

Hoover Institute Poll - December 2021



Sample 1,517 U.S. Adults
Conducted January 6-11, 2022
Margin of Error $\pm 2.7\%$

1. Some people seem to follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, whether there's an election going on or not. Others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs ...

Most of the time	42%
Some of the time	26%
Only now and then	17%
Hardly at all	12%
Don't know	3%

2. Would you say things in this country today are...

Generally headed in the right direction	25%
Off on the wrong track	60%
Not sure	15%

3. About how often do you hear or read something in the news that makes you angry?

A few times a day	26%
Once a day	26%
Once a week	23%
Once a month	10%
Rarely	16%

4. Which comes closest to your view?

Our lives are threatened by terrorists, criminals, and illegal immigrants and our priority should be to protect ourselves.	31%
It's a big, beautiful world, mostly full of good people, and we must find a way to embrace each other and not allow ourselves to become isolated.	49%
Not sure	20%

5. Compared to other people, do you think you have more or fewer friends?

More friends	8%
About the same number of friends as other people	37%
Fewer friends	55%

6. How did you meet [your best friend]?

Through family	16%
Through school	28%
Through work	21%
None of the above	34%

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7. About how long have you known [your best friend]?

Less than one year	3%
1-5 years	21%
6-10 years	15%
More than 10 years	61%

8. Is [your best friend] older or younger than you?

Older	28%
About the same age	40%
Younger	32%

9. Is [your best friend] male or female?

Male	50%
Female	50%

10. Is [your best friend] a Democrat or a Republican?

Democrat	29%
Republican	24%
Neither	20%
Not sure	27%

11. How would you describe the political views of [your best friend]?

Very liberal	8%
Liberal	15%
Moderate	27%
Conservative	19%
Very conservative	9%
Not sure	23%

12. How often do you discuss politics and current affairs with [your best friend]?

Frequently	18%
Occasionally	36%
Rarely	27%
Never	19%

13. Now considering all of your friends, would you say that most are Democrats or Republicans?

Most are Democrats	28%
About evenly split	24%
Most are Republicans	22%
Not sure	26%

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14. Do you have any friends that you think are Republicans?

Asked of those for whom most of their friends are Democrats or are not sure and their best friend is a Democrat, neither a Democrat nor a Republican, or not sure

Yes 45%
 No 19%
 Not sure 36%

15. Do you have any friends that you think are Democrats?

Asked of those for whom most of their friends are Republicans or are not sure and their best friend is a Republican, neither a Democrat nor a Republican, or not sure

Yes 53%
 No 12%
 Not sure 35%

16. Do you feel pressured or intimidated by others in not speaking out about your political views?

Yes 13%
 No 77%
 Not sure 10%

17. Do you think your friends keep quiet about their political views to avoid conflicts with others?

Yes 34%
 No 37%
 Not sure 29%

18. How much confidence do you have in the following institutions?

	A lot	Some	A little	None
Congress	4%	20%	36%	40%
Corporations	4%	25%	38%	34%
Universities	12%	35%	27%	26%
The judiciary	8%	35%	34%	24%
The police	23%	37%	23%	16%
The media	7%	23%	25%	44%
Churches and organized religion	16%	32%	27%	25%
My local government	9%	37%	32%	22%
My state government	10%	32%	31%	28%
Unions	10%	29%	29%	31%
The United Nations	10%	29%	29%	33%
Public schools	11%	34%	32%	23%

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19. How satisfied are you with the way democracy works in America?

Very satisfied	10%
Somewhat satisfied	38%
Somewhat dissatisfied	33%
Very dissatisfied	19%

20. How important are the following things for being truly American?

	Very Important	Somewhat important	Not important
To have parents or grandparents born in the country	19%	22%	59%
To have been born in the country	24%	29%	47%
To be able to speak English	50%	32%	19%
To believe in freedom and equality	80%	17%	3%
To be a Christian	21%	23%	57%

21. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Agree	Disagree	Not sure
I would rather be a citizen of the United States than of any other country in the world	65%	14%	21%
There are some things that make me ashamed of the United States	75%	15%	10%
Politics is ultimately a struggle between good and evil	50%	30%	20%
Interest groups have too much influence over political decisions	74%	6%	19%
Our country would be governed better if important decisions were left up to experts	36%	31%	33%

22. Which of the following words would you use to describe people who support the Democratic party?

Patriotic	20%
Intelligent	26%
Honest	19%
Open-minded	32%
Generous	21%
Close-minded	30%
Hypocritical	36%
Selfish	24%
Mean	17%
None of the above	18%

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23. Which of the following words would you use to describe people who support the Republican party?

