

FOR RELEASE JANUARY 25, 2018

# Economic Issues Decline Among Public's Policy Priorities

*Environment, transportation, addiction rise on public's agenda*

**FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:**

Carroll Doherty, Director of Political Research  
Jocelyn Kiley, Associate Director, Research  
Bridget Johnson, Communications Associate

202.419.4372

[www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)

**RECOMMENDED CITATION**

Pew Research Center, January, 2018, "Economic Issues Decline Among Public's Policy Priorities"

## About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. It does not take policy positions. It conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and other data-driven social science research. The Center studies U.S. politics and policy; journalism and media; internet, science and technology; religion and public life; Hispanic trends; global attitudes and trends; and U.S. social and demographic trends. All of the Center's reports are available at [www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org). Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

© Pew Research Center 2018

# Economic Issues Decline Among Public's Policy Priorities

## *Environment, transportation, addiction rise on public's agenda*

The public's improving economic outlook is reflected in its policy agenda for President Trump and Congress in the coming year. Economic issues – improving the job situation, strengthening the economy and reducing the budget deficit – are viewed as less important policy priorities than they were just a few years ago.

Other issues, which had been less prominent public priorities in the past, have grown in importance. The share of Americans saying that protecting the environment should be a top policy priority has increased 18 percentage points since 2010 (from 44% to 62%), and seven points in the past year alone.

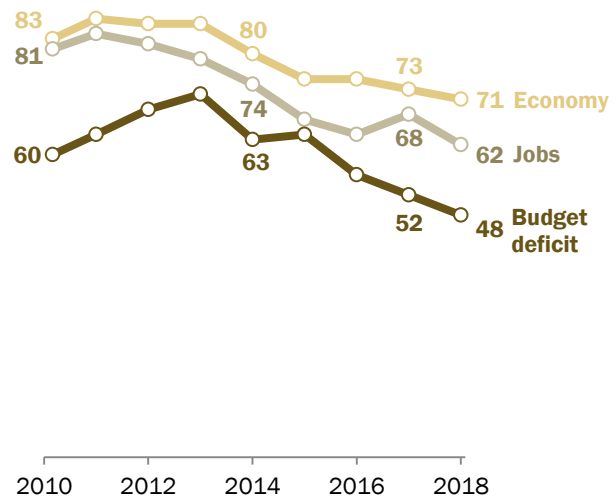
Also in the past year, the shares saying that improving the nation's transportation system and dealing with drug addiction should be top priorities have increased 13 points each (both from 36% to 49%).

A new national survey by Pew Research Center of 1,503 adults, conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018, finds that strengthening the economy continues to rank among the public's leading priorities (71% top priority), along with defending against terrorism (73%) and improving the educational system (72%).

However, fewer view the economy as a top priority than did so four (80%) or eight (83%) years ago. Over the same period, the share rating improving the job situation as a top priority also has declined; 62% say this today, its lowest point in a decade. In 2014, 74% viewed the job situation as a top priority and 81% did so in 2010.

### Downward trend in public views of economic issues as 'top priority'

% who say \_\_\_\_ is a top priority for the president and Congress



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

These shifts come as attitudes about the economy and jobs availability have become more positive. For example, the share of Americans who say there are plenty of jobs available in their communities increased from 10% in 2010 to 50% last month.

Reducing the budget deficit also has declined among the public's policy priorities. Currently, just 48% say cutting the deficit should be a top policy priority for the president and Congress, down from 63% in 2014. A year earlier, in 2013, the share citing the deficit as a top priority was high as at any point in the past two decades (72%).

