

—The—
Cook POLITICAL ★ REPORT

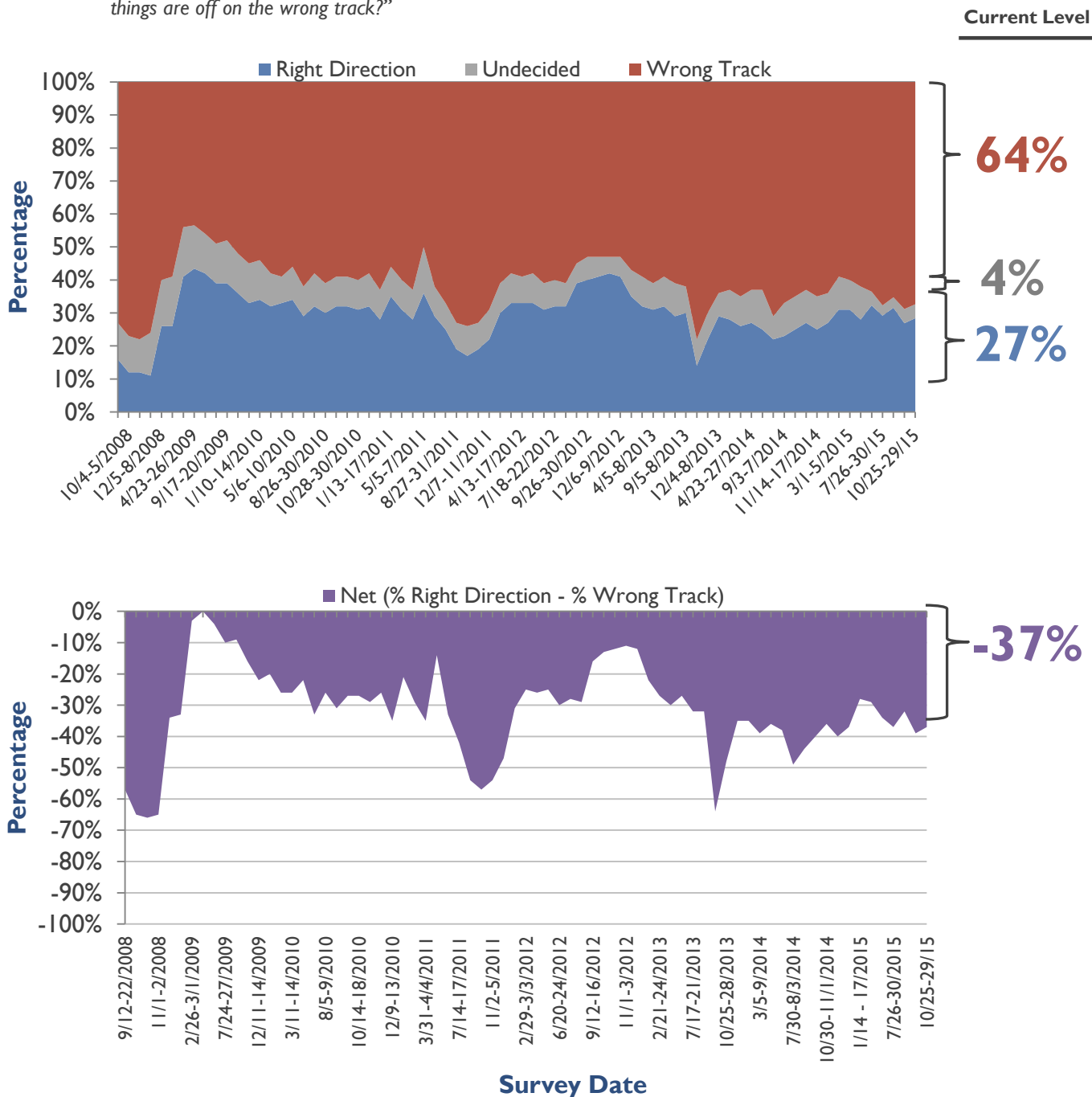
The 2015 Political Environment

November 17, 2015

1. Direction of the Country

NBC News/Wall Street Journal: Right Direction/Wrong Track Polling

“All in all, do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel things are off on the wrong track?”

