

FOR RELEASE AUGUST 22, 2025

Majority of Americans Continue to Back Expanded Early Voting, Voting by Mail, Voter ID

58% favor allowing voters to cast their ballots by mail, but support remains much lower among Republicans than Democrats

BY Steven Shepard, Joseph Copeland, Shanay Gracia and Jocelyn Kiley

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Jocelyn Kiley, Director of Political Research
Steven Shepard, Associate Director of Political Research
Nida Asheer, Senior Communications Manager
202.419.4372
www.pewresearch.org

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, August 2025 “Majority of Americans Continue to Back Expanded Early Voting, Voting by Mail, Voter ID”

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans view voting policies and procedures in the United States. For this analysis, we surveyed 3,554 adults from Aug. 4 to 10, 2025. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), a group of people recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses who have agreed to take surveys regularly. This kind of recruitment gives nearly all U.S. adults a chance of selection.

Interviews were conducted either online or by telephone with a live interviewer. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education, presidential vote (among voters) and other factors. [Read more about the ATP's methodology.](#)

Here are the [questions](#) used for this report, the [topline](#) and the [survey methodology](#).

Majority of Americans Continue to Back Expanded Early Voting, Voting by Mail, Voter ID

58% favor allowing voters to cast their ballots by mail, but support remains much lower among Republicans than Democrats

President Donald Trump's [recent pledge](#) to “lead a movement” to end mail-in voting comes as a 58% majority of Americans favor allowing any voter to cast their ballot by mail if they want to.

But Democrats and Republicans continue to hold starkly different views: **Today, 83% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents support no-excuse voting by mail, while 68% of Republicans and Republican leaners oppose it.**

Several other proposals related to the U.S. electoral system win widespread support across the political spectrum, according to a new Pew Research Center survey of 3,554 adults conducted Aug. 4-10, prior to Trump's announcement.

Broad public support for paper ballot backups, voter ID, early voting and an Election Day holiday

% who ___ each of the following

	Oppose	Favor
Requiring electronic voting machines to print a paper backup of the ballot	15	84
Requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification to vote	16	83
Making early, in-person voting available to voters for at least two weeks prior to Election Day	20	80
Making Election Day a national holiday	25	74
Allowing people convicted of felonies to vote after serving their sentences	33	66
Automatically registering all eligible citizens to vote	40	59
Allowing any voter to vote by mail if they want to	42	58
Allowing people to register on Election Day at the polls	41	58
Banning groups from collecting completed ballots from a large number of voters in order to return them to official voting centers	52	45
Removing people from registration lists if they have not recently voted or confirmed their registration	56	43

Note: No answer responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 4-10, 2025.

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Among the most-supported proposals:

- Requiring electronic voting machines to print a paper backup of a voter's ballot (84% in favor)
- Requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification (83%)
- Making early, in-person voting available for at least two weeks prior to the election (80%)
- Making Election Day a federal holiday (74%)

Each of these draws support from majorities in both partisan coalitions.

Of the 10 proposals included in the survey, just two are more opposed by Americans than favored:

- 52% oppose banning groups from collecting completed ballots from a large number of voters to return them to election officials. (This is sometimes called "ballot harvesting" by opponents of the practice and it is currently illegal in about half of states.)
- 56% oppose removing people from registration lists if they haven't voted recently or responded to efforts to confirm their registration and address.

Automatic voter registration, same-day registration, early voting and voting by mail

In addition to making in-person early voting available for two weeks and mail-in voting available to any registered voter who wants it, **about six-in-ten Americans favor automatic voter registration for eligible citizens (59%) and same-day voter registration (58%).**

As has long been the case, there is more support for each of these proposals among Democrats than Republicans.

- 77% of Democrats and 42% of Republicans support automatic voter registration.
- Similarly, 72% of Democrats and 43% of Republicans favor allowing registration at the polls on Election Day.

The partisan gap over in-person early voting is narrower, and support has grown among Republicans since last year. Today, majorities in both parties (89% of Democrats, 71% of Republicans) favor at least two weeks of early, in-person voting.

