



# Survey: Understanding Small Business Perspectives on the Economy & Government Budget Negotiations

September 14, 2023

# 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.





# Key Findings

# National Small Business Survey: Views on Economy and Government Budget Negotiations

Between Aug. 4-24, 2023, Small Business for America's Future conducted a national survey of **1,089** small business owners to gauge their sentiment on the current economic climate and their perspectives on government budget negotiations. As Congress reconvenes, more lawmakers are acknowledging the potential of a government shutdown.

## Key Insights

- 78% small business owners believe if Congress fails to create a budget, a federal government shutdown would negatively impact small businesses
- Nearly 60% of the respondents are optimistic about the economy but 78% say a government shutdown would have a negative impact on the economy overall



# National Small Business Survey: Views on Economy and Government Budget Negotiations

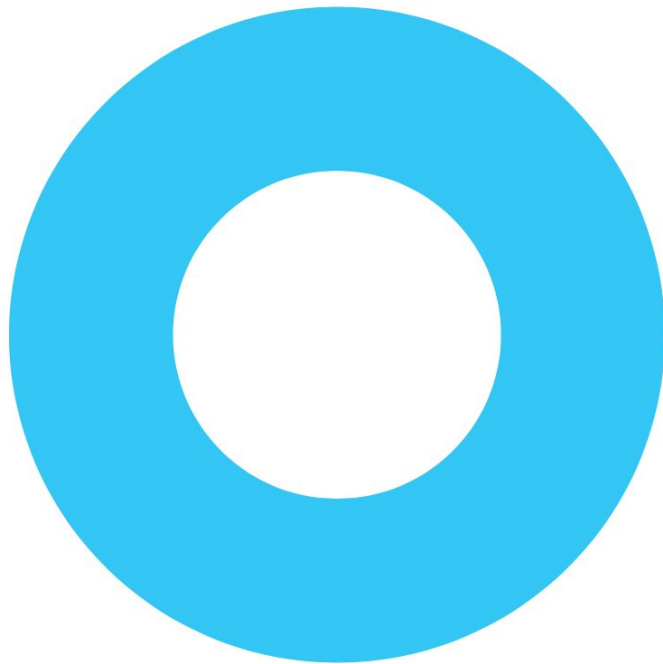
## Budget Priorities

- 7 in 10 respondents want lawmakers to prioritize specific small business support measures such as access to capital programs, tax credit incentives, training and development programs for skill enhancement, and opportunities for securing government contracts through set-aside programs during budget negotiations
  - 45% want Congress to prioritize comprehensive tax reforms
  - 43% want lawmakers to prioritize broader healthcare reforms

