

The Economist/YouGov Poll
May 22 - 26, 2026 - 1520 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1520 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted May 22 - 26, 2026
 Margin of Error ±3.6%

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction | 26% |
| Off on the wrong track | 65% |
| Not sure | 10% |

2. How motivated are you to vote in the election this November?

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Very motivated | 55% |
| Somewhat motivated | 15% |
| Not very motivated | 12% |
| Not motivated at all | 18% |

3. Compared to past elections, are you more or less motivated to vote in 2026 than usual?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| More motivated | 36% |
| About the same | 49% |
| Less motivated | 15% |

4. How likely are you to vote in the elections in November?

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Definitely will vote | 57% |
| Probably will vote | 11% |
| May or may not vote | 11% |
| Probably won't vote | 7% |
| Definitely won't vote | 14% |

5. Who do you think is going to win the election for Congress in the district where you live?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| The Democratic Party candidate | 36% |
| The Republican Party candidate | 35% |
| Other | 1% |
| Not sure | 28% |

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

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| The Democratic Party | 32% |
| The Republican Party | 35% |
| Not sure | 33% |

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

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| The Democratic Party | 29% |
| The Republican Party | 36% |
| Not sure | 35% |

8. Do you support or oppose paying \$1.776 billion to people who claim to have been mistreated by the federal government?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Support | 24% |
| Oppose | 49% |
| Not sure | 27% |

9. Do you support or oppose tearing down the East Wing of the White House to build a new ballroom that will seat 1,000 people?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Support | 24% |
| Oppose | 58% |
| Not sure | 17% |

10. Should the White House ballroom be paid for by gifts from donors or funds appropriated by Congress?

| | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Gifts from donors | 42% |
| Funds appropriated by Congress | 10% |
| Neither | 34% |
| Not sure | 14% |

11. 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 | 45% | 26% | 16% | 2% | 3% | 8% |
| SNAP (food stamps) | 32% | 19% | 22% | 9% | 11% | 7% |
| Medicare | 42% | 24% | 19% | 3% | 4% | 8% |
| Medicaid | 35% | 23% | 22% | 6% | 6% | 8% |

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

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Total approve | 16% |
| Total disapprove | 62% |
| Strongly approve | 3% |
| Somewhat approve | 13% |
| Neither approve nor disapprove | 13% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 20% |
| Strongly disapprove | 41% |
| Not sure | 9% |

13. 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 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------------|----------------|--------------------|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| JD Vance | 36% | 51% | 21% | 15% | 9% | 43% | 12% |
| Mike Johnson | 27% | 44% | 12% | 15% | 9% | 35% | 29% |
| John Thune | 13% | 40% | 4% | 9% | 16% | 24% | 46% |
| Chuck Schumer | 21% | 54% | 7% | 14% | 17% | 37% | 24% |
| Hakeem Jeffries | 25% | 43% | 10% | 15% | 12% | 30% | 32% |
| Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez | 35% | 42% | 19% | 16% | 9% | 33% | 23% |
| Tulsi Gabbard | 24% | 41% | 11% | 13% | 11% | 29% | 35% |

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following groups in Congress are handling their jobs?

| | Approve | Disapprove | Strongly approve | Somewhat approve | Somewhat disapprove | Strongly disapprove | Not sure |
|-------------------------|---------|------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|
| Democrats in Congress | 28% | 56% | 11% | 17% | 21% | 36% | 15% |
| Republicans in Congress | 30% | 56% | 11% | 19% | 13% | 43% | 13% |

15. Which of the following things is the most important thing for Congress to be doing now?

| | |
|--|-----|
| Passing laws to address problems facing the country | 37% |
| Controlling federal spending and eliminating waste | 29% |
| Overseeing the executive branch and holding it accountable | 34% |

16. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing overseeing the executive branch and holding it accountable?

| | |
|---------------------|------------|
| Approve | 22% |
| Disapprove | 56% |
| Strongly approve | 6% |
| Somewhat approve | 16% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 19% |
| Strongly disapprove | 37% |
| Not sure | 22% |

17. Which party in Congress do you tend to agree with more?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| More with Democrats | 38% |
| More with Republicans | 36% |
| About the same | 10% |
| Not sure | 17% |

18. Which party in Congress is more effective at pursuing its goals?

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Democrats in Congress | 23% |
| Republicans in Congress | 32% |
| About the same | 20% |
| Not sure | 26% |

19. How many members of Congress do you think are corrupt?

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Most (more than half) | 41% |
| Many (but less than half) | 33% |
| A few (5-20%) | 21% |
| Almost none (less than 5%) | 5% |

20. Do you think members of Congress and other elected officials should be allowed to buy and sell individual stocks while they hold public office?
Asked of a randomly assigned half of the sample

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 6% |
| No | 76% |
| Not sure | 18% |

21. Do you think members of Congress and other elected officials should be banned from buying or selling individual stocks while they hold public office?
Asked of the other randomly assigned half of the sample

