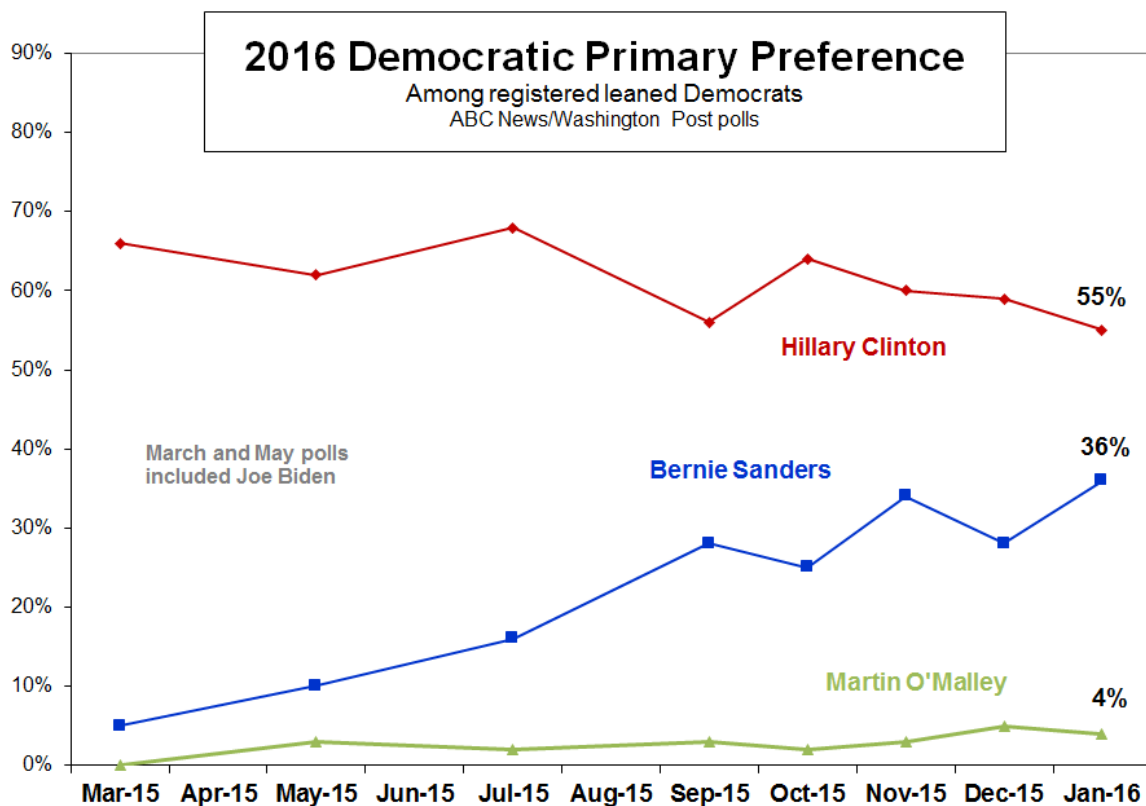


Clinton's Advantage Hits a Campaign Low; She Lags on Trust While Leading on Issues

