SEPTEMBER 2026

INSTITUTE FOR GOVERNANCE & CIVICS
FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

IGC POLL REPORT

Competing Visions of Prosperity: Zero-Sum Thinking and Americans' Attitudes Toward Capitalism and Socialism

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Americans' attitudes toward capitalism and socialism have become increasingly prominent in political debate, but less is known about the economic beliefs that underlie these views. To examine these attitudes, the Institute for Governance and Civics at Florida State University surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,533 U.S. adults in December 2025. We measured Americans' feelings toward capitalism and socialism, their views of market-based economies, and several beliefs about how economies function. Key findings include:

- **Americans view capitalism more favorably than socialism, but views differ considerably across political and age groups.**
  Capitalism receives an average feeling thermometer rating of 58 on a 0-to-100 scale, compared to 35 for socialism. *Very liberal* Americans rate socialism substantially more favorable than capitalism (63 vs. 42), while *very conservative* Americans show the opposite pattern (14 vs. 76). Young adults evaluate the two systems much more similarly, rating capitalism at 47 and socialism at 44.
- **Most Americans—including majorities across the ideological spectrum—believe market-based economies benefit society.**
  Overall, 71% say a market-based economy has a positive effect on society, compared to 12% who say it has a negative effect. Positive assessments range from 62% among liberals to 82% among conservatives.
- **Nearly half of Americans hold a zero-sum view of economic gains, with views divided along ideological lines.**
  Forty-seven percent agree that when some people get richer, others usually must get poorer, while 34% disagree. This view is held by 59% of liberals, compared with 31% of conservatives.

- **Zero-sum economic beliefs remain strongly related to attitudes toward capitalism and socialism even after accounting for political and demographic differences.** Respondents who strongly reject the idea that economic gains come at others' expense rate capitalism about 13 points higher and socialism about 6 points lower than those who strongly endorse it.

INTRODUCTION

As debates escalate over the proper role of government in the economy, Americans' attitudes toward capitalism and socialism have become increasingly relevant to political discourse. The stakes extend well beyond competing approaches to economic policy. A shift from capitalism toward socialism would represent a fundamental departure from the traditional American order, altering not only the roles of markets and private property but also the relationship between individual citizens and the state. And while capitalism has historically enjoyed broader public support, attitudes among some segments of the American population have begun to shift.

According to recent Gallup polls, Democrats and independents now express less favorable views of capitalism than they did in 2010—and Democrats have become substantially more supportive of socialism.[1]

While national surveys have tracked favorability toward capitalism and socialism over time, they have devoted far less attention to the economic beliefs that undergird those attitudes. Do people more sympathetic toward socialism hold different beliefs about how the economy works than those more sympathetic toward capitalism? Does one side tend to see economic gains as coming at others' expense, while the other sees prosperity as more broadly shared? Do they differ in their tolerance of the social costs that can accompany economic innovation?

Using data from a nationally representative survey of 1,533 U.S. adults conducted in December 2025, we examine Americans' views of capitalism and socialism and how those views differ across ideological and demographic groups. We then assess whether respondents believe that market-based economies positively or negatively influence society. Finally, we investigate whether Americans' views toward capitalism and socialism are related to their beliefs about how market economies function.

We find that Americans' attitudes toward capitalism and socialism reflect more than their political identities. Their attitudes are also closely related to beliefs about how economic gains are created and distributed. In particular, beliefs about whether one person's economic gains come at others' expense strongly predict how Americans evaluate capitalism and socialism. Understanding those beliefs may therefore be essential to understanding why Americans reach different conclusions about the two economic systems.

1 Jones, J. M. (2025, September 8). Image of capitalism slips to 54% in U.S. Gallup. https://news.gallup.com/poll/694835/image-capitalism-slips.aspx

MOST AMERICANS VIEW CAPITALISM MORE FAVORABLY THAN SOCIALISM

We asked respondents to rate their feelings toward capitalism and socialism on feeling thermometer scales ranging from 0 (“very cold or unfavorable”) to 100 (“very warm or favorable”), with 50 representing a neutral opinion.

Figure 1 shows their ratings for both economic systems. Overall, Americans express warmer feelings toward capitalism than toward socialism.[2] The average rating for capitalism is 58, while the average rating for socialism is 35. Looking beyond the average ratings, 58% of respondents rate capitalism more favorably than socialism, while 31% rate socialism more favorably than capitalism. Another 11% give the two systems identical ratings.

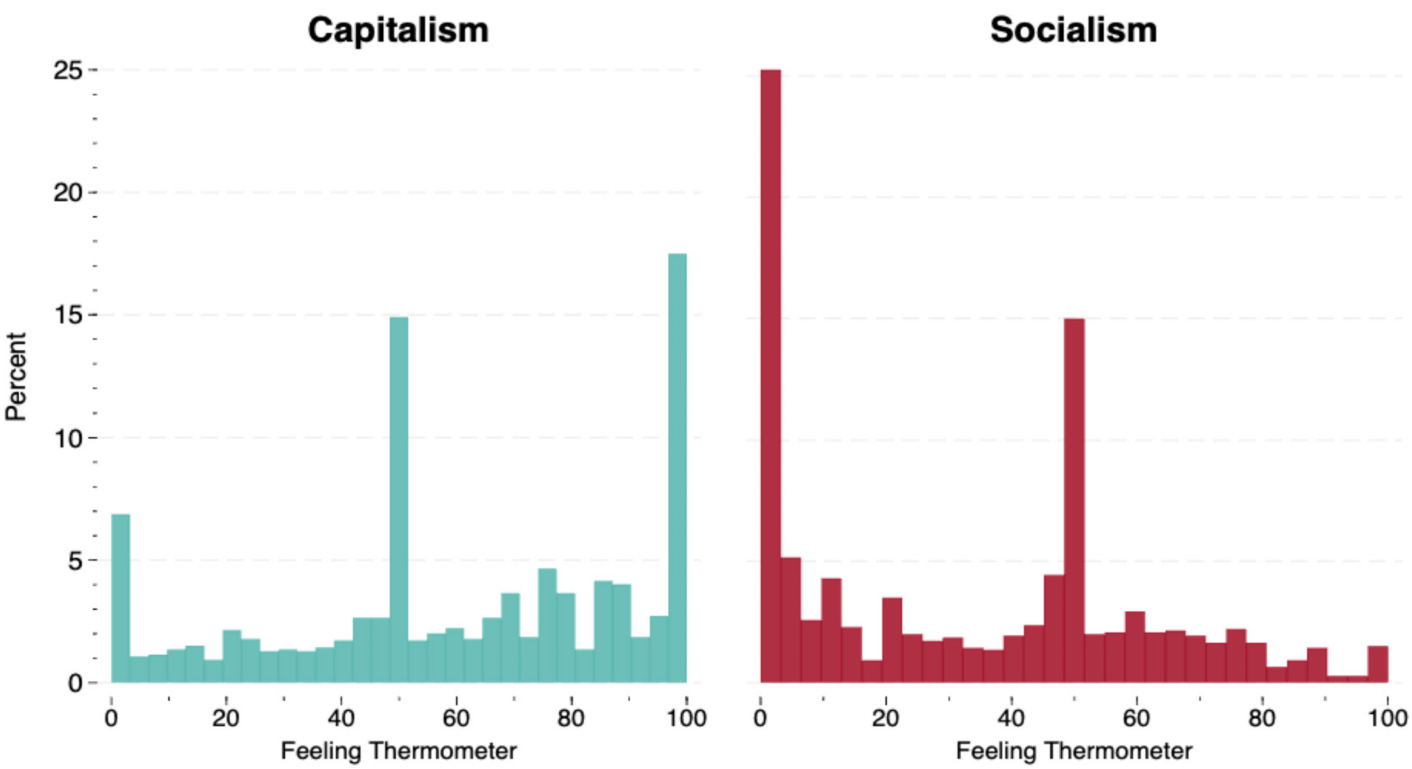

Figure 1. Feeling Thermometer Ratings Toward Capitalism and Socialism
Note: Histograms show the distribution of feeling thermometer ratings toward capitalism and socialism, where 0 indicates “very cold or unfavorable,” 50 indicates a neutral opinion, and 100 indicates “very warm or favorable” (n = 1,394–1,395). Respondents who selected “No opinion/Haven’t heard enough” or did not provide a substantive rating for capitalism (n = 138) or socialism (n = 139) are excluded from the analysis.

2 The overall pattern is similar among respondents in the Florida oversample. Floridians give capitalism an average feeling thermometer rating of 63 and socialism an average rating of 33. Sixty-three percent rate capitalism more favorably than socialism, compared to 28% who rate socialism more favorably. Although Floridians rate capitalism about 5 points higher than respondents outside Florida, this difference is no longer statistically significant after accounting for political affiliation, ideology, and other demographic characteristics. Ratings of socialism do not differ significantly between Florida and non-Florida respondents.

Although Americans view capitalism more favorably than socialism, attitudes differ substantially across the ideological spectrum.[3] Figure 2 shows that feelings toward capitalism become steadily warmer as respondents become more conservative, while feelings toward socialism move in the opposite direction.[4]

