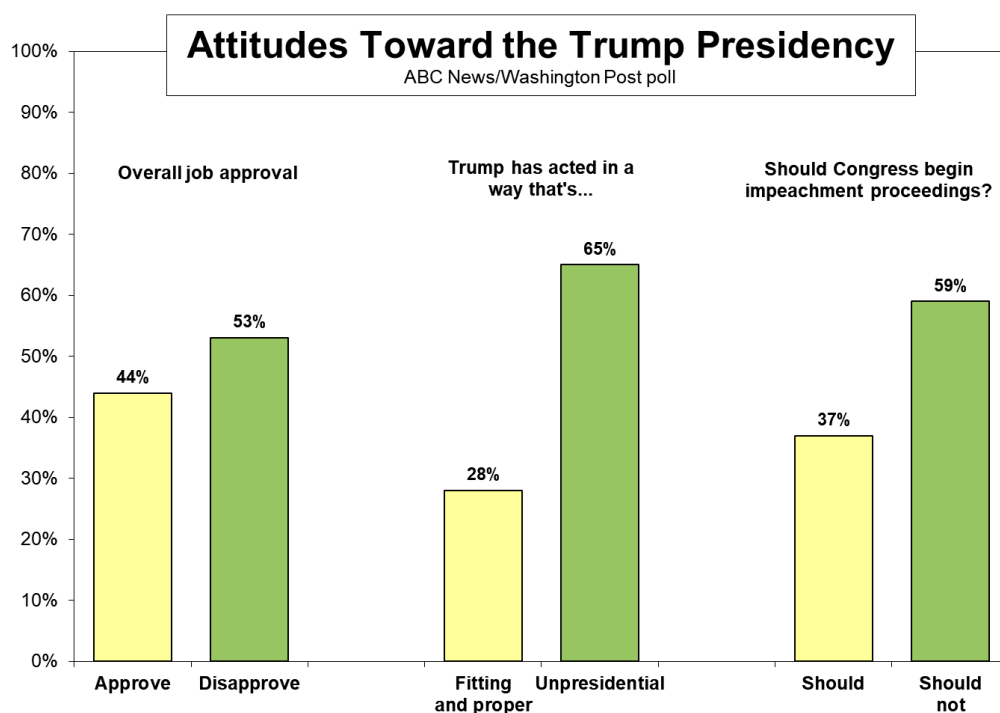


## Trump Reaches Career-High Approval, Yet Faces a Range of Re-Election Risks

Bolstered by a strong economy, Donald Trump reached the highest job approval rating of his career in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll and runs competitively for re-election against four of five possible Democratic contenders. Yet he remains broadly unpopular across personal and professional measures, marking his vulnerabilities in the 2020 election.

Forty-four percent of Americans approve of Trump's overall job performance, up a slight 5 percentage points from April and 2 points better than his peak early in his presidency. Still, 53 percent disapprove, keeping him at majority disapproval continuously for his first two and a half years in office, a record for any president in modern polling.



Fifty-one percent approve of Trump's handling of the economy, more than half for the first time in his presidency. His approval ratings across eight other issues all are substantially lower, ranging from 42 percent on handling taxes to 29 percent on global warming.

Personally, moreover, a broad 65 percent say that since taking office Trump "has acted in a way that's unpresidential," not far from the 70 percent who said so in mid-2017 and early 2018 alike.

Just 28 percent in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), say his behavior is “fitting and proper” for a president.

That said, support for Congress initiating impeachment proceedings against Trump remains unchanged since April at 37 percent, while opposition to this step has grown by 13 points since August to 59 percent, a new high. Sixty-one percent of Democrats favor impeachment action, but just 37 percent of independents – and 7 percent of Republicans – agree.

TRIAL HEATS – Even while it’s up, Trump’s historically low approval rating makes him vulnerable in the 2020 elections – but hardly a pushover. Among all adults (there’s plenty of time to register to vote), Joe Biden leads Trump by 14 points. But that narrows among the other four Democrats tested against Trump in this poll – an 8-point lead for Kamala Harris, a slight 7 points for Elizabeth Warren, 6 for Bernie Sanders and 4 for Pete Buttigieg. The latter two don’t reach statistical significance.