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 71% |
| No | 8% |
| Not sure | 21% |

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

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Approve | 34% |
| Disapprove | 59% |
| Strongly approve | 20% |
| Somewhat approve | 13% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 11% |
| Strongly disapprove | 49% |
| Not sure | 7% |

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

| | Approve | Disapprove | Strongly approve | Somewhat approve | Somewhat disapprove | Strongly disapprove | No opinion |
|-----------------|---------|------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|
| The environment | 31% | 53% | 18% | 14% | 9% | 43% | 16% |
| Education | 34% | 51% | 19% | 16% | 8% | 43% | 14% |
| Abortion | 32% | 50% | 18% | 14% | 8% | 42% | 18% |
| Health care | 31% | 57% | 15% | 16% | 12% | 45% | 13% |

24. Recently, Donald Trump has endorsed MAGA candidates running in primary elections against incumbent Republican senators. Do you think this is a good or a bad idea?

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Good idea | 22% |
| Bad idea | 43% |
| Not sure | 35% |

25. Last week, President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in China. This week, Russian President Vladimir Putin travelled to Beijing to meet with Xi Jinping. Who is Xi Jinping more closely aligned with?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Donald Trump | 7% |
| Vladimir Putin | 55% |
| Not sure | 38% |

26. Who do you think Donald Trump is more closely aligned with?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Vladimir Putin | 39% |
| Xi Jinping | 16% |
| Not sure | 46% |

27. Would you ever vote for a candidate for president who was not a Democrat or Republican?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 43% |
| No | 21% |
| Not sure | 36% |

28. Would you say the Democratic Party is...?

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Total Liberal | 63% |
| Total Conservative | 6% |
| Very liberal | 37% |
| Liberal | 26% |
| Moderate | 17% |
| Conservative | 4% |
| Very conservative | 2% |
| Not sure | 15% |

29. Would you say the Republican Party is...?

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Total Liberal | 4% |
| Total Conservative | 67% |
| Very liberal | 2% |
| Liberal | 2% |
| Moderate | 11% |
| Conservative | 29% |
| Very conservative | 38% |
| Not sure | 17% |

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

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 41% |
| No | 40% |
| Not sure | 18% |

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

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 48% |
| No | 36% |
| Not sure | 16% |

32. Do you think it is better when...

| | |
|---|-----|
| One party controls both the presidency and Congress | 18% |
| Control of the presidency and Congress is split between the Democrats and Republicans | 38% |
| It doesn't matter | 23% |
| Not sure | 21% |

33. Do you think presidents should release their tax returns for the public to see?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 65% |
| No | 16% |
| Not sure | 19% |

34. Do you approve or disapprove of the decision to end audits of tax returns involving Donald Trump, his family, and his companies by the Internal Revenue Service?

| | |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Approve | 27% |
| Disapprove | 53% |
| Strongly approve | 17% |
| Somewhat approve | 10% |
| Somewhat disapprove | 8% |
| Strongly disapprove | 46% |
| Not sure | 20% |

35. Based on what you know, do you think Donald Trump pays the amount of federal income taxes that he is legally required to pay?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 25% |
| No | 49% |
| Not sure | 26% |

36. 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% |

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

| | A great deal | Quite a lot | Some | Very little |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|------|-------------|
| Small business | 15% | 35% | 38% | 11% |
| The church or organized religion | 12% | 17% | 33% | 38% |
| The medical system | 9% | 24% | 41% | 26% |
| Banks | 7% | 21% | 45% | 27% |
| Organized labor | 7% | 20% | 45% | 27% |
| Newspapers | 5% | 15% | 39% | 41% |
| Television news | 5% | 12% | 38% | 46% |
| Big business | 4% | 13% | 37% | 45% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| The world's climate is changing as a result of human activity | 57% |
| The world's climate is changing but NOT because of human activity | 22% |
| The world's climate is NOT changing | 8% |
| Not sure | 13% |

39. 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 | 49% |
| Oppose | 33% |
| Strongly support | 24% |
| Somewhat support | 25% |
| Somewhat oppose | 11% |
| Strongly oppose | 22% |
| Not sure | 18% |

40. When do you think abortion should be legal?

| | |
|---|-----|
| Abortion should always be legal. There should be no restrictions on abortion. | 28% |
| Abortion should be legal, but with some restrictions (such as for minors or late-term abortions). | 30% |
| Abortion should only be legal in special circumstances, such as when the life of the mother is in danger. | 32% |
| Abortion should be illegal. It should never be allowed. | 10% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Should be legal | 51% |
| Should not be legal | 34% |
| Not sure | 15% |

42. How safe do you think vaccines generally are?

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| Very safe | 37% |
| Somewhat safe | 34% |
| Not very safe | 12% |
| Not at all safe | 10% |
| Not sure | 8% |

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

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Expanded | 39% |
| Kept the same | 16% |
| Repealed | 27% |
| Not sure | 18% |

