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**FOR RELEASE: FEBRUARY 4, 2021**

**50% OF AMERICANS SAY SENATE SHOULD CONVICT TRUMP  
IN SENATE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS;  
74% SAY SOCIAL MEDIA SITES SHOULD BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE  
FOR SPREAD OF DISINFORMATION**

With less than a week before the U.S. Senate is set to begin its impeachment trial of former President Donald Trump on charges he incited the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th, half of Americans say the Senate should convict Trump and 45 percent say the Senate should not convict him, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pe-ack) University national poll of 1,075 adults released today.

Democrats say 86 – 11 percent the Senate should convict. Among independents, 49 percent say convict and 45 percent say the Senate should not convict. Republicans say 86 – 12 percent the Senate should not convict Trump.

**2020 ELECTION BELIEFS**

Despite the fact that Congress certified Joe Biden’s victory in the 2020 presidential election last month and numerous federal and state courts rejected claims of widespread voter fraud, over three-quarters of Republicans say they believe there was widespread voter fraud.

Overall, a majority of Americans say 59 – 36 percent that they do not believe there was widespread voter fraud. Democrats say 95 – 4 percent and independents say 59 – 35 percent that they do not believe there was widespread fraud. Republicans say 76 – 19 percent that they believe there was widespread fraud.

“The impeachment question is framed by two distinctly different versions of history and offers as vivid an example of the chasm between Republicans and Democrats as you can find,” said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

**CONCERNS ABOUT EXTREMIST VIOLENCE**

Three-quarters of Americans say they are either very concerned (48 percent) or somewhat concerned (27 percent) about continued violence in the United States by extremist groups emboldened by the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Twenty-two percent say they are either not so concerned (9 percent) or not concerned at all (13 percent).

## **SOCIAL MEDIA AND DISINFORMATION**

Americans say 74 – 20 percent that social media sites should be held accountable for the spread of disinformation. The support for holding social media sites accountable is similar across the board among groups defined by political party, gender, race, age and education level.

“Global, massively influential and too often flat out wrong, the flow of social web information is in need of policing, say Americans,” added Malloy.

### **DEMOCRACY IN THE U.S.**

Roughly 7 in 10 Americans (71 percent) say that democracy in the United States is under threat and 22 percent say it is alive and well. Republicans say 85 – 11 percent, independents say 70 – 25 percent and Democrats say 67 – 26 percent that democracy is under threat.

Additional poll findings released on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 showed that 45 percent of Americans think the state of the nation’s democracy is a crisis and 43 percent said the state of the nation’s democracy is a problem, but not a crisis. Only 9 percent said it is not a problem at all.

### **PARTISAN DIVISIONS**

Looking ahead to the next few years, close to 4 in 10 Americans (39 percent) expect partisan divisions in the country to worsen, one-third (33 percent) expect them to remain the same and 20 percent expect them to ease.

On a personal level, Americans were asked whether they have limited interactions over the last four years with friends, acquaintances or family members who do not share their political views. Seven out of ten Americans (70 percent) say they have not limited those interactions and 27 percent say they have.

Republicans say 83 – 16 percent they have not limited their interactions over the last four years with friends, acquaintances or family members who don’t share their political views. Independents say 70 – 27 percent and Democrats say 60 – 38 percent they also have not limited their interactions.

1,075 U.S. adults nationwide were surveyed from January 28<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup> with a margin of error of +/- 3 percentage points.

The Quinnipiac University Poll, directed by Doug Schwartz, Ph.D. since 1994, conducts independent, non-partisan national and state polls on politics and issues. Surveys adhere to industry best practices and are based on random samples of adults using random digit dialing with live interviewers calling landlines and cell phones.

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25. Do you believe there was widespread voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election, or not?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Believe	36%	76%	4%	35%	43%	29%	31%	53%
No	59	19	95	59	53	66	67	43
DK/NA	5	4	1	6	4	5	2	4

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Yes/Believe	37%	32%	41%	35%	54%	36%	45%	23%
No	61	60	56	63	43	61	52	72
DK/NA	2	8	3	2	3	3	3	5

26. Which comes closer to your point of view: democracy in the United States is alive and well or democracy in the United States is under threat?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Alive and well	22%	11%	26%	25%	22%	22%	17%	19%
Under threat	71	85	67	70	72	71	80	75
DK/NA	7	4	6	5	6	8	2	6

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Alive and well	32%	23%	18%	17%	19%	18%	18%	29%
Under threat	58	74	79	80	75	78	77	65
DK/NA	11	3	4	3	6	4	5	5

27. Over the next few years, do you expect partisan divisions in the country to ease, to worsen, or to remain about the same as they are today?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Ease	20%	8%	34%	18%	13%	26%	25%	17%
Worsen	39	63	19	40	45	34	40	48
Remain same	33	27	40	34	36	31	33	31
DK/NA	7	2	7	9	6	9	2	3

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....			
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	NonWht
Ease	13%	21%	24%	22%	12%	28%	20%	20%
Worsen	35	40	44	37	50	41	45	30
Remain same	43	32	29	35	34	29	32	38
DK/NA	8	7	3	6	4	2	3	12

28. As you may know, now that the House of Representatives has voted to impeach former President Trump, the Senate will hold a trial. Do you think the Senate should vote to convict former President Trump, or don't you think so?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Should convict	50%	12%	86%	49%	43%	58%	59%	37%
No	45	86	11	45	53	37	39	60
DK/NA	5	2	3	6	4	5	2	3

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
							Yes	No
Yes/Should convict	51%	50%	50%	52%	33%	56%	45%	60%
No	46	42	47	45	64	42	53	34
DK/NA	3	8	3	3	3	3	3	6

29. Over the last four years, have you limited your interaction with friends, acquaintances, or family members who don't share your political views, or not?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes	27%	16%	38%	27%	25%	29%	33%	28%
No	70	83	60	70	73	67	65	71
DK/NA	3	-	2	3	2	3	2	1

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
							Yes	No
Yes	26%	30%	25%	30%	25%	34%	30%	24%
No	73	66	74	67	74	64	69	73
DK/NA	1	4	2	3	1	1	1	3

30. Do you think social media sites should be held accountable for the spread of disinformation, or don't you think so?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes/Held accountable	74%	76%	79%	70%	73%	76%	77%	73%
No	20	22	17	22	21	19	17	23
DK/NA	6	2	5	8	7	6	6	5

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
							Yes	No
Yes/Held accountable	70%	76%	74%	79%	69%	79%	74%	75%
No	24	17	24	14	25	17	21	19
DK/NA	5	7	2	7	6	4	5	6

31. How concerned are you about continued violence in the United States by extremist groups emboldened by the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol: very concerned, somewhat concerned, not so concerned, or not concerned at all?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Very concerned	48%	36%	70%	39%	41%	54%	51%	43%
Somewhat concerned	27	27	23	32	26	29	26	27
Not so concerned	9	14	2	12	13	5	7	11
Not concerned at all	13	21	4	16	18	9	13	16
DK/NA	3	3	-	2	2	3	3	3

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	NonWht
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom		
Very concerned	34%	42%	49%	70%	36%	55%	46%	52%
Somewhat concerned	36	35	24	14	27	27	27	28
Not so concerned	10	5	13	6	13	5	9	8
Not concerned at all	19	16	10	6	21	9	15	11
DK/NA	1	2	3	3	2	4	3	1