

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Conducted by researchers at Stanford University and the University of California, Santa Barbara in collaboration with The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

Interview dates: September 17, 2015 – October 19, 2015

Interviews: 1,021 adults

Margin of error: +/- 3.95 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

Interview dates: August 29, 2017 – September 8, 2017

Interviews: 355 adults

Margin of error: +/- 7.03 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

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

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q11A-Q13B ASKED IN RANDOMIZED ORDER IN 2015

Q11A/Q11A1/Q11A2: Do you approve or disapprove of the way members of Congress have been doing their jobs?

IF APPROVE: Do you approve strongly or not strongly?

IF DISAPPROVE: Do you disapprove strongly or not strongly?¹

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Approve (NET)	17	18
Approve strongly	5	4
Approve not strongly	13	14
Disapprove (NET)	83	82
Disapprove strongly	58	55
Disapprove not strongly	25	27
Skipped/Refused	-	*
N=	355	1,021

Q12A/Q12A1/Q12A2: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Democrats in Congress have been doing their jobs?

IF APPROVE: Do you approve strongly or not strongly?

IF DISAPPROVE: Do you disapprove strongly or not strongly?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Approve (NET)	33
Approve strongly	13
Approve not strongly	21
Disapprove (NET)	66
Disapprove strongly	44
Disapprove not strongly	23
Skipped/Refused	*
N=	1,021

¹ Question was asked the same in 2015 and 2017.

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q12B/Q12B1/Q12B2: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress have been doing their jobs?

IF APPROVE: Do you approve strongly or not strongly?

IF DISAPPROVE: Do you disapprove strongly or not strongly?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Approve (NET)	25
Approve strongly	7
Approve not strongly	18
Disapprove (NET)	75
Disapprove strongly	52
Disapprove not strongly	23
Skipped/Refused	*

N=

1,021

Q13A: How would you rate the job that the U.S. Congress is doing?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Excellent/Good	8
Excellent	1
Good	7
Fair	34
Poor/Very poor	58
Poor	39
Very poor	19
Skipped/Refused	-

N=

1,021

Q13B: How would you rate the ways that members of the U.S. Congress have been deciding what new laws to create?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Excellent/Good	6
Excellent	1
Good	6
Fair	34
Poor/Very poor	59
Poor	40
Very poor	19
Skipped/Refused	*

N=

1,021

Q20A: During the last 6 years, how well would you say that government has been working in America?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Extremely/Very well	5
Extremely well	*
Very well	5
Moderately well	29
Slightly/Not well at all	66
Slightly well	27
Not well at all	39
Skipped/Refused	-

N=

1,021

Q20B: How well do you expect government to work in America in the future?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Extremely/Very well	16
Extremely well	4
Very well	12
Moderately well	34
Slightly/Not well at all	59
Slightly well	27
Not well at all	22
Skipped/Refused	-

N=

1,021

Q20C: During the last 6 years, how well would you say that Democratic governments in other countries around the world have been working?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Extremely/Very well	12
Extremely well	1
Very well	10
Moderately well	42
Slightly/Not well at all	46
Slightly well	27
Not well at all	19
Skipped/Refused	1

N=

1,021

Q21.

2015: During the last 6 years, should Congress have passed more laws than it did, fewer laws than it did, or about the same number of laws as it did?

2017: During 2017, should Congress have passed more laws than it did, fewer laws than it did, or about the same number of laws as it did?

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
More laws	36	33
Fewer laws	23	38
About the same number of laws	41	29
Skipped/Refused	-	*

N=

355

1,021

Q21A.

2015: How many more laws should Congress have passed during the last 6 years...a lot more, moderately more, or slightly more?

2017: How many more laws should Congress have passed during 2017? A lot more, moderately more, or slightly more?

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
A lot more	23	24
Moderately more	59	57
Slightly more	18	19
Skipped/Refused	-	-

N=

130

338

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q21B.

2015: How many fewer laws should Congress have passed during the last 6 years... a lot fewer, moderately fewer, or slightly fewer?

2017: How many fewer laws should Congress have passed during 2017? A lot fewer, moderately fewer, or slightly fewer?

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
A lot fewer	35	34
Moderately fewer	51	49
Slightly fewer	14	17
Skipped/Refused	-	-
N=	90	383

Q22.

2015: During the last 6 years, were the laws passed by Congress mostly good, mostly bad, or neither good nor bad?

2017: During 2017, were the laws passed by Congress mostly good, mostly bad, or neither good nor bad?

