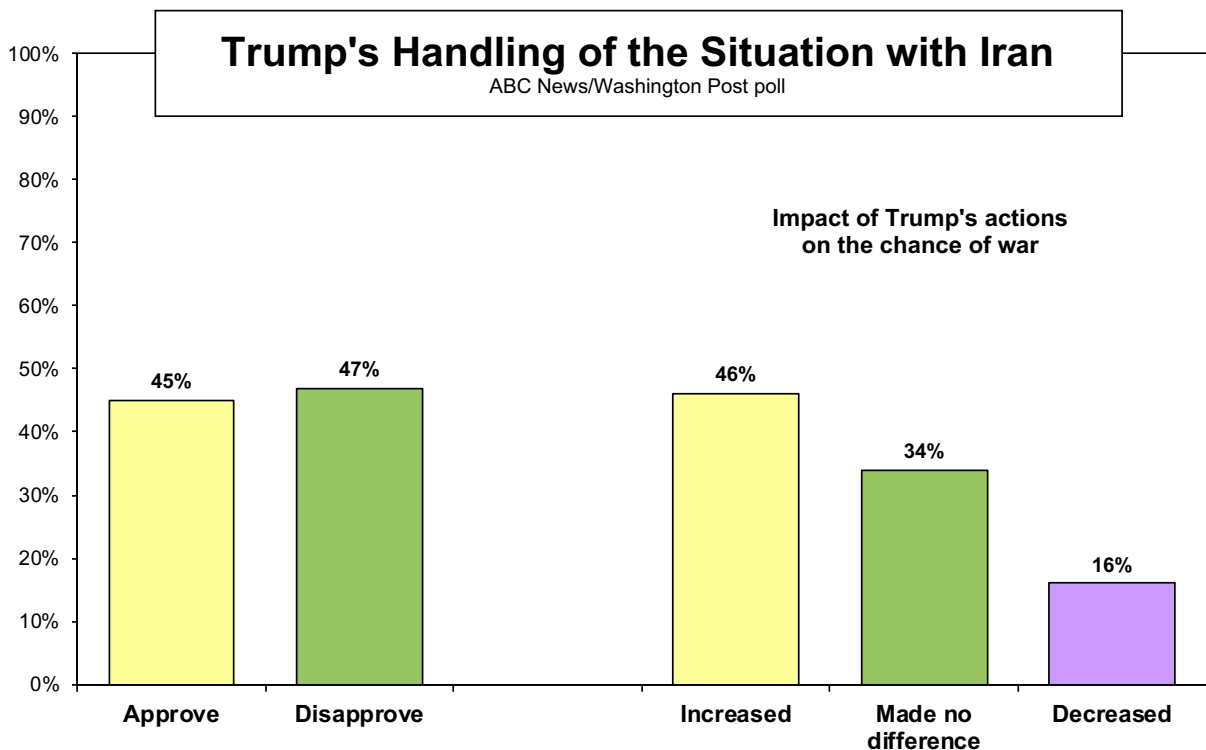


## **53% Approve of Soleimani Strike – Yet Many See Risks of Conflict**

More than half of Americans approve of Donald Trump ordering the drone strike that killed Iran’s most powerful military commander early this month – even as nearly half in an ABC News/Washington Post poll think his actions have increased the risks of war and terrorism alike.

The results show some conflicted responses to Trump’s actions. Fifty-three percent approve of the Jan. 3 drone strike against Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani. But fewer, 45 percent, approve of the way Trump is handling the situation with Iran overall.

Forty-eight percent, moreover, say Trump’s actions toward Iran have increased the risk of terrorism against Americans, while just 14 percent say he’s decreased this risk. Similarly, 46 percent think he’s increased the chance of war, vs. 16 percent who think he’s decreased it.