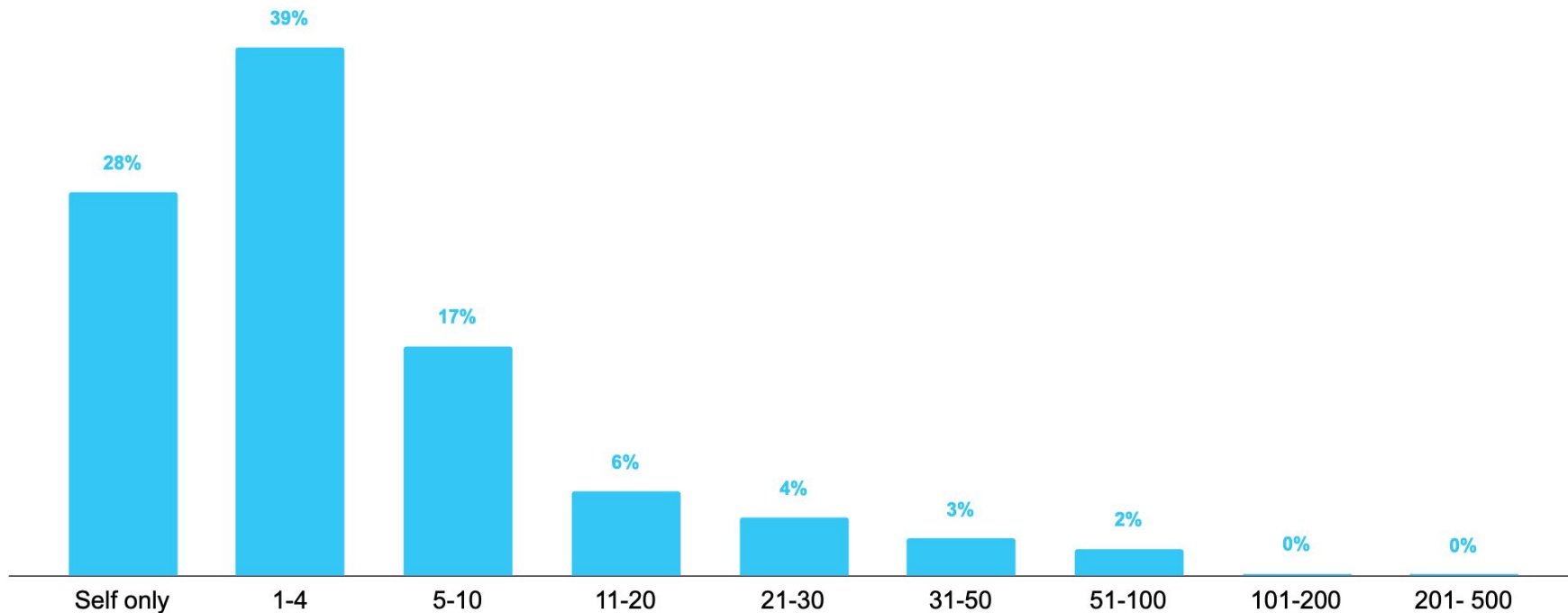


## Q1: Are you a small business owner?

● Yes

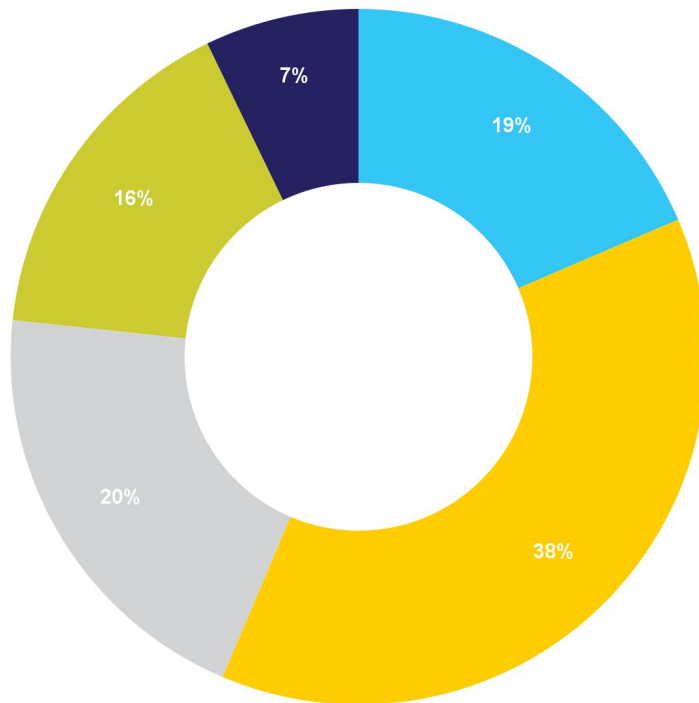


## Q2: Not including yourself, how many employees do you have?

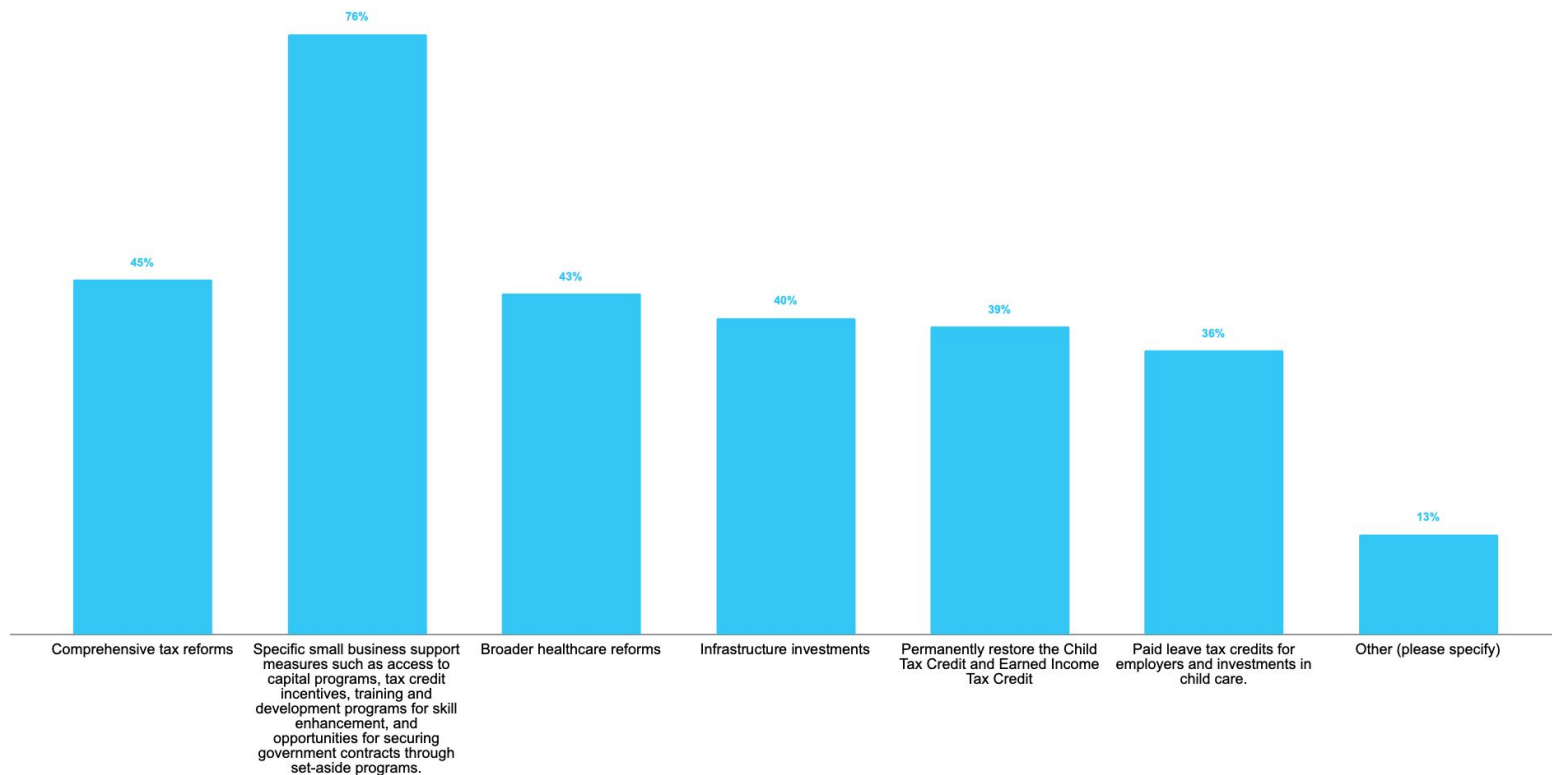


### Q3: Given the current economic climate, what is your level of optimism for the future of your business?

● Extremely optimistic ● Moderately optimistic ● Neutral ● Moderately pessimistic ● Extremely pessimistic

