



The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

New Year, Same Priorities: The Public's Agenda for 2018

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

Interviews: 11/30-12/4/2017

1,444 adults

Margin of error: 3.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

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

Q30. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction or the wrong direction?

	AP-NORC 11/30-- 12/4/2017	AP-NORC 9/28- 10/2/2017	AP-NORC 6/8- 6/11/2017	AP-NORC 3/23- 3/27/2017	AP-NORC 12/14- 12/19/2016	AP-NORC 12/10- 12/13/2015
Right direction	28	24	34	37	42	30
Wrong direction	71	74	65	62	56	69
DON'T KNOW	1	1	2	1	2	1
SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED	1	*	*	*	*	*
N=	1,444	1,150	1,068	1,110	1,017	1,042

Q31. Thinking about the problems facing the United States and the world today, which problems would you like the government to be working on in the year 2018?

Please list up to 5 problems.

[Open-ended question coded. Respondents were able to list up to 5 problems. Reported proportions are among the 92 percent of respondents who provided at least one valid response to the questions. Respondents who did not answer are not included.]

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017	AP-NORC 12/14-19/2016	AP-NORC 12/10-13/2015
Domestic issues (N=1,133)	85	86	83
The economy (N=860)	65	67	67
Foreign policy issues (N=749)	58	56	67
Politics (N=448)	34	26	24
Personal financial issues (N=120)	8	13	12
Other issues (N=162)	12	7	10

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
The economy	
Unemployment/jobs (N=199)	14
Debt/deficit/government spending/budget (N=140)	10
Poverty/hunger/homelessness (N=148)	10
Taxes/tax reform (N=396)	31
Financial/business/Wall St. regulation (N=15)	1
Trade (N=18)	2
Economy, general (N=192)	15
Other economic issues (N=35)	3
Domestic issues	
Health care (all) (N=665)	48
Gun issues (N=92)	7

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LGBT issues (N=20)	1
Environment/climate change (N=249)	18
Education (N=240)	17
Crime/violence (N=84)	7
Morals/values/religion (N=38)	3
Social Security (N=67)	5
Drugs/opioid crisis (N=49)	5
Women's rights/women's health (N=35)	2
Abortion (N=18)	2
Racism/racial inequality/racial issues (N=205)	15
Social injustice/discrimination (N=86)	7
Infrastructure (N=58)	4
Income inequality/concerns about poor and/or middle class (N=84)	6
Welfare issues/entitlement reform (N=52)	4
Helping vulnerable populations (elderly, poor) (N=32)	3
Police brutality/other policing issues (N=56)	4
Veterans' issues (N=20)	2
Energy (N=23)	1
Media concerns (N=19)	1
Sexual harassment/sexual assault (N=17)	1
Net neutrality (N=22)	1
Other domestic issues (N=98)	7
Foreign policy issues	
Terrorism (all) (N=156)	14
War/Iraq/Afghanistan/military issues (N=101)	8
Immigration/border wall/DACA (N=358)	27
"Foreign Policy"/U.S. involvement overseas/aggression/general mentions of other countries (N=109)	8
National security/defense (N=68)	5
World peace (N=42)	3
Cybersecurity/hacking (N=5)	1
North Korea (N=124)	10
Other foreign issues (N=58)	4
Personal financial issues	
Personal financial situation/cost of living for Americans (N=15)	1
Minimum wage/wages (N=53)	4
Housing costs (foreclosure/housing prices/upside down in mortgage) (N=27)	2
Gas prices/oil/energy costs (N=8)	1
Other personal financial issues (N=29)	2
Politics	
Bipartisanship vs. gridlock/shutdown (N=28)	2
Specific parties/politicians/Congress (N=33)	2
Government corruption/fraud (N=53)	4

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Special interest money in politics/lobbying/campaign finance reform (N=27)	2
Government accountability/transparency (N=7)	1
Smaller government/get gov't out of our lives/less regulation (N=25)	2
Uphold Constitution/protect freedoms/protect free speech (N=22)	1
Need effective leadership /"do nothing" leaders/Congress (N=9)	1
Term limits (N=19)	2
Voting laws/voter fraud/voting issues (N=10)	1
Trump (N=199)	15
Division/unity (N=40)	3
Political extremists (N=10)	1
Other political issues (N=97)	7
Other issues (N=162)	12

If at least one response given in Q31

Q32. For each of these problems that you mentioned, how much effort would you like the federal government to devote to solving this problem in the year 2018?