In contrast, there is a wide gap of 51 percentage points in partisans' support for mail-in voting. And this gap is substantially wider than it was five years ago – the result of a steep drop in support among Republicans.

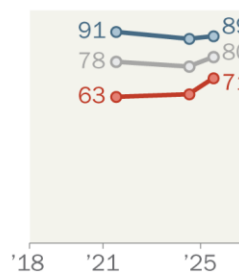
- In April 2020, during the early months of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), 70% of Americans favored allowing any voter who wanted to cast a ballot via mail to do so. This included nearly half of Republicans (49%) and nearly nine-in-ten Democrats (87%).

Majorities support several proposals to increase ballot access, but partisan gaps remain

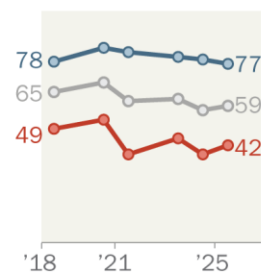
% who favor ...

— Total — Rep/Lean Rep — Dem/Lean Dem

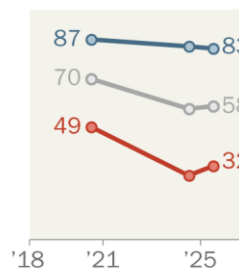
Making early, in-person voting available to voters for at least two weeks prior to Election Day



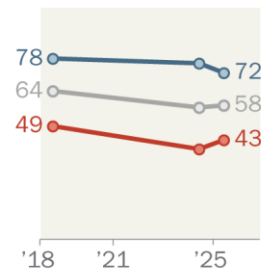
Automatically registering all eligible citizens to vote



Allowing any voter to vote by mail if they want to



Allowing people to register on Election Day at the polls



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 4-10, 2025.

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- Now, 58% of Americans support allowing voters to cast ballots by mail, including 32% of Republicans and 83% of Democrats.

Voting by mail is more widespread today than it was before the pandemic, though the share of voters who cast their ballots in person in 2024 was greater than the share who did so in the pandemic election of 2020. According to [Pew Research Center's study of validated voters](#), voters in the 2024 presidential election were roughly equally likely to have voted in person on Election Day (34%), early in person (32%) or by mail (34%).

Trump voters were more likely to vote in person on Election Day (38% of his voters did so) than voters who supported then-Vice President Kamala Harris (29%).

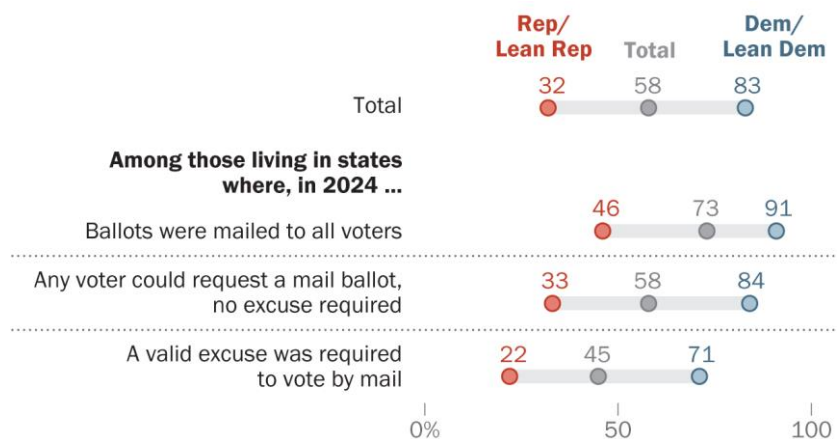
Voting by mail and state election rules

While support for no-excuse absentee voting is strongly associated with party, both Republicans and Democrats living in states where mail-in voting is more common are more likely to support the practice than those living in states where absentee and mail-in voting is more restricted.

In states with universal mail-in voting – like California, Colorado and Nevada, where ballots are mailed to all voters before the election – 73% favor allowing any voter to vote by mail, including 91% of Democrats and 46% of Republicans.

