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Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics

65% say they always or often feel exhausted when thinking about politics

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to better understand how Americans view the state of U.S. politics today, and to explore in depth how the public thinks about the quality of their political representation and the relationship between political actors and the people they represent. This analysis seeks to examine feelings about the U.S. government, the political environment, elected officials and political candidates and shed further light on the specific factors contributing to overall views.

This report is based primarily on a survey of 8,480 adults from July 10 to July 16, 2023. Some of the analysis in this report is based on a survey of 5,115 adults from June 5 to 11, 2023. Everyone who took part in these surveys is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. [Read more about the ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used for the report](#), along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics

65% say they always or often feel exhausted when thinking about politics

Overview

Americans have long been critical of politicians and skeptical of the federal government. But today, Americans' views of politics and elected officials are unrelentingly negative, with little hope of improvement on the horizon.

Majorities say the political process is dominated by special interests, flooded with campaign cash and mired in partisan warfare. Elected officials are widely viewed as self-serving and ineffective.

A comprehensive new Pew Research Center study of the state of the nation's politics finds no single focal point for the public's dissatisfaction. There is widespread criticism of the three branches of government, both political parties, as well as political leaders and candidates for office.

Notably, Americans' unhappiness with politics comes at a time of historically high levels of voter turnout in national elections. [The elections of 2018, 2020 and 2022](#) were three of the highest-turnout U.S. elections of their respective types in decades.

But voting in elections is very different from being satisfied with the state of politics – and the public is deeply dissatisfied.

- **Just 4% of U.S. adults say the political system is working extremely or very well;** another 23% say it is working somewhat well. About six-in-ten (63%) express not too much or no confidence at all in the future of the U.S. political system.
- **Positive views of many governmental and political institutions are at historic lows.** Just 16% of the public say they trust the federal government always or most of the time. While [trust has hovered near historic lows](#) for the better part of the last 20 years, today it stands among the lowest levels dating back nearly seven decades. And more Americans have an unfavorable than favorable [opinion of the Supreme Court](#) – the first time that has occurred in polling going back to the late 1980s.

- **A growing share of the public dislikes both political parties.** Nearly three-in-ten (28%) express unfavorable views of both parties, the highest share in three decades of polling. And a comparable share of adults (25%) do not feel well-represented by *either* party.
- **Candidate choices are underwhelming.** As the presidential campaign heats up, 63% of Americans say they are dissatisfied with the candidates who have emerged so far. Setting aside the presidential campaign, there has been a downward trend in views of the quality of *all* political candidates. Just 26% rate the quality of political candidates as very or somewhat good, down about 20 percentage points since 2018.
- **Majorities back age and term limits and eliminating the Electoral College.** Reflecting the public's frustration with the federal government and political leaders, large shares of Americans support various changes to the political system, including for such long-standing proposals as establishing term limits for members of Congress and scrapping the Electoral College. Age limits – for both federal elected officials and members of the Supreme Court – draw broad support. But there is little appetite in the public for increasing the size of the U.S. House or modifying the allocation of Senate seats.

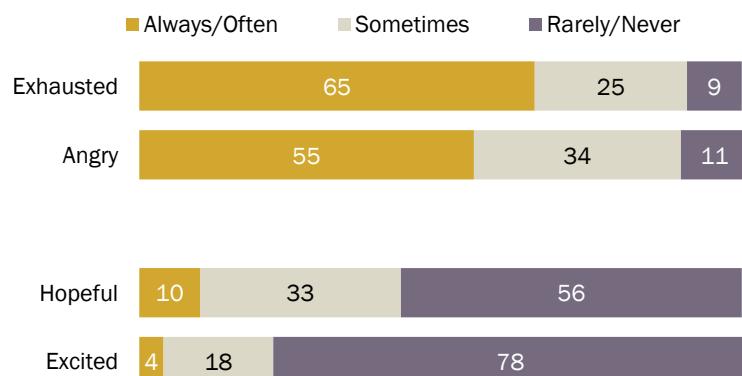
The new study of Americans' views of the state of the political system is primarily based on a survey conducted July 10-16, 2023, among 8,480 adults, with additional data from a survey conducted June 5-11, 2023,

among 5,115 adults. Both were conducted on Pew Research Center's nationally representative [American Trends Panel](#).

A little more than a year before the presidential election, nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) say they always or often feel exhausted when thinking about politics, while 55% feel angry. By contrast, just 10% say they always or often feel hopeful about politics, and even fewer (4%) are excited.

How Americans feel when they think about politics

% who ___ feel each of the following when thinking about politics these days



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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The survey also provides people several opportunities to describe in their own words their feelings about the political system and elected officials. When asked to sum up their feelings about politics in a word or phrase, very few (2%) use positive terms; 79% use negative or critical words, with “divisive” and “corrupt” coming up most frequently.

We also asked people to identify the *strengths* of the political system, as well as its weaknesses. Among the positive responses, roughly one-in-ten point to the structures of U.S. government, including its system of checks and balances (12%), freedoms and democratic values (9%) and the opportunity to vote in elections (8%).

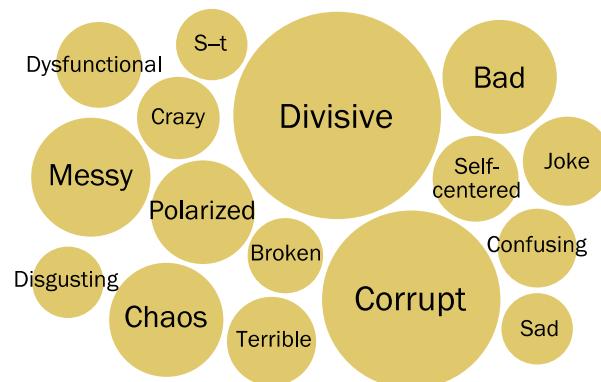
Yet it is telling that a majority of Americans are unable or unwilling to identify strong points of the nation’s political system. While about a third gave no answer, another 22% write “nothing” – meaning that in their view, the political system does not have any strengths.

These views and other negative sentiments are widely shared among older and younger Americans, White, Black, Hispanic and Asian adults, people who are highly engaged in politics and those who are less engaged. And in most cases, the partisan differences in these attitudes are relatively modest.

In an era defined by partisan polarization, the parties share little common ground politically. But they do share a deep unhappiness with the current state of politics.

Americans’ top descriptions of the current state of politics

What one word or phrase would you use to describe politics in the U.S. these days? [open end]



Note: Circle size indicates relative frequency of a word in responses to an open-ended question. Words with the same root are combined (e.g., “divisive,” “division”). Top 16 words shown. For more details, read Chapter 11 and the survey topline.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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The impact of partisan polarization

Ordinary Americans are more polarized than in the past. Partisan divisions on issues are wider than they were a few decades ago, and many Americans hold deeply negative views of those on the “other side” of politics.

Yet the public also is highly critical of the impact of partisan polarization on politics.

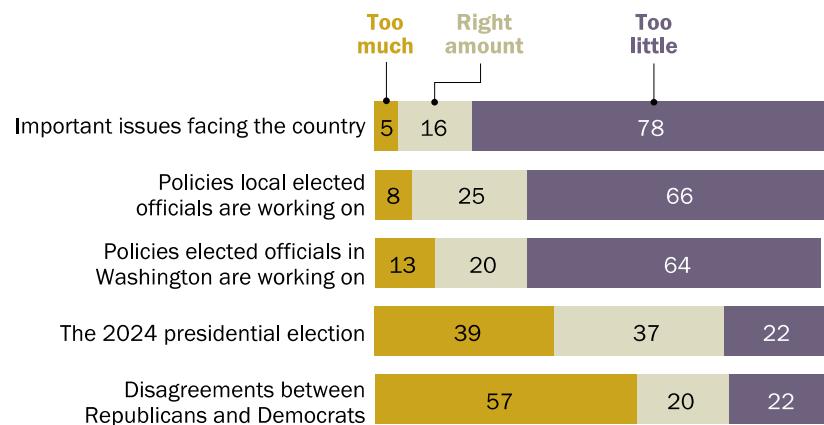
More than eight-in-ten Americans (86%) say the following is a good description of politics: “Republicans and Democrats are more focused on fighting each other than on solving problems.”

Asked to describe in their own words the biggest problem with the political system, 22% of Americans volunteer partisan polarization or lack of partisan cooperation. Only critiques of politicians (31%) are mentioned more frequently.

Most people (57%) also believe that conflicts between Republicans and Democrats receive too much attention these days. And 78% say there is too little focus on important issues facing the country.

Majorities of Americans say partisan fighting gets too much attention, while issues and policy get too little

% who say there is ____ (of) attention paid to each of the following in our country these days



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Persistent concerns over money in politics

The public's belief that special interests and campaign donors have too much influence on politics is not new. Since the 1970s, large majorities have said that the government “is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves.” rather than for the benefit for all the people.

Yet money in politics emerges again and again as a major source of public frustration.

- **Most say the cost of campaigns keeps good candidates from running.** An overwhelming majority (85%) holds the view that “the cost of political campaigns makes it hard for good people to run for office.”
- **Members of Congress are widely seen as mixing financial interests with their work.** About eight-in-ten Americans (81%) say members of Congress do a very or somewhat bad job of “keeping their personal financial interests separate from their work in Congress.”
- **Americans feel major donors have too much influence.** Large majorities say big campaign donors (80%) and lobbyists and special interests (73%) have too much influence on decisions made by members of Congress.

People in members' own districts, by contrast, are widely viewed as having *too little* influence (70% say this).

A sizable majority (72%) – including comparable majorities in both parties – support limits on the amounts of money individuals and organizations can spend on political campaigns. And 58% believe it is possible to have laws that would effectively reduce the role of money in politics.

([Explore this further in Chapter 5.](#))

Most Americans are critical of the role of money in politics; 72% favor limits on political spending

% who say ____ is a good description of the U.S. political system today

The cost of political campaigns makes it hard for good people to run for office	85
---	----

Special interest groups and lobbyists have too much say in what happens in politics	84
---	----

% who say ...

There should be limits on the amount of money that can be spent on campaigns	72
--	----

It's possible to have laws that would effectively reduce the role of money in politics	58
--	----

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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Views of the parties and possible changes to the two-party system

Neither party is particularly popular with the public. Only about four-in-ten adults have a favorable view of the Democratic Party (37%), while about as many (36%) have a favorable impression of the Republican Party.

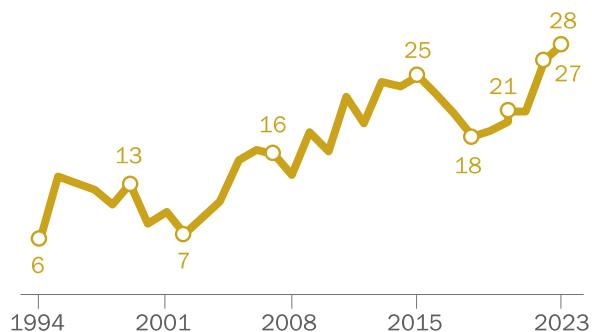
An increasing share of Americans express negative opinions of both parties. Currently, 28% of the public has an unfavorable opinion of both the Republican and Democratic parties.

That is little changed from a year ago, but nonetheless is the highest share expressing dislike of both parties in nearly three decades. In 1994, just 6% of Americans viewed both parties negatively.

Many people are open to the idea of having more political parties: 37% say the phrase “I often wish there were more parties to choose from” describes their views extremely or very well. Nearly half of independents and those who identify with other parties (47%) – including 56% of Democratic-leaning independents – say this. (*Views of the two major parties, the party system and support for additional parties are discussed in more detail in [Chapter 4](#) and [Chapter 9](#).*)

Since the mid-1990s, the share of Americans with unfavorable views of both parties has more than quadrupled

% who have an *unfavorable view* of both the Republican and Democratic parties



Note: Based on those who rated both the Republican and Democratic parties.

Source: Yearly averages of survey data from Pew Research Center American Trends Panel (2020-2023) and Pew Research Center phone surveys of U.S. adults (1994-2019).

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However, there is considerable skepticism that having more parties would make it easier for the country to solve its problems. About a quarter (26%) say it would make it easier to solve problems, while nearly as many (24%) say it would make it harder; a quarter say it would not have much impact.

The survey includes a number of proposals to change the way politics is run in this country. Some have attracted majority public support for many years, including ending the Electoral College system, placing term limits on members of Congress, automatically registering all citizens to vote and requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification to vote. (*Opinions about proposals for changing the political system are covered in [Chapter 10](#).*)

Large majorities of Americans also support:

- **Age limits for federal elected officials.**

Amid widespread concern over the [advanced age of many political leaders](#), including President Joe Biden, former President Donald Trump and [some members of Congress](#), 79% of the public favors putting a maximum age in place for elected officials in Washington, D.C. These views also are widely shared across partisan lines.

- **Age limits for the Supreme Court.** Nearly as many Americans (74%) support putting age limits in place for justices of the Supreme Court. Democrats (82% favor) are more supportive of creating age limits for the justices than are Republicans (68%).

Many Americans are open to having more parties; about a quarter say it would make it easier to solve problems

% who say ...

"I often wish there were more political parties to choose from" describes their views ...



Having more than two major political parties would ___ to solve the country's problems



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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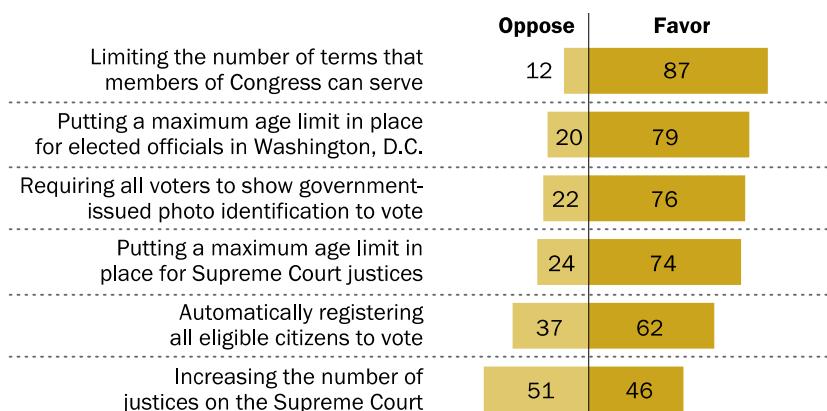
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Another proposal that would dramatically affect the Supreme Court – increasing the number of justices – attracts considerably less support from the public.

Slightly more Americans oppose (51%) than favor (46%) increasing the number of justices on the court. There is a wide partisan gap in these views: Democrats (66%) are more than twice as likely as Republicans (27%) to favor expanding the court.

Broad public support for term limits for Congress, age limits for federal elected officials and Supreme Court

% who ____ each of the following proposals



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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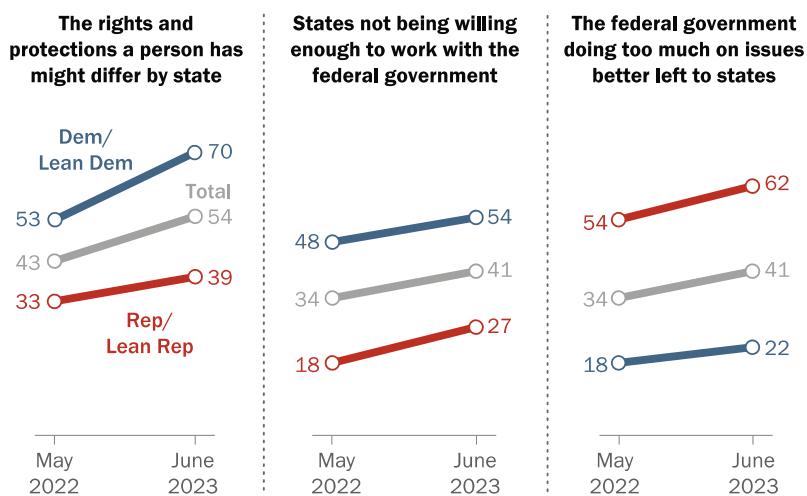
Other important findings

Recent presidential campaigns viewed as too long, not informative. Americans are not just unhappy about the current state of politics; they also take a critical view of recent presidential campaigns. Nearly eight-in-ten (78%) say recent nominees have not been good candidates, while large majorities also say the campaigns have not focused on the right issues or been informative, and 72% say they “lasted too long.” ([Chapter 8](#))

Growing public concerns over different dimensions of federal-state relations. A majority of Americans (54%) are extremely or very concerned that “the rights and protections a person has might be different depending on which state they are in,” up from 43% just a year ago. Increasing shares also express concerns about the federal government doing too much that is better left to the states, as well as state governments not being willing enough to work with the federal government. ([Chapter 2](#))

Democrats worry that personal rights may vary by state, Republicans that the federal government is doing too much on issues better left to the states

% who say they are *extremely/very concerned* about ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.
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Elected officials are held in extremely low regard.

When asked why local and national elected officeholders run for office, relatively small shares of Americans say they run to serve the public or address issues they care about. By contrast, majorities say all or most politicians are motivated by selfish reasons, including 63% who say all or most ran for office to make a lot of money. ([Chapter 7](#))

Majority says voting can affect the country’s direction. Nearly six-in-ten (57%) say voting by people like them can affect the country’s future direction, though just 20% say it can affect this a lot. Adults younger than 50 are less likely than older people to say voting can have at least some effect on the country’s future direction. ([Chapter 5](#))

Explore chapters of this report

- 1. Problems and strengths of the political system**
- 2. Trust in government, federal-state relations**
- 3. Political leaders**
- 4. The Republican and Democratic parties**
- 5. Money, power and the influence of ordinary Americans**
- 6. Congress and elected officials**
- 7. Candidate quality and why elected officials run for office**
- 8. The presidency and presidential politics**
- 9. Representation by the two major parties; support for more parties**
- 10. Proposals to change the political system**
- 11. Feelings about politics and polarization**

1. The biggest problems and greatest strengths of the U.S. political system

The public sees a number of specific problems with American politics. Partisan fighting, the high cost of political campaigns, and the outsize influence of special interests and lobbyists are each seen as characteristic of the U.S. political system by at least 84% of Americans.

Yet 63% also say that “ordinary Americans care about making the political system work well” is a good description of U.S. politics today. Still, when asked to describe a strength of the political system in their own words, more than half either say “nothing” (22%) or decline to give an answer (34%).

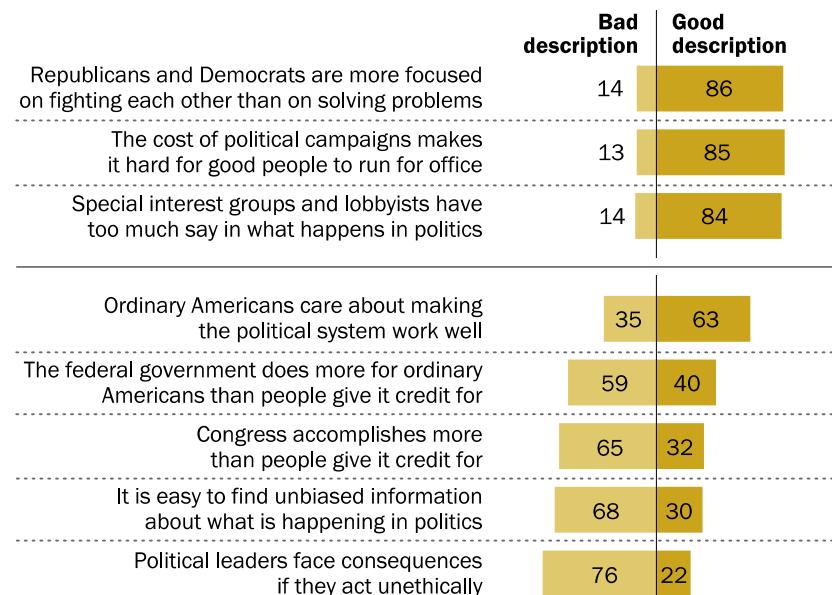
Americans view negative statements as better descriptions of the political system than positive ones

More than eight-in-ten adults say that each of the following is at least a somewhat good description of the U.S. political system today:

- Republicans and Democrats are more focused on fighting each other than on solving problems (86%);
- The cost of political campaigns makes it hard for good people to run for office (85%);
- Special interest groups and lobbyists have too much say in what happens in politics (84%).

Widely shared criticisms of politics: Partisan fights, costly campaigns, influence of special interests

% who say each of the following is a ___ of the U.S. political system today



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

About six-in-ten (63%) think ordinary Americans want to make the political system work well. This is the rare positive sentiment that a majority views as a good descriptor of the political system.

Fewer than half of adults hold the view that the government deserves more credit than it gets: Majorities say that “the federal government does more for ordinary Americans than people give it credit for” (59%) and “Congress accomplishes more than people give it credit for” (65%) are both *bad* descriptions of the political system.

Nearly seven-in-ten adults express frustration with the availability of unbiased information about politics: 68% say the statement “it is easy to find unbiased information about what is happening in politics” is not a good description of the political system.

And just 22% of Americans say that political leaders facing consequences for acting unethically is a good description of the political system. They are more than three times as likely to say that this is a bad description (76% say this).

Many critiques of the political system are bipartisan

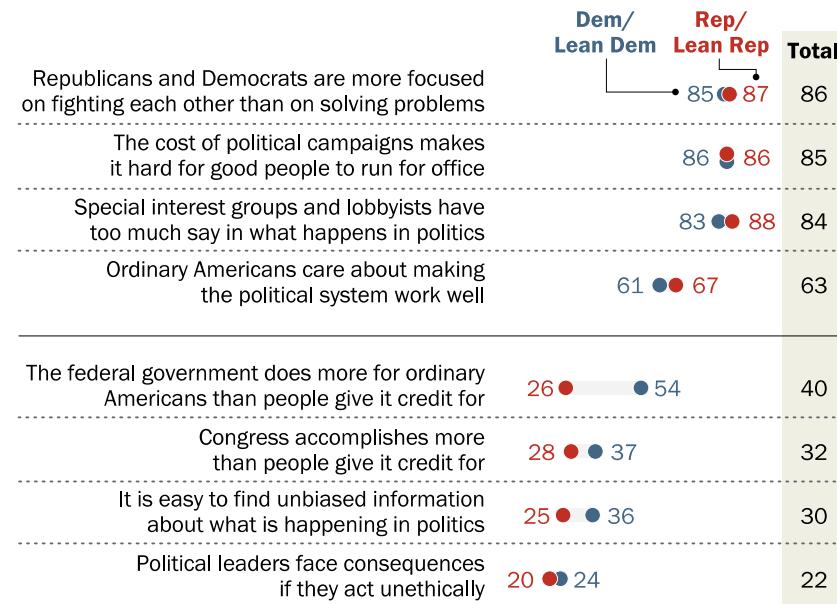
Partisans have similar views of many of the descriptions of the political system included in the survey.

Overwhelming majorities in both parties think there is too much partisan fighting, campaigns cost too much, and lobbyists and special interests have too much say in politics. And just 24% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents and 20% of Republicans and Republican leaners say that political leaders face consequences if they act unethically.

The widest partisan gap is over a description of the federal government. Democrats are roughly twice as likely as Republicans to say “the federal government does more for ordinary Americans than people give it credit for” (54% vs. 26%).

Partisans largely agree in views of many problems with the political system

% who say each of the following is a good description of the U.S. political system today



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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There is a narrower gap in views of Congress’ accomplishments: 37% of Democrats and 28% of Republicans say it accomplishes more than people give it credit for.

Democrats are also more likely to say, “It is easy to find unbiased information about what is happening in politics” (36% of Democrats and 25% of Republicans say this is a good description of the political system today), while Republicans are slightly more likely than Democrats to view ordinary Americans as wanting to make the political system work well (67% of Republicans and 61% of Democrats say this is a good description).

In their own words: Americans on the political system's biggest problems

When asked to describe in their own words the biggest problem with the political system in the U.S. today, Americans point to a wide range of factors.

Negative characteristics attributed to politicians and political leaders are a common complaint: 31% of U.S. adults say politicians are the biggest problem with the system, including 15% who point to greed or corruption and 7% who cite dishonesty or a lack of trustworthiness.

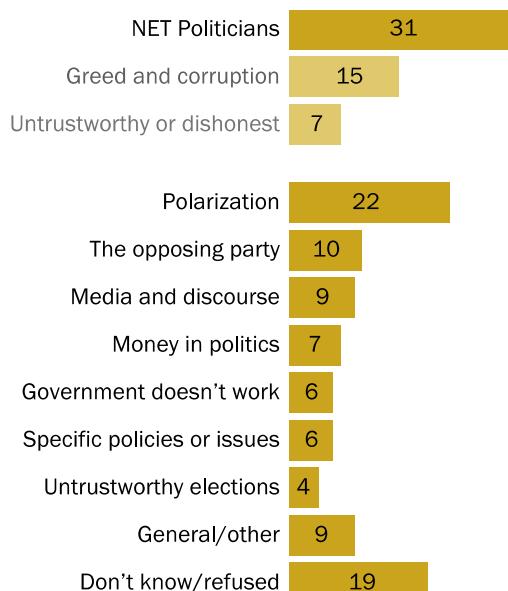
The biggest problem, according to one woman in her 50s, is that politicians are “hiding the truth and fulfilling their own agendas.” Similarly, a man in his 30s says, “They don’t work for the people. They are too corrupt and busy filling their pockets.”

About two-in-ten adults cite deep divisions between the parties as the biggest problem with the U.S. political system, with respondents describing a lack of cooperation between the parties or among elected leaders in Washington.

“Both of the political parties are so busy trying to stop the other party, they are wasting their opportunities to solve the problems faced by our nation,” in the view of one man in his 70s.

Roughly a third of Americans say ‘politicians’ are the biggest problem with the political system today

What do you see as the biggest problem with the political system in the U.S. today? (%) [open end]



Note: Figures represent responses to an open-ended question. Only those responses that were given by at least 4% of respondents are shown. See topline for full details. Numbers may exceed 100% due to multiple responses; the first three topics mentioned were included.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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Even as some blame polarization, others (10% of respondents) identify the other party as the system's biggest problem. Some Republicans say that the biggest problem is "Democrats" while some Democrats simply say "Republicans."

Smaller but substantial shares of adults name the media and political discourse (9%), the influence of money in politics (7%), government's perceived failures (6%), specific policy areas and issues (6%) or problems with elections and voting (4%) as the biggest problem with the political system today.

Explore more voices: The political system's biggest problems

What do you see as the biggest problem with the political system in the U.S. today?

"An almost total lack of credibility and trust. Coupled with a media that's so biased, that they've lost all objectivity." –Man, 70s

"Lying about intentions or not following through with what elected officials said they would do." –Woman, 20s

"Blind faith in political figures." –Woman, 50s

"Our elected officials would rather play political games than serve the needs of their constituents." –Woman, 50s

"Same politicians in office too long." –Woman, 30s

"Extremism on both sides exploited by the mainstream media for ratings. It is making it impossible for both parties to work together." –Man, 30s

"It has become too polarized. No one is willing to compromise or be moderate." –Woman, 40s

"Too much money in politics coming from large corporations and special interest." –Man, 30s

"The people have no say in important matters, we have NO representation at all. Our lawmakers are isolated and could care less what we want." –Man, 60s

In their own words: Americans on the political system's biggest strengths

Far fewer adults name a specific strength of the political system today when asked to describe the system's biggest strength in their own words. More than half either say that the system lacks a biggest strength (22%) or decline to answer (34%). As one woman in her 60s writes, "I'm not seeing any strengths!"

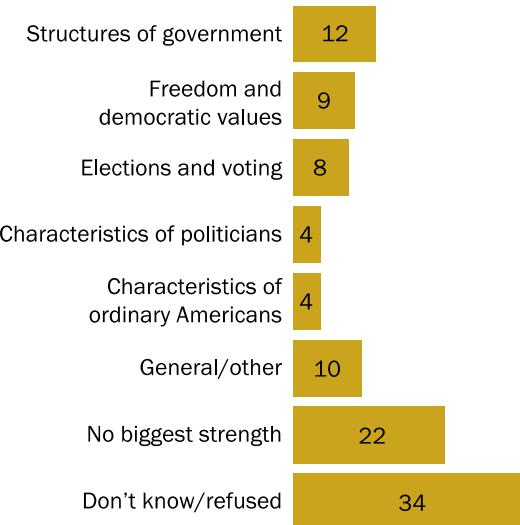
Among those who do identify strengths of the U.S. political system, the structure of political institutions and the principles that define the constitutional order are named most frequently (by 12% of respondents). Many respondents specifically point to the Constitution itself or refer to the separation of powers or the checks and balances created by the Constitution.

A man in his 20s believes that the “separation of powers and federalism work pretty well,” while one in his 30s writes that the system’s greatest strength is “the checks and balances to make sure that monumental changes aren’t made unilaterally.”

About one-in-ten (9%) refer to individual freedoms and related democratic values, while a similar share (8%) discuss the right to vote and the existence of free elections. A woman in her 70s echoes many similar comments when she points to “the possibility of change in upcoming elections.”

Those who see strengths in the U.S. political system often cite constitutional principles, democratic values

What do you see as the biggest strength of the U.S. political system today? (%) [open end]



Note: Figures represent responses to an open-ended question. Only those responses that were given by at least 4% of respondents are shown. See topline for full details. Numbers may exceed 100% due to multiple responses; the first three topics mentioned were included.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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However, even some of the descriptions of positive characteristics of the system are couched in respondents' doubts about the way the system is working today. One woman in her 50s adds a qualification to what she views as the system's biggest strength, saying, "Theoretically every voter has a say."

Smaller shares of the public point to the positive characteristics of some politicians (4%) or the positive characteristics of the American people (4%) as reasons for optimism.

Explore more voices: The political system's biggest strengths

What do you see as the biggest strength of the U.S. political system today?

"Everyone getting a say; democracy." –Woman, 40s

"The right to have your opinions heard." –Man, 60s

"In spite of our differences, we are still a democracy, and I believe there are people within our government who still care and are interested in the betterment of our country." –Woman, 50s

"The freedom of speech and religion" –Woman, 50s

"If we have fair, honest elections we can vote out the corruption and/or incompetent politicians." –Man, 70s

"The Constitution." –Man, 50s

"The checks and balances to control the power of any office. The voice of the people and the options to remove an official from office." –Man, 60s

"New, younger voices in government." –Woman, 40s

"If we can't get more bipartisanship we'll become weaker. Our biggest strength is our working together." –Woman, 60s

"The way that every two years the people get to make their voice heard." –Man, 30s

Are there clear solutions to the nation's problems?

The public remains roughly evenly split over whether there are clear solutions to the biggest issues facing the country. Half of Americans today say there are clear solutions to most of the big issues facing the country, while about as many (48%) say most big issues don't have clear solutions.

There are relatively modest demographic and political differences in perceptions of whether the solutions to the nations' problems are clear or not.

Gender

While both men and women are relatively divided on this question, women are 6 percentage points more likely to think the big issues facing the country don't have clear solutions.

