

The Republican Race at the Start of 2016

January 7-10, 2016

- With 36% of the Republican primary vote, Donald Trump remains in the top spot in the Republican race nationally. Ted Cruz remains in second place with 19%, while Marco Rubio has inched up to third.
- Enthusiasm for both Trump and Cruz has risen among Republican primary voters, though most think Trump (53%) will be the eventual nominee.
- 52% of Trump voters say their mind is made up, as opposed to just 24% of Republican primary voters who are supporting another candidate.
- Although Trump leads Cruz slightly on being an effective commander-in-chief, more Republican primary voters say Cruz has the right temperament to be President than say that about Trump.

Heading into the early primary contests, Donald Trump continues to hold a double digit lead over the rest of the Republican field nationally. 36% of Republican primary voters support Trump, 17 points ahead of his closest rival, Texas Senator Ted Cruz (19%). Florida Senator Marco Rubio has now climbed to third place at 12%. Ben Carson - who briefly surged to the top of the field at the end of October - is tied with former Florida Governor Jeb Bush at 6%.

2016 Republican Nomination for President

(Among Republican primary voters)

	Now	12/2015	10/27/15	10/11/2015	9/2015	8/2015
Donald Trump	36%	35%	22%	27%	27%	24%
Ted Cruz	19	16	4	9	5	6
Marco Rubio	12	9	8	8	6	6
Ben Carson	6	13	26	21	23	6
Jeb Bush	6	3	7	6	6	13
Mike Huckabee	4	3	4	2	6	8
Chris Christie	3	3	1	3	1	3
Carly Fiorina	3	1	7	6	4	*
John Kasich	2	3	4	2	3	1
Rand Paul	1	4	4	4	3	4
Rick Santorum	*	*	1	1	1	1
Jim Gilmore	--	--	--	--	--	1
Don't know	7	7	6	11	9	9

*Less than 0.5%

Trump voters are firmer in their support for their candidate than are Republican primary voters who are voting for someone else. While 52% of Trump voters say their mind is made up, this is true of just 24% of Republican primary voters who support another candidate.

Mind Made Up on Candidate Choice?

(Among Republican primary voters)

	Total	Trump Voters	Non-Trump Voters
Yes, mind is made up	35%	52%	24%
No, too early	64	47	76

Trump is the second choice of many Republican primary voters who don't support him. 18% of Republican primary voters who are not supporting Trump pick him as their top second choice, and 17% choose Marco Rubio. Trump voters overwhelmingly choose Ted Cruz (31%) as their top second choice candidate.

2016 Republican Nomination for President: Second Choice

(Among Republican primary voters)

	Total	Trump Voters	Non-Trump Voters
Ted Cruz	20%	31%	12%
Marco Rubio	14	8	17
Ben Carson	11	14	9
Donald Trump	11	n/a	18
Jeb Bush	9	5	11
Chris Christie	6	3	9

(Table has been truncated. Not all candidates are listed)

Enthusiasm for the Eventual Nominee

Enthusiasm for both Donald Trump and Ted Cruz has grown considerably since December. Now 40% of Republican primary voters say they would enthusiastically support Trump if he became the Republican nominee, up from 29% in December. Similarly, 37% say they would enthusiastically support Ted Cruz, up from 26% at the end of last year. Enthusiasm for Marco Rubio (32%) remains virtually unchanged.

If _____ is Republican Nominee, Would You...?

(Among Republican primary voters)

	Donald Trump		Ted Cruz		Marco Rubio	
	Now	10/2015	Now	10/2015	Now	10/2015
Support enthusiastically	40%	29%	37%	26%	32%	30%
Support with reservations	31	35	25	30	31	32
Support because they are nominee	9	10	18	17	18	16
Would not support	18	24	16	19	12	15

Most Republican primary voters expect Trump to be the party's nominee. 53% think he'll win the nomination, far ahead of any other candidate.

Who do you Expect to be the Republican Nominee?

(Among Republican primary voters)

	Now	12/2015
Donald Trump	53%	51%
Ted Cruz	17	10
Marco Rubio	5	9
Jeb Bush	5	5
Don't know	16	15

(Table has been truncated. Not all candidates are listed)

Candidate Qualities

More than six in 10 Republican primary voters have at least some confidence that each of the three leading candidates in the Republican race - Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, and Marco Rubio – will be an effective commander-in- chief of the nation’s military. Trump has a slight edge over Cruz: 34% of Republican primary voters are very confident in Trump, while 30% are very confident in Cruz. Republican primary voters show less confidence in Marco Rubio: just 20% are very confident that he will be an effective commander- in-chief.

