The Economist/YouGov Poll
November 9–11, 2026 - 1685 U.S. Citizens

YouGov

Sample	1685 U.S. Citizens
Conducted	November 9–11, 2026
Margin of Error	±3%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	21%
Off on the wrong track	66%
Not sure	12%

2. What do you think is the most important problem facing the U.S. today?

Categorized open-ended responses into a single-choice question

Inflation	23%
The economy	12%
Presidential leadership	12%
Political polarization	11%
Corruption and waste	7%
Foreign policy	6%
Immigration	6%
Education	1%
Inequality	4%
Social values	3%
Democracy and the rule of law	3%
Healthcare	2%
Crime	2%
Civil rights	2%
Taxes and government spending	2%
The environment	1%
Media	0%
Other	4%

3. At various times, there have been turning points in American politics, where things could have gone in a very different direction. At other times, things that seemed important turned out not to be significant. What does this moment feel more like to you?

A significant turning point	64%
Not too significant	16%
Not sure	20%

4. What do you think is the most important difference between the Democratic and Republican parties today?
Categorized from open-ended responses into a single-choice question

Who they serve	23%
Ideology	22%
Social and cultural issues	13%
Democracy	7%
Honesty and corruption	5%
Loyalty to Trump	5%
Inability to cooperate	3%
Other	5%
None	8%
Don't know	8%

5. Are you more likely to vote in the 2028 Democratic or Republican primary or caucus that will select the nominees for each party in the next presidential election?

Democratic primary or caucus	40%
Republican primary or caucus	31%
Neither	29%

6. If the election for the Democratic nominee for president were held today, which candidate would you be most likely to vote for?
Asked of those who said they would vote in the 2028 Democratic primary or caucus, categorized open-ended responses into a single-choice question

Kamala Harris	20%
Jon Ossoff	15%
Gavin Newsom	13%
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	12%
Pete Buttigieg	10%
Mark Kelly	4%
Josh Shapiro	3%
Andy Beshear	3%
J.B. Pritzker	3%
Bernie Sanders	2%
Zohran Mamdani	2%
Cory Booker	2%
James Talarico	1%
Hillary Clinton	1%
Other	8%

7. If the election for the Republican nominee for president were held today, which candidate would you be most likely to vote for?

Asked of those who said they would vote in the 2028 Republican primary or caucus, categorized open-ended responses into a single-choice question

JD Vance	40%
Marco Rubio	33%
Ron DeSantis	14%
Donald Trump	9%
Nikki Haley	1%
Thomas Massie	1%
Other	3%

8. In the 2028 presidential election, are you more likely to vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

Definitely will vote for the Democratic candidate	30%
Probably will vote for the Democratic candidate	9%
Equally likely to vote for either candidate	5%
Probably will vote for the Republican candidate	8%
Definitely will vote for the Republican candidate	24%
Will not vote for either candidate	14%
Not sure	11%

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

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Kamala Harris	19%	22%	12%	38%	8%
Pete Buttigieg	18%	15%	11%	21%	35%
Josh Shapiro	12%	17%	13%	13%	46%
Gavin Newsom	12%	20%	10%	31%	27%
Jon Ossoff	18%	10%	7%	10%	55%
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez	19%	17%	7%	29%	28%
Marco Rubio	21%	13%	13%	27%	26%
Ron DeSantis	19%	13%	11%	30%	27%
JD Vance	19%	16%	9%	43%	12%
Tucker Carlson	5%	12%	17%	33%	33%
Ted Cruz	14%	16%	12%	36%	22%
Donald Trump, Jr.	14%	16%	11%	48%	11%
Marjorie Taylor Greene	3%	13%	21%	28%	36%

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

Total Approve	**32%**
Total Disapprove	**63%**
Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	16%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	52%
Not sure	5%

11. We want to ask you about how Donald Trump is handling various things.

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Foreign policy	16%	15%	11%	50%	7%
Economy	13%	13%	15%	52%	7%
Crime	21%	17%	11%	41%	10%
Taxes and government spending	15%	15%	13%	49%	8%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of President Trump having Stephen Miller replace Susie Wiles as his Chief of Staff?

Total Approve	**21%**
Total Disapprove	**39%**
Strongly approve	13%
Somewhat approve	8%
Somewhat disapprove	6%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	40%

13. Do you think Congress should allow construction of the new White House ballroom to continue?

Yes	31%
No	50%
Not sure	19%

14. President Trump has proposed to build a 250 feet tall United States Triumphal Arch in Washington, D.C., shown below. Do you favor or oppose building this arch?

