

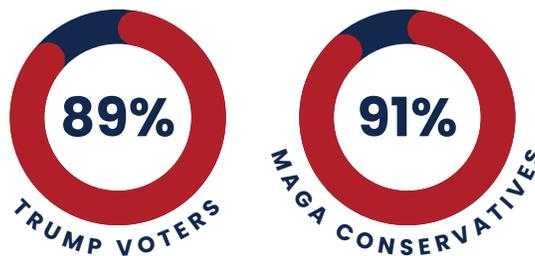
## AMERICANS FIRST: POLLING THE PEOPLE

### KEY TAKEAWAYS

Starting in June 2025, The Vandenberg Coalition worked with GOP polling firm [TargetPoint](#) on a series of seven polls analyzing what ~1,200 Trump voters think about American foreign policy. We were in the field shortly after Operations Midnight Hammer, Absolute Resolve, and Epic Fury — and the results were clear. In contrast to the handful of political pundits who favor American decline and claim to speak for President Trump’s base, we found that Trump voters are overwhelming supportive of a muscular “peace through strength” American foreign policy that takes decisive, bold action to secure American interests and protect the American people. Here are the key takeaways for the “[Americans First: Polling the People](#)” series so far:

### ***Trump Voters Want Strong American Leadership, Not Decline***

- 90 percent of Trump voters believe that it is important for the United States to remain the strongest country in the world, as opposed to China, Russia, or Iran, and 89 percent say that decisive, principled American leadership makes the United States safer.
- For Trump voters who self-identify as MAGA conservatives, this sentiment is even stronger than the averages for Trump voters overall: 92 percent of MAGA voters want America to remain the strongest country in the world, and 91 percent say U.S. leadership makes America safer.



### **Believe U.S. leadership makes America safer**

- 83 percent of Trump voters support increasing defense spending to strengthen the U.S. military, with 75 percent specifically saying in [January 2026](#) that defense spending should be five percent of GDP.
- In [July 2025](#), 67 percent of Trump voters agreed that it is in America’s interest to support pro-American dissidents and reformers working for change inside countries with adversarial regimes.

### ***Trump Voters Want to Confront the Chinese Threat, Not Appease the Chinese Communist Party***

- 89 percent of Trump voters recognize China is a threat to U.S. national security, with nearly three-quarters identifying the Chinese threat as either “extremely high” or “high.”



# 89%

## Consider China a threat to U.S. national security

- Trump voters recognize the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) also poses a direct homeland security threat to Americans: in [July 2025](#), 96 percent expressed concern about China’s weaponization of pharmaceuticals, while in [August 2025](#), 95 percent expressed concern that U.S. critical infrastructure that relies on Chinese technology could be damaged by CCP attacks.
- 91 percent are concerned about the CCP-sponsored Chinese Students and Scholars Associations, which are directed by the Chinese government to disrupt student events and threaten other Chinese nationals deemed to be a threat by the CCP.
- 74 percent say it is a vital U.S. national security interest to prevent China from controlling Taiwan.

### ***Trump Voters Support Holding Putin Accountable***

- 85 percent of Trump voters say Russia is a threat to the United States, and 75 percent support sanctions on Russian oil to force Putin to start taking peace negotiations seriously.
- 83 percent want the United States to continue supporting Ukraine through a combination of arms sales, economic aid, and sanctions against Russia.
- Trump voters recognize Europe remains important: in [October 2025](#), 83 percent said the United States should at least maintain its commitments in Europe, including for Ukraine and NATO.

### ***Trump Voters Recognize Iran as a Threat, Israel as a Model Ally***

- 82 percent say Iran is a threat, and 89 percent believe Iran must not obtain nuclear weapons.
- Trump voters support decisive action against the Iranian threat: in [June 2025](#), 93 percent of Trump voters supported Operation Midnight Hammer, and in [March 2026](#), 84 percent of Trump voters overall, including 94 percent of those identifying as MAGA, supported Operation Epic Fury.
- On average, 80 percent of Trump voters believe the United States should support Israel’s right to defend itself against hostile neighbors, and 84 percent indicated in [March 2026](#) that they support the U.S.–Israel military partnership to take on Iran.

