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# On Eve of Inauguration, Americans Expect Nation's Deep Political Divisions to Persist

*Trump a dominant factor in people's expectations for 2017*

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# On Eve of Inauguration, Americans Expect Nation's Deep Political Divisions to Persist

*Trump a dominant factor in people's expectations for 2017*

Ahead of Donald Trump's inauguration as the nation's 45<sup>th</sup> president, the public sees a country deeply fractured along partisan lines. Fully 86% describe the country as more politically divided today than in the past, while just 12% say the country is no more divided.

For more than a decade, majorities have routinely described the nation as increasingly divided. But the current share expressing this view is the highest it has been at any point since the question was first asked in 2004.

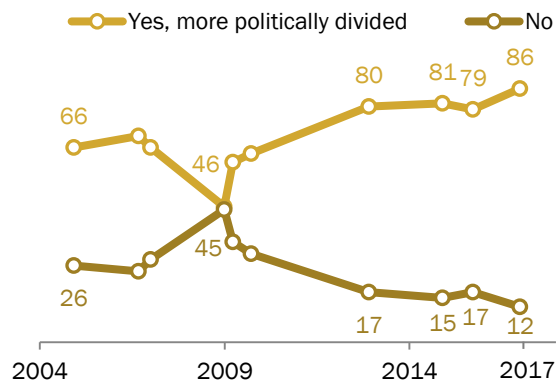
The current mood stands in stark contrast to January 2009, before Barack Obama took office. At that time, just 46% said the nation was more politically divided. But a few months into Obama's first term, the share saying the country was more divided politically had risen to 61%.

The nature of the country's political divisions is a rare point of partisan agreement: Comparable majorities of Democrats and Democratic leaners (88%) and Republicans and Republican leaners (84%) say the country is more divided these days than in the past.

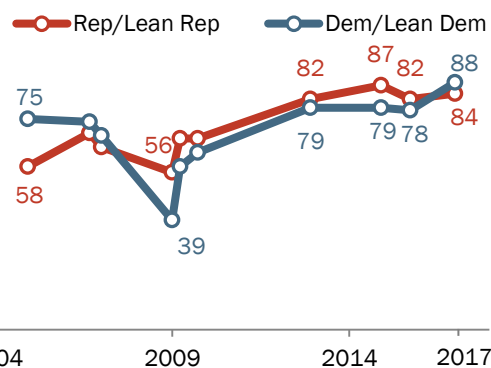
The latest national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Jan. 4-9 among 1,502 adults, finds little optimism that the country's political divisions will subside any time soon: 40% expect the country to be about as politically divided in five years as it is today, while 31% think it will be even more divided; just 24% expect divisions to lessen.

## Overwhelming majority says country is more politically divided than in the past

*Do you think the country is more politically divided these days than in the past, or not? (%)*



*% who say the country is more politically divided*



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. Q52.  
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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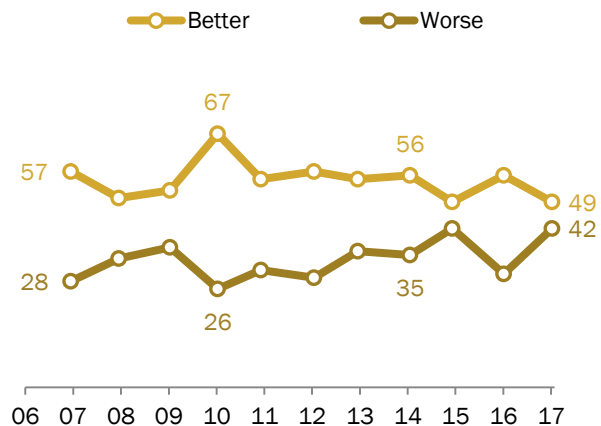
In the wake of Trump's election, there has been an increase in the share of Republicans who think the country will be less divided five years from now. Still, just 36% of Republicans say this; even fewer Democrats (16%) expect the country's political divisions to narrow in the coming years.

In the near term, the public does not think the new Congress and administration will usher in a new era of political comity in Washington: By 61% to 29%, more expect Republicans and Democrats to bicker and oppose each other more than usual in the coming year than to work together more. Over the past few decades, the only times the public expected more cooperation than conflict in the year ahead were in January 2009 and in early 2002, in the wake of the Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> terrorist attacks.

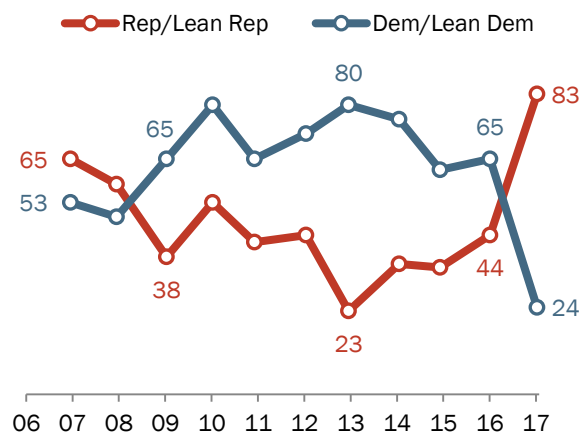
When asked a more general question about the year ahead, public views are mixed: 49% think 2017 will be a better year than 2016, while 42% think it will be worse. Expectations for 2017 are about as negative as for any year over the last decade. Compared with a year ago, optimism among Republicans has surged, while views among Democrats have plummeted. Fully 83% of Republicans and Republican leaners expect 2017 to be better than 2016; a year ago, 44% expected a better year in 2016 than 2015. By contrast, just 24% of Democrats and Democratic leaners expect a better year in 2017 (65% thought 2016 would be better than 2015).

## Republicans' outlook for 2017 brightens as Democrats' expectations plummet

Will 2017 be better or worse than 2016? (%)



% who say 2017 will be better than 2016 ...



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. Q5F1.

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

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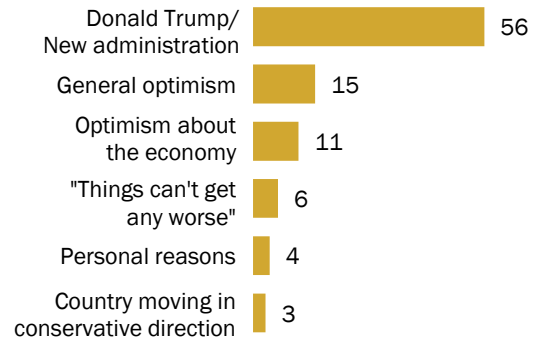
On a follow-up question on why 2017 will be better or worse than 2016, mentions of Donald Trump dominate among both those optimistic and pessimistic about the year ahead.

Overall, 56% of those who think 2017 will be better say Trump is the reason they feel this way. No other response comes close (15% offer general mentions of optimism, while 11% express some form of economic optimism).

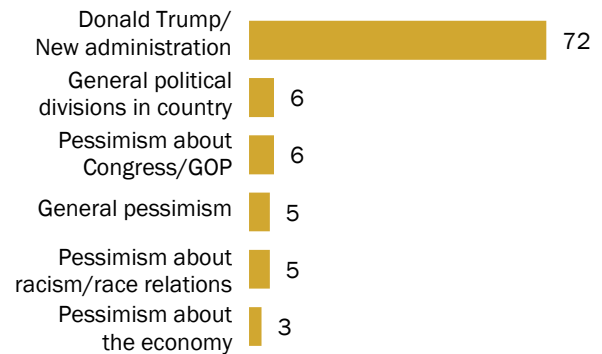
Among those who think 2017 will be worse than 2016, Trump is even more widely cited as the reason for their view. About seven-in-ten (72%) say Trump is the reason why they expect the year ahead to be worse. Far fewer cite other reasons, such as the political divisions in the country (6%) or pessimism about the Republican-controlled Congress (6%).

### Trump cited as top reason 2017 will be better – and worse – than 2016

Among those who say 2017 will be better than 2016, why do you think this? (%)



Among those who say 2017 will be worse than 2016, why do you think this? (%)



Notes: Open-ended question. Responses with frequencies of 3% or greater shown. See topline for all mentions and full trend. Q6F1. Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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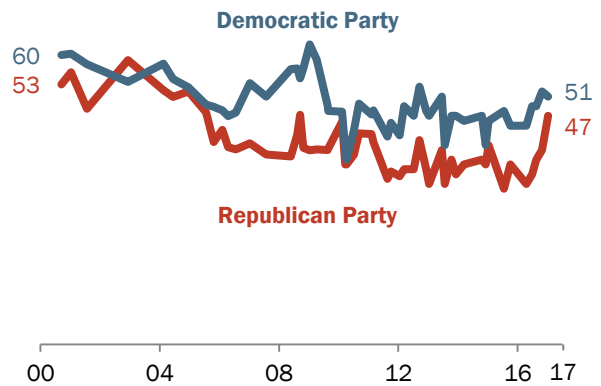
While the 2016 elections have done little to brighten the public's overall outlook or raise expectations for partisan cooperation, the Republican Party has seen its standing improve in the wake of Trump's presidential win and the GOP maintaining control of Congress. Today, about as many hold a favorable (47%) as unfavorable (49%) view of the Republican Party. This is the first time views of the GOP have been about as favorable as unfavorable since 2011. The Democratic Party is rated slightly more positively (51% favorable, 45% unfavorable) than the GOP, but the gap in assessments of the two parties is much narrower than it was just a few weeks before the election, in October 2016.

