

The Economist/YouGov Poll

September 4 - 8, 2026 - 1469 U.S. Registered Voters



Sample 1469 U.S. Registered Voters
Conducted September 4 - 8, 2026
Margin of Error $\pm 3.4\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	65%
Not sure	6%

2. 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	69%
Not too significant	16%
Not sure	16%

3. Thinking about the American political system as a whole, do you think it needs to change, or do you think it works fine as it is?

Needs to be completely rebuilt	20%
Needs major changes	44%
Needs minor changes	24%
Works fine as it is	9%
Not sure	3%

4. What form of address do you like best for women?

Miss and Mrs.	53%
Ms.	32%
Not sure	16%

5. Do you agree or disagree with this statement? "Women should take care of running their homes and leave running the country up to men."

Total Agree	15%
Total Disagree	81%
Strongly agree	6%
Somewhat agree	9%
Somewhat disagree	18%
Strongly disagree	63%
Not sure	4%

6. All things considered, in our society today, do you think there are more advantages in being a man or a woman?

More in being a man	47%
More in being a woman	13%
No more in either	34%
Not sure	6%

7. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of feminism?

Total Favorable	53%
Total Unfavorable	32%
Very favorable	26%
Somewhat favorable	27%
Somewhat unfavorable	17%
Very unfavorable	15%
Don't know	15%

8. Has the country gone too far or not far enough in promoting equality between men and women?

Too far	17%
About the right amount	34%
Not far enough	48%

9. Overall, do you think Gloria Steinem had a positive or negative impact?

Very positive	24%
Somewhat positive	21%
Neither positive nor negative	12%
Somewhat negative	7%
Very negative	8%
Not sure	28%

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

Total Approve	37%
Total Disapprove	61%
Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	52%
Not sure	2%

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the following things?

	Total Approve	Total Disapprove	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
The economy	31%	66%	16%	15%	13%	53%	3%
Inflation	28%	68%	13%	15%	14%	54%	4%
Taxes	35%	58%	19%	15%	11%	47%	7%
Government spending	30%	65%	14%	16%	11%	53%	5%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Supreme Court of the United States is handling its job?

Total Approve	34%
Total Disapprove	56%
Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	10%

13. In general, how would you describe the political viewpoint of the Supreme Court of the United States?

Total Liberal	10%
Total Conservative	49%
Very liberal	3%
Liberal	6%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	25%
Very conservative	24%
Not sure	13%

14. Do you think the Supreme Court is biased in favor of or against President Trump?

Biased in favor of President Trump	44%
Biased against President Trump	12%
Not biased — treats President Trump fairly	27%
Not sure	18%

15. Do you think recent Supreme Court decisions have given the president too much power, too little power, or about the right amount of power?

Too much power	47%
About the right amount of power	30%
Too little power	8%
Not sure	15%

16. Should presidents always obey orders by the Supreme Court, even if they believe that the Supreme Court is wrong?

Asked of a randomly assigned half-sample

Yes	62%
No	12%
Not sure	25%

17. Should President Trump always obey orders by the Supreme Court, even if he believes that the Supreme Court is wrong?

Asked of the other randomly assigned half-sample

Yes 73%
No 11%
Not sure 16%

18. 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	19%	18%	28%	12%	17%	5%
Veterans	44%	30%	18%	2%	2%	3%
Education	45%	21%	19%	6%	6%	4%
The environment	36%	21%	19%	8%	12%	4%
Foreign aid	13%	14%	20%	20%	28%	6%

19. 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 4%
Definitely will not vote 1%
Don't know 2%

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

More enthusiastic 35%
Less enthusiastic 17%
About the same 42%
Not sure 5%

21. How satisfied are you with the candidates running for U.S. House of Representatives in the district where you live?

Completely satisfied 11%
Somewhat satisfied 35%
Somewhat dissatisfied 17%
Completely dissatisfied 10%
Not sure 26%

22. 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	42%
The Republican candidate	35%
Other	3%
Not sure	16%
I will not vote	4%

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

My mind is made up	70%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	26%
I will not vote	4%

