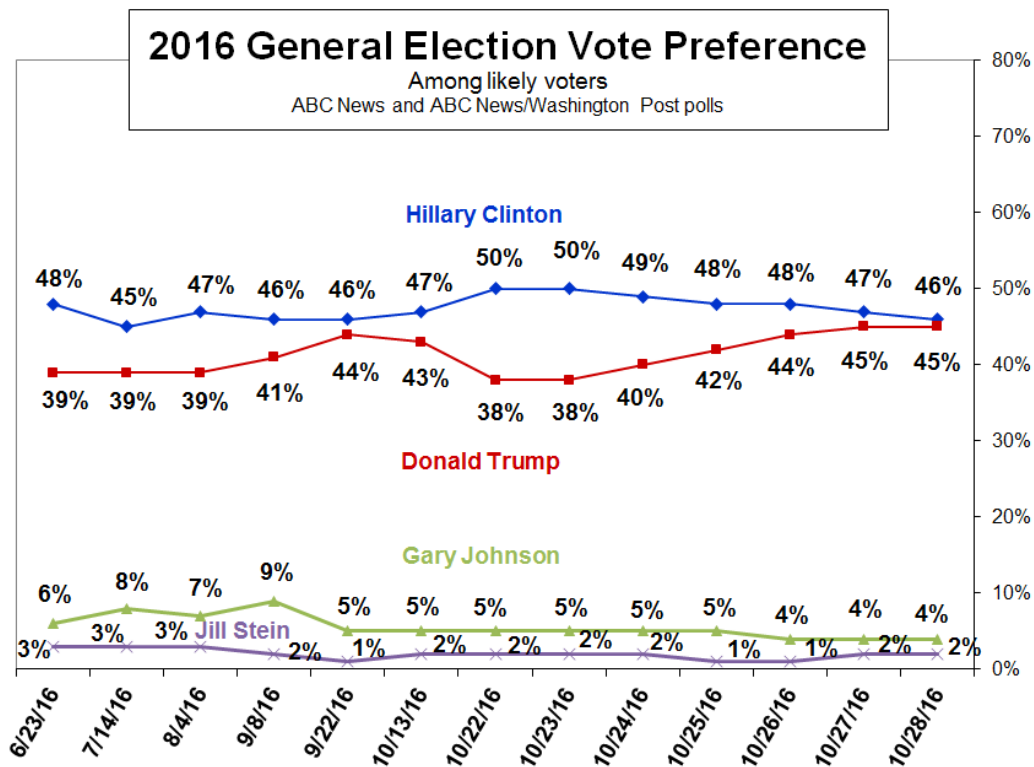# Clinton and Trump Even Up;
Turnout Looks to be Critical

A slim point separates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump in the latest ABC News/Washington Post tracking poll results, cementing Trump's resurgence in the past week and marking the potentially critical role of turnout in the election's outcome.

