

To: Allen Roth, Secure America Now
From: John McLaughlin
Date: February 13, 2017
Re: February National Poll Results

Survey Summary: The findings of our latest poll for Secure America Now show that security issues in general are a major important concern to virtually all voters and that there are many specific security issues that matter greatly to the vast majority of American voters. This sample of 1,000 likely voters reflects a national voter sample similar to last November that is more Democratic 36% than Republican 33% and there are more voters who say that they voted for Clinton than Trump voters. Powerpoint slides for each of the questions mentioned in this memo are attached.

When voters were asked how important national security issues were in deciding their vote for President and Congress, eight and nine voters, 88%, said they were important. In fact, six in ten voters, 59%, said security issues were very important in those voting decisions. The importance of security issues was strong and high across all political and demographic voter segments. Among Republicans it was 95% important, among Democrats 85%, and among independents 83% said important to decide their vote.

Several countries were seen as posing a serious threat to the United States by the voters. When asked which country was the greatest threat to the United States the leading responses by a combined first and second choice were: Iran, 29%, Russia, 27%, China, 18%, and North Korea, 14%. There were some partisan differences among the respondents. Among Republicans Iran was the leading choice at 41%, with China and Russia at 18%. Among Democrats it Russia was the greatest threat at 38%, Iran at 21% and China at 16%. Among independents it was Iran at 25%, Russia 23% and China 21%.

When asked on a scale of zero to 10, where zero was not important and ten was most important, the leading security concerns by mean scores among the 11 specific issues that we tested, seven issues scored an 8 or higher, and they were: preventing terror attacks within the United States 8.78, destroying the radical terrorist state ISIS and taking away their safe havens for terrorism 8.54, stopping Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon 8.36, protecting the United States from cyberattacks on the internet 8.27, providing our local police with the support they need to do their job to keep our communities safe 8.19, eliminating North Korea's nuclear and missile programs 8.08, and stopping Iran from spreading terrorism and were throughout the Middle East 8.0. All these issues were generally stronger among Republicans and conservatives, but still scored very high among independents and moderates as well as Democrats and liberals. Each of these specific security issues scored higher among those voters who approve of the job that President Trump is doing and his success will help raise his approval ratings. Four other security issues that we tested scored above 7 in importance: deporting illegal immigrants who are known criminals 7.86, helping Middle East Christians who are ongoing victims of persecution and ethnic cleansing by Islamic radicals 7.33, securing America's borders by fixing our broken immigration system 7.32, and increasing spending to strengthen our military 7.17. So among the 11 specific security issues that we tested seven and scored eight or higher and the remaining four scored over seven. This demonstrates that security issues once again are of paramount importance to the voters and are numerous among their concerns.

When voters were asked if they knew that if that Iran is violating the nuclear deal by continuing to develop intercontinental nuclear weapons, increasing its stockpile of nuclear fuels and supporting military expansion throughout the Middle East with billions gotten from the nuclear deal, seven in ten Americans, 69%, favored ending the nuclear deal with Iran. Only 9% were opposed. Even among Democrats 56% favored ending it; only 14% of the Democrats would keep it.

When voters were as if they would approve of the United States selling bunker buster bombs and refueling jets to Israel which would be seen as a threat to Iran's underground nuclear weapons facilities, the majority 54% to 22% approves of that sale. Republicans give the strongest approval 74% to 13% Democrats approve 42% to 28% and independents approve 47% to 24%.

When the voters were told that the Muslim Brotherhood was implicated in the largest terrorist financing case in U.S. history and outlawed by five countries Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Syria and Russia as a terrorist organization, the majority of Americans, 58% to 9%, think that the Trump administration should also designate the Muslim Brotherhood as a terrorist organization. Once again Republicans give the strongest support 76% to 4%, but Democrats also approve 45% to 13%. Voters who approve the job that President Trump is doing support designating the Muslim Brotherhood as terrorists 76% to 5%, and among those who disapprove the job President Trump is doing, they also support this terrorist designation 43% to 12%.

