

BRENDAN NYHAN

DART0057 W5

Exit the survey (status: quotatefull) if not panman.qualified

Page: testing_pg

This page is only shown during testing. Respondents will be randomly assigned.

```
[rating_treat] {single | varlabel="Year to show in Rating of US in future - treatment"}
```

Year to show in 'Rating of US in future'

- o <1> 2027
- o <2> 2032

```
[PERF_treat] {single | varlabel="Option to show in PERF items - treatment"}
```

Option to show in PERF items

- o <1> Option A
- o <2> Option B

```
[battery_treat] {single | varlabel="Battery to show - treatment"}
```

Battery to show first

- o <1> Show Battery A first
- o <2> Show Battery B first

```
[elect_irreg_treat] {single | varlabel="Option to show in 'Election irregularities' - treatment"}
```

Option to show in 'Election irregularities'

- o <1> Option A: To the best of your knowledge, how many times do you expect each of these to occur in the midterm elections this November?
- o <2> Option B: To the best of your knowledge, how many times does each of these occur in a midterm election?

```
[headline_treat] {single | varlabel="Headline experiment text to show - treatment"}
```

Text to show

- o <1> Header: US democracy has settled into diminished state, experts find
- o <2> Subheader: Political scientists see stabilization in democratic health but at lower levels after sharp decline

```
[conf_treat] {single | varlabel="Election Confidence questions"}
```

Question to to show

- o <1> elect_conf_2026
- o <2> admin_conf_2026

```
[congress_majority] {single | varlabel="Election prediction questions"}
```

Question to to show

- <1> congress_expect_a
- <2> congress_expect_a

```
[elect_irreg_split] {single | varlabel="Election Confidence questions"}
```

Grid to to show

- <1> elect_irreg_a
- <2> elect_irreg_b

→ End page: testing_pg

Page: treat_show_pg

This page is only shown during testing. Perf Items: \$PERF_combined elect_appr_show: \$elect_appr_show

→ End page: treat_show_pg

Page: consent_pg

This study is being conducted by John Carey and Brendan Nyhan, who are professors at Dartmouth College. We ask for your attention for a few minutes and we thank you for your attention and your responses. Your participation is voluntary and you may decline the survey or withdraw at any time. No information that identifies you will be collected or retained by the researchers, and all of the information we collect will be stored securely. However, any online interaction carries some risk of being accessed. Please contact Brendan Nyhan at nyhan@dartmouth.edu if you have any questions or concerns about this study.

```
[consent] {single | varlabel="Survey consent"}
```

Do you consent to participate in the survey?

- <1> Yes
- <2> No

→ End page: consent_pg

Go to page thanksout

```
pdl-update [birthyr if not pdl.birthyr or int(pdl.birthyr) < 1920 or pdl.birthyr.last > months(27)] {open-inrange | varlabel="Birth Year"}
```

In what year were you born?

Integer range

Page: thanksout

```
[rating_USA] {rule | varlabel="Rating of how democratic US political system is"}
```

[illegible]

0


```
[statements_US_grid] {grid | varlabel="PERF Items - How well do statements describe USA"
roworder="randomize"}
```

How well do the following statements describe the United States as of today?

	The U.S. does not meet this standard	The U.S. partly meets this standard	The U.S. mostly meets this standard	The U.S. fully meets this standard
The judiciary is able to effectively limit executive power	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Supreme Court is able to effectively limit executive power	☐	☐	☐	☐
Lower courts are able to effectively limit executive power	☐	☐	☐	☐
The geographic boundaries of electoral districts do not systematically advantage any particular political party	☐	☐	☐	☐
Government officials are legally sanctioned for misconduct	☐	☐	☐	☐
Government officials do not use public office for private gain	☐	☐	☐	☐

	The U.S. does not meet this standard	The U.S. partly meets this standard	The U.S. mostly meets this standard	The U.S. fully meets this standard
Government agencies are not used to monitor, attack, or punish political opponents	☐	☐	☐	☐
All adult citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights	☐	☐	☐	☐
Government does not interfere with journalists or news organizations	☐	☐	☐	☐
Government effectively prevents private actors from engaging in politically-motivated violence or intimidation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Government protects individuals' right to engage in unpopular speech or expression	☐	☐	☐	☐
Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits	☐	☐	☐	☐
The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power	☐	☐	☐	☐
The elected branches respect judicial independence	☐	☐	☐	☐
Government protects individuals' right to engage in peaceful protest	☐	☐	☐	☐
Law enforcement investigations of public officials or their associates are free from political influence or interference	☐	☐	☐	☐
The law is enforced equally for all persons	☐	☐	☐	☐
Universities, businesses, and professional organizations operate independently of government pressure	☐	☐	☐	☐
Law enforcement remains politically neutral and does not favor or support any political party or candidate	☐	☐	☐	☐
Officeholders do not use law enforcement to advance political agendas or intimidate political opponents	☐	☐	☐	☐
Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents' loyalty or patriotism	☐	☐	☐	☐
Elections are free from foreign influence	☐	☐	☐	☐
Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies	☐	☐	☐	☐
All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote	☐	☐	☐	☐
All votes have equal impact on election outcomes	☐	☐	☐	☐
Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation	☐	☐	☐	☐
Voter participation in elections is generally high	☐	☐	☐	☐
Information about the sources of campaign funding is available to the public	☐	☐	☐	☐
Public policy is not determined by large campaign contributions	☐	☐	☐	☐
Citizens can make their opinions heard in open debate about policies that are under consideration	☐	☐	☐	☐

