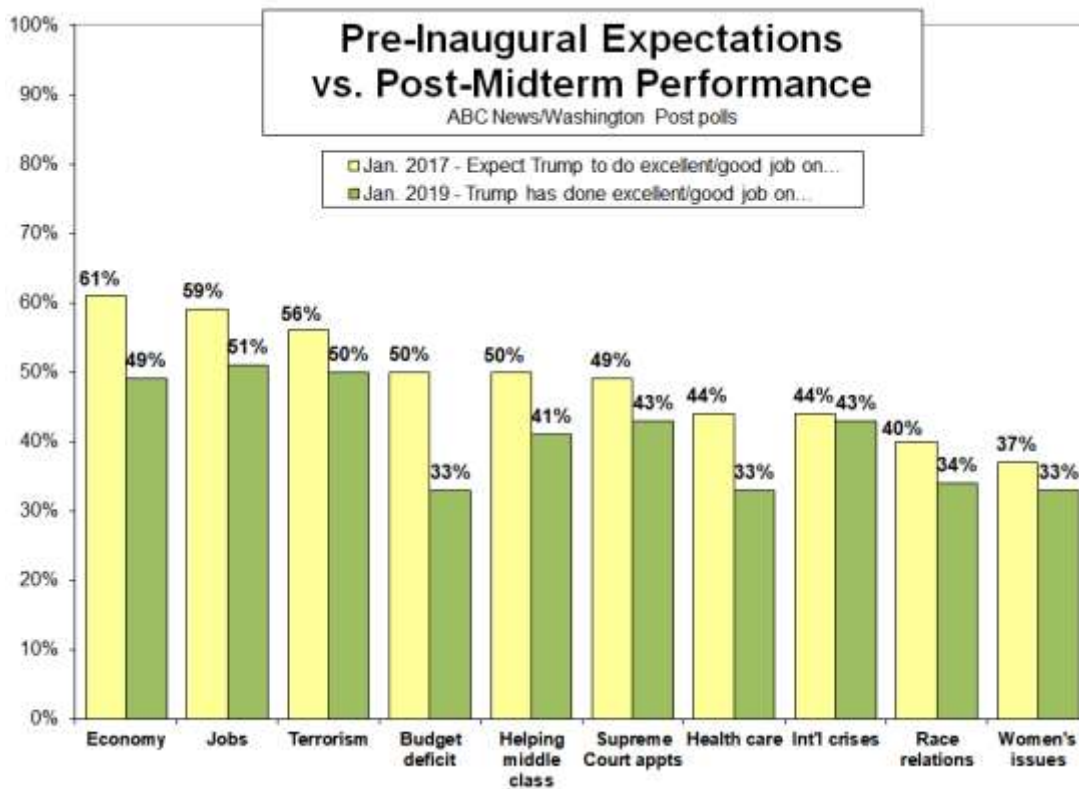


Two Years Into Trump’s Presidency, A Deficit in Confidence Across Gov’t

Two years into Donald Trump’s presidency and after a month-plus partial shutdown, a wide deficit of confidence marks public views of the government in Washington: Americans give poor marks to Trump’s work across a range of issues – yet broadly mistrust the opposition as well.

Only 35 percent in this ABC News/Washington Post poll express confidence in Trump to make the right decisions for the country’s future; 64 percent don’t trust him in this central task. But it’s no better for the Democrats in Congress, 34-65 percent; House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, 30-62 percent; or the Republicans in Congress, 30-69 percent.

That said, Trump leads the pack in negative intensity: Nearly half of Americans, 48 percent, say they have no confidence “at all” in the president; compared with 37 percent who say that about Pelosi; 30 percent, the Republicans in Congress; and 29 percent, the Democrats.



The poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds Trump underperforming the tepid expectations that greeted him when he took office. In the biggest gap, 50 percent of

Americans expected him to do a good job handling the deficit; just 33 percent say he’s in fact doing so, a 17-point deficit. He likewise trails expectations by 12 percentage points on handling the economy, 11 points on health care and four to nine points on a range of other issues.

Trump’s challenges extend to his personal ratings as well. Just 32 percent see him favorably as a person (59 percent unfavorably), a scant 2 points from Bill Clinton’s record low favorability at the height of the sex scandal that led to his impeachment.

Even then, Clinton’s job approval at the time was 64 percent. Trump’s is 37 percent, as [reported](#) Friday, the lowest on record for a president at this point in office in polls back 72 years.

