



University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll

with Nielsen Scarborough

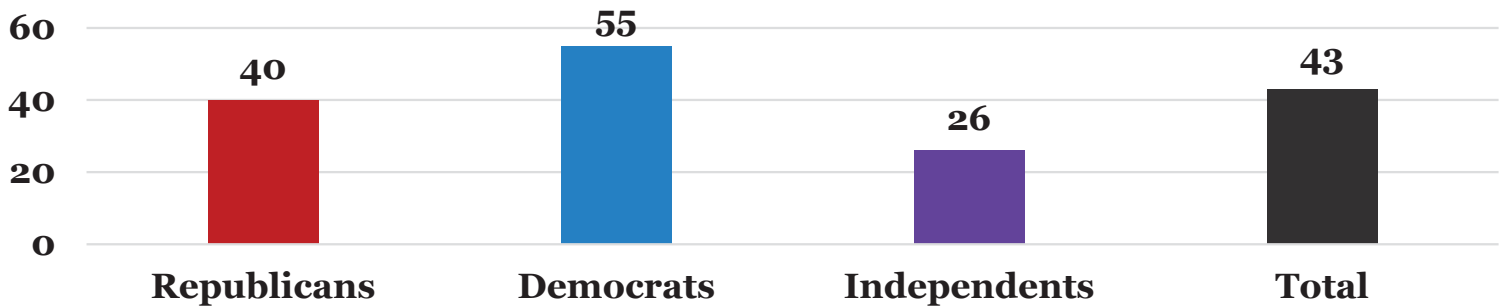
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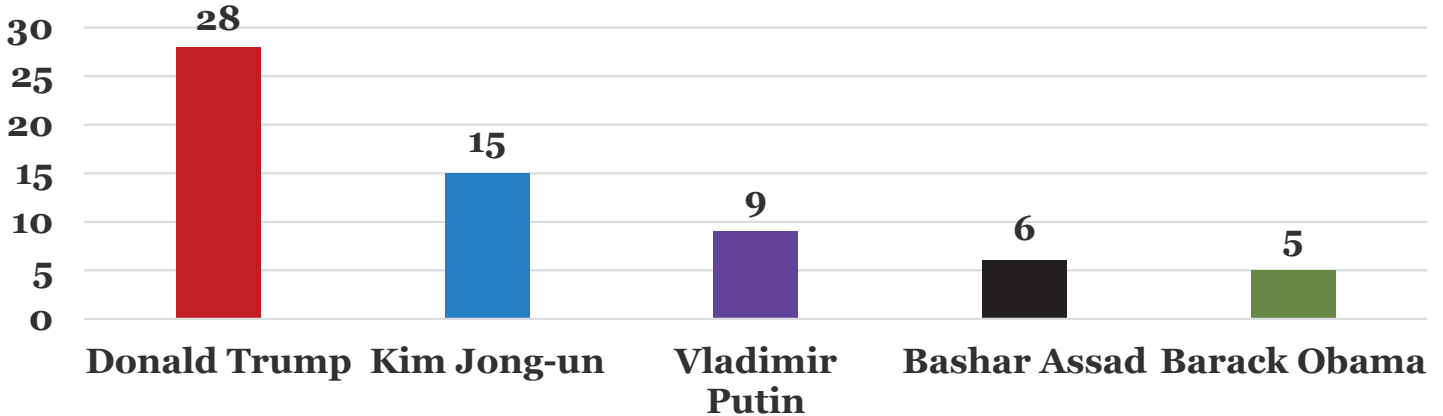
Trump's First 100 Days

Examining Voter Attitudes during Trump's Presidency

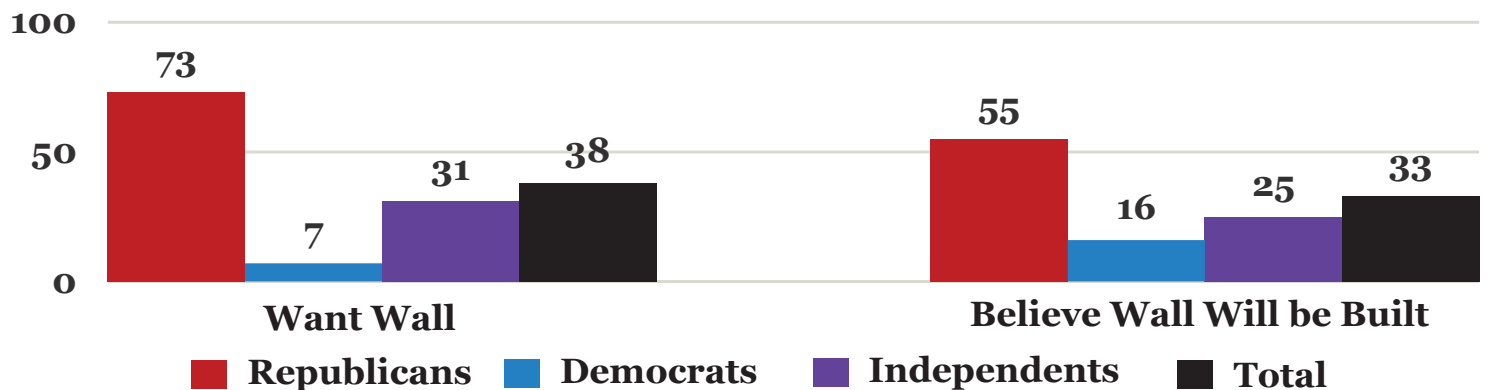
Do you wish you had voted in the election? (non-voters only)



Please name a national or world leader you dislike most (Open-Ended)



Support Border Wall/Believe Wall will be Built?



