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Public Dissatisfaction With Washington Weighs on the GOP

Ryan job rating at 29%; Republicans view their party as divided

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Ryan job rating at 29%; Republicans view their party as divided

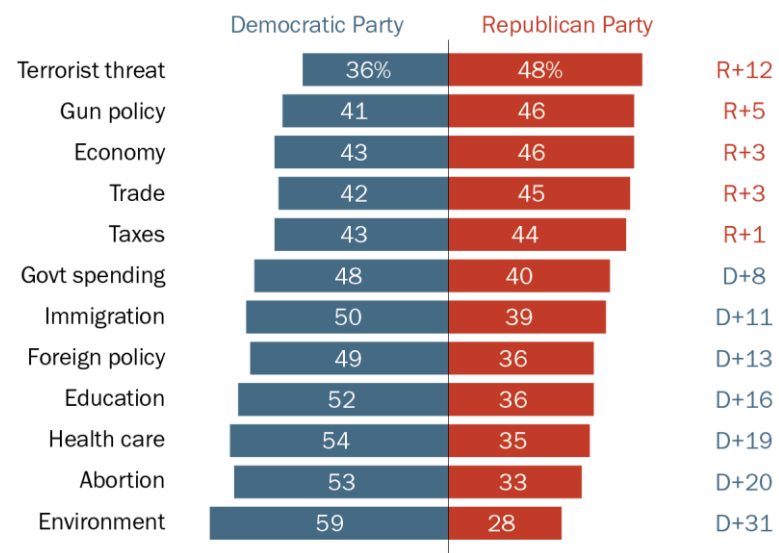
Nearly three months after the Republican Party took control of the White House and Congress, the public gives low job ratings to the president and even lower ratings to the speaker of the House.

The new Congress is viewed about as unfavorably as the previous Congress. And while both parties are viewed less positively than in January, the GOP's ratings are more negative than the Democratic Party's.

On issues, the Republicans hold their traditional advantage on terrorism, and the two parties continue to run about even on handling the economy – which, along with terrorism, [tops the public's agenda](#).

GOP retains advantage on terrorism; Democrats now lead on foreign policy

Which party could do a better job dealing with ... (%)



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q61.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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But the Democratic Party has made sharp gains compared with a year ago on several issues – notably, foreign policy and immigration. Currently, 49% of Americans say the Democratic Party is better able to make wise decisions about foreign policy, while 36% favor the GOP. A year ago, Republicans were favored on foreign policy, 46% to 38%. Democrats also lead on dealing with immigration, 50% to 39%; in recent years, the parties have run about even on this issue.

And, with budget debates looming this month in Congress, 48% say the Democratic Party better represents their views on government spending, while 40% say the Republican Party does.

The national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted April 5-11 among 1,501 adults, finds some signs of public disillusionment with both parties. The favorability ratings of both parties have declined since January – seven percentage points for the Republican Party (from 47% to 40%) and six points for the Democratic Party (51% to 45%).

However, with the Republicans now in control of government, much of the public’s criticism is aimed toward the GOP and its leaders:

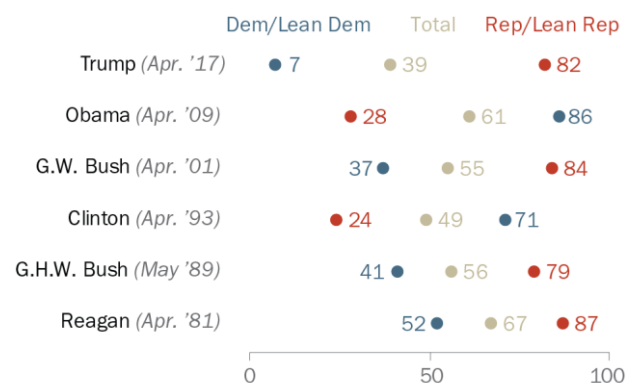
Less confidence in Trump in dealing with

Congress. Donald Trump’s overall job rating stands at 39%, the same as it was in February. As was the case then, his job rating today is lower – and more politically divided – than other recent presidents at comparable points in their first year. For more, see [detailed demographic tables](#) on Trump job approval.

In addition, fewer than half (46%) are very or somewhat confident in Trump’s ability to work effectively with Congress; in December, this had been seen as a relative strength for Trump – 60% were confident he could work well with Congress. Over this period, the share expressing confidence in Trump to avoid major scandals in his administration also has fallen eight percentage points, from 44% to 36%.

Partisan gap in Trump approval ratings much wider than for recent presidents

Presidential job approval (%)



Notes: Data for Reagan from Gallup; Reagan and George H.W. Bush is based on partisans without leaners. Q1.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Many see U.S. in weaker position internationally. The public is divided in its views of the impact of Trump’s policies on terrorism. While 31% say Trump’s policies have made the U.S. safer when compared with the policies of Barack Obama’s administration, 33% say they have made the country less safe; another 33% say they haven’t made much of a difference. But more say Trump’s policies have placed the U.S. in a weaker than stronger position internationally (45% vs. 31%), while 20% say his policies have put the U.S. in about the same position as Obama’s policies.

Ryan’s negative job rating. Just 29% approve of the way Paul Ryan is handling his job as speaker of the House, while nearly twice as many (54%) disapprove. About half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (51%) give Ryan a positive job rating, while 31% disapprove. Democrats and Democratic leaners overwhelmingly disapprove of Ryan’s job performance (75% disapprove).

Republican Party still seen as “mostly divided.”

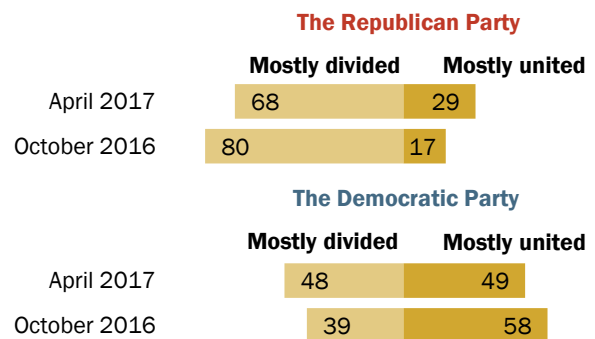
About two-thirds of the public (68%) say the Republican Party is “mostly divided,” while just 29% say it is “mostly united.” In October, 80% of registered voters said the GOP was divided.

By contrast, about as many say the Democratic Party is divided as not (48% mostly divided, 49% mostly united). But that represents a change from October, when 39% of registered voters thought the party was divided.

In the current survey, 57% of Republicans see their party as mostly divided, while a similar majority of Democrats (58%) say their party is mostly united.

Majority says GOP is ‘mostly divided’; nearly half say the same of Democrats

% who say each party is ___ in its views on issues and vision for the future



Note: Don't know responses not shown. October 2016 based on registered voters.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Views of parties' traits. The public's overall impressions of the parties are little changed from about a year ago. About half (52%) view the GOP as "too extreme," while fewer (40%) say that phrase describes the Democratic Party. Democrats also are more widely viewed as having "good policy ideas" (58% say this applies to the Democratic Party, 49% to the GOP). But neither party is widely seen as having "high ethical standards." About half (49%) say this describes the Democratic Party and 45% say it applies to the Republican Party.

Republicans say GOP lawmakers not obliged to support Trump. A majority of Republican and Republican leaners (55%) say Republicans in Congress are under no obligation to support Trump's policies if they disagree with him. About four-in-ten (43%) say they have an obligation to support his policies because he is a Republican president.

Low awareness of House Freedom Caucus. Just 19% of the public says they have heard "a lot" about the House Republican group known as the Freedom Caucus; 39% say they have heard a little about the group, while 42% have heard nothing at all. Republicans who have heard at least a little about the group view it favorably by more than two-to-one (59% to 25%); Democrats who have heard of the Freedom Caucus view it unfavorably by a wide margin (66% to 19%).

1. Views of Trump

Ratings of Trump's job performance remain more negative than positive: 54% say they disapprove of the job he is doing, while 39% approve. Public evaluations of Trump's job performance are about the same as they were in February.

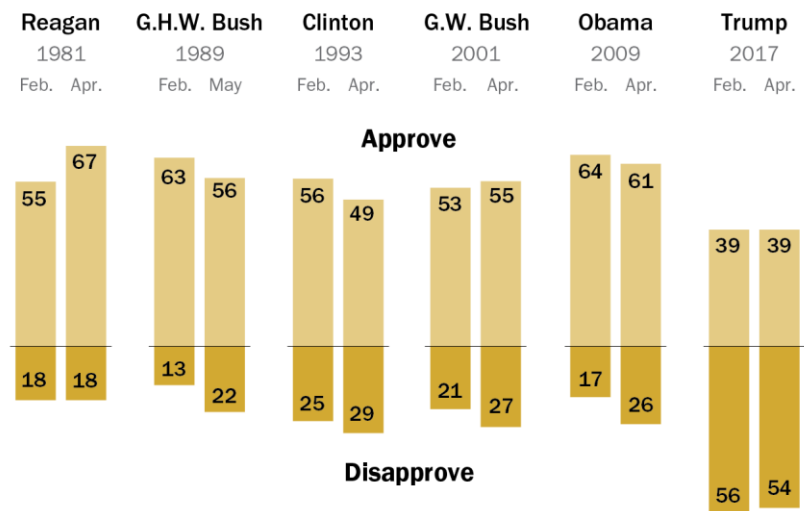
Ratings of Trump continue to trail those of recent presidents at similar points in their presidencies. In April of their first years, a larger share of the public approved than disapproved of each of the last five presidents, beginning with views of Ronald Reagan in 1981.

The lack of movement in Trump's early ratings is not unusual, when compared with recent presidents. For example, both George W. Bush and Barack Obama saw only modest shifts in their approval ratings between February and April of their first years.

As was the case in February, just 6% of the public does not offer a job rating for Trump – this is a smaller share than for his recent predecessors at this point in their presidencies.

Early job approval ratings for recent presidents

Presidential job approval (%)



Notes: Data for Reagan and February data for George H.W. Bush from Gallup. Don't know responses not shown. Q1.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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There remain stark demographic differences in ratings of Trump's job performance, with wide gaps in assessments of him by race and ethnicity, gender, age and education.

Half of whites (50%) approve of Trump's job performance; 44% say they disapprove. By contrast, large majorities of blacks (81%) and Hispanics (78%) disapprove of the job Trump is doing.

By 60%-33%, more women disapprove than approve of Trump's job performance. Men are about evenly divided (46% approve, 48% disapprove).

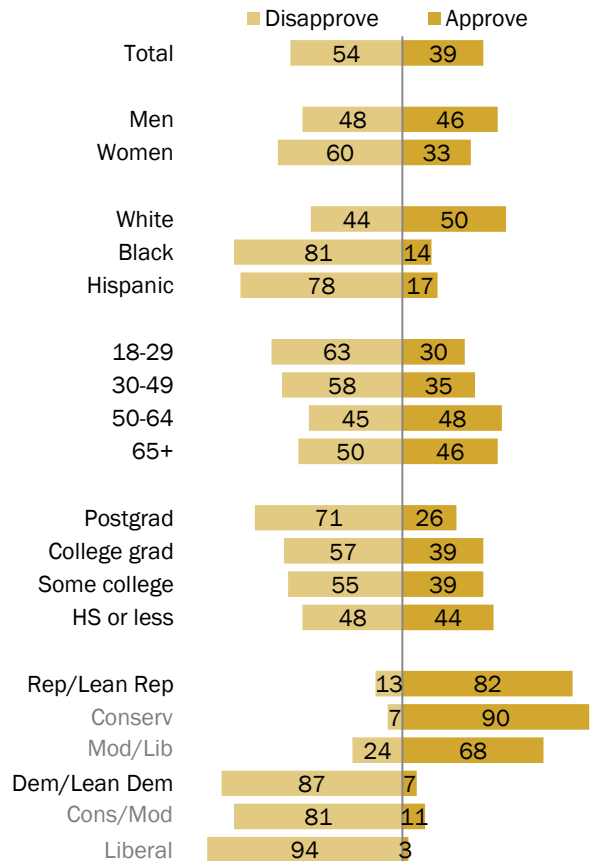
And while most of those under age 50 disapprove of the job Trump is doing, those ages 50 and older are roughly divided in their assessments.

A 71% majority of those with a postgraduate degree disapprove of the job Trump is doing. Smaller majorities of those with a college degree (57%) or some college experience (55%) also disapprove. Those with no more than a high school diploma are split in their assessments: 44% approve of Trump, while 48% disapprove.

For more on demographic differences in ratings of Trump's job performance, see the [detailed tables](#).

Demographic differences in views of Trump's job performance

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president? (%)



Notes: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Don't know responses not shown. Q1.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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The partisan gap in ratings of Trump is wider than for any of the last five presidents at similar points in their presidencies. Overall, 82% of Republicans and Republican leaners approve of the job Trump is doing, compared with just 7% of Democrats and Democratic leaners – a 75-percentage point gap.

