

THE 2024 CONGRESSIONAL PRIMARIES AND THE FUTURE OF AMERICAN POLITICS



September 20, 2024

Overview – By the numbers

1,845 total candidates

(third party candidates excluded)

1,004 Republicans

841 Democrats

Demographics – Gender

WOMEN:

25% of all candidates

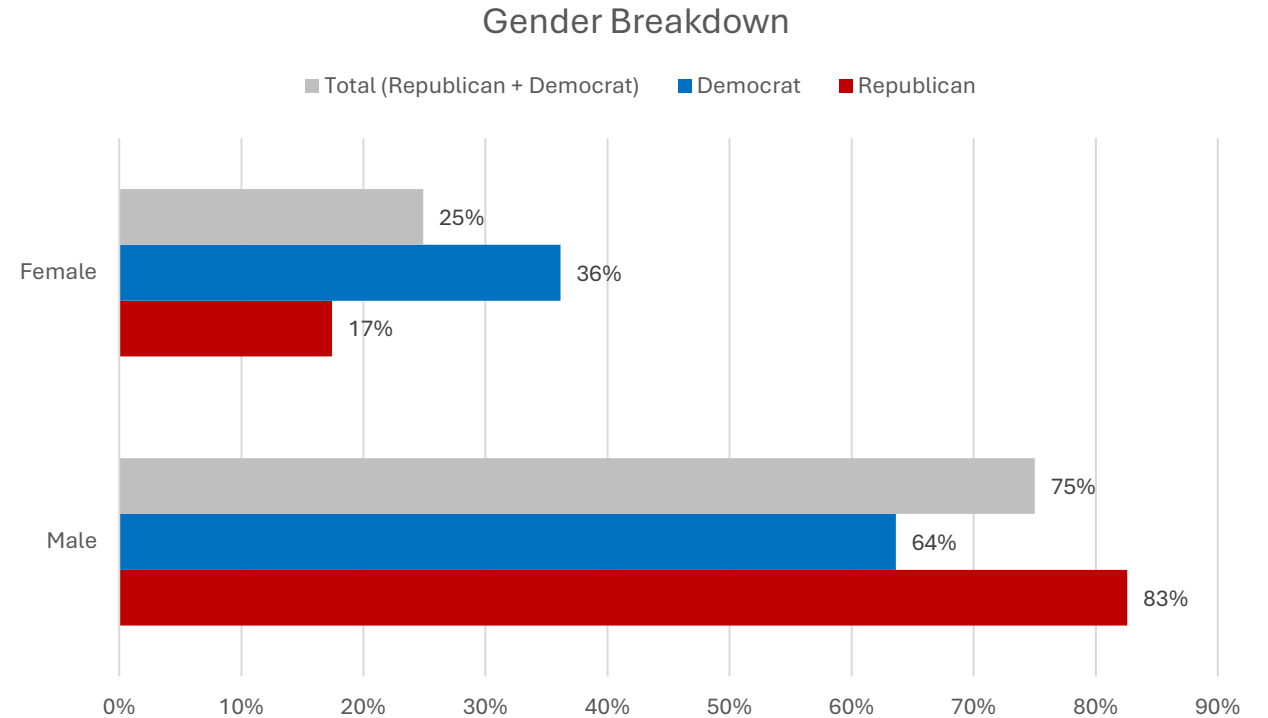
30% of winners

MEN:

