

RealClear Opinion Research

Sample: N=2,086 U.S. Registered Voters

Interviewing Period: 16 – 20 September 2021

Mode: Online (English)

95% Credibility Interval of 2.18 percentage points

Thank you for taking this important survey about current events. It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete. Please be assured that all of your answers will be kept confidential.

1. We understand that plenty of people are not registered to vote, but we are wondering if you are registered to vote?

Yes 100%

2. Are you...

Male..... 48%

Female 52%

3. In what state do you live?

[See Region recode on last page]

4. What is your age?

18-24 14%

25-34 19%

35-44 14%

45-54 11%

55-64 12%

65+ 30%

5. Which of the following best describes your race and ethnicity?

White, Non-Hispanic..... 67%

Hispanic..... 15%

Black, Non-Hispanic 12%

Asian 5%

Other, Non-Hispanic..... 1%

Two or more races, Non-Hispanic..... 1%

Two or more races, Hispanic..... *

[IF AGE 18-24, ASK]

6. With regard to school, are you **currently enrolled** at any of the following? (n=160)

High school.....	23%
Trade/Vocational	2%
2-year or junior college or community college.....	17%
4-year college or university	29%
Graduate school	5%
Business school or professional	2%
Not enrolled in college/university, but taking at least one course.....	*
Not currently enrolled in any of these	29%

[IF AGE 25+, ASK]

7. What is the highest level of education you've completed? (n=1,926)

Net: College	37%
Net: Less Than College.....	63%
Some high school or less	2%
High school or equivalent	21%
Some college, but no degree	22%
Associate's degree / Trade school degree	18%
Bachelor's degree.....	23%
Graduate degree	10%
Doctorate degree.....	3%

8. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Employed full-time.....	37%
Employed part-time	9%
Self-employed	7%
Not employed	33%
Not employed/homemaker	12%
Student	3%

[IF EMPLOYED FULL-TIME, PART-TIME, OR SELF-EMPLOYED, ASK]

9. What kind of work do you do? (n=1,163)

Manager, executive, or official: Examples would be store manager, business exec.	21%
Professional: Examples would be lawyer, doctor, teacher, nurse, accountant.....	18%
Clerical/Office/Sales: Examples would be secretary, receptionist, salesclerk	15%
Service work: Examples would be waiter/waitress, hairstylist, police or fireman, janitor, nurses' aid.....	11%
Business owner	9%
Skilled trades: Examples would be electrician, plumber, carpenter	6%
Semi-skilled: Examples would be assembly line worker, truck driver, bus driver	6%
Other	12%

10. Which of the following best describes your marital status?
- | | |
|---|-----|
| Married | 45% |
| Living with partner/significant other | 9% |
| Single, never married | 29% |
| Separated or divorced | 12% |
| Widowed..... | 5% |
11. Which of the following statements best describes your voting in the last presidential election held on November 3rd, 2020?
- Net: Voted** **90%**
- | | |
|---|-----|
| I voted at a polling place..... | 40% |
| I voted early..... | 15% |
| I voted by mail / absentee ballot..... | 35% |
| I planned on voting but wasn't able to..... | 2% |
| I did not vote in this election..... | 8% |
| I went to the polling place but wasn't allowed to vote..... * | |
12. When it comes to politics, with which party do you consider yourself to be affiliated?
- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| Democratic | 36% |
| Republican | 35% |
| Independent/Unaffiliated | 29% |
13. When it comes to most political issues, do you think of yourself as a...?
- Net: Liberal.....** **29%**
Moderate **36%**
Net: Conservative..... **35%**
- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| Liberal..... | 17% |
| Moderate, leaning liberal | 11% |
| Moderate | 36% |
| Moderate, leaning conservative | 11% |
| Conservative | 24% |

[IF VOTED, ASK]

