

**2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 185 POLITICS JANUARY SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
January 20-26, 2026
N=8,512**

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.

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,250]:

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>
Jan 20-26, 2026	29	69	1
Oct 6-16, 2025	27	72	1
Aug 4-10, 2025	34	65	1
Apr 28-May 4, 2025	32	67	1
Mar 10-16, 2025	34	65	1
Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025	38	61	1
Nov 12-17, 2024	29	70	1
Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	23	76	*
Aug 5-11, 2024	24	75	1
Jul 1-7, 2024	18	82	*
May 13-19, 2024	22	78	1
Jan 16-21, 2024	21	78	1
Nov 27-Dec 3, 2023	22	77	1
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

SATIS CONTINUED ...

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer*</u>
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 ¹	32	68	*
Sep 27-Oct 10, 2016	23	75	2
Jun 7-Jul 5, 2016	19	80	1
Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	25	75	*

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,262]:

YEARAHEAD Looking ahead, as far as you are concerned, do you think that 2026 will be ...

[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1]

	<u>Better than 2025</u>	<u>Worse than 2025</u>	<u>No answer*</u>
Jan 20-26, 2026	50	48	1
Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025	55	45	*
Jan 16-21, 2024	55	45	1
Jan 18-24, 2023	57	43	*
Jan 10-17, 2022	61	38	1
Jan 8-12, 2021	67	32	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	55	43	2

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Looking ahead, as far as you are concerned, do you think that [coming year] will be better or worse than [prior year]?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 8-13, 2020	55	34	11
Jan 9-14, 2019	47	43	10
Jan 10-15, 2018	61	29	11
Jan 4-9, 2017	49	42	9
Jan 7-14, 2016	56	30	14
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	49	42	9
Jan 15-19, 2014	56	35	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	36	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	57	29	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	55	31	14
Jan 6-10, 2010	67	26	8
Jan 7-11, 2009	52	37	11
December, 2007	50	34	16
December, 2006	57	28	15
December, 1999	66	19	15
December, 1998	59	25	16
December, 1994	59	28	13
Gallup: December, 1993	64	20	16

¹ The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1992	61	11	28
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1991	61	31	8
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1990	48	42	10
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1986	53	25	22
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1985	64	20	17
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1984	61	20	19
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1982	50	32	18
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1981	41	44	15

ASK ALL:

POL1DT Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

ASK IF ANSWERED POL1DT (POL1DT=1,2) [N=8,378]:POL1DTSTR Do you **[IF POL1DT=1: approve; IF POL1DT=2: disapprove]** of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president...

	NET Approve	<i>Very</i> <i>strongly</i>	<i>Not so</i> <i>strongly</i>	<i>No</i> <i>answer*</i>	NET Disapprove	<i>Very</i> <i>strongly</i>	<i>Not so</i> <i>strongly</i>	<i>No</i> <i>answer*</i>	<i>No</i> <i>answer*</i>
Trump Second Term									
Jan 20-26, 2026	37	27	10	*	61	49	12	*	2
Sep 22-28, 2025	40	29	10	1	58	47	11	*	2
Aug 4-10, 2025	38	27	11	*	60	47	13	*	2
Jun 2-8, 2025	41	30	11	*	58	46	12	*	1
Apr 7-13, 2025	40	31	9	*	59	48	10	*	1
Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025	47	37	9	*	51	40	11	*	2
Trump First Term									
Jan 8-12, 2021	29	21	7	*	68	56	12	*	3
Jul 27-Aug 2, 2020	38	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	59	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	3
Jun 16-22, 2020	39	29	9	1	59	48	11	*	2
Apr 7-12, 2020	44	33	10	1	53	42	11	*	3
Mar 19-24, 2020	45	34	10	1	52	40	11	*	2
Jan 6-19, 2020	40	31	9	*	58	46	11	1	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	40	31	9	*	58	46	11	1	1
Jul 22-Aug 4, 2019	40	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	59	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	1
Apr 29-May 13, 2019	40	29	10	*	59	48	10	*	1
Feb 4-17, 2019	38	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	61	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	1
Nov 7-13, 2018	41	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	58	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	38	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	61	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	<i>n/a</i>	2
Jul 30-Aug 12, 2018	40	31	9	*	59	48	10	*	2
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	38	29	9	*	60	48	12	*	2
Aug 8-21, 2017	36	26	10	*	63	49	13	*	1
Apr 4-18, 2017	39	27	12	*	61	45	15	*	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 ²	44	30	13	*	56	43	12	*	1

