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Broad Public Confidence in Elections in the U.S. – but Partisans Differ Over Concerns About Access, Security

Share of voters planning to vote by mail is lower than in recent years, particularly among Democratic voters

BY *Hannah Hartig and Ted Van Green*

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About this research

This Pew Research Center analysis examines Americans' views of voting and their expectations around the 2026 midterm elections.

Why did we do this?

Pew Research Center conducts research to help the public, media and decision-makers understand important topics. We have studied Americans' views of politics and major policy issues for decades.

Learn more about Pew Research Center.

How did we do this?

We surveyed 5,062 U.S. adults, including 3,917 registered voters, from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, 2026. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel. The survey represents the views of the full U.S. adult population.

Here are the survey questions used for this analysis, the detailed responses and the survey methodology.

Broad Public Confidence in Elections in the U.S. – but Partisans Differ Over Concerns About Access, Security

Share of voters planning to vote by mail is lower than in recent years, particularly among Democratic voters

By Hannah Hartig and Ted Van Green

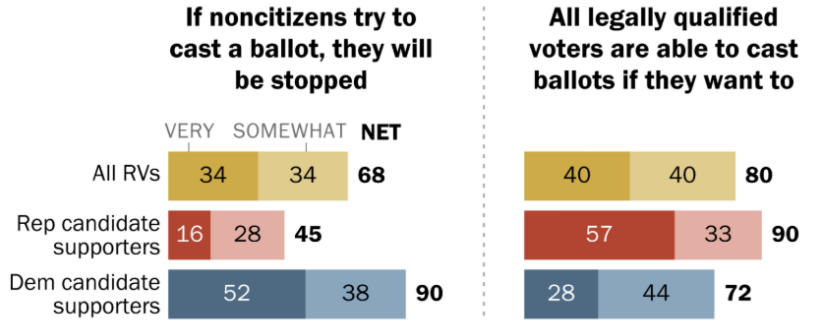
American voters generally expect the upcoming midterm elections across the country to be run and administered well, have confidence that election workers will handle ballots securely, and say the outcome will be clear after all the ballots are counted.

These views are shared by similar majorities of voters who back both Republican and Democratic candidates for Congress this year.

But there continue to be wide partisan differences in perceptions of both how secure elections are against noncitizens casting ballots and whether eligible citizens who want to vote are able to do so:

Democratic supporters are more confident than GOP backers that noncitizens are not able to vote

*% of registered voters who are **very/somewhat confident** that …*



Note: Based on registered voters.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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A new Pew Research Center survey conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, 2026, among 5,062 adults, including 3,917 registered voters, finds that about two-thirds of voters are at least somewhat confident that anyone ineligible to vote will be prevented from casting a ballot. But there is a wide partisan gap in these views:

- 90% of those who back Democratic candidates for the House of Representatives in this year's elections are confident that if noncitizens try to vote they will be stopped.
- A far smaller share of Republican candidate backers – 45% – are confident that noncitizens will be prevented from casting ballots.

- Still, Republican voters express a higher level of confidence that noncitizens will be stopped from voting than President Donald Trump's voters did in 2024 (35% then).

The partisan gap is reversed – and not as wide – when it comes to confidence that all legally qualified voters who want to vote can do so:

- 90% of Republican voters are at least somewhat confident in this.
- A narrower majority of Democratic voters (72%) express confidence that all qualified voters will be able to vote if they want to.

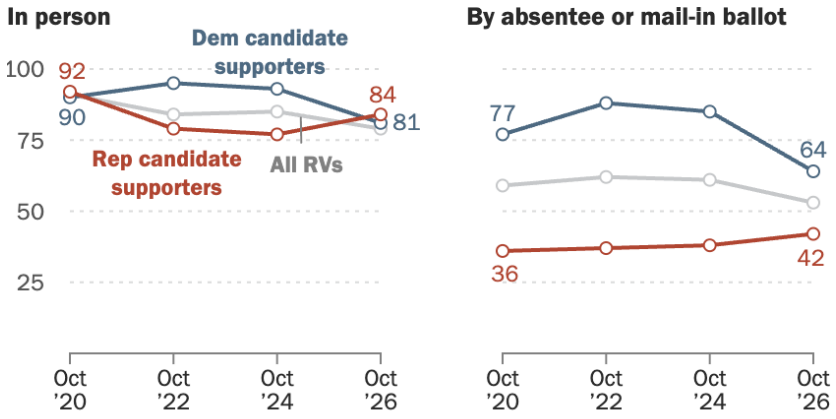
The survey finds **broad bipartisan confidence that votes cast in person will be counted as voters intend.**

In contrast, there is considerably less public confidence that absentee and mail-in ballots will be counted as intended.

Note: This survey was conducted prior to the Justice Department suing California on Oct. 15 to stop the state from counting ballots mailed to individuals who the Trump administration alleges are noncitizens.

Widespread confidence that in-person ballots will be counted accurately, but public confidence in count of mail ballots is lower, down among Democratic voters

*% of registered voters who are **very/somewhat confident** that votes cast ___ across the U.S. will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November*



Note: Based on registered voters.
Source: Survey of U.S. voters conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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Democratic voters are more confident than Republican voters that mail-in ballots will be counted as voters intend – but Democratic voters' confidence in an accurate count of mail ballots is considerably lower than it has been in recent elections:

- 64% of Democratic voters say they are confident mail and absentee votes will be counted as voters intend – down from 88% in the 2022 midterm elections and 85% among Kamala Harris' voters in the 2024 presidential election.
- 42% of GOP voters say they are confident mail and absentee votes will be counted as intended – modestly higher than in past recent elections.

While majorities across the political spectrum say they expect the elections to be run well this year, Republican backers and Democratic backers diverge when asked in an open-ended question what – if any – concerns they have about the elections:

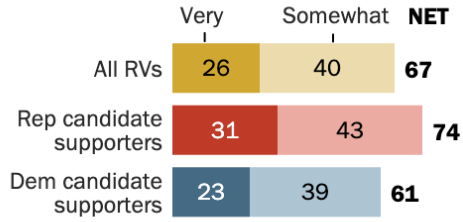
- 19% of Republican voters mention concerns about illegitimate voters casting ballots, or fraudulent votes.
- In contrast, Democratic voters are more likely to raise concerns about legitimate voters being denied access (10%) or interference with election administration by the Trump administration (11%).

Two-thirds of voters are confident that people who attempt to intimidate voters at polling places will be stopped, though supporters of Republican candidates for Congress are more confident about this than those who back Democrats.

Still, majorities in both groups (74% of GOP voters and 61% of Democratic voters) say they are at least somewhat confident that if people try to threaten or intimidate voters at polling places, they will be stopped. Confidence that intimidation will not be allowed is lower among liberal backers of Democratic candidates (56%) than among more moderate Democratic voters (68%).

