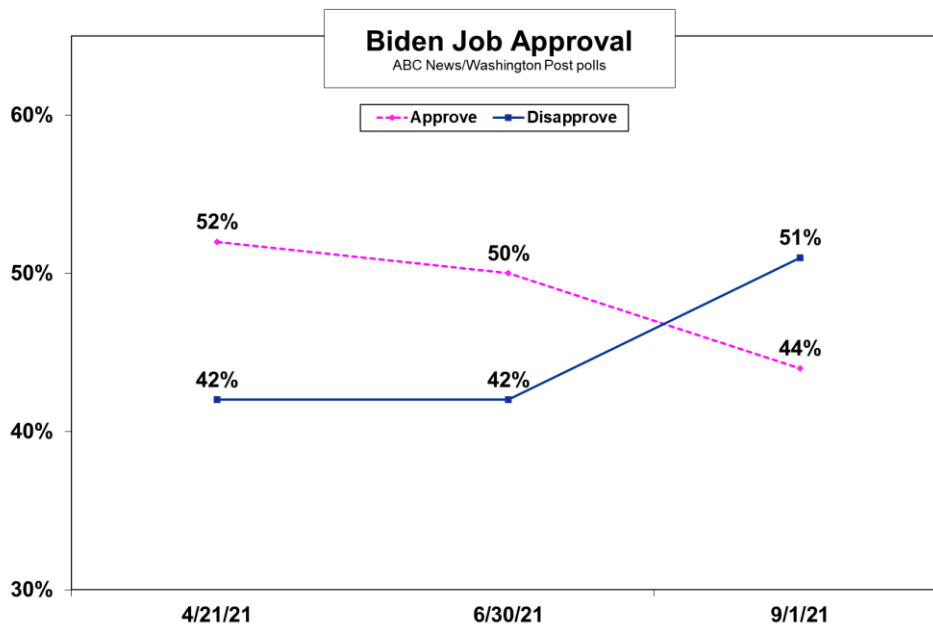


## **Biden’s Job Approval Drops to 44% Amid Broad Criticism on Afghanistan**

Joe Biden’s job approval rating has fallen underwater in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll amid broad disapproval of his handling of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, including a share of blame on Biden for conditions leading to last week’s devastating Kabul airport attack.

Overall, in a sad coda to the nearly 20-year, \$2 trillion effort, just 36 percent of Americans say the war was worth fighting. A wide 77 percent support the United States withdrawing; the sticking point is how Biden handled it: Sixty percent disapprove.

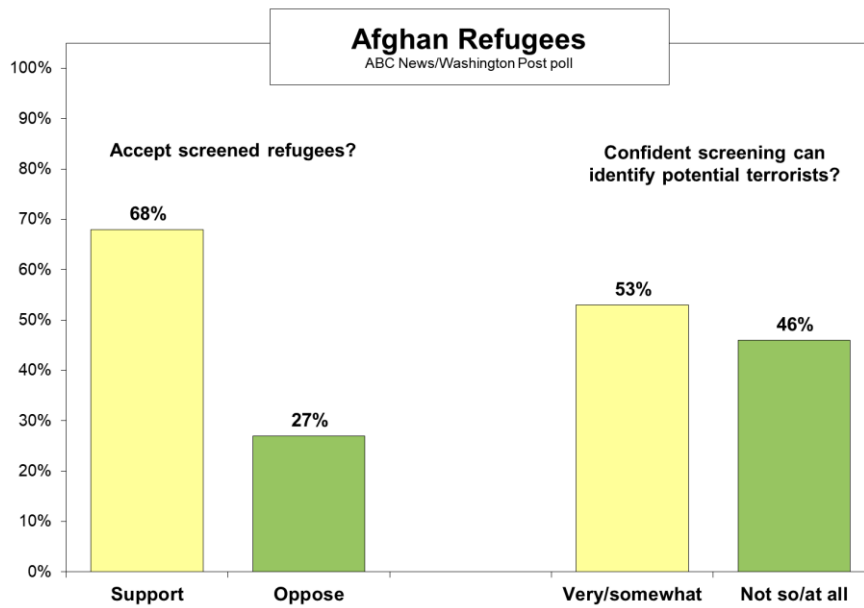
Slammed by the crisis, his overall job approval rating in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), is down to 44 percent, with 51 percent disapproving – down 6 percentage points in approval and up 9 in disapproval since late June. Intensity has moved decidedly negative: Many more now strongly disapprove, 42 percent, than strongly approve, 25 percent.



