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# Biden Viewed Positively on Many Issues, but Public Is Less Confident He Can Unify Country

*Majority of Republicans say GOP should not be accepting of  
Republican officials who openly criticize Trump*

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## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand the public's views of Joe Biden and the Republican and Democratic parties. For this analysis, we surveyed 12,055 U.S. adults in March 2021. Everyone who took part in this survey is a member of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used for the report](#), along with responses, and [its methodology](#).

# Biden Viewed Positively on Many Issues, but Public Is Less Confident He Can Unify Country

*Majority of Republicans say GOP should not be accepting of Republican officials who openly criticize Trump*

A little less than two months into his presidency, Joe Biden has a positive job approval rating and draws confidence from majorities of the public on his ability to handle a range of issues, especially the coronavirus outbreak.

Nearly two-thirds of Americans (65%) say they are very or somewhat confident in Biden to handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak. Narrower majorities express confidence in Biden for making good decisions on foreign policy and economic policy, effectively handling issues around race, making wise decisions about immigration policy and effectively handling law enforcement and criminal justice.

By contrast, about half of Americans (48%) have confidence in Biden to bring the country closer together, while slightly more (52%) have little or no confidence he can foster greater unity in the United States.

## Majorities of Americans express confidence in Biden across several areas – except on unifying the country

% who say they are \_\_\_ confident in Joe Biden to ...

	NET	Not at all	Not too	Somewhat	Very	NET
Handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak	35	19	16	33	32	65
Make good decisions about foreign policy	43	26	17	31	25	56
Make good decisions about economic policy	44	27	17	32	24	56
Effectively address issues around race	45	23	22	34	20	55
Make wise decisions about immigration policy	46	31	15	31	22	53
Effectively handle law enforcement and criminal justice issues	47	25	21	35	18	53
Bring the country closer together	52	28	24	33	15	48

Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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The new national survey by Pew Research Center, conducted on the Center's nationally representative American Trends Panel March 1-7, 2021, among 12,055 adults, finds that 54% approve of Biden's job performance, while 42% disapprove. Biden draws more strong approval (38%) than strong disapproval (29%).

Biden's job rating is higher than Donald Trump's at a comparable point in his presidency in 2017 (44%) and lower than Barack Obama's in February 2009 (64%); the 2009 survey and those for prior presidents were conducted by phone.

Both Biden's and Trump's job ratings are more divided along partisan lines than were their predecessors'. Biden draws support from 86% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, which is similar to Trump's approval among Republicans and Republican leaners four years ago (84%). Just 16% of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents approve of Biden's job performance today; four years ago, Trump's job rating was even lower (11%) among Democrats and Democratic leaners.

Previous presidents, dating back to Ronald Reagan, had job approval ratings of 30% or higher among members of the opposing party early in their presidencies.

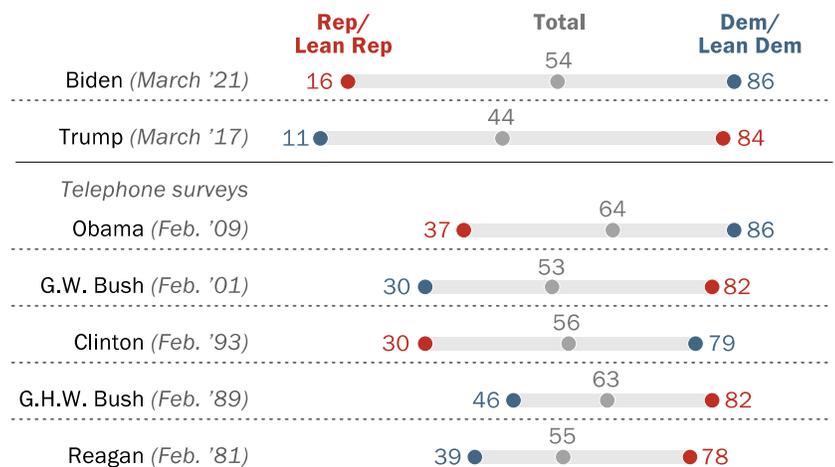
While the public expresses a high level of confidence in Biden on the coronavirus, his early actions to deal with pandemic also have been viewed positively. [Last month](#), 56% said the Biden administration's plans and policies will make the country's response to the coronavirus better. And in the latest survey, the administration's [coronavirus aid package](#) is favored by 70% of Americans.

Biden also gets generally positive ratings for his personal traits and characteristics. Two-thirds of Americans (66%), including 36% of Republicans, say he stands up for what he believes in. Majorities view Biden as someone who cares about the needs of ordinary people (62%), a good role model (58%), honest (57%) and mentally sharp (54%).

The survey finds that the Democratic Party is viewed more favorably by the public than the GOP. While slightly more Americans have an unfavorable (51%) than favorable impression (47%) of the Democratic Party, 60% express an unfavorable opinion of the Republican Party, while 38% view it favorably.

## Biden's early job rating is more positive than Trump's; both are more polarizing than prior presidents

Presidential job approval (%)



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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A larger share of the public also says the Democratic Party respects the country's democratic institutions (56%) than says this describes the Republican Party (48%) very or somewhat well. And while 50% say the Democratic Party governs in an honest and ethical way, fewer (41%) say that about the GOP.

However, nearly identical majorities say *both* parties are too extreme in their positions: 61% say that describes the Republican Party very or somewhat well, while 60% say the same of the Democratic Party.

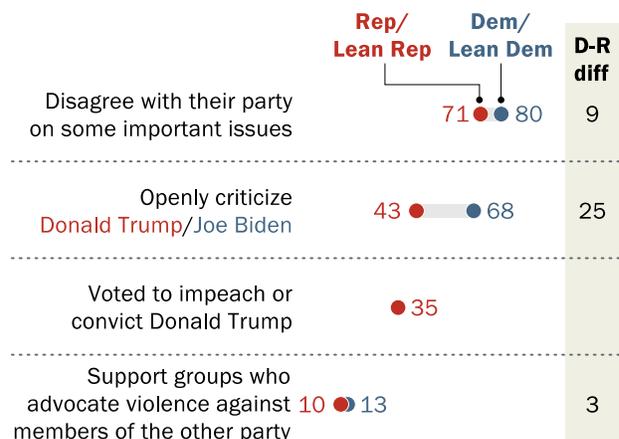
When Republicans and Democrats are asked about the acceptability of various actions and behaviors by their *own* party's elected officials, 80% of Democrats and Democratic leaners say their party should be very or somewhat accepting of a Democratic official who disagrees with the party on some important issues. A narrower but still sizable majority of Republicans and GOP leaners (71%) say their party should be accepting of a Republican official who disagrees with the party on some key issues.

