

FOR RELEASE SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

In Views of U.S. Democracy, Widening Partisan Divides Over Freedom to Peacefully Protest

Majority of Americans say significant changes are needed in the 'fundamental design and structure of American government'

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RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, September, 2020, "In Views of U.S. Democracy, Widening Partisan Divides Over Freedom to Peacefully Protest"

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand Americans' views of democracy in the United States today. For this analysis, we conducted an online survey of 11,001 U.S. adults between July 27 and Aug. 2, 2020.

Everyone who took part is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#). Here are the [questions used for this report](#), along with responses, and its [methodology](#).

In Views of U.S. Democracy, Widening Partisan Divides Over Freedom to Peacefully Protest

Majority of Americans say significant changes are needed in the ‘fundamental design and structure of American government’

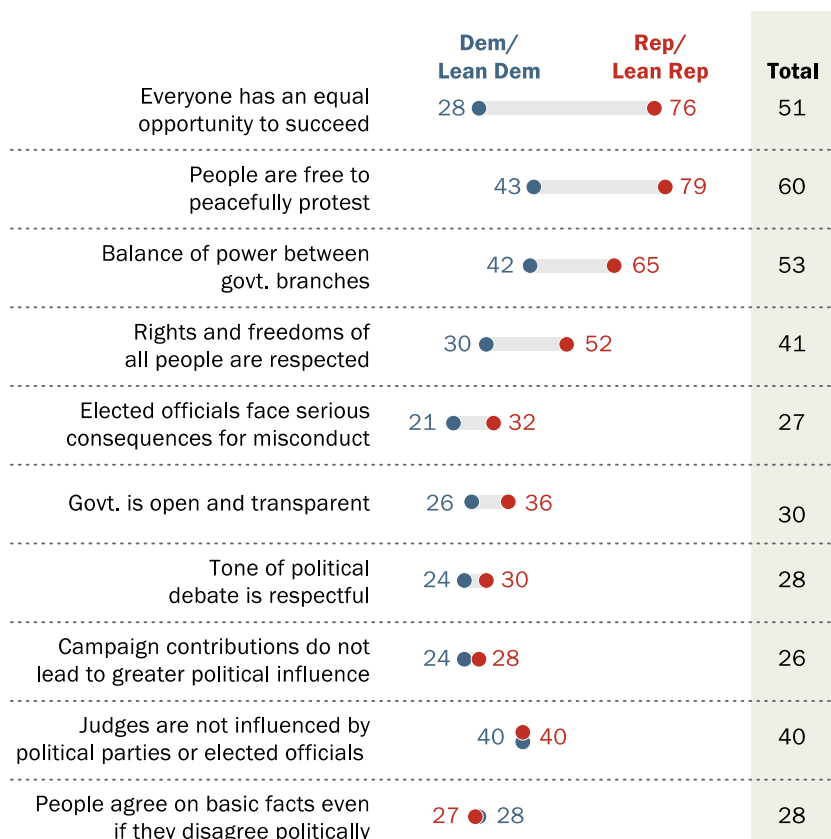
In assessing the state of U.S. democracy, Americans continue to give their country negative ratings for living up to several key democratic ideals and principles. And in some cases, these assessments have turned less positive since 2018.

Notably, the share of Americans who say the phrase “people are free to peacefully protest” describes the United States very or somewhat well has fallen from 73% to 60%, with the decline coming almost entirely among Democrats.

As was the case in Pew Research Center’s [2018 study of U.S. democracy](#), large majorities of Americans agree on the importance of a number of democratic principles – including that the rights and freedoms of all people are respected, that elected officials face serious consequences for misconduct and that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed.

Americans have negative views of many aspects of the political system; Democrats are particularly skeptical

% who say each describes the country very/somewhat well



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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However, there continue to be sizable gaps between the shares of Americans who say these principles are very important and the shares saying the U.S. is doing well in living up to them. And fewer Americans see some principles as very important – notably, including the freedom to peacefully protest – than did so two years ago.

(NOTE: This survey examines the public’s views of several core democratic ideals and principles, including the freedom to peacefully protest. It was *not* designed to ask about reactions to specific events, including the current protests against police violence occurring in a number of cities. [In June, following the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police officers](#), Republicans and Democrats had very different views of the demonstrations to protest Floyd’s death.)

