



REPORT

Freedom of Speech

DATE 2024-05-02



Methodology



Method

Online survey
among respondents 18 years of age or
older.
(U.S. sample: n= 1,008).

Respondents were randomly recruited
using LEO's online panel.



When

April 26 to
April 28, 2024



Margin of error

For comparison purposes,
a probability sample of this
size yields a margin of error
no greater than $\pm 3.09\%$, (19
times out of 20).



Weighting

Results were weighted according to
**age, gender, region, education,
ethnicity, and number of people in
the household** in order to ensure a
representative sample of the American
population.

Methodology



Significant differences

Data in bold **red** characters indicate a significantly lower proportion than that of other respondents. Conversely, data in bold **green** characters indicate a significantly higher proportion than that of other respondents.



Rounded data

The numbers presented have been rounded up. However, the numbers before rounding were used to calculate the sums presented and might therefore not correspond to the manual addition of these numbers.



Questions

Have questions about the data presented in this report? Please contact Alicia Ierardi, Executive Vice-President, at the following e-mail address: aierardi@leger360.com

A more detailed methodology is presented in the Appendix.

Key Highlights

From April 26 to April 28, 2024, we surveyed U.S. residents to find out their opinions and perceptions on freedom of speech in their country.

Some of the key highlights on freedom of speech in the U.S. include...

- Three-quarters of U.S. residents are comfortable expressing their personal views on government decisions (76%), on socially sensitive topics (76%), and about certain political leaders (74%). A lesser proportion (69%) mentioned being comfortable expressing their views on certain minority groups in society.
- Most U.S. residents (61%) think their opinions are mostly socially acceptable, while 20% think they are mostly socially unacceptable, and 19% don't know. Democrat voters are more likely to think their opinions are socially acceptable (67%).
- 61% of U.S. residents think it is getting tougher to express their opinions in their country, while 30% think it is getting easier. Republican voters are more likely to think it is 'a lot' tougher now to voice their opinion (34% vs. 15% for Democrats).
- Seven out of ten U.S. residents (69%) feel that freedom of speech is threatened in the United States, while nearly one-quarter (24%) think the opposite. Republican voters (76%) are more likely to think freedom of speech is threatened.
- Half of U.S. residents (52%) are confident that the next election will be free and fair, while 41% are not confident. Democrat voters are more likely to be confident than Republican voters (78% vs. 39%).