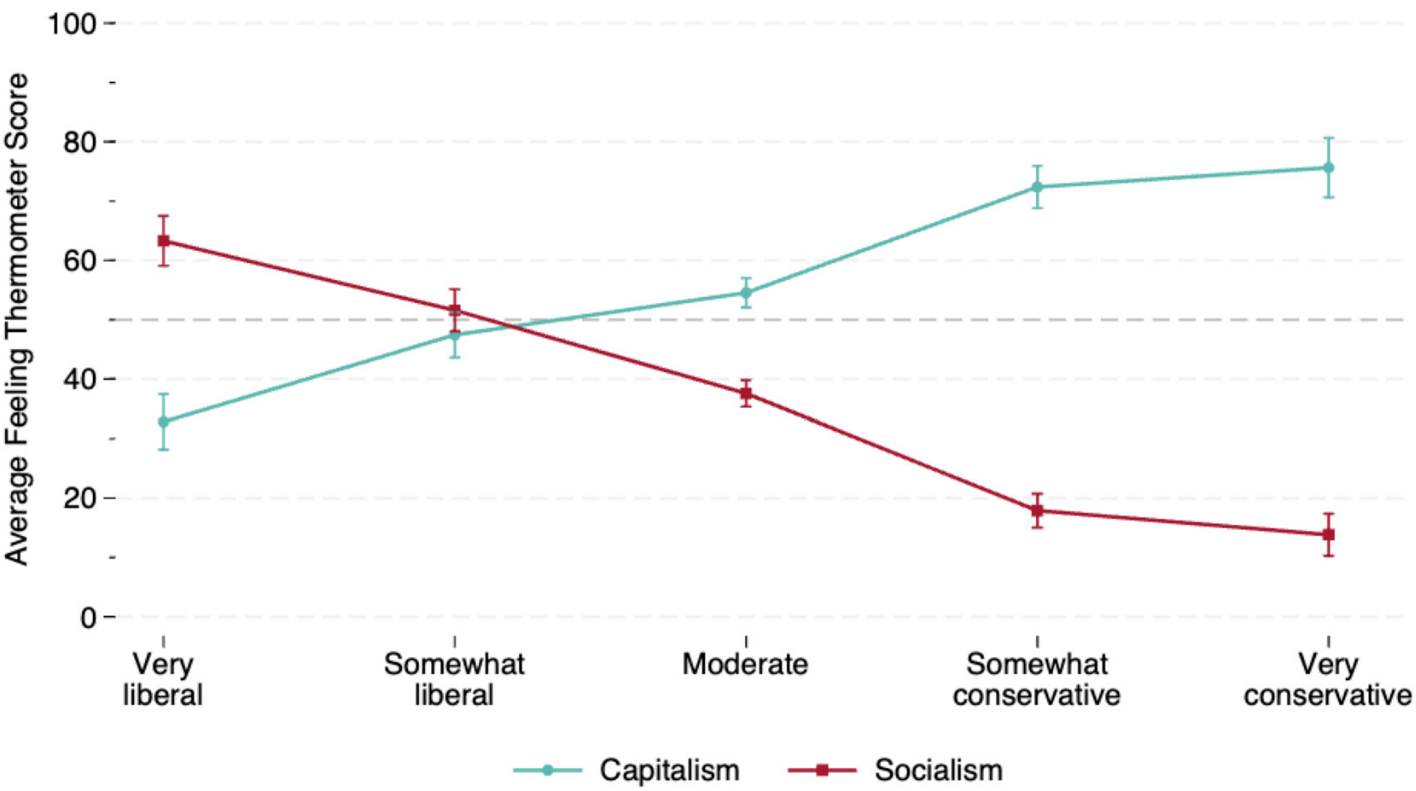

Figure 2. Feeling Thermometer Ratings Toward Capitalism and Socialism, by Ideology
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,388). Markers represent the mean feeling thermometer ratings toward capitalism and socialism within each ideological group. Feeling thermometer ratings range from 0 ("very cold or unfavorable") to 100 ("very warm or favorable"), with 50 representing a neutral opinion. Respondents who selected "No opinion/Haven't heard enough" or did not provide a substantive rating for capitalism (n = 135) or socialism (n = 136), as well as respondents who did not report their ideological self-identification (n

Very liberal respondents express warmer feelings toward socialism than toward capitalism. They give socialism an average rating of 63 but capitalism a rating of 32. Seventy-five percent rate socialism more favorably than capitalism, compared to just 18% who rate capitalism more favorably. *Somewhat liberal* respondents evaluate the two systems more similarly, though socialism still receives a somewhat higher average rating (51 vs. 47). *Moderates* lean in the opposite direction, rating capitalism at 55 and socialism at 37. The gap widens sharply among conservatives: *somewhat conservative* respondents rate capitalism at 73 and socialism at 18, while *very conservative* respondents give the two systems average ratings of 76 and 14, respectively.

3 These ideological differences remain substantial after adjusting for respondents' party identification and demographic characteristics (Appendix Figure A1). Party identification is also independently associated with feelings toward capitalism and socialism, though ideological self-identification exhibits the stronger relationships (Appendix Figure A2).

4 Approximately 9% of respondents did not provide a valid rating on each feeling thermometer. Missingness was somewhat higher among political moderates (14% for capitalism and 13% for socialism) than among other ideological groups (6%–8%). Importantly, however, missingness did not follow a liberal-to-conservative gradient and was similar at the ideological poles: 7% of very liberal and 6% of very conservative respondents did not rate capitalism, while 6% of both groups did not rate socialism.

Age represents another important dividing line.[5] As Figure 3 shows, adults aged 18 to 29 express nearly equal warmth toward capitalism (47) and socialism (44). They are also almost evenly divided in which system they rate more favorably: 46% rate socialism higher than capitalism, while 44% rate capitalism higher. The gap widens considerably among older Americans. Among adults ages 65 and older, capitalism receives an average rating of 66, compared to just 28 for socialism—a difference of 38 points.

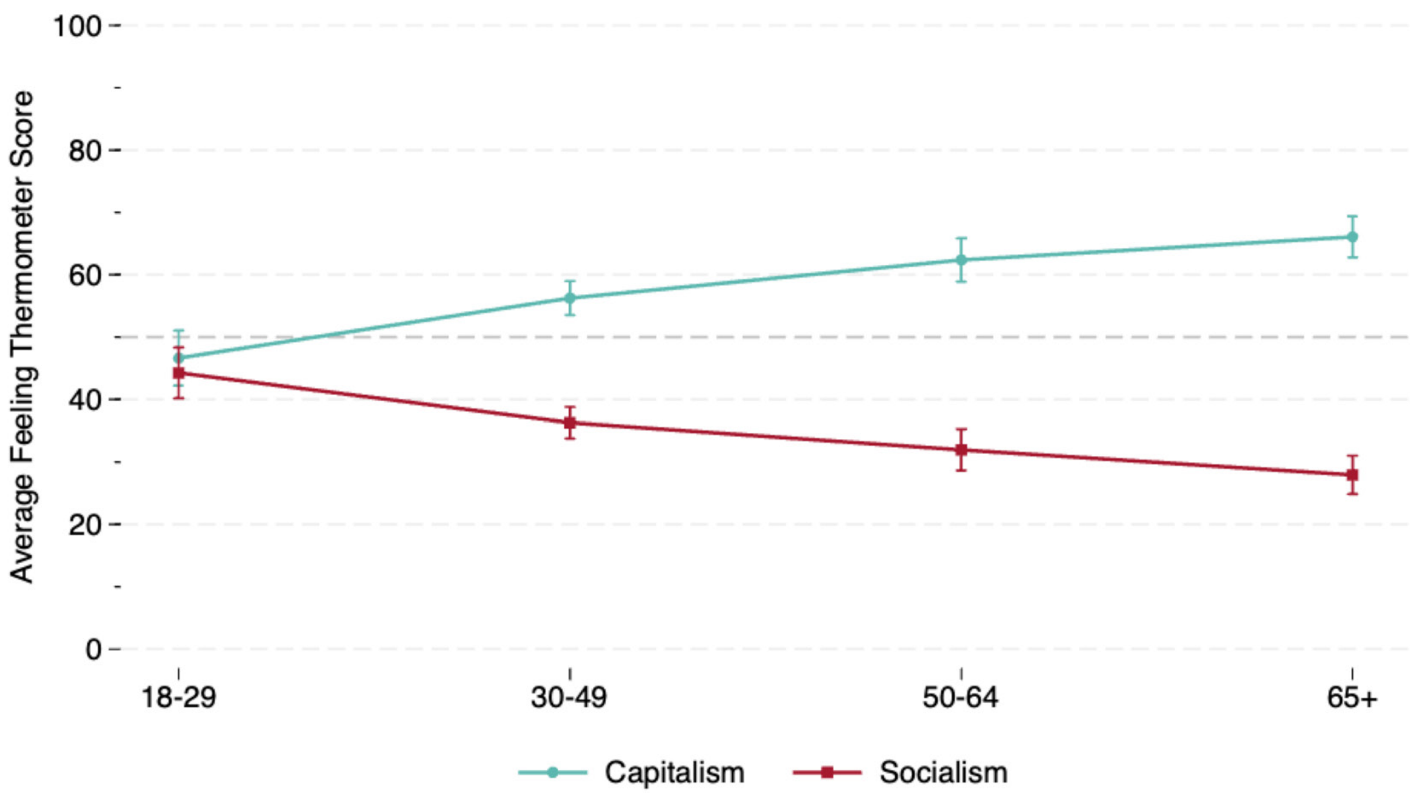

Figure 3. Feeling Thermometer Ratings Toward Capitalism and Socialism, by Age Group
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,393). Markers represent the mean feeling thermometer ratings toward capitalism and socialism within each age group. Feeling thermometer ratings range from 0 ("very cold or unfavorable") to 100 ("very warm or favorable"), with 50 representing a neutral opinion. Respondents who selected "No opinion/Haven't heard enough" or did not provide a substantive rating for capitalism (n = 135) or socialism (n = 136), as well as respondents with missing age data (n = 4), are excluded from the analysis. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

Because younger Americans are more likely to identify as liberal, the age and ideological patterns partly overlap. Yet neither is simply a reflection of the other. After accounting for age and other demographic characteristics, substantial ideological differences remain in evaluations of both systems. Likewise, after accounting for ideology, party affiliation, and other demographic characteristics, younger adults continue to evaluate capitalism and socialism more similarly than older adults. The adjusted gap between ratings of capitalism and socialism is about 14 points among adults ages 18 to 29, compared to roughly 29 to 35 points among adults ages 50 and older.

5 Similar, though generally less pronounced, differences emerge by household income. Higher-income respondents tend to express somewhat warmer feelings toward capitalism (Appendix Figure A3). These patterns persist even after accounting for ideology, party identification, and other demographic characteristics, although the relationships become somewhat weaker (Appendix Figure A4).

MOST AMERICANS BELIEVE A MARKET-BASED ECONOMY POSITIVELY INFLUENCES SOCIETY

We also asked respondents whether they believe a market-based economy generally has a positive or generally has a negative effect on society. Figure 4 shows that Americans generally view market economies favorably.[6] Overall, 71% of respondents believe that a market-based economy has either a very positive (33%) or somewhat positive (38%) effect on society, while just 12% believe its effects are somewhat (10%) or very negative (2%). Another 17% say it has neither a positive nor negative effect.