Among registered voters, moreover, Biden still leads, by 10 points, but the other races all tighten to virtual or actual dead heats – Trump a non-significant -2 points against Harris, -1 against Sanders and exactly tied with Warren and Buttigieg.

Another question tests Trump against “a Democratic candidate who you regard as a socialist” – relevant given the Republicans’ stated aim of applying that label to their eventual opponent. Among the general public the race is tied among Trump vs. a perceived socialist; among registered voters it goes +6 to Trump, 49 to 43 percent, not a significant difference.

	All adults	Diff.	Reg. voters	Diff.
Trump vs.				
Biden	41-55%	-14 pts.	43-53%	-10 pts.
Harris	43-51	-8	46-48	-2
Warren	44-51	-7	48-48	=
Sanders	45-51	-6	48-49	-1
Buttigieg	44-48	-4	47-47	=
A socialist	46-46	=	49-43	+6

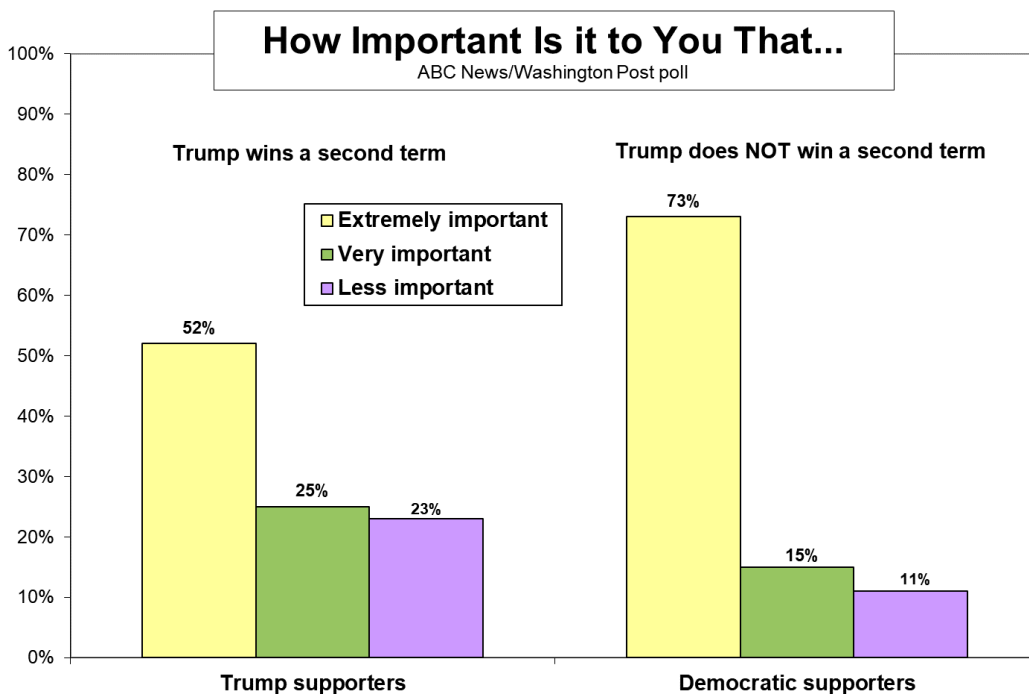
Results show some notable differences among groups. Moderates favor Biden over Trump by a 29-point margin, compared with 18- to 15-point margins for Warren, Sanders or Buttigieg vs. Trump (and 21 points for Harris). Biden leads among most groups save traditionally GOP-leaning ones, including whites who lack a college degree, conservatives, older adults and rural Americans. Among blacks, Biden’s 83-12 lead is as good as Harris’ 77-16 percent. And Biden has a 17-point lead among college-educated white women, which is better than Harris’ 9 points and Warren’s 7 points in the same key Democratic group. Indeed neither of those is a statistically significant lead.

