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# Public Sees Better Year Ahead; Democrats Sharpen Focus on Midterm Elections

*Control of Congress a bigger voting factor than in recent midterms*

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# Public Sees Better Year Ahead; Democrats Sharpen Focus on Midterm Elections

*Control of Congress a bigger voting factor than in recent midterms*

A majority of Americans say 2018 will be a better year than 2017, a shift from a year ago when public expectations were far less positive. The change has been driven almost entirely by Democrats, who are more likely than Republicans to cite this fall's midterm elections as a reason for optimism. And significantly more Democrats than Republicans say they are "looking forward" to the elections.

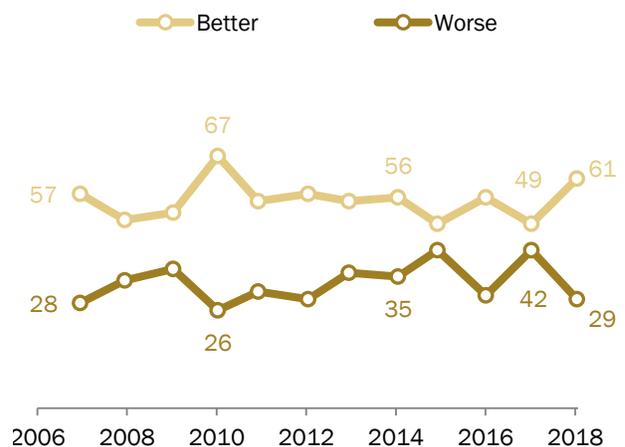
Donald Trump begins the year with a job approval rating of 37%, which is little different from his rating shortly after his inauguration last year (39%). Large majorities continue to view Trump negatively on such traits as being trustworthy, well-informed, empathetic and even-tempered.

As was the case last year, one of Trump's stronger traits is his ability to get things done; 50% say he is able to do this. But on what had been his most positive characteristic a year ago – keeping his promises – Trump is now viewed more critically. Just 39% say Trump keeps his promises, down from 60% last February. The decline has come among members of both parties, though Republicans continue to be much more likely than Democrats to say Trump keeps his promises.

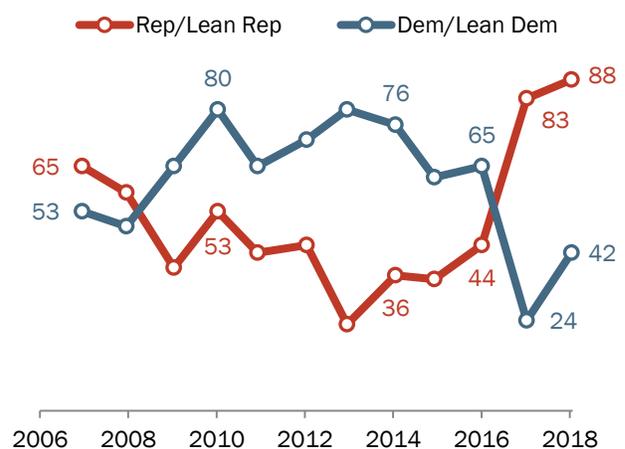
The new national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Jan. 10-15 among 1,503 adults, finds that 61% of the public thinks this year will be better than last year; a year ago,

## Republicans are bullish on 2018 as Democratic optimism increases

% who say coming year will be \_\_\_\_\_ than prior year



% who say coming year will be **better** than prior year



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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49% said 2017 would be better than 2016. Optimism among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents remains very high (88% expect this year will be better than last) and has increased substantially among Democrats and Democratic leaners (from just 24% last year to 42% today).

Republicans and Democrats who see a better year ahead differ markedly in their reasons for saying this: 36% of Republicans cite the economy, jobs or the stock market for why 2018 will be better, while 23% cite Trump or his policies. Among Democrats who think this year will be better, 26% say they are generally optimistic, while 18% mention the midterm elections. Fewer than 1% of Republicans point to the midterms as why they think 2018 will be better than last year.

Among the 29% of Americans (mostly Democrats) who say 2018 will be worse than 2017, Trump figures prominently among the reasons for their negative expectations. Roughly half (46%) point to Trump or his policies as why they think this year will be worse than last year; no other response comes close (11% cite Republican policies).

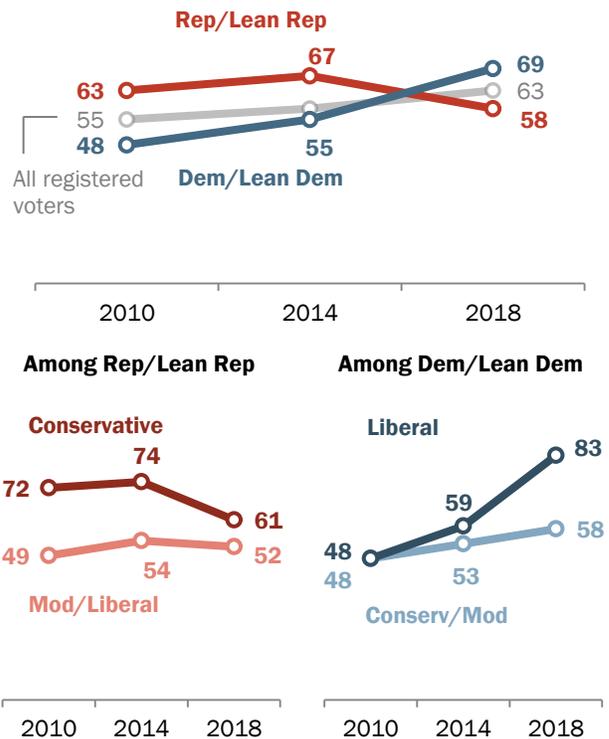
At the start of the election year, Democratic registered voters, are more likely than Republican voters to say they are looking forward to the midterms – a shift from the past two midterm elections.

Currently, 69% of Democratic registered voters say they are looking forward to the midterms, compared with 58% of Republicans. At this point in 2014, Republicans were 12-percentage points more likely than Democrats to say they were anticipating the election and the gap was comparable early in 2010 (15 points).

Liberal Democrats, in particular, are looking forward to the midterms: 83% say that today, compared with 59% in 2014 and 48% in 2010. By contrast, 61% of conservative Republicans say they are looking forward to the midterms,

**Liberal Democrats are especially likely to be ‘looking forward’ to the midterms**

*% of registered voters who say they are looking forward to the midterm congressional elections*



Note: Based on registered voters.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

lower than in 2014 (74%) or 2010 (72%).

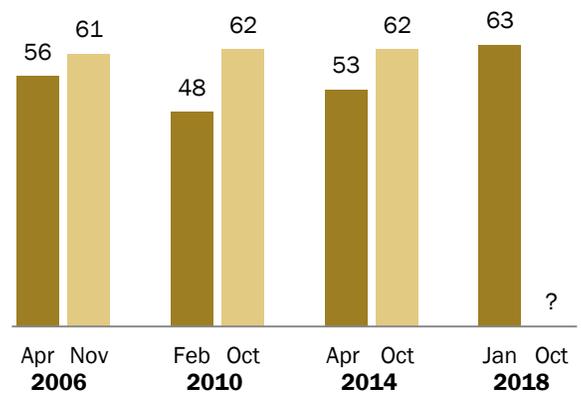
As other national surveys have found, Democrats have an early advantage in voting preferences for the midterm elections: 53% of registered voters say if the election were held now, they would vote for the Democrat in their House district or lean toward the Democrat, while 39% favor the Republican or lean Republican.

With the election about 10 months away, a majority of registered voters (63%) say the issue of which party controls Congress will be a factor in their vote this year. This is a greater percentage than said this at early points in the 2014, 2010 and 2006 midterm cycles. The share saying partisan control of Congress will matter in their vote is now about as high as it was in the closing weeks of those elections.

Majorities of both Democratic (68%) and Republican voters (62%) say the issue of which party controls Congress will be a factor in their vote in the midterms. Democrats, in particular, are more likely to view partisan control as important than at roughly this point or later in the past three midterm elections.

### About six-in-ten voters already factor party control of Congress into 2018 vote

*% of registered voters who say the issue of which party controls Congress will be a factor in their vote for Congress*



Notes: Based on registered voters. Data for first and last time question was asked in each midterm cycle shown here.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## Other major findings

**Little confidence in Trump on issues.** As in the past, Trump does not draw a great deal of confidence for his ability to handle many major issues. About half (46%) say they are very or somewhat confident that Trump will make good decisions on economic policy (51% are not too confident or not at all confident). About as many Americans (44%) say they are at least somewhat confident in Trump to work effectively with Congress, while fewer express confidence in Trump on immigration policy (38%) and in his ability to handle an international crisis (35%).

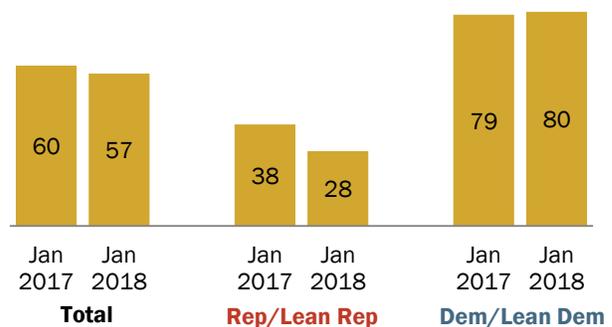
**Fewer Republicans say Trump is obligated to release his tax returns.** Nearly six-in-ten Americans (57%) say Trump has a responsibility to publicly release his tax returns, which is little changed from a year ago (60%). However, fewer Republicans say Trump needs to release his returns than did so last year (28% now, 38% then). Democrats continue to overwhelmingly say Trump has an obligation to release his taxes (80% say this).

**Anti-incumbent sentiment again high.** In the past two midterm elections, anti-incumbent sentiment was at a historical high. That remains the case this year: Just 25% of voters say they would like to see most representatives re-elected and only about half (48%) say they want *their own* representative to be re-elected. Anti-incumbent sentiment is more widespread among Democrats than Republicans. Fewer than half of Democrats say they want their own representative returned to Congress, compared with 55% of Republicans.

**Education a major factor in midterm voting intentions, especially among whites.** Deep educational differences among white voters, which increased considerably in the 2016 election, are already stark in early voting intentions for Congress. Among white voters with a postgraduate degree, 65% favor the Democrat in their House district or lean Democratic; among white voters with a four-year degree, 53% say the same. White voters with some college experience but no degree favor the Republican by a 48%-42% margin. And whites with no college experience favor the Republican by more than two-to-one (65% to 28%).

### Declining share of Republicans say Trump needs to release his tax returns

*% who say Trump has a responsibility to publicly release his tax returns*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## 1. Trump at year one: job approval, confidence on issues, personal traits

The public's evaluation of the way Trump is handling his job as president is now roughly on par with views at the outset of his presidency, reflecting a modest rise in approval over the last month. Today, 37% of Americans approve of the job that Trump is doing, while 56% disapprove; last month, 32% approved while 63% disapproved.

