

**2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 190: Press Freedom Knowledge
March 23-29, 2026**

**TOPLINE
N=3,507**

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.

"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.

PN = Programming note

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	3,507	+/- 1.9 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	1,858	+/- 2.8 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	1,504	+/- 2.7 percentage points

TXT:**DISPLAY TO ALL:**

The next few questions are a little different. For each, please answer them as best as you can. We want to measure what you already know. Please do not look up or ask someone for the answers. If you don't know the answer, you can select "Not sure."

KNOW_FA1**ASK ALL:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4, HOLDING 5 LAST]

Which of the following is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution?

Mar 23-29,

2026

- | | |
|----|---|
| 9 | The right to bear arms |
| 1 | Freedom to own property |
| 26 | The right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness |
| 51 | Freedom of the press {correct} |
| 12 | Not sure |
| * | No answer |

KNOW_FA2**ASK ALL:**

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]

Which of the following is true in the U.S.?

Mar 23-29,

2026

- | | |
|----|---|
| 60 | It is legal for social media companies to restrict content posted on their sites or apps {correct} |
| 13 | It is <u>not</u> legal for social media companies to restrict content posted on their sites or apps |
| 27 | Not sure |
| * | No answer |

KNOW_FA3**ASK ALL:**

Can the U.S. government legally force social media companies to remove false information posted on their sites?

Mar 23-29,

2026

- | | |
|----|--------------|
| 25 | Yes |
| 37 | No {correct} |
| 37 | Not sure |
| 1 | No answer |

KNOW_FA4**ASK ALL:**

[PN: DISABLE THE "BACK" BUTTON ON THIS SCREEN. RESPONDENTS SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BACK UP TO THE PREVIOUS SCREEN.]

As you may know, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of the press.

As far as you know, does the U.S. Constitution ...

		Yes {correct for GOV}	No {correct for PRIV}	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
GOV	Protect the press from interference by the U.S. government Mar 23-29, 2026	58	14	27	1
PRIV	Protect the press from interference by private companies Mar 23-29, 2026	29	33	37	1

KNOW_FA5**ASK ALL:**

[PN: DISABLE THE "BACK" BUTTON ON THIS SCREEN. RESPONDENTS SHOULD NOT BE ABLE TO BACK UP TO THE PREVIOUS SCREEN.]

Is each of the following protected by the First Amendment?

		Yes {correct}	No	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
NEWS	Information or opinions published by a news organization Mar 23-29, 2026	70	7	22	1
INFL	Information or opinions expressed by influencers or creators Mar 23-29, 2026	64	10	25	1
ORD	Information or opinions expressed by ordinary people Mar 23-29, 2026	71	8	19	1

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY_FINAL=3 or 4 OR REFUSED):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...¹

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	Something <u>Else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
28	27	30	14	2	18	21

¹ PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.

**2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 195: Press Freedom
June 22-28, 2026**

**TOPLINE
N=3,488**

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.

"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 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.

PN = Programming note

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	3,488	+/- 1.8 percentage points
Form 1	1,751	+/- 2.6 percentage points
Form 2	1,737	+/- 2.6 percentage points

[ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR RELEASE]**POLFREE****ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1, HOLDING 6 LAST]**

In the U.S., how free do you think people who share your political views are to openly express those views?

Jun 22-28,

2026

11	Extremely free
25	Very free
34	Somewhat free
13	A little free
8	Not at all free
9	Not sure
*	No answer

NEWSOCIETY**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

Overall, how important do you think the freedom of the press is to the well-being of society?

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>A little important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jun 22-28, 2026	43	30	18	6	2	1
Feb 24-Mar 2, 2025	47	31	17	4	2	1
Apr 1-7, 2024	44	29	18	6	2	1

FREEDOM**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

In the U.S....

