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Growing Public Support for U.S. Ties With Cuba – And an End to the Trade Embargo

*59% of Republicans Now Favor
Scrapping the Embargo*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
ON THIS REPORT:**

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59% of Republicans Now Favor Scrapping the Embargo

As the United States and Cuba moved this week to end more than 50 years of diplomatic conflict, public support for re-establishing relations with Cuba has increased. There is equally broad, and growing, support for ending the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba. In addition, a [separate survey released today](#) finds that the publics of several Latin American nations also view renewed U.S.-Cuba relations favorably.

Nearly three-quarters (73%) of Americans say they approve of the U.S. re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, up 10 points since January. A similar majority (72%) favors the U.S. ending its trade embargo against Cuba, “which would allow U.S. companies to do business in Cuba and Cuban companies to do business in the U.S.”

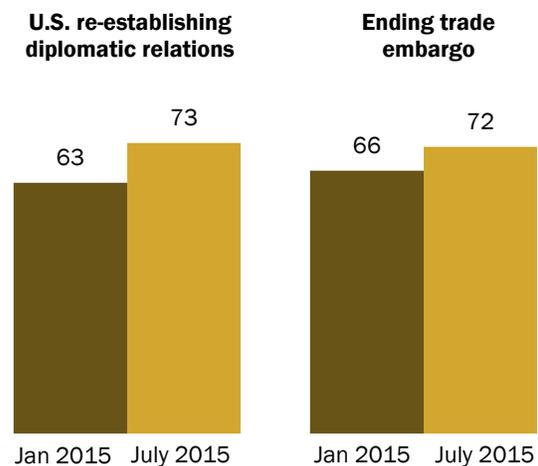
The share saying a thaw in U.S.-Cuba relations will lead to increased democracy in Cuba also

has risen, though fewer than half (43%) say they expect Cuba to become more democratic over the next several years. Still, in January just 32% predicted that Cuba would become more democratic.

The latest Pew Research Center survey, conducted July 14-20, 2015 among 2,002 adults, finds that support for renewed U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba has increased across nearly all partisan groups since January. Currently, 56% of Republicans say they approve of the U.S. re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, up 16 percentage points since January. Larger majorities of Democrats (83%) and independents (75%) favor renewed diplomatic relations with Cuba, up nine and eight percentage points, respectively, since then.

Increasing Support for Renewed U.S. Ties With Cuba

% saying they approve/favor...



Survey conducted July 14-20, 2015.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

There has been a similar shift across party lines in support for ending the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba.

Notably, some of the most dramatic change in views of U.S. relations with Cuba has come among conservative Republicans.

Currently, 55% of conservative Republicans say they favor ending the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba; in January, just 40% supported the United States dropping its trade embargo against Cuba. And 52% of conservative Republicans now say they approve of the U.S. re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, up 19 points since January.

Support for restoring diplomatic ties with Cuba, and ending the embargo, spans virtually all groups in the population. And since January, increasing shares across most demographic groups favor both of these actions.

Republicans Less Supportive Than Democrats of U.S. Ties With Cuba, But 59% Favor Ending Trade Embargo

% saying they approve/favor...

	Re-establishing diplomatic relations			Ending trade embargo		
	Jan 2015	July 2015	Change	Jan 2015	July 2015	Change
	%	%		%	%	
Total	63	73	+10	66	72	+6
Republican	40	56	+16	47	59	+12
Cons Rep	33	52	+19	40	55	+15
Mod/Lib Rep	54	66	+12	61	67	+6
Independent	67	75	+8	69	72	+3
Democrat	74	83	+9	78	82	+4
Cons/Mod Dem	69	79	+10	72	78	+6
Lib Dem	80	90	+10	87	88	+1

Survey conducted July 14-20, 2015.

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Majorities Across Demographic Groups Favor Renewed Ties With Cuba

	Re-establishing diplomatic relations		Ending trade embargo	
	Approve	Disapprove	Favor	Oppose
	%	%	%	%
Total	73	20	72	24
Men	78	18	78	20
Women	67	23	66	28
White	72	20	72	24
Black	68	25	74	23
Hispanic	75	20	74	23
18-29	78	16	83	14
30-49	73	17	72	24
50-64	72	23	71	26
65+	68	25	64	29
College grad+	81	15	80	16
Some college	75	18	73	23
H.S. or less	65	26	66	29

Survey conducted July 14-20, 2015. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Don't know responses not shown.

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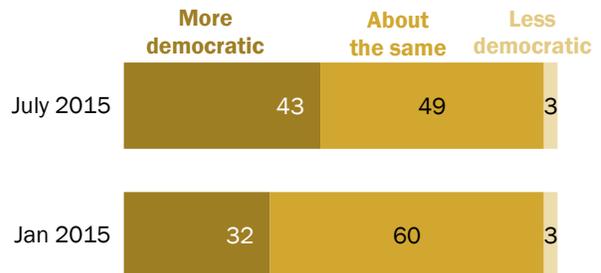
Overall, the public remains skeptical about the prospects of Cuba shifting in a democratic direction but more (43%) say they think the communist country will become more democratic over the next several years than did so in January (32%). About half (49%) say they expect Cuba to stay about the same as it is now.

Among Democrats, there is increasing optimism that Cuba will become more democratic over the next several years: 51% of Democrats say this now, compared with just 41% in January. Republicans are also slightly more likely to predict that Cuba will become more democratic; still, just a third (33%) express this view.