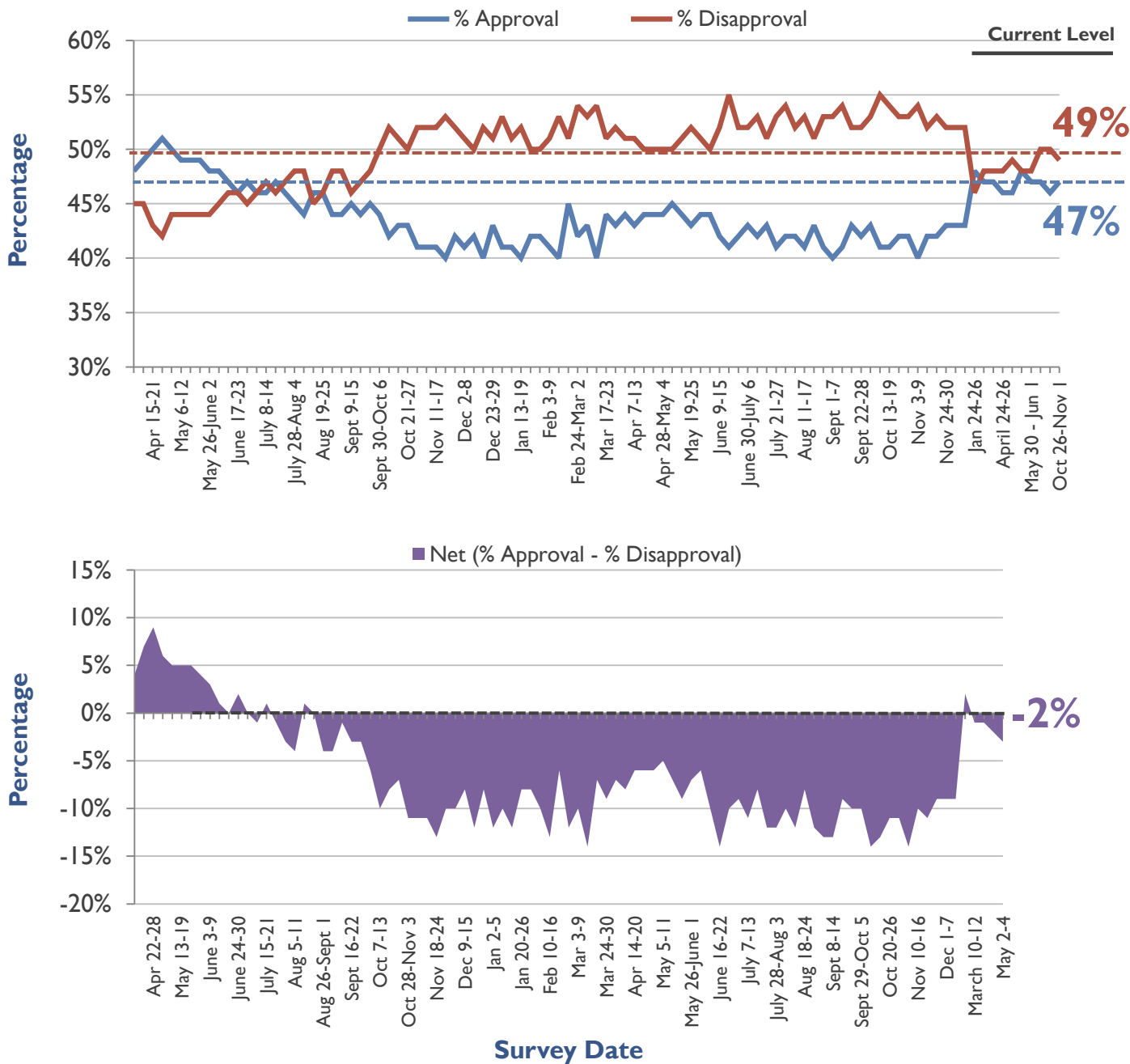


NBC News/Wall St. Journal Poll, October 15-16 2015

2. Presidential Job Approval: Gallup Polling

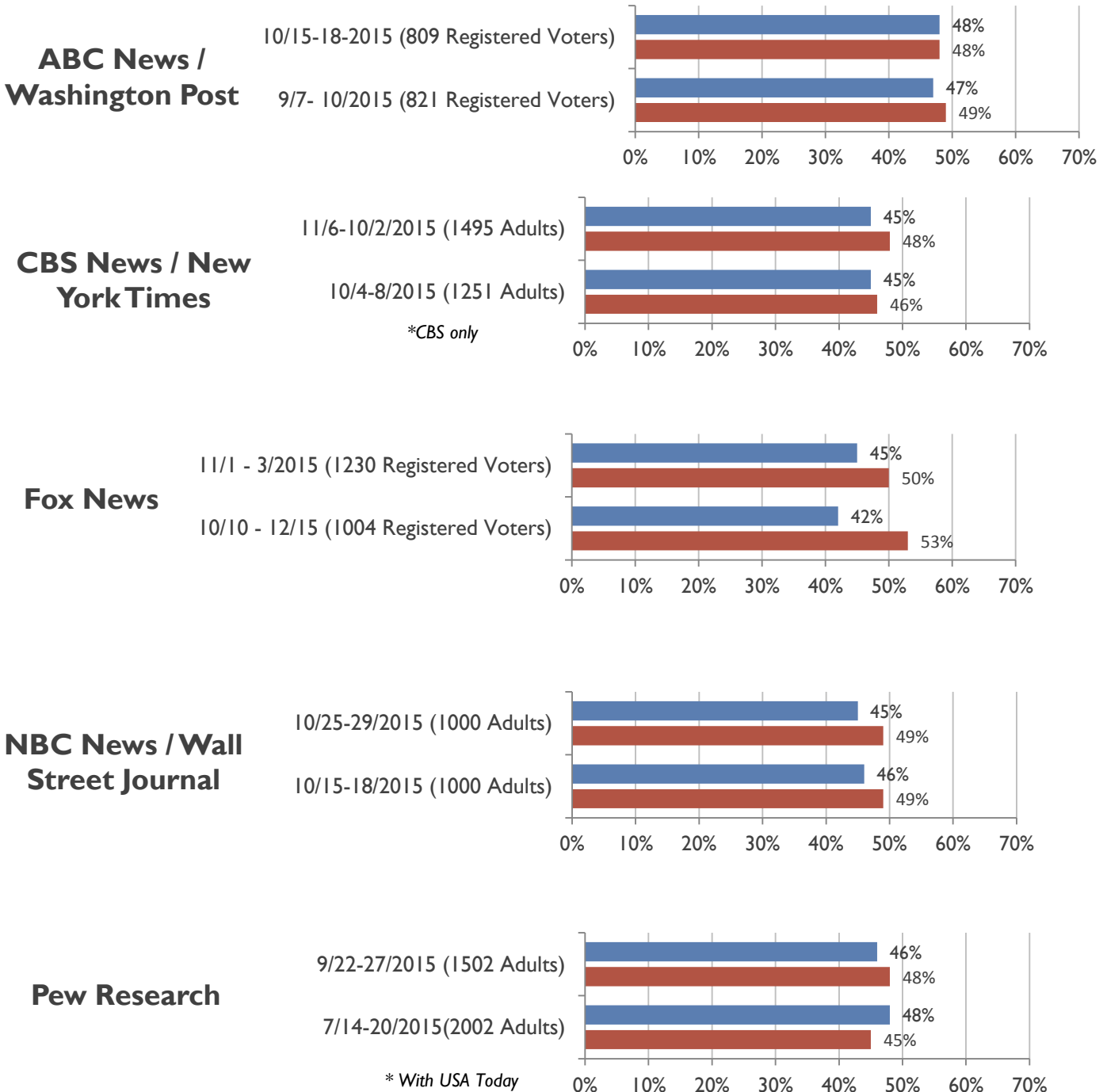
Gallup Weekly Presidential Job Approval Ratings: 2013 through 2015 YTD

“Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?”



Gallup Presidential Approval Center, June 1, 2015

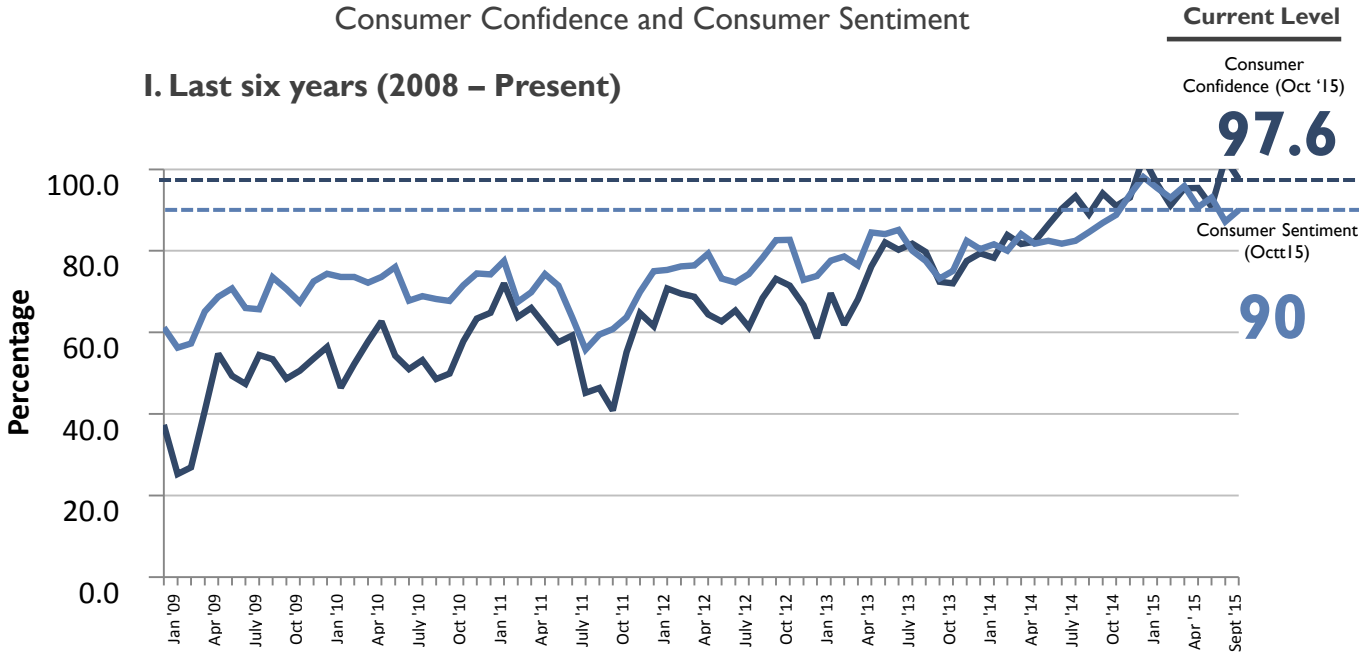
2. Presidential Job Approval: Other Polls to Watch



