

The Economist/YouGov Poll

January 23 - 26, 2026 - 1684 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1684 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted January 23 - 26, 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 60%
 Not sure 9%

2. 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. 51%
 Not sure 14%

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

Approve 39%
Disapprove 57%
 Strongly approve 23%
 Somewhat approve 16%
 Somewhat disapprove 9%
 Strongly disapprove 49%
 Not sure 4%

4. 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
The environment	33%	54%	20%	13%	9%	45%	13%
Education	36%	52%	21%	15%	10%	42%	11%
Abortion	37%	51%	22%	15%	9%	42%	13%
Health care	34%	57%	18%	16%	11%	46%	9%

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

Yes 38%
 No 55%
 Not sure 8%

6. Do you think Donald Trump is suffering cognitive decline?

Trump is suffering significant cognitive decline	34%
Trump is suffering modest cognitive decline	15%
Trump is not suffering any cognitive decline	35%
Not sure	16%

7. Do you think Donald Trump is suffering physical decline?

Trump is suffering significant physical decline	30%
Trump is suffering modest physical decline	24%
Trump is not suffering any physical decline	31%
Not sure	15%

8. When it comes to foreign policy, do you think Donald Trump is...?

Focusing too much on foreign policy	38%
Focusing on foreign policy the right amount	32%
Not focusing enough on foreign policy	14%
Not sure	16%

9. When it comes to domestic policy, do you think Donald Trump is...?

Focusing too much on domestic policy	11%
Focusing on domestic policy the right amount	31%
Not focusing enough on domestic policy	38%
Not sure	20%

10. When it comes to the economy, do you think Donald Trump is...?

Focusing too much on the economy	6%
Focusing on the economy the right amount	30%
Not focusing enough on the economy	52%
Not sure	13%

11. Do you think Donald Trump is guilty of inciting an insurrection in January 2021?

Yes	48%
No	39%
Not sure	13%

12. Do you think Donald Trump is guilty of mishandling classified documents during his first term as president?

Yes	51%
No	33%
Not sure	16%

13. Do you think it was a mistake to prosecute Donald Trump?

Yes	7%
No	49%
Not sure	12%
Not asked - Trump not guilty of insurrection or mishandling classified documents	32%

14. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the United States Congress is handling its job?

Total approve	15%
Total disapprove	61%
Strongly approve	3%
Somewhat approve	12%
Neither approve nor disapprove	16%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	9%

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mike Johnson is handling his job as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Approve	25%
Disapprove	46%
Strongly approve	10%
Somewhat approve	16%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	28%

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the way John Thune is handling his job as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

Approve	21%
Disapprove	42%
Strongly approve	6%
Somewhat approve	15%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Not sure	37%

17. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chuck Schumer is handling his job as Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

Approve	17%
Disapprove	57%
Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	12%
Somewhat disapprove	18%
Strongly disapprove	39%
Not sure	26%

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Hakeem Jeffries is handling his job as Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Approve	21%
Disapprove	47%
Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	33%
Not sure	32%

19. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following groups in Congress?

	Favorable	Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Democrats in Congress	29%	62%	7%	21%	25%	37%	10%
Republicans in Congress	34%	57%	13%	21%	15%	42%	9%

20. 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
Veterans	44%	28%	18%	2%	2%	6%
Education	41%	21%	19%	7%	7%	4%
Medicare	40%	25%	22%	5%	3%	6%
Social Security	39%	28%	21%	3%	3%	6%
Medicaid	34%	22%	24%	7%	6%	6%
The environment	32%	23%	19%	9%	10%	6%
SNAP (food stamps)	29%	18%	27%	11%	10%	5%
National defense	18%	18%	29%	13%	15%	8%
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	18%	10%	16%	12%	39%	6%
Foreign aid	11%	14%	21%	20%	26%	9%

21. Should the president have to get approval from Congress before starting an offensive war?

Yes 71%
No 16%
Not sure 13%

22. Should the president be able to spend government funds without the approval of Congress?

Yes 18%
No 68%
Not sure 14%

23. If Congress approves government spending, should the president be allowed to refuse to spend government funds that Congress appropriated?

Yes 27%
No 48%
Not sure 25%

24. Do you think Congress should provide oversight of the president and the executive branch?

Yes 59%
No 21%
Not sure 20%

25. How would you rate the job Congress is doing in overseeing the executive branch?

Excellent 3%
Good 8%
Fair 13%
Poor 41%
Not sure 14%
Not asked - Congress should not provide oversight 21%

26. In your opinion, which of the three branches of government is MOST powerful today?

Executive branch (the president) 62%
Legislative branch (Congress) 13%
Judicial branch (the Supreme Court) 24%

27. In your opinion, which of the three branches of government is LEAST powerful today?

Executive branch (the president) 13%
Legislative branch (Congress) 61%
Judicial branch (the Supreme Court) 26%

28. 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
Volodymyr Zelensky	44%	31%	22%	22%	14%	17%	24%
Emmanuel Macron	29%	30%	9%	19%	14%	16%	42%
Jack Smith	28%	24%	17%	11%	6%	19%	47%
Mark Carney	24%	20%	13%	11%	8%	11%	56%

29. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to take control of Greenland?

