

Public Opinion on National Security Issues

Public Views on the Iran Deal, National Security Priorities, Terrorism, and the Syria-Iraq Conflict

August 24, 2016

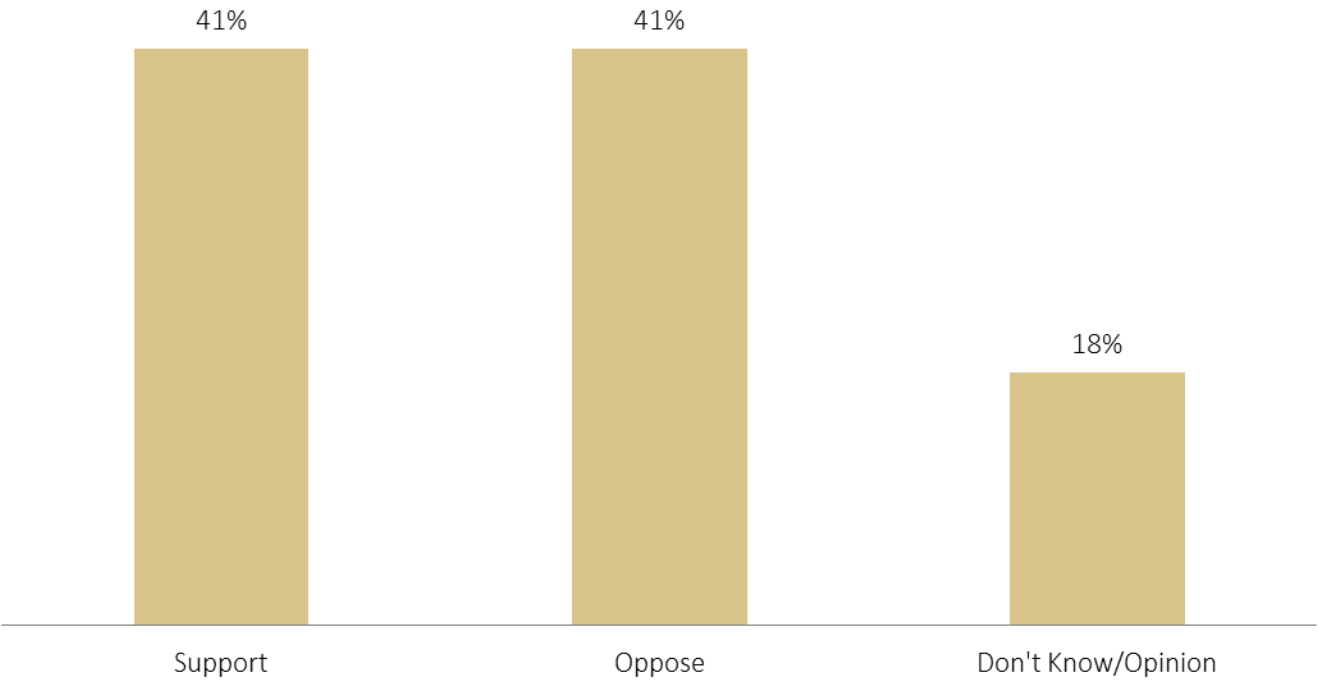
Producer: Ben Booker
Edited by: Alistair Taylor
Director: Afzal Bari

Roadmap for the Presentation



Public Opinion Is Split Over Delaying the \$400M Payment to Iran Until U.S. Sailors Were Released

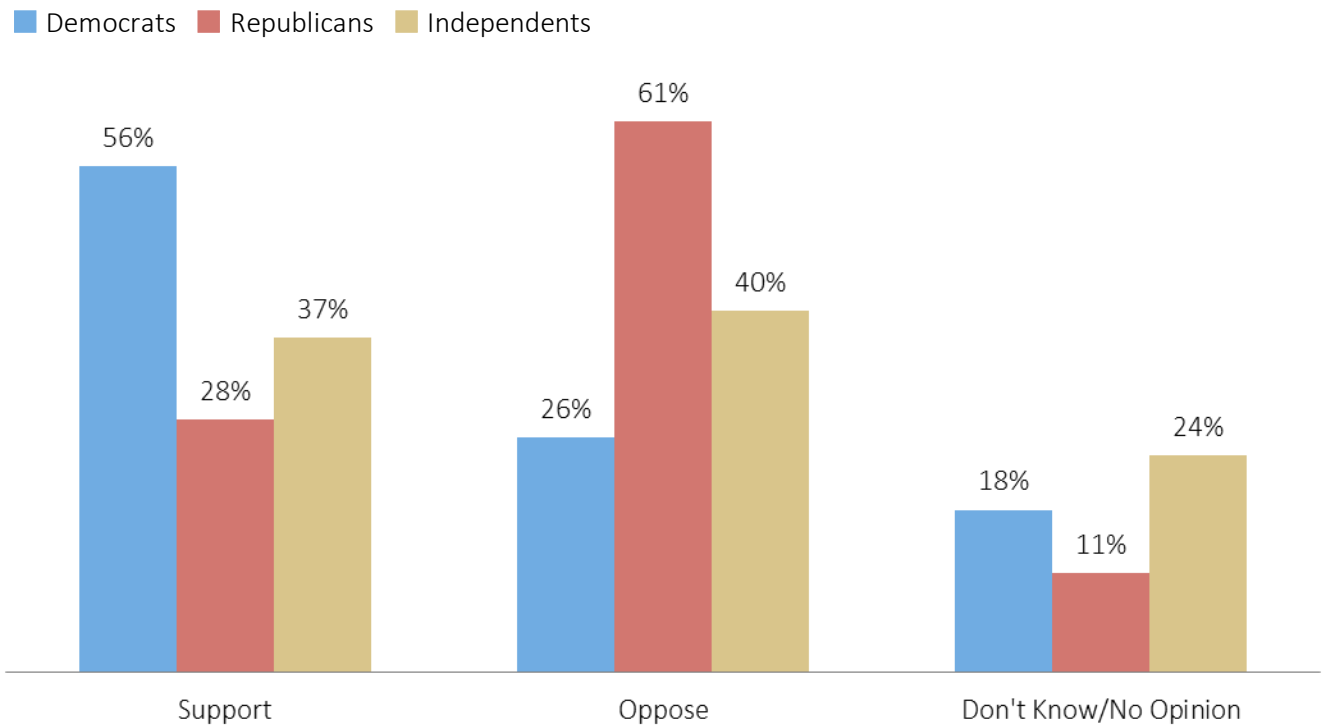
Support for Delaying the \$400M Payment to Iran



Sources: Jon Reid, "Voters Split \$400 Million 'Ransom' Payment; Half Support Iran Deal," Morning Consult, August 22, 2016.

