



NATIONAL SURVEY · TOPLINES

Independent Candidates & the 2026 Midterms

A national survey of U.S. adults on awareness of and openness to independent candidates

Field dates: July 13–14, 2026

Sample: 1,000 U.S. adults

Registered voters: 906 (90.6%)

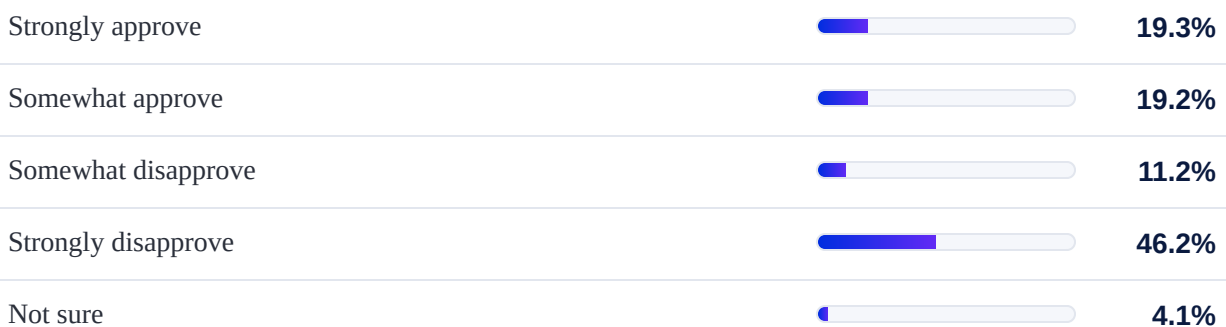
Margin of error: ±3.1 pts (95% CI)

AlphaROC conducted a survey of $n = 1,000$ U.S. adults on behalf of Independent Center / Independent Center Voice from July 13–14, 2026. All interviews were conducted online. Survey invitations were distributed randomly, with demographic balances aligned to general population benchmarks.

Percentages are of the full sample ($n = 1,000$) and may not sum to 100% due to rounding. Subgroups carry wider margins of error.

JOB APPROVAL

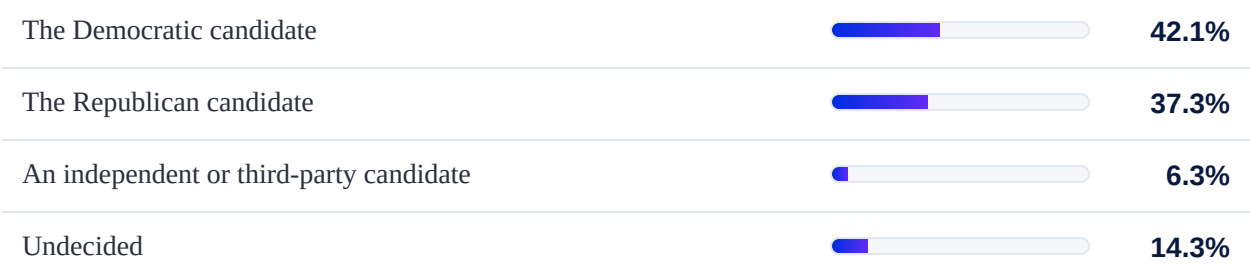
1 Do you approve or disapprove of the job President Donald Trump is doing?



