

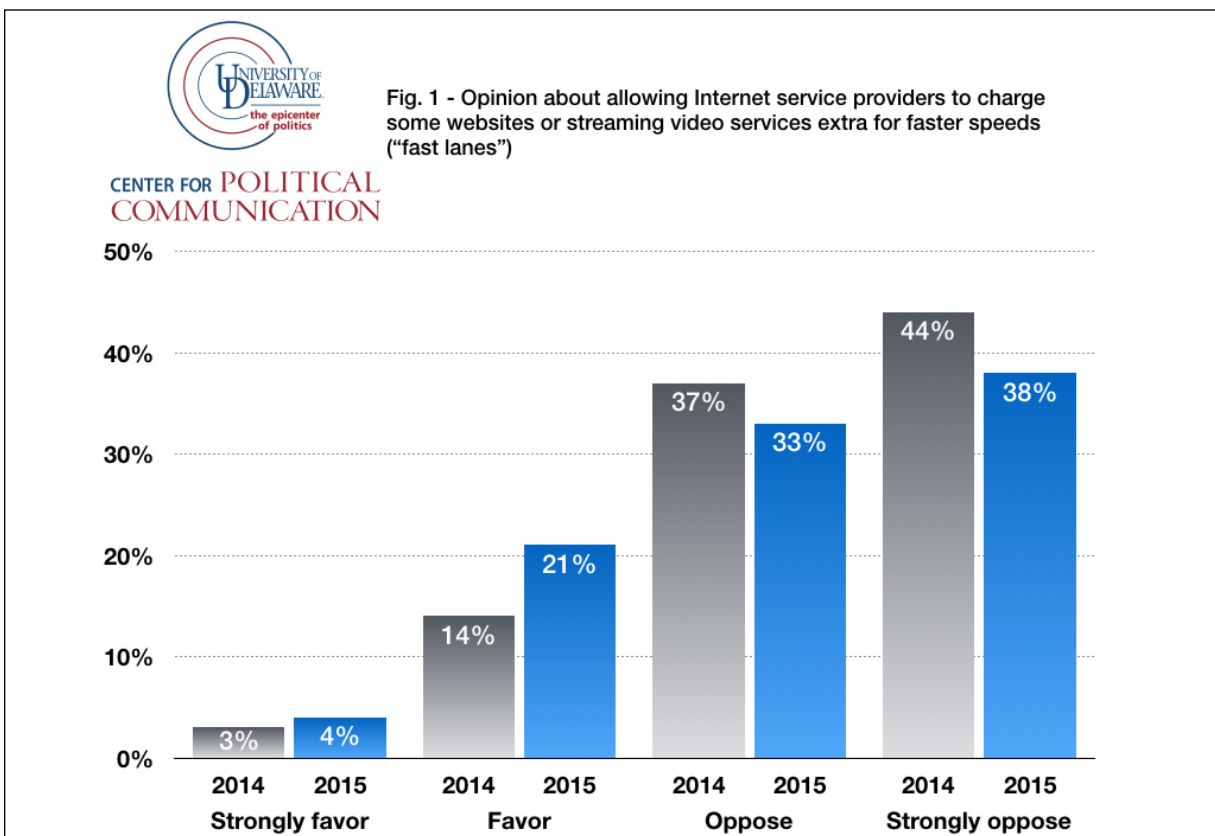
**National survey shows public still opposes Internet “fast lanes,” but resists government regulation of the Internet**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - December 11, 2015**

For more information or to discuss the results, contact: Peter Bothum, Office of Communications and Public Affairs (302) 831-1418.

