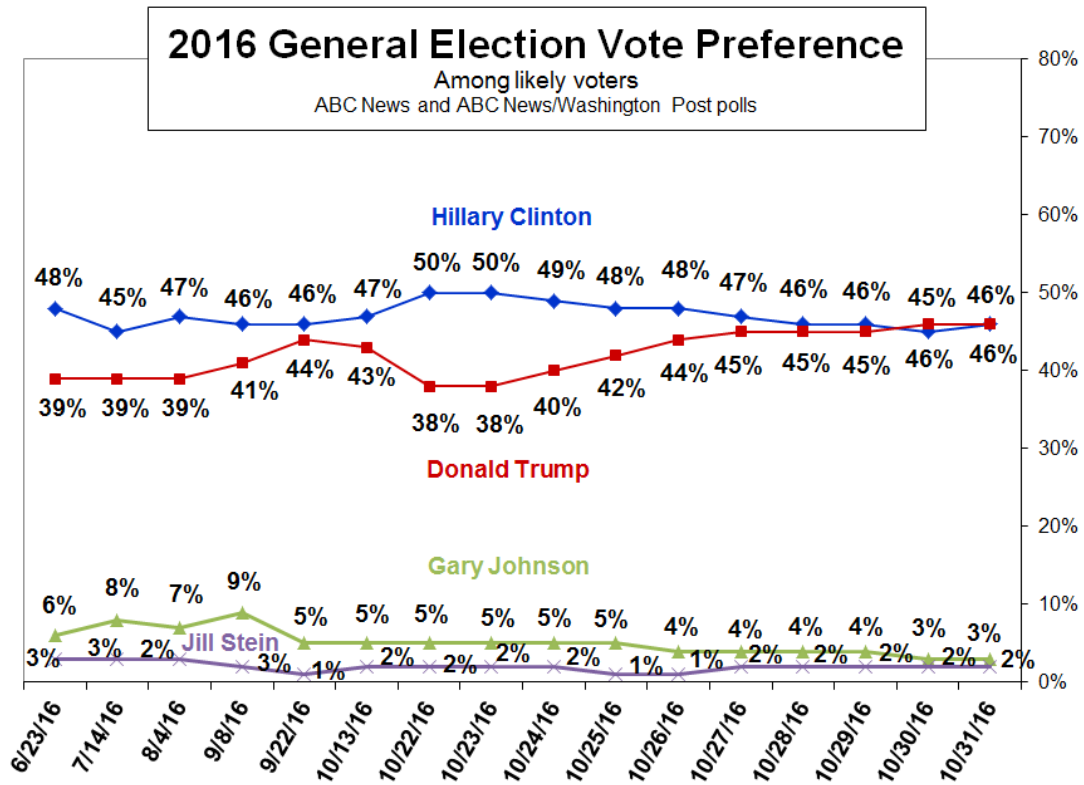# Trump Rated More Honest;
Contest Stays a Dead Heat

Hillary Clinton trails Donald Trump for the first time this campaign in who's seen as more honest and trustworthy, a sign of further possible fallout from renewed FBI scrutiny of Clinton-related emails. A steady six in 10 likely voters disapprove of how she's responded to the issue.

Given Clinton's advantage in other areas, the race between them is now a precise dead heat in the latest ABC News/Washington Post tracking poll, 46-46 percent. A majority, 55 percent, continues to expect Clinton to win, though that's down 5 points from its peak last week, before the email controversy was reopened publicly by FBI Director James Comey.

