

Bloomberg Politics National Poll

Study #2143

1,002 U.S. adults who are likely voters in the 2016 general election

Margin of error: ± 3.1 percentage points

SELZER & COMPANY

September 21-24, 2016

1,326 general population contacts weighted by age, race, and education

Poll Questions

Percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding.

First, I just need to confirm in what state you live. **(If needed:)** People sometimes take their phone number when they move to another state, so we just need to determine what state I'm talking to.

How likely is it you will vote in the November general election for president and other offices—will you definitely vote, probably vote, might or might not vote, probably not vote, or have you already voted?

3 Already voted
97 Definitely vote

Define as likely voter and Continue

-
- Probably vote
 - Might or might not vote
 - Probably not vote
 - Refused/not sure

(If definitely vote, ask:) If the general election were held today, and the candidates were [**Hillary Clinton for the Democrats**] and [**Donald Trump for the Republicans**], for whom would you vote? **(Alternate candidate names every other interview.)**

(If already voted, ask:) In the election for president, for whom did you vote—[**Hillary Clinton for the Democrats/Donald Trump for the Republicans**], or for someone else? **(Rotate candidate names.)**

(If definitely vote and not sure or would not vote, ask:) Toward which do you lean?

(If already voted and not sure, ask:) Do you just not want to tell, or do you not remember?

	First choice	Lean	***Total*** First+Lean
Hillary Clinton	45	1	46
Donald Trump	44	2	46
Other/would not vote (VOL)	5	3	3
Not sure (don't remember)	3	2	2
Don't want to tell	2	-	2

Aug-16: If the general election were held today, and the candidates were [Hillary Clinton for the Democrats] and [Donald Trump for the Republicans], for whom would you vote? (Alternate candidate names every other interview.) (If not sure or would not vote, ask:) Toward which do you lean?

Jun-16: If the general election were held today, and the candidates were [Hillary Clinton for the Democrats], [Donald Trump for the Republicans], and Gary Johnson* for the Libertarian Party, for whom would you vote? (Rotate candidate names in brackets.) (If not sure, or would not vote, ask:) Toward which do you lean?

Mar-16: If the general election were held today, and the candidates were [Hillary Clinton for the Democrats] and [Donald Trump for the Republicans], for whom would you vote? (Rotate candidate names in brackets.)

	Results for Aug and Jun are first choice + lean.	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump	Other/would not vote (VOL)	Not sure
Aug-16	n=749; MoE ±3.6pp	50	44	3	3
Jun-16*	n=750; MoE ±3.6pp	49	37	10	4
Mar-16	n=815; MoE ±3.4pp	54	36	n/a	9

*Totals for Gary Johnson in Jun-16 were added to "Other/Would not vote" for tracking the two-way race.

Would you say your vote for Hillary Clinton is more a vote to support her for president, or more a vote to stop Donald Trump from becoming president? (Asked only of Clinton voters in the two-way horserace.)

		More to support Clinton	More to vote against Trump	Not sure
Sep-16	n=461; MoE ±4.6pp	56	39	5
Aug-16	n=369; MoE ±5.1pp	56	40	4

How would you describe your enthusiasm for Hillary Clinton as the [Jun-16: presumptive] Democratic nominee—very enthusiastic, fairly enthusiastic, just somewhat enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic? (Asked only of Clinton voters in the two-way horserace.)

		Very enthusiastic	Fairly enthusiastic	Just somewhat enthusiastic	Not enthusiastic	Not sure
Sep-16	n=461; MoE ±4.6pp	34	27	26	12	1
Aug-16	n=369; MoE: ±5.1pp	35	27	23	14	-
Jun-16	n=332; MoE: ±5.4pp	43	22	25	11	-

Would you say your vote for Donald Trump is more a vote to support him for president, or more a vote to stop Hillary Clinton from becoming president? (Asked only of Trump voters in the two-way horserace.)

		More to support Trump	More to vote against Clinton	Not sure
Sep-16	n=465; MoE ±4.5pp	50	42	8
Aug-16	n=338; MoE ±5.3pp	39	56	5

How would you describe your enthusiasm for Donald Trump as the Republican nominee—very enthusiastic, fairly enthusiastic, just somewhat enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic? (Asked only of Trump voters in the two-way horserace.)

