

[SCREENERS & FRONT-END DEMOGRAPHICS]1. How old are you? **[AGE CODED INTO CATEGORIES]**

18-20	25%
21-24	34%
25-29	41%

2. Please indicate your gender:

Male	50%
Female	48%
Non-binary	1%
Other (Please specify)	<1%

3. How would you describe yourself? Please select all that apply. **[MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]**

White	62%
Hispanic or Latino	24%
Black or African American	17%
Asian	8%
American Indian or Alaska Native.....	3%
Middle Eastern or North African.....	1%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	<1%
Some other race (Please specify).....	1%

4. In what state do you live? **[STATE CODED INTO REGIONS]**

South.....	39%
West.....	24%
Midwest.....	20%
Northeast.....	17%

5. **[BASE: AGES 18-24]** Regarding school, are you currently enrolled at any of the following? If you are currently enrolled in multiple different programs, such as taking a single college class while in high school or enrolled in a concurrent bachelor's and master's degree program, please choose the school where you spend most of your time. (n=1,123)

High school	8%
Trade/Vocational school (Post HS)	3%
2-year or junior college or community college	15%
4-year college or university	24%
Graduate school.....	10%
Business school or professional school.....	1%
Not enrolled in college/university, but taking at least one college/university course.....	2%
Not enrolled in college/university, but taking at least one uncredited course/bootcamp.....	1%
Not currently enrolled in any of these	37%

6. **[BASE: NOT CURRENTLY IN HIGH SCHOOL]** What is the highest level of education you've completed? (n=1,939)

Some high school or less.....	5%
High school or equivalent	34%
Some college, but no degree.....	24%
Associate degree/Trade school degree	11%
Bachelor's degree	22%
Graduate degree.....	4%
Doctorate degree	<1%

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

Employed full-time	37%
Employed part-time.....	17%
Self-employed	6%
Not employed.....	17%
Not employed/Homemaker	8%
Student.....	16%
Retired.....	-

8. Do you consider yourself to be politically engaged?

Yes	48%
No.....	52%

9. How closely do you follow national news and current events?

Total: Closely	67%
Total: Not closely	33%
Very closely.....	19%
Somewhat closely	48%
Not very closely.....	22%
Not closely at all.....	11%

10. When it comes to voting, with which party do you consider yourself to be affiliated?

[BASE: DEMOCRATIC PARTY OR REPUBLICAN PARTY] Would you call yourself a...?

[BASE: INDEPENDENT/UNAFFILIATED] Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Total: Democrat.....	27%
Total: Republican.....	20%
Total: Independent/Unaffiliated/Lean	54%
Strong Democrat.....	15%
Not a very strong Democrat.....	12%
Lean Democrat	12%
Independent/Unaffiliated with a major party	32%
Lean Republican	9%
Not a very strong Republican	9%
Strong Republican	10%

11. When it comes to most issues, do you think of yourself as a...
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Total: Progressive..... | 31% |
| Total: Conservative..... | 19% |
| Progressive | 15% |
| Moderate, leaning progressive | 15% |
| Moderate | 35% |
| Moderate, leaning conservative | 8% |
| Conservative | 11% |
| Don't know | 15% |
12. Do you consider yourself to be a member of the Make America Great Again, or MAGA, movement?
- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Yes | 15% |
| No..... | 74% |
| Not sure what that is | 11% |
13. We understand that plenty of people are not registered to vote, but we are wondering if you are registered to vote?
- | | |
|------------------|-----|
| Yes | 56% |
| No..... | 38% |
| Don't know | 6% |
14. **[BASE: REGISTERED VOTERS]** Which of the following statements best describes your recent voting in the election held on November 5, 2024? (n=1,103)
- | | |
|---|-----|
| I voted on Election Day at a polling place..... | 41% |
| I voted early at a polling place/drop box | 15% |
| I voted by mail/absentee ballot | 12% |
| I planned on voting but wasn't able to | 6% |
| I did not vote in this election | 17% |
| I went to the polling place but wasn't allowed to vote/there was an issue | <1% |
| I was too young to vote in this election | 8% |
15. **[BASE: VOTED IN 2024]** In the presidential election held on November 5, 2024, for whom did you vote? (n=802)
- | | |
|---|-----|
| Kamala Harris, the Democrat | 54% |
| Donald Trump, the Republican | 43% |
| Cornel West, an independent candidate | 1% |
| Jill Stein, the Green Party candidate | 1% |
| Someone else (Please specify) | <1% |
| Chase Oliver, the Libertarian candidate | <1% |
| Prefer not to answer..... | 1% |

