

This Washington Post-University of Maryland poll was conducted online and by phone Dec. 14-18, 2023, among a random national sample of 1,024 adults. The sample was drawn through the AmeriSpeak Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. Overall results have a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 4.1 percentage points. Sampling, data collection and tabulation was conducted by NORC. The survey was conducted in partnership with the University of Maryland's Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement.

(Full methodological details appended at the end of this document.)

*= less than 0.5 percent

1. Do you think protesters who entered the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, were (mostly peaceful), (mostly violent), or equally peaceful and violent?

	Mostly peaceful	Mostly violent	Equally peaceful and violent	No opinion /Skipped
12/17/23	21	50	28	1
12/19/21	19	54	27	1

Compare to:

Do you think protests [following George Floyd's killing] have been (mostly peaceful) or (mostly violent)?

	Mostly peaceful	Mostly violent	Both equally (vol.)	No opinion
6/7/20*	43	43	13	1

*Washington Post-Schar School

2. Do you think the legal punishments for people who broke into the U.S. Capitol have been (too harsh), (not harsh enough), or have they been fair?

	Too harsh	Not harsh enough	Have been fair	No opinion /Skipped
12/17/23	26	38	35	2
12/19/21	19	51	28	3

3. How much responsibility do you think Donald Trump bears for the attack on the U.S. Capitol?

	A great deal	Good amount	Just some	None at all	No opinion /Skipped
12/17/23	37	16	18	28	2
12/19/21	43	17	14	24	2
1/13/21*	45	12	14	28	1

*Post-ABC telephone poll

4. As you may know, Trump has been charged with criminal conspiracy to defraud the United States which alleges he lied about voter fraud in an illegal effort to overturn the 2020 election. Do you think Trump is innocent or guilty of these charges?

	----- Innocent -----			----- Guilty -----			Not	No op.
	NET	Definitely	Probably	NET	Probably	Definitely	sure	/Skip
12/17/23	33	21	12	56	16	40	11	*

5. In bringing these charges, do you think the Justice Department is (holding Trump accountable under the law like anyone else) or (unfairly targeting Trump for political reasons)?

	Holding Trump accountable under the law like anyone else	Unfairly targeting Trump for political reasons	No opinion /Skipped
12/17/23	57	41	2

Compare to:

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

Donald Trump has been charged in New York with 34 felony counts of falsifying business records. Do you think this case was brought (appropriately to hold Trump accountable under the law like anyone else), or (inappropriately to try to hurt Trump politically)?

	Appropriately to hold Trump accountable	Inappropriately to try to hurt Trump politically	No opinion
5/3/23*	49	44	7

*Post-ABC telephone polls

6. On Jan. 6, 2021, do you think that each of the following actions threatened democracy, defended democracy, or neither threatened nor defended democracy?

12/17/23 - Summary table

	Threatened democracy	Defended democracy	Neither	No op. /Skip
a. Donald Trump telling his supporters to march to the U.S. Capitol where Congress was certifying the 2020 Election	51	15	30	4
b. Protesters entering the U.S. Capitol	58	12	27	3
c. Congress certifying the 2020 presidential election results	17	49	31	3
d. Senators and members of Congress voting <u>against</u> certifying the 2020				

presidential election results	53	16	26	4
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Compare to:

Which of the following comes closest to your opinion? Do you think Donald Trump's actions after the 2020 presidential election did more to threaten democracy, to defend democracy or did it not do either one?

	Did more to threaten democracy	Did more to defend democracy	Neither	DK	Skipped/ Refused
8/14/23*	54	19	25	*	1
*AP-NORC					

7. Do you think Trump's actions related to his role in the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol...

	Should disqualify Trump from the presidency	Cast doubts on his fitness for the job, but are not disqualifying	Are not relevant to his fitness for the presidency	No opin. /Skip
12/17/23	46	17	33	4

Compare to:

As you may have heard, Donald Trump is facing criminal charges in four separate cases. For each of these cases, please indicate whether you think, if true, those charges related to his role in the January 6, 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol...

	Should disqualify Trump from the presidency	Cast doubts on his fitness for the job, but are not disqualifying	Are not relevant to his fitness for the presidency	No opin. /Skip
8/31/23*	51	15	34	1
*CNN				

8. If a person running for Congress supported efforts to overturn the presidential election in 2020, do you think this...

	Should disqualify them from serving in Congress	Casts doubt on their fitness for the job, but is not disqualifying	Is not relevant to their fitness for Congress	No op. /Skip
12/17/23	41	28	29	3

9. Which comes closer to your point of view: the storming of the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021 was an attack on democracy that should never be forgotten, or too much is being made of the storming of the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021 and it is time to move on?

	Never be forgotten	Time to move on	No opinion /Skipped
12/17/23	55	43	2
12/12/22*	54	41	6
*Quinnipiac University telephone poll			

10. Do you think it is true or false that FBI operatives organized and encouraged the attack on the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021?

	----- True -----			----- False -----			Not	No opin.
	NET	Definitely	Probably	NET	Probably	Definitely	sure	/Skipped
12/17/23	25	7	17	48	22	26	26	2

10a. (IF DEFINITELY/PROBABLY TRUE) Do you think there is solid evidence of that, or is it your suspicion only?

