

# **ELECTIONS FOR PRESIDENT IN THE USA: TRENDS BASED ON THE POLLS**

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Lastly, the presidential elections in the USA will take place tomorrow, Tuesday November 8, 2016. The two leading candidates are Hillary Clinton, from the Democratic Party, and Donald Trump, from the Republican Party. One of them can become the next president of the USA. **During all these last weeks there has not been a clear and significant difference on the polls that can let us state that statistically one of these candidates seems to be the winner. Difference among them has not been large enough, and in this last week this difference has even narrowed.**

In the Table I presented below you can see the most recent results of 40 polls we have available for the period October 31 to November 5, 2016, as well as the average numbers. It is important to say that we do not have any preference for any party or any candidate. Also, we do not have any relationship with any of the research firms.

What we can see from the average numbers of all this most recent 40 polls is that Hillary Clinton has 44.7% of the vote preference while Donald Trump has 42.9% of the vote preference. This means that Clinton is 1.8 points ahead of Trump. From the 40 polls, 28 have Clinton as the winner, 7 have Trump as the winner and 5 show a tie. The average margin of error (MoE) is 2.8% (average from those polls where this information –the MoE- is available). The median sample of these polls is 1,500.

Let us compare these numbers with our previous reports. On September 2, 2016 Clinton was 3.9 points ahead of Trump, on October 7, 2016 Clinton was 3.7 points ahead of Trump (this is after the first debate), on October 19, 2016 Clinton was 5.1 points ahead of Trump and on October 31, 2016 Clinton was 4.9 points ahead of Trump. Today, as we have said, Clinton is 1.8 points ahead of Trump. This is a significant reduction of the spread. Also, in all our reports, the average margin of error (MoE) determined in the polls has been between 2.8% and 3.0%.

There were three debates among the two leading presidential candidates and there was a VP candidates' debate, too. The debates were only among the candidates Hillary Clinton (D) and Donald Trump (R), having left out the other two candidates Gray Johnston (L) and Jill Stein (G). What would have happened if all four candidates would have been included in the debates?

In the USA the election of the president and the vice president is in charge of the Electoral College. Citizens of the US do not directly elect the president or the vice president; instead they choose “electors”, who usually pledge to vote for particular candidates. There are 538 electors. Therefore, to win the election 270 votes are required (half plus one).

Some firms have worked in forecasting the possible composition of the Electoral College. These firms use different polls as well as their own forecasting methods for this. On Table II shown below we can see 12 of these forecasts of the Electoral College we have for November 6, 2016. In average, 285 electors are forecasted for Clinton (D), 197 for Trump (R) and 56 are undefined. 11 out of the 12 forecasts give Clinton (D) 272 electors or more (up to 323 the largest) and only one 268 electors (below the 270 needed to win). For Trump (R), no firm forecasts 270 or more electors for him. The largest number is forecasted by two firms with 215 each.

These are only polls; the voters' decision can change in one way or the other the day of the election. Obviously, any changes in the voting could mean a change in the Electoral College composition. We are only presenting and analyzing statistical measurements based on polls. **We are not suggesting, by any reason, that a specific candidate will win. We do see a close final election.** (Since August 21, 2016 we have analyzed 221 different polls from different research firms and polls done in different periods of time).

