



Field Dates: March 11-19, 2026 **Sample Size:** 1,200 Adults **Confidence Interval:** +/- 2.9% **Response Rate:** 8.3%

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Welcome! This survey is going to address attitudes and policies about democracy. In some cases, you will be provided with arguments for and against a policy. This survey will take about 20 minutes to answer. Your answers will remain completely anonymous. In this survey we are going to ask you some questions about the federal government in Washington DC, including Congress, the White House, and Supreme Court.

Q1. How much of the time do you think you can trust the federal government to do what is right?

Q1	Just about always	Most of the time	Just about always + Most of the time	Only some of the time	Never	Only some of the time + Never	Ref/DK
US-National	11.0%	27.8%	38.8%	45.3%	15.9%	61.2%	0.0%
Republicans	15.4%	37.6%	53.0%	39.3%	7.7%	47.0%	0.0%
Democrats	9.4%	21.0%	30.4%	50.0%	19.5%	69.5%	0.0%
Independents	2.4%	18.4%	20.8%	48.9%	30.4%	79.3%	0.0%

Q2. Here are four phrases. Please select which phrase best describes how you feel about the way the federal government works. Do you feel:

Q2	Enthusiastic	Satisfied but not enthusiastic	Enthusiastic + Satisfied	Dissatisfied, but not angry	Angry	Dissatisfied + Angry	Ref/DK
US-National	12.3%	30.4%	42.7%	34.5%	22.6%	57.1%	0.2%
Republicans	18.2%	42.2%	60.4%	29.4%	10.1%	39.5%	0.2%
Democrats	8.7%	20.9%	29.6%	34.8%	35.5%	70.3%	0.2%
Independents	4.9%	23.6%	28.5%	49.9%	21.6%	71.5%	0.0%

Q3. Would you say the government in Washington DC is pretty much:

Q3	Run by a few big interests looking out for themselves	Run for the benefit of all the people	Ref / DK
US-National	77.5%	22.4%	0.1%
Republicans	68.1%	31.9%	0.0%
Democrats	87.4%	12.6%	0.0%
Independents	76.4%	22.9%	0.7%

Q4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?

Q4	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Total Approve	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	Total Disapprove	Ref /DK
US-National	12.5%	27.8%	40.3%	30.9%	28.7%	59.6%	0.1%
Republicans	20.9%	38.6%	59.5%	26.1%	14.5%	40.6%	0.0%
Democrats	7.2%	18.6%	25.8%	32.7%	41.2%	73.9%	0.2%
Independents	3.0%	22.8%	25.8%	40.6%	33.6%	74.2%	0.0%

Q5. Imagine the Founders of the American republic were somehow able to observe how the US government is operating today. In your opinion, would the Founders think that the US government is fulfilling the vision they had:

Q5	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Total Well	Not that Well	Not Well at All	Total Not Well	Ref /DK
US-National	13.8%	22.9%	36.7%	28.2%	35.1%	63.3%	0.0%
Republicans	20.9%	28.9%	49.8%	28.2%	22.0%	50.2%	0.0%
Democrats	9.4%	17.3%	26.7%	25.6%	47.7%	73.3%	0.0%
Independents	5.3%	21.7%	27.0%	36.3%	36.7%	73.0%	0.0%

Q6. Thinking about what the Founders of the American republic were trying to achieve when they designed the American system of government, do you think that the amount of influence the American people have on the government in Washington is:

Q6	Much less	Somewh at Less	Total Less	About the Same	Somewh at More	Much More	Total More	Ref /DK
US-National	35.8%	23.1%	58.9%	18.5%	22.5%	14.1%	8.4%	0.1%
Republicans	29.3%	22.8%	52.1%	17.5%	30.0%	19.6%	10.4%	0.3%
Democrats	41.4%	23.9%	65.3%	18.2%	16.6%	9.5%	7.1%	0.0%
Independents	38.5%	21.7%	60.2%	22.4%	17.4%	11.5%	5.9%	0.0%

Q7. How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed democratically?

Q7	Extremely	Very	Extremely / Very	Somewhat	A Little	Not at All	A Little / Not at All	Ref /DK
US-National	48.0%	29.2%	77.2%	13.5%	9.2%	3.6%	5.6%	0.1%
Republicans	46.5%	33.9%	80.4%	10.3%	9.4%	3.2%	6.2%	0.0%
Democrats	54.3%	26.4%	80.7%	13.7%	5.4%	2.6%	2.8%	0.2%
Independents	33.2%	23.2%	56.4%	22.7%	20.9%	8.0%	12.9%	0.0%

Q8. Which comes closest to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

Q8	The government in Washington, DC mainly works to benefit the people	The government in Washington, DC mainly works to benefit powerful elites	Ref /DK
US-National	33.8%	65.9%	0.2%
Republicans	49.8%	50.2%	0.0%
Democrats	21.4%	78.3%	0.3%
Independents	22.9%	76.3%	0.8%

Q9-T4.18. How often do you think members of Congress put a higher priority on serving the interests of organizations and individuals who have donated money to their election, rather than serving the good of the country?

