



The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# **The Frustrated Public: Views of the 2016 Campaign, the Parties, and the Electoral Process**

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

*Interviews: 5/12-15/2016  
1,060 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.*

**Q1. Here are some institutions in this country. As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?**

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

AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016	A great deal of confidence	Only some confidence	Hardly any confidence	DK	Ref.
The military	56	37	7	*	1
The United States Supreme Court	24	58	17	*	1
The executive branch of the federal government	15	50	33	*	1
Congress	4	48	46	*	1

*N=1,060*

**Q2. For each of the following, please say if each of the following words describes or does not describe how you feel about the 2016 presidential election.**

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

AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016	Does describe	Does not describe	DK	Ref.
Frustrated	70	28	1	1
Interested	65	32	1	2
Helpless	55	42	1	2
Angry	52	46	1	2
Hopeful	37	60	1	2
Bored	31	66	1	2
Excited	23	74	1	3
Proud	13	83	1	3

*N=1,060*

**Q3. How much confidence do you have:**

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

AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016	A great deal of confidence	Only some confidence	Hardly any confidence	DK	Ref.
That your vote will be counted accurately	36	37	26	*	1
That the Democratic Party's presidential nomination process is fair	18	42	38	1	1
In the Democratic Party	15	41	43	1	1
That the Republican Party's presidential nomination process is fair	12	43	44	1	1
In the overall political system of the United States	10	51	38	*	1
In the Republican Party	8	40	51	1	1

*N=1,060*

**Q4. Which of the following statements is closest to your view of how the two-party system works for presidential elections in the United States today?**

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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
The two-party system works fairly well	13
The two-party system has real problems, but with some improvements it can still work well.	49
The two-party system is seriously broken	38
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

*N=*

*1,060*

**Q5. How open do you think the Republican Party is to:**

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

AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016	<b>Extremely/ Very open NET</b>	Extremely open	Very open	<b>Moderately open</b>	<b>Slightly/ Not at all open NET</b>	Slightly open	Not at all open	DK	Ref.
New ideas about dealing with the country's problems	<b>10</b>	3	7	<b>27</b>	<b>61</b>	28	33	1	1
Candidates who are independent from the Washington establishment and the usual party politics	<b>9</b>	3	6	<b>28</b>	<b>62</b>	32	30	1	1

*N=1,060*

**Q6. How open do you think the Democratic Party is to:**

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

AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016	<b>Extremely/ Very open NET</b>	Extremely open	Very open	<b>Moderately open</b>	<b>Slightly/ Not at all open NET</b>	Slightly open	Not at all open	DK	Ref.
New ideas about dealing with the country's problems	<b>17</b>	4	13	<b>33</b>	<b>48</b>	26	22	*	1
Candidates who are independent from the Washington establishment and the usual party politics	<b>10</b>	3	7	<b>33</b>	<b>55</b>	30	25	*	1

*N=1,060*

**Q7. How responsive do you think each of the political parties are to what ordinary voters think?**

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

AP-NORC 5/12- 15/2016	<b>Extremely/ Very responsive NET</b>	Extremely responsive	Very responsive	<b>Moderately responsive</b>	<b>Slightly/ Not at all responsive NET</b>	Slightly responsive	Not at all responsive	DK	Ref.
The Democratic Party	<b>14</b>	2	12	<b>38</b>	<b>46</b>	25	21	*	1
The Republican Party	<b>8</b>	2	6	<b>29</b>	<b>62</b>	33	29	1	1

*N=1,060*

**Q8. With the process of primaries and caucuses, the Republican and Democratic Parties determine which candidate will be their party's nominee. Which do you think is more fair way to select a nominee?**

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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Open primaries and caucuses, where any registered voter can participate in either party's primary or caucus	69
Closed primaries and caucuses, where only voters who are registered in a party can participate in that party's primary or caucus	29
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

*N=*

*1,060*

**Q9. Some states hold presidential primaries, elections where voters cast secret ballots throughout the day just as in other elections. Other states hold caucuses, local meetings at specific times, where voters openly discuss which candidate to support. Which do you think is a more fair way to select a nominee?**

