

Methodology

Online Journals

Global Strategy Group conducted **online journals with 60 House battleground swing voters** – **including 20 white swing participants, 20 Black swing participants, and 20 Latino swing participants** – between May 8 and May 10, 2024.

See appendix for full list of battleground districts participants were recruited from.

Care was taken to ensure the geographic, political, and demographic divisions of the population of battleground voters were properly represented.

Battleground Survey

Global Strategy Group conducted an online survey of 1,028 likely 2024 voters across House battleground districts, with oversamples to reach 214 Black voters, 215 Latino voters, and 201 AAPI voters.

The survey has a confidence interval of +/-3.1%. The confidence interval on sub-samples is greater.

Care has been taken to ensure the geographic, political, and demographic divisions of the population of likely battleground voters were properly represented.





Segmenting the electorate: a third of voters don't have strong partisan preferences

Vote Targets



Breaking Down the Base



Activation

Base voters who support stronger gun laws and voted in both 2020 and 2022

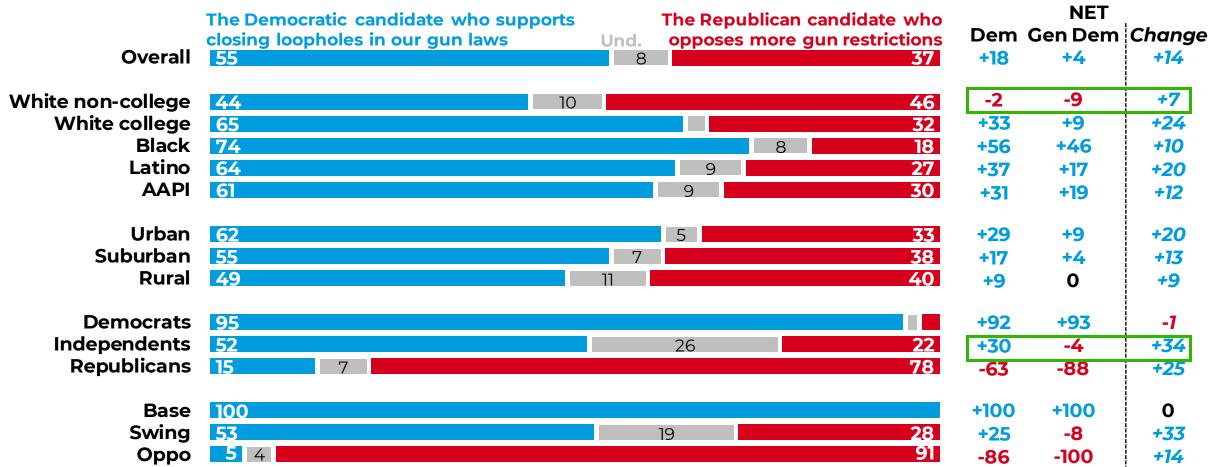
Turnout Risks

Base voters who support stronger gun laws but didn't vote in either 2020 or 2022, or are not definitely voting in 2024



A Democrat who wants to close loopholes has a sizable advantage over a Republican who opposes more restrictions

If the next election for U.S. Congress were today, which candidate would you be more likely to support, even if neither is perfect?





The Gun Violence Prevention Landscape



Gun violence is a top-two issue. Concern is more macro than personal, though more balanced among Black and Latino voters

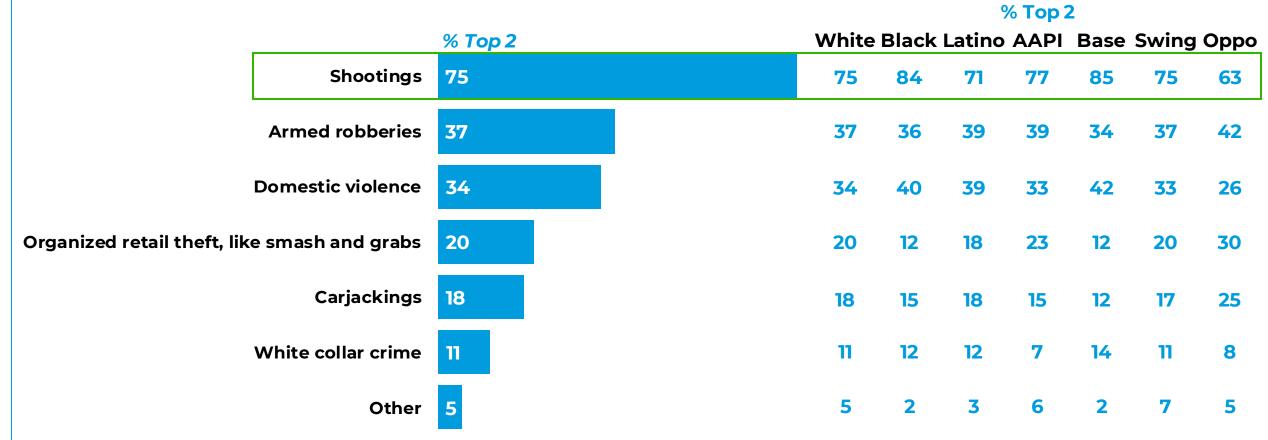
Please indicate how concerned you are about each of the following. % Extremely Concerned **Extremely/Very** Not White Black Latino AAPI Swing Act. Turnout concerned concerned The amount I pay for everyday expenses like gas and groceries The prevalence of gun violence in the country The cost of healthcare The safety of children at school The lack of affordable housing The amount I pay in taxes The crisis at the border My family's physical safety

