Demonstration release: Trust Tracker pilot wave

How a quarterly wave of our signature index will be reported, from the component questions to the composite score.

Field dates Sep 17–24, 2026 · n = 2,011 · ±2.5 pts · integritypolling.com/polls/sample-trust-tracker-pilot-wave/

SAMPLE / DEMONSTRATION DATA

This document demonstrates the toplines template. No survey was fielded; every number is illustrative.

Methodology

Population	U.S. adults, 18 and older
Sample size	n = 2,011
Field dates	Sep 17–24, 2026
Mode	Probability-based online panel (86%) with telephone completion for non-internet households (14%)
Sampling frame	Address-based sample recruited to a probability panel; non-internet households provided a device or interviewed by phone
Weighting targets	Age · Sex · Race/ethnicity · Education · Census region · Metro status · Party identification (3-wave average) · Civic engagement (volunteering in past year)
Margin of sampling error	±2.5 percentage points at 95% confidence. Includes a design effect of 1.28. The index itself has a standard error of roughly 0.9 points.
Response rate	Cumulative response rate 4.4%; wave completion rate 74%
Languages	English and Spanish
Sponsor / funding	Integrity Polling.

Topline results

Share with “a great deal” or “quite a lot” of trust, by institution

U.S. adults, n = 2,011. Institutions rotated. Gold marks our own industry.

RESPONSE	SHARE OF ADULTS
Local election officials	58%
Local government	46%
The Supreme Court	39%
State government	37%
Federal agencies	33%
The presidency	31%
Public opinion polls	29%
The news media	27%
Congress	18%

Which comes closest to your view?

U.S. adults. The Representation Index is the share who feel represented by either major party, rescaled with intensity.

RESPONSE	SHARE OF ADULTS
The Democratic Party represents people like me	29%
The Republican Party represents people like me	27%
Neither party represents people like me	38%
Not sure	6%

Index trajectory (illustrative back-series)

Demonstration only. Real waves begin in Q1 2027; this series shows how the trend chart will read after eight quarters.

PERIOD	INSTITUTIONAL TRUST INDEX	REPRESENTATION INDEX
Q4 2024	44	34
Q1 2025	43	33
Q2 2025	42	31
Q3 2025	40	30
Q4 2025	41	32
Q1 2026	39	29
Q2 2026	40	30
Q3 2026	41	31

Question wording, in the order asked

Q1a–Q1i How much trust do you have in each of the following to act in the public interest: a great deal, quite a lot, some, very little, or none at all? [ROTATE: Congress; the Supreme Court; the presidency; federal agencies such as the FDA and the IRS; your state government; your local government; the officials who run elections in your community; the news media; public opinion polls]

A great deal · Quite a lot · Some · Very little · None at all

Each institution is scored 0–100 (none at all = 0, a great deal = 100). The Institutional Trust Index is the unweighted mean of the nine institution scores.

Q2 Which of the following comes closest to your view, even if none is exactly right? The Democratic Party represents people like me. The Republican Party represents people like me. Neither party represents people like me.

The Democratic Party represents people like me · The Republican Party represents people like me · Neither party represents people like me · Not sure (accepted, not read)

The two party statements were rotated. 'Neither' was always read last so it was not advantaged by position.

Q3 How strongly do you feel that way: very strongly, somewhat strongly, or not that strongly?

Very strongly · Somewhat strongly · Not that strongly

The Representation Index weights Q2 by Q3 intensity: very strongly = 100, somewhat = 67, not that strongly = 33 for respondents who feel represented; 0 for those who chose Neither or Not sure.

Q4 Thinking about the last election you voted in, how confident are you that your vote was counted as you intended: very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident · Somewhat confident · Not too confident · Not at all confident · Did not vote

Q5 In the past twelve months, have you contacted an elected official, attended a public meeting, or volunteered for a campaign or civic organization?

Yes · No

Used as a weighting target to correct for the civic-engagement skew common to survey panels.

D1–D7 Demographic items: age, gender, race and ethnicity, education, ZIP code, party identification with leaners, and 2024 vote. Exact wording is in the questionnaire download.

Percentages may not sum to 100 because of rounding. Subgroup margins of error are larger than the overall margin. Crosstabs with unweighted sample sizes: /downloads/sample-trust-tracker-pilot-wave-crosstabs.csv. Full methodology: integritypolling.com/methodology/