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After Seismic Political Shift, Modest Changes in Public's Policy Agenda

More view the environment, foreign trade as top policy priorities

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After Seismic Political Shift, Modest Changes in Public's Policy Agenda

More view the environment, foreign trade as top policy priorities

As Donald Trump enters the White House, the nation's leading policy priorities are little changed from the final years of Barack Obama's presidency. And the partisan divisions over many of the public's priorities – from dealing with global climate change to strengthening the nation's military – remain as wide as ever.

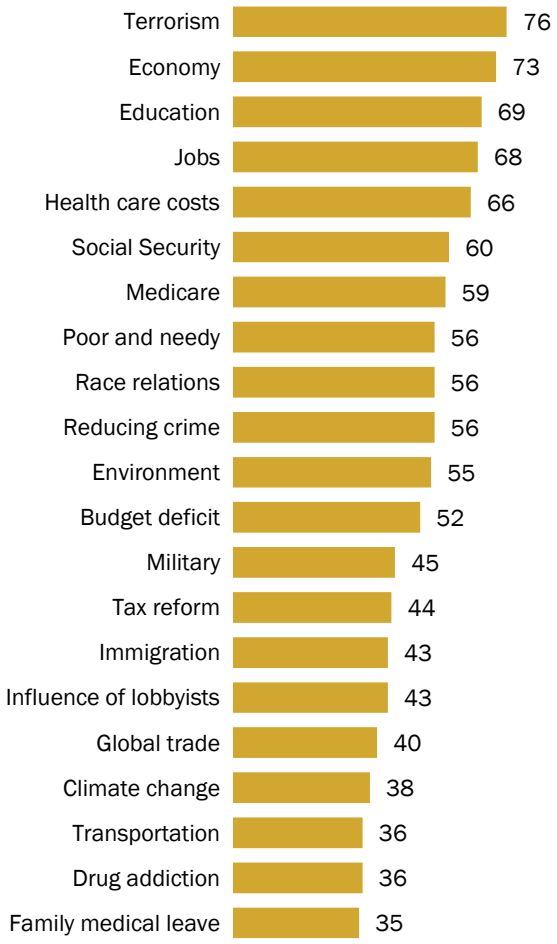
Roughly three-quarters say that defending the country from terrorism (76%) and strengthening the economy (73%) should be top priorities for Congress and the new president. And two-thirds or more prioritize improving the educational system (69%), improving the job situation (68%) and reducing health care costs (66%).

These all have ranked among the public's top policy priorities in recent years. Still, there are some changes in the public's to-do list: A majority of Americans (55%) now cite protecting the environment as a top priority, up from 47% a year ago.

Global trade, which ranks relatively low on the public's policy agenda, is viewed as more important than in the past. Currently, 40% say dealing with global trade issues should be a top policy priority, up from 31% last year. On the other hand, the share viewing immigration as a top priority has declined, from 51% to 43%, since January 2016.

Public's policy priorities for 2017

% rating each a top priority for Trump and Congress



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

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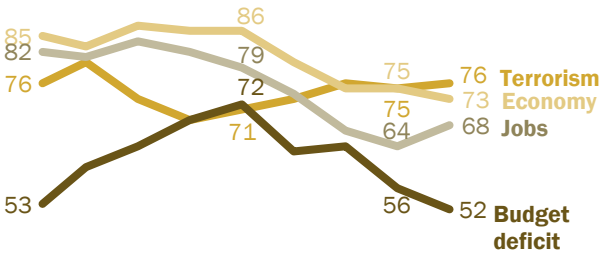
The national survey, conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017 among 1,502 adults, finds little change over the past year in views of the importance of reducing the budget deficit. But the deficit is viewed as a less important priority today than it was during most of Obama's second term.

Currently, 52% say reducing the budget deficit should be a top priority for the president and Congress. Four years ago, after Obama's reelection, 72% viewed cutting the deficit as a top priority.

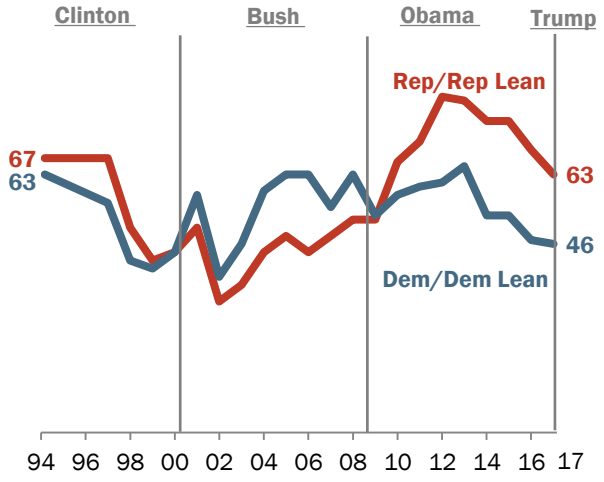
About six-in-ten Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (63%) say reducing the deficit should be a top policy priority; four years ago, 81% of Republicans viewed it as a top priority. Over this period, the share of Democrats and Democratic leaners citing the deficit as a top priority has declined from 65% to 46%.

