

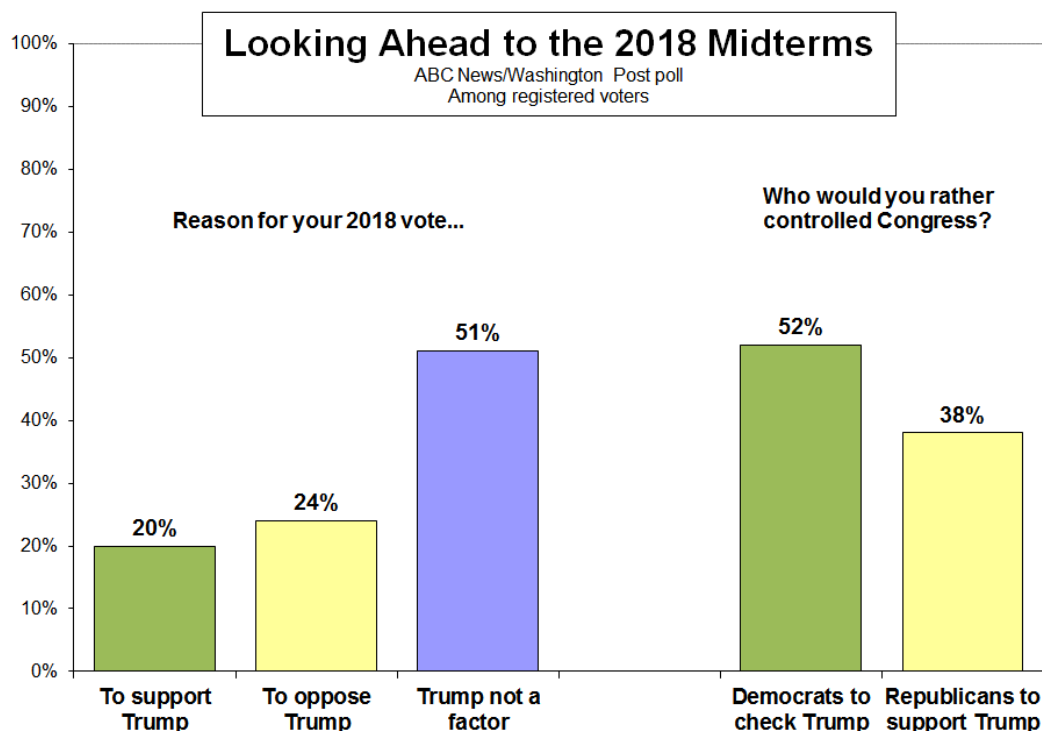
A Midterm Preference for Democrats, But Without Anti-Trump Motivation

A majority of Americans prefer to see the next Congress controlled by the Democrats to counter Donald Trump rather than the Republicans to support him – but without the level of anti-Trump motivation the opposition party may be banking on.

Despite [Trump's historically low approval rating](#), opposition to him is not producing appreciably more 2018 voting intention than is support for him, the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll finds. That's a challenge for Democrats because their midterm turnout typically is low.

There is a Democratic preference: Among all adults, 53 percent say they'd prefer to see the Democrats take control of Congress, "to act as a check on Trump," vs. 35 percent who'd like to see the GOP retain control, "to support Trump's agenda." That said, among registered voters it's a 52-38 percent split, and among likely voters, 50-41 percent – the Democratic margin drawing in from 18 to 14 to 9 points as voting likelihood increases.

Moreover, 51 percent of registered voters say Trump won't be a factor in their vote for Congress. The rest split closely between saying they'd vote to support Trump (20 percent) or to oppose him (24 percent), a non-significant gap.



The division is also narrower than in the past, further indicating no outsized impact of Trump's unpopularity at this point. Ahead of the 2014 midterms, registered voters said they'd cast their vote to oppose rather than support Barack Obama by a 10-point margin, and the gap against George W. Bush was 14 points in November 2006, both bigger than the scant 4-point difference today.

Nor does either side have an edge in enthusiasm: Eighty-four percent of anti-Trump registered voters say it's extremely or very important to them to vote to oppose him the midterms. Eighty-two percent of pro-Trump registered voters are as strongly committed to supporting him.

There's also little difference between potential new midterm voters – those who say they'll vote in 2018, but didn't in 2014 – and off-year veterans. A fifth of potential new voters say they'd vote to support Trump, while 28 percent say they'd vote to oppose him; it's 22 and 24 percent among registered return voters.

Naturally, intention to vote to support Trump peaks among those in his own party in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). Fifty-two percent of registered Republicans say they'll vote to back up the president, while a smaller share of registered Democrats, 41 percent, say they'll vote to oppose him. Independents, for their part, are most likely to say Trump won't be a factor in their vote, 62 percent; among the rest slightly more are in opposition than in support, 22 vs. 13 percent.

CONTROL OF CONGRESS – In the question on control of Congress, registered partisans nearly unanimously back their respective parties, leaving the result driven by independents: Half prefer Democratic control of Congress, 36 percent, Republican.

Among white registered voters, men without college degrees, some of Trump's strongest backers in the 2016 election, prefer Republican control, 60 vs. 34 percent. By contrast, among white women with college degrees it's the opposite – 59 vs. 35 percent for Democratic control.

