



TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
DATE: DECEMBER 3, 2024

FROM: SCHOEN COOPERMAN RESEARCH

RE: U.S. POST-ELECTION TRUST IN GOVERNMENT STUDY: KEY FINDINGS

U.S. Post-Election Trust in Government Study

In partnership with George Washington's Graduate School of Political Management, Schoen Cooperman Research conducted and analyzed interviews with a demographically representative sample of 800 U.S. Adults between November 19th – 23rd, 2024. The goal of the research was to assess public trust in government generally, and specifically following the 2024 election.

Key Takeaways

A full summary of polling findings begins on the following page and **key takeaways** are below:

In light of the election results, slight pluralities of U.S. Adults say they now have **less trust in government generally and less confidence in its messaging**:

1

- However, **post-election perceptions of government are correlated with party and gender, and in turn, with the presidential vote**:
 - Democrats and Women have a more negative view of government.
 - By contrast, Republicans and Men have a more positive outlook.
-

At the same time, a slight plurality of the public also believes **government will be more effective at getting things done** following the election; but again, **there are clear differences by party**:

2

- Democrats believe government will be much less effective, Republicans believe it will be much more effective, and Independents believe it will be moderately more effective.
-

Increasing misinformation and disinformation are fueling public distrust in government and information generally, and were prevalent concerns in 2024:

3

- Approximately 7-in-10 U.S. Adults say this made it personally harder for them to access fair and accurate information on the election.
-

4

To that end, a plurality of **the public trusts neither the government nor the news for accurate information**, indicating **a broader trend of distrust in institutions**:

- Notably, Republicans and Independents tend to be more distrustful of these traditional public information sources than Democrats.

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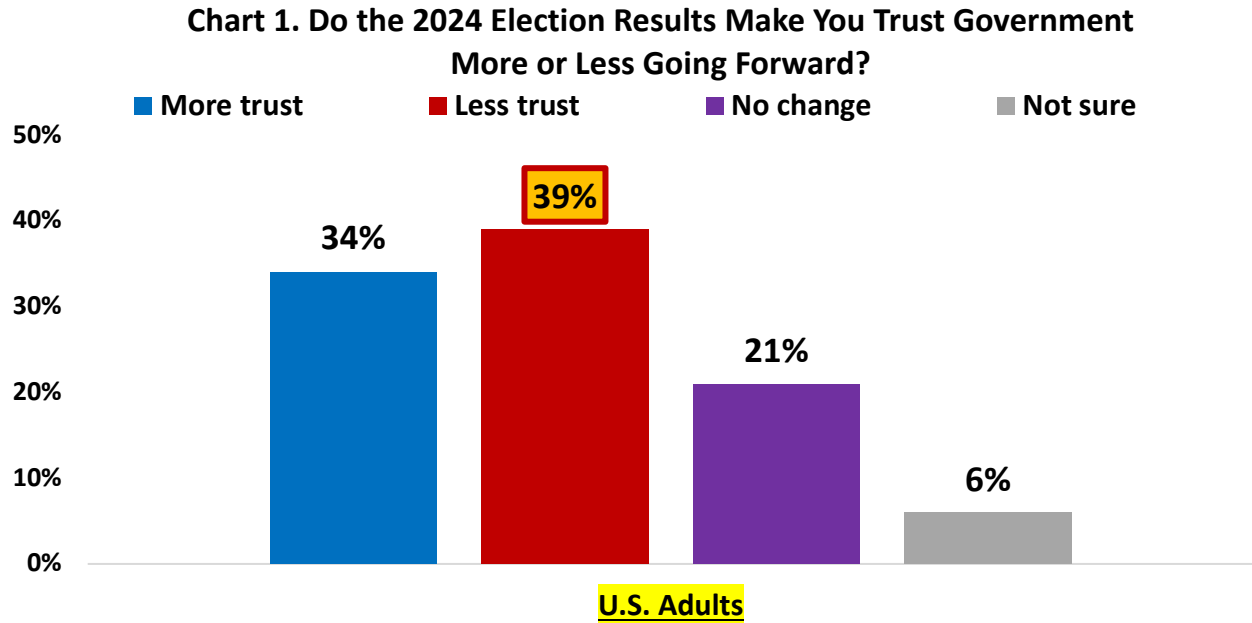
In terms of where most Americans access news, there is great variation by age:

