

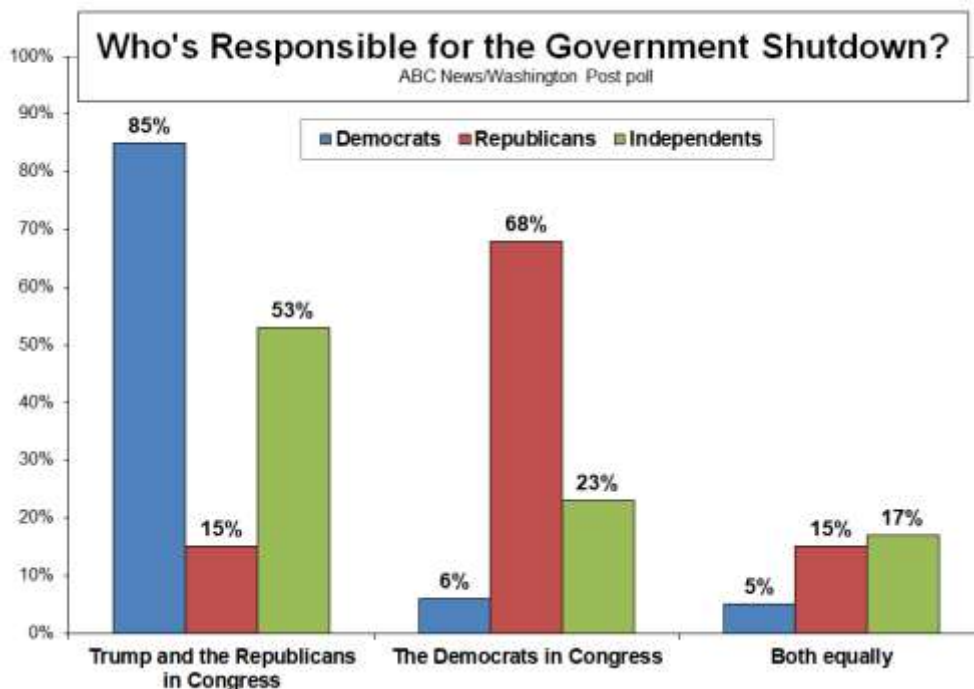
Trump, GOP Blamed for Shutdown; No Crisis Seen, but Fewer Oppose a Wall

A majority of Americans hold Donald Trump and congressional Republicans mainly responsible for the partial federal shutdown now in its unprecedented 23rd day. Only a quarter back Trump's claim that there's a crisis at the southern border and two-thirds in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll oppose his declaring a national emergency to fund a wall there.

At the same time, support for a border wall has increased since the last time border security issues forced the parties into a standoff. Forty-two percent now support a wall, the most in ABC/Post polling since Trump first proposed it. Fifty-four percent are opposed.

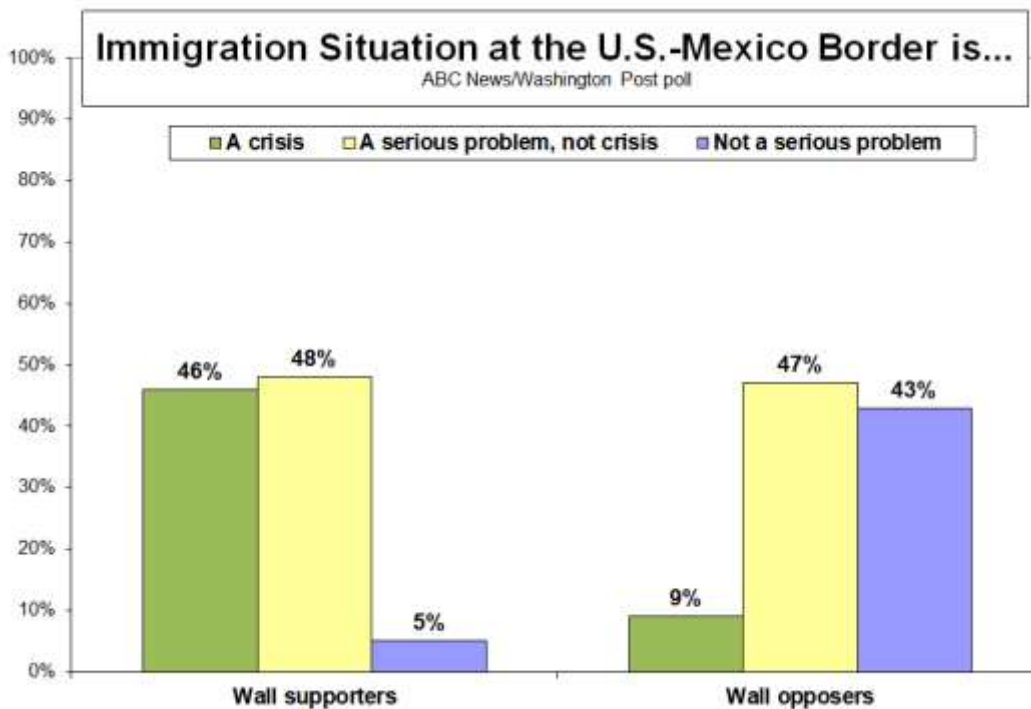
Fifty-three percent in the national survey say Trump and the GOP are mainly responsible for the shutdown, while 29 percent blame congressional Democrats, nearly a 2-1 margin against the president and his party. Thirteen percent say both equally are at fault. (Slightly fewer, 48 percent, blamed Trump and his party during the brief partial shutdown a year ago.)

