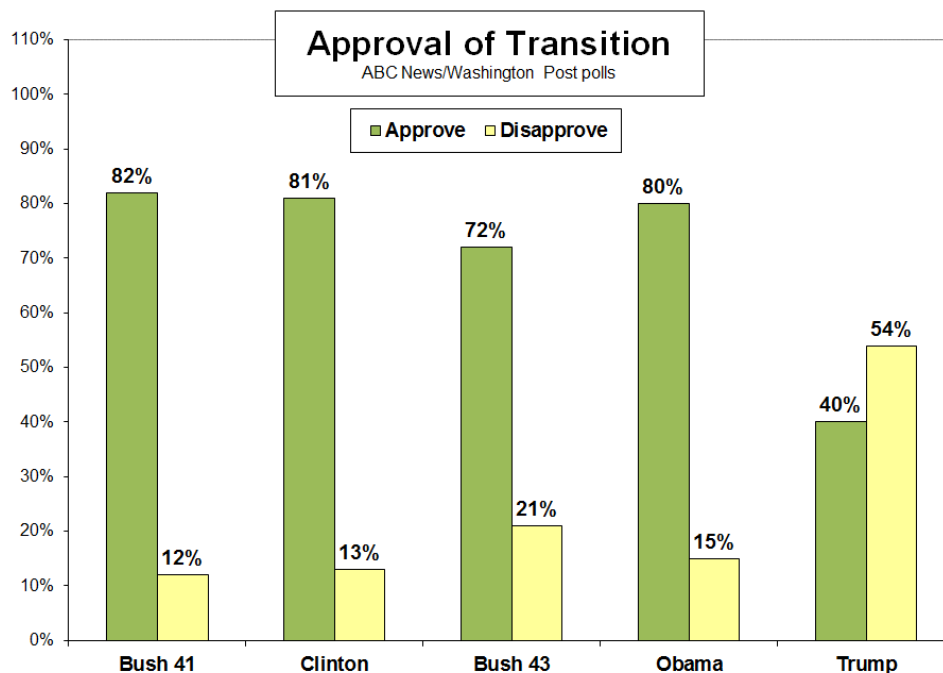


Trump Remains Unpopular With the Presidency at Hand

Donald Trump enters office as the most unpopular of at least the last seven newly elected presidents, a new ABC News/Washington Post poll finds, with ratings for handling the transition that also are vastly below those of his predecessors.

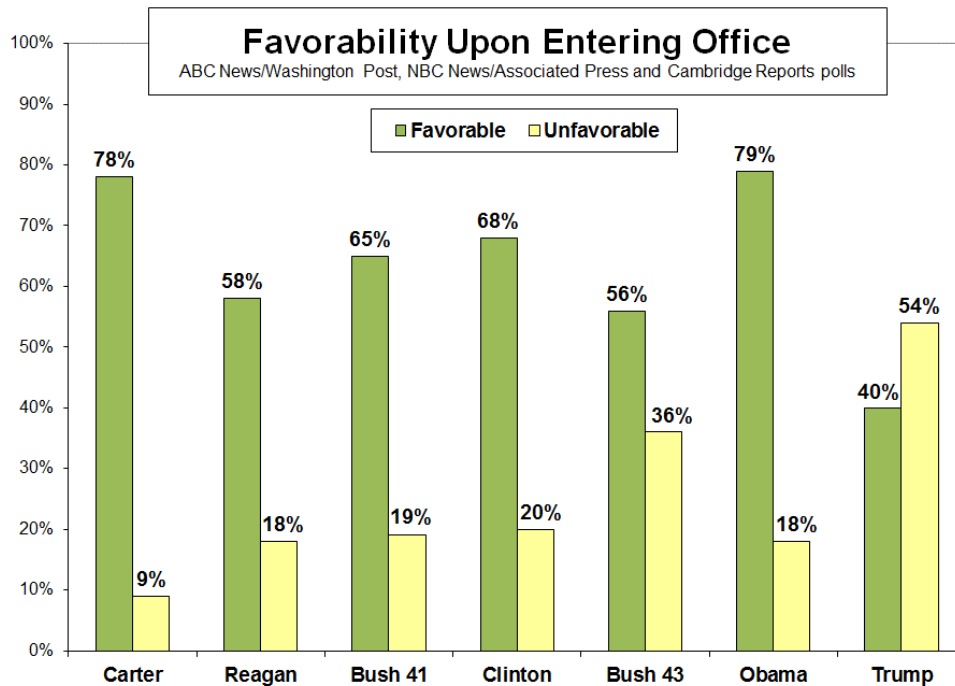
Forty percent of Americans in the national survey approve of the way Trump has handled the transition, half as many as the 80 percent who approved of Barack Obama's preparations to take office. Trump also far trails George W. Bush (72 percent transition approval), Bill Clinton (81 percent) and George H.W. Bush (82 percent) on this measure.