REPORT

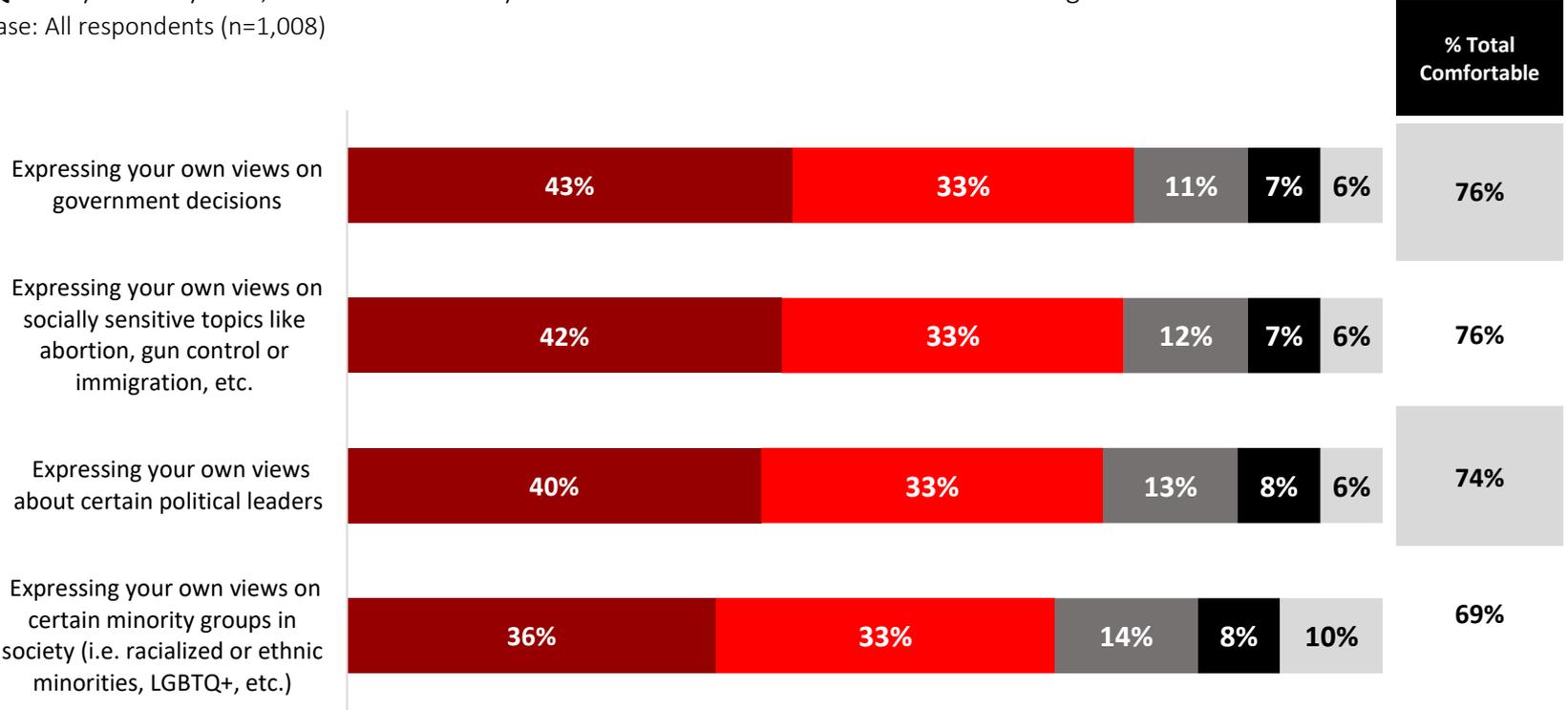
Detailed Results



Comfort Levels in Discussing Sensitive Topics (1/2)

Q1. In your daily lives, to what extent do you feel comfortable or not to do the following:

Base: All respondents (n=1,008)



■ Very comfortable
 ■ Somewhat comfortable
 ■ Somewhat uncomfortable
 ■ Very uncomfortable
 ■ Don't know

Comfort Levels in Discussing Sensitive Topics (2/2)

Q1. In your daily lives, to what extent do you feel comfortable or not to do the following:

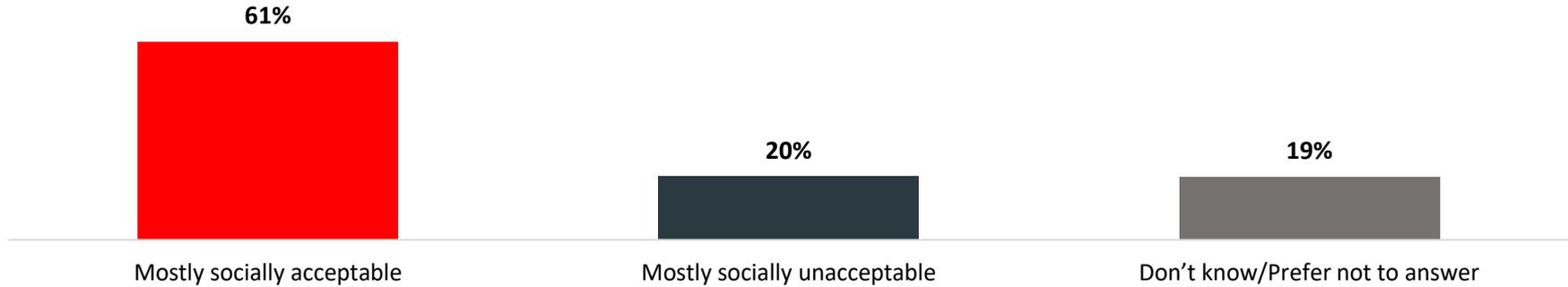
Base: All respondents

| <i>% Total Comfortable</i> | TOTAL U.S. | North East | Mid West | South | West | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Male | Female | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
|--|------------|------------|----------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Weighted n= | 1,008 | 177 | 209 | 383 | 238 | 311 | 300 | 397 | 493 | 515 | 285 | 342 | 323 |
| Unweighted n= | 1,008 | 190 | 210 | 401 | 207 | 241 | 328 | 439 | 500 | 508 | 273 | 342 | 335 |
| Expressing your own views on government decisions | 76% | 81% | 74% | 75% | 76% | 73% | 76% | 78% | 80% | 72% | 74% | 84% | 72% |
| Expressing your own views on socially sensitive topics like abortion, gun control or immigration, etc. | 76% | 79% | 77% | 72% | 77% | 74% | 76% | 77% | 76% | 75% | 75% | 81% | 73% |
| Expressing your own views about certain political leaders | 74% | 79% | 69% | 73% | 75% | 69% | 74% | 77% | 78% | 70% | 76% | 79% | 71% |
| Expressing your own views on certain minority groups in society (i.e. racialized or ethnic minorities, LGBTQ+, etc.) | 69% | 78% | 67% | 66% | 67% | 68% | 70% | 68% | 68% | 69% | 64% | 78% | 65% |

Perception of Social Acceptability of Personal Opinions

Q2. Based on what you see and hear around you at home, work or publicly, do you feel that your opinions tend to be mostly socially acceptable or mostly socially unacceptable?