The majority of Americans approve of President Trump's order to stop immigration for 90 days from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen so we can increase our security checks of refugees 57% to 37%. When voters were told that this ban is trying to stop terrorists who happen to be Islamic radicals without penalizing all Muslims, and that the FBI and Homeland Security directors cannot certify that refugees from these seven countries are not a threat, they agreed that we need to pause and take a 90 day break for allowing refugees from these countries to enter the U.S. until a system is in place that assures that they are not a threat to America. Agreement for the pause rises to 61% while only 28% disagree.

When told that the U.S. currently contributes three billion dollars per year to the United Nations which is more than a quarter of the U.N.'s combined general and peacekeeping budgets, only 8% of all voters say we should increase that amount. 33% said maintain it, and the plurality of voters, 44%, said decrease it.

Seven in 10 Americans, 69%, approve of President Trump's executive order to end "catch and release" and make the deportation of illegal immigrants who are criminals a top priority. Only 21% disapprove. Trump voters approved 93% to 4%, but Clinton voters also approved 53% to 35%. Republicans gave near unanimous support 92% to 6%; independents 66% to 18%, and Democrats approved 50% to 37%. The majority of Hispanic voters also approved the deportation of criminal illegal immigrants 56% to 31%.

The majority of voters supports cutting off federal grants to cities that break the law by refusing to turn in criminal illegal aliens, 59% to 29%. Once again there is very strong support among those who approve the job that President Trump is doing 87% to 8%, but 31% of those who currently disapprove of the President's job also support this policy. There is a partisan divide that favors Republicans on this issue over Democrats. Republican support is very strong at 86% to only 8% oppose; independents support this policy as well 55% to 29%; but while the plurality of Democrats opposes this policy at 47%, 37% of all Democrats also support this policy. Hispanic voters are almost evenly divided on this issue 46% support to 43% oppose.

Regarding the direction of country, for the first time in well over two years we are seeing an increase in the number voters saying right direction and decreasing numbers who say that the country is on the wrong track – right direction 35%, wrong track 55%. This a net +14 point improvement since January. Republicans say the country is headed in right direction 58% to 34%. Conservatives say that the country is headed in the right direction 56% to 35%, and those who approve the job President Trump is doing say that the country is headed in the right direction 66% to 26%.

Specifically, when the voters were asked if they want President Trump and Congress to continue the policies of President Obama, or change and move away from the policies of President Obama, a plurality of voters supports change 49% to 39% continue. Most notably independents want change 52% to 29%

While President Trump's job approval rating was slightly negative in the beginning of January, 47% disapprove to 45% approve, in February, it is now even at 48% approve to 48% disapprove. The President's job approval is polarized along partisan and ideological segments. Republicans approve of the job the President is doing 87% to 11% and conservatives approve 77% to 19%. While Democrats disapprove 81% to 16% and liberals disapprove 75% to 24%. Most interesting is that among minority voters there is the potential for improvement with 31% of Hispanic voters and 19% of African Americans approving of the job the President is doing. Men approve of the job the President is doing 55% to 42%, while the majority women disapprove 53% to 41%.

The generic ballot for Congress gives the Republicans a slight lead over the Democrats 44% to 42% with 14% undecided.

Methodology:

This survey of 1,000 likely general election voters nationwide was conducted on February 2nd – 6th, 2017. All interviews were conducted online; survey invitations were distributed randomly within predetermined geographic units. These units were structured to correlate with actual voter turnout in a nationwide general election. This poll of 1,000 likely general election voters has an accuracy of +/- 3.1% at a 95% confidence interval. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Demographics:

Party	TOTAL
Republican	33.0
Democrat	36.0
Independent	31.0

Race	TOTAL
Hispanic	11.1
African American	12.1
Asian	4.0
White	71.0

Age	TOTAL
18 – 29	18.9
30 – 40	18.8
41 – 55	26.5
56 – 65	19.6
Over 65	16.2

Gender	TOTAL
Male	47.0
Female	53.0