

The Economist/YouGov Poll

January 9 - 12, 2026 - 1602 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1602 U.S. Adult citizens
Conducted January 9 - 12, 2026
Margin of Error $\pm 3.3\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	30%
Off on the wrong track	61%
Not sure	8%

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.	35%
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.	50%
Not sure	14%

3. Among the world's countries, would you say that the United States is...?

The greatest	22%
Among the greatest	21%
Better than average	12%
About average	12%
Worse than average	11%
Among the worst	11%
The worst	4%
Not sure	7%

4. How satisfied are you with the way democracy is working in the U.S?

Completely satisfied	7%
Somewhat satisfied	28%
Somewhat dissatisfied	28%
Completely dissatisfied	28%
Not sure	9%

5. Do you think the United States should take an active part in world affairs or stay out of world affairs?

Active part	39%
Stay out	35%
Not sure	25%

6. Do you think that U.S. foreign military interventions more often improve or worsen situations in the countries where they occur?

Improve	20%
Worsen	41%
Neither improve nor worsen	20%
Not sure	19%

7. In general, do you think the U.S. has a responsibility to actively promote democracy around the world, or is that not the responsibility of the U.S.?

Has responsibility44%
Does not have responsibility56%

8. Do you consider the following to be an ally or an enemy of the United States?

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
Canada	42%	30%	12%	2%	14%
Denmark	30%	34%	6%	2%	28%
Taiwan	29%	31%	5%	2%	34%
Greenland	26%	35%	7%	2%	30%
El Salvador	6%	21%	20%	8%	45%
Colombia	4%	17%	30%	8%	40%
Venezuela	4%	13%	32%	19%	32%
Cuba	2%	12%	36%	21%	29%

9. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to invade Venezuela?

Strongly support15%
Somewhat support15%
Support**30%**
Somewhat oppose17%
Strongly oppose39%
Oppose**56%**
Not sure14%

10. Do you think recent U.S. intervention in Venezuela was justified or unjustified?

Justified34%
Not justified45%
Not sure20%

11. Before President Trump used military force in Venezuela, should he first have sought authorization from the U.S. Congress?

Yes57%
No29%
Not sure14%

12. Which of the following do you think were reasons why the U.S. took military action in Venezuela? Select all that apply.

Gain access to oil	62%
Remove a corrupt leader	42%
Stop drug trafficking	37%
Distract Americans from domestic issues	31%
Increase U.S. global power	29%
Stop terrorism	21%
Reduce immigration to the U.S.	15%
Promote democracy	12%
Not sure	10%
None of the above	2%

13. Do you support or oppose the U.S. using military force to overthrow Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro?

Strongly support	23%
Somewhat support	17%
Support	40%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	30%
Oppose	45%
Not sure	15%

14. Should the U.S. put Nicolás Maduro on trial for drug-trafficking?

Yes	50%
No	20%
Not sure	29%

15. Do you think Nicolás Maduro will be found guilty of any of the U.S. government's charges against him?

Yes	54%
No	9%
Not sure	37%

16. Do you think U.S. military intervention will improve or worsen the situation in Venezuela?

Improve	29%
Worsen	35%
Neither improve nor worsen	18%
Not sure	18%

17. Should the U.S. run Venezuela for the next few years?

Yes	15%
No	61%
Not sure	24%

18. Should the U.S. take Venezuela's oil?

Yes 24%
No 54%
Not sure 22%

19. Who should decide who is President of Venezuela?

The U.S. government 4%
The Venezuelan people 87%
Not sure 9%

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

Support 8%
Oppose 68%
Not sure 23%

21. Do you support or oppose the U.S. paying each Greenland resident between \$10,000 to \$100,000 to encourage them to secede from Denmark and join the United States?

Support 13%
Oppose 64%
Not sure 24%

22. How much do you care about what happens in Israel and Palestine?

A lot 45%
A little 36%
Not at all 19%

23. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, are your sympathies more with...?

The Israelis 28%
About equal 27%
The Palestinians 25%
Not sure 20%

24. Do you favor the U.S. ...?

Increasing military aid to Israel 12%
Maintaining the same amount of military aid to Israel 25%
Decreasing military aid to Israel 14%
Stopping all military aid to Israel 28%
Not sure 21%

25. Do you favor the U.S. ...?

Increasing humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	31%
Maintaining the same amount of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	22%
Decreasing humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	7%
Stopping all humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	14%
Not sure	25%

26. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	18%
Approve	33%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	35%
Disapprove	46%
Not sure	21%

27. In the war between Russia and Ukraine, who do you think is currently winning?

Russia	26%
Ukraine	8%
Neither	43%
Not sure	23%

28. Do you favor the U.S. ... ?

Increasing military aid to Ukraine	30%
Maintaining the same amount of military aid to Ukraine	20%
Decreasing military aid to Ukraine	11%
Stopping all military aid to Ukraine	15%
Not sure	23%

29. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the situation with Russia and Ukraine?

Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	19%
Approve	32%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Disapprove	49%
Not sure	20%

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

Strongly approve	23%
Somewhat approve	17%
Approve	40%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Disapprove	54%
Not sure	6%

31. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Disapprove	No opinion
National security	29%	15%	45%	10%	37%	47%	8%
Venezuela	22%	15%	37%	10%	40%	50%	13%
Immigration	31%	12%	44%	8%	43%	51%	5%
Tariffs	20%	17%	37%	11%	45%	56%	7%
Foreign policy	22%	17%	39%	10%	41%	50%	11%

32. Is Donald Trump focused too much or too little on foreign affairs?

Too much	42%
About the right amount	34%
Too little	4%
Not sure	20%

33. Do you think America's standing in the world has improved or worsened since Donald Trump became president again in 2025?

Improved	29%
Stayed about the same	10%
Worsened	53%
Not sure	8%

34. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Marco Rubio	19%	12%	30%	13%	31%	44%	26%
Stephen Miller	10%	7%	17%	6%	32%	38%	45%
JD Vance	24%	12%	36%	10%	41%	52%	12%
Kristi Noem	14%	9%	23%	8%	35%	43%	34%
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.	16%	20%	36%	13%	37%	50%	14%
Nicolás Maduro	1%	2%	3%	13%	55%	68%	28%

35. How safe do you think vaccines generally are?

Very safe	42%
Somewhat safe	34%
Not very safe	11%
Not at all safe	8%
Not sure	6%

36. Have you received an influenza vaccine (flu shot) in the past year?

Yes	42%
No	56%
Not sure	2%

37. Have you received a COVID-19 vaccine in the past year?

Yes	25%
No	74%
Not sure	1%

38. Have you ever received a measles vaccine?

Yes	67%
No	19%
Not sure	14%

39. Do children in the U.S. today receive too many or too few vaccines?

Too many	26%
About the right amount	46%
Too few	12%
Not sure	15%

40. Did you see any videos of an ICE agent shooting a woman in Minneapolis this week?

Yes, saw video	69%
No, did not see video but have heard about it	22%
No, have not seen or heard anything about it	9%

41. Based on what you know, was the shooting of the woman in Minneapolis justified or not justified?

Was justified	30%
Was not justified	50%
Not sure	20%

42. Was the woman killed by ICE a U.S. citizen?

Yes	70%
No	3%
Not sure	27%

43. Who should be responsible for investigating the shooting?

Federal government	21%
Minnesota state government	15%
Both	56%
Not sure	8%

44. Do you think Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers should be required to wear uniforms when making arrests?

Yes	73%
No	14%
Not sure	12%

45. Do you think Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers should be allowed to wear masks that hide their identities when making arrests?

Yes	32%
No	56%
Not sure	12%

46. Overall, is ICE making Americans more or less safe?

More safe	34%
Less safe	47%
Neither more nor less safe	12%
Not sure	6%

47. Would you support or oppose abolishing ICE?

Strongly support	35%
Somewhat support	10%
Support	46%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	31%
Oppose	43%
Not sure	12%

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

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
The military	31%	27%	29%	13%
The police	16%	27%	38%	19%
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	15%	17%	19%	49%
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	13%	20%	31%	36%
United Nations (UN)	9%	18%	37%	37%
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	8%	19%	44%	29%
The news media	4%	11%	32%	52%

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

Inflation/prices	24%
Jobs and the economy	16%
Health care	10%
Immigration	8%
Taxes and government spending	8%
Civil rights	7%
Civil liberties	7%
National Security	5%
Crime	4%
Climate change and the environment	4%
Abortion	3%
Guns	2%
Criminal justice reform	2%
Education	1%
Foreign policy	1%

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

Excellent	5%
Good	21%
Fair	36%
Poor	35%
Don't know	2%

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

Getting better	25%
About the same	20%
Getting worse	50%
Not sure	5%

52. 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	47%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	34%
Not sure	4%

53. 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	37%
Worse off financially	25%
Not sure	11%

54. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	25%
No	64%
Not sure	11%

55. 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	33%
Other	1%
Not sure	13%
I would not vote	14%

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

Very liberal	12%
Liberal	17%
Total Liberal	29%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	19%
Very conservative	14%
Total Conservative	33%
Not sure	10%

57. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

58. 2024 Presidential Vote

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

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

Democrat	30%
Republican	32%
Independent	29%
Other	3%
Not sure	6%

60. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	20%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	7%
Not very strong Republican	11%
Strong Republican	21%
Not sure	3%

61. Are you...?

Male	49%
Female	51%

62. Respondent age by category

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

63. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

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

65. What is your marital status?

Married	41%
Separated	1%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	5%
Never married	37%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	20%
No	80%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	15%
Midwest	23%
South	37%
West	24%

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

Under \$50K	37%
\$50-100K	31%
\$100K or more	21%
Prefer not to say	10%

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

More than once a week	7%
Once a week	15%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	11%
Seldom	20%
Never	37%
Don't know	3%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

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

Several times a day	28%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	10%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	14%
Never	23%
Don't know	3%

72. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	28%
Roman Catholic	19%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	0%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	2%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	8%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	23%
Something else	10%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	January 9 - 12, 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	1,891 started the survey after screenouts. 178 were deleted due to breakoffs, 53 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 18 were removed for attention check failures, and 40 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,602 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 6.577, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.924.
Number of respondents	1602 1437 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.1% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	1 questions not reported.