Leadership and Advisory Board for the Critical Issues Poll



Shibley Telhami is the Anwar Sadat Professor for Peace and Development at the University of Maryland, College Park, and non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

Professor Telhami has also been active in the foreign policy arena. He has served as Advisor to the US Mission to the UN (1990-91), as advisor to former Congressman Lee Hamilton, more recently as senior advisor to George Mitchell, President Obama's United States Special Envoy for Middle East Peace (2009-2011) and as a member of the US delegation to the Trilateral US-Israeli-Palestinian Anti-Incitement Committee.

Professor Telhami has contributed to *The Washington Post*, *The New York Times*, and the *Los Angeles Times* and regularly appears on national and international radio and television. His best-selling book, *The Stakes: America and the Middle East* was selected by Foreign Affairs as one of the top five books on the Middle East in 2003. He has been a principal investigator in the annual Arab Public Opinion Survey, conducted since 2002 in six Arab countries.



Stella Rouse is an associate professor in the Department of Government and Politics and director of the Center for American Politics and Citizenship.

Professor Rouse earned her Ph.D. from Louisiana State University in 2008. In 2010, she was a visiting scholar at the Center for the Study of Race, Ethnicity and Gender in the Social Sciences (REGSS) at Duke University as a Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow.

Rouse's book, *Latinos in the Legislative Process: Interests and Influence*, published by Cambridge University Press, was named by Huffington Post as one of the "Best Political Science Books of 2013." She is a native of Colombia. When she was two years old, her parents immigrated to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida where she grew up. Rouse fluently speaks, reads, and writes Spanish.

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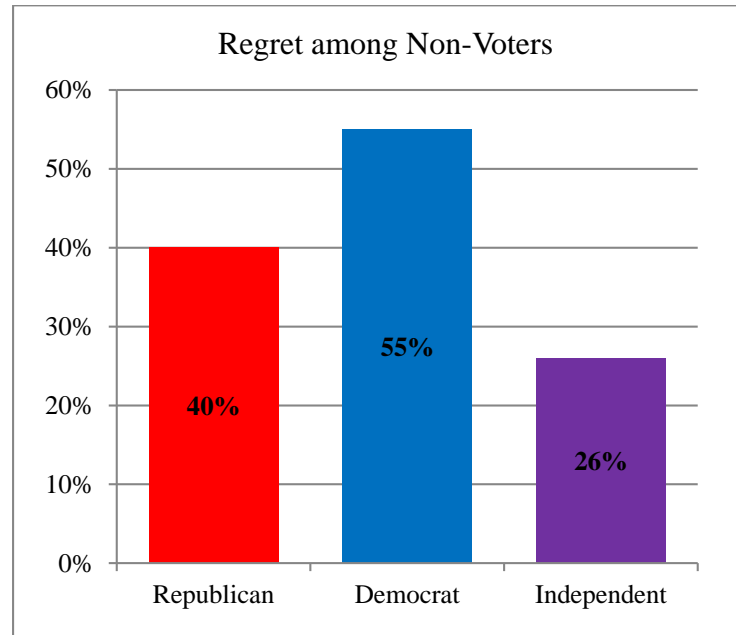
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Evaluating Public Opinion during Trump's First 100 Days