Voters are generally confident that attempts to intimidate voters at polling places will be stopped

% of registered voters who say they are ___ confident that people who try to intimidate or threaten voters at polling places will be stopped



Note: Based on registered voters.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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Smaller share of voters plan to vote by mail as both in-person and drop-box use rise

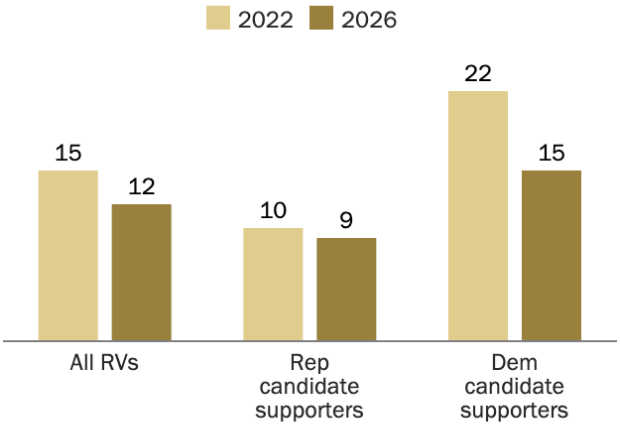
In recent elections, supporters of Democratic congressional candidates have been considerably more likely than Republican candidate backers to report voting by mail or absentee ballot. That continues to be the case today: Overall, 34% of Democratic voters plan to vote by mail or absentee ballot, compared with 17% of GOP voters.

But the share of Democratic voters who plan to vote this way has declined from recent elections – and specifically the share of Democratic voters who plan to return a ballot via the U.S. Postal Service.

This year, 15% of Democratic voters say they plan to vote, or have already voted, by returning a ballot through the mail. This is down from 22% four years ago and 21% in 2024.

Smaller share of Democratic voters are planning to return ballots by USPS mail this year

% of registered voters who say they plan to, or have already, returned their absentee ballot ***by mail***



Note: Based on registered voters. See appendix for full distribution of absentee return methods.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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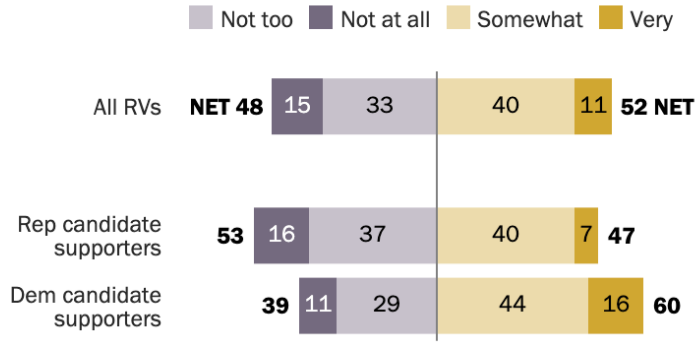
Other key findings:

Roughly half of voters are confident that U.S. election systems are free from hacking and other technological threats. This is little different overall than in recent elections. Republican voters are more confident election systems are secure today than they were in 2024 (47% today vs. 32% two years ago), while the reverse is true for Democratic voters (60% today vs. 73% in 2024).

Roughly half of voters are confident that U.S. election systems are free from hacking

% of registered voters who are ___ confident that election systems in the U.S. are free from hacking and other technological threats



Note: Based on registered voters. No answer responses are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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Mail and absentee voters are much more confident in mail voting than voters who plan to cast a ballot in person. Roughly three-quarters of mail and absentee voters (76%) are confident votes cast this way will be counted as voters intend. By comparison, about half of in-person voters (47%) are confident this will happen.

Most voters are confident Americans will know who won the election within a day or two of Election Day. This includes seven-in-ten Democratic voters (70%) and a narrower majority of Republican voters (61%).

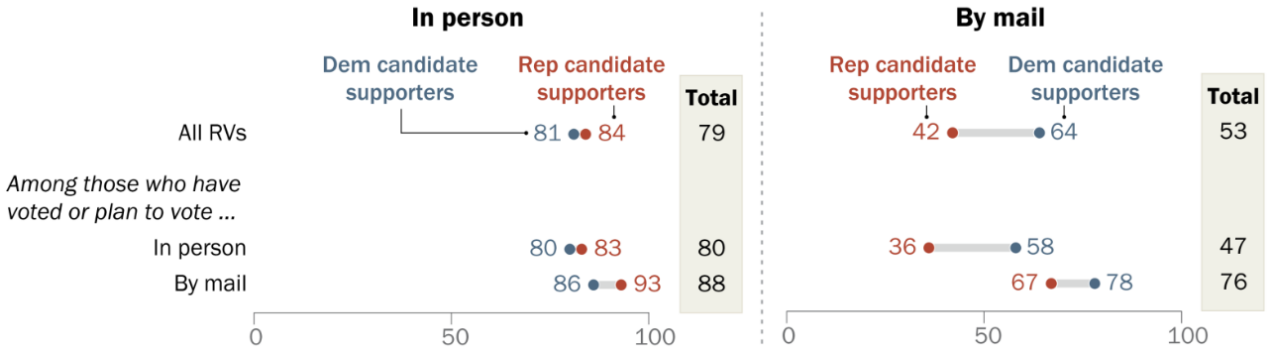
There are relatively modest racial and ethnic differences in voters' confidence that all legally qualified voters will be able to cast ballots or that ineligible voters will be prevented from voting. *Refer to the appendix for additional data by race and ethnicity.*

How U.S. Voters View Mail and Absentee Balloting

While most registered voters across the country expect to cast their ballots in person this year, a quarter expect to vote by mail or absentee ballot (or have already done so). As in past election years, **most of those who cast their ballots by mail or vote absentee express confidence in how mail and absentee balloting works**. These voters are substantially more confident about this than voters who cast their ballots in person – a pattern that holds among voters who support both Republican and Democratic congressional candidates for the House of Representatives.

High confidence in vote-by-mail among voters who cast their ballots this way

*% of registered voters who say they are **very/somewhat confident** that votes cast ___ will be counted as voters intended*



Note: Based on registered voters. Voting method categories include those who plan to vote or say they have already voted.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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- 67% of voters who support the Republican House candidate in their district and plan to vote by mail, or already have, say they are confident that mail votes will be counted as intended.
- About half as many Republican candidate supporters who plan to vote in person (36%) say they are confident that mail ballots will be counted accurately.
- 78% of people who support their Democratic House candidate and have already voted by mail, or plan to, say they are confident that mail in votes will be counted as voters intend.
- A smaller majority (58%) of in-person Democratic voters say the same thing.

