



Residents of the Suburbs, Alaska and Hawaii Top List of ‘Real Americans’

Ipsos Survey on American Identification

Washington, DC, October 6, 2017 — The latest Ipsos poll expands on how we identify who is a ‘real American’ and who is not. Topping the list, someone who lives in the suburbs, a resident of Alaska and a resident of Hawaii all garner 85% agreement that they are ‘real Americans.’ This iteration included a battery of options about different types of immigrants in the United States. While an immigrant who became a US citizen (83%) and someone born in the United States from immigrant parents (83%) are widely accepted as ‘real Americans,’ a legal immigrant who is not a US citizen is generally not accepted as a ‘real American’ (34%). Also at the bottom of the list, only 44% of Americans think an adult who has lived in the United States ever since he/she came as a child and never had legal status is a ‘real American.’ In an attempt to better understand perceptions of how different religions are perceived, Ipsos also explored the extent to which different religions are considered American. Around three quarters of Americans consider Roman Catholics (79%), Protestants (77%), Jews (76%), Mormons (74%) and atheists (71%) to be ‘real Americans.’ Lower on the list, only 63% consider Buddhists to be ‘real Americans’ and only 60% consider Muslims to be ‘real Americans.’

1. For each item in the list below, please indicate if you think a person like this is a “real American” or not.

A resident of Puerto Rico

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	63%	72%	54%	66%
Not a real American	21%	17%	30%	17%
Don't know	16%	11%	16%	16%

A resident of the U.S. Virgin Islands

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	70%	79%	63%	72%
Not a real American	11%	11%	17%	5%
Don't know	19%	10%	20%	24%

A resident of Hawaii

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	85%	87%	83%	87%
Not a real American	6%	6%	9%	2%
Don't know	9%	7%	8%	11%

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A resident of Alaska

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	85%	86%	86%	85%
Not a real American	6%	7%	6%	5%
Don't know	9%	8%	8%	10%

Someone born in the United States from immigrant parents

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	83%	88%	77%	84%
Not a real American	9%	6%	15%	7%
Don't know	8%	6%	7%	10%

Someone born outside the United States from American parents

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	67%	69%	70%	69%
Not a real American	19%	17%	20%	20%
Don't know	14%	14%	10%	11%

An immigrant who became a U.S. citizen

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	83%	87%	81%	81%
Not a real American	12%	9%	15%	14%
Don't know	6%	4%	4%	5%

A legal immigrant who is not a U.S. citizen

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	34%	43%	29%	34%
Not a real American	51%	43%	61%	51%
Don't know	15%	14%	10%	16%

An adult who has lived in the United States ever since he/she came as a child and never had a legal status

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	44%	62%	27%	39%
Not a real American	40%	26%	60%	43%
Don't know	15%	12%	13%	18%

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A U.S. citizen who is not fluent in English

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	73%	78%	70%	75%
Not a real American	17%	14%	23%	18%
Don't know	9%	8%	8%	7%

Someone who has served time in prison

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	71%	77%	66%	68%
Not a real American	9%	9%	10%	10%
Don't know	20%	14%	24%	22%

A gay, lesbian, or bisexual person

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	79%	85%	74%	81%
Not a real American	4%	4%	7%	1%
Don't know	16%	11%	19%	18%

A transgender person

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	78%	86%	72%	78%
Not a real American	6%	4%	10%	4%
Don't know	16%	10%	18%	18%

A Muslim

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	60%	67%	51%	64%
Not a real American	19%	17%	28%	12%
Don't know	22%	16%	21%	24%

A Buddhist

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	63%	71%	59%	64%
Not a real American	13%	11%	17%	8%
Don't know	24%	18%	23%	28%

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A Jew

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	76%	78%	77%	76%
Not a real American	7%	6%	8%	6%
Don't know	18%	15%	15%	18%

A Roman Catholic

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	79%	84%	78%	76%
Not a real American	5%	5%	5%	3%
Don't know	16%	11%	16%	21%

A Protestant

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	77%	81%	78%	78%
Not a real American	5%	5%	8%	4%
Don't know	17%	14%	14%	17%

A Mormon

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	74%	79%	72%	77%
Not a real American	8%	7%	11%	4%
Don't know	18%	14%	17%	20%

An atheist

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	71%	73%	70%	75%
Not a real American	9%	11%	10%	10%
Don't know	19%	16%	20%	15%

Someone who is not registered to vote

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	63%	68%	59%	61%
Not a real American	19%	20%	24%	16%
Don't know	18%	13%	17%	23%

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Someone who lives in a big city

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	81%	85%	81%	81%
Not a real American	3%	3%	4%	1%
Don't know	16%	12%	15%	19%

Someone who lives in the suburbs

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	85%	88%	86%	88%
Not a real American	3%	2%	5%	*
Don't know	12%	10%	9%	12%

Someone who lives in the country

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	69%	77%	64%	65%
Not a real American	7%	6%	10%	7%
Don't know	24%	17%	27%	28%

A millionaire

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	79%	84%	79%	75%
Not a real American	3%	3%	4%	3%
Don't know	18%	13%	17%	23%

A poor person

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	84%	87%	83%	83%
Not a real American	3%	3%	4%	2%
Don't know	14%	10%	13%	16%

Someone who receives government welfare benefits

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	74%	84%	67%	70%
Not a real American	8%	5%	12%	4%
Don't know	18%	11%	21%	26%

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Someone who does not stand for the national anthem

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Real American	45%	61%	27%	40%
Not a real American	38%	24%	59%	39%
Don't know	18%	16%	13%	21%

2. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

	Total (N = 1,003)	Democrat (N = 390)	Republican (N = 362)	Independent (N = 141)
Strong Democrat	14%	33%	-	-
Moderate Democrat	19%	46%	-	-
Independent, lean Democrat	9%	21%	-	-
Independent, lean Republican	8%	-	24%	-
Moderate Republican	14%	-	43%	-
Strong Republican	11%	-	33%	-
Independent	14%	-	-	100%
None of these	7%	-	-	-
Don't know	3%	-	-	-

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About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted October 5-6, 2017. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,003 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 390 Democrats, 362 Republicans, and 141 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2013 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,003, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=5).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 5.7 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 5.9 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 9.4 percentage points for Independents.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

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About Ipsos Public Affairs

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About Ipsos

Ipsos is an independent market research company controlled and managed by research professionals. Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has grown into a worldwide research group with a strong presence in all key markets. Ipsos ranks fourth in the global research industry.

With offices in 88 countries, Ipsos delivers insightful expertise across five research specializations: brand, advertising and media; customer loyalty; marketing; public affairs research; and survey management.

Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,782.7 million in 2016.

GAME CHANGERS

« Game Changers » is the Ipsos signature.

At Ipsos we are passionately curious about people, markets, brands and society.
We make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and inspire clients to make smarter decisions.
We deliver with security, speed, simplicity and substance. We are Game Changers.

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