



CBS NEWS POLL
For release: Monday, June 18, 2018
6:30 pm EDT

Mixed Views of Trump-Kim Summit, Fewer Uneasy About Conflict Now
Republicans Positive About Results, Uptick in Trump's Overall Approval
June 14-17, 2018

In the aftermath of the Donald Trump-Kim Jong Un summit, fewer Americans are now uneasy about possible conflict with North Korea. More feel the countries moved closer to peace than to war, though most feel it's too soon to say.

More than half of Americans approve of President Trump's handling of North Korea, specifically, and his overall approval rating has inched up to 42%, his highest in more than a year.

Although many say the result of the summit for the U.S. was mixed, twice as many Americans call it a successful than unsuccessful.

Result of Trump-Kim Summit for the U.S.

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Successful	32%	64%	11%	30%
Unsuccessful	15	2	30	12
A mixed result	47	29	55	52

And while many don't see movement, those seeing a move toward peace greatly outnumber those who see the nations closer to war.

After Summit, U.S. and North Korea Are...

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Closer to peace	31%	49%	15%	33%
Closer to war	6	2	12	5
Too soon to say	61	48	71	60

Last summer, more than seven in 10 Americans said they were uneasy about the possibility of conflict with North Korea, a figure that has been dropping and is at 49% today.

Feelings About the North Korea Situation?

	Now	5/2018	3/2018	8/2017
Uneasy about possible conflict	49%	55%	64%	72%
Confident it will resolve without conflict	45	41	32	26

It's largely Republicans (and independents to a lesser extent) who have become less uneasy and more confident that the North Korea situation can be resolved without conflict.

Uneasy About Possible Conflict with North Korea

	Now	5/2018	8/2017
Republicans	25%	35%	68%
Independents	46%	53%	69%
Democrats	73%	73%	79%

More than half of Americans – 52% - approve of how the President is handling the situation with North Korea, not too different from a few weeks before the summit, but 18 points higher than the start of the year.

Trump’s Handling of Situation with North Korea

	Now	5/2018	3/2018	1/2018
Approve	52%	51%	42%	34%
Disapprove	40	39	50	59

President Trump’s overall approval rating is now 42%, a slight uptick from last month, and his highest approval since last spring, shortly after a U.S. military strike in Syria.

President Trump’s Job Rating

	Now	5/2018	3/2018	4/2017
Approve	42%	40%	38%	43%
Disapprove	52	55	57	49

The President continues to get high approval ratings from those in his own party, but it’s his approval rating among independents that has improved – a bump up of five points since last month. Still, more disapprove than approve.

President Trump’s Job Rating

	---- Now ----			----- 5/2018 -----		
	Reps	Dems	Inds	Reps	Dems	Inds
Approve	86%	10%	42%	85%	8%	37%
Disapprove	9	86	51	10	89	55

Independents do give the president positive marks on his handling of North Korea and the economy, and more Americans overall approve than disapprove of the job Trump is doing on these issues as well. It’s the issue of immigration where the President gets comparatively more negative marks.

Trump’s Approval Rating on Issues

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
North Korea	52%	89%	21%	54%
Economy	49%	89%	13%	52%
Immigration	35%	73%	8%	33%

A majority are skeptical that the summit will lead to North Korea ending its nuclear program. Most Republicans, however, are optimistic.

Will Trump-Kim Summit Lead to North Korea Ending its Nuclear Program?

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Yes	33%	54%	14%	34%
No	56	34	73	55

Most Republicans think President Trump and Kim Jong Un compromised equally in their summit meeting, while Democrats are inclined to think Trump compromised more.

Trump's Approach to Foreign Policy

When the President praises leaders like Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong Un, most Americans see that as a negotiating tactic rather than admiration for those leaders.

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Really admires them	30%	14%	46%	27%
Negotiating tactic	63	77	49	66

More generally, most think the U.S should negotiate with dictators and authoritarian governments where they can.

What should U.S. Policy be Toward Dictators and Authoritarian Governments?

	Total	Reps	Dems	Inds
Negotiate with them	57%	67%	48%	58%
Put pressure on them, don't negotiate	21	19	25	19
Avoid dealing with them	17	9	23	17

This poll was conducted by telephone June 14-17, 2018 among a random sample of 1,100 adults nationwide. Data collection was conducted on behalf of CBS News by SSRS of Glen Mills, 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.

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

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Q1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Approve	42	86	10	42
Disapprove	52	9	86	51
Don't know/No answer	6	5	4	7

Q2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the economy?

Approve	49	89	13	52
Disapprove	46	10	81	42
Don't know/No answer	5	1	6	6

Q3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the situation with North Korea?

Approve	52	89	21	54
Disapprove	40	7	69	38
Don't know/No answer	8	4	10	9

Q4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the issue of immigration?

Approve	35	73	8	33
Disapprove	62	22	90	63
Don't know/No answer	4	6	3	3

Q5. Which comes closer to how you feel about the situation with North Korea - Are you uneasy about the possibility of conflict, or confident things will be resolved without conflict?

Uneasy about conflict	49	25	73	46
Confident things will be resolved	45	69	23	49
Don't know/No answer	5	6	4	6

Q6. So far, do you consider the results of the recent summit meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un to have been...

Successful for the US	32	64	11	30
Unsuccessful for the US	15	2	30	12
A mixed result for the US	47	29	55	52
Don't know/No answer	5	5	5	6

Q7. From what you've heard or read, in their meeting do you feel Donald Trump compromised more than Kim Jong-un, Kim Jong-un compromised more than Donald Trump, or did both sides compromise about equally?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Trump more	25	9	39	25
Kim Jong-un more	13	17	9	12
Both equally	47	59	38	46
Don't know/No answer	15	15	13	16

Q8. As a result of the meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un, do you think the U.S. and North Korea are closer to war to than they were before, closer to peace than they were before, or is it too soon to say?

Closer to war	6	2	12	5
Closer to peace	31	49	15	33
Too soon to say	61	48	71	60
Don't know/No answer	2	1	2	2

Q9. Do you think the meeting between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un will lead toward North Korea ending its nuclear program, or don't you think that will happen?

Ending nuclear program	33	54	14	34
Won't happen	56	34	73	55
Don't know/No answer	12	12	13	11

Q10. When Donald Trump praises leaders like Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un, do you think he really admires them, or do you think he's doing that as a negotiating tactic?

Really admires them	30	14	46	27
Negotiating tactic	63	77	49	66
Don't know/No answer	7	9	5	8

Q13. In general today, what should U.S. policy be toward dictators and authoritarian governments around the world – 1. work with them where it sees a chance to negotiate; 2. put military and economic pressure on them, but not negotiate; or 3. just avoid dealing with them altogether?

Negotiate	57	67	48	58
Pressure	21	19	25	19
Avoid	17	9	23	17
Don't know/No answer	5	5	4	6

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1,100	
Total Republicans	271	253
Total Democrats	342	335
Total independents	487	511