

CATO0014

August 2021



Sample 2000 Genpop Adults (18+)
Conducted August 11 – 16, 2021
Margin of Error ±2.5%

1. For each of the following business sectors in the United States, please indicate whether your overall view of it is positive, neutral, or negative.

	Very positive	Somewhat positive	Neutral	Somewhat negative	Very negative
Internet Industry	7%	22%	35%	22%	14%
Computer industry	11%	29%	42%	13%	6%
The federal government	5%	17%	25%	23%	31%
Pharmaceutical industry	6%	16%	27%	26%	26%
Healthcare industry	11%	26%	26%	21%	16%
Grocery industry	14%	36%	38%	8%	3%
Banking industry	6%	20%	36%	21%	17%

2. Do you ever use social media sites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Snapchat or YouTube etc.?

Yes 88%
No 12%

3. Do you currently have accounts for any of the following? (Select all that apply)

Has an account - Facebook	76%
Has an account - Instagram	45%
Has an account - Twitter	39%
Has an account - YouTube	57%
Has an account - Snapchat	20%
Has an account - LinkedIn	27%
Has an account - TikTok	18%
Has an account - Parler	5%
Has an account - Reddit	18%
Has an account - Gab	2%
Has an account - Mastodon	0%
Has an account - Odysee	1%
Has an account - None of these	8%

4. How often do you use social media sites like Facebook, Twitter, or YouTube?

Several times a day	53%
Once a day	17%
Nearly every day	6%
A few times a week	8%
Every now and then	5%
Rarely or never	11%

5. Overall, when you add up all the advantages and disadvantages of social media, would you say that social media has mostly been a good thing or a bad thing for...

	Good thing	Bad thing
Society	42%	58%
You personally	67%	33%

6. Have you ever blocked, unfriended, or stopped following someone on a social networking site because of what they posted about politics or science?

Yes	50%
No	40%
Do not have a social network account	10%

7. Have you ever reported another user or user's post to a social networking company, such as Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube, for offensive speech or sharing false information? Select all that apply.

Yes, have done this	33%
No, have not done this	57%
Do not have a social network account	10%

8. Have you, or someone you know, ever shared a post or article on a social media platform, such as on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter, that was reported, flagged, or removed by the company? Select all that apply.

Had a post/article reported or removed - Yes, personally	19%
Had a post/article reported or removed - Yes, someone I know	28%
Had a post/article reported or removed - No	49%
Had a post/article reported or removed - No social media account	11%

9. Have you, or someone you know, ever had a social media account suspended, such as on Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter? Select all that apply.

Account suspended before - Yes, personally	11%
Account suspended before - Yes, someone I know	28%
Account suspended before - No	56%
Account suspended before - No social media account	10%

10. When social media companies like Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter delete or flag users' posts or accounts, do you think most of those decisions are primarily made by company employees or computer programs?

Company employees	22%
Computers	25%
Both were involved equally	53%

11. When a social media company like Facebook, Instagram, or Twitter suspends or bans a user from their account for violating platform rules, do you think the company should allow the person to appeal the decision to request their account back or not?

Yes	80%
No	20%

12. Based on what you know or have heard, do social media companies like Facebook and Twitter go too far or not far enough monitoring the content of what people post on it, or is it doing a good job?

Going too far	40%
Not going far enough	41%
Doing a good job	19%

13. Do you think social networking sites like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and YouTube have too many rules, not enough rules, or the appropriate amount of rules around what people can and cannot say and share on their platforms?

Too many rules	36%
Appropriate amount of rules	39%
Not enough rules	26%

14. Do you trust social media companies to make fair decisions about what information is allowed to be posted on their platforms, or not?

Yes, trust	25%
No, do not trust	75%

15. Do you think social media companies like Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube should use the First Amendment as a standard for content moderation or should the companies determine their own rules about what can be posted on their sites?

Use First Amendment as standard	58%
Companies should set their own rules	42%

16. In your view, how should social media companies like Facebook and Twitter handle the following kinds of things users could post to the platform? A post that...

	Leave it, do nothing	Place a warning label on the post	Reduce how many people can see the post	Permanently remove the post	Suspend the person's account
Shares videos of American flag burnings	37%	25%	6%	18%	15%
Shares pornography	7%	23%	7%	27%	37%
Says the Covid-19 vaccine is dangerous	41%	25%	7%	15%	11%
Says the Covid-19 vaccine has adverse side effects	41%	31%	9%	13%	6%
Says masks don't work	45%	21%	6%	17%	10%
Recommends people drink bleach to treat covid	10%	20%	5%	36%	30%
Says the Holocaust did not occur	19%	15%	5%	30%	30%
Says children shouldn't receive routine vaccinations for diseases like measles and mumps	34%	30%	7%	19%	10%
Says climate change is not happening	44%	24%	9%	15%	8%
Says that all illegal immigrants should be deported	50%	18%	7%	16%	9%
Says that transgender people have a mental disorder	38%	14%	6%	22%	21%
Will not use a transgender person's preferred pronouns in their posts and comments	48%	17%	11%	11%	13%
Says the average IQ of whites and Asians is higher than that of blacks	48%	17%	11%	11%	13%

17. If you had to choose, would you rather social media companies:

- Do more to give users more choice and control over what kinds of speech they see in their own news feed 60%
- Do more to reduce all users' exposure to see speech identified as offensive or misinformation across the platform 40%

18. Do you think social media companies like Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter should remove false information users post to their platforms?

