



CRITICAL ISSUES POLL

With Nielsen Scarborough

Shibley Telhami, Director
Stella Rouse, Associate Director

U.S. – North Korea Summit

Survey Methodology

The survey was carried out June 1-5, 2018 online from a nationally representative sample of Nielsen Scarborough's probability-based panel, originally recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of adults provided by Survey Sampling International. The national sample was 1,215. Overall, the sample was adjusted to reflect population estimates (Scarborough USA+/Gallup) for adults 18 years of age or older. The survey variables balanced through weighting were: age by gender, race/ethnicity, household income, level of education, census regional division, and political party affiliation.

The margin of error is 2.81%

Valuable assistance was provided by Neil Schwartz, Scott Willoth, and Shalayne Cooke from Nielsen Scarborough. Brittany Kyser and Sean Rao were particularly helpful.

Note: Percentages may not always add to one-hundred due to rounding.

*The June 2018 data is from a larger University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll with Shibley Telhami and Stella Rouse as principal investigators that will be analyzed and released in the coming weeks.

Q10. Please name TWO countries that you believe pose the greatest threat to world peace and security [**Open-ended text box with 2 separate entries**]

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| North Korea | 52% | 55% | 45% | 52% |
| Russia | 35 | 56 | 35 | 45 |
| Iran | 45 | 15 | 24 | 28 |
| China | 35 | 15 | 33 | 26 |
| United States | 1 | 19 | 5 | 10 |
| Syria | 9 | 6 | 4 | 7 |
| Iraq | 4 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Israel | 1 | 7 | 6 | 4 |
| “Middle East” | 3 | 1 | 4 | 2 |
| Saudi Arabia | 2 | 3 | <1 | 2 |
| Pakistan | 2 | <1 | <1 | 1 |
| Turkey | 1 | <1 | 1 | 1 |
| Other | 5 | 7 | 12 | 7 |
| Don’t know/refused/left blank/no answer | 3 | 6 | 12 | 6 |

Q11. Please name TWO national or world leaders you think pose the greatest threat to world peace and security [**Open-ended text box with 2 separate entries**]

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Kim Jong-un | 50% | 40% | 31% | 43% |
| Vladimir Putin | 39 | 46 | 37 | 42 |
| Donald Trump | 3 | 48 | 19 | 26 |
| Iranian Leaders | 25 | 2 | 8 | 12 |
| Xi Jinping | 12 | 2 | 7 | 7 |
| Bashar Assad | 10 | 2 | 3 | 5 |
| Benjamin Netanyahu | 1 | 6 | 1 | 4 |
| North Korea (country) | 3 | 4 | 2 | 3 |
| Russia (country) | 1 | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| China (country) | 3 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| Iran (country) | 2 | 1 | 4 | 1 |
| USA (country) | 0 | 2 | <1 | 1 |
| Other North Korean Leaders (includes former leaders) | <1 | <1 | 2 | 1 |
| Recep Tayyip Erdogan | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Israel (country) | 0 | <1 | 0 | <1 |
| Barack Obama | <1 | 0 | <1 | <1 |
| Syria (country) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Other | 11 | 8 | 14 | 10 |
| Don’t know/Refused | 21 | 18 | 37 | 21 |

Q16. Assuming the summit between U.S. President Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un is held, what would you expect from the meeting? (Choose One)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Significant progress towards the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula | 39% | 8% | 17% | 22% |
| 2. Progress on some issues but not on denuclearization | 43 | 32 | 26 | 36 |
| 3. The summit will fail, but damage will be limited | 6 | 19 | 18 | 14 |
| 4. The summit will fail, which will significantly increase the risk of conflict | 1 | 25 | 7 | 13 |
| 5. Don't know | 11 | 16 | 31 | 16 |
| Refused | 0 | 0 | 1 | <1 |

Q17. How have recent diplomatic events (such as the North Korea-South Korea Summit and the possible U.S.-North Korea summit) affected the path towards the resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue? (Choose One)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. They make a resolution to the nuclear issue more likely soon | 25% | 3% | 11% | 13% |
| 2. They make a resolution to the nuclear issue more likely but only at some point in the future | 38 | 16 | 20 | 26 |
| 3. They make progress on unrelated issues more likely, but the nuclear issue will remain unresolved | 22 | 40 | 25 | 30 |
| 4. Nothing will be resolved | 3 | 26 | 18 | 15 |
| 5. Don't know | 12 | 12 | 25 | 14 |
| Refused | 1 | 3 | 2 | 2 |