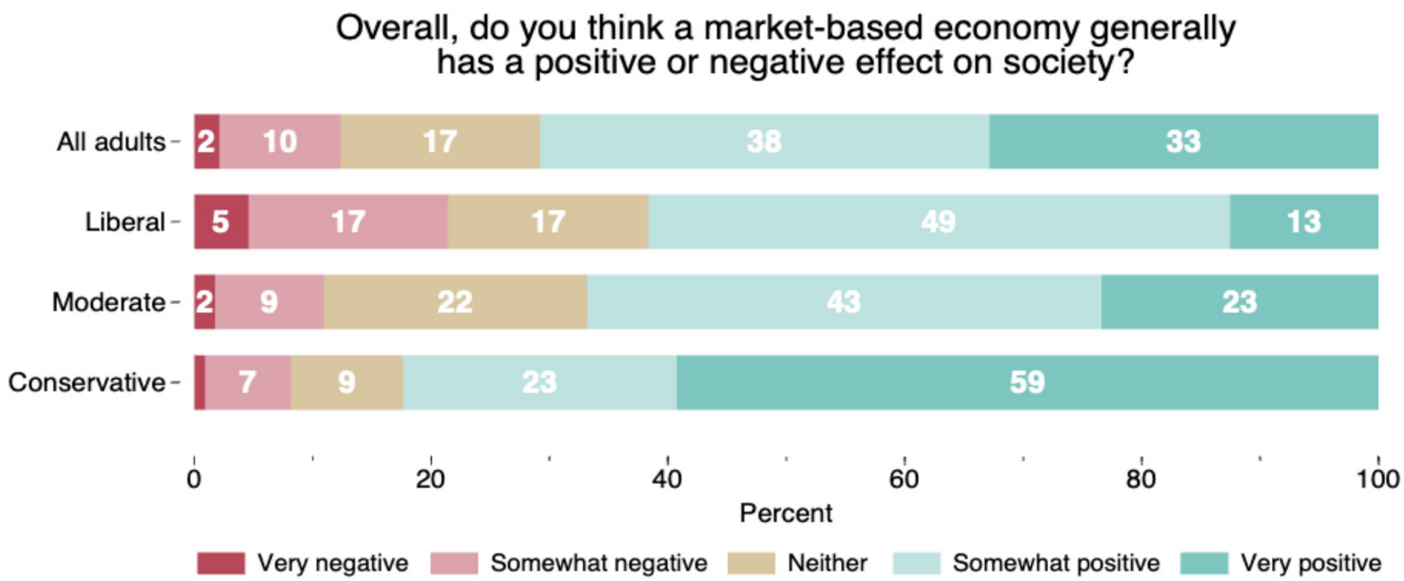

Figure 4. Perceived Societal Effects of Market-Based Economies, Overall and by Ideology
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,533, including 344 liberals, 627 moderates, and 533 conservatives). Bars show the distribution of responses.

Majorities across the ideological spectrum believe that market-based economies have a positive effect on society, but the strength of these views differs substantially.[7] Among conservatives, 82% describe the effects of market-based economies as positive, including 59% who say it is "very positive." Among moderates, 66% view the effect positively, including 23% who say "very positive." Liberals are slightly less positive, but 62% still say that market-based economies have a positive effect on society; 13% describe that effect as "very positive," while 22% say it is negative.

6 Among respondents in the Florida oversample, 77% said that a market-based economy has a positive effect on society, including 40% who described the effect as "very positive" and 37% as "somewhat positive." Fifteen percent said its effects are neither positive nor negative, while 9% viewed them negatively. Florida respondents were somewhat more positive toward market-based economies than respondents nationally, but this difference was no longer statistically significant after accounting for political affiliation, ideology, and demographic characteristics.

7 Similar patterns emerge by party, with 82% of Republicans and 63% of Democrats describing the effects of market-based economies as positive (Appendix Figure A5). Age differences are also apparent. Adults ages 18–29 are the least likely (60%) and adults ages 65 and older the most likely (83%) to view market-based economies positively (Appendix Figure A6). Although these differences narrow somewhat after adjusting for ideology, party affiliation, and other demographic characteristics, age remains a statistically significant predictor. Adjusted estimates range from 66% among adults ages 30–49 to 81% among adults ages 65 and older. Household income exhibits a similar, though somewhat weaker, pattern (Appendix Figure A7). Higher-income Americans are more likely than lower-income Americans to view market-based economies positively, even after adjusting for political and demographic

This ideological pattern broadly parallels the earlier feeling thermometer results. Figure 5 examines this relationship more directly by comparing feeling thermometer ratings across respondents with different views of market-based economies. The estimates account for political affiliation, ideology, and other demographic characteristics.

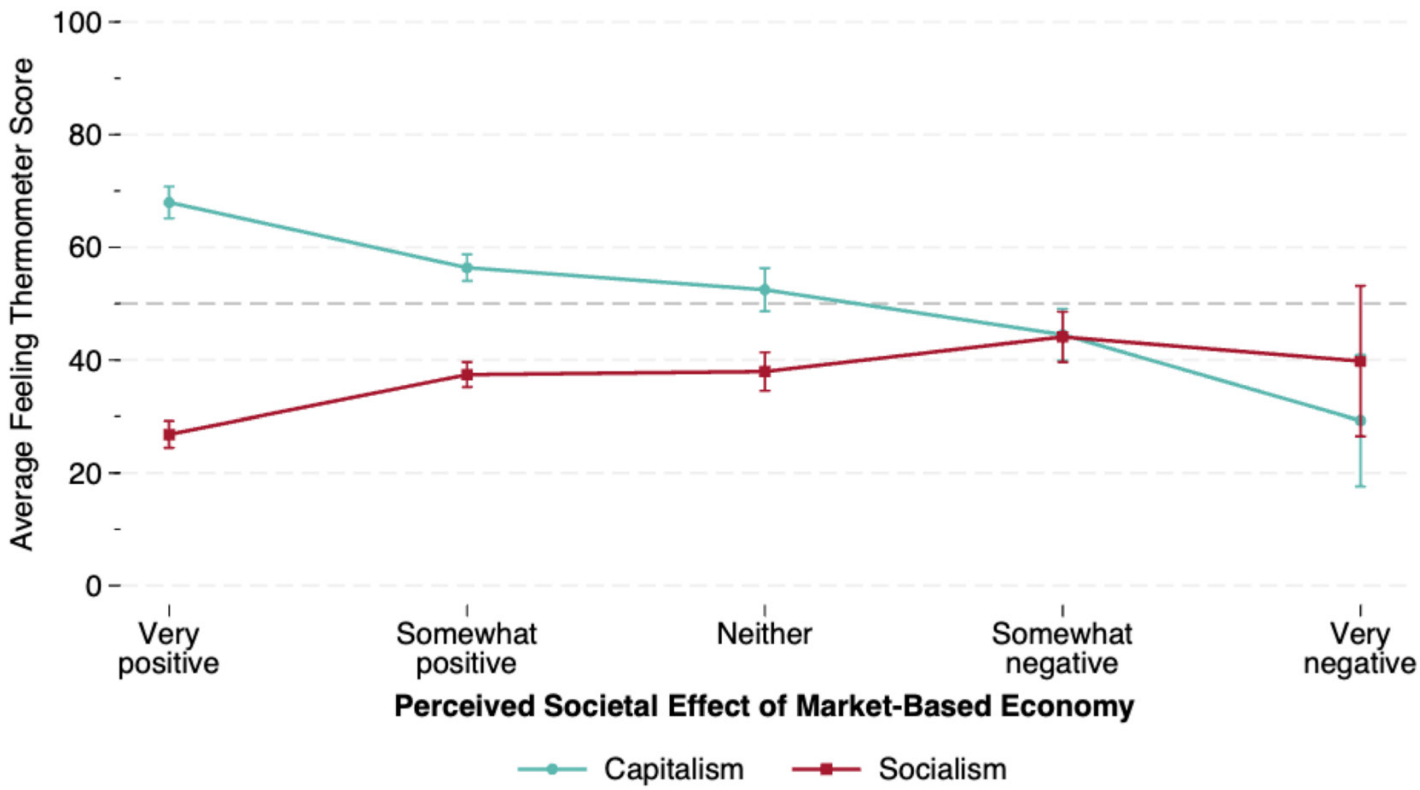

Figure 5. Adjusted Feeling Thermometer Ratings for Capitalism and Socialism by Perceived Societal Effects of Market-Based Economies
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,356). Markers represent adjusted mean feeling thermometer ratings for capitalism and socialism by respondents' perceptions of the societal effects of market-based economies. Feeling thermometer ratings range from 0 ("very cold or unfavorable") to 100 ("very warm or favorable"), with 50 representing a neutral opinion. Estimates adjust for age, gender, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, household income, census region, home ownership, metropolitan status, parent status, party affiliation, and ideology. Respondents who selected "No opinion/Haven't heard enough" or did not provide a substantive rating for capitalism (n = 135) or socialism (n = 136), as well as respondents with missing data on one or more control variables (n = 35), are excluded from the analysis. Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals.

Respondents who view market-based economies more positively also express substantially warmer feelings toward capitalism. Those who believe market-based economies have a very positive effect on society give capitalism an adjusted average rating of 68, compared to just 29 among those who believe the effects of market-based economies are very negative.

Feelings toward socialism generally move in the opposite direction, though the relationship is weaker. Respondents who view market-based economies very positively give socialism an adjusted average rating of 27, compared to roughly 40 to 44 among those who believe market-based economies have neutral or negative effects.

characteristics. Adjusted estimates range from 65% among respondents with household incomes below $30,000 to 80% among those with household incomes of $150,000 or more.

Overall, beliefs about the societal effects of market-based economies are much more strongly related to feelings toward capitalism than toward socialism.

ECONOMIC BELIEFS HELP EXPLAIN VIEWS OF CAPITALISM AND SOCIALISM

Why do Americans differ in their views of capitalism and socialism? Do these differences simply reflect political ideology, or do broader beliefs about how economies function also play an important role?

