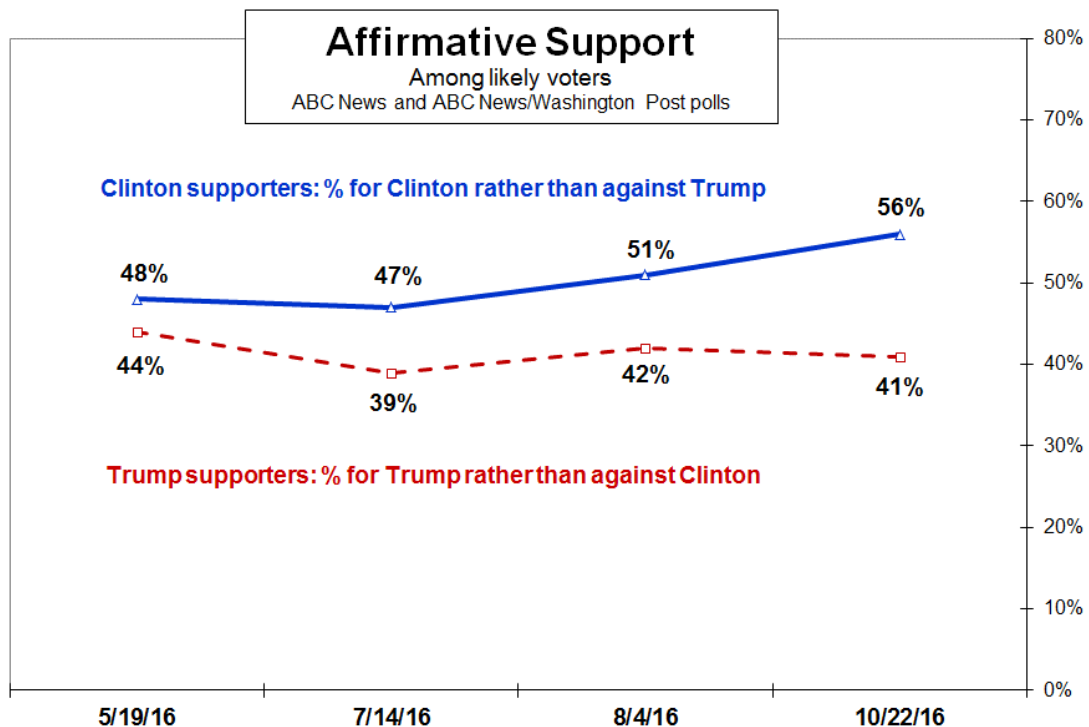


Diminished Enthusiasm Dogs Trump; Clinton Gains in Affirmative Support

Diminished enthusiasm and a high level of negative support are undermining Donald Trump's candidacy in the closing stretch of the 2016 campaign, the ABC News election tracking poll finds – while Hillary Clinton has improved on both these measures.

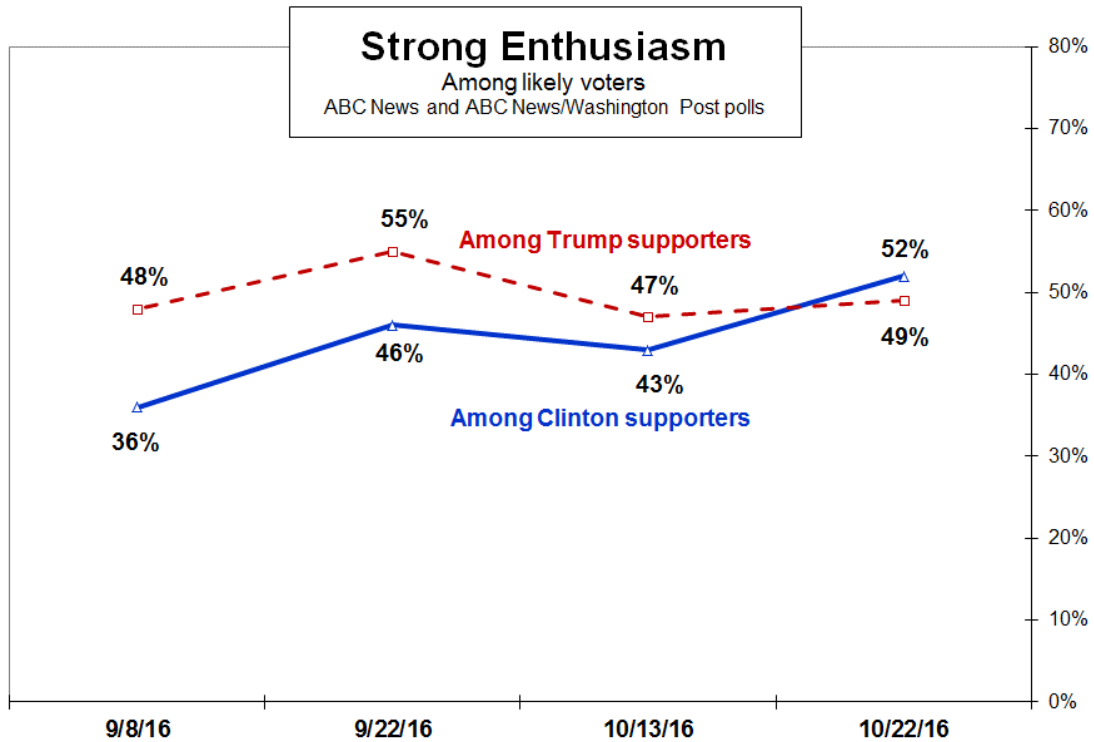
Fifty-six percent of Clinton's backers in the national survey, a new high, say they're voting mainly to support her rather than to oppose Trump. By contrast, 54 percent of Trump voters are mainly motivated by opposition to Clinton, not support for him.

