

---

**FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 5, 2021**

**DEMOCRATIC SPENDING BILLS RETAIN MAJORITY SUPPORT,  
QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL FINDS;  
BUT DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS LOSE GROUND**

A majority of Americans support the two spending bills being debated on Capitol Hill that are key to President Biden’s economic agenda, with stronger support for the infrastructure bill than the broader social spending bill, according to a Quinnipiac (KWIN-uh-pea-ack) University national poll of adults released today.

Americans say 62 – 34 percent that they support a roughly \$1 trillion spending bill to improve the nation's roads, bridges, broadband, and other infrastructure projects. This compares to 65 – 28 percent support in August. In today’s poll, Democrats support the bill 85 – 11 percent, independents support it 62 – 35 percent, and Republicans oppose it 58 – 38 percent.

Americans say 57 – 40 percent that they support a \$3.5 trillion spending bill on social programs such as child care, education, family tax breaks, and expanding Medicare for seniors, compared to 62 – 32 percent support in August. In today’s poll, Democrats support the bill 92 – 5 percent, independents are split with 50 percent supporting it and 48 percent opposing it, and Republicans oppose it 68 – 28 percent.

“If it takes a trillion to build roads and bridges and expand broadband, so be it, say a majority of Americans. And, though fewer in number, more than half of Americans green light the 'human side' of the two bills, aimed at families, seniors, and the overall welfare of the population,” said Quinnipiac University Polling Analyst Tim Malloy.

On how much the federal government should be helping Americans:

- 33 percent say the federal government should be doing a lot more to help Americans, regardless of the cost;
- 40 percent say the federal government should be doing more to help Americans, but shouldn’t spend too much;
- 24 percent say the federal government doesn’t need to do more to help Americans.

More than half of Americans (57 percent) say they think the United States needs to do more to address climate change, while 21 percent think the U.S. is doing too much to address climate change, and 16 percent think the U.S. is doing enough to address climate change.

**CONGRESS**

Both parties receive negative job approval ratings, as do the leaders in both the House and Senate.

- Democrats in Congress: 30 percent approve, while 63 percent disapprove;
- Republicans in Congress: 28 percent approve, while 63 percent disapprove;

- House Speaker Nancy Pelosi: 33 percent approve, while 61 percent disapprove;
- Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer: 32 percent approve, while 54 percent disapprove;
- House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy: 27 percent approve, while 47 percent disapprove;
- Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell: 23 percent approve, while 65 percent disapprove.

Democrats in Congress saw a 7-percentage point drop in their approval number since September, when Americans gave them a negative 37 – 53 percent rating, while Republicans in Congress saw a 5-percentage point increase in their approval number from September, when Americans gave them a negative 23 – 65 percent rating. Out of the congressional leaders, Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Schumer saw substantial changes in their approval ratings. In February 2021, Americans gave Pelosi a mixed approval rating, with 45 percent approving and 47 percent disapproving, while they gave Schumer a negative 37 – 42 percent rating.

### **CONTROL OF THE HOUSE**

Americans were asked, if the election were held today, would they rather see the Republican Party or the Democratic Party win control of the United States House of Representatives. Forty-six percent say they would rather see the Republican Party win control, while 43 percent say the Democratic Party, with 11 percent not offering an opinion. In September, 42 percent said the Republican Party, 45 percent said the Democratic Party, and 14 percent did not offer an opinion.

Among registered voters, 47 percent say they would rather see the Republican Party win control, while 44 percent say the Democratic Party, with 9 percent not offering an opinion. In September, 43 percent of registered voters said the Republican Party, 47 percent said the Democratic Party, and 11 percent did not offer an opinion.

“Though the numbers are not overwhelming, they signal a potentially ominous trend for Democrats as a plurality of voters recommend tossing out the party that controls the House,” adds Malloy.

### **SOCIAL MEDIA**

Most Americans say 71 – 20 percent that they think social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram are a bad thing for teenagers. Among the youngest Americans surveyed, those 18 – 34 years of age, 56 percent say it’s a bad thing, while 35 percent say it’s a good thing.