The race stands at 46-45 percent, Clinton-Trump, in the latest results, so tight that the draw by third-party candidates Gary Johnson and Jill Stein could matter. Clinton, +1 vs. Trump in a four-way trial heat, is +3 head-to-head – not a significant difference, but suggestive.
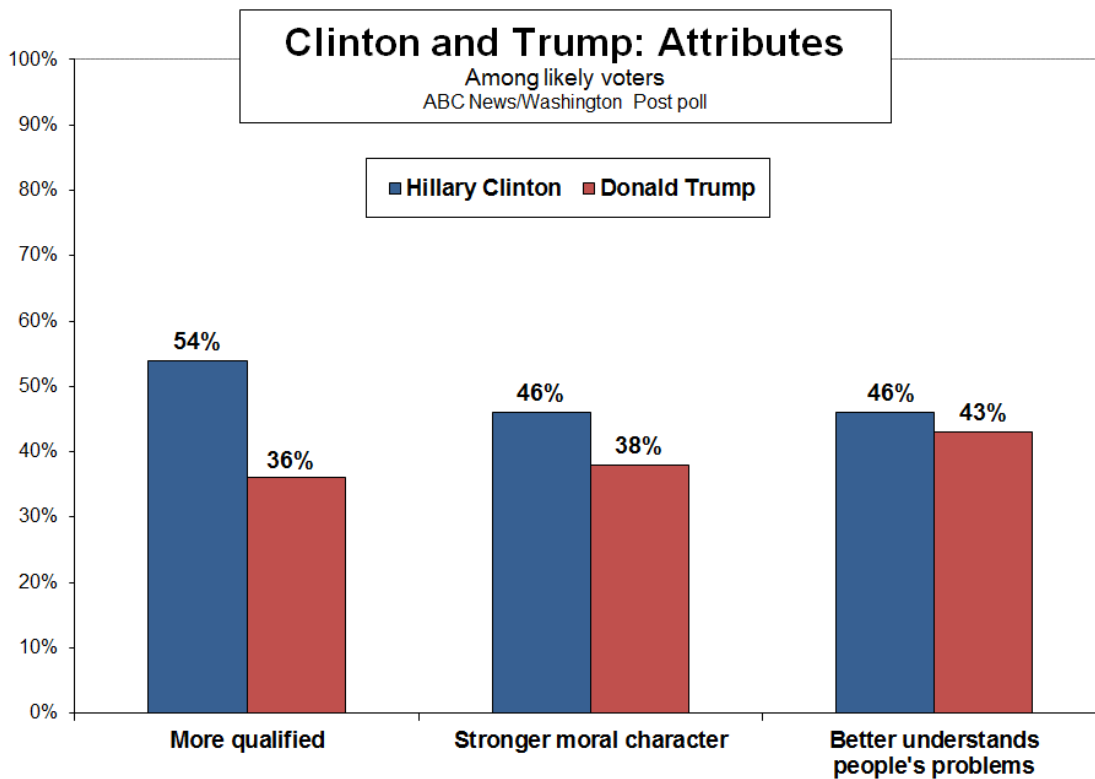

About a third of likely voters say they're less likely to support Clinton given FBI Director James Comey's disclosure Friday that the bureau is investigating more emails related to its probe of Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state. Given other considerations, 63 percent say it makes no difference.

Those who say the issue makes them less apt to back Clinton overwhelmingly back Trump in the first place. But what's key in a close contest is whether the disclosure give Trump supporters further motivation to turn out for him – and whether it demotivates reluctant Clinton backers.

In other results of the survey, produced for ABC by Langer Research Associates:

- Regardless of the closeness of current preferences and plans to participate, 60 percent of likely voters still expect Clinton to win. This, too, may be a risk to her, potentially encouraging some Clinton supporters not to bother voting.

- Clinton continues to lead Trump in two key attributes. She is seen as more qualified to serve as president by a substantial 54-36 percent of likely voters, a result that makes the closeness of the race overall particularly remarkable. She's also seen to have a stronger moral character, albeit by a closer 46-38 percent.

- That said, the two are virtually tied, 46-43 percent, on another important measure, who better understands "the problems of people like you"; a similar gauge was important in Barack Obama's defeat of Mitt Romney in 2012. (In pre-tracking ABC/Post results, moreover, Clinton and Trump were tied in trust to handle two main issues – the economy and terrorism – as well as immigration.)

Clinton and Trump: Attributes
Among likely voters
ABC News/Washington Post poll

Legend: ■ Hillary Clinton ■ Donald Trump

Attribute	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump
More qualified	54%	36%
Stronger moral character	46%	38%
Better understands people's problems	46%	43%

The survey also finds a risk of substantial damage to House Speaker Paul Ryan by dint of his decision not to campaign on Trump's behalf: Among likely voters who are Republicans or lean that way, 66 percent disapprove of Ryan on this score. Just 21 percent approve.

EMAILS – In earlier ABC News tracking poll results, a broad 60 percent of likely voters disapproved of how Clinton has handled the email issue, including three in 10 of her own supporters – and 93 percent of Trump's. Nearly all of them disapproved strongly, and that was before Comey revived the issue Friday.

