navigator*

Thursday, January 12th

Republican Control of the House of Representatives: A Guide for Advocates







Key Takeaways:

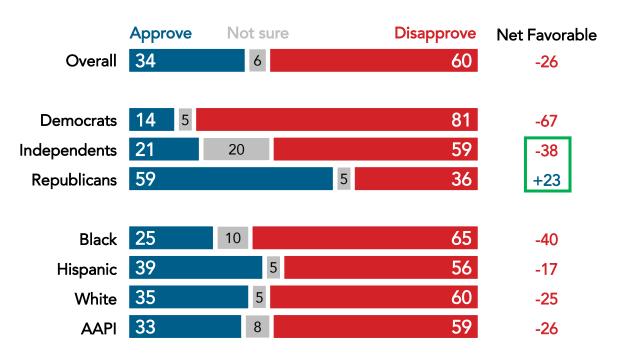
- Views of Kevin McCarthy have declined since November among both independents and Republicans. Most Americans also disapprove of how Republicans in Congress are handling their jobs and are hearing more negative information on them this week than previously recorded in Navigator tracking.
- After a prolonged Speaker election, sizable majorities believe Republicans are focused on consolidating their power and fighting amongst themselves rather than serving the public.
- The least popular tested potential Republican actions are ending the guarantee of Social Security/Medicare, banning books, preventing Medicare from negotiating drug prices, and making it easier to overturn election results.
- Investigating the Biden administration and family is <u>not</u> a priority for most Americans, who are more likely to describe Republican investigations as "political stunts" than serious efforts to uncover wrongdoing.



Three in Five Disapprove of Congressional GOP; Highest Share in Navigator Tracking Are Hearing Negative News About Them

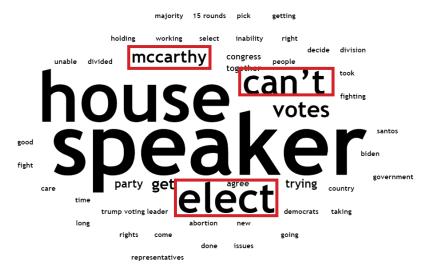
In a separate question, two in three Americans (66%) report hearing "mostly negative" (41%) or "an equal mix of positive and negative" (25%) things about Republicans in Congress, which is the highest share recorded in Navigator's tracking since October 2021.

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Republicans in Congress are handling their jobs?



In a few words, what negative things have you seen, read, or heard recently about Republicans in Congress?

Hearing Negatives About Republicans in Congress: 66%



"They are so divided they can't elect a Speaker of the House."

"They can't elect a Speaker and are in a total meltdown."

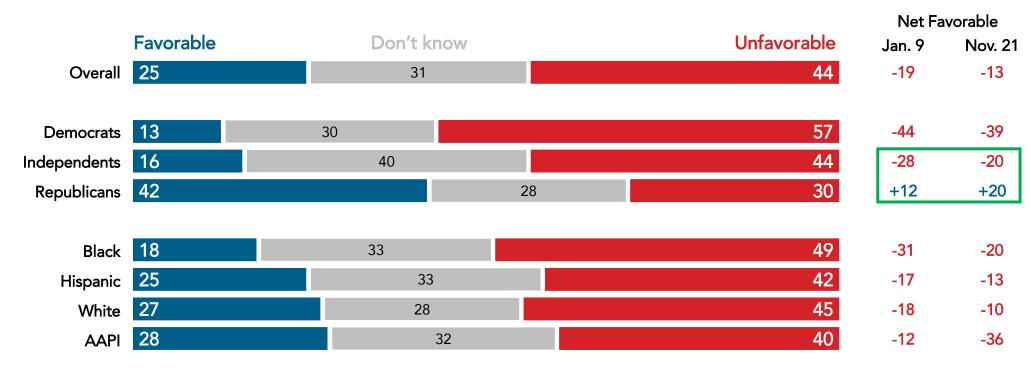


Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 5-January 9, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.

Views of Kevin McCarthy Have Eroded, Driven Most By a Decline Among Independents and His Own Party

Opinions of Kevin McCarthy have declined among all partisan and racial groups, with 8-point declines among independents (from net -20 favorable in November to net -28 now) and Republicans (from net +20 in November to net +12 now).

Please indicate how favorable or unfavorable you are to: Kevin McCarthy.

