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# How ‘drop-off’ voters differ from consistent voters and non-voters

*Drop-off voters less politically engaged, even when they vote*

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# How ‘drop-off’ voters differ from consistent voters and non-voters

*Drop-off voters less politically engaged, even when they vote*

The 2018 midterm elections will be determined in large part by who goes to the polls and who stays home. Historically, far fewer Americans turn out to vote in midterm than presidential elections and in 2014, [turnout hit a 70-year low](#).

A new Pew Research Center analysis finds that “drop-off” voters – those who voted in the 2012 and 2016 presidential elections but not the 2014 midterm, differed in many ways from consistent voters, who voted in all three of these elections, and non-voters. In this report, non-voters are those who were registered to vote, but did not cast ballots in any of the most recent national elections.

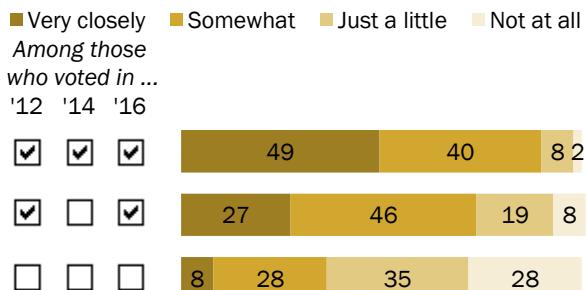
To understand these differences, this study combines people’s voting histories (from a national voter file, recently updated to include vote history from the 2016 election) with their attitudes about politics and civic engagement, based on a nationally representative survey conducted in the spring of last year.

Even in 2016, a presidential election year when these midterm “drop-off” voters turned out and cast ballots, they were considerably less engaged than 2016 voters who had also voted in the 2014 midterm.

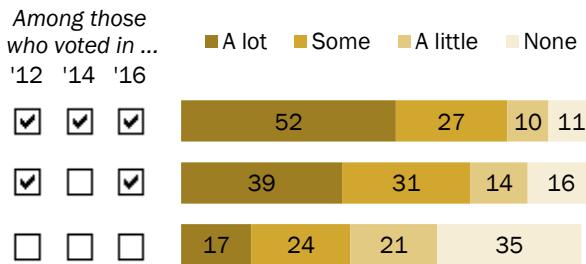
In the survey, conducted in March and April during the presidential primaries, just 27% of drop-off voters said they were following the 2016 election very closely, compared with 49% of consistent voters. And drop-off voters were less likely than consistent voters to say that it made a lot of

## ‘Drop-off’ voters voted in 2016 but were less engaged than consistent voters

*% who said they followed 2016 presidential election ...*



*% who said it makes \_\_\_ difference to them personally whether the Democrats or Republicans control the government*



Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file. Don’t know/No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

difference to them which party controlled the government; just 39% of drop-off voters said it mattered a lot whether Democrats or Republicans controlled the government, compared with 52% of consistent voters.

Drop-off voters, who had no record of voting in the 2014 congressional elections, were especially likely to place low importance on last year's elections for the House. Over 8-in-10 drop-off voters (85%) said they personally cared a good deal who won the 2016 presidential election. But only half (50%) said they cared a good deal who won in their own House district.

By contrast, overwhelming majorities of consistent voters said both elections mattered a good deal: 93% said that about the presidential election, while 79% said they personally cared a good deal about who won local House election.

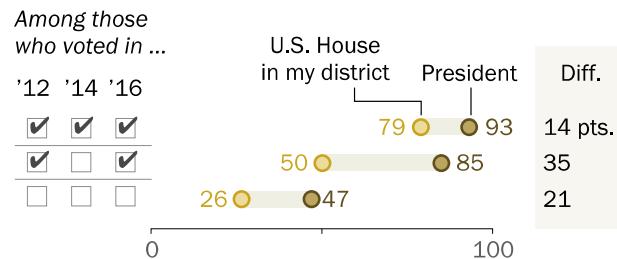
Non-voters were far less likely to view either the presidential election or the House election as important. About half (47%) said they personally cared a good deal who won the presidential election; just 26% said it mattered who won the House election in their district.

The study also finds wide demographic and socio-economic differences between consistent voters, drop-off voters and non-voters. For instance, 80% of those who voted in all three elections were non-Hispanic whites, compared with 62% of drop-off voters and 63% of non-voters. A 65% majority of consistent voters were 50 and older; just 45% of drop-off voters and 32% of non-voters were 50 and older.

And among members of both parties, consistent voters were much more likely than drop-off voters or non-voters to say that their household's financial situation enabled them to "live comfortably."

### 'Drop-off' voters cared less about who won their House district in 2016

*% who said they personally care a good deal who wins the following races in 2016*



Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file.

Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

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### Terminology

**Consistent voters:** Registered voters age 22 and older who have records of voting in the 2012, 2014, and 2016 general elections.

**Drop-off voters:** Registered voters age 22 and older who have a record of voting in the 2012 and 2016 general elections but have no record of voting in 2014.

**Non-voters:** Registered voters age 22 and older who do not have any records for voting in the 2012, 2014 or 2016 general elections.

