

# Most Americans believe political hostility and divisiveness between ordinary Americans is a serious problem

New Public Agenda/USA Today/Ipsos poll explores the extent of political divisiveness and hostility in the U.S. today

#### **Topline Findings**

**Washington, DC, December 13, 2021**– This Public Agenda/USA Today/Ipsos poll finds that most Americans believe political hostility and divisiveness is a serious problem in the U.S. About two thirds of Americans think more accurate, trustworthy sources of news would be most effective in bringing the country together.

#### **Detailed Findings**

1. Almost three-fourths (73%) of Americans believe it would be a good thing if special interests had less political power and ordinary people had greater influence over decisions that affect their lives and communities. However, only 31% believe this is likely to happen in the next ten years.

- Seventy-two percent also believe it would be a good thing if the American people rejected political hostility and divisiveness and focused more on their common ground.
  - Thirty-nine percent think this is likely to happen in the next ten years, with independents (27%) being most doubtful.
- Only 17% of Americans believe that Democratic and Republican states splitting off into two separate countries would be a good thing.
  - One-quarter of Republicans (26%) believe this is likely to happen in the next ten years, but only 17% of Democrats, 19% of independents, and 13% of apolitical Americans agree.
- Americans are split on whether having a strong, charismatic leader in power who is willing to do whatever it takes to maintain control and run the country in the way they think is best would be a good or bad thing; 41% say good, 43% say bad.
  - However, over two-thirds of Republicans (68%) and over half of Democrats (58%) believe this is likely to happen in the next ten years.

2. Eight out of ten Americans believe political hostility and divisiveness in the news media (81%), between politicians (81%), between ordinary Americans (81%), and on social media (80%) is a serious problem.

- Two-thirds of Americans believe political divisiveness has made dealing with the economic impacts (68%) and health risks (67%) of the COVID-19 pandemic a lot or somewhat more difficult.
  - These proportions are lower than those seen in February 2021 when 76% of Americans believed political divisiveness made dealing with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic difficult, and 75% thought the same about dealing with the health risks of the pandemic.
- About a third (32%) say it has made it difficult to get along with friends or family.
- Three in ten (30%) are most worried about the fact that Americans don't know how to talk about their disagreements and conflicts in constructive ways, while one in ten (11%) are more worried about the fact that Americans have too many fundamental disagreements and conflicting values. Half (50%) worry about both equally.

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3. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Americans believe creating more accurate, trustworthy, accessible sources of news and information would help bring the country together, as would reducing the influence of money in politics and the power of special interests (62%).

- Among those who believe more accurate, trustworthy news would help, 81% believe news that focuses as much on solutions as on problems would most help bring the country together.
  - Seventy-nine percent believe news that is as nonpartisan as possible would also help bring the country together.
- Creating a popular TV comedy that portrays people with different political views trying to get along (31%) or each state creating its own rules for voting and elections (20%) are believed to be least effective at bringing the country together.
- Over half (56%) of Americans believe young people doing a year of national service would help bring the country together, and of those, 56% believe the year of service should be encouraged, but not required, by providing college credits or forgiving student loans for those who participate.
- Finally, 49% of Americans believe that a school curriculum that emphasizes both America's shortcomings and achievements would do the most to bring the country together, rather than a curriculum which only emphasizes America's achievements (18%) or shortcomings (15%).

4. Seven out of ten (71%) Americans say they have often or sometimes avoided talking about politics with someone whose political views are opposed to their own in the last twelve months.

- About two-thirds (67%) say they have often or sometimes thought someone else was being too sensitive and defensive about politics, with Republicans (71%) being more likely to say this.
- In the last twelve months, one-quarter (25%) of Americans say they have often or sometimes ended relationships with someone with differing political views.
- In fact, 73% of Americans agree that it is a good thing that Americans have many different political viewpoints, including some that they disagree with, and 71% agree that they can learn something by talking to people whose political views are opposed to their own.
  - Despite this, 67% of Democrats say they are sick and tired of Republicans, and 70% of Republicans say they are sick and tired of Democrats.

5. Overall, less than half of Americans say that the political views of their close family members (46%) and their friends (41%) are pretty similar to their own, while less than a quarter say the same about the people in their community (21%) or about their coworkers (24%).

- Democrats (53%) and Republicans (57%) are most likely to have close family members with political views that are similar to theirs, while 36% of independents and 26% of apolitical Americans say the same.
- Independents and apolitical Americans are more likely to say they have a mix of friends with similar and different political views to their own (53% and 42%, respectively), while just over a third of Democrats (35%) and Republicans (38%) have friends with mixed political views.
- Around half of Americans report that the people who live in their community (49%) and those they work with (48%) have a mix of political views similar and different to their own.

6. Respondents were asked about their feelings towards Democratic politicians and voters, and Republican politicians and voters, at two different points in the survey.

- In the first instance, Americans were most favorable towards Democratic voters (53%) and least favorably towards Republican politicians (33%).
- In fact, when asked how many ordinary people who identified as Democrats they could see themselves having a constructive conversation with, 38% said they could with a lot or just about all of them. Meanwhile, only 28% said the same about ordinary people who identify as Republicans.

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• After seeing a series of questions, respondents were asked about their feelings towards Republican and Democratic politicians and voters a second time to see if seeing questions would change their perception of voters and politicians, but their responses were virtually unchanged.

7. Three-quarters (73%) of Americans say they use social media often or sometimes, and of those, 76% say they have felt fed up with how people talk about politics on social media at least sometimes.

• Half (53%) of social media users have liked, posted, or shared something that emphasizes Americans' common ground, but only about two in five (38%) have liked, posted, or shared something by someone who they usually disagree with about politics.

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between September 20-28, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 2,345 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 2.3 percentage points for all respondents.

The survey is trended with two surveys, the first one was conducted February 23-26, 2021 and the second survey was conducted October 14-21, 2019, both for Public Agenda by Ipsos. The February 2021 survey was conducted based on a nationally representative probability sample of adults age 18 or older (n=1,283) and the October 2019 survey was based on a nationally representative probability sample of adults age 18 or older (n=1,548). Further information about the February 2021 survey can be found at <a href="http://www.publicagenda.org/reports/overcoming-divisiveness-charting-a-path-forward">http://www.publicagenda.org/reports/overcoming-divisiveness-charting-a-path-forward</a> and the October 2019 survey was based on a nationally representative probability sample of adults age 18 or older (n=1,548). Further information about the February 2021 survey can be found at <a href="http://www.publicagenda.org/reports/overcoming-divisiveness-charting-a-path-forward">http://www.publicagenda.org/reports/overcoming-divisiveness-charting-a-path-forward</a> and the October 2019 survey can be found at <a href="http://www.publicagenda.org/reports/divisiveness-and-collaboration-in-american-public-life-a-hidden-common-ground-report/">http://www.publicagenda.org/reports/divisiveness-and-collaboration-in-american-public-life-a-hidden-common-ground-report/</a>

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire:





#### **Full Annotated Questionnaire**

1. Do you consider yourself [ROTATE "a Democrat, a Republican" OR "a Republican, a Democrat"], an independent or none of these?

	Total (N=2,345)	Democrats (N=774)	Republicans (N=600)	Independents (N=534)	Apolitical (N=437)
Democrat	36%	100%	-	-	-
Republican	26%	-	100%	-	-
Independent	22%	-	-	100%	-
None of these	11%	-	-	-	71%
Don't know	5%	-	-	-	29%

2. [Ask if Q1 = independent OR don't know OR none of these] Do you think of yourself as closer to the [ROTATE "Democratic or Republican" OR "Republican or Democratic"] party?

	Total (N=971)	Democrats (N=0)	Republicans (N=0)	Independents (N=534)	Apolitical (N=437)
Closer to Democratic party	24%	-	-	30%	16%
Closer to Republican party	18%	-	-	20%	15%
Not closer to either	58%	-	-	50%	69%

3. [Ask if Q1 = Democrat] Do you consider yourself to be a [ROTATE "strong Democrat or moderate Democrat" OR "moderate Democrat or a strong Democrat"]?