This is part of a larger Pew Research Center report on Americans views of election processes heading into the 2026 midterms, based on a survey of 5,062 adults, including 3,917 registered voters, conducted Sept. 28–Oct. 4, 2026. The survey was conducted prior to the Justice Department suing California on Oct. 15 to stop the state from counting the mail ballots of individuals who the Trump administration alleges are noncitizens.

Majorities are confident that mail ballots will arrive, and be returned, in time to be counted

An overwhelming majority of voters say that it is important that mail ballots be delivered with enough time to return them, and that it is important that the U.S. Postal Service return those ballots to election offices in time to be counted.

And most voters also express confidence that both of these things will happen.

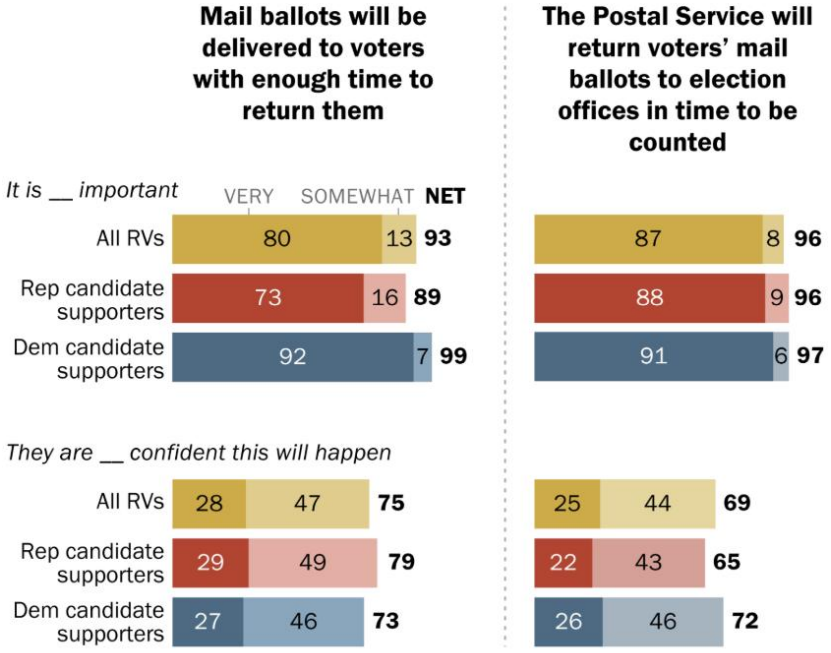
Three-quarters of voters say they are very (28%) or somewhat (47%) confident that mail ballots will be delivered with enough time to return them.

Republican candidate supporters are somewhat more likely than Democratic candidate supporters to say this (79% vs. 73%).

About seven-in-ten voters (69%) say they are confident that the Postal Service will return ballots in time to be counted, though Democratic voters are modestly more confident in this than Republican voters (72% vs. 65%).

Voters are mostly confident ballots will be delivered in time to be counted

% of registered voters who say ...



Note: Based on registered voters.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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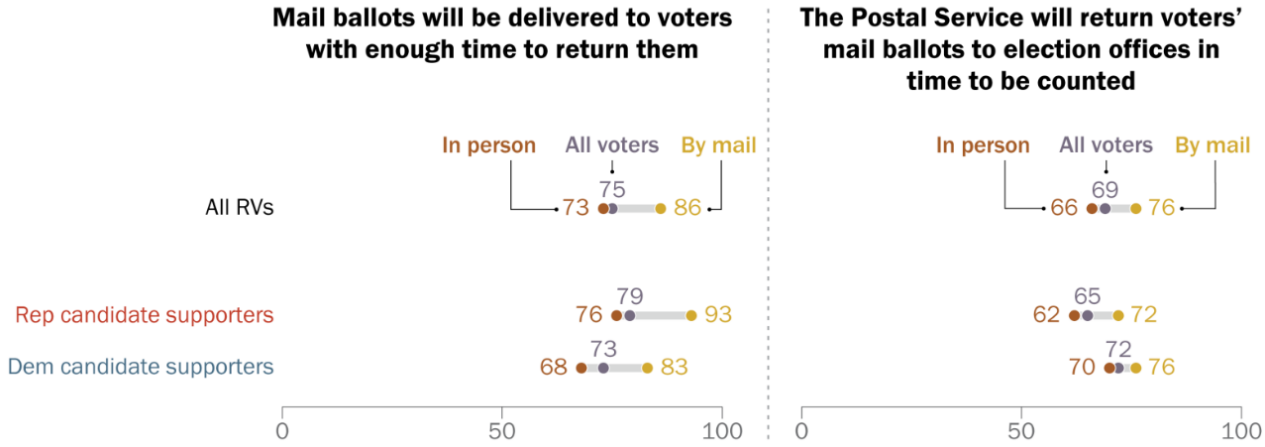
Compared with in-person voters, voters who plan to vote by mail or absentee ballot – regardless of which party they plan to support in their district's House race this year – say they are more confident that mail ballots will be delivered in time to return them and that they will be returned in time to be counted.

Mail voters are more likely than in-person voters to say the Postal Service will deliver ballots quickly enough to count

*% of registered voters who say they are **very/somewhat confident** ...*



Note: Based on registered voters. Voting method categories include those who plan to vote or say they have already voted.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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Mail-in ballots will be delivered with enough time to return them:

- 93% of Republican candidate supporters who plan to vote by mail are confident in this, compared with 76% of Republican voters who plan to vote in person.
- 83% of Democratic candidate supporters who plan to vote by mail are confident this will happen, compared with a smaller majority of Democratic voters who plan to vote in person (68%).