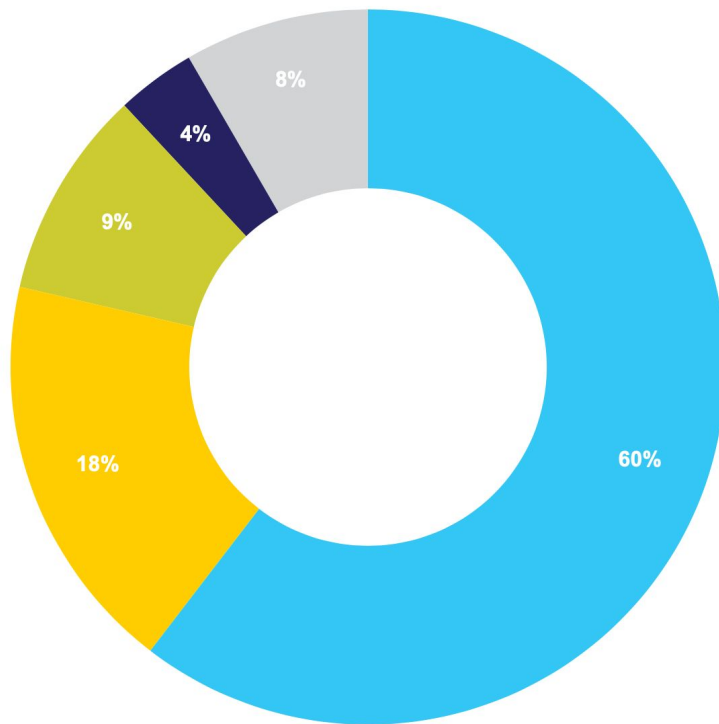


## Q4: What issues should lawmakers prioritize in the upcoming budget negotiations? (Please select all that apply)



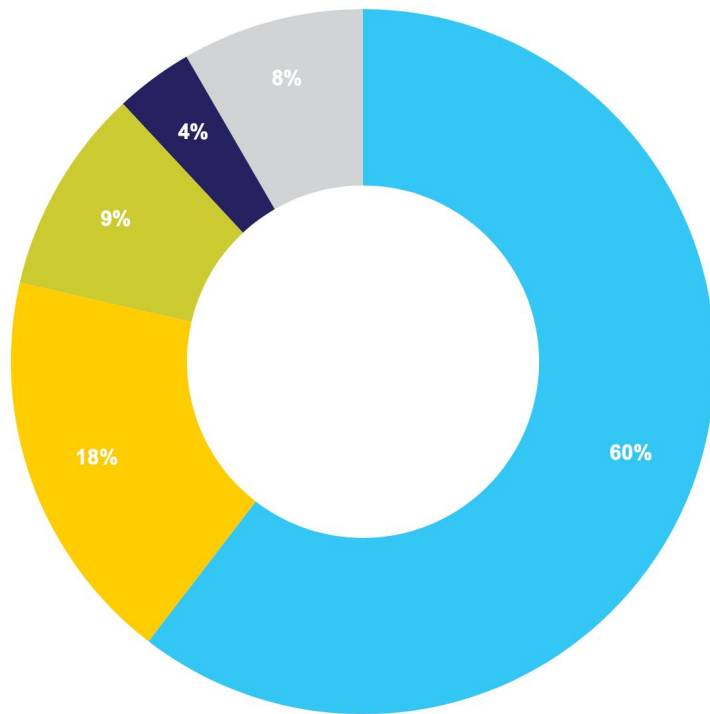
## Q5: What would the potential impact on small businesses be if Congress fails to reach a budget agreement, resulting in a federal government shutdown?

● Significant negative impact ● Moderate negative impact ● Minimal or no impact ● Positive impact ● Unsure/No opinion



## Q6: What would the potential impact on the economy as a whole if Congress fails to reach a budget agreement, resulting in a federal government shutdown?

