The Economist/YouGov Poll
November 20–23, 2026 - 1623 U.S. Citizens

YouGov

Sample	1623 U.S. Citizens
Conducted	November 20–23, 2026
Margin of Error	±2.9%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	23%
Off on the wrong track	65%
Not sure	11%

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

Categorized from open-ended responses

Inflation	23%
The economy	14%
Presidential leadership	10%
Corruption and waste	10%
Political polarization	8%
Immigration	7%
Foreign policy	4%
Democracy and the rule of law	4%
Inequality	3%
Civil rights	3%
Crime	3%
Social values	2%
Taxes and government spending	2%
Healthcare	2%
The environment	1%
Education	0%
Media	0%
Other	3%

3. Which comes closest to your view?

Our lives are threatened by terrorists, criminals, and illegal immigrants and our priority should be to protect ourselves.	34%
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.	52%
Not sure	13%

4. 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
Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.	**36%**	**49%**	15%	22%	12%	37%	15%
Mark Kelly	**32%**	**23%**	18%	14%	10%	13%	45%
Ted Cruz	**32%**	**48%**	13%	18%	12%	36%	21%
Jon Ossoff	**28%**	**18%**	16%	12%	9%	9%	54%

5. Which party do you think would do a better job handling foreign policy?

Democrats	39%
Republicans	31%
No difference	17%
Not sure	13%

6. Which party do you think would do a better job handling the economy?

Democrats	40%
Republicans	30%
No difference	19%
Not sure	11%

7. Which party do you think would do a better job handling crime?

Democrats	30%
Republicans	38%
No difference	20%
Not sure	12%

8. Which party do you think would do a better job handling taxes and government spending?

Democrats	37%
Republicans	30%
No difference	21%
Not sure	11%

9. Who would you rather have as the leader of the Democrats in the U.S. Senate?

Chuck Schumer	14%
Chris Van Hollen	28%
Not sure	59%

10. Why do you think Democrats won control of both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate in the 2026 midterm elections?

Categorized from open-ended responses into a multiple choice question

Voters fed up with Trump	26%
Economic concerns	21%
Republican Party incompetence	13%
Desire for change	12%
Backlash against foreign wars	12%
Democratic Party appeal driving turnout	9%
Election fraud	9%
Government corruption	9%
Broken promises	7%
Misinformed voters	6%
Immigration enforcement	3%
Protecting democracy	3%
Other	6%
Don't know	10%

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

Total Approve	**33%**
Total Disapprove	**63%**
Strongly approve	16%
Somewhat approve	17%
Somewhat disapprove	13%
Strongly disapprove	51%
Not sure	4%

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

Improved	23%
Stayed about the same	12%
Worsened	57%
Not sure	7%

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

	A great deal	Quite a lot	Some	Very little
U.S. Department of War	13%	16%	28%	43%
North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)	12%	19%	39%	30%
United Nations (UN)	10%	17%	36%	36%
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)	10%	17%	32%	40%
U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)	9%	19%	44%	28%
Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)	8%	16%	40%	36%
The news media	4%	12%	33%	51%

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

Active part	47%
Stay out	29%
Not sure	24%

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

Has responsibility	44%
Does not have responsibility	33%
Not sure	23%

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

Increase	39%
Decrease	15%
Keep it the same	27%
Not sure	19%

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

Increased	13%
Kept the same	20%
Decreased	49%
Not sure	18%

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

The greatest	24%
Among the greatest	22%
Above average	11%
About average	11%
Below average	15%
Among the worst	7%
The worst	3%
Not sure	7%

19. 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%	24%	55%	16%
Israel	30%	20%	14%	14%	21%
Russia	3%	8%	28%	44%	16%
Ukraine	28%	35%	11%	6%	20%
China	4%	17%	32%	28%	19%

20. Do you think the U.S. is spending too much or too little on the war in Iran?

Too much	63%
About right	15%
Too little	5%
Don't know	16%

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

Right decision	25%
Wrong decision	57%
Not sure	18%

22. Do you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump meeting with Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin in China?

Total Approve	**38%**
Total Disapprove	**40%**
Strongly approve	18%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	29%
Not sure	22%

23. Which country do you think benefited most from the meeting between Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin?

The United States	14%
China	16%
Russia	21%
Not sure	49%

24. Should the U.S. align itself more with China or more with the European Union?

China	9%
The European Union	46%
Neither	19%
Not sure	26%

25. Would you support or oppose an agreement among the United States, Russia, and China to reduce their numbers of nuclear weapons?

Support	**72%**
Oppose	**6%**
Strongly support	43%
Somewhat support	29%
Somewhat oppose	3%
Strongly oppose	3%
Not sure	22%

26. Would you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un?

Total Approve	**37%**
Total Disapprove	**37%**
Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	22%
Somewhat disapprove	11%
Strongly disapprove	25%
Not sure	27%

27. Do you think Donald Trump's relationship with Vladimir Putin is a good thing for the United States or a bad thing for the United States?