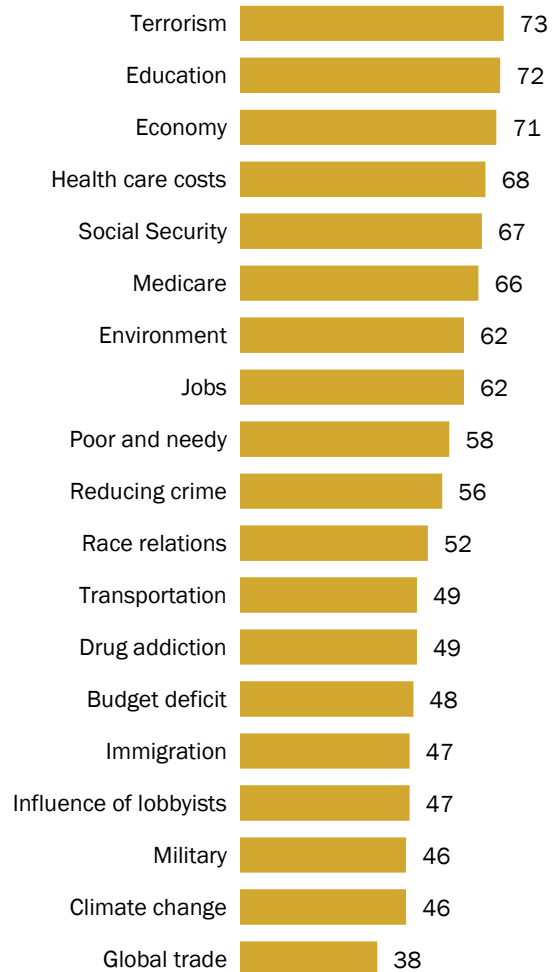
Republicans and Democrats agree on the importance of some priorities. For instance, 68% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents, and an identical percentage of Democrats and Democratic leaners, say taking steps to make Social Security more financially sound should be a top goal for President Trump and Congress.

And there are no significant partisan differences in views of two emerging priorities, dealing with drug addiction and improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems. About half of both Republicans and Democrats say each should be top policy priorities.

However, there continue to wide gaps about the importance of other policy objectives – especially dealing with climate change and protecting the environment. Nearly seven-in-ten Democrats (68%) and just 18% of Republicans say dealing with climate change should be a top policy priority. And 81% of Democrats say protecting the environment should be a top priority, compared with 37% of Republicans.

## Public's policy priorities for 2018

% who say \_\_\_\_ is a top priority for Trump and Congress



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

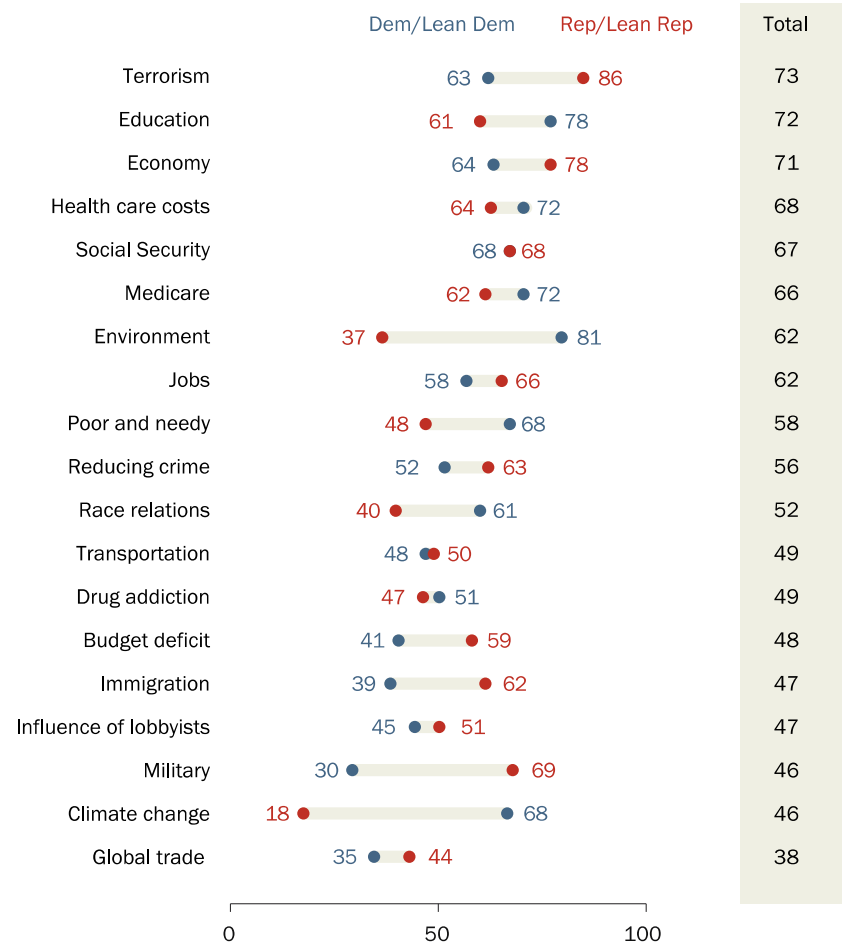
There are sizable partisan differences on several other issues as well. Democrats are about 20 points more likely than Republicans to rate dealing with the poor and needy, dealing with race relations and improving the education system as top priorities.