The differences between all adults and registered voters mark a longtime GOP advantage; their support groups are more apt to be signed up to vote. Just 64 percent of 18- to 29-year-olds, a broadly Democratic group, are registered, vs. 92 percent of those 50 and older. And only 71 percent of nonwhites are registered, including 61 percent of Hispanics (a group with more younger adults and non-citizens alike), vs. 89 percent of whites.

These are early days, of course, with time aplenty for preferences to develop. It's also worth noting that, as the 2016 contest showed, polling ahead in – and winning – the national vote is not necessarily the same as winning the Electoral College.

**INTENSITY GAP** – Other questions show the extent of political divisions on Trump's re-election campaign, with an edge to Democratic supporters in intensity of sentiment, specifically the level of importance they place on winning.

Among current Trump supporters (those who back him against all Democrats tested), 52 percent call it extremely important to them that he wins a second term. At the same time, among current Democratic supporters (those who back all Democrats tested vs. Trump), 73 percent call it extremely important to them that Trump does *not* win – a wide 21-point intensity gap for the opposition. The question is whether that translates into turnout.



In another measure, 48 percent of adults say there's no chance they'd consider Trump against any Democratic candidate. It's 46 percent among currently registered voters.

**ISSUES** – The economy, health care and immigration top the public's list of most important issues in the 2020 election, each cited by about eight in 10 Americans. Foreign policy, gun violence, issues of special interest to women and taxes make up the next tier, each called a top issue by about seven in 10. Abortion (highly important to 61 percent) and global warming (54 percent) follow.

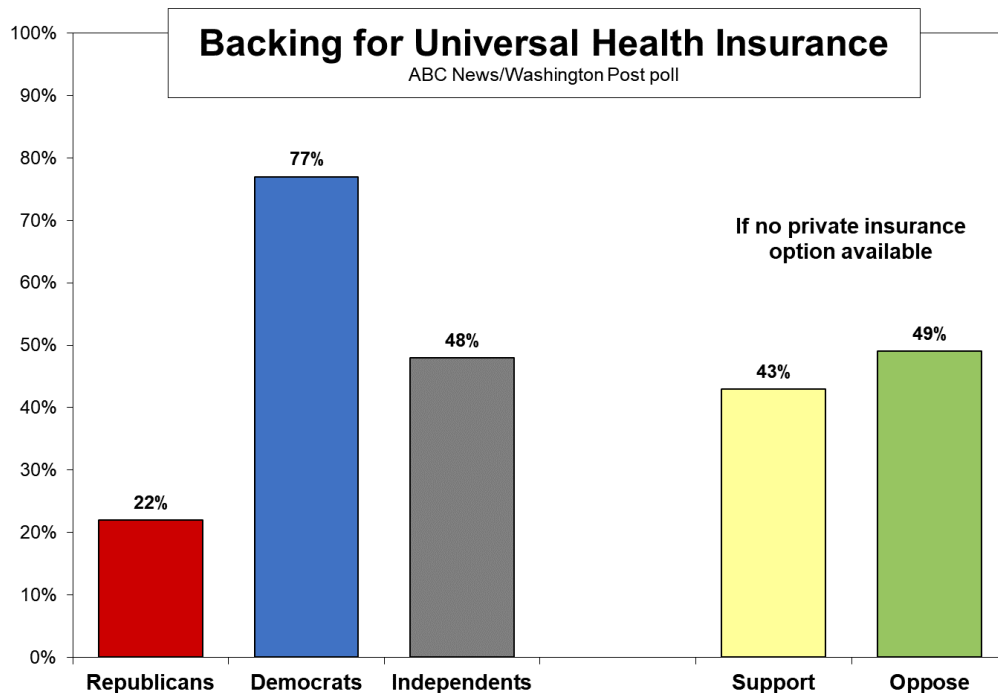
There are partisan divisions in these views, some quite striking. Democrats are 14 points more likely than Republicans to cite health care – the key winning issue for Democratic candidates in

2018 – as a top voting issue in 2020. It’s the same gap for abortion. The gap grows on gun violence and women’s issues, with Democrats 24 points more apt than Republicans to name either as highly important issues. And it’s a vast 55 points on global warming.