2016 General Election Vote Preference
Among likely voters
ABC News and ABC News/Washington Post polls

Enthusiasm for both candidates remains weak – 46 percent of Clinton's supporters and 52 percent of Trump's are very enthusiastic about their choice, compared, for example, with 64 percent for Barack Obama and 62 percent for Mitt Romney at this point in 2012.
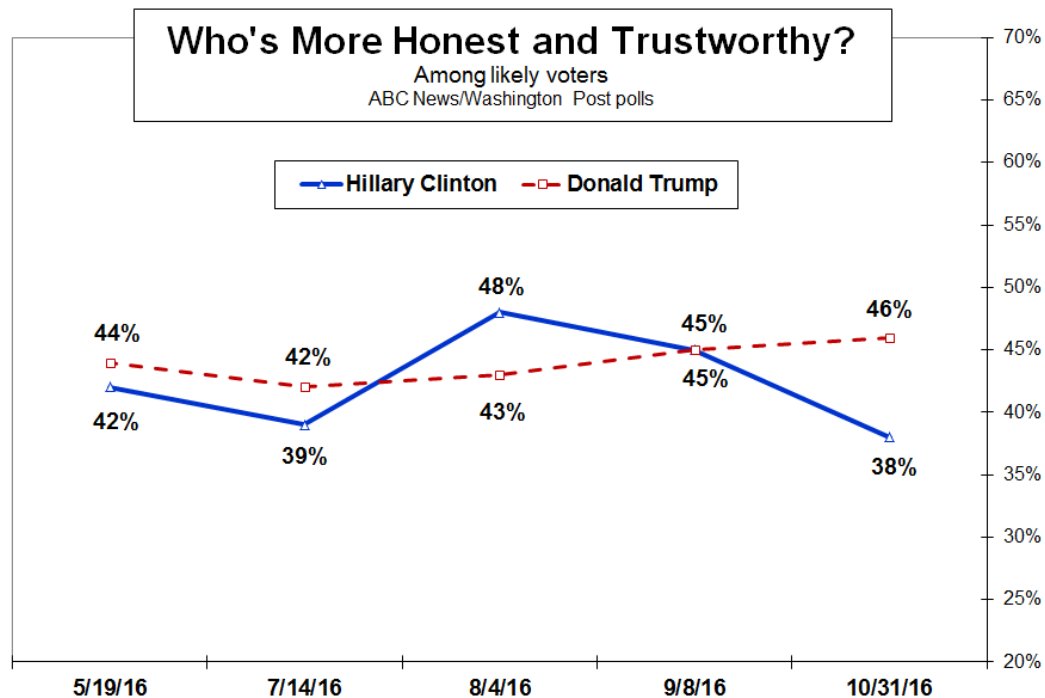
That absence of enthusiasm reflects the historic unpopularity of both candidates, potentially impacting motivation to vote. That said, nearly one in four likely voters, 23 percent, say they've already voted. It was 17 percent at this point in 2012, so looks to be on pace for a record.

Clinton leads among those who say they've already voted, 54-41 percent. Notably, this number can vary substantially – or at least it did in 2012 – as pre-Election Day voting accelerates.

Among other results is a gradual collapse in support for Libertarian Party candidate Gary Johnson, from a peak of 9 percent support in September to just 3 percent now. Jill Stein of the Green Party has 2 percent, and has held steady.

HONESTY – The race is close because assessments of honesty and trustworthiness are far from voters' only concerns. Earlier tracking results, for instance, found Clinton much more likely to be seen as qualified to serve as president, another key candidate attribute.

Trump's lead in honesty and trustworthiness raises the question of whether Clinton has been damaged by Comey's announcement last Friday that the FBI was investigating additional emails that passed through her private server. Vote preferences have not changed significantly pre- and post-Comey, suggesting the impact, if present, is a subtle one, potentially more apt to influence turnout than vote choices directly.

Notably, Trump has not gained significantly in being seen as more honest than Clinton. Rather her score has dropped, by 7 points in this poll, produced for ABC by Langer Research Associates. The number who volunteer that they don't see either as honesty and trustworthy has risen from 8 to 12 percent, a small, but significant change.

Compared to early September results, Clinton has lost 14 points among independents in being seen as more honest than Trump, and 13 points among moderates – two groups less firmly anchored by partisan or ideological preferences. That said, she's also lost 10 points among Democrats on this measure.

