

2022 Chicago Council Survey – Historical Toplines on Korea

Q5. Below is a list of possible threats to the vital interest of the United States in the next 10 years. For each one, please select whether you see this as a critical threat, an important but not critical threat, or not an important threat at all:

Q5/29. North Korea's nuclear program (% critical threat)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2015	55	58	53	56	5
2016	60	63	64	52	-1
2017	75	80	76	70	4
2018	59	61	62	53	-1
2019	61	67	62	55	5
January 2020	52	57	58	41	-1
2020	51	53	54	47	-1
March 2021	59	65	61	53	4
2022	52	57	55	45	2

Q7D. For each of these statements about international affairs and US foreign policy, tell me whether you tend to agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly.

Q7D/18. We have to learn to live with countries like North Korea and Iran possessing nuclear weapons, just as we do with China and Russia.					
Agree strongly (%)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2020	9	7	10	10	-3
2022	10	9	10	13	-1
Agree Somewhat (%)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2020	35	29	41	34	-12
2022	40	34	43	41	-9

Disagree Somewhat (%)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2020	32	32	31	32	1
2022	30	31	32	27	-1
Disagree Strongly (%)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2020	23	31	17	23	14
2022	19	26	15	18	11

Q30. There has been some discussion about the circumstances that might justify using US troops in other parts of the world. Please give your opinion about some situations. Would you favor or oppose the use of US troops:

Q30/1. If North Korea invaded South Korea (% favor)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
1990	44	53	40	43	13
1998	30	33	28	33	5
2002	36	50	31	37	19
2004	43	49	43	39	6
2006	45	55	42	41	13
2008	41	51	32	45	19
2010	40	47	38	36	9
2012	41	51	40	36	11
2013	48	60	41	46	19
2014	47	53	44	46	9
2015	47	53	50	42	3
2017	62	70	59	61	12
2018	64	70	63	61	6
2019	58	63	57	56	6
March 2021	53	57	51	53	6
July 2021	63	68	61	62	7
2022	55	54	58	53	-4

Q40. Do you think the United States should or should not have long-term military bases in the following places? (% should have)

40/3. South Korea					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2002	67	74	66	64	8
2004	62	71	62	56	9
2006	62	73	57	61	16
2008	63	72	59	59	13
2010	60	68	58	58	10
2012	60	68	57	58	11
2014	64	70	61	64	9
2016	70	76	70	64	6
2018	74	79	73	71	6
January 2020	69	80	65	65	15
2021 Trilateral	66	70	65	65	5
2022	72	77	72	69	5

Q45. Please rate your feelings toward some countries and peoples, with one hundred meaning a very warm, favorable feeling, zero meaning a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred, the higher the number the more favorable your feelings are toward that country or those people. (mean)

Q45/19. North Korea					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
1994	34	na	na	na	na
1998	41	41	42	41	-1
2002	34	32	35	36	-3
2004	28	24	30	29	-6
2006	23	21	22	26	-1
2010	26	22	28	29	-6
2014	23	17	25	24	-8

2016	19	16	22	20	-6
December 2016	20	16	23	21	-7
February 2018	21	19	22	21	-3
January 2019	29	26	28	31	-2
2020	19	17	19	21	-2
2022	20	16	19	22	-3

Q45/20. South Korea					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
1978	47	50	48	46	2
1982	45	48	42	48	6
1986	50	53	48	50	5
1990	47	49	47	46	2
1994	47	na	na	na	na
2002	46	47	46	46	1
2004	47	52	47	49	5
2006	44	49	42	43	7
2010	52	53	51	53	2
2014	55	54	55	58	-1
2016	55	56	53	57	3
December 2016	53	51	52	55	-1
February 2018	56	59	55	56	4
2020	60	60	58	61	2
2022	61	59	64	61	-5

Q819. Please tell me whether you would support or oppose each of the following kinds of US actions in its relations with North Korea: (%)

Q819/1: Establish diplomatic relations despite North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons (% support)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2021	44	38	43	50	-5
2022	46	44	46	47	-2
Q819/4: Isolate and pressure North Korea with economic sanctions as long as it continues to build its nuclear weapons program (% support)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2021	70	77	65	70	12
2022	75	79	77	71	2
Q819/5: Take military action to force North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons (% support)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2021	35	51	29	30	22
2022	31	35	29	29	6
Q819/6: Focus on other pressing problems facing the United States besides North Korea (% support)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2022	77	77	78	78	-1

Q819/1: Establish diplomatic relations despite North Korea's continued development of nuclear weapons (% oppose)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2021	51	57	54	46	3
2022	50	53	50	48	3
Q819/4: Isolate and pressure North Korea with economic sanctions as long as it continues to build its nuclear weapons program (% oppose)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2021	26	18	32	27	-14
2022	21	18	19	25	-1
Q819/5: Take military action to force North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons (% oppose)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap

2021	60	45	67	65	-22
2022	65	62	67	66	-5
Q819/6: Focus on other pressing problems facing the United States besides North Korea (% oppose)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
2022	19	20	17	18	3

Q822: Under what conditions should Joe Biden meet with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un? (%)

Q822A. Under what conditions should Joe Biden meet with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un? (Nuclear Weapons)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
He should not meet with him under any conditions	26	37	21	23	16
He should meet with him only if North Korea first agrees to give up its nuclear weapons	37	32	40	39	-8
He should meet with him without any preconditions	32	29	35	33	-6
Q822B. Under what conditions should Joe Biden meet with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un? (Missile Tests)					
	Overall	Republican	Democrat	Independent	R-D Gap
He should not meet with him under any conditions	30	39	24	28	15
He should meet with him only if North Korea first agrees to give up its nuclear weapons	46	39	56	42	-17
He should meet with him without any preconditions	22	20	19	28	1

Methodology

This analysis is based on data from the 2022 Chicago Council Survey of the American public on foreign policy, a project of the Lester Crown Center on US Foreign Policy. The 2022 Chicago Council Survey was conducted July 15–August 1, 2022, by Ipsos using its large-scale nationwide online research panel, KnowledgePanel, in both English and Spanish among a weighted national sample of 3,106 adults 18 or older living in all 50 US states and the District of Columbia. The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/- 1.8 percentage points. The margin of error is higher for partisan subgroups or for partial-sample items.

Partisan identification is based on how respondents answered a standard partisan self-identification question: “Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or what?”

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