

FOR RELEASE JULY 24, 2018

Growing Partisan Differences in Views of the FBI; Stark Divide Over ICE

Favorable views of FBI have fallen sharply among Republicans

FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:

Carroll Doherty, Director of Political Research
Jocelyn Kiley, Associate Director, Research
Bridget Johnson, Communications Manager
202.419.4372
www.pewresearch.org

RECOMMENDED CITATION

Pew Research Center, July, 2018, "Growing Partisan Differences in Views of the FBI; Stark Divide Over ICE"

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Growing Partisan Differences in Views of the FBI; Stark Divide over ICE

Favorable views of FBI have fallen sharply among Republicans

A new survey of public attitudes toward federal agencies finds that partisan differences in views of the FBI have increased markedly over the past year. And Americans' opinions about Immigration and Customs Enforcement are deeply polarized: 72% of Republicans view ICE favorably, while an identical share of Democrats view it unfavorably.

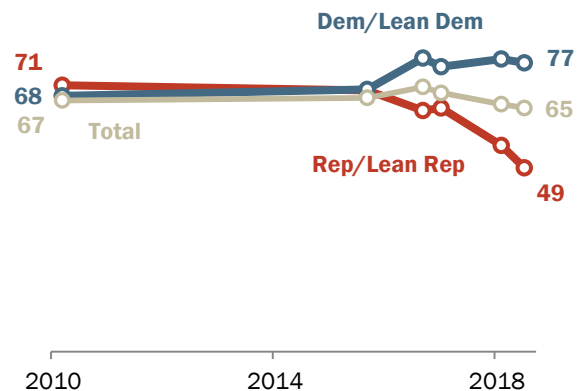
Overall public views of the FBI remain positive: 65% have a favorable opinion of the FBI, while 26% view it unfavorably. But since early 2017, the share of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents with a positive view of the bureau has fallen 16 percentage points, from 65% to 49%.

Today, Republicans are divided in their views of the FBI (49% favorable, 44% unfavorable). In January 2017, shortly before President Donald Trump took office, positive views of the FBI among Republicans outnumbered negative opinions by about three-to-one (65% to 21%).

Democrats' views of the FBI have changed little over this period: 77% of Democrats and Democratic leaners view the agency favorably, compared with 76% early last year.

Republicans' views of FBI turn far less positive

% who say they have a favorable opinion of the FBI



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 11-15, 2018.

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The national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted July 11-15 among 1,007 adults, finds that six-in-ten or more view several federal agencies favorably: the National Park Service (83% favorable), the Census Bureau (69%), the FBI (65%), the CIA (61%) and the Department of Health and Human Services (60%).

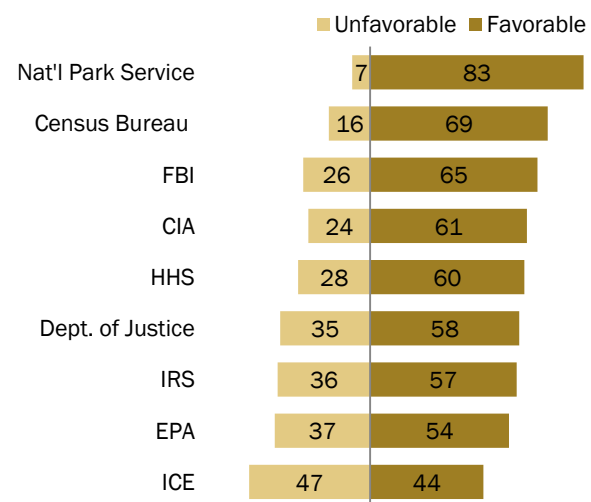
However, views of ICE are evenly divided. About as many Americans view Immigration and Customs Enforcement favorably (44%) as unfavorably (47%).

Republicans and Democrats have diametrically opposing views of the immigration enforcement agency, and the differences are particularly stark between conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats.