The public divides about evenly on whether Trump is a strong leader – then goes sour on other scores. Majorities from 56 to 65 percent rate him negatively on having brought “needed change” to Washington, having the right personality and temperament for the office, being a good political dealmaker, being honest and trustworthy and understanding the problems of people like them.

That last item, empathy for others, can provide cushioning for a politician when the chips are down, as it did for Clinton and Barack Obama alike. Numerically, it’s Trump’s weakest attribute.

Trump...	Yes	No
Is a strong leader	48%	51%
Has brought needed change to Washington	41	56
Has the kind of personality and temperament it takes to serve effectively as president	39	58
Is good at making political deals	36	58
Is honest and trustworthy	36	61
Understands your problems	33	65

GROUPS – Demonstrating the importance of perceived empathy, among those who think Trump understands their problems, 91 percent also approve of his work in office, compared with just 9 percent of those who don’t think he understands them.

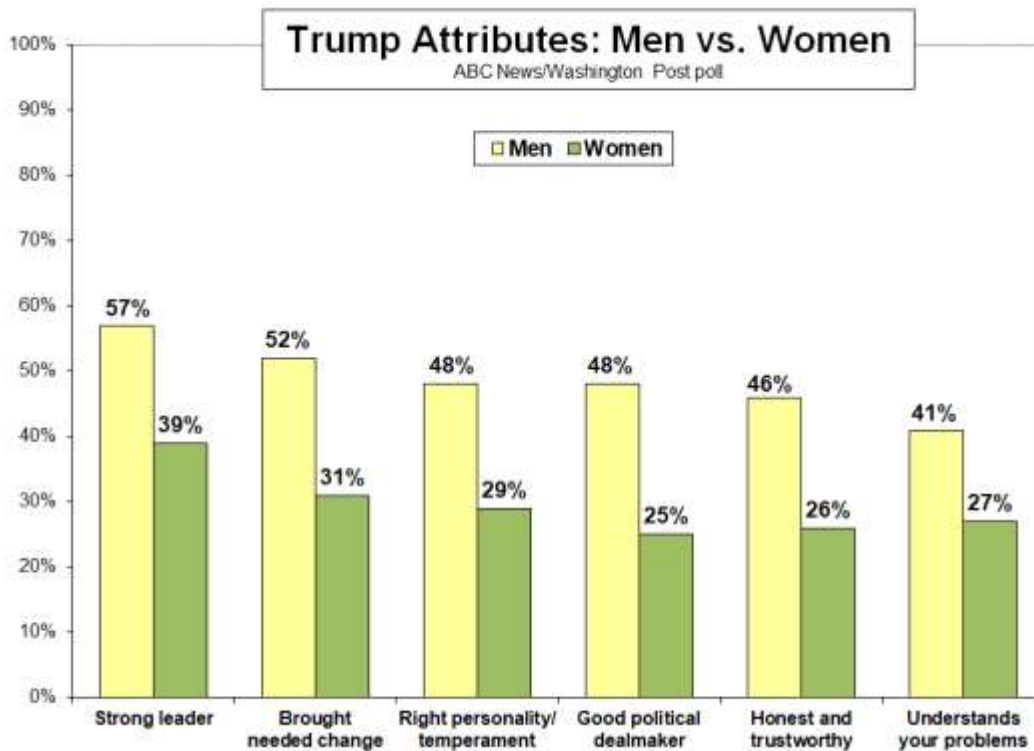
Still, even parts of his base find Trump unlikable: 29 percent of evangelical white Protestants, 24 percent of strong conservatives and 22 percent of Republicans see him unfavorably as a person. Unfavorably soars, of course, among his political detractors.

GENDER GAP – Then there’s the gender gap. As reported Friday, a new low of 27 percent of women approve of Trump’s job performance, compared with 49 percent of men, a vast gender gap. It holds on other measures as well. Men rate Trump more positively than women across personal attributes; in the biggest split, 48 percent of men say Trump is good at making political deals, while 25 percent of women agree.

Similarly, 43 percent of men have confidence in Trump to make the right decisions for the country’s future, vs. just 28 percent of women. Indeed, 57 percent of women have no confidence in him at all, compared with 39 percent of men.

And – in the most basic measure of personal popularity – 42 percent of men but only 24 percent of women see Trump favorably as a person. Instead 55 percent of women see him “strongly” unfavorably, vs. 35 percent of men.

Gender divisions exist even within party lines. Among Democratic men, for instance, 21 percent see Trump favorably as a person. Among Democratic women, it’s 5 percent. (There’s also a 16-point gap between independent men and women.)



