

ANES Cumulative Data File

1948–2024

Variable Codebook

Merged Continuous Dataset

Feeling thermometers, CSES like scores + demographic backbone across all six thematic files

N = 73,745 | 70 variables

Note: Only truly continuous measures retained: feeling thermometers (0–100) and CSES like scores (0–10). All categorical and ordinal topic variables excluded. Demographic variables included regardless of data type. Sampling weights excluded.

American National Election Studies (ANES) | <https://electionstudies.org>

Notes on Variable Coverage

Not every variable was fielded in every survey wave. The Coverage column uses the following symbols:

- ✓ All waves — asked in every available wave for this dataset.
- ⚠ Partial — asked in some waves but not all; missing years listed in red.

Demographic variables (age, gender, race, education, region, state, party ID, religion, marital status, and others) are included regardless of data type. Categorical variables are stored as character labels rather than numeric codes. Sampling weights have been excluded; merge from the original ANES CDF file if needed. Note: the Foreign Relations and Environmental Issues thematic files contained no truly continuous variables and are therefore not represented in the merged dataset.

Administrative & Identification					
Variable Name	Original VCF Code	Data Type	Variable Type	Description / Question & Response Options	Coverage
version	Version	String	Identifier	CDF release version identifier	✓ All waves
year	VCF0004	Integer	Identifier	Year of the survey wave (4-digit)	✓ All waves
case_id	VCF0006	Integer	Identifier	Year-level respondent case ID	✓ All waves
unique_id	VCF0006a	Integer	Identifier	Cross-year unique respondent ID (links panel cases across waves)	✓ All waves

Demographics					
Variable Name	Original VCF Code	Data Type	Variable Type	Description / Question & Response Options	Coverage
age	VCF0101	Integer	Continuous	Respondent age in years	✓ All waves
gender	VCF0104	String	Categorical	Respondent gender › Male › Female › Other (2016+)	✓ All waves
race_7cat	VCF0105a	String	Categorical	Race/ethnicity — 7 categories › White non-Hispanic › Black non-Hispanic › Asian/Pacific Islander › American Indian/Alaska Native › Hispanic › Other non-Hispanic › Non-White race unspecified	⚠ Partial Asked: 1966–2024 Missing: 1948–1964
hispanic	VCF0108	String	Binary	Respondent is of Hispanic origin › Hispanic › Not Hispanic	⚠ Partial Asked: 1966–2024 Missing: 1948–1964
educ_4cat	VCF0110	String	Ordinal	Respondent education — 4 categories › 8th grade or less › Some high school › High school diploma › More than high school	✓ All waves
region	VCF0112	String	Categorical	U.S. Census region of residence › Northeast › Midwest › South › West	✓ All waves
state	VCF0901b	String	Categorical	State of residence (full state name) › Alabama, Alaska, ... Wyoming (all 50 states + D.C.)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1952–2024

					Missing: 1948
work_status_5cat	VCF0118	String	Categorical	Respondent work status — 5 categories › Working › Unemployed › Retired › Homemaker › Student/Other	⚠ Partial Asked: 1952–2024 Missing: 1948
union_hh	VCF0127	String	Binary	Any household member belongs to a labor union › Yes › No	✓ All waves
religion	VCF0128	String	Categorical	Respondent religion — major group › Protestant › Catholic › Jewish › Other/None	✓ All waves
church_attend	VCF0130	String	Ordinal	Frequency of church/religious service attendance › Every week › Almost every week › Once or twice a month › A few times a year or less › Never	⚠ Partial Asked: 1952–2024 Missing: 1948
marital_status	VCF0147	String	Categorical	Marital status › Married › Widowed › Divorced/Separated › Never married	✓ All waves
home_owner	VCF0146a	String	Binary	Respondent owns or rents home › Owns › Rents/Other	⚠ Partial Asked: 1956–2024 Missing: 1948–1954
parents_nativity	VCF0143	String	Categorical	Nativity of respondent's parents › Both parents born in U.S. › One parent foreign-born › Both parents foreign-born	⚠ Partial Asked: 1948–1990 Missing: 1992–2024
party_id_7pt	VCF0301	String	Ordinal	Party identification — 7-point scale › Strong Democrat › Weak Democrat › Independent-Democrat › Independent › Independent-Republican › Weak Republican › Strong Republican	✓ All waves
sexual_orient	VCF9202	String	Categorical	Sexual orientation › Heterosexual/Straight › Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual › Other/Unsure	⚠ Partial Asked: 2012–2024 Missing: 1948–2010

Attitudes Towards Parties					
Variable Name	Original VCF Code	Data Type	Variable Type	Description / Question & Response Options	Coverage
therm_dem_party	VCF0218	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Democratic Party Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1964–2024 Missing: 1948–1962
therm_repub_party	VCF0224	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Republican Party Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1964–2024 Missing: 1948–1962
cses_like_dem	VCF0426	Integer	Continuous	CSES-format like score — Democratic Party (0–10 scale)	 Partial Asked: 1996–2024 Missing: 1948–1994
cses_like_repub	VCF0436	Integer	Continuous	CSES-format like score — Republican Party (0–10 scale)	 Partial Asked: 1996–2024 Missing: 1948–1994
therm_dem_cand	VCF0428	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Democratic presidential candidate Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1968–2024 Missing: 1948–1966
therm_dem_vp_cand	VCF0431	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Democratic vice-presidential candidate Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1984–2024 Missing: 1948–1982
therm_repub_cand	VCF0438	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Republican presidential candidate Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1968–2024 Missing: 1948–1966
therm_repub_vp_cand	VCF0441	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Republican vice-presidential candidate Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1984–2024 Missing: 1948–1982
therm_president	VCF0450	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — incumbent President Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1966–2024 Missing: 1948–1964
therm_vp	VCF0451	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — incumbent Vice President	 Partial

				Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	Asked: 1966–2024 Missing: 1948–1964
cses_like_dem_cand	VCF0429	Integer	Continuous	CSES-format like score — Democratic presidential candidate (0–10 scale)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1996–2024 Missing: 1948–1994
cses_like_repub_cand	VCF0439	Integer	Continuous	CSES-format like score — Republican presidential candidate (0–10 scale)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1996–2024 Missing: 1948–1994

Racial Policy					
Variable Name	Original VCF Code	Data Type	Variable Type	Description / Question & Response Options	Coverage
therm_jews	VCF0206	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Jewish people Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1964–2024 Missing: 1948–1962
therm_blacks	VCF0207	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Black people Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1964–2024 Missing: 1948–1962
therm_whites	VCF0208	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — White people Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1968–2024 Missing: 1948–1966
therm_hispanics	VCF0217	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Hispanic people Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1976–2024 Missing: 1948–1974
therm_asians	VCF0228	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Asian/Pacific Islander people Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1994–2024 Missing: 1948–1992
therm_muslims	VCF0232	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Muslims Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 2000–2024 Missing: 1948–1998
therm_immigrants	VCF0235	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — immigrants Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 2000–2024 Missing: 1948–1998

therm_christians	VCF0236	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Christians Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 2000–2024 Missing: 1948–1998
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Social Groups					
Variable Name	Original VCF Code	Data Type	Variable Type	Description / Question & Response Options	Coverage
therm_big_business	VCF0213	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — big business Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1964–2024 Missing: 1948–1962
therm_unions	VCF0209	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — labor unions Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1964–2024 Missing: 1948–1962
therm_liberals	VCF0211	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — liberals Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1964–2024 Missing: 1948–1962
therm_conservatives	VCF0212	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — conservatives Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1964–2024 Missing: 1948–1962
therm_police	VCF0216	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — police and law enforcement Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1966–2024 Missing: 1948–1964
therm_congress	VCF0222	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — U.S. Congress Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1966–2024 Missing: 1948–1964
therm_gay_lesbian	VCF0227	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — gay men and lesbians Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	 Partial Asked: 1984–2024 Missing: 1948–1982
therm_undoc_immig	VCF0239	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — undocumented immigrants	 Partial Asked: 2012–2024

				Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	Missing: 1948–2010
therm_christian_fund	VCF0226	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Christian fundamentalists Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1988–2024 Missing: 1948–1986
therm_feminists	VCF0203	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — feminists Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1984–2024 Missing: 1948–1982
therm_sup_court	VCF0230	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — U.S. Supreme Court Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1990–2024 Missing: 1948–1988
therm_demo_pres_cand	VCF0428	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Democratic presidential candidate (Social Groups series) Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1968–2024 Missing: 1948–1966
therm_catholics	VCF0237	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Catholics Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1960–2024 Missing: 1948–1958
therm_protestants	VCF0238	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Protestants Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1960–2024 Missing: 1948–1958
therm_middle_class	VCF0244	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — middle-class people Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 2008–2024 Missing: 1948–2006
therm_poor_people	VCF0245	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — poor people Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 2008–2024 Missing: 1948–2006
therm_democrats	VCF0218	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Democrats (party members)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1964–2024

				Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	Missing: 1948–1962
therm_republicans	VCF0224	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Republicans (party members) Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1964–2024 Missing: 1948–1962
therm_military	VCF0215	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — the military Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1966–2024 Missing: 1948–1964
therm_southerners	VCF0210	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Southerners Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1964–1996 Missing: 1948–1962, 1998–2024
therm_women_liberation	VCF0204	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — women's liberation movement Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1972–1998 Missing: 1948–1970, 2000–2024
therm_civil_rights_leaders	VCF0214	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — civil rights leaders Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 1964–1996 Missing: 1948–1962, 1998–2024
therm_evangelicals	VCF0241	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — evangelical/born-again Christians Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 2004–2024 Missing: 1948–2002
therm_usa	VCF0246	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — the United States of America Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 2012–2024 Missing: 1948–2010
therm_working_class	VCF0243	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — working-class people Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠ Partial Asked: 2008–2024 Missing: 1948–2006
therm_environmentalists	VCF0242	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — environmentalists	⚠ Partial

				Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	Asked: 2004–2024 Missing: 1948–2002
therm_welfare_recipients	VCF0231	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — people on welfare Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠️ Partial Asked: 1992–2024 Missing: 1948–1990
therm_blacks_alt	VCF0207b	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — Black people (alternate series) Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠️ Partial Asked: 1994–2024 Missing: 1948–1992
therm_open_like	VCF0201	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — group respondent likes most (open-ended) Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠️ Partial Asked: 1964–1988 Missing: 1948–1962, 1990–2024
therm_open_dislike	VCF0202	Integer	Continuous	Feeling thermometer — group respondent dislikes most (open-ended) Feeling thermometer rating (0–100; 0 = very cold/unfavorable, 100 = very warm/favorable)	⚠️ Partial Asked: 1964–1988 Missing: 1948–1962, 1990–2024