

## WHAT ARE THE POLLS SAYING? Trump Approval? Health Care? Russia? 2018? 2020?

[All data come from Public Policy Polling, June 9-11, publicpolicypolling.com. Poll included 811 registered voters in USA. Eighty percent were telephone interviews, and 20% without phones were part of an opt-in internet poll.]

### Trump's Approval and Russia-Gate.

The news has been filled with fresh news of the unpopularity of President DJT. But, as the table below, those who voted for DJT as still committed loyalists.

	Base	2016 Vote				
		Donald Tru...	Hillary Clint...	Gary Jo-hnson	Jill Stein	Someone else
Trump Approval						
Approve	41%	88%	4%	14%	45%	27%
Disapprove	52%	7%	91%	64%	46%	55%
Not sure	7%	6%	5%	22%	10%	18%

And, those who identify as Republican are not far behind. A somewhat heartening element of the table below is the 56%/36% unfavorable response from Independent/Other.

	Base	Party		
		Democr- at	Republica- n	Independe- nt / Other
Trump Favorability				
Favorable	40%	10%	82%	36%
Unfavorable	54%	86%	14%	56%
Not sure	5%	4%	4%	8%

Though many believe that Russia-Gate is having a tremendous effect (and it monopolizes press coverage in the mainstream media), the table below may prove helpful. Democrats are very clear that (79%) think that the Russians wanted DJT to win, But, more than two-thirds (71%) of

Republicans believe the Russians favored HRC or are not sure who they favored. Two-fifths (43%) of Independents have the same response. Until someone is charged and convicted, it is largely a tempest in a teapot, though George I am sure will disagree.

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
<b>Russia 2016 Preference: Clinton or Trump</b>				
Think Russia wanted Hillary Clinton to win the 2016 election	20%	13%	33%	16%
Think Russia wanted Donald Trump to win the 2016 election	57%	79%	29%	57%
Not sure	23%	9%	38%	26%

One also finds an interesting result when one asks participants in the survey if they think that story of Russian intervention in the election was “fake news.” Almost three out of four Republicans think the story is fake news, and half of Independents think it is fake news or are unsure if it is a real story.

This result is very consistent with the results when Republican participants were asked which they trusted more—the mainstream media or DJT. Independents are more trustful of the media, but a majority trust DJT more or are unsure.

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
<b>Russia Story Fake News Yes/No</b>				
Think the Russia story is ‘fake news’	37%	14%	72%	29%
Do not think the Russia story is ‘fake news’	49%	77%	15%	49%
Not sure	14%	9%	13%	22%

While I have made it clear that I think DJT will serve his full term, to the consternation of some. Well, the table below indicates that at least registered Republican voters agree with me. Most Democrats are betting he will not serve his full term (73%). Independents are basically spread across yes, not, and maybe (40/40/20).

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
<b>Trump Serve Full Term Yes/No</b>				
Think Donald Trump will end up serving his full term as President	43%	18%	78%	39%
Do not think Donald Trump will end up serving his full term as President	44%	73%	13%	39%
Not sure	13%	10%	9%	22%

### Health Care

Everyone but Trump supporters is on board for revising the ACA rather than dumping it for some type of legislative “mystery meat.” There is, however, even some evidence of “fall-off” among Trumpoids. They approved of his performance by 88%, but only 63% of his supporters want to see the ACA replaced. These results are basically the same as those when one looks at responses to this item by political party.

	Base	2016 Vote				
		Donal- d Tru...	Hillary Clint...	Gary Jo- hanson	Jill Stein	Someon- e else
<b>Congress Fix ACA or Repeal</b>						
Would most like the Congress to keep what works in the Affordable Care Act and fix what doesn't	59%	31%	86%	57%	60%	45%
Would most like the Congress to repeal the Affordable Care Act and start over with a new healthcare law	35%	63%	9%	42%	37%	36%
Not sure	6%	6%	5%	1%	3%	18%

### The 2018 Elections

Party members and Independents all express roughly the same level of excitement over the upcoming 2018 elections. Basically eighty percent are very excited or somewhat excited about the election.

	Base	Party		
		Democr- at	Republica- n	Independe- nt / Other
<b>2018 Vote Excitement</b>				
Very excited	59%	63%	58%	54%
Somewhat excited	19%	17%	19%	22%
Not that excited	18%	16%	21%	18%
Not sure	4%	3%	2%	6%

As for how they will vote (which is only of really passing interest because 2018 is about votes in Congressional districts). The responses to that question follows the pattern of another version of an old Beach Boys song, "Be True to Your School."

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
<b>Congress Vote</b>				
Democrat	50%	88%	7%	46%
Republican	40%	7%	86%	34%
Not sure	10%	5%	7%	20%

However, the health care debate, depending on how it is played by Democratic House candidates may change these number somewhat.

When asked how a Congressperson's stand on health care might affect their 2018 vote. The differences between the responses noted in the table above and those in the table below are instructive. Eighty-six percent of Rs intend to vote R in 2018, but only 72% indicate that a vote in support of the proposed health plan would leave them voting Republican. More interesting is that just over half of independents would be less like to vote for a person who supported the House bill, the AHCA.

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent / Other
<b>Congressperson Voted for AHCA More/Less Likely</b>				
More likely	24%	14%	42%	18%
Less likely	48%	66%	23%	53%
Wouldn't make a difference	22%	16%	30%	20%
Not sure	5%	4%	5%	8%

### What About 2020?

Okay, 2020 is a long, long way off, and the real deal is which states you win. But, for curiosity's sake, one can look at data on potential candidates' match-ups.

The only thing clear concerning national preferences for most Democratic hopefuls is that it is basically a dead heat (e.g. 43/41) with Trump, with high undecideds. Most hopefuls beat DJT, but the difference is within sampling error.

That is true except for two potential candidates (maybe three). Joe Biden pulls 54% to 41% for DJT. Bernie Sanders pulls a 51% to 41% win. Both candidates get something over 80% of Democrats and win nicely among Independents. Of other candidates, Elizabeth Warren comes closest by winning 75% of Democrats and nearly a majority of Independents. But, unlike the other two promising Democrats, she has a higher level of folks who are unsure (e.g., 14% in the Democratic Party).

So, what is the deal:

1. Republican and Trump supporters are still deeply in his pocket.
2. The Russia scandal may drive the news cycles, but it will not move them out of his pocket, since they discount information from outside sources.
3. Independents are largely split on most of these issues
4. Everybody is relatively excited about 2018.
5. Health care may be a good issue for Democrats in 2018 (no surprise).
6. The best candidates, at this point, to run in 2020 for the Ds are two old guys at the crumbling edges of their political careers.

*Until next time,.*

*Chas*