The prevalence of gun violence in

my community

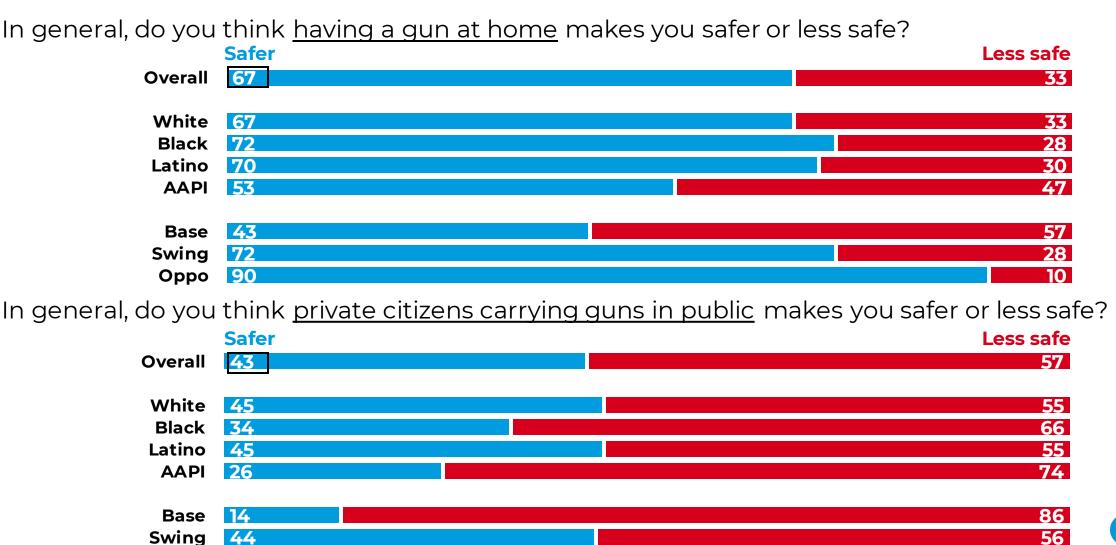
When voters think about safety, they overwhelmingly think of shootings

Regardless of how you feel about your personal and family safety, when you think of safety, what comes to mind for you?





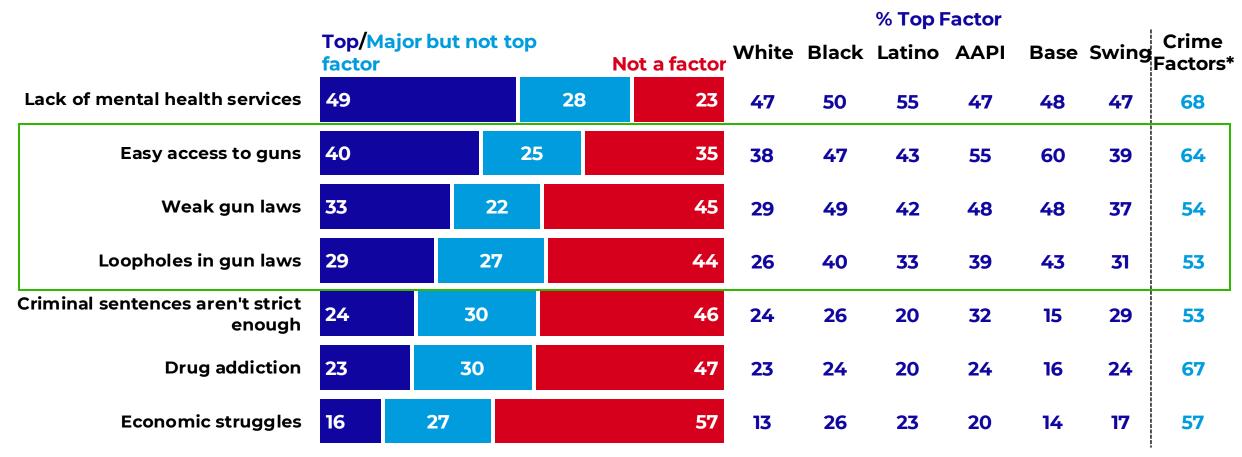
Despite concerns around gun violence, voters still feel safer with a gun at home, though they feel less safe with a gun in public



Oppo

Voters blame mental health crisis first, but are very concerned by "easy access to guns" (more than loopholes/weak laws)

Please indicate how much of a factor you think each is in causing <u>mass shootings</u>.



Voters blame elected officials for lack of progress first and foremost (though gun lobby more so than NRA)

Who bears the MOST responsibility for the lack of progress addressing gun violence?







Solutions

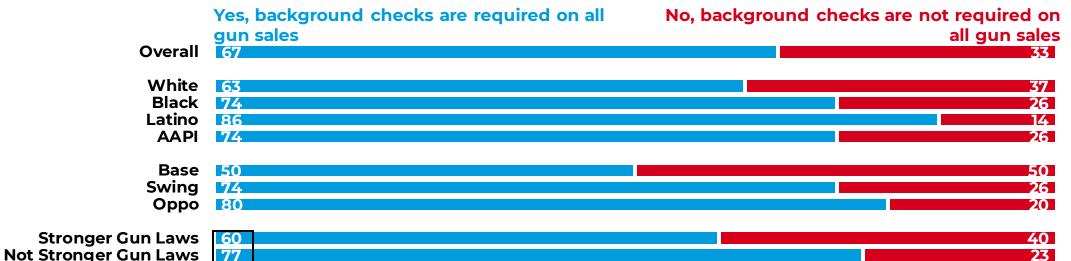


Most voters want stronger gun laws and mistakenly believe we already have background checks

In your opinion, should gun laws in the United States be stronger, less strong, or kept the same as they are now?