By contrast, more than twice as many Republicans as Democrats to say strengthening the military should be a top priority (69% vs. 30%). And while 86% of Republicans say defending against terrorism should be a top goal, a smaller majority of Democrats (63%) say the same.

There is no overlap in the highest rated priorities for each party: Among 19 items in the survey, Democrats' leading priorities are protecting the environment, improving education, making Medicare more financially sound and reducing health care costs. For Republicans, the leading goals are defending against terrorism, strengthening the economy and strengthening the U.S. military.

## Partisans agree on some policy priorities, differ on many others – especially climate change, environment

% who say \_\_\_\_ is a top priority for Trump and Congress



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Changing partisan views of economic issues

Since Barack Obama's administration, there have been declines in the shares in both parties who rate the economy and jobs as top priorities, with the changes somewhat more pronounced among Democrats.

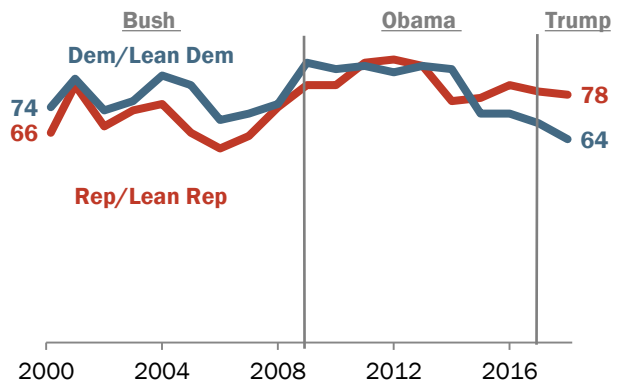
Today, 78% of Republicans and 64% of Democrats say strengthening the economy should be a top priority; in 2013, overwhelming majorities in both parties (87% each) said the economy was a top priority.

That year, 81% of Democrats and 76% of Republicans also viewed improving the job situation as a top policy goal. Today, 66% of Republicans and 58% of Democrats say this.

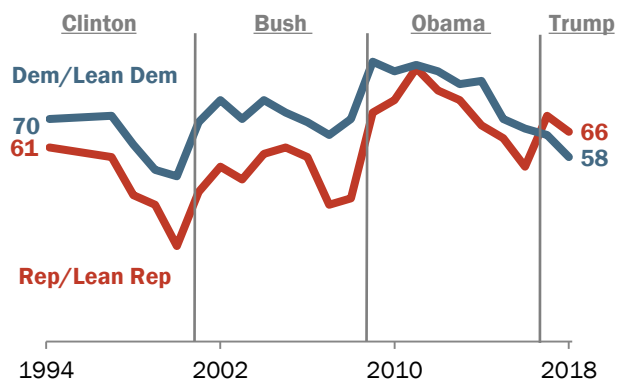
Throughout most of Obama's presidency, more Republicans than Democrats saw deficit reduction as a top priority. That remains the case today. But since 2013, the share of Republicans who say cutting the deficit should be a top priority has fallen more than 20 points among Republicans (from 81% to 59%) and Democrats (65% to 41%).

### In both parties, reducing budget deficit has fallen sharply as a policy priority

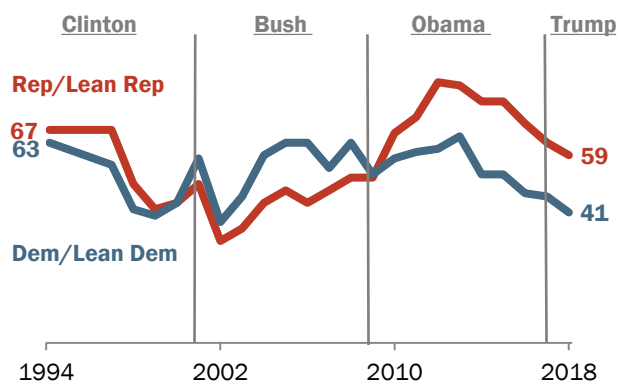
% who say strengthening the nation's economy is a top priority



% who say improving the job situation is a top priority



% who say reducing the budget deficit is a top priority



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## More Democrats say climate change and environment are top priorities

The shares of Democrats saying that dealing with global climate change and protecting the environment have increased substantially in recent years. By contrast, attitudes among Republicans have largely held steady.

