2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 198: News & Information Omnibus and Economic Issues
August 2026

Questionnaire (English)
Version: 08/20/26

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

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

X_NONINTERNET
1 Non-internet user
2 Internet user
99 Refused
Note: Flag to identify internet users in NEWSPLAT.
Source: Frame file F_INTFREQ. If F_INTFREQ=6, X_NONINTERNET=1. If F_INTFREQ=1-5, X_NONINTERNET=2.

----------**MAIN QUESTIONNAIRE BEGINS HERE**----------

ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

BAT: NEWSPLAT
ASK ALL:
[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE]

[PN: IF WEB:] How often do you get news from...

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:] How often do you get news from **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ LIST)**

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS:] How about from **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ AS NECESSARY:** How often do you get news from **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ LIST IF NECESSARY))**

BATTERY ITEMS:

TV	Television
RADIO	Radio
PRINT	Printed newspapers or printed news magazines
ONL	**ASK IF INTERNET USER (X_NONINTERNET=2):** A smartphone, computer, or tablet

RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

1	Never
2	Rarely
3	Sometimes
4	Often
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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BAT: NEWSPLAT_DIG
ASK IF GETS NEWS FROM DIGITAL DEVICES AT LEAST RARELY (NEWSPLAT_ONL=2,3,4):
[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE]

[PN: IF WEB:] Now thinking about the news you get on a smartphone, computer, or tablet, how often do you get news from...

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:] Now thinking about the news you get on a smartphone, computer, or tablet, how often do you get news from **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ LIST)**

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS:] How about from **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ AS NECESSARY:** Thinking about the news you get on a smartphone, computer, or tablet, how often do you get news from **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ LIST IF NECESSARY))**

BATTERY ITEMS:

WEB	News websites or apps
SM	**[PN: IF WEB:]** Social media such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), or Instagram **[PN: IF CATI:]** Social media such as Facebook; X, formerly known as Twitter; or Instagram
SRCH	Search through Google or other search engines
POD	Podcasts
EMAIL	Email newsletters
AIBOT	AI chatbots like ChatGPT **[PN: IF CATI: (PRONO: Chat G-P-T)]** or Gemini **[PN: IF CATI: (PRONO: JEM-uh-nye)]**

RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

1	Never
2	Rarely
3	Sometimes
4	Often
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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QUE: PLATFORM_PREFER
{Mod PRINT wording; W177 8-25 added new items for newsletters and AI chatbots, split form for PRINT, priorly "print publications"; W150 7-24 slight mod from "Twitter (recently renamed 'X')" to "X (formerly Twitter)"; W135 9-23 slight mod from "Twitter" to "Twitter (recently renamed 'X')"; W112 7-22, W93 7-21, W73 8-20}
ASK IF GETS NEWS FROM MORE THAN ONE PLATFORM AT LEAST RARELY (AT LEAST TWO OF NEWSPLAT_TV-PRINT=2,3,4 AND/OR NEWSPLAT_DIG_WEB-AIBOT=2,3,4):
[PN: SHOW ONLY THOSE ITEMS USED AT LEAST RARELY IN NEWSPLAT_TV-PRINT=2,3,4 OR NEWSPLAT_DIG_WEB-AIBOT=2,3,4; AUTOPUNCH IF ONLY USES ONE SOURCE AND DO NOT ASK THIS QUESTION]
[PN: RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS FOR NEWSPLAT AND NEWSPLAT_DIG, WITH NEWSPLAT ITEMS ALWAYS COMING BEFORE NEWSPLAT_DIG ITEMS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE]

Which do you prefer for getting news?

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

1 Television
2 Radio
3 Printed newspapers or printed news magazines
4 News websites or apps
5 **[PN: IF WEB:]** Social media such as Facebook, X (formerly Twitter), or Instagram
[PN: IF CATI:] Social media such as Facebook; X, formerly known as Twitter; or Instagram
6 Search through Google or other search engines
7 Podcasts
8 Email newsletters
9 AI chatbots like ChatGPT or Gemini
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

BAT: SMUSE
ASK ALL:
[PN: RANDOMIZE ITEMS; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE]

[PN: IF WEB:] Please indicate whether or not you ever use the following websites or apps.

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:] Please indicate whether or not you ever use the following websites or apps. First, **(INSERT ITEM)**. **(READ LIST)**

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS:] What about **(INSERT ITEM)**?
(READ AS NECESSARY: Do you ever use **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ LIST IF NECESSARY))**

[PN: IF CATI:] (INTERVIEWER: IF R SAYS "Rarely," "Hardly ever," "Occasionally" OR SOMETHING SIMILAR, ENTER AS "Yes, you use this.")

BATTERY ITEMS:

FB	Facebook
YT	YouTube
XT	**[PN: IF WEB:]** X (formerly Twitter) **[PN: IF CATI:]** X, formerly known as Twitter
IG	Instagram
WA	WhatsApp
TT	TikTok
RD	Reddit
ND	Nextdoor
RB	Rumble
TS	Truth Social
LK	LinkedIn
BSK	Bluesky

RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

1	**[PN: IF WEB:]** Yes, I use this **[PN: IF CATI:]** Yes, you use this
2	**[PN: IF WEB:]** No, I don't use this **[PN: IF CATI:]** No, you don't use this
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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BAT: SOCIALNEWS2
ASK IF USES ANY SOCIAL MEDIA SITES OR APPS (SMUSE_FB-BSK=1):
[PN: ONLY SHOW SOCIAL MEDIA SITES/APPS THAT ARE USED (SMUSE_FB-BSK=1); RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN THE SAME ORDER AS SMUSE; INCLUDE RANDOMIZATION IN DATA FILE]

[PN: IF WEB:] Do you regularly get news or news headlines on any of the following social media sites or apps? By news we mean information about events and issues that involve more than just your friends or family.

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR FIRST ITEM:] Do you regularly get news or news headlines on any of the following social media sites or apps? By news we mean information about events and issues that involve more than just your friends or family. First, **(INSERT ITEM)**. **(READ LIST)**

[PN: IF CATI: READ FOR SUBSEQUENT ITEMS:] What about on **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ AS NECESSARY:** Do you regularly get news or news headlines on **(INSERT ITEM)**? **(READ LIST IF NECESSARY))**

[PN: IF CATI:] (INTERVIEWER: IF R SAYS "Several times a day," "Several times a week" OR SOMETHING SIMILAR, ENTER AS "Yes, you regularly get news on this.")

BATTERY ITEMS:

FB	Facebook
YT	YouTube
XT	**[PN: IF WEB:]** X (formerly Twitter) **[PN: IF CATI:]** X, formerly known as Twitter
IG	Instagram
WA	WhatsApp
TT	TikTok
RD	Reddit
ND	Nextdoor
RB	Rumble
TS	Truth Social
LK	LinkedIn
BSK	Bluesky

RESPONSE CATEGORIES:

1	**[PN: IF WEB:]** Yes, I regularly get news on this **[PN: IF CATI:]** Yes, you regularly get news on this
2	**[PN: IF WEB:]** No, I don't regularly get news on this **[PN: IF CATI:]** No, you don't regularly get news on this
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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QUE: WATCHDOG_1
ASK ALL:
[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST; INCLUDE ROTATION IN DATA FILE]

Some people think that by criticizing leaders, news organizations keep political leaders from doing their job. Others think that such criticism is worth it because it keeps political leaders from doing things that should not be done.

Which position is closer to your opinion?

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

1 Criticism keeps political leaders from doing their job
2 Criticism keeps political leaders from doing things that shouldn't be done
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
