

YouGov Survey: The Greatest and Worst Americans

June 24 - 27, 2026 - 1,118 U.S. adult citizens



1. If you had to choose, which of the following do you think is the greatest American from the last 250 years?

Response options are based on responses to previous poll questions, whose response options were, in turn, based on responses to an open-ended question on an earlier poll.

Abraham Lincoln	18%
George Washington	13%
Martin Luther King Jr.	12%
Barack Obama	10%
Donald Trump	8%
Albert Einstein	4%
Nikola Tesla	4%
Thomas Edison	3%
Michael Jackson	2%
Elon Musk	1%
Michael Jordan	1%
Henry Ford	1%
Elvis Presley	1%
Walt Disney	1%
Muhammad Ali	1%
Stephen King	1%
Mark Twain	1%
Warren Buffett	0%
Not sure	19%

2. If you had to choose, which of the following do you think is the worst American from the last 250 years?

Response options are based on responses to an open-ended question on a previous poll.

Donald Trump	34%
Jeffrey Epstein	14%
Barack Obama	8%
Jeffrey Dahmer	8%
Joe Biden	6%
Charles Manson	6%
Ted Bundy	4%
Benedict Arnold	3%
John Wilkes Booth	2%
Not sure	13%

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Interviewing Dates	June 24 - 27, 2026
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, U.S. region, 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, 33% Republican). The weights range from 0.051 to 6.553, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.945.
Number of respondents	1,118
Margin of error	± 4 points (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	67 questions not reported.

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1. Greatest American

If you had to choose, which of the following do you think is the greatest American from the last 250 years?

Response options are based on responses to previous poll questions, whose response options were, in turn, based on responses to an open-ended question on an earlier poll.

	Total	Gender		Age				Race			Education	
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	No degree	College degree
Abraham Lincoln	18%	20%	17%	15%	13%	19%	28%	20%	7%	19%	16%	22%
George Washington	13%	16%	9%	6%	14%	14%	16%	14%	5%	11%	11%	16%
Martin Luther King Jr.	12%	10%	14%	18%	15%	9%	8%	10%	26%	10%	13%	10%
Barack Obama	10%	6%	14%	12%	7%	10%	13%	8%	25%	9%	10%	11%
Donald Trump	8%	12%	4%	9%	6%	7%	10%	9%	2%	11%	9%	6%
Albert Einstein	4%	6%	3%	5%	2%	7%	2%	4%	1%	3%	4%	5%
Nikola Tesla	4%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	4%	2%	3%	4%	3%
Thomas Edison	3%	3%	4%	2%	4%	5%	2%	4%	0%	3%	3%	4%
Michael Jackson	2%	1%	3%	4%	2%	1%	1%	1%	9%	2%	2%	1%
Elon Musk	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	2%	0%	0%	1%	2%
Michael Jordan	1%	2%	0%	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%	5%	1%	1%	0%
Henry Ford	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	2%
Elvis Presley	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%
Walt Disney	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Muhammad Ali	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	0%	0%	2%	0%	1%	1%
Stephen King	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	0%	1%	4%	1%	0%
Mark Twain	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%
Warren Buffett	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Not sure	19%	13%	24%	16%	25%	18%	14%	20%	13%	22%	21%	14%
Totals	101%	100%	100%	101%	100%	102%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,118)	(536)	(582)	(282)	(285)	(322)	(229)	(722)	(146)	(182)	(733)	(385)

