

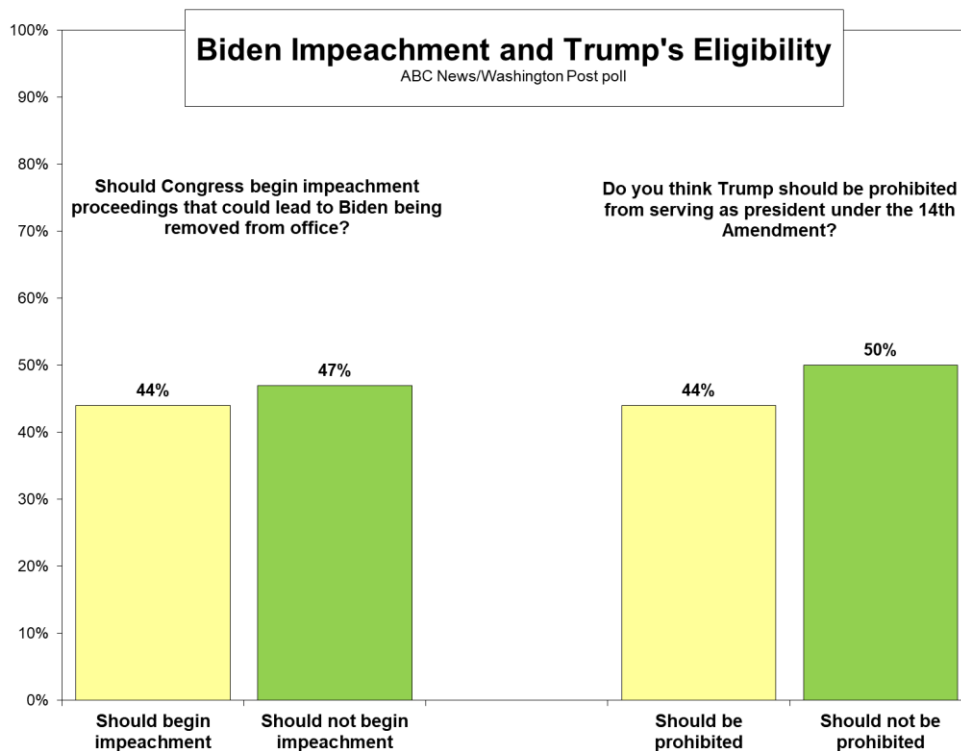
Biden Impeachment and Trump's Eligibility: Views Divide, with Profound Partisan Gaps

Americans divide on a congressional impeachment inquiry into Joe Biden and it's a fairly close call on whether Donald Trump should be eligible for a second term – two results in an ABC News/Washington Post poll that demonstrate the country's profound political polarization.

At the same time, while their situations are very different, more than half see accountability, rather than political victimization, in both Biden's situation and Trump's facing criminal charges.

Overall, 44 percent say that based on what they know, Congress should begin impeachment proceedings that could lead to Biden being removed from office. Forty-seven percent say it should not. In partisan terms, 74 percent of Republicans favor impeachment proceedings; 83 percent of Democrats oppose them. Independents split down the middle, 46-45 percent.

Another 44 percent of adults in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), say Trump should be prohibited from serving as president under the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits people from holding public office if they have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States. Slightly more, 50 percent, say this should not bar Trump from office.



On this question, the partisan tables turn: Seventy-three percent of Democrats say Trump should be barred from office, while 81 percent of Republicans say he should not. Independents side against prohibition by 52-43 percent, a slight difference given the sample size.

Intraparty criticisms also are apparent. Among Republicans and GOP-leaning independents who favor someone other than Trump for the 2024 nomination, 29 percent say he should be prohibited from office. And among Democrats and Democratic leaners who prefer someone other than Biden as the nominee, 21 percent support Congress beginning impeachment proceedings. (A first hearing is scheduled for next Thursday.)

Among other groups, women and college graduates are more apt than their counterparts to think Trump should be prohibited from serving another term. That’s reversed on whether Congress should begin impeachment proceedings for Biden, each a reflection of partisan and ideological differences among these groups.

ACCOUNTABILITY? – Both men blame their political opponents for their situations. Most Americans see it differently:

- By 53-40 percent, more say Trump’s indictments on charges of trying to overturn the 2020 presidential election and illegally retaining classified documents mean he is being held accountable under the law like anyone else, as opposed to being unfairly victimized by his political opponents.
- The gap widens on Biden. Told that the Republican speaker of the House has initiated an inquiry into whether Biden should be impeached because of alleged involvement in his son’s international business dealings, Americans by 58-32 percent say the inquiry reflects Biden being held accountable under the law like any president, rather than being unfairly victimized politically.