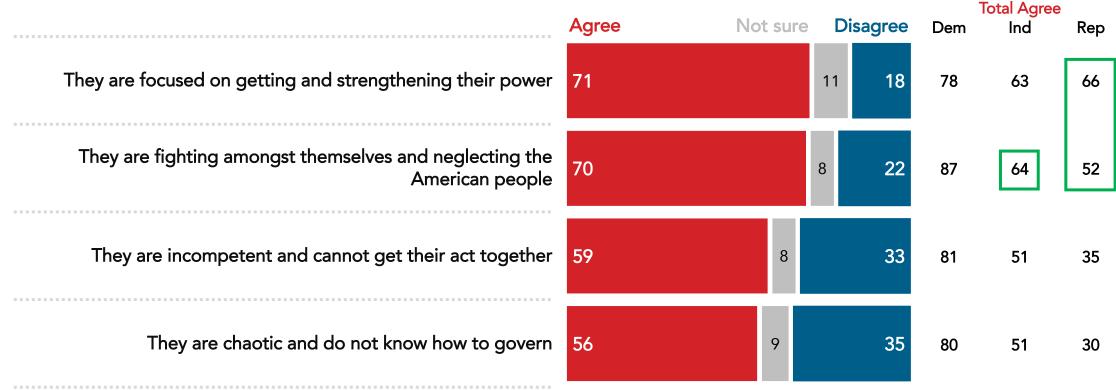




After Contentious Speaker Elections, Consolidation of Power and Party Infighting at Expense of Americans Best Describe GOP

Two in three Americans (66%) report hearing "a lot" or "some" about the Speaker elections; this group agrees the GOP is "focused on getting and strengthening their power" and "fighting amongst themselves and neglecting the American people" (75% agree with each).

While Republicans took control of the House on January 3rd, they were unable to select a Speaker of the House for multiple days. Below is a list of descriptions that have been used to describe Republicans' inability to select a new Speaker. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree that each one describes them.

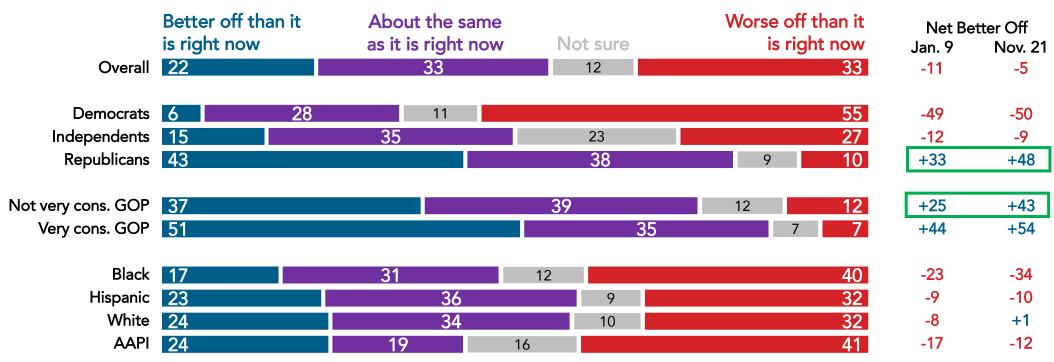




A Declining Minority Say the Country Will Be Better Off with Republicans in Control of the House

Views among Republicans in particular about the future of the country under Republican leadership have declined since late November. Previously, 55% of Republicans said the country would be better off (compared to 43% now) and 30% said it would be about the same (compared to 38% now), driven by less ideological Republicans who do not identify as "very conservative."

With Republicans in control of the House...thinking ahead to a year from now, do you think the country will be...



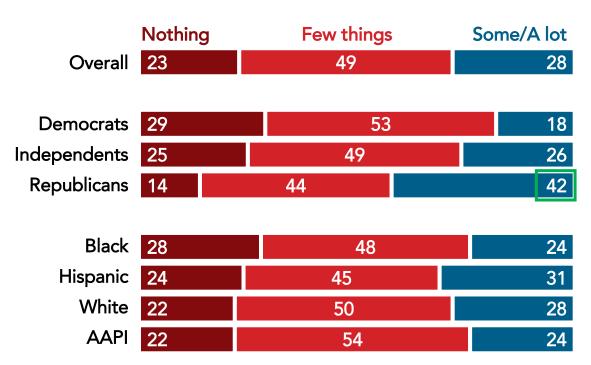


Majorities Are Pessimistic Much Will Get Done By Congress in Next Two Years; Republicans Would Be More to Blame If Not

Nearly three in four Americans say "nothing" (23%) or "few things" (49%) will get done by Congress.

• Nearly two in five who say "nothing"/"few things" will get done would blame Republicans (38%) while 22% would blame Democrats.

How much do you think Congress will get done in the next two years with Republicans controlling the House and Democrats controlling the Senate?



