

The Economist/YouGov Poll

May 1 - 4, 2026 - 1573 U.S. Adult citizens



Sample 1573 U.S. Adult citizens
 Conducted May 1 - 4, 2026
 Margin of Error ±3.4%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	28%
Off on the wrong track	61%
Not sure	10%

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	64%
Not too significant	14%
Not sure	22%

3. Do you support or oppose the war with Iran?

Support	28%
Oppose	60%
Strongly support	13%
Somewhat support	15%
Somewhat oppose	16%
Strongly oppose	44%
Not sure	12%

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

Approve	36%
Disapprove	58%
Strongly approve	20%
Somewhat approve	16%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	48%
Not sure	6%

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

	Approve	Disapprove	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Jobs and the economy	34%	58%	15%	19%	10%	48%	7%
Inflation/prices	25%	69%	11%	14%	15%	54%	6%
Taxes and government spending	33%	60%	16%	17%	12%	48%	7%

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the situation in Iran?

Approve	31%
Disapprove	60%
Strongly approve	17%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	47%
No opinion	10%

7. In general, do you think it's safe for presidents to attend events outside of the White House?

Safe	48%
Not safe	26%
Not sure	26%

8. Last Saturday, a person attempted to assassinate President Trump at an event held at a hotel in Washington, D.C. How well do you think the Secret Service is doing its job to protect the president?

Excellent	17%
Good	29%
Fair	22%
Poor	18%
Not sure	14%

9. Do you think President Trump is more or less at risk of assassination than other recent presidents?

Trump is more at risk	64%
About the same	31%
Trump is less at risk	6%

10. To what extent, if at all, do you think rhetoric by President Trump's political opponents is responsible for attempted assassinations of him?

A great deal	31%
Some	19%
A little	15%
Not at all	34%

11. 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	25%
Oppose	55%
Not sure	20%

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

Gifts from donors	41%
Funds appropriated by Congress	9%
Neither	36%
Not sure	14%

13. If you had to choose between using gifts from donors or funds appropriated by Congress, which do you think would be a better way to pay for the White House ballroom?

Gifts from donors	62%
Funds appropriated by Congress	16%
Not sure	22%

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the new passport design shown below?

Respondents were shown a mockup of Trump's proposed new passport design

Approve	14%
Disapprove	63%
Strongly approve	7%
Somewhat approve	7%
Neither approve nor disapprove	23%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	52%

15. (When you renew your passport / If you needed to get a passport), which of the following designs would you pick?

Respondents were shown pictures of each passport design

Old Passport Design	84%
Trump Passport Design	16%

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

Favor the death penalty	49%
Opposed to the death penalty	26%
Not sure	25%

17. If the death penalty has to be imposed, which of the following methods of executing a person do you think should be used?

	Should be used	Should not be used	Not sure
Lethal injection	66%	16%	18%
Firing squad	30%	52%	18%
Hanging	23%	63%	15%
Electrocution	28%	52%	20%

18. First, currently does Congress have more men than women?

Many more men than women	49%
A few more men than women	14%
About equal numbers of men than women	7%
A few more women than men	1%
Many more women than men	1%
Not sure	28%

19. How important do you think it is for Congress to have similar numbers of men and women?

Very important	27%
Somewhat important	25%
Slightly important	19%
Not important at all	29%

20. Do you think that the proportion of African-American members of Congress is higher or lower than their proportion in the population?

Much higher proportion in Congress	2%
Somewhat higher proportion in Congress	4%
About the same proportion in Congress and the population	15%
Somewhat lower proportion in Congress	22%
Much lower proportion in Congress	32%
Not sure	25%

21. How important do you think it is for Congress to have a similar proportion of African-American members to the proportion of African-Americans in the population?

Very important	27%
Somewhat important	26%
Slightly important	21%
Not important at all	26%

22. Do you think that most whites are willing to vote for African-American candidates in elections?

Yes	41%
No	29%
Not sure	30%

23. Should states be allowed to draw congressional districts in a way that helps minority candidates get elected?

Yes	25%
No	43%
Not sure	32%

24. 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	38%
The Republican Party candidate	34%
Other	2%
Not sure	14%
I would not vote	13%

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

Total Excellent/Good	24%
Total Fair/Poor	73%
Excellent	4%
Good	20%
Fair	30%
Poor	43%
Don't know	3%

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

Getting better	15%
About the same	19%
Getting worse	61%
Not sure	5%

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

Unemployment	5%
Inflation	42%
Both equal	49%
Not sure	4%

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

Higher	59%
About the same	15%
Lower	13%
Not sure	13%

29. Are gas prices where you live going up or going down?

Going up a lot	61%
Going up a little	25%
No change	5%
Going down a little	3%
Going down a lot	0%
Not sure	6%

