

To: Unite America

From: RealClear Opinion Research

Data: January 13, 2026

Subject: National Survey Key Findings

Methodology

The survey of United States registered voters, conducted by RealClear Opinion Research and sponsored by Unite America, consists of a sample size of n=1,500 registered voters, with a credibility interval of +/- 2.4 percentage points. Data was collected between January 9-11, 2026 by contacting cellphones via MMS-to-web text and an online panel of registered voters, matched to the voter file.

Key Findings

The survey finds 71% of voters support requiring states to hold open primaries, where all voters are able to participate in primary elections, while 20% oppose open primaries.

- Majorities of voters of all partisan affiliations/registrations support such primaries, including 79% of Democrats, 70% of independents, and 65% of Republicans.

Eighty-seven percent of voters are concerned about political division, while 13% are not concerned. When asked which reforms voters think would reduce political polarization in America, 45% think opening party primaries to all voters and candidates would reduce polarization, 41% think prohibiting partisan gerrymandering would reduce polarization, 38% think making Election Day a national holiday would reduce polarization, and 26% think repealing Citizens United would reduce polarization.

Fifty-one percent of voters think the Republican Party is “too conservative,” and 48% of voters think the Democratic Party is “too liberal.”

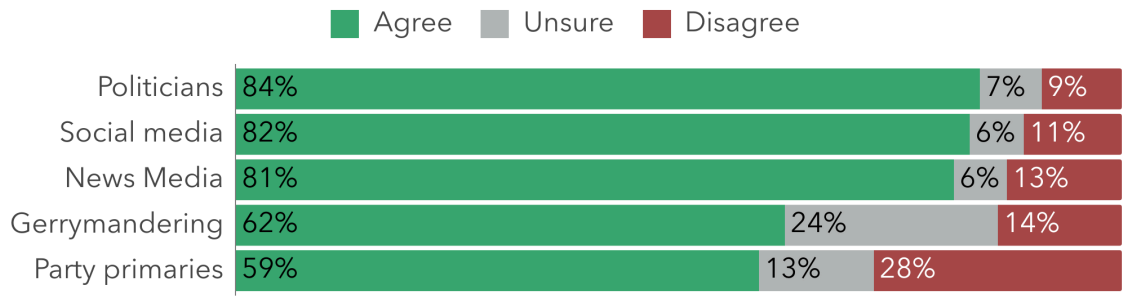
- 54% of Democrats think the Democratic Party is about right, 27% think it is too conservative and 19% think it is too liberal. Forty-seven percent of independents think the Democratic Party is too liberal, 34% about right, and 19% too conservative.
- Sixty-three percent of Republicans think the Republican Party is about right, 23% think it is too conservative, and 14% think it is too liberal. Fifty-four percent of independents think the Republican Party is too conservative, 34% about right, and 11% too liberal.

A majority of voters (53%) classify the current state of United States democracy as “weak,” while 40% consider it to be “strong.” President Donald Trump holds a 40% job approval rating and 50% disapproval among registered voters.

A majority of voters (53%) think political candidates try to play to the base of their party, while 34% think they try to appeal to a majority of voters they would represent; 14% are unsure.

Voters were asked how much, if at all, the following contribute to political division in the United States:

How much, if at all, do you agree or disagree that the following contribute to political division in the United States?



Twenty-nine percent would say Congress represents the American people somewhat or very well, while 66% note Congress represents the American people not too (29%) or not at all well (37%).

- Older individuals are more likely to feel congress does not represent the American people well:
 - 18-29: 39% well, 52% not well
 - 30-39: 38% well, 51% not well
 - 40-49: 30% well, 67% not well
 - 50-59: 22% well, 74% not well
 - 60-69: 27% well, 71% not well
 - 70+: 21% well, 78% not well

Seven in ten voters (70%) do not think Congress is effectively addressing America’s biggest problems, including the cost of living, immigration, and healthcare, while 20% think Congress is effectively addressing those problems.

A majority of voters (61%) think their vote in the 2026 November general election matters “a great deal,” 19% think it matters a good amount, 10% somewhat, 5% not so much, and 5% not at all. When asked about the 2026 primary elections, 59% think their vote matters “a great deal,” 18% a good amount, 12% somewhat, 5% not so much, and 6% not at all.

The survey finds 62% of voters wish there were more viable independent candidate choices on the ballot, while 39% are satisfied with candidate options on the ballot. This includes 77% of independent voters who wish there were more options on the ballot.

Voters were split on their views regarding primary elections: 52% think primary elections are broken and need to change, while 48% think they are working fine and do not need change.

A majority of voters (55%) rated party registration requirements that bar independent voters from participating in primary elections as a “major problem,” 30% view it as a “minor problem,” and 16% view the issue as “not a problem at all.”

Voters were asked which of the following statements is more accurate about political candidates: 53% think “Political candidates play to the base of their party” is more accurate of political candidates, while 34% think “Political candidates try to appeal to a majority of voters they would represent” is more accurate.

Voters were asked if open primaries, where all candidates from all parties run in a single primary election, would lead to a series of outcomes:

- Seventy-three percent agree open primaries would lead to better candidates who appeal to a majority of voters, not just their base, when they are campaigning for office.
- Seventy-two percent agree it would lead to producing a Congress that better represents the people and is better able to tackle big problems - including the cost of living, immigration, and healthcare.
- Sixty-three percent agree that open primaries would lead to reduced political division.

Voters were presented with the following statements and asked which one is closest to their views:

- “Primary elections are how all voters winnow down the number of candidates for the general election, so all voters (including independents) should be able to vote in primaries.” – 65%
- “Primary elections are how parties nominate their preferred candidates, so only party members should be able to vote in primaries.” – 35%

Six in ten voters support having “top two” primary elections in their state, in which candidates from all parties are listed on the same ballot and the top two vote getters advance to the general election, while a quarter oppose, and 15% are unsure.

When asked about Alaska’s “top four” primary election system, in which all candidates are listed, and the top four vote getters advance to the general election, where voters can rank candidates so an instant runoff determines the winner, 62% support such an election in their state, 23% oppose, 15% are unsure.

A majority of voters (64%) consider low Midterm turnout in primary elections to be a major problem, 25% consider it to be a minor problem, and 11% not a problem at all.