

## National Speech Index: April 2026 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 | 315       | 31      |
| Heading in the WRONG direction | 685       | 69      |

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 | 526       | 53      |
| Slightly describes my thoughts       | 79        | 8       |
| Somewhat describes my thoughts       | 168       | 17      |
| Mostly describes my thoughts         | 135       | 14      |
| Describes my thoughts completely     | 93        | 9       |

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

| Response          | Frequency | Percent |
|-------------------|-----------|---------|
| Not at all secure | 166       | 17      |
| Not very secure   | 331       | 33      |
| Somewhat secure   | 328       | 33      |
| Very secure       | 137       | 14      |
| Completely secure | 38        | 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 | 416       | 42      |
| Not too worried    | 237       | 24      |
| Slightly worried   | 155       | 15      |
| Somewhat worried   | 118       | 12      |
| Very worried       | 75        | 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                               | 228       | 23      |
| Rarely, once or twice               | 240       | 24      |
| Occasionally, a handful of times    | 305       | 30      |
| Fairly often, a couple times a week | 149       | 15      |
| Very often, nearly every day        | 78        | 8       |

How concerned, if at all, are you about the federal government . . .

Pressuring broadcast companies to give equal air time to all candidates running in an election?

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Not at all concerned | 372       | 37      |
| Slightly concerned   | 153       | 15      |
| Somewhat concerned   | 254       | 25      |
| Very concerned       | 127       | 13      |
| Extremely concerned  | 95        | 9       |

Pressuring media organizations to report news about foreign affairs in a favorable way?

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Not at all concerned | 140       | 14      |
| Slightly concerned   | 138       | 14      |
| Somewhat concerned   | 287       | 29      |
| Very concerned       | 200       | 20      |
| Extremely concerned  | 235       | 23      |

Pressuring tech companies to provide it with unrestricted access to their products so they can be used for mass surveillance?

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Not at all concerned | 116       | 12      |
| Slightly concerned   | 115       | 12      |
| Somewhat concerned   | 239       | 24      |
| Very concerned       | 207       | 21      |
| Extremely concerned  | 322       | 32      |

Pressuring social media companies to suppress the posting of certain viewpoints?

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Not at all concerned | 127       | 13      |
| Slightly concerned   | 125       | 12      |
| Somewhat concerned   | 267       | 27      |
| Very concerned       | 214       | 21      |
| Extremely concerned  | 268       | 27      |

Pressuring video platforms to remove content because of the viewpoints expressed?

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Not at all concerned | 124       | 12      |
| Slightly concerned   | 137       | 14      |
| Somewhat concerned   | 306       | 31      |
| Very concerned       | 208       | 21      |
| Extremely concerned  | 225       | 22      |

Pressuring tech companies to remove misinformation from internet search results?

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Not at all concerned | 293       | 29      |
| Slightly concerned   | 156       | 16      |
| Somewhat concerned   | 269       | 27      |
| Very concerned       | 143       | 14      |
| Extremely concerned  | 139       | 14      |

How much, if at all, do you trust each of the following to oversee social media use by children under the age of 18?

Parents

| Response            | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Do not trust at all | 91        | 9       |
| Trust a little      | 214       | 21      |
| Trust somewhat      | 329       | 33      |
| Trust very much     | 255       | 25      |
| Trust completely    | 111       | 11      |

The federal government

| Response            | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Do not trust at all | 471       | 47      |
| Trust a little      | 260       | 26      |
| Trust somewhat      | 191       | 19      |
| Trust very much     | 54        | 5       |
| Trust completely    | 24        | 2       |

Social media companies

| Response            | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Do not trust at all | 554       | 55      |
| Trust a little      | 245       | 24      |
| Trust somewhat      | 142       | 14      |
| Trust very much     | 42        | 4       |
| Trust completely    | 17        | 2       |

Teachers

| Response            | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------|-----------|---------|
| Do not trust at all | 217       | 22      |
| Trust a little      | 217       | 22      |
| Trust somewhat      | 312       | 31      |
| Trust very much     | 199       | 20      |
| Trust completely    | 54        | 5       |
| (Missing)           | 1         | 0       |

How acceptable would you say it is for someone to engage in the following actions to protest someone giving a speech in their community?

Shouting down a speaker to prevent them from delivering their remarks.

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Always acceptable    | 31        | 3       |
| Sometimes acceptable | 161       | 16      |
| Rarely acceptable    | 274       | 27      |
| Never acceptable     | 534       | 53      |

Blocking entry to the event to prevent others from attending the speech.

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Always acceptable    | 21        | 2       |
| Sometimes acceptable | 105       | 10      |
| Rarely acceptable    | 204       | 20      |
| Never acceptable     | 670       | 67      |

Using physical violence to stop the speech.

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Always acceptable    | 11        | 1       |
| Sometimes acceptable | 52        | 5       |
| Rarely acceptable    | 113       | 11      |
| Never acceptable     | 824       | 82      |

Peacefully protesting outside of the speech.

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Always acceptable    | 609       | 61      |
| Sometimes acceptable | 255       | 25      |
| Rarely acceptable    | 92        | 9       |
| Never acceptable     | 43        | 4       |
| (Missing)            | 1         | 0       |

Heckling the speaker before allowing them to deliver their remarks.

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Always acceptable    | 43        | 4       |
| Sometimes acceptable | 180       | 18      |
| Rarely acceptable    | 295       | 29      |
| Never acceptable     | 481       | 48      |

Attend the speech and silently hold up protest signs when the speaker delivers their remarks.

| Response             | Frequency | Percent |
|----------------------|-----------|---------|
| Always acceptable    | 418       | 42      |
| Sometimes acceptable | 341       | 34      |
| Rarely acceptable    | 142       | 14      |
| Never acceptable     | 98        | 10      |
| (Missing)            | 1         | 0       |

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

| Response                  | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|
| No confidence at all      | 350       | 35      |
| Very little confidence    | 162       | 16      |
| Some confidence           | 244       | 24      |
| Quite a lot of confidence | 130       | 13      |
| My full confidence        | 114       | 11      |

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

| Response                  | Frequency | Percent |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------|
| No confidence at all      | 489       | 49      |
| Very little confidence    | 95        | 9       |
| Some confidence           | 144       | 14      |
| Quite a lot of confidence | 126       | 13      |
| My full confidence        | 146       | 15      |