Furthermore, the GOP has drawn even with the Democrats as the party seen as "more concerned with the needs of people like me:" 45% say this phrase better describes the Democratic Party, while 44% now say it better describes the Republican Party. In July 2015, far more said the Democratic Party (53%) than the Republican Party (31%) was better described by this phrase.

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### GOP favorability rating improves

*% who have a favorable view of the ...*



Note: Q50a & Q50b.

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017

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## Early judgments of a Trump presidency

As Trump's inauguration approaches, 58% of Americans say it is too early to tell whether he will be a successful or unsuccessful president, while the remainder are about evenly divided between those who think he will be successful (21%) and those who say he'll be unsuccessful (20%).

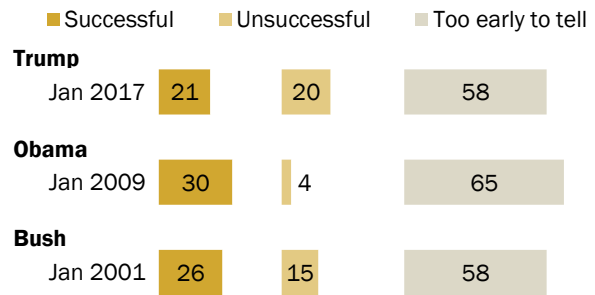
In the days before Barack Obama and George W. Bush took the oath of office, majorities also said it was too early to tell how successful their presidencies would be. But in both cases, those that did offer predictions were more likely to say each would be successful than unsuccessful. For example, in 2009 30% said Obama would be successful while just 4% predicted he would be unsuccessful; 65% said it was too early to tell.

Expectations for Trump's presidency are closely linked with partisanship and ideology. About four-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners (42%) say Trump will be successful, while just 3% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say this. By contrast, 37% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say he will be unsuccessful, but just 4% of Republicans say the same. Democrats (59%) and Republicans (54%) are about equally likely to say it is too early to tell how Trump's presidency will unfold.

Among Republicans, conservatives are more likely than moderates and liberals to offer a positive prediction about Trump's presidency: 50% of conservative Republicans say he will be successful, compared with 28% of moderate and liberal Republicans. Moderate and liberal

### Most say it's too early to tell whether Trump will be successful

*In the long run, will each be \_\_\_ president (%)*



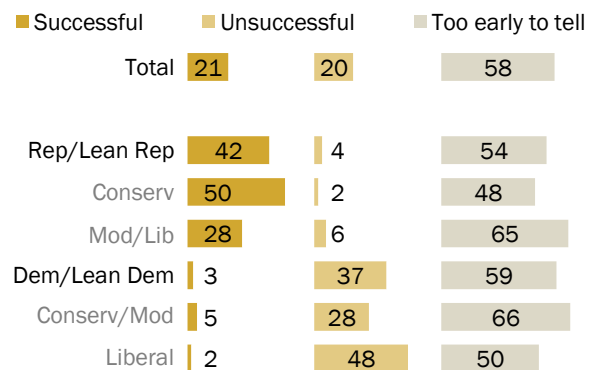
Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q24.

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

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### Wide ideological differences over whether Trump will be successful

*In the long run, Trump will be \_\_\_ president (%)*



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q24.

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

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Republicans are more likely to reserve judgment: 65% say it is too early to tell, while a smaller share of conservatives (48%) say this.

And while 48% of liberal Democrats say Trump will be unsuccessful, just 28% of conservative and moderate Democrats say this. Instead, two-thirds of conservative and moderate Democrats (66%) say it is too early to predict whether or not Trump's presidency will be a success, a smaller share (50%) of liberal Democrats say this.

## Public divided over whether ethics will improve or worsen under Trump

Roughly equal shares of the public expect the “overall level of ethics and honesty in the federal government” to rise (29%), fall (34%) or stay the same (33%) with Trump as president.

As with expectations for Trump’s success in office, predictions about federal ethics and honesty during his tenure as president are split along partisan and ideological lines.

About half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (53%) expect ethics and honesty in government will rise; 39% say they will stay the same while just 6% expect them to fall. By contrast, 59% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say they will fall, 27% expect they will stay the same and just 10% say they will rise.

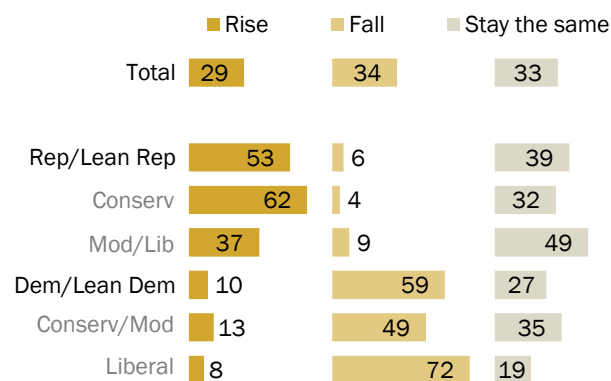
There are ideological divides within the two parties – 72% of liberal Democrats, compared with 49% of conservative and moderate Democrats, expect the level of ethics and honesty to fall with Trump as president. And while 35% of conservative and moderate Democrats expect little change in the overall level of ethics in the federal government, just 19% of liberals say this (only 8% of liberals and 13% of conservative and moderate Democrats expect ethical levels to rise).

Among Republicans and Republicans leaners, 62% of conservatives predict ethics in government will rise, compared with a smaller share (37%) of moderates and liberals.

More people say Trump will have some impact – for better or worse – than said this of Bill Clinton in early 1993. Half (50%) said ethics and honesty in government would stay the same with Clinton as president then; just a third (33%) say this now for Trump. Only 13% of the public expected federal ethics to fall under Clinton and 35% said they would rise.

### Conservative Reps expect ethics level to rise with Trump; liberal Dems see a fall

% saying the overall level of ethics and honesty in the federal government will \_\_\_ with Trump as president



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q44.  
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

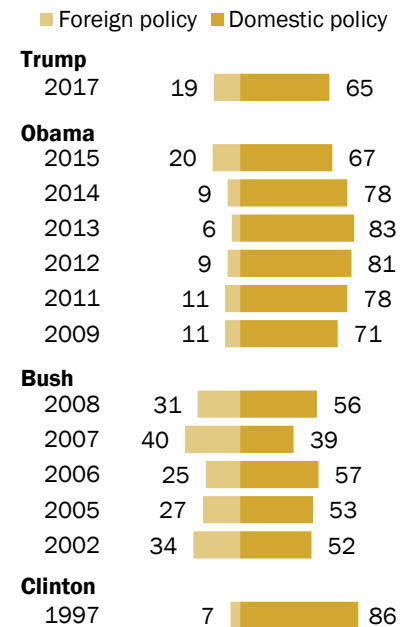
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## Public says Trump should prioritize domestic policy over foreign policy

As Trump prepares to take office, 65% say it is more important for the president-elect to focus on domestic policy; far fewer (19%) say it's more important for him to focus on foreign policy. Majorities have said domestic policy should be the president's priority for much of the last decade. The last time the public gave as much emphasis to foreign as domestic policy was in 2007, during George W. Bush's second term. At that time, 40% said it was more important to focus on foreign policy, compared with 39% who said it was more important to focus on domestic policy.

### Most want Trump to focus on domestic policy

Which is more important for the president to focus on? (%)



Notes: Don't know/Other responses not shown. Q19.

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

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## Health care, economy, racism among top national problems

The public's emphasis on domestic policy is evident in its views of the country's biggest problems. When asked in an open-ended question what the most important problem facing the nation is today, about one-in-ten (11%) volunteer health care-related issues such as affordability and accessibility. When last asked in December 2015, just 3% said healthcare was the most important problem facing the country. The share citing healthcare as the most important problem facing the nation today is as high as it has been since 2009.

Similar shares volunteer the economy generally (10%) or unemployment (10%) as the most important problem facing the country today. About one-in-ten also see race relations (10%) or Donald Trump and his incoming administration (9%) as the country's top problem.