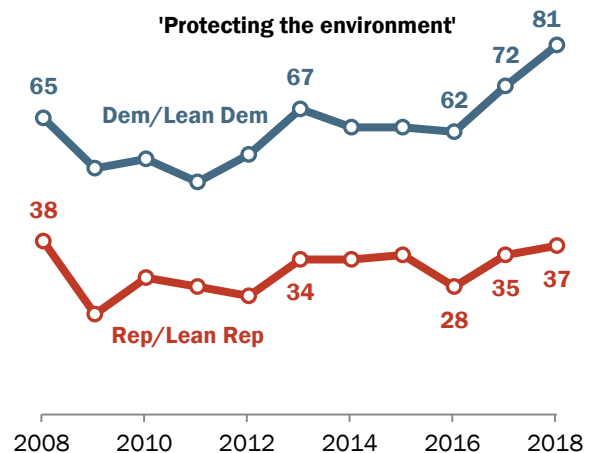
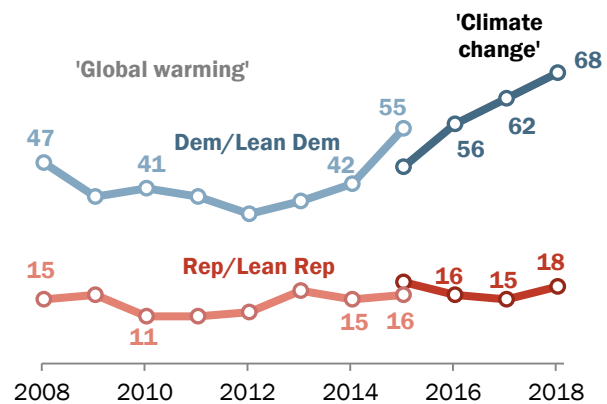
Today, 68% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say addressing climate change should be a top priority for Trump and Congress. Only 18% of Republicans and Republican leaners say it is a top priority, while 30% say it should be an “important but lower priority.”

Nearly half of Republicans (48%) say dealing with climate change either is “not too important” or “should not be done” – by comparison, no more than three-in-ten in either party rate any of the other 18 issues as not too important or say they should not be done.

More than twice as many Democrats (81%) than Republicans (37%) say protecting the environment should be a top priority for the president and Congress. The share of Democrats saying this is higher than at any point in the last decade and has increased nine points in the past year alone and 19 points since January 2016. Republicans’ views have shown less change over the last several years.

### Democrats increasingly view climate change, environment as top priorities

*% who say each is a top priority for the president and Congress*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## More view drug addiction, transportation as top policy priorities

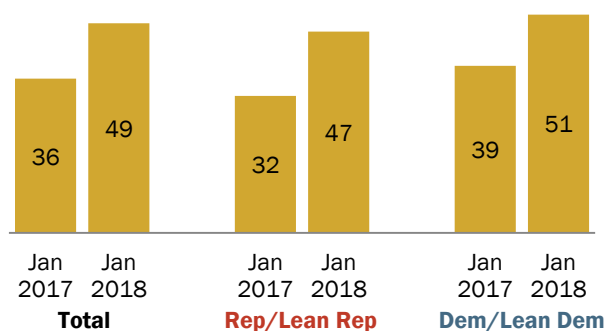
In the past year, there have been marked increases in the shares of Americans who say dealing with drug addiction and improving the nation's roads, bridges and public transportation are top policy priorities. Today, 49% say both are top priorities; 36% said this about each a year ago.

The goal of addressing drug addiction has increased in importance among members of both parties. Nearly half of Republicans (47%) say that dealing with addiction should be a top priority; this is up 15 points since early last year, when only about third (32%) of Republicans prioritized this issue.