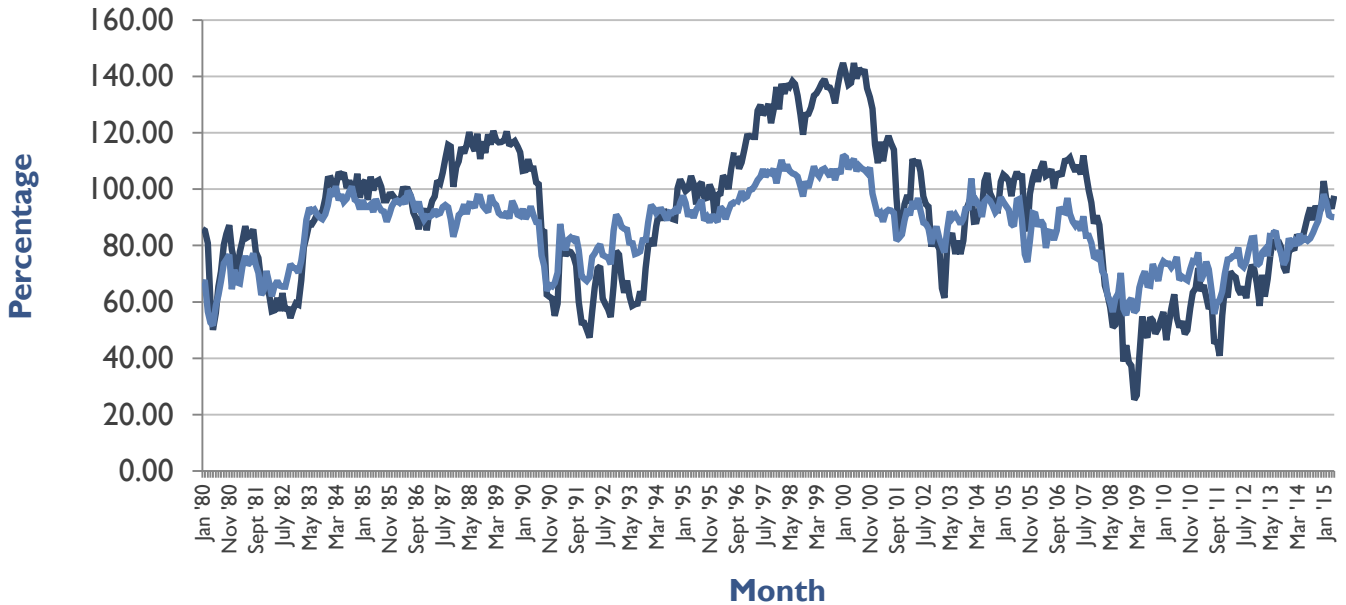
3. The Economy: Consumer Confidence

Consumer Confidence and Consumer Sentiment

I. Last six years (2008 – Present)



II. 1980 – Present

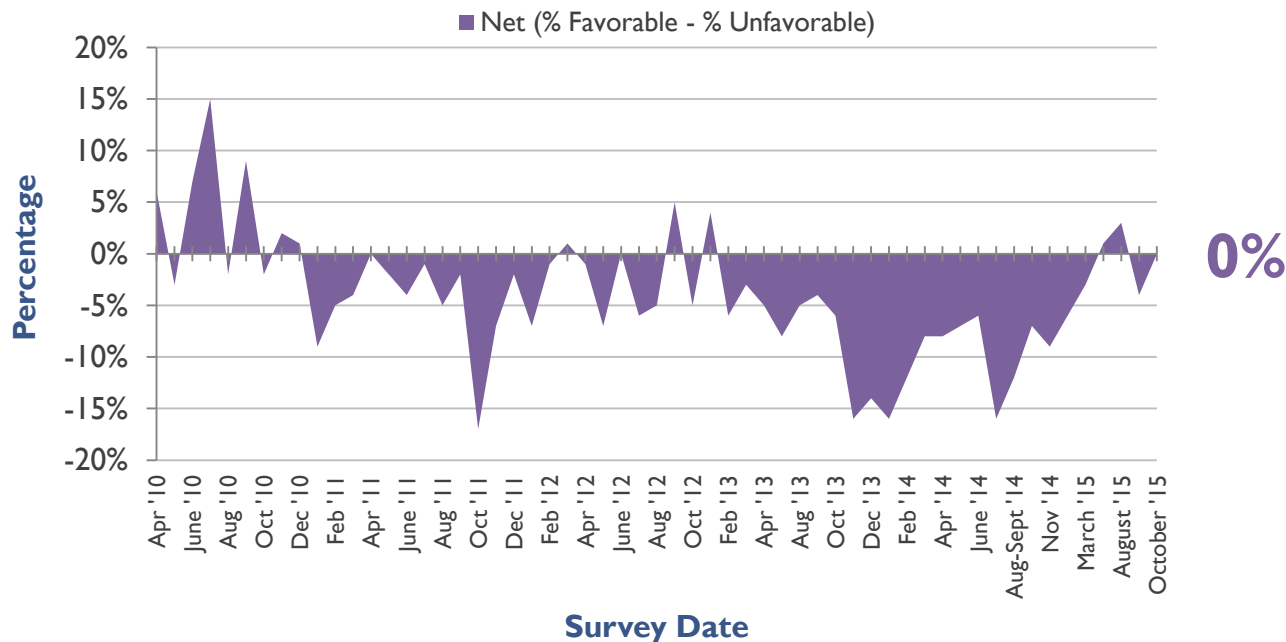
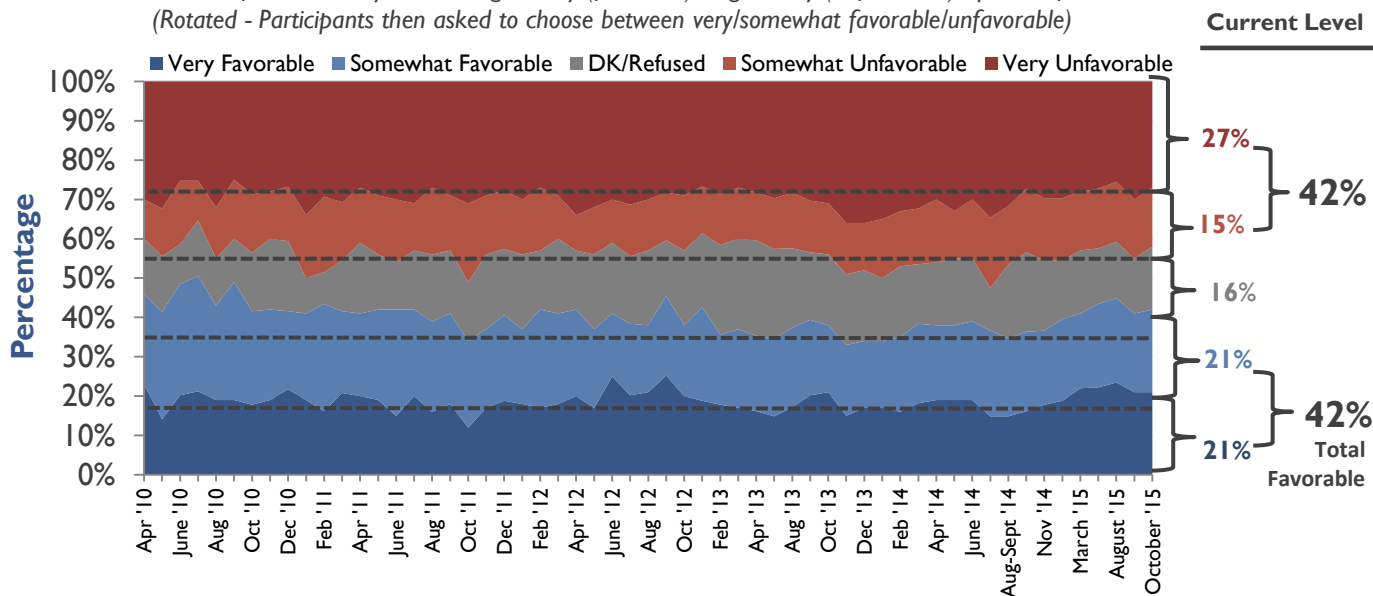


Source: Conference Board, July 2015; Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan Surveys of Consumers Oct 2015

4. Obamacare: Tracking Public Attitudes

The Kaiser Family Foundation Health Tracking Poll

“As you may know, a health reform bill was signed into law in 2010. Given what you know about the health reform law, do you have a generally (favorable) or generally (unfavorable) opinion of it?”
(Rotated - Participants then asked to choose between very/somewhat favorable/unfavorable)