There are more striking differences in how partisans view criticism of their party's top leaders – Biden and Trump. About two-thirds of Democrats (68%) say the Democratic Party should be accepting of Democrats who openly criticize Biden. Among Republicans, fewer than half (43%) say the GOP should be accepting of officials who openly criticize Trump; 56% say the party should be not too accepting or not at all accepting of such an official.

And those who identify as Republicans or lean toward the Republican Party are even less welcoming of Republican elected officials who voted to impeach Trump: Just 35% say the Republican Party should be very or somewhat accepting of officials who voted to impeach the former president. Among conservative Republicans, just 26% say the party should be accepting of Republican officials who supported Trump's impeachment.

### Fewer than half of Republicans say the GOP should be accepting of party officials who openly criticize Trump

% Rep/Rep leaners, Dem/Dem leaners who say *their party* should be very/somewhat accepting of elected officials in *their party* who ...



Note: Republicans asked about criticism of Donald Trump, Democrats about criticism of Joe Biden.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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In both parties, there is little tolerance for elected officials who support groups who advocate violence against the opposing party: Just 13% of Democrats and 10% of Republicans say their party should be very or somewhat accepting of elected officials who back groups advocating violence against the opposing party. Overwhelming majorities say their parties should be not too or not at all accepting of such officials, with about seven-in-ten in both parties saying there should be no acceptance *at all* of this (71% of Republicans, 68% of Democrats).

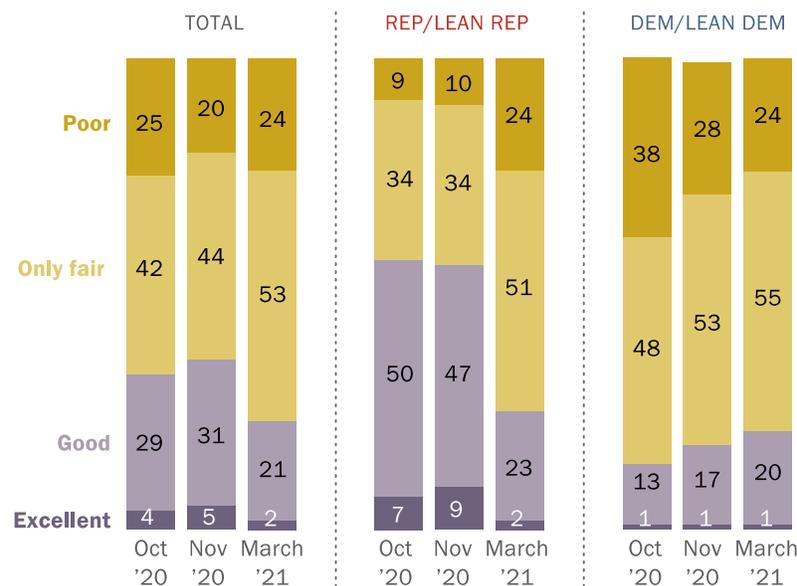
The survey finds that while a majority of Americans are very or somewhat confident in Biden to make good decisions on economic policy, positive ratings of the nation's economy have declined since November, shortly after the election. Currently, 23% rate national economic conditions as excellent or good, down from 36% in November.

This largely reflects a substantial change among Republicans: Today, just a quarter rate economic conditions as excellent or good; in October, prior to the election, as well as in November, majorities of Republicans had favorable views of the economy (57% in October, 56% in November).

Over this period, Democrats have become only somewhat more positive in their assessments of the economy. The share of Democrats who rate economic conditions as excellent or good has edged up from 13% in October, to 19% in November, and 21% in the current survey. However, since October there has been a notable decline in the share of Democrats who say economic conditions are “poor,” from 38% to 24%.

### Republicans' views of U.S. economy turn much more negative; Democrats' views improve more modestly

% who say economic conditions in the country today are ...



Note: No answer response not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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Yet Democrats express much greater satisfaction with national conditions than they did prior to the election. Nearly half of Democrats (47%) say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the U.S.; that is more than double the share saying this in November (22%) and far higher than at any point in Trump's presidency.

Just 17% of Republicans say they are satisfied with national conditions, down from 23% in November and 30% in October. National satisfaction among Republicans declined sharply during the first few months of the coronavirus outbreak, from 55% in April 2020 to 19% in June, and has remained fairly low since then.

Overall, 33% of Americans say they are satisfied with the way things are going in the country, while 66% are dissatisfied. National satisfaction among the public is at its highest point since last April.

## 1. Americans' views of Joe Biden early in his presidency

In the first months of his presidency, majorities of Americans say a number of positive descriptions apply to Joe Biden. And Biden draws public confidence on most issues, especially his handling of the coronavirus outbreak.

About two-thirds of adults (66%) say the phrase “stands up for what he believes in” describes Biden very or fairly well, and 62% say he cares about the needs of ordinary people.

Majorities also describe Biden as a good role model (58%), honest (57%) and mentally sharp (54%).

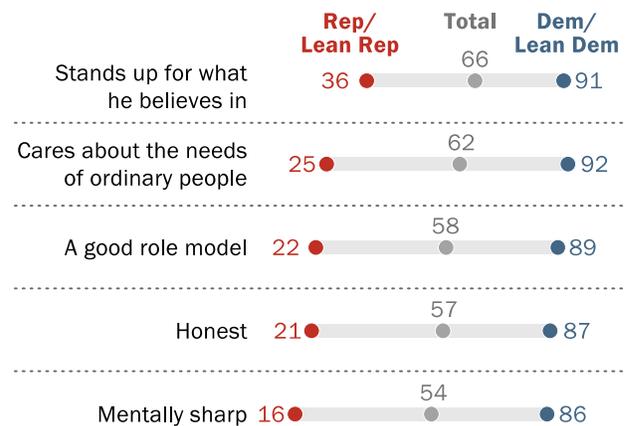
There are sizable partisan differences in these evaluations. Overwhelming shares of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say each positive trait describes Biden well.

Among Republicans and Republican leaners, opinions about Biden vary more widely across different traits and characteristics. While more than a third (36%) say Biden stands up for his personal beliefs, smaller shares say that other positive descriptions apply to him.

There have been only modest changes in evaluations of Biden’s personal traits and characteristics [since October](#). Democrats have become somewhat more likely to view Biden positively, while Republicans’ attitudes about Biden have not changed significantly.

### Views of Biden’s personal traits are largely positive, divided by partisanship

% who say that \_\_\_ describes Joe Biden *very/fairly* well



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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Confidence in Biden to handle important issues also is divided by partisanship. Among seven topic areas included in the survey, Biden engenders the most confidence – among Republicans and Democrats alike – for his handling of the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak.

Overall, 65% of adults say they are very or somewhat confident in Biden to deal with the public health aspects of COVID-19. Democrats overwhelmingly express confidence in Biden on this issue (92% confident); a third of Republicans also have confidence in Biden to handle the coronavirus.

