

The Economist/YouGov Poll

September 18–21, 2026 - 1401 U.S. Registered Voters



Sample 1401 U.S. Registered Voters
Conducted September 18–21, 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	65%
Not sure	8%

2. If you could send just one of the following messages to government, which would it be?

Help me out	47%
Leave me alone	29%
Not sure	24%

3. Which comes closest to your view?

Our lives are threatened by terrorists, criminals, and illegal immigrants and our priority should be to protect ourselves.	34%
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.	54%
Not sure	12%

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

Total Approve	35%
Total Disapprove	62%
Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	50%
Not sure	2%

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

Improved	24%
Stayed about the same	12%
Worsened	59%
Not sure	5%

6. Overall, how would you rate the people President Trump has chosen for positions in his administration?

Excellent	14%
Good	19%
Fair	10%
Poor	51%
Not sure	6%

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

	Total Approve	Total Disapprove	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Immigration	41%	55%	28%	13%	11%	45%	3%
The military	39%	55%	24%	15%	9%	46%	6%
Foreign policy	36%	58%	18%	18%	11%	47%	6%
Tariffs	32%	63%	15%	17%	13%	51%	5%

8. How much confidence do you have in Donald Trump to handle AI?

A great deal	10%
Quite a lot	12%
Some	19%
Very little	59%

9. Do you think President Trump will demolish the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C.?

Yes	29%
No	27%
Not sure	44%

10. Do you approve or disapprove of President Trump banning CNN, MS NOW, and Politico from the White House (announced in his Truth Social post shown below)?

Respondents were shown an image of this post: <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/117293599348325006>

Total Approve	32%
Total Disapprove	58%
Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	12%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	49%
Not sure	10%

11. How much confidence do you have in each of the following institutions?

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
Department of War	17%	17%	28%	39%
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	13%	22%	40%	25%
United Nations (UN)	12%	18%	36%	34%
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	13%	17%	30%	40%
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	9%	17%	44%	30%
The news media	6%	15%	34%	45%

12. Do you think the United States should give up its membership in the United Nations, or not?

Withdraw membership in the U.N.	18%
Remain a member of the U.N.	58%
Not sure	24%

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

A week or less	2%
More than a week but less than a month	5%
More than a month but less than a year	42%
A year or more	51%

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

Yes	63%
No	15%
Not sure	22%

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

Right decision	24%
Wrong decision	59%
Not sure	16%

16. How effective has Donald Trump been in negotiating with Iran?

Very effective	7%
Somewhat effective	18%
Somewhat ineffective	14%
Very ineffective	49%
Not sure	12%

17. Would you support or oppose impeaching Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth (also referred to as Secretary of War) for starting a war with Iran without authorization by Congress?

Support	51%
Oppose	34%
Strongly support	41%
Somewhat support	10%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	15%

18. Who would you vote for if these were the candidates?

Democratic socialist who supports Medicare for All, ending military aid to Israel, and abolishing ICE	51%
MAGA Republican who supports mass deportations and always votes with Trump	34%
Not sure	15%

19. Who would you vote for if these were the candidates?

Democratic socialist who supports Medicare for All, ending military aid to Israel, and abolishing ICE	48%
Conservative Republican who supports tax cuts, repealing Obamacare, and a ban on most abortions	40%
Not sure	11%

20. Who would you vote for if these were the candidates?

Liberal Democrat who wants to protect Obamacare (ACA), increase support for child care and housing, and opposes tariffs	55%
MAGA Republican who supports mass deportations and always votes with Trump	34%
Not sure	11%

21. Who would you vote for if these were the candidates?

Liberal Democrat who wants to protect Obamacare (ACA), increase support for child care and housing, and opposes tariffs	51%
Conservative Republican who supports tax cuts, repealing Obamacare, and a ban on most abortions	39%
Not sure	10%

22. Do you plan to register to vote before the election this November?

Yes	6%
No	0%
Already registered	94%

23. How likely are you to vote in the election in November?

Definitely will vote	71%
Probably will vote	15%
Maybe will vote	7%
Probably will not vote	3%
Definitely will not vote	2%
Don't know	3%

24. Compared to voting in previous Congressional election years, are you more or less enthusiastic about voting in this year's election?

