



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

Biden's speech to Congress earns high marks from viewers

New Ipsos snap poll shows broad support for policies outlined, despite large partisan gaps

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, April 29, 2021 – Nearly three-quarters who watched or heard about President Joe Biden's joint session to Congress approve of the president's remarks, according to an Ipsos snap poll fielded in the hours immediately following the speech. Among all respondents, three in five (or more) support the policies the president outlined in his speech – from 12 weeks of paid family leave to passing the American Jobs Plan – but deep partisan divisions remain, and this support is primarily driven by strong majorities of Democrats backing these policies.

Detailed findings:

1. A broad majority of those aware of the president's speech approve of his message – including near universal approval from Democrats.
 - Overall, more than two-thirds of respondents (68%) either watched the speech or have read or heard about it. Significantly more Democrats (81%) than Republicans (58%) tuned in.
 - Among this group, 73% approve of the president's message, including 95% of Democrats, 68% of Independents, and 40% of Republicans.
2. From the scope of the speech to the presence of two women on the dais, a majority of all respondents view Biden's speech as historic.
 - Regardless of whether they tuned in or not, three-quarters (74%) acknowledge the presence of a female Vice President and Speaker of the House behind Biden was a historic moment. Nearly half, 46%, believe it was very historic.
 - Two-thirds (65%) believe the smaller audience, due to COVID-19 protocols, was historic, and 60% acknowledge the actual scale and scope of Biden's proposals was historic. This last point is bolstered by a strong majority of Democrats: 86% believe Biden's proposals to be historic.
3. A majority of respondents – 60% or more – support the proposals Biden outlined. However, no proposal earns bipartisan support, and significant partisan gaps remain.
 - The survey tested seven policy proposals that came from Biden's speech. Requiring all employers to provide 12 weeks of guaranteed paid family and medical leave earns the strongest support (69%), while slightly fewer – but still a majority – support passing a comprehensive immigration bill that provides a pathway to citizenship and increased border security (60%).
 - A vast majority of Democrats (80% or more) support these proposals, and a majority of Independents support each as well. No proposal earns support from a majority of Republicans, though two earn support from a plurality: 12 weeks of paid family leave (49%) and increasing IRS audits and enforcement of wealthy Americans' tax returns (48%).



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4. Similar to the policy proposals, most approve of select rhetoric Biden used in his speech. These words also show some broad areas where Democrats and Republicans align.
 - Three-quarters (76%) agree that America cannot let its guard down now against the pandemic, including 88% of Democrats, 72% of Independents, and 65% of Republicans.
 - Partisans also agree that “Wall Street did not build the United States, the middle class and unions built the United States.” Overall, 72% agree with this sentiment, including majorities of those from each side of the aisle.
 - President Biden also said in his speech that “white supremacy is terrorism,” a sentiment 63% agree with, overall. This support is driven by Democrats (81%), while Republicans are split (45% agree, 42% disagree).

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between 10:30pm ET on April 28, 2021 to the early morning hours of April 29, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,000 adults age 18-65 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:





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Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. Did you watch President Joe Biden's address to Congress on Wednesday, April 28?

	All respondents (N=1,000)	Republican (N=290)	Democrat (N=360)	Indep/Other (N=350)
Yes	42%	35%	57%	33%
No, but have read or heard about it	26%	23%	24%	30%
No	33%	42%	19%	38%
<i>Yes/No, but have read or heard about it (net)</i>	<i>68%</i>	<i>58%</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>62%</i>

2. **[If watched, read, or heard about President Biden's address]** Overall, do you approve or disapprove of what President Biden said in his April 28 address?

	All respondents (N=675)	Republican (N=168)	Democrat (N=290)	Indep/Other (N=217)
Strongly approve	36%	16%	59%	21%
Somewhat approve	36%	24%	36%	46%
Somewhat disapprove	14%	26%	4%	19%
Strongly disapprove	14%	34%	1%	14%
<i>Approve (net)</i>	<i>73%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>95%</i>	<i>68%</i>
<i>Disapprove (net)</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>5%</i>	<i>33%</i>



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3. Do you support or oppose the following?

