#### MORNING CONSULT

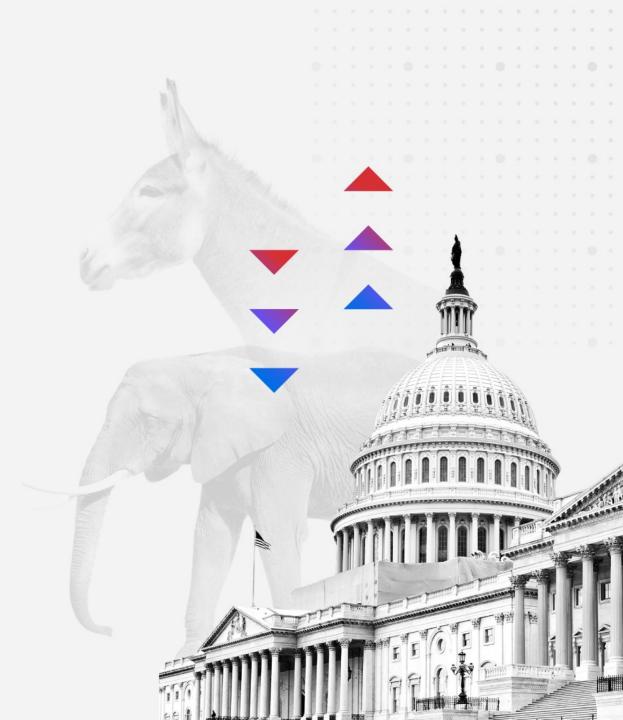
POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE

## U.S. Senator Approval Outlook

Our definitive monthly guide to U.S. voters' views of America's senators

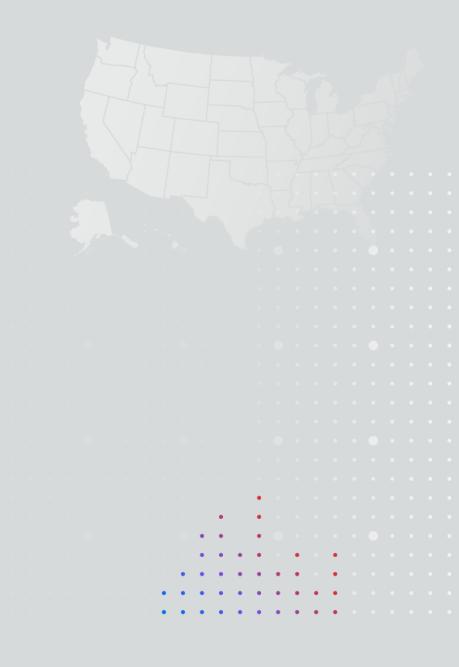
NOVEMBER 2023

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### **About Morning Consult**

Morning Consult is a global decision intelligence company changing how modern leaders make smarter, faster, better decisions. The company pairs its proprietary high-frequency data with applied artificial intelligence to better inform decisions on what people think and how they will act.



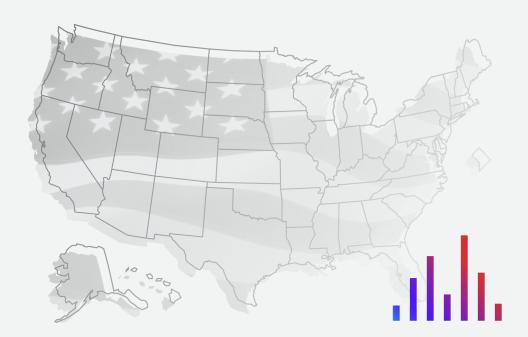
#### **U.S. POLITICAL INTELLIGENCE**

## Daily tracking of political attitudes in the United States

Morning Consult surveys 6,000 adults in the United States on key political and electoral issues every day.

Our data offers an unparalleled, real-time read on public views of political leaders and candidates, key policy issues, and vote choices, with daily historical coverage dating from 2016.





