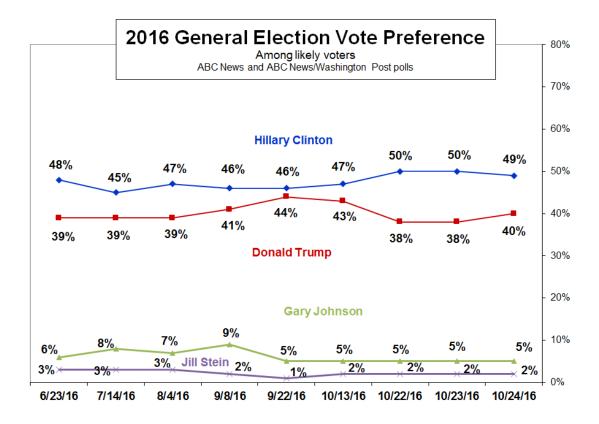
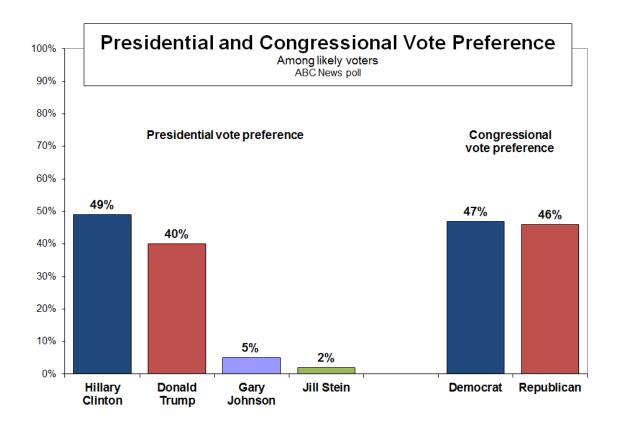
## A Dead Heat for Congress, Despite Clinton's Advantage

Hillary Clinton's lead in the presidential race squinched out of double digits in the latest ABC News tracking poll, with signs of vote splitting that could help down-ballot Republicans.

Clinton leads Donald Trump by 49-40 percent among likely voters after a better night for Trump rolled into the poll's four-night average. That's not significantly different from the previous 50-38 percent Clinton lead, but it holds out the possibility of better days for Trump moving beyond his difficult last two weeks.



Strikingly, moreover, likely voters divide essentially evenly, 47-46 percent, between the Democratic and Republican candidate in their congressional district. While the measure's imperfect (it's not limited to competitive districts, and doesn't cover Senate races), it indicates challenges for Clinton forces as they seek to turn her support into a broader, Democratic wave.



Two key reasons emerge for the closer congressional contest in this poll, produced for ABC by <u>Langer Research Associates</u>. One is independent voters; the other, Republicans returning home for their local races:

- Independent likely voters divide evenly between Clinton and Trump, 41-41 percent in the latest tracking data. By contrast, independents favor the Republican over the Democrat in their congressional district by 51-39 percent.
- Trump wins 82 percent of Republicans in the presidential race, ceding 8 percent to Clinton and 6 percent to third-party candidates. In the congressional trial heat, however, 94 percent of Republicans stick with the GOP.

	Presidential candidate	Congressional candidate
	Clinton-Trump	Democratic-Republican
All	49-40%	47-46
Democrats	89- 7	92- 5
Independents	41-41	39-51
Republicans	8-82	3-94

These results mark the difficulties the Democrats face in turning a highly polarized electorate to their advantage, suggesting that Clinton's lead in the presidential race relies primarily on the idiosyncrasies of that contest, not any broader realignment in political preferences.

That's underscored by the fairly low level of strong enthusiasm for both candidates, given their unusual levels of personal unpopularity. Half of Trump's supporters are very enthusiastic about their choice, as are 48 percent of Clinton's. For comparison, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney both had 60 percent strong enthusiasm at this point in 2012, as did George W. Bush in 2004. It was even higher, 71 percent, for Obama at this stage in 2008.

Strong enthusiasm has been as low as it is now, or lower, for some past candidates – 50 percent for John Kerry at this point in 2004, 39 percent for John McCain in 2008. Both, of course lost to candidates whose support was more enthusiastic. It's an advantage Trump held, but then lost. His strong enthusiasm fell 8 points, and overall enthusiasm among his supporters fell 12 points, from late September to mid-October. Clinton's strong enthusiasm subsequently rose, putting them at parity today.

