

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
DECEMBER 2017 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
NOVEMBER 29-DECEMBER 4, 2017  
N=1,503**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

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

<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.1 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	September, 2000	51	41	8
July, 2006	30	65	5	June, 2000	47	45	8
May, 2006*	29	65	6	April, 2000	48	43	9
March, 2006	32	63	5	August, 1999	56	39	5
January, 2006	34	61	5	January, 1999	53	41	6
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	November, 1998	46	44	10
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
February, 2005	38	56	6	February, 1998	59	37	4
January, 2005	40	54	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
December, 2004	39	54	7	September, 1997	45	49	6
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	August, 1997	49	46	5
July, 2004	38	55	7	January, 1997	38	58	4
May, 2004	33	61	6	July, 1996	29	67	4
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	October, 1995	23	73	4
December, 2003	44	47	9	June, 1995	25	73	2
October, 2003	38	56	6	April, 1995	23	74	3
August, 2003	40	53	7	July, 1994	24	73	3
April, 2003	50	41	9	March, 1994	24	71	5
January, 2003	44	50	6	October, 1993	22	73	5
November, 2002	41	48	11	September, 1993	20	75	5
September, 2002	41	55	4	May, 1993	22	71	7
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	January, 1993	39	50	11
May, 2002	44	44	12	January, 1992	28	68	4
March, 2002	50	40	10	November, 1991	34	61	5
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	<i>Gallup</i> : Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	August, 1990	47	48	5
June, 2001	43	52	5	May, 1990	41	54	5
March, 2001	47	45	8	January, 1989	45	50	5
February, 2001	46	43	11	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5
January, 2001	55	41	4				

**ASK ALL:**

Q.2 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]**

	Approve	Disapprove	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	32	63	5
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](#)

**ASK IF APPROVE (Q.2=1):**

Q.2a While you approve of Trump's performance overall, are there any things he has done that you have been disappointed or unhappy with, or can't you think of anything?

**ASK IF DISAPPOINTED/UNHAPPY (Q.2a=1):**

Q.2c What have you been disappointed or unhappy with? [**OPEN END-PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL ANSWER: "Anything else?"**]

**BASED ON THOSE WHO APPROVE OF TRUMP [N=493]**

Nov 29-Dec 4

2017

37 Been disappointed or unhappy with things

**26 STYLE (NET)**

- 14 Twitter/Social media
- 14 Unprofessional behavior
- 2 No results/Not keeping promises
- 1 Treatment of women

**11 DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)**

- 3 Appointments/Staffing
- 3 Immigration/Border wall
- 2 Health care
- 4 Other domestic policies

**2 FOREIGN POLICY**

- \* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

62 Can't think of anything

1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:** While you approve of Obama's performance overall, are there any things he has done that you have been disappointed or unhappy with, or can't you think of anything? What have you been disappointed or unhappy with? [**OPEN END - PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL ANSWER: "Anything else?"**]

**BASED ON THOSE WHO APPROVE OF OBAMA [N=697]:**

Dec 9-13

2009

30 Been disappointed or unhappy with things

**15 DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)**

- 7 Health care
- 3 Economy/Spending/Deficit/Taxes/Jobs
- 3 Banks/Corporations/Bonuses/Bailouts/Wall Street
- 2 Gay rights
- 1 Abortion

**14 FOREIGN POLICY (NET)**

- 9 Afghanistan/Troop increase
- 3 End war/Troops home
- 2 Iraq
- 1 Other foreign policy

**5 STYLE (NET)**

- 4 Not firm enough/No results
- 1 Other style
- 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

66 Can't think of anything

4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK IF DISAPPROVE (Q.2=2):**

Q.2b While you disapprove of Trump's performance overall, are there any things he has done that you have been happy with, or can't you think of anything?

**ASK IF HAPPY WITH ANYTHING (Q.2b = 1):**

Q.2d What have you been happy with? [**OPEN END-PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL ANSWER:** "Anything else?"]

**BASED ON THOSE WHO DISAPPROVE OF TRUMP [N=938]**

Nov 29-Dec 4

2017

14 Been happy with things

- 8 DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)**
- 2 Economy/Jobs/Stock market
- 1 Immigration
- 1 Taxes
- 4 Other domestic policies
- 3 STYLE**
- 2 FOREIGN POLICY**
- 1 Other
- \* Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

84 Can't think of anything

2 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:** While you disapprove of Obama's performance overall, are there any things he has done that you have been happy with, or can't you think of anything? What have you been happy with? [**OPEN END – PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL ANSWER:** "Anything else?"]