Q9-T4.18	Hardly Ever	Occasionally	Hardly Ever / Occasionally	Often	Almost Always	Often – Almost Always	Ref /DK
US-National	10.8%	26.8%	37.6%	33.0%	29.4%	62.4%	0.0%
Republicans	8.3%	29.3%	37.6%	38.1%	24.3%	62.4%	0.0%
Democrats	11.8%	24.0%	35.8%	29.2%	35.0%	64.2%	0.0%
Independents	15.0%	28.0%	43.0%	29.3%	27.8%	57.1%	0.0%

Q10. Over the next decades, how likely do you think it is that leaders in the US government will serve the common good of the people more than they do now?

Q10	Not at all Likely	Not very Likely	Total not Likely	Somewhat Likely	Very Likely	Total Likely	Ref /DK
US-National	15.0%	32.4%	47.4%	39.5%	12.5%	52.0%	0.6%
Republicans	9.8%	27.0%	36.8%	44.1%	17.9%	62.0%	1.1%
Democrats	16.9%	35.3%	52.2%	38.1%	9.5%	47.6%	0.2%
Independents	24.8%	39.8%	64.6%	30.0%	5.4%	35.4%	0.0%

Here are some questions about how much power Presidents should have.

Q11. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

The American system should be changed so that Presidents do not have to abide by the decisions made by Congress or the federal courts.

Q11	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Slightly Agree	Total Agree	Slightly Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Total Disagree	Ref /DK
US-National	13.9%	15.8%	14.9%	44.6%	10.6%	8.3%	36.5%	55.4%	0.0%
Republicans	19.6%	20.3%	17.4%	57.3%	15.0%	8.7%	19.0%	42.7%	0.0%
Democrats	10.3%	11.8%	11.6%	33.7%	4.9%	7.0%	54.3%	66.2%	0.0%
Independents	7.7%	14.3%	16.9%	38.9%	15.0%	11.0%	35.1%	61.1%	0.0%

Q12. What do you think about having a system of government with a strong leader who does not have to bother with Congress and elections? Do you think it would be:

Q12	Very Good	Fairly Good	Total Good	Fairly Bad	Very Bad	Total Bad	Ref / DK
US-National	16.7%	28.1%	44.8%	18.5%	36.7%	55.2%	0.0%
Republicans	24.3%	34.8%	59.1%	18.9%	21.9%	40.8%	0.0%
Democrats	12.3%	21.4%	33.7%	15.3%	51.0%	66.3%	0.0%
Independents	7.0%	27.8%	34.8%	27.3%	37.9%	65.2%	0.0%

Q13. When Congress gets stuck in gridlock, do you think:

Q13	If Congress were to take into account the views of the people this would help break the logjam, because the people are less polarized than Congress	Taking into account the views of the people would not help, because the gridlock in Congress is just a reflection of the polarization among the people	Ref / DK
US-National	71.6%	27.7%	0.7%
Republicans	70.5%	29.5%	0.0%
Democrats	74.5%	24.5%	1.1%
Independents	66.3%	32.2%	1.5%

Q14. If the members of Congress were more influenced by the people than they are now, do you think they would be more likely or less likely to find common ground?

Q14	Much More	Somewhat More	Total More	Somewhat Less	Much Less	Total Less	Ref/DK
US-National	35.3%	52.4%	87.7%	9.3%	2.8%	12.1%	0.2%
Republicans	38.3%	50.9%	89.2%	8.3%	2.1%	10.4%	0.4%
Democrats	35.6%	53.0%	87.6%	9.3%	3.0%	12.3%	0.0%
Independents	28.1%	55.2%	83.3%	12.2%	4.5%	16.7%	0.0%

Q15. In general, how well do you think elected officials in the federal government (including Congress and the White House) understand the views of most Americans on public policy issues?

Q15	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Total Well	Not Very Well	Not Well at All	Total Not Well	Ref /DK
US-National	16.6%	29.4%	46.0%	34.0%	19.7%	53.7%	0.3%
Republicans	23.3%	36.7%	60.0%	28.0%	12.1%	40.1%	0.0%
Democrats	13.0%	22.5%	35.5%	36.9%	27.3%	64.2%	0.4%
Independents	6.9%	28.6%	35.5%	43.7%	19.9%	63.6%	0.9%

Q16: In general, how well do you think Members of Congress understand the views of most of the people in their district or state on public policy issues?

Q16	Very Well	Somewhat Well	Total Well	Not Very Well	Not Well at All	Total Not Well	Ref /DK
US-National	14.8%	33.7%	48.5%	34.8%	16.5%	51.3%	0.2%
Republicans	20.6%	38.6%	59.2%	28.6%	12.3%	40.9%	0.0%
Democrats	12.4%	30.0%	42.4%	38.4%	18.6%	57.0%	0.6%
Independents	4.0%	30.3%	34.3%	42.9%	22.8%	65.7%	0.0%

Q17. What is your impression: About what percentage of the time do elected officials in the federal government make decisions that are the same as the decisions that the majority of Americans would make? [0-100]

Q17	Mean
US-National	41%
Republicans	47%
Democrats	38%
Independents	35%

Q18. On the whole, how much do you think the decisions that the federal government makes **should** be guided by the views of the people?