16. As you may know, there will be a midterm election in November 2026 for U.S. Congress and other offices. Even though it's a long way off, what are the chances of your voting in the November 2026 midterm election?

Almost certain to vote	29%
Will probably vote.....	17%
50-50 chance of voting	25%
Will not vote	23%
Don't know	6%

17. Regardless of how likely you are to vote, if the 2026 midterm election for Congress were held today, would you vote for...

[IF UNDECIDED] Even if you're not sure, who do you lean toward voting for in the 2026 midterm election for Congress?

Total: Democratic candidate.....	44%
Total: Republican candidate	31%

The Democratic candidate	35%
Lean the Democratic candidate	9%
Lean the Republican candidate	9%
The Republican candidate	21%
Not sure.....	22%
Prefer not to answer.....	3%

[THE NATIONAL MOOD]

18. All in all, do you think that things in the nation are...?

Generally headed in the right direction	17%
Off on the wrong track	63%
Not sure what direction the country is headed in	20%

19. What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today? **[OPEN END RESPONSES CODED INTO CATEGORIES]**

Inflation, cost of living, and prices.....	23%
Economy, jobs, and wages.....	16%
Government corruption and leadership	9%
Trump and the administration	8%
War and foreign policy	6%
Racism, discrimination, and civil rights	5%
Immigration and ICE	5%
Division and lack of unity	5%
Poverty and inequality	4%
Crime, guns, and public safety	4%
Housing and homelessness.....	3%
Healthcare	2%
Other	7%
Don't know/Nothing/Unintelligible	4%

[MONEY IN POLITICS]

20. Thinking about American politics and government today, which THREE of the following do you think are the biggest problems? Please select up to three. **[MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]**

Corruption and self-dealing in government..... 41%

Government being unable to solve
problems and get things done 30%

The country being too politically divided 29%

Politicians not listening to ordinary people 28%

Political leaders being too old and out of
touch with the challenges people face today 26%

Wealthy donors and special interests
having too much power over government 26%

Too much money being spent to
influence campaigns and elections..... 20%

The political parties being too influenced
by their most extreme members 19%

Political leaders putting their
party ahead of the country 17%

Elected officials staying in power
for too long 15%

Something else (Please specify) 2%

Not sure..... 8%

21. **[BASE: NAMED AT LEAST ONE PROBLEM]** And which ONE of the problems you selected do you think is the single biggest problem with American politics and government today? **[SINGLE SELECTIONS CARRIED FORWARD]** (n=1,854)

Corruption and self-dealing in government..... 24%

Government being unable to solve problems
and get things done 13%

The country being too politically divided 13%

Wealthy donors and special interests having
too much power over government 11%

Political leaders being too old and out of touch
with the challenges people face today 9%

Politicians not listening to ordinary people 8%

The political parties being too influenced by
their most extreme members 6%

Political leaders putting their party ahead of the
country 5%

Too much money being spent to influence
campaigns and elections 5%

Elected officials staying in power for too long 5%

Something else (specified) 1%

22. When you hear the phrase “political corruption,” what does it mean to you? There are no right or wrong answers. **[OPEN END RESPONSES CODED INTO CATEGORIES]**

Government and politicians are corrupt (general) 16%

Abuse of power and misuse of position 14%

Bribery, money, and bought influence 14%

Self-interest and personal gain 12%

Failing to serve or represent the people 8%

Breaking laws, cheating, and lack of accountability 7%

Dishonesty and lack of transparency 6%

Specific politicians or parties 5%

Vague negative or general wrongdoing 5%

Other 7%

Don't know/Nothing/Unintelligible 6%

23. People have different views about what counts as political corruption. Which of these comes closer to how you see it?

