

**AP**

**NORC**  
at the UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO

The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# The February 2018 AP-NORC Center Poll

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research  
With funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago

*Interviews: 2/15-19/2018*

*1,337 adults*

*Margin of error: +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults*

*NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.*

*SOME ITEMS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE*

**CUR1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the...**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	Right direction	Wrong direction	DON'T KNOW	SKIP/ REFUSED
All adults (N=1,337)	32	68	*	*
Whites (N=689)	37	63	*	*
African Americans (N=388)	10	88	*	1

AP-NORC All adults	Right direction	Wrong direction	DON'T KNOW	SKIP/ REFUSED
12/7-11/2017 (N=1,020)	30	69	1	*
9/28-10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	24	74	1	*
6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	34	65	2	*
3/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	37	62	1	*

**CUR2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?**

*If don't know, skipped, or refused in CUR2*

**CUR3. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?**

*If approve in CUR2*

**CUR3A. Would you say you approve of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you approve just somewhat?**

*If disapprove in CUR2*

**CUR3B. Would you say you disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president strongly or do you disapprove just somewhat?**

**[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Approve NET</b>	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean toward approv- ing	<b>Do not lean either way</b>	<b>Dis- approve NET</b>	Lean toward disapp- roving	Some- what dis- approve	Strongly dis- approve	DK	SKP /REF
All adults (N=1,337)	<b>35</b>	19	17	-	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	*	17	46	*	*
Whites (N=689)	<b>45</b>	26	19	-	*	<b>54</b>	1	17	37	*	*
African Americans (N=388)	<b>7</b>	4	2	-	*	<b>92</b>	1	18	74	-	*

AP-NORC All adults	<b>Approve NET</b>	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean toward approv- ing	<b>Do not lean either way</b>	<b>Dis- approve NET</b>	Lean toward disapp- roving	Some- what dis- approve	Strongly dis- approve	DK	SKP /REF
12/7-11/2017 (N=1,020)	32	15	17	*	*	67	*	16	51	-	*
9/28- 10/2/2017 (N=1,150)	32	20	12	*	*	67	*	17	50	*	*
6/8-11/2017 (N=1,068)	35	16	18	*	<b>1</b>	64	*	17	47	*	1
3/23-27/2017 (N=1,110)	42	20	22	*	*	58	*	14	43	-	1

**BB1. Do you think each of the following is better than it was a year ago, worse than a year ago, or about the same?**

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

**All adults**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Much/ somewhat better NET</b>	Much better	Somewhat better	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Somewhat/ much worse NET</b>	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP/ REF
The way things are going in the country overall	<b>29</b>	9	19	<b>19</b>	<b>52</b>	28	24	-	1
The national economy	<b>39</b>	14	26	<b>36</b>	<b>24</b>	15	9	*	*
Your own personal finances	<b>35</b>	10	25	<b>47</b>	<b>18</b>	11	7	*	*

N=1,137

**Whites**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Much/ somewhat better NET</b>	Much better	Somewhat better	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Somewhat/ much worse NET</b>	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP/ REF
The way things are going in the country overall	<b>35</b>	11	23	<b>19</b>	<b>46</b>	27	19	-	*
The national economy	<b>48</b>	17	31	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	13	5	1	-
Your own personal finances	<b>39</b>	12	27	<b>47</b>	<b>14</b>	9	5	*	-

N=689

**African Americans**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Much/ somewhat better NET</b>	Much better	Somewhat better	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Somewhat/ much worse NET</b>	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP/ REF
The way things are going in the country overall	<b>9</b>	1	8	<b>17</b>	<b>74</b>	25	49	-	-
The national economy	<b>18</b>	1	17	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>	16	27	1	*
Your own personal finances	<b>16</b>	5	11	<b>51</b>	<b>32</b>	21	11	-	*

