

# Decline of Trust in Institutions

## Selected Experts on the Topic:

Martin Gurri  
a former media  
analyst at the CIA  
[@mgurri](#)

Richard Edelman  
CEO of Edelman,  
Edelman Trust Index  
[@richardwedelman](#)

Rebecca Stavick  
CEO, Community  
Information Trust  
[@RebeccaStavick](#)

Ethan Zuckerman  
UMass Amherst; former  
director of the MIT  
Center for Civic Media.  
Author of "How  
do we Regain Trust  
in Institutions?"  
[@EthanZ](#)

**A decline in trust in American institutions is both a contributing factor in and a victim of information disorder.** In 2019, a [Pew Research study](#) showed that the public's trust in both the federal government, news media, and in their personal circles have decreased. Prior to the pandemic, a majority of the respondents said they trusted medical doctors, researchers and scientists, but trust in scientists and medical researchers [declined](#). In [an essay](#) published in 2020, Richard Edelman, CEO of the communications firm Edelman, said "every institution must play its part in restoring facts to their rightful place at the center of public discourse as the essential step to emerging from information bankruptcy."

## Reading Resources:

[The elites have failed](#)  
(Vox)

[How to Put Out  
Democracy's Dumpster Fire](#)  
(The Atlantic)

[Outgoing Washington  
Post editor Marty Baron  
reflects on the state of  
American journalism](#)  
(PBS Newshour)

['An Epidemic of  
Misinformation.' New  
Report Finds Trust in  
Social Institutions  
Diminished Further in 2020](#)  
(Time)

[The ongoing fight against  
racism in newsrooms](#)  
(Jon Allsop, Columbia  
Journalism Review)

[Americans have lost  
faith in institutions.  
That's not because of  
Trump or 'fake news'](#)  
(Bill Bishop,  
Washington Post)

[Crisis in Democracy:  
Renewing Trust in America](#)  
(Knight Commission  
on Trust, Media and  
Democracy)

[2021 Edelman Trust  
Barometer](#)  
(Report)

[Most Americans—especially  
Millennials—say libraries  
can help them find reliable,  
trustworthy information](#)  
(Pew Research Center)

[The Global Trust Crisis](#)  
(Foreign Policy)