- Majorities of younger adults (Under 40) get information from social media primarily, while older adults (Over 40) rely on TV for news.
 - Moreover, 18-29-year-olds get their news from TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube, while older groups are more likely to use Facebook.
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Impact of 2024 Election on Views of Government

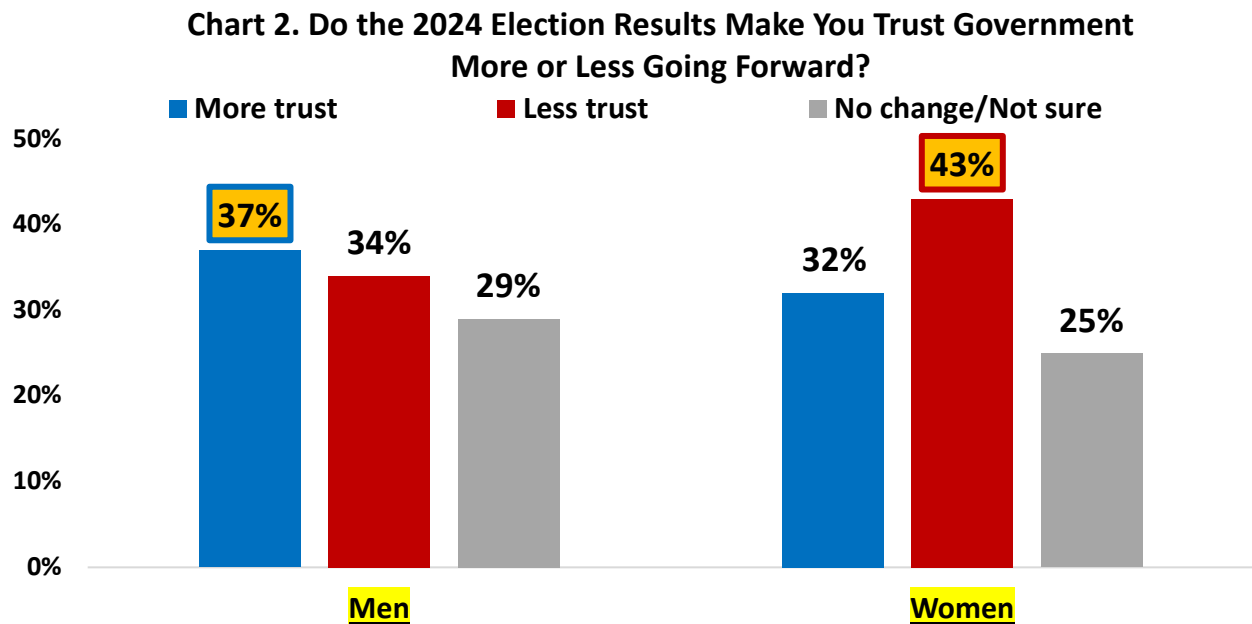
General Trust in Government

Given the 2024 election results, a plurality of the public trusts government *less* going forward.



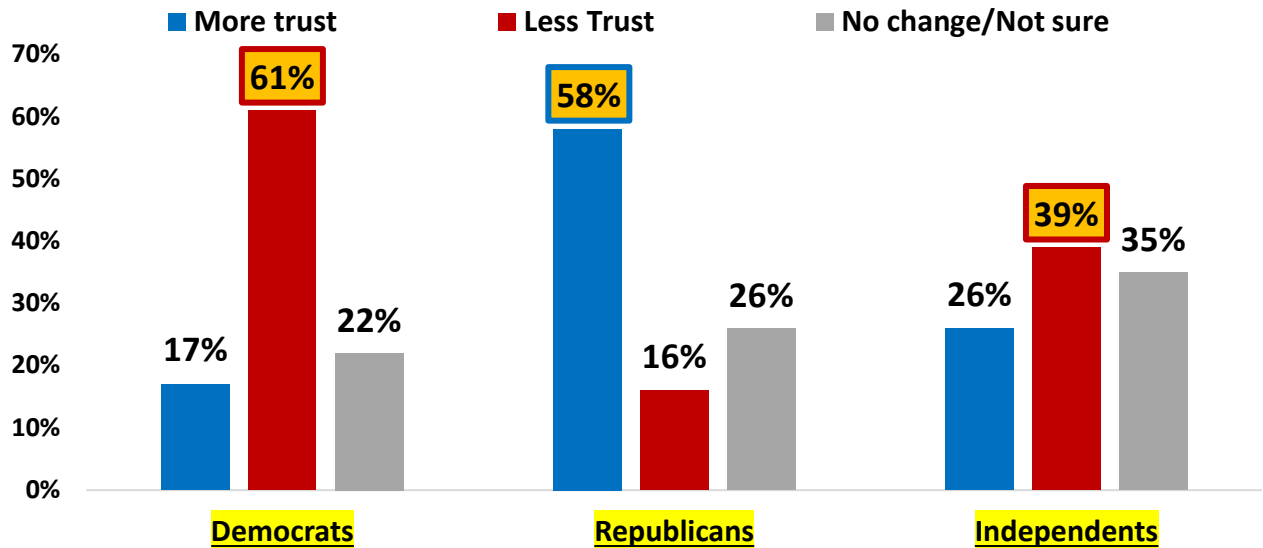
The election's impact – on levels of trust in government – differs by gender and party:

