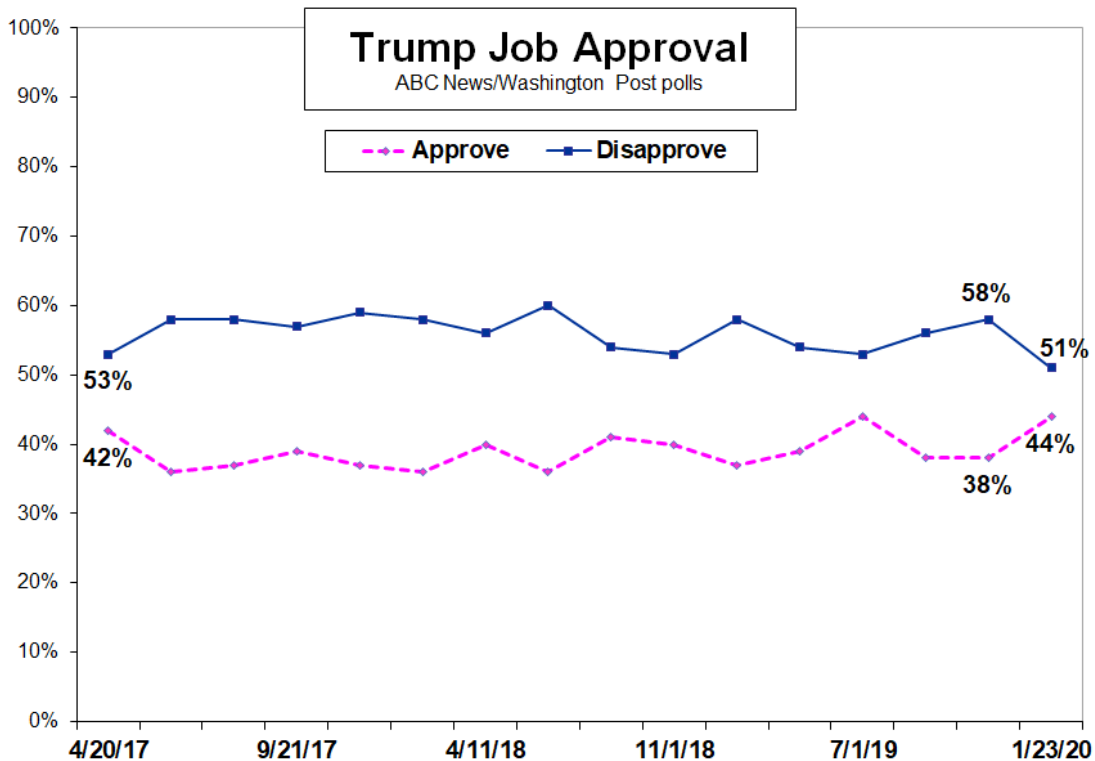


Two-Thirds Call for Senate Witnesses; Trial Aside, the Economy Boosts Trump

Two-thirds of Americans in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll say the U.S. Senate should call new witnesses at Donald Trump’s impeachment trial, and the public divides on his removal from office – even as Trump’s approval rating has rallied to match his career high.

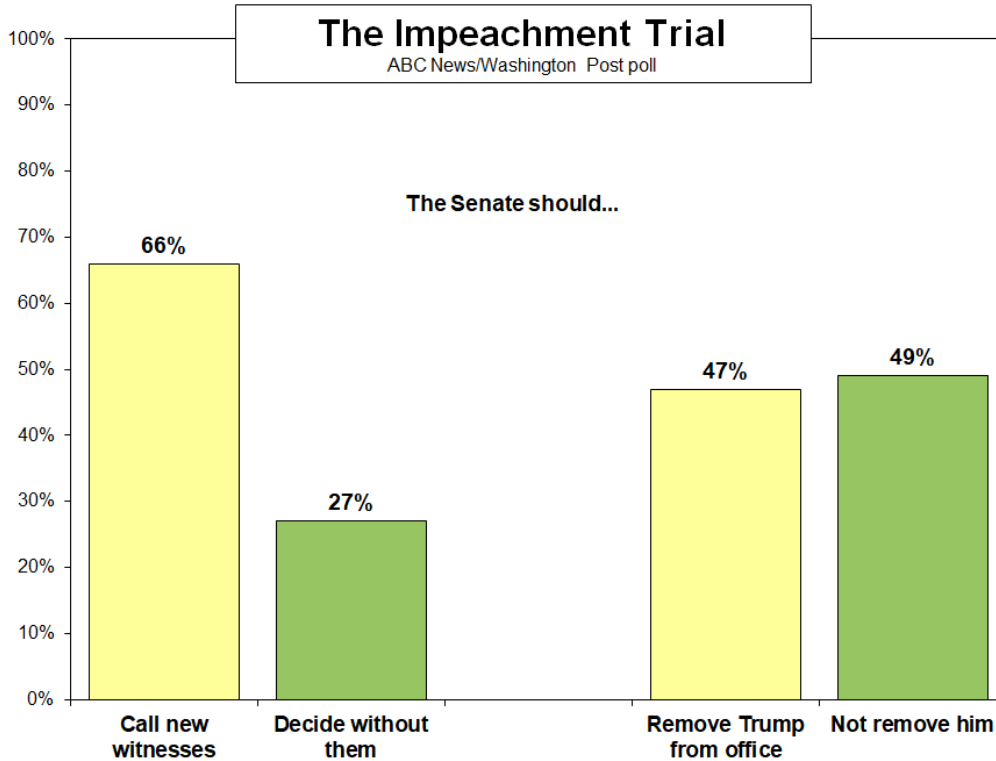
Forty-four percent now approve of Trump’s performance in office; 51 percent, disapprove, maintaining his position as the first president in modern history never to achieve majority approval. That said, bolstered by the economy, his approval is up 6 percentage points since late October, with disapproval down 7 points to a new low.



