

The Economist/YouGov Poll

October 10–12, 2026 - 1403 U.S. Registered Voters



Sample 1403 U.S. Registered Voters
Conducted October 10–12, 2026
Margin of Error $\pm 3.5\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	27%
Off on the wrong track	66%
Not sure	7%

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

Categorized from open-ended responses

Inflation	22%
The economy	12%
Presidential leadership	14%
Political polarization	9%
Immigration	8%
Foreign policy	6%
Democracy and the rule of law	6%
Corruption and waste	4%
Civil rights	3%
Crime	2%
Healthcare	2%
Social values	3%
Inequality	2%
Taxes and government spending	1%
The environment	1%
Education	0%
Media	0%
Other	2%

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

Under control	19%
Out of control	70%
Not sure	12%

4. Would you say you are more optimistic about life now than ten years ago or are you less optimistic?

More optimistic	23%
About the same	29%
Less optimistic	48%

5. Is your lifestyle now more conventional than you thought it would be ten years ago or is it less conventional?

More conventional	23%
About the same	56%
Less conventional	20%

6. Are you more interested in owning nice things now than you were ten years ago or are you less interested in owning nice things?

More interested in owning nice things	20%
About the same	48%
Less interested in owning nice things	32%

7. Are you more or less interested in work than you thought you would be ten years ago?

More interested in work	22%
About the same	42%
Less interested in work	36%

8. Are you more or less politically active than you thought you would be ten years ago?

More politically active	42%
About the same	47%
Less politically active	11%

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

Total Approve	38%
Total Disapprove	61%
Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	51%
Not sure	1%

10. Donald Trump has run for president three times — in 2016, 2020, and 2024. How many times did you vote for him?

Never	51%
Once	7%
Twice	11%
Three times	30%
Not sure	1%

11. Since he started his second term, has your opinion of Donald Trump...?

Improved a lot	12%
Improved a little	6%
Stayed the same	23%
Worsened a little	12%
Worsened a lot	45%
Not sure	2%

12. As a President, how do you think Donald Trump will go down in history?

Outstanding	17%
Above Average	13%
Average	8%
Below Average	7%
Poor	49%
Not Sure	6%

13. Do you think the policy positions that Donald Trump has taken since the start of his second term as president are...?

Very different from his positions as a candidate	27%
Somewhat different from his positions as a candidate	17%
Not very different from his positions as a candidate	25%
Not at all different from his positions as a candidate	20%
Not sure	11%

14. Which set of policy positions do you generally prefer?

Asked of those who say that the policy positions that Donald Trump has held during his second term are somewhat or very different from his positions as a candidate

The policy positions Donald Trump held as a candidate in 2024	23%
The policy positions Donald Trump holds as president now	8%
Neither	67%
Not sure	2%

15. We want to ask you about how Donald Trump is handling some different things.

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Immigration	29%	14%	6%	48%	3%
Civil rights	22%	15%	8%	47%	8%
Iran	19%	14%	10%	51%	6%
Health care	16%	18%	9%	50%	7%
Inflation	13%	15%	13%	54%	4%

16. How would you describe Donald Trump's political views?

Total Liberal	7%
Total Conservative	62%
Very liberal	3%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	14%
Conservative	25%
Very conservative	37%
Not sure	17%

17. Do you think Donald Trump...

Says what he believes	52%
Says what he thinks people want to hear	36%
Not sure	12%

18. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like or dislike Donald Trump as a person?

Like a lot	17%
Like somewhat	12%
Neither like nor dislike	14%
Dislike somewhat	9%
Dislike a lot	46%
Not sure	2%

19. How much do you think Donald Trump cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	21%
Some	15%
Not much	11%
Doesn't care at all	50%
Not sure	3%

