

Ipsos Public Affairs



Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

# Core Political Data

01.03.2018

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GAME CHANGERS



# IPSOS POLL CONDUCTED FOR REUTERS

## Core Political Data

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted

*for*



**REUTERS**

*date*

December 29, 2017 –  
January 2, 2018



For the survey,

*a sample of*

1,770

Americans

*including*

749

Democrats

624

Republicans

229

Independents

*ages*

18+

were interviewed online

# Core Political Data

The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval.

In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus the following percentage points



For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

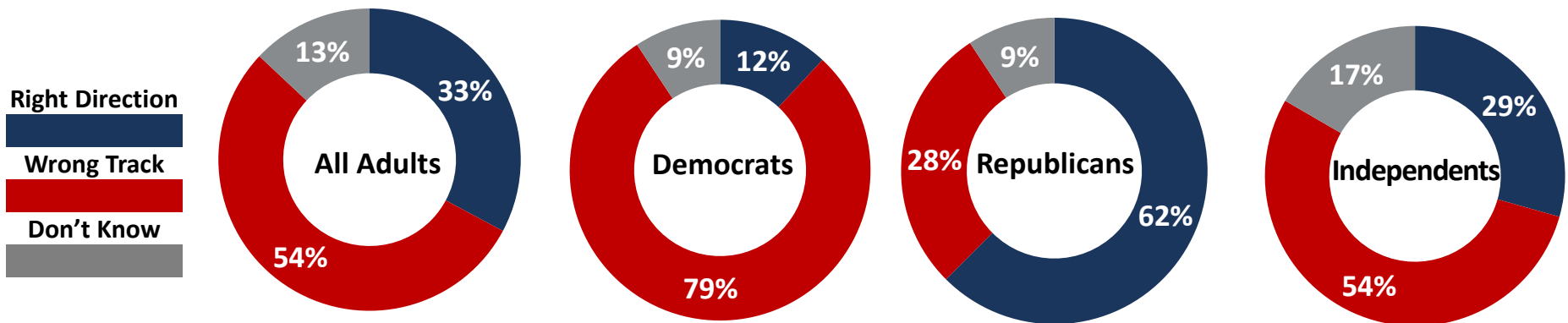
# Core Political Data

- The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by:
  - **Gender**
  - **Age**
  - **Education**
  - **Ethnicity**
  - **Region**
- Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls.
- All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error.
- Figures marked by an asterisk (\*) indicate a percentage value of greater than zero but less than one half of one per cent.
- Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.
- *To see more information on this and other Reuters/Ipsos polls, please visit:  
<http://polling.reuters.com/>*

ALL ADULT AMERICANS

# Right Direction/Wrong Track

Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?



