

The Economist/YouGov Poll

October 19–20, 2026 - 1501 U.S. Registered Voters



Sample 1501 U.S. Registered Voters

Conducted October 19–20, 2026

Margin of Error $\pm 3\%$

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

Generally headed in the right direction	28%
Off on the wrong track	66%
Not sure	6%

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

Categorized from open-ended responses

Inflation	25%
The economy	13%
Presidential leadership	13%
Immigration	10%
Political polarization	8%
Corruption and waste	7%
Foreign policy	4%
Democracy and the rule of law	4%
Civil rights	3%
Taxes and government spending	2%
Inequality	2%
Social values	2%
Crime	2%
Healthcare	1%
The environment	1%
Education	0%
Media	0%
Other	2%

3. If you could send just one of the following messages to government, which would it be?

Help me out	49%
Leave me alone	30%
Not sure	21%

4. Which comes closest to your view?

Our lives are threatened by terrorists, criminals, and illegal immigrants and our priority should be to protect ourselves.	37%
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.	53%
Not sure	10%

5. Which of these is the MOST important to you?

A happy family life	63%
A fulfilling career	4%
The opportunity to develop as an individual	22%
Making a lot of money	11%

6. Which of these is the LEAST important to you?

A happy family life	5%
A fulfilling career	31%
The opportunity to develop as an individual	15%
Making a lot of money	49%

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

Going up a lot	42%
Going up a little	24%
Not changing	12%
Going down a little	15%
Going down a lot	1%
Not sure	4%

8. Why do you think gas prices have risen?

Asked of those who say gas prices are going up, categorized open-ended responses into a multiple-choice question

Iran war	41%
President Trump	18%
War in general	17%
Corporate greed or price gouging	9%
Bad economic or energy policy	7%
Global oil market	7%
Tariffs and trade policy	6%
Supply chain issues	6%
Government incompetence or corruption	5%
State taxes and regulations	3%
General price increase / personal observation	3%
Russia/Ukraine conflict	2%
Other	12%

9. Why do you think gas prices have gone down?

Asked of those who say gas prices are going down, categorized open-ended responses into a multiple-choice question

Government market action	15%
Easing of conflict in Middle East and Iran	13%
Prices are down a little locally, but remain high	13%
Greater supply	13%
Crude oil pricing	12%
Trump or Republican leadership	9%
Lower demand or seasonal slowdown	8%
Normal market fluctuation	7%
Foreign oil deals	5%
Election-related price move	5%
Biden and Democrats not being in office anymore	2%
Other	10%
Don't know	18%

10. What do you think causes gas prices to change?

Asked of those who say gas prices are not changing or not sure, categorized open-ended responses into a multiple-choice question

War and military conflict	32%
Corporate greed and price gouging	16%
Government policy and regulation	15%
Foreign policy and geopolitics	14%
Supply and demand	13%
Crude oil prices	11%
President or party leadership	10%
Many different factors	9%
OPEC and oil companies	7%
Refining and production capacity	6%
Inflation	5%
Market speculation	5%
Distribution or other operating costs	3%
Uncertainty and panic	2%
Other	12%

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

Total Approve	40%
Total Disapprove	59%
Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	18%
Somewhat disapprove	9%
Strongly disapprove	50%
Not sure	1%

12. Do you think America's standing in the world has improved or worsened since Donald Trump became president again in 2025?

Improved	30%
Stayed about the same	10%
Worsened	56%
Not sure	4%

13. Which of the following do you think has been the best White House press secretary under President Donald Trump?

Karoline Leavitt	21%
Katie Zacharia	1%
Kayleigh McEnany	7%
Stephanie Grisham	1%
Sarah Huckabee Sanders	8%
Sean Spicer	1%
None of them	39%
Not sure	21%

14. Which of the following do you think has been the worst White House press secretary under President Donald Trump?

Karoline Leavitt	10%
Katie Zacharia	20%
Kayleigh McEnany	2%
Stephanie Grisham	3%
Sarah Huckabee Sanders	5%
Sean Spicer	6%
None of them	12%
Not sure	41%

15. Which party do you think would do a better job handling inflation?

Democrats	41%
Republicans	34%
No difference	18%
Not sure	7%

16. Which party do you think would do a better job handling immigration?

Democrats	39%
Republicans	45%
No difference	10%
Not sure	6%

17. Which party do you think would do a better job keeping us out of wars?

Democrats	46%
Republicans	22%
No difference	25%
Not sure	7%

18. Which party do you think would do a better job handling transgender rights?

Democrats	52%
Republicans	23%
No difference	14%
Not sure	11%

19. Which party do you think would do a better job eliminating corruption in government?

Democrats	35%
Republicans	34%
No difference	25%
Not sure	6%

20. How much confidence do you have in each of the following institutions?

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
Department of War	17%	19%	22%	42%
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	13%	22%	34%	32%
United Nations (UN)	12%	18%	32%	38%
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	14%	19%	28%	40%
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	10%	17%	41%	32%
The news media	7%	13%	30%	49%