Partisan Split Over the Iran Payment With Democrats Supporting and Republicans Opposing the Payment

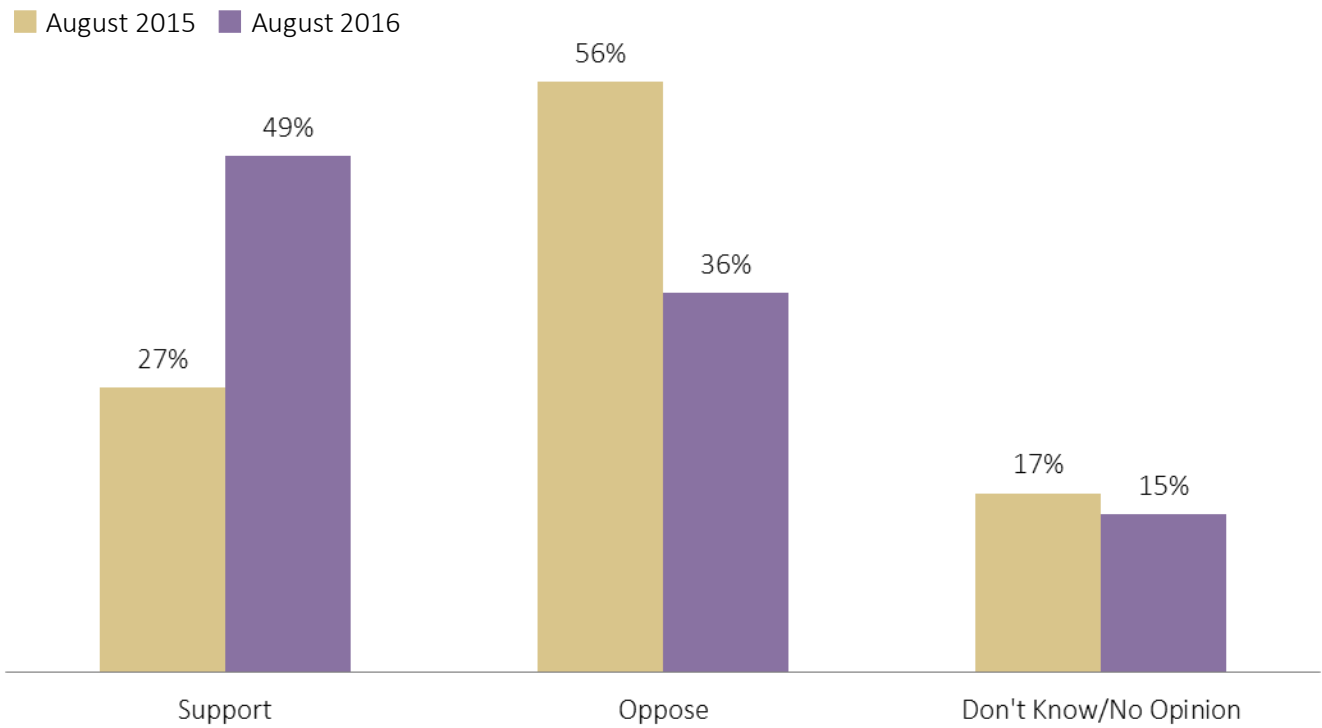
Support for Delaying the \$400M Payment to Iran



Sources: Jon Reid, "Voters Split \$400 Million 'Ransom' Payment; Half Support Iran Deal," Morning Consult, August 22, 2016.

Over the Past Year, Support for the Iran Nuclear Deal Has Increased By 22 Percentage Points

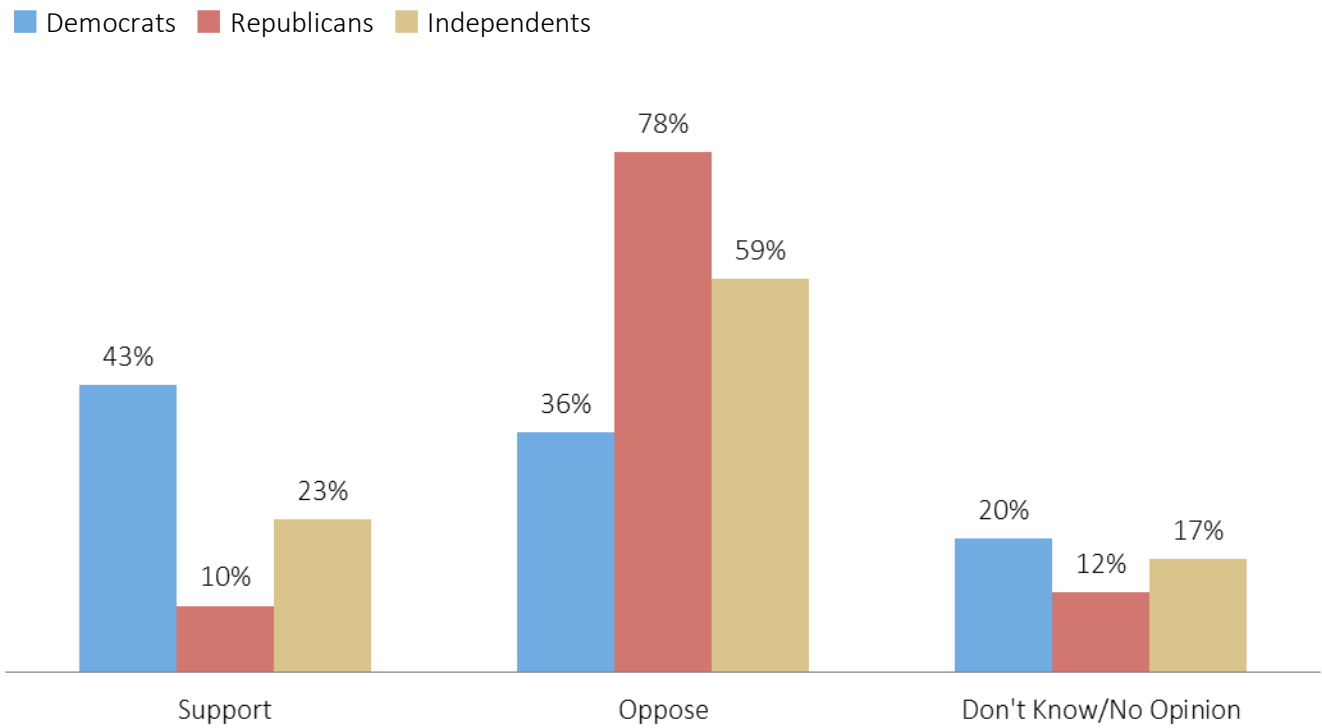
Public Opinion on the Iran Nuclear Deal



Sources: Jon Reid, "Voters Split \$400 Million 'Ransom' Payment; Half Support Iran Deal," Morning Consult, August 22, 2016.