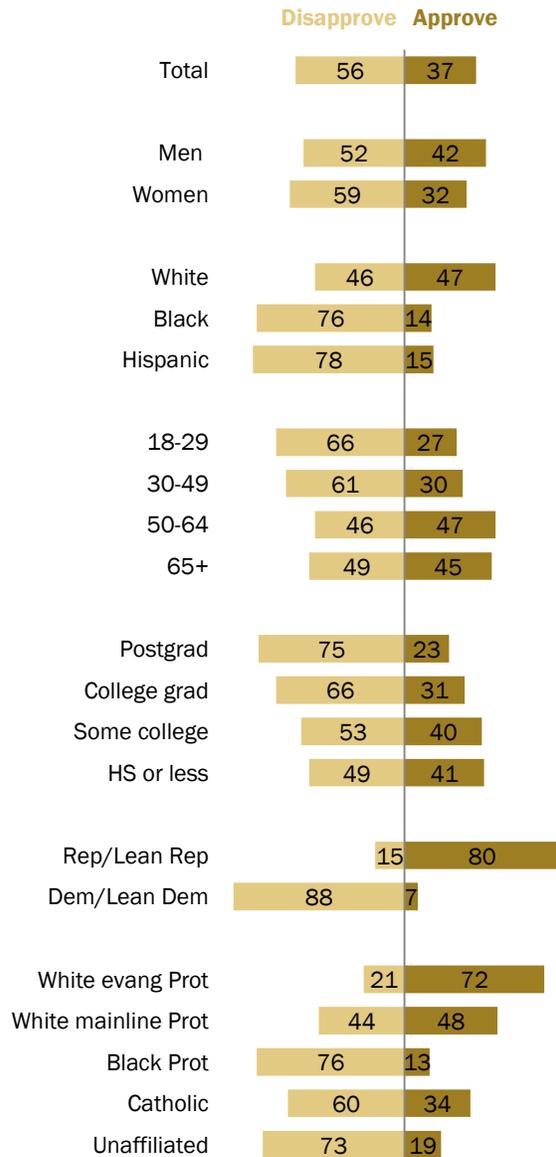
The demographic differences in views of Trump's job performance are also little changed over the course of the year. Men continue to be more likely to approve of the president's job performance than women (42% versus 32%). And while evaluations of Trump's job performance are divided among whites (47% approve, 46% disapprove), wide majorities of blacks (76%) and Hispanics (78%) disapprove.

Those with postgraduate degrees are significantly less likely than others to approve of Trump's job performance. Just 23% say they do compared to 31% of those with bachelor's degrees, and 40% of those with less education.

There also are wide divides by religious tradition. White evangelical Protestants continue to be the religious group with the strongest approval of Trump's job with 72% approving. White mainline Protestants are divided (48% approve, 44% disapprove). Six-in-ten Catholics (60%) disapprove of the job

### Majorities of most demographic groups continue to disapprove of Trump

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



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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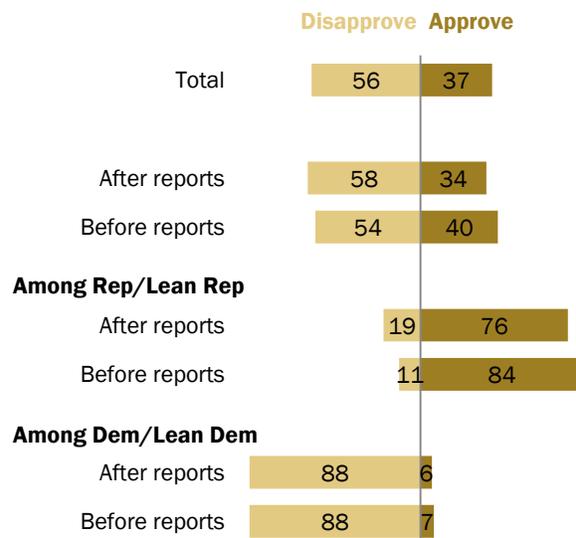
Trump is doing in office, and Black Protestants and the religiously unaffiliated overwhelmingly disapprove of how he is handling his job (76% and 73%, respectively).

During the period the survey was being conducted it was widely reported that Trump made derogatory remarks about African countries and Haiti during a bipartisan meeting in the Oval Office on Jan. 11. Overall, Trump's approval was slightly higher in the days before widespread coverage of his remarks (40% Jan. 10-11) than after his comments sparked controversy (34% Jan. 12-15).

The dip in Trump approval was concentrated among Republicans and those who lean toward the Republican Party. Prior to the reports of Trump's comments, 84% of Republicans said they approved of the job he was doing. After the comments were widely reported, that figure dropped to 76%. There was no significant difference in evaluations of Trump's job performance over the period of the survey among Democrats and those who lean toward the Democratic Party.

### Slight decline in Trump job approval after reports of his derogatory comments about Africa, Haiti

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



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. Interviews conducted Jan. 10-11 are before the reports; those conducted Jan. 12-15 are after. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## How will Trump's presidency be viewed in the long run?

As Donald Trump's presidency approaches the one-year mark, 41% say Trump will be an unsuccessful president in the long run, while 23% say he will be successful and 34% say that it is too early to tell.

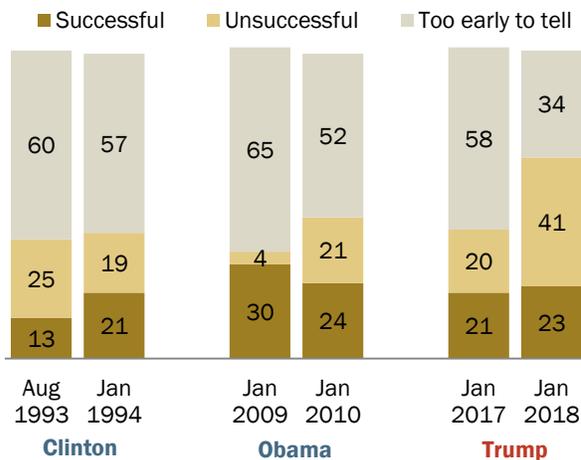
The share of the public who say Trump's presidency will be successful over the long term is little changed from shortly before he took the oath of office last January. But the share who now say Trump will be unsuccessful has increased 21 percentage points (from 20% to 41%) since then, while the share who say it is too early to say has dropped from 58% to 34%.

While the share who expect Trump to be successful in the long run is similar to the share who said this of Barack Obama (24%) and of Bill Clinton (21%) at the same points in their presidencies, only about two-in-ten

Americans expected that Obama (21%) or Clinton (19%) would be unsuccessful in the long run. Instead, for both of these prior presidents, a majority of Americans felt it was too early to say. (This question was not asked about George W. Bush in early 2002.)

### More say Trump's presidency will be unsuccessful than successful

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



Notes: Don't know responses not shown.

Comparison for George W. Bush not available. Q7F2.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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Republicans and Democrats have very different views of whether Trump's administration will be a success in the long run. And in both parties, smaller shares reserve judgement than did so for Obama and Clinton, resulting in even more polarized early assessments of Trump's presidency than for his predecessors.

About half of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (55%) say Trump will be a successful president; just 7% say he will be an unsuccessful president and 37% say it is too early to tell. Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, two-thirds (67%) say he will be unsuccessful, 3% say successful and 29% say it is too early to say.

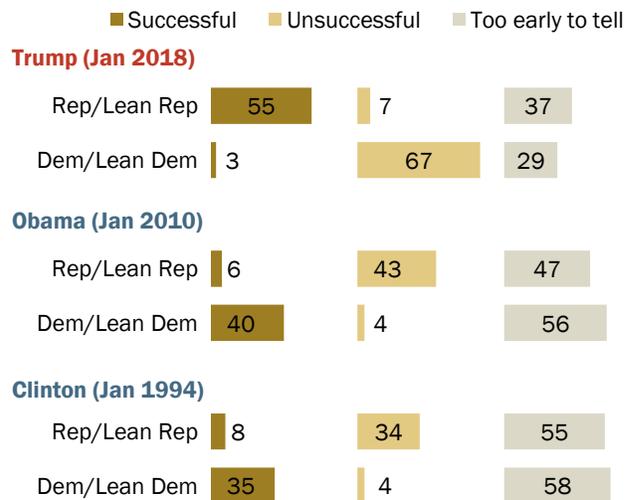
Republicans and Republican leaners are more likely to say Trump will be a successful president than Democrats and Democratic leaners were about Obama and Clinton at similar points in their presidencies. About half of Republicans (55%) now say Trump will be a successful president in the long run; 40% of Democrats said this of Obama in 2010 and 35% of Clinton in 1994.

Currently, just 37% of Republicans say it is too early to tell how the Trump presidency will unfold; majorities of Democrats said this of Obama in January 2010 (56%) and Clinton in 1994 (58%). For all three presidents, fewer than one-in-ten of those who affiliate with or lean to the president's party say the president will be unsuccessful.

Conversely, while two-thirds of Democrats (67%) say Trump will be unsuccessful in the long run, that compares with 43% of Republicans who said this of Obama in January 2010 and 34% of Clinton in 1994. While few Republicans expected Clinton or Obama's presidencies to be successful, roughly half said it was too early to tell at this point, compared with just 29% of Democrats who say the same today of Trump.

### Early predictions for Trump's presidency more polarized than for predecessors

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



Notes: Don't know responses not shown.

Comparison for George W. Bush not available. Q7F2.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## Views of Trump's personal traits and characteristics

The public holds generally negative assessments of Trump across a range of personal traits and characteristics, and there has been little change in public perceptions of most of these traits since February 2017, shortly after he took office.

One exception is in views of whether Trump keeps his promises: Today, more say Trump does not keep his promises (54%) than say he does (39%). Opinion on this measure is much more negative than it was in February 2017. At that time, far more described Trump as someone who keeps his promises (60%) than as someone who does not (31%).

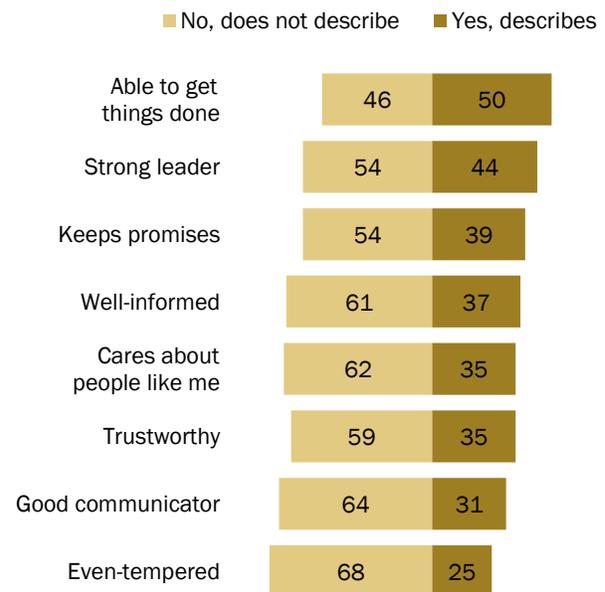
Perceptions of Trump's other personal traits have changed less over the past year. Half describe Trump as able to get things done, while 46% say this does not describe him. On all other traits included in the survey, more view him negatively than positively.

Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) say that Trump is not even-tempered (just 25% say that he is); 64% say that he is not a good communicator (31% say he is).

Most also say they think of Trump as someone who "does not care about people like me" (62%), is not well-informed (61%) and is not trustworthy (59%). By 54% to 44%, more say Trump is not a strong leader than say he is.

### Mixed views of Trump's effectiveness, negative of views of his other traits

*% who say each describes Trump ...*



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

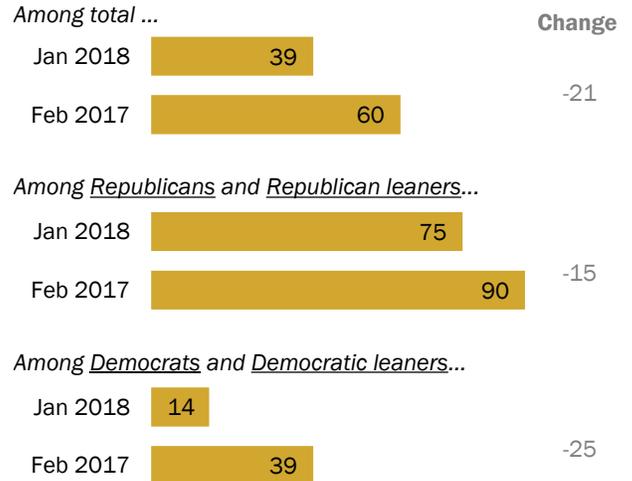
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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Among members of both parties, declining shares say Trump “keeps his promises.” Three-quarters of Republicans and Republican leaners (75%) describe Trump as someone who keeps his promises, down 15 points from the 90% who said this in the first weeks of his presidency. Last February, 39% of Democrats and Democratic leaners described Trump as someone who keeps his promises – making it the trait he did best on among Democrats. Today, the share of Democrats who say Trump keeps his promises has fallen 25 percentage points to 14%.

