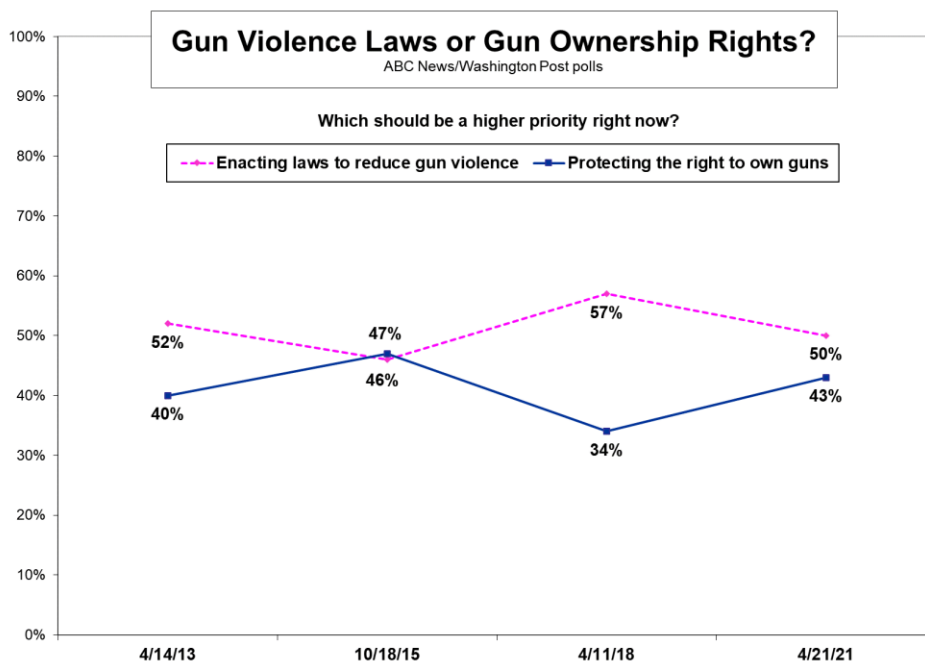


Half Prioritize Gun Violence Laws, Down From its Post-Parkland Level

The public's priority on enacting new laws to try to address gun violence has waned from its level three years ago, despite continued mass shooting incidents across the country.

Fifty percent in this ABC News/Washington Post poll prioritize enacting new gun violence laws while 43 percent prefer a focus on protecting the right to own guns, a 7-point margin. That's narrowed from a 23-point, 57-34 percent preference for new legislation in April 2018, after the Parkland, Florida, high school shooting that killed 17, prompting national gun violence protests.

The decline brings a return to a closer division of opinions even with a series of shootings since mid-March, including ones leaving nine dead at a FedEx facility in Indianapolis, 10 dead at a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado, and eight dead at three spas near Atlanta.