Similarly, just 40 percent in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), approve of most of Trump's cabinet choices – trailing his four predecessors by anywhere from 19 to 26 percentage points.

Identical to these ratings, just 40 percent see Trump favorably overall. That's 21 points behind Obama's departing favorability rating (his best since November 2009) and by far the lowest popularity for an incoming president in polling since 1977. Previous start-of-presidency favorability ratings have ranged from 56 percent for George W. Bush to 79 percent for Obama.

Consider the flipside: Just 9 to 20 percent saw Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, Bill Clinton or Obama unfavorably as they took office. It was 36 percent for George W. Bush. It's 54 percent for Trump.



EXPECTATIONS – Even with those weak ratings, Trump has high expectations on some issues: Six in 10 Americans expect him to do an excellent or good job on the economy and on jobs alike, and 56 percent expect him to do well in handling terrorism.

On the economy, Trump may get tailwinds: Fifty-one percent say it's in excellent or good shape, the most since October 2006 in ABC/Post polls. Even still, 63 percent say the country's seriously off on the wrong track – a view on which Democrats and Republicans have essentially swapped positions since the election, with the biggest change for the party that won the White House.

	Country is on the wrong track		
	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
January 2017	74%	50	64
July 2016	49	90	72
Change	+25 pts.	-40	-8

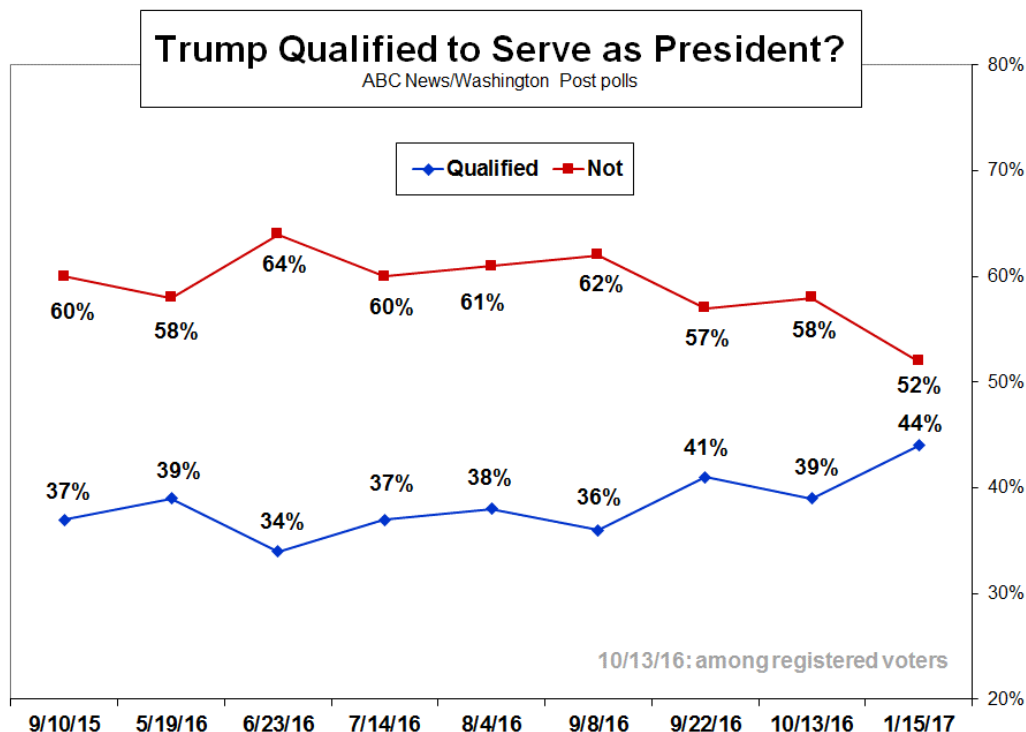
Positive expectations for Trump drop to around 50 percent on three other issues – helping the middle class, handling the deficit and making Supreme Court appointments – and go negative on four more – handling health care, international crises, race relations and issues of particular concern to women. Expectations of Trump are more negative than positive by 24 points on women's issues, 37-61 percent, and by 17 points on race relations, 40-57 percent.

