

Press Release: April 6, 2017
Center for the Study of Local Issues
Anne Arundel Community College
101 College Parkway, Arnold MD, 21012-1895
Contact: Dan Nataf 410-777-2733

County Survey Finds Hogan Popular, but Not Trump

A survey of 521 Anne Arundel County residents conducted March 25-30 by the Center for the Study of Local Issues (CSLI) at Anne Arundel Community College asked respondents whether they approved of the jobs that Larry Hogan was doing as governor, and Donald Trump as president. The public was twice as likely to approve of Hogan (76 percent) compared to Trump (35 percent). When asked whether they “would be inclined to keep Larry Hogan as Maryland’s governor or “would rather see a Democrat instead,” 70 percent favored Hogan over an unnamed Democrat (15 percent). Details are found later in the press release (pp. 46-48).

Other than these job approval questions, the survey included questions about a variety of policy choices at the federal level – focused on many of the key elements of the Trump agenda such as reducing the EPA, imposing tariffs on imported goods, a Republican alternative to the Affordable Care Act, and large increases in defense spending (pp. 26-33).

At the state and local level the survey inquired about various issues including the school board’s decision to push out the morning start times for public schools, providing more public funding to assist low income students to attend private schools, the banning of fracking, and allowing the public to swim at all county owned beaches (pp. 34-35).

A section of the survey focused upon cybersecurity threats such as identity theft, online radicalization/recruitment of terrorists, and government hacking into individuals’ email or text messages (pp. 42-43).

The survey asked a range of benchmark questions about the most important problem facing residents, assessments of the local economy and its impact upon residents and the direction of the county, state and nation.

A detailed review of these issues as well as other results follows the summary of findings. The actual questionnaire and percentages can be found in Appendix A at the end of the press release.

Summary of Main Findings

Most Important Problem Facing County Residents: Drugs continue to dominate the public’s concern as it was the most cited element (24 percent) followed by education (10 percent), the environment (9 percent) and crime (8 percent) (p. 5-7).

Right Direction/Wrong Direction: The percentage of those saying that the **county** was moving in the right direction was down from 56 last fall to only 51 percent this spring. Following a dramatic increase observed in the percentage of those saying that the **state** was going in the right direction in spring 2015 – 47 percent and up 20 points from fall 2014 – the spring 2017 survey revealed a slight drop from 56 percent last fall to 55 percent. The percentage applicable to the **country** increased somewhat from 20 to 28 percent (pp. 8-9).

Perceptions of the Economy: The survey found a five-point increase in the percentage that viewed the county's economy as excellent or good – up from 60 to 65 percent. There was a similar increase in the percentage viewing the state's economy in a positive way: from 49 to 56 percent. Regarding the country as a whole, there was again a notable rise: from 20 to 28 percent saying “excellent/good” (pp. 11-17).

Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents: Starting in March 2008 a variety of items were added to the semi-annual survey to evaluate respondents' economic experiences and perceptions. The changes from fall 2016 to spring 2017 were modest. There was a slight – 3 point – rise in the percentage “facing the possibility of unemployment” but most other negative indicators showed a small – usually 2 point – drop (pp. 18-19). An analysis showed that the period from spring 2009 to the present could be divided into four groupings each with a dominant element – fear of unemployment, wage stagnation, tax anxiety and the current period of “relative calm” (p. 20). Another analysis of the relationship between economic conditions and voting preferences for president highlighted some differences among Clinton and Trump supporters (p. 21). An analysis comparing those with household incomes over and under \$75,000 showed that those earning under \$75,000 generally were more likely to cite a specific negative economic condition as applicable to themselves or their households (p. 22).

Consumer Confidence: All four measures (economic growth, unemployment, inflation and personal financial situation) were mostly unchanged from fall 2016, although there was a drop in growth optimism (-7) and a rise in optimism about unemployment (+5). An analysis shows that while Clinton voters had been more optimistic than Trump voters about the economy in fall 2016, now they were generally more pessimistic than those who voted for Trump (pp. 23-25).

Agreement with Statements About Federal, State and Local Issues: At the federal level, a host of questions sought to gauge support for many parts of the new Trump administration's agenda. Some stances were supported such as a “strong government efforts to deport illegal immigrants” (51 percent support, 38 percent oppose), travel restrictions on people from some Middle Eastern countries (49/44) and imposing tariffs on imported goods such as those from Mexico (44/41). Most items registered more opposition than support, with the greatest opposition expressed about statements such as “Freezing or reducing EPA grants and contracts, including those affecting the Chesapeake Bay” (22/70), “Eliminating 75 percent of all federal regulations” (25/58), “Reducing federal efforts to combat climate change” (28/65) and a “Hiring freeze of non-military personnel by the federal government” (31/60) (pp. 26-28). An analysis was made of the relationship between support for these statements and a variety of political variables (pp. 30-33).

At the state and local levels, strong support was found for, e.g., increasing business incentives to attract or retain large employers (74/13), “Using school redistricting to reduce overcrowding” (70/19), providing paid leave to workers (67/22) and limiting the extension of sewer systems into rural areas (59/23). There was less support for providing more public funding to help low income students attend private schools (46/44) or replacing public schools with charter schools (36/49) (p. 34). An analysis of Clinton and Trump voters regarding these statements revealed large differences for the banning of fracking (78/37), medical leave (83/48) and increasing business incentives (64/90) or replacing public schools with charter schools (16/57) (p. 35).

Building Permits: Two questions were asked – whether the respondent had applied for a building permit during the last year, and whether wait times had gotten longer, shorter or stayed the same. Those who had not applied were much more likely to say that wait times had stayed the same compared to those who had applied (61/37). Applicants were much more likely to say that wait times had decreased (31 percent) compared to non-applicants (6 percent) (p. 36).

Accurate vs. Fake News Sources: Two open-ended questions were included asking respondents to (1) name specific news sources or programs to obtain accurate information about current events and (2) identify media sources most likely to produce “fake news.” Based on the number of times a news source was mentioned, Fox (22 percent) is clearly the most relied upon source for accurate information, followed up by CNN (14 percent), The Washington Post (10 percent), MSNBC (5 percent) and CBS, NPR and New York Times (all 4 percent). An analysis of partisan differences showed that Democrats were much more likely to rely on The Washington Post, CNN, MSNBC and NPR compared to Republicans who relied extensively on FOX (41 percent Republicans, 8 percent Democrats). However, CNN was relied upon to a considerable degree by Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated respondents (p. 37). An analysis showed that ideological liberals relied on CNN, The Washington Post, and NPR, while conservatives relied again on FOX and CNN (p.38).

Asked about fake news sources, again FOX (26 percent) and CNN (17 percent) led the way. Others included Breitbart.com (8 percent) and MSNBC (6 percent). An analysis showed that Democrats pointed to FOX (42 percent) as the main producer of fake news, followed by Breitbart (13 percent) and Facebook (8 percent). They also singled out President Trump/White House (6 points combined). Republicans pointed first to CNN (24 percent) but also to FOX (11 percent) and MSNBC (10 percent) as the most likely sites for fake news (p. 40). Another analysis showed that liberals were seven times more likely to point to FOX as a source for fake news than were conservatives, with moderates in the middle (p. 41). While 50 percent of Conservatives and 49 percent of Republicans agreed with the statement “the mainstream media is an enemy of the American people,” only 10 percent of liberals and 11 percent of Democrats agreed (p. 42).

Cybersecurity Threats – How Serious? The survey asked respondents to evaluate various cybersecurity threats such as identity theft, hackers or foreign governments hacking into US utilities or targeting US elections, online bullying and spam/phony emails. The highest “very serious” scores were obtained by identity theft (83 percent), hackers or foreign governments hacking into US utilities (79 percent), online radicalization or recruitment of terrorists (78 percent), stolen credit cards (76 percent) and hackers or foreign governments targeting US elections (70 percent) (p. 42). Regarding the targeting of US elections, Clinton voters were nearly unanimous in perceiving this as a very serious threat (95 percent) while Trump voters were less convinced (43 percent) (p. 43).

Presidential Voting Choices in November 2016. The survey asked respondents to indicate their choice for president in last November’s elections, and asked whether they would have preferred another candidate. The analysis presented showed that Democrats, liberals and moderates favored Clinton while Republicans, conservatives and unaffiliated voters favored Trump. More Democrats expressed a desire for a candidate other than Clinton (54 percent compared to only 41 percent among Republicans), with Bernie Sanders mentioned as the leading alternative (61 percent of Democrats favoring an alternative candidate). Surprisingly, Sanders was also the most preferred alternative candidate for *Republicans* and unaffiliated voters. Among Republican alternative candidates (other than Sanders), Ted Cruz and John Kasich were most commonly chosen (both by 12 percent of Republicans) (pp. 43-44).

Officeholders' Job Approval: Job approval for the president – now Trump and no longer Obama – dropped from Obama's last score (48 percent) to only 35 percent for Trump this spring. This figure closely matched the Gallup tracking poll score for the same period (pp. 47-49). Trump's low level of support was partly explained by his poor performance among unaffiliated voters, especially those who were ideological moderates (p. 47-49).

Governor Hogan continued to be popular, with his job approval rising from 72 to 76 percent. His support cut across both parties – with nearly unanimous job approval among Republicans (96 percent) but strong support from Democrats who disapproved Trump (53 percent) or approved (88 percent). A plurality of Democrats (48 percent) were inclined to keep Larry Hogan as governor while nearly all Republicans were as well (95 percent). Among those favoring an unspecified Democrat, only a few could offer any names such as Anthony Brown, Chris Van Hollen or Kevin Kamenetz (p. 46).

County Executive Steve Schuh saw his job approval percentage slip from 46 to 39 percent. An analysis showed that this might have been linked to his support for Donald Trump since those who approved of Trump across all parties were more inclined to approve Schuh's job as county executive compared to those who did not approve of Trump (p. 46).

Which Party Do You Trust? The percentage favoring each choice - Democrats, Republicans or "neither" – was tilted somewhat in favor of Republicans. Perhaps due to the Democrats' defeat in the presidential elections last year, they were less inclined to trust their own party than were Republicans of their own party. Republicans also benefited from greater trust among unaffiliated voters, who were apparently able to distinguish between their low job approval of Trump and their assessment of the Republican Party generally (p. 50).

Methodology: The survey polled a random sample of 521 county residents who were at least 18 years old, primarily using a database of listed and unlisted landline numbers along with cell phone numbers. Telephone interviewing was conducted March 27-30 during evening hours. In addition, members of a CSLI Web panel were also asked to participate in an online version of the survey starting March 25. There was about a 4.2 percent statistical margin of error for the combined sample; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as "Democrats" or "men." The dataset was weighted by gender, political party and education to better represent the general population. College students were trained and used as telephone interviewers.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., center director, for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 and ddnataf@aacc.edu. Check the CSLI website for results for information and press releases for this and previous surveys: www2.aacc.edu/csli.

Detailed Review of Survey Findings

The Most Important Problem Facing Residents – Focus on Crime/Drugs and Quality of Life with Decreasing Focus on the Economy or Taxes

As the national, state and local economies have recovered from the depths of the Great Recession, CSLI surveys have been echoing the public's shifting attention from economic issues to those dealing with quality of life. Consistent with other recent CSLI surveys, crime/drugs dominated the concerns of county residents rising from a combined 19 percent in fall 2016 to 32 percent in spring, with drugs alone being 24 percent of the total – up from 13 percent.¹

Education (10 percent) and the environment (9 percent) were the next most frequently cited items. Again, in keeping with recent CSLI surveys, items like the economy (6 percent) or taxes (5 percent) that once dominated the public's concerns were now around historic lows (see Table 1).

Graph 1 shows the trend over the last six surveys.

¹ In fall 2016, the CSLI survey asked to what degree respondents agreed with the statement, "The county is currently doing enough to combat heroin use and addiction." Only 5 percent "completely" agreed; 42 percent "did not agree at all." The 5 percent agreement score was the lowest obtained for any item. See http://www2.aacc.edu/csli/Surveys/2016/Fall%202016/CSLI_Press_Release_F16_10_20_16a.pdf p. 22.

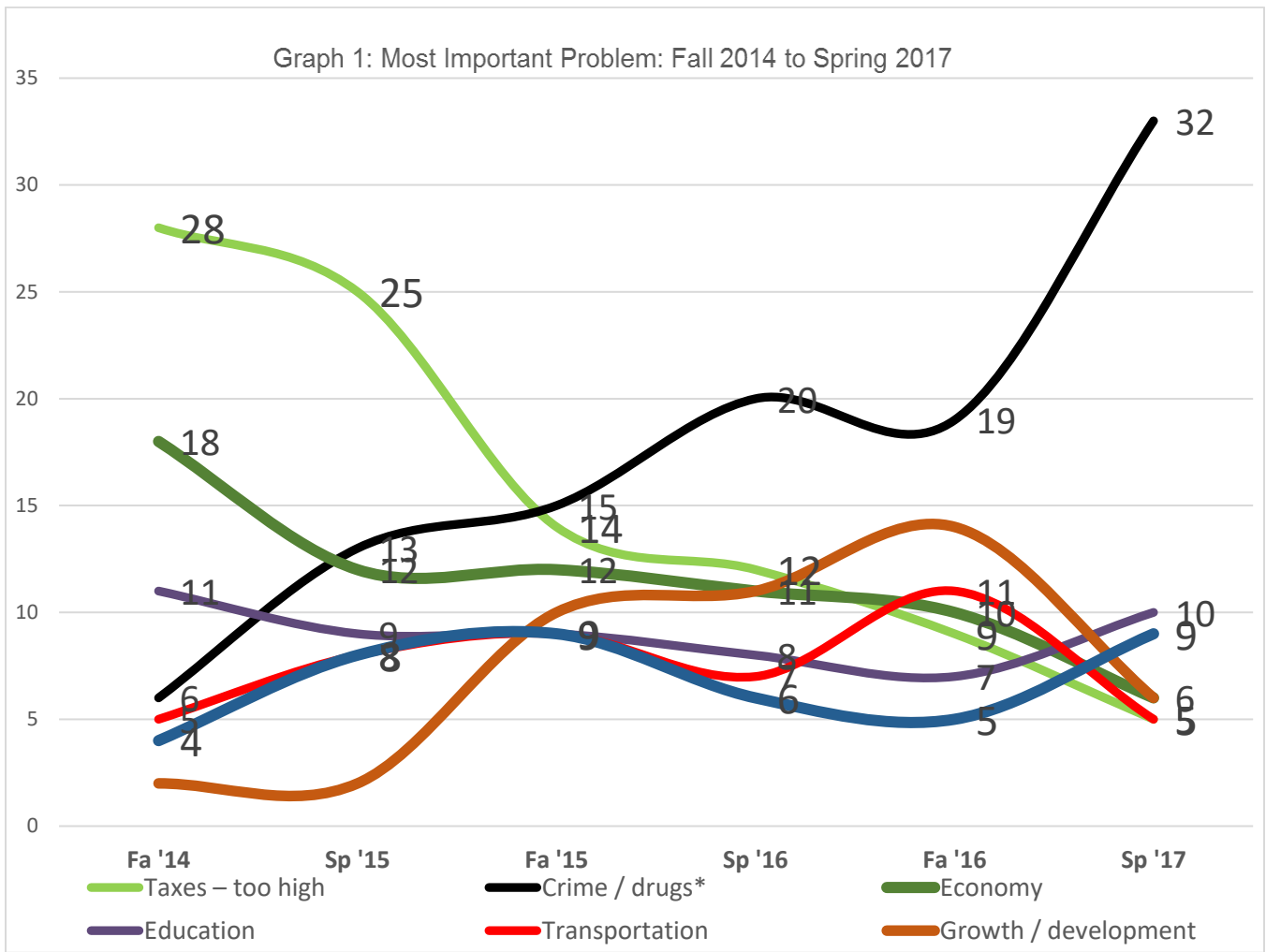
Table 1: “Most Important Problem Facing Residents” – Spring 2008 to Spring 2017²

	Sp '08	Fa '08	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Ave.
Taxes	16	12	10	12	11	13	11	9	17	17	19	19	22	28	25	14	12	9	5	15
Crime / drugs*	6	4	6	8	6	6	6	8	4	7	5	9	8	6	13	15	20	19	32	10
Economy	23	38	48	33	36	36	35	48	30	27	23	16	16	18	12	12	11	10	6	25
Education / school problems	12	10	8	7	8	9	10	5	7	8	8	6	12	11	9	9	8	7	10	9
Traffic congestion/ problems	7	6	4	5	6	6	3	5	5	6	5	4	4	5	8	9	7	11	6	6
Growth / development	12	9	5	5	5	2	4	4	4	3	2	4	4	2	2	10	11	14	6	6
Unsure/no answer	9	7	8	10	10	8	12	8	9	9	10	12	11	12	10	6	8	7	10	9
Other answer	15	14	11	21	17	21	19	13	24	23	29	30	23	19	21	25	24	24	24	21
Total	100	100	100	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	101	100	100	101

Note: In this and other tables, totals may not equal 100 percent due to rounding. Unless otherwise noted, all numeric values included in tables and graphs are percentages.

*Crime and drugs are presented here as a combined category but have recently been coded independently. The drug percentage for spring 2016 was 14 percent and 13 percent in fall. It was 24 percent in spring 2017. Crime was 6 percent in both spring and fall 2016, but rose to 8 percent in spring 2017.

² From spring 2007 to spring 2010, surveys' answer categories for “most important problem” included “lack of affordable housing” for interviewers to check off. Previously, that answer to the open-ended question would have been categorized under “economy” a practice which was resumed in fall 2010. The running totals in Table 1 combine both answers into the single “Economy” category.