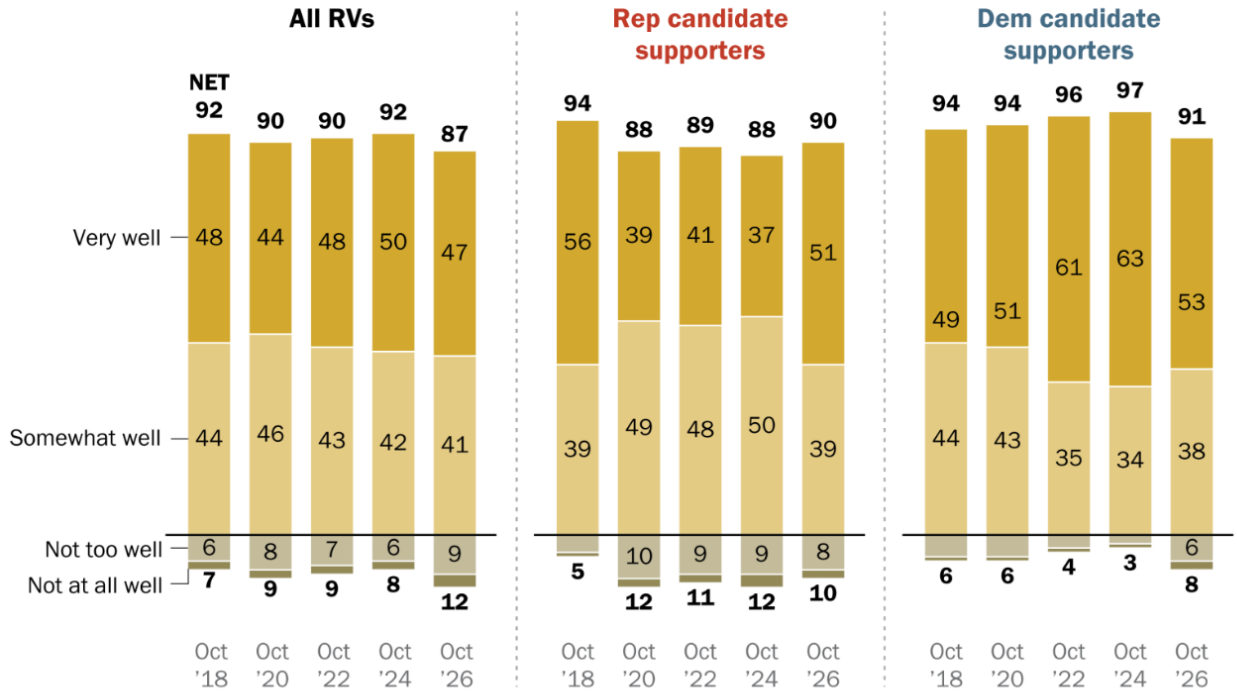
The Postal Service will return ballots to election offices in time to be counted:

- 72% of Republican candidate supporters who plan to vote by mail are confident the Postal Service will return their ballots to election centers in time to be counted.
- 62% of Republican voters who plan to vote in person say the same.
- Among Democratic candidate supporters, mail and absentee voters are somewhat more likely than in-person voters to have confidence mail ballots will be returned in time (76% vs 70%).

Additional charts

Most voters expect elections in their community will be well-run

% of registered voters who say they think elections this November in their community will be run and administered ...



Note: Based on registered voters. No answer responses are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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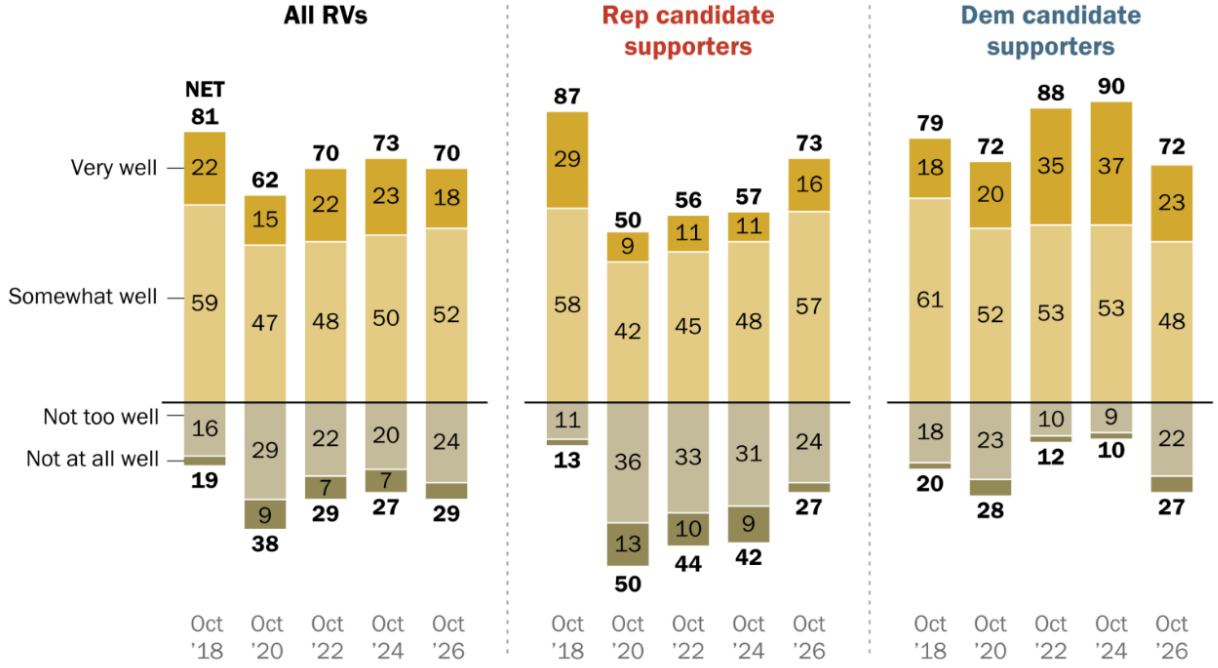
GOP supporters' expectations that U.S. elections will be well-run are higher now than in recent elections

% of registered voters who say they think elections this November in the U.S. will be run and administered ...



Note: Based on registered voters. No answer responses are not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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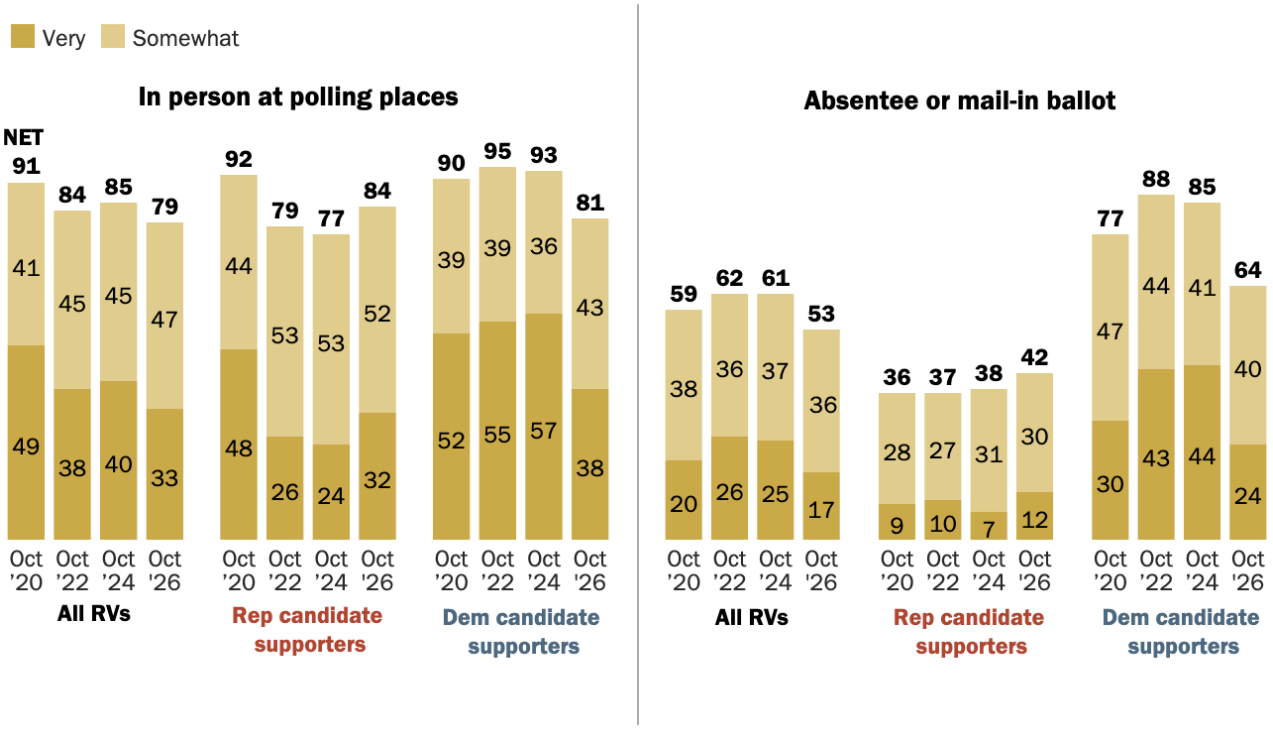
While Democratic voters' confidence in counts of mail ballots is down from recent elections, they remain more confident than Republican voters

