Ipsos Poll Conducted for Reuters

Core Political Approval

11.04.2015

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted

REUTERS

October 31-November 4, 2015

For the survey,

a sample of

including

ages

1,636
Americans

629
Democrats

618
Republicans

228
Independents

18+

w e r e   i n t e r v i e w e d   o n l i n e

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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	4.5	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/.*
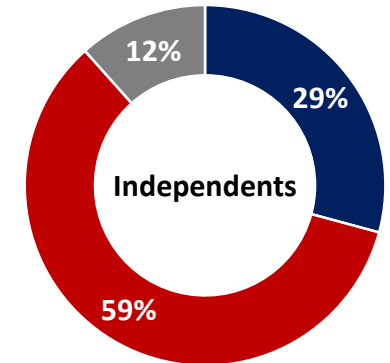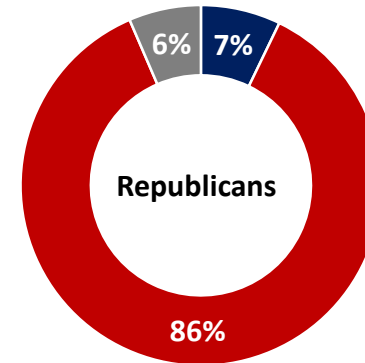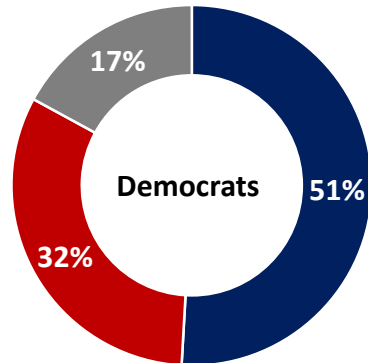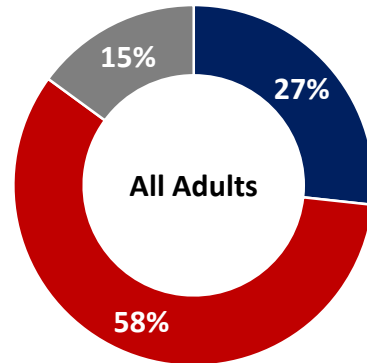
RIGHT DIRECTION/WRONG TRACK

Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?
October 31-November 4, 2015

Right Direction

Wrong Track

Don't Know

All Adults
27%
58%
15%

Democrats
51%
32%
17%

Republicans
86%
6%
7%

Independents
29%
59%
12%

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") October 31-November 4, 2015

	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Strongly approve	18%	37%	3%	11%
Somewhat approve	21%	35%	4%	26%
Lean towards approve	3%	5%	2%	5%
Lean towards disapprove	2%	2%	2%	2%
Somewhat disapprove	14%	10%	17%	16%
Strongly disapprove	36%	8%	69%	33%
Not sure	6%	3%	3%	6%
TOTAL APPROVE	42%	77%	9%	42%
TOTAL DISAPPROVE	52%	20%	88%	52%

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?
October 31-November 4, 2015

	Total (n=1,007)	Republican (n=618)	Independent (n=228)
Donald Trump	24%	29%	22%
Benjamin Carson	14%	19%	7%
Jeb Bush	8%	10%	7%
Marco Rubio	7%	10%	6%
Ted Cruz	5%	8%	2%
Carly Fiorina	4%	5%	3%
Rand Paul	3%	2%	4%
Chris Christie	2%	3%	3%
John Kasich	2%	2%	2%
Mike Huckabee	2%	3%	4%
Lindsey Graham	1%	1%	2%
Bobby Jindal	1%	1%	1%
Rick Santorum	*%	*%	*%
George Pataki	*%	1%	*%
Jim Gilmore	*%	*%	1%
Wouldn't vote	25%	5%	37%

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? October 31-November 4, 2015

TOP

	Total (n=1,002)	Republican (n=584)	Independent (n=226)
Donald Trump	33%	38%	33%
Benjamin Carson	25%	31%	21%
Marco Rubio	18%	25%	11%
Wouldn't vote	24%	5%	35%

