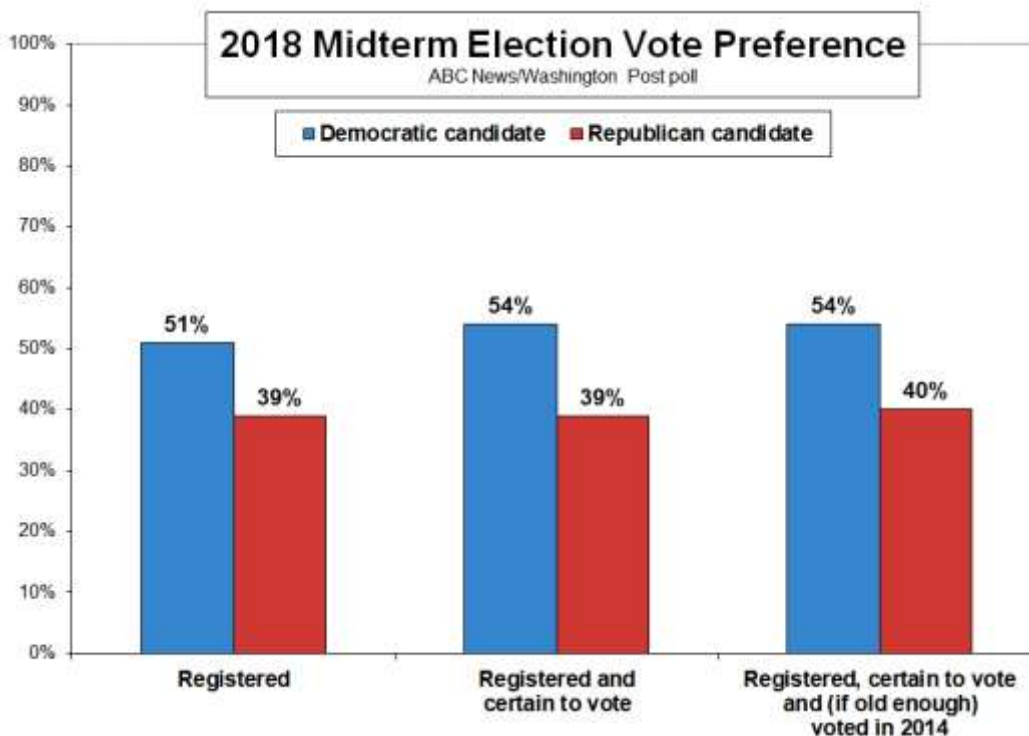


## Democrats Solidify Their Lead in Midterm Elections Matchup

Democrats have solidified their position in the November midterm elections in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll, maintaining a 12-point lead among registered voters while improving to a wide 14-point advantage among likely voters in congressional preference.

Democrats typically lose support in the shift to likely voters, given lower turnout among their stalwart groups. That's not the case now: Among those most likely to vote, 54 percent support the Democratic candidate in their congressional district, vs. 40 percent for the Republican.

This double-digit Democratic lead among likely voters compares with a dead heat in this group in early November. One factor: They've locked down their base, including party identifiers, women and minorities. Eleven weeks ago, 91 percent of Democratic likely voters backed their party's candidate in 2014. That's jumped to 97 percent now.



Nonwhites favor the Democrat in their congressional district by a 59-point margin, 74-15 percent, up from 32 points in November. And Democratic candidates win support from a vast two-thirds of women, 64-29 percent, up from 55-40 percent in the fall. The race is steady among men, 42-51 percent.

In another key group, 51 percent of political independents support the Democratic candidate, vs. 37 percent for the Republican – a wide and important gap, albeit, in this case, unchanged.

The survey, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds the GOP still polling strongly in its core groups, though not always at the same levels. While 81 percent of conservatives are in the Republican camp, for instance, 14 percent cross to the Democrats – twice the share of liberals who support GOP candidates. And Republicans haven't seen growth in their support groups as Democrats have in theirs.

One likely-voter criteria used in this analysis is having voted in the 2014 midterms – a cycle in which Republicans scored big wins. But self-reported past voting can be influenced by current political engagement; it's up 6 points among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents since November, another sign that they're fired up.

In all, 34 percent of likely voters are Democrats, vs. 25 percent Republicans; and 29 percent are liberals, vs. 32 percent conservatives. About a quarter are nonwhites. The burning question for November is whether these levels of participation are in fact achievable by the Democrats.

The answer likely hinges on whether or not 2018 serves as a referendum on someone who won't be on the ballot: Donald Trump. His approvers back the Republican in their district by 90-6 percent; his disapprovers flip almost exactly, 6-88 percent.

In statistical analysis, views of Trump are a strong independent predictor of 2018 vote preference, even holding constant partisanship, ideology and demographics such as race and gender. With Trump at just 36 percent approval after one year in office – an historic low – Republican fortunes this election year clearly are tied to the president's.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 15-18, 2018, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,005 adults and 846 registered voters. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 31-23-40 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 Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Sofi Sinozich.

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

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Full results follow.

18, 20-22, 27-29 held for release. 1-15, 23-26 previously released. \* = <0.5%

16. 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	Too young to vote (vol.)	No opinion
1/18/18	53	39	5	3
11/1/17	48	46	3	3
7/13/17	54	43	NA	3

17. 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 opinion
1/18/18	54	19	15	9	3	1
11/1/17	56	20	16	6	2	1
7/13/17	58	17	13	8	4	1
1/18/18 RV	62	17	14	5	1	*
11/1/17 RV	62	19	14	3	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"

19. 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)?

NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE - REG VOTERS

	Dem cand.	Rep cand.	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
1/18/18	51	39	1	2	1	6
1/18/18 LV	54	40	1	1	0	4
11/1/17	51	40	1	3	1	4

11/1/17 LV	48	46	1	3	*	3
10/24/16 LV	47	46	1	1	1	4
10/13/16	48	42	1	3	1	5
5/19/16	45	45	*	3	1	6
10/26/14	47	44	1	2	1	5
10/12/14	46	44	1	3	1	5
9/7/14	46	44	1	4	1	4
6/1/14	47	45	1	3	1	4
4/27/14	45	44	1	2	1	7
3/2/14	46	45	1	3	*	5
1/23/14	45	46	1	3	1	5
12/15/13	47	45	1	4	1	3
10/20/13	48	40	1	5	1	4
5/19/13	48	40	2	4	1	6
10/28/10	49	44	1	2	*	3
10/3/10	47	43	1	3	1	5
9/2/10*	45	47	1	2	1	5
7/11/10	46	47	*	2	*	5
6/6/10	47	44	2	2	1	4
4/25/10	48	43	1	2	1	6
3/26/10	48	44	1	2	*	4
2/8/10	45	48	*	3	*	4

\*9/2/10 and previous: "Will not vote (vol.)"

\*\*1/27/02 and previous: No "other candidate" option recorded  
Call for full trend.

\*\* END \*\*