Patriotic	35%
Intelligent	24%
Honest	20%
Open-minded	18%
Generous	15%
Close-minded	37%
Hypocritical	35%
Selfish	30%
Mean	21%
None of the above	17%

24. Do you think most Democrats are socialists?

Yes	27%
No	45%
Not sure	28%

25. Do you think most Republicans are racists?

Yes	24%
No	54%
Not sure	22%

26. Do you think going to college is necessary to get ahead in life?

Yes	29%
No	58%
Not sure	12%

27. Do students on college campuses hear a full range of viewpoints or just one side on most issues?

A full range of viewpoints	33%
Just one side	37%
Not sure	31%

28. How well do you think colleges and universities handle the following things?

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Not sure
Sexual assault	4%	12%	23%	44%	18%
Racism	3%	18%	26%	33%	19%
Debates over controversial issues	6%	20%	25%	31%	18%
Opportunities for the middle class and poor	6%	19%	30%	29%	16%
Scientific research	21%	35%	20%	9%	15%

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29. Here are some things that a white student might say to a minority student on campus. Which of these do you think would definitely be insensitive to say and inappropriate versus generally acceptable?

	Generally acceptable	Depends	Definitely inappropriate
Asking an Asian student, 'Where are you from?'	38%	45%	16%
Telling a Black student, 'When I look at you, I don't see color.'	24%	42%	34%
Telling a minority student, 'Everyone can succeed in this society if they work hard enough.'	44%	38%	19%
Telling a foreign student, 'You speak good English.'	39%	43%	18%
Asking an Asian student for help on a math problem.	36%	52%	12%

30. Please tell us whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Agree strongly	Agree somewhat	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree somewhat	Disagree strongly
There are times when the people should take the law into their own hands rather than wait for the government to act.	9%	20%	27%	18%	27%
I don't mind a politician's methods if he or she manages to get the right things done.	11%	23%	30%	20%	16%
People ought to be allowed to vote even if they can't do so intelligently.	26%	23%	29%	12%	10%
The true American way of life is disappearing so fast that we may have to use force to save it.	14%	19%	30%	14%	23%
I would not trust any person or group to decide what opinions can be freely expressed and what must be silenced.	43%	23%	26%	6%	3%
A person shouldn't be allowed to speak if they don't know what they are talking about.	12%	18%	28%	20%	21%
Social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter should ban people who are spreading misinformation.	36%	18%	20%	8%	16%
Both major parties in this country are controlled by the wealthy and are run for their benefit.	34%	35%	19%	9%	3%
Most politicians don't really mean what they say.	28%	33%	26%	9%	3%
Nothing I ever do seems to have any effect upon what happens in politics.	26%	29%	30%	12%	4%

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31. If such a person wanted to make a speech in your community against churches and religion, should he be allowed to speak, or not?

Yes63%
No23%
Don't know15%

32. Should an atheist be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?

Yes60%
No21%
Don't know20%

33. If some people in your community suggested that a book he wrote against churches and religion should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book, or not?

Yes17%
No62%
Don't know21%

34. If such a person wanted to make a speech in your community advocating communism, should he be allowed to speak, or not?

Yes54%
No27%
Don't know19%

35. Should a communist be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?

Yes39%
No37%
Don't know23%

36. If some people in your community suggested that a book he wrote advocating communism should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book, or not?

Yes21%
No56%
Don't know23%

37. If such a person wanted to make a speech in your community about how Black people were inferior to white people, should he be allowed to speak, or not?

Yes39%
No46%
Don't know15%

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38. Should a racist be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?

Yes	18%
No	64%
Don't know	17%

39. If some people in your community suggested that a book he wrote about the inferiority of Black people should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book, or not?

Yes	36%
No	44%
Don't know	19%

40. If such a person wanted to make a speech in your community praising Hitler and Nazi Germany, should he be allowed to speak, or not?

Yes	33%
No	54%
Don't know	14%

41. Should a neo-Nazi be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?

Yes	16%
No	66%
Don't know	18%

42. If some people in your community suggested that a book he wrote denying the existence of the Holocaust should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book, or not?

Yes	39%
No	43%
Don't know	19%

43. If such a person wanted to make a speech in your community about systemic racism in America, should he be allowed to speak, or not?