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Mostly good	11	15
Mostly bad	37	35
Neither good nor bad	52	50
Skipped/Refused	-	*
N=	355	1,021

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q3_01-21: When deciding how to vote on a proposed law, how much attention do you think a member of Congress should pay to:

2015:

RANDOMIZE ORDER

AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15	A great deal/ A lot	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little/ None	A little	None	Skipped/ Refused
The majority of all people living in his/her state or district would want him/her to do.	68	41	27	21	10	7	3	1
The majority of all people who voted for him/her when he/she was last elected would want him/her to do.	39	19	20	35	25	16	9	*
The majority of all people living in his/her state or district who say they are in the same political party as the member of Congress would want him/her to do.	32	14	19	33	34	21	13	1
The majority of all people living in the United States who say they are in the same political party as the member of Congress would want him/her to do.	26	11	15	37	37	20	16	*
The majority of all people living in the United States would want him/her to do.	65	40	25	24	11	7	4	*
The majority of wealthy people living in his/her state or district would want him/her to do.	14	7	7	19	66	27	40	1
The majority of wealthy people living in the United States would want him/her to do.	12	5	6	19	70	27	43	*
The majority of people living in his/her state or district who feel very strongly about the new law would want him/her to do.	57	29	28	30	12	10	3	*
The majority of all people living in the United States who feel very strongly about the new law would want him/her to do.	59	29	29	26	15	11	4	*

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q3_01-21 CONTINUED

	A great deal/ A lot	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little/ None	A little	None	Skipped/ Refused
AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15								
The majority of people living in his/her state or district who tell him/her their opinions about the new law would want him/her to do.	55	29	26	29	15	13	2	*
The majority of people who gave money to his/her most recent election campaign would want him/her to do.	14	6	8	20	66	24	42	*
Most businesses that gave money to his/her most recent election campaign would want him/her to do.	14	7	7	20	66	23	43	1
Lobbying organizations that gave money to his/her most recent election campaign would want him/her to do.	11	5	6	17	72	20	52	*
The President of the United States would want him/her to do.	26	12	14	31	43	22	21	*
The national leaders of his/her political party would want him/her to do.	18	7	12	33	48	28	20	1
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of everyone living in his/her state or district.	63	36	27	22	15	11	3	1
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of everyone living in the United States.	62	39	23	22	16	11	5	1
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of businesses in his/her state or district.	40	14	25	39	20	14	6	1
What his/her liberal or conservative philosophy of politics suggests he/she should do.	23	9	14	38	38	23	15	1
How other members of Congress from his/her political party want him/her to do.	15	7	8	26	58	24	34	1
How members of Congress from the other political party or parties want him/her to do.	12	6	6	23	64	22	42	1

N=

1,021

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

2017:

RANDOMIZE ORDER

	A great deal/ A lot	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little/ None	A little	None	Skipped/ Refused
AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17								
The majority of all people living in his/her state or district would want him/her to do.	70	40	30	23	7	5	1	1
The majority of all people who voted for him/her when he/she was last elected would want him/her to do.	38	16	22	36	25	15	10	1
The majority of all people living in his/her state or district who say they are in the same political party as the member of Congress would want him/her to do.	30	9	21	39	30	21	10	*
The majority of all people living in the United States who say they are in the same political party as the member of Congress would want him/her to do.	26	7	19	36	39	27	12	*
The majority of all people living in the United States would want him/her to do.	63	41	21	23	12	9	3	2
The majority of wealthy people living in his/her state or district would want him/her to do.	9	6	4	19	71	34	37	1
The majority of wealthy people living in the United States would want him/her to do.	12	6	6	11	74	31	43	3
The majority of people living in his/her state or district who feel very strongly about the new law would want him/her to do.	60	24	35	26	13	10	4	1
The majority of all people living in the United States who feel very strongly about the new law would want him/her to do.	55	25	31	27	17	12	5	*