This analysis is based on a nationwide survey conducted online among 3,763 adults March 25-April 19, 2016. Of the total sample, it was possible to match the voting records of 3,309 registered voters from voter file records compiled by TargetSmart. This analysis is further restricted to the 2,758 registered voters 22 and older in 2016 (those old enough to have been eligible to vote in 2012). For further details about the survey and the match to the voter file, see the methodology.

The survey was commissioned by The Pew Charitable Trusts; Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts.<sup>1</sup>

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### Defining ‘drop-off’ voters

Throughout this report, ‘drop-off’ voters are defined as those who have a voter-file record for voting in the 2012 and 2016 elections but not for voting in the 2014 election. There are other types of ‘drop-off’ voters, such as those who cast ballots in 2012 or 2014 but not 2016. Generally, these other types of drop-off voters hold similar attitudes to those who voted in 2012 and 2016 but not 2014. They are excluded from the analysis because limitations in matching voter file records with survey responses make incorrect or incomplete matches that fit these patterns more likely.

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<sup>1</sup> In June, The Pew Charitable Trusts published [a report](#) on why citizens do not register to vote, based on this survey.

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## What is a voter file?

A voter file is a compilation of data gathered from publicly available voter lists from each state and standardized by a vendor, containing information on turnout history. The voter file does not indicate the candidates for whom a person voted, only whether they have a record of having voted in that election.

Matching the voter file to our survey data allows us to incorporate past turnout history by validating whether panel respondents were recorded as having cast a ballot in the 2012, 2014 or 2016 elections. This validation is an improvement on survey-based estimates of turnout because respondents often have difficulty accurately reporting their participation at the polls. However, it is also true that a known error is introduced when using the voter file. While the presence of a record of voting almost certainly means that a person voted, the absence of a record does not necessarily mean that the person did not vote.

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## Most drop-off voters saw importance of community issues, volunteering

Despite being less interested in politics, drop-off voters were about as likely as consistent voters to say that people like them are able to improve their local communities, and most drop-off voters said an individual's vote matters. In this sense, they stand out clearly from non-voters.

About two-thirds of consistent (68%) and drop-off voters (64%) said people like them could have a big or moderate impact in making their community a better place to live. Only about half of non-voters (53%) say the same.

About eight-in-ten consistent voters (81%) said individual votes can make a difference and influence an election. A somewhat smaller majority (69%) of those who missed the 2014 midterm but turned out in 2012 and 2016 said the same. By contrast, fewer than half non-voters (42%) – who did not cast ballots in 2012, 2014 or 2016 – said a person's vote can make a difference.

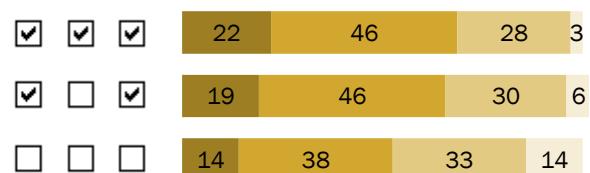
### Majorities of drop-off, consistent voters said they can impact their communities

*How much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live?*

■ Big ■ Moderate ■ Small ■ No impact at all

Among those  
who voted in ...

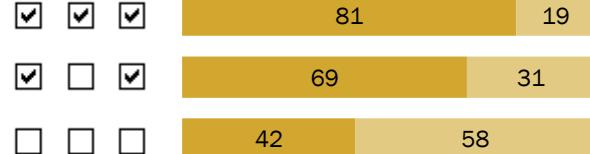
'12 '14 '16



*An individual vote \_\_\_ make a difference and influence the outcome of an election*

Among those  
who voted in ...

'12 '14 '16



Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file. Don't know/No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

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When it comes to opinions about the actions associated with good citizenship, drop-off voters and consistent voters had some common ground – but largely in non-political realms.

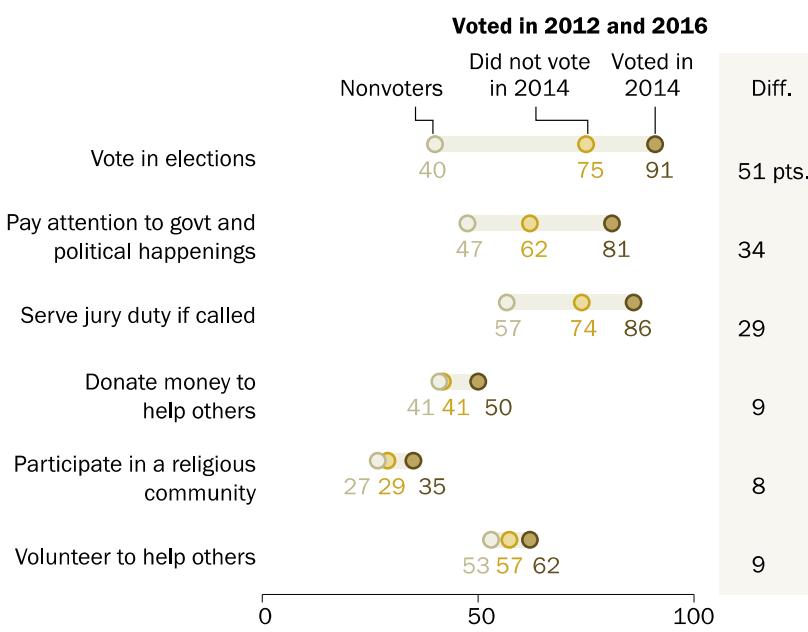
For instance, comparable shares of drop-off voters (57%) and consistent voters (62%) said a person must volunteer to help others to be considered a good citizen. There also were only modest gaps on the importance of charitable giving and participation in a religious community.

