This Washington Post-University of Maryland poll was conducted online and by phone Dec. 17-19, 2021, among a random national sample of 1,101 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 four 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. How proud are you of the way democracy works in America – very proud, somewhat proud, not very proud, or not at all proud?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>NET Proud</th>
<th>Very Proud</th>
<th>Somewhat Proud</th>
<th>NET Not Proud</th>
<th>Not too Proud</th>
<th>Not at all Proud</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/19/21</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/5/17</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/14*</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/04*</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/6/02</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/28/01**</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/25/96*</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*General Social Survey by NORC
**National Tragedy Study by NORC

Question 2 held for release.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mostly Peaceful</th>
<th>Mostly Violent</th>
<th>Equally Peaceful and Violent</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/19/21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Compare to:

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Mostly Peaceful</th>
<th>Mostly Violent</th>
<th>Equally (Vol.)</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6/7/20*</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Washington Post-Schar School

4. 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Too Harsh</th>
<th>Not Harsh enough</th>
<th>Have been Fair</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/19/21</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. Do you think that some protesters injured police officers while trying to break into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, or did everyone act peacefully?
Some injured police officers | Everyone acted peacefully | No opinion
---|---|---
12/19/21 | 87 | 10 | 3

6. 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 |
---|---|---|---|---|
12/19/21 | 43 | 17 | 14 | 24 | 2
1/13/21* | 45 | 12 | 14 | 28 | 1

*Post-ABC

7. 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 |
---|---|---|
12/19/21 | 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
**12/10 and previous: “If this ends with Bush winning the presidency, will you consider him . . .”

8. 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
---|---|---
12/19/21 | 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
9. Thinking ahead to the 2022 midterm elections for Congress, how confident are you that...

a. Votes across the country will be counted accurately

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Confident</th>
<th>Less confident</th>
<th>Not too confident</th>
<th>Not confident at all</th>
<th>Op</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NET</td>
<td>Very</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>NET</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/19/21</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/31/20*</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>62</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*"...votes for president across the country will be counted accurately"

b. All eligible citizens in the U.S. will have a fair opportunity to vote

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Confident</th>
<th>Less confident</th>
<th>Not too confident</th>
<th>Not confident at all</th>
<th>Op</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NET</td>
<td>Very</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>NET</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/19/21</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10. 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Confident</th>
<th>Less confident</th>
<th>Not too confident</th>
<th>Not confident at all</th>
<th>Op</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NET</td>
<td>Very</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>NET</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/19/21</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Confident</th>
<th>Less confident</th>
<th>Not too confident</th>
<th>Not confident at all</th>
<th>Op</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NET</td>
<td>Very</td>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>NET</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12/19/21</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

12. Do you think it is ever justified for citizens to take violent action against the government, or is it never justified?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Justified</th>
<th>Never justified</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12/19/21</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>4*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Includes respondents who selected "justified" but who said in a follow-up question that they did not think violence was justified

Compare to:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Justified</th>
<th>Never justified</th>
<th>No opinion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/25/15*</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/10/11</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/12/10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/14/95**</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/25/95</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*10/15, 1/11, 4/10 and 4/95: CBS News/New York Times or CBS News
**Washington Post-ABC News

13. (IF EVER JUSTIFIED) Under what circumstances would it be justifiable to take violent action against the United States government? (Up to two open-end responses accepted)

12/19/21
Government violates or takes away rights or freedoms/Oppresses people: 22
Government no longer a democracy/Becomes a dictatorship/Coup/Military takes over: 15
Government violates constitution: 13
Government abuses power/Tyranny: 12
Government is violent against citizens/Safety at risk: 11
Government not working in citizens’ best interests/will of people: 8
Corruption/Fraud: 5
To stop communism or socialism: 4
American Revolution/Declaration of Independence/Reference to founding fathers: 3
President or government does not accept election results/Elections cancelled/Widespread voter fraud: 3
Government is wrong (in general): 3
Nazis/Fascists take power: 2
Other: 7
No opinion/No answer: 12

14. Which of the following is your main source for news about politics and government? (MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED)

12/19/21
Local TV: 39
CNN or CNN.com: 28
NBC: 26
ABC or ABCNews.com: 26
Fox News or FoxNews.com: 26
CBS or CBSNews.com: 23
NPR: 19
MSNBC: 18
Local radio: 15
Facebook: 14
The New York Times: 14
The Washington Post: 13
Another newspaper: 10
Another TV network: 7
Other: 21
No opinion: 3

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

A Democrat: 30   A Republican: 26   An independent: 33   Other: 10   No opinion: *

*** 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 1,101 interviews
were completed, including 999 self-administered over the internet and 102 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

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 party identification in the current survey and the two most recent
Washington Post-ABC News 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Unweighted sample size</th>
<th>Error margin</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All adults</td>
<td>1,101</td>
<td>+/- 4 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>399</td>
<td>6.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>7.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.