Ipsos Public Affairs

REUTERS

Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Core Political Approval

09.02.2015

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted

for

REUTERS

date

August 29 — September 2, 2015

For the survey,

a sample of

1,598
Americans

including

611
Democrats

581
Republicans

200
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	4.5	4.6	7.9
for all adults	Democrats	Republicans	Independents

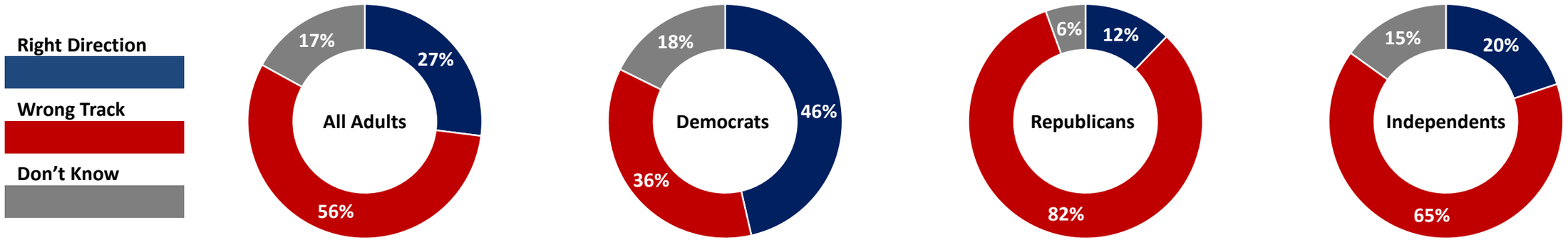
For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

- 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?
August 29– September 2, 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”) August 29– September 2, 2015

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	23%	43%	6%	15%
Somewhat approve	20%	32%	7%	15%
Lean towards approve	3%	3%	1%	5%
Lean towards disapprove	4%	2%	2%	6%
Somewhat disapprove	12%	9%	15%	20%
Strongly disapprove	31%	8%	68%	34%
Not sure	6%	2%	1%	5%
TOTAL APPROVE	*47%*	*78%*	*14%*	*35%*
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	*47%*	*20%*	*85%*	*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?

August 29– September 2, 2015

	Total (n=954)	Republican (n=578)	Independent (n=197)
Donald Trump	26%	31%	26%
Benjamin Carson	9%	15%	6%
Jeb Bush	8%	12%	8%
Mike Huckabee	4%	6%	3%
Ted Cruz	4%	6%	4%
Rand Paul	3%	2%	9%
Marco Rubio	3%	3%	1%
Scott Walker	3%	5%	2%
Carly Fiorina	3%	3%	3%
John Kasich	3%	5%	2%
Rick Perry	2%	2%	1%
Chris Christie	2%	2%	3%
Bobby Jindal	1%	1%	1%
Rick Santorum	1%	1%	*%
George Pataki	*%	*%	1%
Jim Gilmore	*%	*%	1%
Lindsey Graham	*%	*%	*%
Wouldn't vote	27%	6%	29%

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? August 29– September 2, 2015

TOP

	Total (n=954)	Republican (n=587)	Independent (n=197)
Donald Trump	36%	44%	39%
Jeb Bush	21%	27%	19%
Mike Huckabee	16%	22%	15%
Wouldn't vote	27%	6%	27%

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?

August 29– September 2, 2015

TOP 3

	Total (n=982)	Democrat (n=606)	Independent (n=197)
Hillary Clinton	35%	44%	25%
Bernie Sanders	21%	24%	28%
Joe Biden	13%	17%	10%
Andrew Cuomo	3%	2%	5%
Jim Webb	1%	*%	5%
Kirsten Gillibrand	1%	1%	*%
Lincoln Chafee	1%	1%	*%
Martin O'Malley	*%	*%	*%
Wouldn't vote	25%	10%	26%

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

Regardless of your personal preference, if the Democratic Presidential Primaries came down to these candidates, for whom would you vote? August 29– September 2, 2015

TOP

	Total (n=982)	Democrat (n=606)	Independent (n=197)
Hillary Clinton	40%	48%	30%
Bernie Sanders	23%	24%	34%
Joe Biden	18%	22%	14%
Wouldn't vote	20%	5%	22%