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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Primary elections	81
Caucuses	17
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,060

**Q10. In addition to delegates selected in the primaries and caucuses, the Democratic Party presidential nomination process includes elected officeholders and party officials, known as superdelegates, who can vote for whichever candidate they want. Do you think it is a good idea, a bad idea, or neither a good nor bad idea for the Democratic Party to have superdelegates?**

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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
<b>Very/somewhat NET</b>	<b>17</b>
Very good idea	5
Somewhat good idea	12
<b>Neither a good nor bad idea</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Very/somewhat poor NET</b>	<b>53</b>
Somewhat bad idea	21
Very bad idea	32
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,060

**Q11. Regardless of whether or not you support him, overall do you think Donald Trump running for the Republican nomination for President has been good for the Republican Party, bad for the Republican Party, or doesn't make much difference either way?**

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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
<b>Very/somewhat NET</b>	<b>33</b>
Very good	13
Somewhat good	20
<b>No difference either way</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Very/somewhat bad NET</b>	<b>50</b>
Somewhat bad	15
Very bad	35
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,060

**Q12. Regardless of whether or not you support him, overall do you think Bernie Sanders running for the Democratic nomination for President has been good for the Democratic Party, bad for the Democratic Party, or doesn't make much difference either way?**

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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
<b>Very/somewhat NET</b>	<b>49</b>
Very good	23
Somewhat good	27
<b>No difference either way</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Very/somewhat bad NET</b>	<b>17</b>
Somewhat bad	9
Very bad	8
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,060

**S1. Are you currently registered to vote at your address, or not?**

	AP-NORC 1/14-17/2016
Yes	83
No	16
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,060</i>

**Q13. [If registered to vote or lives in North Dakota] How often would you say you vote?  
[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
<b>Always/nearly always NET</b>	<b>77</b>
Always	48
Nearly always	29
<b>About half the time</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Seldom/Never NET</b>	<b>10</b>
Seldom	7
Never	3
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>876</i>

**Q14. [If registered to vote or lives in North Dakota] Did you vote in your state's primary or caucus for the 2016 presidential election?**

	AP-NORC 1/14-17/2016
Yes	54
No	31
My state has not held its primary or caucus yet	14
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>876</i>



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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Democrat	33
Republican	24
Independent	28
None of these	14
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,060</i>

*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 5/12-15/2016
Lean Democrat	29
Lean Republican	35
Don't lean	35
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>430</i>

*If Democrat in PID1*

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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Strong Democrat	37
Moderate Democrat	61
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>373</i>

*If Republican in PID1*

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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Strong Republican	27
Moderate Republican	73
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	-
<i>N=</i>	<i>257</i>

**POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDa, and PIDb.**

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>45</b>
Strong Democrat	12
Moderate Democrat	20
Lean Democrat	13
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>39</b>
Lean Republican	15
Moderate Republican	18
Strong Republican	7
DON'T KNOW/SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,060</i>

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

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Liberal	22
Conservative	29
Moderate	47
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,060</i>

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
18-24	12
25-34	16
35-44	19
45-54	16
55-64	18
65-74	12
75+	7
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,060</i>

**GENDER**

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Male	48
Female	52
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,060</i>

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,060</i>

**MARITAL STATUS**

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Married	50
Widowed	7
Divorced	11
Separated	3
Never married	22
Living with partner	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,060</i>

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Employed	57
Not employed	43
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,060</i>

**EDUCATION**

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Less than a high school diploma	12
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	25
College graduate or above	35

N=

1,060

**INCOME**

	AP-NORC 5/12-15/2016
Under \$10,000	9
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	12
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	10
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	16
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 or more	8

N=

1,060

## **AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research Poll**

### **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 AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC at the University of Chicago’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).

Interviews for this survey were conducted between May 12 and 15, 2016, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,060 completed the survey—761 via the web and 299 via telephone. The final stage completion rate is 29.6 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 23.8 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 90.5 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 6.4 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.

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 non-coverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and household phone status. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

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- 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 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

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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.