

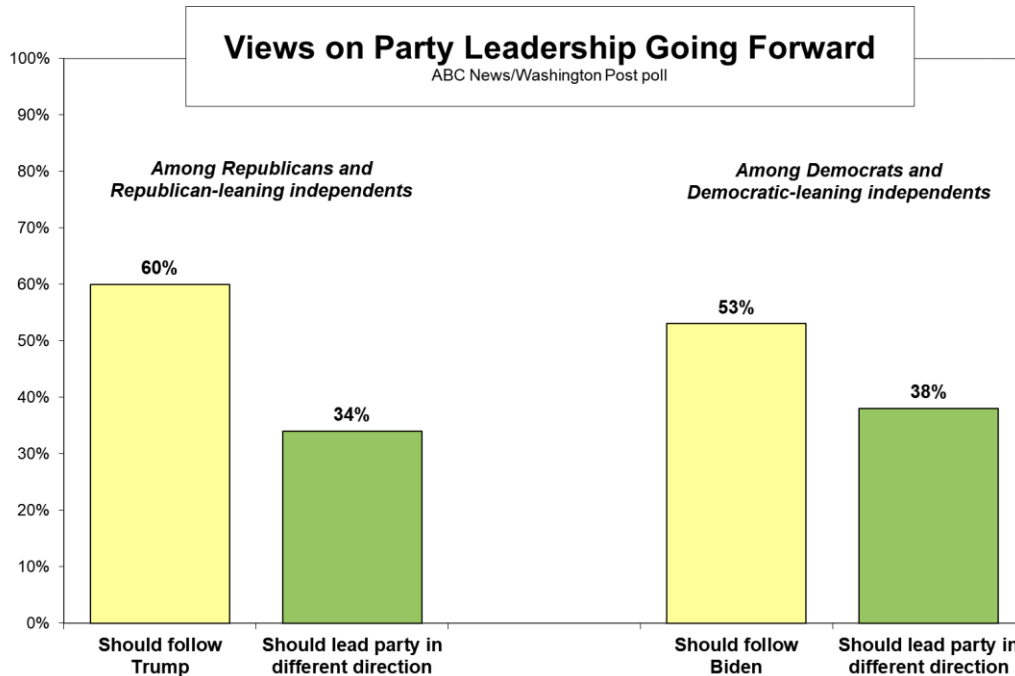
With Midterm Primaries Under Way, Trump Retains Majority GOP Support

Six in 10 Republicans back Donald Trump as their party’s leader, slightly more than the share of Democrats who line up behind Joe Biden’s leadership of their party – a sign of Trump’s lasting strength in his party as the midterm primary season revs up.

Nearly a year and a half after he reluctantly left the presidency, Trump’s influence is extensive albeit not monolithic: 60 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents say the GOP should follow his leadership, while 34 percent prefer a new direction.

Notably, that slightly exceeds backing for Biden’s leadership within his party, 53-38 percent in this ABC News/Washington Post poll.

Support for Trump within the GOP, moreover, has held up since he left office: The 60 percent who favor his leadership now is essentially the same as it was in an ABC/Post poll in mid-January 2021, 57 percent, shortly after Jan. 6 riot at the U.S. Capitol. That said, it’s down from 76 percent in a similar question in February 2018.



