



# AMERICAN PERSPECTIVES SURVEY

## Topline Questionnaire

Total N=2,629 adults. | Interview dates: January 13–15, 2020.

Note: All results shown are percentages. An asterisk (\*) replaces percentages greater than zero but less than 0.5 percent. Responses may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

### ASK IF NOT CURRENTLY MARRIED<sup>1</sup> [N=1,475]:

**Q.1** Are you currently in a committed romantic relationship, or not?

33	Yes
67	No

### ASK ALL:

**RELIG** What is your present religion, if any?

28	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
17	Roman Catholic (Catholic)
1	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
1	Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
2	Jewish (Judaism)
2	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist
*	Hindu
6	Atheist (do not believe in God)
6	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
15	Nothing in particular
17	Just Christian
2	Something else [SPECIFY]

### ASK IF PROTESTANT, JUST CHRISTIAN, OR SOMETHING ELSE [N=1,237]:

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

52	Yes
48	No

<sup>1</sup> Throughout this questionnaire, "married" refers to those who are married or in a civil partnership.

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.2** Would you say you follow what's going on in government and public affairs most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?

48	Most of the time
29	Some of the time
14	Only now and then
9	Hardly at all

**Q.3** How closely have you been following news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election?

30	Very closely
32	Fairly closely
24	Not too closely
15	Not at all closely

**Q.4** How often would you say you vote?

46	Always
19	Nearly always
8	In about half of elections
9	Seldom
19	Never

**ASK IF CURRENTLY MARRIED OR IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP [N=1,669]:**

**Q.5** How long have you been [IF MARRIED: "married"; IF IN A RELATIONSHIP: "in a committed romantic relationship"]?

6	Less than 6 months
4	6 months to less than 1 year
12	1 year to less than 3 years
10	3 years to less than 5 years
12	5 years to less than 10 years
17	10 years to less than 20 years
38	20 years or more

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.6** How often do you discuss government and politics with the following people?

A.	People you work with
7	Nearly every day
14	A few times a week
13	A few times a month
21	Less often
46	Never

- B. Your friends
- 11 Nearly every day
- 24 A few times a week
- 24 A few times a month
- 23 Less often
- 19 Never

**ASK IF CURRENTLY MARRIED OR IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP:**

- C. Your spouse, partner, or significant other
- 30 Nearly every day
- 31 A few times a week
- 16 A few times a month
- 14 Less often
- 9 Never

**ASK IF CURRENTLY MARRIED OR IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP [N=1,669]:**

**Q.7** Which of the following are you most likely to argue with your spouse, partner, or significant other about? [RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1–7]

- 21 Money
- 8 Children
- 20 Household chores and responsibilities
- 6 Sex
- 13 Other family members
- 7 Politics or current events
- 13 How you spend your time together
- 13 Other [SPECIFY]

**ASK IF CURRENTLY MARRIED OR IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP [N=1,669]:**

**Q.8a** How did you meet your current [IF MARRIED: “spouse”; IF IN A RELATIONSHIP: “partner or significant other”]? [RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1–7]

- 5 At church, a place of worship, or a religious function
- 17 At work or a work-related event
- 16 At school
- 26 Through friends or family
- 13 An online dating site or through a dating app
- 8 At a bar, night club, or party
- 9 In your neighborhood or community
- 6 Other [SPECIFY]

**ASK IF NOT CURRENTLY MARRIED AND NOT IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP [N=960]:**

**Q.8b** Which of the following ways do you think you would be MOST likely to meet someone who you would want to date? [RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1–7]

- 12 At church, a place of worship, or a religious function
- 7 At work or a work-related event
- 6 At school
- 30 Through friends or family
- 14 An online dating site or through a dating app
- 7 At a bar, night club, or party
- 13 In your neighborhood or community
- 11 Other [SPECIFY]

**ASK IF CURRENTLY MARRIED OR IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP [N=1,669]:**

**Q.9** When did you first find out what your spouse, partner, or significant other's political views were?

- 14 Before we started dating
- 48 Early on in the relationship
- 27 Later in the relationship
- 11 Still not sure of their political views

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.10** Have you ever searched online to find information about someone you were dating or in a relationship with?

- 32 Yes, have done this
- 68 No, have not done this

**Q.11** Even if you are not currently using an online dating site or a dating app, have you ever used an online dating site or a dating app?

