

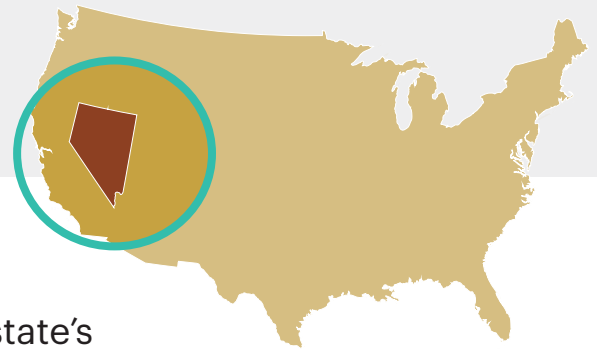
## 2022 MID-TERM SURVEY: WOMEN OF COLOR VOTERS IN NEVADA

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*Make It Work*  
EDUCATION FUND

**SOMOS** VOTANTES

**NATIONAL WOMEN'S  
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### SUMMARY

Nevada's working families continue to keep the state's economy going despite having been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic downturn it triggered, as well as the rising cost of living. Keeping up with the soaring costs of housing, food, utilities and other household expenses has been challenging for many Nevadans going into this year's midterm elections. As a result, everyday Nevadans, particularly women of color, say economic security is their most motivating issue. Women of color have been instrumental in the state's recovery and are a growing political force. This survey report details some of the issues and key policies that are motivating women of color voters in Nevada.



## OVERVIEW

Nevada's lawmakers and gender justice advocates have been busy. Many COVID-era voting rights expansions have been [permanently codified](#), making it easier for Nevadans to register to vote, access polling places, vote by mail and at drop-off locations, and better include voters with disabilities. And earlier this summer, [several pieces of legislation were enacted](#) that expand access to pregnancy supports, [pave the way for more inclusive curricula in schools](#), and [improve access to quality classroom and school success for under-resourced students](#).

**While Nevada's state lawmakers are making strides to meet constituents' needs, Nevadans are still struggling with an uneven recovery from the coronavirus pandemic and subsequent economic fallout.** At its peak, [one in three people were unemployed](#) during the economic downturn in Nevada and [recent research](#) by the National Women's Law Center found that women continue to be far more likely to get pushed out of the workforce and less likely to benefit from job growth. Unaffordable or unavailable child care makes working more difficult for the 14 percent of women—and 36 percent of single mothers—[living in poverty](#) in the state.

**Following the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, it is crucial that Nevada lawmakers continue their efforts to**

**expand access to critical forms of care, including abortion, [contraception](#), and [maternal health care free from bias](#).** Especially as neighboring states ban abortion and more people travel to [seek care in Nevada](#), there is a rising need for Nevada to support providers in expanding abortion access for all.

**To better understand the diverse landscape of Nevada, especially across race and gender, the National Women's Law Center, Make It Work Nevada Education Fund, the Asian Community Development Council, and Somos Votantes co-commissioned this survey to understand how women of color are faring and what issues are critical to their well-being.** This report presents findings from a survey conducted to understand the sentiments and perceptions of Latina, Black, and Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) women voters, as compared to white women and men voter counterparts, including an understanding of (1) how these women of color voters perceive the impact of their vote and (2) what key issues are motivating them.





## METHODOLOGY

These findings are part of additional data collection across key states. In collaboration with state-based partners, the National Women's Law Center commissioned an online survey to assess the policy needs of women of color voters in Michigan, Nevada, and Georgia.

**In Nevada, the National Women's Law Center collaborated with Make It Work Nevada Education Fund, the Asian Community Development Council, and Somos Votantes to commission this poll.** In order to draw a more dynamic picture in the state of Nevada, the survey encompassed a total of 509 online interviews: 306 among women of color voters representing Latina, Black, and AAPI women and 203 among white voters (100 women and 103 men). The survey also included a readable sample of lower-income voters (under \$60,000). Respondents were specifically targeted as likely to vote in the November 2022 midterm election (6 or more on a 10-point scale) and represent a diverse spread across political ideologies.

## KEY FINDINGS: IMPACT & MOBILIZING ISSUES

The majority of Nevada's women of color voters believe their votes impact the way this country, their state, and their communities are governed.

**The issues mobilizing Nevada's women of color voters are fundamental to everyone's ability to live, work, and play at their fullest potential—economic security, reproductive freedom, and access to quality health care.**

**All respondents were asked to name the one issue that keeps them up at night by filling in a blank dialogue box.**

In response to the question, "What is one issue that keeps you up late at night?," a large sample of respondents, particularly women of color voters, raised economic issues such as **rising costs, inflation, jobs, fair wages,** and **the economy.** **Health care** and **abortion rights** were also raised often by respondents. Other predominant issues named by respondents include crime and gun violence, COVID, education, and fair wages.



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All respondents were then asked to rate the importance of several key issues to themselves and their families.