		<u>Completely free</u>	<u>Somewhat free</u>	<u>Not very free</u>	<u>Not at all free</u>	<u>No answer</u>
PRESS	How free is the media to report the news?					
	Jun 22-28, 2026	28	48	17	5	1
	Feb 24-Mar 2, 2025	33	46	16	4	1
	Apr 1-7, 2024	33	46	16	5	*
SAY	How free are people to say what they want?					
	Jun 22-28, 2026	28	53	15	3	*
	Feb 24-Mar 2, 2025	32	54	12	2	*
	Apr 1-7, 2024	28	53	15	4	*
INTERNET	How free are people to use the internet					
	Jun 22-28, 2026	54	37	6	2	*
	Feb 24-Mar 2, 2025	54	38	5	2	1
	Apr 1-7, 2024	40	48	9	3	*

NEWSRESTRICTBAT**ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,737] :****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

How concerned are you, if at all, about potential restrictions on each of the following in the United States?

		<u>Extremely concerned</u>	<u>Very concerned</u>	<u>Somewhat concerned</u>	<u>A little concerned</u>	<u>Not at all concerned</u>	<u>No answer</u>
REL	Freedom of religion Jun 22-28, 2026	23	15	22	15	24	1
PRESS	Freedom of the press Jun 22-28, 2026						
	ASK ALL [N=3,488] ¹	27	20	24	14	15	1
	Feb 24-Mar 2, 2025	22	21	26	15	14	1
	Apr 1-7, 2024	19	22	29	17	11	1
ARMS	The right to bear arms Jun 22-28, 2026	22	15	21	14	27	1
VOTE	The right to vote Jun 22-28, 2026	30	16	18	11	24	1
ASSEM	Freedom for people to assemble peacefully Jun 22-28, 2026	28	19	23	12	17	1
SPEECH	Freedom of speech Jun 22-28, 2026	30	19	23	14	13	1

PRESSFREE**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1]**

Which of these statements comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

Jun 22-28,
2026

45	It is more important for the press to be free to report the news, even if some reporting is inaccurate
53	It is more important to prevent inaccurate reporting, even if it limits freedom of the press
2	No answer

¹ In surveys conducted in 2025 and earlier, NEWSRESTRICT was asked as a standalone question. In this survey, respondents on Form 1 received the standalone version (NEWSRESTRICT), while respondents on Form 2 received the item as part of a battery (NEWSRESTRICTBAT_PRESS). As there were no substantive differences between the two versions, the responses were combined.

PFNEWS**ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=1,751] :****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

Do you think the U.S. government should be able to require a news organization to take down a news story if it...

		Yes, the U.S. government should be able to do <u>this</u>	No, the U.S. government should not be able to do <u>this</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
FALSE	Contains false information Jun 22-28, 2026	51	33	16	*
POL	Clearly favors one political side Jun 22-28, 2026	14	72	14	*
CRITIC	Is critical of the government Jun 22-28, 2026	10	77	13	*
NATSEC	Poses a risk to national security Jun 22-28, 2026	60	23	18	*

PFPOST**ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,737] :****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

Do you think a U.S. social media company should be able to take down someone's post if it...

		Yes, a U.S. social media company should be able to do <u>this</u>	No, a U.S. social media company should not be able to do <u>this</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
FALSE	Contains false information Jun 22-28, 2026	53	29	17	1
POL	Clearly favors one political side Jun 22-28, 2026	11	75	14	*
CRITIC	Is critical of the government Jun 22-28, 2026	15	71	14	1
NATSEC	Poses a risk to national security Jun 22-28, 2026	67	18	15	1

PFFALSE**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1, HOLDING 6 LAST]**

If a U.S. news organization publishes false information, when, if ever, do you think...

		In all or almost <u>all cases</u>	In most <u>cases</u>	In some <u>cases</u>	In few <u>cases</u>	In no or almost <u>no cases</u>	Not sure	No <u>answer</u>
CORRECT	The news organization should issue a public correction Jun 22-28, 2026	68	13	7	3	2	6	*
FIRE	The news organization should fire the journalist who reported the story Jun 22-28, 2026	16	14	33	15	8	13	*
FINE	The U.S. government should fine the news organization Jun 22-28, 2026	19	13	23	12	20	13	*
REMOVE	The U.S. government should require the news organization to take down the story Jun 22-28, 2026	29	15	17	10	18	11	*

PFGOVT**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1, HOLDING 6 LAST]**How often, if ever, is it acceptable for the U.S. government to...

