

GALLUP®

March 9, 2022

## **Gallup/Knight Foundation Media & Democracy Panel 2021**

Topline

**Q1: Do you think science and technology in recent years have developed at too fast, too slow, or just the right pace?**

	<b>Total</b>
Too slow	21%
Just the right pace	53%
Too fast	26%

**Q2: To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

**Q2A: I trust major technology companies.**

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly disagree	19%
Disagree	29%
Neither agree nor disagree	36%
Agree	15%
Strongly agree	2%

**Q2B: I trust the information I see on social media.**

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly disagree	41%
Disagree	36%
Neither agree nor disagree	21%
Agree	2%
Strongly agree	1%

**Q3: Many things are desirable, but not all of them are essential characteristics of the United States. Please indicate how essential you feel each of the following are to the United States.**

**Q3A: The government provides aid for those who need it.**

	<b>Total</b>
Not at all essential (1)	5%
(2)	12%
(3)	25%
(4)	23%
Absolutely essential (5)	35%

**Q3B: The government promotes a free and open market.**

	<b>Total</b>
Not at all essential (1)	4%
(2)	7%
(3)	25%
(4)	26%
Absolutely essential (5)	37%

**Q3C: People choose their leaders in free elections.**

	<b>Total</b>
Not at all essential (1)	2%
(2)	2%
(3)	6%
(4)	8%
Absolutely essential (5)	83%

**Q3D: All adult citizens enjoy the same legal and political rights.**

	<b>Total</b>
Not at all essential (1)	4%
(2)	4%
(3)	7%
(4)	10%
Absolutely essential (5)	76%

**Q3E: People are allowed to express political views freely.**

	<b>Total</b>
Not at all essential (1)	2%
(2)	3%
(3)	9%
(4)	20%
Absolutely essential (5)	67%

**Q3F: The government protects individuals' right to engage in peaceful protest.**

	<b>Total</b>
Not at all essential (1)	3%
(2)	3%
(3)	10%
(4)	16%
Absolutely essential (5)	68%

**Q3G: News organizations are free from government inference.**

	<b>Total</b>
Not at all essential (1)	5%
(2)	5%
(3)	14%
(4)	17%
Absolutely essential (5)	59%

**Q4: Thinking about the current state of our country, how much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:**

**Q4A: We have to be tough on troublemakers, if we are going to keep law and order.**

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly disagree	6%
Disagree	13%
Neither agree nor disagree	22%
Agree	33%
Strongly agree	27%

**Q4B: Even though we elect our leaders, a few people will always run things.**

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly disagree	5%
Disagree	12%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%
Agree	46%
Strongly agree	19%

**Q4C: Official government explanations of events cannot be trusted.**

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly disagree	4%
Disagree	21%
Neither agree nor disagree	32%
Agree	25%
Strongly agree	17%

**Q4D: Reports of events by the news media cannot be trusted.**

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly disagree	5%
Disagree	23%
Neither agree nor disagree	26%
Agree	21%
Strongly agree	25%

**Q4E: Elections are free and fair.**

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly disagree	15%
Disagree	25%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%
Agree	28%
Strongly agree	13%

**Q4F: All adult citizens have equal opportunity to vote.**

	<b>Total</b>
Strongly disagree	16%
Disagree	26%
Neither agree nor disagree	9%
Agree	22%
Strongly agree	27%

**Q4G: Political leaders generally share a common understanding of what is true, even when they disagree on policy.**

	Total
Strongly disagree	30%
Disagree	39%
Neither agree nor disagree	16%
Agree	12%
Strongly agree	3%

**Q4H: Political debate happens without questioning people’s patriotism.**

	Total
Strongly disagree	28%
Disagree	36%
Neither agree nor disagree	18%
Agree	13%
Strongly agree	5%

**[For Q5-Q14] Please read the following statements and indicate which of the following comes closer to your view: When it comes to social media companies and the content users post on their platforms ... [(1) Strongly describes my opinion; (2) Somewhat describes my opinion; (3) Neutral; (4) Somewhat describes my opinion; (5) Strongly describes my opinion]**

**Q5: Content regulation vs. moderation**

	Total
Social media companies should make their own policies, without government regulation, about what people can post on their websites and apps. (1-2)	36%
Neutral	26%
The government should regulate and enforce the way social media companies take down false or harmful content or ban users. (4-5)	38%

**Q6: Social media posting responsibility**

	Total
Social media users alone should be responsible for the content they post online. (1-2)	43%
Neutral	17%
Social media companies should be responsible for the content their users post online. (4-5)	40%