Confidence They Will Be an Effective Commander in Chief

(Among Republican primary voters)

	Donald Trump	Ted Cruz	Marco Rubio
Very	34%	30%	20%
Somewhat	35	37	43
Not very/not at all	30	26	29

While majorities of Republican primary voters think both Cruz (68%) and Rubio (64%) have the right temperament to be President, they are more divided over Trump (50%).

Do They Have the Right Temperament to Be President?

(Among Republican primary voters)

	Donald Trump	Ted Cruz	Marco Rubio
Yes	50%	68%	64%
No	45	22	25

Although about six in10 Republican primary voters think all three candidates share their values, slightly more think so of Cruz (63%) than either Trump (59%) or Rubio (59%).

Do They Share Your Values?

(Among Republican primary voters)

	Donald Trump	Ted Cruz	Marco Rubio
Yes	59%	63%	59%
No	35	24	27

The poll reflects dissatisfaction among Republican primary voters. Over seven in 10 Republican primary voters think America’s culture and values are changing in a direction that they disagree with, far more than Democratic primary voters (40%) or Americans overall (54%). Trump voters (78%) are more likely to disagree with the change in the country’s values and culture than Republican primary voters who support other candidates (71%).

America’s Culture and Values Are Changing in Way...

	All Americans	Rep. Primary Voters	Dem. Primary Voters
I agree with	17%	8%	26%
I disagree with	54	73	40
Not changing	25	17	2

Issues: The 2010 Affordable Care Act

Republican primary voters continue to strongly oppose the 2010 Affordable Care Act in far greater measure than Americans overall. Nearly nine in 10 Republican primary voters disapprove of the law, and about three in four say they disapprove strongly.

The 2010 Affordable Care Act		
	Total	Rep. Primary Voters
Strongly approve	19%	2%
Somewhat approve	22	8
Somewhat disapprove	14	15
Strongly disapprove	38	73

Repealing the 2010 Affordable Care Act is popular with Republican primary voters, and it has been advocated by all of the candidates running for the Republican nomination. While 53% of Americans think just minor changes are needed to make the current law work better, 65% of Republican primary voters think the law has so much wrong with it that it needs to be repealed entirely.

What Should Happen to the 2010 Affordable Care Act?		
	Total	Rep. Primary Voters
Kept as is	9%	1%
Minor changes are needed	53	34
Must be repealed	35	65

Issues: Illegal Immigration

While Republican primary voters overall are divided over whether to allow illegal immigrants already living in the U.S. to stay in some fashion, six in 10 Trump supporters think all illegal immigrants in the U.S. should be required to leave the country.

What Should Happen to Illegal Immigrants in the U.S.?			
	Total	Rep. Primary Voters	Trump Voters
Stay & apply for citizenship	53%	32%	34%
Stay but not apply	13	15	5
Leave the U.S.	29	48	59

Most Americans overall think illegal immigrants should be allowed to stay in the country and apply for citizenship.

And while building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border finds favor with Republican primary voters in general (75%), it is particularly popular among Trump voters (91%). Americans overall are divided on this issue.

Building a Wall along the U.S.-Mexican Border			
	Total	Rep. Primary Voters	Trump Voters
Favor	45%	75%	91%
Oppose	49	21	9

The 2016 Presidential Campaign: Attention, Enthusiasm, and Interest

Republican primary voters are paying more attention to the 2016 race for President than their Democratic counterparts. While 57% of Republican primary voters say they are paying a lot of attention, this is true of just 45% of Democratic primary voters.

Attention to the 2016 Presidential Campaign

(Among registered voters)

	Total	Rep. Primary Voters	Dem. Primary Voters
A lot	44%	57%	45%
Some	35	32	33
Not much/not at all	20	10	22

Overall, more registered voters are paying a lot of attention to the race than at this point in either 2008 or 2000.

Attention to the 2016 Presidential Campaign

(Among registered voters)

	Now	1/2008	2/2000
A lot	44%	37%	27%
Some	35	43	47
Not much/not at all	20	19	26

65% of registered voters are enthusiastic about the 2016 presidential campaign, and Republican primary voters are more enthusiastic than their Democratic counterparts. 47% of Republican primary voters say they are very enthusiastic, compared to 32% of Democratic primary voters.