Corruption means money buying access, influence,
or special treatment from elected officials, even if
nothing specific is promised in return 50%

Corruption means a direct exchange: an elected
official takes money or something valuable, and
the giver gets something specific in return 28%

Neither of these comes close to my view 14%

Not sure..... 8%

24. How much of a problem, if any, is the influence of money in American politics today?

Total: Big problem 83%

Total: Small or no problem 10%

A very big problem 58%

A somewhat big problem 26%

A somewhat small problem..... 8%

Not a problem at all..... 2%

Not sure..... 6%

25. Who do you think has the **most influence** over the decisions elected officials make in Washington?

Wealthy individuals and billionaires 38%

Political parties 15%

Lobbyists and special interest groups 12%

Large corporations 12%

The news media..... 7%

Ordinary voters 4%

Not sure..... 13%

26. Which comes closer to your view?

Members of Congress are influenced more by the
people and organizations that fund their campaigns. 55%

Members of Congress are influenced more by
the people who vote for them 13%

Both have about the same amount of influence 19%

Not sure..... 12%

27. Which comes closer to your view?

Young people have less influence over government than older generations 53%

Young people have about as much influence over government as other generations 17%

Young people have more influence over government than older generations 13%

Not sure 17%

28. **[BASE: SAY YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE LESS INFLUENCE]** Which of the following, if any, is the **biggest reason** young people have less influence over government? (n=1,060)

Wealthy donors and special interests have more influence 33%

The political parties do not pay enough attention to young people 16%

Too few young people hold elected office 14%

Political leaders do not understand young people's lives 11%

Older generations vote at higher rates 11%

Young people are too divided politically 9%

Something else (Please specify) 2%

Young people do not have less influence 1%

Not sure 3%

29. Which of the following do you think is the **biggest reason** government does not respond to ordinary people as much as it should?

Wealthy donors and special interests have too much influence 39%

Politicians care too much about getting reelected 15%

The two political parties are too divided 14%

Government bureaucracy makes change too difficult 10%

Voters themselves are too divided 9%

Something else (Please specify) 1%

Not sure 11%

30. When people like you speak up, vote, organize, or contact elected officials, how much difference do you think it usually makes?

Total: A great deal or some 40%

Total: A little or none 52%

A great deal 17%

A little 30%

Some 22%

None at all 22%

Not sure 9%

31. How much have you seen, read, or heard about proposals to reduce the influence of money in politics?

Total: A lot or some 43%

Total: Only a little or nothing 57%

A lot 13%

Some 30%

Only a little 29%

Nothing at all 28%

32. Which comes closer to your view about money in politics?

The influence of money in politics makes me
less motivated to participate 43%

The influence of money in politics makes me
more motivated to participate 24%

The influence of money in politics does not
really affect whether I participate 20%

Not sure 13%

33. Before today, how much had you seen, read, or heard about the U.S. Supreme Court's rulings on money in politics?

Total: A lot or some 40%

Total: Only a little or nothing 60%

A lot 11%

Some 28%

Only a little 25%

Nothing at all 35%

34. Fifty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that spending money on political campaigns is a form of free speech protected by the First Amendment. Since then, the courts, not Congress or the states, have made the final decisions about what limits, if any, can be placed on campaign spending.

Which of the following comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Voters and their elected representatives should be the primary decision makers on the rules for money in politics 50%

The Supreme Court should be the primary decision maker on the rules for money in politics 28%

Not sure..... 23%

35. A proposed constitutional amendment would allow Congress and the states to reasonably regulate and limit money in campaigns and elections. Would you support or oppose this amendment?