How the deficit rose – and fell – among public's priorities during Obama years

% saying each is a top priority ...



% who say reducing budget deficit is a top priority ...



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

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Widening partisan gap over dealing with climate change

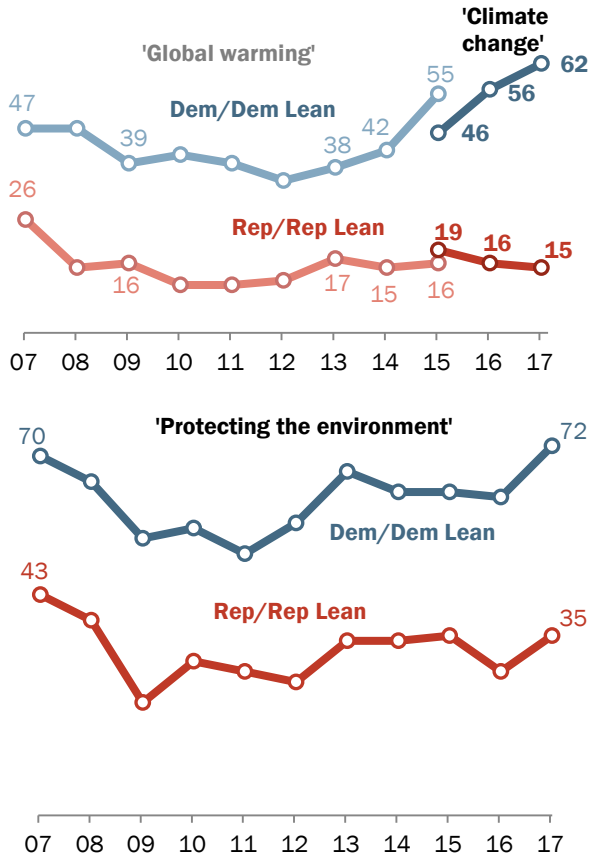
As in previous policy priority surveys, the widest partisan gap is on the importance of dealing with global climate change. About six-in-ten Democrats (62%) say this should be a top priority for the president and Congress. Just 15% of Republicans say the same – making climate change by far the lowest-ranked of 21 policy priorities among Republicans.

Republicans have ranked global climate change – or global warming in surveys prior to 2015 – at or close to the bottom of the list of policy priorities for more than a decade. At the same time, the share of Democrats who rate climate change as a top priority has steadily increased in recent years – from 46% in 2015 to 62% currently.

There also is a sizable partisan gap over the importance of environmental protection as a policy priority. While 72% of Democrats say protecting the environment should be a top priority for Congress and the president, just 35% of Republicans say this.

Democrats increasingly view dealing with climate change as a top priority

% rating each a top priority for Trump and Congress ...



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

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Majorities in both parties now prioritize reducing health care costs

While there are wide partisan differences on whether to repeal the Affordable Care Act, majorities of both Republicans (69%) and Democrats (63%) say reducing health care costs should be a top goal of the president and Congress.

For Republicans, this represents a sizable change in attitudes. In 2009, just 44% of Republicans cited the reduction of health care costs as a top priority. Over the past year alone, the share of Republicans who say cutting health care costs should be a top priority has increased from 57% to 69%.

Democrats' views have shown less change over this period. As a result, partisan differences over this issue are much narrower today than in 2013 or 2009.

Republicans increasingly view reduction of health care costs as a top priority

% who rate reducing health care costs a top priority

	2009	2013	2016	2017	'09-'17 change
	%	%	%	%	
Total	59	63	61	66	**+7**
Rep/Rep Lean	44	52	57	69	**+25**
Dem/Dem Lean	68	73	64	63	-5
R-D gap	**-24**	**-21**	-7	+6	

Note: Significant differences in **bold.**
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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Wide partisan gaps on many priorities, common ground on others

Aside from climate change and the environment, some of the largest partisan gaps are on the importance of strengthening the military, dealing with the poor and needy and immigration.