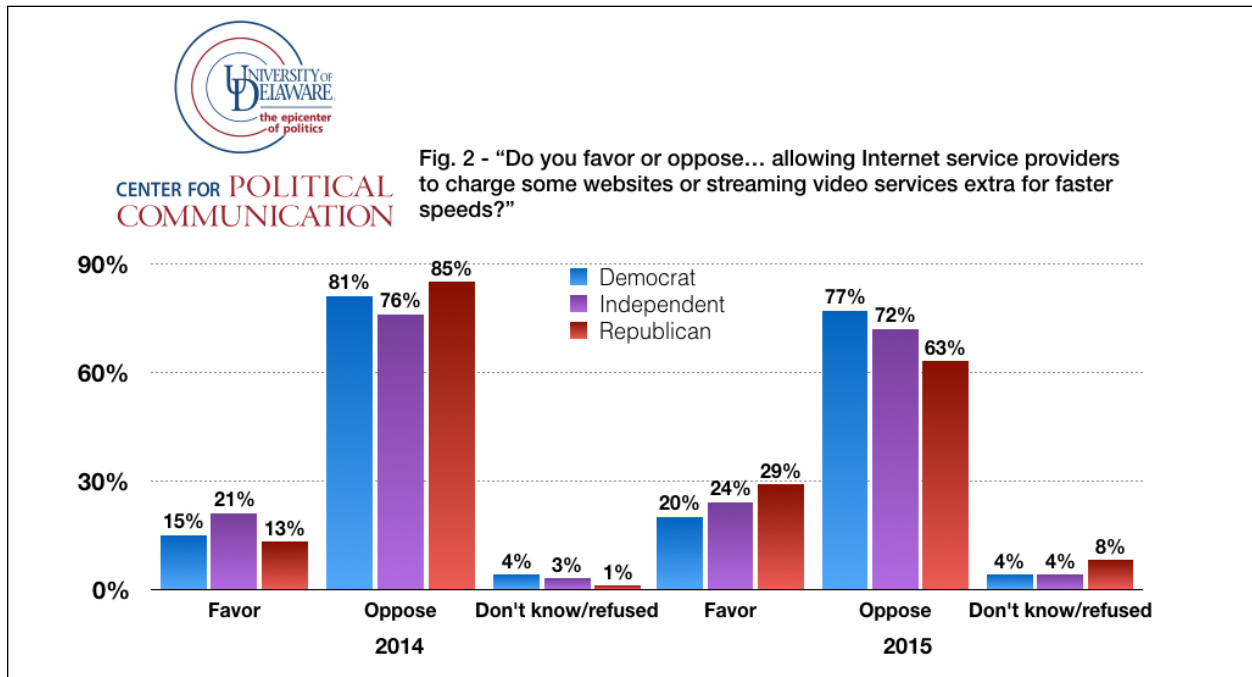
As a federal court considers new national rules on Internet service, a new study by the University of Delaware’s Center for Political Communication shows most people still oppose Internet “fast lanes.” But the study also shows Americans are reluctant to give the federal government power to regulate “net neutrality.”

The study shows a large majority of people surveyed still oppose Internet fast lanes (71 percent). Opposition is down from a similar survey one year ago (81 percent), when President Obama announced his support for new net neutrality rules. Such rules would restrict Internet providers from offering “fast lanes” in the form of premium service to web streaming operations such as Netflix, Hulu, and Amazon.



National survey on Internet neutrality issues

The UD survey reveals a new partisan divide on the net neutrality issue between Republicans and Democrats, with Republicans more likely to favor allowing internet service providers to charge extra for premium speeds. In 2014, opposition to fast lanes did not differ significantly by political party.



Lindsay Hoffman, the Center’s Associate Director, observed that in just one year, public opinion about this previously low profile issue has become politically polarized. “When political leaders like President Obama and Senator and presidential candidate Ted Cruz, who called net neutrality ‘Obamacare for the Internet,’ take a position on an issue like this, it becomes politicized for the public.”