	Total (N=774)	Democrats (N=774)	Republicans (N=0)	Independents (N=0)	Apolitical (N=0)
Strong Democrat	49%	49%	-	-	-
Moderate Democrat	51%	51%	-	-	-

4. [Ask if Q1 = Republican] Do you consider yourself to be a [ROTATE "strong Republican or moderate Republican" OR "moderate Republican or a strong Republican"]?

	Total (N=600)	Democrats (N=0)	Republicans (N=600)	Independents (N=0)	Apolitical (N=0)
Strong Republican	46%	-	46%	-	-
Moderate Republican	54%	-	54%	-	-





5. Would you say that the political views of each of the following are...?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Your close family members	46%	53%	57%	36%	26%
Your friends	41%	47%	48%	32%	27%
[Ask if employed] Your	24%	30%	27%	17%	14%
coworkers	(N=1,281)	(N=432)	(N=329)	(N=303)	(N=217)
People who live in your community	21%	24%	28%	15%	10%

#### **Total Pretty Similar Summary**

#### a. Your friends

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Pretty similar to yours	41%	47%	48%	32%	27%
Pretty different from yours	7%	10%	6%	6%	5%
A mix	41%	35%	38%	53%	42%
Don't know	11%	8%	8%	10%	27%

#### b. Your close family members

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Pretty similar to yours	46%	53%	57%	36%	26%
Pretty different from yours	10%	11%	9%	13%	10%
A mix	33%	30%	28%	42%	36%
Don't know	10%	7%	6%	9%	28%

#### c. People who live in your community

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Pretty similar to yours	21%	24%	28%	15%	10%
Pretty different from yours	13%	17%	8%	14%	9%
A mix	49%	46%	52%	54%	44%
Don't know	18%	13%	13%	17%	37%

#### d. [Ask if employed] Your coworkers

	Total (N=1,281)	Democrats (N=432)	Republicans (N=329)	Independents (N=303)	Apolitical (N=217)
Pretty similar to yours	24%	30%	27%	17%	14%
Pretty different from yours	12%	15%	10%	11%	9%
A mix	48%	44%	49%	56%	46%
Don't know	16%	11%	14%	17%	31%

6. Generally speaking, how do you feel toward the following:

#### **Total Favorable Summary**

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Democratic voters	53%	90%	20%	51%	29%
Democratic politicians	46%	87%	12%	37%	20%
Republican voters	40%	18%	88%	35%	21%
Republican politicians	33%	14%	78%	26%	14%

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- 6. Generally speaking, how do you feel toward the following:
  - a. Republican voters

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very favorable	15%	3%	47%	4%	3%
Somewhat favorable	14%	6%	29%	12%	8%
A little favorable	12%	9%	13%	19%	10%
A little unfavorable	15%	20%	4%	18%	13%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%	22%	2%	13%	8%
Very unfavorable	18%	33%	1%	18%	12%
Don't know	14%	6%	5%	16%	45%
Favorable (Net)	40%	18%	88%	35%	21%
Unfavorable (Net)	45%	76%	7%	49%	33%

b. Democratic voters

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very favorable	20%	47%	2%	8%	4%
Somewhat favorable	18%	28%	7%	19%	9%
A little favorable	16%	14%	12%	24%	15%
A little unfavorable	11%	4%	17%	17%	9%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%	2%	18%	8%	7%
Very unfavorable	13%	1%	37%	10%	9%
Don't know	14%	4%	8%	15%	46%
Favorable (Net)	53%	90%	20%	51%	29%
Unfavorable (Net)	33%	6%	72%	34%	26%

#### c. Republican politicians

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very favorable	9%	3%	26%	2%	2%
Somewhat favorable	13%	4%	33%	9%	6%
A little favorable	12%	7%	19%	16%	6%
A little unfavorable	11%	13%	7%	14%	12%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%	17%	6%	14%	12%
Very unfavorable	31%	52%	5%	35%	21%
Don't know	12%	4%	5%	11%	41%
Favorable (Net)	33%	14%	78%	26%	14%
Unfavorable (Net)	55%	82%	17%	63%	46%





- 6. Generally speaking, how do you feel toward the following:
  - d. Democratic politicians

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very favorable	12%	29%	1%	3%	2%
Somewhat favorable	19%	39%	4%	15%	6%
A little favorable	15%	20%	7%	19%	12%
A little unfavorable	10%	6%	12%	16%	10%
Somewhat unfavorable	9%	2%	16%	14%	8%
Very unfavorable	23%	2%	55%	21%	20%
Don't know	12%	3%	5%	12%	42%
Favorable (Net)	46%	87%	12%	37%	20%
Unfavorable (Net)	42%	10%	83%	51%	38%

7. Regarding ordinary people who identify as Democrats, how many of them could you imagine having a constructive conversation with?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Just about all	14%	25%	8%	9%	7%
A lot	24%	37%	13%	23%	12%
Some	25%	24%	24%	32%	20%
A few	15%	8%	23%	15%	14%
Just about none	10%	2%	25%	8%	10%
Don't know	12%	6%	7%	13%	36%
Just about all/A lot (Net)	38%	61%	21%	32%	19%
A few/Just about none (Net)	25%	10%	48%	23%	24%

8. Regarding ordinary people who identify as Republicans, how many of them could you imagine having a constructive conversation with?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Just about all	12%	5%	30%	7%	8%
A lot	16%	10%	29%	16%	9%
Some	26%	26%	25%	32%	17%
A few	20%	31%	9%	21%	14%
Just about none	13%	22%	2%	12%	15%
Don't know	12%	7%	6%	12%	36%
Just about all/A lot (Net)	28%	14%	59%	23%	17%
A few/Just about none (Net)	34%	53%	10%	33%	29%





9. If the following were to happen, how good or bad do you think it would be for our country?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Special interests have less political power and ordinary people have greater influence over decisions that affect their lives and communities	73% <b>(N=469)</b>	74% <b>(N=156)</b>	70% (N=118)	82% (N=111)	61% <b>(N=84)</b>
The American people reject political hostility and divisiveness and focus more on their common ground	72% <b>(N=470)</b>	75% <b>(N=167)</b>	80% (N=117)	69% <b>(N=99)</b>	54% (N=87)
The country continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse	56% <b>(N=468)</b>	69% (N=150)	42% (N=119)	56% (N=116)	49% <b>(N=83)</b>
A strong, charismatic leader gains power and is willing to do whatever it takes to maintain control and run the country in the way he or she thinks is best	41% (N=469)	40% (N=141)	52% (N=119)	33% (N=114)	35% (N=95)
Democratic states and Republican states split off into two separate countries	17% <b>(N=469)</b>	15% <b>(N=160)</b>	22% (N=127)	18% <b>(N=94)</b>	10% <b>(N=88)</b>

#### Total Good Summarv

a. Special interests have less political power and ordinary people have greater influence over decisions that affect their lives and communities

	Total (N=469)	Democrats (N=156)	Republicans (N=118)	Independents (N=111)	Apolitical (N=84)
Very good	39%	35%	40%	51%	30%
Somewhat good	33%	39%	30%	31%	31%
Somewhat bad	9%	9%	15%	6%	7%
Very bad	5%	6%	6%	2%	6%
Don't know	13%	11%	9%	10%	26%
Good (Net)	73%	74%	70%	82%	61%
Bad (Net)	14%	15%	20%	8%	13%

b. A strong, charismatic leader gains power and is willing to do whatever it takes to maintain control and run the country in the way he or she thinks is best

	Total (N=469)	Democrats (N=141)	Republicans (N=119)	Independents (N=114)	Apolitical (N=95)
Very good	16%	19%	19%	12%	12%
Somewhat good	24%	21%	33%	21%	24%
Somewhat bad	17%	19%	15%	24%	7%
Very bad	27%	28%	22%	31%	24%
Don't know	16%	14%	10%	12%	34%
Good (Net)	41%	40%	52%	33%	35%
Bad (Net)	43%	47%	38%	55%	30%