EXPECTATIONS – The shift in expectations also may be related to the Comey announcement, since 60 percent of likely voters expected Clinton to win immediately before news of his letter to Congress, while it's slipped to 55 percent in the past four days. This includes a 5-point decline in in expectations she'll win "easily," from 26 to 21 percent.

Again there's essentially no change for Trump – a non-significant +2 from 29 to 31 percent in likely voters' predictions. The rest, chiefly, have no opinion.

The shift in expectations is broadly based across partisan and ideological groups, essentially the same, for example, among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents as it is among Republicans and GOP leaners. Large majorities of each candidate's supporters (particularly Clinton's) continue to think their candidate will win, but the number of her own supporters who think she'll win easily is down 8 points, from 45 percent last week to 37 percent now.

To the extent that perceptions of a closer race drive turnout, the shift could be helpful to Clinton in the days ahead. Still, expectations of a Clinton win remain strong and unchanged among one group whose turnout has been a source of concern for Democrats, millennials (age 18 to 35).

Among other groups, expectations of a Clinton victory have declined more among college-educated likely voters, from 68 percent to 61 percent now, led by an 11-point drop among white men with a college degree, a battleground group. Expectations are steadier among whites without a college degree, white women with a degree, blacks and Hispanics.

JOHNSON – One dynamic related to the tightened Clinton-Trump race is a decline in support for Johnson (compared with steadier support, albeit minimal, for Stein). In early September, 11 percent of registered voters, and 9 percent of likely voters supported Johnson, vs. only 4 and 3 percent, respectively, now. Stein has held at 3 and 2 percent, respectively.

This appears to have aided Trump more than Clinton. In September, 11 percent of Republican and GOP-leaning likely voters supported Johnson; that's at 4 percent now, down 7 points, as Trump has consolidated in this group. Leaned Democrats, by contrast, have shifted away from Johnson by just 3 points, from 5 to 2 percent.

Stein, for her part, has retained her support, 2 percent among leaned Democrats, 1 percent among leaned Republicans.

GROUPS – The latest results are consistent across population groups. Trump, who's consolidated in the GOP base, is backed by 88 percent of Republicans, and 85 percent when GOP-leaning independents are included; Clinton, by 87 percent of Democrats and 85 percent

when Democratic leaners are added in. Across the last six nights of tracking (for an adequate sample size), pure independents have backed Trump over Clinton by 55-23 percent.

A large gender gap continues, with Clinton +10 among women while Trump is +11 among men – about twice the size of the customary gender gap in exit polls dating to 1976. A vast racial gap is evident, with Trump +15 points among whites, Clinton +48 points among nonwhites.

Turnout among racial groups thus is critical. Nonwhites account for 25 percent of likely voters in the latest results. That matches their share of likely voters in the final ABC/Post tracking poll in 2012, which accurately estimated the election's outcome.

Lastly, an unusual finding historically – albeit consistent this year – are the very similar results among all registered voters (44-43 percent, Clinton-Trump) and likely voters – 46-46 percent, as noted. Likely voters customarily are a more Republican-aligned group than registered voters overall. In this election, however, the effect of more education – higher among likely voters, and a better group for Clinton – changes the equation.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Oct. 28-31, 2016, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,182 likely voters. Results have a margin of sampling error of 3 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 37-29-29 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

Q7 and Q8 were asked Oct. 30-31, among 659 likely voters; they both have 4-point error margins.

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, Chad Kiewiet de Jonge, Sofi Sinozich and Gregory Holyk.

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

Media contacts: Heather Riley or Julie Townsend.

Full results follow.

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*= less than 0.5 percent

1. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) How closely are you following the 2016 presidential
race: very closely, somewhat closely, not so closely, or not closely at all?