Democratic control wins only a slight edge among returning voters, 49 vs. 41 percent, while potential new voters prefer it by 2-1, 64 vs. 30 percent. That reflects the fact that new potential voters are younger and more likely to be nonwhite, two groups that consistently lean Democratic. And it underscores the Democratic Party's need to boost turnout in these groups.

That may be a challenge. As [previously reported](#), a majority of Americans see the Democratic Party as “just standing against Trump” rather than presenting a coherent alternative – a stance that may not be enough to get voters to the polls next fall. Results aren't much better among young voters and nonwhites – meaning that even in its base groups, the Democrats are struggling to present a positive agenda independent of their opposition to Trump.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone July 10-13, 2017, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect, for the full sample, and 4.0 points for registered voters. Partisan divisions are 35-23-35 percent,

Democrats-Republicans-independents, for the full sample, and 37-25-31 percent for registered voters.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt Associates of Cambridge, Mass. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

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

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Full results follow.

1-20, 27-31 previously released.

21. Most people skip the congressional elections in off-years when there's no presidential race. How about you - did you vote in the congressional election in 2014, or did you skip that like most people?

	Did vote	Did not vote	No opinion
7/13/17	54	43	3

22. How likely are you to vote in the congressional election in 2018 - 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 50/50	Don't think will vote (vol.)	No op.
7/13/17	58	17	13	8	4	1
7/13/17 RV	66	17	11	4	1	1

Compare to:

I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the Congressional election the week after next: 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 50/50	Don't think will vote (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No op.
10/26/14 RV	59	15	11	7	1	6	*
10/12/14* RV	63	15	15	5	2	1	0
9/7/14 RV	71	16	9	2	1	NA	*
6/1/14 RV	74	12	9	4	1		*
4/27/14 RV	68	15	12	4	1	"	*
10/28/10 RV	64	13	11	5	1	7	0
10/3/10 RV	70	15	9	5	2	NA	*
9/2/10 RV	70	14	14	1	1		0
7/11/10 RV	73	13	11	2	*		*
6/6/10 RV	72	14	11	3	*	"	0
11/4/06 RV	70	11	7	4	2	5	*
10/22/06 RV	75	14	7	3	*	1	2

*10/12/14 "next month," 9/7/14 and previous "in November," except for 10/28/10 and 11/04/06 "next week's Congressional election"

23. If you vote in the congressional elections in 2018, will it be to show (support for) Trump, to show (opposition to) Trump, or will Trump not be part of your decision?

	Support	Opposition	Not a factor	No opinion
7/13/17	19	25	50	6
7/13/17 RV	20	24	51	5

Compare to:

Will/was one reason for your vote for Congress [be] to express (support for) Obama, to express (opposition to) Obama, or is/was Obama not a factor in your choice? Do you feel strongly about that, or somewhat?

	Support	Opposition	Not a factor	No opinion
10/26/14 RV	16	26	56	2
10/12/14 RV	14	22	62	1
9/7/14 RV	19	27	54	1
1/23/14 RV	19	25	54	2
10/28/10 RV	25	24	50	1
9/2/10 RV	25	27	47	1
3/26/10 RV	25	24	49	1

Bush:

11/4/06 RV	17	31	50	2
10/22/06 RV	17	31	50	2
10/8/06 RV	18	35	47	1
5/15/06 All	12	30	58	1
11/4/02 LV	29	15	55	1
11/3/02 LV	29	17	52	1
11/2/02 LV	30	15	54	1
10/27/02 LV	33	18	49	1

Clinton:

11/1/98	13	9	77	1
10/25/98	14	10	72	4
10/18/98	13	9	75	3
9/28/98	14	13	71	2

24. (IF SHOW SUPPORT FOR TRUMP) How important is it to you to show support for Trump in the 2018 congressional election - extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

	NET	Extremely	Very	Somewhat important	NET	Not so	Not at all	No op.
7/13/17	77	48	29	15	5	4	1	3
7/13/17 RV	82	53	29	13	4	3	1	1

23/24 NET:

	NET	Extremely	Very	Smwht	Not so	Not at all	No op.	Opposition to Trump	Trump not a factor	No op.
7/13/17	19	9	6	3	1	*	1	25	50	6
7/13/17 RV	20	11	6	3	1	*	*	24	51	5

25. (IF SHOW OPPOSITION TO TRUMP) How important is it to you to show opposition to Trump in the 2018 congressional election - extremely important, very important, somewhat important, not so important, or not important at all?

	----- Important -----	Somewhat	----- Not important -----	No
	NET Extremely Very	important	NET Not so Not at all	op.
7/13/17	79 49 29	12	9 3 6	1
7/13/17 RV	84 54 30	10	5 2 2	1

23/25 NET:

	----- Opposition to Trump -----									
	NET	Extrmly	Very	Smwht	Not so	Not at all	No op.	Support for Trump	Trump not a factor	No op.
7/13/17	25	12	7	3	1	1	*	19	50	6
7/13/17 RV	24	13	7	2	1	1	*	20	51	5

26. Would you rather see the next Congress controlled by the (Democrats, to act as a check on Trump), or controlled by the (Republicans, to support Trump's agenda)

	Controlled by Democrats	Controlled by Republicans	No opinion
7/13/17	53	35	12
7/13/17 RV	52	38	10

*** END ***