

**AP**

**NORC**  
at the UNIVERSITY of CHICAGO

The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# **The September 2017 AP-NORC Center Poll**

**Partial topline, some questions held for future release**

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

*Interviews: 9/28-10/2/2017  
1,150 adults*

*Margin of error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults*

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

**CURX1. How important are each of the following issues to you personally?**

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC 9/28- 10/2/2017	Not at all/slightly important NET	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very/ extremely important NET	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
Climate change	<b>23</b>	12	11	<b>21</b>	<b>55</b>	22	32	*	1

N=1,150

AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	Not at all/slightly important NET	Not at all important	Slightly important	Moderately important	Very/ extremely important NET	Very important	Extremely important	DK	SKP/ REF
Climate change	<b>25</b>	11	14	<b>21</b>	<b>53</b>	27	26	1	1

N=1,068

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

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

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

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

AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	Approve/ lean toward approve NET	Approve	Lean toward approve	Don't lean either way	Disapprove/ lean toward disapprove NET	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
Climate change	<b>33</b>	33	*	<b>1</b>	<b>65</b>	*	65	*	*

N=1,150

AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	Approve/ lean toward approve NET	Approve	Lean toward approve	Don't lean either way	Disapprove/ lean toward disapprove NET	Lean toward disapprove	Disapprove	DK	SKP/ REF
Climate change	<b>34</b>	33	1	<b>1</b>	<b>64</b>	*	64	*	1

N=1,068

**CC1. Moving on...Do you think climate change is happening, do you think climate change is not happening, or aren't you sure?**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/11-14/2016
Climate change is happening	71	72	65	77
Climate change is not happening	12	9	12	10
Not sure if climate change is happening <sup>1</sup>	17	19	23	13
SKIP/REFUSED	*	1	1	-
N=	1,150	1,038	1,068	1,096

*If climate change is happening or not sure if climate change is happening in CC1*

**CC2. Do you think climate change is caused entirely by human activities, caused mostly by human activities, caused about equally by human activities and natural changes in the environment, caused mostly by natural changes in the environment, or caused entirely by natural changes in the environment?**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017
<b>Caused entirely/mostly by human activities NET</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>48</b>
Caused entirely by human activities	9	12
Caused mostly by human activities	36	36
<b>Caused about equally by human activities and natural changes in the environment</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>35</b>
<b>Caused entirely/mostly by natural changes in the environment NET</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>15</b>
Caused mostly by natural changes in the environment	12	13
Caused entirely by natural changes in the environment	5	3
DON'T KNOW	1	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*	*
N=	1,040	956

<sup>1</sup> This option was a volunteered option for telephone respondents in 2016.

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*If climate change is happening or not sure if climate change is happening in CC1*

**CC3. Do you believe climate change is a problem that the United States government should take steps to address, or don't you think the government should be involved?**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/11-14/2016
Climate change is a problem the United States government should address	82	79	79
The United States government should not be involved in addressing climate change	18	18	20
DON'T KNOW	1	2	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*	1	1
<i>N=</i>	1,040	956	993

**CC1/CC3 Combined**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/17-21/2017 <sup>2</sup>	AP-NORC 6/8-11/2017	AP-NORC/EPIC 8/11-14/2016
<b>Climate change is happening</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>77</b>
Climate change is a problem the United States government should address	63	61	59	65
The United States government should not be involved in addressing climate change	8	10	6	12
DON'T KNOW/SKIP/REFUSED	*	1	*	1
<b>Not sure if climate change is happening</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>13</b>
Climate change is a problem the United States government should address	9		11	6
The United States government should not be involved in addressing climate change	8		10	6
DON'T KNOW/SKIP/REFUSED	*		2	1
<b>Climate change is not happening</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>
SKIP/REFUSED	*	1	1	-
<i>N=</i>	1,150	1,038	1,068	1,096

<sup>2</sup> In the August 2017 AP-NORC/EPIC poll, CC3 was only asked of respondents who said "Climate change is happening" in CC1.

**CC4. In your opinion, do you think weather-related disasters are becoming more severe, becoming less severe, or staying about the same?**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Becoming more severe	68
Becoming less severe	4
Staying about the same	28
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIP/REFUSED	1
<i>N=</i>	1,150

*If becoming more severe in CC4*

**CC5. Do you think the severe weather is caused entirely by climate change, caused mostly by climate change, caused about equally by climate change and natural year-to-year variations in the weather, caused mostly by natural year-to-year variations in the weather, or caused entirely by natural year-to-year variations in the weather?**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
<b>Entirely/mostly climate change NET</b>	<b>46</b>
Entirely climate change	10
Mostly climate change	36
<b>About equally climate change and natural year-to-year variations</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Entirely/mostly natural year-to-year variations in the weather NET</b>	<b>14</b>
Mostly natural year-to-year variations in the weather	10
Entirely natural year-to-year variations in the weather	4
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	840

**HUR1. Would you say the hurricanes this year...**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Had a serious impact on you personally	8
Seriously impacted your family or friends, but not you personally	34
Did not have a serious impact on you, your family, or your friends	58
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIP/REFUSED	*
<i>N=</i>	1,150

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

*If Democrat in PID1*

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

*If Republican in PID1*

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

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

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

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
<b>Democrat NET</b>	<b>46</b>
Strong Democrat	14
Moderate Democrat	18
Lean Democrat	14
<b>Independent/None – Don't lean</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Republican NET</b>	<b>37</b>
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	15
Strong Republican	10
Unknown	*
N=	1,150

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

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Liberal	23
Conservative	32
Moderate	43
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	1
N=	1,150

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

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Urban area	27
Suburban area	47
Rural area	24
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIP/REFUSED	*

N=

1,150

**AGE**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
18-24	12
25-34	18
35-44	16
45-54	17
55-64	17
65-74	13
75+	7

N=

1,150

**GENDER**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Male	48
Female	52

N=

1,150

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**RACE/ETHNICITY**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
White	64
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	16
Other	8

*N=* 1,150

**MARITAL STATUS**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Married	45
Widowed	8
Divorced	13
Separated	2
Never married	25
Living with partner	7

*N=* 1,150

**EMPLOYMENT STATUS**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Employed	54
Not employed	46

*N=* 1,150

**EDUCATION**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Less than a high school diploma	11
High school graduate or equivalent	29
Some college	29
College graduate or above	31

*N=* 1,150

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**INCOME**

	AP-NORC 9/28-10/2/2017
Under \$10,000	8
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	10
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	12
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	12
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	15
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	13
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	13
\$150,000 or more	8

*N*=

1,150

### **Study Methodology**

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

Interviews for this survey were conducted between September 28 and October 2, 2017, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,150 completed the survey—975 via the web and 255 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 20.3 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 33.7 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 89.0 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 6.1 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

In addition, blacks were sampled at a higher rate than their proportion of the population for reasons of analysis. The overall margin of sampling error for the 337 completed interviews with blacks is +/- 5.7 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level including the design effect.

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

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

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

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

## The September 2017 AP-NORC Center Poll

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

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