

# CBS News Poll – January 3 - 5, 2024

## Adults in the U.S.



Sample 2,157 Adults in the U.S.  
 Margin of Error ± 2.8 pts

### 22. In the U.S. today, do you think democracy and the rule of law is...?

Very secure	7%
Somewhat secure	23%
Somewhat threatened	38%
Very threatened	32%

### 23. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the actions taken by the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021?

Strongly approve	6%
Somewhat approve	16%
Somewhat disapprove	26%
Strongly disapprove	52%

### 24. Thinking about the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, would you describe their actions as...

	Yes	No
Insurrection	53%	47%
Patriotism	33%	67%
Trying to overthrow the U.S. government	53%	47%
Trying to overturn the election and keep Donald Trump in power	62%	38%
Defending freedom	34%	66%
A protest that went too far	73%	27%

### 25. Do you think most of the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6th were...

Trump supporters, and typical of most Trump supporters nationwide	39%
Trump supporters, but not typical of most Trump supporters nationwide	40%
People pretending to be Trump supporters	21%

### 26. From what you have seen or heard about the events of January 6, 2021, do you think law enforcement agencies at the Capitol were trying to...

Stop the protest	39%
Encourage the protest	15%
Both	24%
Neither	21%

### 27. Donald Trump suggested giving pardons to those who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, if he had the power to do so. Would you support or oppose pardons for those who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021?

Support pardons	38%
Oppose pardons	62%

33. Some states have removed Donald Trump's name from their election ballots, arguing he committed insurrection and is therefore ineligible to serve as president. Other states are keeping Donald Trump's name on their ballots, arguing it is up to voters to decide if he should serve. Regardless of how you plan to vote, which do you think states should do?

- Take Trump's name off ballots .....46%
- Keep Trump's name on ballots ..... 54%

35. In future presidential elections, do you expect that the losing side will accept their losses peacefully, or do you expect there to be violence over those losses?

- Expect peace .....51%
- Expect violence .....49%

38. Regardless of who you wanted to win, do you consider Joe Biden as the legitimate winner of the 2020 presidential election - that is, that Biden was the choice of more voters, with more legally-cast votes, in enough states to be elected - or not?

- Yes, I consider Biden legitimate winner .....61%
- No, I do not consider Biden the legitimate winner .....39%

\*Questions held for future release.

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**22. Democracy Secure or Threatened**

In the U.S. today, do you think democracy and the rule of law is...?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Very secure	7%	9%	5%	16%	7%	5%	2%	7%	8%	7%
Somewhat secure	23%	22%	24%	38%	28%	17%	12%	20%	27%	18%
Somewhat threatened	38%	35%	41%	29%	41%	39%	42%	40%	40%	33%
Very threatened	32%	34%	30%	17%	24%	39%	44%	33%	25%	42%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,153)	(1,045)	(1,108)	(455)	(540)	(703)	(454)	(513)	(712)	(679)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Very secure	7%	10%	4%	9%	5%	9%	12%	5%	4%
Somewhat secure	23%	29%	21%	17%	19%	31%	32%	17%	21%
Somewhat threatened	38%	38%	36%	37%	39%	39%	35%	39%	40%
Very threatened	32%	23%	39%	37%	37%	20%	21%	38%	34%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%	99%
Weighted N	(2,153)	(649)	(729)	(610)	(1,345)	(271)	(347)	(832)	(513)

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**23. Approve of Actions**

Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the actions taken by the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Strongly approve	6%	7%	5%	8%	5%	5%	4%	5%	4%	8%
Somewhat approve	16%	17%	14%	21%	18%	12%	14%	9%	15%	22%
Somewhat disapprove	26%	26%	26%	33%	26%	23%	23%	10%	25%	38%
Strongly disapprove	52%	50%	54%	37%	51%	60%	58%	75%	56%	32%
Totals	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,143)	(1,040)	(1,103)	(452)	(542)	(700)	(450)	(513)	(713)	(671)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Strongly approve	6%	4%	4%	10%	5%	5%	8%	6%	5%
Somewhat approve	16%	12%	14%	20%	16%	14%	13%	16%	14%
Somewhat disapprove	26%	13%	28%	38%	27%	22%	29%	29%	23%
Strongly disapprove	52%	71%	54%	32%	52%	59%	49%	49%	57%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(2,143)	(650)	(723)	(604)	(1,337)	(269)	(347)	(827)	(509)

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**24A. Describe Actions — Insurrection**

Thinking about the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, would you describe their actions as...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes	53%	50%	57%	53%	54%	55%	51%	84%	60%	28%
No	47%	50%	43%	47%	46%	45%	49%	16%	40%	72%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,131)	(1,035)	(1,096)	(446)	(542)	(698)	(445)	(509)	(709)	(667)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes	53%	83%	52%	26%	50%	67%	58%	45%	57%
No	47%	17%	48%	74%	50%	33%	42%	55%	43%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,131)	(648)	(720)	(601)	(1,327)	(270)	(346)	(818)	(509)