As far as you know, are background checks required on all gun sales in the U.S.?





We garner more support though, by framing these laws as "closing loopholes"

When it comes to addressing gun violence, which of the following would you most like to see done?

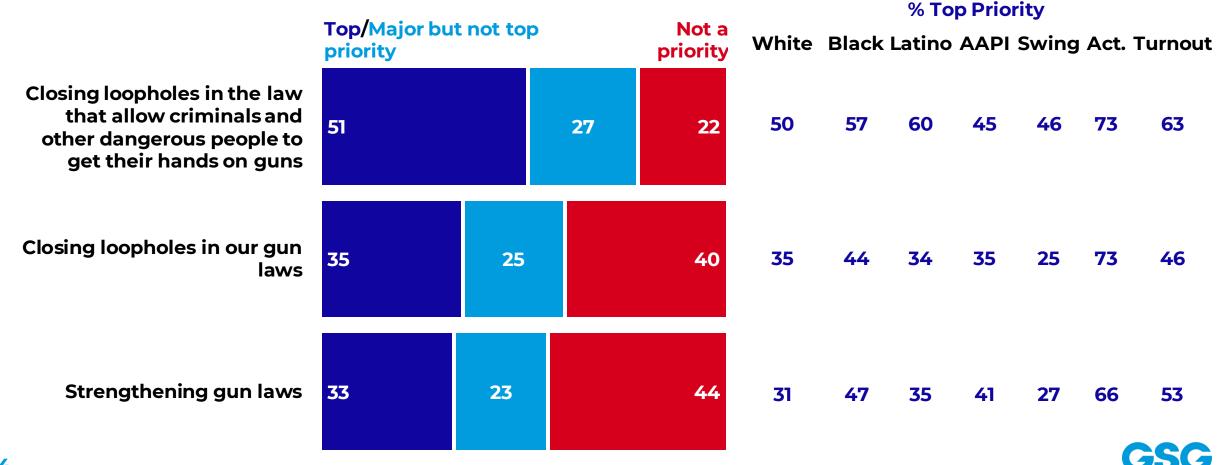
% Top Two

		% Top Two	White	Black	Latino	AAPI	Swing	<u>Activation</u>
	Closing loopholes in the law	62	63	63	59	54	62	7 2
Passin	g commonsense gun safety laws	44	47	38	34	34	38	44
	Strengthening gun laws	40	38	47	41	45	47	50
	Improving gun laws	24	22	24	33	31	22	18
	Reforming gun laws	20	18	25	26	33	21	14



Specifically call out the people who can get guns thanks to these loopholes

Please indicate how much of a priority you think each should be for your representative in Congress.



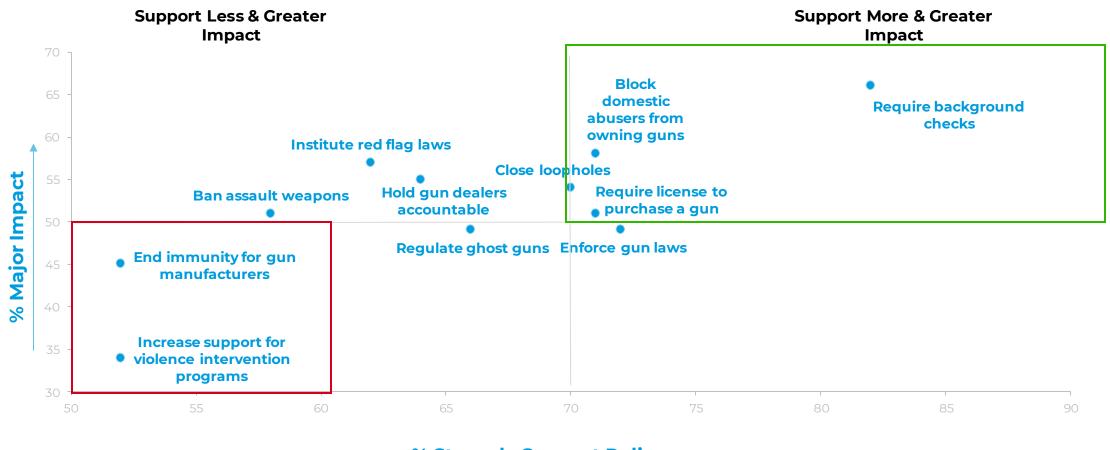
Support for gun safety policies is broad and intense among key swing voters

Support for Gun Safety Policies

% Strongly support White Black Latino AAPI Swing Strongly/Somewhat support **Oppose** Requiring background checks on all gun sales Blocking domestic abusers from owning guns Requiring a license to purchase a gun Closing loopholes in the law that allow criminals and other dangerous people to get their hands on a gun Regulating intractable and undetectable guns, known as ghost guns Holding gun dealers accountable for looking the other way when guns are sold illegally or to people with dangerous pasts Instituting red flag laws Banning assault weapons Increasing support for community violence intervention programs, which use local peacekeepers to stop violence from happening in the first place Ending immunity for gun manufacturers who knowingly sell guns to bad actors

Blocking domestic abusers from owning guns, licensing requirements, background checks, and closing loopholes are among the most supported and viewed as most impactful

Gun Policies – Support vs. Impact





Specifically highlighting those loopholes and the bad apple gun sellers overpowers the other side's arguments about criminals

Who do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right in your opinion?