N=388

**BB2. In the next year, do you think each of the following will get better, get worse, or stay about the same?**

**[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]**

**All adults**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Much/ somewhat better NET</b>	Much better	Somewhat better	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Somewhat/ much worse NET</b>	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP/ REF
The way things are going in the country overall	<b>28</b>	10	18	<b>24</b>	<b>47</b>	27	20	*	*
The national economy	<b>34</b>	12	23	<b>32</b>	<b>33</b>	21	12	*	*
Your own personal finances	<b>38</b>	12	27	<b>45</b>	<b>16</b>	11	5	*	*

N=1,337

**Whites**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Much/ somewhat better NET</b>	Much better	Somewhat better	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Somewhat/ much worse NET</b>	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP/ REF
The way things are going in the country overall	<b>35</b>	12	23	<b>24</b>	<b>40</b>	26	15	*	*
The national economy	<b>41</b>	15	26	<b>31</b>	<b>27</b>	20	7	*	*
Your own personal finances	<b>40</b>	13	27	<b>47</b>	<b>13</b>	9	3	*	*

N=689

**African Americans**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Much/ somewhat better NET</b>	Much better	Somewhat better	<b>About the same</b>	<b>Somewhat/ much worse NET</b>	Somewhat worse	Much worse	DK	SKP/ REF
The way things are going in the country overall	<b>13</b>	4	9	<b>26</b>	<b>61</b>	24	37	*	*
The national economy	<b>16</b>	2	14	<b>35</b>	<b>49</b>	20	28	1	-
Your own personal finances	<b>37</b>	11	26	<b>41</b>	<b>21</b>	8	13	1	1

N=388

**CURY2. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling...?**

*If Don't know, skipped, or refused in CURY2*

**CURYX. If you had to choose, do you lean more toward approving or disapproving of the way Donald Trump is handling ...?**

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

**All adults**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Approve NET</b>	Approve	Lean toward approve	<b>Don't lean either way</b>	<b>Disapprove NET</b>	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	<b>45</b>	45	-	*	<b>54</b>	*	53	-	*
Foreign policy	<b>34</b>	34	*	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	*	64	*	*
Immigration	<b>37</b>	37	*	*	<b>62</b>	*	62	*	*

N=1,337

**Whites**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Approve NET</b>	Approve	Lean toward approve	<b>Don't lean either way</b>	<b>Disapprove NET</b>	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	<b>53</b>	53	-	*	<b>46</b>	*	46	-	*
Foreign policy	<b>43</b>	43	*	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	*	55	*	*
Immigration	<b>46</b>	46	*	*	<b>53</b>	*	53	*	*

N=689

**African Americans**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	<b>Approve NET</b>	Approve	Lean toward approve	<b>Don't lean either way</b>	<b>Disapprove NET</b>	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	<b>19</b>	19	-	*	<b>81</b>	1	80	-	-
Foreign policy	<b>9</b>	9	-	<b>1</b>	<b>90</b>	1	89	-	-
Immigration	<b>10</b>	10	-	*	<b>90</b>	-	90	-	-

N=388

The February 2018 AP-NORC Center Poll

AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017 All adults	<b>Approve NET</b>	Approve	Lean toward approve	<b>Don't lean either way</b>	<b>Disapprove NET</b>	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	<b>42</b>	42	*	<b>1</b>	<b>56</b>	1	56	*	*
Foreign policy	<b>34</b>	34	*	<b>1</b>	<b>65</b>	*	64	*	*
Immigration	<b>35</b>	35	*	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	*	64	*	*

*N=1,150*

AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017 All adults	<b>Approve NET</b>	Approve	Lean toward approve	<b>Don't lean either way</b>	<b>Disapprove NET</b>	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	<b>43</b>	43	1	<b>1</b>	<b>55</b>	*	55	*	*
Foreign policy	<b>35</b>	34	*	<b>1</b>	<b>63</b>	1	63	*	*
Immigration	<b>39</b>	39	*	*	<b>60</b>	*	60	*	*