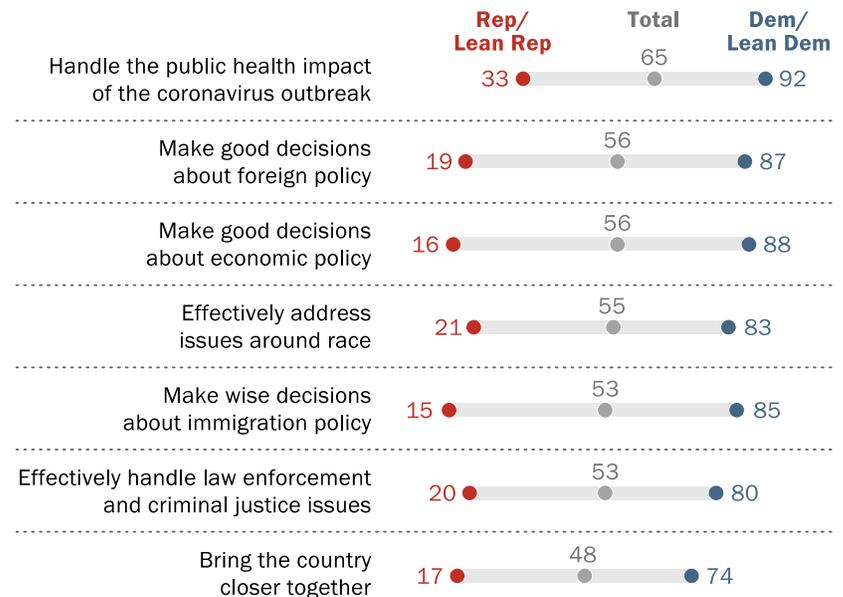
Biden draws less public confidence for his handling of other issues, though majorities say they are very or somewhat confident in him to make good decisions about foreign and economic policy (56% each); effectively address issues around race (55%); make wise decisions on immigration policy (53%); and effectively handle law enforcement and criminal justice (53%).

Large majorities of Democrats (80% or more) express confidence in Biden on each of these issues, compared with no more than about one-in-five Republicans.

Biden engenders less public confidence for his ability to bring the country closer together. Roughly half of adults, including 74% of Democrats and 17% of Republicans, have confidence in Biden to unify the country.

### Nearly two-thirds of adults, including a third of Republicans, have confidence in Biden on COVID-19

% who say they are *very/somewhat* confident in Joe Biden to ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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Since June, the public has become more confident in Biden’s ability to deal with the public health impact of the coronavirus and to make good decisions on economic policy.

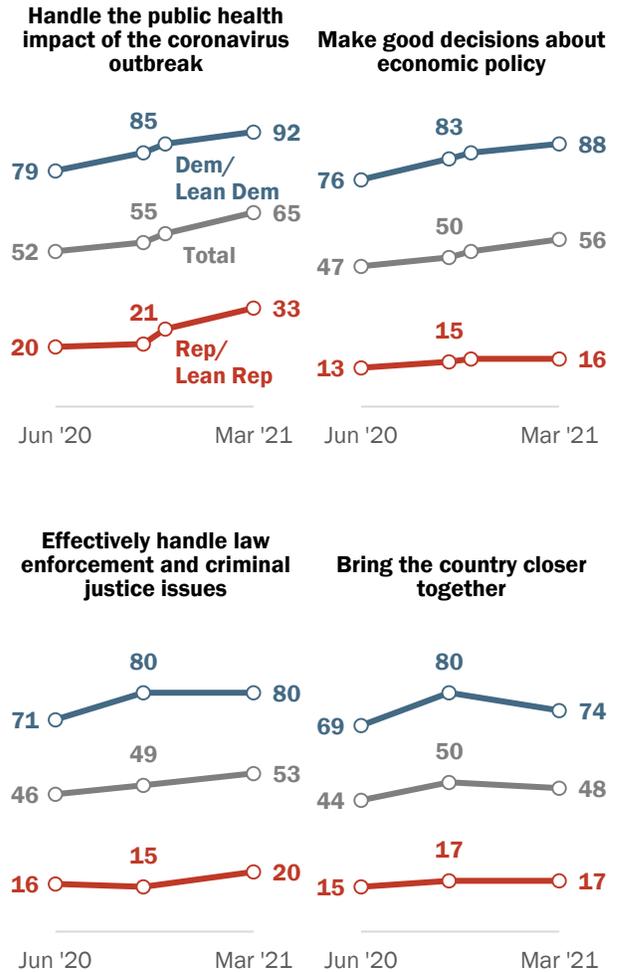
The share of Americans who are very or somewhat confident in Biden to handle the coronavirus has risen 13 percentage points since June, from 52% to 65%. The increase has come equally among Democrats and Republicans.

The share of adults who have confidence in Biden to make decisions on the economy has increased 9 percentage points since June (from 47% to 56%), though this change has come largely among Democrats. Democrats are 12 points more likely express confidence in Biden (76% in June vs. 88% today), while Republicans’ views have not significantly changed (13% then vs. 16% now).

Since June, confidence in Biden on two other issues – effectively handling law enforcement and criminal justice issues and bringing the country closer together – has also ticked up.

### Since June, confidence in Biden on COVID-19 has increased among members of both parties

% who are *very/somewhat* confident in Joe Biden to ...



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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## Biden job approval at 54%

A majority of Americans (54%) say they approve of the way that Joe Biden is handling his job as president, including nearly four-in-ten (38%) who say they strongly approve. A smaller share, 42%, say they disapprove of Biden’s job performance, with 29% saying they strongly disapprove.

Nearly six-in-ten women (58%) say they approve of Biden’s job performance, while men are as likely to say they approve (49%) of Biden as disapprove (49%) of his performance.