Nearly eight-in-ten conservative Republicans (77%) view ICE favorably, with 40% expressing a very favorable opinion. Among moderate and liberal Republicans, views are less positive (62% give ICE a favorable rating, including 29% who say they view it very favorably).

Public views several federal agencies favorably; opinions of ICE are divided

% who say they have a ____ opinion of each



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 11-15, 2018.

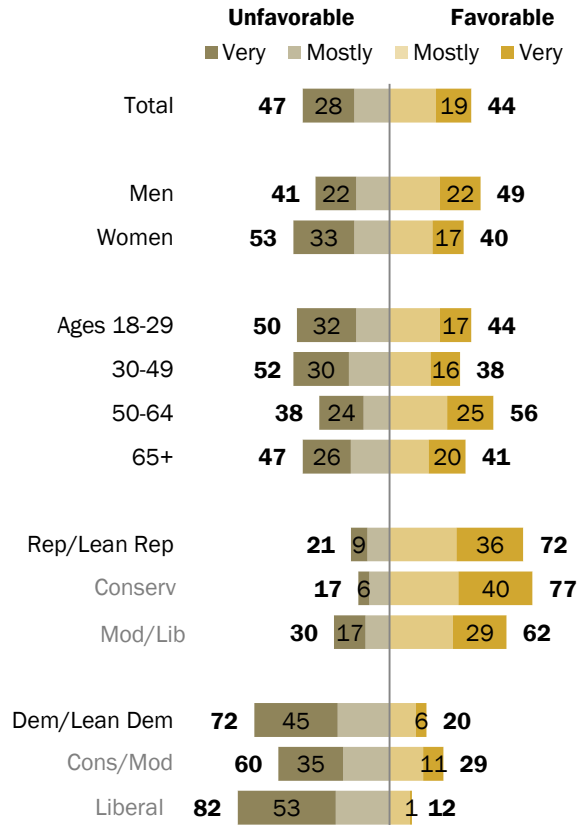
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A large majority of liberal Democrats (82%) view ICE unfavorably, with 53% viewing the agency very unfavorably. Conservative and moderate Democrats feel less negatively about ICE (60% unfavorable, 35% very unfavorable).

For the most part, demographic differences in views of ICE are modest, though there are significant gender differences. More men view ICE favorably (49%) than unfavorably (41%). Among women, more have an unfavorable (53%) than favorable (40%) opinion of the agency.

A majority of liberal Democrats hold 'very unfavorable' views of ICE

% who have a ____ opinion of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)



Note: Don't know responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 11-15, 2018.

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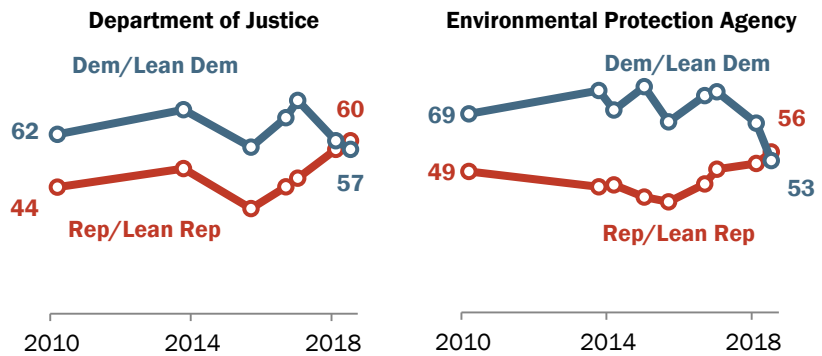
Changing partisan views of Justice Department, EPA

Since Trump's inauguration in January 2017, Democrats' views of both the Department of Justice and the Environmental Protection Agency have become far less positive. For both agencies, Democrats' favorability ratings are near their lowest levels in the past eight years.

Today, 57% of Democrats and Democratic leaners view the Justice Department favorably, while 36% have an unfavorable opinion. The share of Democrats with favorable views of the department have fallen 17 percentage points since January of last year (from 74% to 57%).

Democrats' views of Justice Department, EPA become far less positive

% who have a favorable opinion of each



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 11-15, 2018.