Daily syndicated tracking of U.S. attitudes on:

#### **Approval ratings**

- Presidential approval
- Congressional senator approval
- Governor approval

#### **Voting behavior**

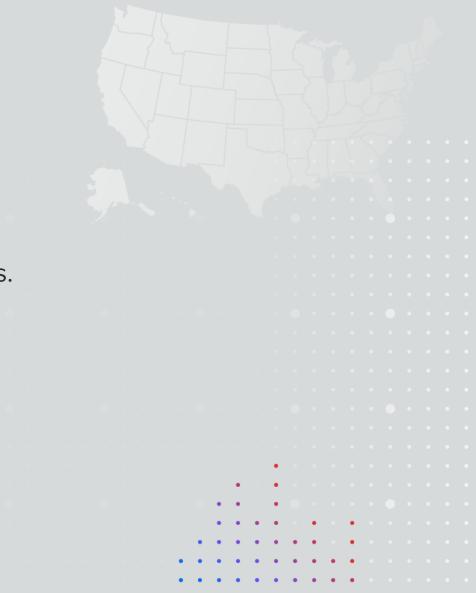
- Generic congressional ballot
- Policy issues informing congressional vote choice
- 2018, 2020 and 2022 voting behavior and vote choice

#### 2024 elections

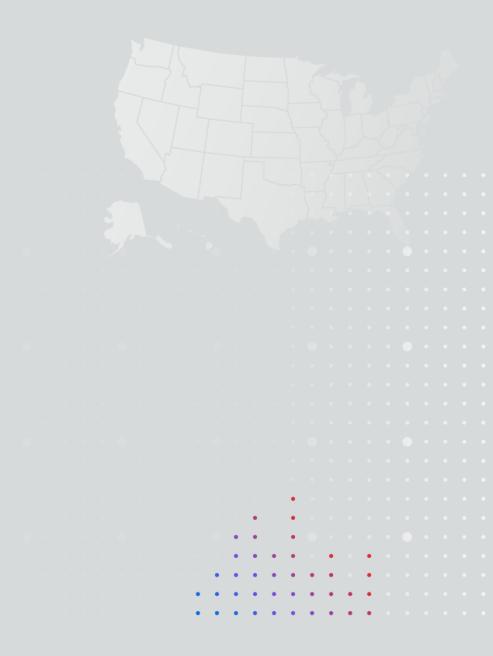
- Primary/caucus participation
- GOP primary, first- and second-choice candidates
- Presidential ballot head-to-head: Biden vs. Trump
- Presidential ballot head-to-head: Biden vs. DeSantis

## **About this report**

Morning Consult's U.S. Senator Approval Outlook is our definitive monthly guide to U.S. voters' views of all 100 senators.



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- **15** 2024's Incumbents
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- **21** About the Author



**SECTION 1** 

## **Executive Summary**

What you'll find in this month's report

#### IN THIS REPORT

- Our latest definitive ranking of America's most popular senators, which has John Thune of South Dakota, the Senate's No. 2 Republican, back in the top 10.
- Our latest definitive ranking of America's most unpopular senators, which now features freshly indicted Democrat Bob Menendez ahead of a potential re-election run next year.
- Newly appointed California Sen. Laphonza Butler's status as America's most unknown senator, and a demographic dive into which Golden State voters have opinions about her.
- An update on the most vulnerable Democratic incumbents set to face voters next year, and how they're coping with the drag effect of their party's unpopular president.
- An examination of the two most vulnerable Republicans up for re-election next year, Ted Cruz of Texas and Rick Scott of Florida.

SECTION 2

# America's Most Popular Senators

### Vulnerable Democrat Jon Tester maintains his spot among the most popular senators

Shares of U.S. voters in each state who approve or disapprove of the job performance of the following U.S. senators:

John Barrasso (R-WY)	73%		10% 16%	
Brian Schatz (D-HI)	66%	1	15% 19%	
Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)	65%	12	2% 22%	
Jon Tester (D-MT)	61%		<b>31</b> %	
Angus King (I-ME)	60%	10%	30%	
Mike Rounds (R-SD)	59%	11%	<b>30</b> %	
Peter Welch (D-VT)	59%		<b>32</b> %	
Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	59%		38%	
Dan Sullivan (R-AK)	58%	14%	<b>28</b> %	
John Thune (R-SD)	58%		33%	<b>TOP 10</b>
John Hoeven (R-ND)	57%	<b>17</b> %	<b>26</b> %	
Jack Reed (D-RI)	57%	17%	<b>26</b> %	
Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	56%	13%	32%	
Tim Scott (R-SC)	55%	16%	30%	
Edward Markey (D-MA)	54%	<b>17</b> %	<b>29</b> %	
James Lankford (R-OK)	54%	<b>17</b> %	30%	
John Hickenlooper (D-CO)	54%	15%	32%	
Chris Murphy (D-CT)	54%	15%	<b>31</b> %	
John Kennedy (R-LA)	54%	14%	<b>32</b> %	
Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)	54%	14%	33%	
Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)	54%	12%	34%	
Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	54%	12%	35%	
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	54%	10%	36%	
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	54%	10%	36%	
Katie Britt (R-AL)	53%	25%	22%	