A slim majority of Americans say 51 – 45 percent that they do not think there should be more government regulation over social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

There is a political divide, as Republicans say 61 – 36 percent and independents say 54 – 43 percent that they do not think there should be more government regulation, while Democrats say 59 – 36 percent that there should be more government regulation.

“Just because they connect teens socially doesn’t mean the most prominent web platforms are doing them any good. In a bruising indictment of social media, American households wave a red flag of concern. But who is going to police it? Not the government,” adds Malloy.

1,326 U.S. adults nationwide were surveyed from October 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> with a margin of error of +/- 2.7 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.

**Visit [poll.qu.edu](http://poll.qu.edu) or [www.facebook.com/quinnipiapol](http://www.facebook.com/quinnipiapol)  
Email [poll@qu.edu](mailto:poll@qu.edu), or follow us on [Twitter](#) @QuinnipiacPoll.**

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Republicans in Congress are handling their job?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG			
							Yes	No		
Approve	28%	59%	7%	25%	30%	25%	21%	38%		
Disapprove	63	33	86	66	61	65	73	53		
DK/NA	9	8	7	9	9	9	6	9		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	26%	28%	28%	27%	35%	30%	32%	14%	25%	
Disapprove	65	61	65	66	59	60	59	78	64	
DK/NA	9	11	7	7	7	10	8	8	11	

3. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Democrats in Congress are handling their job?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG			
							Yes	No		
Approve	30%	2%	68%	23%	25%	35%	38%	19%		
Disapprove	63	95	24	70	68	58	58	74		
DK/NA	7	2	7	7	7	7	4	7		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	31%	31%	27%	39%	22%	29%	25%	57%	30%	
Disapprove	60	60	70	57	74	64	69	33	63	
DK/NA	9	9	3	4	4	8	6	10	6	

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mitch McConnell is handling his job as Minority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....			
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG			
							Yes	No		
Approve	23%	41%	11%	21%	25%	21%	23%	28%		
Disapprove	65	46	78	68	66	64	72	58		
DK/NA	12	12	10	11	9	14	6	14		
	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....					
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp	
Approve	17%	23%	23%	31%	28%	24%	26%	24%	14%	
Disapprove	66	67	66	63	65	62	63	67	71	
DK/NA	17	10	11	6	7	15	11	9	15	

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Chuck Schumer is handling his job as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	32%	13%	64%	25%	28%	37%	41%	21%
Disapprove	54	77	23	62	61	48	53	62
DK/NA	13	10	13	13	12	15	6	17

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	28%	33%	32%	44%	25%	31%	28%	55%	29%
Disapprove	48	58	58	50	66	53	59	36	54
DK/NA	24	9	11	7	10	16	13	10	17

6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nancy Pelosi is handling her job as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	33%	3%	73%	25%	26%	40%	43%	20%
Disapprove	61	95	20	69	69	54	53	75
DK/NA	5	2	6	5	5	5	3	5

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	27%	33%	33%	47%	22%	33%	27%	70%	26%
Disapprove	65	61	65	50	75	62	68	23	69
DK/NA	8	5	2	3	3	5	4	7	5

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Kevin McCarthy is handling his job as Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Approve	27%	44%	15%	27%	29%	26%	22%	29%
Disapprove	47	33	61	49	49	46	58	42
DK/NA	25	22	23	24	22	29	20	29

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Approve	20%	25%	31%	35%	29%	24%	26%	30%	27%
Disapprove	45	52	49	49	49	46	48	53	42
DK/NA	35	23	20	15	22	29	26	17	31

8. If the election were today, would you want to see the Republican Party or the Democratic Party win control of the United States House of Representatives?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Republican Party	46%	97%	3%	48%	52%	40%	43%	62%
Democratic Party	43	1	94	34	36	49	51	25
DK/NA	11	1	3	18	12	10	6	13

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Republican Party	38%	41%	58%	46%	60%	51%	56%	9%	43%
Democratic Party	47	43	37	50	28	39	34	79	48
DK/NA	15	16	5	4	12	9	11	12	9

