Ipsos Public Affairs

REUTERS

Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Core Political Approval

06.03.2015

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted

for

REUTERS

date

May 30—June 3, 2015

For the survey,

a sample of

1,638
Americans

including

643
Democrats

583
Republicans

231
Independents

ages

18+

were interviewed online

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

2.8	4.4	4.6	7.4
for all adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents

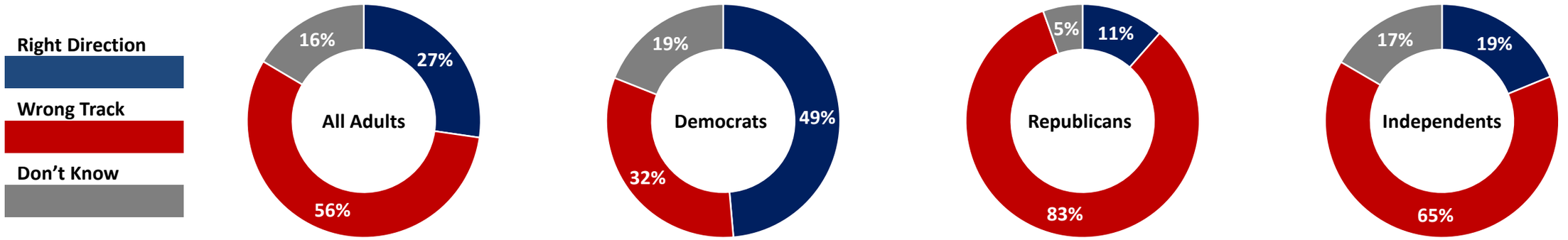
For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

- The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by:
  - Gender
  - Age
  - Education
  - Ethnicity
- 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/.*

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?
May 30–June 3, 2015



BARACK OBAMA

Overall, do you approve or disapprove about the way Barack Obama 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”) May 30–June 3, 2015

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	21%	39%	6%	13%
Somewhat approve	22%	37%	5%	23%
Lean towards approve	2%	3%	1%	6%
Lean towards disapprove	2%	2%	2%	3%
Somewhat disapprove	14%	8%	17%	18%
Strongly disapprove	32%	8%	67%	30%
Not sure	7%	3%	2%	7%
Total Approve	45%	78%	12%	42%
Total Disapprove	48%	19%	86%	51%

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Please think ahead now to the next Presidential in four years time, in 2016.

If the 2016 Republican presidential primaries were being held today, for whom of the following would you vote?

May 30–June 3, 2015

TOP 3

	Total (n=954)	Republican (n=574)	Independent (n=221)
Governor Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida	10%	15%	5%
Governor Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas	9%	12%	9%
Senator Rand Paul, senator from Kentucky	8%	9%	10%
Senator Marco Rubio, senator from Florida	6%	10%	3%
Governor Scott Walker, governor of Wisconsin	6%	9%	4%
Benjamin Carson, author and retired neurosurgeon	6%	8%	6%
Senator Ted Cruz, senator from Texas	5%	9%	3%
Governor Chris Christie, governor of New Jersey	5%	6%	6%
Donald Trump, businessman and television personality	5%	4%	3%
Senator Lindsey Graham, senator from South Carolina	3%	3%	3%
Senator Rick Santorum, former senator from Pennsylvania	3%	3%	2%
Governor George Pataki, former governor of New York	2%	2%	4%
Carly Fiorina, former Senate candidate and business executive	1%	1%	2%
Wouldn't vote	29%	9%	40%

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Regardless of your personal preference, if the Republican Presidential Primaries came down to these candidates, for whom would you vote? May 30–June 3, 2015

TOP

	Total (n=954)	Republican (n=574)	Independent (n=221)
Governor Jeb Bush, former governor of Florida	23%	33%	17%
Governor Scott Walker, governor of Wisconsin	23%	29%	19%
Governor Mike Huckabee, former governor of Arkansas	20%	28%	15%
Wouldn't vote	34%	11%	49%

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Please think ahead now to the next Presidential in four years time, in 2016.

If the 2016 Democratic presidential primaries were being held today, for whom of the following would you vote?