Remorse high among non-voters, especially among Democrats

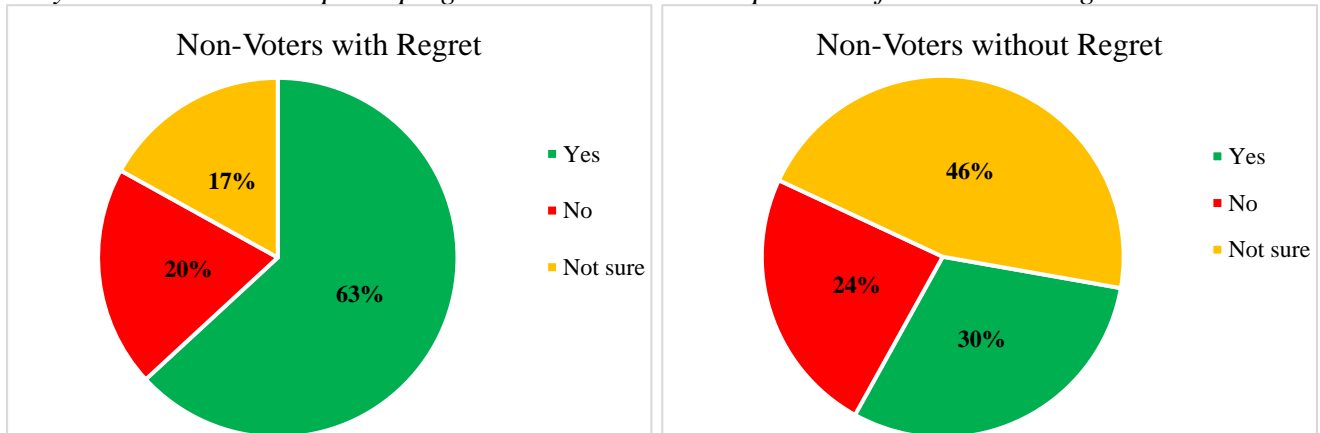
With Donald Trump's first 100 days as President coming to a close, the UMD Critical Issues Poll sought to determine how many Americans looked back on Election Day with remorse. While we do not find that Trump voters regret their vote, we do find strong evidence that those who stayed home in November regret their choice to abstain.

Regardless of partisanship, regret among non-voters was roughly 43%, but this number was higher among Democrats, at 55%. Turnout among this group in November might have been the difference in the election, and regret among these individuals may spur participation in subsequent elections. Regret among independents remained relatively low, though more than a quarter of them also regretted their decision not to vote.



Interestingly, a full 40% of Republican non-voters regret their decision. While the reason for this regret is hard to know with certainty, a look at the beliefs of these individuals provides clues. Since the election, news reports revealed likely contact between Russian operatives and the Trump campaign. Among those who expressed regret about not voting, 63% said that Russian operatives had been in contact with the campaign. By comparison, among non-voters who expressed no regret, the number drops to 30%. Even among Republican non-voters, we see that those who regret their abstention are far more likely to accept the claim that the campaign was in contact with the Russians. Among those with regret, 34% say there was contact, as opposed to only 12% among those without regret.

Do you believe the Trump campaign was in contact with operatives for the Russian government?

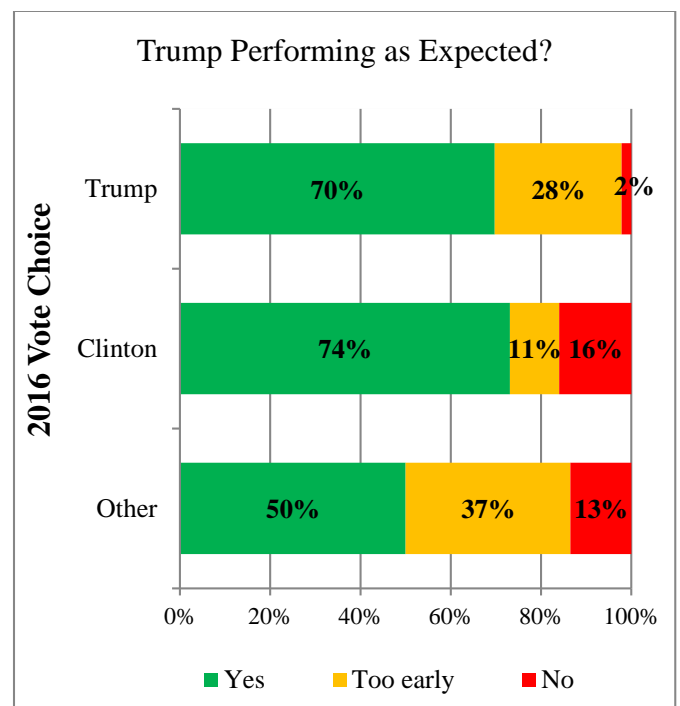
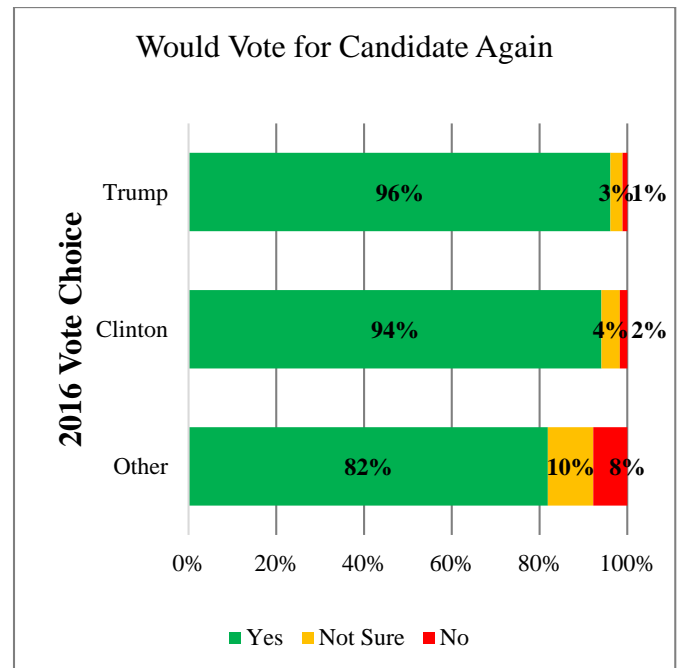


Are Trump Voters Also Experiencing Buyer's Remorse?

