

REG. Are you currently registered to vote?

Yes	100%
No	-
Not sure	-

P1. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as a strong Democrat, not very strong Democrat, strong Republican, not very strong Republican, an Independent, or some other political party? **[IF INDEPENDENT/OTHER]** Do you think of yourself as closer to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

Strong Democrat	27%
Weak Democrat	11
Independent / Closer to the Democrats	6
Independent	13
Independent / Closer to the Republicans	5
Weak Republican	15
Strong Republican	23
DEMOCRAT (NET)	38%
INDEPENDENT (NET)	25
REPUBLICAN (NET)	38
DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET)	44%
REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET)	43

Q1C. Some people say that addressing the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities. Do you agree or disagree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? **[IF AGREE]** And do you strongly or just somewhat agree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? **[IF DISAGREE]** And do you strongly or just somewhat disagree that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities? **[IF DON'T KNOW]** If you had to choose, would you lean toward agreeing or disagreeing that the national debt should be among the President and Congress's top 3 priorities?

	<u>March 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>	<u>Sep 25</u>	<u>Aug 25</u>	<u>July 25</u>	<u>June 25</u>	<u>May 25</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>
Strongly agree	56%	52%	52%	55%	52%	54%	53%	54%	56%	52%	51%	51%
Somewhat agree	26	26	25	24	27	23	24	21	24	24	25	24
Somewhat disagree	10	10	13	12	12	13	13	13	11	11	12	13
Strongly disagree ...	3	6	5	4	5	5	5	5	4	6	5	6
Don't know/Refused	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	7	5	6	6	6
AGREE (NET)	82%	79	77	79	79	77	77	75	80	76	76	75
DISAGREE (NET) ..	13	16	18	16	17	18	18	18	15	17	17	19

Q2C. Thinking about our national debt over the last few years, would you say your level of concern about our national debt has: **[IF NO CHANGE/DON'T KNOW]** If you had to choose, would you say that your level of concern about our national debt has probably increased a little or probably decreased a little over the last few years?

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Increased a lot	53%	49%	48%	50%	48%	49%	50%	47%	50%	50%	50%	49%
Increased a little	28	28	29	27	31	30	31	33	30	31	27	27
Decreased a little	5	7	6	7	6	6	5	5	5	4	5	6
Decreased a lot	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	2	2	3	2
No change	8	9	9	9	8	8	7	9	9	9	11	11
Don't know/Refused ..	3	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	4	4	5	5
INCREASED (NET)...	81%	77	77	77	78	79	81	79	80	81	77	77
DECREASED (NET) .	7	10	10	11	9	8	8	8	7	6	8	8

Q3C. Thinking about our national debt over the next few years, do you expect the problem to get: [IF THE SAME/DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, do you think the national debt problem will probably get a little better or probably get a little worse over the next few years?

	<u>March 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>	<u>Jan 26</u>	<u>Dec 25</u>	<u>Nov 25</u>	<u>Oct 25</u>	<u>Sep 25</u>	<u>Aug 25</u>	<u>July 25</u>	<u>June 25</u>	<u>May 25</u>	<u>Apr 25</u>
Much better.....	12%	11%	13%	13%	14%	13%	11%	13%	12%	14%	14%	16%
Somewhat better	19	21	22	24	23	18	21	21	20	21	24	22
Somewhat worse....	25	29	28	25	24	24	27	23	27	26	23	23
Much worse	38	33	32	33	34	38	36	36	34	33	33	32
No change	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	1
Don't know/Refused.....	4	4	4	4	3	5	3	5	4	5	4	5
BETTER (NET).....	31%	32	35	37	37	31	31	34	32	36	38	38
WORSE (NET)	63	61	60	58	58	62	63	59	61	58	56	55

Q4C. When it comes to addressing our national debt, would you say things in the United States are heading in the right direction or do you think things are off on the wrong track? [IF NONE/DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say that things in the United States are probably heading in the right direction or probably off on the wrong track when it comes to addressing our national debt?

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Right direction - Strongly	14%	16%	16%	17%	18%	16%	15%	18%	16%	18%	18%	21%
Right direction - Somewhat.....	20	21	24	24	21	21	20	21	20	21	22	20
Wrong track - Somewhat	18	21	20	17	21	17	19	20	19	21	19	18
Wrong track - Strongly	43	38	36	38	37	42	41	37	40	37	38	36
Neither/Mixed.....	1	*	*	*	1	1	1	1	1	*	*	1
Don't know/Refused.....	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	4	4	4	5
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET)	35%	37	40	41	39	36	36	39	36	38	40	41
WRONG TRACK (NET)..	61	59	57	55	58	59	60	57	59	58	56	54

Q5C. And when it comes to our national debt, do you think it is an issue that the President and Congress should spend more time addressing or less time addressing? And is that a lot [MORE/LESS] or a little [MORE/LESS] time? [IF THE SAME AMOUNT/DON'T KNOW] If you had to choose, would you say the President and Congress should probably spend more time addressing the national debt or probably spend less time addressing the national debt?

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A lot more time	52%	49%	49%	50%	49%	51%	52%	48%	51%	51%	47%	49%
A little more time.....	31	31	32	32	33	30	29	31	31	30	30	27
A little less time.....	4	6	6	6	5	8	8	7	6	7	7	8
A lot less time	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4	5	6	6
The same amount of time.....	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	5	3	3	4	3
Don't know/Refused.....	5	6	5	5	4	5	4	5	5	5	6	7
MORE TIME (NET)	83%	80	81	82	82	81	81	79	82	80	77	76
LESS TIME (NET)..	9	11	11	9	10	12	12	11	9	12	13	13

Q6C. And when it comes to our national debt, how optimistic or pessimistic are you that the U.S. will make progress on the national debt over the next few years? **[IF TOTALLY MIXED/DON'T KNOW]** If you had to choose, would you say you lean toward being optimistic or lean toward being pessimistic that the U.S. will make progress on the national debt over the next few years?