May 30–June 3, 2015

TOP 3

	Total (n=1015)	Democrat (n=635)	Independent (n=221)
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	37%	51%	20%
Senator Bernie Sanders, senator from Vermont	10%	13%	8%
Vice President Joe Biden	10%	12%	9%
Senator Elizabeth Warren, senator from Massachusetts	8%	5%	16%
Jim Webb, former Senator from Virginia and former Secretary of the Navy	4%	2%	7%
Governor Andrew Cuomo, governor of New York	3%	2%	4%
Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, senator from New York	2%	2%	1%
Governor Martin O'Malley, governor of Maryland	2%	2%	2%
Governor Lincoln Chafee, former Governor of Rhode Island	%	%	1%
Wouldn't vote	26%	10%	32%

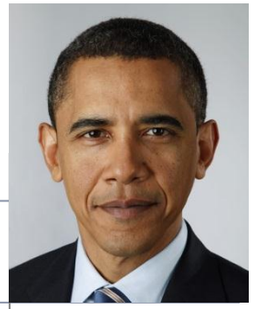
DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

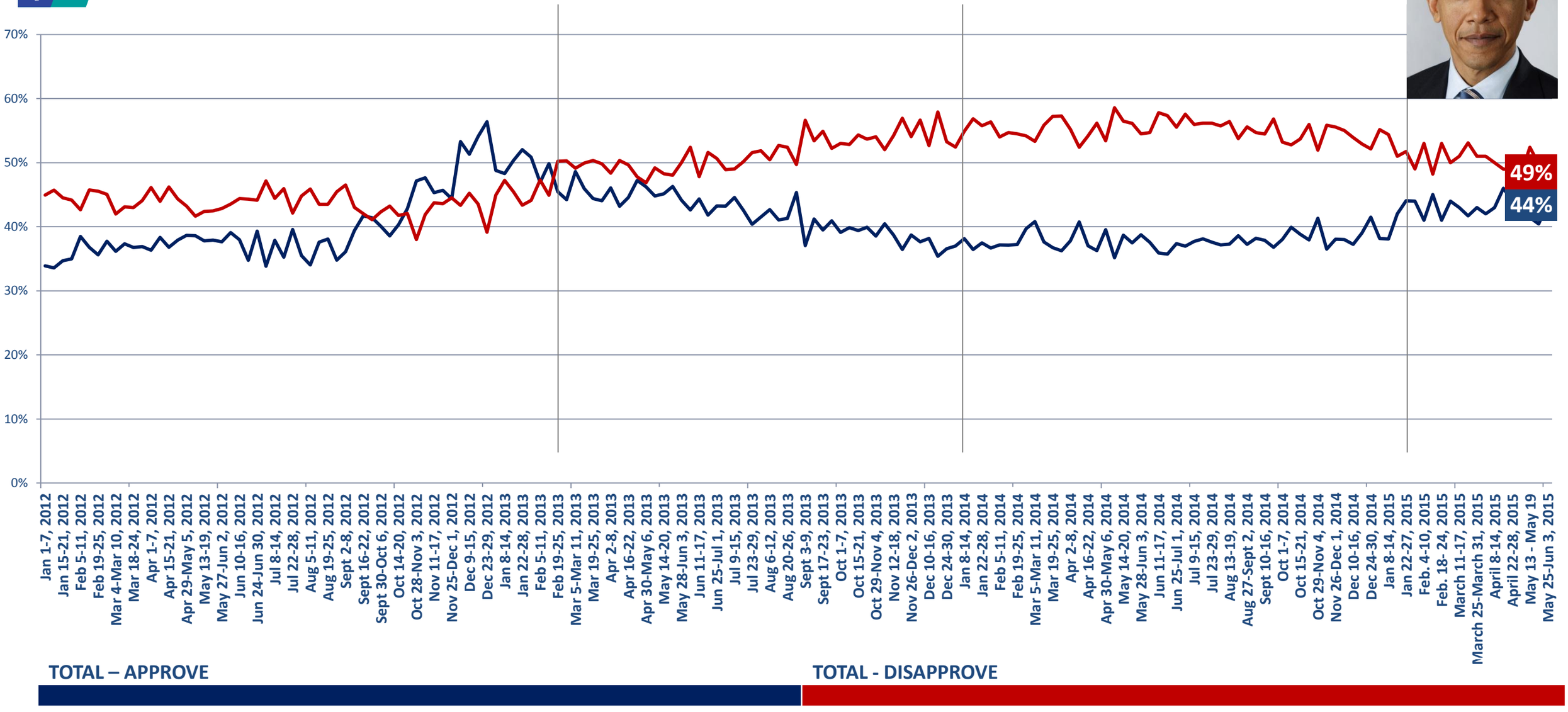
Regardless of your personal preference, if the Democratic Presidential Primaries came down to these candidates, for whom would you vote? May 30–June 3, 2015