% of registered voters who say they are ___ confident that votes cast across the U.S. by each method will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November



Note: Based on registered voters.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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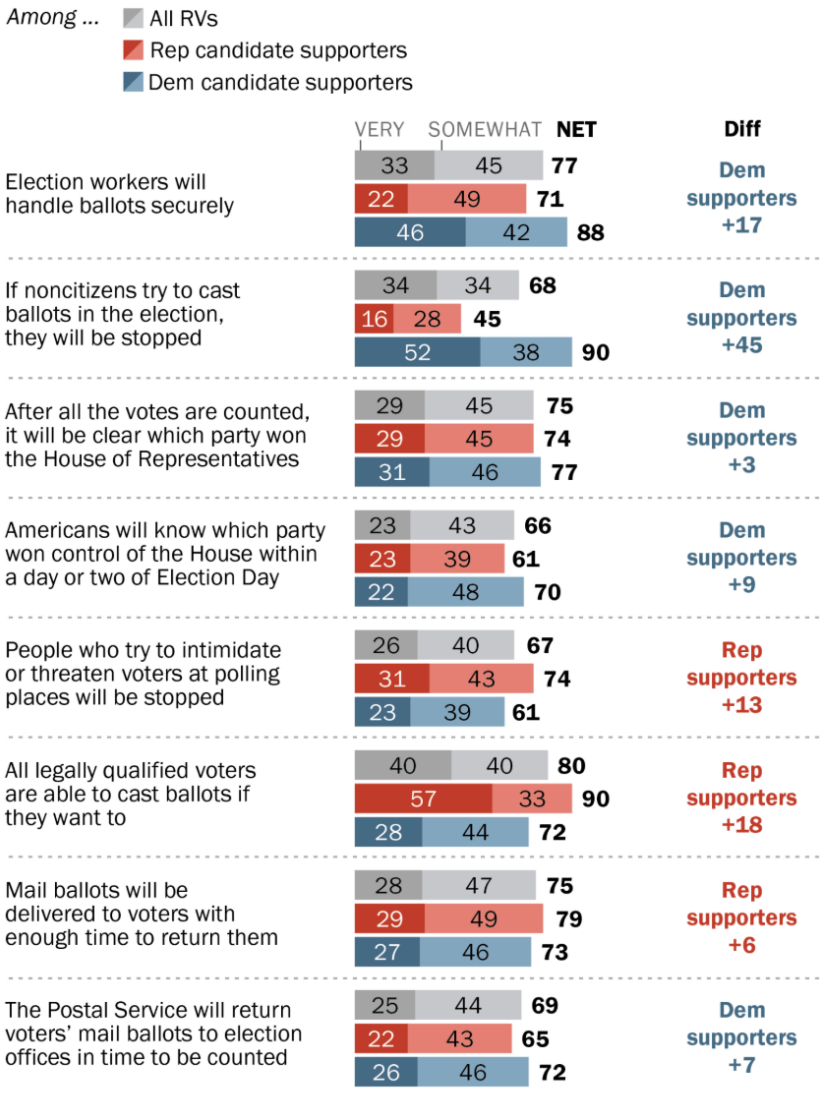
Voters' confidence in aspects of election administration

% who say they are ___ confident that each of the following will happen



Note: Based on registered voters.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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Views of voting access and integrity by race and ethnicity

*% of registered voters who are **very/somewhat confident** ...*

	If noncitizens try to cast ballots in the elections, they will be stopped			All legally qualified voters are able to cast ballots if they want to			People who try to intimidate or threaten voters at polling places will be stopped		
	Total	Rep candidate supporters	Dem candidate supporters	Total	Rep candidate supporters	Dem candidate supporters	Total	Rep candidate supporters	Dem candidate supporters
All RVs	68	45	90	80	90	72	67	74	61
White	64	44	93	81	92	70	68	75	62
Hispanic	73	52	85	79	—	74	63	—	57
Black	80	—	87	73	—	78	64	—	65
Asian*	76	—	89	79	—	—	69	—	—

* Estimates for Asian adults are representative of English speakers only.
Note: Based on registered voters. White, Hispanic and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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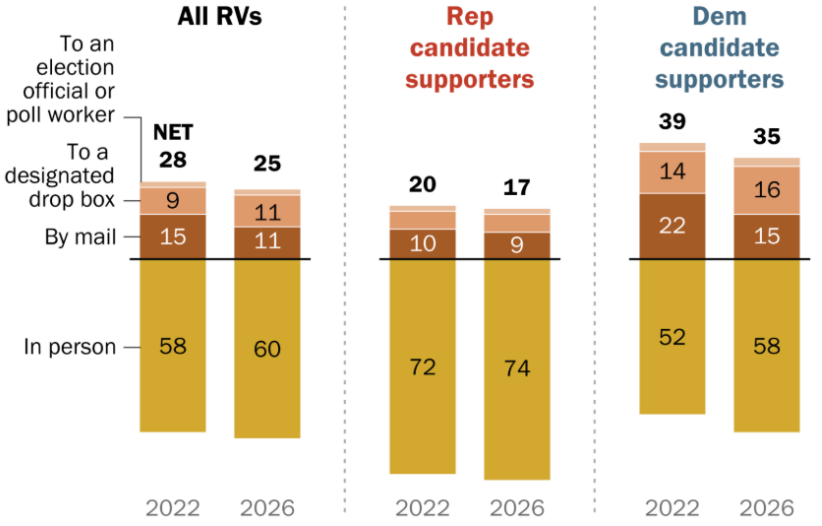
Democratic voters are less likely to say they plan to vote by mail now than in 2022

% of registered voters who plan to cast or already cast their vote ...



