

The Economist/YouGov Poll

September 25–28, 2026 - 1429 U.S. Registered Voters



Sample 1429 U.S. Registered Voters
 Conducted September 25–28, 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	66%
Not sure	7%

2. What do you think is the most important problem facing the U.S. today?

Coded from open-ended responses

Inflation	29%
The economy	14%
Presidential leadership	10%
Corruption and waste	6%
Political polarization	6%
Foreign policy	6%
Immigration	6%
Democracy and the rule of law	6%
Social values	2%
Inequality	2%
Healthcare	2%
Civil rights	2%
Crime	2%
The environment	2%
Taxes and government spending	1%
Education	1%
Media	1%
Other	2%

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

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
Small business	14%	42%	37%	6%
Churches and organized religion	14%	23%	35%	28%
The medical system	11%	27%	42%	20%
Labor unions	9%	22%	45%	23%
Banks	8%	26%	47%	19%
Newspapers	6%	17%	43%	34%
Big business	5%	13%	37%	45%
Television news	5%	16%	39%	39%

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

Most	27%
Many	57%
Only a few	14%
Almost none	1%

5. How many elected officials, like U.S. senators and representatives, do you think are corrupt?

Most	18%
Many	59%
Only a few	21%
Almost none	2%

6. How many judges do you think are corrupt?

Most	8%
Many	42%
Only a few	45%
Almost none	5%

7. How many top officials, like cabinet officers or department heads, do you think are corrupt?

Most	22%
Many	45%
Only a few	27%
Almost none	6%

8. And how about the mid- and low-level employees who work in government agencies? How many of these government employees do you think are corrupt?

Most	5%
Many	30%
Only a few	55%
Almost none	10%

9. Is there more or less corruption in the state government in [state] than in the federal government in Washington, D.C.?

Much more in [state]	6%
Somewhat more in [state]	7%
About the same in [state] and the federal government	36%
Somewhat less in [state]	26%
Much less in [state]	14%
Not sure	12%

10. Do you think there is more corruption among Democrats or Republicans?

More among Democrats than Republicans	24%
More among Republicans than Democrats	34%
About the same in each party	34%
Not sure	7%

11. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way democracy is working in the United States today?

Total Satisfied	29%
Total Dissatisfied	65%
Completely satisfied	5%
Somewhat satisfied	23%
Somewhat dissatisfied	34%
Completely dissatisfied	30%
Not sure	7%

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

Total Approve	36%
Total Disapprove	62%
Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	51%
Not sure	2%

13. 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
Education	38%	54%	19%	19%	11%	43%	8%
Health care	35%	60%	15%	20%	11%	49%	5%
Abortion	36%	51%	22%	14%	9%	43%	12%
The environment	35%	57%	18%	18%	11%	46%	7%
Cuba	31%	50%	16%	15%	9%	42%	18%
Iran	31%	63%	17%	14%	12%	51%	6%

14. Which of the following things has Donald Trump done during his second term as President? Check all that apply.

Run an open and transparent administration	20%
Improved the way government works	22%
Set a high moral standard	13%
Used the office to enrich family and friends	48%
Improved America's standing abroad	22%
Cut taxes	26%
Raised tariffs on imported goods	81%
Deported millions of illegal immigrants	63%
Kept the U.S. out of unnecessary wars	12%
None of the above	6%

15. Do you think Donald Trump is doing a better or worse job in his second administration than in his first?

Better in his second administration than his first	22%
Worse in his second administration than his first	56%
About the same	18%
Not sure	4%

16. How fairly do you think the national press has treated Donald Trump in general?

Very fair	20%
More fair than unfair	18%
About equal	25%
More unfair than fair	14%
Very unfair	23%

17. In general, do you think the way Donald Trump treats journalists is acceptable or unacceptable?

Acceptable	29%
Unacceptable	57%
Not sure	14%

18. Should Donald Trump be allowed to bar news organizations whose coverage he dislikes from the White House?

Yes	21%
No	66%
Not sure	12%

19. Would you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to overthrow the government of Cuba?

Support	20%
Oppose	60%
Strongly support	8%
Somewhat support	12%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	45%
Not sure	20%