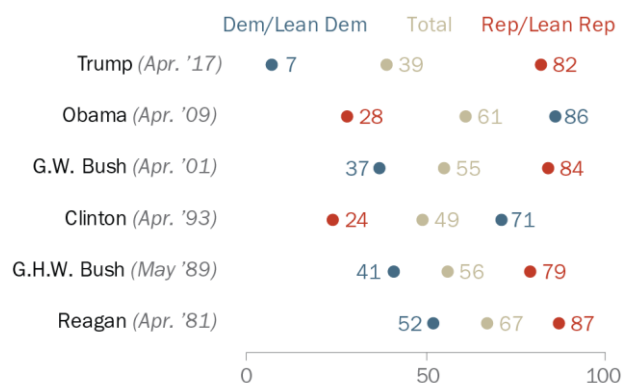
Republican support for Trump is comparable to the levels of early support recent presidents received from members of their own party. For example, 86% of Democrats approved of Obama in April 2009, and 84% of Republicans approved of George W. Bush in April 2001. Trump's ratings among Republicans are actually somewhat more positive than the ratings Democrats gave Bill Clinton in April 1993, when 71% said they approved of the way he was handling his job.

Trump's approval ratings among Democrats are considerably lower than the ratings any of the last five presidents received from the other party at this stage in their administrations. In April 2009, 28% of Republicans said they approved of the job Obama was doing as president, and 24% of Republicans approved of Bill Clinton's performance at this point in his presidency. Republican presidents George W. Bush, George H. W. Bush and Ronald Reagan fared even better among Democrats at similar points: 37% approved of George W. Bush in April 2001, 41% of Democrats approved of George H.W. Bush in May 1989 and 52% of Democrats approved of Reagan in April 1981.

There are differences in Trump's approval ratings by ideology. Nine-in-ten conservative Republicans say they approve of Trump (including 73% who approve very strongly), compared with 68% of moderate and liberal Republicans (including 50% who approve very strongly). Among Democrats, 94% of liberal Democrats disapprove of Trump, compared with 81% of conservative and moderate Democrats. Intense opposition is widespread among liberal Democrats: 85% say they disapprove of Trump very strongly; 64% of conservative and moderate Democrats disapprove of Trump's job performance very strongly.

Partisan gap in Trump approval ratings much wider than for recent presidents

Presidential job approval (%)



Notes: Data for Reagan from Gallup; Reagan and George H.W. Bush is based on partisans without leaners. Q1.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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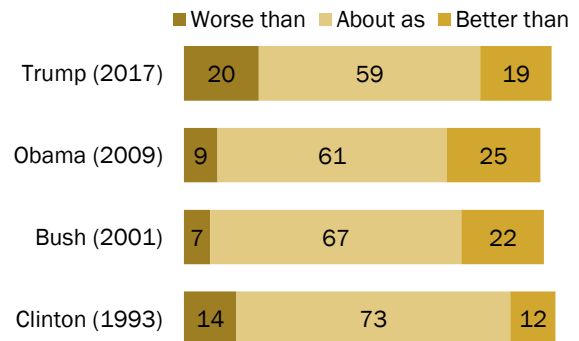
While Trump's approval rating remains more negative than positive, most say that he has done about as they expected as president. Overall, 59% say Trump has done about as they expected, while 20% say he's done worse than they expected and 19% say he's done better. These views of Trump at this early stage of his administration are generally similar to those of recent presidents; majorities also said that Bill Clinton (73%), George W. Bush (67%) and Barack Obama (61%) had performed about as they expected in surveys conducted in April of their first year. Nonetheless, the share saying that Trump has been worse than expected (20%) is slightly higher than for each of these three previous presidents.

While Republicans and Democrats differ dramatically in most assessments of Trump, both say his performance is in line with their expectations. Among Republicans, 53% say he has performed about as they expected; 38% say he has done better than they expected, and just 7% say he has done worse. Among Democrats, most also say he has done about as they expected (63%); 32% say he has been worse than expected, while just 3% say he has done better.

Among those who approve of his overall job performance, 55% say he has performed about as expected, 43% say he has done better (just 1% say he has done worse). Among those who disapprove, 59% say he has done about as they expected, while 36% say he has done worse (just 2% say he has done better).

Public generally says Trump has done about as expected

% who say each has done ____ expected as president ...



Notes: Data for Clinton from Gallup/CNN/USA Today.

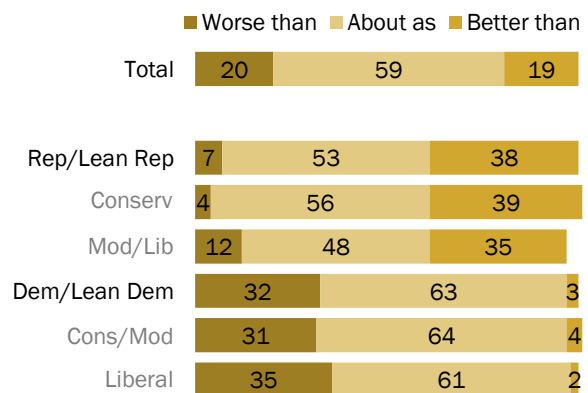
Don't know responses not shown. Q20F1.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Relatively modest partisan differences on whether Trump has met expectations

% who say Donald Trump has done ____ expected as president ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q20F1.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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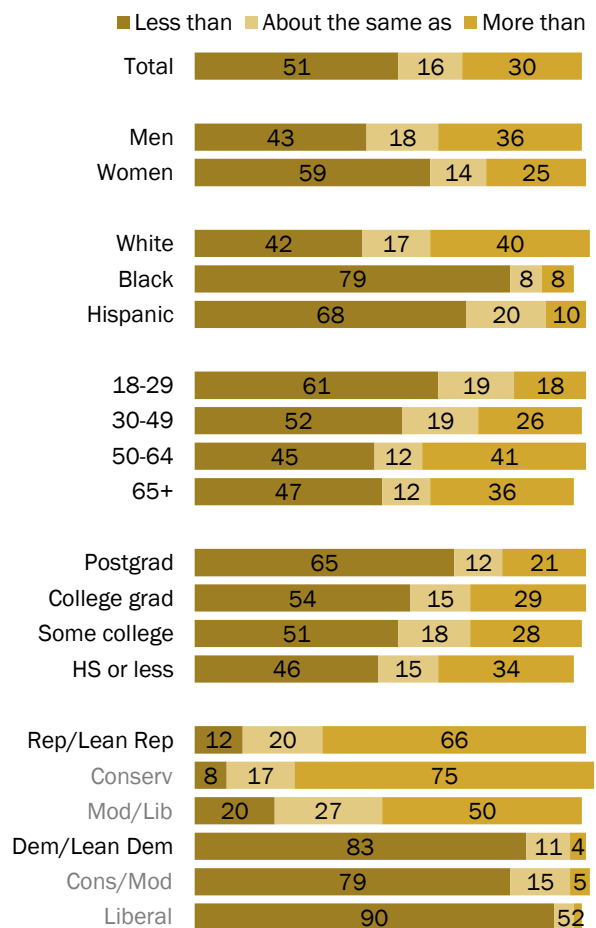
When asked to compare Trump with previous presidents, 51% say they trust what Trump says less than they trusted what previous presidents said while in office, compared with 30% who say they trust him more and 16% who say they trust what he says about the same as what previous presidents said.

Many of the demographic patterns in views on this question mirror patterns in Trump's overall job approval. For example, women, blacks, Hispanics, young adults and those with a postgraduate degree are especially likely to say they trust what Trump says less than other previous presidents. Evaluations of Trump's trustworthiness are less negative among men, whites, older adults and those without a college degree; however, fewer than half of all of these groups say they trust Trump more than previous presidents.

Fully 83% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they trust what Trump says less than what previous presidents said in office. By contrast, 66% of Republicans and Republican leaners trust what he says more than other presidents. There is a significant divide in views among Republicans: Three-quarters of conservative Republicans say they trust Trump more than past presidents, compared with 50% of moderate and liberal Republicans.

About half say they trust what Trump says less than previous presidents

% who say they trust what Trump says _____ what previous presidents said while in office ...



Notes: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Don't know responses not shown. Q26. Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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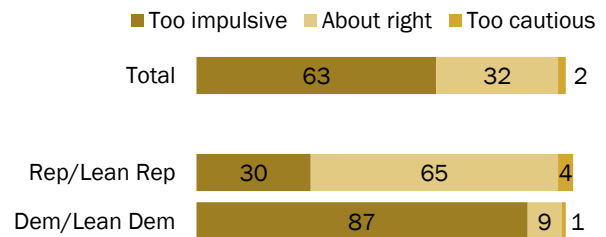
Majority continues to say Trump's decision making is 'too impulsive'

The public continues to have concerns about Trump's decision making. Overall, 63% say that Trump is too impulsive in making important decisions, while 32% say his approach is about right; just 2% say he is too cautious in making important decisions. Views on this question are similar to those shortly before he took the oath of office: In January, 58% said they thought Trump would be too impulsive in making important decisions.

An overwhelming majority of Democrats view Trump as too impulsive: 87% say this, compared with just 9% who say his decision-making approach is about right and only 1% who say he is too cautious. Among Republicans, most (65%) say Trump's approach is about right, though 30% say he is too impulsive (only 4% say he is too cautious).

Widespread belief that Trump is too impulsive in making decisions

% who say Donald Trump is _____ in making important decisions ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q19F2.

Source: Survey conducted April 7-11, 2017.

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Declining confidence in Trump to work with Congress, prevent scandals

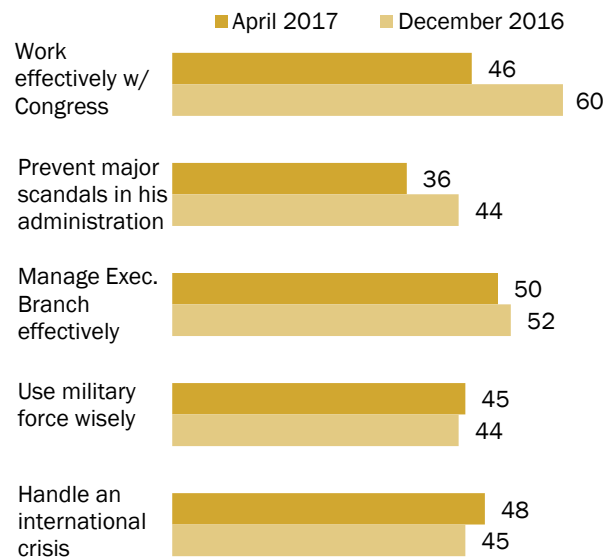
In the wake of a failed effort by Trump and Republicans in Congress to repeal and replace the 2010 health care law, the public expresses less confidence in Trump's ability to work effectively with Congress than they did on the eve of his taking office. Currently, 46% say they are either very or somewhat confident in Trump's ability to effectively work with Congress; somewhat more (52%) say they are not too or not at all confident in his ability to do this. In December, 60% said they were confident in Trump's ability to work effectively with Congress.

Confidence in Trump also has declined when it comes to his ability to prevent major scandals in his administration. The public was not particularly optimistic about Trump's ability in this area in December when 44% said they were very or somewhat confident in his ability to prevent major scandals. The current survey finds that confidence in Trump to prevent major scandals in his administration has fallen 8 points, to 36% -- the lowest level of confidence across the five items tested in this question.

There has been little change in confidence in Trump to use military force wisely: 45% are very or somewhat confident in his ability in this area; 44% expressed confidence in his ability to use force wisely in December. Similarly, confidence in Trump's ability to handle an international crisis also has not changed much (48% confident now, 45% in December). Most of the survey was completed after the U.S. launched missile strikes against Syria on April 6. A majority of Americans (58%) [approved of the strikes](#).

Confidence in Trump to work effectively with Congress declines

% who say they are very/somewhat confident that Trump can ...



Note: Q25.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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In addition, half of Americans say they are very or somewhat confident in Trump’s ability to manage the executive branch effectively, while about as many (49%) say they have little or no confidence in Trump’s ability to do this.

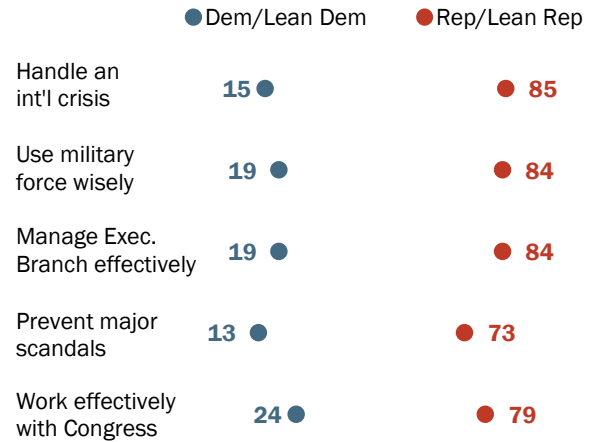
Overall, the partisan gaps on most of these measures of confidence are little different than they were in December. Roughly three-quarters or more Republicans and Republican leaners say they are at least somewhat confident in Trump’s ability to handle these aspects of the presidency, while no more than a quarter of Democrats express this level of confidence on any of these measures.

But confidence in Trump’s ability to work effectively with Congress has declined among both Republicans and Democrats. In December, 40% of Democrats and Democratic leaners said they were at least somewhat confident in Trump’s ability to work with Congress; since then, Democratic confidence in Trump on this measure has dropped 16-percentage points to 24%. And while a 79% majority of Republicans and Republican leaners continue to say they are either very or somewhat confident in Trump’s ability to work effectively with Congress, this reflects a nine-point decline since December.

And the already wide partisan gap in confidence in Trump to handle an international crisis has widened over the last several months. Fully 85% of Republicans now say they are at least somewhat confident in

Wide partisan divisions over confidence in Trump to handle key aspects of office

% who say they are very/somewhat confident that Trump can ...