Responsibility is assigned largely along party lines. But while 85 percent of Democrats and 78 percent of liberals mainly blame Trump and the GOP for the partial shutdown, fewer Republicans (68 percent) or conservatives (50 percent) mainly blame the Democrats in Congress. A third of conservatives say Trump and the congressional Republicans are at fault.



Only 18 percent in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), say they've personally been affected by the partial shutdown. But 79 percent say it'd be a serious problem or a crisis if it were to continue for months.

A wide majority of Americans reject the claim at the heart of Trump's address to the nation last week: Just 24 percent think the immigration situation at the border is at a crisis level. Even among supporters of a border wall, a less-than-overwhelming 46 percent see a crisis, along with just 9 percent of wall opposers. Still, about half in both groups say it's a serious problem, though not a crisis (48 percent of wall supporters, 47 percent of wall opposers).



As noted, while more still oppose rather than back a wall, support has increased to 42 percent, up from 34 percent a year ago and a previous high of 37 percent in 2017. Opposition, 54 percent, is down from 63 percent a year ago and a previous low of 60 percent two years ago.

These shifts have occurred chiefly among Republicans, whose support for the wall has gained 16 percentage points vs. a year ago; conservatives, +10 points; and independents, +11.

“Strong” opposition also has declined, from 52 percent last January to 38 percent now. That still outpaces strong support, 29 percent.

Notably among groups, whites support a wall by a slight 54-44 percent. Nonwhites oppose it, 22-72 percent. Support among whites is +10 points vs. a year ago.

Despite higher support for the wall, 66 percent oppose Trump using emergency powers to get it built. Half strongly oppose this course, double the number who strongly support it. Notably, use

of emergency powers is backed by majorities in only a few Trump-friendly groups, including Republicans and strong conservatives – both of whom are for it by 30-point margins or more.

By comparison, nine in 10 Democrats and liberals are in opposition, as are seven in 10 independents and moderates. And those who are only somewhat conservative diverge from those who are very conservative, 44 percent supporting vs. 69 percent.

Outside partisans, though support is low across the board, it falls particularly among Americans younger than 40 (15 percent) and nonwhites (16 percent), compared with four in 10 of their older and white counterparts alike.

As noted, 18 percent have been inconvenienced by the partial shutdown, with 7 percent reporting major inconvenience. That falls between the other major partial shutdowns: By the end of the 2013 shutdown, 22 percent said they had been inconvenienced by it, vs. 12 percent in the 1995-1996 episode.

Regardless of personal inconvenience, 38 percent say it would be a crisis if the shutdown were to continue for several months, and an additional 41 percent say it'd be a serious problem.

COMPROMISE? – About four in 10 wall supporters and opponents alike want their side to compromise to end the shutdown, even if that means being flexible with their demands.

People who oppose the wall divide on whether the Democrats in Congress should continue to refuse funding even if it extends the shutdown, or should compromise to end it, 50-45 percent. On the other side, among those who support the wall, 57 percent favor Trump continuing to demand wall funding, while 39 percent say compromise is the way to go. On a net basis, this means that 24 percent of Americans both support the wall and want Trump to go to the mat for it; 27 percent both oppose it and say the Democrats in Congress should stick to their guns.

Those who have strong sentiments on the issue, naturally, are less apt to favor compromise.

Beyond the groups cited above, there's been a 13-point increase in support for the wall among college graduates, now 43 percent. That compares with no significant change among Democrats and most Democratic-leaning groups, including young adults, liberals and nonwhites.

