



2024 NEBRASKA RURAL POLL RESEARCH REPORT



**Civil
Discourse**

Nebraska Rural Poll Research Report 24-2, September 2024

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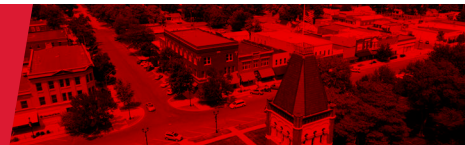
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Political discussions have grown more bitter and polarized in the past decade. How serious a problem do rural Nebraskans feel a lack of civil discourse is? Have they experienced political divisions between friends or family members? How do they feel both federal and statewide elections and media coverage of them contribute to political divisions? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,010 responses to the 2024 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 29th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about civil discourse. Trends for some of the questions are examined by comparing data from last year's poll to this year's results. In addition, comparisons are made among different respondent subgroups, that is, comparisons by age, occupation, region, etc. Based on these analyses, some key findings emerged:

- **Most rural Nebraskans believe the lack of civil or respectful discourse in our political system is either a very serious or a somewhat serious problem.** Just under three in ten rural Nebraskans (29%) rate the lack of civil discourse in our political system as a very serious problem. Four in ten say it is a somewhat serious problem (40%). Only six percent say it is not a serious problem at all. The responses were fairly similar to those received last year. The proportion saying it is a somewhat serious problem increased from 33 percent last year to 40 percent this year. Similarly, those rating it as a not too serious problem declined from 30 percent last year to 25 percent this year.
 - *Persons with liberal political views on social issues are more likely than persons with other political views to say the lack of civil discourse in our political system is at least a somewhat serious problem.* Almost eight in ten persons with liberal political views on social issues say the lack of civil discourse is a very serious or somewhat serious problem, compared to just over six in ten persons who have moderate political views.
- **Most rural Nebraskans think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago.** Approximately two-thirds (67%) believe we are much more divided and just over one-quarter (27%) say we are more divided. The responses are similar to those received last year. There was a slight increase in the proportion who think Americans are more divided over politics and a slight decline in those saying much more divided.
- **Most rural Nebraskans (86%) have friends who have political views that are very different from their own.**
- **Some rural Nebraskans are no longer able to talk to friends or family members because of their views about politics and current events.** Almost three in ten rural Nebraskans have family members with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views (27%). A similar proportion have friends with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views (28%).
 - *Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say they have family members with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views about politics and current events.* Almost four in ten persons between the ages of 19 and 29 (38%) say they have family members with whom they no longer speak because of political views, compared to approximately one-quarter of persons age 30 and older.

- *Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say they have friends with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views about politics and current events. One-third of persons living in or near the largest communities (33%) have friends with whom they no longer speak because of political views, compared to approximately one-quarter of persons living in or near smaller communities.*
- **Over eight in ten rural Nebraskans believe both the presidential campaigns leading up to the election as well as media coverage of presidential elections will make political divisions in the country worse.** However, over one-half (53%) believe the media coverage will make political divisions much worse, compared to almost four in ten (37%) who think the campaigns themselves will make divisions much worse. A slight majority of rural Nebraskans think campaigns for statewide office leading up to the elections as well as media coverage of those statewide elections will make political divisions worse.

REPORT



INTRODUCTION

Political discussions have grown more bitter and polarized in the past decade. How serious a problem do rural Nebraskans feel a lack of civil discourse is? Have they experienced political divisions between friends or family members? How do they feel both federal and statewide elections and media coverage of them contribute to political divisions? This paper provides a detailed analysis of these questions.

This report details 1,010 responses to the 2024 Nebraska Rural Poll, the 29th annual effort to understand rural Nebraskans' perceptions. Respondents were asked a series of questions about civil discourse.

Methodology and Respondent Profile

This study is based on 1,010 responses from Nebraskans living in 86 counties in the state. A self-administered questionnaire was mailed in May and June to 5,887 randomly selected households. Metropolitan counties not included in the sample were Cass, Douglas, Lancaster, Sarpy, Saunders, Seward and Washington. The 14-page questionnaire included questions pertaining to well-being, community, civil discourse, economic and trade policy, housing, and artificial intelligence. This paper reports only results from the civil discourse section.

A 17% response rate was achieved using the total design method (Dillman, 1978). The sequence of steps used follow:

1. A pre-notification letter was sent requesting participation in the study.

2. The questionnaire was mailed with an informal letter signed by the project manager approximately two weeks later.
3. A reminder postcard was sent to those who had not yet responded approximately two weeks after the questionnaire had been sent.
4. Those who had not yet responded within approximately 30 days of the original mailing were sent a replacement questionnaire.

Appendix Table 1 shows demographic data from this year's study and previous rural polls, as well as similar data based on the entire nonmetropolitan population of Nebraska (using the latest available data from the 2017 - 2021 American Community Survey). As can be seen from the table, there are some marked differences between some of the demographic variables in our sample compared to the Census data. Thus, we suggest the reader use caution in generalizing our data to all rural Nebraska. However, given the random sampling frame used for this survey, the acceptable percentage of responses, and the large number of respondents, we feel the data provide useful insights into opinions of rural Nebraskans on the various issues presented in this report. The margin of error for this study is plus or minus three percent.

Since younger residents have typically been under-represented by survey respondents and older residents have been over-represented, weights were used to adjust the sample to match the age distribution in the nonmetropolitan counties in Nebraska (using U.S. Census figures from 2020).

1 In the spring of 2013, the Grand Island area (Hall, Hamilton, Howard and Merrick Counties) was designated a metropolitan area, though Howard County was no longer considered a metropolitan county in 2023. To facilitate comparisons from previous years, these four counties are still included in our sample. In addition, the Sioux City area

metropolitan counties of Dixon and Dakota were added in 2014 because of a joint Metro Poll being conducted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha to ensure all counties in the state were sampled. Although classified as metro, Dixon County is rural in nature. Dakota County is similar in many respects to other "micropolitan" counties the Rural Poll surveys.