20. Would you favor making a deal with Iran now, even if it does not require Iran to give up its enriched uranium?

Yes	38%
No	33%
Not sure	30%

21. If Iran is unwilling to make a deal, should the U.S. launch a much larger military campaign to force it to submit?

Yes	26%
No	48%
Not sure	25%

22. Which do you think President Trump is more likely to try to do with Iran?

Make a deal with Iran	41%
Annihilate Iran	27%
Not sure	33%

23. If President Trump tries to make a deal with Iran, what do you think are his chances of succeeding?

Definitely will succeed	5%
Probably will succeed	15%
Equal chance	34%
Probably will fail	32%
Definitely will fail	14%

24. If President Trump tries to annihilate Iran, what do you think are his chances of succeeding?

Definitely will succeed	15%
Probably will succeed	17%
Equal chance	22%
Probably will fail	23%
Definitely will fail	23%

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

Total Approve	14%
Total Disapprove	64%
Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	10%
Neither approve nor disapprove	17%
Somewhat disapprove	23%
Strongly disapprove	41%
Not sure	6%

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

Total Approve	30%
Total Disapprove	48%
Strongly approve	11%
Somewhat approve	19%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	37%
Not sure	22%

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

Total Approve	19%
Total Disapprove	51%
Strongly approve	5%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	16%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Not sure	31%

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

Total Approve	22%
Total Disapprove	57%
Strongly approve	6%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	17%
Strongly disapprove	40%
Not sure	21%

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

Total Approve	26%
Total Disapprove	48%
Strongly approve	9%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	14%
Strongly disapprove	34%
Not sure	26%

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

	Total Favorable	Total Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Democrats in Congress	38%	56%	11%	27%	21%	35%	6%
Republicans in Congress	37%	58%	14%	23%	14%	44%	5%

31. If you had to choose, would you rather have a member of Congress who compromises to get things done, or sticks to their principles, no matter what?

Compromises to get things done	64%
Sticks to their principles, no matter what	36%

32. How would you describe the political views of the Democratic Party?

Total Liberal	66%
Total Conservative	5%
Very liberal	39%
Liberal	27%
Moderate	22%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	1%
Not sure	7%

33. How would you describe the political views of the Republican Party?

Total Liberal	5%
Total Conservative	75%
Very liberal	1%
Liberal	3%
Moderate	12%
Conservative	33%
Very conservative	43%
Not sure	8%

34. Do you think the Democratic Party is too extreme?

Yes	44%
No	45%
Not sure	11%

35. Do you think the Republican Party is too extreme?

Yes	52%
No	39%
Not sure	9%

36. Which of the following do you watch, at least occasionally? Check all that apply.

ABC News	32%
NBC News	31%
CBS News	27%
CNN	36%
Fox News	36%
MSNOW	17%
None of the above	30%

37. What is your MAIN source of news?

National broadcast network news (ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS)	12%
Cable news (CNN, Fox News, MSNOW)	18%
Local television news	13%
National newspapers (New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal)	7%
Local newspapers	2%
Radio	3%
Social media	25%
Other internet	14%
Other	7%

38. 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	44%
Libertarian who favors less government, ending the war in Iran, and legalizing marijuana	33%
Not sure	23%

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

A moderate Democrat who is pro-union, favors stricter border enforcement, and co-sponsors bills with Republicans	59%
MAGA Republican who supports mass deportations and always votes with Trump	25%
Not sure	16%

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

Yes	7%
No	0%
Already registered	93%

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

Definitely will vote	71%
Probably will vote	14%
Maybe will vote	6%
Probably will not vote	4%
Definitely will not vote	2%
Don't know	3%
I have already voted	1%

42. 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	38%
Not sure	6%

43. 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	41%
The Republican candidate	40%
Other	3%
Not sure	10%
I will not vote	6%

44. 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	10%
Undecided	10%
Nonvoter	6%

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

Democratic Party	37%
Republican Party	34%
Not sure	29%

46. 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	37%
Other	3%
Not sure	11%
I will not vote	5%

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

My mind is made up	74%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	11%
Undecided	11%
Nonvoter	5%

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

Completely satisfied	14%
Somewhat satisfied	35%
Somewhat dissatisfied	16%
Completely dissatisfied	9%
Not sure	26%

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

Democratic Party	40%
Republican Party	29%
Not sure	30%

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

Total Favorable	43%
Total Unfavorable	32%
Very favorable	20%
Somewhat favorable	24%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%
Very unfavorable	20%
No opinion	24%