## Far fewer say Trump ‘keeps his promises’ than did so about a year ago

*% who say ‘keeps his promises’ describes Trump ...*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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Across most dimensions, large shares of Republicans and Republican leaners describe Trump positively. For instance, 87% think of him as able to get things done and 85% call him a strong leader.

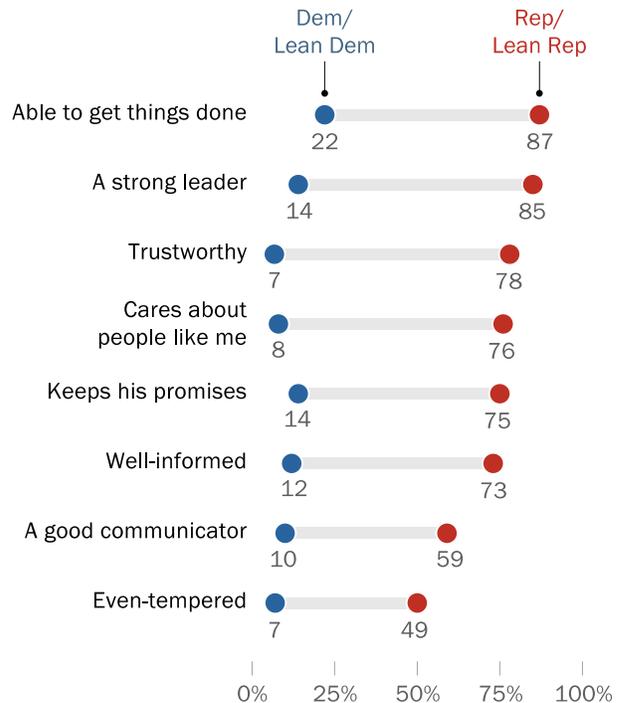
About three-quarters (76%) describe Trump as someone who “cares about people like me,” while a similar share (73%) say he is well-informed. On both of these measures, GOP views are 12 percentage points lower than they were last February (when 84% and 81% said this, respectively).

A smaller majority of Republicans describe Trump as a good communicator (59% say this today, down from 67% last year). Trump gets his lowest marks among Republicans when it comes to his temperament: 49% say they think of him as even-tempered, while 44% say they do not think of him this way; this is nearly identical to GOP views on this trait at the beginning of Trump’s presidency.

Views of Trump’s traits among Democrats and Democratic leaners are overwhelmingly negative. Just 22% of Democrats describe Trump as someone who is able to get things done – yet this is the most positive rating he receives from Democrats on any one trait. On all other qualities, no more than about one-in-ten Democrats describe Trump positively.

## Republicans hold positive views of most Trump traits, but rate him lower on communication, temperament

% who say each describes Trump ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## Public perceptions of presidential traits: Trump and Obama at first year

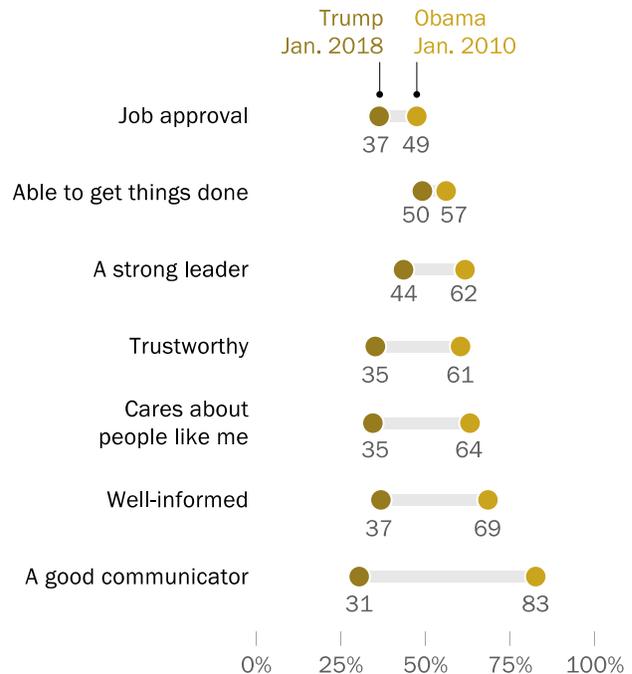
At the close of his first year in office, impressions of Trump on six personal traits lag behind those of his predecessor, Barack Obama, at a similar point. Yet the size of the differences varies across characteristics.

By far the widest gap in views of Trump and Obama is on communication. Just 31% describe Trump as a good communicator; this is among his lowest ratings. By contrast, 83% described Obama as a good communicator in January 2010; that was his most positive characteristic.

On the other hand, the differences are much narrower in perceptions of each president's ability to get things done. In January 2010, 57% of the public said Obama was "able to get things done," compared with 50% who say this of Trump today. This seven percentage point gap is smaller than for other traits included in both surveys.

### Trump viewed more negatively than Obama on most traits

% who say each describes the president ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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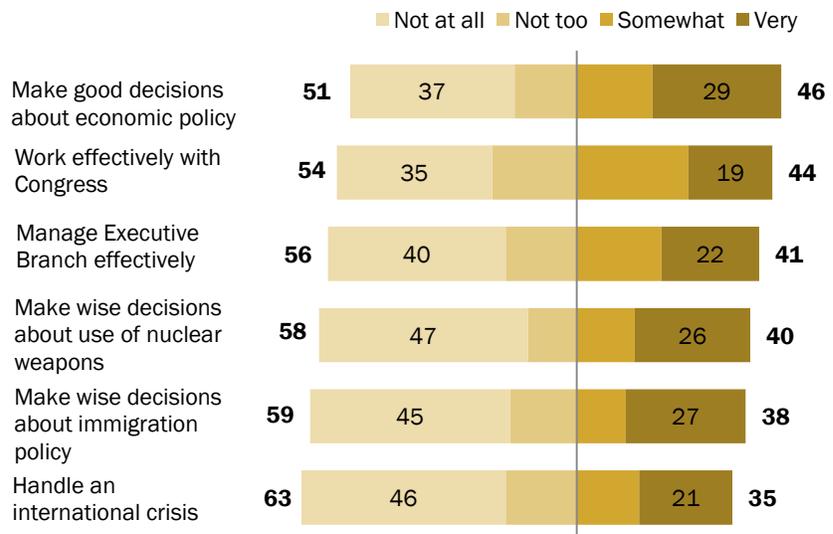
## Confidence in Trump on key issues

The public expresses mixed or low confidence in Donald Trump to handle a range of issues and aspects of the presidency. Roughly half (46%) say they are very (29%) or somewhat (17%) confident that Donald Trump can make good decisions about economic policy, while about as many (51%) say they are not too (14%) or not at all (37%) confident in him in this area.

Public views tilt more negative when it comes to Trump’s handling of other aspects of the presidency. Overall, 54% say they are not too or not at all confident that Trump can work effectively with Congress, compared with fewer (44%) who are very or somewhat confident in Trump’s ability to do this. Similarly, more express little or no confidence in Trump to manage the executive branch effectively (56%) than say they are very or somewhat confident that he can do this (41%).

### Public lacks confidence in Trump’s ability to handle most matters at home and abroad

% who are \_\_\_ confident that Donald Trump can ...



Note: Don't know responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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Doubts about Trump extend beyond his ability to manage Washington: Nearly six-in-ten express little or no confidence in Trump to make wise decisions about immigration policy (59%) or the use of nuclear weapons (58%). When it comes to his ability to handle an international crisis, 63% say they have not too much or no confidence at all in Trump, compared with 35% who say they are very or somewhat confident in him.

Republicans and Republican leaners express far more confidence in Trump than Democrats and Democratic leaners. No more than about two-in-ten Democrats express at least some confidence in Trump to handle any of these areas, while wide majorities of Republicans (seven-in-ten or more) express confidence in Trump’s abilities in each of these domains.

These partisan differences are particularly pronounced over confidence in Trump’s ability to make wise decisions about immigration policy and nuclear weapons.

Among Republicans, 84% say they are very (60%) or somewhat (24%) confident in Trump’s ability to make wise decisions about the use of nuclear weapons. By contrast, just 10% of Democrats express at least some confidence, while 90% say they are either not too (16%) or not at all (74%) confident in Trump’s ability to make wise decisions about nuclear weapons.

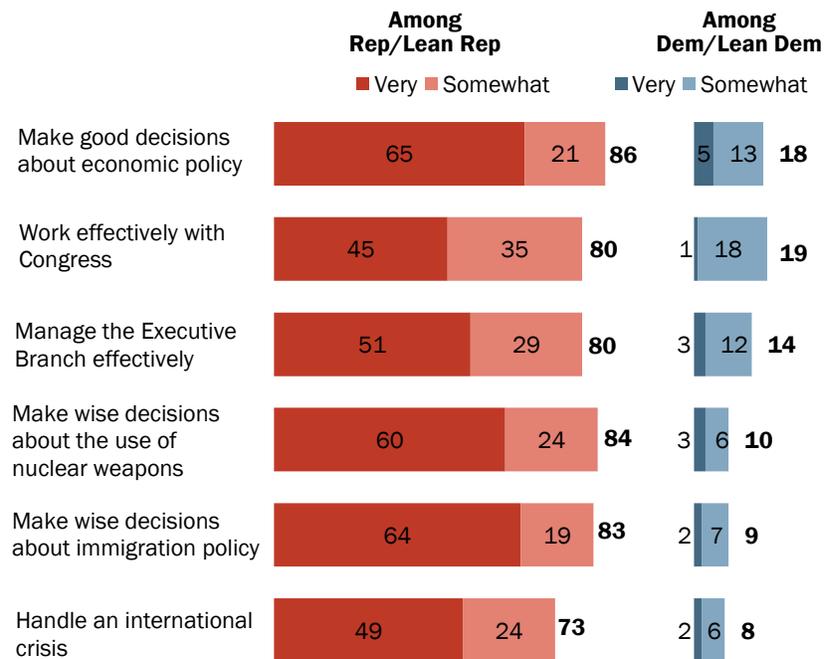
A similar gap is seen in views about immigration policy. Fully 83% of Republicans are at least somewhat confident Donald Trump can make wise decisions about immigration policy, including 64% who say they are very confident. By contrast, 72% of

Democrats express no confidence at all in Trump’s decision-making on immigration policy and an additional 17% say they have little confidence in him on this issue (just 9% say they are very or somewhat confident in Trump on immigration).

The confidence gap among partisans is somewhat more modest – though still wide – in assessments of Trump’s ability to effectively work with Congress. Roughly one-in-five Democrats

### Wide partisan divisions over confidence in Trump to handle key aspects of office

% who are \_\_\_ confident Donald Trump can ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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(19%) and 80% of Republicans are at least somewhat confident in Trump's ability to work well with Congress.

Republicans are more likely to say they are *very* confident in Trump's ability to work effectively with the House and Senate than they were last fall. In October, 31% said they were very confident in Trump on this issue, compared with 45% who say this in the current survey.

## Trump’s tax returns and business interests

A majority of Americans (57%) say Donald Trump has a responsibility to publicly release his tax returns; 37% say he does not have a responsibility to do this. Overall, these views are little changed from a year ago.

Democrats remain far more likely to say this than Republicans: 80% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say Trump has this responsibility; just 28% of Republicans and Republican leaners say the same.

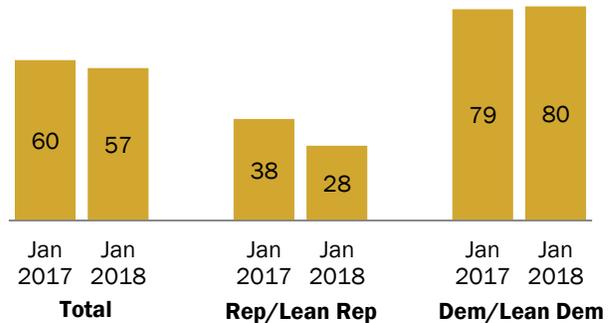
While Democratic views on this question are similar to last year, there has been a 10-percentage point drop in the share of Republicans who say Trump has a responsibility to release his tax returns publicly since January 2017.