In the wake of President Trump's highly visible legislative defeats on the [repeal of Obamacare](#), funding for the [border wall](#), and a number of other key policy proposals, a media [narrative](#) has suggested that many Trump voters regret their vote choice. A recent [Washington Post-ABC](#) poll, however, found that this narrative was largely false. In the April 2017 edition of the University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll, we similarly find that Trump voters remain strongly unified in support of their candidate, with very few expressing any regret for supporting Trump.

When asked whether, knowing what they know now, would Americans still have voted for their preferred candidate in the 2016 election, Trump voters overwhelmingly said yes, with only 1% saying no. This uniform support was even stronger than support for Hillary Clinton, whose voters only said they would support her again at a rate of 94%.

Continued support (and opposition) for Trump appears to come from the perception that Trump has done precisely what he promised he would do. When we asked if Americans thought Donald Trump had done about what they expected, they overwhelmingly said yes. 70% of Trump voters said yes to this, while only 2% said no. Clinton supporters also saw him as acting in accordance with his campaign promises, with 74% claiming Trump had met their expectations. Despite this, a significant portion of the American electorate believes it is too early to tell if Donald Trump will be the type of president they expected him to be.



Trump Voters Accept Trump's Claims on Russia and Wiretaps

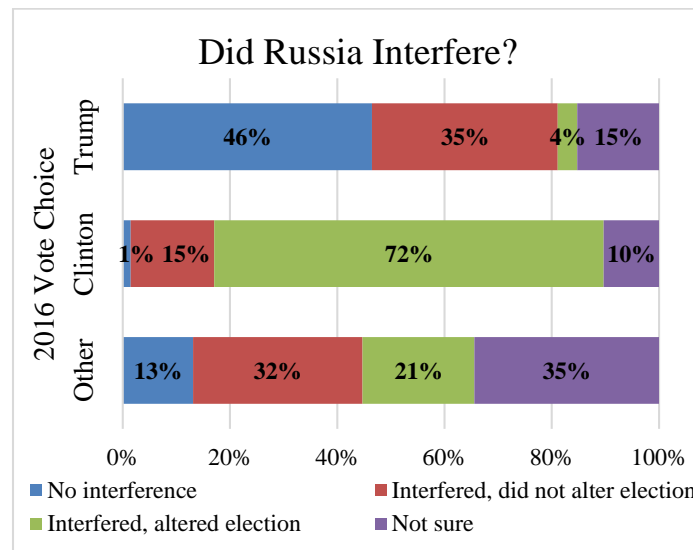
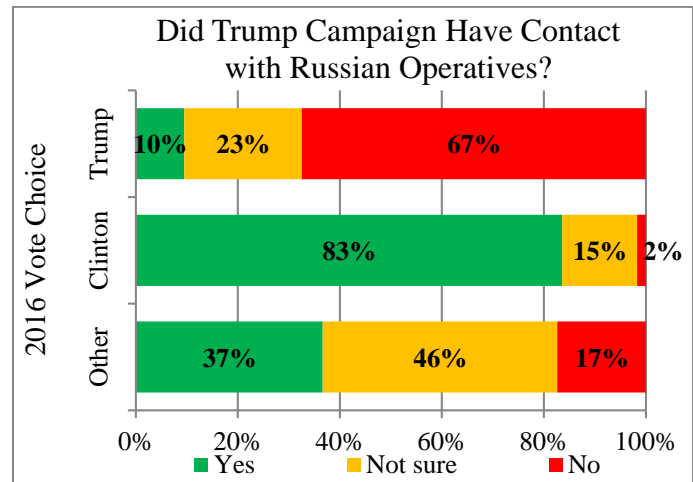
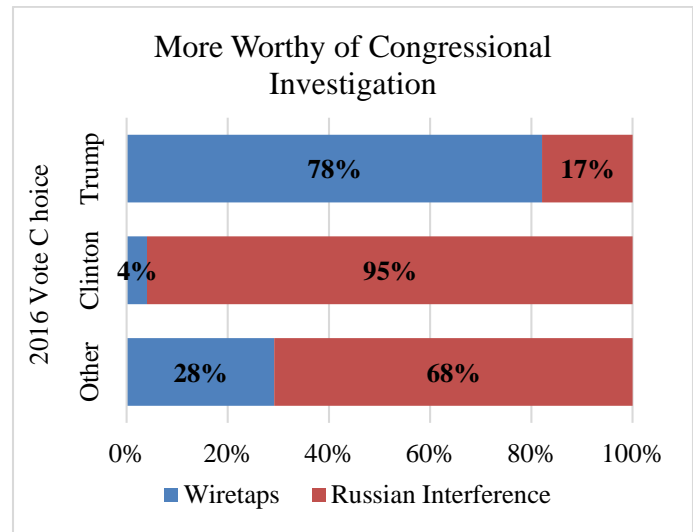
Trump voters are not only unified behind him in terms of public support, but they also accept many of Donald Trump's claims, even if they are lacking in evidence.

