Topline questionnaire

2018 PEW RESEARCH CENTER’S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 40 NOVEMBER
FINAL TOPLINE
NOVEMBER 27 – DECEMBER 10, 2018
TOTAL N=10,618

RANDOMIZE SOCTRUST2, GSSTRUST2, GSSTRUST3, TRUSTME

ASK ALL: SOCTRUST2
Generally speaking, would you say that... [RANDOMIZE]

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018
52 Most people can be trusted
47 Most people can't be trusted
1 No answer

ASK ALL: GSSTRUST2
Do you think most people... [RANDOMIZE]

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018
58 Would try to take advantage of you if they got a chance
41 Would try to be fair no matter what
1 No answer

ASK ALL: GSSTRUST3
Would you say that most of the time people... [RANDOMIZE]

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018
37 Try to help others
62 Just look out for themselves
1 No answer

ASK ALL: TRUSTME
Generally speaking, do you think... [RANDOMIZE]

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018
89 Most people trust you
11 Most people are suspicious of you
<1 No answer
ASK ALL:

Generally speaking, how much confidence, if any, do you have in the American people to... [RANDOMIZE WITHIN EACH FORM]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Form</th>
<th>Questions</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>a. Accept election results regardless of who wins</td>
<td>9 43 36 11 &lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>b. Cast informed votes in elections</td>
<td>5 37 47 10 &lt;1</td>
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<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<td></td>
<td>c. Respect the rights of people who are not like them</td>
<td>7 41 41 11 &lt;1</td>
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<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>d. Obey federal and state laws</td>
<td>11 62 22 5 &lt;1</td>
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<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<td></td>
<td>e. Reconsider their views after learning new information</td>
<td>5 45 43 7 &lt;1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<td></td>
<td>f. Honestly report their full income when paying taxes</td>
<td>7 55 32 5 1</td>
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<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>g. Work together to solve community problems</td>
<td>9 52 35 4 &lt;1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>h. Do what they can to help those in need</td>
<td>12 57 28 2 &lt;1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>i. Treat others with respect</td>
<td>10 50 37 3 &lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>j. Have civil conversations with people who have different views from theirs</td>
<td>4 38 50 8 &lt;1</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
k. Stay informed about important issues and events
   Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018  6  42  45  6  1

l. Report a serious local problem to authorities when they see it
   Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018  17  58  21  4  <1

**ASK ALL:**

How much confidence, if any, do you have in each of the following to act in the best interests of the public? *[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, SPLIT OVER THREE SCREENS]*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>A great deal of confidence</th>
<th>A fair amount of confidence</th>
<th>Not too much confidence</th>
<th>No confidence at all</th>
<th>No answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Elected officials</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 10-Jun 6, 2016</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASK FORM 1 OR 4 ONLY**

[N=5,267]:

b1. The news media
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018      | 10                         | 38                           | 33                      | 19                  | <1        |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018      | 8                          | 32                           | 35                      | 25                  | <1        |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016       | 5                          | 33                           | 40                      | 21                  | 1         |

**ASK FORM 2 OR 3 ONLY**

[N=5,351]:

b2. Journalists
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018      | 15                         | 41                           | 28                      | 16                  | <1        |

**ASK ALL:**

c. The military
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018      | 41                         | 41                           | 12                      | 4                   | 1         |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018      | 39                         | 41                           | 15                      | 4                   | <1        |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016       | 33                         | 46                           | 15                      | 5                   | 1         |

d. Religious leaders
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018      | 15                         | 47                           | 27                      | 11                  | 1         |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018      | 9                          | 40                           | 34                      | 16                  | 1         |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016       | 13                         | 39                           | 32                      | 14                  | 1         |

e. Business leaders
| Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018      | 4                          | 39                           | 43                      | 14                  | <1        |
| Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018      | 5                          | 40                           | 42                      | 13                  | <1        |
| May 10-Jun 6, 2016       | 4                          | 37                           | 44                      | 14                  | 1         |
f. Scientists
   Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018  33  49  14  3  <1
   Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018  27  52  17  5  <1
   May 10-Jun 6, 2016  21  55  18  4  1

g. College and university professors
   Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018  18  50  22  10  <1

h. Police officers
   Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018  30  48  16  5  <1

i1. Public school principals and superintendents for grades K-12
   Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018  22  55  17  5  1

i2. Public school principals for grades K-12
   Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018  25  55  16  4  <1

ASK ALL: CONF2
A variety of officials work at federal agencies. How much confidence, if any, do you have in these different groups to act in the best interest of the public?