Total Support Summary

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Requiring all employers to provide 12 weeks of guaranteed paid family and medical leave	69%	49%	87%	67%
Passing the American Jobs Plan to make significant investments in American infrastructure	66%	42%	89%	61%
Providing up to 2 years of tuition-free community college for every American	65%	41%	88%	61%
Increasing taxes on wealthy Americans and investors	65%	46%	88%	57%
Increase IRS audits and enforcement of wealthy Americans' tax returns	64%	48%	84%	56%
Increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour	63%	36%	88%	61%
Passing a comprehensive immigration bill that provides a pathway to citizenship for some undocumented immigrants and increased border security	60%	40%	81%	54%

a. Increasing the federal minimum wage to \$15 an hour

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly support	41%	21%	61%	38%
Somewhat support	22%	15%	27%	23%
Somewhat oppose	13%	21%	7%	12%
Strongly oppose	18%	39%	2%	18%
Don't know	6%	5%	4%	9%
<i>Support (net)</i>	<i>63%</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>61%</i>
<i>Oppose (net)</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>59%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>30%</i>

b. Providing up to 2 years of tuition-free community college for every American

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly support	42%	24%	64%	36%
Somewhat support	23%	18%	25%	25%
Somewhat oppose	11%	15%	6%	12%
Strongly oppose	18%	38%	3%	17%
Don't know	6%	6%	3%	10%
<i>Support (net)</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>61%</i>
<i>Oppose (net)</i>	<i>29%</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>29%</i>



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c. Requiring all employers to provide 12 weeks of guaranteed paid family and medical leave

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly support	42%	21%	59%	41%
Somewhat support	27%	27%	27%	26%
Somewhat oppose	11%	17%	6%	12%
Strongly oppose	13%	28%	2%	11%
Don't know	7%	7%	5%	10%
<i>Support (net)</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>87%</i>	<i>67%</i>
<i>Oppose (net)</i>	<i>24%</i>	<i>45%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>23%</i>

d. Increasing taxes on wealthy Americans and investors

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly support	41%	25%	61%	34%
Somewhat support	24%	20%	27%	23%
Somewhat oppose	14%	21%	6%	16%
Strongly oppose	14%	27%	3%	15%
Don't know	8%	6%	5%	12%
<i>Support (net)</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>46%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>57%</i>
<i>Oppose (net)</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>8%</i>	<i>31%</i>

e. Increase IRS audits and enforcement of wealthy Americans' tax returns

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly support	37%	21%	55%	31%
Somewhat support	27%	27%	29%	25%
Somewhat oppose	14%	17%	8%	17%
Strongly oppose	12%	25%	2%	13%
Don't know	10%	10%	6%	14%
<i>Support (net)</i>	<i>64%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>84%</i>	<i>56%</i>
<i>Oppose (net)</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>30%</i>



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f. Passing the American Jobs Plan to make significant investments in American infrastructure

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly support	35%	17%	58%	26%
Somewhat support	31%	25%	31%	35%
Somewhat oppose	12%	19%	4%	13%
Strongly oppose	10%	22%	1%	10%
Don't know	13%	17%	6%	17%
<i>Support (net)</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>42%</i>	<i>89%</i>	<i>61%</i>
<i>Oppose (net)</i>	<i>22%</i>	<i>41%</i>	<i>6%</i>	<i>23%</i>

g. Passing a comprehensive immigration bill that provides a pathway to citizenship for some undocumented immigrants and increased border security

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly support	30%	15%	46%	25%
Somewhat support	30%	24%	35%	30%
Somewhat oppose	16%	20%	11%	19%
Strongly oppose	16%	35%	3%	13%
Don't know	8%	6%	4%	15%
<i>Support (net)</i>	<i>60%</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>81%</i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>Oppose (net)</i>	<i>32%</i>	<i>54%</i>	<i>15%</i>	<i>31%</i>

4. Do you agree or disagree with the following

Total Agree Summary

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
America cannot let its guard down now against the COVID pandemic	76%	65%	88%	72%
Wall Street did not build the United States, the middle class and unions built the United States	72%	69%	83%	62%
American democracy still works to make Americans' lives better	64%	57%	82%	51%
White supremacy is terrorism	63%	45%	81%	60%
Trickle down economics have never worked in America	51%	43%	66%	43%



