



# WAVE

## POLLING AND RESEARCH

### Toplines: Working-Class Subsample — Immigration and the Economy

This report restricts the May 2026 national survey to its working-class respondents — the 1,325 adults with a household income under \$60,000 (the low-income oversample together with the low-income respondents in the nationally representative sample). The survey was designed by Wave Polling and Research, LLC and conducted online from May 18 to May 20, 2026 by Verasight, a mixed-mode survey provider. Results below show weighted percentages representative of working-class U.S. adults. The margin of sampling error, which accounts for the design effect, is  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points (effective sample size 1,007). Some questions were asked of a random half of the sample or of a randomized experimental arm, as noted. Rows may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**2024 Trump voter classification.** Trump defectors are 2024 Trump voters who now say they would vote for the Democratic candidate, would not vote, or are not sure in the 2026 generic ballot. Loyal Trump voters are 2024 Trump voters who still intend to vote Republican.

| Response           | Overall |
|--------------------|---------|
| Trump defectors    | 7%      |
| Loyal Trump voters | 27%     |
| All other voters   | 66%     |
| Unweighted N       | 1,325   |

**Trump-voter defection rate:** share of working-class 2024 Trump voters who would not vote Republican in the 2026 generic ballot.

| Response                                            | Percent |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Would defect (vote Democratic, not vote, or unsure) | 20%     |



## Stability tracking

Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Trump administration is handling each of the following?

| Item                                   | Strongly approve | Somewhat approve | Somewhat disapprove | Strongly disapprove | Not sure | N     |
|----------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------|-------|
| Deportations / immigration enforcement | 25%              | 15%              | 11%                 | 42%                 | 6%       | 1,325 |
| Border security                        | 29%              | 16%              | 12%                 | 37%                 | 7%       | 1,325 |
| The economy                            | 10%              | 16%              | 18%                 | 49%                 | 6%       | 1,325 |
| Tariffs and trade policy               | 14%              | 15%              | 16%                 | 46%                 | 9%       | 1,325 |
| Cuts to federal spending               | 18%              | 17%              | 12%                 | 43%                 | 10%      | 1,325 |
| Health care                            | 13%              | 18%              | 16%                 | 44%                 | 8%       | 1,325 |

Which ONE issue will be most important to you personally when deciding how to vote in this year's midterm elections?

| Response                             | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Border security                      | 2%      | 0%              | 5%          |
| Deportations/immigration enforcement | 7%      | 3%              | 13%         |
| The economy and inflation            | 45%     | 56%             | 45%         |
| Health care                          | 12%     | 8%              | 5%          |
| Democracy and elections              | 12%     | 3%              | 5%          |
| Crime and public safety              | 8%      | 16%             | 11%         |
| Foreign policy                       | 2%      | 4%              | 3%          |
| Government spending and the deficit  | 6%      | 5%              | 10%         |
| Something else                       | 6%      | 4%              | 3%          |
| Unweighted N                         | 1,325   | 120             | 334         |

Thinking about the 2026 congressional elections, are you more likely or less likely to vote for a Republican candidate who voted in Congress to fund Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) without significant reforms?

| Response                                | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Much more likely to vote Republican     | 19%     | 6%              | 66%         |
| Somewhat more likely to vote Republican | 8%      | 9%              | 16%         |
| No effect on my vote                    | 21%     | 45%             | 13%         |
| Somewhat less likely to vote Republican | 4%      | 7%              | 1%          |
| Much less likely to vote Republican     | 37%     | 19%             | 3%          |
| Not sure                                | 11%     | 14%             | 1%          |
| Unweighted N                            | 1,325   | 120             | 334         |

Who do you blame MORE for the current cost of living in America? (Asked of a random half of the sample.)

| Response                                         | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress         | 45%     | 21%             | 9%          |
| Joe Biden and Democrats who were in power before | 24%     | 30%             | 75%         |
| Both equally                                     | 25%     | 41%             | 14%         |
| Neither                                          | 6%      | 8%              | 1%          |
| Unweighted N                                     | 640     | 120             | 334         |