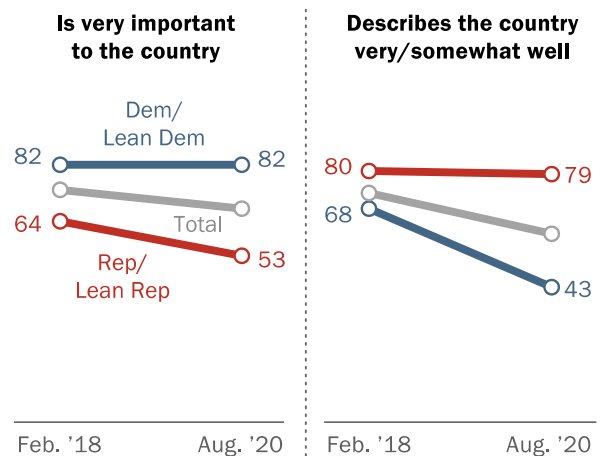
Among the public overall, 68% say it is very important for the country that people are free to peacefully protest, down from 74% two years ago. In this case, the decline has come entirely among Republicans. Only about half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (53%) say it is *very* important for the country that people are free to peacefully protest, while 33% say this is somewhat important; 13% say it is not too or not at all important. Two years ago, 64% of Republicans said that it was very important that people are free to protest peacefully.

Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, there has been no change in views in the importance of being able to protest peacefully: 82% currently say this is very important, and the same share said this two years ago. As a result, the current 36 percentage point partisan gap in the shares saying peaceful protest is very important is twice as wide as it was in early 2018 (18 points). On a similar question from a Pew Research Center [telephone survey conducted in the weeks before the 2016 election](#), the share of Democrats saying people having the right to nonviolent protest was very important for maintaining a strong democracy was 17 points higher than among Republicans.

As a result, Democrats have become far less likely to say the U.S. is doing well in allowing peaceful protests, while continuing to say this is a very important principle. Among Republicans, by

Partisan divides on ‘peaceful protest’ grow larger

% who say that ‘people are free to peacefully protest’...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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contrast, a large majority continues to say the U.S. does well in allowing such protests, but a declining share says this is very important to the country than did so two years ago.

These are among the findings of the survey of views of U.S. democracy and the political system, conducted July 27-Aug. 2 among 11,001 U.S. adults on Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel. The survey also finds:

Majority says significant changes are needed in structure of government. A 62% majority of the public says that significant changes are needed in the fundamental design and structure of American government to make it work for current times; 37% say the design and structure of government serves the country well, and significant changes are not needed. While views among the public overall have changed little since 2018, Democrats and Republicans have moved further apart in their opinions.

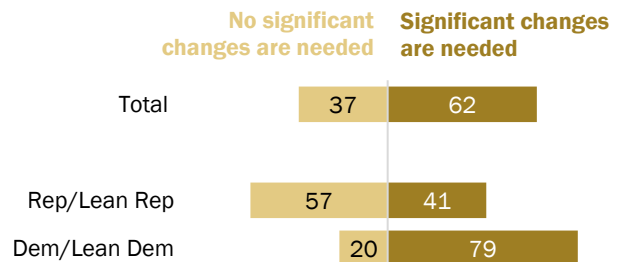
Currently, 79% of Democrats say significant changes in the structure of government are needed, compared with 41% of Republicans.

Fewer than half of Americans say the rights and freedoms of all are respected. An overwhelming share of Americans (85%) say it is very important that the rights and freedoms of all people are respected. Yet only 41% say this describes the country very well (10%) or somewhat well (30%). Republicans (52%) are more likely than Democrats (30%) to say this describes the country well; among members of both parties, however, fewer say this than did so two years ago.

Declining share of Americans view respectful political debates as very important. Slightly more than half of adults (54%) say it is very important that the tone of political debate is respectful, down from 61% two years ago. The shift has come about equally among Republicans and Democrats. Few people in either party (30% of Republicans, 24% of Democrats) think this description – the tone of political debates is respectful – describes the country well.

Wide partisan gap on whether design of U.S. govt. needs 'significant changes'

Thinking about the fundamental design and structure of American government, % who say ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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Sharp decline in share of Democrats who say ‘people are free to peacefully protest’ describes this country well

Republicans and Democrats differ widely in evaluations of some aspects of the U.S. political system. But for many others, members of both parties give the country low ratings.

For example, just 27% of Republicans and 28% of Democrats say the phrase “people agree on basic facts even though they disagree politically” describes the country very or somewhat well. The shares expressing this view have declined modestly in both parties since 2018.

