

YouGov Survey: Elon Musk's Gesture



Sample 1019 U.S. adult citizens
Conducted January 29 - February 1, 2025
Margin of Error ±4.4%

1. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Elon Musk?

Very favorable	18%
Somewhat favorable	22%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%
Very unfavorable	36%
Don't know	13%

2. How much influence do you think Elon Musk has within Donald Trump's administration?

A lot	48%
A little	32%
None at all	4%
Not sure	17%

3. How much influence do you want Elon Musk to have within Donald Trump's administration?

A lot	11%
A little	27%
None at all	44%
Not sure	18%

4. How much have you heard about a gesture that Elon Musk made with his arm during a speech last week?

I've seen a video of it	57%
I've heard about it, but haven't seen a video	21%
I haven't heard anything about it	22%

5. Which of these best fits your interpretation of the gesture that Elon Musk made?

A Nazi salute	32%
A gesture from his heart	19%
A wave	5%
A random movement or spasm	4%
A Roman salute	2%
Something else	3%
Not sure	13%
Not asked - hadn't heard anything about it	22%

6. Which of these best fits your interpretation of the gesture that Elon Musk made in the video you saw?

Respondents were shown a 15-second video of the gesture prior to being asked this question.

A gesture from his heart	42%
A Nazi salute	37%
A Roman salute	5%
A random movement or spasm	2%
A wave	2%
Something else	3%
Not sure	9%
Not asked - wasn't able to view the video	1%

7. Do you think that Elon Musk made this gesture... ?

Among people who say Musk's gesture was a Nazi salute after being shown the video

On purpose, to indicate support for Nazi views	50%
On purpose, as a joke or to provoke controversy	31%
By accident	4%
Not sure	16%

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the gesture Elon Musk made in the video you just saw?

Respondents were shown a 15-second video of the gesture prior to being asked this question.

Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	9%
Neither approve nor disapprove	24%
Somewhat disapprove	7%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Not sure	6%
Not asked - wasn't able to view the video	1%

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Interviewing Dates	January 29 - February 1, 2025
Target population	U.S. Citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov’s opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 2024 presidential vote, 2020 election turnout and presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. 2024 presidential vote, at time of weighting was estimated to be 48% Harris and 50% Trump. Baseline party identification is the respondent’s most recent answer given around November 8, 2024, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (31% Democratic, 32% Republican). The weights range from 0.052 to 6.569, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.043.
Number of respondents	1019
Margin of error	± 4.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	90 questions not reported.

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1. Favorability of Elon Musk

Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Elon Musk?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Very favorable	18%	21%	15%	18%	17%	17%	20%	19%	18%	13%	*
Somewhat favorable	22%	23%	21%	19%	22%	24%	20%	26%	10%	21%	*
Somewhat unfavorable	11%	11%	12%	10%	14%	10%	12%	11%	14%	11%	*
Very unfavorable	36%	34%	38%	35%	34%	35%	40%	32%	47%	34%	*
Don't know	13%	10%	15%	17%	13%	13%	7%	12%	11%	21%	*
Totals	100%	99%	101%	99%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,018)	(478)	(540)	(133)	(222)	(387)	(276)	(675)	(121)	(133)	(89)

	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region				
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Very favorable	18%	7%	7%	40%	6%	38%	16%	17%	26%	25%	15%	18%	16%
Somewhat favorable	22%	9%	18%	39%	7%	40%	23%	28%	18%	28%	22%	23%	16%
Somewhat unfavorable	11%	11%	16%	6%	12%	8%	12%	13%	11%	12%	8%	12%	14%
Very unfavorable	36%	68%	38%	4%	73%	4%	33%	36%	42%	26%	43%	34%	40%
Don't know	13%	5%	21%	11%	2%	10%	17%	6%	4%	10%	13%	13%	13%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	101%	101%	100%	99%
Unweighted N	(1,018)	(356)	(369)	(293)	(416)	(404)	(412)	(300)	(213)	(179)	(219)	(386)	(234)

