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### American Public Opinion on Impeachment and High Crimes

Vox/PerryUndem/Ipsos Poll

Washington, DC, November 9, 2019

A new Ipsos survey of the American public conducted on behalf of PerryUndem and Vox finds that while a small majority (56%) of Americans believe in removing from office elected officials who engage in unethical behavior a large majority (71%) supports removing officials who break the law or abuse the power of their offices.

In a testament to the low regard Americans have for elected officials, a majority (54%) believe half or more of elected officials engage in unethical behavior and a similar number (50%) believe half or more of elected officials break the law or abuse their offices.

Combining these two findings together and it is not surprising that a large majority (78%) view impeachment as an important tool for our democracy.

Focusing on how the public defines “high crimes and misdemeanors,” large, bipartisan majorities say that the following qualify:

- Abusing the powers of your office for personal enrichment – 88%
- Misuse of public funds or assets – 87%
- Abusing the powers of your office for political advantage – 80%
- Negligence of the oath of office – 76%
- Dishonesty to the American people – 63%

However, when it comes to the President “pressuring another country to investigate a political rival,” the results return with a massive partisan split with Democrats overwhelmingly agreeing it is “morally wrong” (89%) and “a high crime and misdemeanor” (77%) with very few Republicans agreeing to the same (39% and 22% respectively). Conversely, most Republicans (65%) think this is “something presidents do all the time”.

**For full results, please refer to the following questionnaire.**



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### Full Annotated Questionnaire:

1. If an elected official is found to behave unethically or inappropriately, should there be a mechanism or way to remove him or her from office OR should keeping or removing him or her be up to the voters in the next election?

	<b>Total (N=1,007)</b>	<b>Republican (N=425)</b>	<b>Democrat (N=394)</b>	<b>Independent (N=104)</b>
Mechanism to remove from office	56%	42%	72%	54%
Up to the voters	31%	48%	19%	31%
Don't know	13%	11%	10%	15%

2. If an elected official is found to have broken the law or abused the powers of his or her office, should there be a mechanism to remove him or her from office OR should keeping or removing him or her be up to the voters in the next election?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Mechanism to remove from office	71%	61%	83%	69%
Up to the voters	19%	32%	11%	20%
Don't know	9%	7%	6%	12%

3. How many elected officials do you think behave unethically or inappropriately?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Just a few	10%	10%	13%	2%
A sizable minority	28%	23%	34%	27%
About half	19%	20%	18%	20%
Most	22%	21%	21%	21%
Almost all	13%	19%	6%	14%
Don't know	10%	8%	7%	16%
<i>Minority (Net)</i>	<b>37%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<i>Majority (Net)</i>	<b>34%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>35%</b>



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4. How many elected officials do you think break the law or abuse the powers of their office?

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Just a few	12%	12%	16%	8%
A sizable minority	28%	27%	33%	23%
About half	18%	17%	20%	20%
Most	20%	21%	20%	22%
Almost all	12%	16%	6%	13%
Don't know	9%	7%	5%	15%
<i>Minority (Net)</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>31%</i>
<i>Majority (Net)</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>35%</i>

5. [Only asked if Q1 or Q2 = mechanism to remove from office] Should we use this mechanism to remove elected officials who behave unethically or illegally only occasionally or whenever we find bad behavior?

	Total (N=731)	Republican (N=272)	Democrat (N=343)	Independent (N=71)
Should use it only occasionally	37%	46%	33%	30%
Should use it for all bad behavior	53%	41%	60%	50%
Don't know	10%	13%	7%	20%

6. There has been a lot of news lately about impeachment. How familiar would you say you are with how impeachment works in the federal government?

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Very familiar	26%	26%	27%	25%
Somewhat familiar	41%	42%	43%	43%
Not too familiar	21%	23%	20%	23%
Not at all familiar	7%	6%	6%	3%
Don't know	5%	3%	4%	6%
<i>Familiar (Net)</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>71%</i>	<i>68%</i>
<i>Not familiar (Net)</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>25%</i>





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7. In your opinion, is impeachment an important tool for our democracy or not an important tool?

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Very important	46%	26%	67%	45%
Somewhat important	32%	41%	24%	38%
Not too important	9%	17%	3%	8%
Not at all important	5%	10%	1%	1%
Don't know	8%	6%	6%	8%
<i>Important (Net)</i>	<i>78%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>91%</i>	<i>83%</i>
<i>Not important (Net)</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>3%</i>	<i>9%</i>

8. What does "high crimes and misdemeanors" mean to you?

**[Open-ended answers provided separately]**

9. Do you consider the following to be a "high crime or misdemeanor":

**Total Yes Summary**

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Abusing the powers of your office for personal enrichment	88%	82%	95%	82%
Misuse of public funds or assets	87%	83%	92%	82%
Abusing the powers of your office for political advantage	80%	67%	93%	75%
Negligence of the oath of office	76%	64%	86%	72%
Dishonesty to the American people	63%	50%	74%	56%

- a. Dishonesty to the American people

	Total	Republican	Democrat	Independent
Definitely Yes	33%	25%	40%	29%
Probably Yes	29%	25%	34%	28%
Probably Not	26%	35%	18%	29%
Definitely Not	7%	9%	4%	10%
Don't know	5%	6%	3%	6%
<i>Yes (Net)</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>74%</i>	<i>56%</i>
<i>No (Net)</i>	<i>33%</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>23%</i>	<i>38%</i>