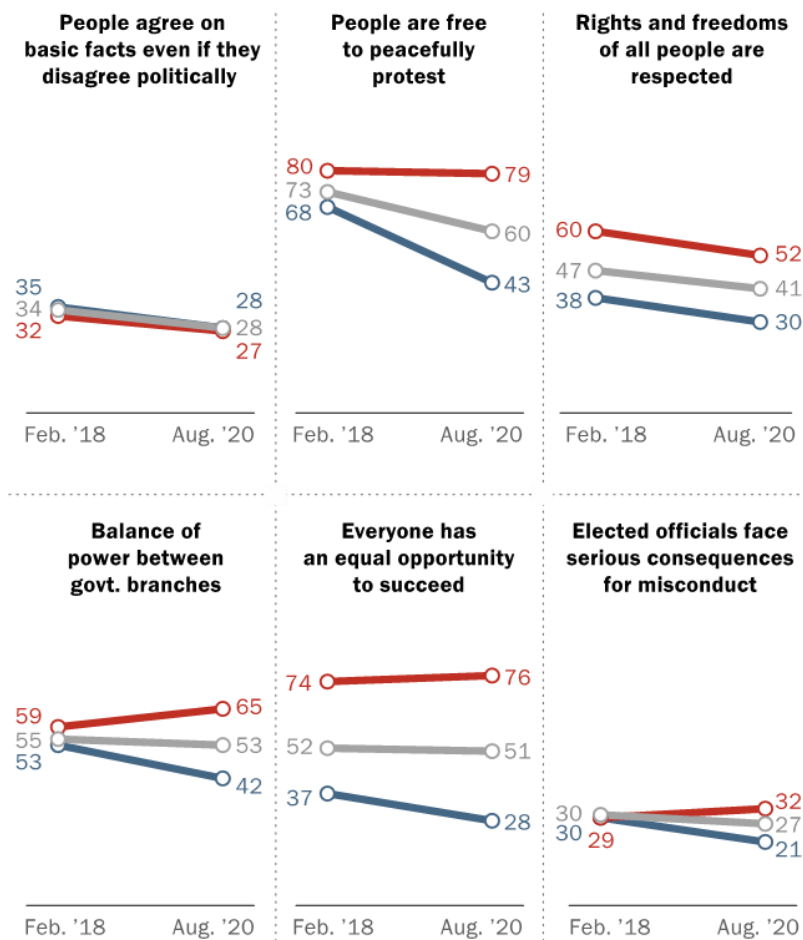
Small shares of Republicans (28%) and Democrats (24%) also say the phrase “people who give a lot of money to elected officials *do not* have more political influence than other people” describes the country well.

Yet there are substantial differences on other items: On 10 items included in the survey, the widest gaps are on whether “everyone has an equal opportunity succeed” (76% of Republicans say this describes the U.S. well, compared with 28% of Democrats) and “people are free to peacefully protest” (79% of Republicans, 43% of Democrats).

Democrats and Republicans move further apart in evaluations of U.S. democratic performance in several areas – especially on freedom to protest peacefully

% who say each describes the country *very/somewhat well*

— Total — Rep/Lean Rep — Dem/Lean Dem



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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And the partisan differences on these items – especially on the freedom to protest peacefully— have widened since 2018. Two years ago, majorities in both parties (80% of Republicans, 68% of Democrats) said people had the right to peacefully protest; since then, the share of Democrats saying this describes the country well has declined 25 percentage points, while remaining largely unchanged among Republicans. The partisan gap on this item has increased to 36 points – three times what it was two years ago.

The share of Democrats who say everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed – already low, at 37% in 2018 – has fallen 9 points to 28%. Republicans’ views are largely unchanged since then (74% then, 76% now).

Democrats and Republicans also have moved further apart in their views of the balance of power between branches of government. In 2018, majorities of Republicans (59%) and Democrats (53%) said the phrase “the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government each keep the others from having too much power” describes the U.S. very or somewhat well. Today, 65% of Republicans express this view – a 6-point increase since 2018. The share of Democrats saying this has fallen 9 points to 42%.

There has been a decline in the shares of *both* Republicans and Democrats who say the phrase “the rights and freedoms of all people are respected” describes the country well. Just 52% of Republicans say the rights of all people are respected, down from 60% two years ago. Even fewer Democrats say this (30%), and there has been an 8-point decline since 2018.

Since 2018, Democrats’ evaluations of how well the U.S. is doing in living up to its democratic principles have declined on seven of 10 items. In contrast, Republicans’ perceptions of U.S. democratic performance have remained about the same – or become more positive – on eight of the 10 items.

Across all 10 items, the average partisan gap in evaluations of democratic performance was about 9 percentage points in 2018. Across the same 10 items today, that gap is now 16 points.

Fewer than a third of Americans say politicians face consequences for misconduct and that money *doesn't* buy greater political influence

Looking at the public's evaluations of how well the nation is doing upholding democratic ideals, the overall picture is largely negative.

Clear majorities say the country is doing well in only two areas: People are free to peacefully protest (60% say this describes the country very or somewhat well), and the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government keep one another from having too much power (53%).