Nearly six-in-ten liberal Democrats (58%) say that Cuba will become more democratic over the next several years, compared with just 29% of conservative Republicans who say the same.

Modest Expectations for a More Democratic Cuba

% saying over next several years, Cuba will become ...



Survey conducted July 14-20, 2015. Don't know responses not shown.

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Most Liberal Democrats See Cuba Becoming More Democratic; Republicans Are Skeptical

% saying over the next several years, Cuba will be ...

	More democratic	Less democratic	About the same	DK
	%	%	%	
Total	43	3	49	5=100
Republican	33	6	56	5=100
Cons Rep	29	6	59	5=100
Mod/Lib Rep	40	6	51	3=100
Independent	42	3	50	6=100
Democrat	51	2	43	4=100
Cons/Mod Dem	48	3	47	2=100
Lib Dem	58	*	37	4=100

Survey conducted July 14-20, 2015. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted July 14-20, 2015 among a national sample of 2,002 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (700 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,302 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 758 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2013 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2014 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	2,002	2.5 percentage points
Republican	462	5.2 percentage points
Democrat	643	4.4 percentage points
Independent	796	4.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
JULY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
JULY 14-20, 2015
N=2,002**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 9-14, 21b-c, 25, 34-38, 45-50, 54-56, 57b-e, 58-59, 61-65 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 3-8, 15-20, 21a, 22-24, 26-33, 39-44, 51-53, 57a, 60, 66-74

ASK ALL:

Next,

Q.75 All in all, do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba?

Jul 14-20 <u>2015</u>		Jan 7-11 <u>2015</u>
73	Approve	63
20	Disapprove	28
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Do you favor or oppose re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?¹

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
April, 2009 (<i>Gallup</i>)	60	30	11
Mar 9-12, 2009	52	33	15
February, 2008 (<i>Gallup</i>)	61	29	10
December, 2006 (<i>Gallup</i>)	67	27	6
March, 2004 (<i>Gallup</i>)	55	38	7
May, 2002 (<i>Gallup</i>)	55	37	8
October, 2000 (<i>Gallup</i>)	56	35	9
May, 2000 (<i>Gallup</i>)	57	36	7
May, 1999 (<i>Gallup</i>)	71	25	4
March, 1999 (<i>Gallup</i>)	67	27	6
April, 1996 (<i>Gallup</i>)	40	49	11
March, 1977 (<i>Gallup</i>)	53	32	15
October, 1974 (<i>Gallup</i>)	63	37	0

ASK ALL:

Q.76 And, would you favor or oppose the U.S. ending its trade embargo against Cuba, which would allow U.S. companies to do business in Cuba and Cuban companies to do business in the U.S.?

Jul 14-20 <u>2015</u>		Jan 7-11 <u>2015</u>
72	Favor	66
24	Oppose	28
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5

¹ In March 2009 the question was asked as a list item: "All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?" In Oct. 2000, May 2000, May 1999 and April 1996 question was worded: "Suppose that on election day this year you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against each one of the following propositions. Would you vote - for or against re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?" In March 1977, question was worded: "Do you think diplomatic relations with Cuba should or should not be re-established?" In October 1974 question was worded: "Suppose that on election day, Nov. 5, you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me how you would vote on each of these 14 propositions. Diplomatic relations with Cuba should or should not be re-established?"

QUESTION 76 TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Apart from their diplomatic relations, do you favor or oppose the United States government ending its trade embargo against Cuba?

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Apr 20-21, 2009 (<i>Gallup</i>)	51	36	13
May 20-22, 2002 (<i>Gallup</i>)	50	38	12
May 5-7, 2000 (<i>Gallup</i>) ²	48	42	10
May 7-9, 1999 (<i>Gallup</i>)	51	42	7
Mar 19-21, 1999 (<i>Gallup</i>)	51	39	10

ASK ALL:

Q.77 Over the next several years, do you think Cuba will become more democratic, less democratic, or will it be about the same as it is now?

<u>Jul 14-20 2015</u>		<u>Jan 7-11 2015</u>
43	More democratic	32
3	Less democratic	3
49	About the same as it is now	60
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5

NO QUESTIONS 78-80**QUESTIONS 81-84 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>(VOL.) No preference</u>	<u>(VOL.) Other party</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
Jul 14-20, 2015	22	32	41	4	*	1	15	19
May 12-18, 2015	24	32	38	3	1	2	15	18
Mar 25-29, 2015	25	30	39	4	*	2	15	17
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Yearly Totals								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1

² In May 2000, May 1999 and March 1999 question was worded: "Suppose that on election day this year you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against each one of the following propositions. Would you vote - for or against ending the U.S. trade embargo with Cuba?"

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	(VOL.)						Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	(VOL.)			(VOL.)		Not heard of/ DK
	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	Haven't heard of	Refused	
Jul 14-20, 2015	15	27	55	2	1	--
Jan 7-11, 2015	17	27	52	2	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	18	28	51	1	2	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	19	32	46	2	2	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	18	25	52	4	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	22	29	46	2	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	17	20	56	3	4	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	19	26	52	2	1	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	18	29	50	2	1	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	19	29	47	1	3	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	19	25	52	2	2	--
Sep 12-16, 2012	18	26	53	2	2	--
Jul 16-26, 2012	16	27	54	2	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	19	27	49	3	2	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	21	25	52	2	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	16	25	54	2	3	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	20	26	50	3	2	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--

TEAPARTY2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ³	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

³ In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."