Today, a small number of Clinton's supporters, 7 percent, say the matter makes them less likely to support her. About one in seven in some of her key support groups, such as Democrats (13 percent) and liberals (15 percent), say so, rising much higher among groups already predisposed not to vote for her, including 47 percent among conservatives and 52 percent among Republicans and evangelical white Protestants alike.
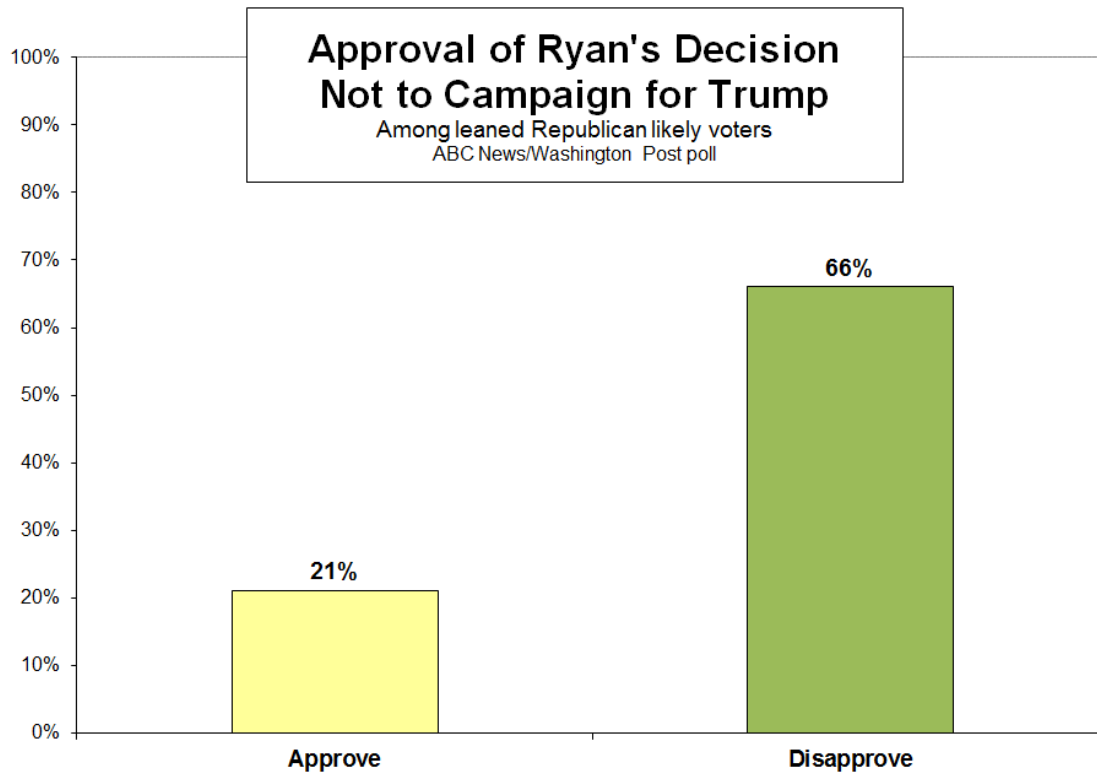
The potential for a pullback in motivation of Clinton supporters, or further resurgence among Trump's, may cause concern in the Clinton camp – especially because this dynamic already was underway. Intention to vote has grown in Trump support groups in the past week as the intensity of criticisms about him has ebbed, including allegations of sexual misconduct, disapproval of his position on the election's legitimacy and his poorly rated final debate performance.

ATTRIBUTES – As noted, Clinton leads Trump on qualifications and moral character, but not significantly on empathy. At this point in the 2012 campaign, Obama had just opened a 6-point advantage in better understanding people's economic problems, and it was 8 points at the close.

Clinton, as it happens, had an 8-point lead over Trump on empathy in early September, and 10 points in early August. She's lost 13 points on the measure among liberals, a core Clinton support group, since Sept. 8, and Trump has gained 10 points among independents.

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                  Better understands the problems
                       Of people like you
                      (among likely voters)
                         Clinton-Trump
                       Now        Sept. 8
          All         46-43%      49-41%

          Liberals    79-12       92- 5
          Independents 38-49      47-39
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RYAN – In the case of Ryan's decision not to campaign on Trump's behalf, disapproval peaks at three-quarters of strong conservatives, Trump supporters and conservative Republicans, and it's more than seven in 10 among those age 50+, less-educated leaned Republicans and white Protestants. Criticism of Ryan lessens, but is still substantial, among moderates, independents who lean toward the GOP and those under age 50.