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Republicans' views of the Justice Department have become more favorable since then; 60% view the department favorably, up from 47% about a year and a half ago.

There have been similar changes in partisan views of the EPA. There has been a 24-percentage-point decline in the share of Democrats with a favorable opinion of the agency since shortly before Trump took office (77% then, 53% today). Among Republicans, there have been more modest changes (50% then, 56% today).

Partisan differences on FBI, IRS, ICE, agreement on National Park Service

With the partisan shifts in opinions toward the Justice Department and EPA, similar shares of Republicans and Democrats view both favorably – the first time that has occurred in surveys dating to 2010.

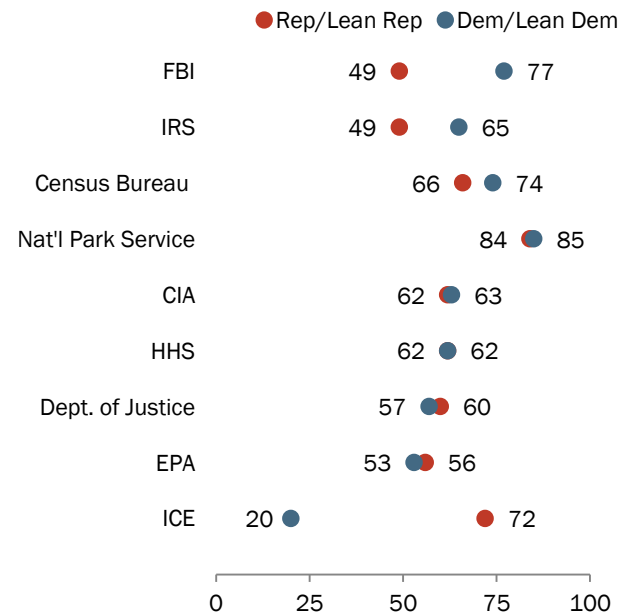
About six-in-ten in both parties view the CIA and the Department of Health and Human Services favorably. And substantial majorities in both parties (85% of Democrats, 84% of Republicans) view the National Park Service favorably.

Aside from the sharp divides between Republicans and Democrats on ICE and the FBI, there continue to be partisan differences in views of the IRS. Democrats (65%) are more likely than Republicans (49%) to view the IRS favorably. However, Republicans feel more positively toward the IRS today than in September 2016, before the presidential election, when just 34% viewed the IRS favorably. Views among Democrats have remained fairly steady.

While clear majorities in both parties view the Census Bureau favorably, there is a partisan gap: About three-quarters of Democrats (74%) have a positive view of the bureau, compared with two-thirds of Republicans (66%).

Wide partisan gap in positive ratings of the IRS, as well as the FBI and ICE

% who have a favorable opinion of each



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 11-15, 2018.

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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 Hartig, *Research Analyst*

Amina Dunn, *Research Assistant*

John LaLoggia, *Research Assistant*

Claire Sukumar, *Intern*

Communications and editorial

Bridget Johnson, *Communications Manager*

Graphic design and web publishing

Alissa Scheller, *Information Graphics Designer*

Methodology

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted July 11-15, 2018 among a national sample of 1,007 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in the United States (398 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 609 were interviewed on a cellphone, including 392 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted under the direction of SSRS. A combination of landline and cellphone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Marketing Systems Group. 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 cellphone sample are weighted to provide nationally representative estimates of the adult population 18 years of age and older. The weighting process takes into account the disproportionate probabilities of household and respondent selection due to the number of separate telephone landlines and cellphones answered by respondents and their households, as well as the probability associated with the random selection of an individual household member. Following application of the above weights, the sample is post-stratified and balanced by key demographics such as age, race, sex, region, and education. The sample is also weighted to reflect the distribution of phone usage in the general population, meaning the proportion of those who are cellphone only, landline only, and mixed users.