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES

Please think ahead now to the next Presidential in one year's time, in 2016.
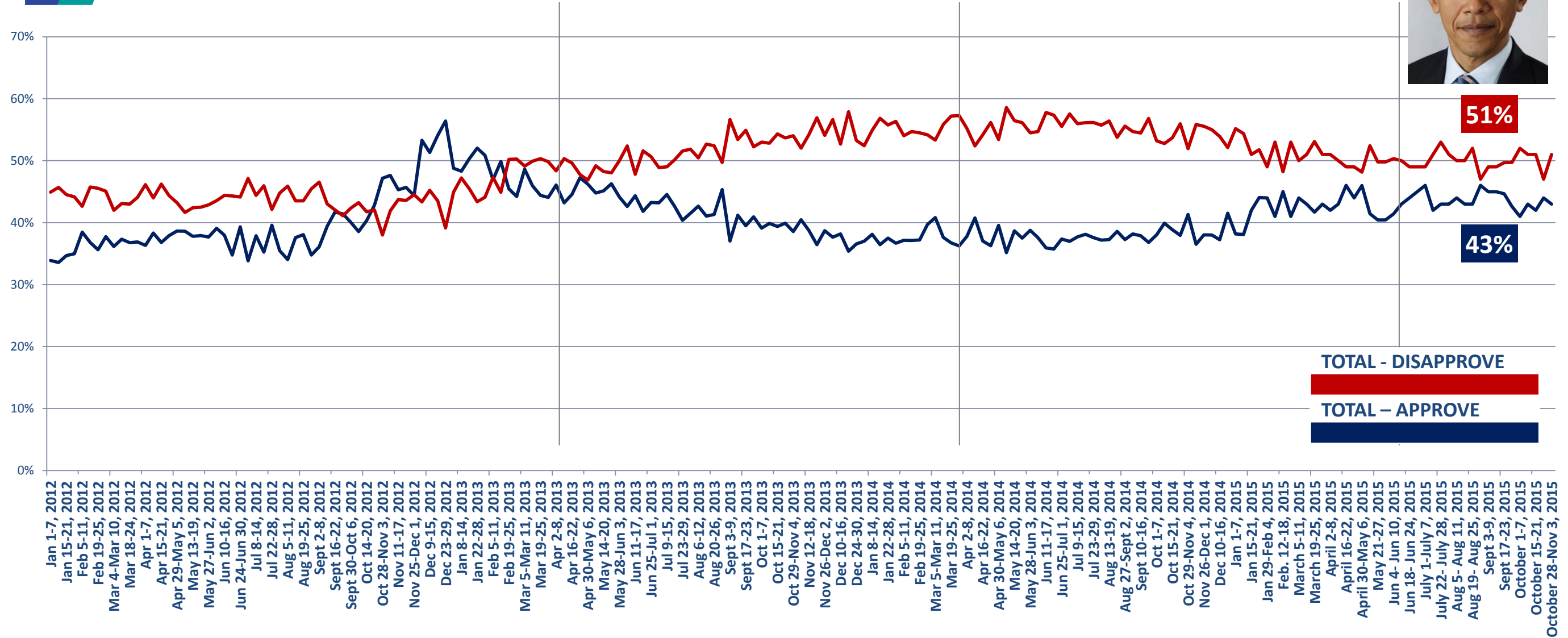
If the 2016 Democratic presidential primaries were being held today, for whom of the following would you vote?

October 31-November 4, 2015

	Total (n=1,018)	Democrat (n=629)	Independent (n=228)
Hillary Clinton	45%	57%	33%
Bernie Sanders	27%	28%	31%
Martin O'Malley	5%	6%	4%
Wouldn't vote	23%	9%	32%

Weekly Presidential Approval

51%

43%

TOTAL - DISAPPROVE

TOTAL — APPROVE

For tracking purposes, approval ratings in the above graphic reflect weekly roll-ups of our tracking data (a 7-day period), rather than the 5-day period reflected throughout this topline document

