



American Social Capital Survey Topline Questionnaire

Total $N=6,597$ US adults. | Interview dates: March 29 to April 15, 2024.

Note: All results shown are percentages. An asterisk () replaces percentages greater than zero but less than 0.5 percent. Responses may not total 100 percent due to rounding.*

ASK ALL:

Q.1 In general, do you think America's best days are ahead of us or behind us?

40	Ahead of us
58	Behind us
1	Refused

Q.2a Do you think the nation's economy is...

16	Getting better
61	Getting worse
22	Staying about the same
1	Refused

Q.2b Do you think the economy in your local area is...

17	Getting better
49	Getting worse
34	Staying about the same
1	Refused

Q.3 How closely have you been following news about the following...

A. The 2024 presidential election

25	Very closely
34	Fairly closely
25	Not too closely
15	Not at all closely
1	Refused

B. Abortion laws and restrictions

17	Very closely
34	Fairly closely
31	Not too closely
17	Not at all closely
1	Refused

C. The current situation at the United States border with Mexico

19	Very closely
33	Fairly closely
30	Not too closely
18	Not at all closely
1	Refused

D. The US economy

21	Very closely
44	Fairly closely
24	Not too closely
10	Not at all closely
1	Refused

E. The war between Israel and Hamas

13	Very closely
34	Fairly closely
32	Not too closely
21	Not at all closely
1	Refused

Q.4 Even if you are not sure whether or not you will vote, if the 2024 election for President were held today and it was between Donald Trump, the Republican and Joe Biden, the Democrat, who would you vote for?

36	Donald Trump
36	Joe Biden
7	Other candidate [SPECIFY]
20	Not sure
1	Refused

IF OTHER CANDIDATE/NOT SURE IN Q4, ASK:

Q.5 If the presidential election were being held today and you had to choose between Biden, and Trump, as of today, who do you lean more towards, or would you not vote?

16	Donald Trump
15	Joe Biden
64	Would not vote
5	Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.6 Would you say it has been hard to make a decision about who to vote for this year (2024), or has it been easy to make a decision?

29	Hard
69	Easy
2	Refused

Q.7 How often would you say you vote in national elections?

53	Always
16	Nearly always
6	In about half of elections
6	Seldom
18	Never
1	Refused

Q.8a Looking ahead, if Joe Biden is reelected as president in November, do you think things in the country will...

6	Get much better
13	Get somewhat better
30	Mostly stay the same
14	Get somewhat worse
36	Get much worse
1	Refused

Q.8b Looking ahead, if Donald Trump is elected as president in November, do you think things in the country will...

18	Get much better
22	Get somewhat better
10	Mostly stay the same
12	Get somewhat worse
36	Get much worse
1	Refused

Q.9 Compared to past presidential elections during your lifetime, do you see the 2024 election as...

23	The single most important election of your lifetime
38	More important than most other elections
32	About as important as other elections
5	Less important than most other elections
2	Refused

Q.10 All in all, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of...

A. Donald Trump

17	Very favorable
20	Somewhat favorable
13	Somewhat unfavorable
47	Very favorable
3	Refused

B. Joe Biden

12	Very favorable
24	Somewhat favorable
20	Somewhat unfavorable
42	Very favorable
2	Refused

C. The Republican Party

9	Very favorable
28	Somewhat favorable
25	Somewhat unfavorable
35	Very favorable
3	Refused

D. The Democratic Party

9	Very favorable
28	Somewhat favorable
25	Somewhat unfavorable
35	Very favorable
3	Refused

Q.11 Which political party, the [Republican Party] or [Democratic Party], better represents the interests of the following types of people living in the United States?