30. Are the prices you pay for groceries going up or down?

Going up a lot	44%
Going up a little	35%
No change	13%
Going down a little	3%
Going down a lot	0%
Not sure	5%

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

Yes	37%
No	32%
Not sure	31%

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

Very likely	7%
Somewhat likely	17%
Not very likely	14%
Not at all likely	6%
Not sure	19%
Not asked - Already in a recession	37%

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

Good time	22%
Bad time	27%
Not sure	52%

34. How would you describe your social class?

Working class	46%
Middle class	42%
Upper middle class	11%
Wealthy	1%

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

Better off financially than you were a year ago	14%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	43%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	38%
Not sure	6%

36. 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	35%
Worse off financially	27%
Not sure	15%

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

Full-time	34%
Part-time	13%
Temporarily laid off	1%
Unemployed	11%
Retired	21%
Permanently disabled	7%
Homemaker	5%
Student	6%
Other	2%

38. How happy are you with your current job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very happy	16%
Happy	42%
Neither happy nor unhappy	30%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	5%

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

Less than \$10,000	7%
\$10,000 - \$19,999	8%
\$20,000 - \$29,999	9%
\$30,000 - \$39,999	10%
\$40,000 - \$49,999	6%
\$50,000 - \$59,999	7%
\$60,000 - \$69,999	5%
\$70,000 - \$79,999	7%
\$80,000 - \$99,999	8%
\$100,000 - \$119,999	6%
\$120,000 - \$149,999	6%
\$150,000 - \$199,999	5%
\$200,000 - \$249,999	3%
\$250,000 - \$349,999	2%
\$350,000 - \$499,999	0%
\$500,000 or more	1%
Prefer not to say	12%

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

Under \$50K	40%
\$50-100K	27%
\$100K or more	22%
Prefer not to say	12%

41. 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	8%
Slightly more	27%
About the same	41%
Slightly less	8%
Much less	5%
Not sure	10%

42. How worried are you about losing your job?

Asked of those currently employed

Very worried	7%
Somewhat worried	29%
Not very worried	64%

43. 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.	27%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	41%
Not very hard	22%
Not sure	9%

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

Very easy	16%
Somewhat easy	19%
Somewhat difficult	26%
Very difficult	20%
Impossible	19%

45. 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	53%
Should not	24%
Not sure	23%

46. Do you think the amount that billionaires are currently taxed in the U.S. is too high or too low?

Much too high	3%
Somewhat too high	5%
About right	17%
Somewhat too low	16%
Much too low	43%
Not sure	16%

47. 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	13%
About the same	16%
Worse off	52%
Not sure	20%

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

How hard they work	17%
Whether they come from a privileged background	37%
Equally important	33%
Not sure	12%

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

Inflation/prices	31%
Jobs and the economy	15%
Health care	9%
Taxes and government spending	7%
Immigration	7%
Climate change and the environment	6%
Civil rights	5%
National Security	4%
Civil liberties	3%
Crime	3%
Abortion	3%
Education	3%
Guns	2%
Criminal justice reform	1%
Foreign policy	1%

50. 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	16%	17%	26%	13%	20%	8%
Veterans	34%	32%	22%	3%	1%	7%
Education	39%	24%	19%	4%	7%	7%
The environment	30%	22%	23%	7%	11%	7%
Foreign aid	10%	11%	23%	18%	29%	10%

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

Total Liberal	30%
Total Conservative	32%
Very liberal	15%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	29%
Conservative	22%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	9%

52. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

53. 2024 Presidential Vote

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

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

Democrat	29%
Republican	31%
Independent	30%
Other	4%
Not sure	6%

55. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	22%
Not very strong Democrat	7%
Lean Democrat	12%
Independent	18%
Lean Republican	7%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	21%
Not sure	3%

56. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	23%
No	68%
Not sure	10%

57. Are you... ?

Male	48%
Female	52%

58. Respondent age by category

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

59. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

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

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

HS or less	36%
Some college	29%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	12%

61. What is your marital status?

Married	36%
Separated	1%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	6%
Never married	39%
Domestic / civil partnership	6%

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

Yes	18%
No	82%

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

Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	39%
West	22%

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

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	16%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	10%
Seldom	19%
Never	38%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

66. 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	12%
A few times a week	10%
Once a week	2%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	14%
Never	24%
Don't know	5%

67. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	26%
Roman Catholic	23%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	9%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	20%
Something else	11%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	May 1 - 4, 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	2,112 started the survey after screenouts. 237 were deleted due to breakoffs, 35 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 4 were removed for attention check failures, and 62 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,774 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 6.1, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.914.
Number of respondents	1573 1409 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	± 3.4% (adjusted for weighting) ± 3.3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	10 questions not reported.