

**2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 196 POLITICS JULY SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
July 6-12, 2026
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:

DTHPNLTY

Do you favor or oppose the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

	NET	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	NET	<i>Strongly</i>	<i>Somewhat</i>	No
	<u>favor</u>	<u>favor</u>	<u>favor</u>	<u>oppose</u>	<u>oppose</u>	<u>oppose</u>	<u>answer</u>
Jul 6-12, 2026	66	30	36	32	13	20	2
Apr 5-11, 2021	60	27	32	39	15	24	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	65	30	35	34	14	20	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	62	30	32	36	15	21	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	65	32	33	34	19	15	1

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.)
	<i>Strongly</i>			<i>Strongly</i>			DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
July 23-Aug 4, 2020	52	20	31	44	19	25	5
Jan 8-13, 2020	53	28	25	42	19	24	5
Sep 5-16, 2019	55	27	28	40	16	24	5
Apr 25-May 1, 2018	54	23	30	39	13	26	7
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	49	21	27	42	14	28	9
Mar 25-29, 2015	56	23	34	38	13	24	6
Nov 9-14, 2011	62	28	34	31	11	20	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 ¹	58	--	--	36	--	--	6
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	62	30	32	30	10	20	8
August, 2007	62	29	33	32	11	21	6
Early January, 2007	64	30	34	29	11	18	7
March, 2006	65	27	38	27	8	19	8
December, 2005	62	--	--	30	--	--	8
Mid-July, 2003	64	28	36	30	10	20	6
March, 2002	67	33	34	26	9	17	7
March, 2001	66	30	36	27	10	17	7
September, 1999	74	41	33	22	7	15	4
June, 1996	78	43	35	18	7	11	4

¹ In all surveys October 2011 and before, the question was asked as part of a list, except in November-December 2005.

ASK ALL; SHOW INTRO TEXT AND DTHPNLTYA-DTHPNLTYP ON SAME SCREEN USING VISUAL DIVIDER BETWEEN EACH VARIABLE:

Next are a few pairs of statements about the death penalty in the U.S. Please choose the statement that comes closer to your own views – even if neither is exactly right. **[RANDOMIZE THE ORDER OF PAIRS AND RANDOMIZE STATEMENTS WITHIN PAIRS].**

[Please select one item from each pair]

ASK ALL:

DTHPNLTYA

	The death penalty deters people from committing <u>serious crimes</u>	The death penalty does NOT deter people from committing <u>serious crimes</u>	No answer	
Jul 6-12, 2026	39	59	2	
Apr 5-11, 2021	35	63	2	
Jan 6-19, 2020	36	62	2	
				(VOL.)
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>				<u>Depends</u>
Jan 8-13, 2020	38	59	1	2
Mar 25-29, 2015	35	61	1	3

ASK ALL:

DTHPNLTYP

	When someone commits a crime like murder, the death penalty is <u>morally justified</u>	The death penalty is morally wrong, even when someone commits a crime like murder	No answer	
Jul 6-12, 2026	68	28	3	
Apr 5-11, 2021	64	33	3	
Jan 6-19, 2020	66	31	3	
				(VOL.)
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>				<u>Depends</u>
Jan 8-13, 2020	61	32	3	3
Mar 25-29, 2015	63	31	3	3

ASK ALL:

DTHPNLTYPMOD

	Black people are more likely than White people to be sentenced to the death penalty for committing <u>similar crimes</u>	White people and Black people are equally likely to be sentenced to the death penalty for committing <u>similar crimes</u>	No answer
Jul 6-12, 2026	49	48	3
Apr 5-11, 2021	56	41	3

ASK ALL:

DTHPNLTYD

	There is some risk that an innocent person will <u>be put to death</u>	There are adequate safeguards to ensure that no innocent person will <u>be put to death</u>	No answer	
Jul 6-12, 2026	73	25	2	
Apr 5-11, 2021	78	21	2	
Jan 6-19, 2020	79	19	1	
				(VOL.) (VOL.)
<i>Phone trend for comparison:</i>			<u>Depends</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 8-13, 2020	70	27	1	2
Mar 25-29, 2015	71	26	*	2

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						
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	Something <u>else</u>	No <u>answer*</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Rep</u>	<i>Lean</i> <u>Dem</u>
	26	28	29	14	2	17	20

² PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.