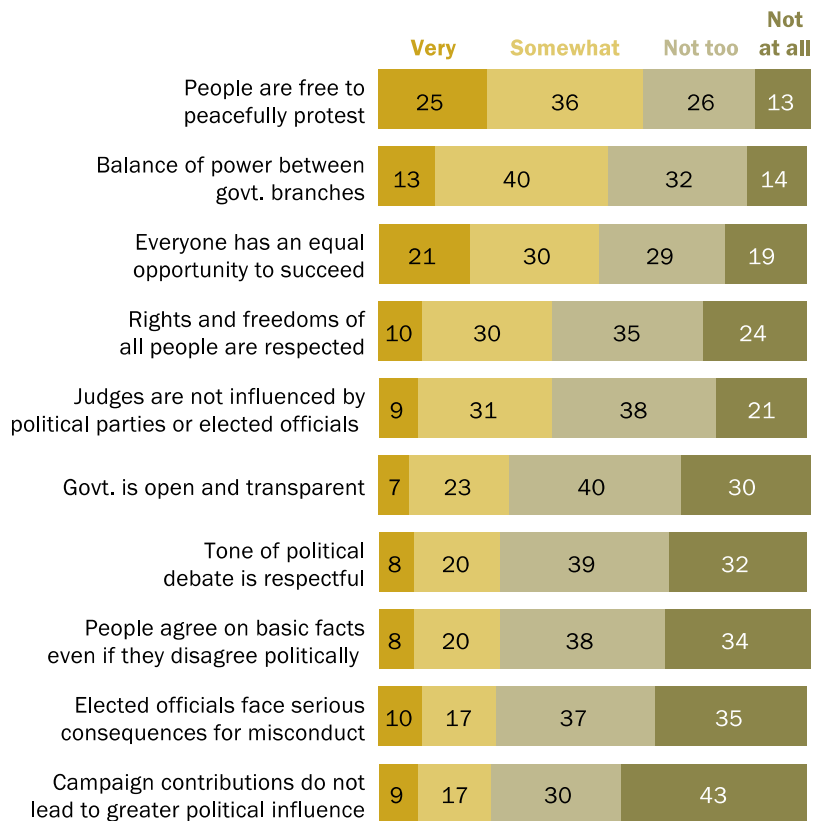
About half say everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed (51%), while almost as many (48%) say this does not describe the country well.

In six other areas, majorities of Americans say the country is not doing well. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) say the phrase "the rights and freedoms of all people are respected" describes the country not too well or not at all well.

Even larger majorities say the country is not performing well when it comes to the government being open and transparent (69% say this does not describe the country well), the tone of political debate being respectful (72%), people agreeing on basic facts even if they disagree politically (72%), elected officials facing serious consequences for misconduct

Public broadly critical of numerous aspects of political system, from govt. transparency to campaign funding

% who say each of the following describes the country ___ well



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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(73%) and that campaign contributions do not lead to greater political influence (also 73%).

Views of the influence of campaign donations are especially negative. About four-in-ten (43%) say the idea that campaign contributions do not result in greater political influence describes the U.S. “not at all well” – the highest share among the 10 items included in the survey.

Views of the importance of democratic values and principles

The public places great importance on a broad range of democratic ideals and principles. Across most of the 10 democratic values asked about in the survey – including respecting the rights of all, ensuring that governmental branches keep one another from having too much power, and ensuring elected officials face serious consequences for misconduct – large majorities say these are *very* important for the country.

In all cases, overwhelming shares say these values are *very* or *somewhat* important; few Americans say they are not too or not at all important.

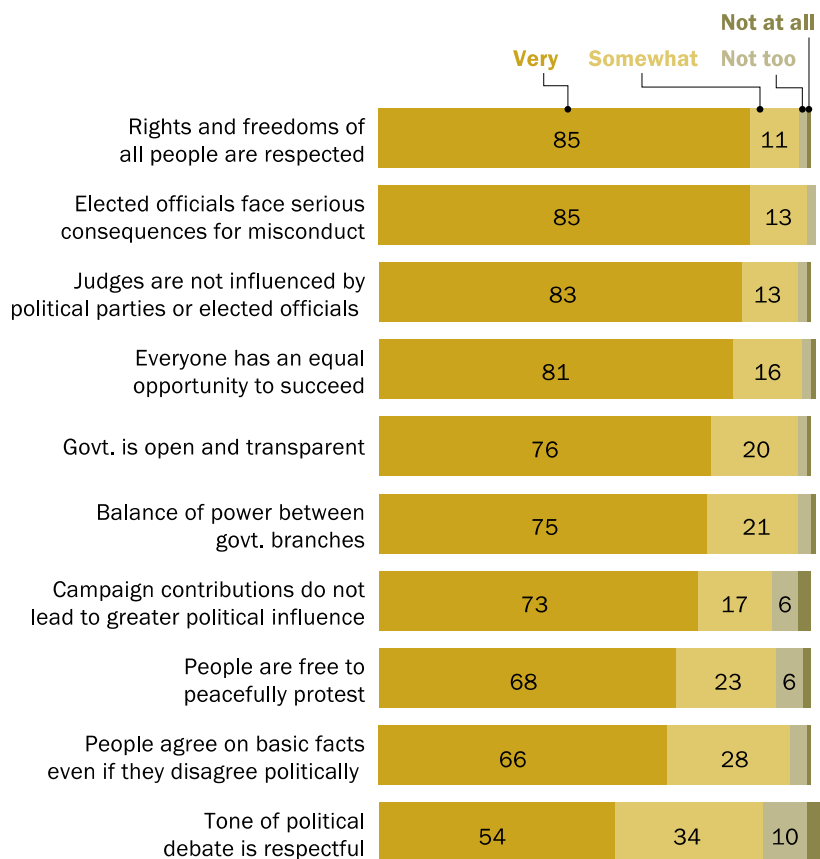
However, there is considerable variance in the shares saying each is very important.