Q18	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	8.1	6.9%	4.6%	87.9%	0.7%
Republicans	8.3	5.1%	3.0%	91.6%	0.3%
Democrats	8.2	5.7%	5.1%	88.7%	0.5%
Independents	7.3	16.2%	7.7%	73.9%	2.1%

Q19. On the whole, how much do you think the decisions that the federal government makes **are** guided by the views of the people?

Q19	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	4.8	49.0%	11.2%	39.1%	0.8%
Republicans	5.6	36.9%	12.4%	50.2%	0.5%
Democrats	4.2	56.7%	10.2%	32.1%	1.0%
Independents	3.8	62.4%	10.8%	26.2%	0.6%

Q18 + Q19	Decisions should be guided by views of the people more than they are	Decisions are be decided by views of the people as much as they should	Decisions are guided by views of the people more than they should	Ref / DK
US-National	69.9%	19.6%	10.5%	0.0%
Republicans	67.4%	20.1%	12.5%	0.0%
Democrats	74.6%	16.0%	9.4%	0.0%
Independents	63.3%	29.2%	7.5%	0.0%

Q20. How much **should** Members of Congress seek to understand the views of the people in their district or state on public policy issues?

Q20	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	8.4	8.0%	4.8%	86.7%	0.5%
Republicans	8.5	6.3%	4.3%	88.9%	0.5%
Democrats	8.5	6.4%	4.7%	88.3%	0.6%
Independents	7.5	18.4%	6.5%	75.1%	0.0%

Q21. How much **do** Members of Congress seek to understand the views of the people in their district or state on public policy issues?

Q21	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	5.0	45.3%	11.9%	42.4%	0.4%
Republicans	5.6	35.9%	12.0%	51.8%	0.3%
Democrats	4.7	51.1%	12.2%	36.3%	0.4%
Independents	4.2	56.5%	10.7%	32.1%	0.7%

Q20 + Q21	Congress should seek to understand views of the people more than they do	Congress does seek to understand views of the people as much as they should	Congress does seek to understand views of the people more than they should	Ref / DK
US-National	68.2%	19.7%	12.1%	0.0%
Republicans	66.1%	18.9%	15.0%	0.0%
Democrats	72.2%	17.9%	10.0%	0.0%
Independents	62.6%	27.9%	9.4%	0.0%

Q22. As a general rule, when Members of Congress are deciding how to vote on major bills, how much do you think they **should be** guided by the views of the people in their state or district?

Q22	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	8.2	7.2%	4.9%	87.3%	0.7%
Republicans	8.3	5.2%	4.8%	89.7%	0.3%
Democrats	8.3	6.4%	3.4%	89.2%	1.1%

	Independents	7.3	16.0%	9.7%	73.6%	0.7%
Q22 + Q23	Decisions should be guided by views of the people more than they are	Decisions are be decided by views of the people as much as they should	Decisions are guided by views of the people more than they should	Ref / DK		
US-National	67.8%	20.6%	11.6%	0.0%		
Republicans	64.2%	21.0%	14.8%	0.0%		
Democrats	73.5%	16.7%	9.8%	0.0%		
Independents	61.2%	31.5%	7.4%	0.0%		

Q23. In general, how much do you think Members of Congress are deciding how to vote on major bills, how much do you think they are guided by the views of the people in their state or district?

Q23	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	5.0	43.8%	11.4%	44.3%	0.4%
Republicans	5.7	35.3%	9.7%	54.4%	0.6%
Democrats	4.7	47.5%	12.8%	39.3%	0.4%
Independents	4.1	59.2%	12.4%	28.4%	0.0%

Q23a. Suppose a survey of a representative sample of the constituents of a Member of Congress reveals clear majority support or opposition to a policy proposal. How important is it for that Member to respond, by acknowledging the majority opinion, and sharing their own view on the issue?

Q23a	Extremely	Very	Extremely / Very	Somewhat	A Little	Not at All	A Little / Not at All	Ref /DK
US-National	31.4%	37.8%	69.2%	24.5%	6.3%	3.5%	2.8%	0.0%
Republicans	32.9%	39.5%	72.4%	22.3%	5.3%	3.9%	1.4%	0.0%
Democrats	34.4%	37.7%	72.1%	22.4%	5.5%	2.7%	2.8%	0.0%
Independents	16.8%	32.9%	49.7%	38.1%	12.2%	4.7%	7.5%	0.0%

Q24. Suppose a clear majority of the people in a state or district agrees on what should be done about a policy issue. How much influence should that have on their Members of Congress?

Q24	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	7.8	9.6%	7.3%	82.7%	0.4%
Republicans	8.1	8.1%	5.1%	86.7%	0.1%
Democrats	7.9	8.1%	7.5%	84.0%	0.4%
Independents	6.8	19.0%	14.0%	65.7%	1.4%

Q25. Suppose a clear majority of both Republicans and Democrats in a state or district agrees on what should be done about a policy issue. How much influence should that have on their Members of Congress?

