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Declining Confidence in Trump, Lower Job Ratings for Congressional Leaders

Deficit concerns plummet among members of both parties

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Declining Confidence in Trump, Lower Job Ratings for Congressional Leaders

Deficit concerns plummet among members of both parties

Growing numbers of Americans express little or no confidence in Donald Trump to handle an international crisis, manage the executive branch effectively and work effectively with Congress. And today, just 34% approve of Trump’s overall job performance, while 59% disapprove.

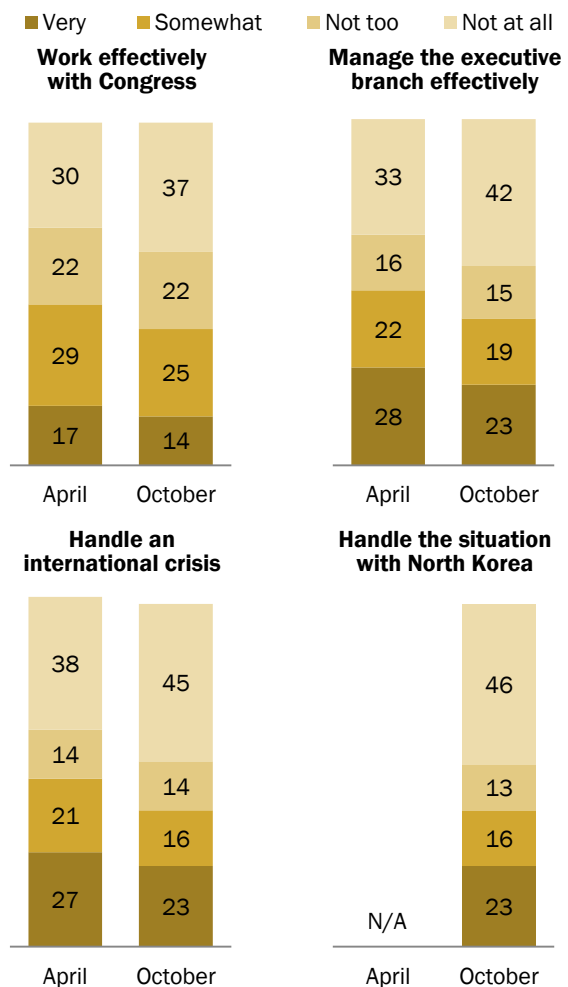
However, Trump’s job approval rating is higher than those of Republican and Democratic congressional leaders. Just 22% approve of the way Republican congressional leaders are doing their jobs, down 12 percentage points since February. Job ratings for Democratic leaders are not quite as negative (29% approve), though also are lower than in February (37%).

The new national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Oct. 25-30 among 1,504 adults, finds that Trump’s job rating is lower than it was in June and February (39% on each occasion). Most Americans continue to have strong feelings about the president, with about twice as many strongly disapproving of his job performance as strongly approving (51% to 25%).

Trump engenders less confidence in handling various aspects of his job than he did in April. As he prepares for his first presidential visit to Asia, 39% say they are very or somewhat confident in his ability to handle an international crisis, down from 48% six months ago. Six-in-ten say they are not too

Public less confident in Trump’s handling of matters at home and abroad

% who say they are _____ confident that Trump can ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q19.
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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confident (14%) or not at all confident (45%) in Trump to handle an international crisis. The share expressing no confidence in Trump to handle an overseas crisis has increased seven percentage points (from 38%) since April.

A similar pattern is seen in public confidence in Trump to manage the executive branch effectively and to work well with Congress. And just 39% say they are at least somewhat confident in Trump's ability to handle the situation with North Korea; 13% not too confident and 46% are not at all confident in Trump in dealing with North Korea.

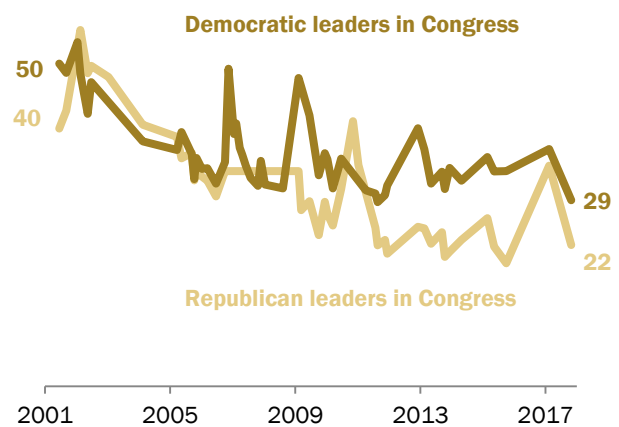
Since earlier this year, approval ratings for the congressional leaders of both parties have fallen – largely because fewer Republicans and Democrats are expressing positive views of their *own* parties' leaders.

In February, 34% of Americans, including 68% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, said they approved of the way GOP leaders in Congress were handling their jobs. Today, Republican leaders' overall job approval has declined to 22%, with just 39% of Republicans approving of their job performance.

Since February, job ratings for Democratic congressional leaders have fallen eight percentage points overall (from 37% to 29%); just 44% of Democrats and Democratic leaners approve of their party's congressional leaders, down from 58% eight months ago.

Declining job ratings for both parties' congressional leaders

% who approve of the job _____ are doing



Note: Q10.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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As Congress begins debate over taxes, the public expresses more confidence in Democratic congressional leaders than Republican leaders or President Trump to make wise decisions about tax policy.

Overall, 50% say they are very or somewhat confident in Democratic leaders to make wise decisions about tax policy; 42% are very or somewhat confident in GOP leaders and 40% have the same level of confidence in Trump.

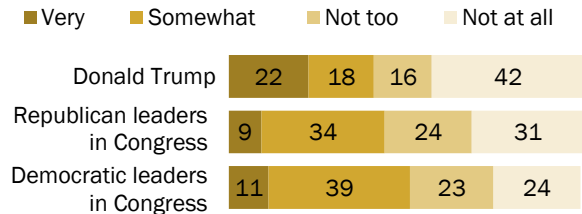
As with his overall job rating, Trump engenders strong feelings on taxes: 42% are “not at all confident” that he can make wise decisions on taxes, which is much higher than the shares expressing no confidence in Republican leaders (31%) or Democratic leaders (24%). On the other hand, far more say they are “very confident” in Trump (22%) than say that about GOP leaders (9%) or Democratic leaders (11%).

With the GOP’s tax proposal still taking shape, the public is divided on whether lowering taxes for corporations and large businesses would help (36%) or hurt (also 36%) the economy, with 25% saying it would not make a difference. However, far more Americans say lowering taxes for corporations would make the tax system less fair (44%) than make it more fair (25%); 27% say this would not make a difference.

The new survey finds that public concerns about the nation’s budget deficit are lower today than during Barack Obama’s presidency. About half of Americans (54%) view the deficit as a “very serious” problem for the country, while 35% regard it as a “somewhat serious” problem. Very few, just 10%, think it is not much of a problem.

Confidence in Trump, Republicans and Democrats on tax policy

% who say they are ___ confident that each can make wise decisions about tax policy



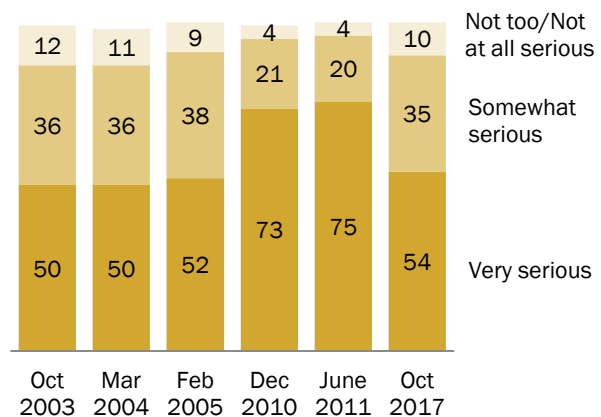
Note: Don’t know responses now shown. Q48.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Fewer view the budget deficit as a ‘very serious problem’ than in 2010, 2011

% who say the budget deficit is a ...



Notes: Previous years’ data from CBS.

Don’t know responses not shown. Q58.

Source: Pew Research Center survey conducted Oct 25-30, 2017.

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In 2010 and 2011, close to 70% or more viewed the deficit as a very serious problem. In both parties, fewer say the deficit is a major problem than did so then. About half of Democrats (46%) now view the deficit as a very serious problem, down from 64% in late 2010. Over the same period, there has been a 25-percentage point decline in the share of Republicans saying the deficit is a very serious problem for the country (85% then, 60% now).

The Democratic Party now holds a slight edge over the GOP on taxes and advantages on several other issues. Currently, 43% say the Democrats can better deal with taxes, while 36% prefer the Republican Party. [In April](#), the two parties ran about even on taxes.

The survey, which was completed before the Oct. 31 terrorist attack in New York City, finds that the public is divided over which party can do a better job of dealing with the terrorist threat in the U.S. (38% say the Democratic Party, while 37% say the Republican Party); another 12% volunteer that neither party could do better, while 9% say both could do about equally well.

In recent years, the Republican Party has held a sizable lead on handling terrorism. In April, 48% preferred the Republicans, while 36% said the Democrats could do better.

The two parties also run about even on several other major issues, including the budget deficit, the economy, trade and gun policy. As in the past, Democrats hold substantial advantages on the environment, health care and abortion.

