January 2021 American Perspectives Survey Topline Questionnaire


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 ALL:
Q.1 These days, how closely do you follow . . .

A. News about your local community

17 Very closely
43 Somewhat closely
29 Not very closely
10 Not at all closely
* Refused

B. News about national politics

29 Very closely
40 Somewhat closely
21 Not very closely
9 Not at all closely
1 Refused

Q.2 Even if you participate in the following activities less often now than before the coronavirus outbreak, when is the last time you did any of the following (either in person or virtually) . . .

A. Visited a local public library

5 In the last week
5 In the last month
8 In the last six months
12 In the last 12 months
56 Not in the last 12 months
14 Never
1 Refused
B. Attended a social event in the community, such as a high school sporting event, play, or festival

2 In the last week
3 In the last month
8 In the last six months
15 In the last 12 months
54 Not in the last 12 months
18 Never
1 Refused

C. Attended a community meeting

2 In the last week
3 In the last month
5 In the last six months
6 In the last 12 months
40 Not in the last 12 months
44 Never
1 Refused

D. Socialized with your neighbors

25 In the last week
19 In the last month
16 In the last six months
9 In the last 12 months
19 Not in the last 12 months
11 Never
1 Refused

E. Visited a religious service

15 In the last week
5 In the last month
9 In the last six months
10 In the last 12 months
43 Not in the last 12 months
16 Never
1 Refused

Q.3 Are you currently a member of any of the following groups or organizations, or not?

A. Church or religious organization

34 Yes, currently a member
66 No, not a member
1 Refused
B. A book club, knitting club, or other activity group

11 Yes, currently a member
89 No, not a member
1 Refused

C. A local civic group

5 Yes, currently a member
94 No, not a member
1 Refused

D. A parent group or youth organization, such as PTA (Parent Teacher Association), scouts, or youth sports

6 Yes, currently a member
93 No, not a member
1 Refused

Q.4 These days do you worry more about the things happening in your community or the things that are happening in the country?

19 Worry more about things in my community
80 Worry more about things in the country
1 Refused

Q.5 Regardless of how you currently feel, in the 2020 presidential election between Joe Biden the Democrat and Donald Trump the Republican, for whom did you vote?

33 Joe Biden
30 Donald Trump
1 Someone else[SPECIFY]
33 Did not vote
4 Refused

ASK RANDOM HALF SAMPLE [N=1,005]:

Q.6 Historically, the political party out in power gains seats in Congress in off-year elections. Currently, the Democratic Party has only a slim majority in the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate is divided 50-50 between Democrats and Republicans. In your own opinion, how likely or not is it that the Republican Party will win control of either the House or the Senate in the 2022 midterm elections?

15 Very likely
41 Somewhat likely
31 Not too likely
9 Not at all likely
4 Refused
ASK ALL:

Q.7 Do you think that Joe Biden’s victory in the 2020 presidential election was legitimate or not legitimate?

65 Legitimate
31 Not legitimate
4 Refused

Q.8 How do you feel about Joe Biden becoming president? Does it mostly make you feel . . .

14 Excited
36 Relieved
13 Disappointed
3 Angry
18 Frightened
13 Other [Specify]
3 Refused

Q.9 Compared to past presidential elections during your lifetime, do you see the 2020 election as . . .

28 The single most important election of your lifetime
38 More important than most other elections
28 About as important as other elections
4 Less important than most other elections
2 Refused

Q.10 Based on what you have heard or read... Do you believe the following statements are accurate or are they NOT accurate? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A. Donald Trump encouraged his supporters to break into the U.S. Capitol

31 Completely accurate
17 Mostly accurate
11 Mostly NOT accurate
25 Completely NOT accurate
14 Not sure
2 Refused

B. A group of unelected government officials in Washington D.C., referred to as the ‘Deep State’ had been working to undermine the Trump administration

15 Completely accurate
14 Mostly accurate
8 Mostly NOT accurate
26 Completely NOT accurate
35 Not sure
2 Refused
C. Antifa, the anti-fascist activist group, were mostly responsible for the violence that happened in riots at the U.S. Capital

12  Completely accurate
18  Mostly accurate
10  Mostly NOT accurate
26  Completely NOT accurate
31  Not sure
  2  Refused

D. Donald Trump has been secretly fighting a group of child sex traffickers that include prominent Democrats and Hollywood elites

  6  Completely accurate
  9  Mostly accurate
  7  Mostly NOT accurate
 35  Completely NOT accurate
 41  Not sure
  2  Refused

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,006]:**
E. There was widespread voter fraud in the 2016 election

  7  Completely accurate
 13  Mostly accurate
 17  Mostly NOT accurate
 37  Completely NOT accurate
 24  Not sure
  2  Refused

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,010]:**
F. There was widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election

  15  Completely accurate
 14  Mostly accurate
 11  Mostly NOT accurate
 41  Completely NOT accurate
 18  Not sure
  2  Refused
ASK ALL:

Q.11 After Donald Trump is no longer president, do you think it would be a good idea for federal and state authorities to investigate potential crimes he may have committed while president or do you think this would be a bad idea?

55  Good idea
42  Bad idea
 3  Refused

RELIG  What is your present religion, if any?