Q25	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	7.5	13.5%	8.8%	77.3%	0.4%
Republicans	7.8	11.5%	6.8%	81.5%	0.2%
Democrats	7.6	11.4%	8.9%	79.0%	0.7%
Independents	6.3	26.1%	14.9%	59.0%	0.0%

Q26-T10.9. To whose views do you think Members of Congress should be guided by more?

Q26-T10.9	The views of the people who voted for them	The views of all their constituents as a whole	Ref / DK
US-National	54.7%	45.1%	0.2%
Republicans	61.3%	38.7%	0.0%
Democrats	48.9%	50.9%	0.2%
Independents	52.5%	47.0%	0.5%

Q27-E20.50. Which of the following would you regard as most likely to show the greatest wisdom on questions of what the government should do--the views of:

Q27-E20.50	The majority of Republicans	The majority of Democrats	The majority of the public as a whole	Ref / DK
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US-National	26.5%	22.8%	50.5%	0.2%
Republicans	57.8%	3.7%	38.5%	0.0%
Democrats	3.1%	44.8%	51.8%	0.3%
Independents	2.0%	13.8%	83.5%	0.8%

Q28-E21.51. Which of the following would you prefer to have the most influence on the government--the views of:

Q28-E21.51	The majority of Republicans	The majority of Democrats	The majority of the public as a whole	Ref / DK
US-National	26.3%	23.1%	49.9%	0.7%
Republicans	57.4%	4.5%	37.6%	0.6%
Democrats	2.5%	45.3%	51.5%	0.7%
Independents	4.0%	11.5%	83.1%	1.4%

Q29-T16.17. Which do you think has more common sense?

Q29-T16.17	The American Government	The American People	Ref / DK
US-National	17.4%	82.6%	0.1%
Republicans	23.3%	76.5%	0.1%
Democrats	15.2%	84.8%	0.0%
Independents	5.4%	94.6%	0.0%

Q30. Do you think that your Members of Congress, when deciding how to vote on legislation should:

Q30	Give greater consideration to the views of the majority of their constituents	Give greater consideration to the views of the leadership of their party	Give them equal consideration	Ref / DK
US-National	47.5%	15.6%	36.9%	0.1%
Republicans	51.1%	15.3%	33.6%	0.0%
Democrats	49.6%	16.2%	34.0%	0.1%
Independents	29.4%	14.3%	56.3%	0.0%

Q31-T14.13. Do you think in the United States today:

Q31-T14.13	Elections have proven to be a fully adequate means for the people to express their views on what the government should do, and to set a direction for the country until the next election	Elections alone are not enough. The government should make an active effort in between elections to find out how the people view the issues the government is dealing with	Ref / DK
US-National	33.6%	65.6%	0.8%
Republicans	41.6%	57.5%	0.9%
Democrats	29.0%	70.4%	0.6%
Independents	23.2%	75.6%	1.2%

Q32-T15.14. Do you believe that currently there is or is not an adequate system in place for the voice of the American people to be heard in Congress?

Q32-T15.14	There is an adequate system	There is NOT an adequate system	Ref / DK
US-National	38.9%	60.8%	0.3%
Republicans	50.1%	49.3%	0.6%
Democrats	32.6%	67.4%	0.0%
Independents	24.0%	76.0%	0.0%

We are now going to ask you some questions about the news media reporting on polls that show what the public thinks the government should or should not do when it comes to policy issues. (This does not include polling about elections, or approval ratings of elected officials.)

Q33-T77. For a democracy to function well, how important is it for the people to know what public opinion is on what the government should or should not do when it comes to policy issues?

Q33	Extremely	Very	Extremely / Very	Somewhat	A Little	Not at All	A Little / Not at All	Ref /DK
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US-National	36.3%	36.6%	72.9%	21.2%	5.8%	3.2%	2.6%	0.1%
Republicans	38.0%	37.3%	75.3%	20.4%	4.3%	2.5%	1.8%	0.0%
Democrats	38.1%	37.2%	75.3%	19.8%	4.7%	3.3%	1.4%	0.2%
Independents	25.7%	32.7%	58.4%	28.1%	13.4%	4.9%	8.5%	0.0%

Q34-T79. When news outlets are reporting on a policy issue, and there is reliable information about public opinion on that issue, how often do you think the news outlet should include that information?

Q34-T79	Always	Most of the Time	Always + Most of the Time	Some of the Time	Rarely	Never	Rarely + Never	Ref / DK
US-National	45.7%	32.3%	78.0%	16.4%	5.6%	3.5%	2.1%	0.1%
Republicans	44.4%	34.4%	78.8%	17.4%	3.8%	2.4%	1.4%	0.0%
Democrats	49.4%	31.5%	80.9%	14.9%	4.1%	3.2%	0.9%	0.0%
Independents	37.9%	28.5%	66.4%	17.7%	15.4%	7.5%	7.9%	0.5%

Q35-T81. If Congress is about to vote on a law, how important is it for news outlets to report on whether a majority of Americans favor or oppose that law?