Similarly, about half of Democrats (51%) say addressing drug addiction is a top priority for Trump and Congress, compared with 39% who said this a year ago.

### In both parties, increasing shares view dealing with addiction as a top priority

*% who say dealing with drug addiction is a top priority*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

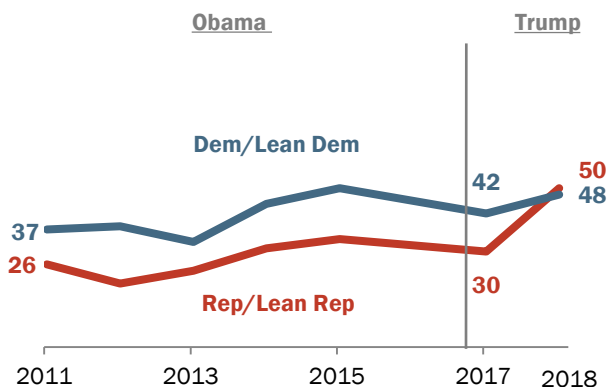


While the goal of dealing with drug addiction has grown in importance for members of both parties, there has been a sharp increase in the percentage of Republicans rating improving roads and public transportation as a top priority. Opinions have changed less among Democrats, who had previously been more likely than Republicans to view this as a top priority.

A year ago, 30% of Republicans said transportation was a top priority for Trump and Congress. Today, that share has increased to 50%. Among Democrats, 48% say improving the country's roads and public transportation is a top priority, little changed from a year ago (42%).

### More Republicans view improving transportation as a top policy priority

*% who say improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems is a top priority*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Age and policy priorities

The policy priorities of young people and older Americans differ in several key respects. Older adults are significantly more likely to prioritize strengthening the military, making the Social Security system financially sound and dealing with drug addiction issues.

While a 62% majority of those 65 and older say strengthening the military is a top priority, about a quarter (26%) of those 18-29 say the same.

Adults 65 and older also attach greater importance than those under 30 to making the Social Security system financially sound (80% vs. 54%), dealing with drug addiction (64% to 40%) and reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington (52% vs. 32%).

Addressing global climate change is the only issue, among 19 included in the survey, which is viewed by significantly more people under 30 (56%) than those 65 and older (37%) as a top policy priority.

### Older adults give greater priority to the military, Social Security, drug addiction

% who say \_\_\_\_ is a top priority for Trump and Congress

	18-29	30-49	50-64	65+	Young-old diff
	%	%	%	%	
Strengthening the military	26	44	55	62	<b>-36</b>
Social Security	54	65	74	80	<b>-26</b>
Drug addiction	40	48	49	64	<b>-24</b>
Reducing lobbyist influence	32	44	58	52	<b>-20</b>
Improving transportation	40	51	49	60	<b>-20</b>
Immigration	39	43	54	56	<b>-17</b>
Terrorism	61	68	85	78	<b>-17</b>
Health care costs	57	68	74	72	<b>-15</b>
Reducing crime	52	50	61	64	<b>-12</b>
Medicare	65	63	66	76	<b>-11</b>
Reducing budget deficit	40	43	58	51	<b>-11</b>
Improving job situation	59	63	62	64	-5
Problems of poor & needy	59	62	52	62	-3
Strengthening economy	71	68	76	70	+1
Global trade issues	40	32	44	38	+2
Addressing race relations	56	52	48	53	+3
Education	73	76	71	67	+6
Protecting environment	67	65	58	56	+11
Global climate change	56	51	40	37	<b>+19</b>

Note: Significant differences between 18-29 year olds and those 65+ in **bold**.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Education and policy priorities

Those with the lowest levels of education are more likely than those with higher levels to say a wide range of issues should be top priorities for the president and Congress.

Among those with no more than a high school diploma, 72% say that reducing crime should be a top priority, compared with 56% of those with some college experience and 37% of those with a college degree or postgraduate degree.

A similar pattern is seen when it comes to improving the job situation: 73% of those with no more than a high school diploma give this issue top priority; the share saying this should be a top priority falls to 46% among those with a college degree or higher.

Those with no college experience are more likely than those with a college degree or higher to say several other issues should be top priorities, including strengthening the military, dealing with drug addiction and strengthening the economy.

Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington is the only issue that those with a college degree or higher prioritize more than those with no college experience: 53% with a college degree or more say this should be a top priority for the country compared with 42% of those with no college experience.

### Wide educational gaps on importance of crime, jobs, the military and terrorism

% who say \_\_\_\_ is a top priority for Trump and Congress

	HS or less %	Some coll %	Coll grad+ %	Low- high diff
Reducing crime	72	56	37	<b>+35</b>
Improving job situation	73	63	46	<b>+27</b>
Strengthening the military	57	47	32	<b>+25</b>
Terrorism	85	71	60	<b>+25</b>
Strengthening economy	76	74	60	<b>+16</b>
Global trade issues	46	37	30	<b>+16</b>
Reducing budget deficit	54	47	40	<b>+14</b>
Medicare	71	69	58	<b>+13</b>
Social Security	72	68	62	<b>+10</b>
Drug addiction	56	44	46	<b>+10</b>
Education	77	71	67	<b>+10</b>
Immigration	52	43	45	+7
Problems of poor & needy	60	59	55	+5
Protecting environment	65	59	61	+4
Health care costs	69	68	66	+3
Improving transportation	50	46	52	-2
Addressing race relations	50	53	52	-2
Global climate change	41	51	48	-7
Reducing lobbyist influence	42	47	53	<b>-11</b>

Note: Significant differences between college graduates and those with a high school degree or less education in **bold**.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Long-term changes in the public's agenda

There has been change and continuity in the public's policy priorities over the past eight years. As noted, economic issues have declined somewhat in importance as the economy has improved. And the public has placed increasing importance on environmental issues.

On several other issues – including reducing crime, securing the finances of Social Security and Medicare and dealing with the problems of the poor and needy – there has been relatively little change over time.

Defending the country from future terrorist attacks has been among the public's leading priorities for the past eight years. In fact, it has been a top public priority since 2002, shortly after the 9/11 attacks.

On the other hand, dealing with global trade issues has been among the lowest-ranked priorities over the past two decades. However, in the last two years somewhat more Americans have rated this as a top priority (38% today, 40% in 2017) than said this in 2014.

### Public's policy priorities: 2010-2018

% who say \_\_\_\_ is a top priority for the president and Congress

	8 years ago Jan 2010 %	4 years ago Jan 2014 %	1 year ago Jan 2017 %	Now Jan 2018 %	8-year chg '10-'18	1-year chg '17-'18
Defending against terrorism	80	73	76	73	<b>-7</b>	-3
Improving education	65	69	69	72	<b>+7</b>	+3
Strengthening nation's economy	83	80	73	71	<b>-12</b>	-2
Reducing health care costs	57	59	66	68	<b>+11</b>	+2
Securing Social Security	66	66	60	67	+1	<b>+7</b>
Securing Medicare	63	61	59	66	+3	<b>+7</b>
Protecting environment	44	49	55	62	<b>+18</b>	<b>+7</b>
Improving job situation	81	74	68	62	<b>-19</b>	<b>-6</b>
Problems of poor and needy	53	49	56	58	+5	+2
Reducing crime	49	55	56	56	<b>+7</b>	0
Addressing race relations	--	--	56	52	--	-4
Improving transportation	--	39	36	49	--	<b>+13</b>
Dealing with drug addiction	--	--	36	49	--	<b>+13</b>
Reducing budget deficit	60	63	52	48	<b>-12</b>	-4
Dealing with immigration	40	40	43	47	<b>+7</b>	+4
Reducing lobbyist influence	36	42	43	47	<b>+11</b>	+4
Strengthening the military	49	43	45	46	-3	+1
Dealing with climate change	28	29	38	46	<b>+18</b>	<b>+8</b>
Dealing with global trade	32	28	40	38	<b>+6</b>	-2

Notes: In 2013 and earlier, the item "dealing with the issue of 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 of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 10-15, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Acknowledgements

