Ipsos Public Affairs

REUTERS

Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Core Political Approval

07.29.2015

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These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted

for

REUTERS

date

July 25 —July 29, 2015

For the survey,

a sample of

1247
Americans

including

519
Democrats

411
Republicans

168
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

3.2	4.9	5.5	8.6
for all adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents

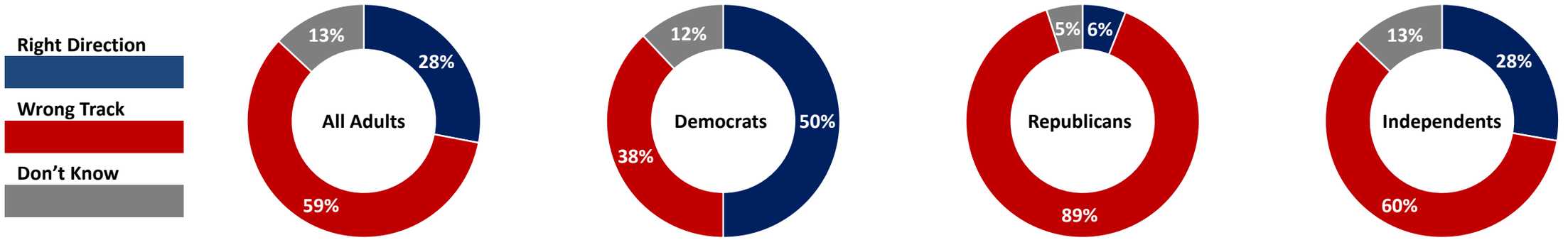
For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

- 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?
July 25– July 29, 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”) July 25– July 29, 2015

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	23%	45%	2%	14%
Somewhat approve	18%	27%	6%	19%
Lean towards approve	4%	4%	2%	4%
Lean towards disapprove	2%	2%	2%	1%
Somewhat disapprove	12%	11%	13%	15%
Strongly disapprove	37%	11%	74%	43%
Not sure	5%	1%	1%	3%
TOTAL APPROVE	44%	76%	10%	37%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	51%	23%	89%	60%

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Please think ahead now to the next Presidential in one year's time, in 2016.

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

July 25– July 29, 2015

	Total (n=710)	Republican (n=409)	Independent (n=165)
Donald Trump	22%	27%	15%
Jeb Bush	10%	11%	12%
Benjamin Carson	5%	6%	5%
Scott Walker	5%	7%	4%
Chris Christie	4%	4%	7%
Rand Paul	7%	7%	8%
Marco Rubio	4%	5%	3%
Mike Huckabee	4%	5%	3%
Ted Cruz	2%	3%	1%
Rick Santorum	1%	2%	1%
Carly Fiorina	2%	2%	2%
George Pataki,	1%	2%	*%
Lindsey Graham	2%	2%	1%
Bobby Jindal	1%	2%	1%
Rick Perry	2%	3%	2%
John Kasich	3%	4%	3%
Wouldn't vote	27%	8%	33%

TOP 3

REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Regardless of your personal preference, if the Republican Presidential Primaries came down to these candidates, for whom would you vote? July 25– July 29, 2015

TOP

	Total (n=710)	Republican (n=409)	Independent (n=165)
Jeb Bush	22%	24%	30%
Donald Trump	32%	38%	30%
Scott Walker	20%	31%	10%
Wouldn't vote	25%	8%	29%

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Please think ahead now to the next Presidential in one year's time, in 2016.

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

July 25– July 29, 2015

TOP 3

	Total (n=806)	Democrat (n=505)	Independent (n=165)
Hillary Clinton	45%	58%	26%
Bernie Sanders	13%	15%	15%
Joe Biden	11%	12%	12%
Andrew Cuomo	3%	3%	3%
Jim Webb	1%	1%	2%
Kirsten Gillibrand	1%	1%	0%
Martin O'Malley	1%	1%	2%
Lincoln Chafee	1%	*%	4%
Wouldn't vote	24%	9%	36%