[OPPO] Those who say we shouldn't pass more laws because criminals will always find a way to get a gun.

Those who say our laws are riddled with loopholes that allow criminals to easily and legally access guns. If we close those loopholes and punish the bad apples who would illegally sell to criminals, we can curb the violence.

Overall

White

Black 77
Latino 61
AAPI 63
Swing 69

questions asked. If we want to protect women from domestic abuse, kids from school shootings, neighbors from drive bys, we have to close those loopholes.

Overall 64

White 61

Black 78

Lating 67

Those who say our laws are riddled with loopholes that allow anyone to get a gun no

Those who say that's a gun-lobby-funded talking point meant to distract us. Our laws are riddled with loopholes that allow anyone to get a gun no questions asked. If we want to protect women from domestic abuse, kids from school shootings, neighbors from drive-bys, we have to close those loopholes.



Oppo

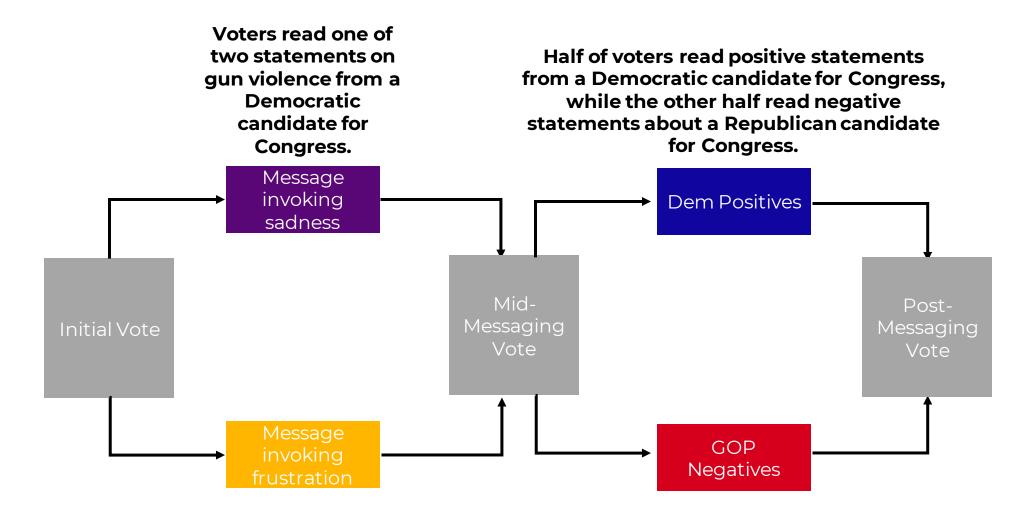
AAPI 78
Swing 63



Messaging and Movement



Survey Structure





Tone matters in messaging: Democrats gain more among the voters we need to win when we sound frustrated about guns, rather than sitting in sadness

Tone Test

Read to half

[DEM - SADNESS] It's heartbreaking sending your kid off to school each day not knowing if they'll make it home. And it's devastating coming home each night only to hear about gun violence on the news. Whether it's a carjacking, a shooting in a nearby neighborhood, or worse, a school shooting, you can't help but feel sad. No one should have to feel that sadness of having a loved one taken from them by gun violence. That's why I am focused on strengthening gun laws: to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people who cause this kind of heartbreak.

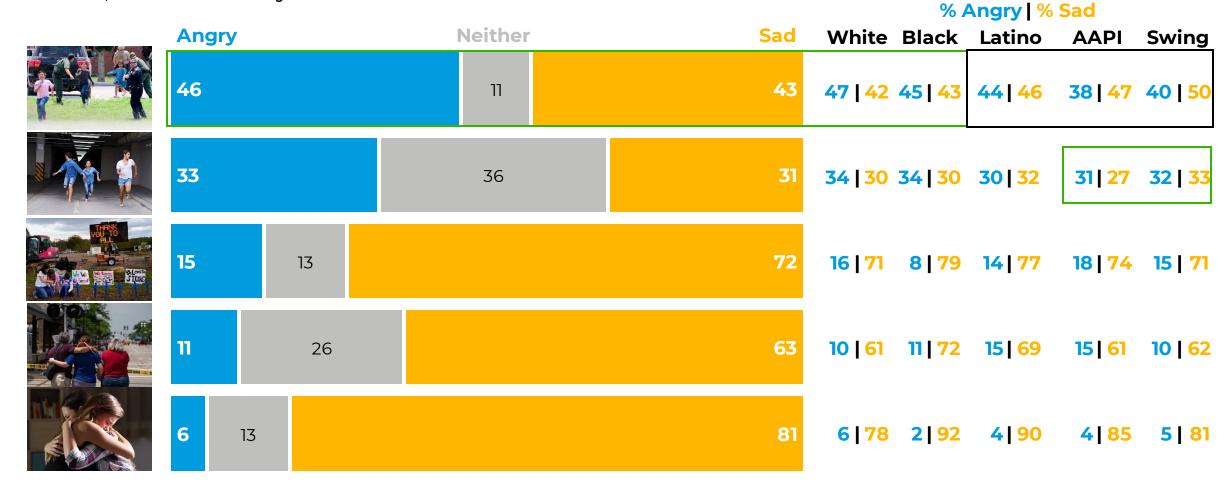
Read to half

[DEM – FRUSTRATION] Every day, we send our kids off to school not knowing if they'll make it home. And then we come home each night only to hear about gun violence on the news. It feels like we're shouting into the void, as each day brings another story of a carjacking or even worse, a school shooting, and no one is doing anything about it. It's frustrating knowing there's more we can do to prevent these tragedies and yet, no one does it. Well I'm ready to turn words into action. In Congress, I'll actually strengthen gun laws: to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people.

