

Marist College Institute for Public Opinion

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POLL MUST BE SOURCED: McClatchy-Marist Poll*

Is the American Dream Still Attainable?

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

Close to seven in ten Americans think people who work hard still have a hard time maintaining their standard of living and cannot get ahead. Most say there are different rules for the well-connected, and a majority of Americans believes government policies put the middle class at a disadvantage. Americans expect to work harder to achieve their goals and believe the same goes for future generations. More than six in ten are calling on the federal government to increase the minimum wage and provide job training and education.

Many Americans don't think hard work translates into upward mobility. 68% of Americans think people who work hard in this country still have a hard time maintaining their standard of living. This compares with 31% who believe hard workers have a good chance at improving their way of life. One percent is unsure.

Most Americans think the concept of a level playing field is unrealistic. 85% of U.S. adults think, when it comes to getting ahead, there are different rules for the well-connected and the wealthy. Only 14% report everyone plays by the same rules. One percent is unsure.

Most Democrats -- 91% -- and independents -- 87% -- think the well-connected and rich are at an advantage to move ahead. 74% of Republicans agree. Nearly one in four members of the GOP -- 24% -- believes the rules are the same.

When it comes to what it takes to get ahead, eight in ten -- 80% -- say it requires more effort these days to do so. Only 5% believe it takes less effort, and 15% think it takes just as much effort as in previous generations.

*All references to the survey must be sourced as "McClatchy-Marist Poll"

More than three in four Americans don't believe the next generation will have it any easier. 78% say it will take more effort for them to advance. Five percent think it will take less effort, and 16% believe it will require just as much effort as it does now.

Older Americans are more likely to think that it will be more difficult for the next generation. 85% of those 45 to 59, and 82% of residents 60 and older think the daily grind will be more trying for the next generation. 74% of those 30 to 44 and 69% of those 18 to 29 say the same.

Middle Class Squeeze

55% of adults nationally think the middle class, more than other socioeconomic groups, is being left behind by government policies. Four in ten -- 40% -- believe the poor are being excluded while only 4% say the rich are being left out.

By party, 67% of Republicans and 62% of independents think government policies are not helping advance the middle class. However, Democrats divide. 47% believe the middle class is trailing behind while a slim majority -- 51% -- thinks the poor are the ones being left out.

There are also income and racial differences. Nearly two-thirds of Americans who earn \$50,000 or more annually -- 65% -- say government policies leave the middle class behind. However, a majority of those who make less -- 52% -- say government policies do not help the poor. 45% of these residents also think the middle class is left out.

Looking at race, 60% of white Americans and 53% of Latinos think government policies shut out the middle class. However, nearly six in ten African Americans -- 58% -- report the poor are the ones who are excluded.

Do U.S. residents consider themselves to be middle class? Half -- 50% -- do identify as middle class. More than one in five -- 22% -- describes themselves as lower-middle class, and 11% think they are lower class. Only 14% identify as upper-middle class, and just 2% say they are upper class.

Moving Forward: Set Sights on Increased Wages and Training

What do residents want the federal government to focus on to help the economy and move the nation forward? More than six in ten -- 61% -- want them to concentrate on raising the minimum wage and providing job training and education. 35% say they should cut corporate taxes and reduce regulations on business. Five percent are unsure.

More than eight in ten Democrats -- 82% -- and nearly six in ten independents -- 58% -- say wages and job training should be the focus. While 60% of Republicans think the attention

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should be on cutting corporate taxes and reducing business regulations, a notable 35% want the government to concentrate on wages, job training and education.

Additionally, three in four Americans -- 75% -- report the top priority of corporations is their stockholders. More than one in five -- 22% -- thinks their allegiance is to their employees, and 3% are unsure.

