

**2021 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 80 JANUARY 2021
FINAL TOPLINE
JANUARY 8-12, 2021
N=5,360**

ASK ALL:

YEARAHEAD Looking ahead, as far as you are concerned, do you think that 2021 will be... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Jan 8-12 <u>2021</u>		Jan 6-19, <u>2020</u>
67	Better than 2020	55
32	Worse than 2020	43
1	No answer	2

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

Looking ahead, as far as you are concerned, do you think that [coming year] will be better or worse than [prior year]?

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jan 8-13, 2020	55	34	11
Jan 9-14, 2019	47	43	10
Jan 10-15, 2018	61	29	11
Jan 4-9, 2017	49	42	9
Jan 7-14, 2016	56	30	14
Dec 3-7, 2014 (U)	49	42	9
Jan 15-19, 2014	56	35	9
Dec 5-9, 2012	55	36	9
Jan 11-16, 2012	57	29	14
Dec 1-5, 2010	55	31	14
Jan 6-10, 2010	67	26	8
Jan 7-11, 2009	52	37	11
December, 2007	50	34	16
December, 2006	57	28	15
December, 1999	66	19	15
December, 1998	59	25	16
December, 1994	59	28	13
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1993	64	20	16
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1992	61	11	28
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1991	61	31	8
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1990	48	42	10
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1986	53	25	22
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1985	64	20	17
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1984	61	20	19
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1982	50	32	18
<i>Gallup:</i> December, 1981	41	44	15

ASK ALL:

POL1DT Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Jan 8-12, 2021	29	68	3
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	38	59	3
June 16-22, 2020	39	59	2
Apr 7-12, 2020	44	53	3
Mar 19-24, 2020	45	52	2
Jan 6-19, 2020	40	58	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	40	59	1
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	40	59	1
Apr 29-May 13, 2019	40	59	1
Feb 4-17, 2019	38	61	1
Nov 7-13, 2018	41	58	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	38	61	2
Jul 30-Aug 12, 2018	40	59	2
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	38	60	2
Aug 8-21, 2017	36	63	1
Apr 4-18, 2017	39	61	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 ¹	44	56	1

ASK ALL:

POL1DT Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?

ASK IF ANSWERED POL1DT (POL1DT=1,2) [N=5,229]:

POL1DTSTR Do you [IF POL1DT=1: approve; IF POL1DT=2: disapprove] of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president...

BASED ON TOTAL:

	NET	<i>Very</i>	<i>Not so</i>	<i>No</i>	NET	<i>Very</i>	<i>Not so</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>No</i>
	<u>Approve</u>	<i>strongly</i>	<i>strongly</i>	<i>answer</i>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<i>strongly</i>	<i>strongly</i>	<i>answer</i>	<i>answer</i>
Jan 8-12, 2021	29	21	7	*	68	56	12	*	3
June 16-22, 2020	39	29	9	1	59	48	11	*	2
Apr 7-12, 2020	44	33	10	1	53	42	11	*	3
Mar 19-24, 2020	45	34	10	1	52	40	11	*	2
Jan 6-19, 2020	40	31	9	*	58	46	11	1	1
Sep 3-15, 2019	40	31	9	*	58	46	11	1	1
Apr 29-May 13, 2019	40	29	10	*	59	48	10	*	1
Jul 30-Aug 12, 2018	40	31	9	*	59	48	10	*	2
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	38	29	9	*	60	48	12	*	2
Aug 8-21, 2017	36	26	10	*	63	49	13	*	1
Apr 4-18, 2017	39	27	12	*	61	45	15	*	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 ²	44	30	13	*	56	43	12	*	1

¹ The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.² The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

ASK ALL:
JAN6HEARD

How much, if anything, have you read or heard about rioting at the U.S. Capitol in Washington DC on January 6, when, following a protest earlier in the day, supporters of Donald Trump broke into the Capitol building while the Senate and House were in the process of certifying Electoral College votes?

Jan 8-12,
2021
69
28
3
*

A lot
A little
Nothing at all
No answer

ASK ALL:
JAN6REACT

Please describe, in a few words, your reaction to rioting at the Capitol. [OPEN-END]

BASED ON FORM 1 [N=2,684]:

