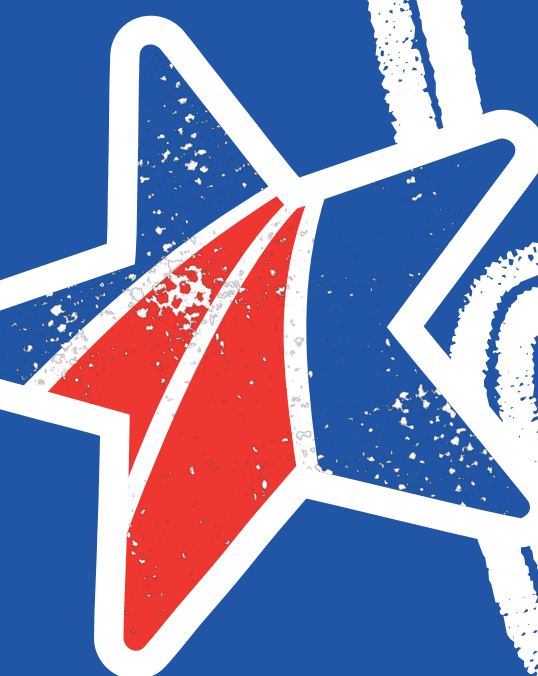


POSTPULSE CHECK



In Service of Our Democracy

Voting Trends and Civic Duty Among Military and Veteran Families

October 2024



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 MORE PERFECT



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Executive Summary

October 2024

“We need to protect our democracy! I fought for my country and what the United States stands for.”
Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

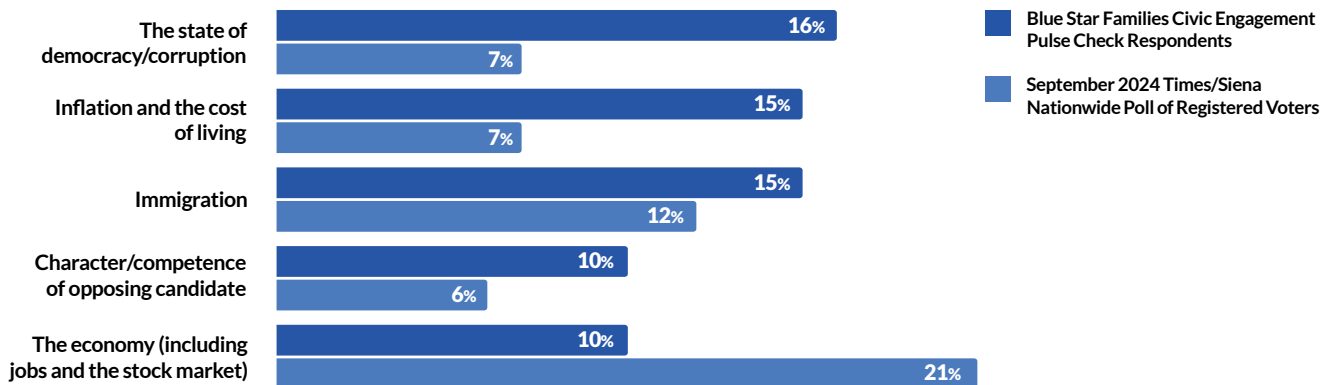
The need to save American democracy and the 2024 presidential election as a means of accomplishing that task has been a consistent refrain across the political spectrum recently.¹ For military and Veteran families, the promise to defend democracy doesn’t end with their or their service member’s military service. Through voting, poll work, and for some, running for political office themselves, military and Veteran families continue to participate in the democratic process outside their military service.

The Presidential Election

Nearly all military-affiliated registered voter respondents (97%, n=2877) indicated they are “almost certain” or “very likely” to vote in the presidential election in November in contrast to 85% of registered voters nationwide.² Emphasizing military and Veteran families’ commitment to putting country first, the most commonly reported main issues impacting respondents’ voting choice is “the state of democracy/corruption (16%),” “inflation and the cost of living” (15%), and “immigration” (15%). Whereas registered voters nationwide indicate “the economy (including jobs and the stock market)” (21%), “abortion” (14%), and “immigration” (12%) as the issue deciding their vote.³

What one issue is most important in deciding your vote this November?