- 9. If the following were to happen, how good or bad do you think it would be for our country?
  - c. The American people reject political hostility and divisiveness and focus more on their common ground

	Total (N=470)	Democrats (N=167)	Republicans (N=117)	Independents (N=99)	Apolitical (N=87)
Very good	48%	50%	54%	51%	29%
Somewhat good	24%	25%	26%	18%	26%
Somewhat bad	10%	12%	8%	7%	12%
Very bad	3%	3%	3%	7%	1%
Don't know	15%	10%	9%	17%	33%
Good (Net)	72%	75%	80%	69%	54%
Bad (Net)	13%	15%	11%	14%	13%

d. **[ROTATE "Democratic states" AND "Republican states"]** Democratic states and Republican states split off into two separate countries

	Total (N=469)	Democrats (N=160)	Republicans (N=127)	Independents (N=94)	Apolitical (N=88)
Very good	5%	7%	6%	4%	-
Somewhat good	12%	9%	16%	14%	10%
Somewhat bad	19%	22%	19%	21%	11%
Very bad	51%	53%	52%	53%	41%
Don't know	13%	10%	7%	8%	38%
Good (Net)	17%	15%	22%	18%	10%
Bad (Net)	70%	75%	71%	74%	52%

e. The country continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse

	Total (N=468)	Democrats (N=150)	Republicans (N=119)	Independents (N=116)	Apolitical (N=83)
Very good	34%	50%	21%	24%	31%
Somewhat good	23%	19%	21%	31%	18%
Somewhat bad	12%	6%	21%	14%	6%
Very bad	19%	17%	25%	17%	19%
Don't know	13%	8%	11%	13%	26%
Good (Net)	56%	69%	42%	56%	49%
Bad (Net)	31%	23%	46%	31%	25%





10. How likely do you think the following is to happen in the next ten years?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
The country continues to become more	80%	85%	83%	80%	58%
racially and ethnically diverse	(N=468)	(N=150)	(N=119)	(N=116)	(N=83)
A strong, charismatic leader gains power					
and is willing to do whatever it takes to	53%	58%	68%	36%	44%
maintain control and run the country in the	(N=469)	(N=141)	(N=119)	(N=114)	(N=95)
way he or she thinks is best	. ,				
The American people reject political hostility	39%	49%	39%	27%	30%
and divisiveness and focus more on their					
common ground	(N=470)	(N=167)	(N=117)	(N=99)	(N=87)
Special interests have less political power					
and ordinary people have greater influence	31%	41%	32%	22%	22%
over decisions that affect their lives and	(N=469)	(N=156)	(N=118)	(N=111)	(N=84)
communities	. ,				
Democratic states and Republican states	19%	17%	26%	19%	13%
split off into two separate countries	(N=469)	(N=160)	(N=127)	(N=94)	(N=88)

Total Likely Summary

a. Special interests have less political power and ordinary people have greater influence over decisions that affect their lives and communities

	Total (N=469)	Democrats (N=156)	Republicans (N=118)	Independents (N=111)	Apolitical (N=84)
Very likely	12%	15%	13%	6%	9%
Somewhat likely	20%	26%	19%	16%	12%
Somewhat unlikely	27%	25%	30%	28%	22%
Very unlikely	29%	23%	30%	40%	28%
Don't know	13%	10%	8%	10%	28%
Likely (Net)	31%	41%	32%	22%	22%
Unlikely (Net)	56%	49%	60%	68%	50%

b. A strong, charismatic leader gains power and is willing to do whatever it takes to maintain control and run the country in the way he or she thinks is best

	Total (N=469)	Democrats (N=141)	Republicans (N=119)	Independents (N=114)	Apolitical (N=95)
Very likely	18%	18%	25%	11%	15%
Somewhat likely	35%	40%	42%	26%	29%
Somewhat unlikely	21%	20%	18%	29%	16%
Very unlikely	11%	10%	7%	19%	6%
Don't know	16%	12%	7%	16%	34%
Likely (Net)	53%	58%	68%	36%	44%
Unlikely (Net)	32%	30%	25%	48%	22%





- 10. How likely do you think the following is to happen in the next ten years?
  - c. The American people reject political hostility and divisiveness and focus more on their common ground

	Total (N=470)	Democrats (N=167)	Republicans (N=117)	Independents (N=99)	Apolitical (N=87)
Very likely	12%	15%	13%	5%	11%
Somewhat likely	27%	34%	26%	21%	19%
Somewhat unlikely	27%	21%	31%	36%	19%
Very unlikely	21%	18%	22%	21%	24%
Don't know	14%	11%	7%	16%	27%
Likely (Net)	39%	49%	39%	27%	30%
Unlikely (Net)	47%	40%	53%	57%	43%

## d. **[ROTATE "Democratic states" AND "Republican states"]** Democratic states and Republican states split off into two separate countries

	Total (N=469)	Democrats (N=160)	Republicans (N=127)	Independents (N=94)	Apolitical (N=88)
Very likely	5%	3%	8%	4%	4%
Somewhat likely	14%	14%	18%	15%	9%
Somewhat unlikely	18%	19%	18%	19%	16%
Very unlikely	48%	53%	45%	55%	34%
Don't know	14%	11%	11%	7%	37%
Likely (Net)	19%	17%	26%	19%	13%
Unlikely (Net)	67%	72%	63%	74%	50%

#### e. The country continues to become more racially and ethnically diverse

	Total (N=468)	Democrats (N=150)	Republicans (N=119)	Independents (N=116)	Apolitical (N=83)
Very likely	44%	44%	47%	47%	29%
Somewhat likely	36%	41%	36%	34%	30%
Somewhat unlikely	7%	6%	3%	10%	13%
Very unlikely	3%	3%	4%	2%	6%
Don't know	10%	6%	10%	7%	23%
Likely (Net)	80%	85%	83%	80%	58%
Unlikely (Net)	11%	9%	7%	12%	18%

11. Generally speaking, how do you feel toward the following:

#### Total Favorable Summary

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Democratic voters	53%	91%	18%	50%	25%
Democratic politicians	46%	88%	11%	38%	19%
Republican voters	40%	19%	85%	36%	19%
Republican politicians	33%	15%	77%	25%	14%

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- 11. Generally speaking, how do you feel toward the following:
  - a. Republican voters

·	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very favorable	12%	2%	39%	4%	2%
Somewhat favorable	13%	6%	31%	12%	4%
A little favorable	14%	11%	15%	20%	13%
A little unfavorable	15%	20%	6%	20%	13%
Somewhat unfavorable	14%	24%	3%	16%	9%
Very unfavorable	17%	30%	1%	15%	12%
Don't know	14%	7%	5%	13%	46%
Favorable (Net)	40%	19%	85%	36%	19%
Unfavorable (Net)	46%	74%	10%	51%	35%

#### b. Democratic voters

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very favorable	18%	41%	2%	7%	5%
Somewhat favorable	19%	34%	5%	18%	9%
A little favorable	16%	17%	11%	25%	12%
A little unfavorable	12%	3%	21%	17%	11%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%	*	18%	10%	8%
Very unfavorable	13%	1%	36%	10%	9%
Don't know	14%	3%	7%	13%	48%
Favorable (Net)	53%	91%	18%	50%	25%
Unfavorable (Net)	34%	5%	75%	37%	27%

#### c. Republican politicians

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very favorable	8%	2%	26%	2%	2%
Somewhat favorable	13%	5%	33%	8%	5%
A little favorable	12%	8%	19%	15%	7%
A little unfavorable	13%	13%	8%	17%	13%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%	16%	6%	15%	10%
Very unfavorable	31%	52%	5%	32%	23%
Don't know	11%	4%	4%	10%	41%
Favorable (Net)	33%	15%	77%	25%	14%
Unfavorable (Net)	56%	81%	19%	65%	45%