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS a and b]

A great deal  A fair amount  Not too much  No confidence at all  No answer

a. Officials appointed by a president to oversee government agencies
   Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018  5  37  40  17  1

b. Career employees at government agencies who are not appointed by a president
   Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018  11  50  29  9  1

ASK ALL: CONFLEVEL
Overall, how much confidence would you say Americans have in the federal government?

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
3   A great deal
29  A fair amount
57  Not too much
10  No confidence at all
<1  No answer
ASK ALL: Thinking about some of the issues facing the country these days, how much of a problem, if at all, are each of the following?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>A very big problem</th>
<th>A moderately big problem</th>
<th>A small problem</th>
<th>Not a problem at all</th>
<th>No answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. Americans’ level of confidence in the federal government</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. Americans’ level of confidence in each other</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,622]:</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. Americans’ level of agreement on the basic facts about issues and events</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d. The ability of Democrats and Republicans to work together in Washington</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<td>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,668]:</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. The way military veterans are treated</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>f. The role of lobbyists and special interest groups in Washington</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<td>ASK FORM 3 ONLY [N=2,683]:</td>
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<tr>
<td>g. The quality of public K-12 schools</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
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<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<tr>
<td>h. The condition of roads, bridges and public transportation across the country</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>&lt;1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<td>ASK FORM 4 ONLY [N=2,645]:</td>
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<tr>
<td>i. The financial stability of Social Security and Medicare</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>j. The availability of affordable housing</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018</td>
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IF R THINKS LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN FED GOVT OR EACH OTHER IS A VERY BIG PROBLEM

PROBSOPEN1 In a sentence or two, please describe why you think Americans’ level of confidence in the federal government is very big problem. [OPEN END]

REASONS WHY CONFIDENCE IN FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS A “VERY BIG PROBLEM” [N=1889]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
84 Gave an answer
16 Refused

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
22 Corrupt/self-interested and self-serving politicians
20 NET Trump and Republicans create the problem
19 Results from Trump’s behavior and policies
1 Results from Republican party activities
17 NET Broad societal problems
13 Lack of trust leads to societal ills
1 Makes it hard to address racism and racially sensitive issues
1 Makes it hard to address poverty and related issues
1 Results from the public’s ignorance
* Reflects a decline in morals
10 Results from government gridlock/political polarization
2 Results from news media bias
2 Results from Democratic party/leaders behavior and policies
1 Results from the size of government and its performance
1 Results from election-related issues/gerrymandering
* Results from people’s use of technology/internet/social media
11 Other
17 Refused/Don’t know

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IF R THINKS LEVEL OF CONFIDENCE IN EACH OTHER A VERY BIG PROBLEM

PROBSOPEN1 In a sentence or two, please describe why you think Americans’ level of confidence in each other is very big problem. [OPEN END]

REASONS WHY CONFIDENCE IN EACH OTHER “VERY BIG PROBLEM” [N=842]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
85 Gave an answer
15 Refused
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018

Lack of interpersonal trust relates to broad societal problems

NET 67 Lack of interpersonal trust relates to broad societal problems

29 Can’t trust neighbors or fellow citizens

24 Results from political polarization/tribalism

1 Results from Republican party activities

8 Results from selfishness

4 Results from racism and racial sensitivity problems

2 Relates to lack of civility

2 Results from a breakdown in morals

1 Makes it hard to address inequality/social safety net issues

8 Results from the behavior/activities of Trump

3 Relates to the performance of politicians as a group

3 Relates from negative/divisive news media coverage

1 Results from the behavior/activity of Democratic party/leaders

1 Results from election-related issues/gerrymandering

5 Other

16 Refused/Don’t know

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ASK ALL:
LACKTRUST1 Would you say Americans’ level of trust in the FEDERAL GOVERNMENT has been...