Race and ethnicity

While 43% of Hispanic adults and about half of Black (50%) and White (48%) adults say there aren't clear solutions for most big issues, that rises to 62% among Asian adults.

Age

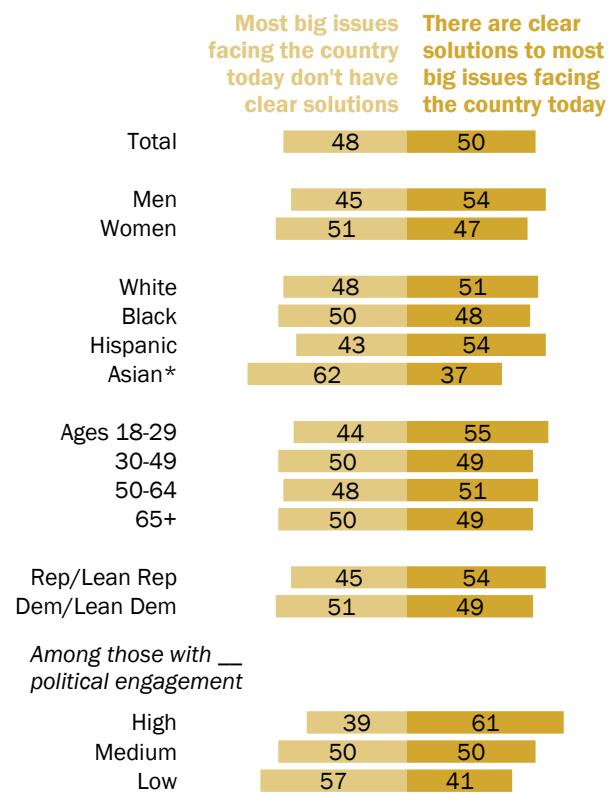
Age differences on this question are modest, but those under 30 are slightly more likely than those 30 and older to say most big issues have clear solutions.

Partisanship and political engagement

Both Republicans and Democrats are relatively split on this question, though Republicans are slightly more likely to say there are clear solutions to most big issues.

Americans are split over whether there are clear solutions to big national issues

% who say ...



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: Refer to methodology for full details on the measure of political engagement. White, Black and Asian adults include only those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023. "Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

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Those with higher levels of political engagement are more likely to say there are clear solutions to most big issues facing the country.

About six-in-ten adults with high levels of political engagement (61%) say there are clear solutions to big issues today, compared with half of those with medium levels of engagement and 41% of those with lower engagement.

2. Views of the U.S. political system, the federal government and federal-state relations

In evaluating the current and future state of politics in the United States, Americans express largely negative views. And trust in the federal government, which has been low for nearly two decades, hovers near record lows.

Only 4% of Americans now say the political system is working extremely or very well, with nearly three-quarters saying it isn't. A majority (63%) say they have little or no confidence in the future of the U.S. political system.

Views of Congress, the Supreme Court and the political parties also remain deeply – and in some cases, historically – negative.

Meanwhile, there are wide partisan differences in views of several aspects of federal-state relations. Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to say they are very or extremely concerned that a person's rights and protections might vary depending on which state they are in.

By contrast, a much larger share of Republicans than Democrats express concern that the federal government is doing too much on issues better left to state governments.

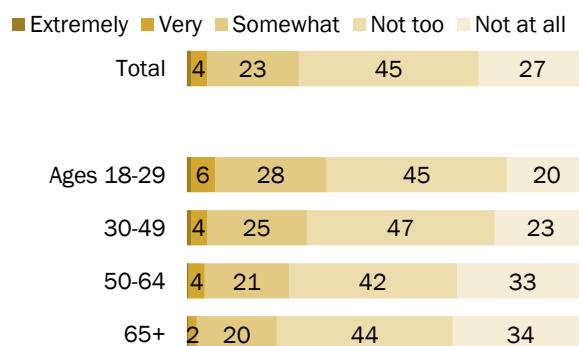
Evaluations of the political system

Only 4% of the public says the political system in the U.S. is working extremely or very well today, while 23% say it is working somewhat well. About seven-in-ten (72%) say the system is working not too (45%) or not at all (27%) well.

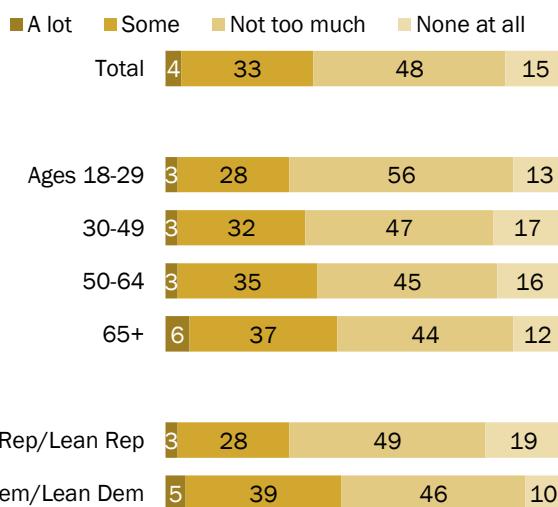
Looking to the future of the system, about six-in-ten Americans (63%) say they have not too much or no confidence at all. A third say they have some confidence, and just 4% express a lot of confidence.

Few Americans say the U.S. political system is working very well today, and many lack confidence in its future

% who say they think the political system is working ___ well in the U.S. today



% who have ___ (of) confidence in the future of the U.S. political system



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Age

Younger adults are somewhat more likely than older adults to say the political system is working well: 35% of adults under age 30 say the system is working at least somewhat well, compared with 29% of those 30 to 49 and 24% of those 50 and older.

But older people are more likely to express confidence when it comes to the future of the U.S. political system. About four-in-ten adults 65 and older (43%) say they have at least some confidence in the future of the political system. That drops to three-in-ten among adults under 30.

Party

Republicans are more likely than Democrats to express negative views of the political system.

Roughly eight-in-ten Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (81%) say the political system is working not too or not at all well, including more than a third (37%) who say it is working not at all well. Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, 64% say the political system is working either not too or not at all well, with 19% saying it is not working well at all.

Older Republicans are particularly likely to say the system is not working well: 88% of Republicans 50 and older say this, compared with 77% of those 30 to 49 and 61% of those under 30. Democrats do not differ by age on this question.

Republicans also express less confidence in the future of the U.S. political system: 68% of Republicans and 56% of Democrats say they have not too much or no confidence at all in its future. While Republicans of all age groups are about equally likely to have confidence in the political system's future (31% have a lot of or some confidence), older Democrats are more likely to say this than younger Democrats. A majority of Democrats 50 and older (54%) say they have at least some confidence, compared with 37% of those under 50.

Trust in the federal government

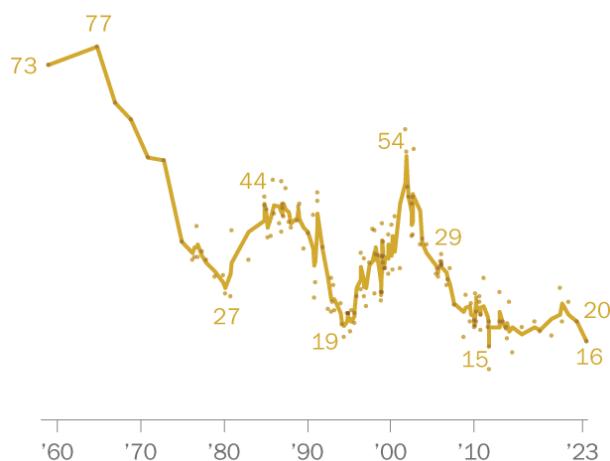
Just 16% of Americans say they trust the government in Washington to do the right thing just about always or most of the time. While public trust in government has been low for nearly two decades, the current measure is among the lowest in more than 70 years of polling.

Trust in the federal government is down 4 percentage points from last year and was somewhat higher in 2020 and 2021. The current measure is on par with public views in 2019.

For more on trust in the federal government over the last 70 years, [please visit our trust interactive.](#)

Public trust in the federal government near record low

% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always/most of the time



Note: From 1976-2022, the trend line represents a three-survey moving average.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-23), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier), National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and CNN polls.

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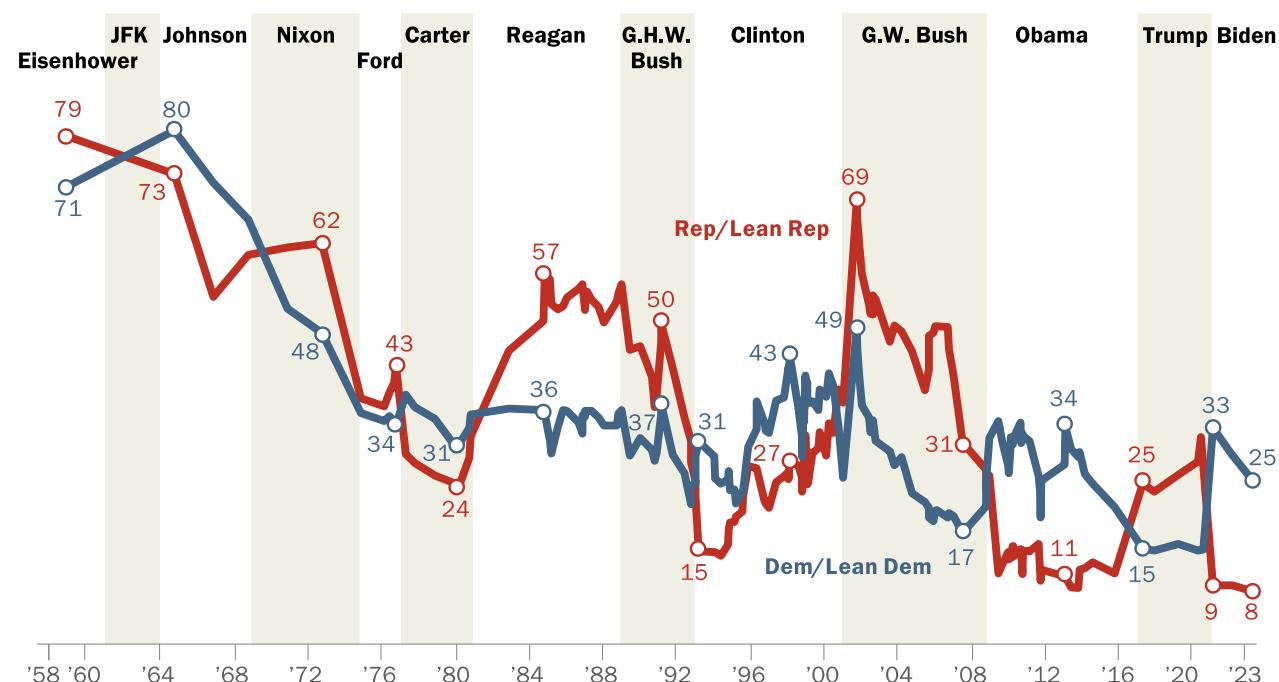
Trust in government by party

As in the past, trust in government is higher among those whose party holds the presidency. Today, a quarter of Democrats say they trust the government to do what is right at least most of the time, compared with just 8% of Republicans.

Democrats' trust in government is now substantially higher than it was during the Trump administration but is down 8 points from the spring of 2021. In contrast, Republicans' trust in government dropped between 2020 and 2021 but has changed little over the last few years.

Partisan trust in government shifts with control of the White House but remains lower in both parties than it was last century

% who say they trust the government in Washington to do what is right just about always/most of the time



Note: From 1976-2022, the trend line represents a three-survey moving average. For all surveys prior to 1976 and a limited number of surveys through 2013, data shown among partisans (not including leaners).

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-23), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier), National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and CNN polls.

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Republicans' current level of trust in the federal government is among the lowest since the question was first asked in the 1950s. Prior to Joe Biden's presidency, GOP trust in government had only hit similar lows during the Obama administration.

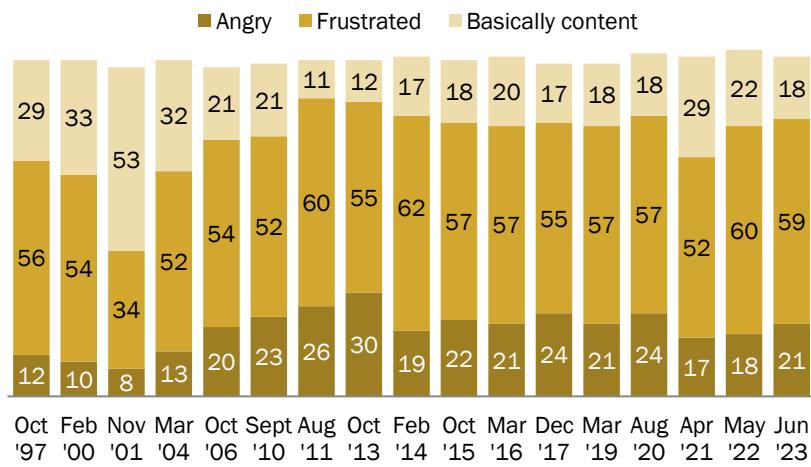
Feelings toward the federal government

As has been the case for more than a decade, a majority of Americans (59%) say they feel frustrated toward the federal government. About two-in-ten (21%) say they feel angry toward the government, while 18% say they are basically content.

These views have changed only modestly in recent years. A slightly higher share express anger today than did so last year and the year before. Anger is now slightly lower than it was in the summer of 2020.

Americans continue to express frustration, more than anger or contentment, with the federal government

% who say they feel ____ toward the federal government



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-23), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier).

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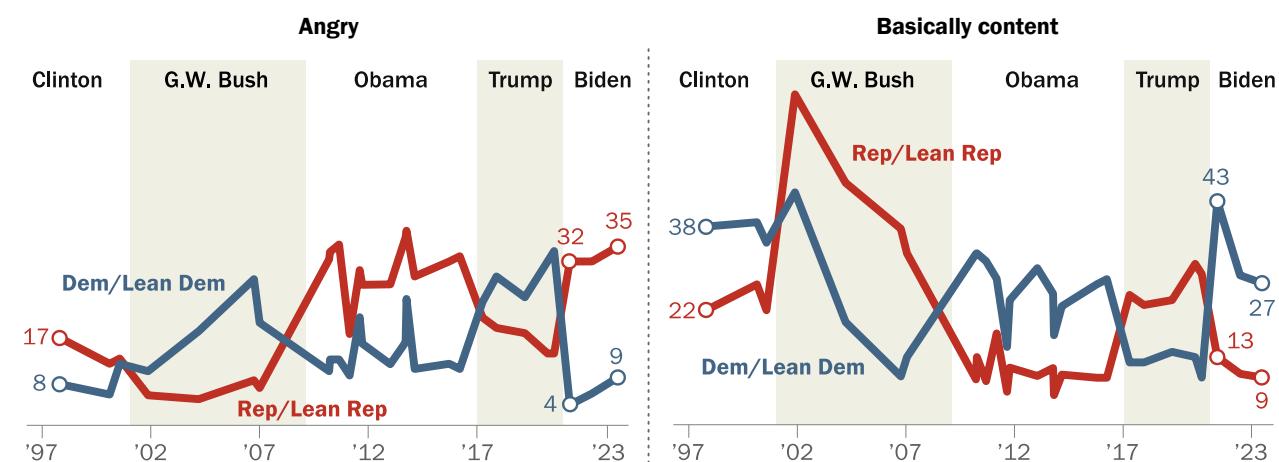
Feelings about the federal government by party

The share of Democrats and Democratic leaners saying they are basically content with the government is similar to the share who said the same a year ago (27% today, 29% then). In 2021, Democrats were 16 percentage points more likely to say they felt content toward the government. Nearly two-thirds of Democrats (64%) express frustration toward the government, a share unchanged in the last year but 12 points higher than in 2021. The share of Democrats who say they are angry remains low – 9% say this today – but is up 5 points since 2021.

About a third of Republicans and Republican leaners (35%) say they feel angry toward the federal government, while 55% say they feel frustrated and just 9% say they feel content. These figures are largely unchanged in recent years.

Anger and contentment with the federal government shift with presidential administrations

% who say they feel ___ toward the federal government



Note: Question wording is “Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?” “Frustrated” not shown in this graphic. In 2023, 55% of Republicans and Republican leaners and 64% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they are frustrated with the government.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2020-23), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2019 and earlier). “Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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The relationship between the federal and state governments

Majority of Americans concerned rights and protections may be different in different states

A majority of Americans (54%) now say they are extremely or very concerned that the rights and protections a person has might be different depending on which state they are in. About three-in-ten (29%) say they are somewhat concerned about this, while 16% are not too or not at all concerned.

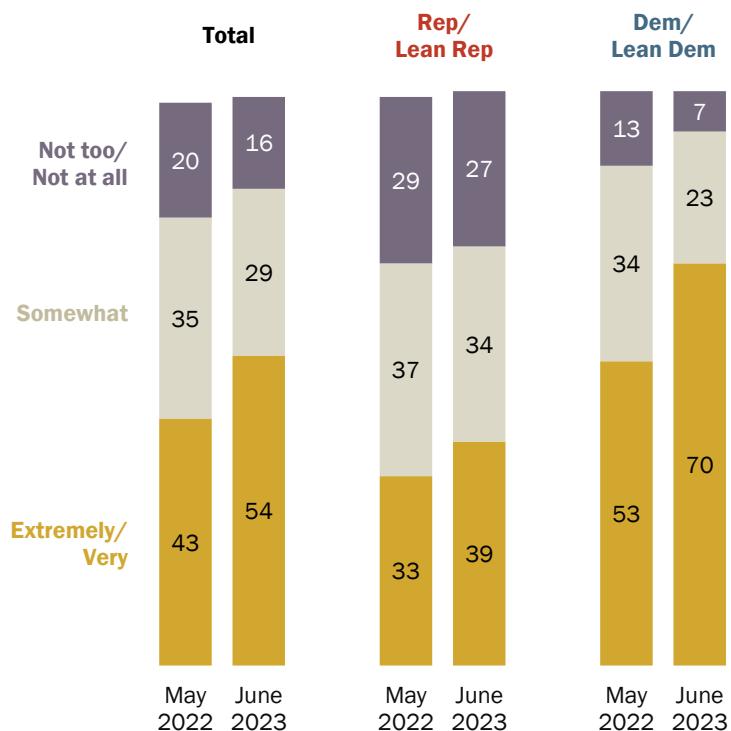
The share reporting they are extremely or very concerned about this has risen 11 points since May of 2022.

Democrats are particularly likely to express concern that rights and protections may vary across states. Seven-in-ten Democrats now say they are extremely or very concerned about this, up from 53% a year ago.

Among Republicans, the share who say they are at least very concerned is up 6 points, from 33% to 39%.

Growing numbers, especially among Democrats, are concerned rights may vary from state to state

% who say they are ___ concerned that the rights and protections a person has might be different depending on which state they are in



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

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Some concerned the federal government is doing too much that should be left to states

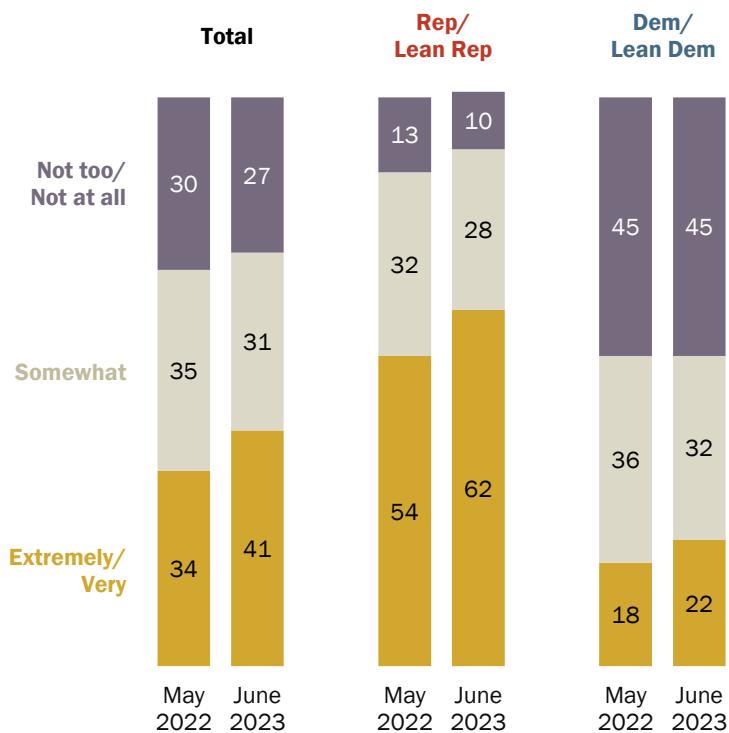
The share expressing concern about the federal government doing too much on issues better left to state governments has also risen over the past year: 41% now say they are extremely or very concerned about this, compared with 34% in May 2022.

Republicans express higher levels of concern than Democrats that the federal government is doing too much. Roughly six-in-ten Republicans (62%) are extremely or very concerned about this, compared with 22% of Democrats.

The share of Republicans who are at least very concerned is up 8 points in the past year, while the share of Democrats who say this has increased by 4 points.

About 6 in 10 Republicans are at least very concerned about the federal government doing too much

% who say they are ___ concerned that the federal government is doing too much on issues better left to state governments



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

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Some concerned states are not willing enough to work with the federal government

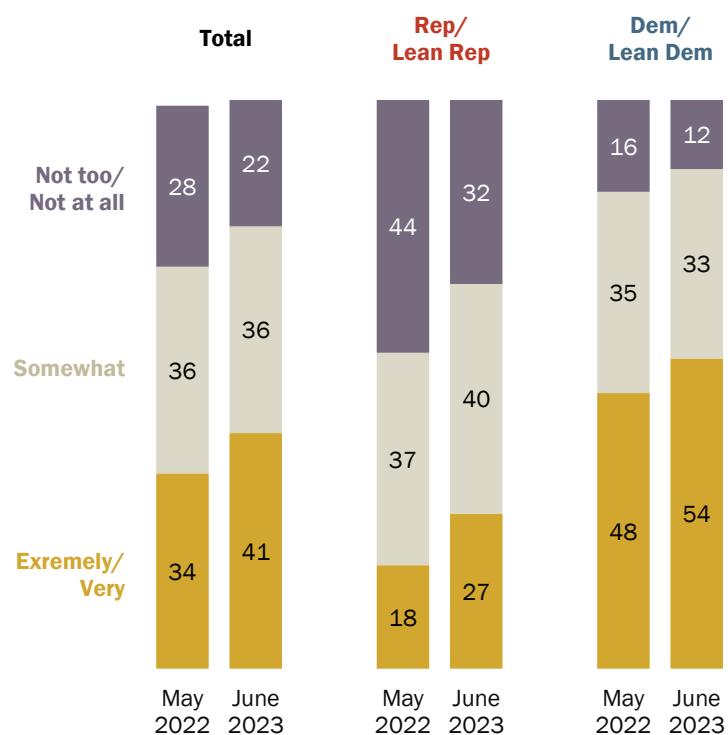
Overall, 41% of U.S. adults say they are extremely or very concerned about state governments not being willing enough to work with the federal government, up from 34% last year. Roughly a third (36%) say they are somewhat concerned about this, while 22% say they are not too or not at all concerned.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they are concerned about state governments not being willing enough to work with the federal government: A majority of Democrats (54%) are extremely or very concerned about this. Just 27% of Republicans share that concern.

The share in each party who say they are at least very concerned about state governments' unwillingness to work with the federal government has increased since 2022, by 9 points among Republicans and 6 points among Democrats.

Roughly 4 in 10 Americans are concerned about states being unwilling to work with the federal government

% who say they are ___ concerned about state governments not being willing enough to work with the federal government



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

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3. How Americans view Congress, the president, state and local political leaders

While trust in the federal government [hovers near a historic low](#), public views of Congress, the Supreme Court and the president also are quite negative.

However, people's ratings of the job performance of *their own* congressional representative – in contrast with views of Congress as a whole – are more positive than negative. Their assessments of their state's governor also are positive, on balance. Yet both Democrats and Republicans are far more positive about both their governor and their member of Congress when that person shares their partisanship.

By more than two-to-one (56% to 26%), Americans say their local elected officials are doing a good job.

Views of the branches of the federal government

Congress

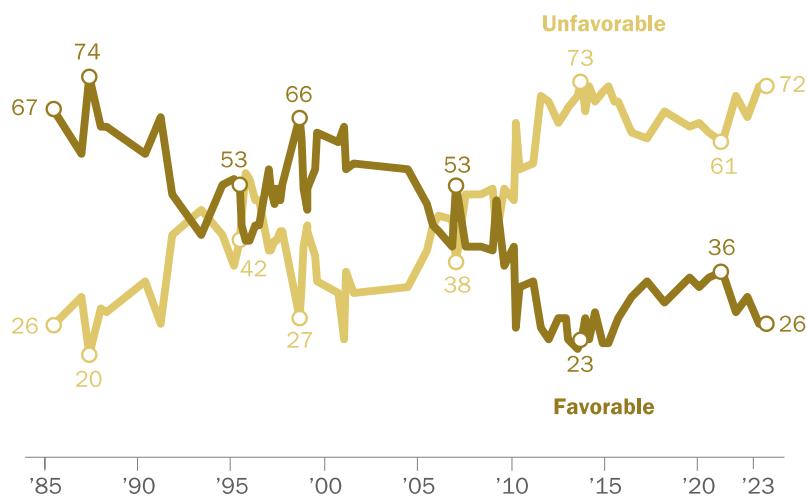
About seven-in-ten Americans (72%) say they have an unfavorable view of Congress, with 26% saying they have a favorable view.

While public views of Congress have been more negative than positive for over a decade, the share of Americans giving Congress an unfavorable rating is now among the highest in nearly four decades of polling.

Throughout much of the 1980s, '90s and early 2000s, Congress was viewed more favorably than unfavorably. Views were more evenly split in the late

Most Americans continue to have a negative view of Congress

% who say they have a(n) ___ opinion of Congress



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2019-2023), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2018 and earlier).

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2000s and began to shift in a negative direction over the next several years.

Views of Congress by party

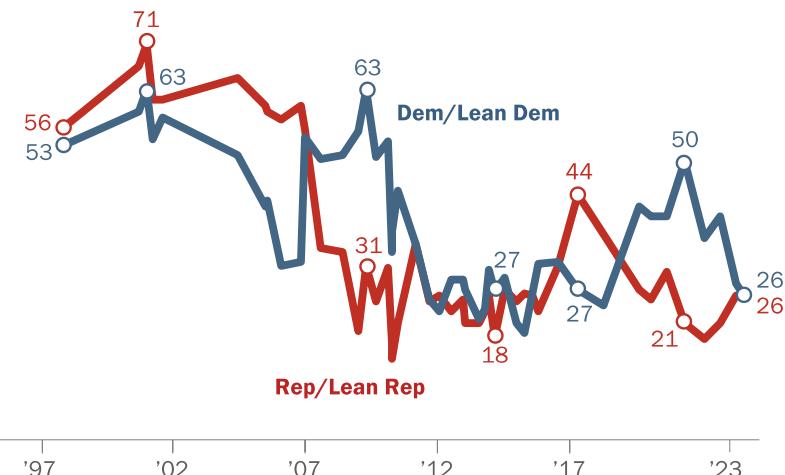
There is no partisan gap in ratings of Congress today, with 26% of both Republicans and Democrats expressing a favorable view of Congress.

Partisans' ratings of Congress often shift as control of the two chambers shifts. For instance, Democratic favorability of Congress was higher in 2021 and 2022, when the party held control of both the House and Senate.

Conversely, Republican favorability of Congress is now slightly higher than it was in 2022, prior to the GOP taking control of the House. But it remains lower than it was in 2017 and 2018 (when Republicans last held control of both chambers).

About a quarter of both Democrats and Republicans have a favorable view of Congress

*% who say they have a **favorable** opinion of Congress*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

Trend sources: Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (2019-2023), Pew Research Center phone surveys (2018 and earlier).

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House and Senate rated similarly by the public, but partisan gaps reflect chamber control

The House of Representatives and the Senate are both viewed somewhat more positively than “Congress”: About a third of Americans view each chamber positively, while 26% say the same of Congress.

This reflects that both Republicans and Democrats feel somewhat more positive about the chamber their party controls than about “Congress.”

For example, while the share of Republicans expressing a positive view of the Senate is identical to the 26% who say this about Congress, 38% of Republicans say they have a favorable view of the House.

Democrats rate both chambers more positively than “Congress.” Still, the pattern is similar, with the Democratic-controlled Senate viewed more positively than the GOP-controlled House (39% vs. 30%).

About one-third of Americans have favorable views of the U.S. House and Senate

% who have a(n) ___ opinion of ...

		CONGRESS		HOUSE		SENATE	
		Unfavorable	Favorable	Unfavorable	Favorable	Unfavorable	Favorable
Total		72	26	64	33	65	32
Rep/Lean Rep		72	26	59	38	71	26
Dem/Lean Dem		72	26	68	30	59	39

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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Supreme Court

Views of the Supreme Court are at their [most negative point in more than three decades](#), with 54% of Americans now saying they have an unfavorable view of the court. The court’s favorable rating has declined 26 percentage points since 2020, primarily driven by a decline in the share of Democrats and Democratic leaners rating the court favorably.

Views of the president

President Joe Biden's approval rating has hovered below 40% for the last few years, and ratings for his immediate predecessor – Donald Trump – were similarly more negative than positive.

Presidents in prior decades tended to have higher approval ratings.

This is, in part, reflective of the rising partisan divide in presidential job approval, which has grown steadily in the past few decades – mostly a result of people in the “out party” becoming less likely to approve of the president.

Through 2022, an average of 82% of Democrats approved of how Biden had handled his job as president, while just 7% of Republicans did. These views are about the reverse of Trump’s approval over his time in office. In contrast, during George W. Bush’s presidency, an average of 23% of Democrats approved of his job performance, and during Bill Clinton’s presidency an average of 27% of Republicans approved of Clinton.

Americans' ratings of their House member, governor and local officials

Overall, Americans rate the performance of their own elected officials more positively than negatively.

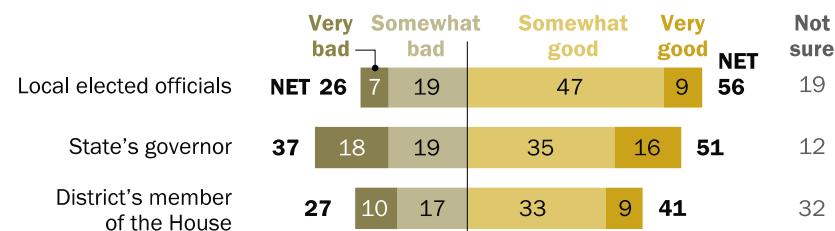
A 56% majority of U.S. adults say their local elected officials are doing a good job, while fewer than half as many (26%) say they are doing a bad job. About two-in-ten (19%) say they are not sure.