Total: Support 66%

Total: Oppose 15%

Net: Support 51%

Strongly support..... 30%

Somewhat support 36%

Somewhat oppose 11%

Strongly oppose 4%

Not sure..... 19%

36. If such an amendment were adopted, how much difference do you think it would make in how government works?

Total: A great deal or some 55%

Total: Only a little or none 31%

A great deal..... 23%

Some..... 31%

Only a little 25%

None at all 6%

Not sure..... 14%

37. Which ONE of the following do you think would do the most to give ordinary people more influence over decisions made by government?
- | | |
|--|-----|
| Limit the amount wealthy individuals and organizations can spend to influence elections | 23% |
| Increase the number of younger people serving in elected office | 13% |
| Require greater disclosure of who is funding political campaigns and political advertising | 12% |
| Limit the number of terms members of Congress can serve | 10% |
| Make it easier for people to vote..... | 8% |
| Reduce the influence of lobbyists | 8% |
| Ban members of Congress from trading individual stocks | 6% |
| Publicly finance political campaigns | 5% |
| Something else (Please specify) | 1% |
| None of these..... | 4% |
| Not sure..... | 11% |
38. How important would a candidate's position on reducing the influence of money in politics be in deciding whether to vote for them?
- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Total: Important..... | 70% |
| Total: Not important..... | 15% |
| Net: Important | 54% |
| Very important..... | 26% |
| Somewhat important | 44% |
| Not too important | 11% |
| Not at all important..... | 4% |
| Not sure..... | 15% |

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Scale:

Strongly agree..... 1
 Somewhat agree..... 2
 Somewhat disagree 3
 Strongly disagree 4
 Not sure..... 5

[DISPLAYED IN RANK ORDER BASED ON "NET: AGREE." SERIES WAS RANDOMIZED DURING DATA COLLECTION.]

		Total: Agree	Total: Dis- agree	Net: Agree	Strngly agree	Smwt. agree	Smwt. dis- agree	Strngly dis- agree	Not sure
39.	The influence of money in politics is a threat to our elections.	74%	14%	61%	48%	26%	9%	5%	12%
40.	Large donors to political candidates and campaigns make it harder for ordinary Americans to have their voice heard by elected leaders.	74%	15%	58%	45%	29%	10%	5%	11%
41.	No matter how much ordinary people participate in politics, wealthy donors and special interests will still have more influence.	72%	17%	55%	44%	28%	11%	5%	12%
42.	Congress and the states should be able to reasonably regulate and limit money in campaigns and elections.	70%	17%	53%	36%	34%	11%	6%	12%
43.	Elected officials pay more attention to people and organizations that contribute money to campaigns than to ordinary voters.	71%	18%	53%	42%	29%	11%	7%	12%
44.	The role of money in politics makes government less responsive to people like me.	70%	18%	53%	43%	27%	12%	6%	12%
45.	Placing limits on the amount of money that can be spent to influence politics would make me more confident that government represents people like me.	68%	18%	51%	33%	35%	12%	6%	14%

		Total: Agree	Total: Dis- agree	Net: Agree	Strngly agree	Smwt. agree	Smwt. dis- agree	Strngly dis- agree	Not sure
46.	Political campaigns need substantial amounts of money to reach voters and compete effectively.	46%	39%	7%	15%	31%	24%	15%	15%
47.	Spending money to support political candidates or causes is an important form of free expression and should be protected.	45%	39%	6%	16%	28%	24%	15%	16%
48.	Individuals and entities should be able to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence campaigns and elections.	32%	55%	-22%	12%	21%	18%	37%	13%

[BACK-END DEMOGRAPHICS]

The next questions are for statistical purposes.

