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.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:
ABRTLGL Do you think abortion should be… **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1]**

	Legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	Illegal in most cases	Illegal in all cases	No answer*	**NET** *Legal in all/most*	**NET** *Illegal in all/most*
Jan 20-26, 2026	23	37	28	11	2	**60**	**38**
Apr 8-14, 2024	25	38	28	8	2	**63**	**36**
Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	27	35	27	9	2	**62**	**36**
Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	29	33	28	8	2	**62**	**36**
Mar 7-13, 2022	25	36	27	10	2	**61**	**37**
Apr 5-11, 2021	25	34	26	13	2	**59**	**39**
Jan 22-Feb 2, 2020	25	35	27	11	2	**60**	**38**
Jul 22-Aug 4, 2019	27	34	26	12	1	**61**	**38**

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	Legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	Illegal in most cases	Illegal in all cases	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref	NET *Legal in all/most*	NET *Illegal in all/most*
Jul 10-15, 2019	24	34	24	15	3	*58*	*39*
Sep 18-24, 2018	25	34	22	15	5	*58*	*37*
Jun 8-18, 2017	25	33	24	16	3	*57*	*40*
Oct 20-25, 2016	22	36	23	14	4	*59*	*37*
Mar 17-26, 2016	24	33	24	16	3	*56*	*41*
Sep 22-27, 2015	20	31	25	18	6	*51*	*43*
Sep 2-9, 2014	22	34	26	14	5	*55*	*40*
Jul 17-21, 2013	20	34	24	15	7	*54*	*40*

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED:

	Legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	Illegal in most cases	Illegal in all cases	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref	NET *Legal in all/most*	NET *Illegal in all/most*
Oct 24-28, 2012	23	32	25	13	7	*55*	*39*
Apr 4-15, 2012	23	31	23	16	7	*53*	*39*
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	31	26	17	6	*51*	*43*
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	35	25	16	5	*54*	*41*
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	18	36	26	16	4	*54*	*42*
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	17	33	27	17	7	*50*	*44*
Aug 11-27, 2009	16	31	27	17	8	*47*	*45*
April, 2009	18	28	28	16	10	*46*	*44*
Late October, 2008	18	35	24	16	7	*53*	*40*
Mid-October, 2008	19	38	22	14	7	*57*	*36*
August, 2008	17	37	26	15	5	*54*	*41*
June, 2008	19	38	24	13	6	*57*	*37*
November, 2007	18	33	29	15	5	*51*	*44*
October, 2007	21	32	24	15	8	*53*	*39*
August, 2007	17	35	26	17	5	*52*	*43*
AP/Ipsos-Poll: February, 2006	19	32	27	16	6	*51*	*43*
ABC/WaPo: December, 2005	17	40	27	13	3	*57*	*40*
ABC/WaPo: April, 2005	20	36	27	14	3	*56*	*41*
ABC/WaPo: December, 2004	21	34	25	17	3	*55*	*42*
ABC/WaPo: May, 2004	23	31	23	20	2	*54*	*43*
ABC/WaPo: January, 2003	23	34	25	17	2	*57*	*42*
ABC/WaPo: August, 2001	22	27	28	20	3	*49*	*48*
ABC/BeliefNet: June, 2001	22	31	23	20	4	*53*	*43*
ABC/WaPo: January, 2001	21	38	25	14	1	*59*	*39*
ABC/WaPo: September, 2000 *(RVs)*	20	35	25	16	3	*55*	*41*
ABC/WaPo: July, 2000	20	33	26	17	4	*53*	*43*
ABC/WaPo: September, 1999	20	37	26	15	2	*57*	*41*
ABC/WaPo: March, 1999	21	34	27	15	3	*55*	*42*
ABC/WaPo: July, 1998	19	35	29	13	4	*54*	*42*
ABC/WaPo: August, 1996	22	34	27	14	3	*56*	*41*
ABC/WaPo: June, 1996	24	34	25	14	2	*58*	*39*
ABC/WaPo: October, 1995	26	35	25	12	3	*61*	*37*
ABC: September, 1995	24	36	25	11	4	*60*	*36*
ABC/WaPo: July, 1995	27	32	26	14	1	*59*	*40*

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

ABORTION3 Thinking about the area where you live, how easy or difficult do you think it would be for someone to obtain an abortion near you? **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1]**

Jan 20-26, 2026		Apr 8-14, 2024	Mar 27-Apr 2 2023	July 22-Aug 4 2019
16	Very difficult	13	14	8
30	Somewhat difficult	26	27	24
33	Somewhat easy	37	35	43
17	Very easy	20	18	22
4	No answer*	4	5	3

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,250]:
ABORTION4 Still thinking about the area where you live, do you think that obtaining an abortion should be… **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]**

Jan 20-26, 2026		Apr 8-14, 2024	Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023	July 22-Aug 4 2019
27	Harder than it is now	25	27	33
32	Easier than it is now	31	34	26
38	About what it is now	40	35	39
4	No answer*	4	4	3

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=4,262]:
ABRTN_MED Do you think medication abortion – that is, the use of a prescription pill or a series of pills to end a pregnancy – should be legal or illegal in your state? **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]**

Jan 20-26, 2026		Apr 8-14, 2024	Mar 27-Apr 2, 2023[1]
55	Legal	54	53
26	Illegal	20	22
18	Not sure	25	24
1	No answer*	1	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=4,250]:
ABRTVIEW Regardless of whether you think abortion should be legal or illegal, how well do each of the following statements describe your views? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well	No answer*
a. The decision about whether to have an abortion should belong solely to the pregnant woman						
Jan 20-26, 2026	33	19	20	13	14	1
Apr 8-14, 2024	36	19	19	13	13	1
Mar 7-13, 2022	33	19	19	14	13	1

[NO ITEM B]

[1] In the April 2023 survey, question read: "Do you think medication abortion SHOULD be legal or illegal in your state?"

ABRTVIEW CONTINUED …

	Extremely well	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well	No answer*
c. Human life begins at conception, so an embryo is a person with rights						
Jan 20-26, 2026	28	11	17	19	24	1
Apr 8-14, 2024	22	13	19	18	27	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=3,4 OR REFUSED):
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to…[2]

Republican	Democrat	Independent	Something else	No answer*	*Lean Rep*	*Lean Dem*
28	26	29	15	2	18	*21*

[2] PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.