[RANDOMIZE “Growing” and “Shrinking”; ALWAYS DISPLAY “Staying about the same” LAST]

Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018

8 Growing

75 Shrinking

17 Staying about the same

1 No answer

ASK ALL:
LACKTRUST2 Would you say Americans’ level of trust in EACH OTHER has been...

[RANDOMIZE “Growing” and “Shrinking”; ALWAYS DISPLAY “Staying about the same” LAST, IN SAME ORDER AS LACKTRUST1]

Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018

7 Growing

64 Shrinking

29 Staying about the same

<1 No answer
ASK IF FORM=1 OR FORM=4 [N=5,267]:

SOLVE1 Which comes closer to your view – even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018

Low trust in the federal government makes it harder to solve many of the country’s problems
64

The country’s problems would be just as hard to solve even if trust in the federal government was higher
35

No answer
1

ASK IF (FORM=1 OR FORM=4) AND (SOLVE1=1):

SOLVE2 Please name any issues that you think cannot be effectively addressed because Americans do not trust the federal government. [OPEN END]

ISSUES THAT CANNOT BE EFFECTIVELY ADDRESSED BECAUSE AMERICANS DO NOT TRUST THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT [N=3,564]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018

60 Gave an answer
40 Refused

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018

39 NET Social issues
17 Immigration
13 Health/medical/insurance issues
6 Racism and racial sensitive issues
5 Gun-related issues
4 Inequality, poverty, social safety net issues
4 Issues related to Social Security and entitlements
2 K-12 and college education improvements, student loans
2 Criminal justice/reform issues
1 Abortion
1 Gay rights, LGBTQ-related issues
1 Sexism/harassment issues
1 Privacy-related issues
* Crime-related issues
* Addiction-related issues
* Legalizing marijuana
* Problems connected to the FBI, intelligence community
12 Many issues (listing 4 or more problems), all issues
12 NET Economic and budget issues
5 Tax policy/reform
4 Debt and deficits
1 Jobs and economic performance
1 Infrastructure
10 Climate and environment issues
6 **NET** Politics, elections, governance issues
4 Election reform, voting integrity
3 Corruption, role of money, gridlock
3 Issues related to Trump’s performance/behavior
3 **NET** Foreign policy/national security issues
2 Geopolitics/international relations issues
1 Trade
* Russia
* War-related issues
5 Other
42 Refused/Don’t know

**ASK IF FORM=2 OR FORM=3 [N=5,351]:**
**SOLVE3** Which comes closer to your view – even if neither is exactly right? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

- Americans’ low trust in each other makes it harder to solve many of the country’s problems
  - 70
- The country’s problems would be just as hard to solve even if Americans’ trust in each other was higher
  - 29
- No answer

**ASK IF FORM=1 OR FORM=4 [N=5,267]:**
**TELLTRUTH** How hard is it for you to tell the difference between what’s true and what’s not true when you are... **[RANDOMIZE]**

a. Using social media
Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

- 16 Very hard
- 31 Somewhat hard
- 26 Not too hard
- 14 Not hard at all
- 12 I don’t use social media
- 1 No answer

b. Watching cable television news
Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

- 11 Very hard
- 30 Somewhat hard
- 29 Not too hard
- 14 Not hard at all
- 16 I don’t watch cable television news
c. Talking with people you know
Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
4 Very hard
27 Somewhat hard
49 Not too hard
20 Not hard at all
1 No answer

d. Listening to elected officials
Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
25 Very hard
40 Somewhat hard
26 Not too hard
9 Not hard at all
1 No answer

ASK IF FORM=1 OR FORM=4 [N=5,267]:
INSTCONF1 Compared with 20 years ago, do you think Americans as a whole are... [RANDOMIZE “More confident in the federal government” AND “Less confident in the federal government”, WITH “About the same” ALWAYS LAST]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
6 More confident in the federal government
76 Less confident in the federal government
17 About the same
1 No answer

ASK IF R THINKS PEOPLE ARE LESS CONFIDENT IN FEDERAL GOVT (INSTCONF1=2):
INSTCONF2 In your own words, what do you think are the most important reasons why the American public is now less confident in the federal government than it was 20 years ago? [OPEN-END RESPONSE]

