



Most voters say the events at the US Capitol are a threat to democracy

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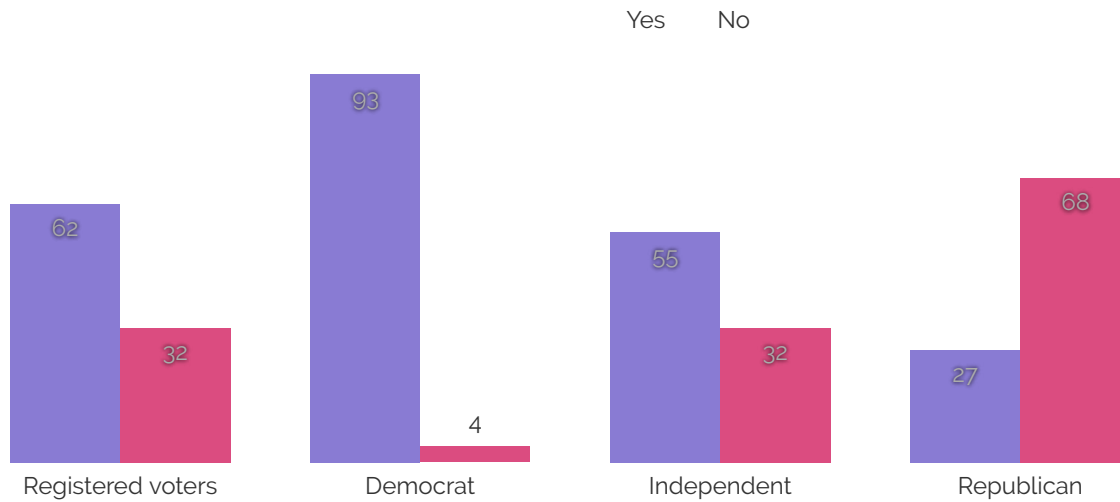
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Supporters of President Donald Trump stormed the US Capitol earlier this afternoon to protest lawmakers certifying Joe Biden's election victory. According to initial reports, one person was shot and killed and at least one explosive device was found in the area.

A YouGov Direct poll of 1,397 registered voters who had heard about the event finds that most (62%) voters perceive these actions as a threat to democracy. Democrats (93%) overwhelmingly see it this way, while most (55%) Independents also agree. Among Republicans, however, only a quarter (27%) think this should be considered a threat to democracy, with two-thirds (68%) saying otherwise.



Should these actions be considered a threat to democracy? (%)



In fact, many Republicans (45%) actively support the actions of those at the Capitol, although as many expressed their opposition (43%).

Among all voters, almost two-thirds (63%) say that they “strongly” oppose the actions taken by President Trump’s supporters, with another 8% say they “somewhat” oppose what has happened.

Overall, one in five voters (21%) say they support the goings-on at the Capitol. Those who believe that voter fraud took place and affected the election outcome are especially likely to feel that today’s events were justified, at 56%.



Supporters of President Trump have stormed the US Capitol to protest lawmakers certifying Joe Biden's election victory. Based on what you have read or heard about this, do you support or oppose these actions? (%)

	Strongly or somewhat support	N/A - Unaware of the story	Strongly or somewhat oppose	Don't know
Registered voters	21		71	
Democrats	96			
Independents	21	7	5	67
Republicans	45		6	6 43
Among those voters who believe enough fraud took place at the presidential election to change the outcome	56			5 6 34

The partisan difference in support could be down to differing perceptions of the nature of the protests. While 59% of voters who are aware of the events at the Capitol perceive them as being more violent than more peaceful (28%), the opposite is true of Republicans. By 58% to 22%, Republicans see the goings on as more peaceful than more violent.

Who is responsible for what is happening at the Capitol?

Republican Senator Mitt Romney laid the blame for the breach squarely at President Trump's feet, saying "This is what the president has caused today, this insurrection".

Most voters agree. A majority (55%) say that President Trump is "a great deal to blame" for the actions of those who charged the Capitol, with another 11% saying he is "somewhat to blame". About four in ten (42%) also say that the Congressional Republicans who said that they would vote against certifying the election results are "a great deal to blame", and another 20% think they are "somewhat to blame".

Far fewer voters think President-elect Joe Biden is a great deal (17%) or somewhat (9%) to blame. That being said, Biden is the biggest culprit in the eyes of Republic...



Most registered voters blame Donald Trump for the actions of those who stormed the Capitol building

To what extent, if at all, do you think [Donald Trump / Congressional Republicans who said they would vote against certifying the election results / Joe Biden] is to blame for the actions of those who stormed the Capitol building? (%)

A great deal to blame Somewhat to blame Don't know
Not much to blame Not at all to blame

Donald Trump

Registered Voters	55			11	9	22
Democrats	90					6
Independents	51		15	6	11	17
Republicans	13	15	16	53		

Congressional Republicans who said they would vote against certifying the election results

Registered Voters	42			20	7	8	23
Democrats	69					23	
Independents	38			23	11	9	19
Republicans	11	15	7	15	52		

Joe Biden

Registered Voters	17	9	13	58		
Democrats	8	86				
Independents	18	9	7	19	46	
Republicans	35			17	15	30

Democratic lawmakers including Ayanna Pressley and Ilhan Omar have called on Vice President Mike Pence to invoke the 25th Amendment and remove President Trump from office in light of today's events.

Half (50%) of voters agree, saying they think it would be appropriate for Donald Trump to be removed from office immediately because of what happened today.



By 50% to 42%, voters say it would be appropriate to remove President Trump from office over the events at the Capitol

Do you think it would be appropriate or inappropriate for Donald Trump to be removed from office immediately because of the actions of those storming the Capitol building? (%)

	Appropriate	Don't know	Inappropriate
Registered Voters	50	7	42
Democrats	83	6	11
Independents	47	12	42
Republicans	10	5	85



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Are those in the Capitol building extremists, terrorists or patriots?

Those on both sides of the dispute are at odds in their descriptions of those currently occupying the US Capitol. NPR [tweeted guidance](#) that they would not be referring to them as “protestors”, but rather as “pro-Trump extremists”, and what they are doing as “insurrection”. (In this they are mirroring Romney’s assessment of the situation).

About half (52%) of voters agree with the “extremist” label, the most commonly selected of all the terms we put to respondents. Nearly as many (49%) think “domestic terrorists” is an appropriate title, and 41% consider them “criminals.”

The president’s daughter, Ivanka Trump, [tweeted](#) earlier in the day referring to those at the Capitol as “patriots”. The tweet has since been deleted. Only about one in seven (15%) agreed with the “patriot” label, although this rises to 30% of Republicans and 40% among those who think there was enough fraud at the election last year to change the outcome.



“patriots”

What labels do you think apply to the people who did these actions? Please select all that apply. (%)

	Registered Voters	Democrats	Republicans
Extremists	52	74	26
Domestic terrorists	49	78	17
Criminals	41	63	16
Anti-democratic	40	65	12
Protestors	37	28	50
Looters	16	25	6
Patriots	15	2	30
Pro-democratic	6	2	10
Don't know	4	0	6
None of these	3	0	6



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See [topline](#) and [table results](#).

Methodology: YouGov polled 1,448 registered voters, including 1,397 who were aware of the events at the Capitol. The survey was conducted on January 6, 2021 between 5:17 p.m. and 5:42 p.m. Eastern time. The survey was carried out through YouGov Direct. Data is weighted on age, gender, education level, political affiliation and ethnicity to be nationally representative of adults in the United States. The margin of error is approximately 3.3% for the overall sample.

Image: Getty

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