Jan 8-12,
2021

37	NET: Negative emotion
35	<i>Anguished/Awful/Horrified/Shocked</i>
3	<i>Angry</i>
3	<i>Scared/Fearful/Terrified</i>
14	Surprised/concerned about future of country
13	NET: Trump/GOP to blame
12	<i>Trump is to blame</i>
2	<i>Republican leaders to blame</i>
9	NET: Criticism of law enforcement response/preparation
5	<i>Police response too slow/underprepared/inadequate</i>
4	<i>Perpetrators treated differently because they were mostly white</i>
8	NET: Criminal acts/Punishment needed
5	<i>Coup/Domestic terrorism/sedition</i>
3	<i>Perpetrators need to be punished</i>
8	Doubt/Don't think it was Trump supporters
6	Not surprised/inevitable
5	NET: Democrats at fault/Rationale was justified
3	<i>Reasons justified</i>
2	<i>Democrats fault</i>
4	It started out peaceful
4	NET: Similar to/Not as bad as Black Lives Matter and other events
3	<i>Similar to other events like Black Lives Matter</i>
1	<i>Not as bad as Black Lives Matter/other events</i>
2	Not Trump's fault
1	Criticism of media
1	Entertaining/funny
11	'Bad thing' unspecified/other description
6	Other description/emotion
10	Refused

ASK ALL:

JAN6_DTRESP

How much responsibility, if any, does Donald Trump bear for the violence and destruction committed by some of his supporters after they broke into the U.S. Capitol?

Jan 8-12,
2021

52	A lot
23	A little
24	Nothing at all
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

TRMP_RMV

As you know, Donald Trump's term in office ends Jan. 20. Which do you think would be better for the country?

Jan 8-12,
2021

45	For Trump to remain in office until his term is completed
54	For Trump to be removed from office, with Mike Pence finishing out the last few days of his term
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

PRESINAUG

Do you plan to watch Joe Biden's inauguration later this month?

Jan 8-12,
2021

53	Yes
46	No
1	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

Do you plan to watch ___'s inauguration later this month?

	Trump	Obama	Clinton
	Jan 4-9	January	<i>US News</i> January
	<u>2017</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>1993</u>
Yes	46	67	57
No	51	28	32
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	5	11

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,684]:

PRESPLANS Do you approve or disapprove of the job President-elect Biden has done so far in explaining his policies and plans for the future to the American people?

Jan 8-12,
2021

58	Approve
39	Disapprove
3	No answer

PHONE TRENDS FOR COMPARISON

Do you approve or disapprove of the job President-elect ___ has done so far in explaining his policies and plans for the future to the American people?

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>(VOL.)</u> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Trump	Jan 4-9, 2017	39	55	6
	Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	41	55	4
Obama	Jan 7-11, 2009	70	18	12
	December, 2008	72	18	10
Bush	January, 2001	50	36	14
Clinton	January, 1993	62	24	14
Bush	<i>Gallup</i> : March, 1989	65	28	7

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,676]:

PRESWHERE Would you say Joe Biden has clear goals for where he wants to lead the country?

Jan 8-12,
2021

58	Yes
40	No
2	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

Would you say that you have a good idea where Donald Trump wants to lead the country, or would you say his goals are not very clear?

	Trump (RVs) Nov 10-14 <u>2016</u>	Obama <i>LA Times/Bloomberg</i> ³ (RVs) Dec <u>2008</u>
Good idea where Donald Trump wants to lead the country	49	57
His goals are not very clear	49	34
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	9

³ In LA Times/Bloomberg survey, question was asked of Barack Obama, based on registered voters.

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,676]:

JBSUCCESS In the long run, do you think Joe Biden will be...

Jan 8-12,

2021

29	A successful president
26	An unsuccessful president
44	Too early to tell
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:*In the long run, do you think Donald Trump will be...*

Jan 6-19,

2020

34	A successful president
48	An unsuccessful president
18	Too early to tell
1	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON*In the long run, do you think Donald Trump will be a successful or unsuccessful president, or do you think it is too early to tell?*

	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Too early to tell</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Trump				
Jan 8-13, 2020	36	37	26	1
Jan 9-14, 2019	29	47	23	1
Jan 10-15, 2018	23	41	34	1
Jan 4-9, 2017	21	20	58	1
Obama				
Jan 7-14, 2016	37	34	26	3
Jan 7-11, 2015	32	38	29	2
Jan 15-19, 2014	28	34	35	3
Jun 12-16, 2013	34	31	33	2
Jan 9-13, 2013	33	26	39	2
Jan 11-16, 2012	27	32	39	2
Jan 5-9, 2011	25	26	47	2
Jan 6-10, 2010	24	21	52	3
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	27	18	54	2
Jan 7-11, 2009	30	4	65	1
Bush				
January, 2007	24	45	27	4
January, 2006	27	37	32	4
Early October, 2005	26	41	30	3
January, 2005	36	27	35	2
December, 2003	39	20	38	3
Early October, 2002	40	15	44	1
January, 2001	26	15	58	1
Clinton				
January, 1999	44	24	29	3
Early September, 1998	38	24	35	3
February, 1995	18	34	43	5
October, 1994	14	35	48	3
May, 1994	21	26	52	1
January, 1994	21	19	57	3
October, 1993	18	25	56	1

PHONE TREND CONTINUED...

