

Hoover Citizenship Survey 2023-08



Sample 1642 U.S. Residents
Conducted August 10 - 14, 2023
Margin of Error ±3%

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

Generally headed in the right direction	24%
Off on the wrong track	63%
Not sure	13%

2. Overall, how happy are you with the way your life is going?

Very happy	14%
Happy	58%
Not happy	28%

3. Overall, how would you rate your community as a place to live?

Excellent	18%
Good	50%
Fair	25%
Poor	7%

4. How much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live?

A big impact	19%
Moderate impact	39%
Small impact	32%
No impact	9%

5. Suppose your local government was considering a law that you considered very unjust or harmful. If you made an effort to change this law, how likely is it that you would succeed?

Very likely	8%
Somewhat likely	36%
Not very likely	40%
Not likely at all	16%

6. If such a case arose, how likely is it that you would actually try to do something about it?

Very likely	20%
Somewhat likely	43%
Not very likely	27%
Not likely at all	10%

7. Have you ever done anything to try to influence a local decision?

Yes	36%
No	64%

8. Suppose Congress was considering a law that you considered very unjust or harmful. If you made an effort to change this law, how likely is it that you would succeed?

Very likely	7%
Somewhat likely	24%
Not very likely	45%
Not likely at all	24%

9. If such a case arose, how likely is it that you would actually try to do something about it?

Very likely	17%
Somewhat likely	40%
Not very likely	31%
Not likely at all	11%

10. Have you ever done anything to try to influence an act of Congress?

Yes	28%
No	72%

11. How often do you vote in the following types of elections?

	Very often	Somewhat often	Not too often	Not often at all
Statewide elections for Governor and U.S. Senator	66%	15%	10%	9%
Local elections	57%	20%	12%	10%
Primary elections	63%	17%	12%	8%
Elections which are not expected to be close	57%	17%	14%	12%

12. Do you consider voting to be a duty or a choice?

Duty	49%
Choice	43%
Not sure	8%

13. Do you consider voting to be a right or a privilege?

Right	66%
Privilege	27%
Not sure	8%

14. Have you ever...

	Yes	No	Not sure
Contacted or written to an elected official to express an opinion?	39%	57%	4%

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Written to a newspaper or an online publication to express your views on public issues?	23%	74%	3%
Engaged in online discussions about politics?	42%	54%	4%
Participated in a demonstration or political protest?	22%	75%	3%
Attended a political rally or speech?	28%	70%	3%
Worked with fellow citizens to solve a problem in your community?	36%	57%	8%
Contributed money to a political campaign?	28%	69%	2%
Attended a political meeting on local, town, or school affairs?	36%	61%	3%
Worked or volunteered for a political party or candidate?	19%	79%	2%
Run for or served in public office?	6%	91%	3%

15. How closely do you follow politics and public affairs?

Very closely	28%
Somewhat closely	37%
Not much	24%
Not at all	10%

16. How closely do you follow foreign affairs?

Very closely	15%
Somewhat closely	38%
Not much	33%
Not at all	14%

17. Compared to most other people, how well-informed are you about what government and public officials are doing?

Very well-informed	21%
Somewhat well-informed	46%
Not very well-informed	23%
Not well-informed at all	10%

18. How often do you discuss politics and public affairs with your friends, family, and co-workers?

Very often	15%
Somewhat often	33%
Not too often	33%
Not often at all	19%

19. Some people say that politics and government are so complicated that the average person cannot really understand what is going on. In general, do you agree or disagree with that?

Strongly agree	13%
Somewhat agree	42%
Somewhat disagree	27%
Strongly disagree	18%

20. How do you feel about this? Thinking of the important national and international issues facing the country, how well do you think you can understand these issues?

Very well	22%
Somewhat well	49%
Not very well	24%
Not at all	5%

21. How about the local issues in your town or part of the country. How well do you understand them?

Very well	28%
Somewhat well	49%
Not very well	18%
Not at all	6%

22. Many people say that they have trouble understanding political and governmental affairs. Which of these reasons best explains why this happens?