**Q7: False info responsibility**

	Total
Social media companies should identify information when it is false or misleading. (1-2)	57%
Neutral	11%
Individual users should be responsible for fact-checking content. (4-5)	32%

**Q8: Freedom of expression on social media**

	Total
People should have the freedom to say whatever they want online. (1-2)	34%
Neutral	13%
Social media companies should limit abusive or threatening language online. (4-5)	53%

**Q9: Fake news vs. censorship**

	Total
Fake news is a more serious problem than censorship online. (1-2)	60%
Neutral	15%
Censorship online is a more serious problem than fake news. (4-5)	25%

**Q10: Social media expression and political impact**

	Total
Expressing political views on social media has a significant impact on politics. (1-2)	58%
Neutral	23%
Expressing political views on social media doesn't have any real-world impact on politics. (4-5)	19%

**Q11: Social media anonymity**

	Total
People should have to provide proof of their identity when they create accounts on social media. (1-2)	54%
Neutral	24%
People shouldn't have to prove who they are when they create accounts on social media. (4-5)	22%

**Q12: Worry, censorship vs. fake news**

	Total
I'm worried about information online being removed or censored. (1-2)	31%
Neutral	16%
I'm worried about false and misleading information online. (4-5)	52%

**Q13: Social media anonymity consequences**

	Total
Being anonymous online allows people to freely express themselves on social media. (1-2)	20%
Neutral	19%
Being anonymous online makes it easier to post harmful or abusive content and bully people on social media. (4-5)	61%

**Q14: Tech companies' political stance**

	Total
Major technology companies should not take a position on political and social issues. (1-2)	49%
Neutral	24%
Major technology companies should be able to take a position on political and social issues. (4-5)	27%

**Q15: Do you think elected officials and political candidates are paying too much, the right amount, or too little attention to issues dealing with technology or technology companies?**

	Total
Too little	62%
Right amount	24%
Too much	14%

**Q16: How concerned are you about each of the following issues?**

**Q16A: The size and power of major technology companies**

	Total
Very concerned	37%
Somewhat concerned	45%
Not very concerned	14%
Not concerned at all	4%

**Q16B: The way major technology companies use your personal data**

	Total
Very concerned	62%
Somewhat concerned	30%
Not very concerned	6%
Not concerned at all	1%



**Q16C: The spread of misinformation online**

	<b>Total</b>
Very concerned	65%
Somewhat concerned	23%
Not very concerned	9%
Not concerned at all	3%

**Q16D: Hate speech and other abusive or threatening language online**

	<b>Total</b>
Very concerned	55%
Somewhat concerned	25%
Not very concerned	13%
Not concerned at all	7%

**Q16E: Online bullying**

	<b>Total</b>
Very concerned	54%
Somewhat concerned	28%
Not very concerned	12%
Not concerned at all	6%

**Q16F: Free speech online**

	<b>Total</b>
Very concerned	34%
Somewhat concerned	32%
Not very concerned	27%
Not concerned at all	6%

**Q16G: The tone of online interactions**

	<b>Total</b>
Very concerned	29%
Somewhat concerned	44%
Not very concerned	20%
Not concerned at all	7%

**Q17: How much, if any, bias do you believe there is in the social media you use most often?**

	<b>Total</b>
A great deal	40%
A fair amount	35%
Only a little	10%
None at all	2%
I don't use social media	13%

**Q18: To what extent does social media make the following easier or harder for you:**

**Q18A: Connecting with family and friends**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	35%
Easier	40%
Neither easier nor harder	23%
Harder	2%
Much harder	1%

**Q18B: Staying engaged with your local community**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	19%
Easier	46%
Neither easier nor harder	32%
Harder	2%
Much harder	1%

**Q18C: Connecting with people who share your interests or views**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	25%
Easier	46%
Neither easier nor harder	26%
Harder	2%
Much harder	1%

**Q18D: Finding information you need**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	23%
Easier	36%
Neither easier nor harder	31%
Harder	7%
Much harder	3%

**Q18E: Participating in politics**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	10%
Easier	25%
Neither easier nor harder	52%
Harder	8%
Much harder	5%

**Q18F: Voting**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	5%
Easier	13%
Neither easier nor harder	74%
Harder	5%
Much harder	3%

**Q18G: Freely expressing yourself**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	12%
Easier	31%
Neither easier nor harder	42%
Harder	8%
Much harder	6%

**Q19: To what extent does social media make the following easier or harder:**

**Q19A: Misinformation to spread**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	68%
Easier	21%
Neither easier nor harder	9%
Harder	1%
Much harder	1%