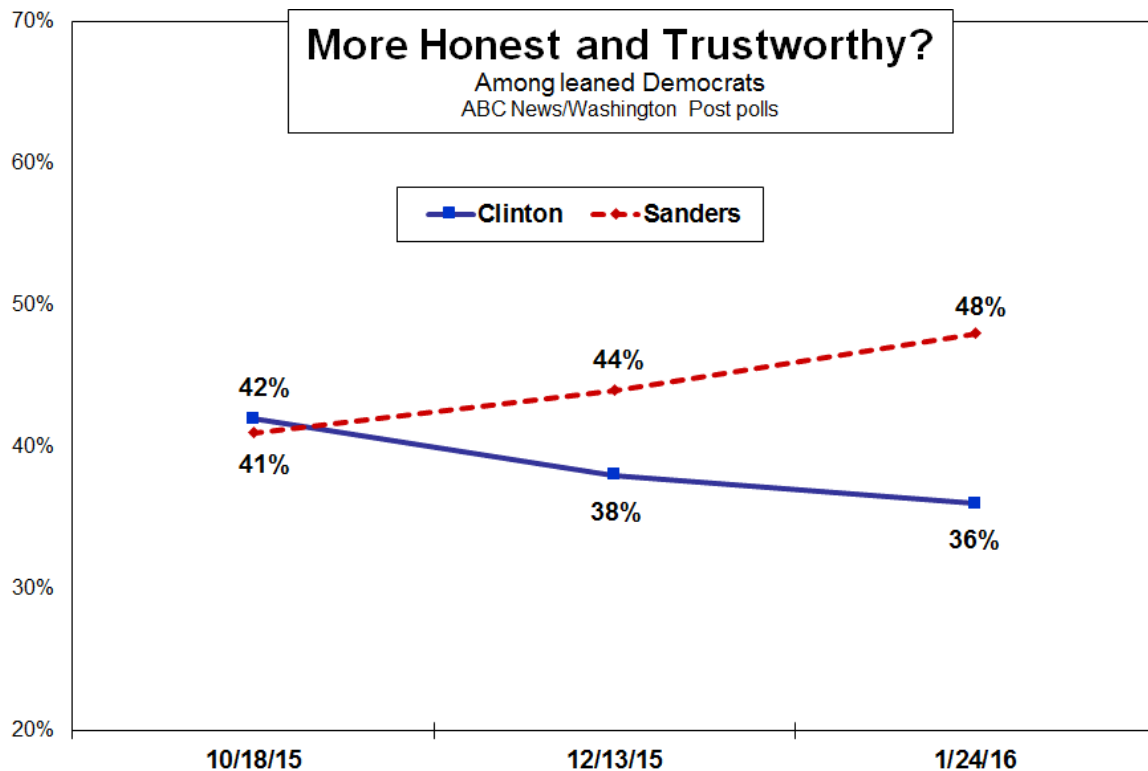
Hillary Clinton's advantage over Bernie Sanders has shrunk to its smallest of the 2016 campaign, with Sanders building a double-digit lead on honesty and trustworthiness and negating Clinton's onetime strength in connecting with voters' priorities.

Clinton still leads in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll in trust to handle individual issues – with the exception of regulating banks and other financial institutions – as well as on electability. She's also aided by broad support from nonwhites and by her association with the Obama administration, given the president's vast popularity within the party.



Overall, Clinton leads Sanders nationally by 55-36 percent among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents who are registered to vote. Her support is at a new low (albeit by a single point); Sanders' is at a new high, up 8 percentage points from last month, led by a 17-point gain among independents. Clinton's 19-point lead, moreover, is down from 31 points last month, a previous low of 26 points in November and a vast 52-point advantage in July.

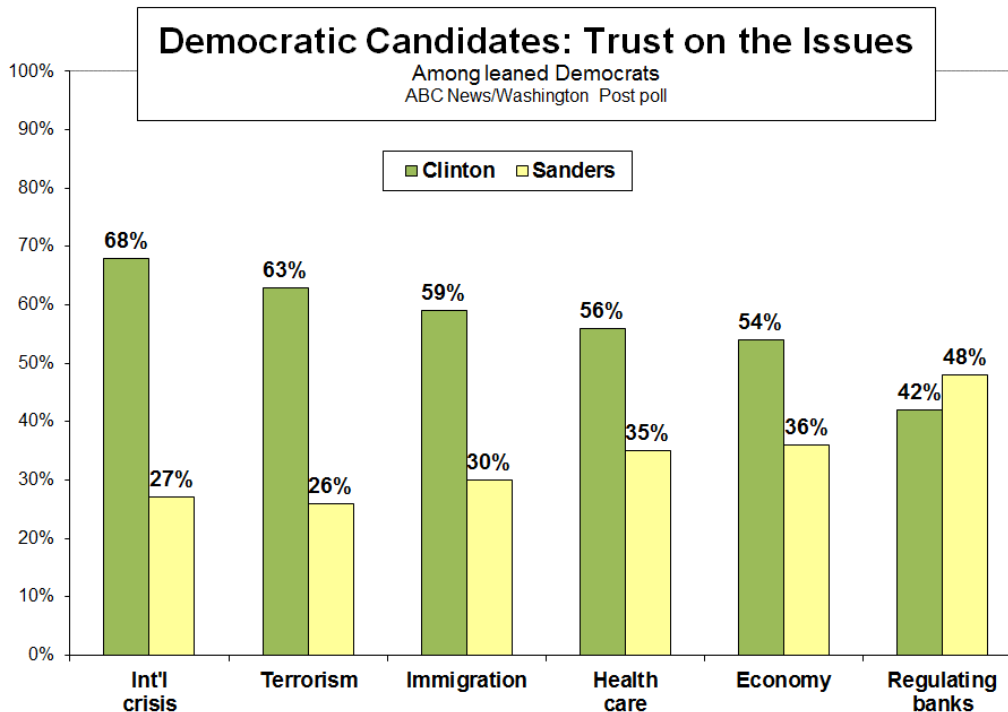
Clinton's single greatest vulnerability has worsened in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#): Sanders now leads by 12 points, 48-36 percent, in being seen as more honest and trustworthy, vs. 6 points last month and an even split in October. Should Clinton emerge as the nominee, it's an issue the Republican candidate likely will repeat at every chance.



