

### Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez Leads Chuck Schumer in Hypothetical 2028 Matchup by 19 Points

Following Senator Chuck Schumer’s decision to vote in favor of a Republican spending bill, some Democrats have [begun to question](#) his leadership of the Democratic Senate caucus. Recent Data for Progress [polling](#) has found that Democratic voters nationwide want him to fight harder against President Donald Trump and the Republican agenda. Meanwhile, [reporting indicates](#) that fellow Democrats have encouraged Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez to consider a primary challenge to Schumer in 2028.

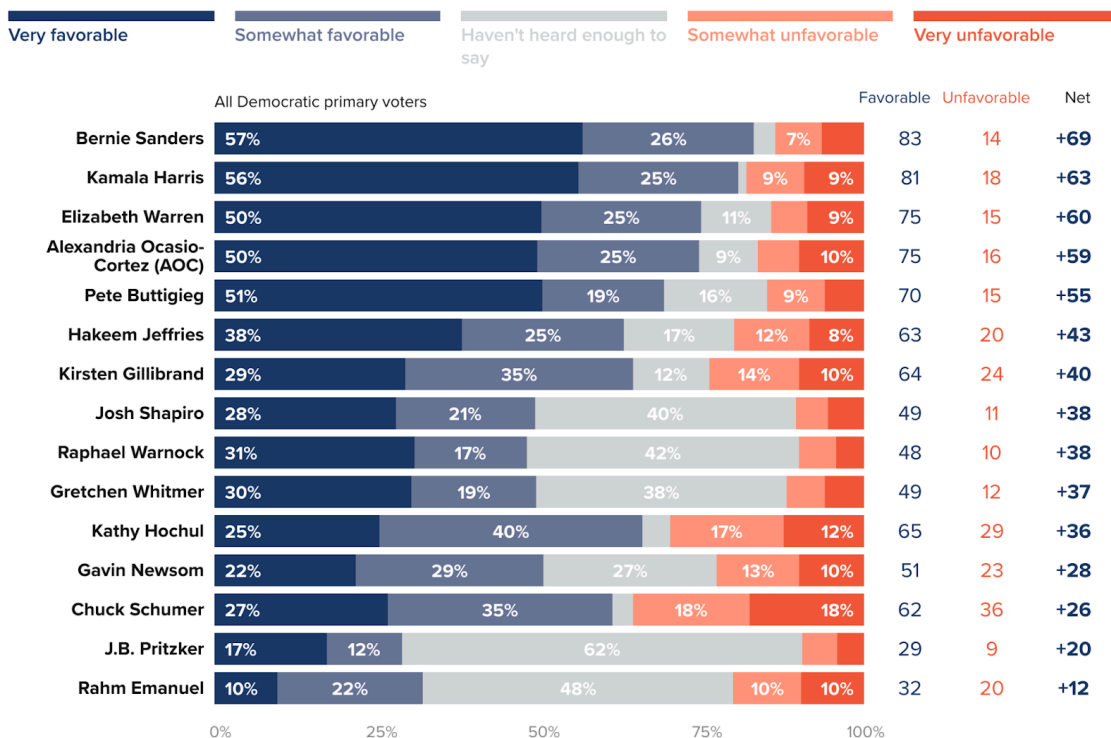
From March 26-31, Data for Progress conducted a [survey](#) of 767 likely Democratic primary voters in New York using SMS and web panel respondents. The polling finds that Schumer is in a weak position to win a contested primary — he has the lowest favorability of all New York Democrats tested and loses a hypothetical 2028 matchup to Ocasio-Cortez by 19 points.

The most popular Democratic figures tested in the poll include Sen. Bernie Sanders (+69), former Vice President Kamala Harris (+63), Sen. Elizabeth Warren (+60), and Ocasio-Cortez (+59).

Schumer has the highest disapproval of all Democratic leaders tested.

### Sen. Bernie Sanders Is the Most Popular Politician Among New York Democratic Primary Voters

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following people or institutions?

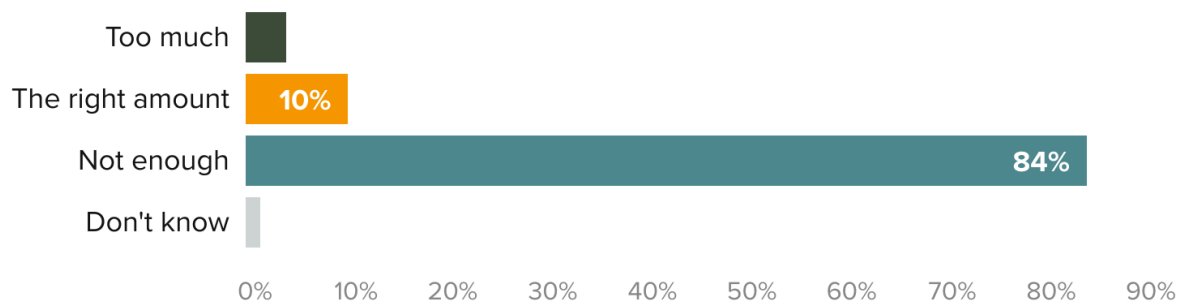


New York Democratic primary voters consider “threats to democracy” to be the most important issue to their vote, followed by “programs like Social Security and Medicare” and then “economy, jobs, and inflation.”

