

# GREAT DECISIONS

1918 • FOREIGN POLICY ASSOCIATION

2022 EDITION

## 2022 National Opinion Ballot

First, we'd like to ask you for some information about your participation in the Great Decisions program. If you are not currently a Great Decisions program member, please skip to the "background" section.

How long have you participated in the Great Decisions program (i.e., attended one or more discussion sessions)?

- This is the first year I have participated
- I participated in one previous year
- I participated in more than one previous year

How did you learn about the Great Decisions Program?

- Word of mouth
- Local library
- Foreign Policy Association website
- Promotional brochure
- Other organization \_\_\_\_\_

Where does your Great Decisions group meet?

- Private home
- Library
- Community center
- Learning in retirement
- Online/Zoom
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

How many hours, on average, do you spend reading one *Great Decisions* chapter?

- Less than 1 hour
- 1–2 hours
- 3–4 hours
- More than 4 hours

Would you say you have or have not changed your opinion in a fairly significant way as a result of taking part in the Great Decisions program?

- Have
- Have not

**Background Section:** Next, we'd like to ask you some information about your background.

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statement? Although the media often reports about national and international events and developments, this news is seldom as interesting as the things that happen directly in our own community and neighborhood.

- Agree strongly
- Agree somewhat
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree somewhat
- Disagree strongly

Generally speaking, how interested are you in politics?

- Very much interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not interested at all

Do you think it is best for the future of the United States if the U.S. takes an active role in world affairs or stays out of world affairs?

- Takes an active role in world affairs
- Stays out of world affairs

How often are you asked for your opinion on foreign policy?

- Often
- Sometimes
- Never

Have you been abroad during the last two years?

- Yes
- No

Do you know, or are you learning, a foreign language?

- Yes
- No

Do you have any close friends or family that live in other countries?

- Yes
- No

Do you donate to any charities that help the poor in other countries?

- Yes
- No

Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or something else?

- Republican
- Democrat
- Independent
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

With which gender do you most identify?

- Male
- Female
- Transgender male
- Transgender female
- Gender variant/non-conforming
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

What race do you consider yourself?

- White/Caucasian
- Black/African American
- Hispanic/Latino
- Asian American
- Native American
- Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to answer

Were you born in the United States or another country?

- United States
- Another country

Are you a citizen of the United States, another country, or are you a citizen of both the United States and another country?

- United States
- Another country
- United States and another country

How important is religion in your life?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not at all important

What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you currently employed?

- Full-time employee
- Part-time employee
- Self-employed
- Unemployed
- Retired
- Student
- Homemaker

What are the first three digits of your zip code? (This will allow us to do a state-by-state breakdown of results.)

\_\_\_\_\_

Can you give us an estimate of your household income in 2018 before taxes?

- Below \$30,000
- \$30,000–\$50,000
- \$50,000–\$75,000
- \$75,000–\$100,000
- \$100,000–\$150,000
- Over \$150,000
- Not sure
- Prefer not to say

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- Did not graduate from high school
- High school graduate
- Some college, but no degree (yet)
- 2-year college degree
- 4-year college degree
- Some postgraduate work, but no degree (yet)
- Post-graduate degree (MA, MBA, MD, JD, PhD, etc.)

*Now we would like to ask you some ballot questions from previous years:*

**1. From 2019's "Refugees and global migration":** To what extent do you think migrants, especially refugees and asylum-seekers, pose a threat to the host country's security?

- Major threat
- Minor threat
- No threat

**2. From 2017's "Latin America's political pendulum":** How interested would you say you are in issues related to Latin America?

- Very interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

**3. From 2014's "Energy Independence":** How important is investing in renewable energy to the United States remaining competitive with other countries in the global economy?

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not important at all

**4. From 2010's "China looks at the world: the world looks at China":** When considering U.S.- China relations, you consider China foremost as:

- An ally
- A rival
- A threat

**5. From 2018's "Russia's foreign policy":** If the United States reduces its role on the world stage, how likely do you think it is that Russia will benefit compared to other countries?

- Very likely
- Somewhat likely
- Not too likely
- Not likely at all

**6. From 2012's "Mexico: transborder crime and governance":** Should the U.S. pursue anti-drug initiatives in Mexican territory without explicit permission from the Mexican government?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

**7. From 2017's "Conflict in the South China Sea":** How big of a problem for the U.S. is the territorial dispute over the South China Sea? Do you think this is a very serious problem, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem at all?

- Very serious
- Somewhat serious
- Not too serious
- Not a problem at all

**8. From 2010's "The special envoy in American foreign policy":** What qualities do you consider to be most important/most effective in a special envoy? (Select one.)