14. For whom did you vote for president in 2020? (n=1,915)
- | | |
|--------------------|-----|
| Joe Biden | 51% |
| Donald Trump..... | 46% |
| Someone else | 3% |
15. How likely is it that you will vote in the midterm elections for Congress in November 2022?
- | | |
|---|-----|
| Definitely will be voting, without a doubt..... | 63% |
| Probably will be voting..... | 18% |
| 50-50 | 13% |
| Probably won't be voting | 4% |
| Definitely won't be voting..... | 2% |
16. Do you consider yourself to be politically engaged or politically active?
- | | |
|-----------|-----|
| Yes | 51% |
| No..... | 49% |
17. All in all, do you think that things in the nation are ...
- | | |
|--|-----|
| Generally headed in the right direction..... | 32% |
| Off on the wrong track | 51% |
| Not sure what direction the country is headed in | 17% |
18. In general, are you more concerned about domestic or foreign threats facing the country today?
- | | |
|--|------------|
| Net: Domestic | 58% |
| Net: Foreign | 42% |
| Much more concerned about domestic threats | 29% |
| Somewhat more concerned about domestic threats | 29% |
| Somewhat more concerned about foreign threats | 22% |
| Much more concerned about foreign threats..... | 20% |
19. What do you believe is the greatest threat to America today? Please be as honest and direct as possible. (Open-ended)
- | | |
|--|-----|
| Taliban, ISIS, foreign terrorism..... | 14% |
| Biden and Democrats | 10% |
| Coronavirus | 9% |
| Trump and Republicans, Trump supporters..... | 7% |
| Lack of unity, division | 7% |
| Government corruption..... | 7% |
| China, North Korea, or Russia | 6% |
| Immigration..... | 6% |
| Economic issues | 5% |
| White supremacists, far-right extremists | 4% |
| Racial issues | 4% |
| Domestic terrorism | 2% |
| Misinformation | 2% |
| Other | 8% |
| No response | 9% |

When it comes to making decisions about the U.S. military, how much do you trust the following institutions and individuals to do the right thing?

[Note: Displayed in rank order based on, "Net: All the time/Most of the time." Each item was randomized during data collection.]

20. U.S. military troops (the men and women serving in the U.S. military)

Net: All the time/Most of the time 74%
Net: Some of the time/Never 21%

All the time 39%
 Most of the time 35%
 Some of the time 16%
 Never 5%
 Don't know 5%

21. U.S. military generals

Net: All the time/Most of the time 55%
Net: Some of the time/Never 38%

All the time 19%
 Most of the time 36%
 Some of the time 30%
 Never 8%
 Don't know 7%

22. The Pentagon

Net: All the time/Most of the time 47%
Net: Some of the time/Never 45%

All the time 14%
 Most of the time 33%
 Some of the time 34%
 Never 11%
 Don't know 8%

23. President Joe Biden

Net: All the time/Most of the time 39%
Net: Some of the time/Never 57%

All the time 18%
 Most of the time 21%
 Some of the time 19%
 Never 38%
 Don't know 4%

- 24. Former President Donald Trump
 - Net: All the time/Most of the time 39%**
 - Net: Some of the time/Never 57%**
 - All the time..... 20%
 - Most of the time..... 18%
 - Some of the time 16%
 - Never 41%
 - Don't know..... 4%

- 25. Democrats in Congress
 - Net: All the time/Most of the time 34%**
 - Net: Some of the time/Never 60%**
 - All the time..... 13%
 - Most of the time..... 21%
 - Some of the time 27%
 - Never 33%
 - Don't know..... 6%

- 26. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley
 - Net: All the time/Most of the time 34%**
 - Net: Some of the time/Never 45%**
 - All the time..... 12%
 - Most of the time..... 21%
 - Some of the time 24%
 - Never 21%
 - Don't know..... 21%

- 27. U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin
 - Net: All the time/Most of the time 34%**
 - Net: Some of the time/Never 45%**
 - All the time..... 12%
 - Most of the time..... 22%
 - Some of the time 25%
 - Never 20%
 - Don't know..... 22%

- 28. Republicans in Congress
 - Net: All the time/Most of the time 31%**
 - Net: Some of the time/Never 62%**
 - All the time..... 9%
 - Most of the time..... 22%
 - Some of the time 37%
 - Never 26%
 - Don't know..... 7%

[SPLIT SAMPLE A]

29. Do you support or oppose the decision of the Biden administration to withdraw the last 2,500 U.S. troops from Afghanistan? (n=1,037)

Net: Support	54%
Net: Oppose	38%
Strongly support	28%
Somewhat support	26%
Somewhat oppose.....	16%
Strongly oppose	22%
Don't know.....	8%

[IF OPPOSE, ASK]

30. What is the main reason that you oppose the decision? Please be as honest and direct as possible. (n=287) (Open-ended)

No plan/failed execution/happened too fast	40%
Left Americans behind.....	18%
Regional instability/terrorism/ national security concerns.....	12%
Taliban will take over Afghanistan.....	8%
Biden is to blame	3%
Equipment lost/armed our enemies.....	4%
Makes us look defeated/weak/like we negotiate with terrorists.....	3%
Need to finish what we started in Afghanistan/ gained nothing from war.....	3%
Abandoned Afghani people	6%
Refugees coming to U.S.	2%
Don't know.....	2%

[SPLIT SAMPLE B]

31. In 2020, former President Trump and his administration struck a deal with the Taliban to leave Afghanistan in May 2021. As part of the agreement, the Taliban agreed not to attack Americans in the country. The Afghanistan government in charge at the time was not part of the negotiation and had no input on the deal.