- 11. Generally speaking, how do you feel toward the following:
  - d. Democratic politicians

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very favorable	12%	28%	1%	5%	2%
Somewhat favorable	19%	39%	3%	13%	8%
A little favorable	15%	21%	7%	20%	8%
A little unfavorable	11%	5%	14%	16%	13%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%	3%	18%	13%	8%
Very unfavorable	22%	2%	53%	22%	19%
Don't know	11%	3%	4%	11%	41%
Favorable (Net)	46%	88%	11%	38%	19%
Unfavorable (Net)	43%	9%	84%	51%	40%

12. How serious of a problem, if at all, are each of the following?

Total Serious Summary					
	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Political hostility and divisiveness on the news media	81%	82%	87%	82%	67%
Political hostility and divisiveness between ordinary Americans	81%	84%	83%	83%	65%
Political hostility and divisiveness between politicians	81%	84%	84%	84%	66%
Political hostility and divisiveness on social media	80%	85%	85%	79%	66%

#### Total Serious Summarv

#### a. Political hostility and divisiveness between ordinary Americans

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very serious	45%	51%	43%	44%	38%
Somewhat serious	35%	34%	39%	38%	27%
Not too serious	9%	8%	11%	9%	9%
Not serious at all	2%	1%	2%	1%	3%
Don't know	9%	6%	5%	7%	24%
Serious (Net)	81%	84%	83%	83%	65%
Not serious (Net)	11%	10%	13%	10%	11%

#### b. Political hostility and divisiveness between politicians

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very serious	50%	52%	51%	51%	43%
Somewhat serious	31%	32%	33%	32%	23%
Not too serious	8%	8%	9%	7%	6%
Not serious at all	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Don't know	9%	6%	5%	6%	26%
Serious (Net)	81%	84%	84%	84%	66%
Not serious (Net)	10%	10%	11%	10%	8%

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- 12. How serious of a problem, if at all, are each of the following?
  - c. Political hostility and divisiveness on the news media

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very serious	48%	44%	56%	48%	42%
Somewhat serious	33%	38%	31%	34%	24%
Not too serious	8%	9%	7%	8%	5%
Not serious at all	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%
Don't know	10%	8%	4%	8%	27%
Serious (Net)	81%	82%	87%	82%	67%
Not serious (Net)	9%	10%	9%	10%	7%

#### d. Political hostility and divisiveness on social media

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Very serious	50%	52%	53%	50%	41%
Somewhat serious	30%	33%	31%	29%	24%
Not too serious	8%	7%	8%	10%	7%
Not serious at all	2%	1%	1%	3%	3%
Don't know	10%	8%	6%	9%	25%
Serious (Net)	80%	85%	85%	79%	66%
Not serious (Net)	10%	8%	9%	13%	10%

13. In the next ten years, do you think political hostility and divisiveness between ordinary Americans will...

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Increase	42%	37%	46%	46%	42%
Stay the same	28%	34%	28%	26%	18%
Decrease	9%	10%	9%	8%	6%
Don't know	21%	19%	17%	21%	34%

14. In general, how much more difficult do you think political divisiveness has made the following?

Total A Lot/Somewhat More Difficult Summary

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Dealing with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic	68%	73%	67%	67%	61%
Dealing with the health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic	67%	74%	60%	67%	60%
Conducting elections	65%	70%	68%	64%	50%
Solving problems in your community	53%	59%	48%	54%	46%
Getting along with people in your community	41%	47%	39%	41%	33%
Getting along with friends or family	32%	37%	29%	35%	24%





14. In general, how much more difficult do you think political divisiveness has made the following?

#### Total A Lot/Somewhat More Difficult Summary

Trending	Total	Feb 23-26, 2021 (N=1,283)
Dealing with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic	68%	76%
Dealing with the health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic	67%	75%
Conducting elections	65%	-
Solving problems in your community	53%	-
Getting along with people in your community	41%	-
Getting along with friends or family	32%	-

#### a. Dealing with the health risks of the COVID-19 pandemic

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A lot more difficult	43%	51%	35%	42%	39%
Somewhat more difficult	24%	23%	25%	25%	20%
A little more difficult	17%	15%	22%	19%	9%
Not more difficult	7%	5%	10%	6%	5%
Don't know	10%	6%	7%	8%	27%
A lot/somewhat more difficult (Net)	67%	74%	60%	67%	60%
A little/not more difficult (Net)	24%	20%	33%	25%	14%

#### b. Dealing with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A lot more difficult	41%	45%	38%	41%	37%
Somewhat more difficult	27%	28%	29%	26%	25%
A little more difficult	16%	15%	17%	18%	11%
Not more difficult	6%	5%	9%	7%	3%
Don't know	10%	6%	7%	8%	25%
A lot/somewhat more difficult (Net)	68%	73%	67%	67%	61%
A little/not more difficult (Net)	22%	21%	26%	25%	14%

#### c. Conducting elections

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A lot more difficult	38%	41%	42%	38%	27%
Somewhat more difficult	27%	29%	26%	26%	23%
A little more difficult	16%	14%	16%	20%	14%
Not more difficult	7%	8%	8%	7%	6%
Don't know	11%	8%	7%	9%	30%
A lot/somewhat more difficult (Net)	65%	70%	68%	64%	50%
A little/not more difficult (Net)	23%	22%	25%	27%	20%

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14. In general, how much more difficult do you think political divisiveness has made the following?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A lot more difficult	17%	20%	16%	17%	14%
Somewhat more difficult	24%	27%	23%	24%	18%
A little more difficult	24%	23%	25%	25%	22%
Not more difficult	22%	20%	27%	23%	15%
Don't know	13%	9%	8%	12%	31%
A lot/somewhat more difficult (Net)	41%	47%	39%	41%	33%
A little/not more difficult (Net)	46%	43%	53%	48%	37%

d. Getting along with people in your community

#### e. Solving problems in your community

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A lot more difficult	26%	27%	24%	27%	23%
Somewhat more difficult	27%	32%	24%	26%	23%
A little more difficult	23%	21%	30%	24%	16%
Not more difficult	11%	10%	12%	13%	7%
Don't know	13%	10%	9%	9%	31%
A lot/somewhat more difficult (Net)	53%	59%	48%	54%	46%
A little/not more difficult (Net)	34%	31%	43%	37%	23%

#### f. Getting along with friends or family

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
A lot more difficult	12%	13%	11%	12%	10%
Somewhat more difficult	21%	23%	18%	23%	14%
A little more difficult	23%	24%	24%	23%	20%
Not more difficult	34%	32%	41%	35%	28%
Don't know	10%	7%	6%	8%	29%
A lot/somewhat more difficult (Net)	32%	37%	29%	35%	24%
A little/not more difficult (Net)	57%	56%	65%	58%	47%

#### 15. Which one do you worry about more?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Americans don't know how to talk about their disagreements and conflicts in constructive ways	30%	28%	35%	33%	24%
Americans have too many fundamental disagreements and conflicting values	11%	13%	11%	11%	6%
Both equally	50%	54%	46%	50%	46%
Neither	9%	5%	7%	7%	24%





#### 15. Which one do you worry about more?

Trending	Total	February 23-26, 2021	October 14-21, 2019 (N=1,548)
Americans don't know how to talk about their disagreements and conflicts in constructive ways	30%	41%	43%
Americans have too many fundamental disagreements and conflicting values	11%	11%	10%
Both equally	50%	41%	38%
Neither	9%	7%	8%

#### 16. How often, if at all, have you done the following in the last twelve months?

#### Total Often/Sometimes Summary

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Avoided talking about politics with someone whose political views are opposed to your own	71%	74%	75%	71%	59%
Thought someone else was being overly sensitive and defensive about politics	67%	67%	71%	68%	58%
Felt alarmed by someone else's political views	60%	69%	57%	58%	46%
Gotten to know someone whose political views are opposed to your own	58%	56%	59%	62%	53%
Had a constructive conversation about politics with someone whose political views are opposed to your own	45%	46%	45%	49%	38%
Ended a relationship with someone whose political views are opposed to your own	25%	29%	23%	24%	15%