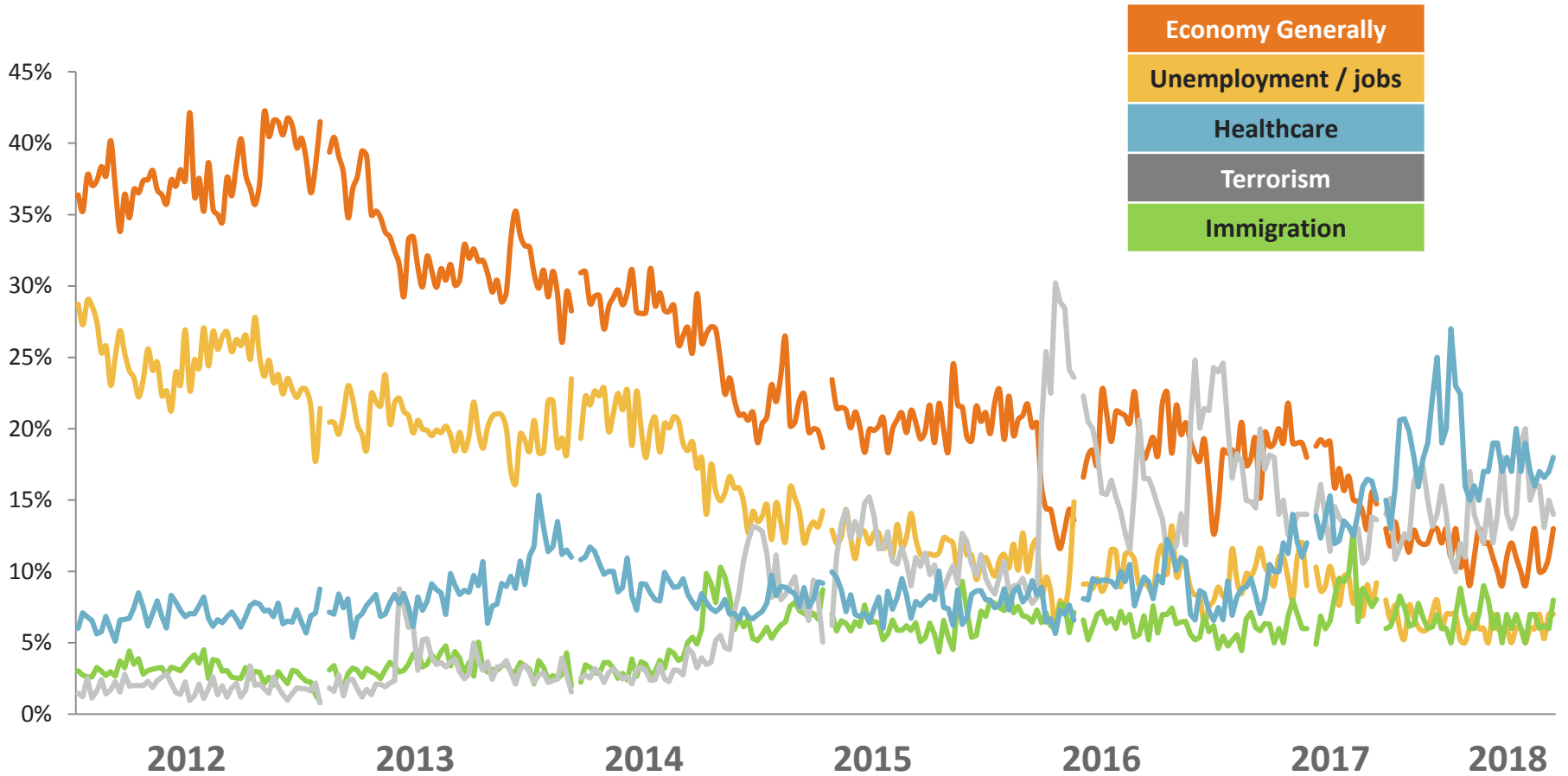
# Main Problem Facing America

In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the US today?

|                               | Total | Democrat | Republican | Independent |
|-------------------------------|-------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Economy generally             | 13%   | 13%      | 12%        | 16%         |
| Unemployment / lack of jobs   | 7%    | 7%       | 6%         | 8%          |
| War / foreign conflicts       | 6%    | 5%       | 4%         | 6%          |
| Immigration                   | 8%    | 4%       | 14%        | 7%          |
| Terrorism / terrorist attacks | 14%   | 9%       | 22%        | 11%         |
| Healthcare                    | 18%   | 25%      | 13%        | 16%         |
| Energy issues                 | 1%    | 2%       | 1%         | 1%          |
| Morality                      | 7%    | 3%       | 12%        | 6%          |
| Education                     | 6%    | 8%       | 4%         | 5%          |
| Crime                         | 6%    | 6%       | 4%         | 7%          |
| Environment                   | 4%    | 6%       | 1%         | 5%          |
| Don't know                    | 4%    | 3%       | 2%         | 4%          |
| Other                         | 7%    | 9%       | 5%         | 9%          |

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# Main Problem Facing America