The average age of respondents is almost 51 years. Sixty-nine percent are married (Appendix Table 1) and 62 percent live within the city limits of a town or village. On average, respondents have lived in Nebraska 43 years and have lived in their current community over 27 years. Fifty-one percent are living in or near towns or villages with populations less than 5,000. Ninety-eight percent have attained at least a high school diploma.

Twenty-one percent of the respondents report their 2023 approximate household income from all sources, before taxes, as below \$40,000. Sixty-six percent report incomes over \$60,000. Seventy-five percent were employed in 2023 on a full-time, part-time, or seasonal basis. Twenty percent are retired. Twenty-eight percent of those employed reported working in a management, professional, or education occupation. Eleven percent indicated they were employed in agriculture.

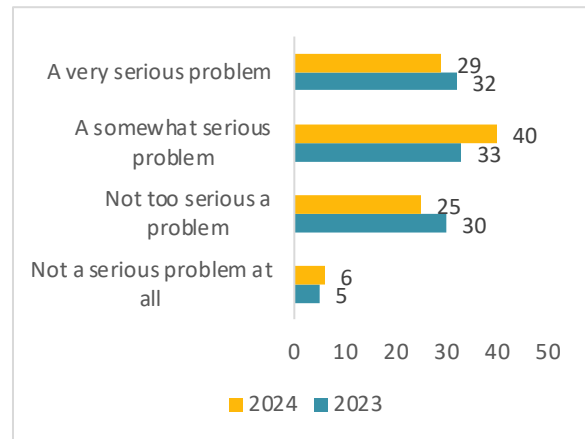
CIVIL DISCOURSE

Respondents were asked a series of questions about civil discourse. First, they were asked how serious a problem is the lack of civil or respectful discourse in our political system. By “civil discourse” we mean communication that promotes understanding about community issues and political topics.

Most rural Nebraskans believe the lack of civil or respectful discourse in our political system is either a very serious or a somewhat serious problem. Just under three in ten rural Nebraskans (29%) rate the lack of civil discourse in our political system as a very serious problem. Four in ten say it is a somewhat serious problem (40%) (Figure 1). Only six percent say it is not a serious problem at all.

This question was also asked in 2023. The responses were fairly similar to those received last year. The proportion saying it is a somewhat serious problem increased from 33 percent last year to 40 percent this year. Similarly, those rating it as a not too serious problem declined from 30 percent last year to 25 percent this year.

Figure 1. How serious a problem is lack of civil discourse in political system, 2023 and 2024

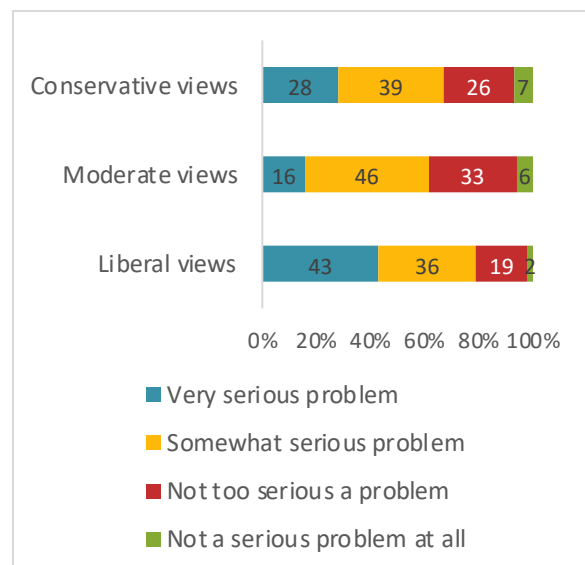


The answers to this question are examined by community size, region, and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 2). Some differences exist.

Persons with liberal political views on social issues are more likely than persons with other political views to say the lack of civil discourse in our political system is at least a somewhat serious problem. Almost eight in ten persons with liberal political views on social issues say the lack of civil discourse is a very serious or somewhat serious problem, compared to just over six in ten persons who have moderate political views (Figure 2).

Persons living in or near larger communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say the

Figure 2. Perceptions of how serious a problem lack of civil discourse is by political views on social issues

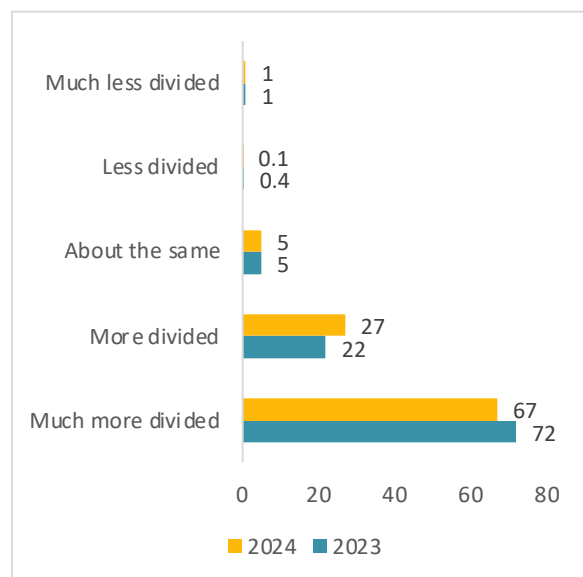


lack of civil discourse in our political system is at least a somewhat serious problem. Approximately three-quarters of persons living in or near communities with populations of 5,000 or more say it is either a very serious or somewhat serious problem, compared to less than six in ten persons living in or near communities with populations ranging from 500 to 999.

Persons who have never married are more likely than other marital groups to say the lack of civil discourse is either a very serious or somewhat serious problem. Eight in ten persons who have never married think it is at least a somewhat serious problem, compared to six in ten persons who are divorced or separated.

