

The NORC ChicagoSpeaks Poll

Conducted by NORC at the University of Chicago

Interviews: 09/13-23/2026

1,108 adults

Margin of sampling error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults.

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

PULSE_STOCKS. Do you, personally, or jointly with a spouse, have any money invested in the stock market right now — either in an individual stock, a stock mutual fund, or in a self-directed 401(k) or IRA?

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Yes	56
No	39
DON'T KNOW	4
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,108

PULSE_JOBLOSE. Thinking about the next 12 months, how likely do you think it is that you will lose your job or be laid off?

Among employed adults

	Chicago-Speaks 09/13-23/2026	Chicago-Speaks 06/15-23/2026	Chicago-Speaks 03/16-23/2026	Chicago-Speaks 11/24-12/08/2025	Chicago-Speaks 9/16-29/2025	Chicago-Speaks 6/23-7/9/2025	Chicago-Speaks 3/20-4/7/2025
Very/fairly likely NET	19	18	21	23	28	23	25
Very likely	4	6	6	6	8	7	8
Fairly likely	15	12	14	17	19	16	17
Not too/not at all likely NET	80	82	79	77	71	77	74
Not too likely	54	52	52	51	43	48	51
Not at all likely	26	29	27	26	28	29	24
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	*	*	*	1	*	1

N=

785

864

838

847

921

773

735

PULSE_PAYBILL. Which best describes your ability to pay all of your bills in full in a typical month?

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026	ChicagoSpeaks 06/15-23/2026
I can typically pay all of my bills in full	70	68
I cannot pay some bills or can only make a partial payment on some of them	29	31
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>	<i>1,194</i>

PULSE_FIN_MANAGE. On the whole, which of the following best describes how well you are managing financially these days?

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026	ChicagoSpeaks 06/15-23/2026
Finding it hard to get by	13	16
Just getting by	43	43
Living comfortably	39	35
Thriving financially	5	6
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>	<i>1,194</i>

PULSE_MACFOUND1. How favorable or unfavorable do you feel toward charitable foundations and nonprofits?

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Very/somewhat favorable NET	77
Very favorable	36
Somewhat favorable	42
Very/somewhat unfavorable NET	12
Somewhat unfavorable	7
Very unfavorable	5
Not sure	10
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

PULSE_MACFOUND2. Which of the following statements do you agree with more, even if neither is exactly right?

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Charitable foundations and nonprofits should have the freedom to donate money to organizations that align with their individual mission and values.	83
The federal government should be able to restrict how charitable foundations and nonprofits distribute money based on the views of the people who receive those donations.	15
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

PULSE_ART_CON. How much do each of the following contribute to the well-being of society?

ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026	A lot	Some	Not much	Not sure	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED
Doctors	75	18	4	2	-	1
Teachers	73	18	6	3	-	*
Scientists	70	20	5	4	-	*
Construction workers	59	29	8	4	-	1
Retail workers	37	43	14	5	-	1
College professors	50	35	9	5	-	1
Clergy	22	44	24	10	-	1
Artists	32	43	19	5	-	*
Elected officials	19	39	35	5	-	2
Athletes	9	38	44	7	-	2

N=

1,108

PULSE_ART_IMP. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Arts and culture are personally important to me.

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Strongly agree/agree	84
Strongly agree	39
Agree	45
Strongly disagree/disagree	16
Disagree	12
Strongly disagree	3
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1

N=

1,108

PULSE_MEDICAID_RECEIVE. In the past 12 months, did you receive health care coverage through Medicaid?

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Yes	29
No	71
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

PULSE_MEDICAID_SPEND. Do you think the U.S. government is spending too much, too little, or the right amount on Medicaid?

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Too much	7
Too little	60
About the right amount	16
DON'T KNOW	18
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

PULSE_SNAP_RECEIVE. In the past 12 months, did you receive benefits from the Food Stamp Program or SNAP? (This does not include WIC, school lunch, and food banks.).