[IF NOTHING/FEW THINGS WILL GET DONE] Who would you blame more if the government gets just a few things or nothing at all done in the next two years?

Republicans in Congress	Would blame both equally	Would not blame either/DK		Democrats in Congress		
38		33	7		22	
60			23	7	10	
15	57			13	15	
10	40	8			42	
46		32	2	6	16	
42		33		7	18	
35		34	7		24	
48		28	3	11	13	



Americans Most Oppose GOP House Moving to End Guarantee of SS/Medicare, Ban Books, Prevent Lower Drug Prices

Pluralities of independents oppose each of a range of potential Republican actions, except for ending financial support for Ukraine.

• Republicans who are not very conservative are more likely than their "very conservative" counterparts to oppose each item tested, particularly banning abortions, impeaching President Biden, and repealing the Affordable Care Act.

Below are some actions that could happen now that Republicans have taken control of the House. Please indicate whether you support or oppose each one.

	Support	Not sure	Oppose	Overall	Dem	Ind	Not very cons. Republica	Very cons. ns
Ending the guarantee of Social Security and Medicare	11 8		81	-70	-79	-65	-63	-59
Banning books when they disagree with the content	15	10	75	-60	-74	-62	-49	-32
Preventing Medicare from negotiating lower drug prices	16	10	74	-58	-72	-61	-49	-33
Making it easier to overturn election results	20	16	64	-44	-70	-38	-23	-3
Banning abortions nationwide	28	8	64	-36	-68	-45	-19	+37
Eliminating a minimum tax imposed on large corporations	27	18	55	-28	-56	-26	-7	+20
Impeaching President Biden	37	8	55	-18	-71	-10	+22	+70
Repealing the Affordable Care Act	34	15	51	-17	-60	-18	+17	+57
Ending American financial support for Ukraine	41	12	47	-6	-38	+3	+13	+47



Net Support

Investigating the Biden Administration and Family Is *Not* a Top Priority for Americans

Americans prioritize Republicans in the House focusing on issues like inflation (58%), health care (32%), and immigration (30%) over investigating Biden (14%). Very conservative Republicans drive the share who prioritize those investigations (32%).

As you may or may not know, Republicans won control of the House in the November 2022 elections. Below is a list of issues some may want them to prioritize. Please select up to two that they should focus on.

Not very Very cons.

•		Dem -	Ind	cons. Rep	Rep
Lowering costs like groceries and gas	58%	64	58	53	47
Improving healthcare	32	48	26	17	11
Cracking down on illegal immigration and securing the southern border	30	15	28	43	55
Dealing with the national debt	26	22	33	29	27
Protecting American security from foreign threats like Russia and China	24	28	20	23	20
Investigating the Biden administration and Biden family		5	11	20	32
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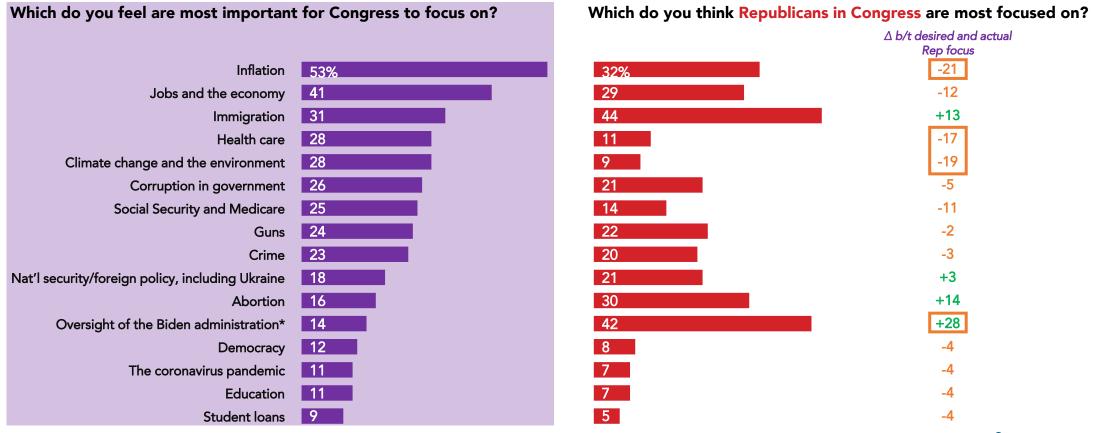
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Dem

Most Americans Want Congressional Focus on Inflation, But See GOP as Too Focused on Investigating Biden

Roughly one in three Americans each prioritize health care and climate; few see Republicans in Congress focused on these issues.



