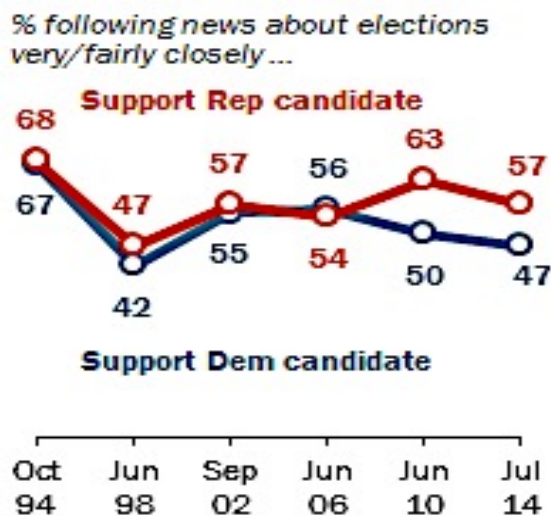
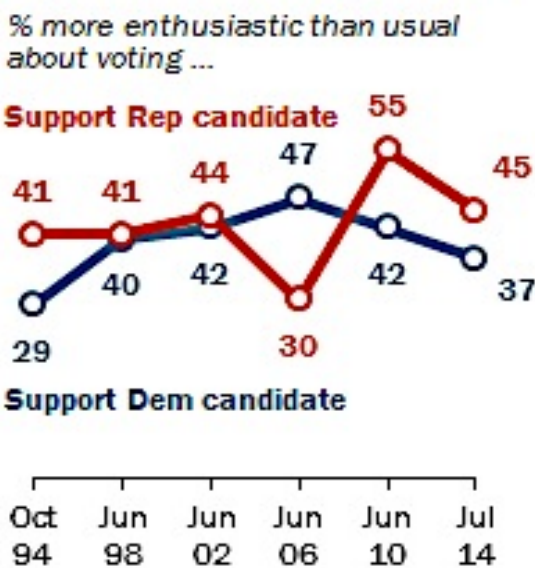


GOP Has Midterm Voter Advantage: It has been a difficult summer for Democrats. President Barack Obama’s job approval rating is hitting all-time lows in national polls (especially on important issues like foreign policy, immigration, and the economy). Endangered Democratic incumbent senators have been unable to disassociate themselves from the unpopular president. Gaffe-prone Democratic Senate candidates are showing their weaknesses as candidates. And the headlines are filled with news about higher ObamaCare health care premiums. A recent Pew [poll](#) adds one more item to this list: Republicans have an edge in Midterm voter engagement and enthusiasm.

According to Pew, 57% of voters intending to support a Republican candidate this fall are following the news about the elections “very/fairly closely.” Only 47% of voters who say they will support a Democratic candidate say the same (GOP advantage + 10). At this point before the 2010 elections, 63% of voters supporting a Republican and 50% of those supporting a Democrat said they were following the news closely (GOP advantage + 13). Before the 2006 Midterms, those numbers were 54% and 56%, respectively (DEM advantage + 2).

Forty-five percent of voters intending to support a Republican candidate said they are “more enthusiastic than usual about voting” this November, compared to just 37% of those who said they will support a Democrat (GOP advantage + 8). While not as big of a lead as Republicans had at this point in 2010 (GOP advantage +13) or as Democrats had in 2006 (DEM advantage +17), it is still promising for Republicans and a cause for concern for their Democratic opponents as campaigns enter the final 89 days.

More Modest Enthusiasm Gap than in 2010, 2006



Survey conducted July 8-14, 2014. Based on registered voters who plan to vote for Rep/Dem candidates in their districts.

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