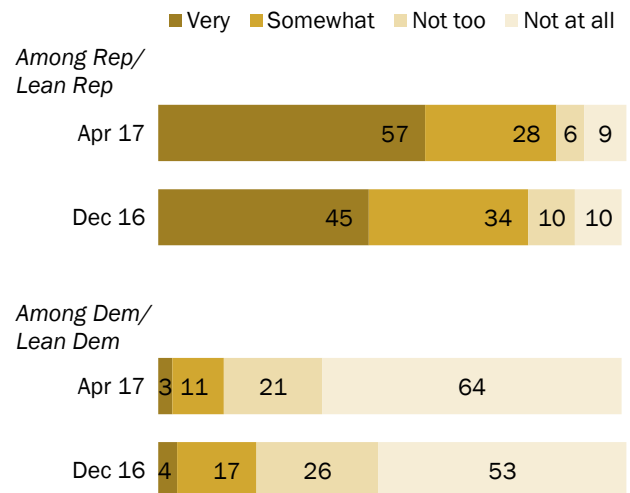


Note: Q25.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Partisan gap in views of Trump’s ability to handle international crisis grows

% who say they are ___ confident that Trump can handle an international crisis ...



Note: Q25.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Trump’s ability to handle an international crisis, including 57% who say they are very confident. In December, just under half (45%) said they were very confident in him on this measure.

By contrast, Democrats – who already expressed little confidence in Trump to handle an international crisis – express even lower levels of confidence in him in this area today. Currently, 85% say they are not too or not at all confident in Trump’s handling of a future international crisis, including fully 64% who say they are “not at all” confident in him to do so. In December, though about eight-in-ten (79%) expressed little or no confidence in him in a global crisis, only about half (53%) expressed no confidence at all.

Impact of Trump’s policies on terrorism, international standing

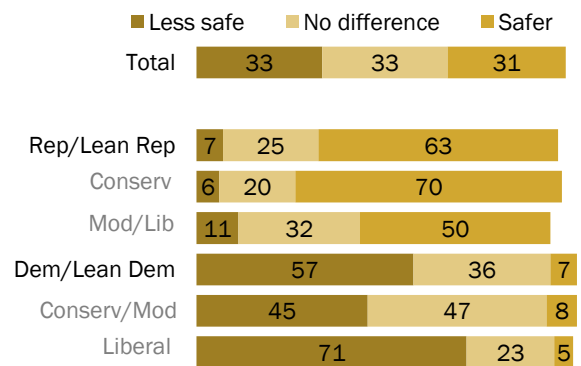
Early in the Trump administration, the public has mixed views on the impact of his policies on the country’s security from terrorism. When asked to compare Trump’s policies to those of the Obama administration, 31% say Trump has made the U.S. safer from terrorism, while about as many (33%) say his policies have made the U.S. less safe; another 33% say they haven’t made a difference.

Most Republicans and Republican leaners (63%) say Trump’s policies have made the U.S. safer from terrorism compared with those of the Obama administration. A quarter say they haven’t made a difference and just 7% say they have made the U.S. less safe. Conservative Republicans (70%) are significantly more likely than moderate and liberal Republicans (50%) to say Trump’s policies have made the U.S. safer.

Democrats take the opposite view. Fully 57% say the country is less safe from terrorism as a result of the Trump administration’s policies. Only 7% say they have made the U.S. safer, while 36% believe they have not made much difference. As with Republicans, there are differences in views among Democrats by ideology: 71% of liberal Democrats say Trump’s policies have made the U.S. less safe, while about as many conservative and moderate Democrats say his policies haven’t made a difference (47%) as say they have made the U.S. less safe (45%).

Public divided on impact of Trump’s policies on security from terrorism

Compared with Obama admin, the policies of the Trump admin have made the U.S. ___ from terrorism ...



Note: Don’t know responses not shown. Q31F1.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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In June 2009, a plurality (44%) said that Barack Obama’s policies, compared with those of the Bush administration, hadn’t made a difference in the country’s security situation; 28% said Obama’s policies had made the country safer, while 21% said they had made the country less safe.

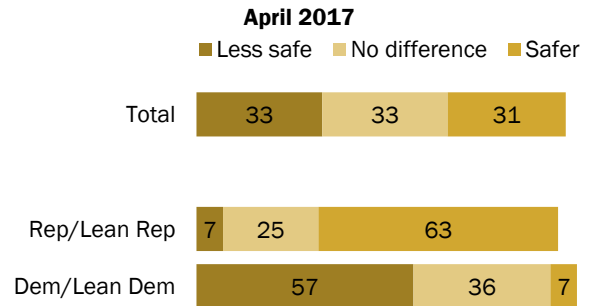
Partisans are more likely to say Trump’s policies have had an impact on the country’s security (either positive or negative) than they were to say this about Obama’s policies in 2009.

Eight years ago, 43% of Democrats (the party that controlled the White House) said Obama’s policies had made the country safer from terrorism. In the current survey, fully 63% of Republicans say Trump’s policies have made the country safer from terrorism.

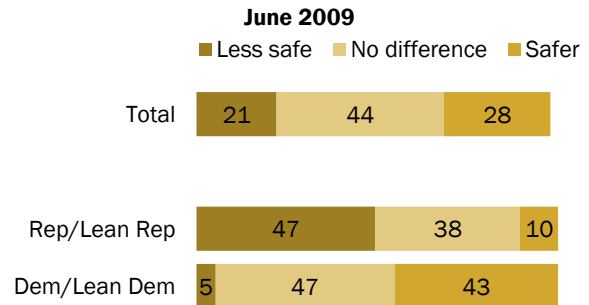
Similarly, the share of Democrats who say Trump’s policies have made the country less safe (57%) is greater than the share of Republicans who said this about Obama in 2009 (47%).

Wider partisan gap on impact of Trump’s terrorism policies than Obama’s

Compared with the **Obama administration**, the policies of the **Trump administration** have made the U.S. ___ from terrorism ...



Compared with the **Bush administration**, the policies of the **Obama administration** have made the U.S. ___ from terrorism ...



Note: Don’t know responses not shown. Q31F1.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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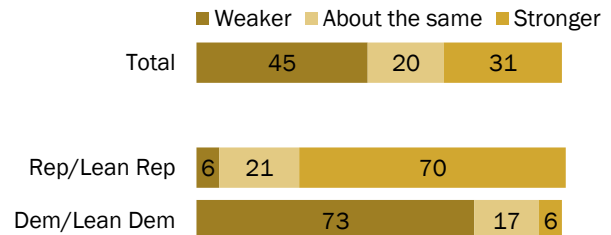
While the public is evenly split over the impact of Trump's policies on the country's security, many say Trump's policies have put the U.S. in a weaker position internationally. Overall, 45% say that, compared with the Obama administration, Trump's policies have put the U.S. in a weaker position internationally; fewer (31%) say they have put the country in a stronger position internationally and 20% say the country is in about the same position as it was.

Republicans and Democrats hold opposing views on this question. Seven-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners say

Trump's policies have strengthened the country's international position, compared with the policies of Obama; 21% say the country's position is about the same and just 6% think Trump has weakened the country's international standing. By contrast, 73% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say Trump has weakened the country's position internationally, while 17% say it's in about the same position (6% say Trump has strengthened U.S. global standing).

Many say Trump's policies have put U.S. in a weaker position internationally

Compared with Obama admin, the policies of the Trump admin have put U.S. in a ___ position internationally ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q30F2.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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2. Views of the parties

Public assessments of the Republican and Democratic parties have worsened over the last few months. While the GOP's image continues to be somewhat more negative than the Democratic Party's, both parties are currently viewed more unfavorably than favorably. This is similar to their standing among the public this time last year.

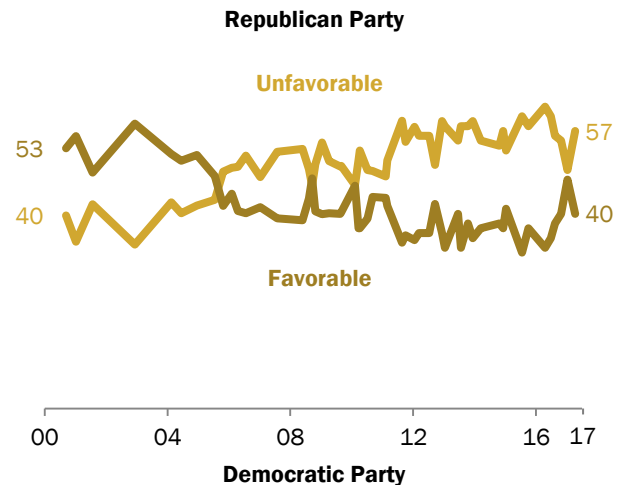
About half (51%) of Americans have an unfavorable view of the Democratic Party, while 45% have a favorable view. In January, slightly more had a favorable than unfavorable view (51% favorable to 45% unfavorable).

Today, 57% of Americans have an unfavorable view of the GOP, while 40% have a favorable view. In January, Americans were about equally likely to view the GOP favorably (47%) as unfavorably (49%).

About three-quarters of Republicans and Republican leaners (74%) rate the GOP positively, little changed over the last several months. Just 15% of Democrats and Democratic leaners share that view, down eight percentage points from January but on par with other points in recent years.

Since January, favorable ratings for both parties have declined

% who have a ___ view of the ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q36a-b.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Seven-in-ten Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (70%) now express a favorable view of the Democratic Party. However, these ratings of the party among its backers are now lower than at any point since December 2014, after the Democrats' midterm election loss. As recently as January, 82% of Democrats and leaners held a positive view of the Democratic Party, and fully 87% did so in October.

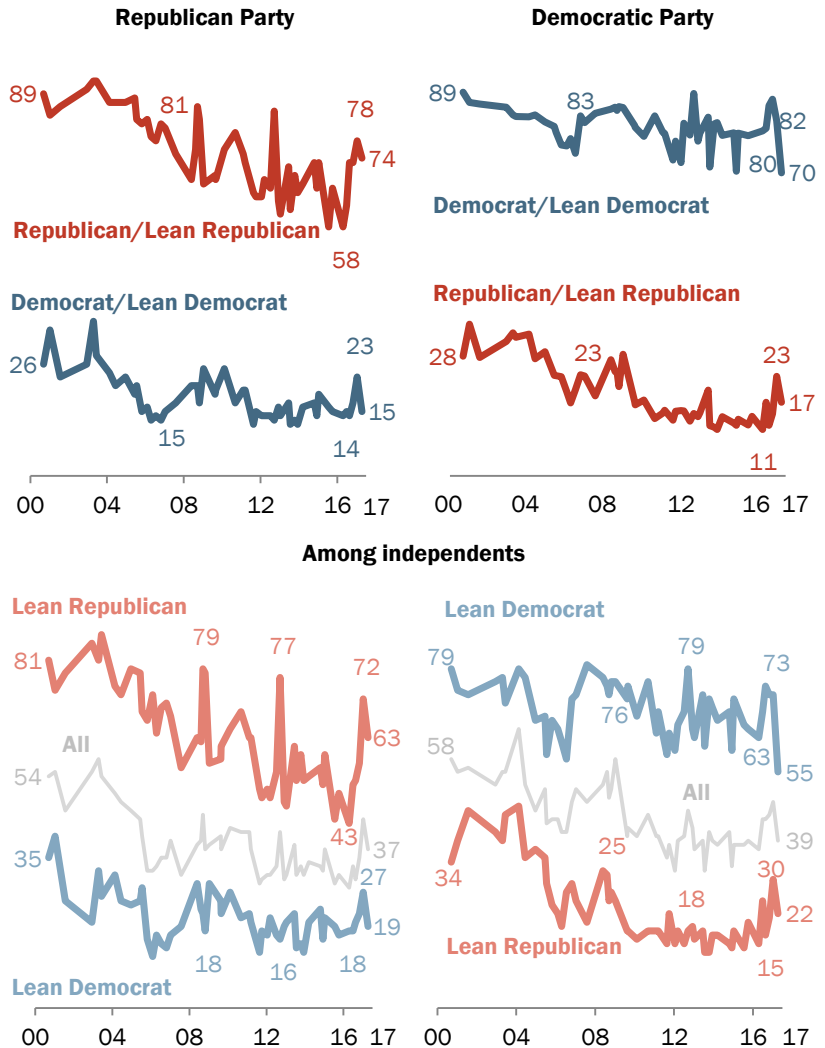
This decline is most pronounced among Democratic leaners. In January, about seven-in-ten (73%) Democratic leaners said they viewed the Democratic Party favorably; that share has fallen 18 points to just 55% today, one of the lowest ratings the party has received from its leaners over the last two decades.

Republicans and Republican leaners' ratings of the

Democratic Party are also somewhat lower than they were in January (17% favorable vs. 22%). The current ratings are in line with other points over the last several years.

Sharp drop in Democratic Party favorability among Democratic-leaning independents

% who have a favorable view of the ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q36a-b.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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About half of Americans continue to say GOP is ‘too extreme’

The public’s perceptions of the characteristics associated with Republican and Democratic parties have not changed much over the past few years. Compared with last spring, slightly larger shares say the Republican Party (49% today, 45% last March) and the Democratic Party have “good policy ideas” (58% today, 53% last March), but the Democratic Party continues to have an advantage on this measure.