Total approve: 38.5% · **Total disapprove:** 57.4%

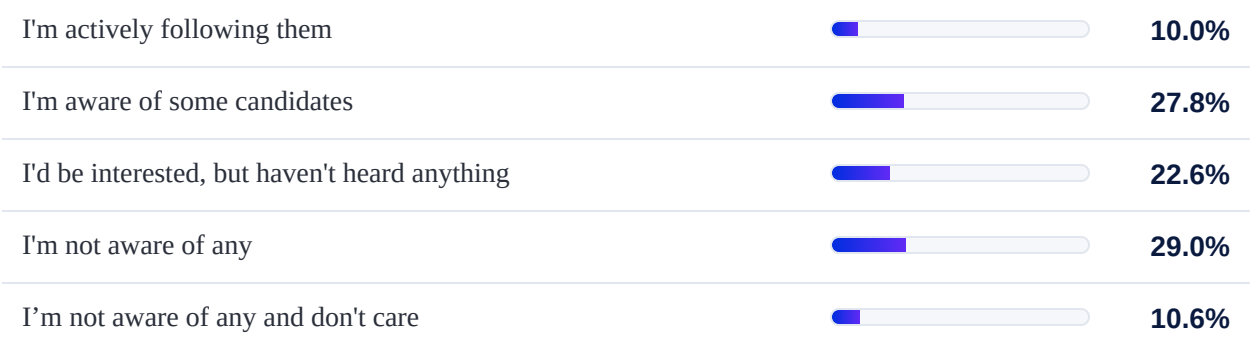
GENERIC CONGRESSIONAL BALLOT

2 If the election for U.S. Congress were held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your district?



AWARENESS OF 2026 INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

3 How aware are you of independent candidates on the ballot for the 2026 midterm elections?



Any awareness (following + aware of some): 37.8% · Interested but uninformed: 22.6%

FIRST THOUGHT ON THIRD-PARTY / INDEPENDENT CANDIDATES

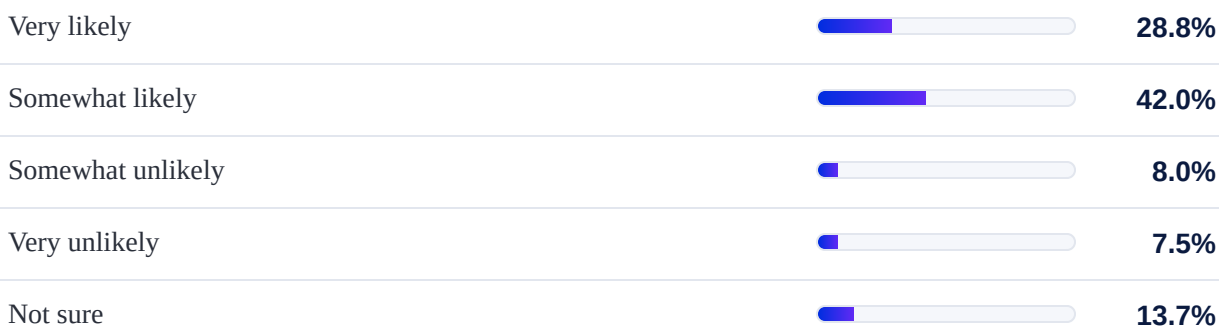
4 When you think about independent or third-party candidates in elections, which best describes your first reaction?



Net positive (fresh start + new ideas): 45.8% · **Net negative** (spoiler + protest): 35.4%

HYPOTHETICAL STRONG INDEPENDENT

5 Imagine a future congressional election with a strong, well-funded independent candidate, unaffiliated with either party, who shared many of your views and was willing to work with both sides. How likely would you be to vote for this candidate?



Net likely (very + somewhat): 70.8% · **Net unlikely**: 15.5%

PRIDE PARTICIPATION

6 During Pride Month last month (June), did you do anything to celebrate—such as attending a Pride event, wearing Pride clothing, displaying a flag, or participating in any other way (either as an LGBTQ+ individual or as an ally)? NEW



SAMPLE PROFILE

Political affiliation

Republican 35.0% · Democrat 32.3% · Independent 26.6% · Undecided 6.1%

Gender

Female 53.4% · Male 46.5% · Non-binary 0.1%

Race

White 76.0% · Black 16.7% · Asian 3.0% · American Indian / AK Native 1.7% · NH/PI 0.3% · Other 2.3%

Education

Bachelor's 26.1% · HS/GED 24.2% · Some college 22.0% · Associate/technical 12.6% · Graduate/professional 12.5% · Some HS or less 2.6%

Registered voter

Yes 90.6% · No 9.4%

Age

18–29: 17.0% · 30–44: 26.8% · 45–54: 17.1% · 55–64: 17.4% · 65–75: 16.0% · 75+: 5.7%

Hispanic / Latino origin

No 88.6% · Yes 11.4%

Household income

Under \$25k: 20.7% · \$25–49.9k: 22.1% · \$50–74.9k: 19.4% · \$75–99.9k: 14.2% · \$100–149.9k: 13.6% · \$150k+: 10.0%

Independent Center

Independent Center Voice

National Survey on Independent Candidates & the 2026 Midterms · Fielded July 13–14, 2026 · n = 1,000 U.S. adults · Margin of error ± 3.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Conducted online by AlphaROC on behalf of Independent Center / Independent Center Voice; invitations distributed randomly with demographic balances aligned to general population benchmarks. © 2026 Independent Center. All rights reserved.