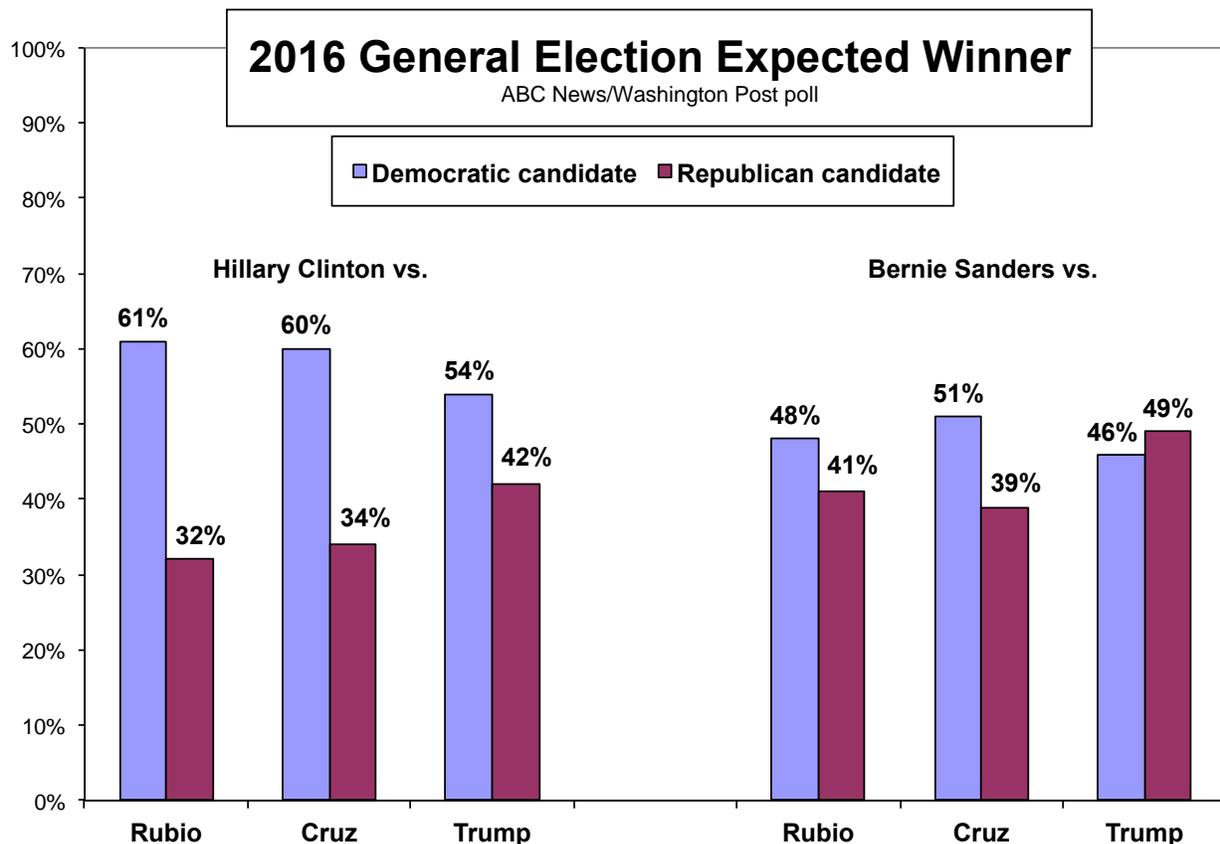


Clinton Seen as Winner in November; A Trump Presidency Inspires Anxiety

Most Americans expect that Hillary Clinton would prevail against her leading GOP opponents in November, while Bernie Sanders' chances are rated less well – and the thought of Donald Trump as president inspires high levels of public anxiety.

A new ABC News/Washington Post poll also finds Americans divided about the need for a third party in this country – but not so divided about a potential independent run by Trump, should he fail to win the GOP nomination. Fewer than a quarter say they'd even consider voting for him as an independent candidate for president.

With Trump as the GOP nominee vs. Clinton, Americans by 54-42 percent say they'd expect Clinton to win; among registered voters (a more GOP-leaning group), the gap narrows to single digits, 52-45 percent. Clinton's seen by much wider margins as beating Ted Cruz or Marco Rubio. Sanders, for his part, is seen as beating Cruz or Rubio – but potentially losing to Trump.



Differences among partisans help explain the results in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents are especially confident in a Clinton victory; 78 to 85 percent view her as the likely victor (including 89 to 94 percent of her own primary supporters). Leaned Democrats are less confident in Sanders; that’s particularly true of Clinton supporters.

