

PewResearchCenter

How United is the United States?

Issues, polarization and post-election expectations in American society

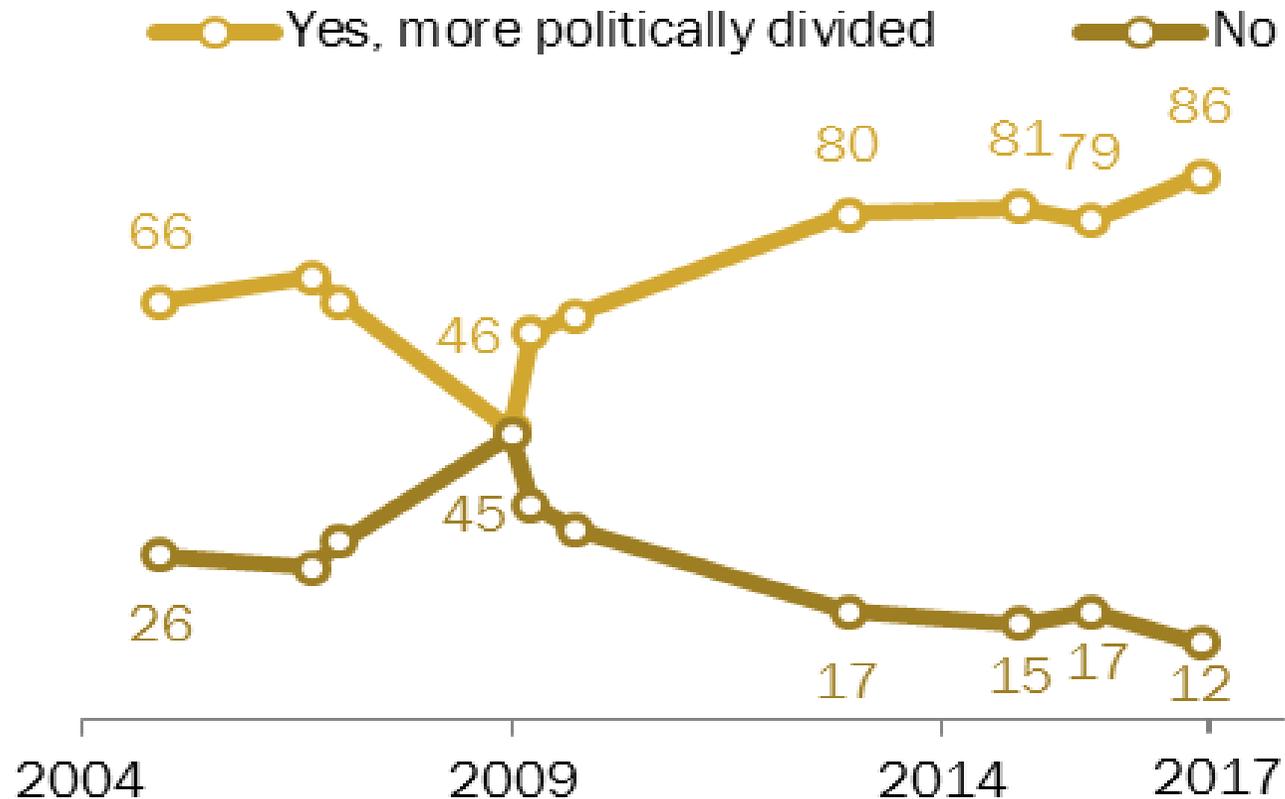
Jocelyn Kiley

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Overwhelming majority says U.S. is more politically divided than in the past

Is the country is more politically divided these days than in the past? (%)

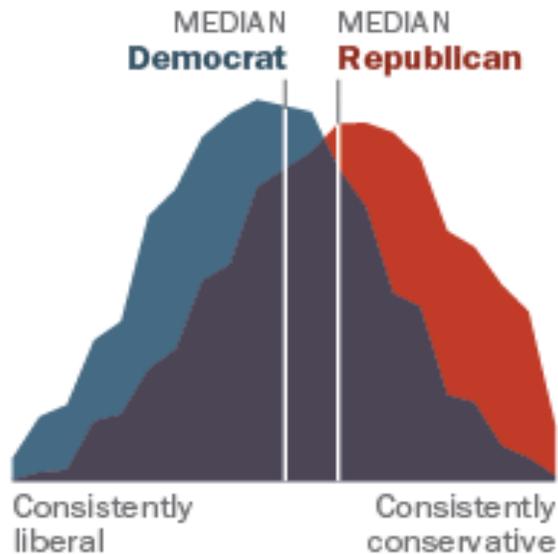


Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

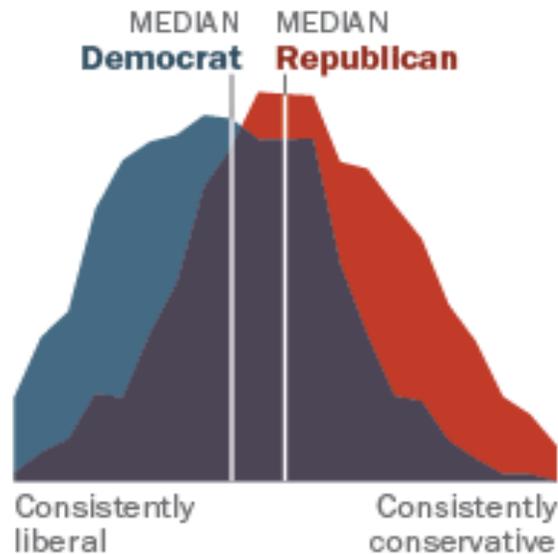
Democrats and Republicans more divided along ideological lines than in the past

Distribution of Democrats and Republicans on a 10-item scale of political values

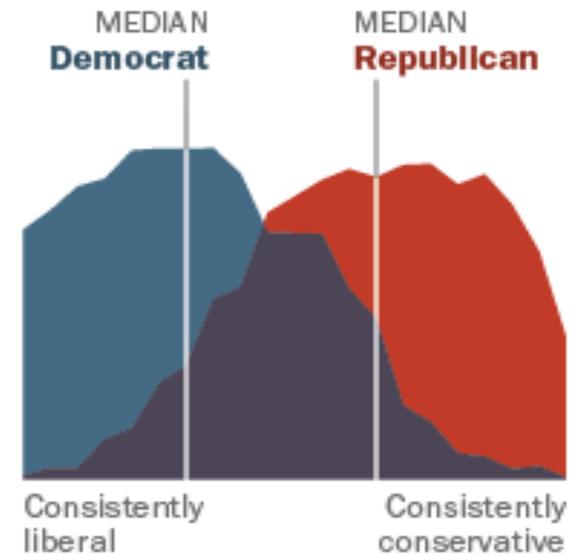
1994



2004



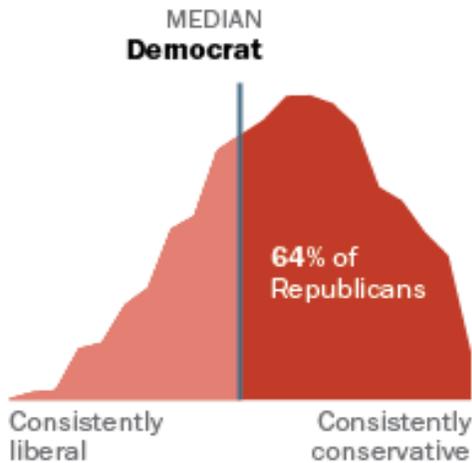
2015



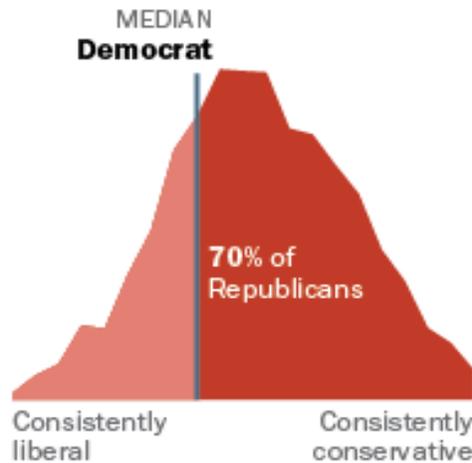
Source: 2014 Political Polarization in the American Public, 2015 Views of Government

Less overlap in views between the parties

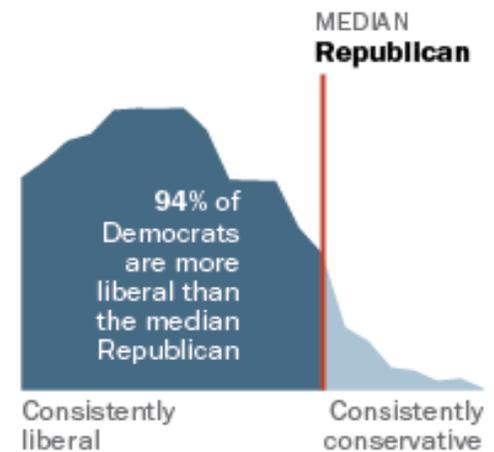
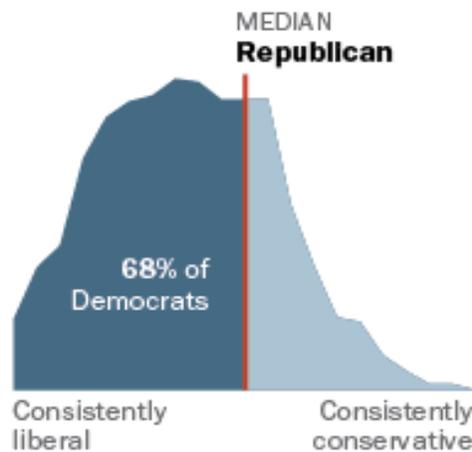
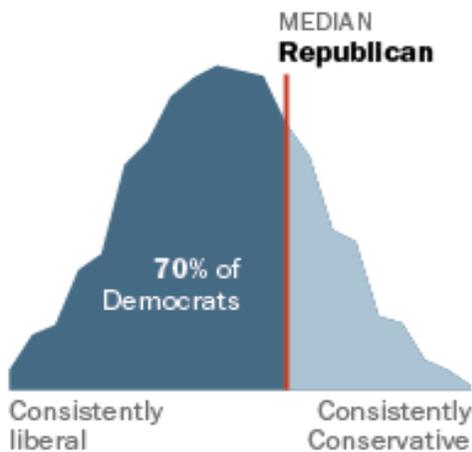
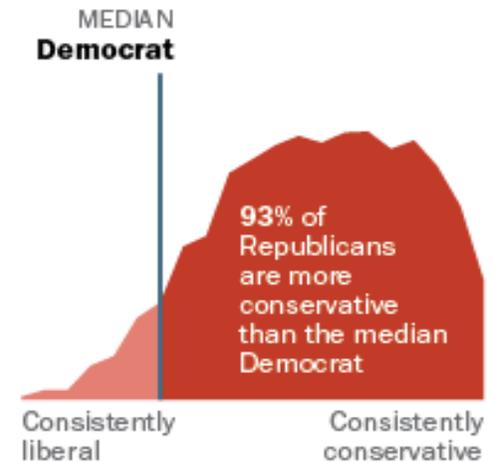
1994



