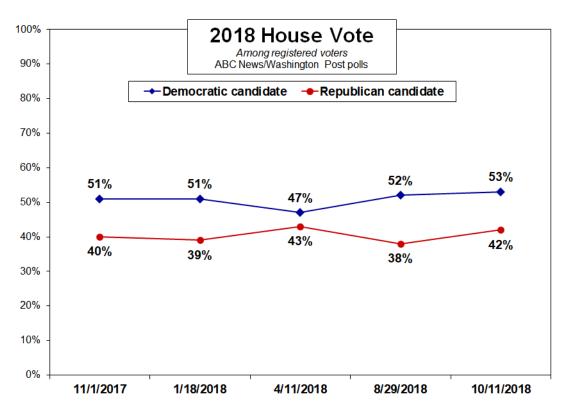
ABC NEWS/WASHINGTON POST POLL: Trump and the Midterms EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE AFTER 12:01 a.m. Sunday, Oct. 14, 2018

Trump's Approval Improves, Yet Dems Still Lead for the House

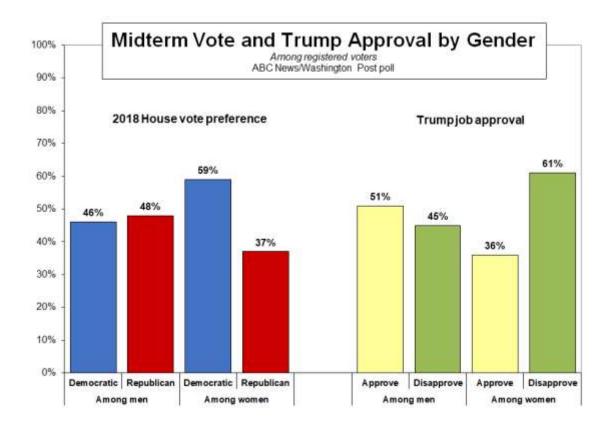
Donald Trump's job approval rating advanced to its second-highest of his career in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll, but not by enough to erase a double-digit Democratic lead in midterm election vote preferences.

Boosted by comparatively strong ratings on the economy, Trump has 41 percent approval for his work in office overall, up from 36 percent in late August. Still, 54 percent disapprove – a problem for the Republican Party, given that most potential voters say they're looking for candidates who share their opinion of the president.

Democratic candidates for the House lead Republicans by 11 percentage points among registered voters, 53-42 percent. That holds among likely voters across a range of turnout scenarios, with 12- to 14-point Democratic leads. It's difficult for Democrats to hold their vote share in the shift from registered to likely voters, especially in midterms – a testament to Democratic motivation this year.



The Democrats' advantage reflects a wide gender gap in this poll, produced for ABC by Langer Research Associates. Women who are registered to vote support Democratic candidates by 59-37 percent, while men split about evenly, 46-48 percent. That, in turn, reflects these women's more negative views of Trump – they're 16 points more apt than men to disapprove of his work in office. As reported Friday, they're also more critical of his latest Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh.



If it holds on Election Day, the current 24-point gender gap in House vote preference would be the widest on record for a midterm election in exit polls dating back to 1982 (albeit slightly; it was 21 points in 1994 and 20 in 2014).

Women also now express a disproportionate sense of urgency: Seventy percent say it's more important to them to vote this year than in past midterms, more than the 62 percent of men who say so. In August it was even, 65 percent in both groups.

While this survey points to continued tailwinds for the Democrats, some results offer hope to the GOP. One is the bump in Trump's approval; the other is that fewer registered voters now say they'd rather see the Democrats win control of the House, to act as a check on Trump – still a majority, 54 percent, but down from 60 percent in late August.