Military- and Veteran-affiliated registered voters (n=2,780)



¹ Swenson, A., & Sanders, L. (2024, August 8). Majority of US adults say democracy is on the ballot but they differ on the threat: AP-NORC poll . The Associated Press. <https://www.ap.org/news-highlights/spotlights/2024/majority-of-us-adults-say-democracy-is-on-the-ballot-but-they-differ-on-the-threat-ap-norc-poll>

² Toplines: July 2024 Times/Siena poll of registered voters nationwide. (2024, July 3). The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/07/03/us/elections/times-siena-poll-toplines.html>

³ Ibid



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Importance of Voting

For respondents, voting is important not only as a civic duty but also as a way to guide the direction of the country or their local community, and is the way to have their voice be heard. The overwhelming majority of military-affiliated respondents (93%) report that voting can influence the direction of the country “some” or “a lot.”

Why, if at all, is voting important to you?

“To squander the privilege would dishonor the many who have sacrificed so much to guarantee the right.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

“I have children and grandchildren that deserve a better chance at the American dream than I had and the only way to guarantee that is to be an active citizen. Voting is not a privilege, it is a right and a responsibility that is too often overlooked by the masses. If you don’t vote, you shouldn’t be complaining, you had your chance.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

Election Safety

Aligning with Americans overall,⁴ the majority (69%) of military-affiliated registered voter respondents report feeling that elections are safe and confidential where they vote. Concerns related to the casting, collection, and counting of ballots are present regardless of feelings on election safety, though at disparate rates. Nearly all (95%) of the respondents who feel that elections are not safe and confidential report being “somewhat concerned” or “very concerned” about “biased or inaccurate counting of ballots,” in comparison to 58% of their counterparts who feel elections are safe and confidential.

Poll Work

Poll work, like military service, may be a family tradition. The presence of Veterans and military-affiliated individuals at the polls increases confidence in the security of the election. Nearly half (43%) of the respondents who are

1 in 5 (21%)
respondents have served
as a poll worker.

⁴ Allen, J., Harbath, K., Orey, R., & Sanchez, T. (2024, February 26). Who voters trust for election information in 2024 | Bipartisan Policy Center. [Bipartisanpolicy.org. https://bipartisanpolicy.org/explainer/who-voters-trust-election-information-2024](https://bipartisanpolicy.org/explainer/who-voters-trust-election-information-2024)



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unsure if elections are safe or do not think elections are safe indicated that having Veterans or military-connected individuals working the polls would change their opinion.

For those that have previously served or will serve in November as poll workers, “patriotism” (39%), “civic duty” (24%), and “a desire to gain a better understanding of the election process/ensure an honest election process” (15%) were the most commonly reported reasons behind that service.

What role, if any, does patriotism play in your decision to be a poll worker?

“It does because I want people to feel their votes are valued and necessary even if their beliefs are different from mine.”
Spouse of a Veteran

“I have devoted my adult life to service of my country. I am about to retire from military service. My oath to the Constitution does not expire.”
National Guard Service Member

Likelihood to Recommend Service

One-quarter of respondents indicate that the outcome of the election selecting the next commander-in-chief would impact their likelihood to recommend military service, but the majority of respondents (60%) would recommend service regardless of election outcome.

“I care deeply about who our commander-in-chief will be. The direct ramifications on my husband’s job is very clear.”
Spouse of an Active-Duty Service Member



Introduction

This election season will determine not only the next president of the United States, but also more than half of the seats in the United States Senate, all of the seats in the House of Representatives,⁵ and numerous state and local level races. Despite the importance of this election in all levels of government, the country is faced with voter apathy,⁶ changing voting regulations that may disenfranchise intended voters,⁷ and declining numbers of volunteers to work polling locations on Election Day.⁸ As such, Americans are being inundated with political messaging and appeals for their support at all levels of the voting process.

