



# The May 2023 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: 05/11-15/2023*

*1,680 adults*

*Margin of sampling error: +/- 3.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults*

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

**NDC1. How closely are you following the debate over increasing the national debt limit?**

**[HALF SAMPLE SHOWN RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
<b>Extremely/very closely NET</b>	<b>21</b>
Extremely closely	6
Very closely	15
<b>Somewhat closely</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Not closely at all/not very closely NET</b>	<b>41</b>
Not very closely	24
Not closely at all	17
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED / REFUSED	*

N=

1,680

**NDC2. How well would you say you understand the debate over increasing the national debt limit?**

**[HALF SAMPLE SHOWN RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
<b>Extremely/very well NET</b>	<b>20</b>
Extremely well	5
Very well	16
<b>Somewhat well</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Not well at all/not very well NET</b>	<b>39</b>
Not very well	27
Not well at all	12
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED / REFUSED	*

N=

1,680

**NDC3. The national debt limit is a cap on the legal borrowing capacity of the U.S. government. If the national debt limit is not increased, the U.S. government will default, meaning it will be unable to pay its bills. Which of the following comes closest to your opinion about what Congress should do? Do you think Congress should ...**

**[HALF SAMPLE SHOWN RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Increase the national debt limit without conditions	19
Increase the national debt limit <u>only if</u> lawmakers include terms on reducing the federal budget deficit	63
Not increase the national debt limit under any circumstances	16
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED / REFUSED	1

N=

1,680

**NDC4. If the national debt limit is not increased and the U.S. government defaults, how concerned are you about the impact on the economy?**

**[HALF SAMPLE SHOWN RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
<b>Extremely/very concerned NET</b>	<b>66</b>
Extremely concerned	33
Very concerned	34
<b>Somewhat concerned</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Not concerned at all/not very concerned NET</b>	<b>6</b>
Not very concerned	5
Not concerned at all	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED / REFUSED	1

N=

1,680

**NDC5. Do you approve, disapprove or neither approve nor disapprove of how each of the following is handling negotiations over increasing the national debt limit?**

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

AP NORC 05/11- 15/2023	<b>Strongly/ somewhat approve NET</b>	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	<b>Neither approve nor disapprove</b>	<b>Strongly/ somewhat disapprove NET</b>	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
President Biden	<b>27</b>	9	18	<b>25</b>	<b>48</b>	16	32	*	1
Democrats in Congress	<b>26</b>	8	18	<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>	18	27	*	1
Republicans in Congress	<b>22</b>	6	16	<b>29</b>	<b>49</b>	21	28	*	*

*N=1,680*

**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 05/11-15/2023
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>44</b>
Strong Democrat	16
Not so strong Democrat	17
Lean Democrat	11
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>37</b>
Lean Republican	10
Not so strong Republican	12
Strong Republican	16

*N=*

*1,680*

**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 05/11-15/2023
<b>Liberal NET</b>	<b>21</b>
Very liberal	11
Somewhat liberal	10
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Conservative NET</b>	<b>31</b>
Somewhat conservative	17
Very conservative	14
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2

*N=*

*1,680*

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

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Urban area	23
Suburban area	50
Rural area	26
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

*N=*

*1,680*

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

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Protestant	25
Roman Catholic	19
Mormon	1
Orthodox	*
Jewish	1
Muslim	1
Buddhist	1
Hindu	1
Atheist	7
Agnostic	7
Nothing in particular	16
Just Christian	18
Unitarian	*
Something else	2
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,680

*If Religion is Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox, Christian, or something else:*

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

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Yes	38
No	62
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N=

739

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
18-29	20
30-44	27
45-59	23
60+	30

N=

1,680

**GENDER**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Male	49
Female	51
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,680</i>

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
White, non-Hispanic	65
Black or African American	10
Hispanic	15
Other	10
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,680</i>

**MARITAL STATUS**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Married	48
Not married	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,680</i>

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Employed	57
Not employed	43
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,680</i>

**EDUCATION**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	26
Some college	34
College graduate or above	18
Post grad study/professional degree	12
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,680</i>

**CENSUS REGION**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
<b>Northeast NET</b>	<b>17</b>
New England	5
Mid-Atlantic	12
<b>Midwest NET</b>	<b>21</b>
East North Central	14
West North Central	7
<b>South NET</b>	<b>38</b>
South Atlantic	19
East South Central	7
West South Central	12
<b>West NET</b>	<b>23</b>
Mountain	7
Pacific	17
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,680</i>

**HOME OWNERSHIP**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household	70
Rented for cash	27
Occupied without payment of cash rent	3
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,680</i>

**INCOME**

	AP-NORC 05/11-15/2023
Under \$10,000	4
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	9
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	8
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	7
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	21
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	11
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,680</i>



## 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 May 11 and 15, 2023 with adults aged 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,680 completed the survey—1,609 via the web and 71 by telephone. Panel members were invited by email or by phone from an NORC telephone interviewer. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive for completing the survey. The final stage completion rate is 18.4 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 20.7 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 79.9 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 3.0 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.4 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups. For example, the margin of sampling error is +/- 5.0 percentage points for Democrats and +/- 5.8 percentage points for Republicans.

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 72 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them, for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample, or for straight-lining all grid questions asked of them. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

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 age 18 and over.

Complete questions and results are available at: [apnorc.org](https://apnorc.org)  
Additional information on the AmeriSpeak Panel methodology is available at:  
<https://amerispeak.norc.org/about-amerispeak/Pages/Panel-Design.aspx>.

For more information, email [info@apnorc.org](mailto:info@apnorc.org).

## **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 an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world's population sees AP journalism every day. [www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org)
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. [www.norc.org](http://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](http://www.apnorc.org).