**TABLE I: SOME RECENT POLLS**

Research Firm	Hillary Clinton (D)	Donald Trump (R)	Gray Johnson (L)	Jill Stein (G)	Date poll ended (year-mo-dy)
<b>Average Oct 31-Nov 06, 2016</b>	<b>44.7%</b>	<b>42.9%</b>	<b>5.0%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	
<b>Most recent polls:</b>					
Morning Consult	45%	42%	8%	N/A	20161105
NBC News/Wall St. Jrnl	44%	40%	6%	2%	20161105
IBD/TIPP Tracking	43%	44%	5%	2%	20161105
Cvoter International	49%	46%	N/A	N/A	20161105
USC Dornsife/LA Time	43%	48%	N/A	N/A	20161105
ABC News/Wash Post	48%	43%	4%	2%	20161104
IBD/TIPP Tracking	44%	44%	5%	2%	20161104
Reuters/Ipsos	43%	39%	6%	2%	20161104
Cvoter International	49%	48%	N/A	N/A	20161104
USC Dornsife/LA Time	43%	48%	N/A	N/A	20161104
Fox News	45%	43%	5%	2%	20161103
Marist College	44%	43%	6%	N/A	20161103
McClatchy/Marist	44%	43%	6%	2%	20161103
Rasmuseen Reports	44%	44%	4%	1%	20161103
The Times-Picayune/Lucid	44%	39%	6%	N/A	20161103
ABC/Wash Post Tracking	47%	43%	4%	2%	20161103
IBD/TIPP Tracking	44%	44%	4%	2%	20161103
Ipsos	43%	38%	6%	N/A	20161103
Reuters/Ipsos	44%	37%	6%	2%	20161103
Cvoter International	49%	48%	N/A	N/A	20161103
USC Dornsife/LA Time	43%	47%	N/A	N/A	20161103
Gravis Marketing	47%	45%	3%	1%	20161102
Rasmuseen Reports	42%	45%	4%	1%	20161102
The Times-Picayune/Lucid	44%	39%	6%	N/A	20161102
IBD/TIPP Tracking	44%	44%	4%	2%	20161102
Reuters/Ipsos	45%	37%	5%	2%	20161102
Cvoter International	49%	48%	N/A	N/A	20161102
USC Dornsife/LA Time	42%	48%	N/A	N/A	20161102
Economist/YouGov	46%	43%	4%	2%	20161101
YouGov	46%	43%	4%	N/A	20161101
ABC/Wash Post Tracking	47%	45%	3%	2%	20161101
CBS News/NY Times	45%	42%	5%	4%	20161101
Ipsos	45%	37%	5%	N/A	20161101
RAND (American Life Panel)	44%	35%	8%	N/A	20161101
Gravis Marketing	46%	45%	4%	2%	20161031
The Times-Picayune/Lucid	42%	40%	5%	N/A	20161031
Rasmuseen Reports	44%	44%	5%	2%	20161031
IBD/TIPP Tracking	45%	44%	4%	2%	20161031
Google Consumer Survey	38%	35%	6%	N/A	20161031
USC Dornsife/LA Time	43%	47%	N/A	N/A	20161031

Source: Polls have been taken mainly from Real Clear Politics and from FiveThirtyEight

*Neither Acus Consulting, nor Alberto Calva are responsible for any decisions made based on the information or comments here presented, neither for the accuracy of the figures.*

**TABLE II: ELECTORAL COLLEGE FORECASTED POSSIBLE COMPOSITION (November 6, 2016)**

Source	Hillary Clinton (D)	Donald Trump (R)	Tie / Undefined / Other
<b><i>Average</i></b>	<b>285</b>	<b>197</b>	<b>56</b>
Princeton Election Consortium	323	215	0
Rothenberg & Gonzales	323	191	24
Crystal Ball & University of Virginia Center for Politics	293	214	31
The Fix / The Washington Post	290	209	39
ABC News	278	204	56
Cook Political Report	278	214	46
Associated Press	278	173	87
NBC News Political Unit	274	180	84
FiveThirtyEight	272	215	51
NPR	272	163	103
Louis Jacobson	272	187	79
CNN	268	204	66

Source: 270towin.com

About Acus Consulting. This firm supports companies, organizations and government agencies in financial and strategic analysis, investment project evaluations, financial modeling, valuation of ongoing companies, financial planning, risk analysis and decision making. Acus Consulting works in consulting projects and offers seminars and workshops of finance for executive training. It is based in Toronto.

About Alberto Calva. His expertise field is finance and economy. He has been a business consultant for more than 20 years. He has given seminars and workshops in 8 different countries having trained with this around 10,000 executives and entrepreneurs from 20 different countries. He has a unique mix of academic, practical, entrepreneurial, hands on experience and board member background. He holds a Bachelor degree of Industrial Engineering, a Master degree of Economics and an MBA with a major of Finance.

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