Democrats lead on several issues; public is divided on which party can better handle economy, deficit

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

	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Both/Neither	
Terrorist threat	38	37	21	D+1
Budget deficit	39	37	18	D+2
Economy	41	38	18	D+3
Trade	42	38	12	D+4
Gun policy	44	39	9	D+5
Immigration	44	38	13	D+6
Taxes	43	36	16	D+7
Foreign policy	44	34	16	D+10
Drug addiction	40	30	22	D+10
Abortion & contraception	47	33	13	D+14
Health care	50	32	15	D+18
Environment	52	29	15	D+23

Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q42. Significant differences at the 95% confidence interval in **bold**.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Other important findings

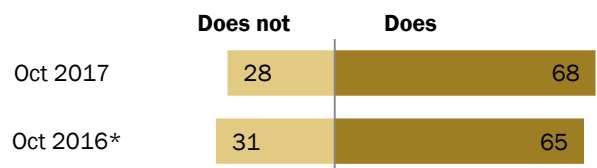
Most Republicans say Trump represents core GOP principles. Currently, 68% of Republicans and Republican leaners say Trump represents “the core principles and positions the Republican Party should stand for.” There has been very little change in these views over the past year. Last October, shortly before the election, 65% of Republican voters said Trump represented core Republican principles.

Democrats more likely than Republicans to say their party is united. A majority of Democrats and Democratic leaners (56%) say their party is “mostly united,” which is little changed from April. By contrast, just 35% of Republicans and Republican leaners say the same about their party; six months ago, 42% of Republicans said their party was mostly united.

Few expect progress on reducing deficit. The public is pessimistic that progress will be achieved in reducing the deficit. Currently, just 30% expect the nation to make “significant progress” in reducing the federal budget deficit over the next five years. In December 2012, somewhat more (44%) thought progress would be made in lowering the budget deficit.

About two-thirds of Republicans say Trump represents core GOP principles

% of Republicans and Republican leaners who say Trump ___ represent the core principles and positions the Republican Party should stand for



Note: Based on Republican and Republican leaners. 2016 data based on registered voters. Don't know responses not shown. Q102. Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Views of Donald Trump

Overall, 34% say they approve of the way Trump is handling his job as president; a 59% majority disapprove of his job performance.

Across most demographic groups, more say they disapprove than approve of Trump. Still, there are differences in these assessments by age, race and education.

Overwhelming majorities of black (87%) and Hispanic (72%) Americans say they disapprove of Trump's job performance. Among whites, 51% disapprove, while 43% approve.

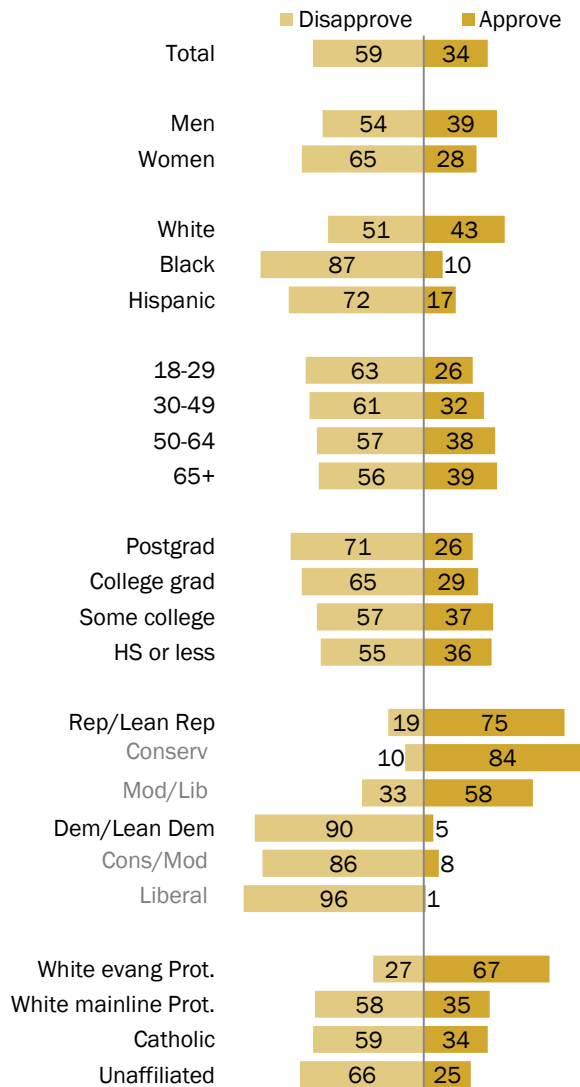
Majorities across all age categories disapprove of the way Trump is handling his job as president. Adults who are 50 and older (38%) are more likely to approve of Trump than those under 50 (30%).

By more than two-to-one, those with postgraduate degrees (71% vs. 26%) and four-year college degrees (65% vs. 29%) are more likely to disapprove than approve of Trump. Smaller majorities of those with some college education (57%) or no more than a high school degree (55%) disapprove as well.

White evangelical Protestants widely express approval of Trump: 67% approve, while just 27% disapprove. By contrast, a 58% majority of white mainline Protestants disapprove of Trump's job performance, as do 59% of Catholics and 66% of those who are religiously unaffiliated.

Majorities in most demographic groups disapprove of Trump's job performance

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



Notes: Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Don't know responses not shown. Q1.
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Public assessments of Donald Trump's ability to handle several aspects of his job are more negative today than they were earlier in his term.

Overall, 39% of the public is very or somewhat confident that Donald Trump can work effectively with Congress, while 59% are not too or not at all confident Trump can do this. In April, 46% expressed confidence in Trump's ability to work with Congress.

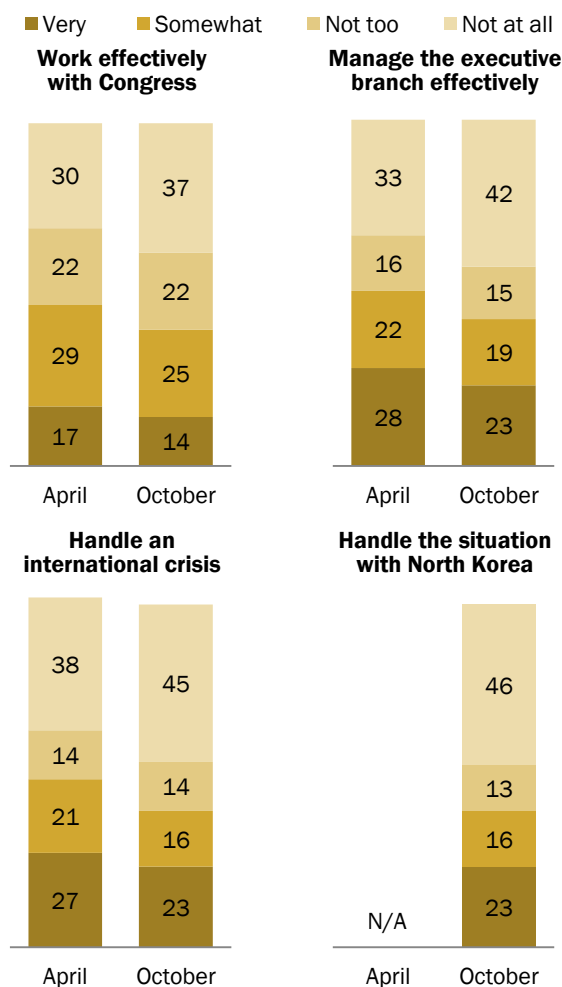
Trump receives similar ratings on his ability to manage the executive branch: 42% say they are at least somewhat confident that he can do this effectively. Last spring, half (50%) had confidence in Trump's ability in this area.

Today, 39% say they are very or somewhat confident in Trump's ability to handle an international crisis, while 60% say they have little or no confidence. In April, 48% expressed at least some confidence in him in this area, while 51% said they had little or no confidence.

Asked specifically about Trump's ability to handle the situation with North Korea, more say they are not too or not at all confident in Trump (59%) than say they are at least somewhat confident (39%) in his ability to handle this issue.

Since spring, decline in confidence in Trump to handle several aspects of job

% who say they are _____ confident that Trump can ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q19.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Confidence in Trump across issues has moved lower among both Republicans and Democrats, though Republicans continue to express largely positive assessments of Trump's ability.

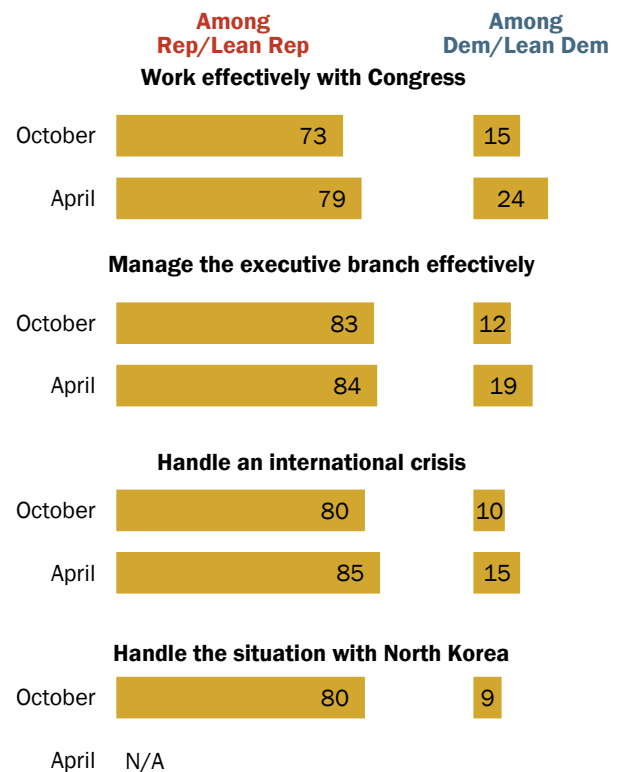
Today, 73% of Republicans and Republican leaners are very or somewhat confident in Trump's ability to work effectively with Congress, down somewhat from 79% in April. Similarly, 80% of Republicans are confident Trump can handle an international crisis; 85% said this in April. There has been no significant decline in Republican confidence in Trump to manage the executive branch effectively (83% say this today vs. 84% in April).