Roughly half of the public (51%) says their state's governor is doing a good job, while 37% say the governor is going a bad job. Around one-in-ten (12%) say they aren't sure about their governor's job performance.

Americans are less likely to offer an opinion of the member of Congress who represents their district, with about a third (32%) declining to do so. But ratings of these officials also are more positive (41% good job) than negative (27% bad job).

Americans have more positive views of local elected officials compared with their governor, House member

How would you rate the job performance of your ... (%)



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Ratings of House member, by party

Just as Americans are more approving of the president when they share the president's party, they are also more likely to say their other elected leaders are doing a good job when they are of the same party. This pattern is evident in Americans' views of members of the House of Representatives and is even more pronounced in views of governors.

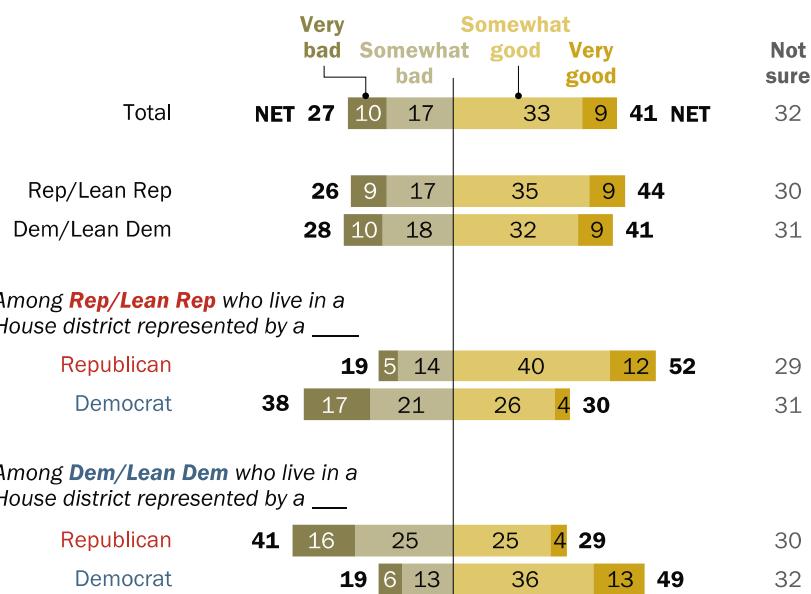
Overall, similar shares of Republicans (44%) and Democrats (41%) say their district's House member is doing a good job.

However, Republicans in House districts represented by a Republican are far more likely to approve of the job performance of their representatives (52% good job) than are Republicans who live in places with Democratic House members (30% good job).

Similarly, about half of Democrats who live in a district represented by a Democrat (49%) say their House member is doing a good job, while just 29% of Democrats who are represented by a Republican say the same.

How well is your House member doing? It largely depends on whether they belong to your party

% who rate the job performance of their district's member of the House of Representatives as ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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Ratings of governors, by party

The partisan gap in views of state governors is even wider. Nearly three-quarters of both Democrats and Republicans who are represented by a governor who shares their partisanship say that governor does a good job.

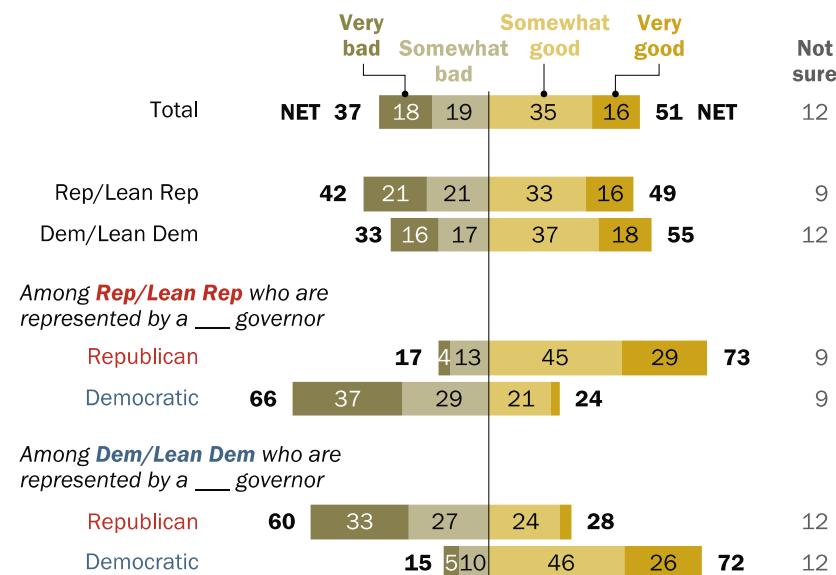
By comparison, six-in-ten Democrats and 66% of Republicans who live in states headed up by a governor of the opposing party say their governor does a bad job.

About half of all Republicans and Republican leaners (49%) and 55% of all Democrats and Democratic leaners say their state's governor is doing a good job.

However, 73% of Republicans who are represented by a Republican governor say their governor does a good job. In contrast, 24% of Republicans living in states with a Democratic governor say the same.

Americans represented by a governor of their party feel more positively about job performance

% who rate the job performance of their state's governor as ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Similarly, Democrats in states with a Democratic governor are far more positive about the job performance of their state's governor (72% good job) than Democrats in states with a Republican governor (28%).

4. The Republican and Democratic parties

The U.S. public's views of both the Republican and Democratic parties are more unfavorable than favorable, with a record number of Americans (28%) now expressing unfavorable views of *both* parties.

Yet most Republicans and Democrats characterize their own party in positive terms, saying that it respects democracy and governs honestly and ethically. And most say their own party generally has good ideas.

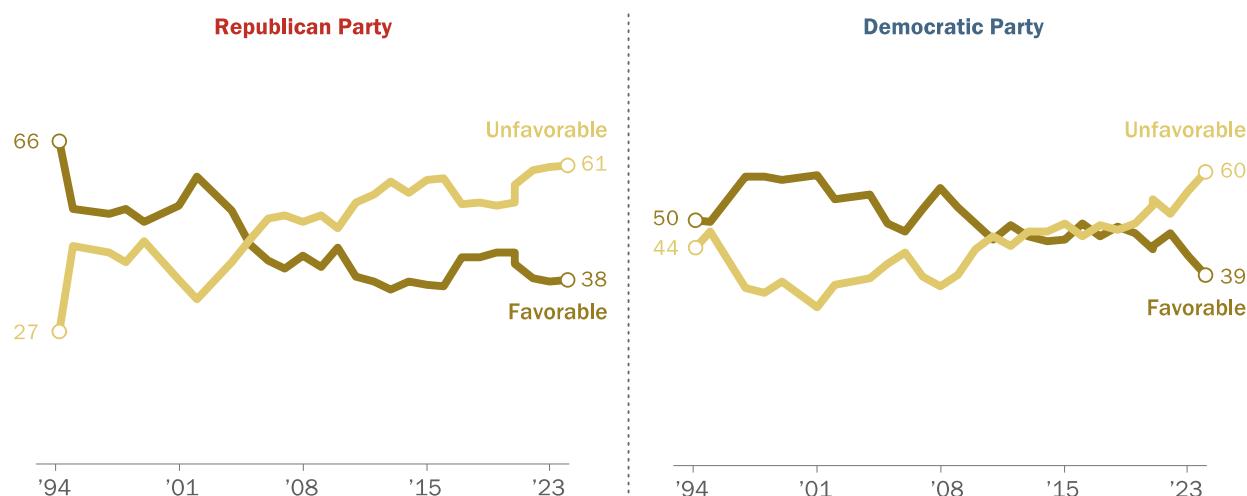
Party favorability ratings

About six-in-ten Americans (61%) say they have an unfavorable view of the Republican Party, and a nearly identical share (60%) rate the Democratic Party unfavorably.

For close to two decades, views of the Republican Party have been consistently more unfavorable than favorable, with little shift in the last few years. But current evaluations are among the most negative in nearly three decades of Pew Research Center polling – and throughout the mid-1990s and early 2000s, the GOP was seen more favorably than not by the public.

Americans' views of both major parties remain more unfavorable than favorable

% who have a ___ view of the ...



Source: Yearly averages of survey data from Pew Research Center American Trends Panel (2020-June 2023) and Pew Research Center phone surveys of U.S. adults (2008-2020).

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The negative turn in evaluations of the Democratic Party is more recent than for the Republican Party, with public views more mixed for much of the last decade and a half – and in positive territory for most of the mid-1990s through 2000s. In recent years, views of the Democratic Party have been more unfavorable than favorable and are now at their most negative point in the last three decades.

For 28% of Americans, both major parties get negative marks

Nearly a third of Americans (28%) report holding negative views of both the Republican and Democratic parties. This is little changed since last year, but it is up considerably from a few years ago and is higher than at any other point in our nearly 30 years of polling.

Around 3 in 10 Americans now have unfavorable views of both parties

% of U.S. adults who have an unfavorable view of both the Republican and Democratic parties



Note: Based on those who rated both major parties.

Source: Yearly averages of survey data from Pew Research Center American Trends Panel (2020-June 2023) and Pew Research Center phone surveys of U.S. adults (1994-2019).
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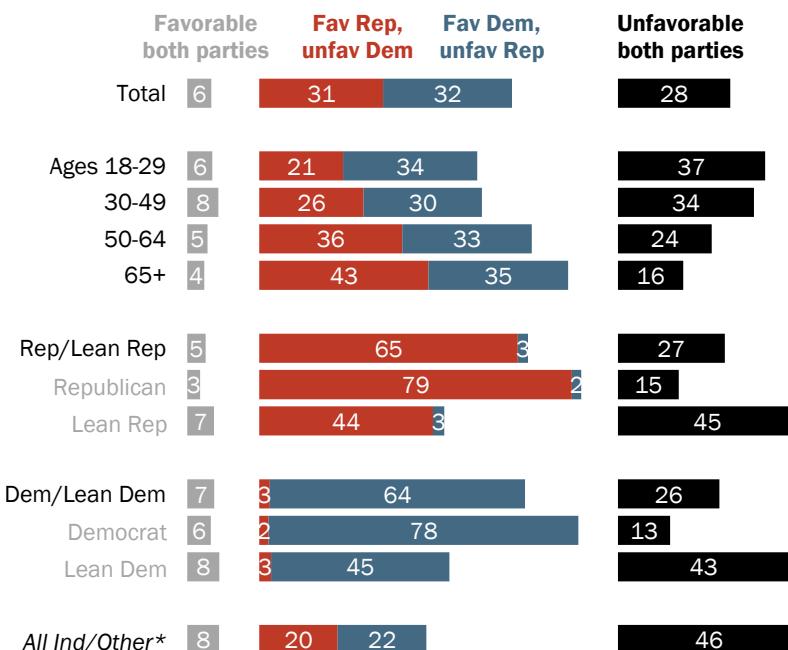
Adults under 50 and political independents are more likely than others to have unfavorable views of both parties

About a third of adults ages 18 to 49 (35%) have unfavorable views of *both* of the major parties. This drops in older age groups: 24% of those 50 to 64 and an even smaller share (16%) of those 65 and older hold this combination of negative views.

Nearly half of those who identify as politically independent or with something other than the Democratic or Republican Party (46%) view both parties negatively. Within this group, similar shares of those who lean Democratic (43%) and those who lean Republican (45%) rate both parties unfavorably. (Republican leaners who rate only one party positively overwhelmingly tilt to the GOP, while the reverse is true among Democratic leaners.)

Younger adults are more likely than older Americans to have unfavorable views of both parties

% who have ___ views of ...



* All Independent/Other includes those who do not identify as Republican or Democratic but lean toward either the Republican or Democratic Party.

Note: Those who did not rate one or both of the parties not shown.

Source: Average from Pew Research Center surveys conducted in 2023 (through June).

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Those who consider themselves Democrats or Republicans are much less likely to rate both parties negatively, with about eight-in-ten partisan identifiers viewing their own party positively. By contrast, independents and others who lean to a party have consistently been less likely to view that party positively.

Most characterize their party positively

Most Americans characterize the party they identify with or lean toward in positive terms, viewing it as respectful of democracy, governing honestly and tolerant of different kinds of people. Far fewer say these traits characterize the other party.

Large majorities in both partisan coalitions say “respects the country’s democratic institutions and traditions” describes their party very or somewhat well (79% of Republicans and Republican leaners and 82% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say this).

Majorities also say their party is “respectful and tolerant of different types of people,” though Democrats (83%) are more likely than Republicans (72%) to say this characteristic applies to their own party.

About seven-in-ten in both parties say their party “governs in an honest and ethical way” (71% of Democrats, 68% of Republicans).

Most say their party – but not the other – respects democratic institutions, governs honestly and respects different types of people

% who say each statement describes ___ very or somewhat well

■ Their own party ■ The other party

Respects the country's democratic institutions and traditions

	Very	Somewhat	Very	Somewhat
Rep/Lean Rep	29	50	79	NET
Dem/Lean Dem	30	51	82	

79% of Rep/Lean Rep say this describes the **Republican Party** well; 82% of Dem/Lean Dem say it describes the **Democratic Party**.

21% of Rep/Lean Rep say this describes the **Democratic Party** well; 24% of Dem/Lean Dem say it describes the **Republican Party**.

Governs in honest and ethical way

Rep/Lean Rep	56	68	14
Dem/Lean Dem	15	56	16

Respectful and tolerant of different types of people

Rep/Lean Rep	20	52	72	27	32
Dem/Lean Dem	36	48	83	14	

Too often makes excuses for members with hateful views

Rep/Lean Rep	36	48	43	28	71
Dem/Lean Dem	27	35	57	21	78

Supports policies that interfere too much in people's lives

Rep/Lean Rep	32	41	46	27	73
Dem/Lean Dem	33	40	37	30	68

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Sizable minorities see flaws in their party: 48% of Republicans and 35% of Democrats say their party “too often makes excuses for members with hateful views,” and about four-in-ten in both coalitions say their party “supports policies that interfere too much in people’s lives (41% of Republicans, 40% of Democrats). Still, even larger shares (at least two-thirds) say these negative attributes describe the other party.

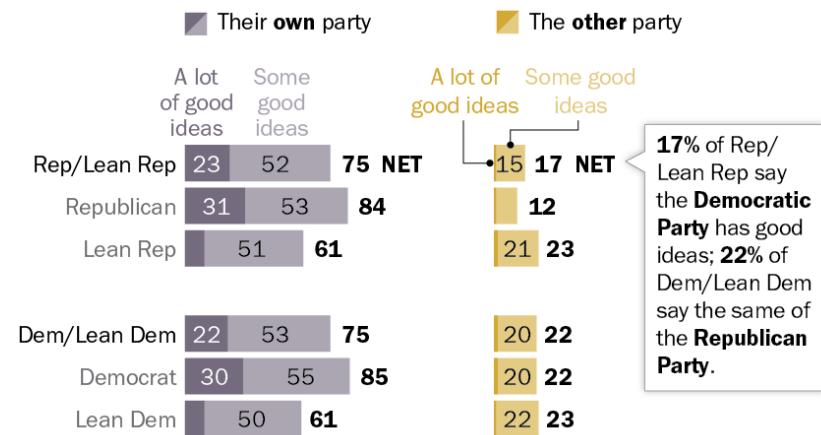
Quality of the parties’ ideas

Clear majorities of Republicans and Democrats say their parties have at least some good ideas, while fewer than a quarter say the other party has some good ideas.

Within each partisan coalition, independents who lean toward the party are much less likely than those who identify with the party to say it has good ideas. About six-in-ten *leaners* in each party say the party has at least some good ideas, compared with more than eight-in-ten Republican and Democratic *identifiers* who say this.

Most Republicans and Democrats think their party has at least ‘some good ideas,’ but fewer leaners say so

% who say ____ has ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Overall, most Americans (74%) say at least one of the two parties has some or a lot of good ideas, while 25% say that neither party does. Independents and others who don’t identify with the major parties are particularly likely to say that neither party has good ideas: 39% say this, including similar shares of Republican-leaning independents (35%) and Democratic-leaning independents (36%). In contrast, just 15% of Republican and 12% of Democratic identifiers say neither party has good ideas.

5. Money, power and the influence of ordinary people in American politics

Americans have long believed that major political donors and special interests have too much influence on politics and that ordinary people have too little influence. Most see voting as the best way for average Americans to impact the direction of the country.

But the belief that there is too much money in politics is widespread. References to the influence of money and concerns about corruption are some of the most frequently cited critiques of the political system, and many Americans see monetary gain as a reason why most elected officials seek office to begin with.

This chapter details that an overwhelming share of Americans hold the view that the amount of money individuals and organizations can spend on political campaigns *should* be limited – and a majority say they think it legally *could* be.

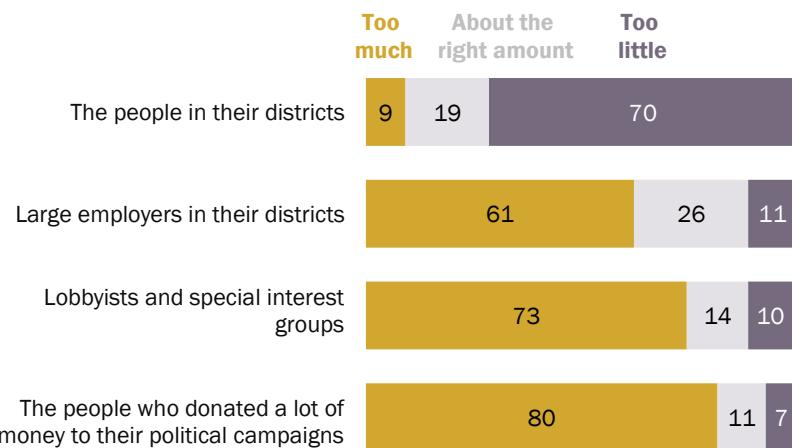
Influence in congressional decision-making

When it comes to the decisions made by members of Congress, large shares of Americans say major donors, lobbyists and special interests have too much influence.

By contrast, just 9% of adults say the people in lawmakers' districts have too much influence; that compares with 70% who say the people in their districts have *too little* influence (19% say they have about the right amount).

Campaign donors, lobbyists widely viewed as having too much influence on members of Congress; most say 'people in their districts' have too little influence

% who say each of the following has ___ influence when it comes to the decisions that members of Congress make



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

Americans' views on which groups have influence on the decisions made by members of Congress are similar across party lines:

- Around eight-in-ten Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (83%) say people who donate a lot of money to campaigns have too much influence on decisions made by members of Congress. A nearly identical share of Democrats and Democratic leaners (80%) say the same.

 - Majorities in both parties also say lobbyists, special interests and large employers in lawmakers' districts have too much influence.

 - Relatively small shares in both parties say people in lawmakers' districts have too much influence. Nearly identical majorities of Republicans (72%) and Democrats (71%) say they have too little influence.
-
- Democrats and Republicans alike say major donors, lobbyists have too much influence on Congress**
- % who say each of the following has **too much** influence when it comes to the decisions that members of Congress make*
- | | Dem/
Lean Dem | Total | Rep/
Lean Rep |
|--|------------------|-------|------------------|
| The people in their districts | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Large employers in their districts | 60 | 63 | 61 |
| Lobbyists and special interest groups | 72 | 78 | 73 |
| The people who donated a lot of money to their political campaigns | 80 | 83 | 80 |

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Views on limiting the role of money in politics

By a wide margin, the public supports limiting the amount of money spent on political campaigns: 72% say there should be limits on spending by individuals and organizations, while just 11% say they should be able to spend as much as they want.

Comparable majorities in both parties (76% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans) say there should be campaign spending limits.

Nearly six-in-ten Americans (58%) say it is possible to have laws that would effectively reduce the role of money in politics, while 21% say it is not; 20% are not sure.

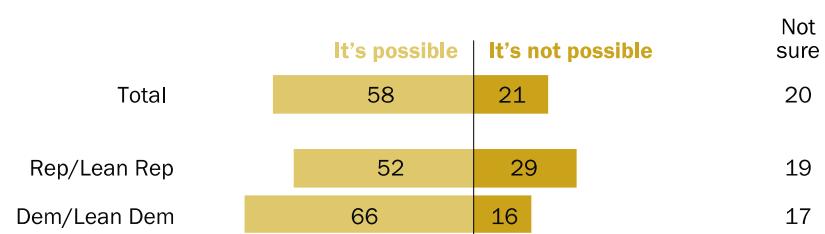
Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say it is possible to have laws that reduce the influence of money on politics. About two-thirds of Democrats say this is possible (66%), while only 16% say it is not. Roughly half of Republicans (52%) think this is possible, while 29% say it is not.

Most favor limits on spending in elections, say it would be possible to reduce role of money in politics

% who say that when it comes to political campaigns ...



% who say ____ to have laws that would effectively reduce the role of money in politics



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

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Views on what kinds of activities can change the country for the better

Presented with a number of ways that someone might try to change the country for the better, Americans rate voting in elections as the most effective of these.

Just over four-in-ten U.S. adults (44%) say that voting is an extremely or very effective way to change the country for the better, while 34% say it is somewhat effective and 21% say it is not too or not at all effective.

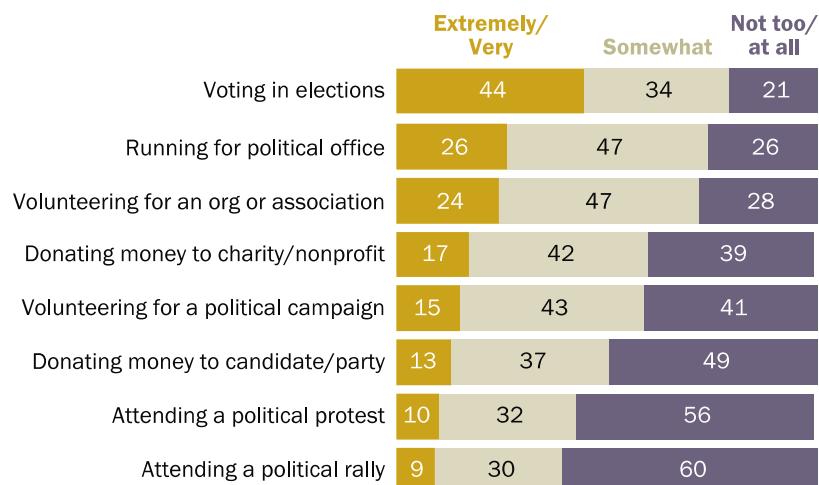
About a quarter describe both running for political office (26%) and volunteering for an organization or association (24%) as at least very effective.

Fewer adults say this about other items included in the survey: donating money to a charity or nonprofit (17% say this is extremely or very effective), volunteering for a political campaign (15%), donating money to a political candidate or party (13%), and attending a political protest (10%) or rally (9%).

A majority of adults say that attending a political rally (60%) is not too or not at all effective as a way to change the country for the better. Nearly as many (56%) say the same about attending a political protest.

Voting viewed as more effective way to bring about positive change than running for office, donating to causes, or attending protests or rallies

If someone would like to change the country for the better, how effective do you think ___ would be? (%)



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

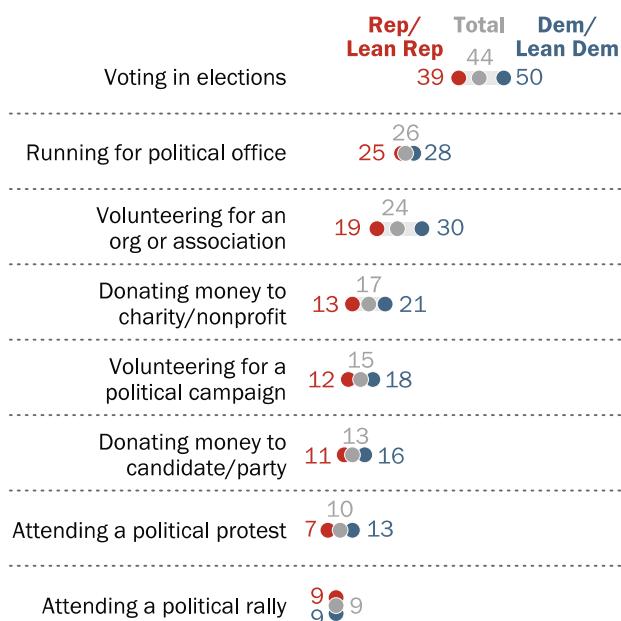
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Republicans' and Democrats' views on the effectiveness of each of these items are similar, though slightly larger shares of Democrats than Republicans rate several as extremely or very effective.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to view voting in elections (50% of Democrats, 39% of Republicans) and volunteering for an organization or association (30% vs. 19%) as extremely or very effective.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say voting can produce positive change

*% who say each of the following is an **extremely/very effective** way for someone to change the country for the better*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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How much can voting affect the future direction of the country?

Overall, a 57% majority of Americans say that voting by people like them can affect the future direction of the country a lot (20%) or some (36%).

Roughly three-in-ten (31%) say that voting by people like them has “not much” of an effect, and 11% say it has no effect at all.

About half of adults under age 50 (52%) say voting can have at least some effect on the country’s future direction, compared with a majority (61%) of those 50 and older.

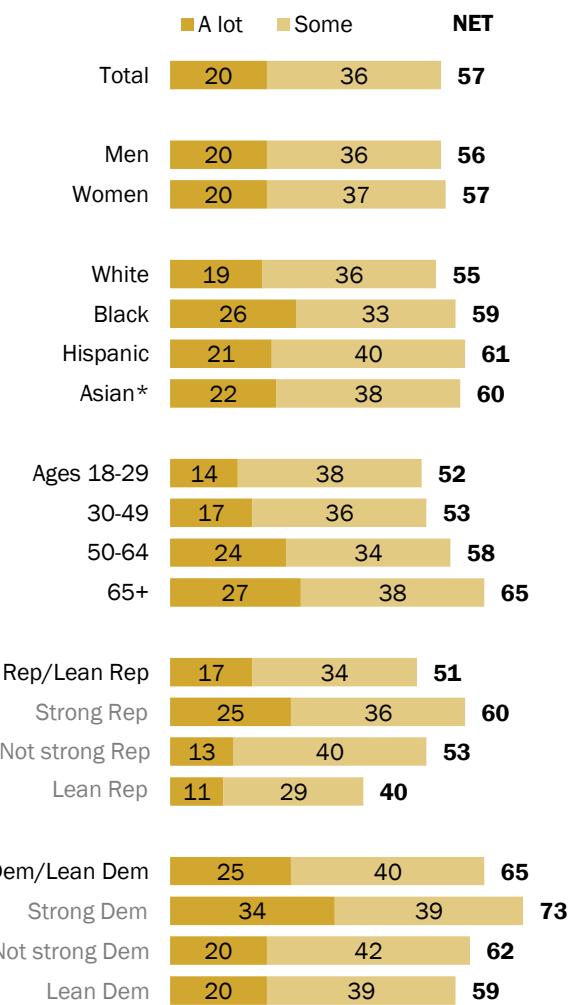
And while Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say voting has at least some effect overall, those who identify as the strongest partisans within each party view voting as most effective.

Six-in-ten strong Republicans say that voting can have at least some effect; 53% of those who identify with the Republican Party, but not strongly and 40% of Republican leaners say the same. Among Democrats, 73% of strong Democrats say this, compared with 62% of not strong Democrats and 59% of Democratic leaners.

Age differences on the impact of voting are evident in both partisan coalitions. In both parties, those ages 50 and older are more likely than younger adults to say voting can have at least some effect on the country’s future direction.

Older Americans are more likely to say voting can affect the country’s future

% who say voting by people like them can affect the future direction of the country ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

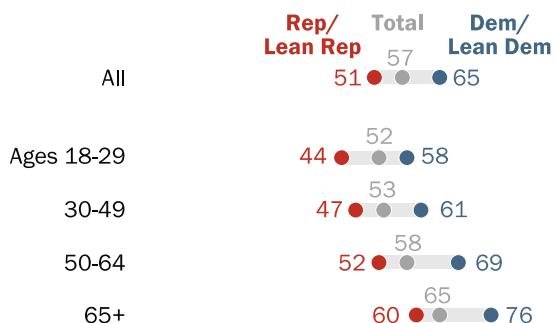
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Among Republicans and Republican leaners, 60% of those 65 and older say voting can have at least some effect on the country's future direction, compared with roughly half of those ages 50 to 64 (52%) and 30 to 49 (47%). Among Republicans under age 30, 44% say voting can have a lot or some effect on the country's direction.

Age differences are similar among Democrats and Democratic leaners. Democrats 65 and older are 18 percentage points more likely than those under 30 to say voting can have at least some effect on the country's direction.

In both parties, young adults are less likely than older people to say voting can affect the country's future

% who say voting by people like them can affect the future direction of the country a lot/some



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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6. Evaluations of members of Congress and the biggest problem with elected officials today

Americans express highly negative views of elected officials – and have grown increasingly pessimistic about their congressional representatives over the past several years. In fact, views of Congress, [congressional leadership](#), the current and former president, and the vice president are all underwater.

When asked about various aspects of the job those in Congress are doing, such as working with members of the opposing parties or caring about the people they represent, Americans are critical on nearly every domain.

Views of members of Congress

[Opinions about Congress are largely negative](#); just 26% of U.S. adults have a favorable view of Congress, while 72% have an unfavorable view.

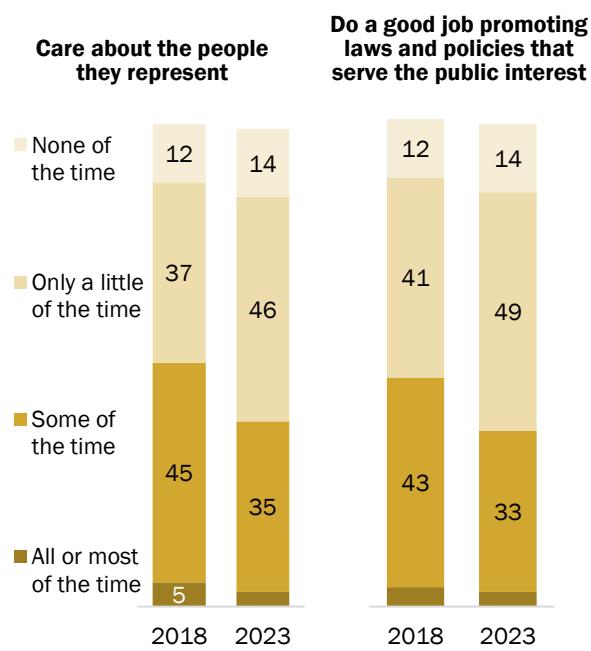
Serving the public interest and people in their districts

The public also is critical of how members of Congress do their jobs – and in some cases these criticisms have increased in recent years:

- In 2018, half of adults said members of Congress care about the people they represent all, most or some of the time. Today, 38% say the same. A majority say that members of Congress care about their constituents “only a little” or none of the time.
- There has been a similar decline in the share of adults who say members of Congress do a good job promoting laws and policies that serve the public interest. Five years ago, 47% said congressional members

Declining share of Americans say members of Congress care about the people they represent

In your view, how much of the time do members of Congress ... (%)



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023. “Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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do this at least some of the time. Today, just 36% say that members of Congress promote the public interest.

