

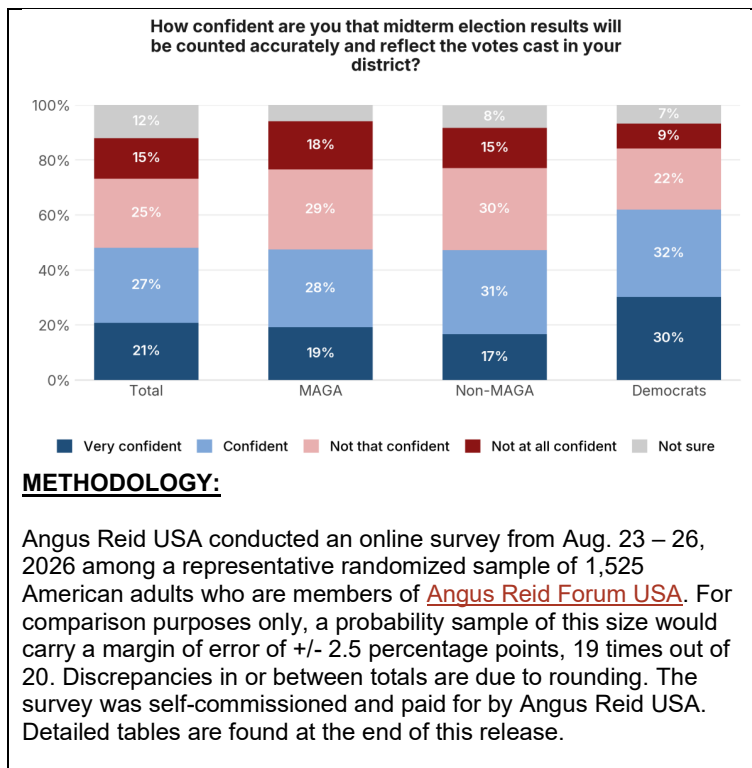
Trust Divide: Just half of Americans confident votes will be counted accurately in November

Democrats more trusted (39%%) than Republicans (27%) on “protecting democracy & rule of law”

September 17, 2026 – With the 2026 midterms approaching, Americans remain divided over which party they trust to protect democracy and the rule of law, and over whether the results of the vote will be counted accurately.

New data from Angus Reid USA finds the Democratic Party holding an advantage on the question of which party is best to protect democracy in this country, with two-in-five preferring them compared to the Republicans, who are chosen by 27 per cent. Notably, nine per cent of Americans choose “both” and 17 per cent choose “neither”.

Voters across the country will elect a new House of Representatives on November 3 as well as 33 Senate seats. Asked if they’re confident that the votes will be fairly and accurately counted in their own district, confidence is not widespread. Approximately half (48%) say they’re confident, but 40 per cent are not.



More Key Findings:

- 77% of MAGA Republicans trust the Republican Party most on democracy and the rule of law, vs. 61% of Non-MAGA Republicans and just 2% of Democrats
- 81% of Democrats trust the Democratic Party most on the same measure — the most internally unified group in the survey
- MAGA Republicans are the group most likely to say they are “not at all confident” in the midterm vote count (18%), roughly double the rate among Democrats (9%)

