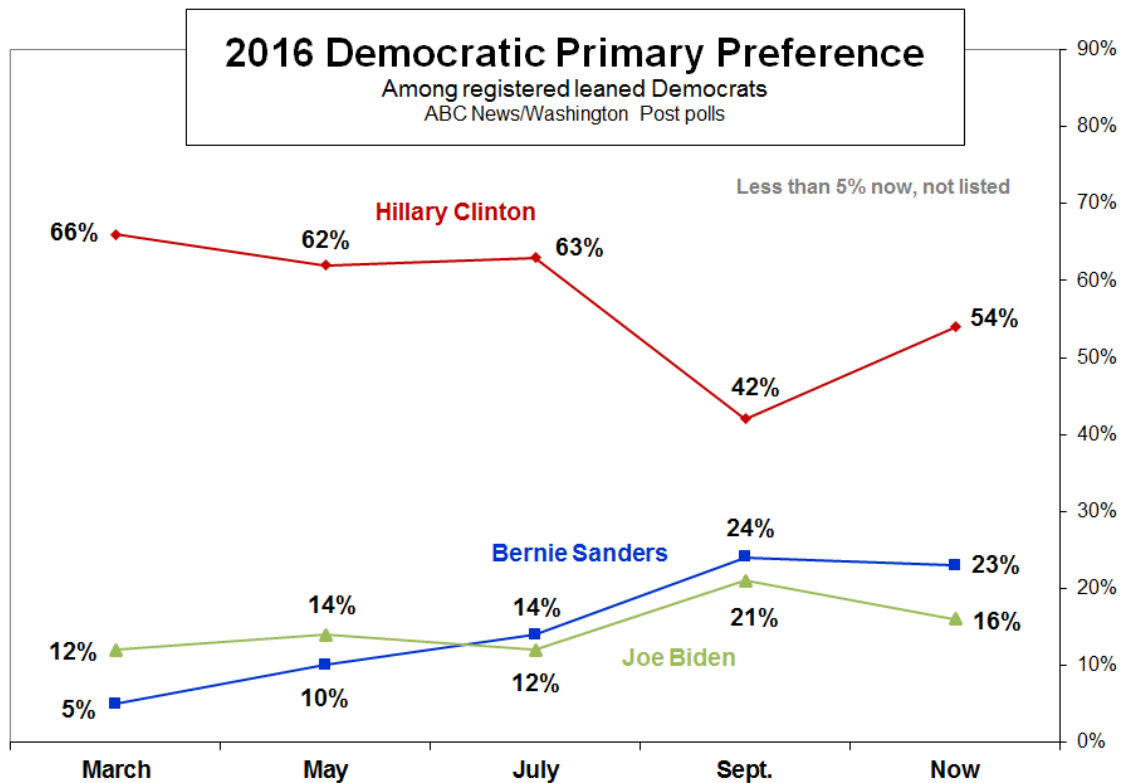


## Clinton Rebounds in Democratic Race, Gaining Against Sanders and Biden Alike

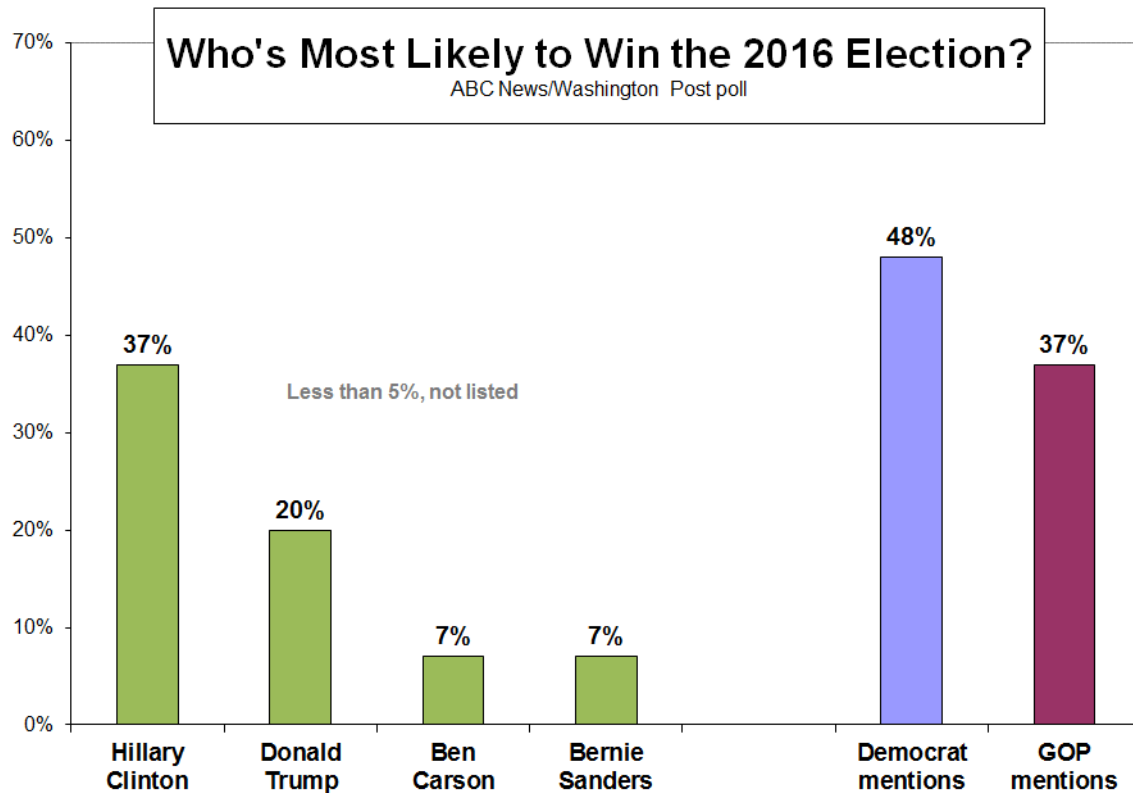
Hillary Clinton has followed a successful debate performance by rebounding in the contest for the Democratic presidential nomination in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll, regaining ground against Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden alike.

With anticipation surrounding Biden at a peak, Clinton has 54 percent support in interviews Thursday through Sunday, compared with Sanders' 23 percent and Biden's 16 percent. That's 12 percentage points better for Clinton than her position a month ago, bringing her halfway back to her level of support in the spring and summer, before her September stumble.



Among other factors, Clinton benefits from a substantial sense of inevitability within her party: Two-thirds of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say they expect her to win the nomination. That's hardly changed from March, despite Sanders' surge in support this summer. Whether it's impacted by Biden's decision remains to be seen.

Expectations are less settled for the general election in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). In an open-ended question asking all Americans whom they expect to win the presidency in November 2016, 37 percent pick Clinton, more than name any other candidate; next is Donald Trump, tipped to win by 20 percent. Boosted by Clinton's score, 48 percent pick any Democrat, while 37 percent pick one of nine Republicans.



DEM PREFS – Clinton's debate performance may be a factor in her improvement among Democrats and Democratic leaners; a plurality, 45 percent, think she won last week's debate, more than twice as many as pick Sanders, 19 percent. The rest have no opinion or see no winner.

Other elements also work in Clinton's favor. Despite her many years in the spotlight, 60 percent of leaned Democrats say the more they hear about her, the more they like her, indicating she's largely avoiding the risk of Clinton fatigue. Sanders does as well on this measure, but no better.

Clinton's support for the nomination is more than double Sanders' and triple the unannounced Biden's. Leaving Biden out of the equation, she has even more support, 64 percent, compared with 25 percent for Sanders, with others in the low single digits. That's improved slightly for Clinton from a 56-28 percent race vs. Sanders in September.

Measured just against Sanders, Clinton prevails on empathy, her positions on the issues and, especially, electability, leading him on these by 51-37 percent, 53-36 percent and 73-21 percent,

respectively. However, leaned Democrats divide evenly between Clinton and Sanders on another attribute, which of them is more honest and trustworthy. That marks a vulnerability for Clinton not just in the Democratic contest but in a potential general election campaign beyond.