	SADNESS: Net Dem				FRUSTRATION: Net Dem		
	Initial	Mid-Messaging	Change		Initial	Mid-Messaging	Change
Overall	+4	+9	+5	Overall	+4	+11	+7
Swing	-12	+1	+13	Swing	-3	+18	+21
White	0	+5	+5	White	-5	+4	+9
Black	+44	+49	+5	Black	+37	+51	+14
Latino	-2	-2	0	Latino	+36	+36	0
AAPI	+21	+26	+5	AAPI	+17	+21	+4
Democrats	+90	+85	-5	Democrats	+95	+94	-7
Republicans	-88	-76	+12	Republicans	-87	-75	+12
Non-con Ind/GOP	-47	-28	+19	Non-con Ind/GOP	-31	-13	+18
Con Ind/GOP	-89	-82	+7	Con Ind/GOP	-92	-83	+9

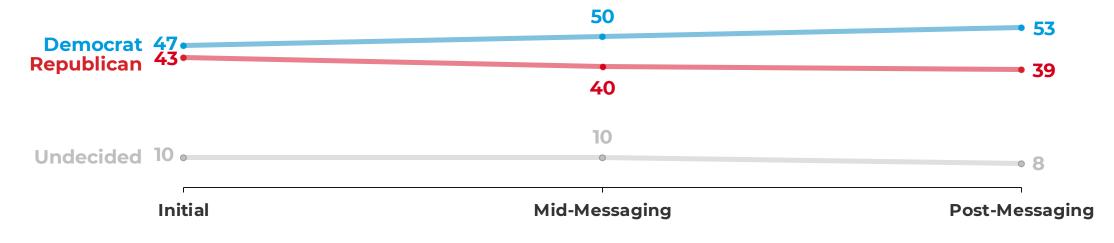
Visuals of kids mid-shooting do more to drive frustration than photos of grieving families

Please indicate if each image makes you sad or angry about the lack of action to address gun violence, or if it makes you feel neither emotion.

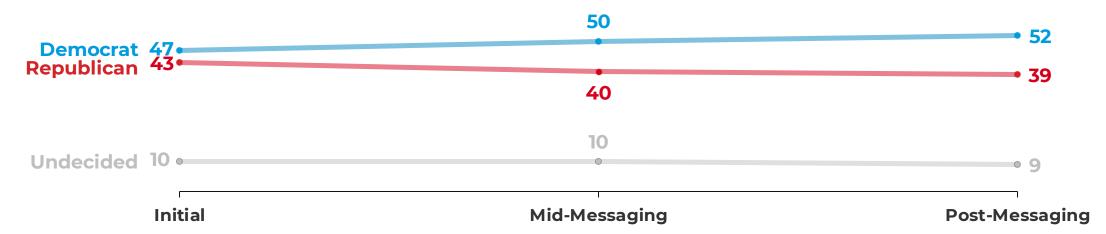


Positive and negative messaging alike can drive the vote; campaigns should do what works best for their race

Vote Movement – Democratic Positives



Vote Movement – Republican Negatives



We tested a series of positive messaging options

[MENTAL HEALTH] Americans are in the midst of a mental health crisis. We need better access to mental health care. But that alone won't stop these shootings. We need to put basic gun safety protections in place so those who are experiencing mental illness can't harm themselves or others.

[CORRUPTION] For too long, politicians have put profits over people, prioritizing their corporate gun lobby donors who spend millions lobbying members of Congress to oppose commonsense solutions that would reduce gun violence and save lives. I will take on the gun lobby and work to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people, because public safety is most important.

[TRAGEDIES - MILITARY] We appreciate our service men and women for keeping us safe. As trained military, it makes sense they have guns. But there's no reason we need weapons of war on our streets. I'm working to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people who would use them to hurt Americans rather than defend America.

[LOCKDOWN DRILL PUSHOFF] I know many of us have gotten used to the idea of lockdown drills. But I can't believe that with all of the school shootings, we're still acting as though ducking under your desk is going to save you from a weapon shooting 10 bullets per second. If we want to keep our kids safe, we have to do more, and that includes keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people who put them at risk in the first place.

[KIDS] The leading cause of death among kids under 18 in the U.S.? Most people assume car accidents or cancer, but it's guns. Between kids accidentally getting their hands on their parents' guns, school shootings, and teen-on-teen violence, our kids are facing the brunt of the gun violence epidemic. I will work to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and yes, kids, to protect our children's futures.

[MASS SHOOTINGS] We used to go to the movies, church, and concerts without thinking twice. But after all these mass shootings, it's normal to keep your eye on the nearest exit and look over your shoulder. That is no way to live. That's why I'll work to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people. so we can go out and enjoy life without having to think about being the next headline.

