UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TRENDS IN ELECTION YEAR 2016

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Abstract
In November 2016 elections are held in the USA. Not only new president will be elected but also majority of the Congress will be chosen (all members of the House of Representatives and about one third of the Senate). What about presidential election Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are top favourites. But also Bernie Sanders from Democratic Party and Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio from Republican Party could play important role in the politics in the future even if they are not elected.

Keywords: election, United States, 2016, Donald Trump, Hillary Clinton

1 Introduction

In November 2016 45th president of the United States of America is elected. Democrats and Republicans are looking for their candidates. It seems that Democrats will choose between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Senders and Republicans will decide if Donald Trump, Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio is their nominee.
The paper will points out key economical and social trends in the US during last decade to outline atmosphere in the country ahead of the elections. The second part of the paper will compare voters' expectations (issues, candidates), priorities (polls).

2 Trends (economical and social) in the United States during Barack Obama Mandate

Barack Obama became president of the United of States of America in the atmosphere of the economic and social crisis. Economy and social issues were crucial for American voters during his presidency. Restart of the economy and creation of new jobs were main tasks for his administration.
After Barack Obama became president GDP data were negative (Figure 1). But there was no remarkable growth also after period of the crisis till 2014. It was never more than 2.5% (World Bank Data). In 2015 GDP growth even slowed down and was only about 1% [2]. The possibilities for growing of the living standard of citizens were logically limited.

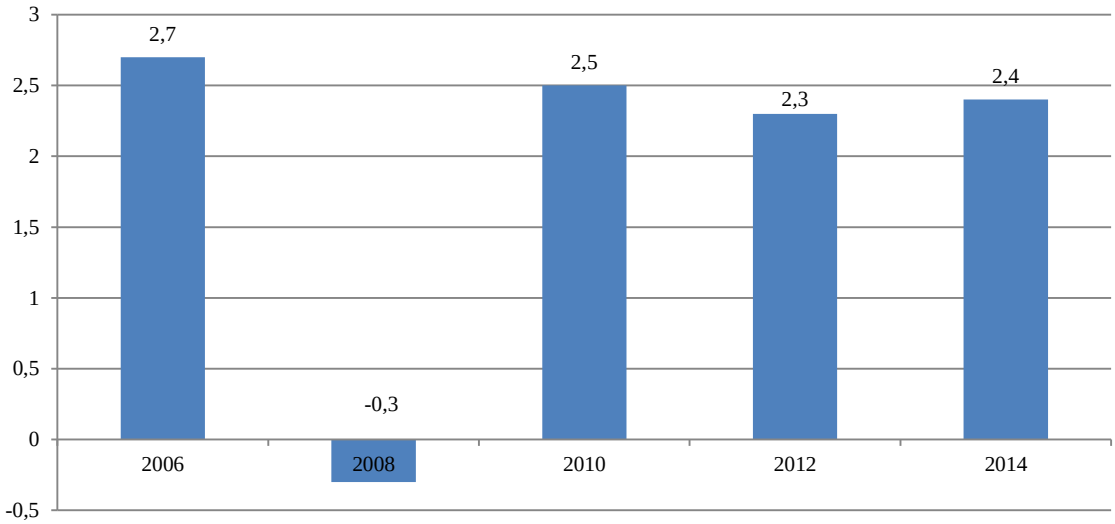

Fig. 1 *GDP Growth (%)*
Source: data.worldbank.org [1]

On the other hand the unemployment rate is decreasing in the country (Figure 2). In 2010 it was about 10% in 2014 it was about 6%. This result is real success of the Barack Obama policy (we cannot forget that in the countries of the European Union it is about 10% and 6% is for majority of European countries unaccessible point). According to Trading Economics estimation in December 2015 it was even 4.9% [3].