The public also remains more likely to characterize the Republican Party as “too extreme.” About half (52%) say the Republican Party is too extreme, while 40% say the same for the Democratic Party.

Half of Americans (50%) say the GOP can do “a good job managing the federal government,” and a similar share (54%) says this about the Democratic Party. These views are nearly identical to views in October 2015. And roughly half (49%) say the Democratic Party “has high ethical standards,” about as many (45%) as say this about the Republican Party.

Little change in impressions of the parties in recent years

Does each describe the Republican/Democratic Party?

	March 2016	April 2017	Change
Too extreme	%	%	
Republican Party	54	52	-2
Democratic Party	37	40	+3
Has good policy ideas			
Republican Party	45	49	+4
Democratic Party	53	58	+5
	Oct 2015	April 2017	
Can do a good job managing the federal government			
Republican Party	49	50	+1
Democratic Party	52	54	+2
		April 2017	
Has high ethical standards			
Republican Party		45	
Democratic Party		49	

Note: Q56 & Q57.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Democrats gain on key issues

The Democratic Party holds sizable advantages over the Republican Party on a number of major issues. More say the Democratic Party could do a better job than the GOP when it comes to dealing with the environment (59% to 28%), abortion and contraception (53% to 33%), health care (54% to 35%) and education policy (52% to 36%). It is also favored over the GOP on foreign policy (49% to 36%), immigration (50% to 39%) and government spending (48% to 40%).

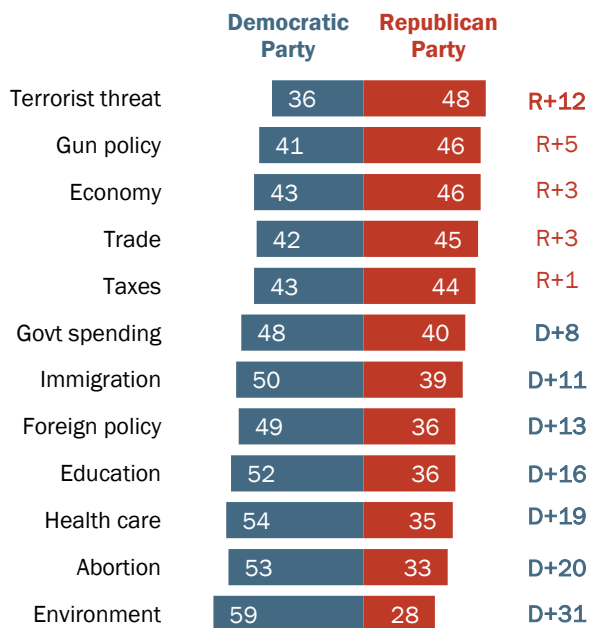
On just one issue does the Republican Party have a significant edge: About half (48%) of the public says the Republican Party can better deal with the terrorist threat at home; 36% say the Democratic Party could do a better job.

Neither party enjoys an advantage on key economic issues: 46% say the Republican Party is better able to deal with the economy and 43% say the Democratic Party. Similarly, the public is split over which party would do a better job dealing with trade agreements between the U.S. and other countries (45% say the GOP, 42% the Democratic Party) and with taxes (44% say the Republican Party, 43% say the Democratic Party).

When it comes to reflecting their views on gun policy neither party enjoys a significant edge among the public: 46% say the Republican Party does a better job of this, 41% say the Democratic Party.

Democratic Party seen as better able to handle several domestic issues

Which party could do a better job dealing with ... (%)



Notes: Don't know responses not shown.

Significant differences in **bold**. Q61.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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While public views of which party could better deal with the economy or taxes are little changed over the past year, views on which party is better equipped to handle trade agreements with other nations and government spending have shifted in recent years.

The Democratic Party now runs roughly even with the Republican Party on trade, an issue on which the GOP enjoyed an 11-percentage point advantage last spring. And Democrats now have an eight-point edge as the party that could do the better job representing people's views on government spending: 48% say this, 40% say the GOP. In January 2013, when the question was last asked, just 36% said Democrats could do the better job representing their views on government spending (the share saying the GOP could do the better job is little changed).

In shift from 2013, Democrats now hold edge on government spending

Which party could do a better job dealing with ...

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/ Neither/DK	Gap
Economy	%	%	%	
April 2017	46	43	11=100	R+3
April 2016	45	41	14=100	R+4
December 2015	42	37	20=100	R+5
July 2015	41	44	16=100	D+3
Taxes	%	%	%	
April 2017	44	43	13=100	R+1
July 2015	42	41	17=100	R+1
February 2015	47	36	17=100	R+11
January 2014	41	41	17=100	0
Trade agreements				
April 2017	45	42	13=100	R+3
April 2016	48	37	15=100	R+11
Government spending				
April 2017	40	48	12=100	D+8
January 2013	42	36	23=100	R+6

Notes: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Significant differences in **bold**. Q61. Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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The Democratic Party now holds a 13-percentage point edge as the party seen as able to do a better job “making wise decisions about foreign policy” (49% to 36%). This is the widest advantage on foreign policy the Democratic Party has had since August 2009 and reflects a significant swing on this measure from a year ago, when the Republican Party held an eight-point advantage (46% to 38%).

The Democratic Party also holds an 11-point advantage over the Republican Party when it comes to immigration (50% to 39%); last year the public was evenly split on which party could do a better job on this issue (44% said the Democratic Party, 42% said the GOP).

More Americans continue to see the Republican Party as better able than the Democratic Party to handle the threat of terrorism (48% to 36%). This balance of opinion is little changed in recent years.

More now favor the Democrats on foreign policy, immigration; GOP holds advantage on dealing with terrorism

% saying each party could do a better job dealing with ...

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/Neither/DK	Diff.
Terrorist threat at home	%	%	%	
April 2017	48	36	16=100	R+12
April 2016	46	37	17=100	R+9
December 2015	46	34	20=100	R+12
Immigration				
April 2017	39	50	11=100	D+11
April 2016	42	44	14=100	D+2
December 2015	42	40	18=100	R+2
Foreign policy				
April 2017	36	49	15=100	D+13
April 2016	46	38	16=100	R+8
July 2015	38	41	21=100	D+3
February 2015	48	35	17=100	R+13

Notes: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Significant differences in **bold**. Q61.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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The Democratic Party continues to be preferred over the Republican Party by wide margins on several domestic issues: education policy, health care, the environment, and abortion and contraception.

One exception is gun policy, on which neither party holds a significant edge: Today, the public is nearly evenly split between the Republican Party (46%) and the Democratic Party (41%) on this issue.

The Democratic Party now enjoys a 16-percentage point advantage on education policy and a 20-point advantage on policies related to abortion and contraception, both little changed over the last few years.

By a similarly wide 19-point margin (54% to 34%), more now say the Democratic Party could do the better job dealing with health care. Democrats have long had an advantage on this issue, but the size of the party's advantage has widened.

By roughly two-to-one, more now say the Democratic Party could do a better job than the GOP dealing with the environment (59% vs. 28%); the Democratic advantage on this issue is slightly wider than when the question was last asked in December 2015

Education, health care, environment remain advantages for Democrats

% saying each party could do a better job dealing with ...

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/Neither/DK	Diff.
Gun policy	%	%	%	
April 2017	46	41	13=100	R+5
December 2015	43	37	20=100	R+6
July 2015	48	36	16=100	R+12
Education policy				
April 2017	36	52	12=100	D+16
July 2015	34	46	19=100	D+12
October 2014	37	42	21=100	D+5
Health care				
April 2017	35	54	11=100	D+19
July 2015	36	46	18=100	D+10
February 2015	40	47	12=100	D+7
Abortion and contraception				
April 2017	33	53	14=100	D+20
July 2015	31	50	19=100	D+19
February 2015	40	43	17=100	D+3
Environment				
April 2017	28	59	13=100	D+31
December 2015	30	53	16=100	D+23

Notes: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Significant differences in **bold**.

Language for gun policy currently is "reflecting your views about gun policy"; in Dec. 2015 and earlier was "reflecting your views about gun control." Q61.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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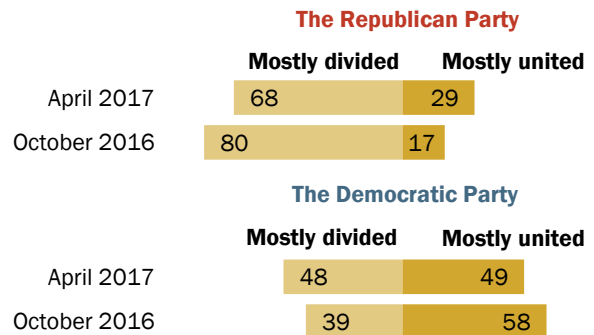
Public split over whether Democratic Party is divided

Americans continue to see the Republican Party as divided in its views on the issues and vision for the future: 29% say it is mostly united, while 68% say it is mostly divided. The share viewing the GOP as united has increased since the weeks before the 2016 election: In October, just 17% of registered voters saw the Republican Party as united.

In contrast, the public is about evenly split over whether the Democratic Party is mostly divided (48%) or mostly united (49%). The share saying the Democratic Party is united has declined since the fall; in October, 58% of registered voters said the party was mostly united.

Democrats seen as less united than pre-election; most still say GOP is divided

% who say each party is ____ in its views on issues and vision for the future



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. October 2016 based on registered voters. Q62F1 & Q63F2.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Majority of Republicans say GOP is divided

While majorities of both Democrats and Republicans say the GOP is mostly divided in its views on issues and visions for the future, Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to say this: 80% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say this, compared with 57% of Republicans and Republican leaners; 42% of Republicans and Republican leaners say their party is mostly united.

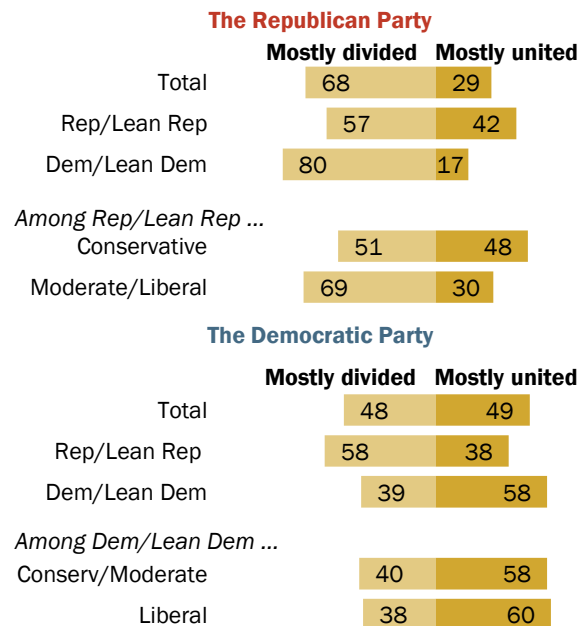
By a 58% to 38% margin, Republicans and Republican leaners think the Democratic Party is mostly divided. Views are nearly reversed among Democrats: 58% say their party is mostly united, 39% say it is mostly divided.

Conservative Republicans and Republican leaners are more likely than GOP moderates and liberals to see a united party: About half of conservatives (48%) say the Republican Party is mostly united; just 30% of moderate and liberal Republicans and Republican leaners say the same.

No similar ideological differences are seen among Democrats. Roughly six-in-ten of both conservative and moderate (58%) and liberal (60%) Democrats and Democratic leaners say that their party is mostly united.

Conservative Republicans more likely than moderates to say GOP is united

% who say each party is ___ in its views on issues and vision for the future



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q62F1 & Q63F2.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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3. Views of Congress

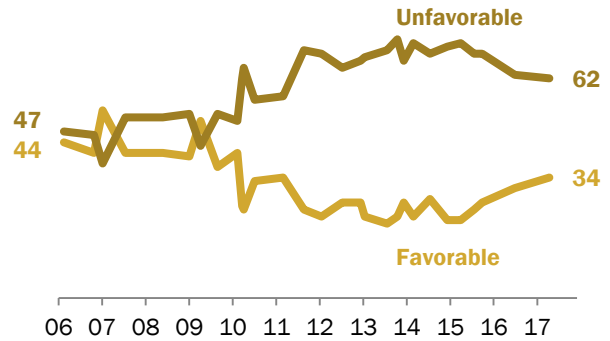
The public continues to hold negative views of Congress. Today, about six-in-ten (62%) say they have a very (24%) or mostly (38%) unfavorable opinion of Congress, compared with about a third (34%) who give a favorable rating.

Majorities of Republicans and Democrats alike have given Congress poor ratings in recent years, but the views among Republicans have grown more positive over the last year, following Trump’s election. Overall, 44% of Republicans and Republicans leaners have a favorable opinion of Congress, up from 31% last June.

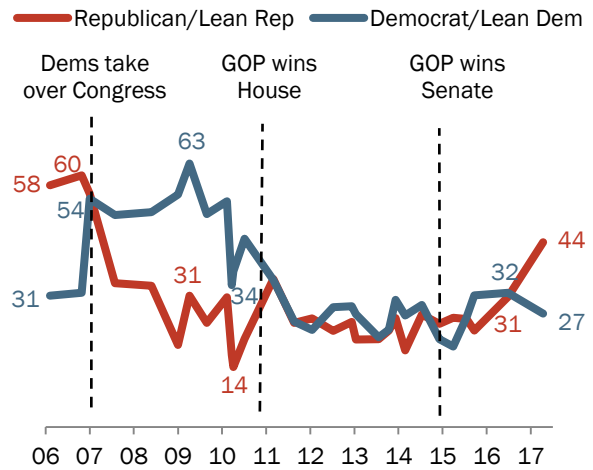
By contrast, only about a quarter (27%) of Democrats and Democratic leaners express a positive view of Congress – down slightly from 32% last June -- while 69% say they have an unfavorable view.

