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Public Sees Wealthy People, Corporations Gaining Influence in Trump Era

More say people like them will lose than gain influence in D.C.

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Public Sees Wealthy People, Corporations Gaining Influence in Trump Era

More say people like them will lose than gain influence in D.C.

As President-elect Donald Trump prepares to take office, the public has starkly different expectations about which groups in society will gain influence – and those that will lose influence – under his administration.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans (64%) say wealthy people will gain influence in Washington when Trump takes office. Just 8% say they will lose influence, while 27% expect the wealthy will not be affected.

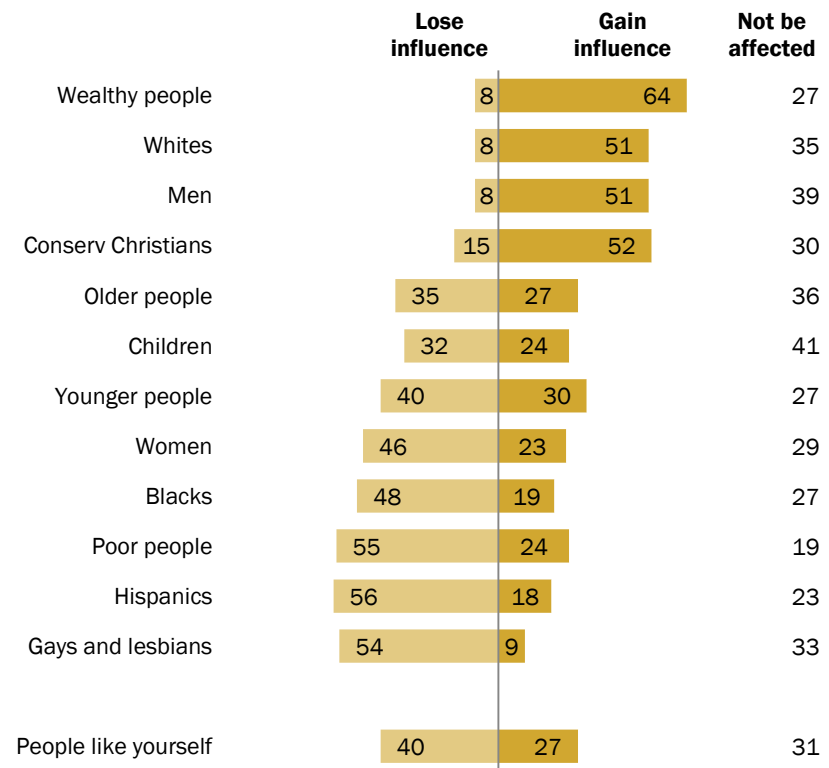
In addition, about half of the public thinks whites (51%), men (51%) and conservative Christians (52%) will gain influence. Relatively small shares (no more than 15%) think any of these groups will lose clout in a Trump administration.

The national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted

Jan. 4-9 among 1,502 adults, finds that majorities think Hispanics (56%), poor people (55%) and gays and lesbians (54%) will lose influence in Washington during Trump’s presidency. And far more say that blacks and women will lose influence than gain influence (48% to 19% for blacks, 46% to 23% for women).

Majorities expect the wealthy to gain influence – and the poor to lose influence – with Trump as president

% who say each group will ___ by Donald Trump taking office



Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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Asked about how various institutions and their leaders will fare during Trump's presidency, majorities say business corporations (74%) and the military (64%) will increase their influence with Trump as president.

By contrast, 60% say environmentalists will lose influence, while 54% say the same about union leaders.

Views about the impact of Trump's presidency on Washington lobbyists are

mixed: While 36% think they will gain influence under the new administration, about as many (37%) say they will lose; 21% think lobbyists will not be affected.

