

FOR RELEASE JANUARY 16, 2015

# Most Support Stronger U.S. Ties With Cuba

*But Just 32% Expect Cuba to Become  
More Democratic*

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION  
ON THIS REPORT:**

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# Most Support Stronger U.S. Ties With Cuba

## *But Just 32% Expect Cuba to Become More Democratic*

Fully 63% of Americans approve of the Obama administration's decision last month to re-establish diplomatic ties with Cuba after more than 50 years. And there is equally broad support for going further and ending the decades-long U.S. trade embargo against Cuba (66% favor this).

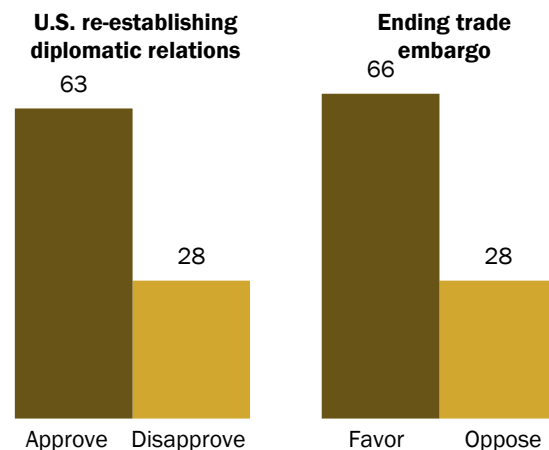
Yet there is broad public skepticism that a thaw in U.S.-Cuba relations will lead to greater democracy in Cuba. Only about a third (32%) say they think Cuba will become more democratic over the next several years, while 60% say it will be about the same as it is now.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Jan. 7-11 among 1,504 adults, finds strong support among Democrats and independents for the restoration of diplomatic ties with Cuba, and for ending the embargo. About three-quarters of Democrats (74%), along with 67% of independents support the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, with similar levels of support for ending the trade embargo, "which would allow U.S. companies to do business in Cuba and Cuban companies to do business in the U.S."

Republicans are more divided in their views: just 40% of Republicans approve of the re-establishment of relations with Cuba, while 48% disapprove. There is somewhat more support among Republicans for an end to the trade embargo, though as many say they oppose lifting the embargo as say they favor it (47% each).

### Most Favor Renewed Diplomatic Relations With Cuba, End to Embargo

% saying...

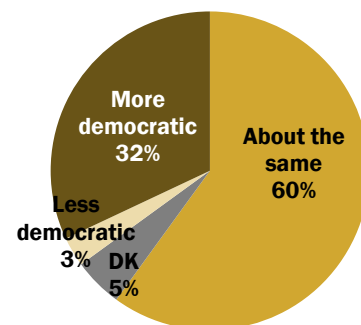


Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

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### Will Cuba Become More Democratic?

% saying Cuba will become \_\_\_ over the next few years ...



Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Just a third (33%) of conservative Republicans approve of resuming diplomatic relations while 55% disapprove; among moderate and liberal Republicans the balance of opinion is reversed (54% approve, 33% disapprove). Similarly, conservative Republicans are less likely to favor ending the trade embargo than moderates and liberals in the party (40% vs. 61%).

Support for both the restoration of diplomatic ties and an end to the trade embargo is seen broadly across demographic groups: 62% of whites, 64% of blacks and 65% of Hispanics approve of re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba.

While majorities of those in all age groups approve of the move toward normalization of diplomatic relations, Americans younger than 50 are more supportive than older Americans: 67% of those 18-49 support the re-establishment of relations, compared with 57% of those age 50 and older, with similar divisions in views about the trade embargo.

College graduates are particularly supportive of a restoration of diplomatic ties: 77% approve of the re-establishment of diplomatic relations, while 78% favor an end to the embargo.

## Republicans Ideologically Divided Over Restoring U.S. Ties with Cuba

	Re-establishing diplomatic relations		Ending trade embargo	
	Approve %	Disapprove %	Favor %	Oppose %
Total	63	28	66	28
White	62	29	63	32
Black	64	26	72	21
Hispanic	65	27	73	21
18-29	67	24	74	22
30-49	67	24	73	23
50-64	58	34	60	33
65+	57	33	56	37
College grad+	77	20	78	18
Some college	59	28	64	29
H.S. or less	56	33	60	35
Republican	40	48	47	47
Cons Rep	33	55	40	54
Mod/Lib Rep	54	33	61	33
Independent	67	26	69	26
Democrat	74	19	78	18
Cons/Mod Dem	69	23	72	24
Lib Dem	80	15	87	10

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Don't know responses not shown.

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When asked whether Cuba will become more democratic, less democratic or remain about the same as it is now over the next several years, six-in-ten (60%) Americans expect little change, and this is the majority view among Democrats, Republicans and independents. But Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say the communist nation will shift in a democratic direction: 41% of Democrats say this, compared with just 24% of Republicans.

