

**The Economist/YouGov Poll**  
February 6 - 9, 2026 - 1730 U.S. Adult citizens

**YouGov**

Sample 1730 U.S. Adult citizens  
Conducted February 6 - 9, 2026  
Margin of Error ±3.1%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	29%
Off on the wrong track	62%
Not sure	9%

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	66%
Not too significant	14%
Not sure	20%

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

Inflation/prices	26%
Jobs and the economy	13%
Health care	11%
Immigration	9%
Taxes and government spending	8%
Civil rights	7%
Climate change and the environment	5%
Civil liberties	5%
National Security	4%
Guns	3%
Abortion	3%
Crime	2%
Education	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Foreign policy	1%

4. Who do you think received the most votes in the 2020 election between Joe Biden and Donald Trump?

Joe Biden	53%
Donald Trump	31%
Not sure	16%

5. Who do you think received the most votes in the 2024 election between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump?

Kamala Harris	17%
Donald Trump	68%
Not sure	15%

6. Who do you think is most likely to win the most votes in the 2026 U.S. midterm elections?

Democrats	.....	43%
Republicans	.....	27%
Not sure	.....	30%

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

Yes	.....	37%
No	.....	22%
Not sure	.....	40%

8. Who do you think should be responsible for counting votes in national elections?

The federal government in Washington	.....	17%
State governments	.....	55%
Not sure	.....	28%

9. Do you currently have any of the following documents? Check all that apply.

U.S. passport	.....	45%
Birth certificate	.....	91%
Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship	.....	9%
Real ID	.....	68%
None of the above	.....	2%

10. Do you support or oppose requiring anyone registering to vote to show one of these forms of identification (U.S. passport, birth certificate, Certificate of Citizenship, Real ID) to prove that they are U.S. citizens?

Support	.....	67%
Oppose	.....	17%
Not sure	.....	16%

11. How do you usually vote?

In person on Election Day	.....	35%
In person early voting (before Election Day)	.....	21%
By mail	.....	22%
Don't vote	.....	22%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of voting by mail?

Approve	.....	55%
Disapprove	.....	33%
Strongly approve	.....	35%
Somewhat approve	.....	20%
Somewhat disapprove	.....	12%
Strongly disapprove	.....	20%
Not sure	.....	13%

13. Do you think ICE agents should be prohibited from coming near polling places and election counting sites during the 2026 midterm elections?

Yes .....	57%
No .....	29%
Not sure .....	14%

14. How concerned are you about people casting an illegal ballot by... ?

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned	Not concerned at all	Not sure
Using a dead person's identity	37%	20%	16%	22%	6%
Lying about their citizenship	36%	18%	16%	24%	5%
Trying to vote more than once	32%	20%	19%	24%	6%
Lying about their criminal record	25%	21%	23%	24%	6%
Voting in a district where they do not live	24%	23%	21%	24%	7%

15. How often do you pay attention to what's going on with colleges and universities around the country?

All the time .....	7%
Most of the time .....	14%
Some of the time .....	35%
Once in a while .....	30%
Never .....	14%

16. 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	46%	28%	15%	2%	2%	7%
Social Security	43%	26%	18%	3%	3%	8%
Medicare	39%	28%	18%	4%	3%	8%
Aid to the poor	38%	26%	18%	6%	5%	7%
Medicaid	35%	24%	21%	6%	6%	9%
The environment	31%	21%	21%	9%	11%	7%
National defense	17%	17%	31%	13%	14%	8%
Colleges and universities	16%	19%	28%	10%	18%	9%
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	14%	13%	17%	8%	41%	7%
Foreign aid	8%	13%	20%	19%	30%	10%

17. Overall, do you think the federal government should increase or decrease the total amount it spends?

Increase a lot .....	8%
Increase slightly .....	20%
Keep the same .....	16%
Decrease slightly .....	22%
Decrease a lot .....	21%
Not sure .....	13%

18. Should the following federal taxes be increased or decreased?

	Increase a lot	Increase slightly	Keep the same	Decrease slightly	Decrease a lot	Not sure
Corporate income tax	31%	18%	18%	10%	9%	15%
Capital gains tax	12%	12%	24%	12%	17%	23%
Tariffs	6%	10%	20%	12%	39%	13%
Personal income tax	4%	8%	23%	24%	29%	13%
Social Security tax	4%	9%	31%	15%	27%	15%
Medicare tax	2%	9%	31%	16%	26%	16%

19. Overall, do you think the federal government should increase or decrease the total amount of taxes it collects?

Increase a lot .....	7%
Increase slightly .....	12%
Keep the same .....	18%
Decrease slightly .....	24%
Decrease a lot .....	26%
Not sure .....	13%

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

<b>Approve</b> .....	37%
<b>Disapprove</b> .....	56%
Strongly approve .....	21%
Somewhat approve .....	16%
Somewhat disapprove .....	9%
Strongly disapprove .....	47%
Not sure .....	6%

21. 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 economy	<b>34%</b>	<b>57%</b>	17%	18%	12%	45%	9%
Inflation	<b>31%</b>	<b>59%</b>	14%	17%	12%	47%	10%
Taxes	<b>35%</b>	<b>54%</b>	15%	19%	13%	41%	11%
Government spending	<b>31%</b>	<b>58%</b>	14%	17%	13%	45%	11%
Immigration	<b>40%</b>	<b>53%</b>	29%	11%	8%	46%	7%

22. Do you think President Trump is doing a better or worse job than President Biden?

Trump better than Biden	.....	40%
About the same	.....	7%
Trump worse than Biden	.....	46%
Not sure	.....	7%

23. Do you approve or disapprove of renaming the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as the Trump-Kennedy Center?