2004

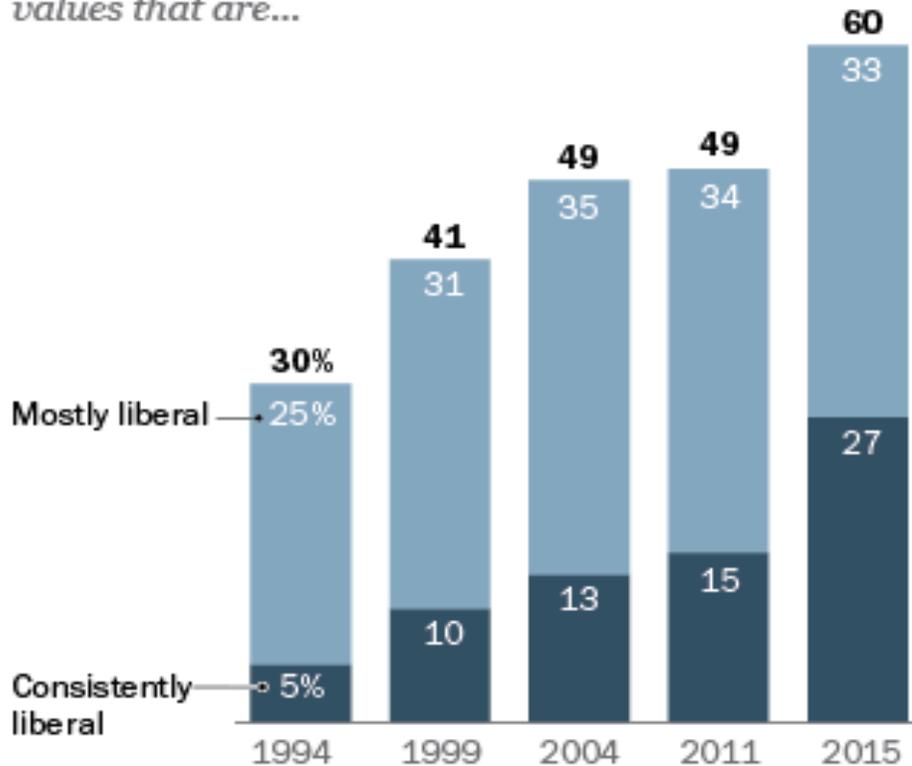


2015

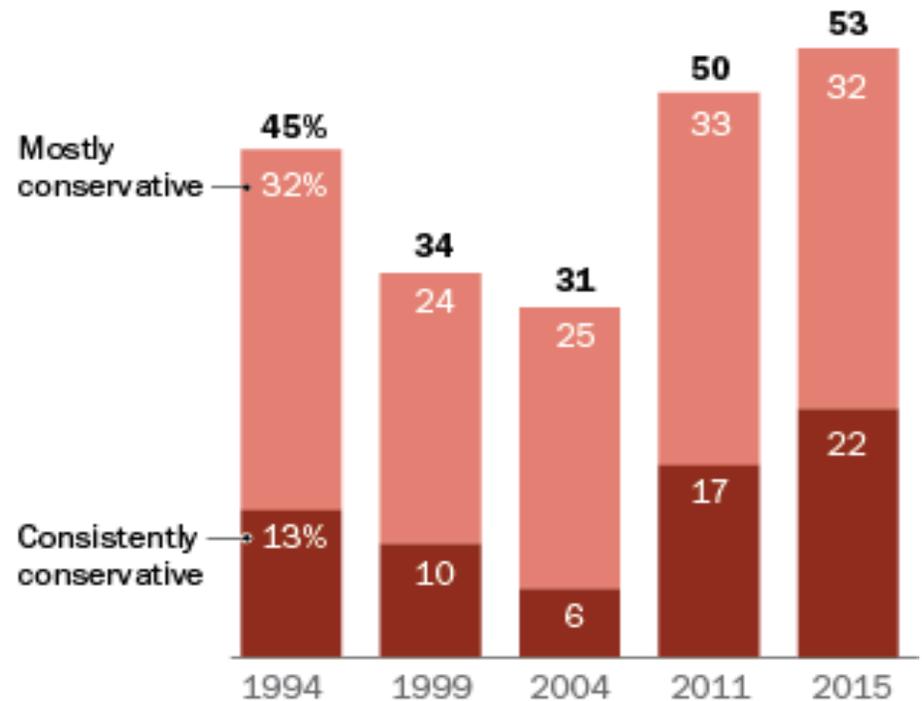


More Democrats take liberal positions, more Republicans take conservative positions

Percent of Democrats with political values that are...



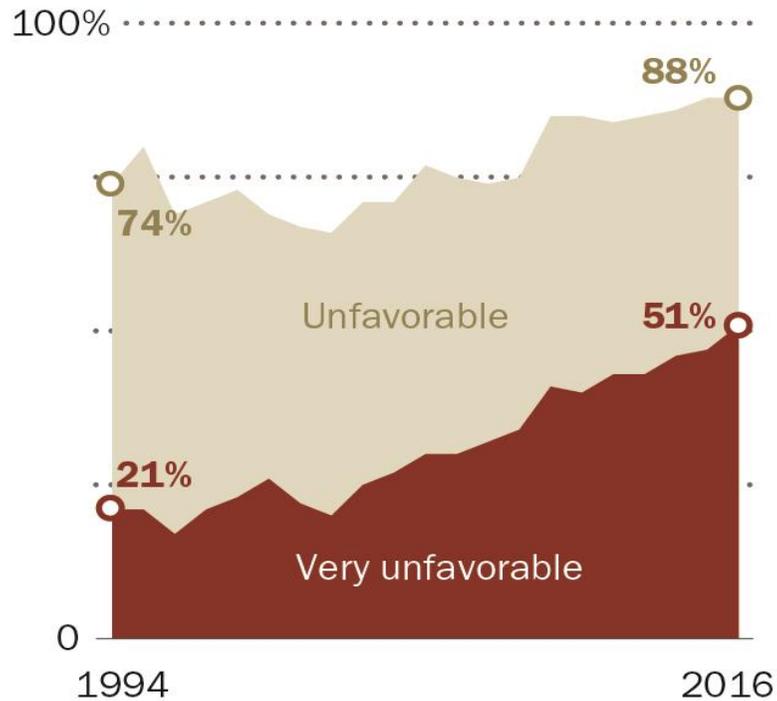
Percent of Republicans with political values that are...



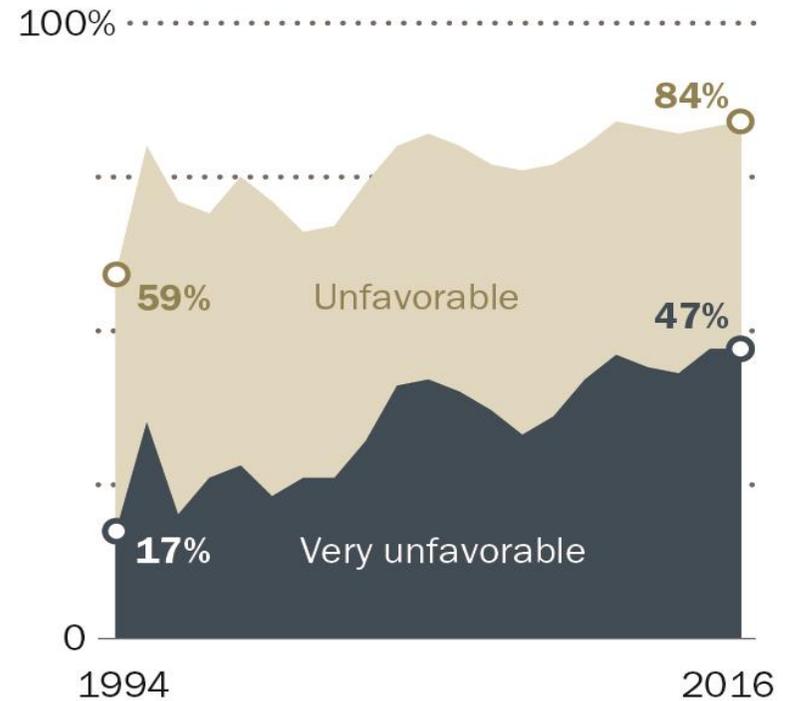
Source: 2014 Political Polarization in the American Public, 2015 Views of Government

Negative feelings also much stronger now

Republican attitudes about the **Democratic Party**



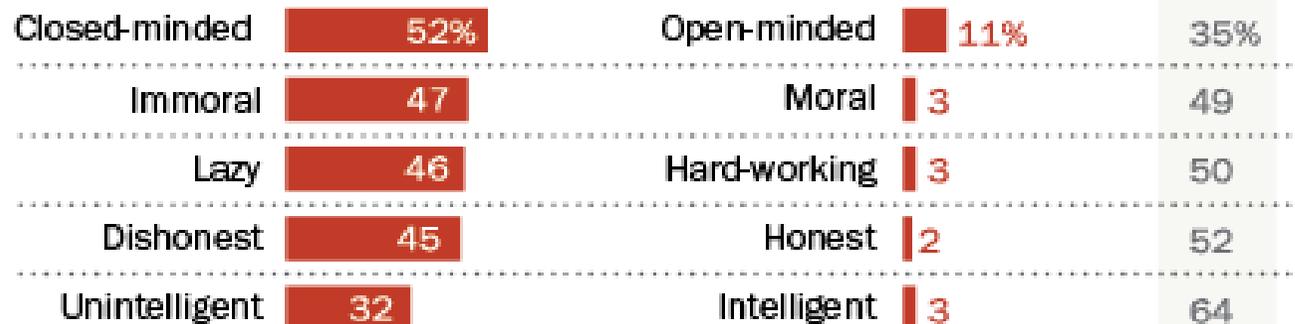
Democratic attitudes about the **Republican Party**



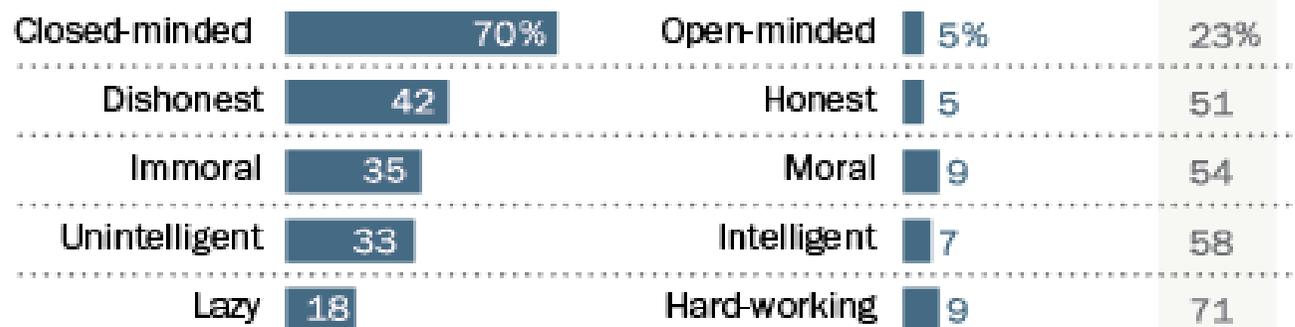
Source: Yearly averages

Negative stereotypes about the 'other side'

% of Republicans who say Democrats are more ___ than other Americans



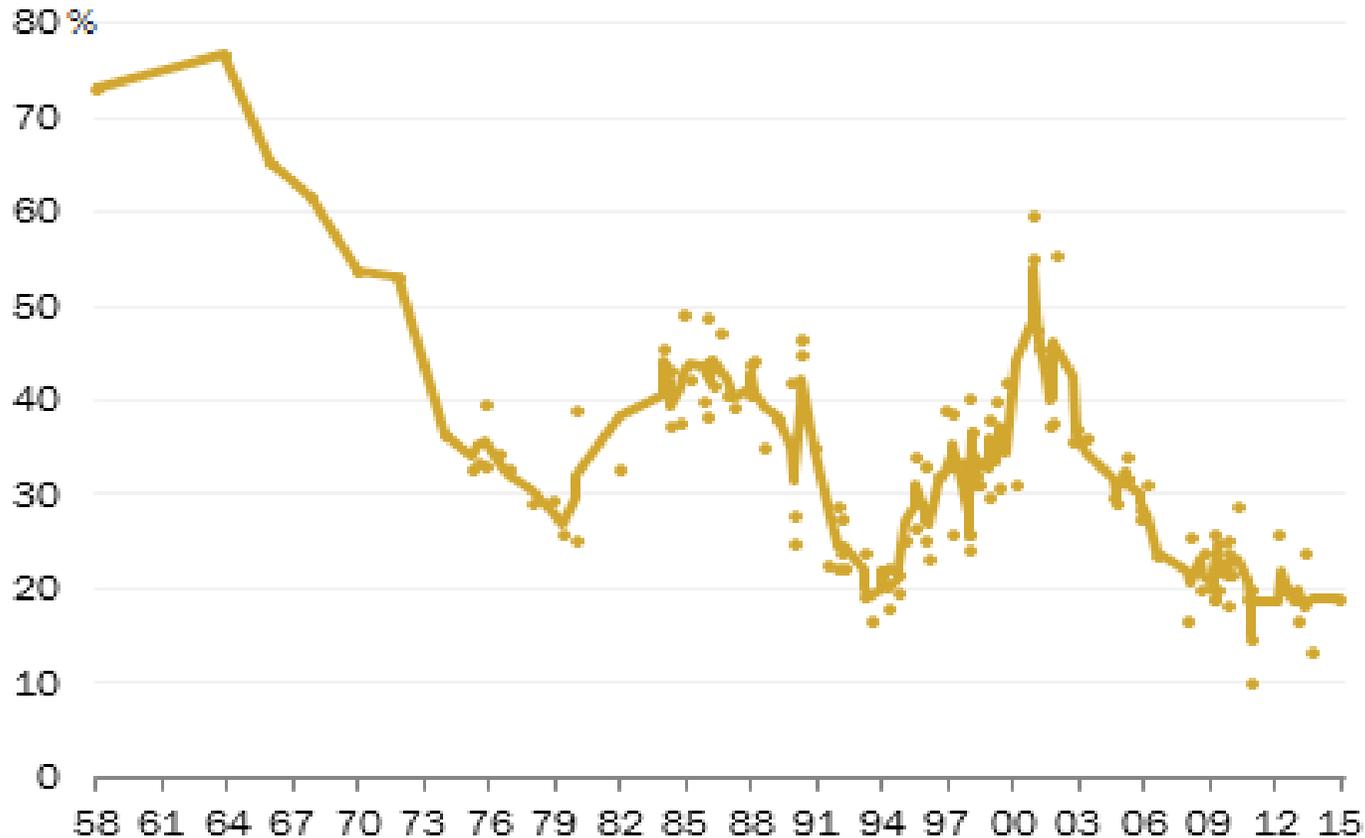
% of Democrats who say Republicans are more ___ than other Americans



Source: Surveys conducted Mar 2-28, 2016.