Last Year, Both Independents and Republicans Opposed the Iran Nuclear Deal

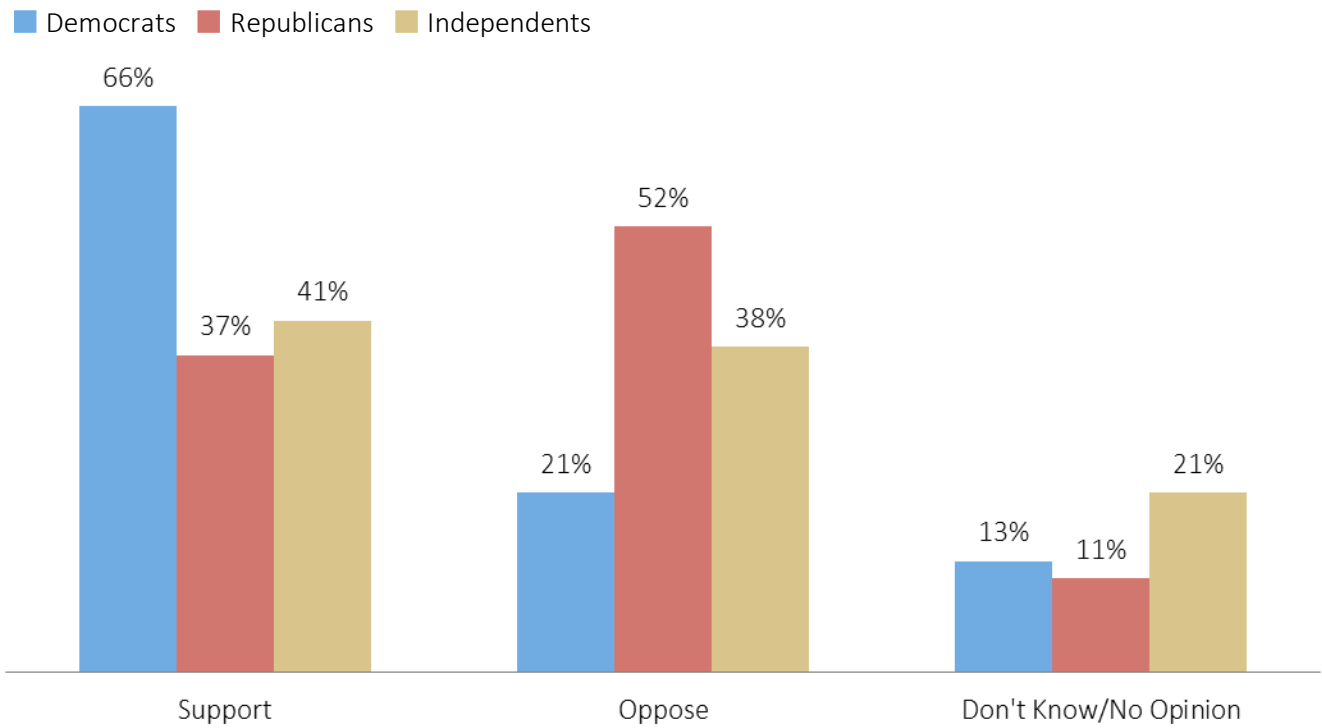
Public Opinion on the Iran Nuclear Deal (August 2015)



Sources: Jon Reid, "Voters Split \$400 Million 'Ransom' Payment; Half Support Iran Deal," Morning Consult, August 22, 2016.

Currently, Democrats Overwhelmingly Favor the Deal, Independents Favor It, and Republicans Still Oppose It

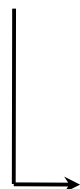
Public Opinion on the Iran Nuclear Deal (August 2016)



Sources: Jon Reid, "Voters Split \$400 Million 'Ransom' Payment; Half Support Iran Deal," Morning Consult, August 22, 2016.

Roadmap for the Presentation

Iran Deal



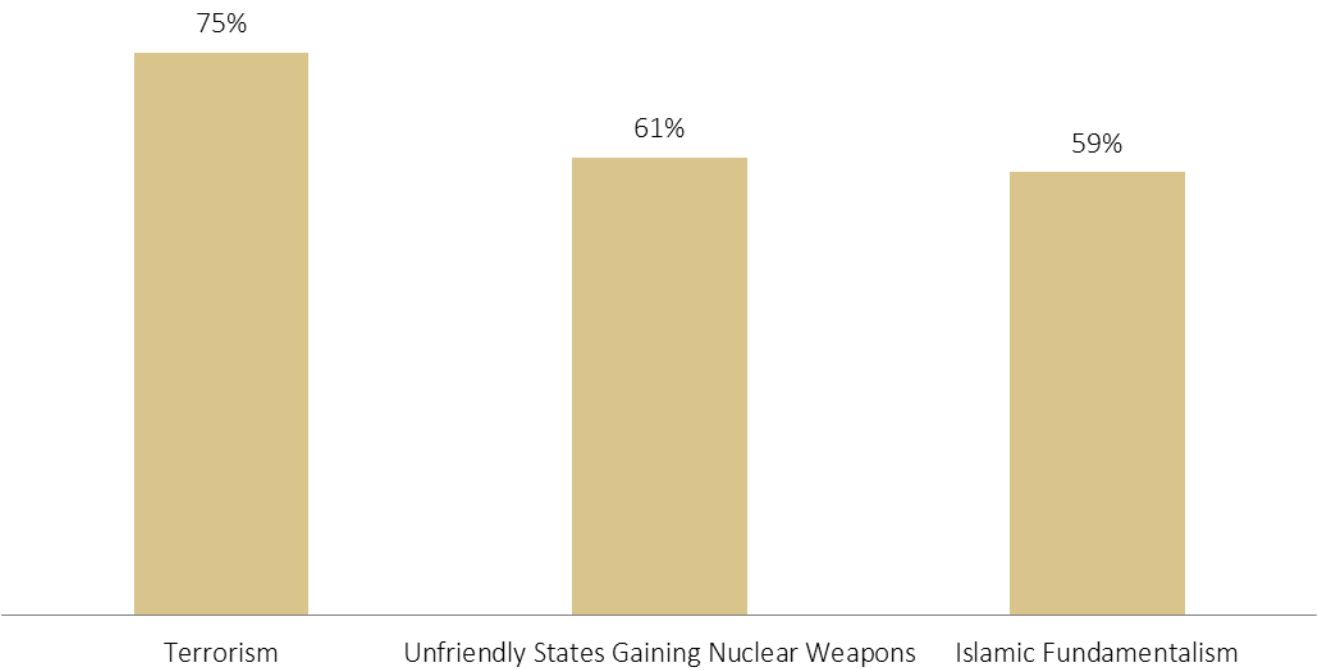
Terrorism



Syria-Iraq Conflict

U.S. Public Believes Terrorism Is the Greatest National Security Threat Followed by Nuclear Proliferation