Approve Don't know/No opinion Disapprove

Maggie Hassan (D-NH)	53%	11%	37%
Chuck Schumer (D-NY)	53%	11%	35%
Michael Bennet (D-CO)	<b>52</b> %	20%	<b>28</b> %
Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	52%	19%	<b>29</b> %
Bill Hagerty (R-TN)	52%	19%	<b>29</b> %
Patty Murray (D-WA)	<b>52</b> %	11%	<b>37</b> %
Ben Cardin (D-MD)	<b>51%</b>	25%	24%
Tom Carper (D-DE)	<b>51%</b>	<b>20</b> %	30%
Mark Warner (D-VA)	<b>51%</b>	<b>18</b> %	31%
Tom Cotton (R-AR)	<b>51%</b>	<b>17</b> %	33%
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	51%	14%	35%
Steve Daines (R-MT)	<b>51%</b>	13%	37%
Elizabeth Warren (D-MA)	51%		<b>39</b> %
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)	50%	<b>27</b> %	24%
Ron Wyden (D-OR)	50%	<b>21</b> %	<b>29</b> %
Chris Coons (D-DE)	50%	<b>17</b> %	33%
Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)	50%	16%	34%
Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)	50%	15%	35%
Mike Lee (R-UT)	50%	15%	35%
Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)	49%	23%	28%
John Boozman (R-AR)	49%	<b>21</b> %	<b>29</b> %
Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	49%	<b>19</b> %	32%
Pete Ricketts (R-NE)	49%	15%	37%
Cory Booker (D-NJ)	49%	15%	35%
Mark Kelly (D-AZ)	49%	11%	40%

Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence. Respondents for each senator reside in that senator's state. Surveys conducted August-October 2023. Figures may not add up to 100% due to

rounding. Rankings are dictated by highest approval rating, with net approval — the share who approve minus the share who disapprove — used to break ties.

### Laphonza Butler, newly appointed in California, is America's most unknown senator

Shares of U.S. voters in each state who approve or disapprove of the job performance of the following U.S. senators:

Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	48%	19%	33%
Dick Durbin (D-IL)	48%	<b>17</b> %	35%
Tim Kaine (D-VA)	48%	<b>17</b> %	35%
Marco Rubio (R-FL)	48%	12%	40%
Mitt Romney (R-UT)	48%	10%	43%
Ted Cruz (R-TX)	48%		43%
Jeff Merkley (D-OR)	<b>47</b> %	22%	31%
Bob Casey (D-PA)	<b>47</b> %	<b>22</b> %	31%
Deb Fischer (R-NE)	<b>47</b> %	19%	34%
Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)	<b>47</b> %	<b>19</b> %	34%
Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)	<b>47</b> %	18%	34%
Mike Crapo (R-ID)	<b>47</b> %	16%	37%
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)	<b>47</b> %	14%	<b>39</b> %
Raphael Warnock (D-GA)	<b>47</b> %	13%	40%
Rand Paul (R-KY)	<b>47</b> %	13%	40%
Alex Padilla (D-CA)	46%	<b>27</b> %	27%
James Risch (R-ID)	46%	<b>20</b> %	33%
Jerry Moran (R-KS)	46%	<b>19</b> %	35%
Jon Ossoff (D-GA)	46%	18%	36%
Bill Cassidy (R-LA)	46%	16%	39%
Rick Scott (R-FL)	46%	13%	<b>41</b> %
Tina Smith (D-MN)	45%	23%	32%
Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	45%	22%	33%
Ben Ray Luján (D-NM)	45%	19%	36%
Lindsey Graham (R-SC)	45%	11%	44%