Views of the nation's most important problem have changed substantially since December 2015, [shortly after the terrorist attacks in Paris and San Bernardino, Calif.](#) At that time, 18% volunteered terrorism as the most important problem facing the nation; today, just 4% do so

Overall, the share of the public citing any one foreign policy or international issue as the nation's most important problem stands at 15%, down 17 percentage points since December 2015 when nearly a third (32%) cited issues such as ISIS and terrorism. Today, a combined 29% cite any one economic issue as the most important problem facing the country.

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### Public divided on most important problem facing the nation

*Most important problem facing nation ... [OPEN END]*

	Dec 2015	Jan 2017	Change
	%	%	
Health care/Affordability/Accessibility/Obamacare	3	11	+8
Economy (general)	9	10	+1
Unemployment	7	10	+3
Race relations/Racism	3	10	+7
Donald Trump	2	9	+7
Immigration	7	7	0
Lack of humanity/Respect	2	6	+4
Political gridlock/division	5	6	+1
Defense/National security	8	5	-3
Terrorism	18	4	-14
<b>NET: Economic issues</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>+6</b>
<b>NET: Foreign/International</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>-17</b>

Notes: See topline for all mentions and full trend. Q7F2.  
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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As has been the case over the last several years, Republicans (10%) are more likely than Democrats (2%) to volunteer national security as the most important problem facing the nation today. Republicans also are more likely than Democrats to say immigration is the most important problem (10% vs. 4%).

By contrast, Democrats (17%) are much more likely than Republicans (3%) to say Donald Trump is the most important problem facing the country today. In February 2009, weeks after Obama took office, fewer than 1% of Republicans said he was the most important problem facing the country (no Democrats said this).

Equal shares of Republicans and Democrats (12% each) name a health care-related issue as the country's top problem.

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## Democrats view Trump and racism as top problems facing the U.S.

Most important problem facing nation ... [OPEN END]

	Rep/ Lean Rep %	Dem/ Lean Dem %	R-D diff
Defense/National security	10	2	<b>R+8</b>
Immigration	10	4	<b>R+6</b>
Economy (general)	13	8	R+5
Terrorism	6	3	R+3
Health care/Affordability/ Accessibility/Obamacare	12	12	0
Unemployment	10	10	0
Lack of humanity/Respect	6	6	0
Political gridlock/division	5	8	D+3
Race relations/Racism	8	12	D+4
Donald Trump	3	17	<b>D+14</b>
<b>NET: Economic issues</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>R+10</b>
<b>NET: Foreign/International</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>R+10</b>

Notes: Open-ended question. Differences in **bold** are statistically significant. See topline for all mentions and full trend. Q7F2.

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

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## Views of the Republican and Democratic Parties

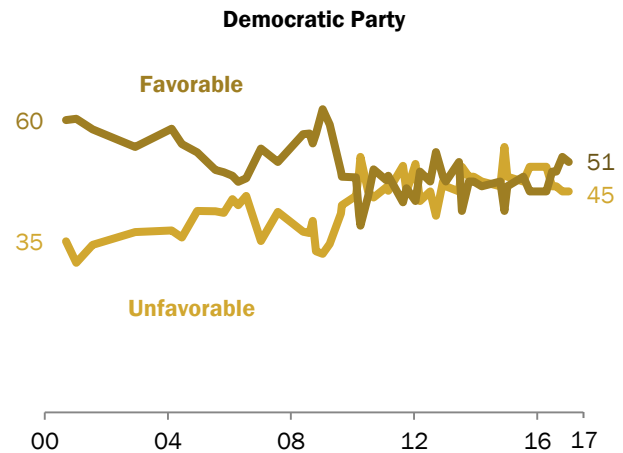
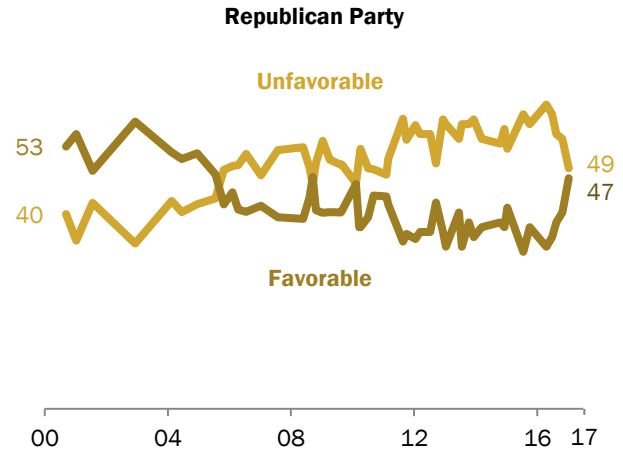
Following the 2016 election, views of the Republican Party have improved significantly, while views of the Democratic Party are little changed.

For the first time since 2011, about as many have a positive as negative impression of the Republican Party: 47% now hold a favorable view of the GOP, compared with 49% who have an unfavorable view. The share who views the Republican Party favorably is up 7 percentage points since October and is 14 points higher than it was in April of 2016.

Ratings of the Democratic Party remain somewhat more positive than those of the Republican Party, though the gap in assessments of the two parties has narrowed. Overall, slightly more hold a favorable (51%) than unfavorable (45%) view of the Democratic Party. These ratings are about the same as they were last October.

### Favorability ratings of the GOP improve

% who have a \_\_\_ view of the ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q50.

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

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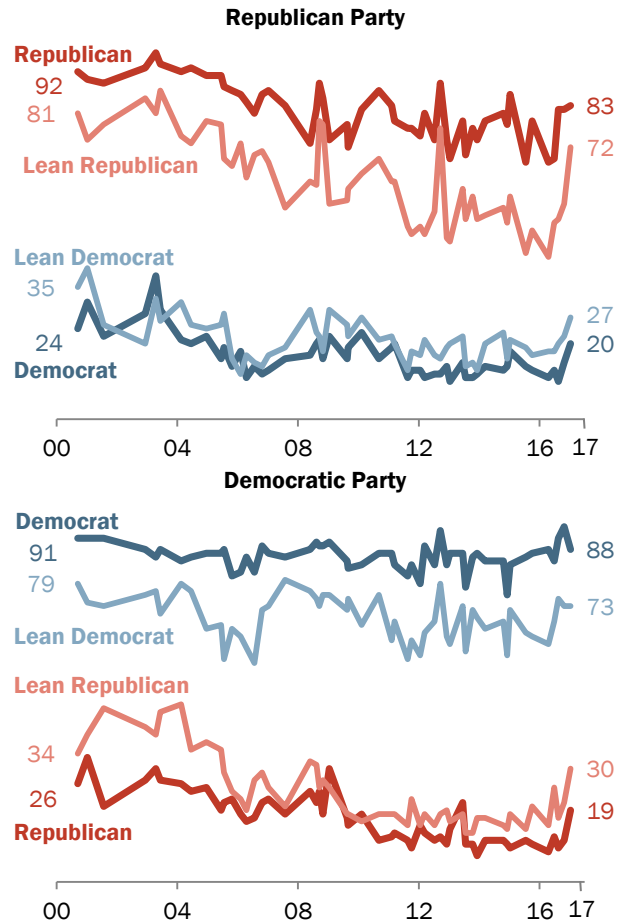
The improvement in the Republican Party’s favorability rating is most pronounced among independents who lean toward the GOP. In the wake of Trump’s victory, about seven-in-ten Republican leaners (72%) have a favorable opinion of the GOP, which is up 15 points since October and 29 points since April.

Republicans are about as favorable toward their party today (83%) as they were in October (82%), though ratings have improved 15 points since the spring. Democratic views of the GOP have also ticked more positive than in recent months, though just 20% of Democrats and 27% of Democratic leaners view the Republican Party favorably.

While overall ratings of the Democratic Party are unchanged since the fall, there have been shifts in views among subgroups over this period. Favorable views of the Democratic Party are down slightly among Democrats (88% today, from 94% in October), but they are unchanged among Democratic leaners. Both Republicans (up 8 points) and Republican leaners (up 9 points) are somewhat more likely to rate the Democratic Party favorably today than they were in October.