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## DONALD TRUMP



### Overall, do you approve or disapprove about the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

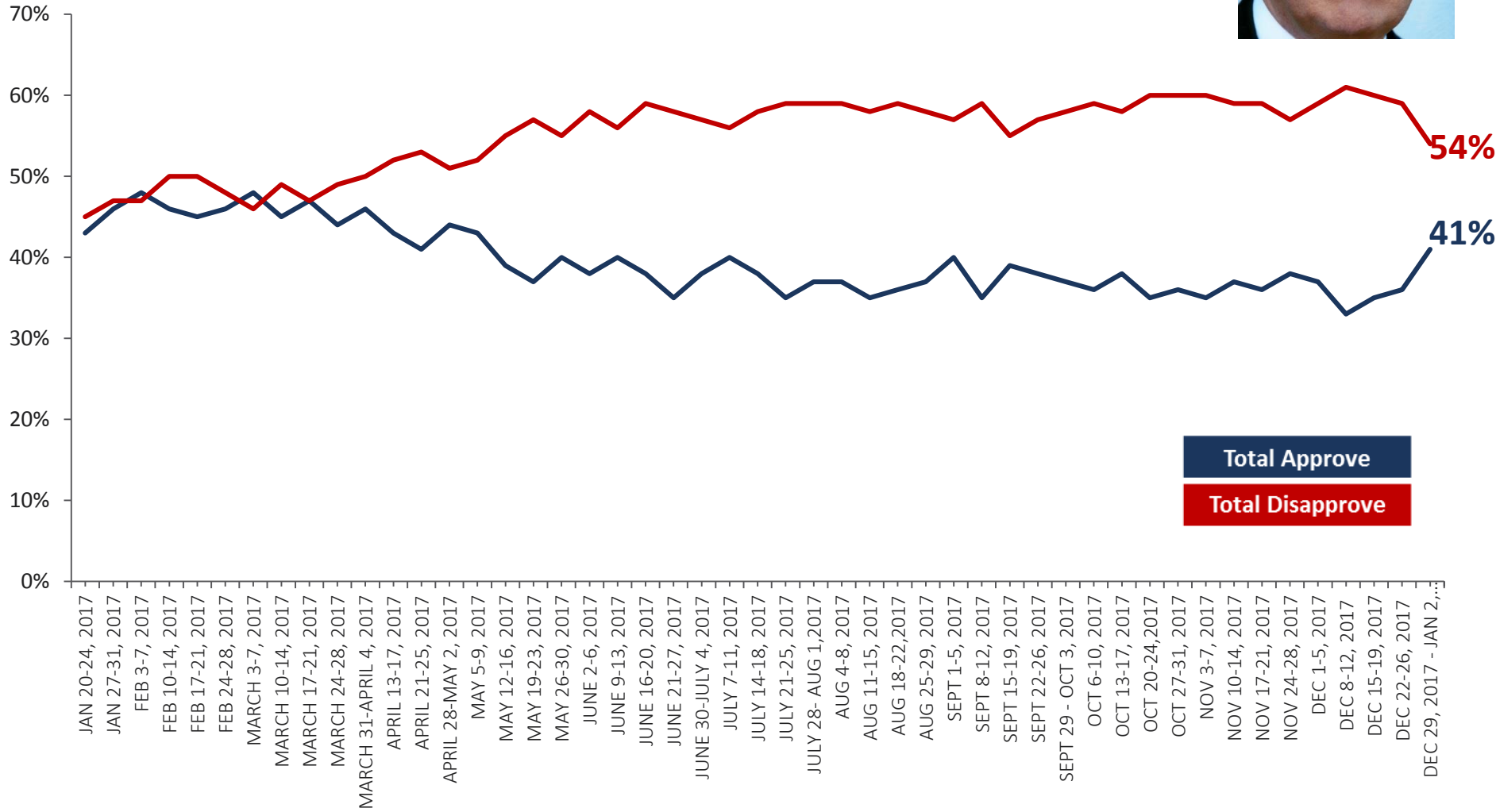
Is that strongly (approve/disapprove) or somewhat (approve/disapprove)? (Asked of those who selected “approve” or “disapprove”)  
 Q2b. If you had to choose, do you lean more towards approve or disapprove? (Asked of those who selected “don’t know”)

