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November 6, 2024

## A Time to Assess

Post-election survey

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** HRC and GQR

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As progressives do the necessary work in the next few months analyzing the results of Tuesday's gut-punch, it is important to assess—with data—what happened and why. It is equally important to avoid drawing up a list of scapegoats that “cost” us this election. A national post-election survey among 2024 voters that includes oversamples of AANHPI voters, LGBTQ-plus voters and oversamples in the battleground states of Arizona, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, speaks to some of these issues.<sup>1</sup>

This analysis includes a look at Equality voters, voters modeled to support LGBTQ+ equality. These voters represent 34 percent of the 2024 electorate.

### Key Findings

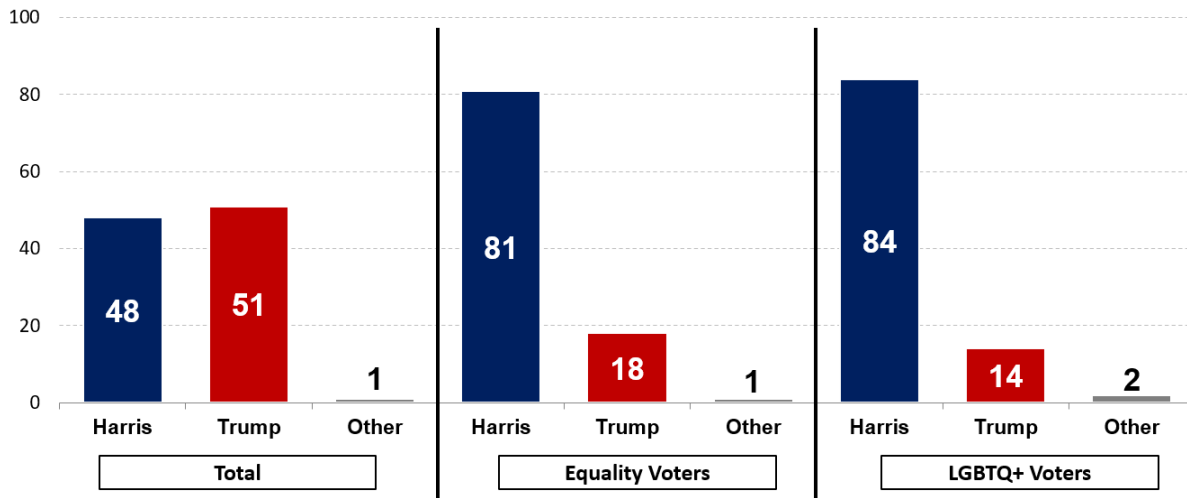
- ✓ **Equality Voters and LGBTQ-plus voters delivered huge margins to Democrats, again.** Election results and exit surveys show dramatic shifts among Hispanic voters, among white women and in Blue States. Equality voters and LGBTQ-plus voters were not part of this decline. All told, 81 percent of Equality voters supported Harris, a number that mirrors the Democratic support in 2022 and Biden's support in 2020. Among self-identified LGBTQ+ voters, who made up 8 percent of the 2024 electorate, fully 84 percent supported Harris, a number comparable to her support in the Black community.

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<sup>1</sup> This memorandum summarizes a survey of 2024 voters taken October 31<sup>st</sup> through November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This survey includes a base national sample of 800 voters, as well as oversamples in AZ, MI, PA and WI, among AANHPI voters, and of LGBTQ-plus voters. This research reflects a multi-modal survey where half the surveys were conducted on the phone and half through text-to-web. The results are weighted to the current popular vote.

