

January 14, 2026

Release is effective immediately

Hawkeye Poll: More Americans Affected Negatively Than Positively by President Trump's Executive Orders

According to a recent Hawkeye Poll of 1,002 U.S. adults — conducted by University of Iowa faculty and students between November 13 and November 20 — many Americans were not affected by President Trump's executive orders, but among those that were, more reported the effects as negative rather than positive. Respondents were asked, "For each of the following executive orders signed by President Trump in 2025, indicate which, if any, has affected you or your immediate family, i.e., your parent(s), partner/spouse, child(ren), sibling(s), grandparent(s), grandchild(ren)." The executive orders were: 1) "to end Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs in the Federal Government," 2) "sending federal troops or the National Guard into U.S. cities such as Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Portland, and Chicago," and 3) "increased taxes or tariffs on products imported into the United States from foreign nations." On average, 13.5% responded they were affected positively compared to 39.2% that were affected negatively while 33.9% indicated they were not affected and 12.9% said they "didn't know".

Regarding the end of DEI programs, 39.4% of respondents indicated they were not affected, 31.0% were affected negatively, 14.4% affected positively, and 14.6% said they "don't know". Responses were similar for the order sending the National Guard into major U.S. cities with 41.7% saying they were not affected, 29.9% affected negatively, and 16.1% affected positively. The pattern of responses differed for tariffs: 56.6% of respondents answering that they were affected negatively, 20.6% answering not affected, 9.9% answering that they were affected positively, and 12.3% responding that they don't know.

Responses differed between political parties. 46.5% of Democrats answering that they were affected negatively compared to 31.8% of Independents and 29.5% of Republicans. In contrast, responses for affected positively increased from 6.6% among Democrats to 8.7% of Independents and 29.5% of Republicans. Those not affected ranged from 32.8%, 41.8%, and 42.8%, respectively.

Similar patterns emerged when respondents were asked about sending the National Guard into U.S. cities. 44.6% of Democrats were affected negatively, 9.1% were affected positively, and 11.3% said they "don't know". Independents' responses were nearly identical with 44.4% not affected, 32.9% affected negatively, 8.7% affected positively, and 13.0% don't know. Again, Republicans differed. 45.3% said they were not affected, 32.7% were affected positively, and 11.1% were affected negatively.

Democrats overwhelmingly responded that increased tariffs negatively affected them, indicated by 77.4% of respondents. Few said they were not affected (9.4%), affected positively (5.8%), or don't know (7.1%). The majority (59.1%) of Independents were also affected negatively, followed by 19.5% who were not affected, and 5.3% who were affected positively. 15% answered "don't know." A near-equal proportion of Republicans were not affected (33.4%) and affected negatively (32.5%) while 20.1% said they were affected positively.

Responses varied little based on respondent income levels with the exception of a shift from those responding "Don't Know" to those saying they were not affected for ending DEI and sending U.S. troops into cities. Of Americans with annual incomes less than \$75,000, 34.4% were not affected, 30.5% were affected negatively, 14.5% were affected positively, and 19.6% responded "don't know". This is

comparable to responses from Americans with annual incomes of \$75,000 or more. 45.4% were not affected, 31.6% or affected negatively, and 14.0% were affected positively.

Similarly, Americans were largely unaffected by deploying the National Guard in U.S. cities. 38.9% of respondents at the lower income level were not affected and 29.9% were affected negatively while an equal number were affected positively (15.5%) or responded “don’t know” (15.2%). Among respondents at the higher income range, 45.0% were not affected, 30.0% were affected negatively, and 16.6% were affected positively.

Both groups responded negatively to increased tariffs with 56.9% of the lower income level and 56.3% of the higher income level saying they were negatively affected. 18.6% of Americans making less than \$75,000 per year were not affected, 11.1% were affected positively, and 12.6% don’t know. Americans making \$75,000 or more per year mostly agreed. 23.3% were not affected, 8.3% were affected positively, and 11.9% don’t know.

The University of Iowa Department of Political Science has conducted the Hawkeye Poll since 2007. A series of national and state public opinion polls, this experience serves as an important learning opportunity for students. Over 1100 students have had the opportunity to directly participate in the research and survey process and to acquire valuable career-related knowledge about survey research and public polling in general. This year 24 students collaborated to design and implement a poll of Iowans. Learn more about the course at <https://now.uiowa.edu/2019/11/taking-iowas-pulse-hawkeye-poll>.

Respondent Identification: The Iowa Center for Social Science Innovation (CSSI) assisted with survey programming and data collection. The CSSI contracted with Verasight to field the survey to a demographically representative sample of about 1000 respondents. Respondents invited to complete the web survey were U.S. adults, aged 18+, recruited for participation via web panel.

To further ensure data quality, the Verasight data team implements a number of post-data collection quality assurance procedures, including confirming that all responses correspond with U.S. IP addresses, confirming no duplicate respondents, verifying the absence of non-human responses, and removing any respondents who failed in-survey attention and/or straight-lining checks. The Verasight data team also reviewed open-ended items to ensure no responses contained nonsensical, inappropriate, or non-sequitur text. Respondents that completed the survey in less than 30% of the median completion time were removed.

Sample: 1002 U.S. voting-age respondents. The margin of sampling error, which accounts for the design effect and is calculated using the classical random sampling formula, is +/- 3.3%.

Weighting: The data are weighted to match the August 2025 Current Population Survey on age, race/ethnicity, sex, income, education, region, and metropolitan status, as well as to a running three-year average of partisanship distributions from the Pew Research Center NPORS benchmarking surveys and population benchmarks of 2024 vote.

About the Hawkeye Poll: The poll was conducted by the Hawkeye Poll Cooperative, comprised of University of Iowa faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students in the Political Science departments. The poll is a teaching, research, and service project, and is directed by Frederick J.

Boehmke, professor of political science. The Department of Political Science provides financial support for the poll.

Student Research Team: Dillon Anderson, Olivia Boeglin, Abigail Hargrave, and William Maramba assisted with the preparation of this release.

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