

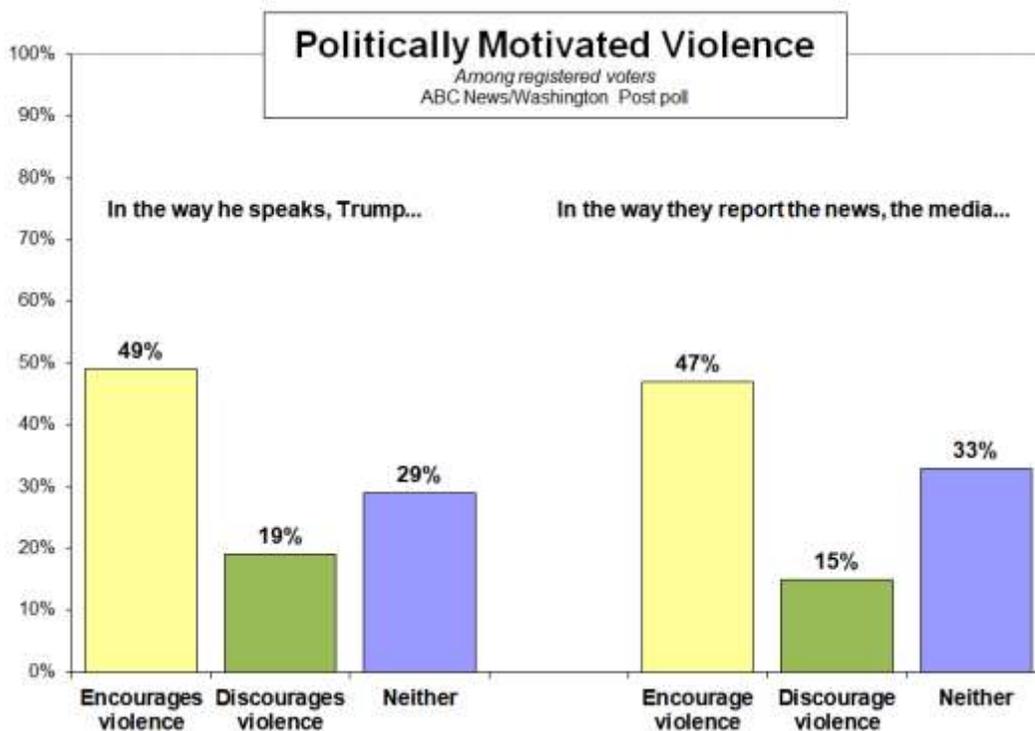
## **Half Say Trump Encourages Violence; As Many Say the Media Do, Too**

Half of registered voters in an ABC News/Washington Post poll think that in the way he speaks Donald Trump is encouraging politically motivated violence in the United States – and essentially as many say the media are doing the same in the way they report the news.

Just two in 10 say Trump is acting to discourage violence; 15 percent say the media are.

The national survey also finds the Democratic Party leading the Republicans in trust to handle “reducing divisions between people and groups,” by a substantial 15-point margin, 46-31 percent. Seventeen percent volunteer that they don’t trust either party, a high level for this response.

Sixty-nine percent in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), call reducing the country’s divisions a highly important issue in their vote for Congress next week.



After a fraught period including pipe bombs sent to Trump critics and the apparent hate-crime murders of 11 congregants at a Pittsburgh synagogue and of a black man and woman at a Kentucky grocery store, the survey's results on Trump and the media are dispiriting:

- Forty-nine percent say the way Trump speaks encourages political violence, while a mere 19 percent see him as discouraging it. Twenty-nine percent say he's neither encouraging nor discouraging violence – a subject on which neutrality is not a positive attribute.
- Trump, for his part, has blamed the media for contributing to “anger and division” in the country, and 47 percent in this survey say the way the media report the news encourages politically motivated violence. Only 15 percent say the media are discouraging such violence; 33 percent say they're neither encouraging nor discouraging it.