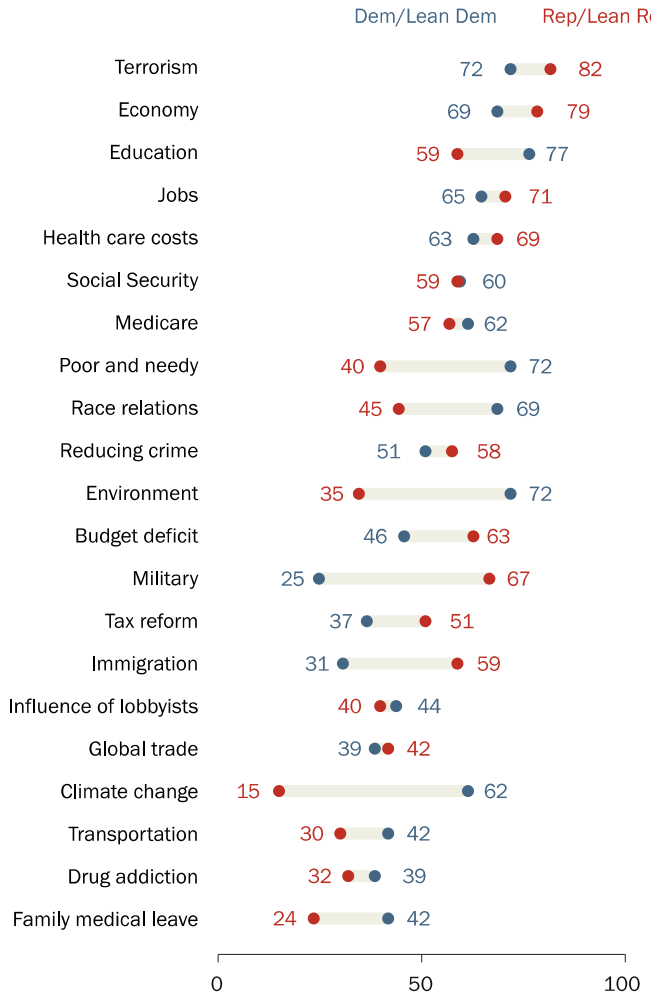
Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to say that strengthening the military should be a top policy priority. Two-thirds of Republicans and Republican leaners (67%) say this should be a top goal of the president and Congress, compared with just 25% of Democrats. For Democrats, strengthening the military is the lowest-ranked policy goal.

In addition, nearly twice as many Republicans (59%) as Democrats (31%) rate dealing with immigration as a top policy priority. And while 51% of Republicans view reforming the tax system as a top priority, fewer Democrats (37%) say the same.

By contrast, more Democrats than Republicans view dealing with the problems of the poor and needy (72% of Democrats, 40% of Republicans), and dealing with race relations (69% of Democrats, 45% of Republicans) as top policy goals.

Partisans differ over priority Trump and Congress should give to immigration, poverty, race relations

% rating each a top priority among ...



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

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There are several policy goals that Republicans and Democrats have in common, however. With proposals to revamp entitlement programs being considered by the GOP-led Congress, 62% of Democrats and 57% of Republicans rate "taking steps to making the Medicare system financially sound" as a top priority.

Nearly identical majorities in both parties (60% of Democrats, 59% of Republicans) also say taking steps to make Social Security financially sound should be a top priority.

Leading policy priorities for Republicans and Democrats

% saying each is a top priority ...

Rep/Rep Lean	Dem/Dem Lean
82% Terrorism	77% Education
79% Economy	72% Environment
71% Jobs	72% Terrorism
69% Health costs	72% Poor people
67% Military	69% Race relations
63% Budget deficit	69% Economy
59% Social Security	65% Jobs
59% Education	63% Health costs
59% Immigration	62% Climate change
58% Crime	62% Medicare

Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2016.

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Age and policy priorities

The policy priorities of young people and older Americans differ in key respects. Older adults are more likely to prioritize strengthening the military, reducing the influence of lobbyists, immigration, Medicare and Social Security, among other issues. Conversely, younger people are more likely than their elders to prioritize environmental concerns.

While a 58% majority of those 65 and older say strengthening the military is a top priority, just a third of those younger than 30 say the same.

Older adults (65 and up) also attach greater importance than younger people (18-29) to reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interests in Washington (56% vs. 31%), improving transportation (52% vs. 27%), addressing immigration (56% vs. 36%), and taking steps to make Medicare (70% vs. 52%) and Social Security (72% vs. 55%) financially secure.

