

The Economist/YouGov Poll

May 9 - 11, 2026 - 1549 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1549 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted May 9 - 11, 2026
 Margin of Error ±3.5%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	28%
Off on the wrong track	62%
Not sure	10%

2. Do you feel that things in this country these days are:

Under control	18%
Out of control	67%
Not sure	15%

3. Would you ever vote for a candidate for president who was not a Democrat or Republican?

Yes	39%
No	24%
Not sure	37%

4. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the political parties?

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	36%	56%	14%	22%	15%	40%	8%
The Republican Party	35%	58%	17%	18%	13%	45%	7%

5. 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	38%	57%	22%	16%	7%	50%	4%
JD Vance	38%	52%	22%	16%	7%	45%	10%

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

Approve	36%
Disapprove	58%
Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	49%
Not sure	5%

7. 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
Crime	43%	48%	26%	17%	9%	39%	9%
Immigration	41%	54%	30%	11%	9%	46%	4%
Race relations	32%	54%	20%	12%	7%	48%	13%

8. Would you say Donald Trump is...

Total Liberal	5%
Total Conservative	63%
Very liberal	2%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	10%
Conservative	27%
Very conservative	36%
Not sure	23%

9. Do you think Donald Trump is honest and trustworthy, or not?

Honest and trustworthy	29%
Not honest and trustworthy	57%
Not sure	14%

10. How much do you think Donald Trump cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	20%
Some	15%
Not much	11%
Doesn't care at all	50%
Not sure	4%

11. Is Trump too old to be President?

Yes	51%
No	38%
Not sure	11%

12. Do you think Donald Trump has the temperament to be the President?

Yes	33%
No	56%
Not sure	12%

13. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like or dislike Donald Trump as a person?

Like a lot	17%
Like somewhat	13%
Neither like nor dislike	14%
Dislike somewhat	8%
Dislike a lot	46%
Not sure	3%

14. Do you think Donald Trump...

Says what he believes	50%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	36%
Not sure	14%

15. Which of these words would you use to describe Donald Trump? Which of these words would you NOT use to describe Donald Trump? Please check all that apply

	Describes Donald Trump	Does NOT describe Donald Trump	No Opinion
Honest	22%	47%	31%
Intelligent	32%	38%	30%
Inspiring	16%	42%	42%
Bold	44%	16%	40%
Effective	33%	32%	35%
Steady	18%	35%	47%
Racist	45%	26%	29%
Dangerous	54%	22%	25%
Corrupt	51%	22%	27%
Divisive	41%	15%	44%
Cruel	46%	23%	31%
Strong	37%	32%	31%
Out-of-touch	47%	20%	32%

16. Do you think Donald Trump is a threat to democracy?

Yes	52%
No	38%
Not sure	10%

17. Do you support or oppose the war with Iran?

Support	30%
Oppose	55%
Strongly support	16%
Somewhat support	14%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	44%
Not sure	14%

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

Very effective	10%
Somewhat effective	26%
Somewhat ineffective	18%
Very ineffective	46%

19. 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	12%
More than a month but less than a year	52%
A year or more	34%

20. Who do you trust more to handle the war in Iran?

The Democratic Party	28%
The Republican Party	32%
Both about the same	17%
Not sure	24%

21. Are you in favor of or opposed to the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

Favor the death penalty	50%
Opposed to the death penalty	29%
Not sure	20%

22. Do you think the use of marijuana should be legal in the U.S.?

Yes	56%
No	30%
Not sure	14%

23. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

More strict	57%
No change	23%
Less strict	14%
Not sure	6%

24. Do you think the number of LEGAL immigrants allowed into the U.S. each year should be increased or decreased?

Increased	22%
Kept the same	35%
Decreased	21%
Reduced to zero	10%
Not sure	13%

25. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are living in the U.S.?

They should be allowed to stay in the U.S. and eventually apply for citizenship	42%
Allowed to stay in the U.S., but not become citizens	7%
Be deported from the U.S.	38%
Not sure	12%

26. Which types of illegal immigrants should be deported? Select all that apply.

All illegal immigrants should be deported	30%
People convicted of serious crimes	62%
People convicted of minor crimes	19%
People who have lived in the U.S. for many years without committing any crime	4%
People who came to the U.S. as children	2%
People who are married to a U.S. citizen	2%
Young children	1%
None of the above	6%

27. Do you generally favor or oppose affirmative-action programs for racial minorities?

Favor	36%
Oppose	30%
Not sure	34%

28. How do you feel about the pace at which AI is advancing?

It's moving too fast	71%
It's moving at the right pace	27%
It's moving too slowly	2%