Other groups most likely to say the lack of civil discourse in our political system is at least a somewhat serious problem include persons with lower household incomes and persons who have lived in their communities for more than five years. Respondents were next asked if they think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago, less divided, or about the same. Most rural Nebraskans think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago. Approximately two-thirds (67%) believe we are much more divided and just over one-quarter (27%) say we are more divided (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Perceptions of division among Americans over politics compared to ten years ago, 2023 and 2024



This question was also asked in 2023. The responses are similar to those received last year. There was a slight increase in the proportion who think Americans are more divided over politics and a slight decline in those saying much more divided.

These perceptions are examined by community size, region, and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 3). Some differences are detected.

Some groups are least likely to say Americans are much more or more divided over politics than they were ten years ago, including persons between the ages of 30 and 39 and persons with the lowest educational levels.

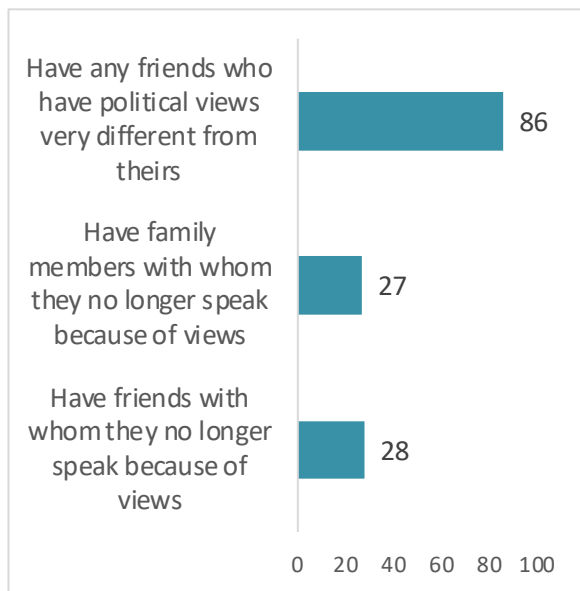
Respondents were next asked if they have ever experienced various political conflicts. Most rural Nebraskans (86%) have friends who have political views that are very different from their own (Figure 4). Some rural Nebraskans are no longer able to talk to friends or family members because of their views about politics and current events. Almost three in ten rural Nebraskans have family members with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views (27%). A similar proportion have friends with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views (28%).

These experiences are examined by community size, region, and various individual attributes (Appendix Table 4). Many differences are detected.

Residents of the Panhandle region are the regional group least likely to say they have any friends who have political views that are very different from their own (see Appendix Figure 1 for the counties included in each region). Just under three-quarters of Panhandle residents have friends with very different political views than their own, compared to approximately 85 percent of residents of the other regions.

Persons with conservative political views on social issues are less likely than persons with either liberal or moderate views to say they have friends with very different political views than their own. Just over eight in ten (82%) of persons

Figure 4. Experiences with political conflict



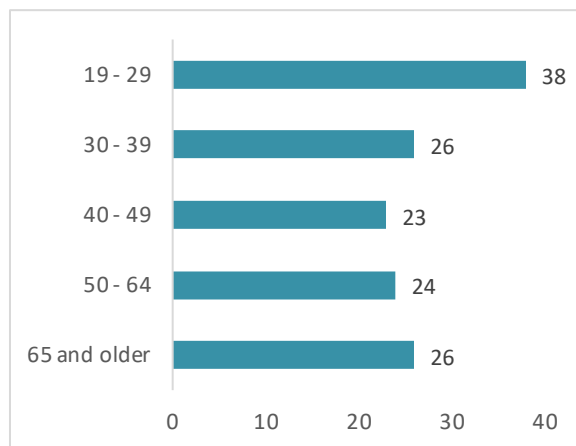
with conservative political views on social issues have friends with very different political views, compared to over nine in ten persons with either liberal or moderate views.

The groups most likely to say they have friends who have political views that are very different from their own include persons between the ages of 40 and 49 and persons with at least some college education.

Younger persons are more likely than older persons to say they have family members with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views about politics and current events. Almost four in ten persons between the ages of 19 and 29 (38%) say they have family members with whom they no longer speak because of political views, compared to approximately one-quarter of persons age 30 and older (Figure 5).

Persons with liberal political views on social issues are more likely than persons with different political views to say they have family members with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views about politics and current events. Just under one-half (45%) of persons with liberal political views on social issues say they have family members with whom they no longer speak because of political views, compared to 16 percent of persons with moderate political views.

Figure 5. Have family members they no longer talk to because of views about politics and current events by age



Other groups most likely to say they have family members with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views about politics and current events include persons who have never married and persons with sales or office support occupations.

Persons living in or near the largest communities are more likely than persons living in or near smaller communities to say they have friends with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views about politics and current events. One-third of persons living in or near the largest communities (33%) have friends with whom they no longer speak because of political views, compared to approximately one-quarter of persons living in or near smaller communities.

The other groups most likely to say they have friends with whom they are no longer able to talk because of their views about politics and current events include persons with some college education (but less than a four-year degree), persons with sales or office support occupations, long-term community residents (those who have lived in their community for more than five years), and persons with liberal political views on social issues.

Finally, respondents were asked what impact various items have on political divisions in the United States. The specific question asked, “No matter how you feel about political division as a whole, what

impact do you think the following will have on political division in the United States?”

Over eight in ten rural Nebraskans believe both the presidential campaigns leading up to the election as well as media coverage of presidential elections will make political divisions in the country worse. However, over one-half (53%) believe the media coverage will make political divisions much worse, compared to almost four in ten (37%) who think the campaigns themselves will make divisions much worse (Figure 6). A slight majority of rural Nebraskans think campaigns for statewide office leading up to the elections as well as media coverage of those statewide elections will make political divisions worse.

The perceptions of how these items will impact political divisions in the country are examined by community size, region, and individual attributes (Appendix Table 5). Many differences are detected.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to believe the presidential campaigns will make political divisions worse. Over nine in ten persons with at least a four-year degree (93%) think the presidential campaigns will make divisions worse, compared to approximately two-thirds of persons with a high school diploma or less education (67%).