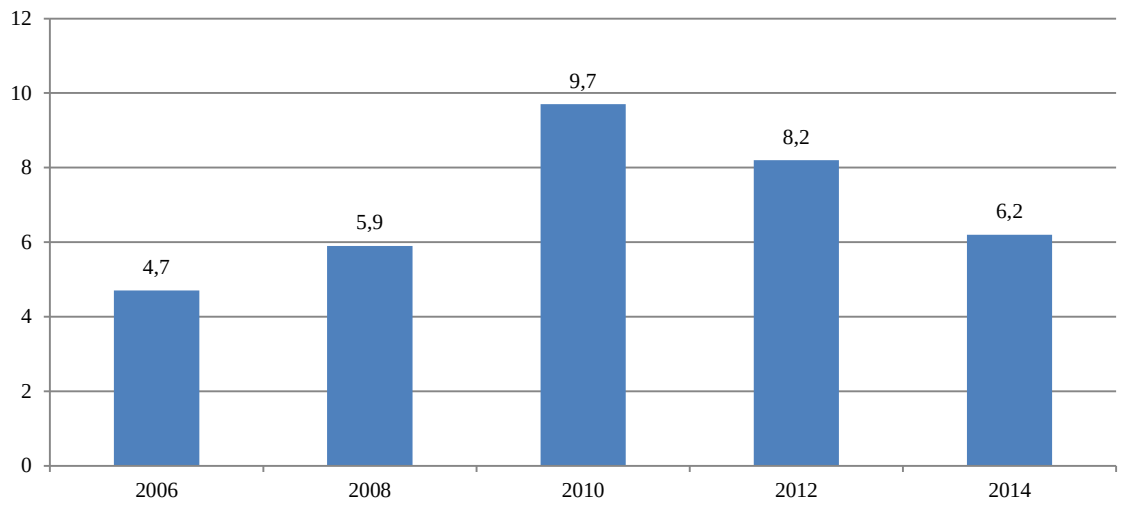

Fig. 2 *Unemployment Rate (%)*
Source: data.worldbank.org [1]

As it is visible from Figure 3 administration of Barack Obama was not successful in the sphere of dealing with public debt. If in 2006 it was about 55,3% in 2013 it was more than 96%. And more, according to Trading Economics data in 2014 it was 102.98% [4]. Only real economic growth and responsible economic policy can solve that problem that can burden next generations in the country.

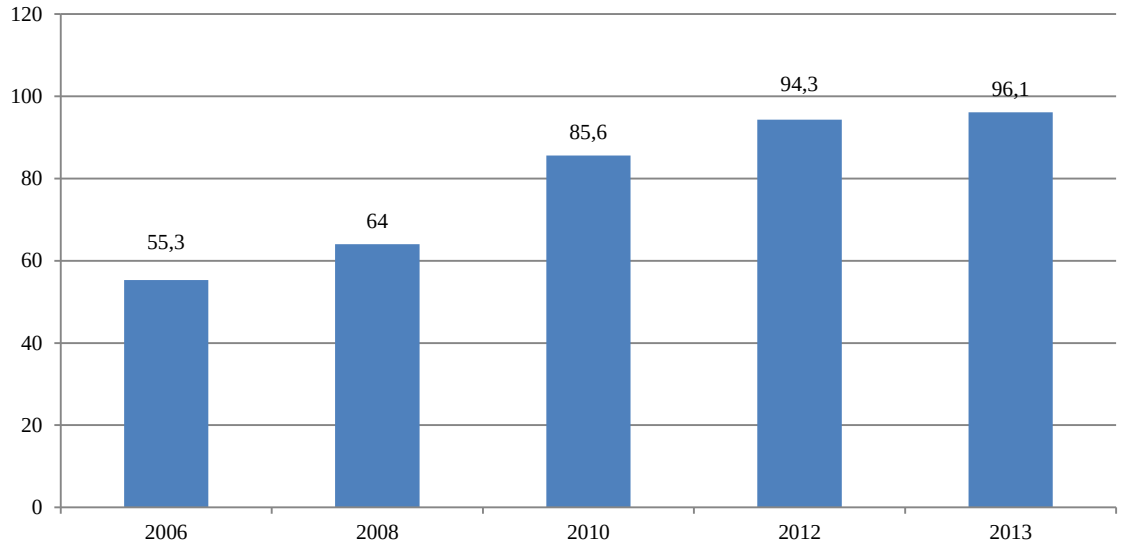

Fig. 3 *Central Government Debt (%)*
Source: data.worldbank.org [1]

3 Issues, Preferences and Presidential Candidates

Looking at Figure 4 economy stays as the top priority for US citizens. More than four fifth of the population indicate it as the top priority. The other crucial issues for all the people (for Democrats and also Republicans) are terrorism, budget deficit, foreign policy, immigration and environment. All these issues are important for more than half of the population.

What is alarming, it is expectation of the voters from the candidates.

Looking at Figure 6, according to US voters no candidate is really competent to lead country and to solve their real problems. Hillary Clinton (as current favorite of the Democratic Party) will be great or good president for about one third of the population, on the other hand she is not accepted for 44% of them.