The public remains skeptical that Trump keeps his own business interests separate from the decisions he makes as president: About four-in-ten (41%) say they are very (23%) or somewhat (18%) confident Trump does this, while a 57% majority is either not at all (43%) or not too (14%) confident. These views are little different from February 2017.

Republicans and Democrats continue to have very different views of whether Trump separates his business interests from his decisions as president. Among Republicans and Republican leaners, 49% are very confident he keeps his business interests separate while 29% are somewhat confident. In contrast, an overwhelming majority of Democrats (84%) are either not at all (68%) or not too (16%) confident he keeps his business interests separate from his presidential decision making.

### Majority continues to say Trump has responsibility to release his tax returns

*% who say Trump has the responsibility to publicly release his tax returns*

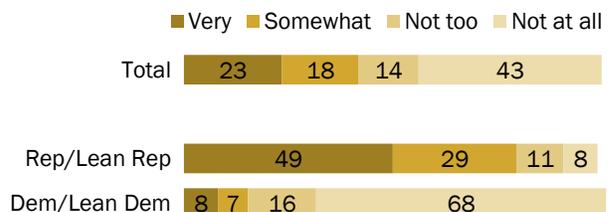


Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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### Democrats skeptical Trump keeps his business interests separate

*% who say they are \_\_\_ confident Trump keeps his business interests separate from decisions as president*



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## No change in views of Mueller's handling of Russia investigation

Nearly nine-in-ten Americans (88%) say they have heard at least a little about the investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election, including 55% who have heard a lot. Just 11% say they have heard nothing at all.

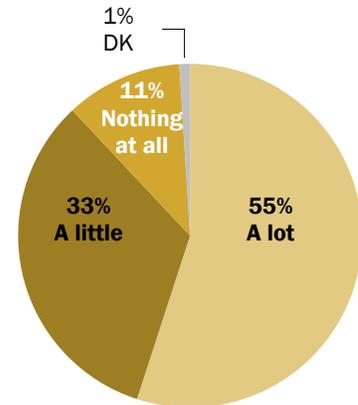
While majorities across all demographic groups have heard about the investigation, older people and those with more education are more likely than others to say they have heard a lot. For example, while 69% of those ages 65 and older report hearing or reading a lot about the Russia investigation; that compares with 53% of those 30-49 and just 36% of those who are 18-29.

About seven-in-ten of those with a college degree or more education (72%) say they have heard a lot about the investigation. By comparison, 59% of those with some college experience and just 39% of those with a high school degree or less say the same. Republicans and Democrats are about equally likely to say they have heard a lot about the investigation.

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### Most have heard about Russia investigation

*% who say they have heard \_\_\_\_\_ about the investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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The public's confidence that special counsel Robert Mueller will conduct a fair investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election is largely unchanged from last month.

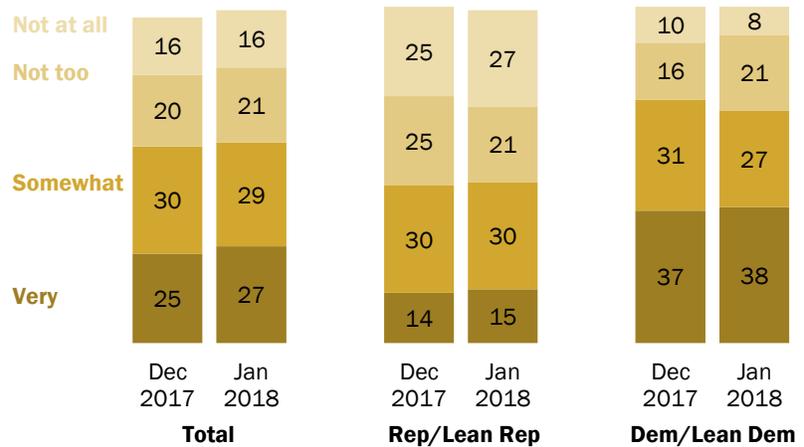
Most say they are at least somewhat confident (55%) Mueller will conduct a fair investigation while 37% are not too or not at all confident the investigation will be fair.

The partisan divide in confidence in Mueller is also little different than it was in December. Among Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, 45% say they are very or somewhat confident he will conduct a fair investigation, while 48% express little or no confidence.

By contrast, about two-thirds of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents (65%) are at least somewhat confident in Mueller to conduct a fair inquiry; just 29% say they are not too or not at all confident.

**Confidence in Mueller to conduct a fair investigation unchanged from December**

*% who are \_\_\_ confident that Justice Department special counsel Mueller will conduct a fair investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election*



Note: Don't know responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan 10-15, 2018.

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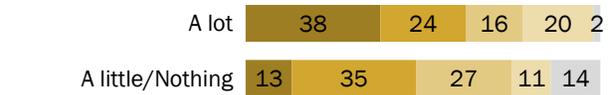
Americans who report having heard “a lot” about the investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election are more likely than those who have heard less to express confidence in Mueller to conduct a fair investigation. About six-in-ten (62%) who have heard a lot express at least some confidence, including 38% who say they are very confident in Mueller. By comparison, 47% of those who have heard less about the investigation express at least some confidence, including just 13% who say they are very confident. There is little difference between these groups in the share who express low levels of confidence (those who have heard less about the investigation are less likely to offer an opinion than others).

The partisan gap in confidence that Mueller’s investigation will be fair is deepest among those who have heard a lot about the Russia investigation. Among Republicans and Republican leaners who have heard a lot, 35% say they are not at all confident Mueller will be fair; just 14% of Republicans who have heard a little or nothing say the same. Conversely, 57% of Democrats and Democratic leaners who have read or heard a lot say they are very confident in Mueller, compared with 15% of Democrats who report hearing a little or nothing about it.

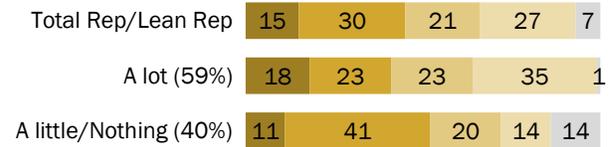
**Differences over Mueller probe more pronounced among attentive partisans**

*% who are \_\_\_ confident that Justice Department special counsel Mueller will conduct a fair investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election*

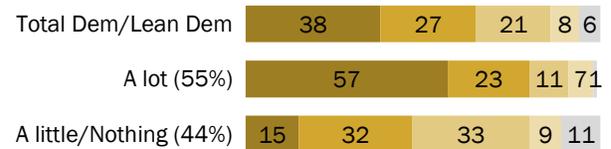
■ Very ■ Somewhat ■ Not too ■ Not at all ■ DK  
 Among those who say they have heard \_\_\_ about the investigation



**Among Rep/Lean Rep**



**Among Dem/Lean Dem**



Note: Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## 2. The 2018 congressional elections

With 10 months to go before the congressional elections, the divisions reflected in results from recent national elections – by race and ethnicity, age and education – are evident in preferences on the generic ballot for Congress.

Currently, the Democratic Party has a wide advantage in voting intentions: Among registered voters, 53% say they will vote for or lean toward the Democratic Party's candidate for Congress in their district, compared with 39% who say they would vote for or lean toward the Republican Party's candidate.

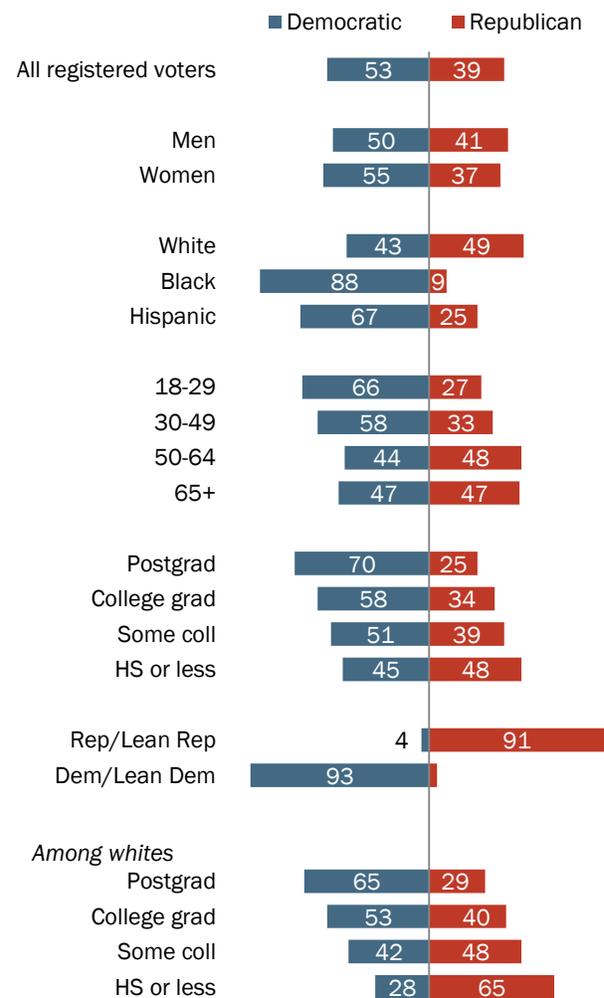
Majorities of those under 30 (66%) and 30 to 49 (58%) favor the Democrat in their district. By contrast, those 50 and older are divided: About as many favor the Republican candidate (48%) as the Democratic candidate (46%).

While white registered voters are divided in their preferences (49% favor the Republican candidate while 43% favor the Democrat), large majorities of black (88%) and Hispanic (67%) registered voters support the Democratic candidate.

There also are stark divides across levels of educational attainment. A substantial majority (70%) of registered voters with a postgraduate degree say they would vote for or lean toward the Democratic candidate. A smaller majority (58%) of those with a college degree say the same. By contrast, those with a high school degree or less education are more divided (45% support the Democratic candidate, 48%

### Congressional vote preferences divided by race, age and education

% of registered voters who say they support or lean toward the \_\_\_ candidate for Congress in their district



Notes: Based on registered voters. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

Other/Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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the Republican candidate).

Among whites, the education divide is even wider. By roughly two-to-one, a majority of whites with a postgraduate degree say they support the Democratic candidate over the Republican candidate (65% vs. 29%). Among whites with a high school degree or less education, the reverse is true: 65% support the Republican candidate, compared with just about a quarter (28%) who prefer the Democratic candidate.

### More Democrats than Republicans are ‘looking forward’ to the election

As 2018 begins, a majority of registered voters say they are looking forward to the congressional midterm elections this November. Today, about two-thirds (63%) are looking forward to the midterms; at this point in 2014 and 2010, smaller majorities (58% and 55%, respectively) said they were looking forward to the midterm elections.

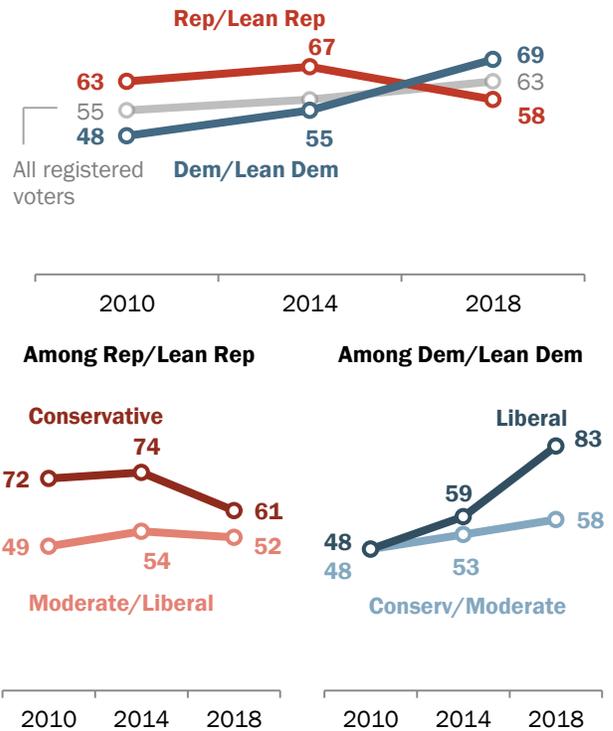
Reflecting partisan control in Washington, interest in congressional elections among partisans has shifted since the past two midterms.