Other groups most likely to think the presidential campaigns will make political divisions worse include: persons with

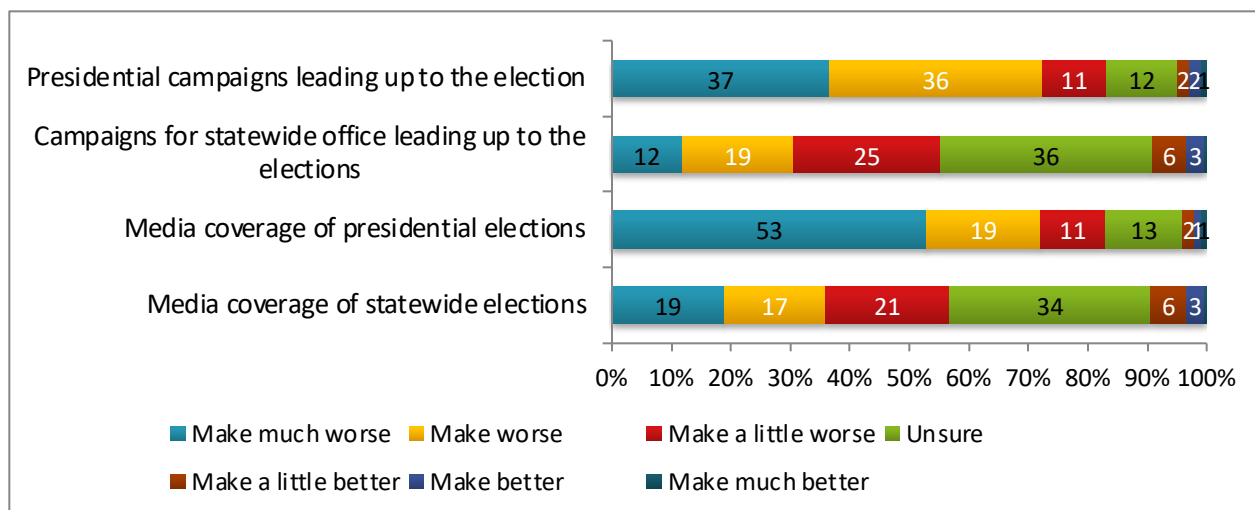
higher household incomes, married persons, and persons with liberal political views on social issues.

Residents of the South Central region are more likely than residents of other regions of the state to believe that campaigns for statewide office will make political divisions worse. Over six in ten residents of the South Central region (62%) believe statewide office campaigns will make political divisions worse, compared to just over four in ten residents of the North Central region.

The other groups most likely to think the campaigns for statewide office leading up to the elections will make political divisions worse include: persons living in or near the largest communities; persons with higher household incomes; persons between the ages of 40 and 49; persons with higher education levels; married persons; persons with management, professional, or education occupations; and persons with liberal political views on social issues.

Persons with higher education levels are more likely than persons with less education to believe media coverage of presidential elections will make political divisions in the country worse. Over nine in ten persons with at least a four-year degree believe media coverage of the campaigns will make political divisions worse, compared to approximately two-thirds of persons with a high school diploma or less education.

Figure 6. Opinions about sources of political divisions in the United States



The other groups most likely to believe that media coverage of presidential elections will make political divisions worse include: persons with higher household incomes, persons between the ages of 40 and 49, married persons, and persons with conservative political views on social issues.

Many of these same groups are also those most likely to believe media coverage of statewide elections will make political divisions worse: persons with higher household incomes, persons between the ages of 40 and 49, males, persons with at least a four-year degree, and married persons. Persons with moderate political views on social issues were less likely than persons with different views to believe media coverage of statewide elections will make political divisions worse.

were just over one-half, significantly lower than those asking about the federal elections.

CONCLUSION

Most rural Nebraskans believe the lack of civil or respectful discourse in our political system is either a very serious or a somewhat serious problem. The responses were fairly similar to those received last year.

In addition, most rural Nebraskans think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago. The responses are similar to those received last year.

