



# Most Americans believe teachers have the right to strike

## Ipsos/NPR survey on the public's views of teachers

**Washington, DC, April 26, 2018** — A recent survey conducted on behalf of NPR shows that just one in four Americans believe teachers in this country are paid fairly. Furthermore, three-quarters agree teachers have the right to strike, including two-thirds of Republicans, three-quarters of independents and nearly 9 in 10 Democrats.

Though nearly two-thirds approve of national teachers' unions, an equal number (63%) agree that teachers' unions do make it harder to fire bad teachers. Half of Americans (51%) agree that teachers' unions improve both the quality of education and teachers, though these two questions vary based on party affiliation. Two-thirds or more of Democrats agree that teachers' unions improve the quality of education and teachers, compared to less than half of Republicans.

1. Which three of the following topics do you find the most worrying?

	<b>Total (n=1,005)</b>	<b>Democrat (n=327)</b>	<b>Republican (n=381)</b>	<b>Independent (n=173)</b>
Crime or gun violence	35%	47%	24%	31%
Terrorism	35	29	44	33
Healthcare	32	35	29	33
Government budget and debt	21	17	25	23
Immigration	20	11	33	17
Political extremism or polarization	19	21	19	21
Nuclear conflict	17	20	15	14
Education	14	14	13	11
Taxes	13	11	17	12
Climate change	13	20	5	14
Social inequality	12	21	3	13
Foreign conflicts	10	11	10	11
Unemployment	10	10	7	14
Natural disasters	10	9	8	7
Other	3	2	3	4
None of these	3	1	4	1

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**  
*Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs*  
Email: [chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)  
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



## Press Release – continued –

2. Have you seen any news reports in the last week about teachers or teachers' unions?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Yes	62%	72%	61%	59%
No	38	28	39	41

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the following:

Total approve	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
National teachers' unions	63%	80	55	57
The U.S. Department of Education leadership	42%	37	54	38

a. Do you approve or disapprove of the following - National teachers' unions

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	25%	35%	16%	25%
Somewhat approve	18	24	17	14
Lean toward approve	21	21	21	18
Lean toward disapprove	9	4	14	8
Somewhat disapprove	7	5	10	7
Strongly disapprove	7	2	11	10
Don't know	14	9	10	18
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>25</i>

b. Do you approve or disapprove of the following - The U.S. Department of Education leadership

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	9%	12%	9%	8%
Somewhat approve	16	15	20	17
Lean toward approve	17	11	25	12
Lean toward disapprove	16	15	18	14
Somewhat disapprove	10	10	9	10
Strongly disapprove	18	29	7	21
Don't know	14	9	12	18
<i>Approve (Net)</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>37%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>38%</i>
<i>Disapprove (Net)</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>54</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>44</i>

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**  
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs  
Email: [chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)  
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



## Press Release – continued –

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

<b>Total agree</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Public school teachers have the right to strike	75%	87	67	77
Teachers' unions make it harder to fire bad teachers	63%	53	77	57
Teachers' unions improve the quality of education	51%	69	39	46
Teachers' unions improve the quality of teachers	51%	67	42	46
Public school teachers are paid fairly	26%	21	36	23

a. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements - Public school teachers have the right to strike

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	43%	61%	28%	43%
Somewhat agree	33	26	39	34
Somewhat disagree	12	7	18	9
Strongly disagree	8	2	12	11
Don't know	5	4	4	3
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>75%</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>77%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>9</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>20</i>

b. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements - Teachers' unions improve the quality of education

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	19%	32%	11%	18%
Somewhat agree	32	37	28	28
Somewhat disagree	21	15	26	24
Strongly disagree	12	3	21	14
Don't know	16	13	13	16
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>46%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>38</i>

c. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements - Teachers' unions make it harder to fire bad teachers

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	29%	18%	42%	28%
Somewhat agree	34	35	35	29
Somewhat disagree	15	20	12	14
Strongly disagree	7	11	2	8
Don't know	16	16	8	21
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>31</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>22</i>