^{*}All references to the survey must be sourced as "McClatchy-Marist Poll"

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: McClatchy-Marist National Poll of 1,197 Adults

This survey of 1,197 adults was conducted February 4th through February 9th, 2014 by The Marist Poll sponsored in partnership with the McClatchy News Service. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone using live interviewers. Landline telephone numbers were randomly selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation from ASDE Survey Sampler, Inc. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers from Survey Sampling International. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 Census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Respondents in the household were selected by asking for the youngest male. Results are statistically significant within ±2.8 percentage points. There are 970 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ±3.1 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	National Registered Voters
		Col %	Col %
National Adults		100%	
National Registered Voters		81%	100%
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	34%
	Republican	n/a	27%
	Independent	n/a	37%
	Other	n/a	2%
Party Identification	Strong Democrats	n/a	19%
	Not strong Democrats	n/a	15%
	Democratic leaning independents	n/a	16%
	Just Independents	n/a	7%
	Republican leaning independents	n/a	15%
	Not strong Republicans	n/a	12%
	Strong Republicans	n/a	15%
	Other	n/a	2%
Political Ideology	Very conservative	n/a	10%
	Conservative	n/a	32%
	Moderate	n/a	33%
	Liberal	n/a	20%
	Very liberal	n/a	6%
ea Party Supporters		n/a	27%
Republicans	Support Tea Party	n/a	45%
	Do Not Support Tea Party	n/a	55%
Gender	Men	49%	48%
	Women	51%	52%
Age	Under 45	42%	35%
	45 or older	58%	65%
Age	18 to 29	23%	16%
	30 to 44	20%	18%
	45 to 59	31%	34%
	60 or older	27%	31%
Race	White	70%	74%
	African American	11%	11%
	Latino	12%	10%
	Other	6%	5%
Region	Northeast	18%	18%
	Midwest	22%	23%
	South	37%	36%
	West	23%	22%
Iousehold Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	46%
	\$50,000 or more	51%	54%
Education	Not college graduate	60%	57%
	College graduate	40%	43%
Marital Status	Married	46%	52%
	Not married	54%	48%
nterview Type	Landline	60%	64%
	Cell phone	40%	36%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted February 4th through February 9th, 2014, n=1197 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points. National Registered Voters: n=970 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

In this country right now, do you think people who work hard:

65%

Have a good chance Still have a hard time of improving their maintaining their standard of living standard of living Unsure Row % Row % Row % National Adults 31% 68% 1% National Registered Voters 31% 68% 1% 28% 71% Party Identification^ Democrat 1% Republican 38% 62% 0% Independent 29% 71% 1% Party Identification* Strong Democrats 27% 72% 1% Soft Democrats 26% 72% 1% Just Independents 25% 75% 0% Soft Republicans 35% 65% 1% Strong Republicans 42% 58% 0% Tea Party Supporters^ 67% 0% 33% Republicans Support Tea Party 0% 35% 65% Do Not Support Tea Party 39% 61% 1% Political Ideology^ Very liberal-Liberal 20% 78% 2% Moderate 34% 66% 0% Conservative-Very conservative 36% 63% 1% Region Northeast 28% 72% 0% Midwest 34% 66% 0% South 31% 67% 1% West 32% 67% 2% Household Income Less than \$50,000 27% 72% 1% \$50,000 or more 34% 66% 0% Education Not college graduate 29% 70% 1% College graduate 35% 64% 1% Race White 29% 70% 1% African American 32% 67% 1% 0% Latino 34% 66% Age 18 to 29 35% 63% 2% 30 to 44 32% 67% 1% 45 to 59 69% 30% 1% 60 or older 28% 71% 1% Under 45 33% 65% 2% Age 45 or older 29% 70% 1% Gender Men 35% 64% 1% Women 28% 71% 1% Marital Status Married 31% 68% 1% Not married 31% 68% 1% Interview Type Landline 31% 69% 0%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted February 4th through February 9th, 2014, n=1197 MOE +/-2.8 percentage points.

Cell phone

[^]National Registered Voters: n=970 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

In this country right now, do you think:

