

The Economist/YouGov Poll

October 2–5, 2026 - 1381 U.S. Registered Voters



Sample 1381 U.S. Registered Voters
Conducted October 2–5, 2026
Margin of Error $\pm 3.4\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	30%
Off on the wrong track	64%
Not sure	6%

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	73%
Not too significant	12%
Not sure	15%

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

Coded from open-ended responses

Inflation	21%
Presidential leadership	14%
The economy	12%
Political polarization	8%
Foreign policy	6%
Corruption and waste	7%
Immigration	7%
Democracy and the rule of law	7%
Crime	3%
Inequality	2%
Social values	2%
Healthcare	2%
Taxes and government spending	2%
Civil rights	2%
The environment	1%
Media	0%
Education	0%
Other	2%

4. Which bothers you more about politics today?

That government is not doing enough to solve important problems	47%
That political conflict has spread into too many parts of everyday life	44%
Not sure	8%

5. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "I spend more time thinking about politics than I would like."

Total Agree	54%
Total Disagree	24%
Agree strongly	21%
Agree somewhat	32%
Neither agree nor disagree	22%
Disagree somewhat	14%
Disagree strongly	10%

6. Thinking about the posts and discussions you see on social media about politics, which comes closer to your view?

I like seeing lots of political posts and discussions on social media.	23%
I am worn out by how many political posts and discussions I see on social media.	52%
I don't feel strongly about these posts one way or the other.	25%

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

Total Approve	38%
Total Disapprove	60%
Strongly approve	21%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	51%
Not sure	2%

8. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the following things?

	Total Approve	Total Disapprove	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Taxes	35%	58%	18%	17%	13%	45%	6%
Government spending	32%	64%	13%	19%	12%	52%	5%
The economy	31%	65%	15%	17%	11%	54%	4%
Inflation	28%	69%	11%	16%	13%	56%	3%

9. 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
National defense	17%	18%	24%	16%	16%	9%
Veterans	41%	30%	16%	3%	3%	7%
Education	39%	23%	19%	5%	9%	6%
The environment	33%	22%	21%	7%	11%	6%
Foreign aid	12%	15%	18%	20%	27%	10%

10. Do you favor or oppose the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) spending \$20 million to run ads featuring Donald Trump?

Total Favor	17%
Total Oppose	72%
Strongly favor	7%
Somewhat favor	10%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	59%
Not sure	11%

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

Yes	6%
No	0%
Already registered	94%

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

Definitely will vote	75%
Probably will vote	11%
Maybe will vote	6%
Probably will not vote	2%
Definitely will not vote	2%
Don't know	2%
I have already voted	1%

13. In the 2026 congressional elections, how will you cast your vote?

Asked of likely voters

In person early, before Election Day	27%
In person on Election Day	42%
By mail or absentee ballot, sending it back by mail or post office	17%
By mail or absentee ballot, returning it at a vote center, elections dropbox or other official voting site	12%
Not sure	3%

14. Compared to voting in previous Congressional election years, are you more or less enthusiastic about voting in this year's election?

More enthusiastic	42%
Less enthusiastic	13%
About the same	40%
Not sure	5%

15. In the election for U.S. Senator from [state], who will you vote for?

Respondents were asked which of the candidates running in their state of residence they would vote for, then if they said they were undecided the first time, asked who they would vote for if they had to choose

The Democratic candidate	43%
The Republican candidate	42%
Other	4%
Not sure	7%
I will not vote	4%

16. 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	80%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	9%
Undecided	7%
Nonvoter	4%

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

Democratic Party	40%
Republican Party	37%
Not sure	23%

18. In the elections for U.S. Congress in November, who will you vote for in the district where you live?

Respondents were asked which of the candidates running in their district of residence they would vote for, then if they said they were undecided the first time, asked who they would vote for if they had to choose

The Democratic candidate	47%
The Republican candidate	38%
Other	2%
Not sure	9%
I will not vote	4%

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

My mind is made up	78%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	9%
Undecided	9%
Nonvoter	4%

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

Completely satisfied	15%
Somewhat satisfied	37%
Somewhat dissatisfied	15%
Completely dissatisfied	8%
Not sure	25%

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

Democratic Party	44%
Republican Party	33%
Not sure	23%

22. How much confidence do you have that the 2026 congressional elections will be held fairly?

A great deal	19%
Quite a bit	19%
A moderate amount	30%
Only a little	17%
None at all	8%
Not sure	6%

23. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the following person?

	Total Favorable	Total Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	No opinion
Senator 1	41%	38%	19%	22%	13%	25%	20%
Senator 2	40%	40%	17%	23%	14%	26%	20%
[Incumbent Candidate in Respondent's Congressional District]	45%	31%	20%	26%	13%	18%	23%

24. 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	6%
Not sure	6%

25. Are you in favor of or opposed to the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

Favor the death penalty	51%
Opposed to the death penalty	28%
Not sure	21%

26. Should the death penalty be used more or less often than it currently is?

More often	33%
About as often	16%
Less often	6%
Never	28%
Not sure	16%

27. If the death penalty has to be imposed, which of the following methods of executing a person do you think should be used? Select all that apply.

Electrocution	20%
Firing squad	29%
Hanging	16%
Lethal injection	42%
None of the above	15%
Not sure	21%

28. Do you think artificial intelligence (AI) is advancing too quickly or too slowly?

Too quickly	71%
About the right pace	21%
Too slowly	1%
Don't know	7%

29. Do you think government regulation of AI should be increased or decreased?

Increased	62%
Kept the same	17%
Decreased	8%
Not sure	12%

30. Which party do you trust more to handle artificial intelligence?

Democrats	41%
Republicans	33%
Both equally	25%

31. Do you think it is a good or bad idea to rename "Artificial Intelligence" to "Super Intelligence"?

Good idea	13%
Bad idea	58%
Not sure	29%

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

Total Excellent/Good	23%
Total Fair/Poor	75%
Excellent	4%
Good	19%
Fair	28%
Poor	47%
Don't know	2%

33. Have you heard mostly positive or mostly negative news stories about the economy, or have you not heard much news at all about the economy?