The issue statements respondents were asked to rate were:

- *Ensuring everyone has the freedom to choose if, when, and how to start and raise a family in safety and with dignity.*
- *Creating better jobs and wages for all, especially working women and people of color.*
- *Ensuring everyone can meet their families' basic needs, such as food and shelter, especially in the face of rising costs.*
- *Increasing access to quality, affordable child care for all families.*
- *Expanding protections to ensure that all people can live free from harassment and discrimination, especially women and people of color.*
- *Passing gun laws that increase public safety and decrease gun violence.*
- *Protecting and expanding access to comprehensive, quality, low-cost health care, free from bias.*
- *Increased investments in law enforcement and policing programs that seek to lower crime and create security for community members.*
- *Ensuring students can learn in a safe and culturally competent environment, free from violence and harassment.*

Overall, women of color rated all of these issues as **extremely important**. The issues that rose to the top as most important to women of color were **ensuring that everyone can meet their families' basic needs** (75 percent rated this as "Extremely Important" while 90 percent total rated it as "Important"); **creating better jobs and wages for all** (66 percent rated this as "Extremely Important" while 88 percent total rated it as "Important"); and **protecting and expanding access to comprehensive, quality, low-cost health care free from bias** (64 percent rated this as "Extremely Important" while 88 percent total rated it as "Important").

All voters, particularly women of color voters, strongly agree that ensuring everyone can meet their families' needs is their top motivating issue.

Nevada's tourism-based economy was devastated by the **COVID-19 pandemic**—with **one in three people unemployed at the peak of the economic downturn**. Households and families of color were hit harder than white households in Nevada because women of color are overrepresented in low-wage industries like the hospitality industry, which was deeply impacted by COVID-19. On top of now struggling to afford the rising cost of living due to inflation, many Nevada households continue to contend with food insecurity, the inability to afford rent and/or mortgage payments, and affording other household expenses despite receiving some financial assistance like unemployment benefits, emergency housing assistance, tax credits, and stimulus payments.

## **KEY FINDINGS: VOTER PERCEPTIONS OF THEIR SUPPORT FOR VARIOUS GENDER JUSTICE POLICIES**

The associated policies that build toward the economic security and well-being of women and families — from ensuring access to reproductive health care to creating better jobs and wages, establishing fairer taxes, making quality child care more affordable, and expanding protections against harassment and discrimination—rated very highly with women of color voters. There is also strong alignment across demographics that students learn in safe, culturally competent, and inclusive learning environments free from harassment, discrimination, and violence.

**Below are how women of color voters ranked the importance and/or their support for various gender justice policies.** The issues mobilizing women of color voters enjoy strong majority support across race and other demographics because these are the issues that undergird the health, safety, dignity, and prosperity of all.

### **Advancing Economic Security and Promoting Dignity and Safety for Women and Families**

- Ninety percent of women of color voters rated meeting the basic needs of individuals and families as important. White voters were only slightly behind at 87 percent, saying they agree that ensuring everyone can meet their basic needs is an important policy measure.
- Women of color voters were significantly more likely to rate as important measures that provide quality, affordable child care (73 percent); expand access to low-cost, quality health care (88 percent); and establish gun laws to increase public safety (81 percent). Although also supportive, white voter respondents were less intense in their support of these measures: only 55 percent reported access to quality, affordable child care as important, while 71 percent found expanding access to low-cost, quality health care as important, and 61 percent agreed that gun laws to increase public safety are important.
- Three-fourths (75 percent) of women of color voters were significantly more likely to agree that the wealthy should pay their fair share of taxes to fund services like public infrastructure (roads and bridges), housing, education, and health care. Most white voters also expressed support for this policy proposal with 57 percent saying they agree that the wealthy should pay their fair share of taxes.
- A majority of women of color voters (72 percent) and white voters (62 percent) agreed that the government should fund child care workers to help increase access to quality child care services and supports. A similar majority of women of color voters (75 percent) and white voters (60 percent) said they support legislation to provide Nevadans with universal high-quality affordable child care.



### **Workplace Justice: Better Wages, Better Benefits, and Better Protections**

- Women of color voters strongly support enacting protections against harassment and discrimination. Nearly nine in 10 women of color voters (85 percent) rated expanding protections to ensure all people can live free from harassment and discrimination as important. Meanwhile 67 percent of white voters agree that expanding protections against harassment and discrimination are important.
- Nearly nine in 10 (88 percent) women of color voters said creating better jobs and wages for all is important compared to seven in 10 (70 percent) of white voters.
- Women of color voters (85 percent) were significantly more likely to support the enactment of a statewide paid family and medical leave program compared to white voters (58 percent).
- Overall, most women of color and white voters support workplace justice policies that enable all people, especially women and people of color, to thrive in the workplace. However, women of color were more likely to express strong support for these measures. Women of color voters expressed significant support for various workplace justice policies: establishing protections against workplace harassment (88 percent); raising the minimum wage to at least \$15/hour (87 percent); establishing paid family and medical leave for all workers (86 percent); ensuring equal pay and employers being transparent about pay rates and pay ranges with employees and applicants (85 percent); requiring employers to provide at least two weeks' notice for work schedules for those with variable hours (75 percent); and providing reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers in the workplace (73 percent). For the most part, white voters also agreed with these policies, but

the intensity of their agreement was slightly lower than that of women of color voters: 70 percent agreed with establishing protections against workplace harassment; 56 percent agreed with raising the minimum wage to at least \$15/hour; 73 percent agreed with establishing paid family and medical leave; 75 percent agreed with equal pay and employers being transparent about pay rates and pay ranges with employees and applicants; 66 percent agreed with requiring employers to provide at least two weeks' notice for work schedules for those with variable hours; and 72 percent agreed with providing reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers in the workplace.