75% of all candidates

70% of winners

Figure 1



Demographics – Race and ethnicity



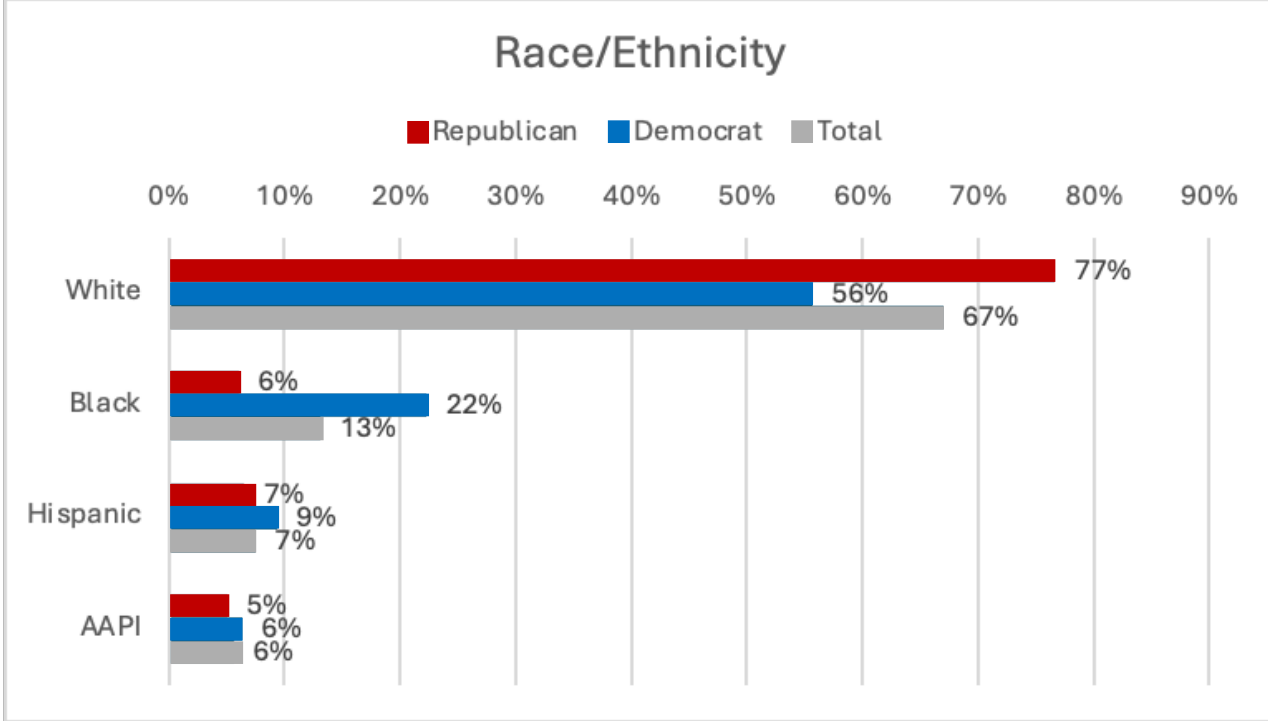
WHITE
CANDIDATES:
67% of total
(70% of winners)

BLACK
CANDIDATES:
13% of total
(11% of winners)

HISPANIC/LATINO
CANDIDATES:
7% of total
(9% of winners)

AAPI
CANDIDATES:
6% of total
(5% of winners)

Figure 2



Ideology – Political identification

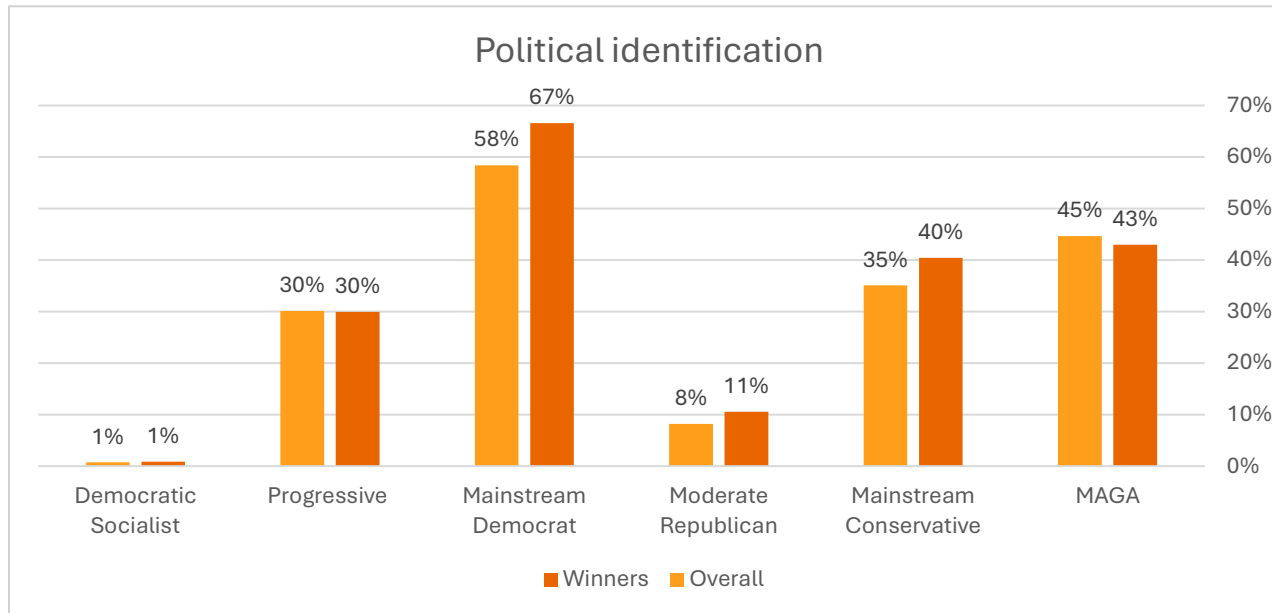
Table 1

Political identification	Number	Percentage of party
MAGA	448	45%
Mainstream Conservative	352	35%
Moderate Republican	82	8%
Mainstream Democrat	491	58%
Progressive	253	30%
Democratic Socialist	6	1%
Insufficient Data-- Republican	122	12%
Insufficient Data-- Democrat	86	10%

