

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New National Poll: Many Americans Would Trade \$7 Gas for Stopping a Nuclear-Armed Iran

IGC survey finds a plurality of Americans willing to endure higher energy costs to dismantle Iran's nuclear program

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., June 3, 2026 – A new national poll of 1,059 U.S. adults, conducted by Ipsos on behalf of the Institute for Governance and Civics (IGC) at Florida State University, finds that American attitudes toward the ongoing U.S. military campaign against Iran are more nuanced – and show more willingness to bear real costs – than prevailing commentary has suggested.

A strong 57% of respondents say a nuclear-armed Iran would pose an “extremely” or “very” serious long-term threat to the United States and its interests around the world – a level of concern that crosses party lines, with 77% of Trump voters and 47% of Harris voters sharing that view.

Only 18% of respondents believe diplomacy or sanctions can “definitely” or “probably” prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons – including just 28% of Democrats, 15% of Independents, and 16% of Republicans – underscoring deep skepticism about non-military options across the political spectrum and setting the stage for more nuanced views on the use of force itself.

Most public polls ask Americans simply whether they support or oppose the war. The IGC survey took a different approach, presenting respondents with concrete outcome tradeoffs. The results challenge the dominant narrative of a uniformly war-weary public.

“The dominant story has been that Americans are overwhelmingly opposed to the Iran war,” said Ryan Owens, director of the Institute for Governance and Civics at Florida State University. “Our data tell a more complicated story: there is real opposition to the war, but when you spell out the tradeoffs – higher gas prices and months of fighting versus a nuclear-armed Iran – a sizeable share of the public appears willing to keep going.”

When asked to choose between two specific outcomes, a 43% plurality chose the scenario in which Iran’s nuclear program is effectively dismantled, its ability to threaten the region is set back by decades, and the regime is significantly weakened, even at the cost of gas prices rising to \$6–7 per gallon for four months.

32% preferred ending the war immediately and seeing gas prices return to around \$3 per gallon, even though that outcome would mean Iran retains its current capabilities and is likely to eventually rebuild and obtain nuclear weapons. The remaining 24% were unsure.

A separate question tested tolerance for sustained military action directly. Respondents were asked to assume that diplomacy and sanctions might not permanently prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear weapons, and that continued U.S. and allied military action could more durably stop Iran but would

come at the cost of several more months of fighting, higher energy prices, economic hardship, risks of escalation, and American casualties.

In that scenario, 34% said the U.S. should continue military action, 31% said it should end military action, and 34% were unsure, a three-way split that reflects genuine public ambivalence rather than clear-cut opposition.

Among those who favored ending military action, the top reason was not cost or casualties: 40% said the U.S. simply should not be involved in this conflict at all. Among those who favored continuing, 57% cited the long-term risks of a nuclear-armed Iran as outweighing the costs of continued military action.

“Policymakers on both sides of this debate should take note,” Owens added. “Those who assume the public will absorb any cost are wrong, but so too are those who assume Americans want out of the conflict immediately.”

Methodology: The survey was conducted by Ipsos using its KnowledgePanel® probability-based online panel from May 19–28, 2026, among a nationally representative sample of 1,059 U.S. adults, along with an oversample of 425 Florida adults. National results were weighted to match U.S. Census Bureau benchmarks for demographic composition, party identification, and 2024 presidential vote choice. The margin of sampling error for the national sample is ± 3.17 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

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About the Institute for Governance and Civics: The Institute for Governance and Civics (IGC) at Florida State University advances the principles of liberty through research, education, and discourse. Established in 2023, the IGC supports a variety of initiatives that promote constitutional liberty, economic liberty, conscience liberty, and educational liberty through data-driven research, excellence in teaching, and intellectually diverse exchange. To learn more about the IGC, visit igc.fsu.edu or follow us on [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).