



The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# The May 2019 AP-NORC Center Poll

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research  
With funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago

*Interviews: 5/17-20/2019*

*1,137 adults*

*Margin of error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults*

*NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.*

**SP1. It is now fifty years since the United States first landed astronauts on the moon. Do you think the space program has brought enough benefits to this country to justify its costs or don't you think so?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Yes	60
No	38
DON'T KNOW	2
SKIP/REFUSED	1

*N=1,137*

**SP2. Which of these statements best describes your opinion about the United States today?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
The U.S. is the leading nation in space exploration	17
The U.S. is one of several leading nations in space exploration	64
The U.S. is not a leading nation in space exploration	17
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

*N=1,137*

**SP3. How important is it for the United States space program to do each of the following?**

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019	Not at all/ not too important NET	Not at all important	Not too important	Moderately important	Very/ extremely important NET	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
Monitor asteroids, comets, and other events in space that could impact Earth	9	3	6	23	68	37	31	1	1
Conduct scientific research to expand knowledge of the Earth, solar system, and universe	12	5	7	28	59	36	23	*	1
Send robotic probes without astronauts to explore space	18	7	11	34	47	31	16	1	1
Continue funding the International Space Station	18	6	12	38	42	29	14	1	*
Search for life on other planets	33	12	21	33	34	22	12	1	*
Send astronauts to Mars	38	15	22	34	27	19	8	*	1
Return astronauts to the moon	40	14	26	36	23	15	7	1	1
Establish a permanent human presence on other planets	52	23	28	26	21	13	8	1	1
Establish a U.S. military presence in space	51	25	26	29	19	11	8	1	1

N=1,137

**SP4. Thinking about advancing space exploration and research, should each of the following play a major role, a minor role, or no role?**

**[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019	Major role	Minor role	No role	DK	SKP/ REF
The U.S. government	60	33	6	1	1
Colleges and universities	42	43	13	1	1
Private companies	41	43	14	1	1
Space programs in other countries	38	48	12	*	1

*N=1,137*

**SP5. Do you favor, oppose, or neither favor nor oppose the United States space program returning astronauts to the moon within five years?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
<b>Strongly/somewhat favor NET</b>	<b>42</b>
Strongly favor	17
Somewhat favor	25
<b>Neither favor nor oppose</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Somewhat/strongly oppose NET</b>	<b>20</b>
Somewhat oppose	11
Strongly oppose	8
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

*N=1,137*

**SP6. Which do you think should be a bigger priority for the United States space program – returning astronauts to the moon or sending astronauts to Mars, or should neither be a priority?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Returning to the moon	18
Sending astronauts to Mars	37
Neither	43
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

*N=1,137*

**SP7. If you had a chance to do each of the following, would you do so, or not?**

AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019	Yes	No	DK	SKP/ REF
Orbit the Earth	52	46	1	1
Travel to the moon	41	58	*	1
Travel to Mars	31	67	1	1

*N=1,137*

*Ask if "Yes" to "Travel to Mars" in SP7*

**SP9. Imagine you had the chance to move to the first colony on Mars. Would you travel to Mars and live there, even if it meant you would never return to Earth, or not?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Yes	47
No	53
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	-

*N=331*

**SP10. Do you think any form of life exists elsewhere in the universe, or not?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Yes	75
No	23
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

*N=1,137*

*Ask if "Yes" in SP10*

**SP11. And, do you think intelligent life exists elsewhere in the universe, or not?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Yes	88
No	11
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

*N=860*

**PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Democrat	37
Republican	24
Independent	25
None of these	13
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

*N=1,137*

*Ask if Democrat in PID1*

**PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Strong Democrat	44
Moderate Democrat	56
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-

*N=432*

*Ask if Republican in PID1*

**PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Strong Republican	43
Moderate Republican	57
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	-

*N=264*

*Ask if Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in PID1*

**PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Lean Democrat	29
Lean Republican	27
Don't lean	41
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	3

*N=441*

**PID. Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDa, and PIDb.**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Democrat	49
Independent/None	16
Republican	35

*N=1,137*

**POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDa, and PIDb.**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>49</b>
Strong Democrat	17
Moderate Democrat	21
Lean Democrat	11
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>35</b>
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	14
Strong Republican	11
Unknown	1

*N=1,137*

**G11B. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a...?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Liberal	25
Conservative	28
Moderate	43
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	2

*N=1,137*

**DM5. How would you describe the community you live in now?**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Urban	28
Suburban	49
Rural	22
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

*N=1,137*

The May 2019 AP-NORC Poll

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
18-24	12
25-34	19
35-44	15
45-54	16
55-64	18
65-74	13
75+	8

*N=1,137*

**GENDER**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Male	48
Female	52

*N=1,137*

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	9

*N=1,137*

**MARITAL STATUS**

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Married	47
Widowed	5
Divorced	11
Separated	2
Never married	27
Living with partner	8

*N=1,137*



## EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Employed	57
Not employed	43

*N=1,137*

## EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	28
College graduate or above	33

*N=1,137*

## INCOME

	AP-NORC 5/17-20/2019
Under \$10,000	7
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	7
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	19
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	17
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	15
\$150,000 or more	7

*N=1,137*

### Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include

## The May 2019 AP-NORC Poll

people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between May 17 and 20, 2019, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,137 completed the survey—1,023 via the web and 114 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 18.9 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 32.1 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 89.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 5.4 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2018 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email [info@apnorc.org](mailto:info@apnorc.org).

### **About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world's essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.