	Expectations of Trump		Diff.
	Excellent or good job	Not so good or poor job	
Handling the economy	61%	37	+24 pts.
Creating jobs	59	38	+21
Dealing with terrorism	56	42	+14
Helping the middle class	50	47	+3
Handling the deficit	50	47	+3
Supreme Court appointments	49	46	+3
Improving health care	44	51	-7
Handling int'l crises	44	53	-9
Handling race relations	40	57	-17
Handling women's issues	37	61	-24

SKEPTICS/ISSUES – More generally, skepticism about Trump is extensive: Sixty-one percent of Americans lack confidence in him to make the right decisions for the country's future. Obama was rated as poorly on this measure in the midst of his second term. But he started his presidency with the opposite result – 61 percent confidence.

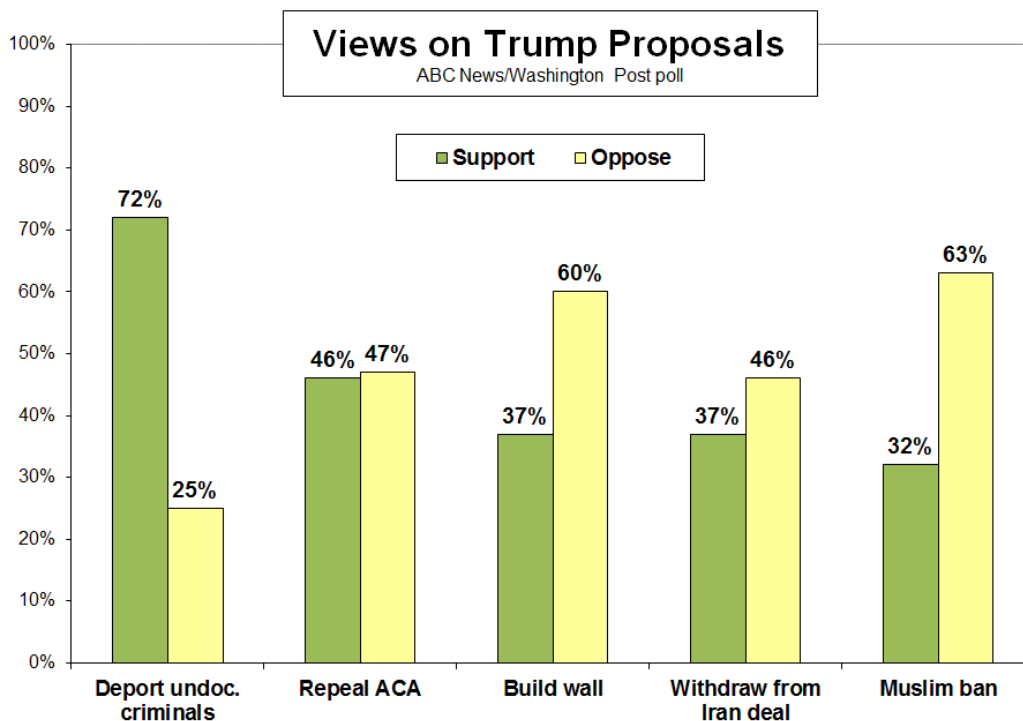
	Confidence in Trump/Obama to make the right decisions for the country	
	Great deal/good amount	Just some/none
Trump, Jan. '17	38%	61
Obama, Jan. '14	37	63
Obama, Jan. '09	61	37

Fifty-two percent also see Trump as unqualified for office. Still, in a positive trend for him, that's down from a peak of 64 percent in June.



Results are informed by opposition to many of the incoming administration’s policy plans. Out of eight such policies tested in this survey, majorities support three: Deporting undocumented immigrants who’ve committed crimes (most popular by far, with 72 percent support), renegotiating the NAFTA trade agreement (57 percent) and punishing companies that move jobs overseas (53 percent).

