



The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# **The September 2017 AP-NORC Center Poll**

**Partial topline, some questions held for future release**

**Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research  
With funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago**

*Interviews: 9/28-10/2/2017  
1,150 adults*

*Margin of error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults*

*NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.*

**CUR1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the...**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017
Right direction	24	34	37
Wrong direction	74	65	62
DON'T KNOW	1	2	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*	*	*
N=	1,150	1,068	1,110

**CUR2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?**

*If Don't know, skipped, or refused in CUR2*

**CUR3. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?**

*If approve in CUR2*

**CUR3A. Would you say you approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you approve just somewhat?**

*If disapprove in CUR2*

**CUR3B. Would you say you disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you disapprove just somewhat?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017
<b>Strongly/somewhat/leans toward approve NET</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>42</b>
Strongly approve	20	16	20
Somewhat approve	12	18	22
Lean toward approving	*	*	*
<b>Do not lean either way</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>Strongly/somewhat/leans toward disapprove NET</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>58</b>
Lean toward disapproving	*	*	*
Somewhat disapprove	17	17	14
Strongly disapprove	50	47	43
DON'T KNOW	*	*	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*	1	1
N=	1,150	1,068	1,110

**AA4. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job?**

*If Don't know, skipped, or refused in AA4*

**AA5. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Congress is handling its job?**

*If approve in AA4*

**AA4A. Would you say you approve of the way Congress is handling its job strongly or do you approve just somewhat?**

*If disapprove in AA4*

**AA4B. Would you say you disapprove of the way Congress is handling its job strongly or do you disapprove just somewhat?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017
<b>Strongly/somewhat/leans toward approve NET</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>25</b>
Strongly approve	2	4	5
Somewhat approve	16	18	19
Lean toward approving	*	*	*
<b>Do not lean either way</b>	<b>*</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>*</b>
<b>Strongly/somewhat/leans toward disapprove NET</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>74</b>
Lean toward disapproving	*	*	*
Somewhat disapprove	30	32	30
Strongly disapprove	51	44	44
DON'T KNOW	*	*	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*	1	*
N=	1,150	1,068	1,110

**CURX1. How important are each of the following issues to you personally?**

**[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

AP-NORC 9/28- 10/2/2017	<b>Not at all/slightly important NET</b>	Not at all important	Slightly important	<b>Moderately important</b>	<b>Very/ extremely important NET</b>	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	<b>3</b>	2	2	<b>10</b>	<b>86</b>	39	47	-	*
Health care	<b>5</b>	2	3	<b>11</b>	<b>84</b>	33	51	-	*

*N=1,150*

AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	<b>Not at all/slightly important NET</b>	Not at all important	Slightly important	<b>Moderately important</b>	<b>Very/ extremely important NET</b>	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	<b>4</b>	1	4	<b>14</b>	<b>81</b>	42	39	*	1
Health care	<b>3</b>	1	2	<b>14</b>	<b>82</b>	34	48	-	1

*N=1,068*

AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017	<b>Not at all/slightly important NET</b>	Not at all important	Slightly important	<b>Moderately important</b>	<b>Very/ extremely important NET</b>	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	<b>2</b>	*	2	<b>10</b>	<b>87</b>	44	43	*	*
Health care	<b>3</b>	1	2	<b>10</b>	<b>86</b>	36	50	*	*

*N=1,110*

**CURY2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling...?**

*If Don't know, skipped, or refused in CURY2*

**CURYX. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Donald Trump is handling ...?**

**[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	<b>Approve/ lean toward approve NET</b>	Approve	Lean toward approve	<b>Don't lean either way</b>	<b>Disapprove/ lean toward disapprove NET</b>	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017									
The economy	<b>42</b>	42	*	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	1	56	*	*
Health care	<b>31</b>	31	*	<b>1</b>	<b>68</b>	*	68	*	*

*N=1,150*

	<b>Approve/ lean toward approve NET</b>	Approve	Lean toward approve	<b>Don't lean either way</b>	<b>Disapprove/ lean toward disapprove NET</b>	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017									
The economy	<b>43</b>	43	1	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	*	55	*	*
Health care	<b>32</b>	32	*	<b>1</b>	<b>66</b>	1	65	*	*

*N=1,068*

	<b>Approve/ lean toward approve NET</b>	Approve	Lean toward approve	<b>Don't lean either way</b>	<b>Disapprove/ lean toward disapprove NET</b>	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017									
The economy	<b>50</b>	49	1	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>	1	47	-	*
Health care	<b>36</b>	36	1	<b>1</b>	<b>62</b>	*	62	*	*

*N=1,110*

**DJT1. How well do you think that Donald Trump understands the needs and problems of people like you?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
<b>Extremely/very well NET</b>	<b>19</b>
Extremely well	7
Very well	12
<b>Moderately well</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Not very well/Not well at all NET</b>	<b>64</b>
Not very well	18
Not well at all	46
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

*N=* *1,150*

**DJT2. Please indicate how well each of the following words or phrases describes Donald Trump.**

**[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	<b>Extremely /very well NET</b>	Extremely well	Very well	<b>Moderately well</b>	<b>Not very well/Not well at all NET</b>	Not very well	Not well at all	DK	SKP/ REF
Honest	<b>23</b>	12	12	<b>18</b>	<b>58</b>	14	45	*	*
Level-headed	<b>16</b>	7	9	<b>15</b>	<b>69</b>	18	51	*	*
Strong leader	<b>26</b>	14	13	<b>18</b>	<b>55</b>	14	41	*	*

*N=1,150*

**PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?**

*If Democrat in PID1*

**PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?**

*If Republican in PID1*

**PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?**

*If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in PID1*

**PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>46</b>
Strong Democrat	14
Moderate Democrat	18
Lean Democrat	14
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>37</b>
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	15
Strong Republican	10
Unknown	*
N=	1,150

**G11B. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a...?**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Liberal	23
Conservative	32
Moderate	43
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1
N=	1,150

**DM5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Urban area	27
Suburban area	47
Rural area	24
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,150

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
18-24	12
25-34	18
35-44	16
45-54	17
55-64	17
65-74	13
75+	7

N=

1,150

**GENDER**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Male	48
Female	52

N=

1,150



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**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8

*N=* 1,150

**MARITAL STATUS**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Married	45
Widowed	8
Divorced	13
Separated	2
Never married	25
Living with partner	7

*N=* 1,150

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Employed	54
Not employed	46

*N=* 1,150

**EDUCATION**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	29
College graduate or above	31

*N=* 1,150

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**INCOME**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Under \$10,000	8
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	12
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	12
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	15
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 or more	8

*N*=

1,150

### **Study Methodology**

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from NORC at the University of Chicago. Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC’s probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between September 28 and October 2, 2017, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,150 completed the survey—975 via the web and 255 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 20.3 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 33.7 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 89.0 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 6.1 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

In addition, blacks were sampled at a higher rate than their proportion of the population for reasons of analysis. The overall margin of sampling error for the 337 completed interviews with blacks is +/- 5.7 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level including the design effect.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

### **About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world’s essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

## The September 2017 AP-NORC Center Poll

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.