

The Economist/YouGov Poll

September 12 - 15, 2025 - 1567 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1567 U.S. Adult citizens
Conducted September 12 - 15, 2025
Margin of Error $\pm 3.6\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	28%
Off on the wrong track	64%
Not sure	8%

2. In the last five years, do you think this country has become more or less politically divided?

Much more divided	67%
Somewhat more divided	16%
About the same	8%
Somewhat less divided	3%
Much less divided	1%
Not sure	4%

3. 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	67%
Not too significant	12%
Not sure	21%

4. Compared to 10 years ago, do you think the U.S. has more or less political violence?

More	83%
The same amount	8%
Less	3%
Not sure	5%

5. Do you think it is ever justified for citizens to resort to violence in order to achieve political goals?

Yes, violence can sometimes be justified	10%
No, violence is never justified	78%
Not sure	11%

6. How concerned are you about left-wing extremism in the U.S.?

Very concerned	40%
Somewhat concerned	21%
Not very concerned	14%
Not at all concerned	13%
Not sure	12%

7. How concerned are you about right-wing extremism in the U.S.?

Very concerned	40%
Somewhat concerned	19%
Not very concerned	13%
Not at all concerned	16%
Not sure	11%

8. Overall, do you think most political violence in the U.S. is committed by people on the left or the right?

Mostly by the left	33%
Mostly by the right	29%
By both equally	24%
Not sure	14%

9. How familiar were you with Charlie Kirk before this week?

Very familiar	24%
Somewhat familiar	32%
Had heard of him, but didn't know anything	15%
Never had heard of him	28%

10. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Charlie Kirk?

Very favorable	26%
Somewhat favorable	9%
Neither favorable nor unfavorable	18%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%
Very unfavorable	28%
Don't know	11%

11. Do you approve or disapprove of how FBI Director Kash Patel is handling the investigation into the shooting of Charlie Kirk?

Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	16%
Approve	36%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	15%
Disapprove	24%
Not sure	40%

12. Do you think that the person who killed Charlie Kirk was mostly motivated by...?

Left-wing beliefs	37%
Right-wing beliefs	17%
Something other than political beliefs	16%
Not sure	30%

13. In general, do you feel the laws covering the sale of handguns should be made more strict than they are now?

Make gun laws more strict	54%
No change	28%
Make gun laws less strict	9%
Not sure	9%

14. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I think it's worth it to have a cost of, unfortunately, some gun deaths every single year so that we can have the Second Amendment to protect our other God-given rights."

Strongly agree	17%
Somewhat agree	12%
Agree	30%
Somewhat disagree	12%
Strongly disagree	40%
Disagree	52%
Not sure	19%

15. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of Donald Trump?

Very favorable	24%
Somewhat favorable	14%
Favorable	39%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%
Very unfavorable	48%
Unfavorable	57%
Don't know	5%

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

Strongly approve	24%
Somewhat approve	15%
Approve	39%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	48%
Disapprove	57%
Not sure	4%

17. 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
Jobs and the economy	21%	14%	35%	13%	44%	57%	8%
Inflation/prices	15%	14%	30%	13%	51%	64%	6%
Immigration	33%	10%	44%	8%	43%	51%	5%
Civil rights	22%	12%	34%	7%	45%	51%	15%
Crime	29%	13%	42%	10%	39%	49%	9%
Guns	22%	11%	33%	10%	40%	50%	17%

18. Do you think Donald Trump is honest and trustworthy, or not?

Honest and trustworthy	30%
Not honest and trustworthy	57%
Not sure	13%

19. Would you say Donald Trump is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	34%
Somewhat strong	17%
Somewhat weak	13%
Very weak	37%

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

Like a lot	17%
Like somewhat	13%
Neither like nor dislike	13%
Dislike somewhat	9%
Dislike a lot	44%
Not sure	4%

21. Do you think Donald Trump has the temperament to be the President?

Yes	40%
No	52%
Not sure	8%

22. Are you confident in Donald Trump's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	36%
Uneasy	53%
Not sure	11%

23. How much of an effect do you think Donald Trump's health and age are having on his ability to fulfill his duties as president?

