



The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Interview dates: December 10-13, 2015

Interviews: 1,042 adults

Margin of error: +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

All results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Some questions held for future release.

Q5. **Government officials often have to make choices among many important goals. If you had to choose, which do you think is the *more important* goal for the government...
[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

IF DON'T KNOW/BOTH EQUAL/CAN'T CHOOSE, PROBE ONCE:

We realize that many people feel that both of these goals are important, but we're interested in which one you think might be slightly more important than the other.

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)
Protecting the rights and freedoms of U.S. citizens, (or)	27	58	54
Making sure that U.S. citizens are safe from being harmed by terrorists	42	37	35
Both equally/can't choose (DO NOT READ)	31	5	10
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	*	1	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	-	*	*
N=	1,042	1,008	1,087

Q6. **Do you think it is sometimes necessary for the government to sacrifice some rights and freedoms to fight terrorism, or is it never necessary to sacrifice rights and freedoms to prevent against terrorism?**

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)
Sometimes necessary to sacrifice some rights and freedoms	54	59	64
Never necessary to sacrifice rights and freedoms	45	38	33
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	1	2	2
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*	2	1
N=	1,042	1,008	1,087

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Q7. The following are some examples of rights and freedoms listed in the Bill of Rights or that are protected under various American laws and court rulings. For each one, please tell me if you think the U.S. government is doing a good job, poor job, or neither a good nor poor job of protecting that particular right or freedom.

How about (INSERT ITEM). [ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

READ AS NECESSARY: Is the U.S. government doing a good job, poor job, or neither a good nor poor job of protecting this (right/freedom)?

BRANCHING: Is that a very (good/poor) job or a somewhat (good/poor) job?

	Total Good Job	Very good job	Somewhat good job	Neither a good nor poor job	Total Poor Job	Somewhat poor job	Very poor job	DK	Ref.
AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015									
The right to vote	70	33	37	14	15	10	6	*	*
The freedom of religion	55	23	33	17	27	16	11	1	1
The freedom of speech	59	21	38	17	23	14	9	*	*
The freedom of the press	58	22	36	23	18	11	6	1	1
The right to keep and bear arms	38	13	26	23	38	21	18	1	*
The right of everyone to equal protection under the law	40	10	30	20	39	23	16	1	*
The freedom from unreasonable search and seizure	40	9	31	26	32	19	13	1	*

N= 1,042

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The right to vote

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)
Total Good job	70	70	84
Very good job	33	46	60
Somewhat good job	37	24	24
Neither a good nor poor job	14	7	5
Total Poor job	15	22	11
Somewhat poor job	10	8	6
Very poor job	6	14	5
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	*	1	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*	1	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>1,087</i>

The freedom of religion

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)
Total Good job	55	67	75
Very good job	23	42	45
Somewhat good job	33	25	30
Neither a good nor poor job	17	9	9
Total Poor job	27	21	16
Somewhat poor job	16	8	8
Very poor job	11	13	9
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	1	1	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1	1	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>1,087</i>

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The freedom of speech

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)
Total Good job	59	66	71
Very good job	21	33	39
Somewhat good job	38	32	32
Neither a good nor poor job	17	8	10
Total Poor job	23	26	19
Somewhat poor job	14	10	10
Very poor job	9	16	9
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	*	*	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*	*	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>1,087</i>

The freedom of the press

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)
Total Good job	58	60	63
Very good job	22	30	36
Somewhat good job	36	30	28
Neither a good nor poor job	23	10	13
Total Poor job	18	28	22
Somewhat poor job	11	13	10
Very poor job	6	15	11
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	1	1	2
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1	1	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>1,087</i>

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The right to keep and bear arms

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)
Total Good job	38	44	57
Very good job	13	21	28
Somewhat good job	26	24	30
Neither a good nor poor job	23	13	12
Total Poor job	38	41	27
Somewhat poor job	21	14	14
Very poor job	18	27	14
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	1	1	3
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*	1	*

N= 1,042 1,008 1,087

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The right of everyone to equal protection under the law

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)
Total Good job	40	43	48
Very good job	10	16	18
Somewhat good job	30	27	30
Neither a good nor poor job	20	10	13
Total Poor job	39	46	37
Somewhat poor job	23	21	19
Very poor job	16	25	18
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	*	1	2
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*	-	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>1,087</i>

The freedom from unreasonable search and seizure

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)
Total Good job	40	40	45
Very good job	9	14	19
Somewhat good job	31	27	26
Neither a good nor poor job	26	16	19
Total Poor job	32	40	32
Somewhat poor job	19	18	16
Very poor job	13	22	17
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	1	3	4
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*	1	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,042</i>	<i>1,008</i>	<i>1,087</i>

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Q8. How important do you think it is that each of the following groups is allowed to practice their religion freely in the United States?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 12/10- 13/2015	Total extremely/very important	Extremely important	Very important	Moderately important	Total Not very/not at all important	Not very important	Not important at all	DK	Ref.
People like you	80	47	33	15	4	2	3	*	*
Christians	82	49	33	14	3	1	2	*	*
Jews	72	41	31	20	7	3	4	1	1
Muslims	61	37	24	21	16	6	10	1	*
People with no religion	63	38	25	20	16	7	10	1	1
Mormons	67	39	28	22	9	4	5	1	1

N= 1,042

Q9. Do you favor, oppose or neither favor nor oppose government analysis of Internet activities and communications, including those involving U.S. citizens, without a warrant, to watch for suspicious activity that might be connected to terrorism?