The 2016 Presidential Campaign: Voter Enthusiasm

(Among registered voters)

	Total	Rep. Primary Voters	Dem. Primary Voters
Very enthusiastic	33%	47%	32%
Somewhere enthusiastic	32	32	33
Not too/not at all enthusiastic	34	20	34

Overall, registered voters, and particularly Republican primary voters, say the 2016 presidential campaign is interesting to them. 79% of Republican primary voters, compared to 67% of Democratic primary voters, would describe the race as interesting rather than dull.

The 2016 Presidential Campaign Is...

(Among registered voters)

	Total	Rep. Primary Voters	Dem. Primary Voters
Interesting	70%	79%	67%
Dull	24	17	27

This poll was conducted by telephone January 7-10, 2016 among a random sample of 1,276 adults nationwide, including 1,094 registered voters. Data collection was conducted on behalf of CBS News and the New York Times by SSRS of Media, PA. Phone numbers were dialed from samples of both standard land-line and cell phones.

The poll employed a random digit dial methodology. For the landline sample, a respondent was randomly selected from all adults in the household. For the cell sample, interviews were conducted with the person who answered the phone.

Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish using live interviewers.

The data have been weighted to reflect U.S. Census figures on demographic variables.

The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups may be higher and is available by request. The margin of error includes the effects of standard weighting procedures which enlarge sampling error slightly.

The margin of error for the sample of 442 Republican primary voters is 6 percentage points.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
The Republican Race at the Start of 2016
January 7-10, 2016

Q1.-Q14. Previously released

Q15. How much attention have you been able to pay to the 2016 Presidential campaign -- a lot, some, not much, or no attention so far?

	*** REGISTERED VOTERS ***				Dec15a
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	
	%	%	%	%	%
A lot	44	52	44	39	45
Some	35	32	36	37	36
Not much	15	13	14	17	13
No attention so far	5	3	6	7	6
Don't know/No answer	*	*	1	*	1

Q16. Thinking about the 2016 presidential election, overall, would you say you are very enthusiastic, somewhat enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all about voting?

Very enthusiastic	33	42	31	28	32
Somewhat enthusiastic	32	31	34	33	35
Not too enthusiastic	19	14	21	21	22
Not at all enthusiastic	15	12	13	18	11
Don't know/No answer	1	1	1	1	1

Prim. This year, are you more likely to vote in a Republican presidential primary or caucus, or a Democratic presidential primary or caucus or aren't you likely to vote in a primary or caucus at all?

Republican primary	37	85	5	28	38
Democratic primary	37	4	86	23	36
Not likely to vote	17	8	6	32	15
Never vote (Vol.)	*	-	-	*	*
Don't know/No answer	9	3	4	17	11

Q17. Which one of these candidates would you like to see the Republican Party nominate for President in 2016?

	REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS	Dec15a
	%	%
Donald Trump	36	35
Ted Cruz	19	16
Marco Rubio	12	9
Jeb Bush	6	3
Ben Carson	6	13
Mike Huckabee	4	3
Chris Christie	3	3
Carly Fiorina	3	1
John Kasich	2	3
Rand Paul	1	4
Rick Santorum	*	*
None of them (Vol.)	1	2
Don't know/No answer	7	7

Q18. Is your mind made up or is it still too early to say for sure?

	REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS WITH A CHOICE	Dec15a
	%	%
Mind made up	35	34
Too early	64	64
Don't know/No answer	1	2

Q19. Who would be your second choice for the Republican nomination for president?

Ted Cruz	20	19
Marco Rubio	14	13
Ben Carson	11	13
Donald Trump	11	12
Jeb Bush	9	10
Chris Christie	6	6
Mike Huckabee	4	4
Carly Fiorina	3	4
John Kasich	3	3
Rand Paul	3	6
Rick Santorum	1	*
Jim Gilmore	1	--
Someone Else (Vol.)	*	--
None of them (Vol.)	4	2
Don't know/No answer	10	7

Q20. Regardless of who you support, who do you expect to finally win the Republican nomination for President in 2016?

	REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS	Dec15a
Donald Trump	53	51
Ted Cruz	17	10
Marco Rubio	5	9
Jeb Bush	5	5
Ben Carson	1	7
Chris Christie	*	1
John Kasich	*	1
Carly Fiorina	*	*
Mike Huckabee	*	*
Rand Paul	1	*
Someone Else (Vol.)	1	*
None of them (Vol.)	1	1
Don't know/No answer	16	15

Q21. If Donald Trump became the 2016 Republican nominee for President, would you enthusiastically support him, support him but with reservations, support him only because he is the Republican Party nominee, or not support him?