A. Black people

17	Republican Party
42	Democratic Party
18	Both equally
20	Neither
3	Refused

B. Hispanic people

18	Republican Party
40	Democratic Party
18	Both equally
21	Neither
3	Refused

C. White People

44	Republican Party
9	Democratic Party
29	Both equally
15	Neither
3	Refused

D. Women

16	Republican Party
41	Democratic Party
21	Both equally
18	Neither
3	Refused

E. Men People

41	Republican Party
10	Democratic Party
29	Both equally
16	Neither
3	Refused

F. Christians

46	Republican Party
11	Democratic Party
21	Both equally
19	Neither
3	Refused

G. Gay and lesbian people

5	Republican Party
59	Democratic Party
15	Both equally
18	Neither
3	Refused

H. People like you

29	Republican Party
30	Democratic Party
13	Both equally
25	Neither
3	Refused

I. The middle class

29	Republican Party
31	Democratic Party
15	Both equally
22	Neither
3	Refused

J. The working class

29	Republican Party
33	Democratic Party
14	Both equally
21	Neither
3	Refused

K. Rich people

51	Republican Party
13	Democratic Party
22	Both equally
11	Neither
3	Refused

L. Poor People

16	Republican Party
42	Democratic Party
13	Both equally
25	Neither
3	Refused

Q.12 To get ahead in life, how much formal education do you think a person needs?

20	A high school diploma
51	Some college education or trade school experience
19	A four-year college degree
8	A post-graduate degree
2	Refused

Q.13 When it comes to your financial well-being, do you feel like there are people looking out for you or do you feel like you are basically on your own?

28	People are looking out for me
71	Basically on my own
1	Refused

Q.14 Which of the following comes closest to your own view about the economy...?

- 23 Even a good economy rarely benefits workers
- 75 A good economy benefits workers and employers alike
- 2 Refused

Q.15 Do you agree or disagree with the following statements? **RANDOMIZE LIST:**

A. Immigrants coming to the US today burden local communities by using more than their share of social services

- 32 Completely agree
- 27 Somewhat agree
- 21 Somewhat disagree
- 17 Completely disagree
- 3 Refused

B. Today, discrimination against whites has become as big a problem as discrimination against Black people and other minorities

- 18 Completely agree
- 27 Somewhat agree
- 20 Somewhat disagree
- 33 Completely disagree
- 3 Refused

C. Neither political party represents my views anymore

- 20 Completely agree
- 41 Somewhat agree
- 25 Somewhat disagree
- 11 Completely disagree
- 3 Refused

D. It is harder for young people to succeed today than it was for their parents' generation

- 30 Completely agree
- 37 Somewhat agree
- 21 Somewhat disagree
- 9 Completely disagree
- 2 Refused

E. To fix America, we need a strong leader who is willing to break the rules

- 13 Completely agree
- 25 Somewhat agree
- 26 Somewhat disagree
- 33 Completely disagree
- 4 Refused

F. To stop illegal immigration, we need to make it more dangerous for migrants to cross the border, even if it means some of them might die

- 15 Completely agree
- 18 Somewhat agree
- 23 Somewhat disagree
- 41 Completely disagree
- 3 Refused

G. The American political and economic systems are so corrupt that they need to be torn down and completely rebuilt

26 Completely agree
39 Somewhat agree
20 Somewhat disagree
12 Completely disagree
3 Refused

Q.16 In your opinion, how easy or hard is it to achieve the American Dream for people like you today? Do you think it is...

2 Very easy
12 Somewhat easy
50 Somewhat hard
34 Very hard
1 Refused

Q.17 Generally speaking, would you say...

1 People can almost always be trusted
29 People can usually be trusted
45 You usually can't be too careful in dealing with people
24 You almost always can't be too careful in dealing with people
1 Refused

Q.18 How much do you favor or oppose the following?

A. Deporting all immigrants who are living in the US illegally back to their home country

26 Strongly favor
24 Favor
29 Oppose
17 Strongly oppose
3 Refused

B. Cutting some funding from police departments in your community and shifting it to social services

8 Strongly favor
19 Favor
36 Oppose
35 Strongly oppose
3 Refused

C. The death penalty for major drug dealers

17 Strongly favor
26 Favor
34 Oppose
19 Strongly oppose
3 Refused

D. Making it more difficult for a woman to get an abortion

11 Strongly favor
17 Favor
24 Oppose
44 Strongly oppose
3 Refused

RELIG What is your present religion, if any?