Severely limit his ability to do the job	34%
Have little effect on his ability to do the job	27%
Have no effect at all	26%
Not sure	13%

24. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling investigations into Jeffrey Epstein?

Strongly approve	8%
Somewhat approve	9%
Approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	49%
Disapprove	60%
Not sure	22%

25. Before investigations into Jeffrey Epstein began, how much do you think Donald Trump knew about sex crimes committed by Epstein against underage girls?

A lot	45%
Some	23%
Nothing	9%
Not sure	23%

26. Do you think that Donald Trump was involved in crimes allegedly committed by Jeffrey Epstein?

Yes	44%
No	31%
Not sure	25%

27. Pictured below is a birthday message to Jeffrey Epstein. Do you think this message is from Donald Trump?

Yes	44%
No	23%
Not sure	33%

28. Do you think the birthday message to Jeffrey Epstein pictured below is more playful or disturbing?

Playful	13%
Disturbing	61%
Not sure	26%

29. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of JD Vance?

Very favorable	23%
Somewhat favorable	13%
Favorable	36%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%
Very unfavorable	38%
Unfavorable	48%
Don't know	16%

30. Do you approve or disapprove of the way JD Vance is handling his job as Vice-President?

Strongly approve	24%
Somewhat approve	13%
Approve	38%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	36%
Disapprove	46%
Not sure	16%

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

Inflation/prices	24%
Jobs and the economy	11%
Immigration	9%
Health care	9%
Civil rights	7%
Climate change and the environment	7%
National Security	5%
Civil liberties	5%
Taxes and government spending	5%
Guns	5%
Abortion	5%
Crime	4%
Education	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Foreign policy	1%

32. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the political parties?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	11%	23%	33%	19%	40%	60%	7%
The Republican Party	16%	22%	38%	13%	42%	55%	7%

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

Very liberal	12%
Liberal	16%
Total Liberal	28%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	21%
Very conservative	12%
Total Conservative	33%
Not sure	10%

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

Liberal	28%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	33%
Not sure	10%

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

Very liberal	44%
Somewhat liberal	23%
Total Liberal	67%
Moderate	14%
Somewhat conservative	4%
Very conservative	3%
Total Conservative	7%
Not sure	12%

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

Very liberal	1%
Somewhat liberal	2%
Total Liberal	4%
Moderate	9%
Somewhat conservative	28%
Very conservative	46%
Total Conservative	74%
Not sure	13%

37. Would you say Donald Trump is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	2%
Total Liberal	5%
Moderate	10%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	37%
Total Conservative	66%
Not sure	19%

38. Would you describe the Democratic Party as being more...?

United	25%
Divided	51%
Not sure	24%

39. Would you describe the Republican Party as being more...?

United	47%
Divided	30%
Not sure	23%

40. Regardless of whether you agree with them, how effective is the leadership of the Democratic Party?

Very effective	7%
Somewhat effective	19%
Not very effective	29%
Not at all effective	31%
Not sure	14%

41. Regardless of whether you agree with them, how effective is the leadership of the Republican Party?

Very effective	18%
Somewhat effective	34%
Not very effective	17%
Not at all effective	18%
Not sure	14%

42. Which of these words would you [use / definitely not use] to describe the Democratic Party? Select all that apply.

	Would use to describe the Democratic Party	Would definitely not use to describe the Democratic Party	Neither
Compassionate	29%	25%	46%
Corrupt	39%	18%	43%
Evil	27%	30%	43%
Extreme	33%	22%	45%
Intolerant	27%	19%	54%
Optimistic	21%	20%	60%
Out-of-touch	45%	13%	42%
Pragmatic	12%	13%	75%
Principled	21%	26%	54%
Trustworthy	20%	36%	44%
Weak	41%	12%	47%
Woke	39%	8%	54%

