



SMALL BUSINESS
FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

Survey: Small Business Owners Say a Strong Democracy is Key to Economic Success

September 1, 2022

About Small Business for America's Future

- Small Business for America's Future is a national coalition of business owners and leaders working to provide small businesses a voice at every level of government.
- We're committed to ensuring policymakers prioritize Main Street by advancing a just and equitable economic framework that works for small business owners, their employees and their communities.



A blue-tinted photograph of a meeting. In the foreground, a person's hands are clasped together. On the table, there are papers with charts, a pair of glasses, a pen, and a clipboard. In the background, a laptop displays a pie chart and a bar chart. Another person's hand is visible near the laptop. The overall scene suggests a professional discussion or presentation.

Key Findings

Small Business Owners Say Threats to Democracy Pose Economic Risks

From Aug. 4-31, 2022, Small Business for America's Future surveyed 1,181 small business owners in its network, asking about their feelings on issues ranging from the economic impact of threats to democracy, to their willingness to speak out in favor of protecting it.

The results show small business owners are deeply concerned about the state of U.S. democracy and the impacts that threats to democracy have on the economy and their livelihoods.

- **78%** of small business owners surveyed are very concerned with the current state of our democracy
- **73%** strongly agree that 'when a well-functioning democracy is under threat, there are negative implications for the nation's economy that harm small business'
- **89%** say a well-functioning democracy is very important to a strong small business economy
- **86%** say a well-functioning democracy is very important to capitalism



Small Business Owners Motivated to Vote in Midterms, Speak Out to Protect Democracy

The survey found most small business owners are willing to speak in favor of protecting democracy and support reforms to preserve and expand democracy, but expressed concern about political blowback from some elected officials for taking opposing views.

- **59%** of small business owners are very likely to speak out publicly in favor of protecting the democratic process
- **72%** are concerned about the threat of political retribution for businesses taking stances that counter the views of a state's elected leaders—like what we saw with [Disney and the state of Florida](#)
- **85%** say they are very motivated to cast a vote in the Congressional midterm elections and **96%** say they plan to vote at the local, state, and national levels
- **76%** support Congress passing the [Electoral Count Reform Act](#) and legislation to provide protections for election and poll workers who face unprecedented threats of violence stemming from the 2020 election

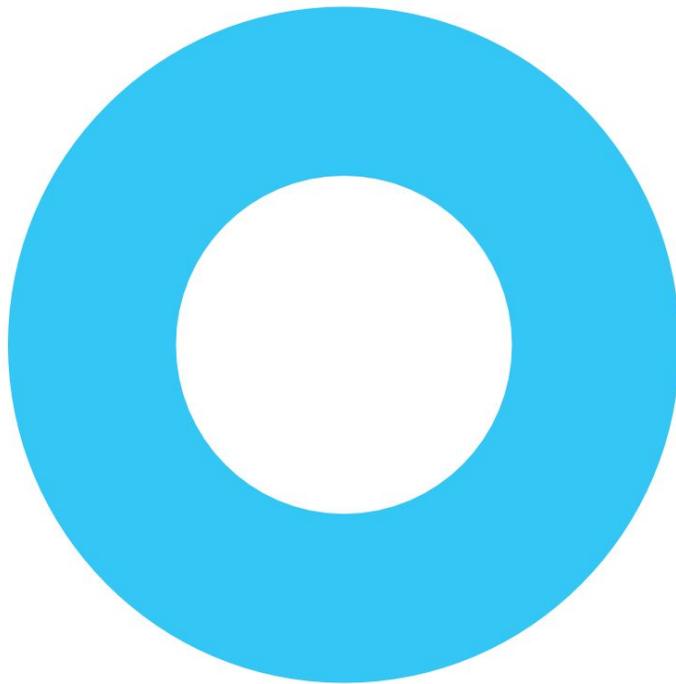


An overhead, top-down view of a wooden office desk. Several people are working at the desk. On the left, a person's hands are on a white keyboard. In the center, a person is using a laptop. On the right, a person is using a mouse. The desk is cluttered with various items: a white mouse, a black calculator, a small potted plant, a pen holder with pens, a coffee cup, a smartphone, a spiral notebook, a pen, a small box of tissues, and a water bottle. The text "Survey Results" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