		Always <u>acceptable</u>	Usually <u>acceptable</u>	Sometimes <u>acceptable</u>	Rarely <u>acceptable</u>	Never <u>acceptable</u>	Not sure	No <u>answer</u>
SOURCE	Force journalists to reveal the identity of unnamed government sources Jun 22-28, 2026	5	6	18	21	35	15	*
LICENSE	Take away a news organization's license to broadcast Jun 22-28, 2026	4	4	22	28	27	15	*
ACCESS	Give journalists access to public officials in exchange for positive coverage Jun 22-28, 2026	4	7	13	12	49	15	*

PFNEWSORG**ASK ALL:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 IN SAME ORDER AS PFGOVT, HOLDING 6 LAST]

How often, if ever, is it acceptable for U.S. news organizations to...

		<u>Always acceptable</u>	<u>Usually acceptable</u>	<u>Sometimes acceptable</u>	<u>Rarely acceptable</u>	<u>Never acceptable</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
ANON	Keep a source's identity secret							
	Jun 22-28, 2026	27	29	23	6	4	10	1
LEAK	Publish confidential information from government sources							
	Jun 22-28, 2026	9	12	26	19	23	11	1
ARR	Record police or other law enforcement officers making an arrest in public							
	Jun 22-28, 2026	42	22	18	5	4	8	1
MED	Publish information about a politician's personal life							
	Jun 22-28, 2026	12	18	33	15	12	9	1
MIL	Publish classified details about military operations during an active conflict							
	Jun 22-28, 2026	5	4	15	19	47	10	1

[PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF NEWSCORP/NEWSCORPINFL AND NEWSGOVT/NEWSGOVTINFL]

NEWSCORP**ASK ALL:**

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1, HOLDING 5 LAST]

How much, if at all, do you think that U.S. news organizations are influenced by corporations and financial interests?

	<u>A great deal</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	<u>Not very much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jun 22-28, 2026	54	29	5	1	10	*
Feb 24-Mar 2, 2025	55	30	6	1	8	1
Apr 1-7, 2024	51	33	6	1	9	1

NEWSCORPINFL**ASK ALL:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 IN SAME ORDER AS NEWSCORP, HOLDING 5 LAST]

How much do you think corporate and financial interests influence...

		A great <u>deal</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	Not very <u>much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
ACC	The accuracy of the news Jun 22-28, 2026	39	37	10	3	11	1
STORY	Which news stories get covered Jun 22-28, 2026	49	32	6	2	10	*
BAL	The balance of political perspectives in the news Jun 22-28, 2026	47	33	8	2	10	1

NEWSGOVT**ASK ALL:**

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 IN SAME ORDER AS NEWSCORP, HOLDING 5 LAST]

How much, if at all, do you think that U.S. news organizations are influenced by government and political interests?

	A great <u>deal</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	Not very <u>much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jun 22-28, 2026	49	34	6	2	9	*
Feb 24-Mar 2, 2025	57	29	5	1	7	1
Apr 1-7, 2024	49	34	7	1	9	1

NEWSGOVTINFL**ASK ALL:**

[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS NEWSCORPINFL; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 IN SAME ORDER AS NEWSCORP, HOLDING 5 LAST]

How much do you think government and political interests influence...

		A great <u>deal</u>	<u>Somewhat</u>	Not very <u>much</u>	<u>Not at all</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
ACC	The accuracy of the news Jun 22-28, 2026	38	38	10	4	9	*
STORY	Which news stories get covered Jun 22-28, 2026	47	34	7	2	9	1
BAL	The balance of political perspectives in the news Jun 22-28, 2026	44	34	8	3	10	*

PFWNERCORP**ASK IF FORM 1 (X_FORM=1) [N=1,751] :****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1, HOLDING 5 LAST]**

How acceptable or unacceptable do you think it is for the owner of a U.S. news organization to stop it from publishing a story because it goes against the owner's business interests?