Because military- and Veteran-affiliated families are a large, diverse, and politically influential population who often share a desire to uphold the ideals of American democracy, and given that Veterans vote at higher rates than non-Veterans,⁹ the thoughts and motivations of this group are particularly important in the approach to Election Day. This Pulse Check explores the ways the military- and Veteran-affiliated families, who are registered to vote, plan to be civically engaged this election season, and examines their perspectives on many of the critical topics in election discourse today.

Key Findings

Voter Registration

While the majority 97% (n=3,021) of military-affiliated respondents report being registered to vote, those who were not registered indicated “I don’t think my one vote will make a difference in the outcome” (17%) and “I do not know where to register to vote” (11%) as the main reasons for not being registered. Most military- and Veteran-affiliated respondents who are registered to vote confirm their voter registration in advance of elections, but 1 in 5 (21%) have never checked their voter registration, which could be a concern in this election season if voter regulations change. However, the majority (86%) of respondents know how to change their voter registration if they would need to do so.

The majority (72%) of respondents report they are a member of one of the two major U.S. political parties (Democratic or Republican). This is slightly higher than the proportion of registered voters who report a partisan affiliation historically (65%).

⁵ United States Congress elections, 2024. (n.d.). Ballotpedia. https://ballotpedia.org/United_States_Congress_elections,_2024

⁶ Thomson-DeVeaux, A., Mithani, J., & Bronner, L. (2020, October 26). Why millions of Americans don't vote. FiveThirtyEight. <https://projects.fivethirtyeight.com/non-voters-poll-2020-election/>

⁷ Taylor, D. (2024, August 16). New laws restrict voter access, disenfranchise thousands in swing states. USA TODAY. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2024/08/16/laws-restrict-voter-access-the-excerpt/74832360007/>

⁸ Timm, J. C. (2024, April 9). Election worker turnover has reached historic highs ahead of the 2024 vote, new data shows. NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/elections/election-worker-turnover-historic-high-2024-vote-rcna145833>

⁹ Marvin, C., Blossoms, C., Bruggeman, M. B., Butler, J., Coates, J., & Thaxton, S. (2021). Defining our future leaders | The civic health of Post-9/11 Veterans. In National Conference of Citizenship. <https://ncoc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2021-Veterans-CHI-FINAL.pdf>

¹⁰ Respondents who indicated they were not registered to vote were asked “Why are you not registered to vote” and then exited the survey.



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The Importance of Voting

Voting has not always been a default right of all citizens. The 15th, 19th, and 24th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965, each came about as the result of decades of work and advocacy on behalf of disenfranchised groups.

“I stood behind my mother as she was asked “How many gumballs are in this jar?” She did not know the answer and was denied the right to vote. I have voted every election since I was 18 years old. I even took my children to the polls. Now they vote every election.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

Military- and Veteran-affiliated respondents were asked to explain why, if at all, voting was important to them. Three central themes emerged from the open-ended responses. Voting is foremost a “civic duty” (33%), is how respondents “guide the direction of the country or community/influence policy” (33%), and is how they “share their voice/stand up for their beliefs” (24%).

¹¹ Changes in 2024 to laws governing ballot measures. (2024, August 26). Ballotpedia. https://ballotpedia.org/Changes_in_2024_to_laws_governing_ballot_measures

¹² Question text: In politics today, are you a member of one of the two major U.S. political parties (Democratic or Republican)? Answer options: Yes, No.

¹³ Pew Research Center. (2024). Party affiliation and ideology of American voters. <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/04/09/the-partisanship-and-ideology-of-american-voters>

¹⁴ U.S. Const. Amend. XV

¹⁵ U.S. Const. Amend. IX

¹⁶ U.S. Const. Amend. XXIV

¹⁷ The Voting Rights Act, Pub. L. No. 89-110. 79 Stat. 437. (1965). <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/voting-rights-act>



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Civic Duty

“Voting for me is important because it is our civic duty. As a Black veteran in the United States it is my responsibility to myself, my family and to this country to voice my opinion in a way that may or may not cause change but should open eyes.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

“Democracy! Spent 23 years ready to put everything on the line for it. I feel voting is part of the payback to what this form of government has given me for the past 71 years.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

“It’s probably the single most important right you have as a American citizen.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

“If we act like voting doesn’t matter, then the people elected into office will act like civilians don’t matter.”