             ---- Closely ----   ---- Not closely ----     No
             NET   Very   Smwt   NET   Not so   At all   opinion
10/31/16 LV   94    66     28     5       3        2        *
10/30/16 LV   94    66     28     6       3        2        *
10/29/16 LV   95    68     27     5       3        2        *
10/28/16 LV   94    66     29     5       3        2        *
10/27/16 LV   94    66     28     6       3        3        *
10/26/16 LV   93    64     29     7       4        3        *
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10/25/16 LV   92   62   30    7    5    3    *
10/24/16 LV   93   65   28    7    4    2    *
10/23/16 LV   94   66   28    6    4    2    *
10/22/16 LV   94   71   23    6    4    2    *
10/13/16 LV   94   66   28    5    4    1    1
9/22/16  LV   92   60   32    8    5    3    *
9/8/16   LV   92   59   33    8    5    3    *
1/24/16  RV   84   39   45   16   10    6    *
11/19/15      75   30   45   25   13   12    *
Call for full trend.
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2. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the presidential election in November: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

	Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than that	Don't think will vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.
10/31/16 RV	72	4	4	3	1	16	0
10/30/16 RV	72	5	4	3	1	15	0
10/29/16 RV	73	6	4	3	1	14	0
10/28/16 RV	76	5	4	3	1	11	0
10/27/16 RV	77	6	4	3	1	9	*
10/26/16 RV	78	6	4	3	*	8	*
10/25/16 RV	79	6	5	3	*	6	*
10/24/16 RV	78	7	5	4	1	5	*
10/23/16 RV	79	7	5	3	1	5	*
10/22/16 RV	80	7	5	2	1	5	*
10/13/16 RV	85	6	5	3	1	1	0
9/22/16 RV	83	7	6	3	*	0	*
9/8/16 RV	81	8	6	5	1	NA	*
8/4/16 RV	81	8	6	4	1	NA	*
7/14/16 RV	79	10	5	3	1	NA	1
6/23/16 RV	79	8	7	4	2	NA	*
5/19/16 RV	80	9	5	3	2	NA	*
Call for full trend.

2a. (IF CERTAIN TO VOTE) Do you think you'll (vote in person at your polling place on Election Day), or (vote before Election Day by early voting or mail-in ballot)?*

	Vote in person	Early voting/ mail-in ballot	Already voted (vol.)	No opinion
10/31/16 LV	54	22	23	1
10/30/16 LV	54	26	19	2
*Includes those who volunteered they already voted in Q2.

3. (IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were [(Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, the Democrats), (Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Republicans)], [(Gary Johnson and Bill Weld of the Libertarian Party) and (Jill Stein and Ajamu Baraka of the Green Party)], for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward [(Clinton and Kaine), (Trump and Pence)], [(Johnson and Weld) or (Stein and Baraka)]? (IF ALREADY VOTED) Confidentially and for statistical purposes only, did you vote for...?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE – LIKELY VOTERS

	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump	Gary Johnson	Jill Stein	Other (vol.)	None of these (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
10/31/16	46	46	3	2	*	1	0	2

10/30/16	45	46	3	2	*	2	0	2
10/29/16	46	45	4	2	1	1	0	2
10/28/16	46	45	4	2	1	1	0	2
10/27/16	47	45	4	2	1	1	0	2
10/26/16	48	44	4	1	*	1	0	2
10/25/16	48	42	5	1	*	1	0	2
10/24/16	49	40	5	2	*	2	0	2
10/23/16	50	38	5	2	1	2	0	2
10/22/16	50	38	5	2	1	2	0	2
10/13/16	47	43	5	2	*	1	0	2
9/22/16	46	44	5	1	*	1	0	3
9/8/16	46	41	9	2	1	1	0	1
8/4/16	47	39	7	3	1	1	*	2
7/14/16	45	39	8	3	1	1	*	2
6/23/16	48	39	6	3	1	1	*	2

4. (IF NAMED CLINTON OR TRUMP) Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting (Clinton/Trump), somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

