



# 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**]

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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**]

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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*

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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)

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
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