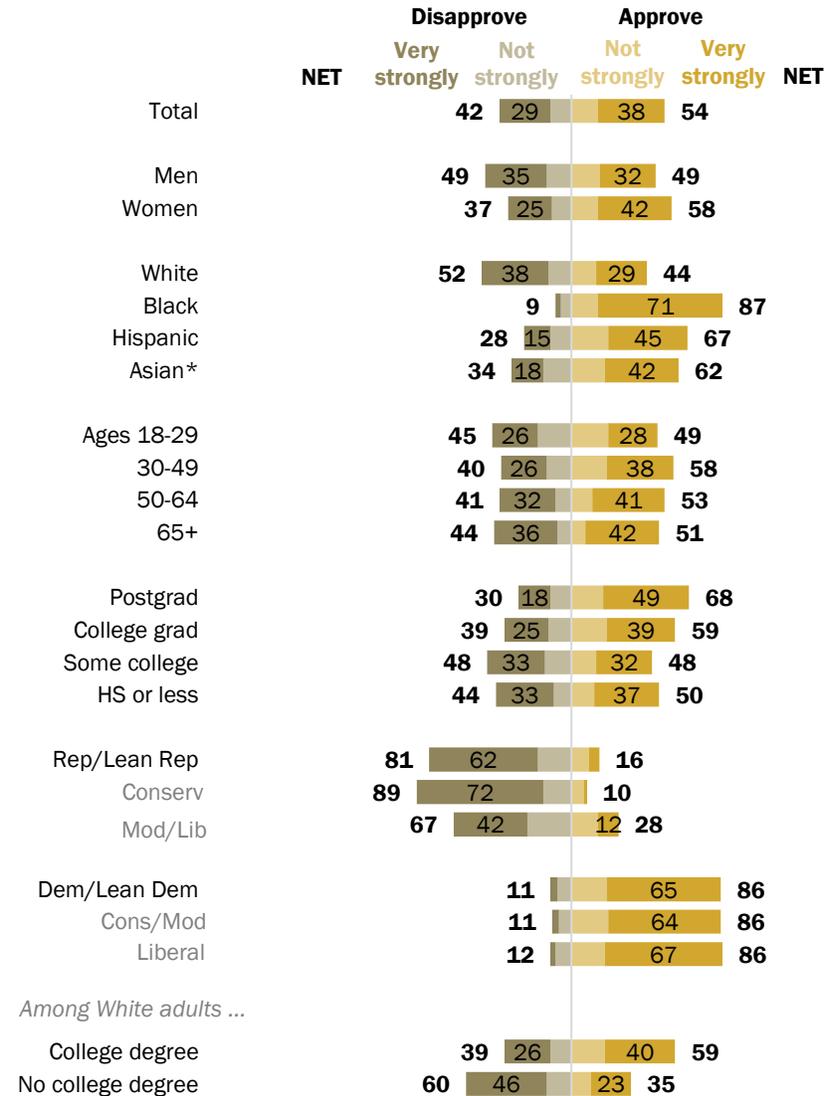
An overwhelming majority of Black adults (87%) say they approve of Biden, including 71% who say they strongly approve. A smaller share of Hispanic adults say they approve of Biden (67%), and 45% strongly approve.

About half of White adults (52%) say they disapprove of Joe Biden, with 44% saying they approve.

Adults with college degrees are much more likely to say they approve of Biden than those who do not: 68% of those with postgraduate experience say they

### A majority of Americans approve of Biden’s performance as president so far

% who \_\_\_ of the way Biden is handling his job as president



Notes: White and Black adults include those who report being one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

approve of Biden's handling of the presidency, including nearly half of those who strongly approve. About six-in-ten (59%) of those with a college degree but no postgraduate experience say the same. Nearly half of adults without a college degree say they approve of Biden (49%).

While a majority of White Americans with a college degree say they approve of Joe Biden (59%), a similar share of Whites without a college degree (60%) say they disapprove of Biden, including almost half who strongly disapprove (46%).

Large majorities of Republicans and Republican leaners (81%) say they do not approve of Joe Biden's performance, including more than six-in-ten (62%) who say they strongly disapprove. There is a modest ideological divide among Republicans: Moderate and liberal Republicans (28%) are nearly three times as likely to say they approve of Biden compared with conservative Republicans (10%).

Overwhelming shares of Democrats and Democratic leaners (86%) say they approve of Joe Biden's handling of his job, with nearly two-thirds saying they strongly approve (65%).

*For additional subgroups, see the [accompanying detailed tables](#).*

## 2. Views of the Democratic and Republican parties

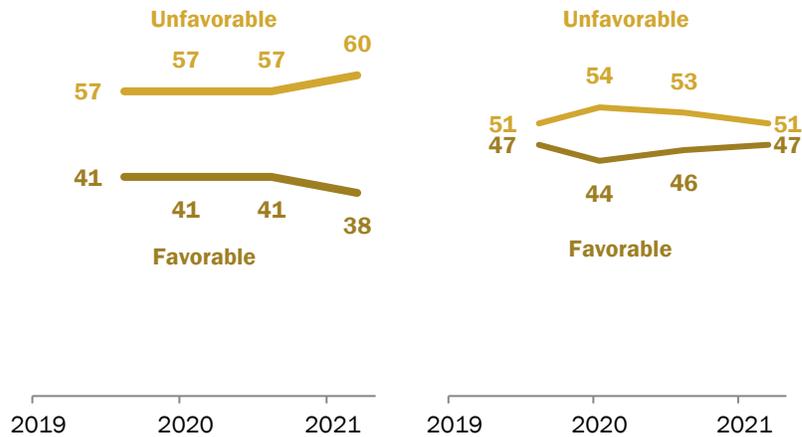
Just under half of Americans (47%) have a favorable view of the Democratic Party, while a slightly larger share (51%) have an unfavorable view.

The GOP is viewed more negatively – 38% say they have a positive view of the Republican Party, while 60% rate it unfavorably. These views are modestly changed since last summer, with the share of Americans rating the GOP unfavorably slightly higher than it was in August (57% then, 60% now) and the share of Americans with a negative view of the Democratic Party down slightly (53% unfavorable then, 51% now).

### Six-in-ten hold unfavorable ratings of Republican Party; views of Democratic Party are closely divided

% who say they have a \_\_\_ opinion of the **Republican Party**

% who say they have a \_\_\_ opinion of the **Democratic Party**



Note: No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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About three-quarters of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents (74%) view the GOP favorably, while 81% of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents view the Democratic Party positively.

Nearly all Republicans who say they strongly identify with the Republican Party (95%) express a favorable opinion of the GOP. Among Republicans who say they “not so strongly” identify with the party, 77% say have a favorable view, while 56% of independents who lean toward the Republican Party say the same.

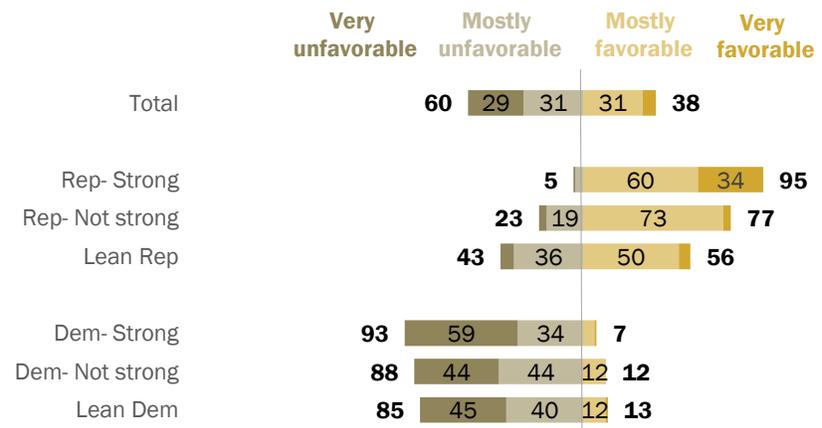
Democrats who “very strongly” identify with the Democratic Party (97%) nearly universally view their party favorably, as do 87% of Democrats who describe themselves as not-so-strong Democrats. About six-in-ten Democratic leaners (62%) have a favorable opinion of the Democratic Party.