Mostly positive	5%
Equally positive and negative	25%
Mostly negative	61%
Not heard much news about the economy at all	9%

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

Getting better	16%
About the same	20%
Getting worse	60%
Not sure	4%

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

Unemployment	4%
Inflation	48%
Both equal	44%
Not sure	5%

36. In your experience, have prices of the following goods gone up or down in the last 12 months?

	Gone up a lot	Gone up a little	Not changed	Gone down a little	Gone down a lot	Not sure
Gas	76%	16%	4%	2%	1%	1%
Cars	47%	24%	9%	2%	0%	17%
Food	64%	26%	5%	3%	1%	1%
Housing	57%	23%	7%	4%	0%	9%

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

Higher	52%
About the same	19%
Lower	13%
Not sure	16%

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

Yes	40%
No	35%
Not sure	24%

39. How likely do you think it is that there will be an economic recession during the next 12 months?

Very likely	5%
Somewhat likely	17%
Not very likely	14%
Not at all likely	6%
Not sure	18%
Not asked - Already in a recession	40%

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

Good time	26%
Bad time	27%
Not sure	47%

41. 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	44%
No	56%

42. About how much in total do you have invested in stocks and mutual funds?

No money invested	56%
Under \$50,000	15%
\$50,000 - \$100,000	5%
\$100,000 - \$250,000	5%
\$250,000 - \$500,000	5%
Over \$500,000	7%
Not sure	7%

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

Very easy	20%
Somewhat easy	23%
Somewhat difficult	23%
Very difficult	18%
Impossible	16%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	13%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	42%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	40%
Not sure	4%

45. Looking ahead, do you think that A YEAR FROM NOW you and your household will be...

Better off financially	25%
Just about the same as now	37%
Worse off financially	23%
Not sure	15%

46. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Full-time	35%
Part-time	11%
Temporarily laid off	0%
Unemployed	9%
Retired	26%
Permanently disabled	7%
Homemaker	5%
Student	4%
Other	2%

47. How happy are you with your current job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very happy	23%
Happy	41%
Neither happy nor unhappy	25%
Unhappy	8%
Very unhappy	3%

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

Less than \$10,000	5%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	6%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	11%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	8%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	6%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	6%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	6%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	8%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	9%
\$100,000 - \$119,999	8%
\$120,000 - \$149,999	8%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	5%
\$200,000 - \$249,999	4%
\$250,000 - \$349,999	1%
\$350,000 - \$499,999	1%
\$500,000 or more	0%
Prefer not to say	9%

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

Under \$50K	36%
\$50-100K	29%
\$100K or more	26%
Prefer not to say	9%

50. 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	7%
Slightly more	35%
About the same	41%
Slightly less	7%
Much less	2%
Not sure	7%

51. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very worried	8%
Somewhat worried	30%
Not very worried	62%

52. 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.	25%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	39%
Not very hard	24%
Not sure	12%

53. 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	58%
Should not	23%
Not sure	19%

54. How would you describe your social class?

Working class	43%
Middle class	44%
Upper middle class	12%
Wealthy	1%

55. 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	14%
About the same	21%
Worse off	45%
Not sure	21%

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

How hard they work	22%
Whether they come from a privileged background	38%
Equally important	32%
Not sure	8%

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

Inflation/prices	36%
Jobs and the economy	11%
Health care	8%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Immigration	8%
Climate change and the environment	6%
Civil rights	4%
Civil liberties	4%
National Security	4%
Abortion	3%
Crime	2%
Education	2%
Guns	1%
Foreign policy	1%
Criminal justice reform	1%

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

Total Liberal	31%
Total Conservative	38%
Very liberal	13%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	25%
Conservative	26%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	6%

59. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	94%
Not registered	6%

60. 2024 Presidential Vote

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

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

Democrat	34%
Republican	37%
Independent	23%
Other	3%
Not sure	2%

62. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	24%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Lean Democrat	10%
Independent	12%
Lean Republican	6%
Not very strong Republican	11%
Strong Republican	26%
Not sure	2%

63. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	27%
No	67%
Not sure	7%

64. Are you...?

Male	48%
Female	52%

65. Respondent age by category

Under 30	18%
30-44	22%
45-64	33%
65+	26%

66. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	71%
Black	13%
Hispanic	11%
Other	5%

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

HS or less	32%
Some college	30%
College grad	25%
Postgrad	14%

68. What is your marital status?

Married	41%
Separated	1%
Divorced	13%
Widowed	6%
Never married	33%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	23%
No	77%

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

More than once a week	9%
Once a week	19%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	20%
Never	32%
Don't know	1%

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

Yes	30%
No	70%

72. 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	13%
A few times a week	10%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	7%
Seldom	14%
Never	21%
Don't know	3%

73. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	28%
Roman Catholic	22%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	0%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	8%
Nothing in particular	19%
Something else	12%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 2–5, 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	2,057 started the survey after screenouts. 223 were deleted due to breakoffs, 38 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 16 were removed for attention check failures, and 267 were removed for data quality control. 1,381 of the 1,513 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 6.599, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.71.
Number of respondents	1381
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Likely Voter Screen	"Strict" indicates a respondent who is currently registered to vote and indicated that they "Definitely will vote" or "Already voted". "Loose" indicates a respondent who is either currently registered to vote or indicated that they plan to register before the election, and also indicates that they either "Definitely will vote", "Probably will vote", or "Already voted".
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	4 questions not reported.