

Breaking Barriers to Achieve a Society of Mutual Benefit National Survey

Interview Schedule

N=1,000 Adults

July 16-18, 2018

Today we are interviewing people about some important issues facing the country.

Even if not exactly right, which of the following most closely aligns with what you believe today?

- 53% While the country is making progress, there is a lot more we can do to make things even better. We need to boldly break from the way things have been done in the past, and we need lawmakers to really challenge themselves and the status quo.
...or...
- 33% The country isn't making progress and drastic change is needed.
...or...
- 14% The country is making steady progress, and we don't need lawmakers upsetting the apple cart by enacting major changes. Lawmakers should leave things pretty much as they are and only implement small changes when necessary.

Even if neither is exactly right, which of the following more closely aligns with what you believe?

- 62% Our government should be focused on protecting individual rights – including property rights, free speech, and equal treatment for everyone under the law – so people can improve their own lives and help others to do the same.
...or...
- 38% Our government should be focused on regulating and controlling the economy and protecting people from self-interested, greedy, and untrustworthy individuals and businesses.

Even if neither is exactly right, which of the following more closely aligns with what you believe?

- 51% Even if government isn't perfect, it is there to protect the people – physically, economically, and socially. Because it touches everyone, it is better suited than individuals, charities, faith-based institutions, nonprofits, and other community groups to respond to the biggest challenges facing society.
...or...
- 49% Even if well-intentioned, government is not always the best solution for society's problems. At times, it does more harm than good – and often fails to deliver the results politicians promised. There's a role for government to provide basic security, but we should start turning more to individuals, charities, faith-based institutions, nonprofits, and other community groups to address society's challenges.

Even if neither is exactly right, which of the following more closely aligns with what you believe?

- 86% The right to personal property and the fruits of our labor is the keystone to a free and just society.
...or...

14% In a just society, personal property must be managed by the government for the good of the whole community.

Compared to previous generations, are there more or fewer barriers in place preventing people from realizing their full-potential and improving their lives?

56% More barriers
31% Fewer barriers
13% Don't know

How much do you agree with the following statement?

People succeed by creating value for others, but there are too many barriers standing in the way of opportunity, progress, and innovation. These barriers prevent individuals from improving their own lives – and then being able to help others improve theirs. Breaking down barriers and expanding opportunity so everyone can reach their full potential and improve their lives should be a top priority.

66% TOTAL AGREE
12% TOTAL DISAGREE

31% Strongly agree
35% Somewhat agree
19% Neither agree nor disagree
8% Somewhat disagree
4% Strongly disagree
3% Don't know

How much do you agree with the following statement?

The job of government is to create opportunity for upward mobility. How much we achieve in life is up to us.

70% TOTAL AGREE
10% TOTAL DISAGREE

30% Strongly agree
41% Somewhat agree
18% Neither agree nor disagree
7% Somewhat disagree
3% Strongly disagree
2% Don't know

How much do you agree with the following statement?

There are serious barriers in government, business, communities, and education that prevent people from living their ideal life.

69% TOTAL AGREE

11% TOTAL DISAGREE

32% Strongly agree
37% Somewhat agree
17% Neither agree nor disagree
8% Somewhat disagree
3% Strongly disagree
2% Don't know

The following are several statements. After reading each, please indicate if you agree or disagree with that statement?

	Total Agree	Neither Agree Nor Disagree	Total Disagree	Don't Know
<i>(ranked by total agree)</i>				
Equal rights are the foundation of a good society, and government is needed to protect those rights not violate them. In a good society, people succeed by helping others improve their lives, working together and assisting one another.	83%	13%	3%	1%
Lawmakers are too consumed with partisanship and politics, always looking to win that next election. So, they choose the easy path of siding with their party rather than the difficult task of working together. Americans are hungry for leaders who put the interests of all Americans ahead of partisan politics and interest groups that only look out for themselves. America is devoid of leaders who will unite us and do what is right to move America forward.	81%	13%	4%	2%
A good society is one where the key institutions of government, business, education, and communities each play a part to provide solutions to today's problems.	79%	15%	3%	2%
Society would be better off if businesses spent more time innovating and improving to deliver the best products and services to their consumers, instead of on lobbying politicians for tax breaks and government handouts that enhance their bottom line or hamstring competitors.	76%	18%	4%	1%
A good society maximizes opportunity, innovation, competition, and progress through the open exchange of ideas, products, methods, philosophies, and people, not through regulations that limit people's choices or freedoms.	75%	18%	5%	2%
Free speech and free expression are vital, but they are under attack today. Students, young adults, and society as a whole suffer when people are not exposed to all sides of an issue or when certain topics are not allowed to be discussed.	75%	17%	6%	1%
There's a role for government in society, but too often, expensive, government-led solutions fail to solve society's challenges. A lot of money is spent, but not much changes.	75%	17%	6%	2%
Society would be better off if politicians focused on creating an even playing field for businesses instead of giving tax breaks and government handouts to certain businesses and industries.	72%	17%	10%	2%
The government often thinks throwing money at a problem is the same as fixing it. But government solutions are usually not the best solutions and frequently don't deliver the results promised.	71%	19%	9%	1%
Innovation and ingenuity have contributed to America's success. While there are disruptions that come from innovation, including occasional temporary job losses, the overall benefits of innovation far outweigh the negatives. Instead of safeguarding against the negatives, we should make sure everyone is prepared to succeed in a dynamic world.	67%	24%	7%	2%
Communities no longer provide the support systems that allow those in times of need to get back on their feet. They are ill-equipped to deal with today's problems of chronic unemployment, addiction, and abuse.	63%	20%	15%	2%
Communities both provide a spring board for success and a support system for when times are tough. They help individuals develop trust and positive relationships and are best equipped to deal with today's problems.	62%	26%	9%	2%
College is where ideas flourish and students become adults. But too often, institutions of higher learning only expose their students to one side of the debate. They let ideology and partisanship influence the education that students receive. This leaves many students unprepared for the intellectual diversity they will encounter in the real world.	62%	21%	15%	2%
Innovation and ingenuity are what made America the most prosperous country in history, but today, many people fear innovation because it threatens their industry, their job, or their way of life. Instead of taking steps to embrace innovation, they fight to erect barriers that protect themselves from change but harm everyone else.	61%	24%	13%	2%
America's K-12 education system has failed to adapt to innovation and the technological age we live in. It is failing to equip our children to contribute and succeed in the 21 st century.	60%	20%	17%	3%

