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Toplines
University of Massachusetts Amherst
August 2026 National Poll

Field Dates:	August 21 –26, 2026
Sample:	1,000 Respondents
Margin of Error:	3.5%

The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The sampling frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file).

The matched cases were weighted to the sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, region, and home ownership. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles.

The weights were then raked (iterative proportional fitting) on 2024 presidential vote choice and post-stratified using a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.

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State of the National Economy and Individual Economic Situation (N=1,000)

Thinking about the state of our national economy, would you rate the nation's economy as . . .

Thinking about your own economic situation, would you rate your own economic situation as . . .

	Aug. 2026		March 2026		July 2025		April 2025		Oct. 2024	
	National	Own	National	Own	National	Own	National	Own	National	Own
Excellent	3%	5%	2%	4%	4%	6%	3%	4%	5%	6%
Good	18%	31%	21%	35%	27%	34%	22%	36%	27%	29%
Fair	39%	39%	39%	43%	40%	35%	41%	39%	32%	39%
Poor	41%	25%	37%	18%	29%	24%	34%	21%	36%	26%

Costs (N=1,000)

To the best of your knowledge, in the past few months, would you say the cost of (Insert from Rows) has increased, decreased, or stayed the same?

	Aug. 2026			March 2026			July 2025		
	Increased	Stayed the Same	Decreased	Increased	Stayed the Same	Decreased	Increased	Stayed the Same	Decreased
Groceries	82%	16%	2%	77%	19%	4%	70%	22%	8%
Gas	78%	17%	5%	91%	6%	3%	41%	38%	21%
Utilities (Natural Gas, Electricity, Oil, Water, Etc.)	77%	22%	1%	80%	19%	1%	63%	34%	4%
Clothing	62%	37%	1%	58%	40%	2%	56%	41%	3%
Child Care* (N=538)	76%	22%	2%	N/A			N/A		

*Asked only of those for whom childcare costs were applicable

Responsible (N=915)

Only shown to respondents who indicated that at least one of the above goods and services has increased.

From the following list, who do you believe is **most responsible** for the rise in the price of goods and services?

	Aug. 2026	March 2026	July 2025
President Donald Trump	**53%**	**53%**	**52%**
Former President Joe Biden	9%	10%	15%
Jerome Powell, Chair of the Federal Reserve	N/A	3%	1%
Democratic Party	10%	12%	7%
Republican Party	9%	8%	6%
Large Corporations	20%	14%	19%

Right Direction/Wrong Track (N=1,000)

Do you think things in this country are generally going in the right direction or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Aug. 2026	March 2026	July 2025	April 2025
Right Direction	20%	23%	29%	35%
Wrong Track	69%	65%	59%	54%
Not Sure	11%	12%	11%	11%

Approve (N=1,000)

Do you approve or disapprove of the way each is doing their job?

	Aug. 2026	Mar 2026	Jul 2025	Aug. 2026	Mar 2026	July 2025	Aug. 2026	Mar 2026	Jul 2025	Aug. 2026	Mar 2026	July 2025	Aug. 2026	Mar 2026	July 2025
	Strongly Approve			Somewhat Approve			Somewhat Disapprove			Strongly Disapprove			Not Sure		
U.S. Supreme Court	5%	8%	8%	29%	27%	30%	22%	28%	21%	31%	22%	29%	13%	15%	12%
The Democratic Party	6%	6%	6%	22%	22%	25%	22%	23%	23%	43%	39%	40%	8%	10%	7%
The Republican Party	9%	8%	12%	20%	23%	23%	16%	12%	14%	49%	48%	45%	6%	9%	5%

How Much Corruption (N=1,000)

How much corruption do you believe exists in the federal government today?

A Great Deal	75%
Some	22%
Not much	2%
None at all	1%

Corruption Ranking (N=1,000)

From the following list, please rank the following four federal governmental institutions from the most to least corrupt.

	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
President of the United States	53%	9%	18%	20%
United States Congress	18%	41%	28%	13%
United States Supreme Court	7%	26%	34%	34%
United States Federal Bureaucracy	23%	24%	20%	33%

What Counts as Corruption 1 (N=1,000)

People have different ideas about what constitutes political corruption. For each of the following, do you consider it political corruption?

	Definitely Corruption	Probably Corruption	Probably Not Corruption	Definitely Not Corruption	Not Sure
Illegal self-dealing: A public official breaks the law to financially benefit themselves or their family.	81%	9%	3%	1%	6%
Legal self-dealing: A public official uses the powers of office to financially benefit themselves or their family, even though no law is broken.	54%	29%	9%	2%	7%
Political favoritism: A public official uses the powers of office to provide special benefits to political allies or supporters, even though no law is broken.	52%	29%	10%	2%	7%
Abuse of democratic institutions: A public official uses the powers of office to weaken checks on their authority or make it harder for political opponents to compete, even though no law is broken.	61%	22%	7%	1%	8%

What Counts as Corruption 1 by Party Identification (Democrat N=440 & Republican N=341)

People have different ideas about what constitutes political corruption. For each of the following, do you consider it political corruption?