Republicans, for their part, are 24 points more likely to say taxes are a top issue in their vote. They’re also less keyed up about these issues in general, with an average top importance score of 68 percent (73 percent excluding global warming), vs. 79 percent among Democrats.

	----- Highly important in 2020 vote -----				
	All adults	Democrats	Independents	Republicans	D-R gap
Economy	82%	79%	82%	86%	-7 pts.
Immigration	80	82	80	86	-4
Health care	80	90	76	76	+14
Foreign policy	72	76	67	74	+2
Gun violence	71	86	68	62	+24
Women’s issues	69	85	61	61	+24
Taxes	68	57	67	81	-24
Abortion	61	71	57	57	+14
Global warming	54	81	56	26	+55

**SINGLE PAYER** – Views on “Medicare for all” in health care further mark the partisan gap in policy preferences. Fifty-two percent of Americans support a government-run, taxpayer-funded insurance program like Medicare for all people. That includes 77 percent of Democrats, declining to 48 percent of independents and then dropping further to 22 percent of Republicans.



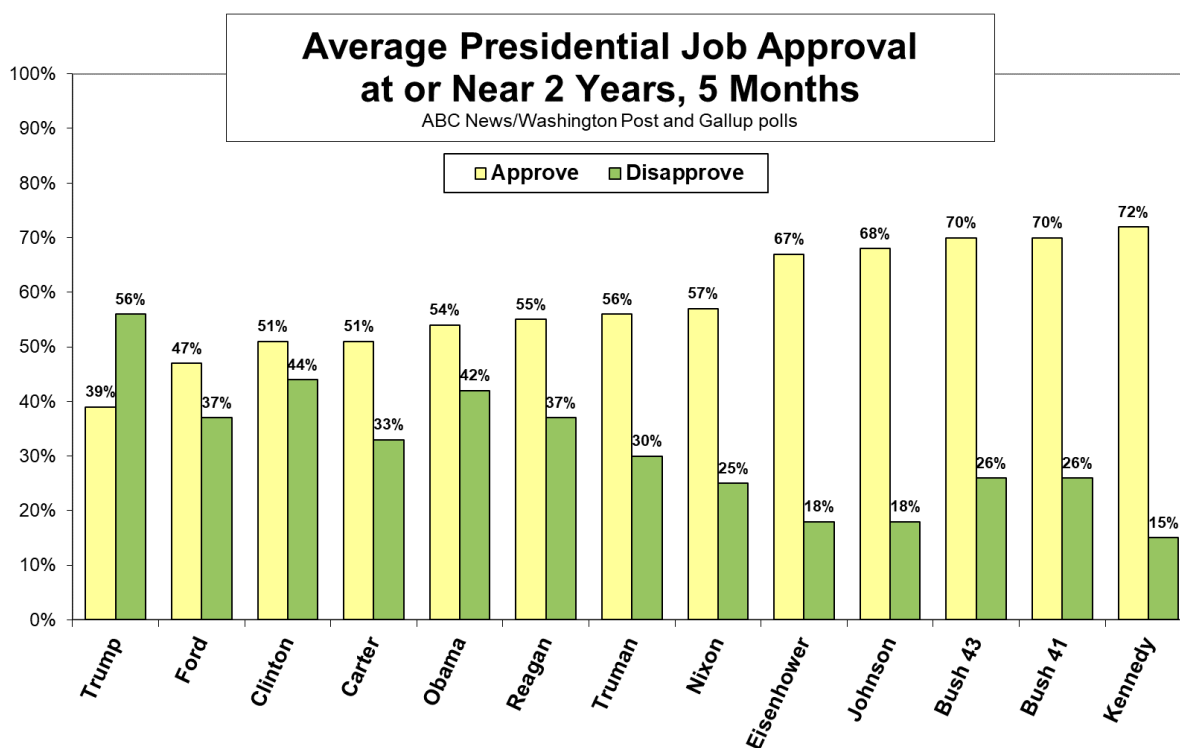
Support for a single-payer system was 56 percent in 2006 and is down from 62 percent in an ABC/Post poll in 2003. Compared with 2003, there’s been essentially no change among

Democrats (73 percent support then, 77 percent now), but big drops in support among independents, down 17 points, and Republicans, down 23 points.

