

The Message To Republicans Out Of Last Week's Elections

Last Tuesday's elections did not go well for Republicans, and while there are several electoral takeaways, one of the most obvious is that cost of living is still a problem for voters. For several weeks, we have highlighted this concern in Discussion Points. Our 2024 post election survey showed Republicans having a lead of +12 on inflation and +11 on the economy; in our latest survey (October 15-16), those leads were down to -3 (inflation) and -1 (economy). Last week's elections showed a clear focus on the economy and that economic issues are a vulnerability for Republicans. Here are the exit poll results of the choice of five issues:

Virginia Governor: In the gubernatorial election, the economy dominated the choice of five issues at 48%, with health care a distant second at 21%. Among voters whose top issue was the economy, Spanberger won 63-36.

Which one of these five issues is the most important facing Virginia?	
The economy	48
Health care	21
Immigration	11
Education	11
Crime	5

New Jersey Governor: In New Jersey, economic issues were at the forefront with taxes at 35% and the economy a close second at 32%. Among those prioritizing taxes, Ciattarelli won them 62-37. Those who focused on the economy voted for Sherrill 66-33.

Which one of these five issues is the most important facing New Jersey?	
Taxes	35
The economy	32
Health care	16
Immigration	7
Crime	3

NYC Mayor: In the mayoral race, cost of living dominated at 55%, with crime coming in second at 22%, and other issues in single digits (immigration, 9%; health care, 7%, transportation, 1%).

Which one of these five issues is the most important facing New York City?	
Cost of living	55
Crime	22
Immigration	9
Health care	7
Transportation	1

These results indicate that Republicans need to regain their focus on the economy and inflation going into 2026.

Have a good week.

David & Myra