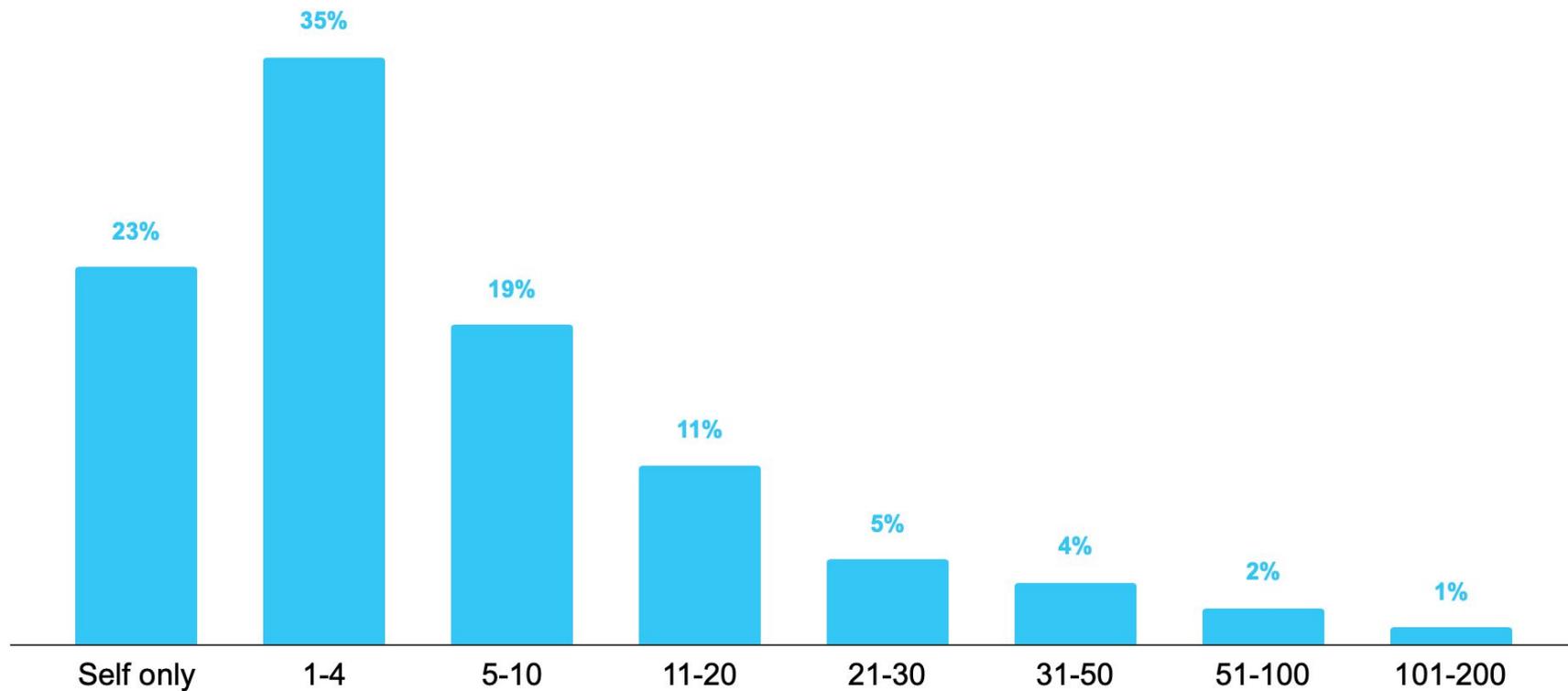
Survey Results

Q1: Are you a small business owner?

● Yes

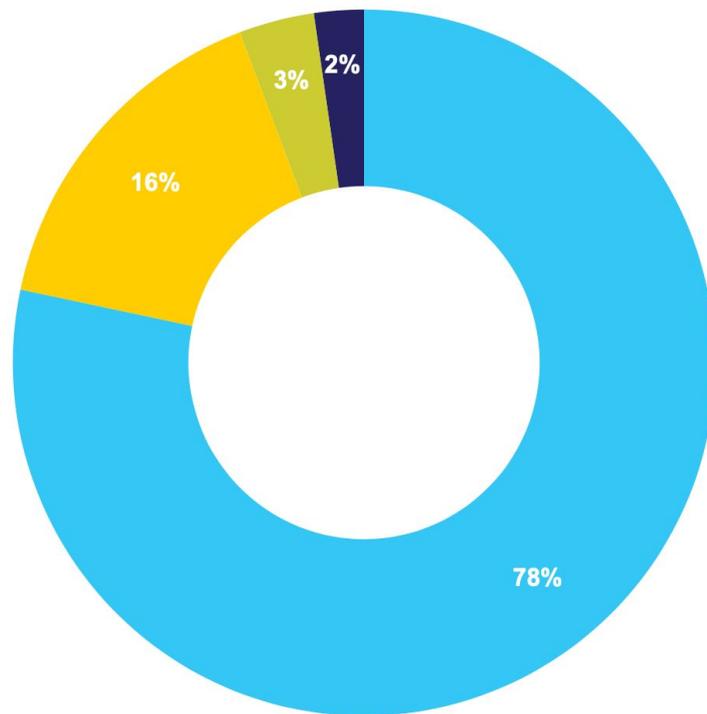


Q2: Not including yourself, how many people do you employ?