Approval of Ryan's Decision
Not to Campaign for Trump
Among leaned Republican likely voters
ABC News/Washington Post poll

A bar chart showing two bars. The "Approve" bar (yellow) is at 21%. The "Disapprove" bar (green) is at 66%. The vertical axis runs from 0% to 100% in 10% increments.
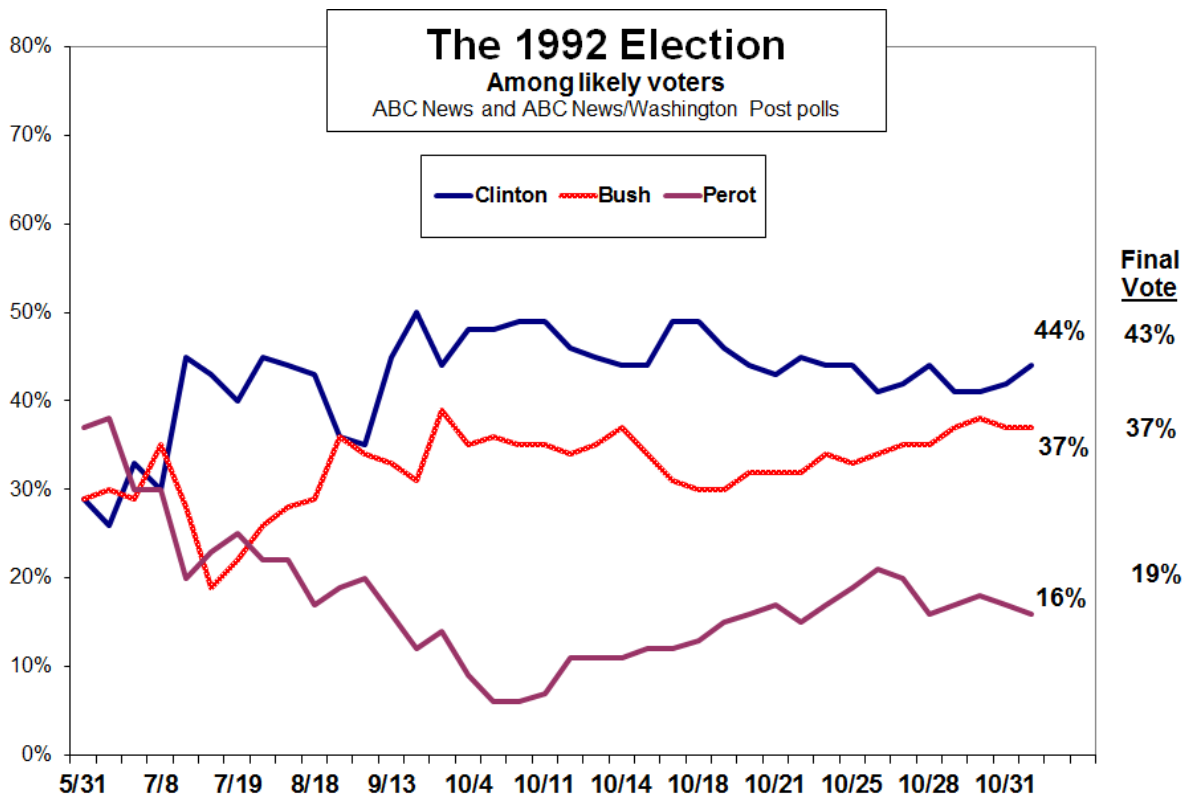
VOTE PREFERENCES – Clinton led Trump by 12 points in the first four days of the ABC News tracking poll, with consistent results across those nights; that polling followed two particularly difficult weeks for Trump, beginning with the Oct. 7 disclosure of an 11-year-old videotape in which he crudely described his sexual advances toward women.

Results have been equally consistent, and far closer, across the subsequent five nights. The tracking poll customarily uses a four-night average of results. The average across all nine nights, for comparison purposes, is 48-42 percent.

Langer Research diagnoses results across a range of likely voter models. Fifteen such models currently are in use, projecting turnout estimates ranging from 43 to 70 percent of the voting age population. All show essentially the same results using the last four nights of data.

The tightening of the contest the past week, while unusual, is not unheard of. Among many gyrations in ABC News and ABC/Post pre-election polls in the 1992 election, Bill Clinton went from an 11-point lead to a scant 3-point edge against George Bush toward the end of their race, before regaining the advantage in the closing days. (There was also a steep shift in 1996.)

