



2018 at a Breaking Point?

Findings from national phone survey & on-going panel of persuasion & turnout targets

January 2018

CAMPAIGNS CORPORATIONS ADVOCACY WORLDWIDE

Innovative new research program

NATIONAL PHONE POLL



<u>3 national phone polls in 2017/18:</u> May 31-June 5, 2017 October 7-12, 2017 January 6-11, 2018



1,000 registered voters nationally Voter file matched





ON-GOING RAE+ PANEL

<u>3 web-surveys in 2017/18:</u> May 31-June 13, 2017 among 4,000 October 6-18,2017 among 2,425 January 8-15, 2018 among 1,459

Among RAE (unmarried women, millennials, minorities) + white working class women Voter file matched



65% reached on cell phones



Taking political & cultural measures nationally & among the RAE+





To compare & weight RAE+ panel to offset bias of online sample



Tracking changing attitudes Vote preference & engagement

With 2 'touch-ins' between waves







Unless otherwise stated, the results shown are among the RAE (unmarried women, minorities and millennials) only. Where white working class women are displayed, results are shown by the full RAE+ sample.

Key findings

- Democrats have doubled their generic vote lead to 11 points 8 with likely voters – but need more to win control nationally & in the states.
- The impressive margins are produced by big gains with Hispanics, Baby Boomers, independents, unmarried women, African Americans, white working class women, and millennials.
- African Americans are poised to play a big role in 2018: their margin for Democrats nears 80 points, and 8-in-10 strongly disapprove of Trump.
- The Hispanic vote has shifted very strongly to a +45 Democratic margin, and there is potential for further consolidation with the right messaging.
- Unmarried women and millennials are key to a big election. Their margins have improved, and the Democrat vote grows further with messaging. That being said, unmarried women are much less certain to vote in this survey and millennial interest in the election is slipping. They are waiting for Democrats to articulate a stronger anti-status quo message and attacks.

Key findings, continued

- White working class women are breaking away from Trump and the GOP. They are now much more likely to view Trump as dangerous and out of touch with working people, and their disappointment is reflected in their declining intent to vote. They shift toward the Democrats at the end of the survey.
- Democrats only reach House-control level margins when they:
 - Make Donald Trump, not the GOP, the focus of their attacks and focus not on his temperament, but rather on his failure to keep his promise to end politics as usual, passing trickle-down tax cuts and threatening the middle class with cuts to Medicaid and entitlements.
 - Prioritize a disruptive message that says they are fed up with the status quo and frame the election as a choice between trickle-down for the rich & powerful or making the government and economy work for the middle class
- That messaging also drives up engagement across the Rising American Electorate, especially among Hispanics and millennials.

BIG ELECTORAL GAINS – THAT COULD FALL SHORT



Doubling in generic vote lead

Nomen Vote

Thinking about the election for U.S. Congress in your district in November 2018, will you vote for -- the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?



Democratic gains produced by big shifts among key groups

Thinking about the election for U.S. Congress in your district in November 2018, will you vote for -- the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?





Gains big across base, led by white unmarried women & millennials

Thinking about the election for U.S. Congress in your district in 2018, will you vote for -- the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?





Displayed by allocated voters: Among undecided voters, Democrats /leaning independents allocated to the Democratic candidate, Republicans /leaning independents allocated to the Republican candidate. The wave 1&2 responses filtered to wave 3 respondents only..

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Greater margins possible if run *against Trump's* course

Thinking about the election for U.S. Congress in your district in 2018, will you vote for -- the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?





Displaying data for RAE only. Among undecided voters, Democrats /leaning independents allocated to the Democratic candidate, Republicans /leaning independents allocated to the Republican candidate. Half sample heard messaging against/attributed to Republicans in Congress, half against/from Donald Trump.

KEY PARTS OF ELECTORATE GROWING LESS ENGAGED



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Little or no gains in interest since Fall and dangerously low

Let me ask you again, there will be an election for U.S. Congress and other state and local offices in 2018. What are the chances of you voting in the election in 2018?





Certainty to vote has been falling, especially among unmarried women

As you may know, there will be an election for U.S. Congress and other state and local offices in November 2018. What are the chances of you voting in the election in 2018?





The wave 1&2 responses are shown among wave 3 respondents only.

Clinton voters taking action like signing petitions & sharing content;

Trump voters displaying support & arguing at home

Please select all of the activities that you did THIS YEAR that you had not really done before.

CHANGE IN NEW ACTIVISM IN 2017 SINCE JUNE 2017







The wave 1 responses are shown among wave 3 respondents only. Results displayed by wave 3 self-reported 2016 vote choice.

THE DEEP TRUMP PRESENCE IN BASE CONSCIOUSNESS



Views of GOP leadership slightly less negative post-tax cut

Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.





Showing results among all registered voters nationally from phone surveys.

Views of Trump deep and stable, with 45% bloc strongly opposed

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?





Showing results among all registered voters nationally from phone surveys.

Steady, deep opposition to Trump dominates all groups of the RAE

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?





Nomen's Voices

'omen Vote

Increase in RAE saying Trump 'dangerous' & 'can't see hurts working





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More of RAE doubt Trump 'can't be bought,' 'shares their values,' 'can fix





Displaying data among RAE only from on-going panel. Wave 2 responses are shown among wave 3 respondents only.