29	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopal, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
20	Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
1	Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
2	Jewish (Judaism)
1	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist (Buddhism)
1	Hindu (Hinduism)
6	Atheist (do not believe in God)
5	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
16	Nothing in particular
13	Just Christian
2	Something else [SPECIFY]
2	Refused

ASK IF PROTESTANT, JUST CHRISTIAN OR SOMETHING ELSE (RELIG=1, 12 OR 13):

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian?

53	Yes
46	No
1	Refused

IF DO NOT IDENTIFY AS MEMBER OF A RELIGION [RELIG=9-11], ASK:

Q.19 Recently, the U.S. Census found that unmarried women own more homes than unmarried men. Do you view this as a good thing for American society, a bad thing, or does it not matter either way?

20	Good thing
8	Bad thing
71	Does not matter
1	Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.20 When it comes to giving women equal rights with men, do you think our country has gone too far, has not gone far enough or has been about right?

11	Too far
47	Not gone far enough
39	Has been about right
2	Refused

Q.21 Are you currently a member of any of the following groups or organizations, or not?

A. Church or religious organization

33	Yes, currently a member
65	No, not a member
2	Refused

B. A hobby or activity group, like a book club, gardening club, or outdoors group

17	Yes, currently a member
82	No, not a member
2	Refused

C. Sports league or workout group

10 Yes, currently a member
88 No, not a member
2 Refused

D. Community group or neighborhood association

15 Yes, currently a member
83 No, not a member
2 Refused

E. Labor union

7 Yes, currently a member
91 No, not a member
2 Refused

IF PARENT OF CHILD UNDER 18, ASK:

F. A parent group or youth organization, such as PTA (Parent Teacher Association)

16 Yes, currently a member
83 No, not a member
1 Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.22 Now, thinking only about the friends you are close to, not counting your relatives, about how many close friends would you say you have? Just your best estimate is fine.

17 None/do not have a close friend
5 One friend
13 Two friends
12 Three friends
8 Four friends
14 Five friends
11 Six to nine friends
15 Ten or more friends
6 Refused

Q.23 Thinking about the people you just mentioned, how many close friends do you have who live in your neighborhood or close by to where you live?

10 All my close friends
15 Most of my close friends
15 Some close friends
21 A few close friends
23 No close friends live near me
14 Do not have close friends
2 Refused

Q.24 How easy or difficult is it to meet people and make friends where you live?

12 Very difficult
38 Somewhat difficult
38 Somewhat easy
10 Very easy
2 Refused

Q.25 Today, what kind of places, if any, could you go to be around your neighbors or talk to people in your neighborhood? **(Respondents may have selected multiple answers)**

- 35 Local market or cornerstone
- 41 Coffee shop or café
- 20 Book store or other commercial space
- 35 Bar, pub or lounge
- 46 A restaurant or diner
- 22 Barbershop, hair salon, or nail salon
- 50 Public park, dog park, or community garden
- 36 Community center or library
- 37 Gym, fitness center or other athletic facility
- 26 School or playground
- 6 Other [SPECIFY]
- 16 No place [ANCHOR]

Q.26 Thinking about the last 12 months, how often do you do the following?

- A. Visit a local public library
 - 2 More than once a week
 - 4 Once a week
 - 11 Once or twice a month
 - 18 A few times a year
 - 27 Seldom
 - 36 Never
 - 2 Refused

- B. Have friends, family, or neighbors over to your home
 - 5 More than once a week
 - 9 Once a week
 - 23 Once or twice a month
 - 29 A few times a year
 - 21 Seldom
 - 12 Never
 - 1 Refused

- C. Attend a local event or community meeting
 - 1 More than once a week
 - 2 Once a week
 - 8 Once or twice a month
 - 22 A few times a year
 - 29 Seldom
 - 36 Never
 - 2 Refused

- D. Take a walk around your neighborhood
 - 26 More than once a week
 - 13 Once a week
 - 16 Once or twice a month
 - 13 A few times a year
 - 17 Seldom
 - 14 Never
 - 1 Refused

- E. Spend time at a local park, dog park, playground, or community garden
 - 7 More than once a week
 - 8 Once a week
 - 15 Once or twice a month
 - 21 A few times a year
 - 23 Seldom
 - 26 Never
 - 2 Refused