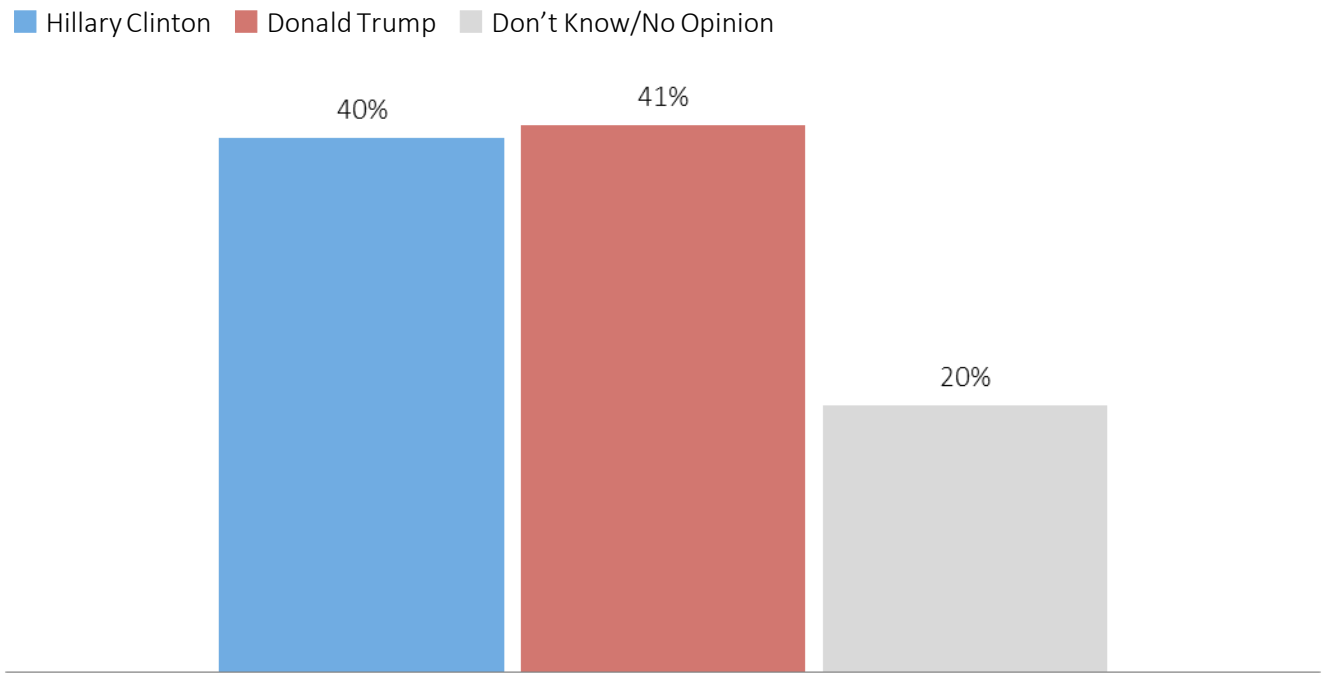
Public Opinion on the Top National Security Threats Facing the Country



Sources: Dina Smelz and Karl Friedoff, “As Acts of Terror Proliferate, Americans See No End in Slight,” Chicago Council of Public Affairs, August 22, 2016; Mark Hensch, “Poll: GOP Fears About Islamic Terrorism Higher Now Than post-9/11,” The Hill, August 22, 2016.

Public Opinion Is Almost Evenly Split Over Which Major Presidential Candidate Would Handle Terrorism Better

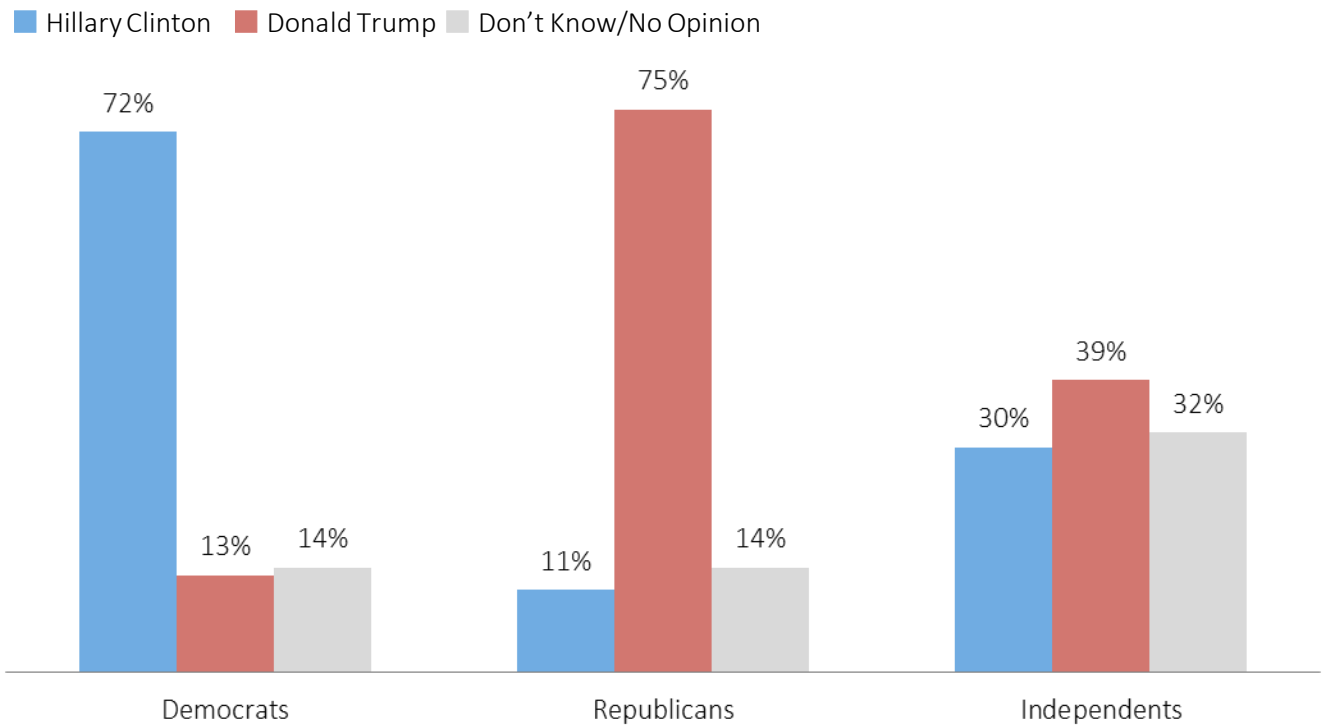
Percent Who Trust Clinton or Trump to Deal With Terrorism Better



Sources: Morning Consult, "Who Do You Trust More To Handle the Following-Terrorism," August 14, 2016.

