## GENDER ON THE BALLOT <br> 2022 Women and Pandemic Politics

## Methodology

- Benenson Strategy Group conducted 801 online interviews

- Due to rounding, some percentages may not add up to $100 \%$.
- The margin of error for the dataset overall is $+/-3.5 \%$ at the $95 \%$ confidence level and is higher among subgroups.

Political and Economic Lay of the Land for Women in 2022

While the midterms don't spark the intensity of presidential election years, 3 in 5 women think this November will be more important than most

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After the 2018 election, $\mathbf{1 5 \%}$ of women voters said "this election was the most important of my lifetime so far"; after 2020, 51\% said so

| This will be the most important | 16 | 15 | 7 | 6 | 13 | 18 | 16 | 16 | 17 | 15 | 19 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| This election will be more important than most | 44 | 47 |  |  | 39 | 47 | 39 | 51 | 38 | 47 | 40 |
| This election will be no more or less important than any other election | 34 | 32 | 49 | 24 | 39 | 31 | 38 | 28 | 38 | 33 | 35 |
| This election will be less important than most elections | 6 <br> Overall | Dem | $\begin{gathered} 5 \\ \text { Ind } \end{gathered}$ | GOP | 9 $<40$ | $\begin{gathered} 4 \\ 40+ \end{gathered}$ | 8 Urban | Suburban | 7 Rural | Parents |  |

Few trust our institutions - including more than half of Republican women who lack trust in the information coming from the CDC


Across the board there is a much larger sense of doom and gloom on the economy this year
\% Pessimistic about the economy
$■ 2021 \quad$ ■ 2022


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The economy and COVID-19 remain top issues influencing voters - but inflation and crime have jumped into the narrative
Most important issues when deciding whom to vote for


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A lagging pandemic, economic hardship and stress are top of mind for women

What word or phrase would you use to describe life in America today?

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Women are feeling the effects of the economy in their own pockets, especially among women with lower incomes

Since the pandemic began, has your personal financial situation...?
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## Nearly all women believe we need better healthcare and support systems - even one that expands Medicaid, Medicare, and the ACA

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?
Total agree (strongly + somewhat agree)

| Among GOP | Among Fox News <br> consenative <br> consumerss |
| :---: | :---: |
| 74 | 74 |
| 73 <br> (up from 62 in <br> 2021) | 68 |
| 71 | 73 |

Women in Politics

There is broad agreement those in Washington have let us down

| Women in elected positions have stepped up to the plate and delivered results to support Americans during the pandemic | 17 | 24 | 19 | 7 17 | 18 | 17 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| All elected officials, regardless of gender, have stepped up to the plate and delivered results to | 22 |  | 21 | 9 | 26 | 20 |
| support Americans during the pandemic | 8 | 25 |  |  |  | 6 |
| Women in elected positions have let people down and have not delivered the results we need |  | 7 |  |  | 14 |  |
| All people in elected positions, regardless of gender, have let people down and have not delivered the results we need | 53 | 43 | 53 | 67 | 43 | 58 |
|  | Overall | Dem | Ind | GOP | <40 | $40+$ |

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## Many women see Congresswomen impacting the lives of other women generally, but less specifically related to COVID-19

Thinking about the record number of women now serving in Congress, do you think this has had...?

| A negative impact on women's lives across the county | No impact either way | A positive impact on women's lives across the country | A neg respo | No impact either way | A positive impact on our country's ability to respond to the Covid19 pandemic |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 11 |  | 54 | 15 | 50 | 34 |

## 3 in 4 Democrats and over half of Independent women want to see more women in elected office

Thinking about the number of women in political office, which is closer to your view?


## Women of color are particularly motivated by the goal and symbolism of electing more women

|  |  | White | Black | Latina* | POC |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The idea of electing more women to political office is exciting to me. It's time to make history and show the next generation that women can do anything. | 25 | 21 | 34 | 41 | 37 |

The idea of electing more women to political office is exciting to me, but I need to know that woman is the right woman, with the right skills and values that I agree with.


52
54
56
40
46

It doesn't matter to me at all whether we elect


23
25
10
19

## Broad agreement from women that more women in office will help them and the country as a whole

If there were more women in political office, it would help us do a better job of $\square$ 64

If there were more women in political office, it would help us do a better job of dealing with the country's problems, like Covid-19. $\square$62

## But while most say they're engaged with politics, many women - especially younger and women of color - have tuned out

Everything going on with this pandemic has made me feel more disengaged with and tuned out from politics than usual.

