

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)