Similar vast partisan gaps are present. Eighty-six percent of Democrats say Trump is being held accountable like anyone else; just 19 percent of Republicans agree. More independents think he’s being held accountable than being victimized, 55-39 percent.

Views of Biden impeachment inquiry and Trump’s indictments				
<i>ABC News/Washington Post poll</i>				
	Biden is being...		Trump is being...	
	Held accountable	Victimized politically	Held accountable	Victimized politically
All	58%	32%	53%	40%
Democrats	23	65	86	8
Republicans	85	10	19	75
Independents	63	29	55	39

As to Biden, 85 percent of Republicans think he's being held accountable, while 23 percent of Democrats say the same. Most independents see accountability, even moreso than for Trump, 63-29 percent. In notable results by ideology, 37 percent of liberals and 51 percent of moderates say Biden is being held accountable, not victimized.

IMPEACHMENT TRENDS – Views on impeachment proceedings against Trump, the same question asked in this poll about Biden, started with a split, 49-46 percent, in August 2018, then moved to opposition, with a peak of 59 percent in July 2019 saying Congress should not begin such hearings. A month later, a whistleblower complaint accused Trump of abuse of power; twice in subsequent ABC/Post polls, Americans divided on impeaching Trump and removing him from office, 49-47 percent in October 2019 and 49-46 percent that December.

In a previous case, majorities from 57 to 71 percent in 1998 opposed impeaching Bill Clinton and removing him from office.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Sept. 15-20, 2023, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,006 adults. Partisan divisions are 25-25-42 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 percentage points, including the design effect. Sampling error is not the only source of differences in polls.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#), 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.

Q1-14, 19 previously released.

15. Trump has been indicted on federal and state charges that he conspired to illegally overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election and that he illegally retained classified documents after leaving office. In facing these charges, do you think Trump is being (held accountable under the law like anyone else), or do you think he is being (unfairly victimized by his political opponents)?

	Held accountable like anyone else	Unfairly victimized by his political opponents	No opinion
9/20/23	53	40	7

16. The U.S. Constitution prohibits people who have taken an oath to the Constitution from holding public office if they have engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the United States. Do you think Trump should or should not be prohibited from serving as president under this provision?

	Should be prohibited	Should not be prohibited	No opinion
9/20/23	44	50	6

On another subject,

17. Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not begin impeachment proceedings that could lead to Biden being removed from office? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	Should begin impeachment-			Should not begin impeachment			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/20/23	44	34	10	47	12	35	9

Compare to:

Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not impeach Trump and remove him from office? Do you feel that way strongly or only somewhat?

	----- Should impeach ----			-- Should not impeach ---			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
12/15/19	49	38	11	46	12	34	5
10/30/19	49	44	5	47	10	37	4

Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not begin impeachment proceedings that could lead to Trump being removed from office? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Should begin -----			--- Should not begin ----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
7/1/19	37	29	8	59	13	46	4
4/25/19	37	29	9	56	13	43	6
3/29/19*	41	NA	NA	54	NA	NA	5
1/24/19	40	33	7	55	13	42	6
8/29/18	49	40	9	46	13	33	5
*3/29 Post-Schar School							

Based on what you know, do you think Congress should or should not impeach Clinton and remove him from office?

	--- Should be impeached ---			-- Should not be impeached --			No opin.
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
12/6/98	33	NA	NA	64	NA	NA	3
11/22/98	30	NA	NA	66	NA	NA	4
11/1/98	27	NA	NA	71	NA	NA	2
10/25/98	29	NA	NA	66	NA	NA	5
10/18/98	29	NA	NA	68	NA	NA	3
10/10/98	31	25	6	64	11	53	4
9/28/98	31	24	7	66	14	52	3
9/21/98	41	NA	NA	57	NA	NA	2
9/14/98	38			59			3
9/13/98*	30	26	3	64	8	56	6
8/23/98**	24			70			6
8/19/98**	30			65			5
8/17/98**	25			69			6

*Washington Post: "As you may know, the independent counsel Kenneth Starr has delivered a report to Congress summarizing his investigation of the Lewinsky matter. Based on what you know or have heard..."

** "If he does not resign, do you think..."

18. The Republican speaker of the House has initiated an inquiry into whether Joe Biden should be impeached because of alleged involvement in his son's international business dealings. In this impeachment inquiry, do you think Biden is being (held accountable under the law like any president), or do you think he is being (unfairly victimized by his political opponents)?

	Held accountable like any president	Unfairly victimized by his political opponents	No opinion
9/20/23	58	32	10

*** END ***