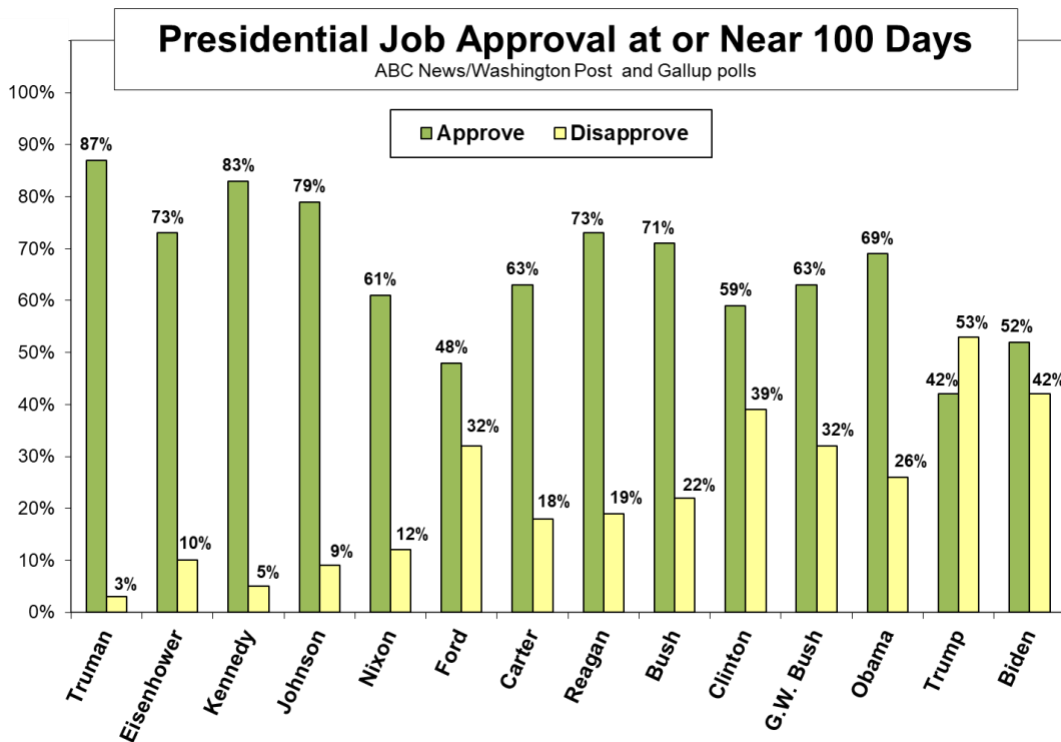


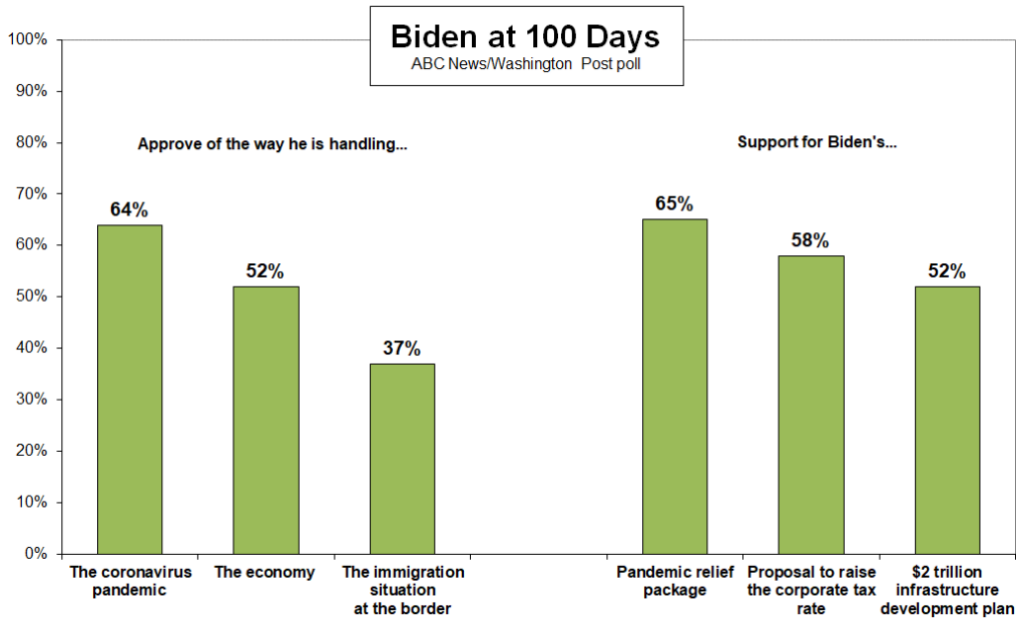
Biden's 100 Days: Low-end Approval, Yet Strong Marks on Pandemic Response

