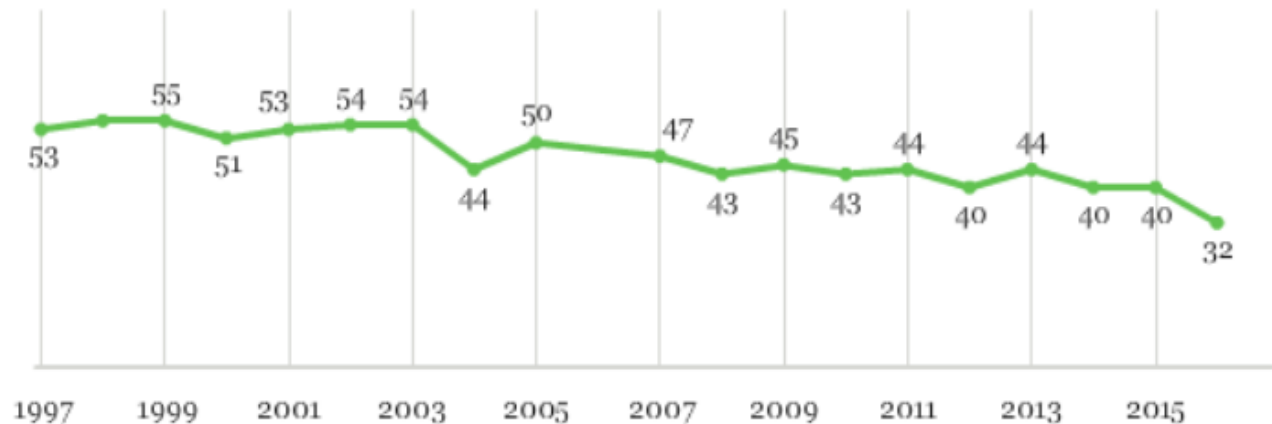


### *Americans' Trust in the Mass Media*

In general, how much trust and confidence do you have in the mass media -- such as newspapers, TV and radio -- when it comes to reporting the news fully, accurately and fairly -- a great deal, a fair amount, not very much or none at all?

■ % Great deal/Fair amount



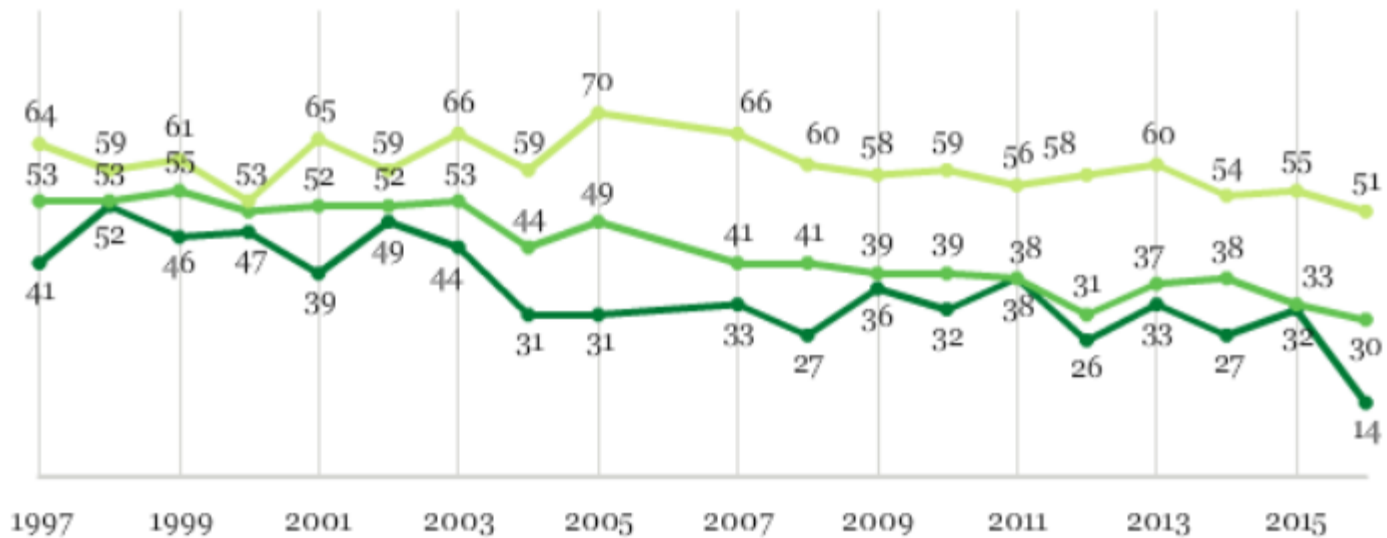
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Gallup began asking this question in 1972, and on a yearly basis since 1997. Over the history of the entire trend, Americans' trust and confidence hit its highest point in 1976, at 72%, in the wake of widely lauded examples of investigative journalism regarding Vietnam and the Watergate scandal. After staying in the low to mid-50s through the late 1990s and into the early years of the new century, Americans' trust in the media has fallen slowly and steadily. It has consistently been below a majority level since 2007.