In both parties, those in states with universal or no-excuse absentee voting are more likely to support it

% who **favor** allowing any voter to vote by mail if they want to



Note: State voting laws come from the National Conference of State Legislatures.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 4-10, 2025.

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In states where voters can request an absentee ballot for any reason, but ballots aren't automatically sent to them – like Florida, New York and Pennsylvania – 58% favor allowing any voter to cast a ballot by mail.

Support for mail-in voting is lowest in states where voters can only cast a mail ballot if they have a valid excuse. (For example, in Texas, excuses include being 65 years of age or older, illness or disability, or a legitimate reason for being out of one's home county on Election Day.) In these states, 45% favor allowing anyone to vote by mail, including 22% of Republicans and 71% of Democrats.

Other proposals: Voter ID, paper backups, removing inactive voters and ballot collections

Broad bipartisan majorities continue to support requiring electronic voting machines to print a paper backup of the ballot: 84% of all U.S. adults favor this, including 87% of Republicans and 82% of Democrats.

Voter ID

Support for photo ID requirements also remains widespread in both parties. More than nine-in-ten Republicans (95%) and about seven-in-ten Democrats (71%) favor requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification to vote.

Removing inactive voters, ballot collections

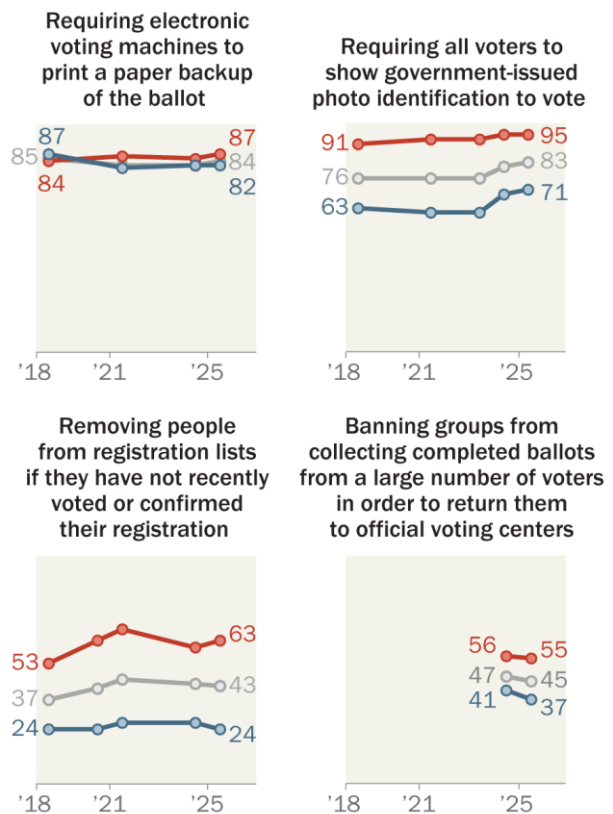
Two other proposals are supported by fewer than half of Americans, both of them winning more support from Republicans than Democrats:

- 45% of Americans – including 55% of Republicans and 37% of Democrats – favor banning mass ballot collections, sometimes called “ballot harvesting.”
- 43% favor purging the voter rolls of those who have not recently voted or confirmed their registration. Some 63% of Republicans and 24% of Democrats support this.

Long-standing support in both parties for paper ballot backups, requiring photo ID

% who favor ...

— Total — Rep/Lean Rep — Dem/Lean Dem



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 4-10, 2025.

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Election Day holiday

Roughly three-quarters of Americans (74%) – including nearly identical shares of both Republicans (74%) and Democrats (76%) – favor making Election Day a national holiday.