Q35	Extremely	Very	Extremely / Very	Somewhat	A Little	Not at All	A Little / Not at All	Ref /DK
US-National	41.7%	33.7%	75.4%	19.5%	4.7%	2.9%	1.8%	0.4%
Republicans	44.0%	35.3%	79.3%	16.6%	3.9%	2.3%	1.6%	0.2%
Democrats	42.8%	32.6%	75.4%	20.7%	3.3%	2.6%	0.7%	0.5%
Independents	31.2%	32.4%	63.6%	24.9%	10.9%	5.2%	5.7%	0.7%

As you may know, there is a new way to find out more about what citizens think about issues before Congress and for Members of Congress to get advice from their constituents. This process is called public consultation. Here is how it works:

A sample of citizens in a state or district is chosen that is a broad cross section of the public. It is representative in that it mirrors the population in terms of gender, age, income, education, race and ethnicity, and partisan affiliation.

Working online or in-person the citizens are given a briefing on an issue that is being debated in Congress. They are presented policy options being considered. The citizens then evaluate strongly-stated arguments for and against those policy options—the arguments that are being made in government. Finally, the citizens make their recommendations.

These recommendations are summarized in a report—showing how many people favored each one, overall and among Republicans, Democrats, and independents. The report is then publicly released and forwarded to the Members of Congress. There is some debate about whether doing these kinds of public consultations is a good idea or a bad idea.

Here is an **argument in favor**:

Q36. The Founders built this country on the principle that nobody knows what's best for the people better than the people. Consulting citizens is a good idea for the same reason the Founders thought that juries are a good idea. Both are founded on the common sense of ordinary citizens when they are provided with the facts and have a chance to deliberate. Research shows that given correct information the majority of citizens come to conclusions that are reasonable and even show wisdom—probably more than Congress.

Q36	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref/DK
US-National	41.6%	43.2%	84.8%	9.1%	3.2%	12.3%	2.9%
Republicans	41.3%	45.8%	87.1%	8.2%	2.2%	10.4%	2.7%
Democrats	44.4%	42.5%	86.9%	7.7%	2.7%	10.4%	2.7%
Independents	33.9%	37.5%	71.4%	16.4%	7.7%	24.1%	4.5%

Here is an **argument against**:

Q37. Too many Americans are emotional, volatile and not all that smart. Most issues are difficult to understand, and a sample of typical Americans wouldn't have the necessary expertise to make sound judgments on policy issues. It would just be a distraction for Members of Congress and interfere with their efforts to solve complex problems. Congress may not be perfect, but they are more reliable than a group of randomly chosen citizens.

Q37	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref/DK
US-National	14.6%	34.1%	48.7%	29.9%	21.0%	50.9%	0.5%
Republicans	18.0%	36.6%	54.6%	27.6%	17.8%	45.4%	0.0%
Democrats	13.3%	31.3%	44.6%	30.7%	24.3%	55.0%	0.4%
Independents	8.1%	35.2%	43.3%	34.4%	20.3%	54.7%	1.9%

Here is **another argument against**:

Q38. Members of Congress shouldn't govern by putting their finger to the wind, reacting to every shift in public opinion. The American people elect Members of Congress to show leadership and make decisions. Consulting representative groups of people in their district would make it harder for Members of Congress to exercise their independent judgment, make the hard decisions and do what is best for the country-- rather than what they think is popular.

Q38	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref/DK
US-National	20.2%	40.1%	60.3%	26.3%	11.7%	38.0%	1.7%
Republicans	24.7%	42.2%	66.9%	21.7%	9.9%	31.6%	1.5%
Democrats	18.5%	39.1%	57.6%	26.8%	13.4%	40.2%	2.2%
Independents	11.2%	36.7%	47.9%	39.3%	11.7%	51.0%	1.0%

Here is **another argument in favor**:

Q39. The problem with Congress is not that they're too reactive to public opinion—it's that they're too reactive to special interests. When a large representative sample is consulted in depth, Members of Congress can get advice from people who have heard all sides of an issue and have come to well-considered conclusions that accurately reflect the values and priorities of the people.

Q39	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref/DK
US-National	31.5%	47.5%	79.0%	15.2%	5.6%	20.8%	0.2%
Republicans	33.9%	46.7%	80.6%	15.4%	3.7%	19.1%	0.3%
Democrats	33.9%	46.9%	80.8%	13.6%	5.4%	19.0%	0.1%
Independents	16.3%	52.0%	68.3%	19.5%	12.3%	31.8%	0.0%

Here is **another argument against**:

Q40. Consulting a representative sample of the people is not really necessary. When Americans want to make their voice heard they already have lots of options. Besides voting in federal, state, and local elections, they can write letters, attend town hall meetings, sign petitions, join advocacy groups, go to rallies, or walk the halls of Congress.