**Who do you blame MORE for the current state of immigration in America? (Asked of a random half of the sample.)**

| Response                                         | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|--------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress         | 39%     | 21%             | 9%          |
| Joe Biden and Democrats who were in power before | 34%     | 30%             | 75%         |
| Both equally                                     | 18%     | 41%             | 14%         |
| Neither                                          | 9%      | 8%              | 1%          |
| Unweighted N                                     | 685     | 120             | 334         |

## Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

**Before today, had you seen, read, or heard anything about the government ending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) — a nearly 40-year-old program allowing people from countries facing conflict or disaster to live and work in the United States temporarily — for immigrants from countries such as Haiti and Venezuela?**

| Response       | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|----------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| A lot          | 12%     | 9%              | 15%         |
| A little       | 44%     | 34%             | 53%         |
| Nothing at all | 44%     | 57%             | 33%         |
| Unweighted N   | 1,325   | 120             | 334         |

**The Trump administration recently ended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for approximately 330,000 Haitian immigrants, which had allowed them to live and work legally in the United States. Ending TPS means members of this group can be deported. Do you think this was the right decision?**

| Response                      | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Definitely the right decision | 16%     | 13%             | 47%         |
| Probably the right decision   | 15%     | 23%             | 28%         |
| Probably the wrong decision   | 18%     | 24%             | 9%          |
| Definitely the wrong decision | 31%     | 13%             | 2%          |
| Not sure                      | 20%     | 27%             | 15%         |
| Unweighted N                  | 1,325   | 120             | 334         |

**The Trump administration recently ended Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for hundreds of thousands of immigrants, which had allowed them to live and work legally in the United States for many years. Ending TPS means members of this group can be deported. Do you think this was the right decision?**

| Response                      | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|-------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Definitely the right decision | 17%     | 13%             | 47%         |
| Probably the right decision   | 14%     | 22%             | 28%         |
| Probably the wrong decision   | 17%     | 24%             | 9%          |
| Definitely the wrong decision | 35%     | 16%             | 3%          |
| Not sure                      | 17%     | 25%             | 13%         |
| Unweighted N                  | 1,325   | 120             | 334         |

## Treatment of people affected by deportation

**For each of the following people affected by deportation, how much sympathy do you feel for them?**

| Item                                                                | A great deal | Some | Not much | None at all | Not sure | N     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------|----------|-------------|----------|-------|
| Undocumented immigrants working at farms, restaurants, construction | 38%          | 24%  | 14%      | 19%         | 6%       | 1,325 |
| Parents of children who are U.S. citizens                           | 50%          | 23%  | 10%      | 11%         | 6%       | 1,325 |
| Spouses of U.S. citizens                                            | 47%          | 29%  | 9%       | 10%         | 6%       | 1,325 |
| People who were brought to the U.S. as children                     | 54%          | 23%  | 7%       | 10%         | 6%       | 1,325 |
| Long-term residents who have lived here 10+ years                   | 49%          | 24%  | 10%      | 12%         | 6%       | 1,325 |
| Friends, neighbors, or coworkers in your own community              | 43%          | 27%  | 10%      | 12%         | 8%       | 1,325 |
| People who recently crossed the border illegally                    | 22%          | 21%  | 17%      | 34%         | 6%       | 1,325 |

**Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?**

| Response                                                     | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Government should not deport U.S. citizens' immediate family | 24%     | 28%             | 12%         |
| Enforce laws even if it separates U.S. citizen families      | 26%     | 23%             | 70%         |
| All immigrants should have due process rights recognized     | 36%     | 30%             | 11%         |
| Not sure                                                     | 13%     | 19%             | 7%          |
| Unweighted N                                                 | 1,325   | 120             | 334         |

**Which of the following policy outcomes bother you MOST about the Trump administration's current immigration enforcement? (Select up to two.)**

| Response                                                                  | Percent |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Families being torn apart, including U.S. citizen children losing parents | 34%     |
| U.S. citizens and legal residents being wrongly detained or questioned    | 31%     |
| Masked federal agents and military troops in American neighborhoods       | 24%     |
| Higher food prices and disruption to local businesses                     | 24%     |
| People being deported to countries they have no ties to                   | 19%     |
| None of these bother me                                                   | 19%     |
| Long-term neighbors and coworkers being taken from the community          | 5%      |

Unweighted N = 1,325. Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could select more than one option.