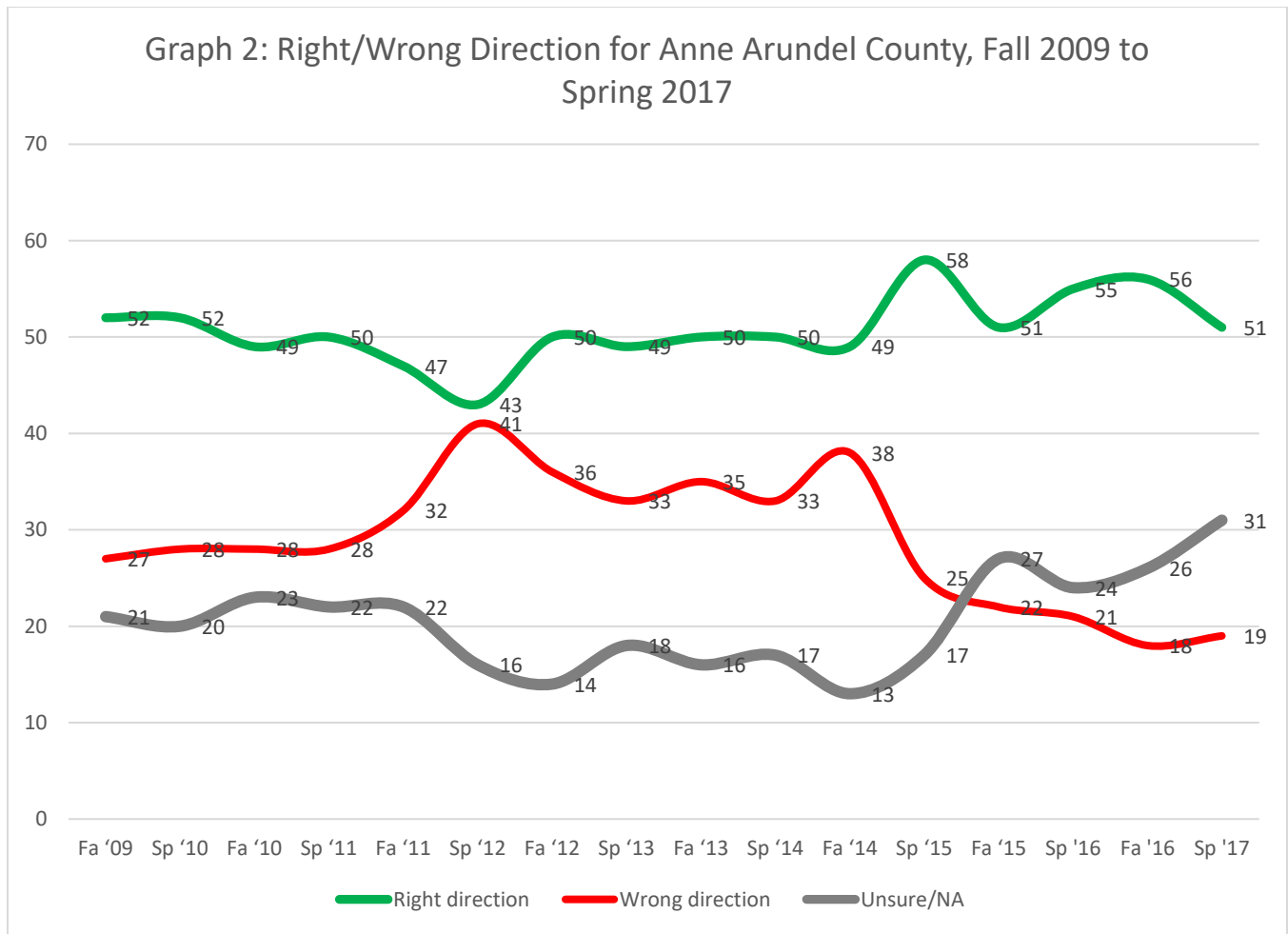


County, State and Nation – Right or Wrong Direction?

Each survey includes a variety of benchmark questions – the “most important problem” has existed since the start of CSLI surveys. Other questions have been more recent – the “right or wrong direction” questions for the county, state and country are among this group. Shown on Table 2 and Graph 2 are the results just for the county: “Overall, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction?” After peaking at 58 percent “right direction” in spring 2015, the percentage has been wavering between 51 and 55 percent – with the exception 56 percent last fall. The percentage dropped to the lower end of the recent range (51 percent), but the difference between right and wrong direction scores stayed quite high at 32 percentage points favoring the right direction.

Table 2: Anne Arundel County - Right vs. Wrong Direction Fall 2009 to Spring 2017

Response	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Avg.
Right direction	52	52	49	50	47	43	50	49	50	50	49	58	51	55	56	51	50
Wrong direction	27	28	28	28	32	41	36	33	35	33	38	25	22	21	18	19	31
Unsure/NA	21	20	23	22	22	16	14	18	16	17	13	17	27	24	26	31	20
Right-wrong	25	24	21	22	15	2	14	16	15	17	11	33	29	34	38	32	21
Total	100	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100



The survey also asked individuals to indicate right/wrong views about the state and the nation. Table 3 shows the spring 2017 results along with those for the county.

Graph 3 shows the trend for the last ten CSLI surveys at each level of government. As mentioned above, the county score was on the low side of its recent range. For the first time since these statistics have been tracked, the “right” direction score for the state exceeded that for the county.

Table 3: Right/Wrong Direction for County, State and Nation, Spring 2017

	Right	Wrong	Unsure/ Don't know	Total
County	51	19	31	101
State	55	30	14	100
Nation	28	54	16	100

Graph 3: Right Direction Percentage for County, State and Nation, Fall 2012-Spring 2017

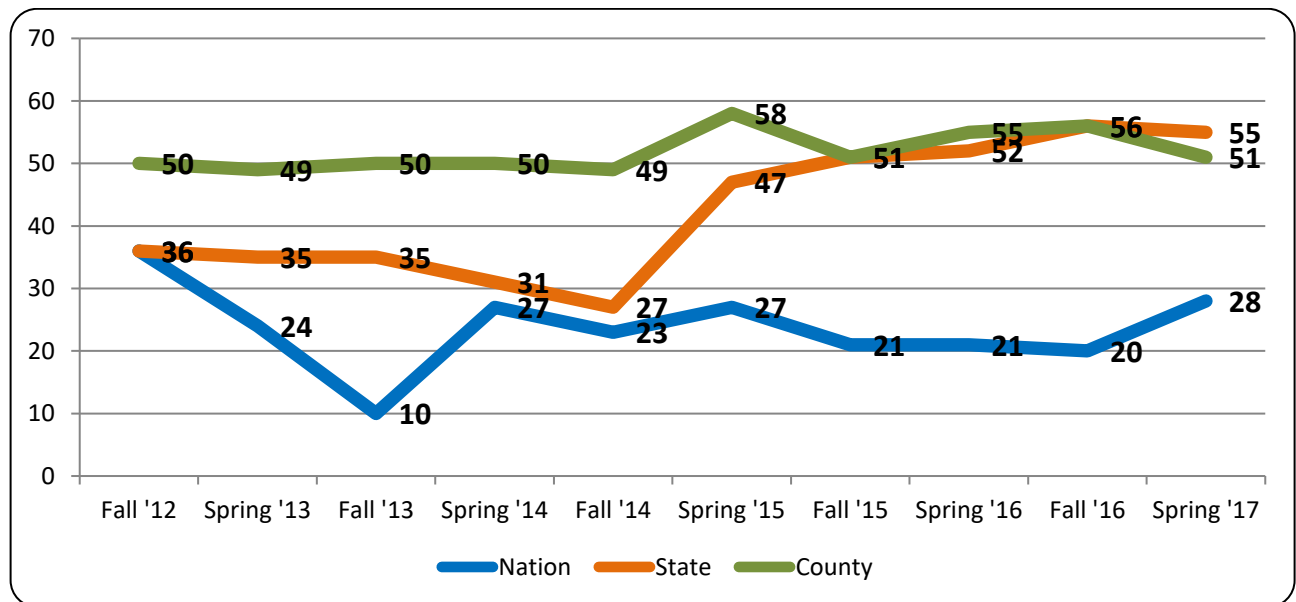


Table 3a: Right Direction Percentage and Hogan Job Approval

	Approve	Disapprove
County – right direction	55	35
State – right direction	59	49
Federal – right direction	34	5

Table 3a shows that those who approve of Larry Hogan's job as governor are more likely to say that the county, state and federal government are going in the right direction, with a large 29-point gap at the federal level. In part this is just a partisan effect, as shown on Table 3b, where the percentages saying that a given jurisdiction was going in the right direction was higher among Republicans at each level.

Table 3b: Right Direction Percentage and Party Registration

	Republican	Democrat
County – right direction	55	46
State – right direction	57	50
Federal – right direction	47	12

Similarly, there was a sharp partisan divide regarding Hogan’s job approval, as seen in Table 3c, all pointing to the general tendency to filter “right direction” through partisan eyes. Despite partisan differences, Hogan’s job approval is formidable even among Democrats (pp. 45-49 provide detailed coverage of job approval for the county executive, governor and president).³

Table 3c: Hogan Job Approval and Party Registration

	Republicans	Democrats
Hogan approve	94	59
Hogan Disapprove	1	24
Unsure/no answer	5	9
Total	100	100

Rating Economic Conditions – Anne Arundel County

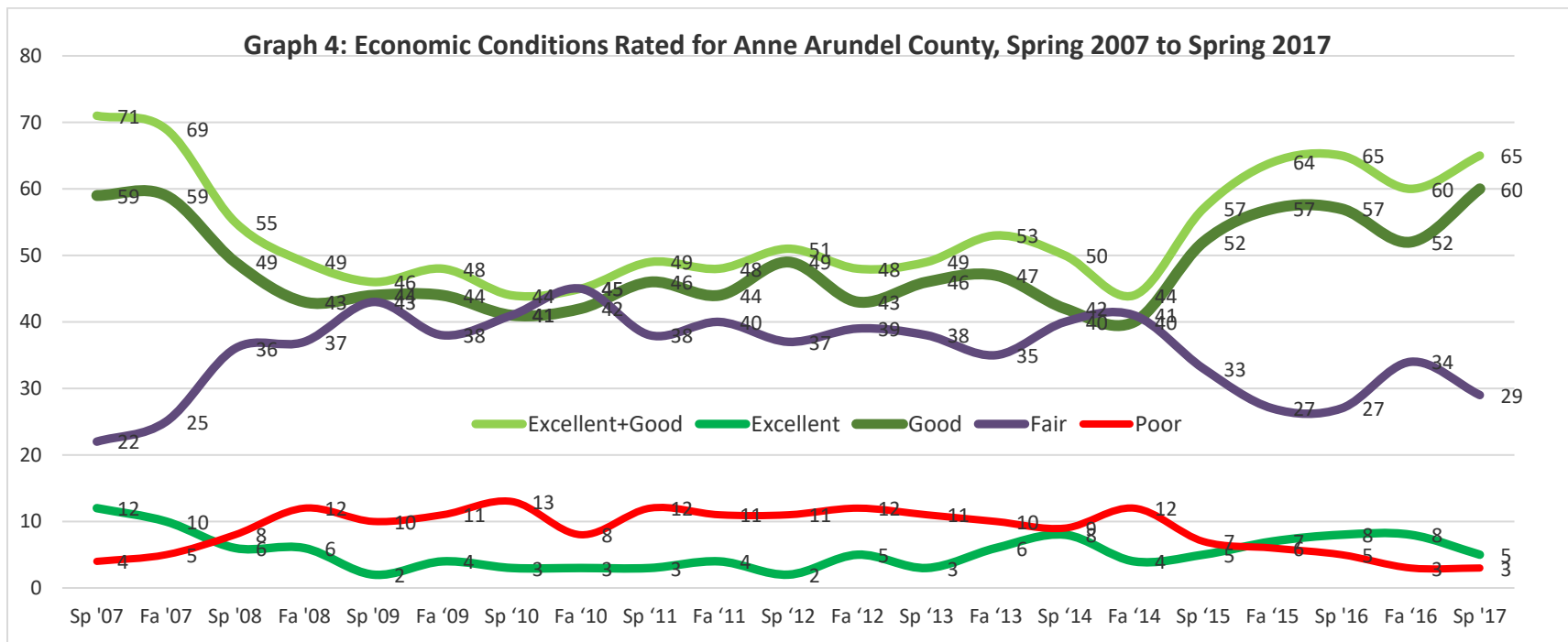
Since March 2002, the CSLI semi-annual survey has asked a benchmark question about the economy: “How would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County – ‘excellent,’ ‘good,’ ‘only fair’ or ‘poor’?”

As shown on Table 4, since March 2007 the county’s historical average saying that the economy was a combined “excellent” or “good” was 54 percent. As shown on Graph 4, since falling from historic highs in 2007, from fall 2008 to fall 2014 the percentage oscillated up and down within a relatively narrow band of 44 percent on the low side to 53 percent on the high side. Starting spring 2015, when the combined percentage rose to 57 percent, CSLI surveys have shown the county’s excellent+good scores hovering in the 60-65 percentage point range – when the spring 2017 score equaled a recent county high at 65 percent.

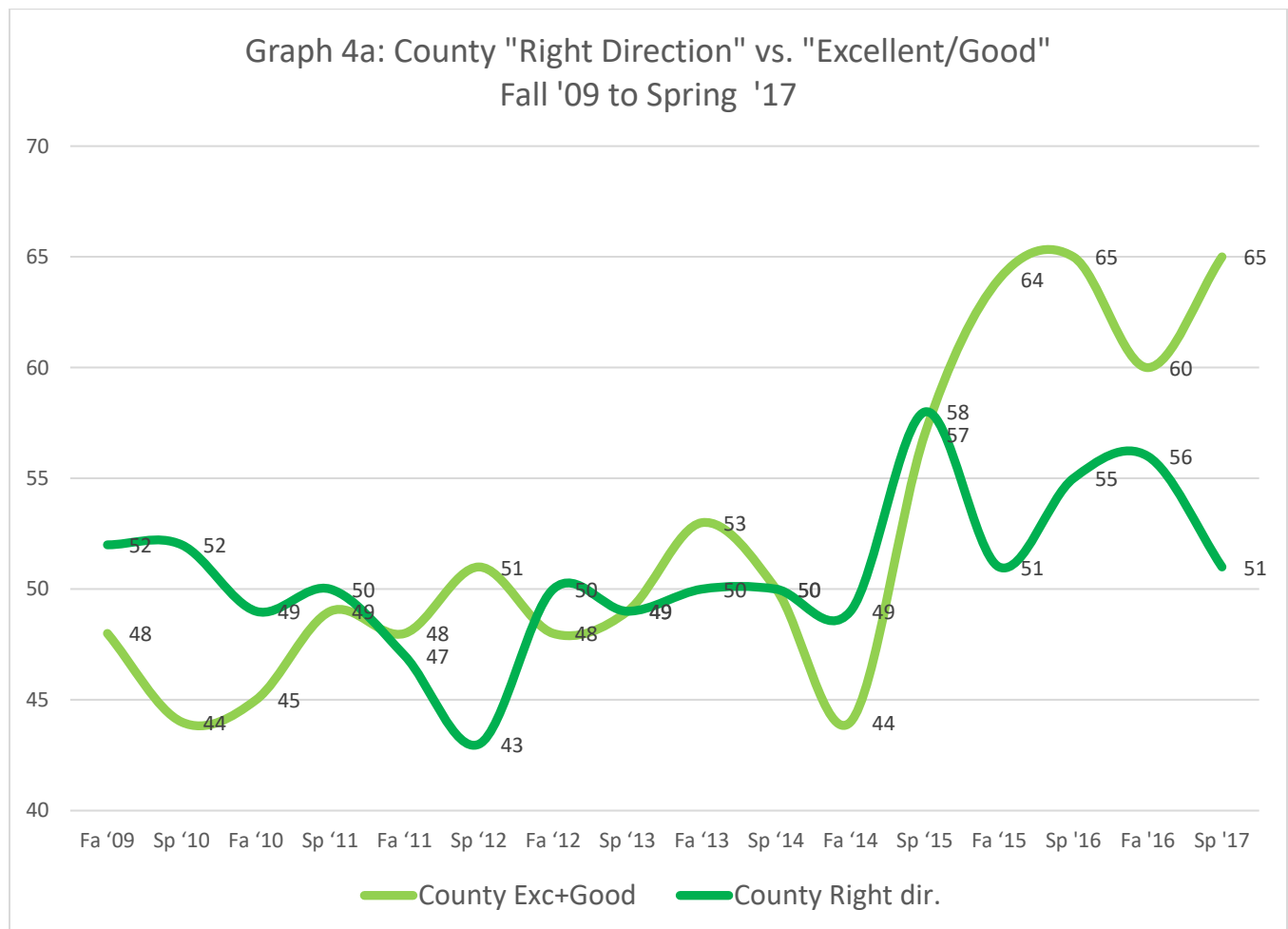
³ All these relationships were statistically significant (p<.01).

Table 4: Perceptions of County Economic Conditions – Spring 2007 to Spring 2017

	Sp '07	Fa '07	Sp '08	Fa '08	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Avg.
Excellent+Good	71	69	55	49	46	48	44	45	49	48	51	48	49	53	50	44	57	64	65	60	65	54
Excellent	12	10	6	6	2	4	3	3	3	4	2	5	3	6	8	4	5	7	8	8	5	5
Good	59	59	49	43	44	44	41	42	46	44	49	43	46	47	42	40	52	57	57	52	60	48
Fair	22	25	36	37	43	38	41	45	38	40	37	39	38	35	40	41	33	27	27	34	29	35
Poor	4	5	8	12	10	11	13	8	12	11	11	12	11	10	9	12	7	6	5	3	3	9
Don't know	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	1	2	3	3	3	2	4	3	4	4	3	3
Total	100	101	101	100	101	100	100	100	101	101	100	101	101	101	101	99	101	100	100	100	100	101



As shown in Graph 4a, there was not a strong relationship between changes in perceptions of the county's economy (see next section) and respondents' views of the county's direction. The relationship was marginally statistically significant ($p < .06$); the curves clearly diverged in spring 2017.



Rating Economic Conditions – Maryland

Since spring 2009, the question about rating economic conditions has been extended to the state of Maryland and the country overall.

Spring 2016 gave the first real signs of optimism as the percentage saying excellent or good exceeded 50 percent for the first time since the beginning of the series in spring 2009. While there has been some variation over the past three surveys (spring 2016 to spring 2017), scores have been generally high by historical standards as shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Perceptions of State Economic Conditions – Spring 2009 to Spring 2017

	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Avg.
Excellent+good	27	30	31	32	35	33	38	33	30	40	40	28	41	45	53	49	56	38
Excellent	1	2	2	1	3	1	4	3	1	4	4	1	3	2	5	5	3	3
Good	26	28	29	31	32	32	34	30	29	36	36	27	38	43	48	44	53	35
Fair	49	45	46	47	43	41	40	42	41	36	40	40	39	41	36	39	34	41
Poor	22	21	21	19	21	24	21	23	24	21	18	30	16	11	9	9	7	19
NA/DK	2	4	2	2	1	2	2	2	4	4	2	2	4	3	3	3	4	3
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100	99	101	100	100	100	100	100	100	101	100

Rating Economic Conditions –The National Economy

As shown on Graph 5, economic appraisal of the national economy has always lagged significantly behind both the county and state. In spring 2017, the combined indicator (excellent + good) for the country went up to its highest recent level: 28 points.