	The U.S. does not meet this standard	The U.S. partly meets this standard	The U.S. mostly meets this standard	The U.S. fully meets this standard
Even when there are disagreements about ideology or policy, political leaders generally share a common understanding of relevant facts	☐	☐	☐	☐
Elected officials seek compromise with political opponents	☐	☐	☐	☐
Citizens have access to information about candidates that is relevant to how they would govern	☐	☐	☐	☐
Government statistics and data are produced by experts who are not influenced by political considerations	☐	☐	☐	☐
Politicians who lose free and fair elections publicly concede defeat	☐	☐	☐	☐
Military leadership remains politically neutral and does not favor or support any political party or candidate	☐	☐	☐	☐
Officeholders do not use the military to advance political agendas or intimidate political opponents	☐	☐	☐	☐
				continued →
				Not sure
The judiciary is able to effectively limit executive power				☐
The Supreme Court is able to effectively limit executive power				☐
Lower courts are able to effectively limit executive power				☐
The geographic boundaries of electoral districts do not systematically advantage any particular political party				☐
Government officials are legally sanctioned for misconduct				☐
Government officials do not use public office for private gain				☐
Government agencies are not used to monitor, attack, or punish political opponents				☐
All adult citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights				☐
Government does not interfere with journalists or news organizations				☐
Government effectively prevents private actors from engaging in politically-motivated violence or intimidation				☐
Government protects individuals' right to engage in unpopular speech or expression				☐
Executive authority cannot be expanded beyond constitutional limits				☐
The legislature is able to effectively limit executive power				☐
The elected branches respect judicial independence				☐
Government protects individuals' right to engage in peaceful protest				☐
Law enforcement investigations of public officials or their associates are free from political influence or interference				☐
The law is enforced equally for all persons				☐
Universities, businesses, and professional organizations operate independently of government pressure				☐
Law enforcement remains politically neutral and does not favor or support any political party or candidate				☐
Officeholders do not use law enforcement to advance political agendas or intimidate political opponents				☐
Political competition occurs without criticism of opponents' loyalty or patriotism				☐
Elections are free from foreign influence				☐

	Not sure
Parties and candidates are not barred due to their political beliefs and ideologies	☐
All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote	☐
All votes have equal impact on election outcomes	☐
Elections are conducted, ballots counted, and winners determined without pervasive fraud or manipulation	☐
Voter participation in elections is generally high	☐
Information about the sources of campaign funding is available to the public	☐
Public policy is not determined by large campaign contributions	☐
Citizens can make their opinions heard in open debate about policies that are under consideration	☐
Even when there are disagreements about ideology or policy, political leaders generally share a common understanding of relevant facts	☐
Elected officials seek compromise with political opponents	☐
Citizens have access to information about candidates that is relevant to how they would govern	☐
Government statistics and data are produced by experts who are not influenced by political considerations	☐
Politicians who lose free and fair elections publicly concede defeat	☐
Military leadership remains politically neutral and does not favor or support any political party or candidate	☐
Officeholders do not use the military to advance political agendas or intimidate political opponents	☐

```
[gender_o] {single | varlabel="Gender with other"}
```

What is your gender?

- ☐ <1> Male
- ☐ <2> Female
- ☐ <3> Other
- ☐ <4> Prefer not to answer

Page: inputstate_page

```
[inputstate if not pdl.inputstate or pdl.inputstate.last > months(12)] {dropdown |  
varlabel="State of Residence"}
```

In which state do you live?

Please select one ▾

- ☐ <1 /Alabama> Alabama
- ☐ <2 /Alaska> Alaska
- ☐ <4 /Arizona> Arizona
- ☐ <5 /Arkansas> Arkansas
- ☐ <6 /California> California
- ☐ <8 /Colorado> Colorado
- ☐ <9 /Connecticut> Connecticut
- ☐ <10 /Delaware> Delaware
- ☐ <11 /"District of Columbia"> District of Columbia
- ☐ <12 /Florida> Florida
- ☐ <13 /Georgia> Georgia
- ☐ <15 /Hawaii> Hawaii