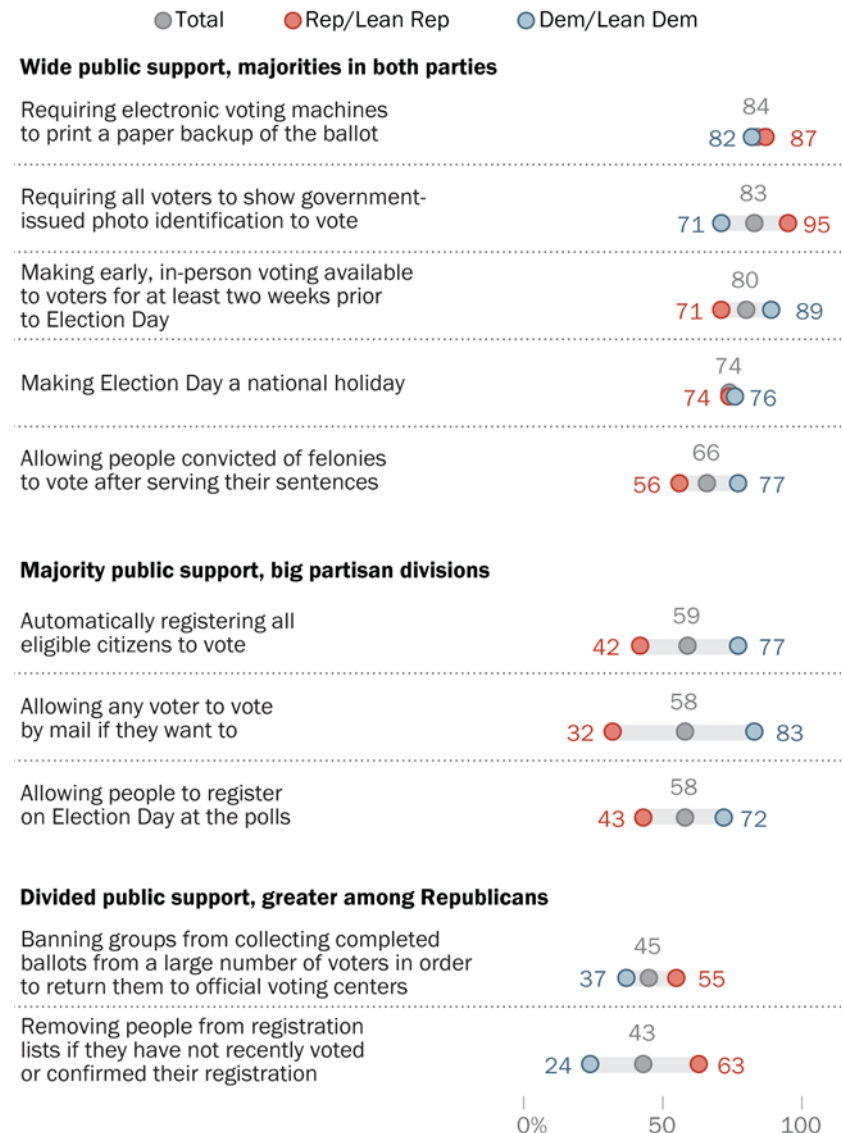
While majorities have favored this proposal for the last several years, support is now 9 points higher than it was in 2018, largely the result of a growing share of Republicans who back an Election Day holiday.

Allowing convicted felons to vote after completing their sentences

Overall, 66% of Americans favor allowing convicted felons to vote after serving their sentences. While majorities in both parties hold this view, support is higher among Democrats (77%) than Republicans (56%).

Broad bipartisan support for some voting policy proposals, wide partisan divide on others

% who favor ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 4-10, 2025.