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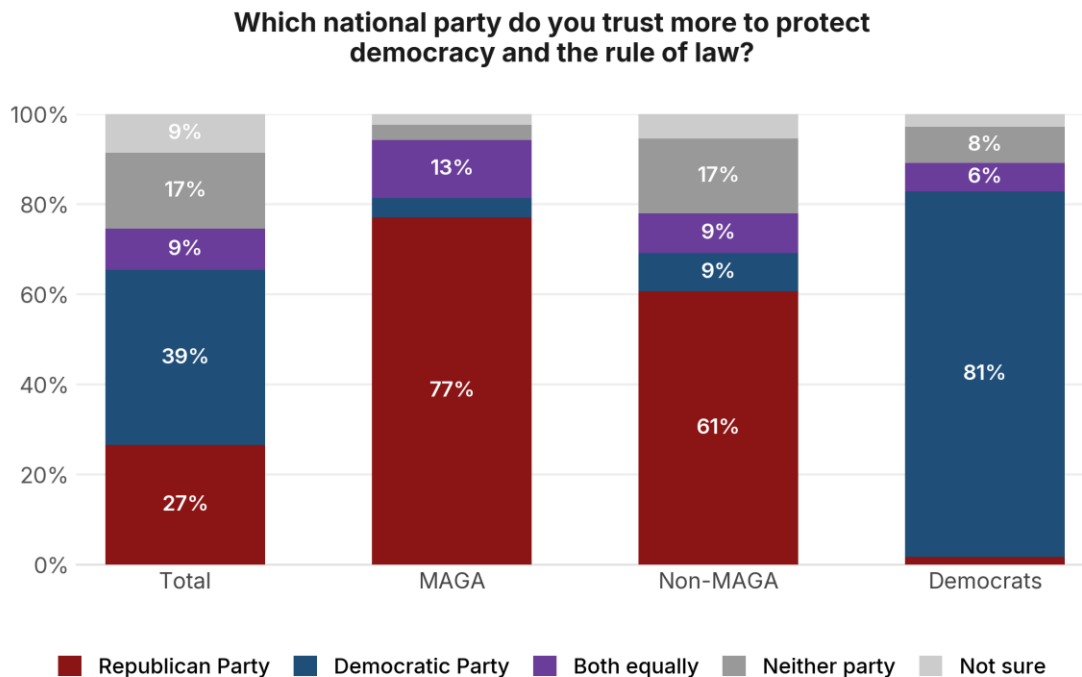
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Trust to Protect Democracy and the Rule of Law

Asked which national party they trust more to protect democracy and the rule of law, Americans overall favor the Democratic Party (39%) over the Republican Party (27%), with the remainder split between both parties equally (9%), neither (17%), or unsure (9%). That overall figure, however, masks two very different underlying divides: one running through the Republican coalition itself, and another running through the geography of red and blue America.

By Party Identification: MAGA, Non-MAGA, and Democrats

MAGA-identified Republicans trust the Republican Party on this measure at a markedly higher rate (77%) than Non-MAGA Republicans (61%) — a 16-point gap within the Republican coalition itself. Democrats are the most internally unified group in the survey: 81 per cent trust the Democratic Party most, compared to just 2 per cent who trust the Republican Party.



Non-MAGA Republicans are also more than four times as likely as MAGA Republicans to say they trust neither party (17% vs. 3%), suggesting a meaningful pocket of disaffection with both parties among Republicans who do not identify with the MAGA movement.