Republican views of Congress improve in the wake of Trump’s election

% who have a _____ view of Congress



% who have a favorable view of Congress



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q36c.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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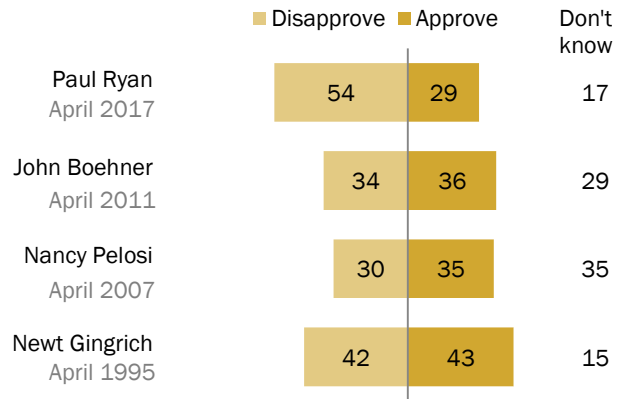
A year and a half into his tenure as House Speaker, Paul Ryan is viewed more negatively than positively: 54% say they disapprove of the job Ryan is doing, 29% approve; 17% do not have an opinion.

Ryan's approval rating of 29% is lower than the approval ratings for John Boehner (36%), Nancy Pelosi (35%) and Newt Gingrich (43%), measured shortly after each of their terms as Speaker of the House began.

The share of the public that offers an opinion of Ryan's job performance (83%) is greater than the shares that could assess Boehner's performance in April 2011 (71%) or Pelosi's performance in April 2007 (65%). In April 1995, about as many were able to rate the job Gingrich was doing as speaker (85%).

Far more disapprove than approve of Paul Ryan's job performance

% who _____ of the job each is doing as Speaker of the House



Note: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q3.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

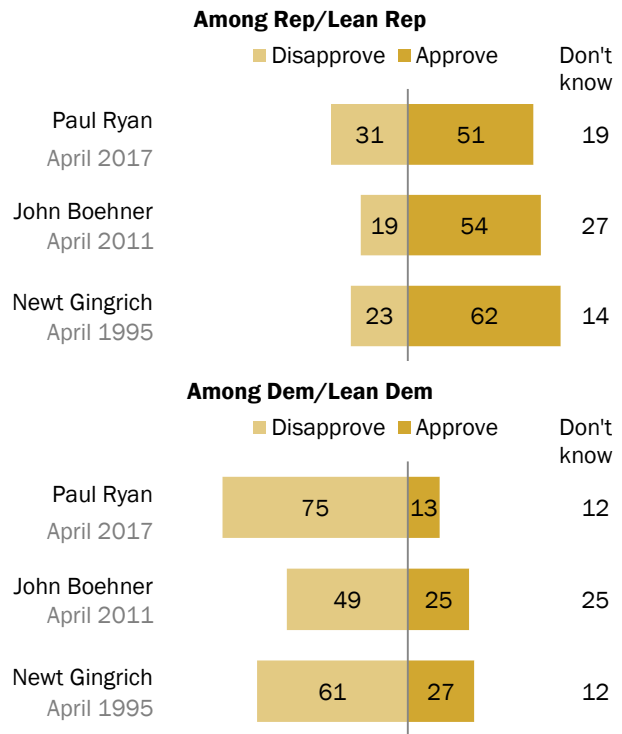
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About half of Republicans and Republican leaners (51%) say they approve of the job Ryan is doing, while 31% say they disapprove. A greater share of Republicans currently disapprove of the job Ryan is doing than disapproved of Boehner in 2011 (19%) or Gingrich in 1995 (23%).

And while Democrats have consistently rated a Republican Speaker of the House more negatively than positively, attitudes toward Ryan are overwhelmingly negative. Fully three-quarters of Democrats disapprove of Ryan’s performance today; about half of Democrats said this of Boehner in 2011 (49%) and about six-in-ten (61%) disapproved of Gingrich in 1995.

Democrats’ evaluations of Ryan more negative than for past GOP speakers

% who _____ of the job each is doing as Speaker of the House



Note: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Q3.
Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Many say Trump and Hill Democrats are doing too little to work with opposition

About half of Americans (53%) say that the Trump administration is doing too little to work with congressional Democrats; just 7% say it has done too much, while 36% say the administration is doing about the right amount. And overall public views about how congressional Democrats are working with the Trump administration are nearly identical: 57% say they are doing too little to work with the Trump White House, only 5% say they are doing too much; 34% think they have done about the right amount.

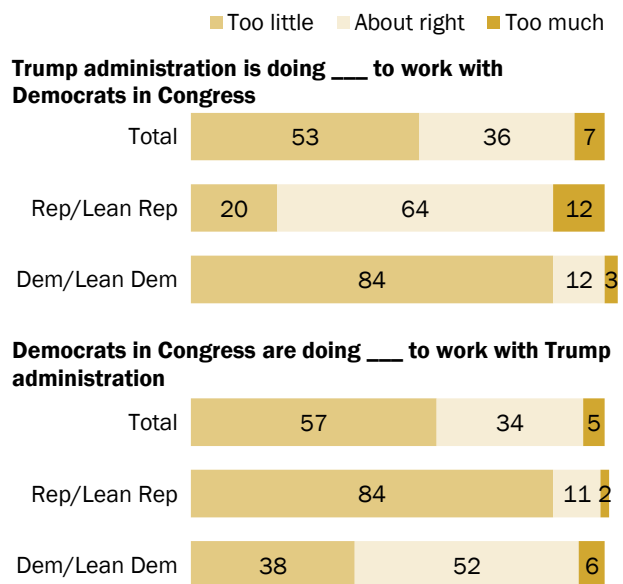
On one level, Republicans and Democrats take similar views of efforts at cooperation with the political opposition: 84% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say the Trump administration is doing too little to work with congressional Democrats; an identical share of Republicans say Democrats are doing too little to work with the administration.

But for the most part, Republicans are not inclined to fault the Trump administration for doing too little to work with Democrats: 64% say the administration has handled this about right, while 20% say they have done too little (and 12% say they have done too much to work with Democrats).

Democrats are more critical of their party's approach: 52% say congressional Democrats' efforts to work with Trump have been about right, while 38% say they have done too little – almost double the share of Republicans who say the Trump administration has not done enough to work with Democrats in Congress. Only 6% of Democrats say congressional Democrats are doing too much to work with the administration.

Partisans overwhelmingly fault the other side for doing too little outreach

% who say ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q42F1 & Q43F2.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Most Republicans say GOP lawmakers are not obliged to back Trump if they disagree with him

About four-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners (43%) say that Republicans in Congress have an obligation to support Donald Trump’s politics and programs because he is a Republican president, while a narrow majority (55%) say they do not have such an obligation if they disagree with him.

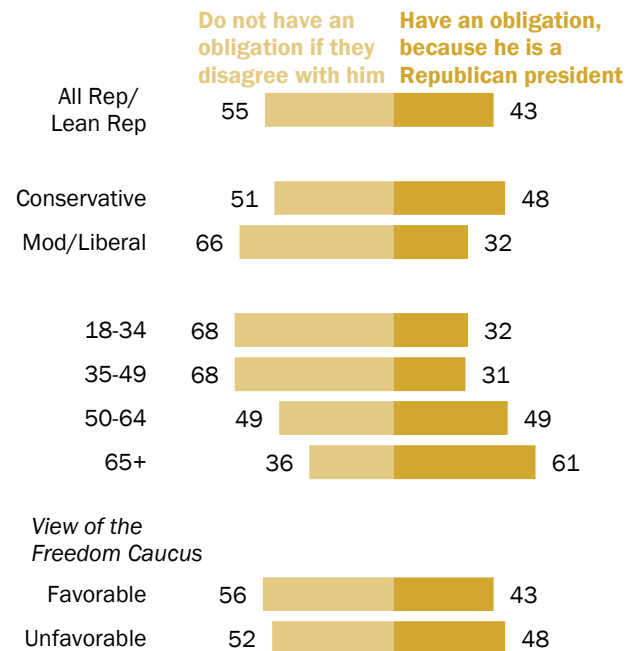
Conservative Republicans are roughly evenly divided on this question. However, by roughly two-to-one (66% vs. 32%), more moderate and liberal Republicans say GOP members of Congress do not have an obligation to back Trump if they disagree with him.

Younger Republicans are more likely than older Republicans to say congressional Republicans do not have an obligation to back the president: Just 31% of Republicans and Republican leaners younger than 50 say there is an obligation to back Trump because he is a GOP president. By contrast, 49% of Republicans 50-64 say this, along with fully 61% of Republicans 65 and older.

Views of whether GOP representatives have an obligation to back Trump are not associated with opinion about the House Freedom Caucus.

Do Republicans in Congress have an obligation to back Trump’s policies?

% of Republicans and Republican leaners who say Republicans in Congress...



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. Based on Republicans and Republican leaners. Q98.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017

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Views of the Freedom Caucus

Despite its high-profile role in unsuccessful efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, many Americans say they have not heard about the Freedom Caucus, a group of conservative Republicans in the House of Representatives.

Overall, 42% say they have heard nothing at all about the Freedom Caucus, while 39% say they have heard a little and just 19% say they have heard a lot about the group.

Republicans and Democrats have similar levels of awareness of the Freedom Caucus. Overall, 42% of Republicans and Republican leaners have heard nothing at all about them, while 39% have heard a little and 19% have heard a lot. Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, 40% have heard nothing at all about the Freedom Caucus compared with 39% who have heard a little and 20% who have heard a lot.

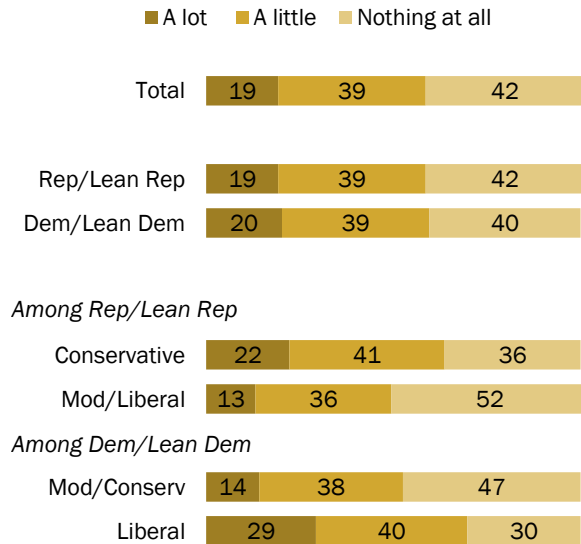
Conservative Republicans are more likely than moderate and liberal Republicans to have heard of the Freedom Caucus. Overall, 64% of conservative Republicans have heard either a lot (22%) or a little (41%) about the group, while 36% have heard nothing at all. Among moderate and liberal Republicans, about as many have heard a lot or a little about the Freedom Caucus (48%) as nothing at all (52%).

There is a similar divide by ideology among Democrats. About seven-in-ten (69%) liberal Democrats have heard a lot (29%) or a little (40%) about the Freedom Caucus; 30% say they have heard nothing at all. Conservative and moderate Democrats are less familiar with the group: 52% have heard a lot or a little, while 47% have heard nothing at all.

Across age groups, young adults ages 18-29 are the least familiar with the Freedom Caucus: 53% have heard nothing at all about the group, while 46% have heard at least a little. Among all older

Many say they have heard nothing at all about the Freedom Caucus

% who say they have heard or read _____ about the Freedom Caucus



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q95.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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age cohorts, most have heard at least something about the Freedom Caucus. For example, 61% of those ages 65 and older have heard a lot or a little about the group.

Among those who have heard of the Freedom Caucus, 36% view it favorably, compared with a greater share (48%) who view it unfavorably; 16% have heard of the group but cannot offer a rating of it.

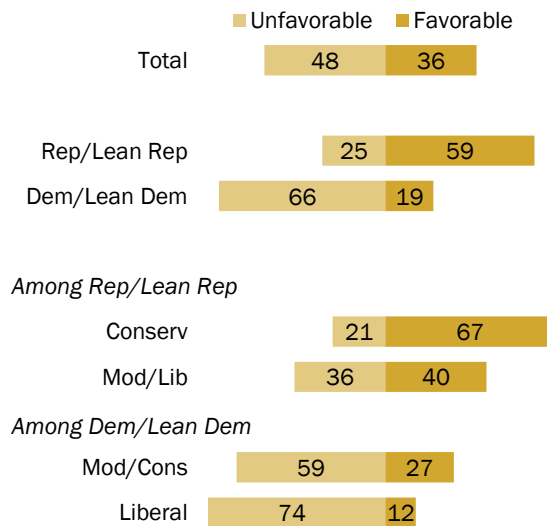
Republicans and Republican leaners who have heard of the Freedom Caucus hold a broadly positive view of it. About six-in-ten (59%) Republicans view it favorably, while 25% hold an unfavorable view. Views among Democrats and Democratic leaners who are aware of the group are the reverse: 66% view it unfavorably and just 19% view it favorably.