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Yes	24
No	76
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,108</i>

PULSE_SNAP_SPEND. Do you think the Federal government is spending too much, too little, or the right amount on food and nutrition assistance programs like food stamps, SNAP, or EBT cards?

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Too much	9
Too little	63
About the right amount	13
DON'T KNOW	14
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	*

N=

1,108

PULSE_BBB. In summer 2025, Congress passed the 2025 budget reconciliation law, commonly known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill”. The Bill made changes to federal tax policy and government spending, particularly for programs such as Medicaid and SNAP and immigration enforcement.

How much do you know about the 2025 budget reconciliation law?

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
A lot/some NET	54
A lot	11
Some	44
Nothing at all/not much NET	46
Not much	32
Nothing at all	14
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	-

N=

1,108

PULSE_BBB_CONCERN. Based on what you know about the 2025 budget reconciliation law, otherwise known as the “One Big Beautiful Bill,” do you think it will help, hurt, or have no effect on people who have received the following government benefits?

Among adults who know not much, some, or a lot about the 2025 budget reconciliation law

ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026	Help recipients	Hurt recipients	Have no impact on recipients	DON'T KNOW	SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED
Medicaid	11	79	9	-	1
SNAP	12	80	8	-	*

N=

997

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent or none of these?

If Democrat:

PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Democrat?

If Republican:

PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong or not so strong Republican?

If independent, none of these, don't know, skipped, or refused:

PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans? Combines

PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Democrat NET	68
Strong Democrat	32
Not so strong Democrat	20
Lean Democrat	16
Independent/None – Don't lean	20
Republican NET	11
Lean Republican	4
Not so strong Republican	4
Strong Republican	3
UNKNOWN	*

N=

1,108

AGE

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
18-29	24
30-44	32
45-59	20
60+	24

N=

1,108

SEX

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Male	48
Female	52

N=

1,108

RACE/ETHNICITY

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
White, non-Hispanic	35
Black or African American	25
Hispanic	28
Asian American or Pacific Islander	8
Other	4

N=

1,108

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Employed	66
Not employed	34

N=

1,108

EDUCATION

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	21
Some college	22
College graduate	24
Post grad study/professional degree	21

N= 1,108

MARITAL

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Married	34
Not married	66

N= 1,108

INCOME

	ChicagoSpeaks 09/13-23/2026
Under \$10,000	8
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	8
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	10
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	8
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	14
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	10
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	15
\$150,000 or more	18

N= 1,108

CHICAGO REGION

	ChicagoSpeaks 06/15-23/2026
North Central	27
Northwest	16
South	18
Southwest	21
West	18

N=

1,108

Study Methodology

Funded and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago, ChicagoSpeaks® is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the Chicago household population. NORC conducted the ChicagoSpeaks summer 2026 survey using two sample sources: (1) NORC's AmeriSpeak® Panelists who reside in Chicago and (2) NORC's ChicagoSpeaks Panelists.

AmeriSpeak and ChicagoSpeaks are probability-based panels. The final survey estimates were calibrated to account for these different sample sources. This research was done to support a scientifically rigorous, community-driven research resource for informing policymakers and the public with accurate information about the experiences and opinions of all Chicago residents.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between September 13-23, 2026 with Chicago residents aged 18 and older, the overall study target population. Overall, 1,108 Chicago residents completed the survey. AmeriSpeak panelists were invited through the password-protected AmeriSpeak Mobile App and received email reminders and SMS reminders. ChicagoSpeaks panelists received a combination of email and SMS communications. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference, using an online survey. Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive for completing the survey. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect.

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 29 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them or for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included Chicago region, age, sex, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment. The sociodemographic characteristics are weighted to benchmarks from the American Community Survey 2024 1-year estimates.

For more information, email ChicagoSpeaks-BD@norc.org or visit go.norc.org/ChicagoSpeaks.

<https://www.norc.org/research/projects/chicagospeaks.html>