By State Partisanship: Deep Blue to Deep Red

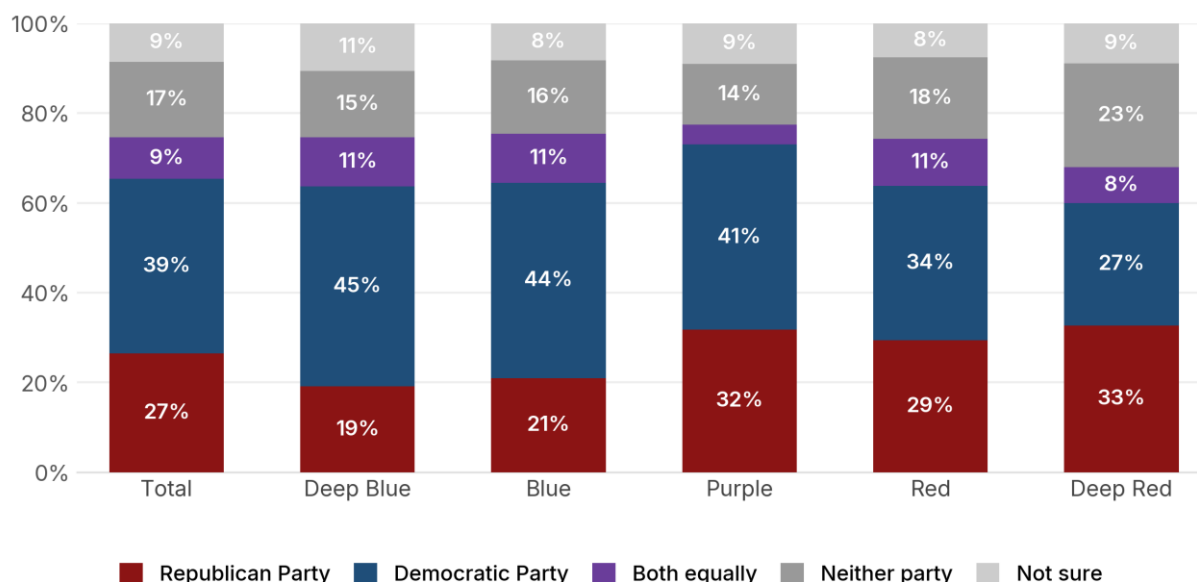
The state-level pattern moves in the expected direction but with some asymmetry at the extremes. Trust in the Democratic Party on this measure runs highest in Deep Blue states (45%) and lowest in Deep Red states (27%), while trust in the Republican Party runs from 19 per cent in Deep Blue states up to 33 per cent in Deep Red states. Notably, Purple states register the highest share trusting the Republican Party of any state category (32%) alongside a still-substantial 41 per cent trusting the Democratic Party — suggesting competitive states are not simply a midpoint between the two poles, but a distinct pattern of their own.

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Which national party do you trust more to protect democracy and the rule of law?



Distrust in both major parties (“neither party”) climbs steadily as state partisanship intensifies on the Republican side, from 15 per cent in Deep Blue states to 23 per cent in Deep Red states — the highest share recorded across any subgroup in this question.

Confidence in the Midterm Vote Count

Americans are closely split on whether the results of the 2026 midterm elections will be counted accurately and reflect the votes cast in their district: 48 per cent say they are confident (very confident 21%, confident 27%), while 40 per cent say they are not (not that confident 25%, not at all confident 15%), and 12 per cent are unsure.

By Party Identification: MAGA, Non-MAGA, and Democrats

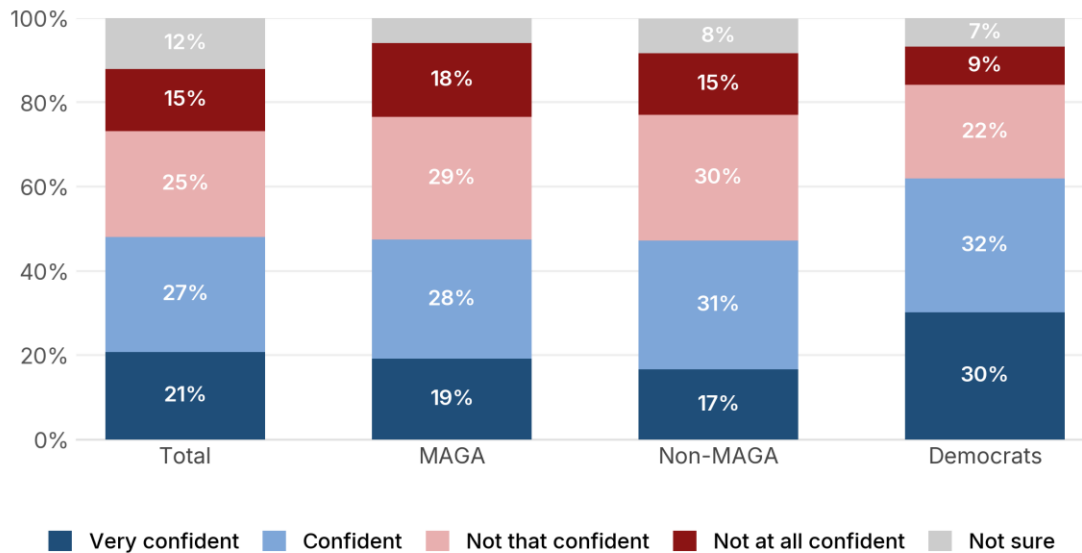
Democrats report the highest confidence in the vote count of the three groups (62% net confident), while MAGA and Non-MAGA Republicans report nearly identical, lower levels of confidence (47% net confident for both) — one of the few measures in this survey where the two Republican subgroups align closely with each other rather than splitting apart.

