



November 3, 2023

**TO:** Interested parties

**FROM:** Betsy App & Sumati Thomas, [Embold Research](#)

**RE:** Allegheny County voters divided on candidates, concerned about crime

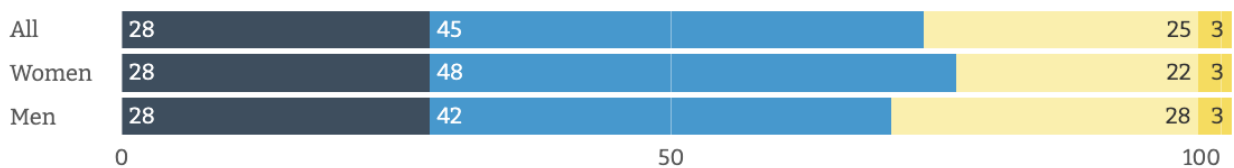
Embold Research surveyed 860 likely November 7th voters in Allegheny County, PA from October 21-23, 2023<sup>1</sup> to examine voters’ perceptions related to personal safety, crime, and rape and sexual assault. The survey has a margin of error of 3.5 percentage points.

**Voters are feeling less safe now compared to just five years ago.** Nearly three-quarters (72%) say they feel less safe than they did five years ago, including one in four (28%) who say they feel a lot less safe. Allegheny women are somewhat more likely than men to feel less safe than they felt in the recent past.

## Perceptions of personal safety

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● A lot less safe ● Somewhat less safe ● Somewhat safer ● Much safer



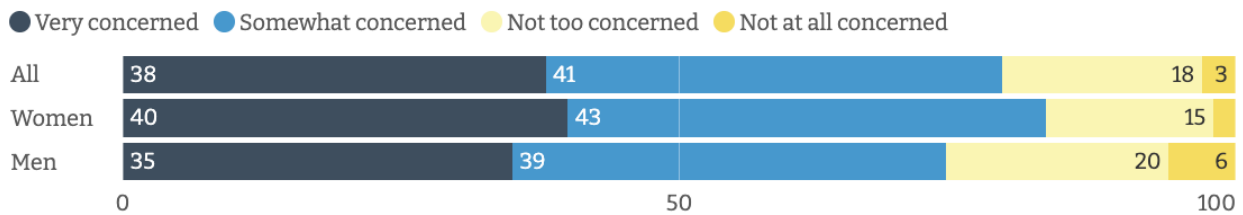
Q. Thinking about your personal safety, do you feel safer or less safe than you did five years ago?

<sup>1</sup>Polling was conducted online from October 21-23. Using Dynamic Online Sampling to attain a representative sample, Change Research polled 860 likely November 2023 general election voters in Allegheny County. Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, and 2020 presidential vote. You can see a full methodology statement [here](#), which complies with the requirements of AAPOR’s Transparency Initiative. Members of the Transparency Initiative disclose all relevant details about our research, with the principle that the public should be able to evaluate and understand research-based findings, in order to instill and restore public confidence in survey results.

**Voters, especially women, are deeply concerned about rape and sexual assault in Allegheny County.** Four in five (79%) voters express concern about rape and sexual assault as well as hate crimes. Women, especially, report intense concern, with 40% of women saying they are *very* concerned about rape and sexual assault in the county.

## Concern about rape and sexual assault

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Q. How concerned are you about rape and sexual assault in Allegheny County?

**Likely November voters in Allegheny County have a strong preference for candidates who support survivors of rape and sexual assault.** More than two-in-five (82%) say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate for countywide office who will advocate for survivors of rape and sexual assault, reducing barriers to reporting incidents of assault and promoting survivors' healing while holding offenders accountable. Half (51%) say they would be much more likely to vote for such a candidate.

**Voters express strong support for the use of early evidence kits in Allegheny County, empowering survivors to gather their own evidence of assault.** A strong majority (70%) of likely voters say they support the use of early evidence kits, which allow sexual assault survivors to gather their own evidence of their assault, rather than needing to go through a 4- to 6-hour long examination in a hospital after a traumatic event—a process that many survivors find too uncomfortable to go through. Just 15% oppose the use of early evidence kits in Allegheny County.

## REPORTED QUESTIONS

### How did you vote in the 2020 election for President, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

58% Joe Biden, the Democrat  
 38 Donald Trump, the Republican  
 2 Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian  
 0 Not registered/Too young/Ineligible  
 2 Did not vote

### Do you plan to vote in the November 7 election for Allegheny County Executive, Allegheny County District Attorney, and other offices?

16% I voted already  
 74 Yes, definitely  
 7 Yes, probably  
 3 Maybe (50-50)  
 0 No, probably not  
 0 No, definitely not

### Thinking about your personal safety, do you feel safer or less safe than you did five years ago?

3% Much safer  
 25% Somewhat safer  
 45% Somewhat less safe  
 28% A lot less safe

### How concerned are you about \_\_\_\_\_ in Allegheny County?

	<b>Very concerned</b>	<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>Not too concerned</b>	<b>Not at all concerned</b>	<b>Total concerned</b>	<b>Total not concerned</b>
Rape and sexual assault	38	41	18	4	<b>78</b>	<b>22</b>

### Would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate for countywide office who will advocate for survivors of rape and sexual assault, reducing barriers to reporting incidents of assault and promoting survivors' healing while holding offenders accountable?

51% Much more likely  
 31 Somewhat more likely  
 13 Makes no difference  
 2 Somewhat less likely  
 3 Much less likely

**82 Total more likely**  
**5 Total less likely**

**Early evidence kits allow rape and sexual assault victims to gather their own evidence of their assault, rather than needing to go through a 4- to 6-hour long examination in a hospital after a traumatic event—a process that many survivors find too uncomfortable to go through.**

### Do you support or oppose the use of these early evidence kits in Allegheny County?

39% Strongly support  
 31 Somewhat support  
 9 Somewhat oppose  
 6 Strongly oppose  
 15% Not sure

**Are you:**

46% Male  
53 Female  
1 Other

**Age**

18% 18 to 34  
21 35 to 49  
28 50 to 64  
34 65+

**What is your race?**

86% White / Caucasian  
9 Black or African American  
2 Hispanic or Latino/a  
2 Asian / Pacific Islander  
1 American Indian or Alaska Native  
2 Other

**What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

11% High school diploma or less  
22 Some college, but no degree  
16 Associate's degree, or two-year college degree  
25 Bachelor's degree, or four-year college degree  
26 Graduate degree

**Party Identification**

39% Strong Democrats  
11 Weak Democrats  
7 Independent lean Democrats  
8 Pure independents  
5 Independent lean Republicans  
8 Weak Republicans  
22 Strong Republicans

**Party Identification 2-3-2**

50% Base Democrats  
20 Independents + Leanners  
30 Base Republicans

**Party Identification 3-1-3**

56% Democrats  
8 Pure independents  
35 Republicans