The share of Republicans who express confidence in Trump to handle the situation with North Korea (80%) is comparable to the ratings he receives from Republicans on other issues (the item on North Korea was not asked in April).

Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, very few have confidence in Trump's ability across issue areas. Just 15% of Democrats today say they are confident Trump can work effectively with Congress, down from 24% in April. There have also been declines in the already small shares of Democrats who have confidence in Trump to manage the executive branch effectively (12% today, 19% in April) or handle an international crisis (10% today, 15% in April). Just 9% of Democrats say they are very or somewhat confident that Trump can handle the situation with North Korea.

In both parties, confidence in Trump's ability to work with Congress decreases

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



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q19.
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Republicans see a divided GOP

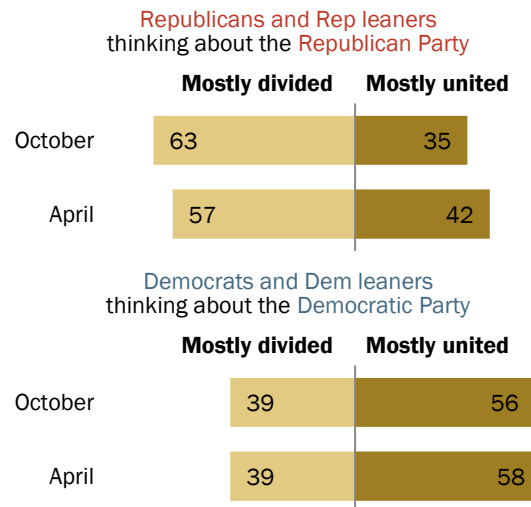
Well into Trump's first year in office, most Republicans see the Republican Party as divided in its views on issues and vision for the future: Nearly two-thirds (63%) of Republicans and Republican leaners say the GOP is mostly divided, compared with about a third (35%) who say the party is mostly united.

In April, Republicans were somewhat more likely to see the GOP as united in its views and vision (42%), though a majority still saw the party as divided (57%).

By contrast, Democrats continue to see the Democratic Party as mostly united in its views on issues and vision for the future: 56% say this, compared with 39% who say the party is mostly divided. These views are unchanged from April.

Most Republicans say GOP is divided; Democrats see united Democratic Party

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



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q43F1 & Q44F2.
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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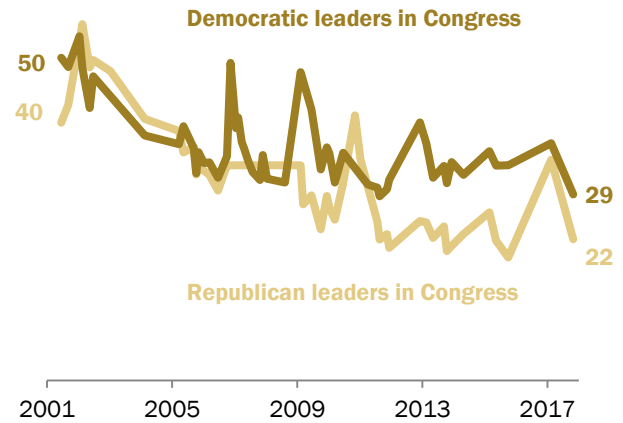
Ratings decline for both parties' congressional leaders

Approval ratings for both Republican and Democratic congressional leaders remain negative on balance and are lower than they were in February. Today, 29% say they approve of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing, down from 37% in February.

Ratings for Republican leaders in Congress are even worse: just 22% say they approve of the job they are doing. Ratings for Republican leaders in Congress are down from a recent high point of 34%, reached in February at the start of the 115th Congress.

Low ratings for both Republican and Democratic congressional leaders

% who approve of the job _____ are doing



Note: Q10.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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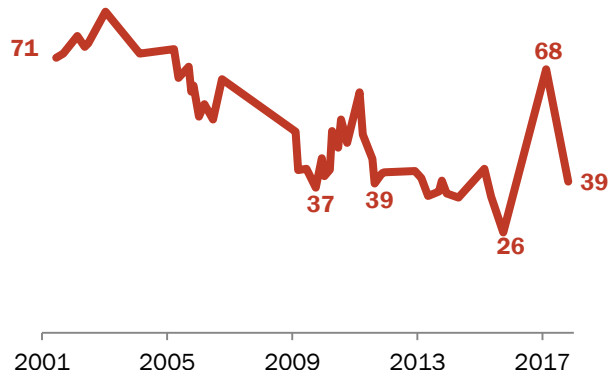
The recent drop in ratings for both Republican and Democratic congressional leaders is largely attributable to partisans' increasingly negative assessments of *their own* party's leaders.

About four-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners (39%) say they approve of the job GOP leaders in Congress are doing. These ratings down sharply from February – just after the start of the new GOP-controlled Congress and Trump's inauguration – when 68% said they approved. However, current Republican ratings of their party are on par with views at other points over the last several years.

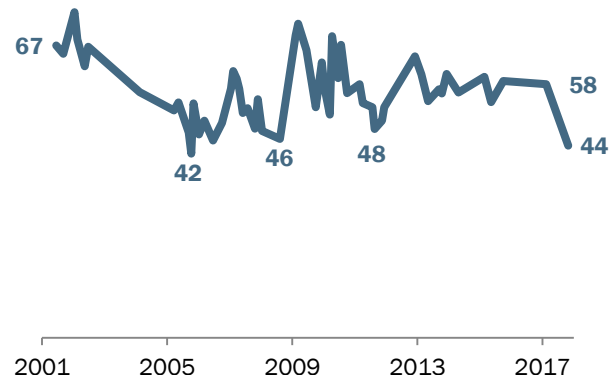
The share of Democrats and Democratic leaners who say they approve of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing is also down significantly from the start of the year. In the current survey, just 44% of Democrats say they approve of their congressional leaders, down from 58% in February. Democratic ratings of their leaders are as low as they have been in any survey since 2011.

Drop in partisans' approval of their own party's congressional leaders

Among Rep/Lean Rep, % who approve of the job Republican leaders in Congress are doing



Among Dem/Lean Dem, % who approve of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing



Note: Q10.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Which party could do the better job on key issues?

On many issues – including dealing with the economy – the public remains divided over which party could do the better job. On other issues, including the environment, health care and abortion, the Democratic Party maintains long-held advantages over the Republican Party.

And in a shift in public views, the Republican Party has lost ground on the issues of taxes and dealing with the terrorist threat at home.

On many economic issues, neither party holds clear advantages and views are virtually unchanged from April. The public is split over which party could do a better job dealing with the economy, the federal budget deficit and trade agreements between the U.S. and other countries.

On taxes, however, the Democratic Party currently has a slight advantage: 43% think the Democratic Party could do a better job on this issue, compared with 36% who say the Republican Party could do the better job. In April, public views were evenly divided. The share who thinks the GOP could do better on taxes has declined from earlier this year, while the share that prefers the Democratic Party is little changed (more now volunteer that they don't know who would do better or say both parties or neither party could handle the issue). Today, 65% of Republicans and Republican leaners say the GOP could do better on taxes than the Democratic Party, down from 82% in April.

Democratic Party now has edge over GOP on taxes

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

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/ Neither/DK	Diff
Economy	%	%	%	
October 2017	38	41	22=100	D+3
April 2017	46	43	11=100	R+3
April 2016	45	41	14=100	R+4
Taxes				
October 2017	36	43	21=100	D+7
April 2017	44	43	13=100	R+1
July 2015	42	41	17=100	R+1
Trade agreements				
October 2017	38	42	20=100	D+4
April 2017	45	42	13=100	R+3
April 2016	48	37	15=100	R+11
Federal budget deficit				
October 2017	37	39	24=100	D+2
July 2015	41	37	22=100	R+4

Notes: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Significant differences at the 95% confidence interval in **bold**. Q42. Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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The Republican Party also has lost ground on dealing with the terrorist threat at home – an issue where they have long held an advantage over the Democratic Party. About as many now say the Democratic Party (38%) as Republican Party (37%) could do the better job on the issue. In April, by 48% to 36% more said they preferred the Republican Party’s approach.

As was the case in April, the public sees the Democratic Party as better than the GOP when it comes to “making wise decisions about foreign policy.”

The Democratic Party maintains a slight edge as the party seen as better able to deal with immigration.