On issues, as noted, Trump’s underperformance vs. expectations when he took office is biggest in terms of handling the federal deficit and the economy – and his shortfalls on these reach across party lines. While 87 percent of Republicans expected him to do an excellent or good job on the deficit, 67 percent now think he’s done so, a 20-point gap. (It’s 25 points among independents and 12 points among Democrats.) On the economy, he trails expectations by 12 points among Democrats, 18 points among independents and 8 points in his own party.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 21-24, 2019, 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. Partisan divisions are 32-24-37 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

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

Analysis by Christine Filer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>. Readers are welcome to [subscribe](#) to the Langer Research Associates email distribution list.

Media contacts: [Heather Riley](#) or [Julie Townsend](#).

Full results follow.

1, 7-17 previously released. 18-22 held for release.

2. What kind of job do you think Trump has done so far on [ITEM], excellent, good, not so good, or poor?

1/24/19 - Summary Table

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No op.
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
a. handling the economy	49	27	22	49	22	27	3
b. dealing with race relations	34	15	19	63	15	47	3
c. creating jobs	51	26	25	46	21	25	3
d. helping the middle class	41	18	23	56	17	39	3
e. handling the federal budget deficit	33	12	21	61	18	43	6
f. improving the health care system	33	9	24	62	22	39	6
g. dealing with the threat of terrorism	50	25	25	48	19	29	2
h. handling international crises	43	21	23	54	20	34	3
i. handling issues of special concern to women	33	12	21	63	17	46	5
j. making appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court	43	24	19	50	18	33	7
k. dealing with border security	43	28	14	57	16	41	1

* Full sample asked items a and b; half sample asked items c-f; other half asked items g-k

Trend:

a. handling the economy

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No opinion
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
1/24/19	49	27	22	49	22	27	3
11/1/17*	44	20	24	53	23	30	3
1/15/17**	61	25	36	37	17	21	2

*"What kind of job do you think Trump is doing on..."

**"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

b. dealing with race relations

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
1/24/19	34	15	19	63	15	47	3
11/1/17*	28	7	21	70	19	51	1
1/15/17**	40	12	28	57	23	35	2

**"What kind of job do you think Trump is doing on..."

**"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

c. creating jobs

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
1/24/19	51	26	25	46	21	25	3
1/15/17*	59	24	35	38	20	18	4

**"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

d. helping the middle class

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
1/24/19	41	18	23	56	17	39	3
1/15/17*	50	17	32	47	21	26	4

**"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

e. handling the federal budget deficit

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
1/24/19	33	12	21	61	18	43	6
1/15/17*	50	18	32	47	23	23	3

**"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

f. improving the health care system

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
1/24/19	33	9	24	62	22	39	6
11/1/17*	26	6	20	70	23	47	4
1/15/17**	44	14	30	51	24	27	5

**"What kind of job do you think Trump is doing on..."

**"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

g. dealing with the threat of terrorism

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
1/24/19	50	25	25	48	19	29	2
11/1/17*	43	18	25	55	21	33	2
1/15/17**	56	23	33	42	19	23	2

**"What kind of job do you think Trump is doing on..."

**"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

h. handling international crises

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
1/24/19	43	21	23	54	20	34	3
1/15/17*	44	14	30	53	23	29	4

**"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

i. handling issues of special concern to women

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
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	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
1/24/19	33	12	21	63	17	46	5
1/15/17*	37	11	26	61	24	36	2

*"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

j. making appointments to the U.S. Supreme Court

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
1/24/19	43	24	19	50	18	33	7
1/15/17*	49	17	32	46	19	26	5

*"What kind of job do you expect Trump to do on..."

k. No trend.

3. Do you think the policies of the Trump administration have made the United States more respected around the world today, less respected or have they not made much of a difference either way?

	More respected	Less respected	Not much difference	No opinion
1/24/19	25	51	21	3

Compare to:

Do you think the policies of the Obama administration have made the United States more respected around the world today, less respected or have they not made much of a difference either way?

