

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد
بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم
از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

By Mirko C. Trudeau
21.10.2022

Crisis of legitimacy



Sources: CLAE

Trust in all three branches of the U.S. government continues to decline

Americans continue to distrust the federal government, with low levels of trust in all three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. Americans trust their state (57%) and local (67%) governments far more than any branch of the federal government, according to the latest Gallup poll.

Not long ago, in 2005, most Americans trusted all three branches. And when Gallup first measured federal trust in 1972, no less than two-thirds trusted every branch of government, says Jeffrey M. Jones, editor-in-chief of gallup.com. Gallup also recently reported that confidence in the federal government's ability to handle domestic and international problems remains low.

Historically, trust in state and local governments has been more stable than trust in the three federal branches and today is slightly below their historical averages of 63% and 70%, respectively.

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

Gallup, a U.S. think tank, previously reported that trust in the federal government's judiciary had collapsed over the past two years; it now stands at 47% (less than half). Likewise, confidence in the federal government's ability to handle domestic and international problems remains low.

At 43%, trust in the executive branch is just three percentage points above its all-time low of the Watergate scandal. Americans trust the legislature even less, at 38 percent, but this figure has been lower (28 percent) in the past, according to Gallup's annual governance poll, conducted Sept. 1-16.

Americans have had no confidence in any of the three branches for more than a decade. Levels of trust in the executive and legislative branches are similar to a year ago, but there has been a decline in trust in the judiciary, likely related to recent controversial U.S. Supreme Court rulings against abortion, migrants and in favor of the use of firearms.

Trust in the legislature has consistently been the lowest of the three branches since 2009 and has not exceeded 40% since 2010, including the record low of 28% in 2014. Americans' trust in the executive branch has been mostly below 50% since 2006, except for several measures during Barack Obama's presidency.

The latest decline in Americans' trust in the judiciary of the federal government (to 47%) means this is the first time a majority of Americans do not trust either of the three branches. The average level of confidence in all three branches is 43% this year, tying 2015 as the lowest in Gallup polling history.

That year marked the previous low of trust in the judiciary (53%); Trust in the legislature (32 per cent) was lower than it is today, while trust in the executive branch (45 per cent) was similar to today.

Americans continue to cite government as the most important issue facing the country as leaders in Washington struggle to find solutions to address the crisis, inflation, illegal immigration, climate change and gun violence.

Republicans and Democrats tend to trust institutions when they are controlled by leaders of their parties, but refuse to trust when leaders do not make decisions according to their own views or policy preferences.

Confidence in the Executive increasingly partisan

The decline in trust in the executive branch since 2006 is largely attributed to a drop among independents during George W. Bush's second term and a continued decline in trust among those who identify with the opposition party to the incumbent president.

Compared to Bush's first term, trust in executive power fell 22 points among independents (from 59% to 37%) and 18 points among Democrats (from 37% to 19%). His job approval ratings averaged 37 percent during his second term, amid the protracted war in Iraq, the disaster of Hurricane Katrina, rising gas prices and a declining economy.

During Obama's first term, trust among independents rebounded to an average of 47%. Overall, it has declined since then, though it has yet to match the lowest level seen during George Bush's second term.

But trust among those who identify with the president's opposition party has continued to decline, falling to single digits with both Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

During Bill Clinton's second term and Bush's first, an average of 39 percent of the president's political opponents said they trusted the executive branch. Since the late 1990s, more than eight in 10 of those who align with the president's party have consistently expressed confidence in the executive branch.

Trust in the legislative branch has shown a different pattern and until the end of the Obama administration, all party groups, including supporters of the incumbent president, his opponents and political independents, generally showed a decline in trust. Trust levels remained stable during the Trump administration.

The pattern has been disrupted in the Biden years, and Democrats' trust in the legislative branch rose sharply as the president was able to work with a Democratic Congress during his first two years in office.

Trust varies by political party

Trust in branches of the federal government is largely influenced by the coincidence between the identification of a person's political party and the party that controls the institution, notes **Jeffrey M. Jones**. Today, Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to trust the executive and legislative branches, given that Biden is president and the Democratic Party controls both houses of Congress.

But Republicans are much more likely than Democrats to trust the Supreme Court, which currently has six justices appointed by Republican presidents and three appointed by Democrats.

Party gaps are widening in executive branch views, with nearly 80 points separating Democratic and Republican confidence. On average, a combined 79% of Republicans and Democrats who live in a state with a governor from their own party have a lot or a lot of confidence in their state's government. Among Republicans and Democrats living in states where the governor is from the opposite party, trust in state government is 32 percent.

**Analyst of the Observatory of Macroeconomic Studies of New York, associated with the Latin American Center for Strategic Analysis (CLAE)*

Source: <https://estrategia.la/2022/10/19/la-confianza-en-el-gobierno-de-eeuu-continua-a-la-baja-crisis-de-legitimidad/>

Rebellion 20.10.2022