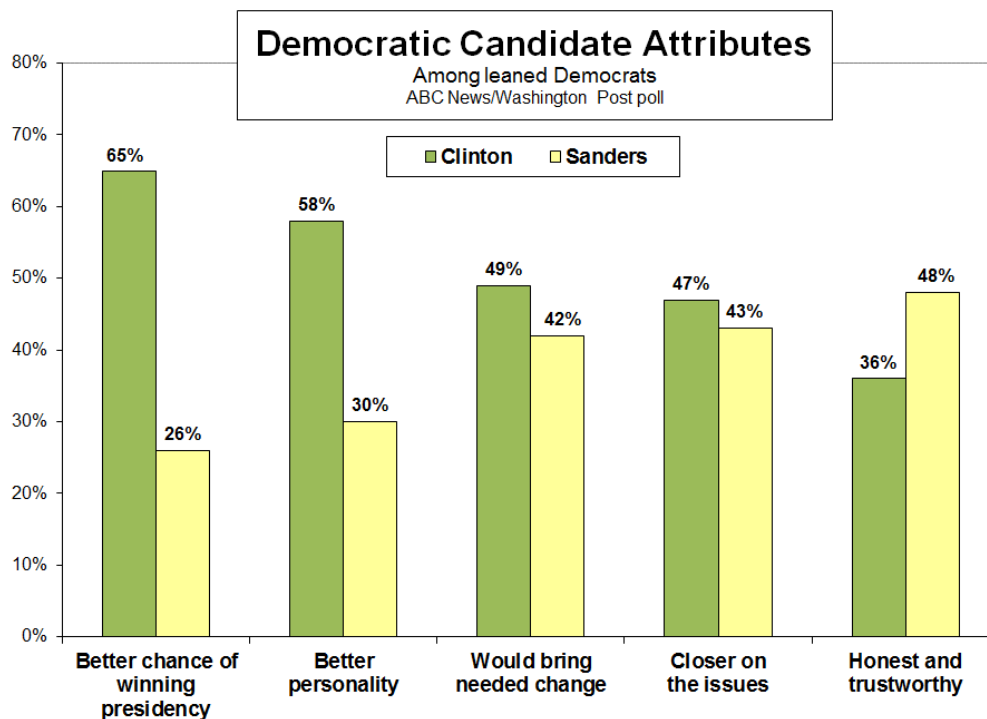
Further, the candidates are virtually even, 47-43 percent, Clinton-Sanders, on who "is closer to you on the issues," down from a 17-point Clinton lead just last month. And it's close (Clinton +7) on who'd do a better job "bringing needed change to Washington."

Fortunately for Clinton, "change" is less a Democratic than a Republican mantra this year. She prevails on other attributes and, especially, trust to handle key issues – often by very wide margins. Consider:

- Clinton leads Sanders by 18 points in trust to handle the economy, 21 points on handling health care, 29 points on immigration issues, 37 points in trust to handle terrorism and 41 points in trust to handle a major international crisis.
- She holds a 28-point advantage, 58-30 percent, in being seen as having the better personality and temperament to serve effectively as president. And her lead widens to 39 points – 65-26 percent – in having the better chance to win in November.



GROUPS – The changes in honesty and trustworthiness, and in being close to voters on the issues, are broadly based. Also, notably, there's not much of a gender gap in the current race – Clinton leads Sanders by 22 points among women and by 16 points among men. A bigger gender gap has been apparent in the past, but inconsistently.