Table 2

Political identification of winners	Number	Percentage
MAGA	155	43%
Mainstream Conservative	146	40%
Moderate Republican	38	11%
Mainstream Democrat	227	67%
Progressive	102	30%
Democratic Socialist	3	1%
Insufficient Data-- Republican	22	6%
Insufficient Data-- Democrat	9	3%

Figure 3



Democratic Socialists:

Bianca Von Krieg	CA-11	Lost
Greg Casar	TX-35	Won
D. Liam Dorris	IN-9	Lost
Mckayla Wilkes	MD-5	Lost
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	NY-14	Won
Rashida Tlaib	MI-12	Won

Note: this only includes DSA members running as Democrats; there are also DSA members running in third-party primaries

Issue Mentions – Top issues mentioned

Immigration

75% overall
86% of Republicans
61% of Democrats

Abortion

73% overall
63% of Republicans
84% of Democrats

Guns/Second Amendment

70% overall
69% of Republicans
71% of Democrats

Taxes and regulations

64% overall
71% of Republicans
55% of Democrats

Climate

58% overall
76% of Democrats
43% of Republicans

BY PARTY:

Police/criminal justice reform

57% overall
64% of Republicans
49% of Democrats

Health care

51% overall
30% of Republicans
75% of Democrats

Immigration

Democrats

Table D-10

Immigration	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Close the border	5	1%	0%
Secure the border (e.g. build a wall/arrest and deport)	15	2%	2%
General concern about the border	58	7%	9%
Support comprehensive immigration reform	435	52%	65%
Favors open borders/believes national borders are artificial	3	0%	0%
No mention	325	39%	24%

Candidates who support open borders:

Maebe A. Girl	CA-30
Gary Schuman	MD-3
Ilhan Omar	MN-5

Republicans

Table R-10

Immigration	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Close the border	150	15%	12%
Secure the border (ie. arrest and deport, build a wall)	594	59%	67%
General concern about the border	83	8%	9%
Support comprehensive immigration reform	32	3%	4%
Favors open border / believes borders are artificial	1	0%	0%
No mention	144	14%	8%

Abortion

Democrats

Table D-12

Abortion	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Pro-life with no exceptions (abortion is murder)	1	0%	0%
Pro-life with some exception such as rape or incest/life of mother	5	1%	0%
Pro-life (no elaboration)	14	2%	3%
Pro-choice (no elaboration)	656	78%	88%
Pro-choice with some conditions such as parental consent/no late term	14	2%	1%
Abortion should be allowed in all cases, no restrictions	18	2%	3%
No mention	133	16%	5%

Table D-13

Abortion Laws	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Issue should be left up to the states	5	1%	0%
Should be national law banning abortion	0	0%	0%
Should be national law enshrining right to abortion	454	54%	66%
No mention	382	45%	34%

Republicans

Table R-12

Abortion	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Pro-life with no exceptions	60	6%	6%
Pro-life with some exception	69	7%	9%
Pro-life (no elaboration)	473	47%	56%
Pro-choice (no elaboration)	23	2%	3%
Pro-choice with some conditions	11	1%	1%
Abortion should be allowed in all cases	0	0%	0%
No mention	368	37%	25%

Table R-13

Abortion Laws	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Issue should be left up to the states	149	15%	22%
Should be a national law banning abortion	73	7%	8%
Should be a national law enshrining right to abortion	10	1%	2%
No mention	772	77%	68%

Guns/Second Amendment

Democrats

Table D-14

Guns and Second Amendment	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Strong supporter of right to bear arms and second amendment; opposed to any new gun laws	21	3%	2%
We need stronger gun laws (voted on or supports assault weapons ban, background checks, magazine limits, waiting periods, gun show loopholes and other legislation)	578	69%	80%
No mention	242	29%	18%

