

Hotline Presidential Update

Top Hotline Presidential Campaign
Stories of the Month

May 11, 2016

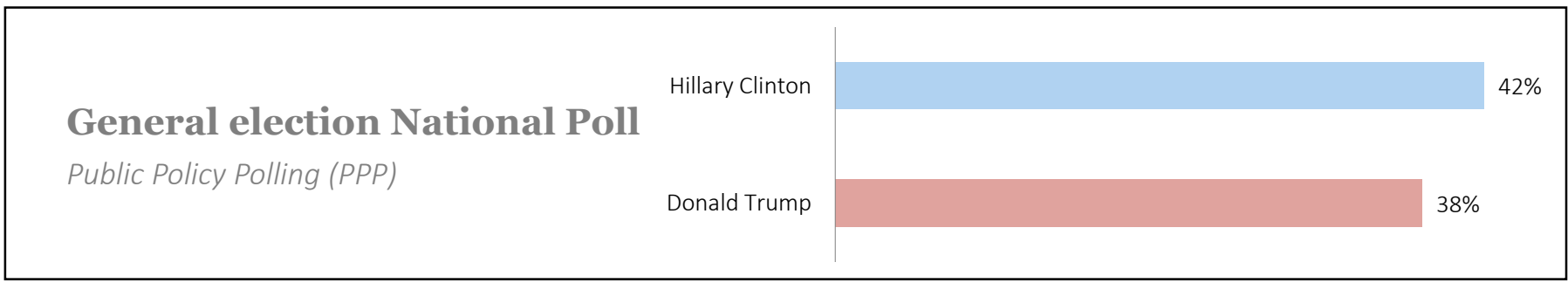
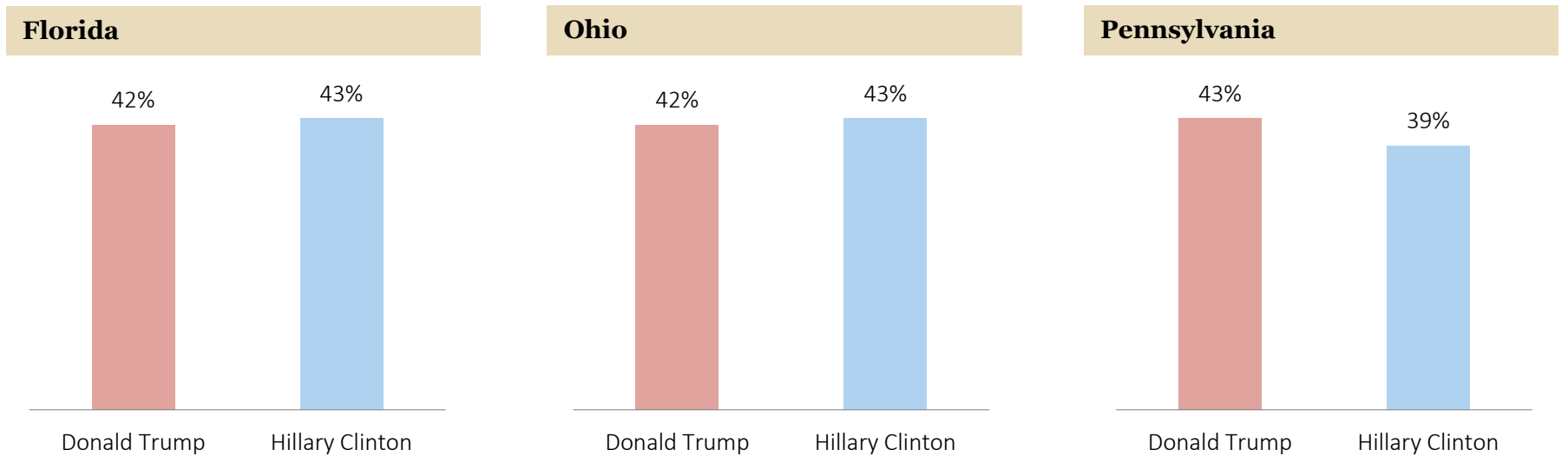
Producer: Owen Minott Jr.
Edited by: Katharine Conlon
Director: Afzal Bari

