

GALLUP NEWS SERVICE

MAY ELECTION BENCHMARK

-- FINAL TOPLINE --

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Results are based on telephone interviews conducted May 18-22, 2016 with a random sample of **–1,530—**adults, aged 18+, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia. For results based on this sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

For results based on the sample of **-- 1,357 --** registered voters, the margin of sampling error is ± 3 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

For results based on the sample of **-- 744 --** Republicans and Republican leaning independents, the margin of sampling error is ± 4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

For results based on the sample of **-- 697 --** Democrats and Democratic leaning independents, the margin of sampling error is ± 5 percentage points at the 95% confidence level.

Interviews are conducted with respondents on landline telephones and cellular phones, with interviews conducted in Spanish for respondents who are primarily Spanish-speaking. Each sample of national adults includes a minimum quota of 60% cell phone respondents and 40% landline respondents, with additional minimum quotas by region. Landline and cell phone telephone numbers are selected using random digit dial methods. Landline respondents are chosen at random within each household on the basis of which member has the next birthday.

Samples are weighted to correct for unequal selection probability, non-response, and double coverage of landline and cell users in the two sampling frames. They are also weighted to match the national demographics of gender, age, race, Hispanic ethnicity, education, region, population density, and phone status (cell phone-only/landline only/both and cell phone mostly). Demographic weighting targets are based on the March 2015 Current Population Survey figures for the aged 18 and older U.S. population. Phone status targets are based on the January-June 2015 National Health Interview Survey. Population density targets are based on the 2010 census. All reported margins of sampling error include the computed design effects for weighting.

In addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

14. Regardless of who wins the election, what single issue or challenge are you most interested in having the next president address when he or she takes office next January? [OPEN-ENDED]

	2016 <u>May 18-22</u>	2016 <u>Jan 21-25</u>	2000 <u>Jul 6-9</u>
The economy	19	17	6
Immigration	14	14	1
Healthcare/Healthcare costs/Healthcare reform	10	10	11
Defense/National Defense/Homeland security	9	11	3
Education	8	6	15
The federal deficit/The budget	7	6	2
Wages/Earning a decent wage/Decline of middle class	6	4	1
Jobs/Unemployment	6	6	1
Terrorism	5	7	--
Foreign policy/affairs	4	5	3
Big government/Government invasion of privacy	4	2	1
Race relations/Equal rights	3	3	1
Restoring respect to the office of president	3	2	2
Taxes	2	2	7
Poverty/The poor/Homelessness	2	3	4
The environment/pollution	2	3	2
Gun control	2	4	5
Uniting Americans	2	--	--
Moral issues/Ethics/Religion	2	2	2
Veterans' issues	1	--	--
World peace	1	--	--
Infrastructure in the U.S.	1	--	--
Social Security	1	2	12
Welfare/Welfare reform	1	*	2
Drugs	1	1	1
Appointments to Supreme Court	1	*	1
Campaign finance reform	1	1	1
Abortion	1	1	6
Care for the elderly	1	1	4
Corporate involvement/influence	1	--	--
Gay rights issues/Transgender rights issues	1	*	1
Crime	1	1	2
Trade/Foreign Trade	*	1	*
Family/Youth issues	*	1	1
Medicare	*	1	4
Prescription drugs/High cost of prescription drugs	*	*	3
Wars	*	1	--
Farm/Agricultural issues	*	*	1
Gas Prices	*	*	2
Relations with China	*	*	1
Child care/Affordable child care	--	--	1
The Death Penalty	--	--	1
Other	1	3	5
Nothing	3	2	4
No opinion	4	3	9

Responses total more than 100% due to multiple mentions.

15. Now I am going to read a list of some of the issues that will probably be discussed in this year's presidential election campaign. As I read each one, please tell me how important the candidates' positions on that issue

will be in influencing your vote for president -- extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not important. How about -- [RANDOM ORDER]?

