

How Stands the System in the Nineties?

It's Sound on Fundamentals...

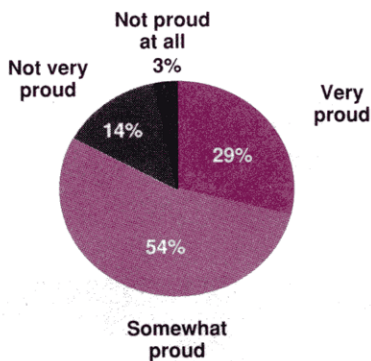
Question: ...[F]or each [statement], please tell me if you agree or disagree with it...Whatever its faults, the US still has the best system of government in the world.



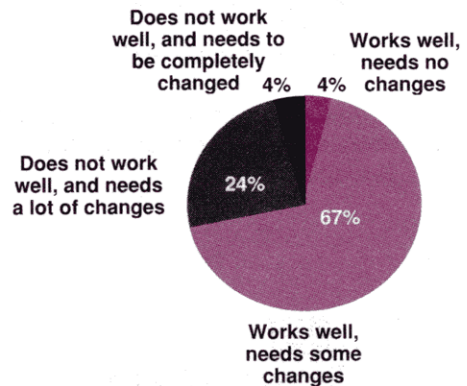
Source: Surveys by ABC News/Washington Post, April 8-9, 1992 and April 30-May 6, 1996.

Question: How proud are you of America in each of the following...?

...the way democracy works



Question: All in all, how well or badly do you think the system of democracy in America works these days? It works well and needs no changes, it works well but needs some changes, it does not work well and needs a lot of changes, or it does not work well and needs to be completely changed?

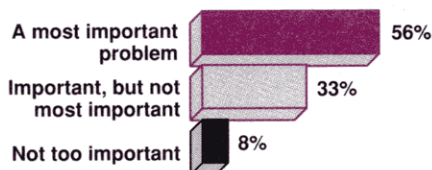


Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center-General Social Survey, 1996.

...But Much of Current Performance Leaves Us Dissatisfied

Question: ...[P]lease tell me if you think each [possible problem area] is one of the most important problems facing this country, important, but not a most important problem, or not too important...?

...the way the government and the political system is working



Question: How satisfied are you with the way this country's political system is working?



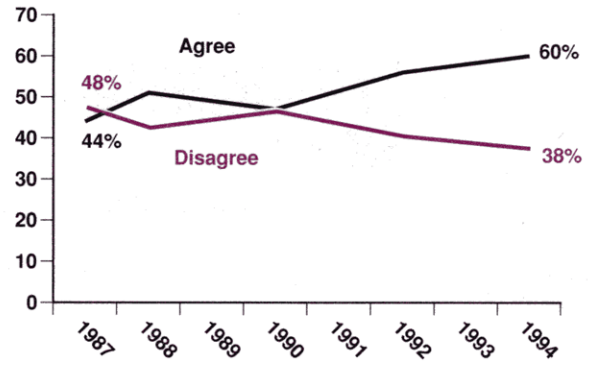
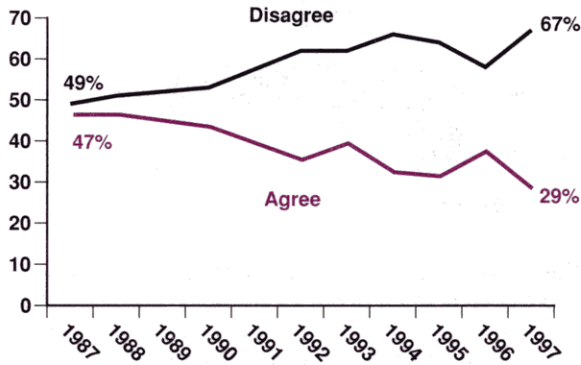
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Knight-Ridder, January 5-15, 1996.

Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Center for Responsive Politics/Pew Charitable Trust, April 1-24, 1997.

Wanted: Better Managers

Question: Do you agree or disagree...“most elected officials care what people like me think?”

Question: Do you agree or disagree...“We need new people in Washington even if they are not as effective as experienced politicians?”

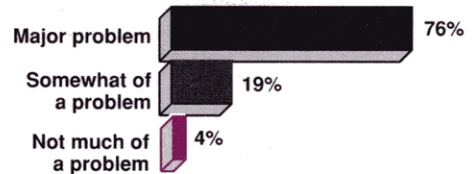
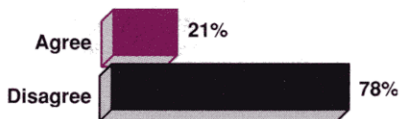


Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization for Times Mirror, and Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Times Mirror Center for the People & the Press, except for October 14-20, 1996 and June 18-22, 1997 done for Pew Research Center.

