



CRITICAL ISSUES POLL

Shibley Telhami, Director

Michael Hanmer, Associate Director

Poll on Iran War

University of Maryland (UMD) engaged SSRS to conduct the July Critical Issues Poll via the SSRS Opinion Panel among U.S. adults age 18 and older. Data collection was conducted from July 20 – 27, 2026, among a sample of 1,206 respondents.

The survey was conducted via web in English and data were weighted to represent the residential adult population of the United States. The margin of sampling error for the entire sample using this weight is ± 3.0 percentage points.

Note: Percentages may not always add to one hundred due to rounding.

Q29. In your opinion, what has been the outcome of the war that the US and Israel initiated on Iran on February 28, 2026?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
The US has already won or is winning	35%	5%	12%	16%
Iran has already won or is winning	3%	19%	13%	11%
Neither side has won or is winning	30%	50%	44%	40%
Too early to tell	23%	11%	21%	18%
I don't know	9%	16%	11%	14%

Q30. In your opinion, what has been the overall impact of the war on Iran so far on American interests at home and abroad?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
More negative than positive	37%	82%	62%	59%
More positive than negative	25%	2%	6%	11%
Equally positive and negative	26%	5%	18%	16%
I don't know	12%	11%	14%	15%

Q31. Israel is known to have nuclear weapons while many believe that Iran may be trying to develop such weapons. Which of the following is closer to your view?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
The US should focus on preventing Iran from having nuclear weapons - even by war.	52%	6%	19%	25%
The US should focus on preventing Iran from having nuclear weapons - but without the	12%	28%	22%	20%

use of military force.				
The US should not focus on preventing Iran from having nuclear weapons.	3%	10%	9%	8%
The US should focus on turning the Middle East region into a nuclear-free zone, including both Israel and Iran.	24%	38%	35%	31%
I don't know	9%	17%	15%	17%

Q32. Do you believe that the war initiated by the US and Israel on Iran on February 28, 2026, was legal or illegal?

US Law

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
Legal	66%	9%	24%	31%
Illegal	11%	69%	48%	42%
I don't know	23%	23%	28%	27%

International Law

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
Legal	49%	7%	17%	23%
Illegal	15%	65%	46%	40%
I don't know	37%	28%	36%	37%

Q33. Should the United States be responsible in some way for reparations to Iran for damage caused by the war?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
Yes	13%	58%	36%	36%
No	74%	16%	39%	42%
I don't know	13%	26%	25%	23%

Q34. As you may know, fighting between the US and Iran has been renewed recently, possibly risking further military escalation. Which of the following is closer to your view?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	Total
The US should end the war with Iran now and refrain from initiating any further military actions against Iran unless US forces are attacked by Iran. Any unachieved objectives must now be pursued diplomatically.	29%	82%	65%	57%
The US should undertake military actions whenever the White House deems necessary, as long as its objectives have not been met.	59%	5%	19%	27%
I don't know	12%	13%	16%	16%

Q40. Which one of the following most closely reflect your values?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
American Constitutional values	27%	39%	35%	33%
Judeo-Christian values	11%	5%	5%	6%
Christian values	56%	26%	41%	40%
Other	5%	30%	19%	21%