|                         | Total      | Democrat   | Republican | Independent |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Strongly approve        | 20%        | 5%         | 43%        | 15%         |
| Somewhat approve        | 17%        | 6%         | 31%        | 20%         |
| Lean towards approve    | 4%         | 2%         | 5%         | 4%          |
| Lean towards disapprove | 2%         | 1%         | 1%         | 6%          |
| Somewhat disapprove     | 10%        | 10%        | 10%        | 14%         |
| Strongly disapprove     | 42%        | 74%        | 10%        | 34%         |
| Not sure                | 5%         | 2%         | 1%         | 9%          |
| <b>TOTAL APPROVE</b>    | <b>41%</b> | <b>13%</b> | <b>78%</b> | <b>38%</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL DISAPPROVE</b> | <b>54%</b> | <b>85%</b> | <b>21%</b> | <b>54%</b>  |



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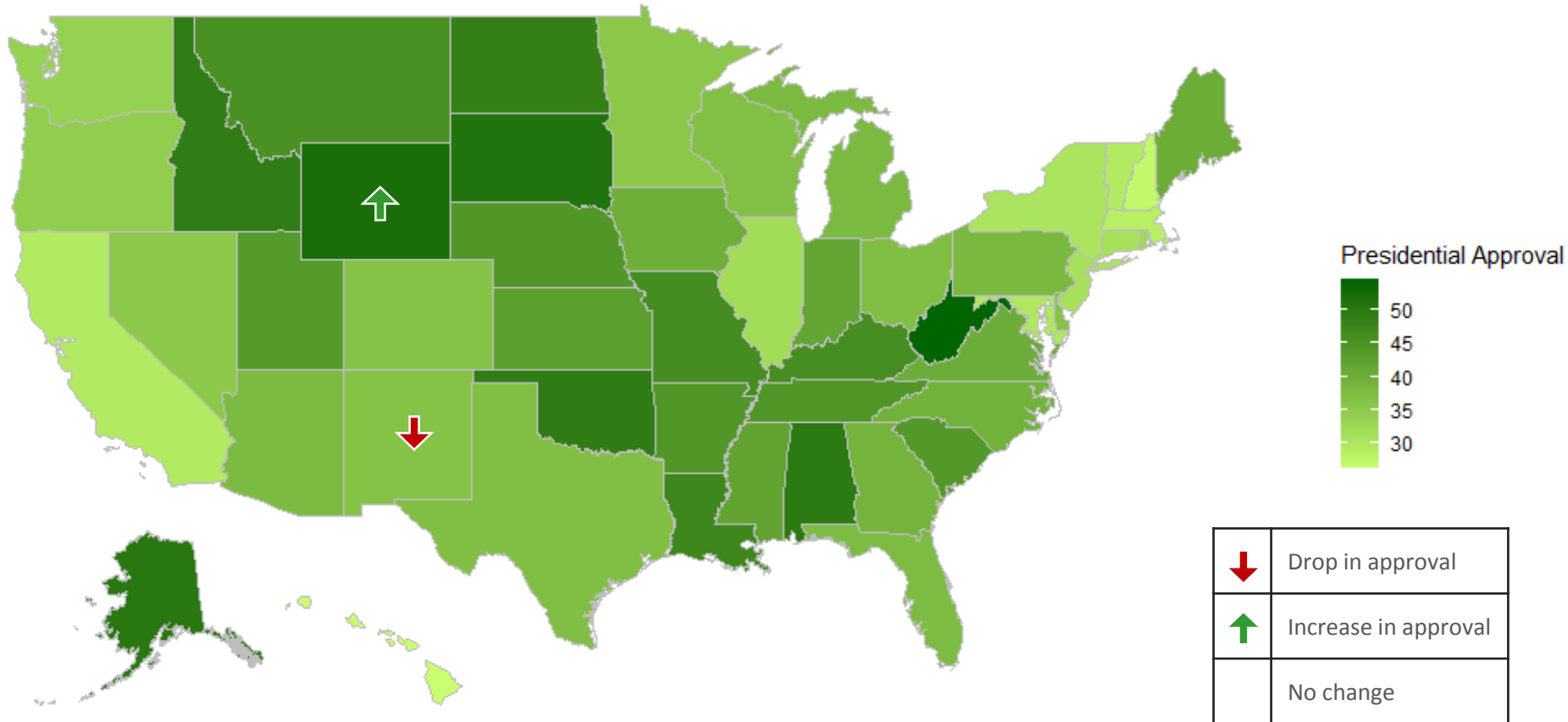
# Weekly Approval



