

Clinton Whomps in Debate Reax; Trump's Unfavorability Edges Up

Americans see Hillary Clinton as the winner of the first presidential debate by a near-record margin in ABC News/Washington Post post-debate polls, with nearly half saying Donald Trump got his facts wrong and one in three saying he outright lied. His unpopularity grew slightly.

While views of both candidates remain broadly negative, 64 percent of Americans now express an unfavorable opinion of Trump overall, up 5 points from its pre-debate level. Fifty-three percent see Clinton unfavorably, not a significant change.

Trump's pre-debate unpopularity had matched its low for the campaign, suggesting the debate may have slowed momentum in his favor. Clinton, for her part, saw a +4 gain in favorability to 45 percent, not large enough to be statistically significant but her best since early August, just after the conventions.

Their weak favorability ratings aside, 53 percent of adults say Clinton won the debate, while just 18 percent say Trump won, with the rest either calling it a draw or expressing no opinion. The wide gap in views of who won, compared with the slight movement in favorability ratings, reinforces findings in past years that debates tend to have relatively little direct impact on views of the candidates, although they can exert more subtle influence on the race.

There's been just one more-lopsided result on a presidential debate performance in ABC or ABC/Post polls back to 1976: Mitt Romney was seen as having beaten Barack Obama in their first debate in 2012 by 69-18 percent among registered voters. Obama's comeback in subsequent debates that year may hold out hope for Trump.

But Trump also is on the short side of other results in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). Fifty-four percent say Clinton mainly got her facts right in Monday's debate; just 29 percent think Trump mainly stuck to the facts. And while 21 percent think Clinton intentionally lied, 32 percent say that about Trump.

The view that Clinton won extends across demographic groups other than Republicans; the only difference is the degree. Even among Republicans, fewer than half, 45 percent, say Trump won, while 83 percent of Democrats pick Clinton. Independents go 50-14 percent in Clinton's favor. And even conservatives see Clinton as the winner, if by a comparatively narrow 40-27 percent.

There are other divisions. Men say Clinton won by 48-19 percent; among women it's 58-18 percent. Whites divide by 44-26 percent in Clinton's favor; nonwhites pick Clinton by 72-5 percent. And while whites who lack a college degree divide 35-29 percent between Clinton and Trump, that expands to 58-21 percent among whites with a four-year degree.

Results are similar among registered voters; they pick Clinton as the debate winner by 51-21 percent over Trump. And Clinton's favorable-unfavorable rating among registered voters is 43-55 percent; Trump's, 37-61 percent.

	Favorable-Unfavorable				Won the debate		
	Clinton	Diff.	Trump	Diff.	Clinton	Trump	Diff.
All	45-53%	-8	34-64	-30	53%	18	+35
Reg. voters	43-55	-12	37-61	-24	51	21	+30
Democrats	82-17	+65	8-89	-81	83	6	+77
Republicans	5-95	-90	78-22	+56	24	45	-21
Independents	42-55	-13	31-67	-36	50	14	+36
Liberals	71-28	+43	17-83	-66	73	10	+63
Moderates	45-51	-6	26-71	-45	56	14	+42
Conservatives	26-74	-48	54-45	+9	40	27	+13
Men	36-62	-26	41-57	-16	48	19	+29
Women	54-44	+10	28-71	-43	58	18	+40
Whites	31-67	-36	43-56	-13	44	26	+18
Nonwhites NET	71-27	+44	19-79	-60	72	5	+67
White coll. grad	41-59	-18	37-63	-26	58	21	+37
White non-grad	25-73	-48	47-52	-5	35	29	+6

While the margin by which Clinton is seen as having won the debate is second for a presidential showdown only to the first Obama-Romney matchup, others have been lopsided. Bill Clinton was seen as having beaten Bob Dole by 55-28 percent in a 1996 debate. And Lloyd Bentsen was seen as having defeated Dan Quayle in their 1988 vice-presidential debate by 51-15 percent. (These polls were only among those who said they'd seen or read about the debates.)

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cell phone from Sept. 28-30, 2016, among a random national sample of 630 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 5 points, including the design effect, for the full sample, and 5.5 points for registered voters. Partisan divisions are 33-24-38 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents, in the full sample, and 35-27-24 percent among registered voters.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by SSRS of Media, Pa. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

Media contacts: Heather Riley, (212) 456-4396, or Julie Townsend, (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow.

1. Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of [ITEM]? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

9/30/16 - Summary Table

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
a. Hillary Clinton	45	26	20	53	11	42	2
b. Donald Trump	34	18	17	64	13	51	1

Trend:

a. Hillary Clinton

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/30/16	45	26	20	53	11	42	2
9/22/16	41	21	20	55	14	42	4
8/28/16	41	20	22	56	15	40	3
8/4/16	48	28	20	50	7	42	2
7/14/16	42	21	21	54	11	44	4
6/12/16	43	25	18	55	16	39	2
5/19/16	44	22	22	53	12	41	3
3/6/16	46	24	22	52	11	41	2
1/10/16	48	24	24	49	13	36	3
11/8/15	46	23	24	51	13	38	3
10/11/15	47	20	26	49	14	35	5
8/30/15	45	21	24	53	14	39	2
7/12/15	52	25	26	45	14	30	4
5/31/15	45	24	21	49	10	39	6
3/29/15	49	30	20	46	11	35	4
1/23/14	58	32	26	38	12	26	4
6/23/13	61	31	30	33	13	21	6
1/20/13	67	35	32	26	12	14	6
12/2/12	66	35	30	28	14	14	6
4/22/12	65	33	32	27	14	13	8
8/22/08 RV	52	29	23	44	14	30	4
6/15/08	54	26	28	43	17	26	3
4/13/08	44	22	23	54	15	39	2
1/12/08	58	32	26	40	11	29	2

Call for full trend.

b. Donald Trump

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/30/16	34	18	17	64	13	51	1
9/22/16	35	18	17	59	14	45	6
8/28/16	35	16	18	63	16	47	3
8/4/16	34	16	18	63	11	52	3
7/14/16	31	15	16	64	13	52	4
6/12/16	29	15	14	70	14	56	1
5/19/16	37	18	19	60	11	49	3
4/10/16	31	14	17	67	14	53	2
3/6/16	30	15	14	67	11	56	3
1/10/16	35	17	18	62	14	48	3
11/8/15	38	16	23	59	13	46	3
9/27/15	35	14	21	60	19	41	5

8/30/15	37	16	21	59	16	43	4
7/12/15	33	14	19	61	16	45	6
5/31/15	16	7	9	71	16	55	13
12/18/11	40	12	29	48	21	27	12
1/16/00*	20	NA	NA	70	NA	NA	11
10/31/99*	18	"	"	70	"	"	12

*"Regardless of how you might vote, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Donald Trump, or perhaps you don't know enough to say."

2. I have a question about the presidential debate between (Hillary Clinton) and (Donald Trump) on Monday night. From what you have seen, heard or read about it - who, in your opinion, won the debate?

	Clinton	Trump	Neither/Tie/ Draw (vol.)	No opinion
9/30/16	53	18	17	12

3. As far as you can tell, did [ITEM] mainly get the facts (right) during the debate, or did (she/he) mainly get the facts (wrong)? (IF WRONG) Do you think (she/he) mainly (lied on purpose), or mainly (got the facts wrong without lying on purpose)?

g9/30/16 - Summary Table

	Got the facts right	- Got the facts wrong -			No opinion
		NET	Lied	Just wrong	
a. Hillary Clinton	54	24	21	3	22
b. Donald Trump	29	47	32	15	24

*** END ***