Public trust in government: 1958-2015

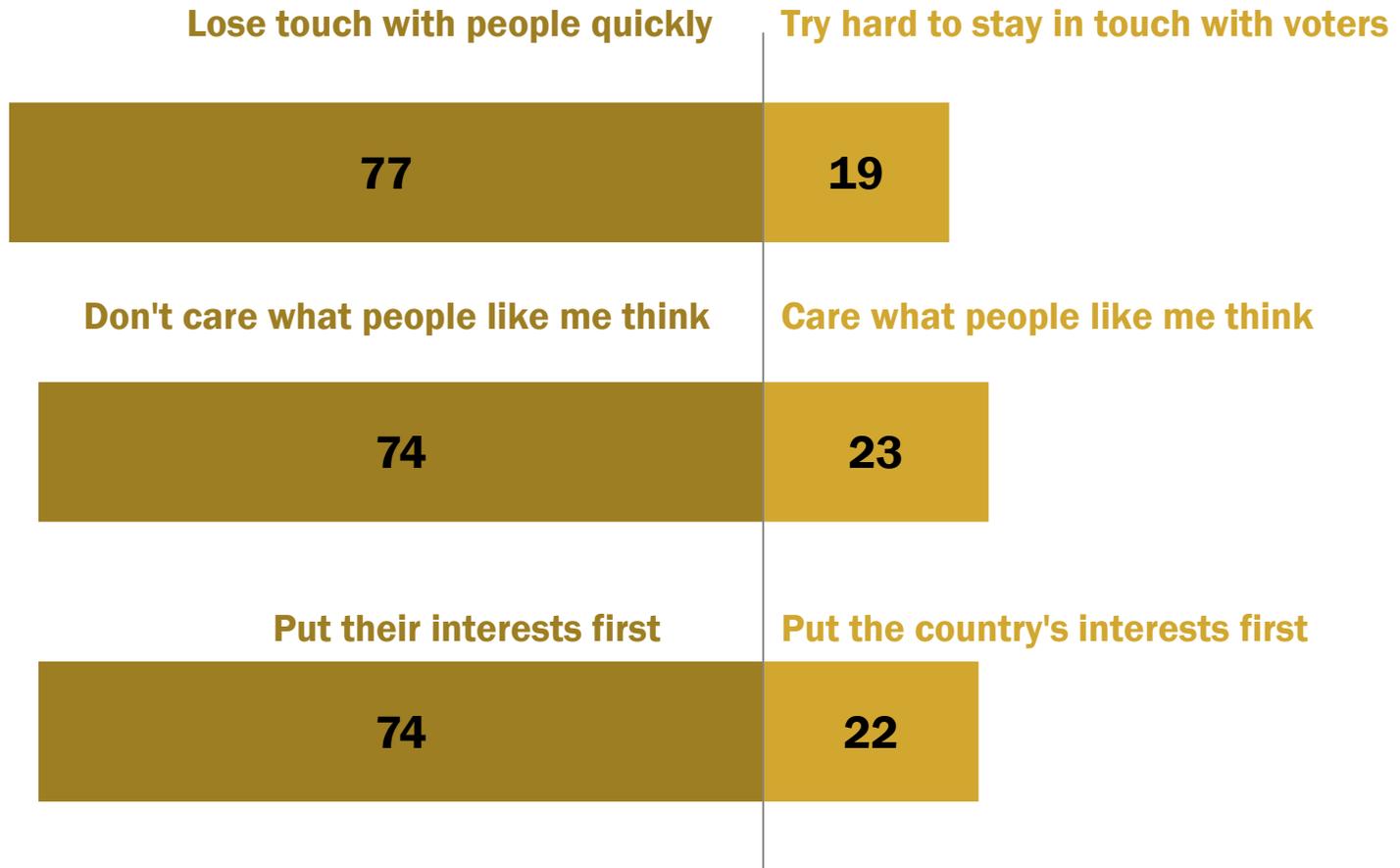
Trust the federal government to do what is right just about always/most of the time



Survey conducted Aug. 27-Oct. 4, 2015. Q15. Trend sources: Pew Research Center, National Election Studies, Gallup, ABC/Washington Post, CBS/New York Times and CNN Polls. From 1976-2014 the trend line represents a three-survey/moving average.

Large majorities say elected officials out of touch with public, put their own interests first

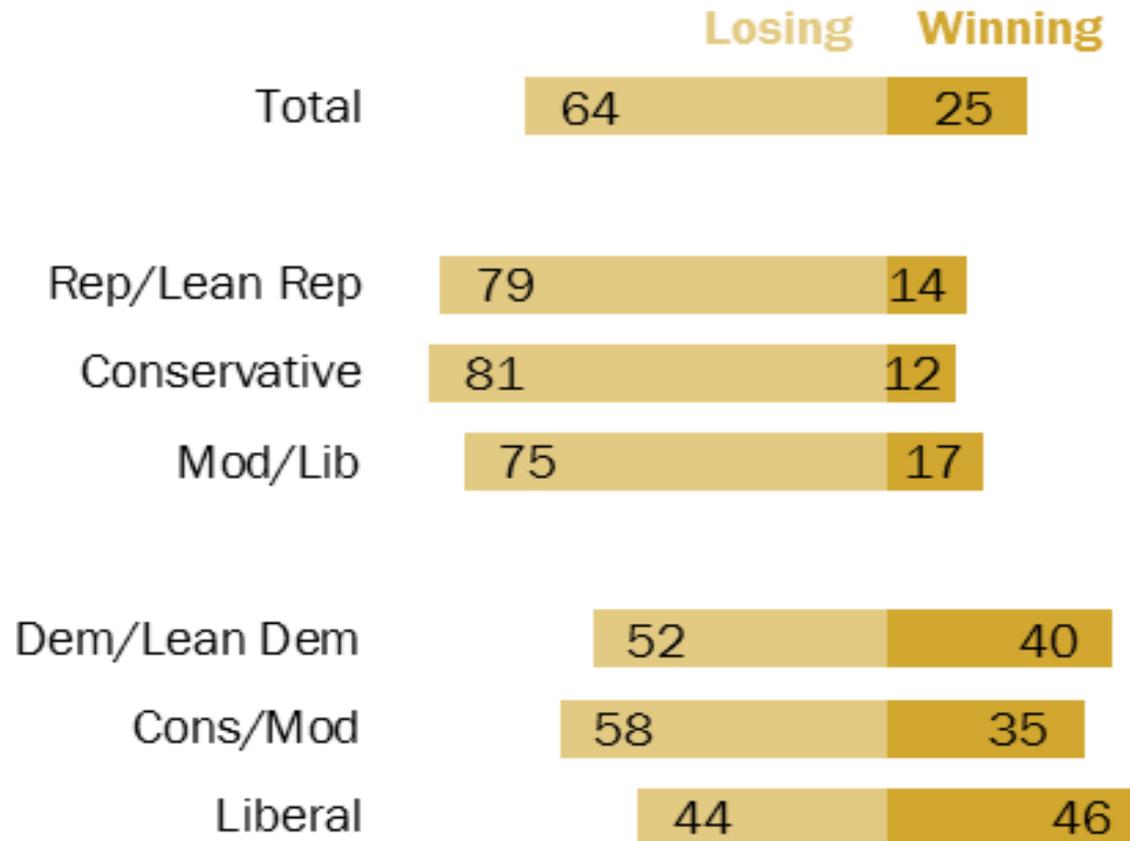
% who say most elected officials...



Source: Survey conducted Aug. 27-Oct. 4, 2015.

A year before election, most felt like 'their side' was losing more often than winning in politics

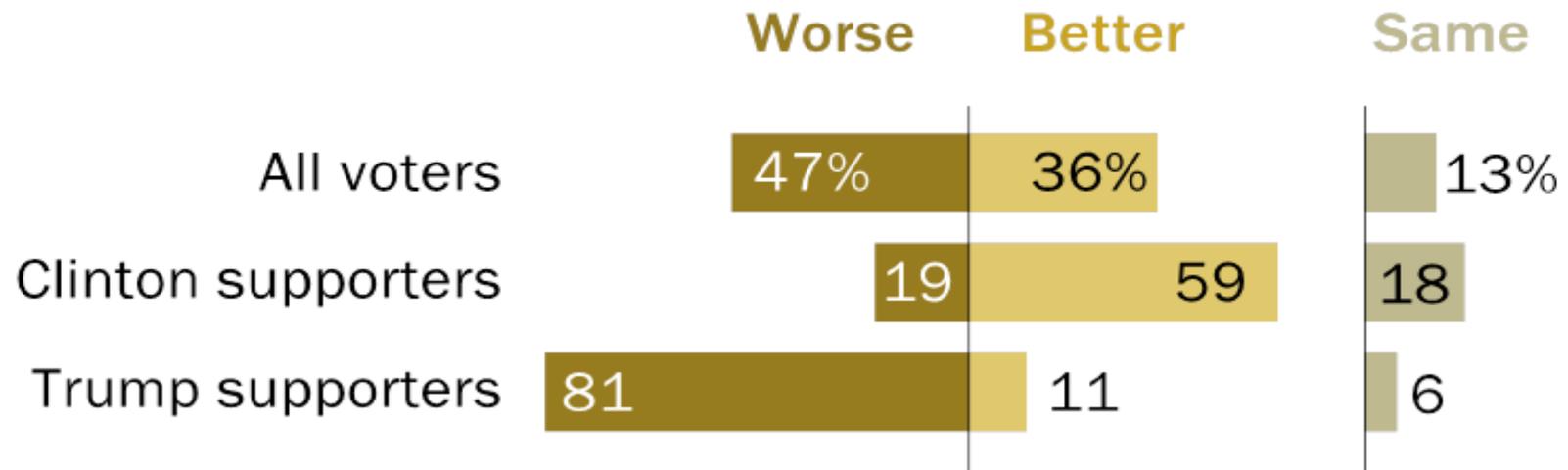
On issues that matter to you in politics today, has your side been winning or losing more often? (%)



Source: Survey conducted Aug. 27 – Oct. 4, 2015.

Trump voters saw an America where they were losing

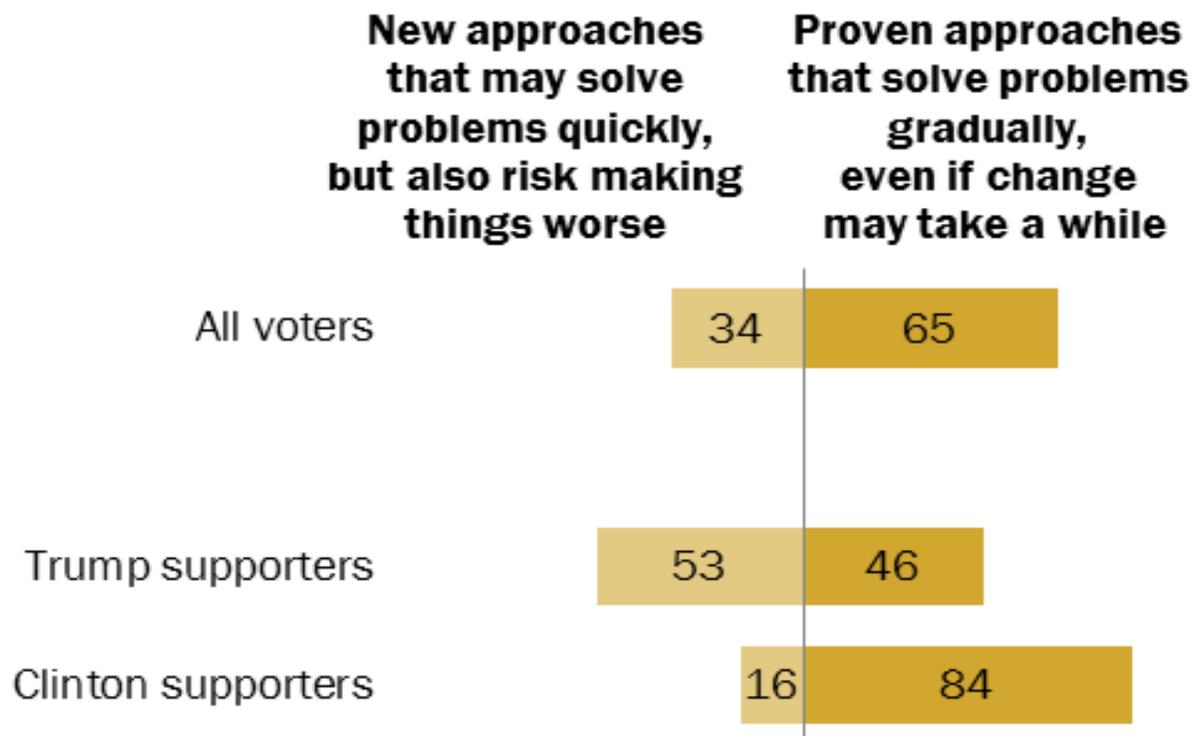
Compared with 50 years ago, life for people like you in America today is ...



Source: Survey conducted August 9-16, 2016.