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

ASK IF PROTESTANT, JUST CHRISTIAN OR SOMETHING ELSE [N=986]:

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

51  Yes
48  No
 1  Refused

ASK RANDOM HALF SAMPLE [N=1,011]:

Q.12 As you may know, in 2020 Georgia elected an African American to the U.S. Senate for the first time in the state’s history. Do you think this is a sign of a broader shift in US politics and culture or is this an isolated result?¹

66  Sign of a broader shift
30  An isolated result
 4  Refused

¹Although the Georgia Senate election was held on November 3, 2020, because no candidate received a majority of the vote a runoff election was held on January 6, 2021. Reverend Raphael Warnock became the first black American to win a Senate seat in the state after he won the runoff election.
ASK ALL:
Q.13 How proud are you to be an American?

34 Extremely proud
28 Very proud
22 Moderately proud
 7 Only a little proud
 6 Not at all proud
 3 Refused

Q.14 Now, read each statement and please say whether you agree or disagree with each one.

[A RANDOMIZE LIST]

A. White people benefit from advantages in society that black people do not have

29 Completely agree
32 Somewhat agree
20 Somewhat disagree
16 Completely disagree
 3 Refused

B. Discrimination against whites is now as big a problem as discrimination against blacks and other minorities

19 Completely agree
25 Somewhat agree
20 Somewhat disagree
34 Completely disagree
 3 Refused

C. The traditional American way of life is disappearing so fast that we may have to use force to save it

11 Completely agree
25 Somewhat agree
25 Somewhat disagree
35 Completely disagree
 4 Refused

D. These days American democracy only serves the interests of the wealthy and powerful

24 Completely agree
45 Somewhat agree
20 Somewhat disagree
 9 Completely disagree
 3 Refused
E. Voter fraud across the US has undermined the results of our elections

21 Completely agree
21 Somewhat agree
15 Somewhat disagree
40 Completely disagree
3 Refused

F. If more countries adopted American values and way of life, the world would be much better off

13 Completely agree
40 Somewhat agree
29 Somewhat disagree
13 Completely disagree
4 Refused

G. The political system is stacked against conservatives and people with traditional values

18 Completely agree
30 Somewhat agree
22 Somewhat disagree
25 Completely disagree
4 Refused

H. Police officers generally treat blacks and other minorities the same as whites

14 Completely agree
25 Somewhat agree
28 Somewhat disagree
29 Completely disagree
3 Refused

I. If elected leaders will not protect America, the people must do it themselves even if it requires taking violent actions

9 Completely agree
20 Somewhat agree
29 Somewhat disagree
39 Completely disagree
3 Refused
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,006]:
J.  God has granted America a special role in human history

19  Completely agree
26  Somewhat agree
17  Somewhat disagree
32  Completely disagree
  4  Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,010]:
K.  America has always been a force for good in the world

24  Completely agree
49  Somewhat agree
17  Somewhat disagree
  7  Completely disagree
  3  Refused

ASK ALL:
Q.15  Thinking about the following groups of people you know, how many supported Donald Trump for president in 2020?

A.  Your close friends

27  A lot of them
25  Some of them
21  Just a few of them
23  None of them
  3  Refused

B.  Immediate family members

26  A lot of them
24  Some of them
16  Just a few of them
31  None of them
  3  Refused

What about you...
Q.16  Is your overall opinion of Donald Trump... [LIST IN ORDER]

15  Very favorable
23  Mostly favorable
17  Mostly unfavorable
42  Very unfavorable
  4  Refused
Q.17 Just your best guess, how many people who voted for Donald Trump in the 2020 presidential election support the storming of the U.S. Capitol that happened on January 6?

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<td>20</td>
<td>Most of them</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>Only some of them</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Hardly any of them</td>
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Q.18 How much do you trust the following groups to do what is right for the United States?

A. Business leaders

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<td>36</td>
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B. The news media

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ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,006]:

C. People who worked in the Trump administration

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D. People working in the Biden administration

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ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,010]:

E. Donald Trump
   19 A lot
   21 Some
   14 Not too much
   43 Not at all
   3 Refused

F. Joe Biden
   27 A lot
   32 Some
   19 Not too much
   19 Not at all
   3 Refused

PARTY Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:
   28 A Democrat
   27 A Republican
   33 An Independent
   8 Other party
   4 Refused

ASK IF INDEPENDENT, OTHER PARTY, OR REFUSED [N=785]:

PARTYLEAN Do you lean more toward the . . .
   25 Democratic Party
   24 Republican Party
   46 Neither
   5 Refused

ASK IF REPUBLICAN OR LEAN REPUBLICAN [N=785]:

Q.19 Do you consider yourself to be more of a supporter of Donald Trump or more of a supporter of the Republican Party?
   38 Supporter of Donald Trump
   61 Supporter of the Republican Party
   1 Refused
Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by the Survey Center on American Life. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 2,016 adults (age 18 and up) living in the United States, including all 50 states and the District of Columbia. All interviews were conducted among participants of the web-enabled KnowledgePanel, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US general population, not just the online population. Interviewing was conducted between January 21 and January 30, 2021. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English.

Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or mail to participate in the Ipsos KnowledgePanel. For those who agree to participate but do not already have internet access, Ipsos provides at no cost a laptop and internet service provider connection. People who already have computers and internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique log-in information for accessing surveys online and then are sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in research.

The data were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race, education, Census region by metropolitan status, and household income. The sample weighting was accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IPF) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables.

The use of 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 qualified survey sample is +/− 2.7 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.5.