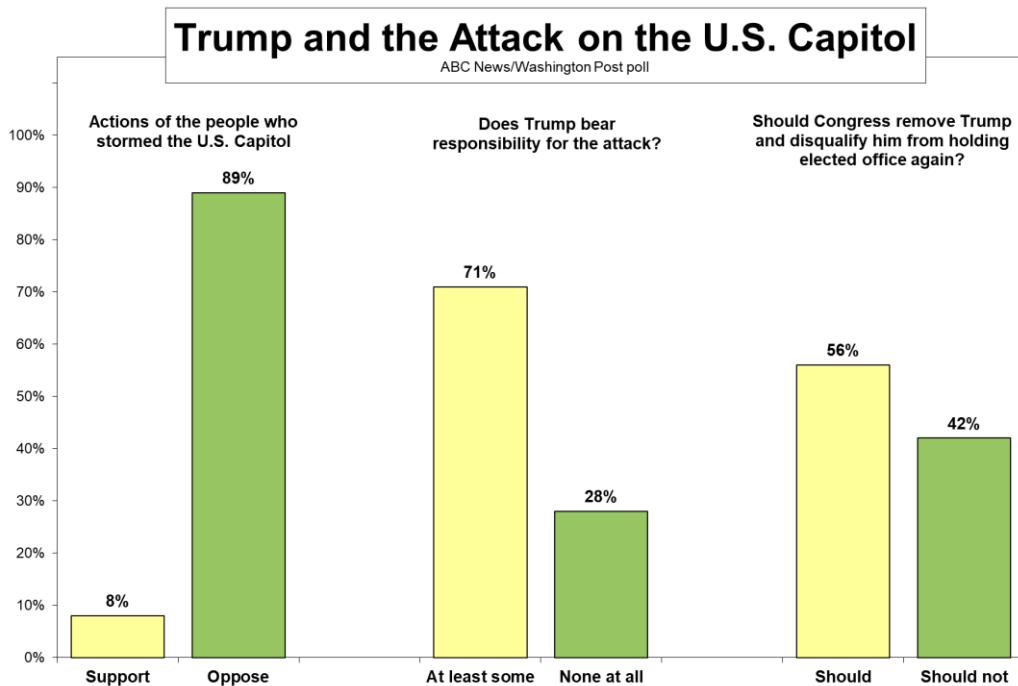


With Partial Blame for the Capitol Attack, Majority Favors Barring Trump from Office

Nine in 10 Americans oppose the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, seven in 10 say Donald Trump bears at least some responsibility for it and a majority in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll – 56 percent – favors efforts in Congress to bar him from holding elected office again.

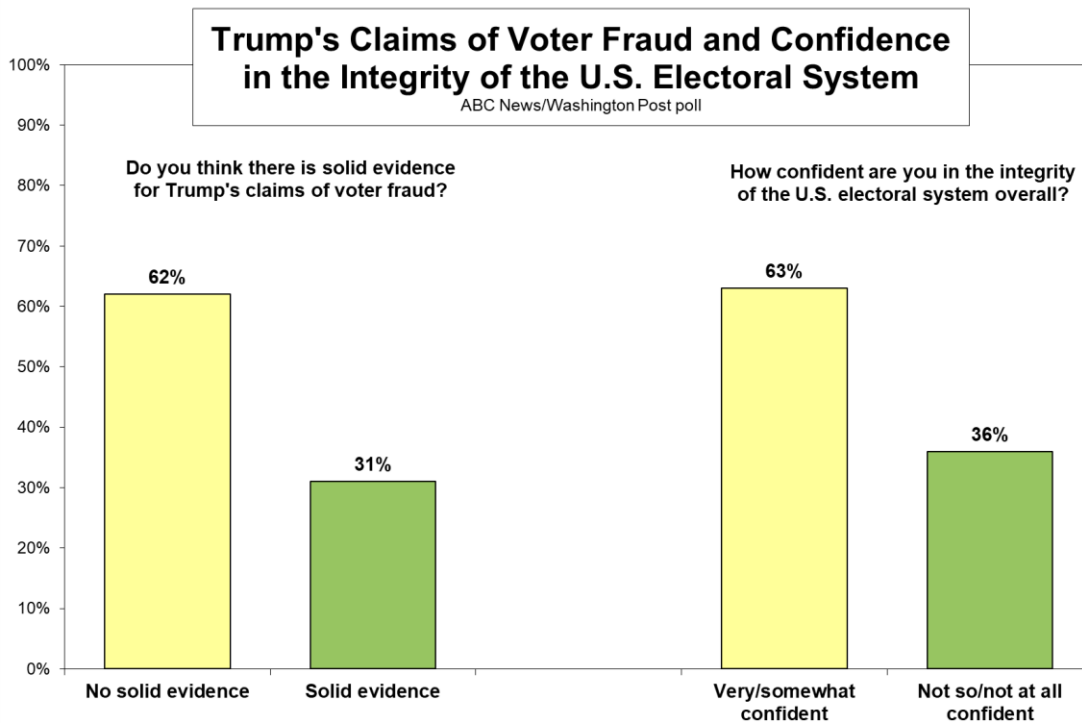
Fifty-four percent in the national survey also say Trump should be charged criminally with inciting a riot for having encouraged his supporters to march on the Capitol. More, 66 percent, say he has behaved irresponsibly, more broadly, in his statements and actions since the election.