More Trump voters than Clinton backers preferred quick solutions, even if risky

% of voters who said using _____ would be more effective in solving the major problems facing the country

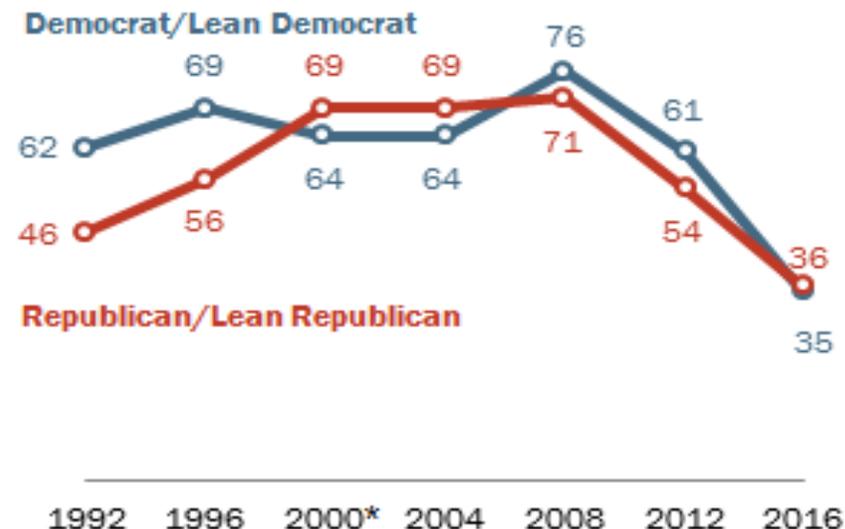
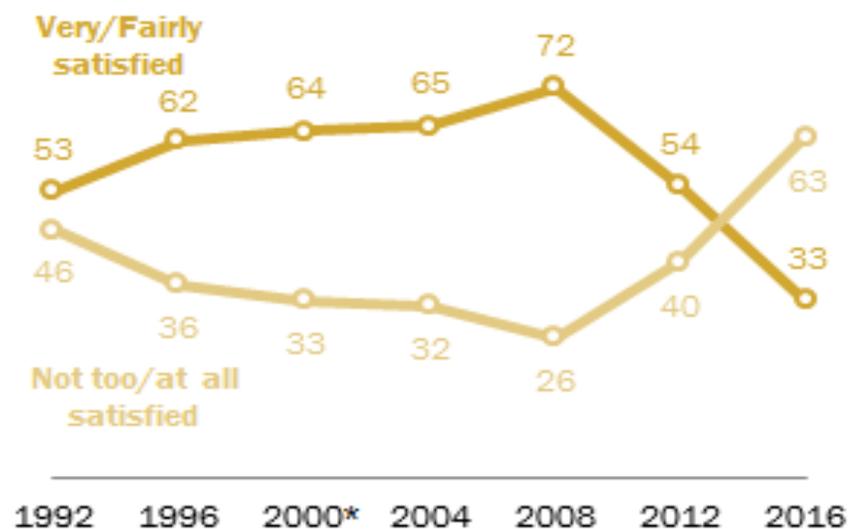


Source: Survey conducted Oct. 25-Nov. 8, 2016.

Voter satisfaction with presidential choices was historically low

% of registered voters who are _____ with the choices of presidential candidates

% very/fairly satisfied with the choices of presidential candidates

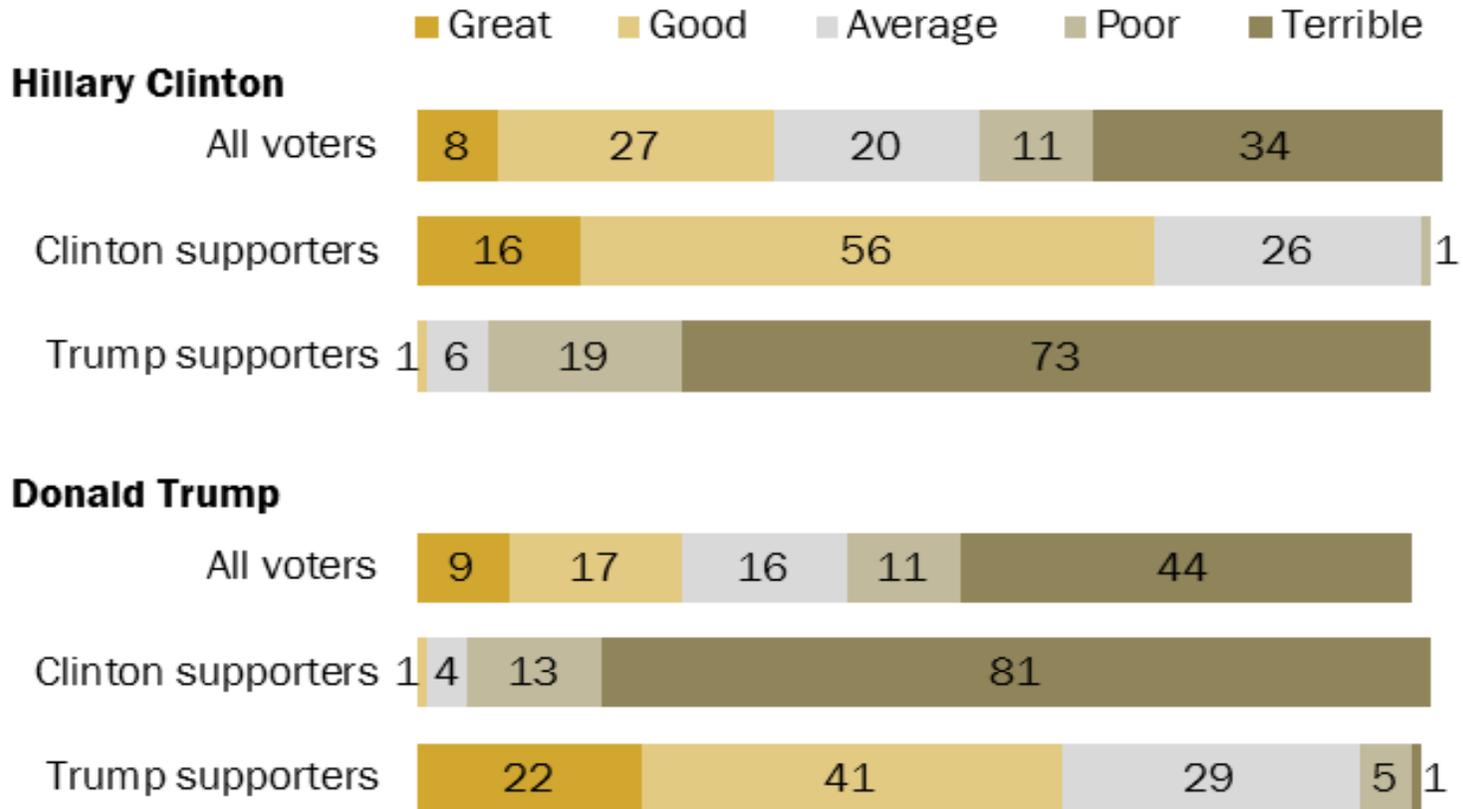


Note: Based on registered voters.

Source: Survey conducted August 9-September 2, 2016.

Many saw election as a choice between 'lesser evils'

% of registered voters saying each would be a ___ president if elected



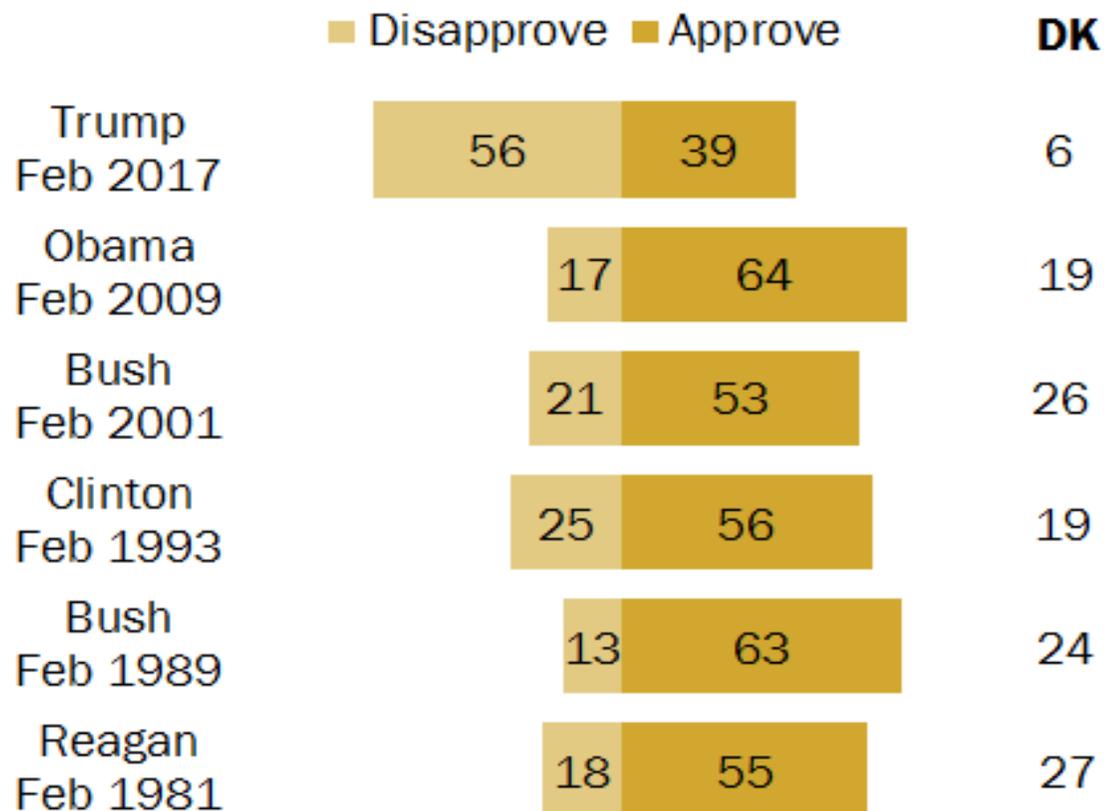
Note: Based on registered voters.

Source: Survey conducted Oct. 20-25, 2016.

EARLY VIEWS OF TRUMP'S PRESIDENCY

In historical terms, low approval ratings for Trump's early days

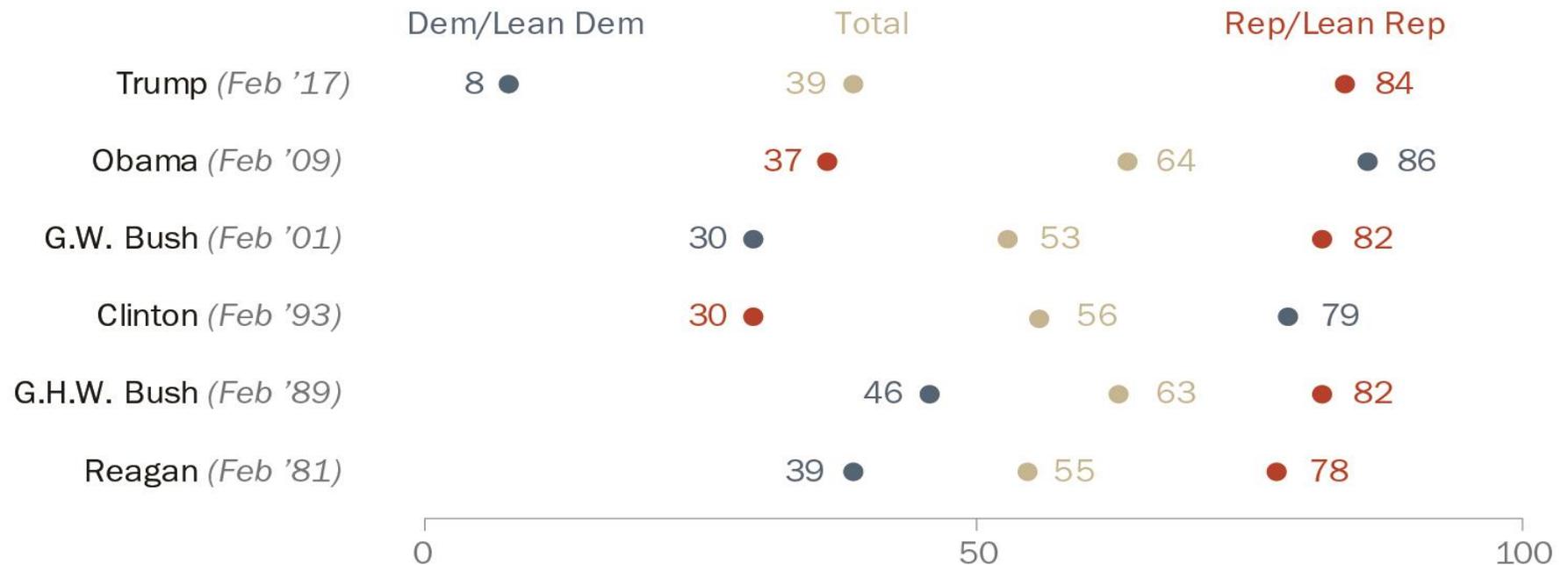
Do you approve or disapprove of the way _____ is handling his job as president?



Source: Survey conducted Feb. 7-12, 2017.