See past presidents' approval trends: [Joe Biden](#), [Barack Obama](#), [George W. Bush](#), [Bill Clinton](#)² The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

ASK ALL:

DTSUCCESS In the long run, do you think Donald Trump will be...
[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]

Jan 20-26, 2026		Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025	Jan 6-19, 2020
31	A successful president	35	34
47	An unsuccessful president	33	48
21	Too early to tell	31	18
1	No answer*	1	1

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

In the long run, do you think Joe Biden will be...

	Jan 8-12, 2021
A successful president	29
An unsuccessful president	26
Too early to tell	44
No answer	1

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

In the long run, do you think Donald Trump will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?

	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Too early to tell</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Trump				
Jan 8-13, 2020	36	37	26	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	29	47	23	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	23	41	34	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	21	20	58	1
Obama				
Jan 7-14, 2016	37	34	26	3
Jan 7-11, 2015	32	38	29	2
Jan 15-19, 2014	28	34	35	3
Jun 12-16, 2013	34	31	33	2
Jan 9-13, 2013	33	26	39	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	27	32	39	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	25	26	47	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	24	21	52	3
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	27	18	54	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	30	4	65	1
Bush				
January, 2007	24	45	27	4
January, 2006	27	37	32	4
Early October, 2005	26	41	30	3
January, 2005	36	27	35	2
December, 2003	39	20	38	3
Early October, 2002	40	15	44	1
January, 2001	26	15	58	1
Clinton				
January, 1999	44	24	29	3
Early September, 1998	38	24	35	3
February, 1995	18	34	43	5
October, 1994	14	35	48	3
May, 1994	21	26	52	1
January, 1994	21	19	57	3
October, 1993	18	25	56	1
September, 1993	22	22	54	2
August, 1993	13	25	60	2

ASK ALL:

QUALPRES_TRMP

Thinking about the qualities needed to serve as president, how confident are you that Donald Trump...³**[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

		<u>Extremely confident</u>	<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not too confident</u>	<u>Not at all confident</u>	<u>No answer*</u>
MF	Has the <u>mental</u> fitness needed to do the job						
	Jan 20-26, 2026	17	15	16	14	37	*
	Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025 ⁴	23	17	16	14	30	*
	Apr 8-14, 2024	20	15	17	15	32	*
PHY	Has the <u>physical</u> fitness needed to do the job						
	Jan 20-26, 2026	12	15	22	19	31	1
	Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025 ⁵	17	18	24	17	24	1
	Apr 8-14, 2024	15	18	26	17	23	*
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,250]							
FIRM	Has the leadership skills needed to do the job						
	Jan 20-26, 2026	19	15	14	14	36	*
	Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025	25	15	16	13	30	*
RSP	Respects the country's democratic values						
	Jan 20-26, 2026	13	12	15	15	43	1
	Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025	17	14	16	14	39	*
	Apr 8-14, 2024	17	13	16	12	41	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,262]							
ADV	Picks good advisers						
	Jan 20-26, 2026	11	14	18	17	40	1
	Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025 ⁶	16	15	18	14	37	1
	Apr 8-14, 2024	11	14	22	15	37	1
ETH	Acts ethically in office						
	Jan 20-26, 2026	9	12	18	15	45	1
	Jan 27-Feb 2, 2025	15	13	17	14	40	*
	Apr 8-14, 2024	11	12	17	14	45	1

³ Prior to January 2026, question was worded: "Thinking about the qualities needed to effectively serve another term as president, how confident are you that Donald Trump..."

⁴ Prior to January 2026, the word "mental" was not underlined.

⁵ Prior to January 2026, the word "physical" was not underlined.

⁶ Prior to January 2026, the word "advisers" was spelled "advisors."

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,250]:**

Thinking about important issues facing the country today...

TRUMPISSUE1 Overall, would you say you tend to agree with Donald Trump on...