Half the public, 51 percent, say the events of the past week in Washington, D.C., left them less confident in the stability of democracy in the United States. That said, just 20 percent are pessimistic about the future of the U.S. system of government, about the average in polling back to the 1970s.

Further, while Trump's claims of widespread fraud have raised fears he would undermine confidence in U.S. elections, Americans by 2-1, 62-31 percent, see no solid evidence for these claims. And the public by 63-36 percent expresses confidence in the electoral system overall. At the same time, confidence in the electoral system dives to 35 percent among Republicans, and,

following their leader’s line, 65 percent of Republicans say they think there’s solid evidence of fraud.



The poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds Trump leaving office with a 38 percent job approval rating; 60 percent disapprove, matching (but not exceeding) his peak disapproval in August 2018. His career average approval rating is the lowest for any president in modern polling, back to 1939, and he is the first president in that time never to achieve majority approval at any point.

Fifty-nine percent expect him to be seen in history as a below-average president, including nearly half, 48 percent, who rate his tenure as “poor,” the most in polling dating to Gerald Ford in 1976. As noted, 56 percent favor Congress removing him from the presidency and barring him from holding elected office again – exceeding the 47 percent who supported his removal from office in his first impeachment last year.

Looking ahead, Americans by a wide margin say Republican officials should lead the party in a different direction rather than follow Trump’s leadership, 69-26 percent. But just among Republicans, a majority, 60 percent, wants to continue to follow Trump – sharply fewer than in the past (83 percent in a similar question in 2018), but still marking the risk of a Trump/no Trump schism within the party.

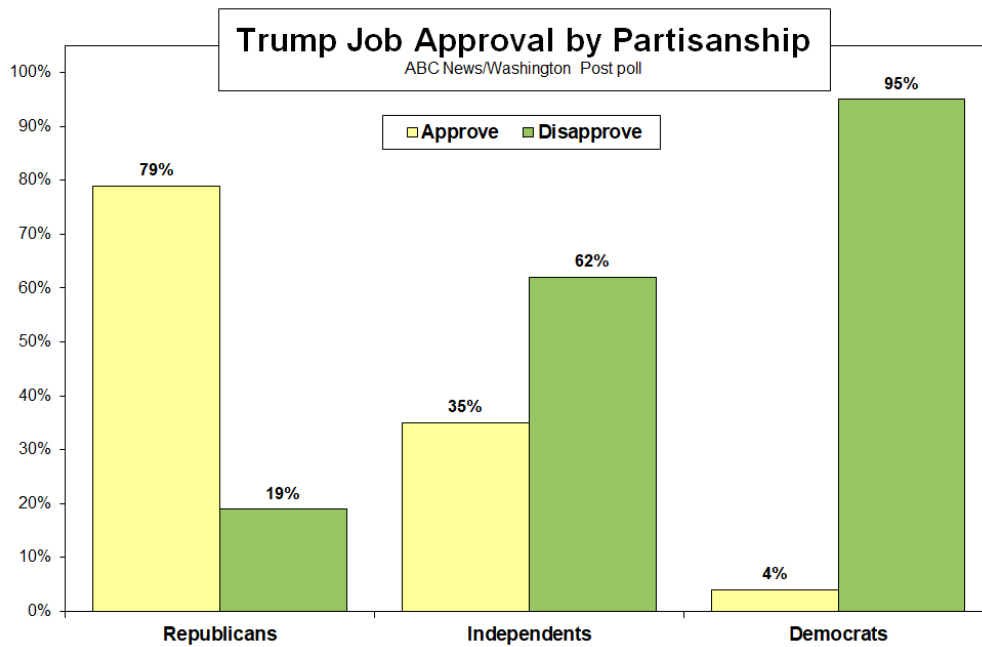
	Republican leaders should...	
	Follow Trump	Take a new direction
All	26%	69%