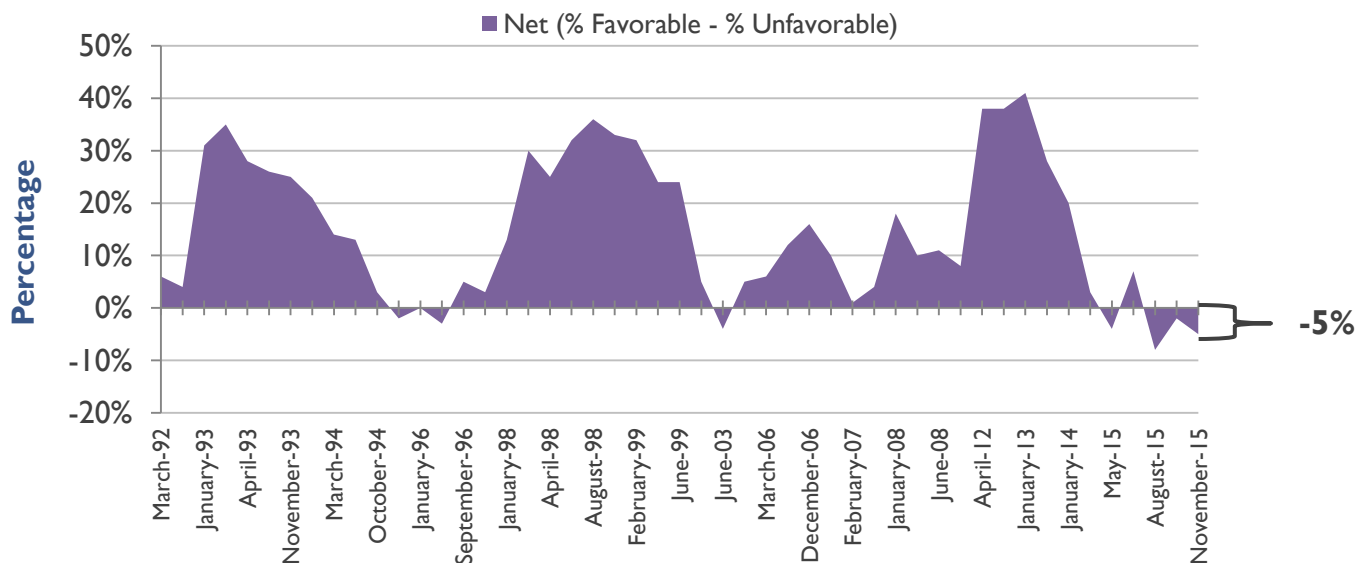
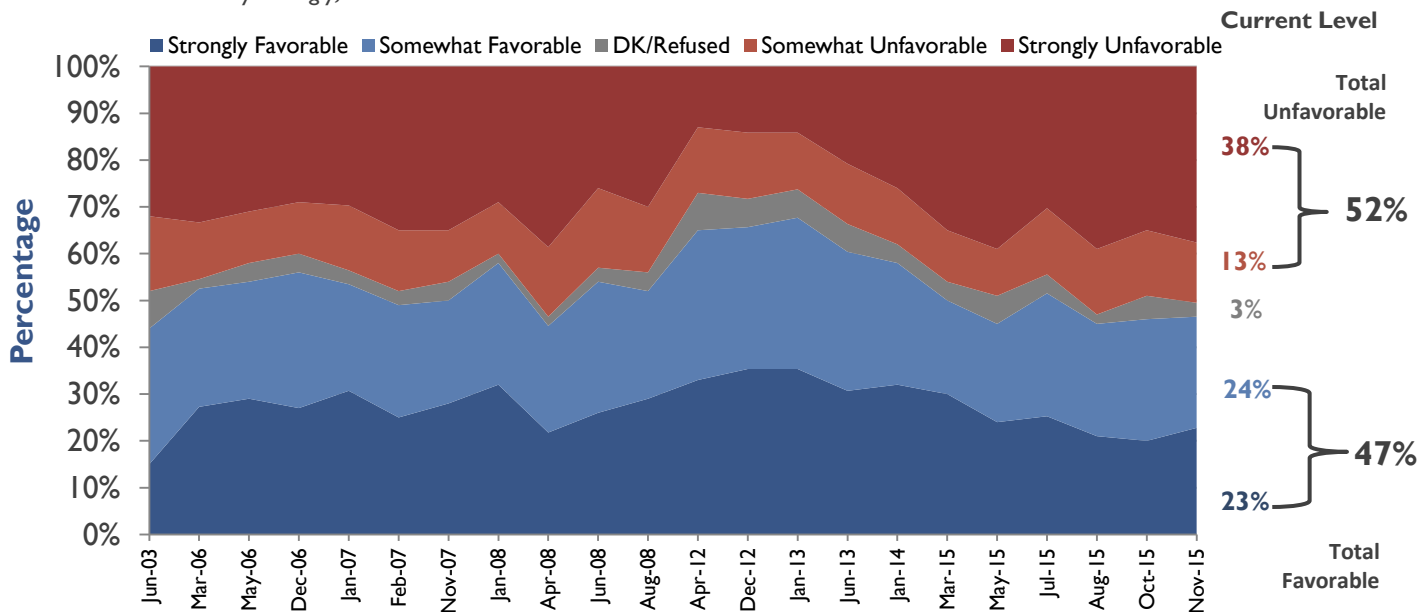


Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Kaiser Health Tracking Poll, October 14-20, 2015, Sample: 1506 Adults

5. Hillary Clinton Favorable/Unfavorable Polling

ABC News/Washington Post Poll

Overall, do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of Hillary Clinton? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?



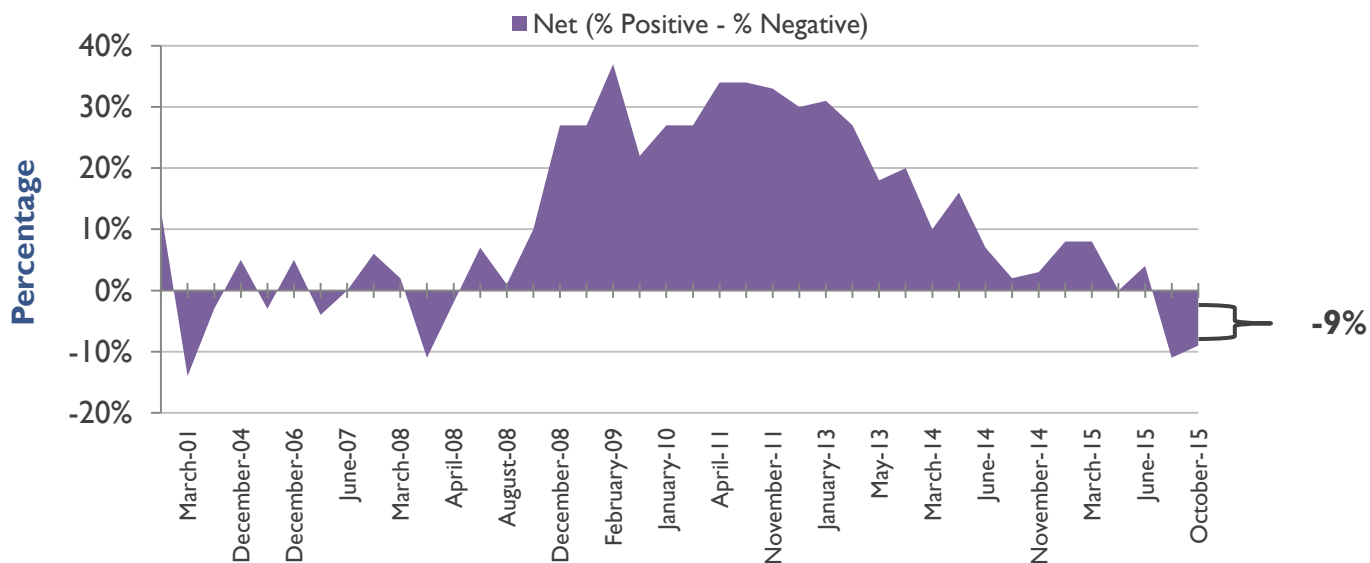
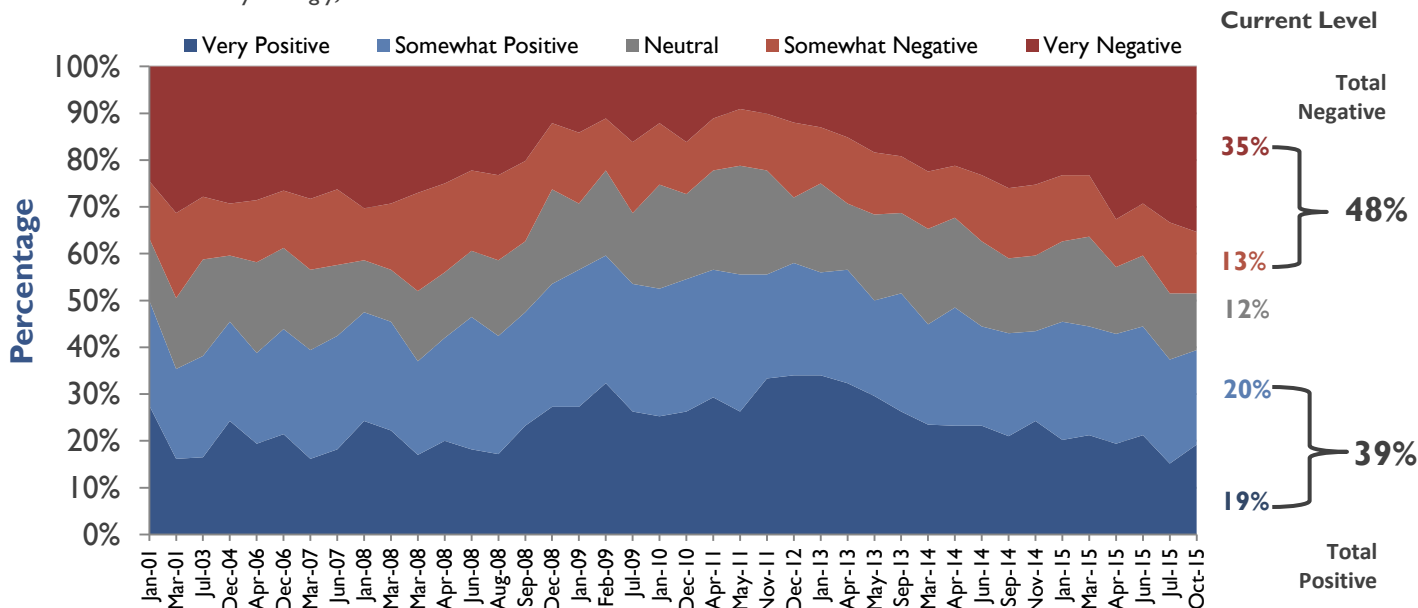
(Note irregular intervals)

ABC News/Washington Post Poll, September 2, 2015

5. Hillary Clinton Positive/Negative Polling

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Poll

Overall, do you have a positive or negative impression of Hillary Clinton? Do you feel that way strongly, or somewhat?