In March of 2017, Trump [accused](#) Barack Obama of wiretapping his phone during the election, despite lacking evidence to back up the claim. Around the same time media outlets [reported widely](#) on Russian interference in the 2016 election that was designed to help Trump to victory. Despite these reports, we find that who someone voted for plays a large role in how that person receives and interprets news events.

Trump voters overwhelmingly said that the allegations of wiretapping merit a Congressional investigation more than the possibility of Russian interference in the election, at 78%. Clinton voters, however, see Russian interference as the bigger issue by a huge margin of 95%-4%.

Similarly, only 10% of Trump voters said they thought reports that the Trump campaign was in contact with Russian operatives were true, which skyrockets to 83% among Clinton voters. Third party supporters tend to view Russian interference as more likely than not, but many of them claim to be unsure as to the role Russia played and to what degree they were in contact with the Trump Campaign.

Looking at Trump voters' responses to the basic question of whether Russia interfered in the election many more of them claimed that Russia did not interfere at all (46%) compared to those who believe Russia interfered and altered the outcome of the election (4%). Clinton supporters, however, are far more likely to blame Russia for the election loss, with 72% of them saying Russia altered the outcome.

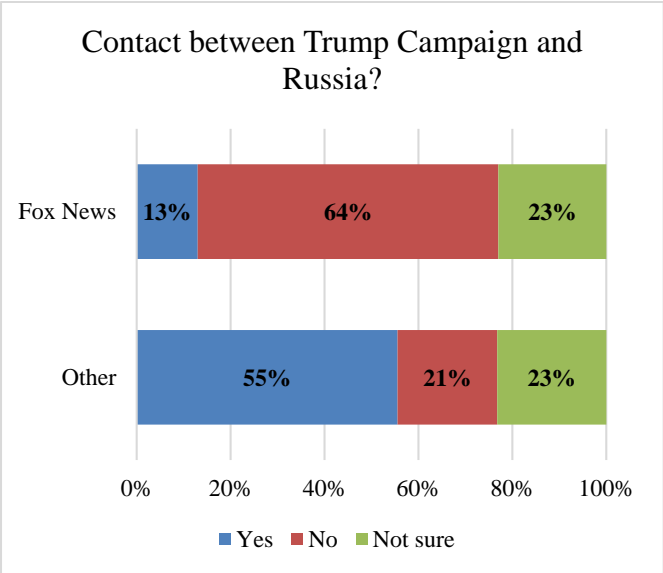
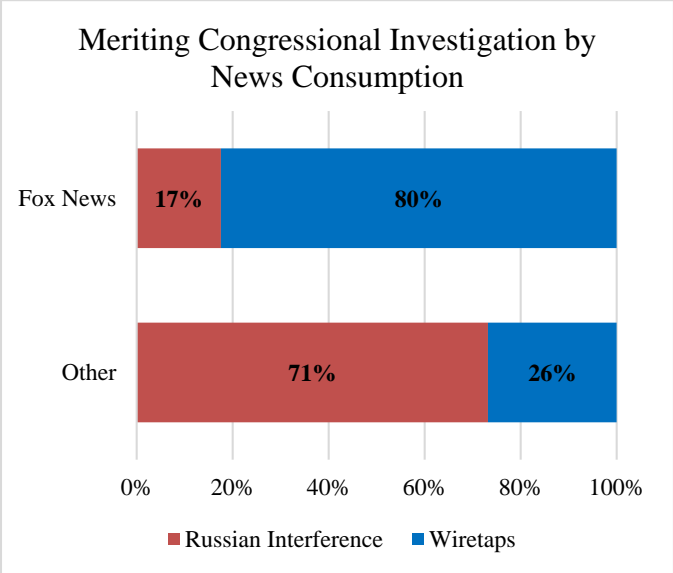


What Role does Fox News Play in Spreading a Pro-Trump Narrative?

The widely-held views of Trump supporters regarding the lack of Russian interference and the likelihood of Obama wiretapping Trump’s phone may come down, at least in part, to where Trump supporters get their news.

With the Critical Issues Poll, we asked Americans where they went primarily for news. Roughly 19% said they went to Fox News. Among Trump supporters, greater than 40% went to Fox News, making it far and away the most popular place for news among this group of voters. President Trump repeatedly defended former Fox News Executive [Roger Ailes](#) and host [Bill O’Reilly](#) as they were mired in scandal. He has also [called](#) in to several of their shows in order to make his case to the conservative base of the Republican Party.

This line of communication appears to have an effect, as the poll numbers reflect that Fox News watchers largely accept the President’s claim that Russian interference was not a problem in the 2016 campaign. We find that individuals who get their news primarily from Fox News are far more likely to say that wiretapping is a worthier topic for Congressional investigation when compared to Russian meddling in the election. In particular, we see that 64% of individuals who primarily go to Fox News reject the notion that the Trump campaign had contact with Russia.