WHITE WORKING CLASS WOMEN FINALLY BREAK FROM TRUMP



Republican vote falls among white working class women

Thinking about the election for U.S. Congress in your district in 2018, will you vote for -- the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?







Disappointment in Trump perhaps leading to declining enthusiasm





The wave 1&2 responses are shown among wave 3 respondents only. White working class women shown among full RAE+ sample/e

Trump approval falling among white working class women

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump/these leaders is/are handling his their job as president/jobs?





The wave 1&2 responses are shown among wave 3 respondents only. White working class women shown among full RAE+ sample/e

Majority now say dangerous & huge leap in being out of touch





The wave 2 responses are shown among wave 3 respondents only. White working class women shown among full RAE+ sample/e





The wave 2 responses are shown among wave 3 respondents only. White working class women shown among full RAE+ sample/e

FRAMING CHOICE IN 2018: TRICKLE DOWN TAX CUT & CORRUPTION THAT ALLOWED IT



Top Democratic frames about GOP tax cuts & status quo that works for the rich & powerful, not middle class

Below are some statements about (Republicans in Congress/Donald Trump) and the Democrats. Please read each statement and indicate whether it describes a real difference between (Republicans in Congress/Donald Trump) and the Democrats, and if it DOES describe a real difference, whether that difference makes you much more likely to vote for the DEMOCRATS in 2018, somewhat more likely to vote for the DEMOCRATS, or does it not matter to your vote.

TRICKLE-DOWNECONOMICS

Donald Trump is wedded to trickle-down economics and just gave huge tax cut taxes to big corporations and the richest.

The Democrats say the richest must pay their fair share of taxes.

FOR MIDDLE CLASS, NOT THE RICHEST DONORS AND CEOS

Donald Trump for the richest, billionaire donors and CEOs.

The Democrats are battling for the middle class.



Half of the sample heard frame against Donald Trump, half heard against the Republicans in Congress. Displaying the combined results.

Other frames produce weaker potential support for Democrats

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DEMOCRATIC FRAMES				% Real
Trump/GOP Congress	The Democrats	% much more likely to vote f	or Democrat	Difference:
Trickle down	Pay fair shares	40	58	79%
For rich CEOs	For middle class	40	57	76%
Sabotaging Obamacare	Stabilize and reduce costs	40	53	72%
Cutting education/training	Better training/education for jobs	38	53	74%
Dangerous agenda for rich/corp	Limit corporate \$/cut MC taxes	38	53	70%
Didn't drain the swamp	Disclose campaign donations	36	57	78%
Owned by the NRA lobby	Assault ban/background checks	37	53	77%
Scared of diversity	Diversity good, all equal shot	37	52	71%
Dangerous unified GOP agenda	Check on GOP/Trump agenda	34	56	77%
Dividing the country	Unite the country	32	57	74%



Half of the sample heard frame against Donald Trump, half heard against the Republicans in Congress. Displaying the combined results.

Who knew trickle-down economics could get MORE unpopular?

Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.





The wave 2 responses are shown among wave 3 respondents only. White working class women shown among full RAE+ sample/e

HEALTH CARE



Views of Obamacare conflicted – and strong doubts still a factor

Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold.







Competing on ACA requires commitment to affordability for all

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WINNING ATTACKS & MESSAGE: FED UP WITH BROKEN PROMISES & DEMANDING CHANGE!



Top attacks focus on broken promises, now a typical politician

For each, please indicate whether it raises very serious doubts about (SPLIT C-GOPCONG/SPLIT D-TRUMP), somewhat serious doubts, minor doubts, or no real doubts.

DEMOCRATIC ATTACKS

Very serious doubts
Somewhat serious doubts





Economic message: fed up with status quo trickle-down! Change!

DEMOCRATIC FED UP! MESSAGE

I'm fed up. Our economy and politics are rigged so they work against the hard-working middle class. Corporate lobbyists and billionaires spend unlimited sums to get their way. But people who play by the rules are crushed by the cost of health care, child care, housing and student debt. And what do Republicans propose? More trickle-down tax cuts for the richest. Democrats say we need an economy that ensures better skills, better jobs, better wages and a better future. Let's ban unlimited secret campaign donation, raise taxes on the richest, close corporate loopholes, and reduce the cost of drugs and health care so the middle class grows again.

GOP GROWTH MESSAGE

We are finally making America the best place in the world to do business again. We cut job-killing corporate taxes and rolled back regulations so American companies can compete and job-creators spend less time and money dealing with red-tape. American companies are already bringing their money and jobs back to the US. Now they will invest in their businesses, hire more workers and pay better wages.







ENTHUSIASM & VOTE SHIFTS



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Greater margins possible if run against Trump's course

Thinking about the election for U.S. Congress in your district in 2018, will you vote for -- the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?





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Trump as target produces shifts across all groups towards Dems

Thinking about the election for U.S. Congress in your district in 2018, will you vote for -- the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?





Lose ground among minorities, millennials when targeting GOP

Thinking about the election for U.S. Congress in your district in 2018, will you vote for -- the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate?







Democrats & Clinton voter targets outpace in interest growth

Let me ask you again, there will be an election for U.S. Congress and other state and local offices in 2018. What are the chances of you voting in the election in 2018?





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