On foreign policy, immigration, Democrats continue to have advantage

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

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/Neither/DK	Diff
	%	%	%	
Foreign policy				
October 2017	34	44	22=100	D+10
April 2017	36	49	15=100	D+13
April 2016	46	38	16=100	R+8
Terrorist threat at home				
October 2017	37	38	25=100	D+1
April 2017	48	36	16=100	R+12
April 2016	46	37	17=100	R+9
Immigration				
October 2017	38	44	18=100	D+6
April 2017	39	50	11=100	D+11
April 2016	42	44	14=100	D+2

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

Significant differences at the 95% confidence interval in **bold**. Q42.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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As in the past, the Democratic Party continues to hold advantages on the issues of health care, abortion and the environment.

By 50% to 32%, more say the Democratic Party is better able to deal with health care. When it comes to policies on abortion and contraception, the Democratic Party holds a 14-percentage-point advantage over the Republican Party (47% vs. 33%).

By a wide 23-percentage-point margin, more say the Democratic Party (52%) than Republican Party (29%) could do the better job dealing with the environment.

Views on which party could better handle gun policy have fluctuated in recent years. Neither party has held a significant advantage in surveys conducted in April and October of this year.

Democrats preferred over GOP on health care, environment, abortion

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

	Rep Party	Dem Party	Both/Neither/DK	Diff
	%	%	%	
Gun policy				
October 2017	39	44	17=100	D+5
April 2017	46	41	13=100	R+5
December 2015	43	37	20=100	R+6
Health care				
October 2017	32	50	18=100	D+18
April 2017	35	54	11=100	D+19
July 2015	36	46	18=100	D+10
Abortion and contraception				
October 2017	33	47	20=100	D+14
April 2017	33	53	14=100	D+20
July 2015	31	50	19=100	D+19
Environment				
October 2017	29	52	19=100	D+23
April 2017	28	59	13=100	D+31
December 2015	30	53	17=100	D+23

Notes: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Significant differences at the 95% confidence interval in **bold**. Gun policy item now: "reflecting your views about gun policy." In 2015, was: "reflecting your views about gun control." Q42. Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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How fair is the federal tax system?

About six-in-ten American (58%) now say the current federal tax system is either not too fair (32%) or not at all fair (26%). Significantly fewer (41%) describe the tax system as very fair (3%) or moderately fair (38%).

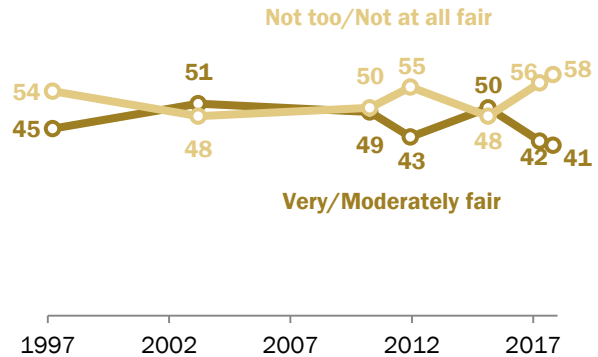
Views on the fairness of the tax system have changed little since April, but a greater share of the public now perceives the system as unfair than said this late in the Obama administration. In February 2015, about as many described the federal tax system as very or moderately fair (50%) as said it was not too or not at all fair (48%).

Republicans and Democrats hold similar views about the overall fairness of the tax system. Roughly four-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners (43%) and Democrats and Democratic leaners (41%) describe the present system as very or moderately fair. Majorities of both groups say it is not too or not at all fair.

Partisan views of the fairness of the tax system have fluctuated in the last few decades, with Republicans and Democrats often holding different views. In 2015, Democrats (56%) were much more likely than Republicans (44%) to describe the tax system as at least moderately fair. By contrast, in December of 2011, a greater share of Republicans (49%) than Democrats (40%) described the system as fair.

Majority of Americans say federal tax system is unfair

% who say the federal tax system is ...



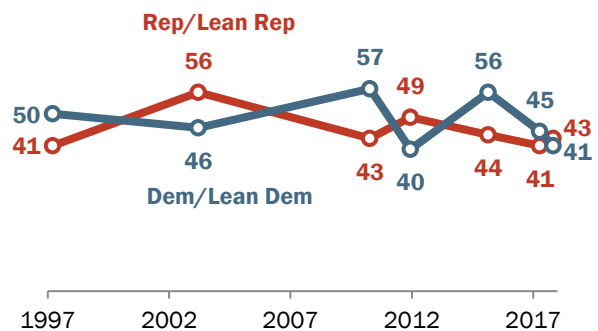
Notes: 1997 and 2010 data from CNN; 2003 data from NPR. Q45. Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Republicans and Democrats take similar views of fairness of tax system

% who say the federal tax system is very or moderately fair ...



Notes: 1997 and 2010 data from CNN; 2003 data from NPR. Q45. Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Impact of lower taxes for large businesses and corporations

The public holds mixed views of how lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would impact the economy; at the same time, more say these cuts would make the tax system less fair rather than more fair.

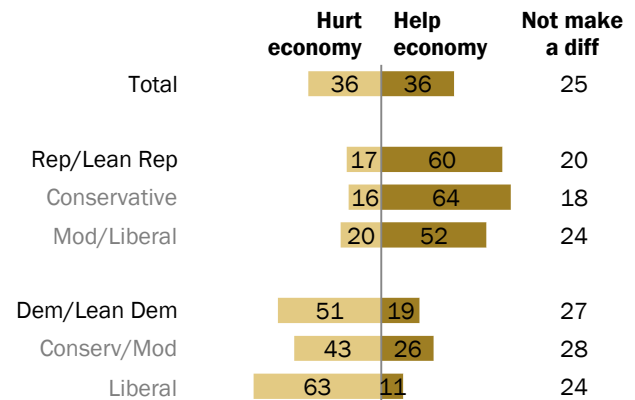
Overall, 36% say lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would help the economy, while an identical share (36%) say it would hurt the economy; 25% don't think it would make much difference. Views on how these cuts would impact the fairness of the tax system tilt more negative: 44% say lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would make the tax system less fair, compared with 25% who say it would make the system more fair and 27% who don't think it would make much difference.

There are wide partisan divides in views of the impact of corporate tax cuts. Six-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners (60%) think lower tax rates for businesses and corporations would lead to economic growth. By contrast, 51% of Democrats and Democratic leaners think these changes would hurt the economy (just 19% think they would help).

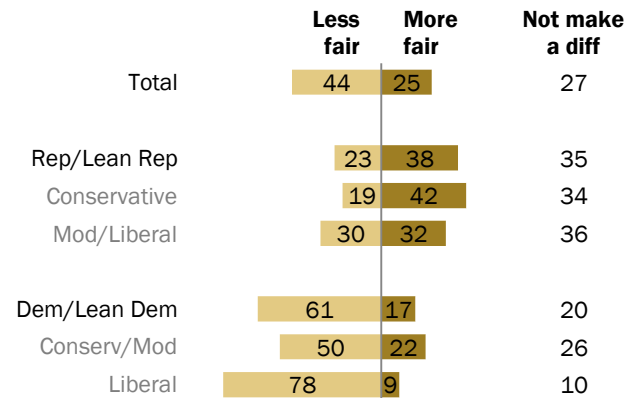
When it comes to the fairness of the tax system, 61% of Democrats (including 78% of liberal Democrats) say lowering taxes on businesses and corporations would make the tax system less fair. Views among Republicans are more mixed: 38% say these tax cuts would make the system more fair, compared with 35% who say they wouldn't make much difference and just 23% who say they would make the system less fair.

Partisans differ on impact of lowering taxes for corporations

% who say lowering taxes for corporations and large businesses would ...



% who say lowering taxes for large corporations and businesses would make the tax system ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q46 & Q47.
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Those with higher family incomes are more likely than those with lower incomes to say lowering taxes on businesses and corporations would improve the economy. For example, 50% of those in households earning \$150,000 a year or more think corporate tax cuts would help the economy, compared with just 27% of those earning \$30,000 a year or less. Differences in views across income levels are more modest when it comes to the impact these tax cuts would have on the fairness of the tax system: Pluralities across most income groups say lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would make the system less fair.

Income differences in views of the impact of lowering taxes for businesses and corporations are evident within both parties.

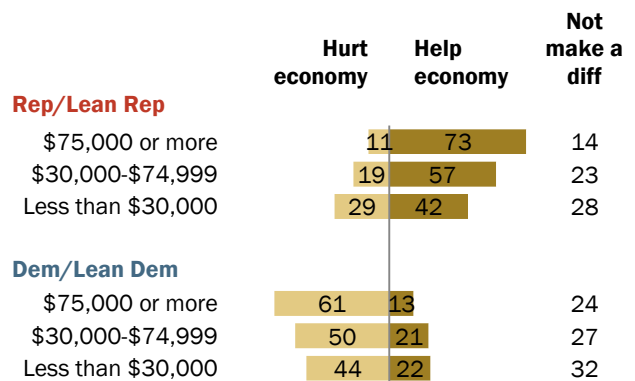
Among Republicans and Republican leaners, a wide majority of those with household incomes of \$75,000 a year or more (73%) think lowering taxes on corporations and large businesses would help the economy. By comparison, 42% of Republicans in households making \$30,000 a year or less think lower taxes for large businesses and corporations would help the economy.

Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, the income pattern in views is the reverse: Those with higher incomes are more likely than those with lower incomes to say tax cuts for large businesses and corporations would hurt the economy. About six-in-ten Democrats with incomes of \$75,000 a year or more (61%) think lowering taxes on corporations would hurt the economy, compared with 44% of those earning \$30,000 a year or less.

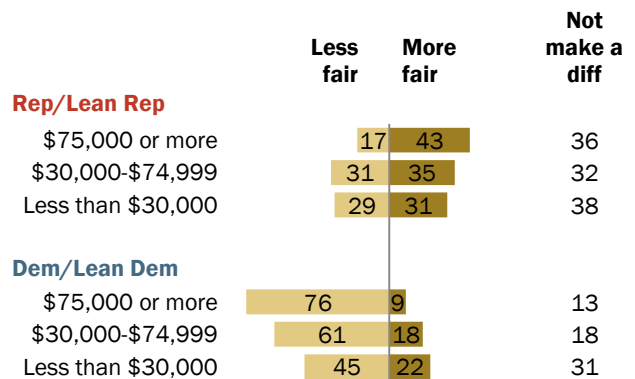
While Democrats overall think lower taxes on large businesses and corporations would make the tax system less fair, this view is more widely held among those earning \$75,000 a year or more (76%) and those earning between \$30,000 and \$74,999 (61%) than among those

Most high-income Republicans say corporate tax cuts would lead to growth

% who say lowering taxes for corporations and large businesses would ...



% who say lowering taxes for corporations and large businesses would make the tax system ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q46 & Q47.
Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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with household incomes of less than \$30,000 (45%). Among Republicans, those with incomes of \$75,000 a year or above are more likely to say lowering taxes on large businesses and corporations would make the tax system more fair (43%) than less fair (17%).

Views of how lowering taxes on large businesses and corporations would impact the economy are strongly associated with views of whether a decrease in corporate taxes would make the system more or less fair. Fully 73% of those who say lowering taxes would hurt the economy also say it would make the system less fair. Among those who say a decrease in corporate taxes would help the economy, about half (49%) say it would make the system more fair, while 30% say it would not have an impact on the system's fairness and just 18% say it would make the system less fair.

Confidence in Trump, congressional leaders, on tax policy

Overall, 40% of Americans are very or somewhat confident in Trump to make wise decisions about tax policy and roughly as many (42%) are very or somewhat confident in Republican congressional leaders. Half of the public (50%) is at least somewhat confident in Democratic congressional leaders on this issue.

Yet the share who says they are *very* confident in Donald Trump (22%) is substantially higher than the shares saying this for either Republican leaders (9%) or Democratic leaders (11%) in Congress. But the public is also more likely to say they are “not at all confident” in Trump’s decision making on tax policy (42%) than to say this about either party’s leaders in Congress (31% say this about GOP leaders, 24% about Democratic leaders).

Among Republicans and Republican-leaning

independents, larger shares

express confidence in Trump than Republican leaders in Congress: 81% say they are at least somewhat confident in Trump, including 52% who say they are very confident him. By comparison, 73% are at least somewhat confident in the party’s leaders in Congress, though just 20% say they are very confident in GOP congressional leaders.

Democrats and Democratic leaners express roughly the same level of confidence in their party’s congressional leadership on this issue as Republicans do in GOP leadership: About three-quarters (74%) of Democrats are very or somewhat confident in Democratic leaders in Congress, including 19% who are very confident.

Public has intense views – more negative than positive – about Trump’s decision making on tax policy

% who say they are ____ that each can make wise decisions about tax policy

■ Very confident ■ Somewhat confident ■ Not too confident ■ Not at all confident

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident
Donald Trump	22	18	16	42
Republican leaders in Congress	9	34	24	31
Democratic leaders in Congress	11	39	23	24

Among Republican/Lean Republican

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident
Donald Trump	52	30	9	9
Republican leaders in Congress	20	53	16	9
Democratic leaders in Congress	3	20	31	45

Among Democrat/Lean Democrat

	Very confident	Somewhat confident	Not too confident	Not at all confident
Donald Trump	3	8	22	67
Republican leaders in Congress	2	20	30	46
Democratic leaders in Congress	19	55	17	5

Note: Don’t know responses not shown. Q48.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Both parties express low levels of confidence in the opposing party's congressional leadership on tax policy. About three-quarters of Republicans (76%) say they are not too or not at all confident in Democratic congressional leadership, while the same share of Democrats (76%) says this about GOP leaders.

Yet Democrats are even less likely to express confidence in Trump: 89% have little or no confidence in Trump to make wise decisions about tax policy, including two-thirds (67%) who say they are not at all confident in him on this issue.

Views of the budget deficit

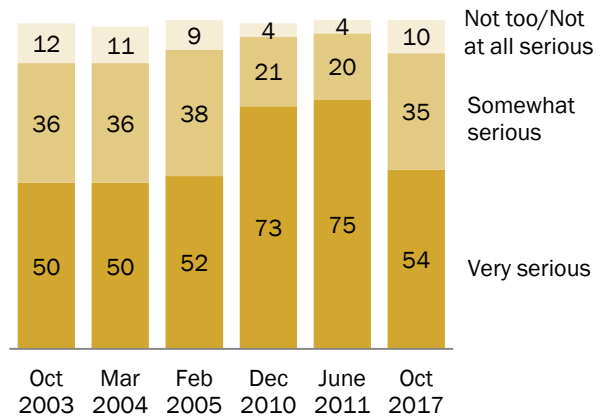
About half of Americans (54%) say the budget deficit is a very serious problem for the country right now; 35% say it is a somewhat serious problem, while 10% say it is a not too or not at all serious problem right now. While this is similar to public opinion on this question in CBS News/New York Times surveys conducted in 2003, 2004 and 2005, far greater shares of Americans said the budget deficit was a serious problem for the country in 2010 and 2011. For example, in June 2011, 75% said the deficit was a very serious problem.

Concern about the deficit is lower than it was in 2010 and 2011 across the political spectrum. The share of Republicans, Democrats and independents saying the budget deficit is a very serious problem is down roughly 20 percentage points among each group from surveys conducted in those years.

Republicans remain more likely than Democrats to say the deficit is a very serious problem: Today, 60% of Republicans, 57% of independents and 46% of Democrats say the deficit is a very serious problem. While a similar partisan gap was evident throughout 2010 and 2011, Democrats were more likely than Republicans to view the deficit as a serious problem for the country in surveys conducted from 2003 through 2004 (during the George W. Bush administration).

Budget deficit is seen as less of a problem than in 2011

How serious a problem is the budget deficit for the country right now? (%)

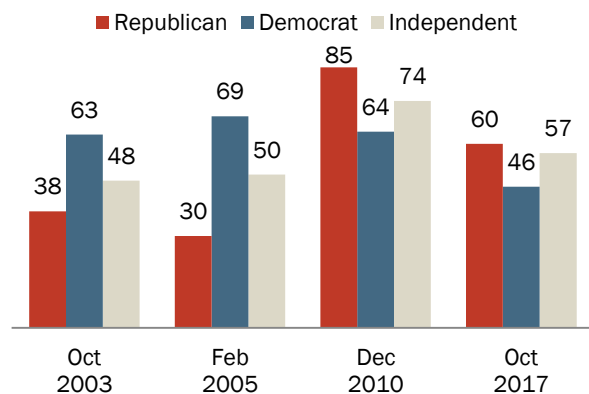


Notes: Previous years' data from CBS News and CBS/NTY surveys. Don't know responses not shown. Q58. Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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Declining shares in both parties say budget deficit is a very serious problem

% who say the budget deficit is a very serious problem



Notes: Previous years' data from CBS News and CBS/NTY surveys; these surveys did not ask independents which party they leaned toward. Q58. Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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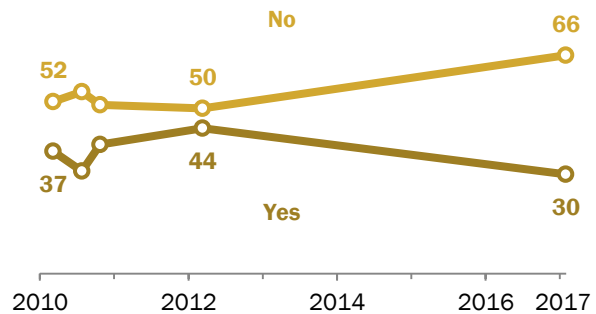
Most Americans do not expect to see “significant progress reducing the federal budget deficit” over the next five years or so: 30% say significant progress will be made reducing the deficit, 66% say there will not be significant progress.

Pessimism about making progress on the deficit is significantly higher than in surveys conducted from 2010 through 2012. In December 2012, 44% expected the country to make significant progress reducing the deficit in the following years.

Democrats and Democratic leaners are much more pessimistic about progress on the deficit today than they were in 2012. Five years ago, 63% of Democrats thought there would be progress. Today just 18% of Democrats say this. Republicans and Republican leaners, however, are more optimistic today than five years ago: 48% now say we will make significant progress reducing the federal budget deficit in the next five years; just 22% said this five years ago.

Public increasingly pessimistic about reducing the federal budget deficit

Looking ahead five years, will we have made significant progress reducing the federal budget deficit? (%)



Note: Don't know responses not shown. Q59.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-30, 2017.

