

To: GLAAD  
 From: Pathfinder Opinion Research  
 Date: November 29, 2022  
 Re: Nationwide Survey of LGBTQ Adults

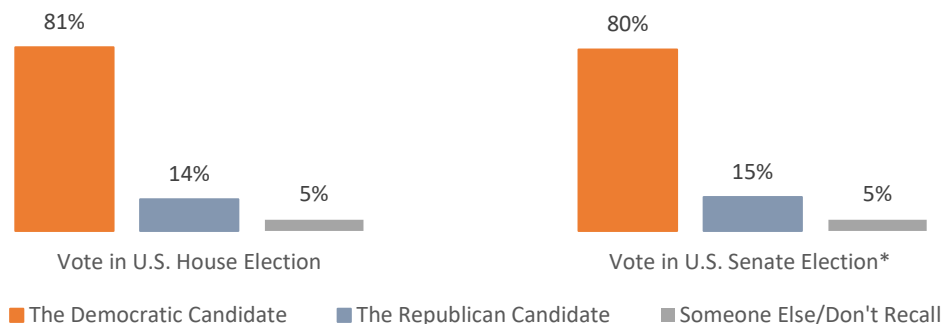
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Recent survey results show the considerable impact of LGBTQ voters on the recent mid-term election and suggest that turnout among these voters contributed significantly to Democratic performance nationwide and in key U.S. Senate races.

LGBTQ turnout was largely motivated by the desire to restore and protect basic human rights – rights like marriage equality and the right to a safe, legal abortion. With Republicans set to control the House of Representatives in the next Congress, LGBTQ Americans consider it “absolutely essential” that Democrats pass legislation protecting these rights this year.

**LGBTQ voters turned out in big numbers in the recent midterm election, contributing to Democratic performance nationwide and in key battleground U.S. Senate races.**

- Nearly nine-in-ten (87%) LGBTQ adults in the United States indicate they are registered to vote. Of these registered voters, 82% affirm they voted in the recent midterm election.
- Using a [potentially conservative estimate](#) of at least 20 million LGBTQ adults living in the United States, these survey results suggest that there are more than 17 million registered LGBTQ voters in the country, and that more than 14 million LGBTQ voters turned out in the recent midterm election.
- Among the LGBTQ voters in the recent midterm, 12% say it was their first time ever voting. This suggests nearly 2 million new LGBTQ voters participated in the midterm election.
- LGBTQ voters heavily supported Democratic candidates in U.S. House and Senate races. Eight-in-ten (81%) say they voted for the Democratic candidate for U.S. House in their district. Similarly, 80% of LGBTQ voters in ten battleground U.S. Senate states say they voted for the Democratic candidate in their Senate race.



\*Senate vote choice was asked of voters in AZ, CO, FL, GA, NC, NH, NV, OH, PA, and WI (n=200)

**Most LGBTQ voters who turned out in the midterm election say they primarily participated to protect basic human rights -- including protecting LGBTQ rights and restoring abortion rights.**

- Nearly two-thirds (63%) say *restoring abortion rights* is “one of the most important issues” to their personal decision to turn out and vote in the midterm election. Similarly, more than half (55%) say *protecting LGBTQ equality* is “one of the most important issues” to their decision to participate in the midterm.

*How important were the following issues to your personal decision to turn out and vote in the recent midterm election – one of the most important issues, a very important issue, a somewhat important issue, not too important of an issue, or not an important issue at all?*

	One of the most important issues	A very important issue	One of the most important + A very important
Restoring abortion rights	63%	21%	84%
Protecting LGBTQ rights	55%	28%	83%
Protecting democracy	47%	32%	79%
Defeating political extremists	42%	31%	73%
Addressing inflation	39%	39%	78%
Addressing climate change	39%	34%	73%
Implementing gun reform	37%	35%	72%
Cancelling student loan debt	15%	36%	51%

- LGBTQ Americans believe these rights remain at risk, with most saying that legislation targeting abortion and transgender rights is likely to continue over the next two years. Eight-in-ten (80%) say it’s likely that “*legislation targeting transgender Americans will increase in Congress, state legislatures, and school boards*” over the next two years, while 82% say it’s likely that “*restrictions on abortion will further increase in many states*”.
- Among the LGBTQ Americans who did not vote in the midterm election, one-in-five (22%) selected, “*I don’t think my vote matters*” as a reason for not turning out, while the same percentage (22%) selected, “*I was dissatisfied with my choice of candidates*”.

**LGBTQ Americans expect a Democratic-controlled Congress to provide federal protections for abortion and LGBTQ rights while they remain in control of both chambers – and whether they do may impact the intensity of LGBTQ turnout in 2024**

- Nearly two-thirds (64%) say it is “absolutely essential” for Democrats to “*pass federal legislation restoring the right to a safe, legal abortion*”, while 57% say it is “absolutely essential” they “*pass federal legislation guaranteeing marriage equality*”.