Yes	62%
No	21%
Don't know	18%

44. Should a critical race theorist be allowed to teach in a college or university, or not?

Yes	42%
No	34%
Don't know	24%

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45. If some people in your community suggested that a book he wrote on critical race theory should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book, or not?

Yes 19%
 No 58%
 Don't know 22%

46. Do you think all races should be treated equally?

Yes 90%
 No 5%
 Not sure 5%

47. In America today, do you think that some racial groups are discriminated against?

Yes 75%
 No 15%
 Not sure 10%

48. Which of the following racial or ethnic groups do you think are discriminated against in America today? Check all that apply.

Black people 78%
 White people 35%
 Hispanic people 70%
 Asian people 70%
 None of the above 6%

49. How familiar are you with the following terms?

	Very familiar	Somewhat familiar	Have heard, but don't understand	Never heard of
Political correctness	46%	30%	14%	11%
Cancel culture	37%	27%	16%	19%
Critical Race Theory	27%	33%	23%	16%
Progressive taxation	21%	25%	22%	31%
Gerrymander	30%	22%	16%	32%

50. Do you see the Confederate flag more as a symbol of Southern pride or more as a symbol of racism?

Southern pride 41%
 Symbol of racism 39%
 Not sure 20%

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51. Should statues of Confederate generals on public property be removed?

Yes	33%
No	46%
Not sure	21%

52. Should statues of American presidents who were slaveholders, like Washington, Jefferson, and Jackson, be removed?

Yes	17%
No	63%
Not sure	21%

53. When you think about the future of the country, are you generally optimistic or pessimistic?

Optimistic	28%
Pessimistic	44%
Unsure	28%

54. How important is it for you to live in a country that is governed democratically?

Very important	65%
Somewhat important	25%
Not important	10%

55. How likely is it Republicans and Democrats in Congress can come together to solve the country's problems?

Very likely	6%
Somewhat likely	18%
Somewhat unlikely	35%
Very unlikely	41%

56. Do you think it is better for the country to have a president who comes from the same political party that controls Congress or better to have a president from one political party and Congress controlled by another?

Same party	26%
Different party	22%
No difference	52%

57. Should anyone who wants to be allowed to vote by mail in 2020?

Yes	51%
No	32%
Not sure	17%

58. How widespread is voter fraud?

It happens frequently in many places	34%
It happens occasionally	32%
It is extremely rare	35%

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59. Are you in favor or opposed to limits on the amount of money that a person can contribute to a political campaign?

Favor	63%
Oppose	12%
Not sure	25%

60. How much of the time do you think you can trust the government in Washington to do what is right?

Just about always	5%
Most of the time	18%
Some of the time	77%

61. Would you say the government is pretty much run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all the people?

Few big interests	70%
Benefit of all	11%
Not sure	19%

62. Do you feel that almost all of the people running the government are smart people, or do you think that quite a few of them don't seem to know what they are doing?

Know what they're doing	23%
Don't know what they're doing	55%
Not sure	22%

63. Do you think that quite a few of the people running the government are crooked, not very many are, or do you think hardly any of them are crooked?

Quite a few	60%
Not many	22%
Hardly any	6%
Not sure	13%

64. How often are special interests able to get what they want by contributing money to political campaigns?

Always	17%
Most of the time	42%
Some of the time	22%
Occasionally	5%
Never	2%
Not sure	13%

65. How often do government and big business work together in ways that hurt most of the public?

Most of the time	34%
Some of the time	53%
Rarely	14%

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66. When running for office, how often do you think politicians lie about what they will do if elected?

Always	22%
Most of the time	36%
Some of the time	27%
Occasionally	8%
Never	2%
Not sure	7%

67. How much of a problem is sexual harassment in the workplace?

A major problem	43%
A minor problem	47%
Not a problem	10%

68. Which of the following do you think happens more often?

A man is falsely accused of sexual harassment	13%
A woman is not believed when they report sexual harassment	37%
Both are equally likely	51%

69. How much of a problem is employers firing men that have been accused of sexual harassment or assault before finding out all the facts?

A major problem	41%
A minor problem	44%
Not a problem	15%

70. Do you think there is too little or too much government regulation of businesses?

Too much	29%
About the right amount	26%
Too little	24%
Not sure	21%

71. Would you say that immigration...

Helps the United States more than it hurts	47%
Hurts the United States more than it helps	30%
Not sure	23%

72. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are living in the U.S.?