More enthusiastic	37%
Less enthusiastic	19%
About the same	39%
Not sure	5%

25. In the election for U.S. Senator from [state], who will you vote for?

Asked using the names of candidates running in the respondent's state of residence if there is a senate election in that state

The Democratic candidate	46%
The Republican candidate	38%
Other	4%
Not sure	8%
I will not vote	4%

26. In the election for U.S. Senator from [state], would you consider voting for a different candidate, or is your mind made up?

Asked of those in states with a senate election

My mind is made up	74%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	14%
Undecided	8%
Nonvoter	4%

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

Democratic Party	39%
Republican Party	35%
Not sure	26%

28. How much do you know about [Democratic Congressional Candidate]?

A lot	12%
Some	32%
Have heard of, but don't know anything about	27%
Never heard of	29%

29. How much do you know about [Republican Congressional Candidate]?

A lot	11%
Some	29%
Have heard of, but don't know anything about	25%
Never heard of	35%

30. Which term best describes [Democratic Congressional Candidate]?

Asked of those who had heard of the Democratic Candidate in their district

Democratic socialist	18%
Liberal	34%
Moderate	18%
Conservative	4%
MAGA	1%
Not sure	25%

31. Which term best describes [Republican Congressional Candidate]?

Asked of those who had heard of the Republican Candidate in their district

Democratic socialist	1%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	7%
Conservative	37%
MAGA	23%
Not sure	29%

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

Asked using the names of candidates running in the respondent's district of residence

The Democratic candidate	45%
The Republican candidate	36%
Other	3%
Not sure	12%
I will not vote	3%

33. Would you consider voting for a different candidate, or is your mind made up?

My mind is made up	73%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	11%
Undecided	12%
Nonvoter	3%

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

Democratic Party	45%
Republican Party	31%
Not sure	25%

35. Should Congress do more or less to oversee the Trump administration?

Much more	46%
Somewhat more	13%
About the same	25%
Somewhat less	7%
Much less	8%

36. And how about [Current Congressperson] who represents your district in the U.S. House? Does [Current Congressperson] generally support or oppose President Trump?

Always supports	14%
Mostly supports	17%
Both supports and opposes	10%
Mostly opposes	17%
Always opposes	16%
Not sure	27%

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

	Total Favorable	Total Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Jon Ossoff	29%	20%	17%	12%	10%	10%	51%
Mike Johnson	28%	43%	13%	15%	9%	34%	28%
John Thune	18%	34%	5%	13%	17%	17%	48%
Chuck Schumer	27%	52%	8%	19%	17%	35%	21%
Hakeem Jeffries	29%	41%	12%	18%	13%	28%	30%

38. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following person? [Respondent's Congressperson]

Total Favorable	43%
Total Unfavorable	32%
Very favorable	18%
Somewhat favorable	25%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	19%
No opinion	25%

39. Do you feel like you made the right choice in the 2024 presidential election, or do you regret your vote?

Among people who voted for president in 2024

Made the right choice	88%
Regret my vote	5%
Not sure	7%

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

Active part	51%
Stay out	29%
Not sure	21%

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

Has responsibility	51%
Does not have responsibility	31%
Not sure	18%

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

Increase	42%
Decrease	13%
Keep it the same	28%
Not sure	16%

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

Increased	12%
Kept the same	22%
Decreased	52%
Not sure	14%

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

The greatest	27%
Among the greatest	22%
Above average	11%
About average	10%
Below average	13%
Among the worst	9%
The worst	3%
Not sure	6%

45. In which of these countries do people have the highest and lowest standard of living? Please choose only one country in each column.

	Highest standard of living	Lowest standard of living
United States	72%	28%
Canada	56%	44%
Norway	82%	18%
Germany	30%	70%
Italy	20%	80%
China	6%	94%
Japan	64%	36%

46. Please rank the following countries in terms of their military power.

	1	2	3
United States	79%	13%	8%
Russia	8%	36%	57%
China	14%	52%	34%

47. Do you consider the following to be an ally or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
North Korea	2%	5%	21%	58%	14%
South Korea	43%	29%	8%	5%	15%
Japan	48%	28%	7%	2%	14%
China	3%	15%	39%	27%	15%
Vietnam	10%	40%	16%	3%	30%
Taiwan	34%	30%	6%	2%	27%
Canada	42%	31%	13%	2%	12%

48. Do you think the United States should seek a closer or more distant relationship with China?

Closer	36%
More distant	18%
No change	24%
Not sure	22%

49. How serious of an economic threat do you think China poses to the United States?

An immediate and serious threat	28%
A somewhat serious threat	46%
A minor threat	13%
Not a threat	4%
Not sure	10%

50. How serious of a military threat do you think China poses to the United States?

An immediate and serious threat	16%
A somewhat serious threat	49%
A minor threat	19%
Not a threat	6%
Not sure	10%

51. In the future, if an armed conflict were to arise between China and Taiwan, should the U.S. use military force to protect Taiwan?