**Senator Ted Cruz** @SenTedCruz

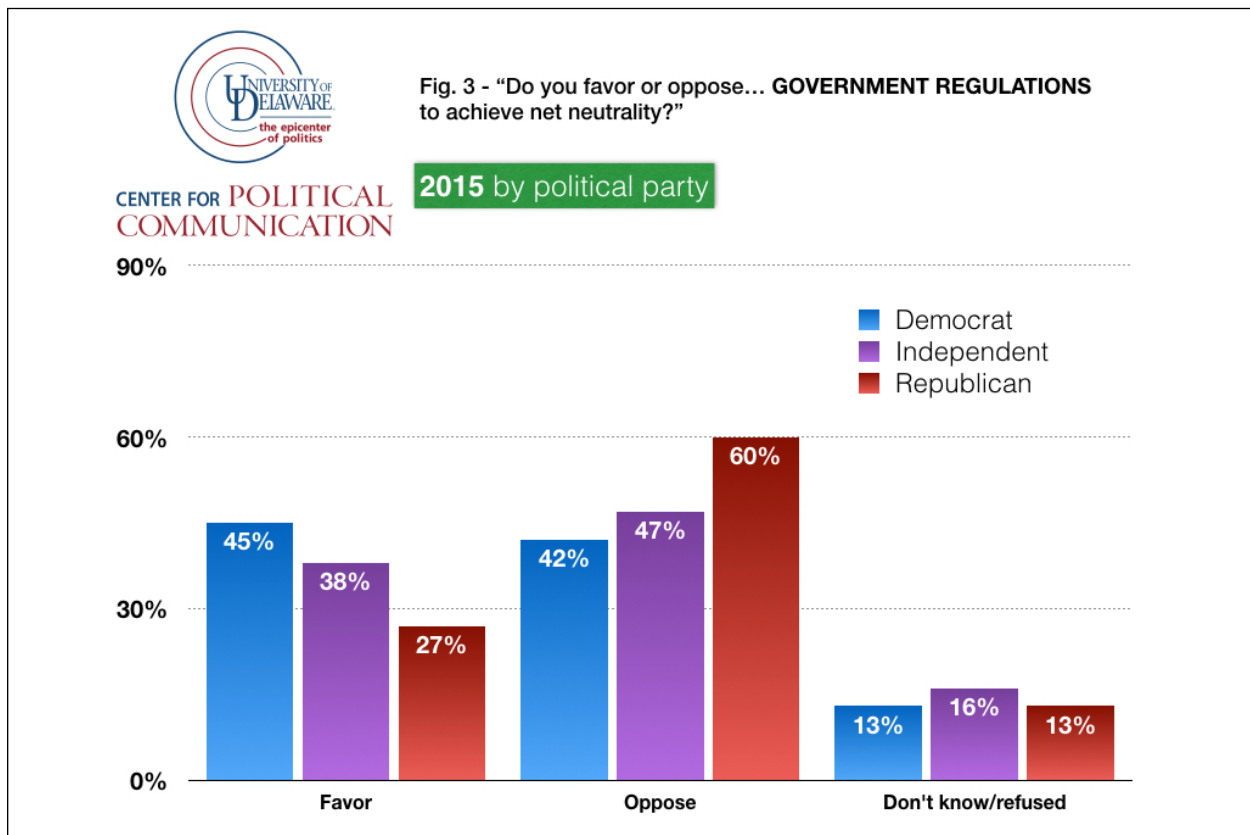
"Net Neutrality" is Obamacare for the Internet; the Internet should not operate at the speed of government.

RETWEETS: 3,364    LIKES: 1,581

7:43 AM - 10 Nov 2014

National survey on Internet neutrality issues

Paul Brewer, Director of the Center for Political Communication, pointed out that research on the net neutrality issue is quite new, and the 2015 survey shows that public responses on this issue depend on how the question is asked. “When respondents are asked about ‘government regulation’ to achieve net neutrality, 48 percent are opposed,” Brewer said. “There’s a disconnect here; most Americans oppose Internet fast lanes, but nearly half also oppose government regulations to accomplish that goal.”



The Federal Communications Commission is defending its Internet service regulations in court against industry challengers who argue that the FCC has no power to regulate Internet service as it has telephone and television in the past. The FCC rules were imposed last June, to keep Internet providers such as Verizon and Comcast from blocking or slowing web access to some users, and selling premium Internet privileges to others.

“The study also shows a modest increase in how much people have heard about the issue since last year.” said Brewer.

The telephone survey of 901 U.S. adults was conducted by the University of Delaware’s Center for Political Communication from November 11-17, 2015. CPC Director Paul Brewer supervised the study.

National survey on Internet neutrality issues

**About the study**

The National Agenda Opinion Project research was funded by the University of Delaware's Center for Political Communication (CPC) and the William P. Frank Foundation. The study was supervised by the CPC's Director, Paul Brewer, a professor in the Departments of Communication and Political Science & International Relations.

Results are based on telephone interviews with a representative sample of 901 adult U.S. residents. Telephone interviews were conducted via landline (n=344) and cell phone (n=557). The survey was conducted under supervision of the Center for Political Communication by Princeton Survey Research Associates International, and the interviews were administered in English by Princeton Data Source. The data were collected from November 11-17, 2015. Statistical results are weighted to correct known demographic discrepancies. The margin of sampling error for the complete set of weighted data is  $\pm 3.2$  percentage points.

Readers should be aware that in addition to sampling error, question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of public opinion polls.