29. How likely do you think it is that AI will create economic gains that benefit everyone?

Very likely	8%
Somewhat likely	28%
Slightly unlikely	24%
Very unlikely	39%

30. How worried are you about AI replacing jobs that you and your family depend upon?	
Very worried	25%
Somewhat worried	26%
Slightly worried	25%
Not worried at all	24%
31. Overall, are you optimistic or pessimistic about the long-term impact of AI on society?	
Optimistic	25%
Pessimistic	51%
Not sure	24%
32. Do you think voting is an effective way for you to have a voice in government?	
Yes	67%
No	18%
Not sure	16%
33. How big of a problem do you think it is when states draw legislative districts that intentionally favor one political party?	
Major problem	73%
Minor problem	19%
Not a problem	8%
34. Do you think the congressional districts in your state have been drawn to...?	
Give an advantage to Democrats	21%
Give an advantage to Republicans	24%
Not give an advantage to either party	22%
Not sure	33%
35. If one state redraws its congressional districts to advantage a political party, are other states justified in retaliating and redrawing their districts to benefit the other party?	
Yes, retaliation is justified	37%
No, retaliation is not justified	27%
Not sure	36%
36. How would you describe the current state of the American economy?	
Total Excellent/Good	23%
Total Fair/Poor	74%
Excellent	4%
Good	19%
Fair	30%
Poor	44%
Don't know	3%

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

Getting better	15%
About the same	20%
Getting worse	59%
Not sure	6%

38. 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	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	36%
Not sure	5%

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

Better off financially	24%
Just about the same as now	34%
Worse off financially	26%
Not sure	15%

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

Jobs and the economy	15%
Immigration	8%
Climate change and the environment	4%
Foreign policy	1%
National Security	5%
Education	3%
Health care	8%
Taxes and government spending	8%
Abortion	2%
Civil rights	5%
Civil liberties	4%
Guns	1%
Crime	4%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Inflation/prices	31%

41. If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held today, who would you vote for in the district where you live?

The Democratic Party candidate	37%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Other	3%
Not sure	12%
I would not vote	14%

42. Is your mind made up about how you will vote for Congress?

I will definitely \$gcv_text 87%
 There is a chance I will change my mind between now and the election 13%

43. In the district where you live, which candidate do you think is most likely to win the Congressional election in November?

The Democratic Party candidate 37%
 The Republican Party candidate 36%
 Other 1%
 Not sure 26%

44. How motivated are you to vote in the election this November?

Very motivated 52%
 Somewhat motivated 17%
 Not very motivated 14%
 Not motivated at all 18%

45. Compared to past elections, are you more or less motivated to vote in 2026 than usual?

More motivated 32%
 About the same 51%
 Less motivated 16%

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

Total Liberal **29%**
Total Conservative **32%**
 Very liberal 13%
 Liberal 16%
 Moderate 31%
 Conservative 20%
 Very conservative 12%
 Not sure 8%

47. Are you registered to vote?

Registered 74%
 Not registered 26%

48. 2024 Presidential Vote

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

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

Democrat	29%
Republican	31%
Independent	28%
Other	6%
Not sure	6%

50. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	21%
Not very strong Democrat	7%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	21%
Lean Republican	7%
Not very strong Republican	9%
Strong Republican	22%
Not sure	2%

51. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	21%
No	67%
Not sure	11%

52. Are you... ?

Male	48%
Female	52%

53. Respondent age by category

Under 30	20%
30-44	24%
45-64	33%
65+	23%

54. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	67%
Black	12%
Hispanic	13%
Other	7%

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

HS or less	36%
Some college	29%
College grad	23%
Postgrad	13%

56. What is your marital status?

Married	37%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	6%
Never married	40%
Domestic / civil partnership	4%

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

Yes	19%
No	81%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	16%
Midwest	21%
South	39%
West	24%

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

Under \$50K	39%
\$50-100K	30%
\$100K or more	21%
Prefer not to say	9%

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

More than once a week	7%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	11%
Seldom	20%
Never	36%
Don't know	3%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

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

Several times a day	25%
Once a day	13%
A few times a week	11%
Once a week	2%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	16%
Never	24%
Don't know	4%

63. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	26%
Roman Catholic	20%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	24%
Something else	11%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	May 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	1,953 started the survey after screenouts. 181 were deleted due to breakoffs, 22 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 5 were removed for attention check failures, and 135 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,610 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 6.612, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.989.
Number of respondents	1549 1410 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.2% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	2 questions not reported.