Everyone more or less plays by the

There are different rules for the wellconnected and

		same rules to get	connected and	
		ahead	people with money	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		14%	85%	1%
National Registered Vo	oters	14%	85%	1%
Party Identification^	Democrat	8%	91%	0%
	Republican	24%	74%	2%
	Independent	13%	87%	0%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	6%	94%	1%
	Soft Democrats	9%	91%	0%
	Just Independents	17%	83%	0%
	Soft Republicans	17%	82%	1%
	Strong Republicans	29%	69%	2%
Tea Party Supporters^		25%	73%	2%
Republicans	Support Tea Party	28%	70%	2%
	Do Not Support Tea Party	15%	84%	1%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	8%	92%	0%
	Moderate	12%	86%	1%
	Conservative-Very conservative	19%	80%	1%
Dagion	Northeast	14%	85%	1%
Region	Midwest	14%	85%	1%
	South	14%	86%	1%
	West	14%	84%	2%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	12%	88%	0%
Household Income	\$50,000 or more	16%	84%	1%
Education	Not college graduate	13%	87%	1%
Lucation	College graduate	16%	82%	2%
Race	White	14%	85%	1%
Race	African American	12%	88%	0%
	Latino	17%	83%	0%
Age	18 to 29	13%	86%	1%
1190	30 to 44	14%	86%	0%
	45 to 59	15%	85%	0%
	60 or older	13%	84%	2%
Age	Under 45	13%	86%	1%
1190	45 or older	14%	84%	1%
Gender	Men	17%	83%	1%
Condo	Women	12%	87%	1%
Marital Status	Married	17%	81%	1%
	Not married	12%	88%	1%
Interview Type	Landline	15%	84%	1%
morrien Type	Cell phone	12%	87%	1%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted February 4th through February 9th, 2014, n=1197 MOE +/-2.8 percentage points.

[^]National Registered Voters: n=970 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

Do you think it takes more effort, less effort, or just as much effort to get ahead these days as it did for previous generations?

		More effort	Less effort	Just as much effort
	_	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		80%	5%	15%
National Registered V	oters	79%	5%	16%
Party Identification^	Democrat	80%	5%	15%
	Republican	79%	5%	16%
	Independent	80%	4%	16%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	85%	7%	8%
	Soft Democrats	77%	5%	19%
	Just Independents	82%	3%	15%
	Soft Republicans	77%	4%	19%
	Strong Republicans	82%	5%	12%
Tea Party Supporters^	-	78%	6%	17%
Republicans	Support Tea Party	80%	3%	17%
_	Do Not Support Tea Party	78%	6%	16%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	83%	6%	11%
	Moderate	76%	4%	20%
	Conservative-Very conservative	79%	5%	16%
Region	Northeast	82%	6%	12%
Region	Midwest	79%	8%	13%
	South	75%	5%	20%
	West	86%	3%	11%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	81%	6%	13%
Household meonic	\$50,000 or more	78%	5%	16%
Education	Not college graduate	82%	6%	12%
Education	College graduate	75%	5%	20%
Race	White	80%	5%	16%
Race	African American	82%	7%	11%
	Latino	80%	4%	16%
Age	18 to 29	76%	8%	16%
Age	30 to 44	78%	8%	15%
	45 to 59	80%	4%	16%
	60 or older	83%	3%	13%
Age	Under 45	77%	8%	15%
Age	45 or older	81%	4%	15%
Gender	Men	79%	6%	16%
Gender	Women	80%	5%	14%
Marital Status	Married	80%	4%	16%
manus suius	Not married	79%	6%	14%
Interview Type	Landline	81%	4%	16%
miciview Type	Cell phone	78%	8%	14%
	Cen phone	1070	0 70	1470

[^]National Registered Voters: n=970 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

National Adults

Do you think it will take more effort, less effort, or just as much effort for the next generation to get ahead?

		More effort	Less effort	Just as much effort
	_	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		78%	5%	16%
National Registered V	oters	77%	4%	18%
Party Identification^	Democrat	71%	6%	24%
•	Republican	80%	5%	15%
	Independent	82%	2%	16%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	75%	4%	21%
	Soft Democrats	69%	5%	25%
	Just Independents	87%	3%	10%
	Soft Republicans	82%	4%	14%
	Strong Republicans	85%	2%	12%
Tea Party Supporters^		84%	3%	13%
Republicans	Support Tea Party	88%	2%	10%
	Do Not Support Tea Party	79%	5%	16%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	70%	8%	23%
Tollitear Ideology	Moderate	79%	3%	19%
	Conservative-Very conservative	82%	3%	15%
Region	Northeast	80%	4%	16%
	Midwest	77%	9%	14%
	South	76%	4%	20%
	West	82%	4%	14%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	79%	7%	15%
	\$50,000 or more	78%	4%	19%
Education	Not college graduate	81%	5%	14%
	College graduate	75%	5%	21%
Race	White	80%	4%	17%
	African American	79%	5%	16%
	Latino	72%	11%	18%
Age	18 to 29	69%	9%	23%
	30 to 44	74%	7%	18%
	45 to 59	85%	3%	12%
	60 or older	82%	3%	15%
Age	Under 45	71%	8%	21%
	45 or older	83%	3%	14%
Gender	Men	79%	6%	15%
	Women	78%	4%	18%
Marital Status	Married	84%	3%	13%
	Not married	74%	7%	20%
Interview Type	Landline	83%	3%	15%
	Cell phone	72%	9%	19%