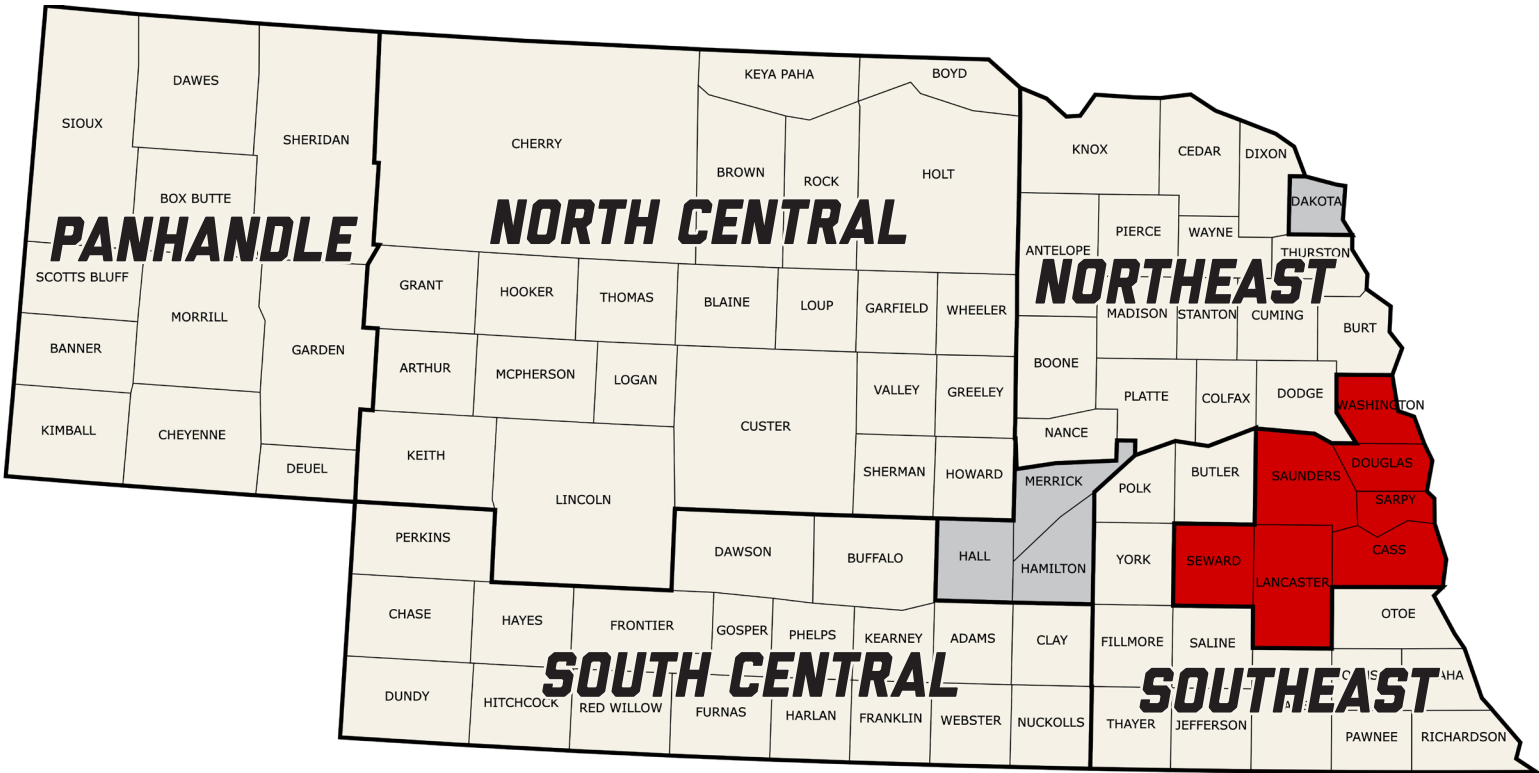
Despite that feeling, most rural Nebraskans have friends who have political views that are very different from their own. Yet, some rural Nebraskans are no longer able to talk to friends or family members because of their views about politics and current events.

Most rural Nebraskans think the upcoming presidential election and the media coverage of it will make political divisions in the country worse. In fact, a slight majority believe the media coverage of the presidential elections will make the divisions much worse.

Most rural Nebraskans also feel statewide campaigns and media coverage of statewide elections will also make political division worse. However, the proportions

Appendix Figure 1. Regions of Nebraska

Nebraska Rural Poll Regions



- Nonmetropolitan county surveyed in Rural Poll
- Metropolitan county not surveyed in Rural Poll
- County classified as metropolitan but surveyed in Rural Poll

Appendix Table 1. Demographic Profile of Rural Poll Respondents¹ Compared to 2017 – 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Average for Nebraska*

	2024 Poll	2023 Poll	2022 Poll	2021 Poll	2020 Poll	2017 - 2021 ACS
Age : ²						
20 - 39	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%	32%
40 - 64	44%	44%	44%	44%	44%	42%
65 and over	24%	24%	24%	24%	24%	26%
Gender: ³						
Female	57%	60%	51%	55%	55%	50%
Male	43%	40%	49%	45%	46%	50%
Education: ⁴						
Less than high school graduate	2%	2%	2%	3%	3%	10%
High school diploma (or equiv.)	13%	16%	16%	16%	16%	32%
Some college, no degree	25%	25%	26%	26%	18%	24%
Associate degree	10%	13%	16%	15%	24%	12%
Bachelors degree	33%	28%	25%	28%	26%	16%
Graduate or professional degree	17%	17%	16%	13%	14%	7%
Household Income: ⁵						
Less than \$20,000	10%	7%	6%	8%	7%	14%
\$20,000 - \$39,999	11%	12%	15%	17%	14%	19%
\$40,000 - \$59,999	14%	15%	17%	16%	19%	18%
\$60,000 - \$74,999	11%	18%	17%	14%	16%	11%
\$75,000 - \$99,999	17%	16%	16%	17%	21%	15%
\$100,000 - \$149,999	23%	22%	17%	19%	15%	15%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	9%	6%	6%	5%	5%	5%
\$200,000 or more	5%	5%	6%	4%	4%	4%
Marital Status: ⁶						
Married	69%	71%	66%	69%	69%	61%
Never married	13%	13%	17%	13%	12%	20%
Divorced/separated	11%	10%	10%	11%	10%	12%
Widowed/widower	7%	7%	7%	7%	8%	8%

¹ Data from the Rural Polls have been weighted by age.

² 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

³ 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

⁴ 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 25 years of age and over.

⁵ 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is all non-metro households.

⁶ 2017-2021 American Community Survey universe is non-metro population 20 years of age and over.

*Comparison numbers are estimates taken from the American Community Survey five-year sample and may reflect significant margins of error for areas with relatively small populations.