Total Approve  
Total Disapprove

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# Approval by State (June – November 2017)



Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted 6/1/2017 to 11/30/2017 among 67,285; arrows represent changes of plus or minus 3 percentage points from 5/1/2017 thru 10/31/2017 based on change in color bracket. Color scale represents degree of Trump approval, with each color corresponding to varying degrees of job approval from over 55% approval to under 35% approval  
Overall, do you approve or disapprove about the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

# Approval Attributes



Do you approve or disapprove about the way Donald Trump is handling the following issues?

|  | Strongly approve | Somewhat approve | Lean towards approve | Lean towards disapprove | Somewhat disapprove | Strongly disapprove | Don't know | TOTAL APPROVE | TOTAL DISAPPROVE |
|--|------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|------------|---------------|------------------|
| The US economy                               | 21%              | 14%              | 12%                  | 9%                      | 7%                  | 29%                 | 8%         | 47%           | 45%              |
| US foreign policy                            | 17%              | 13%              | 10%                  | 9%                      | 7%                  | 35%                 | 10%        | 40%           | 51%              |
| Healthcare reform                            | 16%              | 12%              | 11%                  | 10%                     | 7%                  | 38%                 | 7%         | 39%           | 54%              |
| Employment and jobs                          | 21%              | 13%              | 13%                  | 9%                      | 9%                  | 25%                 | 9%         | 48%           | 43%              |
| Dealing with Congress                        | 15%              | 12%              | 12%                  | 11%                     | 10%                 | 31%                 | 10%        | 39%           | 52%              |
| Dealing with ISIS / ISIL                     | 22%              | 14%              | 12%                  | 8%                      | 9%                  | 26%                 | 10%        | 48%           | 42%              |
| International trade                          | 16%              | 13%              | 12%                  | 9%                      | 8%                  | 30%                 | 11%        | 41%           | 48%              |
| Taxation                                     | 17%              | 14%              | 10%                  | 9%                      | 8%                  | 34%                 | 9%         | 41%           | 50%              |
| Corruption                                   | 14%              | 12%              | 11%                  | 9%                      | 7%                  | 36%                 | 11%        | 37%           | 52%              |
| The environment                              | 13%              | 12%              | 12%                  | 9%                      | 6%                  | 38%                 | 10%        | 37%           | 54%              |
| Immigration                                  | 22%              | 12%              | 9%                   | 8%                      | 7%                  | 36%                 | 6%         | 42%           | 51%              |
| The way he treats people like me             | 16%              | 11%              | 9%                   | 9%                      | 7%                  | 41%                 | 7%         | 36%           | 57%              |
| The effort he is making to unify the country | 17%              | 11%              | 11%                  | 9%                      | 6%                  | 38%                 | 7%         | 39%           | 54%              |

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# White House Exits

Of the following White House or Executive Branch staff members, who do you believe will be the next to resign or be terminated? Will it be...

|  | Yes        |
|--|------------|
| <b>Rex Tillerson, Secretary of State</b>                   | <b>15%</b> |
| <b>Jeff Sessions, Attorney General</b>                     | <b>14%</b> |
| <b>Sarah Sanders, Press Secretary</b>                      | <b>7%</b>  |
| <b>Kellyanne Conway, Senior Counselor</b>                  | <b>6%</b>  |
| <b>John F. Kelly, Chief of Staff</b>                       | <b>6%</b>  |
| <b>Mike Pence, Vice President</b>                          | <b>5%</b>  |
| <b>Steve Mnuchin, Treasury Secretary</b>                   | <b>5%</b>  |
| <b>Hope Hicks, Director of Strategic Communications</b>    | <b>5%</b>  |
| <b>Stephen Miller, Senior Advisor for Policy</b>           | <b>5%</b>  |
| <b>James Mattis, Secretary of Defense</b>                  | <b>4%</b>  |
| <b>Gary Cohn, Director of White House Economic Council</b> | <b>4%</b>  |
| <b>H.R. McMaster, National Security Advisor</b>            | <b>3%</b>  |
| <b>Wilbur Ross, Secretary of Commerce</b>                  | <b>2%</b>  |