20. Is Trump too old to be President?

Yes	51%
No	38%
Not sure	10%

21. Do you think President Trump is using his office for personal gain?

Yes	60%
No	31%
Not sure	9%

22. Overall, how would you rate the people President Trump has chosen for positions in his administration?

Excellent	17%
Good	17%
Fair	11%
Poor	50%
Not sure	4%

23. Do you think Donald Trump is uniting or dividing the country?

Uniting the country	21%
Dividing the country	66%
No effect	13%

24. Which of these words would you [use / NOT use] to describe Donald Trump? Please check all that apply.

	Describes Donald Trump	Does NOT describe Donald Trump	No Opinion
Corrupt	54%	23%	24%
Dangerous	52%	20%	28%
Out-of-touch	47%	18%	36%
Racist	46%	25%	28%
Cruel	45%	24%	31%
Bold	44%	16%	40%
Divisive	43%	14%	42%
Strong	34%	32%	34%
Intelligent	33%	40%	27%
Effective	28%	37%	35%
Honest	23%	47%	30%
Steady	18%	32%	50%
Inspiring	15%	43%	41%

25. How serious a threat do you think Iran's nuclear program poses to the United States?

An immediate and serious threat to the U.S.	23%
A somewhat serious threat to the U.S.	30%
A minor threat to the U.S.	21%
Not a threat to the U.S.	16%
Not sure	9%

26. In hindsight, do you think the decision to go to war in Iran was the right decision or the wrong decision?

Right decision	29%
Wrong decision	56%
Not sure	15%

27. How much do you think the war in Iran is hurting the U.S. economy?

A great deal	53%
Some	28%
A little	16%
Not at all	3%

28. What do you think President Trump meant when he said "Let them take out Los Angeles, let them take out San Diego"?

Respondents were shown a 46-second video of President Trump talking about the war in Iran at a rally in Nebraska on Monday, October 5.

Categorized open-ended responses into a multiple-choice question

Inviting or accepting a foreign attack	23%
Targeting Democratic and liberal areas	19%
Warning of Iran's threat	18%
Acceptable wartime sacrifice or cost	12%
Doesn't value the cities or their residents	12%
Rhetorical, joking, or not literal	11%
Incoherent nonsense	8%
Self-serving political motive	4%
Other	8%
Don't know	13%

29. Do you agree or disagree with President Trump that "it's a small price to pay for keeping the world safe, keeping our country safe"?

Completely agree	16%
Mostly agree	11%
Neither agree nor disagree	10%
Mostly disagree	9%
Completely disagree	49%
Not sure	3%

30. Do you think President Trump will resume bombing of Iran after the election in November?

Yes	60%
No	4%
Not sure	36%

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

Yes	5%
No	0%
Already registered	95%

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

Definitely will vote	72%
Probably will vote	13%
Maybe will vote	4%
Probably will not vote	2%
Definitely will not vote	2%
Don't know	3%
I have already voted	5%

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

Asked of likely voters

In person early, before Election Day	24%
In person on Election Day	43%
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	14%
Not sure	2%

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

More enthusiastic	41%
Less enthusiastic	17%
About the same	37%
Not sure	5%

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

In states with a Senate election, 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	45%
The Republican candidate	40%
Other	4%
Not sure	7%
I will not vote	4%

36. 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	78%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	10%
Undecided	7%
Nonvoter	4%

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

Democratic Party	40%
Republican Party	35%
Not sure	25%

38. 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	46%
The Republican candidate	39%
Other	2%
Not sure	8%
I will not vote	5%

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

My mind is made up	80%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	7%
Undecided	8%
Nonvoter	5%

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

Completely satisfied	17%
Somewhat satisfied	35%
Somewhat dissatisfied	16%
Completely dissatisfied	10%
Not sure	21%

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

Democratic Party	43%
Republican Party	30%
Not sure	27%

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

A great deal	20%
Quite a bit	20%
A moderate amount	30%
Only a little	15%
None at all	8%
Not sure	7%

43. What worries, if any, do you have about the elections being held in November?

Categorized open-ended responses into a multiple-choice question

Trump interfering	16%
Election fraud and cheating	13%
Unwanted election outcome	12%
Voter suppression and intimidation	9%
Rigged and unfair elections	6%
Integrity of vote counting and voting machines	8%
Outside influence	7%
Refusal to accept election results	7%
Ineligible voting	6%
Political violence and unrest	5%
Other	11%
No worries	23%

44. 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	39%	42%	18%	22%	13%	28%	19%
Senator 2	42%	39%	18%	23%	14%	25%	20%
[Incumbent Candidate in Respondent's Congressional District]	44%	32%	18%	26%	12%	21%	23%