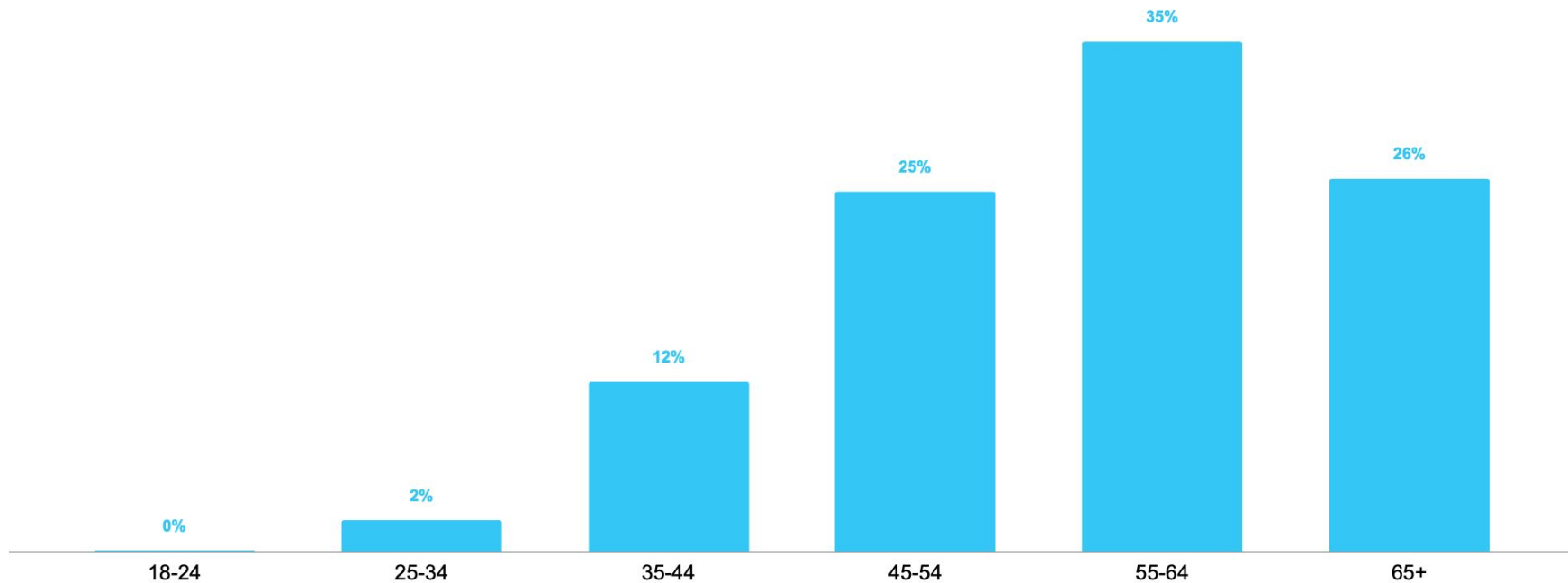
● Significant negative impact ● Moderate negative impact ● Minimal or no impact ● Positive impact ● Unsure/No opinion