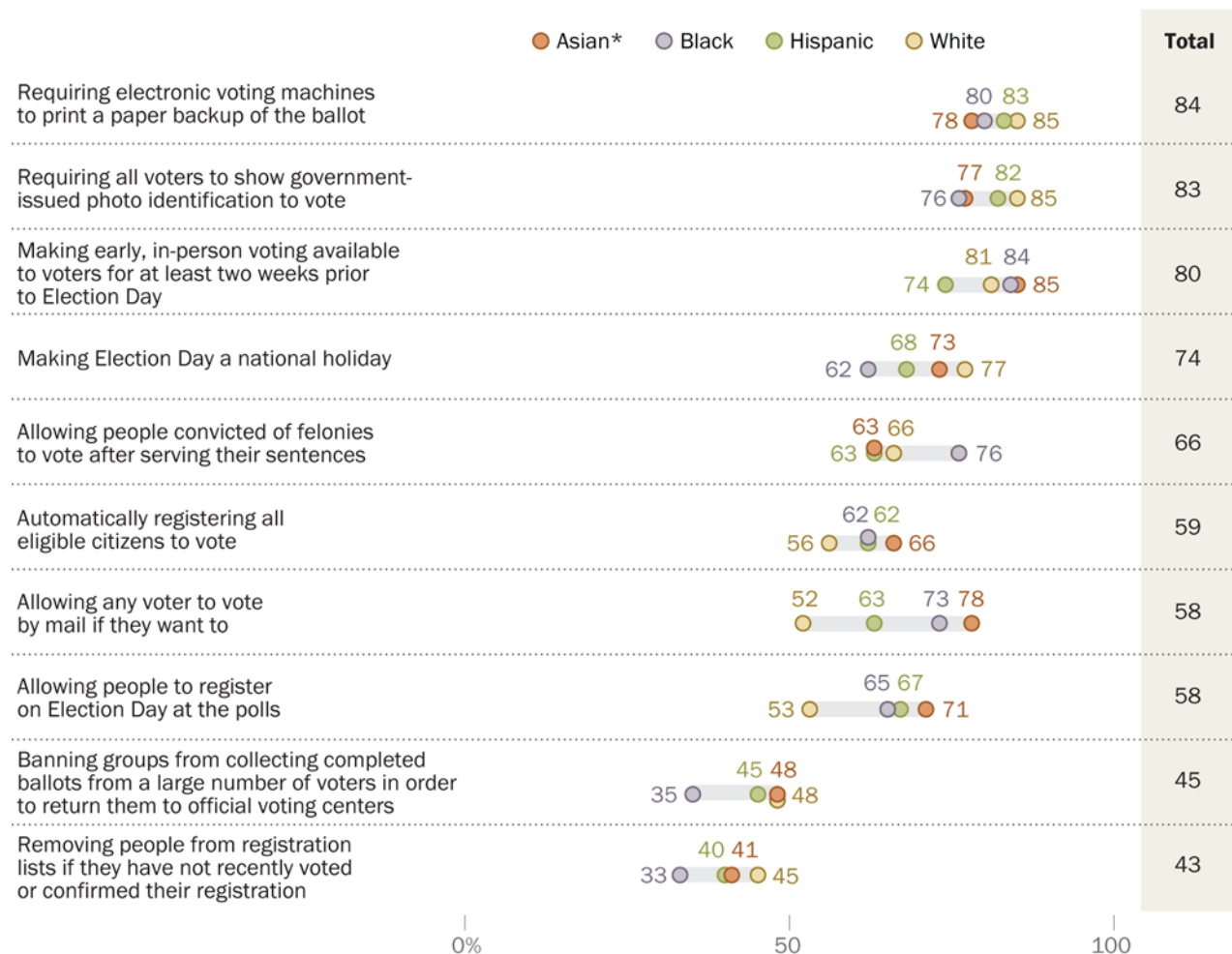
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Views of voting policies among racial and ethnic groups

At least seven-in-ten adults across racial and ethnic groups favor requiring paper ballot backups for electronic voting machines, photo identification requirements and early, in-person voting periods of at least two weeks.

Views of voting policy proposals across racial and ethnic groups

% who favor ...



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

Note: White, Black and Asian adults include those who report only being one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Aug. 4-10, 2025.

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Clear majorities across groups also back making Election Day a national holiday and allowing convicted felons to vote after serving their sentences. Support for allowing people convicted of felonies to vote after serving their sentences is higher among Black adults (76%) compared with other racial and ethnic groups. Still, at least six-in-ten White, Hispanic and Asian Americans also favor this proposal.

At least half of Hispanic, Black, Asian and White adults support automatically registering all citizens to vote, allowing any voter to vote by mail if they want to and allowing people to register to vote on Election Day. But support for same-day registration at the polls and allowing any voter to vote by mail is higher among Hispanic, Black and Asian Americans than among White Americans.