On both evaluations, positive views have declined among Republicans and Democrats alike. About four-in-ten members of both parties say members of Congress care about the people they represent all or most of time. Roughly half said this in 2018.

There have been similar declines in the shares of Republicans and Democrats who say the members do a good job promoting policies that serve the public interest.

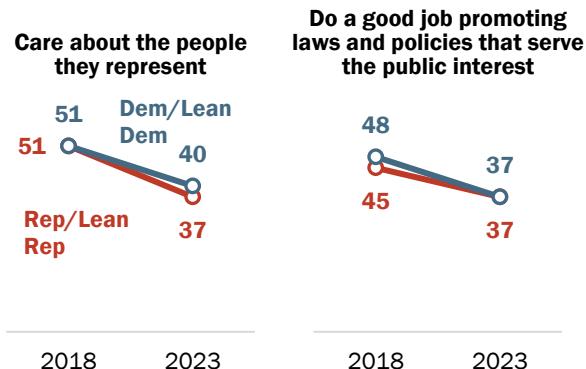
Across many dimensions, public rates members of Congress poorly

At least three-quarters or more say that members of Congress do a somewhat or very bad job at listening to the concerns of people in their district (76%), keeping their personal financial interests separate from their work in Congress (81%), working with members of the opposing party (84%) and taking responsibility for their actions (86%).

The public is especially negative when it comes to whether members of Congress take responsibility for their actions. Nearly nine-in-ten say congressional members do a bad job taking responsibility – including about half (49%) who say they do a *very* bad job at this.

Declines in positive views of members of Congress cross party lines

% who say members of Congress do each of the following all or most/some of the time

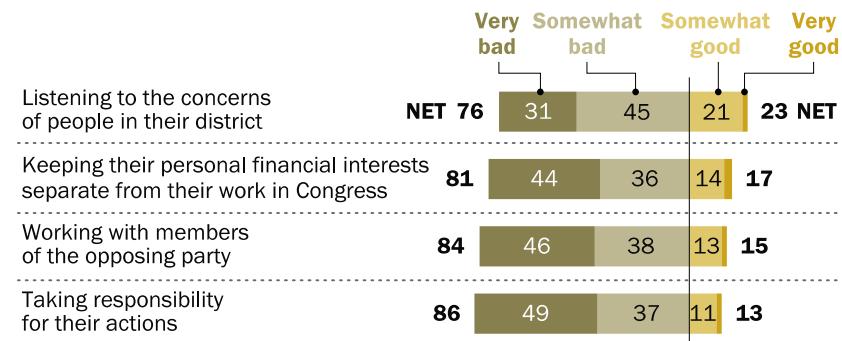


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Public is widely critical of how members of Congress do their jobs

% who say members of Congress do a ___ job at each of the following



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Views across these items are deeply negative among nearly all demographic groups – including by gender, age, race and education.

Assessments of members of Congress differ little by party. Majorities of Republicans and Democrats alike – including those who lean to each party – say that members of Congress do a poor job keeping their personal financial interests separate from their work in Congress (84% of Republicans, 79% of Democrats) or listening to the concerns of people in their district (78% of Republicans, 74% of Democrats).

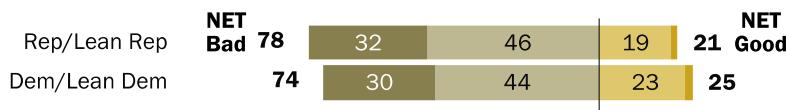
Similarly, at least eight-in-ten Republicans and Democrats say that members of Congress do a bad job taking responsibility for their actions or working with members of the opposing party.

Large majorities in both parties give members of Congress low ratings in key aspects of their work

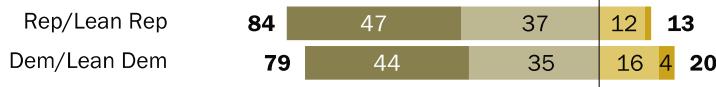
% who say members of Congress do a ___ job at each of the following

■ Very bad ■ Somewhat bad ■ Somewhat good ■ Very good

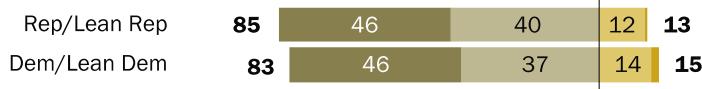
Listening to the concerns of people in their district



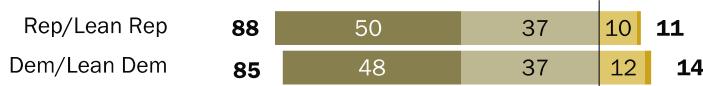
Keeping their personal financial interests separate from their work in Congress



Working with members of the opposing party



Taking responsibility for their actions



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Age and views of elected officials

For the most part, views of congressional job performance are broadly negative across demographic groups. Yet adults ages 65 and older offer more positive evaluations in some specific areas.

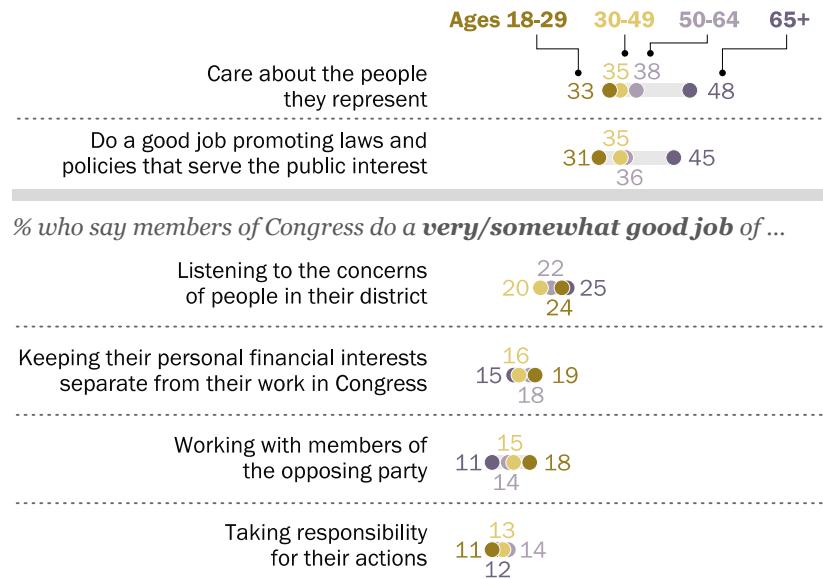
Nearly half of those 65 and older (48%) say members of Congress care about the people they represent at least some of the time. Far fewer adults under 65 say the same – including just a third of those under 30.

While 45% of Americans 65 and older say members of Congress do a good job promoting policies and laws that serve the public interest, this compares with 36% of those ages 50 to 64, 35% of those 30 to 49 and just 31% of adults under 30.

Older adults were slightly more positive on these assessments of Congress than their younger counterparts, but age differences are either small or nonexistent when it comes to the other items asked about on the survey.

Americans 65 and older more likely to view members of Congress as caring and supportive of good policies

% who say members of Congress ___ all or most/some of the time



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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In their own words: Americans' views of the major problems with today's elected officials

When asked in an open-ended question about the biggest problem with elected officials today, adults point to a variety of issues – ranging from a lack of focus on the people they represent to mentions of negative character traits, general incompetence and the role of partisanship in officials' ability to get things done.

One recurring theme is a sense that elected officials today are not in touch with the people they represent or do not advocate for the issues that matter to their constituents.

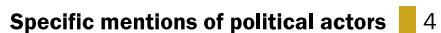
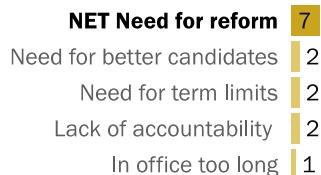
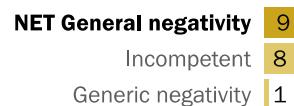
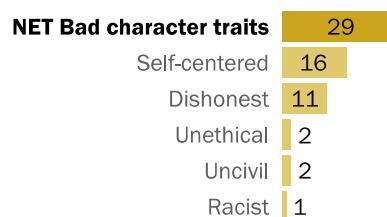
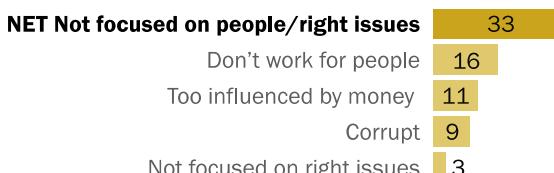
A third of adults express this view, including 11% who feel elected officials are too influenced by money and 9% who say they are corrupt. “Their end goals are personal and not for the betterment of the voters who elected them,” says a man in his 60s.

Another man in his 20s believes elected officials are “too out of touch with the public. They’re too obsessed with money and power, so they don’t care about the people anymore.”

Roughly three-in-ten adults mention negative personal traits of elected officials, saying that elected officials are dishonest or self-centered. One woman in her 60s says they have “no empathy, and are unable to see both sides of the picture … [they’re] not truthful.”

Critiques of elected officials run the gamut, from misplaced priorities to bad character traits

% who say the biggest problem with elected officials today is ... [open end]



Note: Figures represent responses to open-ended questions. Numbers may exceed 100% due to multiple responses; the first three topics mentioned were included.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

The influence of partisanship is another theme mentioned by 15% of adults. Most Americans who cite issues along this theme point to the inability of elected officials to get things done due to polarization or loyalty to one's party.

The biggest problem with today's elected officials, according to one woman in her 50s, is "the idea that what we want is for them to fight for whatever they believe in at all costs, rather than compromise and actually accomplish something. I can't think of another profession where you can get paid for refusing to do anything."

"They are not willing to speak to anyone across the aisle," says another man in his 40s. "It is their party or nothing."

Many of these themes were echoed in a [survey conducted in 2015](#) – reflecting a persistent skepticism among members of the public that elected officials do not hold office for the betterment of the people they represent, but for the benefit of themselves. Eight years ago, sizable shares of adults said that elected officials were out of touch with people or too influenced by money and special interests.

Explore more voices: Americans' views of their elected officials

What do you see as the biggest problem with elected officials today?

"They bend to whomever can donate most to their campaign and don't follow through on campaign promises." –Man, 30s

"Lack of awareness and understanding of today's political and social landscape. Old politicians with old money don't understand the issues of today, leading to a huge disconnect with the public's priorities and theirs." –Woman, 20s

"Greed. Greed. Greed. Power leads to greed." –Woman, 70s

"No accountability and they all think they are rockstars." –Man, 30s

"They are focused on donor money and preventing the 'other side' from making advancements instead of governing in a way that helps all constituents."

–Woman, 40s

"Too much ego and not caring enough to listen to us." –Woman, 50s

"Power hungry. Money hungry. Lazy. Liars." –Man, 40s

"Many are self-serving, misdirected and too partisan. They have lost common sense, love of country, and have no moral core." –Woman, 70s

"They do not serve the people, they serve themselves and special interests, and lie to our faces about their priorities." –Man, 40s

How much do elected officials care about people like me?

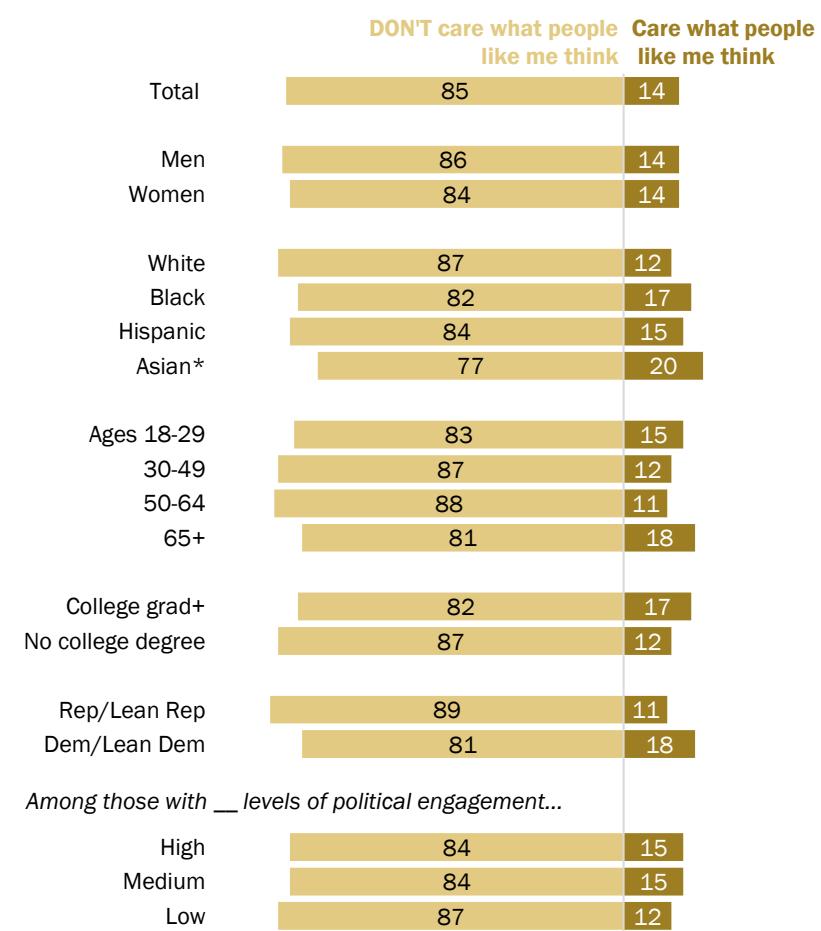
Among U.S. adults overall, 85% say elected officials do not care what people like them think. Just 14% say they do care.

In the early 1990s, [about a third of adults](#) said elected officials cared about people like them – a share that declined steadily into the 2010s.

Skepticism that most elected officials care about the public is evident among Americans regardless of gender, race, age, education, partisanship or political engagement. For example, 84% of those who are highly engaged with politics say that elected officials don't care what people like them think. This compares with 87% of those who are less engaged with politics.

Overwhelming majority of Americans say most elected officials don't care what 'people like them' think

% who say most elected officials ...



* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: No answer responses not shown. Refer to methodology for full details on the measure of political engagement. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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7. Candidate quality and what drives elected officials to run for office

Americans' negative feelings about [politics today](#) and [elected officials](#) extend to their views about the quality of the people who run for office and the reasons why they do. For the most part, these feelings don't differ much across party lines – although dissatisfaction with the choices Americans have in elections is even more widespread among people who don't identify with either party.

What motivates people to run for office?

Self-interest – whether in the form of making a lot of money, potentially running for a higher-level office later, or gaining fame and attention – is widely seen as the motivating force for all or most elected officials. In contrast, just 15% of Americans think all or most elected officials ran because they wanted to serve the public.

Today, 63% say that all or most elected officials in local, state and federal government ran because they wanted to make a lot of money, while about three-in-ten (29%) say *some* elected officials ran for this reason. Just 8% of

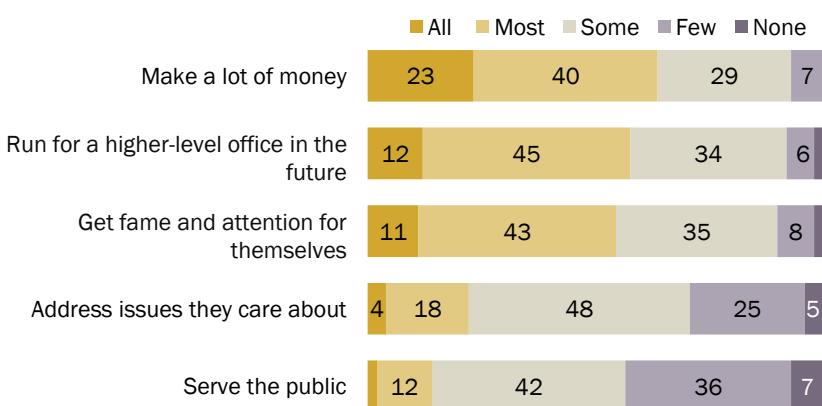
Americans say a desire to make a lot of money motivated *few* or *no* elected officials.

Majorities also say all or most officials ran with the intention to run for higher-level office in the future (57%) and to get fame and attention for themselves (54%). No more than one-in-ten say that few or no officials ran for these reasons.

By comparison, 22% say all or most elected officials ran because they wanted to address issues they care about, while about half (48%) say

Over half of Americans say that all or most elected officials ran for office to make a lot of money

% who say that ___ of the people who currently serve in elected office in local, state and federal government ran for office because they wanted to ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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that some elected officials ran for this reason (30% say few or none did).

Just 15% say all or most elected officials ran because they wanted to serve the public, with 43% saying that few or none ran for this reason.

Majorities of both

Republicans and Democrats think most politicians run for reasons of self-interest, not public interest

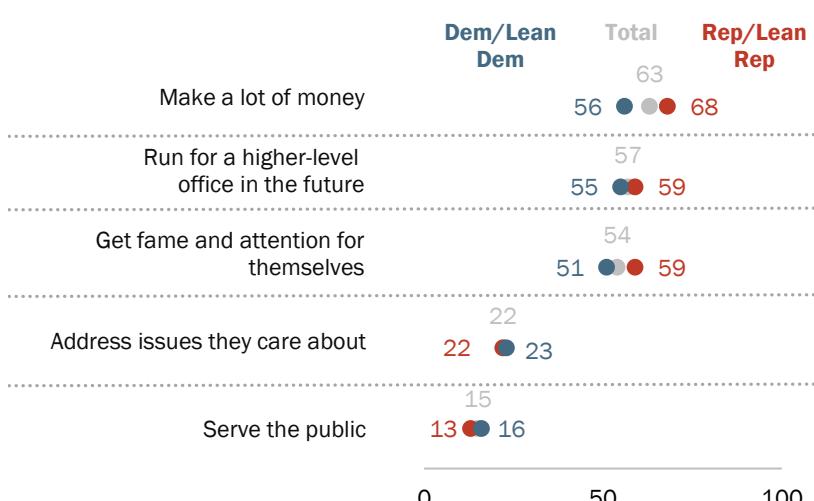
Majorities in both parties say that all or most people currently in office ran because they wanted to make a lot of money, although Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (68%) are more likely to say this than Democrats and Democratic leaners (56%).

Similarly, a narrow majority of Democrats (55%) say all or most elected officials ran because they wanted to run for a higher-level office in the future, and about half (51%) say they ran to get fame and attention for themselves. About six-in-ten Republicans (59% each) say these things motivate all or most elected officials.

In contrast, far smaller shares of both Republicans (22%) and Democrats (23%) say most or all elected officials ran to address issues they care about, and even fewer think serving the public was a motivator for most elected officials (13% for Republicans, 16% for Democrats).

Democrats and Republicans both skeptical that all or most elected officials ran for office to serve the public

% who say that all/most of the people who currently serve in elected office in local, state and federal government ran for office because they wanted to ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Quality of recent political candidates

The public expresses generally negative views about the quality of candidates running for political office in the last several years. About a quarter (26%) say the quality of candidates running for office in recent years has been good, while 72% say it has been bad.

Americans' evaluations of the quality of candidates running for political office have become more negative over the last few years. The share rating the quality of candidates as good is down 8 percentage points since July 2021 and down 21 points from February 2018.

Partisan views about the quality of candidates

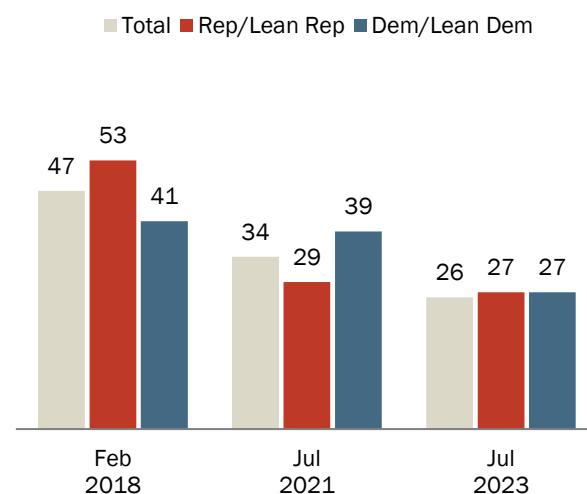
Today, similar shares of Republicans and Democrats (27% each) say the quality of candidates has been good in the last several years.

Between 2018 and 2021, Republicans' views on this measure shifted more negative (from 53% good to 29% good) but are little changed since then.

Democrats' views shifted little between 2018 and 2021, but are down from 39% in 2021 saying candidate quality has been good to 27% today.

In both parties, evaluations of candidate quality have grown more negative

% who say the quality of the candidates running for political office in the last several years has been good



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Majorities across the political spectrum now say candidate quality in the last several years has been bad, with no difference in these views by party. However, those who identify as independents but lean toward a party are more negative than people who identify as partisans.

While 79% of Republican leaners say candidate quality has been bad recently, a smaller majority of Republican identifiers (69%) say this. The pattern is nearly identical among Democrats and Democratic leaners.

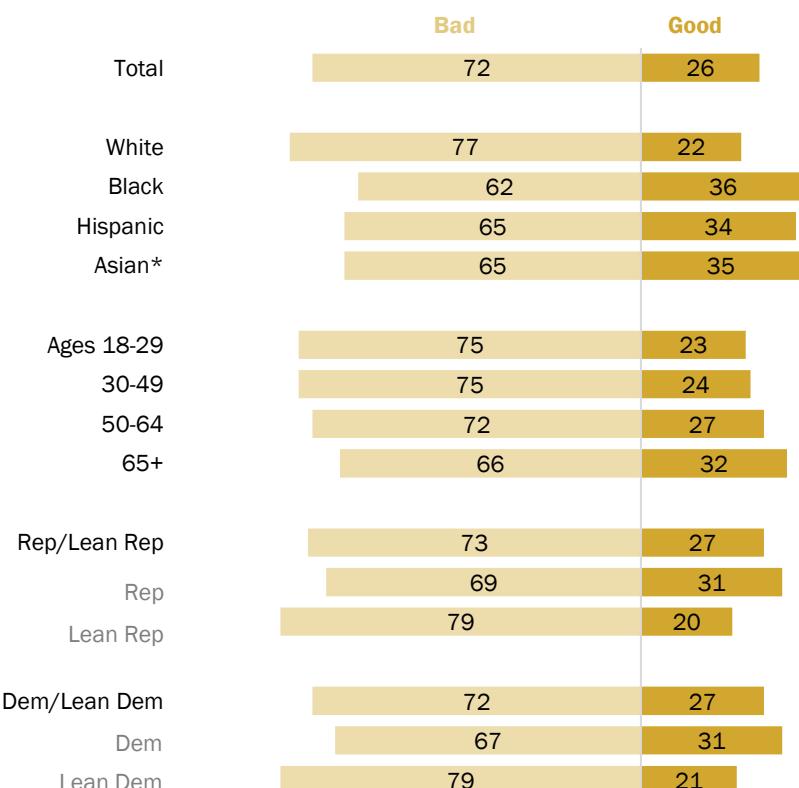
Views about the quality of political candidates these days vary modestly by age, race and ethnicity

Overall, White Americans are more likely (77%) than Black (62%), Hispanic (65%) or Asian (65%) Americans to say candidate quality has been bad in recent elections.

And those who are 65 and older offer somewhat more positive evaluations of recent candidates (32% rate the quality as good) than those under 65 (25% say this).

Widespread views that the quality of candidates running for office in recent years has been bad

% who say the quality of the candidates running for political office in the last several years has been ...



* Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

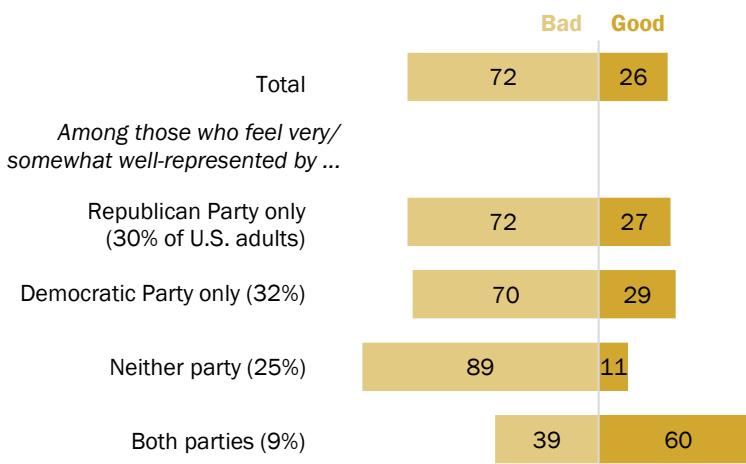
Negative evaluations of the quality of candidates running for political office are particularly pronounced among the quarter of Americans who say they don't feel well-represented by either of the two major parties: About nine-in-ten (89%) say the quality of candidates in recent years has been bad.

Still, the view that recent candidate quality has been bad is fairly widespread even among those who say they are well-represented by one of the two parties, with about seven-in-ten saying this.

The small share of Americans (just 9%) who feel at least somewhat well-represented by *both* parties are the only group in which a majority – 60% – say candidate quality has been good in recent years.

People who don't feel well-represented by one of the parties are especially likely to say the quality of recent candidates for office has been bad

% who say the quality of the candidates running for political office in the last several years has been ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

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In elections, is there usually at least one candidate who shares your views?

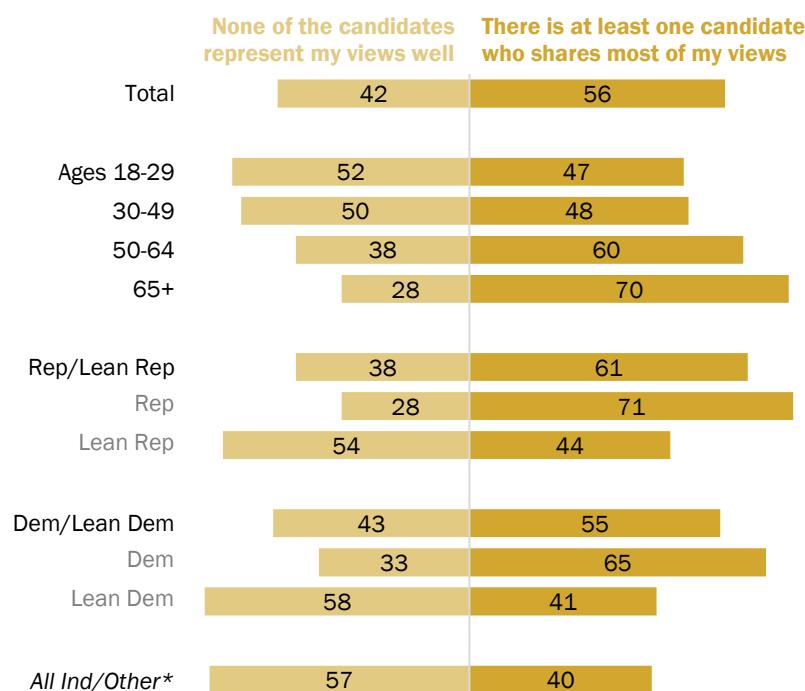
While Americans' evaluations of the quality of candidates running for political office in recent years are largely negative, a majority (56%) say they usually feel like there is at least one candidate for office who shares most of their views. Still, 42% say it's usually the case that none of the candidates represent their views well.

There are substantial age differences on this question. Americans younger than 50 are about equally likely to say at least one candidate usually shares most of their views or that none do (47% vs. 51%). Those 50 and older are more likely to say at least one candidate shares their views (65% vs. 33%).

Partisans – both Republicans and Democrats – are more likely than independents and those who identify with another party to say that they typically have a candidate who shares their views. About seven-in-ten Republican identifiers (71%) and 65% of Democratic identifiers say this. By comparison, 40% of independents and those who identify with another party say this – including 44% of Republican leaners and a similar share (41%) of Democratic leaners.

Older Americans more likely than younger adults to say at least one candidate usually shares their views

% who say that when it comes to candidates for political office, they usually feel ...



* All Independent/Other includes those who do not identify as Republican or Democratic but lean toward either the Republican or Democratic Party.

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

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Majorities of those who feel well-represented by one of the two major parties say there is usually at least one candidate who shares most of their views.

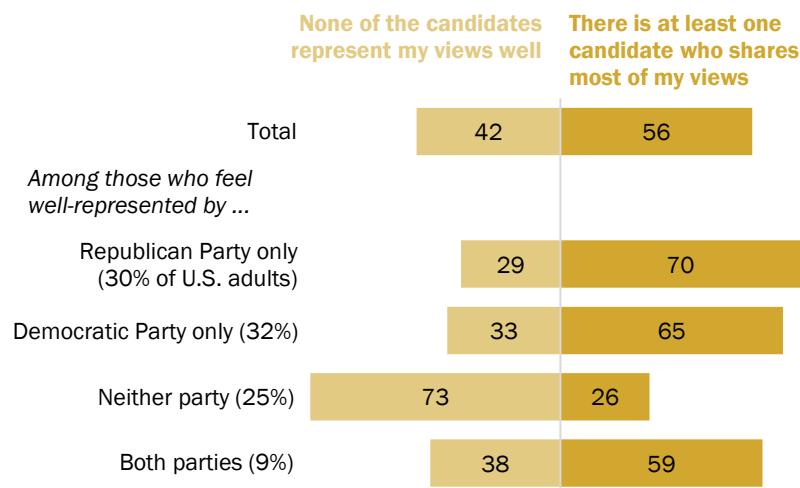
Seven-in-ten Americans who feel well-represented by the GOP (but not the Democratic Party) say this, as do 65% of those who feel represented by the Democratic Party only.

About six-in-ten (59%) of those who feel well-represented by both parties say at least one candidate typically shares their views.

In contrast, just 26% of those who do not feel well-represented by either party say that there is usually at least one candidate who shares most of their views.

Most Americans who don't feel well-represented by the two major parties say there usually aren't candidates who share their views

% who say that when it comes to candidates for political office, they usually feel ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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What the public sees as most important in political candidates

When asked about important characteristics of political candidates they support, Americans overwhelmingly point to the importance of candidates sharing their views on issues, with other qualities mattering less.

About two-thirds of adults (66%) say it is extremely or very important that political candidates share their views on political issues, while fewer than one-in-ten (8%) say this is not too or not at all important.

