

FOREIGN POLICY/CURRENT IMMIGRATION DEAL

Relative to yourself, where would you place President Biden on the following issues?

	Far more liberal than me	Somewhat more liberal than me	Close to my views	Somewhat more conservative than me	Far more conservative than me
National security and foreign policy	38%	14%	32%	10%	6%
Immigration	42%	14%	25%	12%	6%
The border	43%	12%	28%	11%	6%
Asylum seekers	40%	14%	29%	11%	5%
Israel and Palestine	29%	18%	30%	12%	11%

Biden has substantial room on immigration. This could involve a mix of both policy and rhetoric, but it is vital to preparing for re-election. Immigration is the issue where voters place themselves the closest to Trump relative to Biden.

30% of Democrats say Biden is more liberal than them on the issue of immigration, while a surprising 25% say they Biden is more liberal than them. These numbers indicate space in which Biden can shift his tone.

There is very little room for Biden to move to the left on asylum seekers. **It's time for a deal.**

These numbers look even worse among independents, 50% of whom say Biden is "far more liberal" than them on the issue of immigration.

In total, 66% of independents say Biden is more liberal than they are on immigration, while 10% say he is more conservative than they are.

31% of Black voters and 41% of Hispanic voters say Biden is more liberal than them on the issue of the border, 23% of black voters and 25% of Hispanic voters say he is more conservative than they are.

At Blueprint, we find these basic ideological grids to be the easiest way to get a reliable indicator of where the public sees events. Here, we see that Biden is right in the center of public opinion, if anything too left. Among 18-29 voters the percent who say Biden is more liberal than them (39%) is higher than the share who say he is more conservative (34%).

Blueprint/YouGov Topline
 1012 Registered Voters, December 2 - December 5, 2023
 Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding. MOE ±3.4

Relative to yourself, where would you place Donald Trump on the following issues?

	Far more liberal than me	Somewhat more liberal than me	Close to my views	Somewhat more conservative than me	Far more conservative than me
National security and foreign policy	6%	7%	43%	10%	32%
Immigration	4%	5%	44%	10%	36%
The border	4%	7%	44%	10%	36%
Asylum seekers	6%	6%	43%	10%	35%
Israel and Palestine	6%	8%	41%	13%	31%

Voters think Biden is more liberal than Trump is conservative, a worrying development.

33% of Hispanic voters say Biden is close to their views, while 35% say the same about Trump. Pause to consider that: Hispanic voters say Trump is closer to their views on immigration.

It may surprise people to see Trump much closer to the center of public opinion, but this is what pollsters call “thermostatic” public opinion. On issues like immigration, the public tends to shift against the views of the party in power. Media narrative also has an impact. Under Trump, the media focused on cruel conditions at the border; under Biden, coverage has been focused on the impacts of immigration on cities like New York, struggling with the number of asylum seekers and the bipartisan concerns about the asylum system being abused.

Needless to say, Israel and Palestine is a tricky issue for both parties. Interestingly, Trump’s “far more conservative than me” is a tick higher than Biden’s “far more liberal than me,” which is rare in our data.

When it comes to the current conflict in Israel and Gaza, which approach comes closest to your preference?

The United States should stand with Israel as it responds to the October 7 attack and conducts military operations to eliminate Hamas in Gaza and rescue hostages, including by providing military aid and public diplomatic support. 33%

The United States should support Israel's right to defend itself by providing military aid, but also pressure Israel to avoid civilian casualties and negotiate a deal to stop the fighting and return the hostages. 36%

The United States should pressure Israel to stop its military operations, call for a permanent ceasefire, and provide humanitarian aid in Gaza to prevent any more loss of life on either side. 30%

When we add a middle option, we find that it does garner a plurality of support. This middle option is closest to the path Biden is pursuing. Biden is pursuing a solid strategy, but on an issue that is so passionately divided that it is hard to turn into a major political winner.

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Below are some of President Biden's first-term foreign policy accomplishments. For each, say whether you have heard of the policy and whether you approve of it:

Foreign Policy Accomplishments: Heard vs. Have not heard	Heard	Have not heard
Withdrawing United States troops from Afghanistan	80%	21%
Sending aid to Ukraine to defend itself	86%	15%
Sending aid to Israel to defend itself	79%	20%
Brokering a temporary ceasefire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas	79%	21%
Ending the policy of drone strikes outside of war zones	43%	57%
Rejoining the Paris Climate Accords	73%	27%
Rejoining the World Health Organization	70%	29%
Strengthening the NATO alliance with Europe	65%	35%
Strengthening the Quad alliance with Japan, Australia, and India	48%	52%
Putting trade restrictions on China	59%	41%
Launching new trade deal negotiations	52%	48%
Promoting US industry over foreign competitors	58%	42%
Keeping US troops out of new conflicts	61%	40%

Of our top three most heard of policies, none have particularly strong support. Centering other major accomplishments would benefit President Biden.

This policy was the least heard of (even lower than the Quad alliance) but resonates strongly with key voter segments.

On our measure of how widely know a policy is versus how popular it is, rejoining the Paris Climate Accords performs the second worst of any issue tested, closely following aid to Ukraine.

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**Foreign Policy Accomplishments:
 Support vs. Oppose**

	Support	Oppose
Withdrawing United States troops from Afghanistan	64%	37%
Sending aid to Ukraine to defend itself	64%	37%
Sending aid to Israel to defend itself	64%	35%
Brokering a temporary ceasefire and hostage release deal between Israel and Hamas	73%	27%
Ending the policy of drone strikes outside of war zones	67%	33%
Rejoining the Paris Climate Accords	56%	44%
Rejoining the World Health Organization	57%	42%
Strengthening the NATO alliance with Europe	73%	27%
Strengthening the Quad alliance with Japan, Australia, and India	78%	22%
Putting trade restrictions on China	79%	21%
Launching new trade deal negotiations	73%	27%
Promoting US industry over foreign competitors	85%	15%
Keeping US troops out of new conflicts	81%	20%

While the moral case for Ukraine and Israel aid is strong, these policies do not excite particular voter excitement. We recommend deprioritizing in messaging.

Another policy that has a large gap between how much voters have heard of it (very little) and how much they support it. In addition, this policy had the highest support among the 18-29 cohort (much higher than the Paris accords) suggesting it could help with this crucial segment.

This policy garnered the strongest opposition among voters generally and independents specifically.

This policy seems to have very little upside and quite a bit of downside.

This policy had the largest gap between net support and net heard of. It could merit raising the salience of our alliance.

The top testing policy among independent voters, this could be an issue to make salient ahead of the election.

This was the second top testing policy among independent voters and one that could make for a strong stump speech.

This policy tested well in our domestic policy grid as well. Highlighting President Biden's efforts on China is a winner with independent voters. However, we caution that this must be balanced with the voter desire to bring down prices. Policies that target dangerous AI capabilities strike a balance by not affecting consumer prices but addressing a vital national security concern.