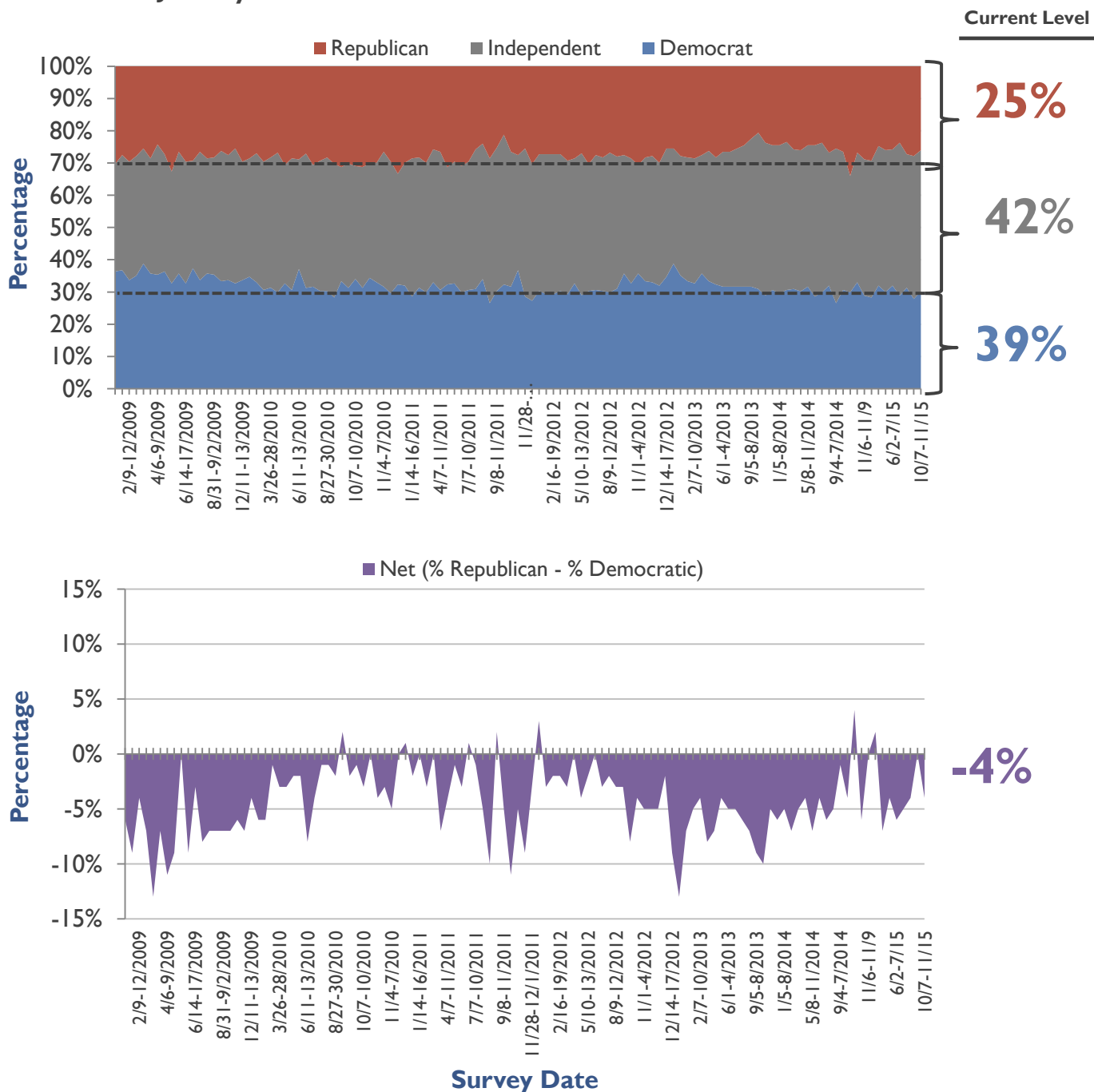
(Note irregular intervals)

NBC News/Wall Street Journal Survey October 15-16, 2015

6. Party Identification

Gallup Polling: Party Affiliation

I. January 2009 – Present

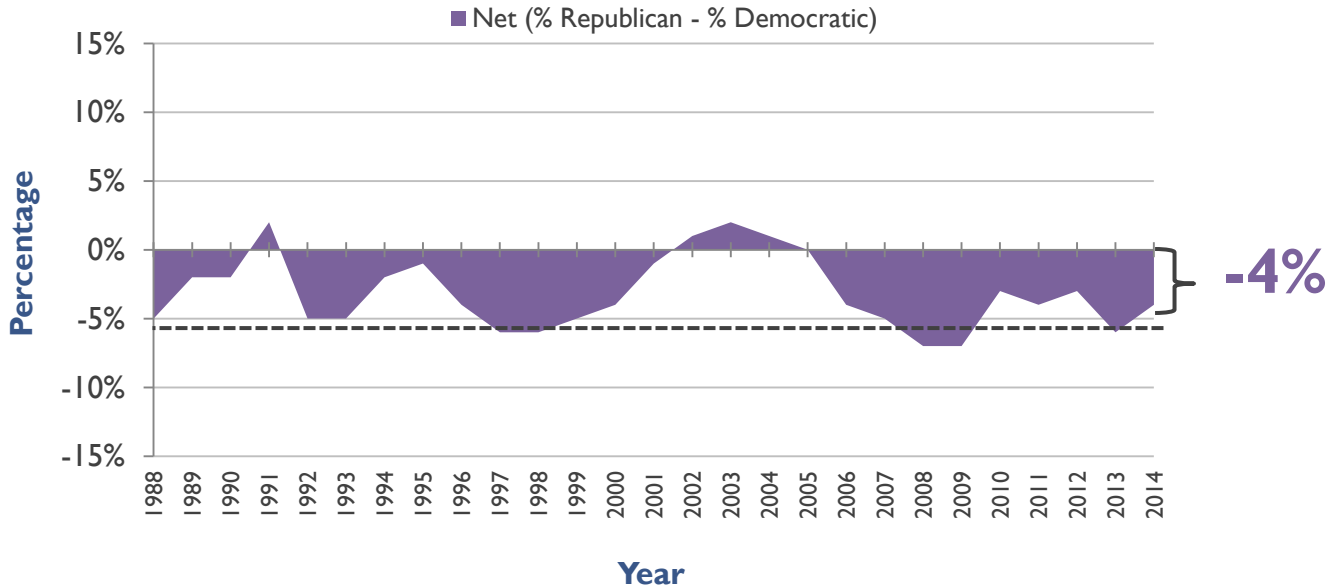
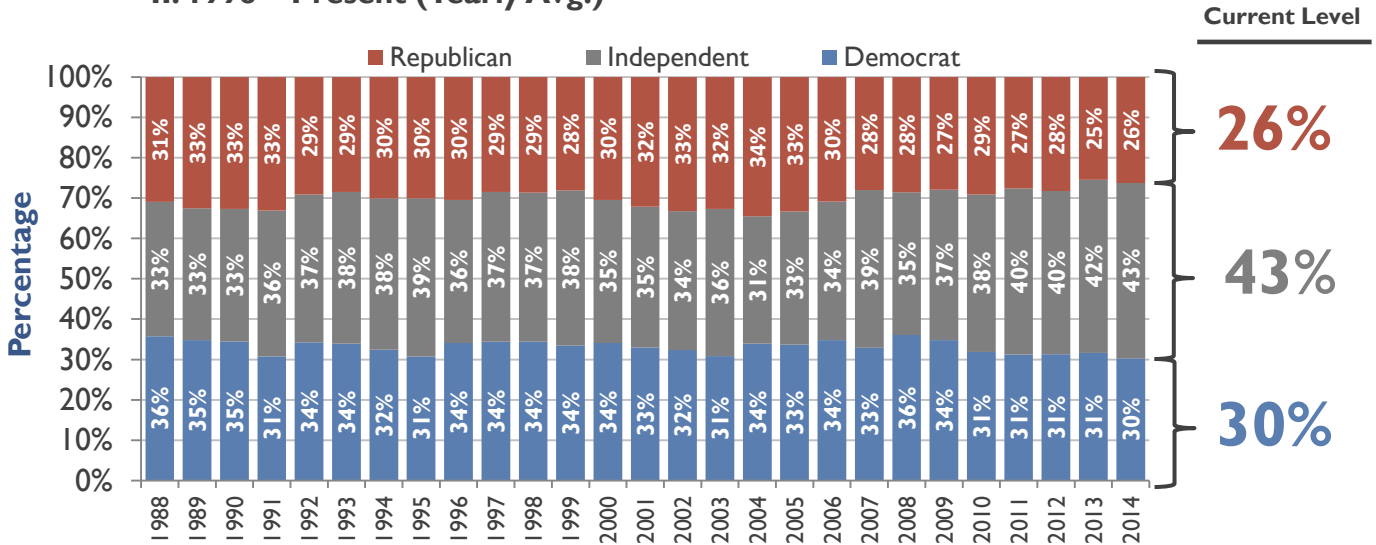


