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NATIONAL: AMERICA REMAINS DEEPLY DIVIDED

Neither party paying enough attention to economic concerns

West Long Branch, NJ – Three-in-four Americans say the country continues to be greatly divided with a majority saying the situation has worsened since Donald Trump took office. On the other hand, the ***Monmouth University Poll*** also found a slight dampening of the amount of anger directed toward Washington. Neither political party is seen as giving enough attention to key economic concerns, but the GOP has an ever-so-slight advantage among independent voters and its own partisans when it comes to paying the right amount of attention to both economic and social issues.

Fully three-quarters (75%) of the nation feel that Americans are greatly divided when it comes to our most important values. This number is up slightly from 70% who said the same last year, with widespread agreement across all demographic groups. Only 22% believe that Americans are united and in agreement about our core principles.

Just over half (52%) of the public say that the country has become more divided since Pres. Trump took office. Only 11% say the country has actually become more united and 34% say not much has changed since Trump entered the White House. Those who say the country has become more divided since Trump's inauguration include 71% of Democrats, 50% of independents, and 35% of Republicans. Only 16% of Republicans think the country has become more united under Trump, which is not significantly different from the 10% of independents and 7% of Democrats who feel the same.

“The country is divided and it's not getting better. The body politic pitted against itself may be the new normal,” said Patrick Murray, director of the independent Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

A majority (53%) of the public feel that all or most Americans feel angry about Washington politics. This result is down from 62% who said the same just over one year ago. Democrats (59%) and independents (56%) are more likely than Republicans (42%) to feel that the public is largely angry at

Washington. This finding represents a 30 point drop in perceived anger among Republicans (from 72% in 2016), while the results for independents (61%) and Democrats (56%) are largely unchanged from 2016.

Most of the public (53%) sees partisans from both sides of the aisle as equally angry at the federal government, although 35% say these angry Americans tend more to be Democrats and 8% say they tend more to be Republicans. These results have shifted from a year ago, when 63% said Americans from both parties were equally angry, 25% said Republicans were more angry, and 8% said Democrats were more angry. Currently, 6-in-10 Democrats (59%) and independents (59%) say Americans from both parties are equally angry while half of Republicans (50%) say that Democrats are the ones carrying a grudge. A year ago, Americans who identified as Democrats (59%), Republicans (61%), and independents (66%) were just as likely to see this angry mood affecting voters from both parties equally.

“When party control of the executive and legislative branches was split, Americans of all partisan stripes tended to see both sides as angry. Now that the GOP runs both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue, Republicans are more likely to paint Democrats as the enraged group,” said Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* also asked Americans whether each party is paying the right amount of attention to everyday economic issues and hot button social issues. Both parties earn poor marks for how much energy they devote to dealing with the economic concerns facing Americans. Nearly two-thirds say that both the Republican Party (63%) and the Democratic Party (65%) do not give enough attention to these issues. Just 1-in-4 say the parties pay the right amount of attention (28% Republican and 25% Democrat) and very few say they pay too much attention to everyday economic issues (4% Republican and 5% Democrat).

When it comes to hot button social issues, nearly half (48%) of the public say the Republican Party does not give enough attention and nearly 4-in-10 (38%) say the Democratic Party does not. Only 17% feel that the GOP focuses too much on social issues while slightly more (28%) say the same about the Democrats. About 1-in-4 say both parties give social issues the right amount of attention (26% Republican and 25% Democrat).

There appears to be a slight advantage for Republicans on this issue-focus metric when the results of partisans and independents are examined. Slightly more Americans who identify as Republican (51%) feel their party gives economic issues the right amount of attention than Democratic identifiers say about their own party (44%). Independents do not have a positive view of either side when it comes to economic issues, but the Democratic Party (71% not enough attention) is seen as slightly worse than the Republican Party (62% not enough attention).