[TRAGEDIES - RECREATION] Whether you're hunting or sport shooting, guns can be used for fun and a way to bond. But thousands of American lives are lost each year because those same guns end up in the wrong hands. I'm working to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people who use them to harm others, so the rest of us can keep using them for sport.

[PRIORITIES] People are worried about their safety - about their kids playing outside or going to school. But politicians have the wrong priorities. They spend their time banning abortion and cutting taxes for their corporate donors rather than working to keep us safe. I'll keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people so we can once again feel safe.

[CRIME] We all deserve to feel safe, but crime feels unavoidable these days. It's so bad you can't help but wonder if you or someone you know will be next. That's no way to live, and it's why I am committed to keeping guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people - to reduce crime and keep our communities safe.

[FREEDOM] As Americans, we value our freedom. The freedom to do what we want with our time, to decide what's best for our family, to live free from gun violence. But politicians today don't see it that way. They spend more time restricting our freedoms than defending them. I'll keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people so we can live free from gun violence.

[COMMUNITY] While mass shootings get a lot of attention, most gun homicides come from the daily gun violence on our streets. The victims of this community violence are overwhelmingly young people of color. We have policies that are proven to save lives, and I will support these policies that would reduce violence 77 and make it harder for young people to access a gun.

Connect gun violence to the mental health crisis and corruption; with activation, bring it back to kids

Positive Messaging

Overall	Swing	Activation	White aly convincing (rank	Black	Latino	AAPI	
26	[MENTAL HEALTH]						
26	25	35	22	33	38	47	[MENTAL HEALTH]
26	24	46	24	34	24	31	[CORRUPTION]
22	20	39	19	30	24	38	[TRAGEDIES - MILITARY]
26	18	43	23	34	31	35	[LOCKDOWN DRILL PUSHOFF]
21	16	49	17	35	29	39	[KIDS]
19	16	32	15	30	32	32	[MASS SHOOTINGS]
15		19	14	18	20	20	[TRAGEDIES - RECREATION]
21		36	19	31	25	31	[PRIORITIES]
17		26	15	27	23	34	[CRIME]
		26	15	23	23	34	[FREEDOM]
18	13	29	16	22	27	32	[COMMUNITY]

The other half sample heard the same messages framed as GOP negatives

[MENTAL HEALTH] Americans are in the midst of a mental health crisis. We need better access to mental health care. But that alone won't stop these shootings. We need to put basic gun safety protections in place so those who are experiencing mental illness can't harm themselves or others. But the Republican candidate for Congress opposes closing loopholes in the law that would do just that.

[PRIORITIES] People are worried about their safety - about their kids playing outside or going to school. But the Republican candidate for Congress has spent their time pushing to fully ban abortion and cut taxes for their corporate donors rather than closing loopholes in our gun laws that would keep us safe.

[LOCKDOWN DRILL PUSHOFF] I know many of us have gotten used to the idea of lockdown drills. But it's ridiculous that with all of the school shootings, we're still acting as though ducking under your desk is going to save you from a weapon shooting 10 bullets every second. The Republican candidate for Congress opposes closing loopholes in gun laws that would keep guns out of the hands of dangerous people who put our kids at risk in the first place.

[TRAGEDIES - MILITARY] We appreciate our service men and women for keeping us safe. As trained military, it makes sense they have guns. But there's no reason we need weapons of war on our streets. And the Republican candidate for Congress opposes closing loopholes in our gun laws that allow dangerous people to hurt Americans rather than defend America.

[KIDS] The leading cause of death among kids and teens in the U.S.? Most people assume car accidents or cancer, but it's guns. Between kids accidentally getting their hands on their parents' guns, school shootings, and teen-on-teen violence, our kids are facing the brunt of the gun violence epidemic. But the Republican candidate for Congress opposes closing loopholes in our gun laws - policies that would protect our children's future.

[CRIME] We all deserve to feel safe, but crime feels unavoidable these days. It's so bad you can't help but wonder if you or someone you know will be next. That's no way to live, but the Republican candidate for Congress opposes closing loopholes in the gun laws - policies that would reduce crime and keep our communities safe.

[FREEDOM] As Americans, we value our freedom. The freedom to do what we want with our time, to decide what's best for our family, to live free from gun violence. But the Republican candidate for Congress doesn't see it that way. They spend more time restricting our freedoms than defending them. They oppose closing loopholes in our gun laws that would take guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people - policies that would allow us to live free from gun violence.

[CORRUPTION] For too long, the Republican candidate for Congress has put profits over people, prioritizing their corporate gun lobby donors who spend millions electing them to Congress. And now, they're doing their gun lobby donors' bidding, opposing solutions that would close loopholes in our gun laws and keep us safe, because they are more loyal to their corporate gun lobby donors than to us.

[MASS SHOOTINGS] We used to go to the movies, church, and concerts without thinking twice. But after all these mass shootings, it's normal to keep your eye on the nearest exit and look over your shoulder. That is no way to live. But the Republican candidate for Congress opposes closing loopholes in our gun laws - policies that reduce the chance your family becomes the next headline.

[TRAGEDIES - RECREATION] Whether you're hunting or sport shooting, guns can be used for fun and a way to bond. But thousands of American lives are lost each year because those same guns end up in the wrong hands. And the Republican candidate for Congress opposes closing loopholes in our gun laws that would keep guns out of the hands of people who use them to harm others, and would allow the rest of us to keep using them for sport.