- In light of the results, men now have *more* trust in government, while women have *less*.



- A solid majority of Democrats now have *less* trust in government, while most Republicans have *more* trust. Independents are slightly less trusting of government, as well.

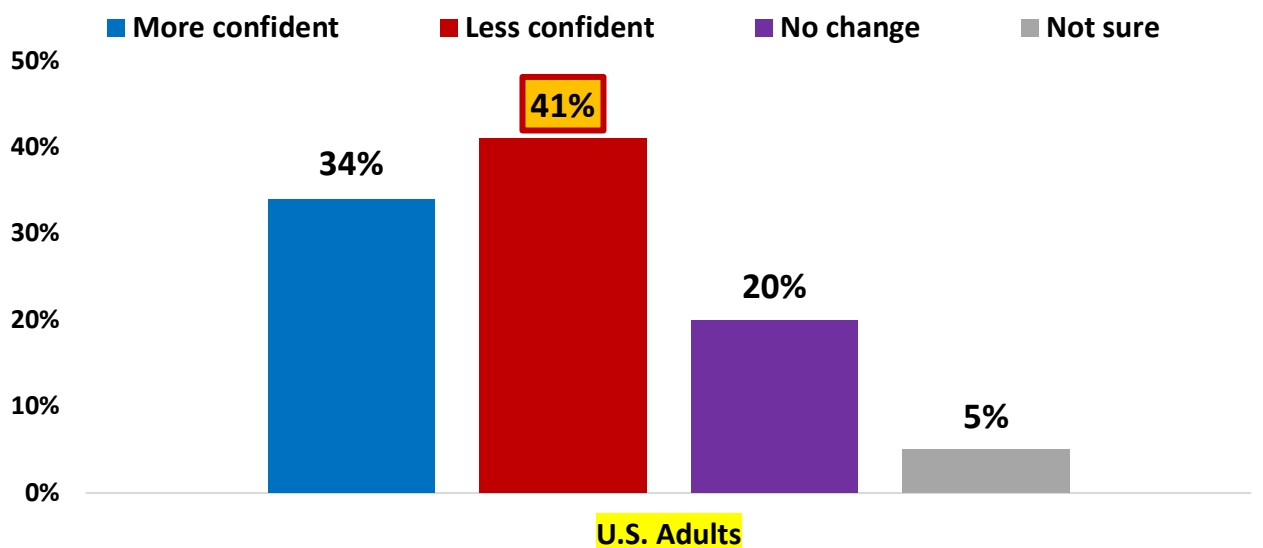
Chart 3. Do the 2024 Election Results Make You Trust Government More or Less Going Forward?