Support goes below 50 percent for repealing Obamacare (a split, 46-47 percent, support-oppose), building a wall on the border with Mexico (37 percent support), withdrawing from the nuclear deal with Iran (37 percent), barring entry to most Muslims who aren’t U.S. citizens (32 percent), and quitting the Paris climate treaty (31 percent). (On Obamacare, two-thirds of those who favor repeal say the law should be replaced with a new one at the same time.)



It’s notable that large majorities oppose two proposals that have been signatures of Trump’s political rise – barring entry by non-U.S. Muslims (63 percent opposed) and building a wall across the border with Mexico (opposed by 60 percent).

Opposition peaks, at 66 percent, to another idea, providing tax breaks for privately funded roads, bridges and transportation projects that would then charge tolls for people who use them.

Another likely policy debate may pose its own risks for Trump. He’s proposed an across-the-board tax cut. Seventy-five percent in this survey support a tax cut for middle- and low-income Americans, but support falls to 48 percent for a business tax cut and just 36 percent for cutting taxes paid by higher-income Americans.

OTHERS – Among other issues:

- Just 35 percent approve of the way Trump’s handled the issue of campaign email hacking, while 54 percent disapprove. Nearly two-thirds think Russia was behind it, and among them, seven in 10 think Russia’s goal was to help Trump win the election. Forty-three percent in 10 see Trump as “too friendly” toward Russia; about as many say he’s handling this well.
- Neither the media nor Trump are well rated in their handling of one another, but Trump fares considerably less well. Americans divide essentially evenly on whether the news media are treating Trump fairly or unfairly. But they see Trump’s treatment of the news media as unfair rather than fair by a substantial 57-38 percent margin.

GROUPS – Evaluations of Trump’s proposed policies and expectations for his presidency vary widely, with no division more prominent than the one between political partisans.

One of the largest rifts by party emerges on Trump’s planned wall along the Mexican border: Seventy-two percent of Republicans support it, most saying they do so strongly, while 87 percent of Democrats are opposed, nearly three-quarters strongly. Partisans split similarly on repealing the Affordable Care Act, with eight in 10 Republicans in favor and three-quarters of Democrats against.

In terms of expectations, nearly all Republicans expect Trump to do an excellent or good job handling the economy and job creation alike, while fewer than three in 10 Democrats say the same. Democrats are the least optimistic about Trump’s potential handling of the health care system, with just 9 percent giving him at least a “good” prospective rating. That compares with 87 percent of Republicans.

Not all of Trump’s plans are welcomed as universally by GOP partisans: Fewer than half of Republicans support the public-private infrastructure plan proposed by his advisors or his previous intention to pull out of the Paris climate agreement. (He’s now said he has an “open mind” about the deal.) For their part, fewer than a quarter of Democrats support either.

Some divisions echo the election. White men without college degrees, a strongly pro-Trump group, support repealing the 2010 health care law by 65-27 percent, while white women with a college degree – who narrowly backed Clinton – mirror them in opposition, 35-63 percent. The pattern repeats in expectations for Trump’s handling of race relations; nearly two-thirds of non-college white men have high expectations, while as many college-educated white women have low ones.

Race itself is a key factor: Compared with whites, nonwhites are 36 points less likely to expect much from Trump in job creation and 30 points less likely to think he’ll do well on race relations. And while support for building the Mexican border wall has increased among whites from 42 to 50 percent since September, it remains extremely unpopular among Hispanics, with just 11 percent support.

There’ll be much measurement of Trump’s job approval in the years ahead, and the best stand-in for that gauge now is approval of his handling of the transition. This peaks at 77 percent among Republicans, 68 percent among strong conservatives and 61 percent among evangelical white Protestants. But it’s just 45 percent in the states Trump won in the presidential election, as well as 42 percent among political independents, with 50 percent disapproving.

Further, whites, a group Trump won by a 20 points in the election (per the exit poll), approve of his work on the transition by a 10-point margin, 52 to 42 percent. That ranges from 64 percent approval among non-college white men to 36 percent among college-educated white women. Seventy-five percent of nonwhites disapprove, including 85 percent of blacks and 76 percent of Hispanics.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 12-15, 2017, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,005 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 31-23-37 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>.

