

YouGov Survey: Trump, Hegseth, and the Military



Sample 1131 U.S. adult citizens
Conducted September 30 - October 2, 2025
Margin of Error $\pm 4\%$

1. Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling the military?

Strongly approve	23%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	11%

2. Do you approve or disapprove of how Pete Hegseth is handling his job as Secretary of [Defense / War]?

Respondents who say that they are more likely to use the term Department of War were asked about Hegseth's job as Secretary of War. Respondents who are more likely to use Department of Defense or who did not indicate a preference were asked about Hegseth's job as Secretary of Defense.

Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	12%
Somewhat disapprove	6%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	27%

3. Do you generally approve or disapprove of how generals and admirals in the U.S. military are handling their jobs?

Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	31%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	9%
Not sure	30%

4. President Donald Trump and Secretary Pete Hegseth summoned all of the U.S. military generals and admirals to Virginia for a meeting on Tuesday. How much have you heard about this meeting?

A lot	24%
A little	38%
Nothing at all	38%

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the decision to summon all U.S. generals and admirals to Virginia?

Strongly approve	19%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	27%

6. Do you think summoning all U.S. generals and admirals to Virginia was...?

A good use of military spending	18%
A bad use of military spending	41%
Neither a good nor a bad use of military spending	23%
Not sure	18%

7. Do you think summoning all U.S. generals and admirals to Virginia posed...?

A major risk to national security	24%
A moderate risk to national security	28%
No risk to national security	23%
Not sure	25%

8. Do you think it is better for the U.S. military to...?

Keep the most experienced staff of generals, even if some disagree with current policies	65%
Fire generals who disagree with current policies, even if it means military leaders have less experience	15%
Not sure	21%

9. If a general in the U.S. military receives an order that they believe violates the Constitution, do you think they should...?

Follow the order	18%
Not follow the order	59%
Not sure	23%

10. If an enlisted member of the U.S. military receives an order that they believe violates the Constitution, do you think they should...?

Follow the order	19%
Not follow the order	53%
Not sure	28%

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Interviewing Dates	September 30 - October 2, 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 0.051 to 6.555, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.922.
Number of respondents	1131
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	77 questions not reported.

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1. Trump Military Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling the military?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Strongly approve	23%	29%	18%	18%	17%	27%	30%	30%	3%	15%	*
Somewhat approve	15%	14%	16%	13%	13%	18%	15%	17%	6%	19%	*
Somewhat disapprove	9%	9%	9%	14%	14%	5%	4%	7%	21%	10%	*
Strongly disapprove	41%	41%	41%	43%	38%	40%	44%	35%	62%	46%	*
Not sure	11%	7%	15%	13%	18%	9%	7%	11%	8%	10%	*
Totals	99%	100%	99%	101%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,131)	(520)	(611)	(263)	(301)	(332)	(235)	(728)	(146)	(182)	(75)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly approve	23%	2%	16%	53%	3%	57%	21%	25%	29%	22%	26%	26%	17%
Somewhat approve	15%	4%	12%	30%	3%	26%	15%	14%	14%	23%	12%	14%	14%
Somewhat disapprove	9%	10%	13%	3%	10%	6%	10%	11%	7%	10%	8%	10%	8%
Strongly disapprove	41%	79%	43%	2%	80%	5%	41%	40%	40%	26%	47%	39%	52%
Not sure	11%	5%	16%	12%	3%	7%	13%	10%	10%	18%	8%	12%	9%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%	101%	100%	100%	100%	99%	101%	101%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,131)	(391)	(427)	(313)	(488)	(391)	(433)	(335)	(269)	(211)	(207)	(441)	(272)

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2. Hegseth Job Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of how Pete Hegseth is handling his job as Secretary of [Defense / War]?

Respondents who say that they are more likely to use the term Department of War were asked about Hegseth's job as Secretary of War. Respondents who are more likely to use Department of Defense or who did not indicate a preference were asked about Hegseth's job as Secretary of Defense.

