

Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on a nationally representative survey conducted from Feb. 22 to March 4, 2018, among a sample of 5,035 adults 18 years of age or older. The margin of error for the full sample is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points. This report was made possible by The Pew Charitable Trusts, which received support from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the Ford Foundation, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Open Society Foundations. Support for the research is part of Knight Foundation's Trust, Media and Democracy initiative, which aims to strengthen the role of strong, trusted journalism as essential to a healthy democracy.

The survey was conducted by the GfK Group in English and Spanish using KnowledgePanel, its nationally representative online research panel. KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability sampling methods and include those with internet access and those who did not have internet access at the time of their recruitment (KnowledgePanel provides internet access for those who do not have it, and if needed, a device to access the internet when they join the panel). A combination of random-digit dialing (RDD) and address-based sampling (ABS) methodologies have been used to recruit panel members (in 2009 KnowledgePanel switched its sampling methodology for recruiting members from RDD to ABS).

KnowledgePanel continually recruits new panel members throughout the year to offset panel attrition as people leave the panel. All active members of the GfK panel were eligible for inclusion in this study. In all, 8,066 panelists were invited to take part in the survey. All sampled members received an initial email to notify them of the survey and provided a link to the survey questionnaire. Additional follow-up reminders were sent to those who had not responded as needed.

The final sample of 5,035 adults was weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, race, Hispanic origin, education, region, household income, home ownership status and metropolitan area to the parameters of the Census Bureau's March 2016 Current Population Survey (CPS). This weight is multiplied by an initial sampling or base weight that corrects for differences in the probability of selection of various segments of GfK's sample and by a panel weight that adjusts for any biases due to nonresponse and noncoverage at the panel recruitment stage (using all of the parameters described above).

Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting at each of these stages.

The tables show the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% confidence level.

Margins of error

	Sample size	Margin of error in percentage points
U.S. adults	5,035	+/- 1.5
<i>Party affiliation</i>		
Republican/lean Rep.	2,248	+/- 2.3
Democrat/lean Dem.	2,543	+/- 2.1

Note: The margins of error are reported at the 95% level of confidence and are calculated by taking into account the average design effect for each subgroup.

Source: Survey conducted Feb. 22 – March 4, 2018.

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

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

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER JOURNALISM PROJECT
SURVEY TOPLINE
February 22–March 4, 2018
TOTAL N=5,035**

4 QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

NEWSIMPT

Which of the following statements best describes you? I follow the news closely...
[RANDOMIZE]

Feb 22–March 4

2018

34	Only when something important is happening
65	Most of the time, whether or not something important is happening
1	No answer

5 QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

NATLMEDIA_JOB

Regardless of how closely you follow NATIONAL NEWS, how well do the national news media keep you informed of the most important NATIONAL stories of the day?

Feb 22–March 4

2018

17	Very well
58	Fairly well
18	Not too well
6	Not at all well
1	No answer

Mar 13–Mar 27

2017

21	23
54	54
20	17
4	5
*	1

Jan 12–Feb 8

2016**8 QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

NEWSAMOUNT

Again, which of the following statements comes closer to your view?
[RANDOMIZE]

Feb 22–March 4

2018

68	I am worn out by the amount of news there is these days
30	I like the amount of news there is these days
2	No answer

16 QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK ALL:**

PARTY

In politics today, do you consider yourself a...?

Feb 22–March 4

2018

26	Republican
34	Democrat
28	Independent
10	Something else
3	No answer

ASK IF DID NOT SELECT REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT AT PARTY:
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...

Feb 22-March 4

2018

N=1,965

38	The Republican Party
48	The Democratic Party
14	No answer

1 QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE