



### Americans say they can find common ground with others, but underlying political divisions remain

Newsy/Ipsos shows that Republicans and Democrats are skeptical of opposite party's openness to opinions of others

#### Topline Findings

**Washington, DC, October 20, 2020** – The latest Newsy/Ipsos poll finds that most Americans say they can find common ground with people who have different views, but a majority also acknowledge that most of their family and friends share the same political beliefs. Attempts to find common ground only go so far, though, as fewer than half of Republicans and Democrats alike say they generally like most members of the opposite party.

#### Detailed Findings

1. Even though most Americans believe they can find common ground with others who have different views, a majority acknowledges that they mostly socialize within a political bubble.
  - Eighty-four percent of Americans agree that they can find common ground with people who have different views, including 87% of Republicans, 83% of Democrats and 86% of Independents.
  - Moreover, a majority (56%) disagree that “there is no common ground among the American people,” though Republicans are more likely than Democrats to feel this way (61% and 52%, respectively).
  - Sixty percent of Americans acknowledge that most of their close friends and family share the same political beliefs as them.
  - Independents (43%) are less likely to agree with this than Democrats or Republicans (64% each). Those who have personally cut someone out of their life because of political views (17% of Americans) are among the most likely to agree with this (71%).
2. While almost all are open to hearing the opinions of other people, in theory, less than a quarter of Republicans and Democrats view the opposite political party as being open to this.
  - Eighty-nine percent of Americans say they open to hearing the opinions of other people, regardless of their political identification.
  - However, few partisans believe that is true among those on the other side of the aisle. Just 24% of Republicans say Democrats are open to hearing the opinions of others, and even less Democrats (19%) say the same about Republicans.
  - Adding to this, a plurality of Republicans (52%) and Democrats (59%) disagree that they generally like people of the opposite political party.
  - More than one in four Americans say they avoid people who have different political beliefs than them, including a majority of people who have personally cut someone out of their life because of political views.





## PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

3. Personally knowing members of the other party makes you more likely to believe in common ground.
  - Around forty percent of Americans get most of their information about the beliefs of Democrats (43%) and Republicans (42%) from news media, including social media, television, and radio.
  - Just a quarter say they get most of their information from personally knowing Democrats or Republicans (both 23%). Around one in five say they do not really have a good way to understand the beliefs of Democrats (18%) or Republicans (19%).
  - Those who get their information from personal relationships are significantly more likely than those who say they do not have a good way to understand the beliefs of Democrats or Republicans to disagree that there is no common ground among the American people (65% vs. 48%).

*These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between September 3-4, 2020, on behalf of Newsy. For this survey, a sample of 2,009 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points for all respondents.*

**For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire.**

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**Full Annotated Questionnaire**

1. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

Total Agree Summary

	<b>Total (N=2,009)</b>	<b>Republican (N=832)</b>	<b>Democrat (N=840)</b>	<b>Independent (N=186)</b>
I am open to hearing the opinions of other people, regardless of their political identification	89%	89%	90%	88%
I can find common ground with people who have different views	84%	87%	83%	86%
Most of my close friends and family share the same political beliefs as me	60%	64%	64%	43%
<b>[SPLIT SAMPLE]</b> Democrats are open to hearing the opinions of other people, regardless of their political identification	(N=1,003) 55%	(N=408) 24%	(N=430) 84%	(N=92) 47%
<b>[Asked if NOT Democrat]</b> I generally like most Democrats	(N=1,169) 51%	(N=832) 48%	-	(N=186) 57%
<b>[SPLIT SAMPLE]</b> Republicans are open to hearing the opinions of other people, regardless of their political identification	(N=1,006) 48%	(N=424) 80%	(N=410) 19%	(N=94) 52%
<b>[Asked if NOT Republican]</b> I generally like most Republicans	(N=1,177) 45%	-	(N=840) 41%	(N=186) 57%
There is no common ground among the American people	44%	39%	48%	43%
I avoid people who have different political beliefs than me	26%	23%	32%	15%

a. There is no common ground among the American people

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	10%	10%	9%	8%
Somewhat agree	34%	29%	39%	35%
Somewhat disagree	40%	43%	38%	45%
Strongly disagree	16%	19%	14%	12%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>61%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>57%</i>