## a. Had a constructive conversation about politics with someone whose political views are opposed to your own

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Often	7%	9%	6%	6%	7%
Sometimes	38%	37%	39%	43%	31%
Hardly ever	33%	34%	37%	31%	26%
Never	22%	20%	17%	20%	36%
Often/sometimes (Net)	45%	46%	45%	49%	38%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	55%	54%	54%	51%	62%

b. Gotten to know someone whose political views are opposed to your own

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Often	13%	11%	11%	13%	18%
Sometimes	45%	45%	48%	49%	35%
Hardly ever	25%	27%	28%	22%	18%
Never	18%	17%	14%	15%	29%
Often/sometimes (Net)	58%	56%	59%	62%	53%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	43%	44%	42%	37%	47%

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16. How often, if at all, have you done the following in the last twelve months?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Often	19%	27%	15%	16%	13%
Sometimes	41%	42%	42%	42%	33%
Hardly ever	21%	17%	28%	24%	18%
Never	19%	14%	16%	18%	37%
Often/sometimes (Net)	60%	69%	57%	58%	46%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	40%	31%	44%	42%	55%

c. Felt alarmed by someone else's political views

d. Avoided talking about politics with someone whose political views are opposed to your own

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Often	33%	35%	34%	33%	29%
Sometimes	38%	39%	41%	38%	30%
Hardly ever	14%	13%	15%	15%	11%
Never	15%	13%	10%	14%	29%
Often/sometimes (Net)	71%	74%	75%	71%	59%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	29%	26%	25%	29%	40%

e. Ended a relationship with someone whose political views are opposed to your own

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Often	6%	7%	6%	4%	5%
Sometimes	19%	22%	17%	20%	10%
Hardly ever	19%	23%	14%	20%	16%
Never	57%	48%	63%	56%	69%
Often/sometimes (Net)	25%	29%	23%	24%	15%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	76%	71%	77%	76%	85%

f. Thought someone else was being overly sensitive and defensive about politics

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Often	20%	20%	22%	19%	18%
Sometimes	47%	47%	49%	49%	40%
Hardly ever	19%	21%	19%	18%	13%
Never	14%	12%	9%	14%	28%
Often/sometimes (Net)	67%	67%	71%	68%	58%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	33%	33%	28%	32%	41%





17. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?

**Total Agree Summary** 

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
It's a good thing that Americans have many different political viewpoints, including some that I disagree with	73%	76%	75%	78%	56%
I can learn something by talking to people whose political views are opposed to mine	71%	74%	73%	75%	55%
[Ask if Democrat OR if Independent or Apolitical, rotate between "Republicans" and "Democrats"] I am sick and tired of Republicans	58% <b>(N=1,253)</b>	67% <b>(N=774)</b>	- (N=0)	46% <b>(N=257)</b>	32% (N=222)
[Ask if Republican OR if Independent or Apolitical, rotate between "Republicans" and "Democrats"] I am sick and tired of Democrats	55% (N=1,092)	(N=0)	70% (N=600)	40% (N=277)	27% <b>(N=215)</b>
It's difficult to be friends with someone whose political views are opposed to mine	39%	49%	39%	34%	23%
If someone's political views are different from mine, it's worth trying to change their mind	34%	39%	37%	32%	18%

a. It's difficult to be friends with someone whose political views are opposed to mine

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	12%	17%	13%	7%	8%
Somewhat agree	27%	31%	26%	27%	15%
Somewhat disagree	33%	29%	37%	39%	27%
Strongly disagree	19%	16%	20%	18%	25%
Don't know	9%	6%	4%	9%	25%
Agree (Net)	39%	49%	39%	34%	23%
Disagree (Net)	52%	46%	57%	57%	52%

b. I can learn something by talking to people whose political views are opposed to mine

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	21%	22%	19%	22%	18%
Somewhat agree	50%	52%	54%	53%	37%
Somewhat disagree	12%	12%	13%	12%	11%
Strongly disagree	7%	7%	8%	5%	7%
Don't know	10%	7%	6%	9%	27%
Agree (Net)	71%	74%	73%	75%	55%
Disagree (Net)	19%	19%	21%	17%	18%





- 17. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following?
  - c. If someone's political views are different from mine, it's worth trying to change their mind

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	7%	9%	8%	5%	4%
Somewhat agree	26%	30%	28%	27%	14%
Somewhat disagree	32%	31%	36%	34%	27%
Strongly disagree	19%	18%	18%	21%	23%
Don't know	15%	12%	10%	13%	32%
Agree (Net)	34%	39%	37%	32%	18%
Disagree (Net)	52%	49%	54%	55%	50%

d. It's a good thing that Americans have many different political viewpoints, including some that I disagree with

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Strongly agree	23%	23%	22%	28%	17%
Somewhat agree	50%	52%	54%	50%	38%
Somewhat disagree	14%	15%	15%	12%	11%
Strongly disagree	4%	4%	3%	2%	6%
Don't know	10%	6%	6%	8%	28%
Agree (Net)	73%	76%	75%	78%	56%
Disagree (Net)	17%	19%	19%	14%	17%

## e. [Ask if Democrat OR if Independent or Apolitical, rotate between "Republicans" and "Democrats"] I am sick and tired of Republicans

	Total (N=1,253)	Democrats (N=774)	Republicans (N=0)	Independents (N=257)	Apolitical (N=222)
Strongly agree	28%	35%	-	12%	16%
Somewhat agree	30%	33%	-	34%	17%
Somewhat disagree	17%	16%	-	26%	11%
Strongly disagree	10%	7%	-	16%	18%
Don't know	14%	10%	-	12%	38%
Agree (Net)	58%	67%	-	46%	32%
Disagree (Net)	28%	23%	-	42%	30%

## f. [Ask if Republican OR if Independent or Apolitical, rotate between "Republicans" and "Democrats"] I am sick and tired of Democrats

	Total (N=1,092)	Democrats (N=0)	Republicans (N=600)	Independents (N=277)	Apolitical (N=215)
Strongly agree	29%	-	40%	18%	10%
Somewhat agree	26%	-	30%	22%	18%
Somewhat disagree	15%	-	14%	19%	12%
Strongly disagree	13%	-	7%	23%	16%
Don't know	17%	-	10%	17%	45%
Agree (Net)	55%	-	70%	40%	27%
Disagree (Net)	28%	-	21%	42%	28%

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#### 18. How often do you use social media?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Often	46%	49%	41%	44%	51%
Sometimes	27%	28%	31%	26%	23%
Hardly ever	11%	10%	11%	12%	10%
Never	16%	13%	17%	18%	16%
Often/sometimes (Net)	73%	77%	72%	70%	74%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	27%	23%	28%	30%	26%

19. **[Ask if Q18 = Often OR sometimes]** How often, if at all, have you done the following on social media in the last twelve months?