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Strongly approve	20%	24%	16%	11%	14%	23%	29%	26%	3%	10%	*
Somewhat approve	12%	15%	10%	16%	10%	12%	12%	14%	3%	15%	*
Somewhat disapprove	6%	6%	6%	7%	7%	5%	5%	5%	9%	10%	*
Strongly disapprove	35%	36%	35%	32%	35%	34%	42%	32%	52%	34%	*
Not sure	27%	20%	33%	34%	34%	26%	13%	24%	34%	31%	*
Totals	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	101%	101%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,128)	(518)	(610)	(261)	(301)	(331)	(235)	(726)	(145)	(182)	(75)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Strongly approve	20%	2%	13%	45%	3%	50%	17%	24%	22%	21%	22%	21%	13%
Somewhat approve	12%	4%	11%	22%	4%	22%	12%	13%	13%	9%	9%	15%	12%
Somewhat disapprove	6%	9%	6%	4%	8%	6%	5%	5%	9%	6%	6%	6%	6%
Strongly disapprove	35%	63%	41%	2%	74%	5%	34%	37%	34%	24%	48%	28%	46%
Not sure	27%	22%	30%	27%	12%	17%	33%	22%	22%	40%	14%	29%	23%
Totals	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%	101%	101%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,128)	(390)	(426)	(312)	(488)	(389)	(433)	(333)	(268)	(211)	(207)	(439)	(271)

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3. Generals Job Approval

Do you generally approve or disapprove of how generals and admirals in the U.S. military are handling their jobs?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Strongly approve	17%	20%	15%	13%	11%	18%	26%	20%	10%	15%	*
Somewhat approve	31%	34%	27%	22%	27%	36%	34%	34%	19%	28%	*
Somewhat disapprove	13%	15%	12%	15%	14%	11%	14%	13%	14%	16%	*
Strongly disapprove	9%	10%	9%	14%	15%	7%	3%	6%	20%	13%	*
Not sure	30%	22%	37%	36%	32%	28%	23%	27%	37%	29%	*
Totals	100%	101%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	*
Unweighted N	(1,129)	(520)	(609)	(262)	(300)	(332)	(235)	(727)	(146)	(181)	(75)

		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	17%	16%	13%	22%	20%	20%	19%	17%	18%	14%	20%	17%	18%
Somewhat approve	31%	30%	23%	41%	30%	39%	28%	34%	34%	30%	33%	30%	30%
Somewhat disapprove	13%	16%	15%	10%	14%	16%	13%	15%	13%	11%	17%	13%	14%
Strongly disapprove	9%	15%	13%	0%	12%	2%	9%	8%	9%	6%	9%	9%	13%
Not sure	30%	23%	36%	27%	23%	24%	31%	26%	26%	39%	22%	32%	24%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	101%	99%
Unweighted N	(1,129)	(390)	(427)	(312)	(486)	(391)	(432)	(334)	(269)	(211)	(207)	(439)	(272)

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4. Heard About Meeting

President Donald Trump and Secretary Pete Hegseth summoned all of the U.S. military generals and admirals to Virginia for a meeting on Tuesday. How much have you heard about this meeting?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
A lot	24%	30%	18%	15%	14%	26%	39%	26%	21%	16%	*
A little	38%	40%	37%	37%	44%	34%	40%	41%	32%	36%	*
Nothing at all	38%	30%	45%	48%	42%	40%	22%	33%	48%	48%	*
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,129)	(519)	(610)	(263)	(300)	(331)	(235)	(727)	(146)	(181)	(75)

		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	24%	29%	23%	19%	38%	23%	20%	26%	29%	20%	29%	23%	23%
A little	38%	37%	38%	41%	37%	51%	30%	45%	44%	33%	45%	37%	40%
Nothing at all	38%	34%	39%	40%	25%	26%	50%	29%	28%	47%	26%	41%	36%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	101%	99%
Unweighted N	(1,129)	(391)	(425)	(313)	(488)	(390)	(432)	(335)	(269)	(211)	(206)	(440)	(272)