Leaned Republicans are about as confident that Trump would beat Clinton (75 percent) as are leaned Democrats that Clinton would beat Trump (78 percent). But leaned Republicans are far less certain about either Cruz or Rubio beating Clinton – 63 and 61 percent, respectively, expect it. That fits with ABC/Post poll results, reported Tuesday, showing that Trump is viewed within his party as its most electable nominee.

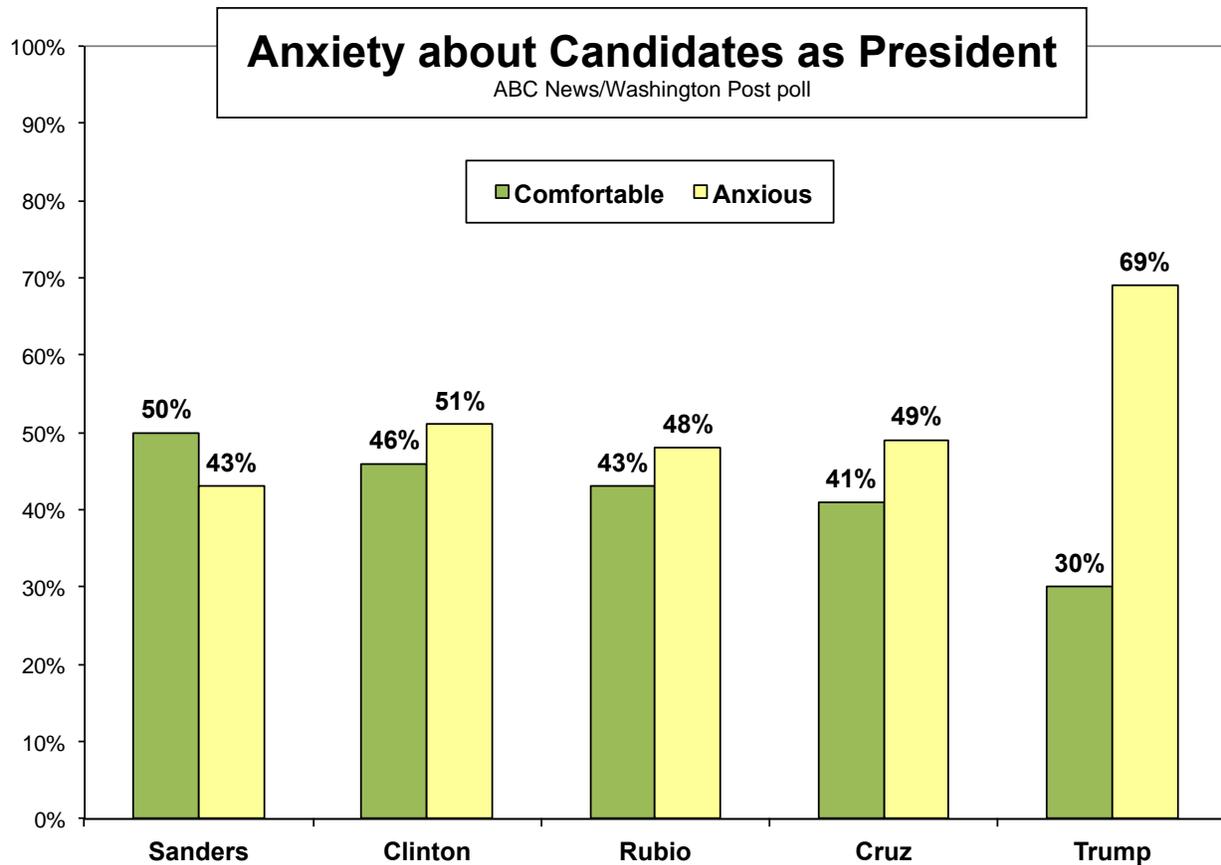
	----- Expect to win general election -----					
	Clinton vs...			Sanders vs...		
	Rubio	Cruz	Trump	Rubio	Cruz	Trump
All	61-32%	60-34	54-42	48-41	51-39	46-49
Reg. voters	60-33	59-36	52-45	48-44	49-44	44-52
Leaned Democrats	85-10	85-12	78-19	71-23	76-16	70-26
Clinton supporters	94- 3	94- 5	89-11	65-29	74-18	70-27
Sanders supporters	78-17	78-19	74-23	82-15	80-18	75-23
Leaned Republicans	34-61	32-63	22-75	24-69	24-70	17-81
Trump supporters	37-58	27-69	6-93	24-68	21-74	1-98
Cruz/Carson supporters	23-72	14-84	16-82	19-79	10-90	12-87
Support others	32-65	47-49	40-57	23-74	33-64	29-69
No college deg.	61-32	57-38	51-46	47-41	49-39	43-52
College deg.	62-30	64-29	61-35	51-41	53-38	51-44