	Total (N=1,739)	Democrats (N=593)	Republicans (N=439)	Independents (N=374)	Apolitical (N=333)
Felt fed up with how people talk about politics on social media	76%	77%	79%	79%	69%
Thought someone else was being overly sensitive and defensive about politics on social media	71%	71%	77%	71%	63%
Thought that someone who you usually agree with was being too divisive or hostile towards people with opposing political views on social media	56%	59%	58%	57%	46%
Liked, posted or shared something that emphasizes Americans' common ground	53%	57%	53%	54%	42%
Liked, posted or shared something by someone who you usually disagree with about politics	38%	41%	36%	39%	33%

#### Total Often/Sometimes Summary

a. Felt fed up with how people talk about politics on social media

	Total (N=1,739)	Democrats (N=593)	Republicans (N=439)	Independents (N=374)	Apolitical (N=333)
Often	40%	37%	46%	43%	36%
Sometimes	36%	40%	33%	36%	33%
Hardly ever	13%	15%	12%	11%	13%
Never	10%	8%	9%	10%	18%
Often/sometimes (Net)	76%	77%	79%	79%	69%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	23%	23%	21%	21%	31%





- 19. **[Ask if Q18 = Often OR sometimes]** How often, if at all, have you done the following on social media in the last twelve months?
  - b. Thought that someone who you usually agree with was being too divisive or hostile towards people with opposing political views on social media

	Total (N=1,739)	Democrats (N=593)	Republicans (N=439)	Independents (N=374)	Apolitical (N=333)
Often	14%	16%	15%	11%	15%
Sometimes	42%	43%	43%	46%	31%
Hardly ever	25%	25%	25%	26%	25%
Never	19%	16%	18%	17%	29%
Often/sometimes (Net)	56%	59%	58%	57%	46%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	44%	41%	43%	43%	54%

c. Liked, posted or shared something by someone who you usually disagree with about politics

	Total (N=1,739)	Democrats (N=593)	Republicans (N=439)	Independents (N=374)	Apolitical (N=333)
Often	9%	10%	10%	7%	7%
Sometimes	29%	31%	26%	32%	26%
Hardly ever	26%	28%	25%	29%	23%
Never	36%	32%	39%	32%	43%
Often/sometimes (Net)	38%	41%	36%	39%	33%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	62%	60%	64%	61%	66%

d. Liked, posted or shared something that emphasizes Americans' common ground

	Total (N=1,739)	Democrats (N=593)	Republicans (N=439)	Independents (N=374)	Apolitical (N=333)
Often	13%	14%	14%	10%	10%
Sometimes	40%	43%	39%	44%	32%
Hardly ever	21%	23%	18%	21%	19%
Never	26%	21%	29%	24%	39%
Often/sometimes (Net)	53%	57%	53%	54%	42%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	47%	44%	47%	45%	58%

e. Thought someone else was being overly sensitive and defensive about politics on social media

	Total (N=1,739)	Democrats (N=593)	Republicans (N=439)	Independents (N=374)	Apolitical (N=333)
Often	24%	22%	28%	22%	25%
Sometimes	47%	49%	49%	49%	38%
Hardly ever	15%	18%	13%	14%	13%
Never	14%	11%	10%	15%	24%
Often/sometimes (Net)	71%	71%	77%	71%	63%
Hardly ever/never (Net)	29%	29%	23%	29%	37%

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20. Do you think each of the following would help bring the country together, drive the country further apart, or have no effect either way?

Total Bring the Country Toge	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Creating more accurate, trustworthy,			-	•	•
accessible sources of news and information	65%	69%	69%	65%	51%
Reducing the influence of money in politics	62%	67%	62%	63%	49%
and the power of special interests	0270	0770	0270	0070	4070
Creating well-organized opportunities for					
people to get together and discuss different	58%	66%	54%	57%	46%
ideas for addressing problems in their					
communities Creating a school curriculum that teaches					
students to deal with divisive issues in	58%	70%	48%	56%	49%
constructive ways	50%	1078	4078	5078	4970
The federal government making sure that					
voting is simple, convenient, and hassle-free	57%	72%	46%	56%	45%
for everyone in every state					
Making sure higher education is affordable	57%	70%	43%	57%	49%
and accessible for all Americans	5770	70%	43%	5776	49%
Young people doing a year of national service,					
working together with Americans from	56%	64%	52%	57%	43%
different backgrounds					
Stopping social media from amplifying political	56%	60%	58%	54%	48%
divisiveness					
A national leader challenging the country to achieve an ambitious goal, such as curing					
cancer, ending hunger in America, or	52%	62%	47%	51%	37%
addressing climate change					
Changing federal laws and institutions to root					
out racism in America	47%	64%	31%	45%	40%
Creating incentives that encourage people					
from different racial, ethnic, and economic	44%	58%	34%	43%	33%
backgrounds to live in the same	44%	56%	34%	43%	33%
neighborhoods					
Creating a popular TV comedy that portrays					
people with different political views trying to	31%	36%	29%	32%	24%
get along					
Each state creating its own rules for voting	20%	18%	27%	17%	14%
and elections					

#### Total Bring the Country Together Summary





- 20. Do you think each of the following would help bring the country together, drive the country further apart, or have no effect either way?
  - a. Young people doing a year of national service, working together with Americans from different backgrounds

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	21%	30%	15%	19%	16%
Bring the country together a little	34%	34%	36%	38%	27%
Have no effect	21%	17%	26%	24%	19%
Drive the country apart a little	4%	4%	5%	4%	4%
Drive the country apart a lot	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%
Don't know	15%	12%	14%	12%	30%
Bring the country together (Net)	56%	64%	52%	57%	43%
Drive the country apart (Net)	8%	8%	8%	6%	8%

b. Creating well-organized opportunities for people to get together and discuss different ideas for addressing problems in their communities

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	19%	24%	14%	17%	15%
Bring the country together a little	39%	42%	40%	40%	30%
Have no effect	22%	18%	27%	25%	18%
Drive the country apart a little	4%	4%	5%	5%	4%
Drive the country apart a lot	3%	3%	2%	2%	6%
Don't know	13%	9%	11%	11%	27%
Bring the country together (Net)	58%	66%	54%	57%	46%
Drive the country apart (Net)	7%	7%	7%	7%	10%

#### c. Creating more accurate, trustworthy, accessible sources of news and information

_	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	34%	38%	34%	33%	28%
Bring the country together a little	31%	31%	35%	31%	23%
Have no effect	17%	16%	17%	20%	18%
Drive the country apart a little	3%	4%	4%	3%	2%
Drive the country apart a lot	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
Don't know	12%	9%	8%	10%	27%
Bring the country together (Net)	65%	69%	69%	65%	51%
Drive the country apart (Net)	5%	6%	6%	5%	4%

#### d. Stopping social media from amplifying political divisiveness

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	29%	29%	35%	25%	24%
Bring the country together a little	27%	31%	23%	29%	24%
Have no effect	20%	18%	21%	24%	16%
Drive the country apart a little	6%	7%	8%	4%	4%
Drive the country apart a lot	3%	3%	5%	3%	2%
Don't know	14%	11%	8%	16%	29%
Bring the country together (Net)	56%	60%	58%	54%	48%
Drive the country apart (Net)	10%	10%	12%	7%	6%

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- 20. Do you think each of the following would help bring the country together, drive the country further apart, or have no effect either way?
  - e. Creating a school curriculum that teaches students to deal with divisive issues in constructive ways

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	25%	35%	15%	22%	23%
Bring the country together a little	33%	35%	34%	34%	26%
Have no effect	17%	12%	22%	21%	14%
Drive the country apart a little	5%	5%	7%	6%	4%
Drive the country apart a lot	5%	2%	11%	4%	5%
Don't know	14%	11%	12%	12%	28%
Bring the country together (Net)	58%	70%	48%	56%	49%
Drive the country apart (Net)	11%	7%	18%	11%	9%

#### f. Reducing the influence of money in politics and the power of special interests

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	36%	41%	33%	36%	29%
Bring the country together a little	26%	26%	29%	27%	20%
Have no effect	17%	16%	19%	18%	16%
Drive the country apart a little	5%	5%	5%	4%	4%
Drive the country apart a lot	3%	3%	2%	2%	2%
Don't know	14%	10%	11%	12%	29%
Bring the country together (Net)	62%	67%	62%	63%	49%
Drive the country apart (Net)	7%	8%	8%	7%	6%

## g. The federal government making sure that voting is simple, convenient, and hassle-free for everyone in every state

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	31%	43%	19%	30%	23%
Bring the country together a little	27%	29%	27%	25%	22%
Have no effect	20%	12%	29%	22%	19%
Drive the country apart a little	6%	6%	9%	6%	4%
Drive the country apart a lot	5%	2%	8%	6%	3%
Don't know	12%	8%	9%	11%	29%
Bring the country together (Net)	57%	72%	46%	56%	45%
Drive the country apart (Net)	11%	8%	17%	12%	7%

