



FOCUS GROUP SUMMARY

HISPANIC VOTERS

May 5, 2022

TOP TAKEAWAYS

- Voters believe that the government is mainly to blame for rising inflation because of high spending during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Voters do not trust the federal government to fix the problem of inflation. They believe it is only exacerbated by government intervention.
- Getting Americans back to work can help curb inflation and help Americans rise to the middle class more quickly. Voters support reforms that encourage technical programs over college to help reduce student loan debt.

THE BIGGEST ISSUES

Inflation: Voters are frustrated with skyrocketing prices on everyday essentials like gas and food. They think inflation is a complicated problem that requires long-term solutions.

Trust in government: Voters lack confidence in the government's ability to fix pressing issues like inflation. They believe both parties are more concerned about getting reelected than fixing major problems facing everyday Americans.

Getting people back to work: The majority of voters support work requirements for welfare programs to help get people off assistance and back into the workforce more quickly, and support measures that will help students prepare for good-paying jobs.

WHAT DID PARTICIPANTS THINK?

Inflation is a government-created problem that affects voters' everyday lives.

- Participants see that prices of everyday essentials like gas and food have skyrocketed. This is causing them to be more cautious with their spending habits by cutting back on non-essential purchases like vacations.
- They believe government spending during the COVID-19 pandemic contributed to inflation, but some remain skeptical about the prospect of returning to pre-COVID levels of spending.
- Voters also believe the additional federal unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic are partly to blame for rising inflation.

Voters lack confidence in the government's ability to solve inflation.

- Voters believe government intervention will only worsen the problem, with the majority agreeing that *"[inflation] is a pretty complicated problem in large part exacerbated by the government."*
- Voters do not believe the government is committed to fighting inflation, with one voter saying, *"my confidence level is at an all-time low regarding what the government says."*
- Participants feel that politicians are only concerned with short-term solutions so they can focus on getting reelected. Voters believe fighting inflation will take long-term solutions.

What should Congress do to lower the cost of fuel?

- Voters overwhelmingly support energy independence in the U.S. And to help achieve this, they think Congress should restart work on the Keystone XL Pipeline.
- Participants agreed that we need to stop relying on other countries and utilize our own resources.

Voters overwhelmingly support work requirements for individuals receiving welfare benefits.

- Voters believe that welfare programs should be reserved for the truly needy. They support reforms that help able-bodied adults find employment and leave welfare programs more quickly.
- They believe welfare programs should be audited to ensure only eligible individuals are receiving benefits.

College should not be billed as the only option. Students need to understand the true cost of college before signing up for a four-year degree.

- Voters agree that "college is not for everybody." It is not required to be successful or rise to the middle class. Most participants have friends or family members that do not use their degrees at their jobs.
- Voters believe that young people do not understand the true cost of college with one participant saying, "people are just signing the dotted line and not realizing they are signing their lives away."
- Voters think students and parents should do their own research on student loans, but also that Congress should pass reforms that would provide more education on the true cost of college and promote other options such as technical training.