



**Results for America — Evidence-based Policymaking Topline**  
**Survey of N=1,038 voters in the Likely Electorate nationwide**  
**Field Dates: January 29 - February 3, 2026**  
**Margin of Error: ± 3.4 Percentage Points**

1. **[QRightDirection] Would you say things in the United States are headed in the right direction, or is the country off on the wrong track? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**  
Wrong track 58% Right direction 36% Unsure 7%

**[RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1 THE SAME WAY FOR FOUR QAPPROVE QUESTIONS]**

2. **[QTrumpApprove] Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?**  
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE 44% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE 55%  
Strongly approve 23% Somewhat approve 20% Somewhat disapprove 9% Strongly disapprove 46% Unsure 1%

3. **[QCongressApprove] Do you approve or disapprove of the way elected officials are handling their job in Congress?**  
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE 24% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE 71%  
Strongly approve 4% Somewhat approve 20% Somewhat disapprove 32% Strongly disapprove 38% Unsure 5%

**[IF QSTATE IS NOT WASHINGTON, D.C., ASK]**

4. **[QGovernorApprove] Do you approve or disapprove of the way your state's Governor is handling their job as Governor?**

(n=1037)

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE 54% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE 41%  
Strongly approve 26% Somewhat approve 28% Somewhat disapprove 15% Strongly disapprove 26% Unsure 5%

1

5. **[QLocalApprove] Do you approve or disapprove of the way your local elected officials are handling their jobs?**  
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT APPROVE 58% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAPPROVE 35%  
Strongly approve 15% Somewhat approve 43% Somewhat disapprove 21% Strongly disapprove 14% Unsure 7%

**[RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-3, 3-1 THE SAME WAY FOR QDOES AND QSHOULD BATTERIES]**

**[TEXT] We are now going to ask you a series of questions about policymaking in the United States. [KEEP ON NEXT PAGE]**

6. **[QDoes Battery] For each of the following, how much do you think it currently influences**

**polymaking in the United States? [RANDOMIZE ROWS] [DISPLAY AS GRID] [REPEAT HEADERS HALFWAY]**

1. Influences policy a lot	2. Influences policy a little	3. Does not influence policy at all	4. Unsure
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Influences policy a lot  
Influences policy a little  
Does not influence policy  
at all  
Unsure

**Political donors** 67% 21% 5% 6% **Lobbyists** 55% 27% 7% 10% **The Constitution** 28% 42% 22% 8% **Policy experts or opinion influencers** 24% 50% 16% 10% **Voters or public opinion** 22% 50% 25% 4% **Policymakers' gut instinct or intuition about what will work** 22% 44% 20% 15% **Evidence about what works** 18% 47% 26% 9%

**7. [QShould Battery] For each of the following, how much do you think it should influence polymaking in the United States? [RANDOMIZE ROWS] [DISPLAY AS GRID] [REPEAT HEADERS HALFWAY]**

1. Should influence policy a lot	2. Should influence policy a little	3. Should not influence policy at all	4. Unsure
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Should influence policy a lot  
Should influence policy a little  
Should not influence policy at all  
Unsure

**The Constitution** 82% 12% 2% 3% **Voters or public opinion** 77% 17% 3% 3% **Evidence about what works** 75% 19% 2% 4% **Policy experts or opinion influencers** 21% 48% 24% 7% **Policymakers' gut instinct or intuition about what will work** 13% 47% 34% 7% **Lobbyists** 6% 24% 62% 8% **Political donors** 5% 14% 75% 6%

**8. [QPhrases] Below is a list of phrases that could describe polymaking processes. Please select the THREE that you would most want to see in polymaking processes. [SELECT MULTIPLE, UP TO 3] [RANDOMIZE 1-10]**

Solving problems 45% Increased accountability 44% Evidence based 39% Focused on restoring trust in government 36% Results driven 27% Investing in what works 26% Research backed 22% Outcome focused 19% Focused on return on investment for taxpayers 16% Performance based 16% I don't want to see any of these in the polymaking process 2%

**9. [QSupportEBPM] Would you say you support or oppose "evidence-based" polymaking? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]**