b. Most of my close friends and family share the same political beliefs as me

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	14%	17%	15%	5%
Somewhat agree	46%	47%	49%	38%
Somewhat disagree	31%	30%	27%	47%
Strongly disagree	9%	6%	9%	10%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<b>60%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>43%</b>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<b>40%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>36%</b>	<b>57%</b>

c. I can find common ground with people who have different views

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	22%	24%	21%	23%
Somewhat agree	62%	63%	62%	63%
Somewhat disagree	13%	12%	14%	13%
Strongly disagree	3%	2%	3%	1%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<b>84%</b>	<b>87%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>86%</b>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<b>16%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>14%</b>

d. I am open to hearing the opinions of other people, regardless of their political identification

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	31%	31%	32%	30%
Somewhat agree	58%	59%	58%	58%
Somewhat disagree	8%	8%	7%	10%
Strongly disagree	3%	3%	3%	2%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<b>89%</b>	<b>89%</b>	<b>90%</b>	<b>88%</b>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<b>11%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>12%</b>

e. **[Asked if NOT Democrat]** I generally like most Democrats

	<b>Total (N=1,169)</b>	<b>Republican (N=832)</b>	<b>Independent (N=186)</b>
Strongly agree	6%	7%	7%
Somewhat agree	44%	41%	49%
Somewhat disagree	35%	36%	31%
Strongly disagree	14%	15%	12%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<b>51%</b>	<b>48%</b>	<b>57%</b>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<b>49%</b>	<b>52%</b>	<b>43%</b>

f. **[Asked if NOT Republican]** I generally like most Republicans

	<b>Total (N=1,177)</b>	<b>Democrat (N=840)</b>	<b>Independent (N=186)</b>
Strongly agree	5%	5%	8%
Somewhat agree	40%	36%	50%
Somewhat disagree	36%	38%	28%
Strongly disagree	19%	21%	14%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>43%</i>

g. **[SPLIT SAMPLE]** Democrats are open to hearing the opinions of other people, regardless of their political identification

	<b>Total (N=1,003)</b>	<b>Republican (N=408)</b>	<b>Democrat (N=430)</b>	<b>Independent (N=92)</b>
Strongly agree	13%	4%	25%	6%
Somewhat agree	42%	20%	60%	41%
Somewhat disagree	25%	34%	13%	38%
Strongly disagree	20%	42%	2%	15%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>47%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>16%</i>	<i>53%</i>

h. **[SPLIT SAMPLE]** Republicans are open to hearing the opinions of other people, regardless of their political identification

	<b>Total (N=1,006)</b>	<b>Republican (N=424)</b>	<b>Democrat (N=410)</b>	<b>Independent (N=94)</b>
Strongly agree	11%	26%	2%	5%
Somewhat agree	36%	54%	17%	47%
Somewhat disagree	31%	17%	40%	34%
Strongly disagree	22%	3%	40%	14%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>52%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>48%</i>

i. I avoid people who have different political beliefs than me

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	4%	5%	5%	2%
Somewhat agree	22%	19%	28%	13%
Somewhat disagree	48%	51%	44%	56%
Strongly disagree	26%	26%	24%	29%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>15%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>74%</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>85%</i>

## 4. Have the following happened to you personally?

### Yes Summary

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Had someone treat you differently after you expressed your political views	44%	46%	48%	34%
Changed how you feel about someone once you found out their political views	32%	26%	43%	18%
Had someone cut you out of their life because of your political views	24%	27%	24%	18%
Cut someone out of your life because of their political views	17%	15%	22%	10%

### a. Cut someone out of your life because of their political views

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	17%	15%	22%	10%
No	83%	85%	78%	90%

### b. Changed how you feel about someone once you found out their political views

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	32%	26%	43%	18%
No	68%	74%	57%	82%

### c. Had someone cut you out of their life because of your political views

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	24%	27%	24%	18%
No	76%	73%	76%	82%

### d. Had someone treat you differently after you expressed your political views

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Yes	44%	46%	48%	34%
No	56%	54%	52%	66%

## 5. [SPLIT SAMPLE] From which of the following do you get most of your information about the beliefs of Democrats?

	Total (N=1,003)	Republican (N=416)	Democrat (N=424)	Independent (N=91)
News media (social media, TV, radio, etc.)	43%	47%	46%	38%
Personally knowing Democrats	23%	24%	26%	19%
National political leaders	12%	11%	14%	12%
Other	4%	3%	4%	6%
Don't really have a good way to understand the beliefs of Democrats	18%	15%	10%	26%



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6. **[SPLIT SAMPLE]** From which of the following do you get most of your information about the beliefs of Republicans?

