

YouGov Survey: Politics and Morality



Sample 2000 U.S. Adult Citizens
 Conducted October 27 - 31, 2022
 Margin of Error ±2.4%

1. Do you believe in a God or a higher spiritual power?

I believe in a God	62%
I don't believe there is a God, but I do believe there is a higher spiritual power	15%
I don't believe in a God or a higher spiritual power	13%
Don't know	10%

2. How important is being moral to you?

Very important	69%
Somewhat important	19%
Not very important	4%
Not at all important	1%
Don't know	6%

3. Do you think moral values in the U.S. are currently...?

Very strong	3%
Strong	7%
Neither strong nor weak	19%
Weak	33%
Very weak	29%
Don't know	8%

4. And do you think moral values in the U.S. are currently...?

Strengthening	9%
Weakening	65%
No change	13%
Don't know	14%

5. Thinking about politics in the U.S., would you say it is more moral or immoral?

More moral	11%
More immoral	69%
Don't know	20%

6. How morally or immorally do you think each of these branches of the federal government is conducting their role?

	Very moral	Somewhat moral	Somewhat immoral	Very immoral	Don't know
The judiciary	8%	29%	26%	19%	18%
Congress	4%	17%	31%	32%	17%
The presidency	15%	21%	17%	33%	15%

7. How moral are each of the following groups of Americans?

	Very moral	Somewhat moral	Somewhat immoral	Very immoral	Don't know
Democrats	11%	26%	19%	30%	15%
Independents	6%	42%	19%	7%	27%
Republicans	9%	26%	20%	30%	15%

8. Which, if any, of the following two statements best reflects your view?

American politicians should make decisions that are moral, even if they do not serve the public interest	36%
American politicians should make decisions that serve the public interest, even if they are immoral	15%
Neither	31%
Don't know	17%

9. And how morally or immorally do you think the following U.S. presidents have handled their job as president?

	Very morally	Somewhat morally	Somewhat immorally	Very immorally	Don't know
Joe Biden	20%	22%	13%	32%	13%
Donald Trump	15%	20%	13%	40%	12%
Barack Obama	27%	21%	17%	22%	13%
George W. Bush	12%	37%	21%	14%	16%
Bill Clinton	8%	23%	26%	27%	15%
George H.W. Bush	15%	36%	17%	12%	19%

10. Over the period of a lifetime, do you think people generally change or do not change their views on what is morally right or wrong when it comes to politics?

People generally change their views	43%
People generally do not change their views	37%
Don't now	20%

11. When in life, if at all, do you think people change their views the most about what is right or wrong in politics?

Asked of people who say that people generally change their views on what is morally right or wrong when it comes to politics

In their teens or younger	3%
In their 20s	15%
In their 30s	28%
In their 40s	25%
In their 50s	11%
In their 60s	4%
In their 70s or older	1%
Don't know	12%

12. Now, thinking about elections. Which, if any, of the following two options best reflects your preference?

- I would prefer to elect a politician who is more effective but less moral 19%
- I would prefer to elect a politician who is more moral but less effective 26%
- Neither 40%
- Don't know 15%

13. If a politician committed tax fraud 20 years ago, but has not done anything similar since, would you consider voting for them (assuming you support their policies)?

- I would consider voting for them 45%
- I would not consider voting for them 30%
- Don't know 25%

14. If a politician accepted a bribe 20 years ago, but has not knowingly done anything similar since, would you consider voting for them (assuming you support their policies)?

- I would consider voting for them 31%
- I would not consider voting for them 43%
- Don't know 26%

15. Would you say that it is more important for judges to make decisions according to the law or according to their moral values?

- It is more important for judges to make decisions according to the law 70%
- It is more important for judges to make decisions according to their moral values 13%
- Don't know 17%

16. Generally speaking, if you considered an existing law to be unjust, do you think it would be moral or immoral to disobey it?

- It would be moral to disobey it 34%
- It would be immoral to disobey it 30%
- Don't know 36%

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Interviewing Dates	October 27 - 31, 2022 October 28 - 31, 2022
Target population	U.S. citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, geographic region, and voter registration) was selected from the 2019 American Community Survey.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 2020 election turnout and Presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. Baseline party identification is the respondent's most recent answer given prior to March 15, 2022, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (33% Democratic, 28% Republican). The weights range from 0.236 to 6.35, with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.454.
Number of respondents	2000
Margin of error	± 2.4% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	45 questions not reported.