Today, Democrats and Democratic leaners (69%) are more likely than Republicans and Republican leaners (58%) to say they are looking forward to the congressional elections. By contrast, in the midterm years during Barack Obama’s presidency, Republicans expressed more enthusiasm than Democrats.

This pattern can be seen along ideological lines as well. Roughly eight-in-ten liberal Democrats (83%) say they are looking forward to the midterm elections, up significantly from 59% in 2014 and 48% in 2010. In 2014 and 2010, conservative Republicans were the most likely to express enthusiasm, with roughly three-quarters indicating they were looking

#### Fewer conservative Reps are ‘looking forward’ to midterms than in ‘14, ‘10

% of registered voters who say they are ‘looking forward’ to the midterm congressional elections



Note: Based on registered voters. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

forward to the midterms. Today, a smaller majority (61%) of conservative Republicans say they are looking forward to the November elections.

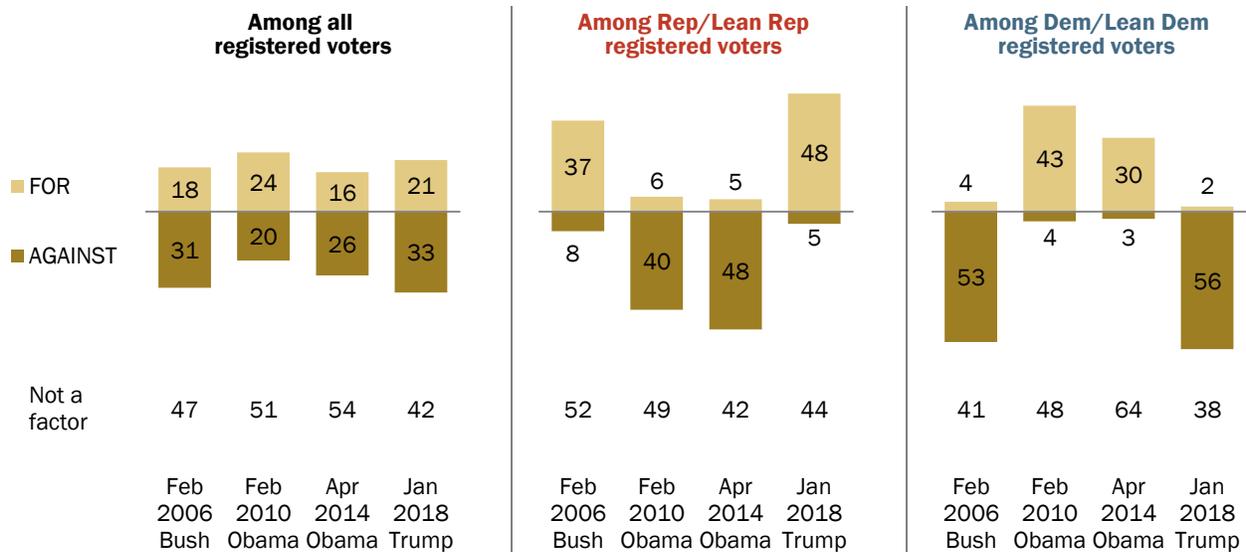
### Trump a factor in midterm vote – for opponents and supporters

In the upcoming midterm elections, a majority of registered voters see Donald Trump as a factor in their vote: A third think of their vote as a vote *against* Trump, while 21% say they think of their vote as a vote *for* Trump. Fewer than half (42%) say Trump will not be much of a factor in their voting decision.

At a similar point in his presidency, Barack Obama was less of a factor in people’s voting decisions. In February 2010, 24% of voters saw their vote as being for Obama, 20% against him and 51% said he was not a factor. And in April 2014, when more voters saw their vote as being against Obama than for him (26% to 16%), more than half (54%) said he was not a factor.

### Trump a bigger factor in midterm voting decisions than Obama was in 2010 or 2014

*Do you think of your vote for Congress as a vote FOR the president, AGAINST the president or isn't the president much of a factor in your vote? (%)*



Note: Based on registered voters.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

Today, most Democratic voters see their midterm vote as being *against* the president. A 56% majority of Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters think of their vote for Congress as a vote against Trump; 2% say it's a vote *for* the president, and another 38% don't factor Trump in either way. About as many Democrats today think of their vote as one against the president as said this in 2006 about George W. Bush (53%).

Nearly half of Republicans and Republican-leaning voters (48%) say they consider their vote for Congress as a vote *for* Donald Trump; 5% say it's a vote against the president, and 44% say Trump isn't much of a factor. More GOP voters today say their vote is in support of Trump than said this in February 2006 (37%), during Bush's second term.

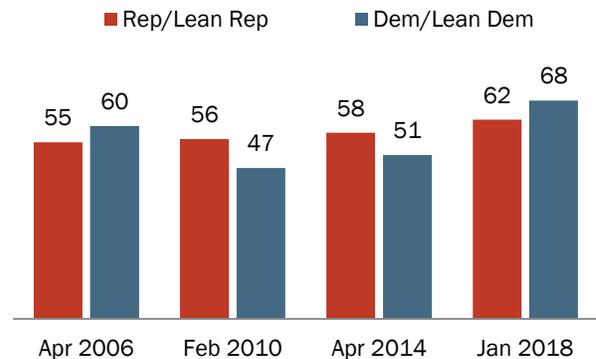
Conservative Republicans, in particular, strongly consider their vote as support for Trump: 58% say their vote for Congress is a vote for the president. In early 2006, fewer than half of conservative Republicans (44%) said their congressional vote was a vote for Bush.

While the president is a bigger factor in people's voting decisions than in prior midterms, so too is the issue of which party controls Congress. A majority of registered voters (63%) say the issue of which party controls Congress factors into their vote this year. That is higher than the shares who said this in April 2014 (53%), February 2010 (48%) and April 2006 (56%).

With Donald Trump in the White House, party control of Congress is somewhat more of a factor this year for Democratic voters (68%) than for Republican voters (62%). In 2014 and 2010, during Obama's presidency, Republicans were more likely than Democrats to say party control of Congress would be a factor in their votes.

### Majorities in both parties see control of Congress as a factor in 2018 vote

*% of registered voters who say the issue of which party controls Congress is a factor in their vote for Congress*



Note: Based on registered voters.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## Anti-incumbent sentiment remains high

Anti-incumbent sentiment, which has been substantial in recent midterm elections, remains high today. Currently, only about half of registered voters (48%) say they would like to see their representative in Congress re-elected in this year's midterm election. Just a quarter say they would like to see most members of Congress re-elected this fall.

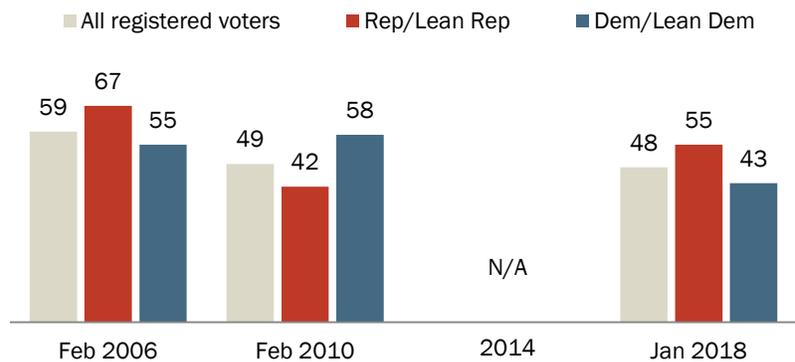
While the Republican Party has majorities in the House and Senate, Republican voters are generally less supportive of incumbents than they were in early 2006, when they also had congressional majorities.

Currently, 55% of Republican voters say they would like to see their own representative re-elected (67% said this in early 2006) and 33% want to see most members re-elected (48% in 2006).

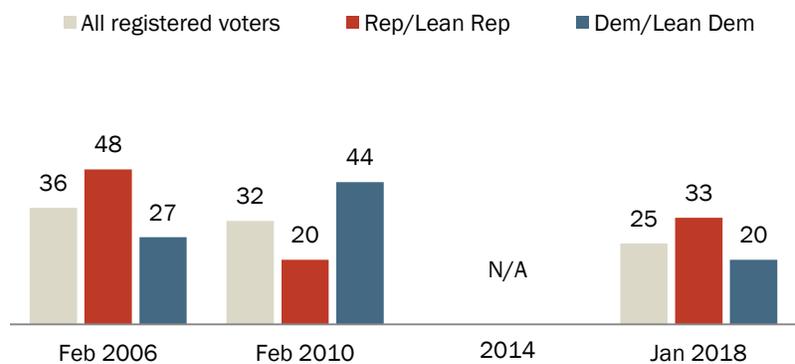
Democrats are even less likely than Republicans to express support for congressional incumbents. Just 43% want their own members of Congress re-elected, while 20% say they would like to see most lawmakers re-elected.

### Anti-incumbent sentiment now as high as in early 2010, higher than in 2006

*% of registered voters who would like to see **their representative in Congress** re-elected in the next congressional election*



*% of registered voters who would like to see **most members of Congress** re-elected in the next congressional election*



Notes: Based on registered voters. Comparable data point in 2014 not available.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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### 3. Outlook for 2018, views of political compromise

The public’s expectations for 2018 are much more positive than they were for 2017. But as been the case for more than a decade, the outlook for the year ahead is divided along partisan lines.

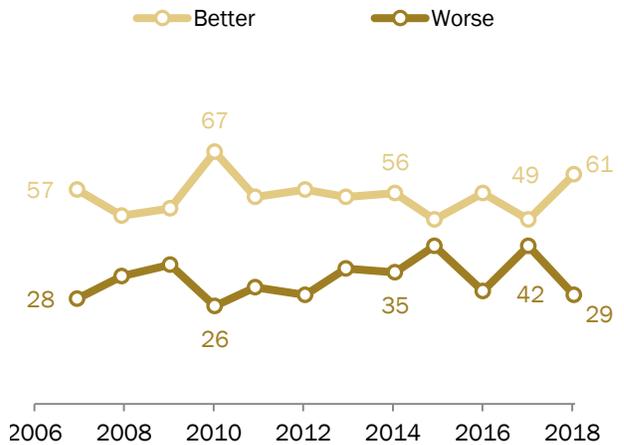
Overall, 61% of the public thinks 2018 will be a better year than 2017; last January, 49% said 2017 would be a better year than 2016.

About twice as many Republicans and Republican-leaning independents as Democrats and Democratic leaners expect this year to be better than last year (88% vs. 42%). Still, the partisan gap was even wider last year, following the 2016 election; 83% of Republicans expected a better year in 2017, compared with just 24% of Democrats.

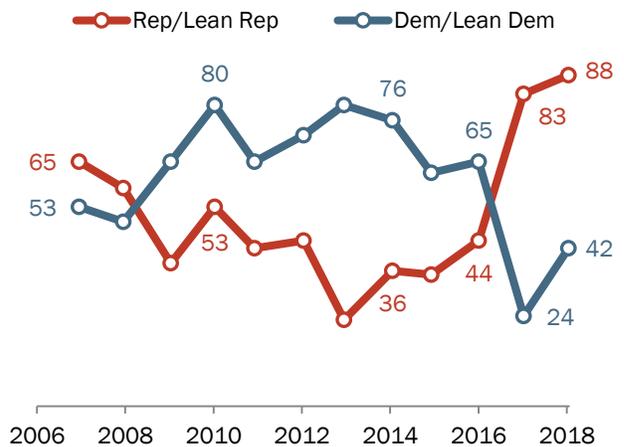
Among the 61% majority of Americans who expect a better year in 2018, 25% cite the economy and job situation as a reason they feel this way, while 18% describe a general sense of optimism. Many also mention political considerations: 15% say Trump is a reason they expect a better year in 2018, and 7% mention the upcoming midterm elections.