To explore these questions, we examined three economic beliefs that may help account for differences in Americans' attitudes toward capitalism and socialism:

- whether economic gains come at the expense of others,
- whether the social costs of innovation are acceptable, and
- whether businesses succeed primarily by producing goods and services that customers value.[8]

We asked respondents whether they agreed or disagreed with the statement, "When some people get richer, others usually must get poorer." This reflects what economists describe as a zero-sum view of the economy—the idea that one person's economic gains necessarily come at someone else's expense. As Figure 6 shows, 47% of Americans agree that one person's economic gains generally come at another person's expense; 34% disagree, and another 19% neither agree nor disagree.[9]

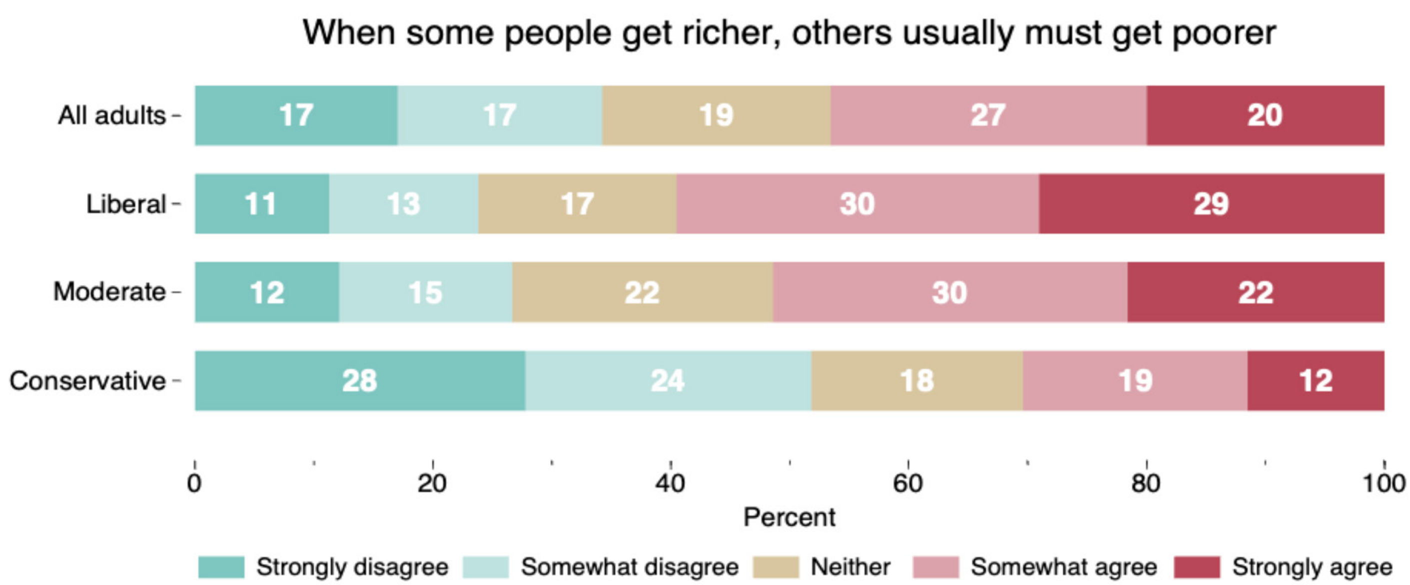

Figure 6. Beliefs About Whether Economic Gains Come at Others' Expense, Overall and by Ideology
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,533, including 344 liberals, 627 moderates, and 533 conservatives). Bars show the distribution of responses.

8 Although these three beliefs are conceptually related, they are only weakly correlated with one another (Spearman's ρ ranging from 0.15 to 0.22 in absolute value), suggesting that they capture distinct aspects of economic thinking rather than a single underlying attitude.

9 Responses among the Florida oversample were similar to those of Americans nationally. Forty-eight percent of Florida respondents agreed that when some people get richer, others usually must get poorer, including 21% who strongly agreed and 28% who somewhat agreed. Thirty-five percent disagreed,

These views differ substantially by ideology.[10] Fifty-nine percent of liberals and 52% of moderates agree that one person's economic gains necessarily come at someone else's expense. Interestingly, 31% of conservatives also agree. On the other hand, 24% of liberals, 27% of moderates, and 52% of conservatives disagree that one person's economic gains necessarily come at someone else's expense.

Next, we asked respondents whether they think job losses and disruptions to families and communities are an acceptable price to pay for innovation and progress. As shown in Figure 7, Americans are evenly divided: 39% view these costs as completely (8%) or somewhat acceptable (31%), while an identical 39% say they are somewhat (30%) or completely unacceptable (9%). Another 22% say they are neither acceptable nor unacceptable.[11]

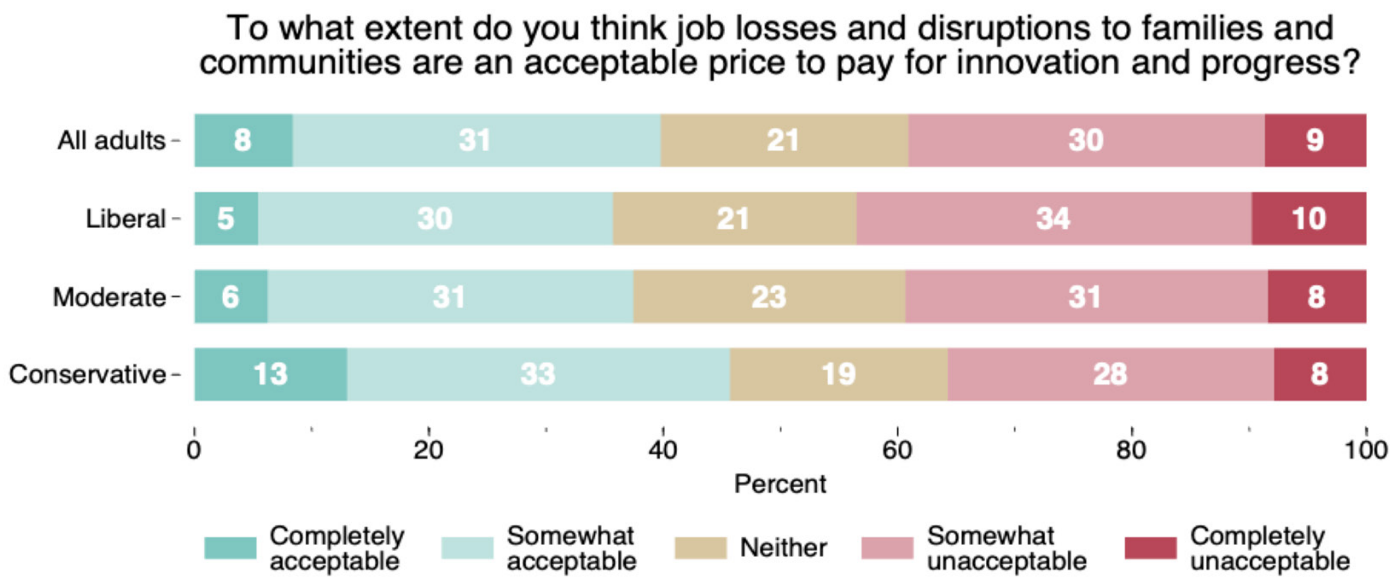

Figure 7. Beliefs About the Social Costs of Innovation, Overall and by Ideology
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,533, including 344 liberals, 627 moderates, and 533 conservatives). Bars show the distribution of responses.

Unlike zero-sum economic beliefs, views on this question differ little across the ideological spectrum. Conservatives (46%) are somewhat more likely than liberals (35%) to view these costs as acceptable, while liberals are somewhat more likely to view them as unacceptable (44% vs. 36%).

Finally, we asked respondents how businesses succeed:

- By producing products and services that customers value,
- By receiving special treatment from government, or
- Both about equally.

including 17% who somewhat disagreed and 18% who strongly disagreed, while 17% neither agreed nor disagreed.

10 Age differences are also apparent. Fifty-nine percent of adults ages 18 to 29 agree that when some people get richer, others usually must get poorer, compared to 38% of adults ages 65 and older (Appendix Figure A8). This difference persists after accounting for ideology, party affiliation, and other demographic characteristics: adjusted estimates are 53% among adults ages 18 to 29 and 37% among those ages 65 and older.

11 Among respondents in the Florida oversample, 41% say the social costs of innovation are completely (8%) or somewhat acceptable (33%), while 37%

Figure 8 shows that 70% of Americans attribute business success primarily to their producing valuable and affordable products and services, while just 3% attribute it primarily to special treatment from government. Another 19% believe both factors are about equally important, while 7% are not sure.[12] Conservatives (79%) are more likely than liberals (62%) to attribute business success primarily to serving customers, but clear majorities across the ideological spectrum hold this view.

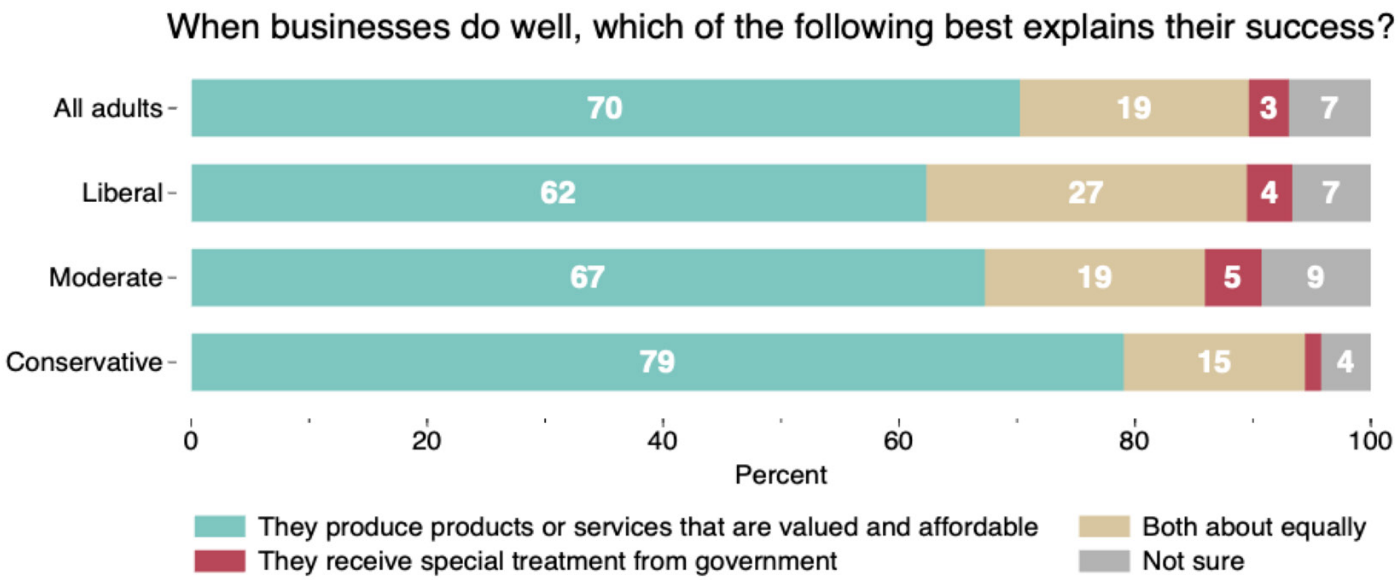

Figure 8. Beliefs About the Sources of Business Success, Overall and by Ideology
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,533, including 344 liberals, 627 moderates, and 533 conservatives). Bars show the distribution of responses.

Respondents who view market-based economies more positively also express substantially warmer feelings toward capitalism. Those who believe market-based economies have a very positive effect on society give capitalism an adjusted average rating of 68, compared to just 29 among those who believe the effects of market-based economies are very negative.

Feelings toward socialism generally move in the opposite direction, though the relationship is weaker. Respondents who view market-based economies very positively give socialism an adjusted average rating of 27, compared to roughly 40 to 44 among those who believe market-based economies have neutral or negative effects.

Figure 9 examines how each of these three economic beliefs relates to attitudes toward capitalism and socialism after accounting for the other two economic beliefs, political ideology, party affiliation, and demographic characteristics.[13] The left panel shows results for zero-sum beliefs, the middle panel for views of the social costs of innovation, and the right panel for beliefs about the sources of business success.

say they are somewhat (28%) or completely unacceptable (8%). Another 22% say they are neither acceptable nor unacceptable. These responses closely resemble those of the national sample.

