

# Nebraska Annual Social Survey Snapshot: Political Views Among Nebraska Adults

## Political Views Lean Conservative and Republican, with Variation over Age and Urbanicity

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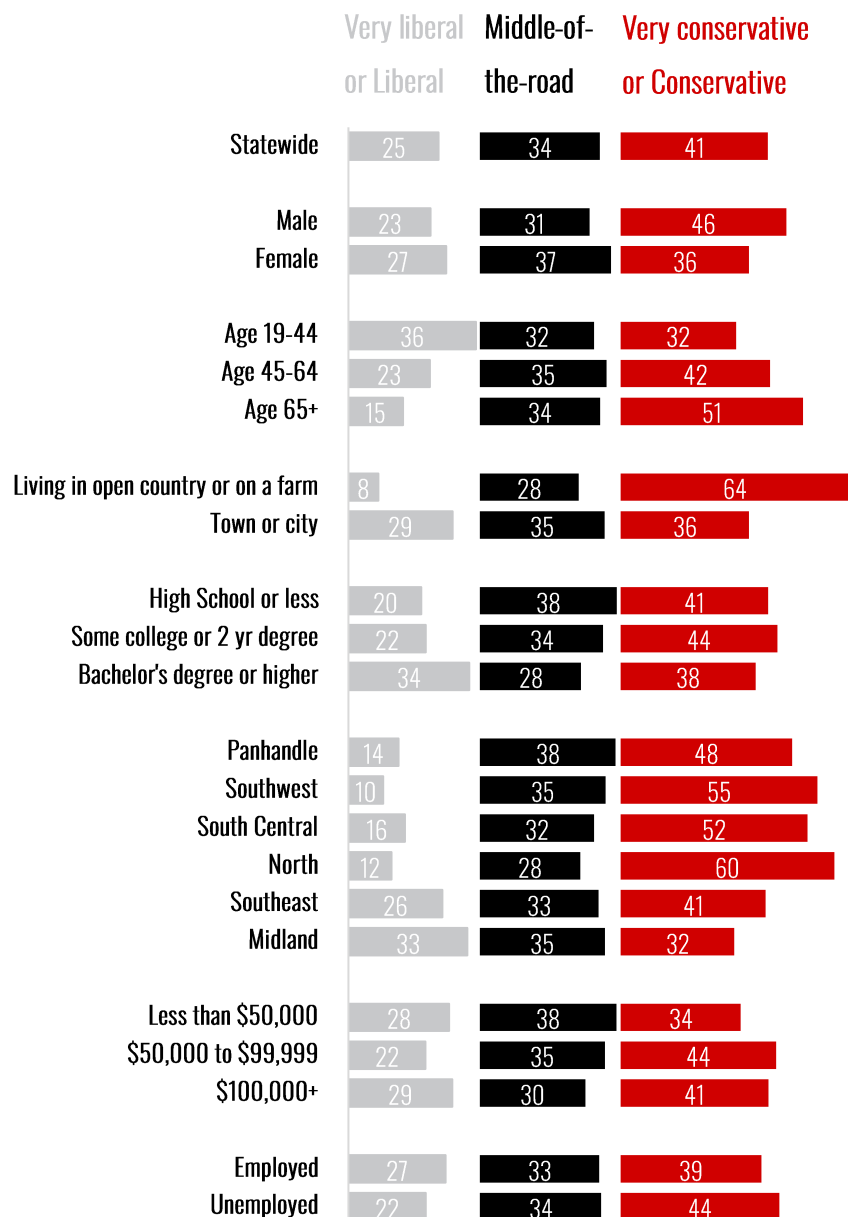
A survey of 2,232 Nebraskans between July and November 2024 were asked questions about their political views. Two of these questions – “In general, how would you describe your political views” and “In general, what do you consider yourself politically?” – are in this Snapshot report. For the first question, respondents could answer “very liberal,” “liberal,” “middle-of-the-road,” “very conservative,” or “conservative.” For this report, “liberal” and “very liberal,” and “conservative” and “very conservative” answers are combined and referred to as “liberal” and “conservative,” respectively. For the second question, respondents could answer “Democrat,” “Republican,” “Independent” or “other.” For this report, “Independent” is included with “other;” and referred to as “Independent.” Respondents were not asked whether they are registered to vote in Nebraska.