Media contacts: [Heather Riley](#) or [Julie Townsend](#).

Full results follow.

14-16 previously released; 1-5, 9 held for release.

*= less than 0.5 percent

6. Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of [ITEM]? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

1/15/17 - Summary Table

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
a. Barack Obama	61	43	18	36	12	24	3
b. Donald Trump	40	19	21	54	14	41	6

Trend:

a. Barack Obama

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/15/17	61	43	18	36	12	24	4
10/26/14	44	24	20	50	14	36	6
1/23/14	49	29	20	50	13	37	1
11/17/13	46	30	16	52	11	41	2
10/20/13	50	31	19	48	11	37	2
6/23/13	53	31	22	44	11	33	3
3/24/13	57	34	23	41	11	30	2
1/27/13	60	39	21	37	11	26	3
11/2/12 LV	54	38	16	45	11	34	1
10/21/12 LV	52	37	15	46	10	36	2
10/7/12	56	32	24	42	11	31	2
9/9/12	54	34	21	42	13	29	4
9/2/12	51	29	22	45	14	31	4
8/26/12	50	27	24	44	14	29	6
8/5/12	53	29	24	43	12	31	4

5/27/12	52	29	23	45	14	31	3
4/15/12	56	30	26	40	14	26	5
3/25/12	53	31	23	43	15	28	3
2/26/12	51	26	25	45	13	32	3
1/22/12	53	27	25	43	14	29	4
12/11/11	48	23	25	49	16	33	3
9/18/11	47	22	25	46	15	31	7
4/17/11	52	33	20	45	13	32	2
4/25/10	57	37	21	41	12	29	2
1/15/10	58	38	20	40	13	27	2
11/15/09	61	39	21	38	11	27	1
9/12/09	63	40	23	35	12	24	2
4/24/09	72	46	26	26	11	15	2
1/16/09	79	50	29	18	9	9	3
11/2/08 LV	63	47	16	33	7	26	4
10/23/08 LV	63	47	16	34	7	27	3
10/11/08 RV	64	44	20	33	12	21	3
9/7/08 RV	58	35	23	36	12	24	7
8/22/08 RV	62	37	25	34	13	21	4
6/15/08	63	35	28	33	12	21	4
4/13/08	56	28	28	39	14	25	5
1/10/08	63	31	32	30	14	16	7
11/1/07	51	21	30	36	16	20	13
2/25/07	53	21	33	30	16	14	16
1/19/07	45	NA	NA	29	NA	NA	25
12/11/06	44	21	22	23	17	6	33

b. Donald Trump

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/15/17	40	19	21	54	14	41	6
11/5/16 LV	38	21	17	60	10	50	3
10/29/16 RV	37	19	18	59	11	47	4
10/13/16	31	17	14	66	11	54	4
9/30/16	34	18	17	64	13	51	2
9/22/16	35	18	17	59	14	45	6
8/28/16	35	16	18	63	16	47	3
8/4/16	34	16	18	63	11	52	3
7/14/16	31	15	16	64	13	52	4
6/12/16	29	15	14	70	14	56	1
5/19/16	37	18	19	60	11	49	3
4/10/16	31	14	17	67	14	53	2
3/6/16	30	15	14	67	11	56	3
1/10/16	35	17	18	62	14	48	3
11/8/15	38	16	23	59	13	46	3
9/27/15	35	14	21	60	19	41	5
8/30/15	37	16	21	59	16	43	4
7/12/15	33	14	19	61	16	45	6
5/31/15	16	7	9	71	16	55	13
12/18/11	40	12	29	48	21	27	12
1/16/00*	20	NA	NA	70	NA	NA	11
10/31/99*	18	"	"	70	"	"	12

*"Regardless of how you might vote, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Donald Trump, or perhaps you don't know enough to say."

Thinking about the 2016 presidential election...