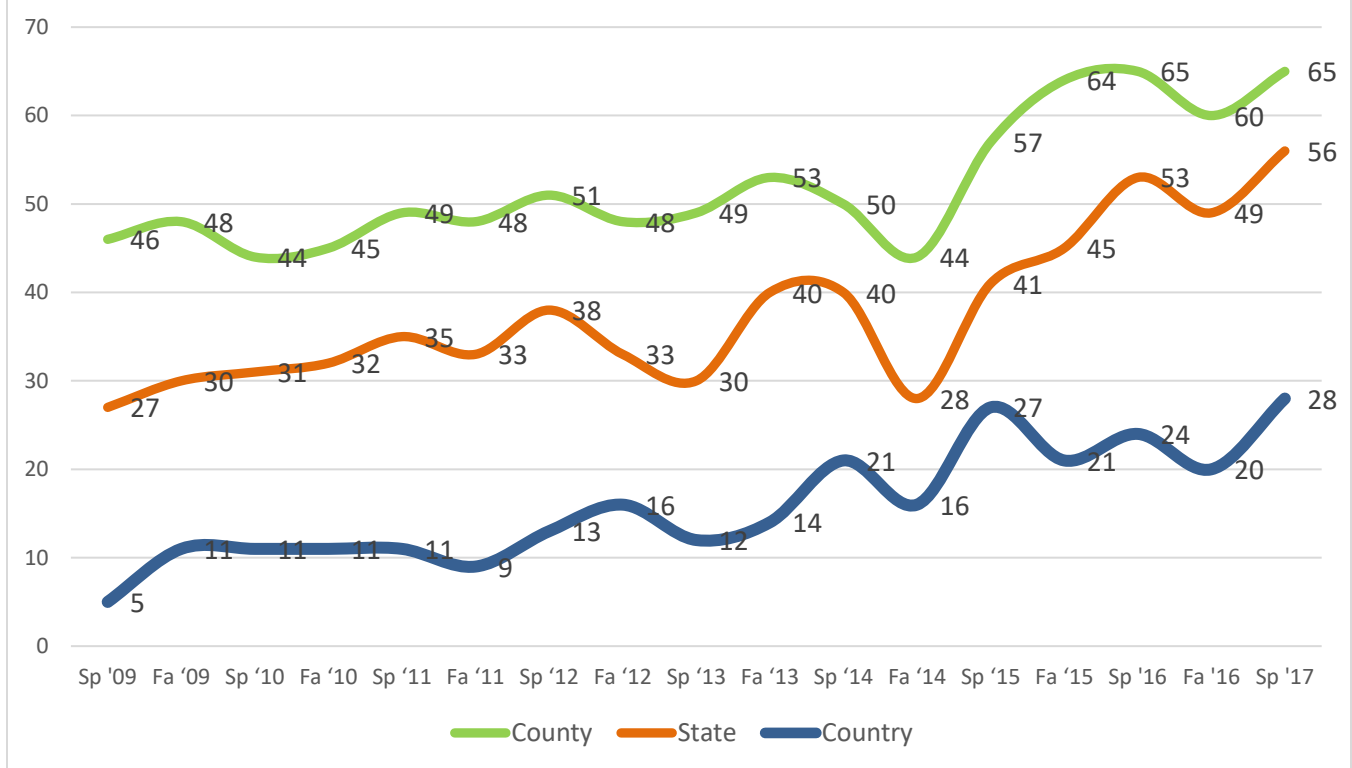
The national mood as measured by the Gallup polling organization was somewhat more optimistic – 32 percent saying excellent or good.⁴ The Gallup data show that the national trend had been hovering in the mid-20s until December 2016 when it crossed over into the 30 percent range. Table 6 shows the actual CSLI percentages over time.

Table 6: Perceptions of National Economic Conditions– Spring 2009 to Spring 2017

	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Avg.
Excellent+Good	5	11	11	11	11	9	13	16	12	14	21	16	27	21	24	20	28	16
Excellent	0	1	1	2	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
Good	5	10	10	9	9	7	12	14	10	13	20	15	24	20	23	19	27	15
Fair	30	39	42	41	43	28	47	37	38	31	41	42	32	40	40	38	46	39
Poor	63	48	46	47	45	62	39	46	47	55	37	40	37	36	34	40	23	44
NA/DK	1	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	3	1	1	2	4	3	2	3	4	2
Total	99	100	101	100	101	101	101	100	100	101	100	100	100	100	100	101	101	100

⁴ See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/151127/economic-conditions-weekly.aspx> for Gallup's running totals for this question. This Gallup national percentage was for October 9, 2016.

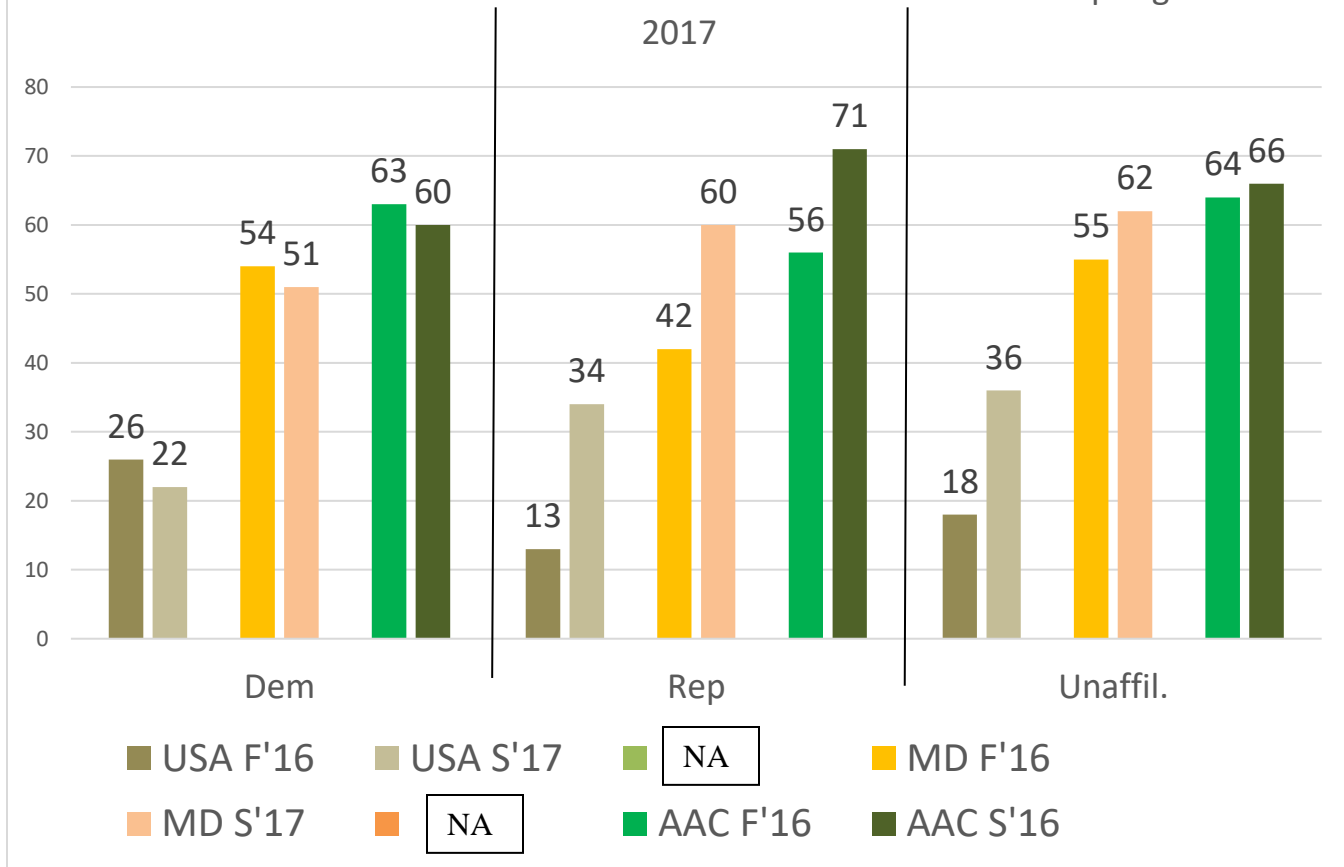
Graph 5: County, State and Country - Percentages
Saying "Excellent or Good" Economic Conditions
Spring 2009 to Spring 2017



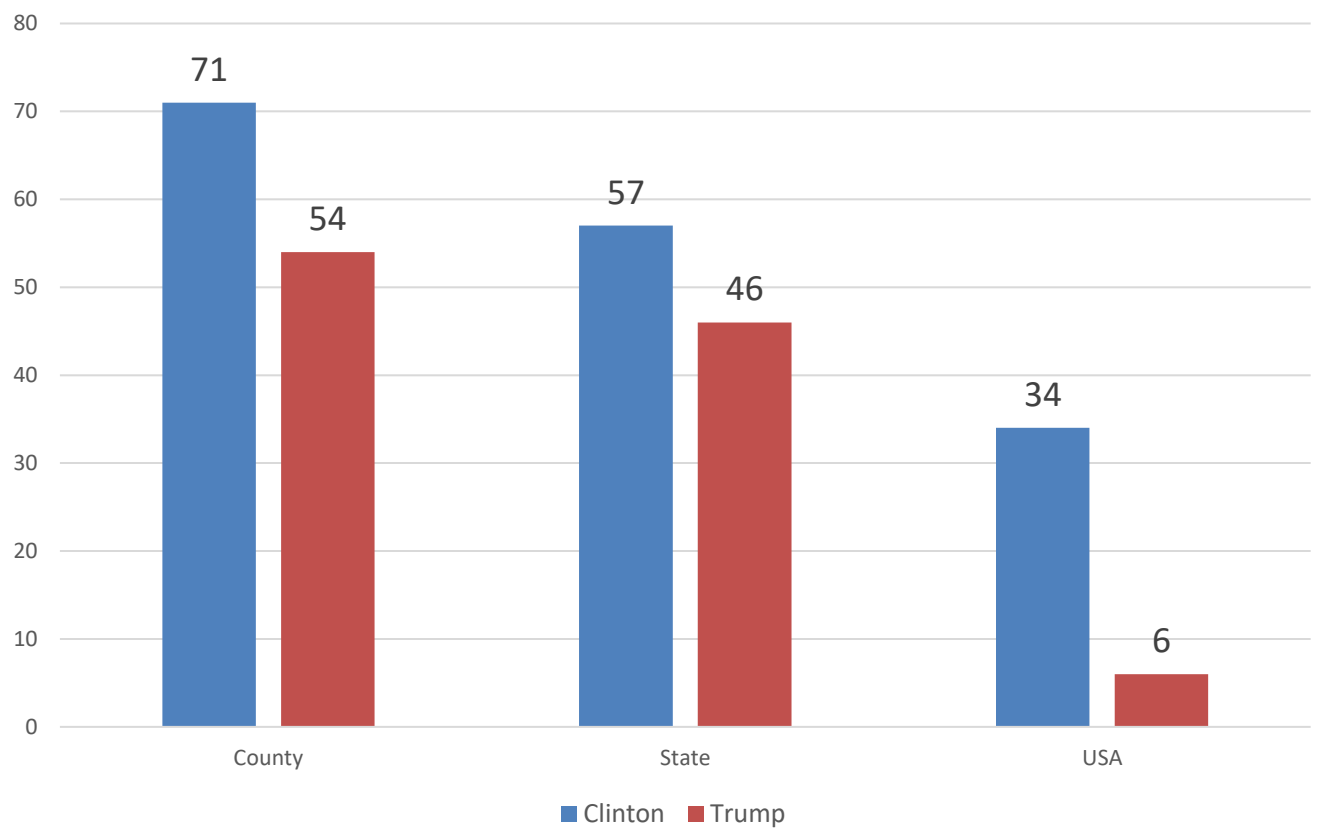
The partisan aspect of economic perceptions is shown on Graph 5a and reveals that Democrats' optimism about economic conditions declined at each level: local, state and federal. In each case, the drop was three to four points from fall 2016 to spring 2017. The percentages showing overall growing optimism were driven entirely by leaps among Republicans and unaffiliated voters. For example, Republican scores for the federal level increased from 13 to 34 percent; unaffiliated scores rose from 18 to 36. There were increases at the state and local levels, although none quite as sharp. Thus, it is reasonable to assume that the optimism was driven by a "Trump honeymoon" set of expectations.⁵ Graph 5b shows the differences from CSLI survey results from last fall, when Clinton supporters were universally more optimistic about the economy than Trump supporters.

⁵ These relationships were also statistically significant at each level ($p < .01$).

Graph 5a: Percentages of Those Registered with a Party Saying "Excellent or Good" for Economic Conditions: Fall 2016 vs. Spring



Graph 5b: Presidential Candidate Preference and Percentage Saying "Excellent/Good" Regarding Economy, Fall 2016



Economic Conditions Applying to Respondents

Respondents were asked: “Thinking about your personal circumstances, please tell me whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.”

Table 7 shows the results for recent CSLI surveys. The fall 2014 survey significantly modified the list of items included – two new items were added (“Hard to afford the cost of education” and “Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries”), while several previous items were dropped. Other modifications have occurred over the years, such as the inclusion of questions asking about a “salary increase or other increase in income recently” and whether the respondent had “found a new or better job recently” – these items were introduced in fall 2011. In fall 2016, the healthcare question was changed from “healthcare insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate” to “unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year.” The rationale for this change was to make the question accord with a question asked by Gallup Inc. which claimed to measure healthcare insecurity.⁶

Generally, the changes from fall 2016 to spring 2017 were modest. There was a slight – 3 point – rise in the percentage “facing the possibility of unemployment” but most other negative indicators showed a small – usually 2 point – drop.

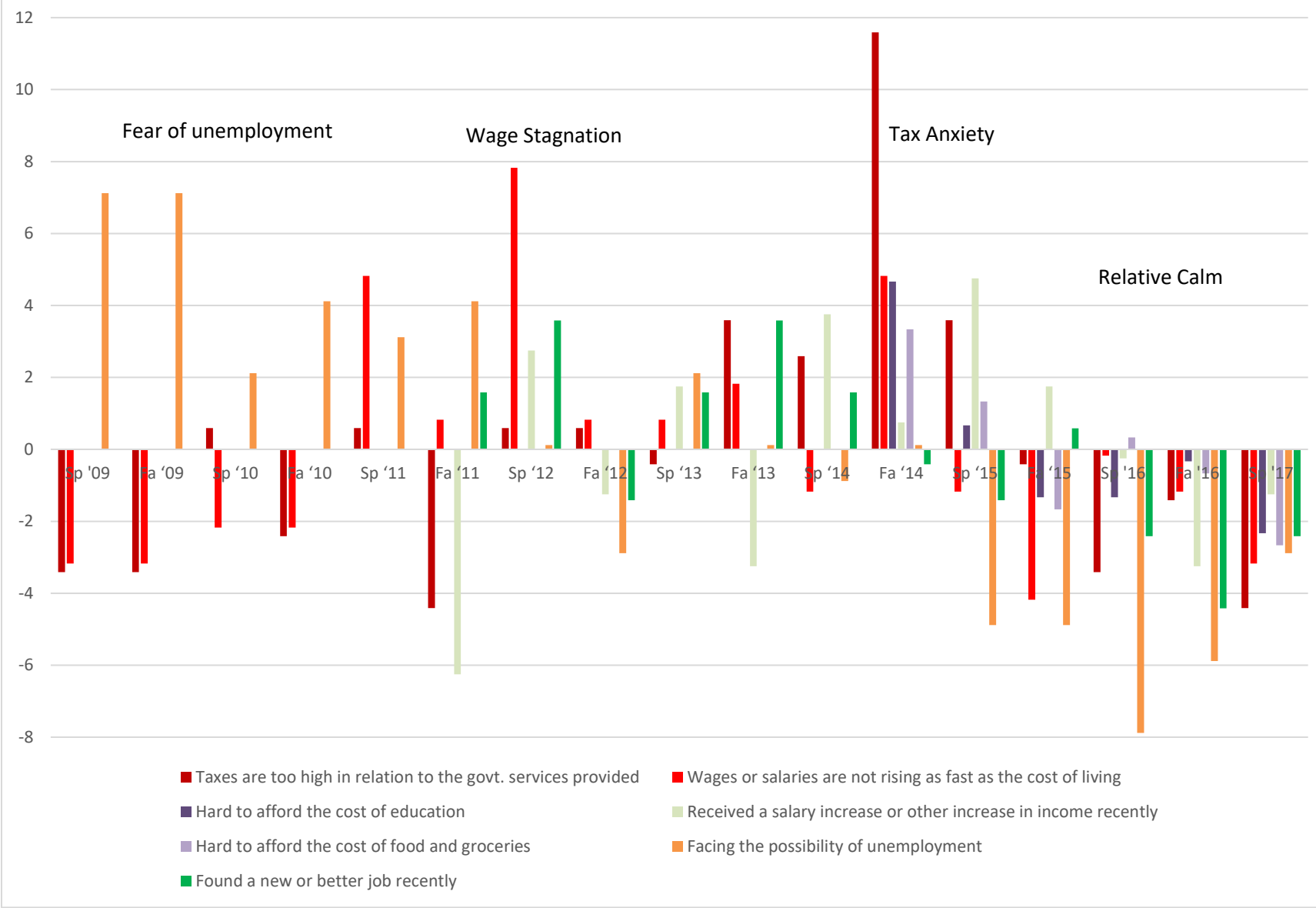
Graph 6 shows the difference between the actual scores and the average score between spring 2009 and spring 2017. Based on the outliers, it seems possible to identify some periods characterized by specific peak anxieties. From spring 2009 to fall 2011, the fear of unemployment appeared especially great. From spring 2011 to fall 2014, wage stagnation appeared to be relatively high. During fall 2014 through spring 2015, tax anxiety was at a high point. Compared to previous periods, from fall 2015 to the current period, most negative indicators have been below average, suggesting a period of relative calm.

⁶ See <http://www.gallup.com/poll/192914/healthcare-insecurity-record-low.aspx> for more information about this measure. The most recent Gallup measure for this question had a value of 15.5 percent, very similar to our spring 2017 value of 16 percent. However, one might question how well it actually measures “healthcare insecurity” since the more general framing of the question in our previous surveys usually produced a score about twice as high as this measure. Unfortunately, Gallup no longer appears to be including this question in its Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index. See <http://www.well-beingindex.com/>

Table 7: Economic Conditions Applying to Personal Circumstances – Fall 2008 to Spring 2017

Condition	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Avg.
Taxes are too high in relation to the govt. services provided	59	59	63	60	63	58	63	63	62	66	65	74	66	62	59	61	58	62
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	55	55	56	56	63	59	66	59	59	60	57	63	57	54	58	57	55	58
Hard to afford the cost of education	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	45	41	39	39	40	38	40
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	26	35	31	34	29	36	33	37	34	32	29	31	32
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	33	31	28	30	29	27	30
Health care insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate/ Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year (starts fall 2016)	29	33	32	34	35	32	32	27	32	29	26	40	38	33	38	14	16	33/15
Facing the possibility of unemployment	24	24	19	21	20	21	17	14	19	17	16	17	12	12	9	11	14	17
Found a new or better job recently	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	14	16	11	14	16	14	12	11	13	10	8	10	12
Significant losses in your stock or retirement accounts	75	70	56	60	52	60	44	38	32	32	26	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		51
Delay in making a major purchase such as a home or car	51	46	47	44	47	51	45	38	42	38	43	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		45
Hard to afford cost of utilities such as electricity or gas	53	42	44	43	46	39	39	32	31	29	37	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		40
Hard to afford cost of transportation	21	17	21	24	41	30	36	30	27	24	24	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		27
Unable to find affordable housing	12	13	15	10	14	11	15	9	12	14	10	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		12
Facing the possibility of house foreclosure or loss	6	8	7	7	9	8	8	4	7	7	4	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.		7

Graph 6: Survey Scores Minus Average - Fall '09 to Spring '17



In the fall 2016 press release, an analysis was offered that distinguished differences between Trump and Clinton voters, with Clinton voters generally more economically optimistic than Trump voters.

In both fall 2016 and spring 2017, the most ideologically charged item showed the greatest difference – whether taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided. This item is essentially a general attitude likely to follow liberal and conservative polarization – as apparently occurred in both cases. The health care insecurity measure showed the second largest difference – and even increased compared to the percentage point difference in fall 2016.

The failure of the Republicans to pass an alternative to the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) might explain the continuing anxiety expressed by Trump voters on this item. It is an area of apparently high issue saliency and unlikely to go away. Whether affordability or just a dislike for the current state of health coverage in America is signaled by this Trump voter proclivity is a question that cannot be resolved with the data at hand.

On several other issues, Trump voters were now clearly more optimistic. The greatest difference was the reversal of perceptions regarding “wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living” –in fall 2016, Clinton voters were 9 points less likely than Trump voters to cite this condition: by spring 2017, they were 11 points *more* likely to cite it. A nearly equal reversal was found for the condition “hard to afford the cost of education.” Trump voters were suddenly twice as likely as Clinton voters to have “found a new or better job recently.” Whether these are attitudes shaped by the optimism that might be associated with having your party in power, or real life changes induced by circumstances – such as the fear of losing a federal job under Trump’s proposed budget, cannot be determined with certainty. This issue will be explored somewhat more when reviewing support for certain federal issues.⁷

**Table 7a: Economic Indicators and Voters’
Presidential Preferences**

	Clinton F ‘16	Clinton S ‘17	Trump F’16	Trump S’17	Clinton -Trump F ‘16	Clinton -Trump S’17
Taxes are too high in relation to the govt. services provided	43	40	79	70	-36	-30
Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year	8	12	20	27	-12	-15
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	52	60	61	49	-9	11
Hard to afford the cost of education	34	43	40	31	-6	9
Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	26	27	32	30	-6	-3
Facing the possibility of unemployment	12	21	12	17	0	4
Found a new or better job recently	9	8	6	15	3	-7
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	31	34	27	37	4	-3

⁷ These were statistically significant (p<.01).

Economic Conditions Applying to Individuals/Households – Socio-economic Factors

Table 8 shows the impact of income on the indicators of economic conditions applying to personal circumstances. Dividing the sample of respondents into those earning \$75,000 or less into one group and those earning over \$75,000 into a second group, most desirable outcomes favor the higher income group. If anything, differences between the two groups were larger this spring than in previous surveys. There was a major leap in the differences regarding the affordability of necessities such as food and groceries since last fall (+14 points). The higher income group was over half as likely to face the possibility of unemployment. It was three times as likely to have “received a salary increase or other increase in income recently.” Whether these differences highlight actual changes in life circumstances or just the growth of greater pessimism among those in the lower income group, the changes appear noteworthy in many respects.

Table 8: Income Groups and Economic Indicators

Condition	Under \$75,000	\$75,000+	Under \$75k-Over 75K		
			Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17
Hard to afford cost of food and groceries*	49	17	27	18	32
Unable to afford healthcare or medicine during the last year*	23	12	14	13	11
Hard to afford the cost of education*	43	38	8	10	5
Taxes are too high in relation to the government services provided*	62	54	8	-8	8
Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	61	53	5	9	8
Facing the possibility of unemployment	21	9	-1	1	12
Found a new or better job recently*	7	13	-6	0	-6
Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently*	14	43	-20	-12	-29

Note: Desirable outcomes are bolded. *=p<.01

Consumer Confidence

A section of the survey asked respondents to think about the next 12 months and the county's economy and say whether a given economic condition will be better, the same or worse.

Table 9 shows the results just for spring 2017; Graph 7 shows the results since fall 2011, calculated by subtracting the value of "worse" from the value of "better" (with a higher number indicating greater economic optimism in all cases except for inflation, in which case a smaller negative number indicates the growth of optimism).

Table 9: Economic Conditions over the Next 12 Months, Spring 2017

	Better	Same	Worse	Unsure/NA	Total
Economic growth	35	46	14	5	100
Unemployment	33	37	22	8	100
Inflation	13	31	46	10	100
Your personal financial situation	22	59	15	5	101

As shown on Graph 7, all four measures were mostly unchanged from fall 2016, although there was a drop in growth optimism (-7) and a rise in optimism about unemployment (+5). These two results slightly exceeded the survey's 4.2 percent margin of error suggesting that the forecast for respondents was statistically significant.

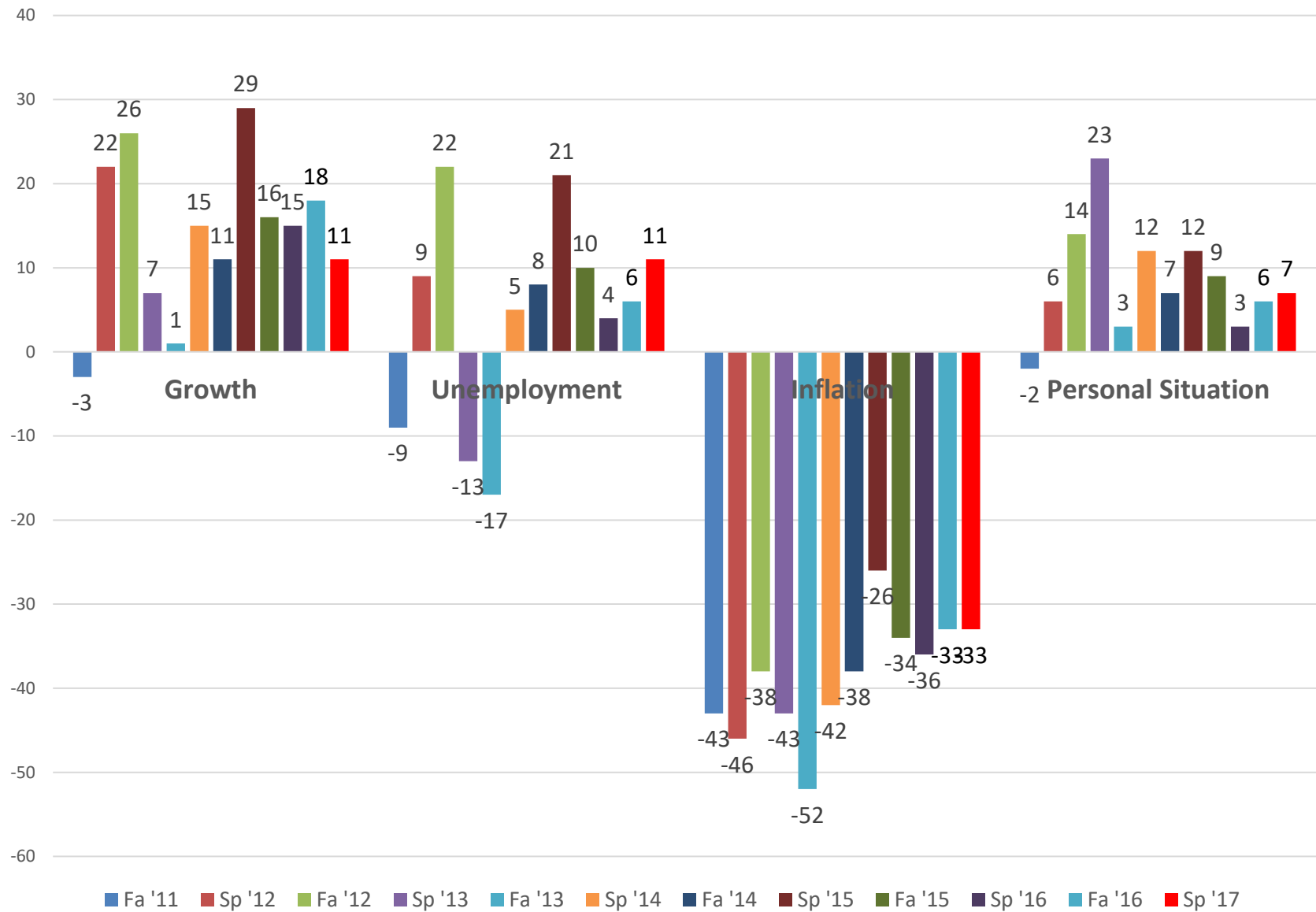
In fall 2016, the press release examined linkages between Clinton and Trump voters and these four indicators. Table 10 shows that Clinton voters in October 2016 were somewhat more optimistic than Trump voters. In three of the four cases, Clinton voters were more optimistic than Trump supporters, posting higher "better" scores. Only in the case of inflation was an identical "better" score obtained; more Clinton voters were found in the combined "better" and "same" categories (50 percent) than Trump voters (40 percent).

Table 10: Presidential Preferences and Economic Conditions over the Next 12 Months, Fall 2016

	Better		Same		Worse		Unsure/NA		Total	
	HC	DT	HC	DT	HC	DT	HC	DT	HC	DT
Economic growth	34	22	47	50	8	20	12	7	101	99
Unemployment	34	18	46	42	8	32	12	8	100	100
Inflation	9	9	41	31	39	52	11	8	100	100
Your personal financial situation	20	17	59	58	16	19	6	6	101	100

All relationships on Tables 9 and 10 were statistically significant ($p < .01$).

Graph 7: Consumer Confidence Indicators - Better Minus Worse



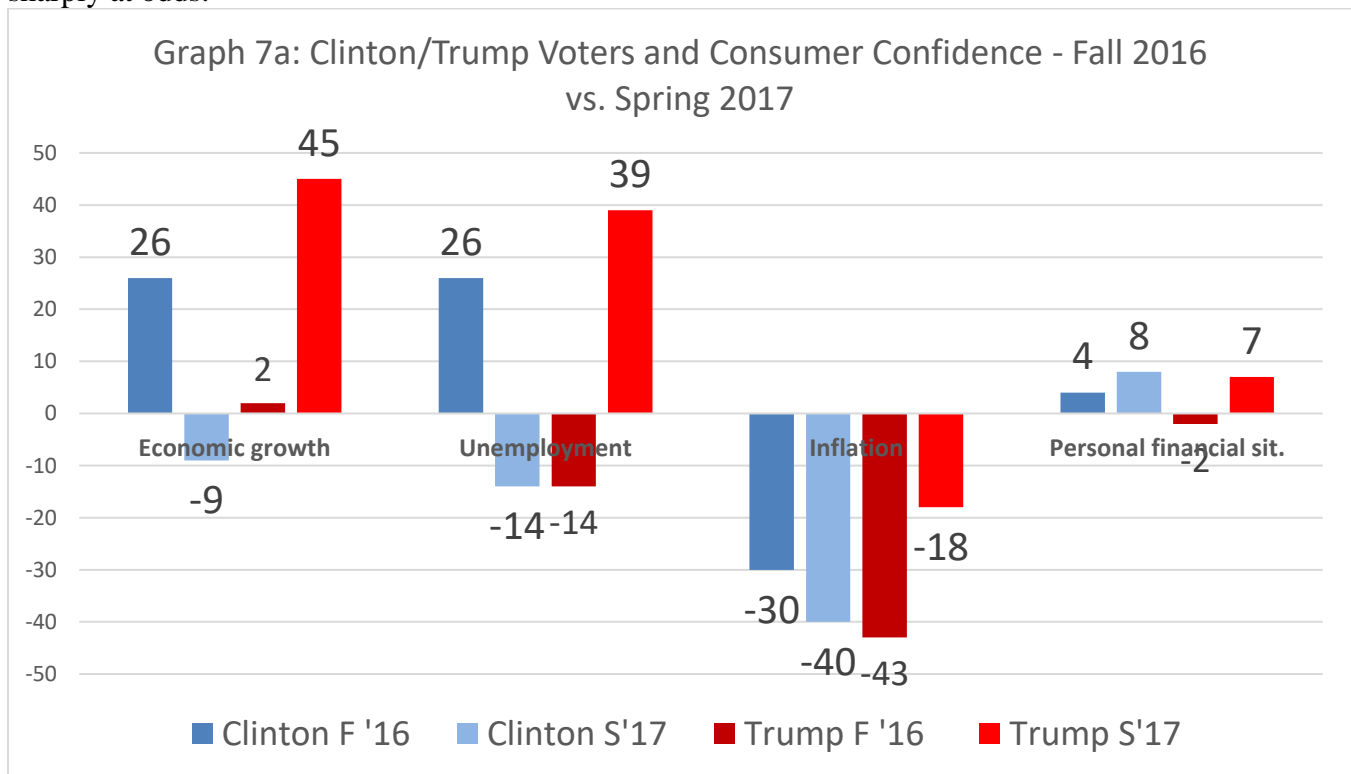
**Table 10a: Presidential Preferences and Economic Conditions
over the Next 12 Months, Spring 2017**

	Better		Same		Worse		Unsure/NA		Total	
	HC	DT	HC	DT	HC	DT	HC	DT	HC	DT
Economic growth	15	52	52	39	24	7	9	2	100	100
Unemployment	17	48	42	36	31	9	10	7	100	100
Inflation	8	19	30	63	48	37	14	8	100	100
Your personal financial situation	21	20	60	66	13	13	6	1	100	101

All relationships were statistically significant ($p < .01$).

Table 10a presents the spring 2017 scores for Clinton and Trump voters. Graph 7a compares the “better-worse” scores for Clinton and Trump voters both in fall 2016 and spring 2017. This graph clearly illustrates the degree to which the general economic situation is filtered through the lens of national politics. For all three indicators of the condition of the macro-economy, Clinton voters moved from generally optimistic to generally pessimistic. For example, there was a net score of 26 for Clinton voters in fall 2016 regarding economic growth; by spring, it had dropped to a negative 9. Unemployment was similar: a drop from 26 to negative 14. Inflation was similar: a drop from 26 to negative 14. Even fears about inflation dropped from a negative 43 to only negative 18. These polarized views point to very high expectations for general economic improvement by Trump voters while Clinton voters are expecting the worse. Oddly, differences in personal financial situation were much less dramatically affected, with both Clinton and Trump voters’ scores up somewhat. Apparently, the sociotropic and personal views were sharply at odds.

Trump voters were unbridled in their enthusiasm for the future of the national economy: on growth, a timid positive 2 jumped to 45; on unemployment, a negative 14 turned into a positive 39. Even fears about inflation dropped from a negative 43 to only negative 18. These polarized views point to very high expectations for general economic improvement by Trump voters while Clinton voters are expecting the worse. Oddly, differences in personal financial situation were much less dramatically affected, with both Clinton and Trump voters’ scores up somewhat. Apparently, the sociotropic and personal views were sharply at odds.



Agreement with Statements About Federal, State and Local Issues

A section of the questionnaire focused on either specific proposals, statements or actions facing the country, state or county. Respondents were asked to express their support or opposition to each statement that was presented to them. Table 11 presents the findings sorted by the “support” score received by an item. Graph 8 shows the net “support” score after subtracting the “oppose” percentage from the “support” percentage.

Table 11: Statements–Support for Federal Issues

Statement, proposal or action	Support	Oppose	NA/DK	Total
More federal efforts to fight anti-Semitism	66	20	13	99
Strong government efforts to deport illegal immigrants	51	38	12	101
Travel restrictions on people from some Middle East countries	49	44	7	100
Imposing tariffs or taxes on imported goods such as those from Mexico	44	41	15	100
A \$54 billion increase in defense spending	44	45	11	100
A Republican health insurance alternative to the Affordable Care Act	39	44	18	101
Reducing American support for NATO if other countries can’t meet their financial obligations	38	50	12	100
Building a wall on the US border with Mexico	38	57	5	100
Significantly reducing corporate income taxes	37	52	11	100
Hiring freeze of non-military personnel by federal govt.	31	60	9	100
Using torture when interrogating foreigners suspected of terrorism	31	57	12	100
Viewing the mainstream media as “enemies of the American people”	30	60	10	100
Reducing federal efforts to combat climate change	28	65	7	100
Eliminating 75 percent of all federal regulations	25	58	17	100
Freezing or reducing EPA grants and contracts, including those affecting the Chesapeake Bay	22	70	8	100

Many of the items dealing with federal issues were meant to capture some aspects of the Trump administration’s policy agenda. A few of candidate and later President Trump’s signature issues were mentioned such as tariffs on imported goods to prevent capital flight and job losses, travel bans on those seeking entry to the US from certain countries in the Middle East and enhanced efforts to address illegal immigrants, including building a wall with Mexico and strengthening deportation efforts. As can be seen on Graph 8 some of these policy orientations received more support than opposition: “strong government efforts to deport illegal immigrants (13-point advantage of support minus oppose), travel restrictions (5 points) and tariffs on imported goods (3 points).

A couple of other items linked to Trump’s agenda were nearly equal in terms of support/opposition: “A \$54 billion increase in defense spending” (-1) and “A Republican health insurance alternative to the Affordable Care Act” (-5). All the other choices similar to the general Trump agenda or as expressed in the budget proposal made to Congress were not well supported: reducing American support for NATO

(-12), reducing corporate income taxes (-15), building a wall with Mexico (-19), using torture (-26), eliminating most federal regulations (-33), reducing efforts to combat climate change (-37), and freezing/reducing EPA grants including those affecting the Chesapeake Bay (-48). The most strongly supported item on the list was “More federal government efforts to fight anti-Semitism” – something that has not been prominently advocated by the Trump administration. In general, it seems that the level of support for most of Trump-linked issue stands is either weakly positive or more strongly negative.