Overwhelming majorities say it is very important that rights and freedoms of all people are respected (85%) and that elected officials face serious consequences for misconduct (also 85%).

Large majorities of adults also say it's very important that judges are not influenced by political parties or elected officials (83%), everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed (81%), government conducts its work openly and transparently (76%), and that the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government keep each other from having too much power (75%).

Sizable majorities say several democratic values and principles are 'very important' for the country

% who say it is ___ important for the country that ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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Compared with the other principles, people place less importance on respectful political debate (54% say this is very important). Still, a large majority says this is at least somewhat important (87%).

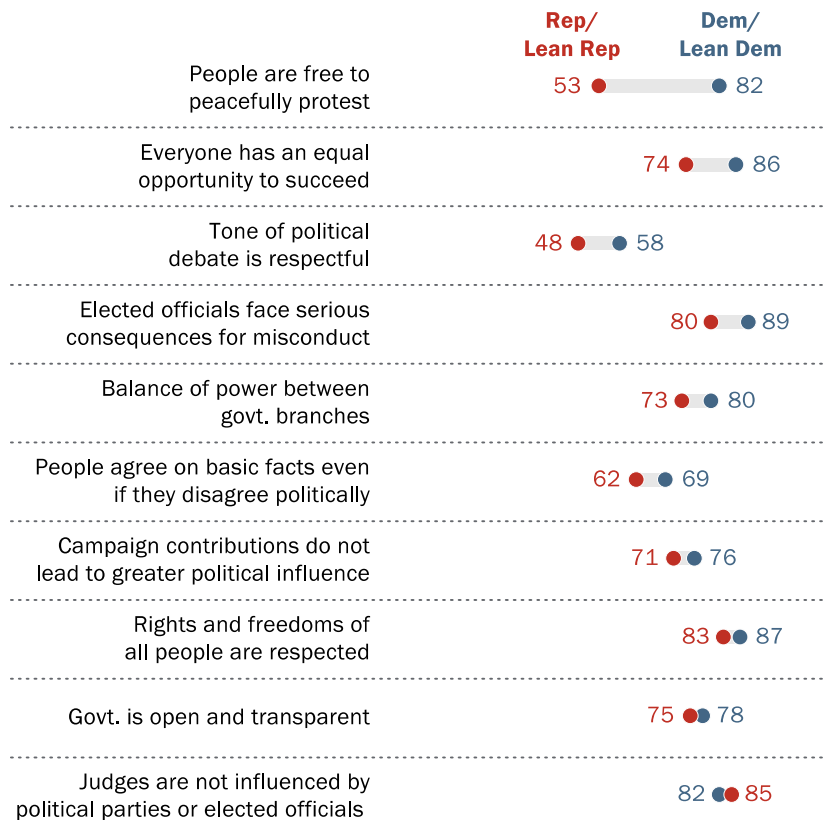
Though majorities of Republicans and Democrats say most of these principles are *very* important to the country, there are notable differences on several items.

And, as is the case with evaluations of the nation's performance on democratic principles, one of the widest gaps is on the freedom to protest peacefully. While 82% of Democrats say this is very important, only 53% of Republicans say the same. This 29 percentage point partisan gap is the largest of the 10 items.

Democrats are also more likely than Republicans to say it is very important that everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed (86% vs. 74%) and that the tone of political debate is respectful (58% vs. 48%).

Partisans agree on importance of many democratic values, but differ on freedom to peacefully protest

% who say it is very important for the country that ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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The partisan differences are less pronounced on several other items. Comparable majorities in both parties say it is very important that campaign contributions do not lead to greater political influence, the rights and freedoms of all people are respected, government is open and transparent, and judges are not influenced by parties or elected officials.

Overall, however, Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say eight of the 10 items surveyed are *very* important to the country.