Note: Based on registered voters. No answer responses and those who say they don't plan to vote or are not sure how they plan to vote not shown. Categories combine those who plan to vote and those who say they already voted.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Sept. 28-Oct. 4, 2026.

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Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

Data in this report comes from Wave 200 of the American Trends Panel (ATP), Pew Research Center's nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. The survey was conducted from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, 2026. A total of 5,062 panelists responded out of 5,835 who were sampled, for a survey-level response rate of 87%.

The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 5,062 respondents is plus or minus 1.6 percentage points.

The survey includes oversamples of Hispanic adults, non-Hispanic Asian adults and 18- to 29-year-olds in order to provide more precise estimates of the opinions and experiences of these smaller demographic subgroups. These oversampled groups are weighted back to reflect their correct proportions in the population.

SSRS conducted the survey for Pew Research Center via online (n=4,874) and live telephone (n=188) interviewing. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish.

To learn more about the ATP, read "About the American Trends Panel."

Panel recruitment

Since 2018, the ATP has used address-based sampling (ABS) for recruitment. A study cover letter and a pre-incentive are mailed to a stratified, random sample of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Computerized Delivery Sequence File. This Postal Service file has been estimated to cover 90% to 98% of the population.[1] Within each sampled household, the adult with the next birthday is selected to participate. Other details of the ABS recruitment protocol have changed over time but are available upon request.[2] Prior to 2018, the ATP was recruited using landline and cellphone random-digit-dial surveys administered in English and Spanish.

A national sample of U.S. adults has been recruited to the ATP approximately once per year since 2014. In some years, the recruitment has included additional efforts (known as an "oversample") to improve the accuracy of data for underrepresented groups. For example,

[1] AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling."
[2] Email pewsurveys@pewresearch.org.

Hispanic adults, Black adults and Asian adults were oversampled in 2019, 2022 and 2023, respectively.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was noninstitutionalized persons ages 18 and older living in the United States. It featured a stratified random sample from the ATP in which the following groups were oversampled: Hispanic adults, non-Hispanic Asian adults, and 18- to 29-year-olds. The remaining panelists were sampled at rates designed to ensure that the share of respondents in each stratum is proportional to its share of the U.S. adult population to the greatest extent possible. Respondent weights are adjusted to account for differential probabilities of selection as described in the Weighting section below.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with SSRS. The web program used for online respondents was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the SSRS project team and Pew Research Center researchers. The SSRS project team also populated test data that was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or gift code to Amazon.com, Target.com or Walmart.com. Incentive amounts ranged from $5 to $20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was from Sept. 28 to Oct. 4, 2026. Surveys were conducted via self-administered web survey or by live telephone interviewing.

For panelists who take surveys online:[3] Postcard notifications were mailed to a subset on Sept. 28.[4] Survey invitations were sent out in two separate launches: soft launch and full launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on

[3] The ATP does not use routers or chains in any part of its online data collection protocol, nor are they used to direct respondents to additional surveys.
[4] Postcard notifications for web panelists are sent to 1) panelists who were recruited within the last two years and 2) panelists recruited prior to the last two years who opt to continue receiving postcard notifications.

Sept. 28. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled online panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on Sept. 29.

Invitation and reminder dates for web respondents, ATP Wave 200

	Soft launch	Full launch
Initial invitation	Sept. 28, 2026	Sept. 29, 2026
First reminder	Oct. 1, 2026	Oct. 1, 2026
Final reminder	Oct. 3, 2026	Oct. 3, 2026

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Panelists participating online were sent an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. ATP panelists who consented to SMS messages were sent an SMS invitation with a link to the survey and up to two SMS reminders.

For panelists who take surveys over the phone with a live interviewer:
Prenotification postcards were mailed on Sept. 25. Soft launch took place on Sept. 28 and involved dialing until a total of three interviews had been completed. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking sampled phone panelists' numbers were dialed throughout the remaining field period. Panelists who take surveys via phone can receive up to six calls from trained SSRS interviewers.

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, Center researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for whether respondents left questions blank at very high rates or always selected the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, eight ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Use of artificial intelligence (AI)

Survey responses to some open-ended questions were initially coded using AI-assisted text classification. Human researchers reviewed, validated, and, where necessary, corrected AI-generated codes prior to analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data is weighted in a process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the panel survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of recruitment into the panel. These weights are then calibrated to align with the population benchmarks in the accompanying table to correct for nonresponse to recruitment surveys and panel attrition. If only a subsample of panelists was invited to participate in the wave, this weight is adjusted to account for any differential probabilities of selection.

American Trends Panel weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age (detailed) Age x Gender Education x Gender Education x Age Race/Ethnicity x Education Race/Ethnicity x Gender Race/Ethnicity x Age Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans Years lived in the U.S. Census region x Metropolitan status	2024 American Community Survey (ACS)
Volunteerism	2023 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Frequency of internet use Religious affiliation Party affiliation x Race/Ethnicity Party affiliation x Age	2026 National Public Opinion Reference Survey (NPORS)
Validated 2024 presidential election turnout and vote choice	Candidate vote share is based on official results from the Federal Election Commission. Turnout is based on estimates from the Election Lab at the University of Florida. The size of the voting-eligible population is based on the 2023 ACS.

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on noninstitutionalized adults. For weighting to the 2024 presidential election results, panelists are considered validated voters if their self-report of having voted was confirmed after matching to a national voter registry.

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Among the panelists who completed the survey, this weight is then calibrated again to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table and trimmed at the 1st and 99th percentiles to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Sample sizes and margins of error, ATP Wave 200

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Registered voters	3,917		1.8 percentage points
Half form	At least 1,952		2.5 percentage points
Among registered voters who are ...			
Republican candidate supporters	1,363		2.9 percentage points
Half form	At least 663		4.2 percentage points
Democratic candidate supporters	1,826		2.6 percentage points
Half form	At least 901		3.7 percentage points

Note: This survey includes oversamples of Hispanic adults, non-Hispanic Asian adults, and 18-to-29-year-olds. Unweighted sample sizes do not account for the sample design or weighting and do not describe a group's contribution to weighted estimates. See the Sample design and Weighting sections above for details.