Donald Trump (favorite of the Republican Party) is preferable candidate for about 30% of the population, but majority of the population does not want to see him in White House. But also other candidates are not doing better. Bernie Sanders has support of the 30% of Americans and Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio even less. These three candidates are in views of Americans more neutral comparing to Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump.

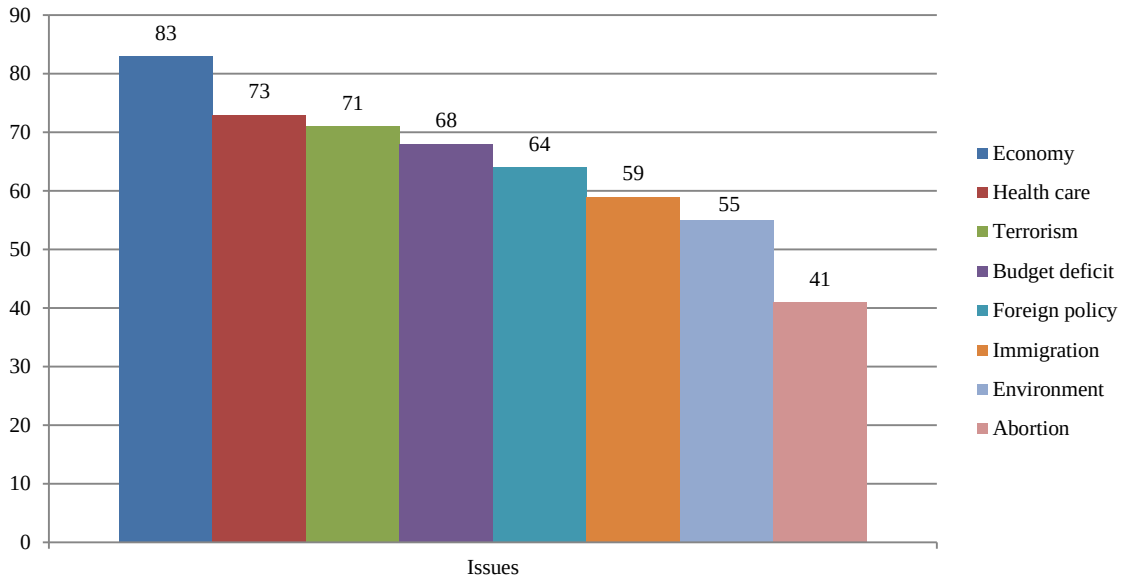

Fig. 4*Voter´s preferences (%) – issues*
Source: http://www.people-press.org/2015/10/02/contrasting-partisan-perspectives-on-campaign-2016/ [5]

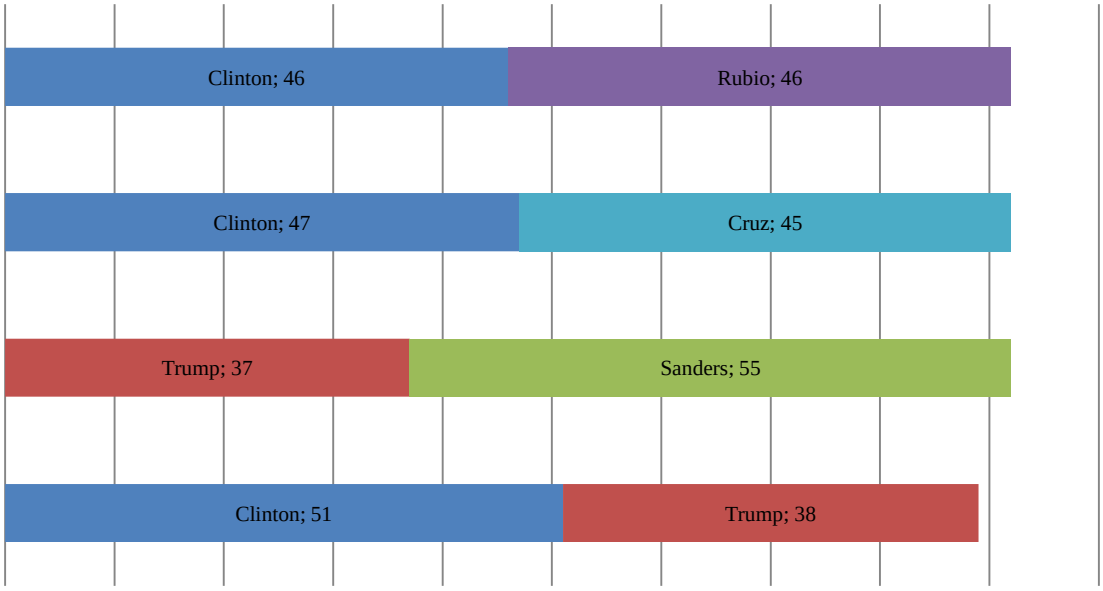

Fig. 5 *Candidate´s (poll) preferences*
Source: http://www.nbcnews.com/meet-the-press/how-trump-rubio-cruz-would-fare-against-clinton-november-n534191 [6]

