



PRESS RELEASE

Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Impeachment Trial Press Rules

Nearly half of Americans support journalists bringing in laptops, cameras and cell phones into congressional trials, hearings and votes

Washington, DC, January 23, 2020 – According to the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll, most Americans believe that the ongoing impeachment trial in the Senate should allow witnesses with firsthand knowledge of the charges against President Donald Trump to testify (72%). Fewer (45%) believe that those with secondhand knowledge should be allowed to testify.

With regards to press rules in Congress during trials, votes, and hearings, about half of Americans believe that journalists should be allowed seats in the Senate and House that give them a full view of the floor (51%). A similar number (48%) believe that congresspeople should be allowed to give journalists interviews and comments before and after trials, votes and hearings. Nearly half of Americans think that journalists should be allowed to bring in laptops or silenced cell phones into the House or Senate to assist them in reporting on these events, as well as cameras to take photos (46% for each).

When asked about their views of some of the figures involved in the impeachment hearings, Americans are equally likely to feel favorably about Senate Democrats and Senate Republicans (47% for each). They are slightly more likely to feel favorably towards print news media (52%) than cable news media (46%) with regards to impeachment.

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



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		All respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
With which political party do you most identify?	Strong Democrat	15%	38%	0%	0%
	Moderate Democrat	16%	39%	0%	0%
	Lean Democrat	9%	23%	0%	0%
	Lean Republican	8%	0%	22%	0%
	Moderate Republican	16%	0%	42%	0%
	Strong Republican	14%	0%	37%	0%
	Independent	11%	0%	0%	100%
	None of these	6%	0%	0%	0%
	DK	5%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
With which political party do you most identify? Summary	Democrat	40%	100%	0%	0%
	Republican	38%	0%	100%	0%
	Independent	11%	0%	0%	100%
	Other/Don't know	11%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1116	464	434	114



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		All respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1784Y20. How much do you plan to follow the Senate trial on impeachment, if at all?	I plan to watch the trial every day	12%	18%	11%	6%
	I plan to watch the trial a few times a week	17%	19%	18%	13%
	I only plan to read/watch reporting on the trial	36%	41%	36%	33%
	I don't plan to follow the trial at all	24%	14%	27%	34%
	Don't know	11%	8%	8%	15%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
TM1785Y20_1. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the Senate impeachment trial? Senators should act as impartial jurors of the impeachment trial	Strongly agree	47%	56%	48%	38%
	Somewhat agree	23%	23%	25%	22%
	Somewhat disagree	8%	6%	7%	13%
	Strongly disagree	5%	4%	7%	7%
	Don't know	17%	10%	13%	19%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
TM1785Y20_2. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the Senate impeachment trial? The trials should allow witnesses with firsthand knowledge of the impeachment charges to testify	Strongly agree	48%	67%	36%	45%
	Somewhat agree	24%	17%	33%	24%
	Somewhat disagree	7%	4%	8%	9%
	Strongly disagree	7%	4%	13%	6%
	Don't know	14%	7%	10%	16%
	Total	1116	464	434	114



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		All respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1785Y20_3. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the Senate impeachment trial? The trials should allow witnesses with secondhand or indirect knowledge of the impeachment charges to testify	Strongly agree	22%	37%	10%	20%
	Somewhat agree	23%	31%	14%	24%
	Somewhat disagree	15%	12%	18%	22%
	Strongly disagree	23%	9%	45%	11%
	Don't know	17%	11%	13%	23%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
TM1785Y20_4. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements regarding the Senate impeachment trial? The Senate impeachment trial should not be a public spectacle	Strongly agree	33%	28%	45%	27%
	Somewhat agree	18%	17%	22%	18%
	Somewhat disagree	16%	19%	12%	20%
	Strongly disagree	20%	27%	12%	25%
	Don't know	13%	9%	9%	10%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
TM1786Y20_1. Thinking about congressional hearings, votes, and trials, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements...Journalists should be allowed to bring laptops or silenced phones into the Senate and House in order to report quickly what is happening during hearings, votes and trials	Strongly agree	21%	34%	11%	22%
	Somewhat agree	25%	29%	23%	22%
	Somewhat disagree	17%	16%	18%	17%
	Strongly disagree	23%	11%	36%	24%
	Don't know	15%	9%	12%	15%
	Total	1116	464	434	114