Q18. In light of recent diplomatic events, how do you assess the risk of U.S. military action against North Korea compared with a year ago? (Choose one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. There is a lower risk of military action | 43% | 13% | 24% | 27% |
| 2. There is the same risk of military action | 42 | 36 | 33 | 38 |
| 3. There is a higher risk of military action | 8 | 40 | 19 | 24 |
| 4. Don't know | 6 | 11 | 18 | 10 |

| | | | | |
|---------|---|----|---|---|
| Refused | 1 | <1 | 6 | 1 |
|---------|---|----|---|---|

Q19. How has the possibility of the U.S.-North Korea Summit affected your view of President Donald Trump? (Choose One)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Become more positive | 65% | 10% | 17% | 34% |
| 2. Become more negative | 2 | 23 | 17 | 14 |
| 3. No change | 32 | 58 | 55 | 47 |
| 4. Don't know | 2 | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Refused | <1 | <1 | 3 | 1 |

Q19A. Compared with a year ago, how have the diplomatic opportunities to negotiate denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula changed?

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Increased | 77% | 33% | 43% | 53% |
| 2. Decreased | 3 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| 3. Remained at the same level | 20 | 55 | 45 | 39 |
| Refused | <1 | 2 | 10 | 2 |

Asked only of respondents who said "increase" in Q19A.

Q20. Which two leaders do you believe deserve the most credit for the increased diplomatic opening to negotiate the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula? (Choose TWO)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un | 27% | 31% | 22% | 27% |
| 2. South Korean President Moon Jae-in | 47 | 61 | 40 | 50 |
| 3. U.S. President Donald Trump | 85 | 18 | 54 | 63 |
| 4. Chinese President Xi Jinping | 17 | 34 | 21 | 22 |
| 5. Russian President Vladimir Putin | 1 | 1 | 5 | 1 |
| 6. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe | 2 | 7 | 3 | 3 |
| 7. United Nations Secretary General António Guterres | 1 | 4 | 10 | 3 |
| 8. No one | <1 | 3 | 3 | 1 |
| 9. Others (specify) | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| 10. Don't know | 3 | 14 | 12 | 7 |

Q21. Assuming the meeting between President Trump and Kim Jong-Un is held, in your view, which country would be making the larger concession, the United States or North Korea?

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. U.S. | 16% | 29% | 22% | 23% |
| 2. North Korea | 49 | 24 | 24 | 34 |
| 3. Both at the same level | 22 | 26 | 20 | 24 |
| 4. Don't know | 13 | 20 | 33 | 19 |
| Refused | 0 | 1 | 1 | <1 |

Q22. In your view, which of the following is a more important factor in influencing North Korea's stated willingness to negotiate the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula? (Choose One)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. The tough line, including pressure and threats, taken by the Trump administration | 61% | 16% | 36% | 38% |
| 2. North Korea feels it has strong negotiating leverage after its success in developing and testing an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) that can reach American soil and directly threaten the U.S and its allies | 13 | 42 | 32 | 29 |
| 3. The impact of UN sanctions and/or Chinese pressure | 25 | 39 | 26 | 31 |
| Refused | 1 | 3 | 7 | 3 |

Q23. Why do you believe President Trump agreed to negotiate directly with Kim Jong-Un?

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. North Korea's success in having the ability to hurt the U.S. and its allies got his attention | 4% | 14% | 15% | 10% |
| 2. A new opportunity emerged by the stated willingness of Kim Jong-Un to meet and discuss denuclearization as transmitted through the South Koreans | 60 | 13 | 25 | 34 |
| 3. Trump sees Korea as his most promising option as he seeks a major international accomplishment, especially after the apparent reduced chances of achieving a breakthrough in a major accomplishment in the Middle East | 19 | 43 | 20 | 30 |
| 4. Other | 9 | 15 | 12 | 12 |
| 5. Don't know | 7 | 15 | 24 | 13 |
| Refused | 1 | <1 | 3 | 1 |

Q24. How much do you trust Kim Jong-Un's willingness to help build security and peace on the Korean Peninsula? (Choose One)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---------------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Trust him a great deal | 0% | <1 | 0% | <1 |
| 2. Trust him somewhat | 11 | 4 | 1 | 7 |
| 3. Neither trust him nor distrust him | 14 | 17 | 18 | 16 |
| 4. Distrust him somewhat | 29 | 23 | 19 | 25 |
| 5. Do not trust him at all | 45 | 50 | 46 | 47 |
| 6. Don't know | 1 | 6 | 15 | 5 |
| Refused | 0 | <1 | 1 | <1 |

Q25. If North Korea were to become nuclear free, would you support or oppose normal relations, including full diplomatic relations, between the United States and North Korea? (Choose one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Oppose normal relations even after North Korea completely gives up its nuclear weapons | 9% | 6% | 16% | 9% |
| 2. Support normal relations only after North Korea completely gives up its nuclear weapons | 74 | 54 | 42 | 61 |
| 3. Support normal relations after North Korea agrees to denuclearize even before the agreement is implemented | 9 | 17 | 14 | 13 |
| 4. Don't know | 8 | 23 | 27 | 17 |
| Refused | 1 | <1 | 1 | 1 |