Independents Are More Evenly Divided With A Plurality Trusting Trump, But Nearly a Third Are Undecided

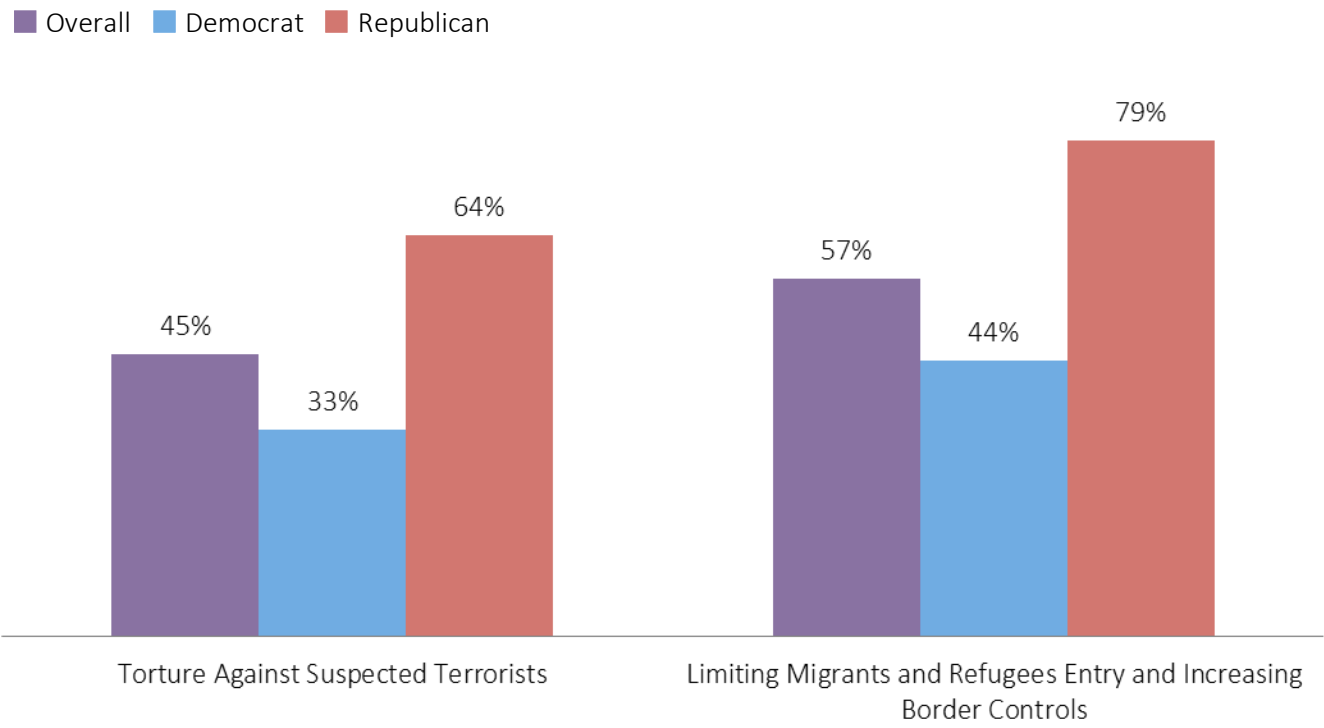
Percent Who Trust Clinton or Trump to Deal With Terrorism Better



Sources: Morning Consult, "Who Do You Trust More To Handle the Following-Terrorism," August 14, 2016.

There Is Sharp Partisan Divide Over Using Torture and Border Controls As Counter-Terrorism Tools

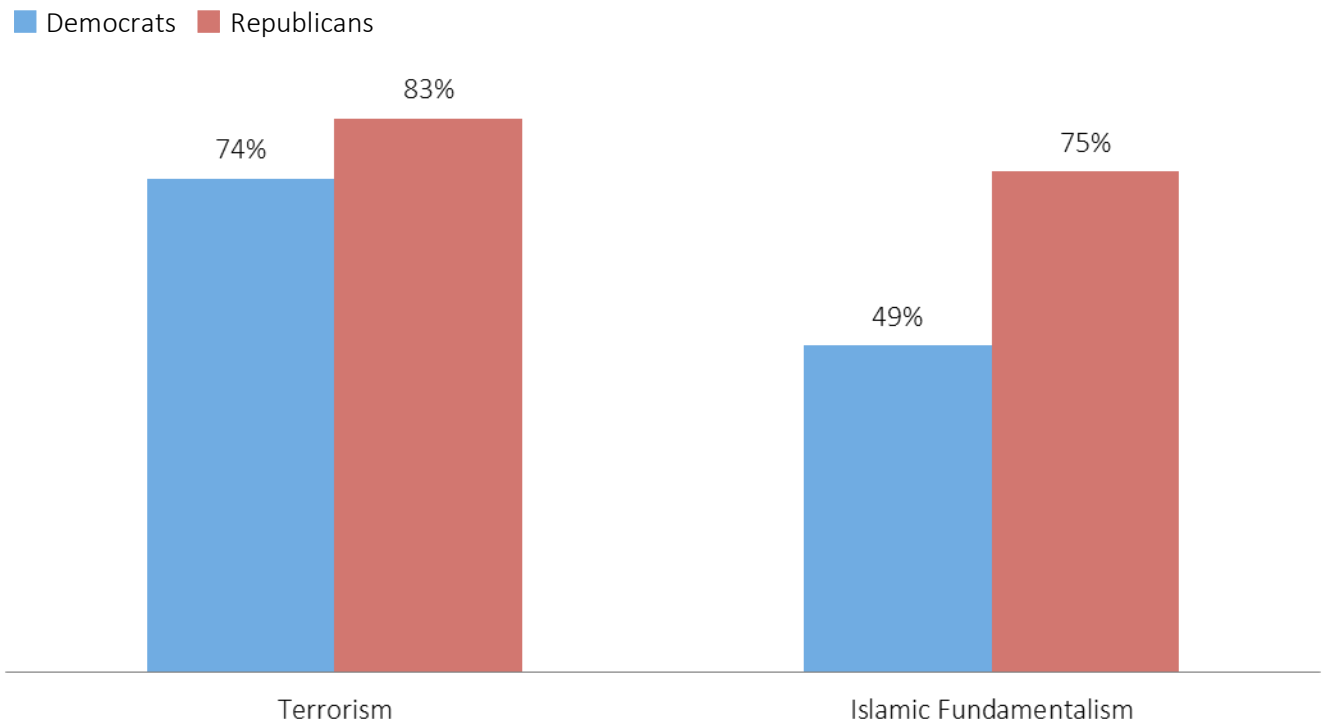
Percent Who View Counter-Terrorism Methods As Effective