- F. Have a conversation with someone in your community you did not know well
 - 4 More than once a week
 - 6 Once a week
 - 16 Once or twice a month
 - 21 A few times a year
 - 32 Seldom
 - 18 Never
 - 1 Refused

- G. Attend religious services in person
 - 8 More than once a week
 - 16 Once a week
 - 6 Once or twice a month
 - 10 A few times a year
 - 18 Seldom
 - 39 Never
 - 2 Refused

- H. Do volunteer work in the community
 - 3 More than once a week
 - 4 Once a week
 - 7 Once or twice a month
 - 14 A few times a year
 - 23 Seldom
 - 47 Never
 - 2 Refused

- I. Attend a social event in the community, such as a high school sporting event, play, or local festival
 - 2 More than once a week
 - 3 Once a week
 - 11 Once or twice a month
 - 28 A few times a year
 - 26 Seldom
 - 29 Never
 - 1 Refused

Q.27 If you were facing a personal problem, who is the first person you would turn to for help?

- 49 Spouse or partner
- 14 My parent(s)
- 6 My child or children
- 11 A close friend
- 0 Neighbor
- 1 A work colleague
- 12 Another family member
- 1 Someone else [SPECIFY]
- 4 There is no one I could turn to
- 1 Refused

Q.28 Thinking about the people in your life, do you have someone who would be willing and able to...

A. Take care of you if you got sick

50 Yes, have at least a couple people who would do this
38 Yes, have one person who would do this
10 No, do not have someone who would do this
1 Refused

B. Offer you a place to stay for at least a few days if you couldn't live where you do now

60 Yes, have at least a couple people who would do this
27 Yes, have one person who would do this
12 No, do not have someone who would do this
2 Refused

C. Give you a ride somewhere if you ever needed it

66 Yes, have at least a couple people who would do this
26 Yes, have one person who would do this
7 No, do not have someone who would do this
1 Refused

D. Take you to a doctor's appointment

61 Yes, have at least a couple people who would do this
30 Yes, have one person who would do this
7 No, do not have someone who would do this
1 Refused

E. Loan you at least \$200 if you needed it

57 Yes, have at least a couple people who would do this
27 Yes, have one person who would do this
14 No, do not have someone who would do this
2 Refused

F. Help you find a new job

53 Yes, have at least a couple people who would do this
21 Yes, have one person who would do this
22 No, do not have someone who would do this
3 Refused

G. Help you move

65 Yes, have at least a couple people who would do this
22 Yes, have one person who would do this
11 No, do not have someone who would do this
1 Refused

H. Support you and listen to your problems

66 Yes, have at least a couple people who would do this
25 Yes, have one person who would do this
7 No, do not have someone who would do this
2 Refused

IF PARENT OF CHILD UNDER 18, ASK:

I. Watch your child or children for a short time

62 Yes, have at least a couple people who would do this
27 Yes, have one person who would do this
10 No, do not have someone who would do this
1 Refused

IF RAISED BY ONE PARENT, ASK:

Q.29 Thinking about your family's financial situation when you were growing up, how would you describe your family's social class?

- 1 Upper class
- 11 Upper-middle class
- 35 Middle class
- 38 Working class
- 15 Lower class
- 1 Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Compared to other people in America today, do you think the following have generally made things easier for you or has it made things more difficult?

A. Being [RESPONDENT'S RACE]

- 12 Much easier
- 22 Somewhat easier
- 40 Not made a difference
- 17 Somewhat more difficult
- 7 Much more difficult
- 2 Refused

B. Being [RESPONDENTS GENDER]

- 7 Much easier
- 18 Somewhat easier
- 41 Not made a difference
- 27 Somewhat more difficult
- 6 Much more difficult
- 2 Refused

C. Being from a [INSERT CLASS] background

- 6 Much easier
- 20 Somewhat easier
- 43 Not made a difference
- 21 Somewhat more difficult
- 9 Much more difficult
- 1 Refused

Q.31 How much, if at all, do you think what happens to [RESPONDENT'S RACE] people in the country overall affects what happens in your own life?