Respondents were shown an image of the proposed arch

Favor	22%
Oppose	57%
Not sure	21%

15. Do you think President Trump is using his office for personal gain?

Yes	60%
No	26%
Not sure	14%

16. Do you think the U.S. should try to end the war in Iran as quickly as possible, even if it means some of its objectives have not been achieved, or should it keep fighting until all of its objectives have been achieved?

End the war as quickly as possible	63%
Keep fighting until all U.S. objectives have been achieved	21%
Not sure	16%

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

Increased	9%
Kept the same	20%
Decreased	56%
Not sure	15%

18. What comes closest to your view about immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally?

All should be deported immediately	21%
Most should be deported, with exceptions for those married to Americans or have lived here for many years with no criminal record	31%
Only those who have committed serious crimes should be deported, while others should remain	41%
All should be allowed to remain in the United States	7%

19. How much do you know about the Electoral College?

A lot	25%
Some	44%
Have heard of it, but don't know how it works	21%
Never heard of it	10%

20. In the U.S., the president is chosen through the Electoral College. Each state receives electoral votes based on its number of senators and representatives, and most states award all their votes to the candidate who wins the statewide popular vote. An alternative method would be direct election, where the president is chosen by the nationwide popular vote, with the candidate receiving the most votes winning. Do you favor or oppose replacing the Electoral College with direct election by popular vote?

Favor	48%
Oppose	25%
Not sure	27%

21. How many of the people running the government are corrupt?

Most	29%
Many	53%
Only a few	15%
Almost none	3%

22. When you say '[most/many/only a few/almost none] of the people running the government are corrupt', what kind of corruption are you thinking of?

Categorized open-ended responses into a multiple-choice question

Using office for personal financial gain	42%
Bribery	19%
Serving self over the public	17%
Fraud and theft	12%
Influence of lobbyists and donors	11%
Dishonesty and secrecy	9%
Abuse and expansion of power	9%
Favoritism and nepotism	6%
Foreign influence and treason	4%
Sexual or other violent crimes	3%
Other	17%

23. Do you think the federal government should increase or decrease what it spends on...?

	Increase a lot	Increase slightly	Keep the same	Decrease slightly	Decrease a lot	Not sure
National defense	18%	19%	27%	15%	13%	9%
Veterans	43%	29%	18%	2%	2%	7%
Education	44%	22%	17%	5%	5%	6%
The environment	34%	22%	20%	9%	9%	7%
Foreign aid	10%	13%	22%	21%	25%	10%

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

Total Excellent/Good	**23%**
Total Fair/Poor	**74%**
Excellent	5%
Good	18%
Fair	30%
Poor	44%
Don't know	3%

25. Have you heard mostly positive or mostly negative news stories about the economy, or have you not heard much news at all about the economy?

Mostly positive	5%
Equally positive and negative	22%
Mostly negative	61%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	13%

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

Getting better	13%
About the same	25%
Getting worse	55%
Not sure	7%

27. Which do you think is a more important problem facing the U.S. today?

Unemployment	4%
Inflation	49%
Both equal	40%
Not sure	6%

28. In your experience, have prices of the following goods gone up or down in the last 12 months?

	Gone up a lot	Gone up a little	Not changed	Gone down a little	Gone down a lot	Not sure
Gas	73%	16%	4%	3%	0%	4%
Cars	47%	25%	7%	1%	1%	19%
Food	64%	26%	4%	3%	0%	4%
Housing	57%	22%	8%	2%	1%	11%

29. Thinking ahead to 12 months from now, will prices be higher or lower than they are today?

Higher	42%
About the same	22%
Lower	15%
Not sure	21%

30. Do you believe the United States is currently in an economic recession?

Yes	37%
No	31%
Not sure	32%

31. How likely do you think it is that there will be an economic recession during the next 12 months?

Very likely	4%
Somewhat likely	19%
Not very likely	13%
Not at all likely	4%
Not sure	22%
Not asked - Already in a recession	37%

32. Is now a good or a bad time to invest in the stock market?

Good time	20%
Bad time	27%
Not sure	53%

33. Do you personally (or jointly with a spouse), have any money invested in the stock market right now, either in an individual stock or in a mutual fund?

