

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

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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.

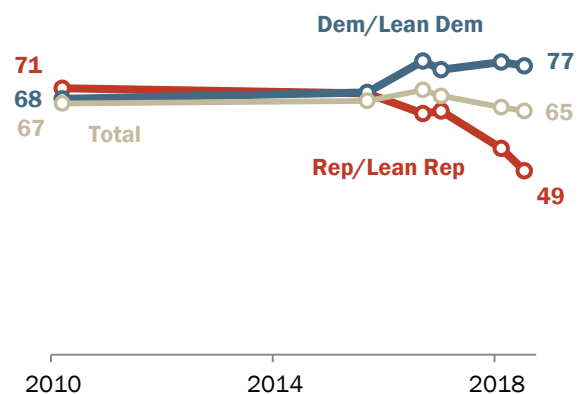
Overall public views of the FBI remain positive: 65% have a favorable opinion of the FBI, while 26% view it unfavorably. But since early 2017, the share of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents with a positive view of the bureau has fallen 16 percentage points, from 65% to 49%.

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 have a favorable opinion of the FBI



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

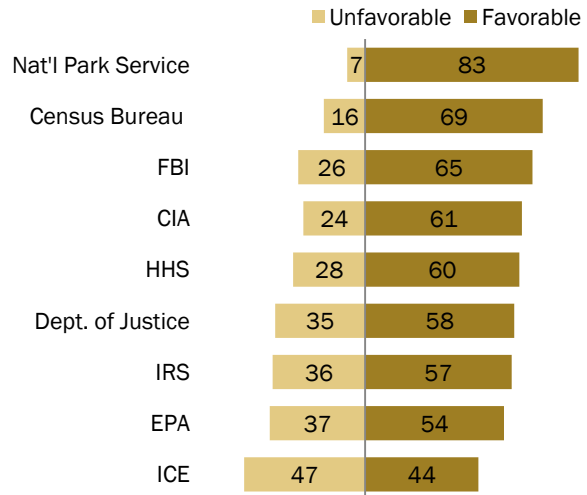
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The national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted July 11-15 among 1,007 adults, finds that six-in-ten or more view several federal agencies favorably: the National Park Service (83% favorable), the Census Bureau (69%), the FBI (65%), the CIA (61%)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

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

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

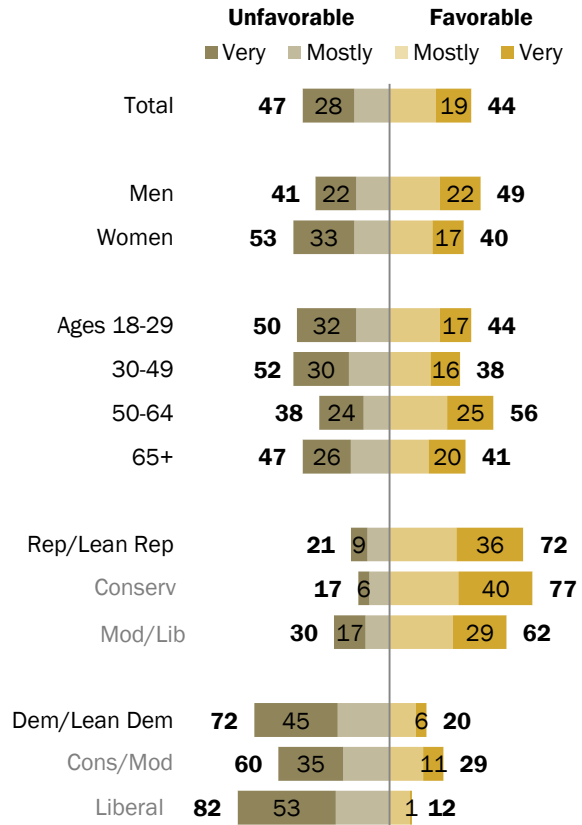
Nearly eight-in-ten conservative Republicans (77%) view ICE favorably, with 40% expressing a very favorable opinion. Among moderate and liberal Republicans, views are less positive (62% give ICE a favorable rating, including 29% who say they view it very favorably).

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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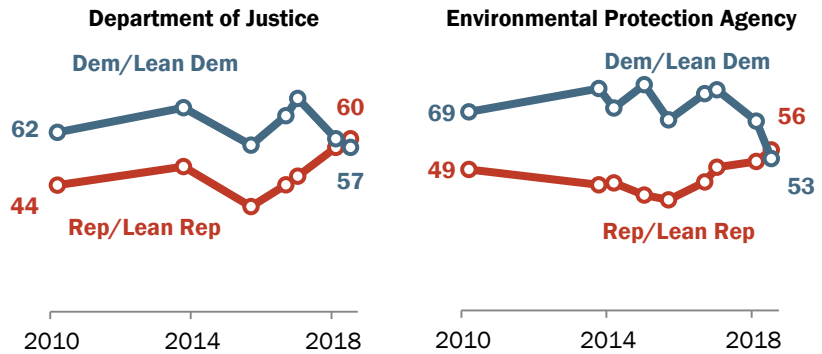
Changing partisan views of Justice Department, EPA

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

Similar shares of Republicans and Democrats now view the Justice Department and EPA favorably – the first time that has occurred in surveys dating to 2010.

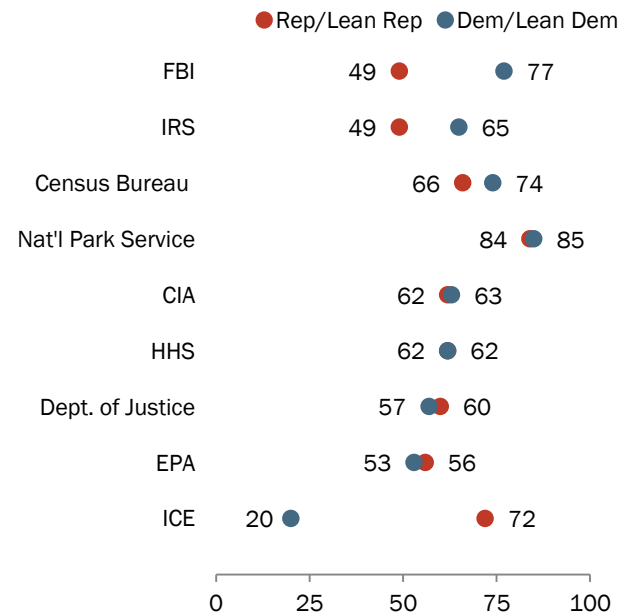
About six-in-ten in both parties view the CIA and the Department of Health and Human Services favorably. And substantial majorities in both parties (85% of Democrats, 84% of Republicans) view the National Park Service favorably.

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:

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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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PEW RESEARCH CENTER
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, or very unfavorable?]** **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	----- Favorable -----			---- Unfavorable ----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
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.)	(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
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	*	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/ Ref
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	heard of	
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 party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
	Republican	Democrat	Independent				
July 11-15, 2018	26	29	39	2	2	15	15