12 Among respondents in the Florida oversample, 72% attribute business success primarily to producing products and services that customers value, while 4% attribute it primarily to special treatment from government. Another 18% say both factors are about equally important, and 6% are not sure. These responses closely resemble those of the national sample.

13 Full regression results for these models are presented graphically in Appendix Figure A9, which shows coefficient estimates and 95% confidence intervals for each economic belief across models predicting feelings toward capitalism, socialism, and the difference between the two.

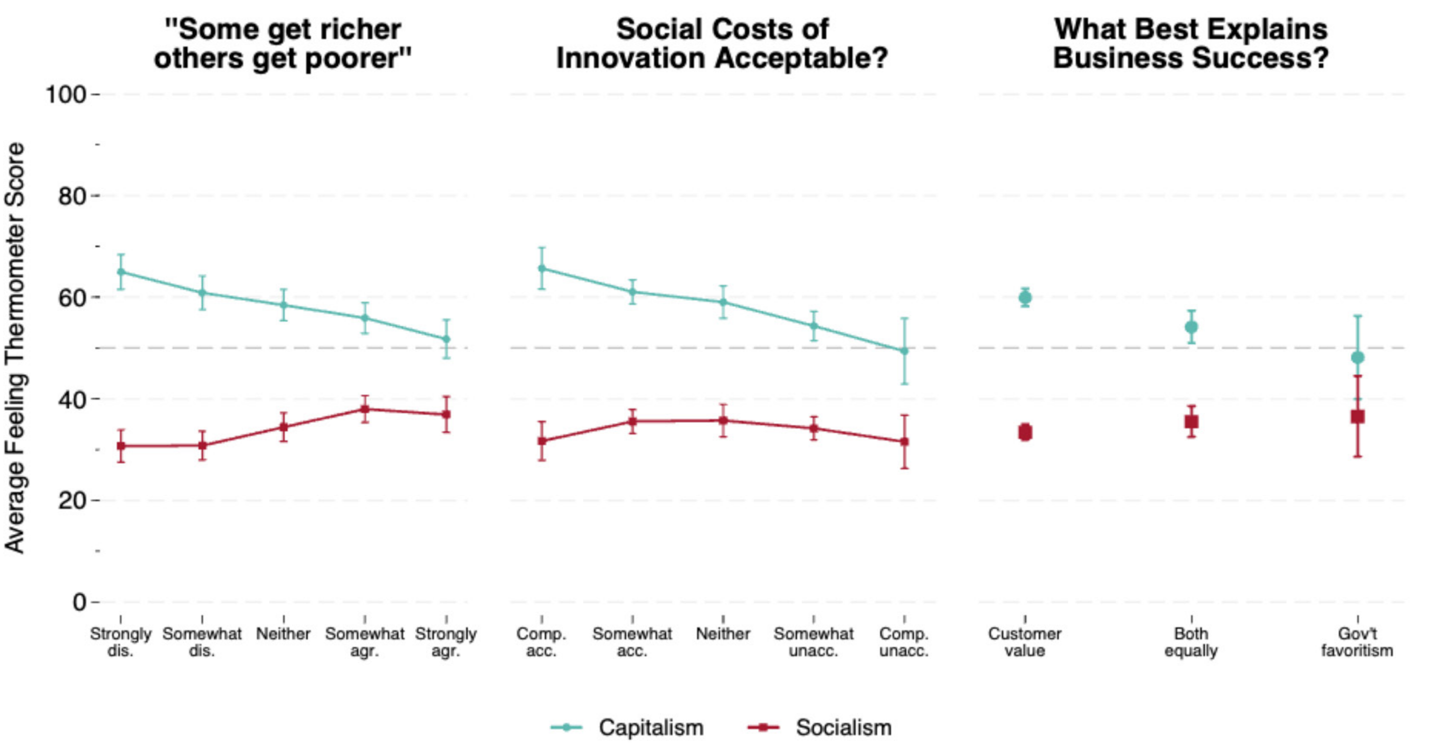

Figure 9. Adjusted Feeling Thermometer Ratings toward Capitalism and Socialism Across Three Economic Beliefs
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,359). Markers represent adjusted mean feeling thermometer ratings for capitalism and socialism estimated from separate multivariable regression models. Estimates adjust for the other two economic beliefs shown in the figure, political ideology, party affiliation, and demographic characteristics (age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, household income, census region, metropolitan status, homeownership, and parental status). Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Respondents answering "No opinion/Haven't heard enough" or refusing either feeling thermometer item (n=139), or missing responses on any model covariates (n=35), were excluded.

All three economic beliefs remain independently associated with feelings toward capitalism, but zero-sum thinking stands out. Respondents who strongly disagree with the idea that economic gains come at others' expense rate capitalism roughly 13 points higher and socialism about 6 points lower than those who strongly agree. These relationships persist even after accounting for political orientation, demographics, and the other economic beliefs. By contrast, beliefs about the social costs of innovation and the sources of business success show little relationship with feelings toward socialism and instead relate primarily to evaluations of capitalism.

CONCLUSION

Americans overall continue to view capitalism more favorably than socialism, and majorities across the ideological spectrum believe that market-based economies have a positive effect on society. These broad patterns, however, mask substantial differences across ideological and age groups.

Liberals express warmer feelings toward socialism than capitalism. Younger Americans evaluate the two economic systems more evenly than older Americans. Conservatives, by contrast, express substantially warmer feelings toward capitalism and colder feelings toward socialism. They are also considerably more likely than liberals to describe the effects of capitalism as "very positive."

Political identity is closely related to these attitudes, but it does not fully explain them. Economic beliefs remain related to views of capitalism even after accounting for ideology, party affiliation, demographic characteristics, and the other beliefs examined. Respondents who reject zero-sum views of economic gains, view the social costs of innovation as acceptable, and attribute business success primarily to producing valuable goods and services all express warmer feelings toward capitalism. Among the economic beliefs examined, *zero-sum thinking has the strongest relationship with feelings toward capitalism and is the only one clearly related to feelings toward socialism.*

These findings point to an important distinction in contemporary debates. Americans differ not only in which economic system they prefer, but also in how they believe market economies create, distribute, and sustain prosperity. Beliefs about whether one person's economic gains necessarily come at the expense of others appear to play an especially important role. This suggests that debates over capitalism and socialism may turn partly on how Americans come to understand the basic workings of economic exchange—whether prosperity is viewed primarily as something created through mutually beneficial activity or as something gained at others' expense. Understanding how these beliefs develop may therefore help illuminate recent shifts in attitudes toward capitalism and socialism—particularly among Democrats—as well as the growing political prominence of candidates associated with democratic socialism.

POLL INFORMATION

This study was conducted online between December 8–18, 2025 by Social Science Research Services (SSRS) using a probability based opinion panel. The sample consisted of 1,533 respondents age 18 or older, including an oversample of 263 Florida residents. The margin of error for total respondents is ±2.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. Weighted demographic characteristics of the survey group are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1. Descriptive Characteristics by Survey Sample

Category	Main Survey Sample	Florida Sample
Sex		
Male	49%	49%
Female	51%	51%
Age		
18 to 29	20%	18%
30 to 49	34%	30%
50 to 64	23%	23%
65 or older	23%	28%
Race/Ethnicity		
Non-Hispanic White	60%	53%
Black	12%	15%
Hispanic	17%	25%
Asian	7%	3%
Other	4%	3%
Income		
Less than $50,000	43%	40%
$50,000-$74,999	16%	19%
$75,000-$99,999	13%	16%
$100,000 and over	29%	24%
Education		
Less than HS	9%	8%
HS Graduate	28%	29%
Some college	26%	27%
BA Degree	21%	23%
Postgrad / Prof. Degree	15%	12%
Parent Status		
K-12 Parent	26%	23%
Not a K-12 Parent	74%	77%
Stated Party		
Democrat	29%	26%
Republican	29%	32%
Independent / Something else	42%	42%
Political Ideology		
Liberal	23%	18%
Moderate	44%	46%
Conservative	33%	36%
N	**1,533**	**263**

