



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?

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

\*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?

	Mostly peaceful	Mostly violent	Equally peaceful and violent	No opinion
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

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?

	Too harsh	Not harsh enough	Have been fair	No opinion
12/19/21	19	51	28	3

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

	----- Confident -----			----- Less confident -----			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too confident	Not confident at all	No op
12/19/21	64	31	33	36	22	13	1
8/31/20*	62	16	46	37	27	10	1

\*"...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

	----- Confident -----			----- Less confident -----			
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not too confident	Not confident at all	No op
12/19/21	65	32	33	34	24	10	*

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?

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

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?

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

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

	Justified	Never justified	No opinion
12/19/21	34	62	4*

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

Compare to:

	Justified	Never justified	No opinion
10/25/15*	23	69	8
1/10/11	16	76	8
4/12/10	16	79	5
5/14/95**	9	90	1
4/25/95	13	82	5

\*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	A Republican	An independent	Other	No opinion
12/19/21	30	26	33	10	*

\*\*\* 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 parentheses 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 [www.norc.org](http://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 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.

Group	Unweighted sample size	Error margin
All adults	1,101	+/- 4 points
Democrats	399	6.5
Republicans	300	7.5
Independents	295	7.5

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](mailto:polls@washpost.com) for further information about how The Washington Post conducts polls.