Active-Duty Service Member

“Democracy demands participation to work effectively.”

Spouse of a Veteran



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Guide Direction of Country or Community/Influence Policy

“Our leaders need to be chosen and it [is] our duty to pick the best ones for our local, city, state and federal. Think it the duty of every American citizen.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

“It is our duty to vote. We determine the course of this nation by our vote so it is of utmost importance in order to ensure we have a democracy in the future.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member/Military Parent/Military Child

“We must exercise our right to vote. It is our chance to affect how our country is run. And since so few of us do vote, my vote counts a lot.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member/Military Parent/Military Child

“It allows me to participate in how our City, State, and Federal Governments are run. My vote is one of millions, but voting at least allows me to exercise my conscience.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

“Because if I complain about policy I don’t agree with and don’t vote, then I might as well be in agreeance with the policies.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member



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Share Their Voices/Stand Up For Their Beliefs

“I believe it’s both my duty and honor to vote. If I want to live in a society that lines up with my ideals, I will vote for those who can make it happen.”

Spouse of a Veteran/Military Parent

“It’s the cornerstone of our democracy. Probably the reason that every veteran I know served. Without making our voices heard, we abdicate our responsibility to our families, our neighbors, and our future.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

“To me it is important to exercise my right to have my vote heard. This election is one of the most important elections in the history of the U.S. It is my honor and privilege to vote.”

Spouse of an Active-Duty Service Member

“Regardless of my chosen candidates’ chances of winning, it is my opportunity to speak up and declare what is important to me - my values, opinions, and desires for the future of my country, state, and local area.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

“It is my right, my civic duty. Women fought for my right to vote. It is my duty as a female citizen of the U.S. and a mother of a service member to know the issues and candidates and vote for the ones that best represent my values.”

Military Parent



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Voting's Influence on the Direction of the Country

Military-affiliated respondents overwhelmingly believe in the power of voting to change the course of the country, more than their civilian counterparts. Ninety-three percent of respondents indicated that they feel voting can influence the direction of the country “some” or “a lot.” The Pew Research American Trends Panel¹⁸ asked this question in July 2023 and found that only 56% of registered voters felt the same. Additionally, a greater proportion of respondents who reported being a member of one of the two major U.S. political parties (95%) felt this way in comparison to their non-party affiliated counterparts (88%).

“I didn’t use to think it was important to vote. My voice didn’t feel like it mattered. Then I realized, imagine if EVERYONE took that same stance. It would be the end of our democratic process. I have to do my part to ensure it remains our right to be a part of the process.”

Spouse of an Active-Duty Service Member

“Voting is so important for change and growth for our communities to our whole country. You hope that by voting your concerns will be addressed by your candidate of choice.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

Poll Work

Poll work, like military service, may be a family tradition. One in 5 (20%) military-affiliated respondents has served as a poll worker in comparison to 12% of Americans overall.¹⁹ Of those that have served as a poll worker, 53% are currently scheduled to work the polls in November, and 47% have done so previously but are not scheduled for this upcoming election. Continuing the tradition of public service, nearly 1 in 5 (17%) of respondents who have served or will serve as a poll worker themselves report also having a family member who is a poll worker in contrast to just 7% of respondents who have never served as a poll worker.

“I have been a [redacted] County Election Judge for two years. Voting has always been a must for me and my family taught to me by my Mother and Father, and their heritage for four American generations.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

¹⁸ Pew Research Center. (2023). 2023 Pew Research Center's American trends panel | Wave 129 June 2023. https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/09/PP_2023.09.19_views-of-politics_TOPLINE.pdf

¹⁹ McKown-Dawson, E. (2022, November 2). Assessing Americans' attitudes about poll workers prior to the 2022 election. Yougov.com. <https://today.yougov.com/politics/articles/44267-american-opinion-poll-workers-election-2022>



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Likelihood to Vote in Upcoming Election

Nearly all (97%, n=2,877) of military-affiliated registered voter respondents report they are “almost certain” or “very likely” to vote in the presidential election in November in contrast to 80% of registered voters nationwide.²⁰ While respondents report a high likelihood to vote, their chosen method of voting varies with 36% planning to vote “in person, early voting,” 32% planning for “in person, on Election Day,” 22% by “mail-in ballot, not absentee,” and 9% “by absentee ballot.”