Approve	.....	16%
Disapprove	.....	64%
Not sure	.....	20%

24. Would you approve or disapprove of renaming the Washington Dulles International Airport as the Donald J. Trump International Airport?

Approve	.....	15%
Disapprove	.....	66%
Not sure	.....	19%

25. President Trump has begun or is planning some construction projects in Washington. Do you support or oppose...?

	Support	Oppose	Not sure
Tearing down the East Wing of the White House to build a new ballroom that will seat 1,000 people	25%	58%	18%
Closing the Trump-Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for a two-year renovation, which will include removing some of the exterior marble while keeping the steel frame	19%	53%	28%
Building a 250-foot high arch near the Lincoln Memorial that would feature a statue of Lady Liberty on top	21%	52%	27%

26. Since becoming president, do you think Donald Trump has gotten more or less rich?

Much more rich	.....	45%
Somewhat more rich	.....	14%
No change	.....	16%
Somewhat less rich	.....	7%
Much less rich	.....	3%
Not sure	.....	16%

27. Do you think the federal government should...?

Send more immigration agents to Minneapolis	.....	18%
Keep the current number of immigration agents in Minneapolis	.....	15%
Reduce the number of immigration agents in Minneapolis	.....	14%
Remove all immigration agents from Minneapolis	.....	40%
Not sure	.....	13%

28. Would you support or oppose abolishing ICE?

<b>Support</b>	.....	47%
<b>Oppose</b>	.....	42%
Strongly support	.....	36%
Somewhat support	.....	11%
Somewhat oppose	.....	10%
Strongly oppose	.....	32%
Not sure	.....	11%

29. How much, if anything, have you heard in the news about the Department of Justice releasing a trove of documents related to its investigation of Jeffrey Epstein?

A lot	.....	48%
A little	.....	42%
Nothing at all	.....	10%

30. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling investigations into Jeffrey Epstein?

<b>Approve</b>	.....	24%
<b>Disapprove</b>	.....	57%
Strongly approve	.....	10%
Somewhat approve	.....	14%
Somewhat disapprove	.....	12%
Strongly disapprove	.....	45%
Not sure	.....	19%

31. Do you think Donald Trump is trying to cover up Jeffrey Epstein's crimes?

Yes	.....	52%
No	.....	30%
Not sure	.....	18%

32. Do you think that Donald Trump was involved in crimes allegedly committed by Jeffrey Epstein?

Yes .....	50%
No .....	29%
Not sure .....	21%

33. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "There are powerful elites who helped Epstein target and abuse young girls. They protected him and need to be investigated."

Agree .....	85%
Disagree .....	3%
Strongly agree .....	70%
Somewhat agree .....	15%
Somewhat disagree .....	2%
Strongly disagree .....	1%
Not sure .....	12%

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

<b>Total Excellent/Good</b> .....	24%
<b>Total Fair/Poor</b> .....	72%
Excellent .....	3%
Good .....	20%
Fair .....	33%
Poor .....	39%
Don't know .....	5%

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

Getting better .....	21%
About the same .....	19%
Getting worse .....	53%
Not sure .....	6%

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

Higher .....	55%
About the same .....	20%
Lower .....	13%
Not sure .....	11%

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

Unemployment .....	6%
Inflation .....	35%
Both equal .....	52%
Not sure .....	8%

38. In your experience, have prices of the following goods gone up or down in the last year?

	Gone up a lot	Gone up a little	Not changed	Gone down a little	Gone down a lot	Not sure
Gas	15%	23%	18%	25%	11%	7%
Cars	38%	24%	12%	4%	0%	21%
Food	54%	24%	8%	8%	1%	4%
Housing costs (such as rent or mortgage payments)	47%	24%	12%	6%	1%	10%

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

Yes	.....	37%
No	.....	33%
Not sure	.....	30%

40. How likely do you think it is that there will be an economic recession during the next twelve months?

Very likely	.....	5%
Somewhat likely	.....	18%
Not very likely	.....	15%
Not at all likely	.....	7%
Not sure	.....	19%
Not asked - Already in a recession	.....	37%

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

Good time	.....	24%
Bad time	.....	24%
Not sure	.....	52%

42. 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	.....	37%
No	.....	63%

43. How would you describe your social class?

Working class	.....	49%
Middle class	.....	40%
Upper middle class	.....	9%
Wealthy	.....	1%

44. 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	44%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	34%
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	22%
Not sure	14%