		Very enthusiastic	Fairly enthusiastic	Just somewhat enthusiastic	Not enthusiastic	Not sure
Sep-16	n=465; MoE ±4.5pp	43	22	22	11	-
Aug-16	n=338; MoE: ±5.3pp	33	22	31	14	-
Jun-16	n=333; MoE: ±5.4pp	33	24	30	12	-

(If definitely vote, ask:) If the general election were held today, and the candidates were [**Hillary Clinton for the Democrats**], [**Donald Trump for the Republicans**], [**Gary Johnson for the Libertarian Party**], and [**Jill Stein for the Green Party**], for whom would you vote? **(Rotate candidate names in brackets.)**

(If already voted, ask:) In the election for president, for whom did you vote—[**Hillary Clinton for the Democrats**], [**Donald Trump for the Republicans**], [**Gary Johnson for the Libertarian Party**], or [**Jill Stein for the Green Party**]? **(Rotate candidate names in brackets.)**

(If definitely vote and not sure or would not vote, ask:) Toward which do you lean?

(If already voted and not sure, ask:) Do you just not want to tell, or do you not remember?

	First choice	Lean	***Total*** First+Lean
Hillary Clinton	41	-	41
Donald Trump	43	-	43
Gary Johnson	8	-	8
Jill Stein	4	-	4
Would not vote (VOL)	1	1	1
Not sure (don't remember)	3	1	1
Don't want to tell	2	-	2

Aug-16: If the general election were held today, and the candidates were [**Hillary Clinton for the Democrats**], [**Donald Trump for the Republicans**], [**Gary Johnson for the Libertarian Party**], and [**Jill Stein for the Green Party**], for whom would you vote? **(Rotate candidate names in brackets.)** **(If not sure, or would not vote, ask:)** Toward which do you lean?

Jun-16: If the general election were held today, and the candidates were [**Hillary Clinton for the Democrats**], [**Donald Trump for the Republicans**], and Gary Johnson for the Libertarian Party, for whom would you vote? **(Rotate candidate names in brackets.)** **(If not sure, or would not vote, ask:)** Toward which do you lean?

Results are first choice + lean totals.	Hillary Clinton	Donald Trump	Gary Johnson	Jill Stein	Would not vote (VOL)	Not sure
Aug-16 n=749; MoE: ±3.6 pp	44	40	9	4	-	3
Jun-16 n=750; MoE: ±3.6 pp	49	37	9	n/a	1	4

If the elections for the U.S. House of Representatives were being held today, which party's candidate would you vote for in your congressional district: The [DEMOCRATIC] candidate or the [REPUBLICAN] candidate? **(If not sure, ask:)** Which way are you leaning—toward the [REPUBLICAN] candidate or the [DEMOCRATIC] candidate? **(Alternate party names each interview.)**

	Democratic candidate	Lean Democratic candidate	Republican candidate	Lean Republican candidate	Other (VOL)	Not sure
Sep-16	45	1	43	1	2	8
Aug-16	43	4	42	2	1	7

In general, do you think things in the nation are headed in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?

	Right direction	Wrong track	Not sure
Sep-16	28	66	6
Aug-16	29	66	5
Jun-16	26	68	6
Mar-16	28	65	6
Nov-15	24	68	8
Sep-15	26	66	8
Apr-15	33	61	6
Dec-14	23	69	9
Jun-14	27	65	8

Which of the following do you see as the most important issue facing the country right now? (Read list. Rotate.)

	Immigration	Health care	The federal deficit	Terrorist threat/ ISIS*	Taxes	A decline in real income for American workers	Climate change	Unemployment and jobs	Trade	Other (VOL) (specify:)	None of these (VOL)	Not sure	
Sep-16	10	12	n/a	24	4	15	8	18	1	1	2	4	
Aug-16	6	9	9	15	12	2	14	7	17	1	2	1	6
Jun-16	6	10	7	12	10	3	16	7	19	1	4	2	2
Mar-16	6	12	6	9	10	4	18	6	19	2	4	1	4
Nov-15	7	10	7	13	22	2	16	5	9	n/a	3	1	5
Sep-15	7	9	11	7	11	4	16	7	19	n/a	4	1	5
Apr-15	5	11	12	9	15	4	14	7	16	n/a	2	1	4
Dec-14	12	12	10	4	8	3	16	5	20	n/a	4	2	5
Jun-14	6	14	15	4	n/a	4	16	6	27	n/a	3	1	3

*Before Sep-16, "terrorism" and "The Islamic State, also known as ISIS" were listed as separate items.

Do you approve or disapprove of the job Barack Obama is doing: [ITEM FROM LIST]?