In 2021, the Biden administration extended the deadline until the end of August and President Biden said that if the United States had not kept the deal with the Taliban, additional U.S. troops would need to be deployed to maintain safety of American civilians, service members, and allies in the country.

Based on this information, do you support or oppose the decision of the Biden administration to withdraw the last 2,500 U.S. troops from Afghanistan? (n=1,049)

Net: Support	52%
Net: Oppose	38%
Strongly support	29%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose.....	14%
Strongly oppose	24%
Don't know.....	10%

[IF OPPOSE, ASK]

32. What is the main reason that you oppose the decision? Please be as honest and direct as possible. (n=312) (Open-ended)

No plan/failed execution/happened too fast	28%
Left Americans behind.....	17%
Taliban will take over Afghanistan.....	14%
Regional instability/terrorism/ national security concerns.....	10%
Biden is to blame.....	10%
Equipment lost/armed our enemies.....	7%
Makes us look defeated/weak/ like we negotiate with terrorists	5%
Need to finish what we started in Afghanistan/ gained nothing from war.....	4%
Abandoned Afghani people	2%
Refugees coming to U.S.	1%
Don't know.....	2%

33. Which of the following do you consider to be the United States' most formidable foreign adversary currently?

China	28%
Terrorist groups like ISIS or Al-Qaeda	20%
The Taliban	10%
Russia	8%
Cyber-terrorists.....	7%
North Korea	6%
Iran	2%
Other (please specify)	2%
Don't know.....	16%

34. Which of the following do you consider to be the United States' second most formidable foreign adversary currently?

Terrorist groups like ISIS or Al-Qaeda	18%
China	13%
Russia	13%
The Taliban	12%
Cyber-terrorists.....	12%
North Korea	10%
Iran	5%
Other (please specify)	2%
Don't know.....	16%

NET: Top two most formidable foreign adversary combined

China	41%
Terrorist groups like ISIS or Al-Qaeda	37%
The Taliban	22%
Russia	21%
Cyber-terrorists.....	19%
North Korea	16%
Iran	8%

35. Do you support or oppose re-instituting the U.S. military draft?

Net: Support..... 33%
Net: Oppose 51%

Strongly support	11%
Somewhat support	22%
Somewhat oppose.....	23%
Strongly oppose	28%
Don't know.....	16%

36. Do you support or oppose expanding the pool of Americans eligible for the military draft by requiring women – and not just men – to register upon turning 18?

Net: Support..... **48%**
Net: Oppose **39%**

Strongly support 20%
 Somewhat support 28%
 Somewhat oppose..... 16%
 Strongly oppose 24%
 Don't know 13%

37. Some experts believe the U.S. military's current All-Volunteer Force makes it too easy for presidents and Congress to commit troops to military conflict and wars that may not serve our national interest. Because only about 1% of eligible Americans currently volunteer to serve, the other 99% do not share the sacrifice or hold elected leaders accountable.

Based on this information, do you support or oppose re-instituting the military draft?

Net: Support..... **38%**
Net: Oppose **46%**

Strongly support 13%
 Somewhat support 26%
 Somewhat oppose..... 22%
 Strongly oppose 24%
 Don't know 16%

38. In recent congressional testimony it was learned that West Point, the U.S. Naval Academy, and the U.S. Air Force Academy currently teach critical race theory to its students.

Some supporters say that teaching critical race theory in the U.S. military academies is a way for future officers to understand the history of racism that has shaped both domestic and foreign policy.

Some opponents say that teaching critical race theory in the U.S. military academies is too political, unpatriotic and an unnecessary distraction from teaching strategies that will help the U.S. win more wars.

Based on this information, do you support or oppose teaching critical race theory in U.S. military academies?

Net: Support..... **46%**
Net: Oppose **37%**

Strongly support 23%
 Somewhat support 23%
 Somewhat oppose..... 11%
 Strongly oppose 26%
 Don't know 17%

Do you support or oppose the following potential role and mission of the U.S. military?

[Note: Displayed in rank order based on, “Net: Support.” Each item was randomized during data collection.]