Graph 8: Federal Issues: Support-Oppose Percentage

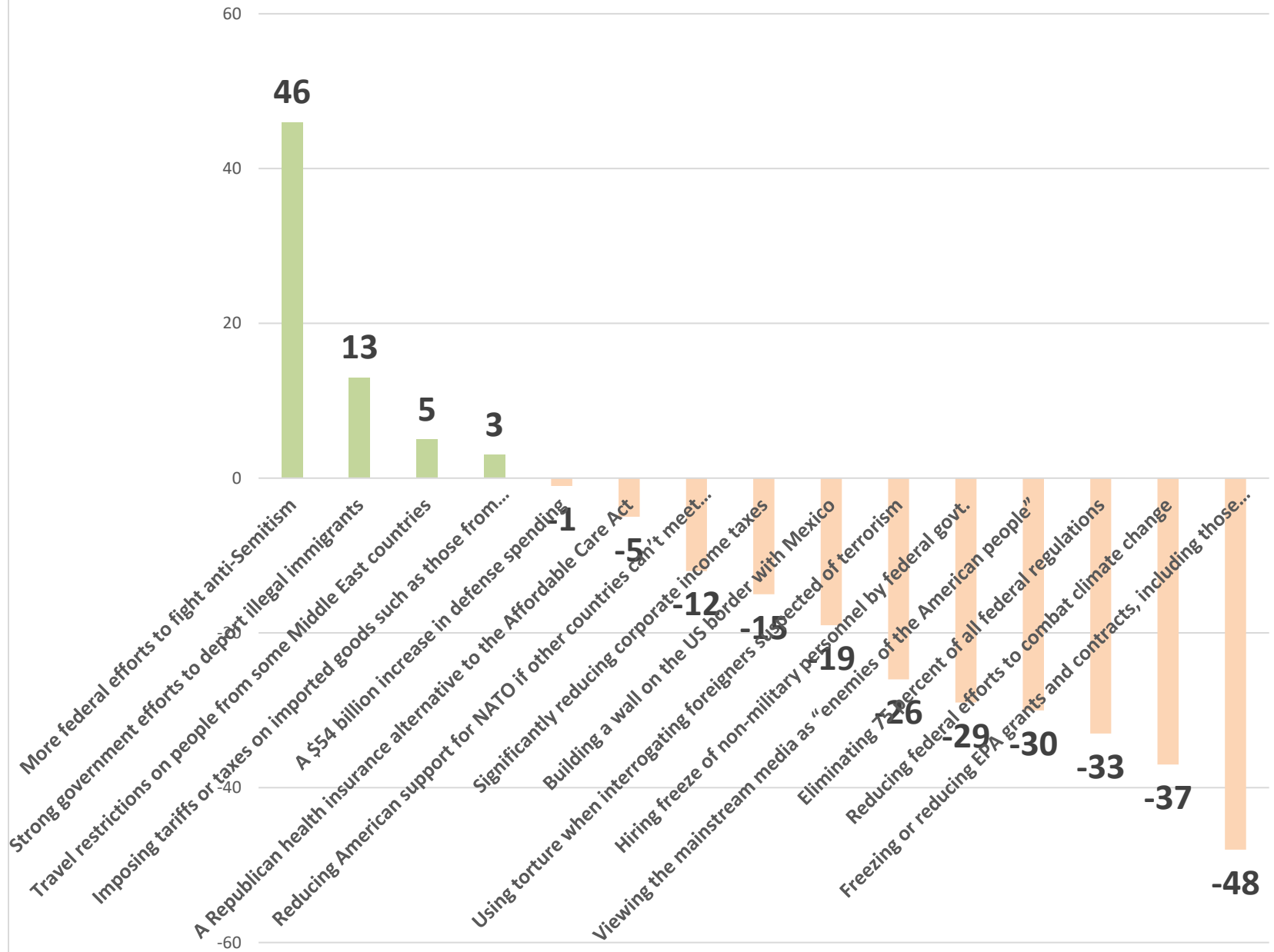


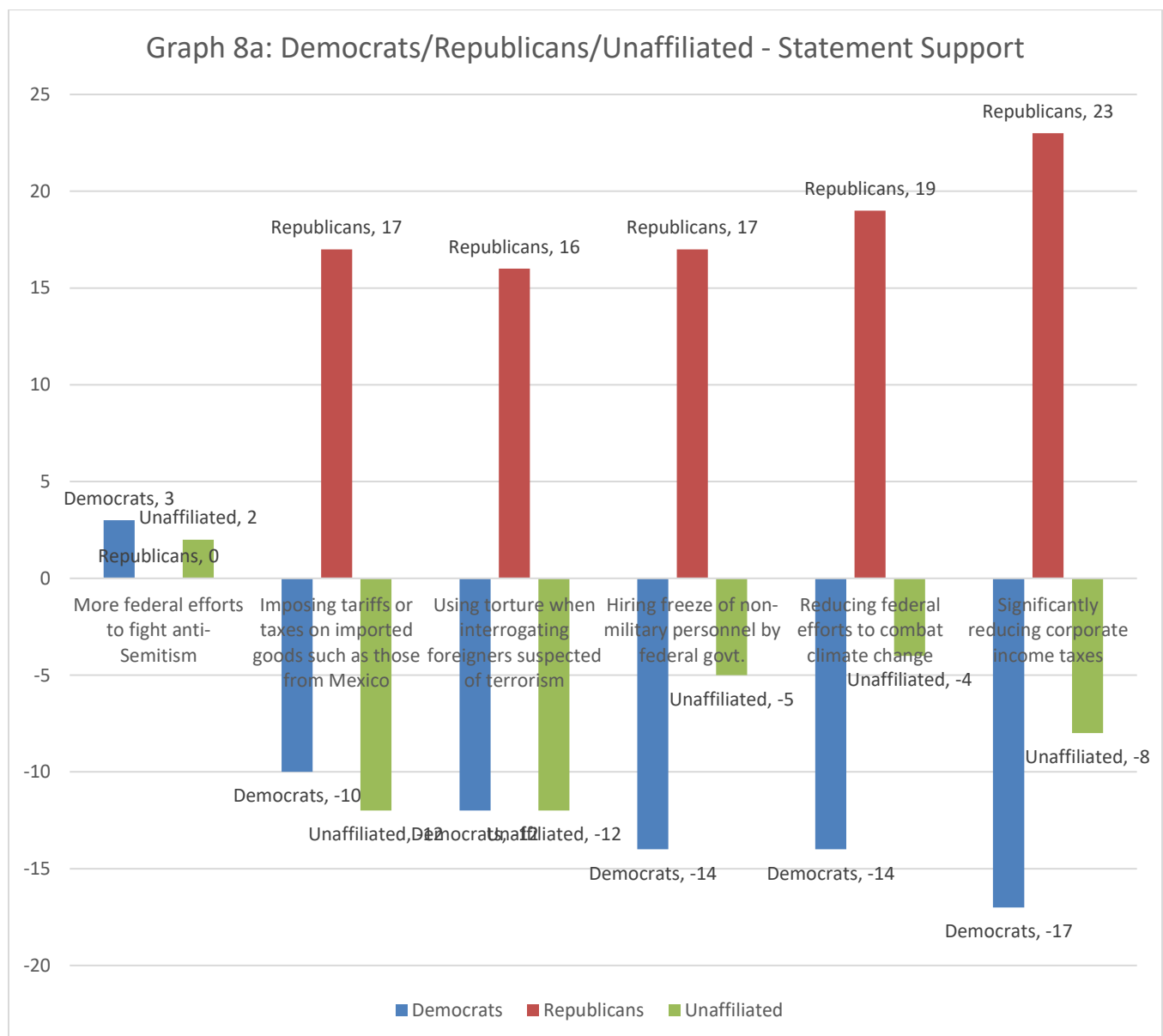
Table 11a: Support Percentages Across Various Political Categories

	Average	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated	ClintonVtr	TrumpVtr	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
More federal efforts to fight anti-Semitism	66	69	66	68	70	62	60	67	77
Strong government efforts to deport illegal immigrants	51	32	73	50	18	88	73	52	17
Travel restrictions on people from some Middle East countries	49	25	78	47	14	86	77	48	10
Imposing tariffs or taxes on imported goods such as those from Mexico	44	34	61	32	21	71	63	39	26
A \$54 billion increase in defense spending	44	22	68	37	13	75	69	40	9
A Republican health insurance alternative to the Affordable Care Act	38	14	67	35	7	73	62	35	9
Reducing American support for NATO if other countries can't meet their financial obligations	38	20	58	38	8	68	58	36	15
Significantly reducing corporate income taxes	37	20	60	29	11	63	63	31	15
Building a wall on the US border with Mexico	38	16	64	37	7	80	70	28	9
Using torture when interrogating foreigners suspected of terrorism	31	19	47	19	11	51	43	29	16
Hiring freeze of non-military personnel by federal govt.	31	17	48	26	13	52	46	32	8
Viewing the mainstream media as “enemies of the American people”	30	11	49	35	7	57	50	24	10
Eliminating 75 percent of all federal regulations	25	8	46	22	3	50	47	20	4
Reducing federal efforts to combat climate change	28	14	47	24	9	54	53	23	3
Freezing or reducing EPA grants and contracts, including those affecting the Chesapeake Bay	22	11	39	12	4	43	42	17	3

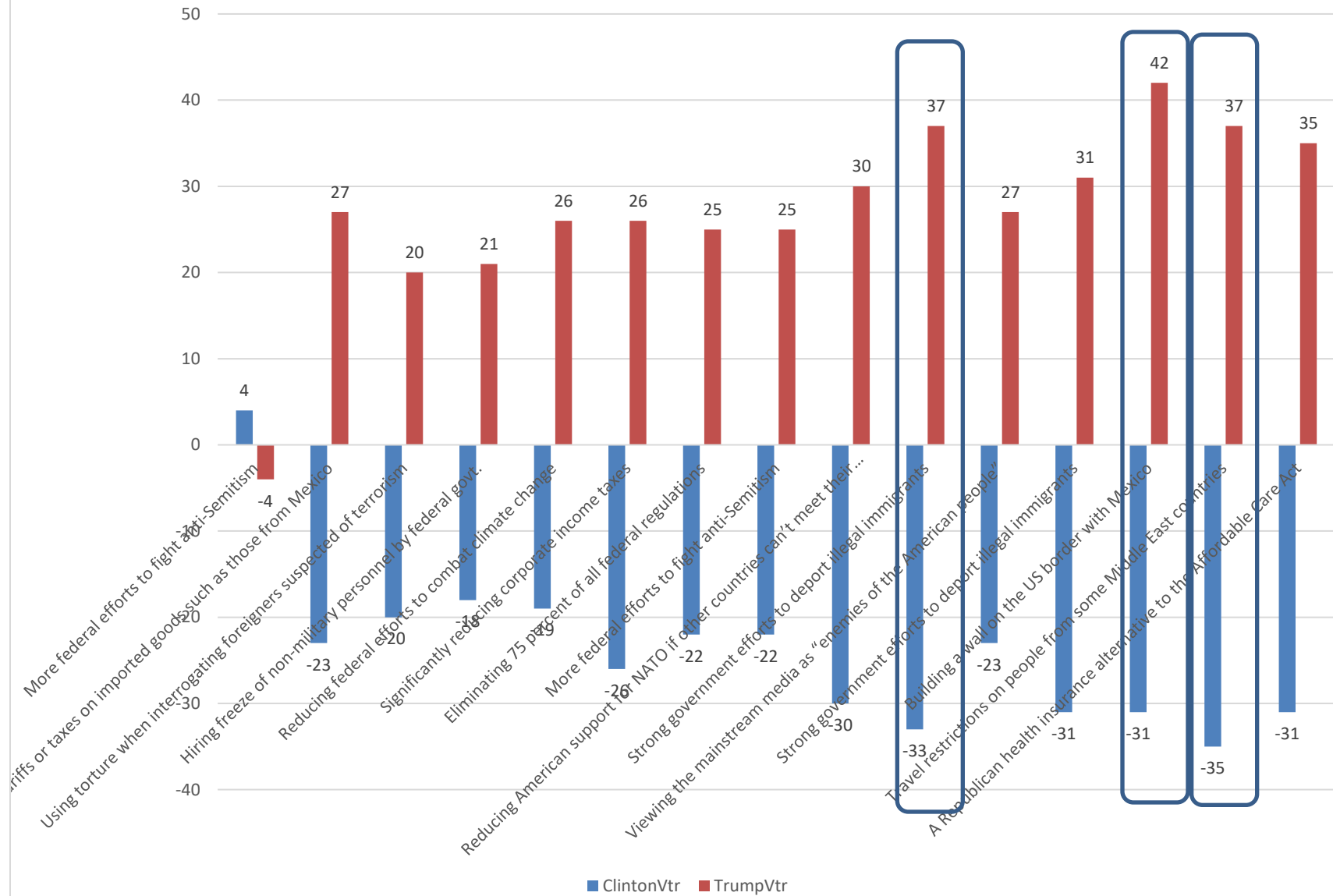
Table 11a shows the usual partisan divide on most issues – only the item “more federal efforts to fight anti-Semitism” bridged such divides.

Graph 8a shows the difference between Democrats, Republicans and unaffiliated voters by plotting the number of points above or below the average for the entire sample for a given item. In all cases, unaffiliated voters are closer to the Democratic level of support than the Republican one, which stayed in a relatively narrow range (16-23) for all items other than efforts to fight anti-Semitism (which shows few differences among the various voting groups).

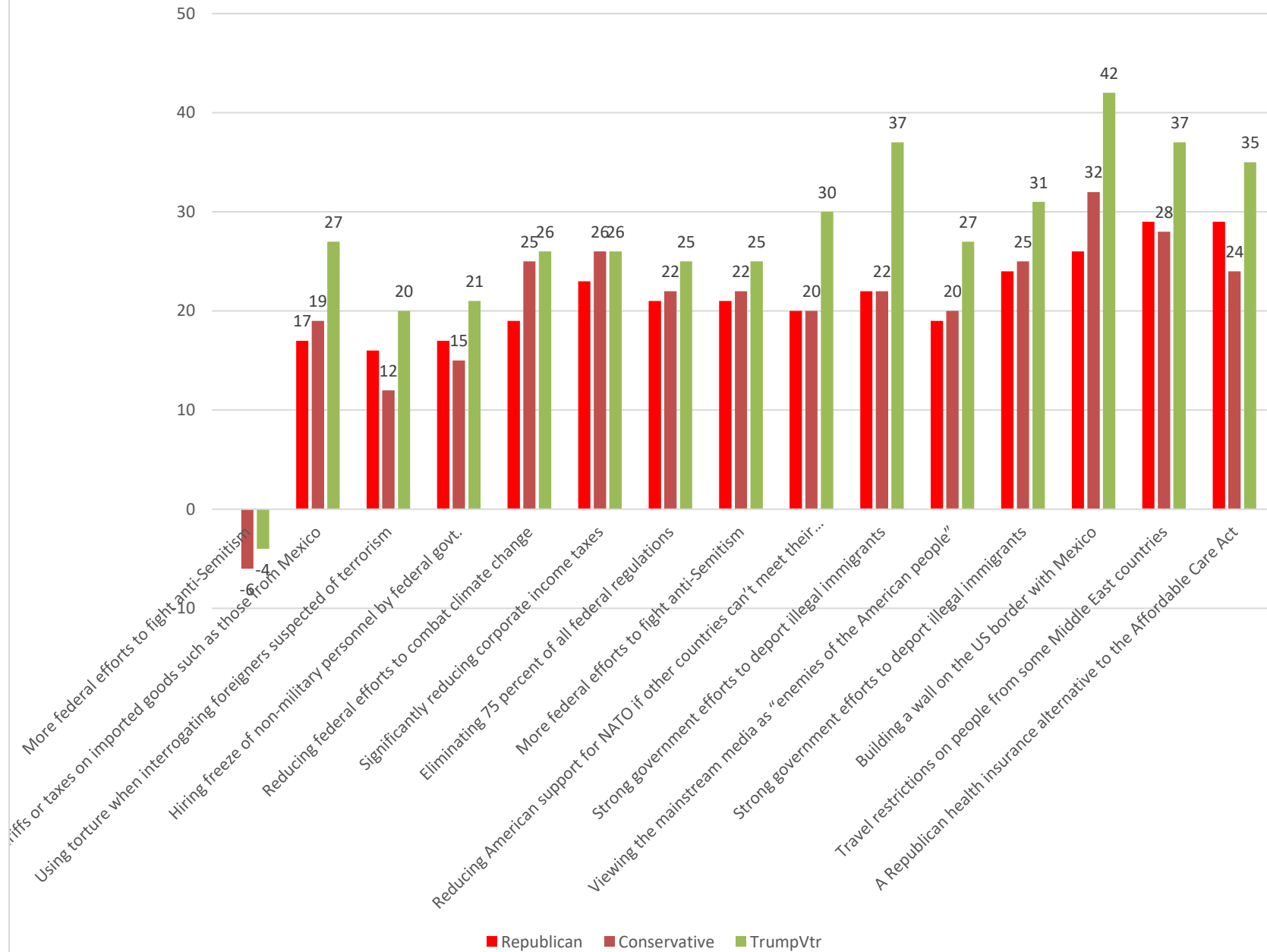
Graph 8b contrasts Clinton and Trump voters across all items. The three Trump signature issues - immigration, travel ban and building the wall with Mexico – show the greatest differences. Graph 8c contrasts Trump voters with conservatives and Republican registered respondents – and finds Trump voters to be consistently further from the average than either of the other two groups – true for 13 of the 15 categories. Graph 8d contrasts Clinton voters with liberals and Democrat registered respondents and finds her voters to be further from the average 6 of 15 times – thus a bit less extreme (compared to her party) than Trump from his.



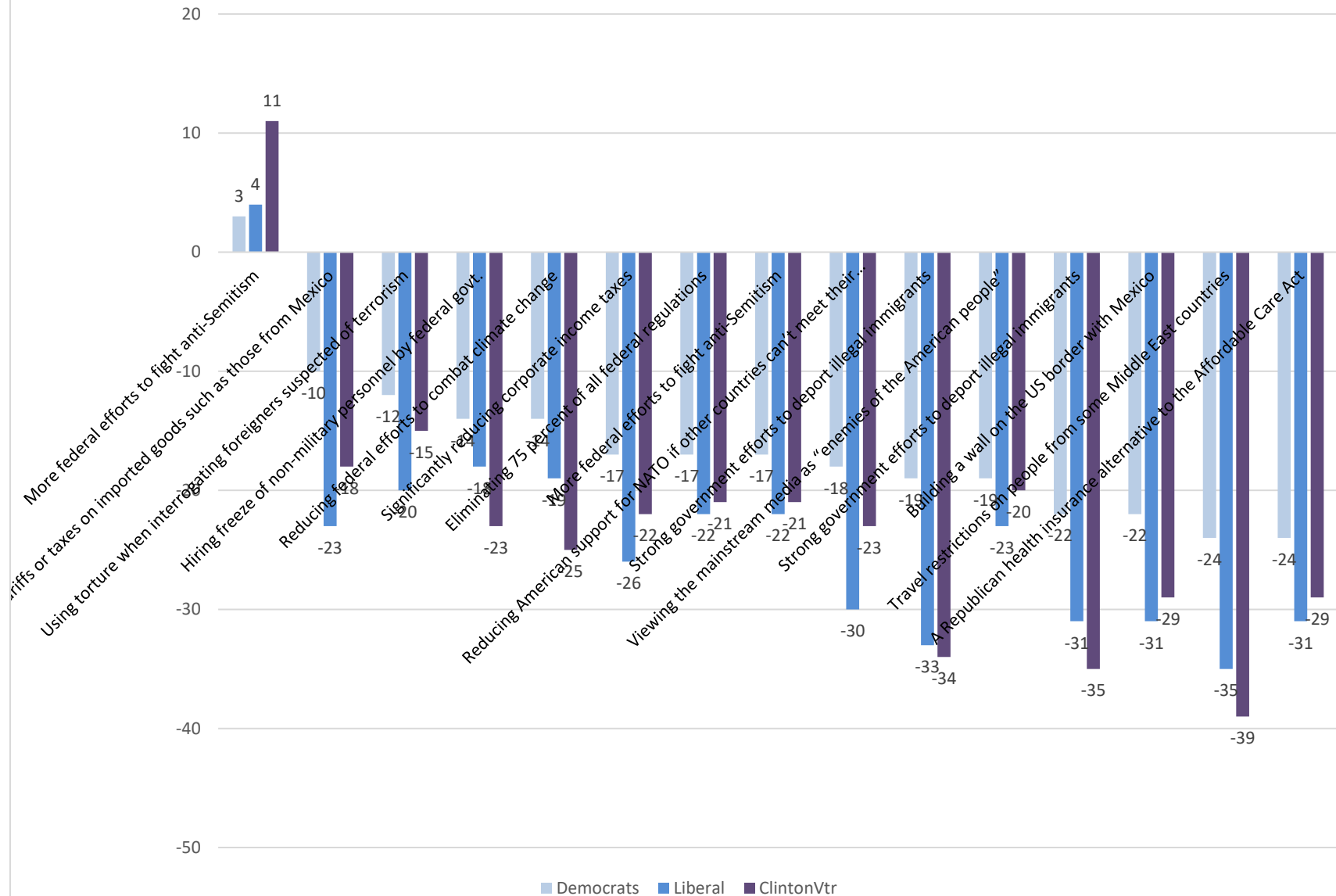
Graph 8b: Clinton and Trump Voters Support for Various Policy Items (+/- Average)



Graph 8c: Republicans, Conservatives and Trump Voters (=/- average)



Graph 8d: Democrats, Liberals and Clinton Voters (=/- average)



Support for Various State and Local Issues

The next section of the questionnaire focused on state and local issues. Table 12 shows the results. Majorities or pluralities supported each of the issues except for “replacing some public schools with charter schools.” Strong support was shown for increasing business incentives, school redistricting, penalizing possession of firearms on college campuses and providing paid medical leave (67-74 percent saying “support”). Other items such as banning fracking or preserving rural lands received a bit less support mostly due to higher levels of confusion by respondents as shown by the relatively high scores for “no answer/don’t know” in Table 12.