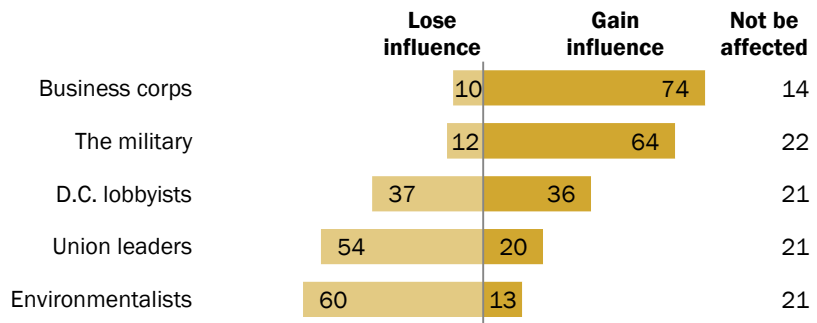
The public's assessments of the groups that will gain and lose influence in Trump's presidency are sharply different than before Barack Obama took office eight years ago. In many cases, they mirror views of expected "winners" and "losers" under George W. Bush before he took office in January 2001.

But there are some notable exceptions. For example, today just 24% predict that children will gain influence under Trump, while 32% say they will lose influence and 41% say their influence will not be affected.

In 2009, 64% expected children to gain influence under Obama and 50% said the same about children during Bush's presidency in 2001. In January 1993, 62% said children would gain influence in Bill Clinton's administration.

Most Americans think corporations and the military will increase influence with Trump in the White House

% who say each group will _____ by Donald Trump taking office



Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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In another change from recent presidents, more Americans say “people like yourself” will lose influence than gain influence in Washington when Trump takes office.

Currently, 40% say people like themselves will lose influence by Trump taking office, while 27% say they will gain and 31% expect not to be affected.

Just prior to Obama taking office in 2009, more than twice as many said people like them would gain rather than lose influence (47% vs. 18%) and the margin was nearly as wide before Clinton took office in January 1993 (43% vs. 22%). In early 2001, 35% said people like them would gain influence with Bush in the White House, while 26% thought they would lose influence.

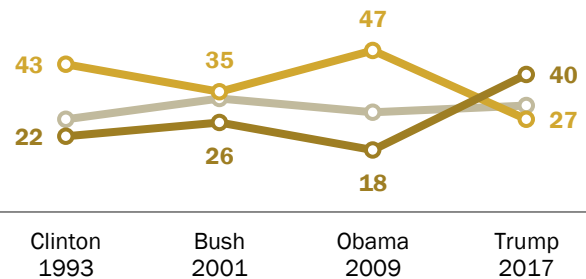
As in the past, these views are divided along partisan lines. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 45% think people like themselves will gain influence by Trump’s taking office, while just 13% say they will lose influence. Four-in-ten think they will not be affected.

By contrast, a wide share of Democrats and Democratic leaners think they will lose influence in the Trump era: 65% say this, compared with just 12% who think they will benefit and 21% who say they will not be affected.

More say people like them will ‘lose’ under Trump than under past presidents

% who say ‘people like yourself’ will ___ by each president-elect taking office

Gain influence Not affected Lose influence



Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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Republicans are much more positive about the influence of people like them under Trump than they were before Obama or Clinton took office.

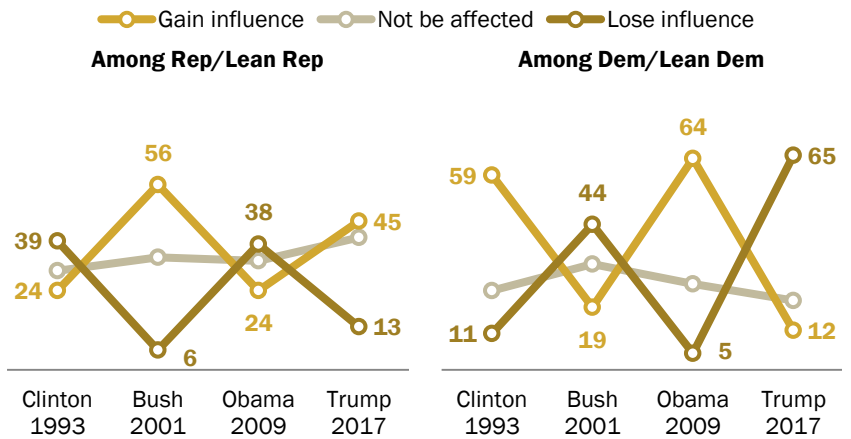
However, fewer Republicans say “people like yourself” will gain influence in Trump’s presidency than said this before Bush took office (45% now, 56% then).