		Oct15d
Enthusiastically support	40	29
Support with reservations	31	35
Support only because nominee	9	10
No support	18	24
Don't know/No answer	2	1

Q22. If Ted Cruz became the 2016 Republican nominee for President, would you enthusiastically support him, support him but with reservations, support him only because he is the Republican Party nominee, or not support him?

	REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS	Oct15d
	%	%
Enthusiastically support	37	26
Support with reservations	25	30
Support only because nominee	18	17
No support	16	19
Don't know/No answer	5	8

Q23. If Marco Rubio became the 2016 Republican nominee for President, would you enthusiastically support him, support him but with reservations, support him only because he is the Republican Party nominee, or not support him?

Enthusiastically support	32	30
Support with reservations	31	32
Support only because nominee	18	16
No support	12	15
Don't know/No answer	7	7

Q24. –Q29 Released separately

Q29. How would you describe the 2016 presidential election campaign so far -- is it interesting to you, or would you say it is dull?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **	
	Total	Rep. Primary Voters
	%	%
Interesting	70	79
Dull	24	17
Neither (Vol.)	4	2
Don't know/No answer	2	2

Q30. Released separately.

Q31. Do you think Donald Trump has the right kind of temperament and personality to be a good president, or not?

	REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS
	%
Yes	50
No	45
Don't know/No answer	5

Q32. Do you think Donald Trump shares your values, or not?

Yes	59
No	35
Don't know/No answer	6

Q33. How confident are you in Donald Trump's ability to be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

REPUBLICAN PRIMARY VOTERS

	%
Very confident	34
Somewhat confident	35
Not too confident	13
Not at all confident	17
Don't know/No answer	1

Q34. Do you think Ted Cruz has the right kind of temperament and personality to be a good president, or not?

Yes	68
No	22
Don't know/No answer	10

Q35. Do you think Ted Cruz shares your values, or not?

	63
No	24
Don't know/No answer	13

Q36. How confident are you in Ted Cruz's ability to be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	30
Somewhat confident	37
Not too confident	15
Not at all confident	11
Don't know/No answer	7

Q37. Do you think Marco Rubio has the right kind of temperament and personality to be a good president, or not?

Yes	64
No	25
Don't know/No answer	11

Q38. Do you think Marco Rubio shares your values, or not?

Yes	59
No	27
Don't know/No answer	14

Q39. How confident are you in Marco Rubio's ability to be an effective commander-in-chief of the nation's military -- are you very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?

Very confident	20
Somewhat confident	43
Not too confident	16
Not at all confident	13
Don't know/No answer	7

Q40. –Q47 Released separately.

Q48. Do you feel America’s culture and values are generally changing in a way you agree with, changing in a way you disagree with, or not changing much either way?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **	
	Total	Rep. Primary Voters
	%	%
Changing in a way you agree with	17	8
Changing in a way you disagree with	54	73
Not changing much either way	25	17
Don't know/No answer	5	3

Q49. From what you’ve heard or read, do you approve or disapprove of the health care law that was enacted in 2010?
 (If Approve, ask:) Do you strongly approve or somewhat approve?
 (If Disapprove, ask:) Do you somewhat disapprove or strongly disapprove?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **		
	Total	Rep. Primary Voters	Dec15a
	%	%	%
Strongly approve	19	2	20
Somewhat approve	22	8	20
Somewhat disapprove	14	15	15
Strongly disapprove	38	73	37
Don't know/No answer	8	1	8

Q50. Which comes closest to your view about the 2010 health care law?

	Total	Rep. Primary Voters	Jun15b
Working well and kept in place	9	1	9
Good things, but changes needed	53	34	55
Needs to be repealed entirely	35	65	31
Don't know/No answer	3	*	6

Q51. –Q54. Released previously.

Q55. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are living in the U.S.? 1. They should be allowed to stay in the U.S and eventually apply for citizenship, 2. They should be allowed to stay in the U.S. legally, but not be allowed to apply for citizenship or 3. They should be required to leave the U.S.

	Total	Rep. Primary Voters	Sep15a1
Stay & apply	53	32	58
Stay but not apply	13	15	10
Required to leave	29	48	27
Don't know/No answer	5	5	5

Q56. Would you favor or oppose building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border to try to stop illegal immigration?

Favor	45	75
Oppose	49	21
Don't know/No answer	5	4

Tea Do you consider yourself to be a supporter of the Tea Party movement, or not?

					Dec15c %
Yes	17	33	5	15	19
No	67	51	83	66	63
Don't know/No answer	16	15	11	19	19

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
Total Respondents	1,276	
Total Registered Voters	1,094	1,033
Total Republican Primary Voters	442	380
Total Democratic Primary Voters	389	384