

Most Americans Think Government Is Corrupt

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(Sachelle Babbar/ZUMA Press/Newscom)

Another sign of growing discontent in America? A new [poll](#) from the University of Chicago's Institute of Politics finds a majority of Americans think the government is corrupt and stacked against them.

To probably no one's surprise, 73 percent of poll respondents who identify as "strong Republican" respondents agreed with the statement that the government is "corrupt and rigged against everyday people like me." But Republicans are far from alone in this sentiment. Fifty-one percent of "very liberal" voters agreed with the same statement.

Overall, 56 percent of survey respondents said that the government is corrupt. This included 66 percent of all Republican respondents, 63 percent of independents, and 46 percent of Democrats.

The survey of 1,000 registered voters found that a significant number of people expect that extreme measures may be necessary to protect against government overreach. 28 percent of respondents agreed with the statement that "it may be necessary at some point soon for citizens to take up arms against the government." Thirty-six percent of Republicans, 35 percent of independents, and 20 percent of Democrats agreed.



While some have portrayed this as a sign of increasing polarization or extremism, I think it's the kind of poll question that makes for dramatic results but doesn't really tell us much. Agreeing that armed revolution "may" (or may not!) be necessary at some unspecified point in the future doesn't mean you think it's terribly *likely* to be necessary.

One interesting finding is that people across the board believed that their political opponents might agree with them if they were better informed. Asked about "people who you disagree with on political issues," half said that "the root of the problem" is that these people "are misinformed because of where they get their information." Fifty-one percent of Republicans, 52 percent of Democrats, and 37 percent of independents believed this.

And despite being a poll about political polarization, the survey actually found a number of areas of agreement.

Asked if "immigration is good for the country," only 34 percent of Republicans agreed, while 57 percent of independents and 73 percent of Democrats did. But asked if "legal immigration is good for the country," these numbers were boosted to 70 percent, 72 percent, and 82 percent, respectively.

Most respondents, regardless of political affiliation, were also in agreement that "it should be illegal for private companies such as Verizon, Google and Facebook to collect information about people's phone and internet usage."

The poll was conducted at the end of May. You can find the full results [here](#).