Still, there are sharp divisions in expectations for Trump among leaned Republicans, reflecting the party’s polarization. Trump’s primary supporters almost unanimously see him defeating either Clinton or Sanders (by 93 and 98 percent, respectively). Eighty-two percent of those who support outsiders Cruz and Carson also think Trump would beat Clinton, but this slides to 57 percent of those who support any of the other GOP candidates. Supporters of more conventional candidates on the GOP side are skeptical of a Cruz victory vs. Clinton as well.

There also are substantial differences by education. Among those with college degrees, Clinton and Sanders clearly outpace the GOP competition. Those without a college degree have similar expectations about the chances of Cruz and Rubio, but are substantially more bullish on Trump, reflecting in part his strength in this group.

ANXIETY VS. COMFORT – While Trump leads the top GOP candidates in expectations, he inspires significant concerns among Americans as they contemplate him as president. Seven in 10 say they’re “anxious” about the idea as Trump as president, including 51 percent who feel

that way strongly. In contrast, a bare majority says a Clinton presidency would make them anxious.



Of the candidates tested, only Sanders comes out ahead in terms of comfort vs. anxiety: Fifty percent of Americans are comfortable with the idea of a Sanders presidency, vs. 43 percent who are anxious about it. Americans are more nervous than calm about Cruz (-8 points), and slightly more concerned about Rubio and Clinton (both -5).

The differences across candidates largely reflect partisanship, with the exception of Trump; he generates anxiety even among 44 percent of leaned Republicans and 50 percent of conservatives (including 60 percent of “somewhat” conservatives, vs. 38 percent of those who describe themselves as very conservative). Anxiety about Clinton in her own party is far lower.

	----- Comfortable vs. anxious -----				
	Sanders	Clinton	Rubio	Cruz	Trump
All	50-43%	46-51	43-48	41-49	30-69
Leaned Democrats	73-23	74-25	28-65	21-70	12-87
Leaned Republicans	24-71	15-83	66-27	68-26	55-44
Liberals	74-21	71-28	28-65	21-70	11-89
Moderates	55-38	51-47	41-52	34-58	25-74

Conservatives NET	27-65	24-74	58-32	65-27	48-50
Somewhat	30-62	30-69	53-36	61-31	40-60
Very	24-69	18-81	64-26	70-23	58-38
Whites	44-49	36-62	45-45	44-47	36-62
Nonwhites NET	60-33	64-32	41-51	34-53	17-82
Blacks	62-33	80-18	28-64	20-71	7-90
Hispanics	62-28	61-33	53-39	41-42	20-80
Men	49-45	43-55	49-43	46-45	38-60
Women	51-42	49-48	38-51	36-53	22-77
Urban	53-39	54-43	40-51	33-55	20-78
Suburban	51-43	45-53	45-46	43-48	30-70
Rural	40-56	31-66	48-45	53-41	50-48

Trump inspires particular anxiety among nonwhites and women:

- Nine in 10 blacks and eight in 10 Hispanics are nervous about the thought of him as president vs. 62 percent of whites. Anxiety among nonwhites drops substantially for Rubio and Cruz.
- Women are 17 points more likely than men to be anxious about a Trump presidency, while the gender gap is smaller for Rubio and Cruz. Men are cooler than women to the idea of a Clinton presidency, though no different than women in their reaction to Sanders as president.

Among other groups, Americans living in rural areas are much warmer to the idea of Trump as president. Half would be comfortable with it, compared with just 30 percent of suburbanites and 20 percent of city-dwellers.

THIRD PARTY – Americans are as divided as ever about the idea of a third party; their 48-48 percent split on the question is nearly identical to its level at this time four years ago.

Desire for a third party is not strongly related to various measures of discontent, but instead divides more on modernist vs. traditionalist lines. It peaks among those who are not religious (65 percent), independents (60 percent) and 18- to 29-year-olds (59 percent). Liberals and moderates are more likely than conservatives to see a need for a third party. Nearly two-thirds of strong conservatives reject the idea, as do six in 10 seniors and evangelical Protestants. So do six in 10 blacks.