- Yes 63%
- No 37%

19. How should social media companies handle false or misleading information shared on their platforms?

- Let it be, do nothing 22%
- Add a warning label to the post 34%
- Reduce how many people see the post in their newsfeeds 6%
- Ban and remove the post or article from the site altogether 38%

20. For each of the following things a person could say or post on a social networking site, would you say it is false information, is up for debate, or is correct information:

	This is definitely false information	This is probably false information	This is up for debate	This is probably true information	This is definitely true information
The 2020 election was stolen	44%	9%	22%	8%	16%
The world is going to end in 12 years if we don't address climate change	45%	19%	26%	5%	5%
Climate change isn't happening	48%	8%	26%	8%	10%
Climate change is a problem, but it's not a catastrophe	24%	12%	42%	16%	6%
Drinking bleach should be used to treat covid-19	88%	3%	6%	2%	1%
Hunter Biden sold access to his father Joe Biden to a foreign company	23%	21%	25%	15%	16%
Children should not have to wear masks in school	29%	12%	37%	7%	15%
Masks don't work	44%	9%	27%	8%	11%
Covid-19 vaccines are dangerous	33%	16%	31%	9%	11%
Covid-19 vaccines have no risks	36%	15%	35%	11%	3%
Covid-19 vaccines have adverse side effects	14%	11%	36%	19%	21%
You won't get Covid-19 if you get the vaccine	46%	14%	28%	8%	4%
Democrats changed the vote tallies in 2020 to help Joe Biden win	41%	11%	20%	9%	19%
Russia changed the vote tallies in 2016 to help Donald Trump					

21. What worries you more:

- That social media companies won't do enough to stop the spread of false or misleading information46%
- That social media companies will censor truthful or legitimate debate and opinion from their platforms54%

22. If you had to choose, would you rather social media companies do more to:

- Stop misinformation from being shared, even if doing so accidentally censored truthful information and legitimate debate 44%
- Ensure they avoid censoring truthful information and legitimate debate, even if that meant false information would be shared 56%

23. Do you think social media companies like Facebook and Twitter are mainly responsible for people choosing not to get vaccinated against Covid-19?

- Yes30%
- No70%

24. Do you favor or oppose Facebook fact-checking some articles that users post to their profiles?

- Strongly favor37%
- Somewhat favor 27%
- Somewhat oppose 14%
- Strongly oppose 22%

25. In your opinion, who should decide what is false information instead of legitimate speech and debate?

- Social media companies 11%
- Third-party fact-checkers46%
- The government 5%
- None of these 38%

26. If someone appeals a fact-checker’s decision to label an article false or misleading, should the same fact-checker decide if their original decision was correct, or should another fact-checker decide?

Same fact-checker	15%
Different fact-checker	85%

27. Do you think Facebook’s fact-checkers are fair and objective in their analysis of what information is true or false, or do they allow their own political opinions to impact their analysis?

Fair and objective	37%
Allow political opinions to impact	63%

28. Do you think social media platforms exert too much influence, too little influence, or about the right level of influence on what political news people read?

Too much influence	65%
Too little influence	10%
About the right level of influence	25%

29. Do you think social media companies’ rules about what people can and can’t say on their sites are biased against Democrats?

Yes	17%
No	83%

30. Do you think social media companies’ rules about what people can and can’t say on their sites are biased against Republicans?

Yes	44%
No	56%

31. Do you think social media companies' rules about what people can and can't say on their sites are biased against racial minorities?

Yes 28%
No 72%

32. Do you think employees at social media companies like Facebook and Twitter allow their own political opinions to influence how they write and enforce the rules about what users can say and share on their platforms?

Definitely yes 37%
Probably yes 38%
Probably no 19%
Definitely no 6%

33. In your opinion, should people be able to sue social media companies for things other users post on these companies' social media platforms?

Yes 33%
No 67%

34. Do you think the government should increase, decrease, or not change its regulation of technology companies such as Facebook, Google, and Amazon?

Increase 50%
Decrease 12%
Not change 39%

35. Do you think Congress should or should not regulate large social media companies to limit potential political bias?

Should 55%
Should not 45%

36. Do you think Congress should or should not regulate large social media companies to limit the spread of false information?

Should	56%
Should not	44%

37. Do you favor or oppose the government punishing social media companies like Facebook if they don't stop people from saying or sharing things the government classifies as health misinformation?

Strongly favor	22%
Somewhat favor	29%
Somewhat oppose	21%
Strongly oppose	27%

38. Do you favor or oppose the government punishing social media companies like Facebook if they don't stop people from saying or sharing things the government classifies as hate speech?