	--- Enthusiastic ----			--- Not enthusiastic ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
Clinton:							
10/31/16 LV	82	46	36	18	11	7	*
10/30/16 LV	82	45	37	18	11	7	*
10/24/16 LV	85	48	37	14	8	6	*
10/23/16 LV	86	49	37	14	8	6	*
10/22/16 LV	87	52	35	13	7	5	*
10/13/16 LV	83	43	40	16	9	7	1
9/22/16 LV	81	46	35	18	10	8	1
9/8/16 LV	82	36	46	18	12	6	0
Trump:							
10/31/16 LV	85	52	33	15	9	5	1
10/30/16 LV	85	53	32	15	10	5	*
10/24/16 LV	83	50	33	17	9	7	*
10/23/16 LV	83	50	33	16	10	6	*
10/22/16 LV	83	49	34	17	11	6	0
10/13/16 LV	79	47	32	21	12	9	*
9/22/16 LV	91	55	36	8	5	3	1
9/8/16 LV	85	48	37	15	10	4	*

Call for full trend.

5. (IF NOT CLINTON OR TRUMP) If the only candidates were (Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, the Democrats) and (Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Republicans), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Clinton and Kaine) or toward (Trump and Pence)?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE – LIKELY VOTERS

	Clinton	Trump	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
10/31/16	48	47	1	1	1	1
10/30/16	48	47	1	1	1	1
10/29/16	49	47	1	1	1	1
10/28/16	49	46	1	2	1	1
10/27/16	49	46	1	2	1	1
10/26/16	50	45	1	1	1	2
10/25/16	51	44	1	2	1	1
10/24/16	51	43	*	2	2	1
10/23/16	53	41	1	3	2	1

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10/22/16      53      42      1      3      1      1
10/13/16      50      46      *      2      1      1
9/22/16       49      47      *      1      2      1
9/8/16*       51      43      *      3      1      1
8/4/16**      51      44      1      2      0      1
7/14/16***    50      43      1      5      0      2
6/23/16       52      41      2      4      0      1
5/19/16       46      49      2      3      0      *
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*9/8/16 and later Results based on total sample. Respondents who named Clinton or Trump in Q3 assigned to initial preference.
**8/4/16 and earlier: If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Hillary Clinton and Tim Kaine, the Democrats) and (Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Republicans), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Clinton and Kaine) or toward (Trump and Pence)?
***7/14/16 and prior: "Hillary Clinton, the Democrat" and "Donald Trump, the Republican."

6. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) Regardless of whom you support, who do you expect to win the election for president? (IF NAMED CLINTON/TRUMP) Do you think (she/he will win easily), or do you think (it will be close)?

	Expect Clinton will win			Expect Trump will win			Other	No
	NET	Easily	Close	NET	Close	Easily	(vol.)	opinion
10/31/16 LV	55	21	34	31	21	10	*	13
10/30/16 LV	56	23	34	31	21	10	*	12
10/29/16 LV	57	25	33	31	21	10	*	11
10/28/16 LV	60	26	33	29	20	9	*	11
10/27/16 LV	59	27	33	30	21	9	*	10
10/26/16 LV	59	27	32	30	21	9	*	10
9/8/16 LV	57	19	37	29	23	6	1	12
5/19/16	50	NA	NA	40	NA	NA	1	9
3/6/16	59			36			1	4
1/24/16	54	"	"	42	"	"	1	3

7. (ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS) Who do you think is more honest and trustworthy, (Clinton) or (Trump)?

	Clinton	Trump	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/31/26 LV	38	46	2	12	1
9/8/16 LV	45	45	1	8	1
8/4/16 LV	48	43	1	7	1
7/14/16 LV	39	42	1	15	3
5/19/16 LV	42	44	*	12	1

8. (ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Clinton is handling questions about her use of personal e-mail while she was secretary of state? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	-------- Approve --------			------ Disapprove -------			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/31/16 LV	33	16	17	59	10	49	7
10/23/16 LV	34	19	14	60	14	46	6
10/22/16 LV	35	21	14	59	14	45	6
9/8/16	32	17	16	62	14	48	5
6/23/16	34	18	16	56	12	44	9
10/18/15	36	NA	NA	57	NA	NA	7
9/10/15	34			55			11
5/31/15	31	"	"	55	"	"	14

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*** END ***
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