#### h. Each state creating its own rules for voting and elections

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	8%	6%	13%	7%	6%
Bring the country together a little	11%	12%	13%	11%	9%
Have no effect	18%	14%	22%	23%	15%
Drive the country apart a little	19%	21%	17%	21%	18%
Drive the country apart a lot	28%	36%	22%	26%	22%
Don't know	15%	11%	12%	14%	31%
Bring the country together (Net)	20%	18%	27%	17%	14%
Drive the country apart (Net)	47%	57%	39%	46%	39%

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- 20. Do you think each of the following would help bring the country together, drive the country further apart, or have no effect either way?
  - i. Changing federal laws and institutions to root out racism in America

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	22%	32%	12%	19%	22%
Bring the country together a little	25%	31%	19%	26%	18%
Have no effect	22%	15%	28%	26%	22%
Drive the country apart a little	9%	8%	14%	9%	4%
Drive the country apart a lot	8%	3%	15%	8%	6%
Don't know	14%	10%	12%	13%	28%
Bring the country together (Net)	47%	64%	31%	45%	40%
Drive the country apart (Net)	17%	11%	29%	16%	10%

j. Creating incentives that encourage people from different racial, ethnic, and economic backgrounds to live in the same neighborhoods

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	16%	24%	8%	15%	13%
Bring the country together a little	28%	34%	25%	28%	20%
Have no effect	25%	20%	33%	26%	21%
Drive the country apart a little	9%	7%	11%	10%	9%
Drive the country apart a lot	6%	4%	9%	5%	7%
Don't know	16%	12%	13%	16%	30%
Bring the country together (Net)	44%	58%	34%	43%	33%
Drive the country apart (Net)	15%	10%	20%	15%	15%

## k. Creating a popular TV comedy that portrays people with different political views trying to get along

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	9%	12%	7%	8%	7%
Bring the country together a little	22%	25%	22%	24%	17%
Have no effect	41%	41%	42%	44%	36%
Drive the country apart a little	6%	6%	8%	6%	5%
Drive the country apart a lot	5%	3%	7%	4%	4%
Don't know	16%	14%	14%	15%	30%
Bring the country together (Net)	31%	36%	29%	32%	24%
Drive the country apart (Net)	11%	9%	15%	9%	10%

I. A national leader challenging the country to achieve an ambitious goal, such as curing cancer, ending hunger in America, or addressing climate change

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	19%	27%	13%	18%	15%
Bring the country together a little	32%	35%	34%	33%	22%
Have no effect	25%	21%	29%	28%	25%
Drive the country apart a little	5%	3%	8%	5%	5%
Drive the country apart a lot	4%	3%	5%	3%	4%
Don't know	14%	10%	11%	13%	30%
Bring the country together (Net)	52%	62%	47%	51%	37%
Drive the country apart (Net)	9%	7%	13%	9%	9%

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20. Do you think each of the following would help bring the country together, drive the country further apart, or have no effect either way?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Bring the country together a lot	28%	41%	15%	24%	27%
Bring the country together a little	28%	29%	28%	33%	23%
Have no effect	22%	14%	34%	24%	18%
Drive the country apart a little	6%	5%	8%	6%	4%
Drive the country apart a lot	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%
Don't know	13%	10%	11%	10%	25%
Bring the country together (Net)	57%	70%	43%	57%	49%
Drive the country apart (Net)	9%	7%	12%	9%	7%

m. Making sure higher education is affordable and accessible for all Americans

21. [Ask if Q20a = Bring the country together a lot/a little] Earlier you mentioned that young people doing a year of national service would [INSERT RATING FROM Q20a]. Should a year of national service be...

	Total (N=1,254)	Democrats (N=479)	Republicans (N=296)	Independents (N=302)	Apolitical (N=177)
Encouraged but not required, for example by providing college credits or forgiving student loans for those who do national service	56%	59%	52%	56%	54%
Required, so that pretty much all young people experience national service	25%	24%	28%	27%	17%
Voluntary, so that young people have the opportunity to do national service but are not required to do so	15%	14%	17%	14%	20%
Don't know	3%	2%	3%	3%	8%

22. **[Ask if Q20b = Bring the country together a lot/a little]** Earlier you mentioned that creating well-organized opportunities for people to get together and discuss different ideas for addressing problems in their communities would **[INSERT RATING FROM Q20b]**. Assuming that the COVID-19 pandemic is over, would you personally prefer to participate in these discussions...

	Total (N=1,320)	Democrats (N=493)	Republicans (N=319)	Independents (N=304)	Apolitical (N=204)
In-person	27%	22%	36%	32%	18%
Online	18%	21%	11%	19%	19%
Either would be fine with me	45%	48%	43%	42%	43%
Don't know	10%	9%	10%	8%	20%





23. **[Ask if Q20b = Bring the country together a lot/a little]** Earlier you mentioned that creating well-organized opportunities for people to get together and discuss different ideas for addressing problems in their communities would **[INSERT RATING FROM Q20b]**. Assuming that the COVID-19 pandemic is over, would you personally prefer to participate in these discussions...

	Total (N=1,320)	Democrats (N=493)	Republicans (N=319)	Independents (N=304)	Apolitical (N=204)
In small groups	48%	48%	50%	49%	40%
In large groups	7%	6%	8%	4%	12%
One-on-one	6%	7%	8%	5%	3%
Any of these would be fine with me	30%	31%	24%	34%	26%
Don't know	9%	7%	9%	7%	19%

24. **[Ask if Q20b = Bring the country together a lot/a little]** Earlier you mentioned that creating well-organized opportunities for people to get together and discuss different ideas for addressing problems in their communities would **[INSERT RATING FROM Q20b]**. Assuming that the COVID-19 pandemic is over, would you personally prefer to participate in these discussions...

	Total (N=1,320)	Democrats (N=493)	Republicans (N=319)	Independents (N=304)	Apolitical (N=204)
With people who have a range of different political views	46%	44%	49%	53%	36%
Primarily with people whose political views are similar to yours	12%	16%	12%	7%	5%
Primarily with people whose political views are opposed to yours	5%	7%	5%	4%	4%
Any would be fine with me	27%	25%	27%	28%	35%
Don't know	10%	9%	8%	8%	21%

25. [Ask if Q20c = Bring the country together a lot/a little] Earlier you mentioned that creating more accurate, trustworthy, accessible sources of news and information would [INSERT RATING FROM Q20c]. Do you think each of the following would help bring the country together, drive the country further apart, or have no effect either way?

	Total (N=1,499)	Democrats (N=529)	Republicans (N=406)	Independents (N=343)	Apolitical (N=221)
News that focuses as much on solutions as on problems	81%	84%	79%	82%	77%
News that is as nonpartisan as possible	79%	78%	81%	81%	74%
News that goes beyond simplistic headlines to report on the complexity of the issues	70%	73%	66%	71%	67%
News that reflects a range of different political views, including some that you disagree with	67%	68%	63%	68%	65%
News that reflects only political views similar to yours	18%	24%	19%	11%	9%

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25. **[Ask if Q20c = Bring the country together a lot/a little]** Earlier you mentioned that creating more accurate, trustworthy, accessible sources of news and information would **[INSERT RATING FROM Q20c]**. Do you think each of the following would help bring the country together, drive the country further apart, or have no effect either way?