Weekly Presidential Approval

47%

46%

TOTAL - DISAPPROVE

TOTAL – APPROVE

70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%

Jan 1-7, 2012
Jan 15-21, 2012
Feb 5-11, 2012
Feb 19-25, 2012
Mar 4-Mar 10, 2012
Mar 18-24, 2012
Apr 1-7, 2012
Apr 15-21, 2012
Apr 29-May 5, 2012
May 13-19, 2012
May 27-Jun 2, 2012
Jun 10-16, 2012
Jun 24-Jun 30, 2012
Jul 8-14, 2012
Jul 22-28, 2012
Aug 5-11, 2012
Aug 19-25, 2012
Sept 2-8, 2012
Sept 16-22, 2012
Sept 30-Oct 6, 2012
Oct 14-20, 2012
Oct 28-Nov 3, 2012
Nov 11-17, 2012
Nov 25-Dec 1, 2012
Dec 9-15, 2012
Dec 23-29, 2012
Jan 8-14, 2013
Jan 22-28, 2013
Feb 5-11, 2013
Feb 19-25, 2013
Mar 5-Mar 11, 2013
Mar 19-25, 2013
Apr 2-8, 2013
Apr 16-22, 2013
Apr 30-May 6, 2013
May 14-20, 2013
May 28-Jun 3, 2013
Jun 11-17, 2013
Jun 25-Jul 1, 2013
Jul 9-15, 2013
Jul 23-29, 2013
Aug 6-12, 2013
Aug 20-26, 2013
Sept 3-9, 2013
Sept 17-23, 2013
Oct 1-7, 2013
Oct 15-21, 2013
Oct 29-Nov 4, 2013
Nov 12-18, 2013
Nov 26-Dec 2, 2013
Dec 10-16, 2013
Dec 24-30, 2013
Jan 8-14, 2014
Jan 22-28, 2014
Feb 5-11, 2014
Feb 19-25, 2014
Mar 5-Mar 11, 2014
Mar 19-25, 2014
Apr 2-8, 2014
Apr 16-22, 2014
Apr 30-May 6, 2014
May 14-20, 2014
May 28-Jun 3, 2014
Jun 11-17, 2014
Jun 25-Jul 1, 2014
Jul 9-15, 2014
Jul 23-29, 2014
Aug 13-19, 2014
Aug 27-Sept 2, 2014
Sept 10-16, 2014
Oct 1-7, 2014
Oct 15-21, 2014
Oct 29-Nov 4, 2014
Nov 26-Dec 1, 2014
Dec 10-16, 2014
Jan 1-7, 2015
Jan 15-21, 2015
Jan 29-Feb 4, 2015
Feb. 12-18, 2015
March 5-11, 2015
March 19-25, 2015
April 2-8, 2015
April 16-22, 2015
April 30-May 6, 2015
May 21-27, 2015
Jun 4- Jun 10, 2015
Jun 18- Jun 24, 2015
July 1-July 7, 2015
July 15-July 21, 2015
July 29-Aug 4, 2015
Aug 12- Aug 18, 2015
August 27-Sept 2, 2015

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 August 24– September 2, 2015 (n=783)