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q3_01-21 CONTINUED

	A great deal/ A lot	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little/ None	A little	None	Skipped/ Refused
AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17								
The majority of people living in his/her state or district who tell him/her their opinions about the new law would want him/her to do.	49	21	28	33	16	13	4	1
The majority of people who gave money to his/her most recent election campaign would want him/her to do.	13	6	7	21	66	30	36	*
Most businesses that gave money to his/her most recent election campaign would want him/her to do.	9	5	4	24	66	26	40	1
Lobbying organizations that gave money to his/her most recent election campaign would want him/her to do.	8	5	3	19	72	28	44	*
The President of the United States would want him/her to do.	23	7	16	33	44	22	22	*
The national leaders of his/her political party would want him/her to do.	19	7	12	34	47	31	17	*
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of everyone living in his/her state or district.	69	42	27	20	11	8	3	*
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of everyone living in the United States.	63	42	21	21	14	9	4	2
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of businesses in his/her state or district.	43	18	25	33	23	18	5	1
What his/her liberal or conservative philosophy of politics suggests he/she should do.	21	9	12	38	41	28	13	*
How other members of Congress from his/her political party want him/her to do.	12	5	7	33	55	31	25	*
How members of Congress from the other political party or parties want him/her to do.	11	5	6	29	60	26	34	*

N=

355

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q4_01-21.

2015: During the last 6 years, when they decided how to vote on proposed laws, how much attention do you think members of Congress paid to whether the new law was favored by:

RANDOMIZE ORDER

	A great deal/ A lot	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little/ None	A little	None	Skipped/ Refused
AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15								
The majority of all people living in his/her state or district.	20	8	12	38	41	31	10	2
The majority of all people who voted for him/her when he/she was last elected.	33	10	23	35	32	24	8	1
The majority of all people living in his/her state or district who say they are in the same political party as the member of Congress.	33	9	24	40	27	20	7	*
The majority of all people living in the United States who say they are in the same political party as the member of Congress.	36	9	27	38	26	19	7	1
The majority of all people living in the United States.	18	8	11	31	50	35	15	1
The majority of wealthy people living in his/her state or district.	57	30	27	23	20	12	7	1
The majority of wealthy people living in the United States.	58	30	28	24	18	11	7	*
The majority of people living in his/her state or district who feel very strongly about the new law.	25	7	18	39	35	26	9	1
The majority of all people living in the United States who feel very strongly about the new law.	23	8	15	36	41	32	9	*
The majority of people living in his/her state or district who tell him/her their opinions about the new law.	20	8	13	38	41	33	9	*
The majority of people who gave money to his/her most recent election campaign.	60	30	30	21	19	13	6	1
Most businesses that gave money to his/her most recent election campaign.	61	32	29	21	18	12	6	1

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q4_01-21 CONTINUED

AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15	A great deal/ A lot	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little/ None	A little	None	Skipped/ Refused
Lobbying organizations that gave money to his/her most recent election campaign.	66	38	28	19	14	7	7	1
The President of the United States.	37	16	21	28	34	23	12	*
The national leaders of his/her political party.	58	22	36	29	12	8	4	1
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of everyone living in his/her state or district.	24	9	15	37	38	28	10	1
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of everyone living in the United States.	20	10	9	35	45	32	12	1
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of businesses in his/her state or district.	37	12	25	39	23	18	5	1
What his/her liberal or conservative philosophy of politics.	47	19	28	29	23	16	7	1
How other members of Congress from his/her political party wanted him/her to vote.	54	24	30	29	17	12	5	1
How members of Congress from the other political party or parties wanted him/her to vote.	32	13	19	26	41	21	20	1

N=

1,021

2017: During 2017, when they decided how to vote on proposed laws, how much attention do you think members of Congress paid to whether the new law was favored by:

RANDOMIZE ORDER

AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	A great deal/ A lot	A great deal	A lot	A moderate amount	A little/ None	A little	None	Skipped/ Refused
The majority of all people living in his/her state or district.	24	9	15	40	35	25	10	1
The majority of all people who voted for him/her when he/she was last elected.	31	10	22	42	27	18	9	1
The majority of all people living in his/her state or district who say they are in the same political party as the member of Congress.	29	8	21	45	24	20	5	1

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q4_01-21 CONTINUED

The majority of all people living in the United States who say they are in the same political party as the member of Congress.	30	8	22	45	25	20	5	1
The majority of all people living in the United States.	21	9	12	27	52	34	18	1
The majority of wealthy people living in his/her state or district.	54	23	32	24	22	12	10	-
The majority of wealthy people living in the United States.	51	22	29	25	23	16	7	1
The majority of people living in his/her state or district who feel very strongly about the new law.	23	5	19	40	36	27	8	*
The majority of all people living in the United States who feel very strongly about the new law.	23	5	18	40	38	26	11	-
The majority of people living in his/her state or district who tell him/her their opinions about the new law.	16	5	11	43	40	33	7	1
The majority of people who gave money to his/her most recent election campaign.	56	28	27	23	21	13	8	*
Most businesses that gave money to his/her most recent election campaign.	58	29	28	21	21	15	6	1
Lobbying organizations that gave money to his/her most recent election campaign.	57	37	20	25	17	11	6	1
The President of the United States.	32	18	14	31	36	24	12	2
The national leaders of his/her political party.	53	22	31	30	17	15	2	1
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of everyone living in his/her state or district.	26	9	17	38	36	23	12	1
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of everyone living in the United States.	26	11	15	27	47	33	14	-
What he/she thinks is in the best interest of businesses in his/her state or district.	37	11	26	39	23	19	4	1
What his/her liberal or conservative philosophy of politics.	42	19	22	32	26	20	5	1