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5. Meeting Approval

Do you approve or disapprove of the decision to summon all U.S. generals and admirals to Virginia?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Strongly approve	19%	24%	14%	12%	15%	21%	26%	24%	3%	13%	*
Somewhat approve	15%	14%	16%	13%	11%	18%	15%	17%	4%	20%	*
Somewhat disapprove	11%	11%	11%	18%	15%	6%	7%	10%	18%	7%	*
Strongly disapprove	28%	28%	29%	23%	27%	26%	40%	25%	43%	29%	*
Not sure	27%	23%	31%	34%	32%	29%	12%	24%	32%	29%	*
Totals	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	98%	*
Unweighted N	(1,129)	(519)	(610)	(263)	(301)	(332)	(233)	(726)	(146)	(182)	(75)

		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	19%	3%	14%	39%	3%	45%	17%	24%	19%	18%	19%	22%	13%
Somewhat approve	15%	5%	10%	31%	6%	26%	16%	11%	16%	17%	13%	15%	15%
Somewhat disapprove	11%	14%	13%	5%	16%	6%	7%	12%	13%	7%	14%	11%	10%
Strongly disapprove	28%	54%	30%	2%	59%	4%	30%	29%	26%	24%	33%	24%	36%
Not sure	27%	24%	33%	23%	16%	20%	31%	24%	26%	35%	22%	27%	26%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	101%	100%	100%	101%	101%	99%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,129)	(390)	(427)	(312)	(487)	(390)	(431)	(335)	(269)	(210)	(207)	(441)	(271)

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6. Meeting Spending

Do you think summoning all U.S. generals and admirals to Virginia was...?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
A good use of military spending	18%	22%	14%	13%	19%	19%	21%	21%	5%	16%	*
A bad use of military spending	41%	39%	42%	39%	39%	39%	47%	38%	56%	39%	*
Neither a good nor a bad use of military spending	23%	23%	24%	26%	22%	22%	23%	26%	20%	18%	*
Not sure	18%	15%	21%	22%	20%	20%	9%	16%	19%	27%	*
Totals	100%	99%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,131)	(520)	(611)	(263)	(301)	(332)	(235)	(728)	(146)	(182)	(75)

		Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
A good use of military spending	18%	2%	12%	40%	3%	42%	15%	19%	25%	15%	16%	21%	17%
A bad use of military spending	41%	73%	45%	6%	77%	10%	39%	42%	40%	32%	49%	37%	47%
Neither a good nor a bad use of military spending	23%	11%	22%	36%	11%	32%	25%	23%	20%	31%	22%	22%	21%
Not sure	18%	15%	21%	18%	9%	16%	20%	15%	15%	22%	13%	20%	15%
Totals	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,131)	(391)	(427)	(313)	(488)	(391)	(433)	(335)	(269)	(211)	(207)	(441)	(272)

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7. Meeting Risk

Do you think summoning all U.S. generals and admirals to Virginia posed...?

	Total	Gender		Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
A major risk to national security	24%	21%	26%	22%	20%	22%	32%	21%	38%	25%	*
A moderate risk to national security	28%	29%	28%	32%	33%	27%	22%	30%	28%	17%	*
No risk to national security	23%	28%	18%	12%	20%	26%	32%	29%	5%	16%	*
Not sure	25%	21%	28%	35%	27%	25%	13%	20%	29%	42%	*
Totals	100%	99%	100%	101%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,125)	(517)	(608)	(261)	(300)	(330)	(234)	(725)	(145)	(181)	(74)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
A major risk to national security	24%	43%	24%	5%	50%	4%	27%	24%	19%	20%	24%	24%	25%
A moderate risk to national security	28%	33%	26%	27%	30%	27%	22%	29%	38%	27%	34%	25%	31%
No risk to national security	23%	6%	19%	44%	6%	50%	21%	27%	26%	20%	22%	25%	24%
Not sure	25%	18%	31%	24%	14%	19%	30%	20%	17%	33%	19%	26%	21%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	101%
Unweighted N	(1,125)	(389)	(424)	(312)	(486)	(388)	(430)	(333)	(268)	(210)	(206)	(439)	(270)

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8. Firing Generals

Do you think it is better for the U.S. military to...

