

Marquette University: New Marquette Law School poll finds Trump and DeSantis drawing similar support, but each trailing Biden in possible 2024 presidential matchups; election confidence, COVID topics also surveyed

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MILWAUKEE —A Marquette Law School Poll survey of adults nationwide finds that Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and former President Donald Trump run equally well against Democratic President Joe Biden in hypothetical 2024 matchups, although Biden leads both Republicans.

In a head-to-head matchup, DeSantis is supported by 33%, while Biden is supported by 41%. A substantial 18% say they would support someone else, and 8% say they would not vote. In a Trump versus Biden rematch, Trump receives 33% to Biden's 43%, with 16% preferring someone else and 6% saying they would not vote.

The survey was conducted Jan. 10-21, 2022, interviewing 1000 adults nationwide, with a margin of error of +/-4 percentage points.

While the election is substantially into the future, these results show that while Trump remains popular among Republican voters, another GOP candidate performs at least as well against Biden. There are similar patterns of support for both Republicans by party identification, as shown in Tables 1 and 2. In both pairings

against Biden, there are significant percentages of all partisan categories saying they prefer someone else, not in the pairing, or wouldn't vote. This is especially pronounced among independents.

Table 1: DeSantis vs. Biden, by party identification, Jan. 2022

Party ID	Ron DeSantis	Joe Biden	Someone else	Wouldn't vote
Republican	81	4	11	3
Lean Republican	73	2	19	5
Independent	19	23	32	25
Lean Democrat	4	71	20	5
Democrat	1	82	13	4

Table 2: Trump vs. Biden, by party identification, Jan. 2022

Party ID	Donald Trump	Joe Biden	Someone else	Wouldn't vote
Republican	77	6	16	1
Lean Republican	75	4	19	2
Independent	28	26	23	22
Lean Democrat	4	74	19	3
Democrat	1	84	11	4

A majority of Republicans, 63%, would like to see Trump run for president in 2024, whereas 37% do not want him to run. Among independents who lean Republican, 51% would like Trump to run and 49% would prefer he not run. Very few Democrats wish him to run. Among all adults in the survey, 29% would like Trump to seek the presidency again, while 71% do not want him to attempt a return to office. The full results by party are in Table 3.

Table 3: Like to see Trump run in 2024, by party identification, Jan. 2022

Party ID	Yes	No
Republican	63	37
Lean Republican	51	49
Independent	31	67
Lean Democrat	5	95

Democrat 3 97

Favorability to DeSantis, Trump and Pence

DeSantis is much less well known than Trump. For DeSantis, 44% of all respondents say they haven't heard enough to have an opinion, while 22% have a favorable view and 34% have an unfavorable opinion. For Trump, only 1% lack an opinion, whereas 32% hold a favorable view and 67% view him unfavorably.

Former Vice President Mike Pence is better known than DeSantis, with just 17% saying they don't know enough about him, while 28% have a favorable view and 55% have an unfavorable view.

Favorability toward DeSantis, Trump, and Pence differs dramatically by party, as shown in Tables 4, 5, and 6.

Table 4: DeSantis favorability, by party identification, Jan. 2022

Party ID	Favorable opinion	Unfavorable opinion	Haven't heard enough
Republican	52	11	38
Lean Republican	54	12	34
Independent	6	28	64
Lean Democrat	4	50	46
Democrat	4	56	40

Table 5: Trump favorability, by party identification, Jan. 2022

Party ID	Favorable opinion	Unfavorable opinion	Haven't heard enough
Republican	74	25	1
Lean Republican	66	34	0
Independent	26	68	4
Lean Democrat	2	98	0
Democrat	4	95	1

Table 6: Pence favorability, by party identification, Jan. 2022

Party ID	Favorable opinion	Unfavorable opinion	Haven't heard enough
Republican	59	31	10
Lean Republican	45	36	18
Independent	17	43	38
Lean Democrat	9	76	14
Democrat	12	77	12

Republicans remain doubtful of the outcome of the 2020 presidential election. Among Republicans and independents who lean Republican combined, 27% are very or somewhat confident that the votes were accurately cast and counted, while 73% are not too confident or not at all confident in the accuracy of the election vote totals. The divide is sharply partisan, as shown in Table 7, with over 90% of Democrats and of Democratic leaning independents confident in the election and 60% of independents with no partisan leaning expressing confidence in the election result.

Table 7: Confidence in accuracy of the 2020 election, by party identification, Jan. 2022

Party ID	Confident	Not confident
Republican	27	73
Lean Republican	29	71
Independent	60	39
Lean Democrat	95	5
Democrat	98	2

Favorability to Trump, Pence, and DeSantis varies among Republicans depending on their confidence in the election. Views of Trump are most strongly associated with election confidence as shown in Table 8.

Table 8: Trump favorability, by confidence in the accuracy of the 2020 election, among Republicans and independents who lean Republican, Jan. 2022

Confident in 2020 election	Favorable opinion	Unfavorable opinion	Haven't heard enough
Confident	29	69	1

Not confident	88	11	1
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Favorability toward Pence is not linked to election confidence, unlike Trump. Table 9 shows Pence favorability by confidence in the election among Republicans and those who lean Republican.

Table 9: Pence favorability, by confidence in the accuracy of the 2020 election, among Republicans and independents who lean Republican, Jan. 2022

Confident in 2020 election	Favorable opinion	Unfavorable opinion	Haven't heard enough
Confident	54	33	13
Not confident	55	32	12

As with Trump but unlike the case with Pence, favorability to DeSantis is strongly associated with confidence in the election, although a high percentage of those Republicans and Republican leaners who are confident in the election say they haven't heard enough to have an opinion of DeSantis. Table 10 shows favorability for DeSantis by election confidence.

Table 10: DeSantis favorability, by confidence in the accuracy of the 2020 election, among Republicans and independents who lean Republican, Jan. 2022

Confident in 2020 election	Favorable opinion	Unfavorable opinion	Haven't heard enough
Confident	25	27	48
Not confident	62	5	33

Biden approval rating

Biden's job approval rating has declined since July. In January, 46% approved and 53% disapproved of how he is handling his job as president, down from 58% approval and 42% disapproval in July. The trend in Biden's approval rating is shown in Table 11.

Table 11: Approve or disapprove of Biden's handling of his job, July 2021-January 2022

Poll dates Approve Disapprove

7/16-26/21	58	42
9/7-16/21	48	52
11/1-10/21	49	51
1/10-21/22	46	