

# July 2023 IAVA Member Survey

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is working to ensure that the voices of veterans are not forgotten or misheard as a part of important national conversations.

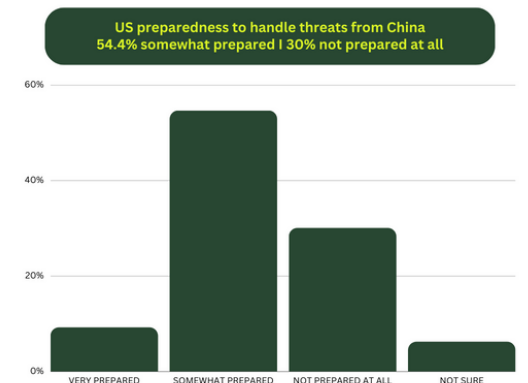
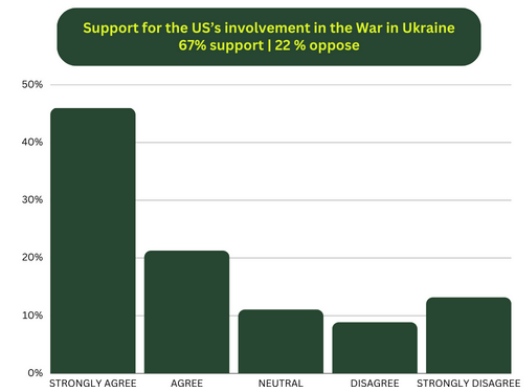
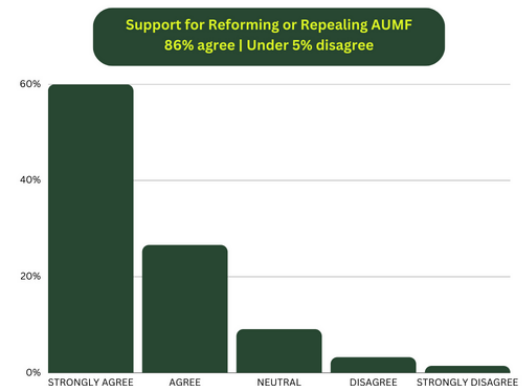
Following is an analysis of the responses to a short survey we sent to IAVA's verified veteran members in the summer of 2023 as the War in Ukraine persisted, contentious battles around reproductive rights played out on Capitol Hill, and the 2024 Presidential election began to pick up steam.

## FOREIGN POLICY & NATIONAL SECURITY

There is significant support for reforming or repealing the 2001 and 2002 authorizations for use of military force (AUMF) that were voted on in Congress to allow the U.S. to go to war in Iraq and Afghanistan. **59.9% of respondents strongly support reform of some kind, 26.5% support, with a combined total of 4.6% either disagree or strongly disagree with reforming the AUMFs. 9% were neutral.**

As U.S. politicians continue to debate over the role of the War in Ukraine IAVA veterans weighed in largely in support of the U.S.'s involvement. **45.9% strongly agreed with the U.S.'s involvement, followed by 21.2% who also agreed. 13.1% strongly disagreed with our efforts to support Ukraine, 8.8% disagreed, and 11% reported feeling neutral on the issue.**

The threat posed by China and the U.S.'s preparedness to compete with this superpower both militarily and economically is a looming question on the minds of many Americans. **A majority of IAVA veterans - 54.4% - indicated they are only partly confident in the ability of the U.S. to deal with threats from China, 30% do not believe the U.S. is prepared at all, and only 9.2% said the U.S. is very prepared. 6.2% were unsure where they stood on the issue.**



