

The Economist/YouGov Poll

February 20 - 23, 2026 - 1551 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1551 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted February 20 - 23, 2026
 Margin of Error $\pm 3.3\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction 31%
 Off on the wrong track 58%
 Not sure 11%

2. How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in the U.S?

Satisfied **31%**
Dissatisfied **58%**
 Completely satisfied 9%
 Somewhat satisfied 23%
 Somewhat dissatisfied 28%
 Completely dissatisfied 30%
 Not sure 11%

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. 33%
 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. 51%
 Not sure 17%

4. In general, do you think the U.S. has a responsibility to actively promote democracy around the world, or is that not the responsibility of the U.S.?

Has responsibility 43%
 Does not have responsibility 35%
 Not sure 22%

5. In your opinion, should U.S. foreign policy be guided more by upholding American values, such as democracy and human rights, or by advancing American national interests, such as economic growth and security?

American values such as democracy and human rights 55%
 American interests such as economic growth and security 45%

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

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
The U.S. Supreme Court	8%	16%	43%	32%
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	7%	15%	41%	37%
United Nations (UN)	9%	20%	34%	38%
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	11%	20%	39%	30%

7. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Donald Trump	39%	58%	22%	17%	9%	48%	4%
Emmanuel Macron	29%	29%	7%	22%	13%	16%	41%
Friedrich Merz	13%	15%	2%	11%	8%	8%	72%
Keir Starmer	13%	25%	2%	11%	11%	14%	63%
Giorgia Meloni	16%	19%	4%	12%	10%	9%	64%
Viktor Orban	10%	28%	3%	7%	7%	21%	62%
Volodymyr Zelensky	44%	31%	21%	23%	16%	16%	25%
Vladimir Putin	9%	79%	3%	6%	15%	64%	12%
King Charles III	36%	37%	6%	30%	22%	15%	27%
Andrew Mountbatten-Windsor, formerly Prince Andrew	7%	67%	1%	6%	14%	54%	26%

8. Do you think European governments should increase or decrease their military spending?

Increase a lot	19%
Increase somewhat	21%
Keep the same	18%
Decrease somewhat	4%
Decrease a lot	3%
Not sure	34%

9. Should the U.S. government endorse candidates or parties in European elections?

Yes	10%
No	61%
Not sure	29%

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

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
Canada	46%	29%	10%	1%	14%
Italy	37%	37%	3%	1%	21%
France	41%	30%	8%	2%	19%
Germany	37%	30%	9%	2%	22%
Hungary	16%	26%	13%	3%	42%
Russia	2%	6%	29%	45%	17%
Ukraine	30%	34%	10%	4%	22%

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

Approve	39%
Disapprove	57%
Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	47%
Not sure	4%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling these specific issues?

	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Foreign policy	37%	53%	21%	16%	10%	43%	10%
Tariffs	33%	60%	18%	15%	13%	47%	7%
National security	42%	49%	25%	17%	9%	40%	8%

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

Improved	29%
Stayed about the same	12%
Worsened	52%
Not sure	7%

14. Is Donald Trump using the U.S. military more or less than Joe Biden did in conflicts in other countries?

More	59%
About the same	13%
Less	6%
Not sure	21%

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

Increase	39%
Decrease	13%
Keep it the same	27%
Not sure	21%

16. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to attack Iran?

Support	27%
Oppose	49%
Strongly support	12%
Somewhat support	15%
Somewhat oppose	18%
Strongly oppose	31%
Not sure	24%

17. Do you think the protests in Iran will or won't succeed in overthrowing the Iranian government?

Will succeed	13%
Will not succeed	31%
Not sure	55%

18. Would you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to overthrow Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei?

Support	29%
Oppose	39%
Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	16%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	24%
Not sure	32%

19. How likely do you think it is that the U.S. will take military action against Iran in the next month?

Very likely	18%
Somewhat likely	38%
Not very likely	10%
Not likely at all	2%
Not sure	31%

20. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the situation in Iran?

Approve	31%
Disapprove	48%
Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	36%
No opinion	22%

21. In the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, who do you sympathize with more?

Russia	3%
Ukraine	61%
Neither	22%
Not sure	14%

22. Do you care who wins in the conflict between Russia and Ukraine?

Yes	54%
No	26%
Not sure	20%

23. In the war between Russia and Ukraine, who do you think is currently winning?

Russia	23%
Ukraine	14%
Neither	37%
Not sure	26%

24. Do you favor the U.S. ...?

Increasing military aid to Ukraine	31%
Maintaining the same amount of military aid to Ukraine	22%
Decreasing military aid to Ukraine	11%
Stopping all military aid to Ukraine	13%
Not sure	24%

25. A year from now, what do you think is more likely?

Ukraine will be an independent nation	34%
Ukraine will be under Russian control	15%
Not sure	51%

26. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the situation with Russia and Ukraine?

Approve	31%
Disapprove	49%
Strongly approve	13%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	20%

27. Do you think that Donald Trump's approach to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine has been...?

Too supportive of Ukraine	6%
About right	30%
Not supportive enough of Ukraine	39%
Not sure	25%

28. Do you think that Joe Biden's approach to the conflict between Russia and Ukraine was...?

Too supportive of Ukraine	21%
About right	26%
Not supportive enough of Ukraine	22%
Not sure	31%

29. As long as Russia's invasion of Ukraine continues, do you think Russia should be allowed to participate in international competitions, such as the Olympics, World Cup, or Eurovision?

Yes, they should be allowed to	20%
No, they should not be allowed to	54%
Not sure	26%

30. Do you think that tariffs on foreign goods imported into the U.S. should be...?

Increased	13%
Kept the same	24%
Decreased	47%
Not sure	16%

31. Do you think tariffs imposed by Donald Trump have increased or decreased the prices you pay for the things that you buy?