Base: All respondents (n=1,008)

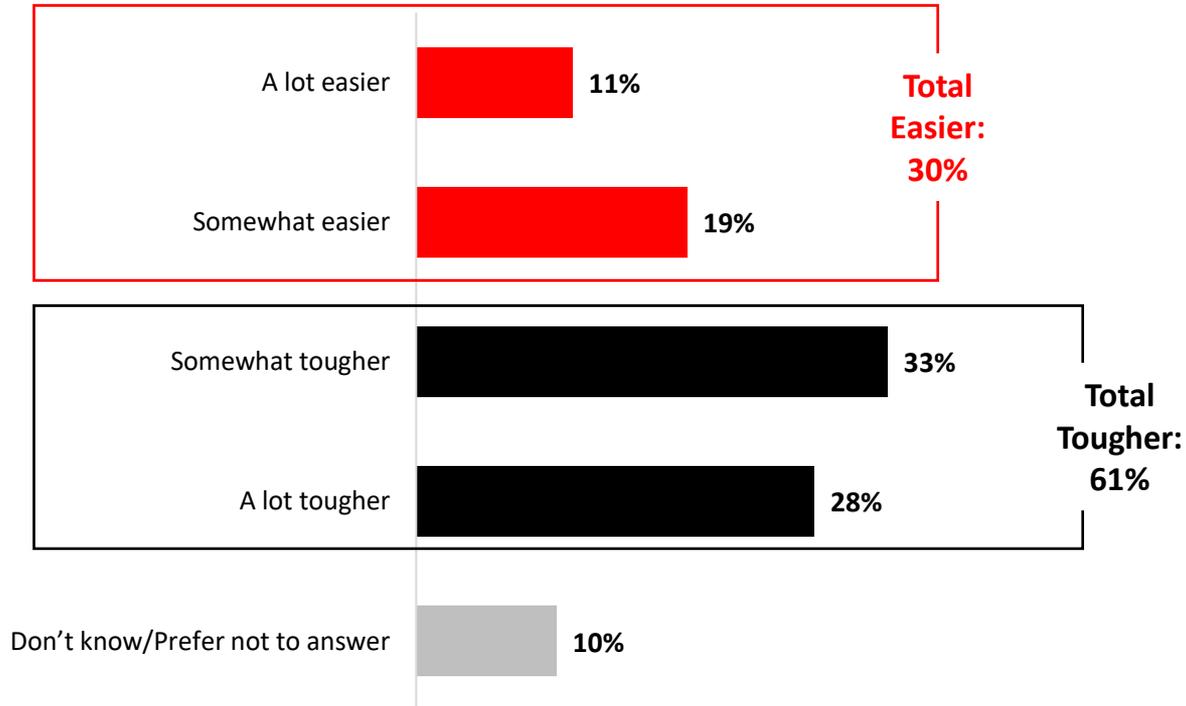


| | TOTAL U.S. | North East | Mid West | South | West | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Male | Female | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
|---------------------------------|------------|------------|----------|-------|------|-------|-------|-----|------|--------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Weighted n= | 1,008 | 177 | 209 | 383 | 238 | 311 | 300 | 397 | 493 | 515 | 285 | 342 | 323 |
| Unweighted n= | 1,008 | 190 | 210 | 401 | 207 | 241 | 328 | 439 | 500 | 508 | 273 | 342 | 335 |
| Mostly socially acceptable | 61% | 64% | 61% | 56% | 66% | 64% | 63% | 57% | 65% | 58% | 66% | 67% | 52% |
| Mostly socially unacceptable | 20% | 15% | 16% | 24% | 19% | 17% | 21% | 21% | 20% | 19% | 21% | 16% | 22% |
| Don't know/Prefer not to answer | 19% | 21% | 23% | 19% | 15% | 20% | 16% | 22% | 16% | 23% | 13% | 17% | 25% |

Ease of Voicing Opinions (1/2)

Q3. Do you think it is getting easier or tougher to voice one's own opinions in your country?

Base: All respondents (n=1,008)



Ease of Voicing Opinions (2/2)

Q3. Do you think it is getting easier or tougher to voice one's own opinions in your country?