APPENDIX A: SUPPLEMENTARY FIGURES

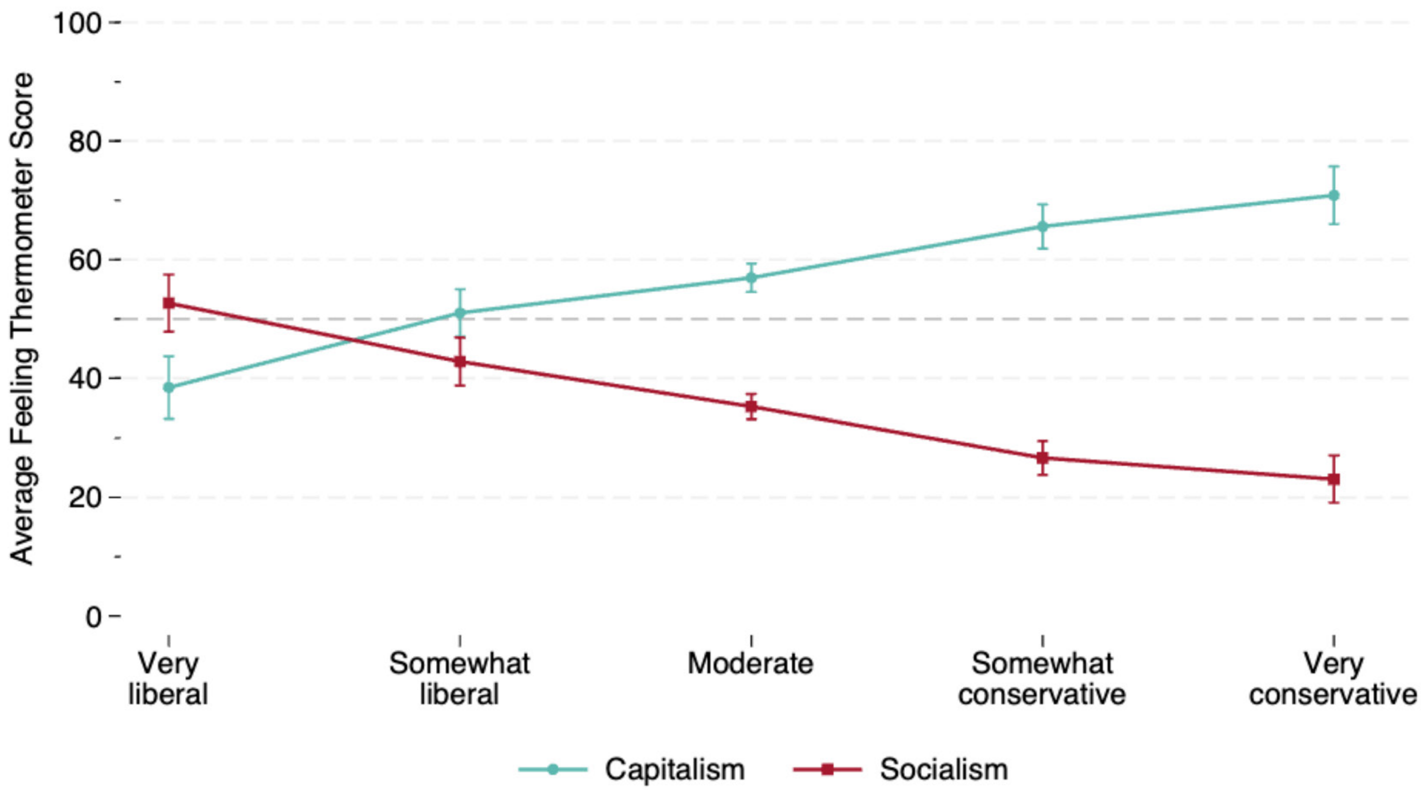

Figure A1. Adjusted Feeling Thermometer Ratings Toward Capitalism and Socialism, by Ideology
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,359). Markers represent the adjusted mean feeling thermometer ratings toward capitalism and socialism within each ideological group. Feeling thermometer ratings range from 0 ("very cold or unfavorable") to 100 ("very warm or favorable"), with 50 representing a neutral opinion. Estimates adjust for age, gender, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, household income, census region, home ownership, metropolitan status, parent status, and party affiliation. Respondents who selected "No opinion/Haven't heard enough" or did not provide a substantive rating for capitalism (n = 135) or socialism (n = 136), as well as respondents who with missing data on any political and demographic covariates (n = 38), are excluded from the analysis. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

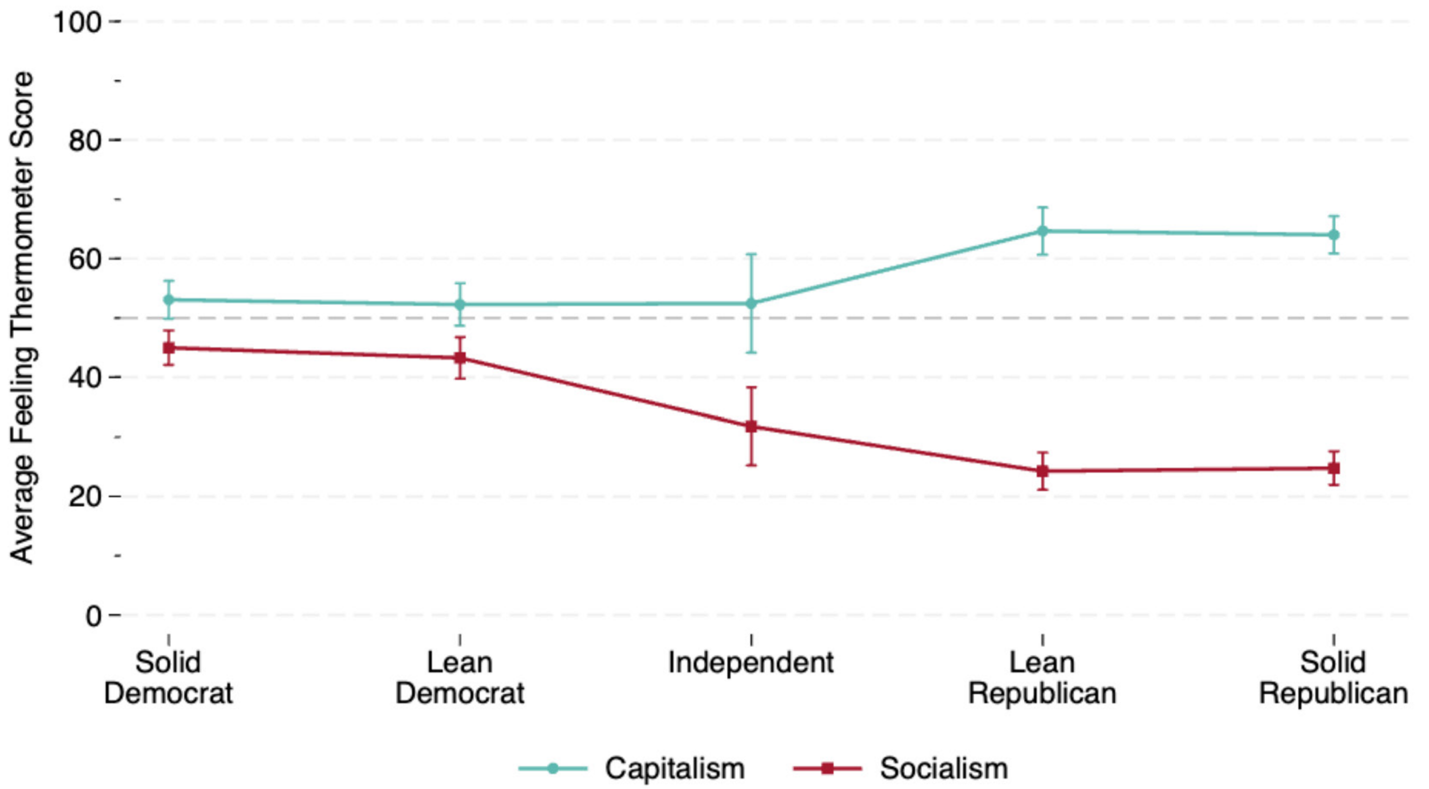

Figure A2. Adjusted Feeling Thermometer Ratings Toward Capitalism and Socialism, by Party Affiliation
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,359). Markers represent the adjusted mean feeling thermometer ratings toward capitalism and socialism within each party affiliation category. Feeling thermometer ratings range from 0 ("very cold or unfavorable") to 100 ("very warm or favorable"), with 50 representing a neutral opinion. Estimates adjust for age, gender, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, household income, census region, home ownership, metropolitan status, parent status, and ideology. Respondents who selected "No opinion/Haven't heard enough" or did not provide a substantive rating for capitalism (n = 135) or socialism (n = 136), as well as respondents who with missing data on any political and demographic covariates (n = 38), are excluded from the analysis. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

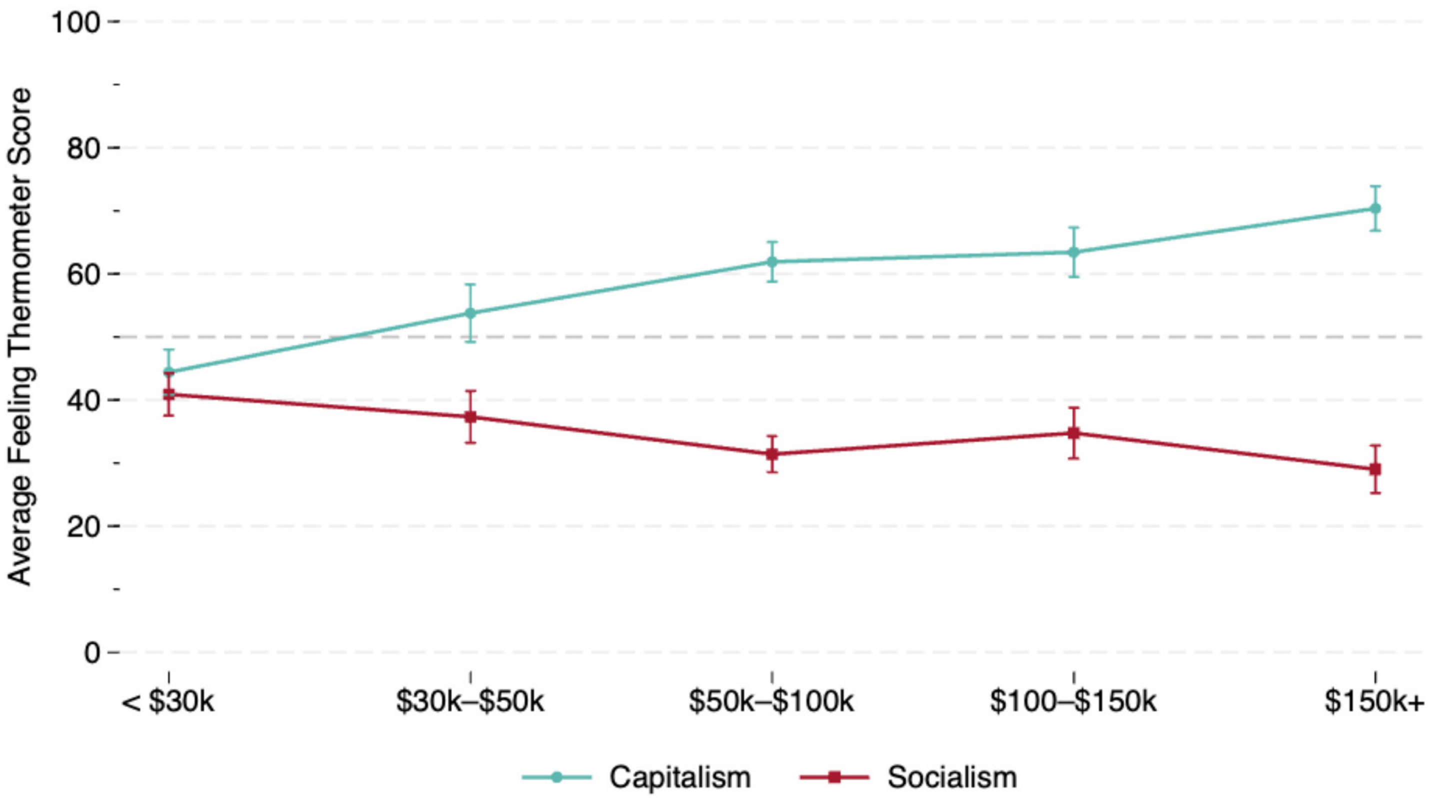

Figure A3. Feeling Thermometer Ratings Toward Capitalism and Socialism, by Household Income Category
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,1384). Markers represent the mean feeling thermometer ratings toward capitalism and socialism within household income category. Feeling thermometer ratings range from 0 ("very cold or unfavorable") to 100 ("very warm or favorable"), with 50 representing a neutral opinion. Respondents who selected "No opinion/Haven't heard enough" or did not provide a substantive rating for capitalism (n = 135) or socialism (n = 136), as well as respondents who did not identify their household income category (n = 14), are excluded from the analysis. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