But while 91% of consistent voters said voting in elections was integral to good citizenship, a smaller majority (75%) of drop-off voters said this. Fewer drop-off voters said it was essential for a person to follow politics to be a good citizen. There also were differences on the importance of jury duty; 86% of consistent voters said people must fulfill jury service if called as did a smaller majority (74%) of drop-off voters.

Non-voters were much less likely to say that voting (40%) is essential to be considered a good citizen. Compared to voters, fewer also said that paying attention to politics (47%) and serving jury duty if called (57%) were essential to citizenship. Their views were not much different than those of voters on whether donating money (41%), participating in a religious community (27%) and volunteering are important elements of citizenship (53%).

## How consistent voters, drop-off voters and non-voters view the obligations of a ‘good citizen’

% who said a person must \_\_\_\_ to be considered a good citizen



Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file.

Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

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In addition to seeing citizenship differently than consistent voters when it comes to politics, drop-off voters were also less likely to report personally engaging in some forms of political activity. For example, fewer drop-off voters (20%) reported contributing money than consistent voters (36%).

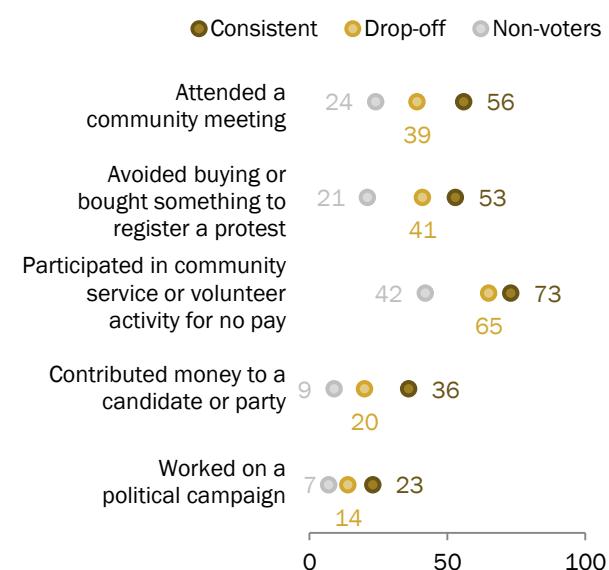
Similarly, 41% of drop-off voters said they have ever “avoided buying something or purposefully bought something in order to register a protest or send a message,” while about half of consistent voters said the same (53%). Consistent voters were also more likely to say they have worked on a political campaign (23%) than drop-off voters (14%).

Still, two-thirds of drop-off voters (65%) said they had volunteered for community service (73% of consistent voters said they had done this). But fewer than half of drop-off voters (39%) said they had attended a community meeting. Among consistent voters, 56% reported doing this.

On every measure, registered non-voters were less likely to report engaging in any form of political activity than both consistent and drop-off voters. At their most engaged, about 4-in-10 said they had volunteered for community service (42%). Just 9% said they had contributed money and 7% reported they had worked on a political campaign.

## Consistent voters more active in politics, and locally, than drop-off voters

% who said they have ever ....



Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file.

Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

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## Drop-off voters less focused on politics in their social and family lives

Among 2016 voters, those who missed the 2014 midterm election reported having fewer conversations with their friends about current events compared with consistent voters.

More than half (54%) of consistent voters said they talk about current events or things they have heard about in the news with their friends often or very often; 41% of drop-off voters said the same.

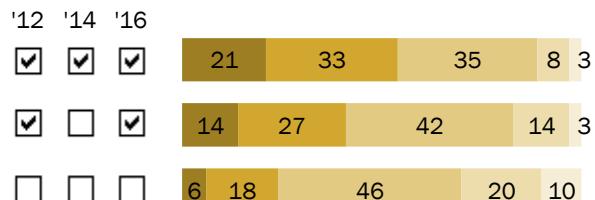
Similar shares of consistent voters (24%) and drop-off voters (19%) say they heard politics discussed around their houses very often or often while growing up. A much larger share of non-voters said they heard politics discussed rarely or never (59%) than either consistent (38%) or drop-off (45%) voters.

### More consistent voters than drop-off voters frequently discussed the news

*% who said they talk about current events or things you have heard about in the news with their friends ...*

■ Very often ■ Often ■ Sometimes ■ Rarely ■ Never

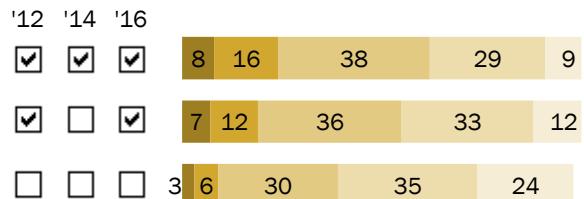
*Among those who voted in ...*  
 '12 '14 '16



*% who said that when they were growing up politics were discussed around their house ...*

■ Very often ■ Often ■ Sometimes ■ Rarely ■ Never

*Among those who voted in ...*  
 '12 '14 '16



Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file. Don't know/No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

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Drop-off voters reported less outreach from political candidates and campaigns than did consistent voters. Only about half of drop-off voters (51%) said they had ever been personally contacted to vote for a candidate, compared with 70% of consistent voters.