REASONS WHY THERE IS LESS CONFIDENCE IN FEDERAL GOVT [N=4,345]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
73 Gave an answer
27 Refused
Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

36 NET Government activity/inactivity
27 General government performance, corruption, role of money
9 Polarization/gridlock
14 NET Trump and Republicans
13 Trump’s performance/behavior
1 Republicans performance
10 NET Problems with news media and information
5 News media bias/performance
3 More access to info and reporting on scandals and problems
1 Misinformation in general
1 Conservative bias in news
1 Liberal bias in ne
9 NET Social and policy problems
3 Inequality, problems of the poor
2 Broad cultural degradation
1 Tax and budget issues
1 Racism, issues tied to racial sensitivity
1 Immigration problems
1 Military issues, foreign affairs
1 Performance of schools/colleges
1 God, religion removed from public life
* Health care, insurance
* Climate, role of climate deniers
3 Technology, internet, social media
2 Performance of Democrats now and in the past
2 Scandals/problems from past like Watergate/Vietnam
1 Many reasons
1 General tone of politics and elections
3 Other
28 Refused/Don’t Know

ASK IF R SAYS PEOPLE ARE LESS CONFIDENT IN GOVERNMENT LESS (INSTCONF1=2):

BASED ON FORMS 1 AND 4 [N=5,267]

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

76 NET People are less confident in the federal government
19 The federal government deserves more public confidence than it gets
57 The federal government does not deserve any more public confidence than it gets
1 No answer
24 NET People are more confident in the federal government/about the same/no answer

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**ASK IF FORM=1 OR FORM=4 [N=5,267]:**

**INSTCONF4** When you think about the amount of confidence Americans have in the federal government, do you think they have... [RANDOMIZE ORDER 1-4 FOR HALF, 4-1 FOR OTHER HALF]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
13 Far too much confidence
22 Too much confidence
42 Too little confidence
20 Far too little confidence
3 No answer

**ASK IF FORM=1 OR FORM=4 [N=5,267]:**

**ZEROSUM** Which comes closer to your view – even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
42 It’s possible to have economic policies that benefit everyone in the country
56 Pretty much any economic policy will end up benefitting some people at the expense of others
1 No answer

**ASK IF FORM=1 OR FORM=4 [N=5,267]:**

**TRUSTCURE1** Do you think it is possible to improve the level of confidence Americans have in the federal government or is that not possible to do?

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
84 Yes, it is possible
15 No, it is not possible
1 No answer

**ASK IF TRUSTCURE1=1:**

**TRUSTCURE2** What do you think would help improve Americans’ confidence in the federal government? [OPEN END]

**WHAT WOULD HELP IMPROVE AMERICANS’ CONFIDENCE IN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT [N=4,652]**

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
73 Gave an answer
27 Refused
Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

23 **NET** Political reforms and changes
   16 More transparency, less secrecy
   4 Term limits
   3 Curtail the role of money in politics
   2 Conduct fair elections
   1 Fix Constitution
   * End gerrymandering
   * Reduce partisanship

15 Improve political leadership and government performance
12 Work together in communities to solve problems
  8 **NET** Fix/adopt policy changes to address ...
  
 3 Tax and budget issues
  2 Economic problems
  1 Health care/insurance
  1 Education
  1 Welfare, entitlements
  1 Immigration
  1 Solving all the country’s problems
  * Gun control
  * Housing
  * Climate/environment
  * Racism
  * Infrastructure

7 Get rid of/deal with Trump
4 Reform the news media
2 Bring corrupt leaders to justice
2 Keep promises
1 Change use of technology/internet/social media
1 Let Trump do his job
1 Rely more on facts
1 Stop Democrats from causing problems
1 Spiritual and religious changes can help
6 Other
30 Refused/Don’t know

**ASK IF FORM=1 OR FORM=4 [N=5,267]:**

TRUSTIMPT1 How important would you say it is that the U.S. improve the level of confidence Americans have in the federal government?