Appendix Table 2. Effects of Lack of Civil Discourse in Political System by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

	<i>A very serious problem</i>	<i>A somewhat serious problem</i>	<i>Not too serious a problem</i>	<i>Not a serious problem at all</i>	<i>Chi-square (sig.)</i>
Total	29	40	25	6	
Community Size		(n = 930)			
Less than 500	33	34	23	10	
500 - 999	21	35	32	11	
1,000 - 4,999	25	40	29	6	
5,000 - 9,999	29	46	19	7	$\chi^2 = 29.12^*$
10,000 and up	34	40	22	4	(.004)
Region		(n = 942)			
Panhandle	37	34	23	6	
North Central	30	33	29	9	
South Central	32	41	23	3	
Northeast	27	39	30	5	$\chi^2 = 33.58^*$
Southeast	22	48	18	12	(.000)
Income Level		(n = 895)			
Under \$40,000	22	54	20	4	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	34	38	23	5	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	23	38	34	5	$\chi^2 = 27.43^*$
\$100,000 and over	30	37	25	8	(.001)
Age		(n = 944)			
19 - 29	29	43	24	5	
30 - 39	27	41	21	11	
40 - 49	30	38	25	7	
50 - 64	32	40	23	4	$\chi^2 = 13.87$
65 and older	25	39	30	6	(.309)
Gender		(n = 935)			
Male	36	34	22	8	$\chi^2 = 32.04^*$
Female	23	45	28	5	(.000)
Marital Status		(n = 931)			
Married	28	41	24	7	
Never married	43	37	18	3	
Divorced/separated	26	34	33	7	$\chi^2 = 19.80^*$
Widowed	24	41	27	8	(.019)
Education		(n = 941)			
H.S. diploma or less	22	52	20	6	
Some college	30	37	27	6	$\chi^2 = 10.64$
Bachelors degree	30	39	25	7	(.100)
Occupation		(n = 655)			
Mgt, prof, education	28	43	25	5	
Sales/office support	26	43	31	0	
Const, inst or maint	33	36	14	17	
Prodn/trans/warehs	40	32	22	6	
Agriculture	26	43	20	11	
Food serv/pers. care	43	24	19	14	
Hlthcare supp/safety	26	45	21	8	$\chi^2 = 37.91^*$
Other	50	23	27	0	(.013)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 896)			
Five years or less	28	34	36	2	$\chi^2 = 19.46^*$
More than five years	29	41	22	8	(.000)
Political Views on Social Issues		(n = 863)			
Liberal	43	36	19	2	
Moderate	16	46	33	6	$\chi^2 = 41.24^*$
Conservative	28	39	26	7	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 3. Perception of Political Division Compared to Ten Years Ago by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>Do you think Americans are more divided over politics than they were 10 years ago, less divided or are they about the same?</i>				
	<i>Much more or more divided</i>	<i>About the same</i>	<i>Much less or less divided</i>	<i>Significance</i>
Total	94	5	1	
Community Size		(n = 936)		
Less than 500	95	5	0	
500 - 999	91	9	0	
1,000 - 4,999	97	3	0	
5,000 - 9,999	93	7	0	$\chi^2 = 13.16$
10,000 and up	94	5	1	(.107)
Region		(n = 951)		
Panhandle	92	8	0	
North Central	95	2	2	
South Central	92	8	1	
Northeast	97	3	0*	$\chi^2 = 19.10^*$
Southeast	93	8	0	(.014)
Income Level		(n = 903)		
Under \$40,000	95	5	0	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	97	4	0	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	91	8	1	$\chi^2 = 9.27$
\$100,000 and over	94	5	1	(.159)
Age		(n = 951)		
19 - 29	100	0	0	
30 - 39	86	14	0	
40 - 49	95	5	1	
50 - 64	96	3	1	$\chi^2 = 36.28^*$
65 and older	92	7	1	(.000)
Gender		(n = 941)		
Male	94	6	0*	$\chi^2 = 1.86$
Female	94	5	1	(.394)
Marital Status		(n = 939)		
Married	94	5	1	
Never married	97	3	0	
Divorced/separated	94	6	0	$\chi^2 = 5.48$
Widowed	91	9	0	(.484)
Education		(n = 948)		
H.S. diploma or less	89	10	1	
Some college	96	3	1	$\chi^2 = 15.45^*$
Bachelors degree	94	6	0	(.004)
Occupation		(n = 660)		
Mgt, prof, education	94	5	1	
Sales/office support	100	0	0	
Const, inst or maint	95	5	0	
Prodn/trans/warehs	90	10	0	
Agriculture	93	7	0	
Food serv/pers. care	82	14	5	
Hlthcare supp/safety	97	2	1	$\chi^2 = 21.61$
Other	96	4	0	(.087)
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 902)		
Five years or less	95	5	0	$\chi^2 = 1.06$
More than five years	94	6	1	(.588)
Political Views on Social Issues		(n = 869)		
Liberal	95	5	0	
Moderate	92	7	1	$\chi^2 = 4.29$
Conservative	95	4	1	(.368)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

0* = Less than 1 percent.

Appendix Table 4. Experience with Political Conflicts by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

<i>Have you experienced the following items?</i>			
	<i>Do you have any friends who have political views that are very different from your own?</i>	<i>Do you have any family members with whom you are no longer able to talk because of their views about politics and current events?</i>	<i>Do you have any friends with whom you are no longer able to talk because of their views about politics and current events?</i>
	<i>Percent answering "yes"</i>		
Total	86	27	28
Community Size		(n = 935)	
Less than 500	85*	21	26*
500 - 999	86*	28	20*
1,000 - 4,999	81*	23	28*
5,000 - 9,999	83*	24	20*
10,000 and up	90*	31	33*
Region		(n = 949)	
Panhandle	73*	34	20
North Central	85*	29	35
South Central	87*	28	28
Northeast	86*	26	27
Southeast	89*	20	27
Income Level		(n = 902)	
Under \$40,000	84	35*	32
\$40,000 - \$74,999	85	25*	29
\$75,000 - \$99,999	88	21*	23
\$100,000 and over	87	25*	28
Age		(n = 950)	
19 - 29	86*	38*	24
30 - 39	83*	26*	26
40 - 49	96*	23*	25
50 - 64	84*	24*	32
65 and older	81*	26*	31
Gender		(n = 940)	
Male	83	26	25
Female	87	26	29
Marital Status		(n = 938)	
Married	86	24*	28
Never married	90	42*	31
Divorced/separated	83	26*	30
Widowed	80	27*	27
Education		(n = 946)	
H.S. diploma or less	78*	24	26*
Some college	87*	31	33*
Bachelors degree	88*	25	25*
Occupation		(n = 659)	
Mgt, prof, education	89*	23*	23*
Sales/office support	83*	47*	45*
Const, inst or maint	95*	32*	17*
Prodn/trans/warehs	88*	20*	36*
Agriculture	78*	28*	20*
Food serv/pers. care	73*	43*	14*
Hlthcare supp/safety	93*	10*	33*
Other	96*	52*	35*
Yrs Lived in Comm.		(n = 900)	
Five years or less	87	23	19*
More than five years	86	26	29*
Pol Views - Social Issues		(n = 867)	
Liberal	95*	45*	43*
Moderate	93*	16*	26*
Conservative	82*	25*	23*

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level.

