

The Economist/YouGov Poll

August 15 - 18, 2025 - 1568 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1568 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted August 15 - 18, 2025
 Margin of Error $\pm 3.5\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction 34%
 Off on the wrong track 58%
 Not sure 8%

2. Do you think the federal government should or should not control the following at universities?

	Should control	Should not control	Not sure
Curricula	12%	70%	18%
Hiring and firing of faculty	10%	77%	13%
Admissions criteria	17%	66%	16%
Research topics	11%	75%	15%
Rules for student organizations	15%	72%	13%
Speech policies	13%	73%	14%

3. Do you think it is acceptable or unacceptable for the government to withhold funding to universities to coerce them to comply with policy changes?

Acceptable 30%
 Unacceptable 58%
 Not sure 12%

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the Trump administration asking universities to pay large fines to the federal government?

Strongly approve 18%
 Somewhat approve 13%
Approve **31%**
 Somewhat disapprove 11%
 Strongly disapprove 46%
Disapprove **57%**
 Not sure 12%

5. Do you approve or disapprove of how universities have responded to the Trump administration's actions relating to higher education?

Strongly approve 9%
 Somewhat approve 13%
Approve **22%**
 Somewhat disapprove 17%
 Strongly disapprove 23%
Disapprove **40%**
 Not sure 38%

6. Do you think federal funding for scientific research done by American universities should...?

Increase	39%
Stay the same	31%
Decrease	13%
Not sure	17%

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

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Donald Trump	24%	17%	41%	8%	48%	56%	3%

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

	Very favorable	Some-what favorable	Favorable	Some-what unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
Bernie Sanders	22%	23%	45%	13%	29%	42%	13%
Kamala Harris	18%	22%	40%	12%	42%	53%	6%
Muriel Bowser	4%	9%	13%	7%	14%	21%	66%
Vladimir Putin	2%	6%	8%	17%	65%	82%	10%
Volodymyr Zelensky	23%	22%	45%	14%	17%	31%	24%
Benjamin Netanyahu	9%	15%	24%	12%	35%	47%	29%

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

Inflation/prices	20%
Jobs and the economy	13%
Health care	11%
Civil rights	10%
Immigration	8%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Civil liberties	7%
Climate change and the environment	6%
National Security	5%
Crime	3%
Abortion	3%
Education	3%
Guns	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Foreign policy	0%

10. 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	10%
Strongly disapprove	47%
Disapprove	56%
Not sure	4%

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

	Strongly approve	Some-what approve	Approve	Some-what disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Disapprove	No opinion
Jobs and the economy	19%	20%	39%	10%	42%	53%	8%
Inflation/prices	14%	18%	32%	13%	48%	61%	7%
Immigration	34%	9%	43%	8%	44%	53%	4%
Foreign policy	22%	15%	37%	12%	40%	52%	11%
National Security	28%	15%	43%	8%	39%	47%	10%
Foreign trade	20%	16%	36%	13%	43%	56%	8%
The conflict between Israel and Palestine	16%	18%	34%	12%	39%	50%	16%

12. 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%

13. Do you feel that things in this country these days are:

Under control	20%
Out of control	66%
Not sure	14%

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

Excellent	4%
Good	22%
Fair	35%
Poor	36%
Don't know	3%

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

Getting better	24%
About the same	18%
Getting worse	53%
Not sure	5%

16. How much do you trust the data reported about the economy by the federal government?

Completely trust	5%
Somewhat trust	30%
Somewhat distrust	29%
Completely distrust	24%
Don't know	13%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	15%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	45%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	36%
Not sure	4%

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

Better off financially	29%
Just about the same as now	30%
Worse off financially	28%
Not sure	13%

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

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
Russia	2%	9%	28%	46%	15%
Ukraine	27%	38%	12%	4%	18%
China	2%	13%	36%	32%	18%
Israel	34%	24%	11%	10%	20%
Palestine	4%	13%	30%	19%	34%

20. In the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, who do you sympathize with more?

Russia	3%
Ukraine	66%
Neither	23%
Not sure	8%

21. Who is more likely to be the eventual winner of the conflict between Russia and Ukraine?

Russia	30%
Ukraine	15%
Equally likely	15%
Not sure	40%

22. When the Russia-Ukraine war ends, how much of Ukraine's territory do you think Russia will control?

All of it	4%
Most of it	11%
Half of it	6%
Some of it	38%
None of it	11%
Not sure	30%

23. When the Russia-Ukraine war ends, how much of Ukraine's territory would you prefer Russia control?

All of it	2%
Most of it	1%
Half of it	2%
Some of it	5%
None of it	68%
Not sure	21%

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

Increasing military aid to Ukraine	32%
Maintaining the same amount of military aid to Ukraine	21%
Decreasing military aid to Ukraine	11%
Stopping all military aid to Ukraine	15%
Not sure	20%

25. Who do you blame more for the war in Ukraine?

Vladimir Putin	63%
Volodymyr Zelensky	4%
Both equally	18%
Neither	3%
Not sure	12%

26. Should the U.S. government be involved in negotiating peace between Russia and Ukraine?

Yes, very involved	24%
Yes, somewhat involved	37%
No	22%
Not sure	16%

27. How effective do you think Donald Trump is at negotiating with foreign leaders?

Very effective	23%
Somewhat effective	18%
Not very effective	16%
Not at all effective	34%
Not sure	9%

28. Do you approve or disapprove of President Donald Trump's recent meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska to discuss ending the war in Ukraine?