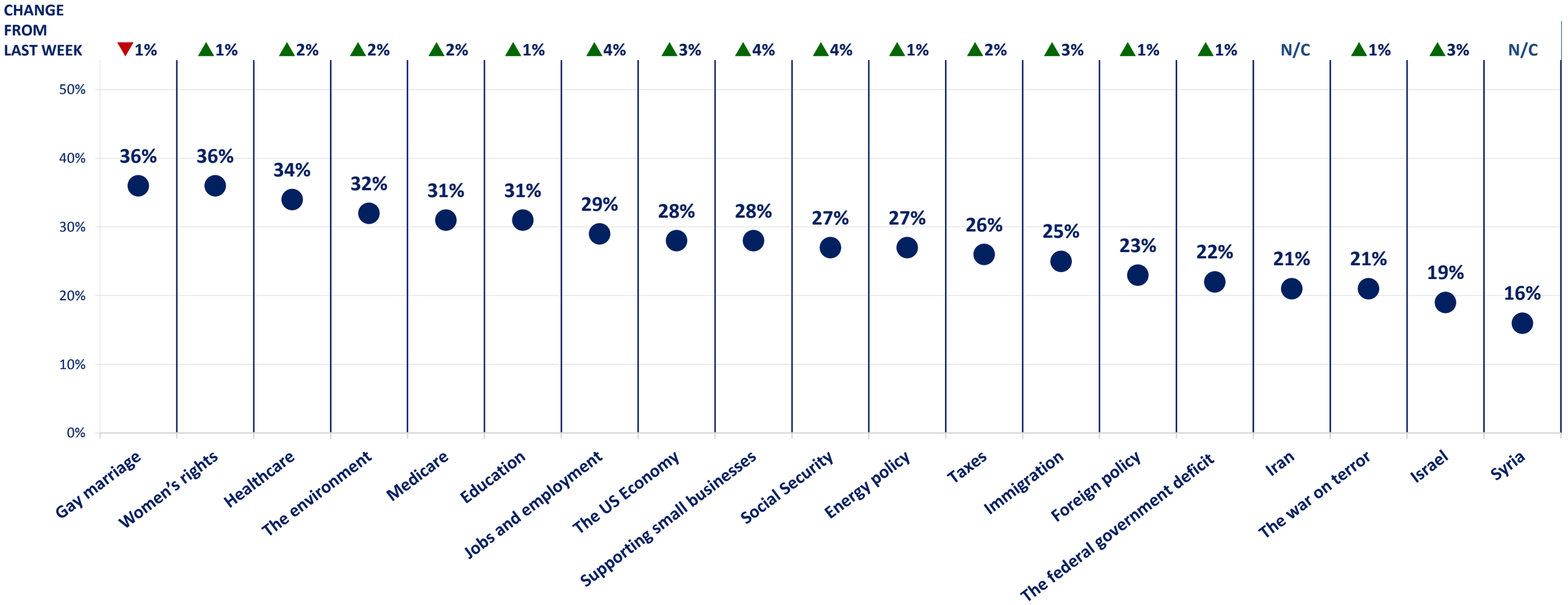
All Adults (n=783)	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Independents	Other	None	Don't know	DEM/REP PARTY DIFF
Healthcare	34%	21%	5%	1%	16%	23%	13%
The war on terror	21%	25%	5%	2%	18%	29%	-4%
Iran	21%	23%	5%	2%	17%	32%	-2%
The US Economy	28%	24%	6%	2%	16%	26%	4%
Immigration	25%	28%	6%	2%	17%	23%	-3%
Social Security	27%	18%	7%	2%	18%	27%	9%
Medicare	31%	18%	5%	1%	17%	28%	13%
Taxes	26%	23%	7%	2%	16%	26%	3%
Gay marriage	36%	13%	5%	2%	18%	26%	23%
Jobs and employment	29%	25%	5%	2%	13%	25%	4%
The federal government deficit	22%	24%	6%	2%	20%	27%	-2%
Supporting small businesses	28%	24%	6%	1%	14%	27%	4%
Education	31%	17%	7%	2%	16%	27%	14%
Foreign policy	23%	24%	5%	2%	16%	30%	-1%
Women's rights	36%	14%	7%	2%	14%	27%	22%
The environment	32%	15%	8%	2%	15%	28%	17%
Israel	19%	23%	4%	2%	17%	34%	-4%
Syria	16%	18%	7%	2%	20%	38%	-2%
Energy policy	27%	20%	6%	2%	16%	29%	7%

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 August 24– September 2, 2015 (n=783)