### Republican-leaning independents now more favorable toward GOP

% who have a favorable view of the ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q50.  
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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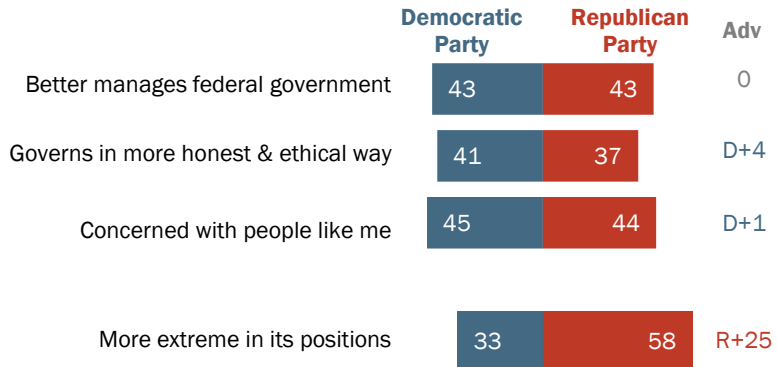
In addition to improved favorability ratings, the Republican Party has now drawn even with the Democratic Party when it comes to being seen as the party “more concerned with the needs of people like me.” Overall, 45% say this phrase better describes the Democratic Party, while about as many (44%) now say it better describes the Republican Party. In July 2015 – the last time the question was asked – far more said the Democratic Party (53%) than Republican Party (31%) was better described as “more concerned with the needs of people like me.” This is the first time the GOP has run even with the Democratic Party on this measure in surveys dating to 1988.

The public is also about evenly split on which party can better manage the federal government and which governs in the more honest and ethical way.

Overall, 41% say the Democratic Party is better described as governing in a more honest and ethical way, while roughly as many (37%) say this about the Republican Party. This is another measure on which the GOP has improved its standing. In July 2015, a greater share said the Democratic Party (45%) than Republican Party (29%) was more honest and ethical in their governing.

### **GOP seen as more extreme in positions, but parties run even on managing government, honesty and empathy**

*% saying the phrase \_\_\_\_ better describes ...*



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q60.

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

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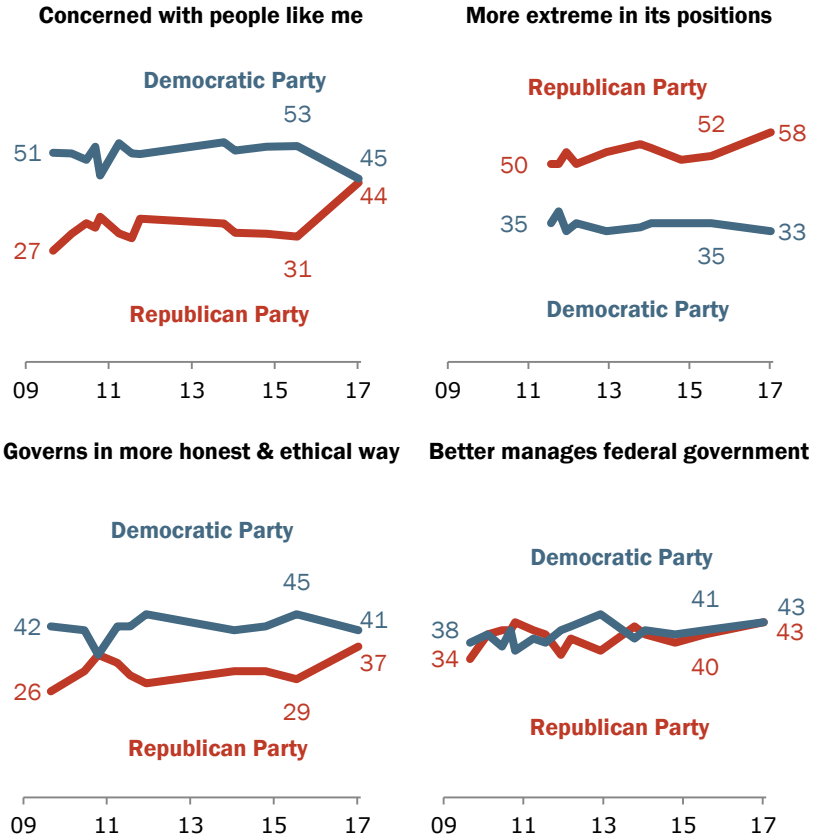


The public is equally likely to say the Republican (43%) as Democratic Party (43%) can better manage the federal government. Views on this question are little changed in recent years.

The GOP continues to fair worse than the Democratic Party when it comes to which is more extreme in its positions. Nearly six-in-ten (58%) say the Republican Party is more extreme in its positions; just a third the Democratic Party is more extreme. The public has consistently seen the Republican Party as more extreme in its views. The share who say this today is up six points from 2015 and is as high as it has been since the question was first asked in 2011.

**GOP improves image on empathy, but still seen as more extreme in positions than Democratic Party**

*% saying the phrase \_\_\_\_ better describes ...*



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q60.  
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

## Most do not expect greater cooperation in Washington

About six-in-ten Americans (61%) expect that Republicans and Democrats in Washington will bicker and oppose one another more than usual, while just 29% say they expect the parties to work together more.

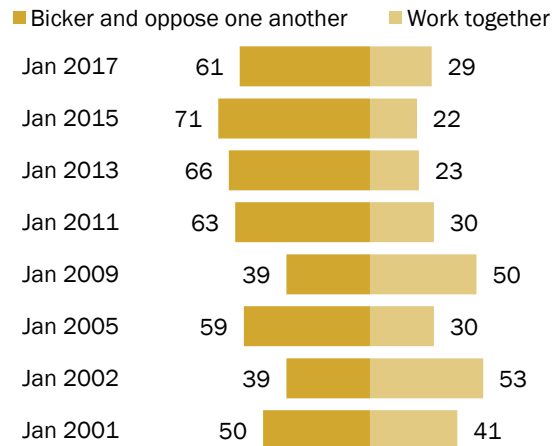
Majorities have expected the parties to bicker and oppose rather than work together in recent years, though public predictions for partisan cooperation were substantially higher on the eve of Barack Obama's inauguration eight years ago. In January 2009, 50% expected the two parties to work together more, while fewer (39%) expected greater hostility.

Though both Democrats and Republicans are more likely to say they expect greater opposition and disagreement than usual than to say they predict cooperation, there is a wide partisan gap in these views. Half of Republicans and Republican leaners (50%) say the parties will bicker and oppose one another more than in the past, while 40% say they will work together more. Among Democrats, fully 72% expect more bickering and opposition and just 21% expect greater cooperation.

In 2009, both the incoming president's party and the opposing party were more likely to predict growing cooperation than they are today, though the size of the partisan gap in views was nearly identical to today. A few days before Obama first took office, a 59% majority of Democrats expected greater cooperation, while just 31% expected more tension. At that time, 51% of Republicans expected more bickering while 36% anticipated greater cooperation.

### Most expect bickering and opposition between the two parties to increase

*Do you think Republicans and Democrats in Washington will \_\_\_ more than usual? (%)*



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. Q8.

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

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## Most view FBI, CIA, DOJ and other agencies favorably

The public continues to express favorable views of many federal agencies and departments. All 10 agencies and departments in the survey are viewed more favorably than unfavorably. But the U.S. Postal Service receives the highest marks: 86% view it favorably, while just 11% view it unfavorably.

The FBI, CIA, and Department of Justice remain popular with the public. About seven-in-ten (69%) say they have a favorable view of the FBI and roughly six-in-ten view the CIA (62%) and the Justice Department (61%) favorably. Views of the FBI are little changed over the last year, while views of the CIA and Justice Department have improved modestly during this time period.

And by more than two-to-one, more Americans say they have a favorable (63%) than unfavorable (27%) impression of the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA.

Ratings of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) are similar (64% favorable, 24% unfavorable).

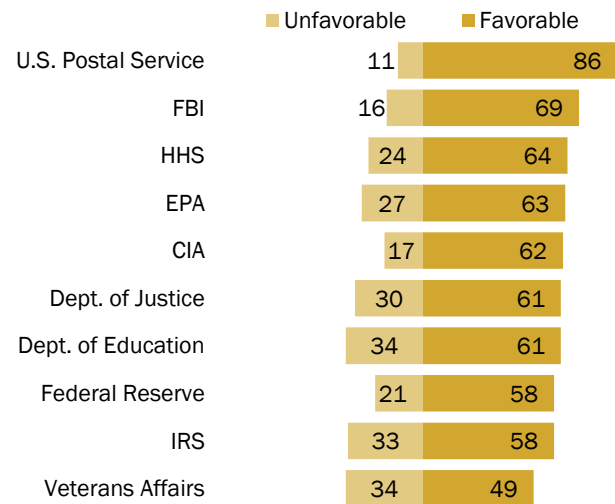
Ratings of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) are now more positive than negative – a 58% majority now see the IRS favorably, while just 33% view it unfavorably. As recently as the fall of 2015, more Americans viewed it negatively than positively (52% unfavorable, 42% favorable).

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) receives the lowest favorability rating for the departments and agencies in the survey – 49% view it favorably while 34% have an unfavorable opinion.