Within both partisan groups, views of the opposing party are overwhelmingly unfavorable across-the-board, with more than eight-in-ten – strong partisans, not so strong partisans and leaners alike – saying this.

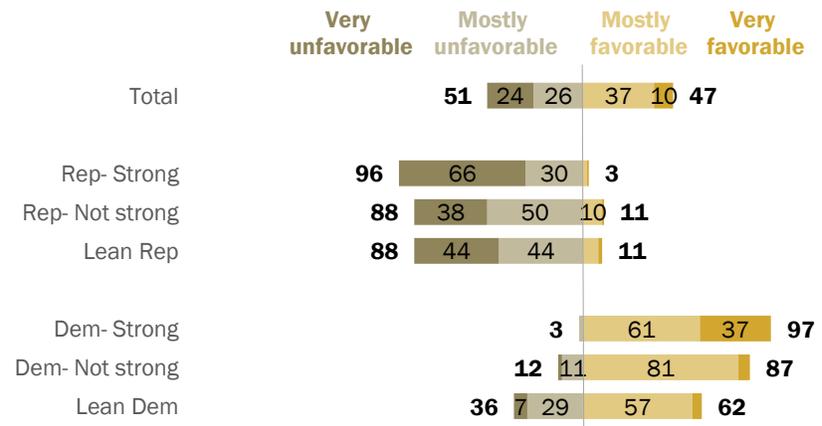
However, strong partisans are more likely than weaker partisans and leaners to express *very* unfavorable views of the opposing party: 59% of strong Democrats say this of the GOP, while 44% of not-so-strong partisans and 45% of leaners say the same. Similarly, 66% of strong Republicans have a very unfavorable view of the Democratic Party, while far smaller shares of not-so-strong Republicans (38%) and GOP leaners (44%) say the same.

### Republicans and Democrats overwhelmingly view the other party unfavorably

% who say they have a \_\_\_ opinion of the Republican Party



% who say they have a \_\_\_ opinion of the Democratic Party



Notes: Partisans are asked whether they identify very strongly or not so strongly with their party. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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About six-in-ten Americans view both the Republican and Democratic parties as taking positions that are too extreme, while the Democratic Party holds advantages with the public when it comes to governing honestly and ethically and respecting the country’s democratic institutions.

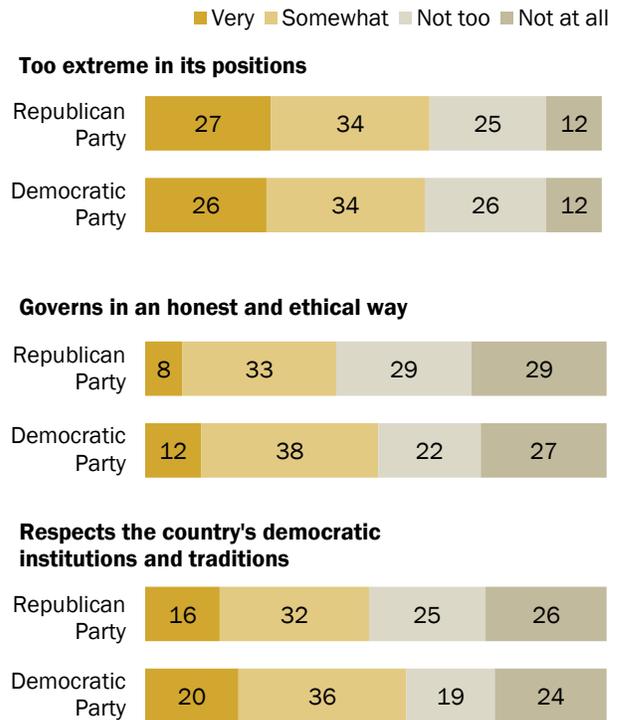
About six-in-ten (61%) say the phrase “too extreme in its positions” describes the Republican Party very or somewhat well, with an almost identical share (60%) saying the same about the Democratic Party. About a quarter say this phrase describes each party *very* well (27% for the Republican Party, 26% for the Democratic Party).

Half of adults say the phrase “governs in an honest and ethical way” describes the Democratic Party very or somewhat well, compared with about four-in-ten (41%) who say it describes the Republican Party.

And while 56% say the phrase “respects the country’s democratic institutions and traditions” describes the Democratic Party very or somewhat well, 48% say this about the GOP.

**Similar shares of U.S. adults say each party is too extreme in its positions**

*% who say each of the following phrases describes the Republican/Democratic Party \_\_\_ well*



Note: No answer responses not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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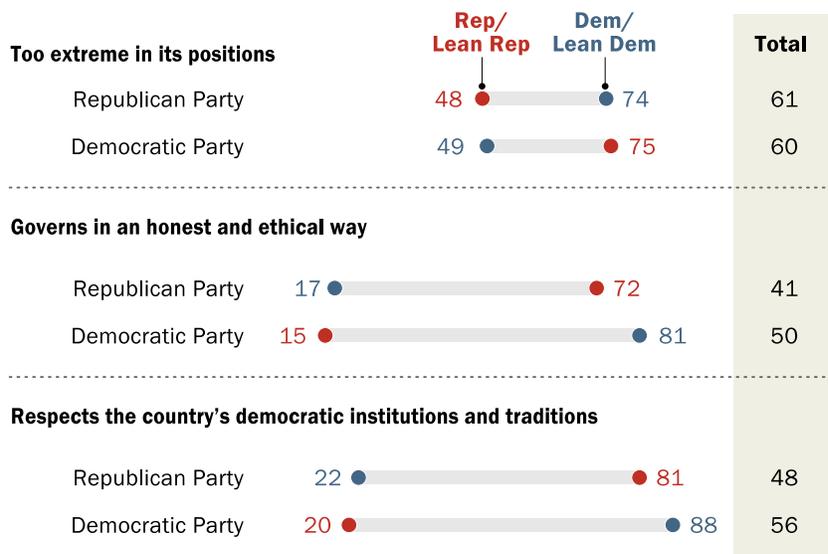
Three-quarters of Republicans and Republican leaners say “too extreme in its positions” describes the Democratic Party at least somewhat well, while about the same share of Democrats (74%) say this phrase applies to the GOP. About half of those in each partisan group say the phrase applies at least somewhat well to their own party.

Views on whether each party governs honestly and respects democracy are even more sharply divided. More than seven-in-ten Republicans (72%) and about eight-in-ten Democrats (81%) say the phrase “governs in an honest and ethical way” describes their own party very or somewhat well. But just 15% of Republicans and 17% of Democrats say this describes the other party very or somewhat well.