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2. Musk Influence on Trump Administration

How much influence do you think Elon Musk has within Donald Trump's administration?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
A lot	48%	45%	51%	51%	48%	44%	50%	44%	58%	41%	*
A little	32%	33%	31%	29%	27%	36%	34%	37%	19%	28%	*
None at all	4%	4%	3%	2%	6%	4%	3%	3%	5%	8%	*
Not sure	17%	18%	16%	18%	19%	16%	14%	15%	18%	22%	*
Totals	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	101%	99%	100%	99%	*
Unweighted N	(1,018)	(478)	(540)	(133)	(222)	(386)	(277)	(675)	(121)	(133)	(89)

	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region				
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
A lot	48%	67%	47%	30%	76%	34%	40%	54%	57%	41%	49%	48%	53%
A little	32%	20%	26%	49%	14%	50%	38%	30%	29%	37%	29%	33%	29%
None at all	4%	2%	5%	4%	2%	6%	5%	2%	3%	4%	4%	3%	3%
Not sure	17%	11%	21%	17%	9%	10%	18%	14%	11%	19%	18%	16%	15%
Totals	101%	100%	99%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,018)	(356)	(370)	(292)	(417)	(404)	(412)	(300)	(213)	(179)	(219)	(386)	(234)

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3. Desired Musk Influence on Trump Administration

How much influence do you want Elon Musk to have within Donald Trump's administration?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
A lot	11%	14%	8%	13%	12%	10%	9%	10%	10%	13%	*
A little	27%	29%	25%	22%	25%	28%	30%	30%	22%	27%	*
None at all	44%	40%	49%	38%	41%	47%	49%	41%	49%	42%	*
Not sure	18%	18%	19%	27%	22%	15%	12%	19%	19%	18%	*
Totals	100%	101%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,018)	(478)	(540)	(133)	(222)	(386)	(277)	(675)	(121)	(133)	(89)

	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region				
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
A lot	11%	4%	7%	21%	5%	22%	9%	11%	17%	12%	8%	13%	10%
A little	27%	10%	22%	49%	7%	51%	27%	31%	23%	32%	25%	28%	23%
None at all	44%	75%	47%	13%	81%	13%	41%	43%	52%	39%	50%	38%	52%
Not sure	18%	11%	25%	18%	7%	14%	22%	15%	8%	17%	17%	21%	16%
Totals	100%	100%	101%	101%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%
Unweighted N	(1,018)	(355)	(370)	(293)	(417)	(404)	(411)	(301)	(213)	(179)	(219)	(387)	(233)

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4. Heard About Elon Musk Gesture

How much have you heard about a gesture that Elon Musk made with his arm during a speech last week?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
I've seen a video of it	57%	58%	56%	41%	59%	59%	69%	60%	45%	57%	*
I've heard about it, but haven't seen a video	21%	20%	22%	32%	16%	20%	18%	20%	27%	12%	*
I haven't heard anything about it	22%	22%	22%	27%	25%	22%	13%	19%	27%	31%	*
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	99%	99%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,017)	(477)	(540)	(133)	(221)	(386)	(277)	(674)	(121)	(133)	(89)

	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region				
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
I've seen a video of it	57%	66%	55%	52%	73%	64%	50%	65%	69%	66%	56%	55%	57%
I've heard about it, but haven't seen a video	21%	19%	19%	25%	17%	19%	23%	18%	20%	22%	25%	20%	17%
I haven't heard anything about it	22%	16%	26%	23%	11%	18%	27%	16%	11%	12%	19%	26%	26%
Totals	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%	101%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,017)	(356)	(368)	(293)	(416)	(404)	(411)	(300)	(213)	(178)	(218)	(387)	(234)

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5. Interpretation of Elon Musk Gesture

Which of these best fits your interpretation of the gesture that Elon Musk made?