Source: Surveys by the Gallup Organization and Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Times Mirror Center, latest that of July 12-27, 1994.

Question: ...[Do you] agree or disagree...“Candidates for major political office generally mean what they say about what they would do if elected.”

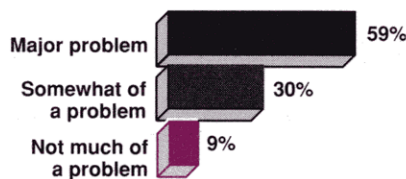
Question: ...[H]ow much of a problem do you think it is for the federal political system today...elected officials caring more about getting re-elected than doing what’s best for the country?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for Knight-Ridder, January 5-15, 1996.

Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Center for Responsive Politics/Pew Charitable Trust, April 1-24, 1997.

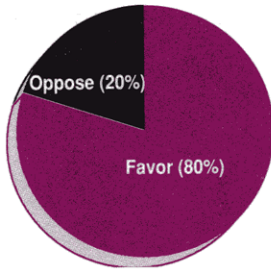
Question: ...[H]ow much of a problem do you think it is for the federal political system today...a decline in moral and ethical standards among people in politics and government?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Center for Responsive Politics/Pew Charitable Trust, April 1-24, 1997.

Reform: More Direct Democracy

Yes to National Referenda



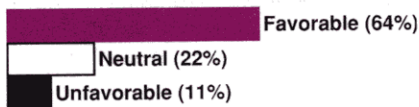
Question: Would you favor or oppose having a national referendum system in which all citizens voted on proposals that deal with major national issues—voting either for them or against them—before they became law?

Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners, Inc., for *Time/CNN*, September 1, 1994.

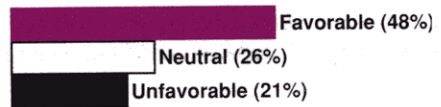
And Make Them Binding

Question: Now I am going to read to you some reforms...that have been proposed to make democracy work better...and ask you to rate each of these on the 0-100 scale...100 means...you are very favorable to it...0 means you are very unfavorable to it, and 50 means...neutral.....the higher the number, the more you favor the proposal....

...Conduct national referendums or votes on major issues and require the government to treat a referendum approved by a majority of all registered voters in the same manner as legislation passed by Congress



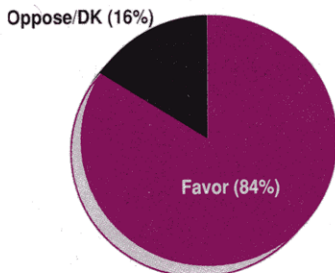
...Conduct national referendums or votes on major issues, open to all voters but with the results not binding on the Congress



Source: Survey by Market Strategies, March 10-15, 1993.

Yes to Recall Elections

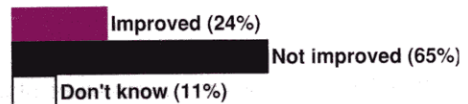
Question: Some states permit citizens to sign petitions asking for a recall election for an elected public official. When enough signatures are obtained, a special election is held where the voters can vote a public official out of office. Would you favor or oppose giving citizens the right to have a recall election...?



Source: Survey by Gordon S. Black Corporation, registered voters likely to vote 11/92, May 1992.

But No To Teledemocracy

Question: How do you feel about using computer systems for instant votes or referendums on important political issues? Do you think...our democracy is improved when public officials and politicians are guided by the results of these instant votes, or our democracy is not improved because people who vote by computer don't represent the full range of interests in our society?

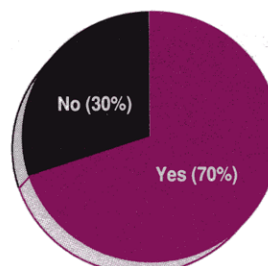


Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, February 16-17, 1995.

Californians Say Yes to a New Form of "Cross Filing"

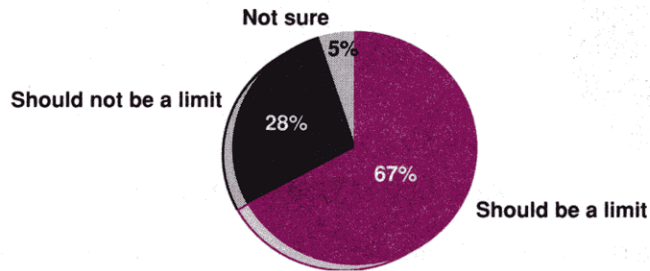
Question: Proposition 198 is the Elections Open Primary Initiative. It provides that all persons entitled to vote can vote for any candidate in primary elections regardless of the candidate's political affiliation and provides a single primary election ballot on which the names of all candidates are placed. If the election were being held today, would you vote yes or no on Proposition 198?

Source: Survey by the Field Poll of California, registered voters, March 15-20, 1996.