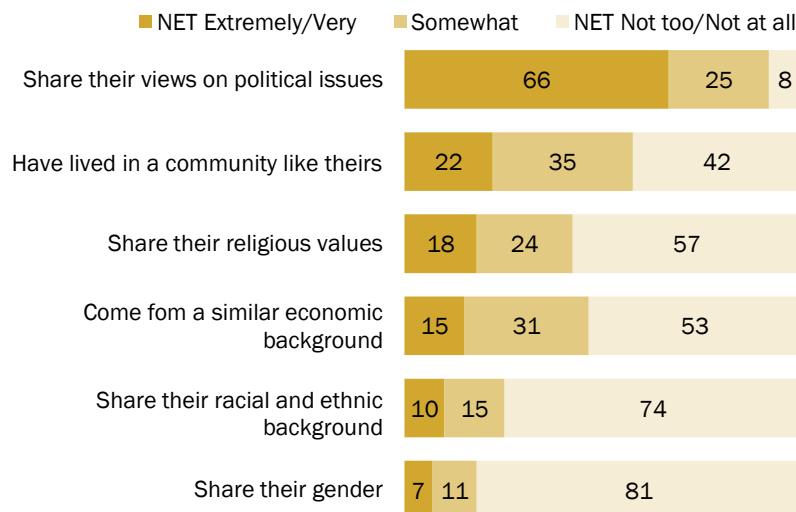
Other qualities matter far less: About two-in-ten say it is extremely or very important that candidates have lived in a community like theirs (22%) or share their religious values (18%), while 15% say the same about coming from a similar economic background.

One-in-ten say it is extremely or very important that political candidates share their racial and ethnic background, with just 7% saying the same about sharing their gender.

The importance of these characteristics varies across demographic groups. For instance, a quarter of Black adults say that it is extremely or very important to them that candidates they support share their racial and ethnic background. By comparison, 17% of Hispanic adults, 16% of Asian adults and just 5% of White adults say the same. Still, across demographic groups, shared views on political issues consistently ranks as the most important quality.

Most Americans say it is important candidates share their views on issues; other factors less important

% who say it is ___ important that political candidates they support ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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8. The presidency and presidential politics

Americans' dissatisfaction with politics extends to their views of presidential campaigns, both present and past. Only about a third (35%) say they are satisfied with the people who will be running for president next year.

Looking back at recent presidential campaigns, sizable majorities say they were not informative, too long and not focused on the right issues. Nearly eight-in-ten Americans (78%) say recent campaigns did not feature party nominees who were good candidates.

Most Americans say who the president is makes a big difference for such areas as the U.S. standing in the world and the mood of the country. Far fewer say who is president makes a big difference to their personal life.

Large shares of both Republicans and Democrats say the president should focus at least a fair amount on the priorities of people who voted for them. Smaller majorities say they should focus on the interests of people who *did not* vote for them. Republicans are less likely than Democrats to say the president should focus on the priorities of people who did not vote at all.

Impressions of the people who will be running for president in 2024

Most Americans (63%) say they are not too or not at all satisfied when thinking about the people who will be running for president in 2024. In the survey, conducted in mid-July, about a quarter (26%) say they are fairly satisfied. Just 8% are extremely or very satisfied.

While there is widespread dissatisfaction in both party coalitions, Republicans are somewhat more satisfied than Democrats. Among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, just 24% are at least fairly satisfied (with only 4% reporting they are extremely or very satisfied). Among Republicans and Republican leaners, about half

Americans express little satisfaction with the 2024 presidential field

% who say they are ___ satisfied so far with the people who will be running for president in 2024

■ Extremely/Very ■ Fairly ■ Not too/at all

Total	8	26	63
-------	---	----	----

Rep/Lean Rep	13	35	50
--------------	----	----	----

Dem/Lean Dem	4	19	74
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Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

(48%) are at least fairly satisfied (including 13% who are extremely or very satisfied).

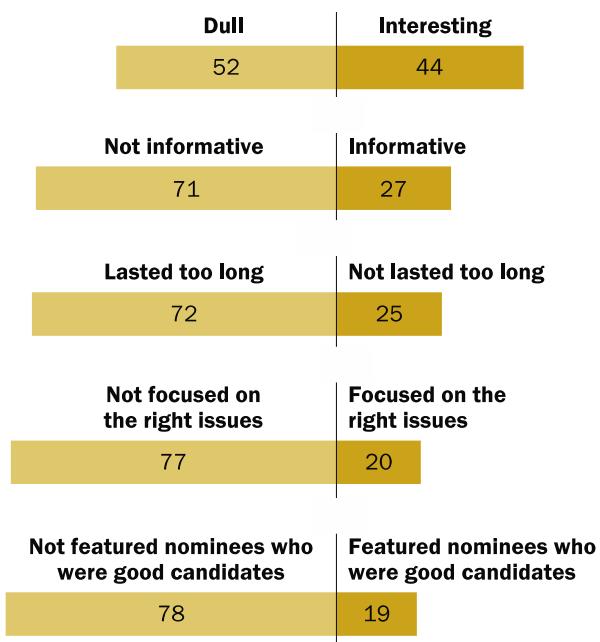
Views about presidential campaigns

Americans are critical of recent presidential campaigns in negative ways, with seven-in-ten or more saying they haven't been informative (71%), have focused on the wrong issues (77%), have lasted too long (72%) and haven't featured nominees who were good candidates (78%).

Americans are more evenly split over whether campaigns have been interesting or dull, although they are still more negative than positive. About half (52%) say recent presidential campaigns have been dull, while 44% say they have been interesting.

Most say recent presidential campaigns have been too long, focused on wrong issues, had subpar nominees

% who say recent presidential election campaigns have (been) ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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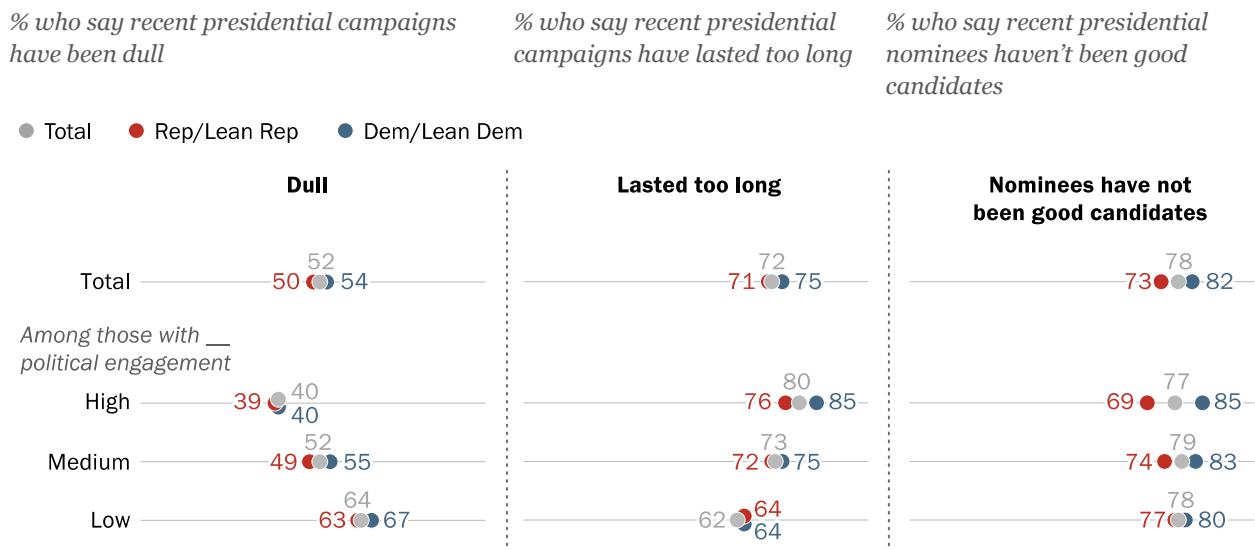
Partisan and engagement differences on recent presidential campaigns

There are relatively modest partisan gaps in views of whether presidential campaigns are interesting, informative, go on too long, focus on the right issues or result in good nominees. But in both partisan coalitions, there are some notable differences between more and less politically engaged people.

Dull or interesting?

People who are less politically engaged are considerably more likely to say recent political campaigns have been dull, rather than interesting. And this holds among both Republicans and Democrats. More than six-in-ten (64%) less politically engaged people say campaigns have been dull, but that falls to about four-in-ten among people who are highly politically engaged.

Less politically engaged Americans are more likely than highly engaged adults to say campaigns have been dull and less likely to say they have lasted too long



Note: Refer to methodology for full details on the measure of political engagement.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Are too long or not too long?

People with higher levels of political engagement are particularly likely to say presidential elections go on too long. Though majorities of those at all levels of political engagement say this, 80% of high-engagement people hold this view (including 76% of high-engagement Republicans

and 85% of high-engagement Democrats), this drops to about six-in-ten (62%) among people with low levels of political engagement.

Have the nominees been good candidates?

Although clear majorities also say recent presidential nominees have not been good candidates, Democrats overall are somewhat more likely than Republicans to say this (82% vs. 73%). The partisan gap is somewhat wider among more engaged Americans: 85% of highly engaged Democrats and 69% of highly engaged Republicans say recent presidential elections have not yielded good candidates.

How much of an impact does who is president have on your life?

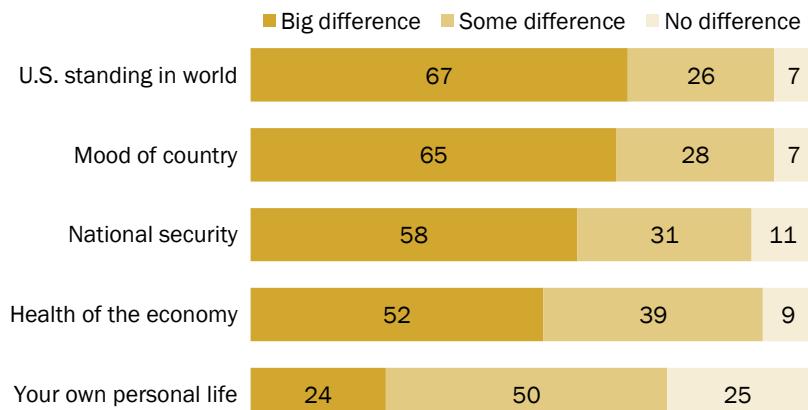
Today, 67% of adults say who is president makes a big difference for the United States' standing in the world, with clear majorities saying the same for the mood of the country (65%) and national security (58%).

Roughly half of Americans (52%) also say who is president makes a big difference for the health of the economy.

By comparison, far fewer Americans say who is president makes a big difference in their personal lives. About a quarter (24%) say this (though half say this makes some difference).

Most Americans say who is president makes a big difference for U.S. standing in the world, mood of the country, national security – but not them personally

% who say who is president generally makes (a) ___ for each of the following



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.
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Whose priorities should the president focus on?

Regardless of whether the winner of a close presidential election is a Democrat or Republican, Americans overwhelmingly say the president should focus on the priorities of the people who voted for them. But sizable shares also say the president should focus on the priorities of those who voted for the president's opponent and the concerns of those who didn't vote.

About eight-in-ten adults say a president of either party who takes office after a close election should focus at least a fair amount on the priorities of those who voted for them, with nearly identical shares saying this about a Republican president who wins narrowly (82%) and a Democratic president who wins narrowly (83%). Roughly a third say this group should receive a great deal of focus from a president of either party.

Clear majorities of Americans also say a newly elected Republican (70%) or Democratic (73%) president

should focus on the priorities of the people who voted for the *other* candidate. However, the public is less likely to say that the president should focus *a great deal* on this group's priorities (22% for a Republican president, 23% for a Democratic president).

Americans are less likely to say a new president should focus on the priorities of the people who didn't vote. Still, six-in-ten say a president of either party should focus at least a fair amount on this group's priorities.

Americans say a president of either party should focus on the priorities of people who voted for them

When a _____ takes office after winning a close election, how much should they focus on the priorities of each group? (%)

■ Great deal ■ Fair amount ■ Not too much ■ Not at all

People who voted for them

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not too much	Not at all
Republican president	35	47	10	6
Democratic president	35	48	8	7

People who voted for the other candidate

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not too much	Not at all
Republican president	22	48	18	10
Democratic president	23	51	15	10

People who didn't vote

	Great deal	Fair amount	Not too much	Not at all
Republican president	20	40	25	13
Democratic president	19	41	23	15

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Partisan views of presidential winners

Democrats and Republicans alike overwhelmingly say that presidents should focus a great deal or fair amount on the priorities of the people who voted for them following a close election.

Those who identify with or lean to each party are slightly more likely to say this when asked about a presidential winner of their party (86% each). Still, at least eight-in-ten say that a winning president should focus on the priorities of their voters – even when the president they are being asked about is a member of the opposing party.

But when asked about the priorities of people who voted for the *losing* candidate, both Democrats and Republicans are more likely to think the losing side’s concerns should matter when the losers are in their partisan coalition.

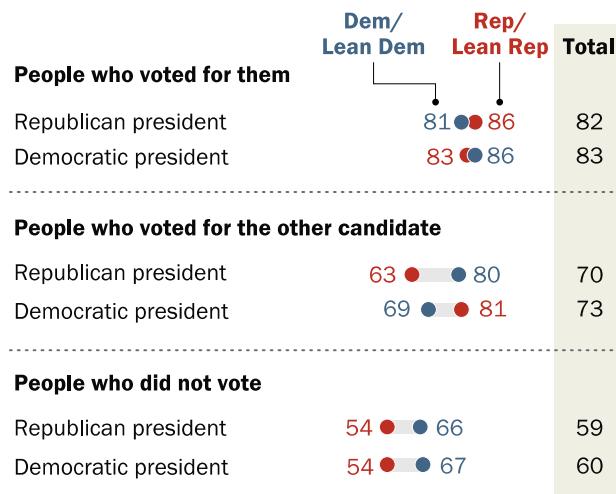
For instance, 80% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say a Republican president should listen at least a fair amount to the people who voted for that president’s Democratic opponent. But a smaller share (69%) of Democrats say a Democratic victor should listen to people who voted for that president’s Republican opponent.

The pattern is nearly the same among Republicans: When asked about a Democratic president, 81% of Republicans say the president should listen to those who voted for the Republican, while 63% say a GOP president should listen to Democratic voters.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say a president should focus on the concerns of people who did not vote – and this is the case when asked about both Democratic and Republican winners. About two-thirds of Democrats, compared with 54% of Republicans, say this in both scenarios.

Partisans more likely to say presidents of the same party should focus on the priorities of people who voted for them

% who say that when a _____ takes office after winning a close election, they should focus a great deal or fair amount on the priorities of each group ...



Note: Refer to topline for full question wording.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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9. How well the major parties represent Americans, the public's feelings about more political parties

The Democratic and Republican parties are both viewed unfavorably by majorities of Americans. And while most adults say they feel at least somewhat well-represented by at least one of the two parties, a quarter (25%) say *neither* party represents the interests of people like them even somewhat well.

Reflecting dissatisfaction with the major parties, even among some loyal partisans, many Americans continue to be open to the possibility of having more political parties. Younger adults and those with loose partisan attachments are particularly likely to express a desire for more parties.

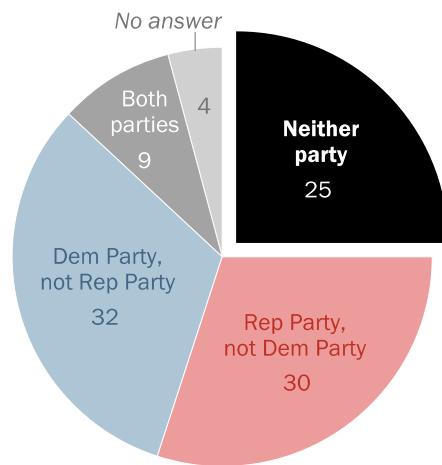
Among all U.S. adults, 37% say “I wish there were more political parties to choose from” describes their views extremely or very well; another 31% say it describes their feelings somewhat well.

Additional parties, however, are not seen as a promising fix for the country’s gridlock. Only about a quarter of Americans (26%) say having more than two major parties would make it easier to solve the country’s problems. A nearly identical share (24%) say it would make this harder.

And just a third think it is likely an independent candidate will win the White House in the next 25 years; 66% view this possibility as very or somewhat unlikely.

Many Americans feel represented by the two major parties, but a sizable share wish they had other choices

% who say ____ represents the interests of people like them well



% who say “I often wish there were more political parties to choose from” describes their views ...



Note: No answer responses not shown for question on more political parties. Data on party representation combines responses from two separate questions; those who skipped either question coded as “no answer.”

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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How different are the Republican and Democratic parties?

A narrow majority of Americans (54%) say there is a great deal of difference between what the Republican and Democratic parties stand for. Another 35% say there is a fair amount of difference in their values, while just 10% say there is hardly any difference between the two parties.

The share seeing a great deal of difference between the parties hasn't changed much in recent years, but Americans remain more likely to see major differences between the parties [than they were a few decades ago](#).

These views continue to vary by age, political engagement and the strength of a person's ties to a party.

Age

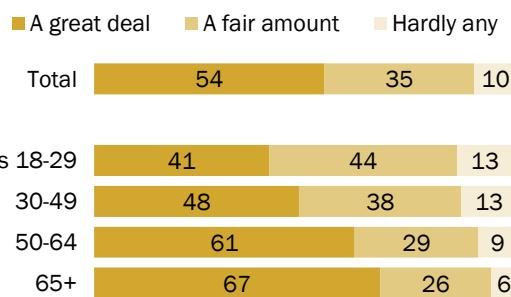
Among adults ages 18 to 29, fewer than half (41%) say there is a great deal of difference in what the parties stand for. Older age groups are more likely to see big differences between the parties, with those 65 and older most likely to say this.

Level of political engagement

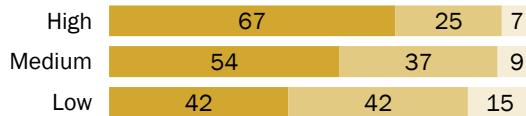
Two-thirds of the most politically engaged Americans think there is a great deal of difference between the parties. Slightly more than half of those with medium engagement (54%) and 42% of those with low engagement say the same. Political engagement is based on people's interest in politics, as well as how often they follow government and public affairs and discuss politics.

Younger and less politically engaged Americans are less likely to see big differences between the parties

% who say there is ___ (of) difference in what the Democratic and Republican parties stand for



Among those with ___ political engagement



Note: Refer to methodology for full details on the measure of political engagement. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

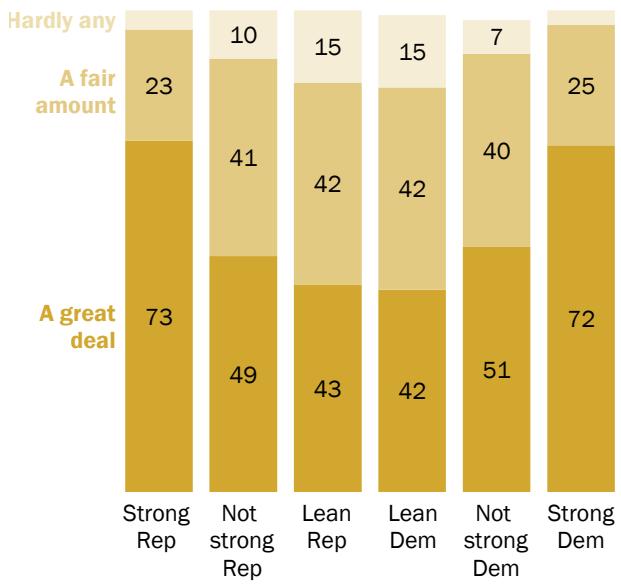
"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

Strength of partisanship

Nearly three-quarters of strong Republicans (73%) and 72% of strong Democrats say there is a great deal of difference between the parties, compared with smaller shares of those who affiliate with a party, but not strongly, and those who lean to a party.

Strong partisans are most likely to see big differences between the two parties

% who say there is ___ of difference in what the Democratic and Republican parties stand for



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Views of how well the parties represent people's interests

Large shares of Americans who identify with the Republican or Democratic Party say they feel well-represented – though relatively few feel *very* well-represented.

Those who only lean toward a party, by contrast, tend to be more skeptical of how well their party represents them.

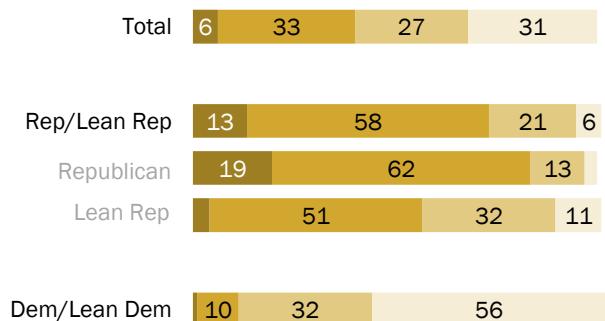
- 71% of all Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say their party represents their interests very or somewhat well. Those who affiliate with the Republican Party are more likely to express this view (82%) than those who lean toward the GOP (55%).
- There are similar differences between Democrats and Democratic leaners. More than eight-in-ten Democrats (85%) say they feel well-represented, compared with 58% of Democratic-leaning independents.

Most partisans feel well-represented by their own party; people who lean toward parties are less likely to say this

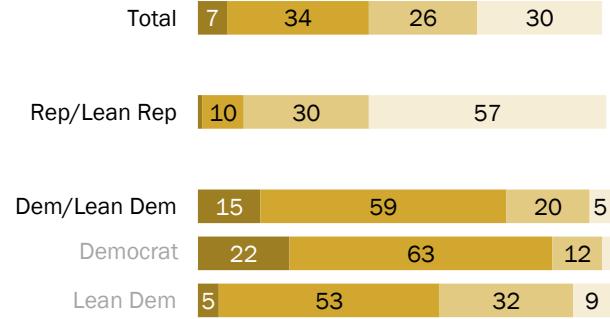
% who say each party represents the interests of people like them ___ well

■ Very ■ Somewhat ■ Not too ■ Not at all

Republican Party



Democratic Party



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Most Americans feel represented by at least one of the parties

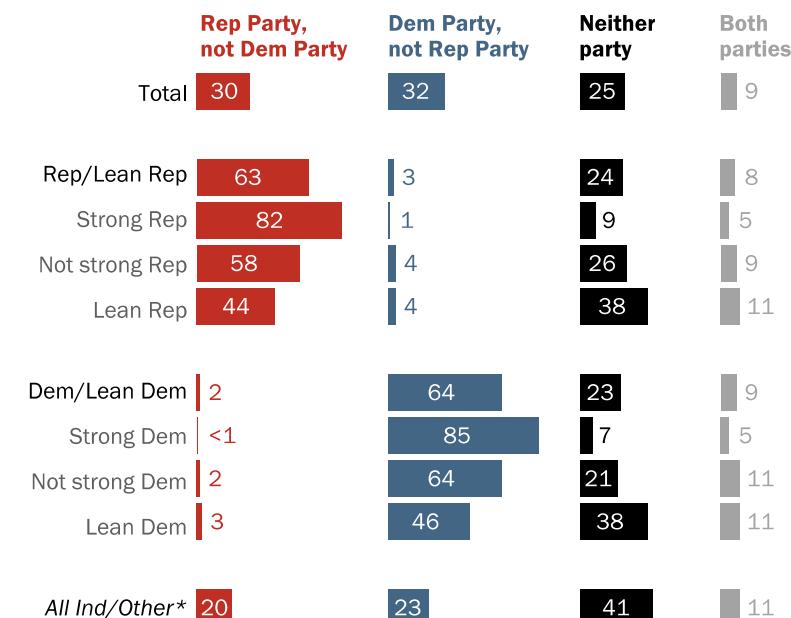
Among all U.S. adults, roughly a third say they feel well-represented by the Democratic Party, but not the Republican Party; about as many (30%) feel represented by the Republican Party but not the Democratic Party.

A quarter (25%) say *neither* party represents them well, while 9% feel well-represented by *both* parties.

About four-in-ten independents and those who identify with other parties (41%) say *neither* major party represents people like them well. Identical shares of independents who lean toward the GOP and the Democratic Party (38% each) say neither party represents them well.

About a quarter of Americans say neither political party represents them well

% who say _____ represents the interests of people like them well



* All Independent/Other includes those who do not identify as Republican or Democratic but lean toward either the Republican or Democratic Party.

Note: No answer responses not shown. Data on party representation combines responses from two separate questions; those who skipped either question coded as “no answer.”

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Demographic differences in people's views of which party, if any, represents them well

Americans' views of how well the Republican and Democratic parties represent the interests of people like them vary across race, ethnicity, age, education and community type. These patterns largely mirror groups' party identification and voting patterns.

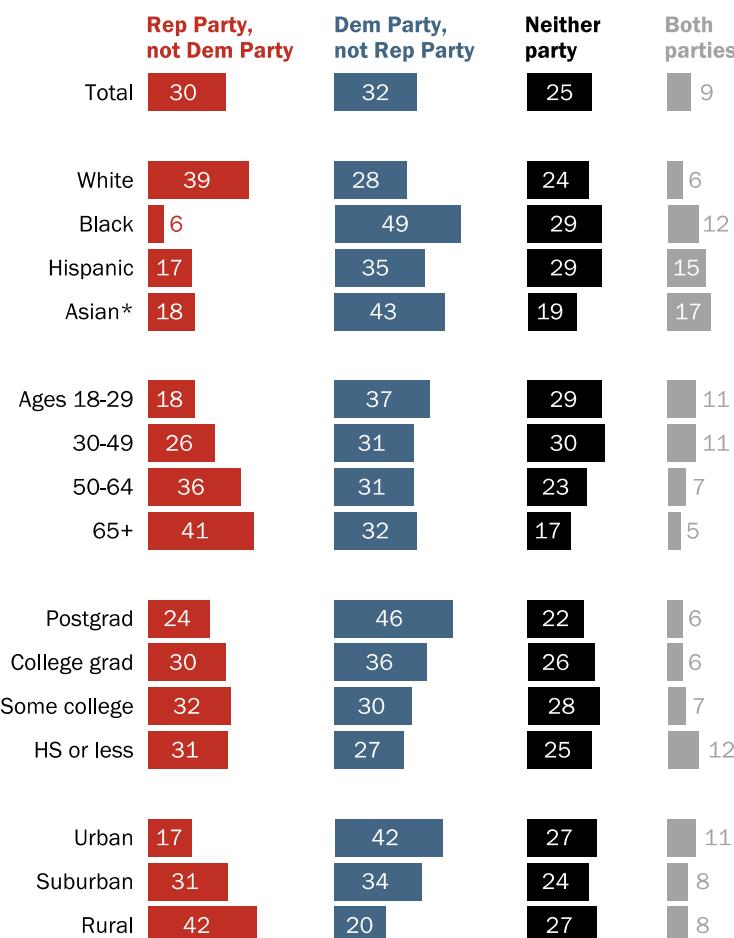
More Republican-oriented demographic groups, such as older people, White adults and rural residents, are more likely to say the Republican Party, rather than Democratic Party, represents them well.

The reverse is true for Democratic-oriented groups, such as Black, Hispanic and Asian adults, as well as people with a postgraduate degree.

While three-in-ten adults under age 50 say neither party represents them well, a smaller share of people 50 and older (20%) say this.

3 in 10 Americans under age 50 say neither major political party represents them well

% who say _____ represents the interests of people like them well



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include only those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Data on party representation based on responses from two separate questions; those who skipped either question were coded as "no answer."

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

"Americans' Dismal Views of the Nation's Politics"

What if there were more political parties?

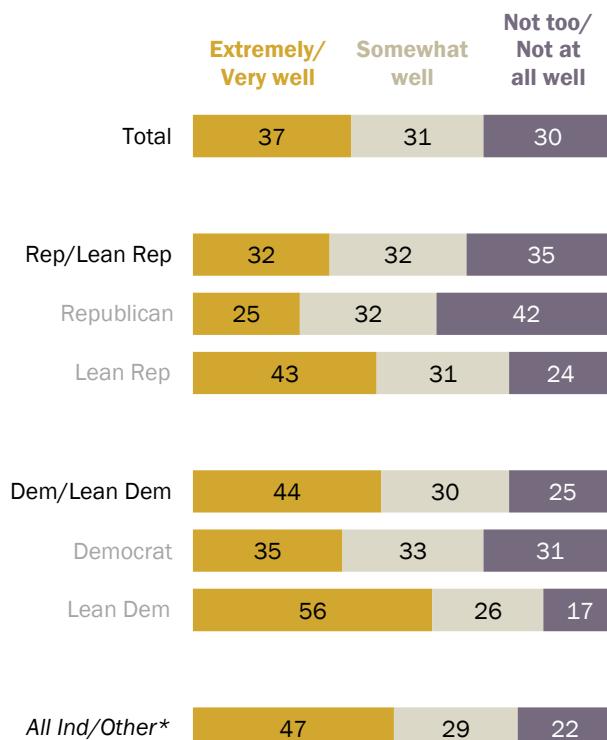
Independents and those who identify with other parties are more supportive of the idea of having more parties to choose from.

Nearly half of all independents (47%) say they wish for more parties. However, a larger share of independents who lean toward the Democratic Party say this than among those who lean toward the Republican Party (56% vs. 43%, respectively).

People who identify as Democrats also are more interested than Republican identifiers in having additional parties. Democratic identifiers are 10 percentage points more likely than GOP identifiers to say that wishing for more parties describes their views extremely or very well (35% vs. 25%).

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they would like to see additional political parties

% who say “I often wish there were more political parties to choose from in this country” describes their views ...



* All Independent/Other includes those who do not identify as Republican or Democratic but lean toward either the Republican or Democratic Party.

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

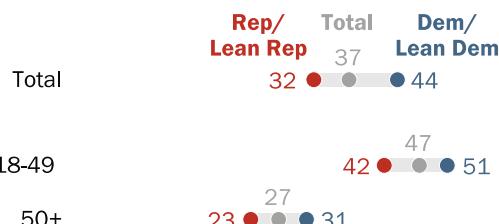
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Republicans and Democrats (including leaners) ages 18 to 49 are about 20 points more likely than older members of their parties to say they wish there were more political parties to choose from in this country. About half of Democrats under age 50 (51%) say this, as do 42% of their Republican peers. By comparison, 31% of Democrats and 23% of Republicans 50 and older say the same.

In both party coalitions, those under age 50 are more likely than older people to wish for more political parties

% who say “I often wish there were more political parties to choose from in this country” describes their views extremely or very well



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Would more parties make solving problems easier or harder?

Despite the interest in having more parties to choose from, only 26% of the public says it would make the country's problems easier to solve.