Strongly approve	23%
Somewhat approve	18%
Approve	41%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	28%
Disapprove	38%
Not sure	21%

29. How much progress do you think Trump and Putin made towards achieving peace in Ukraine during their recent meeting in Alaska?

A lot	7%
A little	25%
None	42%
Not sure	27%

30. Do you think Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky should or should not be involved in negotiations related to ending the war in Ukraine?

Should be involved	73%
Should not be involved	9%
Not sure	18%

31. Do you think leaders of other major European countries should or should not be involved in negotiations related to ending the war in Ukraine?

Should be involved	54%
Should not be involved	18%
Not sure	27%

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

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	20%
Approve	35%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	32%
Disapprove	45%
Not sure	20%

33. Who do you think President Donald Trump blames more for the war in Ukraine?

Vladimir Putin	16%
Volodymyr Zelensky	32%
Both equally	23%
Neither	2%
Not sure	26%

34. Would you say Vladimir Putin is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	32%
Somewhat strong	41%
Somewhat weak	15%
Very weak	11%

35. Would you say Volodymyr Zelensky is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	33%
Somewhat strong	37%
Somewhat weak	21%
Very weak	9%

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

The Israelis	30%
About equal	23%
The Palestinians	26%
Not sure	21%

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

Increasing military aid to Israel	14%
Maintaining the same amount of military aid to Israel	23%
Decreasing military aid to Israel	16%
Stopping all military aid to Israel	29%
Not sure	18%

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

Increasing humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	37%
Maintaining the same amount of humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	22%
Decreasing humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	6%
Stopping all humanitarian aid to the Palestinians	13%
Not sure	22%

39. Do you think that Donald Trump's approach to the Israel-Hamas war has been...?

Too supportive of Israel	36%
About right	30%
Not supportive enough of Israel	8%
Not sure	25%

40. Do you think of Hamas and the Palestinian people as the same, or do you personally make a distinction between them?

They are the same	16%
I make a distinction	54%
Don't know	30%

41. How many Palestinian people do you think support Hamas?

All of them	4%
Most of them	15%
About half of them	16%
A few of them	21%
None of them	4%
Not sure	41%

42. Would you support or oppose Israel taking military control of all of Gaza?

Strongly support	15%
Somewhat support	13%
Support	28%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	33%
Oppose	42%
Not sure	30%

43. Do you think that Israel is committing genocide against Palestinian civilians?

Yes	43%
No	28%
Not sure	29%

44. 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	41%
The Republican Party candidate	33%
Other	1%
Not sure	13%
I would not vote	12%

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

Very liberal	11%
Liberal	18%
Total Liberal	29%
Moderate	31%
Conservative	21%
Very conservative	11%
Total Conservative	31%
Not sure	9%

46. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

47. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	32%
Donald Trump	33%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	35%

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

Democrat	30%
Republican	32%
Independent	29%
Other	4%
Not sure	6%

49. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	20%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	17%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	12%
Strong Republican	20%
Not sure	2%
Don't know	0%

50. Do you identify as a MAGA Republican?

Asked of Republicans

Yes	49%
No	39%
Not sure	11%

51. Are you...?

Male	48%
Female	52%

52. Respondent age by category

Under 30	20%
30-44	24%
45-64	33%
65+	23%

53. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	68%
Black	13%
Hispanic	13%
Other	7%

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

HS or less	35%
Some college	29%
College grad	23%
Postgrad	13%

55. What is your marital status?

Married	36%
Separated	1%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	6%
Never married	37%
Domestic / civil partnership	7%

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

Yes	17%
No	83%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	16%
Midwest	22%
South	39%
West	23%

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

Under \$50K	43%
\$50-100K	25%
\$100K or more	21%
Prefer not to say	11%

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

More than once a week	6%
Once a week	13%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	14%
Seldom	21%
Never	38%
Don't know	1%

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

Yes	29%
No	71%

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

Several times a day	22%
Once a day	14%
A few times a week	12%
Once a week	2%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	15%
Never	25%
Don't know	3%

62. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	29%
Roman Catholic	18%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	0%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	8%
Agnostic	7%
Nothing in particular	23%
Something else	9%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	August 15 - 18, 2025
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	1,833 started the survey after screenouts. 166 were deleted due to breakoffs, 51 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 2 were removed for attention check failures, and 46 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,568 respondents.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 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 6.677, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.974.
Number of respondents	1568 1408 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.5% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.2% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	5 questions not reported.