Q40	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref/DK
US-National	21.5%	35.7%	57.2%	26.9%	15.4%	42.3%	0.5%
Republicans	24.9%	41.8%	66.7%	21.0%	11.8%	32.8%	0.5%
Democrats	21.6%	29.5%	51.1%	30.9%	17.6%	48.5%	0.5%
Independents	10.8%	36.2%	47.0%	33.0%	19.4%	52.4%	0.6%

Here is **another argument in favor**:

Q41. While Members of Congress make an effort to listen to those self-selected people who are outspoken on an issue, their views often do not reflect how most people think. Organizations and people with money often have a disproportionately loud voice. Hearing from a representative sample of citizens will give Members a much more accurate read of what the people as a whole really think.

Q41	Very convincing	Somewhat convincing	Total Convincing	Somewhat unconvincing	Very unconvincing	Total Unconvincing	Ref/DK
US-National	32.8%	44.1%	76.9%	17.0%	5.6%	22.6%	0.5%

Republicans	32.8%	45.8%	78.6%	17.2%	3.5%	20.7%	0.6%
Democrats	38.0%	40.7%	78.7%	16.0%	5.3%	21.3%	0.0%
Independents	16.8%	49.4%	66.2%	19.4%	13.0%	32.4%	1.5%

Q42. So, in conclusion, do you favor or oppose doing public consultations with representative samples of citizens, giving them a briefing on a current issue in Congress, having them evaluate arguments for and against policy options, and finally making their recommendations?

Q42	Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Total Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Total Oppose	Ref /DK
US-National	37.1%	48.0%	85.1%	11.9%	2.6%	14.5%	0.3%
Republicans	37.2%	49.1%	86.3%	10.8%	2.4%	13.2%	0.5%
Democrats	39.3%	46.9%	86.2%	11.2%	2.3%	13.5%	0.2%
Independents	30.3%	48.0%	78.3%	17.6%	4.1%	21.7%	0.0%

Q43. Do you think that the Founders of the American republic would approve or disapprove of conducting these kinds of public consultations in states and districts on issues before Congress?

Q43	Approve	Disapprove	Ref/DK
US-National	77.9%	21.9%	0.2%
Republicans	81.3%	18.7%	0.0%
Democrats	77.7%	21.8%	0.5%
Independents	68.1%	31.9%	0.0%

Q44. When these kinds of public consultations are conducted in districts and states, do you think Members of Congress should or should not get briefed on the recommendations from the public consultation?

Q44	Should	Should Not	Ref/DK
US-National	88.2%	11.4%	0.4%
Republicans	89.9%	9.5%	0.6%
Democrats	88.7%	10.8%	0.5%
Independents	80.9%	19.1%	0.0%

Q45. Do you think that Members of Congress should or should not publicly respond to the recommendations?

Q45	Should	Should Not	Ref/DK
US-National	85.8%	13.8%	0.4%
Republicans	86.7%	12.9%	0.4%
Democrats	87.7%	11.8%	0.5%
Independents	77.3%	22.7%	0.0%

Q46. Suppose in the public consultation, a clear majority of the public makes a recommendation on a policy issue. How much should Members of Congress consider that recommendation when deciding how to vote on legislation? Do you think the majority recommendation:

Q46	Should be given no consideration	Should be given minor consideration	Should be given major consideration	Should always determine how the Member votes	Major + Always	Ref / DK
US-National	5.6%	21.5%	57.1%	15.7%	72.8%	0.0%
Republicans	6.1%	24.5%	55.5%	13.9%	69.4%	0.0%
Democrats	5.1%	18.6%	60.0%	16.3%	76.3%	0.0%
Independents	5.7%	21.3%	53.4%	19.7%	73.1%	0.0%

Q47. Suppose a majority of both Republicans and Democrats in the general public arrive at a common recommendation about what should be done about a policy issue. How much should their Members of Congress consider that recommendation when deciding how to vote on legislation? Do you think the bipartisan recommendation:

Q47	Should be given no consideration	Should be given minor consideration	Should be given major consideration	Should always determine how the Member votes	Ref / DK
US-National	4.7%	18.8%	56.3%	20.1%	0.1%

Republicans	5.5%	18.4%	57.2%	18.7%	0.1%
Democrats	4.1%	16.2%	59.2%	20.4%	0.0%
Independents	4.5%	27.8%	44.1%	23.6%	0.0%

Q48. In order to understand the views of their constituents as a whole, how much should Members of Congress consider each of the following:

a) Letters or calls from their constituents

Q48a	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	7.5	11.1%	8.7%	79.9%	0.3%
Republicans	7.7	7.9%	7.3%	84.6%	0.2%
Democrats	7.5	12.1%	8.7%	78.7%	0.5%
Independents	6.8	17.8%	13.2%	69.0%	0.0%

b) Rallies or protests attended by their constituents

Q48b	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	6.8	18.1%	12.4%	69.2%	0.3%
Republicans	6.6	19.2%	12.6%	67.8%	0.4%
Democrats	7.2	13.9%	11.4%	74.5%	0.2%
Independents	6.1	27.6%	14.8%	57.1%	0.5%

c) Town halls

Q48c	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	7.4	11.8%	8.3%	78.8%	1.0%
Republicans	7.5	9.0%	8.7%	81.4%	1.0%
Democrats	7.5	12.6%	7.1%	79.2%	1.2%
Independents	6.8	18.4%	11.2%	69.9%	0.5%

d) Standard polls, in which a broad cross section of constituents answers a question on whether they favor or oppose a policy position

Q48d	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	7.3	12.3%	9.2%	77.8%	0.6%
Republicans	7.4	10.3%	8.7%	80.4%	0.6%
Democrats	7.4	11.8%	7.9%	79.4%	0.9%
Independents	6.6	20.1%	15.1%	64.9%	0.0%

e) Public consultations, in which a broad cross section of constituents are first given a briefing on a policy issue and evaluate pro and con arguments, and then recommend what should be done.