I have been more engaged with and tuned in to politics than in the past because of everything going on with this pandemic.


The Supreme Court

## 7 in 10 women think Biden should uphold his promise to nominate a Black woman to SCOTUS

As you may or may not have heard, Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer has announced he will retire. President Biden has pledged to nominate a Black woman, who would be the first Black woman nominated to the Supreme Court. Do you agree or disagree that President Biden should nominate the first Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court?


## The first Black woman justice sparks widespread support and excitement among women

| \% Strongly Agree \% Smwt Agree | Total Agree |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| The first Black woman justice on the Supreme Court will inspire other women of color to dream big and be the 'first' in their field. | 39 |  |
| More women of different ethnic and racial backgrounds on the Supreme Court will ultimately drive more positive change for this country. | 32 | 71 |
| More women of different backgrounds on the Supreme Court will ultimately drive more positive change for this country. | 26 | 67 |
| More women on the Supreme Court will ensure equality in our communities, workplaces, and laws. | 19 | 64 |

## A justice who supports voting rights has broad and intense support, and more than 2 in 3 women want a justice who will protect Roe



## Though less important than legal views across the board, the first Black woman is exciting for Democrats and Black women



COVID-19's Impacts on Mental Health

COVID-19 is still draining women's mental health - and moms, younger women are bearing the brunt of this

Would you say that the situation with Covid-19 has affected your mental health...?

\% A Great Deal + Some


## Nearly half say they're feeling more burned out, and a plurality are lonelier too particularly younger women

Since the pandemic began, would you say you have felt lonely...?


Since the pandemic began, would you say you feel 'burned out'...?
$57 \%$ of K-12 parents burned out
(including 25\% much more) $\qquad$

$57 \%$ of women < 40 have felt more burned out, and the same

## More women are starting to think life will never go back to "normal"

As you know, the Covid-19 pandemic has upended American life in many ways. How long do you think it will be before life 'goes back to normal' for you?
$\left.\begin{array}{|r|c|c|c|}\hline \text { Life will never go back to } \\ \text { normal }\end{array}\right)$

## Pandemic Caregivers

## More than two-thirds of moms worry abut their kids contracting COVID-19, yet half say their quality of life increases when they're in school

\% describes their current circumstances very or somewhat well, among parents of children <18

When my kids are in school in person,
I worry they will contract Covid-19...


When my kids are in school in-person, my quality of life improves significantly...


## Parents are still happy to have had more time with their kids and want to keep family-

 centric habits...\% describes their current circumstances very or somewhat well, among parents of children <18


Though the pandemic has been stressful, I love having so much more time with my children.

My family has developed new routines and habits that I hope we keep once the pandemic is over.

## ... but caregiving continues to be lonelier and more isolating than pre-pandemic

\% describes their current circumstances very or somewhat well, among parents of children <18


The pandemic has made caring for my children more stressful because I can't ask the usual people I go to for help with watching them (like family, friends, nanny or babysitter).


The pandemic has made caring for my children a lonelier and more isolating experience

## Pandemic Impacts on Women in the Workforce

Caregiving during a pandemic weighs heavily on the ability to perform and advance at work: even more women have had to pass up opportunities at work
\% describes their current circumstances very or somewhat well, among parents of children <18


## More than 3 in 4 believe there will be long lasting impacts on women and their careers and the old 9-5 model won't work anymore

\% Very well

\% Smwt well
Total well

The pandemic has made me think that the old model of going to a workplace or office 9-5 with no flexibility is outdated and needs to change.

The pandemic will have long-lasting impacts on women and their careers, even after things 'go back to normal'.

27
77

The longer the pandemic continues, the more I miss the normal model of going to a workplace or office 9-5.

Women who've had the flexibility to work from home want to keep that flexibility though moms, particularly of young kids, could use a break from being at home

Are you working from home now?

| No | Yes |
| :---: | :---: |
| 58 | 42 |

Has working from home made your job more or less stressful?


When the Covid-19 pandemic is over, which of the following would be your preference?


| K-12 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Parents | | $0-4 \mathrm{yo}$ |
| :---: |
| Parents* |$\quad$| Not |
| :---: |
| Parents |