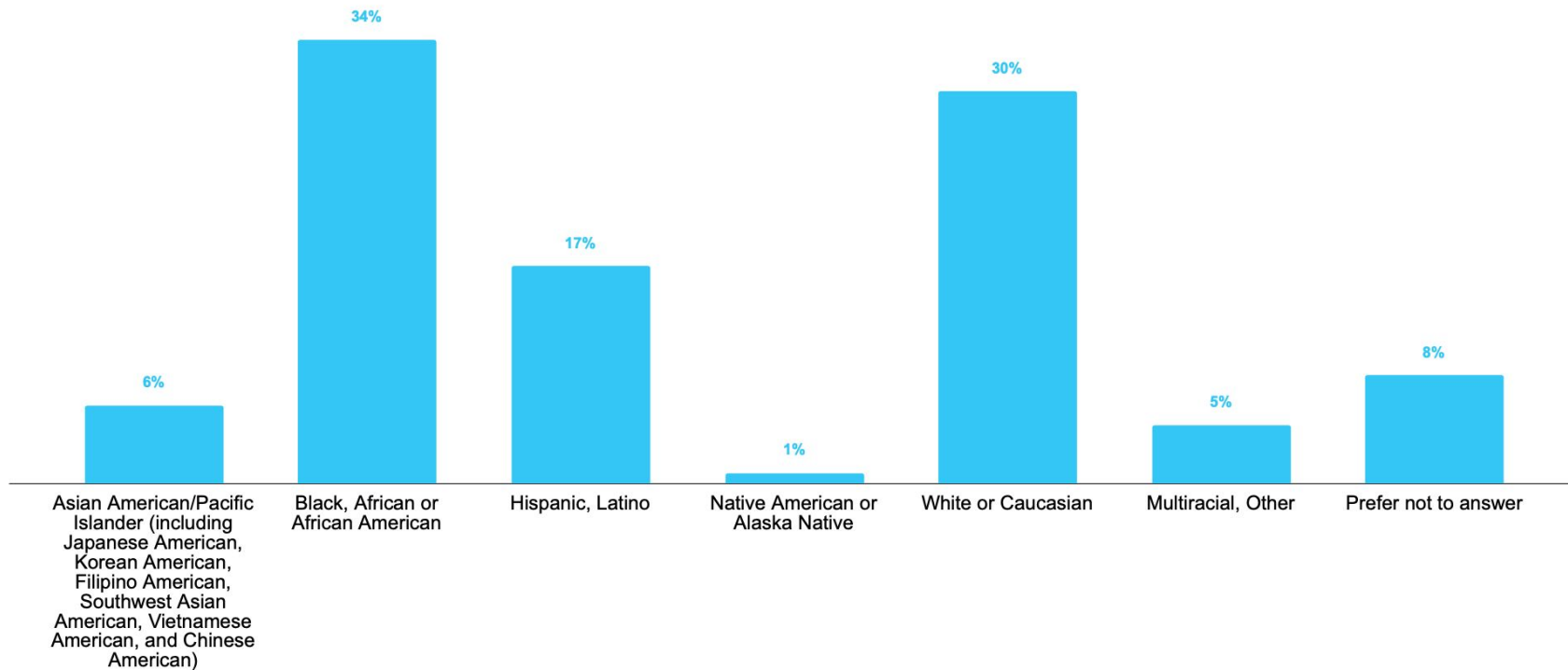
An aerial, high-angle photograph of a wide, paved pedestrian walkway. The ground is composed of large, light-colored rectangular tiles. Several people are walking across the frame in various directions. Some are walking in groups, while others are alone. The overall scene is captured with a blue color overlay, giving it a cool, modern feel. The text "Demographic Data" is superimposed in the center of the image in a white, sans-serif font.