Approve Don't know/No opinion Disapprove

Sherrod Brown (D-OH)	44%	20%	36%
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI)	44%	14%	<b>42</b> %
John Fetterman (D-PA)	<b>44</b> %	13%	43%
Chuck Grassley (R-IA)	44%	12%	45%
Susan Collins (R-ME)	44%		50%
Gary Peters (D-MI)	<b>43</b> %	25%	32%
Mike Braun (R-IN)	<b>43</b> %	22%	34%
Roger Wicker (R-MS)	43%	21%	37%
Eric Schmitt (R-MO)	43%	<b>21</b> %	35%
Josh Hawley (R-MO)	<b>43</b> %	17%	40%
Todd Young (R-IN)	<b>42</b> %	24%	34%
JD Vance (R-OH)	<b>42</b> %	24%	34%
Jacky Rosen (D-NV)	<b>42</b> %	22%	36%
John Cornyn (R-TX) 📘	<b>42</b> %	<b>21</b> %	36%
Roger Marshall (R-KS)	<b>42</b> %	20%	38%
Joni Ernst (R-IA)	<b>42</b> %	13%	<b>45</b> %
Joe Manchin (D-WV)	<b>42</b> %	10%	<b>48</b> %
Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)	<b>41</b> %	20%	40%
Ted Budd (R-NC)	<b>40</b> %	25%	35%
Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ)	40%	15%	<b>45</b> %
Ron Johnson (R-WI)	39%	12%	<b>49</b> %
Thom Tillis (R-NC)	38%	23%	39%
Bob Menendez (D-NJ)	36%	19%	<b>46</b> %
Laphonza Butler (D-CA)	31%	<b>47</b> %	22%
Mitch McConnell (R-KY)	<b>29</b> %	6	55%

Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence. Respondents for each senator reside in that senator's state. Surveys conducted August-October 2023. Figures may not add up to 100% due to

rounding. Rankings are dictated by highest approval rating, with net approval — the share who approve minus the share who disapprove — used to break ties.

### Butler is most popular among Democratic, college-educated and younger Californians

	APPROVE	C	Oon't know/No opinion	DISAPPROVE
Conservative Democrats	63%		24%	13%
Democrats ages <45	57%		<b>31</b> %	<b>12</b> %
Approve of Biden	52%		<b>42</b> %	6%
Have a postgrad degree	51%		34%	15%
Ages 35-44	49%		33%	18%
College-educated white voters	47%		37%	<b>16</b> %
Liberal Democrats	47%		<b>47</b> %	6%
Liberals	46%	46%		8%
Democrats	46%	45%		9%
Ages <45	44%		36%	<b>21</b> %
Voted for Biden in 2020	42%		<b>49</b> %	9%
College-educated voters	<b>41</b> %		<b>41%</b>	18%
Ages 18-34	<b>41</b> %	3	7%	22%
Household income: \$75k+	37%	42	%	<b>21</b> %
Moderate Democrats	37%		<b>51</b> %	<b>12</b> %
Black voters	37%	4	<b>I6</b> %	17%
Democrats ages 45+	37%		<b>57</b> %	6%

Shares of registered voters in California who approve or disapprove of the job performance of Sen. Laphonza Butler (D-Calif.)

Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence. Surveys conducted August-October 2023. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

SECTION 3

# America's Most Unpopular Senators

#### Menendez, freshly indicted, is now among America's most unpopular senators

Shares of U.S. voters in each state who approve or disapprove of the job performance of the following U.S. senators:

Mitch McConnell (R-KY)	29%		65%	
Susan Collins (R-ME)	44%		50%	
Ron Johnson (R-WI)	39%	12%	<b>49</b> %	
Joe Manchin (D-WV) 📕	<b>42</b> %	10%	<b>48</b> %	
Bob Menendez (D-NJ)	36%	19%	<b>46</b> %	
Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ) 📕	40%	15%	45%	
Joni Ernst (R-IA) 📕	<b>42</b> %	13%	45%	
Chuck Grassley (R-IA) 📕	44%	12%	<b>45</b> %	
Lindsey Graham (R-SC) 📕	<b>45</b> %	11%	<b>44</b> %	
John Fetterman (D-PA)	44%	13%	<b>43</b> %	TOP 10
Mitt Romney (R-UT)	<b>48</b> %	10%	<b>43</b> %	
Ted Cruz (R-TX)	<b>48</b> %		<b>43</b> %	
Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) 📘	44%	14%	<b>42</b> %	
Rick Scott (R-FL)	<b>46</b> %	13%	<b>41</b> %	
Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS)	<b>41</b> %	20%	40%	
Josh Hawley (R-MO) 📕	<b>43</b> %	17%	40%	
Raphael Warnock (D-GA) 📕	<b>47</b> %	13%	40%	
Rand Paul (R-KY) 📘	<b>47</b> %	13%	40%	
Marco Rubio (R-FL) 📕	<b>48</b> %	12%	40%	
Mark Kelly (D-AZ) 📘	<b>49</b> %	11%	40%	
Thom Tillis (R-NC)	38%	23%	39%	
Bill Cassidy (R-LA) 📕	<b>46</b> %	16%	39%	
Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)	<b>47</b> %	14%	39%	
Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) 📘	<b>51</b> %		39%	
Roger Marshall (R-KS) 📕	<b>42</b> %	20%	<b>38</b> %	

