

Americans' Concerns about the 2026 Midterm Elections

September 24, 2026

A national survey of 16,629 respondents found that misinformation, false claims of voter fraud, and concerns about ineligible voting or voter fraud are among the top concerns surrounding the 2026 midterm elections.

These concerns break most sharply along partisan lines. When asked to select their single biggest concern about the election, 36% of Republicans chose ineligible voters or voter fraud, compared with 6% of Democrats, a 30-point gap. The pattern reverses for concerns about false claims of election fraud: 26% of Democrats selected this as the top concern, compared with 9% of Republicans. Independents fall between Democrats and Republicans on both concerns. Concern about misinformation is more consistent across partisan groups, with 17% of Republicans, 16% of Democrats, and 21% of Independents identifying it as a concern.

Top concerns also vary by age, education, income, race, and community type (urban versus rural), though the differences are generally less pronounced than those by party. Younger adults are more likely to cite misinformation (23% of adults 18 to 24; 10% of adults 65 and older) and immigration enforcement at polls (12% of adults 18 to 24; 5% of adults 65 and older) as concerns. Older adults are more likely to cite ineligible voting or fraud (26% of adults 65 and older; 9% of adults ages 18 to 24) and false claims of fraud (21% of adults 65 and older; 15% of adults 18 to 24).

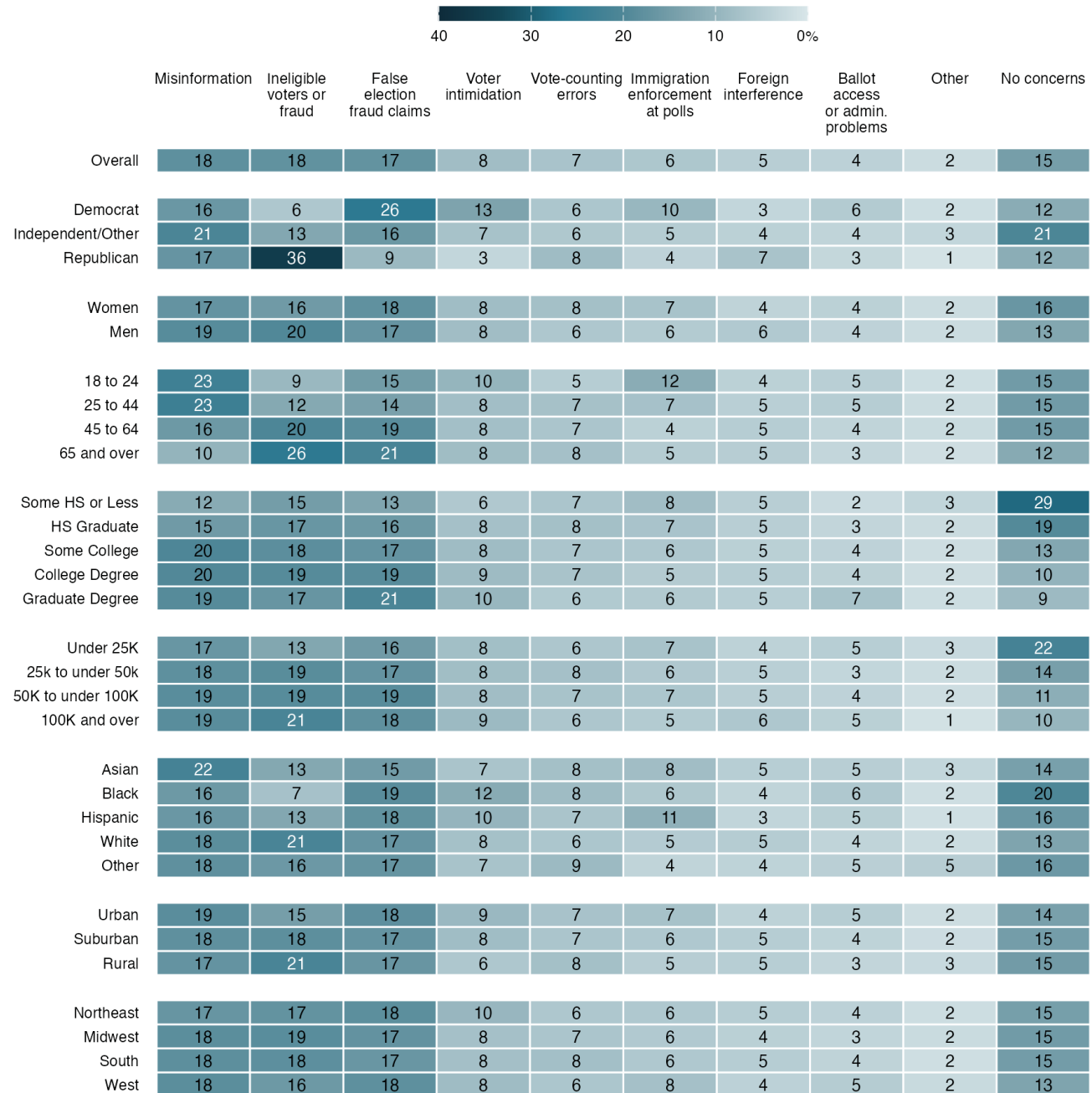
Concern about ineligible voting or voter fraud is also higher among people with higher incomes (21% among those with household incomes over \$100,000), rural residents (21%), and Whites (21%). Asians are more likely than other racial groups to name misinformation as their top concern (22%), while Blacks are more likely to name voter intimidation (12%) and Hispanics immigration enforcement (11%).

Overall, 17% of respondents say they have no concerns about the election. This response is more common among adults with less education (29%) and lower incomes (22%), Independents (20%), and Blacks (20). Election concerns vary little by gender or geographic region. Ballot access and administration problems, and foreign interference are less commonly named as top concerns (4% and 5% of all respondents respectively).

See the figure below for more details.



Top Concerns About the 2026 Election

% respondents selecting each as their top concern, by demographic group

Source: CHIP50 survey of 16,629 U.S. adults, Aug 23–Sep 14, 2026.

Estimates are weighted to reflect the U.S. adult population.

The Shorenstein Center 2026 Voting Information Trends Reports are produced by the Shorenstein Center in collaboration with the National Internet Observatory at Northeastern University, the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School, and The Civic Health and Institutions Project.

Methodology

From August 23, 2026 to September 14, 2026 we collected responses from 16,629 U.S. adults (18+) across all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The surveys were conducted by PureSpectrum through an online, nonprobability sample. We reweighted our data using demographic characteristics to match the U.S. population with respect to 2024 vote choice and turnout, race and ethnicity, age, gender, education, and living in urban, suburban, or rural areas. More information on methodology is available at chip50.org/survey-methodology.