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

### Research team

Carroll Doherty, *Director, Political Research*

Jocelyn Kiley, *Associate Director, Political Research*

Alec Tyson, *Senior Researcher*

Bradley Jones, *Research Associate*

Baxter Oliphant, *Research Associate*

Hannah Fingerhut, *Research Analyst*

Hannah Hartig, *Research Analyst*

Aldo Iturrios, *Intern*

### Communications and editorial

Bridget Johnson, *Communications Associate*

### Graphic design and web publishing

Peter Bell, *Design Director*

Alissa Scheller, *Information Graphics Designer*

## Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted January 10-15, 2018 among a national sample of 1,503 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 1,127 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 718 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers under the direction of Abt Associates. 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 2016 Census Bureau's American Community Survey one-year estimates 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 Jan. 10-15, 2018*

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	1,503	2.9 percentage points
Half sample	750 (min)	4.2 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	593	4.7 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep half form	294 (min)	6.7 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	768	4.1 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem half form	382 (min)	5.8 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.

Pew Research Center is a nonprofit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

© Pew Research Center, 2018

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
JANUARY 2018 POLITICAL SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE  
JANUARY 10-15, 2018  
N=1,503**

**QUESTIONS 1-2, 5-7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 3-4****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

Q.8F2 Now thinking about Donald Trump's upcoming State of the Union address ... Do you consider this year's State of the Union address to be MORE important than past years', LESS important, or about as important as past years'?

	<u>More important</u>	<u>Less important</u>	<u>Same</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
<b>Trump</b>				
Jan 10-15, 2018	31	18	43	9
<b>Obama</b>				
Jan 7-11, 2015	24	19	52	5
Feb 7-10, 2013	32	15	43	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	36	14	46	5
Jan 20-23, 2011 <sup>1</sup>	28	11	53	8
Jan 5-9, 2011	34	11	49	6
Jan 6-10, 2010	39	9	45	7
<b>Bush</b>				
January, 2008	19	27	46	8
January, 2007	32	16	43	9
January, 2006	30	14	47	9
January, 2005	34	9	47	10
Mid-January, 2004	34	9	49	8
January, 2003	52	6	35	7
January, 2002	54	4	36	6
<b>Clinton</b>				
January, 2000	16	22	53	9
January, 1999	27	16	51	6

**NO QUESTIONS 9-10, 11b, 17-27, 29, 31-38, A1, A5****QUESTIONS 11a, 12-16, 30, 39b-c, 40-44 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 11c-e, 28, 39a, A2-A4 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>1</sup> In 1999-2007 and 2010-2011, question began "Now thinking about Barack Obama's/George W. Bush's/Bill Clinton's upcoming State of the Union address ...." In 2008, 2012 and 2013 question began "As you may know, George W. Bush/Barack Obama will give his annual State of the Union address in a few weeks ...."



**ASK ALL:**

Q.45 Now, I'd like to ask you about priorities for President 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?]**

<u>SUMMARY TABLE</u>		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	73	21	4	1	1
h.F1	Improving the educational system	72	23	3	1	1
o.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy	71	23	3	1	2
e.F1	Reducing health care costs	68	26	3	3	1
q.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound	67	27	3	1	2
t.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound	66	27	4	2	1
d.F1	Protecting the environment	62	29	7	1	1
a.F1	Improving the job situation	62	30	6	1	1
r.F2	Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people	58	32	6	1	2
c.F1	Reducing crime	56	33	9	2	1
u.F2	Addressing race relations in this country	52	31	10	4	3
v.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems	49	39	11	1	1
w.F2	Dealing with drug addiction	49	38	9	2	1
b.F1	Reducing the budget deficit	48	37	8	2	5
n.F2	Dealing with the issue of immigration	47	35	11	5	2
i.F1	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington	47	32	11	4	7
s.F2	Strengthening the U.S. military	46	32	15	7	1
p.F2	Dealing with global climate change	46	24	17	9	4
g.F1	Dealing with global trade issues	38	44	10	2	5

<u>FULL TRENDS</u>		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
--------------------	--	-----------------	------------------------------------	----------------------	-----------------------	------------------

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=753]:**

a.F1	Improving the job situation					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	62	30	6	1	1
	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
	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

**Q.45 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Top priority</u>	<u>Important but lower priority</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
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>b.F1 Reducing the budget deficit</b>					
Jan 10-15, 2018	48	37	8	2	5
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
<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
<i>Paying off the national debt</i>					
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
<b>c.F1 Reducing crime</b>					
Jan 10-15, 2018	56	33	9	2	1
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
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