A substantial 44 percent think the withdrawal left the United States less safe from terrorism, while only 8 percent think the country is safer as a result. (The rest see no difference.) One factor: Nearly half, 46 percent, lack confidence that the United States can identify and keep out possible terrorists in the ranks of Afghan refugees.

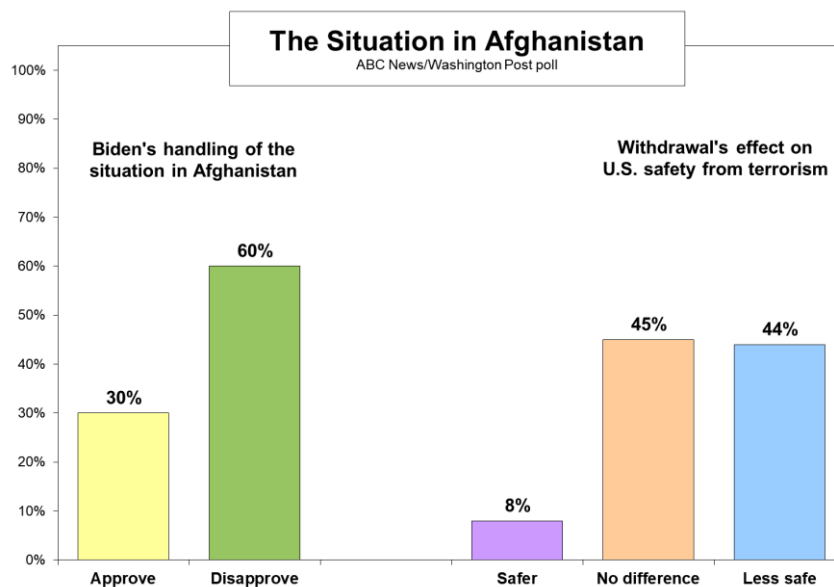
Still, another result marks a humanitarian impulse despite that security concern: Sixty-eight percent support the United States taking in Afghan refugees after they’ve been screened for

security, vs. 27 percent opposed. That’s far more support than Americans expressed for accepting Syrian and other Mideast refugees in 2015, 43 percent.



**BIDEN and BLAME** – Just 26 percent of the public both favors the withdrawal of U.S. forces and approves of how Biden handled it. Sixty-nine percent instead express criticism: Fifty-two percent who support withdrawing but disapprove of how Biden handled it and 17 percent who oppose having withdrawn.