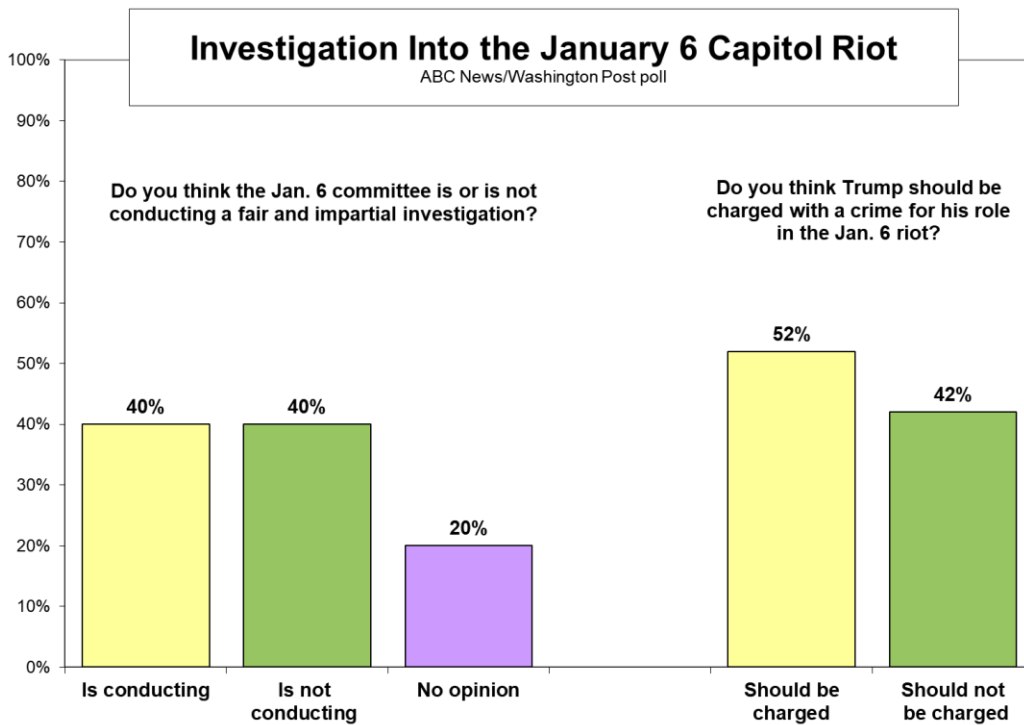
Indiana and Ohio go to the polls today and the spring/summer midterm primary season accelerates from here, with a dozen primaries and a runoff this month. Today’s most-watched

race pits Trump-endorsed candidate J.D. Vance in the Ohio Republican primary for U.S. Senate against several other front-runners who likewise have sought to embrace Trumpism.

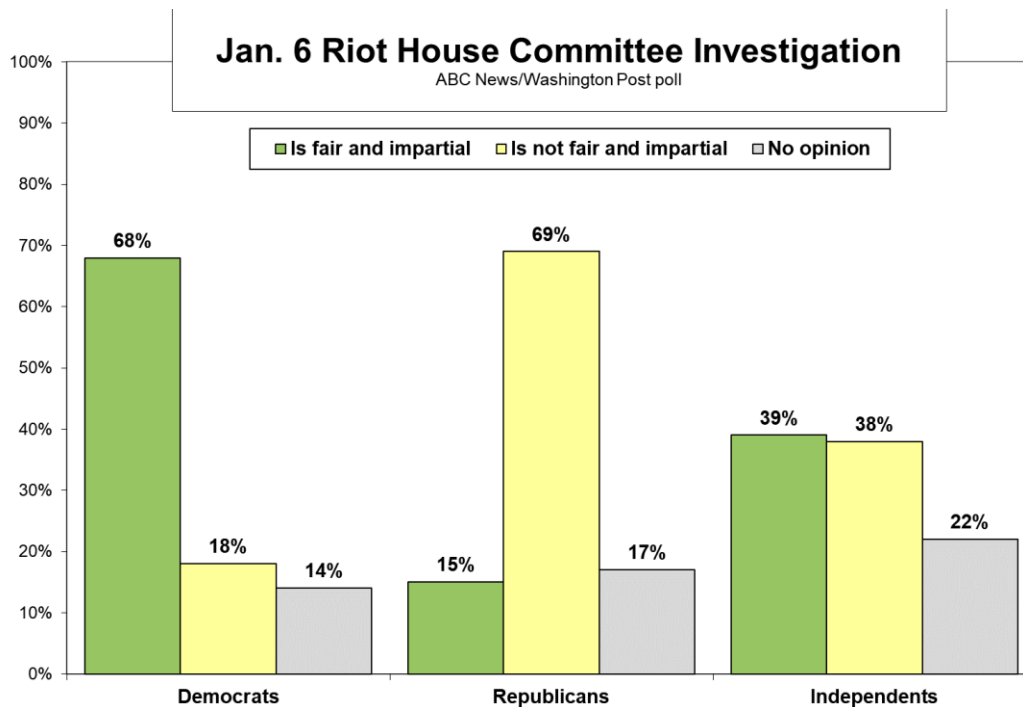
JAN. 6 – Trump holds intra-party support even as a slim majority overall continues to favor charging him with a crime related to the Capitol riot. At the same time, the public divides evenly on the work of the House committee investigating the incident.