Some of this gap may be a result of voters in more competitive states and districts in 2014 being more likely to be contacted *and* to turn out to vote. Nevertheless, consistent voters were more likely to report being contacted even during the 12 months prior to this survey (45% vs. 33%).

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### Just half of drop-off voters said they'd ever been urged to vote for a candidate

*% of those who voted in '12 and '16 who said they have been personally contacted to vote for a candidate ...*

|            | Within last 12 months | Not within last 12 months | NET Ever |
|------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------|
| Consistent | 45                    | 25                        | 70       |
| Drop-off   | 33                    | 18                        | 51       |

Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file.

Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

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## Knowledge about government and politics

Drop-off voters were about as likely as consistent voters to know some basic facts about government and voting registration: 83% knew that state governments (not local governments or the federal government) set rules for driver and occupational licenses and 77% knew that election officials do not automatically update a person's voter registration when they move.

Comparable shares of consistent voters answered these questions correctly: 88% knew that state governments set rules for licenses and 80% knew that voter registration is not automatically updated by election officials.

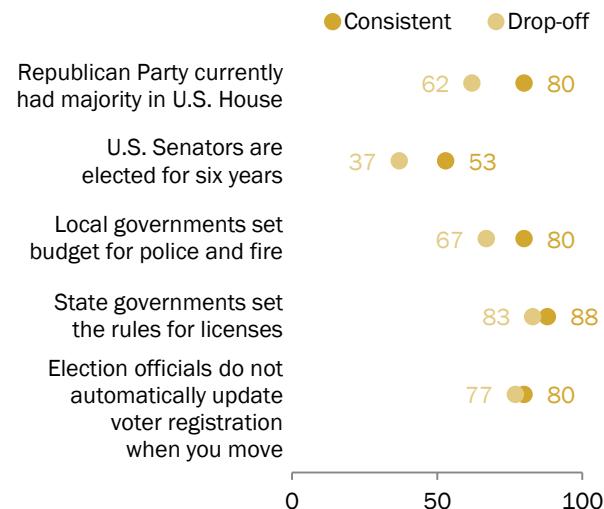
But there were wide gaps in knowledge about Congress. While 80% of consistent voters knew that Republicans had a majority in the House, fewer drop-off voters (62%) knew this. Both groups of voters struggled with a question on the length of terms for senators, but drop-off voters were less likely than consistent voters to know that senators are elected for six years (37% vs. 53%).

In addition, fewer drop-off voters (67%) than consistent voters (80%) knew that local governments set budgets for police and fire departments.

Non-voters were generally less knowledgeable about politics than consistent and drop-off voters. About half (47%) knew Republicans had the majority in the U.S. House and just 24% correctly identified the length of a U.S. Senator's term. Non-voters were almost as knowledgeable as drop-off voters and consistent voters about day-to-day government issues regarding drivers' and occupational licenses (77%).

### Drop-off voters less likely to know GOP held House, senators have 6-year terms

*% of those who voted in 2016 and 2012 answering each correctly*



Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file.

Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

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## Demographic differences between drop-off, consistent voters

Voters who participated in the 2016 and 2012 presidential elections who also voted in the 2014 midterm – consistent voters – were older on average than voters who cast ballots in the two presidential contests but skipped the 2014 midterm. (This analysis is based on those 22 and older, who were old enough to vote in 2012).

A sizable majority (65%) of consistent voters were 50 and older – and 29% were 65 and older. Among less consistent voters, 45% were 50 and older, with only 14% 65 and older. This is consistent with post-election analyses of the 2014 midterm, [including a study by the U.S. Census](#), which found that voters 65 and older made up a much greater share of the electorate that year than in previous elections.

Midterm voters were also more likely to be white than those who skipped the midterm in 2014. Eight-in-ten voters who participated in the 2016 and 2012 presidential elections and the 2014 midterm were white, compared with 62% of presidential election voters who did not vote in the midterm.

Drop-off voters, however, were only slightly less educated than those who participated in the 2014 midterm (36% had no more than a high school diploma compared with 32% of consistent voters). However, a much larger share (48%) of those who did not vote in any of the three elections had no more than a high school education.