	Support for a border wall		
	2018	Now	Diff.
All	34%	42%	+8
Democrats	12	12	0
Republicans	71	87	+16
Independents	29	40	+11
College educated	30	43	+13
Non-college educated	35	42	+7
Northeast	32	31	-1
Midwest	35	49	+14
South	35	44	+9

West	32	40	+8
Age 18-39	23	28	+5
40+	40	51	+11
Liberals	13	14	+1
Moderates	28	35	+7
Conservatives	57	67	+10
Whites	44	54	+10
Nonwhites	16	22	+6
Hispanics	13	16	+3
Men	39	48	+9
Women	29	36	+7

By contrast, the decline in strong opposition to the wall came across groups. Notably, moderates and 18- to 29-year-olds saw the largest drops, of 24 points each, as well as independents, 20 points down.

At the same time, as mentioned, Trump has majority backing for declaring a national emergency to get the wall built only in his base. Among others, his position's far underwater.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 8-11, 2019, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 788 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 4.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 31-26-39 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 SSRS of Glen Mills, Pa. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Sofi Sinozich.

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

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

Full results follow.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. As you may know, the federal government has been partially shut down because (Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress) and (Democrats in Congress) cannot agree on laws about border security. Who do you think is mainly responsible for this situation - (Trump and Republicans in Congress) or (Democrats in Congress)?

	Trump and Republicans in Congress	Democrats in Congress	Both equally (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
1/11/19	53	29	13	2	4

Compare to:

As you may know, the federal government might have to partially shut down later this week if (Trump and Republicans in Congress) and (Democrats in Congress) cannot agree on laws about immigration and border security. Who do you think is mainly responsible for this situation - (Trump and Republicans in Congress) or (the Democrats in Congress)?

	Trump and Republicans in Congress	Democrats in Congress	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
1/18/18	48	28	18	1	5

2. Have you personally been inconvenienced by the partial shutdown of the federal government, or not? (IF YES) Has it been a major inconvenience or a minor inconvenience?

	---- Yes, inconvenienced ----					
	NET	Major	Minor	No op.	No	No opinion
1/11/19	18	7	10	1	82	1
10/20/13*	22	11	11	0	78	*
1/7/96*	12	4	8	NA	88	*
1/3/96	12	5	6		88	1
11/19/95	12	6	6	"	88	*

*Phrased in past tense

3. How much of a problem, if at all, would it be if the government shutdown continues for several months? Would this be a crisis, a serious problem but not a crisis, or would this not be a serious problem?

	A crisis	A serious problem but not a crisis	Not a serious problem	Not a problem (vol.)	No opinion
1/11/19	38	41	18	1	2

4. Do you support or oppose building a wall along the U.S. border with Mexico? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/11/19	42	29	13	54	15	38	4
1/18/18	34	25	9	63	11	52	3
9/21/17	37	27	10	62	9	53	1
1/15/17	37	25	12	60	13	47	3
9/8/16*	34	24	10	63	11	52	3

*Do you support or oppose building a wall across the entire U.S. border with Mexico? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

5. (ASK IF OPPOSE THE WALL OR NO OPINION/REFUSED) Do you think Democrats in Congress should continue to refuse funding for a border wall even if it extends the government shutdown, or should they compromise on this to end the shutdown?

Among those who oppose the wall:

	Dems should refuse funding	Dems should compromise	No opinion
1/11/19	50	45	5

NET Q4/Q5

Support border wall	-----	Oppose border wall Dems should refuse funding	-----	No op.	No opinion
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1/11/19 42 54 27 23 3 4

6. (ASK IF SUPPORT THE WALL OR NO OPINION/REFUSED) Do you think Trump should continue to demand funding for a border wall even if it extends the government shutdown, or should he compromise on this to end the shutdown?

Among those who support the wall:

	Trump should demand funding	Trump should compromise	No opinion
1/11/19	57	39	5

NET Q4/Q6

	NET	Support border wall Trump should demand funding	Oppose border wall Trump should compromise	No opinion op.	NET	Oppose border wall Strongly	No opinion
1/11/19	42	24	16	2	66	51	4

7. Presidents can declare a state of national emergency, giving them special powers to take action without approval from Congress. Do you support or oppose Trump using emergency powers to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	NET	Support Strongly	Support Somewhat	NET	Oppose Somewhat	Oppose Strongly	No opinion
1/11/19	31	25	6	66	14	51	4

8. Do you think the situation with illegal immigration across the U.S.-Mexico border is currently a crisis, a serious problem but not a crisis, or not a serious problem?

	A crisis	A serious problem but not a crisis	Not a serious problem	Not a problem (vol.)	No opinion
1/11/19	24	47	26	1	1

*** END ***