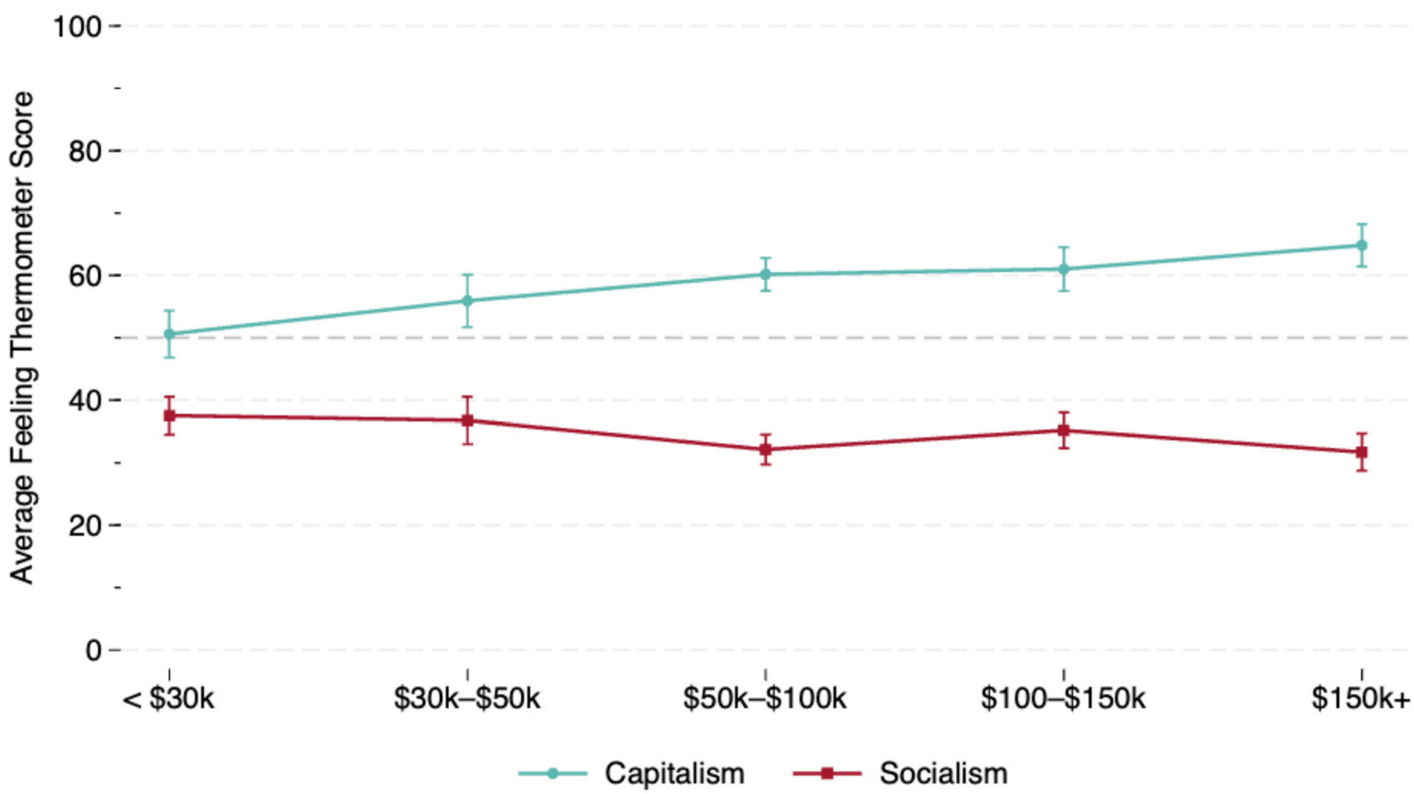

Figure A4. Adjusted Feeling Thermometer Ratings Toward Capitalism and Socialism, by Household Income Category
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,359). Markers represent the adjusted mean feeling thermometer ratings toward capitalism and socialism within each household income category. Feeling thermometer ratings range from 0 ("very cold or unfavorable") to 100 ("very warm or favorable"), with 50 representing a neutral opinion. Estimates adjust for age, gender, race/ethnicity, educational attainment, census region, home ownership, metropolitan status, parent status, ideology, and party affiliation. Respondents who selected "No opinion/Haven't heard enough" or did not provide a substantive rating for capitalism (n = 135) or socialism (n = 136), as well as respondents who with missing data on any political and demographic covariates (n = 38), are excluded from the analysis. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

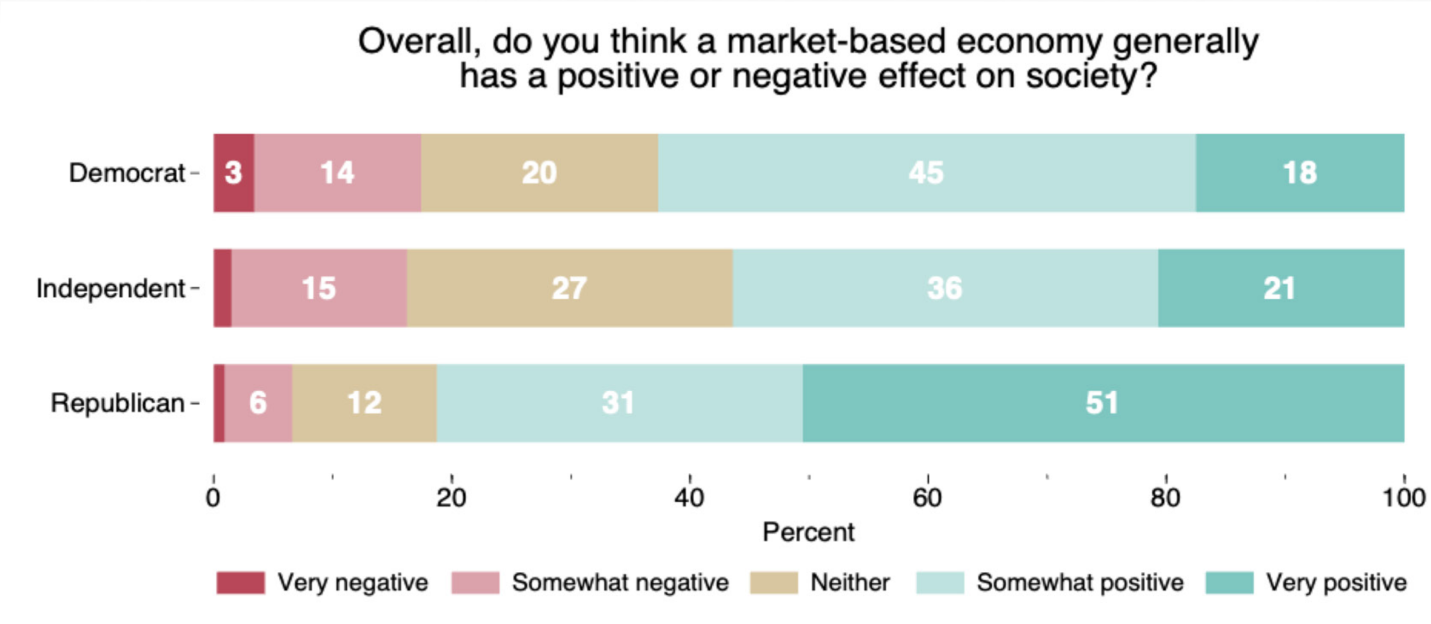

Figure A5. Perceived Societal Effects of Market-Based Economies, by Party Affiliation
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,533, including 690 Democrats/Democratic leaners, 772 Republicans/Republican leaners, and 69 independents or respondents who did not lean toward either party). Bars show the distribution of responses within each party group.

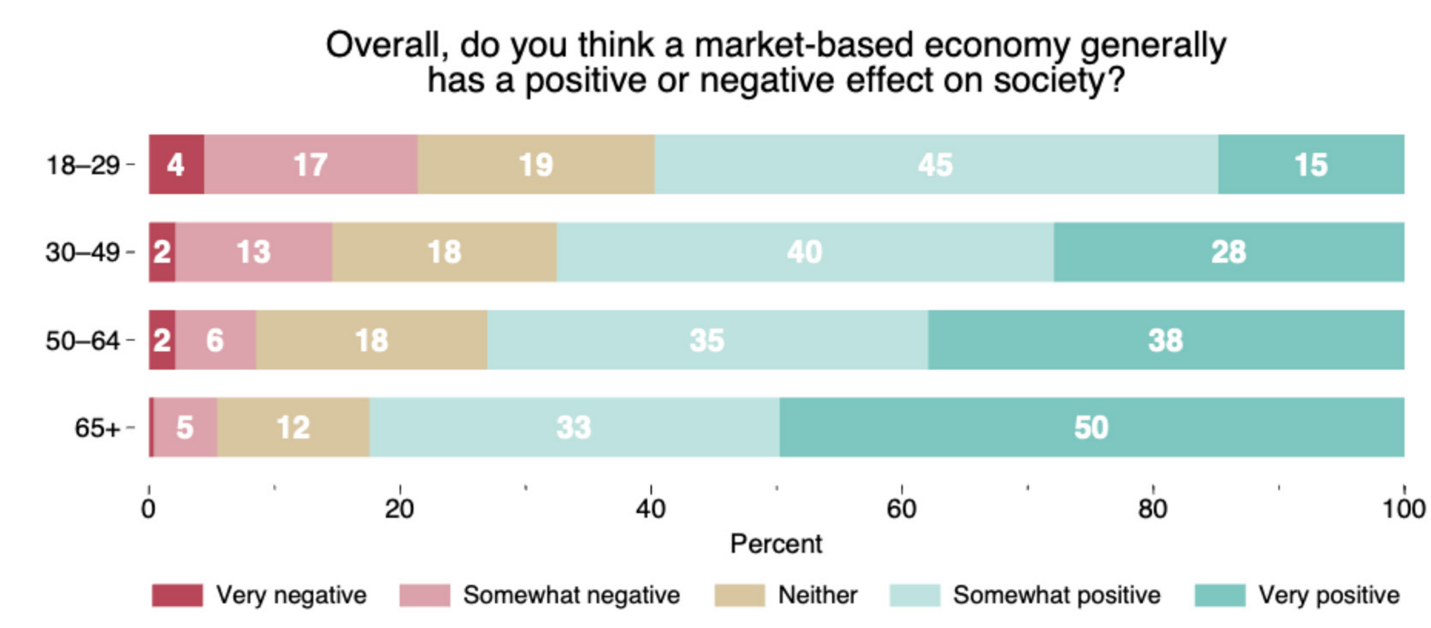

Figure A6. Perceived Societal Effects of Market-Based Economies, by Age Group
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,532). Bars show the distribution of responses within each age group. Respondents with missing age data (n = 1) are excluded from the analysis.