As in the past, Democrats and Democratic leaners have more favorable views of the federal agencies and departments in the survey than Republicans and Republican leaners.

### Federal agencies viewed favorably

% saying they have a \_\_\_ view of each ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown.  
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 5-8, 2017.

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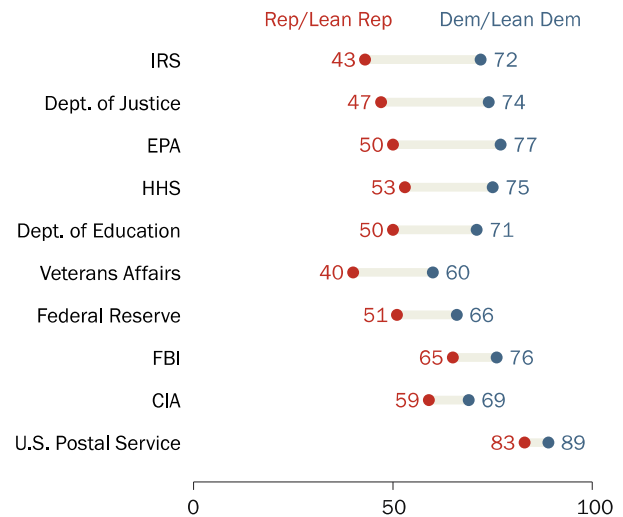
Roughly three-quarters or more Democrats have favorable impressions of the Department of Justice, the EPA and HHS. By contrast, only about half of Republicans view these agencies positively.

And while 72% of Democrats have a favorable view of the IRS, just 43% of Republicans say this. Similarly, though the VA is viewed positively by 60% of Democrats, only 40% of Republicans say the same.

Currently, 69% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents rate the CIA positively, compared with a narrower majority (59%) of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents. In the fall of 2015, there was no significant difference in the CIA's ratings by party (62% of Republicans and 59% of Democrats rated the agency favorably).

### Wide partisan gaps in views of IRS, EPA, HHS, Justice Department

*% who say they have a favorable view of each ...*



Source: Survey conducted Jan. 5-8, 2017.

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## At close of his administration, Obama's approval among his best in years

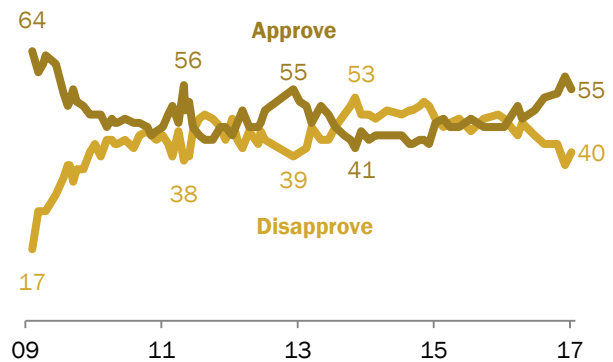
With just a few days remaining in Barack Obama's presidency, 55% say they approve of his handling of the job; 40% disapprove. His current rating is little different than in recent months, though he leaves office with approval ratings that are as high as they have been since shortly after his re-election in 2012.

As has been the case throughout much of his presidency, Obama's ratings are higher among younger Americans than older Americans (63% of those ages 18-49 approve of Obama's job performance, compared with 47% of those 50 and older).

There also continue to be wide differences in Obama's approval ratings by education (65% of those with at least a four-year college degree approve of his performance, compared with 51% of those with less education) and race (46% of whites, vs. 86% of blacks and 68% of Hispanics approve of Obama's handling of the job).

### Obama leaves office with a majority approving of his job performance

% who \_\_\_\_ of the way Obama is handling his job



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q1.  
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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(For more on trends in Obama's approval ratings over the course of his presidency see: [Obama Leaves Office on High Note, But Public Has Mixed Views of Accomplishments](#), December 12, 2016)

## Acknowledgements

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

### Research team

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## Methodology

### Survey conducted January 4-9, 2017

Most of 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*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
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.

Pew Research Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.



**Survey conducted January 5-8, 2017**

Additional analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 5-8, 2017 among a national sample of 1,003 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in the continental United States (503 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 500 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 317 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 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 5-8, 2017*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,003	3.8 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep	369	6.2 percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem	436	5.7 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 is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

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

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

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama 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 Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Jan 4-9, 2017	55	40	5	Feb 8-12, 2012	47	43	10
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	58	37	5	Jan 11-16, 2012	44	48	8
Oct 20-25, 2016	54	42	5	Dec 7-11, 2011	46	43	11
Aug 9-16, 2016	53	42	5	Nov 9-14, 2011	46	46	8
Jun 15-26, 2016	50	44	7	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	43	48	9
Apr 12-19, 2016	48	47	5	Aug 17-21, 2011	43	49	7
Mar 17-26, 2016	51	44	6	Jul 20-24, 2011	44	48	8
Jan 7-14, 2016	46	48	6	Jun 15-19, 2011	46	45	8
Dec 8-13, 2015	46	49	4	May 25-30, 2011	52	39	10
Sep 22-27, 2015	46	48	5	May 5-8, 2011	50	39	11
Jul 14-20, 2015	48	45	7	May 2, 2011 (WP)	56	38	6
May 12-18, 2015	46	48	6	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	47	45	8
Mar 25-29, 2015	46	47	7	Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	51	39	10
Feb 18-22, 2015	48	46	5	Feb 2-7, 2011	49	42	9
Jan 7-11, 2015	47	48	5	Jan 5-9, 2011	46	44	10
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	42	51	6	Dec 1-5, 2010	45	43	13
Nov 6-9, 2014	43	52	5	Nov 4-7, 2010	44	44	12
Oct 15-20, 2014	43	51	6	Oct 13-18, 2010	46	45	9
Sep 2-9, 2014	42	50	8	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	47	44	9
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	42	50	8	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Jul 8-14, 2014	44	49	6	Jun 8-28, 2010	48	41	11
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	44	50	7	Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
Feb 27-Mar 16, 2014	44	49	7	May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Feb 14-23, 2014	44	48	8	Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Jan 15-19, 2014 (U)	43	49	8	Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	45	49	6	Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	41	53	6	Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Oct 9-13, 2013	43	51	6	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	44	49	8	Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Jul 17-21, 2013	46	46	7	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Jun 12-16, 2013	49	43	7	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
May 1-5, 2013	51	43	6	Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Mar 13-17, 2013	47	46	8	Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	51	41	7	Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jan 9-13, 2013	52	40	7	Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	39	6	Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	50	43	7	Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Jun 7-17, 2012	47	45	8	Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	46	42	11	Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	45	9	Feb 4-8, 2009	64	17	19
Mar 7-11, 2012	50	41	9				

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

**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?

	Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 4-9, 2017	28	68	4	Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	30	65	5	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5
Oct 20-25, 2016	33	63	4	Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7
Aug 9-16, 2016	31	66	3	Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	71	5	Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4
Apr 12-19, 2016	26	70	3	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7
Mar 17-26, 2016	31	65	4	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7
Jan 7-14, 2016	25	70	5	Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7
Dec 8-13, 2015	25	72	3	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	27	67	5	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
Sep 22-27, 2015	27	69	4	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Jul 14-20, 2015	31	64	4	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
May 12-18, 2015	29	67	4	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Mar 25-29, 2015	31	64	5	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Feb 18-22, 2015	33	62	5	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Jan 7-11, 2015	31	66	4	December, 2008	13	83	4
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	26	71	3	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	68	4	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
Oct 15-20, 2014	29	65	6	August, 2008	21	74	5
Sep 2-9, 2014	25	71	4	July, 2008	19	74	7
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	72	4	June, 2008	19	76	5
Jul 8-14, 2014	29	68	4	Late May, 2008	18	76	6
Apr 23-27, 2014	29	65	6	March, 2008	22	72	6
Feb 12-26, 2014	28	66	6	Early February, 2008	24	70	6
Jan 15-19, 2014	26	69	5	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	21	75	3	October, 2007	28	66	6
Oct 9-13, 2013	14	81	5	February, 2007	30	61	9
Jul 17-21, 2013	27	67	6	Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7
May 1-5, 2013	30	65	5	Early January, 2007	30	63	7
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	31	64	5	December, 2006	28	65	7
Jan 9-13, 2013	30	66	4	Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8
Dec 17-19, 2012	25	68	7	Early October, 2006	30	63	7
Dec 5-9, 2012	33	62	5	July, 2006	30	65	5
Oct 18-21, 2012	32	61	8	May, 2006*	29	65	6
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	31	64	5	March, 2006	32	63	5
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	68	5	January, 2006	34	61	5
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6	July, 2005	35	58	7
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5	February, 2005	38	56	6
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	January, 2005	40	54	6
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	December, 2004	39	54	7
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	July, 2004	38	55	7
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	May, 2004	33	61	6
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	December, 2003	44	47	9
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	October, 2003	38	56	6
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	August, 2003	40	53	7
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7				
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5				
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9				
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7				
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5				

<sup>1</sup> 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?"