<i>2016 May 18-22</i> <i>(sorted by "Extremely important")</i>	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Extremely+ Very important</u>
Terrorism and national security	45	87
The economy	42	92
Employment and jobs	38	89
Education	38	86
Healthcare and the Affordable Care Act	38	83
The federal budget deficit	34	78
Immigration	29	69
The treatment of minority groups in this country	28	66
The distribution of income and wealth in the United States	28	65
Foreign affairs	27	74
Taxes	26	71
Gun policy	26	63
The size and efficiency of the federal government	24	64
Government regulation of Wall Street and banks	22	59
Social issues such as gay marriage and abortion	21	48
Climate change	21	47
Trade with other nations	18	61

FULL RESULTS AND TRENDS:

A. The economy

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	42	50	8	*	*
2016 Jan 21-25	39	48	11	2	*
2012 Feb 16-19	44	47	7	1	*
2008 Oct 23-26	55	40	4	*	*
2008 Jun 15-19	49	42	8	1	*
2008 Feb 8-10	41	48	9	2	*
2004 Oct 22-24	39	49	11	1	*
2004 Feb 6-8	38	48	12	1	1
2003 Dec 5-7	40	47	10	2	1
2003 Sep 19-21	49	42	9	*	*
2000 Aug 4-5	41	44	13	2	*
2000 Jul 25-26	35	51	12	2	*
2000 Apr 3-9	30	47	21	2	*
1996 Jul 18-21	34	54	10	1	2

Q.15 (ISSUE IMPORTANCE) CONTINUED

B. Employment and Jobs

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	38	51	10	1	--
2016 Jan 21-25	35	49	14	1	*

C. The federal budget deficit

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	34	44	17	4	*
2016 Jan 21-25	30	41	22	5	1
2012 Feb 16-19	37	41	17	4	1
2008 Oct 23-26	44	38	16	2	*
2008 Feb 8-10	30	43	22	4	1
2004 Feb 6-8	30	42	22	4	2
2003 Dec 5-7	32	43	23	2	*
2003 Sep 19-21	39	35	23	2	1
1996 Jul 18-21	32	46	17	2	2

D. Taxes

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	26	45	25	3	*
2016 Jan 21-25	25	44	26	4	1
2012 Feb 16-19	29	44	23	3	*
2008 Oct 23-26	40	41	17	2	*
2008 Jun 15-19	34	38	24	4	*
2008 Feb 8-10	27	42	27	4	*
2004 Feb 6-8	29	45	22	3	1
2003 Sep 19-21	36	41	20	2	1
2000 Aug 4-5	40	42	16	2	*
2000 Jul 25-26	33	44	19	3	1
1996 Jul 18-21	32	51	14	2	1

Q.15 (ISSUE IMPORTANCE) CONTINUED

E. Immigration

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	29	40	25	7	*
2016 Jan 21-25	28	38	28	5	1
2012 Feb 16-19	15	34	37	13	1
2008 Oct 23-26 ^	25	32	33	9	*
2008 Jun 15-19 ^	27	32	31	10	*
2008 Feb 8-10 ^	26	34	30	9	1
2004 Feb 6-8	19	36	36	8	1

^ WORDING: Illegal immigration

F. Healthcare and the Affordable Care Act

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	38	45	14	4	*
2016 Jan 21-25	37	42	15	6	1
2012 Feb 16-19 †	35	39	19	6	1
2008 Oct 23-26 ^	41	37	19	3	*
2008 Jun 15-19 ^	41	39	17	3	--
2008 Feb 8-10 ^	37	42	17	3	*
2004 Oct 22-24 ^	33	47	18	2	*
2004 Feb 6-8 ^	38	44	16	2	*
2003 Sep 19-21 ^	43	42	13	2	*
2000 Aug 4-5 ^	44	40	12	3	1
2000 Jul 25-26 ^	37	47	14	2	*
2000 Apr 3-9 ^	38	44	16	2	*

