

This Washington Post-University of Maryland poll was conducted online and by phone Dec. 5-9, 2024, among a random national sample of 1,251 adults. The sample was drawn through the AmeriSpeak Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. Overall results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3.7 percentage points. Sampling, data collection and tabulation was conducted by NORC. The survey was conducted in partnership with the University of Maryland's Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement.

(Full methodological details appended at the end of this document.)

\*= less than 0.5 percent

1. As you may know, President Biden's son Hunter pled guilty to tax evasion and was found guilty of lying about his drug use when purchasing a gun. Do you support or oppose President Biden's decision to pardon his son, Hunter? (Rotated with Q2)

|         | ----- Support ----- |          |          | ----- Oppose ----- |          |          | No opinion |
|---------|---------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|------------|
|         | NET                 | Strongly | Somewhat | NET                | Somewhat | Strongly | /Skipped   |
| 12/9/24 | 29                  | 10       | 19       | 69                 | 23       | 46       | 2          |

2. Would you support or oppose the Trump administration doing each of the following? (Rotated with Q1)

12/9/24 - Summary table among U.S. adults

|   | ----- Support ----- |          |          | ----- Oppose ----- |          |          | No |
|---|---------------------|----------|----------|--------------------|----------|----------|----|
|   | NET                 | Strongly | Somewhat | NET                | Somewhat | Strongly | op |
| a. Issuing pardons for people convicted of crimes related to the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot | 32                  | 14       | 19       | 66                 | 19       | 47       | 1  |
| b. Having the Justice Department investigate Trump's political rivals                       | 38                  | 17       | 21       | 60                 | 20       | 40       | 2  |
| c. Putting reporters in jail for writing stories Trump dislikes                             | 10                  | 4        | 6        | 88                 | 16       | 72       | 2  |
| d. Using the U.S. military to carry out mass deportations of undocumented immigrants        | 42                  | 22       | 20       | 54                 | 19       | 36       | 3  |
| e. Police using force to stop anti-Trump protests   | 24                  | 7        | 17       | 72                 | 27       | 45       | 4  |
| f. Firing FBI Director Christopher Wray   | 40                  | 19       | 21       | 54                 | 25       | 28       | 6  |

3. (AMONG U.S. CITIZENS) Regarding the 2024 election for president, which one of the following statements best describes you?

|          | I did not vote<br>in the 2024<br>presidential<br>election | I thought about<br>voting in the<br>2024 presidential<br>election but didn't | I usually vote,<br>but I didn't in<br>the 2024 presi-<br>dential election | I'm sure<br>I voted | No op<br>/Skip |
|----------|---|--|---|---------------------|----------------|
| 12/9/24* | 23  | 5  | 6   | 64                  | 1              |

\*Sample weighted by 2024 turnout and vote choice.

4. (AMONG 2024 VOTERS) In the 2024 presidential election, did you vote for Donald Trump, Kamala Harris, or someone else?

|          | Donald<br>Trump | Kamala<br>Harris | Someone<br>else | Did not vote<br>in this race | No opinion<br>/Skipped |
|----------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| 12/9/24* | 48              | 46               | 1               | 2                            | 2                      |

\*Sample weighted by 2024 turnout and vote choice.

5. Regardless of whom you supported in this year's election, do you think Donald Trump's election as president was legitimate, or was he not legitimately elected? (Rotated with Q6)

|          | Legitimate | Not legitimate | No opinion<br>/Skipped |
|----------|------------|----------------|------------------------|
| 12/9/24  | 79         | 18             | 3                      |
| 10/5/17* | 57         | 42             | 1                      |

\*\*in the 2016 election"

Compare to:

Barack Obama (2008 election)

|         | Legitimate | Not legitimate | No opinion |
|---------|------------|----------------|------------|
| 10/5/17 | 85         | 14             | 1          |

Do you consider Bush to have been legitimately elected as president, or not?

|            | Yes | No | No opin. |
|------------|-----|----|----------|
| 4/22/01*   | 62  | 36 | 2        |
| 1/15/01    | 58  | 40 | 2        |
| 12/15/00   | 55  | 42 | 3        |
| 12/10/00** | 71  | 27 | 1        |
| 12/3/00    | 73  | 23 | 4        |
| 11/26/00   | 76  | 19 | 5        |

\*4/22/01 and previous: Washington Post-ABC News telephone polls

\*\*12/10 and previous: "If this ends with Bush winning the presidency, will you consider him ..."

6. Regardless of whom you supported in the 2020 election, do you think Joe Biden's election as president was legitimate, or was he not legitimately elected? (Rotated with Q5)

|         | Legitimate | Not legitimate | No opinion |
|---------|------------|----------------|------------|
| 12/9/24 | 63         | 33             | 3          |

|          |    |    |   |
|----------|----|----|---|
| 12/17/23 | 62 | 36 | 2 |
| 12/19/21 | 69 | 29 | 2 |

Question 7 held for release.