	AP-NORC 12/10- 13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12- 29/2013 (phone)
Total favor	56	46
Strongly favor	27	22
Moderately favor	29	24
Neither favor nor oppose	15	8
Total oppose	28	45
Moderately oppose	15	19
Strongly oppose	13	25
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	1	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*	1

N=

1,042

1,008

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Q10. How concerned are you about the chance that you or your family might be the victim of a terrorist attack? Would you say...

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015 (online)	AP-NORC 8/12-29/2013 (phone)	AP-NORC 7/28-8/15/2011 (phone)	AP-GfK 5/5-9/2011 (phone)	AP-GfK 1/12-17/2011 (phone)	AP-GfK 5/28-6/1/2009 (phone)	AP-Ipsos 7/11-13/2005 (phone)	AP-Ipsos 8/27-29/2004 (phone)
Total a great deal/somewhat	57	30	32	33	38	35	37	38
A great deal	20	10	9	6	9	10	9	7
Somewhat	37	20	23	27	29	25	29	31
Total not too much/not at all	43	69	68	67	61	65	62	62
Not too much	27	39	38	41	38	35	36	34
Not at all	16	30	31	27	23	29	26	28
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	*	*	-	*	1	*	-	-
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*	*	*	*	*	*	-	-

Q11. How concerned are you about the chance that you or your family might be the victim of an attack by Islamic extremists in the United States? Would you say...

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Total a great deal/somewhat	56
A great deal	21
Somewhat	34
Total not too much/not at all	43
Not too much	28
Not at all	15
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1

N=

1,042

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Q12. **How concerned are you about the chance that you or your family might be the victim of domestic terrorism committed by American citizens? Would you say...**

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Total a great deal/somewhat	61
A great deal	20
Somewhat	41
Total not too much/not at all	39
Not too much	27
Not at all	11
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	*
Refused (DO NOT READ)	*

N=

1,042

Q13. **Do you think the attacks by Islamic extremists in Paris and San Bernardino, California indicate an increased risk of attacks by Islamic extremists against Western countries or has the risk of attacks remained the same?**

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Increased risk of attacks	61
Risk of attacks remains the same	37
Don't know (DO NOT READ)	1
Refused (DO NOT READ)	1

N=

1,042

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

The following questions are for classification purposes only. Be assured that your responses will be combined with those of other participants to this survey.

Q36. Are you currently registered to vote at your address, or not?

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Yes	78
No	22
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,042</i>

Q37. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Democrat	31
Republican	24
Independent	29
None of these	16
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,042</i>

If Democrat in Q37

Q37A. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Strong Democrat	40
Moderate Democrat	60
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>342</i>

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

If Republican in Q37

Q37B. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Strong Republican	24
Moderate Republican	76
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>246</i>

If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in Q37

Q37C. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Lean Democrat	36
Lean Republican	23
Don't lean	39
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>478</i>

Q37/Q37A/Q37B/Q37C. Party Identification

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Democrat (NET)	47
Strong Democrat	12
Moderate Democrat	18
Lean Democrat	17
Don't lean/Independent/None	18
Republican (NET)	34
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	18
Strong Republican	6
DON'T KNOW/SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,042</i>

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a...?

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Liberal	21
Conservative	29
Moderate	46
Don't know	3
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N= 1,042

AGE

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
18-24	12
25-34	17
35-44	19
45-54	15
55-64	18
65-74	12
75+	7

N= 1,042

GENDER

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Male	48
Female	52

N= 1,042

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
White	65
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8

N= 1,042

AMERICANS EVALUATE THE BALANCE BETWEEN SECURITY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Married	50
Widowed	7
Divorced	10
Separated	2
Never married	26
Living with partner	6

N=

1,042

INCOME

	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Under \$10,000	8
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	10
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	15
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	7

N=

1,042

AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research Poll

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago. Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Panel, which is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger omnibus survey that included questions about other topics not included in this report.

During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face).

Interviews for this survey were conducted between December 10-13, 2015, with adults age 18 and over from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from the AmeriSpeak Panel, and 1,042 completed the survey—728 via the web and 314 via telephone. The final stage completion rate is 30.5 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 36.8 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 99 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 11.1 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data has been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any non-coverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, Census division, race/ethnicity, and household phone status. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world's essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of the AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.