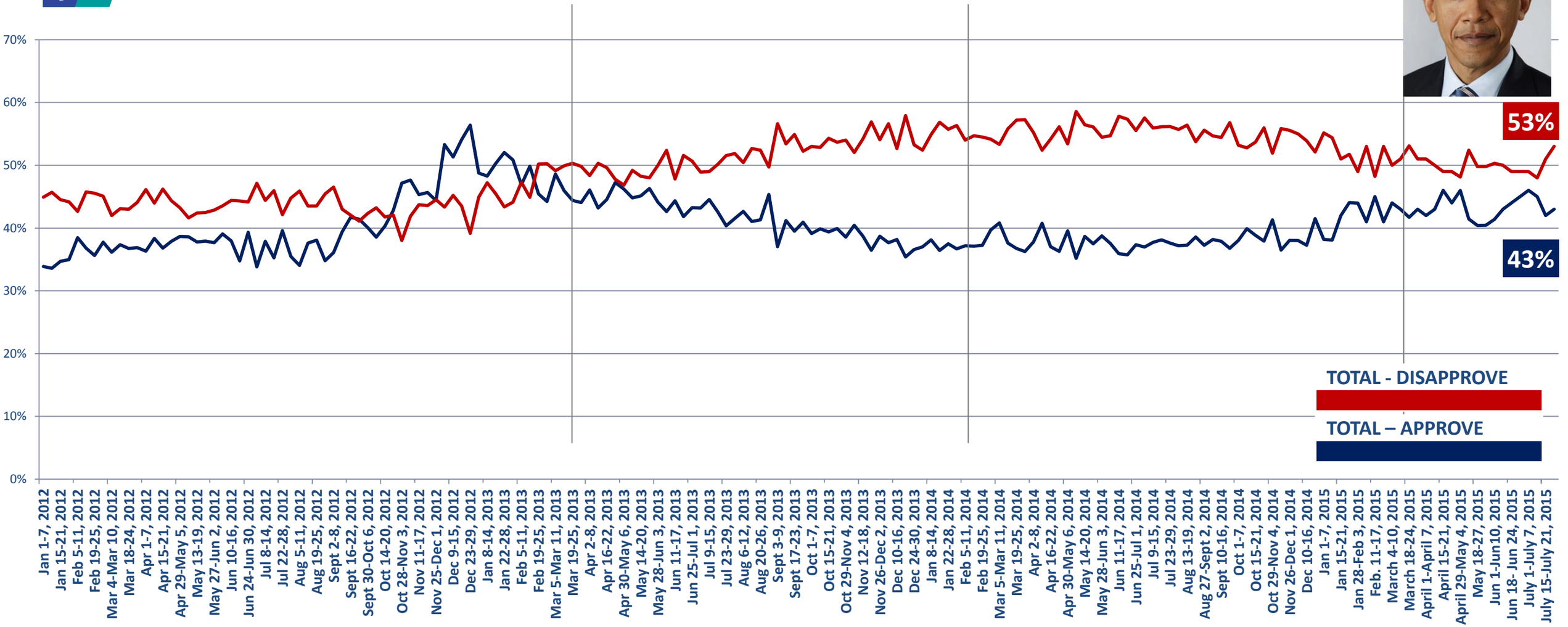
DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Regardless of your personal preference, if the Democratic Presidential Primaries came down to these candidates, for whom would you vote? July 25– July 29, 2015

TOP

	Total (n=806)	Democrat (n=505)	Independent (n=165)
Hillary Clinton	51%	66%	30%
Bernie Sanders	16%	17%	21%
Joe Biden	13%	13%	13%
Wouldn't vote	21%	4%	36%

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 July 20– July 29, 2015 n= 648