Trust in Government’s Messaging and Information

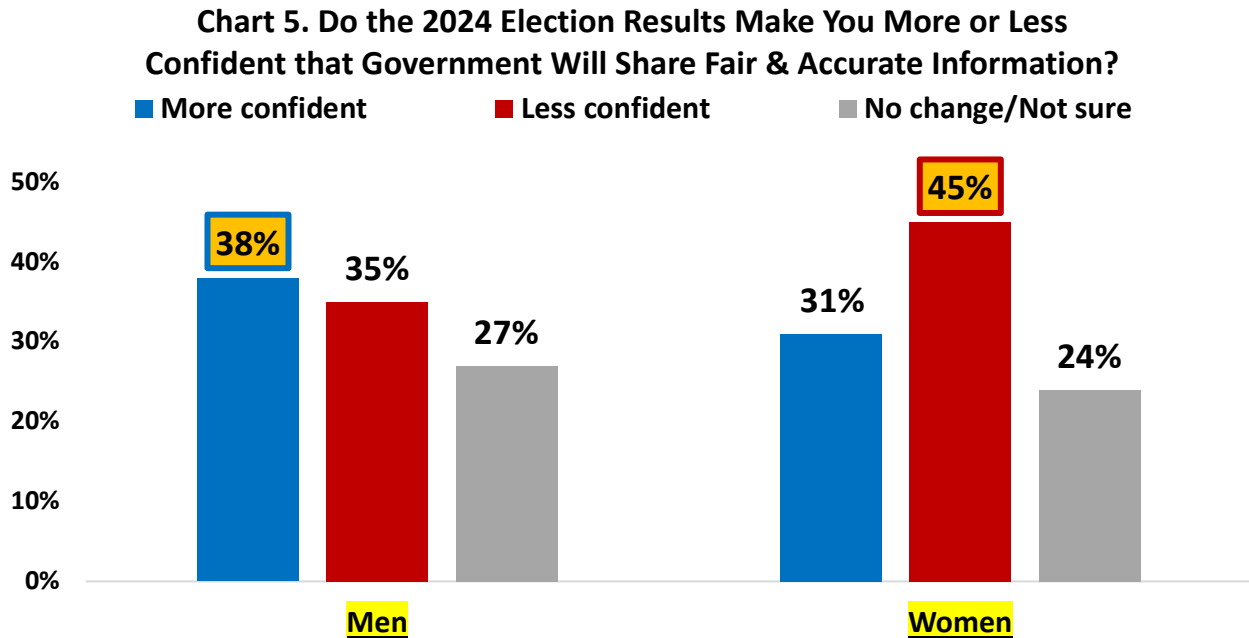
Following the election, a plurality of U.S. Adults is *less* confident that government will share fair and accurate information going forward.

Chart 4. Do the 2024 Election Results Make You More or Less Confident that Government Will Share Fair & Accurate Information?

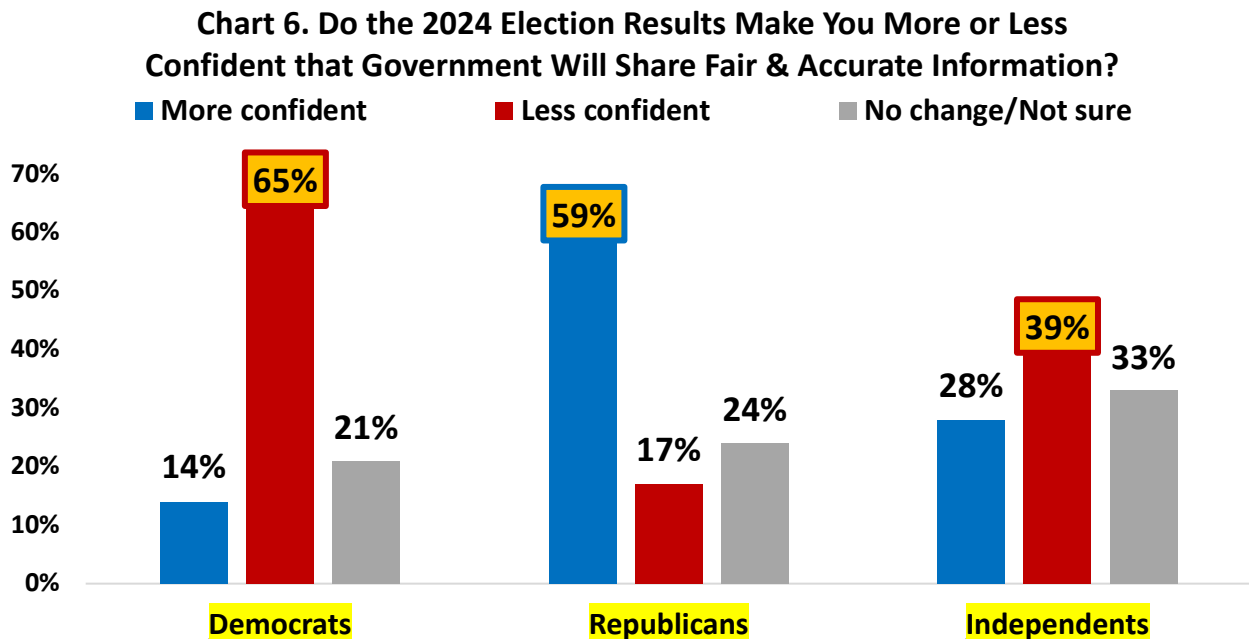


Levels of post-election confidence in the government to share fair information differ greatly by gender and party, as well:

- While men are *more* confident as a result of the 2024 election, women are *less* confident.

