



As July 4th Approaches, Patriotic Values Still Popular
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While the country's political differences dominate the headlines, a new national survey conducted by YouGov for FixUS, found that a majority of Americans, regardless of political affiliation, share feelings of patriotism and national pride.

"While it would be naïve to disregard the country's deep divisions, it's encouraging to discover that most Americans share fundamental beliefs about American values, history and ideals, said Michael V. Murphy, Director of FixUS. "A majority of Americans are patriots who value the American experiment and what it represents," he added, "and at a time when it has never been more important to put citizenship over partisanship, that's a hopeful sign."

Some of the survey's key findings:

- **Americans are proud of their country.** 72% said they agreed or strongly agreed that they are proud to be an American, while 11% disagreed or strongly disagreed, with the rest in the middle.
- **Americans take pride in their history.** Out of 18 historical events and achievements, respondents were most proud of the passage of the 19th Amendment giving women the right to vote. On a scale of 1-10 (10 - very proud) it drew an average 8.5. Other highly rated events were the Adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights (8.3), resolution of the Civil War and outlawing of slavery (8.2), victory in World War II (8.2), and the civil rights movement of the 1960s (7.9).
- **Americans are unified on the importance of fundamental American ideals.** Fundamental ideals such as America as a land of opportunity, a country of equality and justice for all, a land of liberty, and a government of the people, were all highly rated in importance. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 10 being "extremely important," the average answer was above an 8 out of 10 for all ideals surveyed.
- **Americans agree we have yet to achieve these ideals, but progress has been made.** Only 17% believe we have achieved the ideal of America as "a land of opportunity, where if you work hard and play by the rules you can achieve success and a happy life for yourself and your family." However, a majority 61% of believe we are closer than not to achieving this ideal, with some differences by party.

- **Americans believe criticizing and working to improve the country is patriotic.** For example, 85% agree or strongly agree that “if you love America, you should notice its problems and work to correct them,” including 88% of Democrats, 85% of Republicans, and 86% of Independents. Only 23% agreed with the statement “I believe I should support my country, whether it is right or wrong.”

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Murphy said, “America, perhaps more than any nation, is founded on a set of political ideals. In the face of apparent polarization, we at FixUS wanted to discover whether the foundations of an American “nation” remain. The answer delivered by the survey appears to be ‘yes,’ although a finer analysis also reveals a nation potentially at risk.”

While the survey shows a high degree of support for American patriotic values, notable partisan differences were apparent in some areas. While 43% agree or strongly agree that “people who criticize the country do so because they want to make it better,” only 23% of Republicans and 38% of Independents felt that way versus 63% of Democrats.

When polled on the outward symbols of the country, partisan differences also emerged. For example, while 65% of Americans felt “good or very good” when they saw the flag, that included over 90% of Republicans and only about half of Democrats. Wide partisan gaps were also evident over the national anthem and pledge of allegiance.

A disquieting signal coming from all sides was the sense that people aren’t being heard. About half of all Republicans and Democrats and nearly 70% of Independents believe that politicians “rarely” or “never” listen to them. Also concerning is that only 32% of respondents believe that American culture and way of life has mostly changed for the better since the 1950s. An overwhelming 85% are concerned about the polarization of the country.

This survey is the first in a series of publications by FixUS on the topic of American patriotic values and ideals. This data release examines views of Americans overall, along with commonalities and differences by political party identification. Future publications will explore commonalities and differences by race, age, gender, political ideology, and other topics.

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