**From what you have seen or heard, how would you describe the way detained immigrants are being treated by the federal government?**

| Response                                                      | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| They are being treated fairly and humanely                    | 17%     | 18%             | 49%         |
| They are being treated fairly, but conditions could be better | 18%     | 23%             | 32%         |
| They are being treated too harshly                            | 52%     | 36%             | 9%          |
| Not sure                                                      | 14%     | 23%             | 9%          |
| Unweighted N                                                  | 1,325   | 120             | 334         |

## Experiment 1: Detention labels

Respondents were randomly assigned to one of three labels for the facilities used to hold people awaiting deportation — “detention facilities,” “warehouses,” or “detention camps” — and then asked the same concern question. The table shows the response by the label assigned.

**The federal government has set up large-scale [LABEL] to hold people awaiting deportation. Does this concern you, or do you think it is a reasonable approach?**

| Response                                            | Overall | “Detention facilities” | “Warehouses” | “Detention camps” |
|-----------------------------------------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Very concerning                                     | 45%     | 48%                    | 44%          | 44%               |
| Somewhat concerning                                 | 17%     | 16%                    | 14%          | 19%               |
| Not very concerning                                 | 10%     | 8%                     | 10%          | 11%               |
| Not at all concerning — it is a reasonable approach | 19%     | 17%                    | 21%          | 19%               |
| Not sure                                            | 9%      | 10%                    | 11%          | 8%                |
| Unweighted N                                        | 1,325   | 449                    | 435          | 441               |

## Breadth of immigration overreach

**For each of the following immigration enforcement actions, please indicate whether you think it is an acceptable part of immigration enforcement or whether it goes too far.**

| Item                                                                       | Acceptable | Goes too far | Not sure | N     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------|-------|
| Deporting undocumented immigrants who committed violent crimes             | 77%        | 13%          | 10%      | 1,325 |
| Deporting undocumented immigrants with no criminal record, here many years | 26%        | 55%          | 19%      | 1,325 |
| Detaining U.S. citizens or legal residents during immigration raids        | 16%        | 68%          | 15%      | 1,325 |
| Separating parents from their U.S.-born children during deportation        | 18%        | 65%          | 16%      | 1,325 |
| Sending military troops into American neighborhoods for raids              | 25%        | 63%          | 13%      | 1,325 |
| Ending legal protections for previously authorized immigrants              | 22%        | 60%          | 18%      | 1,325 |
| Deporting immigrants to countries they have no connection to               | 17%        | 66%          | 17%      | 1,325 |

**For each of the following, please indicate whether you think this is an acceptable part of immigration enforcement or whether this goes too far.**

| Item                                                                   | Acceptable | Goes too far | Not sure | N     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------|-------|
| Domestic workers detained/deported, leaving elderly without care       | 24%        | 58%          | 18%      | 1,325 |
| Childcare providers detained/deported, leaving families without care   | 24%        | 59%          | 18%      | 1,325 |
| Restaurant cooks and servers detained/deported, forcing closures       | 28%        | 54%          | 18%      | 1,325 |
| Children disappearing from your child’s classroom                      | 23%        | 60%          | 17%      | 1,325 |
| Your church losing congregants or lay ministers                        | 30%        | 44%          | 25%      | 1,325 |
| Fewer homes built because construction crews lost workers              | 28%        | 50%          | 21%      | 1,325 |
| Higher grocery prices because farm and food workers were deported      | 20%        | 62%          | 18%      | 1,325 |
| A coworker losing work authorization and being forced out of their job | 27%        | 54%          | 19%      | 1,325 |

## ICE funding reallocation

If the federal government redirected some of the money currently being spent on immigration enforcement, which ONE of the following would be the best use of those funds?

| Response                                                                                  | Overall |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Hiring more local police officers                                                         | 3%      |
| Lowering health care costs and protecting Medicaid                                        | 21%     |
| Reducing grocery and food prices                                                          | 38%     |
| A tax rebate for working families                                                         | 7%      |
| Subsidizing the cost of childcare                                                         | 2%      |
| Funding public schools                                                                    | 4%      |
| Strengthening border security technology                                                  | 6%      |
| None — the government should not spend the money and reduce the overall government budget | 7%      |
| None — the money should stay with immigration enforcement                                 | 11%     |
| Unweighted N                                                                              | 1,325   |

## Economic attitudes and party trust

Which of the following economic concerns worry you the MOST right now? (Select up to two.)

| Response                               | Percent |
|----------------------------------------|---------|
| Grocery and food prices                | 60%     |
| Wages not keeping up with prices       | 25%     |
| Housing costs                          | 24%     |
| The cost of health care                | 22%     |
| Tariffs raising costs on things I need | 17%     |
| Not having enough money for retirement | 12%     |
| Difficulty finding work                | 10%     |
| None of these worry me                 | 5%      |
| Losing my job or being laid off        | 3%      |
| The cost of child care                 | 2%      |

Unweighted N = 1,325. Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could select more than one option.