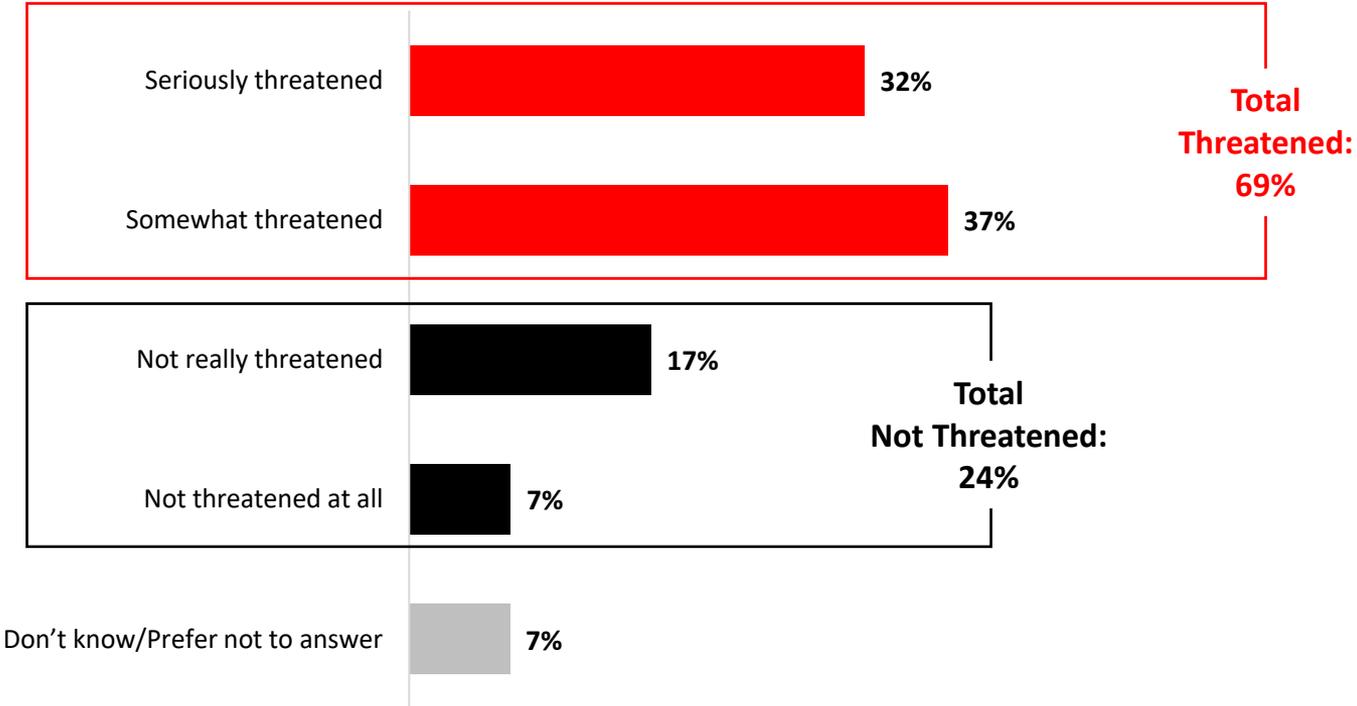
Base: All respondents

| | TOTAL U.S. | North East | Mid West | South | West | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Male | Female | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|------|------------|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Weighted n= | 1,008 | 177 | 209 | 383 | 238 | 311 | 300 | 397 | 493 | 515 | 285 | 342 | 323 |
| Unweighted n= | 1,008 | 190 | 210 | 401 | 207 | 241 | 328 | 439 | 500 | 508 | 273 | 342 | 335 |
| Total Easier | 30% | 31% | 22% | 33% | 30% | 39% | 31% | 21% | 35% | 25% | 28% | 41% | 21% |
| A lot easier | 11% | 13% | 9% | 12% | 9% | 17% | 13% | 5% | 14% | 8% | 12% | 17% | 4% |
| Somewhat easier | 19% | 18% | 13% | 21% | 21% | 22% | 18% | 17% | 21% | 17% | 16% | 23% | 17% |
| Total Tougher | 61% | 59% | 63% | 60% | 61% | 49% | 60% | 70% | 56% | 65% | 65% | 50% | 69% |
| Somewhat tougher | 33% | 32% | 35% | 34% | 30% | 28% | 30% | 38% | 33% | 33% | 31% | 35% | 33% |
| A lot tougher | 28% | 26% | 28% | 26% | 31% | 22% | 29% | 32% | 23% | 32% | 34% | 15% | 36% |
| I don't know | 10% | 10% | 15% | 7% | 9% | 11% | 10% | 9% | 10% | 10% | 7% | 10% | 11% |

Perceived Threat to Freedom of Speech (1/2)

Q4. To what extent do you feel that freedom of speech is threatened or not in the United States?

Base: All respondents (n=1,008)



Perceived Threat to Freedom of Speech (2/2)

Q4. To what extent do you feel that freedom of speech is threatened or not in the United States?