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

68 Very important
25 Somewhat important
5 Not too important
2 No at all important
<1 No answer
RANDOMIZE ORDER OF BLOCKS AVOID1/AVOID2 AND BLOCKS AVOID3/4. ALWAYS SHOW AVOID1 BEFORE AVOID2 and AVOID3 BEFORE AVOID4. RECORD ORDER SHOWN

ASK IF FORM=1 OR FORM=4 [N=5,267]:
AVOID1 Which comes closer to your view – even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE]

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018
61 The news media intentionally ignores some stories that are important to the public
38 The news media makes their best effort to cover the stories that are important to the public
1 No answer

ASK IF R BELIEVES THE NEWS MEDIA DOES NOT COVER STORIES (AVOID1=1):
AVOID2 What important news stories do you feel the news media ignores? [OPEN END]

THE ISSUES THE NEWS MEDIA IGNORES [N=3,110]

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018
64 Gave an answer
36 Refused

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018
19 General complaints about one-sided coverage performance
15 NET Domestic issues and policies
  4 Crime and the justice system
  4 Race-related issues
  3 Immigration, border issues, “invasion”
  3 Climate/environment issues
  1 Poverty, hunger, homelessness
  1 Guns
  1 Stories related to religion
  1 Coverage of average Americans
  1 Abortion
11 NET Trump’s accomplishments, good news about the economy
  9 Trump’s accomplishments
  2 Good news about the economy
  6 Good news in general
  5 NET International news, national security stories
  4 International news
  1 Stories about wars in Iraq, Syria, Afghanistan
  4 Democrats problems, scandals
  4 Democrats problems, scandals
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General political corruption and influence of special interests</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Many/all kinds of stories</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Short, non-specific answers like “truth” or “the truth”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Trump’s problems and scandals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Democrats’ accomplishments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Refused/Don’t know</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASK IF FORM=1 OR FORM=4 [N=5,267]:**

AVOID3   Which comes closer to your view – even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 27-</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>69</td>
<td>The federal government intentionally withholds important information from the public that it could safely release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>The federal government publicly releases the important information it can safely release</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>No answer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ASK IF R BELIEVES THE GOVT AVOIDS SHARING INFO (AVOID3=1):**

AVOID4   What important information do you feel the federal government withholds? [OPEN END]

**THE ISSUES ON WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WITHHOLDS IMPORTANT INFORMATION [N=3,609]**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nov 27-</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>58</td>
<td>Gave an answer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>Refused</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td><strong>NET</strong> Information about specific domestic-policy issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Climate and environment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Budget, taxes, deficits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Medical, health, insurance issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Immigration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Privacy and surveillance issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Economic policy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Guns and violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Policy impact assessments/analysis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Crime and police issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Elections, vote tampering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td><strong>NET</strong> Information about general government problems and scandals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Information that would embarrass the government, damage its reputation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Government corruption and waste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Secret decisions, backroom deals</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ASK IF FORM=2 OR FORM=3 [N=5,351]:
TRUSTOTHERS  When you first meet someone, do you typically... [RANDOMIZE]

Nov 27- Dec 10 2018
46  Trust them right away until you have reason to doubt them
53  Not trust them until you get to know them better
1  No answer

ASK IF FORM=2 OR FORM=3 [N=5,351]:
PERSCONF1  Compared with 20 years ago, do you think Americans as a whole are... [RANDOMIZE
"More confident in each other" and "Less confident in each other", WITH
"About the same" ALWAYS LAST]

Nov 27- Dec 10 2018
7  More confident in each other
71  Less confident in each other
22  About the same
<1  No answer

ASK IF R THINKS PEOPLE ARE LESS CONFIDENT IN EACH OTHER (PERSCONF1=2):
PERSCONF2  In your own words, what do you think are the most important reasons why Americans
are less confident in each other than they were 20 years ago? [OPEN END]

THE REASONS WHY AMERICANS ARE LESS CONFIDENT IN EACH OTHER THAN THEY
WERE 20 YEARS AGO [N=3,981]

Nov 27- Dec 10 2018
Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

43  **NET** Societal and policy problems
    14 People are more isolated, lonely, out for themselves
    11 People are lazy, greedy, dishonest, untrustworthy; generational change plays a role
    9 Crime, violence, drugs, scams, general fear
    6 Racism, racially-sensitive issues, sexism
    4 God, religion removed from public life, decline of morals
    4 Inequality, problems of the poor
    1 Immigration
    1 Education, school performance problems