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	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family income			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Abraham Lincoln	18%	19%	18%	18%	24%	19%	14%	20%	23%	19%	17%	19%	18%
George Washington	13%	9%	11%	19%	10%	22%	9%	14%	15%	10%	15%	12%	13%
Martin Luther King Jr.	12%	24%	11%	1%	21%	2%	13%	13%	10%	9%	12%	13%	13%
Barack Obama	10%	22%	9%	1%	22%	1%	14%	9%	9%	15%	9%	10%	9%
Donald Trump	8%	0%	2%	24%	0%	18%	7%	7%	8%	8%	6%	9%	7%
Albert Einstein	4%	3%	6%	3%	4%	3%	2%	3%	9%	3%	4%	3%	8%
Nikola Tesla	4%	1%	5%	4%	1%	4%	5%	3%	2%	4%	3%	4%	4%
Thomas Edison	3%	2%	3%	6%	2%	8%	3%	3%	6%	3%	3%	4%	4%
Michael Jackson	2%	3%	2%	1%	3%	1%	2%	2%	1%	2%	2%	3%	1%
Elon Musk	1%	0%	0%	3%	0%	3%	1%	1%	2%	2%	2%	0%	2%
Michael Jordan	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	3%	0%	1%	2%	0%
Henry Ford	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%	0%	1%	2%	0%	2%	1%	1%
Elvis Presley	1%	0%	2%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	2%	3%	1%	0%	0%
Walt Disney	1%	1%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%
Muhammad Ali	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%
Stephen King	1%	1%	1%	0%	0%	0%	2%	0%	0%	0%	1%	1%	0%
Mark Twain	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Warren Buffett	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Not sure	19%	13%	26%	15%	10%	13%	24%	17%	7%	18%	21%	18%	18%
Totals	101%	100%	100%	99%	98%	100%	99%	98%	99%	101%	102%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,118)	(380)	(422)	(316)	(420)	(394)	(397)	(355)	(254)	(206)	(215)	(426)	(271)

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2. Worst American

If you had to choose, which of the following do you think is the worst American from the last 250 years?

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	Total	Gender		Age				Race			Education	
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	No degree	College degree
Donald Trump	34%	30%	38%	23%	32%	39%	40%	30%	51%	38%	30%	42%
Jeffrey Epstein	14%	15%	13%	24%	20%	9%	6%	15%	11%	11%	14%	14%
Barack Obama	8%	12%	5%	6%	4%	10%	13%	9%	8%	5%	9%	8%
Jeffrey Dahmer	8%	7%	9%	4%	6%	13%	7%	10%	4%	6%	9%	7%
Joe Biden	6%	6%	7%	7%	6%	6%	8%	7%	3%	7%	7%	6%
Charles Manson	6%	4%	8%	2%	3%	9%	9%	6%	4%	3%	6%	6%
Ted Bundy	4%	4%	4%	6%	4%	4%	3%	4%	6%	2%	4%	4%
Benedict Arnold	3%	5%	1%	2%	2%	3%	4%	3%	1%	5%	3%	2%
John Wilkes Booth	2%	4%	1%	1%	3%	2%	4%	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Not sure	13%	13%	14%	26%	19%	6%	5%	13%	11%	22%	17%	8%
Totals	98%	100%	100%	101%	99%	101%	99%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,117)	(535)	(582)	(282)	(285)	(321)	(229)	(721)	(146)	(182)	(733)	(384)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family income			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Donald Trump	34%	64%	34%	4%	72%	3%	31%	32%	44%	28%	36%	30%	46%
Jeffrey Epstein	14%	13%	16%	12%	10%	15%	14%	13%	14%	18%	11%	15%	12%
Barack Obama	8%	1%	6%	19%	1%	17%	10%	7%	7%	12%	10%	7%	6%
Jeffrey Dahmer	8%	4%	10%	10%	4%	10%	9%	9%	8%	6%	8%	9%	8%
Joe Biden	6%	0%	3%	17%	0%	16%	7%	10%	4%	4%	5%	8%	8%
Charles Manson	6%	3%	5%	12%	2%	12%	5%	8%	6%	5%	7%	7%	5%
Ted Bundy	4%	2%	6%	4%	3%	5%	3%	5%	5%	6%	3%	4%	4%
Benedict Arnold	3%	2%	2%	4%	0%	6%	3%	3%	2%	4%	4%	1%	2%

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John Wilkes Booth	2%	2%	2%	3%	1%	4%	3%	4%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Not sure	13%	9%	16%	14%	6%	13%	15%	9%	8%	16%	13%	16%	8%
Totals	98%	100%	100%	99%	99%	101%	100%	100%	100%	101%	99%	100%	101%
Unweighted N	(1,117)	(380)	(422)	(315)	(420)	(394)	(397)	(355)	(254)	(206)	(215)	(425)	(271)

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