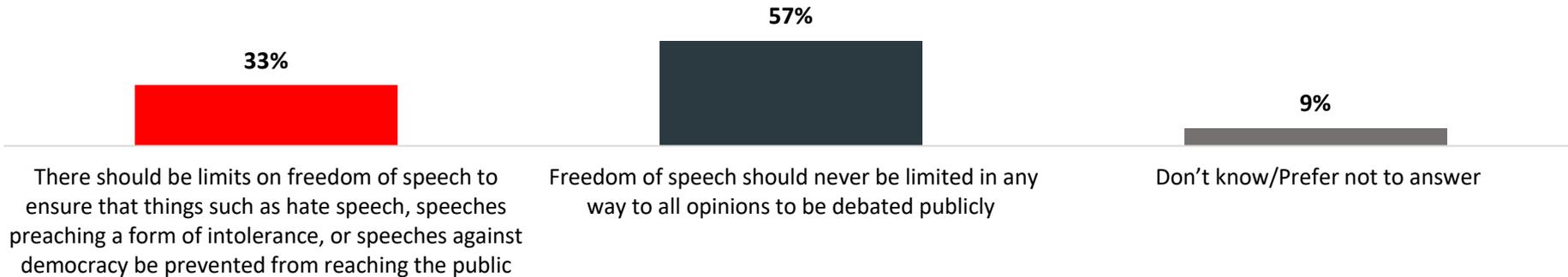
Base: All respondents

| | TOTAL U.S. | North East | Mid West | South | West | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Male | Female | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|----------|-------|------|------------|-------|-----|------|--------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Weighted n= | 1,008 | 177 | 209 | 383 | 238 | 311 | 300 | 397 | 493 | 515 | 285 | 342 | 323 |
| Unweighted n= | 1,008 | 190 | 210 | 401 | 207 | 241 | 328 | 439 | 500 | 508 | 273 | 342 | 335 |
| Total Threatened | 69% | 67% | 67% | 73% | 66% | 65% | 72% | 71% | 68% | 70% | 76% | 60% | 74% |
| Seriously threatened | 32% | 27% | 30% | 35% | 31% | 30% | 34% | 32% | 33% | 31% | 43% | 18% | 37% |
| Somewhat threatened | 37% | 40% | 37% | 38% | 35% | 35% | 38% | 39% | 35% | 40% | 33% | 42% | 37% |
| Total Not Threatened | 24% | 28% | 23% | 21% | 26% | 25% | 23% | 24% | 26% | 22% | 21% | 33% | 18% |
| Not really threatened | 17% | 20% | 16% | 14% | 19% | 15% | 17% | 18% | 18% | 16% | 16% | 21% | 14% |
| Not threatened at all | 7% | 7% | 7% | 7% | 6% | 10% | 6% | 6% | 8% | 6% | 5% | 12% | 4% |
| I don't know | 7% | 5% | 10% | 6% | 8% | 11% | 5% | 6% | 6% | 8% | 4% | 7% | 8% |

Views on Limiting Freedom of Speech

Q5. Which of the following two opinions comes closest to your personal view:

Base: All respondents (n=1,008)

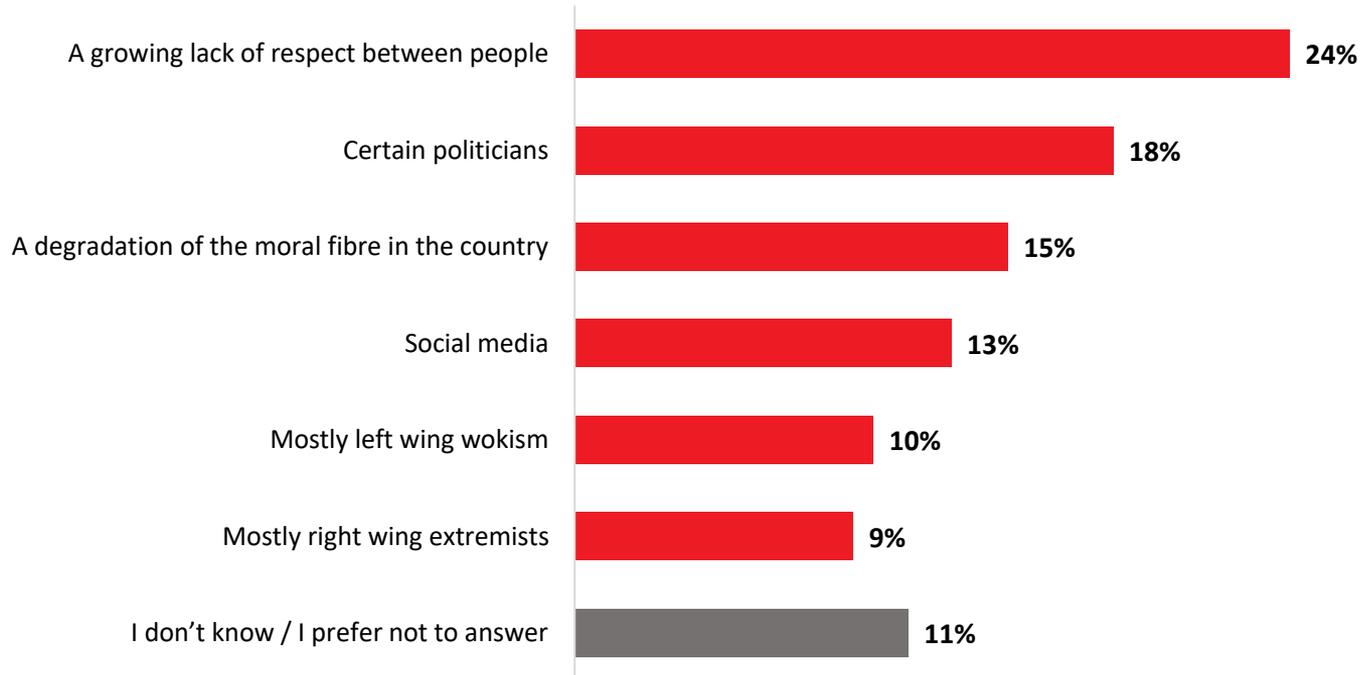


| | TOTAL U.S. | North East | Mid West | South | West | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Male | Female | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
|--|------------|------------|----------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-----|-----------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Weighted n= | 1,008 | 177 | 209 | 383 | 238 | 311 | 300 | 397 | 493 | 515 | 285 | 342 | 323 |
| Unweighted n= | 1,008 | 190 | 210 | 401 | 207 | 241 | 328 | 439 | 500 | 508 | 273 | 342 | 335 |
| There should be limits on freedom of speech to ensure that things such as hate speech, speeches preaching a form of intolerance, or speeches against democracy be prevented from reaching the public | 33% | 38% | 32% | 31% | 34% | 38% | 24% | 36% | 35% | 31% | 30% | 43% | 28% |
| Freedom of speech should never be limited in any way to all opinions to be debated publicly | 57% | 47% | 60% | 58% | 61% | 52% | 65% | 56% | 59% | 56% | 64% | 48% | 62% |
| Don't know/Prefer not to answer | 9% | 14% | 7% | 11% | 5% | 10% | 10% | 9% | 6% | 13% | 6% | 9% | 10% |