Reform: Broad Backing for Term Limits

Question: Do you think there should or should not be a limit to the number of terms to which a Senator or member of Congress can be elected?



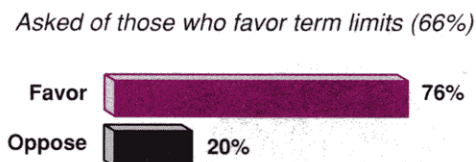
Source: Survey by Hart-Teeter Research Companies, January 13-16, 1990.

Question: Some people have suggested placing new limits on the number of years candidates can remain in office. Do you favor or oppose: Limiting US Senators and Representatives to 12 years in office?



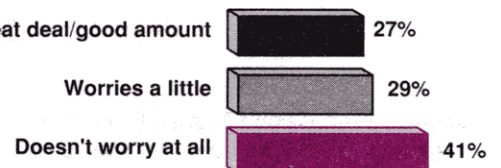
Source: Survey by Yankelovich Partners, Inc., for *Time/CNN*, October 15-17, 1990 and October 25-26, 1994.

Question: What if limiting the terms of members of Congress meant that you would never again be able to vote for your current member of Congress or for your Senator? Then, would you favor term limits, or not?



Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, April 1-4, 1995.

Question: ...I want you to tell me if that is something that worries you a great deal, worries you a good amount, worries you just a little, or doesn't worry you at all ...Congress will pass term limits and we'll lose the good judgment and experience that veteran members bring to the job.



Source: Survey by *Washington Post*, July 10-14, 1996.

Reform: Confusions on Campaign Finance

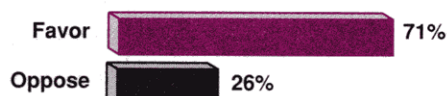
Many Endorse Contributions Limits

Question: Tell me if you would strongly favor it, somewhat favor it, somewhat oppose it, or strongly oppose it...[a] proposal... limiting or banning campaign contributions by political action committees?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, April 1-24, 1997.

Question: (Please say whether you would favor or oppose the following changes in federal campaign finance laws.)... Limiting the amount of money individual citizens can contribute to the national political parties.



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, January 31-February 2, 1997.

But Many Would Back No Limits If Sources Were Publicized...

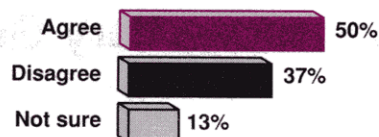
Question: How about this proposal... removing all limits on campaign contributions, provided that campaigns make known who donated money and how much they donated?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, April 1-24, 1997.

...And Say Individual Contributions Are a First Amendment Right

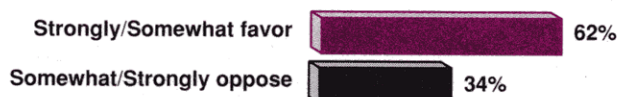
Question: In the campaign finance reform debate, some say that an individual's right to make campaign contributions is protected by the First Amendment right to free speech. Do you agree or disagree that the right to make political contributions is part of the right to free speech and is therefore protected by the First Amendment?



Source: Survey by Opinion Dynamics for Fox News, October 1-2, 1997.

Yes to Encouraging Small Contributions...

Question: How about this proposal... encouraging more small campaign contributions by giving people an income tax credit for the first \$100 they contribute each year?



Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, April 1-24, 1997.

...And Doubts About Comprehensive Federal Financing of Campaigns

Question: (Please say whether you would favor or oppose the following changes in federal campaign finance laws.)... Establishing a new campaign finance system where federal campaigns are funded by the government, and all contributions from individuals and private groups are banned.



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, January 31-February 2, 1997.

Reform: What We Really Need Are Candidates With Higher Standards

Question: ...As you think about what you like and dislike about this year's campaign, which one of the following changes, if any, do you think would do most to make things better in future elections...?

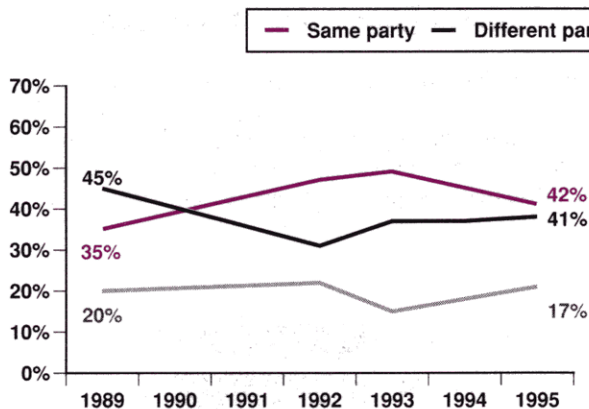
More honesty and information from candidates	57%
Less negative campaigning	35%
Campaign finance reform	25%
Higher voter turnout	23%
Third party with real chance to win	20%
Shorter campaign season	19%
More informative news coverage	18%
Nothing/Satisfied	11%

Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates for the Markle Foundation, October 21-November 2, 1996.