	Approve	Disapprove	Not Sure	
As president	Sep-16	49	48	3
	Aug-16	51	45	4
	Jun-16	54	44	2
	Mar-16	53	43	4
	Nov-15	45	51	4
	Sep-15	46	48	6
	Apr-15	48	47	4
	Dec-14	40	54	6
	Jun-14	43	54	3

Now, I'm going to mention some people and groups in the news recently. [Previous wording: Now, I'd like to mention some major economic and political figures and groups.] For each, please tell me if your feelings are very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable. If you don't know enough to answer, just say so. (Record "don't know" as "not sure." Rotate list.)

		Net Favorable	Net Unfavorable	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Barack Obama, president of the United States	Sep-16	51	48	31	20	13	34	1
	Aug-16	53	45	32	21	14	32	2
	Jun-16	54	44	33	21	12	32	1
	Mar-16	57	42	33	24	14	28	1
	Nov-15	47	51	20	27	21	30	3
	Sep-15	52	47	23	29	15	31	1
	Apr-15	51	47	21	30	16	31	2
	Dec-14	43	54	17	27	20	34	3
Jun-14	45	53	19	26	16	37	2	
Michelle Obama, wife of President Barack Obama	Sep-16	58	36	38	20	15	21	7
	Aug-16	61	32	43	19	13	19	7
Bill Clinton, former president of the United States	Sep-16	49	47	20	30	19	27	4
	Aug-16	52	44	23	29	19	25	4
	Jun-16	56	40	24	32	19	21	4
	Mar-16	58	38	25	34	19	19	4
	Nov-15	60	36	24	36	21	15	5
	Apr-15	60	33	22	39	18	14	7
Hillary Clinton, the Democratic nominee for president	Sep-16	42	56	18	24	15	41	2
	Aug-16	42	56	18	24	12	44	1
Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee for president	Jun-16	45	54	20	25	13	41	1
Hillary Clinton, former U.S. Secretary of State	Mar-16	44	54	19	26	17	37	2
	Nov-15	43	53	18	25	18	36	4
	Sep-15	40	56	12	28	18	38	4
	Apr-15	48	47	19	28	15	33	5
	Dec-14	51	45	20	31	16	29	4
Jun-14	51	44	22	28	17	27	5	
Donald Trump, the Republican nominee for president	Sep-16	42	56	22	21	12	43	2
	Aug-16	38	60	16	22	15	45	2
Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for president	Jun-16	33	65	12	21	13	52	2
Donald Trump, a businessman from New York	Mar-16	30	67	13	17	14	54	3
	Nov-15	35	61	12	23	20	41	4
	Sep-15	32	61	11	21	20	40	7
Tim Kaine, Democratic nominee for vice president and U.S. senator from Virginia	Sep-16	41	34	16	25	17	17	24
	Aug-16	44	30	16	28	17	13	26

		Net Favorable	Net Unfavorable	Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable	Not Sure
Mike Pence, Republican nominee for vice president and governor of Indiana	Sep-16	43	35	19	24	15	20	22
	Aug-16	43	34	18	24	16	17	23
The Democratic Party	Sep-16	44	53	15	29	22	30	4
	Aug-16	46	50	16	30	21	30	4
	Jun-16	51	46	16	36	20	27	2
	Mar-16	51	45	17	34	25	20	4
	Nov-15	46	46	13	33	28	18	8
	Sep-15	39	53	11	28	27	25	8
	Apr-15	48	46	11	37	23	23	6
	Dec-14	40	55	12	29	30	25	5
The Republican Party	Sep-16	39	56	12	27	27	28	5
	Aug-16	37	57	12	26	28	29	5
	Jun-16	31	66	8	23	34	31	3
	Mar-16	34	62	8	25	31	31	4
	Nov-15	37	54	6	31	32	22	9
	Sep-15	34	56	8	26	31	25	9
	Apr-15	39	55	11	28	31	24	6
	Dec-14	47	48	13	35	28	20	5
The U.S. Congress	Sep-16	23	67	5	19	40	27	9
	Aug-16	22	69	3	19	36	33	10
	Jun-16	23	70	4	19	38	32	7
	Mar-16	27	65	5	22	33	31	8
	Nov-15	24	66	3	21	41	25	10
	Sep-15	24	68	5	19	37	31	8
	Apr-15	34	58	5	28	34	24	8
Paul Ryan, the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	Sep-16	43	44	11	32	28	17	13
	Aug-16	42	42	10	32	25	17	17
	Jun-16	43	44	13	30	25	20	13
	Mar-16	41	41	11	29	24	17	18
Paul Ryan, the new speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives	Nov-15	45	32	12	32	16	16	24
Gary Johnson, the Libertarian Party nominee for president	Sep-16	24	39	3	21	23	17	37
	Aug-16	22	24	7	16	11	13	54
	Jun-16	17	29	4	13	17	12	54
Jill Stein, the Green Party nominee for president	Sep-16	16	38	3	13	19	19	46
	Aug-16	13	29	3	10	12	16	59

Do you think President Barack Obama was or was not born in the United States?