Intense partisanship is holding Joe Biden to a tepid job approval rating – the third lowest for any president at 100 days in office since Harry Truman – along with continued economic dislocation, pandemic impacts and questions about Biden's view of the size and role of government.

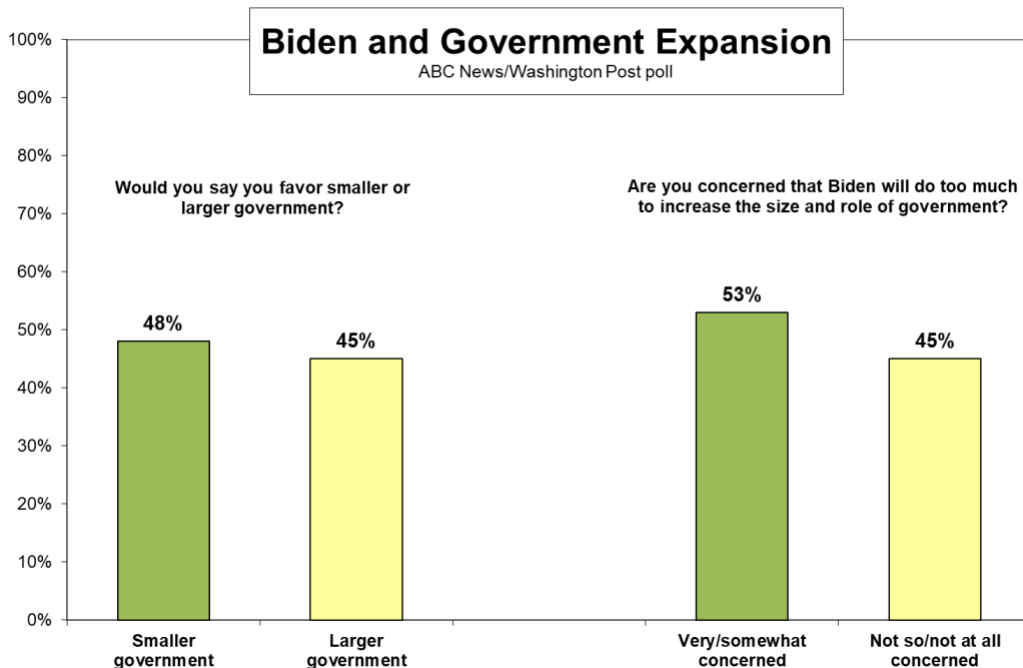
All told, 52 percent of Americans in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll approve of Biden's work in office, lower than any president at 100 days in data since 1945, save Gerald Ford in 1974 (48 percent, after his unpopular pardon of Richard Nixon) and Donald Trump at 42 percent in 2017. For the 14 presidents from Truman to Biden, the 100-day average is 66 percent.



Behind Biden's overall rating is a range of varying assessments in this poll, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#). The president wins broad approval for his pandemic relief package, 65 percent; for his handling of the pandemic, 64 percent; and for his proposal to raise corporate taxes, 58 percent. But support for his \$2 trillion infrastructure package slips to 52 percent, as does his rating for handling the economy; and he has just 37 percent approval for his work on the immigration situation at the U.S./Mexico border.