	<u>Successful</u>	<u>Unsuccessful</u>	<u>Too early to tell</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
September, 1993	22	22	54	2
August, 1993	13	25	60	2

ASK ALL:

JB_WASH All in all, what effect will Joe Biden have on the way the federal government works in Washington. Will he...

Jan 8-12,

2021

46	Make things better
28	Make things worse
24	Not have much of an effect
1	No answer

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,684]:

BIDECAB So far, would you say you approve or disapprove of Joe Biden's cabinet choices and other high-level appointments?

Jan 8-12,

2021

57	Approve
37	Disapprove
5	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

So far, would you say you approve or disapprove of Donald Trump's cabinet choices and other high-level appointments?

		<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Trump	Jan 4-9, 2017	41	49	9
	Nov 30-Dec 5, 2016	40	51	9
Obama	Jan 7-11, 2009	66	17	17
	December, 2008	71	17	12
Bush	January, 2001	58	16	26
Clinton	<i>U.S. News & World</i>			
	<i>Report: January, 1993</i>	64	15	21
Bush	<i>ABC: January, 1989</i>	59	15	26

TREND FOR COMPARISON: *Now let me ask you about President-elect Reagan's Cabinet appointments. How would you rate his appointment of... the cabinet as a whole? Would you say it was an excellent, pretty good, only fair or poor appointment?"*

Reagan

Harris

January

1981

52	Excellent/Good
34	Only fair/Poor
14	Don't know

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,676]:

JBAPPT Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing that many of Joe Biden's top advisors worked in the Obama administration?

Jan 8-12,
2021

58	Good thing
39	Bad thing
3	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing that many of Barack Obama's top advisors worked in the Clinton administration?

	Obama <u>Jan 2009</u>	Obama <u>Dec 2008</u>	Bush <u>Jan 2001⁴</u>
Good thing	59	63	56
Bad thing	21	22	29
Neither/Doesn't matter (VOL.)	8	7	n/a
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12	8	15

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,676]:

VP2PRES As you may know, Kamala Harris is Vice President elect. Do you think that Kamala Harris is...

Jan 8-12, 2021

50	Qualified to be president
47	Not qualified to be president
3	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

Do you think that Mike Pence is qualified to be President if something were to happen to Donald Trump?

Nov 30-Dec 5
2016

54	Yes, is qualified
30	No, is not qualified
15	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Do you think that Dan Quayle is qualified to be President if something were to happen to George Bush?

	----- Time/CNN/Yankelovich -----					
	January <u>1989⁵</u>	July <u>1990</u>	November <u>1990⁶</u>	May <u>1991</u>	December <u>1991</u>	June <u>1992</u>
Yes, is qualified	30	25	24	36	36	28
No, is not qualified	52	65	65	50	55	66
Not sure	18	10	11	14	9	6

⁴ In 2001, the question was worded: "Do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing that many of George W. Bush's top advisors worked in his father's administration?"

⁵ In January 1989 survey, question was worded: "Do you think that Senator Quayle is qualified to be President if something were to happen to George Bush?"

⁶ In November 1990 survey, question was worded: "Do you think that (Vice President) Quayle is qualified to be President if something were to happen to George Bush?"

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,676]:

HARRI_INFL How much influence do you think Kamala Harris will have within the Biden administration?
[RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Jan 8-12, 2021

36	Too much influence
7	Too little influence
55	About the right amount of influence
2	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

How much influence do you think ___ will have within the ___ administration?

	Pence/Trump <u>Nov 30-Dec 5 2016</u>	Cheney/Bush <u>January 2001⁷</u>	<i>CBS/NYT</i> Gore/Clinton <u>February 1993⁸</u>
Too much	21	12	6
Too little	21	12	25
About the right amount	50	58	52
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	8	18	17

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

⁷ In January 2001 survey, question was worded: "How much influence do you think Dick Cheney is having within the Bush Administration... too much, too little or about the right amount?"

⁸ In February 1993 survey, question was worded: "Do you think Al Gore will have too much influence, or about the right amount of influence on the decisions Bill Clinton makes as President?"

ASK ALL:
ETHICSJB

With Biden as president, do you think the overall level of ethics and honesty in the federal government will... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Jan 8-12,
2021
46 Rise
30 Fall
24 Stay the same
1 No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

Do you think the overall level of ethics and honesty in the federal government will rise, fall or stay the same with ___ as president?