“Voting makes a difference. People don’t think so, but it does. If you don’t vote, then you really don’t have a voice [and therefore] you can’t complain about anything. You can’t really ask for anything because you didn’t have a voice in who you want to win in the election.”

Spouse of an Active-Duty Service Member who is planning to vote by mail-in ballot, not absentee

“[Voting is] a civic duty. Can’t complain about people in office if you don’t bother to vote.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member and Spouse of a Veteran who is planning to vote in person, on Election Day

“I believe each person’s vote is important and it’s a civic duty. As a woman, I take advantage of something that was not always afforded to women.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member and Gold Star Spouse or other Gold Star Family Member who is planning to vote in person, early voting.

“Voting is important to me because as a military spouse and member of a military family, I want to ensure that whoever is elected has our best interests at heart.”

Spouse of an Active-Duty Service Member who is planning to vote by absentee ballot

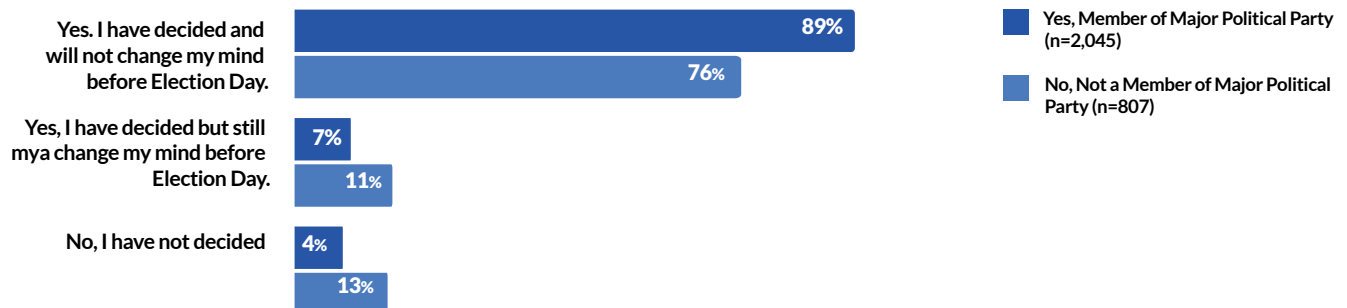


The Presidential Election

The majority (79%) of respondents report they are paying “a lot” of attention to the upcoming presidential election in comparison to just 57% of registered voters in a July 2024 Siena Poll.²¹ While most respondents are paying close attention, just over one-half (58%) of respondents are “fairly satisfied” or “very satisfied” with the candidates. However a greater proportion of male respondents (62%) report being satisfied than female respondents (55%). Similarly, the majority (86%) of respondents report that they have decided who they are voting for and will not change their mind before Election Day, while 8% of respondents report that they “have decided but still may change my mind before Election Day,” and 7% report “I have not decided.” (See Figure 1) A larger portion of female respondents (9%) remain undecided in comparison to only 5% of their male counterparts, and a greater proportion of respondents who report being a member of one of the two major U.S. political parties (89%) have decided on who they will be voting for in comparison to 76% of their counterparts who are not major party affiliated.

Fig. 1 Have Decided Who I am Voting For by Membership in Major U.S. Political Party

Military- and Veteran-affiliated registered voters (n=2,825)



Election Concerns

Concerns about disinformation and fake news are pervasive. Ninety-one percent of respondents are “very concerned” or “somewhat concerned” about “Inaccurate or misleading information about elections.” This is notably higher than the 72% of adults who shared this level of concern in a December 2023 national survey conducted on behalf of the Bipartisan Policy Center. Attempts by foreign actors to interfere in the U.S. democratic process were highlighted in both the 2016 and 2020 elections and concerns about new and similar tactics persist today.