For their part, those under 30 years of age are more likely than those 65 and older to say that environmental protection (64% vs. 48%) and global climate change (48% vs. 34%) should be top priorities.

Majorities of both those 18-29 and those 65 and older say that addressing race relations should be a top priority for Congress and the president; yet for young people this is a top tier issue, while for older Americans race relations ranks closer to the middle of the policies list.

Older adults give greater priority to military, immigration and entitlements

% rating each a top priority for Trump and Congress ...

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Young-Old diff
	%	%	%	%	
Strengthening the military	33	39	51	58	**-25**
Reducing lobbyist influence	31	36	51	56	**-25**
Improving transportation	27	35	34	52	**-25**
Immigration	36	39	45	56	**-20**
Medicare	52	59	58	70	**-18**
Social Security	55	53	64	72	**-17**
Improving job situation	58	67	76	73	**-15**
Terrorism	71	69	84	84	**-13**
Tax reform	39	43	44	50	-11
Health care costs	59	66	70	69	-10
Drug addiction	35	33	35	44	-9
Strengthening economy	69	75	71	76	-7
Reducing budget deficit	47	50	61	53	-6
Global trade issues	37	38	47	42	-5
Reducing crime	57	47	64	61	-4
Education	73	69	64	70	+3
Problems of poor & needy	62	56	54	57	+5
Paid family & medical leave	41	33	33	34	+7
Addressing race relations	66	58	47	56	+10
Global climate change	48	37	33	34	**+14**
Protecting environment	64	59	48	48	**+16**

Note: Significant differences in **bold**.
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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Long-term changes in public's agenda

Although the White House changed hands from a Democrat to a Republican, a review of the public's to-do list shows only modest changes in the public's priorities from 2016 to 2017. For the last three years, defending the country against terrorism and strengthening the nation's economy have shared the top of the priority list.

While the economy remains one of the top priorities for most Americans, that share has declined over the past several years (from 85% in January 2009 and 86% in January 2013 to 73% today).

Similarly, while about two-thirds (68%) now rate improving the job situation as a top priority, public emphasis on the employment situation in the country has declined in recent years – eight years ago (82%) and four years ago (79%), roughly eight-in-ten Americans rated this a top priority.

Fewer view the economy, jobs as top priorities today than did so in Obama's first year

% rating each a top priority for the president and Congress each year ...

	8 years ago Jan 2009	4 years ago Jan 2013	1 year ago Jan 2016	Now Jan 2017	8-year chg '09-'17	1-year chg '16-'17
	%	%	%	%		
Defending against terrorism	76	71	75	76	0	+1
Strengthening nation's economy	85	86	75	73	**-12**	-2
Improving education	61	70	66	69	**+8**	+3
Improving job situation	82	79	64	68	**-14**	+4
Reducing health care costs	59	63	61	66	**+7**	+5
Securing Social Security	63	70	62	60	-3	-2
Securing Medicare	60	65	58	59	-1	+1
Problems of poor and needy	50	57	54	56	**+6**	+2
Addressing race relations	--	--	--	56	n/a	n/a
Reducing crime	46	55	58	56	**+10**	-2
Protecting environment	41	52	47	55	**+14**	**+8**
Reducing budget deficit	53	72	56	52	-1	-4
Strengthening the military	44	41	49	45	+1	-4
Reforming tax system	--	52	45	44	n/a	-1
Dealing with immigration	41	39	51	43	+2	**-8**
Reducing lobbyist influence	36	44	--	43	**+7**	n/a
Dealing with global trade	31	31	31	40	**+9**	**+9**
Dealing with climate change	30	28	38	38	**+8**	0
Improving transportation	--	30	--	36	n/a	n/a
Dealing with drug addiction	--	--	--	36	n/a	n/a
Expanding access to paid family and medical leave for workers	--	--	--	35	n/a	n/a

Notes: In 2013 and earlier, the item "dealing with immigration" asked about "illegal immigration." In 2015 and earlier, the item "Dealing with global climate change" asked about "global warming." Significant changes in **bold**.
Source: Survey conducted Jan. 4-9, 2017.

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Acknowledgements

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 4-9, 2017 among a national sample of 1,502 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (376 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,126 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 674 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http://www.pewresearch.org/methodology/u-s-survey-research/

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2015 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cell phone only, or both landline and cell phone), based on extrapolations from the 2016 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. The margins of error reported and statistical tests of significance are adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, a measure of how much efficiency is lost from the weighting procedures.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Survey conducted January 4-9, 2017

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,502	2.9 percentage points
Half form	746 (min)	4.1 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep	651	4.4 percentage points
Republican/Lean Rep half form	316 (min)	6.3 percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem	726	4.2 percentage points
Democrat/Lean Dem half form	358 (min)	6.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Pew Research Center undertakes all polling activity, including calls to mobile telephone numbers, in compliance with the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and other applicable laws.