**Q.2 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref
April, 2003	50	41	9	February, 1998	59	37	4
January, 2003	44	50	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
November, 2002	41	48	11	September, 1997	45	49	6
September, 2002	41	55	4	August, 1997	49	46	5
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	January, 1997	38	58	4
May, 2002	44	44	12	July, 1996	29	67	4
March, 2002	50	40	10	March, 1996	28	70	2
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	October, 1995	23	73	4
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	June, 1995	25	73	2
June, 2001	43	52	5	April, 1995	23	74	3
March, 2001	47	45	8	July, 1994	24	73	3
February, 2001	46	43	11	March, 1994	24	71	5
January, 2001	55	41	4	October, 1993	22	73	5
October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7	September, 1993	20	75	5
September, 2000	51	41	8	May, 1993	22	71	7
June, 2000	47	45	8	January, 1993	39	50	11
April, 2000	48	43	9	January, 1992	28	68	4
August, 1999	56	39	5	November, 1991	34	61	5
January, 1999	53	41	6	Gallup: Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
November, 1998	46	44	10	August, 1990	47	48	5
Early September, 1998	54	42	4	May, 1990	41	54	5
Late August, 1998	55	41	4	January, 1989	45	50	5
Early August, 1998	50	44	6	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

**NO QUESTIONS 3-4****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:**

Q.5F1 Looking ahead, as far as you are concerned, do you think that 2017 will be better or worse than 2016?

	Better	Worse	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 4-9, 2017	49	42	9
Jan 7-14, 2016	56	30	14
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	49	42	9
Jan 15-19, 2014	56	35	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	36	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	57	29	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	55	31	14
Jan 6-10, 2010	67	26	8
Jan 7-11, 2009	52	37	11
December, 2007	50	34	16
December, 2006	57	28	15
December, 1999	66	19	15
December, 1998	59	25	16
December, 1994	59	28	13
Gallup: December, 1993	64	20	16
Gallup: December, 1992	61	11	28
Gallup: December, 1991	61	31	8
Gallup: December, 1990	48	42	10
Gallup: December, 1986	53	25	22
Gallup: December, 1985	64	20	17
Gallup: December, 1984	61	20	19
Gallup: December, 1982	50	32	18
Gallup: December, 1981	41	44	15

**ASK IF 'BETTER' OR 'WORSE' in Q.5F1 (Q5F1=1,2):**

Q.6F1 Why do you think 2017 will be [INSERT ANSWER FROM Q. 5F1]? [OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW". ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES]

**BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID 2017 WILL BE BETTER [N=364]:**

Jan 4-9

2017

56	Donald Trump/New administration/Not Obama
15	General optimism
11	Optimism about the economy
6	"Things can't get any worse"
4	Personal reasons
3	Country moving in a conservative direction
2	Optimism about health care reform
1	Know what the problems are/Try harder
1	Optimism about immigration policy
5	Other
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID 2017 WILL BE WORSE [N=313]:**

Jan 4-9

2017

72	Donald Trump/New administration
6	General political divisions in the country
6	Pessimism about the Republican Party/Congress
5	General pessimism
5	Pessimism about racism/race relations
3	Pessimism about the economy
2	Worried about war/global conflicts
1	Pessimism about health care/Repeal of Affordable Care Act
1	Worried about crime/violence
1	Pessimism about terrorism
6	Other
3	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**Q.6F1 TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...**

**IF 'BETTER' OR 'WORSE' in Q.3F1 (Q3F1=1,2), ASK:**

*Why do you think 2009 will be [INSERT ANSWER FROM Q. 3F1] than 2008? (OPEN-END. PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS "DON'T KNOW." ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES)*

**BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID 2009 WILL BE BETTER [N=392]:**

Jan 7-11		
<u>2009</u> <sup>2</sup>		
56	Political change/New administration	
14	Optimism about the economy	
12	"Things can't get any worse"	
7	General optimism	
5	Learned from past mistakes	
2	Personal reasons	
1	Optimism about Iraq/Afghanistan	
5	Other	
4	Don't know	

**BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID 2009 WILL BE WORSE [N=290]:**

Jan 7-11		
<u>2009</u>		
59	Pessimism about the economy	
18	General pessimism	
17	Political change/New administration	
5	General distrust of government/politicians	
4	Pessimism about Iraq/Afghanistan	
3	Too many problems left from Bush administration	
1	Decline of morals/spirituality	
7	Other	
1	Don't know	

<sup>2</sup> The context for this question was significantly different in 2009 than in 2016. In 2009, it did not follow presidential approval.

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:**

Q.7F2 What do you think is the most important problem facing the country today **[RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE. PROBE FOR CLARITY – DO NOT PROBE FOR ADDITIONAL MENTIONS. IF MORE THAN ONE MENTION, RECORD IN ORDER OF MENTION]**?

Jan 4-9 2017	(U)											
	Dec 15	Dec 14 <sup>3</sup>	Jan 14	Dec 12	Oct 12	Mar 12	Dec 11	May 11	Jan 11	Aug 10	Feb 10	Aug 09
	Health care/costs/accessibility											
11	3	6	11	4	5	5	4	6	9	4	13	20
10	9	14	16	18	25	24	19	28	27	35	24	27
10	7	10	20	12	25	31	21	26	35	27	31	19
10	3	7	2	1	1	1	1	--	--	1	--	--
9	2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
7	7	12	3	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	1
6	2	1	3	3	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
6	5	8	4	5	3	3	4	--	--	--	--	--
5	8	2	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	--	1	1
4	18	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Dissatisfaction with govt/politics/											
4	6	10	8	8	9	4	10	4	9	9	5	5
4	2	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	2	1	--	--
3	1	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	Deficit/National debt/Balanced											
3	3	3	7	10	8	8	9	10	11	3	11	6
3	3	1	4	2	3	1	3	2	3	1	1	2
2	4	6	2	7	1	1	1	1	1	--	1	1
2	2	4	1	5	3	1	2	1	2	4	3	3
2	1	1	1	1	--	1	1	1	1	--	2	1
2	--	1	1	3	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	--
1	3	2	3	1	1	1	2	--	1	--	--	--
1	2	1	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	1	--	2	1	1	1	--	--	--	1	--	--
1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	2	2	4	1	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	1
1	--	2	1	--	1	--	--	--	--	1	--	--
1	4	--	1	8	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
1	7	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	3	3	4	5
13	Other											
*	2	1	4	5	6	8	6	7	5	7	6	5
<b>29</b>	<b>(NET) ECONOMIC</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>65</b>
	<b>(NET) FOREIGN ISSUES/</b>											
<b>15</b>	<b>INTERNATIONAL</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

<sup>3</sup> Complete trend not shown; trends available to 1987.

<sup>4</sup> In December 2014 and earlier, "ISIS/War in Iraq/War in Syria" was shown as "War/War in Iraq/War in Afghanistan."



**ASK ALL:**

Q.8 This coming year, do you think Republicans and Democrats in Washington will work together more to solve problems OR do you think they will bicker and oppose one another more than usual?

	Work <u>together more</u>	Bicker and oppose one another <u>more than usual</u>	(VOL.) <u>Same as in past</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 4-9, 2017	29	61	5	5
Jan 7-11, 2015	22	71	5	2
Jan 9-13, 2013	23	66	4	7
Jan 5-9, 2011	30	63	3	5
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010 <sup>5</sup>	8	77	4	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	25	53	8	14
Jan 7-11, 2009	50	39	6	5
May, 2005	13	64	8	15
January, 2005	30	59	4	7
June, 2004	21	60	7	12
October, 2003	21	55	10	14
May, 2002	44	31	8	17
January, 2002	53	39	5	3
July, 2001	30	46	10	14
May, 2001	34	41	9	16
January, 2001	41	50	4	5
July, 2000	21	54	10	15
August, 1999	20	68	4	8
August, 1998	27	51	8	14
November, 1997	38	45	7	10
August, 1997	43	46	3	8
June, 1997	34	49	6	11
October, 1995	21	72	3	4
August, 1993	20	57	13	10

**NO QUESTIONS 9-14, 17-18****QUESTIONS 15-16 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Q.19 Right now, which is more important for President-elect Trump to focus on... domestic policy or foreign policy?