	-- Third party --	
	Need	Don't need
All	48%	48
Democrats	42	54
Republicans	39	59
Independents	60	37
Liberals	53	43

Moderates	54	43
Conservatives NET	39	57
Somewhat	47	50
Very	31	64
No religion	65	28
Evang. prot.	33	63
18-29	59	40
65+	35	59
Whites	50	45
Blacks	35	61
Hispanics	47	48

Overall, 31 percent of Americans say they'd want Trump to run as a third-party candidate if he fails to win the GOP nomination. A quarter of those who would want him to run wouldn't consider actually voting for him – primarily Democrats, apparently hoping to damage the GOP nominee. That leaves just nine percent of Americans who say they'd definitely vote for Trump, and 14 percent who say they'd consider it, as an independent candidate.

Somewhat ominously for the GOP, nearly half of Trump's current supporters among leaned Republicans say they'd definitely vote for him as an independent, with another quarter saying they'd consider it.

Further, four in 10 Americans who want an outsider for president, and four in 10 of those who think that immigrants mainly weaken society – Trump's base groups – also say they'd at least consider him as an independent candidate. His chances of winning aside, that could be enough to seriously alter the dynamics in the general election contest.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 21-24, 2016, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect, for the full sample, and 4 points for all registered voters. Partisan divisions are 34-23-34 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 Chad Kiewiet de Jonge.

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

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Full results follow.

1-16, 20-22, 26-31 previously released.

*= less than 0.5 percent

17. Regardless of whom you support, if (Hillary Clinton) and ([ITEM]) are the nominees for president, who would you expect to win, (Clinton) or ([ITEM])?

a. Marco Rubio

	Clinton	Rubio	Other (vol.)	No opinion
1/24/16	61	32	1	6

b. Donald Trump

	Clinton	Trump	Other (vol.)	No opinion
1/24/16	54	42	1	3

c. Ted Cruz

	Clinton	Cruz	Other (vol.)	No opinion
1/24/16	60	34	1	5

Compare to:

Regardless of whom you support, if (Clinton) and (Bush) are the nominees for president, who would you expect to win, (Clinton) or (Bush)?

	Clinton	Bush	Other (vol.)	No opinion
5/31/15	55	39	1	5

18. Regardless of whom you support, if (Bernie Sanders) and ([ITEM]) are the nominees for president, who would you expect to win, (Sanders) or ([ITEM])?

a. Marco Rubio

	Sanders	Rubio	Other (vol.)	No opinion
1/24/16	48	41	1	10

b. Donald Trump

	Sanders	Trump	Other (vol.)	No opinion
1/24/16	46	49	*	5

c. Ted Cruz

	Sanders	Cruz	Other (vol.)	No opinion
1/24/16	51	39	1	10

19. Thinking about [ITEM] as president - are you comfortable with this, or does it make you anxious? Would you say you are very comfortable with/anxious about the idea of [ITEM] as president, or somewhat comfortable with/anxious about it?

1/24/16 - Summary Table

---- Comfortable ---- ----- Anxious ----- No

	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
a. Hillary Clinton	46	29	17	51	16	35	2
b. Bernie Sanders	50	21	29	43	19	24	7
c. Donald Trump	30	17	13	69	18	51	1
d. Marco Rubio	43	12	31	48	30	18	9
e. Ted Cruz	41	17	24	49	23	26	10

Trend where available:

a. Hillary Clinton

	---- Comfortable ----			----- Anxious -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
1/24/16	46	29	17	51	16	35	2
12/13/15	47	27	20	51	16	35	2

b. No trend

c. Donald Trump

	---- Comfortable ----			----- Anxious -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
1/24/16	30	17	13	69	18	51	1
12/13/15	29	15	14	69	19	49	3

d-e. No trend

23. Some people say the country needs a third political party in addition to the Democratic and Republican parties, others say it's unnecessary. Do you think this country needs a third party or not? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	--- Third party needed --			-Third party NOT needed -			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/24/16	48	29	19	48	17	31	4
1/15/12	48	29	18	49	17	32	4

24. If Trump does not win the Republican nomination for president, would you (support) or (oppose) his running as an independent candidate for president?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
1/24/16	31	64	5

25. (ASK IF SUPPORT TRUMP RUNNING AS INDEPENDENT) If Trump did run as an independent candidate for president, would you definitely vote for him, consider voting for him, or definitely not vote for him?

	Definitely vote for	Would consider	Definitely not vote for	No opinion
1/24/16	28	45	26	1

24/25 NET:

	----- Support -----			-----			
	Definitely vote for	Would consider	Definitely not vote for	No opinion	Oppose	No opinion	
1/24/16	31	9	14	8	*	64	5

*** END ***