Sources: Morning Consult, "Who Do You Trust More To Handle the Following-Terrorism," August 14, 2016.

Although Both GOP and Dems View Terrorism As Threat, They Diverge More on Islamic Fundamentalism

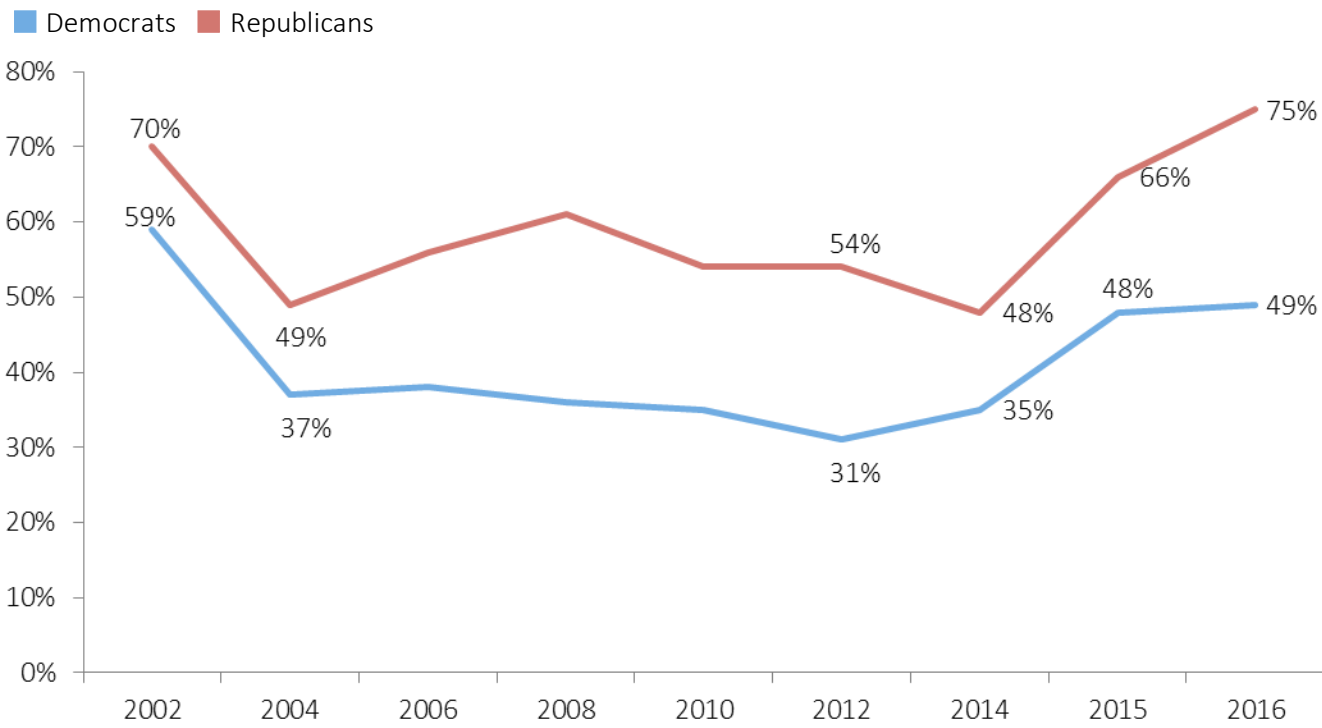
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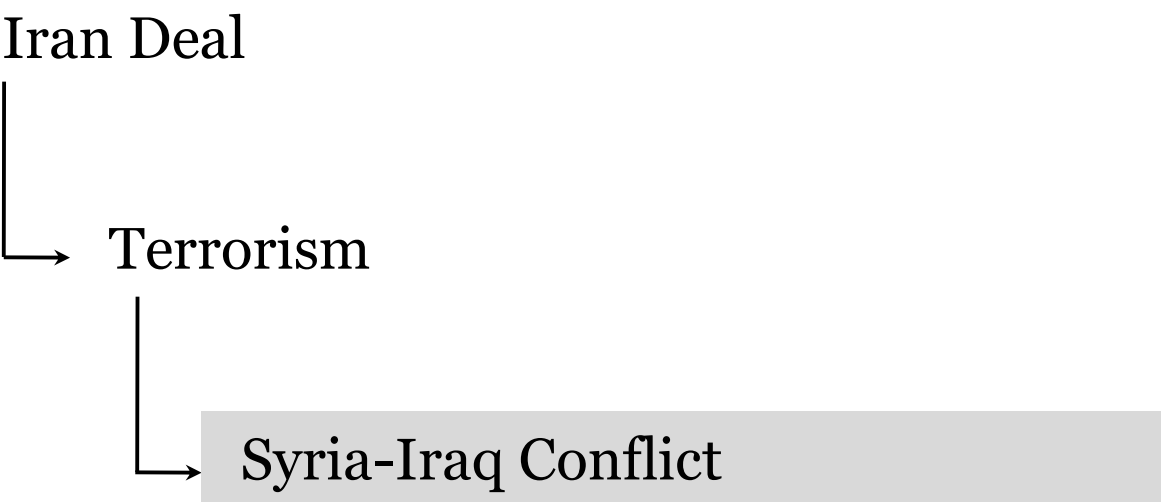
More Republicans View Islamic Fundamentalism As Critical Threat Now Than At Any Other Time After 9/11

Percent Who View Islamic Fundamentalism As Critical Threat





Sources: Dina Smelz and Karl Friedhoff, "As Acts of Terror Proliferate, Americans See No End in Slight," Chicago Council of Public Affairs, August 22, 2016; Mark Hensch, "Poll: GOP Fears About Islamic Terrorism Higher Now Than post-9/11," The Hill, August 22, 2016.