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**  
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs  
Email: [chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)  
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



## Press Release – continued –

d. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements - Teachers' unions improve the quality of teachers

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	19%	27%	13%	18%
Somewhat agree	32	40	28	28
Somewhat disagree	21	18	26	19
Strongly disagree	13	5	21	16
Don't know	14	10	11	19
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>46%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>35</i>

e. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements - Public school teachers are paid fairly

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly agree	10%	9%	15%	5%
Somewhat agree	16	12	21	18
Somewhat disagree	30	27	35	25
Strongly disagree	38	47	24	44
Don't know	5	5	4	7
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>68</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>70</i>

5. How would you describe the area in which you live?

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Rural	24%	17%	24%	30%
Suburban	49	50	50	50
Urban	27	34	26	20

6. Party ID

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strong Democrat	13%	36	-	-
Moderate Democrat	13	37	-	-
Lean Democrat	9	26	-	-
Lean Republican	9	-	25	-
Moderate Republican	15	-	43	-
Strong Republican	11	-	31	-
Independent	17	-	-	100
Other	3	-	-	-
Don't know/Refuse	10	-	-	-
<i>Democrat (Net)</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>100%</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Republican (Net)</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>-</i>
<i>Independent</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>100</i>

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**  
Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs  
Email: [chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)  
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



## Press Release – continued –

### About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted April 11-12, 2018 on behalf NPR. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,005 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 327 Democrats, 381 Republicans, and 173 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos’s online panel (see link below for more info on “Access Panels and Recruitment”), partner online panel sources, and “river” sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos “Ampario Overview” sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

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. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,005, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=5).

The poll also has a credibility interval plus or minus 6.2 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 5.7 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 8.5 percentage points for Independents.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos’ online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

#### For more information on this news release, please contact:

Chris Jackson  
Vice President, U.S.  
Ipsos Public Affairs  
+1 202 420-2025  
[chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)

Mallory Newall  
Director, U.S.  
Ipsos Public Affairs  
+1 202 420-2014  
[mallory.newall@ipsos.com](mailto:mallory.newall@ipsos.com)

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**  
*Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs*  
Email: [chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)  
Tel: +1 202 420-2025



## Press Release – continued –

### About Ipsos Public Affairs

Ipsos Public Affairs is a non-partisan, objective, survey-based research practice made up of seasoned professionals. We conduct strategic research initiatives for a diverse number of American and international organizations, based not only on public opinion research, but elite stakeholder, corporate, and media opinion research.

Ipsos has media partnerships with the most prestigious news organizations around the world. In Canada, the U.S., UK, and internationally, Ipsos Public Affairs is the media polling supplier to Reuters News, the world's leading source of intelligent information for businesses and professionals. Ipsos Public Affairs is a member of the Ipsos Group, a leading global survey-based market research company. We provide boutique-style customer service and work closely with our clients, while also undertaking global research.

### About Ipsos

Ipsos is an independent market research company controlled and managed by research professionals. Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has grown into a worldwide research group with a strong presence in all key markets. Ipsos ranks fourth in the global research industry.

With offices in 88 countries, Ipsos delivers insightful expertise across five research specializations: brand, advertising and media; customer loyalty; marketing; public affairs research; and survey management.

Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,782.7 million in 2016.

#### **GAME CHANGERS**

« Game Changers » is the Ipsos signature.

At Ipsos we are passionately curious about people, markets, brands and society.

We make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and inspire clients to make smarter decisions.

We deliver with security, speed, simplicity and substance. We are Game Changers.

*ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP*

[www.ipsos.com](http://www.ipsos.com)

Address: 2020 K Street NW, Suite 410  
Washington, DC 20006  
Tel: +1 202 463-7300

Contact: **Chris Jackson**  
*Vice President, U.S., Ipsos Public Affairs*  
Email: [chris.jackson@ipsos.com](mailto:chris.jackson@ipsos.com)  
Tel: +1 202 420-2025