A staggering 84% of these voters also say that Democrats in Washington are not doing enough to stand up to Trump and the MAGA movement.

## An Overwhelming Majority of N.Y. Dems Want Their Leaders Doing More to Oppose Trump

Generally speaking, do you think Democrats in Washington are doing too much, not enough, or the right amount when it comes to standing up to Donald Trump and the MAGA movement?



March 26–31, 2025 survey of 767 likely Democratic primary voters in New York

DATA FOR PROGRESS

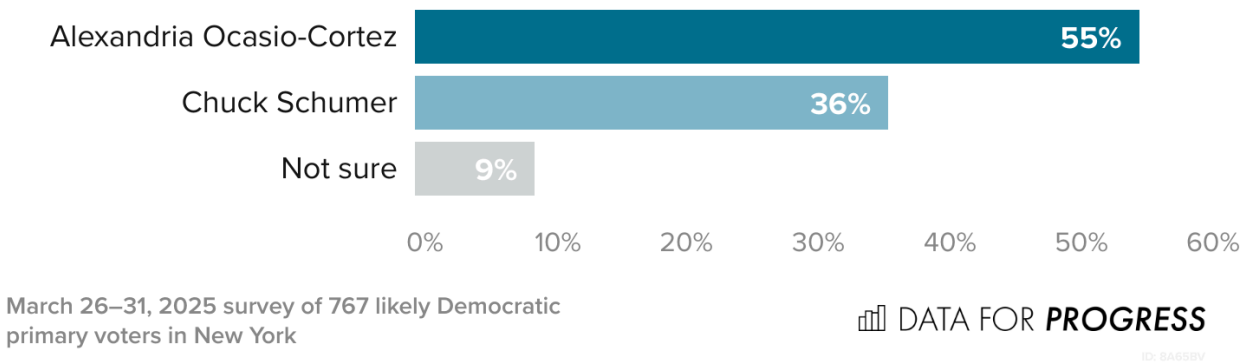
BY SYC/JY

In a hypothetical matchup for the 2028 Democratic primary for the U.S. Senate in New York, Ocasio-Cortez leads Schumer by a 19-point margin, 55% to 36%.

Ocasio-Cortez leads with primary voters across racial and ethnic subgroups, with a 16-point lead among Black voters, a 15-point lead among white voters, and a 28-point lead among Latino voters. Among voters under 45, she holds a 50-point lead, and she carries voters 45 and over by 8 points. Ocasio-Cortez also leads with voters across gender and educational status, while Schumer only leads among self-identified moderates.

# Rep. Ocasio-Cortez Leads Sen. Schumer by 19 Points in Hypothetical Primary Matchup

Even though it's a long way off, if the **2028 Democratic Primary** for the U.S. **Senate** in New York was being held tomorrow, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?



The polling also indicates that the race is relatively static and does not move when voters are given additional information about either candidate.

In the survey, voters were shown two biographical statements about Ocasio-Cortez and Schumer in a randomized order. For Ocasio-Cortez, voters were given a statement that includes information about her background, her unseating of an incumbent Democrat in 2018, and her support for progressive policies such as Medicare for All and the Green New Deal. After reading this statement, 82% of New York Democratic primary voters say they have a favorable opinion of Ocasio-Cortez, jumping from a +59 to a +69-point margin.

*Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was born in the Bronx and witnessed firsthand the challenges facing working-class families and immigrant communities. After studying economics in college, she worked as a community organizer and educator before unseating a long-serving incumbent in one of the biggest upsets of the 2018 election. In Congress, Ocasio-Cortez has been a leading progressive voice and is seen as a rare member of Congress willing to rock the boat and speak truth to power. She has advocated for Medicare for All, bold climate action through the Green New Deal, and greater accountability for corporate power. She has also fought to protect reproductive rights and to hold the Trump administration accountable for its abuses of power. Ocasio-Cortez continues to champion policies aimed at creating economic opportunity and uplifting underrepresented voices across New York and the country. Knowing what you do now, do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez?*

The biography for Schumer includes details about his background, experience in the Senate, and support for mainstream Democratic priorities — such as lowering health care costs, standing up to Trump, and defending Social Security and Medicare. After reading this statement, 72% have a favorable view of Schumer, jumping from a +26 to +47-point margin.

