

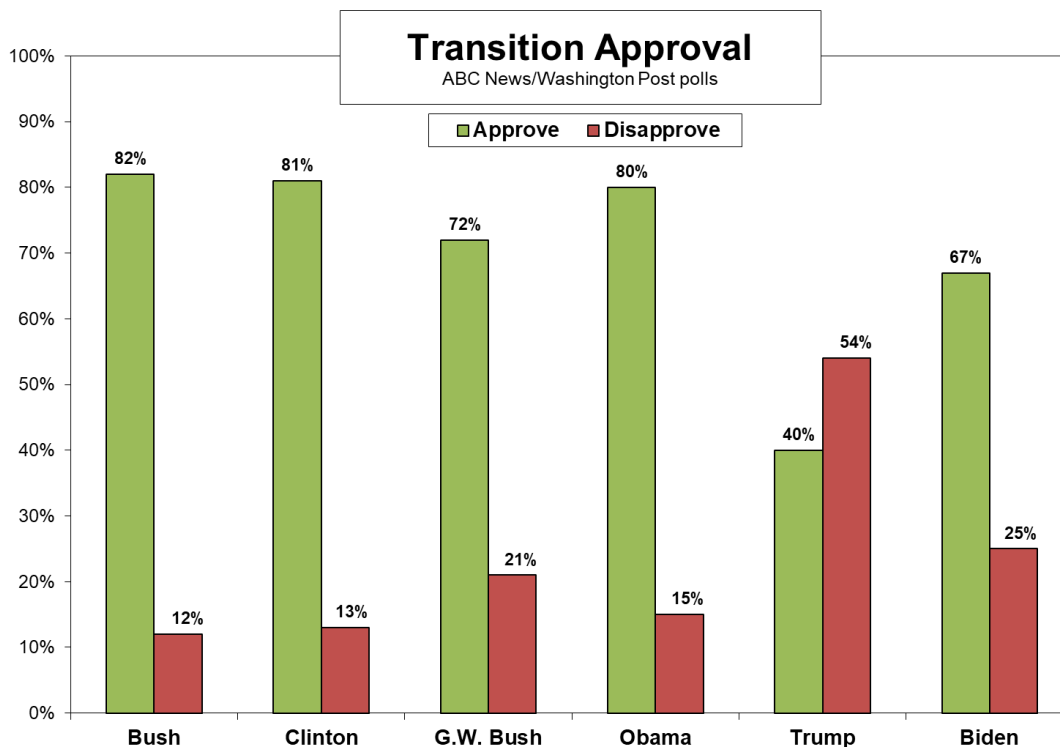
Positive Marks for Biden on Transition; For Trump, 68% Oppose a Self-Pardon

Ahead of his inauguration, Americans by more than a 40-point margin approve of the way Joe Biden has handled the presidential transition – but just half are confident he’ll make the right decisions for the country’s future, with muted expectations for his progress on key issues.

As to the man he’s replacing, 68 percent in this ABC News/Washington Post poll oppose Donald Trump pardoning himself for any federal crimes he may be accused of committing. And 58 percent support Twitter’s ban on Trump, muzzling the outgoing president on his main platform.

Trump leaves office awash in controversy, as covered in results from this poll reported [Friday](#). Biden enters on a better note: Two-thirds in this survey, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), approve of how he’s handled the transition. That’s 27 percentage points more than said the same about Trump four years ago.

Still, Biden’s grades for handling the transition, while well above Trump’s, trail those of other recent presidents. Barack Obama, Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush saw 80 to 82 percent approval ratings for their transition work; George W. Bush, 72 percent.



Similarly, the 49 percent who express confidence in Biden to make the right decisions falls in between the same readings for the past two presidents – lower than it was for Obama as he came into office, 61 percent, while higher than it was for Trump four years ago, 35 percent.

In another measure, despite Trump’s unsupported allegations of widespread voter fraud, Americans see Biden as the legitimate winner of November’s presidential election by a 2-1 margin, 62-32 percent. But there are wide partisan divides: Seven in 10 Republicans and six in 10 conservatives say Biden did not legitimately win. The opposite view is held by 62 percent of independents, 71 percent of moderates and 93 percent of both Democrats and liberals.

ON THE ISSUES – Like views on his decision making overall, the public expresses middling confidence in Biden’s ability to make progress on a variety of issues, ranging from 53 percent on getting the coronavirus pandemic under control to 44 percent both on dealing with global warming and “negotiating compromises with the Republicans in Congress on important issues.”

In the middle, about half express a great deal or good amount of confidence in Biden to address three other issues he’s emphasized – rebuilding the economy, addressing unequal treatment of people because of their race or ethnicity and improving America’s standing in the world.

Confidence in Biden to make progress on...	
Getting the coronavirus pandemic under control	53%
Addressing unequal treatment of people because of their race or ethnicity	51
Improving America’s standing in the world	50
Rebuilding the economy	49
Dealing with global warming	44
Negotiating compromises with the Republicans in Congress on important issues	44

Unsurprisingly, the partisan gaps in these expectations are vast. Eighty-nine percent of Democrats have a great deal or good amount of confidence in Biden’s making the right decisions overall, for example, dropping to 43 percent of independents and 12 percent of Republicans.