Q48e	Mean	(0-4)	5	(6-10)	Ref /DK
US-National	7.4	11.3%	9.7%	78.6%	0.3%
Republicans	7.5	10.3%	8.7%	80.8%	0.2%
Democrats	7.6	10.2%	9.6%	80.0%	0.2%
Independents	6.7	17.7%	13.5%	67.7%	1.1%

[Affordable Housing – Standard Format Questions]

Switching gears, you will now have the chance to evaluate federal proposals aimed at addressing the cost of housing.

For each one, please say whether you are in favor or opposed.

Q49. Spending up to \$40 billion to increase the amount of high-density housing (such as apartment buildings, duplexes and triplexes) affordable for people with low and very low incomes.

Q49	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
US-National	74.3%	25.6%	0.1%
Republicans	63.9%	36.0%	0.2%
Democrats	85.8%	14.2%	0.0%
Independents	71.2%	28.8%	0.0%

Q50. Spending up to \$24 billion to provide more vouchers to help people pay rent who are very low income, disabled or elderly.

Q50	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
US-National	80.3%	19.1%	0.5%
Republicans	73.7%	25.8%	0.5%
Democrats	88.7%	10.6%	0.6%
Independents	74.7%	24.9%	0.4%

Q51. Providing \$25 billion to local governments to increase the amount of high-density housing affordable to low- and middle-income households.

Q51	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
US-National	73.6%	25.8%	0.6%
Republicans	63.4%	35.9%	0.8%
Democrats	84.0%	15.7%	0.3%
Independents	73.2%	26.0%	0.8%

Q52. Providing tax incentives to home builders to build or repair homes affordable to low- and middle-income households.

Q52	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
US-National	83.2%	16.4%	0.4%
Republicans	79.5%	20.3%	0.2%
Democrats	87.7%	12.0%	0.4%
Independents	81.2%	18.0%	0.8%

Q53. To help reduce the price of single-family homes, prohibiting large corporations from buying new single-family homes, and requiring those that already own such homes to sell them within the next ten years.

Q53	Favor	Oppose	Ref/DK
US-National	79.5%	20.3%	0.2%
Republicans	77.2%	22.3%	0.5%
Democrats	82.3%	17.7%	0.0%
Independents	77.8%	22.2%	0.0%

[Evaluating “the Pledge” Questions]

We will now show you a series of statements that your Congressional representatives (in the House or Senate) might make. We would like to know how you would respond to them. Here is the first one:

“I have confidence in the American people. Evidence shows that when Americans have the opportunity to think through important policy issues, this often reveals that Republicans and Democrats agree on many issues, even ones that Congress is polarized on.”

Q54. If your Congressional representatives were to make that statement, would you see that as:

Q54	Extremely positive	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Lean positive	Total positive	Lean negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Extremely negative	Total negative	Ref/DK
US-National	16.0%	31.1%	26.3%	17.6%	91.0%	4.7%	2.1%	0.8%	1.4%	9.0%	0.0%
Republicans	17.2%	35.0%	22.9%	16.6%	91.7%	4.3%	1.3%	1.7%	0.9%	8.2%	0.0%
Democrats	16.8%	30.2%	28.2%	16.8%	92.0%	5.2%	1.6%	0.2%	1.0%	8.0%	0.0%
Independents	9.5%	22.0%	30.7%	23.6%	85.8%	4.0%	6.2%	0.0%	4.1%	14.3%	0.0%

Pledge1_Open: In your own words please say what about the statement makes you feel that way.

[If rated positive in Q54]

Pledge1_neg_Open: If you also have some negative reactions, please share those too.

Here is the next statement in the series:

“As your representative, I will pay close attention when scientifically selected representative samples of the people I represent are consulted on issues before Congress—either through surveys or in-person meetings. I will respond thoughtfully to their conclusions and give them major consideration when I make decisions.”

Q55. Would your response be:

Q55	Extremely positive	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Lean positive	Total positive	Lean negative	Somewhat negative	Very negative	Extremely negative	Total negative	Ref/DK
US-National	21.7%	31.2%	25.1%	12.6%	90.6%	4.7%	2.3%	1.3%	1.0%	9.3%	0.1%
Republicans	21.8%	35.6%	24.1%	9.2%	90.7%	4.5%	2.6%	1.6%	0.6%	9.3%	0.0%
Democrats	23.3%	30.1%	25.2%	14.2%	92.8%	3.8%	1.6%	0.8%	0.8%	7.0%	0.2%
Independents	16.7%	21.2%	27.7%	18.3%	83.9%	7.8%	3.7%	1.8%	2.4%	15.7%	0.5%

Pledge2_Open: In your own words please say what about the statement makes you feel that way.

