

National Speech Index: January 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	410	41
Heading in the WRONG direction	588	59
(Missing)	2	0

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	461	46
Slightly describes my thoughts	88	9
Somewhat describes my thoughts	215	22
Mostly describes my thoughts	137	14
Describes my thoughts completely	99	10

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

Response	Frequency	Percent
Not at all secure	84	8
Not very secure	310	31
Somewhat secure	382	38
Very secure	186	19
Completely secure	39	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	351	35
Not too worried	240	24
Slightly worried	175	17
Somewhat worried	152	15
Very worried	81	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	148	15
Rarely, once or twice	252	25
Occasionally, a handful of times	330	33
Fairly often, a couple times a week	176	18
Very often, nearly every day	94	9

The speakers listed below all previously expressed something that someone found offensive. How OFFENSIVE or NOT OFFENSIVE is what each of the following speakers previously said?

	Not at all offensive	Not very offensive	Somewhat offensive	Very offensive	Extremely offensive
Transgender people have a mental disorder.	21%	16%	23%	18%	22%
Abortion should be completely illegal.	24%	19%	18%	16%	23%
Black Lives Matter is a hate group.	20%	16%	19%	19%	26%
Illegal immigrants should be arrested and deported.	31%	20%	17%	14%	18%
The Catholic church is a pedophilic institution.	14%	16%	28%	24%	18%
The police are just as racist as the Ku Klux Klan.	10%	12%	27%	25%	26%
America got what it deserved on 9/11.	4%	5%	12%	17%	63%
Children should be able to transition without parental consent.	11%	13%	17%	18%	41%

Have you ever taken a picture of your ballot after voting (i.e., have you ever taken a ballot selfie)? If so, did you share that picture on social media?

Response	Frequency	Percent
I have never taken a ballot selfie.	871	87
I have taken a ballot selfie, but did not share on social media.	91	9
I have taken and shared a ballot selfie on social media.	38	4

How much confidence, if any, do you have that the Supreme Court will protect your First Amendment rights?

Response	Frequency	Percent
No confidence at all	282	28
Very little confidence	157	16
Some confidence	333	33