		Gender		Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Keep the most experienced staff of generals, even if some disagree with current policies	65%	62%	67%	71%	61%	59%	71%	63%	75%	64%	*
Fire generals who disagree with current policies, even if it means military leaders have less experience	15%	20%	10%	10%	13%	18%	18%	18%	5%	11%	*
Not sure	21%	18%	24%	19%	27%	24%	11%	19%	20%	25%	*
Totals	101%	100%	101%	100%	101%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,130)	(519)	(611)	(263)	(301)	(331)	(235)	(727)	(146)	(182)	(75)

		Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Keep the most experienced staff of generals, even if some disagree with current policies	65%	85%	62%	48%	90%	47%	61%	65%	73%	63%	70%	59%	72%
Fire generals who disagree with current policies, even if it means military leaders have less experience	15%	4%	13%	28%	4%	31%	14%	18%	16%	11%	15%	19%	11%

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	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region				
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Not sure	21%	11%	25%	24%	6%	22%	25%	17%	11%	27%	15%	22%	17%
Totals	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,130)	(390)	(427)	(313)	(487)	(391)	(432)	(335)	(269)	(211)	(207)	(441)	(271)

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9. General Order vs. Constitution

If a general in the U.S. military receives an order that they believe violates the Constitution, do you think they should...?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Follow the order	18%	22%	14%	17%	18%	19%	16%	19%	8%	20%	*
Not follow the order	59%	59%	58%	58%	58%	59%	60%	57%	69%	58%	*
Not sure	23%	19%	28%	24%	25%	22%	23%	24%	23%	22%	*
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	101%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,128)	(519)	(609)	(263)	(300)	(330)	(235)	(726)	(145)	(182)	(75)

	Total	Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
		Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Follow the order	18%	7%	14%	33%	6%	33%	19%	17%	21%	18%	15%	21%	15%
Not follow the order	59%	77%	64%	35%	84%	41%	58%	63%	58%	55%	69%	50%	69%
Not sure	23%	16%	22%	32%	10%	26%	23%	20%	20%	27%	16%	29%	16%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,128)	(391)	(425)	(312)	(487)	(390)	(432)	(335)	(267)	(210)	(207)	(440)	(271)

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10. Enlisted Order vs. Constitution

If an enlisted member of the U.S. military receives an order that they believe violates the Constitution, do you think they should...?

	Gender			Age (4 category)				Race (4 category)			
	Total	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-64	65+	White	Black	Hispanic	Other
Follow the order	19%	24%	14%	15%	15%	22%	22%	23%	9%	14%	*
Not follow the order	53%	54%	52%	55%	58%	50%	51%	49%	67%	58%	*
Not sure	28%	22%	33%	30%	27%	28%	28%	28%	25%	28%	*
Totals	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	101%	100%	101%	100%	*
Unweighted N	(1,130)	(520)	(610)	(263)	(301)	(332)	(234)	(727)	(146)	(182)	(75)

		Party ID			2024 Vote		Family Income (3 category)			Region			
	Total	Dem	Ind	Rep	Harris	Trump	< \$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Follow the order	19%	7%	14%	36%	7%	37%	16%	23%	25%	22%	16%	20%	17%
Not follow the order	53%	71%	59%	29%	78%	35%	54%	53%	53%	48%	65%	46%	61%
Not sure	28%	22%	27%	34%	15%	28%	31%	24%	22%	30%	19%	34%	22%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	101%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Unweighted N	(1,130)	(390)	(427)	(313)	(487)	(391)	(433)	(334)	(269)	(211)	(207)	(440)	(272)

YouGov Survey: Trump, Hegseth, and the Military

September 30 - October 2, 2025 - 1131 U.S. adult citizens



Interviewing Dates	September 30 - October 2, 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 0.051 to 6.555, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.922.
Number of respondents	1131
Margin of error	± 4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	77 questions not reported.