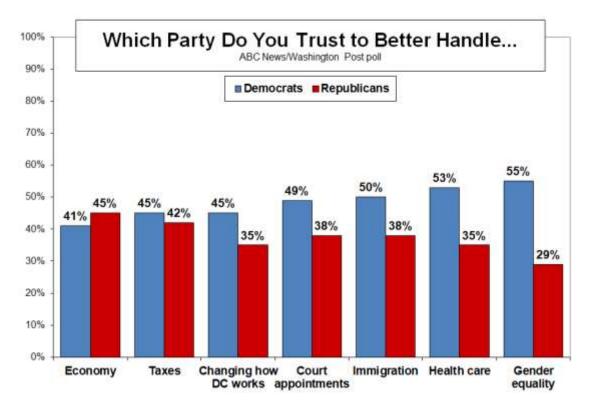
ISSUES – Still, the Democrats' midterm advantages are reflected across a range of issues. Health care is the most striking: The public by a broad 53-35 percent trusts the Democratic Party more

than the Republicans to handle this issue, and 82 percent call it highly important in their vote, matching the economy in the top slot for potential vote impact.

Perhaps echoing the Kavanaugh controversy, Americans trust the Democrats over the GOP to handle "equal treatment of men and women in U.S. society" by an even wider margin, 55-29 percent – and 76 percent call this especially important in their vote.

The Democrats also lead in trust to change the way Washington works (45-35 percent, also highly important to 76 percent), as well as to handle immigration (50-38 percent, highly important to 70 percent) and Supreme Court nominations (49-38 percent, with 66 percent calling it highly important).

The Republicans are more competitive on two remaining issues – a close 41-45 percent Democratic-Republican split in trust to handle the economy, and 45-42 percent on taxes. Typically, when the Democrats are competitive on taxes, the GOP has a problem.



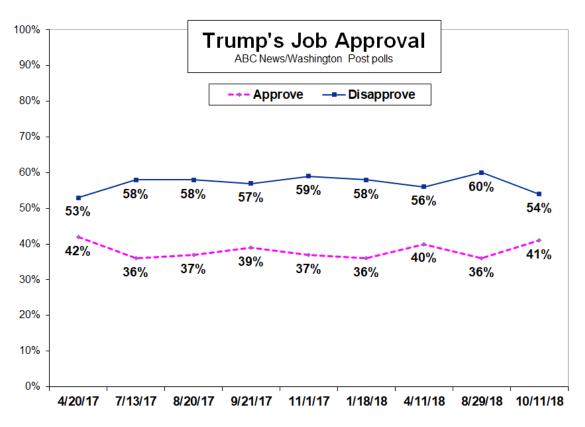
With voter registration still open, these results are among all adults. But they're highly similar among registered and likely voters alike. (There are two exceptions: The Democrats' lead on immigration narrows in some likely voter models, and the importance of Supreme Court nominations gains.)

	Highly Important	Trust to handle: Democrats-Republicans	Diff.
Economy	82%	41-45%	R+4
Health care	82	53-35	D+18
Equal treatment			
of men and women	76	55-29	D+26
Changing the way			
Washington works	76	45-35	D+10
Taxes	71	45-42	D+3
Immigration	70	50-38	D+12
SCOTUS nominations	66	49-38	D+11

In a more general measure, the Democratic Party has an 8-point lead over the Republican Party, 45-37 percent, in trust to handle the main problems facing the country. This, too, holds among registered and likely voters alike. And it includes a shift by gender: In 2014, women divided by 41-36 percent, Democratic-Republican, on this question; now it's 53-32 percent among women. Results among men are unchanged in the same period – 37-42 percent then and now.

TRUMP – Trump, for his part, has the highest approval rating of his career for handling the economy, 49 percent, with 46 percent disapproving. But his overall approval has remained in a 36-42 percent band since he took office, averaging 38 percent – the lowest average approval for a president in his first 20 months in office in polling dating back to Harry S. Truman.

Similarly, at 41 percent today, Trump's approval rating is the lowest for a president heading into his first midterm election since Truman in 1946. (Truman's party lost 54 House seats.)



Trump's low approval is a substantial problem for his party. Among registered voters who disapprove of the president, 64 percent say it's extremely or very important to them to support a candidate who shares their opinion of him. Among those who approve of Trump, 57 percent say the same. That 7-point gap was not present last month. Moreover, the fact that Trump is 10 points more unpopular than popular among registered voters (53-43 percent) puts his party at a disadvantage.