[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1]**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Jan 20-26, <u>2026</u>		Jul 1-7, <u>2024</u>	Feb 4-15, <u>2020</u>	Apr 25-May 1 <u>2018</u>	Aug 15-21 <u>2017</u>
13	All or nearly all issues	16	19	19	15
27	Many, but not all issues	25	23	22	18
22	A few issues	23	23	24	21
37	No or almost no issues	35	34	33	45
1	No answer*	1	1	2	1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,250]:TRUMPISSUE2 Now thinking not about issues, but just about the way Donald Trump conducts himself as president, would you say you...**[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-3/3-1]****PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Jan 20-26, <u>2026</u>		Jul 1-7, <u>2024</u> ⁷	Feb 4-15, <u>2020</u> ⁸	Apr 25-May 1 <u>2018</u>	Aug 15-21 <u>2017</u>
16	Like the way he conducts himself	13	15	19	16
32	Have mixed feelings about the way he conducts himself	32	30	26	25
51	Don't like the way he conducts himself	54	53	54	58
1	No answer*	1	3	2	1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,262]:

NEWPRES_SUPP How many of Donald Trump's policies and plans would you say you support?

[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]

Jan 20-26, <u>2026</u>		Jan 27-Feb 2, <u>2025</u>
6	All of them	9
22	Most of them	25
20	Some of them	17
26	Only a few of them	23
26	None of them	24
1	No answer*	1

⁷ In July 2024, the question was worded "Now thinking NOT about issues, but about Donald Trump's personal conduct, would you say you..."

⁸ In February 2020, the question was worded "Now thinking NOT about issues, but just about the way Donald Trump conducts himself as president, would you say you..."

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,262]:

NEWPRES_ACTNS Would you say the Trump administration's actions since taking office last year have been... **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

Jan 20-26, <u>2026</u>		Jun 2-8, <u>2025</u> ⁹	Jan 27-Feb 2, <u>2025</u>
11	A lot better than you expected	11	17
10	A little better than you expected	10	11
28	About what you expected	31	36
15	A little worse than you expected	17	12
34	A lot worse than you expected	32	24
1	No answer*	*	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF PRESWITHOP AND OPWITHPRES SUCH THAT FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) GETS PRESWITHOP FIRST AND OPWITHPRES SECOND WHILE FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) GETS OPWITHPRES FIRST AND PRESWITHOP SECOND]

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,250]:

PRESWITHOP This year, do you think Donald Trump should... **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1 IN SAME ORDER AS OPWITHPRES]**

Jan 20-26, <u>2026</u>		Jan 27-Feb 2, <u>2025</u>
64	Try as best he can to work with Democratic congressional leaders to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing people who voted for him	63
33	Stand up to Democratic congressional leaders on issues that are important to people who voted for him, even if it means it's harder to address critical problems facing the country	35
2	No answer*	2

TREND FOR COMPARISON

This year, do you think Joe Biden should...

	Jan 16-21, <u>2024</u>	Jan 18-24, <u>2023</u>	Jan 10-17, <u>2022</u>	Jan 8-12, <u>2021</u> ¹⁰
Try as best he can to work with Republican congressional leaders to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some people who voted for him	74	73	67	74
Stand up to Republican congressional leaders on issues that are important to the people who voted for him, even if it means it's harder to address critical problems facing the country	24	25	29	23
No answer	2	2	4	3

⁹ Prior to January 2026, the question was worded "Would you say the Trump administration's actions so far have been..."
¹⁰ In January 2021, second response option was worded as "... on issues that are important to his supporters ...".

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,262]:

OPWITHPRES This year, do you think Democratic congressional leaders should... **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1 IN SAME ORDER AS PRESWITHOP]**

Jan 20-26, <u>2026</u>		Jan 27-Feb 2, <u>2025</u>
49	Try as best they can to work with Donald Trump to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing people who voted for them	55
49	Stand up to Donald Trump on issues that are important to people who voted for them, even if it means it's harder to address critical problems facing the country	43
2	No answer*	2

TREND FOR COMPARISON

This year, do you think Republican congressional leaders should...