- 13 A lot
- 40 Some
- 33 Not much
- 12 Not at all
- 2 Refused

- Q.32** What best describes your neighborhood or the place where you live...
- 4 A dense city center that includes primarily large apartment and condo buildings
 - 18 A dense urban area that includes a mix of apartment and condo buildings, row houses, or small single-family homes
 - 40 Less dense neighborhood or area that includes mostly single-family homes with smaller yards that are close together
 - 26 A neighborhood or area with exclusively single-family homes, large yards or properties that are farther apart
 - 11 A rural area where houses are mostly very far apart
 - 2 Refused
- Q.33** How would you rate your own personal financial situation? Would you say you are in...
- 13 Excellent shape
 - 40 Good shape
 - 31 Only fair shape
 - 14 Poor shape
 - 2 Refused
- Q.34** What best describes your current living situation? Are you living with... **(Respondents may have selected multiple answers)**
- 14 Parents
 - 60 Spouse, partner, or significant other
 - 4 Unrelated roommates
 - 30 Children, siblings, or other family members
 - 13 Live alone
 - 2 Other
- Q.36** Which of the following best describes how you get/got paid at work?
- 36 Paid an hourly rate
 - 27 Paid an annual salary
 - 7 Paid by the job/contract (e.g., gig worker, contractor)
 - 21 Other
 - 8 Refused
- Q.37** Which of the following applies to the education level of your parent(s)?
- 17 Both or all parents have at least a four-year college degree
 - 17 Only one parent has a four-year college degree
 - 59 Neither or no parent has a four-year college degree
 - 5 Other
 - 2 Refused
- Q.38** For most of your time growing up, would you say you were...
- 70 Raised by two married parents
 - 21 Raised mostly or entirely by one parent
 - 5 Had multiple parents or caregivers
 - 2 Other
 - 2 Refused

Q.39 Growing up, who are the people you could usually turn to when you had a personal problem?
(Respondents may have selected multiple answers)

44	A close friend
65	Your mother
40	Your father
29	A sister
23	A brother
25	Other family member
10	A teacher or coach
3	Someone else [SPECIFY]
9	Did not have any one

Q.40 Growing up, did you generally believe that life was supposed to be hard, or was this not something you believed growing up?

42	Believed that life was supposed to be hard
56	Did not believe this
2	Refused

PARTY Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as:

28	A Democrat
31	A Republican
29	An independent
12	Something else
1	Refused

IDEOLOGY Would you say your views on most political matters are liberal, moderate, or conservative?

9	Very liberal
16	Somewhat liberal
39	Moderate
22	Somewhat conservative
10	Very conservative
4	Refused

Survey Methodology

AEI's Survey Center on American Life designed and conducted the survey. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 6,597 adults (age 18 and up). All interviews were conducted among participants in the Ipsos KnowledgePanel, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US general population, not just the online population. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English between March 29 and April 15, 2024.

The Ipsos KnowledgePanel recruitment process employs a scientifically developed addressed-based sampling methodology using the US Postal Service's latest Delivery Sequence File—a database that fully covers all delivery points in the US. Households invited to join the panel are randomly selected from all available US households. Persons in the sampled households are invited to join and participate in the panel. Those selected who do not already have internet access are provided a tablet and internet connection at no cost to the panel member. Those who join the panel and who are selected to participate in a survey are sent a unique password-protected log-in to complete surveys online.

Because of these recruitment and sampling methodologies, samples from KnowledgePanel cover all households regardless of their phone or internet status, and findings can be reported with a margin of sampling error and projected to the general population. KnowledgePanel members receive a per-survey incentive, usually the equivalent of \$1 (though for some it is \$2) in points, that can be redeemed for cash or prizes. Panelists receive a unique log-in to the survey and can complete it only once. Two reminder emails were sent for this study.

The data were weighted to adjust for gender, race and ethnicity, education, census region, household income, language dominance, race by gender, race by age, race by education, and 2020 presidential vote. The sample weighting was accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables.

The use of survey weights in statistical analyses ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate those of the target population. The margin of sampling error for the qualified survey sample is ± 1.3 percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.12.