Roadmap for the Presentation



President Obama and Clinton’s Syria Policies Nearly Match, While Trump Differs on Rebels, Refugees, and Assad

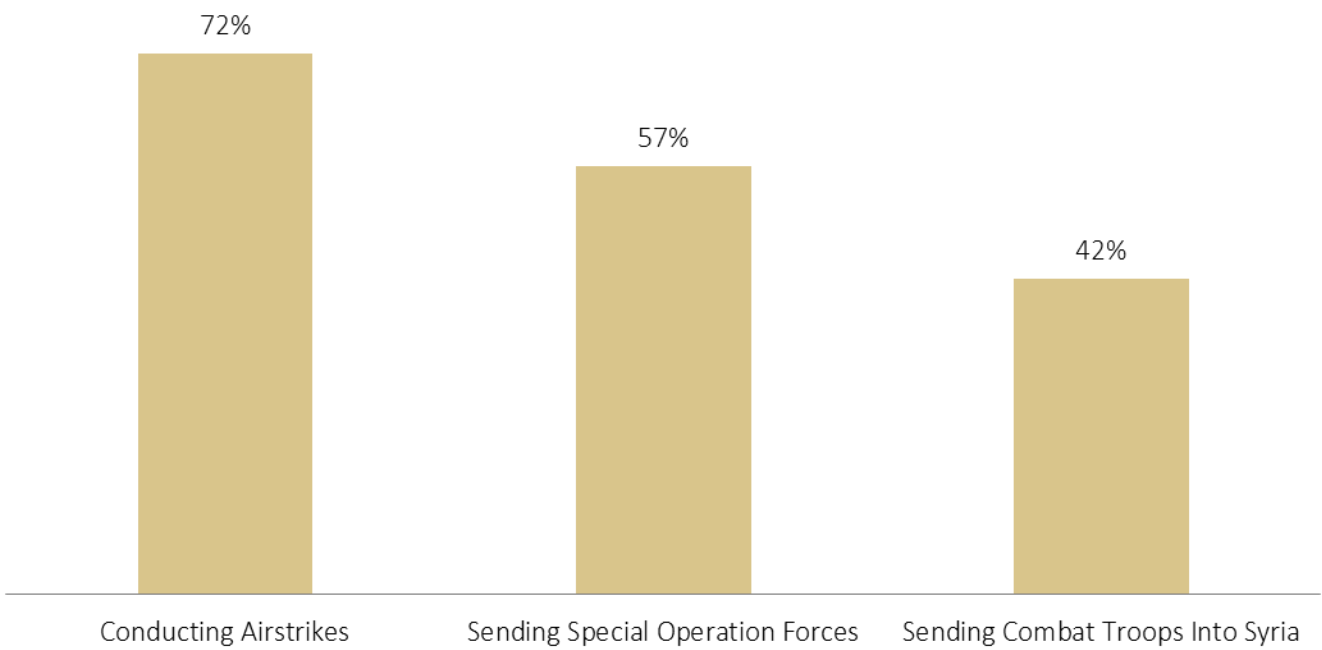
Overview of President Obama and Candidates’ Stances On Syria

	Airstrikes Against ISIL	Special Forces In Syria	Combat Troops In Syria	No Fly Zone In Syria	Accepting Syrian Refugees Into U.S.	Arming and Supporting Opposition Groups	Negotiate Peace Treaty That Allows Assad to Stay
 President Obama	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗
 Hillary Clinton	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
 Donald Trump	✓	✓	?	✗	✗	✗	?

Sources: HillaryClinton.com, August, 2016; DonaldJTrump.com, August, 2016; Ballotpedia, “2016 Presidential Candidates on ISIS and Syrian Refugees,” August 2016; Eric Duvall, “Trump Opposes U.S. Military Action to Oust Syria’s Assad Regime, United Press International, May 20, 2016.

Public Agrees With Conducting Airstrikes and Sending Special Forces, But Does Not Support Boots on the Ground

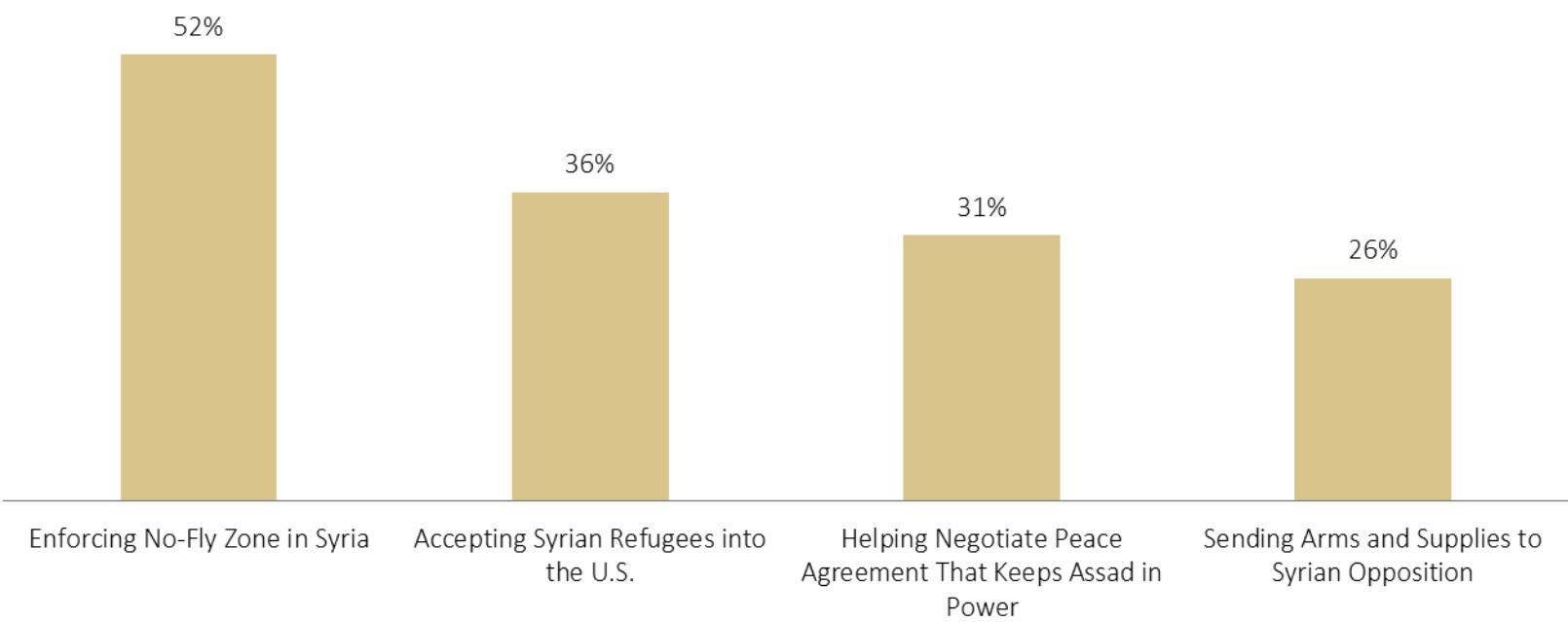
Public Support for U.S. Actions Against Islamic Extremist Groups in Syria