Appendix Table 5. Opinions about Sources of Political Divisions by Community Size, Region and Individual Attributes

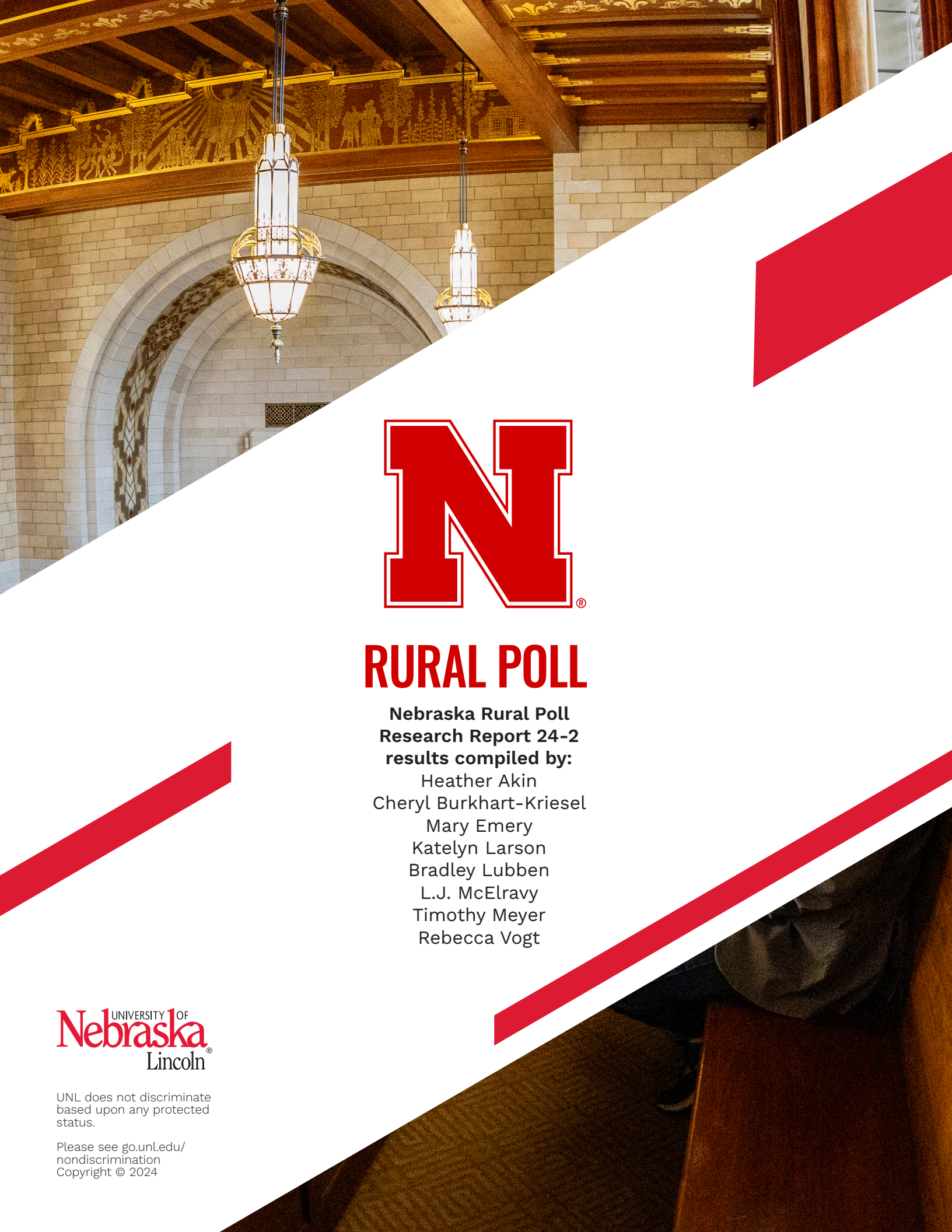
	No matter how you feel about political division as a whole, what impact do you think the following will have on political divisions in the United States?							
	Presidential campaigns leading up to the election				Campaigns for statewide office leading up to the elections			
	Make worse	Unsure	Make better	Significance	Make worse	Unsure	Make better	Significance
	Percentages							
Total	83	12	4		55	36	8	
Community Size	(n = 935)				(n = 926)			
Less than 500	78	20	3		48	46	6	
500 - 999	83	13	4		51	40	9	
1,000 - 4,999	79	16	5		57	32	11	
5,000 - 9,999	87	8	5	$\chi^2 = 12.69$	48	47	6	$\chi^2 = 15.82^*$
10,000 and up	87	10	4	(.123)	60	33	7	(.045)
Region	(n = 949)				(n = 941)			
Panhandle	80	16	4		48	47	5	
North Central	82	13	5		41	48	12	
South Central	83	12	5		62	30	9	
Northeast	83	14	3	$\chi^2 = 8.33$	58	35	8	$\chi^2 = 21.54^*$
Southeast	86	8	6	(.402)	54	37	9	(.006)
Household Income Level	(n = 905)				(n = 896)			
Under \$40,000	74	21	5		50	42	9	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	79	14	8		54	34	13	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	84	13	3	$\chi^2 = 37.48^*$	57	34	9	$\chi^2 = 13.93^*$
\$100,000 and over	92	6	2	(.000)	59	36	5	(.030)
Age	(n = 950)				(n = 941)			
19 - 29	90	10	0		45	50	5	
30 - 39	80	18	3		54	41	5	
40 - 49	91	8	1		70	26	5	
50 - 64	80	13	7	$\chi^2 = 35.66^*$	57	36	8	$\chi^2 = 52.38^*$
65 and older	78	15	8	(.000)	50	34	17	(.000)
Gender	(n = 940)				(n = 931)			
Male	82	12	6	$\chi^2 = 5.12$	56	33	11	$\chi^2 = 6.81^*$
Female	84	13	3	(.077)	54	39	7	(.033)
Education	(n = 949)				(n = 940)			
High school diploma or less	67	27	6		47	43	11	
Some college	77	17	6	$\chi^2 = 71.41^*$	52	36	12	$\chi^2 = 19.50^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	93	5	2	(.000)	61	34	5	(.000)
Marital Status	(n = 938)				(n = 930)			
Married	86	10	3		58	35	7	
Never married	78	19	3		48	43	9	
Divorced/separated	76	18	6	$\chi^2 = 17.64^*$	50	41	9	$\chi^2 = 15.39^*$
Widowed	77	14	9	(.007)	48	34	18	(.017)
Occupation	(n = 661)				(n = 653)			
Mgt, prof or education	93	4	3		68	26	6	
Sales or office support	77	21	1		39	59	3	
Constrn, inst or maint	71	21	7		51	24	24	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	73	26	2		50	44	6	
Agriculture	85	11	4		53	39	8	
Food serv/pers. care	67	10	24		46	23	32	
Hlthcare supp/safety	90	11	0	$\chi^2 = 75.30^*$	64	32	4	$\chi^2 = 80.57^*$
Other	96	4	0	(.000)	37	63	0	(.000)
Pol Views - Social Issues	(n = 870)				(n = 862)			
Liberal	94	5	1		76	22	2	
Moderate	81	15	5	$\chi^2 = 16.66^*$	43	45	13	$\chi^2 = 50.75^*$
Conservative	83	12	5	(.002)	53	37	10	(.000)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.

