



BREAKING
NEWS

NORC
at the
University of
Chicago

AMERICANS' PERCEPTIONS OF INFLUENCE OVER NEWS COVERAGE

Americans say the president has gained influence over what news organizations report in past year

Knight Foundation & NORC at the University of Chicago

Three Things You Should Know

About half of Americans think the president has gained influence over news coverage in the last year. Four in 10 Americans say the same about news organization owners.



Americans broadly agree that government pressure on news organizations is a problem.



More than one-third say that journalists and newsroom editors have less influence over what news organizations report than a year ago.



Americans perceive the president and news organization owners gaining influence over the news in the last year. At the same time, they say journalists and editors have less influence than a year ago.

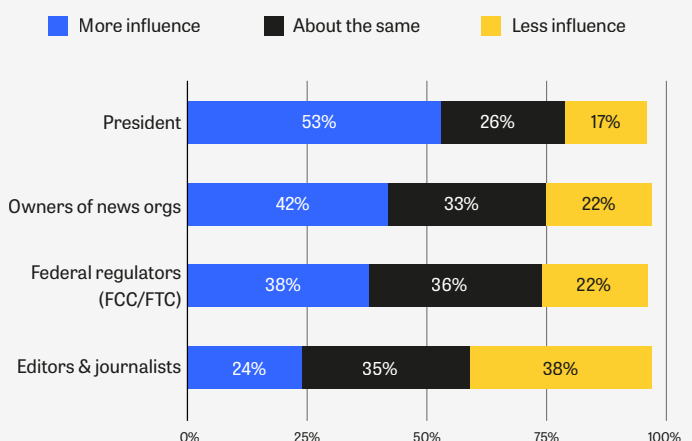
53% of Americans surveyed say the president's influence over news coverage has grown over the last year

Americans are divided on regulatory agencies:

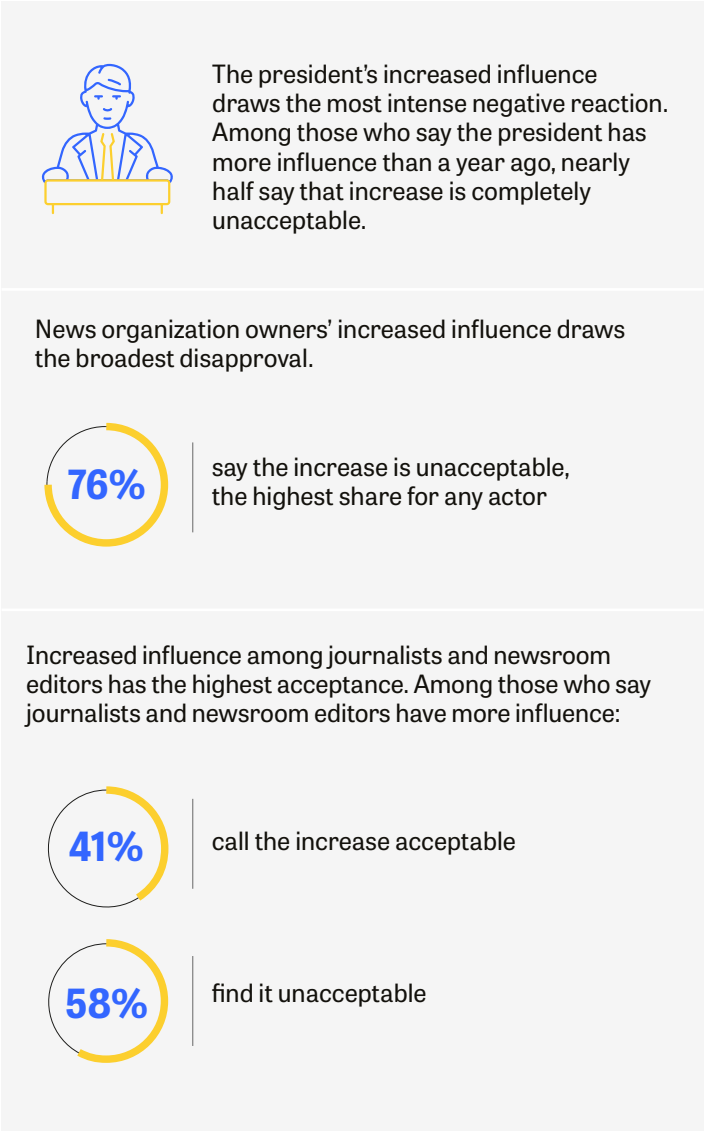
~ 4 in 10
say these agencies
have gained influence
over news coverage

36%
say their influence
is unchanged

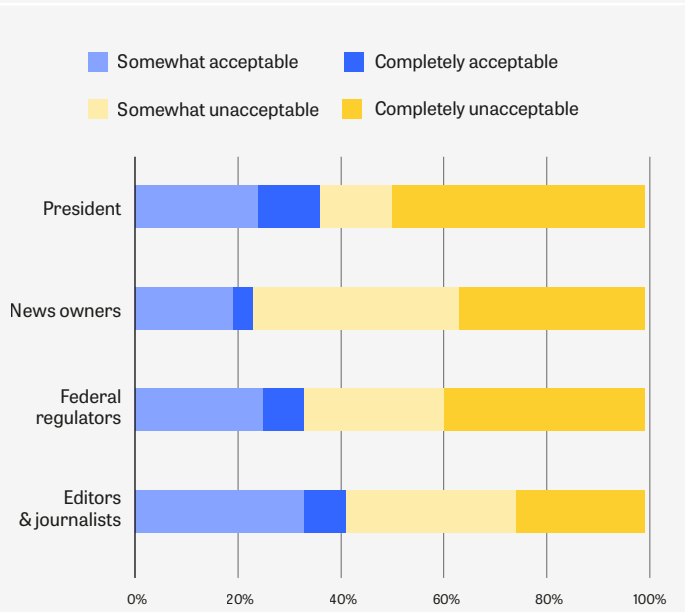
How has each actor's influence changed in the past year?



Most Americans who see increased influence view it as unacceptable, though the intensity varies by actor.



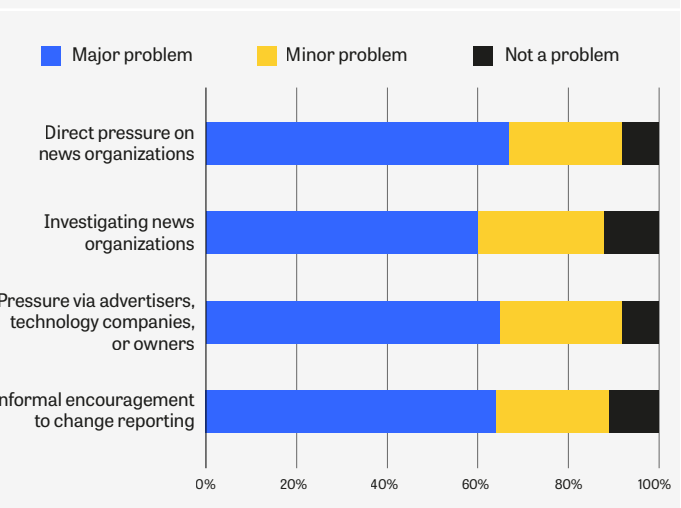
How acceptable is each actor's increased influence?



Across party lines, Americans see government pressure on news organizations as a problem.



How much of a problem is government pressure?



Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago with support from Knight Foundation. Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, and interviews were conducted between June 25 – 30 2026, with 1,086 adults age 18 and older via web and telephone in English and Spanish. The overall margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Additional information about the AmeriSpeak panel methodology is available at <https://amerispeak.norc.org/>