The 1992 Election
Among likely voters
ABC News and ABC News/Washington Post polls

Legend: Clinton — Bush — Perot

Final Vote
44% / 43%
37% / 37%
16% / 19%

GROUPS – Notably, among groups, a slight Clinton advantage among independents in early tracking is now a 19-point Trump lead. Part of the reason: A decline in the share of Democratic leaners within the ranks of independents who are likely to vote.

The latest results also show a continued gender gap, but different in nature – from Clinton +19 points among women and +2 among men in early tracking to Clinton +8 points among women and Trump +9 among men now.

There's a much closer race, meanwhile, among young voters, again because of signs that fewer Democrats and Democratic-leaners in their ranks are joining the likely voter pool. Bernie Sanders was especially popular among young adults, and they've been far less strongly enthusiastic Clinton supporters than their elder counterparts.

Trump has a 15-point advantage over Clinton among whites, while Clinton has 68 percent support in the latest results among nonwhites, vs. Obama's 80 percent among nonwhites in the 2012 exit poll. She's backed by 88 percent of blacks (average for a Democrat) and 60 percent of Hispanics (a bit less than average; 10 percent peel off to Johnson and Stein). A notable difference is nonwhites who are not black or Hispanic. Obama won them by 66-31 percent; it's a closer 45-40 percent, Clinton-Trump, in the tracking poll.

White Catholics, a swing voter group in elections from 1976 to 2004, are now with Trump by 57-36 percent, reopening his advantage in this group to near the margin he last saw in late September.

Trump counters Clinton's 21-point lead among college-educated likely voters with a 12-point advantage among those who lack a college degree. (The latter are more numerous.) Clinton leads by 23 points among college-educated white women, a crucial bulwark for her. The two are even among college-educated white men, while Trump leads by 38 and 27 points, respectively, among non-college white men and non-college white women.

Non-college white men have been a steady Trump group. Non-college white women have been for him generally, but by less consistent margins. Where they end up may well prove critical in this still-unpredictable election.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Oct. 25-28, 2016, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,160 likely voters. Results have a margin of sampling error of 3 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 37-28-30 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

Q6 was asked Oct. 24-27 among 1,268 likely voters; those results have a 3-point error margin.
Q7 was asked Oct. 28-29 among 480 likely voters; those results have a 5-point error margin.
Q8 was asked Oct. 26-28 among 415 Republicans and Republican-leaning independents who are likely to vote; those results have a 5.5-point error margin.

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.

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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
10/28/16 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         *
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         *
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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        *
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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?

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

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
10/28/16	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 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
10/28/16	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
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	*

*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."

5. (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 --- | | | | | No |
	NET	Easily	Close	No op.	NET	Close	Easily	No op.	Oth.	op.
10/28/16 LV	60	26	33	NA	29	20	9	NA	*	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	2	29	23	6	*	1	12
5/19/16	50	NA	NA	NA	40	NA	NA	NA	1	9
3/6/16	59				36				1	4
1/24/16	54	"	"	"	42	"	"	"	1	3

6. (ASKED OF LIKELY VOTERS) Who do you think [ITEM] - (Clinton) or (Trump)?

10/27/16 - Summary Table

	Clinton	Trump	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No op.
a. is more qualified to serve as president	54	36	*	7	1
b. better understands the problems of people like you	46	43	1	9	1
c. has the stronger moral character	46	38	1	13	2

Trend:

a. No trend.

b. Better understands the problems of people like you

		Clinton	Trump	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
10/27/16	LV	46	43	1	9	1
9/8/16	LV	49	41	*	9	1
8/4/16	LV	51	41	*	7	*
7/14/16	LV	46	39	*	13	1
5/19/16		47	36	*	15	2

c. No trend.

7. (ASKED OF REGISTERED VOTERS) The FBI has announced that it is reviewing additional e-mails in connection with its investigation of Clinton's handling of classified information while she was secretary of state. Clinton said she did not mishandle classified information. Does this issue make you (more) likely to vote for Clinton, (less) likely to vote for Clinton, or does it make no difference in your vote.

		More likely	Less likely	No difference	No opinion
10/28/16	LV	2	34	63	1

8. (ASKED OF LEANED REPUBLICAN LIKELY VOTERS) Do you approve or disapprove of Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan's decision not to campaign on behalf of Trump? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

		-------- Approve --------			------- Disapprove ------			No opinion
		NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/28/16	LV	21	12	9	66	18	48	13

*** END ***