

The Economist/YouGov Poll

February 6 - 9, 2026 - 1730 U.S. Adult citizens



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

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?

Approve	37%
Disapprove	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	34%	57%	17%	18%	12%	45%	9%
Inflation	31%	59%	14%	17%	12%	47%	10%
Taxes	35%	54%	15%	19%	13%	41%	11%
Government spending	31%	58%	14%	17%	13%	45%	11%
Immigration	40%	53%	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?

Support	47%
Oppose	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?

Approve	24%
Disapprove	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?

Total Excellent/Good	24%
Total Fair/Poor	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	45%	27%	16%	29%	14%	13%	29%
Elon Musk	34%	56%	14%	20%	12%	44%	11%
Bill Gates	29%	55%	8%	21%	20%	35%	16%
Michael Bloomberg	20%	40%	3%	17%	21%	19%	40%
Mark Zuckerberg	20%	62%	4%	15%	24%	38%	18%
Jeff Bezos	19%	60%	4%	15%	23%	37%	21%
George Soros	16%	44%	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?

Total Liberal	29%
Total Conservative	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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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	February 6 - 9, 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	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.
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 5.025, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.822.
Number of respondents	1730 1551 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.1% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	15 questions not reported.