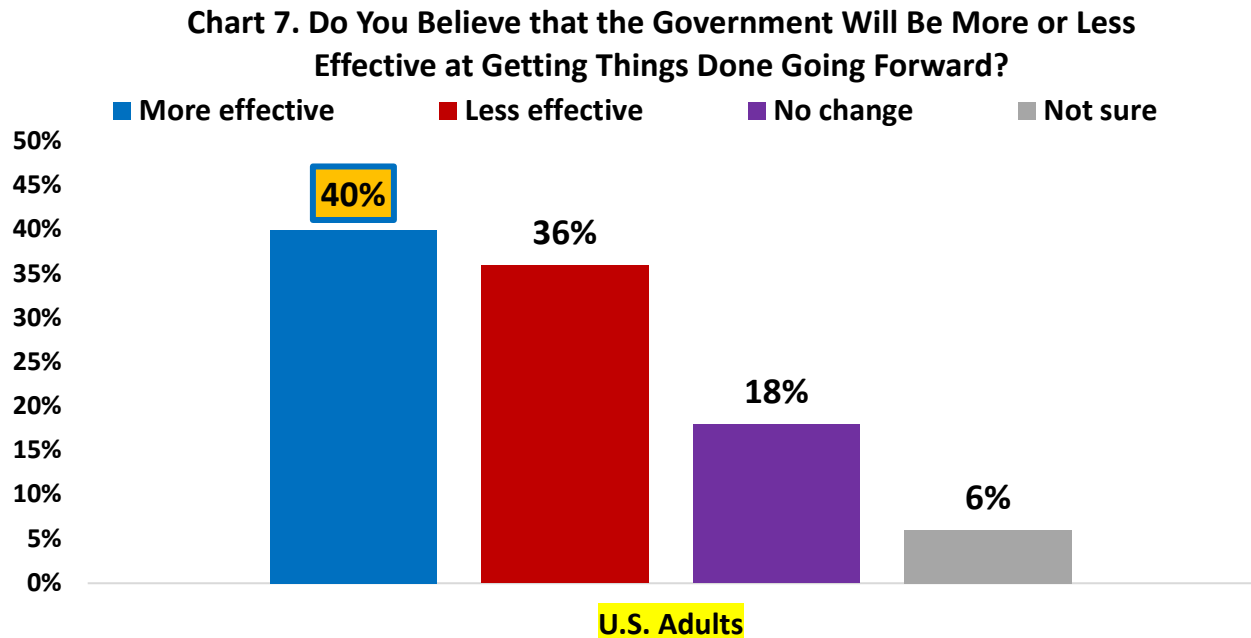


- While Democrats are broadly *less* confident as a result of the election, Republicans are *more* confident. Independents tend to be slightly *less* confident, as well.