	Total (N=1,499)	Democrats (N=529)	Republicans (N=406)	Independents (N=343)	Apolitical (N=221)
Bring the country together a lot	6%	8%	5%	4%	3%
Bring the country together a little	12%	16%	14%	8%	6%
Have no effect	32%	30%	34%	34%	32%
Drive the country apart a little	23%	22%	25%	24%	20%
Drive the country apart a lot	19%	17%	14%	24%	26%
Don't know	8%	7%	7%	7%	13%
Bring the country together (Net)	18%	24%	19%	11%	9%
Drive the country apart (Net)	42%	39%	39%	48%	46%

a. News that reflects only political views similar to yours

b. News that is as nonpartisan as possible

	Total (N=1,499)	Democrats (N=529)	Republicans (N=406)	Independents (N=343)	Apolitical (N=221)
Bring the country together a lot	39%	38%	41%	41%	36%
Bring the country together a little	40%	40%	40%	41%	38%
Have no effect	12%	13%	13%	10%	12%
Drive the country apart a little	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Drive the country apart a lot	*	1%	1%	-	*
Don't know	7%	6%	4%	8%	12%
Bring the country together (Net)	79%	78%	81%	81%	74%
Drive the country apart (Net)	2%	3%	2%	1%	2%

c. News that reflects a range of different political views, including some that you disagree with

	Total (N=1,499)	Democrats (N=529)	Republicans (N=406)	Independents (N=343)	Apolitical (N=221)
Bring the country together a lot	20%	24%	16%	18%	22%
Bring the country together a little	46%	44%	47%	51%	43%
Have no effect	19%	16%	21%	20%	17%
Drive the country apart a little	5%	6%	6%	3%	6%
Drive the country apart a lot	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Don't know	7%	7%	6%	8%	11%
Bring the country together (Net)	67%	68%	63%	68%	65%
Drive the country apart (Net)	7%	8%	10%	4%	7%





<sup>25.</sup> **[Ask if Q20c = Bring the country together a lot/a little]** Earlier you mentioned that creating more accurate, trustworthy, accessible sources of news and information would **[INSERT RATING FROM Q20c]**. Do you think each of the following would help bring the country together, drive the country further apart, or have no effect either way?

	Total (N=1,499)	Democrats (N=529)	Republicans (N=406)	Independents (N=343)	Apolitical (N=221)
Bring the country together a lot	35%	38%	33%	32%	36%
Bring the country together a little	46%	46%	45%	50%	41%
Have no effect	10%	9%	11%	9%	11%
Drive the country apart a little	2%	2%	3%	1%	2%
Drive the country apart a lot	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
Don't know	5%	4%	6%	6%	8%
Bring the country together (Net)	81%	84%	79%	82%	77%
Drive the country apart (Net)	4%	3%	5%	3%	4%

d. News that focuses as much on solutions as on problems

e. News that goes beyond simplistic headlines to report on the complexity of the issues

	Total (N=1,499)	Democrats (N=529)	Republicans (N=406)	Independents (N=343)	Apolitical (N=221)
Bring the country together a lot	27%	31%	21%	25%	28%
Bring the country together a little	43%	42%	44%	46%	39%
Have no effect	17%	14%	22%	15%	19%
Drive the country apart a little	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%
Drive the country apart a lot	1%	1%	3%	1%	1%
Don't know	8%	8%	6%	9%	10%
Bring the country together (Net)	70%	73%	66%	71%	67%
Drive the country apart (Net)	5%	4%	7%	5%	4%

26. **[Ask if Q20d = Bring the country together a lot/a little]** Earlier you mentioned that stopping social media from amplifying political divisiveness would **[INSERT RATING FROM Q20d]**. Which of the following do you think could do the most to stop social media from amplifying political divisiveness?

	Total (N=1,269)	Democrats (N=456)	Republicans (N=340)	Independents (N=279)	Apolitical (N=194)
Social media companies themselves, by changing how they operate	42%	47%	39%	40%	39%
Individuals, by changing how they use social media	31%	28%	35%	34%	30%
Government, by regulating social media companies	15%	17%	16%	13%	13%
Don't know	11%	8%	11%	13%	18%





27. Which of the following do you think would do the most to bring the country together?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
School curriculum that emphasizes both America's <b>[ROTATE</b> "shortcomings" AND "achievements"] shortcomings and its achievements	49%	53%	41%	58%	42%
School curriculum that emphasizes America's achievements and greatness, and honors its traditions	18%	14%	35%	13%	8%
School curriculum that emphasizes America's shortcomings, mistakes and how it needs to change	15%	19%	10%	13%	14%
Don't know	18%	13%	14%	15%	37%

28. Of the choices listed below, which is your main source of news about current events and politics? Please select only one.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
FOX News	16%	9%	35%	12%	9%
CNN	14%	24%	4%	12%	8%
ABC News	9%	10%	9%	9%	7%
NBC News	7%	9%	5%	8%	4%
CBS News	6%	8%	4%	6%	3%
Public television/radio	6%	6%	4%	9%	6%
Newspapers/magazines	6%	5%	6%	7%	4%
MSNBC	5%	10%	1%	5%	1%
Other	8%	6%	10%	9%	10%
None of the above	18%	10%	20%	20%	31%
Don't know	6%	3%	2%	4%	18%

29. Who did you vote for in the presidential election last November?

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
Joe Biden, the Democrat	47%	86%	8%	47%	17%
Donald Trump, the Republican	29%	3%	82%	22%	10%
Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian	2%	1%	2%	5%	2%
Howie Hawkins, Green Party	1%	1%	*	1%	1%
Other	2%	1%	1%	3%	3%
I did not vote	14%	6%	4%	17%	44%
Prefer not to answer	6%	2%	3%	5%	23%





30. What is your religion? Select one answer only.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
No religion	27%	28%	12%	31%	44%
Catholic	25%	28%	28%	24%	17%
Evangelical or Protestant Christian (Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Pentecostal, Church of Christ, etc.)	25%	20%	40%	22%	15%
Other Christian religion	12%	11%	13%	12%	10%
Jewish	3%	5%	2%	4%	1%
Other non-Christian religion	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Jehovah's Witness	1%	1%	-	*	3%
Mormon	1%	*	1%	2%	1%
Islam/Muslim	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Greek or Russian Orthodox	1%	1%	1%	*	1%
Hindu	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Buddhist	1%	1%	*	1%	*
Unitarian (Universalist)	*	1%	1%	-	-

31. How often do you attend religious services? Select one answer only.

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	Apolitical
More than once a week	7%	6%	11%	3%	6%
Once a week	20%	18%	26%	18%	13%
Once or twice a month	8%	10%	9%	7%	4%
A few times a year	14%	13%	18%	13%	13%
Once a year or less	14%	15%	12%	18%	12%
Never	38%	39%	25%	41%	52%





#### **About the Study**

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between September 20-28, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 2,345 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 774 Democrats, 600 Republicans, 534 independents, and 437 apolitical Americans.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see <u>link</u> for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see <u>link</u> 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 2018 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 2.3 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=+/-3.8 percentage points).

The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.0 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 4.6 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 4.8 percentage points for independents, and plus or minus 5.3 percentage points for apolitical individuals.

The survey is trended with two surveys, the first one was conducted February 23-26, 2021 and the second survey was conducted October 14-21, 2019, both for Public Agenda by Ipsos. The February 2021 survey was conducted based on a nationally representative probability sample of adults age 18 or older (n=1,283) and the October 2019 survey was based on a nationally representative probability sample of adults age 18 or older (n=1,548). Further information about the February 2021 survey can be found at <u>http://www.publicagenda.org/reports/overcoming-divisiveness-charting-a-path-forward</u> and the October 2019 survey can be found at <u>https://www.publicagenda.org/reports/overcoming-divisiveness-charting-a-path-forward</u> and the October 2019 survey can be found at <u>https://www.publicagenda.org/reports/divisiveness-and-collaboration-in-american-public-life-a-hidden-common-ground-report/</u>

2020 K Street, NW, Suite 410 Washington DC 20006 +1 202 463-7300





For more information on this news release, please contact:

Chris Jackson Senior Vice President, US Public Affairs +1 202 420-2025 chris.jackson@ipsos.com

Kate Silverstein Media Relations Specialist, US Public Affairs +1 718 755-8829 kate.silverstein@ipsos.com

#### **About Ipsos**

Ipsos is the world's third largest market research company, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

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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