Acknowledgments

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

Research team

Jocelyn Kiley, *Director, Political Research*
Steven Shepard, *Associate Director, Political Research*
Hannah Hartig, *Senior Researcher*
Baxter Oliphant, *Senior Researcher*
Gabe Borelli, *Research Associate*
Andrew Daniller, *Research Associate*
Andy Cerda, *Research Analyst*
Joseph Copeland, *Research Analyst*
Shanay Gracia, *Research Analyst*
Ted Van Green, *Research Analyst*
Rolando Ortega, *Former Intern*

Communications and editorial

Nida Asheer, *Senior Communications Manager*
Mithila Samak, *Communications Associate*
Anna Jackson, *Editorial Specialist*

Graphic design and web publishing

Peter Bell, *Associate Director, Design and Production*
Alissa Scheller, *Senior Information Graphics Designer*
Reem Nadeem, *Digital Producer*

Methodology

Andrew Mercer, *Senior Research Methodologist*
Dorene Asare-Marfo, *Senior Panel Manager*
Dana Popky, *Associate Panel Manager*
Arnold Lau, *Research Methodologist*

Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

Data in this report comes from Wave 176 of the American Trends Panel (ATP), Pew Research Center’s nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. The survey was conducted Aug. 4-10, 2025. A total of 3,554 panelists responded out of 3,784 who were sampled, for a survey-level response rate of 94%.

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 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 3,554 respondents is plus or minus 1.8 percentage points.

The survey includes an [oversample](#) of non-Hispanic Asian adults in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of this smaller demographic subgroup. Oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population.

SSRS conducted the survey for Pew Research Center via online (n=3,429) and live telephone (n=125) interviewing. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the ATP, read “[About the American Trends Panel](#).”

Panel recruitment

Since 2018, the ATP has used address-based sampling (ABS) for recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service’s Computerized Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover 90% to 98% of the population.¹ Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is selected to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.² Prior to 2018, the ATP was recruited using landline and cellphone random-digit-dial surveys administered in English and Spanish.

A national sample of U.S. adults has been recruited to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an “oversample”)

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

² Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

to improve the accuracy of data for underrepresented groups. For example, Hispanic, Black and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the United States. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which non-Hispanic Asian 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 SSRS. The web program used for online respondents was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the SSRS project team and the Center's researchers. The SSRS project 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 gift code to Amazon.com, Target.com or Walmart.com. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$15 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 Aug. 4-10, 2025. Surveys were conducted via self-administered web survey or by live telephone interviewing.

For panelists who take surveys online: Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset on Aug. 4.³ Survey 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 Aug.

³ The ATP does not use routers or chains in any part of its online data collection protocol, nor are they used to direct respondents to additional surveys. Postcard notifications for web panelists are sent to 1) panelists who were recruited within the last two years and 2) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

4. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled online panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Aug. 5.

**Invitation and reminder dates for web respondents,
ATP Wave 176**

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	Aug. 4, 2025	Aug. 5, 2025
First reminder	Aug. 7, 2025	Aug 7, 2025
Final reminder	Aug. 9, 2025	Aug. 9, 2025

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Panelists participating online were sent an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages were sent an SMS invitation with a link to the survey and up to two SMS reminders.

For panelists who take surveys over the phone with a live interviewer: Prenotification postcards were mailed on Aug. 1. Soft launch took place on Aug. 4 and involved dialing until a total of 11 interviews had been completed. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled phone panelists' numbers were dialed throughout the remaining field period. Panelists who take surveys via phone can receive up to six calls from trained SSRS interviewers.

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, Center researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, six ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the panel survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of recruitment into the panel. These weights are then 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.

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.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed)	2023 American Community Survey (ACS)
Age x Gender	
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Race/Ethnicity x Gender	
Race/Ethnicity x Age	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metropolitan status	
Volunteerism	2023 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Frequency of internet use	2024 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Religious affiliation	
Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity	
Party affiliation x Age	
Validated 2024 presidential election turnout and vote choice	Candidate vote share is based on official results from the Federal Election Commission. Turnout is based on estimates from the Election Lab at the University of Florida. The size of the voting-eligible population is based on the 2023 ACS.

