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Most Americans Fear Democracy Is in Danger, New Poll Finds

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As the United States prepares for another heated election year, a new survey reveals that most Americans are worried about something deeper than policy debates or party politics: the survival of democracy itself.

According to the latest poll from National Public Radio (NPR), Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) NewsHour, and Marist, nearly 73% of Americans believe democracy in the United States is at risk. This sense of alarm isn't limited to one side of the political aisle. The results show an unusual consensus in a country known for fierce political divides.

Among Democrats, 89% say democracy is under threat, while 57% of Republicans agree. A striking 80% of independents share this concern. The reasons behind this anxiety are clear: Americans cite political violence, growing partisanship, and declining trust in elected leaders as the main drivers of their fears.

The poll found that faith in political institutions is near historic lows. Only 43% of respondents approve of President Donald Trump's administration. Congress fares even worse, with approval ratings of just 27% among Democrats and 35% among Republicans. This lack of confidence has been deepened by years of bitter fights, scandals, and protests that have shaken public faith in government.

Feelings of unease are especially strong among certain groups. White college-educated women and Baby Boomers reported the highest levels of worry about political violence and the stability of the nation's democratic system. Many point to recent incidents such as threats against public officials and widespread demonstrations as proof that the country is entering a dangerous period.

Immigration remains another point of sharp disagreement. The survey shows that Republicans are more likely to support deporting undocumented immigrants, even if they work in critical industries such as agriculture and healthcare. These divisions add another layer of tension to an already polarized environment.

Despite the disagreements, Americans largely agree on at least one fundamental principle: no president is above the law. An overwhelming 83% of respondents said that presidents must follow court orders, a reflection of ongoing debates about executive power during President Donald Trump's time in office.

Experts say the findings paint a troubling picture of a nation grappling with deep uncertainty about its democratic future. The big question is whether this widespread concern will motivate people to participate more actively in civic life or simply make them more cynical.

As election season ramps up, one thing is certain: the debate over the health of American democracy is far from over. And for many Americans, the stakes have never felt higher.

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