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:

| <i>Survey conducted July 11-15, 2018</i> | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Group | Unweighted sample size | Plus or minus ... |
| Total sample | 1,007 | 3.7 percentage points |
| Republican/Lean Republican | 456 | 5.5 percentage points |
| Democrat/Lean Democrat | 419 | 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.

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July 11-15, 2018 OMNIBUS
FINAL TOPLINE
N=1,007

ASK ALL:

Q.1 Is your overall opinion of **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE ITEMS]** very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY:** would you say your overall opinion of **[ITEM]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?] **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

| | | ----- Favorable ----- | | | ---- Unfavorable ---- | | | (VOL.) Never heard of | (VOL.) Can't rate/Ref |
|----|--|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | <u>Total</u> | <u>Very</u> | <u>Mostly</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Very</u> | <u>Mostly</u> | | |
| a. | The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI | | | | | | | | |
| | July 11-15, 2018 | 65 | 26 | 39 | 26 | 11 | 14 | 1 | 8 |
| | Feb 7-11, 2018 | 66 | 25 | 41 | 23 | 9 | 13 | 2 | 9 |
| | Jan 5-8, 2017 | 69 | 22 | 47 | 16 | 6 | 10 | * | 15 |
| | Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016 | 71 | 18 | 52 | 21 | 8 | 12 | * | 8 |
| | Sep 22-27, 2015 | 68 | 18 | 49 | 19 | 8 | 11 | 1 | 13 |
| | Mar 18-21, 2010 | 67 | 16 | 51 | 14 | 8 | 7 | * | 19 |
| | July, 2001 | 61 | 16 | 45 | 29 | 9 | 20 | * | 10 |
| | June, 1999 | 71 | 17 | 54 | 20 | 7 | 13 | * | 9 |
| | October, 1997 | 67 | 13 | 54 | 25 | 8 | 17 | * | 8 |
| | May, 1997 | 60 | 12 | 48 | 28 | 7 | 21 | 0 | 12 |
| | August, 1995 | 64 | 16 | 48 | 28 | 9 | 19 | * | 8 |
| | ABC/Wash. Post, May 1995 ¹ | 82 | 34 | 48 | 9 | 6 | 3 | * | 9 |
| | Roper, August 1987 ² | 78 | 28 | 50 | 17 | 3 | 14 | -- | 5 |
| | Roper, August 1986 | 75 | 25 | 50 | 17 | 4 | 13 | -- | 8 |
| | Roper, August 1985 | 72 | 24 | 48 | 20 | 5 | 15 | -- | 8 |
| | Roper, August 1984 | 77 | 30 | 47 | 19 | 5 | 14 | -- | 4 |
| | Roper, August 1983 | 75 | 29 | 46 | 19 | 5 | 14 | -- | 6 |
| b. | The Central Intelligence Agency, the CIA | | | | | | | | |
| | July 11-15, 2018 | 61 | 22 | 40 | 24 | 9 | 15 | 2 | 12 |
| | Feb 7-11, 2018 | 64 | 19 | 45 | 20 | 5 | 14 | 2 | 14 |
| | Jan 5-8, 2017 | 62 | 17 | 45 | 17 | 7 | 11 | 1 | 20 |
| | Sep 22-27, 2015 | 57 | 12 | 45 | 27 | 9 | 18 | 1 | 15 |
| | Jan 7-11, 2015 | 54 | 14 | 41 | 33 | 13 | 20 | 1 | 12 |
| | Mar 18-21, 2010 | 52 | 11 | 42 | 21 | 8 | 13 | 2 | 25 |
| | June, 1999 | 49 | 9 | 40 | 33 | 10 | 23 | 1 | 17 |
| | February, 1998 | 51 | 7 | 44 | 32 | 7 | 25 | 1 | 16 |
| | Roper, August 1987 | 52 | 12 | 40 | 38 | 9 | 29 | -- | 10 |
| | Roper, August 1986 | 61 | 14 | 47 | 26 | 6 | 20 | -- | 13 |
| | Roper, August 1985 | 53 | 15 | 38 | 33 | 11 | 22 | -- | 15 |
| | Roper, August 1984 | 58 | 17 | 41 | 30 | 8 | 22 | -- | 11 |
| c. | The Justice Department | | | | | | | | |
| | July 11-15, 2018 | 58 | 20 | 38 | 35 | 13 | 22 | 1 | 6 |
| | Feb 7-11, 2018 | 59 | 16 | 43 | 32 | 13 | 19 | 1 | 9 |