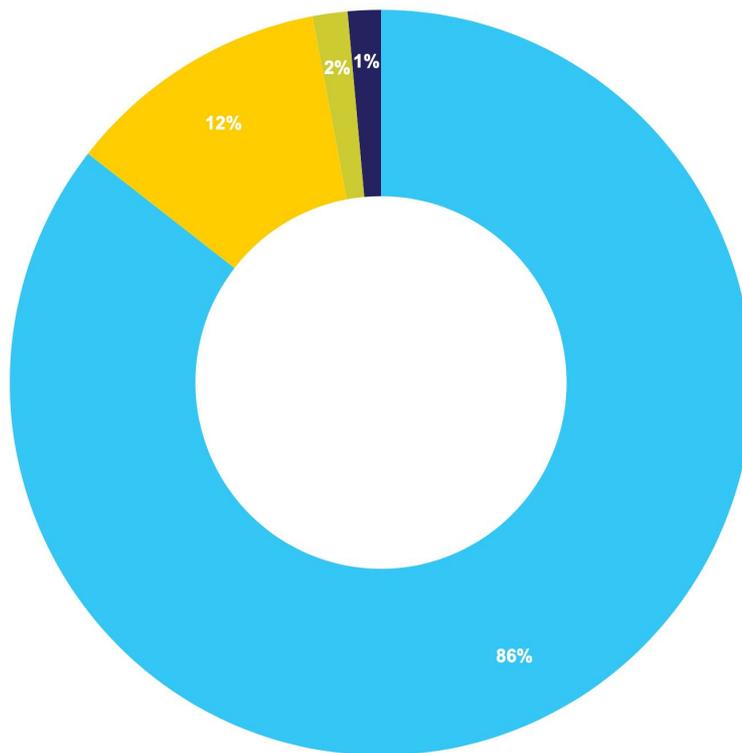
Q3: How concerned are you, if at all, about the current state of our democracy?

● Very concerned ● Somewhat concerned ● Not too concerned ● Not at all concerned



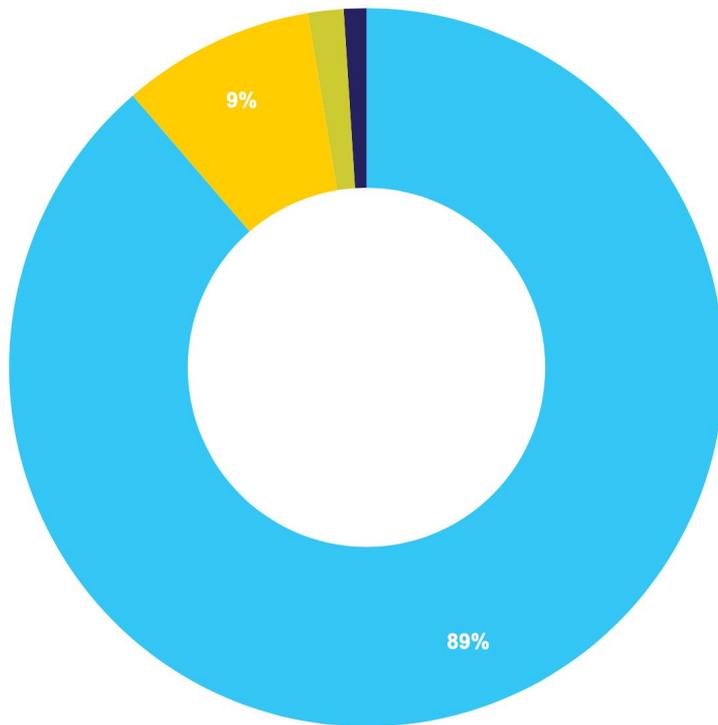
Q4: How important is a well-functioning democracy to capitalism?

● Very important ● Somewhat important ● Not too important ● Not at all important



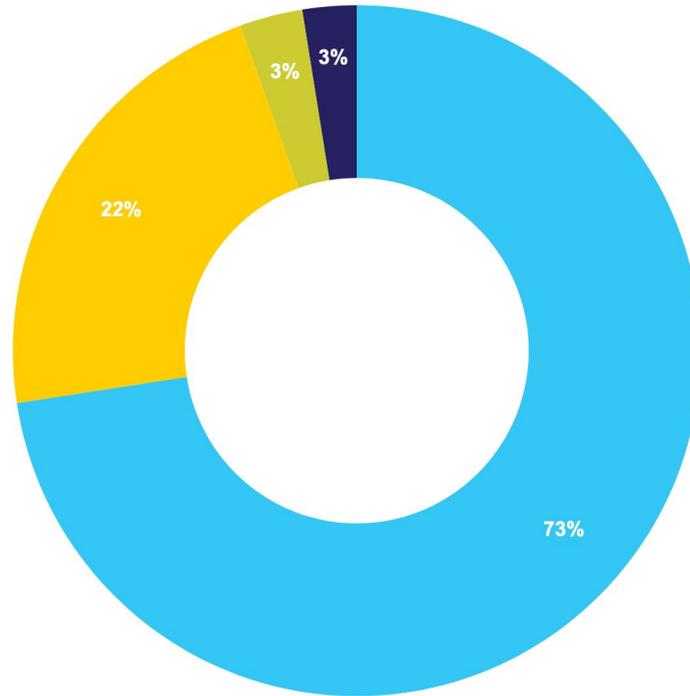
Q5: How important is a well-functioning democracy to a strong small business economy?

