

AMERICASBAROMETER 2026 CUBA

What Cubans Say About Democracy and Daily Life

The first AmericasBarometer survey conducted in Cuba finds widespread economic hardship, exceptionally low confidence in national institutions, and strong concern about speaking openly about politics. The results also show support among surveyed Cubans for a larger U.S. role in a possible democratic transition.

94% say Cuba's economy is worse than 12 months ago	74% primarily blame the Cuban government for the current crisis	58% want greater U.S. involvement in supporting a possible democratic transition
---	--	--

Democracy and civil liberties

Rights and democratic attitudes 55% say basic citizen rights are not protected at all by Cuba's political system. 48% say Cuba is not democratic at all. 41% choose freedom as the meaning of democracy, nearly twice the next most common answer. 38% strongly agree that democracy is preferable to any other form of government.	Trust and political expression 7% or less express high confidence in each institution measured: the presidency, National Assembly, police, and Supreme Court. 74% rate President Miguel Díaz-Canel's performance as bad or very bad; 55% call it very bad. 76% say they must be careful discussing politics or that it depends on the circumstances, even with friends. 71% report little or no interest in politics.
--	--

How to read these results

This survey provides a first window into the opinions of internet-connected Cubans who opted into the panel. It should not be treated as a probability estimate for every Cuban adult. The sample included 1,095 residents age 18 and older in all 16 provinces. Interviews were conducted online from June 19 to July 6, 2026, through Cubadata's Apretaste platform. Data were weighted to align the sample with population benchmarks, but weighting cannot fully replace probability sampling.

AMERICASBAROMETER 2026 CUBA

The Economic Crisis & Views of the United States

Economic hardship reaches basic needs

79% say household income does not cover their needs	53% ran out of food in the prior three months	39% went without needed medical care in the prior three months
86% experienced electricity outages every day in the prior month	56% experienced water outages every day in the prior month	53% name economic problems as Cuba's most serious issue

Cubans surveyed prioritize economic recovery

Responsibility for the crisis 89% cite Cuban government decisions, alone or together with U.S. sanctions, as the main driver of current economic conditions. 74% hold the Cuban government primarily responsible for the current crisis, compared with 16% who point to the United States. 4% say the population as a whole benefits most from recent government economic measures; 31% identify state-affiliated companies or actors.	Priorities for the next two to three years 77% want economic changes as soon as possible, even before institutional improvements are in place. 73% prioritize economic development, even if that means accepting foreign interference. 69% choose economic recovery and better living standards over political opening as the country's immediate priority.
---	--

Connections to and opinions of the United States

Personal ties and perceived influence 36% live in a household that receives remittances from abroad. 47% have close relatives living abroad; about three-quarters of this group have ties to the United States. 64% say the United States has some or a lot of political influence in Cuba. 38% of those who see U.S. influence say it is positive, compared with 20% who call it negative.	Expectations for U.S. involvement 61% say U.S. pressure is somewhat or very likely to produce significant political change. 43% say the United States is doing too little to support a possible democratic transition. 58% want the United States to increase its role in supporting a possible transition over the next two to three years. 43% expect most Cubans would support a hypothetical U.S. military intervention; 28% expect division and 15% expect rejection.
--	---

Source: LAPOP Lab, AmericasBarometer 2026, Cuba. Fieldwork was implemented by Cubadata on behalf of LAPOP Lab. For survey design and data access questions: Dr. J. Daniel Montalvo, Center for Global Democracy and LAPOP Lab, Vanderbilt University; Dr. José Miguel Cruz, Kimberly Green Latin American and Caribbean Center, Florida International University.