**Q19B: People saying things that they wouldn't say in person**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	77%
Easier	18%
Neither easier nor harder	4%
Harder	1%
Much harder	<1%

**Q19C: People harassing or threatening others**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	69%
Easier	23%
Neither easier nor harder	6%
Harder	1%
Much harder	<1%

**Q19D: People interfering with elections**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	47%
Easier	29%
Neither easier nor harder	22%
Harder	1%
Much harder	1%

**Q19E: People buying and selling goods and services**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	55%
Easier	37%
Neither easier nor harder	7%
Harder	<1%
Much harder	<1%

**Q19F: Extreme viewpoints to spread**

	<b>Total</b>
Much easier	64%
Easier	25%
Neither easier nor harder	10%
Harder	1%
Much harder	1%

**Q20: Which of the following concerns you more?**

	<b>Total</b>
The social media feed you see might be biased	24%
The social media feed other people see might be biased	55%
Neither concerns me	21%

**Q21: How much, if any, bias do you believe there is in the results of the search engine you use most often?**

	<b>Total</b>
A great deal	30%
A fair amount	38%
Only a little	23%
None at all	6%
I don't use search engines	3%

**Q22: Which of the following concerns you more?**

	<b>Total</b>
The results of your internet searches might be biased	37%
The results of other people's internet searches might be biased	36%
Neither concerns me	26%

**Q23: Thinking about the political divisions in this country, do you think that the internet does more to bring us together or divide us?**

	<b>Total</b>
Bring us together	7%
Divide us	71%
Neither	13%
Don't know	9%

**Q24: To what extent do you think the following have a positive or negative impact on people like you?**

**Q24A: Search engines**

	<b>Total</b>
Positive (4 "somewhat positive" – 5 "very positive")	33%
Neither positive nor negative (3)	46%
Negative (1 "very negative" – 2 "somewhat negative")	17%
I'm not familiar with this	3%

**Q24B: Social media**

	<b>Total</b>
Positive (4 "somewhat positive" – 5 "very positive")	19%
Neither positive nor negative (3)	25%
Negative (1 "very negative" – 2 "somewhat negative")	53%
I'm not familiar with this	3%

**Q24C: Personalized algorithms**

	<b>Total</b>
Positive (4 "somewhat positive" – 5 "very positive")	13%
Neither positive nor negative (3)	28%
Negative (1 "very negative" – 2 "somewhat negative")	48%
I'm not familiar with this	10%

**Q24D: Smart devices/Smart technology**

	<b>Total</b>
Positive (4 "somewhat positive" – 5 "very positive")	41%
Neither positive nor negative (3)	30%
Negative (1 "very negative" – 2 "somewhat negative")	25%
I'm not familiar with this	4%

**Q24E: NFTs (non-fungible tokens)**

	<b>Total</b>
Positive (4 “somewhat positive” – 5 “very positive”)	4%
Neither positive nor negative (3)	31%
Negative (1 “very negative” – 2 “somewhat negative”)	14%
I’m not familiar with this	51%

**Q24F: Section 230 of the Communications Decency Act**

	<b>Total</b>
Positive (4 “somewhat positive” – 5 “very positive”)	11%
Neither positive nor negative (3)	19%
Negative (1 “very negative” – 2 “somewhat negative”)	13%
I’m not familiar with this	57%

**Q24G: Targeted advertising**

	<b>Total</b>
Positive (4 “somewhat positive” – 5 “very positive”)	15%
Neither positive nor negative (3)	32%
Negative (1 “very negative” – 2 “somewhat negative”)	50%
I’m not familiar with this	3%

**Q24H: Cryptocurrency/Blockchain**

	<b>Total</b>
Positive (4 “somewhat positive” – 5 “very positive”)	12%
Neither positive nor negative (3)	37%
Negative (1 “very negative” – 2 “somewhat negative”)	21%
I’m not familiar with this	30%

**Q24I: Online content moderation**

	<b>Total</b>
Positive (4 “somewhat positive” – 5 “very positive”)	23%
Neither positive nor negative (3)	34%
Negative (1 “very negative” – 2 “somewhat negative”)	29%
I’m not familiar with this	15%

**Q25: In the last 12 months, how often have you done each of the following:**

**Q25A: Sent an email or a social media post to a national, state, or local government official**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	3%
Weekly	2%
A few times a month	9%
Rarely	34%
Never	46%
Not applicable/I don't use this	6%

**Q25B: Donated money online or via text message to a political candidate, party, or issue**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	<1%
Weekly	1%
A few times a month	6%
Rarely	28%
Never	58%
Not applicable/I don't use this	7%

