CRITICAL ISSUES POLL

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# Poll on Iran War and Senate Leadership

## Survey Methodology

This poll was conducted by Ipsos from November 13-15, 2026, using the probability-based KnowledgePanel®. This poll is based on a nationally representative probability sample of 1,016 adults age 18 or older.

The study was conducted in English. The data for the total sample were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race/ethnicity, education, Census region, metropolitan status, and household income. The demographic benchmarks came from the 2026 March Supplement of the Current Population Survey (CPS). The 2024 presidential vote choice benchmarks came from the federal elections 2024 election results for the U.S. President.

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.2 percentage points at the 95% confidence level, based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.10.

*Note: Percentages may not always add to one hundred due to rounding.*

Q1. As you may know, Senator Chris Van Hollen, Democrat of Maryland, is challenging Senator Chuck Schumer, Democrat of New York, as Senate majority leader. Who would you like to see lead the Senate majority?

| | Republicans | Democrats | All respondents |
|---|---|---|---|
| Senator Schumer | 5.8% | 12.9% | 7.0% |
| Senator Van Hollen | 13.0% | 32.1% | 19.9% |
| Neither | 45.1% | 11.5% | 27.2% |
| I don't know | 35.7% | 43.2% | 43.9% |

Q2. As you may know, the Strait of Hormuz is an important passageway through which roughly 20% of the world's oil and gas supply passes. Who do you think controls the Strait of Hormuz now?

| | Republicans | Democrats | All respondents |
|---|---|---|---|
| Iran | 26.6% | 50.2% | 35.2% |
| United States | 26.6% | 7.0% | 12.7% |
| Both | 11.9% | 9.4% | 9.6% |
| Neither | 6.8% | 8.4% | 10.6% |
| I don't know | 26.3% | 24.7% | 30.0% |

Q3. In your opinion, is Iran in a better or worse position to develop nuclear weapons today compared to the following?

1. Compared to the period preceding the start of the Iran War in February 2026

| | Republicans | Democrats | All respondents |
|---|---|---|---|
| Better position | 10.1% | 19.2% | 14.2% |
| Worse position | 45.7% | 20.9% | 28.0% |
| Same position | 13.7% | 24.7% | 20.1% |
| I don't know | 29.5% | 33.8% | 34.9% |

2. Compared to when the Iran nuclear deal (JCPOA) was still in effect (2015-2018) before the US withdrew.

| | Republicans | Democrats | All respondents |
|---|---|---|---|
| Better position | 16.2% | 25.5% | 20.7% |
| Worse position | 35.0% | 21.0% | 23.6% |
| Same position | 13.4% | 16.4% | 14.3% |
| I don't know | 33.9% | 35.7% | 38.4% |

Q4. If Iran were to acquire nuclear weapons, which of the following is closer to your view?

| | Republicans | Democrats | All respondents |
|---|---|---|---|
| Iran is likely to use them as a deterrent to prevent other countries from attacking | 12.6% | 44.8% | 27.4% |
| Iran is likely to use them as offensive weapons against its enemies even if not attacked | 67.6% | 23.8% | 38.5% |
| I don't know | 19.1% | 29.7% | 31.7% |