### **Reproductive Freedom and Health Care For All**

- Most voters, particularly women of color voters, said it is important for elected officials to ensure the freedom to choose if, when, and how an individual begins a family. Seventy-two percent of women of color voters and 70 percent of white voters said that elected officials should ensure that everyone has the freedom to choose, if, when, and how to start a family.
- Most voters, particularly women of color voters, said they believe that elected officials should ensure that people have access to abortion care. Two-thirds (65 percent) of women of color voters and three in five white voters (59 percent) said they believe that elected officials should ensure that people have access to abortion care.
- Most voters, particularly women of color voters, agree that elected officials should protect access to legal abortion regardless of personally held beliefs. Two-thirds of women of color voters (66 percent) and 60 percent of white voters said they believe that elected officials should protect access to legal abortion for all, regardless of personally held beliefs.

- When asked about the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs vs. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, most voters, particularly women of color voters, agreed that because the Supreme Court took away the constitutional right to abortion, it is more important than ever that elected officials create rights to abortion that stop abortion bans and guarantee that access to abortion does not depend on where a person lives. Two-thirds of women of color voters (66 percent) said they agree with this statement while 56 percent of white voters said they agree with this statement.
- Women of color voters in Nevada are significantly more likely to support pregnancy-related services and supports. Seventy-three percent of women of color voters said they believe elected officials should ensure access to safe and supportive pregnancy-related services and other supports. Sixty-four percent of white voters said they believe the same.
- Women of color voters in Nevada are significantly more likely to support policies that address the entirety of the birthing and parenting experience. Seventy-five percent of women of color voters said they believe that elected officials should ensure pregnancy-related services extend beyond health care to include stable housing, food access, paid leave, and child care for other children during health care visits. In contrast, only 56 percent of white voters said they believe elected officials should ensure these policies and supports.

### **Building Safe, Culturally Competent, and Inclusive Learning Environments for All Students**

- The strong majority of respondents across demographics agree that it is important for students to learn in safe, inclusive, and culturally competent environments. Eighty-seven percent of women of color voters compared to 77 percent of white voters rated ensuring students can learn in a safe and culturally competent environment as important.
- The strong majority of respondents across demographics also agree that all students should be in learning environments that allow them to be who they are and are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. Eighty-one percent of women of color voters and 72 percent of white voters agree with policies that enable all students to learn in environments that allow them to be who they are and are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence.
- Women of color voters said they agree (72 percent) that schools should be allowed to teach students that racial and gender inequality can exist in society and institutions. In contrast, only two in five (39 percent) of white voters said they agree that racial and gender inequality can exist in society and institutions.





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- Over half of respondents across demographics disagree with policies that censor curricula and ban access to books that discuss the difficult and painful points in American history such as slavery, the treatment of Native Americans and immigrants, the civil rights movements of the 20th century, and the growing awareness around LGBTQI+ rights, health, and identities.

**Nevada's women of color voters strongly support gender and economic justice policies that will enable all Nevadans to thrive. And while their intensity is greater than white men and women voters, it is apparent that all of these core issues enjoy support from the majority of voters across race and gender.**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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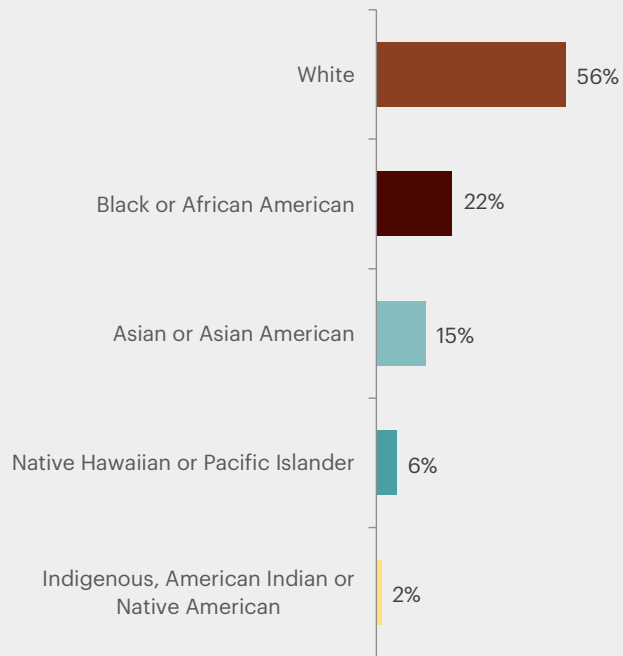




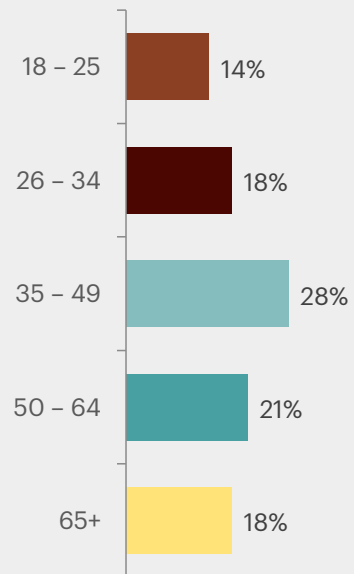
## DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

Total Sample = 505

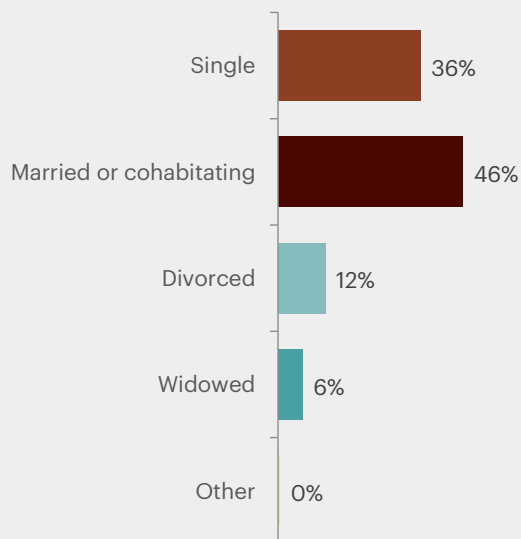
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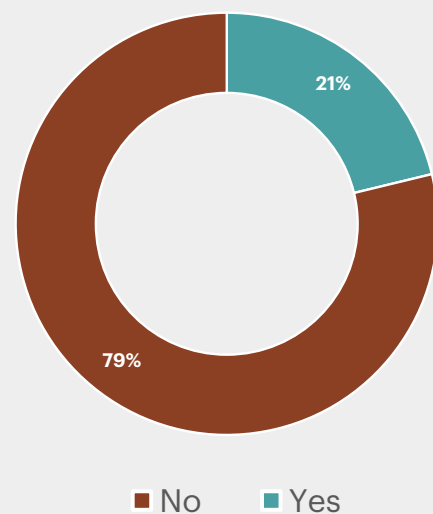
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### Marital Status