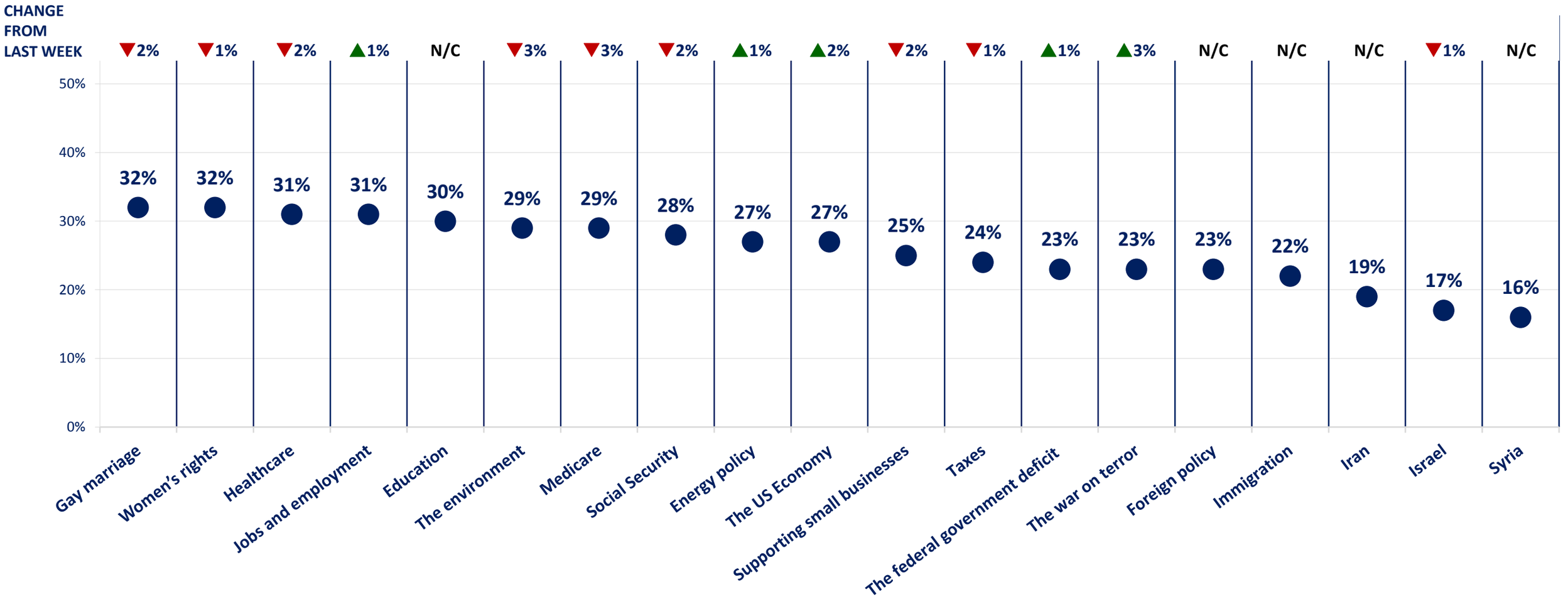
All Adults (n=648)	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Independents	Other	None	Don't know	DEM/REP PARTY DIFF
Healthcare	31%	23%	7%	2%	12%	25%	8%
The war on terror	23%	27%	5%	2%	14%	29%	-4%
Iran	19%	24%	6%	3%	13%	35%	-5%
The US Economy	27%	24%	7%	3%	13%	26%	3%
Immigration	22%	27%	6%	3%	14%	28%	-5%
Social Security	28%	21%	7%	3%	13%	29%	7%
Medicare	29%	19%	5%	3%	12%	31%	10%
Taxes	24%	25%	8%	3%	13%	27%	-1%
Gay marriage	32%	16%	7%	3%	13%	29%	16%
Jobs and employment	31%	22%	7%	2%	12%	25%	9%
The federal government deficit	23%	26%	6%	3%	14%	28%	-3%
Supporting small businesses	25%	25%	8%	4%	11%	27%	0%
Education	30%	19%	6%	3%	13%	28%	11%
Foreign policy	23%	27%	6%	2%	11%	31%	-4%
Women's rights	32%	17%	8%	2%	11%	29%	15%
The environment	29%	18%	8%	3%	13%	30%	11%
Israel	17%	25%	5%	3%	14%	37%	-8%
Syria	16%	22%	5%	3%	16%	39%	-6%
Energy policy	27%	18%	7%	4%	13%	32%	9%

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 July 20 –July 29, 2015 (n=648)