[COMMUNITY] While mass shootings get a lot of attention, most gun homicides come from the daily gun violence on our streets. The victims of this community violence are overwhelmingly young people of color. We have policies that are proven to save lives, but this Republican opposes policies that would reduce violence and make it harder for young people to access a gun.

For IE purposes, we can link gun violence to the other list of GOP extreme priorities on their agenda, using the mental health crisis to amp up urgency

Negative Messaging

Overall	Swing	Activation	White	Black	Latino	AAPI					
% extremely concerning (ranked by swing)											
37	36	62	36	41	47	25	[MENTAL HEALTH]				
40	34	72	38	55	45	30	[PRIORITIES]				
37	31	67	35	51	40	30	[LOCKDOWN DRILL PUSHOFF]				
33	31	61	33	38	36	22	[TRAGEDIES - MILITARY]				
38	30	69	36	50	47	28	[KIDS]				
32	29	57		44	41	27	[CRIME]				
33	29	60	31	53	37	23	[FREEDOM]				
34	28	66	33	39	39	26	[CORRUPTION]				
34	27	64	32	47	41	33	[MASS SHOOTINGS]				
29		51	29	35	39	19	[TRAGEDIES - RECREATION]				
33	26	63	32	43	39	19	[COMMUNITY]				

Voters describe Dems as more reasonable after messaging; attacks on the Rep candidate are more effective at making voters see Reps as dangerous and extreme

Thinking about <u>Democrats</u> in Congress, what

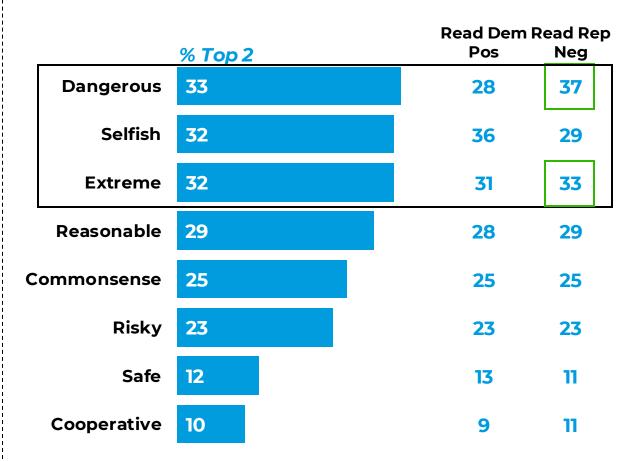
two words would you use to describe them?

Read Dem Read Rep Pos Neg % Top 2 Reasonable 38 **39 38** Commonsense 29 28 30 27 Extreme 29 25 **Dangerous** 26 25 28 25 Selfish 27 24 Cooperative 20 19 21 16 Risky 18 15

11

13

Thinking about Republicans in Congress, what two words would you use to describe them?



Safe

12



Messaging Guidance



How to Attack the Opposition on Guns: Option 1

What to Say

Every day, we send our kids off to school, and each night we come home to hear about **another shooting on the news**.

People are rightfully worried about their kids' safety at oschool – especially since we're in the midst of a mental health crisis – but it feels like we're shouting into the void. It's of trustrating knowing we don't have to live like this, and yet, on one is doing anything.

In fact, Republicans like [GOP candidate] have repeatedly of failed to close loopholes in our gun laws that would keep of guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous people – which would make sure those experiencing mental oillness can't harm themselves or others.

Instead, they're focused on banning abortion even in cases of rape, incest, or when the mother's life is at risk.

They're more loyal to the corporate gun lobby donors who have donated thousands to their campaign – and our kids are the ones who suffer.

Why it Works

- o Centers this on kids' safety
- Makes the threat real, but less that it's on their doorsteps (which reflects how voters feel)
- Reflects how voters don't think we need to accept mass shootings as a part of our lives
- o Acknowledges the mental health crisis
- o Strikes a frustrated tone
- Focuses on Republican failures
- o Positions this as the need to close loopholes in the law (rather than create new laws)
- Connects the mental health crisis to closing loopholes to help keep everyone safer
- Ties this to Republican extremism on abortion
- Demonstrates they have the wrong priorities
- colls out Republican loyalty to corporate gun lobby donors



How to Attack the Opposition on Guns: Option 2 (Freedom Lane)

What to Say

Why it Works

As Americans, we value our freedoms, but these days they o Focuses on freedoms, acknowledges they're under attack are **under attack**.

We deserve to make the decisions that keep our families o **safe on our own**, but government is making them for us. o Between **abortion bans** and a **mental health crisis** that is going unaddressed, which contributes to **more shootings**, it's hard to keep our families and kids safe, even when they're at school.

- Freedom from government interference
- Connects to abortion
- Acknowledges the mental health crisis

It's frustrating, and it feels like no one is doing anything about it. Republicans like [GOP candidate] have repeatedly o failed to close loopholes in our gun laws that would keep guns out of the hands of criminals and other dangerous o **people** – which would make sure **those experiencing mental** illness can't harm themselves or others

- Strikes a frustrated tone
- Positions this as the need to close loopholes in the law (rather than create new laws)
- Connects the mental health crisis to closing loopholes to help keep everyone safer

Instead, they're focused on restricting our freedoms banning abortion even in cases of rape, incest, or when the o mother's life is at risk - and our kids are the ones who suffer.