If such a system did away with private health insurance, support declines to 43 percent overall – 64 percent among Democrats, vs. 40 percent among independents and 14 percent among Republicans. That makes it a potential wedge issue for the GOP.

At the same time, underlying concerns are extensive. Seventy-one percent of Americans are very or somewhat worried about being able to afford the cost of their health care (including 45 percent very worried). On this, Democrats and independents are aligned, at 79 and 73 percent, respectively. It's lower but still a majority among Republicans, 58 percent. As such, while the GOP appeals to concerns about the potential demise of private insurance, the Democrats may push back with arguments about the high cost of care in the current system.

**REFERENDUM** – At the end of the day, a second-term election is a referendum on the incumbent. Reaching a career high is a good result for Trump – though he has far to go. His rating has been both extraordinarily stable (36 to 44 percent) and low since he took office. He's averaged 39 percent approval in his first two and a half years, the lowest on record in the same period for any president in polling data back to the Truman administration – and a broad 21 points below the pre-Trump average, 60 percent.



Partisan differences in views of Trump are vast; 87 percent of Republicans approve while just 10 percent of Democrats agree. But there are some issues on which he's less well rated in his own party, slipping under 70 percent approval on gun violence, issues of special importance to women, abortion and, especially – at just 58 percent in-party approval – global warming.

	----- Approve of Trump -----			
	All adults	Democrats	Independents	Republicans
Overall	44%	10%	43%	87%
Economy	51	19	52	88
Immigration	40	8	45	86
Health care	38	7	41	76
Foreign policy	40	8	35	76
Gun violence	36	7	33	69
Women's issues	32	5	38	66
Taxes	42	12	48	74
Abortion	32	9	30	65
Global warming	29	5	27	58

In terms of the election, it helps to focus on independents, as they're likeliest to serve as swing voters. Trump has a 43 percent overall job approval rating among independents; 54 percent disapprove, with more disapproving strongly (46 percent) than strongly approving (30 percent). Across the eight individual issues tested in this poll, Trump's approval among independents goes lower, averaging 39 percent.

Independents are in the middle generally, and almost precisely at the midpoint between Democrats and Republicans on the top three issues of importance to voters in the election, the economy, immigration and health care. That further marks these issues as the field on which the campaign ahead is likely to be fought most intensely.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone June 28-July 1, 2019, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,008 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 29-23-37 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 Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on new poll releases.

Media contacts: [Van Scott](#) (212-456-7243) or [Caragh Fisher](#) (212-456-3437).

Full results follow.

4-13 previously released, 24-25 held for release.

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

-----	Approve	-----	-----	Disapprove	-----	No
NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion

7/1/19	44	32	12	53	8	45	3
4/25/19	39	28	12	54	9	45	6
1/24/19	37	28	9	58	9	49	5
11/1/18	40	28	12	53	9	43	8
10/11/18	41	29	12	54	7	46	6
8/29/18	36	24	12	60	7	53	4
4/11/18	40	25	15	56	10	46	4
1/18/18	36	24	13	58	9	49	5
11/1/17	37	25	12	59	8	50	4
9/21/17	39	26	13	57	9	48	4
8/20/17	37	22	15	58	13	45	5
7/13/17	36	25	11	58	10	48	6
4/20/17	42	27	15	53	10	43	5

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling [ITEM]?

7/1/19 - Summary Table

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
a. the economy	51	42	6
b. immigration	40	57	2
c. taxes	42	49	9
d. health care	38	54	8
e. issues of special concern to women	32	56	12
f. abortion	32	54	14
g. gun violence	36	52	12
h. foreign policy	40	55	5
i. (climate change), also known as (global warming)	29	62	9

\*Full sample asked item a; half sample asked items b-e; other half asked f-i.