	No effort/ only a little effort NET	No effort at all	Only a little effort	A moderate amount of effort	A lot of effort/ great deal of effort NET	A lot of effort	A great deal of effort	DK/REF
AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017								
The economy								
Unemployment/jobs (N=199)	9	5	4	14	77	24	52	1
Debt/deficit/government spending/budget (N=140)	4	4	-	6	90	33	58	-
Poverty/hunger/homelessness (N=148)	6	2	4	10	84	35	49	-
Taxes/tax reform (N=396)	2	1	1	11	86	31	55	*
Financial/business/Wall St. regulation (N=15)	-	-	-	4	96	48	48	-
Trade (N=18)	12	-	12	49	38	16	23	-
Economy, general (N=192)	2	1	1	9	88	39	49	1
Other economic issues (N=35)	6	3	3	13	81	34	47	-
Domestic issues								
Health care (all) (N=665)	2	1	1	10	87	25	62	-
Gun issues (N=92)	6	2	4	11	82	24	58	-
LGBT issues (N=20)	2	2	-	12	86	32	55	-
Environment/climate change (N=249)	1	1	*	6	93	24	69	-

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Education (N=240)	5	2	3	11	84	26	59	-
Crime/violence (N=84)	7	3	5	8	85	26	59	-
Morals/values/religion (N=38)	21	11	11	16	63	18	44	-
Social Security (N=67)	3	-	3	24	73	14	60	-
Drugs/opioid crisis (N=49)	9	-	9	21	70	19	51	-
Women's rights/women's health (N=35)	1	-	1	3	96	35	61	-
Abortion (N=18)	14	14	-	-	74	5	69	11
Racism/racial inequality/racial issues (N=205)	6	3	3	11	83	19	64	-
Social injustice/discrimination (N=86)	1	1	-	13	86	31	55	-
Infrastructure (N=58)	-	-	-	15	85	25	60	-
Income inequality/concerns about poor and/or middle class (N=84)	1	1	-	24	76	17	59	-
Welfare issues/entitlement reform (N=52)	-	-	-	12	88	21	67	-
Helping vulnerable populations (elderly, poor) (N=32)	2	*	2	1	97	29	68	-
Police brutality/other policing issues (N=56)	2	2	-	6	92	13	79	-
Veterans' issues (N=20)	-	-	-	5	95	31	63	-
Energy (N=23)	-	-	-	33	61	19	42	5
Media concerns (N=19)	6	4	1	18	76	50	27	-
Sexual harassment/sexual assault (N=17)	-	-	-	23	77	14	63	-
Net neutrality (N=22)	2	-	2	31	67	29	39	-
Other domestic issues (N=98)	5	3	2	22	73	23	50	-
Foreign policy issues								
Terrorism (all) (N=156)	2	1	1	15	83	26	58	-
War/Iraq/Afghanistan/military issues (N=101)	6	5	1	15	78	18	60	1
Middle East, general (N=4)	-	-	-	-	100	25	75	-
Immigration/border wall/DACA (N=358)	6	2	4	14	80	24	56	*
"Foreign Policy"/U.S. involvement overseas/aggression/general mentions of other countries (N=109)	1	1	*	10	89	37	52	-
National security/defense (N=68)	2	2	-	5	93	43	50	-
World peace (N=42)	-	-	-	8	92	26	66	-
Cybersecurity/hacking (N=5)	25	25	-	58	18	-	18	-
North Korea (N=124)	2	1	1	8	89	19	70	1
Other foreign issues (N=58)	13	9	5	3	84	32	52	-
Personal financial issues								

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Personal financial situation/cost of living for Americans (N=15)	4	4	-	-	96	25	72	-
Minimum wage/wages (N=53)	9	6	3	13	78	22	56	-
Housing costs (foreclosure/housing prices/upside down in mortgage) (N=27)	-	-	-	9	91	7	84	-
Gas prices/oil/energy costs (N=8)	17	-	17	3	75	32	44	5
Other personal financial issues (N=29)	13	11	2	21	66	21	44	-
Politics								
Bipartisanship vs. gridlock/shutdown (N=28)	5	5	-	5	91	31	60	-
Specific parties/politicians/Congress (N=33)	9	9	-	3	88	3	86	-
Government corruption/fraud (N=53)	1	1	1	3	95	16	79	-
Special interest money in politics/lobbying/campaign finance reform (N=27)	3	3	-	-	97	21	76	-
Government accountability/transparency (N=7)	-	-	-	-	100	-	100	-
Smaller government/get gov't out of our lives/less regulation (N=25)	-	-	-	10	90	45	45	-
Uphold Constitution/protect freedoms/protect free speech (N=22)	22	7	15	7	71	32	39	-
Need effective leadership /"do nothing" leaders/Congress (N=9)	11	-	11	18	71	17	54	-
Term limits (N=19)	-	-	-	-	100	10	90	-
Voting laws/voter fraud/voting issues (N=10)	2	-	2	-	98	-	98	-
Trump (N=199)	6	4	2	5	88	5	83	-
Division/unity (N=40)	4	2	2	8	88	31	56	-
Political extremists (N=10)	2	-	2	7	91	21	70	-
Other political issues (N=97)	5	2	3	13	81	21	61	-
Other issues (N=162)	10	6	4	14	75	29	46	-

If at least one response given in Q31

Q33. How confident are you in the ability of the federal government to make progress on this problem in 2018?