- <16 /Idaho> Idaho
- <17 /Illinois> Illinois
- <18 /Indiana> Indiana
- <19 /Iowa> Iowa
- <20 /Kansas> Kansas
- <21 /Kentucky> Kentucky
- <22 /Louisiana> Louisiana
- <23 /Maine> Maine
- <24 /Maryland> Maryland
- <25 /Massachusetts> Massachusetts
- <26 /Michigan> Michigan
- <27 /Minnesota> Minnesota
- <28 /Mississippi> Mississippi
- <29 /Missouri> Missouri
- <30 /Montana> Montana
- <31 /Nebraska> Nebraska
- <32 /Nevada> Nevada
- <33 /"New Hampshire"> New Hampshire
- <34 /"New Jersey"> New Jersey
- <35 /"New Mexico"> New Mexico
- <36 /"New York"> New York
- <37 /"North Carolina"> North Carolina
- <38 /"North Dakota"> North Dakota
- <39 /Ohio> Ohio
- <40 /Oklahoma> Oklahoma
- <41 /Oregon> Oregon
- <42 /Pennsylvania> Pennsylvania
- <44 /"Rhode Island"> Rhode Island
- <45 /"South Carolina"> South Carolina
- <46 /"South Dakota"> South Dakota
- <47 /Tennessee> Tennessee
- <48 /Texas> Texas
- <49 /Utah> Utah
- <50 /Vermont> Vermont
- <51 /Virginia> Virginia
- <53 /Washington> Washington
- <54 /"West Virginia"> West Virginia
- <55 /Wisconsin> Wisconsin
- <56 /Wyoming> Wyoming
- <60 /"American Samoa"> American Samoa
- <64 /"Federated States of Micronesia"> Federated States of Micronesia
- <66 /Guam> Guam
- <68 /"Marshall Islands"> Marshall Islands
- <69 /"Northern Mariana Islands"> Northern Mariana Islands
- <70 /Palau> Palau
- <72 /"Puerto Rico"> Puerto Rico
- <74 /"U.S. Minor Outlying Islands"> U.S. Minor Outlying Islands
- <78 /"Virgin Islands"> Virgin Islands
- <81 /Alberta> Alberta
- <82 /"British Columbia"> British Columbia
- <83 /Manitoba> Manitoba
- <84 /"New Brunswick"> New Brunswick
- <85 /Newfoundland> Newfoundland
- <86 /"Northwest Territories"> Northwest Territories

- ☐ <87 /"Nova Scotia"> Nova Scotia
- ☐ <88 /Nunavut> Nunavut
- ☐ <89 /Ontario> Ontario
- ☐ <90 /"Prince Edward Island"> Prince Edward Island
- ☐ <91 /Quebec> Quebec
- ☐ <92 /Saskatchewan> Saskatchewan
- ☐ <93 /"Yukon Territory"> Yukon Territory
- ☐ <99 /"Not in the U.S. or Canada"> Not in the U.S. or Canada

→ End page: inputstate_page

```
[ideo7] {single | varlabel="Political ideology"}
```

When it comes to politics, would you describe yourself as liberal, conservative, or neither liberal nor conservative?

- ☐ <1> Very conservative
- ☐ <2> Somewhat conservative
- ☐ <3> Slightly conservative
- ☐ <4> Moderate; middle of the road
- ☐ <5> Slightly liberal
- ☐ <6> Somewhat liberal
- ☐ <7> Very liberal

```
[attn_check_1] {grid | roworder="randomize" varlabel="Grid - Attention check 1"}
```

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement below.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree
By law, abortion should never be permitted	☐	☐	☐	☐
In order to reduce the budget deficit, the federal government should eliminate all welfare programs that help poor people	☐	☐	☐	☐
The federal government should raise the minimum wage to \$10	☐	☐	☐	☐
The federal government should guarantee health insurance for all citizens	☐	☐	☐	☐
The federal government should pass new rules that protect the right of workers to join labor unions	☐	☐	☐	☐
Barack Obama was the first president of the United States	☐	☐	☐	☐
				continued →
				Strongly disagree
By law, abortion should never be permitted				☐
In order to reduce the budget deficit, the federal government should eliminate all welfare programs that help poor people				☐
The federal government should raise the minimum wage to \$10				☐
The federal government should guarantee health insurance for all citizens				☐
The federal government should pass new rules that protect the right of workers to join labor unions				☐
Barack Obama was the first president of the United States				☐

Page: page_pid3

```
[pid3 if not pdl.pid3 or pdl.pid3.last > months(1)] {single | varlabel="3 point party ID"}
```

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

- o <1> Democrat
- o <2> Republican
- o <3> Independent
- o <4> Other
- o <5> Not sure

→ End page: page_pid3

Page: page_pid7

```
[pid7 if (not pdl.pid7 or pdl.pid7.last > months(1)) and pid3] {single | varlabel="7 point Party ID"}
```

\$pid7text

- o <1 if pid3==1> Strong Democrat
- o <2 if pid3==1> Not very strong Democrat
- o <7 if pid3==2> Strong Republican
- o <6 if pid3==2> Not very strong Republican
- o <3 /"Lean Democrat" if pid3 in [3,4,5]> The Democratic Party
- o <5 /"Lean Republican" if pid3 in [3,4,5]> The Republican Party
- o <4 /Independent if pid3 in [3,4,5]> Neither
- o <8 if pid3 in [3,4,5]> Not sure
- o <9> Don't know

→ End page: page_pid7

```
[educ7] {single | varlabel="Highest level of education completed"}
```

What is the highest degree or level of school you have completed?

- o <1> Did not graduate from high school
- o <2> High school diploma or the equivalent (GED)
- o <3> Some college
- o <4> Associate's degree
- o <5> Bachelor's degree
- o <6> Master's degree
- o <7> Professional or doctorate degree

```
[ethnicity] {single | varlabel="Race/Ethnicity" order="randomize"}
```

With which race or ethnicity do you most identify?

