

# Americans proud of their Armed Forces, but just one-in-three say they would ever volunteer for combat

*Few would be “excited” if their son or daughter signed up, but more would be “supportive”*

June 15, 2026

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American pride in the nation’s Armed Forces runs wide and deep but pride does not translate into personal willingness to serve. Just one-in-three Americans say they could envision volunteering for a combat role, and the reluctance is sharpest among Democrats and those who hold no strong partisan identity. Among MAGA Republicans, however, the picture looks very different: nearly two-in-three say they would be willing to volunteer.

New data from Angus Reid USA finds 70 per cent of Americans saying they feel proud of the U.S. Armed Forces, while only 32 per cent say they could ever see themselves volunteering for a combat role. The partisan gap is stark: 61 per cent of MAGA Republicans say they would volunteer, compared with just 22 per cent of Democrats. And even as pride in the military remains broadly shared, most Americans — including a majority of MAGA Republicans — say they would not be excited to see their son or daughter enlist.

## KEY FINDINGS

- Seven-in-ten Americans (70%) feel proud of the U.S. Armed Forces, but pride is far from universal: just 60 per cent of Democrats agree, compared to 97 per cent of MAGA Republicans and 90 per cent of non-MAGA Republicans.
- Just one-in-three Americans (32%) say they could ever see themselves volunteering for a combat role. The figure rises to 61 per cent among MAGA Republicans but falls to 22 per cent among Democrats.
- Fewer than half of Americans (45%) would be supportive of a son joining the military, and even fewer (43%) would be supportive of a daughter joining. Only 27 per cent would be *excited* about a son enlisting, and 33 per cent for a daughter.
- MAGA Republicans stand out as the most enthusiastic: 78 per cent would be supportive of a son joining (vs. 30 per cent of Democrats), and 66 per cent supportive of a daughter (vs. 34 per cent of Democrats).

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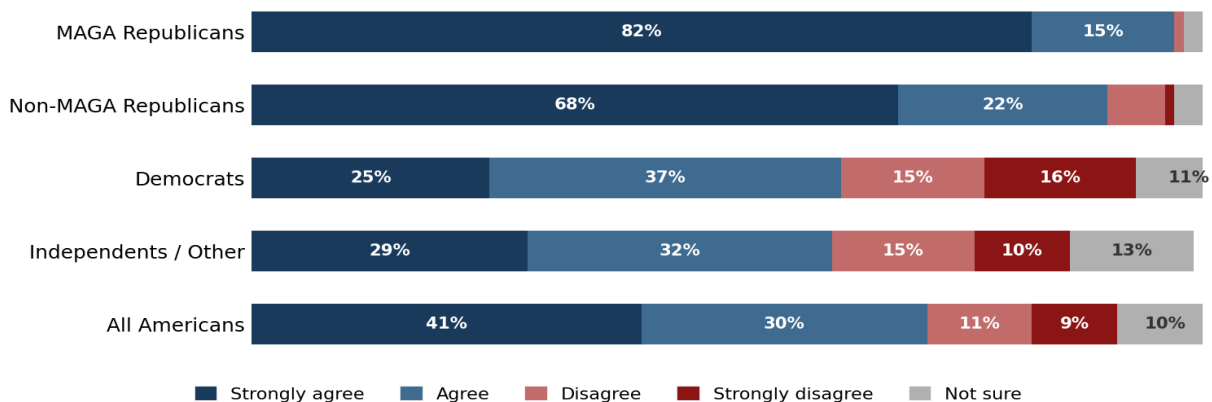
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## Seven-in-ten proud of Armed Forces, lower levels among Democrats and Independents

Pride in the U.S. Armed Forces is broadly shared but far from uniform. Nationally, 70 per cent of Americans say they feel proud when they think about the military, including 41 per cent who strongly agree. Among MAGA Republicans, near-universal agreement (97%) is driven overwhelmingly by strong sentiment: 82 per cent strongly agree. Non-MAGA Republicans also register high pride at 90 per cent.

Democrats present a starkly different picture. Just 60 per cent express pride in the Armed Forces, and 30 per cent actively disagree — including 16 per cent who strongly disagree. Independents and others fall in between at 61 per cent proud, with 25 per cent disagreeing. Notably, pride is strongly correlated with age nationally: 86 per cent of those 55 and older feel proud, compared to just 57 per cent of 18–34 year-olds.