Appendix Table 5 continued.

No matter how you feel about political division as a whole, what impact do you think the following will have on political divisions in the United States?								
	Media coverage of presidential elections				Media coverage of statewide elections			
	Make worse	Unsure	Make better	Significance	Make worse	Unsure	Make better	Significance
	Percentages							
Total	84	13	3		57	34	9	
Community Size	(n = 927)				(n = 930)			
Less than 500	82	16	3		54	39	7	
500 - 999	89	9	2		56	25	19	
1,000 - 4,999	84	12	3		58	35	7	
5,000 - 9,999	79	19	3	$\chi^2 = 8.99$	54	39	7	$\chi^2 = 23.68^*$
10,000 and up	84	12	4	(.343)	57	35	8	(.003)
Region	(n = 942)				(n = 942)			
Panhandle	84	14	2		59	37	5	
North Central	88	9	3		55	32	13	
South Central	86	12	3		59	34	7	
Northeast	82	16	3	$\chi^2 = 11.50$	56	33	11	$\chi^2 = 9.52$
Southeast	80	13	7	(.175)	53	37	10	(.301)
Household Income Level	(n = 897)				(n = 897)			
Under \$40,000	67	29	4		51	41	8	
\$40,000 - \$74,999	85	8	7		58	29	14	
\$75,000 - \$99,999	82	14	4	$\chi^2 = 72.54^*$	54	34	13	$\chi^2 = 20.11^*$
\$100,000 and over	93	6	1	(.000)	60	35	5	(.003)
Age	(n = 944)				(n = 946)			
19 - 29	80	20	0		45	40	15	
30 - 39	85	12	3		57	36	7	
40 - 49	92	7	1		65	32	4	
50 - 64	84	10	6	$\chi^2 = 35.60^*$	59	33	8	$\chi^2 = 28.30^*$
65 and older	77	17	6	(.000)	54	32	14	(.000)
Gender	(n = 933)				(n = 933)			
Male	86	10	3	$\chi^2 = 4.12$	59	29	12	$\chi^2 = 14.99^*$
Female	82	15	4	(.127)	54	39	7	(.000)
Education	(n = 942)				(n = 942)			
High school diploma or less	65	30	5		52	38	10	
Some college	80	16	5	$\chi^2 = 65.64^*$	52	35	13	$\chi^2 = 15.10^*$
Bachelors or grad degree	92	6	2	(.000)	61	33	6	(.004)
Marital Status	(n = 932)				(n = 933)			
Married	88	9	3		60	33	8	
Never married	70	29	2		45	40	15	
Divorced/separated	77	18	5	$\chi^2 = 42.64^*$	47	44	9	$\chi^2 = 19.33^*$
Widowed	79	14	8	(.000)	57	28	15	(.004)
Occupation	(n = 654)				(n = 654)			
Mgt, prof or education	89	8	3		61	34	5	
Sales or office support	81	17	1		57	30	13	
Constrn, inst or maint	95	5	0		61	15	24	
Prodn/trans/warehsing	80	18	2		47	43	10	
Agriculture	92	7	1		65	24	11	
Food serv/pers. care	76	0	24		62	14	24	
Hlthcare supp/safety	81	16	3	$\chi^2 = 52.59^*$	48	47	6	$\chi^2 = 50.10^*$
Other	93	4	3	(.000)	44	52	4	(.000)
Pol Views - Social Issues	(n = 862)				(n = 862)			
Liberal	85	14	2		59	36	5	
Moderate	83	12	5	$\chi^2 = 12.96^*$	50	42	9	$\chi^2 = 15.44^*$
Conservative	91	7	3	(.011)	60	29	11	(.004)

* Chi-square values are statistically significant at the .05 level. Those responding N/A were excluded from these analyses.



RURAL POLL

**Nebraska Rural Poll
Research Report 24-2
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