

The Economist/YouGov Poll

August 14 - 17, 2026 - 1611 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1611 U.S. Adult citizens
Conducted August 14 - 17, 2026
Margin of Error $\pm 3.4\%$

1. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction	27%
Off on the wrong track	66%
Not sure	7%

2. Which comes closest to your view?

Our lives are threatened by terrorists, criminals, and illegal immigrants and our priority should be to protect ourselves.	35%
It's a big, beautiful world, mostly full of good people, and we must find a way to embrace each other and not allow ourselves to become isolated.	55%
Not sure	11%

3. Do you think people are naturally peaceful or naturally violent?

Naturally peaceful	59%
Naturally violent	18%
Not sure	23%

4. Do you personally feel that the American Dream is alive today or not?

Very much alive	14%
Somewhat alive	43%
Not really alive	43%

5. Compared with the past—say, a generation ago—do you feel the American Dream is easier or harder to attain today?

Easier to attain	8%
About the same	18%
Harder to attain	74%

6. Looking to the future—say, a generation from now—do you feel the American Dream will be easier or harder to attain than today?

Easier to attain	9%
About the same	28%
Harder to attain	63%

7. Here are some things people have said may pose a threat to the future of the American Dream. How severely does the following thing threaten the future of the American Dream?

	Severely threatens it	Somewhat threatens it	Doesn't threaten it
A decline in the American work ethic	53%	35%	12%
A change in the traditional family structure	39%	30%	31%
Inflation	68%	29%	2%
A shift away from manufacturing jobs toward jobs in service industries	27%	46%	27%
A decline in the quality of the environment and the depletion of natural resources	53%	35%	12%
An increase in crime	53%	36%	11%
Increased use of illegal drugs	48%	35%	18%
Immigration of people from other countries	27%	31%	43%
Increasing use of automation in the workplace	40%	45%	15%
Cutbacks in government social programs	46%	32%	22%
A decline in the quality of our educational system	70%	26%	3%
Artificial intelligence	43%	39%	17%
Polarization between Democrats and Republicans	55%	34%	11%

8. Do you think the United States should take an active part in world affairs or stay out of world affairs?

Active part	44%
Stay out	34%
Not sure	23%

9. In general, do you think the U.S. has a responsibility to actively promote democracy around the world?

Has responsibility	40%
Does not have responsibility	41%
Not sure	19%

10. Do you think the U.S. should increase or decrease trade with foreign countries?

Increase	40%
Decrease	15%
Keep it the same	30%
Not sure	15%

11. Do you think that tariffs on foreign goods imported into the U.S. should be increased or decreased?

Increased	14%
Kept the same	24%
Decreased	49%
Not sure	13%

12. Among the world's countries, would you say that the United States is...?

The greatest	22%
Among the greatest	23%
Better than average	16%
About average	11%
Worse than average	14%
Among the worst	8%
The worst	3%
Not sure	3%

13. Regardless of the circumstances, do you think it is ever justified for one country to invade another?

Yes	26%
No	54%
Not sure	20%

14. The law of armed conflict limits what countries are allowed to do in wars and protects civilians and combatants. Should a country follow the law of armed conflict even when its enemy does not?

Yes	51%
No	23%
Not sure	26%

15. In its history, do you think the U.S. has used military force too often or too rarely?

Too often	52%
About the right amount	29%
Too rarely	6%
Not sure	13%

16. Would you rather other countries feared the U.S. or respected the U.S.?

Feared the U.S.	13%
Respected the U.S.	80%
Not sure	6%

17. In hindsight, do you think the decision to go to war in Iran was the right decision or the wrong decision?

Right decision	25%
Wrong decision	57%
Not sure	18%

18. Who do you think is winning the war between the U.S. and Iran?

The U.S.	27%
Iran	23%
Neither	35%
Not sure	15%

19. How much more time do you think the war in Iran will last?

A week or less	1%
More than a week but less than a month	5%
More than a month but less than a year	44%
A year or more	50%

20. Do you think we should make a deal to end the war in Iran as quickly as possible?

Yes	65%
No	15%
Not sure	20%

21. If Iranians try to overthrow the Iranian government, would you support or oppose the U.S. providing military aid to those attempting to overthrow it?

Support	44%
Oppose	29%
Strongly support	18%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	15%
Not sure	27%

22. If the U.S. defeats Iran, should it take its oil?

Yes	23%
No	53%
Not sure	23%

23. What do you think Israel should do in Gaza?

Pull out of Gaza	51%
Continue occupying Gaza	20%
Not sure	30%

24. How much should the U.S. take into account what Israel wants when deciding what to do in the Middle East?

A great deal	15%
Some	24%
A little	20%
None	26%
Not sure	15%

25. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to take control of Cuba?

Support	17%
Oppose	58%
Not sure	25%

26. If Cubans try to overthrow the Cuban government, would you support or oppose the U.S. providing military aid to those attempting to overthrow it?

Support	40%
Oppose	34%
Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	20%
Not sure	27%

27. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to take control of Greenland?

Support	9%
Oppose	71%
Not sure	19%

28. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to take control of Canada?

Support	8%
Oppose	78%
Not sure	14%

29. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to take control of the Panama Canal?