Trend, where available:

a. the economy

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
7/1/19	51	NA	NA	42	NA	NA	6
10/11/18	49	35	14	46	11	35	5
8/29/18	45	30	15	47	12	36	8
4/11/18	46	30	16	48	12	36	6
9/21/17	43	27	16	49	13	36	8
7/13/17	43	26	17	41	12	29	16

b. immigration

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
7/1/19	40	NA	NA	57	NA	NA	2
4/25/19	39	29	10	57	11	46	4
9/21/17	35	24	11	62	11	51	3

c-h. No trend

i. climate change, also known as global warming

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
7/1/19	29	NA	NA	62	NA	NA	9

Compare to: Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling global warming?

	----- Approve -----				----- Disapprove -----				No
	NET	Strngly	Smwht	No op.	NET	Smwht	Strngly	No opin.	opinion
6/11/18	34	19	15	*	57	12	44	0	9

3. How much credit do you think the Trump administration deserves for the country's economic situation - a great deal, a good amount, only some, or hardly any?

	- Grt deal/Gd amt-			- Some/Hardly any -			None	No
	NET	Great deal	Good amt	NET	Only some	Hardly any	(vol.)	opinion
7/1/19	47	30	17	48	27	20	4	2

Compare to: How much credit do you think [ITEM] deserves for the country's economic situation, a great deal, a good amount, only some, or hardly any?

1/18/18 - Summary Table

	- Grt deal/Gd amt-			- Some/Hardly any -			None	No
	NET	Great deal	Good amt	NET	Only some	Hardly any	(vol.)	opinion
a. the Trump administration	38	19	19	56	29	27	3	3
b. the Obama administration	50	24	26	45	24	21	3	2

Now thinking about the general election,

14. If the 2020 presidential election were being held today, and the candidates were (Donald Trump, the Republican) and ([ITEM], the Democrat), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Trump) or ([ITEM])?

7/1/19 - Summary Table

	Trump	The Democrat	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
a. Joe Biden	41	55	*	2	1	1
b. Bernie Sanders	45	51	*	2	1	1
c. Elizabeth Warren	44	51	*	2	1	1
d. Kamala Harris	43	51	1	2	1	2
e. Pete Buttigieg	44	48	1	2	1	3

7/1/19 - Summary Table among registered voters

	Trump	The Democrat	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
a. Joe Biden	43	53	*	1	*	1
b. Bernie Sanders	48	49	1	2	1	1
c. Elizabeth Warren	48	48	1	1	1	1
d. Kamala Harris	46	48	1	2	*	2
e. Pete Buttigieg	47	47	1	2	1	3

15. (ASK IF NOT TRUMP IN ANY ITEM) Is there a chance you'd consider voting for Trump against any possible Democratic candidate, or is there no chance of that?

	Would consider Trump	No chance	No opinion
7/1/19	4	95	2



Q14/15 NET:

	----- Not Trump in any item -----				
	NET	Would consider Trump	No chance	No opinion	Support Trump at least once
7/1/19	51	2	48	1	49

16. (ASK IF TRUMP IN ALL ITEMS) How important is it to you personally that Trump wins a second term as president - is this extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or less important than that?

	--- More important ---			--- Less important ---			No opinion
	NET	Extremely	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	
7/1/19	77	52	25	23	16	7	0

Q14/16 NET:

	----- Trump in all items -----						Not Trump in at least one item
	NET	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Less	No opinion	
7/1/19	43	22	11	7	3	0	58

17. (ASK IF NOT TRUMP IN ANY ITEM) How important is it to you personally that Trump does not win a second term as president - is this extremely important to you, very important, somewhat important, or less important than that?

	--- More important ---			--- Less important ---			No opinion
	NET	Extremely	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	
7/1/19	89	73	15	11	6	5	1

Q14/17 NET:

	----- Not Trump in any item -----						Support Trump at least once
	NET	Extremely	Very	Somewhat	Less	No opinion	
7/1/19	51	37	8	3	2	*	49

18. Since taking office, do you think Trump has acted in a way that's (fitting and proper for a president of the United States), or has he acted in a way that's (unpresidential)?