“These results should give pause to anyone already writing stories about the Republicans being in trouble for the midterms. There is a long way to go until 2018 and key voting blocs are not predisposed to simply write off the GOP and flock to the Democrats,” said Murray. He added, “This poll was conducted

before the new health care and budget proposals were announced, so it will be interesting to see if these attitudes shift as the public digests how this will affect them.”

It is also worth noting that most Democratic-identifiers say the GOP does not pay enough attention to social issues (64%) while Republican-identifiers tend to say that the Democratic Party pays too much attention to these hot button issues (49%).

“These conflicting results may simply be a reflection of who is calling the shots in Washington. Conservatives may feel that their concerns are finally being heard and are less worried about having a seat at the table, while Democrats feel left out in the cold,” said Murray.

The *Monmouth University Poll* was conducted by telephone from March 2 to 5, 2017 with 801 adults in the United States. The results in this release have a margin of error of +/- 3.5 percent. The poll was conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute in West Long Branch, NJ.

QUESTIONS AND RESULTS

(* Some columns may not add to 100% due to rounding.)

[Q1-15 previously released.]

Thinking about the entire country...

16. Which statement comes closer to your view: Americans are united and in agreement about the most important values - OR - Americans are greatly divided when it comes to the most important values? [CHOICES WERE ROTATED]

	March 2017	August 2016*
Americans are united	22%	27%
Americans are greatly divided	75%	70%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	4%
(n)	(801)	(803)

* Registered voters

17. Has the country become more united, more divided, or not really changed since President Trump took office?

	March 2017
More united	11%
More divided	52%
Not really changed	34%
(VOL) Don't know	3%
(n)	(801)

18. How many Americans do you think feel angry about Washington politics – all, most, about half, some, or very few?

TREND:	March 2017	January 2016
All	9%	9%
Most	44%	53%
About half	30%	23%
Some	12%	9%
Very few	3%	4%
(VOL) Don't know	2%	2%
(n)	(801)	(1,003)

19. And do you think these angry Americans tend more to be Republicans, tend more to be Democrats, or belong equally to both parties?

TREND:	March 2017	January 2016
Republicans	8%	25%
Democrats	35%	8%
Equally	53%	63%
(VOL) Don't know	4%	5%
(n)	(801)	(1,003)

[QUESTIONS 20 THROUGH 23 WERE ROTATED]

20. Does the Republican Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to everyday economic issues that affect people like you?

	March 2017
Too much	4%
Right amount	28%
Not enough	63%
(VOL) Don't know	4%
(n)	(801)

21. Does the Republican Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to hot-button social issues?

	March 2017
Too much	17%
Right amount	26%
Not enough	48%
(VOL) Don't know	9%
(n)	(801)

22. Does the Democratic Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to everyday economic issues that affect people like you?

	March 2017
Too much	5%
Right amount	25%
Not enough	65%
(VOL) Don't know	5%
(n)	(801)

23. Does the Democratic Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to hot-button social issues?

	March 2017
Too much	28%
Right amount	25%
Not enough	38%
(VOL) Don't know	9%
(n)	(801)

[Q24-38 previously released.]

[Q39-53 held for future release.]

METHODOLOGY

The *Monmouth University Poll* was sponsored and conducted by the Monmouth University Polling Institute from March 2 to 5, 2017 with a national random sample of 801 adults age 18 and older, in English. This includes 401 contacted by a live interviewer on a landline telephone and 400 contacted by a live interviewer on a cell phone. Telephone numbers were selected through random digit dialing and landline respondents were selected with a modified Trol Dahl-Carter youngest adult household screen. Monmouth is responsible for all aspects of the survey design, data weighting and analysis. Final sample is weighted for region, age, education, gender and race based on US Census information. Data collection support provided by Braun Research (field) and SSI (RDD sample). For results based on this sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling has a maximum margin of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points (unadjusted for sample design). Sampling error can be larger for sub-groups (see table below). In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