**Q25C: Created, shared, or signed an online petition**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	1%
Weekly	2%
A few times a month	10%
Rarely	46%
Never	37%
Not applicable/I don't use this	5%

**Q25D: Volunteered to help online with a political cause or a candidate's campaign**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	<1%
Weekly	1%
A few times a month	3%
Rarely	15%
Never	74%
Not applicable/I don't use this	7%



**Q25E: Started a political or cause-related group on social media**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	<1%
Weekly	1%
A few times a month	1%
Rarely	5%
Never	83%
Not applicable/I don't use this	9%

**Q25F: Followed a politician on social media**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	6%
Weekly	6%
A few times a month	15%
Rarely	32%
Never	35%
Not applicable/I don't use this	7%

**Q25G: Shared your political opinion on social media**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	4%
Weekly	6%
A few times a month	12%
Rarely	34%
Never	37%
Not applicable/I don't use this	7%

**Q25H: Shared political information posted by others on social media**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	4%
Weekly	5%
A few times a month	13%
Rarely	28%
Never	43%
Not applicable/I don't use this	7%

**Q25I: Used a political hashtag**

	Total
Daily	<1%
Weekly	1%
A few times a month	3%
Rarely	13%
Never	71%
Not applicable/I don't use this	12%

**Q25J: Liked a post about politics on social media**

	Total
Daily	9%
Weekly	10%
A few times a month	18%
Rarely	28%
Never	28%
Not applicable/I don't use this	7%

**Q26: Thinking about political and social debates between people on social media, would you say they have made you more or less likely to ...**

**Q26A: Spend time with family**

	Total
More likely	13%
Neither	69%
Less likely	18%

**Q26B: Spend time with friends**

	Total
More likely	16%
Neither	72%
Less likely	12%

**Q26C: Post about political and social issues on your social media account(s)**

	Total
More likely	20%
Neither	45%
Less likely	35%

**Q26D: Spend time with your neighbors**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	6%
Neither	79%
Less likely	15%

**Q26E: Join community or social groups in your area**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	15%
Neither	69%
Less likely	16%

**Q26F: Use social media**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	17%
Neither	51%
Less likely	32%

**Q26G: Follow the news**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	39%
Neither	39%
Less likely	22%

**Q26H: Contact a national, state, or local government official about an issue**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	29%
Neither	58%
Less likely	14%

**Q26I: Volunteer to help online with a political cause or a candidate's campaign**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	13%
Neither	66%
Less likely	20%

**Q26J: Vote**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	48%
Neither	48%
Less likely	4%

**Q26K: Go to a protest**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	25%
Neither	53%
Less likely	22%

**Q26L: Donate to social causes**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	30%
Neither	53%
Less likely	17%

**Q26M: Donate to political candidates**

	<b>Total</b>
More likely	21%
Neither	56%
Less likely	23%

**Q33: How often do you use the internet?**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	92%
Weekly	3%
A few times a month	1%
Rarely	1%

**Q34: Please name the top two to three news sources you use. Be as specific as possible. [Write-in]**

*Top listed news sources combined across the two or three listed.*

	<b>Combined Total</b>
Other	28%
Local news	23%
CNN	21%
Fox News	19%
Radio	14%
New York Times	12%
NBC	8%
MSNBC	8%
ABC	7%
Google	7%
BBC	6%
CBS	6%
Washington Post	6%
Newsmax	5%
Newspapers	4%
AP	3%
TV	3%
Facebook	3%
Wall Street Journal	3%
Yahoo	3%

*Displaying all listed news sources above 3%.*

**Q35: How frequently are you using these news sources?**

	<b>Total</b>
Daily	68%
Weekly	17%
A few times a month	6%
Rarely	8%

**Q36: Please name the top two to three websites or apps you use. Be as specific as possible. [Write-in]**

*Top listed websites and apps combined across the two or three listed.*

	<b>Combined Total</b>
Facebook	28%
Google	21%
Instagram	14%
YouTube	13%
News	12%
Twitter	9%
Email	8%
Reddit	7%
Amazon	6%
Yahoo	5%
TikTok	4%
CNN	3%
Fox	3%
New York Times	3%
Apple	2%
MSN	2%
Snapchat	2%
Weather	2%

*Displaying all websites and apps above 2%.*

**Q37-39: For what purposes do you use [website/apps, Q36]? Please select all that apply.**

*This question was asked separate for each individual website/app listed by the respondent. Reported here are the compiled results across the two to three questions.*

	<b>Combined Total</b>
Connecting with friends and family and community	33%
Staying current on the news	48%
Searching for information	43%
Entertainment	47%