### Drop-off voters were younger, more likely to be non-white than consistent voters

% who said they are ...

|                     | <u>Among '12 and '16 voters</u> |                 | <u>Non-voters</u> |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
|                     | <u>Consistent</u>               | <u>Drop-off</u> |                   |
| Men                 | 47                              | 42              | 52                |
| Women               | <u>53</u>                       | <u>58</u>       | <u>48</u>         |
|                     | 100                             | 100             | 100               |
| White               | 80                              | 62              | 63                |
| Black               | 9                               | 15              | 17                |
| Hispanic            | 6                               | 16              | 13                |
| Other               | <u>3</u>                        | <u>4</u>        | <u>5</u>          |
|                     | 100                             | 100             | 100               |
| 22-29               | 6                               | 20              | 28                |
| 30-49               | 30                              | 34              | 40                |
| 50-64               | 36                              | 31              | 24                |
| 65+                 | <u>29</u>                       | <u>14</u>       | <u>8</u>          |
|                     | 100                             | 100             | 100               |
| College degree      | 39                              | 31              | 21                |
| Some college        | 30                              | 33              | 30                |
| High school or less | <u>32</u>                       | <u>36</u>       | <u>48</u>         |
|                     | 100                             | 100             | 100               |
| Rep/Lean Rep        | 51                              | 40              | 37                |
| Conservative        | 38                              | 27              | 17                |
| Moderate/Liberal    | 14                              | 15              | 22                |
| Dem/Lean Dem        | 47                              | 58              | 58                |
| Conserv/Moderate    | 24                              | 32              | 38                |
| Liberal             | <u>24</u>                       | <u>26</u>       | <u>24</u>         |
|                     | 100                             | 100             | 100               |

Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file. Figures read down. Don't know/No answer responses not shown. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.  
Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

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By contrast, Democrats and Democratic leaners made up much greater shares of drop-off voters (58%) and non-voters (58%) than consistent voters (47%).

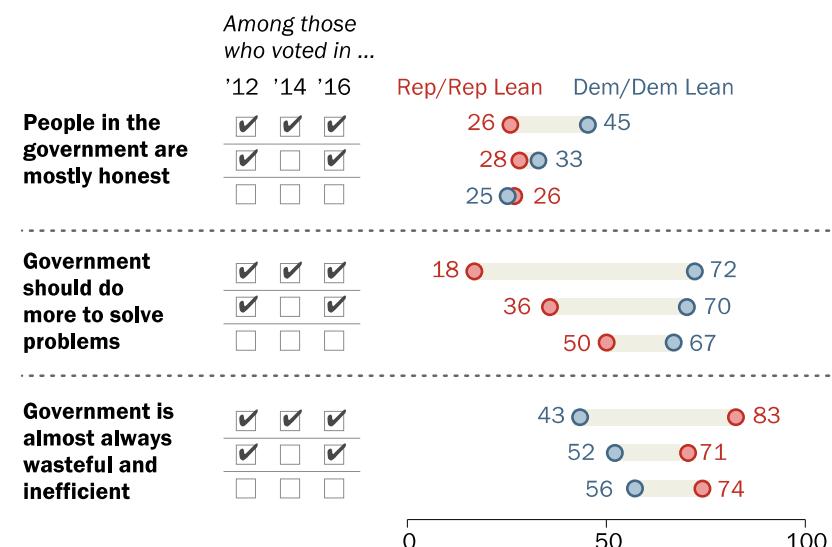
Consistent voters also were conservative, on balance. Conservative Republicans (38%) made up a larger share of consistent voters than did either liberal Democrats or conservative and moderate Democrats (24% each) or moderate and liberal Republicans (14%).

The conservative tilt among Republicans who voted in the past three elections is reflected in some of their attitudes about government. Just 18% of Republicans who voted in 2012, 2014 and 2016 said that government should do more to solve problems. Among Republican drop-off voters, just 36% said this; and among Republicans who didn't vote in 2012, 2014 or 2016, half (50%) favored more activist government.

Democrats, regardless of their voting frequency, generally agreed that government should do more to solve problems. However, Democrats who did not vote in 2014 (but voted in 2012 and 2016) were more likely than those who voted in all three elections to express skepticism about government workers: Just 33% of drop-off Democratic voters said people in the government were mostly honest, compared with 45% of consistent Democratic voters.

### **Wider partisan gaps among consistent voters than less frequent voters in views of government's role**

*% who said ...*



Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file.  
Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

## Consistent voters more likely to ‘live comfortably’

Previous Pew Research analyses, such as [this report in 2014](#), have found wide differences in financial stress between likely voters and non-voters (those who said they were not registered or indicated they were not likely to vote).

These differences also are evident when looking at consistent and less frequent voters, based on their voting records.

