

# Democracy For All Project

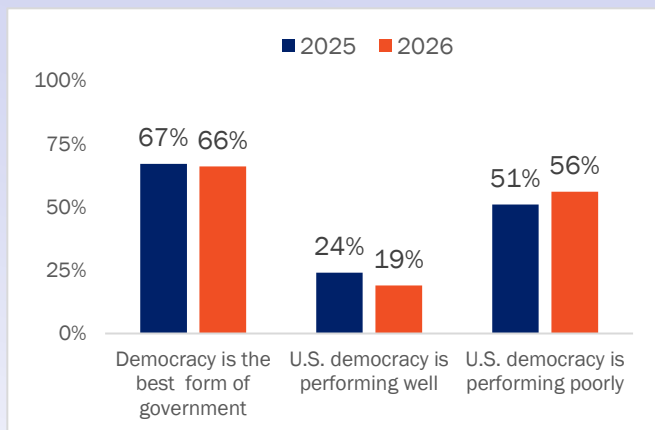
## A Landmark Research Partnership Between the Charles F. Kettering Foundation and Gallup

The Democracy for All Project is a multiyear commitment to understand and track how Americans experience U.S. democracy. Each year, Gallup surveys more than 20,000 U.S. adults, using nationally representative web and mail samples designed to reach adults often missed in online-only research. The study measures what Americans expect of democracy, whether democracy is delivering, how people participate, and whether the system is representing all Americans.

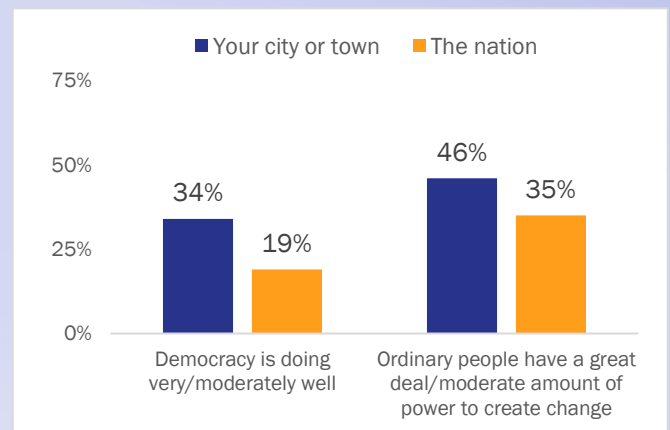
### Frustration Rises, Commitment Endures

Americans have not given up on democracy as an ideal. They are increasingly critical of how it is performing, and they see far more promise close to home than in Washington.

The ideal holds while performance ratings fall.



Two democracies: local outperforms national.



Two in three Americans say democracy is the best form of government, essentially unchanged year over year. But the share saying U.S. democracy is performing poorly rose from 51% to 56%, and Americans rate democracy in their own city or town far more positively than democracy in the nation.

### Rule of Law and Accountability



Commitment to the rule of law remains a point of broad agreement, even as Americans grow more doubtful that leaders will be held accountable to it. Just 28% trust that U.S. political leaders will be held accountable to the nation's laws and Constitution, down from 32% in 2025.

Source: Kettering-Gallup Democracy for All studies, 2025 (n=20,338) and 2026 (n=23,683).

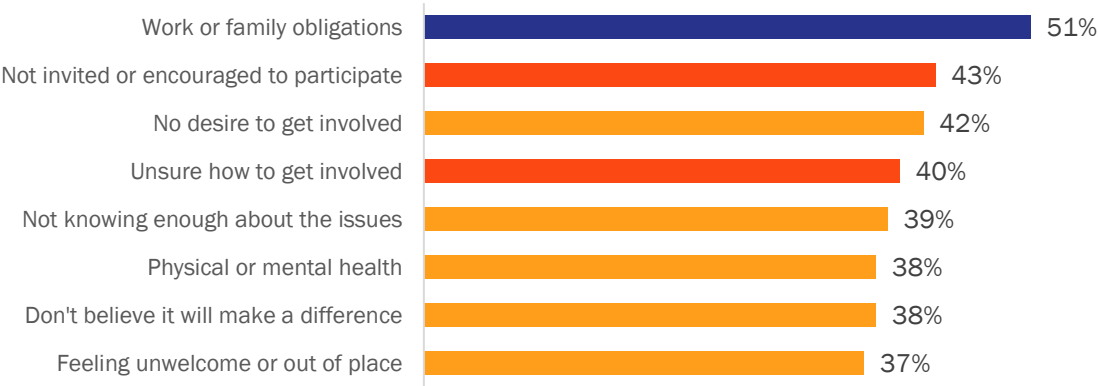
Civic Engagement in Minnesota

17% of Minnesotans say U.S. democracy is doing well, and about one in three feel that ordinary citizens have real power to create change.



What Holds Minnesotans Back

Do any of the following prevent you from getting involved in activities that help support issues or causes you care about? (% yes, Minnesotans)



The barrier is not civic capacity or desire. Beyond work and family obligations, the leading obstacles are the absence of an invitation and uncertainty about how to get involved. Nearly a third of Minnesotans who have not volunteered say they have wanted to.

EXPLORE THE FULL FINDINGS

Reports, data and analysis from the Democracy for All Project:

[gallup.com/analytics/697985/democracy-for-all.aspx](https://gallup.com/analytics/697985/democracy-for-all.aspx)



Source: Kettering-Gallup Democracy for All studies, 2025-2026. Minnesota estimates are drawn from the national samples. Copyright © 2026 Gallup, Inc. All rights reserved. Used under license by The Charles F. Kettering Foundation.