There have been some significant shifts in the way partisans view the importance of certain democratic values over the past two years.

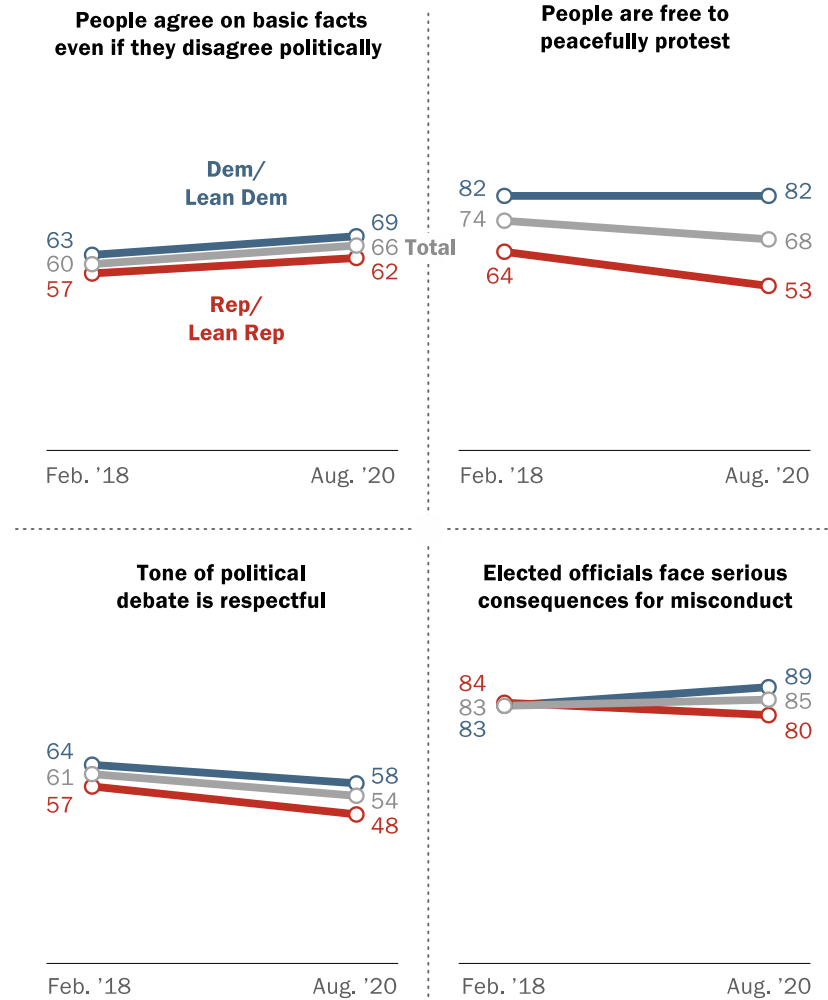
In 2018, roughly three-quarters of adults said it is very important for the country that people are free to peacefully protest, including 82% of Democrats and 64% of Republicans. The same share of Democrats says this today, but the share of Republicans who say this today (53%) has declined by 11 percentage points – the biggest decline across all 10 items.

Republican and Democratic views on basic facts and respectful political debate have moved together.

In 2018, 63% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans said it was very important that people agree on basic facts even if they disagree politically. Today, those shares are higher among both parties; 69% of Democrats now say it is very important, while 62% of Republicans say the same.

Declining share of Republicans say people’s freedom to peacefully protest is very important for the country

% who say it is *very* important for the country that ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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And today, smaller shares of Republicans and Democrats say it is very important that the tone of political debate is respectful. Just about half of Republicans say it's very important (48%), and 58% of Democrats say the same.

In 2018, there was no partisan gap on the principle that elected officials face serious consequences for misconduct. But today, there is a 9 percentage point gap. Democrats have grown *more* likely to say it is important that elected officials face repercussions for misconduct (83% in 2018 vs. 89% today) while Republicans have become less likely to say this (84% then, 80% today).

Majority of Americans say fundamental changes in structure of government are needed