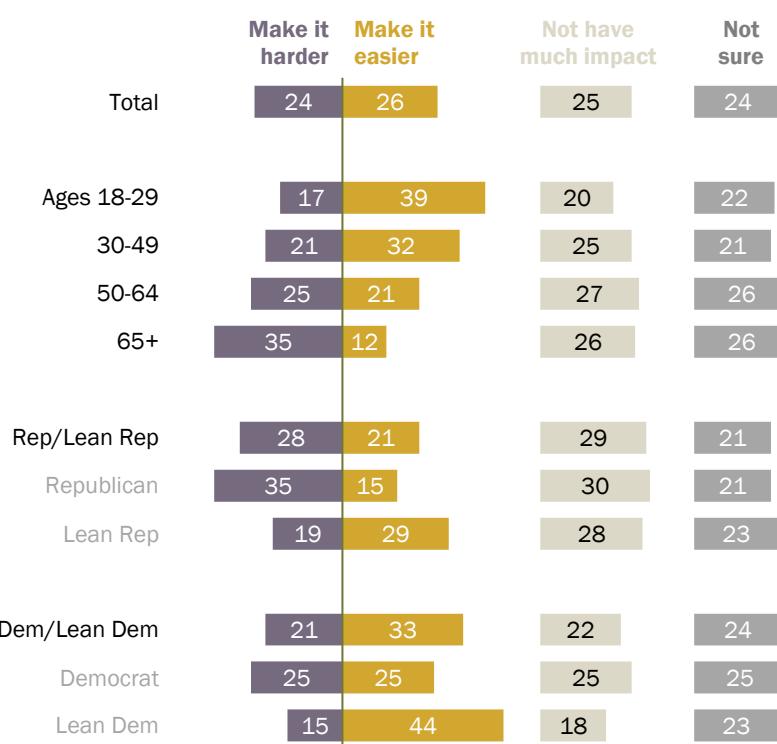
A similar share of Americans say having more major parties would make solving problems harder (24%). Another quarter say more parties wouldn't have an impact on the nation's ability to solve its problems, while 24% are unsure what impact it would have.

Younger adults are more likely than older Americans to say that more major parties would make it easier to address the country's problems. About four-in-ten adults ages 18 to 29 say this, compared with 12% of those 65 and older.

Partisan leaners also are more likely than partisans to say that more political parties would make it easier to address the country's problems. More than four-in-ten Democratic leaners (44%) and about three-in-ten Republican leaners (29%) say it would make solving problems easier. This compares with a quarter of those who identify as Democrats and 15% of Republican identifiers.

Only 26% of adults say having more political parties would make solving the nation's problems easier

% who say having more than two major political parties in this country would ___ to solve the country's problems



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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How likely is it that an independent candidate will become president?

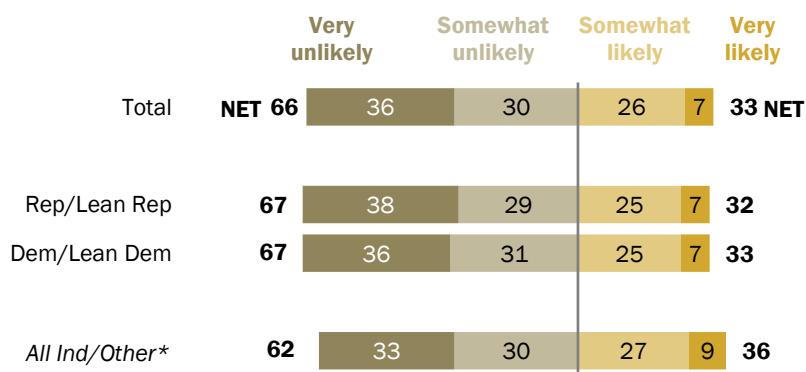
Few Americans think a candidate independent of the Republican and Democratic parties will win a presidential election in the next 25 years. About two-thirds of adults (66%) say it is very (36%) or somewhat unlikely (30%) this will happen.

There are no partisan differences in these expectations, and independents are only slightly more likely than partisan identifiers to say this is likely.

Two-thirds in both partisan coalitions say this is unlikely, as do 62% of independents and those who identify with other parties (including 66% of Republican-leaning independents and 64% of Democratic-leaning independents).

Majority of the public says it is unlikely an independent candidate will win the presidency in the next 25 years

% who say it is ___ that a candidate who is independent of both the Republican and Democratic parties will win a presidential election in the next 25 years



* All Independent/Other includes those who do not identify as Republican or Democratic but lean toward either the Republican or Democratic Party.

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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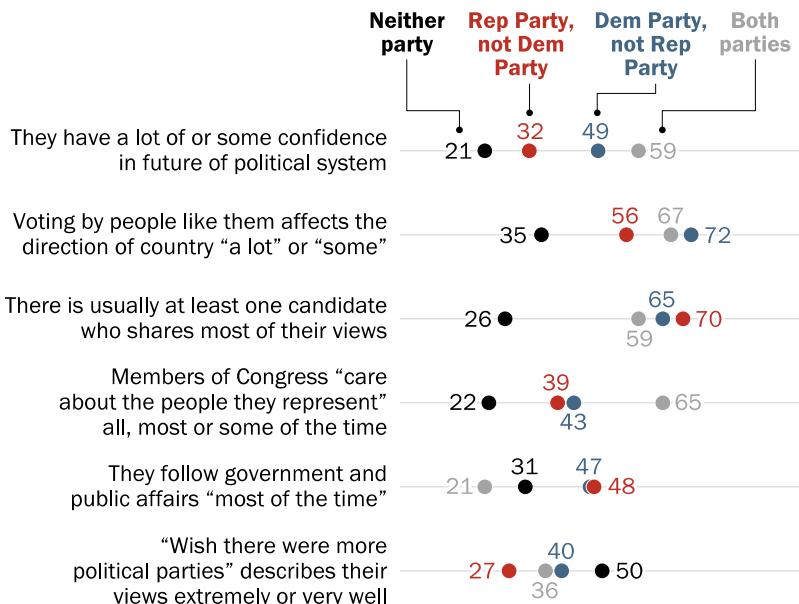
Americans who feel unrepresented by the parties have highly negative views of the political system

Compared with those who say they feel represented by the Republican or Democratic parties, the quarter of Americans who say *neither* party represents them well stand out for their negative views of much of the U.S. political system.

- Those who feel unrepresented by the parties are less optimistic about the future of the political system.** Just 21% of Americans who feel unrepresented by both parties say they have a lot of or some confidence in the future of the system. This compares with 32% of those who feel represented well by the Republican Party, 49% of those who feel represented by the Democratic Party and 59% of those who say both parties represent them well.

The 25% of Americans who feel unrepresented by either party are far more negative about the political system, elected officials and the impact of their vote

Among those who say ____ represents the interests of people like them well, % who say ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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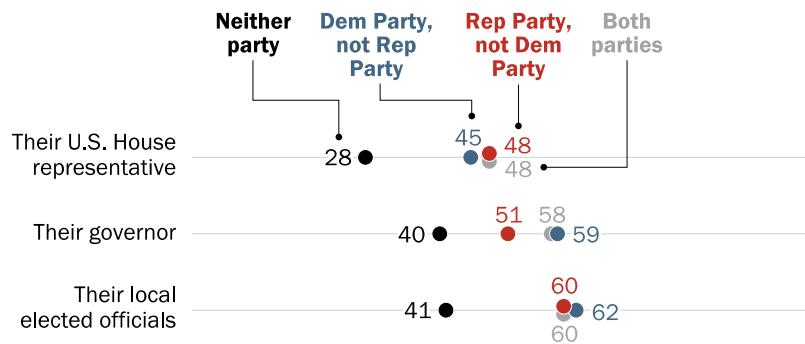
- Adults who feel unrepresented doubt voting “by people like them” can impact the direction of the country.** At least half of those who feel represented by the GOP (56%) or the Democrats (72%) say that their votes can affect the direction of the country at least some. By contrast, a far smaller share (35%) of those who feel unrepresented say this.
- Americans who say they are unrepresented by the parties also say political candidates do not share their views.** About a quarter of those who say *neither* party represents them well (26%) say there is usually at least one candidate who shares their views.

But clear majorities of those who feel represented by at least one of the two major parties say there is usually a candidate with their views.

- Negative evaluations of members of Congress are higher among those who feel neither party represents them.** About four-in-ten of those who are represented well by one party but not the other (39% of those represented by the GOP and 43% of those represented by the Democrats) say members of Congress care about the people they represent at least some of the time. The share saying this falls to 22% among those who say neither party represents them well.

Americans who feel unrepresented by the parties have more negative views of Congress, the Supreme Court and many political leaders

Among those who say ____ represents the interests of people like them very or somewhat well, % who say these elected officials are doing a good job



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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- Americans who feel unrepresented by the parties pay less attention to government and public affairs.** About three-in-ten Americans who feel unrepresented by a major party (31%) say they follow government most of the time, compared with about half of those who say one of the two parties but not the other represents them well. (The 9% of Americans who feel well-represented by *both* parties are the least likely to be politically attentive.)
- The desire for more political parties is higher among those who feel unrepresented by both parties.** Half of those unrepresented by the parties say they “wish there were more political parties,” compared with four-in-ten or fewer in the other groups.

The Americans who say neither the Republican Party nor the Democratic Party represent people like them well give consistently lower job ratings to their district’s House representative, state governor and local elected officials:

- 28% in this group say their **U.S. representative** is doing a good job. Nearly half of those who feel well-represented by at least one of the two major parties view their representative's performance positively.
- 40% who feel unrepresented say their **governor** does a good job. At least half of those in other groups approve of their governor's performance.
- While about six-in-ten of those who feel well-represented by at least one party view their **local elected officials'** job performance positively, a far smaller share (41%) of those who don't feel well-represented say this.

10. How Americans view proposals to change the political system

Reflecting the public's [unhappiness with the U.S. political system](#), there is broad support for a number of significant structural changes to politics:

Term limits for members of Congress.

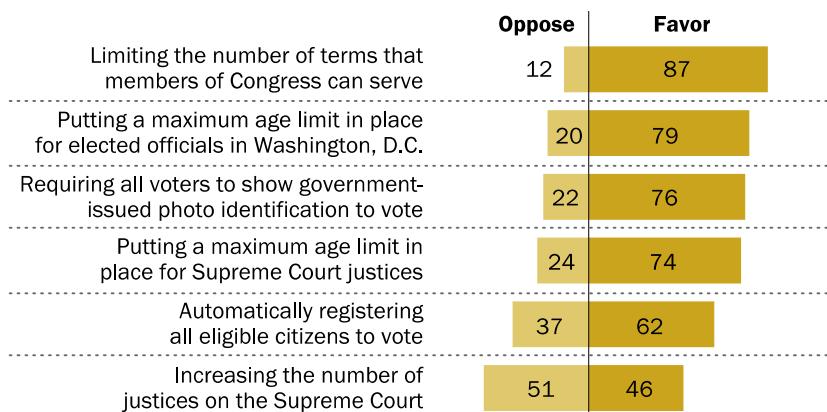
An overwhelming majority of adults (87%) favor limiting the number of terms that members of Congress are allowed to serve. This includes a majority (56%) who *strongly* favor this proposal; just 12% are opposed.

Maximum age limits for elected officials in Washington, D.C., and Supreme Court justices.

Nearly eight-in-ten adults (79%) favor maximum age limits for elected officials in Washington, while 74% favor a maximum age limit for Supreme Court justices.

Broad public support for term limits for Congress, age limits for federal elected officials and Supreme Court

% who ___ each of the following proposals



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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Requiring voters to show government-issued identification. By more than three-to-one (76% to 22%), Americans support requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification in order to vote. These views [are little changed from 2021](#).

A narrower majority (62%) favors automatically registering all eligible citizens to vote.

A proposal to increase the number of justices on the Supreme Court, by contrast, draws slightly more opposition (51%) than support (46%).

Overwhelming majorities in both parties favor term limits for members of Congress

Term limits for members of Congress are widely popular with both Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (90%) and Democrats and Democratic leaners (86%).

Establishing age limits for elected officials in Washington, D.C., also draws broad bipartisan support.

There are wider partisan differences in views of putting a maximum age limit for Supreme Court justices. Still, 82% of Democrats and 68% of Republicans support age limits for the justices.

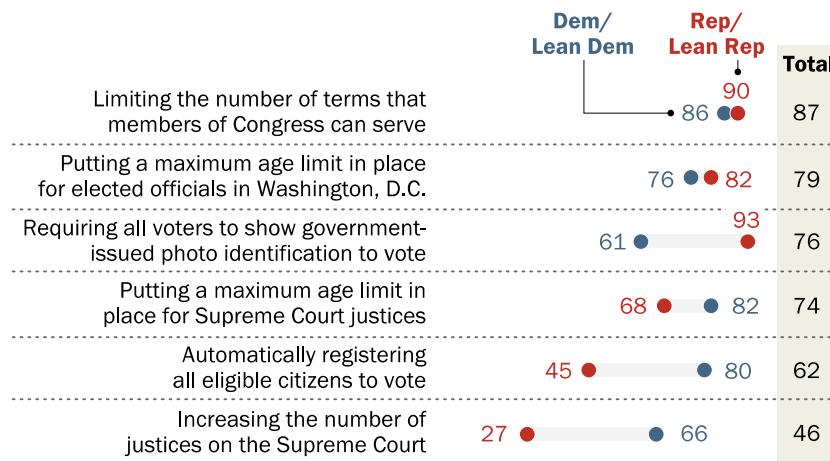
As in past surveys, Republicans and Democrats hold different views of proposals to change how voting works in this country.

Nearly all Republicans support requiring all voters to show government-issued identification (93% favor this), compared with a narrower majority (61%) of Democrats. Meanwhile, Democrats (80%) are much more likely than Republicans (45%) to favor automatically registering all eligible citizens to vote.

Increasing the number of justices on the Supreme Court is supported by about two-thirds of Democrats (66% favor). But only about a quarter of Republicans (27%) favor expanding the size of the court, while more than twice as many (72%) are opposed.

Term limits draw bipartisan support; wide partisan gap in views of expanding Supreme Court

% who favor each of the following proposals



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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Young adults more likely than older people to support adding Supreme Court justices

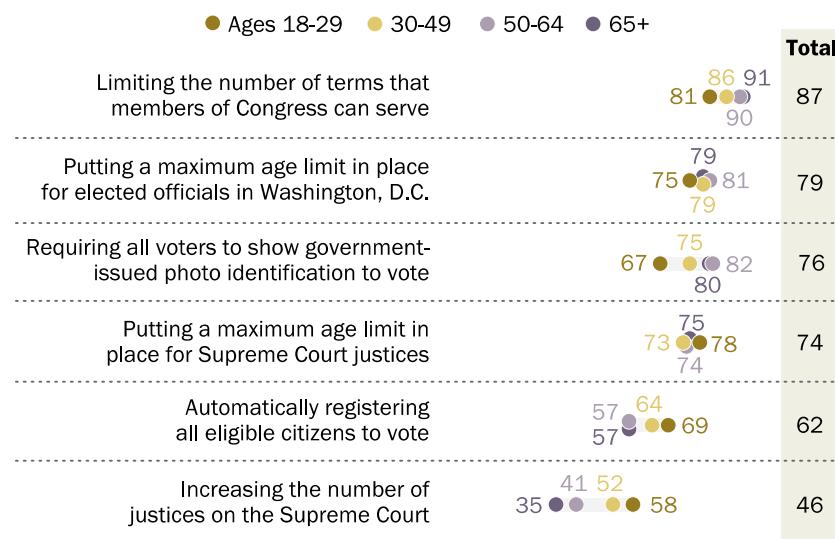
There are fairly modest age differences in views of most of these proposals. However, adults under age 50 are more likely than those 50 and older to favor automatically registering all eligible citizens to vote (66% vs. 57%).

And a majority of adults under 30 (58%) favor increasing the number of justices on the Supreme Court. Support for this proposal decreases with age: About a third (35%) of those 65 and older favor this.

These age differences are more pronounced among Republicans than Democrats. About four-in-ten Republicans ages 18 to 29 (44%) favor expanding the court, but that drops steadily with age; just 13% of Republicans 65 and older support this. In contrast, Democrats in all age groups are nearly equally likely to favor increasing the number of justices on the court.

Older and younger adults are equally likely to favor maximum age limits for federal elected officials

% who favor each of the following proposals



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
“Americans’ Dismal Views of the Nation’s Politics”

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Views of the Electoral College

Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) favor changing the current system for presidential elections so that the candidate who receives the most votes wins, while a third prefer to keep the current system so that the candidate who wins the Electoral College vote wins the election.

Support for changing the current system has ticked up slightly since last summer.

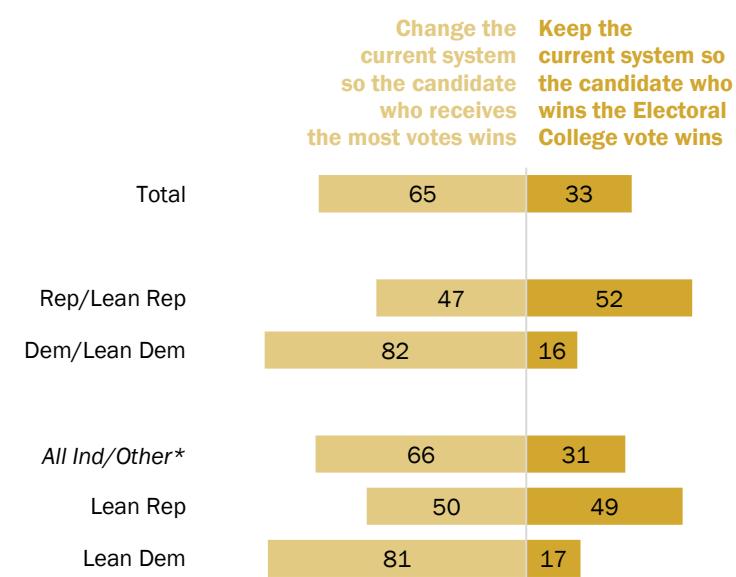
Democrats remain much more likely to favor a popular vote system for presidential elections than Republicans: 82% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they would prefer to change the current system, compared with 47% of Republicans and Republican leaners.

Among all political independents and others who don't identify with a party, about two-thirds (66%) favor changing the current system so the candidate who receives the most votes wins, while 31% prefer to keep the current Electoral College system.

However, Democratic-leaning independents are much more supportive of changing the Electoral College system than Republican-leaning independents.

Majority of Americans favor replacing Electoral College with popular vote for presidential elections

Thinking about the way the president is elected in this country, would you prefer to ... (%)



* All Independent/Other includes those who do not identify as Republican or Democratic but lean toward either the Republican or Democratic Party.

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Should the size of the U.S. House of Representatives change?

About three-in-ten adults (29%) say the size of the House of Representatives should be increased beyond its current 435 members, while a narrow majority (53%) say the size of the House should stay the same. Another 15% prefer to decrease the size of the House.

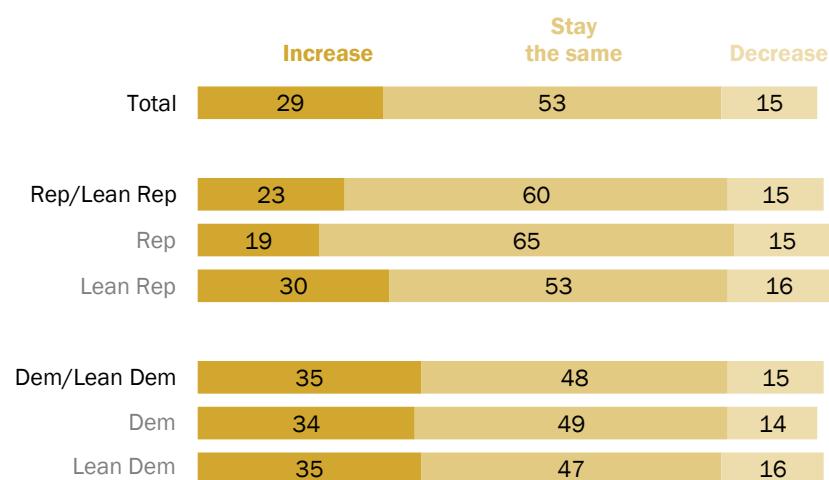
Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say that the number of members in the House should increase, though larger shares in both parties favor keeping the House at its current size.

About a third of Democrats and Democratic leaners (35%) favor increasing the size of the House, compared with 23% of Republicans and Republican leaners.

Republican-leaning independents (30%) are more likely than GOP partisans to favor increasing the size of the House (19%). The views of Democratic-leaning independents on this question are nearly identical to those of Democratic identifiers.

Fewer than a third of Americans favor increasing the number of House members

There are 435 members of the House of Representatives in Washington, each of whom represents an average of more than 750,000 people. Do you think the number of members in the House of Representatives should ... (%)



* Independent/Other includes those who do not identify as Republican or Democratic but lean toward either the Republican or Democratic Party.

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Senate seats and population size

When it comes to the Senate, 66% of adults say that the method of determining representation in the upper chamber should not be changed, and all states should continue to have two senators regardless of population size. Roughly half as many (32%) say that the Constitution should be amended so that states with larger populations have more senators than smaller states.

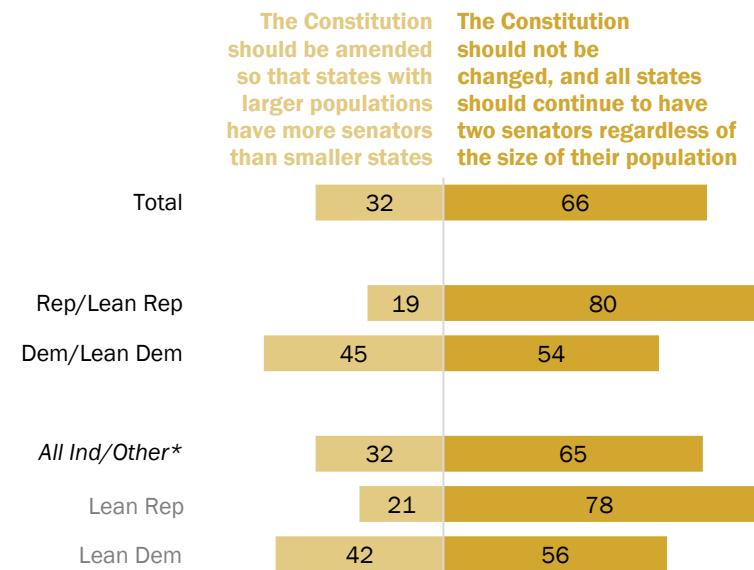
Eight-in-ten Republicans favor maintaining the Senate's present structure.

Among Democrats, a narrower majority (54%) favor the current allocation, while 45% say the Constitution should be amended.

The views of independents are similar to the overall public's views, with 65% preferring to keep the current system as-is. However, Democratic-leaning independents' views are nearly identical to Democratic partisans' views, while Republican-leaning independents' views are nearly identical to Republicans' views.

Roughly two-thirds of Americans oppose changing the Constitution to give larger states more senators

The Constitution requires that all states have two U.S. senators, regardless of how many people live in the state. Which comes closer to your view? (%)



* All Independent/Other includes those who do not identify as Republican or Democratic but lean toward either the Republican or Democratic Party.

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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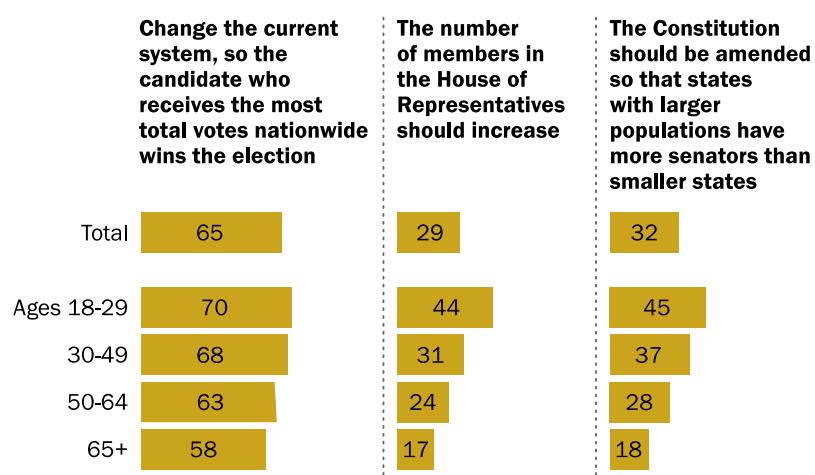
Younger adults more supportive of structural changes

Younger adults are more likely than older adults to favor a popular vote for president, an expansion of the House of Representatives and a change to the way representation in the Senate is apportioned.

While majorities of adults across age groups support changing the presidential election system so the candidate who wins the popular vote wins the election, this view is more common among those under 50 (69%) than among those ages 50 and older (61%).

Younger Americans more likely than older people to favor changes in the size of the House and Senate

% who say ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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Age differences are larger when it comes to changes to the structure of Congress, with support for changes decreasing with age. Adults under 30 are much more likely than those 65 and older to say both that the number of House members should be increased (44% vs. 17%) and that the Constitution should be amended so that more populous states have more senators than smaller states (45% vs. 18%).

11. Americans' feelings about politics, polarization and the tone of political discourse

In many ways, Americans' emotions toward politics today are as negative as their evaluations of the country's political system.

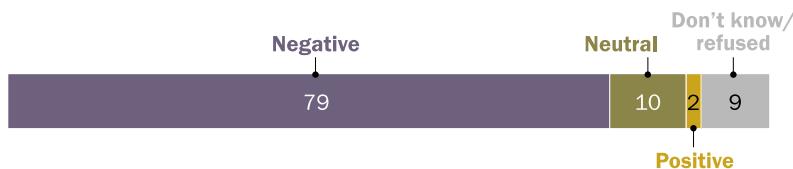
Majorities say they always or often feel exhausted (65%) and angry (55%) when thinking about politics these days, while relatively few report feeling hopeful (10%) or excited (4%) with this much frequency.

Despite the public's weariness with politics, most Americans still believe voting can make a difference. Nearly six-in-ten (57%) say voting can have at least some effect on the country's future, though just 20% say it can affect it a lot.

And more people say voting can bring about positive change than say that about volunteering for an organization or political group, donating to charity or a political campaign, or running for office.

Asked to describe U.S. politics these days, about 8 in 10 Americans respond with a negative word or phrase

% who use a ___ word or phrase to describe politics in the U.S. these days [open end]



Note: Based on responses to an open-ended question. For full results, please refer to the survey topline.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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Politics in a single word or phrase: An outpouring of negative sentiments

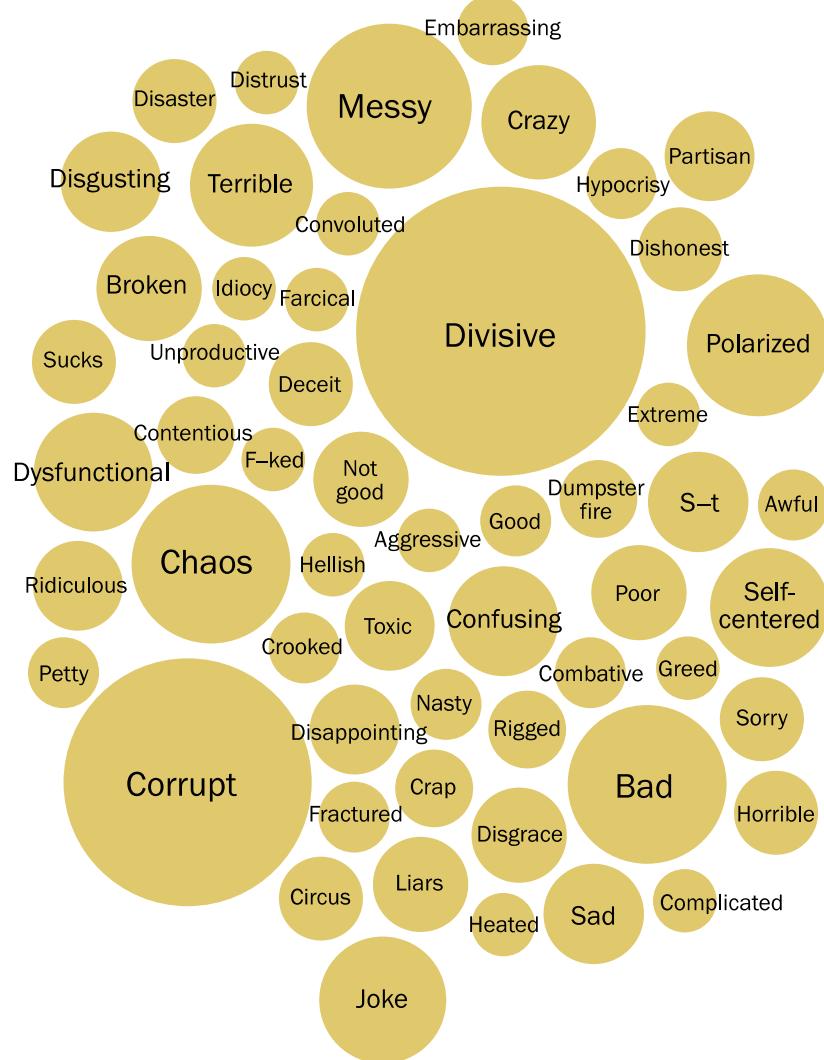
When asked to describe politics in the United States these days in a single word or phrase, an overwhelming majority of Americans (79%) express a negative sentiment. Just 2% offer a positive word or phrase, while 10% say something neutral.

The word “divisive” (and variations such as “dividing”) appears most frequently among the responses, with 8% saying this. An additional 2% use the related term “polarized.” Second-most frequent is “corrupt” (chosen by 6% of respondents), consistent with the views many Americans express elsewhere in the survey that politicians are looking out only for their own interests.

Other common words include those that suggest that politics today just doesn't work, with "messy," "chaos," "broken" and "dysfunctional" each among the top 15 words. And many respondents are even more negative in their views: "terrible," "disgusting," "disgrace" and the phrase "dumpster fire" each are cited

'Divisive,' 'corrupt,' 'messy' among the words used most frequently to describe U.S. politics today

What one word or phrase would you use to describe politics in the U.S. these days? [open end]



Note: Circle size indicates relative frequency of a word in responses to an open-ended question. Words with the same root are combined (e.g., "divisive," "division"). Top 56 words shown. For more details, refer to the survey topline.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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by at least 1% of survey respondents.

Negative emotions prevail when Americans think about politics

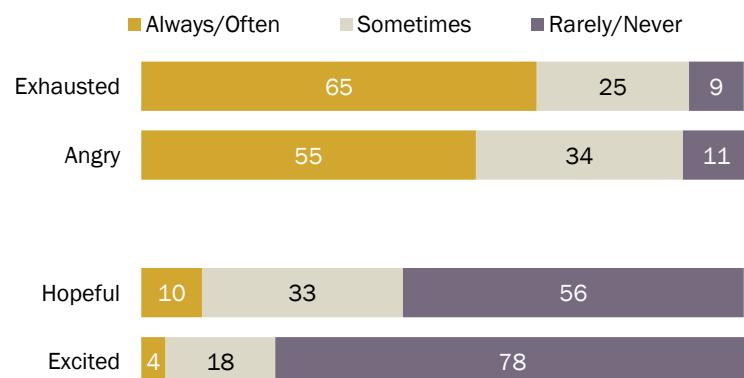
Nearly two-thirds of adults (65%) say they always or often feel exhausted when they think about politics these days. Another 25% sometimes feel exhausted, while 9% rarely or never feel this way.

A majority (55%) also always or often feels angry when thinking about politics; just 11% say they rarely or never feel this way.

A much smaller share of the public reports frequently feeling positive emotions when thinking about politics: One-in-ten always or often feel hopeful, and just 4% feel excited about this frequently.