● Very important ● Somewhat important ● Not too important ● Not at all important



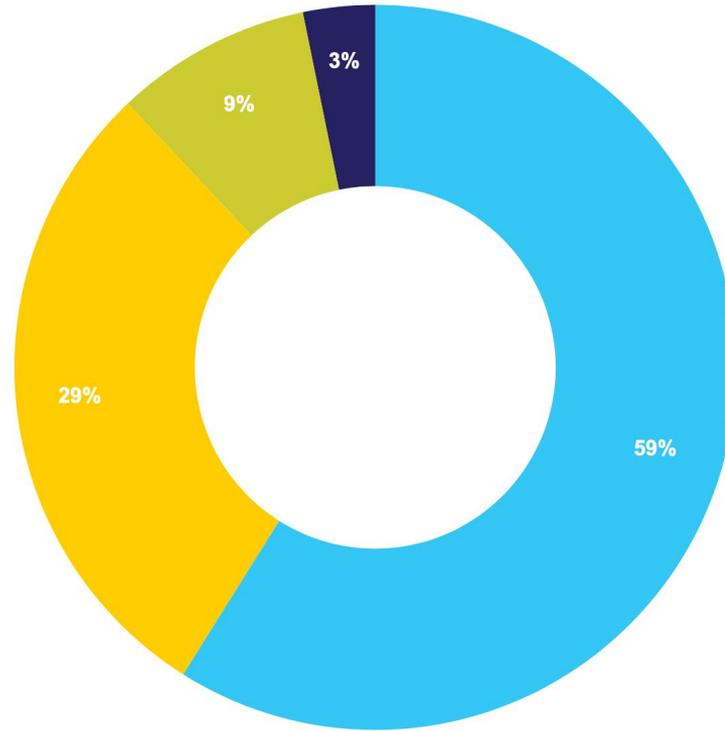
Q6: Do you agree with the following statement ‘When a well-functioning democracy is under threat, there are negative implications for the nation’s economy that harm small businesses’?

● Strongly agree ● Somewhat agree ● Somewhat disagree ● Strongly disagree



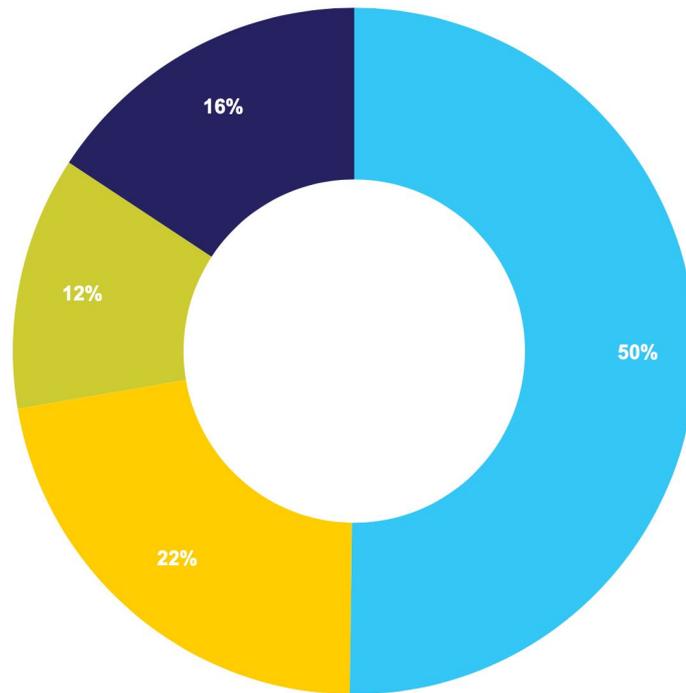
Q7: As a small business owner, how likely are you to speak out publicly in favor of defending the democratic process?

● Very likely ● Somewhat likely ● Not likely ● Definitely will not

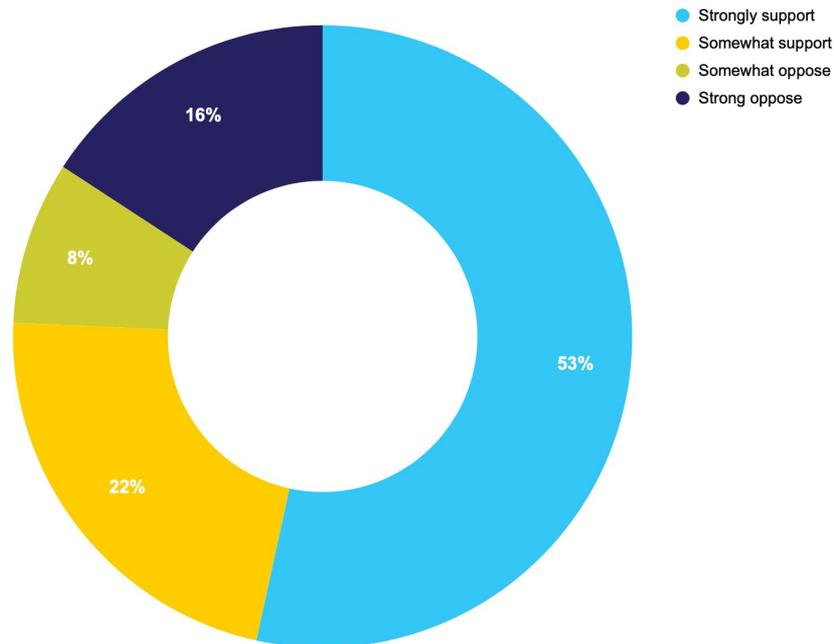


Q8: How concerned are you about the threat of political retribution for businesses taking stances that counter the views of a state's elected leaders - like what we saw recently with Disney and the state of Florida?