Good thing	30%
Bad thing	42%
Not sure	28%

28. Do you think Donald Trump generally gets along better with dictators or democratically-elected leaders?

Better with democratically-elected leaders	7%
Better with dictators	43%
No difference	32%
Not sure	18%

29. Do you think the world is better off when...?

The most powerful countries make the decisions	11%
All countries have a say	68%
Not sure	21%

30. An attack on one NATO member is considered to be an attack on all NATO members. If a NATO member is attacked, do you think the U.S. should defend that member?

Should defend it	62%
Should not defend it	9%
Not sure	29%

31. Should the United States be willing to use military force if Russia attacks any of the countries listed below?

	The United States should be willing to use military force to help defend this country	The United States should not be willing to use military force to help defend this country	Don't know
Poland	56%	13%	32%
Estonia	36%	16%	48%
Ukraine	43%	25%	32%

32. How would you rate the overall safety record of airline travel in the U.S.?

Excellent	25%
Good	48%
Only fair	20%
Poor	6%

33. Do you favor or oppose the Modern Skies Act, which would allocate $30 billion to airport upgrades and modernization of air traffic control systems?

Total Favor	**65%**
Total Oppose	**12%**
Strongly favor	35%
Somewhat favor	30%
Somewhat oppose	8%
Strongly oppose	5%
Not sure	23%

34. Recently, the Trump administration halted all flights in the U.S. due to problems with air traffic control systems. Do you approve or disapprove of how the Trump administration handled this incident?

Total Approve	**47%**
Total Disapprove	**32%**
Strongly approve	22%
Somewhat approve	25%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	20%
Not sure	21%

35. Do you think the problems with air traffic control were caused by a cyberattack by bad actors?

Yes	25%
No	31%
Not sure	44%

36. Do you think major technology outages affecting services have occurred more or less than usual in the last few weeks?

Much more often	35%
Somewhat more often	31%
About as often as usual	13%
Somewhat less often	2%
Much less often	1%
Not sure	17%

37. Do you think the technology outages in the last few weeks are related or just coincidences?

Related	53%
Coincidences	20%
Not sure	27%

38. How worried are you about major cyberattacks on computer systems in the United States?

Very worried	27%
Somewhat worried	38%
Slightly worried	26%
Not worried at all	9%

39. Do you think artificial intelligence (AI) is advancing too quickly or too slowly?

Too quickly	69%
About the right pace	18%
Too slowly	3%
Don't know	11%

40. Do you think government regulation of AI should be increased or decreased?

Increased	60%
Kept the same	17%
Decreased	10%
Not sure	13%

41. How capable do you think AI is now at conducting scientific research, compared to people who do it professionally?

Much better than people	6%
Somewhat better than people	18%
About equal to people	17%
Somewhat worse than people	19%
Much worse than people	15%
Not sure	25%

42. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following companies?

	Total Favorable	Total Unfavorable	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
OpenAI	**30%**	**43%**	7%	23%	17%	26%	27%
Nvidia	**24%**	**36%**	6%	18%	15%	21%	40%
Anthropic	**23%**	**35%**	6%	17%	14%	20%	43%

43. How safe do you think vaccines generally are?

Very safe	46%
Somewhat safe	32%
Not very safe	10%
Not at all safe	6%
Not sure	6%

44. Do children in the U.S. today receive too many or too few vaccines?

Too many	20%
About the right amount	50%
Too few	18%
Not sure	12%

45. Have you ever received a measles vaccine?

Yes	73%
No	12%
Not sure	15%

46. How worried are you personally about someone in your household experiencing measles?

Very worried	5%
Somewhat worried	10%
Not too worried	35%
Not worried at all	50%

47. Do you plan to celebrate Thanksgiving this year?

Yes	84%
No	16%

48. What is your favorite food to eat at Thanksgiving?

Categorized from open-ended responses into a multiple choice question

Turkey	29%
Stuffing	23%
Pie	13%
Potato dishes	9%
Mac and cheese	5%
Ham	4%
Sweet potato dishes	4%
Gravy	4%
Cranberry sauce	4%
Green bean casserole	3%
Vegetable sides	3%
Everything / the whole meal	3%
Other	15%
No favorite or not celebrating Thanksgiving	3%

49. Have your Thanksgiving plans for this year been affected by price increases?

Yes	28%
No	49%
Not sure	6%
Not asked - will not celebrate Thanksgiving this year	17%

50. This year, do you expect that there will be arguments about politics at your Thanksgiving celebration?

Yes	9%
No	71%
Prefer not to say	4%
Not asked - will not celebrate Thanksgiving this year	17%

51. As far as you know, are the people who will be attending your Thanksgiving celebration mostly liberal or conservative?

