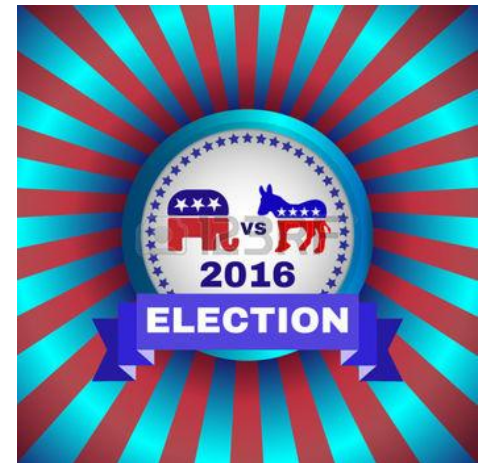




# Republicans seen as stronger on Terrorism

*Impact of Brussels-like events on US politics*

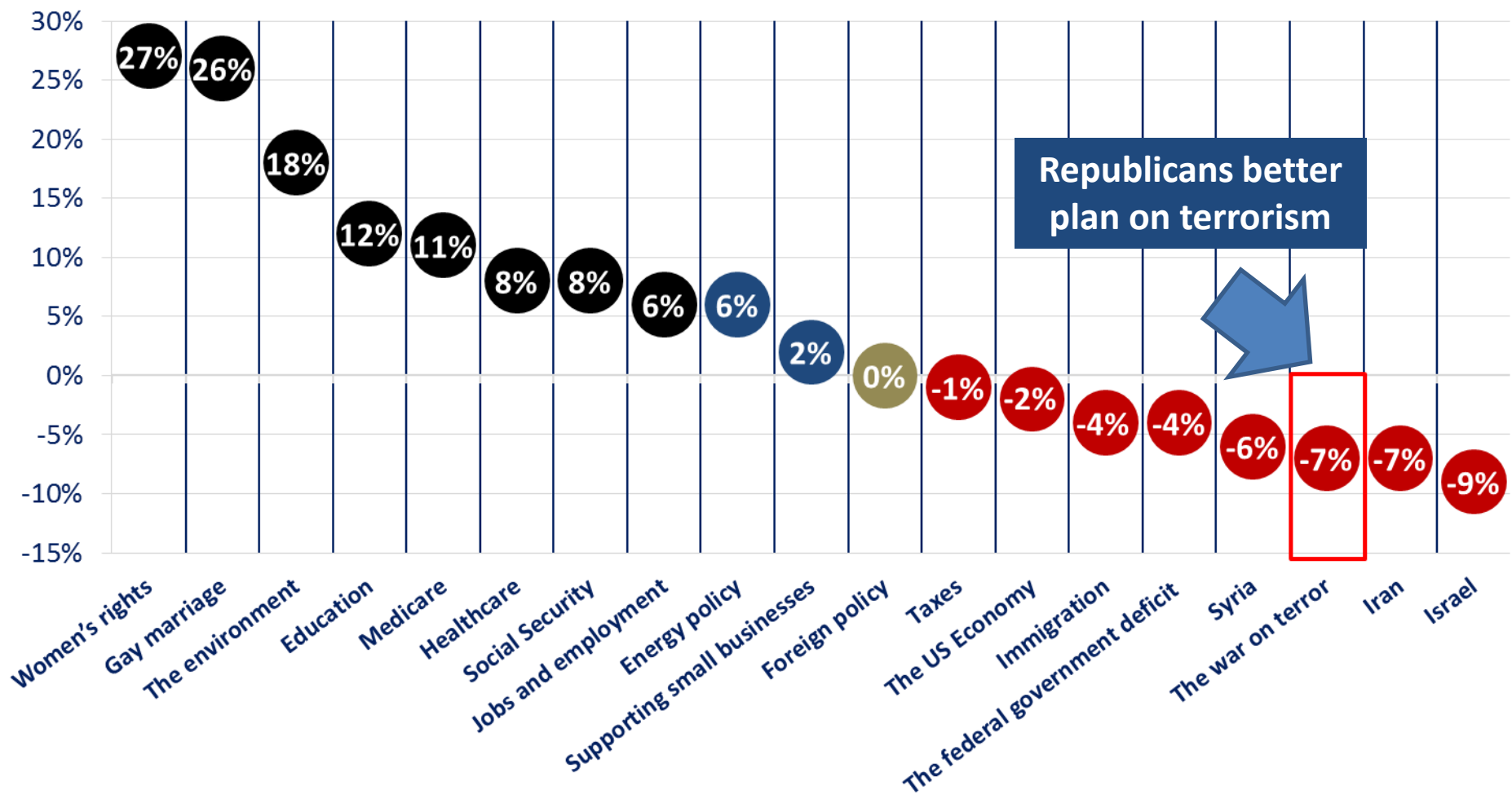
**Cliff Young**  
***President USPA***



# Talking Points

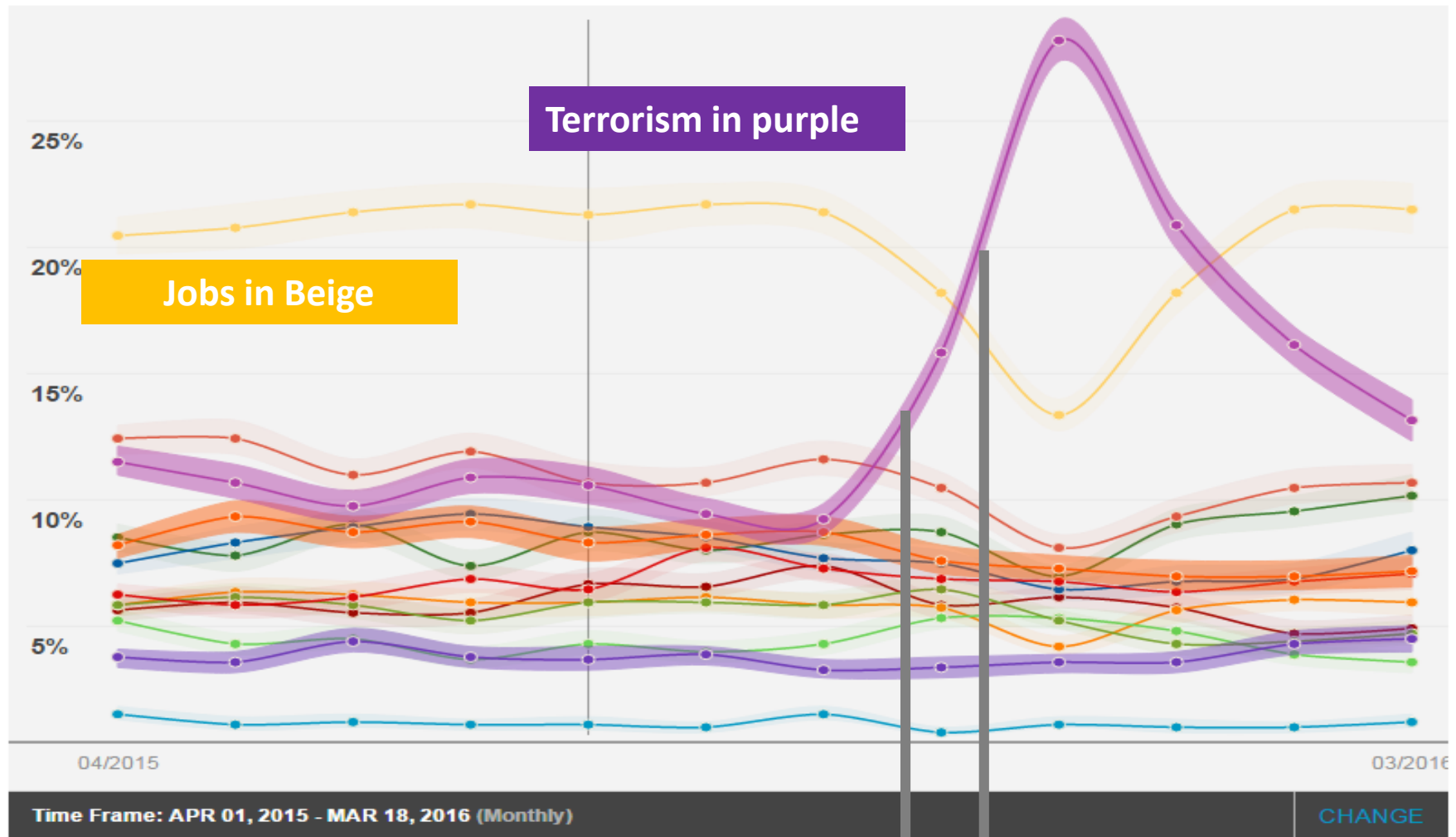
- Electorally speaking, terrorist attacks like the one in Brussels are more likely to benefit Republicans than Democrats.
- Republicans historically have been seen as more credible on “terrorism” and “foreign policy”.
  - » The March 2016 Ipsos/Reuters poll puts Republicans at a 7-point advantage on “the war on terror”.
- Typically, after an attack, public concern about terrorism spikes as a priority among Americans (*e.g. after Paris and San Bernardino*).
  - » However, this peaked salience has a fairly *quick half-life* of maybe a few months depending on the gravity and proximity to US soil.
  - » We expect that “terrorism as a priority” will spike again as a result of the Brussels event but will most likely recede quickly as a concern, and thus have *little impact* on the US election.

# Republicans are seen as stronger on terrorism versus Democrats (Net 7 point Advantage)



Source: Ipsos-Reuters Poll march 2016  
 Question wording: Which party has the better plan for: The war on terror

# Terrorism as most worrisome problem spikes with terrorism attacks (Paris and San Bernardino)



Source: Ipsos-Reuters poll 4/2015 to 3/2016;  
Question wording: Most important problem facing the US today