	Domestic <u>policy</u>	Foreign <u>policy</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>Both</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 4-9, 2017	65	19	1	11	4
<b>Next President</b>					
Apr 12-19, 2016 <sup>6</sup>	70	17	1	11	1
<b>Obama</b>					
May 12-18, 2015	66	19	1	10	4
Jan 7-11, 2015	67	20	2	8	3
Apr 23-27, 2014 <sup>7</sup> (U)	72	13	1	9	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	78	9	1	8	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	82	8	1	6	3
Jan 9-13, 2013	83	6	1	7	4
Jan 11-16, 2012	81	9	1	5	4

<sup>5</sup> In surveys that were not conducted in January of a given year the question was worded: "This year, have Republicans and Democrats in Washington been working together more to solve problems OR have they been bickering and opposing one another more than usual?"

<sup>6</sup> April 12-19, 2016 survey asked about priorities for the "next president."

<sup>7</sup> The April 23-27, 2014 survey randomized response options by form.

**Q.19 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Domestic policy</u>	<u>Foreign policy</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
May 25-30, 2011	77	9	1	9	5
Jan 5-9, 2011	78	11	1	7	3
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	73	12	1	10	3
January 7-11, 2009 <sup>8</sup>	71	11	*	14	4
<b>Next President</b>					
September, 2008 <sup>9</sup>	60	21	*	15	4
May, 2008	61	22	*	15	4
<b>G.W. Bush</b>					
January, 2008	56	31	1	8	4
January, 2007	39	40	1	15	5
August, 2006	50	32	1	12	5
January, 2006	57	25	1	13	4
October, 2005	64	20	1	12	3
Early January, 2005	53	27	1	16	3
January, 2002	52	34	*	11	3
<b>Clinton</b>					
Early September, 1998	56	30	0	11	3
January, 1997	86	7	*	5	2
December, 1994	85	7	2	4	2
October, 1993	76	13	*	7	4

**NO QUESTIONS 20-21, 23****QUESTION 22 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Q.24 In the long run, do you think Donald Trump will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?

	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Too early to tell</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 4-9, 2017	21	20	58	1
<b>Obama</b>				
Jan 7-14, 2016	37	34	26	3
Jan 7-11, 2015	32	38	29	2
Jan 15-19, 2014	28	34	35	3
Jun 12-16, 2013	34	31	33	2
Jan 9-13, 2013	33	26	39	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	27	32	39	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	25	26	47	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	24	21	52	3
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	27	18	54	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	30	4	65	1
<b>Bush</b>				
January, 2007	24	45	27	4
January, 2006	27	37	32	4
Early October, 2005	26	41	30	3
January, 2005	36	27	35	2
December, 2003	39	20	38	3
Early October, 2002	40	15	44	1
January, 2001	26	15	58	1
<b>Clinton</b>				
January, 1999	44	24	29	3

<sup>8</sup> January 7-11, 2009 survey asked about "President-elect Obama."

<sup>9</sup> September and May 2008 surveys asked about priorities for the "next president."

**Q.24 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Too early to tell</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early September, 1998	38	24	35	3
February, 1995	18	34	43	5
October, 1994	14	35	48	3
May, 1994	21	26	52	1
January, 1994	21	19	57	3
October, 1993	18	25	56	1
September, 1993	22	22	54	2
August, 1993	13	25	60	2

**NO QUESTIONS 25, 32-39, 41-43****QUESTIONS 26-31 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTION 40 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

Q.44 Do you think the overall level of ethics and honesty in the federal government will rise, fall or stay the same with Trump as president?

		-----ABC News/WaPo-----	
		<b>Clinton</b>	<b>Clinton</b>
		January	January
		<u>1997</u>	<u>1993</u>
Jan 4-9			
<u>2017</u>			
29	Rise	16	35
34	Fall	26	13
33	Stay the same	55	50
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	3

**NO QUESTIONS 45-49**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.50 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								
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
December, 2004	52	15	37	42	17	25	0	6

## Q.50 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	Ref
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								
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
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	49	25	24	*	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	9	39	44	17	27	*	8

## Q.50 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	Ref
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

## QUESTIONS 50c, 50f, 51a-d PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

## QUESTIONS 50d-e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

## ASK ALL:

Q.52 What's your view... Do you think the country is more politically divided these days than in the past, or not?

	Yes, more <u>politically divided</u>	No, not more <u>divided</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 4-9, 2017	86	12	2
Sep 16-Oct 4, 2015	79	17	3
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	81	15	3

**Q.52 CONTINUED...**

	Yes, more <u>politically divided</u>	No, not more <u>divided</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Dec 5-9, 2012	80	17	3
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	64	30	6
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	34	5
Jan 7-11, 2009	46	45	9
Jan, 2007	66	28	6
Sep, 2006	70	24	6
Dec, 2004	66	26	8

**ASK ALL:**

Q.53 And thinking about five years from now, do you think the country will be **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS 1 AND 2 WITH ITEM 3 ALWAYS LAST]**?

Jan 4-9 <u>2017</u>		Sep 16 Oct 4 <u>2015</u>	(U) Dec 3-7 <u>2014</u>
31	More politically divided	36	36
24	Less politically divided	15	17
40	About as politically divided as it is now	42	41
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	5

**NO QUESTIONS 54-57, 59****QUESTION 58 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the political parties ...

Q.60 Please tell me if you think each phrase I read better describes the REPUBLICAN Party and its leaders or the DEMOCRATIC Party and its leaders. (First,) which party do you think is better described by the phrase... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** Which party **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:</b>						
a.F1	Is more extreme in its positions					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	58	33	4	1	4
	Jul 14-20, 2015	52	35	5	2	5
	Oct 15-20, 2014	51	35	5	2	7
	Jan 15-19, 2014	54	35	5	2	5
	Oct 9-13, 2013	55	34	5	1	5
	Dec 5-9, 2012	53	33	4	1	9
	Mar 7-11, 2012	50	35	5	1	9
	Dec 7-11, 2011	53	33	4	1	9
	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	50	38	3	1	7
	Jul 20-24, 2011	50	35	4	2	9
b.F1	Can better manage the federal government					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	43	43	3	7	5
	Jul 14-20, 2015	40	41	3	12	5
	Oct 15-20, 2014	38	40	2	12	8
	Jan 15-19, 2014	40	41	2	11	6
	Oct 9-13, 2013	42	39	3	10	6
	Dec 5-9, 2012	36	45	2	10	7
	Mar 7-11, 2012	39	42	1	9	9
	Dec 7-11, 2011	35	41	3	13	9

## Q.60 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	38	2	14	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	41	39	2	8	9
Oct 13-18, 2010	43	36	2	11	8
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	41	41	3	8	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	41	37	3	12	7
Feb 3-9, 2010	40	40	4	9	8
Aug 27-30, 2009	34	38	4	14	10
October, 2007	32	44	5	9	10
March, 2007	31	47	3	8	11
Early October, 2006	34	44	3	9	10
April, 2006 <sup>10</sup>	35	39	3	15	8
January, 2006	34	40	4	12	10
Early October, 2005	35	41	3	13	8
July, 2004	37	40	4	9	10
Early September, 1998	37	32	8	12	11
August, 1997	39	33	4	16	8
July, 1996	45	32	4	12	7
April, 1995	49	30	3	13	5
July, 1994	43	31	4	17	5
May, 1993	36	32	2	17	13
July, 1992	30	36	1	23	10
May, 1990	28	20	12	31	9
May, 1988	33	30	10	17	10
January, 1988	30	28	12	20	10
May, 1987	24	25	13	28	10

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:

c.F2 Is more concerned with the needs  
of people like me

Jan 4-9, 2017	44	45	1	7	3
Jul 14-20, 2015	31	53	2	10	4
Oct 15-20, 2014	31	53	2	9	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	32	52	3	9	5
Oct 9-13, 2013	34	54	1	7	4
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	35	51	1	6	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	51	2	11	6
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	32	54	2	5	8
Oct 13-18, 2010	36	46	2	8	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	33	53	2	7	5
Jun 16-20, 2010	34	50	2	9	5
Feb 3-9, 2010	31	51	3	8	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	27	51	4	10	7
October, 2007	25	54	4	8	9
March, 2007	26	55	2	7	10
Early October, 2006	27	55	3	8	7
April, 2006 <sup>11</sup>	28	52	3	10	7
Early October, 2005	30	52	5	7	6
July, 2004	30	50	5	8	7
Early September, 1998	31	46	5	9	9
March, 1998	30	51	4	8	7
August, 1997	31	49	3	10	7
July, 1996	35	50	2	7	6

<sup>10</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Able to manage the federal government well."<sup>11</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Is concerned with the needs of people like me."