Thinking about your own financial situation, would you say you and your family are...

| Response                   | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Getting ahead financially  | 6%      | 4%              | 11%         |
| Just about keeping up      | 44%     | 47%             | 53%         |
| Falling behind financially | 46%     | 43%             | 35%         |
| Not sure                   | 4%      | 7%              | 1%          |
| Unweighted N               | 1,325   | 120             | 334         |

Which party's position are you more supportive of for the following issue — Democrats or Republicans, or neither?

| Item                         | Democrats | Republicans | Neither | Not sure | N     |
|------------------------------|-----------|-------------|---------|----------|-------|
| The economy                  | 37%       | 27%         | 24%     | 12%      | 1,325 |
| Inflation and cost of living | 37%       | 26%         | 25%     | 11%      | 1,325 |
| Jobs and wages               | 38%       | 29%         | 22%     | 11%      | 1,325 |
| Immigration                  | 34%       | 35%         | 20%     | 11%      | 1,325 |
| Border security              | 30%       | 38%         | 21%     | 11%      | 1,325 |
| Deportations                 | 31%       | 35%         | 22%     | 11%      | 1,325 |

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The Trump administration is focusing too much on deportations and not focusing enough on fixing the economy, inflation, and the rising cost of living."

| Response     | Overall | Trump defectors | Loyal Trump |
|--------------|---------|-----------------|-------------|
| Agree        | 68%     | 74%             | 27%         |
| Disagree     | 20%     | 9%              | 58%         |
| Not sure     | 12%     | 18%             | 15%         |
| Unweighted N | 1,325   | 120             | 334         |

## Experiment 2: Border/crime precondition for the economic bridge

Respondents were randomly assigned to one of three versions of an “economic bridge” message and asked how much they agree with it. Arm A presented the economic-bridge argument only; Arm B led with a border/crime caveat (secure borders, deport violent criminals) before the bridge; Arm C presented the bridge first and placed the border/crime caveat at the end. The first table shows agreement with the statement by arm; the tables that follow show the post-experiment questions (asked of everyone) by the arm the respondent was assigned to.

**Arm A — Economic bridge only.** “Attacks on immigrant workers go too far. We’re deporting immigrant workers who pay taxes and haven’t committed a crime. Meanwhile, grocery prices are skyrocketing, chaotic tariffs are raising prices on hard-working Americans, and people are losing their Medicaid coverage.”

**Arm B — Border/crime caveat first, then economic bridge.** “We need secure borders, and we should deport undocumented immigrants who have committed a violent crime. But Trump goes too far. He’s driving up food costs with ICE raids at restaurants and farms, deporting immigrants married to U.S. citizens, and using masked agents to take people to undisclosed locations. Instead, we should focus on lowering costs and building an economy where hard-working Americans can get ahead.”

**Arm C — Economic bridge first, border/crime caveat after.** “Trump’s immigration policies are driving up food costs with ICE raids at restaurants and farms, deporting immigrants married to U.S. citizens, and using masked agents to take people to undisclosed locations. We should focus on lowering costs and building an economy where hard-working Americans can get ahead — while keeping our borders secure and deporting undocumented immigrants who commit violent crimes.”