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**24B. Describe Actions — Patriotism**

Thinking about the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, would you describe their actions as...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes	33%	34%	31%	37%	30%	30%	36%	14%	26%	54%
No	67%	66%	69%	63%	70%	70%	64%	86%	74%	46%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,133)	(1,033)	(1,100)	(449)	(540)	(701)	(444)	(512)	(709)	(663)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes	33%	19%	30%	51%	33%	33%	34%	37%	27%
No	67%	81%	70%	49%	67%	67%	66%	63%	73%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,133)	(649)	(717)	(602)	(1,327)	(270)	(347)	(820)	(507)

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**24C. Describe Actions — Trying to overthrow the U.S. government**

Thinking about the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, would you describe their actions as...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes	53%	47%	58%	52%	58%	53%	46%	82%	57%	26%
No	47%	53%	42%	48%	42%	47%	54%	18%	43%	74%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,136)	(1,038)	(1,098)	(450)	(541)	(701)	(444)	(510)	(709)	(667)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes	53%	79%	50%	27%	47%	74%	57%	45%	50%
No	47%	21%	50%	73%	53%	26%	43%	55%	50%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,136)	(648)	(720)	(602)	(1,329)	(271)	(347)	(820)	(509)

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**24D. Describe Actions — Trying to overturn the election and keep Donald Trump in power**

Thinking about the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, would you describe their actions as...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes	62%	58%	66%	64%	62%	63%	60%	90%	66%	38%
No	38%	42%	34%	36%	38%	37%	40%	10%	34%	62%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,136)	(1,038)	(1,097)	(448)	(537)	(700)	(451)	(512)	(710)	(666)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes	62%	86%	60%	40%	59%	77%	63%	57%	63%
No	38%	14%	40%	60%	41%	23%	37%	43%	37%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,136)	(649)	(726)	(595)	(1,330)	(270)	(347)	(822)	(508)



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**24E. Describe Actions — Defending freedom**

Thinking about the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, would you describe their actions as...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes	34%	36%	32%	41%	30%	31%	34%	16%	27%	56%
No	66%	64%	68%	59%	70%	69%	66%	84%	73%	44%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,126)	(1,031)	(1,095)	(447)	(540)	(695)	(444)	(511)	(709)	(658)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes	34%	18%	28%	59%	37%	22%	31%	40%	31%
No	66%	82%	72%	41%	63%	78%	69%	60%	69%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,126)	(649)	(718)	(593)	(1,323)	(270)	(344)	(816)	(507)

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**24F. Describe Actions — A protest that went too far**

Thinking about the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, would you describe their actions as...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes	73%	73%	74%	68%	66%	77%	82%	69%	75%	79%
No	27%	27%	26%	32%	34%	23%	18%	31%	25%	21%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,145)	(1,041)	(1,103)	(447)	(540)	(702)	(455)	(510)	(711)	(674)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes	73%	70%	72%	80%	74%	73%	74%	76%	71%
No	27%	30%	28%	20%	26%	27%	26%	24%	29%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,145)	(650)	(725)	(604)	(1,339)	(270)	(345)	(829)	(510)

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## Adults in the U.S.



### 25. Who Were the Participants in January 6

Do you think most of the people who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6th were...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Trump supporters, and typical of most Trump supporters nationwide	39%	33%	44%	34%	36%	44%	39%	64%	44%	14%
Trump supporters, but not typical of most Trump supporters nationwide	40%	43%	37%	48%	42%	35%	36%	25%	40%	52%
People pretending to be Trump supporters	21%	24%	19%	18%	22%	21%	25%	11%	16%	34%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,149)	(1,045)	(1,104)	(454)	(541)	(702)	(453)	(511)	(714)	(675)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Trump supporters, and typical of most Trump supporters nationwide	39%	65%	37%	12%	34%	59%	40%	32%	39%
Trump supporters, but not typical of most Trump supporters nationwide	40%	26%	44%	51%	43%	27%	40%	41%	45%
People pretending to be Trump supporters	21%	9%	19%	37%	23%	14%	20%	27%	16%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,149)	(650)	(726)	(608)	(1,341)	(272)	(349)	(829)	(512)

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**26. What Law Enforcement Was Trying to Do on January 6**

From what you have seen or heard about the events of January 6, 2021, do you think law enforcement agencies at the Capitol were trying to...

