

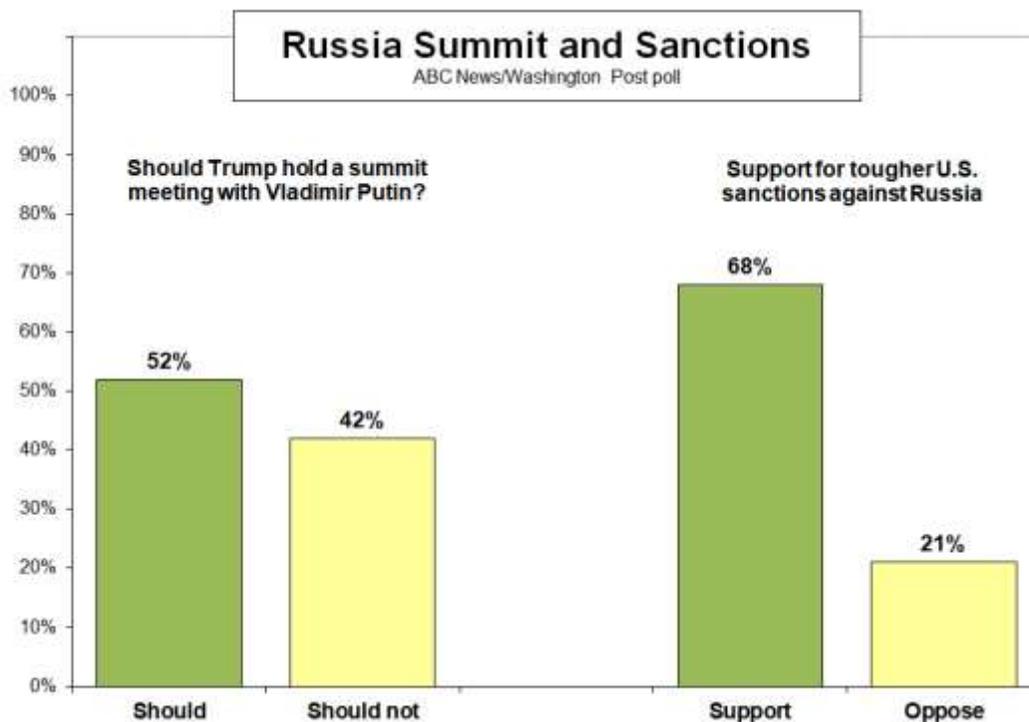
Majorities Back Trump Summits, Tougher Sanctions on Russia

A bipartisan majority of Americans in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll supports tougher sanctions on Russia in response to its alleged international misbehavior. Yet for half, a chitchat at the White House couldn't hurt, either.

With additional sanctions looming, 68 percent support tougher U.S. measures against Russia, four in 10 strongly so. That view spans partisan groups, a rarity in today's political climate, including 74 percent of Democrats, and 68 percent of Republicans and independents alike.

Even with support for sanctions, 52 percent favor Donald Trump holding a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the White House to try to improve U.S.-Russia relations; 42 percent oppose it on the grounds that doing so would legitimize alleged international lawbreaking.

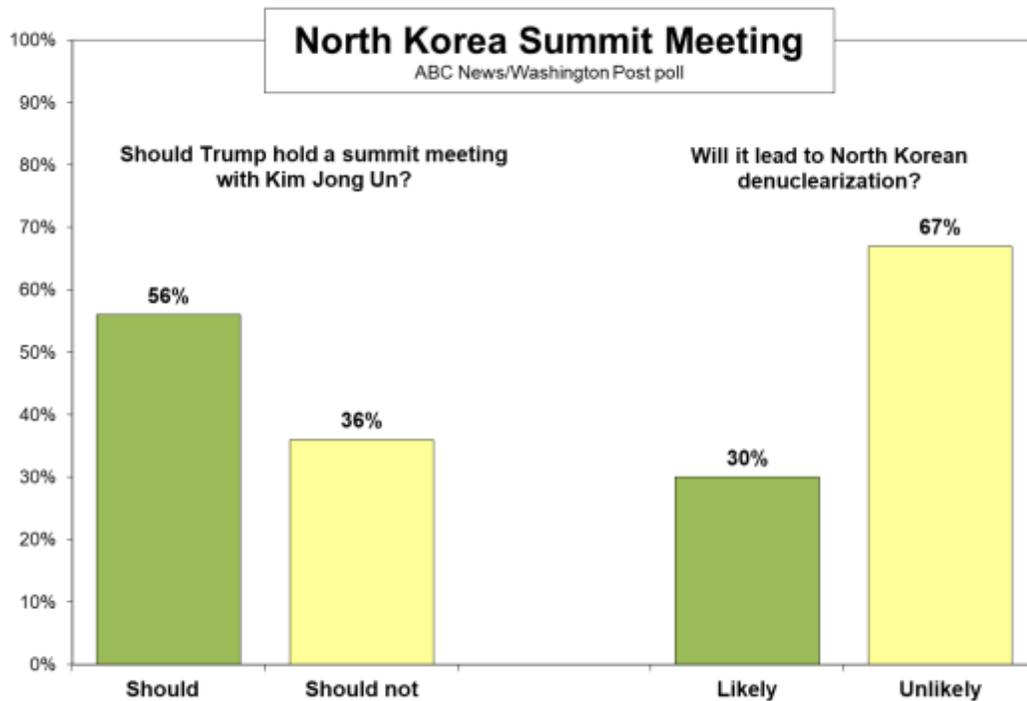
The public sees no contradiction in these views; among those who support a summit, 65 percent favor tougher sanctions as well.