[^]National Registered Voters: n=970 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

		National Adults				
	-	Do you consider yourself:				
	_	Upper class	Upper-middle class	Middle class	Lower-middle class	Lower class
	-	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		2%	14%	50%	22%	11%
National Registered V	oters	2%	15%	53%	21%	9%
Party Identification	Democrat	2%	16%	50%	24%	7%
Tarty Identification	Republican	3%	21%	54%	16%	7%
	Independent	2%	12%	54%	21%	12%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	3%	20%	44%	25%	8%
raity identification.	Soft Democrats	0%	12%	52%	24%	12%
		2%	9%	60%		13%
	Just Independents	2% 3%	9% 16%	56%	17% 19%	13% 6%
	Soft Republicans					
m D . G A	Strong Republicans	3%	21%	56%	12%	8%
Tea Party Supporters^		2%	13%	56%	19%	10%
Republicans	Support Tea Party	3%	17%	56%	18%	6%
	Do Not Support Tea Party	3%	18%	57%	15%	7%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	4%	22%	42%	23%	10%
	Moderate	2%	14%	55%	21%	8%
	Conservative-Very conservative	1%	12%	57%	20%	9%
Region	Northeast	3%	12%	54%	23%	8%
	Midwest	2%	13%	48%	24%	13%
	South	2%	15%	49%	23%	11%
	West	2%	17%	52%	20%	9%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	0%	3%	41%	36%	19%
	\$50,000 or more	3%	25%	57%	11%	3%
Education	Not college graduate	1%	8%	49%	27%	15%
	College graduate	4%	23%	54%	15%	4%
Race	White	3%	16%	54%	19%	8%
	African American	0%	7%	42%	34%	16%
	Latino	0%	14%	39%	29%	18%
Age	18 to 29	2%	11%	42%	31%	14%
1150	30 to 44	1%	11%	53%	24%	11%
	45 to 59	3%	17%	48%	21%	12%
	60 or older	3%	15%	60%	17%	6%
Age	Under 45	2%	11%	47%	28%	13%
rige	45 or older	3%	16%	53%	19%	9%
Gender	Men	3%	15%	48%	24%	10%
Genuci	Women	1%	13%	53%	21%	11%
Marital Status	Married	3%	19%	56%	16%	6%
iviantai Status	Not married	1%	10%	45%	28%	15%
Interview Type	Landline	3%	17%	43% 51%	19%	13%
Interview Type						
	Cell phone	1%	11%	49%	28%	11%

 $^{^{\}Lambda}$ National Registered Voters: n=970 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republicans independents.

In order to help the economy and move the nation forward, do you think the focus of government should be:

More on raising
minimum wage and
providing job
training and
education

more on cutting
corporate taxes and
reducing regulations
on businesses

		training and	reducing regulations	
		education	on businesses	Unsure
	_	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		61%	35%	5%
National Registered Vo	oters	59%	36%	5%
Party Identification^	Democrat	82%	15%	3%
	Republican	35%	60%	6%
	Independent	58%	38%	4%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	85%	13%	1%
	Soft Democrats	81%	16%	3%
	Just Independents	56%	35%	9%
	Soft Republicans	37%	58%	5%
	Strong Republicans	25%	70%	5%
Tea Party Supporters^		33%	63%	4%
Republicans	Support Tea Party	18%	78%	4%
	Do Not Support Tea Party	46%	48%	6%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	87%	10%	3%
	Moderate	60%	35%	5%
	Conservative-Very conservative	41%	54%	5%
Region	Northeast	58%	37%	5%
	Midwest	63%	32%	5%
	South	62%	33%	4%
	West	59%	37%	5%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	71%	26%	3%
	\$50,000 or more	54%	41%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	64%	32%	5%
	College graduate	57%	39%	4%
Race	White	56%	38%	6%
	African American	82%	17%	2%
	Latino	67%	31%	2%
Age	18 to 29	74%	24%	2%
	30 to 44	65%	29%	6%
	45 to 59	51%	45%	4%
	60 or older	58%	35%	7%
Age	Under 45	70%	27%	4%
	45 or older	54%	40%	5%
Gender	Men	55%	40%	5%
	Women	66%	29%	5%
Marital Status	Married	50%	44%	6%
	Not married	70%	26%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	53%	42%	5%
	Cell phone	71%	24%	5%