TOP

	Total (n=1015)	Democrat (n=635)	Independent (n=221)
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	46%	60%	33%
Senator Bernie Sanders, senator from Vermont	17%	18%	21%
Vice President Joe Biden	14%	15%	18%
Wouldn't vote	24%	8%	28%

Weekly Presidential Approval





CORE POLITICAL APPROVAL

In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?

Data based on interviewing from May 25—June 3, 2015

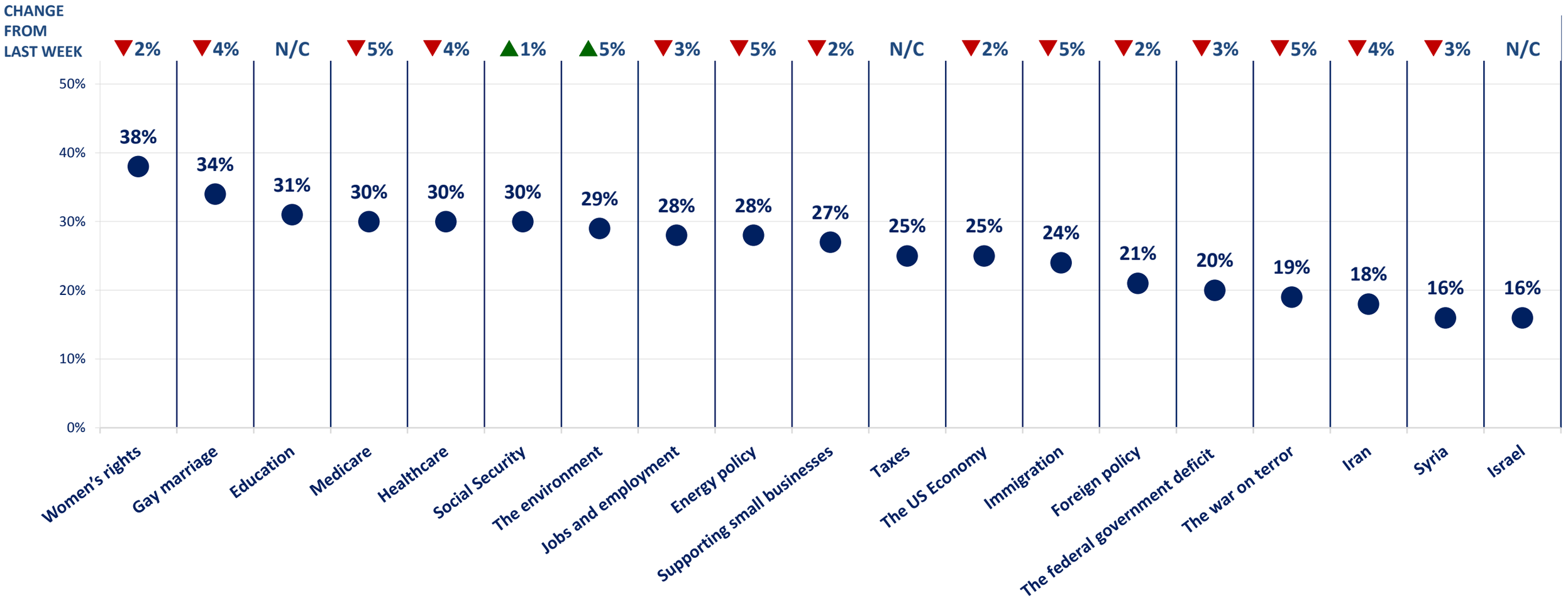
All Adults (n=849)	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Independents	Other	None	Don't know	DEM/REP PARTY DIFF
Healthcare	30%	24%	9%	2%	11%	23%	6%
The war on terror	19%	27%	7%	2%	15%	31%	-8%
Iran	18%	22%	7%	2%	15%	36%	-4%
The US Economy	25%	24%	9%	1%	14%	27%	1%
Immigration	24%	25%	8%	2%	14%	27%	-1%
Social Security	30%	20%	9%	3%	12%	27%	10%
Medicare	30%	21%	9%	1%	12%	27%	9%
Taxes	25%	25%	8%	2%	14%	26%	N/C
Gay marriage	34%	17%	7%	2%	13%	27%	17%
Jobs and employment	28%	26%	8%	2%	11%	25%	2%
The federal government deficit	20%	23%	8%	2%	16%	31%	-3%
Supporting small businesses	27%	27%	8%	1%	9%	28%	N/C
Education	31%	20%	8%	2%	12%	27%	11%
Foreign policy	21%	29%	7%	1%	11%	32%	-8%
Women's rights	38%	17%	8%	2%	10%	25%	21%
The environment	29%	17%	10%	3%	12%	29%	12%
Israel	16%	25%	6%	2%	13%	37%	-9%
Syria	16%	20%	7%	1%	15%	40%	-4%
Energy policy	28%	20%	9%	2%	11%	31%	8%