And while Democrats are more negative about the influence of people like them than they were prior to the Obama or Clinton administrations, they also are more negative today than before Bush took office.

Currently, 65% of Democrats say people like them will lose influence with Trump as president; 44% of Democrats said this about the Bush administration at a comparable point in 2001.

Democrats say people like them will lose influence; Republicans’ expectations are lower than for Bush

% who say ‘people like yourself’ will ___ by each president-elect taking office



Note: Don't know responses not shown.
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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Comparing the Trump presidency to previous administrations

The public's views about which groups will gain or lose influence in Washington under Trump's administration are more similar to expectations for Bush's presidency than either Obama's or Clinton's. In early 2001, most Americans thought business corporations (66%) and the military (72%) would gain influence under Bush; today, wide majorities say the same about Trump (74% business corporations, 64% the military).

And nearly identical shares say conservative Christians (52%) and lobbyists in Washington, D.C. (36%) will gain influence in Trump's presidency as said that about the Bush administration (51% and 35%, respectively). Far fewer thought conservative Christians and lobbyists would gain under Obama (21% each).

Views about which groups will increase influence are similar for Trump as for Bush, but fewer expect children, older people, blacks to gain under Trump

% who say each group will gain influence by each president-elect taking office

	Clinton	Bush	Obama	Trump
Business corps	34	66	29	74
The military		72	37	64
Conserv Christians		51	21	52
DC lobbyists	23	35	21	36
Younger people	65		71	30
People like yourself	43	35	47	27
Older people	42	46	39	27
Poor people	61	29	73	24
Children	62	50	64	24
Union leaders	35	26	46	20
Blacks	66	30	67	19
Environmentalists	67	24	60	13

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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As noted, however, smaller shares expect children to gain influence in Trump's presidency than said that about Obama, Bush or Clinton before they took office. This also is the case in perceptions of how older people will fare. Currently, just 27% think older people will gain influence with Trump as president, while 35% say they will lose influence and 36% say they will not be affected.

In January 2001, 46% said older people would gain influence under Bush's presidency, while 39% said the same about older people under Obama in 2009 and 42% expected older people to gain influence under Clinton in early 1993.

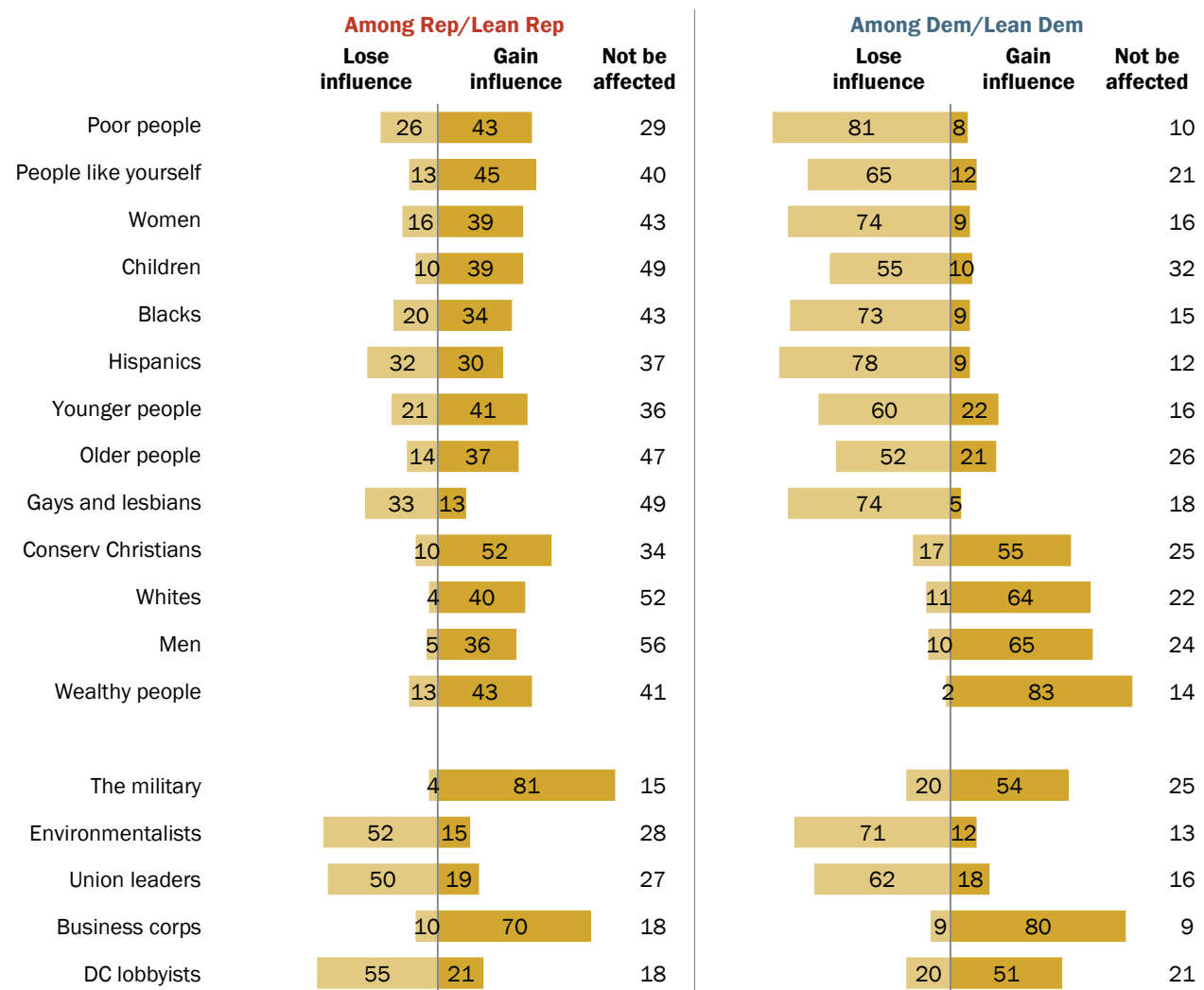
In addition, just 19% expect blacks to gain influence in Trump's presidency, the lowest share saying that about any recent incoming president, including Bush (30%).