[ASKED FOR EACH VERBATIM RESPONSE IN Q2]

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AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017	Not at all/ slightly confident NET	Not at all confident	Slightly confident	Moderately confident	Very/ extremely confident	Very confident	Extremely confident	DK/ REF
The economy								
Unemployment/ jobs (N=199)	62	31	31	21	16	13	3	1
Debt/deficit/ government spending/budget (N=140)	76	51	25	14	10	8	2	-
Poverty/hunger/ homelessness (N=148)	69	41	28	23	8	7	1	-
Taxes/tax reform (N=396)	63	39	25	23	14	10	3	-
Financial/business/ Wall St. regulation (N=15)	68	52	16	29	3	3	-	-
Trade (N=18)	46	37	9	47	8	8	-	-
Economy, general (N=192)	54	24	30	30	17	14	2	*
Other economic issues (N=35)	52	43	9	24	25	12	12	-
Domestic issues								
Health care (all) (N=665)	72	49	24	21	6	4	2	-
Gun issues (N=92)	80	58	22	16	4	3	*	*
LGBT issues (N=20)	74	68	6	26	-	-	-	-
Environment/ climate change (N=249)	87	66	20	11	3	3	*	-
Education (N=240)	73	49	25	18	8	4	3	*
Crime/violence (N=84)	69	37	31	26	6	6	-	-
Morals/values/ religion (N=38)	89	59	30	10	1	-	1	-
Social Security (N=67)	74	44	29	14	11	8	3	1
Drugs/opioid crisis (N=49)	71	32	39	24	5	5	-	-
Women's rights/women's health (N=35)	79	48	31	15	6	6	-	-
Abortion (N=18)	77	50	26	23	-	-	-	-

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Racism/racial inequality/racial issues (N=205)	83	59	24	11	5	3	2	-
Social injustice/discrimination (N=86)	74	56	17	25	1	1	1	-
Infrastructure (N=58)	75	33	43	22	3	2	1	-
Income inequality/concerns about poor and/or middle class (N=84)	94	81	13	5	1	1	-	-
Welfare issues/entitlement reform (N=52)	69	46	23	20	10	4	7	1
Helping vulnerable populations (elderly, poor) (N=32)	76	32	44	19	5	5	-	-
Police brutality/other policing issues (N=56)	75	49	26	15	10	10	-	-
Veterans' issues (N=20)	52	21	30	6	30	13	17	13
Energy (N=23)	84	50	34	5	11	2	9	-
Media concerns (N=19)	63	23	40	27	10	10	-	-
Sexual harassment/sexual assault (N=17)	66	42	24	26	7	4	4	-
Net neutrality (N=22)	78	60	18	14	7	2	6	-
Other domestic issues (N=98)	74	54	19	19	7	5	1	*
Foreign policy issues								
Terrorism (all) (N=156)	46	15	31	29	25	21	5	-
War/Iraq/Afghanistan/military issues (N=101)	62	31	31	25	14	11	2	-
Immigration/border wall/DACA (N=358)	60	34	26	22	18	12	6	-

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"Foreign Policy"/U.S. involvement overseas/aggression/general mentions of other countries (N=109)	73	49	24	21	5	4	1	-
National security/defense (N=68)	46	12	35	21	33	26	7	-
World peace (N=42)	61	41	20	18	22	16	6	-
Cybersecurity/hacking (N=5)	96	32	64	-	4	4	-	-
North Korea (N=124)	52	17	35	27	20	15	5	2
Other foreign issues (N=58)	71	47	25	20	9	4	4	-
Personal financial issues								
Personal financial situation/cost of living for Americans (N=15)	78	78	-	19	3	3	-	-
Minimum wage/wages (N=53)	71	32	39	22	7	5	2	-
Housing costs (foreclosure/housing prices/upside down in mortgage) (N=27)	74	45	29	24	3	-	3	-
Gas prices/oil/energy costs (N=8)	67	2	65	33	-	-	-	-
Other personal financial issues (N=29)	67	38	28	27	6	6	-	-
Politics								
Bipartisanship vs. gridlock/shutdown (N=28)	89	78	10	7	4	4	-	-
Specific parties/politicians/Congress (N=33)	85	60	25	11	4	3	1	-