- ☐ <1> White
- ☐ <2> Black or African American
- ☐ <3> American Indian or Alaska Native
- ☐ <4> Asian/Pacific Islander
- ☐ <5> Multi-racial
- ☐ <6> Hispanic/Latino/Chicano/a
- ☐ <7 fixed> Other

```
pdl-update [hispanic if not pdl.hispanic] {single | varlabel="Hispanic"}
```

Are you of Spanish, Latino, or Hispanic origin or descent?

- ☐ <1> Yes
- ☐ <2> No

```
[polinterest] {single | varlabel="Level of interest in politics"}
```

Generally, how interested are you in politics?

- ☐ <1> Extremely interested
- ☐ <2> Very interested
- ☐ <3> Somewhat interested
- ☐ <4> Not very interested
- ☐ <5> Not at all interested

Module: Battery_A_B

```
order="custom($custom_module_order)"
```

Module: Battery_A

```
[rightful_win] {single | varlabel="Biden rightful winner"}
```

Now, thinking back to the presidential election of 2020, do you consider Joe Biden to be the rightful winner of the presidential election in November 2020 or not the rightful winner?

- ☐ <1> Definitely the rightful winner
- ☐ <2> Probably the rightful winner
- ☐ <3> Probably not the rightful winner
- ☐ <4> Definitely not the rightful winner

→ End module: Battery_A

Module: Battery_B

Module: Battery_B_Set_A

```
[elect_conf] {single | varlabel="2026 election confidence"}
```

How confident are you that votes nationwide will be counted as voters intend in the November 2026 election for the U.S. Congress?

- ☐ <1> Very confident
- ☐ <2> Somewhat confident
- ☐ <3> Not very confident
- ☐ <4> Not at all confident

Page: elect_conf_open_pg

```
[elect_conf_open] {open | varlabel="2026 election confidence - explanation (text)"}
```

In your own words, why are you **\$elect_conf.lower** that votes nationwide will be counted as voters intend in the November 2026 election for the U.S. Congress?

Free text

→ End page: elect_conf_open_pg

```
[elect_conf_2026 if conf_treat==1] {single | varlabel="Confidence in eligible voters' access"}
```

How confident are you that everyone who is legally entitled to vote and seeks to do so will be able to successfully cast a ballot in the November 2026 election for the U.S. Congress?

- ☐ <1> Very confident
- ☐ <2> Somewhat confident
- ☐ <3> Not too confident
- ☐ <4> Not at all confident

```
[admin_conf_2026 if conf_treat==2] {single | varlabel="Confidence in election administrators"}
```

How confident are you that election administrators nationwide will count votes fairly and accurately in the November 2026 election for the U.S. Congress?

- ☐ <1> Very confident
- ☐ <2> Somewhat confident
- ☐ <3> Not very confident
- ☐ <4> Not at all confident

→ End module: Battery_B_Set_A

→ End module: Battery_B

→ End module: Battery_A_B

Page: interstitial_1

Next, we would like to ask about a different issue related to elections in the United States.

→ End page: interstitial_1

Module: congress_expect_mod

```
order="randomize"
```

```
[congress_expect_a if congress_majority==1] {single | varlabel="Congressional majority expectations - U.S. House"}
```

Which party do you think will have a majority of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives after the elections in November?

- ☐ <1> Democratic Party
- ☐ <2> Republican Party
- ☐ <3> Not sure

```
[congress_expect_b if congress_majority==2] {single | varlabel="Congressional majority expectations - U.S. Senate"}
```

Which party do you think will have a majority of seats in the U.S. Senate after the elections in November?

- ☐ <1> Democratic Party
- ☐ <2> Republican Party
- ☐ <3> Not sure

→ End module: congress_expect_mod

```
[attention_check2_grid] {grid | roworder="randomize" varlabel="Attention check 2 grid"}
```

Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with each statement below.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree
People convicted of murder should be given the death penalty	☐	☐	☐	☐
World War I came after World War II	☐	☐	☐	☐
Gays and lesbians should have the right to legally marry	☐	☐	☐	☐
In order to reduce the budget deficit, the federal government should raise taxes on people that make more than \$250,000 per year	☐	☐	☐	☐
The Affordable Care Act passed by Congress in 2010 should be repealed	☐	☐	☐	☐
				continued →
				Strongly disagree
People convicted of murder should be given the death penalty				☐
World War I came after World War II				☐
Gays and lesbians should have the right to legally marry				☐

	Strongly disagree
In order to reduce the budget deficit, the federal government should raise taxes on people that make more than \$250,000 per year	☐
The Affordable Care Act passed by Congress in 2010 should be repealed	☐

```
[elect_irreg_a if elect_irreg_split==1] {grid | varlabel="Election irregularities - Version A" roworder="randomize"}
```