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

| | |
|--|-----|
| Our society has gone too far in accepting people who are transgender | 43% |
| Our society has been about right when it comes to accepting people who are transgender | 14% |
| Our society has not gone far enough in accepting people who are transgender | 28% |
| Not sure | 15% |

45. 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 | 19% |
| Oppose | 61% |
| Strongly support | 10% |
| Somewhat support | 8% |
| Somewhat oppose | 10% |
| Strongly oppose | 51% |
| Not sure | 20% |

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

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Jobs and the economy | 16% |
| Immigration | 6% |
| Climate change and the environment | 5% |
| Foreign policy | 2% |
| National Security | 5% |
| Education | 4% |
| Health care | 9% |
| Taxes and government spending | 8% |
| Abortion | 2% |
| Civil rights | 7% |
| Civil liberties | 4% |
| Guns | 2% |
| Crime | 5% |
| Criminal justice reform | 1% |
| Inflation/prices | 26% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Total Excellent/Good | 21% |
| Total Fair/Poor | 76% |
| Excellent | 3% |
| Good | 17% |
| Fair | 32% |
| Poor | 44% |
| Don't know | 4% |

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

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Getting better | 13% |
| About the same | 19% |
| Getting worse | 63% |
| Not sure | 5% |

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

| | |
|---|-----|
| Better off financially than you were a year ago | 10% |
| About the same financially as you were a year ago | 42% |
| Worse off financially than you were a year ago | 43% |
| Not sure | 5% |

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

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Better off financially | 23% |
| Just about the same as now | 34% |
| Worse off financially | 29% |
| Not sure | 14% |

51. Are gas prices where you live...?

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Going up a lot | 63% |
| Going up a little | 20% |
| Not changing | 6% |
| Going down a little | 5% |
| Going down a lot | 0% |
| Not sure | 6% |

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

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Total Liberal | 29% |
| Total Conservative | 32% |
| Very liberal | 13% |
| Liberal | 15% |
| Moderate | 30% |
| Conservative | 20% |
| Very conservative | 12% |
| Not sure | 10% |

53. Are you registered to vote?

| | |
|----------------------|-----|
| Registered | 74% |
| Not registered | 26% |

54. 2024 Presidential Vote

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Kamala Harris | 31% |
| Donald Trump | 32% |
| Other | 1% |
| Did not vote for President | 35% |

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

| | |
|-------------------|-----|
| Democrat | 28% |
| Republican | 31% |
| Independent | 27% |
| Other | 6% |
| Not sure | 8% |

56. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Strong Democrat | 21% |
| Not very strong Democrat | 7% |
| Lean Democrat | 8% |
| Independent | 23% |
| Lean Republican | 6% |
| Not very strong Republican | 11% |
| Strong Republican | 21% |
| Not sure | 3% |

57. Are you a MAGA supporter?

| | |
|----------------|-----|
| Yes | 21% |
| No | 68% |
| Not sure | 11% |

58. Are you... ?

| | |
|--------------|-----|
| Male | 49% |
| Female | 51% |

59. Respondent age by category

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

60. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

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

62. What is your marital status?

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Married | 39% |
| Separated | 2% |
| Divorced | 13% |
| Widowed | 6% |
| Never married | 36% |
| Domestic / civil partnership | 4% |

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

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 18% |
| No | 82% |

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Northeast | 16% |
| Midwest | 23% |
| South | 40% |
| West | 22% |

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

| | |
|-------------------------|-----|
| Under \$50K | 42% |
| \$50-100K | 26% |
| \$100K or more | 22% |
| Prefer not to say | 9% |

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

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| More than once a week | 9% |
| Once a week | 17% |
| Once or twice a month | 6% |
| A few times a year | 10% |
| Seldom | 19% |
| Never | 37% |
| Don't know | 2% |

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

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 30% |
| No | 70% |

68. 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 | 11% |
| Once a week | 4% |
| A few times a month | 5% |
| Seldom | 13% |
| Never | 24% |
| Don't know | 3% |

69. What is your present religion, if any?

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Protestant | 27% |
| Roman Catholic | 19% |
| Mormon | 0% |
| Eastern or Greek Orthodox | 0% |
| Jewish | 2% |
| Muslim | 1% |
| Buddhist | 1% |
| Hindu | 0% |
| Atheist | 7% |
| Agnostic | 6% |
| Nothing in particular | 24% |
| Something else | 12% |

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| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Sponsorship | <i>The Economist</i> |
| Fieldwork | YouGov |
| Interviewing Dates | May 22 - 26, 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 | 2,072 started the survey after screenouts. 328 were deleted due to breakoffs, 19 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 6 were removed for attention check failures, and 140 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,579 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 6.59, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.035. |
| Number of respondents | 1520 1397 (Registered voters) |
| Margin of error | ± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.3% (Registered voters) |
| Survey mode | Web-based interviews |
| Questions not reported | 7 questions not reported. |