The trend shown in these figures is indicative of a broad trend in the data that shows Fox News viewers to be far more supportive of Trump and his agenda than those who get their news primarily elsewhere. From the U.S.-Mexico border wall to health care, individuals who watch Fox News for their information are far more likely to support the Trump agenda.

Evidence Grows that Democrats, Independents Grow More Unified in Stopping Trump Agenda on Health Care and Immigration

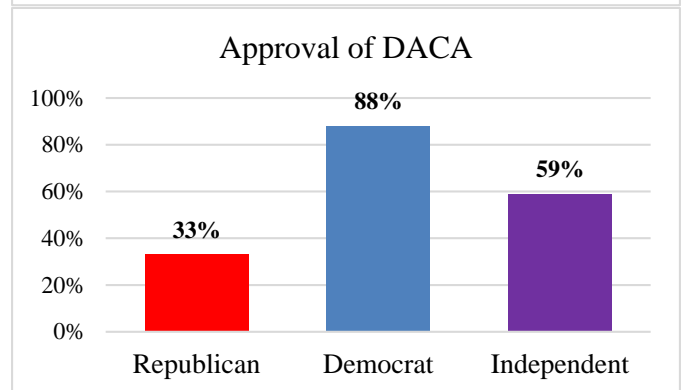
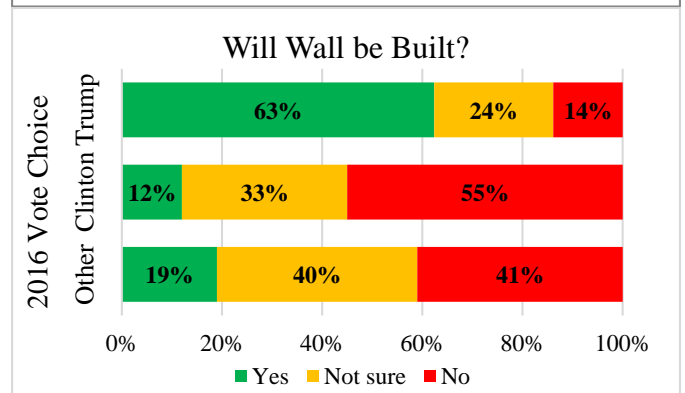
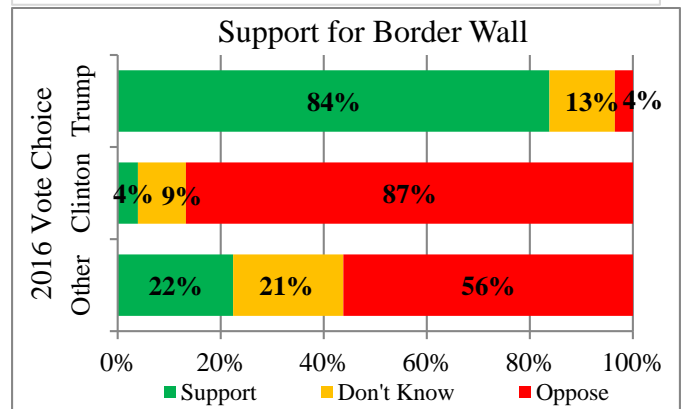
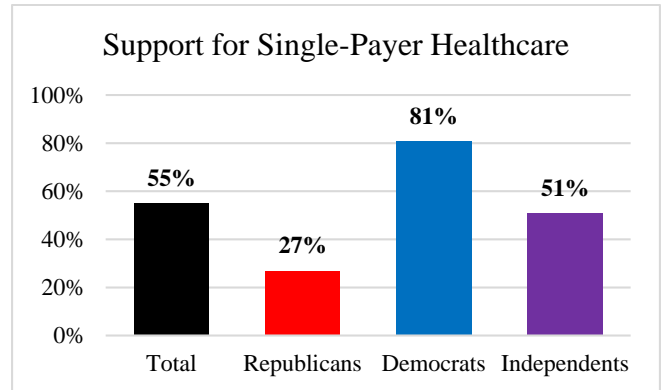
Trump voters may be behind the President, but the Critical Issues Poll suggests that many of Trump’s key promises on healthcare, immigration, and border security may be in jeopardy because of enthusiasm from Democrats and opposition among Independents to Trump’s key proposals.

On health care, we find that a high proportion of Americans support a single-payer system, despite strong Republican opposition to such a plan in Congress. More than half of Americans support the idea of government-run healthcare, but support is split along partisan lines. While only 27% of Republicans support it, that opposition is overcome with 81% support among Democrats and 51% support among independents.

In terms of border security, support for the proposed wall between the United States and Mexico sits at only 38% support against 48% in opposition. Among Trump’s core constituency, however, support is at 84%. Looking instead at Clinton and third party voters, we find that opposition builds. Eighty-three percent of Democrats oppose the wall, while another 56% of individuals supporting neither candidate do not want the wall.