The problems are too complex	18%
People don't care and don't try	39%
Those in power don't help people to understand	44%

23. How often do you spend time socializing with people that have different political opinions?

Very often	11%
Somewhat often	38%
Not too often	34%
Not often at all	16%

24. Do you discuss politics with people you disagree with?

Yes	44%
No	46%
Not sure	10%

25. Are these discussions respectful or heated?

Asked of those who discuss politics with people they disagree with

Respectful	76%
Heated	12%
Other	12%

26. Which of these three views is closest to your own?

All people in this country feel as free to say what they think as they used to	17%
Some people do not feel as free to say what they think as they used to	47%
Hardly anybody feels as free to say what they think as they used to	23%
Don't know	13%

27. What about you personally? Do you or don't you feel as free to speak your mind as you used to?

Yes, as free	44%
No, less free	45%
Don't know	11%

28. How important are each of the following values to you personally?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not that important	Not important at all
Hard work	66%	28%	5%	2%
Tolerance for others	51%	38%	7%	3%
Marriage	48%	25%	16%	12%
Self-fulfillment	51%	38%	9%	2%
Community involvement	25%	48%	22%	6%
Patriotism	44%	29%	17%	10%
Belief in God	53%	17%	11%	19%
Family	81%	14%	4%	1%
Money	40%	47%	10%	3%

29. And how important do you think it is for Americans to participate in the following activities?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not that important	Not important at all
Voting	65%	24%	5%	5%
Military service	36%	36%	18%	10%
Attending town hall meetings	19%	45%	25%	11%
Participating in the PTA	22%	40%	25%	13%
Attending worship services regularly	29%	26%	21%	24%
Expressing political beliefs	29%	43%	20%	9%
Participating in politics beyond voting	20%	45%	23%	11%

30. There are always some people whose ideas are considered bad or dangerous by other people. For instance, somebody who is against all churches and religion. Should they be allowed to make a speech in your community?

Yes	60%
No	21%
Not sure	19%

31. Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university?

Yes	49%
No	30%
Not sure	21%

32. If some people in your community suggested that a book they wrote against churches and religion should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book?

Yes	20%
No	59%
Not sure	21%

33. Next consider a person who favored government ownership of all big industries. Should they be allowed to make a speech in your community?

Yes	63%
No	16%
Not sure	21%

34. Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university?

Yes	53%
No	22%
Not sure	25%

35. If some people in your community suggested that a book they wrote favoring government ownership be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book?

Yes	16%
No	58%
Not sure	26%

36. Some Islamic fundamentalists want the government to enforce Shar'ia and Islamic family law. Should they be allowed to make a speech in your community?

Yes	48%
No	29%
Not sure	23%

37. Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university?

Yes	37%
No	34%
Not sure	28%

38. If some people in your community suggested that a book on Shar'ia law should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book?

Yes	21%
No	54%
Not sure	25%

39. Critical race theory states that U.S. social institutions (such as police, courts, schools, and employers) are racist and discriminate against minorities. Should a critical race theorist be allowed to make a speech in your community?

Yes	54%
No	30%
Not sure	16%

40. Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university?

Yes	42%
No	41%
Not sure	18%

41. If some people in your community suggested that a book on critical race theory should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book?

Yes	26%
No	54%
Not sure	20%

42. White supremacists believe that white people constitute a superior race and should dominate society. Should a white supremacist be allowed to make a speech in your community?

Yes	40%
No	43%
Not sure	17%

43. Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university?

Yes	24%
No	55%
Not sure	21%

44. If some people in your community suggested that a book saying that whites are superior to other races should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book?

Yes	34%
No	45%
Not sure	21%

45. If someone makes false claims about an election being stolen, should they be allowed to make a speech in your community?