Conservative Republicans have a much more positive view of the Freedom Caucus than their moderate and liberal counterparts. Two-thirds of conservative Republicans who have heard of the group view it favorably; just 21% take an unfavorable view. Among moderate and liberal Republicans, about as many view the Freedom Caucus favorably (40%) as unfavorably (36%).

Almost three-quarters (74%) of liberal Democrats who are familiar with the Freedom Caucus hold an unfavorable view of the group. A somewhat smaller majority of moderate and conservative Democrats (59%) view the Freedom Caucus unfavorably.

Ideological divide in views of the Freedom Caucus

% of those who have heard at least a little about the Freedom Caucus who say they have a ___ view of it



Notes: Based on those who had heard or read "a lot" or "a little" about the Freedom Caucus. Don't know responses not shown. Q96. Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Though Trump has been critical of some members of the Freedom Caucus, Republicans who have a favorable view of the group are significantly more likely than Republicans with an unfavorable view to approve of his job performance.

Overall, 94% of Republicans and Republican leaners who view the Freedom Caucus favorably say they approve of the job Trump is doing as president. By comparison, a somewhat smaller majority (75%) of Republicans who hold an unfavorable view of the Freedom Caucus approve of Trump.

Republicans who have a favorable view of the Freedom Caucus are more likely than those with an unfavorable view to describe their own political views as conservative (81% vs. 57%). (Conservative Republicans express more widespread and intense approval of Trump than do moderate and liberal Republicans).

Views of Speaker Paul Ryan are not significantly different between Republicans who view the Freedom Caucus favorably and those who view it unfavorably.

Republicans who view Freedom Caucus favorably also strongly approve of Trump

Based on Rep/Lean Rep who have heard at least a little about the Freedom Caucus

	<i>View of Freedom Caucus</i>		
	Unfavorable	Favorable	Diff
<i>Trump's job performance ...</i>	%	%	
Approve	75	94	+19
Very strongly	60	77	+17
Not so strongly	13	12	-1
Disapprove	22	6	-16
Very strongly	16	2	-14
Not so strongly	6	4	-2
<i>Paul Ryan's job performance ...</i>			
Approve	47	52	+5
Disapprove	44	41	-3
<i>Self-described ideology ...</i>			
Conservative	57	81	+24
Moderate/Liberal	40	19	-21

Notes: Based on Republicans and Republican leaners who have heard or read "a lot" or "a little" about the Freedom Caucus.

Don't know responses not shown. Q96.

Source: Survey conducted April 5-11, 2017.

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Acknowledgements

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted April 5-11, 2017 among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (375 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,126 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 693 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 2015 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 2016 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:

Survey conducted Apr. 5-11, 2017

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,501	2.9 percentage points
Form 1	746	4.1 percentage points
Form 2	755	4.1 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep (F1/F2)	630 (326/304)	4.5 (6.2/6.5) percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem (F1/F2)	771 (369/402)	4.1 (5.9/5.6) 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.

Pew Research Center undertakes all polling activity, including calls to mobile telephone numbers, in compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and other applicable laws.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
APRIL 2017 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
APRIL 5-11, 2017
N=1,501**

RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Apr 5-11, 2017	39	54	6
Feb 7-12, 2017	39	56	6

See past presidents' approval trends: [Barack Obama](#), [George W. Bush](#), [Bill Clinton](#)

RANDOMIZE Q.1/Q.1a BLOCK AND Q.2**ASK IF APPROVE OR DISAPPROVE (Q.1=1,2) [N=1,425]:**

Q.1a Do you [approve/disapprove] very strongly, or not so strongly?

	-----Approve-----				-----Disapprove-----				(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	
Apr 5-11, 2017	39	30	8	1	54	44	10	1	6
Feb 7-12, 2017	39	29	8	1	56	46	9	1	6

RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	-----Approve-----			-----Disapprove-----			
	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	
Jan 15-19, 2014				26	69	5	
Apr 5-11, 2017	30	66	4				
Feb 7-12, 2017	30	65	5				
Jan 4-9, 2017	28	68	4	Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	21	75	3
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	30	65	5	Oct 9-13, 2013	14	81	5
Oct 20-25, 2016	33	63	4	Jul 17-21, 2013	27	67	6
Aug 9-16, 2016	31	66	3	May 1-5, 2013	30	65	5
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	71	5	Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	31	64	5
Apr 12-19, 2016	26	70	3	Jan 9-13, 2013	30	66	4
Mar 17-26, 2016	31	65	4	Dec 17-19, 2012	25	68	7
Jan 7-14, 2016	25	70	5	Dec 5-9, 2012	33	62	5
Dec 8-13, 2015	25	72	3	Oct 18-21, 2012	32	61	8
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	27	67	5	Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	31	64	5
Sep 22-27, 2015	27	69	4	Jun 7-17, 2012	28	68	5
Jul 14-20, 2015	31	64	4	May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7
May 12-18, 2015	29	67	4	Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6
Mar 25-29, 2015	31	64	5	Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6
Feb 18-22, 2015	33	62	5	Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4
Jan 7-11, 2015	31	66	4	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	26	71	3	Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	68	4	Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4
Oct 15-20, 2014	29	65	6	Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4
Sep 2-9, 2014	25	71	4	May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	72	4	May 2, 2011	32	60	8
Jul 8-14, 2014	29	68	4	Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5
Apr 23-27, 2014	29	65	6	Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5
Feb 12-26, 2014	28	66	6	Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6
				Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7

Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	May, 2004	33	61	6
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Q.2 CONTINUED...							
	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	December, 2003	44	47	9
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	October, 2003	38	56	6
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	August, 2003	40	53	7
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	April, 2003	50	41	9
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	January, 2003	44	50	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	September, 2002	41	55	4
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	May, 2002	44	44	12
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
Sep 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	June, 2001	43	52	5
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	February, 2001	46	43	11
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	January, 2001	55	41	4
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
December, 2008	13	83	4	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	April, 2000	48	43	9
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	August, 1999	56	39	5
August, 2008	21	74	5	January, 1999	53	41	6
July, 2008	19	74	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
June, 2008	19	76	5	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
March, 2008	22	72	6	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	February, 1998	59	37	4
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
October, 2007	28	66	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
February, 2007	30	61	9	August, 1997	49	46	5
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	July, 1996	29	67	4
December, 2006	28	65	7	March, 1996	28	70	2
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	October, 1995	23	73	4
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	June, 1995	25	73	2
July, 2006	30	65	5	April, 1995	23	74	3
May, 2006*	29	65	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
March, 2006	32	63	5	March, 1994	24	71	5
January, 2006	34	61	5	October, 1993	22	73	5
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	September, 1993	20	75	5
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	May, 1993	22	71	7
July, 2005	35	58	7	January, 1993	39	50	11
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	January, 1992	28	68	4
February, 2005	38	56	6	November, 1991	34	61	5
January, 2005	40	54	6	Gallup: Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
December, 2004	39	54	7	August, 1990	47	48	5
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	May, 1990	41	54	5
July, 2004	38	55	7	January, 1989	45	50	5
				September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

¹ In September 10-15, 2009 and other surveys noted with an asterisk, the question was worded "Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in our country today?"

ASK ALL:

Q.3 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Paul Ryan is handling his job as Speaker of the House?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Apr 5-11, 2017	29	54	17
John Boehner			
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	36	34	29
Nancy Pelosi			
July, 2007	35	37	28
June, 2007	36	33	31
April, 2007	35	30	35
March, 2007	48	22	30
Newt Gingrich			
April, 1995	43	42	15
March, 1995	44	37	19
February, 1995	38	29	33

NO QUESTIONS 4-10, 14-18**QUESTIONS 11-13 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 2 APRIL 7-11, 2017 ONLY [N=527]:**

Q.19F2 In making important decisions, do you think Donald Trump is [**RANDOMIZE:** too impulsive, too cautious], or about right?

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Apr 7-11 <u>2017</u>		Jan 4-9 <u>2017²</u>	Obama Jan 6-10 <u>2010</u>
63	Too impulsive	58	26
2	Too cautious	4	20
32	About right	34	46
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	8

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:

Q.20F1 Overall, has Donald Trump done better than you expected as president, worse than you expected, or about as you expected?

Apr 5-11 <u>2017</u>		Obama <u>April 2009</u>	GW Bush <u>April 2001</u>	Newsweek GW Bush <u>Feb 2001³</u>	Gallup/CNN/ USA Today Clinton <u>April 1993</u>
19	Better than expected	25	22	24	12
20	Worse than expected	9	7	7	14
59	About as expected	61	67	61	73
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	4	8	1

QUESTION 21 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 22-24**

² In January 2017, the question was worded: "In making important decisions, do you think Donald Trump will be [**RANDOMIZE:** too impulsive, too cautious], or about right?"

³ February 2001 question was worded slightly different: "From what you've seen or heard in the news about President Bush's first three months in office, is he doing a better job or worse job than you expected — or is his performance about what you expected?"

ASK ALL:

Q.25 I'd like you to think about Donald Trump's ability to handle a number of things. Please tell me whether you are very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident that Trump can [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

		Very <u>confident</u>	Somewhat <u>confident</u>	Not too <u>confident</u>	Not at all <u>confident</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:						
a.F1	Handle an international crisis					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	27	21	14	38	*
	Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016 ⁴	21	24	18	35	2
	Bush					
	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
	January, 2005	36	28	17	18	1
	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
	January, 2001	32	39	19	9	1
b.F1	Manage the Executive Branch effectively					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	28	22	16	33	1
	Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	26	26	20	26	2
	Bush					
	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
	January, 2001	33	44	15	7	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:						
c.F2	Work effectively with Congress					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	17	29	22	30	2
	Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	26	35	17	21	1
	Bush					
	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
	January, 2005 ⁵	26	44	17	12	1
	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
	January, 2001	27	47	17	8	1
d.F2	Use military force wisely					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	24	20	19	35	1
	Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	24	20	18	35	2
	Bush					
	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
	January, 2005	34	22	19	24	1
	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
	January, 2001	41	37	14	7	1
e.F2	Prevent major scandals in his administration					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	17	20	22	37	4
	Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	20	24	18	35	2
	Bush					
	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
	January, 2005	30	37	18	14	1
	<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
	January, 2001	39	38	13	8	2

⁴ The wording of this question stem was written as, "I'd like you to think about Donald Trump's ability to handle a number of things over the next four years," in the December 2016 political survey. The same wording was used to ask about Bush in prior surveys.

⁵ In January 2005 and January 2001 surveys, item was worded: "Work effectively with Congress to get things done."

ASK ALL:

Q.26 Would you say you trust what Donald Trump says more, about the same, or less than you trust what previous presidents said while in office?

		<i>CNN/ORC</i>	<i>Gallup/CNN/ USA Today</i>	<i>Gallup/CNN/ USA Today</i>
		GW Bush	GW Bush	GW Bush
		<u>January 2007</u>	<u>November 2005</u>	<u>June 2003</u>
Apr 5-11				
<u>2017</u>				
30	More	21	30	41
16	About the same	25	16	25
51	Less	52	53	32
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	1	2

NO QUESTIONS 27-29**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:**

Q.30F2 Compared with the Obama Administration, do you think the policies of the Trump Administration have put the United States in **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTION 1 & 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**?

Apr 5-11		
<u>2017</u>		
31	A stronger position internationally	
45	A weaker position internationally	
20	About the same position internationally	
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:

Q.31F1 Compared with the Obama Administration, do you think the policies of the Trump Administration have made the United States **[READ AND RANDOMIZE OPTION 1 & 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**?

Apr 5-11		
<u>2017</u>		
31	Safer from terrorism	
33	Less safe from terrorism	
33	Haven't they made a difference	
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Compared with the Bush Administration, do you think the policies of the Obama Administration have made the United States...