	Total	Gender		Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
A Nazi salute	32%	27%	37%	23%	34%	31%	40%	29%	41%	35%	*
A gesture from his heart	19%	23%	15%	12%	18%	20%	23%	23%	10%	10%	*
A wave	5%	5%	5%	3%	3%	8%	5%	6%	3%	4%	*
A random movement or spasm	4%	4%	3%	9%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%	6%	*
A Roman salute	2%	4%	1%	5%	1%	2%	2%	3%	0%	1%	*
Something else	3%	2%	3%	2%	3%	4%	2%	3%	2%	2%	*
Not sure	13%	13%	14%	19%	13%	11%	12%	13%	14%	11%	*
Not asked - hadn't heard anything about it	22%	22%	22%	27%	26%	22%	13%	20%	28%	31%	*
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,014)	(476)	(538)	(132)	(219)	(386)	(277)	(673)	(119)	(133)	(89)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
A Nazi salute	32%	62%	32%	4%	68%	6%	27%	36%	43%	28%	33%	29%	40%
A gesture from his heart	19%	5%	15%	36%	3%	45%	16%	22%	22%	25%	18%	19%	14%
A wave	5%	1%	3%	12%	2%	6%	6%	3%	8%	5%	7%	5%	2%
A random movement or spasm	4%	2%	4%	5%	2%	6%	2%	4%	7%	8%	1%	4%	3%
A Roman salute	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%	2%	4%	2%	2%
Something else	3%	1%	4%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	0%	3%	2%	3%	3%
Not sure	13%	11%	12%	17%	10%	12%	16%	13%	7%	16%	16%	12%	10%

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	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Not asked - hadn't heard anything about it	22%	16%	26%	23%	11%	18%	28%	17%	11%	13%	19%	26%	26%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,014)	(356)	(367)	(291)	(416)	(404)	(409)	(299)	(213)	(177)	(218)	(386)	(233)

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6. Interpretation of Elon Musk Gesture After Video

Which of these best fits your interpretation of the gesture that Elon Musk made in the video you saw?

Respondents were shown a 15-second video of the gesture prior to being asked this question.

	Total	Gender		Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
A gesture from his heart	42%	47%	38%	37%	42%	48%	40%	47%	29%	40%	*
A Nazi salute	37%	31%	43%	30%	40%	39%	37%	33%	46%	43%	*
A Roman salute	5%	6%	3%	5%	2%	2%	11%	6%	5%	1%	*
A random movement or spasm	2%	3%	2%	8%	1%	1%	0%	2%	3%	0%	*
A wave	2%	1%	3%	3%	1%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	*
Something else	3%	3%	3%	3%	3%	1%	3%	3%	5%	2%	*
Not sure	9%	9%	8%	13%	11%	5%	7%	8%	10%	13%	*
Not asked - wasn't able to view the video	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	*
Totals	101%	101%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	101%	100%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,012)	(475)	(537)	(132)	(219)	(384)	(277)	(672)	(119)	(132)	(89)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
A gesture from his heart	42%	18%	33%	76%	16%	79%	42%	47%	44%	47%	39%	46%	36%
A Nazi salute	37%	65%	39%	8%	71%	9%	36%	35%	45%	32%	35%	34%	48%
A Roman salute	5%	1%	7%	4%	2%	2%	5%	5%	1%	10%	3%	4%	3%
A random movement or spasm	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%
A wave	2%	1%	4%	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%	4%	0%
Something else	3%	3%	4%	1%	2%	2%	4%	3%	1%	2%	2%	3%	4%
Not sure	9%	8%	9%	8%	7%	4%	10%	7%	6%	6%	14%	7%	6%

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	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Not asked - wasn't able to view the video	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%
Totals	101%	99%	99%	101%	101%	100%	101%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	99%
Unweighted N	(1,012)	(354)	(369)	(289)	(416)	(399)	(409)	(299)	(212)	(178)	(217)	(383)	(234)

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7. Elon Musk Gesture On Purpose

Do you think that Elon Musk made this gesture...?

