

**2025 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 184: Views on America's future and best years  
December 8-14, 2025**

**QUESTIONNAIRE**

**Note: The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel. For all questions, the 98 ("don't know" in phone mode) and 99 (refusal in phone mode and no answer in web mode) codes are combined in the data for analytical purposes.**

**PN = Programming note**

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**\*CODEBOOK FOR ATP SAMPLE VARIABLES TO BE USED IN SURVEY PROGRAMMING LOGIC\***

**X\_FORM**

- 1 Form 1
- 2 Form 2

Note: Flag to randomly assign panelists to one of two forms (Form 1, Form 2) and weight within form  
Source: Randomly assigned for each survey.

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**-----MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE BEGINS HERE-----**  
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**QUE: USFUTVIEW**

**ASK IF FORM 1 (X\_FORM=1):**

**[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE ]**

Thinking about what things will be like in the United States 50 years from now, would you say you are...

**[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)**

- 1 Very optimistic
- 2 Somewhat optimistic
- 3 Neither optimistic nor pessimistic
- 4 Somewhat pessimistic
- 5 Very pessimistic
- 98 **[ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ)** Don't know
- 99 **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Web blank / **[ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ)** Refused

**QUE: BESTYEARS****ASK IF FORM 2 (X\_FORM=2):****[ PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE ]**

Thinking about the future of the United States, do you think the country's best years are...

**[ PN: IF CATI: ] (READ LIST)**

- 1 Ahead of us
  - 2 Behind us
  - 98 **[ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ)** Don't know
  - 99 **[ PN: IF WEB: ]** Web blank / **[ PN: IF CATI: ] (DO NOT READ)** Refused
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**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE OR PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**