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. For weighting to the 2024 presidential election results, panelists are considered validated voters if their self-report of having voted was confirmed after matching to a national voter registry.

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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 176

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total	3,554		1.8 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,770		2.6 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	1,603	47%	2.7 percentage points
Half form	At least 789		3.8 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	1,802	48%	2.6 percentage points
Half form	At least 890		3.6 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of non-Hispanic Asian respondents. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. Refer to 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.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 176

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	3,554
Logged in (web)/Contacted (CATI), but did not complete any items	2.11	40
Started survey; broke off before completion	2.12	21
Never logged on (web)/Never reached on phone (CATI)	2.20	163
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Other noninterview	2.30	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.90	6
Total panelists sampled for the survey		3,784
Completed interviews	I	3,554
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	61
Noncontact	NC	163
Other	O	6
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		3,784
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		94%

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Cumulative response rate, ATP Wave 176

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 176	34%
Response rate to Wave 176 survey	94%
Cumulative response rate	3%

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**2025 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 176 POLITICS SURVEY AUGUST 2025
FINAL TOPLINE
AUGUST 4-10, 2025
N=3,554**

Note: This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.

American Trends Panel surveys conducted between October 2016 and June 2024 were conducted fully online (with tablets and data plans provided to adults without home internet). American Trends Panel surveys conducted prior to October 2016 were conducted primarily online, with some respondents completing by mail. For additional details, visit the Methodology.

* "No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say that they don't know how to answer. In cases where "not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "no answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

VTPRIORITY Please indicate whether you would favor or oppose the following ideas about election policy.
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSES 1-4 OR 4-1]

		Strongly <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	No <u>answer*</u>
ASK FORM 1 [N=1,770]						
ATO	Automatically registering all eligible citizens to vote					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	31	28	21	19	1
	Jan 16-21, 2024	33	24	18	24	1
	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
HLDY	Making Election Day a national holiday					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	44	30	15	10	1
	Jan 16-21, 2024	44	28	15	12	1
	Apr 5-11, 2021	42	27	16	13	2
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	36	29	18	17	1
FLN	Allowing people convicted of felonies to vote after serving their sentences					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	27	39	20	13	1
	Jan 16-21, 2024	32	37	17	13	1
	Apr 5-11, 2021	36	35	16	12	1
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	33	37	15	14	1

VTPRIORITY CONTINUED ...

		Strongly <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	No <u>answer*</u>
RMVVT	Removing people from registration lists if they have not recently voted or confirmed their registration					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	17	25	28	28	1
	Jan 16-21, 2024	20	24	28	28	1
	Apr 5-11, 2021	21	25	24	27	2
	Apr 7-12, 2020	17	25	26	31	2
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	15	22	27	35	1
BLT_CL	Banning groups from collecting completed ballots from a large number of voters in order to return them to official voting centers					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	24	21	27	25	3
	Jan 16-21, 2024	28	19	26	24	3
ASK FORM 2 [N=1,784]						
GOVID	Requiring all voters to show government issued photo identification to vote					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	60	23	11	5	1
	Jan 16-21, 2024	61	20	11	7	1
	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
PPR	Requiring electronic voting machines to print a paper backup of the ballot					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	42	42	11	4	2
	Jan 16-21, 2024	43	39	11	5	2
	Apr 5-11, 2021	43	39	10	5	2
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	49	36	10	4	1
ERLY	Making early, in-person voting available to voters for at least two weeks prior to Election Day					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	45	35	12	8	1
	Jan 16-21, 2024	43	33	13	11	1
	Apr 5-11, 2021	47	31	12	9	2
ML	Allowing any voter to vote by mail if they want to					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	34	24	18	24	1
	Jan 16-21, 2024	35	23	15	26	1
	Apr 7-12, 2020	44	26	13	16	1
REGED	Allowing people to register on Election Day at the polls					
	Aug 4-10, 2025	29	29	22	19	1
	Jan 16-21, 2024	30	27	20	22	1
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	36	28	17	18	1

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, 4 OR REFUSED):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...⁴

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer*</u>	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
29	27	29	13	2	18	20

⁴ PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.