Responsibility for Increased Hate Speech and Intolerance (1/2)

Q6. Some say that there has been an increase in hate speech and intolerance in our society. Among the following choices, who is mainly to blame for this:

Base: All respondents (n=1,008)



Responsibility for Increased Hate Speech and Intolerance (2/2)

Q6. Some say that there has been an increase in hate speech and intolerance in our society. Among the following choices, who is mainly to blame for this:

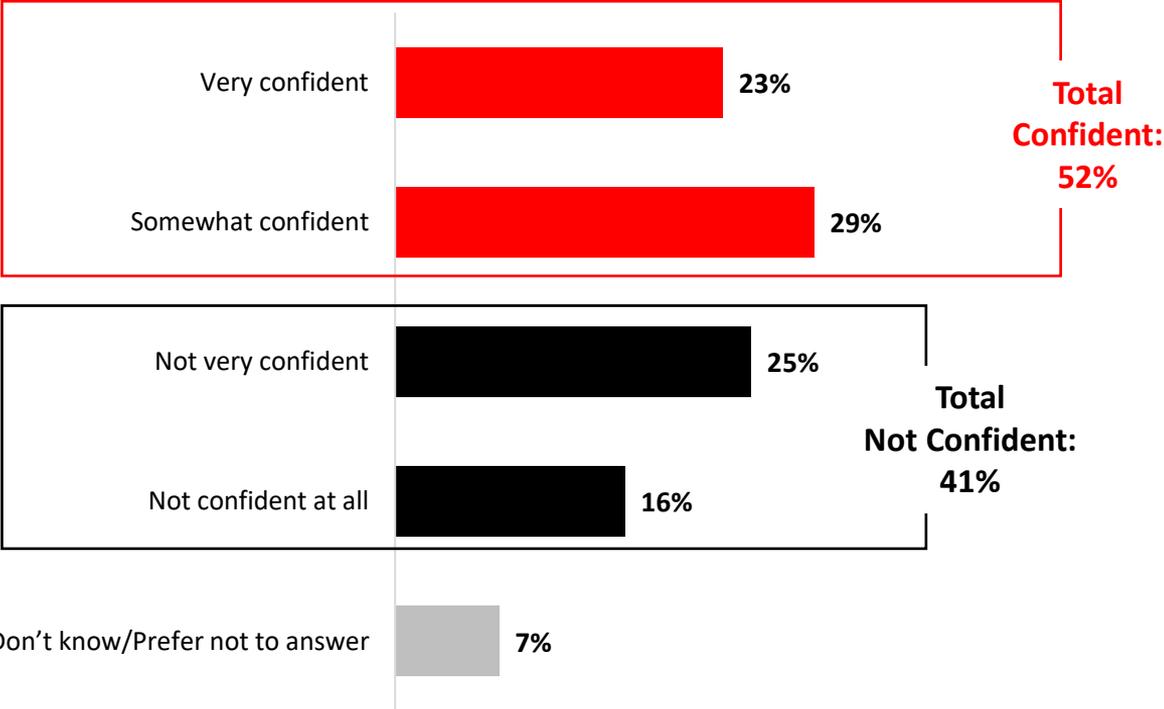
Base: All respondents

| | TOTAL U.S. | North East | Mid West | South | West | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Male | Female | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
|---|------------|------------|----------|-------|-----------|-----------|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Weighted n= | 1,008 | 177 | 209 | 383 | 238 | 311 | 300 | 397 | 493 | 515 | 285 | 342 | 323 |
| Unweighted n= | 1,008 | 190 | 210 | 401 | 207 | 241 | 328 | 439 | 500 | 508 | 273 | 342 | 335 |
| A growing lack of respect between people | 24% | 25% | 19% | 22% | 30% | 25% | 25% | 22% | 20% | 28% | 17% | 23% | 29% |
| Certain politicians | 18% | 15% | 18% | 17% | 22% | 21% | 16% | 18% | 19% | 17% | 15% | 27% | 13% |
| A degradation of the moral fibre in the country | 15% | 16% | 17% | 16% | 9% | 15% | 13% | 16% | 16% | 13% | 19% | 13% | 14% |
| Social media | 13% | 11% | 13% | 13% | 14% | 14% | 13% | 11% | 13% | 13% | 14% | 12% | 11% |
| Mostly left wing wokism | 10% | 7% | 12% | 12% | 8% | 3% | 11% | 15% | 12% | 8% | 22% | 1% | 11% |
| Mostly right wing extremists | 9% | 13% | 10% | 7% | 10% | 10% | 8% | 10% | 13% | 6% | 5% | 14% | 10% |
| I don't know / I prefer not to answer | 11% | 12% | 11% | 13% | 8% | 12% | 15% | 8% | 8% | 14% | 8% | 10% | 13% |

Confidence in the Integrity of Upcoming Federal (1/2)

Q7. When thinking about the next Presidential election, to what extent do you feel confident this election will be free and fair?