	Trump <u>Jan 4-9 2017</u>	Clinton <u>January 1997</u>	Clinton <u>January 1993</u>
Rise	29	16	35
Fall	34	26	13
Stay the same	33	55	50
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	2	3

-----ABC News/WaPo-----

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,684]:

PRESWITHOP This year, do you think Joe Biden should... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Jan 8-12,
2021
74 Try as best he can to work with Republican congressional leaders to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some people who voted for him
23 Stand up to Republican congressional leaders on issues that are important to his supporters, even if it means it's harder to address critical problems facing the country
3 No answer

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,676]:

OPWITHPRES This year, do you think Republican congressional leaders should... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Jan 8-12,
2021
66 Try as best they can to work with Joe Biden to accomplish things, even if it means disappointing some Republican voters
31 Stand up to Joe Biden on issues that are important to Republican voters, even if it means it's harder to address critical problems facing the country
3 No answer

[RANDOMIZE POSTELEC_BIDE AND POSTELEC_TRMP AND SHOW ON SAME PAGE]**ASK ALL:**

POSTELEC_BIDE How would you rate Joe Biden's conduct since the presidential election on November 3rd?

Jan 8-12, <u>2021</u>		Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>
34	Excellent	33
30	Good	27
20	Only fair	21
15	Poor	18
1	No answer	1

ASK ALL:

POSTELEC_TRMP How would you rate Donald Trump's conduct since the presidential election on November 3rd?

Jan 8-12, <u>2021</u>		Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>
8	Excellent	11
15	Good	17
16	Only fair	18
61	Poor	53
1	No answer	1

ASK ALL:

BDIDEO Which best describes your impression of Joe Biden's views **[REVERSE SCALE FOR RANDOM ½ OF RESPONDENTS]**

Jan 8-12, <u>2021</u>	
4	He has conservative views on ALMOST ALL issues
4	He has conservative views on MOST issues
39	His views on issues are a mix of conservative and liberal
25	He has liberal views on MOST issues
23	He has liberal views on ALMOST ALL issues
4	No answer
9	NET conservative views
49	NET liberal views

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK DEM OR LEAN DEM (XPARTYSUM=2) [N=2,919]:**

BIDEFOCUS Thinking about what Joe Biden will do as president, do you think he will listen...
[RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Jan 8-12, <u>2021</u>	
9	More to liberal Democrats
28	More to moderate Democrats
62	About equally to moderate and liberal Democrats
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
WON20

As you may know, Donald Trump contested the results of the 2020 election through legal challenges in various states and the Supreme Court. Those challenges were not successful.

Who do you think won the 2020 election – that is, who received the most votes cast by eligible voters in enough states to win the election? **[REVERSE ORDER FOR RANDOM HALF OF RESPONDENTS]**

Jan 8-12,
2021

53	Joe Biden definitely won
13	Joe Biden probably won
17	Donald Trump probably won
16	Donald Trump definitely won
1	No answer
66	NET Joe Biden won
33	NET Donald Trump won

ASK ALL:
JBWON

How much of a reason, if at all, are each of the following for the result of the 2020 presidential election? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF SCREENS 1 AND 2, RANDOMIZE ITEMS ON EACH SCREEN]**

		<u>Major reason</u>	<u>Minor reason</u>	<u>Not a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
CHT	There was widespread illegal voting and fraud Jan 8-12, 2021	31	14	54	1
CMPN	Biden ran a better campaign than Trump Jan 8-12, 2021	28	24	47	1
NWS	There was too little attention given to Trump's successes Jan 8-12, 2021	31	20	49	1
BSE	Trump did not do enough to reach beyond his base of supporters Jan 8-12, 2021	36	25	38	1
ESY	More citizens were able to vote early or vote by mail Jan 8-12, 2021	57	23	20	1
DV	Many voters were excited to vote against Trump Jan 8-12, 2021	63	22	14	1
CVD	The Trump administration did not do a good enough job handling the coronavirus outbreak				
FW	There was too little attention given to Biden's flaws Jan 8-12, 2021	30	25	44	1

ASK ALL:

ELCT_ILG

Thinking about U.S. elections in general, how often, if at all, do you think political candidates or campaigns do things that are illegal in order to make sure they have the best possible chance to win?

Jan 8-12,

2021

36	Often
43	Sometimes
17	Hardly ever
3	Never
1	No answer

ASK IF CANDIDATES OFTEN, SOMETIMES OR HARDLY EVER DO THIS (ELCT_ILG=1-3) [N=5,185]:

ELCT_PTYILG

And thinking about those political candidates or campaigns that do things that are illegal in order to make sure they have the best possible chance to win, would you say this is... [RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2, WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]

Jan 8-12,

2021

27	More often done by Democrats than Republicans
26	More often done by Republicans than Democrats
46	About equally by Democrats and Republicans
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

TRUMPFUT

Thinking about after Biden's inauguration, would you, personally, like to see Donald Trump continue to be a major national political figure for many years to come?

Jan 8-12,

2021

29	Yes
68	No
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING [N=1,963]:

PARTYLN

As of today do you lean more to...⁹

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
27	32	26	14	1	17	17

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(U)

Pew Research Center/USA Today polls

⁹ Party and PartyIn asked in a prior survey.