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# Congressional Approval

*Split Sampled*

Overall, do you approve or disapprove about the way your Congressperson is handling their job as Representative?

|                         | Total      | Democrat   | Republican | Independent |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Strongly approve        | 11%        | 13%        | 15%        | 3%          |
| Somewhat approve        | 33%        | 31%        | 42%        | 22%         |
| Somewhat disapprove     | 19%        | 19%        | 17%        | 29%         |
| Strongly disapprove     | 17%        | 21%        | 11%        | 24%         |
| Don't know              | 20%        | 15%        | 15%        | 23%         |
| <b>TOTAL APPROVE</b>    | <b>44%</b> | <b>45%</b> | <b>57%</b> | <b>25%</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL DISAPPROVE</b> | <b>36%</b> | <b>40%</b> | <b>28%</b> | <b>52%</b>  |

Overall, do you approve or disapprove about the way Congress as a whole is handling its job?

|                         | Total      | Democrat   | Republican | Independent |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Strongly approve        | 5%         | 4%         | 7%         | 4%          |
| Somewhat approve        | 20%        | 14%        | 32%        | 21%         |
| Somewhat disapprove     | 33%        | 33%        | 35%        | 37%         |
| Strongly disapprove     | 30%        | 42%        | 22%        | 23%         |
| Don't know              | 12%        | 6%         | 4%         | 16%         |
| <b>TOTAL APPROVE</b>    | <b>25%</b> | <b>19%</b> | <b>39%</b> | <b>25%</b>  |
| <b>TOTAL DISAPPROVE</b> | <b>63%</b> | <b>75%</b> | <b>57%</b> | <b>60%</b>  |

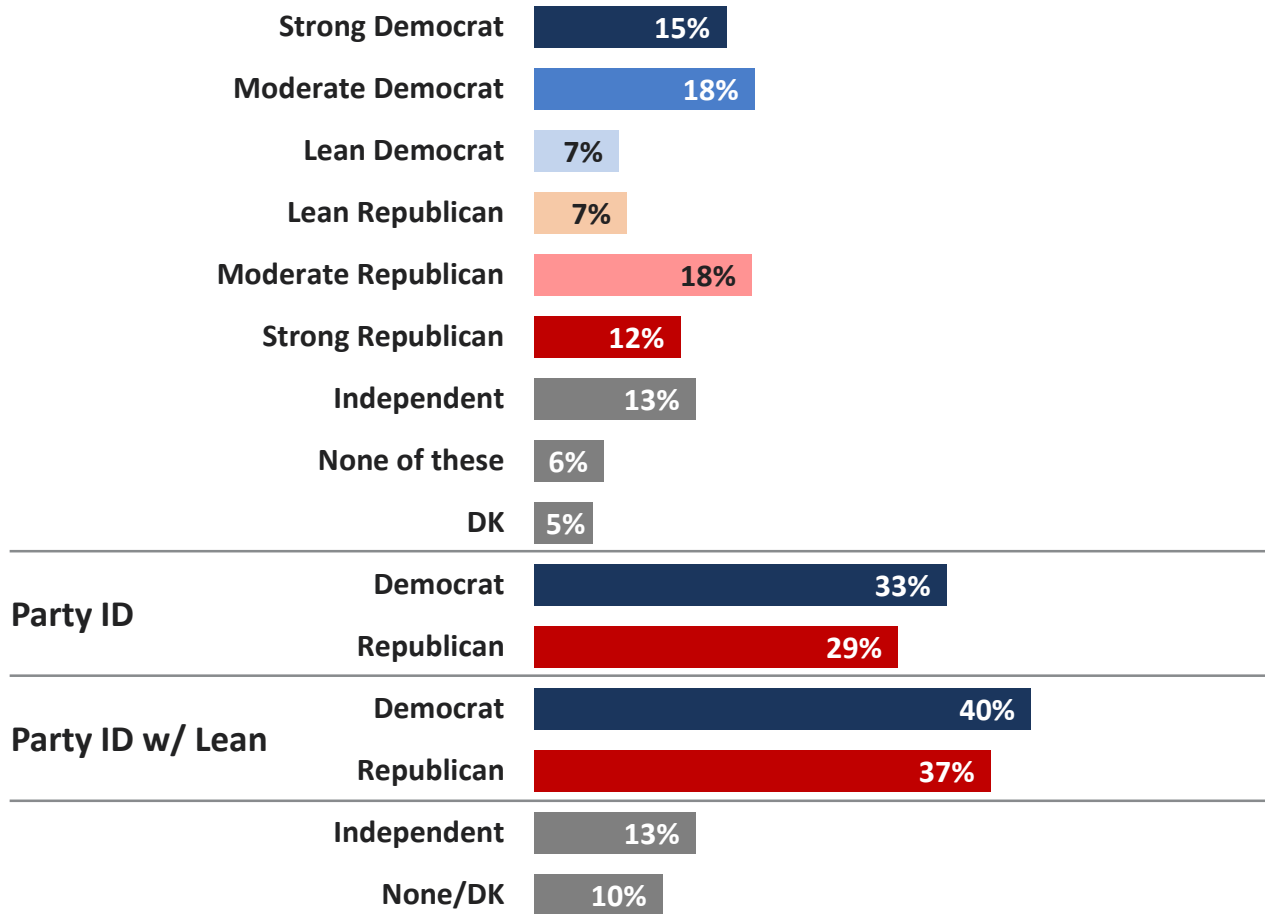
# 2018 Generic Congressional Ballot Question