Trump supporters are somewhat less confident the wall will be built, with only 63% claiming Trump will succeed on this policy. Individuals voting for a different candidate tend to think the wall is unlikely, though a great deal of uncertainty exists.

Americans also stand in opposition to Trump’s [campaign promise](#) to do away with the Obama-era executive order allowing children of undocumented immigrants to stay in the United States. While strong majorities of Democrats and independents support keeping the “Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals” (DACA) policy, a notable 33% of Republicans also favor maintaining that provision.

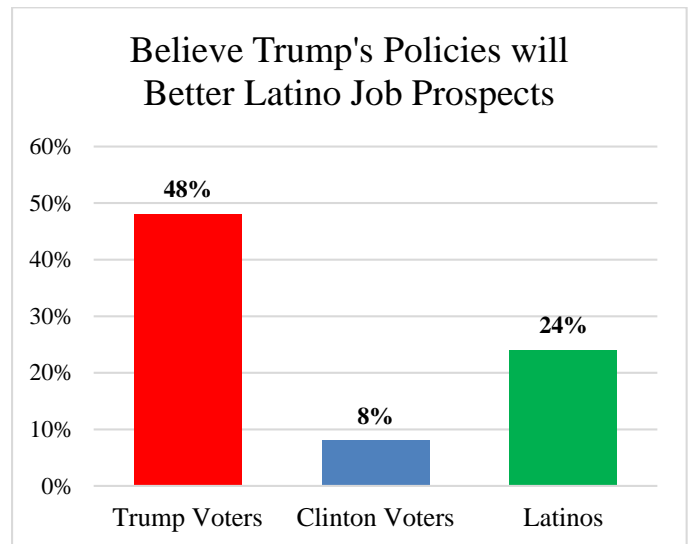
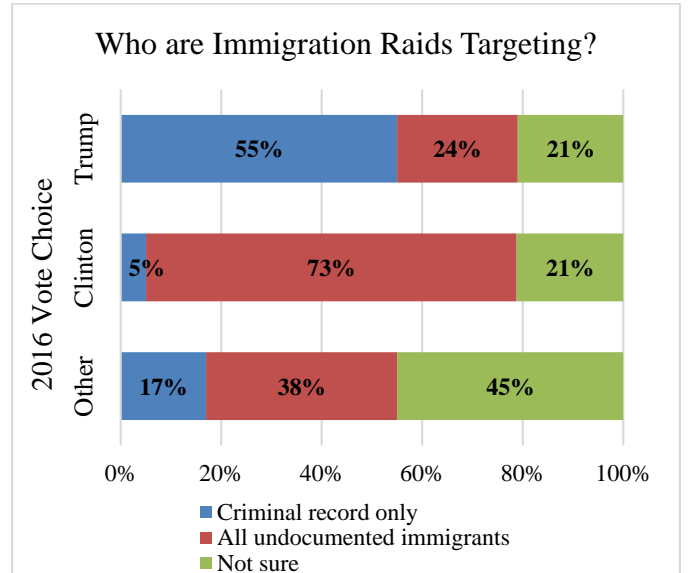
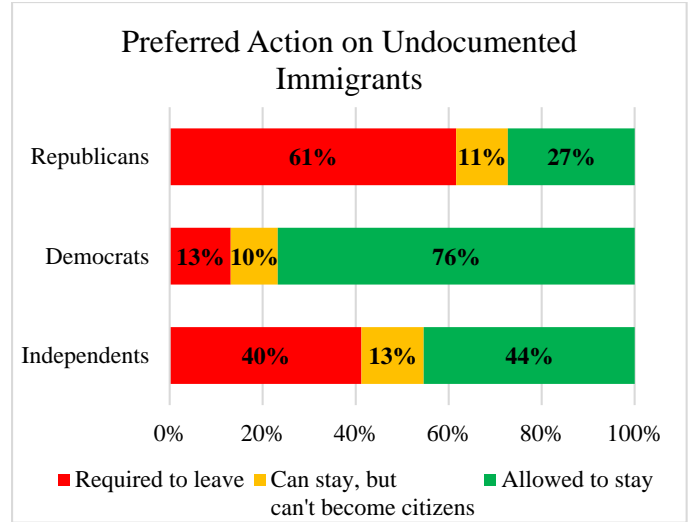


Additionally, we find that, while most Republicans prefer making undocumented immigrants leave the country, Democrats are more unified in allowing them to stay and offering a pathway to citizenship. Independents, while fairly evenly split, side more with the Democratic perspective than with the Republican one, making it difficult for Donald Trump to enact the types of reforms he promised during the campaign.

Beyond policy issues, the Critical Issues Poll reveals that the parties see Trump’s proposals as doing fundamentally different things for Latinos. While immigration raids have received [attention](#) in the press for the seemingly indiscriminate way they target undocumented immigrants, Trump voters continue to say that the raids only target undocumented immigrants with a criminal record. Fifty-five percent of Trump voters said the raids targeted only those with criminal records, while less than 24% of Trump supporters claimed the raids to be targeting all undocumented immigrants. This result contrasts strongly with Clinton supporters, where 73% believe the raids are targeting undocumented immigrants indiscriminately and only 5% see them as targeting those with criminal records.