²² Allen, J., Harbath, K., Orey, R., & Sanchez, T. (2024, February 26). Who voters trust for election information in 2024 | Bipartisan Policy Center. [Bipartisanpolicy.org](https://bipartisanpolicy.org/explainer/who-voters-trust-election-information-2024/). <https://bipartisanpolicy.org/explainer/who-voters-trust-election-information-2024/>

²³ Select Committee on Intelligence United States Senate. (2020). Russian active measures campaigns and interference in the 2016 U.S. election | Volume 2: Russia’s use of social media. In [intelligence.senate.gov](https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Report_Volume2.pdf). https://www.intelligence.senate.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Report_Volume2.pdf

²⁴ Department of Justice, & Department of Homeland Security. (2021). Key findings and recommendations | foreign interference targeting election infrastructure or political organization, campaign, or candidate infrastructure related to the 2020 US related to the 2020 US Federal Elections. In [dhs.gov](https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_0311_key-findings-and-recommendations-related-to-2020-elections_1.pdf). https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/21_0311_key-findings-and-recommendations-related-to-2020-elections_1.pdf

²⁵ De Luc, D. (2024, June 13). U.S. officials say intel agencies are ready to warn the public over foreign election interference. NBC News. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/us-spy-agencies-are-ready-warn-voters-foreign-election-interference-rcna156895>



The majority of respondents (87%) report they are “very concerned” or “somewhat concerned” about “interference from foreign entities (including countries).”

The peaceful transfer of power is the bedrock of U.S. democracy. Following the events of January 6, 2021, the majority of respondents report concerns about acceptance of the results. Among respondents:

81% are “very concerned” or “somewhat concerned” about “attempts to overturn the results of a fair election”

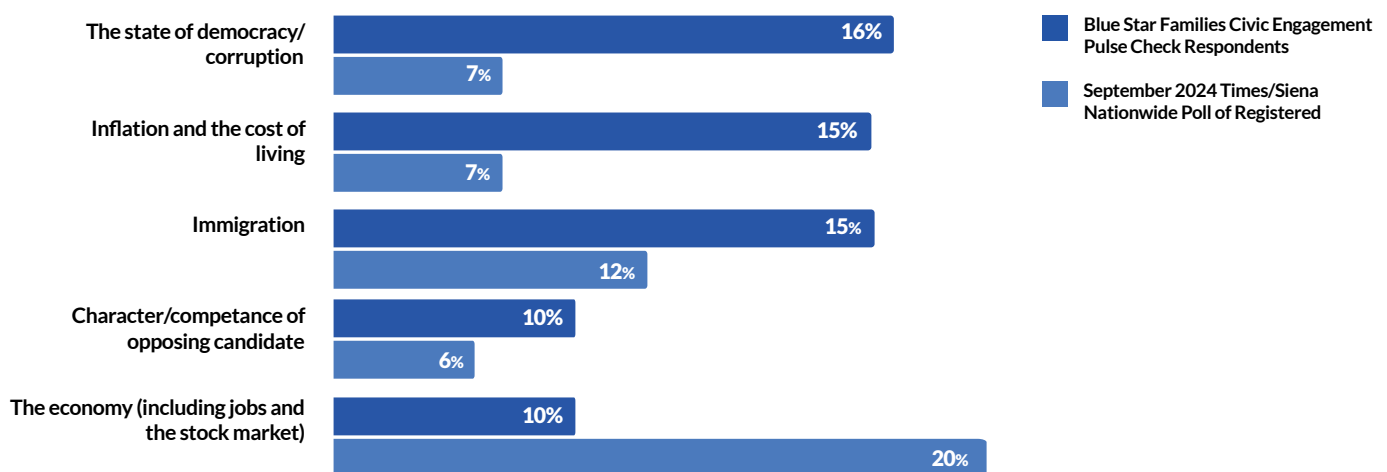
84% are “very concerned” or “somewhat concerned” about “violence or civil unrest after Election Day”

Most Important Issue Deciding Vote

Defending American democracy is a lifelong commitment for military families. The most commonly reported main issue impacting respondents’ voting choice is “the state of democracy/corruption” (16%), followed by “inflation and the cost of living” (15%), “immigration” (15%), and “character/competence of opposing candidate”(10%).