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Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions, ATP Wave 200

	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	5,062
Logged in (web) / Contacted (CATI), but did not complete any items	2.11	136
Started survey; broke off before completion	2.12	59
Never logged on (web) / Never reached on phone (CATI)	2.20	570
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Other non-interview	2.30	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality	2.90	8
Total panelists sampled for the survey		**5,835**
Completed interviews	I	5,062
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	195
Non-contact	NC	570
Other	O	8
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		**5,835**
AAPOR RR1 = I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)		87%

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Cumulative response rate, ATP Wave 200

	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	12%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	74%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 200	40%
Response rate to Wave 200 survey	87%
Cumulative response rate	**3%**

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2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
Wave 200: Politics Survey
FINAL TOPLINE
Sept. 28–Oct. 4, 2026
N=5,062

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

ASK IF CITIZEN (XCITIZEN=1):
PLAN1 Do you plan to vote in the elections this November, have you already voted, or don't you plan to vote?

ASK IF PLAN TO VOTE (PLAN1=1) [N=3,861]:
HOWPLANVOTE How do you plan to cast your vote in the November elections? **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-3/3-1, HOLDING 4 LAST]**

ASK IF HAVE ALREADY VOTED (PLAN1=2) [N=133]:
HOWVOTED Did you cast your vote… **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-4/4-1]**

ASK IF PLAN TO VOTE ABSENTEE (HOWPLANVOTE=3) [N=1,073]:
PLANABSENT Do you plan to return your ballot… **[ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-3/3-1, HOLDING 4 LAST]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=3,917]:

Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026		Oct 10-16, 2022
88	**Plan to vote**	**87**
23	*In person at a polling place before Election Day*	16
37	*In person at a polling place on Election Day*	42
23	*By absentee or mail-in ballot*	24
2	*In person to an election official or poll worker*	*2*
10	*To a designated dropbox*	*8*
10	*By mail*	*13*
1	*Not sure **[anchor]***	*1*
5	*Not sure **[anchor]***	*5*
3	**Already voted**	**4**
1	*In person at a polling place or early voting location*	*
*	*By absentee or mail-in ballot returned in person*	*

PLAN1/HOWPLANVOTE/HOWVOTED/PLANABSENT CONTINUED …

1	*By absentee or mail-in ballot dropped off at a designated dropbox*	1
1	*By mailing in your ballot*	3
9	**Don't plan to vote**	**9**
1	**No answer***	**1**

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	Sep 30-Oct 5 2020	Oct 25-Nov 8 2016
Plan to vote	**93**	**90**	**75**
In person at a polling place BEFORE Election Day	23	20	--
In person at a polling place ON Election Day	38	33	--
By absentee or mail-in ballot	26	32	--
In person to an election official or poll worker	*2*	*4*	--
To a designated dropbox	*9*	*11*	--
By mail	*13*	*15*	--
*Not sure **[anchor]***	*2*	*2*	--
*Not sure **[anchor]***	*6*	*4*	--
Already voted	**3**	**7**	**21**
In person at a polling place or early voting location	1	1	--
By absentee or mail-in ballot returned in person	1	1	--
By absentee or mail-in ballot dropped off at a designated dropbox	*	1	--
By mailing in your ballot	2	4	--
Don't plan to vote	**3**	**2**	**4**
No answer*	**1**	*****	*****

ADDITIONAL TREND FOR COMPARISON:
*Do you plan to cast your vote in **[**the general election**] [IF RSTATE=22 LOUISIANA:** the November election**]**...*

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS WHO PLAN TO VOTE:

	Oct 25-Nov 8 2016	Sep 27-Oct 10 2016
Before Election Day	24	32
On Election Day	71	55
Not sure	5	13
No answer*	*	0

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK FORM 1 [N=2,527]:

LEADERCHAR Please indicate how much you like or dislike each of the following characteristics of political leaders. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

		Dislike a lot	Dislike a little	Neither like nor dislike	Like a little	Like a lot	No answer*
MIL	Has served in the military						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	3	5	46	26	20	1
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	3	3	43	25	24	2
	Sep 13-19, 2021	3	3	41	24	28	1
GVEXP	Has no previous government experience						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	21	23	41	10	5	1
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	17	19	43	11	8	2
WLTH	Is very wealthy						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	26	20	47	4	2	1
NONCOL	Does not have a college degree						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	17	18	55	5	3	1

ADDITIONAL ITEM PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF VTADMIN_COM AND VTADMIN_US ON SAME SCREEN]

ASK FORM 2 [N=2,535]:

VTADMIN_COM Do you think the elections this November in your community will be run and administered…

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well	No answer*
Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	39	44	11	5	1
Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	43	44	8	4	1
Oct 10-16, 2022	40	45	10	4	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	36	48	11	4	*
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	41	46	9	3	1

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF VTADMIN_COM AND VTADMIN_US ON SAME SCREEN]

ASK FORM 2 [N=2,535]:

VTADMIN_US Do you think the elections this November in the United States will be run and administered…

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not too well	Not at all well	No answer*
Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	17	50	25	7	1
Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	20	50	21	8	1
Oct 10-16, 2022	20	49	23	7	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	12	46	30	12	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	20	57	18	4	1

ASK FORM 2 [N=2,535]:

VOTEADMIN_US_OE What particular concerns, if any, do you have about the way elections will be run and administered in the United States this year?[5]

Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	Actor
13	Trump/Trump administration/Republicans
2	Democrats
1	ICE/military/police/law enforcement
1	States (general or named)
	No answer*

Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	Action
19	Interference/Cheating/Fraud
7	No concerns/confident in election administration
7	Illegitimate voters will vote
4	Rejecting legitimate votes/voters
4	Mail ballot fraud/cheating
3	Voter intimidation
3	Votes not counted accurately/dishonest results
2	Rejecting legitimate results/refusal to concede
1	Violence/Martial law
1	Money in politics
1	Hacking/technological threats to vote counts
1	Gerrymandering/unfair districts
1	Excessive delays counting votes/results
1	Rules not enforced
1	Misinformation/disinformation
1	Ballot harvesting
1	Mail ballots not delivered/processed
1	Concerns about 'normal' politics after election has been decided
1	Distrust political system/party system generally
51	No answer*

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses

[5] The first three types of concerns mentioned by a respondent were coded as well as the first perceived actor.

