



**Interviews with 1,009 adult Americans conducted by telephone by ORC International on March 13-15, 2015. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 3 percentage points.**

**This sample includes 605 interviews among landline respondents and 404 interviews among cell phone respondents.**

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**EMBAGOED FOR RELEASE:  
Sunday, March 22 at 8:30 a.m. ET**

24. Regardless of who might run for president in 2016, imagine you could create the perfect candidate to succeed Barack Obama as president. For each of the following pairs of statements, tell me which one better describes your perfect candidate, even if neither is exactly right. Here's the first one...  
(RANDOM ORDER)

Mar. 13-15  
2015

The candidate shares your views on all major issues	51%
The candidate may not share all of your views on major issues, but belongs to the party you prefer and has a good chance of winning	47%
No opinion	3%
The candidate has a lot of experience as an executive, either in government or business, with strong leadership skills	59%
The candidate has a lot of experience as a legislator, and has had to bring about compromise	39%
No opinion	1%
The candidate believes religious views should drive policy actions	42%
The candidate believes religious views have no place in government	56%
No opinion	2%
The candidate has been in the public eye as a political leader for many years	59%
The candidate is relatively new to the political scene	38%
No opinion	4%
The candidate has never been wealthy	40%
The candidate has had economic success in their life	53%
No opinion	7%
The candidate would continue most of the policies of the Obama administration	41%
The candidate would change most of the policies of the Obama administration	57%
No opinion	2%

## METHODOLOGY

A total of 1,009 adults were interviewed by telephone nationwide by live interviewers calling both landline and cell phones. Among the entire sample, 28% described themselves as Democrats, 24% described themselves as Republicans, and 48% described themselves as Independents or members of another party

All respondents were asked questions concerning basic demographics, and the entire sample was weighted to reflect national Census figures for gender, race, age, education, region of country, and telephone usage.

Crosstabs on the following pages only include results for subgroups with enough unweighted cases to produce a sampling error of +/- 8.5 percentage points or less. Some subgroups represent too small a share of the national population to produce crosstabs with an acceptable sampling error. Interviews were conducted among these subgroups, but results for groups with a sampling error larger than +/-8.5 percentage points are not displayed and instead are denoted with "N/A".

Question 24B

Which of the following statements better describes your perfect candidate, even if neither is exactly right?

The candidate shares your views on all major issues

The candidate may not share all of your views on major issues, but belongs to the party you prefer and has a good chance of winning

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Candidate shares views	51%	52%	49%	46%	60%
Preferred party, can win	47%	44%	49%	51%	39%
No opinion	3%	4%	2%	3%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-6.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Candidate shares views	51%	59%	56%	44%	38%	58%	42%
Preferred party, can win	47%	38%	41%	53%	59%	40%	55%
No opinion	3%	3%	2%	3%	3%	3%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-8.0	+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-4.0

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Candidate shares views	51%	51%	50%	49%	51%
Preferred party, can win	47%	47%	48%	47%	46%
No opinion	3%	2%	2%	3%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Candidate shares views	51%	51%	58%	36%	46%	53%	49%
Preferred party, can win	47%	47%	40%	59%	53%	44%	47%
No opinion	3%	2%	2%	5%	*	3%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.0

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Candidate shares views	51%	58%	46%	52%	47%	54%	47%	47%
Preferred party, can win	47%	39%	53%	45%	50%	45%	50%	49%
No opinion	3%	3%	1%	3%	4%	1%	3%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-6.5

\* percentage less than 1%

Question 24C

Which of the following statements better describes your perfect candidate, even if neither is exactly right?

The candidate has a lot of experience as an executive, either in government or business, with strong leadership skills

The candidate has a lot of experience as a legislator, and has had to bring about compromise

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Experience as an executive	59%	62%	57%	61%	55%
Experience as a legislator	39%	37%	41%	38%	45%
No opinion	1%	1%	2%	2%	*
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-6.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Experience as an executive	59%	56%	63%	58%	60%	59%	59%
Experience as a legislator	39%	44%	35%	40%	38%	40%	39%
No opinion	1%	*	1%	1%	2%	1%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-8.0	+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-4.0

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Experience as an executive	59%	56%	61%	54%	64%
Experience as a legislator	39%	43%	38%	45%	35%
No opinion	1%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Experience as an executive	59%	51%	58%	74%	45%	51%	77%
Experience as a legislator	39%	49%	41%	25%	54%	48%	22%
No opinion	1%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.0

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Experience as an executive	59%	57%	57%	59%	64%	58%	60%	63%
Experience as a legislator	39%	42%	41%	40%	35%	41%	39%	36%
No opinion	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-6.5

\* percentage less than 1%

Question 24E

Which of the following statements better describes your perfect candidate, even if neither is exactly right?