[^]National Registered Voters: n=970 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

National Adults

Which one of the following groups is most likely to be left behind by government policies:

		The poor	The middle class	The rich
	_	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		40%	55%	4%
National Registered V	oters	38%	58%	4%
Party Identification^	Democrat	51%	47%	2%
	Republican	27%	67%	6%
	Independent	34%	62%	3%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	55%	43%	2%
	Soft Democrats	46%	52%	3%
	Just Independents	43%	51%	6%
	Soft Republicans	19%	75%	6%
	Strong Republicans	32%	63%	5%
Tea Party Supporters^		31%	66%	4%
Republicans	Support Tea Party	28%	67%	5%
	Do Not Support Tea Party	21%	74%	5%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	52%	45%	3%
	Moderate	30%	66%	4%
	Conservative-Very conservative	34%	61%	4%
Region	Northeast	33%	64%	4%
region	Midwest	42%	52%	6%
	South	42%	55%	3%
	West	43%	52%	5%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	52%	45%	4%
	\$50,000 or more	30%	65%	5%
Education	Not college graduate	44%	52%	3%
	College graduate	35%	60%	6%
Race	White	36%	60%	4%
	African American	58%	38%	4%
	Latino	42%	53%	5%
Age	18 to 29	47%	49%	5%
· ·	30 to 44	44%	51%	5%
	45 to 59	37%	59%	4%
	60 or older	37%	59%	3%
Age	Under 45	46%	50%	5%
-	45 or older	37%	59%	3%
Gender	Men	42%	52%	5%
	Women	38%	58%	3%
Marital Status	Married	34%	62%	4%
	Not married	46%	50%	4%
Interview Type	Landline	39%	57%	4%
**	Cell phone	43%	53%	5%

[^]National Registered Voters: n=970 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

Do you think the top priority for corporations in this country is:

		Their stockholders	Their employees	Unsure
	•	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		75%	22%	3%
National Registered Vo	oters	76%	21%	3%
Party Identification^	Democrat	79%	20%	2%
	Republican	71%	24%	4%
	Independent	77%	19%	3%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	80%	19%	1%
	Soft Democrats	78%	20%	2%
	Just Independents	70%	24%	6%
	Soft Republicans	79%	17%	3%
	Strong Republicans	66%	29%	5%
Tea Party Supporters^		74%	22%	3%
Republicans	Support Tea Party	75%	21%	4%
	Do Not Support Tea Party	74%	22%	4%
Political Ideology^	Very liberal-Liberal	80%	18%	1%
	Moderate	79%	19%	2%
	Conservative-Very conservative	72%	23%	4%
Dagian	Nouthoost	770/	210/	20/
Region	Northeast	77%	21%	2% 4%
	Midwest	75% 75%	21% 23%	4% 2%
	South West	75% 74%	23%	2% 3%
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	72%	26%	2%
Household Income	\$50,000 or more	72%	20%	3%
Education				3% 3%
Education	Not college graduate	74%	24%	
D	College graduate	78%	19%	3%
Race	White	76%	20%	4%
	African American	84%	16%	0%
A	Latino	63%	35%	2%
Age	18 to 29	72%	27%	1%
	30 to 44	74%	22%	4%
	45 to 59	77%	21%	2%
	60 or older	76%	20%	4%
Age	Under 45	73%	25%	2%
C 1	45 or older	76%	21%	3%
Gender	Men	77%	21%	2%
16 10 10	Women	73%	23%	3%
Marital Status	Married	77%	20%	3%
T	Not married	73%	24%	3%
Interview Type	Landline	78%	18%	4%
McClotchy Mariet Poll	Cell phone	69%	29%	1%

[^]National Registered Voters: n=970 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

^{*}Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.