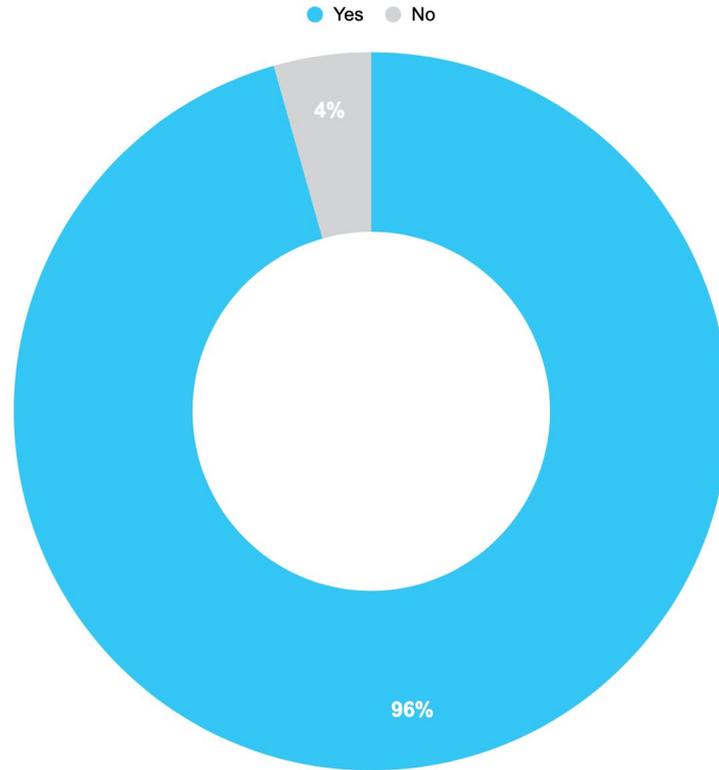
● Very concerned ● Somewhat concerned ● Not too concerned ● Not at all concerned



Q9: The Senate is currently considering two bipartisan bills related to election integrity and security of our elections process. The first, the Electoral Count Act is designed to close gaps in federal law and prevent future candidates from exploiting the electoral college process. The bill would clarify the vice president's role in counting Electoral College votes, raise the bar for members of Congress to object, and try to prevent fake slates of electors from interfering in the process. The second, would provide protections for election and poll workers who continue to face unprecedented threats of violence stemming from the 2020 election. Based on what you know, would you support Congress passing these laws?

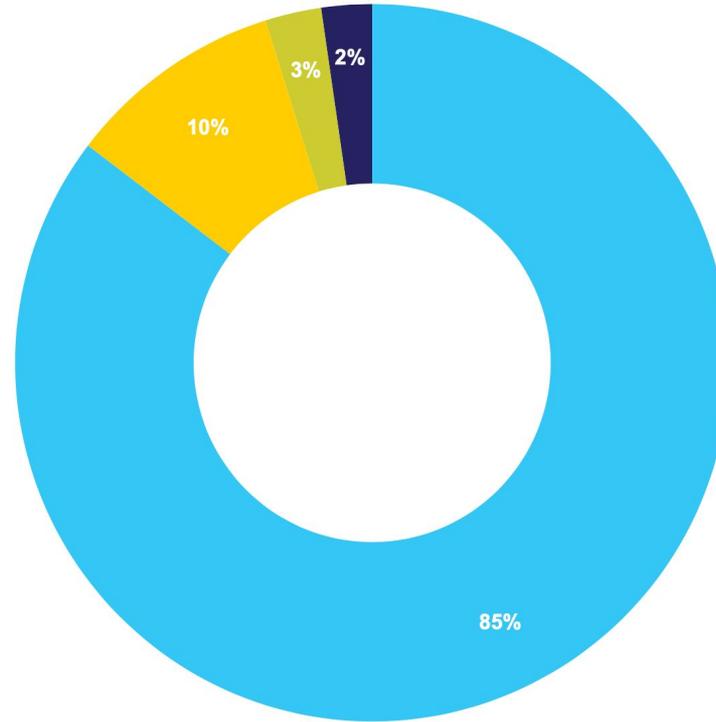


Q10: Do you plan to vote in November for the midterm Congressional elections as well as other state and local elections?



Q11: How motivated are you to vote in November for the midterm Congressional elections?