**BASED ON THOSE WHO DISAPPROVE OF OBAMA [N=655]:**

Dec 9-13

2009

24 Been happy with things

- 11 FOREIGN POLICY (NET)**
- 7 Afghanistan
- 1 Iraq
- 3 Other foreign policy
- 9 DOMESTIC POLICY (NET)**
- 6 Economy/Stimulus/Taxes/Benefits
- 3 Health care
- 1 Other domestic policy
- 5 STYLE (NET)**
- 3 Speeches/Communication
- 1 Reaching out/Willing to talk/Uniting
- 1 Other style
- \* Effort/Trying
- 1 Other
- 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

73 Can't think of anything

3 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.3 Please tell me how important each of the following issues is for the country ... First, is **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important for the country? Next, how about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Is [ITEM] very important, somewhat important, not too important or not at all important for the country?]**

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a. The investigation into alleged Russian involvement in the 2016 election Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	49	17	11	19	4
b. Proposed changes to the federal tax system Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	69	18	4	4	5
c. The possibility of a federal government shutdown in the next few weeks Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	59	19	8	9	5
d. The issue of sexual assault and harassment Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	74	18	5	3	1
e. The status of immigrants who came into the country illegally when they were children Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	52	28	11	8	2

**QUESTIONS 4, 6-7, 11-12, 15-17, 21-24, 26, 28-29 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 5, 8-10, 13-14, 18-20, 25, 27, 30-33****ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.34 Compared to recent Congresses, would you say THIS Congress has accomplished more, accomplished less, or accomplished about the same amount?

	<u>More</u>	<u>Less</u>	<u>Same amount</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	8	52	33	7
Jul 8-14, 2014	9	55	33	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	8	50	37	5
Sep 30-Oct 3, 2010	20	36	37	7
Jun 16-20, 2010	18	33	44	6
October, 2007	5	43	42	10
October, 2006	6	39	47	8
Early September, 2006	7	37	49	7
June, 2006	7	43	42	8
April, 2006	8	38	48	6
Early November, 2002 (RVs)	11	27	54	8
June, 2002	16	22	56	6
July, 2000	21	15	55	9
August, 1999	15	20	60	5
Early October, 1998(RVs)	24	23	49	4
Early September, 1998	25	15	55	5
Early August, 1998	18	15	60	7
November, 1997	23	12	59	6
April, 1997	10	22	59	9
Gallup: October, 1994	10	36	51	3

**ASK IF LESS (Q.34=2) [N=859]:**Q.35 Who do you think is most to blame for this **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**?

	Republican <u>leaders</u>	Democratic <u>leaders</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Both</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	56	16	23	2	3
Jul 8-14, 2014	44	28	22	2	3
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	23	32	1	3
Jun 16-20, 2010	16	49	28	5	3
October, 2007	30	26	34	5	5
October, 2006	59	10	21	4	6
June, 2006	56	16	22	2	4
April, 2006	58	13	21	4	4

**NO QUESTIONS 36-40, 43-49****QUESTIONS 41-42 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

Q.50 Thinking about the investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election... just your impression, do you think senior members of the Trump administration definitely did, probably did, probably did NOT or definitely did NOT have improper contact with Russia during the 2016 presidential campaign?

Nov 29-Dec 4

2017

30	Definitely did
29	Probably did
18	Probably did not
12	Definitely did not
10	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**Q.51 How confident, if at all, are you that the Justice Department special counsel Robert Mueller **[PRONOUNCED: "MULL-er"]** will conduct a fair investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election **[READ]**?

Nov 29-Dec 4

2017

25	Very confident
30	Somewhat confident
20	Not too confident
16	Not at all confident
8	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 52-55****ASK ALL:**Q.56 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about recent allegations of sexual harassment and assault against prominent men in entertainment, politics and the media? **[READ]**

Nov 29-Dec 4

2017

74	A lot
18	A little [OR]
8	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.57 Which comes closer to your view about recent allegations of sexual harassment and assault? **[READ; RANDOMIZE]?**

Nov 29-Dec 4

2017

28 They are mainly isolated incidents of individual misconduct [OR]  
66 They mainly reflect widespread problems in society  
6 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

#### NO QUESTIONS 58-75

#### QUESTIONS 76-79 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?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				preference	party			
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	20	32	40	4	1	3	13	19
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
<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

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
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:**


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(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

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