

FACT SHEET

Stranger in My Own Country:
Populism & Nativism in America

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“Stranger in My Own Country” is the first report from a research project seeking to better understand and respond to nativist attitudes among American voters. This report, published by Democracy Fund Voice, has been prepared by a Republican-led group of researchers. For more information and resources, visit www.democracyfundvoice.org.

Key Research Findings

- Many Trump supporters in our research feel a nostalgia for a country that may have existed, but that many have never experienced - “Make America Great Again” worked for a reason.
- Many Trump supporters in our research have a great fear of decline. They feel alienated from government, community, and the “new” America with which they don’t feel comfortable.
- Ideals of the melting pot, the American Dream, and American generosity of spirit continue to exist among all Americans. The strength of these ideals is being tested by the current climate.
- Many Americans surveyed expressed positive views of immigrants' work ethic, but have concerns that immigrants are no longer willing to learn English, feel patriotic, or assimilate into American culture.
- Concern about Muslims is distinct from concerns about racial tensions, and it exists outside of class, education, party, or income. Muslims are perceived as a threat to many respondents' personal values and way of life.
- **The right message can create statistically significant movement on key attitudes among the most concerned and anxious groups.**

These preliminary findings are the product of 19 in-depth interviews conducted in August-September 2016; a national online public opinion poll of 1,200 respondents oversampling non-college-educated whites taken October 6-9, 2016; and an online media test of 6,700 respondents conducted November 3-6, 2016.

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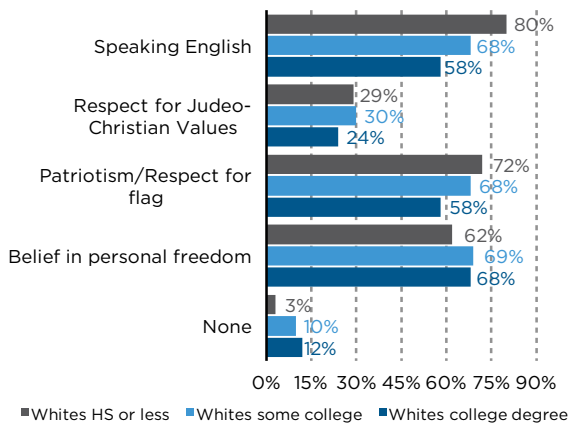
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Americanism

Among white voters surveyed, patriotism, speaking English, and a belief in personal freedom stand out as requirements to be an American.

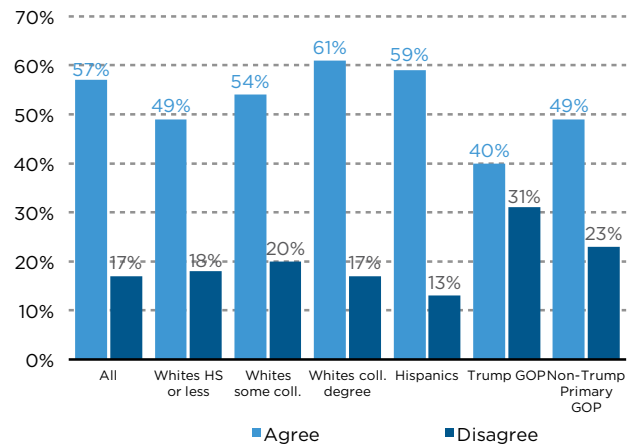
Q. Which of the following do you think should be requirements for someone to be an American? Please check all that apply.



Immigration

Two-fifths of Trump primary voters are concerned about violence against immigrants, but this is 17% below the national average of all Americans surveyed.

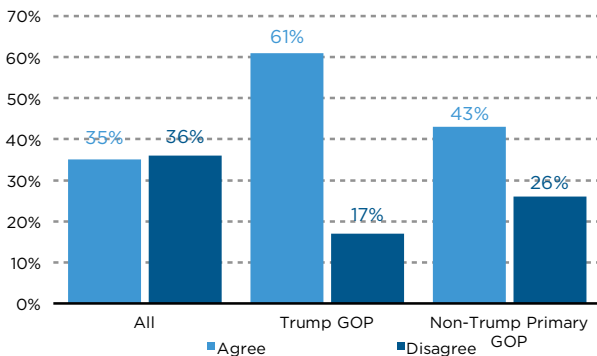
Q: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "I am concerned that current anti-immigrant sentiment will lead to more violence and hate crimes against immigrant communities."



Race

Trump primary voters are much more likely to agree that they are asked to make too many sacrifices that benefit people of another race.