*Chuck Schumer was born and raised in Brooklyn, where he learned the importance of hard work and public service at an early age. Schumer began his career in the New York State Assembly before moving on to the U.S. House of Representatives and then winning election to the U.S. Senate. As Senate Democratic Leader, Schumer is seen as one of the most powerful officials in Washington and has delivered billions of federal dollars to New York. He has championed efforts to lower healthcare costs, invest in critical infrastructure, and defend reproductive rights. He has been a vocal critic of the Trump administration's attempts to undermine democracy, standing up for voting rights and pushing back against extremism. Schumer remains committed to protecting Social Security, Medicare, and other vital programs that support working families across New York and the nation.*

Next, voters were once again asked whom they would vote for if the 2028 primary were held today. The race remains essentially unchanged, with Ocasio-Cortez winning 56% and Schumer winning 36% of the vote.

Voters were also shown potential lines of attack against the two candidates. The first statement describes Ocasio-Cortez as a polarizing figure who divides Democrats and pushes policies that are too extreme for the party. Fourteen percent of New York Democratic primary voters say this statement is “very concerning.”

*Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez may be able to energize more extreme elements in her party, but she has proven to be a polarizing figure who often divides Democrats and alienates moderates. Her confrontational style and social-media presence have overshadowed efforts to build consensus and achieve real legislative progress. Instead of working effectively within the party to advance progressive causes, Ocasio-Cortez has made headlines by clashing with other Democrats and pushing proposals that are seen as too extreme by many Americans. While she touts her grassroots background, critics say her approach is more about personal branding than delivering for her district. New Yorkers deserve a representative who can unite people around shared goals and work productively in Congress, rather than stoking division and controversy.*

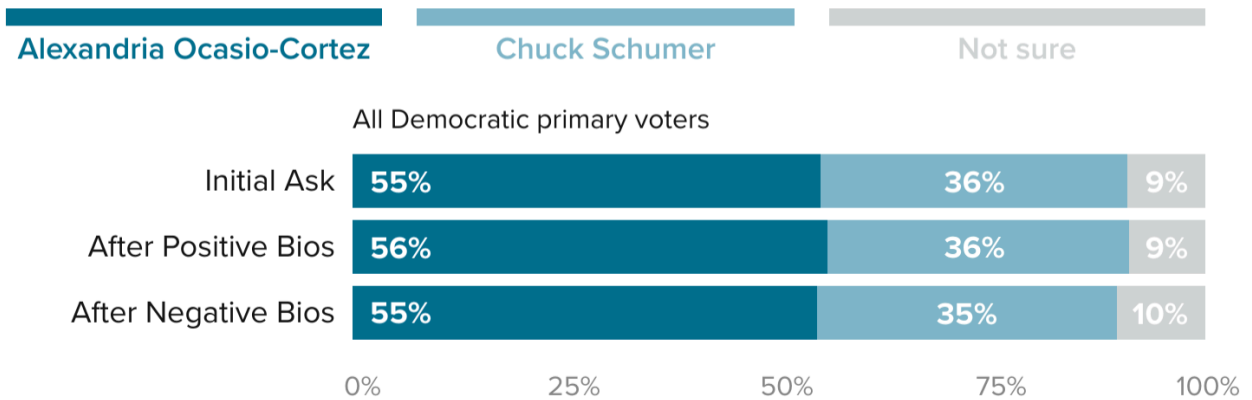
The second statement describes Schumer as a “career politician” who has cozied up to big corporations and voted with MAGA extremists instead of helping working people. Thirty-three percent find this statement “very concerning.”

*Chuck Schumer is a career politician who has spent decades in Washington, often prioritizing political calculations over the needs of New Yorkers. Just weeks ago, he joined Trump and MAGA leaders in Congress to vote for their spending bill, earning backlash for aligning with extremists. Schumer has been criticized for cozying up to big corporations and failing to deliver tangible results for working families across the state. At a time when Democrats need to stand firm against Republican threats to healthcare, abortion access, and Social Security, Schumer's willingness to accommodate Trump has called his judgment into question. New Yorkers deserve a senator who is focused on fighting for middle-class families, not clinging onto a leadership title in Washington.*

Still, after reading these statements, the race remains the same, with Ocasio-Cortez continuing to lead by 20 points.

## N.Y. Democratic Voters Prefer Ocasio-Cortez Even After Biographical Information

Even though it's a long way off, if the **2028 Democratic Primary** for the **U.S. Senate** in New York was being held tomorrow, and these were the candidates, who would you vote for?



March 26–31, 2025 survey of 767 likely Democratic primary voters in New York

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

ID: BA658V

The results indicate that Schumer has left himself vulnerable to a primary challenger in 2028, and that Ocasio-Cortez could be a strong candidate to defeat the incumbent New York senator. New York Democrats — and Democrats nationwide — clearly want a leadership that fights harder to defeat Trump and the MAGA agenda.