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

Democratic Party	43%
Republican Party	31%
Not sure	26%

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

Democratic Party	34%
Republican Party	35%
Not sure	31%

26. Do you think the 2026 midterm elections in the U.S. will be conducted fairly and the votes counted accurately?

Yes	45%
No	22%
Not sure	34%

27. In recent elections, how have you usually voted?

In person at the polling place on Election Day	48%
In person early, before Election Day	22%
By mail ballot or absentee	25%
Usually have not voted	5%

28. In the 2026 congressional elections, how will you cast your vote?

Asked of those who said they definitely or probably will vote

In person early, before Election Day	24%
In person on Election Day	46%
By mail or absentee ballot, sending it back by mail or post office	15%
By mail or absentee ballot, returning it at a vote center, elections dropbox or other official voting site	11%
Not sure	4%

29. Do you think mail-in voting should be allowed?

Yes	62%
No	28%
Not sure	10%

30. Have you ever voted by mail?

Yes	42%
No	56%
Not sure	2%

31. How much fraud is there in mail voting?

A great deal	23%
Some	24%
A little	23%
None	29%

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

Total Favorable	41%
Total Unfavorable	33%
Very favorable	18%
Somewhat favorable	23%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%
Very unfavorable	20%
No opinion	25%

33. How big a problem is the gap between the rich and the poor in the U.S. today?

Very big problem	51%
Somewhat big problem	26%
Minor problem	15%
Not a problem	8%

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

How hard they work	17%
Whether they come from a privileged background	43%
Equally important	32%
Not sure	8%

35. Do you think the amount that billionaires are currently taxed in the U.S. is too high or too low?

Much too high	4%
Somewhat too high	4%
About right	20%
Somewhat too low	13%
Much too low	48%
Not sure	10%

36. In general, do you think the following is compensated too much or too little?

	Too much	About the right amount	Too little	Don't know
CEOs	67%	19%	3%	11%
NFL football players	61%	23%	4%	12%
Famous musicians	43%	35%	5%	17%
Major tech company entrepreneurs	52%	29%	4%	15%

37. Do you support or oppose limits on how much money somebody can have?

Support	26%
Oppose	58%
Strongly support	11%
Somewhat support	15%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	43%
Not sure	16%

38. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always	2%
Most of the time	14%
Only some of the time	62%
Never	22%

39. Is the government mostly run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or is it run for the benefit of all the people?

Mostly by a few big interests	76%
For the benefit of all the people	11%
Not sure	13%

40. How much of the money we pay in taxes is wasted by the government?

Waste a lot	67%
Waste some	22%
Don't waste very much	4%
Not sure	7%

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

All	7%
Most	40%
About half	30%
A few	22%
None	1%

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

Total Excellent/Good	22%
Total Fair/Poor	76%
Excellent	3%
Good	19%
Fair	31%
Poor	44%
Don't know	2%

43. 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	6%
Equally positive and negative	26%
Mostly negative	57%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	11%

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

Getting better	18%
About the same	21%
Getting worse	58%
Not sure	3%

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

Unemployment	5%
Inflation	46%
Both equal	45%
Not sure	5%

46. 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	71%	21%	3%	3%	1%	2%
Cars	51%	24%	7%	2%	0%	16%
Food	66%	25%	5%	2%	0%	2%
Housing	60%	23%	7%	2%	0%	8%

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

Higher	54%
About the same	21%
Lower	9%
Not sure	15%

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

Yes	40%
No	33%
Not sure	27%

49. 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	15%
Not at all likely	6%
Not sure	16%
Not asked - Already in a recession	40%

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

Good time	27%
Bad time	26%
Not sure	47%

51. 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	42%
No	58%

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

No money invested	58%
Under \$50,000	15%
\$50,000 - \$100,000	7%
\$100,000 - \$250,000	5%
\$250,000 - \$500,000	4%
Over \$500,000	6%
Not sure	4%

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

Very easy	17%
Somewhat easy	24%
Somewhat difficult	24%
Very difficult	18%
Impossible	16%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	46%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	37%
Not sure	4%

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

Better off financially	25%
Just about the same as now	41%
Worse off financially	21%
Not sure	13%

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

Full-time	38%
Part-time	14%
Temporarily laid off	0%
Unemployed	7%
Retired	25%
Permanently disabled	6%
Homemaker	4%
Student	4%
Other	2%

57. How happy are you with your current job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very happy	20%
Happy	46%
Neither happy nor unhappy	20%
Unhappy	10%
Very unhappy	5%