More liberal than conservative	21%
About equally liberal and conservative	20%
More conservative than liberal	23%
Not sure	19%
Not asked - will not celebrate Thanksgiving this year	16%

52. Do you personally plan on doing any shopping in a store on the Friday after Thanksgiving?

Yes	11%
Maybe	28%
No	60%

53. What are you most thankful for this year?

Family	45%
Health	36%
Financial stability	10%
Good fortune	9%
Faith in God	8%
Friends	7%
Feeling loved or supported	4%
Personal growth	3%
Democratic election wins	3%
President Trump	1%
Freedom	1%
Other	3%
Nothing	4%

54. How often do you play video games?

Every day or almost every day	22%
A few times a week	16%
A few times a month	7%
Less often	14%
Never	41%

55. What are your favorite video games?

Asked of those who play video games, categorized from open-ended responses into a multiple choice question

Call of Duty	10%
Grand Theft Auto	8%
Candy Crush	5%
Minecraft	6%
Super Mario	4%
The Legend of Zelda	4%
Solitaire	3%
Fortnite	3%
Don't know	1%
No favorite	6%
Other	69%

56. Have you played Grand Theft Auto VI?

Yes	7%
No, but I plan to	18%
No, and I don't plan to	73%
Not sure	2%

57. The Grand Theft Auto series involves stealing cars and committing violence in a simulated city. Grand Theft Auto VI adds optional missions where its main character can perform chores for the other main character, his girlfriend. Do you think these added missions make the game better or worse?

Better	25%
Worse	15%
No effect	17%
Not sure	43%

58. Have you ever played video games when you were supposed to be working?
Asked of those who play video games

Yes	28%
No	67%
Not sure	5%

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

Total Excellent/Good	**21%**
Total Fair/Poor	**75%**
Excellent	4%
Good	17%
Fair	31%
Poor	44%
Don't know	4%

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

Getting better	15%
About the same	22%
Getting worse	57%
Not sure	6%

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

Inflation/prices	34%
Jobs and the economy	13%
Health care	10%
Immigration	7%
Taxes and government spending	7%
National Security	6%
Climate change and the environment	5%
Civil rights	4%
Crime	4%
Education	3%
Abortion	3%
Civil liberties	2%
Guns	1%
Foreign policy	1%
Criminal justice reform	1%

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

Total Liberal	**28%**
Total Conservative	**33%**
Very liberal	12%
Liberal	16%
Moderate	28%
Conservative	22%
Very conservative	11%
Not sure	11%

63. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	74%
Not registered	26%

64. 2024 Presidential Vote

Kamala Harris	31%
Donald Trump	32%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	37%

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

Democrat	33%
Republican	31%
Independent	24%
Other	5%
Not sure	6%

66. Political Party Identification

Calculated based on a series of questions about party identification

Strong Democrat	24%
Not very strong Democrat	9%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	19%
Lean Republican	7%
Not very strong Republican	11%
Strong Republican	20%
Not sure	1%
Don't know	0%

67. Are you a MAGA supporter?

Yes	21%
No	67%
Not sure	12%

68. Are you. . . ?

Male	49%
Female	51%

69. Respondent age by category

Under 30	20%
30-44	25%
45-64	31%
65+	24%

70. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	63%
Black	12%
Hispanic	14%
Other	10%

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

HS or less	36%
Some college	30%
College grad	22%
Postgrad	13%

72. What is your marital status?

Married	38%
Separated	2%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	6%
Never married	37%
Domestic / civil partnership	5%

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

Yes	20%
No	80%

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

Under $50K	40%
$50-100K	29%
$100K or more	21%
Prefer not to say	10%

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

More than once a week	10%
Once a week	16%
Once or twice a month	5%
A few times a year	9%
Seldom	19%
Never	38%
Don't know	3%

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

Yes	31%
No	69%

77. 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	11%
A few times a week	11%
Once a week	3%
A few times a month	4%
Seldom	13%
Never	25%
Don't know	3%

78. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	27%
Roman Catholic	19%
Mormon	1%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	2%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	8%
Agnostic	6%
Nothing in particular	24%
Something else	11%

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Sponsorship	*The Economist*
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	November 20–23, 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	2,285 started the survey after screenouts. 346 were deleted due to breakoffs, 49 were removed for interview completion time under 5 minutes, 16 were removed for attention check failures, and 251 were removed for data quality control. The reporting is based on the remaining 1,623 respondents.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, U.S. region of residence, 2024 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 0.081 to 5.503, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.643.
Number of respondents	1623 1360 (Registered voters)
Margin of error	$\pm$ 2.9% (adjusted for weighting) $\pm$ 3% (Registered voters)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	0 questions not reported.