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CORE POLITICAL APPROVAL

In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?
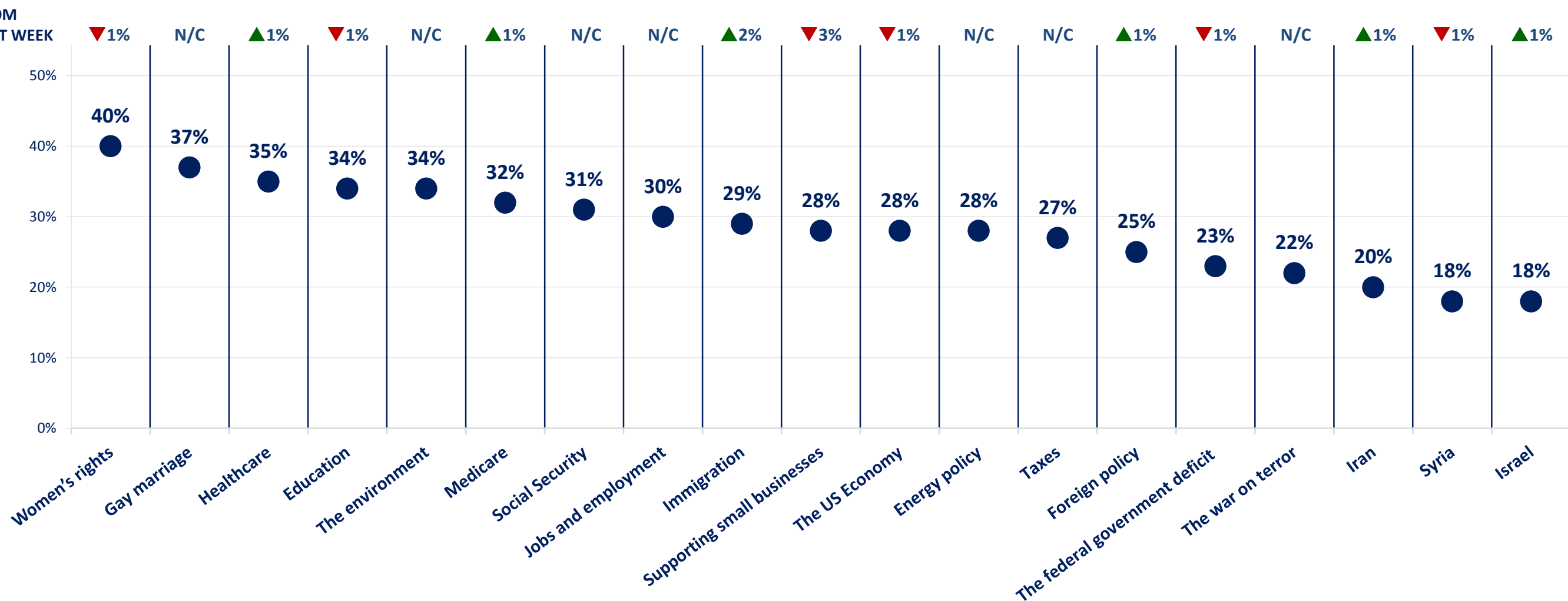
Data based on interviewing from October 26-November 4, 2015 (n=932)

All Adults (n=932)	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Independents	Other	None	Don't know	DEM/REP PARTY DIFF
Healthcare	35%	23%	6%	3%	14%	19%	11%
The war on terror	22%	28%	6%	2%	18%	24%	-6%
Iran	20%	26%	4%	3%	17%	30%	-6%
The US Economy	28%	24%	7%	3%	15%	23%	3%
Immigration	29%	27%	6%	2%	14%	22%	2%
Social Security	31%	22%	6%	3%	14%	24%	9%
Medicare	32%	21%	6%	2%	14%	25%	11%
Taxes	27%	27%	6%	2%	16%	22%	0%
Gay marriage	37%	16%	6%	2%	13%	24%	21%
Jobs and employment	30%	25%	5%	4%	13%	23%	5%
The federal government deficit	23%	26%	7%	3%	18%	23%	-3%
Supporting small businesses	28%	28%	6%	2%	11%	25%	0%
Education	34%	20%	6%	3%	13%	23%	14%
Foreign policy	25%	27%	5%	2%	15%	26%	-2%
Women's rights	40%	16%	7%	2%	11%	23%	24%
The environment	34%	17%	7%	3%	14%	25%	17%
Israel	18%	26%	5%	3%	17%	30%	-8%
Syria	18%	22%	4%	2%	19%	34%	-3%
Energy policy	28%	21%	8%	2%	13%	27%	8%

TOP 3
Democrats
Republicans

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11

In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?
Data based on interviewing from October 26-November 4, 2015 (n=932)