<u>Jan 6-10</u>		<u>Jun 10-14</u>
<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>
28	Safer from terrorism	28
22	Less safe from terrorism [OR]	21
46	Haven't they made a difference	44
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

QUESTION 32 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 33-35**

ASK ALL:

Q.36 Is your overall opinion of **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE ITEMS]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY:** would you say your overall opinion of **[ITEM]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
a. The Republican Party								
Apr 5-11, 2017	40	10	30	57	27	30	0	3
Jan 4-9, 2017	47	12	35	49	20	29	*	5
Oct 20-25, 2016	40	10	31	55	23	33	*	5
Aug 9-16, 2016	38	9	29	56	26	31	0	6
Jun 15-26, 2016	35	9	26	60	30	29	*	5
Apr 12-19, 2016	33	9	24	62	32	30	*	5
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	37	6	31	58	26	32	*	5
Jul 14-20, 2015	32	7	26	60	28	32	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2015	41	9	32	53	24	29	*	6
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	37	9	28	57	26	32	*	6
Oct 14-20, 2014	38	7	31	54	25	29	*	8
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	7	30	55	24	31	*	7
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	35	8	27	59	28	31	0	6
Oct 9-13, 2013	38	5	32	58	26	32	*	4
Jul 17-21, 2013	33	7	25	58	25	34	*	9
Jun 12-16, 2013	40	8	32	55	23	33	*	5
Jan 9-13, 2013	33	6	28	58	27	31	1	8
Dec 5-9, 2012	36	7	28	59	23	36	*	5
Sep 12-16, 2012	42	12	30	50	25	26	*	8
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	36	9	27	56	28	28	*	8
Mar 7-11, 2012	36	7	30	56	27	29	*	8
Jan 11-16, 2012	35	7	27	58	28	30	*	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	36	7	29	55	27	28	*	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	34	5	29	59	27	32	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	42	9	32	51	22	28	1	7
Feb 2-7, 2011	43	8	35	48	19	29	*	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	8	35	49	21	28	*	8
July 1-5, 2010	39	10	29	49	24	25	*	12
April 1-5, 2010	37	8	29	53	26	27	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	37	5	32	51	20	31	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	5	41	46	14	32	0	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	40	6	34	50	19	31	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	40	7	33	50	18	32	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	40	7	33	51	17	34	0	9
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	55	21	34	*	5
Late October, 2008	40	10	30	50	23	27	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	47	11	36	46	22	24	*	7
August, 2008	43	9	34	49	18	31	1	7
Late May, 2008	39	7	32	53	20	33	*	8
July, 2007	39	7	32	53	22	31	0	8
Early January, 2007	41	9	32	48	21	27	1	10
Late October, 2006	41	9	32	50	20	30	*	9
July, 2006	40	10	30	52	23	29	1	7
April, 2006	40	10	30	50	21	29	*	10
February, 2006	44	11	33	50	24	26	*	6
Late October, 2005	42	12	30	49	24	25	*	9
July, 2005	48	13	35	43	18	25	*	9
June, 2005	48	11	37	44	20	24	0	8

Q.36 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6
June, 2004	51	12	39	40	14	26	0	9
Early February, 2004	52	14	38	42	16	26	*	6
June, 2003	58	14	44	33	10	23	0	9
April, 2003	63	14	49	31	10	21	*	6
December, 2002	59	18	41	33	11	22	*	8
July, 2001	48	11	37	42	15	27	*	10
January, 2001	56	13	43	35	13	22	*	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	53	11	42	40	12	28	0	7
August, 1999	53	8	45	43	12	31	*	4
February, 1999	44	7	37	51	15	36	0	5
January, 1999	44	10	34	50	23	27	0	6
Early December, 1998	46	11	35	47	20	27	*	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	52	9	43	42	14	28	0	6
Early September, 1998	56	9	47	37	11	26	*	7
March, 1998	50	10	40	43	12	31	*	7
August, 1997	47	9	38	47	11	36	*	6
June, 1997	51	8	43	42	11	31	1	6
January, 1997	52	8	44	43	10	33	*	5
October, 1995	52	10	42	44	16	28	*	4
December, 1994	67	21	46	27	8	19	*	6
July, 1994	63	12	51	33	8	25	*	4
May, 1993	54	12	42	35	10	25	0	11
July, 1992	46	9	37	48	17	31	*	6
b. The Democratic Party								
Apr 5-11, 2017	45	11	34	51	26	25	*	4
Jan 4-9, 2017	51	13	38	45	18	26	*	4
Oct 20-25, 2016	52	15	37	45	22	22	*	4
Aug 9-16, 2016	49	15	35	46	22	24	*	5
Jun 15-26, 2016	49	17	33	46	23	23	*	5
Apr 12-19, 2016	45	14	31	50	27	23	*	4
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	45	10	35	50	24	26	*	5
Jul 14-20, 2015	48	12	36	47	22	25	0	5
Jan 7-11, 2015	46	12	34	48	21	28	*	6
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	41	11	30	54	26	28	*	5
Oct 15-20, 2014	47	11	35	46	21	25	*	7
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	46	12	34	47	23	24	*	7
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	47	15	32	48	24	24	*	5
Oct 9-13, 2013	47	9	39	48	22	27	0	4
Jul 17-21, 2013	41	10	31	50	23	28	*	9
Jun 12-16, 2013	51	14	37	45	19	26	0	5
Jan 9-13, 2013	47	13	34	46	18	28	*	7
Dec 5-9, 2012	48	11	37	47	23	25	1	4
Sep 12-16, 2012	53	21	32	40	18	22	*	7
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	47	14	33	45	21	24	*	8
Mar 7-11, 2012	49	14	36	43	18	25	*	7
Jan 11-16, 2012	43	13	29	51	23	28	*	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	13	32	45	19	26	*	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	9	34	50	21	29	*	7
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	48	14	34	45	18	27	*	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	47	13	35	46	17	29	*	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	13	36	44	20	24	*	7
July 1-5, 2010	44	12	31	45	22	23	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	38	9	29	52	27	25	*	9

Q.36 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	Ref
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8
Aug 20-27, 2009	48	11	37	43	19	24	*	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	12	37	40	16	25	*	10
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	59	15	44	34	13	21	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	62	19	43	32	12	20	*	6
Late October, 2008	57	19	38	33	15	18	*	10
Mid-September, 2008	55	18	37	39	14	25	*	6
August, 2008	57	16	41	37	13	24	*	6
Late May, 2008	57	14	43	37	14	23	*	6
July, 2007	51	13	38	41	14	27	0	8
Early January, 2007	54	15	39	35	12	23	*	11
Late October, 2006	53	13	40	36	11	25	*	11
July, 2006	47	13	34	44	13	31	2	7
April, 2006	47	12	35	42	14	28	*	11
February, 2006	48	14	34	44	17	27	0	8
Late October, 2005	49	14	35	41	15	26	*	10
July, 2005	50	15	35	41	14	27	*	9
June, 2005	52	12	40	39	13	26	*	9
December, 2004	53	13	40	41	14	27	*	6
June, 2004	54	12	42	36	11	25	0	10
Early February, 2004	58	14	44	37	9	28	*	5
June, 2003	54	11	43	38	10	28	0	8
April, 2003	57	13	44	36	11	25	*	7
December, 2002	54	15	39	37	10	27	*	9
July, 2001	58	18	40	34	10	24	*	8
January, 2001	60	18	42	30	9	21	1	9
September, 2000 (RVs)	60	16	44	35	12	23	*	5
August, 1999	59	14	45	37	9	28	*	4
February, 1999	58	11	47	37	11	26	0	5
January, 1999	55	14	41	38	12	26	0	7
Early December, 1998	59	18	41	34	10	24	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	56	11	45	38	9	29	*	6
Early September, 1998	60	13	47	33	8	25	*	7
March, 1998	58	15	43	36	10	26	*	6
August, 1997	52	11	41	42	10	32	0	6
June, 1997	61	10	51	33	8	25	*	6
January, 1997	60	13	47	35	7	28	*	5
October, 1995	49	9	40	48	11	37	0	3
December, 1994	50	13	37	44	13	31	*	6
July, 1994	62	13	49	34	7	27	*	4
May, 1993	57	14	43	34	9	25	0	9
July, 1992	61	17	44	33	9	24	*	6
c. Congress								
Apr 5-11, 2017	34	5	29	62	24	38	*	4
Jun 15-26, 2016	31	10	22	63	29	34	*	5
Sep 22-27, 2015	27	4	23	69	29	40	0	4
Jul 14-20, 2015	25	5	20	69	31	38	*	5
Mar 25-29, 2015	22	4	18	72	34	38	*	5
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	22	4	18	71	34	37	*	7
Jul 8-14, 2014	28	5	23	69	28	41	*	4
Feb 12-Feb 26, 2014	23	5	18	72	35	37	*	5
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	27	6	21	67	32	35	*	6
Oct 9-13, 2013	23	4	19	73	32	42	0	4

Q.36 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	Ref
Jul 17-21, 2013	21	3	18	70	33	37	*	9
Jan 9-13, 2013	23	4	19	68	32	36	*	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	27	4	22	67	24	43	1	6
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	27	5	22	65	30	35	*	8
Jan 11-16, 2012	23	5	18	69	33	36	*	8
Aug 17-21, 2011	25	4	21	70	30	40	4	6
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	34	4	30	57	21	36	1	8
July 1-5, 2010	33	6	27	56	23	33	*	11
April 1-5, 2010	25	3	22	65	30	36	*	9
Mar 18-21, 2010	26	3	23	62	23	39	*	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	41	3	38	50	17	34	0	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	4	33	52	20	32	*	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	50	10	40	43	15	28	*	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	40	5	35	52	20	32	*	8
Late May, 2008	41	6	35	51	17	34	0	8
July, 2007	41	6	35	51	16	35	0	8
Early January, 2007	53	11	42	38	9	29	1	8
Late October, 2006	41	5	36	46	15	31	*	13
February, 2006	44	6	38	47	14	33	0	9
Late October, 2005	45	7	38	45	13	32	*	10
July, 2005	49	6	43	40	11	29	*	11
June, 2005	49	6	43	40	10	30	*	11
June, 2004	56	7	49	33	7	26	*	11
July, 2001	57	7	50	32	8	24	*	11
March, 2001	56	6	50	36	10	26	1	7
January, 2001	64	10	54	23	5	18	1	12
September, 2000 (RVs)	61	8	53	32	5	27	*	7
August, 1999	63	8	55	34	7	27	*	3
June, 1999	56	9	47	39	9	30	*	5
February, 1999	52	4	48	44	8	36	0	4
January, 1999	48	7	41	45	15	30	0	7
Early December, 1998	52	11	41	41	12	29	0	7
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	62	7	55	33	8	25	0	5
Early September, 1998	66	7	59	27	5	22	0	7
October, 1997	53	5	48	44	11	33	0	3
August, 1997	50	6	44	44	11	33	0	6
June, 1997	52	4	48	42	8	34	0	6
May, 1997	49	5	44	42	10	32	*	9
February, 1997	52	6	46	40	9	31	*	8
January, 1997	56	6	50	40	8	32	*	4
June, 1996	45	6	39	50	12	38	*	5
April, 1996	45	6	39	50	13	37	0	5
January, 1996	42	4	38	54	16	38	*	4
October, 1995	42	4	38	55	13	42	0	3
August, 1995	45	5	40	47	13	34	*	7
June, 1995	53	8	45	42	11	31	*	5
February, 1995	54	10	44	37	10	27	0	9
July, 1994	53	7	46	43	9	34	*	4
May, 1993	43	8	35	48	13	35	0	9
November, 1991	51	7	44	43	9	34	0	6
March, 1991	66	16	50	26	7	19	0	8
May, 1990	59	6	53	34	9	25	1	6
May, 1988	64	8	56	28	5	23	0	8
January, 1988	64	6	58	29	4	25	0	7
May, 1987	74	10	64	20	4	16	*	6

Q.36 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/ Ref
January, 1987	59	7	52	31	8	23	0	10
July, 1985	67	9	58	26	5	21	*	7

QUESTIONS 37, 41 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 38-40****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:**

Next,

Q.42F1 Do you think the Trump administration is doing **[READ; RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2; 3 ALWAYS LAST]** to work with Democrats in Congress?

Apr 5-11

2017

7	Too much
53	Too little
36	About the right amount
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:

Next,

Q.43F2 Do you think Democrats in Congress are doing **[READ; RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2; 3 ALWAYS LAST]** to work with the Trump administration?

Apr 5-11

2017

5	Too much
57	Too little
34	About the right amount
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 44-45, 51-54**QUESTIONS 46-50, 55 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

RANDOMIZE Q.56 AND Q.57**ASK ALL:**

Now I have a few questions about the political parties...

[First]

Q.56 The Republican Party. Do you think the Republican Party **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or not?

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Is too extreme			
	Apr 5-11, 2017	52	45	2
	Mar 17-26, 2016	54	42	4
	Sep 16-Oct 4, 2015	54	41	5
	Feb 18-22, 2015	50	46	4
	Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	52	43	5
	Jul 17-21, 2013	48	46	6
	Feb 13-18, 2013	52	42	5
	TREND FOR COMPARISON			
	<i>Please tell me whether you think each of the following descriptions applies or does not apply to the Republican Party ... too extreme</i>			
	CNN/Gallup: February, 1999	56	42	3
b.	Can do a good job managing the federal government			
	Apr 5-11, 2017	50	47	3
	Sep 16-Oct 4, 2015	49	45	6
c.	Has good policy ideas			
	Apr 5-11, 2017	49	47	4
	Mar 17-26, 2016	45	49	7
	Feb 18-22, 2015	48	46	6
d.	Has high ethical standards			
	Apr 5-11, 2017	45	52	3
	TREND FOR COMPARISON			
	<i>Do you think each of the following descriptions applies or does not apply to the Republican Party ... Has high ethical standards</i>			
	CNN/ORC: October, 2006	46	52	2

RANDOMIZE Q.56 AND Q.57**ASK ALL:**

[Now thinking about...]

Q.57 The Democratic Party. Do you think the Democratic Party **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** or not?

