

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 25%
Weak Democrat 13
Independent / Closer to the Democrats 7
Independent 13
Independent / Closer to the Republicans 5
Weak Republican 14
Strong Republican 22

DEMOCRAT (NET) 38%
INDEPENDENT (NET) 25
REPUBLICAN (NET) 37

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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25	Oct 25	Sep 25	Aug 25
Strongly agree	56%	56%	60%	55%	56%	52%	52%	55%	52%	54%	53%	54%
Somewhat agree	22	25	24	26	26	26	25	24	27	23	24	21
Somewhat disagree...	12	11	9	9	10	10	13	12	12	13	13	13
Strongly disagree	4	4	2	5	3	6	5	4	5	5	5	5
Don't know/Refused ..	6	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	7
AGREE (NET)	79%	81	84	81	82	79	77	79	79	77	77	75
DISAGREE (NET)	16	15	11	15	13	16	18	16	17	18	18	18

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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25	Oct 25	Sep 25	Aug 25
Increased a lot	52%	53%	56%	54%	53%	49%	48%	50%	48%	49%	50%	47%
Increased a little	29	28	27	28	28	28	29	27	31	30	31	33
Decreased a little	5	4	6	6	5	7	6	7	6	6	5	5
Decreased a lot	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	4	3	3	3	3
No change	8	9	6	7	8	9	9	9	8	8	7	9
Don't know/Refused ..	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	4	5	3	4
INCREASED (NET)...	81%	81	83	82	81	77	77	77	78	79	81	79
DECREASED (NET) .	8	7	7	8	7	10	10	11	9	8	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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25	Oct 25	Sep 25	Aug 25
Much better.....	9%	10%	9%	11%	12%	11%	13%	13%	14%	13%	11%	13%
Somewhat better	19	18	16	17	19	21	22	24	23	18	21	21
Somewhat worse	26	30	26	31	25	29	28	25	24	24	27	23
Much worse	40	37	42	35	38	33	32	33	34	38	36	36
No change	2	1	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	2
Don't know/Refused ..	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	3	5	3	5
BETTER (NET).....	28%	28	26	28	31	32	35	37	37	31	31	34
WORSE (NET)	66	67	69	66	63	61	60	58	58	62	63	59

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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25	Oct 25	Sep 25	Aug 25
Right direction - Strongly	12%	12%	12%	15%	14%	16%	16%	17%	18%	16%	15%	18%
Right direction - Somewhat.....	17	19	17	16	20	21	24	24	21	21	20	21
Wrong track - Somewhat.....	21	22	20	21	18	21	20	17	21	17	19	20
Wrong track - Strongly	46	44	47	44	43	38	36	38	37	42	41	37
Neither/Mixed	*	1	1	*	1	*	*	*	1	1	1	1
Don't know/Refused ..	4	3	3	3	3	4	3	3	3	4	3	4
RIGHT DIRECTION (NET).....	29%	30	29	31	35	37	40	41	39	36	36	39
WRONG TRACK (NET).....	67	66	67	65	61	59	57	55	58	59	60	57

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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25	Oct 25	Sep 25	Aug 25
A lot more time	52%	53%	57%	56%	52%	49%	49%	50%	49%	51%	52%	48%
A little more time.....	29	31	28	27	31	31	32	32	33	30	29	31
A little less time.....	6	5	4	5	4	6	6	6	5	8	8	7
A lot less time	4	4	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4	4	4
The same amount of time.....	3	3	2	3	3	3	4	3	3	2	3	5
Don't know/Refused ..	5	4	4	4	5	6	5	5	4	5	4	5
MORE TIME (NET) ...	81%	84	85	83	83	80	81	82	82	81	81	79
LESS TIME (NET)	10	9	8	10	9	11	11	9	10	12	12	11

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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Dec 25	Nov 25	Oct 25	Sep 25	Aug 25
Very optimistic	8%	8%	7%	10%	11%	10%	12%	10%	12%	9%	10%	11%
Somewhat optimistic .	28	30	31	30	30	34	30	36	34	34	32	34
Somewhat pessimistic.....	32	34	28	33	28	29	30	26	26	26	29	26
Very pessimistic.....	26	23	28	22	25	21	22	22	22	24	23	24
Neither/Mixed	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Don't know/Refused ..	3	2	4	3	4	4	4	3	4	4	3	3
OPTIMISTIC (NET) ...	37%	38	38	40	41	44	42	47	45	43	43	45
PESSIMISTIC (NET) .	58	57	56	55	53	50	52	48	49	50	52	50

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?

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

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Very concerned	45%	44%	48%	48%	47%	41%
Somewhat concerned.....	42	44	42	40	39	44
Not that concerned	11	9	7	9	10	11
Not concerned at all	3	3	3	3	4	4
CONCERNED (NET).....	86%	88	90	88	86	85
NOT CONCERNED (NET)	14	12	10	12	14	15

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

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Very important	66%	66%	68%	66%	67%	64%
Somewhat important	26	27	26	27	25	28
Not too important	5	4	4	5	6	5
Not at all important	1	1	*	1	1	1
I do not plan to vote in 2026	3	3	1	2	2	2
IMPORTANT (NET)	92%	93	95	92	91	92
NOT IMPORTANT (NET)	6	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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough	28%	30%	25%	28%	29%	30%
No, candidates should talk about this more	72	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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, definitely	29%	35%	35%	36%	37%	31%
Yes, probably	53	49	52	47	46	52
No, probably not	15	13	10	15	15	14
No, definitely not	3	3	2	2	2	3
YES (NET)	82%	85	87	83	83	83
NO (NET)	18	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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Much more likely	37%	39%	40%	42%	44%	38%
Somewhat more likely	57	55	55	52	49	55
Somewhat less likely	5	4	4	5	5	4
Much less likely	1	2	1	1	1	2
MORE LIKELY (NET)	94%	94	95	94	93	93
LESS LIKELY (NET)	6	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?

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, I would consider it	73%	74%	75%	74%	74%	72%
No, I would never consider it	27	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.

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

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, definitely	74%	75%	76%	76%	74%	70%
Yes, probably	21	21	19	21	21	25
No, probably not	4	2	3	2	3	4
No, definitely not	1	1	1	1	2	1
YES (NET)	95%	96	96	97	95	95
NO (NET)	5	4	4	3	5	5

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

	July 26	June 26	May 26	April 26	Mar 26	Feb 26
Yes, candidates are talking about this enough	21%	21%	19%	22%	22%	22%
No, candidates should talk about this more	79	79	81	78	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	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	2%
	Graduated high school	25
	Attended technical/vocational school	3
	Attended some college but no degree.....	21
	Graduated two-year college with Associate's degree	13
	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.....	15%
	Somewhat liberal	16
	Moderate	37
	Somewhat conservative	17
	Very conservative	15
	LIBERAL (NET)	31%
	CONSERVATIVE (NET).....	32
D108. Which of the following best describes you and your family?	Working class	30%
	Lower middle class.....	18
	Middle class.....	38
	Upper middle class	11
	Affluent	1
	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