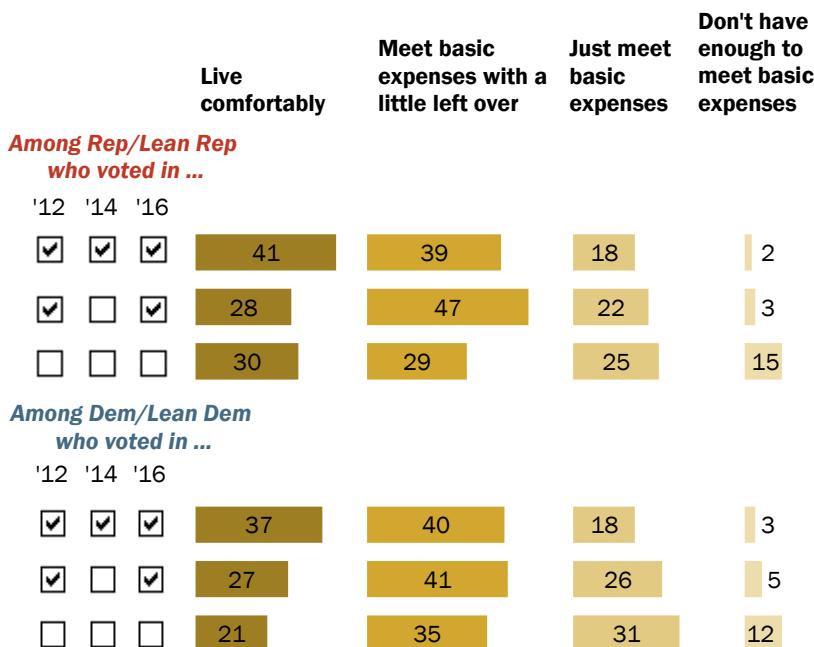
Consistent voters were more likely to describe their financial situation favorably than those who skipped the 2014 election or did not vote in any of the past three elections, and these differences hold within parties.

When asked about the household’s financial situation, 41% of Republicans who voted in all three elections said they “live comfortably.” Among Republican drop-off voters 28% said they live comfortably, as did 30% of non-voters. Among Democrats, the pattern is even starker: 37% of consistent voters said they live comfortably, compared with 27% of less frequent voters and just 21% of non-voters.

In both parties, non-voters (those who were registered but did not vote in any of the past three elections), reported significant financial stress. Four-in-10 of Republican non-voters (40%) said they either didn’t have enough to meet basic expenses or just met basic expenses. A similar share of Democratic non-voters (44%) said they could not meet basic expenses or barely got by.

### In both parties, consistent voters more likely than less frequent voters to say they ‘live comfortably’

% who described their household’s financial situation as ...



Note: Based on registered voters age 22 and older who matched to the voter file.

Don’t know/No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey conducted March 25-April 19, 2016.

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## Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on a survey conducted from March 25 to April 19, 2016, among a national sample of 3,763 U.S. citizens, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The survey was conducted by the GfK Group using KnowledgePanel, its nationally representative online research panel. Survey respondents' vote histories, including their 2016 record of voting (or not), were appended using a commercial national voter file (detailed below); 3,309 respondents were successfully matched to the voter file. The analysis in this report is based on the 2,758 respondents who were matched to the voter file, listed as registered voters and were old enough to vote in the 2012 election (age 22 or older in 2016).

KnowledgePanel members are recruited through probability sampling methods and include those with internet access and those who did not have internet access at the time of their recruitment (KnowledgePanel provides internet access for those who do not have it, and if needed, a device to access the internet when they join the panel). A combination of random-digit dialing (RDD) and address-based sampling (ABS) methodologies have been used to recruit panel members (in 2009 KnowledgePanel switched its sampling methodology for recruiting members from RDD to ABS). The panel includes households with landlines and cellular phones, including those only with cell phones and those without a phone. Both the RDD and ABS samples were provided by Marketing Systems Group (MSG). KnowledgePanel continually recruits new panel members throughout the year to offset panel attrition as people leave the panel. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish.

All active members of the GfK panel were eligible for inclusion in this study. In all, 25,369 panelists were invited to take part in the survey. All sampled members received an initial email to notify them of the survey and provide a link to the survey questionnaire. Additional follow-up reminders were sent to those who had not yet responded as needed. In total, 14,474 panelists completed a brief screening questionnaire, including questions about citizenship (screening out non-citizens) and self-reported voting frequency. To support reliable analysis of Americans who seldom or never vote, self-identified infrequent voters were sampled for the extended interview at a higher rate than frequent voters.

The weighting for this study was computed in stages. First, GfK created screener weights based on all screened respondents who are US citizens (with valid registered to vote/voting status from field). The screened sample was weighted using an iterative technique that matches the sample's distribution for gender, age, race, Hispanic origin, education, region, household income, home ownership status and metropolitan area to the parameters of the Census Bureau's November 2014 Current Population Survey (CPS) Voting Supplement estimates for U.S. adult citizens. In addition,

the sample was weighted to match patterns of internet access from the Current Population Survey. This weight is multiplied by an initial sampling or base weight that corrects for differences in the probability of selection of various segments of GfK's sample and by a panel weight that adjusts for any biases due to nonresponse and noncoverage at the panel recruitment stage (using all of the parameters described above). Details about the GfK panel-level weights can be [found in this document](#).

Next, GfK used the weighted screener data to compute geo-demographic benchmarks for each of the five voting groups. Then the screener respondents who did not qualify for the extended interview were dropped. The sample of 3,763 extended interview respondents was then weighted to align with those group-specific benchmarks. These two steps were necessary because there are no benchmarks from federal surveys for the demographic profile of adults citizens who, for example, vote in "almost every election – may have missed one or two." The approach implemented here uses the CPS to the extent possible, and then uses weighted screener data to estimate population benchmarks that are otherwise unavailable. The weighting protocol also accounts for the differential sampling of the voter groups, such that in the weighted estimates, each voter group is represented proportional to its actual size. The final weight was trimmed at approximately the 1<sup>st</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> percentiles.

