



## National Survey of American Adults Oct. 16-20, 2025

**N = 1,000 American Adults**

**The sample has an adjusted margin of error of +/-3.47 percentage points**

See <http://uml.edu/polls> for full questionnaire/topline results and detailed methodology disclosure.

Survey design and analysis by John Cluverius, director of survey research, and Rodrigo Castro Cornejo, associate director, University of Massachusetts Lowell Center for Public Opinion.

Do you have a question about this poll? If so, reach out to us on social media via X/Twitter (@UML\_CPO)

---

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### 1. Trump Leads Gloomy Nation with 42% Approval

*"The country is haunted by division and malaise about politics in general. What we're seeing is that majorities of Americans are hurting about as much as they were well before the 2024 Election. Donald Trump was elected on a wave of frustration with the status quo, and that frustration remains," said Associate Professor John Cluverius, director of survey research in the Center for Public Opinion.*

As the country settles in for the first Halloween of the Trump presidency, a new poll from the University of Massachusetts Lowell and YouGov reveals a country where even pumpkin spice season can't mask the bitter taste of politics. Perceptions of the country are largely negative and unchanged from the last national UMass Lowell/YouGov poll conducted more than 18 months ago. This fall 42% of Americans say they strongly or somewhat approve of the job that Donald Trump is doing as president, with 58% saying they strongly or somewhat disapprove of the job he is doing. Almost two thirds (65%) of respondents say that the country has gotten off on the wrong track, with 35% saying the country is headed in the right direction. These numbers are similar to a national UMass Lowell/YouGov poll released in April 2024, which showed then-President Joe Biden with 42% approval and 68% of respondents saying the country was on the wrong track.

#### 2. A Haunted House Divided: Partisanship colors perceptions of issues, reality

The country has become more divided along partisan lines since the last UMass Lowell/YouGov poll. Asked last year how much they would support or oppose a constitutional amendment

allowing a president to serve more than two terms, self-identified Republicans and Democrats were nearly even in opposing it. Now, as President Trump and supporters signal his interest in staying in office beyond his second term, the country is more split on the issue, with 94% of Democrats saying they oppose allowing a president to serve more than two terms, while only 55% of Republicans are opposed.

The country is also split along party lines when asked if federal law enforcement agents should be prohibited from covering their faces while on duty. Nationwide, 57% strongly or somewhat support such a ban, while 44% strongly or somewhat oppose. However, there is a clear partisan split, with 76% of Democrats strongly or somewhat supporting a ban (25% opposed), 35% of Republicans strongly or somewhat supporting a ban (65% opposed), and 58% of independents supporting (43% opposed).

Americans can't even seem to agree on the state of the economy. In the poll, 52% of respondents say it's gotten somewhat or much harder to pay for basic necessities over the last six months, close to the 54% of respondents who said the same thing in April 2024. However, with a change in presidents, partisan attitudes about personal economic conditions have drastically shifted, as well. In 2024, under Joe Biden, 36% of Democrats said it had gotten somewhat or much harder to afford basic necessities, compared to 70% of Republicans and 65% of independents. Now, under Trump, a similar 54% of independents say their necessities have become harder to pay for, but 76% of Democrats and only 25% of Republicans say the same thing.

The poll asked about numerous figures in public and political life. Only one person in the poll received above 50% favorable ratings from Democrats, Republicans and independents: country music superstar Dolly Parton.

### 3. No treats for Democrats in poll

*"Despite low approval ratings in the poll for President Trump, there are few treats for Democrats. Instead of candy bars, respondents are giving Democratic leaders boxes of raisins." said Associate Professor John Cluverius, director of survey research at the Center for Public Opinion.*

Even with low approval ratings for President Trump, negative views of the direction of the country and high perceptions of rising costs, Democrats are in a close race for the generic ballot for the House of Representatives, with 38% of all respondents saying they would vote for the Democratic candidate and 35% saying they would vote for the Republican candidate. Of the rest, 2% said they would vote for another candidate, 11% said they are undecided, and 14% said they would not vote.

Democrats also take a close share of blame for most of the problems in the country to Republicans, with 33% of all respondents saying Democrats are more responsible for political violence in the country, compared to 36% saying Republicans are more

responsible. Similarly, 36% of all respondents blame Democrats for people feeling unsafe to express their real views and opinions, slightly lower than the 39% who blame Republicans for people feeling unsafe to express themselves. And when it comes to the government shutdown, 35% of respondents blame President Trump or congressional Republicans, only slightly higher than the percent who blame Democrats in Congress (30%), with 35% saying that all parties are equally to blame.