Table 12: State and Local Issues – Percentage Supporting or Opposing

	Support	Oppose	NA/DK
Increase business incentives by Maryland to attract or retain large employers	74	13	13
Using school redistricting to reduce overcrowding	70	19	11
With certain exceptions, assigning fines and other penalties to those in possession of firearms on college campuses	68	22	10
Providing 7 days of paid medical leave for workers in firms with at least 15 employees	67	22	11
Preserving rural lands by limiting the extension of sewer systems into rural areas	59	23	18
The county's school board decision for all schools to start approximately 15 minutes later each morning next school year	58	28	14
Banning fracking in Maryland	57	26	17
Having the Governor follow transportation priorities established by the Maryland General Assembly.	50	21	29
Allowing the public to swim at its own risk at all county owned beaches	49	39	11
Providing more public funding to help low income students attend private schools	46	44	11
Replacing some public schools with charter schools	36	49	15

In Table 12a, these issues are ranked by the percentage point difference between Clinton and Trump voters. Some issues clearly found greater support among Clinton supporters: banning fracking, providing medical leave, limiting guns on college campuses and having Governor Larry Hogan follow transportation priorities established by the Maryland General Assembly. The range of support for these issues among Clinton voters ranged from 63 to 86 percent and had gaps with Trump voters of 29 to 41 points.

By contrast, Trump voters embraced some more traditional conservative positions such as providing business incentives (90 percent support) or replacing public schools with charter schools (57 percent). These had wide gaps with Clinton voters (26, 41 points respectively). The less obvious somewhat polarized issue was “Allowing the public to swim at its own risk at all county owned beaches.” This produced a gap of 21 points with 59 percent of Trump voters supporting this stance compared to only 38 percent of Clinton voters. Perhaps the phrase “at its own risk” was the polarizing expression, with more

liberal voters wanting a more proactive “safety” stance by government while more conservative voters might have perceived it as a cost-saving “personal responsibility” approach.

Table 12a: State and Local Issues by Clinton and Trump Voters (ranked by gap between voting groups)

	CintonVtr	TrumpVtr	Gap
Banning fracking in Maryland	78	37	41
Providing 7 days of paid medical leave for workers in firms with at least 15 employees	83	48	35
With certain exceptions, assigning fines and other penalties to those in possession of firearms on college campuses	86	56	30
Having the Governor follow transportation priorities established by the Maryland General Assembly.	63	34	29
Preserving rural lands by limiting the extension of sewer systems into rural areas	65	53	12
Using school redistricting to reduce overcrowding	71	63	8
The county's school board decision for all schools to start approximately 15 minutes later each morning next school year	64	56	8
Providing more public funding to help low income students attend private schools	45	43	2
Allowing the public to swim at its own risk at all county owned beaches	38	59	-21
Increase business incentives by Maryland to attract or retain large employers	64	90	-26
Replacing some public schools with charter schools	16	57	-41

Building Permits

The questionnaire asked two building permit questions. The first asked whether the respondent had applied for a building permit within the last year. The second asked whether waiting times for obtaining building permits in the county had gotten shorter, longer, or stayed the same. Table 13 contrasts answers to the second question based on whether the respondent had tried to obtain a building permit.

Table 13: Building Permits – Applied, Perception of Waiting Time

	Applied	Didn't Apply
Shorter	31	6
Longer	32	34
Stayed the same	37	61
Total	100	101

Only a small percentage of respondents had applied for a building permit over the last year (3 percent). However, a statistically significant difference ($p < .01$) relationship was found such that those who had applied were much more likely to say that the waiting time was shorter (31 vs. 6 percent) than those who had not applied who grouped around the “stayed the same” answer. About an equal percentage of those who had applied said that the waiting time was longer (32 percent) vs. shorter (31 percent), implying that any county government efforts to reduce waiting times hadn’t been universally appreciated by those seeking building permits.

Accurate vs. Fake News Sources

Two open-ended questions were included asking respondents to (1) name specific news sources or programs to obtain accurate information about current events and (2) identify media sources most likely to produce “fake news.” Table 14 shows the top 15 news sources for accurate information, based on respondents’ answers.

Table 14: Top 15 News Sources for Accurate Information

	Citations	Percentage
FOX	542	22%
CNN	333	14%
Washington Post	257	10%
MSNBC	122	5%
CBS	109	4%
NPR	107	4%
New York Times	94	4%
ABC	79	3%
BBC	74	3%
Television (unspecified)	61	3%
NBC	59	2%
Baltimore Sun	57	2%
WBAL	55	2%
PBS	54	2%
OTHERS	180	7%

As shown on Table 14, Fox (22 percent) is clearly the most relied upon source for accurate information, followed up by CNN (14 percent), The Washington Post (10 percent), MSNBC (5 percent) and CBS, NPR and New York Times (all 4 percent).

Tables 14a and 14b shows the partisan and ideological sorting of viewers. Both tables are sorted by the first column (Democrats/liberals) and include any source cited by at least two percent of any partisan or ideological category.

Table 14a: Party Registration and Percentage Citing Sources for Accurate Information

	Dem	Rep	Unaffil.
Washington Post	17	3	9
CNN	15	11	14
FOX	8	41	18
New York Times	7	1	0
MSNBC	7	3	2
NPR	7	1	4
CBS	5	3	6
PBS	4	2	5
TV	4	1	4
NBC	3	2	2
BBC	3	2	1
AOL	3	2	3
Capital	2	1	1
Baltimore Sun	2	0	9
ABC	2	0	3
WJZ	2	1	0
WBAL	1	3	4
Radio (unspecified)	1	3	0
WSJ	1	2	1
Newspapers (unspecified)	1	1	5
OTHERS	3	8	7

Table 14a shows that Democrats are reliant on a greater variety of news sources than Republicans. The former utilized newspapers such as the Washington Post (17 percent) and New York Times (7 percent) as well as cable news sources such as CNN (15 percent) and MSNBC (7 percent). Public radio (NRP, 7 percent) was also a strongly relied upon source.

Republicans were much more likely to concentrate on a single information source: FOX, which alone accounted for 41 percent of all Republican citations. Otherwise, only CNN (11 percent) gained above three percent.

Unaffiliated voters were somewhere in the middle. Many relied upon FOX (18 percent), but also CNN (14 percent). They were the heaviest readers of the Baltimore Sun (9 percent). To some degree, they also relied upon CBS (6 percent), PBS (5 percent) and “newspapers” in general (5 percent).

Table 14b: Ideology and Percentage Citing Sources for Accurate Information

Media Source	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
CNN	20	11	12
Washington Post	18	12	4
NPR	11	2	2
FOX	8	19	36
MSNBC	8	4	4
CBS	5	5	3
New York Times	4	4	4
TV (unspecified)	4	2	3
ABC	3	6	0
BBC	2	3	3
Capital	2	1	2
PBS	2	3	2
NBC	1	4	1
WBAL	1	1	4
Radio (unspecified)	1	1	2
AP	0	2	0
Baltimore Sun	0	4	1
OTHERS	4	7	9

Table 14b shows the media preferences by ideology, ranking the sources by the first column (Liberal) but including any source that registered at least two percent of a column's total. Favorite media sources for liberals included CNN (20 percent), The Washington Post (18 percent), NPR (11 percent), FOX and MSNBC (both 8 percent) as well as CBS (5 percent) and the New York Times (4 percent).

Moderates relied more upon FOX (19 percent) than did liberals (8 percent) but not nearly as much as conservatives (36 percent). They also relied upon The Washington Post (12 percent) and CNN (11 percent) along with ABC (6 percent), CBS (5 percent), MSNBC, the New York Times, NBC and the Baltimore Sun (all 4 percent).

As with Republicans, conservatives relied extensively upon FOX (36 percent) and somewhat on CNN (12 percent). There were four other sources that received four percent: The Washington Post, MSNBC, the New York Times and WBAL.

Analyzing the total number of citations by party and ideology shows that Democrats (1114 citations) and moderates (1090 citations) were the groups most likely to cite any source for accurate information. Republicans (858) unaffiliated (419), liberals (768) and conservatives (550) were less likely to cite any source.

Respondents were then asked another open-ended question: **“What media sources do you consider the most likely to produce ‘fake news.’”**

Table 15 shows the general results.

Table 15: Media Sources Cited as Producing “Fake News”

Media Source	Citations	Percentage
FOX	510	26
CNN	346	17
BREITBART	156	8
MSNBC	117	6
Facebook	108	5
Internet	102	5
Social media	85	4
NBC	78	4
ABC	74	4
CBS	63	3
TV	56	3
TRUMP	36	2
TWITTER	36	2
ONION	27	1
New York Times	21	1
INFOWARS	17	1
Washington Post	17	1
Baltimore Sun	16	1
DRUDGE	14	1
Newspapers	13	1
White House	12	1
MSN	7	0
Huffington Post	6	0
National Enquirer	5	0
OTHERS	67	3
Total	1989	100

The two most typically relied upon news sources – FOX and CNN – also led the way regarding the largest number of citations for “fake news” – 26 and 17 percent. Online presence Breitbart.com was the third most listed fake news cited (8 percent) despite being one of the least cited sources for accurate news (only cited 7 times). President Trump or “White House” were cited as fake news sources a combination of 48 times or 3 percent of the time. A liberal favorite for accurate news – MSNBC – was listed fourth (6 percent). Some respondents interpreted the question to mean the news delivery method and thus pointed to the Internet (5 percent) or social media (4 percent) along with television (3 percent).

Table 15a shows the breakdown by party registration ranked by the first column (Democrats). As might be expected, Democrats were most likely to point to FOX and Breitbart.com as the two most likely sources of fake news. These were also among the top three for unaffiliated voters. Interestingly, Republican voters placed FOX as the second most likely source of fake news (11 percent), one point ahead of liberal favorite MSNBC. The latter was deemed a producer of fake news by only one percent of Democrats, but by eight percent of unaffiliated respondents (fourth highest for this group). Republicans and unaffiliated individuals were likely to point to CNN as a fake news source (first for Republicans, second for unaffiliated), but for Democrats CNN was fourth – after Facebook. Some respondents (1 to 7 percent) again pointed to news delivery sources like the Internet, television or social media – although the party impact was less clear.

Table 15a: Party Registration and Percentage Citing Sources for Fake News

	Dem	Rep	Unaffil.
FOX	42	11	25
BREITBART	13	3	10
Facebook	8	3	4
CNN	7	24	19
Internet	5	5	7
TRUMP	4	1	1
Social media	3	5	5
TV	3	3	1
OTHERS	3	2	7
INFOWARS	2	0	0
TWITTER	2	2	0
White House	2	0	0
BALTSUN	1	1	0
DRUDGE	1	1	0
MSNBC	1	10	8
National Enquirer	1	0	0
ONION	1	0	3
ABC	0	8	2
CBS	0	6	3
Huffington Post	0	1	0
NBC	0	7	4
NEWSPAPERS	0	1	1
New York Times	0	2	0
Washington Post	0	2	1
MSN	0	1	0

Table 15b focuses on the relationship between ideology and sources of fake news. Liberals and moderates both placed FOX as their first choice for fake news (50 and 29 percent); conservatives focused more on CNN (27 percent), MSNBC and NBC (both 10 percent). Conservatives also pointed to other major networks like ABC and CBS (both 8 percent). Online site Breitbart.com was second on the list for liberals (17 percent) and tied for third with Facebook for moderates (both 8 percent), but barely registered among Conservatives (1 percent).

Table 15b: Ideology and Percentage Citing Sources for Fake News

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
FOX	50	29	7
BREITBART	17	8	1
CNN	6	15	27
Facebook	6	8	3
INTERNET	3	7	4
Social media	3	6	2
TWITTER	3	0	3
DRUDGE	2	1	0
Trump	2	3	1
TV	2	2	4
White House	2	0	1
OTHERS	2	4	4
INFOWARS	1	2	0
ONION	1	3	0
ABC	0	1	8
Baltimore Sun	0	0	2
CBS	0	1	8
Huffington Post	0	0	1
MSNBC	0	5	10
National Enquirer	0	0	0
NBC	0	1	10
NEWSPAPERS	0	1	1
New York Times	0	2	1
Washington Post	0	1	1
MSN	0	0	1

Conservatives' hostility to the mainstream media – such as might be constituted by the major television networks ABC, CBS and NBC - might explain the strong correlation between Republican and conservative identities and responses to an earlier question which asked about agreement with the statement, "Viewing the mainstream media as 'enemies of the American people.'" As shown in Table 15c, Republicans (49 percent) and conservatives (50 percent) were much more likely to agree with this statement than were moderates (24 percent), liberals (10 percent), Democrats (11 percent) and to a lesser degree unaffiliated voters (35 percent).

**Table 15c: Percentage Agreeing with Statement
“Mainstream Media is Enemy of American People”**

	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Support	10	24	50	11	49	35
Oppose	82	71	35	79	42	55
Unsure/no answer	8	6	15	10	10	10
Total	100	101	100	100	101	100

Cybersecurity Threats – How Serious

A group of questions focused on cybersecurity threats and asked respondents to characterize these as “not very serious, somewhat serious or very serious.” Table 16 shows the results.

Table 16: Cybersecurity Threats Ranked by Percentage Saying “Very Serious”

	Very serious	Somewhat serious	Not very serious	NA/DK
Identity theft	83	15	1	1
Hackers or foreign governments hacking into US utilities	79	13	5	4
Online radicalization or recruitment of terrorists	78	15	4	4
Stolen credit cards	76	20	3	1
Hackers or foreign governments targeting US elections	70	15	10	5
Criminals hacking into your email or text messaging	67	25	6	2
Online bullying or harassment	63	28	8	2
Government hacking into your email or text messaging	51	24	22	3
Spam and phony emails	40	42	17	4

Identity theft was the item receiving the highest percentage of “very serious” responses (83 percent).⁸ Four other items were above 70 percent:

- Hackers or foreign governments hacking into US utilities (79 percent);
- Online radicalization or recruitment of terrorists (78 percent);
- Stolen credit cards (76 percent); and,
- Hackers or foreign governments targeting US elections (70 percent).

There was much less concern with “government hacking into your email or text messaging” (51 percent) or “spam and phony emails” (40 percent).

⁸ In a poll done as part of the Bloomberg Capital Cybersecurity Project, identity theft was also identified as “the biggest security problem facing us as individuals.” See <http://cybersecurity.blumbergcapital.com/>.

Clinton and Trump voters might be expected to polarize regarding the question of “hackers or foreign governments targeting US elections” since there are Senate, House of Representatives and FBI investigations into possible Russian involvement in the last presidential election – and thus an implicit question of President Trump legitimacy in winning office last November. The results were unambiguous: Clinton voters were nearly unanimous in perceiving this possibility as “very serious” (95 percent), while only 43 percent of Trump voters felt the same. This was similar to the scores for Democrats (90 percent) and Republicans (54 percent) as well as liberals (90 percent) and conservatives (52 percent).

Presidential Voting Choices in November 2016

The press release has pointed to the inclusion of a question about voters’ choices for president during last November’s election when conducting other analyses. In this section, the results for that question will be more thoroughly presented.

Table 17a shows the percentages voting for Clinton, Trump, someone else, didn’t vote or wouldn’t give an answer. These are listed for the entire sample as well as by party and ideology.

Table 17a: Presidential Vote by Party and Ideology

	Overall	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Democrats	Republicans	Unaffiliated
Clinton	37	69	43	10	68	11	29
Trump	36	7	29	67	14	65	34
Someone else	8	6	9	4	4	6	23
Didn’t vote	9	10	8	8	7	6	3
NA/DK	10	7	11	11	7	12	13
Total	100	100	101	100	100	101	100

Looking first at the party pattern of voting, it seems that more Republicans would not give an answer to their voting choice (12 percent of all Republicans) compared to Democrats (7 percent). Only unaffiliated voters gave a higher percentage (13 percent). Republicans were a bit less likely to defect to Clinton (11 percent) compared to Democrats defecting to Trump (14 percent). Unaffiliated voters favored Trump slightly over Clinton (34 to 29 percent) but seemed far more likely than other party groupings to say that they voted for “someone else” (23 percent vs. 4 and 6 percent for Democrats and Republicans).

Conservatives were a little more likely to defect to Clinton (10 percent) compared to liberals defecting to Trump (7 percent). Moderates were considerably more likely to side with Clinton (43 vs. 29 percent). Liberals were somewhat more likely to say that they didn’t vote (10 percent) compared to moderates (8 percent) or conservatives (also 8 percent).

A follow-up question asked, “If there was a different candidate you would have preferred – who would that be?”

Table 17 shows the results of this “buyers’ remorse” type of question. Democrats might now want to choose someone other than Clinton given her loss; Republicans might seek someone other than Trump either due to a different preference in the primaries or due to recent problems with the inability of Republicans to pass the repeal/replacement of the Affordable Care Act.

A total of 46 percent of all respondents provided an alternate candidate choice. There was a larger tendency for Democrats to suggest an alternative to Hillary Clinton (54 percent) than among Republicans (41 percent). For Democrats, Bernie Sanders was clearly the major alternative with 61

percent of all references to a candidate other than Clinton. More surprisingly, Sanders *was also the most preferred alternative candidate for Republicans* and unaffiliated voters.⁹ Democrats also considered both Michelle and Barack Obama (12 percent) as alternatives to Clinton, along with some other mentions such as Al Franken, Elizabeth Warren and Jim Webb.

Other than Bernie Sanders, Republicans were grouped around those that contested the Republican primaries until the end: Ted Cruz and John Kasich (each mentioned by 12 percent of Republican voters), with mention of various others such as Ben Carson (7 percent), Marco Rubio (7 percent), Ron or Rand Paul (6 percent), Mitt Romney (5 percent), Jeb Bush (4 percent) and a host of others.