Clinton and Trump Neck-and-Neck in Swing States

Based on headlines from National Journal's Hotline

General Election Polling From Swing States

Quinnipiac University

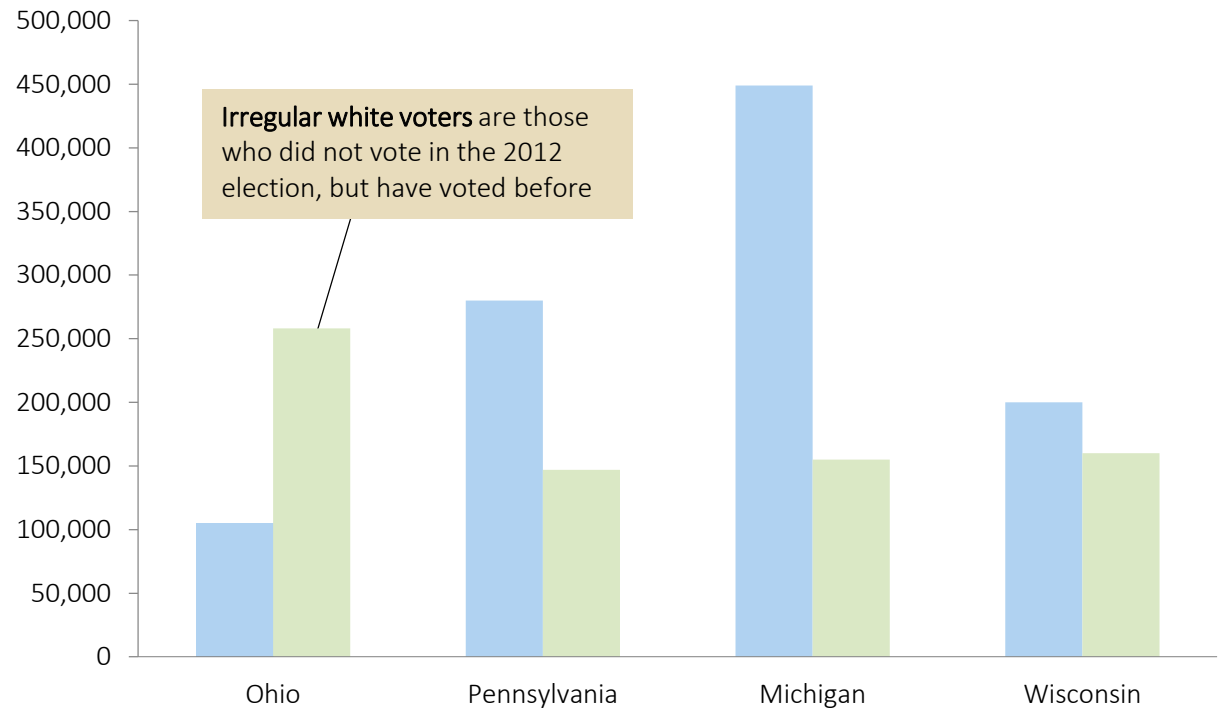


Sources: Ally Mutnick, "Quinnipiac: Clinton Polls Ahead of Trump in Three Swing States" National Journal, May 10, 2016.