Base: All respondents (n=1,008)



Confidence in the Integrity of Upcoming Federal (2/2)

Q7. When thinking about the next Presidential election, to what extent do you feel confident this election will be free and fair?

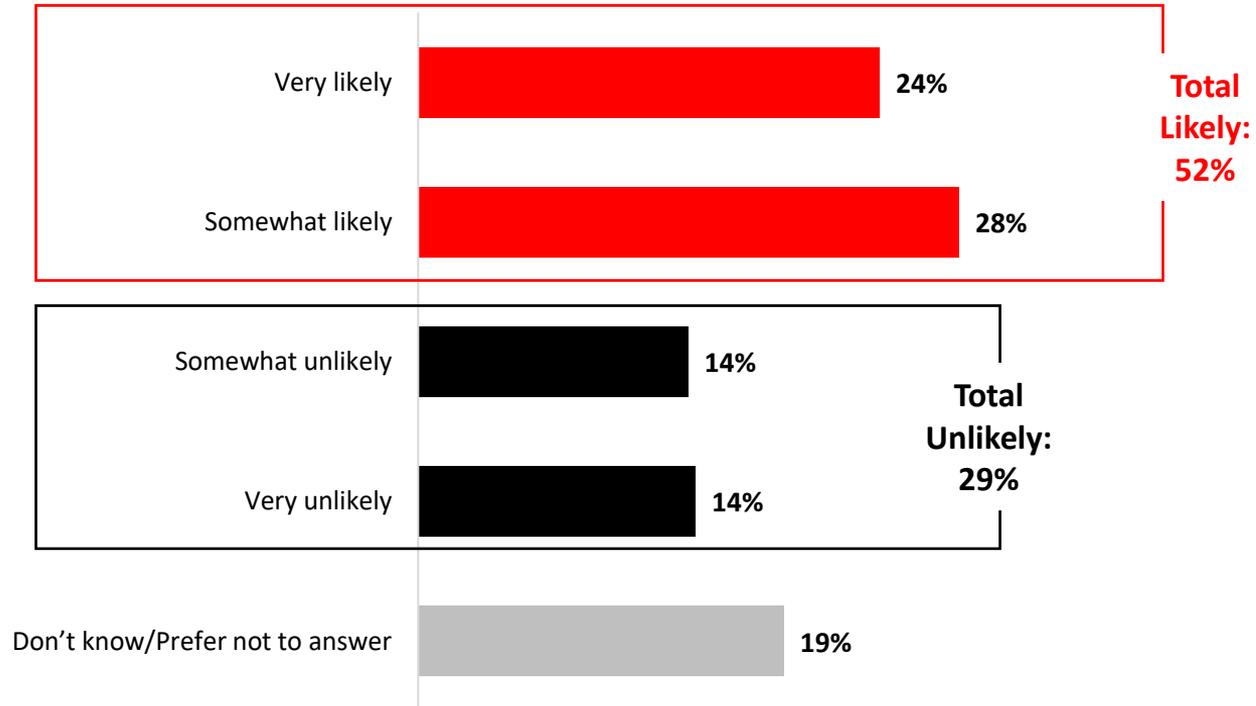
Base: All respondents

| | TOTAL U.S. | North East | Mid West | South | West | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Male | Female | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
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| Weighted n= | 1,008 | 177 | 209 | 383 | 238 | 311 | 300 | 397 | 493 | 515 | 285 | 342 | 323 |
| Unweighted n= | 1,008 | 190 | 210 | 401 | 207 | 241 | 328 | 439 | 500 | 508 | 273 | 342 | 335 |
| Total Confident | 52% | 60% | 49% | 46% | 57% | 51% | 50% | 54% | 59% | 46% | 39% | 78% | 40% |
| Very confident | 23% | 32% | 17% | 20% | 25% | 24% | 23% | 22% | 29% | 17% | 17% | 38% | 15% |
| Somewhat confident | 29% | 29% | 32% | 26% | 32% | 27% | 27% | 32% | 30% | 28% | 22% | 40% | 26% |
| Total Not Confident | 41% | 33% | 43% | 46% | 37% | 38% | 43% | 41% | 37% | 45% | 57% | 16% | 54% |
| Not very confident | 25% | 24% | 24% | 25% | 25% | 23% | 25% | 26% | 22% | 27% | 34% | 11% | 32% |
| Not confident at all | 16% | 9% | 19% | 20% | 11% | 15% | 19% | 15% | 15% | 17% | 22% | 5% | 22% |
| I don't know | 7% | 7% | 7% | 8% | 6% | 11% | 7% | 5% | 5% | 10% | 4% | 6% | 6% |

Perceived Risk of Foreign Intervention (1/2)

Q8. In your view, what is the likelihood of foreign governments, like Russia or China, intervening in the next election?