TOP 3
Democrats
Republicans

In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?

Data based on interviewing from May 25—June 3, 2015 (n=849)

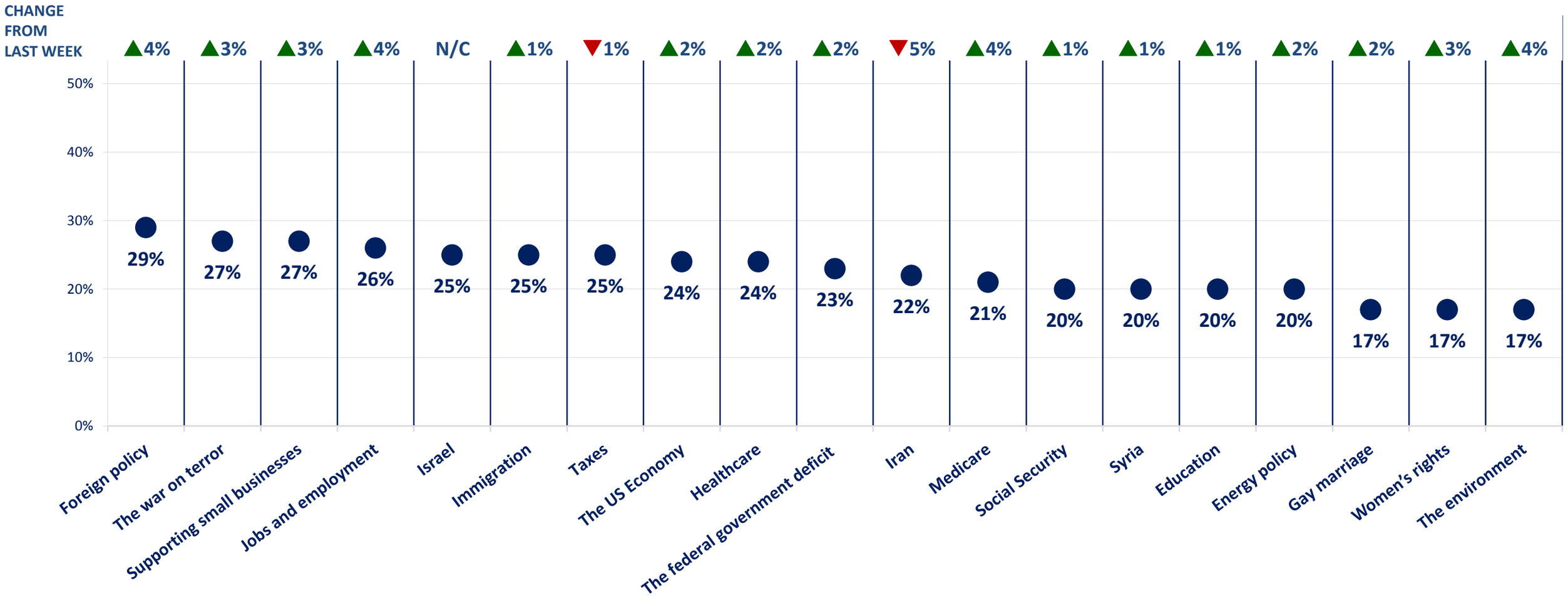
Democratic Party



In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?