Americans split 40-40 percent on whether the committee is or is not conducting a fair and impartial investigation of the riot; a substantial 20 percent have no opinion in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). Partisan divisions on the question are sharp.

More overall, 52 percent, say Trump should be charged with a crime for his role in the riot. That’s similar to results just a week after the attack, when 54 percent said he should be charged specifically with inciting a riot. Notably, nearly a quarter of those who think Trump should be charged with a crime don’t see the House committee’s investigation as fair and impartial.



PARTISANS – Evaluations of the House committee’s investigation of the riot divide along party lines. Sixty-eight percent of Democrats think the committee is conducting a fair and impartial investigation; a similar seven in 10 Republicans say it’s not doing so. Independents are split, 39-38 percent.



Trump-aligned Republicans and Republican leaners – those who say the party should follow his leadership – are among the least apt to see the committee as fair and impartial, with just 10 percent saying so. That rises to 27 percent of those who’d prefer GOP leaders go another way.

On the Democrats’ side, those less wed to Biden’s leadership are far less apt to see a fair and impartial investigation, 48 percent vs. 78 percent among those backing his direction.

TRUMP REPUBLICANS/BIDEN DEMOCRATS – Beyond the riot, opinions on the standard-bearers split each party along demographic and attitudinal lines.

Trump-aligned Republicans and Republican leaners tend to be older and more conservative than those who’d like the GOP to take a different direction. Six in 10 Trump Republicans are 50 and older, compared with 39 percent of their counterparts. Sixty-nine percent of Trump Republicans identify as conservatives, including 39 percent as strong conservatives. That falls to 46 percent conservatives, and 15 percent strong conservatives, among those who’d have party leaders follow a different path.

Most in both groups disapprove of Biden’s performance in office, but strong disapproval is significantly more intense among Trump Republicans, 93 percent, vs. 63 percent among other Republicans and GOP leaners, one in five of whom in fact approves of Biden’s work.

Age gaps on the Democratic side are more dramatic: Just 20 percent of Biden-aligned Democrats are younger than 35, compared with 52 percent of those who’d like to see the party move away from the president. In addition to being older, Biden Democrats are more likely to be moderates,

have higher incomes and be more educated than other Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents.

Those demographic differences align with a major rift on economic issues between the two. Just 46 percent of those who want to see the party move in a different direction approve of Biden’s handling of the economy, compared with 81 percent of Biden Democrats. Biden Democrats also are more apt to say good jobs are available in their community, and are far less apt to express upset about inflation.

Ultimately, Trump Republicans and Biden Democrats share a characteristic that suggests they’ll continue to hold sway: They’re both more likely than others to be registered to vote and to say they’re certain to vote in November.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone April 24-28, 2022, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 29-25-40 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates. See details on the survey’s methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Sofi Sinozich.

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, 17-20 previously released, 10-16 held for release. *= less than 0.5 percent

8. A committee of the U.S. House of Representatives is investigating events surrounding the riot at the U.S. Capitol last year on January 6th. Do you think this committee is or is not conducting a fair and impartial investigation?

	Is conducting a fair and impartial investigation	Is not conducting a fair and impartial investigation	No opinion
4/28/22	40	40	20

9. As you may know, Donald Trump encouraged his supporters to march to the U.S. Capitol, where the riot followed. Do you think Trump should be charged with a crime for his role in this incident, or do you think he should not be charged?

	Should be charged	Should not be charged	No opinion
4/28/22	52	42	6

Compare to:

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

21. (ASK IF REPUBLICAN/LEAN REPUBLICAN) 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 the party in a different direction	No opinion
4/28/22	60	34	6
1/13/21	57	35	7

Compare to: (ASK IF REPUBLICAN OR LEAN REPUBLICAN) Do you think Republican leaders in Congress should (follow President Trump's leadership) or should they (lead the party in a different direction)?

	Follow Trump's leadership	Lead the party in a different direction	Something else else (vol.)	No opinion
2/22/18*	76	18	1	4

*Washington Post-KFF

22. (ASK IF DEMOCRAT/LEAN DEMOCRAT) Going forward, do you think Democratic leaders should follow Biden's leadership or should they lead the party in a different direction?

	Follow Biden's leadership	Lead party in different direction	No opinion
4/28/22	53	38	9

*** END ***