Source: Gallup Organization, January 5-10, 2015

6. Party Identification (cont'd)

Gallup Polling: Party Affiliation

II. 1998 – Present (Yearly Avg.)



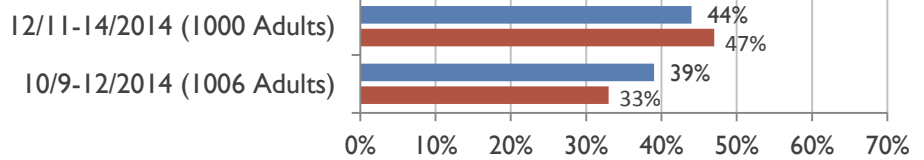
Source: Gallup Organization, January 8, 2015

6. Party Favorable/Unfavorable Ratings

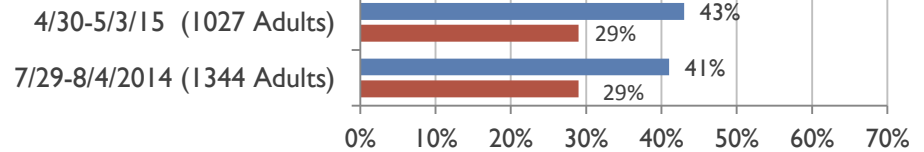
Favorable Ratings

■ Democratic % Favorable ■ Republican % Favorable

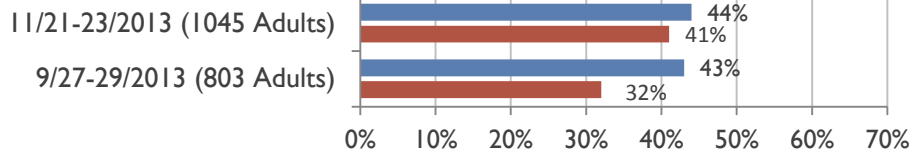
**ABC News /
Washington Post**



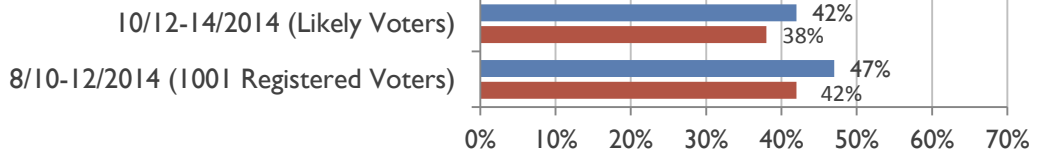
**CBS News / New
York Times**



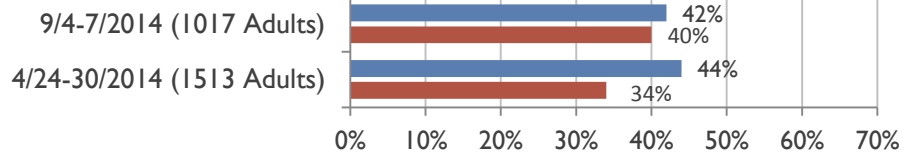
CNN / ORC



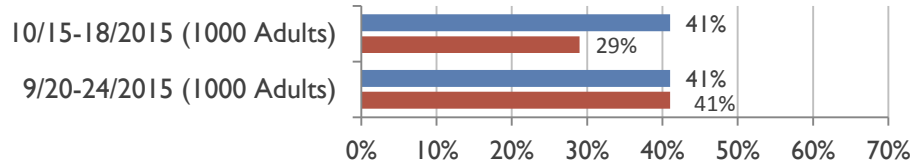
Fox News



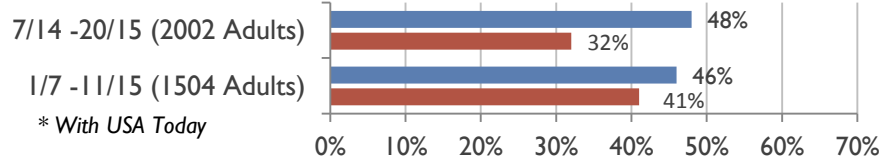
Gallup



**NBC News / Wall
Street Journal***



Pew Research



* With USA Today

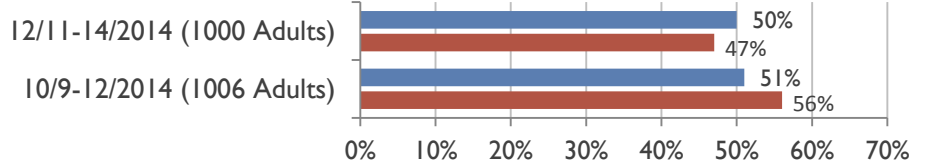
* NBC/WSJ data reflects combined "positive" and "negative" ratings for each party