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

Definitely will vote	67%
Probably will vote	9%
Maybe will vote	4%
Probably will not vote	3%
Definitely will not vote	3%
Don't know	3%
I have already voted	12%

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

Asked of those who said they 'Definitely will vote', 'Probably will vote', or 'Already voted'

In person early, before Election Day	26%
In person on Election Day	41%
By mail or absentee ballot, sending it back by mail or post office	18%
By mail or absentee ballot, returning it at a vote center, elections dropbox or other official voting site	13%
Not sure	2%

23. 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	15%
About the same	40%
Not sure	5%

24. 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	43%
The Republican candidate	42%
Other	3%
Not sure	4%
I will not vote	7%

25. 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	82%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	7%
Undecided	4%
Nonvoter	7%

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

Democratic Party	40%
Republican Party	36%
Not sure	24%

27. 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	45%
The Republican candidate	40%
Other	2%
Not sure	6%
I will not vote	6%

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

My mind is made up	81%
Would consider voting for a different candidate	7%
Undecided	6%
Nonvoter	6%

29. 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	39%
Somewhat dissatisfied	16%
Completely dissatisfied	10%
Not sure	18%

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

Democratic Party	46%
Republican Party	31%
Not sure	23%

31. Even though this is not an election for president, does it feel to you like Donald Trump is on the ballot?

Yes	55%
No	35%
Not sure	11%

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

A great deal	18%
Quite a bit	18%
A moderate amount	31%
Only a little	18%
None at all	10%
Not sure	6%

33. Different people feel differently about voting. For some, voting is a duty - they feel they should vote in every election no matter how they feel about the candidates and parties. For others voting is a choice - they feel free to vote or not to vote, depending on how they feel about the candidates and parties. For you personally, is voting mainly a duty or a choice?

Mainly a duty	57%
Mainly a choice	34%
Neither	9%

34. Political parties try to talk to as many people as they can to get them to vote for their candidate. Has anyone from one of the campaigns or political parties contacted you about voting in the 2026 election?

Yes	39%
No	53%
Not sure	8%

35. Who contacted you? Check all that apply.

Asked of those contacted by a campaign or party

Somebody associated with the Democrats	67%
Somebody associated with the Republicans	64%
Other	5%
Not sure	7%

36. What is the most important factor for you in deciding how to vote in this election?

Categorized open-ended responses into a single-choice question

Party control and partisan preference	16%
Policy issues and government action	11%
Trump influence	9%
Ideology and broad political direction	8%
Economy and cost of living	8%
Character, honesty, and values	7%
Voting process or ability to vote	7%
Candidate qualifications and performance	5%
Representation and helping ordinary people	5%
Democracy, Constitution, and rights	5%
Corruption, ethics, and accountability	3%
Anti-establishment, dissatisfaction, or lesser-evil voting	2%
Other	13%

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

Categorized open-ended responses into a multiple-choice question

Election fraud and cheating	17%
Trump interfering	16%
Unwanted election outcome	13%
Rigged and unfair elections	8%
Refusal to accept election results	8%
Voter suppression and intimidation	8%
Ineligible voting	7%
Outside influence	7%
Integrity of vote counting and voting machines	5%
Political violence and unrest	5%
Other	4%
No worries	22%

38. 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	43%	40%	21%	22%	10%	29%	17%
Senator 2	44%	40%	22%	22%	12%	27%	16%
[Incumbent Candidate in Respondent's Congressional District]	45%	34%	24%	22%	12%	22%	21%

39. 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
Ilhan Omar	31%	43%	16%	15%	7%	35%	26%

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

	Total Favorable	Total Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Vladimir Putin	9%	81%	2%	7%	16%	64%	10%
Volodymyr Zelensky	52%	30%	29%	22%	15%	15%	18%

41. Do you feel like you made the right choice in the 2024 presidential election, or do you regret your vote?

Among people who voted for president in 2024

Made the right choice	91%
Regret my vote	4%
Not sure	4%

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

Total Excellent/Good	24%
Total Fair/Poor	75%
Excellent	4%
Good	20%
Fair	26%
Poor	49%
Don't know	1%

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

Getting better	18%
About the same	21%
Getting worse	59%
Not sure	3%

44. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? There are only two genders, male and female.