Should protect Taiwan	48%
Should not protect Taiwan	12%
Don't know	40%

52. Which country has the lead in artificial intelligence?

China	27%
U.S.	31%
About the same	22%
Not sure	20%

53. Should U.S. companies be allowed to sell advanced computer chips and AI technology to China?

Yes	17%
No	57%
Not sure	26%

54. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are your sympathies more with...?

The Israelis	30%
About equal	24%
The Palestinians	27%
Not sure	20%

55. Do you favor the U.S. increasing, decreasing, or maintaining the same amount of military aid to Israel?

Increasing military aid to Israel	15%
Decreasing military aid to Israel	43%
Maintaining the same amount of military aid to Israel	25%
Not sure	17%

56. Do you favor the U.S. increasing, decreasing, or maintaining the same amount of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians?

Increasing humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	38%
Decreasing humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	18%
Maintaining the same amount of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	24%
Not sure	20%

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

Total Excellent/Good	26%
Total Fair/Poor	71%
Excellent	4%
Good	22%
Fair	31%
Poor	40%
Don't know	2%

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

Getting better	14%
About the same	22%
Getting worse	60%
Not sure	4%

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

Inflation/prices	34%
Jobs and the economy	14%
Health care	9%
Immigration	8%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Climate change and the environment	5%
Civil rights	4%
National Security	5%
Civil liberties	4%
Abortion	3%
Crime	3%
Education	2%
Foreign policy	2%
Guns	1%
Criminal justice reform	1%

60. Do you think government regulation of AI should be increased or decreased?

Increased	57%
Kept the same	19%
Decreased	11%
Not sure	13%

61. How serious do you think the risks are of AI causing harm?

Very serious	42%
Somewhat serious	32%
Slightly serious	19%
Not at all serious	6%

62. Do you think AI will have many positive benefits?

Yes	50%
No	29%
Not sure	21%

63. Which party do you trust more to handle artificial intelligence?

Democrats	41%
Republicans	32%
Both equally	27%

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

Total Liberal	30%
Total Conservative	35%
Very liberal	12%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	22%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	5%

65. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	94%
Not registered	6%

66. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	39%
Donald Trump	41%
Other	2%
Did not vote for President	18%

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

Democrat	37%
Republican	35%
Independent	22%
Other	3%
Not sure	3%

68. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	25%
Not very strong Democrat	12%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	11%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	9%
Strong Republican	26%
Not sure	1%

69. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	25%
No	65%
Not sure	10%

70. Are you...?

Male	47%
Female	53%

71. Respondent age by category

Under 30	18%
30-44	23%
45-64	34%
65+	25%

72. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	69%
Black	13%
Hispanic	11%
Other	7%

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

HS or less	30%
Some college	30%
College grad	26%
Postgrad	14%

74. What is your marital status?

Married	42%
Separated	1%
Divorced	13%
Widowed	6%
Never married	32%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	22%
No	78%

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

Under \$50K	33%
\$50-100K	33%
\$100K or more	24%
Prefer not to say	10%

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

More than once a week	10%
Once a week	19%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	11%
Seldom	20%
Never	33%
Don't know	1%

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

Yes	33%
No	67%

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

Several times a day	31%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	13%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	13%
Never	18%
Don't know	3%

80. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	32%
Roman Catholic	22%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	18%
Something else	10%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 18–21, 2026
Target population	Registered voters for November 3, 2026, U.S. election
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens, and screened for voter registration.
Sample composition	2,185 started the survey after screenouts. 269 were deleted due to breakoffs, 17 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 20 were removed for attention check failures, and 311 were removed for data quality control. 1,401 of the 1,568 respondents in the cleaned sample reported that they were currently registered to vote or planned to register before the election in November.
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 6.534, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.722.
Number of respondents	1401
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	9 questions not reported.