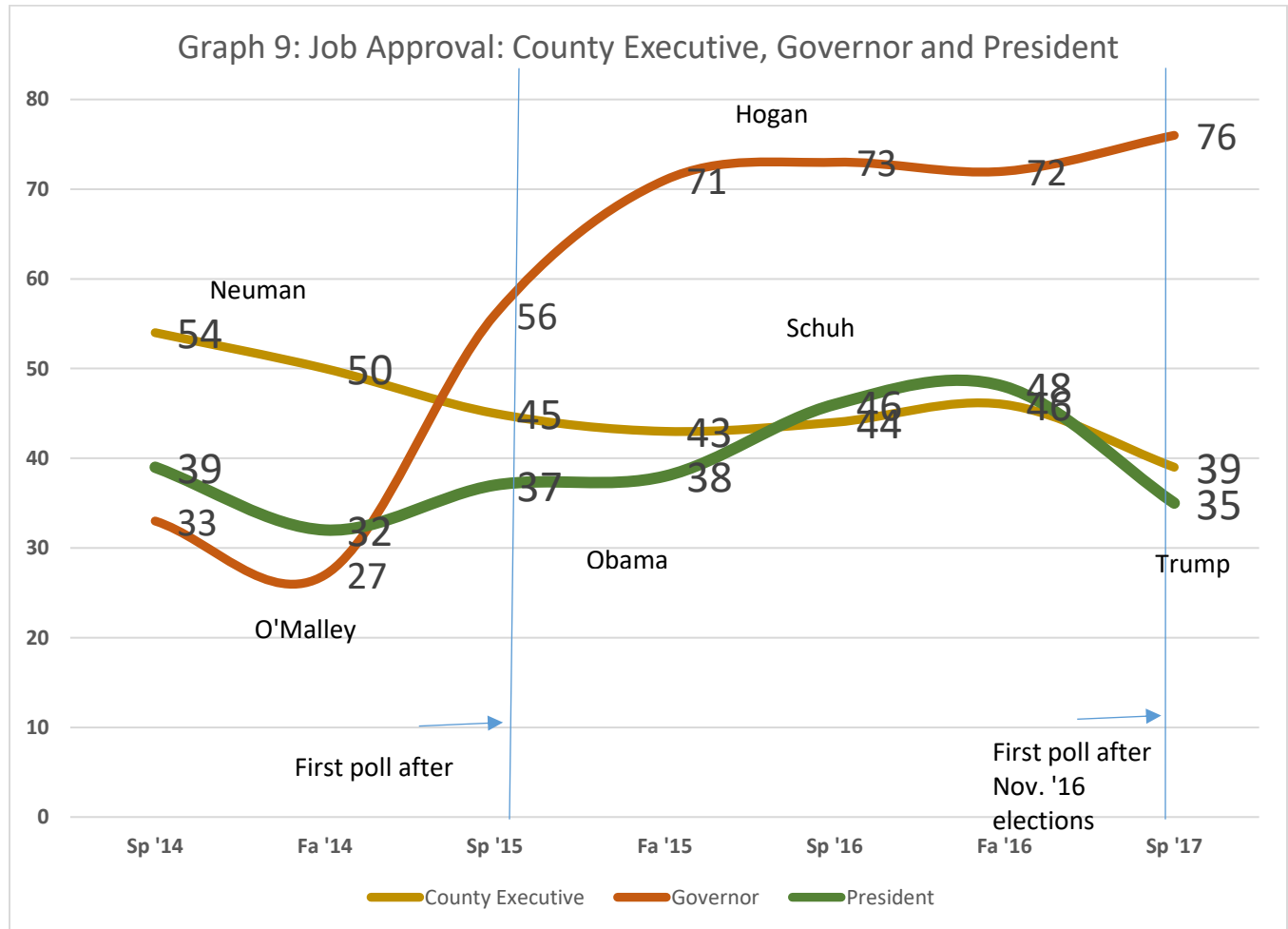
Table 17a: Alternative Presidential Candidate Choices by Party

	Dem	Rep	Unaffil.	Other	Total
Biden	16.6	6.1	5.0	0	12.3
Sanders	61.3	15.2	36.3	100.0	41.0
Bush	0	4.1	0	0	1.4
Carson	1.4	6.6	13.1	0	4.9
Cruz	0	12.2	1.3	0	4.3
Kasich	3.1	11.6	8.8	0	6.7
Obama	12.4	2.8	0	0	7.5
Romney	0	4.7	3.8	0	2.2
Paul	0	5.5	5.6	0	2.7
Rubio	0	6.6	8.1	0	3.5
Democratic Alternative	3.9	5.8	3.8	0	4.4
Republican Alternative	1.4	14.4	13.1	0	7.5
Gary Johnson	0	4.4	1.3	0	1.7
	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

⁹ This was especially true for “moderate” Republicans (21 percent) and the relatively few “liberal” Republicans (77 percent). Republicans who called themselves “conservative” were least inclined to support Sanders (6 percent) and supported Ted Cruz (22 percent) or Marco Rubio (12 percent) instead.

Job Approval: County Executive, Governor, President

The survey asked respondents to indicate approval or disapproval of the job performed by the incumbent in an office. Graph 9 shows the percentages saying “approve” for the county executive, the governor and the president. Table 19 shows a complete breakdown of all responses from spring 2015 to spring 2017 while Table 20 shows presidential job approval from fall 2008 to spring 2017.



The change in leadership in the governor’s office created a jump in approval values: by spring 2017, Governor Hogan was 49 points higher than Governor O’Malley in fall 2014. Regarding the county executive’s office, there was a gradual diminution in approval values based on the transition from Laura Neuman to Steve Schuh, with the latter’s approval rating appearing to stabilize around 43-46 approval range until this spring when it dropped to 39 percent. As shown in Graph 9, this drop paralleled the drop in presidential job approval – possibly affecting Schuh’s popularity since he supported Donald Trump’s candidacy, unlike Governor Hogan who did not. This hypothesis is supported by the data in Table 18 which shows Schuh’s approval by party and by the presidential job approval score.

Table 18: County Executive Steve Schuh’s Job Approval by Party and Presidential Job Approval

	Trump Approve	Trump Disapprove
Democratic Schuh approve	39	25
Republican Schuh approve	54	48
Unaffiliated Schuh approve	45	36

All relationships were statistically significant: $p < .03$

As in the past, Schuh had twice as much approval than disapproval (39 vs. 18 percent), but remained unknown to many respondents (no answer: 43 percent). Details are shown on Table 19.

Governor Hogan has enjoyed a long streak of popularity since fall 2015 when his job approval score first reached the 70 percent range. The spring 2017 survey found his job approval peaking at 76 percent. His strategic decision not to back Trump for president seems to have paid off as even a majority of Democrats who disapprove of Trump approve of his job as governor, and Republicans give him equal approval whether they approve of Trump or not. Table 18a shows these results.

Table 18a: Governor Larry Hogan’s Job Approval by Party and Presidential Job Approval

	Trump Approve	Trump Disapprove
Democratic Hogan approve	88	53
Republican Hogan approve	96	97
Unaffiliated Hogan approve	84	74

All relationships were statistically significant: $p < .03$

Hogan’s popularity was also seen in his strong “reelect” score: 70 percent of those asked would be inclined to keep Larry Hogan as Maryland’s governor. Only 15 percent chose an unnamed Democrat. Among Democrats nearly half (48 percent) favored Hogan, while only 32 percent wanted “A Democrat.” Another 19 percent said either someone else, not sure at this time or did not provide an answer. Those who said “A Democrat” were asked to name someone – no single name registered more than one percent of respondents’ views although a smattering of individuals were mentioned including Anthony Brown, Chris Van Hollen, Rushern Baker, Ben Jealous, Mike Busch, Kevin Kamenetz as well as an amorphous “Bernicrat.” Among Republicans, Hogan was the choice of 95 percent.

Table 19: Job Approval for County Executive, Governor, President

Elected official	Approve					Disapprove					Unsure/No answer				
	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17
County Executive Schuh	45	43	44	46	39	13	22	18	16	18	42	35	37	38	43
Governor O'Malley/Hogan	56	71	73	72	76	14	14	10	15	12	30	15	16	13	12
President Barack Obama/Donald Trump	37	38	46	48	35	56	52	47	46	54	7	10	7	6	11

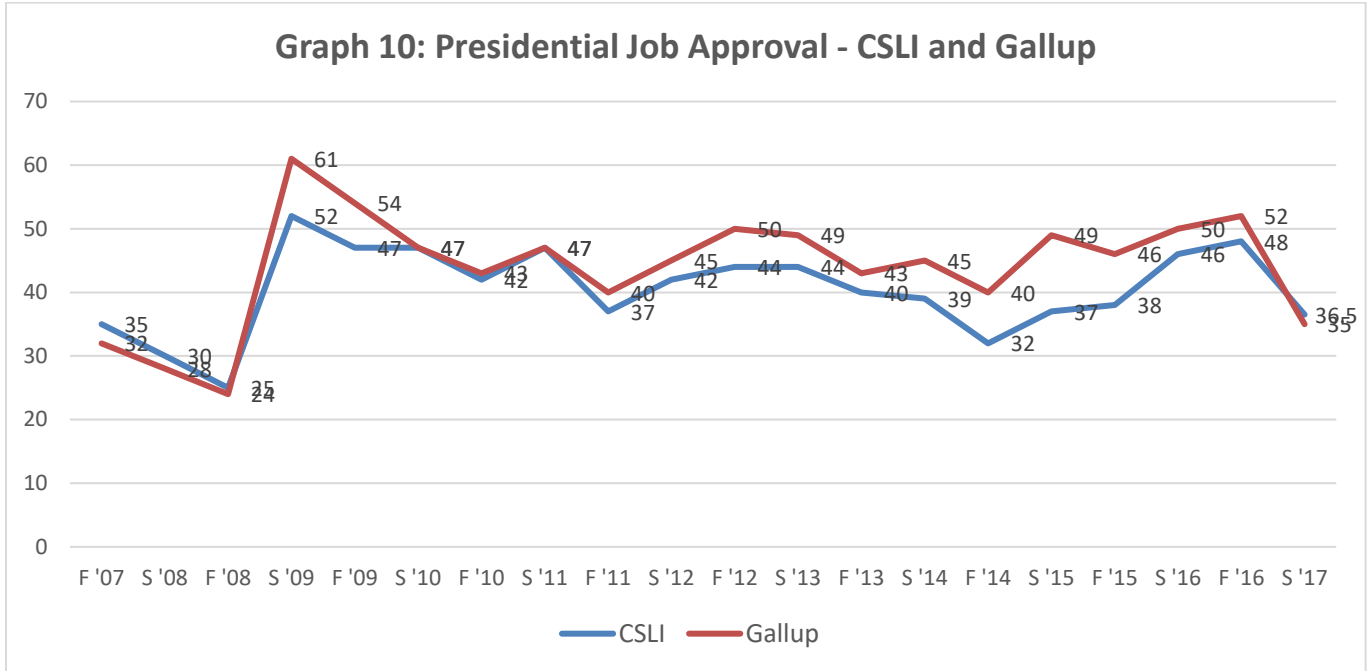
Regarding presidential job approval, President Trump reversed a pattern of increasing presidential job approval over the previous year for President Obama. For the spring 2017 survey, his job approval was 35 percent (see Table 20 and Graph 10).

Since fall 2007 CSLI polls of county residents have generally tracked national presidential job approval trends as indicated by Gallup surveys.¹⁰ For the period closest to that during which CSLI was calling residents, Gallup's presidential job approval surveys conducted during the time the CSLI survey was in the field (March 25-30), found that around 37 percent of the American public approved Trump's job as president. (See Graph 10 for a comparison of Gallup and CSLI findings.)

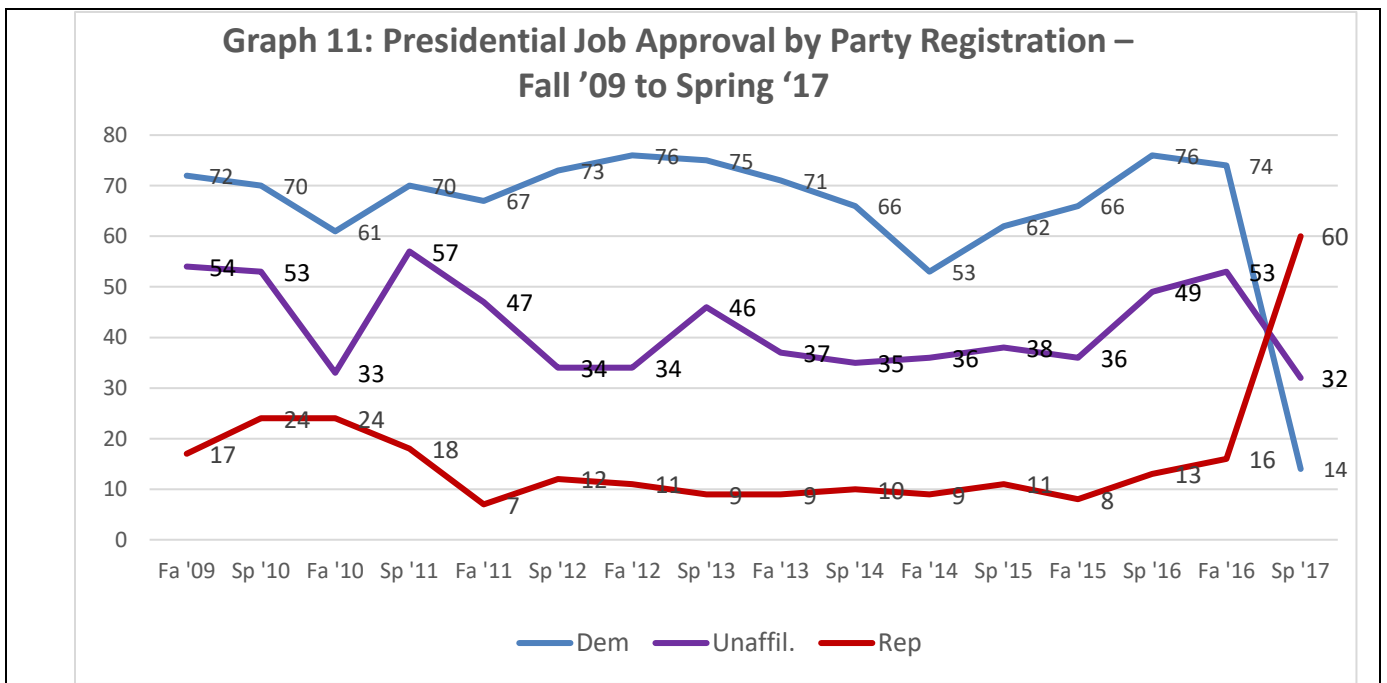
Table 20: Presidential Job Approval

Issue	Fa '08	Sp '09	Fa '09	Sp '10	Fa '10	Sp '11	Fa '11	Sp '12	Fa '12	Sp '13	Fa '13	Sp '14	Fa '14	Sp '15	Fa '15	Sp '16	Fa '16	Sp '17
Approve	24	53	47	47	42	47	37	42	44	44	40	39	32	37	38	46	48	35
Disapprove	69	31	42	45	49	44	56	49	50	51	53	52	58	56	52	47	46	54
No answer	8	16	11	8	10	9	7	8	6	4	7	9	9	7	10	7	6	11
Total	101	100	100	100	101	100	100	99	100	99	100	100	99	100	100	100	100	100

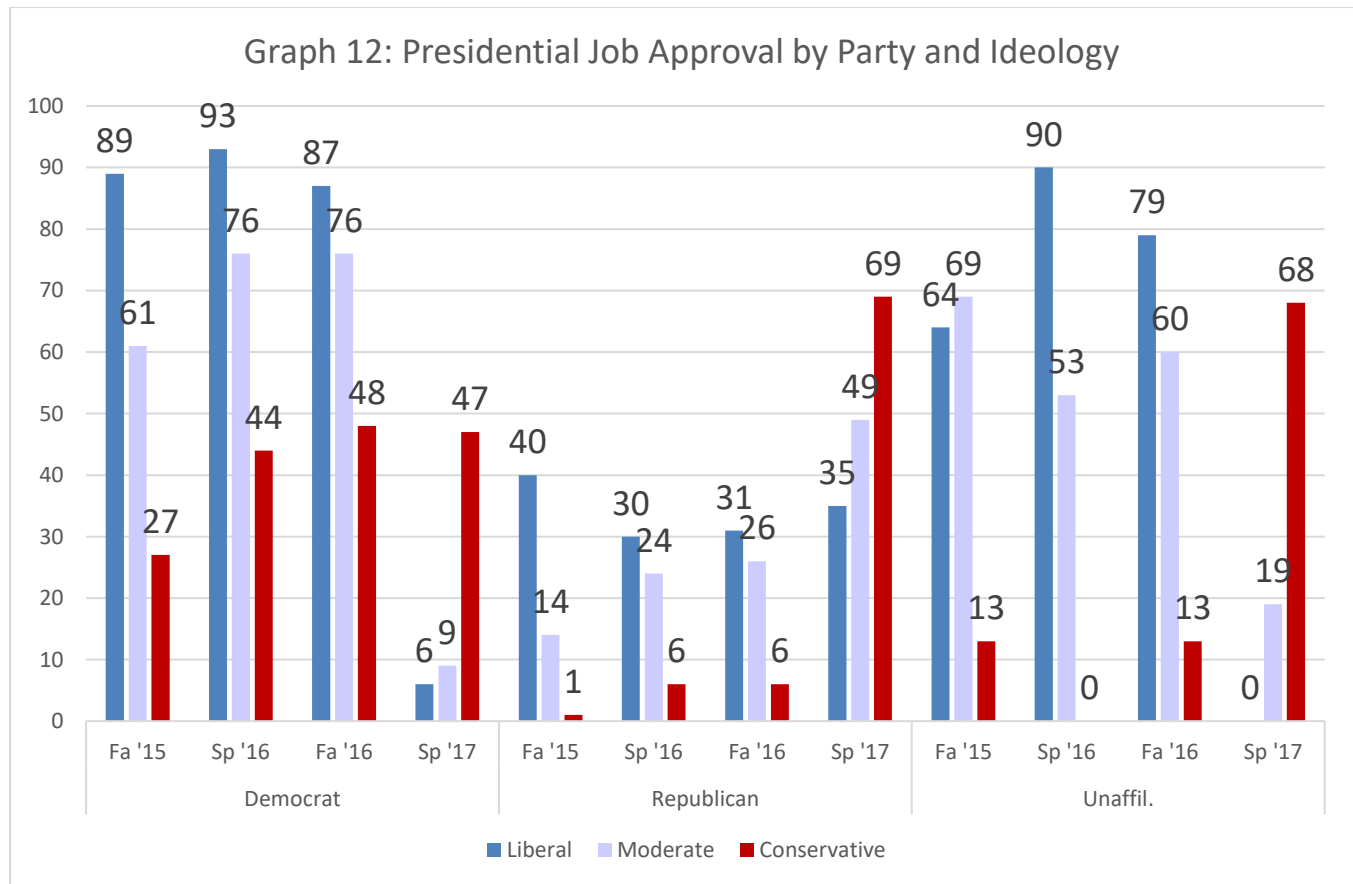
¹⁰ See http://www.gallup.com/poll/201617/gallup-daily-trump-job-approval.aspx?g_source=trump+job+approval&g_medium=search&g_campaign=tiles for Trump's job approval findings cited here.