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF VTCOUNT_INP AND VTCOUNT_ABS]

ASK FORM 1 [N=2,527]:

VTCOUNT_INP How confident are you that votes cast in person at polling places across the United States will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	No answer*
Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	31	45	16	7	2
Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	36	46	13	5	1
Oct 10-16, 2022	34	45	15	5	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	42	44	10	4	1

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF VTCOUNT_INP AND VTCOUNT_ABS]

ASK FORM 1 [N=2,527]:

VTCOUNT_ABS How confident are you that votes cast by absentee or mail-in ballot across the United States will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	No answer*
Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	16	35	31	17	2
Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	22	38	27	12	1
Oct 10-16, 2022	21	38	24	16	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	17	38	28	16	1

[ASK FORM 1 (XFORM=1), REPLEAD FIRST AND DEMLEAD SECOND ON SEPARATE SCREENS; ASK FORM 2 (XFORM=2), DEMLEAD FIRST AND REPLEAD SECOND ON SEPARATE SCREENS]

ASK ALL:
REPLEAD Now thinking specifically about Republican political leaders…

How much do you like or dislike Republican political leaders who… **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS DEMLEAD; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

BASED ON FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,527]:

		Dislike a lot	Dislike a little	Neither like nor dislike	Like a little	Like a lot	No answer*
EVIL	Call Democratic political leaders evil						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	45	17	27	6	4	1
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	45	15	26	7	5	1
COOP	Refuse to ever work with Democrats						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	51	20	23	4	3	1
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	51	16	23	5	4	1
DMGD	Think Democrats have good ideas on some important issues						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	6	6	34	31	22	1
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	7	7	31	32	22	1

[ASK FORM 1 (XFORM=1), REPLEAD FIRST AND DEMLEAD SECOND ON SEPARATE SCREENS; ASK FORM 2 (XFORM=2), DEMLEAD FIRST AND REPLEAD SECOND ON SEPARATE SCREENS]

ASK ALL:
DEMLEAD Now thinking specifically about Democratic political leaders…

How much do you like or dislike Democratic political leaders who… **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS REPLEAD; ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-5/5-1]**

BASED ON FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,535]:

		Dislike a lot	Dislike a little	Neither like nor dislike	Like a little	Like a lot	No answer*
EVIL	Call Republican political leaders evil						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	36	17	32	8	6	1
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	43	17	26	7	5	2
COOP	Refuse to ever work with Republicans						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	42	20	28	6	3	1
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	49	20	23	3	2	1
RPGD	Think Republicans have good ideas on some important issues						
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	9	8	39	27	17	1
	Jun 27-Jul 4, 2022	6	6	31	34	21	2

ASK ALL:
VOTETRAITS All in all, is voting in elections… **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS A-D ON SAME SCREEN; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS]**

a.	Important	Not important	No answer*
Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	88	11	1
Oct 10-16, 2022	89	10	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	91	8	1

b.	Convenient	Not convenient	No answer*
Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	76	22	1
Oct 10-16, 2022	73	25	2
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	73	27	*

c.	Exciting	Boring	No answer*
Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	56	41	3
Oct 10-16, 2022	57	40	3
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	62	36	2

d.	Straightforward	Confusing	No answer*
Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	69	29	2
Oct 10-16, 2022	70	29	2
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	70	30	1

ASK ALL:
ELECT_IMPTNOV Thinking about the congressional elections this November, how important, if at all, is each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		Very important	Somewhat important	Not too important	Not at all important	No answer*
ASK ALL						
CITZN	If noncitizens try to cast ballots in the election, they will be stopped					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	65	20	9	4	1
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	69	18	8	4	1
ASK FORM 1 [N=2,527]:						
QUICKWINM	Americans know which party won control of the House of Representatives within a day or two of Election Day					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	56	30	11	3	1
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: Americans know who won the election within a day or two of Election Day					
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	60	28	8	2	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	49	31	15	4	1
PRVSUP	People who are legally qualified and want to vote are able to cast a ballot					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	82	12	4	1	1
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	84	11	3	1	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	86	10	2	2	*
SECUR	Election workers will handle ballots securely					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	85	9	3	2	1
MAIL2	Mail ballots will be delivered to voters with enough time to return them					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	75	16	5	3	1
ASK FORM 2 [N=2,535]:						
CLRWINM	After all the votes are counted, it will be clear which party won control of the House of Representatives					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	78	15	4	2	1
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: After all the votes are counted, it will be clear which candidate won the election					
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	83	12	2	2	1
ELIGI	All legally qualified voters are able to cast ballots if they want to					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	82	12	4	2	1

ELECT_CONFNOV CONTINUED…

		Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	No answer*
INTMD	People who try to intimidate or threaten voters at polling places will be stopped					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	82	11	4	2	1
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	84	10	3	2	*
MAIL3	The postal service will return voters' mail ballots to election offices in time to be counted					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	81	13	3	2	1

ASK ALL:
ELECT_CONFNOV Still thinking about the congressional elections this November, how confident, if at all, are you that… **[MATCH ORDER OF ITEMS TO ELECT_IMPTNOV]**

		Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	No answer*
ASK ALL:						
CITZN	If noncitizens try to cast ballots in the election, they will be stopped					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	32	35	21	10	2
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	32	32	21	15	1
ASK FORM 1 [N=2,527]:						
QUICKWINM	Americans will know which party won control of the House of Representatives within a day or two of Election Day					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	22	44	25	8	2
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: Americans know who won the election within a day or two of Election Day					
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	24	40	27	8	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	16	35	36	13	1
PRVSUP	People who are legally qualified and want to vote are able to cast a ballot					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	41	41	12	4	1
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	44	43	10	3	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	36	45	14	4	1
SECUR	Election workers will handle ballots securely					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	31	43	16	7	1
MAIL2	Mail ballots will be delivered to voters with enough time to return them					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	27	46	19	6	1

ELECT_CONFNOV CONTINUED…

		Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident	No answer*
ASK FORM 2 [N=2,535]:						
CLRWINM	After all the votes are counted, it will be clear which party won control of the House of Representatives					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	27	45	21	6	1
	TREND FOR COMPARISON: After all the votes are counted, it will be clear which candidate won the election					
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	28	41	21	9	1
ELIGI	All legally qualified voters are able to cast ballots if they want to					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	37	41	17	5	1
INTMD	People who try to intimidate or threaten voters at polling places will be stopped					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	25	40	26	8	1
	Sep 30-Oct 6, 2024	27	41	23	8	*
MAIL3	The postal service will return voters' mail ballots to election offices in time to be counted					
	Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026	24	45	22	8	2

ASK ALL:

VTSYSSEC_US How confident are you that election systems in the United States are secure from hacking and other technological threats?

Sep 28-Oct 4, 2026		Sept 30-Oct 6, 2024	Sep 30-Oct 5 2020	Nov 7-16, 2018	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018
11	Very confident	12	8	15	8
39	Somewhat confident	38	42	49	37
34	Not too confident	33	34	24	37
15	Not at all confident	16	16	11	17
1	No answer*	*	1	*	*

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…[6]

Republican	Democrat	Independent	Something else	No answer*	*Lean Rep*	*Lean Dem*
27	29	29	13	2	17	*20*

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