



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Reuters/Ipsos Poll: Afghanistan

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, August 31, 2021 – According to a recent Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted August 27-30, 2021, following the terrorist attack outside of Kabul’s airport, just one in ten Americans (10%) say that the war in the Afghanistan is the most important problem facing the United States. On the country’s withdrawal from Afghanistan, only 38% approve of how Joe Biden has handled the situation, while 51% disapprove. Biden scores slightly more favorably on the resettlement of at-risk Afghans who aided in the U.S. war effort (45% approve vs. 42% disapprove).

Finally, when presented with four potential paths regarding Afghanistan, 49% of Americans believe that American troops should have stayed in Afghanistan until all American citizens and Afghan allies were evacuated, this includes 54% of Republicans, 47% of Democrats, and 49% of independents. Meanwhile, 25% believe troops should have stayed at least until all American citizens were evacuated, this is supported by 29% of Republicans, 24% of Democrats, and 19% of independents.

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between August 27-30, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,003 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents.

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

Full Annotated Questionnaire

		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
1. With which political party do you most identify? Detailed	Strong Democrat	19%	38%	0%	0%
	Moderate Democrat	19%	39%	0%	0%
	Lean Democrat	11%	23%	0%	0%
	Lean Republican	8%	0%	24%	0%
	Moderate Republican	14%	0%	41%	0%
	Strong Republican	12%	0%	36%	0%
	Independent	14%	0%	0%	100%
	None of these	2%	0%	0%	0%
	DK	1%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1003	465	354	107





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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
2. With which political party do you most identify? Summary	Democrat	49%	100%	0%	0%
	Republican	35%	0%	100%	0%
	Independent	14%	0%	0%	100%
	None/DK	3%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
3. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the U.S. today?	Economy, unemployment, and jobs	18%	12%	25%	17%
	Immigration	6%	2%	12%	9%
	COVID-19	35%	48%	20%	29%
	The war in Afghanistan	10%	6%	14%	12%
	Environment and climate	7%	9%	3%	6%
	Inequality and discrimination	6%	9%	1%	8%
	Crime and corruption	9%	7%	14%	8%
	Other	7%	5%	10%	8%
	Don't know	2%	2%	1%	3%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
4_1. [Economy, unemployment, and jobs] Overall, do you ... of the way Joe Biden is handling the following?	Strongly approve	19%	35%	2%	7%
	Somewhat approve	28%	42%	11%	25%
	Somewhat disapprove	17%	13%	21%	26%
	Strongly disapprove	28%	4%	60%	29%
	Not sure	7%	6%	5%	12%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
4_2. [Immigration] Overall, do you ... of the way Joe Biden is handling the following?	Strongly approve	11%	18%	2%	6%
	Somewhat approve	31%	51%	8%	24%
	Somewhat disapprove	15%	15%	12%	26%
	Strongly disapprove	33%	6%	71%	31%
	Not sure	10%	10%	7%	12%
	Total	1003	465	354	107



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
4_3. [COVID-19] Overall, do you ... of the way Joe Biden is handling the following?	Strongly approve	27%	47%	5%	15%
	Somewhat approve	28%	35%	17%	32%
	Somewhat disapprove	14%	8%	20%	17%
	Strongly disapprove	24%	5%	51%	26%
	Not sure	7%	4%	6%	11%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
4_4. [The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan] Overall, do you ... of the way Joe Biden is handling the following?	Strongly approve	16%	25%	5%	10%
	Somewhat approve	23%	35%	7%	21%
	Somewhat disapprove	19%	17%	17%	27%
	Strongly disapprove	33%	12%	64%	29%
	Not sure	10%	11%	6%	13%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
4_5. [The resettlement of at-risk Afghans who aided in the U.S. war effort] Overall, do you ... of the way Joe Biden is handling the following?	Strongly approve	14%	23%	3%	11%
	Somewhat approve	31%	43%	17%	24%
	Somewhat disapprove	15%	15%	15%	17%
	Strongly disapprove	27%	7%	55%	26%
	Not sure	13%	12%	10%	22%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
4_6. [Environment and climate] Overall, do you ... of the way Joe Biden is handling the following?	Strongly approve	18%	32%	4%	6%
	Somewhat approve	32%	43%	16%	37%
	Somewhat disapprove	14%	12%	15%	16%
	Strongly disapprove	24%	5%	51%	22%
	Not sure	13%	8%	15%	19%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
4_7. [Inequality and discrimination] Overall, do you ... of the way Joe Biden is handling the following?	Strongly approve	17%	31%	2%	5%
	Somewhat approve	31%	43%	16%	30%
	Somewhat disapprove	16%	12%	19%	24%
	Strongly disapprove	24%	5%	51%	26%
	Not sure	12%	9%	12%	15%
	Total	1003	465	354	107