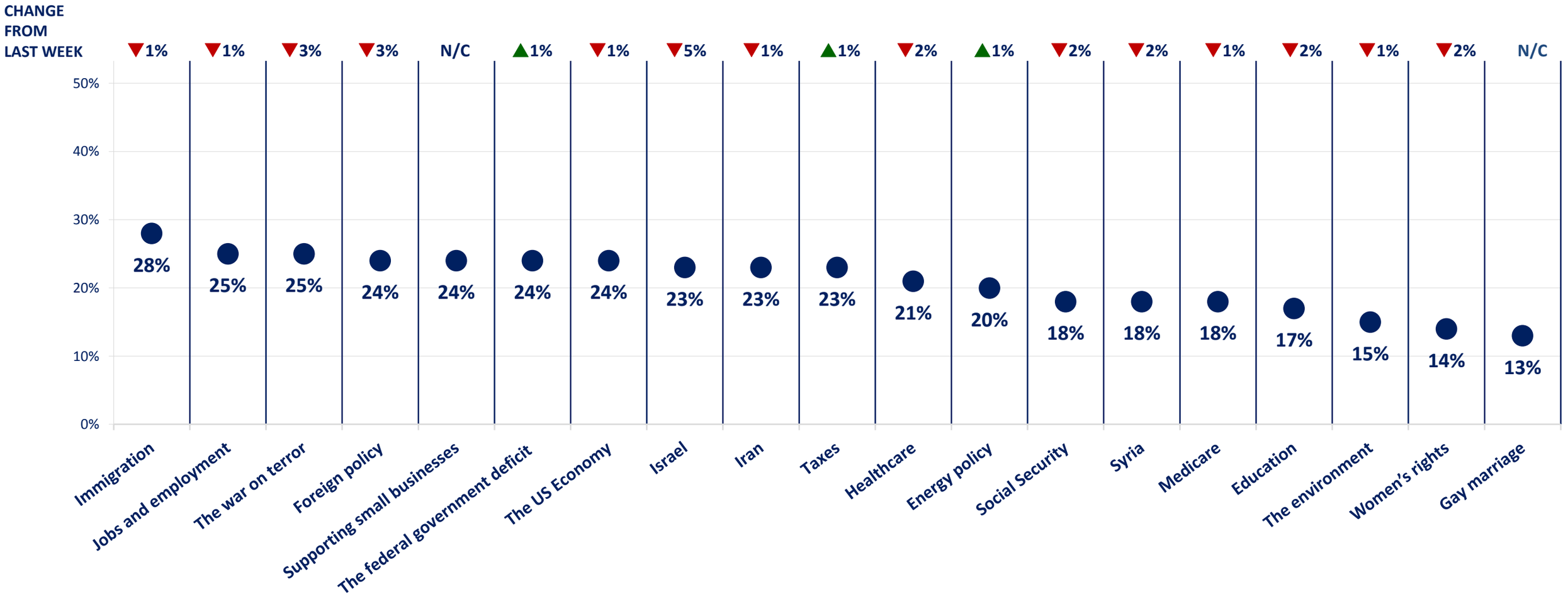
Democratic Party



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

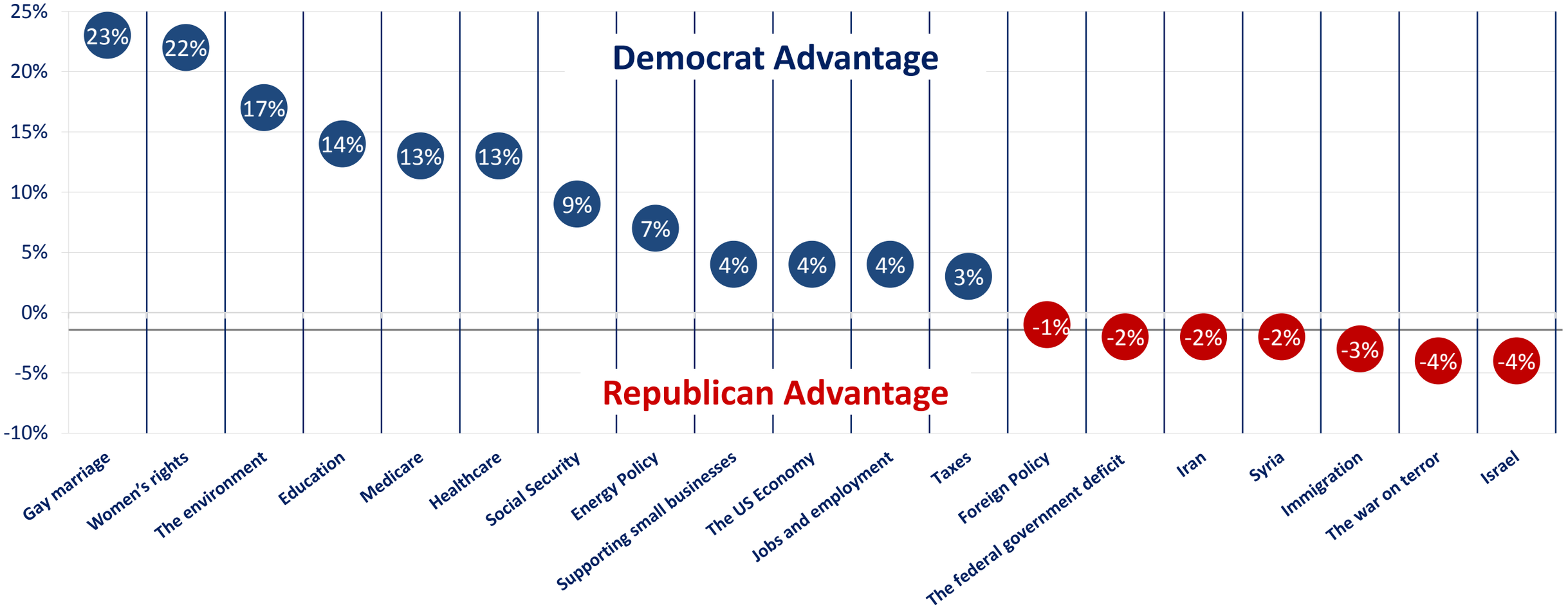
Data based on interviewing from August 24– September 2, 2015 (n=783)