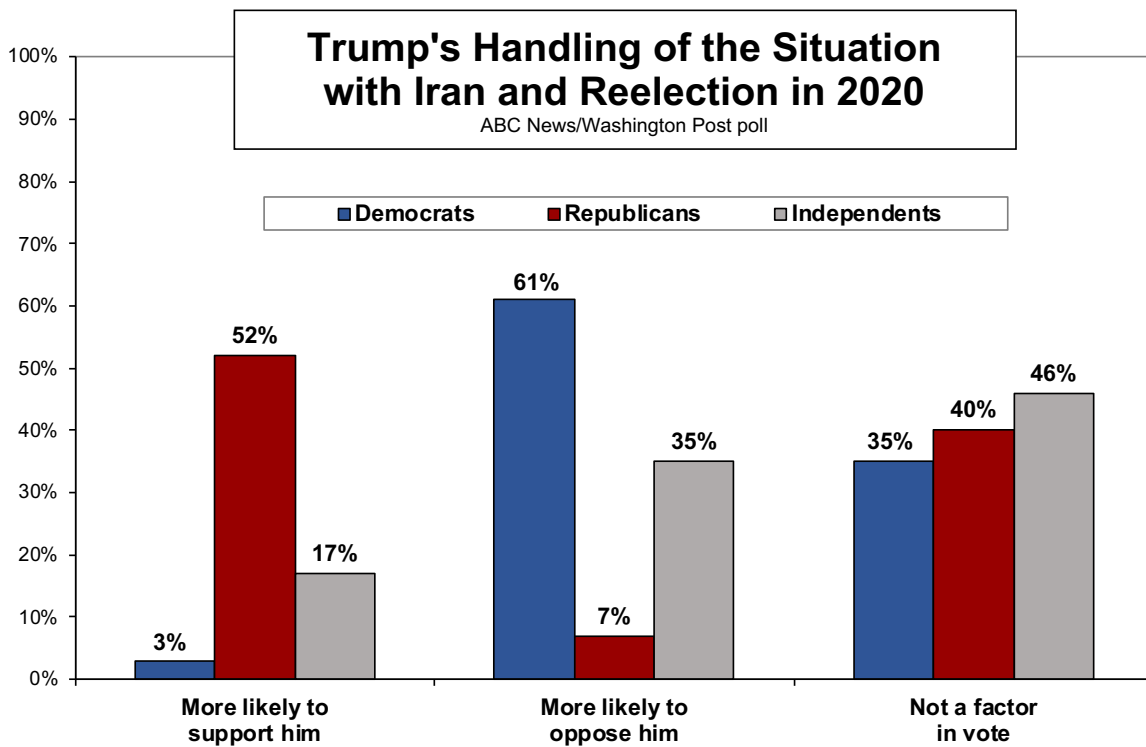
In further evidence of division, 47 percent say Trump has handled the situation with Iran “about right,” while 42 percent say he’s been too aggressive (and 5 percent, too cautious).

Another result shows a more negative than positive potential impact: Americans are 15 percentage points more apt to say his handling of the situation with Iran has made them more

likely to oppose Trump for reelection than support him, 36 vs. 21 percent. Four in 10 in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), say it isn't a factor in their vote.

**GROUPS** – Opinions split along partisan and demographic lines. Eighty-six percent of Republicans approve of the killing of Soleimani; that falls to 54 percent of independents and 24 percent of Democrats. Reflecting the vast gender gap on Trump generally, 63 percent of men approve, compared with 43 percent of women.

Independents, often a swing group, are twice as likely to say Trump's handling of the situation with Iran has made them more likely to oppose his reelection (35 percent) than support it (17 percent). That's driven by independent women, 42-11 percent, vs. a narrow 29-23 percent split among independent men. (The rest, in each case, say it's not a factor.)



Women overall are 15 points more apt than men to say Trump's handling of Iran has made them more likely to oppose him for reelection, and 24 points more likely to disapprove his handling of the situation with Iran in general.

**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 Christine Filer.

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.

1, 2a, 2c, 3-14, 15-19, 24 previously released.

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

1/23/20 - Summary Table

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
b. the situation with Iran	45	47	7

Trend:

b. the situation with Iran

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/23/20	45	NA	NA	47	NA	NA	7

Compare to:

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling the situation with Iran?

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
7/19/15	35	18	16	52	13	38	14
1/23/14	39	18	21	49	15	34	12
10/18/09	52	24	28	39	12	27	9
6/21/09	52	NA	NA	36	NA	NA	12
4/24/09	54	NA	NA	35	NA	NA	11

20. Do you approve or disapprove of Trump ordering the drone strike that killed Iran's most powerful military commander earlier this month? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	Approve			Disapprove			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/23/20	53	40	12	41	10	31	6

21. Do you think Trump's actions toward Iran have increased or decreased [ITEM] or have they made no difference in this?

1/23/20 - Summary Table

	Increase	Decrease	No difference	No opinion
a. the chance of war with Iran	46	16	34	4
b. the risk of terrorism against Americans	48	14	34	4

22. Does Trump's handling of the situation with Iran make you more likely to support him for reelection in 2020, more likely to oppose him for reelection, or is it not a factor in your vote?

	More likely to support	More likely to oppose	Not a factor	No opinion
1/23/20	21	36	41	2

23. In terms of the situation with Iran, do you feel that Trump has been too (cautious), too (aggressive), or is he handling this about right?

	Too cautious	Too aggressive	About right	No opinion
1/23/20	5	42	47	6

Compare to:

In terms of the situation with North Korea, do you feel that Trump has been too (cautious), too (aggressive), or is he handling this about right?

	Too cautious	Too aggressive	About right	No opinion
4/20/17	7	37	46	9

Compare to:

Overall, in handling the U.S. role in international affairs, do you feel that Obama has been too (cautious), too (aggressive), or about right?

	Too cautious	Too aggressive	About right	No opinion
9/7/14	53	10	33	4

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