More broadly, 53 percent express concern that Biden will do too much to increase the size and role of government in U.S. society. Relatedly, 40 percent see him as “too liberal,” more than said so about either of his most recent Democratic predecessors at 100 days – Barack Obama, 33 percent, and Bill Clinton, 26 percent. (This rose for Obama later in his presidency.)



At the same time, public preference for smaller government with fewer services, at 48 percent, is its lowest in ABC/Post polls dating back nearly 30 years. Virtually as many, 45 percent, now

favor larger government with more services – an opening, if not broad endorsement, for Biden’s call for a greater role for government in addressing social ills.

Overall, preference for larger government with more services is up 7 percentage points since last asked in August 2012, driven by increases among Democrats (+17 points), college graduates (+17), liberals (+15) and men (+8). It’s essentially unchanged among their counterparts.

Notably, too, while Biden’s overall rating lags in historical terms, it surpasses his immediate predecessor’s. Trump, the first president on record never to achieve majority approval, left office with a 38 percent job approval rating, 14 points below Biden’s today. Trump had the same 38 percent approval for his handling of the coronavirus – 26 points below Biden’s now.

By contrast, Biden’s rating for handling the economy is essentially the same as Trump’s in January, marking this as a clear challenge. Indeed, just 42 percent of Americans rate the economy positively, far below its pre-pandemic level; 58 percent instead say it’s in not-so-good or poor shape. Presidential fortunes often are closely linked to economic conditions.

PARTISANS – The intensified partisanship of recent years is a factor in Biden’s overall rating. Just 13 percent of Republicans approve of his work in office, exactly matching Democrats’ approval of Trump at 100 days. Obama instead had 36 percent approval from Republicans in April 2009, and George W. Bush had 39 percent approval from Democrats at his 100-day mark.

Going further back, George Bush had 58 percent approval from Democrats in 1989, and Ronald Reagan had 62 percent Democratic approval at about 100 days in April 1981 – levels of initial opposite-party appeal that seem a relic of the past.

	Approval at 100 days					
	Biden	Trump	Obama	G.W. Bush	Bush	Reagan
All	52%	42%	69%	63%	71%	73%
Democrats	90	13	93	39	58	62
Independents	47	38	67	62	68	75
Republicans	13	84	36	94	89	90

Note: Clinton approval by party ID not available

Independents – most of whom lean toward one of the two parties – look different as well. In earlier years, sizable majorities of independents approved of the new president at 100 days – 75 percent for Reagan, for example, and 67 percent as recently as Obama. Today 47 percent of independents approve of Biden’s work – better than Trump’s 38 percent at the same point, but far from what previous presidents have seen.

NEGOTIATE? – Another result points to a conundrum for Biden – whether and how to seek compromise with minority-party Republicans in Congress. On one hand, Americans often express support for bipartisanship, and such is the case now: Sixty percent prefer to see Biden try to win Republican support by making major changes to his proposals, while just 30 percent prefer for him to try to have his proposals enacted without major changes, even if that means no GOP support.

Political life, though, is not that simple: Despite that public preference, it likely won't be lost on the Biden administration that his most popular initiative – the pandemic relief package – is one he pushed through without a single Republican vote.

That said, even those who see Biden's views on the issues as "just about right" (rather than too liberal or too conservative) split on the matter of negotiation: Forty-four percent think he should compromise in the spirit of bipartisanship; 45 percent think he should enact his proposals without Republican support.

APPROVAL GROUPS – Biden's approval peaks among those who were most apt to support him in the presidential election: Democrats (90 percent), liberals (86 percent) and Black people (82 percent). It's 12 points higher among college graduates than those without college degrees (60 vs. 48 percent), and 8 points higher among women than men (56 vs. 48 percent), again reflecting familiar patterns from November.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone April 18-21, 2021, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,007 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 33-24-35 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.

8b, 22-25 previously released; 8a, 9, 13-21 held for release.

* = less than 0.5 percent.