Among people who say Musk's gesture was a Nazi salute after being shown the video

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
On purpose, to indicate support for Nazi views	50%	44%	54%	*	*	51%	57%	43%	*	*	*
On purpose, as a joke or to provoke controversy	31%	33%	29%	*	*	24%	21%	38%	*	*	*
By accident	4%	3%	4%	*	*	4%	1%	4%	*	*	*
Not sure	16%	19%	13%	*	*	21%	21%	14%	*	*	*
Totals	101%	99%	100%	*	*	100%	100%	99%	*	*	*
Unweighted N	(408)	(162)	(246)	(41)	(93)	(165)	(109)	(251)	(61)	(60)	(36)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
On purpose, to indicate support for Nazi views	50%	64%	39%	*	63%	*	51%	49%	*	*	*	56%	45%
On purpose, as a joke or to provoke controversy	31%	26%	35%	*	25%	*	26%	30%	*	*	*	21%	29%
By accident	4%	1%	7%	*	1%	*	5%	3%	*	*	*	5%	3%
Not sure	16%	9%	18%	*	11%	*	19%	18%	*	*	*	18%	23%
Totals	101%	100%	99%	*	100%	*	101%	100%	*	*	*	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(408)	(236)	(146)	(26)	(289)	(37)	(162)	(120)	(92)	(75)	(88)	(138)	(107)

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8. Approve of Elon Musk Gesture

Do you approve or disapprove of the gesture Elon Musk made in the video you just saw?

Respondents were shown a 15-second video of the gesture prior to being asked this question.

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Strongly approve	18%	19%	16%	11%	16%	23%	18%	22%	7%	11%	*
Somewhat approve	9%	12%	7%	17%	11%	6%	5%	8%	9%	20%	*
Neither approve nor disapprove	24%	26%	22%	31%	21%	22%	24%	25%	25%	19%	*
Somewhat disapprove	7%	6%	8%	4%	9%	7%	6%	7%	8%	5%	*
Strongly disapprove	36%	30%	41%	29%	33%	38%	40%	33%	44%	36%	*
Not sure	6%	6%	6%	7%	10%	2%	7%	5%	8%	9%	*
Not asked - wasn't able to view the video	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	*
Totals	101%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	101%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,017)	(476)	(541)	(133)	(221)	(387)	(276)	(675)	(120)	(133)	(89)

	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region				
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly approve	18%	4%	12%	37%	4%	42%	17%	20%	15%	18%	18%	20%	13%
Somewhat approve	9%	6%	9%	13%	4%	12%	9%	11%	7%	11%	7%	9%	13%
Neither approve nor disapprove	24%	16%	21%	36%	9%	32%	26%	22%	24%	28%	24%	25%	19%
Somewhat disapprove	7%	4%	12%	3%	7%	4%	9%	5%	5%	9%	7%	6%	6%
Strongly disapprove	36%	65%	38%	5%	73%	5%	32%	37%	45%	26%	37%	35%	43%
Not sure	6%	4%	8%	6%	2%	3%	7%	4%	4%	8%	5%	5%	6%
Not asked - wasn't able to view the video	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%

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	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Totals	101%	100%	100%	101%	99%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,017)	(356)	(369)	(292)	(417)	(403)	(412)	(301)	(211)	(179)	(218)	(386)	(234)

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Interviewing Dates	January 29 - February 1, 2025
Target population	U.S. Citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 2024 presidential vote, 2020 election turnout and presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. 2024 presidential vote, at time of weighting was estimated to be 48% Harris and 50% Trump. Baseline party identification is the respondent's most recent answer given around November 8, 2024, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (31% Democratic, 32% Republican). The weights range from 0.052 to 6.569, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.043.
Number of respondents	1019
Margin of error	± 4.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	90 questions not reported.