\$Select_irreg_text

	A million or more	A few thousand	A few hundred	A few dozen
Voting more than once in an election	☐	☐	☐	☐
Stealing or tampering with ballots	☐	☐	☐	☐
Pretending to be someone else when voting	☐	☐	☐	☐
People voting who are not U.S. citizens	☐	☐	☐	☐
Voting with an absentee ballot intended for another person	☐	☐	☐	☐
Vote changed by manipulation of voter machine software	☐	☐	☐	☐

continued →

	Fewer than a dozen	Never
Voting more than once in an election	☐	☐
Stealing or tampering with ballots	☐	☐
Pretending to be someone else when voting	☐	☐
People voting who are not U.S. citizens	☐	☐
Voting with an absentee ballot intended for another person	☐	☐
Vote changed by manipulation of voter machine software	☐	☐

```
[elect_irreg_b if elect_irreg_split==2] {grid | varlabel="Election irregularities - Version B" roworder="randomize"}
```

\$Select_irreg_text

	A million or more	A few thousand	A few hundred	A few dozen
Eligible voters being prevented from voting by election officials	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ineligible voters being prevented from voting by election officials	☐	☐	☐	☐
Eligible voters being deterred from voting by poll watchers or other people in or around polling places	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ineligible voters being deterred from voting by poll watchers or other people in or around polling places	☐	☐	☐	☐
Eligible voters being deterred from voting by law enforcement, immigration officials, or military personnel in or around polling places	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ineligible voters being deterred from voting by law enforcement, immigration officials, or military personnel in or around polling places	☐	☐	☐	☐

continued →

	Fewer than a dozen	Never
Eligible voters being prevented from voting by election officials	○	○
Ineligible voters being prevented from voting by election officials	○	○
Eligible voters being deterred from voting by poll watchers or other people in or around polling places	○	○
Ineligible voters being deterred from voting by poll watchers or other people in or around polling places	○	○
Eligible voters being deterred from voting by law enforcement, immigration officials, or military personnel in or around polling places	○	○
Ineligible voters being deterred from voting by law enforcement, immigration officials, or military personnel in or around polling places	○	○

Page: elect_belief_pg_1

The goal of this portion of the survey is to understand how respondents assess the likelihood of some political events that could occur in the future. We will ask you to assess the chances that each one will occur. For example, we might ask you to rate the chances that Congress passes legislation to limit the terms of future Supreme Court justices to 18 years by the end of 2026.

→ End page: elect belief pg 1

Module: elect belief mod

```
order="custom($ordered array)"
```

Module: elect_belief_a_mod

Page: elect_belief_a_pg

We ask you to provide your answers using numeric percentages. If you think the scenario will occur with near certainty, then you would give an answer close to 100%. If you think there is only a remote chance that the scenario will occur, then you would give an answer close to 0%, and if you think the scenario is as likely to occur as not to occur, then you would give an answer close to 50%. For a description of what events would qualify, click the *Show details* button under the event wording.

```
[elect belief a] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

Will the 2026 U.S. midterm elections be free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

00

We are asking for your own assessment of whether the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. By "free and fair," we mean that eligible voters can vote without undue obstacles or intimidation, votes are counted and reported honestly, candidates can campaign freely, and the results determine who takes office.

```
[elect_belief_a_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked A - text value"}
```

Free text

→ End page: elect_belief_a_pg
→ End module: elect_belief_a_mod

Module: elect_belief_b_mod

Page: elect_belief_b_pg

We ask you to provide your answers using numeric percentages. If you think the scenario will occur with near certainty, then you would give an answer close to 100%. If you think there is only a remote chance that the scenario will occur, then you would give an answer close to 0%, and if you think the scenario is as likely to occur as not to occur, then you would give an answer close to 50%. For a description of what events would qualify, click the *Show details* button under the event wording.

[elect_belief_b] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}

Will the federal government successfully require all in-person voters to show an ID in order to vote in the 2026 midterm elections? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

R

○
0

Resolves Yes if a federal law or executive action is in force for the November 3, 2026 general election and requires all in-person voters in every state to show or submit identification before their ballot is counted. In-person ballots cast before it takes effect do not prevent a Yes, nor do narrow exceptions, such as provisional ballots counted after later presentation of ID or exceptions for religious objection, indigence, or disaster. Allowing any voter to substitute a signature or unverified statement does not qualify. Registration-only requirements, such as proof of citizenship, do not count.

```
[elect_belief_b_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked B - text value"}
```

Free text

→ End page: elect_belief_b_pg

→ End module: elect_belief_b_mod

Module: elect_belief_c_mod

Page: elect_belief_c_pg

We ask you to provide your answers using numeric percentages. If you think the scenario will occur with near certainty, then you would give an answer close to 100%. If you think there is only a remote chance that the scenario will occur, then you would give an answer close to 0%, and if you think the scenario is as likely to occur as not to occur, then you would give an answer close to 50%. For a description of what events would qualify, click the

```
[elect_belief_c] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

[illegible]

21

```
[elect belief c button t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked C - text value"}
```

→ End module: elect belief c mod

```
[elect belief d] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

R

00

Resolves Yes if a federal action causes at least one election jurisdiction to hand-count ballots in the November 3, 2026 general election that it had planned to count by machine, or prevents it from using machines to count any category of ballots. Federal actions are federal laws, executive or agency orders or regulations, federally obtained court orders, written federal directives to election offices, or physical actions by federal personnel. "Machines" means scanners or tabulators that read or total votes. Ballot-marking devices, electronic poll books, audits, switching between tabulators, proposals, general public statements, and voluntary federal guidance do not count.

