

CBS News Poll – March 2-3, 2026

Adults in the U.S.



Sample 1,399 Adults in the U.S.

Margin of Error ± 3.2 points

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. taking military action against Iran?

Approve	44%
Disapprove	56%

2. So far, do you think the Trump administration has clearly explained what the U.S. goals are in taking military action against Iran, or haven't they done that yet?

Clearly explained	38%
Not done that yet	62%

3. Whether or not you agree with them, what do you think the Trump administration's goals in Iran are? Are they trying to...

	Goal	Not a goal
Prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons	78%	22%
Change Iran's leadership	80%	20%
Reduce the threat of terrorism	64%	36%
Stop Iran's missile and military capabilities	79%	21%
Help the Iranian people	47%	53%
Gain political advantage in the U.S.	63%	37%

4. How long do you think the U.S. military conflict with Iran will probably last?

Days	2%
Weeks	23%
Months	27%
Years	22%
Not sure	25%

5. Do you think the U.S. military action against Iran will make the U.S....

More safe	31%
Less safe	45%
No difference either way	24%

6. Which of these comes closest to your view?

Iran was a threat to the U.S. that required military action now	33%
Iran was a threat to the U.S. that could have been contained for now	38%
Iran was not a threat to the U.S.	28%

7. Do you think Donald Trump needs approval from Congress to continue military action against Iran, or does he not need approval from Congress?

Needs approval from Congress	69%
Does not need approval from Congress	31%

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1. Approve or Disapprove of U.S. Military Action Against Iran

Do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. taking military action against Iran?

	Total	Gender		Under 30	Age			Liberal	Ideology	
		Male	Female		30-44	45-64	65+		Moderate	Conservative
Approve	44%	50%	37%	39%	41%	47%	47%	10%	41%	85%
Disapprove	56%	50%	63%	61%	59%	53%	53%	90%	59%	15%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,399)	(679)	(720)	(288)	(355)	(459)	(298)	(407)	(467)	(387)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Approve	44%	10%	37%	85%	49%	23%	40%	55%	39%
Disapprove	56%	90%	63%	15%	51%	77%	60%	45%	61%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,399)	(398)	(484)	(403)	(883)	(175)	(223)	(548)	(335)

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2. Goals of Military Action Against Iran Clearly Explained or Not

So far, do you think the Trump administration has clearly explained what the U.S. goals are in taking military action against Iran, or haven't they done that yet?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Clearly explained	38%	46%	31%	43%	30%	40%	41%	10%	40%	72%
Not done that yet	62%	54%	69%	57%	70%	60%	59%	90%	60%	28%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,394)	(678)	(717)	(288)	(355)	(456)	(296)	(406)	(466)	(384)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Clearly explained	38%	11%	36%	73%	43%	22%	38%	48%	33%
Not done that yet	62%	89%	64%	27%	57%	78%	62%	52%	67%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,394)	(397)	(483)	(401)	(879)	(175)	(223)	(544)	(335)

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3A. Think Trump Administration's Goals are in Iran — Prevent Iran from producing nuclear weapons

Whether or not you agree with them, what do you think the Trump administration's goals in Iran are? Are they trying to...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Goal	78%	80%	76%	76%	77%	78%	80%	62%	81%	95%
Not a goal	22%	20%	24%	24%	23%	22%	20%	38%	19%	5%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(675)	(708)	(285)	(350)	(454)	(294)	(400)	(463)	(383)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Goal	78%	64%	75%	96%	82%	63%	74%	84%	78%
Not a goal	22%	36%	25%	4%	18%	37%	26%	16%	22%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(389)	(482)	(402)	(878)	(172)	(219)	(542)	(335)

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3B. Think Trump Administration's Goals are in Iran — Change Iran's leadership

Whether or not you agree with them, what do you think the Trump administration's goals in Iran are? Are they trying to...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Goal	80%	83%	77%	74%	80%	81%	83%	77%	81%	90%
Not a goal	20%	17%	23%	26%	20%	19%	17%	23%	19%	10%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(676)	(707)	(285)	(350)	(453)	(295)	(401)	(465)	(381)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Goal	80%	72%	82%	90%	84%	66%	72%	84%	85%
Not a goal	20%	28%	18%	10%	16%	34%	28%	16%	15%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(391)	(481)	(400)	(876)	(173)	(219)	(541)	(335)

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3C. Think Trump Administration's Goals are in Iran — Reduce the threat of terrorism

Whether or not you agree with them, what do you think the Trump administration's goals in Iran are? Are they trying to...