¹ Question was worded: "Please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of...the FBI (Federal Bureau of Investigation)...Is that a very favorable/unfavorable impression, or just somewhat favorable/unfavorable?"

² Question wording for all favorability trends from the Roper Organization was: "Let me ask you about a few specific federal agencies [ITEM]—Is your opinion of them highly favorable, or moderately favorable, or not too favorable, or rather unfavorable?" In these surveys, those who could not rate were not distinguished from those who had never heard of the agency; both were entered as "don't know" and are shown here as "can't rate".

Q.1 CONTINUED...

| | ----- Favorable ----- | | | ----- Unfavorable ----- | | | (VOL.) Never | (VOL.) Can't rate/ |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Very</u> | <u>Mostly</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Very</u> | <u>Mostly</u> | <u>heard of</u> | <u>Ref</u> |
| Jan 5-8, 2017 | 61 | 17 | 44 | 30 | 11 | 19 | * | 9 |
| Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016 | 56 | 14 | 42 | 37 | 16 | 20 | * | 7 |
| Sep 22-27, 2015 | 46 | 10 | 37 | 47 | 18 | 29 | * | 6 |
| Oct 9-13, 2013 | 61 | 9 | 52 | 33 | 14 | 19 | 1 | 5 |
| Mar 18-21, 2010 | 51 | 6 | 44 | 33 | 11 | 23 | 1 | 15 |
| February, 1998 | 56 | 7 | 49 | 39 | 12 | 27 | 0 | 5 |
| Roper, April 1987 | 53 | 10 | 43 | 39 | 15 | 24 | -- | 8 |
| Roper, April 1986 | 52 | 10 | 42 | 39 | 15 | 24 | -- | 8 |
| Roper, April 1985 | 53 | 10 | 43 | 39 | 17 | 22 | -- | 9 |
| d. The Internal Revenue Service, the IRS | | | | | | | | |
| July 11-15, 2018 | 57 | 13 | 44 | 36 | 15 | 21 | 1 | 6 |
| Feb 7-11, 2018 | 58 | 14 | 44 | 33 | 13 | 20 | * | 8 |
| Jan 5-8, 2017 | 58 | 13 | 45 | 33 | 16 | 17 | * | 8 |
| Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016 | 50 | 11 | 39 | 45 | 21 | 24 | * | 5 |
| Sep 22-27, 2015 | 42 | 9 | 32 | 52 | 24 | 28 | * | 6 |
| Jan 7-11, 2015 | 45 | 10 | 35 | 48 | 24 | 25 | * | 6 |
| Oct 9-13, 2013 | 44 | 9 | 35 | 51 | 23 | 28 | * | 5 |
| Mar 18-21, 2010 | 47 | 6 | 41 | 40 | 17 | 23 | 10 | 13 |
| October, 1997 | 38 | 5 | 33 | 60 | 25 | 35 | * | 2 |
| Roper, August 1987 | 49 | 10 | 39 | 46 | 19 | 27 | -- | 5 |
| Roper, August 1986 | 51 | 10 | 41 | 45 | 19 | 26 | -- | 4 |
| Roper, August 1985 | 48 | 8 | 40 | 47 | 19 | 28 | -- | 5 |
| Roper, August 1984 | 60 | 13 | 47 | 34 | 11 | 23 | -- | 6 |
| Roper, August 1983 | 50 | 12 | 38 | 44 | 16 | 28 | -- | 6 |
| e. The Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA | | | | | | | | |
| July 11-15, 2018 | 54 | 20 | 34 | 37 | 17 | 20 | 2 | 7 |
| Feb 7-11, 2018 | 60 | 20 | 40 | 31 | 14 | 17 | 2 | 8 |
| Jan 5-8, 2017 | 63 | 22 | 41 | 27 | 12 | 14 | 1 | 8 |
| Aug 23-Sep 2, 2016 | 62 | 17 | 44 | 30 | 13 | 18 | 2 | 6 |
| Sep 22-27, 2015 | 52 | 13 | 39 | 38 | 18 | 20 | 2 | 8 |
| Jan 7-11, 2015 | 59 | 18 | 40 | 32 | 15 | 18 | 1 | 8 |
| Feb 12-Feb 26, 2014 | 57 | 14 | 43 | 33 | 14 | 19 | 2 | 8 |
| Oct 9-13, 2013 | 62 | 15 | 47 | 30 | 12 | 19 | 2 | 6 |
| Mar 18-21, 2010 | 57 | 11 | 46 | 32 | 12 | 20 | 1 | 10 |
| October, 1997 | 69 | 14 | 55 | 27 | 7 | 20 | 1 | 3 |
| Roper, August 1987 | 62 | 19 | 43 | 30 | 7 | 23 | -- | 8 |
| Roper, August 1986 | 59 | 18 | 41 | 31 | 7 | 24 | -- | 10 |
| Roper, August 1985 | 58 | 19 | 39 | 31 | 11 | 20 | -- | 11 |
| Roper, August 1984 | 68 | 27 | 41 | 26 | 9 | 17 | -- | 6 |
| Roper, August 1983 | 56 | 21 | 35 | 34 | 12 | 22 | -- | 10 |
| f. The Immigration and Customs Enforcement, known as ICE | | | | | | | | |
| July 11-15, 2018 | 44 | 19 | 25 | 47 | 28 | 19 | 2 | 7 |
| g. The Census Bureau | | | | | | | | |
| July 11-15, 2018 | 69 | 19 | 50 | 16 | 7 | 9 | 4 | 11 |
| h. The National Park Service | | | | | | | | |
| July 11-15, 2018 | 83 | 42 | 41 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 7 |
| Sep 22-27, 2015 | 75 | 27 | 47 | 11 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 12 |