	Jan 16-21 <u>2024</u>	Jan 18-24, <u>2023</u>	Jan 10-17, <u>2022</u>	Jan 8-12, <u>2021</u>
Try as best they can to work with Joe Biden to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some Republican voters	60	63	61	66
Stand up to Joe Biden on issues that are important to Republican voters, even if it means it's harder to address critical problems facing the country	37	35	37	31
No answer	3	2	2	3

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

IMMIG_FAVOPP Thinking about immigration policy, do you favor or oppose each of the following?
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 IN SAME ORDER AS VEN_MADREMV]

		Strongly <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	No <u>answer*</u>
SCMED	Requiring people who want to enter the U.S. to let immigration officers review their social media accounts Jan 20-26, 2026	25	31	20	23	2
FEE	Giving people priority in the immigration process if they pay a \$1 million fee Jan 20-26, 2026	5	14	20	60	2
ASY	Suspending all asylum applications from people seeking to live in the U.S. to escape violence or danger Jan 20-26, 2026	11	21	30	36	2
MIL	Maintaining a large military presence at the U.S. border with Mexico Jan 20-26, 2026	31	31	21	16	1

IMMIG_FAVOPP CONTINUED ...

		<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Somewhat favor</u>	<u>Somewhat oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>No answer*</u>
DTN	Keeping large numbers of immigrants in detention centers while their cases are decided Jan 20-26, 2026	14	21	24	40	2
PAU75	Pausing visa applications from people in 75 countries seeking to legally immigrate to the U.S. Jan 20-26, 2026	16	23	30	30	2

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF IMMIGPPL_ACCEPT AND IMMIGAGNT_ACCEPT]****ASK ALL:**

IMMIGPPL_ACCEPT

Do you think each of the following is acceptable or unacceptable for people to do? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 IN SAME ORDER AS IMMIGAGNT_ACCEPT]**

		<u>Definitely acceptable</u>	<u>Probably acceptable</u>	<u>Probably unacceptable</u>	<u>Definitely unacceptable</u>	<u>No answer*</u>
VIDEO	Record video of immigration officers while they make arrests Jan 20-26, 2026	48	26	13	12	1
TRCK	Share information about where immigration officers are arresting people Jan 20-26, 2026	35	24	18	22	1
REPT	Report people who they think may be in the country illegally to immigration officers Jan 20-26, 2026	22	30	22	25	2

ASK ALL:

IMMIGAGNT_ACCEPT

Do you think each of the following is acceptable or unacceptable for federal immigration officers to do? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 IN SAME ORDER AS IMMIGPPL_ACCEPT]**

		<u>Definitely acceptable</u>	<u>Probably acceptable</u>	<u>Probably unacceptable</u>	<u>Definitely unacceptable</u>	<u>No answer*</u>
MASK	Wear face coverings that hide their identities while working Jan 20-26, 2026	21	16	15	46	1
NGBH	Increase their presence in neighborhoods with many immigrants Jan 20-26, 2026	18	26	21	33	1
RLAN	Use a person's looks or the language they speak as a reason to check their immigration status Jan 20-26, 2026	10	18	20	51	1
CITZ	Arrest U.S. citizens who help people avoid immigration officers Jan 20-26, 2026	23	21	20	34	2

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,250]:**

EXPAND_GRNLND_MOD

Donald Trump has mentioned an interest in the U.S. taking over Greenland. How likely do you think it is that Donald Trump will do this? **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 HOLDING 6 LAST]**

Jan 20-26, <u>2026</u>		Mar 24-30, <u>2025¹¹</u>
8	Extremely likely	7
12	Very likely	16
21	Somewhat likely	28
22	Not too likely	22
17	Not at all likely	13
19	Not sure	14
1	No answer*	*

¹¹ In the 2025 survey, question was worded "Donald Trump has mentioned an interest in the U.S. taking over Greenland. How likely do you think it is that Donald Trump will pursue this?"

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,250]:

EXPAND2_GRNLND

Do you favor or oppose the U.S. taking over Greenland, as Donald Trump has proposed? **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 HOLDING 5 LAST]**

Jan 20-26, <u>2026</u>		Mar 24-30, <u>2025</u>
10	Strongly favor	8
12	Somewhat favor	15
13	Somewhat oppose	12
45	Strongly oppose	43
20	Not sure	22
1	No answer*	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK REPUBLICAN AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS (XPARTYSUMFINAL=1) [N=3,913]:**

REPWORKTRMP

Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Republicans in Congress... **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1]**

Jan 20-26, <u>2026</u>		Jan 27-Feb 2, <u>2025</u>
38	Have an obligation to support Donald Trump's policies and programs because he is a Republican president	44
61	Do <u>not</u> have an obligation to support Donald Trump's policies and programs if they disagree with him	55
1	No answer*	1

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...¹²

<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>
28	26	29	15	2	18	21

¹²

PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.