8. Do you think there is solid evidence that there was widespread voter fraud in the 2024 election, or no solid evidence?

|         | There is solid evidence | There is <u>no</u> solid evidence | No opinion /Skipped |
|---------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 12/9/24 | 16                      | 81                                | 3                   |

Compare to: Do you think there is solid evidence that there was widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election, or no solid evidence?

|          | Solid evidence | No solid evidence | No opinion |
|----------|----------------|-------------------|------------|
| 12/17/23 | 33             | 63                | 4          |
| 12/19/21 | 30             | 68                | 2          |

9. The U.S. Constitution allows someone to be elected as president only twice. In 2029, do you think Trump will...

|         | Step down as president after completing his second term in office | Try to continue as president for a third term | No opinion /Skipped |
|---------|---|---|---------------------|
| 12/9/24 | 50  | 48  | 2                   |

10. Do you think Trump's election is...?

|            | ----- Negative ----- |                          |  | ----- Positive ----- |                                     |                       |       |
|------------|----------------------|--------------------------|--|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------|
|            | NET                  | A crisis for the country | A setback for the country but not a crisis | NET                  | Good for the country, but not great | Great for the country | No op |
| 12/9/24    | 48                   | 29                       | 19   | 50                   | 22                                  | 28                    | 2     |
| Voted for: |                      |                          |  |                      |                                     |                       |       |
| Trump      | 2                    | 0                        | 2  | 97                   | 27                                  | 70                    | 1     |
| Harris     | 95                   | 69                       | 25   | 5                    | 4                                   | 1                     | 1     |

Compare to: (IF DO NOT VOTE FOR TRUMP IN 2020) If Trump wins the election, do you think that would be a crisis for the country, a setback but not a crisis, or would it be OK with you?

|         | Crisis | Setback but not a crisis | Would be OK | No opinion |
|---------|--------|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 9/24/20 | 59     | 23                       | 15          | 4          |

11. Do you think Trump's presidency will make your life better, make it worse, or won't make a difference?

|         | Better | Worse | Won't make a<br>difference | No opinion<br>/Skipped |
|---------|--------|-------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| 12/9/24 | 37     | 37    | 24                         | 1                      |

12. Which of the following are your main sources for news about politics? Please select all that apply. (Multiple responses accepted)

12/9/24

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Local TV  | 33 |
| Network news, such as ABC, CBS or NBC               | 28 |
| CNN   | 23 |
| Fox News  | 23 |
| YouTube   | 20 |
| Facebook or Instagram                               | 18 |
| A local newspaper                                   | 14 |
| Your friends or family                              | 14 |
| NPR   | 12 |
| The New York Times or another<br>national newspaper | 11 |
| Local radio   | 11 |
| TikTok  | 11 |
| Podcasts  | 11 |
| MSNBC   | 10 |
| X (formerly Twitter)                                | 8  |
| Talk radio  | 6  |
| Another TV network                                  | 5  |
| Apple News  | 4  |
| WhatsApp  | 2  |
| Other   | 10 |
| Skipped   | 4  |

13. A dictator is a leader who has total power over a country, with no checks and balances. Do you think Trump will try to rule as a dictator or not?

|         | Will try to rule<br>as a dictator | Will NOT try to<br>rule as a dictator | Not<br>sure | No opinion<br>/Skipped |
|---------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------|
| 12/9/24 | 40                                | 41                                    | 19          | 1                      |

Compare to registered voters in key 2024 states:

Do you think each of the following would try to rule as a dictator if they are elected to another term as president? Trump

|                      | Would try to rule<br>as a dictator | Would NOT try to<br>rule as a dictator | Not<br>sure | No opinion<br>/Skipped |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|--|-------------|------------------------|
| 10/15/24 Key states* | 45                                 | 42                                     | 13          | *                      |
| 5/30/24 Key states   | 46                                 | 39                                     | 15          | *                      |

\*October poll conducted via voter list sampling among voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin. May poll did not include North Carolina. Both were conducted by SSRS.

14. If Trump tried to rule as a dictator, do you think he would probably:

|         | Succeed in gaining<br>total power<br>of the country | Be blocked by Congress,<br>the Supreme Court<br>or military leaders | No opinion<br>/Skipped |
|---------|---|---|------------------------|
| 12/9/24 | 25  | 71  | 3                      |

15. In politics today, do you usually think of yourself as...

|         | A Democrat | A Republican | An independent | Other | Skipped |
|---------|------------|--------------|----------------|-------|---------|
| 12/9/24 | 30         | 30           | 26             | 14    | 1       |

\*\*\* END \*\*\*

#### METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and the University of Maryland. The web and phone poll is a random sample of adults in the United States, with interviews conducted in English and Spanish.

This questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked. Phrases surrounded by parentheses within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

Respondents were drawn from a stratified random sample of the AmeriSpeak Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. The sample was stratified by age, race/ethnicity, gender and education. A total of 1,251 interviews were completed, including 1,208 self-administered over the internet and 43 administered by professional interviewers over landline or cellular phone.

The AmeriSpeak panel was built through a nationally representative probability sample of U.S. households using mail, telephone and face-to-face recruitment methods. Panel members are permitted to complete surveys using an internet device or by phone. Additional technical details about AmeriSpeak survey methodology is available at [www.norc.org](http://www.norc.org).

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for features of the AmeriSpeak panel sample design, efforts to recruit initially nonresponding households and to match population demographic benchmarks according to the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The Post-UMD sample was weighted to adjust for nonresponse, as well as to match population benchmarks for age, gender, education, race/ethnicity and Census Division according to the Current Population Survey as well as to leaned party identification in the 2024 Pew NPORS survey and 2024 turnout/presidential vote choice.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.8 for this survey. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

The Washington Post is a charter member of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative, which recognizes organizations that disclose key methodological details on the research they produce.

Contact [polls@washpost.com](mailto:polls@washpost.com) for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