About eight-in-ten Republicans (81%) and 88% of Democrats say the phrase “respects the country’s democratic institutions and traditions” describes their own party very or somewhat well, while about two-in-ten say this about the other party.

**Only about two-in-ten partisans say the other party governs honestly, respects democratic institutions**

*% who say the phrase \_\_\_ describes each party very or somewhat well*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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## Most Republicans say critics of Trump should not be accepted in the GOP, while most Democrats say their party should be accepting of Biden critics

Large majorities of both Republicans and Democrats say their party should be accepting of elected officials within the party who disagree with it on some important issues. At the same time, very few in either party say their party should be welcoming of elected officials who support groups advocating for violence against members of the other party.

But there are clear distinctions between the two coalitions in their appetite for accepting members of the party who criticize the party’s standard bearers: While most Democrats say the party should be at least somewhat accepting

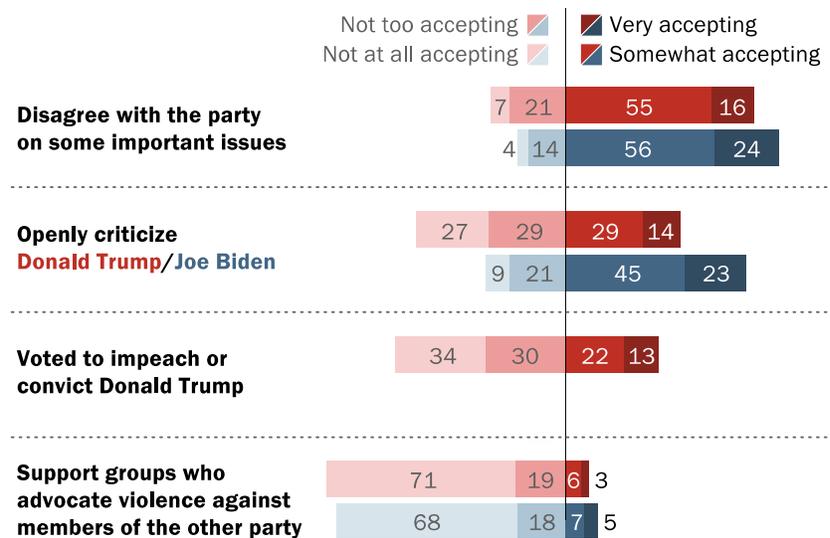
of elected officials who criticize Joe Biden, the majority position among Republicans is that the GOP should not be welcoming toward Republican elected officials who criticize Donald Trump, and an even smaller share of Republicans say that those who voted to impeach Trump should be accepted in the GOP.

Eight-in-ten Democrats and Democratic leaners say the Democratic Party should be very (24%) or somewhat (56%) accepting of Democratic elected officials who disagree with Democrats on important issues, while 71% of Republicans and Republican

leaners say their own party should be very (16%) or somewhat (55%) accepting of Republican officials who disagree with the GOP on some important issues. Just 4% of Democrats and 7% of Republicans say their parties should be not at all accepting of elected officials who disagree with the party on some important issues.

### Criticism of Trump less welcome among Republicans than criticism of Biden is among Democrats

% of **Rep/Lean Rep** and **Dem/Lean Dem** who say **their party** should be \_\_\_ of elected officials who ...



Notes: Republicans asked about criticism of Donald Trump, Democrats about criticism of Joe Biden. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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About nine-in-ten Republicans (89%) and Democrats (86%) say their parties should be not too or not at all accepting of elected officials who support groups which advocate violence against members of the other party, including roughly seven-in-ten who say this should not be accepted at all. Just 10% of Republicans and 13% of Democrats say their parties should be very or somewhat accepting of elected officials who support this type of group.

About two-thirds of Democrats (68%) say the Democratic Party should be very (23%) or somewhat (45%) accepting of elected Democrats who criticize Biden. Only about one-in-ten (9%) say their party should be not at all accepting of elected officials who do this.

In contrast, just 43% of Republicans say the GOP should be very (14%) or somewhat (29%) accepting of critics of Trump within its ranks. More than half of Republicans (56%) say the Republican Party should be not too (29%) or not at all (27%) accepting of officials who criticize Trump.

Acceptance of Republican elected officials who voted to impeach or convict Trump is even lower among rank-and-file Republicans and Republican leaners: Only about a third (35%) say the party should be at least somewhat accepting of those who did this.

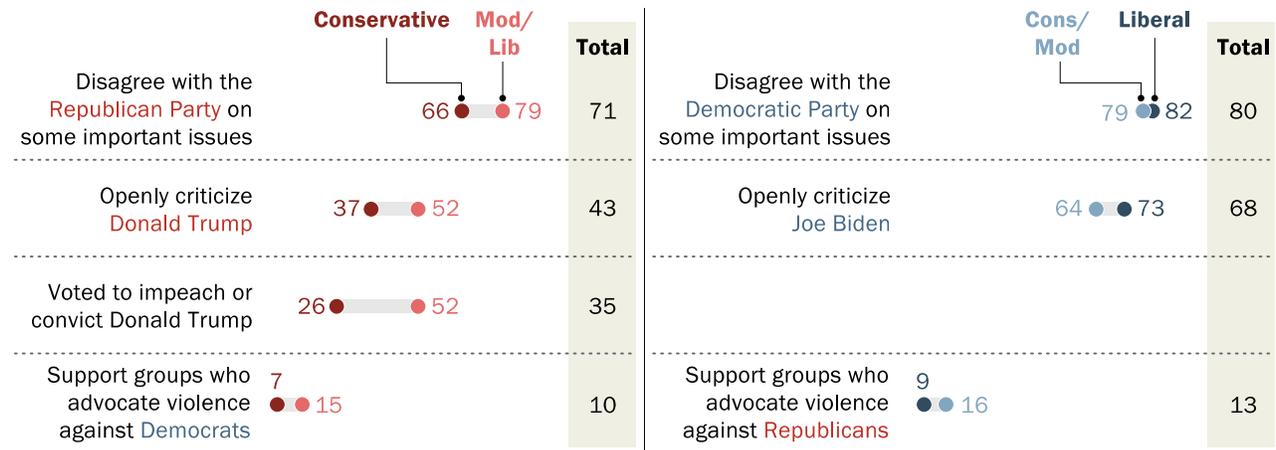
Just 37% of conservative Republicans say the Republican Party should be accepting of officials who criticize Trump, compared with about half (52%) of moderate and liberal Republicans. Conservative Republicans are even less accepting of elected Republicans who voted to impeach or convict Donald Trump: 26% say the party should be very or somewhat accepting of those who did this, while 52% of moderate and liberal Republicans say these officials should be accepted in the party.