Please contact Paul Brewer at (302) 831-7771 for more details about the survey's methodology.

National survey on Internet neutrality issues

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE CENTER FOR POLITICAL COMMUNICATION  
NOVEMBER 2015 NATIONAL AGENDA POLL

**FINAL TOPLINE**

November 11-17, 2015

N =901 U.S. Adult Residents

This year, the U.S. government set new rules for Internet service providers, which are companies like Comcast, Time Warner, and Verizon that provide access to the Internet. [Some people call this issue NET NEUTRALITY.] How much, if anything, have you heard about this—a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

	Question mentioned “net neutrality” (N = 461)	Question did NOT mention “net neutrality” (N = 440)	2015 Total (N = 901)	2014 Total (N = 900)
A lot	10%	15%	13	10
A little	44%	44%	44	39
Nothing at all	46%	41%	44	50
TOTAL	100%	100%	100%	100%

ASKED IF RESPONDENT USES THE INTERNET OR EMAIL AT LEAST OCCASIONALLY (N = 719)

Please tell me how strongly you FAVOR or OPPOSE each of the following—do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose this?

Allowing Internet service providers to charge some websites or streaming video services extra for faster speeds

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>
Strongly favor	4%	3%
Favor	21%	14%
Oppose	33%	37%
Strongly oppose	38%	44%
Don't know/refused (volunteered)	6%	3%
TOTAL	100%	100%

National survey on Internet neutrality issues

ASKED IF RESPONDENT USES THE INTERNET OR EMAIL AT LEAST OCCASIONALLY (N = 719)

Please tell me how strongly you FAVOR or OPPOSE each of the following—do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose this?

Government regulations to achieve net neutrality

	<u>2015</u>
Strongly favor	8%
Favor	28%
Oppose	27%
Strongly oppose	21%
Don't know/refused (volunteered)	16%
TOTAL	100%

Note: Not all columns sum to 100% due to rounding.

National survey on Internet neutrality issues

**Detailed Demographic Tables**

This year, the U.S. government set new rules for Internet service providers, which are companies like Comcast, Time Warner, and Verizon that provide access to the Internet. [Some people call this issue NET NEUTRALITY.] How much, if anything, have you heard about this—a lot, a little, or nothing at all?

	A lot	A little	Nothing at all
ALL RESPONDENTS			
Women	9%	43%	48%
Men	17%	45%	39%
18-34 years of age	14%	38%	49%
35-54 years of age	12%	49%	40%
55+ years of age	14%	42%	44%
Republican	9%	48%	43%
Democrat	14%	42%	44%
Independent	14%	46%	41%

Note: Not all columns sum to 100% due to rounding.

National survey on Internet neutrality issues

Please tell me how strongly you FAVOR or OPPOSE each of the following: Allowing Internet service providers to charge some websites or streaming video services extra for faster speeds—do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose this?

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't know/Refused
ALL RESPONDENTS					
Women	2%	19%	40%	33%	6%
Men	5%	21%	26%	42%	6%
18-34 years of age	7%	20%	27%	43%	4%
35-54 years of age	2%	25%	35%	32%	6%
55+ years of age	3%	14%	39%	39%	6%
Republican	6%	22%	42%	24%	6%
Democrat	2%	21%	29%	45%	4%
Independent	3%	23%	32%	37%	5%
Heard a lot	7%	16%	22%	54%	1%
Heard a little	3%	27%	34%	31%	6%
Heard nothing at all	3%	15%	35%	40%	7%

Note: Not all columns sum to 100% due to rounding.



National survey on Internet neutrality issues

Please tell me how strongly you FAVOR or OPPOSE each of the following: Government regulations to achieve net neutrality—do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose this?

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Don't know/ Refused
ALL RESPONDENTS					
Women	6%	28%	33%	14%	19%
Men	10%	28%	22%	28%	12%
18-34 years of age	9%	34%	24%	22%	11%
35-54 years of age	9%	27%	28%	19%	18%
55+ years of age	7%	21%	32%	22%	17%
Republican	4%	23%	33%	27%	13%
Democrat	14%	32%	25%	17%	13%
Independent	7%	30%	26%	20%	16%
Heard a lot	23%	26%	15%	30%	5%
Heard a little	6%	36%	28%	18%	13%
Heard nothing at all	6%	20%	31%	22%	21%

Note: Not all columns sum to 100% due to rounding.