The data was not subsequently weighted among those matched to the voter file. If citizens who are matched to the file are systematically different from those who are not matched on the questions examined in this study, then the survey results may contain some error. Because the match rate was relatively high (88%), we expect that the risk of meaningful bias is low.

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes among panelists who were matched to the voter file, registered to vote and age 22 or older and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| Among matched registered voters age 22 and over | Unweighted sample size | Plus or minus ...     |
|---|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Total matched sample                            | 2,758                  | 2.3 percentage points |
| Voted in '16, '14 and '12                       | 1,181                  | 3.5 percentage points |
| Voted in '16 & '12, not '14                     | 423                    | 5.8 percentage points |
| Non-voters                                      | 439                    | 5.7 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.

## Voter file matching

The names and addresses of most panelists were gathered by GFK and used to match respondents from the survey sample to their corresponding record in a national voter file. The voter file, gathered by TargetSmart from publicly available individual voter lists from each state, contains information on most voters' turnout history and selected demographic information (note that the voter file does not indicate for which candidate a person voted, only whether they turned out in that election). To match panelists to the voter file, TargetSmart first looked for exact matches using name, address and demographic characteristics. A second attempt was made with proximity matching, where a radius is drawn around the given address to test slight variations on the match.

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
2016 VOTING SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE**  
March 25-April 19, 2016  
N=3,763

*NOTE: Numbers are based on all respondents; [the report](#) shows only the numbers of those who matched to the voter file and were old enough to vote in the 2012 general election. Previously released questions available [here](#).*

**QUESTIONS CITIZEN, REG, VOTE AND IN1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

CE1 People often disagree about what it takes to be a good citizen. Do you think that a person must do the following to be considered a good citizen?

|    |   | <u>Yes</u> | <u>No</u> | <u>Refused</u> |
|----|---|------------|-----------|----------------|
| a. | Vote in elections<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016  | 66         | 33        | *              |
| b. | Participate in a religious community<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016                           | 29         | 71        | *              |
| c. | Volunteer their time to help others<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016                            | 56         | 44        | *              |
| d. | Donate money to help others<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016                                    | 43         | 57        | *              |
| e. | Pay attention to government decisions and political happenings<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016 | 62         | 37        | *              |
| f. | Serve jury duty if called<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016                                      | 69         | 31        | *              |

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

CE3 How often do you talk about current events or things you have heard about in the news with your friends?

| Mar 25-<br>Apr 20<br>2016 |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| 14                        | Very often |
| 25                        | Often      |
| 41                        | Sometimes  |
| 15                        | Rarely     |
| 6                         | Never      |
| *                         | Refused    |

**ASK ALL:**

CE4 When you were growing up, how often was politics discussed around your house?

|             |            |
|-------------|------------|
| Mar 25-     |            |
| Apr 20      |            |
| <u>2016</u> |            |
| 6           | Very often |
| 12          | Often      |
| 34          | Sometimes  |
| 34          | Rarely     |
| 14          | Never      |
| 1           | Refused    |

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

CE6 How much impact do you think people like you can have in making your community a better place to live?

|             |                  |
|-------------|------------------|
| Mar 25-     |                  |
| Apr 20      |                  |
| <u>2016</u> |                  |
| 19          | Big impact       |
| 41          | Moderate impact  |
| 32          | Small impact     |
| 7           | No impact at all |
| 1           | Refused          |

**ASK ALL:**

CE7 For the following activities, please indicate whether you have ever done each one.

|    |  | <u>Yes, within<br/>last 12<br/>months</u> | <u>Yes, but<br/>not within<br/>last 12<br/>months</u> | <u>No,<br/>haven't<br/>done it</u> | <u>Refused</u> |
|----|--|---|---|------------------------------------|----------------|
| a. | Have you ever worked together informally with someone or some group to solve a problem in the community where you live?<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016                         | 12  | 25  | 63                                 | 1              |
| b. | Have you ever spent time participating in any community service or volunteer activity-- actually working in some way to help others for no pay?<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016 | 28  | 32  | 39                                 | 1              |
| c. | Have you ever worked on a political campaign or for any organization that supports candidates?<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016  | 3   | 12  | 84                                 | 1              |
| d. | Have you ever contributed money to a candidate, a political party, or any organization that supports candidates?<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016                                | 9   | 13  | 77                                 | 1              |

**CE7 continued ...**

|    |  | <u>Yes, within<br/>last 12<br/>months</u> | <u>Yes, but<br/>not within<br/>last 12<br/>months</u> | <u>No,<br/>haven't<br/>done it</u> | <u>Refused</u> |
|----|--|---|---|------------------------------------|----------------|
| e. | Have you ever avoided buying something or purposefully bought something in order to register a protest or send a message?<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016 | 19  | 19  | 62                                 | 1              |
| f. | Have you attended a community meeting such as school board or city council?<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016   | 12  | 27  | 61                                 | 1              |

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****QUESTIONS R2-R5, R7 AND V1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

I5 How much difference does it make to you personally whether the Democrats control the government or the Republicans do?

|             |          |
|-------------|----------|
| Mar 25-     |          |
| Apr 20      |          |
| <u>2016</u> |          |
| 36          | A Lot    |
| 27          | Some     |
| 14          | A little |
| 22          | None     |
| 1           | Refused  |

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

V8 Generally speaking, would you say that an individual vote can make a difference and influence the outcome of an election?