2006? – Vote preference of 53-42 percent, D-R, looks not at all like the 2014 midterms, when ABC/Post polling at this point showed an essentially even 46-44 percent split, or 2010, when it was 47-43 percent. Instead it highly resembles 2006, a 54-41 percent result at about this time.

The Republican Party gained 13 House seats in 2014 and 63 in 2010. In 2006, the Democrats gained 31. They need 23 this year to win control.

Another result adds to this evidence – an evaluation of the leanings of political independents, who have accounted for a plurality of Americans in annual averages in nine of the last 10 years. In ABC/Post polls across 2014, independents on average leaned slightly toward the Republican Party – 37 percent toward the Democrats, 41 percent toward the GOP. In 2010 it was dead even, 42-42 percent. In 2006, by contrast, independents leaned Democratic by 17 points. And this year they've done so by a 14-point margin, 46-32 percent.

		House vote	Independent	
	Presidential	preference	lean	Election
	approval	(Dem-Rep)	(Dem-Rep)	outcome
Now	41%	53-42%	46-32%	TBD
Oct. 2014	40	46-44	37-41	46-51
Oct. 2010	50	47-43	42-42	45-52
Oct. 2006	39	54-41	48-31	52-44

TURNOUT AND OVERVOTE – The Democrats, to be sure, also can find grounds to worry. Their support is strongest among minorities and young adults, groups that tend to have lower turnout in midterm elections. It's also focused in urban areas, where the Democrats generally already control House seats; specifically, registered voters favor Democratic candidates by 63-31 percent in cities, vs. an essentially even 49-46 percent in suburbs and 44-53 percent in rural areas.

That suggests a Democratic overvote in districts they already hold, and other evidence backs it up. In districts rated as solid or likely Republican by the ABC News Political Unit, Republican candidates lead by 55-40 percent. In districts rated as solid or likely Democratic, Democrats lead, by a much larger margin – 68-28 percent – more than they need in these locales. And in the 66 House districts rated as only leaning either way, or as tossups, it's a 46-47 percent D-R race.

That said, this poll suggests a higher than typical midterm turnout, which should advantage the Democrats. Among all registered voters, 76 percent say they're certain to vote next month, vs. 63 percent at this time in 2014 and 70 percent in 2010. While voting intention is high across the board, that's especially the case among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, nonwhites and 18- to 39-year-olds.

VOTER GROUPS – Shifts among groups tell an important part of the story. Conservatives favor Republican House candidates by a wider margin – 58 points – than in ABC/Post polls at this point in any of the past three midterm elections. (It was 49, 46 and 38 points in 2014, 2010 and 2006.) But moderates favor Democrats by 30 points, triple the margin in 2014, double what it was in 2010, and about matching its 2006 level. Liberals, for their part, favor Democrats by a vast 76 points.

Whites favor Republican candidates by 6 points, compared with 18 points in 2014 and 12 in 2010; whites were +4 Democratic at this point in 2006. It's among nonwhites that Democrats take their advantage, with a 46-point lead in a group that accounts for 32 percent of registered voters and anywhere from 27 to 30 percent of likely voters.

Democratic candidates have a 21-point lead among college graduates, 58-37 percent, again similar to 2006 and far from what essentially were dead heats among graduates in 2014 and 2010. But Democrats have a scant +4 edge among nongraduates, similar in this case to 2014 and 2010 and well off the 2006 polling, +13. Since nongraduates account for nearly two-thirds of the population, the Democratic weakness there represents a threat.

That said, the Democrats have some surprising comparative strengths. They trail the GOP by 9 points in rural areas of the country, as noted; that compares with 26- and 17-point deficits at this point in rural America in 2014 and 2010. By region, the Democrats are especially strong in the comparatively liberal Northeast, a 27-point lead, again far more than in 2014 or 2010 and quite similar to 2006.