Q.1 CONTINUED...

| | ----- Favorable ----- | | | ----- Unfavorable ----- | | | (VOL.) Never | (VOL.) Can't rate/ |
|---|-----------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Very</u> | <u>Mostly</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>Very</u> | <u>Mostly</u> | <u>heard of</u> | <u>Ref</u> |
| Feb 19-22, 1998 | 84 | 26 | 58 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Roper, 1987 | 80 | 37 | 43 | 11 | 8 | 3 | -- | 9 |
| Roper, 1986 | 74 | 32 | 42 | 9 | 7 | 2 | -- | 17 |
| Roper, 1985 | 79 | 39 | 40 | 7 | 5 | 2 | -- | 15 |
| Roper, 1984 | 84 | 44 | 40 | 6 | 5 | 1 | -- | 9 |
| i. The Department of Health and Human Services, the HHS | | | | | | | | |
| July 11-15, 2018 | 60 | 19 | 42 | 28 | 10 | 18 | 3 | 9 |
| Jan 5-8, 2017 | 64 | 21 | 44 | 24 | 8 | 15 | 1 | 11 |
| Sep 22-27, 2015 | 54 | 13 | 41 | 31 | 14 | 17 | 3 | 12 |
| Oct 9-13, 2013 | 61 | 14 | 47 | 30 | 12 | 19 | 2 | 7 |

QUESTIONS 2-9 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK ALL:**

PARTY Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, or an 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?

| | | | | (VOL.) Other | (VOL.) DK/Ref | Lean | Lean |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------|------------|
| | <u>Republican</u> | <u>Democrat</u> | <u>Independent</u> | <u>party</u> | <u>DK/Ref</u> | <u>Rep</u> | <u>Dem</u> |
| July 11-15, 2018 | 26 | 29 | 39 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 15 |