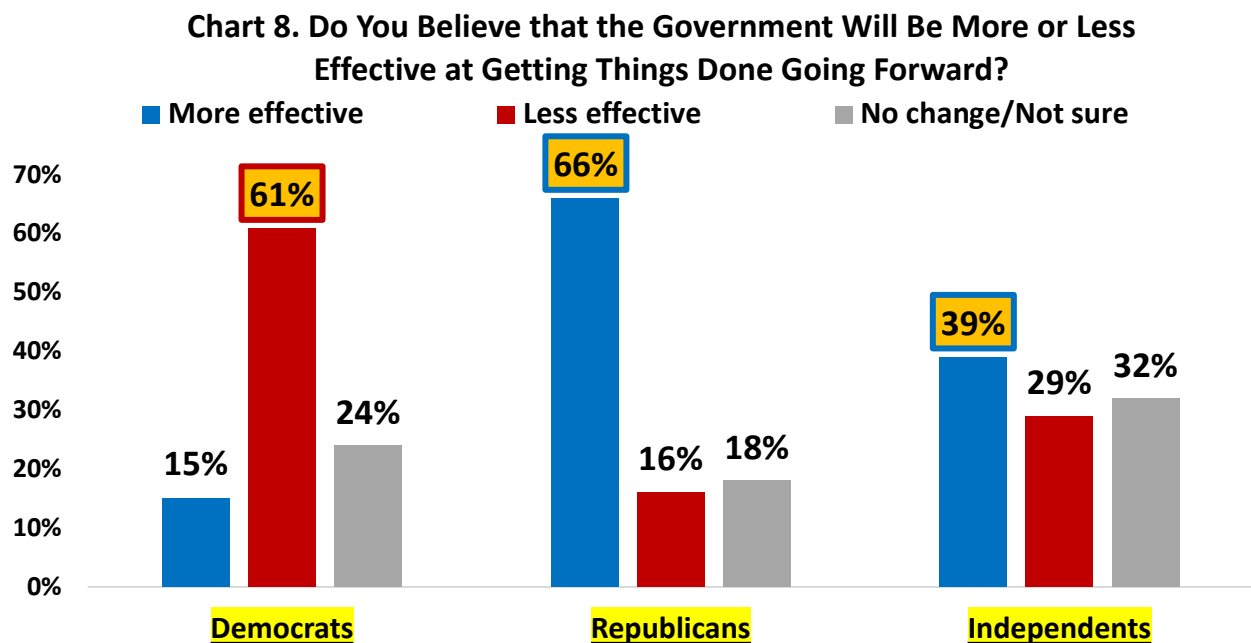


Effectiveness of Government

That said, given the election results, a slight plurality of U.S. Adults believe the government will be *more* effective at getting things done going forward.



But similarly, there are clear differences by party – as Democrats broadly believe government will now be *less* effective, while Republicans say it will be *more* effective, as do Independents.