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT SUPPORT 89% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT OPPOSE 3% Strongly support 48% Somewhat support 42% Somewhat oppose 2% Strongly oppose 1% Unsure 7%

**10. [QAssociationOE] In your own words, how would you describe "evidence-based policy?" If you are unsure, please give your best guess. Please do not write "unsure," "N/A," "idk,"**

etc. [OPEN END]

**[RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5,5-1 THE SAME WAY FOR QIMPPRE QUESTIONS]**

- 11. [QImpOutcomePre] How important, if at all, is it that government policy making ensures that programs meet their intended outcomes?**

EXTREMELY/VERY IMPORTANT 88% Extremely important 49% Very important 38%  
Somewhat important 9% Not very important \*% Not at all important 1% Unsure 3%

- 12. [QImpEvidencePre] How important, if at all, is it that government policymaking is guided by evidence of what works?**

EXTREMELY/VERY IMPORTANT 85% Extremely important 50% Very important 35%  
Somewhat important 12% Not very important 1% Not at all important \*% Unsure 1%

3

- 13. [QPreferData] Which of the following statements comes closest to your view regarding data and evidence used by the government? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

Statistics and data from well-designed research are generally reliable tools that can tell us the truth about whether a policy is working, regardless of who is in power 47% Statistics and data are usually manipulated or "cherry-picked" by politicians to support whatever agenda they already have 46% Unsure 6%

- 14. [QOutcomes] Which outcomes, if any, should government policy and programs focus most on helping Americans achieve? Select up to two. [RANDOMIZE 1-8] [SELECT MULTIPLE, UP TO 2]**

Basic safety and security 39% Meeting basic needs 36% Economic opportunity 35% The ability to thrive and flourish 27% The ability to earn one's own way 17% The American Dream 17% Creating a level playing field 13% Economic mobility 10% None of these 1%

- 15. [QPreferAction] Which of the following goals for "evidence-based policy" do you support more?**

**"Using evidence of what works primarily to identify..." [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

Which programs are performing best so we can expand them to more people 58% Waste and cut programs that are not delivering a high return on taxpayer investment 37% Unsure 5%

- 16. [QPreferFail] Which of these statements comes closest to your view, even if none of them are exactly right?**

**"If a program or policy isn't working, it should be..." [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-3, 3-1]**

Cut immediately 30% Funded for a probationary period to make changes and then get re-assessed 52% Given more resources to help improve what didn't work 13% Unsure 5%

17. [QFavorable Battery] For each of the following, please indicate whether it would make you more favorable or less favorable toward using evidence-based policymaking.

“I would be \_\_\_\_\_ towards evidence-based policymaking if it meant...” [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-3, 3-1]

1. More favorable	2. Neutral	3. Less favorable	4. Unsure
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Less favorable Unsure

but More favorable Neutral

The government spent the same amount,

focused on funding programs proven to work 72% 20% 4% 4%

There were fewer government programs that don't

work 65% 17% 12% 6%

The government spent slightly more, with additional

funding going to programs proven to work 63% 22% 11% 4% The government spent

less overall 54% 31% 9% 5% There were fewer government programs overall 38%

35% 20% 7%

[RANDOMLY ASSIGN HALF OF RESPONDENTS TO MESSAGE\_ORDER = A, OTHER HALF TO MESSAGE\_ORDER = B]

[IF BLOCK\_ORDER = A, THEN SHOW “MESSAGING IN FAVOR” > “MID MESSAGE TEST” > “MESSAGING AGAINST”]

[IF BLOCK\_ORDER = B, THEN SHOW “MESSAGING AGAINST” > “MID MESSAGE TEST” > “MESSAGING IN FAVOR”]

[KEEP MESSAGE\_ORDER VARIABLE IN DATA FILE]

[RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1 SAME WAY FOR QMSGPRO AND QMSGCON QUESTIONS]

[TEXT] Here is an argument in favor of the government using more evidence in policymaking. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with this argument. [KEEP TEXT ON TOP OF EACH PAGE]

18. [QMsgPro\_Tax] For too long, tax dollars have been spent on things that haven't fixed our nation's problems. We should fund what works and stop wasting money on what doesn't.

