

National Speech Index: April 2025 Topline Results

When it comes to whether people are able to freely express their views do you think things in America are heading in the RIGHT or WRONG direction?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Heading in the RIGHT direction	377	38
Heading in the WRONG direction	623	62

The First Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution more than 225 years ago. This is what it says: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.”

Based on your own thoughts about the First Amendment, can you tell us what you think about the following statement: “The First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees.”

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	501	50
Slightly describes my thoughts	96	10
Somewhat describes my thoughts	197	20
Mostly describes my thoughts	112	11
Describes my thoughts completely	94	9

How secure do you think the right to freedom of speech is in America today?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all secure	163	16
Not very secure	329	33
Somewhat secure	318	32
Very secure	148	15
Completely secure	42	4

How worried, if at all, are you about losing your job because someone complains about something you have said?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all worried	404	40
Not too worried	256	26
Slightly worried	153	15
Somewhat worried	104	10
Very worried	82	8

Think specifically about your life and all the interactions you have had in the past month. How often have you watched what you said – that is, possibly censored your comments, questions, or words?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	199	20
Rarely, once or twice	218	22
Occasionally, a handful of times	333	33
Fairly often, a couple times a week	145	15
Very often, nearly every day	105	11

How much, if at all, do you support or oppose the federal government doing each of the following?

Rescinding federal funding from colleges and universities for not doing enough to combat anti-Semitism on campus.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly oppose	197	20
Oppose	171	17
Neither support nor oppose	279	28
Support	185	18
Strongly support	168	17

Rescinding federal funding from colleges and universities that fail to arrest student protesters who express pro-Palestine views.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly oppose	312	31
Oppose	155	16
Neither support nor oppose	273	27
Support	131	13
Strongly support	129	13

Rescinding federal funding from colleges and universities that fail to disband DEI programs.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly oppose	316	32
Oppose	125	13
Neither support nor oppose	250	25
Support	115	12
Strongly support	193	19

Deporting foreigners legally in the United States on a student visa for expressing pro-Palestine views.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly oppose	331	33
Oppose	185	19
Neither support nor oppose	224	22
Support	129	13
Strongly support	130	13

Deporting foreigners legally in the United States with a green card for expressing pro-Palestine views.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly oppose	344	34
Oppose	194	19
Neither support nor oppose	228	23
Support	119	12
Strongly support	115	11

Deporting foreigners legally in the United States for having a soccer tattoo that was interpreted as a gang tattoo.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly oppose	423	42
Oppose	216	22
Neither support nor oppose	267	27
Support	55	5
Strongly support	39	4

How often, if at all, should colleges and universities take positions on political issues?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Never	310	31
Rarely	216	22
Sometimes	338	34
Often	84	8
Always	52	5

How much confidence, if any, do you have that Gavin Newsom will protect your First Amendment rights?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No confidence at all	345	35
Very little confidence	183	18
Some confidence	302	30
Quite a lot of confidence	101	10
My full confidence	69	7

How much confidence, if any, do you have that Donald Trump will protect your First Amendment rights?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No confidence at all	409	41
Very little confidence	104	10
Some confidence	159	16
Quite a lot of confidence	147	15
My full confidence	180	18