Republicans	60	33
Republicans (2018)*	83	13

*Washington Post/KFF

Indeed, while 52 percent of all Americans say Republican leaders who supported Trump’s effort to overturn the election “went too far,” just 16 percent of Republicans say so, compared with 81 percent of Democrats and 54 percent of independents. And Trump maintains a 79 percent job approval rating in his own party, with 64 percent approving strongly.

The challenge for the Republicans, in what may or not be their post-Trump era, is how to straddle that continued in-party approval for the president with views outside the base. Among the predominant political group, independents – often swing voters – approval of Trump plummets to 35 percent, with 62 percent disapproving.



THE RIOT – Given the sharp differences on most political issues between partisan groups, one result in the survey stands out for its level of agreement: Eighty-nine percent of Americans oppose the actions of the people who stormed the Capitol, including 80 percent who are strongly opposed. Eight percent are in support, with strong support at 5 percent.

Support for those who stormed the Capitol reaches 15 percent among conservatives and Republicans alike, and 19 percent among people who approve of Trump’s job performance. Still, even among Trump approvers, 76 percent are opposed, including 60 percent strongly opposed.

The storming of the Capitol			
	Support (net)	Oppose (net)	Strongly oppose
All	8%	89%	80%
Trump approvers	19	76	60
Conservatives	15	81	69
Republicans	15	80	67

Partisan and ideological gaps widen on other issues. Sixty-six percent of Republicans think Trump has acted responsibly since the election; 26 percent of independents and 5 percent of Democrats agree. Similarly, 65 percent of Republicans think there is solid evidence for Trump’s claims of voter fraud, falling to three in 10 independents and 4 percent of Democrats.

When it comes to the events of the past week, 42 percent of Republicans think Trump bears at least some responsibility for the attack on the U.S. Capitol; that rises sharply to 72 percent of independents and 93 percent of Democrats. Many fewer Republicans, 12 percent, think Congress should remove Trump from office and disqualify him from holding elected office in the future, vs. nearly six in 10 independents and nine in 10 Democrats.

In terms of Trump’s legacy, three in 10 conservatives and a quarter of Republicans think he’ll go down in history as a below average president. That compares with 60 percent of independents, 71 percent of moderates, 86 percent of liberals and 89 percent of Democrats.

Even with his comparatively higher support among Republicans, fewer respondents report having voted for Trump than actually did in November, suggesting that some one-time supporters are shying away from him – further evidenced by 19 percent disapproval in his own party, near his career high. Indeed, in recalled vote, Trump’s support is comparatively low among non-conservative Republicans, who also are more critical than their conservative counterparts of his post-election actions. (Note, though, that the sample size of non-conservative Republicans is a small one; 72 percent of Republicans identify themselves as conservatives.)

