



WAR PRESIDENT

Tracking American Public Attitudes

The Institute for Global Affairs (IGA) at Eurasia Group surveyed 1,000 voting-age Americans on their views of President Trump's national security strategy in the Middle East, the Western Hemisphere, and at home. The survey was conducted on April 24–27, 2026, amid a fragile US-Iran ceasefire, an American-enforced maritime embargo in the Strait of Hormuz, and deepening fractures with NATO allies.

This is the first in a series of IGA polls tracking public opinion ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

The war with Iran is broadly unpopular — many doubt whether the fight is worth the costs and say it affects their vote.

- Nearly twice as many people disapprove of President Trump's handling of the war with Iran as those who approve. Fifty-eight percent of Americans disapprove, 33 percent approve, and 9 percent are not sure.
- About four in five Americans (79%) say the war has affected cost of living, and more than half (62%) say it's become harder to pay the bills in the past six months.
- A majority (56%) say the war affects who they support in elections, including more than a third (36%) who say it does so a great deal. That figure climbs to 71 percent among Democrats, with roughly half of Independents (49%) and 45 percent of Republicans saying the same.
- About twice as many people think the war has made the United States less safe than those who say it's made the country safer: Nearly half of Americans (49%) think military operations against Iran are making the US less safe and about a quarter (24%) say they are making the US safer. A plurality (43%) believe Iran is more likely to get a nuclear weapon now than before the war began.

But on Iran, Republicans largely stand by the president (though dissent is noteworthy).

- Seventy-three percent of Republicans approve of

Trump's handling of the war — and about one in five Republicans (19%) disapprove. Only 55 percent think it's making the United States safer.

- Far more Republicans than Democrats and Independents think the campaign has set Iran's nuclear program back: 55 percent say Iran is less likely to develop a nuclear weapon today than a year ago, compared to 24 percent of Democrats and 26 percent of Independents.
- Majorities of Republicans cite preventing Iran from advancing its nuclear program (73%), protecting the United States from attacks (65%), and keeping the Strait of Hormuz open (57%) as reasons for continuing the war.
- Support for requiring congressional approval before military action has fallen sharply since the fall, driven largely by Republicans — only 32 percent of whom think such authorization is necessary.

Americans oppose escalation, blame Washington as much as Tehran, and are questioning longstanding relations in the Middle East.

- A majority (62%) oppose a ground invasion of Iran, and more than half (55%) say it would be morally unacceptable to strike civilian infrastructure to reopen the Strait of Hormuz while a quarter (25%) say it would be acceptable.
- Asked who is most responsible for the war, a plurality



of Americans (30%) blame the United States. About as many blame Iran (28%) and slightly fewer blame Israel (24%). Among Democrats, 48 percent blame the United States. Among Republicans, 58 percent blame Iran. Forty-five percent of Americans — including 67 percent of Democrats and 47 percent of independents — think the US relationship with Israel does more to hurt than to help US interests. Roughly one in five Republicans (21%) share that view.

- A plurality (38%) say the United States should stop supplying weapons to Israel, including 55 percent of Democrats and 39 percent of independents. Among Republicans, 35 percent support continuing to supply arms without new restrictions and 29 percent support continuing with conditions on use.

The Trump administration has also turned its pressure on countries closer to home — but Americans oppose the embargo on Cuba, doubt the effectiveness of sanctions, and want diplomatic relations to improve with Havana.

- A plurality (47%) of Americans disapprove of the US trade embargo on Cuba — including 74 percent of Democrats and 41 percent of Independents — while 62 percent of Republicans approve.
- Just 22 percent of Democrats believe US economic pressure can produce political change in Cuba, and 43 percent of Independents doubt it will. Among Republicans, 54 percent expect sanctions to produce reform.
- A plurality (44%) say the United States should improve diplomatic relations with Cuba only if its government undertakes meaningful political reform. About one in three Americans (34%), including a majority (53%) of Democrats, would improve relations regardless of Cuba's system of government.

Americans are broadly uneasy about President Trump's unilateral use of military force and his fit as commander in chief.

- A majority (55%) say President Trump uses the military too much; just 28 percent say he uses it the right amount.
- A majority (54%) say US policies under the Trump

administration have made the world less safe, and a similar number say other countries have less respect for the United States than they did before.

- Most Americans (78%) think it's important for the United States to have support from allies and international organizations before using military force.
- More Americans want to decrease military spending than to maintain or increase it — a finding that holds even when maintainers and increasers are combined.
- Fewer Americans today than last fall view Trump as a peacemaker, and the sharpest decline has come from within his own party: the share of Republicans holding that view has dropped 13 points.
- When offered a dozen descriptors to choose from, the adjectives that Americans most frequently selected to describe Trump were reckless (33%), erratic (26%), or destructive (26%).