



## Executive Summary Memo

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Kate Catherall, Madhuri Venkateswar, and Wasay Rasool

**Date:** January 8, 2021

**Subject:** Overnight polling shows fissures in Trump's base in response to attack on the U.S. Capitol

### Overview

Survey Specs:

Fielded on Thursday January 7, 2021 at 7:00pm ET

N = 2,009 representative of the national general population

Across the board, more Americans and even more Trump voters are expressing opposition to Wednesday's actions, laying blame with Trump and Republicans, and expressing agreement with action toward removal and resignations. While half of Trump's voters are not budging in their support for him and remain at risk of behavior driven by backlash, ~20% seem to *consistently* be breaking from him, and another ~20% are showing signs of softening in approval (e.g. 41% of his voters saying he has betrayed the values and interests of the Republican Party).

When reflecting on Wednesday's events, disgust is now registering as the leading emotion among Americans (32%), Biden voters (41%), and trails sadness as the leading emotion among Trump voters by only three points (19%). Sadness, worry, anger, and anxiety are the other leading emotions across the board, with Biden voters expressing anger at twice the rate of Trump voters, and Trump voters expressing more sadness than Biden voters.

### Highlights

**When asked, "How much do you agree or disagree that constitutional actions should be taken to immediately remove Trump from office?":**

- A strong majority (58%) at least somewhat agree that constitutional action should be taken to immediately remove Donald Trump from office and put VP Mike Pence in charge until Biden is inaugurated on January 20th. 44% of Americans strongly agree this action should be taken
- 22% of Trump voters agree that action should be taken

**When asked, "What do you believe is the most appropriate response to Trump, given his part in yesterday's events?":**

- A strong majority (62%) want Trump removed from office, saying:
  - Either that he should be impeached and removed from office (22%),
  - The 25th amendment should be invoked and he should be removed from office (20%), or
  - One of the two actions should be taken, whichever is quicker (20%)



- 25% of Trump voters say they want Trump removed from office, by either impeachment, 25th amendment, or whichever is faster

**When asked, “If forced to choose from the following list, who do you believe is responsible for what happened at the Capitol yesterday?”:**

- A strong majority (62%) of Americans and blame Trump for what happened in the Capitol on Wednesday
- 21% of Americans blame Congressional Republicans and 9% of Trump voters blame Congressional Republicans
- 27% of Trump voters blame Trump
- 9% of Trump voters blame Congressional Republicans

**When asked, “Many are saying that a deep divide is occurring within the Republican Party, and believe that Trump has betrayed Republican values and interests. How much do you agree or disagree that Trump has betrayed Republican values and interests?”:**

- A strong majority (69%) of Americans at least somewhat agree that Trump has betrayed the values and interests of the Republican Party
- 41% of Trump voters at least somewhat agree, and 15% strongly agree

**Splitting respondents in half and randomly assigning them to receive one of the following two questions, we asked:**

- A) **What role do you believe President Trump played in yesterday’s events at the Capitol?**
  - B) **What role do you think Republicans contesting the presidential election results played in yesterday’s events at the Capitol?**
- Americans are more likely to say Trump incited the violence Wednesday by encouraging supporters to disrupt proceedings and hold onto power by whatever means necessary (54%) as opposed to Republicans contesting the election (50%)
  - However, Trump voters are slightly more likely to say Republicans incited violence (26%) as opposed to Trump (21%)
  - Accounting for margin of error, the important takeaway is that roughly half of Americans believe Trump and Republicans incited violence, and over 20% of Trump voters believe the same

**When asked, “How much do you agree or disagree that the false claims about the presidential election made by many Republican Members of Congress directly led to the attack on the Capitol Building?”:**

- A majority (56%) believe false claims about the election made by Republican MOCs led to the attack and a strong majority believe Republican MOCs need to be held accountable
- A strong majority of Americans (56%) at least somewhat agree that false claims about the Presidential election made by Republican MOCs directly led to the attack on the Capitol. 31% of



Americans strongly agree. Moreover, 35% of Trump voters at least somewhat agree (and 22% are unsure)

**When asked, “What do you believe is the most appropriate response to Republican Members of Congress who promoted or supported yesterday’s events?”:**

- A strong majority of Americans believe Republican MOCs who promoted or supported Wednesday’s events should be censured or resign (a small increase from Wednesday, now hitting 71% of Americans, with 27% saying they should be censured and 44% saying they should resign)
- Somewhat remarkably, 41% of Trump voters say they should be censured (18%) or resign (22%, +6%)

**When asked, “How much do you agree or disagree that social media companies like Twitter and Facebook should ban President Trump from their platforms?”:**

- A strong majority of Americans (59%) and 30% of Trump voters at least somewhat agree that social media companies like Facebook and Twitter should ban Donald Trump
- That being said, a strong majority (61%) of Trump voters at least somewhat disagree

**When asked, “How much do you agree or disagree with this statement? Some say that the way the Capitol Police responded to Trump supporters yesterday is evidence that law enforcement gives preferential treatment to white people.”:**

- Just less than half of Americans (49%) and 1 in 5 Trump voters say the Capitol police response on Wednesday is evidence that police give preferential treatment to white people (with 32% of Americans strongly agreeing)
- A strong majority of Trump voters disagree, with 52% strongly disagreeing

**When asked in open-ended form, “What is your greatest fear or worry about what might happen as a result of yesterday’s events?”:**

- 56% of Americans name “violence” (the leading response across vote choice)
- Another 12% say “future events like this” or “a continuation of this.” 9% of Americans, Biden voters, and Trump voters also say “the degradation of American democracy.” Another 5% cited “civil unrest” or “war”