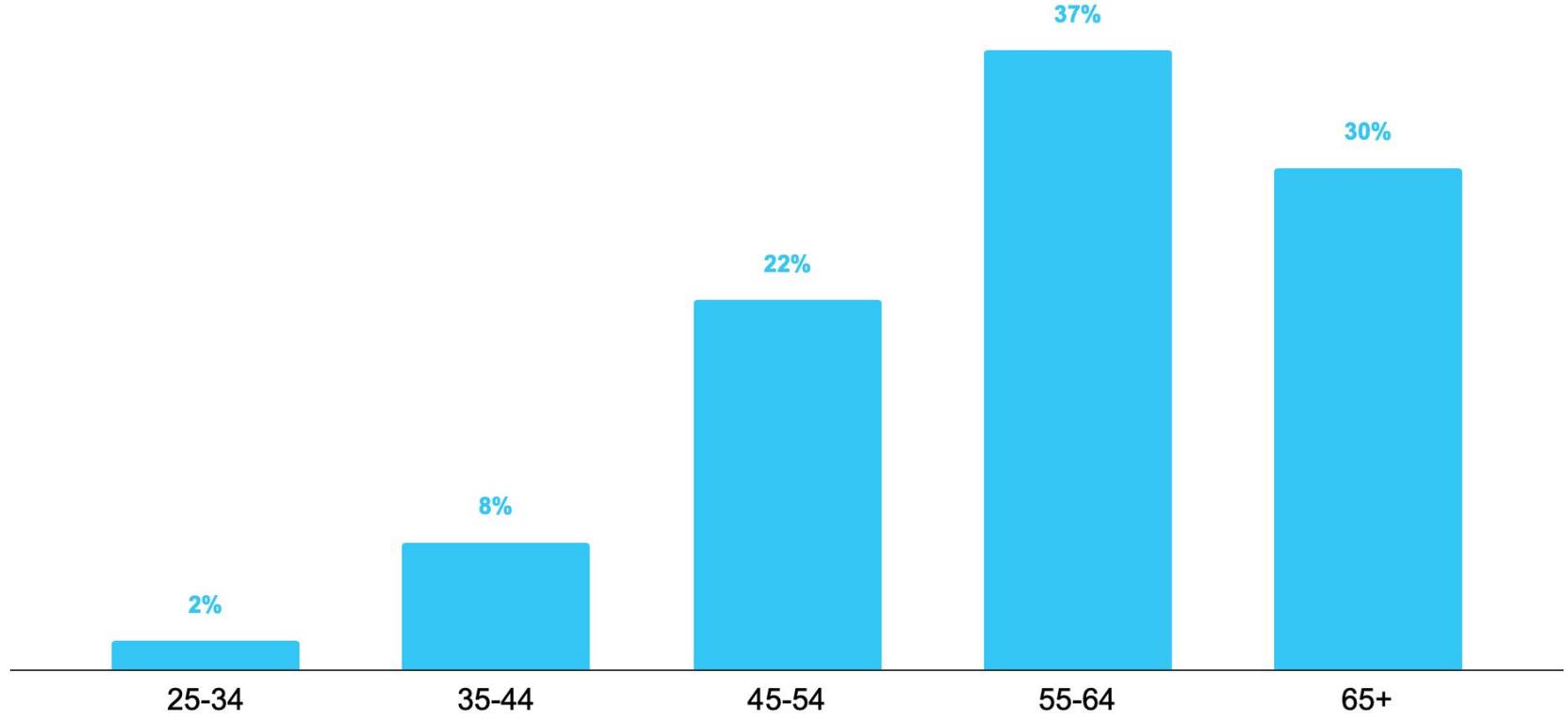
● Very motivated ● Somewhat motivated ● Not motivated ● I do not plan to vote



