Reuters/Ipsos/UVA Center for Politics Race Poll
Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in conjunction with the University of Virginia Center for Politics
8.8.2018

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted August 2 – August 6, 2018 on behalf of Thomson Reuters and the University of Virginia Center for Politics. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,450 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample included 586 Democrats, 561 Republicans and 187 Independents.

Q1. Which comes closest to your opinion?

	2018
Confederate monuments should be removed from all public spaces (i.e. parks, public squares, court houses)	25%
Confederate monuments should remain in all public spaces (i.e. parks, public squares, court houses)	56%
Don't know	18%

Q2. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with the following statement.

	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know	*Total Agree*	*Total Disagree*
'Political correctness' threatens our liberty as Americans to speak our minds.	38%	24%	15%	6%	10%	7%	*62%*	*16%*
America must protect and preserve its White European heritage.	19%	16%	26%	8%	24%	6%	*35%*	*33%*
Marriage should only be allowed between people of the same race.	10%	6%	13%	8%	57%	5%	*16%*	*65%*
People of different races should be free to live wherever they choose.	72%	14%	7%	2%	2%	3%	*86%*	*4%*
All races are equal.	70%	12%	7%	4%	4%	3%	*81%*	*8%*
White people are currently under	19%	24%	16%	9%	28%	5%	*42%*	*38%*

attack in this country.								
All races should be treated equally.	81%	10%	4%	1%	2%	3%	*91%*	*3%*
America must protect and preserve its multi-cultural heritage.	63%	19%	11%	2%	2%	4%	*82%*	*3%*
Racial minorities are currently under attack in this country.	32%	25%	17%	11%	12%	4%	*57%*	*22%*

Q3. Do you support or oppose the following group or movement…?

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Neither support nor oppose	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know	*Total Support*	*Total Oppose*
Antifa	3%	5%	16%	5%	34%	37%	*8%*	*39%*
Black Lives Matter	20%	14%	21%	8%	28%	9%	*34%*	*36%*
The alt-right	3%	4%	17%	6%	42%	28%	*7%*	*47%*
White nationalism	4%	4%	17%	7%	56%	12%	*8%*	*63%*
Neo Nazism	2%	3%	8%	4%	72%	11%	*5%*	*75%*

Q4. During President Obama's presidency, do you believe that race relations in America became better or worse?

A lot better	Somewhat better	No different	Somewhat worse	A lot worse	Don't know	*Total Better*	*Total Worse*
14%	24%	19%	14%	23%	6%	*38%*	*37%*

Q5. Since President Trump's election, do you believe that race relations in America are better or worse?

A lot better	Somewhat better	No different	Somewhat worse	A lot worse	Don't know	*Total Better*	*Total Worse*
4%	11%	22%	17%	39%	7%	*15%*	*57%*

Methodology

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted August 2 – August 6, 2018 on behalf of Thomson Reuters and the University of Virginia Center for Politics. For the survey, a sample of roughly 1,450 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample included 586 Democrats, 561 Republicans and 187 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.9 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,450, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=3.4).

The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.6 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 4.7 percentage points for Republicans and plus or minus 8.2 percentage points for Independents.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our Public Opinion Polling and Communication page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ\, i.e., Y|θ~Bin(n,θ), where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of "yes", or "1", observed in the sample, so that the sample mean ($\bar{y}$) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion θ. This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian [1] statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one's knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution (π(θ/y)~β(y+a,n-y+b)), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on π(θ/y). Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that *a*=1 and *b*=1 and y=*n/2*. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect 1+L=1.3 to account for complex weighting[2]

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below. Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100.

Sample size	Credibility intervals
2,000	2.5
1,500	2.9
1,000	3.5
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2