- Yes 50%
- No 35%
- Not sure 16%

46. Should such a person be allowed to teach in a college or university?

- Yes 36%
- No 43%
- Not sure 21%

47. If some people in your community suggested that a book containing false claims about election fraud should be taken out of your public library, would you favor removing this book?

- Yes 25%
- No 52%
- Not sure 24%

48. There are always some people whose ideas are considered bad or dangerous by other people. Would there be anyone who you would ban from making a speech in your community?

- Yes 61%
- Maybe 17%
- No 22%

49. Please say how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree
Elected officials should always follow the will of the people	45%	40%	11%	5%
The people, not the elected officials, should make our most important policy decisions	34%	36%	24%	6%
I would rather be represented by an ordinary citizen than by an experienced elected official	30%	36%	27%	7%
Elected officials talk too much and take too little action	51%	38%	9%	3%
Elected officials always end up agreeing when it comes to protecting their privileges	42%	40%	13%	6%

50. What comes closer to your view?

- Elected officials should stick to their principles, no matter what 35%
- Elected officials should compromise to get things done 65%

51. What comes closer to your view?

Government officials should do what's good, even if it violates constitutional limitations . . . 33%
 Government officials should follow constitutional limitations, even if it stops them from doing what's good 67%

52. Thinking about the federal government in Washington, DC, about how much of an effect do you think its activities have on your day-to-day life?

A big effect 37%
 Some effect 52%
 No effect 12%

53. On the whole, do the activities of the federal government tend to improve conditions in the United States, or would we be better off without them?

They improve conditions in the United States 36%
 We would be better off without them 31%
 Don't know 33%

54. Now consider the local government where you live: about how much of an effect do you think its activities have on your day-to-day life?

A big effect 33%
 Some effect 55%
 No effect 12%

55. On the whole, do the activities of the local government tend to improve conditions in the area where you live, or would we be better off without them?

They improve conditions where I live 48%
 We would be better off without them 22%
 Don't know 30%

56. Please rank the following in terms of their importance to being a good citizen. Put the most important thing first and the least important last.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Staying informed about politics	7%	10%	11%	14%	14%	18%	15%	11%
Voting in elections	16%	13%	11%	12%	15%	12%	13%	8%
Helping neighbors	17%	19%	19%	15%	13%	8%	6%	4%
Feeling and acting patriotically	6%	7%	10%	11%	12%	15%	14%	24%
Seeking compromise	3%	7%	13%	13%	15%	16%	18%	15%
Paying taxes	7%	11%	12%	13%	13%	12%	13%	19%
Raising children	24%	16%	11%	9%	8%	8%	11%	12%
Being self-supporting	20%	17%	14%	12%	10%	12%	10%	4%

57. How patriotic toward the United States would you consider yourself?

Very patriotic	43%
Somewhat patriotic	40%
Not patriotic	17%

58. Can someone criticize their country and still be a patriot?

Yes	73%
No	13%
Not sure	14%

59. Which of these statements best describes your opinion about the United States?

The U.S. stands above all countries in the world	23%
The U.S. is one of the greatest countries in the world, along with some others	57%
There are other countries better than the U.S.	19%

60. And how would you say the United States compares to most other countries?

The U.S. is better	83%
The U.S. is about the same	7%
The U.S. is worse	10%

61. Do you ever display an American flag? Check all that apply.

Fly a flag at home	42%
Place a flag sticker on your car or other object	26%
Wear an American flag pin	18%
Other	20%

62. Are you opposed to displaying the American flag?

Asked of people who never display an American flag

Yes, I am opposed to displaying the flag	11%
No, I am not opposed to displaying the flag	89%

63. How important do you think it is for America to have these values?

	Very important	Somewhat important	Not that important	Not important at all
Freedom	88%	10%	1%	1%
Democracy	69%	23%	5%	3%
Prosperity	61%	32%	6%	1%
Diversity	56%	28%	11%	5%
Military strength	63%	27%	7%	3%
Law and order	76%	20%	3%	1%