Among these items, a statistical analysis finds that the strongest independent predictors of Clinton’s lead vs. Sanders in the Democratic contest are the sense among potential voters that she’s more compatible with them on the issues and that she better understands their problems. Seeing Clinton as more electable or as more honest and preferring someone with more experience also predict supporting her, but far less strongly.

There’s one other predictor of support for Clinton – being nonwhite. Indeed while she wins 49 percent from white leaned Democrats, that jumps to 61 percent among nonwhites. Looking to the general election, nonwhites are an overwhelmingly Democratic group, as well as a growing slice of the electorate – albeit one whose turnout may be uncertain.

ISSUES/GENERAL – Views on some specific issues offer a mixed bag for Clinton in a general election race. Despite support for anti-establishment candidates in the Republican contest, Americans overall say by 57-39 percent that they’d like the next president to be someone who has political experience rather than someone from outside the political establishment – a potential help to Clinton given her long resume.

Sixty-seven percent also support stricter regulation of financial institutions on Wall Street, a key position of Sanders’ but one that Clinton also has backed.

At the same time, more Americans would like to see the next president support rather than oppose the Obama administration’s Pacific trade deal – Clinton opposes it. And more favor than oppose the Keystone oil pipeline, another issue on which Clinton has announced her opposition.

GROUPS – The biggest change in this survey is Clinton’s showing in the Democratic contest with Biden included – a 12-point gain from her position in September. That includes gains among women (+19 points in support for Clinton, at Biden’s expense), whites (+18), adults over age 50 (+18) and suburbanites (+18, also at Biden’s expense).

The shift among women means that gender and age gaps in Democratic preference have reopened, after narrowing last month; Clinton is now supported by 61 percent of women, vs. 44 percent of men, and by 61 percent of leaned Democrats age 50-plus, vs. 47 percent of those younger than 50.

	Vote preference among registered leaned Democrats								
	Clinton			Sanders			Biden		
	Now	Sept.	Aug.	Now	Sept.	Aug.	Now	Sept.	Aug.
All	54%	42%	63%	23%	24%	14%	16%	21%	12%
Men	44	43	52	27	27	21	21	17	15
Women	61	42	71	20	22	9	12	24	10
Whites	49	31	56	32	33	19	13	21	13
Nonwhites NET	61	57	71	13	13	9	19	21	12

Under 50	47	42	61	28	26	15	17	21	14
50+	61	43	64	19	22	14	14	21	11
No degree	54	42	65	23	20	9	17	24	15
College grads	56	44	58	24	29	23	13	16	8
Urban	49	45	64	26	23	14	19	18	14
Suburban	61	43	60	25	25	18	8	21	12
Liberals	54	42	64	28	32	23	14	15	11
Moderates	52	44	62	25	20	10	13	20	12

Among other factors, Clinton clearly benefits from the preference – among 77 percent of registered leaned Democrats – for a candidate who’s experienced in the political system, rather than an outsider; her support reaches 63 percent among those who stress experience.

At the same time, her challenges on honesty and trustworthiness may threaten her yet. Among Sanders supporters, nine in 10 see him as more honest and trustworthy than Clinton. Among Clinton supporters, by contrast, many fewer say she’s more honest and trustworthy than Sanders – 59 percent. Some of her supporters, then, are with her not because of their view of her honesty and trustworthiness, but despite it.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Oct. 15-18, 2015, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults, including 444 leaned Democrats. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points for the full sample and 5.5 points for leaned Democrats, including the survey’s design effect. Partisan divisions are 30-24-39 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) 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:

\* in data columns = less than 0.5 percent

1-4 previously released; 5-7, 13r, 16-20 held for release.

8. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) I'm going to read a list of possible candidates for the Democratic nomination for president in 2016. If the 2016 Democratic presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, for whom would you vote? Which candidate would you lean toward?

