



The October 2021 AP-NORC Center Poll

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
With funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago

Interviews: 10/21-25/2021

1,083 adults

Margin of sampling error: +/- 4.0 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

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

CUR1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the...

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC All adults	Right direction	Wrong direction	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED ON WEB/ REFUSED
10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	32	67	1	*
9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	34	64	*	1
8/12-16/2021 (N=1,729)	39	61	*	*
7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	44	55	1	1
6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	46	53	*	1
4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	54	44	1	1
3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	50	50	*	*
2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	48	51	*	1
1/28-2/1/2021 (N=1,055)	49	49	1	1
12/3-7/2020 (N=1,117)	37	62	1	1
10/8-12/2020 (N=1,121)	25	74	1	1
9/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	27	72	*	1
8/17-19/2020 (N=1,075)	23	75	1	*
7/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	20	80	*	*
6/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	24	74	1	1
5/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	33	65	1	1
4/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	36	63	1	-
3/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	42	58	*	*
2/13-16/2020 (N=1,074)	41	59	*	*
1/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	38	62	*	*
12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053)	36	63	*	*
10/24-28/2019 (N=1,075)	39	60	1	1
9/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	38	60	1	1
8/15-18/2019 (N=1,059)	33	66	*	1
6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	36	63	*	1
5/17-20/2019 (N=1,137)	35	62	2	1
4/11-14/2019 (N=1,108)	37	62	*	*
3/14-18/2019 (N=1,063)	35	63	*	1
1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	28	70	1	*
12/13-16/2018 (N=1,067)	39	59	*	1
10/11-14/2018 (N=1,152)	39	60	*	1
8/16-20/2018 (N=1,055)	38	62	*	*
6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109)	40	58	1	1
4/11-16/2018 (N=1,140)	39	60	*	*
3/14-19/2018 (N=1,222)	37	62	1	1
2/15-19/2018 (N=1,337)	32	68	*	*
12/7-11/2017 (N=1,020)	30	69	1	*
9/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	24	74	1	*
6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	34	65	2	*
3/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	37	62	1	*

CUR2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

If don't know, skipped, or refused in CUR2:

CUR3. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

If approve in CUR2:

CUR3A. Would you say you approve of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president strongly or do you approve just somewhat?

If disapprove in CUR2:

CUR3B. Would you say you disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president strongly or do you disapprove just somewhat?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	Approve NET	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean toward approv- -ing	Do not lean either way	Dis- approve NET	Lean toward disapp- -roving	Some- what dis- approve	Strongly dis- approve	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC All adults											
10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	48	17	31	*	1	51	*	17	34	*	*
9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	50	18	31	1	1	49	*	17	32	*	*
8/12-16/2021 (N=1,729)	54	24	30	*	*	46	*	15	30	*	*
7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	59	25	33	1	*	41	1	14	26	-	*
6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	55	26	29	*	1	44	1	14	29	-	-
4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	63	34	29	*	1	36	*	11	25	*	*
3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	61	31	29	*	*	38	*	13	25	-	1
2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	60	32	28	*	*	40	*	15	24	*	*
1/28-2/1/2021 (N=1,055)	61	35	26	*	1	38	*	11	26	*	*

CURY2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling...?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED, HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC		Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKP/REF
The economy	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	41	58	1	1
	9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	47	51	1	1
	8/12-16/2021 (N=1,729)	49	49	*	1
	7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	52	47	*	*
	6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	51	47	*	2
	4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	57	42	*	2
	3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	60	39	*	1
	2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	55	44	*	1
The coronavirus pandemic	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	54	45	*	1
	9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	57	43	*	1
	8/12-16/2021 (N=1,729)	54	45	*	1
	7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	66	33	1	*
	6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	68	31	*	1
	4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	71	27	*	1
	3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	73	26	*	1
	2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	70	29	*	1
Health care	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	50	49	*	1
	7/15-19/2021 (N=1,308)	57	42	1	1
	6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	53	45	*	3
	4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	62	35	1	2
	3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	62	36	*	1
	2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	58	41	*	1

AP-NORC		Approve	Disapprove	DK	SKP/REF
Immigration	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	36	63	*	1
	9/23-27/2021 (N=1,099)	35	64	1	1
	6/10-14/2021 (N=1,125)	40	59	-	2
	4/29-5/3/2021 (N=1,842)	43	54	1	2
	3/25-29/2021 (N= 1,166)	42	56	*	2

BB2. In the next year, do you think each of the following will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?