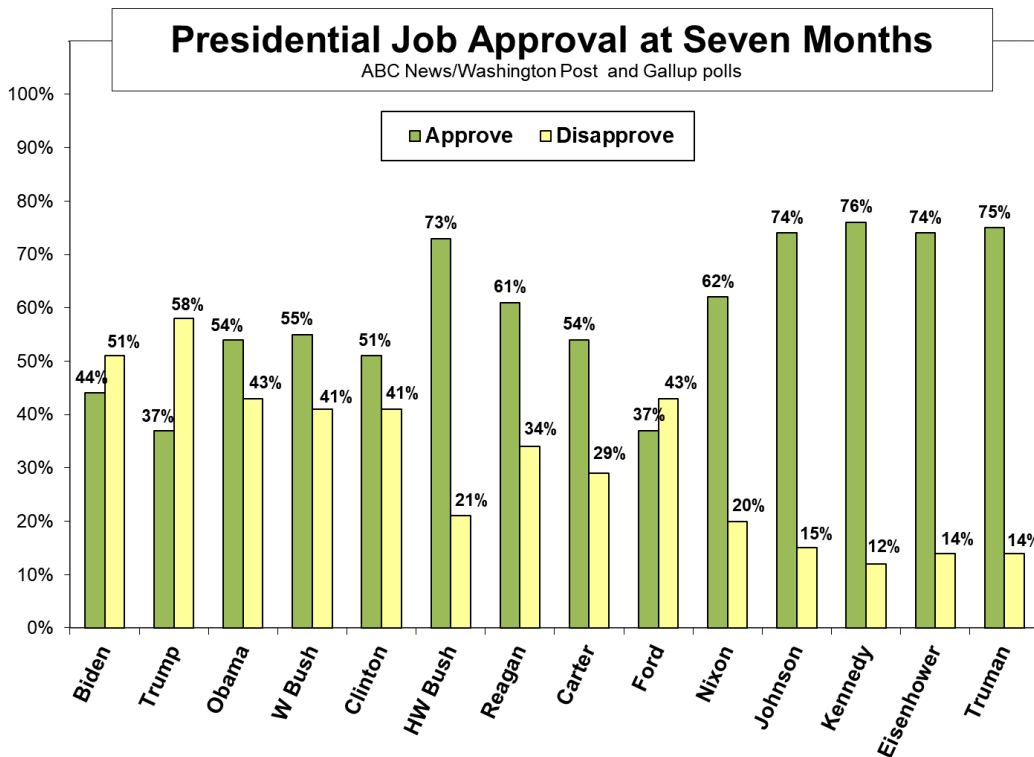
Another measure simply asks if Americans approve or disapprove of how Biden has handled the situation in Afghanistan. On this, 30 percent approve, with, as noted, 60 percent disapproving.



Further, 53 percent say his handling of the withdrawal bears some blame for the suicide bombing attack that killed 13 U.S. service members and more than 170 Afghans last week – a great deal of blame, 38 percent, and a good amount, 15 percent.

**APPROVAL** – Biden came into office with 67 percent approval for his handling of the transition, but that quickly subsided to 52 percent job approval in April, held roughly steady at 50 percent in June – and is down to 44 percent now.

In polling data since the Truman administration, only two presidents have had a lower approval rating at this point in their terms – Donald Trump, at 37 percent in August 2017, and Gerald Ford, also 37 percent, in March 1975.



There are some dramatic gaps in Biden’s overall approval – 18 points higher among women than men (53 to 35 percent), 23 points higher among members of racial and ethnic minority groups than whites (59 vs. 36 percent), 24 points higher among adults with a post-graduate degree vs. those without a college degree (63 vs. 39 percent) and 28 points higher among urban residents vs. those in rural areas (52 vs. 24 percent; it’s 43 percent in the suburbs).

In shifts since June, Biden’s approval is down especially among men (-10 points), urban residents (-10), independents (-9), Democrats (-8) and slightly among whites (-6). It’s essentially unchanged among women, suburban residents, Republicans and racial or ethnic minorities.

The drop among men reflects their much higher likelihood of placing some blame for the Aug. 26 airport bombing on Biden’s handling of the withdrawal: Sixty-two percent of men hold this view, compared with 45 percent of women.

**PARTISANS** – Political differences are very sharp. Biden has just 8 percent overall approval from Republicans, and 36 percent from independents, compared with 86 percent among Democrats. It’s 13 percent among conservatives, 53 percent from moderates and 69 percent among liberals.

The president’s rating drops especially steeply among Democrats when it comes specifically to his handling of the situation in Afghanistan – here he gets 56 percent approval within his own party, 30 points lower than for his job performance overall.