While clear majorities of both liberal Democrats and conservative and moderate Democrats say the party should be accepting of criticism of Joe Biden in its ranks, there is a modest ideological gap in these views: 73% of liberal Democrats say the party should be very or somewhat accepting of elected Democrats who criticize Biden, compared with a smaller majority (64%) of moderate and conservative Democrats.

### Only about four-in-ten conservative Republicans say elected officials who criticize Trump should be accepted within the GOP

% Rep/Lean Rep who say the Republican Party should be very/somewhat accepting of elected officials who ...

% Dem/Lean Dem who say the Democratic Party should be very/somewhat accepting of elected officials who ...



Note: Republicans asked about criticism of Donald Trump, Democrats about criticism of Joe Biden. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted March 1-7, 2021.

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**CORRECTION** (Apr. 26, 2021): The title of this chart was updated to reflect the correct percentage of conservative Republicans who say elected officials who “openly criticize Donald Trump” should be accepted within the GOP. The updated title should read: “Only about four-in-

*ten conservative Republicans say elected officials who criticize Trump should be accepted within the GOP.”*

*The changes did not affect the report’s substantive findings.*

## Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

#### Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted March 1 to March 7, 2021. A total of 12,055 panelists responded out of 13,545 who were sampled, for a response rate of 89%. This does not include two panelists who were removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 12,055 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

#### Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample of households selected

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#### American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	2,183
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,243
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	621
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	5,900
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	2,329
June 1 to July 19, 2020	ABS/web	1,865	1,636	1,269
	<b>Total</b>	<b>36,879</b>	<b>25,076</b>	<b>13,545</b>

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Across these three address-based recruitments, a total of 17,161 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 15,134 (88%) agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 25,076 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,545 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.<sup>1</sup> The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

### **Sample design**

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

### **Questionnaire development and testing**

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data which was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

### **Incentives**

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

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<sup>1</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.](#)"

## Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was March 1 to March 7, 2021. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on March 1, 2021.

On March 1 and March 2, invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on March 1, 2021. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on March 2, 2021.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

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### Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	March 1, 2021	March 2, 2021
First reminder	March 4, 2021	March 4, 2021
Final reminder	March 6, 2021	March 6, 2021

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## Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center's researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, two ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

## Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey (and the probability of being invited to participate in the panel in cases where only a subsample of respondents were invited). The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort. To correct for nonresponse to the initial recruitment surveys and gradual panel attrition, the base weights for all

active panelists are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table to create a full-panel weight.

For ATP waves in which only a subsample of panelists are invited to participate, a wave-specific base weight is created by adjusting the full-panel weights for subsampled panelists to account for any differential probabilities of selection for the particular panel wave. For waves in which all active panelists are invited to participate, the wave-specific base weight is identical to the full-panel weight.

In the final weighting step, the wave-specific base weights for panelists who completed the survey are again calibrated to match the population benchmarks specified above. These weights are trimmed (typically at about the 1st and 99th percentiles) to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

## Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. The 2016 CPS was used for voter registration targets for this wave in order to obtain voter registration numbers from a presidential election year. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. The 2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey featured 1,862 online completions and 2,247 mail survey completions.

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The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	12,055		1.5 percentage points
Half sample	At least 6,011		2.2 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	4,796	43	2.3 percentage points
Half sample	At least 2,390		3.2 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	6,988	52	2.1 percentage points
Half sample	At least 3,488		3.0 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

### Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	12,055
Logged onto survey; broke-off	2.12	119
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	72
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	1,297
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		2
Screened out		0
<b>Total panelists in the survey</b>		<b>13,545</b>
Completed interviews	I	12,055
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,490
Non-contact	NC	0
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,545</b>
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		89%

<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>Total</b>
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 84	57%
Response rate to Wave 84 survey	89%
<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>4%</b>

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**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 84 MARCH 2021  
FINAL TOPLINE  
MARCH 1-7, 2021  
N=12,055**

**ASK ALL:**

SATIS All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 1-7, 2021	33	66	1
Nov 12-17, 2020	22	77	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	18	82	1
July 27-August 2, 2020	12	87	1
June 16-22, 2020	12	87	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	31	68	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	33	66	1
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	31	69	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	28	71	1
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	27	72	1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	34	65	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	36	63	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 <sup>2</sup>	32	68	0
Sep 27-Oct 10, 2016	23	75	2
Jun 7-Jul 5, 2016	19	80	1
Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	25	75	0

**ASK FORM 2 [N=6,011]:**

POL1JB Do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

**ASK IF POL1JB=1,2 [N=3,609]:**

POL1JBSTR Do you [**IF POL1DT=1**: approve; **IF POL1DT=2**: disapprove] of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president...

Mar 1-7

2021

54	NET Approve
38	Very strongly
15	Not so strongly
1	No answer
42	NET Disapprove
29	Very strongly
12	Not so strongly
1	No answer
4	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

<sup>2</sup> The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

**ASK FORM 1 [N=6,044]:**

JBCONF Thinking about Joe Biden's ability to handle a number of things, how confident are you that Joe Biden can do each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not too confident</u>	<u>Not at all confident</u>	<u>No answer</u>
PUBH	Handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	32	33	16	19	*
	Nov 12-17, 2020	26	32	18	24	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	23	31	20	25	1
	June 16-22, 2020	15	37	21	26	1
FRGN	Make good decisions about foreign policy					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	25	31	17	26	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	22	30	18	29	1
	June 16-22, 2020	16	33	21	28	1
ECON	Make good decisions about economic policy					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	24	32	17	27	*
	Nov 12-17, 2020	21	31	19	28	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	17	33	19	30	1
	June 16-22, 2020	12	35	23	29	1
CRIM	Effectively handle law enforcement and criminal justice issues					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	18	35	21	25	*
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	15	34	19	31	1
	June 16-22, 2020	11	35	25	28	1
CLSR	Bring the country closer together					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	15	33	24	28	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	17	32	20	29	1
	June 16-22, 2020	14	30	25	30	1
RACE	Effectively address issues around race					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	20	34	22	23	*
	<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON</b>					
	Effectively handle race relations					
	June 16-22, 2020	13	20	17	49	1
IMMI	Make wise decisions about immigration policy					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	22	31	15	31	*

**ASK FORM 2 [N=6,011]:**BIDENDESC How well does each of the following describe Joe Biden? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

		<u>Very well</u>	<u>Fairly well</u>	<u>Not too well</u>	<u>Not at all well</u>	<u>No answer</u>
MDL	A good role model					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	29	29	18	23	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	22	30	23	23	2
	June 16-22, 2020	14	31	24	28	2
ORD	Cares about the needs of ordinary people					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	32	30	15	23	*
	June 16-22, 2020	20	33	22	23	2
MENT	Mentally sharp					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	20	34	17	29	*
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	13	33	22	31	1
STND	Stands up for what he believes in					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	32	34	17	16	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	26	35	21	16	2
HON	Honest					
	Mar 1-7, 2021	25	32	20	23	1
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	20	32	23	24	2
	June 16-22, 2020	13	33	25	28	2