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump has handled the presidential transition? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/15/17	40	20	20	54	13	41	6

Compare to:

Obama:

1/16/09	80	46	34	15	7	8	5
12/14/08*	76	46	30	15	5	9	9
11/23/08	67	41	26	18	8	10	15

W. Bush:

1/15/01*	72	NA	NA	21	NA	NA	6
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Clinton:

1/17/93	81			13			6
12/14/92*	72			13			15
11/20/92**	62			14			24

H.W. Bush:

1/16/89***	82	"	"	12	"	"	6
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**is handling"

**Newsweek

***"has handled himself since the election"

8. Do you think Donald Trump is qualified to serve as president, or not?

	----- Qualified -----			----- Not qualified -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/15/17	44	NA	NA	52	NA	NA	4
10/13/16 RV	39			58			3
9/22/16	41			57			3
9/8/16	36	"	"	62	"	"	2
8/4/16	38	20	18	61	8	52	2
7/14/16	37	18	19	60	9	51	3
6/23/16	34	18	16	64	8	56	2
5/19/16	39	NA	NA	58	NA	NA	3
9/10/15	37	NA	NA	60	NA	NA	2

*8/4/16 and previous: "Regardless of whether or not you'd vote for him, do you think Donald Trump is or is not qualified to serve as president? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?"

Compare to: Regardless of who you support, please tell me if you think Bill Clinton/George Bush is basically qualified or not qualified to be president, or if, perhaps you don't know enough about him to say.

		Qualified	Not qualified	No opinion
7/8/92	Bill Clinton	55	27	18
6/7/92	Bill Clinton	47	31	22
7/8/92	George H.W. Bush	74	22	3
6/7/92	George H.W. Bush	72	25	3
3/21/88***	George H.W. Bush	80	14	5
9/23/87	George H.W. Bush	80	12	8
6/1/87	George H.W. Bush	71	21	8

** 3/21/88 and prior: "Please tell me if you think George Bush is basically qualified or not qualified to be president of the United States, or if, perhaps you don't know enough about that person to say."

10. Who did you want to see win the presidential election - [(Donald Trump), (Hillary Clinton),] [(Gary Johnson) or (Jill Stein)]?

	Donald Trump	Hillary Clinton	Gary Johnson	Jill Stein	None of them (vol.)	No opinion
1/15/17	36	39	5	2	16	2

11. How much confidence do you have in Trump to make the right decisions for the country's future - a great deal of confidence, a good amount, just some or none at all?

	-- More confident --			-- Less confident --			No opinion
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Just some	None at all	
1/15/17	38	15	23	61	27	34	1

Compare to: Obama

	-- More confident --			-- Less confident --			No opinion
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Just some	None at all	
1/23/14	37	17	19	63	28	35	*
7/11/10	43	24	19	57	28	29	*
1/15/10	47	24	23	53	26	27	*
10/18/09	49	29	20	50	27	24	*
8/17/09	49	28	21	50	26	24	*
4/24/09	60	31	28	40	25	15	1
1/16/09	61	31	30	37	28	9	2

12. What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on [ITEM] - excellent, good, not so good or poor? How about [NEXT ITEM]?

1/15/17 - Summary Table

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No opinion
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
a. handling the economy	61	25	36	37	17	21	2
b. dealing with race relations	40	12	28	57	23	35	2
c. creating jobs	59	24	35	38	20	18	4
d. helping the middle class	50	17	32	47	21	26	4
e. handling the federal budget deficit	50	18	32	47	23	23	3
f. improving the health care system	44	14	30	51	24	27	5
g. dealing with the threat of terrorism	56	23	33	42	19	23	2
h. handling international crises	44	14	30	53	23	29	4
i. handling issues of special concern to women	37	11	26	61	24	36	2
j. making appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court	49	17	32	46	19	26	5

*Full sample asked items a and b; half sample asked items c-f; other half asked items g-j.

13. Do you approve or disapprove of most of the choices Trump has made for his cabinet and other top positions in his administration?

	Approve	Disapprove	Approve some disapprove others (vol.)		No opinion
1/15/17	40	48	5	7	

Compare to:

	Approve	Disapprove	Approve some others (vol.)	disapprove (vol.)	No opinion
Obama: 2/22/09*	64	30	NA		7
W. Bush: 1/15/01	66	22	4		8
Clinton: 1/15/97	58	30	6		6
1/17/93	60	17	6		17
12/14/92	61	13	5		21
H.W. Bush: 2/27/89**	75	20	NA		5
2/14/89	73	18			10
2/9/89	71	20			9
1/16/89***	59	15	"		26

**is handling appointments to his cabinet and other top positions in his administration?"
 ** 2/27/89 and previous: "Do you approve or disapprove of most of the choices Bush has made for his Cabinet?"
 ***"so far?"