Majorities of Americans are always or often exhausted and angry when thinking about politics

% who ____ feel each of the following when thinking about politics these days



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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A majority of adults (56%) say they rarely or never feel hopeful, and 78% rarely or never feel excited when thinking about politics these days.

The most politically engaged are the most exhausted and angry

Those who have the highest levels of engagement with politics are also the most likely to report exhaustion and anger when they think about politics these days.

Among highly politically engaged adults, 72% report feeling exhausted by politics always or often. The shares who say this decline as political engagement decreases: 68% of adults with a medium level of engagement and 56% of those with a low level of engagement feel exhausted always or often.

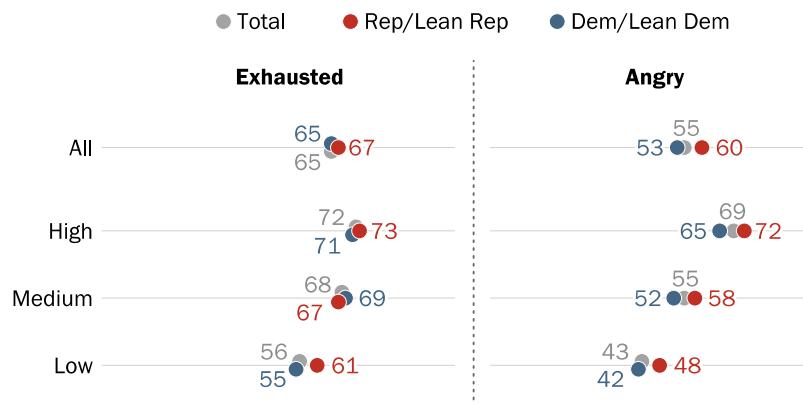
A similar pattern holds for anger: 69% of highly engaged adults say they always or often feel angry when thinking about politics, compared with 55% of those with a medium level of engagement and 43% of those with a low level of engagement.

Republicans and Republican-leaning independents are slightly more likely than Democrats and Democratic leaners to say they always or often feel angry when thinking about politics these days. But in both parties highly engaged adults are more likely to feel negative than those who are less engaged.

For example, highly politically engaged Republicans are 24 percentage points more likely than Republicans with a low level of engagement to always or often feel angry about politics (72% vs. 48%). And highly engaged Democrats are 23 points more likely to say this than Democrats with a low level of political engagement (65% vs. 42%).

Exhaustion and anger over politics are highest among the most politically engaged adults

% who *always/often* feel ___ when thinking about politics these days



Note: Refer to methodology for full details on the measure of political engagement.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Americans say the tone of political debate in the country has worsened

The public feels that the tone and nature of political debate has become less respectful and fact-based over the last several years.

An overwhelming 84% majority of adults say political debate has become less respectful over the last several years, while only 4% say it has become more respectful. About one-in-ten (12%) say it hasn't changed.

Similarly, 78% say political debate has become less fact-based over the last several years, while only 5% say it has become more fact-based. Just 16% say it has not changed much.

Large majorities of adults in all political and demographic groups say that the tone and nature of political debate has become less respectful and fact-based in recent years.

Public evaluations today are nearly identical to views [four years ago](#).

Overwhelming majorities say political debate in the U.S. has become less respectful, fact-based in past few years

% who say that over the last several years the tone and nature of political debate in this country has ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.

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Which political topics get too much – and too little – attention?

Large majorities of Americans say several political topics receive too little attention:

- 78% say there is too little attention to important issues facing the country;
- 66% say the same about the policies that local elected officials are working on;
- 64% say policies that federal officials are working on get too little attention.

By contrast, a majority of Americans (57%) say disagreements between Republicans and Democrats receive *too much* attention.

With a little more than a year before the 2024 presidential election, 39% say the campaign has gotten too much attention, while nearly as many say it has gotten the right amount of attention. About one-in-five (22%) say next year's election has received too little attention.

Republicans and Democrats hold very similar views about whether too much or too little attention is paid to each of these topics.

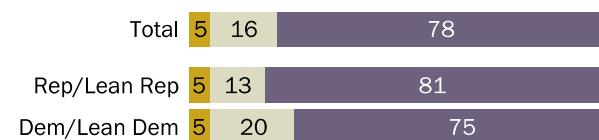
For example, 81% of Republicans and 75% of Democrats (including those who lean to each party) say that too little attention is paid to important issues facing the country. And more than six-in-ten in both parties say too little attention is being paid to the policies elected officials in both their local area and in Washington, D.C., are working on.

Majorities in both parties say disagreements between Republicans and Democrats get too much attention

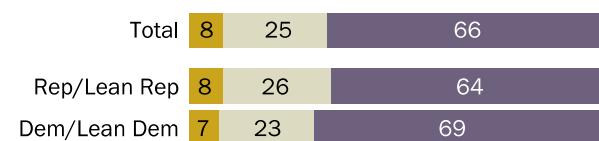
% who say there is ___ (of) attention paid to each of the following

Too much Right amount Too little

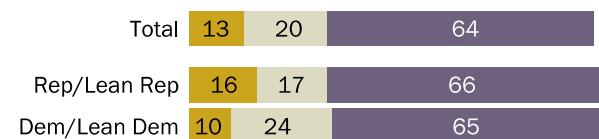
Important issues facing the country



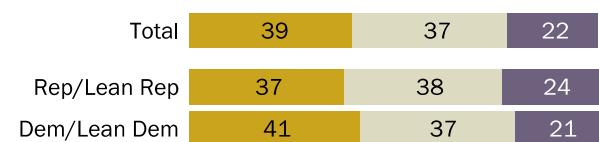
Policies local elected officials are working on



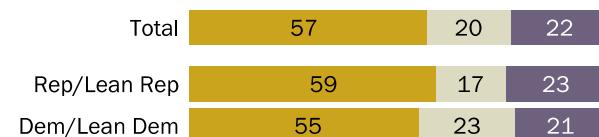
Policies elected officials in Washington are working on



The 2024 presidential election



Disagreements between Republicans and Democrats



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023.
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Similar majorities in both parties say that too much attention is given to disagreements between the parties (59% of Republicans and 55% of Democrats say this).

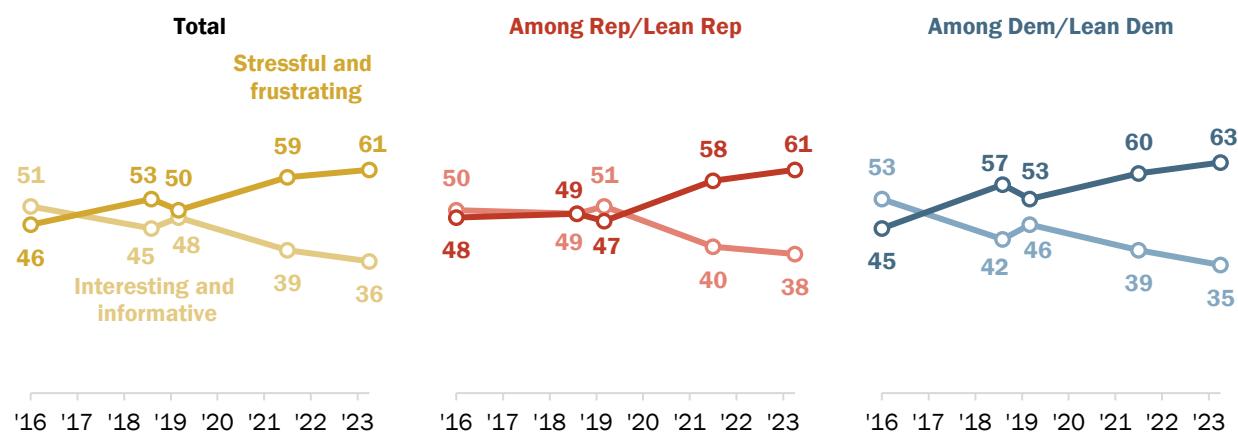
Majority of Americans find it stressful to talk politics with people they disagree with

Around six-in-ten U.S. adults (61%) say having political conversations with people they disagree with is generally “stressful and frustrating,” while about a third (36%) say these types of conversations are generally “interesting and informative.”

While these views are largely unchanged from two years ago, the share of Americans who say they find talking politics with people they disagree with to be stressful is now higher than it was a few

Americans increasingly say political conversations with people they disagree with are ‘stressful and frustrating’

% who say that talking about politics with people they disagree with is generally ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

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years ago. In May 2019, half said these types of political conversations were stressful, while a similar share (48%) said they were interesting and informative.

As has been the case since 2021, there is no partisan difference in the shares viewing political conversations with people they disagree with as stressful. In prior years, Democrats were somewhat more likely than Republicans to view these conversations as stressful and frustrating.

Across most demographic and political groups, majorities say these conversations are more stressful and frustrating than interesting and informative.

Gender

Similar-sized majorities of men (60%) and women (62%) say talking politics with people they disagree with is stressful, while men are slightly more likely than women to find these conversations interesting (38% vs. 34%).

Race and ethnicity

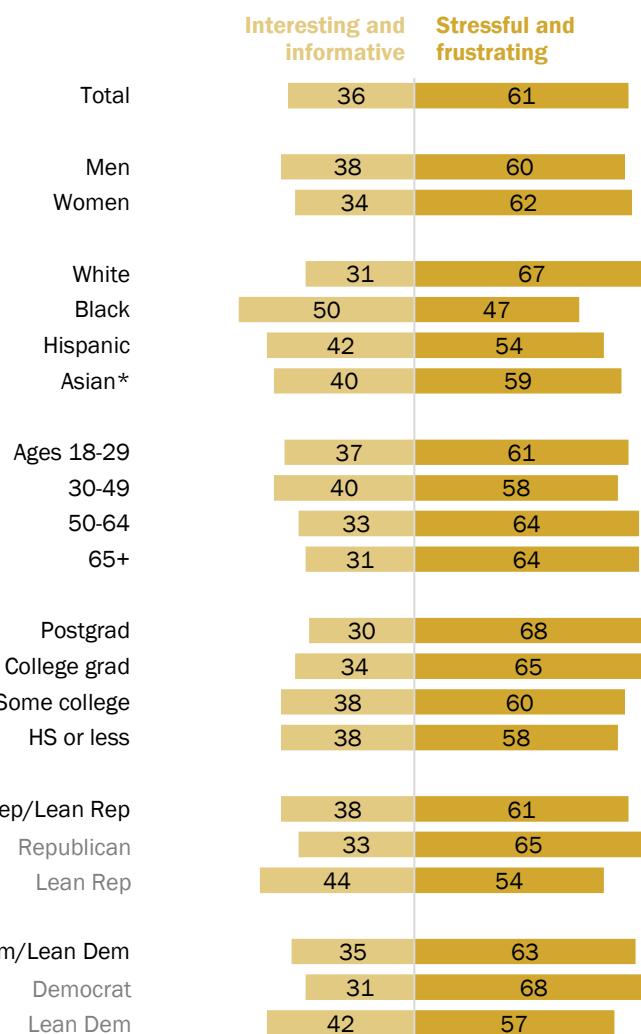
Two-thirds of White adults find these types of political conversations stressful, as do 59% of Asian adults and 54% of Hispanic adults. Black adults are more evenly divided: 47% say these conversations are stressful and frustrating, while 50% say they are interesting and informative.

Age

While majorities in all age groups say conversations with those they disagree with are generally stressful, adults 50 and older are somewhat more likely to say this than younger adults (64% vs. 59%).

Majorities in most demographic and political groups say it's more stressful than interesting to talk politics with those they disagree with

% who say that talking about politics with people they disagree with is generally ...



* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include only those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanic adults are of any race. No answer responses are shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 5-11, 2023.

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Education

Differences by education are similarly modest. Roughly two-thirds (66%) of those with at least a bachelor's degree say they find talking politics with people they disagree with stressful, while about six-in-ten (59%) of those with less education say the same.

Partisanship

While similar shares of Democrats and Republicans say political conversations with those who disagree with them are stressful and frustrating, partisans are more likely than leaners – political independents who lean toward a certain party – to say the same.

In both parties, more than six-in-ten partisans say they find political conversations with those they disagree with as stressful, while around a third say they are interesting. By contrast, around four-in-ten leaners say these types of conversations are interesting, and more than half say they are stressful.

Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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Pew Research Center is also grateful to Jennifer Wolak, a professor in the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University, for discussing her work on attitudes about government with the research team.

Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from ATP Wave 130, conducted from July 10 to July 16, 2023, and includes an [oversample](#) of Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black, Asian, and 18- to 29-year-old adults in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of these smaller demographic subgroups. These oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population. A total of 8,480 panelists responded out of 10,069 who were sampled, for a response rate of 84%. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 2%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 8,480 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	1,496
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	877
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	431
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS	9,396	8,778	4,104
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS	5,900	4,720	1,461
June 1 to July 19, 2020; Feb. 10 to March 31, 2021	ABS	3,197	2,812	1,537
May 29 to July 7, 2021; Sept. 16 to Nov. 1, 2021	ABS	1,329	1,162	784
May 24 to Sept. 29, 2022	ABS	3,354	2,869	1,687
April 17 to May 30, 2023	ABS	686	576	573
	Total	43,580	30,859	12,950

Note: RDD is random-digit dial; ABS is address-based sampling. Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Sampled households receive mailings asking a randomly selected adult to complete a survey online. A question at the end of the survey asks if the respondent is willing to join the ATP. In 2020 and 2021 another stage was added to the recruitment. Households that did not respond to the online survey were sent a paper version of the questionnaire, \$5 and a postage-paid return envelope. A subset of the adults who returned the paper version of the survey were invited to join the ATP. This subset of adults received a follow-up mailing with a \$10 pre-incentive and invitation to join the ATP.

Across the six address-based recruitments, a total of 23,862 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 20,917 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, one adult was selected and asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 30,859 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 12,950 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.¹ The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black, Asian, and 18- to 29-year-old adults were selected with certainty. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#)."

team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was July 10 to July 16, 2023. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on July 10.

Invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on July 10. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on July 11.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates, ATP Wave 130

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	July 10, 2023	July 11, 2023
First reminder	July 13, 2023	July 13, 2023
Final reminder	July 15, 2023	June 15, 2023

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Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, seven ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey. These weights are then rescaled and adjusted to account for changes in the design of ATP recruitment surveys from year to year. Finally, the weights are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2021 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2021 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2021 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2022 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	
<i>Additional weighting dimensions applied within Black adults</i>	
Age	2021 American Community Survey (ACS)
Gender	
Education	
Hispanic ethnicity	
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2022 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th

percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 130

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	8,480		1.5 percentage points
Half form	At least 4,233		2.1 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	3,661	46	2.2 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,829		3.1 percentage points
Republican	2,303	28	2.7 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,142		3.8 percentage points
Lean Rep	1,358	18	3.7 percentage points
Half sample	At least 671		5.3 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	4,532	48	2.1 percentage points
Half form	At least 2,263		3.0 percentage points
Democrat	2,882	28	2.6 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,428		3.7 percentage points
Lean Dem	1,650	20	3.5 percentage points
Half form	At least 809		5.0 percentage points
All Ind/Other	3,295		2.5 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,637		3.5 percentage points
High political engagement	3,446	35	2.2 percentage points
Medium political engagement	2,461	28	2.8 percentage points
Low political engagement	2,573	37	2.8 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Hispanic, non-Hispanic Black, Asian, and 18- to 29-year-old adults. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Additional wave methodology

This report also features questions fielded in an earlier survey, ATP Wave 129. Further information for those questions can be [found here](#).

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 130

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	8,480
Logged on to survey; broke off	2.12	164
Logged on to survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	66
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	1,352
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		7
Screened out		0
Total panelists sampled for the survey		10,069
Completed interviews	I	8,480
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,582
Non-contact	NC	0
Other	O	7
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		10,069
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		84%

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Cumulative response rate as of ATP Wave 130

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	71%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 130	49%
Response rate to Wave 130 survey	84%
Cumulative response rate	3%

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Appendix

Political engagement scale

This report uses an additive scale of three questions to measure political engagement. The scale combines how often respondents follow government and current affairs, how interested they are in politics and how often they talk about politics with others.

Each question in the scale is recoded so that the least engaged response option equals zero and the most engaged option is 1. No answer responses are set to the midpoint of 0.5. The scale has a range of zero to 3. High engagement individuals score between 2 and 3 on the scale; medium engagement score between 1.34 and 2 and low engagement score under 1.34.

Political engagement categories used in this report

	Total	Rep/ Lean Rep	Dem/ Lean Dem
	%	%	%
High (2 to 3)	35	39	35
Medium (1.34 to 2)	28	28	30
Low (0 to 1.33)	37	33	36
	100	100	100

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Items included in the political engagement scale

% who say ...

	Total %	Low %	Medium %	High %
POLINT How interested would you say you are in politics?				
Extremely interested	8	<0.5	2	21
Very interested	20	2	10	48
Somewhat interested	38	25	67	29
Not too interested	21	43	16	1
Not at all interested	12	28	4	0
TALKPOL How often do you discuss government and politics with others?				
Nearly every day	16	<0.5	2	43
A few times a week	30	3	43	49
A few times a month	25	27	42	8
Less often	29	69	12	0
FOLGOV Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs...				
Most of the time	40	2	31	89
Some of the time	34	34	63	11
Only now and then	16	39	5	<0.5
Hardly at all	9	24	<0.5	0

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted July 10-16, 2023 and July 18-Aug. 21, 2022.

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2023 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 129 JUNE 2023
FINAL TOPLINE
JUNE 5-11, 2023
N=5,115

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

GOVFEEL Some people say they are basically content with the federal government, others say they are frustrated and others say they are angry. Which of these best describes how you feel?

	<u>Basically content</u>	<u>Frustrated</u>	<u>Angry</u>	No answer
Jun 5-11, 2023	18	59	21	1
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	22	60	18	1
Apr 5-11, 2021	29	52	17	2
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	18	57	24	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	22	55	23	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 ²	20	57	22	*

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	<u>Basically content</u>	<u>Frustrated</u>	<u>Angry</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jul 23-Aug 4, 2020	19	54	24	3
Mar 20-25, 2019	18	57	21	4
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	17	55	24	5
Apr 5-11, 2017	19	55	22	3
Mar 17-26, 2016	20	57	21	2
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	18	57	22	3
Feb 12-26, 2014	17	62	19	2
Oct 9-13, 2013	12	55	30	3
Sep 25-29, 2013	17	51	26	5
Jan 9-13, 2013	20	58	19	3
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	58	21	3
Aug 17-21, 2011	11	60	26	3
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	22	59	14	5
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	21	52	23	4
Apr 1-5, 2010	23	52	21	4
Mar 11-21, 2010	19	56	21	5
Early January 2007	21	58	16	5
Early October 2006	21	54	20	5
March 2004	32	52	13	3
Mid November 2001	53	34	8	5
June 2000	28	53	13	6
February 2000	33	54	10	3
October 1997	29	56	12	3

²

The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

ASK ALL:

TRUSTFEDGOV How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

	<u>Just about always</u>	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Only some of the time</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jun 5-11, 2023	1	15	61	22	1
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	2	19	61	17	1
Apr 5-11, 2021	2	22	61	14	1
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	2	18	65	14	1
Apr 7-12, 2020 ³	2	24	60	12	1
Apr 4-18, 2017	3	25	61	10	1
Nov 17-Dec 15, 2014 ⁴	3	21	56	19	2

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	<u>Just about always</u>	<u>Most of the time</u>	<u>Only some of the time</u>	(VOL.) <u>Never</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 23-Aug 4, 2020 ⁵	5	15	66	12	2
Mar 20-25, 2019	3	14	71	10	2
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	3	15	67	14	2
Apr 5-11, 2017	4	16	68	11	2
Aug 27- Oct 4, 2015	3	16	67	13	1
Feb 12-26, 2014	3	21	68	7	1
Oct 9-13, 2013	3	16	68	12	1
Jan 9-13, 2013	3	23	67	6	2
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	3	17	72	7	2
Aug 17-21, 2011	3	16	72	8	1
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	4	25	65	4	2
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	3	21	65	10	1
Apr 1-5, 2010	5	20	61	13	1
Mar 11-21, 2010	3	19	65	11	2
January 2007	3	28	63	5	1
February 2006	4	30	59	6	1
Mid-September 2005	3	28	63	4	2
Mid-March 2004	4	32	59	4	1
February 2000	5	35	56	3	1
May 1999	3	28	62	5	2
February 1999	4	27	64	4	1
November 1998 ⁶	4	22	61	11	2
February 1998	5	29	61	4	1
October 1997	3	36	59	2	*

³ In Wave 65 and earlier surveys, the question asked, "How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government to do what is right?"

⁴ In the Wave 9 survey TRUSTFED was asked in a battery that also measured how often you can trust state government and local government to do what is right.

⁵ In phone surveys the question asked, "How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right? Just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?"

⁶ The November 1998 survey was conducted Oct. 26-Dec. 1, 1998. The question asked, "How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing? Just about always, most the time, or only some of the time?"

ASK ALL:

PRESDIFF

Thinking generally, does who is president make a big difference, some difference or no difference for each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

			<u>Big difference</u>	<u>Some difference</u>	<u>No difference</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK ALL:						
PERS	Your own personal life Jun 5-11, 2023		24	50	25	*
	PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:					(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Mar 7-14, 2018	34	39	25	1	
	Oct 20-25, 2016	39	38	21	2	
ASK FORM 1 [N=2,548]:						
MOOD	The mood of the country Jun 5-11, 2023		65	28	7	*
	PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:					(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Mar 7-14, 2018	63	27	8	2	
	Oct 20-25, 2016	64	26	8	2	
	<i>Time: August 1984⁶:</i>	52	34	9	5	
	<i>Time: January 1984</i>	65	28	4	2	
	<i>Time: September 1983</i>	70	24	4	2	
NATSEC	National security Jun 5-11, 2023		58	31	11	*
	PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:					(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Mar 7-14, 2018	61	27	10	2	
	Oct 20-25, 2016	71	21	7	2	
ASK FORM 2 [N=2,567]:						
STAND	The standing of the United States in the world Jun 5-11, 2023		67	26	7	*
	PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:					(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Mar 7-14, 2018	69	21	9	1	
	Oct 20-25, 2016	75	18	6	2	
	<i>Time: August 1984</i>	67	24	5	5	
	<i>Time: January 1984</i>	79	17	2	2	
	<i>Time: September 1983</i>	84	13	2	1	
ECON	The health of the economy Jun 5-11, 2023		52	39	9	*
	PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:					(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Mar 7-14, 2018	53	34	12	1	
	Oct 20-25, 2016	60	30	8	2	

⁶

In Time 1983 and 1984 surveys, question was worded: "Keeping in mind that we have had five different presidents in the past 20 years, please tell me whether WHO is President makes a BIG difference, SOME difference, or NO difference on each of the following" for all items included here as a trend for comparison.

PRESDIFF CONTINUED...	<u>Big difference</u>	<u>Some difference</u>	<u>No difference</u>	<u>No answer (VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Time: August 1984	54	33	9	4
Time: January 1984	68	27	4	2
Time: September 1983	70	25	3	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

TALKDISA In your experience, when you talk about politics with people who you DISagree with, do you generally find it to be... [RANDOMIZE]

Jun 5-11, 2023	Interesting and informative	Sep 13-19, 2021	Apr 29- May 13, 2019	Sep 24- Oct 7, 2018	Mar 2- Mar 28, 2016
		36	39	48	45
	Stressful and frustrating	61	59	50	53
	No answer	3	2	2	2

ASK ALL:

FEDSTATE How concerned, if at all, are you about each of the following? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

		<u>Extremely concerned</u>	<u>Very concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat concerned</u>	<u>Not too concerned</u>	<u>Not at all concerned</u>	<u>No answer</u>
STAT	State governments not being willing enough to work with the federal government						
		Jun 5-11, 2023	16	25	36	17	5
FED	The federal government doing too much on issues better left to state governments	Apr 25-May 1, 2022	12	22	36	22	6
		Jun 5-11, 2023	18	23	31	20	7
RGHT	The rights and protections a person has might be different depending on which state they are in	Apr 25-May 1, 2022	15	19	35	24	6
		Jun 5-11, 2023	28	26	29	12	4
		Apr 25-May 1, 2022	19	25	35	16	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

[RANDOMIZE PTYIDEADEM AND PTYIDEAREP, SHOW ON SAME SCREEN]**ASK ALL:**

PTYIDEADEM Overall, would you say the DEMOCRATIC PARTY has...

Jun 5-11, <u>2023</u>	Jan 10-17, <u>2022</u>
11 A lot of good ideas	12
33 Some good ideas	32
29 A few good ideas	27
25 Almost no good ideas	27
2 No answer	2

ASK ALL:

PTYIDEAREP Overall, would you say the REPUBLICAN PARTY has...

Jun 5-11, <u>2023</u>	Jan 10-17, <u>2022</u>
11 A lot of good ideas	9
35 Some good ideas	32
31 A few good ideas	32
22 Almost no good ideas	26
2 No answer	2

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF REPPTYTRAIT AND DEMPTYTRAIT, SHOW ON SEPARATE SCREENS]**ASK ALL:**REPPTYTRAIT How well do each of the following phrases describe the REPUBLICAN PARTY? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, USE SAME ORDER FOR DEMPTYTRAIT]**

		Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well	No answer
EXCHT	Too often makes excuses for party members who have hateful views					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	34	28	22	13	3
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	36	25	23	13	3
HON	Governs in an honest and ethical way					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	7	33	30	28	2
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	8	29	27	34	2
	Jan 10-17, 2022	6	32	29	31	2
	Mar 1-7, 2021	8	33	29	29	1
	Sep 3-15, 2019	7	31	30	30	1
TOL	Respectful and tolerant of different types of people					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	10	31	26	31	2
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	11	28	25	35	2
	Sep 3-15, 2019	9	29	27	33	1

REPPTYTRAIT CONTINUED...		<u>Very well</u>	<u>Somewhat well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
TRADS	Respects the country's democratic institutions and traditions					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	15	34	25	23	2
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	16	29	25	29	2
	Jan 10-17, 2022	13	34	25	27	2
	Mar 1-7, 2021	16	32	25	26	1
INTF	Supports policies that interfere too much in people's lives					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	23	31	29	15	2
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	25	25	30	18	2

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF REPPTYTRAIT AND DEMPTYTRAIT, SHOW ON SEPARATE SCREENS]**ASK ALL:**

DEMPTYTRAIT How well do each of the following phrases describe the DEMOCRATIC PARTY? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, USE SAME ORDER FOR REPPTYTRAIT]**

		<u>Very well</u>	<u>Somewhat well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
EXCHT	Too often makes excuses for party members who have hateful views					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	25	27	28	17	3
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	26	25	28	18	3
HON	Governs in an honest and ethical way					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	8	34	26	30	2
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	12	32	22	33	2
	Jan 10-17, 2022	10	35	25	29	2
	Mar 1-7, 2021	12	38	22	27	1
	Sep 3-15, 2019	10	38	27	25	1
TOL	Respectful and tolerant of different types of people					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	20	37	20	21	2
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	24	33	18	23	2
	Sep 3-15, 2019	22	37	19	20	1
TRADS	Respects the country's democratic institutions and traditions					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	16	35	23	24	2
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	20	30	20	27	2
	Jan 10-17, 2022	16	35	21	27	2
	Mar 1-7, 2021	20	36	19	24	1
INTF	Supports policies that interfere too much in people's lives					
	Jun 5-11, 2023	25	30	28	15	3
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	28	26	28	16	2

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...⁷

				Something <u>else</u>	No <u>answer</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	15	2	18	19
	28	28	28				

⁷

PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.

2023 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 130 JULY 2023
FINAL TOPLINE
July 10-16, 2023
N=8,480

ASK ALL:

SATIS All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jul 10-16, 2023	22	77	1
Jun 5-11, 2023	21	78	1
Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	19	80	1
Jan 18-24, 2023	22	78	*
Nov 16-27, 2022	24	75	1
Oct 10-16, 2022	21	79	1
Aug 1-14, 2022	18	81	1
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	24	75	1
Jan 10-17, 2022	21	78	1
Sep 20-26, 2021	25	74	1
Sep 13-19, 2021	26	74	*
Mar 1-7, 2021	33	66	1
Nov 12-17, 2020	22	77	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	18	82	1
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	12	87	1
Jun 16-22, 2020	12	87	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	31	68	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	33	66	1
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	31	69	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	28	71	1
Jul 22-Aug 4, 2019	27	72	1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	34	65	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	36	63	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 ⁸	32	68	0
Sep 27-Oct 10, 2016	23	75	2
Jun 7-Jul 5, 2016	19	80	1
Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	25	75	0

ASK ALL:

POL_WELL In general, how well do you think the political system is working in the U.S. today?
[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5 OR 5-1 FOR RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE]

<u>Jul 10-16,</u> <u>2023</u>	
1	Extremely well
4	Very well
23	Somewhat well
45	Not too well
27	Not at all well
*	No answer

¹ The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

ASK ALL:

POLFUT How much confidence do you have in the future of the U.S. political system?

Jul 10-16,	
<u>2023</u>	
4	A lot
33	Some
48	Not too much
15	None at all
*	No answer

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,233]:

RESPECTD Over the last several years, would you say the tone and nature of political debate in this country has...

Jul 10-16,		Apr 29-
<u>2023</u>		<u>May 13</u>
4	Become more respectful	<u>2019</u>
84	Become less respectful	2
12	Not changed much	85
1	No answer	12
		*

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,247]:

FACTSD Over the last several years, would you say the tone and nature of political debate in this country has...

Jul 10-16,		Apr 29-
<u>2023</u>		<u>May 13</u>
5	Become more fact based	<u>2019</u>
78	Become less fact based	8
16	Not changed much	76
1	No answer	15
		1

ASK ALL:

POLREP_PERF How would you rate the job performance of each of the following? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; REVERSE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4 AND 4-1 FOR RANDOM 1/2 OF SAMPLE; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 5 LAST; KEEP THE SAME ORDER FOR ALL ITEMS FOR EACH RESPONDENT]

		Very <u>good</u>	Somewhat <u>good</u>	Somewhat <u>bad</u>	Very <u>bad</u>	Not <u>sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
HSE	Your district's member of the House of Representatives Jul 10-16, 2023	9	33	17	10	32	*
GOV	Your state's governor Jul 10-16, 2023	16	35	19	18	12	*
LOCL	Local elected officials in your city or town Jul 10-16, 2023	9	47	19	7	19	*

ASK RANDOM QUARTER OF SAMPLE (XQUARTER=1) [N=2,119]:

POLSYPROB_OE What do you see as the biggest problem with the political system in the U.S. today?

Jul 10-16,
2023

31	NET Politicians
15	Corruption/greed
7	Dishonesty/lack of trustworthiness
22	Polarization/Lack of cooperation
10	Opposing party/Ideology/Leaders are to blame
9	Media and discourse
7	Money in politics
6	Government doesn't work
6	Specific policies or issues
4	Elections/voting are unfair or untrustworthy
9	Other
19	No answer

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses***ASK RANDOM QUARTER OF SAMPLE (XQUARTER=2) [N=2,123]:**

ELECTPROB_OE What do you see as the biggest problem with elected officials today?