Thinking about the elections in 2018, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district where you live?

|  | Total | Democrat | Republican | Independent |
|--|-------|----------|------------|-------------|
| Democratic candidate                   | 38%   | 84%      | 6%         | 15%         |
| Republican candidate                   | 31%   | 2%       | 77%        | 14%         |
| Candidate from another political party | 4%    | 2%       | 2%         | 18%         |
| Will not/do not plan to vote           | 11%   | 4%       | 4%         | 23%         |
| Don't know / Refused                   | 16%   | 8%       | 11%        | 30%         |

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# Political Identity



All Adults: n= 1,770

# How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that  $Y$  has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter  $\theta$ , i.e.,  $Y|\theta \sim \text{bin}(n, \theta)$ , where  $n$  is the size of our sample. In this setting,  $Y$  counts the number of “yes”, or “1”, observed in the sample, so that the sample mean ( $\bar{y}$ ) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion  $\theta$ . This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the bayesian and the classical framework. The bayesian 1 statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution.

The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for  $\theta$  adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one’s knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution ( $\pi(\theta/y) \sim \beta(y+a, n-y+b)$ ), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for  $\theta$  is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for  $\theta$  given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on  $\pi(\theta/y)$ . Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that  $a=1$  and  $b=1$  and  $y=n/2$ . Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \pm \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$



# How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

## FOR THIS POLL

The Bayesian credibility interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect  $1+L=1.3$  to account for complex weighting<sup>2</sup>

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below:

|  | SAMPLE SIZE | CREDIBILITY INTERVALS |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|
|  | 2,000       | 2.5                   |
|  | 1,500       | 2.9                   |
|  | 1,000       | 3.5                   |
| Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100. | 750         | 4.1                   |
|  | 500         | 5.0                   |
|  | 350         | 6.0                   |
|  | 200         | 7.9                   |
|  | 100         | 11.2                  |

<sup>1</sup> *Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition*, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC | ISBN: 158488388X | 2003

<sup>2</sup> Kish, L. (1992). *Weighting for unequal Pi*. *Journal of Official Statistics*, 8, 2, 183200.

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## GAME CHANGERS

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