Partisan differences in which groups will gain and lose under Trump

Republicans and Democrats differ substantially in views of how most of these groups will fare during Trump's presidency. Sizable majorities of Democrats say a number of groups will lose influence with Trump in the White House: 81% say the influence of the poor will decline; 78% say the same about Hispanics; 74% each say women and gays and lesbians will lose influence; and 73% say this about blacks.

Partisan views of 'winners' and 'losers' in Trump's administration

% who say each group will ___ by Donald Trump taking office



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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No more than about a third of Republicans say any of these groups will lose influence with Trump in the White House (33% gays and lesbians, 32% Hispanics). Most Republicans expect that these groups will either gain influence or not be affected by Trump's presidency.

On the other hand, 83% of Democrats expect wealthy people to gain influence in Trump's presidency, while close to two-thirds say the influence of men (65%) and whites (64%) will grow. By contrast, only about four-in-ten Republicans anticipate that the influence of these groups will increase (43% wealthy people, 40% whites, 36% men).

Among the more striking partisan differences are on whether lobbyists in the nation's capital will gain or lose influence during Trump's presidency. Among Republicans, 55% expect that the influence of lobbyists in Washington, D.C. will decline, while just 21% say their influence will increase (18% say it will not be affected). Democrats hold nearly the opposite view: 51% expect lobbyists to gain influence and 20% say they will lose influence (21% say their influence will not be affected).

Despite these differences, Republicans and Democrats do share similar expectations for some groups: Large majorities in both parties say business corporations will increase their influence with Trump in the White House (80% of Democrats, 70% of Republicans). And about half in both parties expect conservative Christians to gain influence (55% of Democrats, 52% of Republicans).

