



[The Biden Administration's Handling of the War on Gaza Could Potentially Impact His Re-Election Chances](#)

In recent months since Israel's destructive War on Gaza began, here in the United States – and in many other places around the world – the streets and social media have been taken by storm by the “Free Palestine” movement, which has seen peaceful protests and acts of solidarity in support of the Palestinian people. The youth seem to be particularly involved in this movement, evident through the participation of numerous college students in demonstrations and sit-ins on university campuses. Recent polls have suggested that nearly three-quarters of young American voters tend to be more critical of the Biden administration's handling of and policy toward the war as compared to older voters, potentially proving to be a detriment to Biden's 2024 re-election bid. A report from the Pew Research Center found that Gen Z and Millennials aged 18-29 favored Biden over Trump by a margin of 24% in the 2020 election. In this way, young voters make up a key demographic for the Democratic Party and the prospective votes that they may provide. If enough Democratic voters decide to not cast their vote for Biden due to his policies surrounding the War on Gaza, it could possibly spell disaster for the incumbent and give his political opponent in the U.S. presidential general election – who many political experts anticipate will likely be former President Trump – the opportunity to win crucial swing states such as Michigan, Wisconsin, Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona, and Nevada. Back in 2020, these states proved to be vital to Biden's triumph in the presidential election.

Polls and projections have indicated that Biden's electoral opponent come November will likely be Trump, who certainly faces challenges of his own for his 2024 presidential bid as a result of various legal troubles and controversies. Overall, registered voters currently prefer Trump (46%) over Biden (44%) in the forecasted upcoming general election by a margin of around 2%. With such slim margins, every vote matters and has the potential to affect the outcome of elections – particularly in the aforementioned battleground states. Testimonials from prospective voters for the 2024 general election have seen a significant amount express that they are considering not taking part at all due to President Biden's stance on the War on Gaza, which does not align with their own pro-human rights viewpoints. These constituents would prefer that the United States under the Biden administration take a more humanitarian and diplomatic approach to the war, prioritizing the implementation of an immediate and permanent ceasefire to put an end to the killing of tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians, a disturbing number which has now exceeded 25,000. Since the Democratic Party relies on young voters as a key bloc in its coalition, the generational divide over the War on Gaza could be an influential component in the 2024 presidential election.

The potential relevance of Gaza War policies on Democratic voter sentiments has been outlined in the various findings of surveys conducted on the issue. A recent one conducted back in December highlighted that 65% of Democrats believe it is extremely or very important for the United States to provide humanitarian relief to Palestinians in Gaza, compared to a much smaller only 28% of Republicans. A similar percentage (64%) of Democrats expressed that it is very important for the United States to negotiate a permanent ceasefire in Gaza, while 35% of Republicans did the same. This signifies how much more of a factor the subject of the War on Gaza could potentially play among the Democratic base and expected Biden supporters in the 2024 presidential general election. The issue surrounding the U.S. providing aid to Israel's military received lower ratings among Democrats

as well. Additionally, Democrats were less enthusiastic about President Biden's handling of the War on Gaza than they were regarding his overall job performance.

There is a belief that voters on both sides of the aisle, but especially Democrats, may start gravitating toward a third-party or independent candidate such as Jill Stein or Robert Kennedy Jr., or could even end up simply abstaining from voting in the upcoming presidential general election at all. While this loss of votes in either fashion might not seem significant enough on the surface, it could actually very well determine the final outcome of the election. In the 2020 U.S. presidential general election between President Biden and former President Trump, Biden won six swing states by narrow margins, three of which were won by less than 21,000 votes. Thus, if a sizable number of voters jump ship due to Biden's policy towards the War on Gaza, he may very well lose tight states that were critical to his eventual Electoral College victory in 2020. At the same time, for other voters, Biden's stance on the Gaza War might not hold enough sway to influence their decision to cast their ballot for him. Domestic policies tend to hold more issue salience for American voters than foreign policy considerations. According to a poll conducted by the Pew Research Center, the economy, health care, and Supreme Court appointments were the top three issues of importance to voters, while foreign policy ranked sixth. Some may begrudgingly decide to vote for Biden if only to avoid a return of Trump to the White House, or vice versa, and others might abstain from voting entirely or vote for a third-party candidate. Given the array of prevalent recent global occurrences though, foreign policy issues will certainly be weighing on some voters' minds when Election Day arrives in November, and it will likely come down to whether or not the voter drop-off is significant enough to outweigh those who will still cast their votes for one of the two main party candidates regardless.