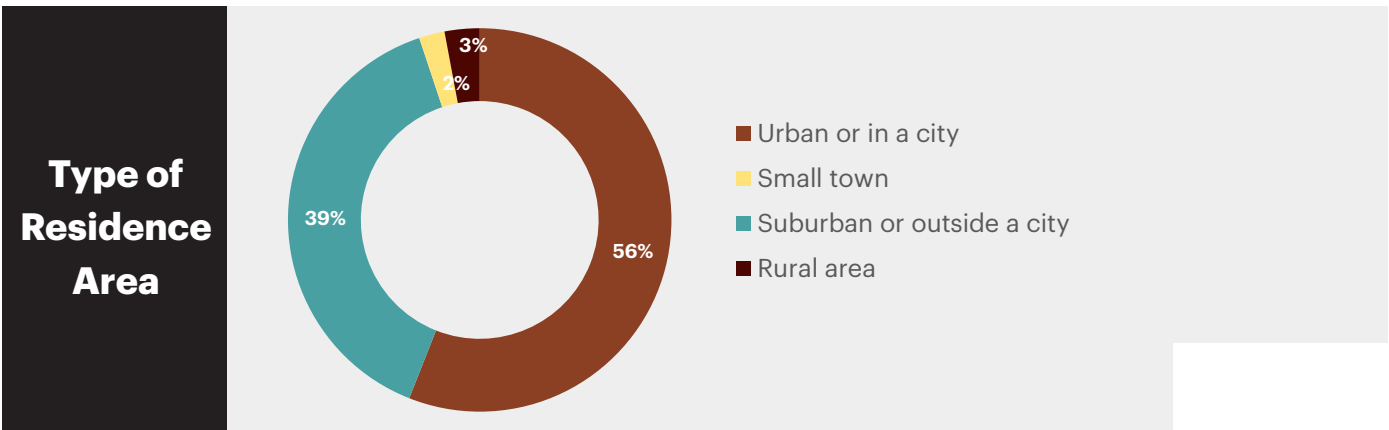
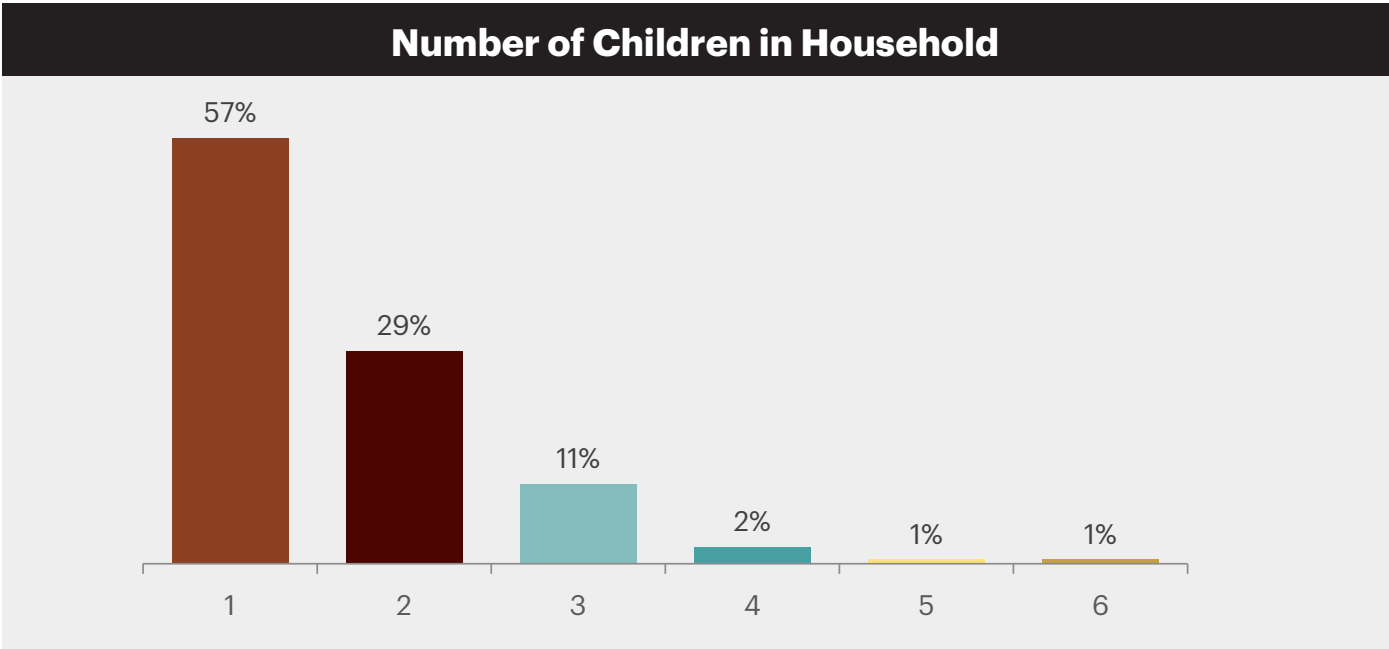
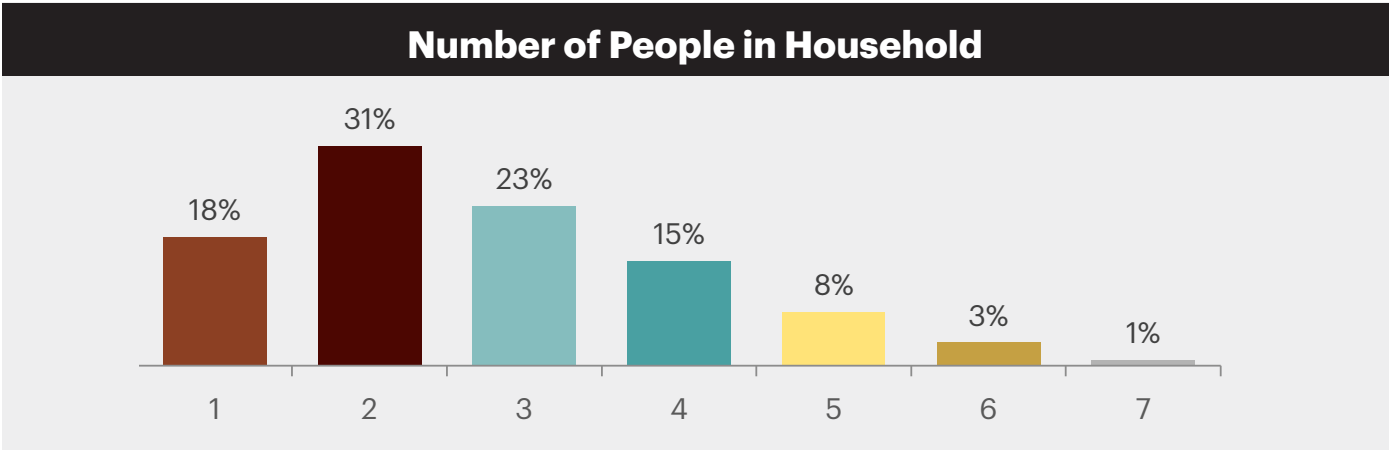