6. Party Favorable/Unfavorable Ratings (cont'd)

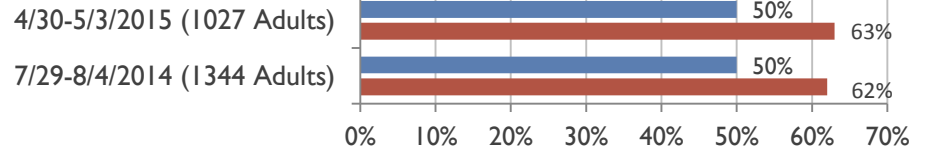
Unfavorable Ratings

■ Democratic % Unfavorable ■ Republican % Unfavorable

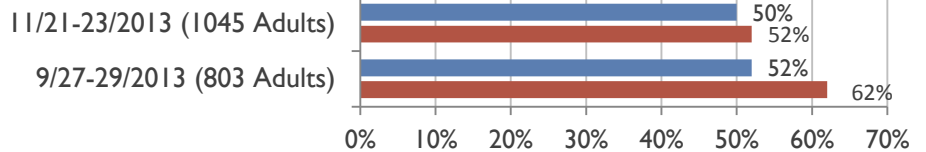
**ABC News /
Washington Post**



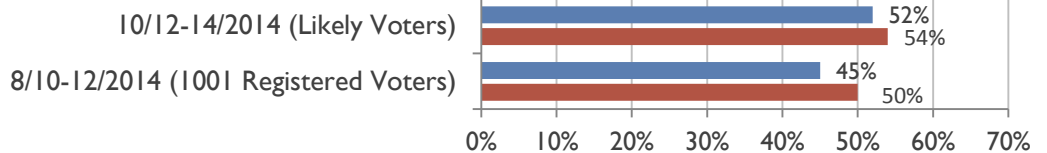
**CBS News / New
York Times**



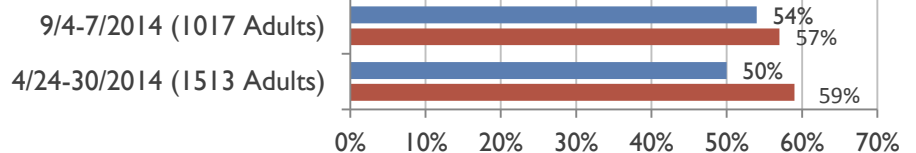
CNN / ORC



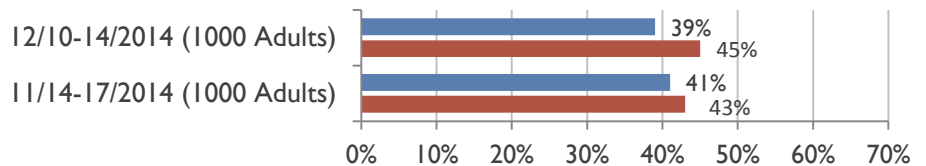
Fox News



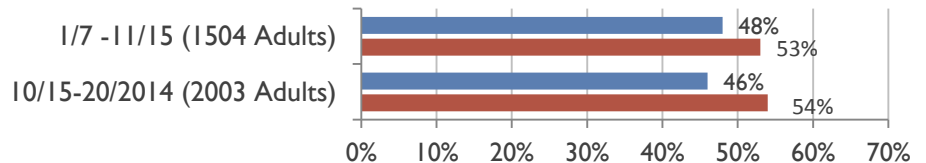
Gallup



**NBC News / Wall
Street Journal***



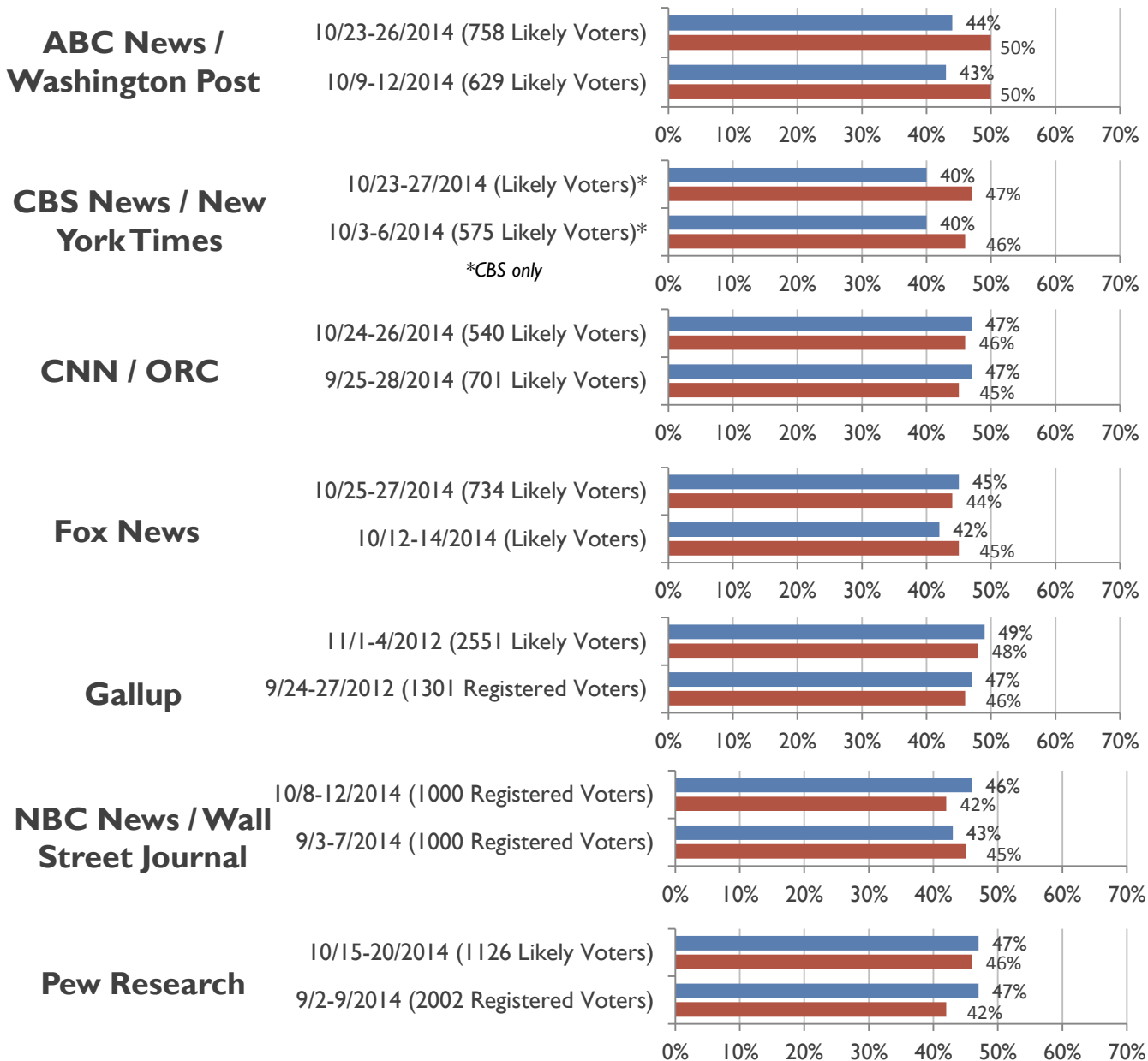
Pew Research



* NBC/WSJ data reflects combined "positive" and "negative" ratings for each party

7. Democrats vs. Republicans: The Generic Ballot

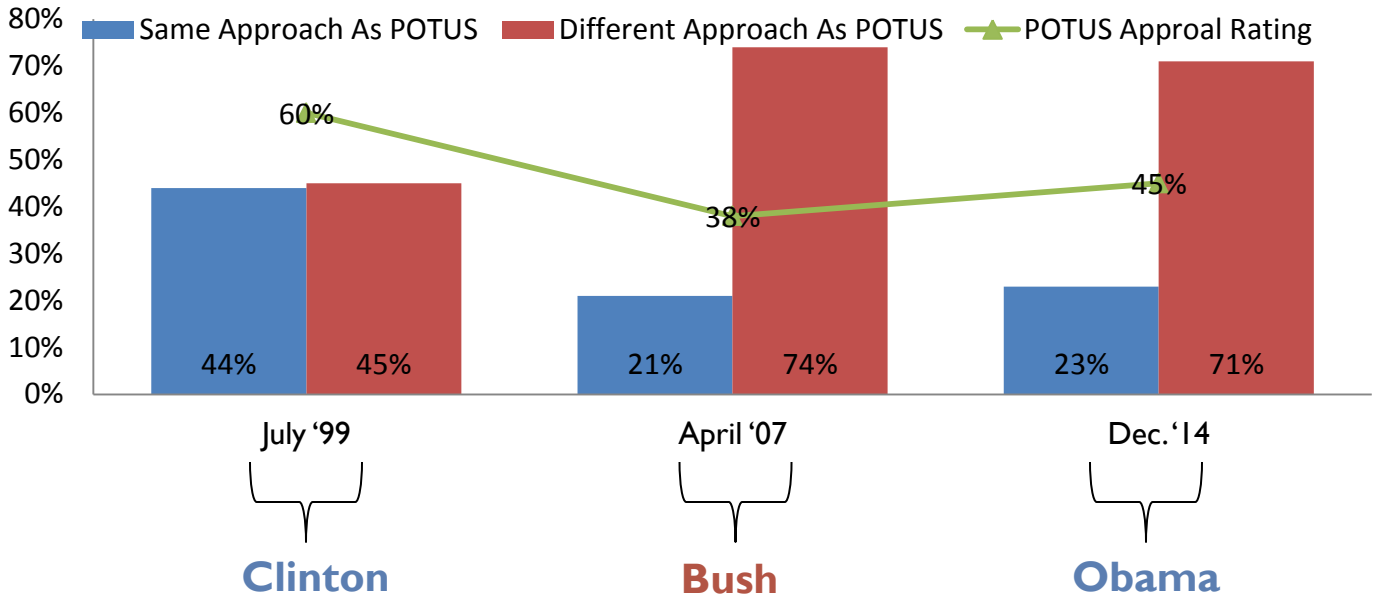
■ % Democrat ■ % Republican



8. Change vs. Status Quo

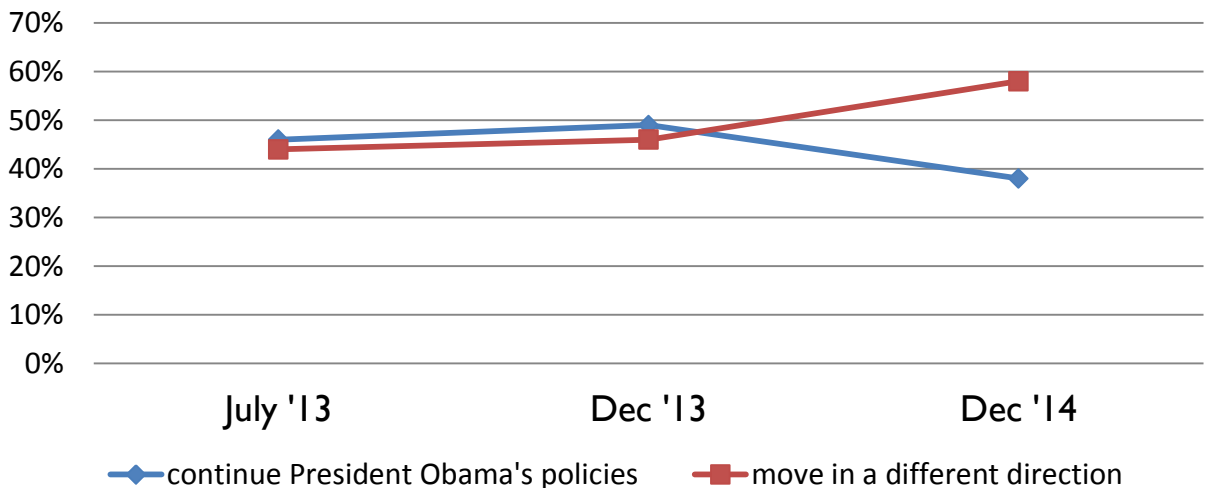
NBC News/Wall Street Journal: Right Direction/Wrong Track Polling

Do you think that the next president should take an approach similar to that of POTUS, or should the next president take a different approach than POTUS



No Democrat has succeeded a 2-term Democratic president. And, George H.W. Bush's win in 1988 was the first time since 1904 that a Republican had succeeded a 2-term Republican

It's more important to have a Democratic nominee for president who will continue President Obama's policies OR a Democratic nominee for president who will move in a different direction?