#### Republicans are bullish on 2018 as Democratic optimism increases

% who say coming year will be \_\_\_\_\_ than prior year



% who say coming year will be **better** than prior year



Note: Don't know responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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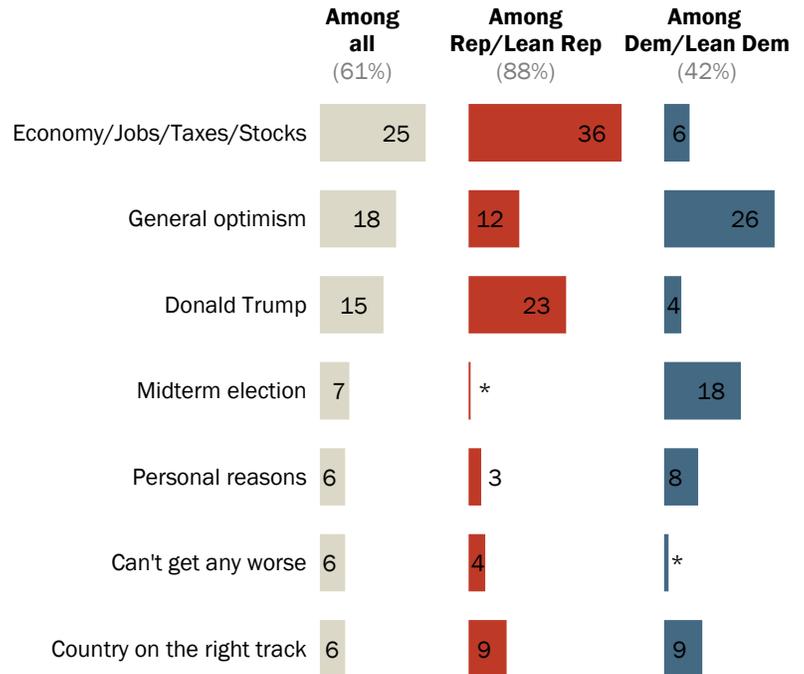
Republicans and Democrats who expect a better year ahead offer very different reasons for their views. Among Republicans and Republican leaners, 36% cite the economy and jobs, while 23% say Trump is a reason they think 2018 will be better than 2017.

Few Democrats and Democratic leaners say the economy (6%) or Trump (4%) are reasons they are optimistic about the year ahead. Instead, 26% of Democrats describe general optimism about the new year, and 18% say they think 2018 will be better than 2017 because of the midterm elections this fall. Fewer than 1% of Republicans cite the midterms as a reason they expect a better year in 2018.

About three-in-ten overall (29%) take a dim view of the new year, expecting it to be worse than 2017. Overall, 44% of Democrats expect 2018 to be worse than 2017; by contrast, very few Republicans say this (6%).

## Republicans cite economy, Trump as reasons to expect better 2018; many Democrats point to midterms

Among those who say they think 2018 will be **better** than 2017, % who say \_\_\_ is the reason why



Notes: Open-ended question. Reasons cited by 5% or more of public shown. See topline for full set of responses. Total may exceed 100% because of multiple responses.

Based on those who say 2018 will be better than 2017.

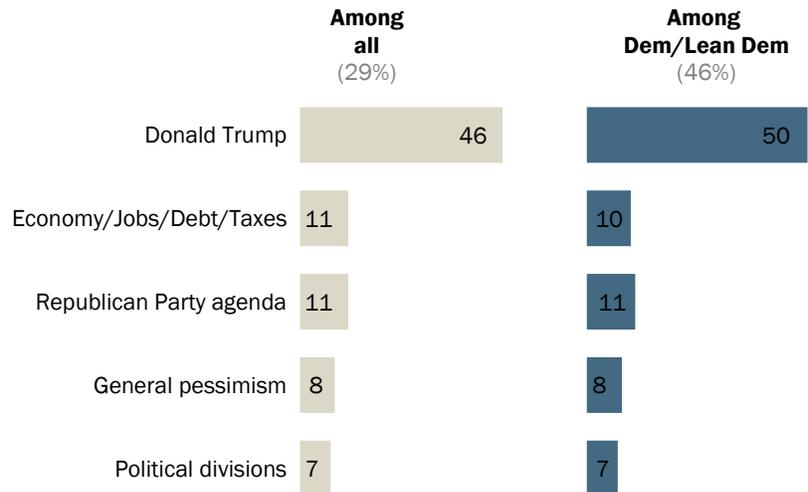
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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Among those who expect a worse year in 2018, an overwhelmingly Democratic group, Trump is the most frequently cited reason they feel this way. Almost half (46%) of those who expect a worse year in 2018 say Trump is a reason for this view. Far smaller shares cite other factors, such as the economy, debt and taxes (11%) or the Republican Party's agenda (also 11%) as to why they think 2018 will be worse than 2017.

### Nearly half of those who expect 2018 to be worse than 2017 say Donald Trump is a reason why

Among those who say they think 2018 will be **worse** than 2017, % who say \_\_\_ is why



Notes: Based on those who say 2018 will be worse than 2017. Open-ended question. Reasons cited by 5% or more shown. See topline for full set of responses. Total may exceed 100% because of multiple responses. Number of Republicans and Republican leaners who expect 2018 to be worse than 2017 is insufficient for analysis. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## Should Trump and Democratic leadership work together in 2018?

Two-thirds of the public (66%) say Donald Trump should work with Democratic leaders to accomplish things this year, even if it means disappointing some groups of Republican supporters; 22% say he should stand up to Democrats on issues that are important to Republican supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington.

About half of Americans (53%) say Democratic leaders should work with Trump, even if it means disappointing Democratic supporters, while 39% say they should stand up to Trump on issues important to Democrats, even if it means less gets done in Washington.

In November 2016, the pattern of opinion was similar among those who had voted in the presidential election.

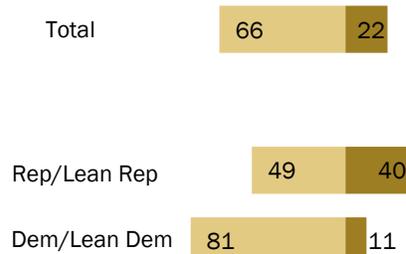
Republicans and Republican leaners are roughly split over whether Trump should work with or stand up to Democrats this year. About half (49%) say he should work with Democrats to get things done while 40% say he should stand up to Democrats on issues important to Republicans. About eight-in-ten Democrats and Democratic leaners (81%) say he should work with Democrats.

About twice as many Democrats say that Democratic leaders in Washington should stand up to Trump on issues important to Democrats, than say they should work with Trump to get things done (63% vs. 30%). An overwhelming majority of Republicans (86%) say Democratic leaders should work with Trump to get things done.

### GOP divided over Trump compromising; Dems want leaders to stand up to Trump

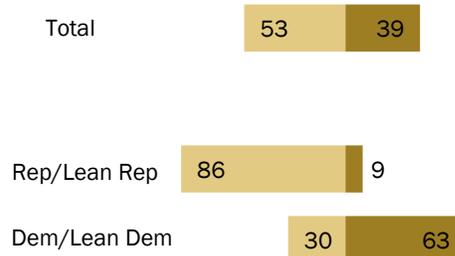
% who say *Donald Trump* should ...

**Work with Democrats to get things done, even if it disappoints supporters**    **Stand up to Democrats on issues important to Reps, even if less gets done in Washington**



% who say *Democratic* leaders should ...

**Work with Trump to get things done, even if it disappoints supporters**    **Stand up to Trump on issues important to Dems, even if less gets done in Washington**



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

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## Acknowledgements

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

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## Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 10-15, 2018 among a national sample of 1,503 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 1,127 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 718 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers under the direction of Abt Associates. 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 2016 Census Bureau's American Community Survey one-year estimates 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 Jan. 10-15, 2018*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,503	2.9 percentage points
Half sample	750 (min)	4.2 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	593	4.7 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep half form	294 (min)	6.7 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	768	4.1 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem half form	382 (min)	5.8 percentage points

---

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

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

Pew Research Center undertakes all polling activity, including calls to mobile telephone numbers, in compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and other applicable laws.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
JANUARY 2018 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
JANUARY 10-15, 2018  
N=1,503**

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

Q.1 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 10-15, 2018	32	62	6	Aug 17-21, 2011	17	79	4
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	27	68	6	Jul 20-24, 2011	17	79	4
Oct 25-30, 2017	26	70	5	Jun 15-19, 2011	23	73	4
Jun 27-Jul 9, 2017	28	67	5	May 5-8, 2011	30	62	8
Apr 5-11, 2017	30	66	4	May 2, 2011	32	60	8
Feb 7-12, 2017	30	65	5	Mar 8-14, 2011	22	73	5
Jan 4-9, 2017	28	68	4	Feb 2-7, 2011	26	68	5
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	30	65	5	Jan 5-9, 2011	23	71	6
Oct 20-25, 2016	33	63	4	Dec 1-5, 2010	21	72	7
Aug 9-16, 2016	31	66	3	Nov 4-7, 2010	23	69	8
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	71	5	Sep 23-26, 2010	30	63	7
Apr 12-19, 2016	26	70	3	Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	71	5
Mar 17-26, 2016	31	65	4	Jun 24-27, 2010	27	64	9
Jan 7-14, 2016	25	70	5	May 13-16, 2010	28	64	7
Dec 8-13, 2015	25	72	3	Apr 21-26, 2010	29	66	5
Aug 27-Oct 4, 2015	27	67	5	Apr 1-5, 2010	31	63	6
Sep 22-27, 2015	27	69	4	Mar 11-21, 2010	25	69	5
Jul 14-20, 2015	31	64	4	Mar 10-14, 2010	23	71	7
May 12-18, 2015	29	67	4	Feb 3-9, 2010	23	71	6
Mar 25-29, 2015	31	64	5	Jan 6-10, 2010	27	69	4
Feb 18-22, 2015	33	62	5	Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	25	67	7
Jan 7-11, 2015	31	66	4	Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	25	67	7
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	26	71	3	Sep 10-15, 2009 <sup>1</sup>	30	64	7
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	68	4	Aug 20-27, 2009	28	65	7
Oct 15-20, 2014	29	65	6	Aug 11-17, 2009	28	65	7
Sep 2-9, 2014	25	71	4	Jul 22-26, 2009	28	66	6
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	72	4	Jun 10-14, 2009	30	64	5
Jul 8-14, 2014	29	68	4	Apr 28-May 12, 2009	34	58	8
Apr 23-27, 2014	29	65	6	Apr 14-21, 2009	23	70	7
Feb 12-26, 2014	28	66	6	Jan 7-11, 2009	20	73	7
Jan 15-19, 2014	26	69	5	December, 2008	13	83	4
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	21	75	3	Early October, 2008	11	86	3
Oct 9-13, 2013	14	81	5	Mid-September, 2008	25	69	6
Jul 17-21, 2013	27	67	6	August, 2008	21	74	5
May 1-5, 2013	30	65	5	July, 2008	19	74	7
Feb 13-18, 2013 (U)	31	64	5	June, 2008	19	76	5
Jan 9-13, 2013	30	66	4	Late May, 2008	18	76	6
Dec 17-19, 2012	25	68	7	March, 2008	22	72	6
Dec 5-9, 2012	33	62	5	Early February, 2008	24	70	6
Oct 18-21, 2012	32	61	8	Late December, 2007	27	66	7
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	31	64	5	October, 2007	28	66	6
Jun 7-17, 2012	28	68	5	February, 2007	30	61	9
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	29	64	7				
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	69	6				
Feb 8-12, 2012	28	66	6				
Jan 11-16, 2012	21	75	4				
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	17	78	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.1 CONTINUED...**

	Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref		Satis- fied	Dis- satisfied	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Mid-January, 2007	32	61	7	February, 2001	46	43	11
Early January, 2007	30	63	7	January, 2001	55	41	4
December, 2006	28	65	7	October, 2000 (RVs)	54	39	7
Mid-November, 2006	28	64	8	September, 2000	51	41	8
Early October, 2006	30	63	7	June, 2000	47	45	8
July, 2006	30	65	5	April, 2000	48	43	9
May, 2006*	29	65	6	August, 1999	56	39	5
March, 2006	32	63	5	January, 1999	53	41	6
January, 2006	34	61	5	November, 1998	46	44	10
Late November, 2005	34	59	7	Early September, 1998	54	42	4
Early October, 2005	29	65	6	Late August, 1998	55	41	4
July, 2005	35	58	7	Early August, 1998	50	44	6
Late May, 2005*	39	57	4	February, 1998	59	37	4
February, 2005	38	56	6	January, 1998	46	50	4
January, 2005	40	54	6	September, 1997	45	49	6
December, 2004	39	54	7	August, 1997	49	46	5
Mid-October, 2004	36	58	6	January, 1997	38	58	4
July, 2004	38	55	7	July, 1996	29	67	4
May, 2004	33	61	6	March, 1996	28	70	2
Late February, 2004*	39	55	6	October, 1995	23	73	4
Early January, 2004	45	48	7	June, 1995	25	73	2
December, 2003	44	47	9	April, 1995	23	74	3
October, 2003	38	56	6	July, 1994	24	73	3
August, 2003	40	53	7	March, 1994	24	71	5
April, 2003	50	41	9	October, 1993	22	73	5
January, 2003	44	50	6	September, 1993	20	75	5
November, 2002	41	48	11	May, 1993	22	71	7
September, 2002	41	55	4	January, 1993	39	50	11
Late August, 2002	47	44	9	January, 1992	28	68	4
May, 2002	44	44	12	November, 1991	34	61	5
March, 2002	50	40	10	Gallup: Late Feb, 1991	66	31	3
Late September, 2001	57	34	9	August, 1990	47	48	5
Early September, 2001	41	53	6	May, 1990	41	54	5
June, 2001	43	52	5	January, 1989	45	50	5
March, 2001	47	45	8	September, 1988 (RVs)	50	45	5

**RANDOMIZE Q.1 AND Q.2/Q.2a BLOCK****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
Jan 10-15, 2018	37	56	7
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](#)

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

Q.2a Do you [approve/disapprove] very strongly, or not so strongly?

	-----Approve-----				-----Disapprove-----				<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very strongly</u>	<u>Not so strongly</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>	
Jan 10-15, 2018	37	27	9	1	56	47	8	1	7
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

**NO QUESTIONS 3-4****ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

Q.5F1 Looking ahead, as far as you are concerned, do you think that 2018 will be better or worse than 2017?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 10-15, 2018	61	29	11
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
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1993	64	20	16
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1992	61	11	28
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1991	61	31	8
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1990	48	42	10
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1986	53	25	22
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1985	64	20	17
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1984	61	20	19
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1982	50	32	18
<i>Gallup</i> : December, 1981	41	44	15

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

Q.6F1 Why do you think 2018 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 2018 WILL BE BETTER [N=454]:**

Jan 10-15

2018

25	Economy/Jobs/Stock market/Trade/Taxes
18	General optimism
15	Trump
7	Midterm election year
6	Personal reasons
6	Can't get worse/Better than 2017
6	Country on the right track
3	Efforts to block or impeach Trump
2	People will come together/Bipartisanship
1	Immigration/Secure borders
7	Other
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**BASED ON THOSE WHO SAID 2018 WILL BE WORSE [N=222]:**

Jan 10-15

2018

46	Trump
11	Economy/Jobs/Debt/Class conflict/Taxes
11	Republican Party/Congress/agenda
8	General pessimism
7	Divided country/Political instability
2	Potential for war/Global conflicts
2	Racism/Race relations
1	ACA repeal/Trouble with health care
10	Other
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**Q.6F1 TRENDS FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...****ASK IF 'BETTER' OR 'WORSE' in Q.5F1 (Q5F1=1,2):**

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 (VOL.)

**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 (VOL.)

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

Q.7F2 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>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
<b>Trump</b>				
Jan 10-15, 2018	23	41	34	1
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

**Q.7F2 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Too early to tell</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
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
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

**QUESTION 8 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 9-10****ASK ALL:**

Q.11 Thinking about some events that will occur in the coming year ... Please tell me if you are especially looking forward to **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, or not? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Please tell me if this is something you are especially looking forward to or not.]**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The 2018 mid-term Congressional elections			
Jan 10-15, 2018	58	37	5
Jan 2-5, 2014	51	49	1
Jan 6-10, 2010 <sup>2</sup>	50	47	3
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>			
Late December, 2007: <i>The presidential election</i>	70	28	2
January, 1988	74	23	3

**NO ITEM b****ITEMS c-e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>2</sup> In January 6-10, 2010, item asked about "2010 mid-term Congressional elections."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for **[RANDOMIZE: "the Republican Party's candidate" OR "the Democratic Party's candidate"]** for Congress in your district?

**ASK IF 'OTHER' 'DON'T KNOW/REFUSED' (Q.12=3,9):**

Q.12b As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the **[READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.12; IF NECESSARY: "for U.S. Congress in your district"]**?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:**

	<u>Rep/ Lean Rep</u>	<u>Dem/ Lean Dem</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Other/ DK/Ref</u>
<b>2018 Election</b>			
Jan 10-15, 2018	39	53	8
Jun 27-Jul 9, 2017	40	53	7
<b>2014 Election</b>			
Oct 15-20, 2014	42	48	10
Sep 2-9, 2014	42	47	11
Aug 20-24, 2014 (U)	42	47	11
Jul 8-14, 2014	45	47	9
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	47	43	9
Feb 12-26, 2014	44	46	10
Dec 3-8, 2013 (U)	44	48	8
Oct 9-13, 2013	43	49	8
<b>2012 Election</b>			
Jun 7-17, 2012	43	47	10
Aug 17-21, 2011	44	48	8
<b>2010 Election</b>			
Oct 27-30, 2010	43	44	12
Oct 13-18, 2010	46	42	12
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	44	47	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	44	45	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	45	45	10
Mar 11-21, 2010	44	44	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	42	45	13
Jan 6-10, 2010	44	46	10
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	42	47	11
Aug 20-27, 2009	44	45	10
<b>2008 Election</b>			
June, 2008	37	52	11
<b>2006 Election</b>			
November, 2006	40	48	12
Late October, 2006	38	49	13
Early October, 2006	38	51	11
September, 2006	39	50	11
August, 2006	41	50	9
June, 2006	39	51	10
April, 2006	41	51	8
February, 2006	41	50	9
Mid-September, 2005	40	52	8
<b>2004 Election</b>			
June, 2004	41	48	11
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early November, 2002	42	46	12
Early October, 2002	44	46	10
Early September, 2002	44	46	10
June, 2002	44	46	10
February, 2002	46	45	9
Early November, 2001	44	44	12

## Q.12/Q.12b CONTINUED...

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	(VOL.) Other/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>2000 Election</b>			
Early November, 2000	42	48	10
Early October, 2000	43	47	10
July, 2000	43	47	10
February, 2000	44	47	9
October, 1999	43	49	8
June, 1999	40	50	10
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	40	47	13
Early October, 1998	43	44	13
Early September, 1998	45	46	9
Late August, 1998	44	45	11
Early August, 1998	42	49	9
June, 1998	44	46	10
March, 1998	40	52	8
February, 1998	41	50	9
January, 1998	41	51	8
August, 1997	45	48	7
<b>1996 Election</b>			
November, 1996	41	48	11
October, 1996	42	49	9
Late September, 1996	43	49	8
Early September, 1996	43	51	6
July, 1996	46	47	7
June, 1996	44	50	6
March, 1996	44	49	7
January, 1996	46	47	7
October, 1995	48	48	4
August, 1995	50	43	7
<b>1994 Election</b>			
November, 1994	45	43	12
Late October, 1994	47	44	9
Early October, 1994	52	40	8
September, 1994	48	46	6
July, 1994	45	47	8

**ASK ALL:**

Q.13 Would you like to see your representative in Congress be re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:**

	Yes	No	(VOL.) Congressman not running	(VOL.) DK/Ref
<b>2018 Election</b>				
Jan 10-15, 2018	48	33	1	18
<b>2014 Election</b>				
Oct 15-20, 2014	48	35	2	15
Jul 8-14, 2014	48	36	1	15
Oct 9-13, 2013	48	38	1	14
<b>2012 Election</b>				
Dec 7-11, 2011	50	33	1	16
<b>2010 Election</b>				
Oct 27-30, 2010	49	32	2	18

## Q.13 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) Congressman <u>not running</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Oct 13-18, 2010	47	32	1	20
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	49	33	1	17
Jun 16-20, 2010	49	34	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	43	32	1	24
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	31	*	19
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	52	29	1	18
<b>2008 Election</b>				
Late February, 2008	60	22	1	17
<b>2006 Election</b>				
November, 2006	55	25	1	19
Late October, 2006	55	26	1	18
Early October, 2006	50	27	1	22
September, 2006	53	27	1	19
August, 2006	51	30	*	19
June, 2006	51	32	1	16
April, 2006	57	28	1	14
February, 2006	59	28	1	12
September, 2005	57	25	1	17
<b>2002 Election</b>				
Early October, 2002	58	19	2	21
June, 2002	58	23	1	18
<b>2000 Election</b>				
Early November, 2000	59	16	2	23
October, 2000	60	17	1	22
July, 1999	66	23	*	11
<b>1998 Election</b>				
Late October, 1998	64	19	1	16
Early October, 1998	58	20	2	20
Early September, 1998	63	20	1	16
March, 1998	63	21	1	15
January, 1998	66	23	0	11
August, 1997	66	22	0	12
<b>1996 Election</b>				
Early November, 1996	60	16	3	21
October, 1996	62	19	2	17
Late September, 1996	55	17	2	26
Early September, 1996	62	19	2	17
<b>1994 Election</b>				
November, 1994	58	25	1	16
Late October, 1994	55	30	2	13
Early October, 1994	49	29	2	20
<b>1990 Election</b>				
<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990	62	22	2	14

## ASK ALL:

Q.14 Regardless of how you feel about your own representative, would you like to see most members of Congress re-elected in the next congressional election, or not?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>2018 Election</b>			
Jan 10-15, 2018	25	62	12

**Q.14 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>2014 Election</b>			
Oct 15-20, 2014	23	68	9
Jul 8-14, 2014	24	69	7
Oct 9-13, 2013	18	74	8
<b>2012 Election</b>			
Dec 7-11, 2011	20	67	13
<b>2010 Election</b>			
Oct 27-30, 2010	35	51	13
Oct 13-18, 2010	33	54	13
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	33	56	11
Jun 16-20, 2010	31	56	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	27	57	15
Feb 3-9, 2010	32	53	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	34	53	13
<b>2008 Election</b>			
Late February, 2008	36	49	15
<b>2006 Election</b>			
November, 2006	37	46	17
Late October, 2006	34	50	17
Early October, 2006	32	48	20
September, 2006	35	49	16
August, 2006	36	49	15
June, 2006	29	57	14
April, 2006	34	53	13
February, 2006	36	49	15
September, 2005	36	48	16
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early October, 2002	39	38	23
June, 2002	45	37	18
<b>2000 Election</b>			
October, 2000	40	34	26
July, 1999	41	47	12
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	41	37	22
Early October, 1998	39	39	22
Early September, 1998	46	37	17
March, 1998	45	41	14
January, 1998	44	43	13
August, 1997	45	42	13
<b>1996 Election</b>			
Early September, 1996	43	43	14
<b>1994 Election</b>			
November, 1994	31	51	18
Late October, 1994	31	56	13
Early October, 1994	28	56	16

