

Life in Hampton Roads Survey Press Release #6

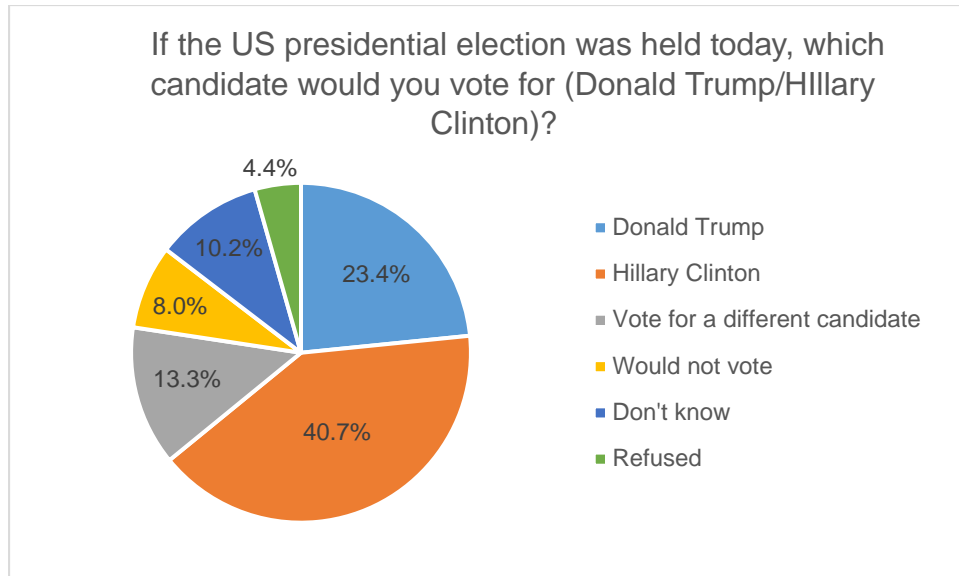
Politics and 2016 Presidential Election

This report examines regional perceptions of political figures and political affiliation

Respondents that reported that they were registered to vote were also asked a series of questions about the upcoming presidential election. Respondents were asked if the US presidential election was held today, which candidate would they vote for, who they think will win the US presidential election regardless of who they will vote for, and the political favorability of several candidates and current President Barack Obama.

Note that the 2016 Life in Hampton Roads survey was conducted prior to both the Republican and Democratic National Conventions. At the time, Donald Trump was the presumptive Republican nominee with all other Republican candidates suspending their campaigns. Additionally, both Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders were still active Democratic presidential candidates. As a result, respondents were asked questions about potential scenarios in which Donald Trump was the Republican candidate against either Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders.

In response to the question of which candidate respondents would vote for between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton, substantially more respondents said they would vote for Hillary Clinton (40.7%) over Donald Trump (23.4%). Additionally, another 13.3 percent said they would vote for another candidate if their options were Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton and 10.2 percent said they did not know who they would vote for in this scenario. Interestingly, 8 percent said they would not vote if the presidential candidates were Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton.



In response to the question of which candidate respondents would vote for between Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders, more than half of respondents said they would vote for Bernie Sanders (51.0%) over Donald Trump (24.2%). Additionally, another 7.7 percent said they would vote for another candidate if their options were Donald Trump or Bernie Sanders. 6.7 percent said they did not know who they would vote for in this scenario. Finally, another 5.7 percent said they would not vote if the presidential candidates were Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders.



Considering that over half of Hampton Roads respondents said they would vote for Bernie Sanders over Donald Trump, it is interesting to note that 13.3 percent said they would vote for another candidate and 10.2 percent said they did not know who they would vote for when the options were Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. This could be explained by the so called “Bernie or Bust” movement as many potential voters claimed they would never vote for either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton.

Respondents were also asked who they thought would win the 2016 Presidential election regardless of how they planned to vote. Almost fifty percent of respondents (46.3%) said they thought that Hillary Clinton would win the election. Another 27.7 percent said they thought that Donald Trump would win the election. Interestingly, despite over half of respondents stating they would vote for Bernie Sanders over Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders having the highest favorability of the three candidates, only 3.4 percent said they thought Bernie Sanders would win the election. Additionally, 18.3 percent said they did not know who would win the 2016 Presidential election.



¹ Zeleny, J. (2016, June 2). Bernie or bust: Sanders supporters vow to hold out. Retrieved August 15, 2016, from <http://www.cnn.com/2016/06/01/politics/berniesandershillary-clinton-bernie-or-bust/index.html>

Respondents were asked to indicate whether they had a very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of four politicians: Barack Obama, Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton, and Bernie Sanders. Donald Trump is the least popular of the four: only 23.6 percent of respondents had a very favorable or mostly favorable view of the Republican candidate for President. Second least popular was Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton, with 42.5 percent holding a favorable view of Clinton, and 52.2 holding an unfavorable view. While more than half rated Clinton as unfavorable, she had a nearly two one edge over Trump in this survey. Views of Trump among Democratic Party identifiers and independents were almost uniformly negative. Only 3.1 percent of Democrats had a favorable view of Trump, and only 16.9 percent of independents had a favorable view. Clinton was regarded favorably by 4.8 percent of Republicans, and by 36.4 percent of independents.

Bernie Sanders and Barack Obama were both viewed more favorably. Sanders was seen favorably by 52.6 percent of respondents while Obama was rated "very favorable" by 31.6 percent and mostly favora

Since the time the survey was conducted, Hillary Clinton has won the Democratic presidential nominee and Donald Trump has won the Republican presidential nominee. The responses reflect the

All Life in Hampton Roads data summaries will be placed on the Social Science Research Center website as they are released (<http://www.odu.edu/al/centers/ssrc>). Follow-up questions about the 2011 Life in Hampton Roads survey should be addressed to:

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