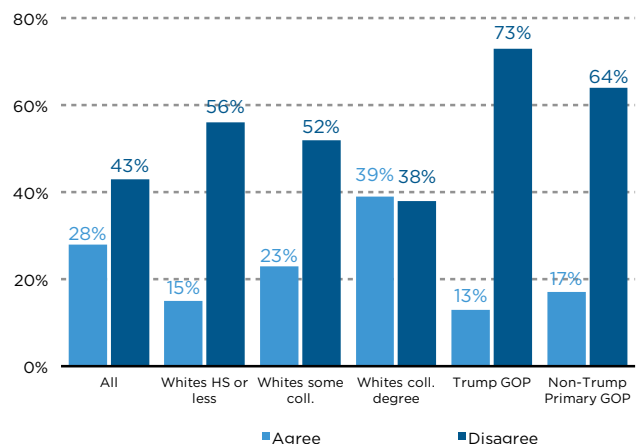
Q. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "People like me are asked to make too many sacrifices that benefit people of another race."



Islam

Two-thirds of Republicans surveyed (Trump GOP and Non-Trump Primary GOP) say Islam isn't compatible with American values, with a stark divide amongst whites along educational lines.

Q. Do you agree or disagree that Islam is compatible with American values?



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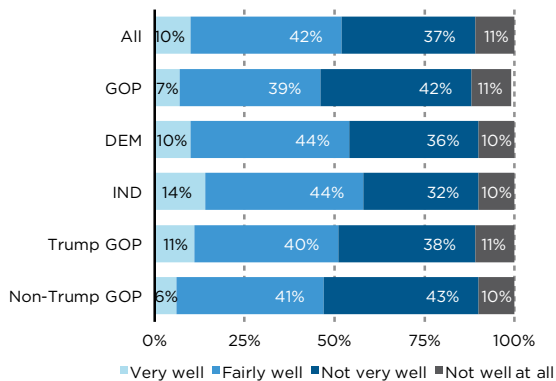
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Media

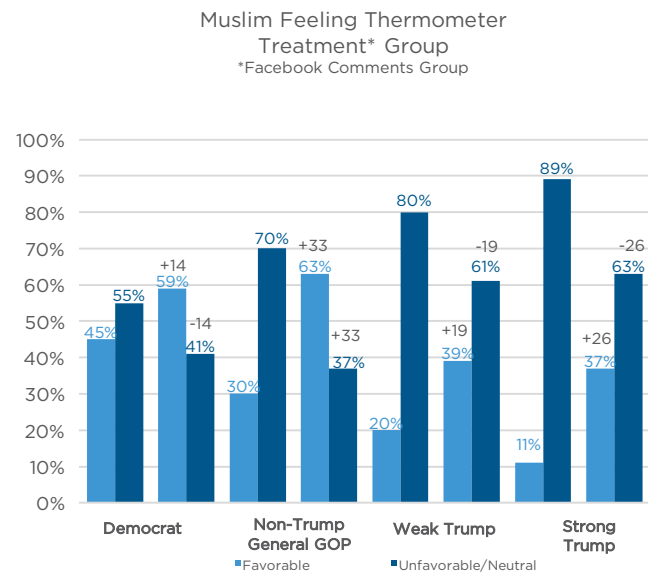
Among all survey respondents, many appear to be stuck in information silos, as they don't seek out information from those with whom they disagree.

Q. How well do the following statements describe you?
"I seek out information from people I don't agree with."



Message Test

Certain media treatments had large, statistically significant effects on attitudes towards Muslim Americans. They improved feelings towards Muslims and reduced nativism and ethnocentrism.



Definitions

- **Interviewees:** Voters who participated in the in-depth interviews. These participants fell on a scale of Trump primary supporters to those who were open to voting for him in the general election, but had not decided at the time of the interview. They tended to be lower education and lower income voters.
- **Trump Primary Voters:** These are voters who self-identified in the survey as voting for Trump in the primary election, also referred to as "Trump GOP" in graphs representing the data from the survey.
- **Non-Trump Primary GOP:** These are voters represented in the survey that said they did not vote for Trump in the primary. Their general election vote is unknown.
- **Non-Trump General GOP:** In the media test, these are voters that expressed they had no intention of voting for Donald Trump in the general election.
- **Strong Trump Voters:** These are voters represented in the media test who rated Trump between 80-100 on a favorability scale of 1-100 (100 being most favorable).
- **Weak Trump Voters:** These are voters represented in the media test who rated Trump less than 80 on a favorability scale of 1-100 (100 being most favorable).