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?
Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
4/21/21	52	34	18	42	7	35	6

Compare to other 100 days:

Trump	4/20/17	42	27	15	53	10	43	5
Obama	4/24/09	69	42	27	26	8	18	4
Bush	4/22/01	63	33	30	32	16	16	5
Clinton	4/26/93	59	22	37	39	21	17	2
Bush	4/3/89	71	23	47	22	13	9	8
Reagan	4/22/81	73	NA	NA	19	NA	NA	8

Carter*	4/18/77	63			18			19
Ford	11/18/74	48			32			20
Nixon	4/15/69	61			12			23
Johnson	3/4/64	79			9			12
Kennedy	5/3/61	83			5			13
Eisenhower	4/24/53	73			10			17
Truman	6/5/45	87	"	"	3	"	"	10

*Carter and previous: Gallup

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Biden is handling [ITEM]? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

4/21/21 - Summary table

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No op.
	NET	Strongly	Smwht	NET	Smwht	Strongly	
a. the economy	52	33	19	41	8	33	7
b. the coronavirus pandemic	64	46	18	31	8	22	5
c. the immigration situation at the U.S.-Mexico border	37	16	20	53	10	42	11

3. Do you think Biden's views on most issues are too (liberal) for you, too (conservative) for you, or just about right?

	Too liberal	Too conservative	About right	No opinion
4/21/21	40	7	48	5
8/15/20	36	10	47	8
2/17/20	25	19	42	15
8/25/12	34	7	36	22

4. Would you rather see Biden try to (win support from Republicans in Congress by making major changes to his proposals) or try to (have his proposals enacted without major changes, even if that means getting no support from Republicans in Congress)?

	Try to win support from Republicans	Try to enact proposals without major changes	No opinion
4/21/21	60	30	10

5. Given what you know about it, do you support or oppose the economic stimulus package that took effect last month in response to the coronavirus pandemic?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
4/21/21	65	31	4

6. Again, given what you know about it, do you support or oppose the two-trillion dollar infrastructure development plan that the Biden administration has proposed?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
4/21/21	52	35	12

7. The top tax rate on corporate profits used to be 35 percent, then was cut to 21 percent. Would you support or oppose raising the corporate tax rate to 28 percent?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
4/21/21	58	36	6

10. Generally speaking, would you say you favor (smaller government with fewer services), or (larger government with more services)?

	Smaller govt. fewer services	Larger govt. more services	No opinion
4/21/21	48	45	7
8/25/12	56	38	7
8/5/12*	55	40	5
9/1/11	56	38	6
10/28/10 RV	57	37	5
4/25/10	56	40	4
1/15/10	58	38	4
6/21/09	54	41	4
1/16/09	53	43	4
6/15/08	50	45	5
11/1/07	50	44	5
6/20/04	50	46	4
11/4/02 LV	61	34	5
11/3/02 LV	60	34	5
11/2/02 LV	62	34	3
7/15/02	53	42	6
1/27/02	54	41	5
10/9/00 RV	58	32	10
10/1/00 RV	58	33	9
7/23/00	59	34	7
4/2/00	56	38	7
8/16/98	59	35	6
8/5/96	63	32	5
2/28/93	67	30	2
7/8/92	55	38	7
7/13/88	49	45	6
7/8/84	49	43	7

*Washington Post-Kaiser Family Foundation: "... many services"

11. How concerned are you, if at all, that Biden will do too much to increase the size and role of government in U.S. society? Are you very concerned about that, somewhat concerned, not so concerned or not concerned at all?

	--- More concerned ---			---- Less concerned ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	
4/21/21	53	32	21	45	22	23	2

12. Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No opinion
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	
4/21/21	42	4	38	58	37	20	1
9/24/20	40	9	31	59	37	22	1
8/15/20	31	7	24	68	34	33	1
5/28/20	34	8	26	65	40	24	1
9/5/19	56	16	40	43	30	13	1
11/1/18	65	15	49	34	25	9	1
8/29/18	58	12	46	40	31	9	2
1/18/18	58	14	44	40	28	12	2
1/15/17	51	6	45	48	35	14	1

Call for full results.

*** END ***