46. How happy are you with your current job?

*Asked of those currently employed*

Very happy	20%
Happy	40%
Neither happy nor unhappy	26%
Unhappy	9%
Very unhappy	5%

47. 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	6%
Slightly more	30%
About the same	43%
Slightly less	7%
Much less	3%
Not sure	10%

48. How worried are you about losing your job?

*Asked of those currently employed*

Very worried	7%
Somewhat worried	26%
Not very worried	67%

49. 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.	40%
Not very hard	25%
Not sure	12%

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

Very easy	.....	16%
Somewhat easy	.....	21%
Somewhat difficult	.....	24%
Very difficult	.....	19%
Impossible	.....	19%

51. Do you think the federal government should or should not pursue policies that try to reduce the gap in wealth between the richest and poorest Americans?

Should	.....	59%
Should not	.....	19%
Not sure	.....	22%

52. 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	.....	13%
About the same	.....	16%
Worse off	.....	51%
Not sure	.....	19%

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

How hard they work	.....	19%
Whether they come from a privileged background	.....	34%
Equally important	.....	33%
Not sure	.....	14%

54. Did you pay more in taxes this year or last year?

Larger refund or owe less this year	.....	15%
About the same	.....	29%
Smaller refund or owe more this year	.....	15%
Not sure	.....	41%

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

Much too high	.....	3%
Somewhat too high	.....	3%
About right	.....	16%
Somewhat too low	.....	12%
Much too low	.....	49%
Not sure	.....	17%

56. 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
Warren Buffett	<b>45%</b>	<b>27%</b>	16%	29%	14%	13%	29%
Elon Musk	<b>34%</b>	<b>56%</b>	14%	20%	12%	44%	11%
Bill Gates	<b>29%</b>	<b>55%</b>	8%	21%	20%	35%	16%
Michael Bloomberg	<b>20%</b>	<b>40%</b>	3%	17%	21%	19%	40%
Mark Zuckerberg	<b>20%</b>	<b>62%</b>	4%	15%	24%	38%	18%
Jeff Bezos	<b>19%</b>	<b>60%</b>	4%	15%	23%	37%	21%
George Soros	<b>16%</b>	<b>44%</b>	4%	12%	10%	34%	40%

57. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes .....	23%
No .....	65%
Not sure .....	12%

58. 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 .....	39%
The Republican Party candidate .....	31%
Other .....	1%
Not sure .....	13%
I would not vote .....	16%

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

<b>Total Liberal</b> .....	29%
<b>Total Conservative</b> .....	34%
Very liberal .....	11%
Liberal .....	17%
Moderate .....	28%
Conservative .....	20%
Very conservative .....	13%
Not sure .....	10%

60. Are you registered to vote?

Registered .....	73%
Not registered .....	27%

61. 2024 Presidential Vote

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

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

Democrat	.....	29%
Republican	.....	31%
Independent	.....	27%
Other	.....	5%
Not sure	.....	8%

63. Political Party Identification

*Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification*

Strong Democrat	.....	19%
Not very strong Democrat	.....	10%
Lean Democrat	.....	9%
Independent	.....	24%
Lean Republican	.....	5%
Not very strong Republican	.....	10%
Strong Republican	.....	21%
Not sure	.....	3%

64. Are you...?

Male	.....	49%
Female	.....	51%

65. Respondent age by category

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

66. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

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

68. What is your marital status?

Married	.....	40%
Separated	.....	2%
Divorced	.....	12%
Widowed	.....	6%
Never married	.....	36%
Domestic / civil partnership	.....	4%

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

Yes	.....	21%
No	.....	79%

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

*Calculated from respondent's state of residence*

Northeast	.....	17%
Midwest	.....	22%
South	.....	40%
West	.....	22%

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

Under \$50K	.....	40%
\$50-100K	.....	27%
\$100K or more	.....	22%
Prefer not to say	.....	11%

72. 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	.....	5%
A few times a year	.....	13%
Seldom	.....	20%
Never	.....	37%
Don't know	.....	2%

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

Yes	.....	29%
No	.....	71%

74. 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	10%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	16%
Never	22%
Don't know	2%

75. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	28%
Roman Catholic	19%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	0%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	7%
Nothing in particular	23%
Something else	11%

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<b>Sponsorship</b>	<i>The Economist</i>
<b>Fieldwork</b>	YouGov
<b>Interviewing Dates</b>	February 6 - 9, 2026
<b>Target population</b>	U.S. Citizens, age 18 and over
<b>Sampling method</b>	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in panel to be representative of adult U.S. citizens.
<b>Sample composition</b>	2,014 started the survey after screenouts. 217 were deleted due to breakoffs, 12 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 9 were removed for attention check failures, and 46 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,730 respondents.
<b>Weighting</b>	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 5.025, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.822.
<b>Number of respondents</b>	1730 1551 (Registered voters)
<b>Margin of error</b>	± 3.1% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3% (Registered voters)
<b>Survey mode</b>	Web-based interviews
<b>Questions not reported</b>	15 questions not reported.