49. Thinking about where you live now, do you...

I rent it 47%
 I own it..... 29%
 I live here without paying rent or a mortgage 24%

50. What is your current living arrangement?

Living with parents or guardians 38%
 Living with a partner or spouse..... 26%
 Living on my own 21%
 Living with roommates or housemates 8%
 No steady or reliable place to stay right now 2%
 Living in a dorm, barracks, or other group housing..... 2%
 Staying temporarily with friends or family ("couch surfing")..... 2%
 Other (Please specify) 1%

51. In the past 5 years, have you been homeless or nearing homelessness?

Total: Any housing instability 25%

No..... 75%
 Yes, nearing homelessness..... 10%
 Yes, in a homeless shelter/group home 4%
 Yes, living in a car..... 4%
 Yes, "couch surfing" with friends/family 7%

52. Which of the following best describes the area in which you live?

Suburban..... 44%
 Urban 30%
 Small town 14%
 Rural..... 13%

53. Do you have any children of your own?

Yes 24%
 No..... 76%

54. Which one of these best describes your religious preference or spiritual outlook?

No religious preference..... 22%
 Catholic 19%
 Spiritual, but not religious 15%
 Protestant..... 10%
 Fundamentalist/Evangelical Christian 10%
 Atheist 7%
 Agnostic 6%
 Another religion..... 5%
 Muslim..... 2%
 Jewish 2%
 LDS/Mormon 1%
 Secular humanist <1%

55. How important is religion in your life?

Total: Important..... 61%
Total: Not important..... 39%

Very important..... 30%
 Somewhat important..... 32%
 Not too important 17%
 Not at all important..... 22%

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

Total: Monthly or more..... 35%
Total: A few times a year or less 65%

More than once a week 6%
 Once a week 17%
 Once or twice a month 11%
 A few times a year 14%
 Seldom 18%
 Never..... 33%

57. Which of the following do you identify as?

Heterosexual or straight.....	74%
Bisexual.....	12%
Other Queer identity (e.g. pansexual, asexual, etc.) ...	5%
Gay.....	3%
Lesbian.....	2%
None of the above.....	2%
I don't know	1%
Prefer not to say	2%

58. Do you identify as transgender or non-binary?

Yes	4%
No.....	93%
Prefer not to say	2%

59. The next question is about the total income of YOUR HOUSEHOLD for the PAST 12 MONTHS. Please include your income PLUS the income of all members living in your household (including parents, cohabiting partners and armed forces members living at home).

Less than \$25,000	22%
\$25,000–\$49,999	24%
\$50,000–\$74,999	20%
\$75,000–\$99,999	13%
\$100,000–\$124,999	7%
\$125,000–\$149,999	4%
\$150,000–\$174,999	2%
\$175,000–\$199,999	1%
\$200,000 or more.....	2%
Don't know/prefer not to answer	5%

60. How would you describe your household's financial situation?

Total: Struggling or getting by	61%
Total: Comfortable or better	39%
Struggling to make ends meet	20%
Getting by, but with limited financial security	41%
Comfortable and financially stable	30%
Doing well with a high level of financial security	5%
Very well off financially	4%

Methodology

This survey was conducted online September 8–13, 2026 among N=2,026 Americans ages 18 to 29.

Results are weighted to represent the U.S. population ages 18 to 29 using iterative proportional fitting (raking). Core demographic benchmarks for sex by age, race and ethnicity, region, and education are drawn from the 2024 American Community Survey one-year Public Use Microdata Sample. Voter registration benchmarks are drawn from the November 2024 Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement. Party identification and 2024 turnout benchmarks are drawn from the Pew Research Center's 2026 National Public Opinion Reference Survey, and 2024 presidential vote choice from the 2024 national exit polls. To help mitigate selection and coverage biases common to opt-in online samples, additional adjustments were made for urbanicity, household firearm ownership, community group participation, frequency of contact with neighbors, device ownership, and depressive symptom severity, with benchmarks drawn from the 2023 Current Population Survey Civic Engagement and Volunteering Supplement, the General Social Survey, and the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey.

Uncertainty. Because this is a nonprobability sample, a traditional margin of sampling error does not strictly apply. For comparability with other public releases, we report an approximate 95% uncertainty interval of plus or minus 2.2 percentage points for the full sample.