<i>DEMOGRAPHICS (weighted)</i>	
<i>Self-Reported</i>	
26% Republican	
43% Independent	
31% Democrat	
49% Male	
51% Female	
32% 18-34	
36% 35-54	
32% 55+	
66% White	
12% Black	
15% Hispanic	
7% Asian/Other	

MARGIN OF ERROR		<i>unweighted</i>	<i>moe</i>
		<i>sample</i>	<i>(+/-)</i>
TOTAL		801	3.5%
REGISTERED VOTER	Yes	722	3.7%
	No	79	11.0%
SELF-REPORTED	Republican	199	7.0%
PARTY ID	Independent	340	5.3%
	Democrat	246	6.3%
IDEOLOGY	Liberal	190	7.1%
	Moderate	327	5.4%
	Conservative	262	6.1%
GENDER	Male	408	4.9%
	Female	393	5.0%
AGE	18-34	199	7.0%
	35-54	251	6.2%
	55+	347	5.3%
RACE	White non-Hispanic	583	4.1%
	Other	191	7.1%
COLLEGE GRADUATE	No degree	390	5.0%
	4 year degree	401	4.9%
INCOME	<\$50K	252	6.2%
	\$50 to <100K	245	6.3%
	\$100K+	248	6.2%
2016 VOTE BY	Trump	270	6.0%
COUNTY	Swing	180	7.3%
	Clinton	351	5.2%

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Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 3/22/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
16/B1. Which statement comes closer to your view:	Americans are united and in agreement about the most important values	22%	20%	32%	25%	23%	16%	14%	24%	23%
	Americans are greatly divided when it comes to the most important values	75%	76%	64%	72%	73%	80%	82%	74%	73%
	(VOL) Dont know_Refused	4%	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%	4%	2%	4%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
16/B1. Which statement comes closer to your view:	Americans are united and in agreement about the most important values	20%	23%	25%	21%	20%	20%	26%	24%
	Americans are greatly divided when it comes to the most important values	75%	74%	72%	76%	75%	77%	70%	72%
	(VOL) Dont know_Refused	4%	3%	3%	2%	5%	3%	5%	3%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 VOTE by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump	Swing	Clinton
16/B1. Which statement comes closer to your view:	Americans are united and in agreement about the most important values	17%	28%	18%	16%	16%	25%	25%
	Americans are greatly divided when it comes to the most important values	80%	68%	79%	81%	81%	75%	70%
	(VOL) Dont know_Refused	3%	4%	3%	2%	4%	1%	5%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
17/B2. Has the country become more united, more divided, or not really changed since President Trump took office?	More united	11%	10%	21%	16%	10%	7%	6%	8%	17%
	More divided	52%	53%	45%	35%	50%	71%	74%	54%	38%
	Not really changed	34%	34%	34%	45%	37%	21%	19%	35%	41%
	(VOL) Dont know_Refused	3%	3%	1%	4%	3%	1%	1%	2%	4%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
17/B2. Has the country become more united, more divided, or not really changed since President Trump took office?	More united	13%	10%	13%	9%	12%	10%	16%	13%
	More divided	45%	58%	56%	53%	47%	48%	62%	50%
	Not really changed	39%	29%	29%	36%	36%	40%	20%	34%
	(VOL) Dont know_Refused	3%	3%	1%	2%	5%	3%	2%	3%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 3/22/17