51. 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	89%
Regret my vote	4%
Not sure	7%

52. 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
Social Security	46%	27%	17%	3%	2%	5%
SNAP (food stamps)	31%	21%	25%	9%	11%	5%
Medicare	45%	26%	19%	3%	3%	5%
Medicaid	37%	23%	22%	6%	6%	6%

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

The world's climate is changing as a result of human activity	60%
The world's climate is changing but NOT because of human activity	22%
The world's climate is NOT changing	7%
Not sure	11%

54. 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	52%
Oppose	37%
Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	27%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	24%
Not sure	11%

55. When do you think abortion should be legal?

Abortion should always be legal. There should be no restrictions on abortion.	26%
Abortion should be legal, but with some restrictions (such as for minors or late-term abortions).	32%
Abortion should only be legal in special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger.	34%
Abortion should be illegal. It should never be allowed.	9%

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

Should be legal	56%
Should not be legal	31%
Not sure	13%

57. How safe do you think vaccines generally are?

Very safe	45%
Somewhat safe	35%
Not very safe	10%
Not at all safe	6%
Not sure	4%

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

Expanded	44%
Kept the same	18%
Repealed	23%
Not sure	15%

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

Our society has gone too far in accepting people who are transgender	41%
Our society has been about right when it comes to accepting people who are transgender	16%
Our society has not gone far enough in accepting people who are transgender	31%
Not sure	13%

60. 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	23%
Oppose	64%
Strongly support	11%
Somewhat support	11%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	54%
Not sure	13%

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

Inflation/prices	31%
Jobs and the economy	15%
Health care	9%
Taxes and government spending	8%
Immigration	5%
Climate change and the environment	5%
Civil rights	5%
National Security	6%
Education	4%
Civil liberties	4%
Guns	2%
Abortion	2%
Crime	2%
Foreign policy	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%

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

Total Excellent/Good	23%
Total Fair/Poor	75%
Excellent	3%
Good	19%
Fair	31%
Poor	44%
Don't know	2%

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

Getting better	14%
About the same	20%
Getting worse	62%
Not sure	4%

64. How much do you trust the data reported about the economy by the federal government?

Completely trust	4%
Somewhat trust	31%
Somewhat distrust	31%
Completely distrust	25%
Don't know	9%

65. The government releases unemployment numbers on the first Friday of the month. Do you think the government numbers are accurate or do you think there are more unemployed people or fewer unemployed people?

More unemployed people	50%
The government numbers are accurate	20%
Fewer unemployed people	6%
Don't know	24%

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

Total Liberal	30%
Total Conservative	36%
Very liberal	13%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	23%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	4%

67. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	93%
Not registered	7%

68. 2024 Presidential Vote

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

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

Democrat	34%
Republican	36%
Independent	24%
Other	2%
Not sure	3%

70. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	26%
Not very strong Democrat	9%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	12%
Lean Republican	6%
Not very strong Republican	12%
Strong Republican	23%
Not sure	1%

71. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	24%
No	67%
Not sure	9%

72. Are you...?

Male	46%
Female	54%

73. Respondent age by category

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

74. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	70%
Black	13%
Hispanic	11%
Other	7%

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

HS or less	30%
Some college	30%
College grad	25%
Postgrad	15%

76. What is your marital status?

Married	43%
Separated	1%
Divorced	13%
Widowed	7%
Never married	32%
Domestic / civil partnership	4%

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

Yes	22%
No	78%

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

Under \$50K	36%
\$50-100K	27%
\$100K or more	28%
Prefer not to say	10%

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

More than once a week	7%
Once a week	20%
Once or twice a month	8%
A few times a year	13%
Seldom	21%
Never	29%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

81. 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	13%
A few times a week	13%
Once a week	2%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	14%
Never	21%
Don't know	3%

82. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	30%
Roman Catholic	23%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	18%
Something else	11%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 25–28, 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	2,181 started the survey after screenouts. 274 were deleted due to breakoffs, 17 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 18 were removed for attention check failures, and 309 were removed for data quality control. 1,429 of the 1,563 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 0.052 to 6.568, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.727.
Number of respondents	1429
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	3 questions not reported.