

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	26%
Weak Democrat	13
Independent / Closer to the Democrats	6
Independent	13
Independent / Closer to the Republicans	6
Weak Republican	14
Strong Republican	22
DEMOCRAT (NET)	39%
INDEPENDENT (NET)	25
REPUBLICAN (NET)	36
DEMOCRAT W/ LEANERS (NET)	45%
REPUBLICAN W/ LEANERS (NET)	42

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>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 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>
Strongly agree	56%	60%	55%	56%	52%	52%	55%	52%	54%	53%	54%	56%
Somewhat agree	25	24	26	26	26	25	24	27	23	24	21	24
Somewhat disagree...	11	9	9	10	10	13	12	12	13	13	13	11
Strongly disagree	4	2	5	3	6	5	4	5	5	5	5	4
Don't know/Refused ..	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	7	5
AGREE (NET)	81%	84	81	82	79	77	79	79	77	77	75	80
DISAGREE (NET)	15	11	15	13	16	18	16	17	18	18	18	15

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%	56%	54%	53%	49%	48%	50%	48%	49%	50%	47%	50%
Increased a little	28	27	28	28	28	29	27	31	30	31	33	30
Decreased a little	4	6	6	5	7	6	7	6	6	5	5	5
Decreased a lot	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3	2
No change	9	6	7	8	9	9	9	8	8	7	9	9
Don't know/Refused ..	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	5	3	4	4
INCREASED (NET)...	81%	83	82	81	77	77	77	78	79	81	79	80
DECREASED (NET) .	7	7	8	7	10	10	11	9	8	8	8	7

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>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 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>
Much better	10%	9%	11%	12%	11%	13%	13%	14%	13%	11%	13%	12%
Somewhat better	18	16	17	19	21	22	24	23	18	21	21	20
Somewhat worse	30	26	31	25	29	28	25	24	24	27	23	27
Much worse	37	42	35	38	33	32	33	34	38	36	36	34
No change	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know/Refused ..	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	3	5	4
BETTER (NET)	28%	26	28	31	32	35	37	37	31	31	34	32
WORSE (NET)	67	69	66	63	61	60	58	58	62	63	59	61

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?

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 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>
Right direction - Strongly ...	12%	12%	15%	14%	16%	16%	17%	18%	16%	15%	18%	16%
Right direction - Somewhat	19	17	16	20	21	24	24	21	21	20	21	20
Wrong track - Somewhat ...	22	20	21	18	21	20	17	21	17	19	20	19
Wrong track - Strongly	44	47	44	43	38	36	38	37	42	41	37	40
Neither/Mixed	1	1	*	1	*	*	*	1	1	1	1	1
Don't know/Refused	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	4	4
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET)	30%	29	31	35	37	40	41	39	36	36	39	36
WRONG TRACK (NET)	66	67	65	61	59	57	55	58	59	60	57	59

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?

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 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>
A lot more time	53%	57%	56%	52%	49%	49%	50%	49%	51%	52%	48%	51%
A little more time	31	28	27	31	31	32	32	33	30	29	31	31
A little less time	5	4	5	4	6	6	6	5	8	8	7	6
A lot less time	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4	4
The same amount of time	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	5	3
Don't know/Refused ..	4	4	4	5	6	5	5	4	5	4	5	5
MORE TIME (NET) ...	84%	85	83	83	80	81	82	82	81	81	79	82
LESS TIME (NET)	9	8	10	9	11	11	9	10	12	12	11	9

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?

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 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>
Very optimistic	8%	7%	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%	12%	9%	10%	11%	10%
Somewhat optimistic .	30	31	30	30	34	30	36	34	34	32	34	32
Somewhat pessimistic	34	28	33	28	29	30	26	26	26	29	26	29
Very pessimistic	23	28	22	25	21	22	22	22	24	23	24	24
Neither/Mixed	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	1
Don't know/Refused ..	2	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	3	3
OPTIMISTIC (NET) ...	38%	38	40	41	44	42	47	45	43	43	45	42
PESSIMISTIC (NET) .	57	56	55	53	50	52	48	49	50	52	50	53

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.

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Very concerned	55%	56%	54%	55%	48%
Somewhat concerned	36	37	38	36	41
Not that concerned	7	5	7	7	7
Not concerned at all	2	3	1	2	3
CONCERNED (NET)	92%	93	92	90	90
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	8	7	8	10	10

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?

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>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Very concerned	44%	48%	48%	47%	41%
Somewhat concerned	44	42	40	39	44
Not that concerned	9	7	9	10	11
Not concerned at all	3	3	3	4	4
CONCERNED (NET)	88%	90	88	86	85
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	12	10	12	14	15

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

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Very important	66%	68%	66%	67%	64%
Somewhat important	27	26	27	25	28
Not too important.....	4	4	5	6	5
Not at all important	1	*	1	1	1
I do not plan to vote in 2026	3	1	2	2	2
IMPORTANT (NET).....	93%	95	92	91	92
NOT IMPORTANT (NET).....	5	4	6	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>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough	30%	25%	28%	29%	30%
No, candidates should talk about this more	70	75	72	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?

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, definitely	35%	35%	36%	37%	31%
Yes, probably	49	52	47	46	52
No, probably not	13	10	15	15	14
No, definitely not.....	3	2	2	2	3
YES (NET).....	85%	87	83	83	83
NO (NET).....	15	13	17	17	17

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

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Much more likely	39%	40%	42%	44%	38%
Somewhat more likely	55	55	52	49	55
Somewhat less likely.....	4	4	5	5	4
Much less likely	2	1	1	1	2
MORE LIKELY (NET).....	94%	95	94	93	93
LESS LIKELY (NET)	6	5	6	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?

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, I would consider it	74%	75%	74%	74%	72%
No, I would never consider it.....	26	25	26	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.

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, definitely	75%	76%	76%	74%	70%
Yes, probably	21	19	21	21	25
No, probably not	2	3	2	3	4
No, definitely not.....	1	1	1	2	1
YES (NET).....	96%	96	97	95	95
NO (NET).....	4	4	3	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?

	<u>June 26</u>	<u>May 26</u>	<u>April 26</u>	<u>Mar 26</u>	<u>Feb 26</u>
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough	21%	19%	22%	22%	22%
No, candidates should talk about this more	79	81	78	78	78

For statistical purposes only, please answer the following questions.

D100. What is your gender?

Male.....	46%
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	2
	Native American	1
	Other	1
D102. What is the last grade of school or level of education you completed?	Did not complete high school	1%
	Graduated high school	24
	Attended technical/vocational school	5
	Attended some college but no degree	20
	Graduated two-year college with Associate's degree	13
	Graduated four-year college with Bachelor's degree	25
	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	13%
	Somewhat liberal	18
	Moderate	37
	Somewhat conservative	18
	Very conservative	14
	LIBERAL (NET)	31%
	CONSERVATIVE (NET)	32
D108. Which of the following best describes you and your family?	Working class	28%
	Lower middle class	19
	Middle class	39
	Upper middle class	11
	Affluent	1
	I'm not sure	3
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