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a. America cannot let its guard down now against the COVID pandemic

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly agree	52%	40%	67%	47%
Somewhat agree	24%	25%	21%	25%
Somewhat disagree	9%	14%	6%	9%
Strongly disagree	10%	17%	3%	11%
Don't know	5%	4%	3%	8%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>76%</i>	<i>65%</i>	<i>88%</i>	<i>72%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>31%</i>	<i>9%</i>	<i>20%</i>

b. Wall Street did not build the United States, the middle class and unions built the United States

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly agree	40%	35%	52%	32%
Somewhat agree	31%	33%	31%	30%
Somewhat disagree	12%	14%	8%	13%
Strongly disagree	5%	7%	2%	7%
Don't know	12%	10%	7%	18%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>72%</i>	<i>69%</i>	<i>83%</i>	<i>62%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>17%</i>	<i>21%</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>20%</i>

c. Trickle down economics have never worked in America

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly agree	28%	19%	43%	22%
Somewhat agree	23%	24%	24%	22%
Somewhat disagree	15%	16%	15%	14%
Strongly disagree	12%	18%	5%	14%
Don't know	22%	23%	15%	30%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>51%</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>66%</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>26%</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>19%</i>	<i>27%</i>



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d. White supremacy is terrorism

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly agree	42%	25%	60%	38%
Somewhat agree	21%	20%	21%	22%
Somewhat disagree	11%	15%	8%	12%
Strongly disagree	15%	28%	6%	14%
Don't know	11%	13%	5%	15%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	63%	45%	81%	60%
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	26%	42%	14%	25%

e. American democracy still works to make Americans' lives better

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Strongly agree	30%	26%	42%	22%
Somewhat agree	34%	31%	40%	30%
Somewhat disagree	15%	19%	11%	17%
Strongly disagree	10%	15%	2%	14%
Don't know	11%	9%	5%	18%
<i>Agree (net)</i>	64%	57%	82%	51%
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	25%	34%	13%	31%

5. How historic, if at all, were the following parts of President Biden's speech to Congress?

Total Historic Summary

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
The presence of a female Vice President and Speaker of the House	74%	57%	90%	71%
The smaller audience due to COVID-19 protocols	65%	51%	81%	59%
The scale and scope of Biden's proposals	60%	35%	86%	55%

a. The presence of a female Vice President and Speaker of the House

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Very historic	46%	26%	67%	40%
Somewhat historic	28%	30%	24%	31%
Not very historic	12%	17%	5%	14%
Not at all historic	15%	27%	5%	15%
<i>Historic (net)</i>	74%	57%	90%	71%



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b. The smaller audience due to COVID-19 protocols

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Very historic	31%	22%	45%	24%
Somewhat historic	34%	29%	36%	35%
Not very historic	19%	18%	14%	24%
Not at all historic	17%	31%	5%	17%
<i>Historic (net)</i>	65%	51%	81%	59%

c. The scale and scope of Biden's proposals

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Very historic	25%	10%	44%	19%
Somewhat historic	35%	24%	42%	36%
Not very historic	20%	30%	10%	23%
Not at all historic	20%	36%	4%	22%
<i>Historic (net)</i>	60%	35%	86%	55%

6. Do you consider yourself a...

	All respondents	Republican	Democrat	Indep/Other
Republican	29%	100%	0%	0%
Democrat	36%	0%	100%	0%
Independent	27%	0%	0%	76%
Something else	4%	0%	0%	10%
None of these	5%	0%	0%	14%



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between 10:30pm ET on April 28, 2021 to the early morning hours of April 29, 2021. For this survey, a sample of 1,000 adults age 18-65 from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample includes 290 Republicans, 360 Democrats, and 350 Independents/Other.

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=1,000, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/- 5.0 percentage points).

The poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 6.6 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 5.9 percentage points for Democrats, and plus or minus 6.0 percentage points for Independents/Other.

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