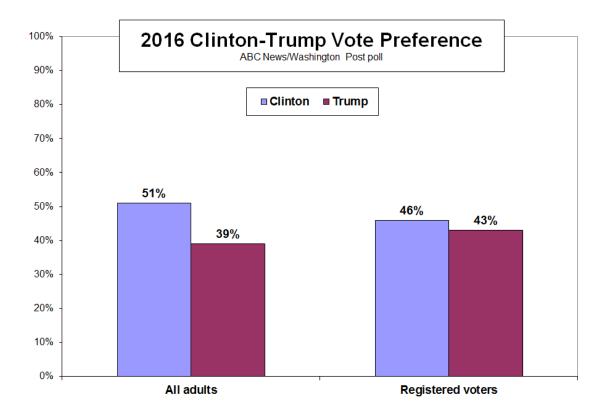
Insider vs. Outsider Matchup Finds Clinton, Trump Near Even

Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump run essentially evenly among registered voters in a head-to-head matchup for president in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll, testament to the strength of party loyalty as well as to Trump's anti-establishment profile and anti-immigration views.

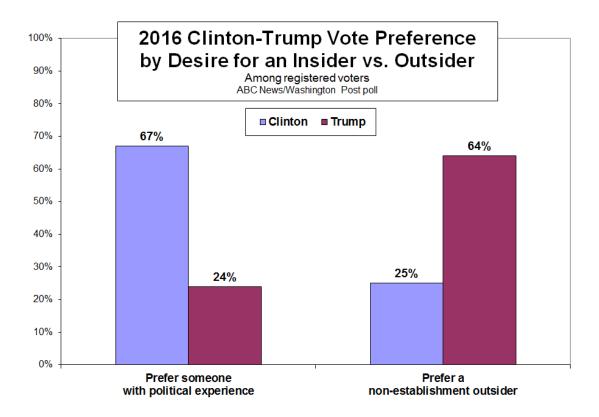
The hypothetical contest stands at 46-43 percent, Clinton-Trump, a gap that's within the survey's margin of sampling error. That compares to a clear Clinton lead among all adults, 51-39 percent, indicating her broad support in groups that are less apt to be registered to vote, such as young adults and racial and ethnic minorities.



The close result in this poll, produced for ABC by <u>Langer Research Associates</u>, says as much about partisanship as it does about the candidates. Registered voters divide 45-40 percent between identifying themselves as Democrats, or leaning that way, vs. Republicans or GOP leaners. And 82 percent of leaned Democrats say they'd support Clinton, while 76 percent of leaned Republicans say they'd back Trump, were they the party nominees.

That said, Trump also is tapping factors including discontent with the political system, antiimmigration attitudes and dissatisfaction with the Obama administration. He leads Clinton by a broad 64-25 percent among registered voters who prefer a candidate from outside the political establishment and by 49-38 percent among those who strongly distrust politicians.

Trump also leads Clinton by 73-14 percent among those who favor his controversial views on immigration, 74-13 percent among those who disapprove of Barack Obama's job performance, 68-22 percent among political conservatives and 52-36 percent among whites, a broadly pro-GOP group in recent years. (They favored Mitt Romney over Obama by 20 percentage points in 2012.) Among evangelical white Protestants, a core GOP group, Trump leads Clinton by 67-22 percent.



This analysis is the first slice of a new ABC/Post poll on the 2016 election. More detailed results on the primaries, views of candidate attributes and attitudes about the political system overall will be released Monday morning.

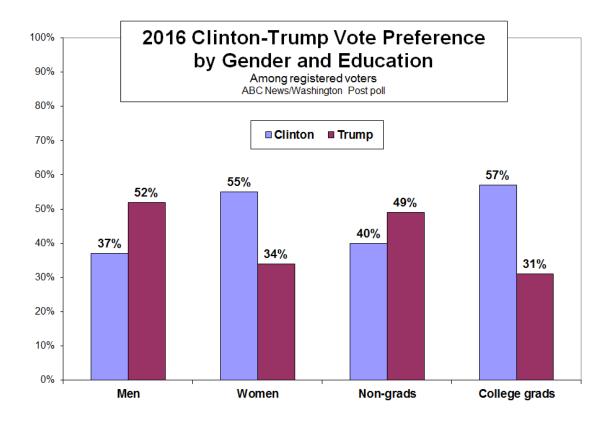
There are some important provisos in evaluating these results. Early polls are not predictive. They seek to measure preferences if the election were today, but the election is not today, and if it were, voters would have had a full campaign's worth of information on which to base their choices – including whether to vote in the first place. Campaigns clearly do matter; front-runners have failed in past elections and single-digit candidates have surged to victory. Polls at this stage, then, are best used to understand attitude formation, not eventual election choices.