**ASK ALL:**

Q.15 Will the issue of which party controls Congress, the Republicans or the Democrats, be a factor in your vote for Congress this year, or not?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:**

	<u>Yes, will be</u> <u>a factor</u>	<u>No,</u> <u>will not</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>2018 Election</b>			
Jan 10-15, 2018	63	32	5

**Q.15 CONTINUED...**

	Yes, will be a factor	No, will not	(VOL.) DK/Ref
<b>2014 Election</b>			
Oct 15-20, 2014	62	34	4
Jul 8-14, 2014	58	39	3
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	53	43	4
<b>2012 Election</b>			
Jun 7-17, 2012	49	48	3
<b>2010 Election</b>			
Oct 27-30, 2010	62	34	4
Oct 13-18, 2010	61	36	3
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	56	41	3
Jun 16-20, 2010	58	39	3
Feb 3-9, 2010	48	45	6
<b>2008 Election</b>			
June, 2008	44	51	5
<b>2006 Election</b>			
November, 2006	61	36	3
Late October, 2006	61	36	3
Early October, 2006	57	40	3
September, 2006	55	41	4
June, 2006	58	39	3
April, 2006	56	39	5
<b>2004 Election</b>			
June, 2004	43	51	6
<b>2002 Election</b>			
Early November, 2002	48	49	3
Early October, 2002	42	55	3
Early September, 2002	44	51	5
June, 2002	47	50	3
February, 2002	46	49	5
<b>2000 Election</b>			
Early October, 2000	46	50	4
July, 2000	46	49	5
<b>1998 Election</b>			
Late October, 1998	46	50	4
Early October, 1998	47	49	4
Early September, 1998	41	56	3
Early August, 1998	44	53	3
June, 1998	45	51	4

**ASK ALL:**

Q.16 Do you think of your vote for Congress as a vote FOR Donald Trump, as a vote AGAINST Donald Trump, or isn't Donald Trump much of a factor in your vote?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1,215]:**

	For	Against	Not a factor	(VOL.) DK/Ref
<b>2018 Election (Trump)</b>				
Jan 10-15, 2018	21	33	42	3
<b>2014 Election (Obama)</b>				
Oct 15-20, 2014	20	32	45	3
Jul 8-14, 2014	19	29	49	3
Apr 23-27, 2014 (U)	16	26	54	4
<b>2010 Election (Obama)</b>				
Oct 27-30, 2010	26	28	42	4
Oct 13-18, 2010	27	30	39	4

**Q.16 CONTINUED...**

	<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>	<u>Not a factor</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	25	30	42	3
Jun 16-20, 2010	23	28	47	2
Feb 3-9, 2010	24	20	51	5
<b>2006 Election (Bush)</b>				
November, 2006	21	35	41	3
Late October, 2006	20	37	38	5
Early October, 2006	18	39	40	3
September, 2006	20	36	40	4
August, 2006	17	35	43	5
June, 2006	15	38	44	3
April, 2006	17	34	46	3
February, 2006	18	31	47	4
<b>2002 Election (Bush)</b>				
Early November, 2002	29	16	49	6
Early October, 2002	30	20	44	6
Early September, 2002	29	15	51	5
February, 2002	34	9	50	7
<b>1998 Election (Clinton)</b>				
Late October, 1998	20	17	58	5
Early October, 1998	19	23	52	6
Early September, 1998	18	16	63	3
Late August, 1998	20	17	61	2
Early August, 1998	21	18	57	4
June, 1998	20	18	57	5
March, 1998	21	15	59	5
<b>1996 Election (Clinton)</b>				
Early September, 1996	24	18	51	7
<b>1994 Election (Clinton)</b>				
November, 1994	17	21	55	7
Late October, 1994	17	21	57	5
Early October, 1994	17	23	54	6
<b>1990 Election (GHW Bush)</b>				
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 28-31, 1990	19	15	61	6
<b>1986 Election (Reagan)</b>				
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 24-28, 1986	26	12	55	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : Sep 28-Oct 1, 1986	26	16	51	7
<b>1982 Election (Reagan)</b>				
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 23-28, 1982	23	21	51	5

**NO QUESTIONS 17-27, 29****QUESTION 28 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.30 Thinking 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; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident that Trump can [ITEM]?**]

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

	<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not too confident</u>	<u>Not at all confident</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1 Make wise decisions about the use of nuclear weapons					
Jan 10-15, 2018	26	13	11	47	2
Aug 15-21, 2017	22	18	14	44	2
b.F1 Make wise decisions about immigration policy					
Jan 10-15, 2018	27	11	15	45	2
Aug 15-21, 2017	23	17	15	43	1

**NO ITEM c**

d.F1 Work effectively with Congress					
Jan 10-15, 2018	19	25	19	35	2
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
<b>Bush</b>					
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
January, 2005 <sup>3</sup>	26	44	17	12	1
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
January, 2001	27	47	17	8	1

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

e.F2 Manage the Executive Branch effectively					
Jan 10-15, 2018	22	19	16	40	3
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
<b>Bush</b>					
<i>Gallup/CNN/USA Today:</i>					
January, 2001	33	44	15	7	1
f.F2 Make good decisions about economic policy					
Jan 10-15, 2018	29	17	14	37	3
g.F2 Handle an international crisis					
Jan 10-15, 2018	21	14	16	46	2
Oct 25-30, 2017	23	16	14	45	1
Apr 5-11, 2017	27	21	14	38	*
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016 <sup>4</sup>	21	24	18	35	2

<sup>3</sup> In January 2005 and January 2001 surveys, item was worded: "Work effectively with Congress to get things done."

<sup>4</sup> 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."

**Q.30 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not too confident</u>	<u>Not at all confident</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
<b>Bush</b>					
<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

**NO QUESTIONS 31-38****QUESTION 39 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

Q.40 As I read some pairs of opposite phrases, tell me which one best reflects your impression of Donald Trump. (First,) does Donald Trump impress you as ... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]**. Next, **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: "Does Donald Trump impress you as ..."]**

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

	<u>Trustworthy</u>	<u>Not trustworthy</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither particularly</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
a.F1				
Jan 10-15, 2018	35	59	2	3
Feb 7-12, 2017	37	59	1	3

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

	<u>Someone who cares about people like me</u>	<u>Someone who doesn't care about people like me</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither particularly</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
b.F2				
Jan 10-15, 2018	35	62	1	2
Feb 7-12, 2017	40	56	1	3

	<u>A strong leader</u>	<u>Not a strong leader</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither particularly</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
c.F2				
Jan 10-15, 2018	44	54	1	1
Feb 7-12, 2017	49	49	1	1

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

	<u>A good communicator</u>	<u>Not a good communicator</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither particularly</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
d.F1				
Jan 10-15, 2018	31	64	2	2
Feb 7-12, 2017	34	63	1	2

	<u>Able to get things done</u>	<u>Not able to get things done</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither particularly</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
e.F1				
Jan 10-15, 2018	50	46	2	3
Feb 7-12, 2017	54	40	1	4

	<u>Even tempered</u>	<u>Not even tempered</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Neither particularly</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
f.F1				
Jan 10-15, 2018	25	68	3	4
Feb 7-12, 2017	28	68	1	4

**Q.40 CONTINUED...****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

	Well <u>informed</u>	Not well <u>informed</u>	(VOL.) Neither <u>particularly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
g.F2				
Jan 10-15, 2018	37	61	1	1
Feb 7-12, 2017	39	57	1	2

	Keeps his <u>promises</u>	Doesn't keep <u>his promises</u>	(VOL.) Neither <u>particularly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
h.F2				
Jan 10-15, 2018	39	54	3	4
Feb 7-12, 2017	60	31	3	6

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

Q.41F1 Do you think Trump has a responsibility to publicly release his tax returns, or does he not have this responsibility?

Jan 10-15 <u>2018</u>		Jan 4-9 <u>2017</u>
57	Has responsibility to release returns	60
37	Does not have responsibility to release returns	33
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

Q.42F2 How confident are you that Donald Trump keeps his own business interests separate from the decisions he makes as president? **[READ]**?

Jan 10-15 <u>2018</u>		Feb 7-12 <u>2017</u>
23	Very confident	24
18	Somewhat confident	16
14	Not too confident	15
43	Not at all confident	43
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

Q.43F1 This year, should the Democratic leaders in Washington ... **[READ]**

Jan 10-15 <u>2018</u>		TREND FOR COMPARISON		
		Voters Nov 10-14 <u>2016</u>	Dem leaders/Bush Jan <u>2007</u> <sup>5</sup>	Nov <u>2006</u>
53	Try as best they can to work with Donald Trump to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of Democratic supporters?	59	52	54
	[OR]			
39	Should they stand up to Donald Trump on issues that are important to Democratic supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington?	39	43	36
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	5	11

<sup>5</sup> In January 2007 and November 2006 the question was rotated. Figures are based only on those who received this question first in the rotation. The question also began "This year..."

**Q.43F1 TREND FOR COMPARISON CONTINUED...***Next year should the Republican leaders in Washington... [READ]*

	Try as best they can to work with Barack Obama to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of <u>Republican supporters</u>	Stand up to Barack Obama on issues that are important to Republican supporters, even if it means less gets <u>done in Washington</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Nov 6-9, 2014	57	40	3
Nov 8-11, 2012 ( <i>Voters</i> )	67	26	7
Jan 11-16, 2012 <sup>6</sup>	58	35	8
Jan 5-9, 2011	61	33	6
Nov 4-7, 2010	55	38	8
November, 2008 <sup>7</sup> ( <i>Voters</i> )	66	28	6

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

Q.44F2 This year, should Donald Trump ... [READ]

		<i>Voters</i> Nov 10-14 2016
Jan 10-15 2018		
66	Try as best he can to work with Democratic leaders to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of Republican supporters? [OR]	73
22	Should he stand up to the Democrats on issues that are important to Republican supporters, even if it means less gets done in Washington?	22
12	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:***Next year should Barack Obama... [READ]*

	Try as best he can to work with Republican leaders to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some groups of <u>Democratic supporters</u>	Stand up to Republicans on issues that are important to Democratic supporters, even if it means less gets <u>done in Washington</u>	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Nov 6-9, 2014	62	30	8
Nov 8-11, 2012 ( <i>Voters</i> )	72	21	7
Jan 11-16, 2012 <sup>8</sup>	59	28	13
Jan 5-9, 2011	65	28	7
Nov 4-7, 2010	62	27	11

**QUESTIONS A2-A4, 45, 49-50, 53-56, J22, J29, A6-A8 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS A1, A5, 46-47, 51-52, J23-J28, 57-71**<sup>6</sup> In Jan 2011 and Jan 2012, the question began "This year..."<sup>7</sup> November 2008 question was rotated and figures are based only on those who received the question first in the rotation.<sup>8</sup> In Jan 2011 and Jan 2012, the question began "This year..."

**ASK ALL:**

Q.72 How much, if anything, have you read or heard about the investigation into Russian involvement in the 2016 election? **[READ]**

Jan 10-15

2018

55 A lot  
33 A little [OR]  
11 Nothing at all  
1 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.73 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]**

Jan 10-15

2018

27 Very confident  
29 Somewhat confident  
21 Not too confident  
16 Not at all confident  
8 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

Nov 29-Dec 4

2017

25  
30  
20  
16  
8

**NO QUESTIONS 74-79, 83-89****QUESTIONS 80-82, 90 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?

	<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>
Jan 10-15, 2018	26	33	34	3	1	3	12	18
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
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2017	23.6	31.4	39.4	3.3	.6	1.7	15.8	18.7
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

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	DK/Ref	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				preference	party			
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 <i>Post-Sept 11</i>	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 <i>Pre-Sept 11</i>	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

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

(U) Pew Research Center/USA Today polls