- Ties this to Republican extremism on abortion
- Highlights impact on kids



Our Positive Message on Gun Violence Prevention

What to Say	Why it Works
Americans, particularly our children, are in the midst of a mental health crisis. We need better access to mental health care, but that alone won't stop the mass and school shootings we hear about on the news.	 Mentions kids
We need to focus on addressing the problem at the root: ensuring folks can access mental health care AND making guns harder to access.	o Makes easy access to guns part of the problem
Right now, there are loopholes in the law that make it easy for criminals and people who are experiencing mental illness to get their hands on a gun.	 Calls out loopholes that make it easy for people to get a gun
Democrats are working to close these loopholes by requiring background checks on all gun sales, blocking domestic abusers from owning guns, and requiring a license to purchase a gun.	·
This will go a long way in addressing gun violence before it happens, so our kids can feel safer in schools and in the community.	 Reflects addressing gun violence before it happens, and recenters this on kids



Our Message with Black voters

- When speaking to Black voters, messaging that focuses on the impact that gun violence has on children and lockdown drills resonates most deeply. Messages centered around mental health and corrupt politicians/gun lobby recommended for a broader audience are also effective with them.
 - I know many of us have gotten used to the idea of lockdown drills. But I can't believe that with all of the school shootings, we're still acting as though ducking under your desk is going to save you from a weapon shooting 10 bullets per second. If we want to keep our kids safe, we have to do more, and that includes keeping guns out of the hands of dangerous people who put them at risk in the first place.
 - The leading cause of death among kids under 18 in the U.S.? Most people assume car accidents or cancer, but it's guns. Between kids accidentally getting their hands on their parents' guns, school shootings, and teen-on-teen violence, our kids are facing the brunt of the gun violence epidemic. I will work to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and yes, kids, to protect our children's futures.
 - When attacking Republicans, the Wrong Priorities framing in the previous slides works well, and Black Voters are particularly compelled by the Freedom Lane (see slide 30)



Our Message with Latino voters

- When speaking to Latino voters, mental health is by far the most effective message and can be emphasized even more. Messages centered around corruption or the military – the second and third-highest ranking messages with our swing voters, largely fall flat with this group.
 - Americans are in the midst of a mental health crisis. We need better access to mental health care. But that alone won't stop these shootings. We need to put basic gun safety protections in place so those who are experiencing mental illness can't harm themselves or others.
- However, when attacking Republicans, emphasizing the dangerous impact on kids is especially effective.
 - The leading cause of death among kids and teens in the U.S.? Most people assume car accidents or cancer, but it's guns. Between kids accidentally getting their hands on their parents' guns, school shootings, and teen-on-teen violence, our kids are facing the brunt of the gun violence epidemic. But the Republican candidate for Congress opposes closing loopholes in our gun laws - policies that would protect our children's future.



Thank You

New York V

Washington, DC

Hartford

Chicago

Denver

Seattle



Appendix



Full List of Battleground Districts

AK-01, AZ-01, AZ-06, CA-13, CA-22, CA-27, CA-40, CA-41, CA-45, CA-47, CA-49, CO-03, CO-08, CT-05, FL-07, FL-13, FL-27, IA-01, IA-02, IA-03, IL-13, IL-14, IL-17, IN-01, KS-03, ME-02, MI-03, MI-07, MI-08, MI-10, MN-02, MT-01, NC-01, NE-02, NH-01, NH-02, NJ-07, NM-02, NV-03, NV-04, NY-01, NY-02, NY-03, NY-04, NY-17, NY-18, NY-19, NY-22, OH-01, OH-09, OH-13, OR-05, OR-06, PA-01, PA-07, PA-08, PA-17, TX-15, TX-34, VA-02, VA-07, WA-03, WA-08, WI-01, WI-03



Pre Presidential Switch: Younger, non-college Independent voters are our key targets for persuasion. Voters of color disproportionately turnout risks.

		Total		Turnout		
% of Electorate	Overall	Base	Activation	Risk	Swing	Oppo
	100	37	23	11	34	30
Gender						
Men	47	42	42	37	47	55
Women	52	57	57	62	53	45
Age						
18-44	35	31	22	46	45	30
45-64	34	34	32	38	33	37
65+	30	36	46	16	22	34
Race						
White	76	73	80	61	72	85
White non-college	48	<i>3</i> 9	<i>3</i> 8	42	50	57
White college	28	<i>33</i>	42	19	22	27
Black	8	11	7	16	10	2
Hispanic	10	11	9	14	12	8
AAPI	7	7	4	10	8	5
Parent						
Parent	52	48	49	44	53	58
Non-parent	48	52	51	56	47	42

		Total		Turnout		
Density	Overall	Base	Activation	Risk	Swing	Oppo
Urban	29	32	32	33	31	24
Suburban	43	43	44	41	39	48
Rural	27	25	24	26	30	28
Party ID						
Democrat	44	100	100	100	23	-
Independent/ Other	15	-	-	-	44	-
Republican	41	-	_	-	33	100
Ideology						
Liberal	30	64	65	61	18	3
Moderate	38	33	33	30	61	20
Conservative	32	4	2	8	22	78
Region						
Northeast	27	27	30	23	27	26
Midwest	30	30	28	35	29	31
South	12	12	11	11	12	12
West	31	30	31	31	33	31
Gun Household						
Gun HH	35	22	22	21	34	52
Non-gun HH	65	78	78	79	66	48