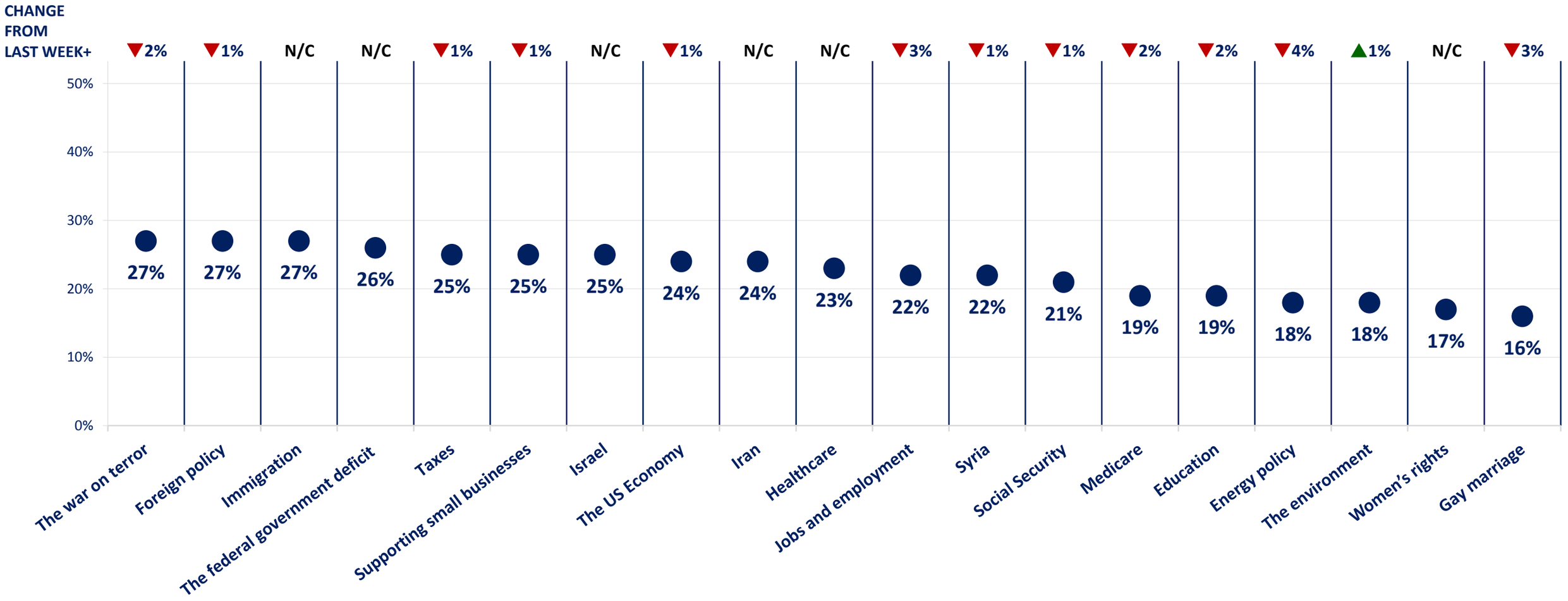
Democratic Party



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

Data based on interviewing from July 20–July 29, 2015 (n=648)

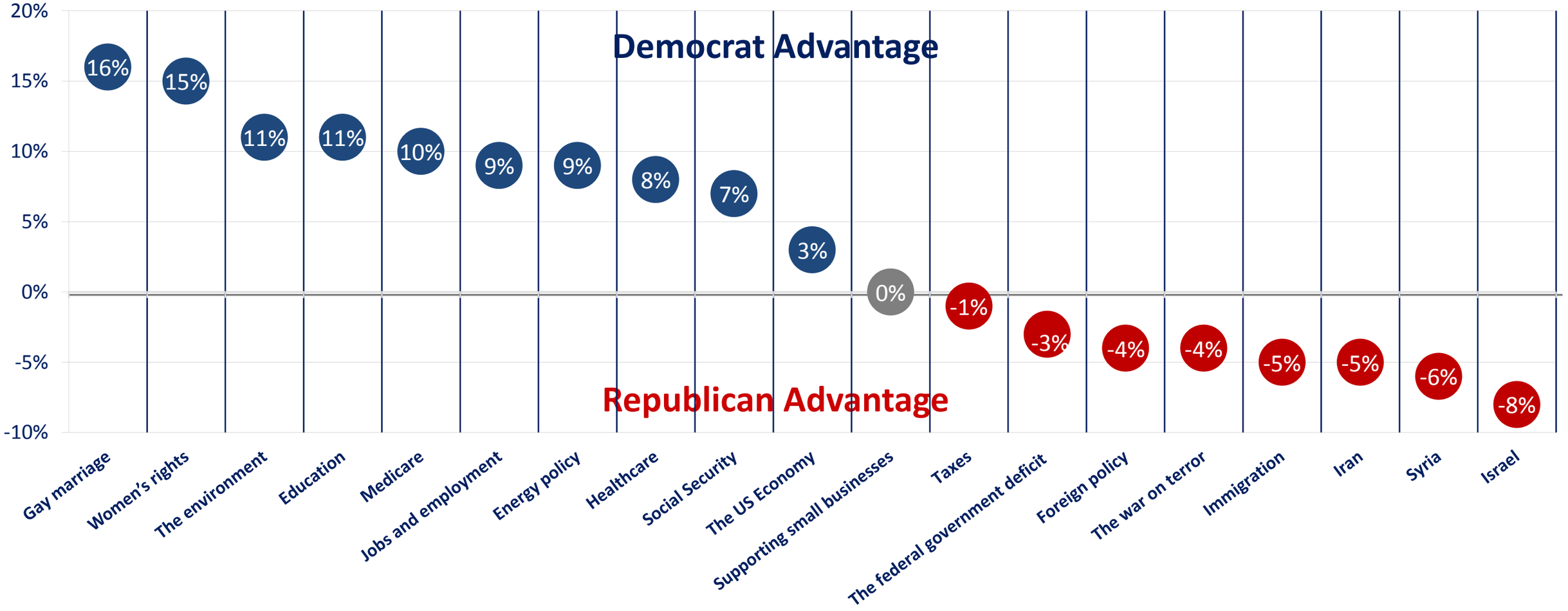
Republican Party



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

Data based on interviewing from July 20– July 29, 2015 (n=648)