But it's independents, the quintessential swing voters, who may matter most. They currently favor Democratic candidates by 14 points, 52-38 percent. Independents by contrast were +4 and +13 Republican at this stage in 2014 and 2010. Now they look – yet again – as they did in 2006.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by telephone Oct. 8-11, 2018 among a random national sample of 1,144 adults, with 65 percent reached on cell phones and 35 percent on landlines. Results have a margin of <u>sampling error</u> of 3.5 points for the full sample, including design effects due to weighting. Partisan divisions are 33-26-35 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by <u>Langer Research Associates</u> of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology <u>here</u>.

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.

11-15 previously released.

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

		Approve			Disappro	ove	No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/11/18	41	29	12	54	7	46	6
8/29/18	36	24	12	60	7	53	4
4/11/18	40	25	15	56	10	46	4
1/18/18	36	24	13	58	9	49	5
11/1/17	37	25	12	59	8	50	4
9/21/17	39	26	13	57	9	48	4
8/20/17	37	22	15	58	13	45	5
7/13/17	36	25	11	58	10	48	6
4/20/17	42	27	15	53	10	43	5

2. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the congressional election next month: 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			No op.
10/11/18 RV	76	12	7	3	*	*	*
8/29/18* RV	75	13	10	2	*	NA	*
4/11/18** RV	67	13	13	5	1		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
* 8/29/18, "i	n November	"					
** 4/11/18 an 2018"	d earlier,	"How likely	y are you	to vote in	the congressional	election	ı in

Compare to: I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the Congressional election (insert time frame): Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

						Don't think	Already	
		Certain	Probably	Chances	Less than	will vote	voted	No
		to vote	vote	50/50	50/50	(vol.)	(vol.)	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
*10/26/14 "the week after next", 10/12/14 "next month," 9/7/14 and previous "in								
November,	November," except for 10/28/10 and 11/04/06 "next week's Congressional election"							

3. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) 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)? (IF ALREADY VOTED) Did

you vote for the (Democratic candidate) or the (Republican candidate) in your congressional district?

	Dem	Rep	Other	Neither	Would not	No
	cand.	cand.	(vol.)	(vol.)	vote (vol.)	opinion
10/11/18	53	42	*	2	*	3
8/29/18	52	38	1	3	0	6
4/11/18	47	43	1	3	*	5
1/18/18	51	39	1	2	1	6
11/1/17	51	40	1	3	1	4
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
Call for full	trend.					

4. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Compared with past midterm elections, is voting this year much more important to you, more important, the same, less important or much less important?

	- Moi	re impor	tant -	About	- Les	ss impor	tant -	First year	
		Much		the			Much	eligible	No
	NET	more	More	same	NET	Less	less	(vol.)	opinion
10/11/18	66	34	33	31	3	2	1	0	*
8/29/18	65	32	33	31	3	2	1	*	*

Compare to: Is voting this year more important to you than in past midterm elections, less important or about the same?

				First year	
	More	Less	About	eligible	No
	important	important	the same	(vol.)	opinion
1/18/18 RV	53	1	45	1	1

5. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Is supporting a candidate who shares your opinion on Donald Trump important to you in the congressional election, or not important? (IF IMPORTANT) Would you say it's extremely important to you, very important, or somewhat important?

	More	importan	t	Le	ss importar	nt	No
	NET Ex	tremely	Very	NET	Somewhat	Not	opinion
10/11/18 RV	58	32	27	40	11	29	1
8/29/18* RV	59	33	26	39	12	28	2
4/11/18 RV	52	31	21	47	14	33	1
* 8/29/18 and	earlier,	"the cond	gressio	nal el	ection this	s fall"	

6. Overall, which party, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans), do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years?