Overall, 41% of Nebraska adults described themselves as conservative, 25% described themselves as liberal, and 34% described themselves as middle-of-the-road. Forty-six percent of males considered themselves to be conservative while 36% of females considered themselves to be conservative and 37% middle-of-the-road.

The biggest variation was across age and urbanicity groups. Among adults aged 19-44, 36% reported their political views as liberal while a third (32%) each described themselves as middle-of-the-road or conservative. Two-fifths of adults aged 45-64 (42%) and just over half of those aged 65+ (51%) described themselves as conservative. Nebraska residents living in open country or on a farm were more likely (64%) to describe themselves as conservative compared to those living in a town or city (36%).

There was not a significant difference between political views across level of income or employment status of Nebraskans, but those with a bachelor’s degree or higher were more likely to report being liberal (34%) than those with some college (22%) or a high school degree or less (20%).

### In general, how would you describe your political views?



Many Nebraskans consider themselves to be Republican. Four-in-ten (41%) adults statewide are Republican while similar proportion of adults report being a Democrat (28%) or Independent (31%). Men and women do not vary in their party ID, nor do Nebraskans of different education levels, or for those who are employed or not employed.

Age and geography groups are where we see the largest differences in party ID, as with political ideology. About half of adults aged 65+ (51%) are Republican compared to 34% of 19–44-year-olds; 39% of this youngest group consider themselves Independent. About two-thirds of Nebraskans living in open country or on a farm (68%) are Republicans while those living in a town or city were equally likely to report being Democrat (31%), Republican (35%) and Independent (34%).

Half of Nebraskans living in the Panhandle (52%), Southwest (54%), South Central (53%) and two-thirds of those living in the North (63%), consider themselves to be Republicans compared those in the Midland area (including Omaha) where more than a third (36%) consider themselves Democrat. Those in the Southeast (including Lincoln) were slightly more likely to be Republicans (41%), although 28% reported being a Democrat and 32% Independent.

Party ID varies across income levels. About one-third (34%) of Nebraskans with an annual income of less than \$50,000 reported being a Democrat, 30% Republican, and 36% Independent. Higher income Nebraskans were more likely to report being Republicans (44%–46%) versus Democrats (22% for \$50,000–\$99,999; 30% for \$100,000+) or Independents (34% for \$50,000–\$99,999, 25% for \$100,000+).

### Data Source and Methodology

The Nebraska Annual Social Indicators Survey (NASIS) is an annual statewide concurrent mail and web survey conducted by BOSR with multiple clients. NASIS uses an address-based sample of adults aged 19 and older (Nebraska’s age of majority) and asks adults with the next birthday to participate in the survey. The 2024 NASIS consisted of a 16-page paper questionnaire that was administered by mail with an option to complete by web to a sample of 10,000 Nebraska households. Data were collected from July to November 2024 with an AAPOR Response Rate 2 of 23.2% (n=2,232). Overall estimates have a margin of error of ±4%. Significantly different groups are reported from statistical tests with p<.05. The full methodology report can be found at <https://bosr.unl.edu/nasis>.

### WHO ARE WE?

BOSR has been conducting survey research and providing research assistance to University of Nebraska–Lincoln faculty, departments, administrative units, students, and various government agencies and non-profit organizations since 1964. Operating as a 'one-stop research shop,' BOSR develops and manages mail, web, telephone, in-person, and mixed-mode surveys with academic rigor.

## In general, what do you consider yourself politically?