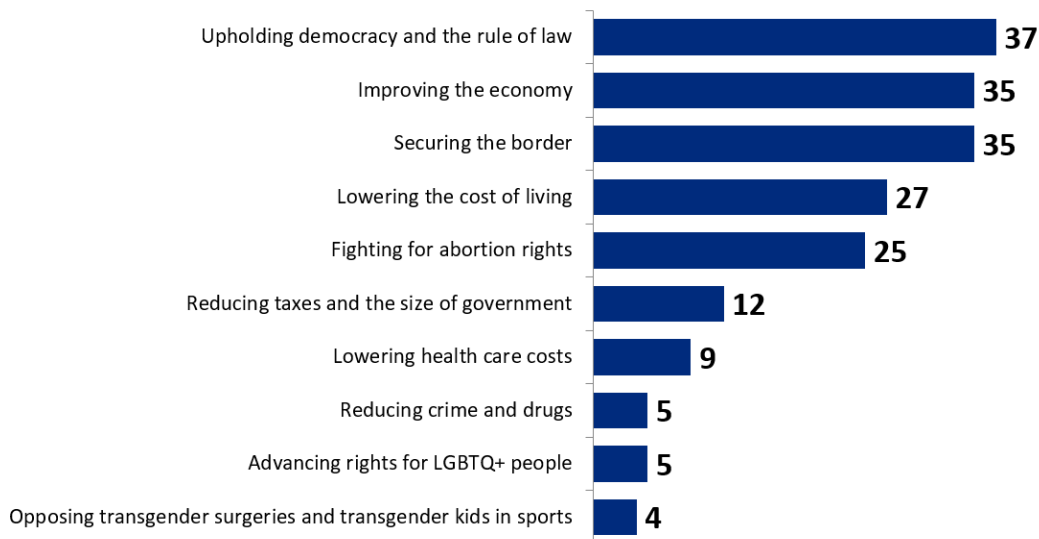
**IMPORTANT**, as this analysis is being done, votes are still being counted and we will not know who participated in the 2024 elections until voter files are updated. This will change some of the numbers in this survey, but will not change the broader conclusions.

Figure 1: 2024 Presidential Vote



- ✓ **These same voters kept Democratic Senate candidates competitive.** Democrats rolled up a 92 to 7 margin among Equality voters in Arizona, a 78 to 19 margin among Equality voters in Michigan, won an 80 to 17 percent majority of Equality voters in Pennsylvania and won 75 to 24 among Equality voters in Wisconsin. These margins will play a huge role in Democrats’ ability to hold on to some of these seats.
- ✓ **This election did not turn on right-wing attacks on the trans community.** Nationally, 64 percent recall seeing ads criticizing Kamala Harris for supporting taxpayer funded gender transition surgeries for prisoners and migrants and for allowing boys to play sports with girls; even voters in non-competitive states could not escape that advertising. And yet, when asked their most important issues in this election, just 4 percent—dead last on this list—identify opposing transgender surgeries and transgender kids in sports as something that drove their vote.

Figure 2: Most Important Issues for Presidential Election



- ✓ Similarly, when non-Harris voters choose between a list of reason to vote against the Democrat, the trans issue—despite its prominence in right-wing ads—is well down the list behind immigration, the economy and failing to present an alternative to the incumbent administration. When asked directly which candidate they prefer on “representing your views on transgender people,” voters pick Harris (52 to 40 percent).
- ✓ The same electorate that sent Trump back to the White House supports anti-discrimination measures to protect LGBTQ-plus people and opposes the government interfering with the lives and health care of transgender people.

A 60 percent majority support a federal law that would make it illegal to deny services to LGBTQ+ people and would ban discrimination in employment and housing; this majority includes 57 percent of the non-college voters that played such an outsized role in Trump’s election. A more impressive 73 percent majority (60 percent among Republicans) argue the government should not interfere with the health care transgender people receive.

## Conclusion

Trump won in no small measure because voters were dissatisfied with the economy, dissatisfied with the Biden Administration, frustrated with immigration and looking for change, however flawed they found the change agent in this election. Even on the day of his win, more voters describe their feeling toward

Trump as unfavorable than favorable. Any attempt to pin this loss on anti-trans attacks and on a group of people already marginalized in our country is a mistake, not only in moral terms, but in political terms in that it would misdiagnose what happened.