16  **NET** Government activity/inactivity
    15 Polarization, gridlock
    1 Government performance, problems, corruption

11  **NET** Problems with the news media and information
    9 Bias and news media performance
    1 Misinformation in general, abundance of information
    1 Conservative bias in news
    * Liberal bias in news

4  Performance of Trump and Republicans
2  Performance of Democrats
1  Rise of extremism, hate
2  Other

24 Refused/Don’t know

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**ASK IF R SAYS PEOPLE ARE LESS CONFIDENT EACH OTHER (PERSCONF1=2):**

PERSCONF3 Which of the following comes closes to your view – even if neither is exactly right? [RANDOMIZE]

**BASED ON FORMS 2 AND 3 [N=5,351]**

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

71  **NET** Americans are less confident in each other
    49 Americans have lost confidence in each other because people are not as reliable as they used to be
    21 Americans have lost confidence in each other even though people are as reliable as they have always been
    1 No answer

29  **NET** Americans are more confident in each other/about the same/no answer

**ASK IF FORM=2 OR FORM=3 [N=5,351]:**
When you think about the amount of confidence Americans have in their fellow citizens, do you think they have...

[Randomize order 1-4 for half, 4-1 for other half]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018

7    Far too much confidence
11   Too much confidence
55   Too little confidence
25   Far too little confidence
3    No answer

Ask if form=2 or form=3 [N=5,351]:

Cooperate Which comes closer to your view – even if neither is exactly right? [Randomize]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018

24   People will not cooperate with one another even in a crisis if they don’t trust each other
75   In a crisis, people will cooperate with each other even if they don’t trust each other
1    No answer

Randomize strat1, strat2, strat3

Ask if form=2 or form=3 [N=5,351]:

Strat1 In most situations, do you think it’s better for people to...
[Randomize]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018

50   Be trusting
49   Be skeptical
1    No answer

Ask if form=2 or form=3 [N=5,351]:

Strat2 In most situations, do you think it’s better for people to...
[Randomize]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018

78   Be cautious
22   Take risks
1    No answer

Ask if form=2 or form=3 [N=5,351]:

Strat3 In most situations, do you think it’s better for people to...
[Randomize]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
29 Be self-reliant
71 Work together with others
1 No answer

ASK IF FORM=2 OR FORM=3 [N=5,351]:

TRUSTCURE3 Do you think it is possible to improve the level of confidence Americans have in each other or is that not possible to do?

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
86 Yes, it is possible
13 No, it is not possible
1 No answer

ASK IF R BELIEVES THERE ARE WAYS TO IMPROVE TRUST (TRUSTCURE3=1):

TRUSTCURE4 What do you think can be done that improve Americans’ confidence in each other?

[OPEN END]

THE ISSUES THE NEWS MEDIA IGNORES [N=3,110]

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
72 Gave an answer
28 Refused

Nov 27-
Dec 10
2018
30 NET Changes in personal behavior
13 Be less partisan/tribal, respect others
11 Be kind and cooperate
6 Be more personally honest and trustworthy
10 Elect better, more inspiring leaders
8 NET Reform and reorient the news
6 End fake news, sensational, divisive coverage
2 Report more good news, stories about people solving problems
5 NET Fix/adopt policy changes to address problems with ...
2 Education
1 The political system/gerrymandering
1 Economy
1 Safety net problems
1 Crime
1 Literacy
* Immigration
* Drug addiction
* Justice system
4 NET Embrace programs to improve human behavior relating to ...
1 Racism
1 Incivility
1  Identity politics
1  A lack of a belief in a unified America
*  Sexism
3  Impeach Trump, elect someone else
3  Embrace religious, moral solutions
1  Change the way people use technology/internet/social media
1  Less government, more personal responsibility
1  It will take a national crisis to restore trust
*  Democratic party/leaders are the problem
4  Other
33  Refused/Don’t know

**ASK IF FORM=2 OR FORM=3 [N=5,351]**:
TRUSTIMPT2  How important would you say it is that the level of confidence Americans have in each other be improved?

Nov 27-Dec 10 2018

58  Very important
35  Somewhat important
6   Not too important
1   Not at all important
1   No answer