Allegheny College/Zogby Civility Poll Tracking Questions

Some people seem to follow politics most of the time, while others aren't that interested. Would you say you follow what's going on in politics most of the time, some of the time, only now and then, or hardly at all?

- Most of the time: 57% (2016), 41% (2010)
- Some of the time: 31% (2016), 28% (2010)
- Only now and then: 13% (2016), 9% (2010)
- Hardly at all: 10% (2016), 6% (2010)
- Not sure: 5% (2016), 1% (2010)

Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

- Right Direction: 38% (2016), 22% (2010)
- Wrong Track: 63% (2016), 53% (2010)
- Not sure: 15% (2016), 9% (2010)

Altogether, would you describe economic conditions in the country today as excellent, good, fair, or poor?
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tr>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Good</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>40</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
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Which of the following would you say is your main source of news - television, the Internet, newspapers, radio, or magazines?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Television</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>58</td>
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<tr>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>37</td>
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<td>Radio</td>
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<td>Magazines</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>NS</td>
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Have you volunteered in your community during the past 12 months?
Have you tried to persuade anyone to agree with you about a political issue in the past year?

- Yes: 2016: 33, 2010: 52
- No: 2016: 48, 2010: 61
- Not sure: 2016: 6

Do you think civility in politics is important for a healthy democracy?

- Yes, it is important: 2016: 80, 2010: 95
- No, it is not important: 2016: 7, 2010: 3
- Not sure: 2016: 13, 2010: 2

Many people in this country - politicians included - hold strong
Many people in this country - politicians included - hold strong views on certain issues. Given the difficult and often personal nature of these issues, do you believe it is possible for people to disagree respectfully, or are nasty exchanges unavoidable?

If you were able to create a rule book for civility in politics, which of the following would not be okay - that is, they would be against the rules? (Choose all that apply)
Do you think there has been a decline or improvement in civility of American politics since Barack Obama became president, or do you think things have stayed about the same?

- There has been a decline in civility in American politics: 62% in 2016, 12% in 2010
- There has been an increase in civility in American politics: 10% in 2016, 14% in 2010
- Civility is about the same: 39% in 2016, 12% in 2010
- Not sure: 2% in 2016, 12% in 2010

Which political party do you think is more to blame for the decline in civility, Republicans or Democrats?

- Democrats: 26% in 2016, 28% in 2010
- Republicans: 27% in 2016, 33% in 2010
- Both about the same: 33% in 2016, 33% in 2010
- Refused or Not sure: 2% in 2016, 5% in 2010

When politics becomes nasty and rude, does it turn you off, push you to be more active, or does it have little effect on your willingness to be involved in politics?

- It turns me off from politics: 55% in 2016, 54% in 2010
- It pushes me to be more active in politics: 14% in 2016, 21% in 2010
Which do you think is more important in a politician: the ability to compromise to get things done, or a willingness to stand firm in support of principles?

![Bar chart showing responses to the question.]

Do you think it is more important for elected officials to do what they think is for the good of the nation or what they think is most popular with voters?

![Bar chart showing responses to the question.]

Do you think your elected officials - the ones that represent you in Washington -- are more concerned with winning their next election or with doing the right thing for the nation?

- Winning next election: 2016 - 66, 2010 - 65
- Doing what's right: 2016 - 22, 2010 - 27
- Not sure: 2016 - 12, 2010 - 7

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Do you think elected officials should pursue personal friendships with members of other parties?

- Yes: 2016 - 56, 2010 - 85
- No: 2016 - 15, 2010 - 12
- Not sure: 2016 - 29, 2010 - 4

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Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: 'Right now, Washington is broken.'
Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Right now, Washington is broken.

- Strongly agree: 2016: 50, 2010: 51
- Somewhat agree: 2016: 6, 2010: 26
- Somewhat disagree: 2016: 13, 2010: 31
- Strongly disagree: 2016: 4, 2010: 9
- Not Sure: 2016: 1, 2010: 9

Do you think schools should include lessons on how to act respectfully in politics?

- Yes: 2016: 58, 2010: 77
- No: 2016: 21, 2010: 19
- Not sure: 2016: 3, 2010: 21

Looking forward to the elections for House and Senate candidates - compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic than usual about voting, less enthusiastic, or about the same?

- MM enthusiastic: 2016: 13, 2010: 29
- SmwL enthusiastic: 2016: 6, 2010: 16
- ML enthusiastic: 2016: 4, 2010: 15
We understand that the election is a few months away, and that things can change, but, given what you know now do you think you will be supporting?

- Mostly Republican candidates: 2016 - 31, 2010 - 26
- Mostly Democratic candidates: 2016 - 35, 2010 - 25
- Undecided: 2016 - 15, 2010 - 18
- A mix of Democratic and Republican candidates: 2016 - 10, 2010 - 29
- Other/ do not vote: 2016 - 9, 2010 - 1
Please tell me which two of the following you think should take a lead role in making politics more civil in the years ahead. (Choose two)

- Elected officials: 45%
- Families: 24%
- News media: 24%
- Community organizations: 8%
- Political parties: 49%
- Churches: 13%
- Colleges and universities: 28%
- Local Schools: 32%
- Not sure: 2%

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