Q26. How do you foresee the likely outcome of the situation on the Korean Peninsula in the next 10 years? (Choose one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. The instability will remain the same. | 7% | 22% | 19% | 15% |
| 2. North Korea and South Korea will have reduced the tension and improved the relations. | 68 | 43 | 37 | 53 |
| 3. South and North will be unified. | 6 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| 4. More instability and violence will continue following military intervention and/or North Korea's collapse. | 8 | 12 | 12 | 10 |
| 5. Others (Specify) | <1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |

| | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|
| 6. Don't know. | 11 | 17 | 27 | 16 |
| Refused | 1 | <1 | 1 | 1 |

Q27. If the Korean Peninsula is denuclearized, which one of the following do you support most?
(Choose one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. U.S. bases in South Korea closed and U.S. troops leave South Korea | 7% | 14% | 15% | 11% |
| 2. U.S. bases in South Korea reduced in size | 33 | 31 | 27 | 31 |
| 3. U.S. bases in South Korea maintained as they are today | 44 | 31 | 27 | 36 |
| 4. U.S. bases in South Korea enlarged | 6 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| 5. Don't know | 9 | 17 | 26 | 15 |
| Refused | 1 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

Q28. In your opinion, after the Korean Peninsula is denuclearized, how much do you believe there will be a need for an American-South Korean alliance?

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. The alliance would need to be strengthened. | 17% | 22% | 26% | 20% |
| 2. The alliance should remain the same | 66 | 45 | 33 | 52 |
| 3. The alliance would need to be lessened | 5 | 11 | 13 | 10 |
| 4. The alliance should be terminated | <1 | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| 5. Don't know | 9 | 19 | 22 | 15 |
| Refused | 1 | 2 | 2 | 1 |

Q29. Do you think the problem relating to North Korea's nuclear program will be resolved and, if so, when? (Choose one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. It will be resolved by the end of the year | 4% | 1% | 3% | 3% |
| 2. It will be resolved by next year | 14 | 3 | 5 | 8 |
| 3. It will be resolved within 5 years | 34 | 18 | 21 | 25 |
| 4. It will be resolved within 10 years | 13 | 12 | 18 | 13 |
| 5. It won't be resolved | 11 | 37 | 34 | 26 |
| 6. Don't know | 21 | 27 | 19 | 23 |
| Refused | 4 | 3 | 1 | 3 |

Q30. Which of the following do you prefer as an outcome on the Korean Peninsula? (Please select one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Complete unification as a single country | 15% | 18% | 21% | 17% |
| 2. A federal government over the peninsula with North and South Korea as separate parts of the federation | 6 | 7 | 4 | 6 |
| 3. Remaining two separate states but having more economic integration | 48 | 34 | 30 | 39 |
| 4. Remaining two separate states but cooperating in friendly exchanges such as a unified Olympics team | 14 | 16 | 6 | 14 |
| 5. North Korea and South Korea existing separately as they do today | 8 | 9 | 13 | 9 |
| 6. Don't know | 9 | 16 | 25 | 14 |
| Refused | <1 | <1 | 1 | <1 |

Q31. What level of military power should the United States maintain in Asia?

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. U.S. should maintain its current level of military power | 62% | 48% | 40% | 52% |
| 2. U.S. should increase its level of military power | 25 | 10 | 10 | 16 |
| 3. U.S. should decrease its level of military power | 9 | 26 | 25 | 19 |
| 4. Don't know | 5 | 16 | 25 | 12 |
| Refused | <1 | 0 | 0 | <1 |

Q32. How do you think the North Korea crisis has affected Japan's relations with the United States? (choose one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|----------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Strengthened them | 44% | 21% | 17% | 30% |
| 2. Weakened them | 10 | 24 | 15 | 17 |
| 3. Had no impact | 19 | 17 | 28 | 19 |
| 4. Don't know | 26 | 37 | 40 | 33 |
| Refused | <1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Q33. How do you feel about Japan expanding its military power to play a bigger role in maintaining stability in Northeast Asia? (Choose one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Support | 67% | 53% | 48% | 58% |
| 2. Oppose | 10 | 10 | 18 | 11 |
| 3. Don't know | 21 | 37 | 33 | 30 |
| Refused | 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Q34. Do you support or oppose South Korea and/or Japan acquiring nuclear weapons if North Korea doesn't give up its own?