### Hispanic/Latina



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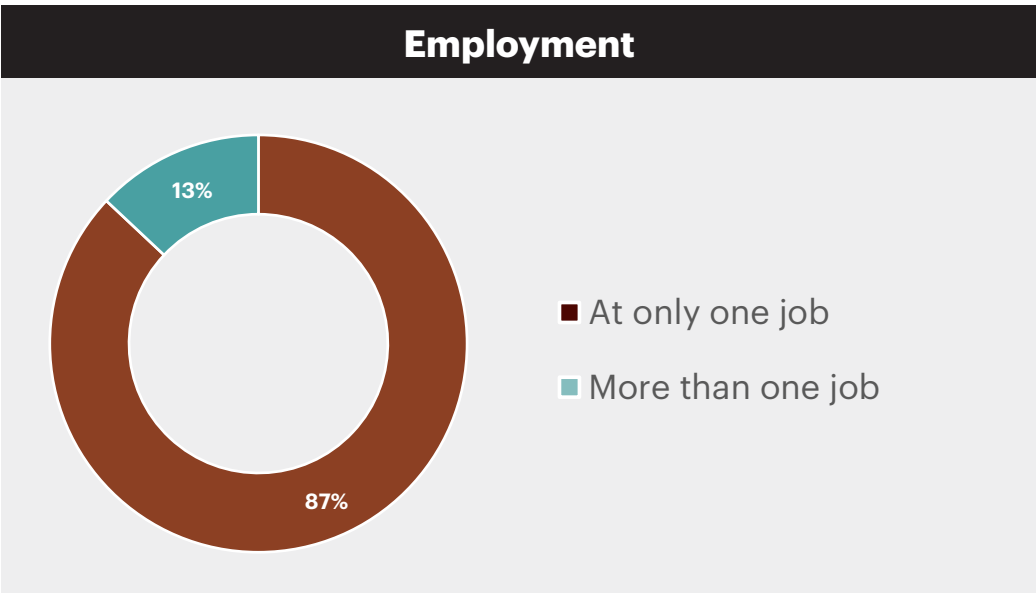
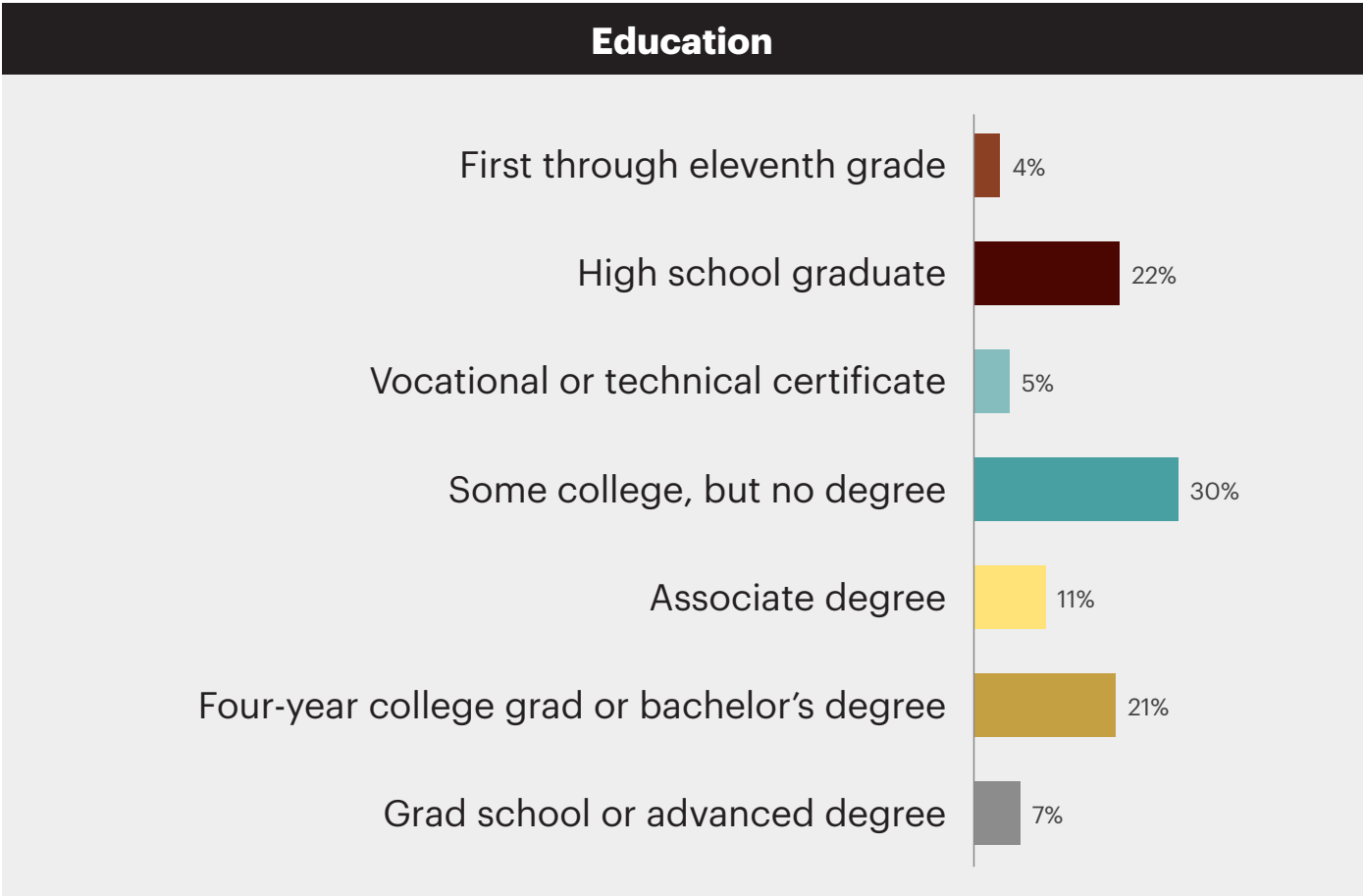