Total Agree	70%
Total Disagree	25%
Strongly agree	59%
Somewhat agree	11%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	15%
Not sure	5%

45. How worried are you that a shooting could happen at a school in your area?

Very worried	20%
Somewhat worried	28%
Slightly worried	33%
Not worried at all	19%

46. Which view is closer to yours?

Government can prevent further school shootings	50%
Shootings will recur regardless of government actions	40%
Not sure	10%

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

More strict	59%
No change	22%
Less strict	13%
Not sure	6%

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

Inflation/prices	34%
Jobs and the economy	12%
Health care	7%
Immigration	11%
Taxes and government spending	9%
National Security	5%
Civil rights	4%
Climate change and the environment	4%
Civil liberties	4%
Guns	2%
Abortion	4%
Crime	2%
Education	2%
Foreign policy	1%
Criminal justice reform	0%

49. Do you think the United States should take an active part in world affairs or stay out of world affairs?

Active part	49%
Stay out	33%
Not sure	18%

50. In general, do you think the U.S. has a responsibility to actively promote democracy around the world?

Has responsibility	49%
Does not have responsibility	34%
Not sure	18%

51. Do you think the U.S. should increase or decrease trade with foreign countries?

Increase	41%
Decrease	14%
Keep it the same	28%
Not sure	18%

52. Do you think that tariffs on foreign goods imported into the U.S. should be increased or decreased?

Increased	14%
Kept the same	22%
Decreased	50%
Not sure	14%

53. Among the world's countries, would you say that the United States is...?

The greatest	30%
Among the greatest	23%
Above average	10%
About average	8%
Below average	12%
Among the worst	8%
The worst	2%
Not sure	6%

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

	Ally	Friendly	Unfriendly	Enemy	Not sure
Iran	1%	3%	19%	63%	13%
Saudi Arabia	13%	30%	21%	12%	24%
Russia	3%	7%	30%	48%	13%
Ukraine	30%	35%	12%	6%	17%
Somalia	3%	9%	22%	27%	39%

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

Russia	3%
Ukraine	66%
Neither	24%
Not sure	7%

56. In the conflict between Russia and Ukraine, who do you think Donald Trump sympathizes with more?

Russia	45%
Ukraine	16%
Neither	23%
Not sure	16%

57. Do you think the U.S. should send military aid to Ukraine?

Yes	46%
No	34%
Not sure	19%

58. Do you think the U.S. should share military intelligence with Ukraine?

Yes	51%
No	31%
Not sure	19%

59. In the war between Russia and Ukraine, who do you think will win?

Russia will win	15%
Ukraine will win	14%
Neither side will win	47%
Not sure	24%

60. How much longer do you think the war between Russia and Ukraine will last?

Less than a month	1%
A month or two	1%
Two to six months	4%
Six months to a year	9%
One to two years	17%
Two to five years	14%
More than five years	10%
Not sure	44%

61. Who do you think more wants to make a deal to end the war in Ukraine?

Vladimir Putin	9%
Volodymyr Zelensky	45%
Both equally	13%
Not sure	33%

62. President Donald Trump recently said, "If you tell me that Zelensky is again shooting at refineries, all he's doing is making the world oil price higher. I think that's a disgrace. There's plenty of other targets; they don't have to hit." Do you agree or disagree?

Total Agree	39%
Total Disagree	44%
Strongly agree	19%
Somewhat agree	20%
Somewhat disagree	10%
Strongly disagree	34%
Not sure	17%

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

Total Liberal	30%
Total Conservative	38%
Very liberal	12%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	25%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	5%

64. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	100%
Not registered	0%

65. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	42%
Donald Trump	43%
Other	2%
Did not vote for President	14%

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

Democrat	33%
Republican	36%
Independent	25%
Other	2%
Not sure	3%

67. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	27%
Not very strong Democrat	6%
Lean Democrat	12%
Independent	11%
Lean Republican	7%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Strong Republican	26%
Not sure	1%

68. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	28%
No	65%
Not sure	7%

69. Are you...?

Male	47%
Female	53%

70. Respondent age by category

Under 30	17%
30-44	24%
45-64	32%
65+	27%

71. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	69%
Black	11%
Hispanic	12%
Other	8%

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

HS or less	30%
Some college	31%
College grad	23%
Postgrad	15%

73. What is your marital status?

Married	43%
Separated	1%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	6%
Never married	31%
Domestic / civil partnership	6%

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

Yes	23%
No	77%

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

Under \$50K	36%
\$50-100K	32%
\$100K or more	24%
Prefer not to say	8%

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

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	19%
Once or twice a month	5%
A few times a year	12%
Seldom	22%
Never	33%
Don't know	2%

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

Yes	33%
No	67%

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

Several times a day	30%
Once a day	12%
A few times a week	13%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	14%
Never	19%
Don't know	3%

79. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	31%
Roman Catholic	18%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	0%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	19%
Something else	13%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	October 19–20, 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	2,815 started the survey after screenouts. 798 were deleted due to breakoffs, 75 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 28 were removed for attention check failures, and 273 were removed for data quality control. 1,501 of the 1,641 respondents in the cleaned sample reported that they were currently registered to vote.
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 0.113 to 7.088, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.636.
Number of respondents	1501
Margin of error	± 3% (adjusted for weighting)
Likely Voter Screen	"Strict" indicates a respondent who indicated that they "Definitely will vote" or "Already voted". "Loose" indicates a respondent who indicated that they either "Definitely will vote", "Probably will vote", or "Already voted".
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	0 questions not reported.