

SINE INSTITUTE of POLICY & POLITICS

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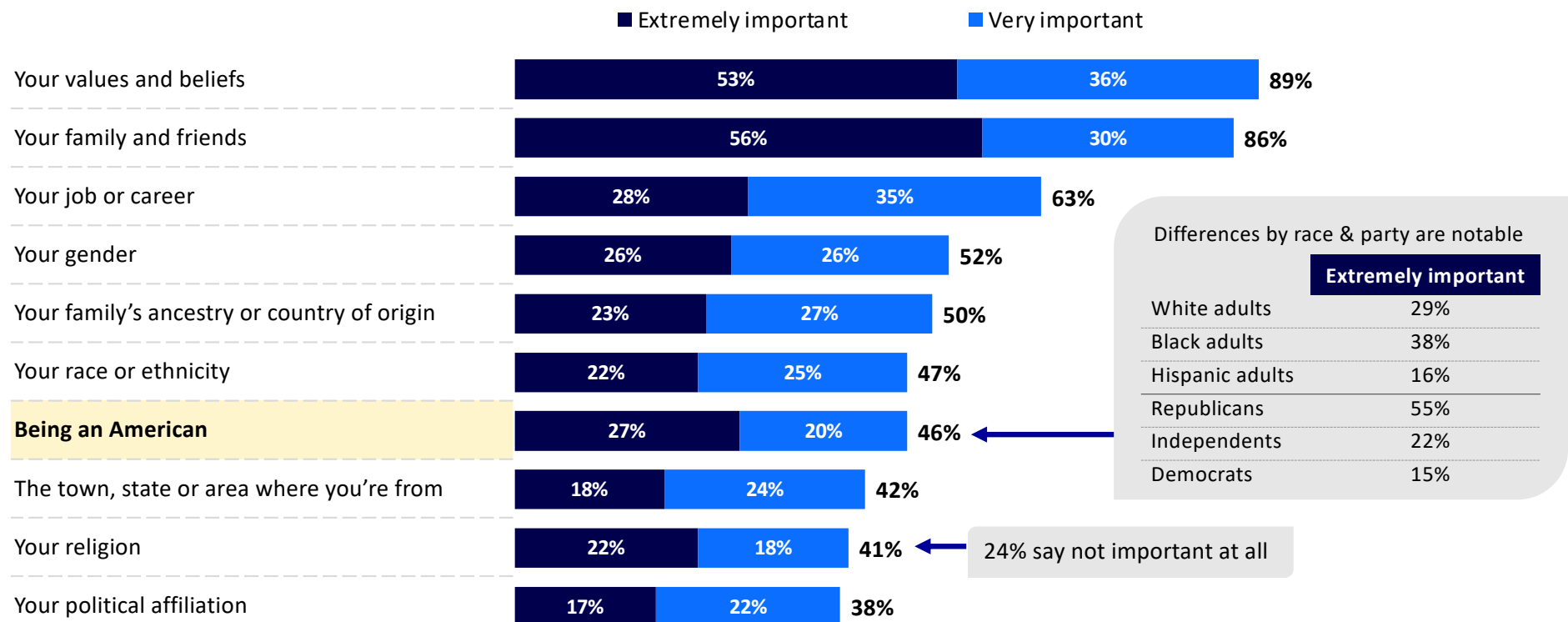
the Generation Lab

Defining a Generation: *How Young Americans See Themselves*

The American Promise at 250

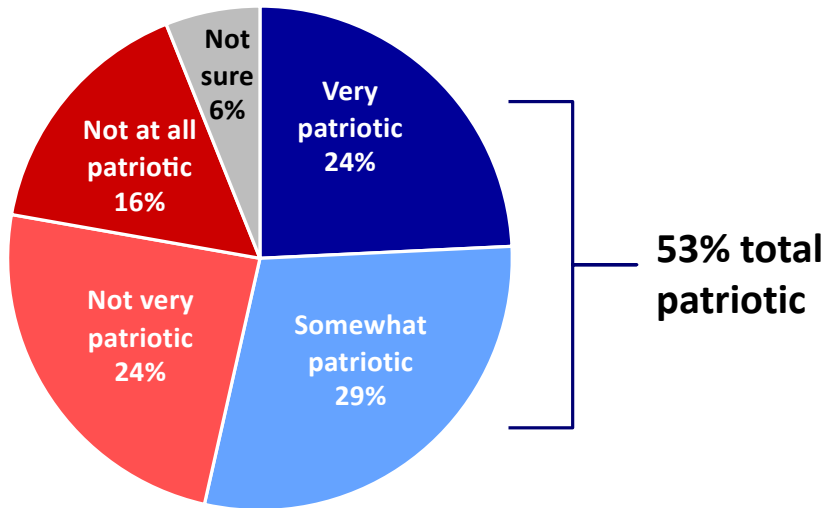
Being an American is one of many components of young people's identity, with notable variations by audience.