Robust Republican backing for Trump almost no crossover support

Presidential job approval (%)

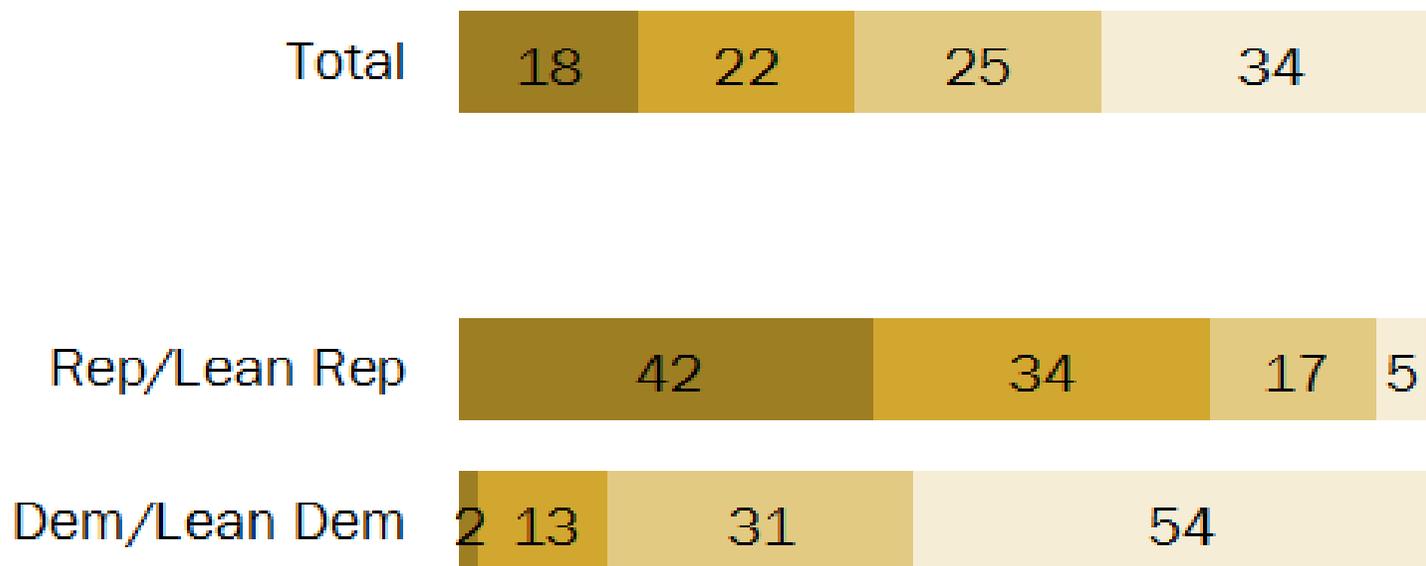


Source: Survey conducted Feb. 7-12, 2017.

Most say Trump has little respect for democratic institutions, traditions

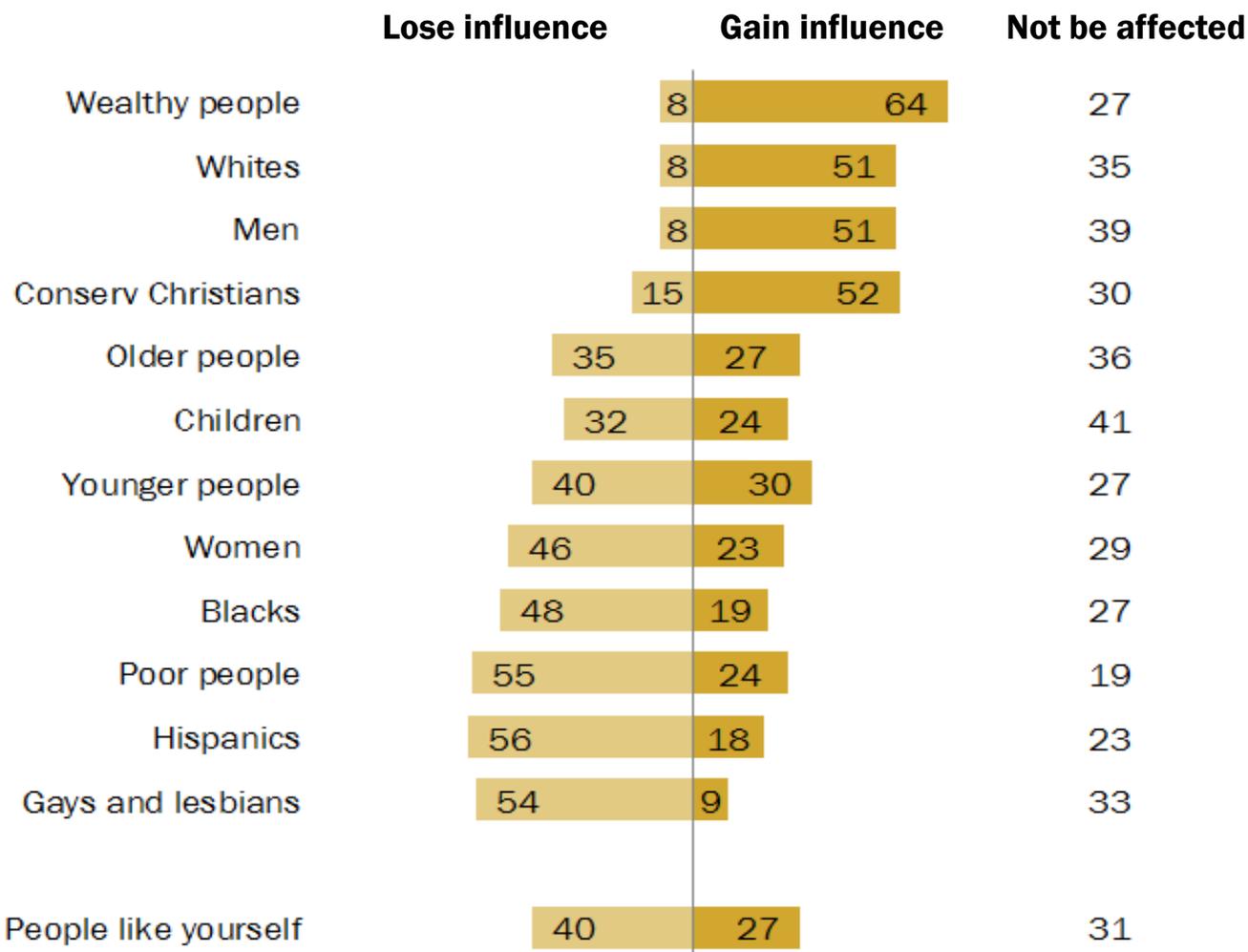
How much respect do you think Donald Trump has for democratic institutions and traditions? (%)

■ A great deal ■ A fair amount ■ Not too much ■ None at all



Source: Survey conducted Feb. 7-12, 2017.

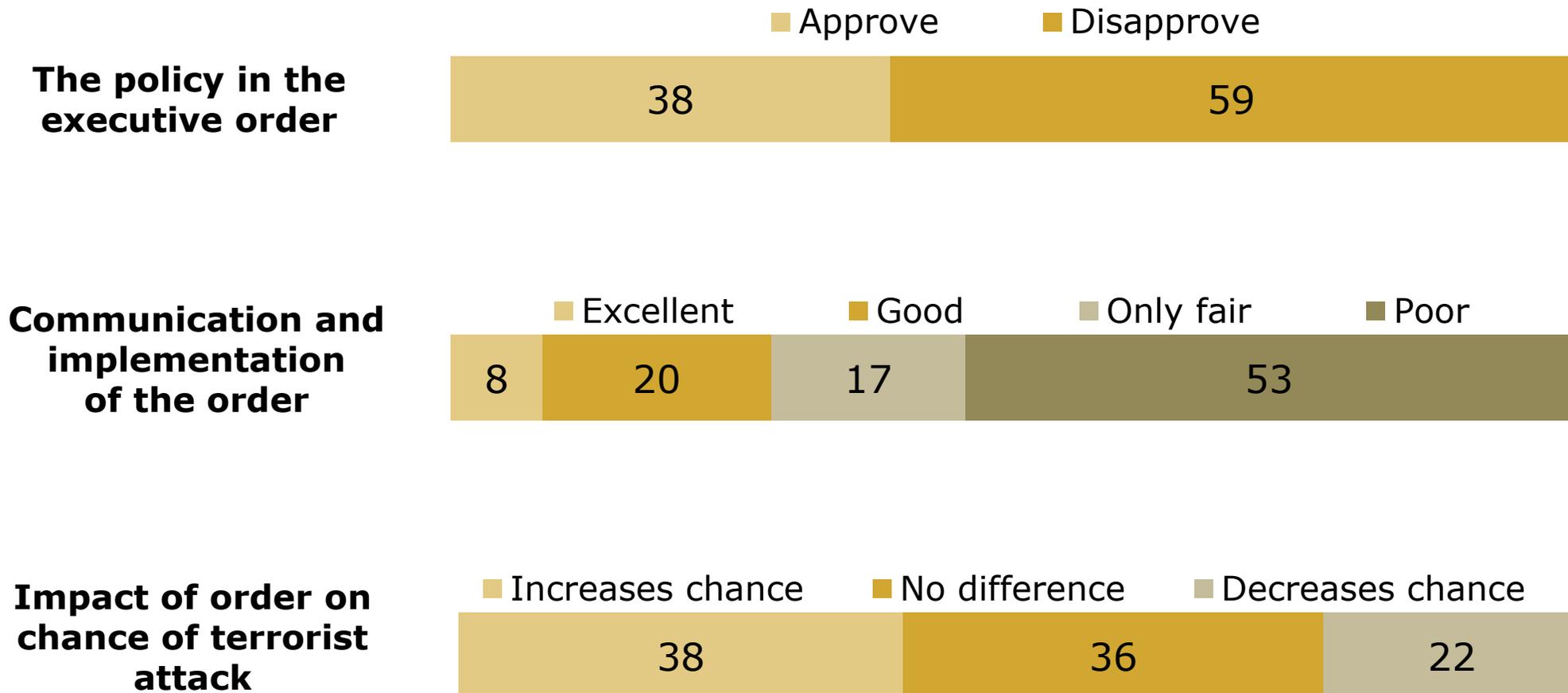
Who the public expected to gain – and lose – with Trump as president



Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

Reactions to Trump administration's executive order on travel restrictions

% who say

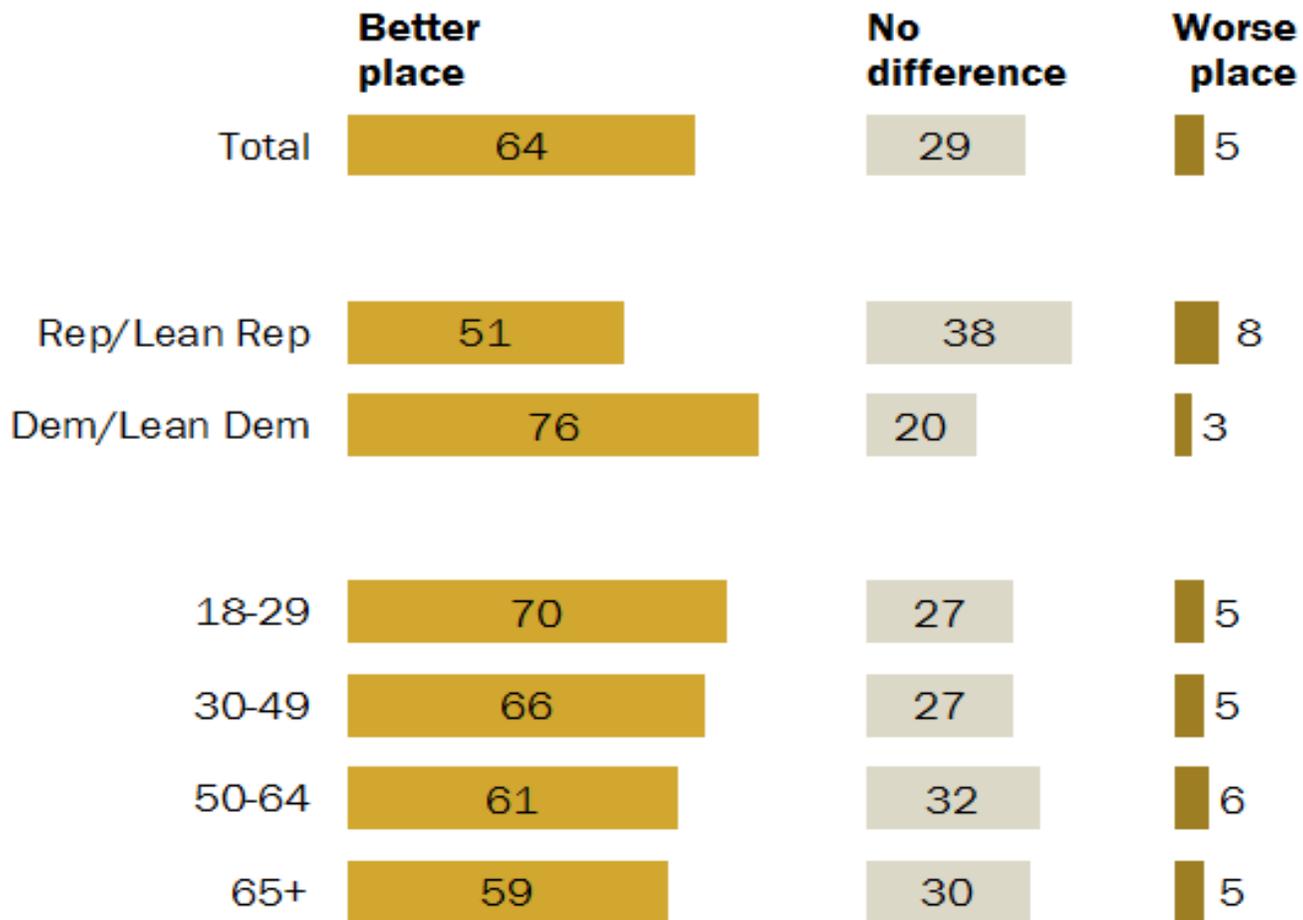


Source: Survey conducted Feb. 7-12, 2017.