^{*&}quot;Oversight of the Biden administration" was asked as "Conducting oversight into the Biden administration" on the ask about Republicans in Congress. Nationwide survey of 1,000 registered voters conducted January 5-January 9, 2023. For more info, visit navigatorresearch.org.



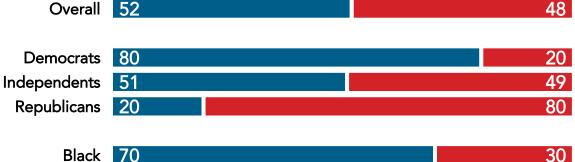
Americans Are Divided on Concerns About House GOP Investigating Biden, Call Them "Political Stunts," Not Serious

While Americans are divided on whether they are more concerned Republican officials will go too far on Congressional oversight of Biden or the Biden administration will get away with corruption, a plurality say the investigations are "political stunts" (44%).

• A plurality of independents (38%) and even one in five Republicans (20%) call them political stunts.

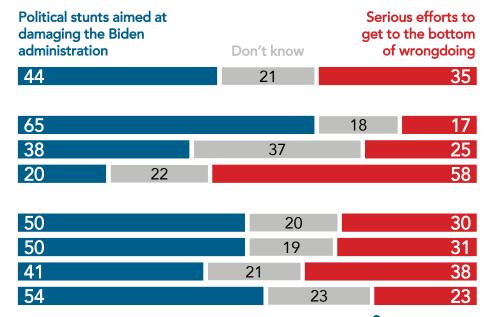
Regardless of whether you fully agree with either statement, when it comes to Congressional oversight and the Biden administration, which of the following concerns you more?

That Republican officials will go too far and abuse Congressional oversight powers to attack the Biden administration officials will get away with corruption, unethical behavior, or having improper administration business dealings





And based on what you've seen or heard so far, which of the following better describes the investigations Republicans in Congress are pursuing?





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Winning Messages on Investigations Focus on Lack of Reasons to Investigate Biden and GOP Failures on Campaign Promises

The strongest messages against a conservative argument on behalf of investigations of Biden focus on how Democrats have real reasons to investigate Trump unlike Republicans on Biden (net +6 progressive argument) and Republicans wasting time and money on investigations while failing to keep their campaign promises (net +8).

Which side do you agree with more?

Statement 1: Biden and Democrats have spent years investigating Trump. Now that Republicans have power in Congress, they should investigate Biden family corruption and bad decision-making by the Biden administration.

Statement 2: There is no substance to the claims that Republicans have leveled against Biden: they just want to score political points by making Biden look bad when there is nothing to investigate.

Statement 1: 48%

Statement 2: 52%

Net Statement 2: +4

Statement 3: Democrats have been investigating Trump for real reasons, including inciting the violent riot at the Capitol on January 6th, 2021, destroying classified documents, and asking elected officials to lie about election results to overturn the 2020 election, while Republicans do not have real reasons to investigate Biden.

Statement 1: 47%

Statement 3: 53%

Net Statement 3: +6

Statement 4: While the Republican Party wastes taxpayer dollars and time on investigations into baseless claims against Biden and his family, Democrats have actually focused on getting things done, like reducing the cost of prescription drugs and protecting abortion rights.

Statement 1: 48%

Statement 4: 52%

Net Statement 4: +4

Statement 5: While the Republican Party wastes taxpayer dollars and time on investigations into baseless claims against Biden and his family, they are failing to keep their campaign promises to tackle inflation and rebuild our economy because they are so focused on holding onto their power.

Statement 1: 46%

Statement 5: 54%

Net Statement 5: +8





About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO along with an advisory committee, including: Jessica Floyd, The Hub Project; Christina Reynolds, EMILY's List; Mike Podhorzer, AFL-CIO; Jesse Ferguson, progressive strategist; Navin Nayak, Center for American Progress Action Fund; Stephanie Valencia, EquisLabs; and Melanie Newman, Planned Parenthood Action Fund.

About the Study

Global Strategy Group conducted public opinion surveys among a sample of 1,000 registered voters from January 5-January 9, 2023. 100 additional interviews were conducted among Hispanic voters. 74 additional interviews were conducted among Asian American and Pacific Islander voters. 100 additional interviews were conducted among African American voters. 101 additional interviews were conducted among independent voters. The survey was conducted online, recruiting respondents from an opt-in online panel vendor. Respondents were verified against a voter file and special care was taken to ensure the demographic composition of our sample matched that of the national registered voter population across a variety of demographic variables.

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To learn more about Navigator:

http://navigatorresearch.org

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