Trump Has Big Hill to Climb in the Rust Belt

Obama 2012 Margin of Victory vs. Number of Irregular White Voters

■ Obama Margin of Victory ■ Irregular White Voters



Based on headlines from National Journal's Hotline

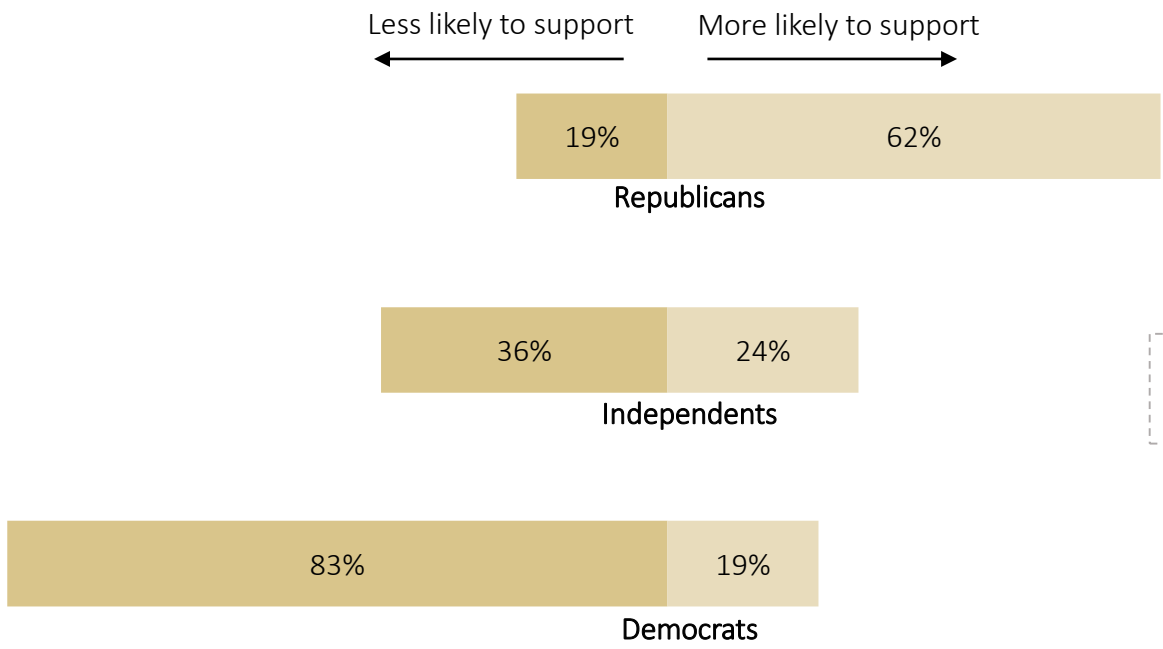
- If Clinton were to match Obama's voter turnout in PA, MI and WI, Trump would lose the states even if he won all of Romney's supporters in addition to all of the white voters who have voted before but did not vote in 2012.
- Trump has more potential in Ohio: Obama's margin of victory was small in 2012 and there are an abundance of irregular white voters there.

Sources: Karym Bruggeman, "Hard Reality for Trump in the Rust Belt," National Journal, May 4, 2016.

Independent Voters Less Likely to Support Down-Ballot Candidates That Endorse Trump

Are Voters More or Less Likely to Support a Candidate That Endorses Trump?

Morning Consult Poll, May 2016



Based on headlines from National Journal's Hotline

Source: Eli Yokley, "Poll: Voters Less Likely to Support Candidates Who Back Trump," Morning Consult, May 10, 2016; Karyn Bruggeman, "Trump Toxicity for Downticket Republicans Hard to Avoid," National Journal, May 11, 2016.