Within his party, confidence is lowest for dealing with global warming, at 73 percent. Among Republicans, confidence peaks, at a mere 20 percent, for his making progress on addressing unequal treatment of people because of their race or ethnicity.

PARDON – Views on Trump are detailed extensively in Friday’s [report](#), including the finding that 54 percent of Americans say he should be charged with a crime for inciting the riot at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. Further on his potential legal exposure is this result: Americans by a 40-point margin, 68-28 percent, oppose Trump issuing a presidential pardon to himself in an attempt to forestall prosecution for any federal crimes he may be accused of having committed.

In addition to the expected partisan and ideological differences, opposition to a self-pardon is particularly high – 91 percent – among the two-thirds of Americans who say Trump has acted

irresponsibly since the election. And it's 95 percent among those who say he should be charged criminally.

TWEET NO MORE? – Lastly, there's the issue of the president's Twitter lockout. Americans by 58-41 percent support Twitter's permanent shutdown of Trump's account. Almost half, 48 percent, strongly support the decision, while 36 percent strongly oppose it.

Partisanship and ideology again inform these views. In other divides, two-thirds of women support Twitter shutting down Trump's account, compared with half of men. And among those who think Trump has acted irresponsibly since the election in November, 83 percent support the Twitter ban, as do 92 percent of those who favor charging him with the crime of inciting a riot.

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 margin 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](#).

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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, 3-4, 6-15 previously released. 2, 21-24 held for release. * = less than 0.5 percent.

5. Do you think Joe Biden did or did not legitimately win the presidential election?

	Did win legitimately	Did not win legitimately	No opinion
1/13/21	62	32	6

Compare to:

Regardless of whom you supported in the 2016 election, do you think Donald Trump's election as president was legitimate, or was he not legitimately elected?

	Legitimate	Not legitimate	No opinion
10/5/17*	57	42	1

*Washington Post-University of Maryland

16. Would you support or oppose Trump issuing a presidential pardon to himself, so he could not be prosecuted for any federal crimes he may be accused of having committed?

Support	Oppose	No opinion
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1/13/21 28 68 4

17. As you may know, Twitter has permanently shut down Trump's account, citing what it called "the risk of further incitement of violence." Do you support or oppose Twitter's decision to shut down Trump's Twitter account? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/13/21	58	48	10	41	6	36	1

On another subject...

18. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Biden has handled the presidential transition?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
1/13/21	67	47	20	25	6	18	8

Compare to:

	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	No opinion
Trump 1/15/17	40	20	20	54	13	41	6

	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	No opinion
Obama: 1/16/09	80	46	34	15	7	8	5
12/14/08*	76	46	30	15	5	9	9
11/23/08	67	41	26	18	8	10	15

	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	No opinion
W. Bush: 1/15/01*	72	NA	NA	21	NA	NA	6

	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	No opinion
Clinton: 1/17/93	81			13			6
12/14/92*	72			13			15
11/20/92**	62			14			24

	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	No opinion
Bush: 1/16/89***	82	"	"	12	"	"	6

**"is handling"
**Newsweek
***"has handled himself since the election"

19. How much confidence do you have in Biden to make the right decisions for the country's future - a great deal of confidence, a good amount, just some or none at all?

	----- More confident -----			----- Less confident -----			No opinion
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Just some	None at all	
1/13/21	49	26	23	50	19	31	1

Compare to:

	-- More confident --			-- Less confident --			
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Just some	None at all	No opinion
Trump 1/24/19	35	21	14	64	16	48	1
11/1/17	34	20	15	65	19	46	1

1/15/17 38 15 23 61 27 34 1

Obama

	-- More confident --			-- Less confident --			
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Just some	None at all	No opinion
1/23/14	37	17	19	63	28	35	*
7/11/10	43	24	19	57	28	29	*
1/15/10	47	24	23	53	26	27	*
10/18/09	49	29	20	50	27	24	*
8/17/09	49	28	21	50	26	24	*
4/24/09	60	31	28	40	25	15	1
1/16/09	61	31	30	37	28	9	2

20. Thinking about specific issues, how much confidence do you have in Biden to make progress on [ITEM] - a great deal of confidence, a good amount, just some or none at all?

1/13/21 - Summary table

	----- More confident -----			-Less confident--			No op.
	NET	Grt deal	Good amt	NET	Some	None	
a. getting the coronavirus pandemic under control	53	32	21	46	20	25	2
b. rebuilding the economy	49	23	25	50	19	31	1
c. addressing unequal treatment of people because of their race or ethnicity	51	31	19	47	20	27	2
d. dealing with global warming	44	24	20	49	23	26	7
e. improving America's standing in the world	50	32	19	49	20	29	1
f. negotiating compromises with the Republicans in Congress on important issues	44	23	21	53	29	24	3

*half sample asked items c-d, other half asked e-f

*** END ***