Strongly favor	26%
Somewhat favor	28%
Somewhat oppose	21%
Strongly oppose	25%

39. Do you favor or oppose the government punishing social media companies like Facebook if they aren't politically neutral?

Strongly favor	25%
Somewhat favor	26%
Somewhat oppose	28%
Strongly oppose	20%

40. Who do you think will do a better job determining what rules social media companies, like Facebook and Twitter, should use about what users are allowed to say or share:

Government regulators	42%
The companies and their employees	58%

41. Which worries you more:

The spread of false or misleading information on social media platforms like Facebook and Twitter	38%
Giving the federal government the power to restrict what people are allowed to say or share on social media	62%

42. Do you think lawmakers and regulators understand technology and technology companies well enough to regulate them wisely?

Yes, understand enough	27%
No, don't understand enough	73%

43. Do you think business employers should or should not discipline their employees for posting controversial or offensive opinions on social media accounts like Facebook and Twitter?

Should	49%
Should not	51%

44. How concerned are you that something you post on a social media account, like Facebook, may cause problems for you at work or school?

Very concerned	12%
Somewhat concerned	18%
Not that concerned	24%
Not at all concerned	45%

45. Do you think social media companies have too much influence over the outcome of national elections or not?

Yes	63%
No	37%

46. Do you think social media companies are trying to block President Biden’s political agenda, help President Biden pass his political agenda, or are the platforms acting in an unbiased manner?

Trying to block Biden’s agenda	12%
Trying to pass Biden’s agenda	45%
Acting in an unbiased manner	43%

47. As you may know, after the January 6th storming of the Capitol, Twitter and Facebook suspended President Trump’s accounts. Do you agree or disagree with this decision?

Strongly agree	44%
Somewhat agree	11%
Somewhat disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	36%

48. Did Facebook and Twitter’s banning of Donald Trump from their services make you feel like your account was more likely to be suspended, less likely to be suspended, or have no impact on the likelihood of your account being suspended?

More likely to be suspended	23%
Less likely to be suspended	6%
No impact on being suspended	70%

49. In your view, did Facebook and Twitter violate the First Amendment when they banned Donald Trump from their platforms?

Yes	42%
No	58%

50. In your view, did Facebook and Twitter violate Donald Trump’s free speech rights when they banned Trump from their platforms?

Yes	45%
No	55%

51. How concerned are you about each of the following occurring on social networking sites like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube?

	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	A little concerned	Not that concerned
People being harassed or bullied	33%	22%	24%	9%	13%
The spread of misinformation	38%	18%	20%	8%	15%
People engaging in hate speech	31%	19%	22%	11%	17%
Radicalization of terrorists, white supremacists causing violence	36%	17%	18%	9%	21%
Censoring of truthful information and debate	39%	17%	21%	10%	14%
Bias against conservatives	29%	12%	17%	8%	33%
Bias against liberals	12%	9%	20%	11%	47%
Bias against racial minorities	23%	16%	21%	12%	28%

52. In the past 7 days, how often have you...

	Rarely or none of the time (less than 1 day)	Some or a little of the time (1-2 days)	Occasionally or a moderate amount of time (3-4 days)	Most or all of the time (5-7 days)
Felt nervous, anxious or on edge?	49%	25%	14%	11%
Felt depressed?	56%	19%	13%	11%

53. Has a doctor or other healthcare provider ever told you that you have a mental health condition?

Yes	25%
No	75%

54. Would you describe yourself as libertarian, or not?

Yes	10%
No	67%
Not Sure	22%

55. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Democrat	34%
Republican	31%
Independent	26%
Other	4%
Not sure	4%

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Strong Democrat	24%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Strong Republican	22%
Not very strong Republican	10%
Lean Democrat	9%
Lean Republican	7%
Independent	16%
Not sure	2%
Don't know	-

57. Which of the following best describes your current employment status?

Full-time	35%
Part-time	12%
Temporarily laid off	1%
Unemployed	10%
Retired	21%
Permanently disabled	7%
Homemaker	7%
Student	5%
Other	2%

58. What is your marital status?

Married	44%
Separated	2%
Divorced	10%
Widowed	5%
Single	34%
Domestic partnership	5%

59. How would you describe the place where you live?

City	29%
Suburb	37%
Town	15%
Rural area	18%
Other	0%

60. Census Region

Northeast	17%
Midwest	21%
South	38%
West	24%

61. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?

Yes	22%
No	78%

62. Education

HS or Less	39%
Some College	31%
College Grad	30%

63. News Interest

Most of the time	48%
Some of the time	27%
Only now and then	12%
Hardly at all	13%

64. Ideology

Lib	33%
Mod	30%
Con	37%

65. Presidential Vote

Clinton	48%
Trump	45%
Other	6%

66. Presidential Vote 2020

Biden	51%
Trump	48%
Other	2%

67. 2020 Turnout

Yes	87%
No	13%

68. Income

LT \$30k	29%
\$30-\$60k	29%
\$60-\$100k	24%
\$100-\$150k	12%
\$150k+	6%