As seen on Graph 11, Trump's standing reversed the previous alignment of partisans and job approval. There was a sharp rise in job approval from Republicans (60 percent from 16 percent last fall), but this figure was 14 points lower than President Obama's last percentage of Democrats in fall 2016 (74 percent). An especially large fall was seen among unaffiliated voters, from 53 percent approval in fall 2016 to only 32 percent for Trump this spring.

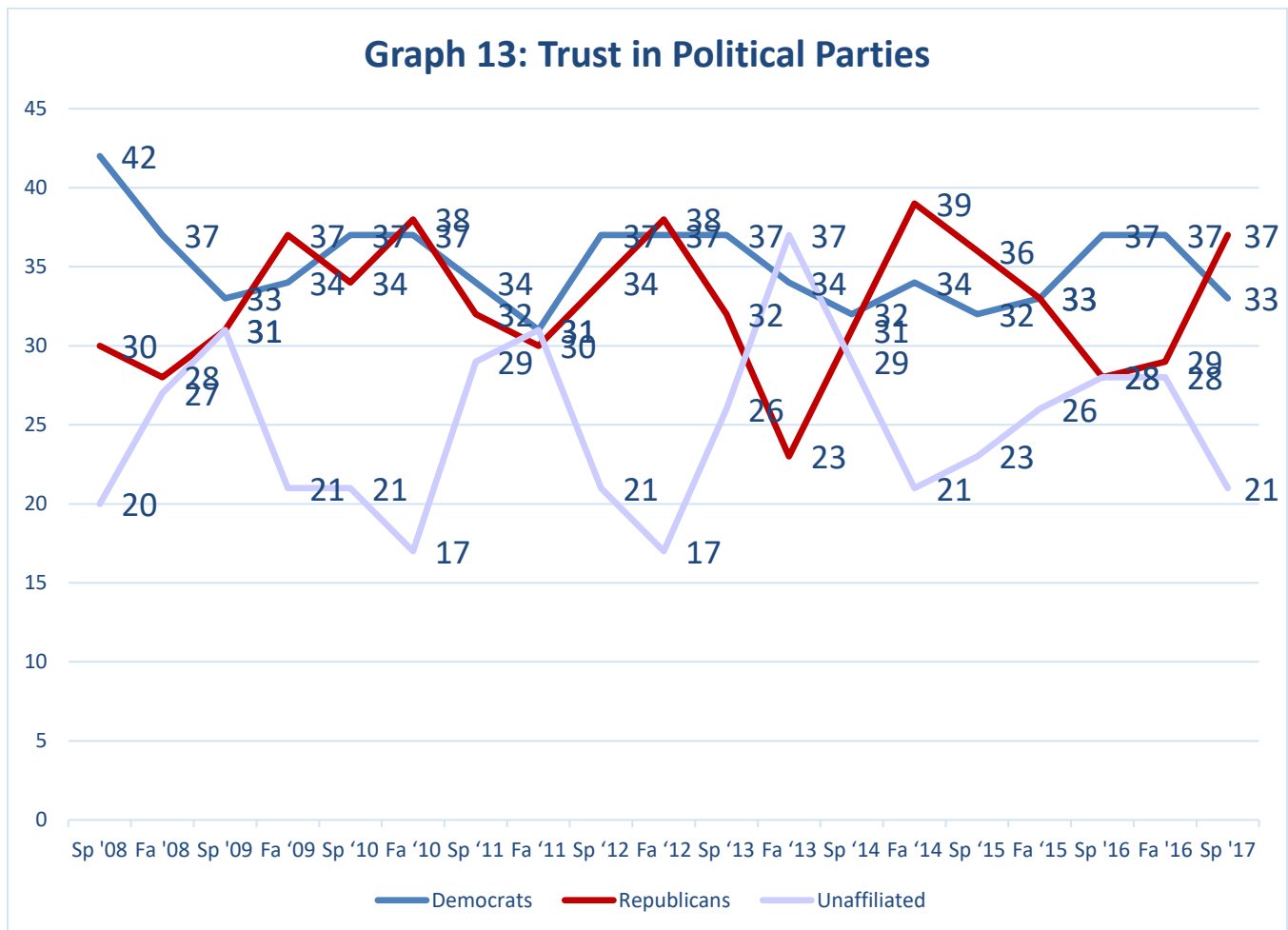


The interplay of party and ideology has consistently been a prominent part in shaping the scores for presidential job approval. During President Obama's terms in office, Democrats gave him high scores, although conservative Democrats were consistently the least enthusiastic with scores that were up to 62 percentage points lower than offered by liberal Democrats. Liberal unaffiliated voters also gave Obama high scores. With the emergence of a Republican president, a reversal of these tendencies would be expected. As seen in Graph 12, conservative voters consistently provided Trump's highest scores. Among conservative Democrats, his scores were about the same as Obama received. Support among moderate and liberal Democrats evaporated in spring 2017, sinking to levels similar to conservative Republicans during the Obama period. High scores among conservative Republicans have not matched Obama's high scores among liberal and moderate Democrats. Trump's scores among unaffiliated voters was only relatively strong among conservatives; among both moderates and liberals, his scores are well below Obama's.



Trust in Political Parties

Since 2008, the CSLI survey has asked which party “do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years.” Graph 13 shows that there have been some sharp oscillations, with Republicans scores as low as 23 percent and as high as 39 percent. Democrats have experienced less variation in trust levels, ranging from 32 to 42 percent. Those saying “neither” – a volunteered answer not prompted by the question - have varied the most, from a low of 17 to a high of 37 percent. The spring 2017 figures showed a small decline for Democrats coupled with a sharper increase for Republicans, with the “neither” dropping notably. Apparently, Republicans were getting the benefit of the doubt – according for the rise in trust and the decline of ambiguous neither scores.



Historically, changes in the “neither” score appear related to the presence of an election, during which time voters polarized along their partisan inclinations. Prior to the 2016 elections, the average “neither” score for election periods (fall 2008, fall 2010, fall 2012, fall 2014) is only 19; outside of election periods it is 27. In fall 2016, the neither score was 28 percent, well above the historic average. Oddly, that score dropped *after* the election to the benefit of Republicans.

Given the challenges of the new Trump administration and the reported enthusiasm of Democrats now in opposition, these results seem unexpected. Table 21 shows that the rise of Republican Party trust scores was due to greater confidence among Republicans in their own party (69 percent) than Democrats

have in theirs (61 percent). There was somewhat more trust by Democrats of Republicans (12 percent) than the reverse (6 percent). Unaffiliated voters trusted Republicans (33 percent) more than Democrats (26 percent).

Table 21: Trust Political Parties by Registration

	Democrat	Republican	Unaffiliated
Trust Democrats	61	6	26
Trust Republicans	12	69	33
Trust neither	19	20	32
NA/DK	8	5	9
Total	100	100	91

Methodology

The survey polled a random sample of 521 county residents who were at least 18 years old, primarily using a database of listed and unlisted landline numbers along with cell phone numbers. Telephone interviewing was conducted March 25-30 during evening hours. In addition, members of a CSLI Web panel were also asked to participate in an online version of the survey. There was about a 4.2 percent statistical margin of error for the combined sample; the error rate was higher for subgroups such as “Democrats” or “men.” The dataset was weighted by gender, political party and education to better represent the general population. College students were trained and used as telephone interviewers.

Contact Dan Nataf, Ph.D., center director, for additional comments or questions at 410-777-2733 and ddnataf@aacc.edu. Check the CSLI website for results for information and press releases for this and previous surveys: www2.aacc.edu/csl.

Appendix A:

CSLI Semi-Annual Survey – Spring 2017 with Frequencies (percentages instead of coded values)

1. What do you think is the most important problem facing the residents of Anne Arundel County at the present time? (DON'T READ THE LIST! Have them *volunteer* an answer)

Problem	Choose ONE
Crime (other than drug related – e.g., robbery, burglary, assault)	8
Drugs (use or sale of illegal drugs such as heroin, cocaine, or use of prescription pain killers for non-medical purposes.)	24
Economy – (e.g., no jobs, high cost of living, business closing or losses)	6
Education (problems with schools)	10
Environment (e.g., air or water pollution, saving the Bay)	9
Government ethics – corrupt, immoral	3
Government waste – inefficient, spends too much	1
Government lack resources –for roads, schools, services	6
Growth/overpopulation - too much development	5
Healthcare (cost, access)	3
Taxes – too high	5
Transportation problems/traffic congestion	5
Unsure/No Answer	10
Other answer - write in:	5

2. The next questions ask you to say whether things are going in the right or wrong direction. First, would you say that the county is headed in the right direction or in the wrong direction? How about the state of Maryland? How about the nation as a whole?

	Right	Wrong	Unsure	Don't Know
2.1 County	51	19	27	4
2.2 State	55	29	14	1
2.3 Nation	28	55	16	26

3. Next I would like to know how you would rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County, in Maryland, and in the United States generally. First how would you rate economic conditions in Anne Arundel County -- excellent, good, only fair, or poor? How about the state? How about the nation?

	Excellent	Good	Only fair	Poor	Unsure/Don't know
3.1 County	6	60	28	3	3
3.2 State	4	53	33	7	4
3.3 Nation	1	27	45	22	4

4. Thinking now about your personal circumstances, please tell me whether any of these economic conditions apply to you or your household.

	Applies	Doesn't apply	Don't know
4.1 Wages or salaries are not rising as fast as the cost of living	55	42	3
4.2 Received a salary increase or other increase in income recently	31	63	6
4.3 Facing the possibility of unemployment	14	77	9
4.4 Found a new or better job recently	10	84	6
4.5 Hard to afford the cost of food and groceries	27	71	3
4.6 Hard to afford the cost of education	38	57	6
4.7 Taxes are too high in relation to government services provided	57	34	9
4.8 Health insurance is unavailable, too expensive or inadequate	16	82	3

5. Thinking about the next twelve months and the county's economy, please answer the following questions by saying whether a particular condition will be better, the same or worse:

	Better	Same	Worse	Don't Know
5.1 Economic growth	35	46	14	5
5.2 Unemployment	33	37	22	8
5.3 Inflation	13	31	46	10
5.4 Your personal financial situation	22	59	14	5

Do you support or oppose the following statements, proposals or actions? We will start with items affecting national government, and then move to state or local items.

Statement, proposal or action	Support	Oppose	NA/DK
6.0 Federal			
6.1 Hiring freeze of non-military personnel by federal govt.	31	60	9
6.2 Freezing or reducing EPA grants and contracts, including those affecting the Chesapeake Bay	22	70	8
6.3 Using torture when interrogating foreigners suspected of terrorism	31	57	12
6.4 Eliminating 75 percent of all federal regulations	25	58	17
6.5 Significantly reducing corporate income taxes	37	52	11
6.6 Imposing tariffs or taxes on imported goods such as those from Mexico	44	41	15
6.7 Travel restrictions on people from some Middle East countries	49	44	7
6.8 Reducing federal efforts to combat climate change	28	65	7
6.9 Building a wall on the US border with Mexico	38	57	5
6.10 Reducing American support for NATO if other countries can't meet their financial obligations	38	50	12
6.11 Viewing the mainstream media as "enemies of the American people"	30	60	10
6.12 A Republican health insurance alternative to the Affordable Care Act	38	44	18
6.13 More federal efforts to fight anti-Semitism	66	20	13
6.14 Strong government efforts to deport illegal immigrants	51	38	12
6.15 A \$54 billion increase in defense spending	44	45	11

7.0 State and Local	Support	Oppose	NA/DK
7.1 Replacing some public schools with charter schools	37	49	15
7.2 Providing more public funding to help low income students attend private schools	45	44	10
7.3 The county's school board decision for all schools to start approximately 15 minutes later each morning next school year	59	28	14
7.4 Using school redistricting to reduce overcrowding	70	19	11
7.5 With certain exceptions, assigning fines and other penalties to those in possession of firearms on college campuses	68	22	10
7.6 Banning fracking in Maryland	58	25	17
7.7 Having the Governor follow transportation priorities established by the Maryland General Assembly.	50	21	29
7.8 Increase business incentives by Maryland to attract or retain large employers	74	13	13
7.9 Allowing the public to swim at its own risk at all county owned beaches	50	39	11
7.10 Preserving rural lands by limiting the extension of sewer systems into rural areas	59	24	17
7.11 Providing 7 days of paid medical leave for workers in firms with at least 15 employees	67	22	11

8. Have you applied for a building permit within the last year?

(1) Yes 3% (2) No 96% (0) No answer/DK 1%

9. Based on what you know, would you say that waiting times for obtaining building permits in the county have gotten shorter, longer, or stayed the same?

(1) Shorter 7% (2) Longer 34% (3) Same 59% (0) No answer/DK (missing values removed for this question)

10. There has been a lot of talk about “fake news” – where do you go to get accurate information about current events – please name a specific news source or program that you rely upon. (See text)

 _____

11. What media source do you consider the most likely to produce “fake news?” (See text)

 _____

How serious is each of the following cybersecurity threats – not very serious, somewhat serious, or very serious	Not very	Somewhat	Very	NA/DK
12.1 Identity theft	1	15	83	1
12.2 Stolen credit cards	3	20	76	1
12.3 Spam and phony emails	17	42	40	2
12.4 Criminals hacking into your email or text messaging	6	25	67	2
12.5 Government hacking into your email or text messaging	22	24	51	3
12.6 Hackers or foreign governments targeting US elections	10	15	70	5
12.7 Hackers or foreign governments hacking into US utilities	5	13	79	4
12.8 Online radicalization or recruitment of terrorists	4	15	78	4
12.9 Online bullying or harassment	8	28	63	2
13. How well is government handling cybersecurity threats—not very well, somewhat well, or very well?	31% (not very well)	46% (somewhat well)	10% (very well)	13%

14. For whom did you vote in last November’s presidential election?

(1) Hillary Clinton 37% (2) Donald Trump 36% (3) Someone else 8%
(2) (4) Didn’t vote 9% (0) **NA/DK** 10%

15. If there was a different candidate you would have preferred – who would that be? (See text)

16. At this time, would you be inclined to vote to keep Larry Hogan as Maryland’s governor, or would rather see a Democrat instead.

(1) Larry Hogan 70% (2) A Democrat 15% (3) Neither/Someone else 4% (0) Unsure/**NA/DK** 12%



17 If respondent says “A Democrat” ask – “Do you have someone in mind?”

See text

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the following elected officials are handling their jobs?

Elected official	Approve	Disapprove	NA/DK
18.1 County Executive Steve Schuh	39	18	43
18.2 Governor Larry Hogan	76	12	12
18.3 President Donald Trump	35	54	11

19. Overall, which party, the Democrats or the Republicans, do you trust to do a better job in coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years?

(1) Democrats 33% (2) Republicans 37% (3) Neither 22% (4) Other (*volunteered*) 3%
(0) **NA/DK** 5%

20. With which political party, if any, are you registered?

- (1) Democratic 41%
 (2) Republican 38%
 (3) Unaffiliated (or “independent”) 15%
 (4) Other 1%
 (5) None (not registered to vote) 4% (0) **NA/DK** 1%

We are almost done. The last few questions will help us to better understand your responses.

21. Which of the following best describes your political beliefs: Conservative, Moderate or Liberal?

- (1) Conservative 34% (2) Moderate 44% (3) Liberal 21% (0) **NA/DK** 1%

22. What is your age? _____ (*ideally, a specific year of age – 23, 44, 81*)

Age	Percentage
18-29	14
30-39	8
40-49	10
50-59	21
60-69	25
70+	23
Total	99

23. I am going to read some categories relating to education. Please stop me when I reach the category in which the highest level of your formal education falls.

(1) Less than a high school diploma 3%	(5) Completed a 4 year bachelor’s degree 17%
(2) A high school diploma 14%	(6) Post graduate work (e.g., MA/MS/JD/Ph.D.) 21%
(3) Some college but no 2 year degree 28%	(7) Something else? 0%
(4) Completed at least a 2 year college degree but not a 4 year degree 18%	(0) NA/DK 0%

24. I am going to read some categories relating to income. Please stop me when I reach the category in which your household income falls.

- (1) Less than \$30,000 10%
 (2) \$30,000 to \$50,000 7%
 (3) \$50,001 to \$75,000 12%
 (4) \$75,001-\$100,000 15%
 (5) \$100,001-\$150,000 19%
 (6) \$150,001-\$250,000 16%
 (7) Over \$250,000 6%
 (0) **NA/DK** 16%

25. Stop me when I reach the employment category that best describes your situation.

Category	Choice
Retired	35
Self employed	8
Employed part time	10
Employed for a company in the private sector	15
Employed for state and local government	8
Employed for federal government	7
Employed in a private non-profit organization	3
Student	8
Unemployed and seeking a job	4
Unemployed and not seeking a job	2
NA/DK	1

26. Regarding race or ethnicity, how would you describe yourself?

- (1) White 80%
- (2) Black or African American 9%
- (3) Hispanic or Latino 3%
- (4) Asian 2%
- (5) Other 5%
- (0) NA/DK 2%

27. What is your religion, if any? (check off category that best describes the answer - **DON'T Read)**

- (1) None (*e.g. atheist, agnostic*) 15%
- (2) Non-practicing (*e.g. doesn't go to religious places or celebrate religious holidays*) 5%
- (3) Evangelical or born again Christian (*e.g. possibly Baptist, Pentecostal*) 11%
- (4) Catholic 21%
- (5) Protestant (*e.g. possibly Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterian, Anglican, Episcopalian*) 28%
- (6) Some other Christian (*e.g. possibly Mormon*) 4%
- (7) Jewish 2%
- (8) A 'spiritual person' not associated with an organized religion 7%
- (9) Something else (*e.g. Hindu, Muslim*) 3%
- (0) NA/DK 6%

28. What is your current marital status?

- (1) Single 19%
- (2) Married 63%
- (3) Separated/divorced 5%
- (4) Widowed 11%
- (5) Living Together 1%
- (6) Other 2%
- (0) NA/DK 1%

28.1 I have one last request: In an attempt to provide students with more opportunities to survey the public, the Center is asking whether we can contact you occasionally by email to participate in future surveys. Can we count on your help?

(1) **Yes** 36%

(2) **No** 64% (Go to “That concludes our survey...”)

28.2 IF YES: “What email address shall we use to contact you?”

(CLEAR SPELLING/HANDWRITING PLEASE!)

“That concludes our survey, thanks for participating”

Once the respondent hangs up, make sure to enter GENDER and ZIP CODE

29. Gender of respondent to whom you were speaking:

(1) Male 50%

(2) Female 50%

30. Zipcode (from calling sheet) _____

Zipcode	Percent
20711	.6
20724	1.2
20733	.1
20751	.8
20755	.6
20764	1.6
20765	.2
20773	.1
20776	1.1
20777	.3
20779	.2
20794	.3
21001	.1
21012	6.5
21032	2.4
21035	1.5
21037	3.5
21054	.9

21060	4.5
21061	6.5
21076	1.9
21090	1.2
21108	5.2
21113	2.6
21114	5.0
21122	11.5
21123	.3
21140	.5
21144	5.1
21146	11.9
21225	.8
21226	.4
21227	.3
21401	7.7
21403	5.2
21405	.1
21409	6.2
21638	.3
86504	.1
211466	.3
Total	100.0