The following are several barriers some identify that prevent people from realizing their full potential and improving their lives. Please indicate if you think each barrier is a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all.

<i>(ranked by major problem)</i>	Major Problem	Minor Problem	Not A Problem At All	Don't Know
Growing costs of health care	76%	16%	4%	3%
America's \$21 trillion national debt	69%	19%	5%	6%
Increasing costs of higher education	66%	25%	5%	4%
A growing opioid and addiction crisis	64%	26%	5%	4%
Low wages	57%	30%	8%	4%
Students not being prepared for the jobs of the 21st century	56%	32%	6%	6%
High taxes at all levels of government	55%	28%	9%	8%
Family breakdown	54%	30%	9%	7%
A rigged economy that benefits the well-connected at expense of everyone else	54%	28%	10%	8%
A one-size-fits-all K-12 education system that leaves too many children behind	53%	30%	8%	8%
Personal debt	53%	34%	6%	6%
Growing income inequality	51%	29%	12%	7%
Businesses more focused on seeking government privileges instead of creating value for their customers	50%	34%	8%	8%
Long-term unemployment	50%	34%	10%	6%
A criminal justice system that disproportionately affects the poor and minorities	50%	28%	14%	8%
Not preparing offenders to contribute to society when they are released from detention	50%	36%	7%	8%
An overly-generous welfare system that discourages work	47%	30%	17%	6%
A criminal justice system that imposes harsh sentences for minor crimes	45%	32%	15%	8%
Government regulations that make it harder to start a business	40%	39%	10%	11%
Limits on the free flow of speech and ideas	38%	40%	15%	7%
Lack of educational K-12 choices	37%	40%	15%	9%
Occupational licensing laws and regulations that restrict workers from entering many middle- and working-class occupations	33%	40%	13%	15%

Now, thinking generally about the barriers you just read, the following are several solutions some have proposed to break these barriers that prevent people from realizing their full potential and achieving their dreams. Please indicate if you think each is a very effective solution, a somewhat effective solution, or not a solution at all.

	Very Effective Solution	Somewhat Effective Solution	Not A Solution At All	Don't Know
<i>(ranked by very effective solution)</i>				
Lowering taxes and getting government spending under control	55%	31%	9%	5%
Enforcing equal rights for all	53%	31%	10%	7%
Health care reform that puts doctors and patients in charge	50%	33%	8%	10%
Encouraging scientific and technological innovation	49%	36%	7%	8%
Enhanced public safety	44%	41%	7%	8%
Instituting work requirements for welfare programs like Food Stamps and Medicaid	40%	37%	16%	6%
Stopping government picking winners and losers, and instead letting individuals decide what products or businesses succeed or fail	40%	34%	11%	16%
Granting families the freedom and means to choose the school that is the best fit for their child	39%	39%	15%	7%
Preparing ex-offenders to re-enter society as law-abiding and productive citizens	39%	45%	8%	8%
Ending the cronyism that leads to corporate welfare	37%	35%	10%	18%
Ending harsh sentences for non-violent, petty crimes	37%	40%	15%	8%
Government-paid college tuition	35%	31%	26%	8%
A \$15 minimum wage	35%	30%	28%	6%
Freer trade and the open exchange of goods and services	34%	44%	9%	13%
More regulation of Wall Street	33%	36%	15%	15%
Increasing government assistance for child care	30%	39%	21%	9%
Increasing legal immigration	28%	33%	28%	11%
A government-run health care system	25%	30%	33%	12%
Reducing legal immigration	24%	27%	38%	12%
Imposing racial quotas on college admissions to combat racism	20%	28%	40%	12%