- Personal stature/recognizable name
- Knowing how to work in coordination with the State Department and ambassadors instead of circumventing established policy
- Expertise in the conflict/region
- Being willing to work outside of the bureaucratic structure
- Negotiating skills

**9. From 2016's "Climate Geopolitics":** Do you think that climate change is or is not caused by human activity?

- Climate change is caused by human activity
- Climate change is not caused by human activity

**10. From 2017's "Trade, jobs, and politics":** Globalization is the increase of trade, communication, travel, and other things among countries around the world. In general, has the United States gained more or lost more because of globalization?

- Gained more
- Lost more

**11. From 2015's "Russia and the near abroad":** Do you think that growing tension between Russia and its neighbors is a major threat, a minor threat, or not a threat to the well-being of America's NATO allies?

- A major threat
- A minor threat
- Not a threat
- Not sure

# Bonus Topic. Changing Demographics

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Changing Demographics” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Changing Demographics” in the 2022 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Changing Demographics” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Changing Demographics” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Changing Demographics”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Changing Demographics”
- Have or had a job related to “Changing Demographics”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Changing Demographics”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. What is of more concern regarding the nature of the changing demographics: the population boom in the developing world, or the population decline in the developed world, or neither?

- The population boom is more concerning
- The population decline is more concerning
- Neither is of special concern

4. Over the course of the 20th century, the population of urban dwellers has sky rocketed. In your opinion, is this demographic change more positive or negative?

- More positive due to social, economic, and cultural benefits
- More negative due to stresses on social services and infrastructure
- Neither

5. To what extent should governments be involved in controlling population levels?

- Extremely involved
- Somewhat involved
- Not too involved
- Not at all involved

6. How involved should the United States be in combatting Covid-19 in other parts of the world?

- Extremely involved
- Somewhat involved
- Not too involved
- Not at all involved

7. Do the varied effects of the Covid-19 pandemic reflect longstanding socio-economic inequalities in the United States?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

8. Should the United States utilize immigration control in order to regulate changing demographics?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

9. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Changing Demographics”? If so, please use the space below.

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*Enter your answers online at*  
**[www.fpa.org/ballot](http://www.fpa.org/ballot)**

# Topic I. Outer Space

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Outer Space” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Outer Space” in the 2022 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Outer Space” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Outer Space” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Outer Space”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Outer Space”
- Have or had a job related to “Outer Space”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Outer Space”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How concerned are you with China’s increased presence in outer space?

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not at all concerned

4. How involved should the US government be in stimulating the commercial space sector (exp. SpaceX)

- Extremely involved
- Somewhat involved
- Not too involved
- Not at all involved

5. To what extent is the “U.S. Space Force” program constructed under President Trump necessary in the climate of increased space militarization?

- Extremely necessary
- Somewhat necessary
- Not too necessary
- Not at all necessary

6. The International Space Station was a successful joint U.S.-Russian space operation. Should the United States seek to find other ways to ease global tension in outer space?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

7. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Outer Space”? If so, please use the space below.

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## Topic 2. Climate Change

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Climate Change” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Climate Change” in the 2022 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Climate Change” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Climate Change” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Climate Change”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Climate Change”
- Have or had a job related to “Climate Change”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Climate Change”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How important is climate change as an issue to be addressed by the President and Congress?

- Extremely important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not at all important

4. To what extent is climate change a political issue more than a scientific one?

- Definitely more a political than a scientific issue
- Somewhat more a political than a scientific issue
- About the same
- Less a political than a scientific issue

5. Which of the following actors mentioned in the article has demonstrated the best strategy toward tackling climate change?

- Trump administration
- Biden administration
- European Union

6. How important is the Paris Climate Agreement for combatting climate change?

- Extremely important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not at all important

7. Which of the following methods do you think is the best way to combat climate change?

- Wind Energy
- Solar Energy
- Hydrogen Energy
- Clean nuclear power
- Electronic transportation

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Climate Change”? If so, please use the space below.

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## Topic 3. Russia and the U.S.

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Russia and the U.S.” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Russia and the U.S.” in the 2022 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Russia and the U.S.” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Russia and the U.S.” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Russia and the U.S.”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Russia and the U.S.”
- Have or had a job related to “Russia and the U.S.”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Russia and the U.S.”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How concerned are you with Putin’s Russia as a threat to U.S. interests?

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not at all concerned

4. Should resistance movements such as “Pussy Riot” or Navalny and supporters continue to protest Putin’s corrupt practices?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

5. To what extent does Putin’s popularity derive from his foreign policy?

- Very much so
- Not very much
- Somewhat
- Not at all

6. How probable is it that the Biden administration will be able to improve relations with Putin?

- Extremely probable
- Somewhat probable
- Not too probable
- Not at all probable

7. How concerning is the Russian hacking during the 2016 U.S. presidential election?

- Extremely concerning
- Somewhat concerning
- Not too concerning
- Not at all concerning

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Russia and the U.S.”? If so, please use the space below.

