



The February W2 2026 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: 02/19-23/2026
1,133 adults*

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

*Republicans, including leaners: N=378; margin of sampling error = +/- 6.4 percentage points
Independents, other, no answer: N=214; margin of sampling error = +/- 9.0 percentage points
Democrats, including leaners: N=541; margin of sampling error = +/- 6.1 percentage points*

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

NATO. As you may know, NATO, or the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, is a military alliance between the United States, Canada, and many European countries. In general, would you say being a member of NATO is good for the U.S., bad for the U.S., or neither good nor bad?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 2/19-23/2026	AP-NORC 3/20-24/2025	AP-NORC 02/22-26/2024	AP-NORC 4/14-18/2022
Very/somewhat good NET	70	57	61	65
Very good	40	30	32	34
Somewhat good	30	27	29	30
Neither good nor bad	20	31	26	25
Very/somewhat bad NET	9	11	13	10
Somewhat bad	6	8	8	5
Very bad	2	3	5	5
DON'T KNOW	1	*	*	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/ REFUSED	*	*	*	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,133</i>	<i>1,229</i>	<i>1,102</i>	<i>1,085</i>

USRELATION_1. 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?¹

[ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE; GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC		Close allies	Friendly but not close allies	Not friendly but not enemies	Enemies	DK	SKP/REF
Canada	02/19-23/2026 (N=544)	49	30	16	3	2	1
	03/20-24/2025 (N=1,229)	45	30	19	3	1	2
	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023 (N=1,191)	62	25	9	2	*	2
Russia	02/19-23/2026 (N=544)	3	18	35	41	2	1
	03/20-24/2025 (N=1,229)	3	16	42	36	1	3

¹ The Pearson Institute/AP-NORC September 2023 Poll also offered the response options in the reverse order.

AP-NORC		Close allies	Friendly but not close allies	Not friendly but not enemies	Enemies	DK	SKP/REF
China	02/19-23/2026 (N=544)	5	18	44	31	2	1
	03/20-24/2025 (N=1,229)	3	15	46	33	*	2
The European Union	02/19-23/2026 (N=544)	37	39	19	2	3	*
	03/20-24/2025 (N=636)	37	33	25	3	1	2
Germany	02/19-23/2026 (N=544)	36	37	23	2	2	*
	03/20-24/2025 (N=619)	27	44	23	2	*	2
North Korea	02/19-23/2026 (N=544)	2	12	29	54	2	1
Japan	02/19-23/2026 (N=544)	36	35	22	3	2	1
Denmark	02/19-23/2026 (N=544)	31	42	24	1	2	1

USRELATION_2. 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?²

[ASKED OF HALF SAMPLE; GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC		Close allies	Friendly but not close allies	Not friendly but not enemies	Enemies	DK	SKP/REF
Iran	02/19-23/2026 (N=589)	2	7	28	61	1	2
	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023 (N=1,191)	1	9	34	53	*	3
Ukraine	02/19-23/2026 (N=589)	21	52	18	7	1	1
	03/20-24/2025 (N=1,229)	17	44	30	5	1	3

² The Pearson Institute/AP-NORC September 2023 Poll also offered the response options in the reverse order.

AP-NORC		Close allies	Friendly but not close allies	Not friendly but not enemies	Enemies	DK	SKP/REF
Israel	02/19-23/2026 (N=589)	54	19	16	9	*	1
	03/20-24/2025 (N=1,229)	40	28	23	7	*	2
The United Kingdom	02/19-23/2026 (N=589)	56	31	10	2	1	1
	03/20-24/2025 (N=593)	49	31	17	2	*	1
France	02/19-23/2026 (N=589)	39	40	17	2	1	1
	03/20-24/2025 (N=610)	33	38	24	2	1	2
South Korea	02/19-23/2026 (N=589)	31	32	22	13	1	1
Venezuela	02/19-23/2026 (N=589)	5	23	47	24	1	1
Mexico	02/19-23/2026 (N=589)	18	47	28	7	*	1
	03/20-24/2025 (N=1,229)	22	40	29	6	1	2
	Pearson Institute/AP-NORC 9/21-25/2023 (N=1,191)	16	52	25	5	*	2

TRUSTDJT. In general, how much do you trust Donald Trump to make the right decisions about each of the following?