Approve Don't know/No opinion Disapprove

Bernie Sanders (I-VT)	59%		38%
Roger Wicker (R-MS)	43%	21%	<b>37</b> %
Mike Crapo (R-ID)	47%	16%	37%
Pete Ricketts (R-NE)	49%	15%	37%
Steve Daines (R-MT)	<b>51%</b>	13%	37%
Maggie Hassan (D-NH)	53%	11%	37%
Patty Murray (D-WA)	<b>52</b> %	11%	37%
Jacky Rosen (D-NV)	42%	22%	36%
John Cornyn (R-TX)	42%	21%	36%
Sherrod Brown (D-OH)	44%	20%	36%
Ben Ray Luján (D-NM)	45%	19%	36%
Jon Ossoff (D-GA)	46%	18%	36%
Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)	54%	10%	36%
Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)	54%	10%	36%
Ted Budd (R-NC)	40%	25%	35%
Eric Schmitt (R-MO)	43%	21%	35%
Jerry Moran (R-KS)	46%	19%	35%
Dick Durbin (D-IL)	48%	17%	35%
Tim Kaine (D-VA)	48%	17%	35%
Tommy Tuberville (R-AL)	50%	15%	35%
Cory Booker (D-NJ)	49%	15%	35%
Mike Lee (R-UT)	50%	15%	35%
Maria Cantwell (D-WA)	<b>51</b> %	14%	35%
Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)	54%	12%	35%
Chuck Schumer (D-NY)	53%	11%	35%

Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence. Respondents for each senator reside in that senator's state. Surveys conducted August-October 2023. Figures may not add up to 100% due to

rounding. Rankings are dictated by highest disapproval rating, with net approval — the share who approve minus the share who disapprove — used to break ties.

#### **50-State Snapshot**

### Nearly all senators have positive net approval ratings

Shares of U.S. voters in each state who approve or disapprove of the job performance of the following U.S. senators:

Todd Young (R-IN)	<b>42</b> %	24%	34%
J.D. Vance (R-OH)	<b>42</b> %	24%	34%
Mike Braun (R-IN)	43%	22%	34%
Deb Fischer (R-NE)	<b>47</b> %	19%	34%
Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI)	<b>47</b> %	19%	34%
Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)	<b>47</b> %	18%	34%
Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)	50%	16%	34%
Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)	54%	12%	34%
Martin Heinrich (D-NM)	<b>45</b> %	22%	33%
James Risch (R-ID)	<b>46</b> %	20%	33%
Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV)	<b>48</b> %	<b>19</b> %	33%
Tom Cotton (R-AR)	<b>51</b> %	<b>17</b> %	33%
Chris Coons (D-DE)	50%	17%	33%
Marsha Blackburn (R-TN)	54%	14%	33%
John Thune (R-SD)	58%		33%
Gary Peters (D-MI)	43%	25%	32%
Tina Smith (D-MN)	45%	23%	32%
Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)	<b>49</b> %	19%	32%
John Hickenlooper (D-CO)	54%	15%	32%
John Kennedy (R-LA)	<b>54</b> %	14%	32%
Mazie Hirono (D-HI)	56%	13%	32%
Peter Welch (D-VT)	<b>59</b> %		32%
Jeff Merkley (D-OR)	<b>47</b> %	22%	31%
Bob Casey (D-PA)	<b>47</b> %	22%	31%
Mark Warner (D-VA)	51%	18%	31%