Jun 22-28,

2026

6	Completely acceptable
11	Somewhat acceptable
20	Somewhat unacceptable
49	Completely unacceptable
14	Not sure
*	No answer

PFWNERPOL**ASK IF FORM 2 (X_FORM=2) [N=1,737] :****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 HOLDING 5 LAST]**

How acceptable or unacceptable do you think it is for the owner of a U.S. news organization to stop it from publishing a story because it goes against the owner's political interests?

Jun 22-28,

2026

4	Completely acceptable
9	Somewhat acceptable
17	Somewhat unacceptable
58	Completely unacceptable
11	Not sure
*	No answer

[ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR RELEASE]**NEWSPOW****ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 LAST]**

How much power and influence in politics today do U.S. news organizations have?

Jun 22-28,

2026

55	Too much power and influence
14	Not enough power and influence
29	About the right amount
3	No answer

NEWSCENSOR**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1 HOLDING 6 LAST]**

How often, if ever, do you think each of the following intentionally keeps important news from reaching the American public?

		Extremely <u>often</u>	<u>Often</u>	<u>Sometimes</u>	<u>Rarely</u>	<u>Never</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
SM	Social media companies Jun 22-28, 2026	20	26	31	10	3	11	1
NEWS	News organizations Jun 22-28, 2026	21	25	33	9	2	10	1
JOUR	Individual journalists Jun 22-28, 2026	11	17	37	20	3	11	1
GOVT	The U.S. government Jun 22-28, 2026	30	29	25	5	2	9	1

PFCRITIC**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1 HOLDING 5 LAST]**

How acceptable or unacceptable do you think it is for...

		Completely <u>acceptable</u>	Somewhat <u>acceptable</u>	Somewhat <u>unacceptable</u>	Completely <u>unacceptable</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
POL	Politicians to publicly criticize news organizations and journalists Jun 22-28, 2026	25	31	20	14	10	1
JOUR	News organizations and journalists to publicly criticize politicians Jun 22-28, 2026	39	29	14	9	9	1

MEDIA_ADMIN25**ASK ALL:****[PN: RANDOMIZE INSERT SHOWN IN PARENS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

Do you think that [**PN: RANDOMIZE INSERT** "the Trump administration and the U.S. news media"; "the U.S. news media and the Trump administration"] currently have a...

	<u>Very good relationship</u>	<u>Somewhat good relationship</u>	<u>Neutral relationship</u>	<u>Somewhat bad relationship</u>	<u>Very bad relationship</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jun 22-28, 2026	3	8	17	36	34	1
Feb 24-Mar 2, 2025	2	9	22	42	22	3

PFADMIN1**ASK ALL:**

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3, 4 LAST]

During this Trump administration, would you say...

Jun 22-28,

2026

- | | |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 12 | The press has become more free |
| 44 | The press has become less free |
| 26 | There has been no change |
| 17 | Not sure |
| * | No answer |

PFADMIN2**ASK IF THINKS PRESS IS MORE FREE (PFADMIN1=1) [N=389]:**

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3, 4 LAST]

And, do you think the press becoming more free is...

Jun 22-28,

2026

- | | |
|----|--|
| 49 | A good thing for the country |
| 23 | A bad thing for the country |
| 19 | Neither a good nor bad thing for the country |
| 9 | Not sure |
| * | No answer |

ASK IF THINKS PRESS IS LESS FREE (PFADMIN1=2) [N=1,674]:

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3, 4 LAST]

And, do you think the press becoming less free is...

Jun 22-28,

2026

- | | |
|----|--|
| 2 | A good thing for the country |
| 92 | A bad thing for the country |
| 4 | Neither a good nor bad thing for the country |
| 2 | Not sure |
| 1 | No answer |

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY_FINAL=3 or 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>	<u>No answer</u>	<i>Lean Rep</i>	<i>Lean Dem</i>
28	28	29	13	2	17	21

² PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.