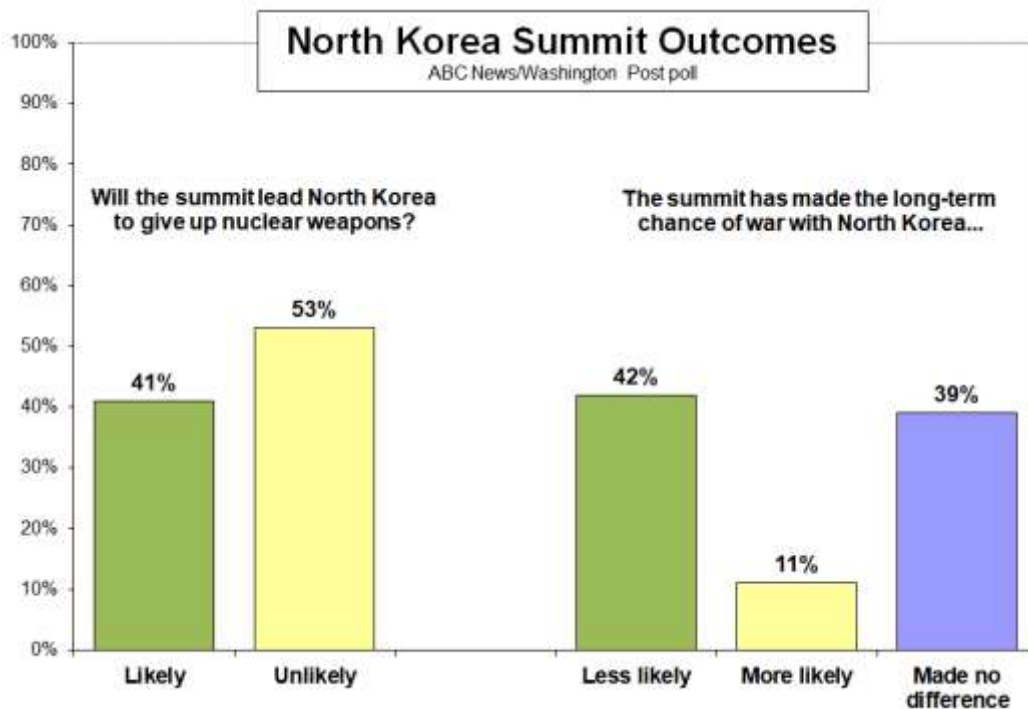


## **Skepticism Remains – but has Eased – on North Korea’s Nuclear Intentions**

Most Americans in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll are skeptical that Donald Trump’s sit-down with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un will lead Pyongyang to relinquish its nuclear weapons. But that doubt has lessened substantially from its pre-summit levels.

Fifty-three percent say it’s unlikely the summit will lead to North Korea giving up its nuclear arms. Additionally, fewer than half, 42 percent, think the meeting in Singapore lessened the long-term chance of war.

That said, Americans were far more negative in advance of the meeting. In an ABC/Post poll in April, many more, 67 percent, called it unlikely that North Korea would denuclearize. The number who see this as likely has grown from 30 percent then to 41 percent now.



Moreover, while intensity of sentiment remains higher among skeptics, it’s dropped sharply. In April just 5 percent called it very likely the summit would lead to North Korea relinquishing its nuclear weapons, while 42 percent call this very unlikely. Today the proportions are 10 percent vs. 25 percent – a 17-point drop in strong doubt.

The change in the view that North Korea may in fact denuclearize came almost solely among Republicans – 68 percent now call this likely, up very sharply from 39 percent in April. Just 26 percent of Democrats and 34 percent of independents share this view, with no significant change. That said, many fewer Democrats now call it very unlikely – 29 percent. vs 53 percent in April.

The poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), also finds that the public by 41-34 percent says Trump “made reasonable compromises” at the summit rather than giving away too much. The difference, however, isn’t statistically significant.

The ultimate outcome of the summit is unclear to most. Fifty-five percent say it’s too early to tell whether or not the meeting in Singapore was a success for the United States, and essentially as many, 56 percent, say it’s too early to tell if it was a success for North Korea.

For those willing to pick winners, though, Kim outscores Trump. Twenty-nine percent see the summit as a success for North Korea, vs. just 5 percent who call it unsuccessful for the so-called Hermit Kingdom. It’s a closer call on the outcome for the United States: Twenty-one percent call the summit successful, vs. 16 percent who say it was not a success.

On the question of avoiding war in the future, the outlook is not particularly positive. As noted, 42 percent think the meeting made the long-term chance of war less likely; just 16 percent say it made war “much” less likely. Fifty percent say either that it made no difference (39 percent) or that it actually increased the chance of war (11 percent).

GROUPS – Even among Trump loyalists, only half or fewer call the summit a success for the United States. With “success,” “not a success” or “too early to tell” offered as options, 49 percent of Republicans and 34 percent of conservatives call it a success, a view that falls sharply to the teens or single digits for independents, moderates, Democrats and liberals alike.

Those gaps extend to views of whether or not the summit is likely to lead North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons – 68 percent of Republicans say so, vs. a third of independents and a quarter of Democrats – or whether it will reduce the long-term chance of war; again two-thirds of Republicans say so, while just 39 and 26 percent of independents and Democrats, respectively, agree.

The differences aren’t all political and ideological. A very large gender gap is apparent; half of men say the summit lessened the chance of war, while just a third of women say the same. There’s a similar gender gap on the likelihood of North Korea denuclearizing. And men are twice as apt as women to say Trump made “reasonable compromises” rather than giving away too much – 55 percent of men say so, vs. 27 percent of women.

	Summit a success for the U.S.	N.K. likely to give up its nuclear weapons	Lessened long-term chance of war
All	21%	41%	42%
Republicans	49	68	66
Independents	16	34	39
Democrats	5	26	28

Conservatives	34	56	56
Moderates	8	33	32
Liberals	9	27	30
Men	28	51	50
Women	14	32	33

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone June 13-15, 2018 in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 495 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 5.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 31-27-41 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 SSRS of Glen Mills, Pa. 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.

\*= less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you think the summit between Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un this week was a success for [ITEM], was not a success for [SAME ITEM], or is it too early to tell?

Summary table - 6/15/18

	Success	Not a success	Too early to tell	No opinion
a. The United States	21	16	55	8
b. North Korea	29	5	56	10

2. How likely do you think it is that the summit will lead North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons? Do you think this is very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

	----- Likely -----			----- Unlikely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	opinion
6/15/18	41	10	31	53	27	25	6
4/11/18*	30	5	25	67	25	42	3

\*"How likely do you think it is that this meeting will lead to an agreement for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons?"

3. In his negotiations with Kim about North Korea’s nuclear program, do you think Trump (made reasonable compromises) or that Trump (gave away too much)?

	Made reasonable compromises	Gave away too much	No opinion
6/15/18	41	34	25

4. Do you think the summit has made the long-term chance of war with North Korea (more likely), (less likely), or made no difference?

	More likely	Less likely	No difference	No opinion
6/15/18	11	42	39	8

5. (IF LESS LIKELY) Is that much less likely, or somewhat less likely?

	Much	Somewhat	No opinion
6/15/18	37	62	1

4/5 NET:

	More likely	NET	Much	Less likely Somewhat	NET	No opinion	No difference	No opinion
6/15/18	11	42	16	26	*	39	9	

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