A majority, 56 percent, also supports the planned summit between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, again rejecting the idea that this would legitimize outlaw behavior – and

despite substantial skepticism about its outcome. Two-thirds say the meeting is unlikely to lead to North Korea giving up its nuclear weapons. (Unsurprisingly, those who think the summit will lead to denuclearization support the meeting by 81-14 percent, while skeptics divide evenly.)

The results on both countries underscore a longstanding public preference for talking rather than fighting between nations. Indeed, six in 10 oppose Trump threatening military action against Pyongyang. It's also notable that most support a summit with Kim even though, in an ABC/Post poll last fall, just 32 percent trusted Trump to act responsibly in dealing with North Korea. In January, 52 percent expressed concern Trump would launch an unjustified nuclear attack; surely talks are preferable.



In another result on Russia, 49 percent say Trump has done too little to criticize Moscow, exceeding the 38 percent who say he's handled it about right. (Just 4 percent say he's criticized it too much.) The survey was conducted Sunday through Wednesday, before the U.S.-led air strikes on Syria. In announcing them, Trump challenged Russia for supporting the Assad regime.

GROUPS – The poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds sharply partisan results on a White House summit with Putin, an idea floated by Trump in a call with the Russian leader. Sixty-nine percent of Republicans support such a meeting, vs. 53 percent of independents and just 37 percent of Democrats. Support also is far higher among conservatives (66 percent) than moderates and liberals, 51 and 37 percent, respectively. That's a contrast to the bipartisan backing for more sanctions.

There are partisan and ideological gaps on a meeting with Kim, as well; it's supported by 70 percent of Republicans and conservatives, 56 and 57 percent of independents and moderates and 46 and 40 percent of Democrats and liberals.

Support for both mooted meetings is significantly higher among more pro-Trump groups, including more men than women, more whites than nonwhites and more rural dwellers than people in cities or suburbs. Support for a summit with Kim is higher among seniors than young adults.

While broadly based, support for tougher sanctions against Russia is 17 points higher among college graduates than non-college graduates and 18 points higher among seniors than young adults, whose support for sanctions, at 56 percent, is the lowest of any demographic group.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone April 8-11, 2018, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 32-25-35 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 Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Allison De Jong and Gary Langer.

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

Media contacts: [Heather Riley](#) or [Julie Townsend](#).

Full results follow.

14-18 held for release. 1-10, 22-27 previously released.
 *= less than 0.5 percent.

11. Do you think Trump should hold a summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in order to try to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, or do you think Trump should NOT hold a summit with Kim because it would give Kim legitimacy while his government allegedly violates international laws?

	Should hold summit meeting	Should NOT hold summit meeting	No opinion
4/11/18	56	36	8

12. How likely do you think it is that this meeting will lead to an agreement for North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons? Do you think this is very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

	----- Likely -----			----- Unlikely -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
4/11/18	30	5	25	67	25	42	3

13. Do you think Trump should or should not threaten U.S. military action against North Korea if it does not give up its nuclear weapons? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Should -----			----- Should not -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
4/11/18	31	18	14	61	20	42	7

19. Russia has been implicated in a variety of violations of international law. Do you think Trump has done (too much) or (too little) to criticize Russia on these issues, or has he handled it about right?

	Too	Too	About	No
	much	little	right	opinion
4/11/18	4	49	38	9

20. Would you support or oppose tougher U.S. sanctions against Russia? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
4/11/18	68	40	28	21	13	8	11

21. Do you think Trump should hold a summit meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin at the White House in order to try to improve U.S.-Russian relations; or do you think Trump should NOT hold a summit with Putin at the White House because it would give Putin legitimacy while his government allegedly violates international laws?

	Should hold	Should NOT hold	No
	summit meeting	summit meeting	opinion
4/11/18	52	42	6

*** END ***