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How confident are you that midterm election results will be counted accurately and reflect the votes cast in your district?



MAGA Republicans are nonetheless the group most likely to say they are “not at all confident” in the count (18%), roughly double the rate recorded among Democrats (9%).

By State Partisanship: Deep Blue to Deep Red

Confidence in the vote count follows a U-shaped pattern by state partisanship rather than a straight line: net confidence is highest in Deep Blue states (51%) and Blue states (51%), dips through Purple (47%) and Red (49%) states, and falls furthest in Deep Red states (37%) — the lowest net confidence recorded for any subgroup in the survey, driven by both elevated “not that confident” (30%) and “not at all confident” (18%) shares.

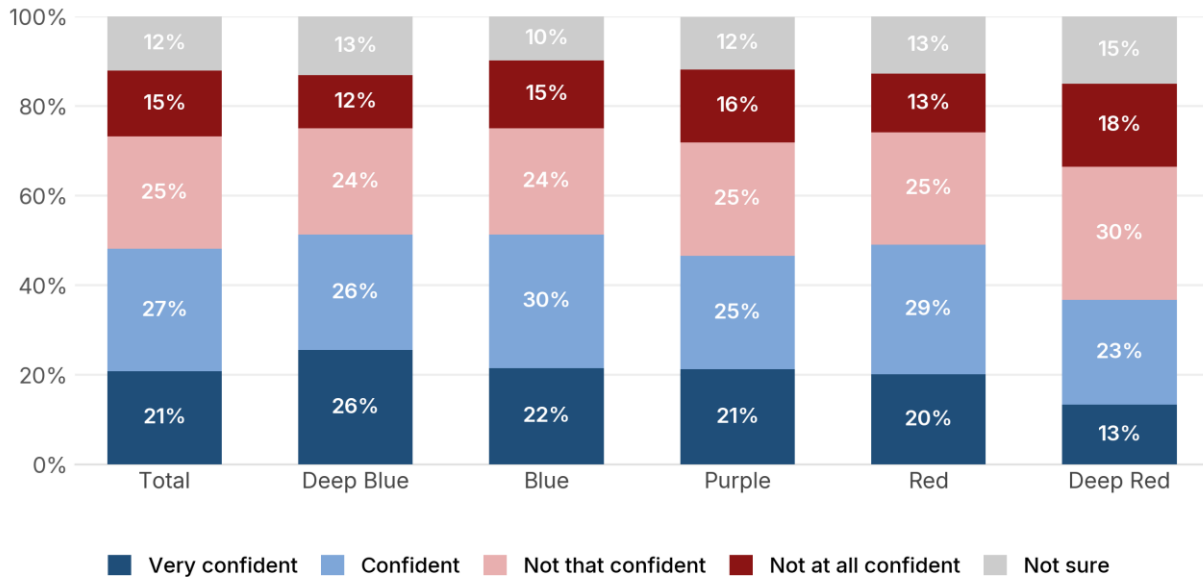
Residents of Deep Red states are also the most likely of any state category to say they are unsure (15%), suggesting confidence in the count is not simply low in these areas but less settled overall.

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How confident are you that midterm election results will be counted accurately and reflect the votes cast in your district?



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

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