Sources: Dina Smelz and Karl Friedoff, "As Acts of Terror Proliferate, Americans See No End in Slight," Chicago Council of Public Affairs, August 22, 2016; Dina Smelz, Craig Kafura, and Kelhan Martin, "Americans Support Limited Military Action In Syria Against ISIS," Chicago Council of Public Affairs, August 15, 2016.

Public Largely Does Not Support Actions That Would Result In Greater U.S. Involvement in Syria

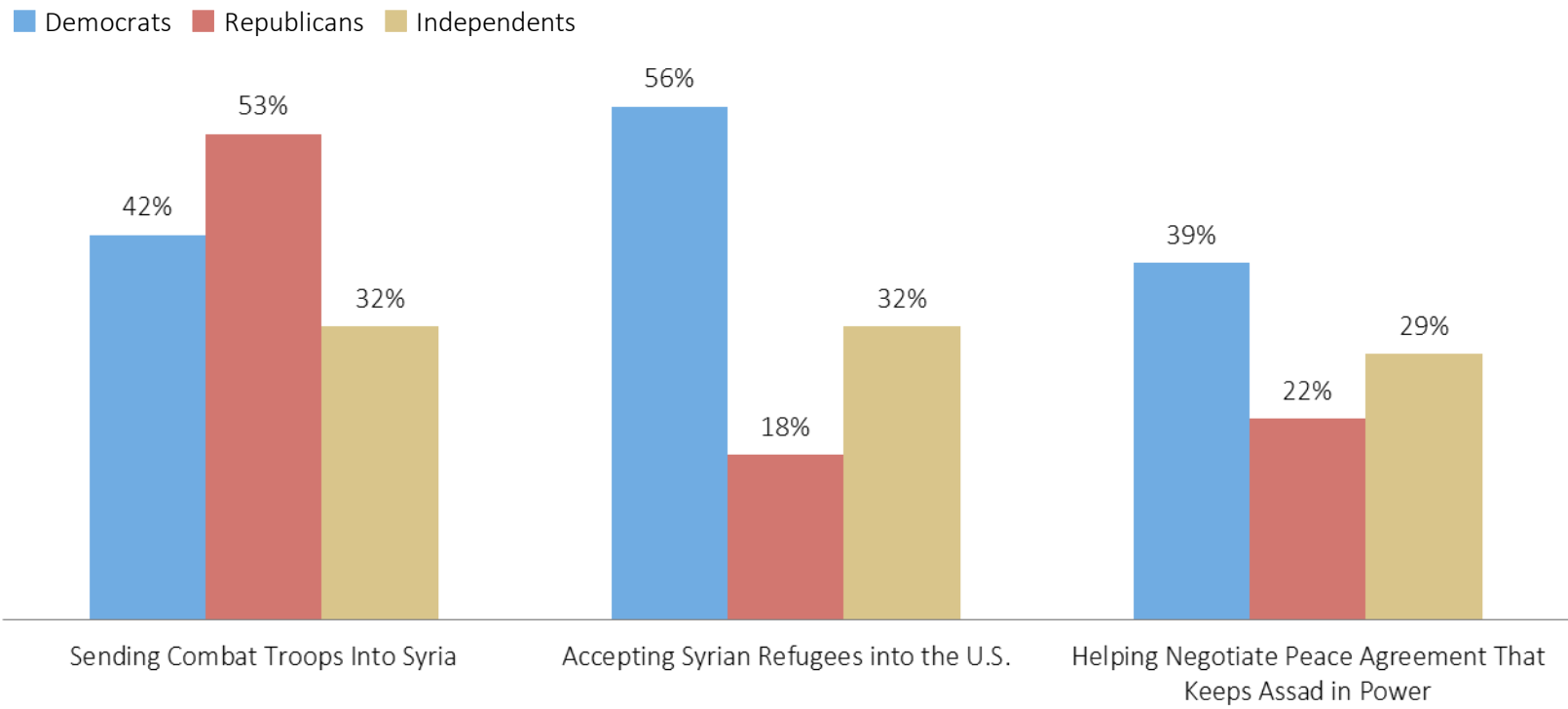
Public Support for U.S. Actions In Syria



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Dems Are the Only Ones Who Support Accepting Syrian Refugees, While GOP Supports Sending Combat Troops

Partisan Support Over Most Divisive Syrian Policies





Sources: Dina Smelz and Karl Friedhoff, "As Acts of Terror Proliferate, Americans See No End in Sight," Chicago Council of Public Affairs, August 22, 2016; Dina Smelz, Craig Kafura, and Kelhan Martin, "Americans Support Limited Military Action In Syria Against ISIS," Chicago Council of Public Affairs, August 15, 2016.

Public Supports Clinton’s Syria Policy More Than Trump’s, But Strongly Disagrees With Her Refugee Stance

Public Support For Candidates’ Position

Public Supports Position

	Airstrikes Against ISIL	Special Forces In Syria	Combat Troops In Syria	No Fly Zone In Syria	Accepting Syrian Refugees Into U.S.	Arming and Supporting Opposition Groups	Negotiate Peace Treaty That Allows Assad to Stay
 Hillary Clinton	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗
 Donald Trump	✓	✓	?	✗	✗	✗	?

Sources: HillaryClinton.com, August, 2016; DonaldJTrump.com, August, 2016; Ballotpedia, “2016 Presidential Candidates on ISIS and Syrian Refugees,” August 2016; Eric Duvall, “Trump Opposes U.S. Military Action to Oust Syria’s Assad Regime,” United Press International, May 20, 2016; Dina Smelz, Craig Kafura, and Kelhan Martin, “Americans Support Limited Military Action In Syria Against ISIS,” Chicago Council of Public Affairs, August 15, 2016.