Acknowledgements

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

Research team

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Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 4-9, 2017 among a national sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (376 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,126 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 674 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 January 4-9, 2017

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,502	2.9 percentage points
Half form	746 (min)	4.1 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep	651	4.4 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep half form	316 (min)	6.3 percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem	726	4.2 percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem half form	358 (min)	6.0 percentage points

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

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

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
JANUARY 2017 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
JANUARY 4-9, 2017
N=1,502**

QUESTIONS 1-2, 5-8, 15-16, 19, 24, 40, 44, 50a-b, 50d-e, 51a, 52-53, 60, 67 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 9-14, 17-18, 20-21, 23, 25, 32-39, 41-43, 45-49, 54-47, 59, 62, 68-69

QUESTIONS 22, 26-31, 50c, 50f, 51a-d, 58, 61, 63-66 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:

Q.70 Usually, when there is a new president, certain groups gain influence in Washington, while other groups lose influence... For each of the following, tell me if you think they will gain influence, lose influence or not be affected by Donald Trump's taking office? First, will... **[INSERT ITEM; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS; RANDOMIZE a. THROUGH r. — ITEM s. SHOULD ALWAYS COME LAST]** gain influence, lose influence or not be affected by Donald Trump's taking office? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		<u>Gain</u>	<u>Lose</u>	<u>Not be affected</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:					
a.F1	Older people				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	27	35	36	2
	January, 2009	39	19	36	6
	January, 2005	29	40	26	5
	January, 2001	46	26	22	6
	January, 1993	42	25	26	7
b.F1	Younger people				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	30	40	27	3
	January, 2009	71	4	20	5
	January, 1993	65	8	19	8
c.F1	Blacks				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	19	48	27	5
	January, 2009	67	2	27	4
	January, 2005	26	31	35	8
	January, 2001	30	29	31	10
	January, 1993	66	6	19	9
d.F1	Hispanics				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	18	56	23	3
	January, 2009	46	9	37	8
	January, 2005	39	24	29	8

Q.70 CONTINUED...

		<u>Gain</u>	<u>Lose</u>	<u>Not be affected</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
e.F1	Union leaders				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	20	54	21	5
	January, 2009	46	18	24	12
	January, 2005	18	38	32	12
	January, 2001	26	38	24	12
	January, 1993	35	24	28	13
f.F1	Business corporations				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	74	10	14	2
	January, 2009	29	42	22	7
	January, 2005	56	9	28	7
	January, 2001	66	9	17	8
	January, 1993	34	33	21	12
g.F1	Environmentalists				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	13	60	21	5
	January, 2009	60	7	26	7
	January, 2005	18	44	30	8
	January, 2001	24	40	25	11
	January, 1993	67	7	16	10
h.F1	The military				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	64	12	22	2
	January, 2009	37	26	29	8
	January, 2005	63	13	18	6
	January, 2001	72	4	16	8
i.F1	Whites				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	51	8	35	6
NO ITEM j					
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:					
k.F2	Conservative Christians				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	52	15	30	4
	January, 2009	21	36	35	8
	January, 2005	54	11	26	9
	January, 2001	51	11	27	11
l.F2	Women				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	23	46	29	2
	January, 2009	58	6	30	6
m.F2	Gays and lesbians				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	9	54	33	5
	January, 2009	40	11	39	10
n.F2	Washington lobbyists				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	36	37	21	7
	January, 2009	21	38	29	12
	January, 2005	40	14	30	16
	January, 2001	35	17	28	20
	January, 1993	23	31	29	17

Q.70 CONTINUED...

		<u>Gain</u>	<u>Lose</u>	<u>Not be affected</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
o.F2	Poor people				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	24	55	19	2
	January, 2009	73	8	15	4
	January, 2005	20	49	26	5
	January, 2001	29	40	23	8
	January, 1993	61	12	19	8
p.F2	Children				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	24	32	41	3
	January, 2009	64	6	22	8
	January, 2001	50	18	24	8
	January, 1993	62	6	22	10
q.F2	Wealthy people				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	64	8	27	1
	January, 2009	17	44	34	5
r.F2	Men				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	51	8	39	3
ASK ALL:					
s.	People like yourself				
	Jan 4-9, 2017	27	40	31	2
	January, 2009	47	18	29	6
	January, 2005	22	34	40	4
	January, 2001	35	26	33	6
	January, 1993	43	22	27	8

QUESTIONS 71-73 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**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.) <u>No preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other party</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
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
Mar 17-26, 2016	25	31	38	3	*	2	15	20
Jan 7-14, 2016	24	30	38	5	1	2	14	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

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				<u>preference</u>	<u>party</u>			
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 <i>Post-Sept 11</i>	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 <i>Pre-Sept 11</i>	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	--	--	--	--	--