- 75 Was born in U.S.
- 11 Was not born in U.S.
- 14 Not sure

[Rotate next two questions every other interview.]

From what you've heard and read, how would you rate Hillary Clinton on each of the following—excellent, good, just fair, or poor?

	Excellent	Good	Just Fair	Poor	Not Sure
Her physical health	8	28	26	31	6
Her intelligence	41	31	13	14	-
Her truthfulness	8	19	18	53	2
Her willingness to tell the public everything they want to know to decide if she is fit to serve as president	12	20	18	49	1

From what you've heard and read, how would you rate Donald Trump on each of the following—excellent, good, just fair, or poor?

	Excellent	Good	Just Fair	Poor	Not Sure
His physical health	19	42	20	8	11
His intelligence	25	30	18	25	1
His truthfulness	14	23	16	45	1
His willingness to tell the public everything they want to know to decide if he is fit to serve as president	18	22	15	43	2

Russian president Vladimir Putin has annexed part of Ukraine and harshly cracked down on domestic opponents. Hillary Clinton says she'd stand up to Putin and make Russian aggression more costly for him. Donald Trump says Putin is a strong leader and the U.S. should seek a better relationship with Russia. Do you side more with Hillary Clinton or more with Donald Trump?

- 49 Side with Clinton
- 40 Side with Trump
- 11 Not sure

Donald Trump says he won't release his tax returns because some are under audit by the IRS, and that voters aren't interested in them anyway. Trump will be breaking from 40 years of tradition for presidential nominees if he doesn't release his returns before the election, and critics say he is withholding valuable information about his income and charitable giving. Do you think Trump should or should not release his tax returns?

- 69 Should release
- 23 Should not release
- 8 Not sure

[Rotate next two question series every other interview.]

Now, I'm going to mention some concerns that political opponents have expressed about Donald Trump. For each, please tell me if this is something that bothers you a lot, a little, or not at all. **(Rotate.)**

		Bothers A lot	Bothers A little	Bothers Not at all	Not Sure
Trump's long-standing leadership of the so-called birther controversy which wrongly questioned whether the first black president was a natural-born citizen and so eligible to be president	Sep-16	41	19	37	3
Trump's praise for Russian President Vladimir Putin	Sep-16	38	26	32	3
	Aug-16	42	27	27	4
Trump's suggestion that if he were president, the U.S. may not automatically defend all NATO allies	Sep-16	44	29	24	4
	Aug-16	50	24	24	3
The Donald J. Trump Foundation has used money to make an illegal political contribution and to settle lawsuits against his business, and Donald Trump has not contributed any personal money since 2009	Sep-16	46	25	25	4
Lawsuits accusing the Trump University real-estate program of fraud and racketeering	Sep-16	46	22	28	4
	Aug-16	44	27	26	3

Now, I'm going to mention some concerns that political opponents have expressed about Hillary Clinton. For each, please tell me if this is something that bothers you a lot, a little, or not at all. **(Rotate.)**

		Bothers A lot	Bothers A little	Bothers Not at all	Not Sure
Clinton's handling of her private e-mail, which the FBI director called "extremely careless"	Sep-16	57	24	18	1
	Aug-16	58	22	19	1
Clinton's delay in reporting her diagnosis of pneumonia	Sep-16	21	27	50	2
Clinton's family's foundation accepted money from foreign governments when she was secretary of state	Sep-16	49	24	25	3
	Aug-16	53	21	25	1
Clinton's handling of violence in the Middle East while she was secretary of state	Sep-16	49	21	28	3
	Aug-16	43	21	30	5
That Bill Clinton will likely have an influence on her decisions if she is elected	Sep-16	29	19	51	1

Who do you expect to have a better performance in the first debate—**[Donald Trump]** or **[Hillary Clinton]**? **(Alternate candidate names.)**

- 39 Donald Trump
- 49 Hillary Clinton
- 12 Not sure

These final questions are asked just to see what cross-section of U.S. voters we are interviewing.