Affirmative support can be a stronger motivator to vote, and Clinton's has gained 9 points from its low just before the party conventions in July. Trump's affirmative support, by contrast, has been essentially flat in the same period.



Levels of enthusiasm for the candidates, while similar overall, also have followed different trajectories. Fifty-two percent of Clinton's supporters now describe themselves as very enthusiastic about their choice, the most to date and up sharply from 36 percent in early September. Among Trump supporters, 49 percent are strongly enthusiastic; he peaked on this measure in late September.

The result of these trends is that Trump’s 12-point advantage in strong enthusiasm just after Labor Day is now a (non-significant) 3-point deficit to Clinton. In ABC News/Washington Post polling since 2000, the candidate with more strongly enthusiastic support has won.



As first reported Sunday, the first three nights of the 2016 ABC News tracking poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), found Clinton with her biggest lead of the campaign in vote preference, 50-38 percent over Trump among likely voters. That’ll be updated in tomorrow’s report.

In one noteworthy result, 5 percent of likely voters in the survey indicate that they in fact already have voted, a number in line with estimates reported by turnout expert Michael McDonald of the University of Florida. Total early and absentee voting is expected to reach more than a third of all votes cast, a record.

October leads of this magnitude have been seen often before in ABC/Post pre-election polls: +11 points for Barack Obama over John McCain in 2008, +19 for Bill Clinton vs. Bob Dole in 1996, +13 for Clinton over George Bush in 1992, +13 for Bush vs. Mike Dukakis in 1988 and +18 points for Ronald Reagan over Walter Mondale in 1984. With the exception of Reagan, the final outcome ultimately narrowed in each case – but the leader won.

Largest late-season leads	Election outcome
2008: Obama +11	Obama +7
1996: Clinton +19	Clinton +8

1992: Clinton +13	Clinton +6
1988: Bush +13	Bush +7
1984: Reagan +18	Reagan +18

GROUPS – There are differences among each candidate’s supporters in strong enthusiasm. Fifty-seven percent of women who favor Clinton are very enthusiastic about it, compared with 44 percent of men. Among those age 50 and up, 61 percent are very enthusiastic, compared with 41 percent of her supporters younger than 50. Liberals who back Clinton are more strongly enthusiastic than moderates, 59 vs. 45 percent.

In Trump’s case, strong enthusiasm peaks at 59 percent among his very conservative supporters, dropping to 43 percent among somewhat conservatives and moderates.

In terms of affirmative vs. negative support, liberals who back Clinton are more for her than against Trump, by 62-35 percent, while moderates divide evenly. By contrast, 57 percent of conservatives who back Trump say they’re mostly opposing Clinton, compared with a split among moderates. In no group, save rural voters, does a majority back Trump affirmatively.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Oct. 20-22, 2016, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 874 likely voters. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 36-27-31 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.

1-3, 5, 7-10 previously released.

*= less than 0.5 percent

3. (IF CERTAIN 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
10/22/16	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:								
10/22/16 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:								
10/22/16 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.

6a. (IF NAMED CLINTON) Do you mainly support Clinton, or mainly oppose Trump?

		Support	Oppose	No
		Clinton	Trump	opinion
10/22/16 LV	56	42	2	
8/4/16 LV	51	46	3	
7/14/16 LV	47	51	2	
5/19/16 RV	48	48	3	

6b. (IF NAMED TRUMP) Do you mainly support Trump, or mainly oppose Clinton?

		Support	Oppose	No
		Trump	Clinton	opinion
10/22/16 LV	41	54	6	
8/4/16 LV	42	54	4	
7/14/16 LV	39	56	5	
5/19/16 RV	44	53	4	

*** END ***