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 VOTE by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump	Swing	Clinton
17/B2. Has the country become more united, more divided, or not really changed since President Trump took office?	More united	7%	12%	11%	9%	9%	10%	14%
	More divided	56%	54%	53%	52%	44%	50%	58%
	Not really changed	34%	31%	34%	36%	41%	38%	26%
	(VOL) Dont know_Refused	3%	3%	3%	3%	5%	2%	2%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
18/B3. How many Americans do you think feel angry about Washington politics - all, most, about half, some, or very few?	All	9%	8%	11%	5%	11%	9%	11%	6%	8%
	Most	44%	45%	33%	37%	45%	50%	53%	47%	36%
	About half	30%	30%	32%	39%	29%	26%	25%	33%	32%
	Some	12%	12%	12%	16%	11%	11%	8%	11%	16%
	Very few	3%	3%	5%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	5%
(VOL) Dont know _ Refused		2%	1%	8%	0%	2%	1%	0%	1%	2%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
18/B3. How many Americans do you think feel angry about Washington politics - all, most, about half, some, or very few?	All	8%	9%	9%	7%	10%	7%	11%	10%
	Most	48%	40%	41%	44%	46%	44%	43%	40%
	About half	29%	32%	32%	32%	28%	33%	27%	31%
	Some	11%	14%	13%	13%	11%	12%	13%	13%
	Very few	3%	4%	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%	4%
(VOL) Dont know _ Refused		2%	1%	2%	1%	1%	2%	1%	1%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 VOTE by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump	Swing	Clinton
18/B3. How many Americans do you think feel angry about Washington politics - all, most, about half, some, or very few?	All	6%	8%	7%	7%	11%	6%	9%
	Most	53%	41%	46%	50%	39%	48%	46%
	About half	29%	33%	28%	31%	32%	33%	28%
	Some	9%	12%	15%	10%	12%	10%	13%
	Very few	2%	5%	2%	1%	5%	2%	3%
(VOL) Dont know _ Refused		1%	1%	2%	1%	2%	2%	2%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 3/22/17

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
19/B4. And do you think these angry Americans tend more to be Republicans, tend more to be Democrats, or belong equally to both parties?	Republicans	8%	7%	9%	6%	8%	8%	6%	7%	9%
	Democrats	35%	37%	19%	50%	29%	31%	32%	30%	43%
	Equally	53%	51%	67%	40%	59%	59%	61%	60%	43%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	4%	4%	5%	4%	5%	2%	1%	3%	5%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
19/B4. And do you think these angry Americans tend more to be Republicans, tend more to be Democrats, or belong equally to both parties?	Republicans	7%	8%	11%	4%	8%	5%	12%	9%
	Democrats	29%	41%	31%	37%	37%	38%	29%	36%
	Equally	58%	49%	52%	56%	51%	53%	54%	51%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	6%	2%	5%	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 VOTE by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump	Swing	Clinton
19/B4. And do you think these angry Americans tend more to be Republicans, tend more to be Democrats, or belong equally to both parties?	Republicans	5%	9%	4%	6%	8%	7%	8%
	Democrats	32%	29%	42%	39%	37%	30%	35%
	Equally	60%	59%	49%	52%	49%	59%	54%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	2%	3%	5%	2%	6%	4%	3%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
20/B5. Does the Republican Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to everyday economic issues that affect people like you?	Too much	4%	3%	8%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	5%
	Right amount	28%	30%	15%	51%	29%	8%	12%	28%	41%
	Not enough	63%	63%	65%	42%	62%	87%	83%	64%	49%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	4%	3%	12%	4%	6%	1%	2%	5%	4%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
20/B5. Does the Republican Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to everyday economic issues that affect people like you?	Too much	5%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%	6%	4%
	Right amount	32%	25%	24%	31%	30%	36%	14%	27%
	Not enough	59%	68%	66%	63%	60%	58%	74%	64%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	5%	4%	6%	2%	6%	4%	6%	5%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 3/22/17