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

AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026	A great deal/quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP/REF
The use of nuclear weapons	27	13	14	13	59	13	47	*	*
The use of military force outside the U.S.	27	13	13	17	56	14	43	*	*
Relationships with U.S. allies	26	14	12	18	56	13	43	-	*
Relationships with U.S. adversaries	28	13	15	17	55	14	41	-	*

N=1,133

FP2. How personally concerned are you that each of the following poses a direct threat to the United States?

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

AP-NORC		Extremely/ very concern-ed NET	Extremely concerned	Very concern- ed	Moder- ately concerned	Not very/ not concerned at all NET	Not very concern- ed	Not concern- ed at all	D K	SKP/ REF
Iran's nuclear program	02/19- 23/2026 (N=1,133)	48	27	21	31	19	13	6	*	1
	07/10- 14/2025 (N=1,437)	50	23	27	30	19	14	5	*	1
	11/2- 6/2023 (N=1,239)	57	29	28	29	13	10	3	*	1
	02/16- 20/2023 (N=1,247)	47	20	27	32	19	15	4	*	1
	3/17- 21/2022 (N=1,082)	48	25	24	33	19	16	3	*	*
	2/18- 21/2022 (N=1,289)	43	18	24	38	19	15	5	*	*
	8/12- 16/2021 (N=1,729)	48	21	28	35	15	12	3	1	1
	03/25- 29/2021 (N=1,166)	47	18	29	36	16	13	4	*	1
	01/16- 21/2020 (N=1,353)	56	28	28	28	15	11	4	*	*
	01/16- 20/2019 (N=1,062)	48	21	27	33	18	11	7	-	1

AP-NORC		Extremely /very concern- ed NET	Extreme -ly concern- ed	Very concern- ed	Moderately concerned	Not very/ not concerned at all NET	Not very concerned	Not concerned at all	DK	SKP/ REF
North Korea's nuclear program	02/19- 23/2026 (N=1,133)	51	27	24	29	19	14	5	*	1
	07/10- 14/2025 (N=1,437)	49	21	28	29	21	17	3	*	1
	11/2-6/2023 (N=1,239)	54	27	27	28	18	14	4	*	*
	02/16- 20/2023 (N=1,247)	51	24	27	32	17	13	4	*	1
	3/17- 21/2022 (N=1,082)	51	25	26	29	19	16	3	*	*
	2/18- 21/2022 (N=1,289)	45	18	27	35	19	14	5	*	*
	8/12- 16/2021 (N=1,729)	47	20	27	35	17	14	3	*	1
	03/25- 29/2021 (N=1,166)	46	19	27	36	17	13	5	*	1
	01/16- 20/2020 (N=1,353)	53	25	27	30	17	12	5	*	*
	1/16- 20/2019 (N=1,062)	52	23	29	32	15	10	5	*	*
Russia's nuclear program	02/19- 23/2026 (N=1,133)	52	26	25	29	19	15	4	*	1
China's nuclear program	02/19- 23/2026 (N=1,133)	49	24	25	32	18	13	4	*	1

NUC1. Do you think the war between Russia and Ukraine has increased the possibility of nuclear weapons being used anywhere in the world, decreased the possibility, or hasn't it made a difference?³

[HALF ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026	AP-NORC 3/17-21/2022
Increased NET	49	71
Increased a lot	10	25
Increased somewhat	39	46
Hasn't made a difference	44	25
Decreased NET	5	4
Decreased somewhat	5	3
Decreased a lot	1	*
DON'T KNOW	1	*
REFUSED/SKIPPED ON WEB	1	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,133</i>	<i>1,082</i>

NUC2. How personally concerned are you about Russia using nuclear weapons that target:

[HALF ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

		Extremely concerned /very concerned NET	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned /not concerned at all NET	Not very concerned	Not concerned at all	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-NORC The United States	02/19-23/2026 (N=1,133)	36	19	17	35	28	22	6	*	1
	3/17-21/2022 (N=1,082)	45	27	19	30	25	20	5	-	1
Where you live specifically	02/19-23/2026 (N=1,133)	26	13	13	31	43	29	13	*	1
	3/17-21/2022 (N=1,082)	31	18	13	26	43	29	13	-	1

³ In March 2022 question read: Do you think Russia's invasion of Ukraine has increased the possibility of nuclear weapons being used anywhere in the world, decreased the possibility or hasn't it made a difference?