Trump, moreover, reaches majority approval on another measure – 56 percent, a career high, for his handling of the economy, up 10 points from early September. Those who approve of his work on the economy are far more apt than others also to approve of his job performance overall.

Views on Trump’s handling of his impeachment, by comparison, are far weaker, at 39 percent – unchanged in the past month and a wide 17 points lower than his rating on the economy.

Divisions on impeachment remain sharp in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). The public narrowly approves of the House vote to impeach Trump, 52-45 percent, while splitting, 47-49 percent, on whether the Senate should or should not remove him from office. Partisanship prevails; 83 percent of Democrats favor Trump’s removal, while 88 percent of Republicans oppose it. Among independents, 42 percent back removing Trump, with 51 percent opposed.



Previous ABC/Post polls asked whether Congress should “impeach Trump and remove him from office”; the last result, in mid-December, was 49-46 percent. This poll tested the two actions separately, with, as noted, a slight difference: Fifty-two percent approve of his impeachment while 47 percent support his removal. Among the gaps, Democrats, blacks and college graduates are 9 or 10 points more apt to support Trump’s impeachment than his removal.

Views are far more polarized than they were during Bill Clinton’s impeachment trial 21 years ago. In ABC/Post polling at the time, 59 percent disapproved of the House vote to impeach Clinton, and 66 percent opposed his removal from office.

	Support-Oppose	
	Impeachment	Removal
Trump (Jan. 2020)	52-45%	47-49
Clinton (Dec. 1998)	40-59	33-66

FAIR? – With interviews conducted during the start of proceedings, 56 percent of Americans say they expect Trump to receive a fair trial in the Senate. While a majority, that’s down from 62 percent in pre-trial sentiment.

Changes among groups are telling: Compared with views in mid-December, there’s been a 16-point drop among Democrats and a 10-point drop among independents in confidence that the Senate trial will be fair, partly countered by an 11-point increase among Republicans.

Ultimate views of the trial may hinge on developments ahead: As noted, 66 percent say the Senate should call new witnesses to testify. That includes 45 percent of Republicans, rising to 65 percent of independents and 87 percent of Democrats.

Similarly, nearly half of those who oppose Trump’s removal from office nonetheless want to hear from new witnesses – 47 percent – as do 85 percent of those who say he should be removed.

With the trial underway, the political fallout of Trump’s impeachment is yet to be seen. But if it ends with him impeached but not removed – as is likely, given the balance of power in the Senate – 33 percent of Americans say they’d view that as a victory for Trump, vs. 10 percent who’d see it as a victory for the Democrats. Most, 51 percent, would call it a draw.

APPROVAL – Trump’s 44 percent overall job approval rating matches his high set last July; it had dipped to 38 percent in early September and late October alike. He’s averaged 39 percent approval in 16 ABC/Post measurements across his presidency, the lowest for any president at this point in modern polling, dating to the Truman administration 75 years ago.

	Average approval at 3 years*
Kennedy	71%
Eisenhower	69
Bush (41)	68
Bush (43)	67
Johnson	64
Nixon	57
Reagan	55
Truman	55
Obama	53
Clinton	51
Carter	48
Ford	47
Trump	39

*Kennedy and Ford served fewer than three years
Carter and previous by Gallup

Trump’s largest gains in approval since late October, 12 or 13 points, have come in a range of disparate groups, including men, moderates, Republicans, middle-income Americans, rural residents and 18-to 29-year-olds.