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JANUARY 2017 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
JANUARY 4-9, 2017
N=1,502

QUESTIONS 1-2, 5-8, 15-16, 19, 22, 24, 26-31 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 9-14, 17-18, 20-21, 23, 25, 32-39

ASK ALL:
Q.40 I'd like to ask you about priorities for President-elect Trump and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think each should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done. (First,) should **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS]** be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done? What about... **[INSERT ITEM]**?) **[REPEAT AS NECESSARY TO BE SURE RESPONDENT UNDERSTANDS SCALE:** should this be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important, or should it not be done?**]**

SUMMARY TABLE		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
f.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks	76	19	3	1	1
p.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	73	24	1	1	1
h.F1	Improving the educational system	69	26	4	1	1
a.F1	Improving the job situation	68	27	3	*	1
e.F1	Reducing health care costs	66	28	3	3	1
r.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	60	33	3	2	2
u.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	59	33	4	2	2
s.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	56	37	4	1	1
v.F2	Addressing race relations in this country	56	33	6	3	2
c.F1	Reducing crime	56	33	8	3	1
d.F1	Protecting the environment	55	33	10	2	1
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	52	33	8	3	4
t.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	45	34	12	6	3
o.F2	Reforming the nation's tax system	44	37	12	3	4
n.F2	Dealing with the issue of immigration	43	39	11	5	2
k.F1	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	43	34	13	3	6
g.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	40	46	8	3	3
q.F2	Dealing with global climate change	38	34	18	7	3
w.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems	36	51	12	*	1
x.F2	Dealing with drug addiction	36	45	14	3	1
j.F1	Expanding access to paid family and medical leave for employed people	35	44	15	4	2

FULL TRENDS		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=746]:						
a.F1	Improving the job situation					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	68	27	3	*	1
	Jan 7-14, 2016	64	29	5	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	67	28	3	1	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	74	21	1	2	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	79	16	2	3	1

Q.40 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
	Jan 11-16, 2012	82	14	1	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	84	13	*	1	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	81	15	1	1	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	82	15	1	1	1
	January, 2008	61	31	4	2	2
	January, 2007	57	30	10	1	2
	January, 2006	65	28	4	1	2
	January, 2005	68	28	2	1	1
	January, 2004	67	28	3	1	1
	January, 2003	62	32	4	1	1
	January, 2002	67	27	4	1	1
	January, 2001	60	30	6	2	2
	January, 2000	41	35	16	4	4
	July, 1999	54	30	10	3	3
	January, 1999	50	34	10	2	4
	January, 1998	54	32	10	3	1
	January, 1997	66	26	5	2	1
	December, 1994	64	27	5	2	2
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	52	33	8	3	4
	Jan 7-14, 2016	56	33	6	2	3
	Jan 7-11, 2015	64	28	4	1	3
	Jan 15-19, 2014	63	27	5	1	4
	Jan 9-13, 2013	72	20	3	2	3
	Jan 11-16, 2012	69	21	5	2	3
	Jan 5-9, 2011	64	27	3	2	4
	Jan 6-10, 2010	60	29	5	2	4
	Jan 7-11, 2009	53	33	7	2	4
	January, 2008	58	33	5	1	3
	January, 2007	53	34	7	2	4
	January, 2006	55	35	5	1	4
	January, 2005	56	34	5	2	3
	January, 2004	51	38	6	3	2
	January, 2003	40	44	11	2	3
	January, 2002	35	44	13	3	5
	January, 1997	60	30	5	2	3
	December, 1994	65	26	5	1	3
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	Paying off the national debt					
	January, 2001	54	32	8	2	4
	January, 2000	44	38	11	3	4
	July, 1999	45	41	10	2	2
	January, 1999	42	43	10	1	4
	January, 1998	46	40	9	3	2
c.F1	Reducing crime					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	56	33	8	3	1
	Jan 7-14, 2016	58	33	6	2	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	57	32	8	2	2
	Jan 15-19, 2014	55	35	7	2	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	55	33	9	2	1
	Jan 11-16, 2012	48	37	11	2	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	44	43	10	2	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	39	8	2	2

Q.40 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
	Jan 7-11, 2009	46	41	9	2	2
	January, 2008	54	36	7	1	2
	January, 2007	62	31	5	1	1
	January, 2006	62	29	6	1	2
	January, 2005	53	39	5	2	1
	January, 2004	53	34	9	2	2
	January, 2003	47	42	8	2	2
	January, 2002	53	39	6	*	2
	January, 2001	76	19	3	2	*
	January, 2000	69	24	4	1	2
	July, 1999	76	20	2	1	1
	January, 1999	70	24	3	1	2
	January, 1998	71	25	2	1	1
	January, 1997	70	25	3	2	*
	December, 1994	78	17	2	1	2
d.F1	Protecting the environment					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	55	33	10	2	1
	Jan 7-14, 2016	47	40	9	3	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	51	37	9	2	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	49	40	7	3	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	52	33	10	3	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	43	39	15	3	*
	Jan 5-9, 2011	40	44	12	3	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	44	42	11	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	42	12	3	2
	January, 2008	56	34	8	1	1
	January, 2007	57	32	9	1	1
	January, 2006	57	35	6	1	1
	January, 2005	49	42	8	1	*
	January, 2004	49	40	10	1	*
	January, 2003	39	50	9	1	1
	January, 2002	44	42	12	1	1
	January, 2001	63	30	3	3	1
	January, 2000	54	37	6	2	1
	July, 1999	59	32	7	1	1
	January, 1999	52	39	7	1	1
	January, 1998	53	37	8	1	1
	January, 1997	54	35	8	2	1
e.F1	Reducing health care costs					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	66	28	3	3	1
	Jan 7-14, 2016	61	29	5	4	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	64	26	4	5	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	59	31	4	6	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	63	26	4	5	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	60	30	4	5	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	61	28	4	4	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	57	31	5	4	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	59	30	5	4	2
	January, 2008	69	24	3	3	1
	January, 2007	68	24	4	3	1

Q.40 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	Regulating health maintenance organizations (HMOs) and managed health care plans					
	January, 2006	60	28	6	3	3
	January, 2005	54	33	7	4	2
	January, 2004	50	35	8	4	3
	January, 2003	48	38	7	3	4
	January, 2002	50	37	7	4	2
	Early September, 2001	54	34	5	5	2
	January, 2001	66	22	4	5	3
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3
f.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	76	19	3	1	1
	Jan 7-14, 2016	75	20	4	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	76	19	4	1	*
	Jan 15-19, 2014	73	23	3	1	*
	Jan 9-13, 2013	71	22	5	1	1
	Jan 11-16, 2012	69	25	5	1	*
	Jan 5-9, 2011	73	22	3	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	80	17	2	*	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	76	18	3	1	2
	January, 2008	74	22	2	*	2
	January, 2007	80	16	2	1	1
	January, 2006	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2005	75	21	2	1	1
	January, 2004	78	18	2	1	1
	January, 2003	81	16	2	1	0
	January, 2002	83	15	1	*	1
g.F1	Dealing with global trade issues					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	40	46	8	3	3
	Jan 7-14, 2016	31	49	13	3	4
	Jan 7-11, 2015	30	50	12	3	4
	Jan 15-19, 2014	28	50	15	3	5
	Jan 9-13, 2013	31	47	15	2	6
	Jan 11-16, 2012	38	40	14	4	4
	Jan 5-9, 2011	34	44	13	3	5
	Jan 6-10, 2010	32	46	12	4	7
	Jan 7-11, 2009	31	49	11	2	7
	January, 2008	37	45	11	2	5
	January, 2007	34	46	12	2	6
	January, 2006	30	46	11	5	8
	January, 2005	32	47	13	2	6
	January, 2004	32	47	14	3	4
	January, 2002	25	55	13	2	5
	January, 2001	37	46	8	3	6
	January, 2000	30	48	14	1	7
h.F1	Improving the educational system					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	69	26	4	1	1
	Jan 7-14, 2016	66	26	4	3	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	67	27	3	3	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	69	24	3	2	1

Q.40 CONTINUED...

	Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jan 9-13, 2013	70	22	4	2	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	65	27	4	3	1
Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	5	2	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	65	28	4	2	1
Jan 7-11, 2009	61	30	5	2	2
January, 2008	66	26	4	2	2
January, 2007	69	25	4	1	1
January, 2006	67	26	4	2	1
January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
Mid-January, 2004	71	23	4	1	1
January, 2003	62	31	4	1	2
January, 2002	66	27	4	1	2
Early September, 2001	76	19	3	1	1
January, 2001	78	17	1	3	1
January, 2000	77	18	3	1	1
July, 1999	74	19	4	1	2
January, 1999	74	22	2	1	1
January, 1998	78	17	3	2	*
January, 1997	75	20	3	2	*
NO ITEM i					
j.F1 Expanding access to paid family and medical leave for employed people					
Jan 4-9, 2017	35	44	15	4	2
k.F1 Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington					
Jan 4-9, 2017	43	34	13	3	6
Jan 7-11, 2015	43	37	12	4	5
Jan 15-19, 2014	42	30	17	5	6
Jan 9-13, 2013	44	29	18	4	6
Jan 11-16, 2012	40	31	18	5	6
Jan 5-9, 2011	37	31	19	6	7
Jan 6-10, 2010	36	34	18	7	6
Jan 7-11, 2009	36	34	18	5	7
January, 2008	39	32	16	4	9
January, 2007	35	30	23	4	8
NO ITEMS l, m					
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=756]:					
n.F2 Dealing with the issue of immigration					
Jan 4-9, 2017	43	39	11	5	2
Jan 7-14, 2016	51	35	10	3	1
Jan 7-11, 2015	52	34	8	4	2
Jan 15-19, 2014	40	40	14	5	2
TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration					
Jan 15-19, 2014	41	36	16	4	3
Jan 9-13, 2013	39	40	13	4	3
Jan 11-16, 2012	39	38	17	4	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	46	38	12	3	1
Jan 6-10, 2010	40	41	14	2	3
Jan 7-11, 2009	41	36	18	3	2

Q.40 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
	January, 2008	51	32	11	3	3
	January, 2007	55	29	11	3	2
o.F2	Reforming the nation's tax system					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	44	37	12	3	4
	Jan 7-14, 2016	45	39	10	2	4
	Jan 7-11, 2015	48	37	9	3	3
	Jan 15-19, 2014	55	33	6	2	4
	Jan 9-13, 2013	52	32	7	3	6
p.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	73	24	1	1	1
	Jan 7-14, 2016	75	22	2	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	75	22	1	1	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	80	15	2	2	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	86	11	1	1	1
	Jan 11-16, 2012	86	11	1	1	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	87	11	1	1	1
	Jan 6-10, 2010	83	14	1	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	85	12	*	1	1
	January, 2008	75	20	2	1	2
	January, 2007	68	25	4	2	1
	January, 2006	66	26	5	1	2
	January, 2005	75	22	2	*	1
	January, 2004	79	16	2	1	2
	January, 2003	73	23	2	1	1
	January, 2002	71	26	2	*	1
	Early September, 2001[1]	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1
q.F2	Dealing with global climate change					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	38	34	18	7	3
	Jan 7-14, 2016	38	32	17	10	2
	Jan 7-11, 2015	34	33	17	13	3
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	Dealing with global warming					
	Jan 7-11, 2015	38	29	17	14	2
	Jan 15-19, 2014	29	31	20	15	5
	Jan 9-13, 2013	28	36	18	14	4
	Jan 11-16, 2012	25	35	20	16	4
	Jan 5-9, 2011	26	35	21	14	4
	Jan 6-10, 2010	28	36	20	14	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	30	37	19	10	4
	January, 2008	35	38	15	7	5
	January, 2007	38	34	16	8	4
r.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	60	33	3	2	2
	Jan 7-14, 2016	62	31	5	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	66	27	4	1	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	66	28	4	1	1

[1] In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

Q.40 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
	Jan 9-13, 2013	70	24	2	1	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	68	26	2	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	66	26	4	1	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	66	28	3	2	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	63	31	3	1	2
	January, 2008	64	28	4	2	2
	January, 2007	64	28	5	2	1
	January, 2006	64	28	4	2	2
	January, 2005	70	25	2	2	1
	January, 2004	65	28	4	2	1
	January, 2003	59	34	4	1	2
	January, 2002	62	32	3	1	2
	Early September, 2001	74	22	2	1	1
	January, 2001	74	21	1	2	2
	January, 2000	69	27	2	1	1
	July, 1999	73	23	3	*	1
	January, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
	January, 1998	71	24	4	1	*
	January, 1997	75	20	2	2	1
s.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	56	37	4	1	1
	Jan 7-14, 2016	54	36	8	1	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	55	35	7	2	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	49	39	8	2	2
	Jan 9-13, 2013	57	32	6	3	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	52	36	8	2	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	52	36	8	2	2
	Jan 6-10, 2010	53	38	6	2	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	50	39	6	3	2
	January, 2008	51	37	7	2	3
	January, 2007	55	36	6	2	1
	January, 2006	55	36	6	1	2
	January, 2005	59	34	5	1	1
	January, 2004	50	42	6	1	1
	January, 2003	48	45	5	1	1
	January, 2002	44	46	7	2	1
	January, 2001	63	28	6	1	2
	January, 2000	55	38	4	1	2
	July, 1999	60	33	5	1	1
	January, 1999	57	37	4	1	1
	January, 1998	57	34	6	2	1
	January, 1997	57	35	6	2	2
t.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	45	34	12	6	3
	Jan 7-14, 2016	49	29	14	7	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	52	31	9	6	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	43	36	14	6	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	41	36	14	7	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	39	36	15	8	2
	Jan 5-9, 2011	43	35	14	6	3
	Jan 6-10, 2010	49	35	10	5	1
	Jan 7-11, 2009	44	39	8	4	5
	January, 2008	42	38	12	5	3

Q.40 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
	January, 2007	46	35	10	5	4
	January, 2006	42	36	13	6	3
	January, 2005	52	35	8	3	2
	January, 2004	48	31	15	5	1
	January, 2003	48	34	11	4	3
	January, 2002	52	37	7	2	2
	January, 2001	48	37	8	5	2
u.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	59	33	4	2	2
	Jan 7-14, 2016	58	34	5	2	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	61	33	3	2	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	61	30	6	2	2
	Jan 9-13, 2013	65	29	3	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	61	31	5	1	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	61	31	4	2	3
	Jan 6-10, 2010	63	30	4	1	2
	Jan 7-11, 2009	60	32	5	1	2
	January, 2008	60	33	4	1	2
	January, 2007	63	31	3	1	2
	January, 2006	62	30	4	2	2
	January, 2005	67	29	3	1	*
	January, 2004	62	32	4	1	1
	January, 2003	56	39	4	*	1
	January, 2002	55	38	5	1	1
	January, 2001	71	24	2	1	2
	January, 2000	64	30	3	1	2
	July, 1999	71	24	3	1	1
	January, 1999	62	33	2	1	2
	January, 1998	64	31	3	1	1
	January, 1997	64	31	3	1	1
v.F2	Addressing race relations in this country					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	56	33	6	3	2
	Jan 7-11, 2015	49	33	10	6	2
	TREND FOR COMPARISON:					
	Working to reduce racial tensions					
	January, 2003	33	43	18	4	2
	January, 2001	52	35	7	3	3
	January, 2000	46	40	10	2	2
	July, 1999	49	37	8	4	2
	January, 1999	49	35	11	3	2
	January, 1998	41	38	13	7	1
	January, 1997	50	34	9	5	2
w.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	36	51	12	*	1
	Jan 7-11, 2015	42	47	9	1	1
	Jan 15-19, 2014	39	46	13	1	1
	Jan 9-13, 2013	30	51	16	2	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	30	52	15	2	1
	Jan 5-9, 2011	33	48	16	2	2

Q.40 CONTINUED...

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref
x.F2	Dealing with drug addiction					
	Jan 4-9, 2017	36	45	14	3	1

NO QUESTIONS 41-43, 45-49, 54-57, 59, 62, 68-69

QUESTIONS 44, 50a-c, 50f, 51, 52-53, 58, 60-61, 63-67, 70-73 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

QUESTION 50d-e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?
ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	**(VOL.)** No preference	**(VOL.)** Other party	**(VOL.)** DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
Jan 4-9, 2017	25	28	41	4	*	1	18	19
Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	24	33	35	5	1	3	15	16
Oct 20-25, 2016	26	33	36	3	*	2	15	17
Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016	27	32	33	5	*	3	11	16
Aug 9-16, 2016	27	32	35	2	1	2	13	16
Jun 15-26, 2016	24	33	37	4	1	2	16	16
Apr 12-19, 2016	25	32	37	3	1	2	16	17
Mar 17-26, 2016	25	31	38	3	*	2	15	20
Jan 7-14, 2016	24	30	38	5	1	2	14	17
Yearly Totals								
2016	25.4	32.0	36.5	3.4	.5	2.2	14.6	17.0
2015	23.7	30.4	40.1	3.6	.4	1.8	16.4	17.3
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	*30.9*	*31.8*	*27.9*	*5.2*	*.6*	*3.6*	*11.7*	*9.4*
2001 Pre-Sept 11	*27.3*	*34.4*	*30.9*	*5.1*	*.6*	*1.7*	*12.1*	*13.5*
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--