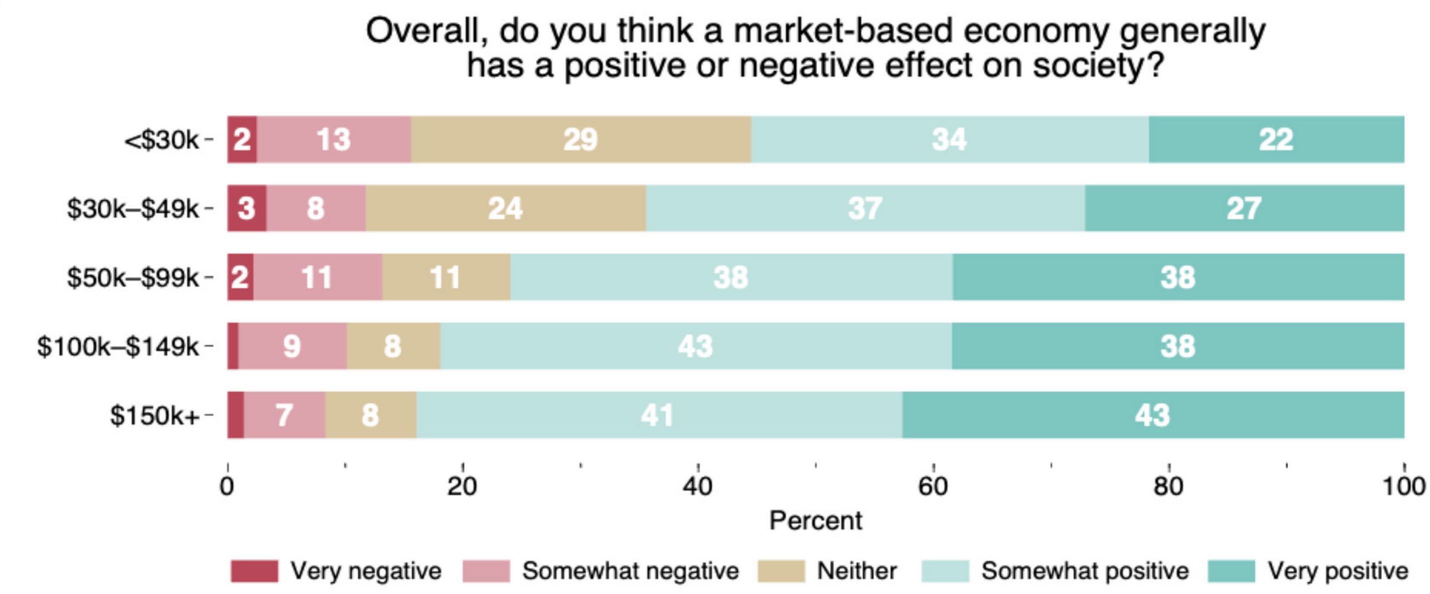

Figure A7. Perceived Societal Effects of Market-Based Economies, by Household Income Category
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,519). Bars show the distribution of responses within each age group. Respondents that did not identify a household income category data (n = 14) are excluded from the analysis.

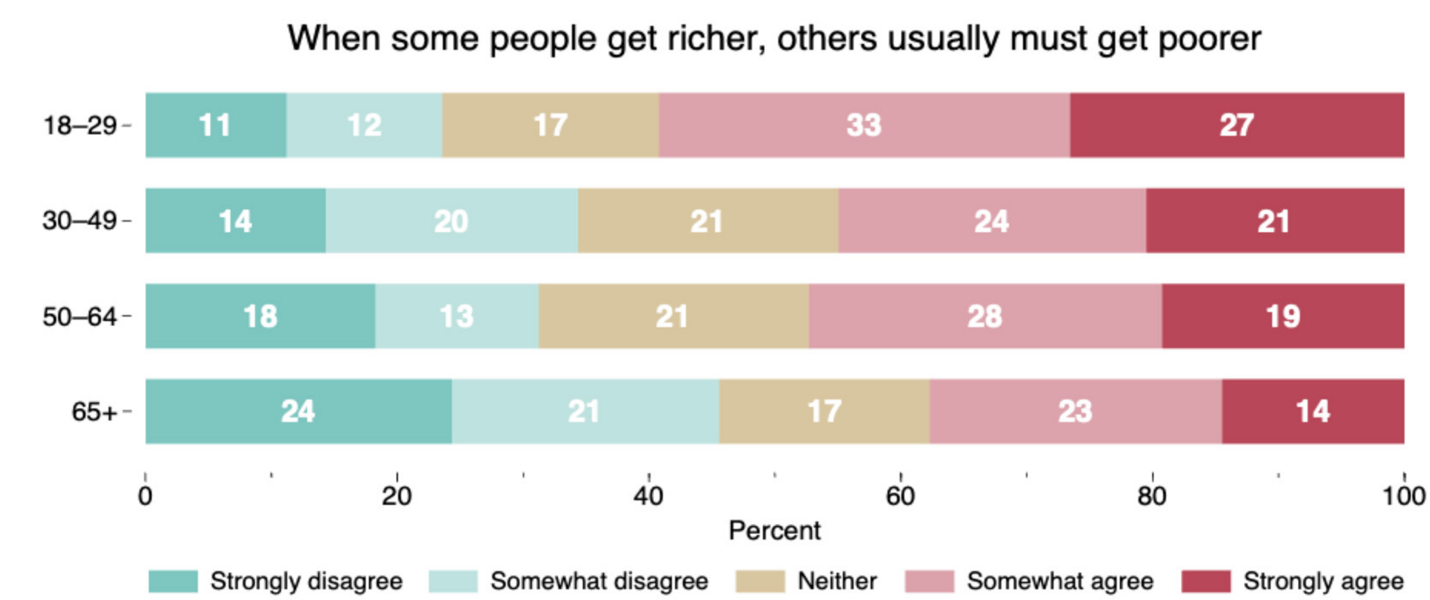

Figure A8. Beliefs About Whether Economic Gains Come at Others' Expense, by Age Group
Note: Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population (n = 1,532). Bars show the distribution of responses within each age group. Respondents with missing age data (n = 1) are excluded from the analysis.

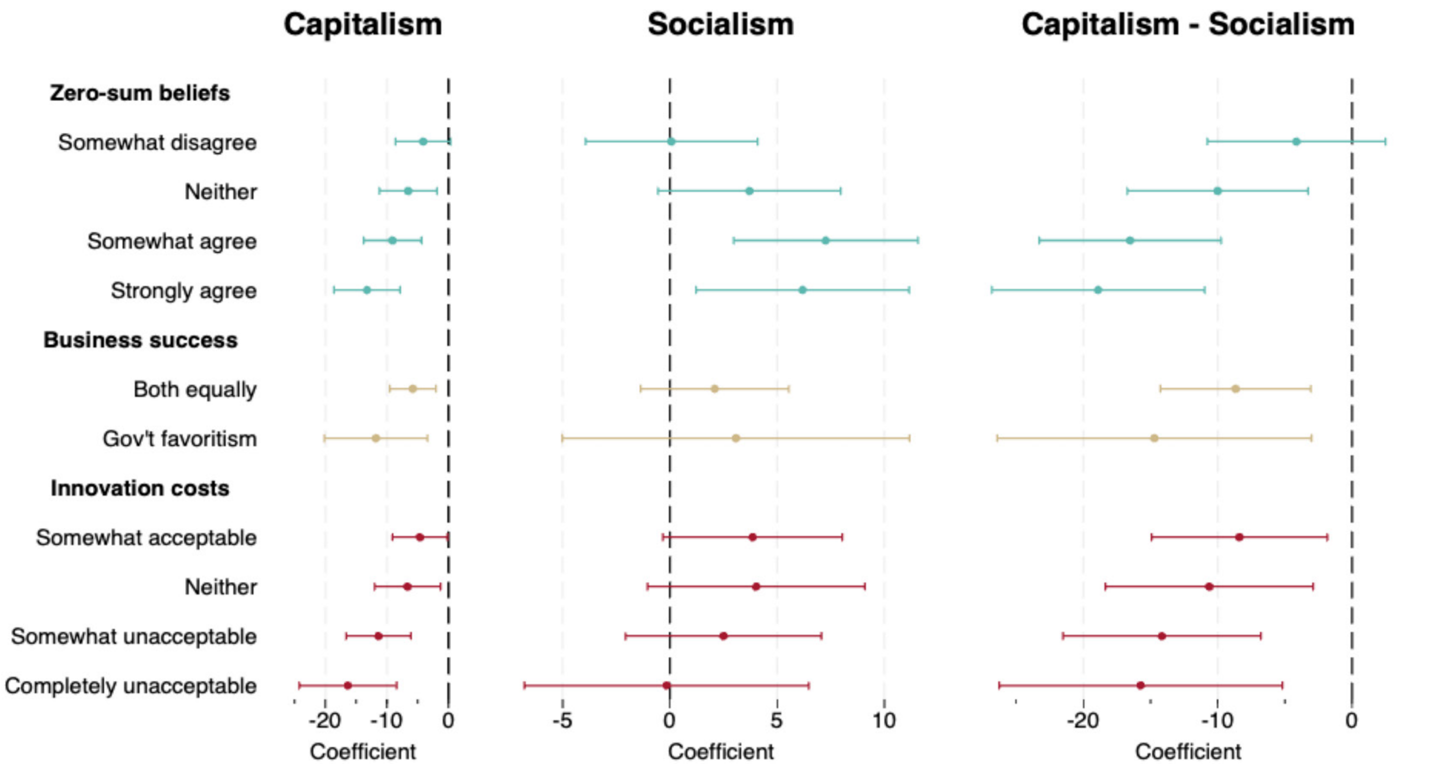

Figure A9. Adjusted Associations Between Economic Beliefs and Attitudes Toward Capitalism and Socialism
Note: Points are OLS coefficient estimates; horizontal lines indicate 95% confidence intervals. The dashed vertical line marks zero; confidence intervals that include zero are not statistically significant at the 0.05 level. Estimates are weighted to represent the U.S. adult population. Model sample sizes are 1,360 for capitalism, 1,359 for socialism, and 1,320 for capitalism minus socialism. Models adjust simultaneously for all three economic beliefs shown, as well as age, party affiliation, political ideology, race and ethnicity, gender, education, household income, census region, homeownership, metropolitan status, and parental status. Reference categories for the economic-belief measures are strongly disagree that when some people get richer, others usually must get poorer; businesses succeed because they produce products or services that customers value; and completely acceptable for the social costs of innovation. The capitalism–socialism outcome is calculated as the capitalism feeling-thermometer rating minus the socialism feeling-thermometer rating; positive coefficients therefore indicate a more favorable relative evaluation of capitalism.