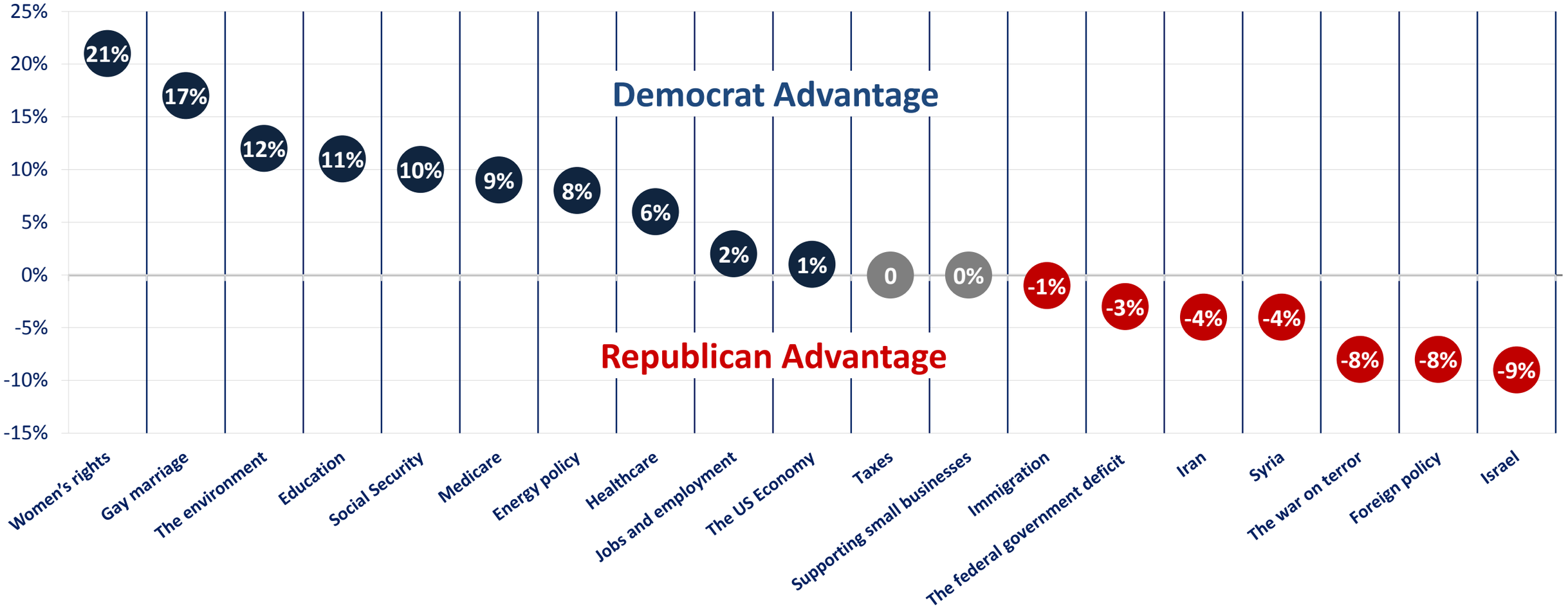
Data based on interviewing from May 25—June 3, 2015 (n=849)

Republican Party



In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?
Data based on interviewing from May 25—June 3, 2015 (n=849)