```
[elect_belief_d_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked D - text value"}
```

→ End module: elect belief d mod

```
[elect_belief_e] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

[illegible]

0

Resolves Yes if, between 9/28/2026 and 3/31/2027, President Trump or a political appointee in his administration, including an acting or interim official, asks, orders, or directs the National Guard, active-duty military personnel, or federal law-enforcement officers to take possession of ballots or voting equipment used in the 2026 general election. An order or public statement explicitly calling for such action counts whether or not it names a place or occurs. Action by federal agents also counts if an official record or official attributes it to Trump or such an appointee. General criticism does not count.

```
[elect_belief_e_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked E - text value"}
```

Free text

→ End page: elect_belief_e_pg

→ End module: elect_belief_e_mod

Module: elect_belief_f_mod

Page: elect_belief_f_pg

We ask you to provide your answers using numeric percentages. If you think the scenario will occur with near certainty, then you would give an answer close to 100%. If you think there is only a remote chance that the scenario will occur, then you would give an answer close to 0%, and if you think the scenario is as likely to occur as not to occur, then you would give an answer close to 50%. For a description of what events would qualify, click the

```
[elect_belief_f] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

[illegible]

26

```
[elect belief f button t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked F - text value"}
```

→ End module: elect belief f mod

```
[elect belief q] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

R

00

Resolves Yes if the Associated Press calls a winner in a 2026 election or runoff for U.S. House, U.S. Senate, or statewide office and, by June 30, 2027, a different candidate is certified, the election is voided or ordered rerun, or certification is formally prevented. The change must result from a court, election official, canvassing board, or legislature setting aside or overriding counted votes, or refusing to certify the original result. An ordinary recount or continued counting that changes the apparent winner does not count, nor does a certification delay that ends with the AP-called winner certified.

```
[elect_belief_g_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked G - text value"}
```

→ End module: elect belief a mod

Page: elect_belief_h_pg

```
[elect belief h] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

R

[illegible]

0

Resolves Yes if, for the November 3, 2026 midterm elections, all U.S. states are legally prohibited from offering or accepting no-excuse mail-in ballots in federal elections as a result of binding federal action attributable to Donald Trump, such as a federal law he signs or an executive action he issues. The action must actually prevent or disqualify no-excuse mail-in ballots nationwide; actions the courts block from taking effect for the 2026 midterms do not qualify. A prohibition that still allows mail-in ballots for voters with particular justifications (e.g., illness, disability, military service, or travel) may qualify.

```
[elect_belief_h_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked H - text value"}
```

Free text

→ End page: elect_belief_h_pg

→ End module: elect_belief_h_mod

Module: elect_belief_i_mod

Page: elect_belief_i_pg

We ask you to provide your answers using numeric percentages. If you think the scenario will occur with near certainty, then you would give an answer close to 100%. If you think there is only a remote chance that the scenario will occur, then you would give an answer close to 0%, and if you think the scenario is as likely to occur as not to occur, then you would give an answer close to 50%. For a description of what events would qualify, click the

```
[elect_belief_i] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

[illegible]

31

```
[elect_belief_i_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked I - text value"}
```

→ End module: elect_belief_i_mod

```
[elect belief j] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

[illegible]

0

Resolves Yes if, on November 3, 2026, election officials lawfully accept ballots in every U.S. House, U.S. Senate, and statewide general election scheduled for that date. A contest counts if ballots are accepted anywhere in the relevant congressional district or state. Localized disruptions or equipment failures do not prevent a Yes if voting occurs somewhere in the district or state. A contest postponed or rescheduled to another date does not count. Contests won by unopposed candidates under state law count, as do contests proceeding to a lawful runoff if voting occurs on November 3.

```
[elect_belief_j_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked J - text value"}
```

Free text

→ End page: elect_belief_j_pg

→ End module: elect_belief_j_mod

Page: elect_belief_k_pg

We ask you to provide your answers using numeric percentages. If you think the scenario will occur with near certainty, then you would give an answer close to 100%. If you think there is only a remote chance that the scenario will occur, then you would give an answer close to 0%, and if you think the scenario is as likely to occur as not to occur, then you would give an answer close to 50%. For a description of what events would qualify, click the *Show details* button under the event wording.

```
[elect belief k] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

Will a U.S. federal or state court prevent certification of any statewide election results because of fraud before April 1, 2027? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

00

```
[elect belief k button t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked K - text value"}
```

→ End page: elect_belief_k_pg

Module: elect belief | mod

```
[elect belief 1] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

R

○
0

Resolves Yes if, before April 1, 2027, a U.S. federal or state court voids or blocks certification, orders a recount, or declares the election unconstitutional for any 2026 election for statewide office, House, or Senate, including runoffs, and clearly cites the

Resolves Yes if, between 11/3/2026 and 6/30/2027, someone is sworn in and recognized as a U.S. House or Senate member, or officially takes a statewide elected office, without being certified as the winner by the state authority. Physical delivery of a certificate is not required. Where the legislature decides contested elections (e.g., Texas and North Carolina), its final determination counts as certification. Appointments, succession, and officials serving until a successor takes office do not count, nor does a unanimous-consent swearing-in, after a Member states there is no contest, of someone the state later certifies.

