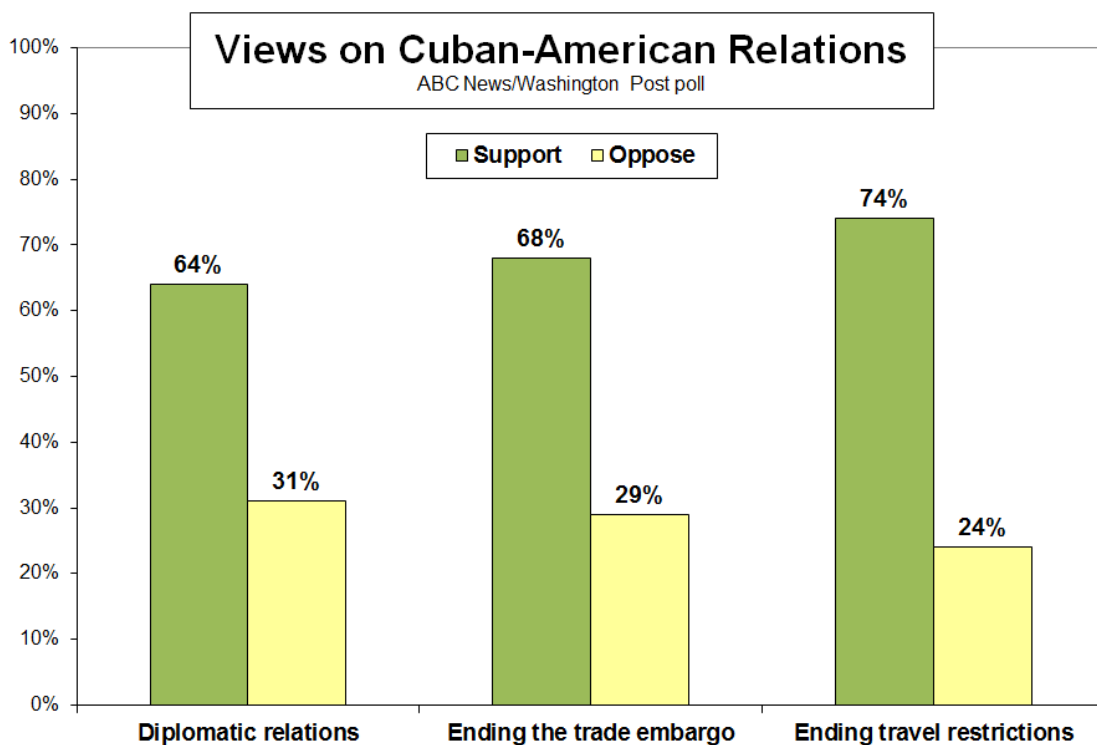


Poll Finds Broad Public Support for Open Relations with Cuba

Broad majorities of Americans in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll support establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba, as well as ending the United States' longstanding trade embargo and restrictions on travel to and from the Caribbean nation.

Sixty-four percent favor Cuban-American diplomatic relations, similar to its level in polls the last eight years. Two-thirds and three-quarters, respectively, favor ending the trade embargo and travel restrictions, both up considerably from an ABC/Post poll in 2009.

No more than three in 10 are opposed in each case. And strong supporters outnumber strong opponents on all three measures – by particularly large margins, about 2-1, when it comes to trade and travel.



Barack Obama moved last week to normalize U.S. relations with Cuba, restoring diplomatic relations and further easing some trade and travel restrictions. This poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), indicates a solid base in public opinion for such initiatives.

Views on Cuba have transformed considerably over the years. In similar questions in 1998, just 38 percent supported diplomatic relations, only 35 percent wanted to end the embargo and Americans split evenly on doing away with the travel restrictions.

There are partisan and ideological gaps, but also some surprises. Even among Republicans and conservatives, majorities support ending the embargo and travel restrictions. They split evenly in the case of establishing diplomatic relations, with “strong” conservatives opposed. Support is much higher among Democrats, independents, liberals and moderates alike.

	Support-Oppose		
	Diplomatic relations	Ending embargo	Ending travel restrictions
All	64-31%	68-29%	74-24%
Democrats	77-19	79-20	85-14
Republicans	49-47	57-40	64-33
Independents	63-32	67-31	72-26
Liberals	80-15	80-18	88-11
Moderates	67-28	71-26	74-24
Cons. NET	48-49	56-42	63-34
Swt cons.	55-41	64-33	70-27
Very cons.	36-61	42-57	51-47

Among other groups, men, Hispanics, younger or middle-aged adults and higher-income earners, for the most part, are more apt than their counterparts to favor closer ties with Cuba.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cell phone Dec. 17-21, 2014, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,011 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points. The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gregory Holyk.

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

Media contact: [Van Scott Jr.](#), (212) 456-7423.

Full results follow.

1. Overall, do you support or oppose [ITEM]? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?

12/21/14 - Summary Table

	Support			Oppose			No op.
	NET	Strongly	Swt	NET	Swt	Strongly	
a. The United States government establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba	64	23	41	31	15	16	5
b. The United States ending the							

trade embargo with Cuba	68	30	38	29	12	17	3
c. The U.S. government ending its travel restrictions to Cuba	74	35	39	24	9	15	2

Trend:

a. The United States government establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
12/21/14	64	23	41	31	15	16	5

Compare to: Do you think the United States government should or should not establish diplomatic relations with Cuba?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
4/24/09	66	27	6
2/24/08*	61	29	10
12/10/06*	67	27	6
3/11/04*	55	38	7
7/27/03**	48	36	16
5/12/02***	47	45	9
4/6/00	47	49	4
1/13/98	38	56	6

*Gallup: "Do you favor or oppose re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?"

**CBS/NYT: "Do you think the United States should or should not establish diplomatic and trade relations with Cuba?"

***ABC/Post 2002 and previous: "As you may know, the United States broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba after it became a communist country under Fidel Castro in 1959. The U.S. also imposed travel restrictions and a trade embargo, which means U.S. companies cannot do business in Cuba and Cuban companies cannot do business here..."

b. The United States ending the trade embargo with Cuba. That would allow U.S. companies to do business in Cuba and Cuban companies to do business here.

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
12/21/14	68	30	38	29	12	17	3

Compare to: (HALF SAMPLE) Do you think the United States should or should not end the trade embargo, and allow U.S. companies to do business in Cuba and Cuban companies to do business here?

	Should	Should not	No opinion
4/24/09	57	36	7
5/12/02	44	48	8
4/6/00	47	47	6
1/13/98	35	58	7

c. The U.S. government ending its travel restrictions to Cuba. That would allow U.S. citizens to visit Cuba and Cubans to visit the United States.

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
12/21/14	74	35	39	24	9	15	2

Compare to: (HALF SAMPLE) Do you think the U.S. government should or should not end its travel restrictions, and allow U.S. citizens to visit Cuba and Cubans to visit the United States?

Should Should not No opinion

4/24/09	55	40	5
5/12/02	49	45	6
4/6/00	58	38	4
1/13/98	49	46	5

*** END ***