- 34 Yes, have used
- 66 No, have not used

**ASK IF HAVE USED ONLINE DATING APP OR WEBSITE [N=939]:**

**Q.12** Thinking about when you have used an online dating site or dating app, what information did you share about yourself on your personal profile? Please select all that apply. [RANDOMIZE]

- 20 Political views
- 76 Hobbies or interests
- 50 Educational background
- 79 Age
- 36 Religious beliefs
- 36 Career information
- 45 My hometown
- 3 None of these

**ASK IF HAVE USED ONLINE DATING APP OR WEBSITE [N=939]:**

**Q.13** Have you ever gone on a date with someone who you met through an online dating website or dating app?

67	Yes
33	No

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.14** Even if you are not currently single or dating, when considering whether to date someone, how important is it to you personally that the person . . . [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A. Shares your political views

11	One of the most important
20	Very important
30	Somewhat important
19	Not too important
20	Not at all important

B. Shares your religious beliefs or views about religion

20	One of the most important
19	Very important
27	Somewhat important
19	Not too important
16	Not at all important

C. Pays attention to politics

5	One of the most important
14	Very important
30	Somewhat important
27	Not too important
24	Not at all important

D. Shares your racial or ethnic background

10	One of the most important
15	Very important
21	Somewhat important
22	Not too important
31	Not at all important

E. Has similar views on having children

26	One of the most important
33	Very important
20	Somewhat important
8	Not too important
13	Not at all important

F. Has at least a four-year college education

5 One of the most important  
11 Very important  
20 Somewhat important  
26 Not too important  
38 Not at all important

G. Does not smoke

35 One of the most important  
23 Very important  
14 Somewhat important  
12 Not too important  
16 Not at all important

**ASK IF CURRENTLY MARRIED OR IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP [N=1,669]:**

**Q.15** How different or similar are you from your partner, spouse, or significant other when it comes to the following areas?

A. Views about Donald Trump

9 Very different  
11 Somewhat different  
21 Somewhat similar  
58 Very similar

B. Religious beliefs

10 Very different  
16 Somewhat different  
30 Somewhat similar  
44 Very similar

C. Political views

8 Very different  
15 Somewhat different  
34 Somewhat similar  
43 Very similar

D. Spending habits

15 Very different  
30 Somewhat different  
33 Somewhat similar  
21 Very similar

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.16** Even if you are not currently single or dating, how difficult would it be for you personally to date someone who does NOT share your own views on the following? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A. Climate change

15 Impossible  
19 Very difficult  
22 Somewhat difficult  
24 Not too difficult  
21 Not at all difficult

B. Existence of God

24 Impossible  
18 Very difficult  
20 Somewhat difficult  
19 Not too difficult  
18 Not at all difficult

C. Gun rights and gun control

16 Impossible  
22 Very difficult  
26 Somewhat difficult  
20 Not too difficult  
16 Not at all difficult

D. Abortion

24 Impossible  
20 Very difficult  
24 Somewhat difficult  
17 Not too difficult  
15 Not at all difficult

E. Immigration

13 Impossible  
22 Very difficult  
28 Somewhat difficult  
21 Not too difficult  
16 Not at all difficult

F.	LGBT rights
19	Impossible
20	Very difficult
23	Somewhat difficult
20	Not too difficult
15	Not at all difficult
G.	Religious freedom
20	Impossible
23	Very difficult
24	Somewhat difficult
17	Not too difficult
16	Not at all difficult
H.	Government spending
6	Impossible
13	Very difficult
27	Somewhat difficult
31	Not too difficult
23	Not at all difficult
I.	Affirmative action for racial minorities
12	Impossible
19	Very difficult
29	Somewhat difficult
23	Not too difficult
18	Not at all difficult

**ASK IF CURRENTLY MARRIED OR IN A COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP [N=1,669]:**

**Q.17** As far as you know, would you say your [IF MARRIED: “spouse”; IF IN A RELATIONSHIP: “partner or significant other”] identifies politically as a . . .

33	Democrat
32	Republican
21	Independent
4	Other
10	Not sure how spouse or partner identifies



**ASK IF SAYS SPOUSE/PARTNER/SIGNIFICANT OTHER IDENTIFIES AS INDEPENDENT, OTHER, OR NOT SURE [N=563]:**

**Q.18** Would you say your [IF MARRIED: "spouse"; IF IN A RELATIONSHIP: "partner or significant other"] leans more to the Democratic Party or the Republican Party?

20	Democratic Party
34	Neither
19	Republican Party
27	Not sure

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.19** Here are a few things that some people say can be problems in marriages or romantic relationships. How big a problem is it for a marriage or romantic relationship when . . .

A. They have different religious beliefs

31	A major problem
42	A minor problem
27	Not a problem

B. They have different political views

24	A major problem
46	A minor problem
30	Not a problem

C. The woman has a higher income than the man

11	A major problem
27	A minor problem
63	Not a problem

D. They have different spending habits

50	A major problem
36	A minor problem
15	Not a problem

**Q.20** All in all, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of Donald Trump?

26	Very favorable
17	Somewhat favorable
14	Somewhat unfavorable
44	Very unfavorable

**Q.21** Even if you are not currently dating or looking for a romantic relationship, would you be willing to date someone who [IF UNFAVORABLE VIEW OF TRUMP: “supports”; IF FAVORABLE VIEW OF TRUMP: “opposes”] Donald Trump?