Democratic Party

CHANGE FROM LAST WEEK

Category	Value	Change
Women's rights	40%	▼1%
Gay marriage	37%	N/C
Healthcare	35%	▲1%
Education	34%	▼1%
The environment	34%	N/C
Medicare	32%	▲1%
Social Security	31%	N/C
Jobs and employment	30%	N/C
Immigration	29%	▲2%
Supporting small businesses	28%	▼3%
The US Economy	28%	▼1%
Energy policy	28%	N/C
Taxes	27%	N/C
Foreign policy	25%	▲1%
The federal government deficit	23%	▼1%
The war on terror	22%	N/C
Iran	20%	▲1%
Syria	18%	▼1%
Israel	18%	▲1%
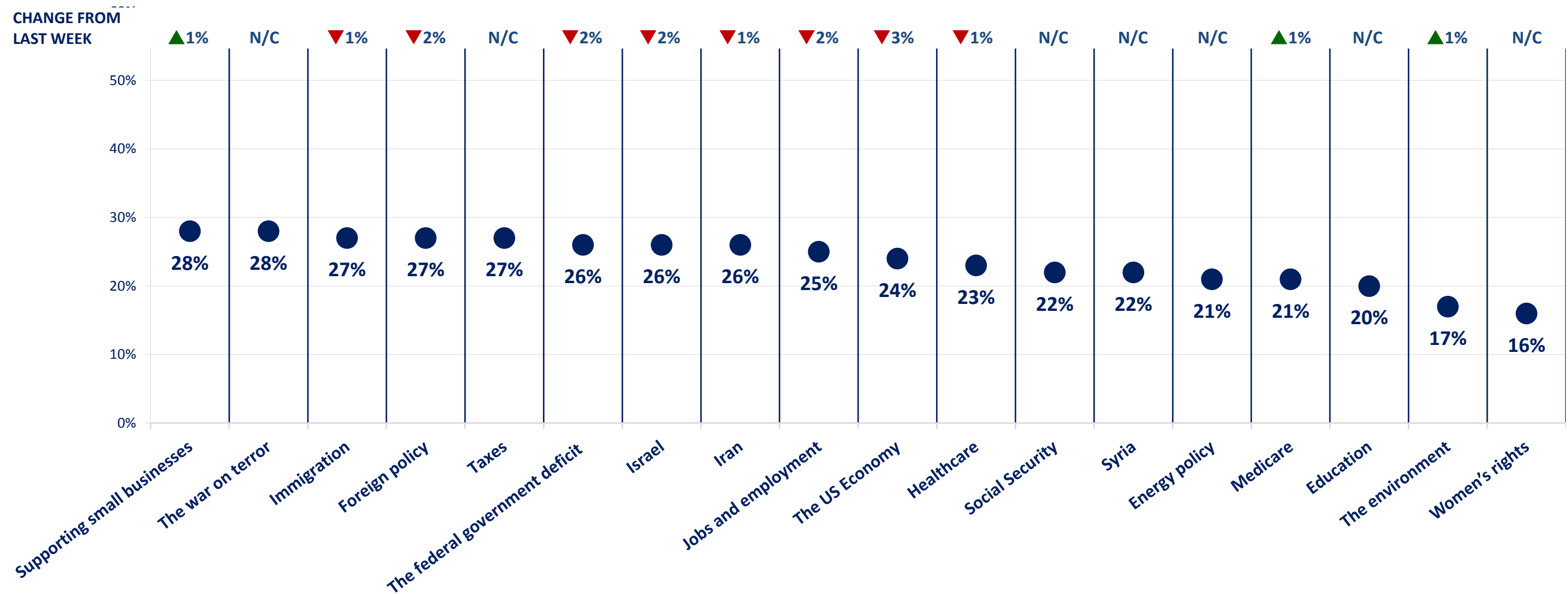
Democratic/Republican Party Difference

Democrat Advantage

Women's rights	24%	
Gay marriage	21%	
The environment	17%	
Education	14%	
Medicare	11%	
Healthcare	11%	
Social Security	9%	
Energy policy	8%	
Jobs and employment	5%	
The US Economy	3%	
Immigration	2%	
Supporting small businesses	0%	
Taxes	0%	
Foreign policy	-2%	
Syria	-3%	
The federal government deficit	-3%	
The war on terror	-6%	
Iran	-6%	
Israel	-8%	

Republican Advantage

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14

Party Identification

Category	Percent
Strong Democrat	15%
Moderate Democrat	17%
Lean Democrat	7%
Lean Republican	6%
Moderate Republican	17%
Strong Republican	11%
Independent	15%
None of these	7%
DK	5%
Democrat	38%
Republican	35%
Independent	15%
None/DK	12%

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15

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 weighting[2]

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.*