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Government corruption/fraud (N=53)	86	70	17	10	3	3	-	-
Special interest money in politics/lobbying/campaign finance reform (N=27)	100	96	4	-	-	-	-	-
Government accountability/transparency (N=7)	89	66	22	11	-	-	-	-
Smaller government/get gov't out of our lives/less regulation (N=25)	59	33	26	7	34	32	2	-
Uphold Constitution/protect freedoms/protect free speech (N=22)	61	27	34	27	12	1	11	-
Need effective leadership /"do nothing" leaders/Congress (N=9)	90	80	10	10	-	-	-	-
Term limits (N=19)	100	90	10	-	-	-	-	-
Voting laws/voter fraud/voting issues (N=10)	90	76	14	10	-	-	-	-
Trump (N=199)	80	65	15	13	7	4	2	-
Division/unity (N=40)	82	66	16	11	4	4	3	-
Political extremists (N=10)	100	98	2	-	-	-	-	-
Other political issues (N=97)	79	53	26	13	8	4	5	-
Other issues (N=162)	69	47	21	20	9	6	3	2

Q34. In general, do you think America's best days are:

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017	AP-NORC 6/23-27/2016
Ahead of us	43	46
Behind us	55	52
DON'T KNOW	1	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1	1
<i>N=</i>	1,444	1,008

Q35. Which comes closest to your feelings about each of the following?

AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017	Very/ somewhat optimistic NET	Very optimistic	Somewhat optimistic	Neither optimistic nor pessimistic	Somewhat/ very pessimistic	Somewhat pessimistic	Very pessimistic	DK/ REF
The way things are going in your local community	49	10	39	28	21	14	7	1
The way things are going in your own state	37	8	28	29	33	20	13	1
America's role as a global leader in the world	29	7	22	22	47	25	22	2
The way our leaders are chosen under our political system	27	8	19	25	47	23	23	2
Our system of government and how well it works	27	6	21	24	48	27	21	1
The way things are going in the United States	24	5	19	20	54	30	24	2
The state of politics in this country	16	3	13	18	64	26	39	2

N 1,444

Q37. Do you think Donald Trump has...

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Kept the promises he made while running for president	23
Tried but failed to keep his promises	30
Not kept his promises	45
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	2

N=

1,444

Q38. Overall, would you say that you and your family are better off or worse off than you were when Donald Trump became president in January, or has there not been much difference?

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Much better off/somewhat better off NET	20
Much better off	8
Somewhat better off	13
Not much difference	46
Somewhat worse off/much worse off NET	33
Somewhat worse off	19
Much worse off	14
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,444

Q39. Overall, would you say that the country as a whole are better off or worse off than you were when Donald Trump became president in January, or has there not been much difference?

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Much better off/somewhat better off NET	25
Much better off	9
Somewhat better off	16
Not much difference	21
Somewhat worse off/much worse off NET	52
Somewhat worse off	19
Much worse off	33
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,444

Q40. Do you think Donald Trump's presidency has made the country more united, more divided, or neither more united nor more divided?

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Much more/somewhat more united NET	9
Much more united	2
Somewhat more united	7
Neither more united nor more divided	23
Somewhat more/much more divided NET	67
Somewhat more divided	21
Much more divided	47
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,444

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

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Democrat	31
Republican	23
Independent	27
None of these	19
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,444

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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?

POLITICS. Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDa, and PIDb.

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Democrat NET	45
Strong Democrat	12
Moderate Democrat	19
Lean Democrat	14
Independent/None – Don't lean	20
Republican NET	34
Lean Republican	12
Moderate Republican	16
Strong Republican	7
Unknown	1

N=

1,444

D5. Which one of the following best describes where you live?

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Urban area	28
Suburban area	48
Rural area	23
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1

N=

1,444

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AGE

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
18-24	12
25-34	19
35-44	14
45-54	16
55-64	18
65-74	13
75+	7

N= 1,444

GENDER

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Male	48
Female	52

N= 1,444

RACE/ETHNICITY

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8

N= 1,444

MARITAL STATUS

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Married	50
Widowed	7
Divorced	11
Separated	1
Never married	23
Living with partner	7

N= 1,444

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Employed	54
Not employed	46
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,444</i>

EDUCATION

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	29
College graduate or above	32
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,444</i>

INCOME

	AP-NORC 11/30-12/4/2017
Under \$10,000	7
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	14
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	9
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	18
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	12
\$150,000 or more	8
<i>N=</i>	<i>1,444</i>

AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research Poll

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 AmeriSpeak Omnibus®, a monthly multi-client survey using NORC at the University of Chicago'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 percent 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 November 30 and December 4, 2017, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. All interviews were conducted in English by professional interviewers who were carefully trained on the specific survey for this study. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,444 completed the survey—1,286 via the web and 158 via telephone. The final stage completion rate is 24.5 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 33.7 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 88.8 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 7.3 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 3.7 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 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.

For more information, 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.

NEW YEAR, SAME PRIORITIES: THE PUBLIC'S AGENDA FOR 2018

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.