Sixteen percent see fault on both sides; they say both Trump and the media encourage violence.

**GROUPS** – Views on Trump and the media are highly partisan. Seventy-six percent of Democrats say Trump encourages violence in the way he speaks; 19 percent of Republicans agree. Even among Republicans, though, just one-third say Trump's approach discourages violence.

On the media, these numbers are essentially reversed: Sixty-nine percent of Republicans say the way the media report the news encourages politically motivated violence; 24 percent of Democrats agree. Just 19 percent of Democrats say the media discourage violence, similar to the share of Republicans who say so.

In the middle, as is typical, are political independents: Half see blame for Trump, and half also see blame for the media.

	Politically motivated violence					
	----- The way Trump speaks -----			---- The way the media report ----		
	Encourages	Discourages	Neither	Encourages	Discourages	Neither
All	49%	19	29	47%	15	33
Dems.	76	13	9	24	19	53
Reps.	19	31	47	69	14	13
Inds.	50	16	31	51	14	31

Divisions between conservatives and liberals are similar to what they are among Republicans and Democrats. In the sharpest difference, 83 percent of liberal Democrats say the way Trump speaks encourages violence, while just 17 percent of conservative Republicans agree. And 74 percent of conservative Republicans think the way the media report the news encourages violence, while only 16 percent of liberal Democrats see it that way.

In another sharp division, 68 percent of blacks see Trump as encouraging violence in the way he speaks; many fewer whites, but still 45 percent, say the same. And 51 percent of whites see the media as encouraging violence in the way they report the news; that falls to 30 percent of blacks.

On the question of trust to handle reducing divisions between people and groups, partisan and ideological divisions again are quite sharp, but the Democrats are notably competitive in some groups. In red states, those that backed Trump in 2016, 41 percent of registered voters pick the Democratic Party as better to reduce divisions, while 36 percent choose the GOP. Among white Catholics, a group Trump won by 23 percentage points in 2016, it's 43-39 percent. In districts in which congressional seats are in play, it's 44-35 percent. And in suburban areas it's 46-30 percent.

	Trust to handle reducing divisions among people and groups	
	Democratic Party	Republican Party
All	46%	31
Red states	41	36
Competitive House seats	44	35
White Catholics	43	39
Suburbs	46	30

Eighty percent of Democrats call reducing divisions highly important in their vote; so do 68 percent of independents, and 61 percent of Republicans – lower among Republicans than in all but two groups, college-educated white men and “somewhat” conservatives.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Oct. 29-Nov. 1, 2018, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,255 adults, including 1,041 registered voters. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points for the sample of registered voters, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 32-25-35 percent among all adults, and 33-27-34 percent among registered voters, 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 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.

1-5, 6a-f, 7a-f, 8-9, 12-13 held for release.

6. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Which political party the (Democrats) or the (Republicans) do you trust to do a better job handling [ITEM]?

11/1/18 - Summary Table

	Democrats	Republicans	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
g. reducing the divisions					

between people and groups in this country	46	31	2	17	4
--	----	----	---	----	---

7. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Now for each of those items, please tell me how important each will be in your vote for Congress this year. The first is [ITEM]. Will it be one of the single most important issues, very important, somewhat important or less important than that?

11/1/18 - Summary Table

	NET	----- Important 1 of most	----- Very	NET	-- Not as important - Somewhat	Less	No op.
g. reducing the divisions between people and groups in this country	69	17	52	28	20	8	3

10. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) In the way he speaks, do you think Trump is (encouraging) politically motivated violence in this country, (discouraging) it, or neither (encouraging) nor (discouraging) it?

	Encouraging	Discouraging	Neither	No opinion
11/1/18	49	19	29	4

11. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) In the way they report the news, do you think the news media are (encouraging) politically motivated violence in this country, (discouraging) it, or neither (encouraging) nor (discouraging) it?

	Encouraging	Discouraging	Neither	No opinion
11/1/18	47	15	33	4

\*\*\* END \*\*\*