23. Do you support or oppose a roughly \$1 trillion spending bill to improve the nation's roads, bridges, broadband, and other infrastructure projects?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	62%	38%	85%	62%	64%	60%	72%	54%
Oppose	34	58	11	35	33	35	26	40
DK/NA	4	4	3	2	4	5	2	5

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Support	65%	62%	56%	70%	63%	57%	60%	78%	58%
Oppose	31	32	41	26	35	37	36	20	38
DK/NA	4	6	3	4	2	7	4	2	4

24. Do you support or oppose a \$3.5 trillion spending bill on social programs such as child care, education, family tax breaks, and expanding Medicare for seniors?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Support	57%	28%	92%	50%	50%	64%	53%	47%
Oppose	40	68	5	48	47	33	44	50
DK/NA	3	4	3	1	3	3	3	3

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Support	72%	61%	49%	53%	43%	55%	49%	89%	64%
Oppose	24	37	48	43	55	41	48	9	33
DK/NA	4	2	3	3	2	4	3	2	3

25. Which comes closest to your point of view: the federal government should be doing a lot more to help Americans, regardless of the cost; the federal government should be doing more to help Americans, but shouldn't spend too much; or the federal government doesn't need to do more to help Americans?

ADULTS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Help a lot more	33%	11%	61%	27%	29%	37%	27%	26%
Help/Don't overspend	40	44	34	44	38	42	43	41
Don't help	24	39	3	26	29	18	27	29
DK/NA	3	5	2	3	3	3	2	4

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Help a lot more	47%	30%	29%	30%	23%	30%	27%	63%	39%
Help/Don't overspend	34	42	42	45	40	43	41	28	42
Don't help	17	26	27	21	34	24	29	5	18
DK/NA	1	2	3	5	2	4	3	4	1

26. Do you think the United States is doing enough to address climate change, doing too much, or do you think more needs to be done to address climate change?

ADULTS.....							WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Doing enough	16%	30%	4%	18%	20%	13%	18%	18%
Doing too much	21	42	2	25	24	19	18	31
More to be done	57	23	91	53	50	63	61	45
DK/NA	5	5	3	4	5	5	3	6

AGE IN YRS.....					WHITE.....				
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom	Wht	Blk	Hsp
Doing enough	12%	18%	19%	16%	20%	17%	18%	13%	13%
Doing too much	15	17	30	20	31	23	27	2	14
More to be done	70	57	47	58	45	54	50	79	67
DK/NA	3	8	3	6	4	6	5	5	6

REGION.....				DENSITY.....			
	NEast	MWest	South	West	City	Suburb	Rural
Doing enough	15%	16%	18%	15%	12%	18%	21%
Doing too much	16	27	24	15	13	22	33
More to be done	65	50	53	63	68	57	41
DK/NA	3	6	5	6	6	3	4

37. Do you think there should be more government regulation over social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube, or don't you think so?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Yes	45%	36%	59%	43%	45%	45%	52%	43%
No	51	61	36	54	52	50	42	53
DK/NA	4	3	4	3	3	5	6	4

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Yes	33%	38%	51%	63%	48%	44%	46%	55%	37%
No	65	58	46	31	49	50	50	43	62
DK/NA	2	4	3	6	3	6	4	2	1

38. In general, do you think social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram are a good thing or bad thing for teenagers?

	ADULTS.....						WHITE.....	
	Tot	Rep	Dem	Ind	Men	Wom	4 YR COLL DEG	
							Yes	No
Good thing	20%	17%	28%	15%	22%	18%	14%	17%
Bad thing	71	78	63	75	70	72	80	74
DK/NA	9	5	9	10	8	10	6	9

  

	AGE IN YRS.....				WHITE.....		Wht	Blk	Hsp
	18-34	35-49	50-64	65+	Men	Wom			
Good thing	35%	16%	14%	12%	17%	15%	16%	25%	29%
Bad thing	56	71	79	81	77	75	76	62	63
DK/NA	9	13	7	7	6	10	8	13	8