[If positive in Q55, Present Pledge2_neg_Open] Pledge2_neg_Open: Please say if you have any reservations.

Here is the next statement in the series:

“When majorities of Republicans and Democrats who I represent, and nationwide, agree on how to address key issues, I will look for opportunities to develop and advance legislation that builds on that bipartisan common ground.”

Q56. Would your response be:

Q56	Extremely Positive	Very Positive	Somewhat Positive	Lean Positive	Total Positive	Lean Negative	Somewhat Negative	Very Negative	Extremely Negative	Total Negative	Ref/DK
US-National	19.7%	32.4%	23.7%	14.6%	90.4%	4.9%	2.1%	0.7%	1.7%	9.4%	0.1%
Republicans	21.3%	36.8%	23.7%	11.9%	93.7%	3.4%	1.4%	0.4%	0.9%	6.1%	0.3%
Democrats	20.1%	30.5%	23.2%	16.0%	89.8%	5.7%	2.1%	0.9%	1.6%	10.3%	0.0%
Independents	13.5%	24.5%	25.4%	18.7%	82.1%	7.3%	4.3%	1.3%	4.9%	17.8%	0.0%

Pledge3_Open: In your own words please say what about the statement makes you feel that way.

[If positive on Q56, present Pledge3_neg_Open]

Q3_Open: If you also have some negative reactions, please share those too. Now please read through the series of statements all together:

I have confidence in the American people. Evidence shows that when Americans have the opportunity to think through important policy issues, this often reveals bipartisan common ground, even on issues that Congress is polarized on.

As your representative, I will pay close attention when scientifically selected representative samples of the people I represent are consulted on issues before Congress—either through surveys or in-person meetings. I will respond thoughtfully to their conclusions and give them major consideration when I make decisions.

When majorities of Republicans and Democrats who I represent, and nationwide, agree on how to address key issues, I will look for opportunities to develop and advance legislation that builds on that bipartisan common ground.”

Looking at the statements altogether, do you have any other comments, positive or negative?

PledgeAll_Open: Looking at the statements altogether, do you have any other comments, positive or negative?

###

Thank you for taking this survey.

We greatly appreciate the time and thought you have put into this survey, and we hope you found it both enjoyable and informative.

Methodology

Fielding and Sample Size: The national survey was fielded to 1,200 adults online March 11-19, 2026, by the Program for Public Consultation (PPC) at the University of Maryland's Civic Innovation Center, with representative non-probability samples obtained from multiple online panels, including Cint, Dynata and Prodege.

The national sample has a confidence interval of +/- 2.9% and a response rate of 8.3%.

Pre-Stratification and Weighting: The sample was pre-stratified and weighted by age, race, ethnicity, gender, educational attainment, household income, region, and home ownership. National benchmarks were obtained from the Census Bureau's 2024 and 2025 American Community Surveys, as well as the 2024 Current Population Survey's Annual Social and Economic Supplement.

The sample was also weighted by partisan affiliation to balance the sample and ensure a roughly representative distribution of Republicans and Democrats, as well as Independents, including those that register as unaffiliated, or chose another party affiliation.

The maximum weight was 1.92 and the minimum weight was 0.48. The average weight was 1.0.

Confidence intervals were calculated using the sample variance of the weights using the following formula:

CI = Square root $((1+\text{variance})/\text{sample size})$

Sample Collection: Sample collection was managed by Quant-E with oversight from PPC. Samples were drawn from multiple large online panels, including Cint, Prodege, and Dynata, whose members are recruited using non-probability sampling methods. The selected sample was invited to participate via email invitation, push notification, or SMS for cell phone users. Respondents were offered cash or cash-equivalent incentives to participate in the survey.

Data Collection and Privacy: Survey responses were collected directly on the Qualtrics platform. Only respondents with a provided link could take the survey, using their computer, laptop, tablet, or mobile phone.

Privacy and security measures were taken to ensure that data was collected in adherence to the European Union's General Data Protection Regulation policies for data privacy and security, as well as the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA).

Quality Control: Quality control measures in the sample collection process to disqualify duplicate respondents and survey bots included:

- checking respondents' IP addresses to determine if there are duplicate respondents
- employing an "operating system & Web browser check" to determine if there are any cross-panel duplicates
- using hCaptcha to detect and disqualify survey bots.

Quality control measures within the survey to disqualify dishonest or mischievous respondents, as well as survey bots, included:

- an attention-check question, e.g. Select the word that does not belong. [Tuesday]; [Friday]; [April]; [Wednesday]
- an honesty question, e.g. What have you done in the past week? Select all that apply. [Won a gold medal at the Olympics]; [Watched TV]; [Got a license to operate a Class SSGN submarine]; [Read a book]
- a speed limit, which disqualified respondents who moved through the first quarter of the survey at a pace roughly triple the average reading speed.

Lastly, respondents were removed from the sample who answered less than half the substantive questions, or who engaged in straight-lining.