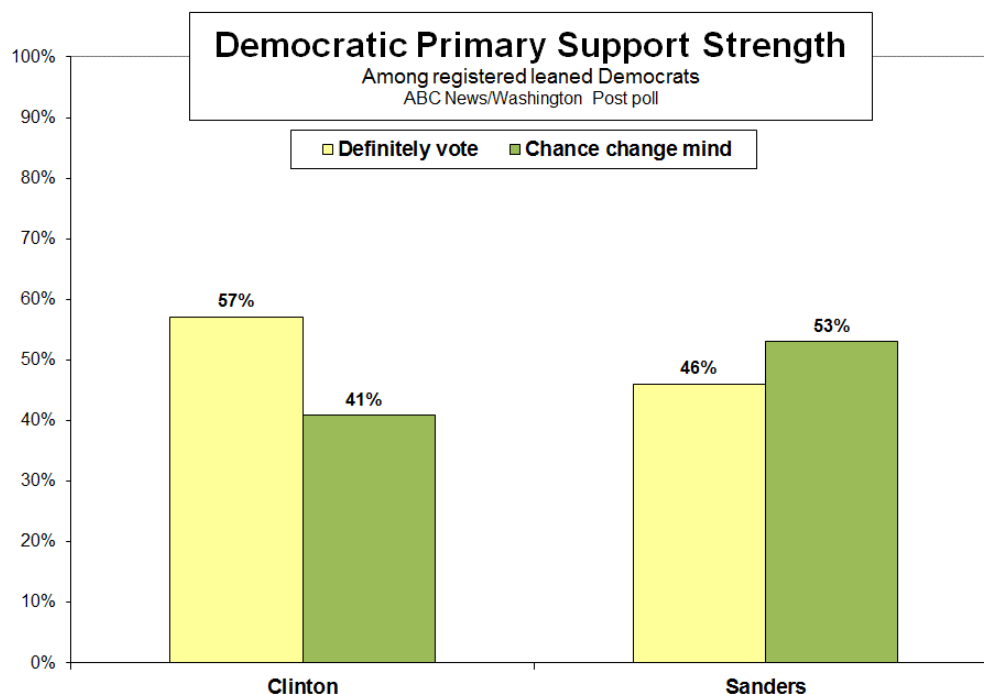
Regardless, the candidates' support profiles indicate why Iowa and New Hampshire might not be the best places to gauge their strength nationally. Clinton leads Sanders by a broad 67-28 percent nationally among nonwhites, vs. a virtual dead heat among whites, 45-43 percent. Whites accounted for 93 percent of Democratic caucus participants in Iowa and 95 percent in the party's New Hampshire primary in 2008, vs. 65 percent across all primaries in which exit polls were conducted that year.

Further, Clinton leads Sanders by 59-33 percent among Democrats, while it's 49-43 percent, Sanders-Clinton, among independents who lean toward the Democratic Party. Independents accounted for 44 percent of Democratic primary voters in New Hampshire in 2008, vs. just 19 percent across all primaries that year.

Sanders also does better with liberals – 53-43 percent, Sanders-Clinton – compared with moderates, among whom Clinton has a 21-point advantage. Liberals accounted for more voters in Iowa and New Hampshire in 2008 – 54 and 56 percent, respectively – than their share across all Democratic primaries, 47 percent.

Sanders, further, does best with young adults – 54-40 percent, Sanders-Clinton, combining the last two ABC/Post polls for an adequate sample size. That moves to an even split among registered voters in their 30s, but then opens up to a wide Clinton lead – 65-23 percent – among those age 40 and older. Under 30s had higher turnout in Iowa in 2008 than anywhere else. And voters age 40+ accounted for 71 percent of the Democratic primary turnout overall.

Additionally, 57 percent of Clinton supporters say they'll definitely stick with her; this slips to 46 percent among Sanders supporters.



INSIDER – As noted in our analysis of the GOP contest, Donald Trump is boosted in his party by his outsider status; 54 percent of leaned Republicans are looking for a candidate from outside the political establishment, and they’re a hugely pro-Trump group. The opposite holds true for Clinton: 80 percent of leaned Democrats, instead, are more interested in a candidate with experience in how the political system works – and Clinton leads Sanders by 2-1 among registered voters in this group, 64-31 percent. Sanders leads, 56-19 percent, among those looking for an outsider (again combining the last two ABC/Post polls), but there are far fewer of them.