```
[elect_belief_m_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked M - text value"}
```

Free text

→ End page: elect_belief_m_pg

→ End module: elect_belief_m_mod

Page: elect_belief_n_pg

We ask you to provide your answers using numeric percentages. If you think the scenario will occur with near certainty, then you would give an answer close to 100%. If you think there is only a remote chance that the scenario will occur, then you would give an answer close to 0%, and if you think the scenario is as likely to occur as not to occur, then you would give an answer close to 50%. For a description of what events would qualify, click the *Show details* button under the event wording.

```
[elect belief n] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

Will the Trump administration or a Republican governor deploy National Guard members, military personnel, or federal or state law enforcement officers (such as the FBI, U.S. Marshals, ICE, or CBP) at or near polling places in the 2026 midterm elections? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

00

Resolves Yes if, while in-person voting is underway for the 2026 general election, National Guard members, active-duty military personnel, or armed federal or state law-enforcement officers are deployed inside a polling or early-voting site or within 250 feet of its entrance by the Trump administration or a Republican governor. Federal deployments count in any state; state deployments only when ordered by a Republican governor. Any purpose counts. Routine observers, poll workers, voters, personnel passing through, and personnel present only for duties elsewhere do not count. Resolution will rely on official records or credible reporting.

```
[elect_belief_n_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked N - text value"}
```

Free text

→ End page: elect_belief_n_pg

→ End module: elect_belief_n_mod

Module: elect_belief_o_mod

Page: elect_belief_o_pg

We ask you to provide your answers using numeric percentages. If you think the scenario will occur with near certainty, then you would give an answer close to 100%. If you think there is only a remote chance that the scenario will occur, then you would give an answer close to 0%, and if you think the scenario is as likely to occur as not to occur, then you would give an answer close to 50%. For a description of what events would qualify, click the *Show details* button under the event wording.

```
[elect_belief_o] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

[illegible]

6 Oct 2026 (v10)

```
[elect_belief_o_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked 0 - text value"}
```

→ End module: elect belief o mod

```
[elect belief p] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 1"}
```

R

0

Resolves Yes if, between November 3, 2026 and January 31, 2027, at least five of the 25 highest-ranked living people in YouGov’s Republican name-recognition ranking (All Adults, Q2 2026) publicly claim that fraud or other illegal conduct affected at least one 2026 congressional or statewide race, or overall control of the House or Senate. The claim must allege deliberate rule-breaking; qualified assertions (“we believe,” “probably”) count. Claims about election rules or district lines do not count, even if called rigged or illegal; nor do warnings, suspicions, investigation requests, or sharing others’ allegations without endorsement. Statements issued in their name count.

```
[elect_belief_p_button_t] {open | varlabel="Button clicked P - text value"}
```

Free text

→ End module: elect_belief_mod

Next, we will ask you to consider several possible events involving the 2026 midterm elections. For each question, assume the event described happens, even if you think it is unlikely. We would like to know what you think the chance is that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair under that assumption.

→ End page: elect_belief_intro_2