	Total	Gender		Under 30	Age			Liberal	Ideology	
		Male	Female		30-44	45-64	65+		Moderate	Conservative
Goal	64%	68%	61%	61%	64%	65%	68%	39%	67%	92%
Not a goal	36%	32%	39%	39%	36%	35%	32%	61%	33%	8%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(675)	(708)	(285)	(350)	(453)	(295)	(400)	(464)	(381)

	Total	Party ID			White	Race		White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep		Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Goal	64%	41%	59%	93%	68%	49%	64%	72%	63%
Not a goal	36%	59%	41%	7%	32%	51%	36%	28%	37%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(389)	(482)	(400)	(876)	(172)	(219)	(541)	(335)

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3D. Think Trump Administration's Goals are in Iran — Stop Iran's missile and military capabilities

Whether or not you agree with them, what do you think the Trump administration's goals in Iran are? Are they trying to...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Goal	79%	80%	77%	77%	76%	79%	82%	63%	82%	97%
Not a goal	21%	20%	23%	23%	24%	21%	18%	37%	18%	3%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,382)	(675)	(707)	(285)	(350)	(453)	(293)	(400)	(463)	(381)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Goal	79%	64%	77%	97%	83%	65%	74%	85%	79%
Not a goal	21%	36%	23%	3%	17%	35%	26%	15%	21%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,382)	(389)	(481)	(400)	(875)	(172)	(219)	(540)	(335)

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3E. Think Trump Administration's Goals are in Iran — Help the Iranian people

Whether or not you agree with them, what do you think the Trump administration's goals in Iran are? Are they trying to...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Goal	47%	53%	40%	42%	42%	51%	52%	14%	45%	87%
Not a goal	53%	47%	60%	58%	58%	49%	48%	86%	55%	13%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(676)	(707)	(285)	(350)	(455)	(293)	(398)	(465)	(382)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Goal	47%	16%	41%	84%	52%	26%	51%	57%	43%
Not a goal	53%	84%	59%	16%	48%	74%	49%	43%	57%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(388)	(483)	(401)	(876)	(172)	(219)	(544)	(333)

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3F. Think Trump Administration's Goals are in Iran — Gain political advantage in the U.S.

Whether or not you agree with them, what do you think the Trump administration's goals in Iran are? Are they trying to...

	Total	Gender		Under 30	Age			Liberal	Ideology	
		Male	Female		30-44	45-64	65+		Moderate	Conservative
Goal	63%	62%	64%	68%	70%	58%	58%	83%	67%	42%
Not a goal	37%	38%	36%	32%	30%	42%	42%	17%	33%	58%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,382)	(674)	(708)	(285)	(349)	(453)	(294)	(401)	(465)	(379)

	Total	Party ID			White	Race		White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep		Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Goal	63%	82%	63%	47%	63%	65%	57%	57%	71%
Not a goal	37%	18%	37%	53%	37%	35%	43%	43%	29%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,382)	(391)	(482)	(398)	(876)	(172)	(219)	(542)	(334)

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4. Duration of Military Action Against Iran

How long do you think the U.S. military conflict with Iran will probably last?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Days	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%	4%	2%	1%	2%	5%
Weeks	23%	29%	17%	23%	17%	23%	28%	10%	23%	41%
Months	27%	26%	29%	33%	23%	28%	27%	29%	31%	23%
Years	22%	22%	23%	18%	30%	21%	19%	35%	21%	12%
Not sure	25%	20%	29%	24%	28%	24%	24%	24%	23%	19%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,392)	(678)	(714)	(285)	(355)	(456)	(297)	(402)	(466)	(387)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Days	2%	1%	2%	4%	3%	1%	1%	3%	2%
Weeks	23%	11%	22%	39%	25%	13%	19%	25%	25%
Months	27%	30%	25%	29%	31%	20%	22%	29%	33%
Years	22%	30%	28%	8%	19%	28%	31%	17%	22%
Not sure	25%	28%	23%	19%	22%	37%	26%	25%	18%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	99%	99%	100%
Weighted N	(1,392)	(392)	(484)	(403)	(880)	(173)	(223)	(546)	(335)

