

## Pew Top Problems Forecast: 13 Public Predictions

Frozen May 23, 2026. Forecast target: the next comparable Pew Research Center Top Problems wave. Metric: percent saying each issue is a very big problem.

Item	Issue	Baseline	Forecast	Band	Risk	Rep base	Dem base
MNPOL	The role of money in politics	74%	77.3%	67.3-87.3%	Medium	70%	79%
HC	The affordability of health care	73%	77.5%	67.5-87.5%	Medium	60%	85%
INFL	Inflation	66%	70.6%	60.6-80.6%	Medium	55%	74%
DEF	The federal budget deficit	64%	62.6%	52.6-72.6%	Medium	62%	66%
COMP	The ability of Democrats and Republicans to work together in Washington	64%	67.6%	57.6-77.6%	Medium	60%	69%
DRG	Drug addiction	55%	59.0%	51.0-67.0%	Low	62%	48%
GUN	Gun violence	49%	54.0%	44.0-64.0%	Medium	27%	68%
VCRI	Violent crime	47%	52.0%	42.0-62.0%	Medium	55%	38%
CLIM	Climate change	39%	41.9%	31.9-51.9%	Medium	14%	63%
IMM	Illegal immigration	38%	42.0%	30.0-54.0%	High	60%	17%
ITERR	International terrorism	38%	39.0%	27.0-51.0%	High	46%	29%
UNEM	Unemployment	36%	35.7%	23.7-47.7%	High	25%	45%
DTERR	Domestic terrorism	36%	42.0%	30.0-54.0%	High	39%	33%

### Methodology disclosure

Lewsearch generated national topline forecasts for the next comparable Pew Top Problems wave. Baseline values and Rep/Dem context columns are Pew Wave 192, fielded April 20-26, 2026 and published May 11, 2026. Forecast intervals are uncertainty bands, not polling margins of error. Rep/Dem columns are baseline context only, not subgroup forecasts.