Support	19%
Oppose	58%
Not sure	23%

30. In hindsight, do you think the decision to use military force to take control of Venezuela was the right decision or the wrong decision?

Right decision	27%
Wrong decision	47%
Not sure	26%

31. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

Approve	35%
Disapprove	61%
Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	50%
Not sure	3%

32. Do you think America's standing in the world has improved or worsened since Donald Trump became president again in 2025?

Improved	25%
Stayed about the same	12%
Worsened	59%
Not sure	4%

33. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling this issue?

	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Foreign policy	31%	62%	15%	16%	14%	48%	7%
Tariffs	30%	64%	14%	15%	14%	50%	6%
The military	34%	58%	21%	14%	12%	46%	8%
Iran	30%	62%	15%	14%	12%	51%	8%
Israel	32%	58%	16%	16%	12%	46%	11%
Cuba	26%	55%	11%	15%	11%	44%	19%

34. Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump and his family doing business with foreign countries while he is serving as President?

Approve	21%
Disapprove	65%
Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	13%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	52%
Not sure	14%

35. Do you think it is acceptable or unacceptable for a U.S. president to accept valuable gifts from foreign governments while in office?

Acceptable	22%
Unacceptable	61%
Not sure	16%

36. Donald Trump launched a cryptocurrency token and is also heavily invested in a major cryptocurrency company. Do you approve or disapprove of Trump having a personal investment in the cryptocurrency industry while he is president?

Approve	20%
Disapprove	64%
Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	12%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	53%
Not sure	15%

37. How much confidence do you have in this institution?

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
Department of War	15%	16%	26%	43%
State Department	10%	15%	38%	37%
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	7%	16%	40%	36%
United Nations (UN)	11%	20%	37%	33%
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	14%	20%	39%	27%

38. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following person?

Favorable	33%
Unfavorable	29%
Very favorable	13%
Somewhat favorable	20%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%
Very unfavorable	17%
No opinion	38%

39. How enthusiastic are you about voting in the upcoming election in November?

Extremely enthusiastic	26%
Very enthusiastic	16%
Somewhat enthusiastic	20%
Not too enthusiastic	17%
Not at all enthusiastic	21%

40. In the elections for U.S. Congress in November, who will you vote for in the district where you live?

The Democratic candidate	39%
The Republican candidate	32%
Other	1%
Not sure	13%
I will not vote	16%

41. Which party do you think will have a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives after the elections in November?

Democratic Party	41%
Republican Party	29%
Not sure	30%

42. Which party do you think will have a majority in the U.S. Senate after the elections in November?

Democratic Party	34%
Republican Party	32%
Not sure	34%

43. How would you describe the current state of the American economy?

Total Excellent/Good	23%
Total Fair/Poor	75%
Excellent	4%
Good	19%
Fair	32%
Poor	43%
Don't know	2%

44. Overall, do you think the economy is getting better or getting worse?

Getting better	16%
About the same	21%
Getting worse	60%
Not sure	3%

45. Which of these is the most important issue for you?

Inflation/prices	31%
Jobs and the economy	14%
Immigration	9%
Health care	8%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Climate change and the environment	6%
Civil rights	6%
National Security	4%
Civil liberties	4%
Crime	4%
Abortion	2%
Education	2%
Foreign policy	2%
Guns	2%
Criminal justice reform	0%

46. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Total Liberal	28%
Total Conservative	32%
Very liberal	13%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	23%
Very conservative	10%
Not sure	9%

47. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

48. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	31%
Donald Trump	32%
Other	2%
Did not vote for President	35%

49. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Democrat	30%
Republican	33%
Independent	27%
Other	4%
Not sure	7%

50. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	22%
Not very strong Democrat	8%
Lean Democrat	12%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	5%
Not very strong Republican	12%
Strong Republican	21%
Not sure	2%

51. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	21%
No	70%
Not sure	10%

52. Are you...?

Male	49%
Female	51%

53. Respondent age by category

Under 30	21%
30-44	24%
45-64	32%
65+	23%

54. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	68%
Black	13%
Hispanic	13%
Other	7%

55. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

HS or less	36%
Some college	30%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	12%

56. What is your marital status?

Married	38%
Separated	1%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	6%
Never married	39%
Domestic / civil partnership	4%

57. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?

Yes	21%
No	79%

58. In what region of the country do you reside?

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	40%
West	22%

59. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?

Under \$50K	38%
\$50-100K	28%
\$100K or more	25%
Prefer not to say	10%

60. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	11%
Seldom	20%
Never	34%
Don't know	2%

61. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes	30%
No	70%

62. People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, how often do you pray?

Several times a day	27%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	13%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	13%
Never	23%
Don't know	2%

63. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	28%
Roman Catholic	21%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	23%
Something else	11%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 14 - 17, 2026
Target population	U.S. Citizens, age 18 and over
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens.
Sample composition	2,136 started the survey after screenouts. 248 were deleted due to breakoffs, 92 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 8 were removed for attention check failures, and 110 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,678 respondents.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, U.S. region of residence, 2024 election turnout and presidential vote, 2020 election turnout and presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. 2024 presidential vote, at time of weighting was estimated to be 48% Harris and 50% Trump. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. 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 0.052 to 6.466, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.964.
Number of respondents	1611 1450 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.2% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	9 questions not reported.