What about preferences of the candidates Hillary Clinton seems to be favourite (Figure 5). It is pointed out in the case if Hillary Clinton will meet Donald Trump in the final part of the election process. Even if Bernie Sanders will meet Donald Trump Republicans will not have their candidate in the White House.
What about other possible duels between Hillary Clinton (as favourite of Democrats) and other two candidates of Republican Party they seem to be more equal (Figure 5). Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio are not dividing the society so evidently as Donald Trump does.
The question is if the Republicans are really prepared to support Donald Trump as candidate for the White House contest if he wins primary elections within the Republican Party. If not and he will become independent candidate it will surely help candidate of the Democratic Party.

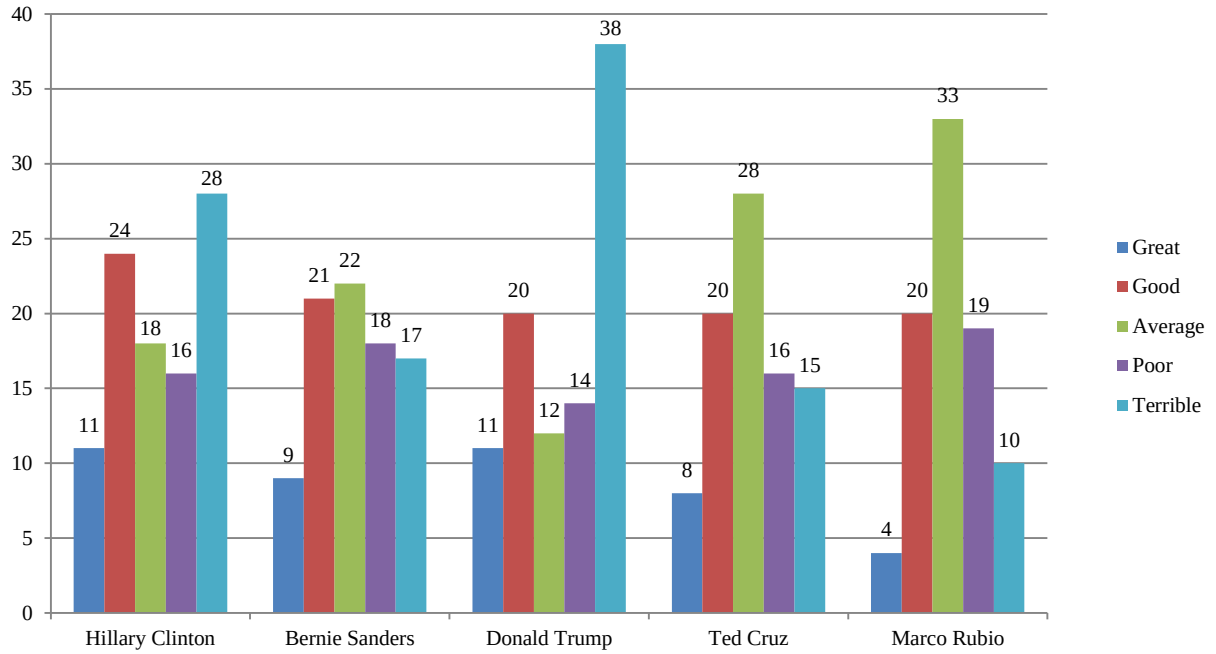

Fig. 6 *Voter´s views of candidates as possible presidents (%)*

Source: http://www.people-press.org/2016/01/20/voters-skeptical-that-2016-candidates-would-make-good-presidents/ [7]

4 Conclusion

American elections have always not only national but also global impact. The United States of America are still (and will remain) global power with direct impact of its policy on global (and often local) level. In words of Michael J. Boskin "big changes are underway in the United States, as the country gears up to elect a new president, one-third of the Senate, and the entire House of Representatives this November. The outcome will have profound consequences for US economic policy, and thus for the global economy." [8]

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