Approve Don't know/No opinion Disapprove

Chris Murphy (D-CT)	54%	15%	31%
Jon Tester (D-MT)	<b>61</b> %		<b>31</b> %
Tom Carper (D-DE)	51%	20%	30%
James Lankford (R-OK)	54%	17%	30%
Tim Scott (R-SC)	55%	16%	30%
Mike Rounds (R-SD)	59%	11%	30%
Angus King (I-ME)	60%	10%	30%
John Boozman (R-AR)	49%	21%	<b>29</b> %
Ron Wyden (D-OR)	50%	21%	<b>29</b> %
Kevin Cramer (R-ND)	<b>52</b> %	19%	<b>29</b> %
Bill Hagerty (R-TN)	<b>52</b> %	19%	<b>29</b> %
Edward Markey (D-MA)	54%	17%	<b>29</b> %
Markwayne Mullin (R-OK)	<b>49</b> %	23%	<b>28</b> %
Michael Bennet (D-CO)	<b>52</b> %	20%	<b>28</b> %
Dan Sullivan (R-AK)	58%	14%	<b>28</b> %
Alex Padilla (D-CA)	46%	<b>27</b> %	27%
John Hoeven (R-ND)	57%	17%	26%
Jack Reed (D-RI)	57%	17%	26%
Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)	50%	27%	24%
Ben Cardin (D-MD)	<b>51</b> %	25%	24%
Laphonza Butler (D-CA)	31%	<b>47</b> %	22%
Katie Britt (R-AL)	53%	25%	22%
Cynthia Lummis (R-WY)	65%	12%	<b>22</b> %
Brian Schatz (D-HI)	66%	15	% <b>19</b> %
John Barrasso (R-WY)	73%		10% 16%

Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence. Respondents for each senator reside in that senator's state. Surveys conducted August-October 2023. Figures may not add up to 100% due to

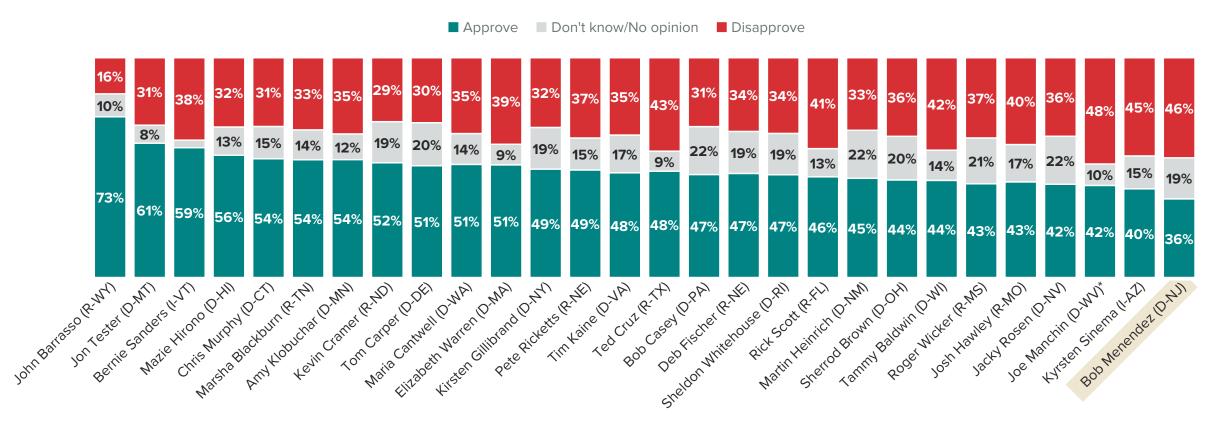
rounding. Rankings are dictated by highest disapproval rating, with net approval — the share who approve minus the share who disapprove — used to break ties.

**SECTION 4** 

## **2024's Incumbents**

#### Menendez is now the least popular incumbent up for re-election next year

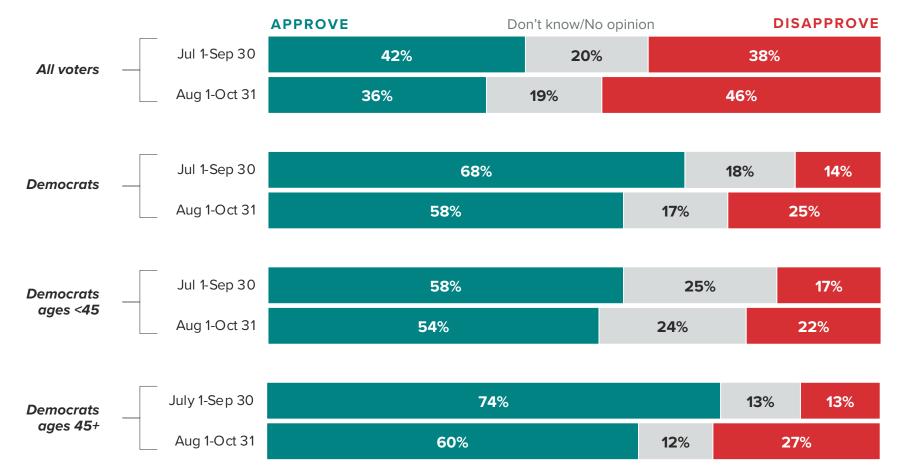
Shares of U.S. voters in each state who approve or disapprove of the job performance of the following U.S. senators:



Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence. Surveys conducted August-October 2023. Respondents for each senator reside in that senator's state. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

\*Manchin is not seeking re-election.

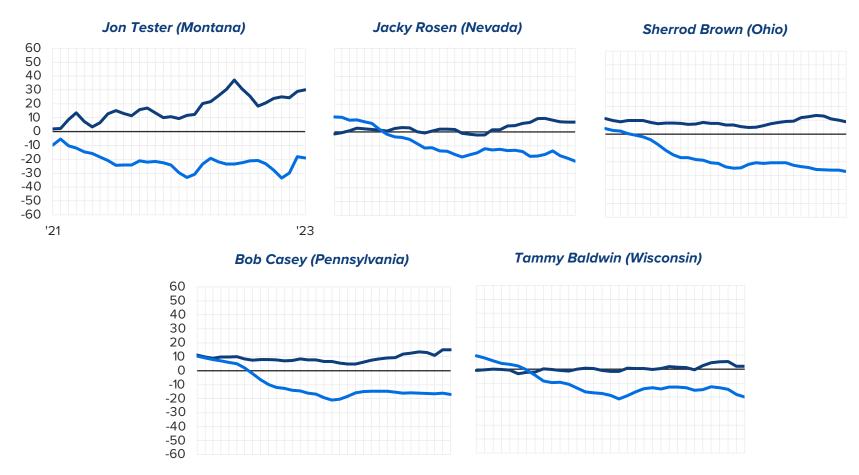
## The Sept. 22 indictment has opened Menendez up to a primary challenge



Shares of registered voters in New Jersey who approve or disapprove of the job performance of Sen. Bob Menendez (D-N.J.)

Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence. Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

## Vulnerable Democrats up for re-election in 2024 remain above water despite Biden's struggles



Net approval ratings of President Joe Biden and the following Democratic senators among registered voters in each state:

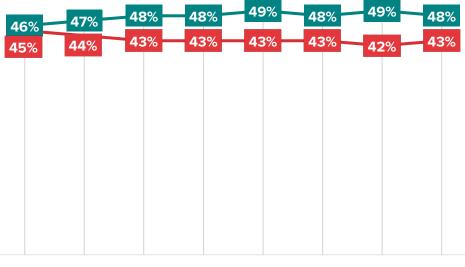
Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence. Three-month trailing averages. "Net approval" is the share who approve minus the share who disapprove.

## The GOP's most vulnerable incumbents are holding steady in 2023

Shares of registered voters in each state who approve or disapprove of the job performance of the following U.S. senators:

45% 46% 47% 47% 47% 45% 46% 46% 41% 40% 39% 40% 40% 42% 41% 41% Mar '23 Apr '23 May '23 Jun '23 Jul '23 Aug '23 Sep '23 Oct '23

Rick Scott (R-Fla.)



Mar '23 Apr '23 May '23 Jun '23 Jul '23 Aug '23 Sep '23 Oct '23

Source: Morning Consult Political Intelligence. Three-month trailing averages.

Ted Cruz (R-Texas)

#### Methodology

All state-level data presented in this report represents trailing three-month averages of monthly roll-ups derived from Morning Consult's daily U.S. tracking survey.

Consult our <u>2024 Republican Primary Methodology Review</u> for additional details on the data sources, including sampling and data collection procedures, weighting and representativeness, margins of error, and question wording.





**CAMERON EASLEY** Lead Analyst, U.S. Politics

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

#### Cameron Easley is Morning Consult's lead analyst for U.S. politics.

Prior to moving into his current role, he led Morning Consult's editorial coverage of U.S. politics and elections from 2016 through 2022. Cameron joined Morning Consult from Roll Call, where he was managing editor. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.



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