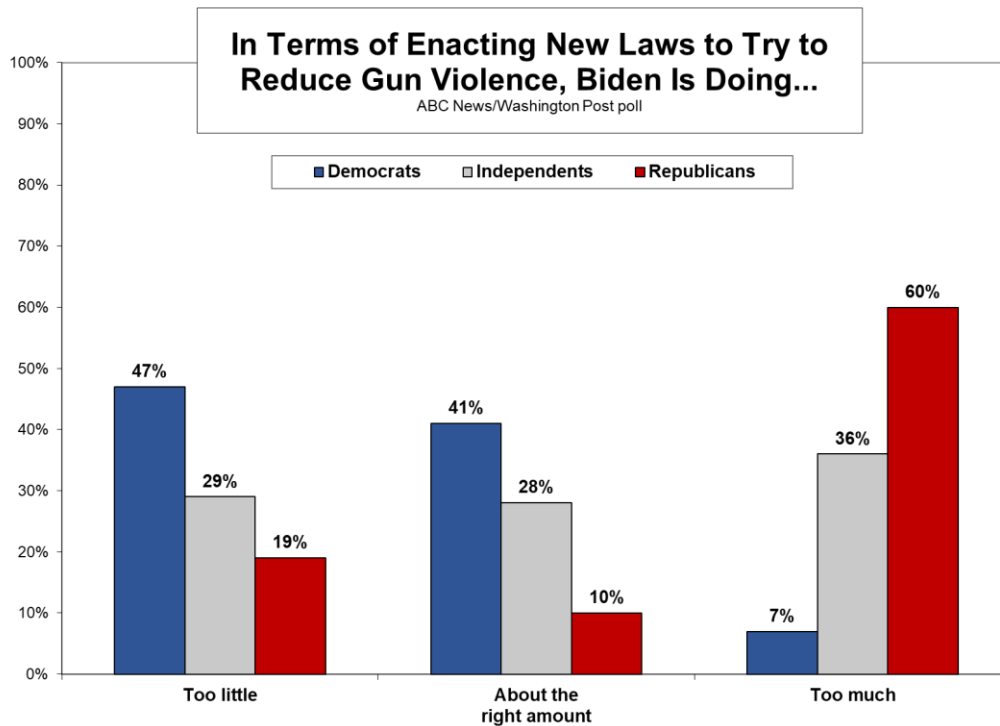
Intensity of sentiment also is about evenly divided in this poll, produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), with about four in 10 in both camps saying they feel strongly about their preference.

BIDEN – Joe Biden has responded to the recent shootings by announcing six executive orders and expressing support for new legislation. The public fractures on his approach: Thirty-two percent say he's doing too little, while an identical share say he's doing too much in terms of

enacting laws to try to reduce gun violence. Nearly as many, 28 percent, think he’s doing the right amount.

Views that Biden is doing too little peak among liberals, at 52 percent; those who prioritize new laws over protecting gun rights, 48 percent; and also within his own party: Forty-seven percent of Democrats say the president is doing too little to try to enact new laws intended to curb gun violence.

Conversely, about six in 10 Republicans and people who prioritize protecting the right to own guns think Biden is doing too much. Views among independents are mixed, with 36 percent seeing Biden’s actions as “too much,” 29 percent “too little” and 28 percent the right amount.



GROUPS – As noted, preference for new legislation is down 7 percentage points since last measured in April 2018. The decline is sharpest among 18 to 29-year-olds, from 65 percent to 45 percent; Hispanics, also down 20 points, to 50 percent; rural Americans, down 17 points to 30 percent; and strong conservatives, down 17 points to 11 percent.

Divisions across political and ideological lines remain sharp. Three-quarters of Republicans prioritize protecting the right to own guns, as do 68 percent of conservatives (including 81 percent of strong conservatives). Conversely, 83 percent of Democrats and liberals alike favor enacting new laws to try to reduce gun violence. Independents split 48-43 percent between protecting gun rights and enacting new laws.

Among other groups, rural adults favor protecting the right to own guns by a 2-1 margin, 60 vs. 30 percent. That essentially flips among urbanites, with 61 percent favoring new laws vs. 34 percent for protecting gun rights. Suburban residents divide evenly, 48-45 percent.

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 Allison De Jong.

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.

1-7, 8b, 10-25 previously released. * = less than 0.5 percent.

8. In terms of [ITEM], do you think Biden is doing too (much), too (little) or about the right amount?

4/21/21 - Summary table

	Too much	Too little	Right amount	No opinion
a. enacting new laws to try to reduce gun violence	32	32	28	8

9. Which do you think should be a higher priority right now - (enacting new laws to try to reduce gun violence) or (protecting the right to own guns)? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	Enacting new laws			Right to own guns			Both	Neither	No
	NET	Strg	Smwt	NET	Smwt	Strg	(vol.)	(vol.)	opinion
4/21/21	50	42	8	43	5	38	4	1	3
4/11/18	57	50	7	34	3	31	5	1	2
10/18/15	46	38	8	47	7	40	4	1	2
4/14/13	52	NA	NA	40	NA	NA	3	2	3

*** END ***