Clinton also is helped by her association with Obama, who’s back to a 50 percent job approval rating overall, aided by his best rating in three years on handling the economy. Obama’s overall job rating soars to 83 percent among leaned Democrats, and among strong Obama approvers in the party who are registered to vote, Clinton leads Sanders by 62-33 percent. That compares with 45-48 percent contest among “somewhat” approvers of Obama, clear evidence why Clinton has been wrapping herself in the president’s cloak.

In a similar result, Clinton does best – 67 percent support, to Sanders’ 29 percent – among registered leaned Democrats who are satisfied with the way the government is working. But they account for just 36 percent of this population; her support drops to 49 percent, and Sanders’ rises to 40 percent, among those who are either dissatisfied or angry about the government.

A statistical analysis identifying the strongest independent factors in Clinton’s support cements these points. It finds that desiring a candidate with political experience is the single strongest factor, followed by being older, being nonwhite and being moderate (or conservative) as opposed to liberal. Strongly supporting Obama is another independent factor in backing Clinton.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 21-24, 2016, 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; 4 points for all registered voters; and 5.5 points for registered leaned Democrats. Partisan divisions are 34-23-34 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](#), (212) 456-4396, or [Julie Townsend](#), (212) 456-4934.

Full results follow.

3-12, 20-22, 26-31 previously released; 17-19, 23-25, held for release.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/24/16	50	31	18	46	11	36	4
12/13/15	45	24	22	51	12	39	3
11/19/15	46	24	22	50	10	40	4
10/18/15	51	28	23	45	10	35	4
9/10/15	49	27	22	46	9	37	5
7/19/15	45	26	20	50	13	37	5
5/31/15	45	22	23	49	11	38	6
3/29/15	47	26	21	47	11	36	6
1/15/15	50	24	26	44	9	35	6
12/14/14	41	21	20	54	13	41	5
10/26/14	43	21	22	51	12	39	6
10/12/14	40	20	20	51	12	39	8
9/7/14	42	24	18	51	12	39	6
6/1/14	46	23	23	51	14	37	3
4/27/14	41	23	19	52	12	40	6
3/2/14	46	25	22	50	12	38	3
1/23/14	46	23	23	50	9	41	4
12/15/13	43	23	20	55	14	41	3
11/17/13	42	22	21	55	11	44	3
10/20/13	48	28	20	49	10	39	3
9/15/13	47	25	22	47	11	37	6
7/21/13	49	25	24	44	12	32	7
5/19/13	51	32	20	44	10	33	5
4/14/13	50	27	23	45	10	35	5
3/10/13	50	29	21	46	11	36	4
1/13/13	55	32	23	41	8	33	4

Call for full trend.

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling [ITEM]? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

1/24/16 - Summary Table

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strongly	op.
a. The economy	50	32	17	46	13	33	4
b. The threat of terrorism	45	23	22	48	10	38	7

*Half sample asked item a; other half asked item b.

Trend:

a. The economy

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/24/16	50	32	17	46	13	33	4
12/13/15	48	26	22	48	14	34	3
11/19/15	48	24	24	48	14	34	4
9/10/15	49	26	22	47	11	36	5
7/19/15	47	25	22	48	13	35	5
5/31/15	47	25	23	48	14	34	4
3/29/15	49	29	20	46	12	34	5
1/15/15	48	26	21	48	10	38	5
12/14/14	44	24	20	52	14	38	4
10/26/14	42	21	20	52	14	38	7

10/12/14	44	25	19	51	12	39	4
9/7/14	42	22	19	54	15	39	5
6/1/14	43	21	21	53	15	38	4
4/27/14	42	20	21	54	13	41	4
3/2/14	43	23	20	54	14	41	2
1/23/14	43	22	21	55	13	42	3
12/15/13	42	24	18	55	14	40	4
11/17/13	41	22	20	57	14	42	2
10/20/13	44	23	20	54	12	42	2
9/15/13	45	25	20	51	14	37	4
7/21/13	45	22	22	49	14	35	6
5/19/13	48	26	22	48	10	37	4
4/14/13	44	22	22	53	12	41	3
3/10/13	44	24	20	52	10	42	4
1/13/13	50	24	25	47	10	37	3
12/16/12	50	27	23	48	10	38	3