AP-NORC		Extremely concerned /very concerned NET	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very concerned /not concerned at all NET	Not very concerned	Not concerned at all	DK	SKP/ REF
Ukraine	02/19-23/2026 (N=1,133)	43	17	27	35	20	14	6	*	1
	3/17-21/2022 (N=1,082)	61	32	28	26	12	8	4	*	1
Other countries in Europe	02/19-23/2026 (N=1,133)	32	11	21	38	29	22	7	*	1
	3/17-21/2022 (N=1,082)	50	23	26	31	19	14	5	-	1

NUC3. How concerned are you that extremist groups might acquire and use nuclear weapons to attack the United States?

[HALF ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Extremely/very concerned NET	40
Extremely concerned	19
Very concerned	21
Somewhat concerned	37
Not very/not concerned at all NET	23
Not very concerned	17
Not concerned at all	6
DON'T KNOW	*
REFUSED/SKIPPED ON WEB	1

N=

1,133

NUC4. How much of a priority should each of the following be for the U.S. government?

[HALF ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	A high/moderate priority NET	A high priority	A moderate priority	A low/not a priority NET	A low priority	Not a priority	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026								
Strengthening its missile defense system	82	43	39	17	12	5	1	1
Using its position as a nuclear power to protect allies that don't have their own nuclear weapons	73	27	46	25	18	8	1	1
Resuming nuclear testing	47	13	33	52	33	19	1	1
Cooperating with international efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons	88	60	29	10	7	3	1	1

N= 1,133

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.

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Democrat NET	39
Strong Democrat	15
Not so strong Democrat	13
Lean Democrat	10
Independent/None – Don't lean	25
Republican NET	36
Lean Republican	10
Not so strong Republican	12
Strong Republican	14
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,133</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:

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

Combines D3, D4, D5:

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Liberal NET	20
Very liberal	10
Somewhat liberal	10
Moderate	48
Conservative NET	30
Somewhat conservative	15
Very conservative	14
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,133</i>

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

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Urban area	27
Suburban area	48
Rural area	24
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N= 1,133

RELIG. What is your present religion, if any?

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Protestant	27
Roman Catholic	19
Mormon	1
Orthodox	1
Jewish	1
Muslim	1
Buddhist	2
Hindu	*
Atheist	4
Agnostic	6
Nothing in particular	17
Just Christian	18
Unitarian	1
Something else	1
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N= 1,133

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 02/19-23/2026
Yes	40
No	60
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N= 784

AGE

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
18-29	20
30-44	26
45-59	23
60+	31

N= 1,133

GENDER

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Male	49
Female	51

N= 1,133

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
White, non-Hispanic	60
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	18
Other	10

N= 1,133

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Married	47
Not married	53

N= 1,133

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Employed	61
Not employed	39

N= 1,133

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Less than a high school diploma	9
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	26
Bachelor's degree	23
Post graduate study or professional degree	14

*N=**1,133***CENSUS REGION**

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Northeast NET	17
New England	5
Mid-Atlantic	13
Midwest NET	20
East North Central	14
West North Central	6
South NET	39
South Atlantic	21
East South Central	6
West South Central	12
West NET	24
Mountain	8
Pacific	16

*N=**1,133***HOME OWNERSHIP**

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Owned or being bought by you or someone in your household	61
Rented for cash	36
Occupied without payment of cash rent	3

*N=**1,133*

VOTE 2024

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Voted for Kamala Harris	29
Voted for Donald Trump	30
Voted for someone else	1
Didn't vote	41
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,133</i>

INCOME

	AP-NORC 02/19-23/2026
Under \$10,000	5
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	7
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	17
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	14
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	15
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,133</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 National Sample Frame provides coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. The U.S. Postal Service delivery-sequence file (DSF) and National Consumer Address File have been used in a subset of years as a supplemental sample during AmeriSpeak panel recruitment for low coverage states. 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 February 19 through February 23, 2026, with adults aged 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,133 completed the survey—1,049 via the web and 84 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 weighted household panel recruitment rate is 24.9 percent, the survey completion rate is 26.3 percent, for a weighted cumulative response rate of 6.6 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. For example, the margin of sampling error is 6.1 percentage points for Democrats, 6.4 percentage points for Republicans and 9.0 percentage points for independents.

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, 93 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, education, and the 2024 presidential vote. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2025 Current Population Survey and the final results for 2024 presidential vote turnout and vote choice. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

Complete questions and results are available at: 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.

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.

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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. Learn more at www.apnorc.org.