64. Regardless of how important they are, how well do you think these ideas describe America today?

	Very well	Somewhat well	Not very well	Not at all
Freedom	27%	45%	23%	5%
Democracy	19%	45%	30%	7%
Prosperity	19%	43%	31%	7%
Diversity	30%	46%	21%	4%
Military strength	41%	41%	14%	4%
Law and order	17%	39%	34%	10%

65. Do you think your school prepared you to be a good citizen?

Yes	56%
No	30%
Not sure	14%

66. In response to COVID-19, do you think schools were shut down for...

Too long	44%
Not long enough	15%
About the right amount of time	42%

67. Which of the following should schools give the most priority to?

Prepare students for college	5%
Provide skills that prepare students for employment	23%
Teach students how to reason and think well	34%
Teach students basic values, such as honesty and respect for others	26%
Teach students about government and their civic responsibilities	7%
Provide students with the leading ideas and great books of Western civilization	3%
Introduce students to other cultures	2%

68. Which of the following should schools give the least priority to?

Prepare students for college	14%
Provide skills that prepare students for employment	7%
Teach students how to reason and think well	5%
Teach students basic values, such as honesty and respect for others	6%
Teach students about government and their civic responsibilities	7%
Provide students with the leading ideas and great books of Western civilization	34%
Introduce students to other cultures	27%

69. And, of these, which should schools give the most priority to?

Prepare students for college	10%
Provide skills that prepare students for employment	21%
Teach students how to reason and think well	24%
Teach students basic values, such as honesty and respect for others	25%
Teach students about government and their civic responsibilities	12%
Provide students with the leading ideas and great books of Western civilization	5%
Introduce students to other cultures	4%

70. And, of these, which should schools give the least priority to?

Prepare students for college	19%
Provide skills that prepare students for employment	9%
Teach students how to reason and think well	5%
Teach students basic values, such as honesty and respect for others	6%
Teach students about government and their civic responsibilities	13%
Provide students with the leading ideas and great books of Western civilization	27%
Introduce students to other cultures	20%

71. How many amendments does the Constitution have?

14	9%
21	7%
25	8%
27	44%
Don't know	32%

72. Who was President during World War I?

Woodrow Wilson	48%
Warren Harding	1%
Calvin Coolidge	2%
Franklin D. Roosevelt	24%
Don't know	25%

73. Which statement correctly describes the "rule of law"?

The law is what the president says it is	3%
The people who enforce the laws do not have to follow them	3%
No one is above the law	79%
Judges can rewrite the laws they disagree with	3%
Don't know	12%

74. U.S. Senators are elected for how many years?

4	22%
6	52%
8	6%
12	2%
Don't know	18%

75. Which, if any, of the following describe the field of study you obtained your degree(s) in? If you have not yet received a degree you are working towards, please select the field(s) you are currently studying. Please select all that apply.

Asked of those who have attended college

Accounting	5%
Art / fine art / performing arts	7%
Biological sciences (e.g., neuroscience, zoology, etc.)	4%
Business	12%
Computer sciences (e.g., IT, programming, etc.)	7%
Education	10%
Engineering	6%
Health / medicine	11%
Law	3%
Liberal arts / humanities (e.g., English, history, languages, etc.)	10%
Marketing / communications	4%
Mathematics	2%
Physical sciences (e.g., chemistry, physics, etc.)	3%
Social sciences (e.g., psychology, sociology, etc.)	11%
Other	10%
None of these	21%

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

Joe Biden	33%
Donald Trump	31%
Jo Jorgensen	0%
Howie Hawkins	0%
Other	0%
Did not vote for President	35%

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

Democrat	32%
Republican	28%
Independent	28%
Other	3%
Not sure	10%

78. Are you...?

Male	49%
Female	51%

79. Respondent age by category

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

80. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	63%
Black	13%
Hispanic	16%
Other	9%

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

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

82. Are you registered to vote?

Registered	66%
Not registered	34%