Yes	39%
No	61%

34. About how much in total do you have invested in stocks and mutual funds?

No money invested	61%
Under $50,000	14%
$50,000 - $100,000	5%
$100,000 - $250,000	4%
$250,000 - $500,000	3%
Over $500,000	7%
Not sure	6%

35. How easy would it be for you to pay an unexpected $1,000 expense?

Very easy	18%
Somewhat easy	19%
Somewhat difficult	20%
Very difficult	22%
Impossible	21%

36. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially than you were a year ago	14%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	40%
Not sure	5%

37. Looking ahead, do you think that A YEAR FROM NOW you and your household will be...

Better off financially	27%
Just about the same as now	39%
Worse off financially	18%
Not sure	16%

38. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Full-time	34%
Part-time	13%
Temporarily laid off	1%
Unemployed	10%
Retired	22%
Permanently disabled	6%
Homemaker	6%
Student	7%
Other	2%

39. How happy are you with your current job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very happy	18%
Happy	40%
Neither happy nor unhappy	27%
Unhappy	9%
Very unhappy	6%

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

Less than $10,000	7%
$10,000 - $19,999	7%
$20,000 - $29,999	11%
$30,000 - $39,999	8%
$40,000 - $49,999	8%
$50,000 - $59,999	6%
$60,000 - $69,999	6%
$70,000 - $79,999	6%
$80,000 - $99,999	7%
$100,000 - $119,999	7%
$120,000 - $149,999	7%
$150,000 - $199,999	5%
$200,000 - $249,999	2%
$250,000 - $349,999	2%
$350,000 - $499,999	1%
$500,000 or more	0%
Prefer not to say	10%

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

Under $50K	41%
$50-100K	25%
$100K or more	24%
Prefer not to say	10%

42. Thinking about the total amount you earn from your job, including bonuses, commissions, and tips, do you expect to earn more or less in the next 12 months than you did in the previous 12 months?
Asked of those currently employed

Much more	6%
Slightly more	35%
About the same	39%
Slightly less	7%
Much less	4%
Not sure	9%

43. How worried are you about losing your job?
Asked of those currently employed

Very worried	7%
Somewhat worried	27%
Not very worried	66%

44. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now?
Asked of those currently employed

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut.	25%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	39%
Not very hard	24%
Not sure	12%

45. Do you think the federal government should or should not pursue policies that try to reduce the gap in wealth between the richest and poorest Americans?

Should	55%
Should not	23%
Not sure	22%

46. How would you describe your social class?

Working class	47%
Middle class	42%
Upper middle class	10%
Wealthy	1%

47. When children today in the U.S. grow up, do you think they will be better off or worse off financially than their parents?

Better off	12%
About the same	21%
Worse off	47%
Not sure	19%

48. What do you think is the more important factor in determining why some people are richer than others?

How hard they work	22%
Whether they come from a privileged background	36%
Equally important	31%
Not sure	11%

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

Inflation/prices	35%
Health care	12%
Jobs and the economy	12%
Immigration	7%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Climate change and the environment	5%
National Security	4%
Civil rights	3%
Abortion	3%
Crime	3%
Education	3%
Civil liberties	3%
Guns	2%
Foreign policy	2%
Criminal justice reform	0%

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

Total Liberal	**28%**
Total Conservative	**33%**
Very liberal	12%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	22%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	10%

51. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

52. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	31%
Donald Trump	32%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	37%

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

Democrat	32%
Republican	32%
Independent	24%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

54. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	22%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	20%
Lean Republican	5%
Not very strong Republican	13%
Strong Republican	19%
Not sure	1%
Don't know	0%

55. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	20%
No	69%
Not sure	11%

56. Are you...?

Male	49%
Female	51%

57. Respondent age by category

Under 30	20%
30-44	25%
45-64	31%
65+	24%

58. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	63%
Black	12%
Hispanic	14%
Other	10%

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

HS or less	36%
Some college	30%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	13%

60. What is your marital status?

Married	39%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	5%
Never married	38%
Domestic / civil partnership	4%

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

Yes	21%
No	79%

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

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	19%
Once or twice a month	5%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	21%
Never	33%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	32%
No	68%

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

Several times a day	30%
Once a day	14%
A few times a week	9%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	13%
Never	21%
Don't know	3%

65. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	26%
Roman Catholic	21%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	4%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	23%
Something else	12%

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Sponsorship	*The Economist*
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	November 9–11, 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	2,276 started the survey after screenouts. 310 were deleted due to breakoffs, 50 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 15 were removed for attention check failures, and 216 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,685 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 0.051 to 5.504, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.753.
Number of respondents	1685 1463 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	$\pm$ 3% (adjusted for weighting) $\pm$ 3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	0 questions not reported.