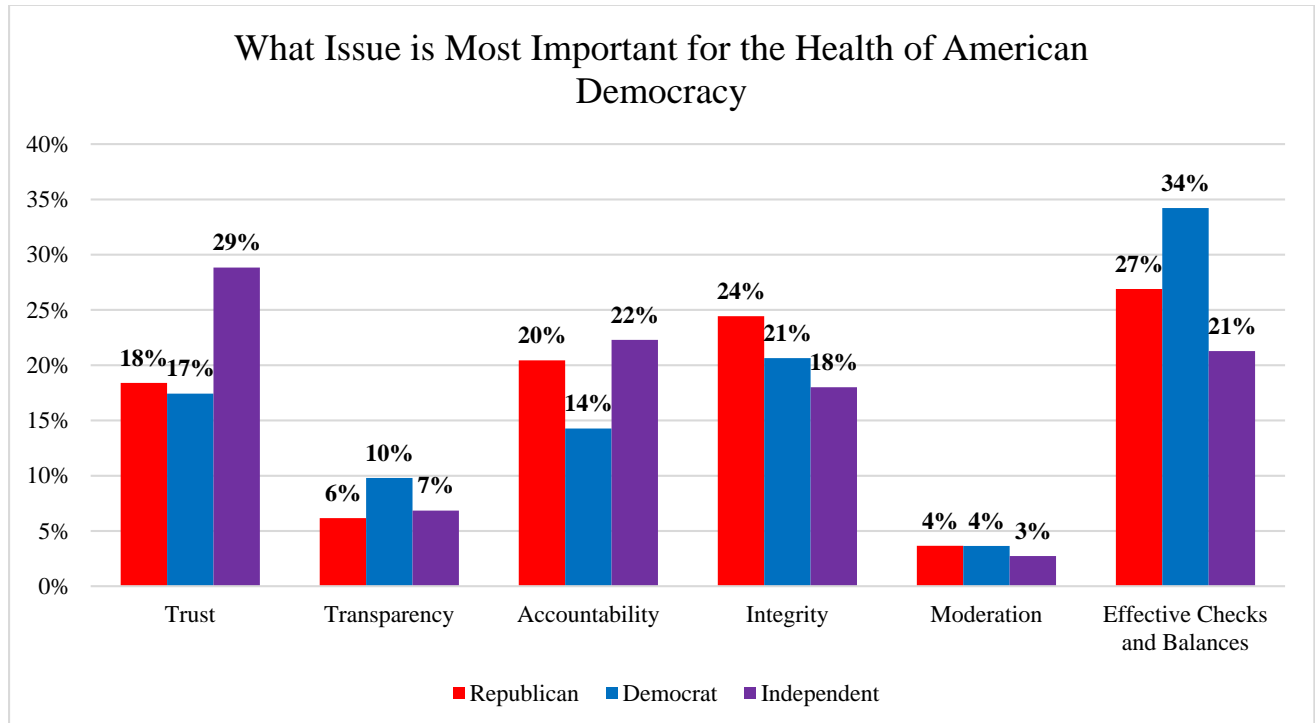
Americans also differ sharply in whether they think Trump’s policies will help Latinos. Among Trump voters, 48% said the policies would help the job prospects of Latinos, whereas only 4% said the policies would hurt. Clinton supporters were the exact opposite, with 47% expecting those policies to hurt Latinos, with only 8% saying they would help.

Latinos themselves are not very optimistic that Trump’s policies are designed to benefit them. Less than a quarter see Trump’s policies as benefitting them, while a third of Latinos believe the policies will end up hurting their job prospects.



Democrats and Republicans Agree on Importance of Checks and Balances

While Americans are divided along partisan and ideological lines, there is a surprising level of agreement on what issues are specifically most vital for the health of American democracy. Namely, we find that among both Democrats and Republicans, effective checks and balances is most often cited. More than a third of Democrats and over a quarter of Republicans chose checks and balances over issues such as trust, transparency, accountability, integrity, and moderation.



This result is particularly interesting among Republicans, as one might assume that Republicans would prefer not to see presidential power be constrained in such a way that Donald Trump fails to get his signature proposals passed through Congress.

Also interesting in these results is the degree to which Americans do not prioritize moderation as a key feature protecting the health of American democracy. While political observers often [bemoan](#) excessive political polarization, Americans themselves do not seem to view moderation as one of the most necessary ingredients in American democracy.

Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted April 12-17, 2017 with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households provided by Survey Sampling International. A total of 2,138 panelists completed the survey. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the US Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification. The margin of error is 2.12%

Valuable assistance was provided by Neil Schwartz, Scott Willoth, and Jordan Evangelista from Nielsen Scarborough. Brittany Kyser and Jared McDonald were particularly helpful.

For more information, please visit criticalissues.umd.edu