUSED

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D3. And what was the last grade you completed in school?

-	SOME GRADE SCHOOL (1-8)
-	SOME HIGH SCHOOL (9-11)
22%	GRADUATED HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)
7%	TECHNICAL OR VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (12)
25%	SOME COLLEGE (13-15)
30%	GRADUATED COLLEGE (16)
16%	GRADUATE/PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL (16+)
-	REFUSED
<b>22%</b>	<b>TOTAL HS OR LESS</b>
<b>32%</b>	<b>TOTAL SOME COLLEGE</b>
<b>46%</b>	<b>TOTAL COLLEGE+</b>

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D5A. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be conservative, moderate or liberal on most issues?

54% VERY CONSERVATIVE  
24% SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE

21% MODERATE

1% SOMEWHAT LIBERAL  
\* VERY LIBERAL

1% DON'T KNOW  
- REFUSED

**78% TOTAL CONSERVATIVE**

**1% TOTAL LIBERAL**

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D11C. Do you consider yourself a born-again, evangelical or fundamentalist Christian or not?

69% YES  
29% NO

2% DON'T KNOW  
1% NOT SURE

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D13C. Do you, or does anyone in your household, own a gun of any kind?

71%	Yes, gun in household
23%	No, no gun in household
1%	NOT SURE
6%	REFUSED

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Now, thinking about an issue that is often in the news...

D12A. On the issue of abortion, do you consider yourself to be...

Pro-Life  
...or...  
Pro-Choice?

58%	STRONGLY PRO-LIFE
19%	SOMEWHAT PRO-LIFE
12%	SOMEWHAT PRO-CHOICE
10%	STRONGLY PRO-CHOICE
1%	DON'T KNOW/NEITHER
*	REFUSED
<b>77%</b>	<b>TOTAL PRO-LIFE</b>
<b>22%</b>	<b>TOTAL PRO-CHOICE</b>

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