# New CPOR Survey Shows Americans’ Uneasiness with the Peaceful Transition of Power Concerning the Presidential Election

59% of Americans are not confident there will be a peaceful transition of power if Trump were to lose the election.

**DeLand, FL – Nov. 5** – As Americans cast their votes on Election Day 2024, the Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR), at Stetson University, surveyed the public on their confidence in a peaceful transition of power in January 2025. The survey, conducted nationally by SSRS from November 1 – 4, 2024, included a sample of 1,006 U.S. adults, with a margin of error of +/-3.7 percentage points.

The survey found that if former President Donald Trump were to lose, only 41% of respondents felt confident in a peaceful transition of power, while a substantial 59% were not confident. Among Democrats, 76% were not confident in a peaceful transition in this scenario, reflecting a clear partisan divide.

In contrast, confidence levels shift if Vice President Kamala Harris were to lose: 64% of Americans expressed confidence in a peaceful transition, with only 36% not confident. Confidence in a peaceful transition following a potential loss by Harris was significantly higher among college-educated respondents (71%).

These findings reveal widespread concerns about stability and potential unrest in certain electoral scenarios, says Associate Professor of Political Science, Dr. Steven Smallpage. “While there is always some added anxiety and uneasiness during presidential elections, this cycle feels different and more uncertain for many Americans.”

The data further reveals stark contrasts along party lines. If Harris were to lose, 77% of Democrats and 58% of Republicans and Independents expressed confidence in a peaceful transition. However, if Trump were to lose, only 23% of Democrats felt confident in a peaceful transition, while 61% of Republicans shared that confidence. In particular, 48% of Democrats reported being “not confident at all” in a peaceful transition if Trump were to lose.

**Methodology**

This study was conducted by SSRS on its Opinion Panel Omnibus platform, a twice-monthly, probability-based survey of the U.S. population. Data collection took place from November 1 – November 4, 2024, with a sample of 1,006 respondents (976 via web and 30 via telephone). The margin of error for total respondents is +/-3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of error can vary for each question, depending on the response distribution and sample size for that specific question. For further details, including question wording and full crosstabs, visit CPOR’s website: [www.stetson.edu/cpor](http://www.stetson.edu/cpor).

**About the Center for Public Opinion Research (CPOR)**

The Center for Public Opinion Research at Stetson University specializes in nonpartisan public opinion polling and survey research. CPOR provides valuable insights into political, social, and economic issues affecting Florida and the United States. For more information, visit [stetson.edu/cpor](https://www.stetson.edu/cpor).