### How much do you agree or disagree with the assigned economic-bridge statement?

| Response          | Overall | Bridge only | Border/crime caveat first | Bridge first |
|-------------------|---------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Strongly agree    | 43%     | 48%         | 43%                       | 39%          |
| Somewhat agree    | 20%     | 14%         | 20%                       | 24%          |
| Somewhat disagree | 11%     | 10%         | 11%                       | 11%          |
| Strongly disagree | 14%     | 14%         | 17%                       | 13%          |
| Not sure          | 12%     | 13%         | 10%                       | 14%          |
| Unweighted N      | 1,325   | 416         | 453                       | 456          |

### How would you describe your view of the Trump administration’s current deportation policies?

| Response                                                       | Overall | Bridge only | Border/crime caveat first | Bridge first |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| They are doing the right thing overall                         | 21%     | 16%         | 24%                       | 22%          |
| They go too far in some ways but are mostly on the right track | 19%     | 23%         | 18%                       | 16%          |
| They go too far and are causing more harm than good            | 50%     | 49%         | 49%                       | 52%          |
| Not sure                                                       | 10%     | 11%         | 9%                        | 9%           |
| Unweighted N                                                   | 1,325   | 416         | 453                       | 456          |

Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right? (1) Mass deportation of immigrant workers is necessary to protect American jobs and enforce the law; (2) Mass deportation of immigrant workers is hurting the economy and raising costs for American families.

| Response                                                          | Overall | Bridge only | Border/crime caveat first | Bridge first |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| Mass deportation is necessary to protect jobs and enforce the law | 31%     | 27%         | 34%                       | 31%          |
| Mass deportation is hurting the economy and raising costs         | 51%     | 51%         | 48%                       | 52%          |
| Not sure                                                          | 18%     | 21%         | 17%                       | 17%          |
| Unweighted N                                                      | 1,325   | 416         | 453                       | 456          |

## Experiment 3: Enforcement framing

*Respondents were randomly assigned to one of three framings before being asked whether the Trump administration's immigration enforcement is appropriate or goes too far. Arm D was a no-prime control; Arm E used a militarization frame; Arm F used a community/neighbors frame. The table shows the appropriate/too-far outcome by the arm the respondent was assigned to.*

**Arm D — Control / no prime.** No framing text; respondents went straight to the appropriate/too-far question.

**Arm E — Militarization frame.** *“The Trump administration has deployed military troops and armed federal agents to American cities and neighborhoods to carry out immigration raids, including in Minneapolis, where soldiers were sent into residential areas and killed two people.”*

**Arm F — Community/neighbors frame.** *“The Trump administration's deportation operation has swept up long-term residents — people who have lived in their communities for years, who work at local farms and restaurants, pay taxes, and have children who are U.S. citizens.”*

**Thinking about the assigned framing, do you think the Trump administration's immigration enforcement is appropriate or does it go too far?**

| Response               | Overall | Control (no prime) | Militarization frame | Community/neighbors frame |
|------------------------|---------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Completely appropriate | 16%     | 17%                | 19%                  | 12%                       |
| Mostly appropriate     | 14%     | 14%                | 10%                  | 16%                       |
| Goes somewhat too far  | 20%     | 22%                | 15%                  | 22%                       |
| Goes much too far      | 51%     | 47%                | 56%                  | 49%                       |
| Unweighted N           | 1,183   | 405                | 399                  | 379                       |

## Downstream measures

*The following questions were asked of all respondents after the experiments.*

**How much have you personally seen or heard about immigration raids and enforcement actions in your area or in cities near you?**

| Response       | Overall |
|----------------|---------|
| A lot          | 24%     |
| Some           | 33%     |
| Not much       | 27%     |
| Nothing at all | 16%     |
| Unweighted N   | 1,325   |

**If the 2026 election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district?**

| Response                 | Overall |
|--------------------------|---------|
| The Republican candidate | 30%     |
| The Democratic candidate | 41%     |
| Would not vote           | 12%     |
| Not sure                 | 16%     |
| Unweighted N             | 1,325   |

**Which comes closer to your view? (1) The Trump administration's immigration enforcement is making America safer and protecting American workers; (2) The Trump administration's immigration enforcement is tearing apart families and communities while driving up costs for everyone.**

| Response                                                   | Overall |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Enforcement is making America safer and protecting workers | 30%     |
| Enforcement is tearing apart families and driving up costs | 54%     |
| Not sure                                                   | 16%     |
| Unweighted N                                               | 1,325   |

**Do you think the Trump administration's deportation policies will make prices and the cost of living...**

| Response              | Overall |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Go up significantly   | 46%     |
| Go up a little        | 15%     |
| Stay about the same   | 19%     |
| Go down a little      | 3%      |
| Go down significantly | 4%      |
| Not sure              | 13%     |
| Unweighted N          | 1,325   |