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**INSTFAV Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS a-b]**

		-----Favorable-----			-----Unfavorable-----			No answer
		<u>NET</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>NET</u>	<u>Very</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	
a.	The Republican Party							
	Mar 1-7, 2021	38	7	31	60	29	31	2
	July 27-Aug 2, 2020	41	11	30	57	31	27	1
	Jan 6-19, 2020	41	9	32	57	28	29	2
	July 22-Aug 4, 2019	41	10	31	57	27	30	2
b.	The Democratic Party							
	Mar 1-7, 2021	47	10	37	51	24	26	2
	July 27-Aug 2, 2020	46	11	35	53	29	24	1
	Jan 6-19, 2020	43	8	35	55	27	29	2
	July 22-Aug 4, 2019	47	10	37	51	27	24	1

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF REPPTYTRAIT AND DEMPTYTRAIT, SHOW ON SEPARATE SCREENS****ASK ALL:**

REPPTYTRAIT

How well do each of the following phrases describe the REPUBLICAN PARTY?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, USE SAME ORDER FOR DEMPTYTRAIT]**

	Very <u>well</u>	Somewhat <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	No <u>answer</u>
<b>[No ITEMS c-e]</b>					
<b>ASK FORM 1 [N=6,044]:</b>					
a. Too extreme in its positions					
Mar 1-7, 2021	27	34	25	12	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	30	33	23	12	2
<b>ASK FORM 2 [N=6,011]:</b>					
f. Accepting of those with extreme views					
Mar 1-7, 2021	17	30	32	18	2
<b>ASK ALL:</b>					
b. Governs in an honest and ethical way					
Mar 1-7, 2021	8	33	29	29	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	7	31	30	30	1
g. Respects the country's democratic institutions and traditions					
Mar 1-7, 2021	16	32	25	26	1

**ASK ALL:**

DEMPYTRAIT

How well do each of the following phrases describe the DEMOCRATIC PARTY?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, USE SAME ORDER FOR REPPTYTRAIT]**

	Very <u>well</u>	Somewhat <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	No <u>answer</u>
<b>[No ITEMS c-e]</b>					
<b>ASK FORM 1 [N=6,044]:</b>					
a. Too extreme in its positions					
Mar 1-7, 2021	26	34	26	12	2
Sep 3-15, 2019	29	32	27	11	2
<b>ASK FORM 2 [N=6,011]:</b>					
f. Accepting of those with extreme views					
Mar 1-7, 2021	19	35	26	18	2
<b>ASK ALL:</b>					
b. Governs in an honest and ethical way					
Mar 1-7, 2021	12	38	22	27	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	10	38	27	25	1
g. Respects the country's democratic institutions and traditions					
Mar 1-7, 2021	20	36	19	24	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

ECON1 Thinking about the nation's economy...  
How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 1-7, 2021	2	21	53	24	*
Nov 12-17, 2020	5	31	44	20	*
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	4	29	42	25	*
June 16-22, 2020	4	22	44	30	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	4	19	38	38	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	16	42	33	9	*
Sep 16-29, 2019	10	46	35	8	*
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	14	43	32	11	*
Nov 7-16, 2018	13	46	31	9	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	12	45	32	11	*
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017	2	37	43	17	0
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	2	30	47	21	*
Apr 29-May 27, 2014	1	18	50	30	1

**ASK ALL:**

ECON1B A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	About the same as <u>now</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Mar 1-7, 2021	44	31	24	*
Nov 12-17, 2020	42	32	24	2
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	52	17	30	1
June 16-22, 2020	50	22	27	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	55	22	22	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	29	26	45	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	20	32	48	*
July 22-Aug 4, 2019 <sup>3</sup>	28	28	44	*

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

<sup>3</sup> In the survey conducted from July 22- August 4, 2019, response options for this question were not randomized.

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF COVID\_LIFEN AND COVID\_JOBSN AND SHOW ON SAME SCREEN****ASK ALL:**

COVID\_LIFEN

Just your best guess, how long do you think it will be before most businesses, schools, places of worship and other public activities are operating about as they were before the coronavirus outbreak?

Mar 1-7

2021

9	Less than 6 months
34	6 months to less than a year
43	A year or two years
14	More than 2 years
*	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

COVID\_JOBSN

Just your best guess, how long do you think it will be before the job situation in the U.S. recovers to about where it was before the coronavirus outbreak?

Mar 1-7

2021

3	Less than 6 months
16	6 months to less than a year
46	A year or two years
35	More than 2 years
*	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a...

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE OR REFUSED (PARTY=3,4,99) [N=4,808]:**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to...

**ASK IF REPUBLICAN OR DEMOCRAT (PARTY\_W84=1,2) [N=7,247]:**

PARTYSTR Do you identify with the [IF PARTY=1:Republican; IF PARTY=2:Democratic] Party...

Mar 1-7

2020

43	The Republican Party
16	Strongly
8	Not strongly
19	Lean Rep
*	No answer
52	The Democratic Party
21	Strongly
10	Not strongly
21	Lean Dem
*	No answer
5	No answer

**ASK REP/LEAN REP (PARTY=1 or PARTYLN=1) [N=4,796]:**

REPPTYACC How accepting, if at all, do you think the Republican Party should be of Republican elected officials who... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very accepting</u>	<u>Somewhat accepting</u>	<u>Not too accepting</u>	<u>None at all accepting</u>	<u>No answer</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 [N=2,406]:</b>					
a. Openly criticize Donald Trump Mar 1-7, 2021	14	29	29	27	1
b. Support groups who advocate violence against Democrats Mar 1-7, 2021	3	6	19	71	1
<b>ASK FORM 2 [N=2,390]:</b>					
c. Voted to impeach or convict Donald Trump Mar 1-7, 2021	13	22	30	34	1
d. Disagree with the Republican Party on some important issues Mar 1-7, 2021	16	55	21	7	1

**ASK DEM/LEAN DEM (PARTY=2 or PARTYLN=2) [N=6,988]:**

DEMPYACC How accepting, if at all, do you think the Democratic Party should be of Democratic elected officials who... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Very accepting</u>	<u>Somewhat accepting</u>	<u>Not too accepting</u>	<u>None at all accepting</u>	<u>No answer</u>
<b>ASK ALL:</b>					
a. Openly criticize Joe Biden Mar 1-7, 2021	23	45	21	9	1
<b>ASK FORM 1 [N=3,500]:</b>					
b. Support groups who advocate violence against Republicans Mar 1-7, 2021	5	7	18	68	1
<b>[NO ITEM c]</b>					
<b>ASK FORM 2 [N=3,488]:</b>					
d. Disagree with the Democratic Party on some important issues Mar 1-7, 2021	24	56	14	4	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**