

FiveThirtyEight's First Poll of Pollsters for the 2016 Campaign

Welcome to our poll of pollsters

This is a survey of U.S. political pollsters about polling the 2016 election. Responses will be aggregated for reports on FiveThirtyEight.com.

We also polled pollsters before and just after the 2014 election. See [our reports](#) plus [full poll results](#).

After each set of questions, there is a required question asking whether you wish to publicly associate your name and your polling organization's name with the answers to that set of questions. The only things that will be attributed to you are the fact of your participation, plus information you agree can be attributed to you; everything else will be anonymized.

Please don't share the link to this poll with others, or publish or share any of the questions, until after we have posted the results.

Responses must be submitted by Wednesday, Dec. 16, at noon ET to be included in our report.

This poll should take roughly 30 minutes to complete, if you answer every optional question.

Please email carl.bialik@fivethirtyeight.com with any questions.

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Basic pollster info

* 1. Please enter your information and your polling organization's information. We won't publish your pollster ID, phone number and email address.

Name

Polling Organization

Unique pollster ID sent
to you by
FiveThirtyEight

Email Address

Phone Number

The State of Polling

2. Since we last did a poll of pollsters -- after many polls missed last November's Republican wave -- we've had a number of polling misses, mostly outside the U.S.: Israel, the U.K., Greece and Kentucky. Is the U.S. polling industry in better or worse shape than a year ago?

- Better
- Worse
- About the same
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

3. Given the decline in response rates to telephone polls, are you surprised that telephone polls haven't missed election results by even more than they have?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

* 4. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

- Yes
- No

The State of Polling

5. Has it gotten easier or harder to get responses from voters since your polling of the 2014 election?

- Harder
- Easier
- About the same

Please explain your answer:

6. What is your average response rate in polling for the 2016 election, in percentage points? (Please enter a number between 0 and 100; decimals are OK.)

7. What was your average response rate in polling for the 2014 election, in percentage points? (Please enter a number between 0 and 100; decimals are OK.)

8. How are you defining response rate?

* 9. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

- Yes
- No

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The State of Polling

10. Do you think pollsters' public image has improved or declined since the 2012 election?

- Improved
- Declined
- Neither
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

11. In [her recent New Yorker feature on polling](#) Jill Lepore wrote sympathetically about Lindsay Rogers's contention that polls "are a majoritarian monstrosity." What is your response to that?

* 12. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

- Yes
- No

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Polling During the Primary Campaign

13. What are the toughest states to poll during primaries? (Enter up to five states)

State 1	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px;"></div>
State 2	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px;"></div>
State 3	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px;"></div>
State 4	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px;"></div>
State 5	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 25px;"></div>

14. Why?

15. Has polling during the primaries, and coverage of it, helped or hurt the industry's reputation?

Helped

Hurt

Not sure

Please explain your answer:

* 16. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

Yes

No

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Polling During the Primary Campaign

17. Jeb Bush and Nate Silver are saying to ignore national primary polls before the election has started. Do you agree?

Yes

No

Not sure

Please explain your answer:

18. Is it fair to use national primary polls indetermining who gets to appear in the main televised debates and the undercards?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain your answer. And if you'd rather polls not be used in this way, what alternative method would you suggest?

19. Should voters and the media be paying any attention to general election polls conducted the year before the election?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

* 20. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

- Yes
- No

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Polling During the Primary Campaign

21. If not, is there any value in conducting general-election polls now?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

* 22. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

- Yes
- No

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Donald Trump

23. Live-interviewer polls consistently have found lower support for Donald Trump than interactive voice response (IVR) and online polls. Which set of polls do you think is closer to correct?

- Live-interviewer polls
- IVR and online polls
- Neither

Please explain your answer:

24. Does the future of polling depend on Donald Trump's fate?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

25. Do you think placing questions about immigration in a survey questionnaire before candidate-preference questions can bias respondents toward Donald Trump?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

26. Do you think Donald Trump's boast about not having a pollster helps or hurts him with voters overall?

- Helps
- Hurts
- Neither

Please explain your answer:

* 27. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

- Yes
- No

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Polling on Religion

28. Polls this year of Muslim sentiment in the U.S. and the U.K. have been criticized for being deeply flawed in ways that could have biased the results. Do you have any plans to poll American Muslims?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain your answer. And if you answered yes, how would you poll American Muslims in a way that would provide fair, representative results?

29. How meaningful are general religion categories like "Catholic" given how much opinions and habits can vary within those categories?

* 30. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

- Yes
- No

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Gallup

31. Is Gallup's exit from horse-race polling good or bad for the polling industry?

- Good
- Bad
- Neither

Please explain your answer:

32. Many stories about Gallup's exit, including ours, said the company's name is "synonymous" with polling. Is there a new brand name in the industry that should be equated with polling?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes, which brand name should it be?

* 33. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

- Yes
- No

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Polling and the Internet

34. The Los Angeles Times is partnering with SurveyMonkey. Do you think SurveyMonkey's polling methods are good enough for a prominent media partner to use?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

35. Do prediction markets provide a more accurate picture of who are the leading contenders for the presidential nomination at this stage of the race than polls do?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

36. How well are polling aggregator websites filtering out polls from bad polling organizations?

- Very well
- Well
- OK
- Badly
- Very badly
- Not sure

Please explain your answer:

37. Are there polling firms whose polls you've seen included by polling aggregators that you think shouldn't be?

Yes

No

If you answered yes, please name them here:

* 38. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

Yes

No

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Your Election Predictions

39. Who do you expect will be the Democratic nominee for president in the 2016 election?

Hillary Clinton

Bernie Sanders

Martin O'Malley

Other (please specify)

40. Who do you expect will be the Republican nominee for president in the 2016 election?

- Donald Trump
- Ted Cruz
- Marco Rubio
- Ben Carson
- Jeb Bush
- Chris Christie
- Rand Paul
- Carly Fiorina
- John Kasich
- Mike Huckabee
- George Pataki
- Rick Santorum
- Lindsey Graham
- Jim Gilmore
- Other (please specify)

41. How many seats do you expect Republicans will hold in the Senate in 2017 -- after the 2016 election?
(They currently hold 54.)

42. How many seats do you expect Republicans will control in the House in 2017 -- after the 2016 election?
(They currently hold 246.)

* 43. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

- Yes
- No

Thank you for your participation.

Questions for Future Polls of Pollsters

44. What question or questions would you want us to ask your fellow pollsters in future rounds of this poll?

* 45. Can we attribute your answer(s) to the above question(s) on this page to you and your organization by name?

Yes

No