He's at a record high in approval among men, 57 percent, compared with 33 percent approval among women – the widest gender gap to date, 24 points. The gap between non-college white men and college-educated white women also is at a new high, 38 points – 75 vs. 37 percent.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 20-23, 2020, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 27-24-39 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 all new poll releases.

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Full results follow.

2b, 3-14, 20-24 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
1/23/20	44	35	10	51	9	42	4
10/30/19	38	30	8	58	10	48	5
9/5/19	38	27	11	56	8	48	6
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]?

1/23/20 - Summary Table

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
a. the economy	56	38	6
c. his impeachment	39	50	11

Trend:

a. the economy

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/23/20	56	NA	NA	38	NA	NA	6
9/5/19	46	NA	NA	47	NA	NA	7
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

c. his impeachment

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
1/23/20	39	50	11
12/15/19*	39	53	8

*"has handled the impeachment inquiry"

Compare to:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump has responded to the impeachment inquiry in the U.S. House of Representatives?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
10/30/19	34	58	9

15. Do you approve or disapprove of the vote by the U.S. House of Representatives to impeach Trump?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
1/23/20	52	45	3

Compare to:

Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not impeach Trump and remove him from office? Do you feel that way strongly, or only somewhat?

	----- Should impeach -----				----- Should not impeach -----				No op.
	NET	Strongly	Somewht	No op.	NET	Somewht	Strongly	No op.	op.
12/15/19	49	38	11	*	46	12	34	*	5
10/30/19	49	44	5	NA	47	10	37	NA	4

Compare to:

Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not impeach Clinton and remove him from office? Do you feel that way strongly, or only somewhat?

	--- Should be impeached ---			-- Should not be impeached --			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
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

Compare to:

As you may know, the House of Representatives has voted to impeach Bill Clinton. Next the Senate will hold a trial to decide whether or not Clinton should be removed from office. First, do you approve or disapprove of the House vote to impeach Clinton?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
12/20/98	40	59	1
12/19/98	41	59	1
12/16/98*	40	58	2
12/15/98**	39	60	1
12/13/98***	38	61	1
12/11/98****	38	60	2
12/6/98	33	64	3
11/22/98	30	66	4
11/1/98	27	71	2
11/1/98 LV	33	65	3
10/25/98	29	66	5
10/25/98 LV	32	62	6
10/18/98	29	68	3
10/18/98 LV	34	62	3
9/28/98*****	31	66	3
9/28/98 LV	38	60	2
9/21/98	41	57	2
9/14/98	38	59	3

*"...House of Representatives is expected to vote soon on whether or not to impeach..."

**"...will vote this week on whether or not to impeach..."

***"The full House will vote on impeachment next week, and if the House impeaches Clinton the Senate will decide whether he should be removed from office. Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not impeach Clinton and remove him from office? (GET ANSWER, THEN ASK: Do you feel that way strongly, or only somewhat?)"

****New introduction

*****Asked strongly/somewhat follow 12/13 and 9/28

16. Trump is now being tried by the U.S. Senate, which will decide whether or not he should be removed from office. Do you think the Senate should or should not remove Trump from office? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	-- Should remove Trump --			-Should not remove Trump-			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/23/20	47	38	8	49	9	40	5

Compare to:

Clinton now will face trial by the Senate, which will decide whether or not he should be removed from office. Do you think the Senate should or should not remove Clinton from office?

	Should remove him from office	Should not remove from office	No opinion
12/20/98	33	66	2
12/19/98	34	65	1
12/15/98*	39	59	1

*"If the House does impeach Clinton, do you think the Senate should or should not remove him from office?"

17. How confident are you that Trump will receive a fair trial in the Senate - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	----- Confident -----			---- Less confident ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
1/23/20	56	25	31	41	19	22	3

Compare to:

If Trump is impeached, the U.S. Senate will hold a trial on whether or not to remove him from office. How confident are you that Trump would receive a fair trial in the Senate - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	----- Confident -----			---- Less confident ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
12/15/19	62	31	31	35	16	19	3

18. Do you think the Senate should (call new witnesses to testify at the impeachment trial), or do you think it should (decide the impeachment case without calling new witnesses to testify)?

	Call new	Decide without	No
	witnesses	new witnesses	opinion
1/23/20	66	27	7

19. If Trump is impeached but not removed from office, would you see that overall as a victory for (the Democrats), a victory for (Trump), or a split decision?

	Victory for	Victory	Split	No
	Democrats	for Trump	decision	opinion
1/23/20	10	33	51	6

END