	Fitting and proper	Unpresidential	No opinion
7/1/19	28	65	7
1/18/18	25	70	5
7/13/17	24	70	6

19. 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 opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
7/1/19	37	29	8	59	13	46	4
4/25/19	37	29	9	56	13	43	6
3/29/19*	41	NA	NA	54	NA	NA	5
1/24/19	40	33	7	55	13	42	6
8/29/18	49	40	9	46	13	33	5

\*3/29 Post-Schar School

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	opinion
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..."

20. Thinking again about the general election in 2020, for each item I name please tell me how important it will be in your vote for president - one of the single most important issues, very important, somewhat important, or less important than that?

7/1/19 - Summary Table

	----- Important -----			-- Not as important -			No
	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opin.
a. the economy	82	21	61	17	15	2	1
b. immigration	80	25	56	18	15	3	2
c. taxes	68	13	55	31	26	5	1
d. health care	80	19	61	19	16	3	1
e. issues of special concern to women	69	13	56	30	23	6	1
f. abortion	61	14	47	37	28	10	2
g. gun violence	71	17	54	29	20	9	*
h. foreign policy	72	12	59	27	25	2	1
i. (climate change), also known as (global warming)	54	15	40	44	27	17	1

\*Full sample asked item a; half sample asked items b-e; other half asked f-i.

Trend, where available:

a. the economy

	-----Important-----			-Not as important-			No
	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opinion
7/1/19	82	21	61	17	15	2	1
4/18/04	79	14	65	20	18	2	*
3/7/04	79	14	65	21	18	3	*
10/29/03	89	16	73	10	10	*	*
9/13/03	85	15	70	15	14	1	*

b. No trend.

c. taxes

-----Important-----	-Not as important-	No
---------------------	--------------------	----

	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opinion
7/1/19	68	13	55	31	26	5	1
4/18/04	55	8	47	45	38	7	1
3/7/04	62	10	52	38	32	6	*
10/29/03	63	8	55	37	32	5	*
9/13/03	67	7	60	33	29	4	*

d-e. No trend.

f. abortion

	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opinion
7/1/19	61	14	47	37	28	10	2
9/13/03*	42	6	36	57	36	21	2
* "the abortion issue"							

g. gun violence

	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opinion
7/1/19	71	17	54	29	20	9	*

Compare to:

Gun control

	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opinion
9/13/03	41	6	35	59	40	19	*

h. foreign policy

	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opinion
7/1/19	72	12	59	27	25	2	1

Compare to:

Foreign affairs

	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opinion
10/29/03	62	5	56	38	33	4	1

International affairs

	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opinion
10/29/03	53	7	47	45	37	8	1
9/13/03	60	8	52	40	35	5	*

i. No trend.

21. What do you think about being able to afford the cost of your health care, including the cost of insurance and your out-of-pocket costs, over the next few years - is that something you're very worried about, somewhat worried, not so worried or not worried about at all?

	NET	Very	Smwt.	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
7/1/19	71	45	27	28	12	17	*

22. Which would you prefer, (the current health insurance system in the United States, in which most people get their health insurance from private employers, but some people have no insurance); or (a universal health insurance program, in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that's run by the government and financed by taxpayers?)

	Current	Universal	No opinion
7/1/19	41	52	7
9/12/06*	40	56	4
10/13/03	33	62	6

\*ABC/Kaiser/USA Today

23. (ASK IF UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE) Would you support or oppose Medicare for all if it meant there was no private insurance option available?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
7/1/19	83	14	3

Q22/23 NET:

	Current	NET	Support w/o private	Oppose w/o private	No opin.	No opinion
7/1/19	41	52	43	7	2	7

26. All else equal, if the election were between (Trump) and (a Democratic candidate who you regard as a socialist), who would you support - (Trump) or (the Democrat who you regard as a socialist)?

	Trump	Socialist	No opinion
7/1/19	46	46	8
7/1/19 RV	49	43	8

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