```
order="custom($ordered_array)"
```

```
[elect_belief_b_2] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 2"}
```

You previously gave a \$select_belief_2_pipe probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. Now suppose that the federal government successfully requires all in-person voters to show an ID in order to vote in the 2026 midterm elections. Under that assumption, what is the probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

0

Page: elect_belief_c_pg_2

You previously gave a \$Select_belief_2_pipe probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. Now suppose that the federal government restricts the hours or locations of in-person voting in the 2026 midterm elections. Under that assumption, what is the probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

45

Page: elect_belief_d_pg_2

R

[illegible]

46

Page: elect_belief_e_pg_2

R _____

○
0

→ End page: elect_belief_e_pg_2

Page: elect_belief_f_pg_2

[elect_belief_f_2] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 2"}

[illegible]

6 Oct 2026 (v10)

Page: elect_belief_g_pg_2

You previously gave a \$select_belief_2_pipe probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. Now suppose that at least one candidate for congressional or statewide office in 2026 who is declared the winner by the Associated Press based on the vote count has the result overturned. (In other words, no candidate is certified as the winner or another candidate is certified instead.) Under that assumption, what is the probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

6 Oct 2026 (v10)

Page: elect_belief_h_pg_2

[illegible]

51

Page: elect_belief_i_pg_2

You previously gave a \$select_belief_2_pipe probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. Now suppose that legislation that requires proof of U.S. citizenship as a condition of registering to vote in federal elections becomes law before November 1, 2026. Under that assumption, what is the probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

52

Page: elect_belief_j_pg_2

[illegible]

53

Page: elect_belief_k_pg_2

You previously gave a \$elect_belief_2_pipe probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. Now suppose that a U.S. federal or state court prevents certification of any statewide election results because of fraud before April 1, 2027. Under that assumption, what is the probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

00

Page: elect_belief_l_pg_2

You previously gave a \$select_belief_2_pipe probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. Now suppose that a U.S. federal or state court prevents certification of any congressional or statewide election results because of fraud before April 1, 2027. Under that assumption, what is the probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

55

→ End page: elect_belief_l_pg_2

Page: elect_belief_m_pg_2

[elect_belief_mm_2] {rule | varlabel="Election beliefs and approval - Part 2"}

[illegible]

6 Oct 2026 (v10)

Page: elect_belief_n_pg_2

You previously gave a \$elect_belief_2_pipe probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. Now suppose that the Trump administration or a Republican governor deploys National Guard members, military personnel, or federal or state law enforcement officers (such as the FBI, U.S. Marshals, ICE, or CBP) at or near polling places in the 2026 midterm elections. Under that assumption, what is the probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

6 Oct 2026 (v10)

Page: elect_belief_o_pg_2

You previously gave a \$select_belief_2_pipe probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. Now suppose that five or more of the 25 best-known living Democratic political figures publicly claim that fraud or other illegal conduct affected the results of the 2026 midterm elections. Under that assumption, what is the probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections were free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

00

Page: elect_belief_p_pg_2

You previously gave a \$elect_belief_2_pipe probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections will be free and fair. Now suppose that five or more of the 25 best-known living Republican political figures publicly claim that fraud or other illegal conduct affected the results of the 2026 midterm elections. Under that assumption, what is the probability that the 2026 U.S. midterm elections were free and fair? (Please answer below in percentages from 0-100%.)

[illegible]

0

→ End page: elect_belief_p_pg_2

→ End module: elect_belief_2_mod

Page: interstitial_2

On the following page, you will be asked to read an excerpt from a recent news article.
Please read it carefully.

→ End page: interstitial_2

Page: headline_experiment_pg

US democracy has settled into diminished state, experts find

Political scientists see stabilization in democratic health but at lower levels after sharp decline

The health of American democracy, as measured by the experts who study it most closely, has settled into a diminished state – stabilizing after a sharp decline last year, but still well below the levels recorded before the start of Donald Trump’s second term, according to a new survey. The findings, which are based on a survey of hundreds of US political scientists at American colleges and universities, suggest that the erosion of norms detected after Trump’s return to the White House last year has hardened into a new baseline.

→ End page: headline_experiment_pg

On a scale from 0 to 100, where 0 is least democratic and 100 is most democratic, how would you rate the political system of the United States as of today?

[illegible]

0

```
[pol_sci_conf] {single | varlabel="Confidence in political scientists"}
```

How much confidence do you have in the findings of political scientists when they make claims about democracy in America?

- <1> A great deal of confidence
- <2> A fair amount of confidence
- <3> Some confidence
- <4> Little confidence
- <5> No confidence at all

```
[pol_sci_role] {single | varlabel="Political scientists role in politics"
order="randomize"}
```

Which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right?

- <1> Political scientists should take an active role in public debates about issues related to democracy.
- <2> Political scientists should focus on establishing sound scientific facts and stay out of public debates.

```
[poli_sci_grid] {grid | varlabel="Political scientists communication"
roworder="randomize"}
```

Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements.

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree
Political scientists should communicate about threats to democracy with the general public.	○	○	○	○
				continued →
				Strongly agree
Political scientists should communicate about threats to democracy with the general public.				○

```
[trump_appr] {single | varlabel="Trump job approval"}
```

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President right now in his second term in office?

- <1> Strongly approve
- <2> Somewhat approve
- <3> Somewhat disapprove
- <4> Strongly disapprove

```
[trump_v_party if republican_flag==1] {single | varlabel="Trump versus party support"}
```

Do you consider yourself to be more of a supporter of Donald Trump or more of a supporter of the Republican Party?

- <1> Supporter of Donald Trump
- <2> Supporter of the Republican Party

```
[looked_up] {single | varlabel="Looked up information"}
```

It is essential for the validity of this study that we know whether participants looked up any information online during the study. Did you make an effort to look up information during the study? Please be honest; you will still be paid and you will not be penalized in any way if you did.

- o <1> Yes, I looked up information
- o <2> No, I did not look up information

```
[insincere] {single | varlabel="Insincere survey responses"}
```

We sometimes find people don't always take surveys seriously, instead providing humorous or insincere responses to questions. How often do you do this?

- o <1> Never
 - o <2> Rarely
 - o <3> Some of the time
 - o <4> Most of the time
 - o <5> Always
-

Page: survey_comments_pg

```
[survey_comments] {open | varlabel="Survey comments"}
```

Do you have any comments on the survey? Please let us know about any problems you had or aspects of the survey that were confusing.

Free text

→ End page: survey_comments_pg

Page: open_trap10_topic_check_pg

```
[open_trap10] {open}
```

In a couple of sentences, please tell us how you feel artificial intelligence (AI) will impact your life in 2026?

Free text

→ End page: open_trap10_topic_check_pg

Page: thank_you_pg

Thank you for answering these questions. This research is not intended to support or oppose any political candidate or office. The research has no affiliation with any political candidate or campaign and has received no financial support from any political candidate or campaign. Should you have any questions about this study, please contact Brendan Nyhan at nyhan@dartmouth.edu. Please click the next button to complete the survey.

→ End page: thank_you_pg