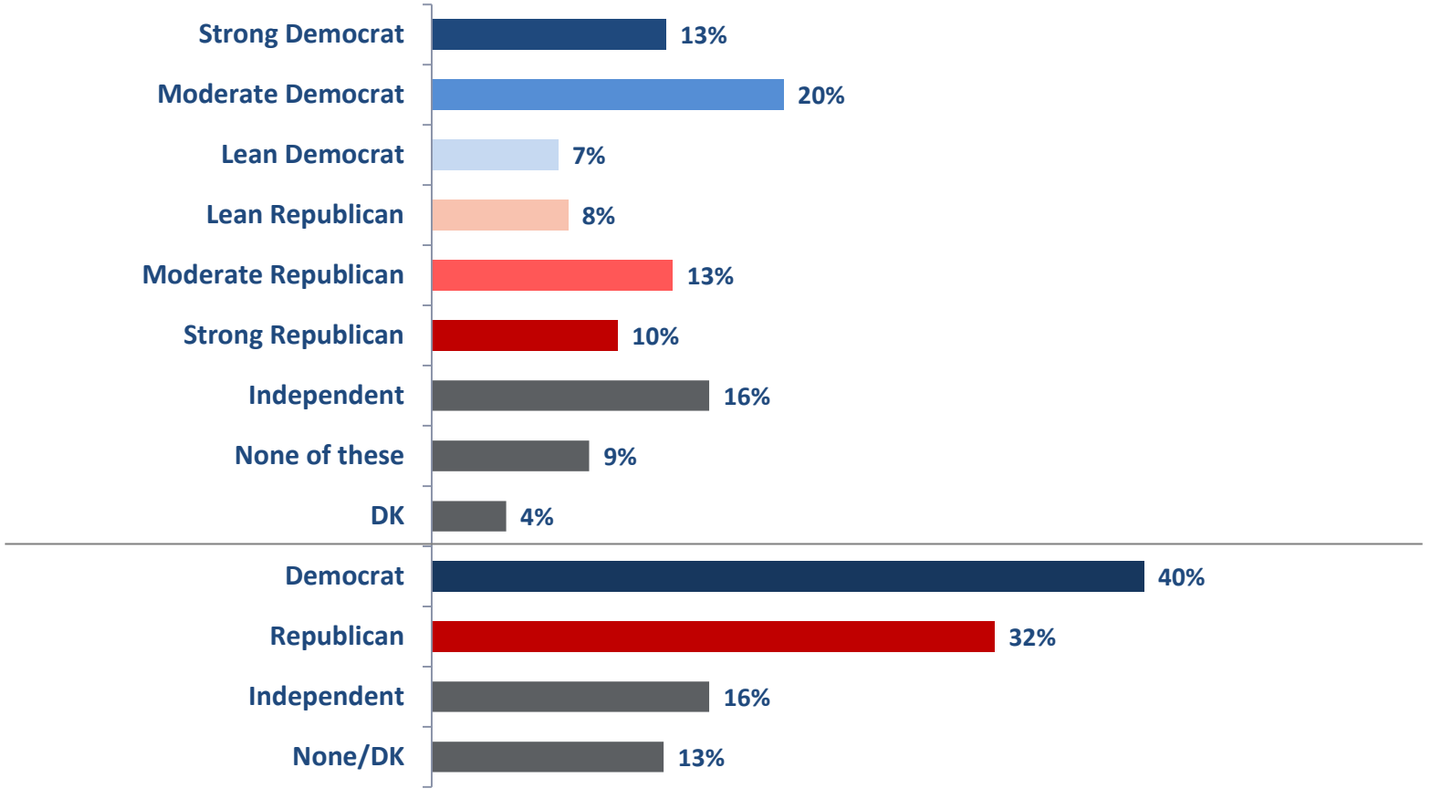
Democratic/Republican Party Difference



Party Identification

All Adults: n= 1,638

Data based on interviewing from May 30—June 3, 2015



How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

- The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ\, i.e., Y|θ~Bin(n,θ), 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 θ. 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 θ 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 (π(θ/y)~β(y+a,n-y+b)), but with updated hyper-parameters.

- Our credibility interval for θ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for θ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on π(θ/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:

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

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 weighting2

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
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2

Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100.

[1] *Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC | ISBN: 158488388X | 2003*
[2] *Kish, L. (1992). Weighting for unequal Pi . Journal of Official, Statistics, 8, 2, 183200.*