39. Protecting human rights like the rights of women, children, religious, or ethnic minorities

Net: Support..... 82%
Net: Oppose 11%

Strongly support 51%
 Somewhat support 31%
 Somewhat oppose..... 8%
 Strongly oppose 3%
 Don't know..... 7%

40. Responding to natural disasters

Net: Support..... 76%
Net: Oppose 17%

Strongly support 40%
 Somewhat support 36%
 Somewhat oppose..... 13%
 Strongly oppose 5%
 Don't know..... 6%

41. Curbing aggression by adversaries like China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea

Net: Support..... 76%
Net: Oppose 12%

Strongly support 42%
 Somewhat support 34%
 Somewhat oppose..... 9%
 Strongly oppose 3%
 Don't know..... 12%

42. Defending South Korea in the event of an attack by North Korea

Net: Support..... 66%
Net: Oppose 21%

Strongly support 32%
 Somewhat support 34%
 Somewhat oppose..... 15%
 Strongly oppose 6%
 Don't know..... 13%

43. Rebuilding political and physical infrastructure after war or extended conflicts (nation building)

Net: Support..... **62%**
Net: Oppose **26%**

Strongly support 26%
 Somewhat support 36%
 Somewhat oppose..... 18%
 Strongly oppose 8%
 Don't know..... 12%

44. Defending Taiwan in the event of an attack by China

Net: Support..... **61%**
Net: Oppose **23%**

Strongly support 26%
 Somewhat support 35%
 Somewhat oppose..... 17%
 Strongly oppose 6%
 Don't know..... 16%

45. Which of the following statements comes closest to your own view?

The divided nature of politics today makes it very difficult -- if not impossible -- for the U.S. military to do its job well, win wars, and defend America's interests around the world.

Despite the divided nature of politics today, the U.S. military remains above the fray and is ready and able as ever to win wars and defend America's interests around the world.

Politics is making it more difficult..... 52%
 The U.S. military can remain above the fray 34%
 Don't know..... 14%

46. Please select any of the following television networks, social networks, and websites that you regularly watch or visit for news and current events.

Network news (ABC, CBS, NBC) 50%
 Facebook..... 43%
 Fox News 37%
 CNN..... 33%
 Instagram 26%
 Twitter..... 22%
 MSNBC 18%
 Tik Tok..... 17%
 PBS 16%
 Snapchat 14%

47. Do you own a tablet PC or iPad?

Yes 70%
 No..... 30%

48. Which one of these bests describes your religious preference or spiritual outlook?

Catholic	27%
Protestant	23%
Fundamentalist/Evangelical Christian	9%
Jewish	3%
LDS/Mormon	2%
Muslim	2%
Secular humanist.....	1%
Atheist	5%
Agnostic.....	5%
Another religion	7%
No religious preference	16%

[IF CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT, FUNDAMENTALIST/EVANGELICAL, JEWISH, LDS/MORMAN, MUSLIM, OR ANOTHER RELIGION, ASK]

49. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services? (n=1,514)

More than once a week	8%
Once a week	29%
Once or twice a month	10%
A few times a year	16%
Seldom	19%
Never	17%

50. Which of the following best describes the area in which you live?

Suburban.....	46%
Urban.....	29%
Rural	16%
Small town.....	8%

51. The next question is about the total income of YOUR HOUSEHOLD for the PAST 12 MONTHS. Please include your income PLUS the income of all members living in your household (including cohabiting partners and armed forces members living at home). Please count income BEFORE TAXES and from all sources (such as wages, salaries, tips, net income from a business, interest, dividends, child support, alimony, and Social Security, public assistance, pensions, or retirement benefits).

Less than \$25,000	18%
\$25,000-\$49,999	26%
\$50,000-\$74,999	22%
\$75,000-\$99,999	14%
\$100,000-\$124,999	6%
\$125,000-\$149,999	5%
\$150,000-\$174,999	2%
\$175,000-\$199,999	2%
\$200,000 or more	2%
Don't know.....	3%

52. Region

Northeast.....	20%
Midwest	19%
South	40%
West	21%

** Post-stratification weights calculated for this survey. Weights were calculated based on the 2019 Current Population Survey. The survey was fielded to adults from an online sample, 2,086 of whom reported that they were registered to vote. Gender, age, race and ethnicity, educational attainment, and census division were used for weighting. Additionally, to correct for non-coverage bias factors associated with online behaviors were used to adjust the sample. Among registered voters, respondents had a mean weight of 1.06, a median weight of 1.12 and a standard deviation of .91.*

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