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Stop the protest	39%	37%	41%	41%	34%	39%	44%	51%	43%	28%
Encourage the protest	15%	17%	13%	10%	17%	15%	18%	11%	10%	25%
Both	24%	25%	24%	23%	27%	25%	22%	23%	25%	26%
Neither	21%	21%	22%	26%	22%	21%	16%	15%	22%	20%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%
Weighted N	(2,150)	(1,044)	(1,106)	(453)	(541)	(703)	(453)	(511)	(714)	(677)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Stop the protest	39%	54%	33%	31%	37%	47%	39%	36%	39%
Encourage the protest	15%	9%	18%	20%	17%	7%	11%	16%	19%
Both	24%	22%	26%	26%	24%	26%	26%	28%	18%
Neither	21%	15%	23%	23%	22%	19%	23%	20%	24%
Totals	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,150)	(648)	(728)	(609)	(1,340)	(272)	(348)	(831)	(509)

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**27. Pardons for January 6**

Donald Trump suggested giving pardons to those who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021, if he had the power to do so. Would you support or oppose pardons for those who forced their way into the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Support pardons	38%	44%	32%	38%	36%	37%	41%	15%	30%	66%
Oppose pardons	62%	56%	68%	62%	64%	63%	59%	85%	70%	34%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,142)	(1,037)	(1,105)	(452)	(541)	(703)	(446)	(511)	(713)	(669)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Support pardons	38%	15%	36%	66%	43%	25%	31%	47%	37%
Oppose pardons	62%	85%	64%	34%	57%	75%	69%	53%	63%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,142)	(650)	(719)	(606)	(1,334)	(272)	(346)	(823)	(512)

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**33. Removing Trump’s Name from Ballot**

Some states have removed Donald Trump’s name from their election ballots, arguing he committed insurrection and is therefore ineligible to serve as president. Other states are keeping Donald Trump’s name on their ballots, arguing it is up to voters to decide if he should serve. Regardless of how you plan to vote, which do you think states should do?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Take Trump’s name off ballots	46%	41%	51%	53%	49%	43%	41%	78%	52%	15%
Keep Trump’s name on ballots	54%	59%	49%	47%	51%	57%	59%	22%	48%	85%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,142)	(1,041)	(1,102)	(451)	(542)	(701)	(449)	(512)	(711)	(677)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Take Trump’s name off ballots	46%	81%	44%	10%	39%	65%	53%	35%	46%
Keep Trump’s name on ballots	54%	19%	56%	90%	61%	35%	47%	65%	54%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,142)	(647)	(723)	(608)	(1,336)	(269)	(349)	(825)	(512)

**35. Actions of Future Election Losers**

In future presidential elections, do you expect that the losing side will accept their losses peacefully, or do you expect there to be violence over those losses?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Expect peace	51%	49%	53%	55%	51%	48%	52%	52%	56%	48%
Expect violence	49%	51%	47%	45%	49%	52%	48%	48%	44%	52%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,134)	(1,034)	(1,100)	(451)	(535)	(702)	(446)	(510)	(709)	(669)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Expect peace	51%	53%	46%	56%	47%	63%	56%	50%	44%
Expect violence	49%	47%	54%	44%	53%	37%	44%	50%	56%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,134)	(650)	(713)	(607)	(1,330)	(271)	(343)	(818)	(512)

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**38. Legitimate Winner**

Regardless of who you wanted to win, do you consider Joe Biden as the legitimate winner of the 2020 presidential election - that is, that Biden was the choice of more voters, with more legally-cast votes, in enough states to be elected - or not?

	Total	Gender		Age				Ideology		
		Male	Female	Under 30	30-44	45-64	65+	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative
Yes, I consider Biden legitimate winner	61%	60%	62%	68%	62%	59%	56%	91%	72%	34%
No, I do not consider Biden the legitimate winner	39%	40%	38%	32%	38%	41%	44%	9%	28%	66%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,147)	(1,045)	(1,102)	(453)	(541)	(699)	(452)	(513)	(713)	(673)

	Total	Party ID			Race			White by Education	
		Dem	Ind	Rep	White	Black	Hispanic	No Degree	4yr Degree+
Yes, I consider Biden legitimate winner	61%	93%	62%	29%	56%	79%	66%	47%	70%
No, I do not consider Biden the legitimate winner	39%	7%	38%	71%	44%	21%	34%	53%	30%
Totals	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Weighted N	(2,147)	(650)	(724)	(607)	(1,341)	(272)	(346)	(829)	(512)



# HOW THE POLL WAS CONDUCTED AND THE MARGIN OF ERROR CALCULATED

The CBS News/YouGov survey of 2,157 adults in the U.S. was conducted between January 3-5, 2024.

This sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, and education based on the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, as well as 2020 Presidential vote and 2022 Congressional vote. Respondents were selected to be representative of adults nationwide. The weights range from 0.1 to 6.1, with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.9.

The *margin of error* (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage  $p$  based upon the entire sample is approximately  $\pm 2.8$  pts. It is calculated using the formula

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

where CV is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights and  $n$  is the sample size used to compute the proportion. This is a measure of sampling error (the average of all estimates obtained using the same sample selection and weighting procedures repeatedly). The sample estimate should differ from its expected value by less than margin of error in 95 percent of all samples. It does not reflect non-sampling errors, including potential selection bias in panel participation or in response to a particular survey.