	More respected	Less respected	Not much difference	No opinion
9/26/12* RV	32	38	27	2

*Fox News

4. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Trump as a person? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Favorable -----			----- Unfavorable -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/24/19	32	20	12	59	14	45	9
4/11/18	32	17	16	61	14	47	7

Compare to:

George W. Bush

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
7/30/01	63	34	2
6/3/01	61	34	5
4/22/01	64	32	4

Bill Clinton

	Favorable	Unfavorable	No opinion
6/20/04	50	49	2
1/15/01	44	51	5
10/22/00 LV	33	60	7
10/21/00 LV	33	62	6
10/20/00 LV	32	63	5
10/1/00 RV	37	58	5
9/6/00 RV	35	62	3
8/20/00 RV	35	61	3

8/10/00	RV	34	62	4
1/26/00		34	61	5
12/15/99	RV	32	65	3
12/15/99		36	62	2
9/2/99		38	59	3
3/14/99		30	67	4
3/4/99		40	54	6
12/15/98		41	56	3
11/1/98	LV	37	60	3
11/1/98		42	54	4

5. Do you think Trump [ITEM], or not?

1/24/19 - Summary Table

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. is a strong leader	48	51	1
b. is honest and trustworthy	36	61	2
c. has the kind of personality and temperament it takes to serve effectively as president	39	58	3
d. has brought needed change to Washington	41	56	3
e. understands the problems of people like you	33	65	1
f. is good at making political deals	36	58	6

*Half sample asked items a-c; other half asked d-f

Trend:

a. is a strong leader

	Yes	No	No opinion
1/24/19	48	51	1
11/1/17	40	59	1
4/20/17	53	45	2

b. is honest and trustworthy

	Yes	No	No opinion
1/24/19	36	61	2
11/1/17	33	65	2
4/20/17	38	58	4
10/13/16 RV	34	64	3
9/22/16	38	57	5
9/8/16	31	64	4
8/4/16	34	62	4
3/6/16	27	69	4
9/10/15*	35	59	6

*"Please tell me whether the following statement applies to Trump, or not: He is honest and trustworthy."

c. has the kind of personality and temperament it takes to serve effectively as president

	Yes	No	No opinion
1/24/19	39	58	3
11/1/17	31	66	3
4/20/17	38	59	3
10/13/16 RV	34	64	3
9/22/16	35	61	4
8/4/16	31	67	2
3/6/16	25	72	3
9/10/15*	33	63	4

*"Please tell me whether the following statement applies to Trump, or not: He has the kind of personality and temperament it takes to serve effectively as president"

d. has brought needed change to Washington

	Yes	No	No opinion
1/24/19	41	56	3
11/1/17	42	55	3
9/21/17	39	59	2

e. understands the problems of people like you

	Yes	No	No opinion
1/24/19	33	65	1
11/1/17	37	62	1
4/20/17	37	61	2
3/6/16	26	72	2
9/10/15*	29	67	4

*Please tell me whether the following statement applies to Trump, or not. He understands the problems of people like you.

f. is good at making political deals

	Yes	No	No opinion
1/24/19	36	58	6
11/1/17	37	58	4

6. How much confidence do you have in [ITEM] to make the right decisions for the country's future - a great deal of confidence, a good amount, just some or none at all?

1/24/19 - Summary Table

	-Grt deal/Good amt-		---- Some/None ----			No opinion
	NET	Great deal	Good amt	NET	Just some	None at all
a. Trump	35	21	14	64	16	48
b. the Republicans in Congress	30	10	20	69	39	30
c. the Democrats in Congress	34	12	22	65	36	29
d. Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	30	13	17	62	24	37

Trend:

a. Trump

	-Grt deal/Good amt-			----- Some/none ----			
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Just some	None at all	No opinion
1/24/19	35	21	14	64	16	48	1
11/1/17	34	20	15	65	19	46	1
1/15/17	38	15	23	61	27	34	1

b. the Republicans in Congress

	-Grt deal/Good amt-			----- Some/none ----			
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Just some	None at all	No opinion
1/24/19	30	10	20	69	39	30	2
11/1/17	21	6	14	76	48	28	3
1/23/14	19	5	14	80	47	34	1
7/11/10	26	8	18	73	43	29	1
1/15/10	24	6	18	75	47	28	1

10/18/09	19	4	15	79	46	33	2
8/17/09	21	4	16	78	45	33	1
4/24/09	21	4	16	78	50	28	2
1/16/09	29	8	21	69	49	21	2

c. the Democrats in Congress

	-Grt deal/Good Great	amt- Good	NET	----- Some/none Just	----- None at all	No opinion	
1/24/19	34	12	22	65	36	29	1
11/1/17	27	8	19	70	42	28	3
1/23/14	27	9	17	72	38	34	1
7/11/10	32	12	20	67	35	32	1
1/15/10	32	11	21	68	33	35	1
10/18/09	34	12	23	64	37	27	2
8/17/09	35	14	21	63	35	29	1
4/24/09	36	12	24	63	38	25	1
1/16/09	43	15	28	56	37	19	2

d. No trend.

*** END ***