17. Please tell me if you support or oppose each item I name. First is... [ITEM].
 How about [NEXT ITEM]? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

1/15/17 - Summary Table

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strg.	Smwht.	NET	Smwht	Strg.	op.
a. repealing the major federal health care law passed in 2010	46	35	12	47	12	36	6
b. building a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico	37	25	12	60	13	47	3
c. deporting about two million undocumented immigrants who have been convicted of a crime	72	52	20	25	14	11	2
d. withdrawing from the main international treaty that tries to address climate change	31	16	16	56	17	39	13
e. withdrawing from the nuclear agreement with Iran	37	23	14	46	16	30	17
f. banning most Muslims who are not U.S. citizens from entering the United States	32	20	12	63	22	41	5
g. renegotiating the NAFTA trade agreement with Mexico and Canada	57	31	26	26	16	10	17
h. punishing companies that move jobs from the U.S. to other countries	53	32	21	43	20	23	4

*Full sample asked items a and b; half sample asked items c-e; other half asked items f-h.

Trend where available:

a. No trend.

b. Building a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/15/17	37	25	12	60	13	47	3

9/8/16* 34 24 10 63 11 52 3
 *Do you support or oppose building a wall across the entire U.S. border with Mexico? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

c-e. No trend.

f. Banning most Muslims who are not U.S. citizens from entering the United States

	Support			Oppose			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/15/17	32	20	12	63	22	41	5

Compare to: A temporary ban on Muslims who are not U.S. citizens from entering the United States?

	Support			Oppose			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
8/4/16	40	23	18	51	18	34	8
6/23/16	43	29	14	52	13	38	6
5/19/16	43	30	12	50	14	36	7

g-h. No trend.

18. (ASK IF SUPPORT REPEALING HEALTH CARE LAW) You mentioned that you support repealing the federal health care law. Should the health care law be repealed (before) a law replacing it is created, or (at the same time that) a law replacing it is created?

	Before a law replacing it is created		At the same time a law replacing it is created		No opinion
	NET	Strongly	NET	Strongly	
1/15/17	27		66		6

17a/18 NET:

	Support repeal			No op.	Oppose	No op.
	NET	Before new law	At the same time			
1/15/17	46	13	31	3	47	6

19. There is a proposal to offer nearly 140 billion dollars in tax cuts for private companies if they pay to build new roads, bridges and transportation projects. The companies then could charge tolls for people to use these roads, bridges and transportation. Do you support or oppose this proposal? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	Support			Oppose			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/15/17	29	11	18	66	22	44	6

20. Do you support or oppose reducing income taxes paid by [ITEM]? How about income taxes paid by [NEXT ITEM]?

1/15/17 - Summary Table

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
a. businesses	48	45	7
b. middle and lower-income people	75	22	3
c. higher-income people	36	61	3

On another subject...

21. Do you think Trump is being too (friendly) towards Russia, too (confrontational) toward them, or is taking about the right approach?

	Too friendly	Too confrontational	Right approach	No opinion
1/15/17	43	5	40	11

22. Given what you've heard or read, do you think the Russian government did or did not hack into and leak Clinton campaign e-mails during the presidential campaign?

	Yes did	No did not	No opinion
1/15/17	64	20	15

23. (ASK IF DID HACK INTO AND LEAK CLINTON EMAILS) Do you think Russia leaked this material with the goal of helping Trump win the election, or not?

	Yes	No	No opinion
1/15/17	71	24	5

22/23 NET:

	----- Did hack -----					
	NET	With goal of helping Trump	Not with goal of helping Trump	No opinion	Did not hack	No opinion
1/15/17	64	45	16	3	20	15

24. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump has responded to the issue of Russian hacking? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/15/17	35	16	20	54	14	40	10

25. All in all, do you think [ITEM] fairly, or unfairly?

1/15/17 - Summary Table

	Treating fairly	Treating unfairly	No opinion
a. the news media are treating Trump	49	47	4
b. Trump is treating the news media	38	57	5

*** END ***