	Solid evidence	Suspicion only	No opinion /Skipped
12/17/23	46	53	1

Q10/Q10a NET

	----- True -----					Not	No opinion
	NET	Solid evidence	Suspicion only	No op.	False	sure	/Skipped
12/17/23	25	11	13	*	48	26	2

11. Regardless of whom you supported in the 2020 election, do you think Joe Biden's election as president was legitimate, or was he not legitimately elected?

	Legitimate	Not legitimate	No opinion
12/17/23	62	36	2
12/19/21	69	29	2

Compare to:

Donald Trump

	Legitimate	Not legitimate	No opinion
10/5/17	57	42	1

Barack Obama

	Legitimate	Not legitimate	No opinion
10/5/17	85	14	1

Do you consider Bush to have been legitimately elected as president, or not?

	Yes	No	No opin.
4/22/01*	62	36	2
1/15/01	58	40	2
12/15/00	55	42	3
12/10/00**	71	27	1
12/3/00	73	23	4
11/26/00	76	19	5

*4/22/01 and previous: Washington Post-ABC News telephone polls

**12/10 and previous: "If this ends with Bush winning the presidency, will you consider him ..."

12. Do you think there is solid evidence that there was widespread voter fraud in the 2020 election, or no solid evidence?

	Solid evidence	No solid evidence	No opinion
12/17/23	33	63	4
12/19/21	30	68	2

Compare to:

Trump has refused to accept Biden's victory, claiming widespread voter fraud. Do you think there is solid evidence for Trump's claims, or no solid evidence?

	Solid evidence	No solid evidence	No opinion
1/13/21*	31	62	7

*Washington Post-ABC News telephone polls

13. Thinking ahead to the 2024 presidential election, how confident are you that each of the following people will accept the results of the election if they lose?

12/17/23 - Summary table

	-- More confident --			----- Less confident -----			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too	Not at all	/Skipped
a. Joe Biden	65	42	23	33	13	20	2
b. Donald Trump	27	12	15	71	20	51	2

Compare to:

Thinking ahead to the 2022 midterm elections for Congress, how confident are you that...?

In states where the government is mostly controlled by Republicans, how confident are you that state officials will accept the results of an election if their party loses?

	----- Confident -----			----- Less confident -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too confident	Not confident at all	op
12/19/21	48	13	35	50	33	17	2

In states where the government is mostly controlled by Democrats, how confident are you that state officials will accept the results of an election if their party loses?

	----- Confident -----			----- Less confident -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too confident	Not confident at all	op
12/19/21	67	30	37	32	20	12	1

14. Which of the following is your main source for news about politics and government?

	12/17/23
Fox News or FoxNews.com	13
Local TV	12
CNN or CNN.com	8
Facebook	7
NBC	6

ABC or ABCNews.com	6
NPR	6
The New York Times	5
Local radio	4
CBS or CBSNews.com	3
MSNBC	3
The Washington Post	2
Another newspaper	2
Newsmax, OANN, Daily	
Wire or Daily Caller	2
Another TV network	1
Other	14
No opinion	6

PARTYID. Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as...

	A Democrat	A Republican	An independent	Other	Skipped
12/17/23	33	31	26	9	1

*** END ***

METHODOLOGICAL DETAILS

This poll was jointly sponsored and funded by The Washington Post and the University of Maryland. The web and phone poll is a random sample of adults in the United States, with interviews in English.

This questionnaire was administered with the exact questions in the exact order as they appear in this document. Demographic questions are not shown. If a question was asked of a reduced base of the sample, a parenthetical preceding the question identifies the group asked. Phrases surrounded by parentheticals within questions indicate clauses that were randomly rotated for respondents.

Respondents were drawn from a stratified random sample of the AmeriSpeak Panel, the probability-based panel of NORC at the University of Chicago. The sample was stratified by age, race/ethnicity, gender and education. A total of 1,024 interviews were completed, including 965 self-administered over the internet and 59 administered by professional interviewers over landline or cellular phone.

The AmeriSpeak panel was built through a nationally representative probability sample of U.S. households using mail, telephone and face-to-face recruitment methods. Panel members are permitted to complete surveys using an internet device or by phone. Additional technical details about AmeriSpeak survey methodology is available at www.norc.org.

This survey uses statistical weighting procedures to account for features of the AmeriSpeak panel sample design, efforts to recruit initially nonresponding households and to match population demographic benchmarks according to the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The Post-UMD sample was weighted to adjust for nonresponse, as well as to match population benchmarks for age, gender, education, race/ethnicity and Census Division according to the Current Population Survey as well as to an average of leaned party identification recent AP-NORC, Post-ABC and Pew NPORS national polls.

All error margins have been adjusted to account for the survey's design effect, which is 1.8 for this survey. The design effect is a factor representing the survey's deviation from a simple random sample and takes into account decreases in precision due to sample design and weighting procedures. Surveys that do not incorporate a design effect overstate their precision.

The Washington Post is a charter member of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative, which recognizes organizations that disclose key methodological details on the research they produce.

Contact polls@washpost.com for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