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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 October 25-30, 2017 among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (378 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,126 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 698 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers under the direction of SSRS. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Marketing Systems Group. 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 Oct. 25-30, 2017

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Half form	735 (min)	4.2 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep	628	4.5 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep half form	307 (min)	6.4 percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem	735	4.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem half form	365 (min)	5.9 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
OCTOBER 2017 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
OCTOBER 25-30, 2017
N=1,504**

RANDOMIZE Q.1/Q.1a BLOCK AND Q.2**ASK ALL:**

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

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Oct 25-30, 2017	34	59	7
Jun 8-18, 2017	39	55	7
Apr 5-11, 2017	39	54	6
Feb 7-12, 2017	39	56	6

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

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

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

	-----Approve-----				-----Disapprove-----				(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref	
Oct 25-30, 2017	34	25	8	1	59	51	8	*	7
Jun 8-18, 2017	39	29	9	2	55	47	7	1	7
Apr 5-11, 2017	39	30	8	1	54	44	10	1	6
Feb 7-12, 2017	39	29	8	1	56	46	9	1	6

RANDOMIZE Q.1/Q.1a BLOCK 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?

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

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7	Early October, 2006	30	63	7
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6	July, 2006	30	65	5
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6	May, 2006*	29	65	6
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4	March, 2006	32	63	5
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	5	January, 2006	34	61	5
Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4	Late November, 2005	34	59	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4	Early October, 2005	29	65	6
Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4	July, 2005	35	58	7
May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8	Late May, 2005*	39	57	4
May 2, 2011	32	60	8	February, 2005	38	56	6
Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5	January, 2005	40	54	6
Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5	December, 2004	39	54	7
Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6	Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6
Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7	July, 2004	38	55	7
Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8	May, 2004	33	61	6
Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7	Late February, 2004*	39	55	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5	Early January, 2004	45	48	7
Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9	December, 2003	44	47	9
May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7	October, 2003	38	56	6
Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5	August, 2003	40	53	7
Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6	April, 2003	50	41	9
Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5	January, 2003	44	50	6
Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7	November, 2002	41	48	11
Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6	September, 2002	41	55	4
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4	Late August, 2002	47	44	9
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7	May, 2002	44	44	12
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7	March, 2002	50	40	10
Sep 10-15, 2009 ¹	30	64	7	Late September, 2001	57	34	9
Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7	Early September, 2001	41	53	6
Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7	June, 2001	43	52	5
Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6	March, 2001	47	45	8
Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5	February, 2001	46	43	11
Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8	January, 2001	55	41	4
Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
December, 2008	13	83	4	June, 2000	47	45	8
Early October, 2008	11	86	3	April, 2000	48	43	9
Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6	August, 1999	56	39	5
August, 2008	21	74	5	January, 1999	53	41	6
July, 2008	19	74	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
June, 2008	19	76	5	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Late May, 2008	18	76	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
March, 2008	22	72	6	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Early February, 2008	24	70	6	February, 1998	59	37	4
Late December, 2007	27	66	7	January, 1998	46	50	4
October, 2007	28	66	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
February, 2007	30	61	9	August, 1997	49	46	5
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	July, 1996	29	67	4
December, 2006	28	65	7	March, 1996	28	70	2
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	October, 1995	23	73	4
				June, 1995	25	73	2
				April, 1995	23	74	3
				July, 1994	24	73	3
				March, 1994	24	71	5
				October, 1993	22	73	5

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

Q.2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref		<u>Satis- fied</u>	<u>Dis- satisfied</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
September, 1993	20	75	5	<i>Gallup: Late Feb, 1991</i>	66	31	3
May, 1993	22	71	7	August, 1990	47	48	5
January, 1993	39	50	11	May, 1990	41	54	5
January, 1992	28	68	4	January, 1989	45	50	5
November, 1991	34	61	5	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

NO QUESTIONS 3-9**ASK ALL:**

Q.10 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** are doing? **[IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the [ITEM] are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]. [INTERVIEWER INSTRUCTION: REPEAT FULL QUESTION FOR NEXT ITEM]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Republican leaders in Congress			
Oct 25-30, 2017	22	71	8
Feb 7-12, 2017	34	60	6
Sep 22-27, 2015	19	73	8
May 12-18, 2015	22	72	6
Feb 18-22, 2015	26	66	8
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	23	68	10
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	21	72	7
Oct 9-13, 2013	20	72	8
Sep 4-8, 2013	24	68	8
May 1-5, 2013	22	68	10
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	25	67	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	25	67	8
Dec 7-11, 2011	21	68	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	23	67	10
Aug 17-21, 2011	22	69	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	25	66	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	30	61	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	36	45	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	24	60	16
Jul 22-25, 2010	33	53	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	55	14
Apr 8-11, 2010	30	56	14
Mar 10-14, 2010	25	59	16
Jan 6-10, 2010	27	57	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	29	51	20
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	24	60	17
Jun 10-14, 2009	29	56	15
Mar 9-12, 2009	28	51	21
Feb 4-8, 2009	34	51	15
Early October, 2006	33	56	11
June, 2006	30	53	17
March, 2006	32	50	18
January, 2006	33	52	15
Early November, 2005	33	50	17
Early October, 2005	32	52	16
Mid-September, 2005	36	49	15
Mid-May, 2005	35	50	15
Mid-March, 2005	39	44	17
Early February, 2004	41	42	17

Q.10 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
January, 2003	48	37	15
June, 2002	50	34	16
May, 2002	49	34	17
February, 2002	56	24	20
Early September, 2001	43	39	18
June, 2001	40	40	20
May, 2001	45	36	19
April, 2001	45	30	25
January, 2001	43	36	21
July, 2000	36	46	18
May, 2000	40	42	18
March, 2000	38	43	19
February, 2000	40	43	17
January, 2000	39	41	20
December, 1999	38	42	20
October, 1999	34	50	16
Late September, 1999	34	46	20
August, 1999	40	44	16
July, 1999	36	45	19
June, 1999	37	46	17
May, 1999	38	44	18
March, 1999	38	47	15
February, 1999	37	51	12
January, 1999	38	50	12
Early December, 1998	38	49	13
November, 1998	41	48	11
Early September, 1998	44	37	19
Early August, 1998	43	37	20
June, 1998	42	38	20
May, 1998	40	41	19
April, 1998	41	40	19
March, 1998	43	39	18
January, 1998	43	41	16
November, 1997	41	43	16
August, 1997	42	44	14
June, 1997	33	50	17
May, 1997	40	44	16
April, 1997	40	44	16
February, 1997	44	42	14
January, 1997	38	47	15
December, 1996 ²	40	43	17
July, 1996	38	48	14
June, 1996	36	50	14
April, 1996	39	46	15
March, 1996	35	51	14
February, 1996	33	53	14
January, 1996	36	54	10
October, 1995	36	51	13
September, 1995	36	50	14
August, 1995	38	45	17
June, 1995	41	45	14
April, 1995	44	43	13
March, 1995	43	39	18
December, 1994	52	28	20

² From December, 1994 through December, 1996, the question was worded: "As best you can tell, do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Republican leaders in Congress?"

Q.10 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
b. Democratic leaders in Congress			
Oct 25-30, 2017	29	62	9
Feb 7-12, 2017	37	55	8
Sep 22-27, 2015	34	60	6
May 12-18, 2015	33	60	6
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	58	7
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	32	60	8
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	34	58	8
Oct 9-13, 2013	31	62	7
Sep 4-8, 2013	33	59	7
May 1-5, 2013	32	59	9
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	37	55	8
Dec 5-9, 2012	40	53	7
Dec 7-11, 2011	31	58	11
Nov 9-14, 2011	30	61	9
Aug 17-21, 2011	29	63	9
Jul 20-24, 2011	30	60	10
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	31	60	9
Feb 24-27, 2011	33	48	19
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	30	53	17
Jul 22-25, 2010	35	56	10
Jun 16-20, 2010	35	53	12
Apr 8-11, 2010	38	51	11
Mar 10-14, 2010	31	57	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	35	53	11
Dec 9-13, 2009	36	47	17
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	33	53	15
Jun 10-14, 2009	42	45	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	47	35	18
Feb 4-8, 2009	48	38	14
August, 2008	31	58	11
January, 2008	31	53	16
November, 2007	35	50	15
October, 2007	31	54	15
July, 2007	33	54	13
June, 2007	34	49	17
April, 2007	36	43	21
March, 2007 ³	37	42	21
February, 2007	41	36	23
Mid-January, 2007	39	34	27
Early October, 2006	35	53	12
June, 2006	32	50	18
March, 2006	34	46	20
January, 2006	34	48	18
Early November, 2005	36	44	20
Early October, 2005	32	48	20
Mid-September, 2005	36	45	19
Mid-May, 2005	39	41	20
Mid-March, 2005	37	44	19
Early February, 2004	38	42	20
January, 2002	54	24	22
June, 2002	47	36	17
May, 2002	42	37	21
February, 2002	49	30	21

³ In March 2007 the question was worded: "Do you approve or disapprove of the policies and proposals of the Democratic leaders in Congress?"

Q.10 CONTINUED...