### Trust in Mass Media, by Party

% Great deal/Fair amount of trust

■ Republicans ■ Independents ■ Democrats



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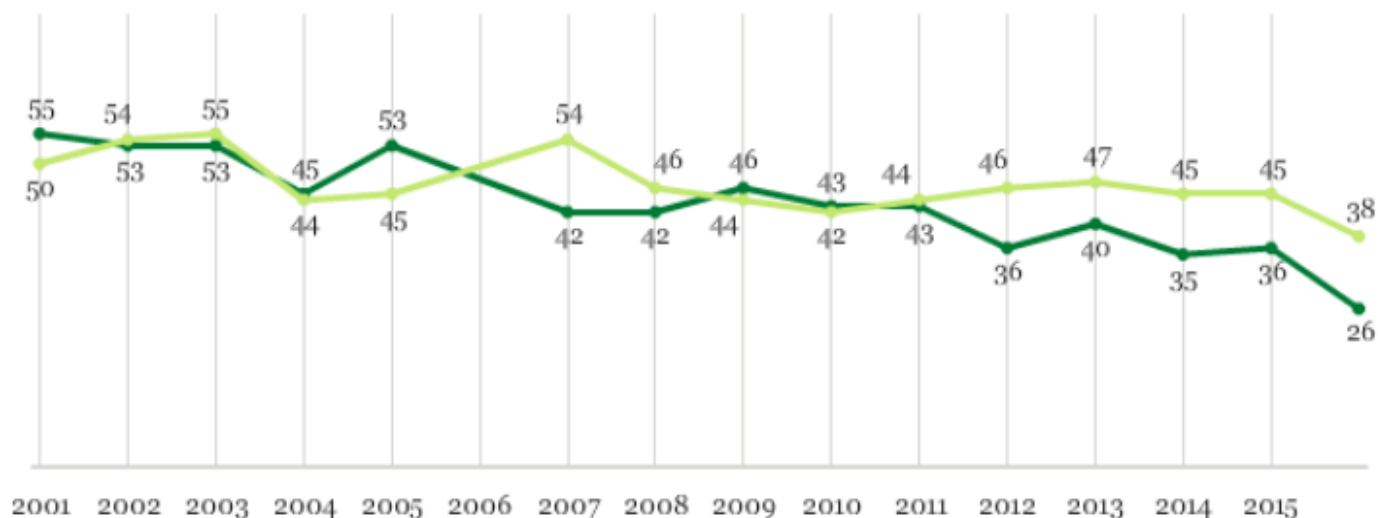
Democrats' and independents' trust in the media has declined only marginally, with 51% of Democrats (compared with 55% last year) and 30% of independents (versus 33% last year) expressing trust. Over the past 20 years, Democrats have generally expressed more trust than Republicans in the media, although in 2000, the two parties were most closely aligned, with 53% of Democrats and 47% of Republicans professing trust.

## Trust in Mass Media, by Age

% Great deal/Fair amount of trust

■ 18 to 49 years old

■ 50 and older



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In 2001, younger Americans (55%) were more likely than older Americans (50%) to express trust and confidence in mass media. This gap emerged again in 2005 when 53% of 18- to 49-year-olds had trust and 45% of those 50 and older expressed the same sentiment. Yet in the past decade, older Americans have mostly had more confidence than younger Americans, and this year, the gap between these age groups is 12 points. And 2016 marks the first time that confidence among older Americans has dropped below 40% in polling since 2001.

# Obama official orders speedy review of Delta tunnels project

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Two weeks before President Barack Obama leaves office, his administration vowed to move full speed ahead on California's controversial Delta tunnels project, calling it essential for the state's water supply as well as its environment.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell issued an order Wednesday

directing federal officials to complete a preliminary environmental review this month of the massive twin tunnels proposed for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. She also ordered them to work with California officials on related projects aimed at restoring water quality and habitat for Delta smelt and other endangered fish species in Central Valley river basins that have been pushed to the brink of extinction in recent years.

Jewell's order acknowledged that Obama's time in Washington is running out and that his successor will have final say on whether the \$15.5 billion tunnels project, known as California WaterFix, becomes reality. The final federal review of the tunnels won't occur until April, when Donald Trump occupies the White House. Trump has said he wants to see more water delivered to California's arid San Joaquin Valley

farm belt but hasn't specifically addressed the tunnels proposal.

Nonetheless, Jewell's order brings renewed urgency to the project, which has been on the drawing boards for years, and could sharpen debate over the plan.

California officials had expressed concern that the transition to a new administration in Washington, regardless of who was elected, would delay or potentially kill the project. Gov. Jerry Brown, the proposal's leading champion, applauded Jewell's directive and her commitment "to a timely review of the California WaterFix project."

Brown's administration has said groundbreaking could begin in 2018, the governor's final year in office, and Jewell's order signals that crucial decisions about the tunnels could be

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