Importance of different components to personal identity

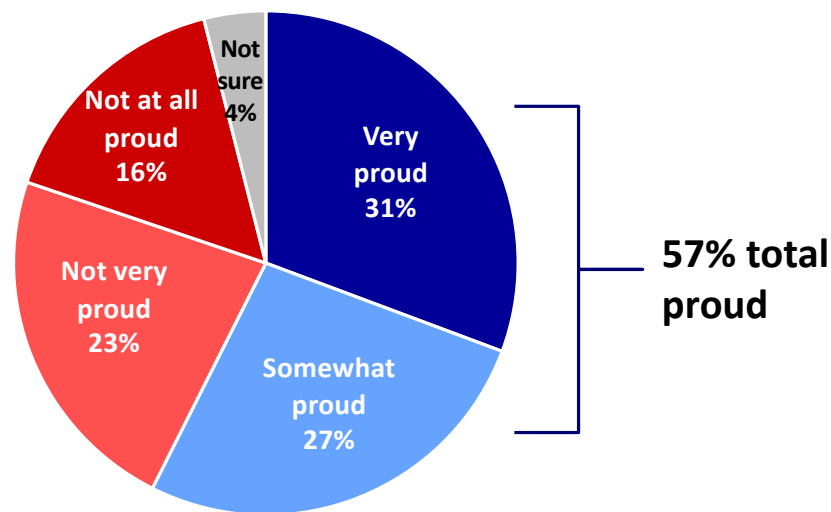


A majority of young Americans describe themselves as 'patriotic,' though slightly more say they are 'proud' to be an American.

How patriotic do you feel toward the United States?



How proud do you feel about being an American?



Comparative results among all American adults show younger Americans are less likely to use the term 'patriotic' to describe themselves:

44% very patriotic
31% somewhat patriotic
15% not very patriotic
6% not at all patriotic
4% not sure

**Data from Echelon Insights June 2026 National Omnibus poll*

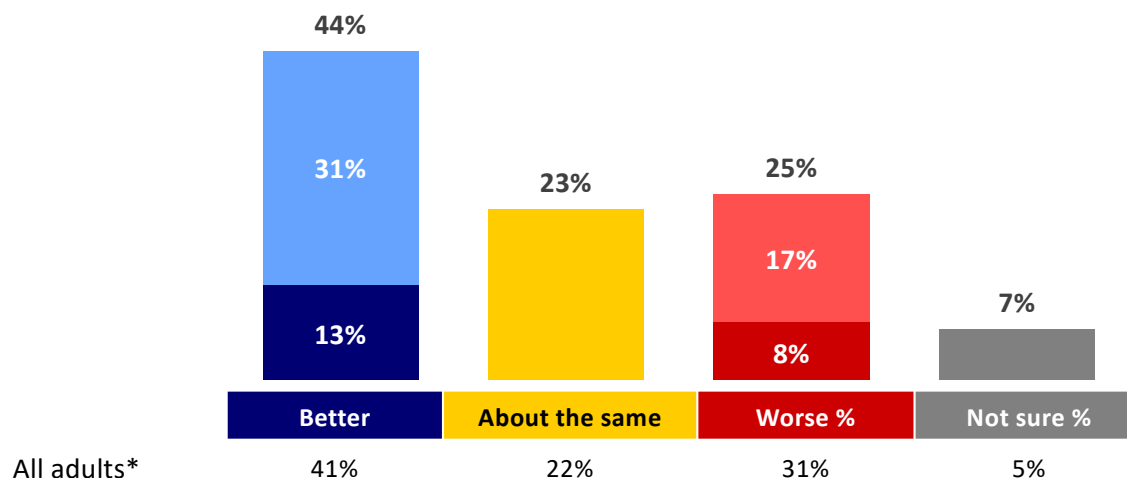
The labels of ‘patriotic’ and ‘proud to be an American’ vary across audience; gender and party identification are important factors.