Support	13%
Oppose	72%
Not sure	15%

30. Do you support or oppose the U.S. purchasing Greenland?

Support	32%
Oppose	51%
Not sure	17%

31. How likely do you think it is that the U.S. will take control of Greenland?

Likely	36%
Not likely	44%
Very likely	11%
Somewhat likely	24%
Not very likely	26%
Not likely at all	18%
Not sure	20%

32. Should the U.S. impose tariffs on European countries if they do not support the U.S. taking control of Greenland?

Yes	16%
No	64%
Not sure	20%

33. Has Trump's attempt to take control of Greenland been a good thing or a bad thing?

Good thing	23%
Bad thing	55%
Not sure	21%

34. In the relationship between the U.S. and Europe, who do you think has the upper hand?

The U.S.47%
Europe27%
Not sure26%

35. An attack on one NATO member is considered to be an attack on all NATO members. If a NATO member is attacked, do you think the U.S. should defend that member?

Should defend it67%
Should not defend it8%
Not sure25%

36. Did Donald Trump deserve to win the Nobel Peace Prize?

Yes27%
No59%
Not sure13%

37. How much confidence do you have in each of the following institutions in American society?

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
Small business	14%	33%	41%	11%
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	14%	16%	16%	55%
The church or organized religion	12%	17%	33%	38%
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	11%	21%	41%	27%
Organized labor	9%	20%	44%	27%
United Nations (UN)	8%	17%	39%	36%
The medical system	7%	20%	43%	31%
Banks	6%	19%	45%	30%
Television news	5%	10%	33%	52%
Newspapers	4%	12%	39%	44%
Big business	3%	10%	37%	49%

38. On the subject of climate change do you think:

The world's climate is changing as a result of human activity60%
The world's climate is changing but NOT because of human activity23%
The world's climate is NOT changing6%
Not sure11%

39. In order to make up for past discrimination, do you support or oppose special programs which make special efforts to help minorities get ahead?

Support	50%
Oppose	37%
Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	24%
Not sure	13%

40. When do you think abortion should be legal?

Abortion should always be legal. There should be no restrictions on abortion.	28%
Abortion should be legal, but with some restrictions (such as for minors or late-term abortions).	30%
Abortion should only be legal in special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger.	30%
Abortion should be illegal. It should never be allowed.	12%

41. Do you think that same-sex marriage should or should not be legal?

Should be legal	55%
Should not be legal	32%
Not sure	13%

42. How safe do you think vaccines generally are?

Very safe	44%
Somewhat safe	31%
Not very safe	10%
Not at all safe	8%
Not sure	6%

43. Do you think the Affordable Care Act/Obamacare should be expanded, kept the same, or repealed?

Expanded	43%
Kept the same	17%
Repealed	26%
Not sure	14%

44. Which of the following statements comes closer to your feelings?

Our society has gone too far in accepting people who are transgender	44%
Our society has been about right when it comes to accepting people who are transgender	15%
Our society has not gone far enough in accepting people who are transgender	30%
Not sure	11%

45. Do you support or oppose allowing transgender student athletes to play on sports teams that match their gender identity, rather than the sex they were assigned at birth?

Support	22%
Oppose	67%
Strongly support	11%
Somewhat support	11%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	53%
Not sure	11%

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

Inflation/prices	23%
Jobs and the economy	13%
Health care	10%
Immigration	9%
Civil rights	8%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Civil liberties	6%
National Security	5%
Climate change and the environment	5%
Crime	3%
Education	3%
Abortion	3%
Guns	2%
Foreign policy	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%

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

Total Excellent/Good	28%
Total Fair/Poor	68%
Excellent	5%
Good	23%
Fair	34%
Poor	35%
Don't know	4%

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

Getting better	21%
About the same	22%
Getting worse	52%
Not sure	5%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	39%
Not sure	4%

50. 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	35%
Worse off financially	26%
Not sure	12%

51. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	24%
No	64%
Not sure	12%

52. 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	38%
The Republican Party candidate	35%
Other	2%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	11%

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

Total Liberal	29%
Total Conservative	33%
Very liberal	13%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	20%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	8%

54. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	73%
Not registered	27%

55. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	31%
Donald Trump	32%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	36%

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

Democrat	29%
Republican	31%
Independent	29%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

57. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	19%
Not very strong Democrat	9%
Lean Democrat	13%
Independent	17%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	11%
Strong Republican	20%
Not sure	2%

58. Are you... ?

Male	49%
Female	51%

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	67%
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	35%
Separated	2%
Divorced	13%
Widowed	6%
Never married	39%
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	17%
Midwest	23%
South	39%
West	21%

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

Under \$50K	41%
\$50-100K	26%
\$100K or more	22%
Prefer not to say	11%

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

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	15%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	13%
Seldom	21%
Never	36%
Don't know	1%

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	25%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	11%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	17%
Never	23%
Don't know	3%

69. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	27%
Roman Catholic	21%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	0%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	0%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	24%
Something else	10%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 23 - 26, 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	1,946 started the survey after screenouts. 184 were deleted due to breakoffs, 44 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 3 were removed for attention check failures, and 31 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,684 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 6.552, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.942.
Number of respondents	1684 1520 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.1% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	2 questions not reported.