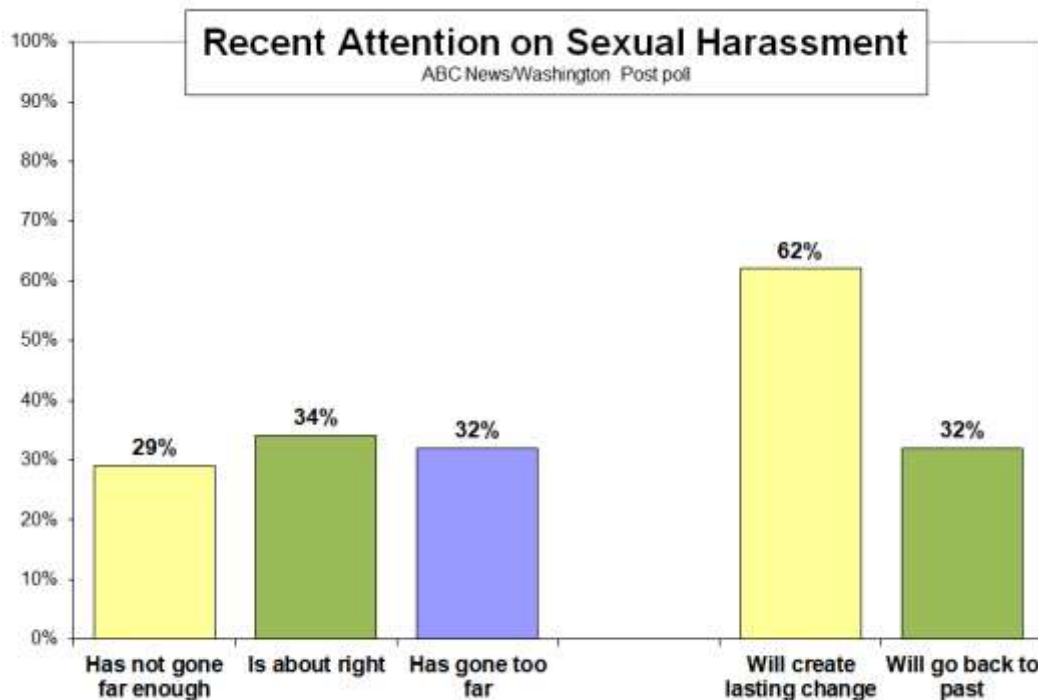


Six in Ten Have Hope for Lasting Change on Sexual Harassment

There's hope for a good outcome from the recent controversies over sexual harassment: Sixty-two percent of Americans in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll – men and women alike – think the debate will create a lasting change in the way U.S. society deals with the issue.

That result is accompanied by a rise in the perception of sexual harassment of women in the workplace as a problem – 83 percent now say so, including 72 percent who call it a “serious” problem. Both are up by 8 percentage points since allegations of sexual harassment by film mogul Harvey Weinstein lit the fuse in October.

About six in 10 also say attention on the issue either has been about right (34 percent) or has not gone far enough (29 percent). That leaves 32 percent who say it's gone too far – disproportionately, Republicans and strong conservatives.



GROUPS – The poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds women slightly more apt than men to see sexual harassment in the workplace as a problem, 86 vs. 81 percent, and more likely to call it a serious problem, 77 vs. 67 percent. Still, more of the gain since fall

has occurred among men – they’re 10 points more apt now to call the issue a problem, twice the rate of growth among women.

College-educated women are a bit more likely than those without a degree to call workplace sexual harassment a problem, 90 percent vs. 83 percent. There’s no such education gap among men.

Partisanship and ideology are related to these perceptions. Ninety-two percent of Democrats see sexual harassment in the workplace as a problem, vs. 83 percent of independents and 74 percent of Republicans. But, as with men, the biggest increase occurred among Republicans; 58 percent said it was a problem in October vs. 74 percent now, a steep 16-point rise. It’s up 11 points among “strong” conservatives, to 65 percent, though that falls short of statistical significance.

That said, Republicans and conservatives also are most likely to think attention on the issue has gone too far; 49 and 44 percent, respectively, say so, vs. 23 percent of Democrats and 15 percent of liberals. Independents and moderates are between the two, at 29 percent and 32 percent.

	Workplace sexual harassment				Attention on the issue		
	Problem		Serious problem		Not enough	About right	Gone too far
	Now	October	Now	October			
All	83%	75%	72%	64%	29%	34%	32%
Women	86	81	77	70	32	33	29
Men	81	71	67	60	26	35	35
Women <50	86	82	80	72	38	31	24
Men 50+	81	75	63	63	21	35	41
Republicans	74	58	59	42	16	29	49
Independents	83	76	72	66	31	37	29
Democrats	92	89	84	79	38	36	23
Strong cons.	65	56	57	45	18	28	51
Liberals	93	86	87	76	43	39	15

Thinking that recent attention hasn’t gone far enough peaks among liberals (43 percent), Democrats (38 percent), those in the lower end of the income range (37 percent) and nonwhites (37 percent). Women are a bit more likely than men to say so, 32 percent vs. 26 percent, respectively. That view is highest among women under 50, 38 percent, and lowest among men 50 and older, 21 percent. The latter are most likely to say it’s gone too far, 41 percent.

Though most men and women believe the debate will change the way that society deals with the sexual harassment of women, this view is differentiated by age. Those 50 and older are more likely than younger adults to say it will, peaking at 71 percent among older men. It’s lowest among younger men, 55 percent. Younger and older women alike fall between, at 59 and 65 percent, respectively.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 15-18, 2018, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of

1,005 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 31-23-40 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt Associates of Cambridge, Massachusetts. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Christine Filer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

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Full results follow.

18, 20 held for release. 1-17, 19, 21-26 previously released. * = <0.5%

Changing topics,

27. Do you think sexual harassment of women in the workplace is a problem in this country or not? (IF PROBLEM) Is it a serious problem, or not serious?

	----- Problem -----				Not a	No
NET	Serious	Not serious	No op.	problem	opinion	
1/18/18	83	72	11	NA	13	4
10/15/17	75	64	10	1	21	4
11/13/11	64	47	13	3	30	6
6/8/94	71	NA	NA	NA	27	2
12/14/92	85				13	2
10/13/91	74				21	5
10/12/91	76	"	"	"	16	7

28. Do you think recent attention on this issue (has not gone far enough), has been about right, or (has gone too far)?

	Not gone far enough	About right	Gone too far	No opinion
1/18/18	29	34	32	4

29. Just your best guess, do you think recent attention on the issue will create a lasting change in the way U.S. society deals with the sexual harassment of women, or do you think things will end up going back to the way they've been in the past?

	Will create lasting change	Will go back to past	No opinion
1/18/18	62	32	6

*** END ***