They should be allowed to stay in the U.S. and apply for citizenship.	51%
They should be allowed to stay in the U.S., but not become citizens.	15%
They should be required to leave the U.S.	34%

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73. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "No one should be discriminated against based upon their race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual orientation."

Agree strongly	71%
Agree somewhat	13%
Neither agree nor disagree	11%
Disagree somewhat	4%
Disagree strongly	1%

74. Is there more discrimination against Black people or white people?

Black people are more likely to be discriminated against	53%
White people are more likely to be discriminated against	13%
Black people and white people are equally likely to be discriminated against	23%
Not sure	11%

75. Is there more discrimination against men or women?

Men are more likely to be discriminated against	10%
Women are more likely to be discriminated against	52%
Men and women are equally likely to be discriminated against	25%
Not sure	13%

76. Do you think gun control laws should be made more or less strict than they are now?

Guns should be banned completely	10%
More strict	40%
Kept the same	20%
Less strict	12%
There should be no restrictions on gun ownership	9%
Not sure	10%

77. Are you in favor or opposed to the death penalty for persons convicted of murder?

Favor the death penalty	48%
Opposed to the death penalty	26%
Not sure	26%

78. Do you think the death penalty is imposed too often or not often enough?

Too often	20%
About right	15%
Not often enough	34%
Not sure	30%

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79. Would you call yourself "pro-choice" or "pro-life"?

Pro-life	27%
Pro-choice	33%
Both "pro-life" and "pro-choice"	23%
Neither	9%
Not sure	9%

80. Please tell us whether you favor or oppose the following things.

	Favor	Oppose	Not sure
Increasing taxes on families earning over \$250,000 per year	56%	26%	17%
Raising the minimum wage to \$15 per hour	60%	26%	14%
Banning assault weapons, like AK-47s	53%	32%	15%
Building a wall on the US-Mexico border to stop illegal immigration	43%	44%	13%
Raising tariffs on goods imported from China	47%	20%	33%
Overturning the Supreme Court's decision in Roe v. Wade	26%	45%	29%
Legalizing marijuana	59%	25%	16%
Limiting the amount that can be paid to CEOs of large corporations	57%	25%	18%

81. Would you favor or oppose making the federal income tax a "flat tax," where everyone receives a standard deduction and pays the same tax rate on all other income.

Favor	34%
Oppose	29%
Not sure	37%

82. Do you favor or oppose affirmative action programs designed to increase the number of Black and minority students on college campuses?

Favor	38%
Oppose	33%
Not sure	29%

83. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	73%
Not registered	27%

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84. Who did you vote for in the election for President in 2020?

Joe Biden	32%
Donald Trump	29%
Jo Jorgensen	1%
Howie Hawkins	0%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	37%

85. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Democrat	32%
Republican	25%
Independent	30%
Other	3%
Not sure	9%

86. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Strong Democrat	19%
Not very strong Democrat	13%
Lean Democrat	8%
Independent	22%
Lean Republican	9%
Not very strong Republican	9%
Strong Republican	16%
Not sure	4%

87. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Liberal	25%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	31%
Not sure	12%

88. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	10%
Liberal	14%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	19%
Very conservative	12%
Not sure	12%

89. Are you...?

Male	49%
Female	51%

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90. Respondent age by category

Under 30	21%
30-44	25%
45-64	33%
65+	21%

91. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	63%
Black	12%
Hispanic	16%
Other	9%

92. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

HS or less	38%
Some college	28%
College grad	21%
Postgrad	12%

93. What is your marital status?

Married	45%
Separated	1%
Divorced	12%
Widowed	5%
Never married	32%
Domestic / civil partnership	6%

94. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?

Under \$50K	42%
\$50-100K	27%
\$100K or more	18%
Prefer not to say	13%

95. How important is religion in your life?

Very important	36%
Somewhat important	25%
Not too important	16%
Not at all important	23%

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96. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	17%
Once or twice a month	7%
A few times a year	11%
Seldom	23%
Never	31%
Don't know	3%

97. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes	30%
No	70%

98. People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, how often do you pray?

Several times a day	25%
Once a day	13%
A few times a week	11%
Once a week	4%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	15%
Never	20%
Don't know	4%

99. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	28%
Roman Catholic	20%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	2%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	1%
Atheist	7%
Agnostic	5%
Nothing in particular	22%
Something else	8%

100. Calculated from respondent's state of residence

Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	38%
West	24%

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101. How would you describe the place where you live?

City	31%
Suburb	32%
Town	17%
Rural area	20%
Other	1%