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Early September, 2001	49	30	21
June, 2001	50	28	22

NO QUESTIONS 11-18**ASK ALL:**

Q.19 I'd like you to think about Donald Trump's ability to handle a number of things. Please tell me whether you are very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident that Trump can **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

	<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not too confident</u>	<u>Not at all confident</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Handle an international crisis					
Oct 25-30, 2017	23	16	14	45	1
Apr 5-11, 2017	27	21	14	38	*
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016 ⁴	21	24	18	35	2
Bush					
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
January, 2005	36	28	17	18	1
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
January, 2001	32	39	19	9	1
b. Manage the Executive Branch effectively					
Oct 25-30, 2017	23	19	15	42	1
Apr 5-11, 2017	28	22	16	33	1
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	26	26	20	26	2
Bush					
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
January, 2001	33	44	15	7	1
c. Work effectively with Congress					
Oct 25-30, 2017	14	25	22	37	2
Apr 5-11, 2017	17	29	22	30	2
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	26	35	17	21	1
Bush					
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
January, 2005 ⁵	26	44	17	12	1
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
January, 2001	27	47	17	8	1
d. Handle the situation with North Korea					
Oct 25-30, 2017	23	16	13	46	2

⁴ In December 2016 survey and Gallup/CNN/USA Today surveys, this question was worded: "I'd like you to think about Donald Trump's ability to handle a number of things over the next four years."

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

QUESTIONS 20-21, 26-27, 35-41 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**NO QUESTIONS 22-25, 28-34****ASK ALL:**

Thinking about the political parties ...

- Q.42 Which party could do a better job of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Which party could do a better job of ITEM?] [IF NECESSARY READ CATEGORIES: The Republican Party or the Democratic Party]**

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=769]:						
a.F1	Dealing with the economy					
	Oct 25-30, 2017	38	41	11	7	3
	Apr 5-11, 2017	46	43	5	5	2
	Apr 12-19, 2016	45	41	4	6	4
	Dec 8-13, 2015	42	37	4	9	7
	Jul 14-20, 2015	41	44	4	8	4
	Feb 18-22, 2015	44	41	7	6	3
	Oct 15-20, 2014	41	39	6	8	6
	Jul 8-14, 2014	47	39	4	6	4
	Jan 15-19, 2014	42	38	10	7	3
	Oct 9-13, 2013	44	37	5	9	5
	May 1-5, 2013	42	38	6	8	6
	May 25-30, 2011	38	40	5	8	8
	Sep 16-19, 2010	38	37	8	10	8
	May 20-23, 2010	33	34	9	14	10
	Feb 3-9, 2010	38	41	7	6	7
	Aug 27-30, 2009	32	42	6	12	9
	February, 2008	34	53	2	5	6
	October, 2006	32	45	4	5	14
	September, 2006	32	46	5	5	12
	February, 2006	36	46	5	5	8
	Mid-September, 2005	38	44	5	7	6
	July, 2004	34	46	5	5	10
	Late October, 2002 (RVs)	37	40	5	6	12
	Early October, 2002 (RVs)	37	41	4	5	13
	Early September, 2002	36	36	9	6	13
	January, 2002	43	34	--	5	18
	May, 2001 ⁶	33	44	8	5	10
	June, 1999	37	43	8	3	9
	March, 1999	39	44	5	3	9
	Early September, 1998	40	38	8	4	10
	March, 1998	40	40	12	3	5
	October, 1994	45	33	5	7	10
	Gallup: October, 1992 (RVs)	36	45	10	--	9
	Gallup: October, 1990	37	35	--	--	28
b.F1	Dealing with the terrorist threat at home					
	Oct 25-30, 2017	37	38	12	9	5
	Apr 5-11, 2017	48	36	8	6	3
	Apr 12-19, 2016	46	37	5	8	4
	Dec 8-13, 2015	46	34	4	9	7
	Jul 14-20, 2015	44	34	8	9	5

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

Q.42 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Feb 18-22, 2015	51	31	10	5	3
Oct 15-20, 2014	46	30	9	7	9
Oct 13-18, 2010	38	26	13	9	14
May 20-23, 2010	38	27	12	10	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	46	29	10	5	10
Aug 27-30, 2009	38	32	10	9	12
February, 2008	45	38	6	4	7
October, 2006	39	33	7	6	15
September, 2006	41	32	7	6	14
February, 2006	46	30	8	7	9
Mid-September, 2005	45	34	7	6	8
July, 2004	45	30	6	6	13
Late October, 2002 (RVs)	44	27	11	6	12
Early October, 2002 (RVs)	44	28	7	5	16
Early September, 2002	44	22	14	6	14
January, 2002	48	18	--	6	28
c.F1 Dealing with the environment					
Oct 25-30, 2017	29	52	8	7	4
Apr 5-11, 2017	28	59	5	4	4
Dec 8-13, 2015	30	53	4	5	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	27	53	5	9	6
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>Protecting the environment</i>					
Feb 20-24, 2008	21	65	3	5	6
September, 2006	19	57	5	6	13
February, 2006	24	56	6	5	9
Mid-September, 2005	28	51	5	7	9
July, 2004	24	51	5	6	14
Early September, 2002	25	46	9	6	14
May, 2001	25	51	7	4	13
June, 1999	27	45	7	5	16
Early September, 1998	25	51	8	4	12
March, 1998	22	56	8	5	9
July, 1994	28	56	4	4	8
December, 1993	22	46	--	12	20
May, 1990	24	40	--	19	17
d.F1 Dealing with policies on abortion and contraception					
Oct 25-30, 2017	33	47	6	7	7
Apr 5-11, 2017	33	53	3	6	6
Jul 14-20, 2015	31	50	4	8	7
Feb 18-22, 2015	40	43	3	7	7
Oct 15-20, 2014	35	45	4	5	11
Jul 8-14, 2014	36	48	3	6	7
e.F1 Dealing with taxes					
Oct 25-30, 2017	36	43	8	8	4
Apr 5-11, 2017	44	43	4	5	4
Jul 14-20, 2015	42	41	4	8	5
Feb 18-22, 2015	47	36	6	6	6
Jan 15-19, 2014	41	41	4	6	7
Jan 9-13, 2013	38	44	5	6	6
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	45	6	4	7
Jul 20-24, 2011	43	40	4	6	8

Q.42 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 13-18, 2010	36	35	7	9	12
Sep 16-19, 2010	40	34	8	8	9
Aug 27-30, 2009	38	37	4	11	11
February, 2008	37	49	2	5	7
October, 2006	32	40	5	7	16
September, 2006	30	45	4	9	12
February, 2006	35	46	5	6	8
May, 2001	37	40	8	6	9
June, 1999	38	38	5	7	12
September, 1998	41	37	7	5	10
March, 1998	39	40	6	7	8
October, 1994	43	34	5	9	9
f.F1 Dealing with drug addiction					
Oct 25-30, 2017	30	40	12	10	8
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=735]:					
g.F2 Dealing with immigration					
Oct 25-30, 2017	38	44	6	7	5
Apr 5-11, 2017	39	50	2	6	3
Apr 12-19, 2016	42	44	3	7	4
Dec 8-13, 2015	42	40	3	9	7
Jul 14-20, 2015	40	42	4	9	6
Feb 18-22, 2015	43	45	4	4	3
Oct 15-20, 2014	41	40	5	7	7
Jul 8-14, 2014	42	40	4	7	6
Jan 15-19, 2014	38	39	8	8	7
Oct 9-13, 2013	40	39	4	8	9
May 1-5, 2013	38	38	7	8	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	35	44	5	6	10
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	45	37	3	6	9
May 25-30, 2011	39	37	4	9	11
Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	9	12	16
May 20-23, 2010	35	27	10	14	14
Apr 21-26, 2010	36	35	7	11	12
Aug 27-30, 2009	31	36	6	13	13
February, 2008	38	43	4	6	9
October, 2006	35	33	6	8	18
September, 2006	32	37	5	10	16
April, 2006	27	43	6	11	13
February, 2006	34	38	8	9	11
h.F2 Making wise decisions about foreign policy					
Oct 25-30, 2017	34	44	7	9	6
Apr 5-11, 2017	36	49	5	6	4
Apr 12-19, 2016	46	38	4	8	5
Jul 14-20, 2015	38	41	5	8	8
Feb 18-22, 2015	48	35	6	6	5
Oct 15-20, 2014	40	39	6	9	7
Jul 8-14, 2014	43	39	5	7	6
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	38	10	4	7
Apr 21-26, 2010	39	34	8	8	11
August 27-30, 2009	31	44	7	8	9
February, 2008	40	45	4	4	7
July, 2004	38	40	4	4	14

Q.42 CONTINUED...

	Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Early September, 2002	40	30	10	6	14
May, 2001	39	34	11	3	13
June, 1999	37	36	7	6	14
March, 1999	42	37	6	4	11
Early September, 1998	40	31	11	5	13
March, 1998	41	33	12	4	10
October, 1994	47	30	7	5	11
July, 1994 ⁷	51	31	4	6	8
December, 1993	49	23	--	10	18
May, 1990	39	28	--	17	16
i.F2 Dealing with health care					
Oct 25-30, 2017	32	50	6	9	3
Apr 5-11, 2017	35	54	2	6	3
Jul 14-20, 2015	36	46	4	9	5
Feb 18-22, 2015	40	47	4	7	2
Oct 15-20, 2014	38	46	3	7	6
Jul 8-14, 2014	40	45	4	6	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	37	45	3	6	8
Sep 4-8, 2013 (U)	40	39	6	9	5
Dec 5-9, 2012	38	48	4	4	6
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	36	46	5	7	6
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	49	1	7	8
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	38	49	3	4	6
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	40	42	6	5	7
Oct 13-18, 2010	32	39	5	11	13
TRENDS FOR COMPARISON:					
<i>Reforming the U.S. health care system</i>					
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	45	6	10	7
Aug 27-30, 2009	27	46	4	14	9
February, 2008	26	56	3	8	7
October, 2006	25	46	4	8	17
September, 2006	24	48	5	10	13
February, 2006	27	49	6	9	9
Mid-September, 2005	28	51	4	10	7
July, 2004	23	50	4	10	13
Early July, 2003	31	38	6	10	15
<i>Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans</i>					
January, 2001	30	47	--	7	16
January, 1999	25	46	--	7	22
<i>Reforming the U.S. health care system</i>					
Early September, 1998	31	43	7	7	12
March, 1998	25	53	6	8	8
October, 1994	34	41	5	10	10
July, 1994	34	48	2	8	8
<i>Reforming health care</i>					
December, 1993	25	47	--	10	18
<i>Improving health care in the U.S.</i>					
January, 1992	21	56	--	8	15
May, 1990	20	50	--	16	14

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

Q.42 CONTINUED...

		Republican <u>Party</u>	Democratic <u>Party</u>	(VOL.) Both <u>equally</u>	(VOL.) <u>Neither</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
j.F2	Dealing with the federal budget deficit					
	Oct 25-30, 2017	37	39	6	12	6
	Jul 14-20, 2015	41	37	5	12	5
	Oct 15-20, 2014	42	36	4	10	8
	Jan 15-19, 2014	45	35	6	6	8
	Sep 4-8, 2013	43	35	7	9	5
	Jan 9-13, 2013	40	39	7	8	6
	Dec 5-9, 2012	43	38	4	7	9
	Mar 7-11, 2012	42	41	2	7	7
	Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	37	4	6	7
	Jul 22-24, 2011	43	37	5	6	8
	May 25-30, 2011 ⁸	41	38	4	9	8
	Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	46	34	8	6	7
	Oct 13-18, 2010	35	28	7	16	14
	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	36	5	9	7
	May 20-23, 2010	33	30	8	16	12
	Apr 21-26, 2010	38	35	6	11	10
	Feb 3-9, 2010	42	36	6	8	7
	Aug 27-30, 2009	35	36	6	13	10
	September, 2006	27	47	4	8	14
	February, 2006	33	45	6	9	7
	Early October, 2005	29	47	6	10	8
	June, 1999	37	41	5	8	9
	July, 1994	42	36	2	13	7
	December, 1993	31	36	--	18	15
k.F2	Reflecting your views about gun policy					
	Oct 25-30, 2017	39	44	4	5	7
	Apr 5-11, 2017	46	41	2	5	6
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	<i>Reflecting your views about gun control</i>					
	Dec 8-13, 2015	43	37	3	8	10
	Jul 14-20, 2015	48	36	3	6	7
	May 1-5, 2013	42	39	4	6	9
	Jan 9-13, 2013	38	40	5	6	11
	Dec 17-19, 2012 ⁹	27	28	12	15	18
	July, 2004	34	36	3	6	21
	Late October, 2002 (RV)	36	38	5	5	16
	April, 2000	30	36	4	7	23
	June, 1999	34	42	4	8	12
	December, 1993	32	42	--	8	18
l.F2	Dealing with trade agreements between the U.S and other countries					
	Oct 25-30, 2017	38	42	7	5	8
	Apr 5-11, 2017	45	42	4	4	5
	Apr 12-19, 2016	48	37	3	5	6

⁸ From February 2006 to May 2011 item read "Reducing the federal budget deficit;" an experiment conducted in July 2011 showed no significant difference between the current wording and this wording. In Early October 2005, the item was asked as a standalone question. In June 1999, the item was worded: "Keeping the federal budget balanced." In December 1993 the item was worded: "Reducing the budget deficit."

⁹ In December 2012, July 2004, and April 2000 the question was not part of a list.

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=769]:

Q.43F1 Thinking about the Republican Party these days, do you think it is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** in its views on issues and vision for the future?

Oct 25-30 <u>2017</u>		Apr 5-11 <u>2017</u>	(RVs) Oct 20-25 <u>2016</u>
23	Mostly united	29	17
72	Mostly divided	68	80
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=735]:

Q.44F2 Thinking about the Democratic Party these days, do you think it is **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** in its views on issues and vision for the future?

Oct 25-30 <u>2017</u>		Apr 5-11 <u>2017</u>	(RVs) Oct 20-25 <u>2016</u>
43	Mostly united	49	58
52	Mostly divided	48	39
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	4

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the tax system...

Q.45 How fair do you think our present federal tax system is? Overall would you say that our tax system is **[READ IN ORDER]**?

	<u>Very fair</u>	Moderately <u>fair</u>	Not too <u>fair</u>	Not fair <u>at all</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 25-30, 2017	3	38	32	26	1
Apr 5-11, 2017	2	40	29	27	1
Feb 18-22, 2015	4	46	24	24	1
Dec 7-11, 2011	3	40	31	24	3
CNN: Apr 9-11, 2010	4	45	30	20	1
NPR/Kaiser/Harvard: March 2003	4	47	32	16	1
Time/CNN: March 1997	3	42	31	23	2
Time/CNN: May 1985	2	41	31	24	2

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.46 AND Q.47**ASK ALL:**

Q.46 Do you think lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**?

Oct 25-30 <u>2017</u>	
36	Help the economy
36	Hurt the economy
25	Not make a difference
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF Q.47 AND Q.46
[BEFORE SECOND QUESTION, SAY: "And,"]**

ASK ALL:

Q.47 Do you think lowering taxes for large businesses and corporations would **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**?

Oct 25-30

2017

25	Make the tax system more fair
44	Make the tax system less fair
27	Not make a difference
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL:

Q.48 Thinking about tax policy ... Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident that **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** can make wise decisions about tax policy? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident that [ITEM] can make wise decisions about tax policy?]**

	Very <u>confident</u>	Somewhat <u>confident</u>	Not too <u>confident</u>	Not at all <u>confident</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. Donald Trump Oct 25-30, 2017	22	18	16	42	1
b. Republican leaders in Congress Oct 25-30, 2017	9	34	24	31	3
c. Democratic leaders in Congress Oct 25-30, 2017	11	39	23	24	4

NO QUESTIONS 49-53, 56-57

QUESTION 54-55 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.58 How serious a problem do you think the budget deficit is for the country right now? Is it ... **[READ]**?

	Very <u>serious</u>	Somewhat <u>serious</u>	Not too <u>serious</u>	Not at all <u>serious</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Oct 25-30, 2017	54	35	7	2	2
<i>CBS News</i> : June 7, 2011	75	20	3	1	1
<i>CBS News</i> : March 21, 2011	68	26	5	1	0
<i>CBS News</i> : February 14, 2011	70	25	3	1	1
<i>CBS News/NYT</i> : January 19, 2011	70	25	3	0	2
<i>CBS News</i> : January 9, 2011	70	25	3	1	1
<i>60 Minutes/Vanity Fair</i> : Dec 2, 2010	73	21	3	1	2
<i>CBS News/NYT</i> : February 28, 2005	52	38	8	1	1
<i>CBS News/NYT</i> : March 14, 2004	50	36	9	2	3
<i>CBS News/NYT</i> : October 1, 2003 ¹⁰	50	36	9	3	2

¹⁰ October 2003 wording: "How serious a problem do you think the budget deficit is for the country?"

ASK ALL:

Q.59 Looking ahead five years or so, do you think we will have made significant progress in reducing the federal budget deficit, or not?

Oct 25-30 2017		Dec 5-9 2012	Jul 20-24 2011	Apr 21-25 2011	Dec 1-5 2010	Feb 1989
30	Yes	44	39	31	37	40
66	No	50	51	55	52	46
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	10	14	11	14

NO QUESTIONS 60-79, 83-90, 96-98**QUESTIONS 80-82, 91-95, 99-101 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

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

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

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

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Oct 25-30, 2017	22	32	41	3	1	2	17	19
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	25	31	39	3	1	2	16	18
Apr 5-11, 2017	24	31	42	2	1	*	17	20
Feb 7-12, 2017	23	34	37	3	1	2	15	18
Jan 4-9, 2017	25	28	41	4	*	1	18	19
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	24	33	35	5	1	3	15	16
Oct 20-25, 2016	26	33	36	3	*	2	15	17
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	27	32	33	5	*	3	11	16
Aug 9-16, 2016	27	32	35	2	1	2	13	16
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	33	37	4	1	2	16	16
Yearly Totals								
2016	25.4	32.0	36.5	3.4	.5	2.2	14.6	17.0
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(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>
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN-LEARNERS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=628]:Q.102 Do you think Donald Trump **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

			TREND FOR COMPARISON:
			<i>CBS/NYT</i> ¹¹
Oct 25-30 <u>2017</u>		Oct 20-25 <u>2016</u>	July 8-12 <u>2016</u>
68	Represents the core principles and positions the Republican Party should stand for [OR]	65	61
28	Does NOT represent the core principles and positions the Republican Party should stand for	31	35
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL) .	4	4

¹¹ In CBS News/New York Times survey, based on Republicans only, question read: "Overall, do you think Donald Trump represents the core principles and values that the Republican Party should stand for, or doesn't he?"