Base: All respondents (n=1,008)



Perceived Risk of Foreign Intervention (2/2)

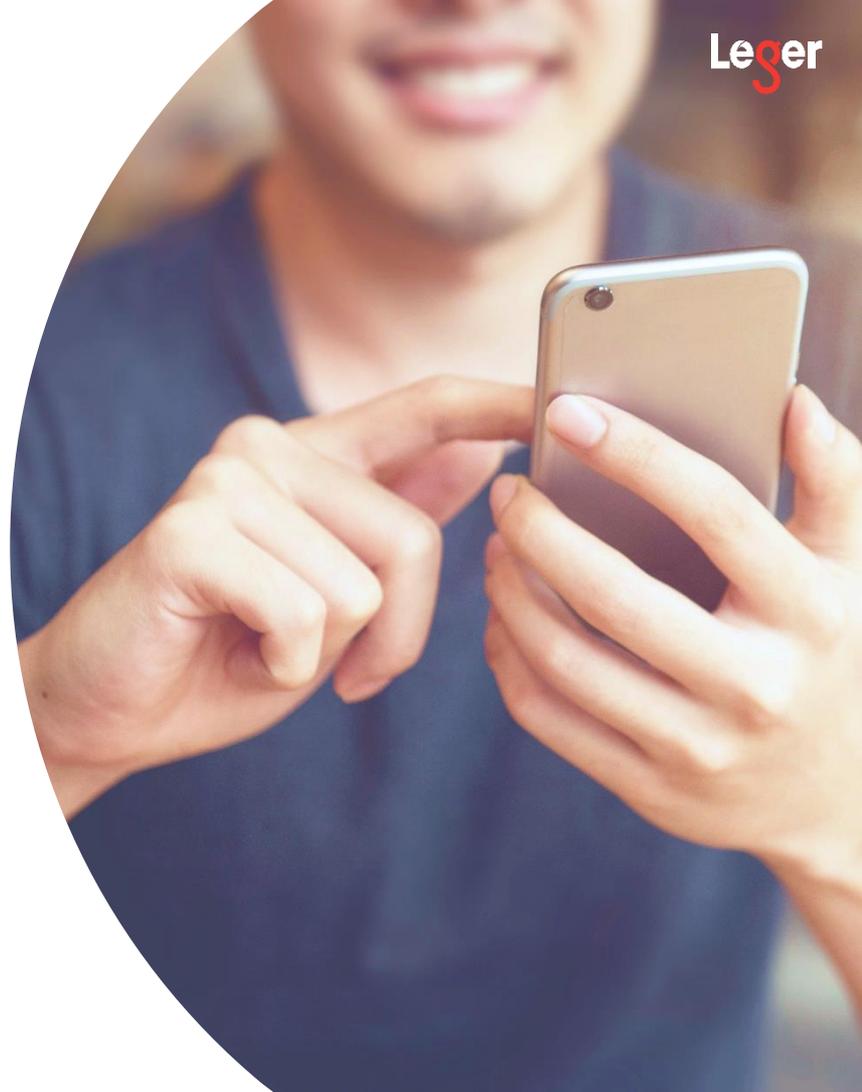
Q8. In your view, what is the likelihood of foreign governments, like Russia or China, intervening in the next election?

Base: All respondents

| | TOTAL U.S. | North East | Mid West | South | West | 18-34 | 35-54 | 55+ | Male | Female | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|----------|-------|------|------------|-------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Weighted n= | 1,008 | 177 | 209 | 383 | 238 | 311 | 300 | 397 | 493 | 515 | 285 | 342 | 323 |
| Unweighted n= | 1,008 | 190 | 210 | 401 | 207 | 241 | 328 | 439 | 500 | 508 | 273 | 342 | 335 |
| Total Likely | 52% | 52% | 47% | 52% | 58% | 44% | 52% | 60% | 55% | 49% | 50% | 59% | 51% |
| Very likely | 24% | 24% | 23% | 21% | 29% | 23% | 25% | 25% | 26% | 22% | 23% | 32% | 19% |
| Somewhat likely | 28% | 28% | 24% | 30% | 28% | 21% | 27% | 35% | 29% | 27% | 27% | 28% | 32% |
| Total Unlikely | 29% | 29% | 32% | 29% | 25% | 32% | 31% | 24% | 32% | 25% | 33% | 25% | 31% |
| Somewhat unlikely | 14% | 13% | 18% | 12% | 15% | 15% | 13% | 14% | 16% | 12% | 17% | 12% | 15% |
| Very unlikely | 14% | 17% | 14% | 16% | 10% | 18% | 18% | 9% | 16% | 13% | 16% | 13% | 15% |
| I don't know | 19% | 19% | 20% | 20% | 17% | 24% | 17% | 17% | 13% | 25% | 17% | 16% | 18% |

REPORT

Detailed Methodology



Weighted and Unweighted Sample

The table below presents the American geographic distribution of respondents before weighting.

| | Unweighted | Weighted |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------|
| U.S. Region | 1,008 | 1,008 |
| Northeast | 190 | 177 |
| Midwest | 210 | 209 |
| South | 401 | 383 |
| West | 207 | 238 |

The following tables present the demographic distribution of respondents according to gender and age for the United States.

| | Unweighted | Weighted |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Gender | 1,008 | 1,008 |
| Male | 500 | 493 |
| Female | 508 | 515 |
| Age | 1,008 | 1,008 |
| Between 18 and 29 | 105 | 201 |
| Between 30 and 39 | 224 | 177 |
| Between 40 and 49 | 160 | 161 |
| Between 50 and 64 | 268 | 249 |
| 65 or older | 251 | 219 |

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