The candidate believes religious views should drive policy actions

The candidate believes religious views have no place in government

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Religious views, drive policy	42%	39%	44%	42%	42%
Religious views,not in govermt	56%	58%	54%	56%	54%
No opinion	2%	3%	2%	2%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-6.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Religious views, drive policy	42%	29%	43%	48%	53%	35%	50%
Religious views,not in govermt	56%	70%	56%	48%	44%	64%	46%
No opinion	2%	2%	1%	4%	3%	1%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-8.0	+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-4.0

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Religious views, drive policy	42%	46%	37%	47%	38%
Religious views,not in govermt	56%	52%	61%	50%	61%
No opinion	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Religious views, drive policy	42%	34%	37%	61%	16%	38%	62%
Religious views,not in govermt	56%	62%	62%	37%	82%	61%	35%
No opinion	2%	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.0

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Religious views, drive policy	42%	38%	43%	49%	32%	37%	40%	51%
Religious views,not in govermt	56%	60%	57%	48%	64%	61%	58%	45%
No opinion	2%	2%	1%	3%	4%	2%	2%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-6.5

\* percentage less than 1%

Question 24F

Which of the following statements better describes your perfect candidate, even if neither is exactly right?

The candidate has been in the public eye as a political leader for many years  
 The candidate is relatively new to the political scene

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Political leader, many years	59%	50%	67%	52%	74%
New to political scene	38%	45%	30%	43%	24%
No opinion	4%	4%	3%	5%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-6.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Political leader, many years	59%	62%	58%	60%	55%	60%	58%
New to political scene	38%	35%	40%	35%	41%	37%	37%
No opinion	4%	3%	2%	5%	4%	3%	5%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-8.0	+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-4.0

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Political leader, many years	59%	64%	55%	61%	58%
New to political scene	38%	33%	41%	36%	38%
No opinion	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Political leader, many years	59%	77%	53%	51%	61%	68%	49%
New to political scene	38%	21%	43%	46%	35%	31%	46%
No opinion	4%	3%	4%	4%	3%	1%	6%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.0

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Political leader, many years	59%	58%	60%	62%	54%	65%	59%	51%
New to political scene	38%	38%	38%	34%	42%	32%	38%	44%
No opinion	4%	4%	2%	4%	4%	3%	3%	5%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-6.5

\* percentage less than 1%

Question 24G

Which of the following statements better describes your perfect candidate, even if neither is exactly right?

The candidate has never been wealthy

The candidate has had economic success in their life

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Never been wealthy	40%	37%	42%	38%	44%
Economic success in life	53%	57%	50%	55%	49%
No opinion	7%	6%	8%	7%	6%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-6.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Never been wealthy	40%	46%	41%	37%	32%	44%	35%
Economic success in life	53%	50%	54%	57%	53%	52%	55%
No opinion	7%	4%	5%	7%	16%	5%	10%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-8.0	+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-4.0

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Never been wealthy	40%	40%	39%	42%	38%
Economic success in life	53%	51%	56%	51%	55%
No opinion	7%	8%	6%	7%	7%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Never been wealthy	40%	43%	44%	27%	45%	41%	34%
Economic success in life	53%	52%	49%	63%	48%	54%	57%
No opinion	7%	5%	7%	9%	7%	5%	9%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.0

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Never been wealthy	40%	47%	42%	35%	39%	38%	38%	43%
Economic success in life	53%	46%	49%	59%	54%	55%	56%	48%
No opinion	7%	7%	9%	6%	8%	7%	6%	9%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-6.5

\* percentage less than 1%



Question 24H

Which of the following statements better describes your perfect candidate, even if neither is exactly right?

The candidate would continue most of the policies of the Obama administration

The candidate would change most of the policies of the Obama administration

Base = Total Sample

	Total	Men	Women	White	Non-White
Continue policies of Obama	41%	37%	45%	30%	66%
Change policies of Obama	57%	61%	53%	69%	31%
No opinion	2%	2%	2%	1%	3%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-4.5	+/-4.5	+/-3.5	+/-6.5

	Total	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Under 50	50 and Older
Continue policies of Obama	41%	44%	46%	41%	32%	45%	37%
Change policies of Obama	57%	54%	51%	59%	68%	53%	62%
No opinion	2%	2%	3%	1%	1%	2%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-8.0	+/-7.0	+/-5.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-4.0

	Total	Under \$50K	\$50K or more	No College	Attended College
Continue policies of Obama	41%	43%	44%	36%	45%
Change policies of Obama	57%	56%	54%	62%	53%
No opinion	2%	1%	2%	2%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-5.0	+/-4.5	+/-5.5	+/-3.5

	Total	Democrat	Independent	Republican	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Continue policies of Obama	41%	77%	38%	6%	67%	51%	17%
Change policies of Obama	57%	22%	59%	94%	31%	48%	82%
No opinion	2%	1%	3%	*	3%	2%	1%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.0	+/-4.5	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.0	+/-5.0

	Total	North east	Mid-west	South	West	Urban	Sub-urban	Rural
Continue policies of Obama	41%	53%	49%	29%	43%	52%	40%	29%
Change policies of Obama	57%	46%	50%	68%	57%	47%	58%	69%
No opinion	2%	1%	1%	3%	*	1%	2%	2%
Sampling Error	+/-3.0	+/-6.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-6.5	+/-5.5	+/-5.0	+/-6.5

\* percentage less than 1%