^ WORDING: Healthcare

† WORDING: The Healthcare Law passed in 2010

Q.15 (ISSUE IMPORTANCE) CONTINUED

G. Terrorism and National Security

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	45	42	10	3	*
2016 Jan 21-25	46	39	11	4	*
2012 Feb 16-19	33	41	22	3	*
2008 Oct 23-26 ^	42	38	17	3	1
2008 Jun 15-19 ^	41	35	20	4	*
2008 Feb 8-10 ^	40	37	19	4	*
2004 Oct 22-24 ^	45	40	13	2	*
2004 Feb 6-8 ^	43	42	11	3	1
2003 Dec 5-7 ^	48	40	10	2	*
2003 Sep 19-21 ^	49	38	11	2	*

^ WORDING: Terrorism

H. Social Issues such as Abortion and Gay Marriage

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	21	27	27	25	*
2016 Jan 21-25	18	22	29	31	1
2012 Feb 16-19	16	24	31	28	1

For comparison (Abortion):

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2004 Feb 6-8	22	30	28	19	1
2000 Aug 4-5	29	27	22	20	2
2000 Jul 25-26	25	27	27	19	2
2000 Apr 3-9	26	27	30	15	2
1996 Jul 18-21	23	30	25	20	2

For comparison (Same-sex marriage):

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2004 Oct 22-24 ^	18	20	25	36	1
2004 Feb 6-8	22	22	23	31	2
1996 Jul 18-21 †	16	17	19	45	3

^ Asked of a half sample.

† WORDING: Gay marriages

Q.15 (ISSUE IMPORTANCE) CONTINUED

I. Climate Change

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	21	26	27	26	1
2016 Jan 21-25	16	29	27	28	*

J. Gun policy

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	26	37	24	13	1
2016 Jan 21-25	31	35	22	12	1
2004 Feb 6-8	21	32	31	15	1
2000 Aug 4-5 ^	29	35	23	12	1
2000 Jul 25-26 ^	30	32	24	12	2
2000 Apr 3-9 †	34	35	19	11	1

^ WORDING: The gun issue

† WORDING: Gun control

K. Education

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	38	48	12	2	*
2016 Jan 21-25	36	43	17	3	*
2008 Oct 23-26	39	41	18	2	*
2008 Feb 8-10	35	46	16	3	*
2004 Oct 22-24 ^	32	52	14	2	--
2004 Feb 6-8	41	45	12	2	*
2003 Dec 5-7	43	43	12	2	*
2003 Sep 19-21	45	43	11	1	*
2000 Oct 20-22 †	41	47	9	2	1
2000 Aug 4-5	50	41	7	2	*
2000 Jul 25-26	43	46	9	2	*
2000 Apr 3-9	46	43	9	2	*
1996 Oct 26-29 †	42	47	10	1	--
1996 Jul 18-21	42	50	7	1	1

^ Asked of a half sample.

† Based on registered voters

Q.15 (ISSUE IMPORTANCE) CONTINUED

L. The distribution of income and wealth in the U.S.

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	28	37	21	14	1
2016 Jan 21-25	26	37	22	14	1

M. Foreign Affairs

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	27	47	21	5	*
2016 Jan 21-25	28	40	26	5	1
2004 Feb 6-8	21	44	29	4	2
2003 Sep 19-21	31	40	25	3	1
2000 Jul 25-26	18	40	33	8	1
2000 Apr 3-9	17	40	26	5	2
1996 Oct 26-29 ^	17	42	32	6	3
1996 Jul 18-21	20	42	32	6	2

^ Asked of a half sample.

N. Government regulation of Wall Street and Banks

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	22	37	31	8	1
2016 Jan 21-25	21	37	32	9	1

O. The size and efficiency of the federal government

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	24	40	29	7	1
2016 Jan 21-25	23	38	31	8	*

P. Trade with other nations

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	18	43	32	6	*

Q.15 (ISSUE IMPORTANCE) CONTINUED

Q. The treatment of minority groups in this country

	<u>Extremely important</u>	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not important</u>	<u>No opinion</u>
2016 May 18-22	28	38	25	9	*