

## National Speech Index: July 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	365	37
Heading in the WRONG direction	635	63

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	519	52
Slightly describes my thoughts	80	8
Somewhat describes my thoughts	166	17
Mostly describes my thoughts	114	11
Describes my thoughts completely	121	12

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

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all secure	182	18
Not very secure	311	31
Somewhat secure	313	31
Very secure	152	15
Completely secure	43	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	424	42
Not too worried	219	22
Slightly worried	157	16
Somewhat worried	118	12
Very worried	81	8
(Missing)	1	0

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	192	19
Rarely, once or twice	248	25
Occasionally, a handful of times	308	31
Fairly often, a couple times a week	159	16
Very often, nearly every day	94	9

How much, if at all, do the following statements describe your thoughts?

Public schools should be allowed to prevent students from bringing a book to school, even if their parents would approve of them reading it.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	549	55
Slightly describes my thoughts	145	15
Somewhat describes my thoughts	136	14
Mostly describes my thoughts	98	10
Describes my thoughts completely	70	7
(Missing)	1	0

Public schools should be allowed to prevent students from bringing a book to school that discusses sexual identity, even if their parents would approve of them reading it.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	499	50
Slightly describes my thoughts	102	10
Somewhat describes my thoughts	138	14
Mostly describes my thoughts	114	11
Describes my thoughts completely	147	15

Public schools should be allowed to prevent students from bringing a book to school that discusses gender identity, even if their parents would approve of them reading it.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	501	50
Slightly describes my thoughts	100	10
Somewhat describes my thoughts	127	13
Mostly describes my thoughts	106	11
Describes my thoughts completely	166	17

Public schools should be allowed to prevent students from bringing a book to school that discusses racial identity, even if their parents would approve of them reading it.

Response	Frequency	Percent
Does not describe my thoughts at all	577	58
Slightly describes my thoughts	104	10
Somewhat describes my thoughts	148	15
Mostly describes my thoughts	74	7
Describes my thoughts completely	96	10
(Missing)	1	0

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	221	22
Oppose	133	13
Neither support nor oppose	326	33
Support	151	15
Strongly support	169	17

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

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly oppose	339	34
Oppose	117	12
Neither support nor oppose	317	32
Support	97	10
Strongly support	130	13

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

Response	Frequency	Percent
Strongly oppose	335	33
Oppose	77	8
Neither support nor oppose	273	27
Support	128	13
Strongly support	187	19

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

Response	Frequency	Percent
No confidence at all	343	34
Very little confidence	189	19
Some confidence	270	27
Quite a lot of confidence	132	13
My full confidence	65	7
(Missing)	1	0

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

Response	Frequency	Percent
No confidence at all	429	43
Very little confidence	104	10
Some confidence	161	16
Quite a lot of confidence	115	12
My full confidence	190	19