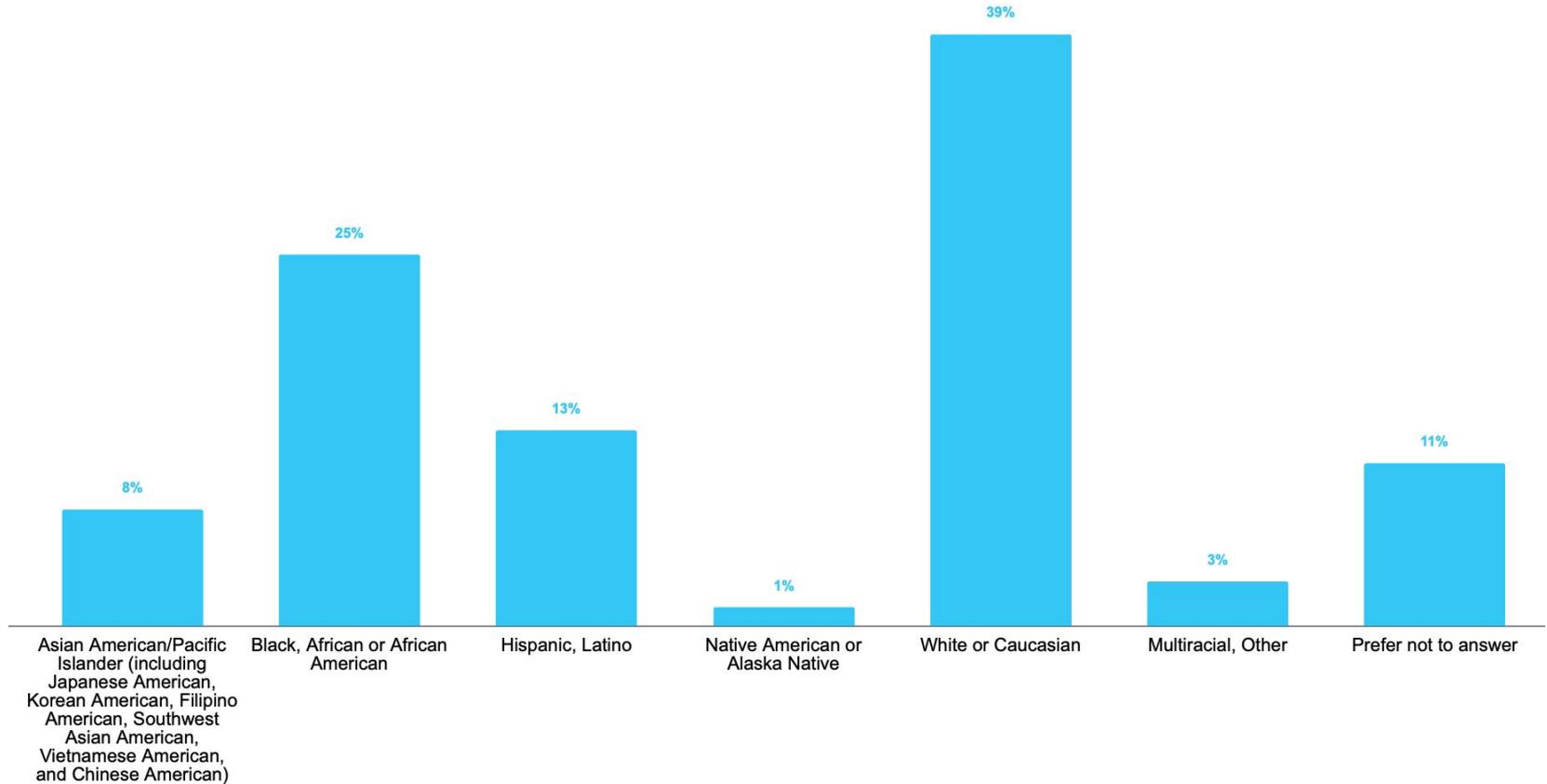
An aerial, top-down view of a busy pedestrian walkway, likely in a public space like a transit station or a large building lobby. The floor is made of light-colored, rectangular tiles. A group of about seven people is walking together on the left side of the frame, moving towards the bottom-left. Further down and to the right, several other individuals are walking in various directions. The entire image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text 'Demographic Data' is centered in the middle of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

Demographic Data

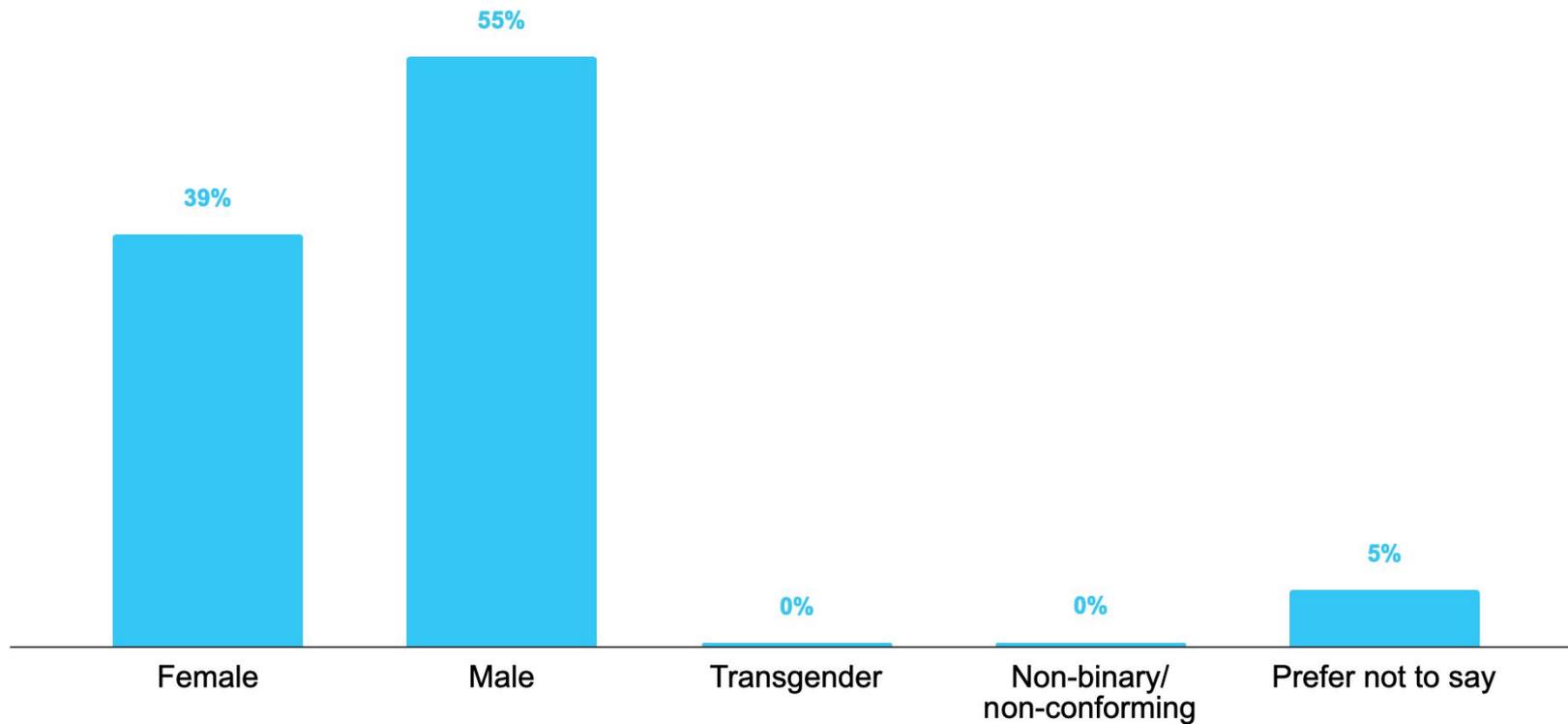
Q12: What is your age?