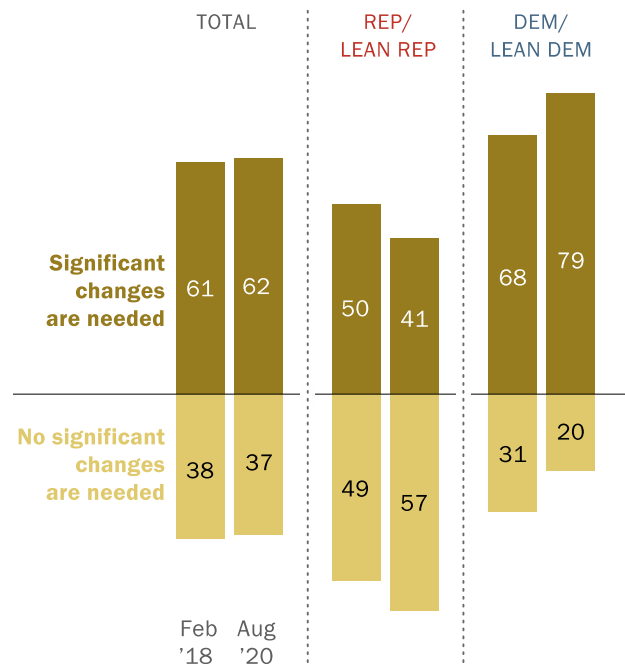
A majority of Americans (62%) say that when thinking about the fundamental design and structure of government, significant changes are needed to make it work for current times; 37% say the design and structure of government serves the country well and does not need significant changes.

These overall opinions have changed little since 2018, but Republicans and Democrats have moved in opposing directions. In 2018, half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said significant changes to American government were needed; today, that share has dropped to 41%. A majority (57%) now says no significant changes are needed.

At the same time, Democrats have grown *more* likely to say significant changes are needed. In 2018, 68% of Democrats said substantial change was necessary. Today, 79% of Democrats say changes are needed to make government work for current times.

Partisans move further apart on whether government needs structural change

Thinking about the fundamental design and structure of American government, % who say ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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Though partisanship is the biggest factor in views on whether the fundamental design and structure of American government needs significant changes, there are similar demographic divisions within each partisan coalition – especially among Republicans.

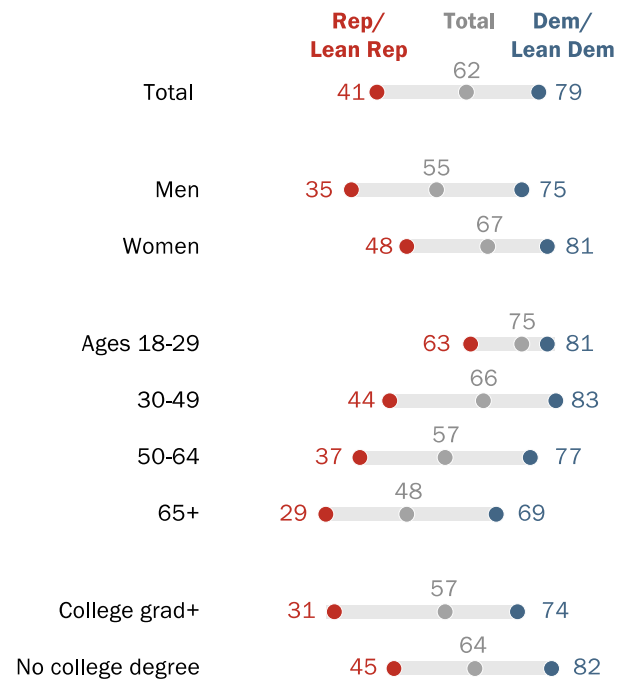
Women in both parties are more likely than men to say government needs significant changes to work in current times. Nearly half of Republican women (48%) say such changes are needed, compared with 35% of Republican men. The gender gap among Democrats is more modest: 81% of Democratic women say this, compared with 75% of Democratic men.

Among Republicans, there are sizable age divides in views of government. A majority of Republicans under 30 years of age (63%) say government needs major changes. This sentiment is far less pronounced among older age groups: 44% of Republicans ages 30 to 49 say this, compared with 37% who are 50 to 64 and just 29% of those 65 and older.

Majorities of Democrats in all age groups say fundamental changes are needed in the design of government, though this view is more widespread among those under age 50 (82%) than those ages 50 and older (74%).

Majorities of young Democrats and Republicans say changes are needed in the design of the U.S. government

% who say significant changes are needed to the fundamental design and structure of American government



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted July 27 to Aug. 2, 2020. A total of 11,001 panelists responded out of 14,407 who were sampled, for a response rate of 76%.

This does not include 10 panelists who were removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4.2%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1.3%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 11,001 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	2,303
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,335
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	684
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	6,403
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	4,681
	Total	35,014	23,440	15,406

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of which 9,942 agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample (ABS) of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to

go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. For a random half-sample of invitations, households without internet access were instructed to return a postcard. These households were contacted by telephone and sent a tablet if they agreed to participate. A total of 9,396 were invited to join the panel, and 8,778 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. The same recruitment procedure was carried out on August 19, 2019, from which a total of 5,900 were invited to join the panel and 4,720 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. Of the 23,440 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 15,406 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.¹ The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#)."

Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that begins with a base weight incorporating the respondents' original selection probability. The next step in the weighting uses an iterative technique that aligns the sample to population benchmarks on the dimensions listed in the accompanying table.

Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Gender	2018 American Community Survey
Age	
Education	
Race/Hispanic origin	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Asians	
Country of birth among Hispanics	
Years lived in the United States	
Home internet access	
Region x Metropolitan status	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys.

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	11,001		1.5 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	4,507	45	2.2 percentage points
Half sample	At least 2,230		3.1 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	6,132	51	2.0 percentage points
Half sample	At least 3,033		2.8 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 71 JULY 2020
FINAL TOPLINE
JULY 27-AUGUST 2, 2020
N=11,001**

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

COREUSDEM Thinking about the fundamental design and structure of American government, which comes closer to your view? **[RANDOMIZE]**

July 27- Aug 2 2020		Jan 29- Feb 13 2018
62	Significant changes to the design and structure are needed to make it work for current times	61
37	The design and structure serves the country well and does not need significant changes	38
2	No Answer	2

ASK ALL:

IMPTUS Now we're going to ask you about the importance of a number of things for the United States.

For each of the following, HOW IMPORTANT is it for the country that... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
No item a					
ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]					
b. The government conducts its work openly and transparently					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	76	20	2	1	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	74	22	2	2	*
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
c. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of government each keep the others from having too much power					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	75	21	3	1	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	76	18	3	2	1

IMPTUSc PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

That there is a system of checks and balances dividing power between the President, Congress, and the courts					
Feb 7-12, 2017 ¹	83	11	2	2	2

¹ Question for phone trend was worded: "How important are each of the following to the United States maintaining a strong democracy. Is this very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to maintaining a strong democracy?"

IMPACT CONTINUED...

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]					
d. People who give a lot of money to elected officials do not have more political influence than other people					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	73	17	6	3	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	74	16	5	5	1
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
e. The tone of debate among political leaders is respectful					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	54	34	10	3	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	61	29	7	3	*
No item f					
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
g. Elected officials face serious consequences if they engage in misconduct					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	85	13	2	*	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	83	12	3	2	*
ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]					
h. Judges are not influenced by political parties or elected officials					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	83	13	2	1	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018 ²	82	13	3	2	*
No item i					
ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]					
j. The rights and freedoms of all people are respected					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	85	11	2	1	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	84	11	2	2	*
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
k. Everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	81	16	2	1	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	82	13	2	2	*
No item l-m					
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
n. People are free to peacefully protest					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	68	23	6	2	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	74	20	3	3	*

² In February 2018, item did not mention elected officials

IMPTUSn CONTINUED ...

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
IMPTUSn PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
That people have the right to non-violent protest					
Feb 7-12, 2017 ³	79	12	4	3	2
Oct 20-25, 2016 (RVs)	78	17	2	2	1

No item o**ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]**

p. People agree on basic facts even if they disagree politically					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	66	28	4	1	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	60	32	5	2	1

ASK ALL:

WELLUS Now thinking about how things actually are in the U.S. today, HOW WELL does each of the following describe the country? [**RANDOMIZE ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS IMPTUS**]

	Very <u>well</u>	Somewhat <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	<u>No Answer</u>
No item a					
ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]					
b. The government conducts its work openly and transparently					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	7	23	40	30	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	7	23	40	29	1
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
c. The executive, legislative and judicial branches of government each keep the others from having too much power					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	13	40	32	14	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	11	44	28	15	1
ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]					
d. People who give a lot of money to elected officials do not have more political influence than other people					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	9	17	30	43	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	11	15	29	43	1
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
e. The tone of debate among political leaders is respectful					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	8	20	39	32	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	6	19	37	37	1

³ Question for phone trend was worded: "How important are each of the following to the United States maintaining a strong democracy. Is this very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to maintaining a strong democracy?"

WELLUS CONTINUED...

	Very <u>well</u>	Somewhat <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	No <u>Answer</u>
No item f					
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
g. Elected officials face serious consequences if they engage in misconduct					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	10	17	37	35	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	11	18	37	32	1
ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]					
h. Judges are not influenced by political parties or elected officials					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	9	31	38	21	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018 ⁴	11	31	34	22	1
No item i					
ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]					
j. The rights and freedoms of all people are respected					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	10	30	35	24	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	14	33	33	19	*
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
k. Everyone has an equal opportunity to succeed					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	21	30	29	19	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	20	32	29	18	1
No item l-m					
ASK FORM 2 [N=5,501]					
n. People are free to peacefully protest					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	25	36	26	13	*
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	30	43	18	8	1
No item o					
ASK FORM 1 [N=5,500]					
p. People agree on basic facts even if they disagree politically					
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	8	20	38	34	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	9	24	41	25	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

⁴ In 2018, item did not mention elected officials

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...⁵

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
28	29	27	14	1	17	21

⁵ Party and PartyIn asked in a prior survey.