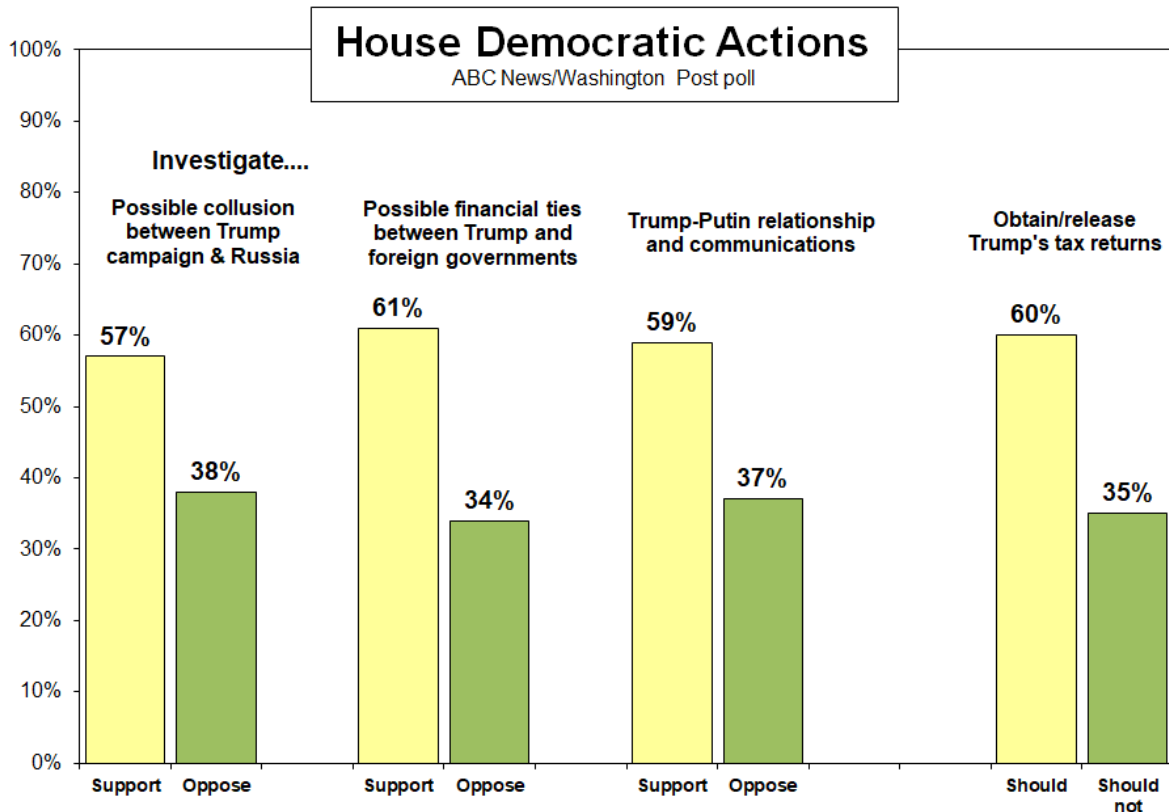


## **Six in 10 Back Democratic Inquiries – Including Release of Trump Taxes**

Six in 10 Americans in an ABC News/Washington Post poll say the new Democratic majority in the House should make use of its authority to obtain and publicly release Donald Trump’s tax returns, while about as many support other Democratic-led investigations of the president.

Beyond the tax issue, 57 to 61 percent back House investigations into three topics tested in the national survey: possible collusion between Trump’s 2016 presidential campaign and Russia, Trump’s relationship and communications with Russian President Vladimir Putin and possible financial ties between Trump and foreign governments.