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE 91% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE 5% Strongly agree 64% Somewhat agree 27% Somewhat disagree 5% Strongly disagree 1% Unsure 4%

**19. [QMsgPro\_Smarter] This isn't about making government bigger or smaller, but smarter. It's about focusing on performance rather than just ideology.**

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE 91% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE 6%  
Strongly agree 58% Somewhat agree 33% Somewhat disagree 5% Strongly disagree 1%  
Unsure 3%

5

**20. [QMsgPro\_Trust] When government fails to deliver results, trust erodes. Ensuring programs actually do their job and help people is the only way to rebuild that trust.**

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE 89% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE 7% Strongly agree 55% Somewhat agree 34% Somewhat disagree 5% Strongly disagree 1% Unsure 4%

**21. [QMsgPro\_Year] Looking at evidence of what works will make sure government is actually making progress solving problems instead of doing the same things year after year.**

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE 92% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE 4% Strongly agree 59% Somewhat agree 33% Somewhat disagree 4% Strongly disagree 1% Unsure 4%

**22. [QImpEvidenceMid] Having heard more, how important, if at all, is it that government policymaking is guided by evidence of what works? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5,5-1]**

EXTREMELY/VERY IMPORTANT 74% Extremely important 36% Very important 38%  
Somewhat important 20% Not very important 2% Not at all important 1% Unsure 3%

**[TEXT] Here is an argument against the government using more evidence in policymaking. Please indicate how convincing you find this argument. [KEEP TEXT ON TOP OF EACH PAGE]**

**23. [QMsgCon\_Expensive] Evaluating whether a policy works is expensive to do, and that money would be better spent actually serving the people who really need it.**

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE 40% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE 51%  
Strongly agree 13% Somewhat agree 27% Somewhat disagree 34% Strongly disagree 17%  
Unsure 9%

6

**24. [QMsgCon\_RedTape] Evidence-based policymaking increases red tape and requirements for government grant applicants, especially grantees who are doing good work but don't have the capacity to manage the additional requirements to prove the outcomes.**

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE 42% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE 44% Strongly agree 11% Somewhat agree 31% Somewhat disagree 31% Strongly disagree 13% Unsure 15%

**25. [QMsgCon\_Human] Not every important outcome of a policy is easy to measure. Surveys, standardized tests, evaluations or other tools used to "measure" are often flawed and shouldn't be the determining factor of whether a policy gets enacted and funded, or not.**

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE 56% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE 33% Strongly agree 13% Somewhat agree 44% Somewhat disagree 25% Strongly disagree 9% Unsure 11%

26. [QMsgCon\_Factors] Requirements that a program “prove” its effectiveness don’t always consider many factors that can affect program performance – like how a program is implemented, the characteristics of individuals receiving services, and geographic or demographic differences regarding where the service is provided.

STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE 59% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE 28%  
 Strongly agree 13% Somewhat agree 46% Somewhat disagree 20% Strongly disagree 8% Unsure 13%

27. [QImpEvidencePost] Having heard more, how important, if at all, is it that government policymaking is guided by evidence of what works? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5, 5-1]

EXTREMELY/VERY IMPORTANT 73% Extremely important 34% Very important 39%  
 Somewhat important 21% Not very important 3% Not at all important \*% Unsure 3%

7

28. [QVote Battery] If elected officials did each of the following, would that make you...? [RANDOMIZE 1-3, 3-1] [RANDOMIZE ROWS] [DISPLAY AS GRID]

1. More likely to vote for them	2. Would not affect my vote	3. Less likely to vote for them	4. Unsure
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Less likely to vote for them Unsure

**Supported policies and**

**programs that have been shown to work through**

More likely to vote for them  
 Would not affect my vote

**evidence** 85% 9% 2% 5%

**Pulled their support for policies and programs that consistently fail to**

**achieve outcomes** 59% 13% 17% 10%

**Continued making policy decisions without consulting what the research**

**shows** 8% 10% 76% 6%

29. [QDOGE] Since early 2025, the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) has implemented changes aimed at improving efficiency in the federal government.