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Mar 25-     |   |
| Apr 20      |   |
| <u>2016</u> |   |
| 64          | Yes, a vote can influence the outcome of an election.   |
| 36          | No, a vote cannot influence the outcome of an election. |
| *           | Refused   |

**ASK ALL:**

V9 Have you ever been contacted personally to vote for a particular candidate for public office or a group of candidates?

|             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Mar 25-     |                                    |
| Apr 20      |                                    |
| <u>2016</u> |                                    |
| 27          | Yes, within last 12 months         |
| 19          | Yes, but not within last 12 months |
| 53          | No                                 |
| 1           | Refused                            |

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

V12 How closely have you been following the 2016 presidential election?

Mar 25-  
Apr 20  
2016  
30 Very closely  
36 Somewhat  
21 Just a little  
12 Not at all  
1 Refused

**ASK ALL:**

V13 Generally speaking, would you say that you personally care a good deal who wins the following races in 2016:

|    |   | <u>Care a<br/>good deal</u> | <u>Don't care<br/>very much</u> | <u>Refused</u> |
|----|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------|
| a. | The presidential party nominations<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016   | 67                          | 32                              | 1              |
| b. | The election for president<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016   | 75                          | 23                              | 2              |
| c. | The election for U.S. House of Representatives<br>in your congressional district<br>Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016 | 52                          | 46                              | 1              |

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF QUESTIONS PA3 AND PA7 AND ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

**ASK ALL:**

Now we will show you a few statements about public life. Please mark which of the following pairs of statements is closest to what you think, even if neither is exactly right for your views.

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PA3 Please mark which of the following statements is closest to what you think, even if neither is exactly right for your views.

Mar 25-  
Apr 20  
2016  
70 People in the government are mostly corrupt  
28 People in the government are mostly honest  
2 Refused

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

PA7 Please mark which of the following statements is closest to what you think, even if neither is exactly right for your views.

Mar 25-

Apr 20

2016

|    |   |
|----|---|
| 64 | Government is almost always wasteful and inefficient              |
| 34 | Government often does a better job than people give it credit for |
| 2  | Refused   |

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

And now we have just a few more questions.

**ASK ALL:**

K1 For how many years is a United State Senator elected – that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. Senator?

Mar 25-

Apr 20

2016

|    |             |
|----|-------------|
| 11 | 2           |
| 20 | 4           |
| 40 | 6 (CORRECT) |
| 6  | 8           |
| 22 | Don't know  |
| 1  | Refused     |

**ASK ALL:**

K2 Which political party currently has a majority in the U.S. House of Representatives?

Mar 25-

Apr 20

2016

|    |                                |
|----|--------------------------------|
| 62 | The Republican Party (CORRECT) |
| 15 | The Democratic Party           |
| 22 | Don't know                     |
| 1  | Refused                        |

**ASK ALL:**

K3 The budget for police and fire protection services is usually set at which level of government?

Mar 25-

Apr 20

2016

|    |  |
|----|--|
| 69 | Local government, such as a city or county (CORRECT) |
| 23 | State government                                     |
| 5  | Federal government                                   |
| 3  | Refused  |

**ASK ALL:**

K4 Which level of government sets the rules for licenses – such as driver's licenses and occupational licenses?

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| Mar 25-     |  |
| Apr 20      |  |
| <u>2016</u> |  |
| 8           | Local government, such as a city or county |
| 83          | State government (CORRECT)                 |
| 7           | Federal government                         |
| 2           | Refused                                    |

**ASK ALL:**

K5 To the best of your knowledge, when you move, do election officials or the U.S. Postal Service automatically update your voter registration?

|             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| Mar 25-     |              |
| Apr 20      |              |
| <u>2016</u> |              |
| 6           | Yes          |
| 69          | No (CORRECT) |
| 24          | Don't know   |
| 1           | Refused      |

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

D5 How would you describe your household's financial situation?

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Mar 25-     |   |
| Apr 20      |   |
| <u>2016</u> |   |
| 30          | Live comfortably  |
| 37          | Meet your basic expenses with a little left over for extras |
| 25          | Just meet your basic expenses                               |
| 6           | Don't even have enough to meet basic expenses               |
| 1           | Refused   |

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY1 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a...

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER (PARTY1=3,4,5):**

PARTY4 Do you think of yourself as closer to the...

|                     | Republican | Democrat | Independent | Refused | Lean Rep | Lean Dem |
|---------------------|------------|----------|-------------|---------|----------|----------|
| Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016 | 25         | 30       | 45          | -       | 18       | 23       |

**ASK IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT (PARTY1=1,2):**

PARTY2/3 Would you call yourself a...?

|                     | Strong Republican | Not strong Republican | Strong Democrat | Not strong Democrat |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Mar 25-Apr 20, 2016 | 13                | 11                    | 17              | 13                  |