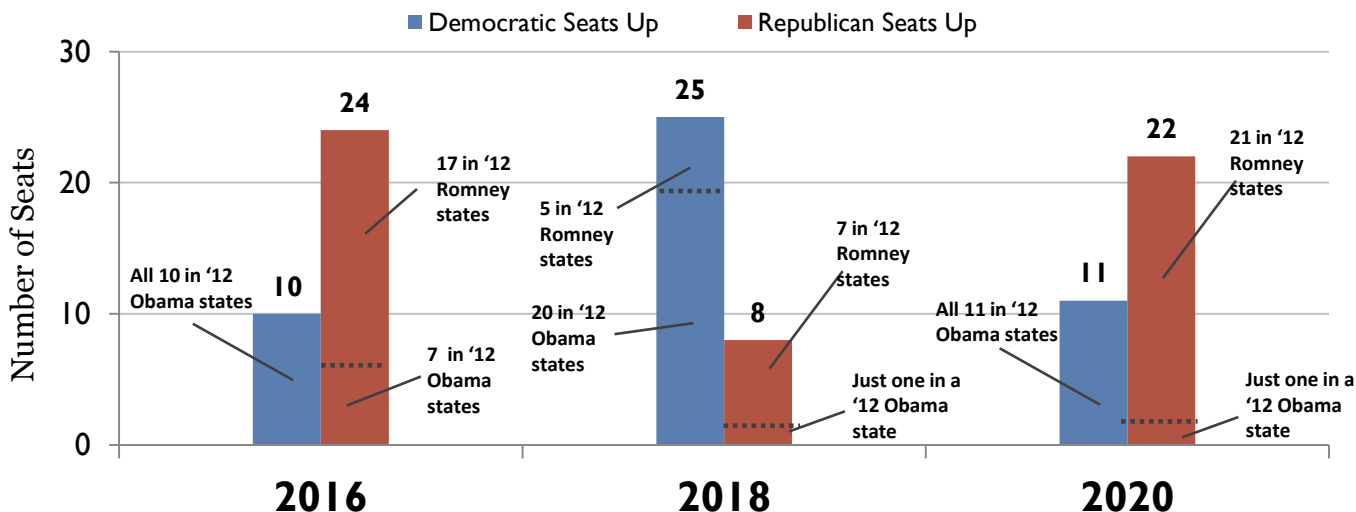
NBC News/Wall St. Journal Poll, 12/10 – 14/14, McClatchy-Marist Poll 12/16/14

A Look Ahead: Senate Seat Exposure, 2016-2020

2016 Senate Races, by 2012 Obama vs. Romney Performance

Obama +15 or Greater	Obama +5 to +14.9	Obama +4.9 to Romney +4.9	Romney +5 to +14.9	Romney +15 or Greater
DEMOCRATS (10)				
Boxer (CA) +23 Blumenthal (CT) +17 Schatz (HI) +43 Mikulski (MD) +26 Schumer (NY) +28 Leahy (VT) +36 Murray (WA) +15	Bennet (CO) +5 Reid (NV) +6 Wyden (OR) +12			
REPUBLICANS (24)				
Kirk (IL) +17	Grassley (IA) +6 Ayotte (NH) +6 Toomey (PA) D+5 Johnson (WI) +7	Rubio (FL) D+1 Burr (NC) R+2 Portman (OH) D+3	Murkowski (AK) +14 McCain (AZ) +9 Isakson (GA) +8 Coats (IN) +10 Blunt (MO) +10 Scott (SC) +11	Shelby (AL) +22 Boozman (AR) +24 Crapo (ID) +32 Moran (KS) +22 Paul (KY) +22 Vitter (LA) +17 Hoeven (ND) +20 Lankford (OK) +34 Thune (SD) +18 Lee (UT) +48

Senate Races by Cycle, 2016-2020

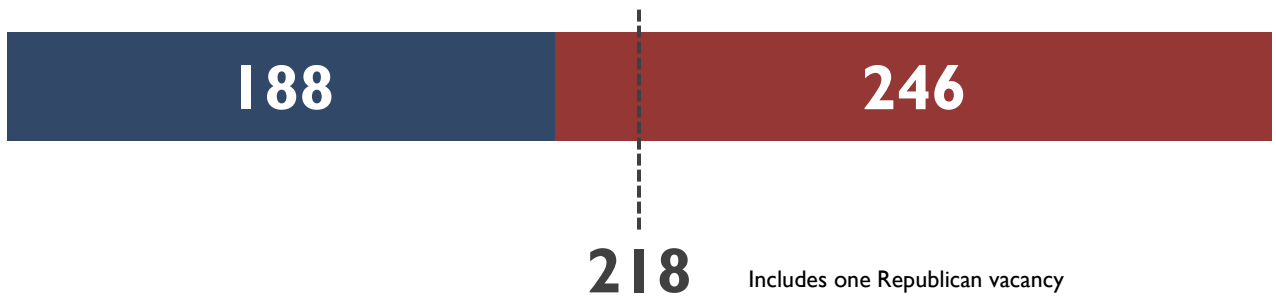


“What It Takes:” 2016 House Math

What would Democrats have to do to win the House?

■ Democrats ■ Republicans

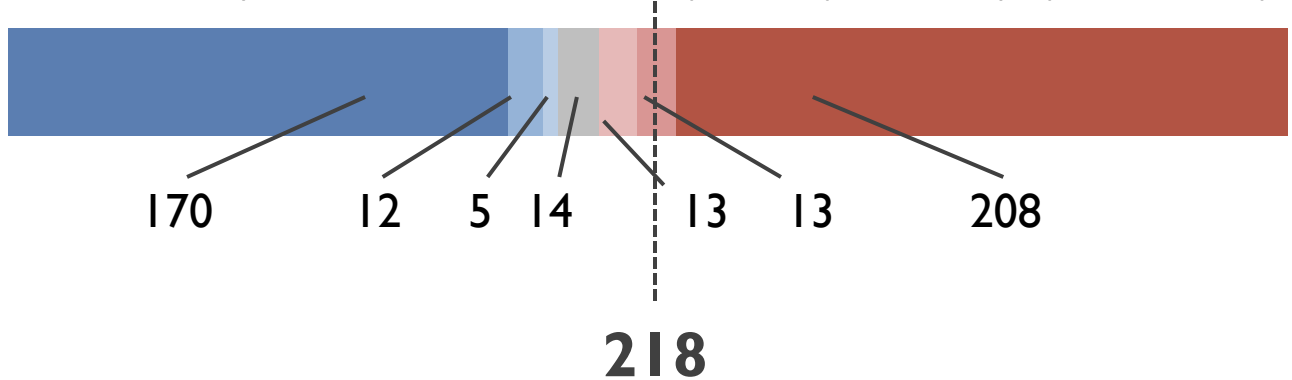
Current House Breakdown, by Party:



Bottom Line: Democrats need a 30-seat net gain to take control of the House in 2016

Cook Political Report House Math, by Race Rating:

■ Solid Democrat ■ Likely Democrat ■ Lean Democrat ■ Toss Up ■ Lean Republican ■ Likely Republican ■ Solid Republican



Bottom Line: Democrats would need to win **all** Solid Democratic, Likely Democratic, Lean Democratic, Toss Up, Lean Republican, and 4 of the 13 Likely Republican districts to take back the House.

***Note:** Candidate lists and totals displayed here reflect our current calculations. All underlying assumptions are subject to change as a result of retirements, the entry of new candidates, or other unforeseen circumstances between now and Election Day.*