New Poll: A United Country is Top Desire for Americans as Trump Takes Office

As Donald Trump returns to office, a desire to seek unity is top of mind and with good reason: our divisions appear to distort our understanding of each other, even on matters of life and death.

Findings from a January 13, 2025, poll by More in Common show an overwhelming desire to overcome our country's divisions:

As a painfully relevant illustration of the dangers of our division, while the raging Los Angeles fires clearly demand urgent help, Americans doubt whether their partisan counterparts are supportive of providing it.

- **Fully 78% of Americans support federal assistance to California** to "to help repair the damage and assist victims of the fires", while just 6% of Americans are opposed. This includes support from 90% of Democrats and 73% of Republicans.
- **Republican support is grossly underestimated by Democrats**, who estimate that just 40% of Republicans believe the federal government should provide aid.

Given 24 different words to choose from to describe America today, "divided" is the one Americans most often select—and the only word that is chosen by a majority of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

When Americans were asked to think 10 years into the future and to "imagine your ideal American society", t**he word "united" is the *single most desired* quality Americans want for the country**—and is the top choice among Democrats, Republicans, and Independents.

But this common yearning for a united country is apparently hidden from view. More in Common also asked Republicans and Democrats to estimate which qualities the *other* party most wants to see in the country.

- Republicans mistakenly think that "united" is an unimportant quality to Democrats, and they list it below six other attributes like being "green", "tolerant", and "global".
- Meanwhile, Democrats also think that being "united" is not a priority for Republicans— they rank it beneath six other qualities like being "traditional", "Christian/ Religious", and "orderly" that they imagine matter more to Republicans.
- This may be the most important consensus for our country to recognize—that we widely prioritize being more united—and yet, this common desire is almost entirely unknown to everyday Americans.

The **mood in the country today, as we enter a second Trump Administration, is not combative.**
- When asked how they "feel about the country today", Republicans aren't particularly excited (6%) or proud (5%); they're more likely to be hopeful (28%), disappointed (27%), or anxious (14%).
- Similarly, Democrats aren't particularly angry (5%) but are also more likely to be disappointed (34%) or anxious (20%) instead. This stands in contrast to the same moment in 2016-2017 when massive protests and calls for a "resistance" defined the moment.

Finally, there's no doubt that Republicans want Mr. Trump to bring change to America, but the survey shows that **it matters that he respects guardrails as he pursues it.**
- When asked whether they want President-elect Trump to either "keep things stable and quiet" or "shake things up and make some noise", most Republicans (62%) want the latter, compared to 33% of Independents, and just 12% of Democrats.
- But noise is not tantamount to being disrespectful of the rule or law. When asked whether they prefer "a leader who is willing to bend the rules or a leader who respects the rules?", 55% of Republicans prefer one who "respects the rules", while 39% of Republicans prefer a leader who is "willing to bend the rules".
- Crucially, respect for the Constitution remains paramount. Across Americans, just 15% (and 17% of Republicans) believe that Trump "should get things done, even it means sometimes ignoring the Constitution", while 74% of Americans, including 73% of Republicans, believe that he should "always follow the Constitution, even if means he sometimes can't get things done."

Methodology:
- Polling Firm: More in Common
- Sample Size: N = 2,003 US General Population
- Fieldwork Dates: January 13-16, 2025
- Margin of Error: +/- 2% for US average
- The data was weighted to be representative according to gender/age interlocked, ethnicity, education level, region, and 2024 Presidential vote and turnout.