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		All respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1786Y20_2. Thinking about congressional hearings, votes, and trials, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements...Journalists should be allowed to bring in cameras to take photos during hearings, votes, and trials	Strongly agree	22%	35%	11%	19%
	Somewhat agree	24%	29%	21%	27%
	Somewhat disagree	19%	17%	22%	18%
	Strongly disagree	22%	13%	36%	20%
	Don't know	13%	6%	10%	16%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
TM1786Y20_3. Thinking about congressional hearings, votes, and trials, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements...Senators and representatives should be able to give interviews and comments to journalists prior to and after hearings, votes, and trials	Strongly agree	20%	31%	12%	15%
	Somewhat agree	28%	32%	25%	39%
	Somewhat disagree	17%	15%	20%	16%
	Strongly disagree	21%	14%	32%	16%
	Don't know	14%	8%	11%	14%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
TM1786Y20_4. Thinking about congressional hearings, votes, and trials, please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements...Journalists should be allowed to have seats in the Senate and House that give them a full view of the floor	Strongly agree	25%	40%	12%	26%
	Somewhat agree	26%	32%	23%	27%
	Somewhat disagree	17%	13%	22%	12%
	Strongly disagree	17%	6%	31%	19%
	Don't know	15%	9%	14%	15%
	Total	1116	464	434	114



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		All respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1787Y20_1. With regards to impeachment, would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures?... Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell	Very favorable	9%	4%	18%	3%
	Somewhat favorable	12%	8%	18%	10%
	Lean towards favorable	19%	14%	25%	19%
	Lean towards unfavorable	22%	16%	21%	33%
	Somewhat unfavorable	9%	11%	6%	12%
	Very unfavorable	29%	47%	12%	22%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
TM1787Y20_2. With regards to impeachment, would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures?... Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi	Very favorable	15%	33%	2%	5%
	Somewhat favorable	13%	23%	3%	14%
	Lean towards favorable	16%	22%	5%	23%
	Lean towards unfavorable	14%	11%	11%	26%
	Somewhat unfavorable	7%	4%	10%	7%
	Very unfavorable	35%	7%	69%	24%
	Total	1116	464	434	114



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		All respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1787Y20_3. With regards to impeachment, would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures? ...Senate Republicans	Very favorable	11%	3%	25%	3%
	Somewhat favorable	16%	8%	25%	17%
	Lean towards favorable	20%	9%	32%	22%
	Lean towards unfavorable	18%	19%	10%	30%
	Somewhat unfavorable	11%	19%	3%	13%
	Very unfavorable	24%	41%	4%	15%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
TM1787Y20_4. With regards to impeachment, would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures? ... Senate Democrats	Very favorable	13%	29%	2%	1%
	Somewhat favorable	16%	31%	3%	14%
	Lean towards favorable	18%	25%	8%	24%
	Lean towards unfavorable	16%	9%	17%	32%
	Somewhat unfavorable	8%	3%	13%	14%
	Very unfavorable	28%	4%	56%	16%
	Total	1116	464	434	114



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		All respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1787Y20_5. With regards to impeachment, would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures?... Print news media	Very favorable	8%	14%	3%	6%
	Somewhat favorable	17%	28%	7%	19%
	Lean towards favorable	27%	36%	16%	29%
	Lean towards unfavorable	18%	13%	20%	25%
	Somewhat unfavorable	12%	4%	22%	11%
	Very unfavorable	19%	5%	32%	10%
	Total	1116	464	434	114
TM1787Y20_6. With regards to impeachment, would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures? ... Cable news media	Very favorable	6%	9%	4%	5%
	Somewhat favorable	15%	24%	7%	17%
	Lean towards favorable	25%	35%	14%	23%
	Lean towards unfavorable	23%	19%	25%	28%
	Somewhat unfavorable	12%	7%	17%	16%
	Very unfavorable	19%	7%	33%	11%
	Total	1116	464	434	114



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between January 17-21, 2020 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For this survey, a sample of 1,116 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 464 Democrats, 434 Republicans, and 114 independents. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within ± 3.3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Americans been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error. The poll also has a credibility interval ± 5.2 percentage points for Democrats, ± 5.4 percentage points for Republicans, and ± 10.5 percentage points for independents.



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About Ipsos

Ipsos is the world's third largest market research company, present in 90 markets and employing more than 18,000 people.

Our passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. We serve more than 5000 clients across the world with 75 business solutions.

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