AMERICANS' VIEWS OF THE COUNTRY AND ITS PLACE IN THE WORLD

Most Americans view growing diversity positively

% who say growing # of different races and ethnicities makes the U.S. a ____ to live

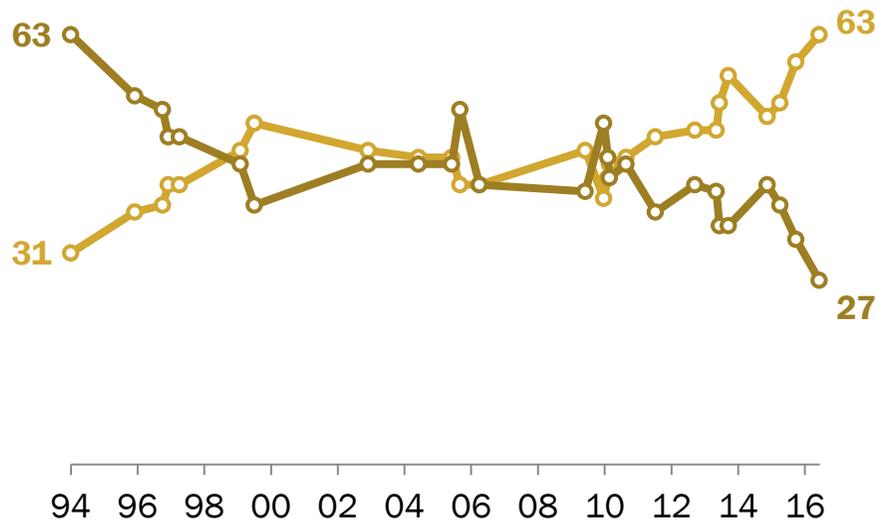


Source: Survey conducted Feb. 7-12, 2017.

Immigrants are seen as more of a strength than a burden

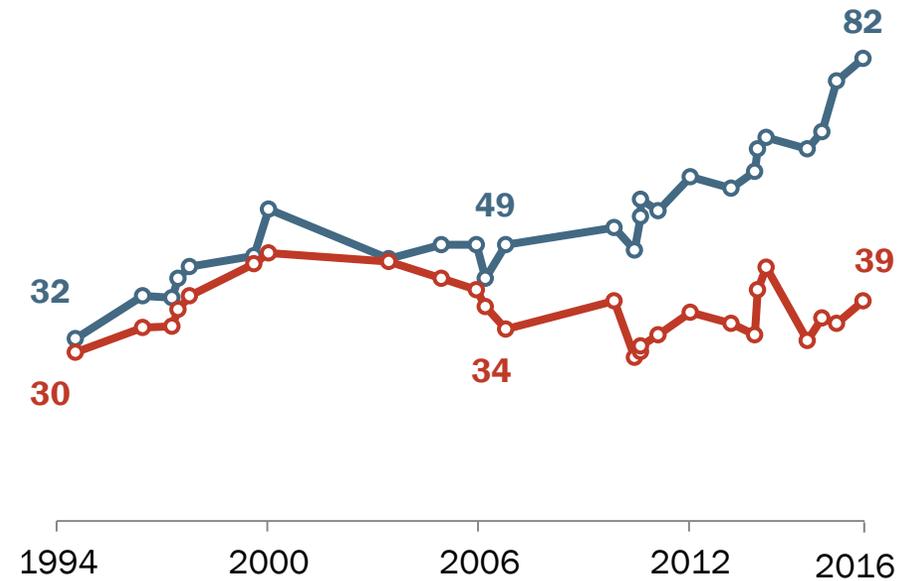
% who say immigrants today ...

Burden country by taking jobs, housing, health care **Strengthen country through hard work, talents**



% who say immigrants strengthen country...

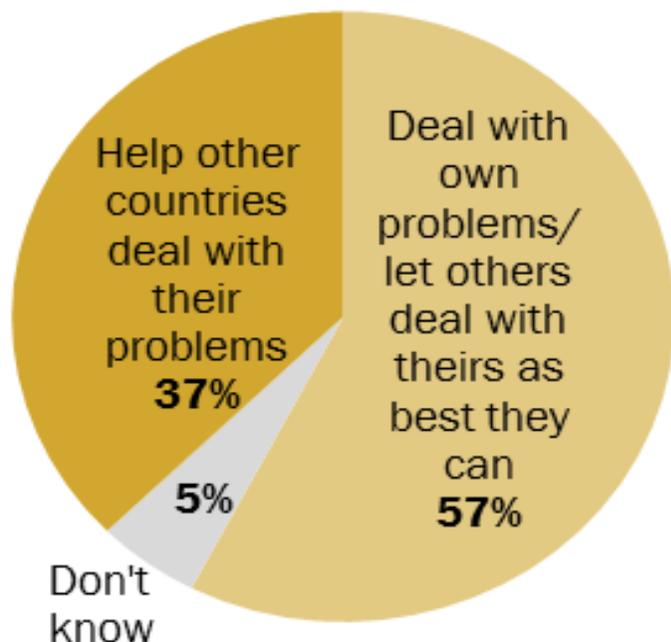
Dem/Lean Dem Rep/Lean Rep



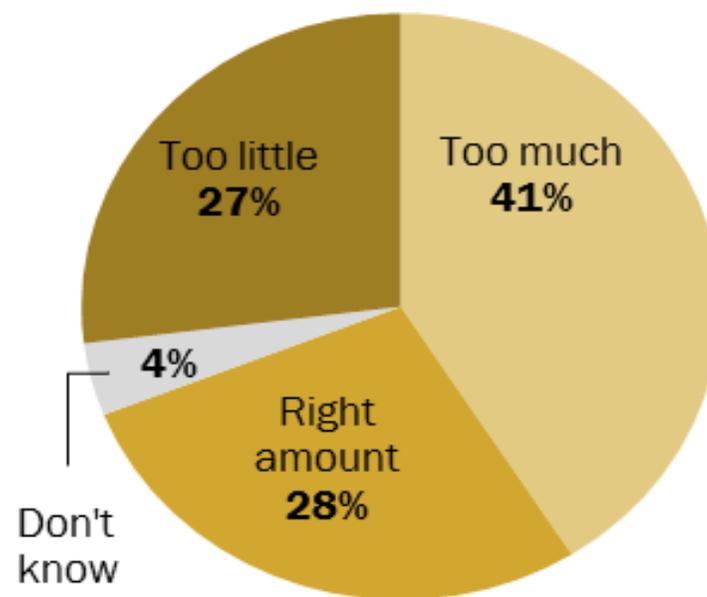
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 5, 2016.

Slightly more see U.S. role in global economy negatively than positively

U.S. should ...



In terms of solving world problems, the U.S. does ...

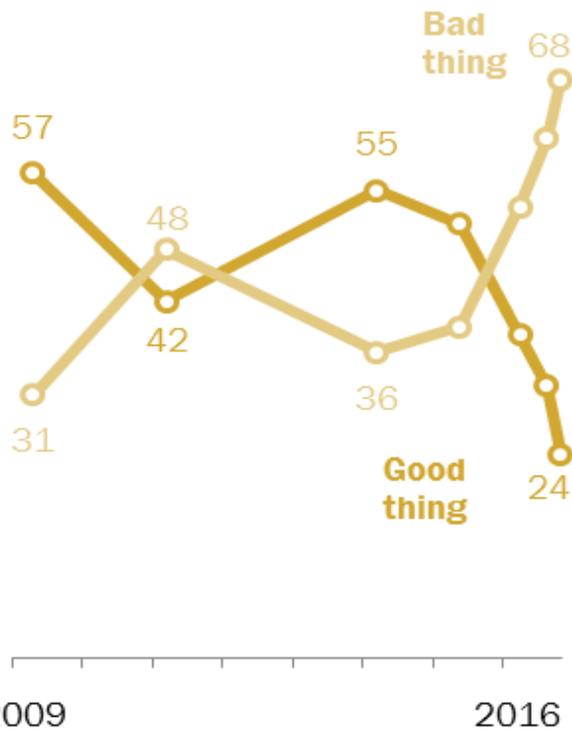


Source: Survey conducted Apr .12-19, 2016.

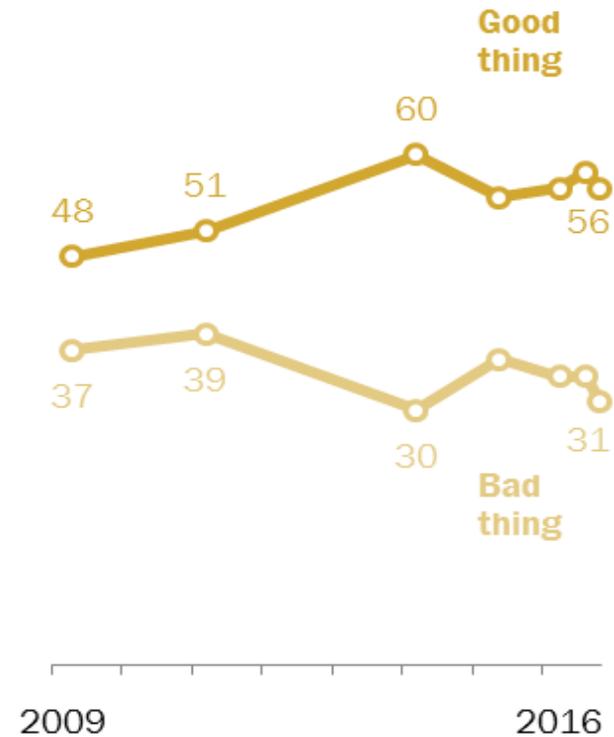
GOP support for free trade agreements fell sharply over the course of 2016

% of voters saying free trade agreements have been a _____ for the U.S.

Among Republican and Republican-leaning voters



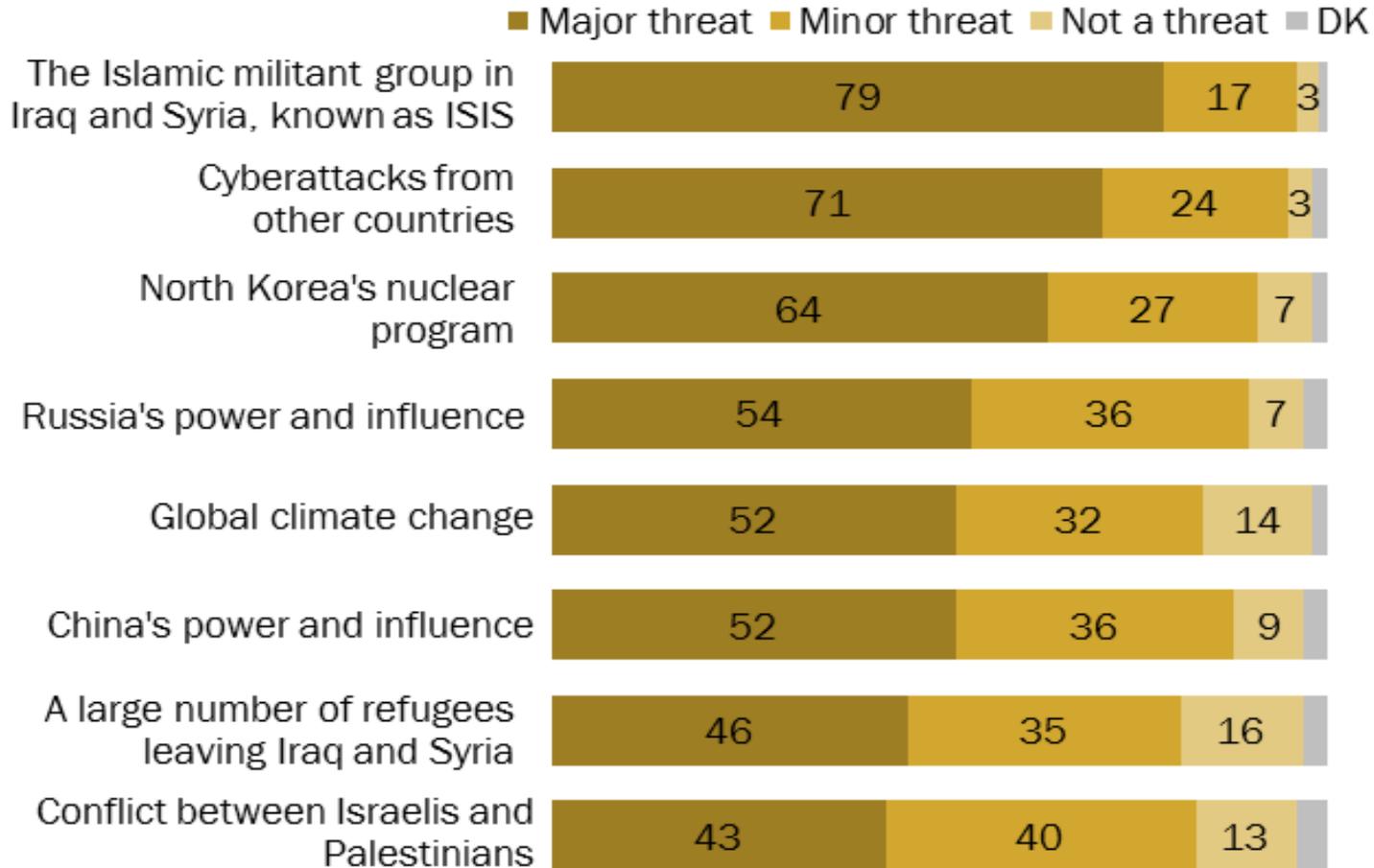
Among Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters



Source: Survey conducted Oct. 20-25, 2016.