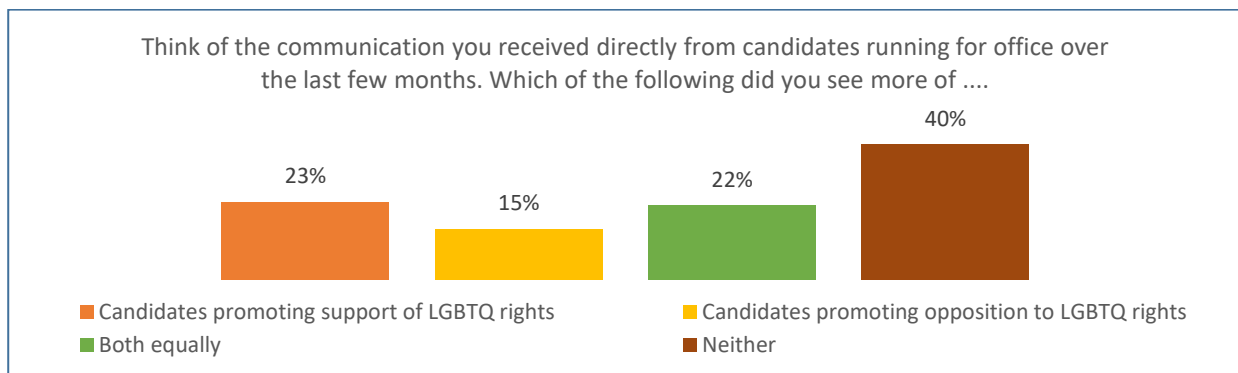
*As you may know, Democrats will continue to control both the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives at least until January 3, 2023. Between now and then, how important is it to you for Democrats to .... – this is absolutely essential, this is very important, this is somewhat important, this is not too important, this is not important at all.*

	Absolutely essential	Very important	Absolutely essential + Very important
Pass federal legislation restoring the right to a safe, legal abortion	64%	19%	83%
Pass federal legislation guaranteeing marriage equality.	57%	26%	83%

- Enshrining these rights into federal law could result in a significant surge in LGBTQ voter turnout in the 2024 election. Six-in-ten (61%) LGBTQ Americans say that Democrats restoring abortion rights this year would make them more likely to vote in 2024. Significantly, this includes 61% of 2022 non-voters. Similarly, 60% say Democrats guaranteeing marriage equality would make them more likely to vote in 2024 – including 59% of 2022 non-voters.

**Media outlets can do more to raise awareness of pro-LGBTQ politicians and pro-LGBTQ candidates can do more to make LGBTQ constituents aware of their positions.**

- Six-in-ten (60%) LGBTQ adults saw no election related news coverage of LGBTQ issues during the midterm election (40% saw / 60% did not see).
- Among those who saw midterm news coverage of LGBTQ issues, only 29% said the coverage focused on candidates who wanted to protect LGBTQ rights (29% coverage focused mainly on candidates who want to protect LGBTQ rights / 39% coverage focused mainly on candidates who want to restrict LGBTQ rights / 32% coverage focused on both equally).
- Just one-in-four (23%) say the communication they received directly from candidates running for office came mainly from those promoting their support for LGBTQ rights, while 40% received no communication about LGBTQ issues from candidates at all.



**For many LGBTQ adults, the current political environment and rhetoric about LGBTQ issues in this country negatively impacts their emotional well-being and feelings of personal safety.**

- Nearly half say the current political environment and rhetoric about LGBTQ issues in this country are negatively affecting their emotional well-being (46%) or have made them more fearful for their personal safety (48%). This impact is even more profound among transgender Americans – 70% say the current political environment negatively affects their emotional well-being, while 72% say it has made them more fearful for their personal safety.
- More than four-in-ten say they feel unsafe discussing political issues, including issues related to LGBTQ equality, on social media using their real name (56% safe / 44% unsafe). More than half of transgender respondents (52%) feel unsafe doing this.
- *(Note: Nearly all the interviews were conducted prior to the Club Q shooting in Colorado Springs).*

**Methodology**

This memo reports on the findings of a survey conducted by Pathfinder Opinion Research from November 16-20, 2022 among a sample of n=800 LGBTQ adults in the United States. Within this sample of LGBTQ adults are subsets of registered voters (n=698) and registered voters who indicate they voted in the recent midterm election (n=573).

Interviews were conducted online utilizing a national research panel. Data were weighted to accurately reflect the correct composition of this universe by gender identity, sexual orientation, age, race, education, and geographic region based on demographic estimates of this population provided by the Williams Institute and the Census Household Pulse Survey.

For this survey, the overall credibility interval (a theoretical margin of error for non-probability samples) is  $\pm 3.5\%$ . The credibility interval for subgroups is larger.