### I feel proud when I think about United States' Armed Forces



*I feel proud when I think about United States' Armed Forces (W18; n=1,490)*

## One-third would volunteer for combat role, assuming full health and ability

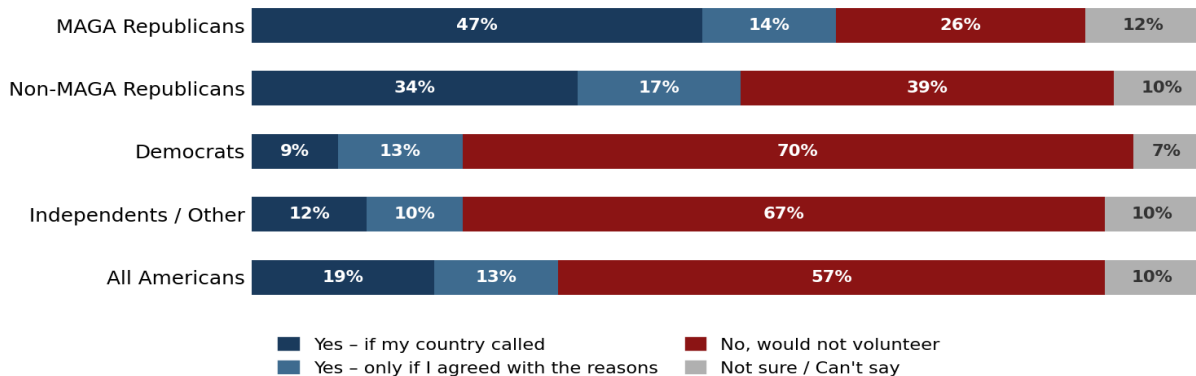
When asked to imagine volunteering for military service in a combat role, just 32 per cent of Americans say they could see themselves doing so — 19 per cent if their country called on them, 13 per cent only if they agreed with the reasons for fighting. A clear majority (57%) say they would not be willing to volunteer.

The partisan divide is profound. Among MAGA Republicans, 61 per cent express willingness to volunteer, including 47 per cent who would respond to their country's call unconditionally. Among non-MAGA Republicans, 51 per cent would volunteer. By contrast, just 22 per cent of Democrats say they would volunteer in any scenario, with 70 per cent saying they would not. Independents sit at the same low level (22%). Men are also notably more likely to say they'd volunteer (45%) than women (21%).

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**Thinking hypothetically, could you ever see yourself volunteering for military service in a combat role?**



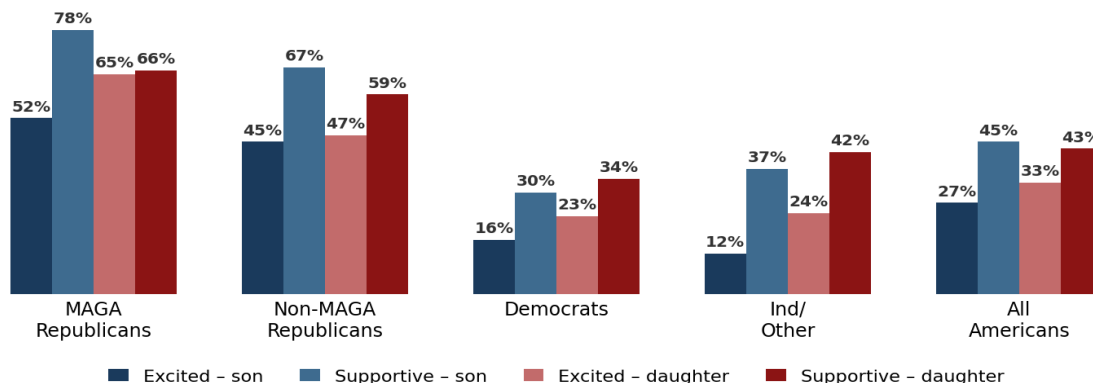
Thinking hypothetically, could you ever see yourself volunteering for military service in a combat role? (W17; n=1,490)

**Fewer than half would be supportive of their son or daughter joining up**

Even among Americans who feel proud of the Armed Forces, translating that pride into personal support for a family member enlisting is a different proposition. Nationally, 45 per cent say they would be supportive of a son joining up, while fewer — 27 per cent — would be *excited*. For a daughter, the figures are similar: 43 per cent supportive, 33 per cent excited.

The gap between MAGA Republicans and Democrats is especially pronounced. MAGA Republicans are supportive of a son joining at 78 per cent and a daughter at 66 per cent — figures roughly double those of non-MAGA Republicans (67% and 59%). Among Democrats, fewer than one-in-three would be supportive of either a son (30%) or daughter (34%) serving. For excitement, the contrasts are even starker: 52 per cent of MAGA Republicans would be excited to see a son join, compared to just 16 per cent of Democrats.

**If I had a young son/daughter, I would be excited/supportive to see them join the United States' Armed Forces**



If I had a young son/daughter, I would be excited/supportive to see them join the United States' Armed Forces (W18; n=1,490)

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## Methodology

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Angus Reid USA conducted an online survey from April 16 – 20, 2026 among a representative randomized sample of **1,490** American adults who are members of Angus Reid Forum USA. For comparison purposes only, a probability sample of this size would carry a margin of error of +/- 2.5 percentage points, 19 times out of 20. Discrepancies in or between totals are due to rounding. The survey was self-commissioned and paid for by Angus Reid USA. Detailed tables are found at the end of this release.

*For detailed results by age, gender, region, education, and other demographics, [click here](#).*

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