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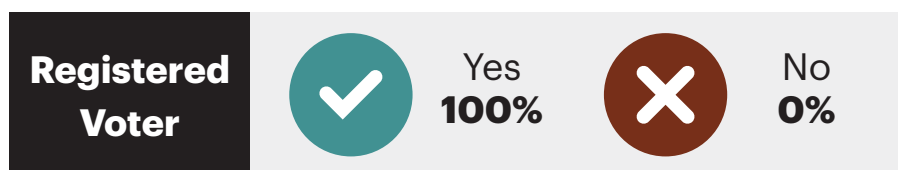
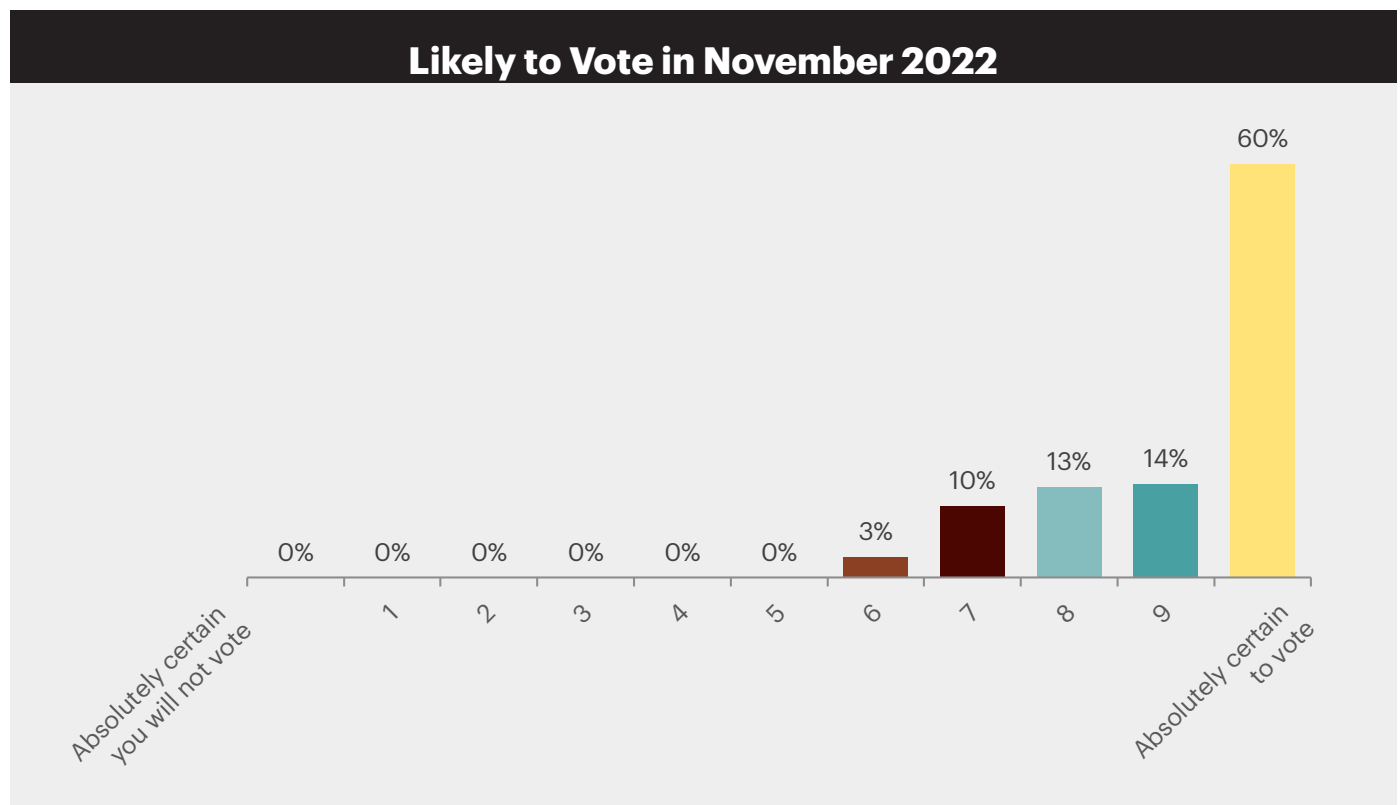
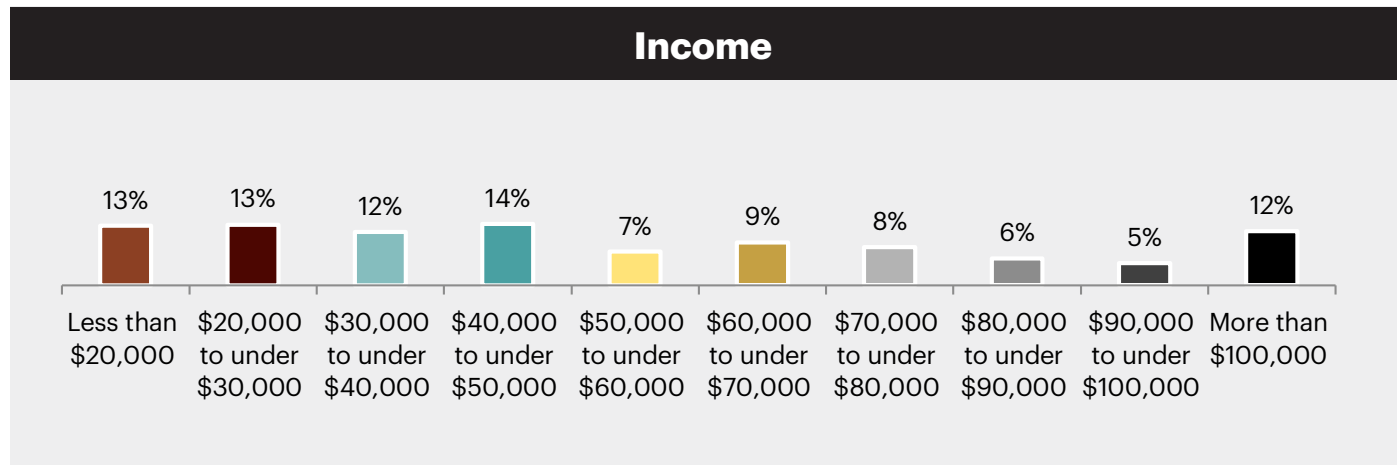