**While DOGE is working for the federal government, do you think it is more or less likely that the government will use evidence when deciding which programs to fund?**

[RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5, 5-1]

MUCH/SOMEWHAT MORE LIKELY 37% MUCH/SOMEWHAT LESS LIKELY 36% Much more likely the government uses evidence 16% Somewhat more likely 21% No difference 19% Somewhat less likely 9% Much less likely the government uses evidence 26%

Unsure 8%

**30. [QPublicPrivate] Do you agree or disagree with the following statement?**

**The best way to improve outcomes for residents is for accountable local partners—across government, nonprofits, business, and philanthropy—to work together, align resources, and implement solutions shaped by community priorities. [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]**  
STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT AGREE 87% STRONGLY/SOMEWHAT DISAGREE 6% Strongly agree 46% Somewhat agree 41% Somewhat disagree 4% Strongly disagree 2% Unsure 7%

8

[TEXT] Now, a few final questions for statistical purposes... [KEEP ON ONE PAGE WITH FOLLOWING QUESTION]

**31. [QBirthYear] Which range of years includes the year you were born?**

1903–1927 - 1928–1945 5% 1946–1964 39% 1965–1980 26% 1981–1996 23%  
1997–2012 7%

[In 2026, TERMINATE AFTER QBirthYear IF:

QBirthYear=1 and QAge is <98,  
QBirthYear=2 and QAge is >98 or <80,  
QBirthYear=3 and QAge is >80 or <61,  
QBirthYear=4 and QAge is >61 or <45,  
QBirthYear=5 and QAge is >45 or <29,  
QBirthYear=6 and QAge is >29]

**32. [QIdeology] Would you say you consider yourself to be...? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5, 5-1]**

VERY/SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE 39% VERY/SOMEWHAT LIBERAL 30% Very conservative 18% Somewhat conservative 21% Moderate 31% Somewhat liberal 16% Very liberal 14% Unsure \*%

**33. [QSelfIdentify] Do you consider yourself a supporter of...? Select all that apply. [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

The "Make America Great Again" movement (MAGA) 33% The "Make America Healthy Again" movement (MAHA) 31% Neither 55%

[If QPartyID= 1. Republican Or QPartyLeanView = 1. Republicans, Ask]

**34. [QTrumpGOP] Would you say you consider yourself to be primarily a supporter of Donald Trump, or a supporter of the Republican Party? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

(n=451)

Supporter of the Republican Party 48% Supporter of Donald Trump 47% I don't support either one 4% Unsure 2%

**35. [QUrbanRural] How would you describe the area in which you live? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]**

City 22% Suburb near a city 52% Small town not near a city 9% Rural or country area 17%

**36. [QIncome] Which range includes your total annual household income, before taxes?**

Less than \$30,000 per year 13% \$30,000 to \$49,999 per year 14% \$50,000 to \$74,999 per year 20% \$75,000 to \$99,999 per year 12% \$100,000 to \$124,999 per year 13% \$125,000 to \$149,999 per year 9% \$150,000 to \$199,999 per year 11% \$200,000 to \$249,999 per year 5% \$250,000 or more per year 4% Prefer not to say 1%

**37. [QAge] What is your age? [NUMERIC OPEN END] [VALIDATE TO BE BETWEEN 0-200] [TERMINATE IF <18 OR OVER 120]**

18 - 34 17% 35 - 49 21% 50 - 64 27% 65+ 35%

**38. [QRegVote] Are you currently registered to vote?**

Yes 100% No TERMINATE - Unsure TERMINATE -

**39. [QIndScreener] Do you or does anyone in your household work in any of the following industries? [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-7]**

Healthcare or the pharmaceutical industry 7% Sales 4% Technology 3% Food service or the restaurant industry 3% Journalism or the media TERMINATE - Market research TERMINATE - Public relations TERMINATE - None of these 83%

**40. [QState] In which state do you live? [50 STATE DROPDOWN]**

States in the South 38% States in the Midwest 23% States in the West 23% States in the Northeast 17%

**41. [QGender] Do you describe yourself as a man, a woman, or in some other way? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