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5. U.S. Military Action Against Iran Make U.S. More or Less Safe

Do you think the U.S. military action against Iran will make the U.S....

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
More safe	31%	38%	24%	27%	26%	34%	34%	7%	26%	67%
Less safe	45%	41%	50%	46%	47%	45%	44%	75%	47%	15%
No difference either way	24%	21%	26%	27%	26%	21%	21%	18%	27%	18%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,392)	(677)	(714)	(285)	(355)	(455)	(297)	(402)	(466)	(386)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
More safe	31%	7%	23%	67%	37%	12%	25%	40%	32%
Less safe	45%	73%	51%	14%	42%	55%	51%	37%	50%
No difference either way	24%	20%	26%	19%	21%	33%	24%	23%	18%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,392)	(392)	(484)	(402)	(880)	(173)	(223)	(545)	(335)

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6. Iran Threat to the U.S.

Which of these comes closest to your view?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Iran was a threat to the U.S. that required military action now	33%	37%	30%	27%	28%	38%	38%	8%	31%	67%
Iran was a threat to the U.S. that could have been contained for now	38%	36%	40%	43%	38%	38%	36%	46%	41%	27%
Iran was not a threat to the U.S.	28%	27%	30%	30%	34%	24%	26%	46%	28%	6%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(677)	(705)	(285)	(349)	(455)	(294)	(400)	(465)	(384)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Iran was a threat to the U.S. that required military action now	33%	10%	25%	68%	40%	16%	25%	45%	31%
Iran was a threat to the U.S. that could have been contained for now	38%	49%	38%	27%	38%	35%	46%	35%	44%
Iran was not a threat to the U.S.	28%	41%	36%	5%	22%	49%	29%	20%	25%
Totals	99%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,383)	(391)	(482)	(400)	(877)	(173)	(218)	(542)	(334)

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7. Does Trump Need Congressional Approval for Continued Military Action Against Iran

Do you think Donald Trump needs approval from Congress to continue military action against Iran, or does he not need approval from Congress?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Needs approval from Congress	69%	65%	73%	80%	74%	61%	64%	96%	77%	30%
Does not need approval from Congress	31%	35%	27%	20%	26%	39%	36%	4%	23%	70%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,382)	(677)	(706)	(285)	(351)	(453)	(293)	(400)	(464)	(380)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Needs approval from Congress	69%	97%	78%	31%	62%	86%	77%	56%	72%
Does not need approval from Congress	31%	3%	22%	69%	38%	14%	23%	44%	28%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(1,382)	(392)	(481)	(400)	(876)	(173)	(217)	(542)	(334)

HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED AND THE MARGIN OF ERROR CALCULATED

This CBS News/YouGov survey is based on a nationally representative sample of 1,399 U.S. adults who were recontacted between March 2-3, 2026, after the start of U.S. military action against Iran, following an initial survey of 2,264 adults conducted February 25-27, 2026. The recontact rate was 62%.

The sample of recontacted respondents was weighted to account for differential response rate from the February 25-27, 2026 national sample according to gender, age, race, and education based upon the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, as well as Presidential vote and partisan identification. The weights range from 0.1 to 7.5, with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.7.

The *margin of error* (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage p based upon the recontacted sample is approximately ± 3.2 points. It is calculated using the formula

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

where CV is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights and n is the sample size used to compute the proportion. This is a measure of sampling error (the average of all estimates obtained using the same sample selection and weighting procedures repeatedly). The sample estimate should differ from its expected value by less than margin of error in 95 percent of all samples. It does not reflect non-sampling errors, including potential selection bias in panel participation or in response to a particular survey.