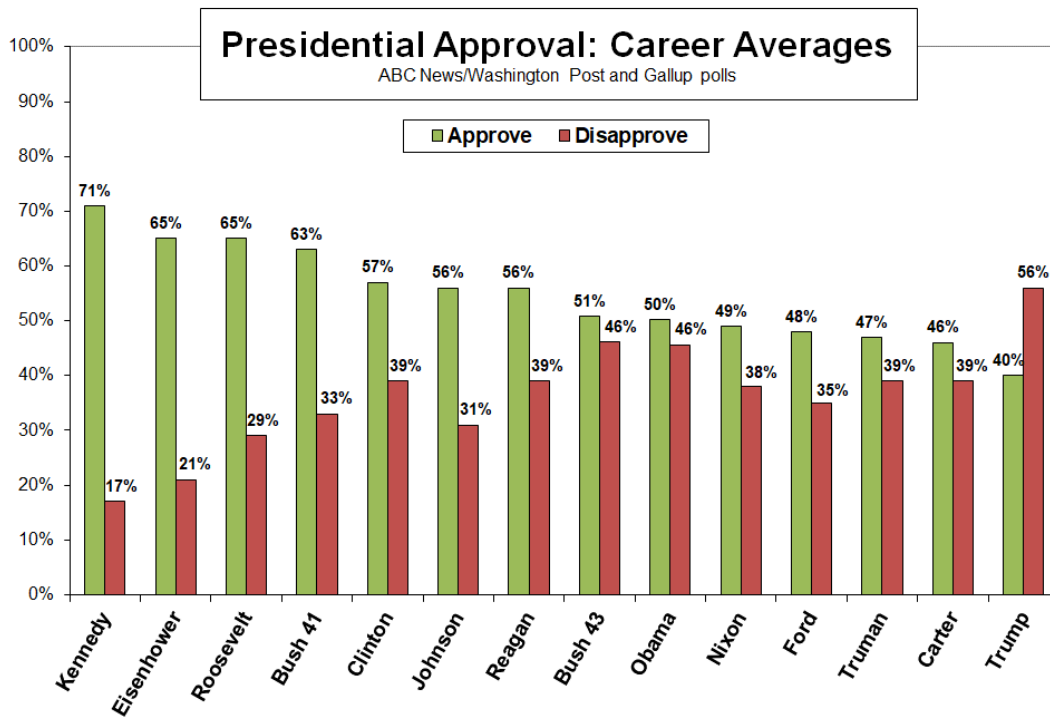
Those who report having voted for Trump two and a half months ago, by contrast, by and large are not expressing buyer’s remorse: Ninety-one percent in this group say if the election were rerun today, they’d vote for him again.

APPROVAL – Trump’s approval rating is down 6 points from the last national ABC/Post poll in October. In contrast, most recent outgoing presidents have seen a bump in approval in their final days – +5 points for Barack Obama in the last ABC/Post survey of his presidency, +5 for Bill Clinton and +7 for George Bush. Approval of George W. Bush, struggling with economic crisis and the unpopular war in Iraq, was just +3 points from December 2008, but +10 from the previous October.

Presidential approval		
President	Final approval	Change
Trump	38%	-6 pts.
Obama	60	+5
GW Bush	33	+3
Clinton	65	+5
Bush	56	+7

Several elements of Trump’s closing approval rating stand out:

- Disapproval among whites, 52 percent, matches the high in this group (from August 2017), and 49 percent of whites disapprove strongly, a record high. Disapproval grows to 75 percent among Hispanics and 89 percent among Black people.



- Sixty-eight percent of women disapprove of Trump’s job performance, matching the high (also in August 2017), compared with 52 percent of men. This includes 56 percent disapproval among non-college educated white women, an important part of Trump’s coalition; in the ABC News exit poll, 63 percent of them supported him for re-election just in November.
- Approval of Trump’s work in office is at record lows among seniors (37 percent approve) and higher-income Americans (33 percent). Approval among suburban residents, a sharply contested political group, is down 11 points from October, to 38 percent.

Whatever Trump’s role in the nation’s political future, the results make clear that his presidency – and especially the events of last week – have left deep divisions, not only in political attitudes, but also in views of American democracy. While, as noted, just 20 percent are outright pessimistic about the U.S. system of government, only 30 percent are optimistic – near the low, and well off the average in polls back 46 years, 43 percent. The plurality, 48 percent, is uncertain.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 10-13, 2021, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,002 adults. Results have a margins of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including design effects. Partisan divisions are 31-25-36 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.

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

Full results follow.

2, 5, 16-24 held for release. * = less than 0.5 percent.

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump has handled his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/13/21	38	27	10	60	8	52	2
10/9/20*	44	30	13	54	9	45	3
9/24/20	44	28	16	53	8	46	2
8/15/20	43	29	15	55	7	47	2
7/15/20	39	28	11	57	9	48	3
5/28/20	45	32	12	53	11	42	3
3/25/20	48	34	15	46	11	35	6
2/17/20	43	31	12	53	11	42	4
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
 *10/9/20 and prior "is handling"

3. How do you think Trump will go down in history - as an outstanding president, above average, average, below average, or poor?