			Both	Neither	
	Democrats	Republicans	(vol.)	(vol.)	No opinion
10/11/18	45	37	2	11	4
10/26/14	39	37	4	14	6

10/12/14	39	39	3	15	5
9/7/14	39	40	3	14	4
4/27/14	40	34	2	17	7
6/5/11	41	32	2	20	4
10/28/10 RV	45	40	2	11	2
10/3/10	42	38	3	15	2
9/2/10	40	37	3	18	2
6/6/10	44	32	2	18	4
4/25/10	46	32	2	18	3
2/8/10	43	37	2	17	2
11/15/09	47	31	2	17	3
9/12/09	48	28	3	19	2
2/22/09	56	30	3	9	3
12/14/08	56	23	3	15	3
5/11/08	53	32	2	10	2
Call for fu	ll trend.				

7. 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)

10/11/18 8/29/18 7/13/17	Controlled by Democrats 55 60 53	Controlled by Republicans 39 31 35	No opinion 7 8 12
Among registe	ered voters:		
10/11/18 RV 8/29/18 RV	54 60	41 34	5 6
7/13/17 RV	52	38	10

Compare to: Regardless of how you might vote in your own congressional district, do you think it's more important (to have the Democrats in charge of Congress, to help support Obama's policies), or (to have the Republicans in charge of Congress, to act as a check on Obama's policies)?

	Dems in charge	Reps in charge	No opinion
4/27/14 RV	39	53	8
9/2/10 RV	39	55	6
7/11/10 RV	43	51	6

Which statement comes closer to the way you think: Since the president is a Republican, we need (Republicans in charge of Congress to help support the president's agenda), or since the president is a Republican, we need (Democrats in charge of Congress to act as a check on the president and his agenda).

	Dems	Reps	No difference	No	
	in charge	in charge	(vol.)	opinion	
9/26/02 RV	55	36	6	3	

8. Which political party, the (Democrats) or the (Republicans), do you trust to do a better job handling [ITEM]?

10/11/18 - Summary Table

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. the economy	41	45	3	7	4
c. equal treatment of (men) and					

	(women) in U.S. society	55	29	4	7	5
d.	taxes	45	42	2	6	4
e.	immigration	50	38	2	6	4
g.	appointment of judges to					
	the Supreme Court	49	38	2	6	5
h.	health care	53	35	2	7	4
i.	changing the way things are					
	working in Washington	45	35	2	14	5

Trend:

a. the economy					
			Both	Neither	No
	Democrats	Republicans	(vol.)	(vol.)	opinion
10/11/18	41	45	3	7	4
10/12/14	37	42	3	13	5
9/7/14	40	45	1	10	4
4/27/14	41	38	2	14	5
3/2/14	41	41	2	12	3
1/23/14	37	44	2	15	3
10/3/10	44	37	4	14	2
9/2/10	42	40	2	15	2
7/11/10	42	34	3	17	5
3/26/10	44	36	3	16	1
2/1/08	52	33	2	10	3
Call for full t	crend.				

c. No trend.

d. taxes

			Both	Neither	No
	Democrats	Republicans	(vol.)	(vol.)	opinion
10/11/18	45	42	2	6	- 4
3/2/14	42	41	1	11	4
10/3/10	40	43	3	13	2
9/2/10	39	45	2	12	2
3/26/10	41	39	4	14	3
2/1/08	48	40	1	8	4
11/1/07	46	40	2	8	4
5/15/06	52	38	1	5	2
11/2/05	48	38	1	11	1
12/15/02	46	44	2	6	2
9/26/02	44	44	3	6	4
4/22/01*	38	52	2	6	3
*"Cutting tax	es"				
Coll for full	trand				

Call for full trend.

e. immigration

			Both	Neither	No
	Democrats	Republicans	(vol.)	(vol.)	opinion
10/11/18	50	38	2	6	4
7/19/15*	37	40	1	15	7
10/12/14	37	40	2	13	7
9/7/14	39	43	1	10	6
4/27/14	40	34	3	14	9
3/2/14	44	36	1	13	7
1/23/14	39	37	2	15	7
10/3/10	37	37	3	17	6
9/2/10	37	40	5	14	4
3/26/10	38	35	3	16	8
2/1/08	40	37	2	12	9