43. Which of these words would you [use / definitely not use] to describe the Republican Party? Select all that apply.

	Would use to describe the Republican Party	Would definitely not use to describe the Republican Party	Neither
Compassionate	19%	38%	43%
Corrupt	47%	13%	40%
Evil	32%	26%	42%
Extreme	40%	15%	46%
Intolerant	37%	14%	48%
Optimistic	25%	21%	54%
Out-of-touch	38%	15%	47%
Pragmatic	15%	13%	72%
Principled	27%	27%	46%
Trustworthy	19%	39%	42%
Weak	22%	20%	57%
Woke	4%	39%	57%

44. Have you ever voted for a Democrat?

Yes	63%
No	37%

45. Have you ever voted for a Republican?

Yes	57%
No	43%

46. In the past, how often have you voted for a Democrat?

Usually	32%
Occasionally	19%
Rarely	13%
Never	37%

47. In the past, how often have you voted for a Republican?

Usually	31%
Occasionally	15%
Rarely	11%
Never	43%

48. In the future, how often do you think you will vote for a Democrat?

Usually	34%
Occasionally	15%
Rarely	17%
Never	35%

49. In the future, how often do you think you will vote for a Republican?

Usually	33%
Occasionally	13%
Rarely	17%
Never	38%

50. 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	37%
The Republican Party candidate	33%
Other	2%
Not sure	11%
I would not vote	16%

51. Which party do you think is more likely to win majority control of the U.S. House of Representatives in 2026?

The Democratic Party	27%
The Republican Party	39%
Not sure	34%

52. In the 2028 presidential election, are you more likely to vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?

Definitely will vote for the Democratic candidate	29%
Probably will vote for the Democratic candidate	8%
Equally likely to vote for either candidate	4%
Probably will vote for the Republican candidate	8%
Definitely will vote for the Republican candidate	25%
Will not vote for either candidate	13%
Not sure	13%

53. Regardless of how you'll vote, which party do you think is more likely to win the 2028 presidential election?

The Democratic Party	26%
The Republican Party	36%
Not sure	37%

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

Getting better	19%
About the same	21%
Getting worse	55%
Not sure	5%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	16%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	38%
Not sure	5%

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

Better off financially	28%
Just about the same as now	29%
Worse off financially	29%
Not sure	14%

57. Do you think Donald Trump's approach to immigration policy is...?

Too harsh	50%
About right	35%
Too soft	8%
Not sure	8%

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

Yes	65%
No	19%
Not sure	16%

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

Yes	37%
No	49%
Not sure	15%

60. Should federal immigration agents be allowed to stop people based solely on factors such as their race or ethnicity, language, or field of work?

Should be allowed	19%
Should not be allowed	66%
Not sure	16%

61. Should Americans be required to carry proof of their citizenship — such as a passport or birth certificate?

Should be required	19%
Should not be required	65%
Not sure	16%

62. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

63. 2024 Presidential Vote

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

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

Democrat	29%
Republican	31%
Independent	27%
Other	5%
Not sure	8%

65. 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	19%
Lean Republican	8%
Not very strong Republican	11%
Strong Republican	19%
Not sure	3%
Don't know	0%

66. Do you identify as a MAGA Republican?

Asked of Republicans

Yes	55%
No	37%
Not sure	8%

67. Are you...?

Male	48%
Female	52%

68. Respondent age by category

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

69. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

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

71. What is your marital status?

Married	36%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	5%
Never married	40%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	16%
No	84%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	15%
Midwest	22%
South	40%
West	23%

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

Under \$50K	39%
\$50-100K	30%
\$100K or more	20%
Prefer not to say	11%

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

More than once a week	6%
Once a week	14%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	21%
Never	39%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	28%
No	72%

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

Several times a day	24%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	10%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	9%
Seldom	13%
Never	24%
Don't know	5%

78. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	32%
Roman Catholic	18%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	0%
Buddhist	0%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	7%
Nothing in particular	24%
Something else	8%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	September 12 - 15, 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	1,814 started the survey after screenouts. 151 were deleted due to breakoffs, 53 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 10 were removed for attention check failures, and 33 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,567 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 6.574, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 1.044.
Number of respondents	1567 1420 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.6% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	5 questions not reported.