AP-NORC		Much/ Somewhat better NET	Much better	Somewhat better	About the same	Much/ Somewhat worse NET	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP/ REF
The way things are going in the country overall	10/21-25/2021 (N=1,083)	26	4	22	24	48	28	21	*	*
	2/25-3/1/2021 (N=1,434)	43	11	33	23	34	20	14	*	*
	1/28-2/1/2021 (N=1,055)	45	10	36	19	36	21	14	*	*
	12/3-7/2020 (N = 1,117)	45	8	37	20	35	23	12	*	*
	9/11-14/2020 (N = 1,108)	41	11	30	29	29	19	10	1	1
	7/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	36	9	27	24	40	26	14	*	*
	6/11-15/2020 (N=1,310)	36	9	28	24	38	25	13	*	1
	5/14-18/2020 (N=1,056)	36	9	27	24	38	25	13	1	1
	4/16-20/2020 (N=1,057)	42	13	29	19	38	28	10	1	*
	3/26-29/2020 (N=1,057)	39	12	27	24	37	23	14	*	*
	1/16-21/2020 (N=1,353)	30	7	23	35	34	24	11	*	*
	12/5-9/2019 (N=1,053)	28	8	20	30	42	29	13	*	*
	9/20-23/2019 (N=1,286)	30	9	21	28	41	27	14	*	1
	6/13-17/2019 (N=1,116)	27	9	19	28	44	29	15	*	1
	1/16-20/2019 (N=1,062)	22	6	17	25	52	30	22	*	1
6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109)	32	9	23	25	42	25	17	*	*	

		Much/ Somewhat better NET	Much better	Somewhat better	About the same	Much/ Somewhat worse NET	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP/ REF
6/13-18/2018 (N=1,109)		30	10	20	25	45	31	15	*	*
4/11-16/2018 (N=1,140)		32	9	22	22	46	29	17	-	*
3/14-19/2018 (N=1,122)		32	8	24	22	45	26	19	1	*

BUDGET1. If you had to choose, would you favor a smaller government providing fewer services or a bigger government providing more services?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Smaller government providing fewer services	47
Bigger government providing more services	52
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1

N=

1,083

BUDGET3. How much would you say you know about the proposed spending package being negotiated in Congress?

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
A lot/Some NET	42
A lot	9
Some	34
Only a little/Nothing at all NET	57
Only a little	34
Nothing at all	23
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,083

BUDGET4. As you may know, President Biden proposed a 3.5 trillion-dollar package with funding for new and expanded government programs, and Congress is currently negotiating what should be included and how much should be spent. Do you think funding for programs related to each of the following should be a high priority, a moderate priority or a low priority?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021	A high priority	A moderate priority	A low priority	DK	SKP/ REF
Health care	64	28	8	-	*
Child care	40	40	20	*	*
Education	59	31	9	*	*
Paid family leave	27	44	29	*	*
Climate change	46	26	27	-	1

N=1,083

BUDGET5. Do you approve, disapprove, or neither approve nor disapprove of how each of the following is handling negotiations over the spending package?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021	Strongly/ Somewhat approve NET	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither approve nor disapprove	Strongly/ Somewhat disapprove NET	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
President Biden	36	11	24	23	41	11	30	*	*
Democrats in Congress	30	7	23	25	44	18	25	*	1
Republicans in Congress	18	6	12	32	49	19	30	1	1

N=1,083

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

If Democrat:

PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Democrat?

If Republican:

PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Republican?

If independent, none of these, don't know, skipped, or refused:

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

Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Democrat NET	43
Strong Democrat	19
Not so strong Democrat	15
Lean Democrat	9
Independent/None – Don't lean	19
Republican NET	37
Lean Republican	10
Not so strong Republican	12
Strong Republican	16
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,083</i>

D3. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself to be a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

If liberal:

D4. Do you consider yourself very liberal or somewhat liberal?

If conservative:

D5. Do you consider yourself very conservative or somewhat conservative?

Combines D3, D4, D5:

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Liberal NET	24
Very liberal	11
Somewhat liberal	12
Moderate	48
Conservative NET	27
Somewhat conservative	16
Very conservative	12
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,083</i>

DM5. How would you describe the community you live in now?

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Urban	25
Suburban	47
Rural	28
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N= 1,083

HALL2. Please indicate whether you plan to do each of the following to celebrate Halloween, or not?

Please select all that apply.

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021	AP-NORC 10/24-28/2019
Wear a costume	21	25
Dress your children in costumes	19	22
Display Halloween decorations in your home or yard	29	36
Take children trick or treating	16	25
Attend a Halloween party	16	25
Pass out candy to children trick-o-treating at your house	35	42
Pass out healthy snacks instead of candy to children trick-or-treating at your house	4	7
Carve a pumpkin	24	28
Watch a scary movie	28	32
Dress up a pet in costume	9	11
None of the above	35	24
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1	1

N= 1,083 1,075

AGE

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
18-29	20
30-44	26
45-59	23
60+	30

N= 1,083

GENDER

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Male	48
Female	52

N= 1,083

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9

N= 1,083

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Married	55
Not married	45

N= 1,083

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Employed	58
Not employed	42

N= 1,083

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	27
College graduate or above	20
Post grad study/professional degree	15

N= 1,083

INCOME

	AP-NORC 10/21-25/2021
Under \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	8
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	11
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	20
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 or more	10

N= 1,083

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC’s probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study 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). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between October 21st and 25th, with adults aged 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,083 completed the survey—1,008 via the web and 75 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 17.4 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 19.1 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 75.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 2.5 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-4.0 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 have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2021 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults aged 18 and over. The sample is also adjusted to match the benchmark of the percent of adults who have received at least one dose of a vaccine by Census region as of October 25, 2021, according to the CDC COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker data.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, 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.

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- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. www.norc.org

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. In its 10 years, The AP-NORC Center has conducted more than 250 studies exploring the critical issues facing the public, covering topics like health care, the economy, COVID-19, trust in media, and more. Learn more at www.apnorc.org.