Statistical analysis shows which factors best predict Clinton vs. Trump preferences, holding all else equal. The biggest by far is whether or not registered voters support Trump's positions on immigration. That's followed by partisanship, preferring experience vs. a political outsider, ideology, race and gender.

GROUPS – Notably, in the general election matchup, Trump leads by 52-37 percent among men, while Clinton leads by 55-34 percent among women. Fifty-three percent of women in this survey say they're Democrats or lean that way, compared with 36 percent of men.

The results produce a vast 36-point gender gap – Trump +15 points among men, Clinton +21 among women. The average in general election exit polls since 1976 has been 13 points; the biggest was 22 points in the Gore-Bush contest of 2000. The Clinton-Trump gender gap is more than twice as big as the Clinton-Jeb Bush gender gap in an ABC/Post poll in July, presumably reflecting Trump's controversial remarks about women.

Clinton's support among women is based on her overwhelming backing from college-educated women, 68-20 percent. By contrast, Trump leads Clinton by a broad 55-34 percent among men who aren't college graduates. He runs about evenly with Clinton among women without a college degree and among men who've graduated from college.



The education gap, like the gender gap, is outsized. In exit polls since 1980, there has been little difference in candidate support among those with a college degree vs. non-graduates, an average of just 2 points; the biggest gap was 11 points in 1996, when Bill Clinton's support was higher

among non-grads (+14 points) than among college graduates (+3 points). In the Clinton-Trump matchup, there's a vast 35-point gap; it's 57-31 percent, Clinton-Trump, among those with a college degree, vs. 49-40 percent, Trump-Clinton, among those without one. Indeed, even among college-educated leaned Republicans, Trump's support slips to 67 percent, vs. 80 percent among those without a degree.

This reflects a challenge in Trump's support profile; while he does much better with less-educated registered voters, they're less likely actually to vote.

At the same time, Trump has a 20-point lead over Clinton among senior citizens, 55-35 percent, while Clinton has an even broader advantage among adults under 30, 63-27 percent. In this case it's Trump's group that has a higher propensity to vote.

Clinton also does vastly better than Trump among nonwhites, 72-19 percent; they're a core Democratic group and a growing share of the electorate. And there's a strong regional effect, with much better results for Clinton in the Northeast and West, with Trump ahead in the Midwest and South. Again, it's largely partisanship that leads the way.

All	Clinton-Trump 46-43%	Difference +3 pts.
Democrats	82-15	+67
Republicans	14-77	-63
Independents	39-44	-5
Liberals	80-16	+64
Moderates	48-36	+12
Conservatives	22-68	-46
Whites	36-52	-16
Nonwhites NET	72-19	+53
Men	37-52	-15
Women	55-34	+21
18-29	63-27	+36
65-plus	35-55	-20
<\$50K	51-40	+11
\$50-100K	45-43	+2
\$100K-plus	43-43	0
Non-grads	40-49	-9
College grads	57-31	+26
Women non-grad	47-44	+3
Women grad	68-20	+48
Men non-grad	34-55	-21
Men grad	43-45	-2
Northeast	63-32	+31
Midwest	38-48	-10
South	40-51	-11

West	55-30	+25
Prefer:		
Experience	67-24	+43
Non-establishment	25-64	-39
Politicians are:		
Trustworthy	60-34	+26
Not trustworthy	41-47	-6

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Sept. 7-10, 2015, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,003 adults, including 821 registered voters. Results have a margin of <u>sampling error</u> of 3.5 points for the full sample and 4.0 for registered voters, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 33-22-35 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents, among all adults, and 34-25-33 percent among registered voters.

The survey was produced for ABC News by <u>Langer Research Associates</u> of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y. 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.

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Full results follow.

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1-5, 7-31 held for release.
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6. If the 2016 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Hillary Clinton, the Democrat) and (Donald Trump, the Republican), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Clinton) or toward (Trump)?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - GEN POP

9/10/15	Hillary Clinton 51	Donald Trump 39	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.) 5	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion 1
NET LEANE	D VOTE PRE	EFERENCE -	- RVs			
9/10/15	Hillary Clinton 46	Donald Trump 43	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion 1

Regression model results follow.

Model predicting Clinton vote preference

Varia	able			Beta
More	support	for	Trump's	

views on immigration	48***
Democrat	.17***
Prefer an outsider	15***
Republican	11***
Conservatism	10***
White	09***
Male	08**
West	.07**
***p<.001, **p<.01, *p	<.05

Adjusted R-square=.67

Note: Only significant predictors shown.

*** END ***