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Very optimistic.....	11%	10%	12%	10%	12%	9%	10%	11%	10%	12%	11%	13%
Somewhat optimistic.....	30	34	30	36	34	34	32	34	32	33	34	33
Somewhat pessimistic.....	28	29	30	26	26	26	29	26	29	26	28	25
Very pessimistic.....	25	21	22	22	22	24	23	24	24	23	22	22
Neither/Mixed.....	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1	3	2	2
Don't know/Refused.....	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	3	4	4	4
OPTIMISTIC (NET)	41%	44	42	47	45	43	43	45	42	45	45	46
PESSIMISTIC (NET).....	53	50	52	48	49	50	52	50	53	49	49	47

Q7. As you may know, economists from across the ideological spectrum agree that the rising national debt can increase inflation and interest rates, which makes things like goods, services and transportation more expensive for consumers.

How concerned are you that the national debt's effect on inflation is increasing your own cost of living, such as prices for things like groceries, energy, housing and other everyday expenses?

	<u>March 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Very concerned.....	55%	48%
Somewhat concerned.....	36	41
Not that concerned.....	7	7
Not concerned at all.....	2	3
CONCERNED (NET).....	90%	90
NOT CONCERNED (NET).....	10	10

Q8. How concerned are you that the national debt's effect on interest rates is contributing to higher borrowing costs, such as credit card interest, car loan rates, mortgage rates and other personal loans?

	<u>March 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Very concerned.....	47%	41%
Somewhat concerned.....	39	44
Not that concerned.....	10	11
Not concerned at all.....	4	4
CONCERNED (NET).....	86%	85
NOT CONCERNED (NET).....	14	15

Q9. How important is the cost of living and overall affordability to your vote in the 2026 elections?

	<u>March 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Very important.....	67%	64%
Somewhat important.....	25	28
Not too important.....	6	5
Not at all important.....	1	1
I do not plan to vote in 2026.....	2	2
IMPORTANT (NET).....	91%	92
NOT IMPORTANT (NET).....	7	6

Q10. Over the past month, do you think candidates for political office are talking enough about the national debt and its impact on the cost of living?

	<u>March 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough.....	29%	30%
No, candidates should talk about this more.....	71	70

Q11. Is a candidate having a plan to address the national debt a factor in deciding whether you would support them in the 2026 election?

	March 26	Feb 26
Yes, definitely	37%	31%
Yes, probably	46	52
No, probably not.....	15	14
No, definitely not	2	3
YES (NET)	83%	83
NO (NET)	17	17

Q12. How likely are you to support a candidate this year that has a clear plan to address the national debt?

	March 26	Feb 26
Much more likely	44%	38%
Somewhat more likely.....	49	55
Somewhat less likely.....	5	4
Much less likely.....	1	2
MORE LIKELY (NET)	93%	93
LESS LIKELY (NET)	7	7

Q13. Would you consider supporting a candidate from a political party you don't usually support if that candidate had a clear plan to address the national debt?

	March 26	Feb 26
Yes, I would consider it.....	74%	72%
No, I would never consider it.....	26	28

Changing topics slightly...

Q14. As you may know, if Congress doesn't act, current and future Social Security beneficiaries will receive an immediate 23% benefit cut starting in 2032. The U.S. Senators elected this November will be in office at that time.

	March 26	Feb 26
Yes, definitely.....	74%	70%
Yes, probably	21	25
No, probably not.....	3	4
No, definitely not	2	1
YES (NET)	95%	95
NO (NET)	5	5

Do you think candidates this year should clearly explain their plans to prevent automatic cuts to Social Security benefits?

Q15. Over the past month, do you think candidates are talking enough about plans to prevent automatic Social Security benefit cuts?

	March 26	Feb 26
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough	22%	22%
No, candidates should talk about this more	78	78

For statistical purposes only, please answer the following questions.

D100. What is your gender?

Male.....	47%
Female.....	53
Self-describe.....	*

DAGE. What is your age?

18-29	17%
30-44	24
45-54	17
55-64	18
65+.....	23

DRACE. To ensure we have a representative sample, please indicate your race. [IF BLACK/WHITE/OTHER] Do you consider yourself a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking American?

Black/African-American	12%
White/Caucasian	74
Hispanic/Latino	10
Asian-American	3
Native American	1
Other	*

D102. What is the last grade of school or level of education you completed?

Did not complete high school	2%
Graduated high school	24
Attended technical/vocational school	5
Attended some college but no degree	19
Graduated two-year college with Associate's degree	14
Graduated four-year college with Bachelor's degree	24
Obtained Master's, PhD, or other professional degree (MD, DMD, etc.)	12

D105. When it comes to politics, do you generally think of yourself as:

Very liberal	16%
Somewhat liberal	14
Moderate	37
Somewhat conservative	18
Very conservative	15
LIBERAL (NET)	30%
CONSERVATIVE (NET)	33

D108. Which of the following best describes you and your family?

Working class	27%
Lower middle class	20
Middle class	39
Upper middle class	11
Affluent	*
I'm not sure	2

REGION. What state do you live in?

Northeast	18%
Midwest	23
South	38
West	21

REGION9. Coded National Region [9-WAY]

New England	5%
Middle Atlantic	13
East North Central	16
West North Central	7
South Atlantic	21
East South Central	6
West South Central	11
Mountain	7
Pacific	14