



PARTNERSHIP FOR PUBLIC SERVICE

Partnership for Public Service Data on Trust in Government

America is experiencing a crisis in [public trust of government](#) and a potential government shutdown does more harm. This lack of trust has serious implications for how the public interacts with our government and how federal agencies respond to the major challenges facing the country—both of which are critical to a healthy and vibrant democracy.

“A looming government shutdown represents a failure of our elected representatives to meet their responsibilities to the American people,” said Max Stier, president and CEO of the Partnership for Public Service. “A shutdown would diminish our government’s ability to meet the needs of the public and further undermine trust in our public institutions.”

The nonpartisan, nonprofit [Partnership for Public Service](#) works to build a better government and a stronger democracy. The results come from an online survey conducted by the Partnership of 1,000 U.S. adults from Sept. 6-12, 2023, using an online panel. While the survey is not a random, nationally representative sample of people’s views, we used sampling techniques to resemble the demographic makeup of the U.S. and approximate public opinion in the country.

How much do you trust the federal government to do what is right?				
	Overall	Dem	Rep	Ind
A lot/somewhat	39%	59%	26%	32%
Not too much/not at all	60	39	74	67
Not sure	1	1	<1	1
Source: Online survey of U.S. adults conducted by the Partnership for Public Service from Sept. 6-12, 2023. N=1,000 Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.				

A shutdown of the federal government would have an impact on me personally.				
	Overall	Dem	Rep	Ind
Agree	54%	65%	46%	51%
Disagree	35	23	46	37
Not sure	11	12	7	12
Source: Online survey of U.S. adults conducted by the Partnership for Public Service from Sept. 6-12, 2023. N=1,000 Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.				

How concerned are you about a possible shutdown?				
	Overall	Dem	Rep	Ind
Concerned	57%	74%	46%	52%
Not concerned	39	24	51	43
Not sure	4	2	3	6
Source: Online survey of U.S. adults conducted by the Partnership for Public Service from Sept. 6-12, 2023. N=1,000 Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.				

Does the threat of a government shutdown increase or decrease your trust in the federal government?				
	Overall	Dem	Rep	Ind
Increase	18%	19%	19%	17%
Decrease	68	71	67	66
Not sure	14	10	14	16
Source: Online survey of U.S. adults conducted by the Partnership for Public Service from Sept. 6-12, 2023. N=1,000 Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.				



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How important to you is what a presidential candidate says about civil servants?				
	Overall	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very/somewhat important	76%	86%	72%	71%
No very/not important	18	10	23	19
Not sure	7	4	5	10

Source: Online survey of U.S. adults conducted by the Partnership for Public Service from Sept. 6-12, 2023. N=1,000
Numbers may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Senators should be able to delay the nominations of top officials in the federal government in order to make a political statement.				
	Overall	Dem	Rep	Ind
Agree	25%	27%	29%	20%
Disagree	64	65	59	67
Not sure	11	8	12	13

Source: Online survey of U.S. adults conducted by the Partnership for Public Service from Sept. 6-12, 2023. N=1,000

For more information on trust in government, please [visit this landing page](#).

Join us to go deeper at the Partnership's [first annual trust summit](#) to discuss the current state of public trust in government, how federal agencies are working to change perceptions and the opportunity for leaders from government, philanthropy, entertainment, media and other sectors to begin rebuilding trust in our government and democracy.