Fig.2 What One Issue is Most Important in Deciding Your Vote This November

Military- and Veteran-affiliated registered voters (n=2,780)





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Election Safety

While most respondents already feel elections are safe and confidential, especially those who have volunteered as poll workers, those who don't would change their opinion if they knew Veterans and military-affiliated individuals were working polls. More than two-thirds (69%) of respondents report feeling that elections are safe and confidential where they vote. A greater proportion of respondents who have experienced working the polls (75%) feel that elections are safe and confidential in comparison to 68% of respondents who have never worked the polls themselves. For those who answered "no" or "unsure" with regards to election safety, 44% said having Veterans or military-connected individuals working the polls would change their opinion.

What role, if any, does patriotism play in your decision to be a poll worker?

"A lot — I feel I'm serving my country and my community when I work at the polling place. My favorite part is seeing and congratulating the first-time voters. Plus, I see firsthand the safeguards in place to ensure the integrity of the voting process so I can emphatically refute anyone who cries fraud."

Spouse of a Veteran

"More of a moral decision, doing my part to sustain the integrity of the polling place."

Spouse of a Veteran

Despite a majority of respondents feeling elections are safe and confidential, concerns related to the casting, collection, and counting of ballots exist. Overall, one-third of respondents had no concerns about biased or inaccurate counting of ballots (31%), illegal or improper use of mail-in ballots or drop boxes (32%), or counting of ineligible votes (34%). A greater proportion of respondents who feel that elections are not safe and confidential report being "somewhat concerned" or "very concerned," regardless of specific concern, in comparison to their counterparts who feel elections are safe and confidential.

¹⁸ Pew Research Center. (2023). 2023 Pew Research Center's American trends panel | Wave 129 June 2023. https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/2023/09/PP_2023.09.19_views-of-politics_TOPLINE.pdf

¹⁹ McKown-Dawson, E. (2022, November 2). Assessing Americans' attitudes about poll workers prior to the 2022 election. Yougov.com. <https://today.yougov.com/politics/articles/44267-american-opinion-poll-workers-election-2022>



Table 1. Proportion Who are Concerned About Biased or Inaccurate Counting of Ballots by Belief that Elections are Safe and Confidential
Military- and Veteran-Affiliated Registered Voters

	Work full time (35 or more hours per week) (n=634)	Work part time (fewer than 35 hours per week) (n=346)	Unemployed* (n=279)
Yes, elections are safe and confidential (n=1,928)	28%	30%	42%
No, elections are not safe and confidential (n=333)	83%	12%	5%
Unsure if elections are safe and confidential (n=517)	58%	36%	6%

Table 2. Proportion Who are Concerned About Illegal or Improper Use of Mail-In Ballots or Drop Boxes by Belief that Elections are Safe and Confidential
Military- and Veteran-Affiliated Registered Voters

	Work full time (35 or more hours per week) (n=634)	Work part time (fewer than 35 hours per week) (n=346)	Unemployed* (n=279)
Yes, elections are safe and confidential (n=1,928)	33%	24%	43%
No, elections are not safe and confidential (n=333)	86%	8%	5%
Unsure if elections are safe and confidential (n=517)	68%	22%	10%



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Table 3. Proportion Who are Concerned About Counting Ineligible Votes by Belief that Elections are Safe and Confidential
Military- and Veteran-Affiliated Registered Voters

	Work full time (35 or more hours per week) (n=634)	Work part time (fewer than 35 hours per week) (n=346)	Unemployed* (n=279)
Yes, elections are safe and confidential (n=1,928)	34%	22%	44%
No, elections are not safe and confidential (n=333)	87%	6%	7%
Unsure if elections are safe and confidential (n=517)	70%	19%	11%

Additionally, greater than one-half (58%) of respondents say they are “somewhat concerned” or “very concerned” by the presence of guns, violence, or intimidation at voting locations. For respondents who report they are scheduled to work the polls this coming November, 62% are “somewhat concerned” or “very concerned.”