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 VOTE by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump	Swing	Clinton
20/B5. Does the Republican Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to everyday economic issues that affect people like you?	Too much	4%	3%	6%	5%	3%	5%	4%
	Right amount	30%	22%	32%	37%	35%	25%	25%
	Not enough	62%	69%	58%	56%	58%	65%	67%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	3%	6%	4%	2%	4%	5%	4%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
21/B6. Does the Republican Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to hot-button social issues?	Too much	17%	18%	14%	16%	17%	20%	23%	18%	14%
	Right amount	26%	28%	13%	43%	27%	11%	12%	24%	39%
	Not enough	48%	47%	54%	33%	46%	64%	60%	51%	37%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	9%	7%	19%	8%	10%	5%	6%	7%	10%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
21/B6. Does the Republican Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to hot-button social issues?	Too much	20%	14%	20%	17%	14%	18%	15%	14%
	Right amount	30%	23%	21%	30%	27%	31%	16%	27%
	Not enough	43%	53%	51%	47%	46%	42%	60%	49%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	7%	10%	8%	6%	13%	9%	9%	10%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 VOTE by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump	Swing	Clinton
21/B6. Does the Republican Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to hot-button social issues?	Too much	26%	13%	20%	23%	16%	22%	16%
	Right amount	24%	24%	28%	29%	28%	24%	26%
	Not enough	45%	52%	44%	44%	45%	47%	50%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	5%	11%	9%	4%	11%	7%	8%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
22/B7. Does the Democratic Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to everyday economic issues that affect people like you?	Too much	5%	5%	6%	8%	4%	5%	3%	5%	6%
	Right amount	25%	25%	23%	12%	20%	44%	39%	30%	11%
	Not enough	65%	66%	59%	77%	71%	48%	55%	60%	77%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	5%	4%	11%	3%	6%	4%	3%	5%	6%

Monmouth University Poll -- NATIONAL -- 3/22/17

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
22/B7. Does the Democratic Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to everyday economic issues that affect people like you?	Too much	6%	5%	7%	3%	7%	5%	6%	6%
	Right amount	20%	30%	29%	24%	22%	23%	29%	25%
	Not enough	69%	61%	59%	69%	65%	68%	59%	64%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	5%	5%	4%	4%	7%	4%	6%	5%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 VOTE by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump	Swing	Clinton
22/B7. Does the Democratic Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to everyday economic issues that affect people like you?	Too much	3%	9%	2%	2%	4%	6%	6%
	Right amount	25%	20%	26%	31%	20%	21%	31%
	Not enough	68%	65%	66%	64%	70%	70%	58%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	4%	6%	5%	3%	6%	3%	5%

		TOTAL	REGISTERED TO VOTE		PARTY ID			POLITICAL IDEOLOGY		
			Yes	No	Rep	Ind	Dem	Lib	Mod	Con
23/B8. Does the Democratic Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to hot-button social issues?	Too much	28%	29%	22%	49%	27%	14%	14%	24%	44%
	Right amount	25%	26%	19%	9%	19%	46%	49%	25%	8%
	Not enough	38%	37%	43%	34%	43%	34%	32%	41%	38%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	9%	8%	16%	8%	11%	6%	4%	10%	10%

		GENDER		AGE 3-WAY			RACE		COLLEGE GRAD
		Male	Female	18-34	35-54	55+	White non-Hisp	Hsp-Blk-Asn-Oth	No degree
23/B8. Does the Democratic Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to hot-button social issues?	Too much	32%	25%	23%	31%	29%	34%	16%	26%
	Right amount	20%	30%	31%	22%	22%	23%	28%	22%
	Not enough	38%	37%	33%	41%	40%	35%	44%	42%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	10%	9%	12%	7%	9%	8%	12%	11%

		COLLEGE GRAD	INCOME			2016 VOTE by COUNTY		
		4 yr degree	<\$50K	\$50-100K	\$100K+	Trump	Swing	Clinton
23/B8. Does the Democratic Party pay too much, the right amount, or not enough attention to hot-button social issues?	Too much	36%	23%	33%	37%	29%	30%	27%
	Right amount	33%	22%	24%	29%	18%	23%	30%
	Not enough	26%	46%	32%	30%	43%	36%	34%
	(VOL) Dont know _ Refused	5%	10%	11%	3%	9%	11%	9%