**Q.45 CONTINUED...**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	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 10-15, 2018	62	29	7	1	1
	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 10-15, 2018	68	26	3	3	1
	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
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	<i>Regulating health maintenance organizations</i>					
	<i>(HMOs) and managed health care plans</i>					
	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

**Q.45 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Top priority</u>	<u>Important but lower priority</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
	January, 2000	56	30	7	3	4
	July, 1999	57	29	7	4	3
f.F1	Defending the country from future terrorist attacks					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	73	21	4	1	1
	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 10-15, 2018	38	44	10	2	5
	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

**Q.45 CONTINUED...**

		<u>Top</u> <u>priority</u>	<u>Important</u> <u>but lower</u> <u>priority</u>	<u>Not too</u> <u>important</u>	<u>Should not</u> <u>be done</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
h.F1	Improving the educational system					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	72	23	3	1	1
	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
	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	*
i.F1	Reducing the influence of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	47	32	11	4	7
	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 j-m****ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=750]:**

n.F2	Dealing with the issue of immigration					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	47	35	11	5	2
	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
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	<i>Dealing with the issue of illegal immigration</i>					
	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

**Q.45 CONTINUED...**

		Top priority	Important but lower priority	Not too important	Should not be done	(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Jan 6-10, 2010	40	41	14	2	3
	Jan 7-11, 2009	41	36	18	3	2
	January, 2008	51	32	11	3	3
	January, 2007	55	29	11	3	2
o.F2	Strengthening the nation's economy					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	71	23	3	1	2
	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 <sup>2</sup>	80	18	1	*	1
	January, 2001	81	15	2	1	1
	January, 2000	70	25	3	1	1
p.F2	Dealing with global climate change					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	46	24	17	9	4
	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
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	<i>Dealing with global warming</i>					
	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
q.F2	Taking steps to make the Social Security system financially sound					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	67	27	3	1	2
	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
	Jan 9-13, 2013	70	24	2	1	2
	Jan 11-16, 2012	68	26	2	2	1

<sup>2</sup> In Early September 2001, January 2001 and January 2000 the item was worded: "Keeping the economy strong."

**Q.45 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Top priority</u>	<u>Important but lower priority</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
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
r.F2 Dealing with the problems of poor and needy people					
Jan 10-15, 2018	58	32	6	1	2
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
s.F2 Strengthening the U.S. military					
Jan 10-15, 2018	46	32	15	7	1
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.45 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
t.F2	Taking steps to make the Medicare system financially sound					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	66	27	4	2	1
	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
u.F2	Addressing race relations in this country					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	52	31	10	4	3
	Jan 4-9, 2017	56	33	6	3	2
	Jan 7-11, 2015	49	33	10	6	2
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:</b>					
	<i>Working to reduce racial tensions</i>					
	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
v.F2	Improving the country's roads, bridges and public transportation systems					
	Jan 10-15, 2018	49	39	11	1	1
	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



**Q.45 CONTINUED...**

	<u>Top priority</u>	<u>Important but lower priority</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Should not be done</u>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>
Jan 11-16, 2012	30	52	15	2	1
Jan 5-9, 2011	33	48	16	2	2
w.F2 Dealing with drug addiction					
Jan 10-15, 2018	49	38	9	2	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	36	45	14	3	1

**QUESTIONS 49-50, 53-56, 72-73, 80-82 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****NO QUESTIONS 46-48, 51-52, J23-J28, 57-71, 74-79, 83-89****QUESTIONS J22, J29, A6-A8, 90 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?

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<b>(VOL.) No preference</b>	<b>(VOL.) Other party</b>	<b>(VOL.) DK/Ref</b>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
Jan 10-15, 2018	26	33	34	3	1	3	12	18
Nov 29-Dec 4, 2017	20	32	40	4	1	3	13	19
Oct 25-30, 2017	22	32	41	3	1	2	17	19
Jun 8-Jul 9, 2017	25	31	39	3	1	2	16	18
Apr 5-11, 2017	24	31	42	2	1	*	17	20
Feb 7-12, 2017	23	34	37	3	1	2	15	18
Jan 4-9, 2017	25	28	41	4	*	1	18	19
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2017	23.6	31.4	39.4	3.3	.6	1.7	15.8	18.7
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

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

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