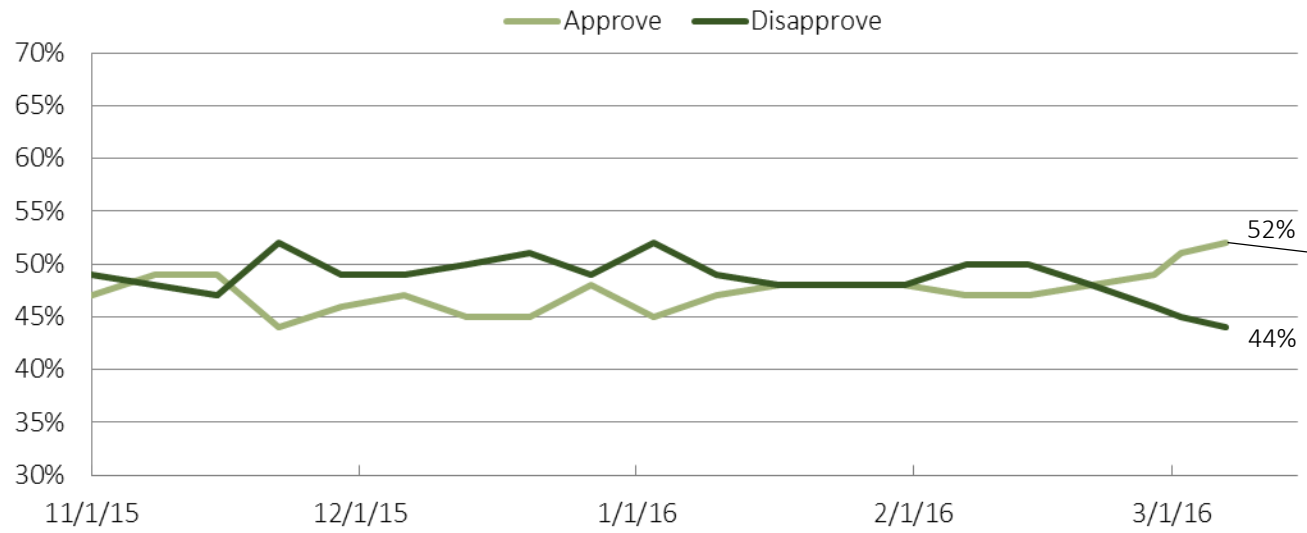
Obama Poised to Be an Active Campaigner for Democratic Nominee

Based on headlines from National Journal's Hotline

Obama's Plans to Campaign

- President Obama privately told a group of donors that Sanders' chances of winning the nomination were dying down and that the party must come together to back Clinton
- "Obama and his top aides have been strategizing about how they can reprise his successful 2008 and 2012 approaches to help elect a Democrat to replace him," to make sure real estate mogul Donald Trump (R) or Sen. Ted Cruz (R-TX) can't roll back his legacy
- Obama is poised to be the most active sitting president on the campaign trail in decades; Obama will work to mobilize his coalition of racial minorities, young people and women while Vice President Biden is preparing to campaign heavily in the Rust Belt to appeal to the white, working-class voters who may be drawn to Trump

Obama's Approval Ratings



Obama's recent spike in popularity is likely to make him a more effective campaigner

Sources: Zach Montellaro, "Obama Telling Donors That it's Time to Back Clinton." National Journal, March 18, 2016; Gallup, March 9, 2016.

Gov. Gary Johnson (L)



Libertarian Candidate for President

In a normal election year, Libertarian candidate Gary Johnson would garner very little attention and support, like most third candidates do. However, with the GOP establishment at odds with their own frontrunner, some are starting to speculate whether Republican party leaders are starting to look for their own ‘Naderian’ spoiler candidate to prevent real estate mogul Donald Trump (R) from winning the presidency. It’s unlikely that Republican elites would ever rally round someone like Johnson, but as a firewall to prevent Mr. Trump from taking over the Oval Office, the Libertarian Party nominee — whom they disagree with on many subjects — may be their best shot.

Biography

Current: Honorary Chairman, Our America Initiative
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Education: University of New Mexico, B.S., 1975
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Religion: Lutheran
.....

Previous Experience

- Governor of New Mexico, 1995-2003
- President and Co-Founder, Big J Enterprises. 1976-1999

Major Milestones

Climbed to the summit of Mt. Everest	2003
Publishes Book: Seven Principles of Good Government: Gary Johnson on Politics, People and Freedom	2010

Stance on Issues

- Supports expansion of free trade
- Opposes Obamacare
- Strongly favors gun rights
- Supports privatization of Social Security
- Strongly favors same-sex marriage, abortion rights and the legalization of cannabis

Election Results

2012 General		
Barack Obama (D)	Votes: 65,899,660	Percent: 51.3%
Mitt Romney (R)	Votes: 60,932,152	Percent: 47.4%
Gary Johnson (L)	Votes: 1,275,804	Percent: 1%

Based on headlines from National Journal's Hotline

Sources: National Journal Research, 2016; LinkedIn, 2016; Fox News, 2016; Zach Montellar, "Johnson's Libertarian Party Preps for Battle as Third Party," National Journal, March 23, 2016.