Jul 10-16,
2023

33	NET Not focused on people/Have wrong priorities
16	Don't work for "the people"/out of touch
11	Influenced by money in politics
9	Corrupt/general mentions of corruption
3	Lack of/need to focus on a specific policy or issue
29	NET Issues with character of elected officials/Negative traits
16	Self-interested/only care about themselves
11	Dishonest/liars/disingenuous
2	General incivility/misbehavior by politicians
2	Unethical/lack morals/lack integrity
1	Racist/mentions of bigotry among elected officials
15	Partisanship/Lack of compromise
9	NET General negativity/Incompetent
8	General incompetence/inefficient
1	Negative descriptions of elected officials
7	NET Need for reform
2	Lack of accountability
2	Need for better candidates/elected officials
2	Need for term limits
1	Career politicians/people who stay in office too long
5	Other
25	No answer

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses

ASK RANDOM QUARTER OF SAMPLE (XQUARTER=3) [N=2,118]:WORD_POL What one word or phrase would you use to describe politics in the U.S. these days?⁹Jul 10-16,
2023

8	Divided, division, divisive, dividing
6	Corrupt, corrupted, corruption
3	Mess, messy, messed up
2	Bad
2	Chaos, chaotic
2	Polarized, polarization, polarizing
1	Joke
1	Terrible
1	Self-serving, self-centered, selfish
1	Dysfunctional
1	Crazy
1	Confused, confusing
1	Broken
1	S—t
1	Sad
1	Disgusting
1	Liars, lies
1	Disgrace, disgraceful
1	Poor, poorly
1	No good, not good
1	Toxic
1	Disappointed, disappointing, disappointment
1	Ridiculous
1	Partisan
1	Sorry
1	Suck, sucks
1	Dishonest
1	Circus
1	Disaster, disastrous
1	Horrible, horrid, horrific
1	Deceitful, deceiving
1	Dumpster fire, dump
1	Crap, crap show, crappy
1	Contentious
1	Rigged

⁹ Responses that were offered by less than 1% of respondents are not shown.

ASK RANDOM QUARTER OF SAMPLE (XQUARTER=4) [N=2,120]:

POLSTR_OE What do you see as the biggest strength of the U.S. political system today?

Jul 10-16,
2023

- | | |
|----|---|
| 12 | Structures of institutions/founding documents |
| 9 | Freedoms, democratic values |
| 8 | Voting, popular elections |
| 4 | Politicians' positive behavior, characteristics |
| 4 | Characteristics of ordinary Americans |
| 10 | General/other |
| 22 | "Nothing"/named only weaknesses |
| 34 | No answer |

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses***ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**POL_EMTN How often would you say you feel each of the following when thinking about politics these days? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

			<u>Always</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	No <u>answer</u>
EXH	Exhausted Jul 10-16, 2023		23	42	25	6	3	*
HPFL	Hopeful Jul 10-16, 2023		4	6	33	43	13	*
ANG	Angry Jul 10-16, 2023		13	42	34	7	3	*
EXCTD	Excited Jul 10-16, 2023		1	3	18	49	28	*

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

INSTFAV Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of the following? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N =4,233]:

	a. The Republican Party	Favorable			Unfavorable			No answer
		NET	Very	Mostly	NET	Very	Mostly	
Jul 10-16, 2023	36	6	30	63	31	32	32	2
Mar 20-26, 2023	39	7	32	59	26	32	32	3
Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	37	7	30	61	32	29	29	2
Mar 21-27, 2022	40	8	32	58	26	33	33	2
Jan 10-17, 2022	35	7	28	63	31	32	32	2
Mar 1-7, 2021	38	7	31	60	29	31	31	2
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	41	11	30	57	31	27	27	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	41	9	32	57	28	29	29	2
Jul 22-Aug 4, 2019	41	10	31	57	27	30	30	2

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

		Favorable			Unfavorable			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Jul 23-Aug 4, 2020	42	15	26	55	33	23	*	3	
Jan 8-13, 2020	45	14	31	51	26	24	*	4	
Sep 5-16, 2019	41	11	30	52	26	26	1	5	
July 10-15, 2019	45	12	33	52	27	24	*	3	
Jan 9-14, 2019	42	12	30	54	24	30	*	3	
Sep 18-24, 2018	43	10	33	52	26	27	*	4	
Mar 7-14, 2018	41	10	31	55	25	30	*	4	
Jun 8-18, 2017	40	10	31	54	27	26	*	5	
Apr 5-11, 2017	40	10	30	57	27	30	0	3	
Jan 4-9, 2017	47	12	35	49	20	29	*	5	
Oct 20-25, 2016	40	10	31	55	23	33	*	5	
Aug 9-16, 2016	38	9	29	56	26	31	0	6	
Jun 15-26, 2016	35	9	26	60	30	29	*	5	
Apr 12-19, 2016	33	9	24	62	32	30	*	5	
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	37	6	31	58	26	32	*	5	
Jul 14-20, 2015	32	7	26	60	28	32	*	7	
Jan 7-11, 2015	41	9	32	53	24	29	*	6	
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	37	9	28	57	26	32	*	6	
Oct 14-20, 2014	38	7	31	54	25	29	*	8	
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	7	30	55	24	31	*	7	
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	35	8	27	59	28	31	0	6	
Oct 9-13, 2013	38	5	32	58	26	32	*	4	
Jul 17-21, 2013	33	7	25	58	25	34	*	9	
Jun 12-16, 2013	40	8	32	55	23	33	*	5	
Jan 9-13, 2013	33	6	28	58	27	31	1	8	
Dec 5-9, 2012	36	7	28	59	23	36	*	5	
Sep 12-16, 2012	42	12	30	50	25	26	*	8	
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	36	9	27	56	28	28	*	8	
Mar 7-11, 2012	36	7	30	56	27	29	*	8	
Jan 11-16, 2012	35	7	27	58	28	30	*	7	
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	36	7	29	55	27	28	*	9	
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	5	29	59	27	32	*	7	
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	42	9	32	51	22	28	1	7	

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED ...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Feb 2-7, 2011	43	8	35	48	19	29	*	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	8	35	49	21	28	*	8
July 1-5, 2010	39	10	29	49	24	25	*	12
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8
December 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,233]:
INSTFAV CONTINUED ...**

	b. The Democratic Party	Favorable			Unfavorable			No answer
		NET	<i>Very</i>	<i>Mostly</i>	NET	<i>Very</i>	<i>Mostly</i>	
Jul 10-16, 2023	37	6	32	61	30	31	1	
Mar 20-26, 2023	40	6	34	58	29	28	3	
Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	41	8	33	57	30	27	2	
Mar 21-27, 2022	43	7	36	55	28	27	2	
Jan 10-17, 2022	43	7	35	55	28	28	2	
Mar 1-7, 2021	47	10	37	51	24	26	2	
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	46	11	35	53	29	24	1	
Jan 6-19, 2020	43	8	35	55	27	29	2	
Jul 22-Aug 4, 2019	47	10	37	51	27	24	1	

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

		Favorable			Unfavorable			(VOL.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
		Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly		
Jul 23-Aug 4, 2020	42	10	32	55	33	22	*	3	
Jan 8-13, 2020	46	11	34	50	29	21	*	4	
Sep 5-16, 2019	47	11	35	48	27	22	*	5	
Jul 10-15, 2019	45	10	35	52	27	24	0	3	
Jan 9-14, 2019	49	12	38	47	25	21	*	4	
Sep 18-24, 2018	53	13	40	42	20	22	*	4	
Mar 7-14, 2018	42	8	35	54	24	30	*	4	
Jun 8-18, 2017	44	12	32	50	24	26	*	5	
Apr 5-11, 2017	45	11	34	51	26	25	*	4	
Jan 4-9, 2017	51	13	38	45	18	26	*	4	
Oct 20-25, 2016	52	15	37	45	22	22	*	4	
Aug 9-16, 2016	49	15	35	46	22	24	*	5	
Jun 15-26, 2016	49	17	33	46	23	23	*	5	
Apr 12-19, 2016	45	14	31	50	27	23	*	4	
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	45	10	35	50	24	26	*	5	
Jul 14-20, 2015	48	12	36	47	22	25	0	5	
Jan 7-11, 2015	46	12	34	48	21	28	*	6	
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	41	11	30	54	26	28	*	5	
Oct 15-20, 2014	47	11	35	46	21	25	*	7	
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	46	12	34	47	23	24	*	7	
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	47	15	32	48	24	24	*	5	
Oct 9-13, 2013	47	9	39	48	22	27	0	4	
Jul 17-21, 2013	41	10	31	50	23	28	*	9	
Jun 12-16, 2013	51	14	37	45	19	26	0	5	
Jan 9-13, 2013	47	13	34	46	18	28	*	7	
Dec 5-9, 2012	48	11	37	47	23	25	1	4	
Sep 12-16, 2012	53	21	32	40	18	22	*	7	
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	47	14	33	45	21	24	*	8	
Mar 7-11, 2012	49	14	36	43	18	25	*	7	
Jan 11-16, 2012	43	13	29	51	23	28	*	7	
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	13	32	45	19	26	*	9	
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	9	34	50	21	29	*	7	
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	14	34	45	18	27	*	6	
Feb 2-7, 2011	47	13	35	46	17	29	*	6	
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	13	36	44	20	24	*	7	
Jul 1-5, 2010	44	12	31	45	22	23	*	11	
Apr 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9	
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11	
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8	
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10	
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10	

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/ Ref
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly		
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,233]:
INSTFAV CONTINUED ...**

----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----				
	NET	Very	Mostly	NET	Very	Mostly	
c. Congress							
Jul 10-16, 2023	26	1	24	72	17	54	2
Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	26	2	24	72	19	53	2
Aug 1-14, 2022	31	3	27	66	19	47	3
Jan 10-17, 2022	28	2	26	70	22	48	2
Apr 5-11, 2021	36	3	33	61	17	44	2
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	35	4	31	63	17	45	2
Jan 6-19, 2020	33	3	30	65	20	45	2
Jul 22-Aug 4, 2019	35	3	32	64	19	45	1

No
answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
Jul 23-Aug 4, 2020	27	6	21	68	29	39	*	4
Jan 8-13, 2020	34	6	27	62	25	36	*	5
Jul 10-15, 2019	36	6	30	59	23	36	0	5
Mar 7-14, 2018	30	4	26	67	27	40	*	3
Apr 5-11, 2017	34	5	29	62	24	38	*	4
Jun 15-26, 2016	31	10	22	63	29	34	*	5
Sep 22-27, 2015	27	4	23	69	29	40	0	4
Jul 14-20, 2015	25	5	20	69	31	38	*	5
Mar 25-29, 2015	22	4	18	72	34	38	*	5
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	22	4	18	71	34	37	*	7
Jul 8-14, 2014	28	5	23	69	28	41	*	4
Feb 12-Feb 26, 2014	23	5	18	72	35	37	*	5
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	27	6	21	67	32	35	*	6
Oct 9-13, 2013	23	4	19	73	32	42	0	4
Jul 17-21, 2013	21	3	18	70	33	37	*	9
Jan 9-13, 2013	23	4	19	68	32	36	*	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	27	4	22	67	24	43	1	6
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	27	5	22	65	30	35	*	8
Jan 11-16, 2012	23	5	18	69	33	36	*	8
Aug 17-21, 2011	25	4	21	70	30	40	4	6
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	34	4	30	57	21	36	1	8
Jul 1-5, 2010	33	6	27	56	23	33	*	11
Apr 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
	Early October 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0
Early September 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6
January 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N = 4,247]:
INSTFAV CONTINUED ...**

	HOUSE The U.S. House of Representatives Jul 10-16, 2023	-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			No answer
		<u>NET</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	
		33	3	31	64	15	49	3
	SENATE The U.S. Senate Jul 10-16, 2023	32	2	30	65	14	52	3

ASK ALL:CLRSOL Which comes closer to your own view? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>There are clear solutions to most big issues facing the country today</u>	<u>Most big issues facing the country today don't have clear solutions</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jul 10-16, 2023	50	48	1
Apr 25-May 1, 2022	48	52	1
Sep 13-19, 2021	48	51	1
Apr 29-May 13, 2019	46	52	1

ASK ALL:

RUNWHY

In your view, how many of the people who currently serve in elected office in local, state and federal governments ran for office because they wanted to...

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

ASK ALL		All of <u>them</u>	Most of <u>them</u>	Some of <u>them</u>	Few of <u>them</u>	None of <u>them</u>	No <u>answer</u>
SRV	Serve the public Jul 10-16, 2023	2	12	42	36	7	1
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N = 4,233]:							
ISS	Address issues they care about Jul 10-16, 2023	4	18	48	25	5	*
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N= 4,247]:							
MNEY	Make a lot of money Jul 10-16, 2023	23	40	29	7	1	1
HIGH	Run for a higher-level office in the future Jul 10-16, 2023	12	45	34	6	2	1

ASK ALL:

DIFFPARTY

Thinking about the Democratic and Republican parties, would you say there is...

	<u>A great deal of difference in what they stand for</u>	<u>A fair amount of difference in what they stand for</u>	<u>Hardly any difference at all in what they stand for</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jul 10-16, 2023	54	35	10	1
Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	57	31	11	1
Jul 8-18, 2021	59	31	9	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	55	37	7	*

ASK ALL:

DESC_POL Would you say that each of the following are a good description or a bad description of the U.S. political system today? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4 OR 4-1 FOR RANDOM HALF OF RESPONDENTS USING THE SAME ORDER FOR EACH ITEM]

			<u>Very good description</u>	<u>Somewhat good description</u>	<u>Somewhat bad description</u>	<u>Very bad description</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,233]:							
SPCL	Special interest groups and lobbyists have too much say in what happens in politics Jul 10-16, 2023		51	33	11	3	2
ORD	Ordinary Americans care about making the political system work well Jul 10-16, 2023		14	49	28	7	2
ACC	Congress accomplishes more than people give it credit for Jul 10-16, 2023		2	30	44	21	3
UNETH	Political leaders face consequences if they act unethically Jul 10-16, 2023		5	18	36	40	2
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,247]:							
FEDCRED	The federal government does more for ordinary Americans than people give it credit for Jul 10-16, 2023		7	33	36	23	1
KNW	It is easy to find unbiased information about what is happening in politics Jul 10-16, 2023		8	23	36	32	1
COST	The cost of political campaigns makes it hard for good people to run for office Jul 10-16, 2023		48	38	10	3	1
DIV	Republicans and Democrats are more focused on fighting each other than on solving problems Jul 10-16, 2023		47	38	9	4	1

ASK ALL:

OFFICIALS_CARE Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?
[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS]

Jul 10-16, 2023	Most elected officials care what people like me think	March 20-26, 2023
14		15
85	Most elected officials don't care what people like me think	83
1	No answer	2

ASK ALL:

POL_INFO All in all, do you think there is too much, too little, or about the right amount of attention paid to each of the following in our country these days? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 3 LAST, USING THE SAME ORDER FOR EACH ITEM]**

			<u>Too much attention</u>	<u>Too little attention</u>	<u>Right amount of attention</u>	<u>No answer</u>
CONG	The policies elected officials in Washington, D.C. are working on Jul 10-16, 2023		13	64	20	2
LOCAL	The policies local elected officials are working on Jul 10-16, 2023		8	66	25	2
DIS	Disagreements between Republicans and Democrats Jul 10-16, 2023		57	22	20	2
ELECT24	The 2024 presidential election Jul 10-16, 2023		39	22	37	2
ISSU	Important issues facing the country Jul 10-16, 2023		5	78	16	1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,233]:TRUSTCONG In your view, how much of the time do members of Congress... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		All or most of the time	Some of the time	Only a little of the time	None of the time	No answer
a.	Care about the people they represent					
	Jul 10-16, 2023	3	35	46	14	1
	Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	5	45	37	12	1
b.	Do a good job promoting laws and policies that serve the public interest					
	Jul 10-16, 2023	3	33	49	14	1
	Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	4	43	41	12	1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,247]:CONG_JOB How would you rate the job members of Congress are doing when it comes to each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS POLREP_PERF]**

		Very <u>good job</u>	Somewhat <u>good job</u>	Somewhat <u>bad job</u>	Very <u>bad job</u>	No answer
FIN	Keeping their personal financial interests separate from their work in Congress					
	Jul 10-16, 2023	3	14	36	44	2
LST	Listening to the concerns of people in their district					
	Jul 10-16, 2023	2	21	45	31	2
RESP	Taking responsibility for their actions					
	Jul 10-16, 2023	2	11	37	49	1
OPP	Working with members of the opposing party					
	Jul 10-16, 2023	2	13	38	46	2

ASK ALL:

VOTEDIR_MOD How much, if at all, do you think that voting by people like you can affect the direction the country takes in the future?

<u>Jul 10-16,</u>	
<u>2023</u>	
20	A lot
36	Some
31	Not much
11	Not at all
1	No answer

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

JOBPOSDIFF If someone would like to change the country for the better, how effective do you think each of the following activities would be? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS POL_WELL]**

			Extremely effective	Very effective	Somewhat effective	Not too effective	Not at all effective	No answer
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N = 4,233]:								
RUNL	Running for political office Jul 10-16, 2023		6	21	47	19	7	1
VOLP	Volunteering for a political campaign Jul 10-16, 2023		3	12	43	29	12	1
DON	Donating money to a charity or nonprofit Jul 10-16, 2023		4	13	42	26	14	1
RALLY	Attending a political rally Jul 10-16, 2023		2	7	30	39	21	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,247]:								
DON2	Donating money to a candidate or political party Jul 10-16, 2023		4	10	37	30	19	1
PROT	Attending a political protest Jul 10-16, 2023		3	7	32	37	19	1
VOTE	Voting in elections Jul 10-16, 2023		22	22	34	15	6	1
VOL	Volunteering for an organization or association Jul 10-16, 2023		7	17	47	19	8	1

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF REPRSNTREP AND REPRSNTDEM**ASK ALL:**

REPRSNTREP How well does the REPUBLICAN PARTY represent the interests of people like you?

	NET WELL	<i>Very well</i>	<i>Somewhat well</i>	NET NOT WELL	<i>Not too well</i>	<i>Not at all well</i>	<i>No answer</i>
Jul 10-16, 2023	39	6	33	58	27	31	2
Aug 1-14, 2022	44	10	34	53	25	28	3
Jul 8-18, 2021	41	9	33	56	27	29	3
Nov 12-17, 2020	47	16	31	51	25	26	2
Nov 29-Dec 12, 2016	46	10	36	53	27	26	1
Aug 16-Sep 12, 2016	39	8	31	60	29	31	2
Apr 5-May 2, 2016	40	7	33	57	29	28	3

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF REPRSNTREP AND REPRSNTDEM**ASK ALL:**

REPRSNTDEM How well does the DEMOCRATIC PARTY represent the interests of people like you?

	NET WELL	<i>Very well</i>	<i>Somewhat well</i>	NET NOT WELL	<i>Not too well</i>	<i>Not at all well</i>	No <u>answer</u>
Jul 10-16, 2023	41	7	34	56	26	30	2
Aug 1-14, 2022	47	12	35	50	23	27	3
Jul 8-18, 2021	46	10	36	51	23	28	3
Nov 12-17, 2020	47	11	35	51	21	29	2
Nov 29-Dec 12, 2016	51	14	37	48	24	24	1
Aug 16-Sep 12, 2016	49	13	36	50	24	26	2
Apr 5-May 2, 2016	52	14	38	46	24	22	3

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

REPR_INFL Do you think each of the following have too much influence, too little influence or about the right amount of influence when it comes to the decisions that members of Congress make?
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST, USING THE SAME ORDER FOR EACH ITEM]

			Too much <u>influence</u>	Too little <u>influence</u>	About the right amount of <u>influence</u>	No <u>answer</u>
ASK ALL						
DIST	The people in their districts	Jul 10-16, 2023	9	70	19	2
LRGE	Large employers in their districts	Jul 10-16, 2023	61	11	26	2
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,233]:						
LBBY	Lobbyists and special interest groups	Jul 10-16, 2023	73	10	14	2
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,247]:						
DONOR	The people who donated a lot of money to their political campaigns	Jul 10-16, 2023	80	7	11	1

ASK ALL:

CANQUALPOL In general, would you say the quality of the candidates running for political office in the last several years has been...

Jul 10-16, 2023		Jul 8-18, 2021	Jan 29- Feb 13, 2018
1	Very good	2	7
25	Somewhat good	32	40
48	Somewhat bad	42	36
25	Very bad	22	16
1	No answer	1	*

ASK ALL:

CANMTCHPOL Which comes closer to your view of candidates for political office, even if neither is exactly right?

I usually feel like... [RANDOMIZE]

Jul 10-16, 2023			Jun 27- Jul 4, 2022	Jul 8-18, 2021	Jan 29- Feb 13, 2018
56	There is at least one candidate who shares most of my views		55	60	63
42	None of the candidates represent my views well		43	38	36
2	No answer		2	3	1

ASK ALL:

FAVOPP_POL Do you favor or oppose each of the following proposals? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSES 1-4 OR 4-1, USING THE SAME ORDER FOR EACH ITEM]

		NET FAVOR	Strongly <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>favor</u>	NET OPPOSE	Somewhat <u>oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	No answer
ASK ALL								
TRM	Limiting the number of terms that members of Congress can serve	Jul 10-16, 2023	87	56	31	12	9	3
JST	Increasing the number of justices on the Supreme Court	Jul 10-16, 2023	46	16	31	51	23	28
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,233]:								
AGE	Putting a maximum age limit in place for elected officials in Washington, D.C.	Jul 10-16, 2023	79	44	35	20	15	5
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,247]:								
SC	Putting a maximum age limit in place for Supreme Court justices	Jul 10-16, 2023	74	42	32	24	16	8

ASK ALL:

VTPRIORITY Please indicate whether you would favor or oppose the following ideas about election policy.
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; DISPLAY RESPONSES IN SAME ORDER AS FAVOPP_POL]

			Strongly favor	Somewhat favor	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	No answer
AUT	Automatically registering all eligible citizens to vote	Jul 10-16, 2023	34	28	17	20	1
		Apr 5-11, 2021	36	25	18	19	2
		Apr 7-12, 2020	42	27	15	15	*
		Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	34	31	17	17	1
PHT	Requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification to vote	Jul 10-16, 2023	53	23	14	9	1
		Apr 5-11, 2021	53	23	13	10	1
		Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	54	22	13	11	1

ASK ALL:

SPENDPOL_LIM Which comes closer to your own view – even if neither is exactly right?
[RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Jul 10-16,
2023

- 11 Individuals and organizations should be able to spend as much money as they want in support of political campaigns
- 72 There should be limits on the amount of money individuals and organizations can spend in support of political campaigns
- 16 Not sure
- 1 No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

	Mar 7-14 <u>2018</u>	Aug 27- Sep 13 <u>2015</u>
Individuals and organizations should be able to spend as much money as they want	20	20
There should be limits on the amount of money individuals and organizations can spend	77	77
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3

ASK ALL:

SPENDPOL_LAW

In general, do you think... [RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Jul 10-16,
2023

58	It's possible to have laws that would effectively reduce the role of money in politics
21	It's not possible to have laws that would effectively reduce the role of money in politics
20	Not sure
1	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

In general, do you think new laws COULD BE written that would be effective in reducing the role of money in politics, OR don't you think any new laws would be effective?

	Yes, new laws would be effective	No, new laws would not be effective	(VOL.) Don't know/Refused
Mar 7-14, 2018	65	31	4
Aug 27-Sep 13, 2015	62	35	3
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:¹⁰			
October 2006	51	37	12
February 2002	55	34	11
February 2000	59	34	7
September 1997	62	32	6
Center for Responsive Politics: April 1997	62	32	6

ASK ALL:

IMPT_CAND

How important is it that political candidates you support... [RANDOMIZE ITEMS; DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS POL_WELL]

		Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	No answer
GEN	Share your gender Jul 10-16, 2023	3	4	11	21	60	1
RC	Share your racial and ethnic background Jul 10-16, 2023	4	6	15	25	49	1
REL	Share your religious values Jul 10-16, 2023	7	11	24	23	35	1
ISS	Share your views on political issues Jul 10-16, 2023	28	38	25	4	4	1
EB	Come from a similar economic background as you Jul 10-16, 2023	5	10	31	28	25	1
CMNY	Have lived in a community like yours Jul 10-16, 2023	7	15	35	23	19	1

¹⁰

The question was asked in a different context in the surveys before 2015 and should not be directly compared.

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,247]:

PRTY_CHSE How well does the following statement describe your views?

I often wish there were more political parties to choose from in this country **[DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS POL_WELL]**

Jul 10-16, 2023		Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022
19	Extremely well	21
19	Very well	17
31	Somewhat well	32
17	Not too well	16
13	Not at all well	12
2	No answer	1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,233]:

SOLVE_LIKELY Do you think that having more than two major political parties in this country would...
[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH OPTIONS 3 AND 4 ALWAYS LAST]

Jul 10-16, 2023	
26	Make it easier to solve the country's problems
24	Make it harder to solve the country's problems
25	Would not have much of an impact either way
24	Not sure
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

ELCTCOLLB Thinking about the way in which the president is elected in this country, which would you prefer? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Jul 10-16, 2023 ¹¹		Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	Jan 8-12, 2021	Jan 6-19, 2020
65	Change the current system, so the candidate who receives the most total votes nationwide wins the election	63	55	60
33	Keep the current system, in which the candidate who wins the most votes in the Electoral College wins the election	35	43	37
2	No answer	3	2	3

¹¹ Prior to July 2023, the start of the question read "Thinking for a moment about."

ELCTCOLLB CONTINUED ...**TREND FOR COMPARISON**

Thinking for a moment about the way in which the president is elected in this country, which would you prefer? [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

Jan 6-19, 2020	Amend the Constitution so the candidate who receives the most total votes nationwide wins the <u>election</u>	Keep the current system, in which the candidate who wins the most votes in the Electoral College <u>wins the election</u>	No answer
	58	40	2

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

	(VOL.) Both/Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 8-13, 2020	56	42
Mar 7-14, 2018	55	41
Gallup: Nov 28-29, 2016	49	47
CNN/ORC: Nov 17-20, 2016	51	44
Gallup: Oct 6-9, 2011	62	35
Gallup: October 2004	61	35
Gallup: December 2000	59	37
Gallup: November 2000	61	35

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,233]:

HOUSESZ As you may know, there are 435 members of the House of Representatives in Washington, each of whom represents an average of more than 750,000 people.

Do you think the number of members in the House of Representatives should... [RANDOMIZE 1 & 2, KEEP 3 LAST]

Jul 10-16, <u>2023</u>	Jan 29-Feb 13, <u>2018</u> ¹²
29	Increase
15	Decrease
53	Stay the same
3	No answer

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,247]:

SENATESZ As you may know, the Constitution requires that all states have two U.S. senators, regardless of how many people live in the state.

Which comes closer to your view? [RANDOMIZE]

Jul 10-16, <u>2023</u>	Jan 29- Feb 13, <u>2018</u>
66	The Constitution should not be changed, and all states should continue to have two senators regardless of the size of their population
32	The Constitution should be amended so that states with larger populations have more senators than smaller states
2	No answer

¹² In 2018, the question read “more than 700,000 people.”

ASK ALL:

SATIS24 Thinking about the presidential election that will take place in November 2024, what's your overall impression so far of the people who will be running for president? **[RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSES IN SAME ORDER AS POLL_WELL]**

Jul 10-16,	
<u>2023</u>	
3	Extremely satisfied
6	Very satisfied
26	Fairly satisfied
39	Not too satisfied
23	Not at all satisfied
3	No answer

ASK ALL:

PRES For each of the following, which comes closer to your view? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS ON SCREEN]**

INT Recent presidential election campaigns have been...

	<u>Interesting</u>	<u>Dull</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jul 10-16, 2023	44	52	3

INF Recent presidential election campaigns have been...

	<u>Informative</u>	<u>Not informative</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jul 10-16, 2023	27	71	3

FCS Recent presidential election campaigns have ...

	<u>Focused on the right issues</u>	<u>Not focused on the right issues</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jul 10-16, 2023	20	77	3

TIME Recent presidential election campaigns have...

	<u>Lasted too long</u>	<u>Not lasted too long</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jul 10-16, 2023	72	25	4

CANDID The nominees in recent presidential elections have...

	<u>Been good candidates</u>	<u>Not been good candidates</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jul 10-16, 2023	19	78	3

ASK ALL:

LIKELYPRESIND How likely do you think it is that a candidate who is independent of both the Republican and Democratic parties will win a presidential election in the next 25 years? **[REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF RESPONDENTS]**

Jul 10-16,	
<u>2023</u>	
7	Very likely
26	Somewhat likely
30	Somewhat unlikely
36	Very unlikely
1	No answer

[ASK FORM 1 (XFORM=1), REPPRESWON FIRST AND DEMPRESWON SECOND ON SEPARATE SCREENS; ASK FORM 2 (XFORM=2), DEMPRESWON FIRST AND REPPRESWON SECOND ON SEPARATE SCREENS]

ASK ALL:

REPPRESWON Imagine a presidential election where the Republican candidate wins in a close election against a Democratic candidate.

As president, how much should they focus on the priorities of the people who... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS DEMPRESWON]**

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=4,233]:

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	Not at all	No answer
VTE	Voted for them Jul 10-16, 2023	35	47	10	6	2
OPP	Voted for the Democratic candidate Jul 10-16, 2023	22	48	18	10	2
DNV	Did not vote Jul 10-16, 2023	20	40	25	13	3

[ASK FORM 1 (XFORM=1), REPPRESWON FIRST AND DEMPRESWON SECOND ON SEPARATE SCREENS; ASK FORM 2 (XFORM=2), DEMPRESWON FIRST AND REPPRESWON SECOND ON SEPARATE SCREENS]

ASK ALL:

DEMPRESWON Imagine a presidential election where the Democratic candidate wins in a close election against a Republican candidate.

As president, how much should they focus on the priorities of the people who... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS REPPRESWON]**

BASED ON FORM 2 [N=4,247]:

		A great deal	A fair amount	Not too much	Not at all	No answer
VTE	Voted for them Jul 10-16, 2023	35	48	8	7	2
OPP	Voted for the Republican candidate Jul 10-16, 2023	23	51	15	10	2
DNV	Did not vote Jul 10-16, 2023	19	41	23	15	2

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

POLINT How interested would you say you are in politics? [**DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS POL_WELL**]

Jul 10-16,
2023

8	Extremely interested
20	Very interested
38	Somewhat interested
21	Not too interested
12	Not at all interested
1	No answer

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...¹³

Republican	Democrat	Independent	Something else	No answer	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
28	28	27	15	2	18	20

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(RVs)	Registered voters
(U)	Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

¹³ PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.