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

	Total Favorable	Total Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Kimberly Guilfoyle	15%	34%	4%	10%	9%	25%	51%
Elon Musk	39%	55%	21%	18%	12%	42%	7%
Mark Zuckerberg	25%	62%	6%	19%	26%	37%	12%
James Talarico	33%	26%	20%	13%	7%	19%	41%

46. How much confidence do you have in the following institution?

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
The military	33%	28%	23%	16%
Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	18%	17%	14%	50%
The police	17%	32%	31%	19%
The presidency	17%	18%	19%	46%
The U.S. Supreme Court	13%	19%	32%	36%
Public schools	11%	25%	37%	28%
Department of Justice	10%	18%	34%	38%
The criminal justice system	7%	19%	39%	35%
Congress	5%	12%	37%	46%

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

Favor the death penalty	52%
Opposed to the death penalty	31%
Not sure	17%

48. 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	21%
Firing squad	34%
Hanging	17%
Lethal injection	47%
None of the above	17%
Not sure	16%

49. Do you favor or oppose having executions broadcast live to the public?

Total Favor	18%
Total Oppose	71%
Strongly favor	8%
Somewhat favor	10%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	58%
Not sure	12%

50. Do you think the death penalty should be imposed more or less often?

More often	34%
No change	27%
Less often	19%
Never	20%

51. Do you think the use of marijuana should be legal in the U.S.?

Yes	57%
No	30%
Not sure	13%

52. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

More strict	55%
No change	24%
Less strict	16%
Not sure	5%

53. Do you think the number of LEGAL immigrants allowed into the U.S. each year should be increased or decreased?

Increased	23%
Kept the same	33%
Decreased	25%
Reduced to zero	8%
Not sure	11%

54. Do you generally favor or oppose affirmative-action programs for racial minorities?

Favor	36%
Oppose	34%
Not sure	30%

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

Total Excellent/Good	22%
Total Fair/Poor	76%
Excellent	4%
Good	18%
Fair	30%
Poor	46%
Don't know	2%

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

Getting better	15%
About the same	19%
Getting worse	62%
Not sure	3%

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

Inflation/prices	33%
Jobs and the economy	11%
Health care	10%
Immigration	8%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Civil rights	5%
Climate change and the environment	4%
National Security	5%
Civil liberties	4%
Abortion	4%
Education	3%
Crime	2%
Guns	1%
Foreign policy	2%
Criminal justice reform	0%

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

Total Liberal	30%
Total Conservative	37%
Very liberal	13%
Liberal	17%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	24%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	3%

59. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	95%
Not registered	5%

60. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	39%
Donald Trump	41%
Other	3%
Did not vote for President	17%

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

Democrat	34%
Republican	37%
Independent	23%
Other	4%
Not sure	3%

62. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	26%
Not very strong Democrat	8%
Lean Democrat	11%
Independent	11%
Lean Republican	7%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	27%
Not sure	1%

63. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	26%
No	66%
Not sure	8%

64. Are you...?

Male	47%
Female	53%

65. Respondent age by category

Under 30	17%
30-44	23%
45-64	35%
65+	26%

66. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	70%
Black	13%
Hispanic	11%
Other	6%

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

HS or less	32%
Some college	29%
College grad	24%
Postgrad	15%

68. What is your marital status?

Married	41%
Separated	1%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	7%
Never married	33%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	21%
No	79%

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

Under \$50K	36%
\$50-100K	27%
\$100K or more	28%
Prefer not to say	9%

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

More than once a week	11%
Once a week	18%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	10%
Seldom	20%
Never	33%
Don't know	1%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

73. 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	15%
A few times a week	13%
Once a week	2%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	12%
Never	20%
Don't know	2%

74. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	26%
Roman Catholic	25%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	0%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	20%
Something else	11%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 10–12, 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	2,348 started the survey after screenouts. 462 were deleted due to breakoffs, 26 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 14 were removed for attention check failures, and 298 were removed for data quality control. 1,403 of the 1,548 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 0.051 to 6.554, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.773.
Number of respondents	1403
Margin of error	± 3.5% (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	0 questions not reported.