	<b>Total (N=1,006)</b>	<b>Republican (N=416)</b>	<b>Democrat (N=416)</b>	<b>Independent (N=95)</b>
News media (social media, TV, radio, etc.)	42%	39%	47%	42%
Personally knowing Republicans	23%	30%	21%	14%
National political leaders	12%	12%	14%	7%
Other	5%	8%	3%	4%
Don't really have a good way to understand the beliefs of Republicans	19%	11%	15%	34%

5. Now, for a different topic. How much, if at all, have you seen, heard, or read about the following people?

Have seen, heard, or read at least a little Summary

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
George Floyd	92%	93%	95%	86%
Breonna Taylor	73%	69%	83%	66%
Michael Brown	57%	57%	62%	44%
Eric Garner	49%	45%	57%	40%
Freddie Gray	45%	46%	49%	37%
Sandra Bland	39%	32%	49%	31%
Philando Castile	35%	30%	41%	31%
Natasha McKenna	29%	30%	31%	24%
Atatiana Jefferson	28%	29%	28%	23%
Deborah Danner	22%	23%	24%	13%

a. George Floyd

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	55%	50%	64%	40%
A fair amount	26%	29%	24%	28%
A little bit	12%	15%	7%	19%
Not heard anything at all	8%	7%	5%	14%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<b>92%</b>	<b>93%</b>	<b>95%</b>	<b>86%</b>

b. Michael Brown

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	16%	14%	20%	8%
A fair amount	17%	17%	19%	16%
A little bit	24%	26%	24%	20%
Not heard anything at all	43%	43%	38%	56%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<b>57%</b>	<b>57%</b>	<b>62%</b>	<b>44%</b>





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### c. Eric Garner

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	15%	9%	22%	10%
A fair amount	14%	13%	18%	10%
A little bit	19%	22%	17%	20%
Not heard anything at all	51%	55%	43%	60%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>57%</i>	<i>40%</i>

### d. Freddie Gray

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	10%	9%	12%	7%
A fair amount	15%	16%	17%	12%
A little bit	20%	21%	21%	18%
Not heard anything at all	55%	54%	51%	63%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>37%</i>

### e. Philando Castile

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	10%	7%	13%	6%
A fair amount	10%	8%	13%	10%
A little bit	15%	16%	15%	16%
Not heard anything at all	65%	70%	59%	69%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<i>35%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>31%</i>

### f. Breonna Taylor

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	30%	19%	42%	23%
A fair amount	23%	25%	26%	18%
A little bit	20%	26%	15%	24%
Not heard anything at all	27%	31%	17%	34%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>66%</i>

### g. Sandra Bland

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	11%	5%	18%	8%
A fair amount	10%	10%	11%	7%
A little bit	18%	17%	20%	16%
Not heard anything at all	61%	68%	51%	69%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>31%</i>



h. Atatiana Jefferson

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	5%	5%	6%	3%
A fair amount	7%	8%	7%	6%
A little bit	16%	16%	15%	14%
Not heard anything at all	72%	71%	72%	77%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>23%</i>

i. Natasha McKenna

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	5%	4%	6%	3%
A fair amount	7%	9%	7%	3%
A little bit	17%	17%	17%	18%
Not heard anything at all	71%	70%	69%	76%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>30%</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>24%</i>

j. Deborah Danner

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
A great deal	4%	3%	5%	3%
A fair amount	6%	6%	7%	4%
A little bit	12%	14%	13%	6%
Not heard anything at all	78%	77%	76%	87%
<i>Seen, heard, or read at least a little bit (Net)</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>13%</i>



### About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between September 3-4, 2020, on behalf of Newsy. For this survey, a sample of 2,009 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 832 Republicans, 840 Democrats, and 186 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' 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 a 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 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability 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 2.5 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=2,009, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-4.0 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 3.9 percentage points for Democrats, and plus or minus 8.2 percentage points for Independents.

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### About Ipsos

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Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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