There are an estimated 14 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States. Of those, about how many do you think should be deported?

| Response                                           | Overall |
|----------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Every undocumented immigrant (14 million)          | 18%     |
| Most of them (10 million)                          | 8%      |
| About half (7 million)                             | 6%      |
| Very few (1 million)                               | 3%      |
| Only those who committed serious crimes (~500,000) | 44%     |
| None                                               | 4%      |
| Not sure                                           | 17%     |
| Unweighted N                                       | 1,325   |

## Attribution (Trump defectors only)

Which of the following are the **BIGGEST** reasons your opinion on the Republican Party has changed since 2024? (Select up to 3. Asked only of Trump defectors — 2024 Trump voters who now say they would vote Democratic, would not vote, or are not sure in the generic ballot.)

| Response                                                       | Percent |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| The economy and cost of living                                 | 60%     |
| Trump's personal conduct and rhetoric                          | 31%     |
| Tariffs and trade policy                                       | 27%     |
| Immigration enforcement and deportation policies               | 23%     |
| Cuts to health care funding                                    | 22%     |
| Foreign policy decisions                                       | 18%     |
| Treatment of legal immigrants and U.S. citizens in enforcement | 16%     |
| Cuts to federal workforce and agencies                         | 15%     |
| Other                                                          | 11%     |

Unweighted N = 120. Percentages sum to more than 100% because respondents could select more than one option.

## About Wave Polling and Research

Wave Polling and Research is a survey research and strategic consulting firm founded by G. Elliott Morris. The firm provides data-driven research and advising for clients working in politics, media, and public policy. Wave Polling and Research emphasizes methodological transparency, rigorous survey design, and a commitment to letting the data speak for itself. For more information, visit [wavepolling.com](http://wavepolling.com).



## Methodology

This survey was conducted by Wave Polling and Research. Data were collected by Verasight, a mixed-mode survey provider, from May 18 to May 20, 2026. The sample consists of 2,000 U.S. adults aged 18 and older: 1,000 in a nationally representative sample and 1,000 in an oversample of low-income respondents, defined as those with a confirmed household income under \$60,000. The margin of sampling error — which accounts for the design effect and is calculated using the classical random-sampling formula — is  $\pm 3.1$  percentage points for the nationally representative sample and  $\pm 3.4$  points for the low-income oversample.

### Recruitment and data quality

All respondents were recruited via email from the Verasight Community, composed of individuals recruited through random address-based sampling, random person-to-person text messaging, and dynamic online targeting. Community members are verified through multi-step authentication, including an SMS response from a mobile phone registered with a major U.S. carrier and within-survey technology such as Google reCAPTCHA v3; members who exhibit low-quality response behavior over time, such as straight-lining or speeding, are removed. Because respondents are never routed from one survey to another and are compensated for every invited survey, there is no incentive to answer screener questions strategically. After data collection, the Verasight team confirms that responses correspond to U.S. IP addresses, removes duplicate and non-human responses, and drops respondents who failed in-survey attention or straight-lining checks or who completed the survey in under 30% of the median completion time. Verasight is a member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research Transparency Initiative; as in any survey, unmeasured error may exist.

### Weighting

The data are weighted to match the April 2026 Current Population Survey on age, race/ethnicity, sex, income (nationally representative sample only), education, region, and metropolitan status, as well as to a running three-year average of partisanship distributions from the Pew Research Center NPORS benchmarking surveys and population benchmarks of 2024 vote. To produce nationally representative estimates across all 2,000 respondents, the two samples are integrated with a combined national weight that holds low-income adults to their correct national share while pooling the full set of low-income respondents.

### Definitions and comparisons

Trump defectors are 2024 Trump voters who now say they would vote Democratic, would not vote, or are unsure in the 2026 generic ballot. February 2026 figures are from a separate national survey of 1,500 U.S. adults fielded February 6–10, 2026; because the generic-ballot question wording changed between waves, the May defection rate is adjusted to February’s wording for a like-for-like comparison. The crime-and-border-caveat and detention-facility-label findings come from questions randomized between respondents.

For questions about this report or the underlying survey data, contact Wave Polling and Research at [contact@wavepolling.com](mailto:contact@wavepolling.com).