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
4_8. [Crime and corruption] Overall, do you ... of the way Joe Biden is handling the following?	Strongly approve	12%	22%	2%	3%
	Somewhat approve	28%	43%	7%	24%
	Somewhat disapprove	20%	17%	20%	28%
	Strongly disapprove	28%	5%	62%	27%
	Not sure	13%	13%	8%	17%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
5. Who would you say deserves the most blame for the current state of the war in Afghanistan?	Joe Biden	20%	5%	46%	10%
	Donald Trump	9%	16%	2%	2%
	U.S. military leaders	3%	2%	2%	6%
	Afghan military	7%	8%	6%	4%
	Afghan citizens	1%	0%	2%	3%
	Taliban	16%	19%	11%	19%
	ISIS-K	3%	4%	2%	2%
	George W. Bush	10%	15%	4%	9%
	All equally	14%	17%	9%	15%
	No one is to blame	3%	2%	3%	6%
	Other	3%	1%	3%	11%
	Don't know	11%	10%	10%	13%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
6_1. [The war on terror] In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy, or approach to each of the following?	Democratic Party	26%	49%	3%	4%
	Republican Party	29%	7%	67%	17%
	Independents	7%	8%	4%	16%
	Other	3%	3%	2%	5%
	None	17%	16%	10%	35%
	Don't know	18%	17%	14%	23%
	Total	1003	465	354	107



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
6_2. [The U.S. economy] In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy, or approach to each of the following?	Democratic Party	34%	62%	5%	11%
	Republican Party	31%	6%	72%	18%
	Independents	9%	7%	6%	27%
	Other	2%	2%	1%	3%
	None	10%	11%	6%	19%
	Don't know	14%	13%	10%	22%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
6_3. [Immigration] In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy, or approach to each of the following?	Democratic Party	32%	59%	5%	11%
	Republican Party	33%	8%	74%	22%
	Independents	6%	7%	2%	16%
	Other	2%	2%	1%	8%
	None	13%	12%	10%	26%
	Don't know	13%	12%	9%	18%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
6_4. [Jobs and employment] In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy, or approach to each of the following?	Democratic Party	35%	64%	6%	9%
	Republican Party	32%	6%	72%	24%
	Independents	7%	5%	4%	22%
	Other	2%	1%	1%	6%
	None	11%	10%	7%	20%
	Don't know	14%	13%	10%	19%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
6_5. [Foreign policy] In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy, or approach to each of the following?	Democratic Party	31%	57%	3%	13%
	Republican Party	29%	5%	67%	23%
	Independents	7%	5%	7%	17%
	Other	3%	4%	1%	3%
	None	11%	11%	8%	21%
	Don't know	19%	18%	15%	24%
	Total	1003	465	354	107



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
6_6. [The environment] In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy, or approach to each of the following?	Democratic Party	42%	69%	16%	18%
	Republican Party	19%	4%	44%	13%
	Independents	8%	6%	6%	20%
	Other	4%	3%	3%	8%
	None	11%	7%	11%	20%
	Don't know	17%	11%	21%	20%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
6_7. [Coronavirus or COVID-19] In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy, or approach to each of the following?	Democratic Party	44%	73%	11%	29%
	Republican Party	21%	5%	50%	8%
	Independents	7%	4%	5%	23%
	Other	2%	2%	2%	1%
	None	13%	8%	17%	20%
	Don't know	14%	9%	16%	20%
	Total	1003	465	354	107
7. Which of the following best describes your opinion on how President Biden and the U.S. military should ha	American troops should stay in Afghanistan until all American citizens have been evacuated	25%	24%	29%	19%
	American troops should stay in Afghanistan until all American citizens and Afghan allies have been evacuated	49%	47%	54%	49%
	American troops should evacuate immediately	13%	17%	7%	18%
	Not Sure	13%	13%	10%	13%
	Total	1003	465	354	107



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between August 27-30, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,003 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 465 Democrats, 354 Republicans, and 107 Independents.

The sample was randomly drawn from [Ipsos' online panel](#), partner online panel sources, and ["river" sampling](#) 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 2018 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=1,003, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/- 5.0 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 5.2 percentage points for Democrats, plus or minus 5.9 percentage points for Republicans, and plus or minus 10.8 percentage points for independents.

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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.

Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos is listed on the Euronext Paris since July 1st, 1999. The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index and is eligible for the Deferred Settlement Service (SRD).

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