“[I work the polls] to make sure no one intimidates or threatens voters and they have a stress free vote.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

²⁰ Toplines: July 2024 Times/Siena poll of registered voters nationwide. (2024, July 3). The New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/07/03/us/elections/times-siena-poll-toplines.html>



Likelihood to Recommend Service

Who is selected as the next commander-in-chief is something that some respondents say impacts their likelihood to recommend service. More than half of respondents (60%) “**would recommend** military service regardless of who wins,” 15% **would not** recommend military service regardless of who wins, and 1 in 4 (26%) “**would recommend** military service only if my preferred candidate wins.”

“... We are voting for the next commander-in-chief for our military son.”

Military Parent

“It [voting] is my civic duty as a legal citizen of this Constitutional Representative Republic of the United States of America. As a Veteran, I can only defend the Constitution and support selection of the most capable and qualified president and commander-in-chief of the present armed forces.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

“It’s [voting] a civic responsibility! My Oath of Office further requires my participation to select those who would declare war and the selection of my commander-in-chief.”

Veteran and/or Retired Service Member

Running for Political Office

While only 1% of the population will ever serve in the military,²⁶ similarly low rates of individuals ever run for any political office.²⁷ The majority (69%) of respondents indicated “no, they have not considered running,” 27% indicated some level of interest in running for elected office, 3% have run for office in the past, and less than 0.6% have considered and have taken steps to run or are currently running for office. A greater proportion of respondents who have served or will serve as a poll worker (40%) indicated they have considered running for office, have taken steps to run, or have run in the past in comparison to 29% of respondents who had never served as a poll worker.

¹⁸ Ferdinando, L. (2018, June 29). Vice Chairman salutes the 1 percent of population that serves. U.S. Department of Defense. <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/1563848/vice-chairman-salutes-the-1-percent-of-population-that-serves/>

²⁷ Motel, S. (2024). Who runs for office? A profile of the 2%. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/04/09/the-partisanship-and-ideology-of-american-voters/>



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Respondents and Methodology

This survey, fielding August 1 – 12, 2024, captured the responses of a convenience sample of 3,184 respondents who most commonly identified as a Veteran and/or retired service member (72%), spouse of an active-duty service member (11%), and spouse of a Veteran (11%). Respondents were required to be at least 18 years of age in order to participate and therefore were asked to identify their age grouping. Respondents reported their age as being 70-79 (25%), 60-69 (25%), 50-59 (17%), 40-49 (15%), 30-39 (10%), 80+ (6%), and 18-29 (1%). Responses were received from all 50 states, most commonly Texas (10%), Florida (9%), California (8%), Virginia (7%), North Carolina (6%), Georgia (4%), and Arizona (4%), in addition to the District of Columbia (<1%), and from respondents currently residing “outside of the country” (<1%).

Limitations

This poll is not generalizable to any portion of the military-connected population due to convenience sampling methodology. This survey was fielded in partnership with We the Veterans and Vet the Vote, organizations aimed at increasing military and Veteran participation in the democratic process. As a result, survey respondents may be more engaged in civic participation, more likely to participate in poll work, or have stronger views on voting and civic participation than other groups. Comparisons to nationally representative polls are for illustrative purposes only and should not be considered a direct one to one comparison.

¹⁸ Ferdinando, L. (2018, June 29). Vice Chairman salutes the 1 percent of population that serves. U.S. Department of Defense. <https://www.defense.gov/News/News-Stories/Article/Article/1563848/vice-chairman-salutes-the-1-percent-of-population-that-serves/>

²⁷ Motel, S. (2024). Who runs for office? A profile of the 2%. Pew Research Center. <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2024/04/09/the-partisanship-and-ideology-of-american-voters/>