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 August 24– September 2, 2015 (n=783)

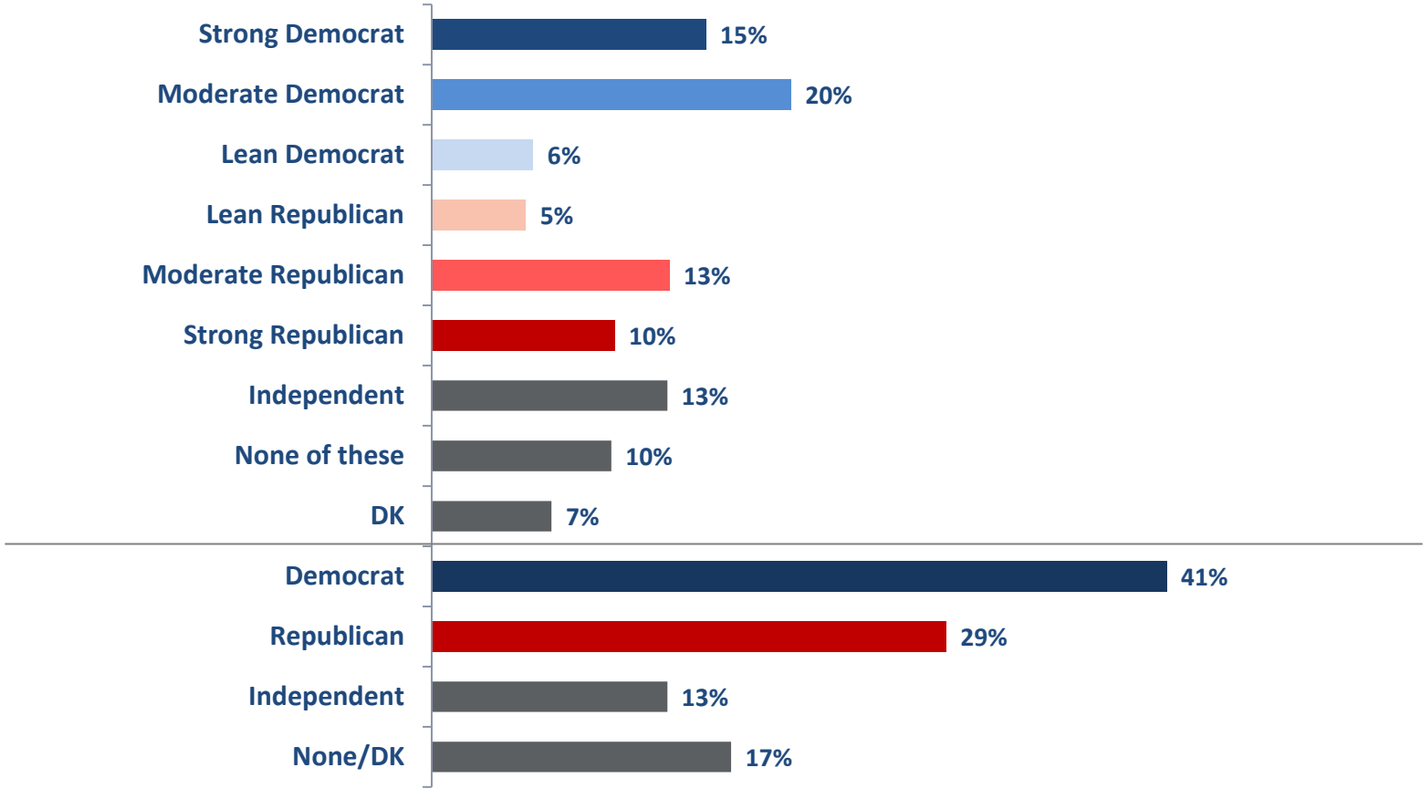
Democratic/Republican Party Difference



Party Identification

All Adults: n= 1,598

Data based on interviewing from August 29– September 2, 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, andit 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.*