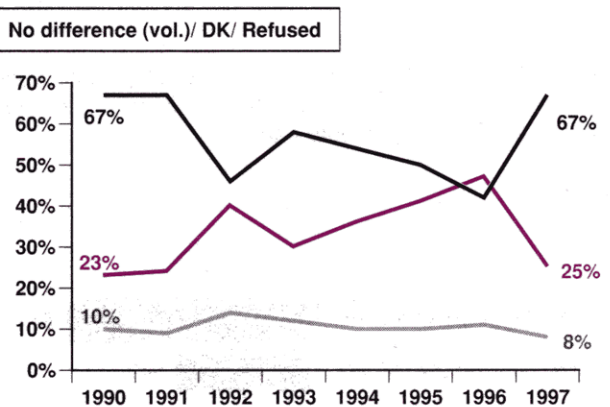
Divided Government: Many Say They Like It, But Proportions Vary Greatly With How the Issue is Posed

Question: Do you think it is better for the country to have a President who comes from the same political party that controls Congress, or do you think it is better to have a President from one political party and Congress controlled by another?

Question: In general, do you think that it is better for the same political party to control both the Congress and the presidency so they can work together more closely, or do you think that it is better to have different political parties controlling the Congress and the presidency to prevent either one from going too far?



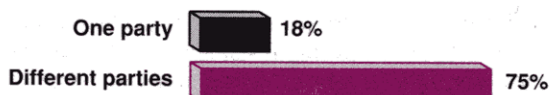
Source: Survey by CBS News/*New York Times*, September 17-20, 1989, September 9-13, 1992, August 5-9, 1995, July 11-13, 1996; and by the Gallup Organization for CNN/*USA Today*, August 8-10, 1993, October 7-9, 1994, and August 22-25, 1997.



Source: Survey by Hart and Teeter Research Companies for NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*, latest that of September 11-15, 1997, except for September 12-15, 1992, conducted by Hart and Breglio Research Companies for NBC News/*Wall Street Journal*.

Today's Electorate is Highly Independent

Question: When you vote in an election for national, state or local offices, do you always vote for candidates from one particular political party, or do you vote for candidates from different parties?



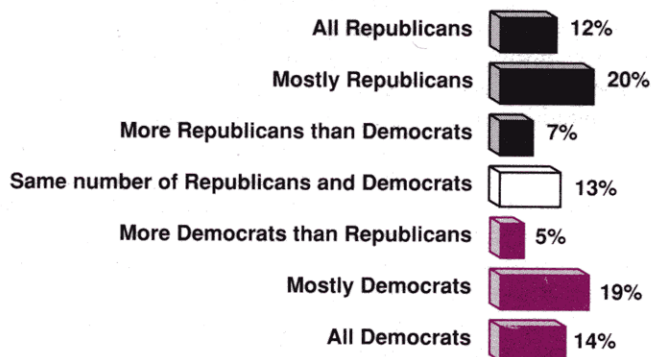
Source: Survey by Princeton Survey Research Associates, April 4-7, 1991.

Question: When voting in elections do you typically vote a straight ticket—that is for candidates of the same party, or do you typically split your ticket—that is vote for candidates from different parties?

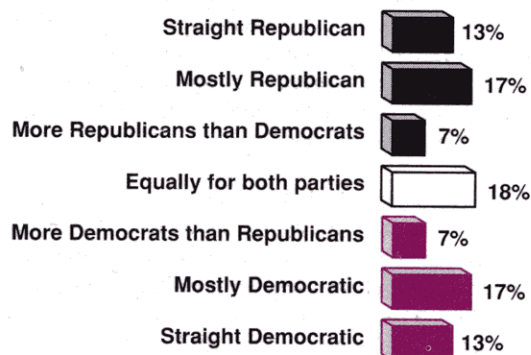


Source: Survey by Roper Center/Institute for Social Inquiry, January 19-February 10, 1996.

Question: Thinking about the last few state and national elections in which you have voted, which best describes the candidates for whom you voted... almost all Republicans, mostly Republicans, but a few Democrats, a few more Republicans than Democrats, the same number of Republicans and Democrats, a few more Democrats than Republicans, mostly Democrats, but a few Republicans, or almost all Democrats?



Question: In the last general elections in which you voted, which answer best describes how you voted for state and national offices, such as governor or senator? Straight Democratic, mostly Democratic, a few more Democrats than Republicans, about equally for both parties, a few more Republicans than Democrats, mostly Republican, or straight Republican?



Source: Survey by Hart and Teeter Research Companies for NBC News/Wall Street Journal, September 16-19, 1995.

Source: Survey by American Viewpoint, February 10-13, 1997.