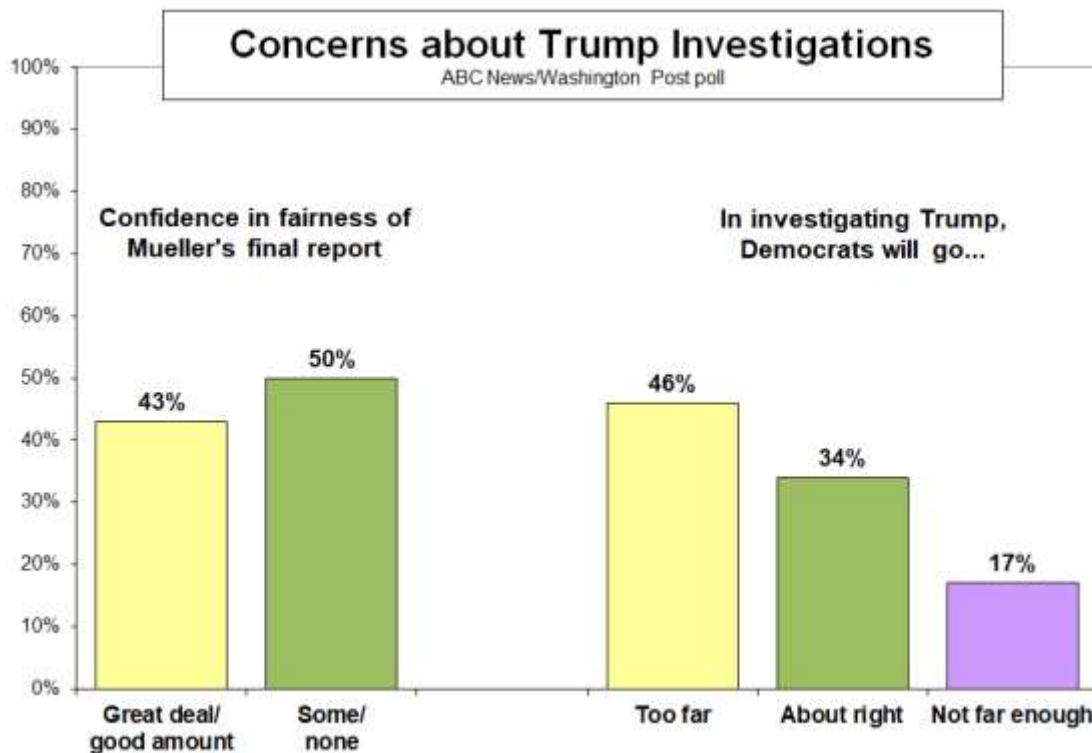


Fewer, 40 percent, support Congress beginning impeachment proceedings against Trump, with 55 percent opposed. That support is down nine percentage points from August, in a survey conducted shortly after Trump’s former campaign chairman, Paul Manafort, was convicted of fraud and his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, pleaded guilty to campaign finance violations at what he said was Trump’s direction.

This survey, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), was completed Thursday, a day before the Justice Department special counsel, Robert Mueller, indicted former Trump adviser Roger Stone on charges of obstruction, false statements and witness tampering.

Another result shows the politicized nature of Mueller’s work. Just 43 percent of Americans express confidence that his eventual report will be “fair and even-handed,” while 50 percent doubt it. Trust in Mueller reaches 62 percent among Democrats, but slides to 40 percent among political independents and just 22 percent among Republicans.

There’s also a warning about possible overreach in House Democratic investigations: Forty-six percent think the Democrats will go too far in investigating Trump. That said, 51 percent either think they’ll handle this about right (34 percent) – or will not go far enough, 17 percent.



Those expectations inform support for further investigation. Among those who think House Democrats will go too far, just 26 percent support their investigating possible collusion between Trump’s campaign and Russia, for example. Among those unworried about overreach, support soars to 85 percent.

GROUPS – Majorities across most demographic groups support House Democrats’ obtaining and releasing Trump’s tax returns; he broke with recent precedent and refused to do this in the 2016 campaign. While Trump’s most supportive groups generally oppose the move, it wins over 39 percent of conservatives, a quarter of Republicans and 23 percent of those who approve of his

work in office. That rises to 63 percent of political independents and 65 percent of moderates, and on to 86 percent of Democrats and 84 percent of liberals.

Political and ideological division are similar when it comes to House investigations of possible collusion, the Trump/Putin relationship and possible Trump financial ties to other governments. (Republicans are most skeptical of a collusion investigation, with 74 percent opposed.)

Support for initiating impeachment proceedings, for its part, peaks at 64 percent among Democrats (down from 75 percent in August), dropping to 42 percent of independents and 7 percent of Republicans. It's also backed by 61 percent of liberals, 42 percent of moderates and, notably, three in 10 of those who describe themselves as "somewhat" conservative.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 21-24, 2019, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 32-24-37 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

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

Analysis by Allison De Jong.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>. Readers are welcome to [subscribe](#) to the Langer Research Associates email distribution list.

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

Full results follow.

\*= less than 0.5 percent

1, 7-12 previously released. 2-6, 18-22 held for release.

13. As you may know, Special Counsel Robert Mueller has been investigating possible collusion between Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and Russia, among other issues. How much confidence do you have that Mueller's final report will be fair and even-handed - a great deal of confidence, a good amount, just some or none at all?

	-Grt deal/Good amt-			----- Some/none ----			
	Great	Good		Just	None	No	
	deal	amount	NET	some	at all	opinion	
1/24/19	43	24	19	50	28	22	7

14. Do you support or oppose the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives using their congressional authority to investigate [ITEM]?

1/24/19 - Summary table

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
a. whether or not Trump's 2016 campaign colluded with Russia	57	38	5

b. suspected financial ties between  
 Trump and foreign governments 61 34 4

c. Trump's relationship and communications  
 with Russian President Vladimir Putin 59 37 4

15. Do you think the Democrats in the U.S. House of Representatives should or should not use their congressional authority to obtain and release Trump's tax returns? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Should -----			----- Should not -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/24/19	60	46	14	35	9	26	5

16. Just your best guess... Do you think Democrats will (go too far) investigating Trump, will they (not go far enough), or will they handle this about right?

	Go too far	Not go far enough	About right	No opinion
1/24/19	46	17	34	3

17. Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not begin impeachment proceedings that could lead to Trump being removed from office? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Should begin -----			--- Should not begin ---			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/24/19	40	33	7	55	13	42	6
8/29/18	49	40	9	46	13	33	5

Compare to:

Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not impeach Clinton and remove him from office?

	--- Should be impeached ---			-- Should not be impeached --			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opin.
12/6/98	33	NA	NA	64	NA	NA	3
11/22/98	30	NA	NA	66	NA	NA	4
11/1/98	27	NA	NA	71	NA	NA	2
10/25/98	29	NA	NA	66	NA	NA	5
10/18/98	29	NA	NA	68	NA	NA	3
10/10/98	31	25	6	64	11	53	4
9/28/98	31	24	7	66	14	52	3
9/21/98	41	NA	NA	57	NA	NA	2
9/14/98	38			59			3
9/13/98*	30			64			6
8/23/98**	24			70			6
8/19/98**	30			65			5
8/17/98**	25			69			6

\*Washington Post: "As you may know, the independent counsel Kenneth Starr has delivered a report to Congress summarizing his investigation of the Lewinsky matter. Based on what you know or have heard..."

\*\* "If he does not resign, do you think..."

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