

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

**TOPLINE
N=3,560**

Note: All numbers are percentages unless otherwise noted. Percentages less than 0.5% are replaced by an asterisk (*). Rows/columns may not total 100% due to rounding. The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel. The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel.

"No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say 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.

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 prior to October 2016 were conducted primarily online, with some respondents completing by mail. For additional details, visit the methodology.

PN = Programming note

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	3,560	+/- 1.8 percentage points

USFUTVIEW

ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [n=1,770]:

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

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

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2025

6	Very optimistic
22	Somewhat optimistic
27	Neither optimistic nor pessimistic
28	Somewhat pessimistic
16	Very pessimistic
1	No answer

BESTYEARS**ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [n=1,790]:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION AND ROTATION IN DATA FILE]**

Thinking about the future of the United States, do you think the country's best years are ahead of us or behind us?

	<u>Ahead of us</u>	<u>Behind us</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Dec 8-14, 2025	40	59	1

QUESTION ASKED IN PREVIOUS YEARS:

	<u>Ahead of us</u>	<u>Behind us</u>	<u>No answer</u>
<i>Gallup</i> Jun 18-24, 2018 ¹	55	41	4
Feb 12-26, 2014 ²	44	49	7
<i>Gallup</i> Dec 14-17, 2012 ³	47	50	3

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE OR PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3,4) OR MISSING [n=1,580]:

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>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
27	26	30	15	2	19	22

¹ In June 2018 and December 2012, Gallup asked "When you think about the future of the United States, which do you agree with more: the country's best years are ahead of us or the country's best years are behind us?"

² The 2014 survey was conducted via telephone (landline and cellphone). Due to the [difference in modes](#), results may not be directly comparable to those of the 2025 survey, which was conducted online.

³ See footnote 1.

⁴ PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.