**Q.60 CONTINUED...**

	Republican	Democratic	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>			
April, 1995	39	49	2	7	3
July, 1994	35	49	4	8	4
May, 1990	21	42	12	18	7
May, 1988	23	51	8	11	7
January, 1988	22	47	11	13	7
d.F2	Governs in a more honest and ethical way				
Jan 4-9, 2017	37	41	2	17	3
Jul 14-20, 2015	29	45	3	19	5
Oct 15-20, 2014	31	42	3	16	8
Jan 15-19, 2014	31	41	3	19	7
Dec 7-11, 2011	28	45	2	16	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	42	2	20	7
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	33	42	3	14	8
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	35	4	16	9
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	41	4	18	6
August 27-30, 2009	26	42	4	20	9
October, 2007	26	40	6	19	9
March, 2007	25	43	4	18	10
Early October, 2006	27	41	4	18	10
April, 2006 <sup>12</sup>	28	36	4	23	9
January, 2006	30	37	4	19	10
Early October, 2005	30	40	6	18	6
July, 2004	34	37	5	15	9
Early September, 1998	31	28	6	23	12
March, 1998	28	32	7	24	9
August, 1997	28	33	5	26	8
July, 1996	38	37	2	18	5
April, 1995	35	36	4	19	6
July, 1994	32	35	6	21	6

**QUESTIONS 61, 63-66, 70-73 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTION 67 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 62, 68-69**

<sup>12</sup> In April 2006 and earlier, the item was worded: "Governs in an honest and ethical way."

**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?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>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
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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	--	--	--	--	--

**Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:**

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

(WP) Pew Research Center/Washington Post polls

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER**  
**January 5-8, 2017 OMNIBUS**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**N=1,003**

**ASK ALL:**

PEW.1 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 Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI								
Jan 5-8, 2017	69	22	47	16	6	10	*	15
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	71	18	52	21	8	12	*	8
Sep 22-27, 2015	68	18	49	19	8	11	1	13
Mar 18-21, 2010	67	16	51	14	8	7	*	19
July, 2001	61	16	45	29	9	20	*	10
June, 1999	71	17	54	20	7	13	*	9
October, 1997	67	13	54	25	8	17	*	8
May, 1997	60	12	48	28	7	21	0	12
August, 1995	64	16	48	28	9	19	*	8
ABC/Wash. Post, May 1995 <sup>13</sup>	82	34	48	9	6	3	*	9
Roper, August 1987 <sup>14</sup>	78	28	50	17	3	14	--	5
Roper, August 1986	75	25	50	17	4	13	--	8
Roper, August 1985	72	24	48	20	5	15	--	8
Roper, August 1984	77	30	47	19	5	14	--	4
Roper, August 1983	75	29	46	19	5	14	--	6
b. The Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA								
Jan 5-8, 2017	62	17	45	17	7	11	1	20
Sep 22-27, 2015	57	12	45	27	9	18	1	15
Jan 7-11, 2015	54	14	41	33	13	20	1	12
Mar 18-21, 2010	52	11	42	21	8	13	2	25
June, 1999	49	9	40	33	10	23	1	17
February, 1998	51	7	44	32	7	25	1	16
Roper, August 1987	52	12	40	38	9	29	--	10
Roper, August 1986	61	14	47	26	6	20	--	13
Roper, August 1985	53	15	38	33	11	22	--	15
Roper, August 1984	58	17	41	30	8	22	--	11
c. The Justice Department								
Jan 5-8, 2017	61	17	44	30	11	19	*	9
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	56	14	42	37	16	20	*	7
Sep 22-27, 2015	46	10	37	47	18	29	*	6
Oct 9-13, 2013	61	9	52	33	14	19	1	5
Mar 18-21, 2010	51	6	44	33	11	23	1	15

<sup>13</sup> Question was worded: "Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of...the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)...Is that a very favorable/unfavorable impression, or just somewhat favorable/unfavorable?"

<sup>14</sup> Question wording for all favorability trends from the ends from the Roper Organization was: "Let me ask you about a few specific federal agencies [ITEM]—Is your opinion of them highly favorable, or moderately favorable, or not too favorable, or rather unfavorable?" In these surveys, those who could not rate were not distinguished from those who had never heard of the agency; both were entered as "don't know" and are shown here as "can't rate".

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
February, 1998	56	7	49	39	12	27	0	5
Roper, April 1987	53	10	43	39	15	24	--	8
Roper, April 1986	52	10	42	39	15	24	--	8
Roper, April 1985	53	10	43	39	17	22	--	9
d. The Federal Reserve								
Jan 5-8, 2017	58	15	43	21	9	13	2	18
Feb 12-Feb 26, 2014	47	10	37	37	14	23	2	14
Oct 9-13, 2013	57	12	45	32	12	20	1	10
e. The Internal Revenue Service, the IRS								
Jan 5-8, 2017	58	13	45	33	16	17	*	8
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	50	11	39	45	21	24	*	5
Sep 22-27, 2015	42	9	32	52	24	28	*	6
Jan 7-11, 2015	45	10	35	48	24	25	*	6
Oct 9-13, 2013	44	9	35	51	23	28	*	5
Mar 18-21, 2010	47	6	41	40	17	23	*	13
October, 1997	38	5	33	60	25	35	*	2
Roper, August 1987	49	10	39	46	19	27	--	5
Roper, August 1986	51	10	41	45	19	26	--	4
Roper, August 1985	48	8	40	47	19	28	--	5
Roper, August 1984	60	13	47	34	11	23	--	6
Roper, August 1983	50	12	38	44	16	28	--	6
f. The Department of Health and Human Services, the HHS								
Jan 5-8, 2017	64	21	44	24	8	15	1	11
Sep 22-27, 2015	54	13	41	31	14	17	3	12
Oct 9-13, 2013	61	14	47	30	12	19	2	7
g. The Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA								
Jan 5-8, 2017	63	22	41	27	12	14	1	8
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	62	17	44	30	13	18	2	6
Sep 22-27, 2015	52	13	39	38	18	20	2	8
Jan 7-11, 2015	59	18	40	32	15	18	1	8
Feb 12-Feb 26, 2014	57	14	43	33	14	19	2	8
Oct 9-13, 2013	62	15	47	30	12	19	2	6
Mar 18-21, 2010	57	11	46	32	12	20	1	10
October, 1997	69	14	55	27	7	20	1	3
Roper, August 1987	62	19	43	30	7	23	--	8
Roper, August 1986	59	18	41	31	7	24	--	10
Roper, August 1985	58	19	39	31	11	20	--	11
Roper, August 1984	68	27	41	26	9	17	--	6
Roper, August 1983	56	21	35	34	12	22	--	10
h. The Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA								
Jan 5-8, 2017	49	14	36	34	13	21	2	15
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	48	14	34	43	18	25	1	8
Sep 22-27, 2015	39	14	25	52	24	28	1	8

## PEW.1 CONTINUED...

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			(VOL.) Never	(VOL.) Can't rate/
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	Ref
Jan 7-11, 2015 <sup>15</sup>	52	21	31	38	15	24	1	9
Oct 9-13, 2013	68	24	44	25	7	18	*	7
Mar 18-21, 2010	57	19	38	22	5	17	2	20
February, 1998	59	15	44	26	7	19	1	14
Roper, August 1986	75	30	45	15	4	11	--	9
Roper, August 1985	68	26	42	22	6	16	--	10
Roper, August 1984	77	37	40	15	4	11	--	9
i. The Postal Service								
Jan 5-8, 2017	86	39	47	11	4	7	*	3
Sep 22-27, 2015	84	33	51	14	6	8	*	2
Mar 18-21, 2010	83	30	53	14	6	8	1	3
October, 1997	89	28	61	11	3	8	0	*
Roper, April 1987	76	33	43	22	8	14	--	2
Roper, April 1986	74	27	47	24	8	16	--	2
Roper, April 1985	70	23	47	27	11	16	--	3
Roper, April 1984	69	24	45	28	10	18	--	3
Roper, April 1983	70	25	45	27	10	17	--	3
j. The Department of Education								
Jan 5-8, 2017	61	20	42	34	14	20	*	5
Sep 22-27, 2015	44	11	33	50	20	30	*	5
Oct 9-13, 2013	53	16	37	42	16	27	*	4
Mar 18-21, 2010	40	8	32	53	22	31	6	8
October, 1997	61	12	49	37	11	26	0	2
Roper, April 1987	60	14	46	35	11	24	--	5
Roper, April 1986	63	16	47	32	10	22	--	5
Roper, April 1985	61	14	47	34	11	23	--	5
Roper, April 1984	56	14	42	38	13	25	--	6
Roper, April 1983	49	10	39	45	18	27	--	6

**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?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
				No preference	Other party			
Jan 5-8, 2017	22	29	36	6	1	7	13	15

<sup>15</sup>

In January, 2015 and previous surveys, item was worded "The Veterans Administration, the VA."