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## Topic 4. Myanmar and ASEAN

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Myanmar and ASEAN” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Myanmar and ASEAN” in the 2022 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Myanmar and ASEAN” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Myanmar and ASEAN” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Myanmar and ASEAN”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Myanmar and ASEAN”
- Have or had a job related to “Myanmar and ASEAN”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Myanmar and ASEAN”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. Do you think that it is possible for democracy to prevail in Myanmar?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

4. To what extent do you think Aung San Suu Kyi and the NLD are a viable alternative to the Burmese military?

- Very much so
- Not very much
- Somewhat
- Not at all

5. How effective has ASEAN been in responding to the coup in Myanmar?

- Extremely effective
- Somewhat effective
- Not too effective
- Not at all effective

6. Should the United States be involved with countering the military junta in Myanmar?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

7. What is the best way for the United States to respond to the situation in Myanmar?

- Denouncing the coup
- Sanctions
- Freezing assets
- Some combination of these tactics
- Nothing

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Myanmar and ASEAN”? If so, please use the space below.

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# Topic 5. Quad Alliance

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Quad Alliance” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Quad Alliance” in the 2022 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Quad Alliance” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Quad Alliance” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Quad Alliance”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Quad Alliance”
- Have or had a job related to “Quad Alliance”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Quad Alliance”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How concerning is President Xi Jinping’s continued push into the South China Sea?

- Extremely concerning
- Somewhat concerning
- Not too concerning
- Not at all concerning

4. Should the U.S be a key player in resisting Chinese hegemony in the Pacific?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

5. How successful will the Quad Alliance be containing Chinese expansionism?

- Extremely successful
- Somewhat successful
- Not too successful
- Not at all successful

6. How probable do you think it is that President Xi Jinping will exploit the presence of the Quad in order to make a bid for more power?

- Extremely probable
- Somewhat probable
- Not too probable
- Not at all probable

7. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about the “Quad Alliance”? If so, please use the space below.

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# Topic 6. Drug Policy in Latin America

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Drug Policy in Latin America” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Drug Policy in Latin America” in the 2022 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Drug Policy in Latin America” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Drug Policy in Latin America” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Drug Policy in Latin America”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Drug Policy in Latin America”
- Have or had a job related to “Drug Policy in Latin America”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Drug Policy in Latin America”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How effective has the war on drugs been in combating the drug trade?

- Extremely effective
- Somewhat effective
- Not too effective
- Not at all effective

4. Do you have a positive opinion of U.S. interventionism in Latin America as it pertains to drug policy?

- Yes
- Somewhat
- No
- Unsure

5. Should governments in Latin America continue to pursue punitive measures to combat the drug trade?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6. Do you agree that a focus on rehabilitation and legalization may be a good alternative to the punitive measures of the past?

- Strongly agree
- Somewhat agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Somewhat disagree
- Strongly disagree

7. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Drug Policy in Latin America”? If so, please use the space below.

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# Topic 7. Industrial Policy

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Industrial Policy” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Industrial Policy” in the 2022 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Industrial Policy” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Industrial Policy” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Industrial Policy”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Industrial Policy”
- Have or had a job related to “Industrial Policy”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Industrial Policy”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. How involved should the government be in the well-being of the U.S. economy?

- Extremely involved
- Somewhat involved
- Not too involved
- Not at all involved

4. How connected would you say economic power is with foreign policy?

- Extremely connected
- Somewhat connected
- Not too connected
- Not at all connected

5. How responsible would you say industrial policy is for the rise in Chinese economic power?

- Extremely responsible
- Somewhat responsible
- Not too responsible
- Not at all responsible

6. Which of the following area do you think should be receiving the most aid from state intervention?

- U.S. highways
- Modernizing ports
- Pre-K education
- Alternative energy
- Automotive sector

7. How concerned are you with the ascent of Chinese economic power?

- Extremely concerned
- Somewhat concerned
- Not too concerned
- Not at all concerned

8. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Industrial Policy”? If so, please use the space below.

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## Topic 8. Biden’s Agenda

1. Have you engaged in any of the following activities related to the “Biden’s Agenda” topic? Mark all that you have done or mark none of the above.

- Read the article on “Biden’s Agenda” in the 2022 Great Decisions briefing book
- Discussed the article on “Biden’s Agenda” with a Great Decisions discussion group
- Discussed the article on “Biden’s Agenda” with friends and family
- Followed news related to “Biden’s Agenda”
- Taken a class in which you learned about issues related to “Biden’s Agenda”
- Have or had a job related to “Biden’s Agenda”
- None of the above

2. How interested would you say you are in issues related to “Biden’s Agenda”?

- Extremely interested
- Somewhat interested
- Not too interested
- Not at all interested

3. Do you support Biden’s foreign policy agenda?

- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Support a little
- Don’t support

4. How important is it to maintain good ties with our allies?

- Extremely important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not at all important

5. How concerning is the rise of China?

- Extremely concerning
- Somewhat concerning
- Not too concerning
- Not at all concerning

6. Would you like to share any other thoughts with us about “Biden’s Agenda”? If so, please use the space below.

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