

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
FEBRUARY 2017 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
FEBRUARY 7-12, 2017  
N=1,503**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 5-6, 10, 15-16, 19, 35-37, 39, 43-45, 52-55 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 7-9, 11-14, 17-18, 20-34, 38, 40-42, 46-51, 56-60**

**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.61 How important are each of the following to the United States maintaining a strong democracy. First, **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**. Is this very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important to maintaining a strong democracy? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: How important is [ITEM] to maintaining a strong democracy in the United States? Is this very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important?]**

		<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
a.	That the rights of people with unpopular views are protected					
	Feb 7-12, 2017	74	18	3	2	3
	Oct 20-25, 2016 (RVs)	77	18	1	1	2
b.	That national elections are open and fair					
	Feb 7-12, 2017	89	6	2	1	2
	Oct 20-25, 2016 (RVs)	90	6	2	1	1
c.	That news organizations are free to criticize political leaders					
	Feb 7-12, 2017	64	20	5	6	4
	Oct 20-25, 2016 (RVs)	61	22	6	8	3
d.	That people have the right to non-violent protest					
	Feb 7-12, 2017	79	12	4	3	2
	Oct 20-25, 2016 (RVs)	78	17	2	2	1
e.	That there is a system of checks and balances dividing power between the President, Congress, and the courts					
	Feb 7-12, 2017	83	11	2	2	2

**QUESTIONS 55, 62-63, 64-65 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

Next,

**ASK ALL:**Q.66 Which comes closer to your view — even if neither is exactly right. **[READ IN ORDER].**

Feb 7-12 <u>2017</u>		Aug 9-16 <u>2016</u> <sup>1</sup>
17	Many of the country's problems could be dealt with more effectively if U.S. presidents didn't have to worry so much about Congress or the courts	23
77	It would be too risky to give U.S. presidents more power to deal directly with many of the country's problems	72
6	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	5

**QUESTIONS 68-71, 74-75, 81-82, 84a-f, 92-94 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 67, 72-73, 76-80, 83, 85-87, 89****QUESTIONS 84g, 88, 90-91 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
Feb 7-12, 2017	23	34	37	3	1	2	15	18
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
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
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

<sup>1</sup> In August 2016, the first statement specified the Supreme Court instead of "courts". Question was also asked as part of a list.

**PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...**

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