	--- Above average -----				--- Below average --			No
	NET	Outstanding	Above	Avg.	NET	Below	Poor	opinion
1/13/21	28	15	13	12	59	11	48	1
Obama:								
1/15/17	51	26	25	25	24	10	14	1
G.W. Bush:								
1/16/09	16	4	11	26	58	22	36	*
Clinton:								
1/7/01	47	15	32	30	22	11	11	1
G.H.W. Bush:								
1/11/93*	36	6	30	51	12	8	4	1

*Gallup

Compare to (4-point scale with "average" volunteered):

	--- Above average -----			Avg.	--- Below average --			No
	NET	Outstanding	Above	(vol.)	NET	Below	Poor	opinion
G.H.W. Bush:								
1/17/93	43	5	38	33	22	17	5	1
12/14/92	41	6	35	27	30	19	11	2
Reagan:*								
1/16/89	63	18	45	21	16	10	6	1
Carter:*								
12/80	14	3	11	37	46	31	15	3
Ford:*								
12/76	25	5	20	50	20	15	5	3

*Gallup

4. In his statements and actions since the presidential election in November, do you think Trump has acted responsibly or irresponsibly?

	Acted responsibly	Acted irresponsibly	No opinion
1/13/21	30	66	4

6. Trump has refused to accept Biden's victory, claiming widespread voter fraud. Do you think there is solid evidence for Trump's claims, or no solid evidence?

	Solid evidence	No solid evidence	No opinion
1/13/21	31	62	7

7. How confident are you in the integrity of the U.S. electoral system overall - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	--- More confident --			----- Less confident ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
1/13/21	63	37	26	36	13	23	1

8. As far as the future is concerned, thinking about our system of government and how well it works - is this something you feel generally optimistic about, generally pessimistic about, or uncertain about?

	Generally optimistic	Generally pessimistic	Uncertain	No opinion
1/13/21	30	20	48	2
11/5/16*	36	21	42	1
6/2/13*	31	29	39	1
3/13/11	26	23	49	2
10/20/10**	33	20	46	1
1/13/08***	44	23	33	1
2/7/99****	54	19	27	1
3/10/96	43	28	28	1
2/26/83*****	51	21	27	1
2/28/81	51	21	26	1
2/24/79	49	22	26	1
8/27/77	47	21	29	3
2/26/77	57	14	26	2
8/30/75	45	24	29	3
8/31/74	55	15	27	3

*NBC/WSJ **ABC News/Yahoo! News, ***USA Today/Gallup, ****CNN/Gallup, *****Roper

9. Did the events in Washington, D.C., last week make you more confident in the stability of democracy in the United States, less confident, or make no difference?

	More confident	Less confident	No difference	No opinion
1/13/21	13	51	32	5

10. Do you support or oppose the actions of people who stormed the U.S. Capitol last week to protest Biden's election as president? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
1/13/21	8	5	3	89	9	80	3

11. How much responsibility do you think Trump bears for the attack on the U.S. Capitol - a great deal, a good amount, just some or none at all?

	Great deal	Good amount	Just some	None at all	No opinion
1/13/21	45	12	14	28	1

12. As you may know, Trump encouraged his supporters to march to the U.S. Capitol, where a riot followed. Do you think Trump should be charged with the crime of inciting a riot, or do you think he should not be charged?

	Should be charged	Should not be charged	No opinion
1/13/21	54	43	3

13. Do you think Republican leaders who supported Trump's efforts to overturn the election went too far, did not go far enough or handled this about right?

	Too far	Not far enough	About right	No opinion
1/13/21	52	26	17	4

14. Going forward, do you think Republican leaders should follow Trump's leadership or should they lead the party in a different direction?

	Follow Trump's leadership	Lead party in different direction	No opinion
1/13/21	26	69	5

15. Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not remove Trump from office and disqualify him from holding elected office in the future?

	Should remove from office	Should not remove from office	No opinion
1/13/21	56	42	2

Compare to:

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 opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/23/20	47	38	8	49	9	40	5

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

*** END ***