What is your age? **(RECORD ACTUAL AGE AND CODE WITH APPROPRIATE AGE GROUP. IF RESPONDENT REFUSES, OFFER AGE GROUPS.)**

b. (CODE PROPER CATEGORY :)

- 8 Under 25
- 6 25 to 29
- 7 30 to 34
- 9 35 to 39
- 8 40 to 44
- 7 45 to 49
- 9 50 to 54
- 12 55 to 59
- 10 60 to 64
- 23 65 and over
- 1 Refused/not sure

What is your age? **(RECORD ACTUAL AGE AND CODE WITH APPROPRIATE AGE GROUP. IF RESPONDENT REFUSES, OFFER AGE GROUPS.)**

b. (CODE PROPER CATEGORY :)

	Under 25	25 to 29	30 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 and over	Refused/ not sure
Sep-16	8	6	7	17	16	22	23	1
Aug-16	7	6	6	21	16	22	21	1
Jun-16	9	5	9	16	21	18	20	2
Mar-16	10	7	8	18	21	17	19	-
Nov-15	10	7	9	17	18	18	21	1
Sep-15	7	7	9	17	19	18	21	1
Apr-15	9	7	7	18	19	19	20	-
Dec-14	5	7	9	18	22	18	19	1
Jun-14	8	6	9	19	21	17	20	-

In politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent? **(If independent, ask:)** Do you lean more toward the Republicans or more toward the Democrats, or are you totally independent?

- 28 Republican
- 10 Lean Republican
- 19 Totally independent
- 8 Lean Democrat
- 32 Democrat
- 1 Other (VOL)
- 2 Refused/not sure

In politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	Other (VOL)	Refused/ not sure
Sep-16	28	32	37	1	2
Aug-16	30	31	38	1	1
Jun-16	28	35	33	-	3
Mar-16	27	34	36	-	3
Apr-15	25	34	37	2	2
Dec-14	32	31	36	-	1
Jun-14	28	32	37	1	2

What is the last grade of school you completed?

31	High school graduate or less
19	Some college
11	Associate's (two-year) degree
22	Bachelor's (four-year) degree
16	Postgraduate work or degree
2	Refused/not sure

With what racial or ethnic group do you identify most—White, Black, Hispanic, Asian, or some other group?
(If not Hispanic, ask:) Are you from a Latino, Hispanic, or Spanish-speaking background?
(If yes, code AC=3 in b. Then reclassify all into c.)

Addition of Q.110b/c in Nov-15	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other	Multi- racial	Refused/ not sure
Sep-16	71	11	10	2	2	1	2
Aug-16	69	13	8	3	5	-	2
Jun-16	68	12	10	2	4	1	3
Mar-16	68	12	12	2	3	1	2
Nov-15	70	11	11	3	2	3	-
Q110a: Sep-15	68	12	8	4	2	n/a	7
Apr-15	68	12	9	2	1	n/a	6
Dec-14	70	12	6	2	3	n/a	7
Jun-14	70	12	6	3	2	n/a	7

Sex:

	Male	Female
Sep-16	50	50
Aug-16	50	50
Jun-16	51	49
Mar-16	48	52
Nov-15	51	49
Sep-15	51	49
Apr-15	52	48
Dec-14	48	52
Jun-14	50	50

Compared to subsamples of likely voters in the 2016 general election in the following studies:

Study #2142 749 likely voters	August 5-8, 2016 Margin of error \pm 3.6 percentage points
Study #2140 750 likely voters	June 10-13, 2016 Margin of error \pm 3.6 percentage points
Study #2136 815 likely voters	March 19-22, 2016 Margin of error \pm 3.4 percentage points
Study #2129 781 likely voters	November 15-17, 2015 Margin of error \pm 3.5 percentage points
Study #2126 801 likely voters	September 18-21, 2015 Margin of error \pm 3.5 percentage points
Study #2117 804 likely voters	April 6-8, 2015 Margin of error \pm 3.5 percentage points
Study #2110 753 likely voters	December 3-5, 2014 Margin of error \pm 3.6 percentage points
Study #2102 723 likely voters	June 6-9, 2014 Margin of error \pm 3.6 percentage points

Methodology

Sept. 26 (Bloomberg) -- The Bloomberg Politics Poll, conducted Sep. 21-24 for Bloomberg Politics by Selzer & Co. of Des Moines, IA, is based on interviews with 1,002 U.S. adults ages 18 or older who say they will definitely vote or have already voted in the 2016 general election.

Interviewers with Quantel Research contacted 1,326 U.S. adults with randomly selected landline and cell phone numbers supplied by Survey Sampling International. Responses from the full probability sample were weighted by age, race, and education to reflect the general population based on recent census data. Interviews were administered in English.

Percentages based on the subsample of 1,002 likely voters in the 2016 general election may have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points,. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20 times, the findings would not vary from the percentages shown here by more than plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

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