	Definitely Corruption		Probably Corruption		Probably Not Corruption		Definitely Not Corruption		Not Sure	
	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep
Illegal self-dealing: A public official breaks the law to financially benefit themselves or their family.	85%	82%	7%	12%	3%	3%	2%	0%	3%	3%
Legal self-dealing: A public official uses the powers of office to financially benefit themselves or their family, even though no law is broken.	56%	52%	30%	31%	9%	10%	1%	1%	5%	6%
Political favoritism: A public official uses the powers of office to provide special benefits to political allies or supporters, even though no law is broken.	55%	46%	28%	33%	9%	14%	2%	2%	6%	5%
Abuse of democratic institutions: A public official uses the powers of office to weaken checks on their authority or make it harder for political opponents to compete, even though no law is broken.	72%	51%	17%	30%	6%	11%	1%	1%	5%	8%

What Counts as Corruption 2 (N=1,000)

For each of the following, please indicate whether you view the action as corrupt or not corrupt.

	Not At All Corrupt	Slightly Corrupt	Somewhat Corrupt	Very Corrupt	Extremely Corrupt
An elected official promises to vote a certain way in exchange for a financial contribution.	4%	8%	10%	21%	57%
An elected official gives greater access to campaign contributors than to people who have not contributed.	8%	13%	23%	23%	34%
An elected official uses the power of their office to make a profitable personal investment.	6%	8%	13%	26%	47%
An elected official's close family member receives lucrative business opportunities from people seeking favorable treatment from the government.	5%	10%	17%	26%	42%
An elected official uses federal agencies to investigate or punish political opponents.	9%	9%	17%	20%	45%
A political party changes election rules because its leaders believe the changes will make it easier for their party to win elections.	6%	8%	13%	24%	49%
After leaving office, an elected official accepts a high-paying job from an industry the official helped while in office.	14%	17%	25%	18%	25%

Partisan Perception of Corruption

Note: Respondents were randomly shown treatment 1 (Democratic President) or treatment 2 (Republican President).

Do you consider this action corrupt or not corrupt?

A Democratic president directs federal agencies to investigate prominent politicians from the Republican Party, even though career officials at the agencies had not recommended opening those investigations.

	All Respondents (N=524)	Democratic Respondents (N=232)	Republican Respondents (N=176)
Not at all corrupt	10%	15%	5%
Slightly corrupt	13%	16%	11%
Somewhat corrupt	24%	22%	21%
Very corrupt	24%	26%	25%
Extremely corrupt	29%	22%	39%

A Republican president directs federal agencies to investigate prominent politicians from the Democratic Party, even though career officials at the agencies had not recommended opening those investigations.

	All Respondents (N=476)	Democratic Respondents (N=207)	Republican Respondents (N=165)
Not at all corrupt	17%	2%	37%
Slightly corrupt	12%	1%	24%
Somewhat corrupt	21%	18%	17%
Very corrupt	19%	24%	14%
Extremely corrupt	31%	54%	8%

Corruption Consequences (N=1,000)

Please select the most appropriate consequence under the following situations.

	Open Criminal Investigation	Open ethics investigation	Let voters decide	Nothing
An elected official promises to vote a certain way in exchange for a financial contribution.	49%	37%	11%	3%
An elected official uses the power of their office to make a profitable personal investment.	47%	38%	11%	5%
An elected official uses federal agencies to investigate or punish political opponents.	43%	38%	14%	5%

Corruption Consequences by Partisan Identification (Democrat N=440 & Republican N=341

Please select the most appropriate consequence under the following situations.

	Open Criminal Investigation		Open ethics investigation		Let voters decide		Nothing	
	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep
An elected official promises to vote a certain way in exchange for a financial contribution.	51%	47%	36%	40%	11%	10%	3%	3%
An elected official uses the power of their office to make a profitable personal investment.	50%	39%	35%	45%	11%	11%	4%	5%
An elected official uses federal agencies to investigate or punish political opponents.	52%	34%	33%	44%	12%	15%	3%	7%

Trump Trust (N=1,000)

How much do you trust President Donald Trump to . . .

	A Lot	Some	Not Much	Not At All
make decisions as president that serve the public interest?	22%	17%	15%	46%
avoid using his position as president to benefit his family's business interests?	16%	19%	12%	54%
avoid using his position as president to target his political enemies?	12%	21%	14%	53%

Trump Crypto (N=1,000)

According to his financial disclosures, President Trump and his family earned roughly $1.4 billion from cryptocurrency ventures last year. Should a sitting president be allowed to profit from business ventures that could be affected by the policies and decisions of his administration?

Definitely Should	6%
Probably Should	17%
Probably Should Not	25%
Definitely Should Not	52%

Trump Names (N=1,000)

Do you support or oppose . . .

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Adding President Donald Trump's name to the Kennedy Center?	7%	7%	24%	9%	53%
Naming a class of U.S. Navy battleship after President Donald Trump?	12%	8%	24%	8%	48%
Hanging banners with President Donald Trump's picture on federal government buildings?	6%	6%	26%	10%	51%

Demographic Breakdown of the University of Massachusetts Amherst August 2026 National Poll

Men	49%
Women	51%
18-29	20%
30-54	41%
>55	39%
HS or less	37%
Some Coll.	18%
Coll. Deg.	32%
Postgrad	13%
<$40K	36%
$40K-$100K	38%
>$100K	26%
Democrat	40%
Independent	22%
Republican	38%
Liberal	29%
Moderate	35%
Conservative	36%
White	70%
African American	13%
Hispanic	12%
Asian	5%
Harris	49%
Trump	51%
Not at all MAGA	32%
Somewhat MAGA	37%
Very Much MAGA	31%
Not at all DSA	46%
Somewhat DSA	42%
Very Much DSA	12%