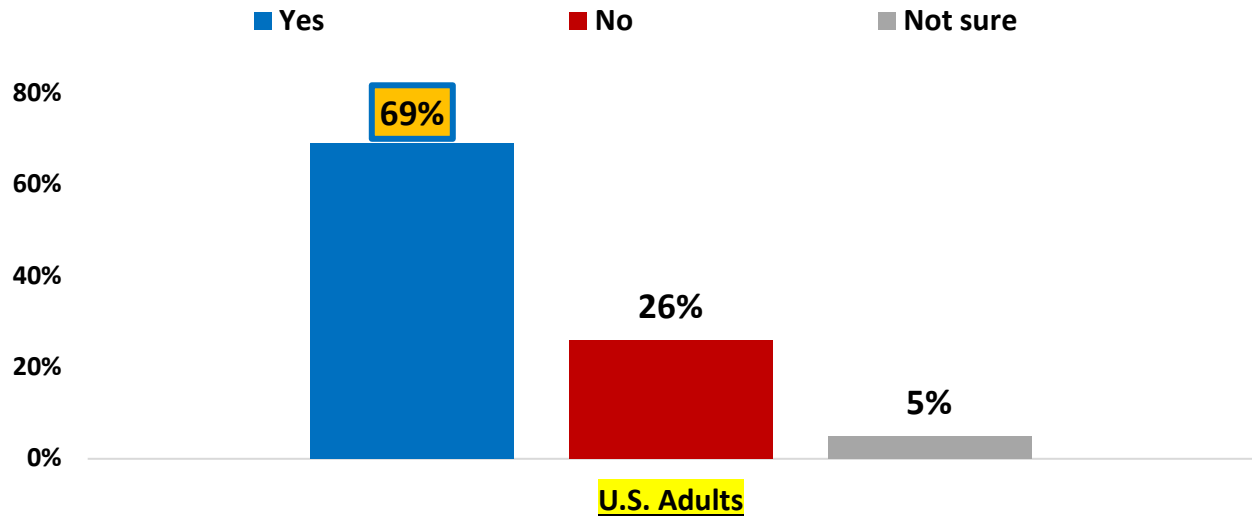


News and Information Gathering

Misinformation and Disinformation in the 2024 Election

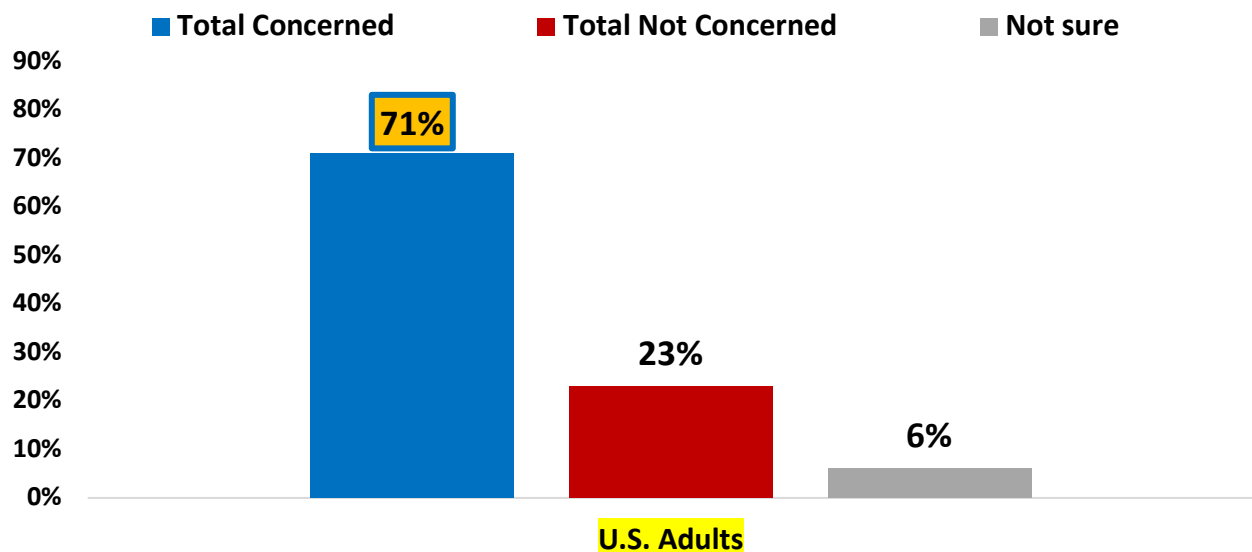
Around 7-in-10 U.S. Adults say that misinformation and disinformation made it harder to access fair and truthful news during the 2024 election campaign.

Chart 9. Did you find that online misinformation and disinformation made it harder to access fair and truthful news during the 2024 election campaign?



Likewise, over 70% of the public is concerned about the role deepfakes played in the election.

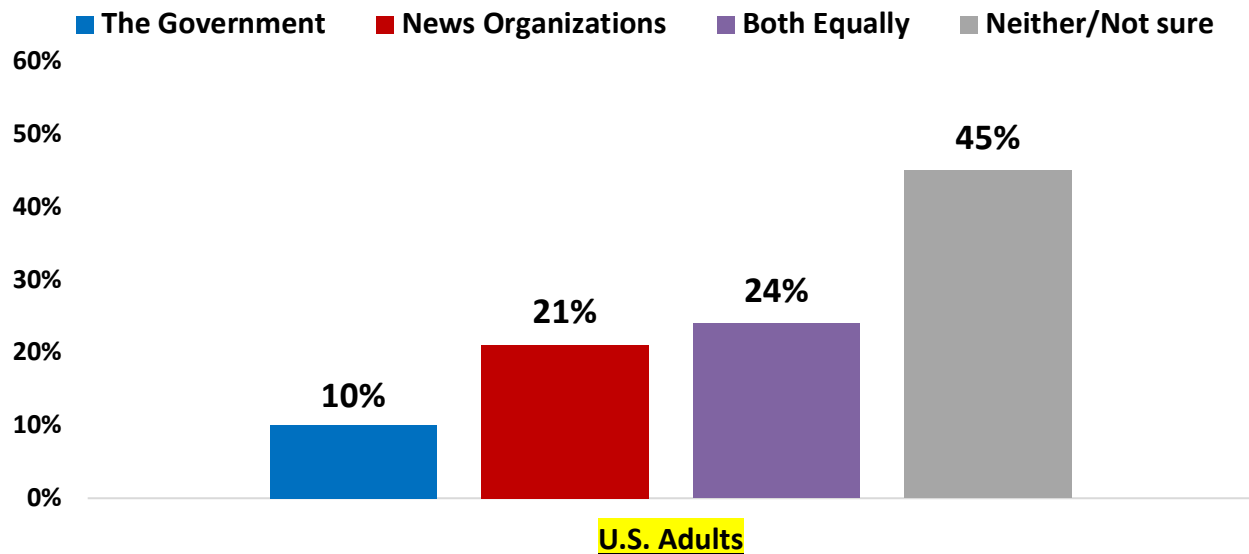
Chart 10. How concerned are you that deepfakes were used to spread disinformation during the 2024 election campaign?