Q4_01-21 CONTINUED

How other members of Congress from his/her political party wanted him/her to vote.	53	21	31	29	18	14	4	*
How members of Congress from the other political party or parties wanted him/her to vote.	27	11	16	26	46	26	20	1

N=

355

Q5-Q8 ASKED IN RANDOMIZED ORDER

Q5: When you think about how members of Congress decided how to vote during the last 6 years, how pleased does that make you feel?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Extremely/Very pleased	5
Extremely pleased	2
Very pleased	3
Moderately pleased	18
Slightly/Not pleased at all	77
Slightly pleased	24
Not pleased at all	53
Skipped/Refused	*

N=

1,021

Q6: When you think about how members of Congress decided how to vote during the last 6 years, how proud does that make you feel?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Extremely/Very proud	4
Extremely proud	*
Very proud	3
Moderately proud	14
Slightly/Not proud at all	82
Slightly proud	24
Not proud at all	58
Skipped/Refused	1

N=

1,021

Q7: When you think about how members of Congress decided how to vote during the last 6 years, how angry does that make you feel?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Extremely/Very angry	37
Extremely angry	14
Very angry	23
Moderately angry	30
Slightly/Not angry at all	33
Slightly angry	21
Not angry at all	12
Skipped/Refused	*

N=

1,021

Q8: When you think about how members of Congress decided how to vote during the last 6 years, how disappointed does that make you feel?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Extremely/Very disappointed	52
Extremely disappointed	25
Very disappointed	28
Moderately disappointed	25
Slightly/Not disappointed at all	22
Slightly disappointed	17
Not disappointed at all	4
Skipped/Refused	1

N=

1,021

Q90: Which is more important to you personally?

[REVERSED ORDER FOR HALF OF SAMPLE]

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
That you like the laws the Congress passes	55
That you like the way members of Congress decide how to vote	43
Skipped/Refused	2

N=

1,021

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q91A/Q91A1/Q91A2: Would you say that you are better off financially, worse off, or just about the same?

IF BETTER OFF: Would you say much better off, somewhat better off, or a little better off?

IF WORSE OFF: Would you say much worse off, somewhat worse off, or a little worse off?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Better off (NET)	15
Much better off	4
Somewhat better off	7
A little better off	4
Just about the same	50
Worse off (NET)	35
A little worse off	5
Somewhat worse off	16
Much worse off	13
Skipped/Refused	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,021</i>

Q91B/Q91B1/Q91B2: Is the United States better off financially, worse off, or about the same financially as it was a year ago?

IF BETTER OFF: Would you say much better off, somewhat better off, or a little better off?

IF WORSE OFF: Would you say much worse off, somewhat worse off, or a little worse off?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Better Off (NET)	17
Much better off	3
Somewhat better off	8
A little better off	6
Just about the same	33
Worse off (NET)	49
A little worse off	3
Somewhat worse off	19
Much worse off	26
Skipped/Refused	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,021</i>

Q95: During the elections for government officials that have been held during last 6 years in which you could have voted, in how many of them did you vote?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
All/Most of them	52
All of them	32
Most of them	20
About half of them	13
A few/None of them	35
A few of them	18
None of them	17
Skipped/Refused	1

N=

1,021

Q98: How closely do you pay attention to information about what's going on in government and politics?

	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Extremely/Very closely	34
Extremely closely	10
Very closely	23
Moderately closely	41
Slightly /Not closely at all	24
Slightly closely	16
Not closely at all	9
Skipped/Refused	1

N=

1,021

Democratic Representation: Americans' Frustration with Whose Voices are Represented in Congress

Q901/Q904/Q901A/Q904A/Q901A1/Q901B1: Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or none of these?