10/18/15 - NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE

Among reg voters:

	2015					2014			
	10/18	9/10	7/19	5/31	3/29	12/14	10/12	6/1	1/23
Joe Biden	16	21	12	14	12	14	13	12	11
Lincoln Chafee	*	1	*	1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hillary Clinton	54	42	63	62	66	61	64	69	73
Andrew Cuomo	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2	NA
Martin O'Malley	1	2	1	3	*	*	1	2	NA
Bernie Sanders	23	24	14	10	5	4	1	2	NA
Brian Schweitzer	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	NA
Elizabeth Warren	NA	NA	NA	NA	12	13	11	7	9
Jim Webb	1	1	2	1	1	3	2	1	NA
Other (vol.)	1	1	2	2	*	*	0	0	*
None of these (vol.)	2	5	3	4	2	1	3	2	3
Would not vote (vol.)	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	*
No opinion	2	3	2	1	2	2	5	2	4

9. (ASKED OF LEANED BIDEN SUPPORTERS) Who would your second choice be? Which candidate would you lean toward as your second choice?

10/18/15 - NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE

	Reg voters		
	10/18/15	9/10/15	7/19/15
Lincoln Chafee	*	1	1
Hillary Clinton	64	56	68
Martin O'Malley	2	3	2
Bernie Sanders	25	28	16
Jim Webb	2	2	5
Other (vol.)	1	1	2
None of these (vol.)	3	5	3
Would not vote (vol.)	1	1	1
No opinion	2	4	3

10. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Regardless of who you yourself support, which candidate do you think is most likely to win the Democratic nomination for president? (Candidates not read)

	10/18/15	3/29/15
Joe Biden	14	13
Hillary Clinton	65	72
Martin O'Malley	*	1
Bernie Sanders	11	1
Elizabeth Warren	NA	1
Jim Webb	1	1
Other	1	*
No opinion	8	10

11. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Thinking just about Clinton and Sanders, who do you think [ITEM]?

Full item wording:

- a. is more honest and trustworthy
- b. has a better chance of getting elected president in November 2016
- c. is closer to you on the issues
- d. better understands the problems of people like you

10/18/15 - Summary Table

	Honest	Best chance	Issues	Understands
Clinton	42	73	53	51
Sanders	41	21	36	37
Both (vol.)	7	2	3	3
Neither (vol.)	7	2	2	5
No opinion	4	3	5	4

12. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) From what you've seen, heard or read about it, who, in your opinion, won the Democratic primary debate held earlier this week?

	Chafee	Clinton	O'Malley	Sanders	Webb	None (vol.)	No opinion
10/18/15	0	45	*	19	*	6	29

13. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Regardless of who you may support, would you say that the more you hear about [ITEM] the more you like him/her, or the more you hear about [ITEM] the less you like him/her?

10/18/15 - Summary Table

	More	Less	No difference	Haven't heard enough	No opinion
a. Hillary Clinton	60	22	12	2	3
b. Bernie Sanders	58	23	7	8	4

14. Regardless of who you support, just your best guess, who do you think will win the general election for president in November 2016? (Candidates not read)

	10/18/15
Joe Biden	4
Jeb Bush	4
Ben Carson	7
Chris Christie	*
Hillary Clinton	37
Ted Cruz	2
Carly Fiorina	1
Mike Huckabee	*
John Kasich	*
Rand Paul	*
Marco Rubio	3
Bernie Sanders	7
Donald Trump	20
Jim Webb	*
Other (vol.)	2
No opinion	13

15a. All else equal, would you like the next president to be someone who supports the international trade agreement know as the Trans-Pacific Partnership, or someone who opposes this agreement?

	Supports TPP	Opposes TPP	No opinion
10/18/15	44	32	25

15b. All else equal, would you like the next president to be someone who favors stricter regulation of financial institutions on Wall Street, or someone who opposes this idea?

Favors stricter      Opposes stricter      No

	regulation	regulation	opinion
10/18/15	67	24	9

15c. All else equal, would you like the next president to be someone who supports building the Keystone oil pipeline from Canada to Texas, or opposes it?

	Supports pipeline	Opposes pipeline	No opinion
10/18/15	55	34	11

15d. All else equal, would you like the next president to be someone who has experience in how the political system works, or someone from outside the existing political establishment?

	Experience in political system	Outside establishment	No opinion
10/18/15	57	39	4

\*\*\* END \*\*\*