38 Yes  
62 No

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.22** In your experience, when you talk about politics with people who you disagree with, do you generally find it to be . . . [RANDOMIZE]

51 Interesting and informative  
49 Stressful and frustrating

**Q.23** When you have different political views than your friends and family, do you generally think it’s better to . . . [RANDOMIZE]

41 Talk about these differences, in order to try to find common ground  
59 Avoid talking about these differences, because it usually makes things worse

**ASK ALL:**

**Q.24** Now, read each statement and please say whether you agree or disagree with each one. [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A. Couples that regularly talk about politics are generally less happy than those that do not

7 Completely agree  
23 Somewhat agree  
42 Somewhat disagree  
28 Completely disagree

B. Online dating allows people to find a better match for themselves

9 Completely agree  
45 Somewhat agree  
30 Somewhat disagree  
17 Completely disagree

C. Dating today is more difficult than it was a few years ago

32 Completely agree  
37 Somewhat agree  
22 Somewhat disagree  
10 Completely disagree

D. Online dating is more dangerous than other ways of meeting people

25 Completely agree  
41 Somewhat agree  
25 Somewhat disagree  
8 Completely disagree

E. A person's political views say a lot about what kind of person they are

22 Completely agree  
44 Somewhat agree  
22 Somewhat disagree  
12 Completely disagree

**Q.25** We'd like to get your feelings toward a number of groups or individuals in the U.S. on a "feeling thermometer." A rating of zero degrees means you feel as cold and negative as possible. A rating of 100 degrees means you feel as warm and positive as possible. You would rate the group at 50 degrees if you don't feel particularly positive or negative toward the group. How do you feel toward [INSERT ITEM]? *[Enter the number in the box between 0 and 100 that reflects your feelings]*  
**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

A. Republicans

27 0–24 degrees  
19 25–49 degrees  
27 50–74 degrees  
28 75–100 degrees

*Mean response: 48.1 degrees*

B. Democrats

26 0–24 degrees  
16 25–49 degrees  
29 50–74 degrees  
29 75–100 degrees

*Mean response: 49.9 degrees*

C. Muslims

25 0–24 degrees  
21 25–49 degrees  
35 50–74 degrees  
19 75–100 degrees

*Mean response: 45.5 degrees*

D. Atheists

28	0–24 degrees
18	25–49 degrees
36	50–74 degrees
18	75–100 degrees

*Mean response: 44.1 degrees*

E. Evangelical Christians

23	0–24 degrees
19	25–49 degrees
31	50–74 degrees
27	75–100 degrees

*Mean response: 50.8 degrees*

F. Trump supporters

38	0–24 degrees
14	25–49 degrees
18	50–74 degrees
29	75–100 degrees

*Mean response: 44.9 degrees*

G. Socialists

33	0–24 degrees
20	25–49 degrees
32	50–74 degrees
14	75–100 degrees

*Mean response: 40.2 degrees*

**Q.26** Please try to place yourself on a scale of masculinity/femininity, where 0 is completely masculine and 6 is completely feminine.

15	0 – Completely masculine
11	1
10	2
9	3
13	4
12	5
21	6 – Completely feminine
8	Neither feminine nor masculine

## Survey Methodology

The January 2020 American Perspectives Survey was designed and conducted by the American Enterprise Institute. Interviews were conducted among a sample of 2,629 adults (age 18 and older) living in the United States. Interviews were conducted online using a self-administered design. All interviews were conducted among participants in YouGov's opt-in online panel that includes adults in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Interviewing was conducted January 13–15, 2020.

Study respondents were drawn from YouGov's panel through a process of purposive sampling whereby panelists are selected to match certain demographic criteria. Panelists are stratified by a combination of age, gender, race, and education, and each stratum is sampled to reflect the overall demographic distribution of the US population. Each sampling component is matched to an artificial sampling frame developed using the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement, and other databases. This method of respondent selection is designed to reduce selection bias and noncoverage issues associated with opt-in panels. It also minimizes the need for weighting.

The sample weighting was accomplished by using the joint distribution of demographic and non-demographic variables including gender, age, race, education, voter registration status, and 2016 presidential vote (or non-vote). Voter registration was imputed from the Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement. Demographic weighting parameters were derived from the American Community Survey. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results.

Using survey weights in statistical analyses ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population. The margin of error for the survey is  $\pm 1.9$  percentage points.