Call for full trend.

b. The threat of terrorism

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/24/16	45	23	22	48	10	38	7
12/13/15	43	19	23	53	9	44	4
11/19/15	40	21	19	54	11	43	6
1/15/15	47	22	25	45	14	31	8
12/14/14	43	21	22	48	14	34	9
10/12/14	42	21	21	50	15	35	8
1/23/14	50	29	21	42	14	28	8
1/15/12	56	36	20	38	10	28	6
11/3/11	60	37	23	34	12	22	6
9/1/11	62	33	29	32	12	21	6
6/5/11	60	35	25	34	13	21	6
5/2/11*	69	42	27	21	9	12	10
2/8/10	56	28	28	39	14	25	5
1/15/10	55	31	23	42	14	28	4
11/15/09	53	31	22	41	14	27	6
9/12/09	55	31	24	34	12	23	11
6/21/09	57	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	7
4/21/09**	57	"	"	26	"	"	17

*Washington Post-Pew Research Center

**Pew Research Center

13. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) If the 2016 Democratic presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today and the candidates were (Hillary Clinton), (Bernie Sanders) and (Martin O'Malley), for whom would you vote? Which candidate would you lean toward?

1/24/16 - NET LEANED VOTE PREFERENCE

Among reg voters:

	2016	----- 2015 -----				
	1/24	12/13	11/19	10/18	9/10	7/19
Lincoln Chafee	NA	NA	NA	*	1	1
Hillary Clinton	55	59	60	64	56	68
Martin O'Malley	4	5	3	2	3	2
Bernie Sanders	36	28	34	25	28	16
Jim Webb	NA	NA	NA	2	2	5
Other (vol.)	1	1	1	1	1	2
None of them (vol.)	2	2	1	3	5	3
Would not vote (vol.)	1	2	0	1	1	1

No opinion	2	4	1	2	4	3
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14. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS IF NAMED A CANDIDATE) Will you definitely vote for [NAMED CANDIDATE] or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else?

1/24/16 - Summary Table - among reg. voters

	Definitely vote	Chance change mind	No opinion
All candidates	52	47	2
Hillary Clinton	57	41	2
Bernie Sanders	46	53	1

15. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Thinking just about (Clinton) and (Sanders), who do you think [ITEM]?

Full item wording:

- a. is more honest and trustworthy
- b. has the better personality and temperament to serve effectively as president
- c. has a better chance of getting elected in November 2016
- d. would do more to bring needed change to Washington
- e. is closer to you on the issues

1/24/16 - Summary Table

	More honest	Better personality	Better chance	Bring change	Closer on issues
Clinton	36	58	65	49	47
Sanders	48	30	26	42	43
Both (vol.)	4	3	1	1	3
Neither (vol.)	4	2	2	3	2
No opinion	8	7	6	4	5

Trend:

a. Is more honest and trustworthy

	1/24/16	12/13/15	10/18/15
Clinton	36	38	42
Sanders	48	44	41
Both (vol.)	4	5	7
Neither (vol.)	4	7	7
No opinion	8	5	4

b. No trend

c. Has a better chance of getting elected in November 2016

	1/24/16	10/18/15
Clinton	65	73
Sanders	26	21
Both (vol.)	1	2
Neither (vol.)	2	2
No opinion	6	3

d. No trend

e. Is closer to you on the issues

	1/24/16	12/13/15	10/18/15
Clinton	47	54	53
Sanders	43	37	36
Both (vol.)	3	2	3
Neither (vol.)	2	2	2
No opinion	5	5	5

16. (ASKED OF LEANED DEMOCRATS) Again, thinking about (Clinton) and (Sanders), who do you trust more to handle [ITEM]?

Full item wording:

- a. the economy
- b. immigration issues
- c. the threat of terrorism
- d. regulating banks and other financial institutions
- e. a major international crisis
- f. health care

1/24/16 - Summary Table

	The economy	Immigration issues	The threat of terrorism	Regulating banks	Major crisis	Health care
Clinton	54	59	63	42	68	56
Sanders	36	30	26	48	27	35
Both (vol.)	4	4	3	1	1	2
Neither (vol.)	1	3	3	2	2	2
No opinion	5	5	4	7	3	6

*** END ***