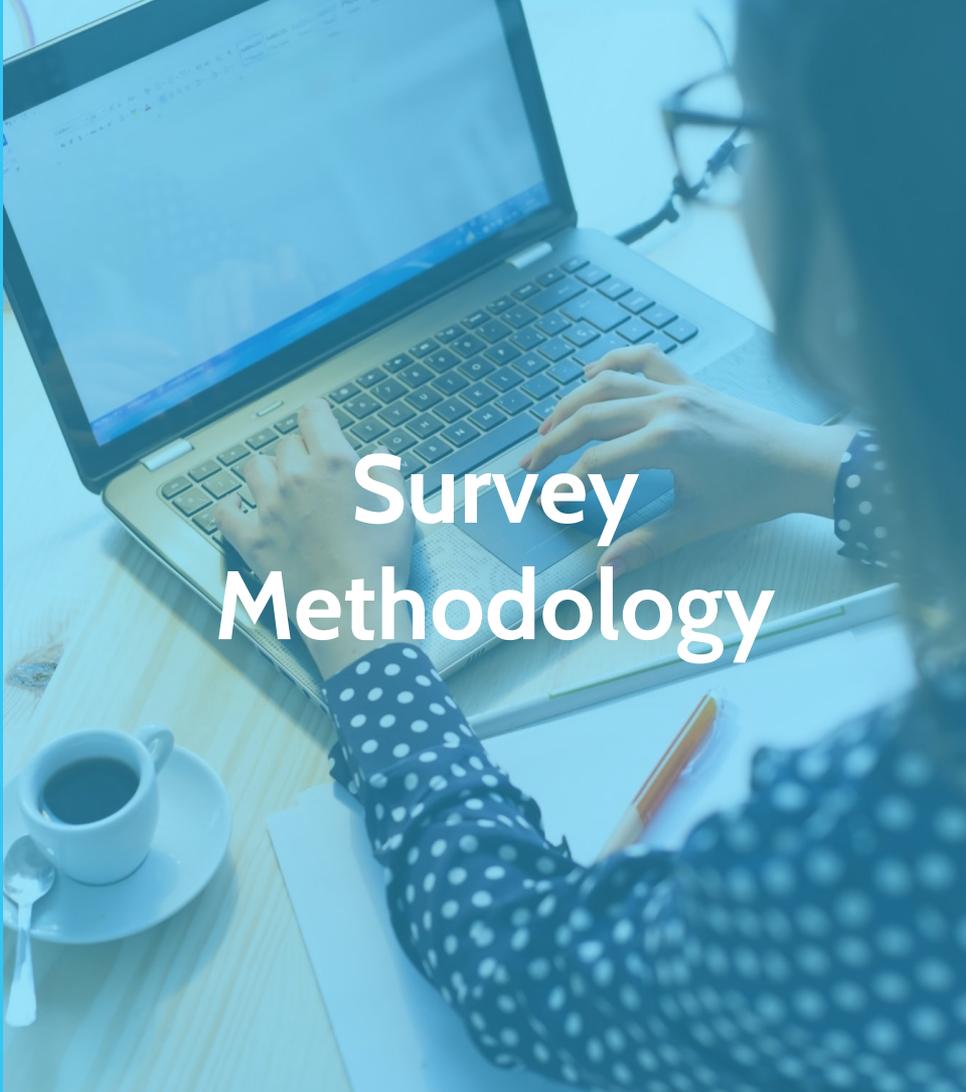


Q13: How do you identify yourself?



Q14: What is your gender identity?





Survey Methodology

1,181 Total Responses

Methodology:
Survey Monkey survey of the Small Business for
America's Future small business network
Fielded from Aug. 4-31, 2022

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