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### b. Negligence of the oath of office

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Definitely Yes	46%	30%	60%	46%
Probably Yes	29%	34%	26%	26%
Probably Not	17%	25%	10%	19%
Definitely Not	2%	4%	2%	1%
Don't know	5%	6%	3%	8%
<i>Yes (Net)</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>86%</i>	<i>72%</i>
<i>No (Net)</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>11%</i>	<i>20%</i>

### c. Abusing the powers of your office for personal enrichment

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Definitely Yes	61%	43%	80%	54%
Probably Yes	26%	40%	14%	28%
Probably Not	8%	12%	2%	12%
Definitely Not	2%	2%	2%	3%
Don't know	3%	3%	1%	4%
<i>Yes (Net)</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>82%</i>	<i>95%</i>	<i>82%</i>
<i>No (Net)</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>4%</i>	<i>15%</i>

### d. Abusing the powers of your office for political advantage

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Definitely Yes	51%	28%	73%	54%
Probably Yes	29%	39%	21%	21%
Probably Not	13%	25%	3%	15%
Definitely Not	2%	4%	1%	4%
Don't know	4%	5%	2%	6%
<i>Yes (Net)</i>	<i>80%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>93%</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>No (Net)</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>19%</i>

### e. Misuse of public funds or assets

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Definitely Yes	61%	49%	72%	60%
Probably Yes	26%	33%	20%	22%
Probably Not	8%	11%	4%	9%
Definitely Not	2%	2%	1%	1%
Don't know	4%	4%	2%	8%
<i>Yes (Net)</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>82%</i>
<i>No (Net)</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>10%</i>



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10. How closely have you been following news about the impeachment inquiry into President Trump?

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Very closely	28%	28%	34%	25%
Somewhat closely	33%	32%	36%	35%
Not too closely	26%	29%	22%	24%
Not following it at all	11%	9%	7%	14%
Don't know	2%	1%	1%	2%
<i>Closely (Net)</i>	<b>61%</b>	<b>61%</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>61%</b>
<i>Not closely (Net)</i>	<b>37%</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>37%</b>

11. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements...

### Total Agree Summary

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
If President Trump abused the powers of his office, he should be removed.	73%	52%	92%	83%
The impeachment inquiry into Donald Trump is a major moment in our country's history.	64%	44%	84%	59%
The impeachment inquiry is an example of our dysfunctional politics.	59%	77%	45%	61%

a. The impeachment inquiry into Donald Trump is a major moment in our country's history.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	39%	23%	58%	32%
Somewhat agree	25%	22%	27%	26%
Somewhat disagree	19%	27%	10%	26%
Strongly disagree	12%	23%	3%	10%
Don't know	6%	5%	3%	6%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<b>64%</b>	<b>44%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>59%</b>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<b>30%</b>	<b>51%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>35%</b>



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b. If President Trump abused the powers of his office, he should be removed.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	50%	19%	77%	54%
Somewhat agree	24%	33%	14%	29%
Somewhat disagree	11%	20%	4%	8%
Strongly disagree	9%	20%	2%	4%
Don't know	7%	9%	2%	5%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>52%</i>	<i>92%</i>	<i>83%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>20%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>12%</i>

c. The impeachment inquiry is an example of our dysfunctional politics.

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Strongly agree	34%	51%	21%	36%
Somewhat agree	24%	26%	24%	25%
Somewhat disagree	13%	11%	16%	6%
Strongly disagree	18%	6%	31%	20%
Don't know	10%	6%	8%	13%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>61%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>26%</i>

12. Do you think a President of the United States pressuring another country to investigate a political rival is...

Total Yes Summary

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Morally wrong	65%	39%	89%	74%
A "high crime and misdemeanor"	51%	22%	77%	52%
Something Presidents do all the time	44%	65%	28%	37%



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### a. A “high crime and misdemeanor”

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Definitely Yes	29%	8%	51%	30%
Probably Yes	22%	14%	27%	23%
Probably Not	22%	34%	11%	26%
Definitely Not	16%	34%	3%	9%
Don't know	11%	10%	8%	13%
<i>Yes (Net)</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>77%</i>	<i>52%</i>
<i>No (Net)</i>	<i>38%</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>14%</i>	<i>34%</i>

### b. Morally wrong

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Definitely Yes	41%	12%	68%	46%
Probably Yes	24%	26%	21%	28%
Probably Not	17%	33%	4%	13%
Definitely Not	8%	17%	1%	4%
Don't know	9%	11%	6%	9%
<i>Yes (Net)</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>39%</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>74%</i>
<i>No (Net)</i>	<i>25%</i>	<i>50%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>17%</i>

### c. Something Presidents do all the time

	<b>Total</b>	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
Definitely Yes	14%	23%	6%	15%
Probably Yes	30%	41%	22%	22%
Probably Not	21%	15%	24%	27%
Definitely Not	23%	9%	39%	21%
Don't know	12%	11%	9%	15%
<i>Yes (Net)</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>37%</i>
<i>No (Net)</i>	<i>44%</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>48%</i>





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### About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between November 5-6, 2019, on behalf of Vox and PerryUndem. For this survey, a sample of roughly 1,007 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 425 Republicans, 394 Democrats, and 104 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Posthoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following ( $n=1,007$ ,  $DEFF=1.5$ , adjusted Confidence Interval= $\pm 5.0$  percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.4 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 5.6 percentage points for Democrats, and plus or minus 11.0 percentage points for Independents.

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