# Demographic Data

## Q13: What is your age?

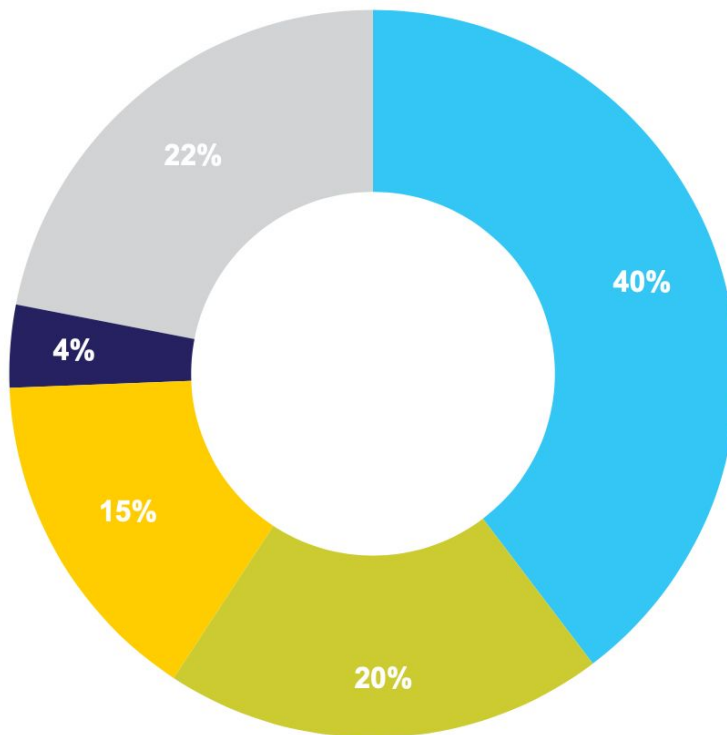


## Q14: How do you identify yourself?

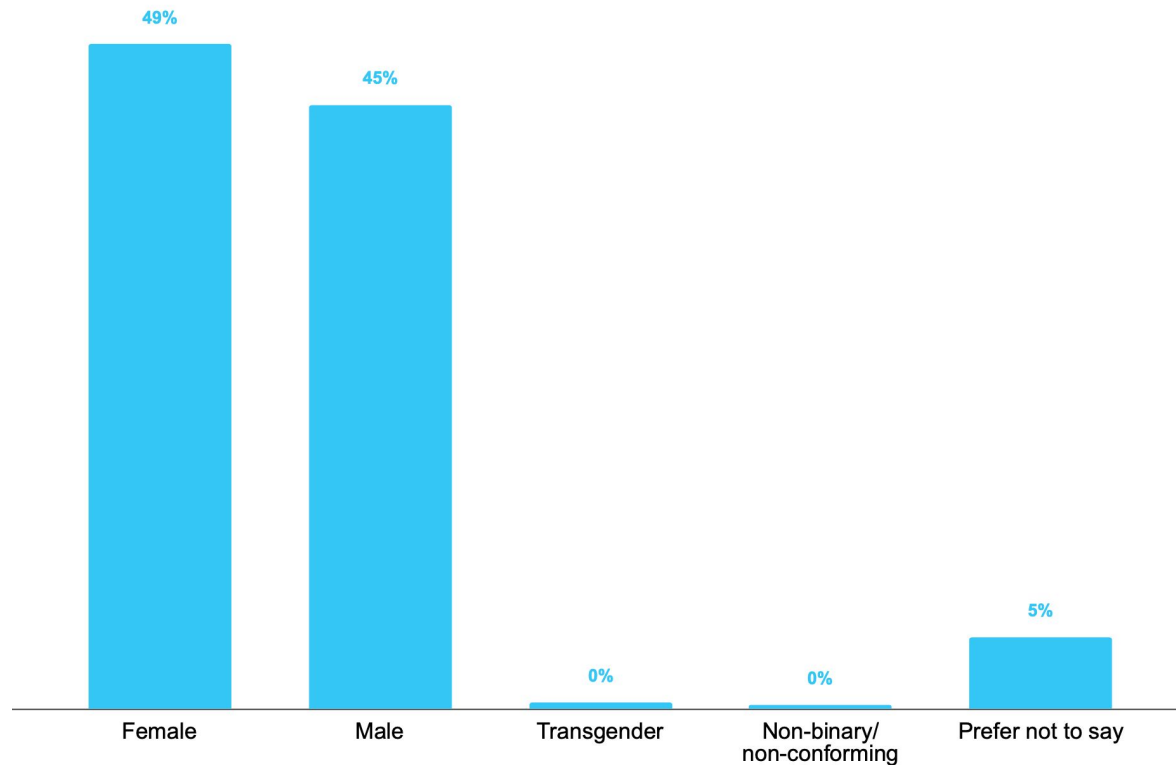


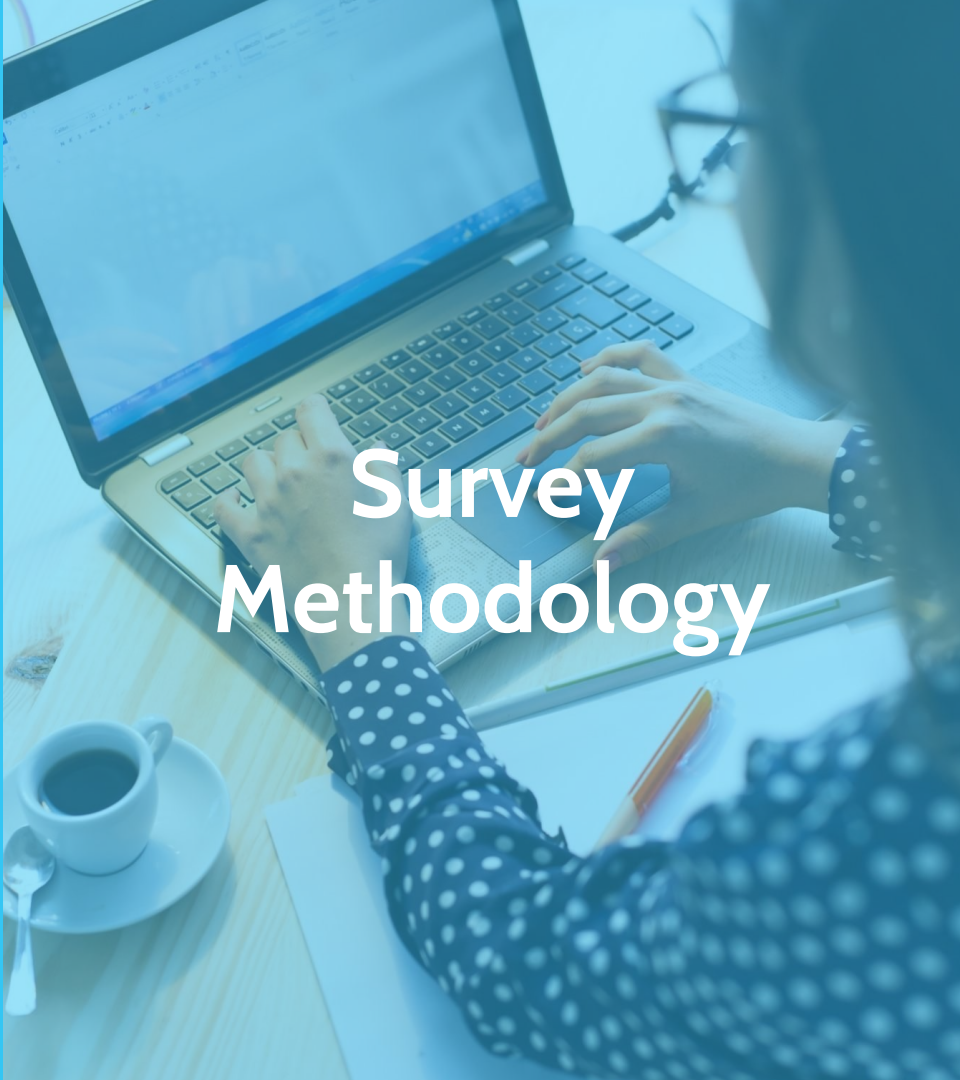
## Q15: Which best represents how you typically vote in elections?

● Democrat ● Independent ● Republican ● Other ● Don't know/Prefer not to say



## Q16: What is your gender identity?



A person wearing a blue polka-dot shirt is sitting at a desk, typing on a laptop. A white cup of coffee sits on a saucer to the left. The image has a blue tint.

# Survey Methodology

## 1,089 Total Responses

Methodology:

Survey Monkey survey of Small Business for  
America's Future small business network

Fielded August 4-24, 2023

---

**SMALL BUSINESS**  
FOR AMERICA'S FUTURE