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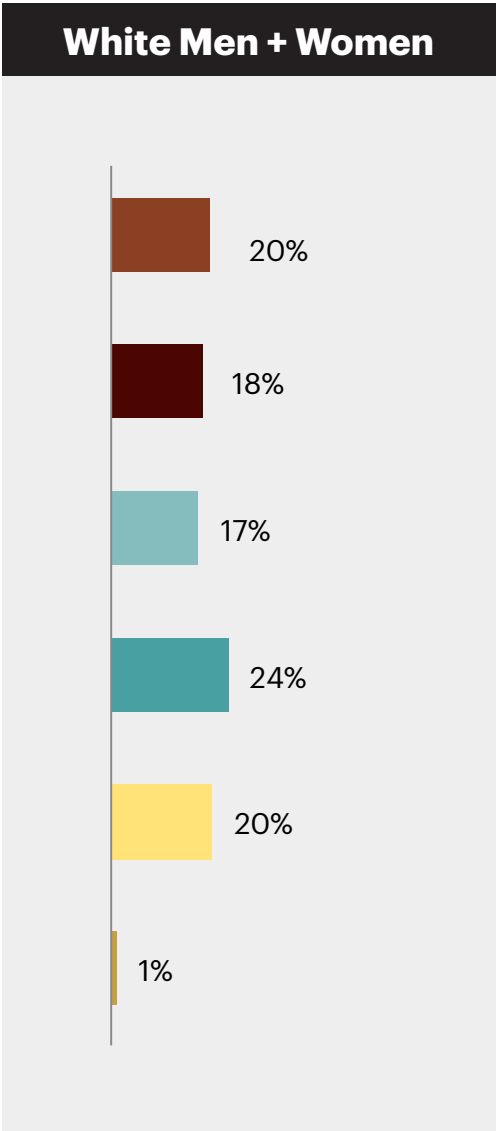
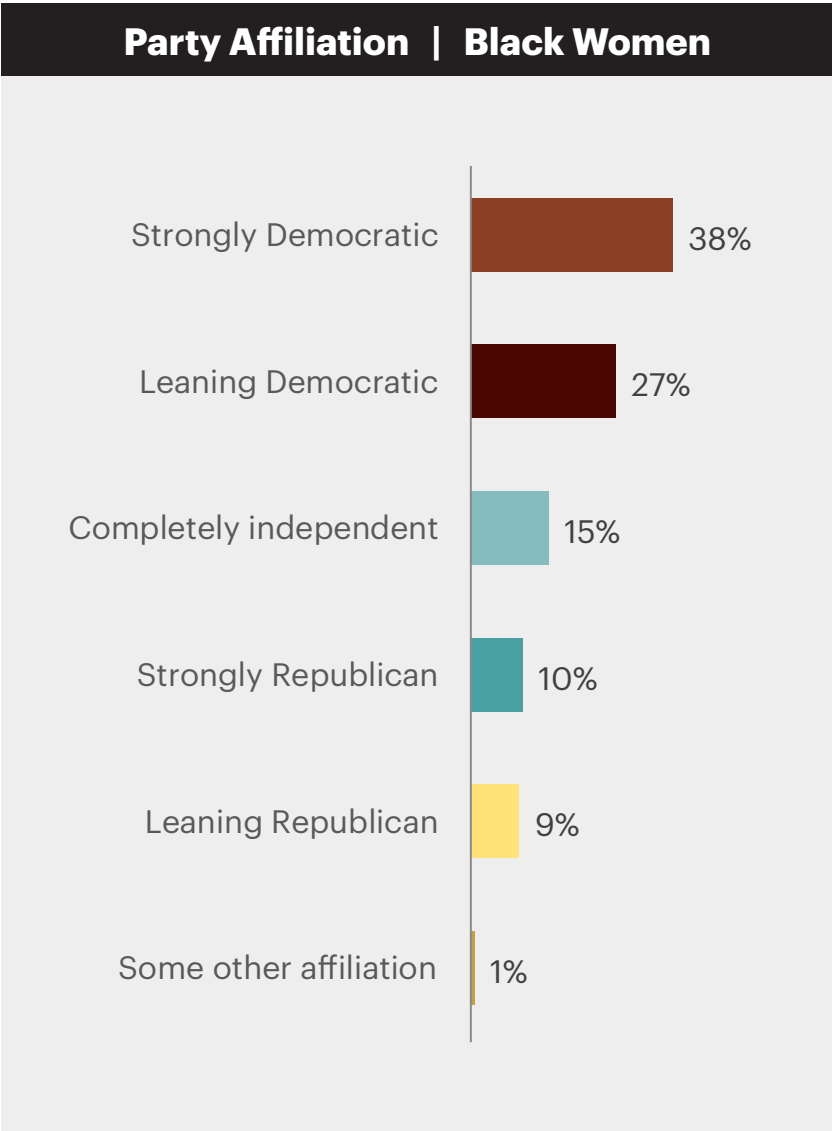
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