<b>Biden Approval</b>			
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Afghanistan</b>	<b>Diff.</b>
<b>All</b>	44%	30%	-14
<b>Democrats</b>	86	56	-30
<b>Independents</b>	36	26	-10
<b>Republicans</b>	8	7	-1

Partisan differences subside on another measure: Majorities across the political spectrum support accepting screened Afghan refugees – 79 percent of Democrats, 71 percent of independents and fewer but still 56 percent of Republicans. Results are similar by ideology, with accepting refugees backed by 80 percent of liberals, 77 percent of moderates and 58 percent of conservatives. Support is lowest, albeit still a majority, among the least educated adults – 54 percent among those who haven’t gone beyond high school.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Aug. 29-Sept. 1, 2021, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,006 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 30-24-36 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.

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Full results follow.

2a-b, 3-18, 25-26 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
9/1/21	44	25	19	51	9	42	5
6/30/21	50	30	19	42	7	35	8
4/21/21	52	34	18	42	7	35	6

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

9/1/21 - Summary table

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
c. the situation in Afghanistan	30	60	10

19. All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war in Afghanistan has been worth fighting, or not? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Worth fighting -----			--- Not worth fighting ---			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/1/21	36	22	14	54	16	38	10
12/14/14	38	19	19	56	18	38	6
12/15/13	30	16	14	66	15	50	4
7/21/13	28	15	14	67	18	49	5
3/10/13	39	18	21	56	17	38	5
4/8/12	30	15	15	66	19	47	4
3/10/12	35	17	18	60	16	44	5
6/5/11	43	23	20	54	15	40	3
3/13/11	31	17	14	64	16	49	5
12/12/10	34	18	16	60	18	43	5
7/11/10	43	24	19	53	15	38	4
6/6/10	44	26	18	53	13	41	3
4/25/10	45	26	19	52	15	38	3
12/13/09	52	33	19	44	10	35	4
11/15/09	44	30	14	52	14	38	4
10/18/09*	47	28	19	49	13	36	4
9/12/09	46	28	18	51	14	37	3
8/17/09	47	31	15	51	10	41	3
7/18/09	51	34	18	45	11	34	4
3/29/09	56	37	19	41	12	28	4
2/22/09	50	34	17	47	9	37	3
12/14/08	55	NA	NA	39	NA	NA	5
7/13/08	51			45			4
2/25/07	56	"	"	41	"	"	3

\*10/18/09 "was" and "has been" wording half sampled. Previous "was."

20. Which of these comes closest to your opinion regarding the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Afghanistan? Would you say you (support the withdrawal and approve of how Biden has handled it), support the withdrawal but disapprove of how Biden has handled it or (oppose the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from Afghanistan)?

	--- Support withdrawal ---			Oppose	No
	NET	Approve handling	Disapprove handling	withdrawal	opinion
9/1/21	77	26	52	17	6

21. Do you think the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan makes the United States safer from terrorism, less safe from terrorism, or makes no difference?

	Safer	Less safe	Makes no difference	No opinion
9/1/21	8	44	45	3

22. Do you support or oppose the United States taking in refugees from Afghanistan after screening them for security? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/1/21	68	42	26	27	10	17	5
11/19/15*	43	23	20	54	14	40	3

\* "Refugees from the conflicts in Syria and other Mideast countries"

23. How confident are you that the United States can identify and keep out possible terrorists who may be among these refugees - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	-- More confident --			---- Less confident ----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	
9/1/21	53	16	37	46	20	25	1
11/19/15	47	13	34	52	23	29	1

24. Thirteen members of the U.S. military and at least 170 Afghans were killed near the Kabul airport in a suicide bombing by the Islamic State. How much, if at all, do you blame this attack on Biden's handling of the withdrawal from Afghanistan - a great deal, a good amount, not much, or not at all?

	---- More blame ----			--- Less blame ---			No opinion
	NET	Great deal	Good amount	NET	Not much	Not at all	
9/1/21	53	38	15	43	22	21	4

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