



## [Analysis on the Role That Foreign Policy Considerations Could Play in 2024 U.S. Election Voter Preferences](#)

The latest insight into the matter suggests that foreign policy considerations could play a consequential role in influencing 2024 U.S. election voter preferences. Polls and surveys have shed light on the fact that an increasing number of Americans believe that foreign policy should be a top focus for the U.S. government this year, particularly amid a host of global concerns. According to a recent poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, nearly 4 in 10 U.S. adults referenced foreign policy topics in an open-ended question that asked people to share a handful of issues for the government to work on in 2024. This is almost twice as many people as ones who did so in the same survey last year. The new poll's findings also outlined increased uneasiness regarding U.S. involvement overseas, with 20% expressing that sentiment compared to only 5% a year ago. The spike in perceived importance of foreign policy is evident among both Republicans and Democrats – around 46% of Republicans referred to it, up from 23% last year, and 34% of Democrats did so as well, up from 16% in 2023. Analysts point to voters' worry over potential U.S. entanglement in overseas conflicts as a result of several longstanding crises, most notably and troublingly in Gaza, Ukraine, and the Red Sea, as a major source of the uptick in foreign policy significance.

The intertwining of domestic and foreign issues has also contributed to increasing focus on the latter. The United States Senate recently unveiled a \$118 billion U.S. border security bill that would additionally provide foreign military aid to Ukraine and Israel. The proposed legislation would consist of around \$20 billion for U.S. border security, \$60 billion for the support of Ukraine, and approximately \$14 billion in aid to Israel. For U.S. Congressmembers who are facing re-election bids this year in 2024, their decisions on whether or not to support the prospective bill could have consequences among their electorate come the November elections. A growing number of Americans have become disillusioned with high levels of foreign military aid, especially to Israel in the face of credible accusations of human rights violations being committed against the civilian population of Gaza. As one Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research survey respondent put it, "when you sit here and say, 'I just sent \$50 million over to Israel' and then I go outside and I see half a neighborhood rundown...you've got to take care of home." Longstanding U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders himself recently spearheaded an effort to try and condition aid to Israel, in light of the international criticism that it has drawn for its destructive military actions in Gaza. Despite its failure to ultimately pass the U.S. Senate, the mere introduction of the bill and the support that Sanders secured from 10 additional Senators highlighted an acknowledgement from some of his Congressional colleagues of the increasing concern with foreign aid to Israel not being used in accordance with human rights standards.

While foreign policy considerations have risen in relevance, they still lag behind domestic issues – particularly economic ones – in overall importance to U.S. election voter preferences. In the aforementioned Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll, over 75% of surveyed U.S. adults expressed that they wanted the government to work on issues related to the economy in 2024. In totality, approximately 85% of Republicans and 65% of Democrats listed the economy as a top issue. An Emerson College poll from a couple of months ago had a similar finding – as the economy was cited by the greatest number of respondents as the biggest issue that the country faces heading into the upcoming 2024 U.S. elections. In addition to economic issues such as the state of

the economy in general, inflation, and the cost of living, some of the other major domestic considerations of importance in many recent surveys include immigration, healthcare, climate change, and crime. For the current 2024 election cycle, American voters appear to be especially focused on inflation, immigration, and healthcare costs, and it is likely that electoral candidates' stances on these issues will be of utmost relevance to voters. A KFF poll regarding important topics on the 2024 campaign trail found that 86% of voters stated that it is "very important" for the 2024 presidential candidates to talk about inflation, 80% said so about affordability of healthcare, 65% about immigration, and even a notable 44% referenced aid to foreign countries as well. Inflation was by far the most common choice for top issue overall though, with the percentage saying this (41%) being three times higher than any other single topic.

As they tend to do regarding electoral preferences, domestic issues will certainly continue to hold the most salience for American voters in 2024. However, foreign policy considerations are likely to have a substantial impact also, aided by the fact that it is a presidential election year with an array of high-profile Congressional races at the federal level as well. The effect that several noteworthy contemporary global events could have on the voting determinations of constituents cannot be understated too, and are worth keeping an eye on in the weeks and months ahead.