

Survey Description

Authoritarian Warning Survey

On welcome screen:

Thanks for evaluating American democracy.

For the following questions, it's very important to be clear on what the categories mean:

1 = Within range of a normally functioning consolidated democracy

2 = Moderate violations atypical of a consolidated democracy, but that don't yet threaten breakdown

3 = Violations that signal significant erosion of democratic quality and warn of high potential for breakdown in future

4 = Critical violations that seriously threaten near-term survival

5 = Violations severe enough to make system non-democratic

All responses will be anonymous. By completing the survey, it's implied you consent to participating and understand the aggregate results may be published for educational purposes.

The survey includes the following text:

1. Please rate American political leaders over the past two months in the areas below:
 - 1a. Media (Leaders' treatment of media, respect for free press, and transparency): 1-5
 - 1b. Executive Constraints (Effective constraints of executive against abuses of power; leaders' respect for judiciary, legislature, and rule of law): 1-5
 - 1c. Elections and Treatment of Opposition (Respect for free and fair elections and legitimacy of opposition): 1-5
 - 1d. Civil Liberties (Respect for core freedoms (such as speech, assembly, religion, and privacy): 1-5
 - 1e. Civil Violence (Use of violence, intimidation, or paramilitary organizations for political ends): 1-5
 - 1f. Rhetoric (Speech by political leaders indicating democratic erosion or weak normative attachment to democracy): 1-5

2. In your opinion, what is the percentage likelihood American democracy breaks down (by your definition) within the next four years? (0-100)
3. How does the quality and stability of American democracy compare to 10 years ago? 1-5
1 (Much better) – 3 (Same) – 5 (Much worse)
4. What event or action (if any) do you consider the most significant threat to American democracy over the past two months? (You can also include additional comments on American democracy or the survey here.)