TRENDS and 3<sup>rd</sup> PARTY – The Clinton-Trump contest widened from +4 points for Clinton in mid-October to +12 points in the first two ABC News tracking poll horse race results. That followed a difficult period for Trump, in which a series of women accused him of sexual assault, which he's denied; he refused to say whether he'd accept the legitimacy of the election if Clinton won; and she was widely seen as having prevailed in their final debate.

Things have quieted a bit since, leaving open the question of whether Trump can move away from the past two weeks and stage a recovery; and whether Clinton, who carries substantial baggage of her own, can close the deal with her supporters. Crucial for both candidates, at this stage, is not so much changing minds, but working on voter turnout.

The third-party candidates in the race, for their part, are not showing substantial impact. Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party has 5 percent support overall, Jill Stein, of the Green Party, 2 percent. They and other third-party candidates draw roughly evenly from Clinton and Trump supporters.

Specifically, when Johnson, Stein and other non-Clinton, non-Trump likely voters are asked to choose between the major-party candidates, 26 percent pick Clinton and 30 percent pick Trump. The plurality, 42 percent, say given just that choice they wouldn't vote for either one.

GROUPS – Basic contours of the race among groups are consistent. Clinton leads by 17 points among women, while men divide essentially evenly, 42-45 percent, Clinton-Trump. (Clinton was +2 and +3 vs. Trump among men in previous tracking results, a first for her.) Trump leads by 7 points among whites, Clinton by 49 points among nonwhites.

Trump's best group demographically remains white men who don't have a four-year college degree, a 61-29 percent advantage over Clinton. She counters with virtually the same margin, 60-32 percent, among college-educated white women. That makes for a standoff, since both groups are essentially the same size, 17 and 16 percent of all likely voters, respectively.

	_	vote pr	reference voters
	Clinton	Trump	C-T diff.
All	49%	40	+9
Men	42	45	-3
Women	54	37	+17
Whites	42	49	-7
Nonwhites	68	19	+49
Among whites:			
Men, no degree	29	61	-32
Men, college graduates	43	42	+1
Women, no degree	37	56	-19
Women, college graduates	60	32	+28

Clinton and Trump are running evenly among college-educated white men, an additional 16 percent of the electorate. And a group of particular interest, given their changeability, is non-college white women. They've ranged from +7 to +37 points for Trump since July; currently they're in the middle of that range, favoring Trump by 19 points, 56-37 percent. And they're a slightly larger group, accounting for 23 percent of likely voters.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Oct. 21-24, 2016, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,119 likely voters. Results have a margin of <u>sampling error</u> of 3 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 36-28-29 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

Question 7 was asked Oct. 22-24 among 828 likely voters; those results have a 3.5-point error margin.

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 <u>here</u>.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

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

Media contacts: Heather Riley, (212) 456-4396, or Julie Townsend, (212) 456-4934.

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
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		NET	Very	Smwt	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
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.						

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?

					Don't think	Already	
	Certain	Probably	Chances	Less than	will vote	voted	No
	to vote	vote	50/50	that	(vol.)	(vol.)	op.
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 ful	l trend.						

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

NEI EDINED VOIE INEIENOE		DITTED VO.	1110					
						None	Would	
	Hillary	Donald	Gary	Jill	Other	of these	not vote	No
	Clinton	Trump	Johnson	Stein	(vol.)	(vol.)	(vol.)	opinion
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			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion	
Clinton:								
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:								
10/24/16	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
10/24/16	51	43	*	2	2	1
10/23/16	53	41	*	3	2	1
10/22/16	53	41	*	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	*

<sup>\*9/8/16</sup> and later Results based on total sample. Respondents who named Clinton or Trump in Q3 assigned to initial preference.

7. (ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS) If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, would you vote for (the Democratic candidate) or (the Republican candidate) in your congressional district? Would you lean toward the (Democratic candidate) or toward the (Republican candidate)? (IF ALREADY VOTED) Did you vote for ...?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - LIKELY VOTERS

	Dem	Rep	Other	Neither	Would not	No
	cand.	cand.	(vol.)	(vol.)	<pre>vote (vol.)</pre>	opinion
10/24/16	47	46	1	1	1	4
10/13/16	47	44	1	2	1	5

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

<sup>\*\*8/4/16</sup> 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)?

<sup>\*\*\*</sup>7/14/16 and prior: "Hillary Clinton, the Democrat" and "Donald Trump, the Republican."