



# January 2021 American Perspectives Survey Topline Questionnaire

Total N=2,016 adults. | Interview dates: January 21–January 30, 2021.

*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. Attended 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?<sup>1</sup>

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

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<sup>1</sup>Although 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.  
**[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?

6	All of them
20	Most of them
38	Only some of them
32	Hardly any of them
4	Refused

**Q.18** How much do you trust the following groups to do what is right for the United States?

A. Business leaders

3	A lot
45	Some
36	Not too much
14	Not at all
2	Refused

B. The news media

7	A lot
32	Some
26	Not too much
33	Not at all
2	Refused

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

C. People who worked in the Trump administration

11	A lot
33	Some
22	Not too much
32	Not at all
3	Refused

D. People working in the Biden administration

25	A lot
30	Some
20	Not too much
23	Not at all
3	Refused

**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 (IFP) 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  $\pm 2.7$  percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.5.