Woman 53% Man 47% Some other way \*%

**42. [QRace] What is your race or ethnicity? [SELECT MULTIPLE] [RANDOMIZE 1-6]**

White 76% Black or African American 12% Hispanic or Latino 10% Asian 5% Native American or Alaska Native 2% Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander \*% Other race or ethnicity (Please specify) 1%

**43. [QEducation] What is the highest level of education you have completed? High school or less 25% Some college 16% Associate degree 11% Bachelor's degree 29% Graduate degree 19% Prefer not to say -****44. [QPartyID] Do you consider yourself a...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

Republican 38% Democrat 37% Independent 24% Member of another party \*% Unsure 1%

**[IF REPUBLICAN (QPartyID=1), ASK]**

**45. [QPartyGOP] Would you say you are...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

(n=377)

Firmly a Republican 73% Not firmly a Republican 27%

**[IF DEMOCRAT (QPartyID=2), ASK]**

**46. [QPartyDem] Would you say you are...? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

(n=415)

Firmly a Democrat 79% Not firmly a Democrat 21%

**[IF INDEPENDENT, MEMBER OF ANOTHER PARTY, OR UNSURE (QParty=3-5), ASK] 47. [QPartyLeanView] Even if neither political party perfectly represents your views, who do you agree with more often on issues that are important to you? [RANDOMIZE 1-2] (n=246)**

Democrats 37% Republicans 30% Both equally often 23% Unsure 9%

**[QPartyConsolidated] QPartyID and QPartyLeanView**

Total	Republican+Republican-leaning	Independents	46%	Total
Democratic+Democratic-leaning	Independents	46%	Total Independent	8%

**48. [Q2024Vote] Did you vote in the November 2024 presidential election? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

Yes, I voted 98% No, I did not vote 2% Unsure \*%

11

**[IF VOTED IN 2024 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION (Q2024Vote=1), ASK]**

**49. [Q2024Ballot] For which candidate did you vote in the 2024 presidential election? [RANDOMIZE 1-2]**

(n=1016)

Kamala Harris, the Democratic candidate 48% Donald Trump, the Republican candidate 48% Jill Stein, Green Party candidate 1% Robert F. Kennedy Jr., independent candidate 1% Chase Oliver, the Libertarian candidate \*% Cornel West, independent candidate \*% Claudia De la Cruz, the Socialism and Liberation Party candidate \*% Someone else (Please specify) 2% Unsure \*%

**50. [QTurnout] How likely are you to vote in the upcoming 2026 midterm elections? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-5, 5-1]**

EXTREMELY/VERY LIKELY 88% Extremely likely 73% Very likely 15% Somewhat likely 8% Not very likely 2% Not at all likely 1% Unsure 1%

**51. [QGenericCongressional] If the election for Congress were held today and you had to make a choice, for whom would you vote? [RANDOMIZE SCALE 1-4, 4-1]**

DEFINITELY/PROBABLY THE DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATE 48% DEFINITELY/PROBABLY THE REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE 44% Definitely the Democratic candidate 37% Probably the Democratic candidate 11% Probably the Republican candidate 15% Definitely the Republican candidate 30% Unsure 7%

Echelon Insights conducted a survey on behalf of Results for America to study voters' views on evidence-based policymaking. The survey was fielded online from January 29 - February 3, 2026 in English among a sample of N=1,038 voters in the Likely Electorate (LE) nationwide using non-probability sampling. The sample was drawn from the Lucid sample exchange based on demographic quotas for registered voters in the likely electorate nationwide, and matched to the L2 voter file to verify respondents' voter registration status.

Measures taken to ensure data quality included measures to prevent duplicate responses, questions designed to disqualify inattentive respondents, and the removal of respondents from the data file who answered more than one-third of the questions they were asked in less than one-third of the median response time per question.

The sample was weighted to reflect modeled turnout and demographic characteristics of the population of voters in the 2026 likely electorate based on a probabilistic model that incorporates data from the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey and Current Population Survey Voting and Registration Supplement, as well as L2 voter file data. Weighting dimensions included gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, region, party, and voting history.

Calculated the way it would be for a random sample and adjusted to incorporate the effect of weighting, the margin of sampling error is +/- 3.4 percentage points.