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## DOMESTIC POLICY

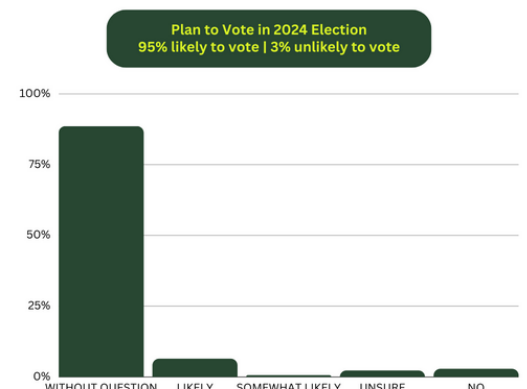
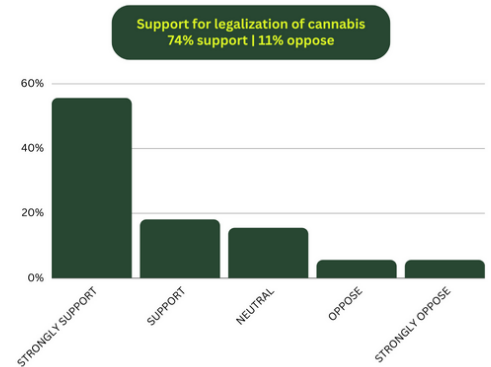
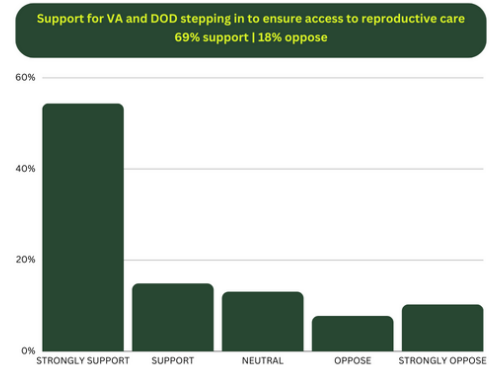
Turning to domestic affairs, the Supreme Court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade impacted the access to abortion services for many service members, their families and veterans. **When IAVA veterans were asked whether they supported the VA and DOD stepping in to ensure access to the reproductive care they need, 54.3% strongly supported and 14.8% supported, while only 10.2% strongly opposed and 7.7% opposed such an effort. 13% reported their neutrality.**

Veterans often look to alternative therapies, such as cannabis, in order to treat their PTSD and chronic pain as a result of their wartime service, however, the legality of cannabis varies from state to state. **IAVA veterans resoundingly support legalizing cannabis at the federal level to ensure that veterans in every state have cannabis as an option to treat their wartime wounds. 55.5% strongly support, 18% support, while only 5.5% oppose and 5.5% strongly oppose. 15.4% responded that they were neutral.**

## 2024 ELECTION

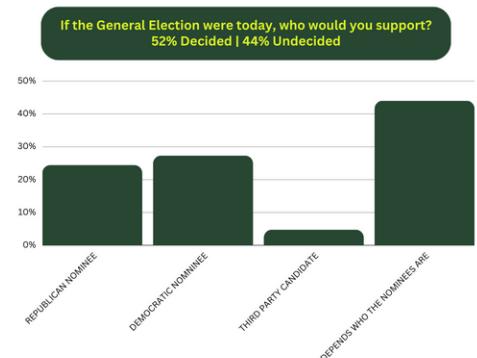
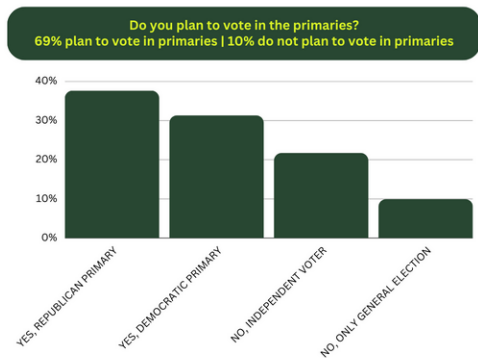
With the upcoming Presidential election, IAVA wanted to delve into the propensity of veterans to vote. **88.4% said they will vote in the 2024 election without question, 6.3% reported that they're likely to vote, .5% somewhat likely, and 2.1% are unsure. Only 2.7% reported that they would not vote.**

**37.5% of IAVA veterans plan on voting in the Republican primary, 31.2% plan on voting in the Democratic primary, and 21.6% told us they were independent voters who were unable to vote in the primary in their state. 9.8% plan on only voting in the general election.**



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However, the data does not directly translate to the Presidential choice in the general election, with 27.2% planning to vote for the Democrat candidate, 24.3% planning to vote for the Republican, 4.6% for a third-party candidate, and a significant portion of respondents - 43.9% told us that they are waiting until the nominees are clear to decide.



## CONCLUSION

It is without a doubt that IAVA veterans support reform of the 2001 and 2012 AUMFs at a minimum. There is strong support for U.S. efforts to back our Ukrainian allies and concern about the growing threat that China poses to the U.S. and our preparedness for it. IAVA members also support the federal legalization of cannabis and the Department of Veterans Affairs and Department of Defense stepping in to ensure access to needed reproductive care in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling to overturn Roe v Wade.

Most significantly, IAVA veterans are reliable voters who are not tied to party allegiance but largely need to be convinced that one of the final nominees is fit to be our next commander-in-chief.

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This survey was conducted the week of July 17th, 2023, with a sample size of 550 verified veterans. 81.2% of respondents reported that they were men, 12.1% were women, and less than 1% reported they identified as transgender. 83% of our respondents were between 36 and 60, and the three highest racial demographics reported were 69.8% white, 6.1% black, and 6.0% other.