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Is too extreme			
	Apr 5-11, 2017	40	57	3
	Mar 17-26, 2016	37	59	4
	Sep 16-Oct 4, 2015	39	56	5
	Feb 18-22, 2015	36	59	4
	Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	39	56	5
	Jul 17-21, 2013	41	54	5
	Feb 13-18, 2013	39	56	6
	TREND FOR COMPARISON			
	<i>Please tell me whether you think each of the following descriptions applies or does not apply to the Democratic Party ... too extreme</i>			
	CNN/Gallup: February, 1999	39	57	3

Q.57 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
b. Can do a good job managing the federal government			
Apr 5-11, 2017	54	43	3
Sep 16-Oct 4, 2015	52	44	4
c. Has good policy ideas			
Apr 5-11, 2017	58	38	4
Mar 17-26, 2016	53	41	6
Feb 18-22, 2015	52	43	5
d. Has high ethical standards			
Apr 5-11, 2017	49	48	3
TREND FOR COMPARISON			
<i>Do you think each of the following descriptions applies</i>			
<i>or does not apply to</i>			
<i>the Democratic Party ... Has high ethical standards</i>			
CNN/ORC: October, 2006	49	46	5

NO QUESTIONS 58-60**ASK ALL:**

Q.61 Which party could do a better job of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Which party could do a better job of ITEM?] [IF NECESSARY READ CATEGORIES: The Republican Party or the Democratic Party]**

	<u>Republican Party</u>	<u>Democratic Party</u>	<u>(VOL.) Both equally</u>	<u>(VOL.) Neither</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:					
a.F1 Dealing with the economy					
Apr 5-11, 2017	46	43	5	5	2
Apr 12-19, 2016	45	41	4	6	4
Dec 8-13, 2015	42	37	4	9	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	41	44	4	8	4
Feb 18-22, 2015	44	41	7	6	3
Oct 15-20, 2014	41	39	6	8	6
Jul 8-14, 2014	47	39	4	6	4
Jan 15-19, 2014	42	38	10	7	3
Oct 9-13, 2013	44	37	5	9	5
May 1-5, 2013	42	38	6	8	6
May 25-30, 2011	38	40	5	8	8
Sep 16-19, 2010	38	37	8	10	8
May 20-23, 2010	33	34	9	14	10
Feb 3-9, 2010	38	41	7	6	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	32	42	6	12	9
February, 2008	34	53	2	5	6
October, 2006	32	45	4	5	14
September, 2006	32	46	5	5	12
February, 2006	36	46	5	5	8
Mid-September, 2005	38	44	5	7	6
July, 2004	34	46	5	5	10
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	37	40	5	6	12
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	37	41	4	5	13
Early September, 2002	36	36	9	6	13
January, 2002	43	34	--	5	18

Q.61 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
May, 2001 ⁶	33	44	8	5	10
June, 1999	37	43	8	3	9
March, 1999	39	44	5	3	9
Early September, 1998	40	38	8	4	10
March, 1998	40	40	12	3	5
October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10
Gallup: October, 1992 (RVs)	36	45	10	--	9
Gallup: October, 1990	37	35	--	--	28
b.F1					
Dealing with the terrorist threat at home					
Apr 5-11, 2017	48	36	8	6	3
Apr 12-19, 2016	46	37	5	8	4
Dec 8-13, 2015	46	34	4	9	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	44	34	8	9	5
Feb 18-22, 2015	51	31	10	5	3
Oct 15-20, 2014	46	30	9	7	9
Oct 13-18, 2010	38	26	13	9	14
May 20-23, 2010	38	27	12	10	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	29	10	5	10
Aug 27-30, 2009	38	32	10	9	12
February, 2008	45	38	6	4	7
October, 2006	39	33	7	6	15
September, 2006	41	32	7	6	14
February, 2006	46	30	8	7	9
Mid-September, 2005	45	34	7	6	8
July, 2004	45	30	6	6	13
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	44	27	11	6	12
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	44	28	7	5	16
Early September, 2002	44	22	14	6	14
January, 2002	48	18	--	6	28
c.F1					
Dealing with the environment					
Apr 5-11, 2017	28	59	5	4	4
Dec 8-13, 2015	30	53	4	5	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	27	53	5	9	6
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>Protecting the environment</i>					
Feb 20-24, 2008	21	65	3	5	6
September, 2006	19	57	5	6	13
February, 2006	24	56	6	5	9
Mid-September, 2005	28	51	5	7	9
July, 2004	24	51	5	6	14
Early September, 2002	25	46	9	6	14
May, 2001	25	51	7	4	13
June, 1999	27	45	7	5	16
Early September, 1998	25	51	8	4	12
March, 1998	22	56	8	5	9
July, 1994	28	56	4	4	8
December, 1993	22	46	--	12	20
May, 1990	24	40	--	19	17

⁶ In May 2001 and earlier, the item was worded: "... keeping the country prosperous."

Q.61 CONTINUED...

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
d.F1	Dealing with policies on abortion and contraception					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	33	53	3	6	6
	Jul 14-20, 2015	31	50	4	8	7
	Feb 18-22, 2015	40	43	3	7	7
	Oct 15-20, 2014	35	45	4	5	11
	Jul 8-14, 2014	36	48	3	6	7
e.F1	Dealing with taxes					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	44	43	4	5	4
	Jul 14-20, 2015	42	41	4	8	5
	Feb 18-22, 2015	47	36	6	6	6
	Jan 15-19, 2014	41	41	4	6	7
	Jan 9-13, 2013	38	44	5	6	6
	Dec 5-9, 2012	37	45	6	4	7
	Jul 20-24, 2011	43	40	4	6	8
	Oct 13-18, 2010	36	35	7	9	12
	Sep 16-19, 2010	40	34	8	8	9
	Aug 27-30, 2009	38	37	4	11	11
	February, 2008	37	49	2	5	7
	October, 2006	32	40	5	7	16
	September, 2006	30	45	4	9	12
	February, 2006	35	46	5	6	8
	May, 2001	37	40	8	6	9
	June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12
	September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10
	March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8
	October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9
f.F1	Dealing with education policy					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	36	52	5	4	3
	Jul 14-20, 2015	34	46	6	8	6
	Oct 15-20, 2014	37	42	8	6	7
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	<i>Improving the education system</i>					
	Dec 5-9, 2012	27	53	4	6	10
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	32	46	7	6	9
	Feb 3-9, 2010	29	48	8	8	8
	Aug 27-30, 2009	22	47	8	12	10
	February, 2008	26	55	6	6	7
	October, 2006	27	45	5	6	17
	September, 2006	28	46	7	6	13
	February, 2006	33	44	8	7	8
	Mid-September, 2005	35	44	6	7	8
	July, 2004	29	45	7	7	12
	January, 2002	37	34	--	6	23
	May, 2001	36	38	11	6	9
	January, 2001	40	41	--	7	12
	June, 1999	29	52	7	5	7
	March, 1999	33	46	6	5	10
	January, 1999	26	46	--	7	21
	Early September, 1998	34	42	10	4	10
	March, 1998	29	49	10	5	7
	July, 1994	37	46	4	5	8
	January, 1992	28	48	--	10	14
	May, 1990	30	42	--	14	14

Q.61 CONTINUED...

		Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both equally	(VOL.) Neither	(VOL.) DK/Ref
		<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>			
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:						
g.F2	Dealing with immigration					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	39	50	2	6	3
	Apr 12-19, 2016	42	44	3	7	4
	Dec 8-13, 2015	42	40	3	9	7
	Jul 14-20, 2015	40	42	4	9	6
	Feb 18-22, 2015	43	45	4	4	3
	Oct 15-20, 2014	41	40	5	7	7
	Jul 8-14, 2014	42	40	4	7	6
	Jan 15-19, 2014	38	39	8	8	7
	Oct 9-13, 2013	40	39	4	8	9
	May 1-5, 2013	38	38	7	8	9
	Dec 5-9, 2012	35	44	5	6	10
	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	45	37	3	6	9
	May 25-30, 2011	39	37	4	9	11
	Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	9	12	16
	May 20-23, 2010	35	27	10	14	14
	Apr 21-26, 2010	36	35	7	11	12
	Aug 27-30, 2009	31	36	6	13	13
	February, 2008	38	43	4	6	9
	October, 2006	35	33	6	8	18
	September, 2006	32	37	5	10	16
	April, 2006	27	43	6	11	13
	February, 2006	34	38	8	9	11
h.F2	Making wise decisions about foreign policy					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	36	49	5	6	4
	Apr 12-19, 2016	46	38	4	8	5
	Jul 14-20, 2015	38	41	5	8	8
	Feb 18-22, 2015	48	35	6	6	5
	Oct 15-20, 2014	40	39	6	9	7
	Jul 8-14, 2014	43	39	5	7	6
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	38	10	4	7
	Apr 21-26, 2010	39	34	8	8	11
	August 27-30, 2009	31	44	7	8	9
	February, 2008	40	45	4	4	7
	July, 2004	38	40	4	4	14
	Early September, 2002	40	30	10	6	14
	May, 2001	39	34	11	3	13
	June, 1999	37	36	7	6	14
	March, 1999	42	37	6	4	11
	Early September, 1998	40	31	11	5	13
	March, 1998	41	33	12	4	10
	October, 1994	47	30	7	5	11
	July, 1994 ⁷	51	31	4	6	8
	December, 1993	49	23	--	10	18
	May, 1990	39	28	--	17	16
i.F2	Dealing with health care					
	Apr 5-11, 2017	35	54	2	6	3
	Jul 14-20, 2015	36	46	4	9	5
	Feb 18-22, 2015	40	47	4	7	2

⁷ In July 1994 and May 1990, the item was worded "Making wise decisions about the country's defense policies."

Q.61 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 15-20, 2014	38	46	3	7	6
Jul 8-14, 2014	40	45	4	6	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	37	45	3	6	8
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	40	39	6	9	5
Dec 5-9, 2012	38	48	4	4	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	36	46	5	7	6
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	49	1	7	8
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	38	49	3	4	6
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	42	6	5	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	32	39	5	11	13
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>Reforming the U.S. health care system</i>					
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	45	6	10	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	27	46	4	14	9
February, 2008	26	56	3	8	7
October, 2006	25	46	4	8	17
September, 2006	24	48	5	10	13
February, 2006	27	49	6	9	9
Mid-September, 2005	28	51	4	10	7
July, 2004	23	50	4	10	13
Early July, 2003	31	38	6	10	15
<i>Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans</i>					
January, 2001	30	47	--	7	16
January, 1999	25	46	--	7	22
<i>Reforming the U.S. health care system</i>					
Early September, 1998	31	43	7	7	12
March, 1998	25	53	6	8	8
October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10
July, 1994	34	48	2	8	8
<i>Reforming health care</i>					
December, 1993	25	47	--	10	18
<i>Improving health care in the U.S.</i>					
January, 1992	21	56	--	8	15
May, 1990	20	50	--	16	14
j.F2	Representing your views on government spending				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	48	2	7	3
	Jan 9-13, 2013	36	5	9	9
k.F2	Reflecting your views about gun policy				
	Apr 5-11, 2017	41	2	5	6
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>Reflecting your views about gun control</i>					
	Dec 8-13, 2015	37	3	8	10
	Jul 14-20, 2015	36	3	6	7
	May 1-5, 2013	39	4	6	9
	Jan 9-13, 2013	40	5	6	11
	Dec 17-19, 2012 ⁸	28	12	15	18
	July, 2004	36	3	6	21
	Late October, 2002 (RV)	38	5	5	16

⁸ In December 2012, July 2004, and April 2000 the question was not part of a list.

Q.61 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
April, 2000	30	36	4	7	23
June, 1999	34	42	4	8	12
December, 1993	32	42	--	8	18
I.F2 Dealing with trade agreements between the U.S and other countries					
Apr 5-11, 2017	45	42	4	4	5
Apr 12-19, 2016	48	37	3	5	6

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:

Q.62F1 Thinking about the Republican Party these days, do you think it is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** in its views on issues and vision for the future?

	(RVs) Apr 5-11 <u>2017</u>	(RVs) Oct 20-25 <u>2016</u>
29	Mostly united	17
68	Mostly divided	80
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=755]:

Q.63F2 Thinking about the Democratic Party these days, do you think it is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** in its views on issues and vision for the future?

	(RVs) Apr 5-11 <u>2017</u>	(RVs) Oct 20-25 <u>2016</u>
49	Mostly united	58
48	Mostly divided	39
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

NO QUESTION 64, 68-69, 73-79, 85-91, 93-94

QUESTIONS 65-67, 70, 82-84 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTIONS 71-72, 80-81, 92 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.95 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about a group of Republicans in the House of Representatives known as the Freedom Caucus? Have you heard ... **[READ]**

	Apr 5-11 <u>2017</u>
19	A lot
39	A little
42	Nothing at all
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF HEARD A LOT OR A LITTLE (Q.95=1,2) [N=966]:

Q.96 Is your overall opinion of the Freedom Caucus very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Can't rate/ <u>Ref</u>
Apr 5-11, 2017	36	6	31	48	21	26	16

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>	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
				<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>		
Apr 5-11, 2017	24	31	42	2	1	*	17	20
Feb 7-12, 2017	23	34	37	3	1	2	15	18
Jan 4-9, 2017	25	28	41	4	*	1	18	19
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	24	33	35	5	1	3	15	16
Oct 20-25, 2016	26	33	36	3	*	2	15	17
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	27	32	33	5	*	3	11	16
Aug 9-16, 2016	27	32	35	2	1	2	13	16
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	33	37	4	1	2	16	16
Apr 12-19, 2016	25	32	37	3	1	2	16	17
Yearly Totals								
2016	25.4	32.0	36.5	3.4	.5	2.2	14.6	17.0
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
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
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	--	--	--	--	--

NO QUESTION 97**ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=630]:**

Q.98 Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Apr 5-11

2017

- | | |
|----|---|
| 43 | Republicans in Congress have an obligation to support Donald Trump's policies and programs because he is a Republican president |
| 55 | Republicans in Congress do NOT have an obligation to support Donald Trump's policies and programs if they disagree with him |
| 2 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |

NO QUESTION 99

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls