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### Partisan Divides in Prospects for Democracy in Cuba

*% saying over the next several years, Cuba will be ...*

	<b>More democratic</b>	<b>Less democratic</b>	<b>About the same</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	
Total	32	3	60	5=100
Republican	24	4	68	4=100
Democrat	41	2	54	3=100
Independent	31	3	61	5=100

Survey conducted Jan. 7-11, 2015. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 7-11, 2015 among a national sample of 1,504 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (528 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 976 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 563 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://people-press.org/methodology/>

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 2013 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 2014 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. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,504	2.9 percentage points
Republican	336	6.2 percentage points
Democrat	458	5.3 percentage points
Independent	647	4.4 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.

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JANUARY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
JANUARY 7-11, 2015  
N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 4F1-5F2, 7, 10, 12A-12B, 14-16, 20-24, 30-38 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**QUESTIONS 3F2, 6, 12CF1-12JF2 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**NO QUESTIONS 8-9, 11, 13, 17-19, 25-29, 39-49**

**ASK ALL:**

On another subject...

Q.50 How much, if anything, have you heard about the U.S. re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba? **[READ]**

Jan 7-11

2015

34	A lot
46	A little [OR]
20	Nothing at all
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**ASK ALL:**

Q.51 All in all, do you approve or disapprove of the U.S. re-establishing diplomatic relations with Cuba?

Jan 7-11

2015

63	Approve
28	Disapprove
9	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*Do you favor or oppose re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?<sup>1</sup>*

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
April, 2009 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	60	30	11
Mar 9-12, 2009	52	33	15
February, 2008 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	61	29	10
December, 2006 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	67	27	6
March, 2004 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	55	38	7
May, 2002 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	55	37	8
October, 2000 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	56	35	9
May, 2000 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	57	36	7
May, 1999 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	71	25	4
March, 1999 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	67	27	6
April, 1996 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	40	49	11
March, 1977 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	53	32	15
October, 1974 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	63	37	0

**NO QUESTIONS 52-53**

<sup>1</sup> In March 2009 the question was asked as a list item: "All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?" In Oct. 2000, May 2000, May 1999 and April 1996 question was worded: "Suppose that on election day this year you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against each one of the following propositions. Would you vote - for or against re-establishing U.S. diplomatic relations with Cuba?" In March 1977, question was worded: "Do you think diplomatic relations with Cuba should or should not be re-established?" In October 1974 question was worded: "Suppose that on election day, Nov. 5, you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me how you would vote on each of these 14 propositions. Diplomatic relations with Cuba should or should not be re-established?"

**ASK ALL:**

Q.54 And, would you favor or oppose the U.S. ending its trade embargo against Cuba, which would allow U.S. companies to do business in Cuba and Cuban companies to do business in the U.S.?

Jan 7-11

2015

66	Favor
28	Oppose
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*Apart from their diplomatic relations, do you favor or oppose the United States government ending its trade embargo against Cuba?*

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Apr 20-21, 2009 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	51	36	13
May 20-22, 2002 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	50	38	12
May 5-7, 2000 ( <i>Gallup</i> ) <sup>2</sup>	48	42	10
May 7-9, 1999 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	51	42	7
Mar 19-21, 1999 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	51	39	10

**ASK ALL:**

Q.55 Over the next several years, do you think Cuba will become more democratic, less democratic, or will it be about the same as it is now?

Jan 7-11

2015

32	More democratic
3	Less democratic
60	About the same as it is now
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>

**NO QUESTIONS 56-60, 67-68****QUESTIONS 61-66 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>No preference</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>Other party</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	22	31	41	3	1	2	17	17
Feb 14-23, 2014	22	32	39	4	1	2	14	17
Jan 15-19, 2014	21	31	41	3	1	2	18	16
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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

<sup>2</sup>

In May 2000, May 1999 and March 1999 question was worded: "Suppose that on election day this year you could vote on key issues as well as candidates. Please tell me whether you would vote for or against each one of the following propositions. Would you vote - for or against ending the U.S. trade embargo with Cuba?"



## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
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
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	--	--	--	--	--

## QUESTIONS REPJOB-DEMJOB PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

## ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/DK
Jan 7-11, 2015	17	27	52	2	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	18	28	51	1	2	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	19	32	46	2	2	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	18	25	52	4	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	22	29	46	2	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	17	20	56	3	4	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	19	26	52	2	1	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	18	29	50	2	1	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	19	29	47	1	3	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	19	25	52	2	2	--
Sep 12-16, 2012	18	26	53	2	2	--
Jul 16-26, 2012	16	27	54	2	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	19	27	49	3	2	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	21	25	52	2	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	16	25	54	2	3	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	20	26	50	3	2	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--

## TEAPARTY2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Haven't heard of</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>3</sup>	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

<sup>3</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."