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

Less than \$10,000	6%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	6%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	8%

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\$30,000 - \$39,999	8%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	7%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	7%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	6%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	8%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	8%
\$100,000 - \$119,999	8%
\$120,000 - \$149,999	7%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	7%
\$200,000 - \$249,999	2%
\$250,000 - \$349,999	1%
\$350,000 - \$499,999	1%
\$500,000 or more	0%
Prefer not to say	9%

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

Under \$50K	36%
\$50-100K	30%
\$100K or more	26%
Prefer not to say	9%

60. 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	8%
Slightly more	33%
About the same	41%
Slightly less	6%
Much less	5%
Not sure	8%

61. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very worried	10%
Somewhat worried	25%
Not very worried	65%

62. 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.	23%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	41%
Not very hard	25%
Not sure	10%

63. How would you describe your social class?

Working class	44%
Middle class	46%
Upper middle class	9%
Wealthy	1%

64. 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	15%
About the same	22%
Worse off	47%
Not sure	17%

65. Do you think it's better to work a job that pays well, or one you're passionate about?

One that pays well	46%
One you're passionate about	54%

66. When machines and computers take over work people used to do, is that mostly progress, or mostly a loss?

Mostly progress	34%
Mostly a loss	66%

67. If you had enough money to live comfortably for the rest of your life, would you continue working or stop working?

Continue working	44%
Stop working	56%

68. Would you support or oppose requiring employers to let people work from home when their job can be done remotely?

Support	73%
Oppose	16%
Strongly support	43%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	11%

69. Would you support or oppose requiring employers to grant part-time employees and gig workers, such as rideshare and delivery drivers, the same benefits as full-time employees?

Support	64%
Oppose	21%
Strongly support	32%
Somewhat support	31%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	15%

70. Would you support or oppose requiring companies to list salary ranges in their job postings?

Support	84%
Oppose	7%
Strongly support	59%
Somewhat support	25%
Somewhat oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	2%
Not sure	9%

71. Would you support or oppose requiring employers to offer paid family and medical leave?

Support	86%
Oppose	7%
Strongly support	63%
Somewhat support	23%
Somewhat oppose	4%
Strongly oppose	2%
Not sure	7%

72. How long do you think a normal work week should be for someone to have a healthy work-life balance?

Less than 30 hours a week	12%
30-35 hours a week	41%
36-40 hours a week	44%
More than 40 hours a week	4%

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

Inflation/prices	33%
Jobs and the economy	11%
Health care	11%
Climate change and the environment	7%
Immigration	8%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Civil rights	4%
National Security	4%
Civil liberties	4%
Education	3%
Abortion	2%
Crime	2%
Guns	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Foreign policy	1%

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

Total Liberal	31%
Total Conservative	34%
Very liberal	15%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	22%
Very conservative	12%
Not sure	5%

75. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	95%
Not registered	5%

76. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	39%
Donald Trump	41%
Other	2%
Did not vote for President	17%

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

Democrat	35%
Republican	35%
Independent	22%
Other	5%
Not sure	3%

78. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	25%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	13%
Lean Republican	6%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	25%
Not sure	1%

79. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	25%
No	67%
Not sure	8%

80. Are you... ?

Male	47%
Female	53%

81. Respondent age by category

Under 30	17%
30-44	22%
45-64	35%
65+	25%

82. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	69%
Black	12%
Hispanic	12%
Other	7%

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

HS or less	31%
Some college	30%
College grad	24%
Postgrad	14%

84. What is your marital status?

Married	40%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	6%
Never married	35%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	20%
No	80%

86. 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	6%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	21%
Never	31%
Don't know	3%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

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

Several times a day	29%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	12%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	16%
Never	20%
Don't know	2%

89. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	28%
Roman Catholic	22%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	19%
Something else	11%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 4 - 8, 2026
Target population	U.S. registered voters, and those who say they will register to vote before the election in November.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens.
Sample composition	2,097 started the survey after screenouts. 192 were deleted due to breakoffs, 19 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 7 were removed for attention check failures, and 263 were removed for data quality control. After cleaning, 147 respondents who are not registered to vote and do not plan to register before the election in November were removed, and the reporting is based on the remaining 1,469: registered voters and those who plan 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 0.052 to 6.575, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.745.
Number of respondents	1469
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	16 questions not reported.