

# **Pearson Institute/AP-NORC Poll 2023**

**Conducted by the Pearson Institute and The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research  
With funding from the Pearson Institute**

*Interview dates: September 21-25, 2023*

*Nationally representative sample of 1,191 adults age 18 and older, conducted using the AmeriSpeak®  
Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago  
Margin of error: +/- 3.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level*

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

**PEARSON1. Do you think the United States should take a more or less active role solving the world's problems or is its current role about right?**

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

	Pearson Institute/ AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023	Pearson Institute/ AP-NORC 9/9-12/2022	AP-NORC 8/12- 16/2021	AP-NORC 1/16- 20/2019	AP-NORC 6/25- 7/7/2015
A more active role	24	21	27	30	27
Its current role is about right	42	43	39	37	33
A less active role	33	34	32	31	38
DON'T KNOW	*	*	*	1	1
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*	2	1	1	1
<i>N=</i>	1,191	1,003	1,729	1,062	1,167

**PEARSON2. How would you describe the relationship between the following countries and the United States? Would you say they are close allies, friendly but not close allies, not friendly but not enemies, or enemies?**

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

Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023	Close allies	Friendly but not close allies	Not friendly but not enemies	Enemies	DK	SKP/REF
Mexico	16	52	25	5	*	2
Canada	62	25	9	2	*	2
Iran	1	9	34	53	*	3
Afghanistan	2	12	42	41	*	2

*N=1,191*

**A1. Overall, would you say the war in Afghanistan was worth fighting or not worth fighting?<sup>1</sup>**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023	AP-NORC 8/12-16/2021
Worth fighting	32	35
Not worth fighting	66	62
DON'T KNOW	*	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	2	3
<i>N=</i>	1,191	1,729

<sup>1</sup> Question previously programmed as "Overall, would you say each of the following was worth fighting or not worth fighting" with grid items as "The war in Iraq" and "The war in Afghanistan"

**A2. How successful do you believe the United States and its allies were in achieving the following policy goals during the war in Afghanistan?**

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

Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023	Very/ some- what successful NET	Very successful	Some- what successful	Neither successful nor un- successful	Very/ some- what un- successful NET	Some- what un- successful	Very un- success- ful	DK	SKP/ REF
Eliminating the threat from Islamic extremists taking shelter in Afghanistan	<b>22</b>	2	20	<b>29</b>	<b>46</b>	20	26	*	2
Apprehending or killing people in Afghanistan who are responsible for the September 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon	<b>46</b>	11	35	<b>26</b>	<b>25</b>	13	12	*	2
Helping develop a functioning Afghan government	<b>16</b>	2	14	<b>33</b>	<b>48</b>	19	29	*	2
Improving the educational and employment opportunities for women and girls in Afghanistan	<b>22</b>	3	19	<b>32</b>	<b>43</b>	20	23	1	3

N=1,191

**A3. How much, if anything, have you heard about the following events that have happened in Afghanistan?**

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

Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023	A lot/some NET	A lot	Some	A little/nothing at all NET	A little	Nothing at all	DK	SKP/ REF
The 2021 U.S. withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan	<b>68</b>	36	32	<b>31</b>	21	10	*	2
The Taliban taking control of Afghanistan's government in 2021	<b>59</b>	25	35	<b>39</b>	24	15	*	2
The Taliban restricting women's rights including limiting educational opportunities for girls	<b>64</b>	28	36	<b>34</b>	20	13	*	2
The treatment by the Taliban of Afghan citizens who worked with the United States during the war	<b>52</b>	17	35	<b>47</b>	24	23	*	2

N=1,191

**A4. Thinking about the foreign policy goals of the United States, please tell me how important it is for the United States to do each the following:**

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

Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023	Extremely/ very important NET	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too/ not at all important NET	Not too important	Not important at all	DK	SKP/ REF
Advance the rights of women and girls in Afghanistan	40	13	26	35	23	13	9	*	3
Eliminate the threat of Islamic extremists taking shelter in Afghanistan	44	15	29	32	20	11	9	*	3
Reduce inequality and poverty in Afghanistan	27	9	18	38	31	18	13	*	3
Develop a functioning Afghan government separate from the Taliban	32	9	23	35	28	17	11	1	3

N=1,191

**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.**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>45</b>
Strong Democrat	21
Not so strong Democrat	14
Lean Democrat	10
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>34</b>
Lean Republican	10
Not so strong Republican	10
Strong Republican	14
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,191

**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:*

**IDEO. Do you consider yourself very conservative or somewhat conservative?**

**Combines D3, D4, D5:**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
<b>Liberal NET</b>	<b>24</b>
Very liberal	13
Somewhat liberal	11
<b>Moderate</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Conservative NET</b>	<b>31</b>
Somewhat conservative	18
Very conservative	13
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

*N= 1,191*

**AGE**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
18-29	20
30-44	27
45-59	23
60+	31

*N= 1,191*

**GENDER**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
Male	49
Female	51

*N= 1,191*

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
White, non-Hispanic	61
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,191</i>

**MARITAL STATUS**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
Married	45
Not married	55
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,191</i>

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
Employed	62
Not employed	38
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,191</i>

**EDUCATION**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
Less than a high school diploma	9
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	26
College graduate or above	18
Post grad study/professional degree	17
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,191</i>

**CENSUS REGION**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
<b>Northeast NET</b>	<b>17</b>
New England	5
Mid-Atlantic	13
<b>Midwest NET</b>	<b>21</b>
East North Central	14
West North Central	6
<b>South NET</b>	<b>38</b>
South Atlantic	20
East South Central	6
West South Central	12
<b>West NET</b>	<b>24</b>
Mountain	8
Pacific	16

N= 1,191

**HOME OWNERSHIP**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household	70
Rented for cash	28
Occupied without payment of cash rent	2

N= 1,191

**INCOME**

	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023
Under \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	8
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	8
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	7
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	19
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	15
\$150,000 or more	13

N= 1,191

## Study Methodology

This study was funded by the Pearson Institute and conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research. Staff from the Pearson Institute and The AP-NORC Center collaborated on all aspects of the study.

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 September 21 and 25, 2023 with adults aged 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,191 completed the survey—1,130 via the web and 61 by telephone. Panel members were invited by email or by phone from an NORC telephone interviewer. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive for completing the survey. The final stage completion rate is 16.8 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 21.1 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 78.7 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 2.8 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.8 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

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, 38 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 2023 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).

### **About the Pearson Institute**

The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts at the University of Chicago promotes the ongoing discussion, understanding and resolution of global conflicts, and contributes to the advancement of a global society more at peace. Established through a grant from The Thomas L. Pearson and The Pearson Family Members Foundation, and led by Institute Director James Robinson, co-author of *Why Nations Fail* and *The Narrow Corridor*, the Institute achieves this by employing an analytically rigorous, data-driven approach and global perspective to understanding violent conflict. It is global in its scope, activities and footprint. Attracting students and scholars from around the world, its faculty is in the field studying conflicts – and approaches to conflict resolution – in Nigeria, Colombia and Afghanistan, to name just a few.