General Trust in Information Sources

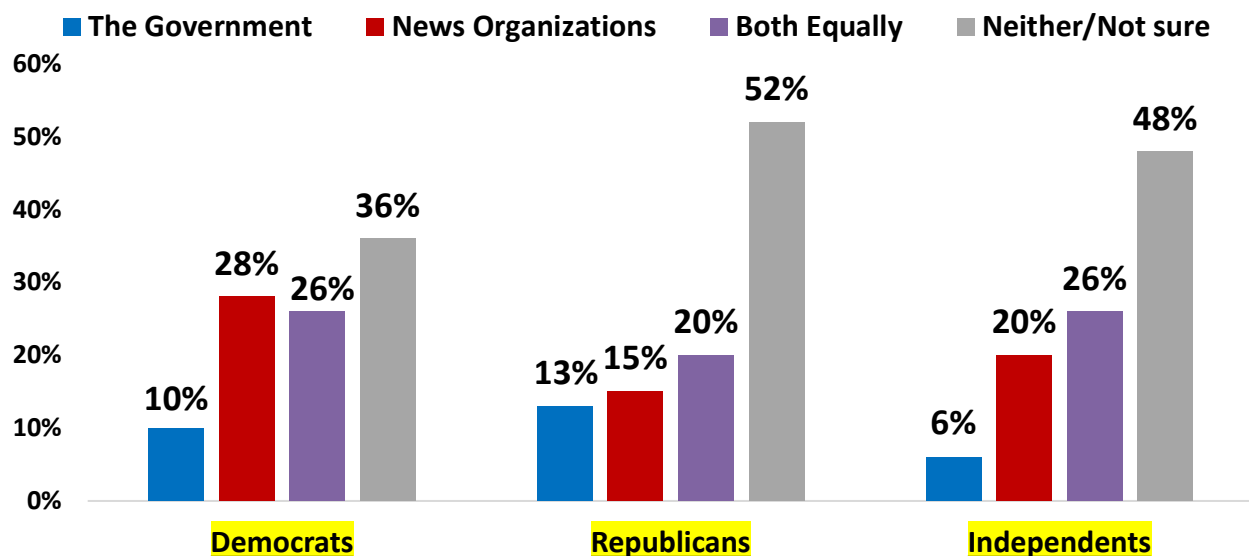
Trust in information generally is low, as a plurality of U.S. Adults trusts *neither* government nor news organizations to provide fair and truthful information.

Chart 11. Who Do You Trust More to Provide Fair and Truthful Information?



Trust in information sources also differs by party – as Democrats tend to be more trusting of both government and news organizations, while Republicans and Independents largely distrust both.

Chart 12. Who Do You Trust More to Provide Fair and Truthful Information?



News Consumption

Most Americans get their news and information primarily from television (68%), followed by social media (50%); that said, there are key differences by age, as:

- Americans Under 40 get their news primarily from social media
- By comparison, those Older than 40 tend to rely more on TV news

Table 1. Primary News Sources						
Source	All U.S.	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
Television	68%	60%	55%	64%	72%	84%
Social media	50%	76%	59%	49%	44%	27%
Internet/web	45%	34%	49%	47%	48%	46%
In-person	28%	34%	28%	30%	23%	28%
Radio	26%	22%	24%	23%	30%	27%
Print media	19%	11%	24%	16%	18%	26%
Email	14%	17%	15%	13%	13%	14%
Texting	12%	20%	22%	11%	6%	6%
Public events	9%	18%	14%	7%	5%	4%
AI Sources	3%	3%	5%	2%	3%	1%
Other	3%	2%	5%	5%	4%	3%
None	2%	2%	1%	4%	1%	--

Among all U.S. Adults, the most common social media sites to access news are Facebook (51%) and YouTube (55%); but again, there are key differences by age group, as:

- Younger Americans, particularly those 18-29 years old, are most likely to get news from sites like TikTok and Instagram
- Older age groups are more likely to use Facebook, or to not get any news online.

Table 2. Primary Social Media News Sources						
Source	All U.S.	18-29	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+
Facebook	51%	43%	63%	63%	52%	38%
YouTube	45%	54%	51%	45%	47%	27%
Instagram	31%	55%	40%	33%	21%	10%
TikTok	29%	61%	34%	26%	21%	8%
X (Twitter)	25%	41%	28%	31%	20%	10%
Snapchat	12%	26%	22%	11%	5%	1%
LinkedIn	10%	7%	13%	13%	12%	8%
WhatsApp	10%	11%	15%	12%	9%	6%
Truth Social	4%	4%	3%	3%	7%	3%
Other	4%	4%	6%	3%	4%	4%
None	18%	3%	11%	15%	19%	39%