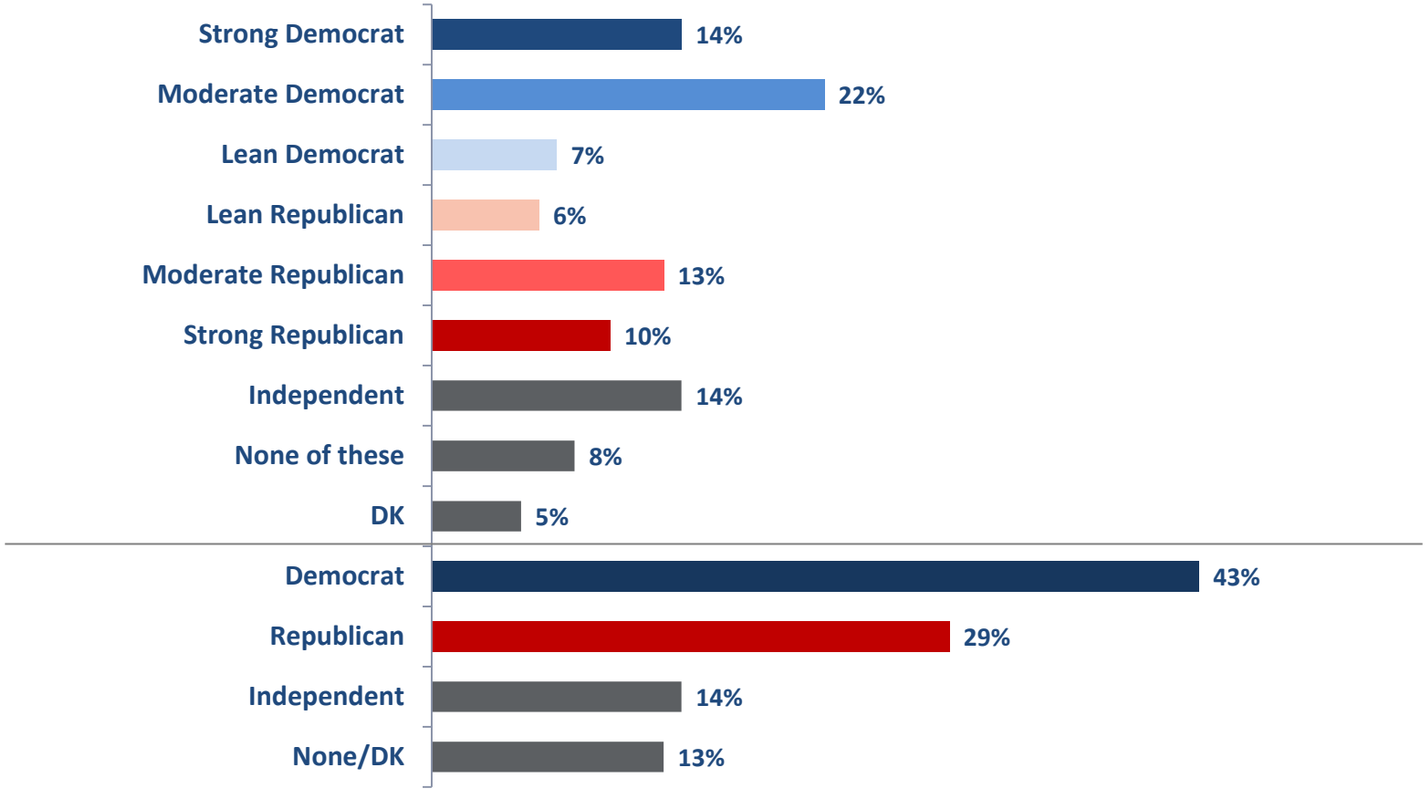
Democratic/Republican Party Difference



Party Identification

All Adults: n= 1,247

Data based on interviewing from July 25– July 29, 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.*