	Patriotic	Proud to be an American
All	53%	58%
Men	66%	71%
Women	43%	48%
White adults	59%	60%
Black adults	48%	61%
Hispanic adults	46%	48%
Republican	88%	94%
Independent	47%	54%
Democrat	39%	43%
Non-college track	48%	55%
College track	62%	61%
Hetero/cis	66%	69%
LGBTQ+	31%	31%
Urban	53%	58%
Suburban	55%	58%
Rural	54%	59%

Young Americans credit their generation as having a positive impact on the country.

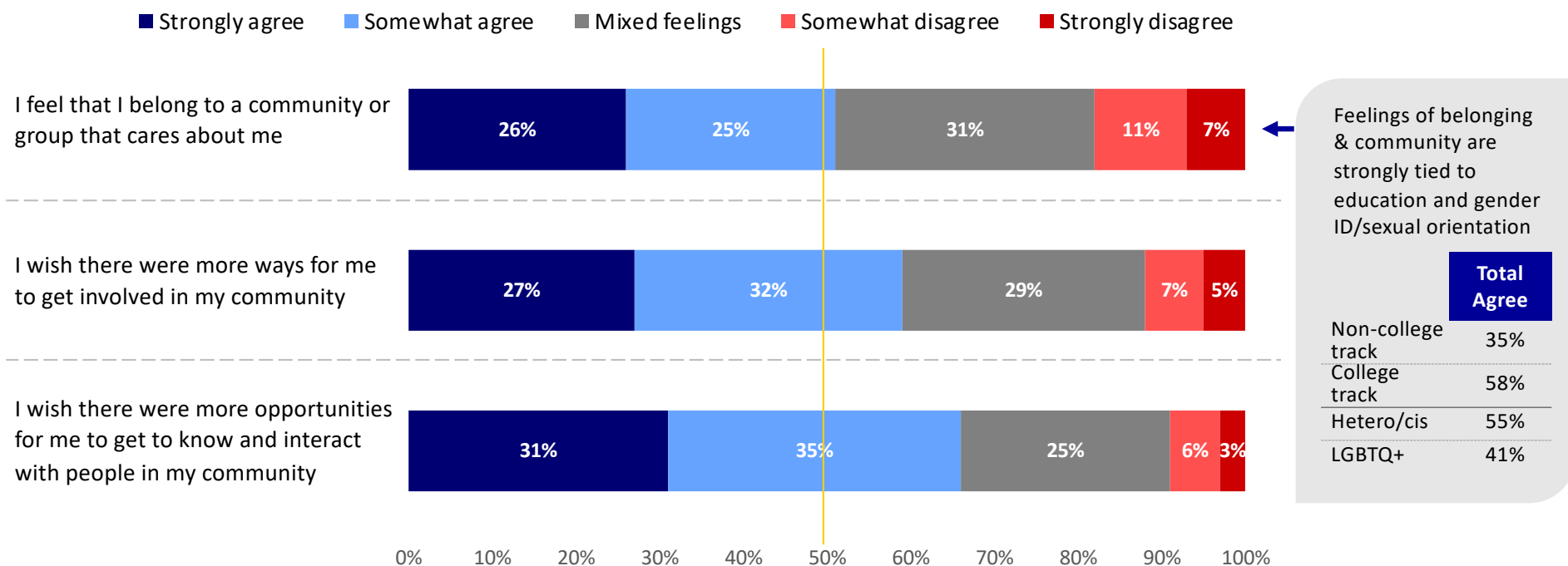
Compared to the generation that came before yours, do you think your generations has made America better or worse?

■ Much better ■ Somewhat better ■ About the same ■ Somewhat worse ■ Much worse ■ Not sure



**Data from Echelon Insights June 2026 National Omnibus poll*

Young Americans lack a strong sense of belonging, but they express a real desire to strengthen ties that build community.



While only half say they belong to a community that cares about them, larger majorities want more opportunities to interact and get involved.