Increased a lot	43%
Increased slightly	29%
No effect	12%
Decreased slightly	3%
Decreased a lot	2%
Not sure	11%

32. Do you approve or disapprove of the Supreme Court's decision to strike down the sweeping tariffs President Trump imposed in a series of executive orders last spring?

Approve	57%
Disapprove	23%
Strongly approve	43%
Somewhat approve	13%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	12%
Not sure	20%

33. Do you think the President should be able to impose tariffs without getting the approval of Congress?

Yes	21%
No	62%
Not sure	18%

34. In his executive orders, President Trump said that he had the power to impose tariffs under the 1977 International Emergency Powers Act (IEEPA). The Supreme Court ruled that IEEPA did not give the president the power to impose tariffs. Would you favor or oppose President Trump trying to impose the same tariffs using a different law?

Favor	23%
Oppose	54%
Not sure	24%

35. Overall, do you think having an increasing number of people of many different races, ethnic groups and nationalities makes the U.S. a better place or a worse place to live, or doesn't make much difference either way?

A better place to live	45%
A worse place to live	17%
Doesn't make much difference	25%
Not sure	13%

36. How big a problem is racism in our society today?

A big problem	41%
Somewhat of a problem	31%
A small problem	19%
Not a problem	10%

37. Since the 1960s, do you think race relations in the United States have...

Gotten better	48%
Stayed about the same	26%
Gotten worse	26%

38. How much of Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of racial equality has been realized today?

A great deal of it	15%
Quite a bit	24%
Only some	33%
Very little	13%
Not much at all	5%
Not sure	11%

39. How important do you think Jesse Jackson was in shaping American politics?

Very important	21%
Somewhat important	48%
Not very important	20%
Not important at all	11%

40. Overall, do you think the U.S. is better off or worse off because of Jesse Jackson's time in public life?

Better off	37%
Worse off	12%
No different	24%
Not sure	27%

41. How successful was the civil rights movement in the 1960s?

Achieved most of its goals	31%
Made significant advances, but failed on many dimensions	49%
Did not achieve most of its goals	5%
Don't know	15%

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

Total Excellent/Good	28%
Total Fair/Poor	69%
Excellent	3%
Good	24%
Fair	36%
Poor	33%
Don't know	3%

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

Getting better	22%
About the same	22%
Getting worse	50%
Not sure	6%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	17%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	44%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	33%
Not sure	6%

45. 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	36%
Worse off financially	24%
Not sure	13%

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

Inflation/prices	23%
Jobs and the economy	15%
Health care	10%
Immigration	9%
Civil rights	8%
Taxes and government spending	6%
National Security	6%
Climate change and the environment	6%
Civil liberties	4%
Crime	3%
Abortion	2%
Foreign policy	2%
Education	2%
Guns	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%

47. Have you watched any part of the Winter Olympics either live on TV, in highlights, or in clips on the internet?

Yes	48%
No	52%

48. Which Winter Olympic events have you watched or seen highlights or clips of this year? Select all that apply.

Alpine Skiing (Downhill)	18%
Biathlon	6%
Bobsled	17%
Cross-Country Skiing	9%
Curling	19%
Figure Skating	34%
Freestyle Skiing	15%
Ice Hockey	24%
Luge	12%
Nordic Combined	3%
Short Track Speed Skating	13%
Skeleton	7%
Ski Jumping	19%
Ski Mountaineering	6%
Snowboard	17%
Speed Skating (Long track)	17%
None of the above	46%

49. Compared to previous Winter Olympics, do you think the U.S. Olympic team has performed...?

Better than it usually does	16%
About the same level as it usually does	30%
Worse than it usually does	6%
Not sure	48%

50. Do you believe Olympic athletes should or should not be allowed to make political statements at the Olympics?

They should be allowed to make political statements	35%
They should not be allowed to make political statements	39%
Not sure	25%

51. As the host of the 2026 Winter Olympics, do you think Milan/Cortina has been...?

Excellent	15%
Good	26%
Fair	8%
Poor	1%
Terrible	0%
Not sure	51%

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

Total Liberal	28%
Total Conservative	32%
Very liberal	12%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	20%
Very conservative	12%
Not sure	9%

53. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

54. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	31%
Donald Trump	32%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	35%

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

Democrat	29%
Republican	31%
Independent	28%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

56. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	20%
Not very strong Democrat	8%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	21%
Lean Republican	6%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	21%
Not sure	3%

57. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	22%
No	65%
Not sure	13%

58. Are you...?

Male	48%
Female	52%

59. Respondent age by category

Under 30	21%
30-44	24%
45-64	33%
65+	22%

60. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

HS or less	36%
Some college	29%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	13%

62. What is your marital status?

Married	41%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	5%
Never married	36%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	21%
No	79%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	16%
Midwest	22%
South	39%
West	24%

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

Under \$50K	38%
\$50-100K	27%
\$100K or more	24%
Prefer not to say	10%

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

More than once a week	9%
Once a week	16%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	13%
Seldom	19%
Never	33%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

68. 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	10%
Once a week	2%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	16%
Never	21%
Don't know	3%

69. 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	7%
Agnostic	7%
Nothing in particular	23%
Something else	9%

The Economist/YouGov Poll
February 20 - 23, 2026 - 1551 U.S. Adult citizens



Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	February 20 - 23, 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	1,800 started the survey after screenouts. 172 were deleted due to breakoffs, 38 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 10 were removed for attention check failures, and 29 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,551 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 5.084, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.855.
Number of respondents	1551 1402 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.1% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	1 questions not reported.