Republicans

Table R-14

Guns and Second Amendment	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Strong supporter of right to bear arms and second amendment; opposed to any new gun laws	672	67%	73%
We need stronger gun laws (voted on or supports assault weapons ban, background checks, magazine limits, waiting periods, gun show loopholes and other legislation)	25	2%	3%
No mention	723	31%	24%

Police/Criminal justice reform

Candidates who support defunding the police:

Bianca Von Krieg	CA-11
David Kim	CA-34
Maybe A. Girl	CA-30
Summer Lee	PA-12
Erik Hurt	IN-8
Mckayla Wilkes	MD-5
Steven Henry Seuferer	MD Senate
Patricia Campos-Medina	NJ Senate
Jamaal Bowman	NY-16
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	NY-14
December Harmon	MO Senate
Cori Bush	MO-1
Kevin Rondeau	NH-1

Democrats

Table D-9

Police/Criminal Justice Reform	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Blue lives matter too and/or I support law enforcement	110	13%	17%
Police forces need reform	213	25%	33%
Black Lives Matter	80	10%	15%
Defund the police	13	2%	1%
No mention	425	51%	34%

Republicans

Table R-9

Police/Criminal Justice Reform	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Blue lives matter / I support law enforcement	625	62%	77%
Police forces need reform	21	2%	2%
Black Lives Matter	0	0%	0%
Defund the police	0	0%	0%
No mention	358	36%	21%

Health care

Democrats

Table D-15

Health Care	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Repeal ACA	5	1%	0%
Control Medicare costs/less gov't spending on healthcare	5	1%	0%
Expand, reform, and protect ACA and/or Medicare	369	44%	58%
Medicare for all/single payer/universal healthcare	253	30%	31%
No mention	209	25%	11%

Table D-16

Prescription drug prices	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
The market can lower the cost of prescription drugs	4	0%	1%
Government intervention to control the cost of prescription drugs	475	57%	75%
No mention	362	43%	25%

Republicans

Table R-15

Health Care	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Repeal ACA	73	7%	10%
Control Medicare costs/ less gov't spending on healthcare	178	18%	26%
Expand, reform, and protect ACA and/or Medicare	46	4%	7%
Medicare for all / single payer / universal healthcare	6	1%	1%
No mention	701	70%	56%

Table R-16

Prescription drug prices	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
The market can lower the cost of prescription drugs	112	11%	19%
Government intervention to control the cost of prescription drugs	48	5%	7%
No mention	844	84%	74%

Climate change

Democrats

Table D-22

Climate Change	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Climate Change is a hoax	3	0%	0%
Climate change may exist but addressing it should not be an excuse to ruin our economy	6	1%	2%
General concern for the environment	338	40%	47%
The most pressing challenge before us is climate change (we need to reduce greenhouse gases)	295	35%	37%
No mention	199	24%	15%

Republicans

Table R-22

Climate Change	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Climate change is a hoax	60	6%	7%
Climate change may exist but addressing it should not be an excuse to ruin our economy	254	25%	31%
General concern for the environment	113	11%	18%
The most pressing challenge before us is climate change	5	1%	2%
No mention	572	57%	42%

Foreign policy (Israel, Ukraine)

Democrats

Table D-20

Israel	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Israel is committing genocide and/or the U.S. must stop supporting the war	69	8%	3%
The U.S. should make support for Israel conditional or call for a ceasefire	150	18%	19%
The U.S. should continue to support Israel while also supporting humanitarian aid for Gaza	155	18%	29%
The U.S. must unconditionally support Israel in their war against the terrorist group Hamas	105	13%	16%
No mention	362	43%	34%

Ukraine	Number of candidates	Percentage of Democratic candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Support military and economic development aid for Ukraine	393	47%	68%
Support only military aid	4	0%	0%
Support military aid with conditions	8	1%	0%
End all aid to Ukraine	18	2%	0%
No mention	418	50%	31%

Republicans

Table R-20

Israel	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Israel is committing genocide and / or the U.S. must stop supporting the war	42	4%	3%
The U.S. should make support for Israel conditional or call for a ceasefire	7	1%	1%
The U.S. should continue to support Israel while also supporting humanitarian aid for Gaza	10	1%	1%
The U.S. must unconditionally support Israel in their war against the terrorist group Hamas	487	48%	66%
No mention	458	46%	29%

Ukraine	Number of candidates	Percentage of Republican candidates	Percentage of candidates who won their races
Support military and economic development aid for Ukraine	103	10%	21%
Support only military aid	18	2%	3%
Support military aid with conditions	58	6%	7%
End all aid to Ukraine	291	29%	28%
No mention	534	53%	41%