

Red Letter Day History Presentation Text

Highlights of the Survey:

- The President affects fifty-two percent of American's overall happiness.
- Forty-two percent of Americans stated that the President affects their relationships with other people.
- "More than four in 10 apply the strongest term -- a "great deal" -- in describing the effect that the President has on their optimism about the nation's future (45%).
- 71% of Americans say that the President effects in a great deal, or a fair amount, their confidence in the U.S. economy.
- Over 70% of Americans say that the President has a great deal, or a fair amount of control over their optimism on the future of the country.

Unite the Right Rally: Charlottesville, Virginia

- August 11th – 12th, 2017
- The event took place as a protest over the removal of a confederate monument.
- This resulted in the deaths of three, the injuries of nearly forty, and the arrests of eleven.
- While the horrific incident certainly wasn't vocally encouraged by President Trump, many believe, including former Fifth District Congressman Tom Perriello, that the event that took place was a build up of six months of hateful rhetoric, and actions.
- "The Unite the Right rally was not an isolated incident but rather the culmination of a six-month campaign of escalating events to recruit members, stoke racial fear within local communities of color, and refine its tactics." – Tom Perriello
- "I was in the streets watching in horror as the modern-day Klan announced itself, flanked by heavily armed soldiers of hate in full fatigues and alt-righters chanting "Heil Trump" while flashing Nazi salutes." -Tom Perriello
- Trump's Reaction: "You had some very bad people in that group, but you also had people that were very fine people on both sides." "I think there is blame on both sides."
- While the President obviously does not support these actions, many people believe that because of his soft stances on the support of his campaign by the Klu Klux Klan and confederate sympathizers, that people that find themselves in these groups feel more comfortable expressing their beliefs.
- "The fact is that Americans have grown comfortable with racism resting just beneath the surface of our politics — to be activated whenever a politician or a community needed it, or some racist incident exhumed it only for us to bury it once again." - Eddie S. Glaude Jr.

Women's March on Washington, Washington D.C. 2017

- The *Women's March on Washington* took place the day after Donald Trump's inauguration, January 21st, 2017.
- Nearly one million people took to the streets of Washington to march, along with nearly five million other nationwide, making it the largest single day protest in the history of the United States.

- The march took place in Washington as a direct response to the election of the President, many of the marchers carrying signs displaying their opposition to Trump.
- For many this was an outing to rebuttal the statements made during the campaign from Trump in regards to women and women's rights.
- The planning and execution of this march was a direct action of opposition to the President, and it still continues today, with another Women's March in Washington D.C. planned for 2019.
- While the Women's March was certainly the largest march in opposition to Donald Trump there were several others that deserve mention including: Tax March, March for Climate Change, March for Science, and the March for Truth.

Media Viewership and Approval

- Since his campaign announcement Trump has been very critical of the media industry, and their role in the country.
- He has even gone as far as to state that the news media is "the true enemy of the people."
- These attacks on the media have not only enraged a good portion of the population, but has decreased the viewership of many news outlets significantly.
- "The average audience for the evening newscasts for ABC, CBS and NBC decreased by 7% in 2017, down to 5.2 million, compared with 5.6 million in 2016" Like wise CNN and the New York times have reported a decrease in both viewership and overall approval.
- Over the past two years Trump has been very vocal in opposition to the National Football League, which experienced a ten percent drop in viewership in 2016-2017.
- According to the results of a 2017 survey from the Gallup/Knight Foundation, it is shown that "most Americans believe it is now harder to be well-informed and to determine which news is accurate. They increasingly perceive the media as biased and struggle to identify objective news sources. More Americans have a negative (43%) than a positive (33%) view of the news media, while 23% are neutral."

Voter Turn-Out

- The state of Virginia in 2017 saw a voter turn out rate of 47.6% of eligible voters, a 5.6% rise when compared to the last election directly following a presidential year, 2013.
- Likewise, in the 2018 midterm elections Virginia, and the rest of the United States saw a significant rise in voter turn out when compared to the previous midterm elections of 2014.
- Virginia saw 59% voter turn out in the state this November, a 17.4% rise in voter turn out in when compared to the 41.6% turn out in the 2014 midterm elections.
- This November the United States saw a 47% voter turn out, a fifty year high for midterm elections. When compared to 2014's turn out of 36.7% this represents over a 10% increase in overall voter turn out throughout the country.
- President has significantly impacted the voter turn out percentage throughout the country, encouraging new voters to join the political process, and bringing back voters that have felt left behind or disenfranchised.

Hate Crimes in America

- “Reported hate crimes with racial or ethnic bias jumped the day after President Trump won the 2016 election, from 10 to 27”
- “There were more reported hate crimes on Nov. 9 than any other day in 2016, and the daily number of such incidents exceeded the level on Election Day for the next 10 days.”
- “There was a 21 percent increase in reported hate crimes the day after Barack Obama won his first election in 2008.”
- This past year “ hate crime totals for the 10 largest cities rose for four straight years to the highest level in a decade.”
- “The NAACP believes there is a direct relationship between the rise in hate crimes exemplified by the continual #LivingWhileBlack incidents and other reported crimes and President Donald J. Trump’s xenophobic rhetoric and racist policies.”
- The number of [hate crimes](#) in the United States in 2017 topped a previous high, with law enforcement reporting 7,175 incidents — an uptick of 17 percent over the five-year high reached in 2016.

Conclusion

- Viable evidence has been gathered to support the hypothesis presented.
- The American Presidency does have a noticeable affect on the behavior of American citizens.
- With Trump reaching out to voters that have been left out or disenfranchised throughout previous elections he has awoken a new pool of voters and political activists.
- From day to day actions, overall optimism, involvement in the political process, and even to overall happiness, it is clear that the President has significant control over the behavior of American citizens.