IF "INDEPENDENT" OR "NONE", OR SKIPPED/REFUSED, ASK: Do you lean more toward the Democrats or Republicans?

IF "DEMOCRAT," ASK: Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Democrat?

IF "REPUBLICAN," ASK: Do you consider yourself a strong or moderate Republican?²

[DEMOCRAT/REPUBLICAN REVERSED ORDER FOR HALF OF SAMPLE]

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Democrat (NET)	56	51
Strong Democrat	12	10
Moderate Democrat	21	21
Ind/None/DK/Ref.- Lean Democrat	24	20
Republican (NET)	40	44
Strong Republican	8	8
Moderate Republican	15	17
Ind/None/DK/Ref.- Lean Republican	16	19
Independent	4	5
<i>N=</i>	<i>355</i>	<i>1,021</i>

Q905: Are you registered to vote at your present address, or not?³

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Yes	89	80
No	11	20
Skipped/Refused	1	*
<i>N=</i>	<i>355</i>	<i>1,021</i>

² Question was asked the same in 2015 and 2017.

³ Question was asked the same in 2015 and 2017.

Q908A/Q908B/Q908C: Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a liberal, moderate, or conservative?

IF LIBERAL: Do you consider yourself extremely liberal, very liberal, or somewhat liberal?

IF CONSERVATIVE: Do you consider yourself extremely conservative, very conservative, or somewhat conservative?⁴

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Liberal (NET)	23	17
Extremely liberal	3	4
Very liberal	10	6
Somewhat liberal	10	7
Moderate	47	47
Conservative (NET)	28	33
Somewhat conservative	16	17
Very conservative	10	12
Extremely conservative	2	4
Skipped/Refused	1	3
<i>N</i> =	355	1,021

GENDER

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Male	48	48
Female	52	52
<i>N</i> =	355	1,021

AGE

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
18-24	12	12
25-34	20	17
35-44	14	17
45-54	21	19
55-64	14	15
65-74	13	13
75+	7	6
<i>N</i> =	355	1,021

⁴ Question was asked the same in 2015 and 2017.

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
White	64	65
Black or African American	12	12
Hispanic	16	15
Other	8	8
<i>N</i> =	355	1,021

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Less than high school	5	12
High School	34	30
Some college	31	20
Bachelor's degree or higher	29	38
<i>N</i> =	355	1,021

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Married	48	52
Widowed	6	4
Divorced	11	12
Separated	2	1
Never married	24	24
Living with partner	9	7
<i>N</i> =	355	1,021

INCOME

	AP-NORC 8/29-9/8/17	AP-NORC 9/17-10/19/15
Under \$10,000	5	6
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	14	13
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	11	11
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	11	10
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	17	17
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	12	11
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	17	13
\$150,000 or more	4	8
<i>N</i> =	355	1,021

Study Methodology

This study was designed by researchers in the Political Psychology Research Group at Stanford University and at the University of California, Santa Barbara. The research was completed through a collaboration of The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, Stanford University, and the University of California, Santa Barbara. The data were collected by NORC at the University of Chicago using AmeriSpeak®, which is a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households are 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.

The project was funded by the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University and by NORC.

Interviews for this survey were conducted online from September 17 to October 19, 2015, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak®, and 1,021 completed the survey online. Interviews were conducted in English. The final stage completion rate is 32 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 36.6 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 99 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 11.6 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.95 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

A second survey was conducted online from August 29 to September 8, 2017, with adults age 18 and over from the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members who elected to take surveys online were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak®, and 355 completed the survey. Interviews were conducted in English. Panelists who completed the 2015 survey were excluded from sampling. The final stage completion rate is 30.4 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 33.5 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 89.2 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 9.1 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 7.03 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

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 non-coverage or under- and oversampling resulting from the study-specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, Census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables for 2015 were obtained from the 2015 Current Population Survey. Weighting variables for 2017 were obtained from the 2017 Current Population Survey. The weighted data, which reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over, were used for all analyses.

All analyses were conducted using STATA (version 14), which allows for adjustment of standard errors for complex sample designs. When differences between subgroups of the U.S. population are noted in the report, the differences are statistically significant at the 95 percent level, meaning that there is only a 5 percent (or lower) probability that the observed differences could be attributed to chance variation in sampling. A comprehensive listing of all study questions, complete with tabulations of top-level results for each question, is available on The AP-NORC Center website: www.apnorc.org. A full technical report on the survey's findings can be found at <https://pprg.stanford.edu/democratic-representation>.

For more information, please email 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 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.