*N=1,068*

AP-NORC 3/23-27/2017 All adults	<b>Approve NET</b>	Approve	Lean toward approve	<b>Don't lean either way</b>	<b>Disapprove NET</b>	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
The economy	<b>50</b>	49	1	<b>1</b>	<b>48</b>	1	47	-	*
Foreign policy	<b>40</b>	40	1	<b>1</b>	<b>58</b>	1	57	*	*
Immigration	<b>45</b>	45	*	<b>1</b>	<b>54</b>	*	54	-	*

*N=1,110*

**PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
Democrat	34	27	59
Republican	24	32	1
Independent	25	26	16
None of these	16	14	21
DON'T KNOW	-	-	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1	*	2
<i>N=</i>	1,337	689	388

*If Democrat in PID1*

**PIDa. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?**

*If Republican in PID1*

**PIDb. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?**

*If Independent, None of these, or Don't Know/Skip/Refused in PID1*

**PIDi. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>74</b>
Strong Democrat	14	10	40
Moderate Democrat	20	17	19
Lean Democrat	13	12	15
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>7</b>
Lean Republican	11	13	6
Moderate Republican	15	21	1
Strong Republican	9	11	1
Unknown	*	*	*
<i>N=</i>	1,337	689	388



**G11B. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a...?**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
Liberal	25	22	26
Conservative	29	32	27
Moderate	43	44	44
DON'T KNOW	1	1	1
SKIP/REFUSED	2	2	3
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,337</i>	<i>689</i>	<i>388</i>

**DM5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
Urban area	26	20	38
Suburban area	46	48	40
Rural area	26	30	19
DON'T KNOW	1	1	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1	1	2
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,337</i>	<i>689</i>	<i>388</i>

**AGE**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
18-24	11	9	10
25-34	19	16	26
35-44	16	13	13
45-54	14	15	17
55-64	19	22	19
65-74	14	17	11
75+	6	8	4
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,337</i>	<i>689</i>	<i>388</i>

**GENDER**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
Male	48	48	46
Female	52	52	54
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,337</i>	<i>689</i>	<i>388</i>

**RACE/ETHNICITY**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
White	64	100	-
Black or African American	12	-	100
Hispanic	16	-	-
Other	8	-	-
<i>N=</i>	1,337	689	388

**MARITAL STATUS**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
Married	46	54	24
Widowed	6	7	5
Divorced	11	11	15
Separated	3	1	6
Never married	29	21	45
Living with partner	6	5	6
<i>N=</i>	1,337	689	388

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
Employed	57	56	47
Not employed	43	44	53
<i>N=</i>	1,337	689	388

**EDUCATION**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
Less than a high school diploma	11	9	13
High school graduate or equivalent	29	28	33
Some college	29	28	32
College graduate or above	31	35	22
<i>N=</i>	1,337	689	388

**INCOME**

AP-NORC 2/15-19/2018	All adults	Whites	African Americans
Under \$10,000	8	5	19
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10	7	18
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	11	9	15
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9	9	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9	10	8
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	18	18	15
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	15	17	9
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14	15	7
\$150,000 or more	8	9	1
<i>N</i> =	1,337	689	388

### **Study Methodology**

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from The Associated Press and NORC at the University of Chicago. Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC’s probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97% of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between February 15 and 19, 2018, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,337 completed the survey—1,124 via the web and 213 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 21.5 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 33.7 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 88.1 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 6.4 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

In addition, blacks were sampled at a higher rate than their proportion of the population for reasons of analysis. The overall margin of sampling error for the 388 completed interviews with blacks is +/- 7.3 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level including the design effect.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2017 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email [info@apnorc.org](mailto:info@apnorc.org).

### **About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research**

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is the world’s essential news organization, bringing fast, unbiased news to all media platforms and formats.
- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world.

## The February 2018 AP-NORC Center Poll

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.