11/1/07	42	35	4	13	6
10/8/06	49	36	4	10	3
6/25/06	45	40	1	9	5
5/15/06	48	34	1	14	4
4/9/06	50	38	1	7	4
*7/19/15	and previous	"immigration	issues"		

g. No trend.

h. health care

			Both	Neither	No
	Democrats	Republicans	(vol.)	(vol.)	opinion
10/11/18	53	35	2	7	4
10/12/14	45	37	1	11	5
9/7/14	46	40	1	9	4
4/27/14	43	35	1	13	7
3/2/14	44	36	2	15	3
1/23/14	44	35	1	16	3
10/3/10	46	38	1	12	3
9/2/10	44	39	2	13	3
3/26/10	47	34	2	15	3
2/1/08	56	29	2	10	4
11/1/07	54	29	2	10	5
9/30/07	56	26	2	12	5
10/8/06	61	28	1	7	2
5/15/06	61	28	1	7	2
4/9/06	61	29	*	6	3
11/2/05	54	29	2	12	3
Call for full	trend.				

i. No trend.

9. Now for each of those items, please tell me how important each will be in your vote for Congress this year. The first is [ITEM]. Will it be one of the single most important issues, very important, somewhat important or less important than that?

10/11/18 - Summary Table

			Important		Not as important -		No	
		NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	op.
a.	the economy	82	21	61	17	15	2	1
с.	equal treatment of (men) and							
	(women) in U.S. society	76	20	56	23	17	6	1
d.	taxes	71	16	55	28	23	5	1
e.	immigration	70	17	52	30	23	7	1
g.	appointment of judges to							
	the Supreme Court	66	17	50	32	23	9	2
h.	health care	82	21	61	18	15	3	1
i.	changing the way things are							
	working in Washington	76	22	54	21	16	5	3

Trend:

a. the economy

	Important			No	No		
	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	op.
10/11/18	82	21	61	17	15	2	1
6/1/14	84	24	60	15	12	3	1
1/23/14	86	24	62	13	12	1	*
9/2/10 RV	93	31	62	7	7	*	*

10/8/06 RV	77	12	65	23	20	3	*
4/9/06	80	16	64	20	18	2	*

c. No trend.

d. taxes

	Important			No	No		
	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	op.
10/11/18	71	16	55	28	23	5	1
9/2/10 RV	69	11	58	31	23	8	1

e. immigration

	Important			No	Not as important -			
	NET 1	of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	op.	
10/11/18	70	17	52	30	23	7	1	
6/1/14*	49	10	39	49	33	16	2	
1/23/14	48	8	39	52	38	14	1	
9/2/10 RV	55	12	43	45	30	15	0	
10/8/06 RV	54	7	47	45	29	16	1	
4/9/06	60	12	48	40	32	8	*	
*6/1/14 and	previous:	"immigra	ation :	issues"				

g. No trend.

h. health care

	Important			No	ant -	No	
	NET 1	l of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	op.
10/11/18	82	21	61	18	15	3	1
6/1/14*	69	16	53	28	20	8	4
1/23/14*	69	15	54	30	23	7	1
9/2/10 RV	82	19	63	18	15	3	*
10/8/06 RV	71	11	61	28	22	6	*
4/9/06	75	16	60	25	20	4	*
* 6 / 1 / 1 / and	1/00/1/	"+he new	fodomal	$h \circ o l + h$	aama 1a"		

 $^{*}6/1/14$ and 1/23/14 "the new federal health care law"

i. No trend.

Compare to: The way Washington is working

		Important			Not as important -			
	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	op.	
6/1/14	68	17	51	29	23	6	3	
1/23/14	71	17	53	29	24	4	1	
9/2/10 RV	65	9	56	33	27	6	1	

10. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling the economy? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

		Approve	e		Disappro	No		
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion	
10/11/18	49	35	14	46	11	35	5	
8/29/18	45	30	15	47	12	36	8	
4/11/18	46	30	16	48	12	36	6	
9/21/17	43	27	16	49	13	36	8	
7/13/17	43	26	17	41	12	29	16	

** END **