Public sees an array of global threats, led by ISIS, cyberattacks and North Korea's nuclear program

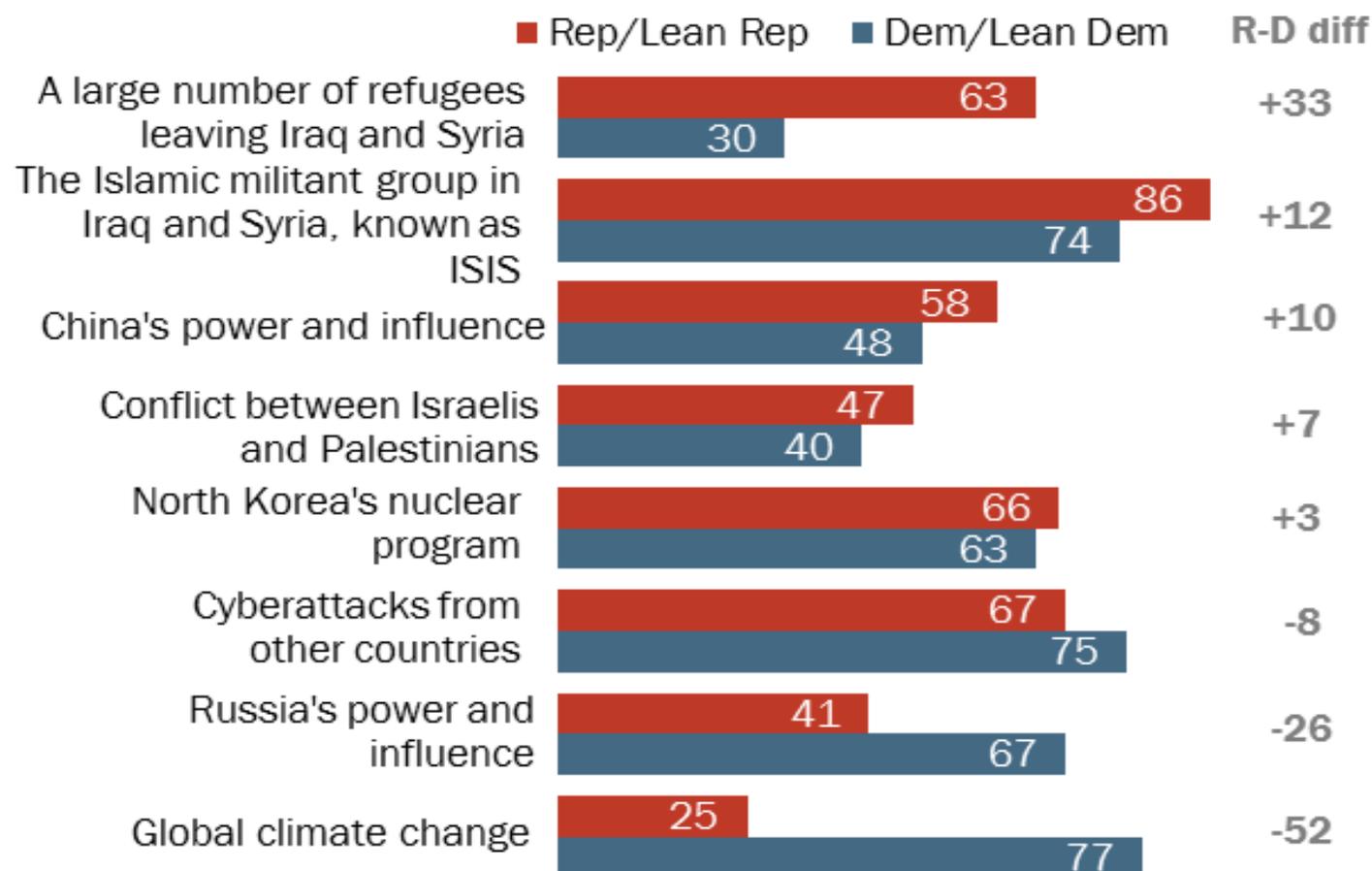
% who say each is a ...



Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

Democrats more likely than Republicans to see Russia as a 'major threat'

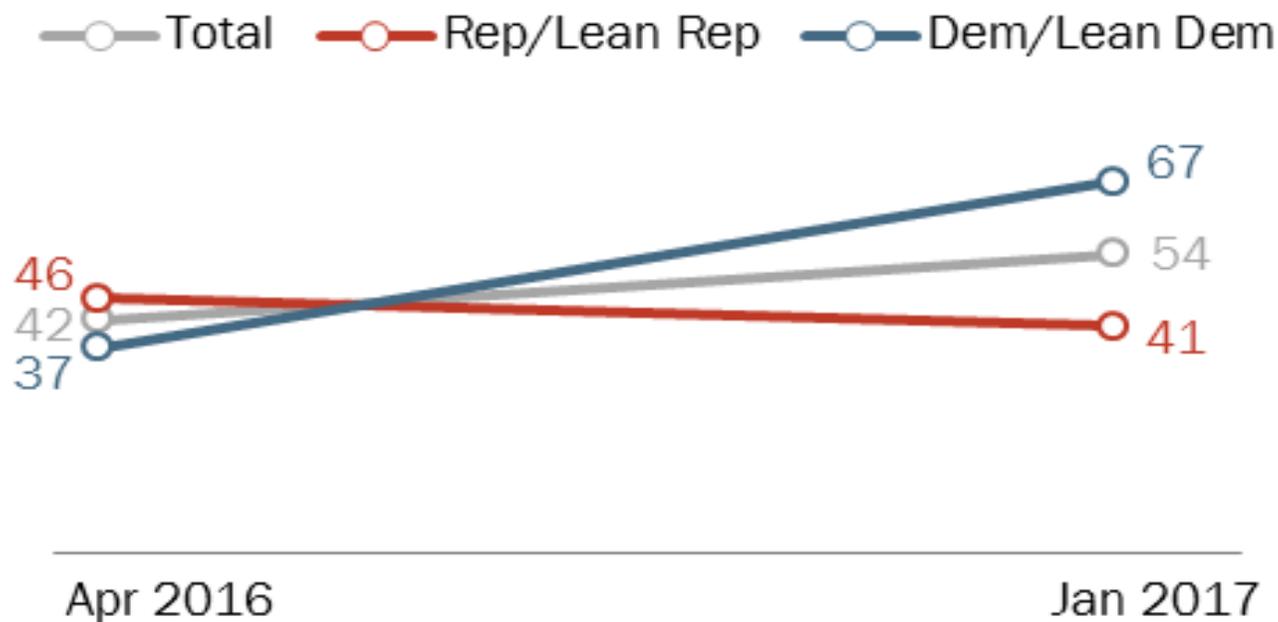
% who say each is a major threat to the well being of the U.S....



Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

Sharp rise in share of Democrats who describe Russia as a major threat

*% who say Russia's 'power and influence' is a major threat to the well-being of the United States**



Note: *April survey asked about "Tensions with Russia."

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

What is Pew Research Center?

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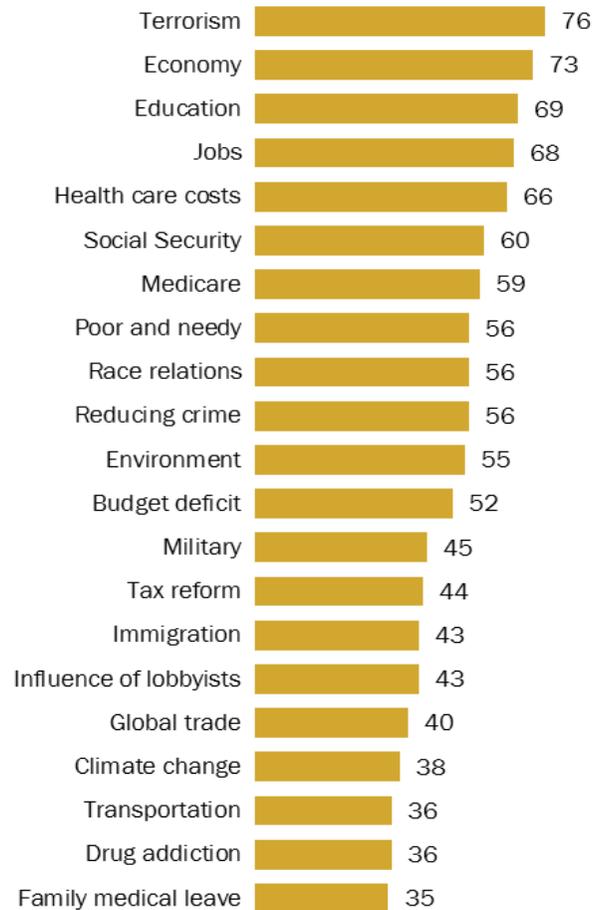
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Public's policy priorities for 2017

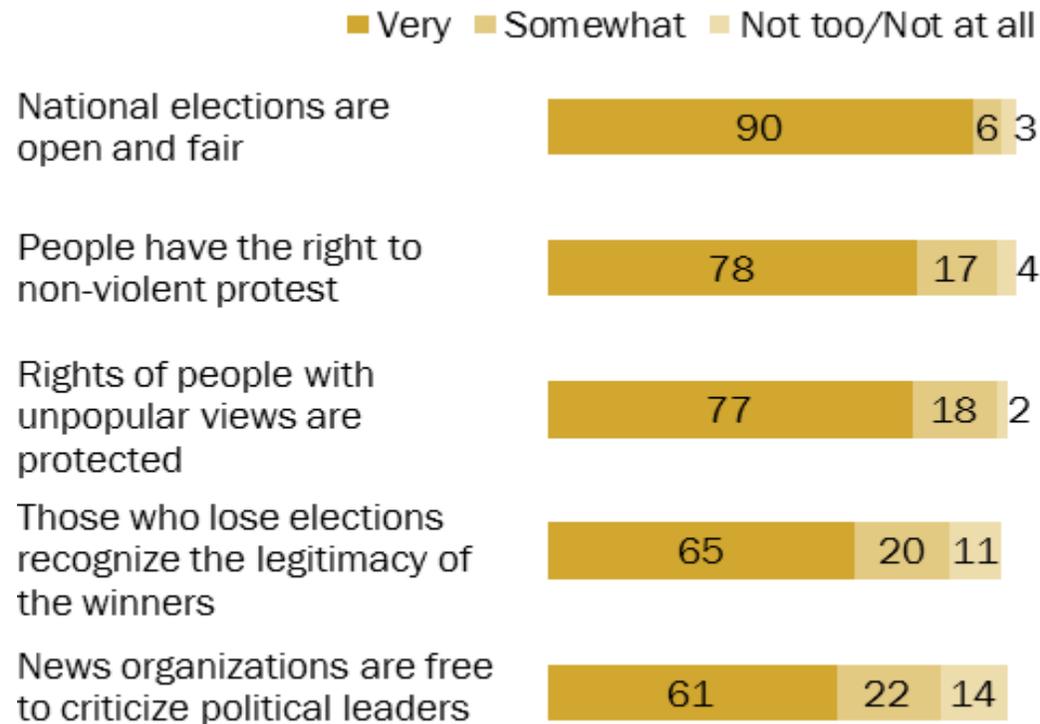
% rating each a top priority for Trump and Congress



Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

Broad consensus on important elements of a strong democracy

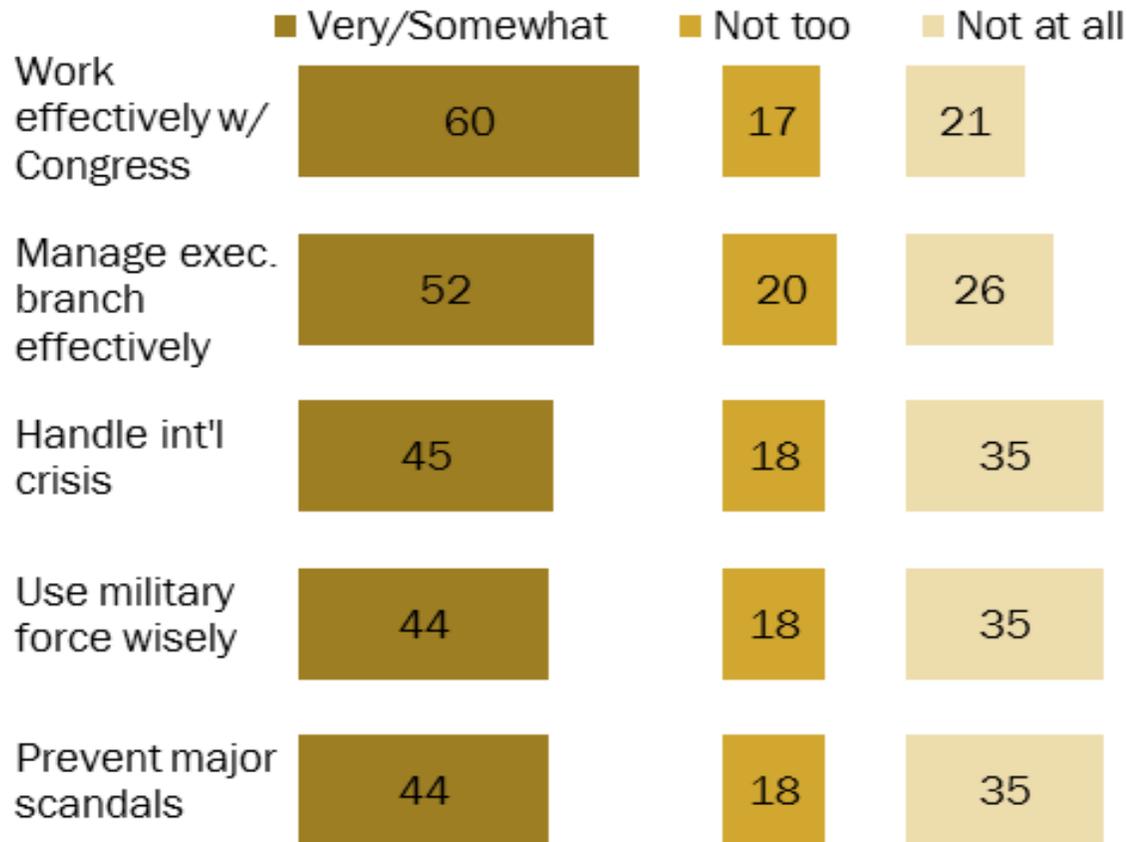
% of voters who say each is _____ important to maintaining a strong democracy



Source: Survey conducted Oct. 20-25, 2016.

More are confident in Trump to work with Congress than to deal with a crisis

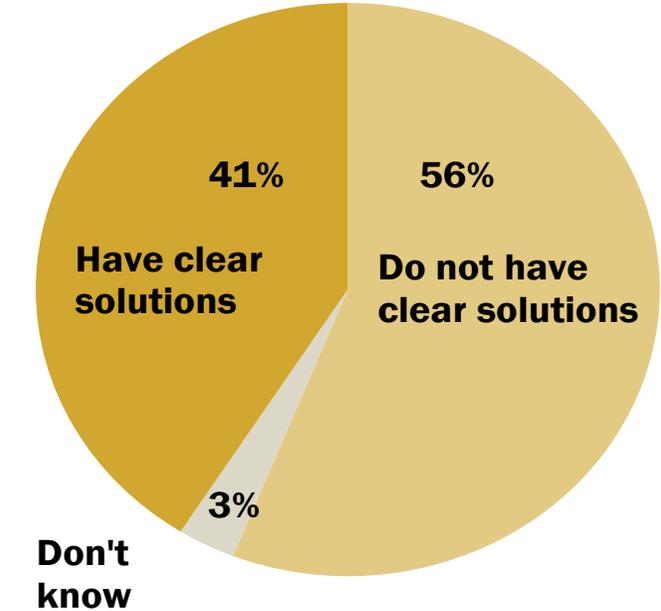
% who say they are ____ confident that Trump can ...



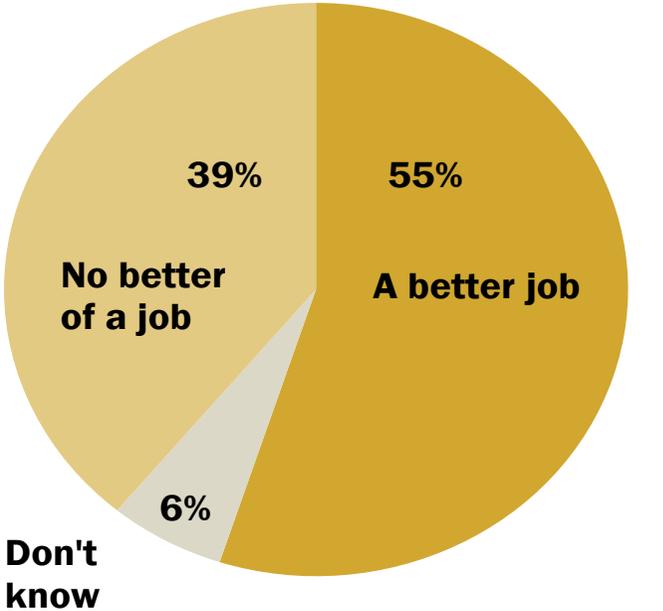
Source: Survey conducted Nov. 30-Dec. 5, 2016.

How difficult are the problems facing the country, and could the public do a better job than elected officials?

Most big issues facing the country today ...



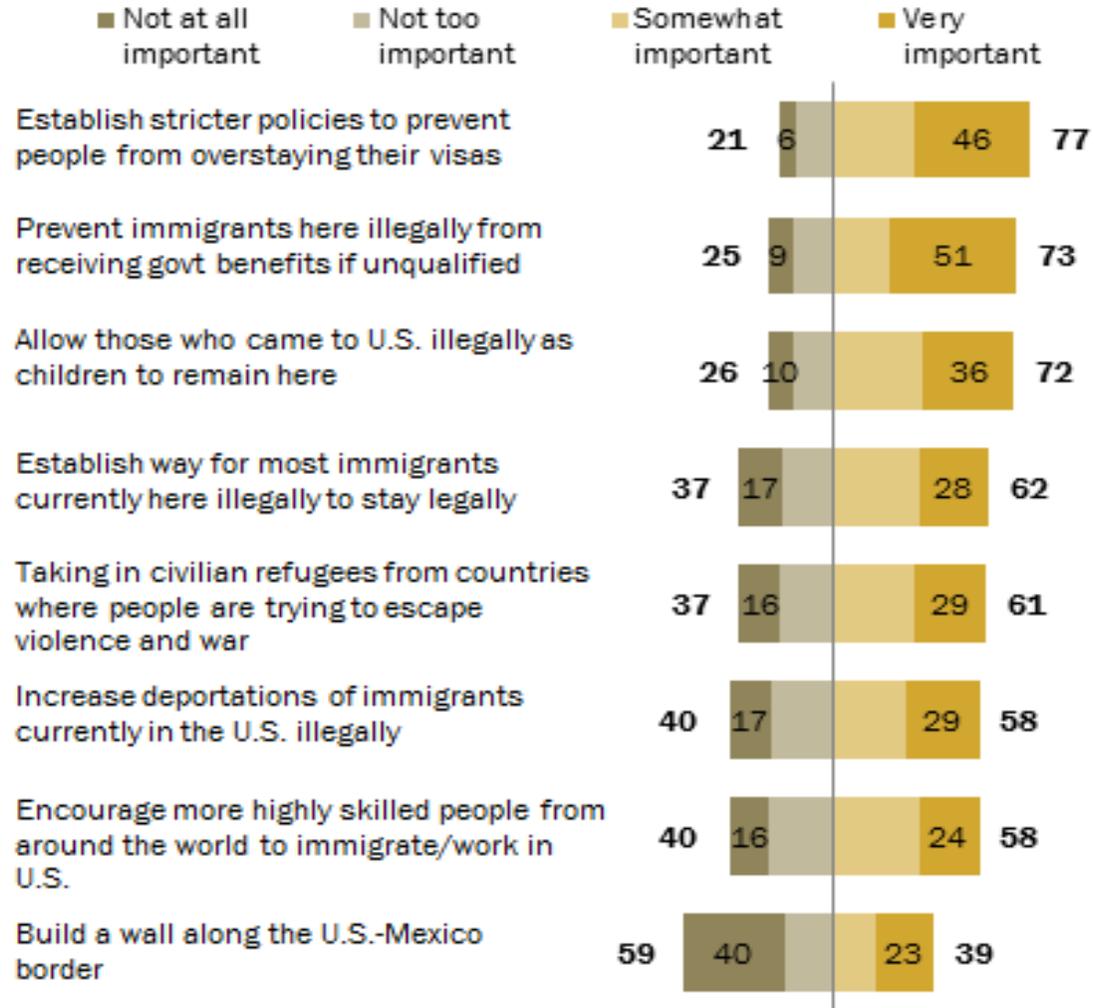
Compared with elected officials, job ordinary Americans would do solving the country's problems ...



Source: Survey conducted Aug. 27-Oct. 4, 2015.

Goals for immigration policy

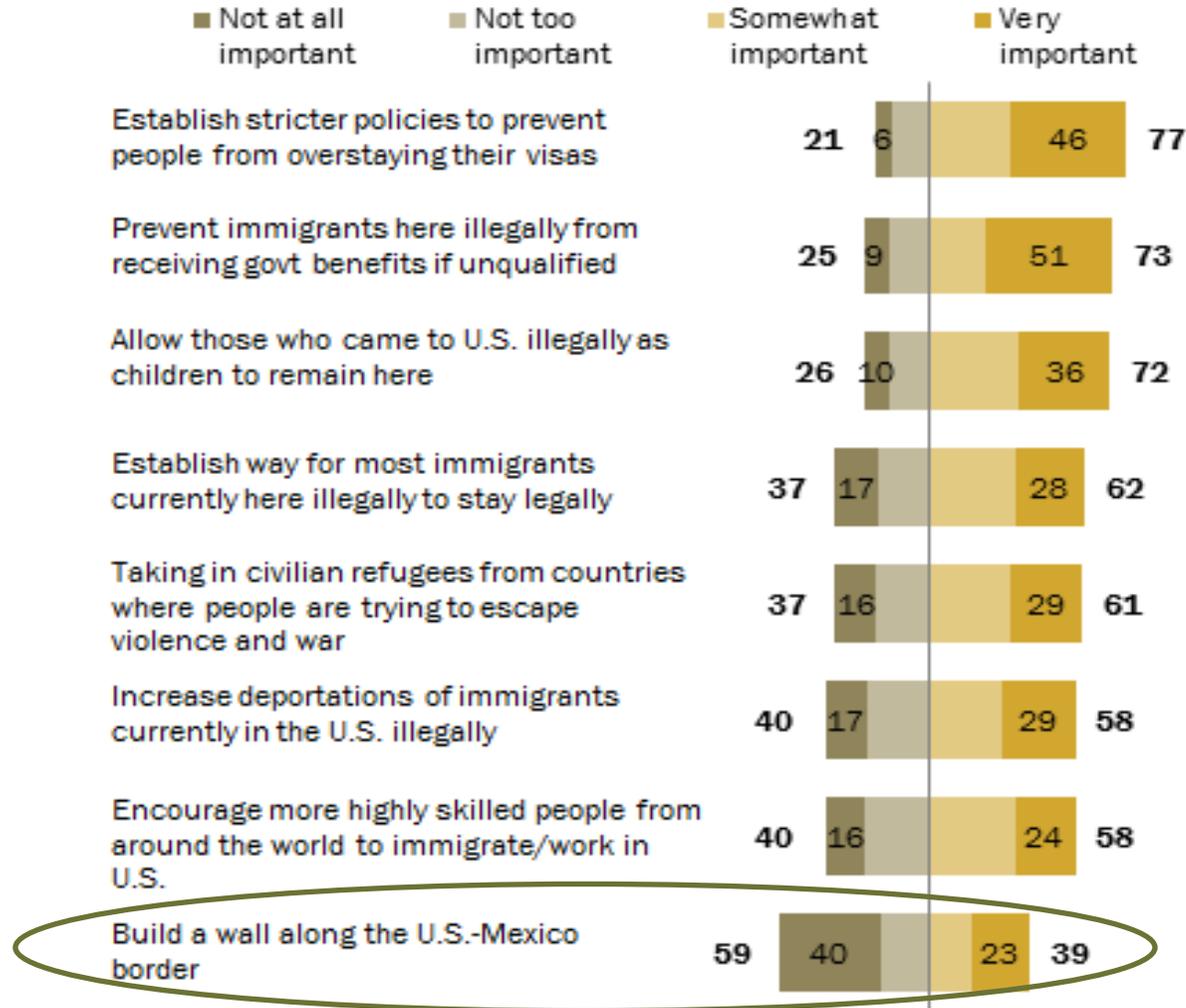
% who say each is ___ goal for U.S. immigration policy



Source: Survey conducted Nov. 29-Dec. 12, 2016.

Goals for immigration policy

% who say each is ___ goal for U.S. immigration policy



Source: Survey conducted Nov. 29-Dec. 12, 2016.