Q34A. Nuclear weapons in Japan (choose one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Support | 25% | 18% | 15% | 21% |
| 2. Oppose | 56 | 64 | 59 | 60 |
| 3. Don't know | 19 | 18 | 26 | 19 |
| Refused | <1 | <1 | 0 | <1 |

Q34B. Nuclear weapons in South Korea (choose one)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Support | 24% | 17% | 14% | 20% |
| 2. Oppose | 57 | 67 | 60 | 62 |
| 3. Don't know | 18 | 16 | 26 | 18 |
| Refused | <1 | 1 | 0 | <1 |

Q35. Please name TWO countries that you believe pose the greatest threat to your country. *Open Ended*

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|---------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Russia | 41% | 61% | 37% | 50% |
| North Korea | 37 | 52 | 38 | 44 |
| China | 41 | 20 | 27 | 30 |
| Iran | 39 | 14 | 19 | 25 |
| United States | 1 | 8 | 8 | 5 |
| Iraq | 5 | 6 | 2 | 5 |
| Syria | 7 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| Mexico | 4 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| Israel | 1 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| South Korea | 3 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| Japan | 1 | 2 | 5 | 2 |
| Saudi Arabia | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| "Middle East" | 2 | <1 | 1 | 1 |
| Afghanistan | 1 | 1 | <1 | 1 |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|---|----|----|----|
| Pakistan | 1 | <1 | <1 | <1 |
| Other | 3 | 6 | 7 | 5 |
| Don't Know/Refused | 7 | 10 | 22 | 11 |

Q36. Of the following countries, which are the two most important partners for the U.S. (Choose TWO)

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. UK | 50% | 47% | 38% | 47% |
| 2. France | 7 | 14 | 12 | 10 |
| 3. Germany | 9 | 25 | 18 | 17 |
| 4. Canada | 20 | 41 | 25 | 30 |
| 5. Australia | 6 | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| 6. China | 18 | 21 | 17 | 19 |
| 7. Japan | 15 | 15 | 9 | 14 |
| 8. Russia | 10 | 7 | 10 | 9 |
| 9. Israel | 46 | 7 | 14 | 24 |
| 10. Saudi Arabia | 9 | 5 | 10 | 8 |
| 11. Others | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 12. Don't know | 3 | 8 | 21 | 8 |

Q37. How do you assess the prospect of a military confrontation between the United States and each of the following countries? (Choose one each)

Q37A. China

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Very likely | 2% | 5% | 7% | 4% |
| 2. Somewhat likely | 21 | 14 | 16 | 17 |
| 3. Neither likely nor unlikely | 26 | 22 | 19 | 23 |
| 4. Somewhat unlikely | 20 | 21 | 12 | 19 |
| 5. Very unlikely | 25 | 28 | 26 | 27 |
| 6. Don't Know | 5 | 9 | 21 | 9 |
| Refused | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

Q37B. Russia

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Very likely | 6% | 5% | 7% | 6% |
| 2. Somewhat likely | 19 | 32 | 21 | 25 |
| 3. Neither likely nor unlikely | 26 | 16 | 17 | 20 |
| 4. Somewhat unlikely | 23 | 18 | 17 | 20 |
| 5. Very unlikely | 21 | 18 | 17 | 19 |
| 6. Don't Know | 4 | 12 | 21 | 10 |
| Refused | 2 | <1 | 0 | 1 |

Q37C. North Korea

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Very likely | 11% | 14% | 7% | 12% |
| 2. Somewhat likely | 38 | 45 | 40 | 41 |
| 3. Neither likely nor unlikely | 20 | 14 | 12 | 16 |
| 4. Somewhat unlikely | 16 | 10 | 10 | 12 |
| 5. Very unlikely | 10 | 7 | 13 | 9 |
| 6. Don't Know | 5 | 11 | 18 | 9 |
| Refused | 1 | <1 | 0 | 1 |

Q37D. Syria

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Very likely | 15% | 12% | 9% | 13% |
| 2. Somewhat likely | 51 | 41 | 38 | 45 |
| 3. Neither likely nor unlikely | 17 | 18 | 10 | 17 |
| 4. Somewhat unlikely | 8 | 11 | 10 | 10 |
| 5. Very unlikely | 6 | 5 | 8 | 6 |
| 6. Don't Know | 3 | 12 | 24 | 10 |
| Refused | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

Q37E. Iran

| | Rep | Dem | Ind | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| 1. Very likely | 18% | 9% | 14% | 14% |
| 2. Somewhat likely | 50 | 45 | 39 | 46 |
| 3. Neither likely nor unlikely | 16 | 20 | 12 | 17 |
| 4. Somewhat unlikely | 9 | 9 | 3 | 8 |
| 5. Very unlikely | 4 | 4 | 8 | 4 |
| 6. Don't Know | 2 | 13 | 25 | 10 |
| Refused | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |