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# THE COVID STATES PROJECT: **A 50-STATE COVID-19 SURVEY** REPORT #76: STORMING OF THE CAPITOL, ONE YEAR LATER

USA, January 2022

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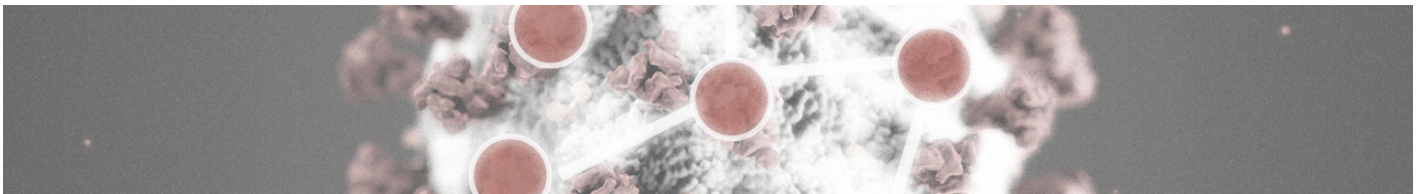
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University



**Report of January 6, 2022, v.1**

***The COVID States Project***

**From:** The COVID-19 Consortium for Understanding the Public's Policy Preferences Across States

***A joint project of:***

Northeastern University, Harvard University, Rutgers University, and Northwestern University

**Authors:** Katherine Ognyanova (Rutgers University); David Lazer (Northeastern University); Matthew A. Baum (Harvard University); James Druckman (Northwestern University); Roy H. Perlis (Harvard Medical School); Mauricio Santillana (Harvard Medical School); Jon Green (Northeastern University); Alauna C. Safarpour (Harvard University); Kristin Lunz Trujillo (Northeastern University); Alexi Quintana (Northeastern University), and Ata Uslu (Northeastern University);

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# COVER MEMO

**Summary Memo — January 6, 2022**

## ***The COVID States Project***

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From April 2020 through January 2022, we conducted multiple waves of a large, 50-state survey, some results of which are presented here. You can find previous reports online at [covidstates.org](https://covidstates.org).

### **Note on methods:**

Between December 22, 2021 and January 5, 2022, we surveyed 15,269 individuals across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The survey was conducted by PureSpectrum via an online, nonprobability sample, with state-level representative quotas for race/ethnicity, age, and gender (for methodological details on the other waves, see [covidstates.org](https://covidstates.org)). In addition to balancing on these dimensions, we reweighted our data using demographic characteristics to match the U.S. population with respect to race/ethnicity, age, gender, education, and living in urban, suburban, or rural areas. This was the latest in a series of surveys we have been conducting since April 2020, examining attitudes and behaviors regarding COVID-19 in the United States.

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Or visit us at [www.covidstates.org](https://www.covidstates.org).

## January 6: Public opinion, one year later

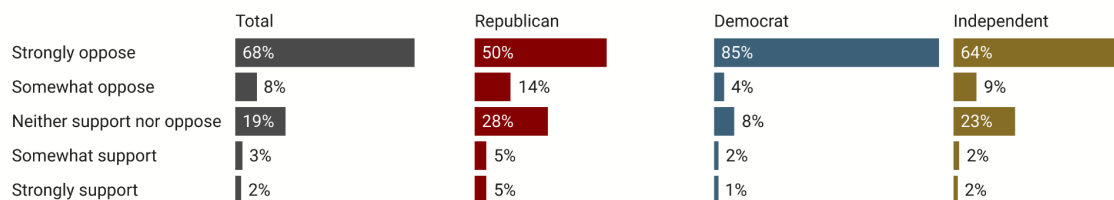
The COVID states project conducted a survey and issued a [report](#) in the immediate aftermath of the storming of the Capitol building on January 6, 2021. Here, we revisit some of the opinions regarding January 6th, a year later.

### Public support for the storming of the Capitol

Public support for the storming of the Capitol building remains quite low. Overall, only 5% of respondents indicate that they support the storming of the Capitol on January 6th, as compared to 76% who oppose. However, there are significant variations among partisan groups in the “neither support nor oppose” category, with 28% of Republicans, 23% of Independents, and only 8% of Democrats reporting neither supporting nor opposing the storming of the Capitol. Further, these partisan splits have increased since January, 2021: whereas the opposition to the storming of the Capitol has remained steady with Democrats at 89%, it has dropped by 11 percentage points among Republicans, and 8 points among Independents.

### Public support for the January 6th storming of the Capitol building

Do you support or oppose the storming of the Capitol building on January 6th?



National sample, N = 15,269, Time period: 12/22/2021-01/05/2022

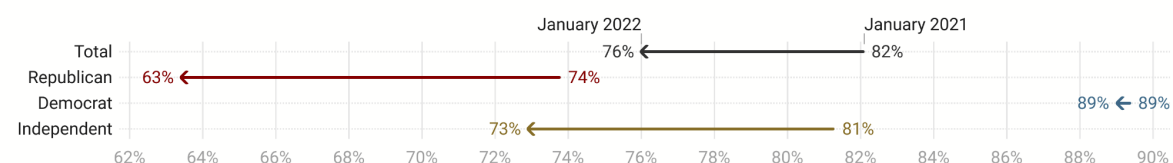
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Figure 1.

### Americans opposing the storming of the Capitol Building, a year ago and now

Do you support or oppose the storming of the Capitol building on January 6th?

[Percent who say "Somewhat oppose" or "Strongly oppose", arrows show shift from January 2021 to January 2022]



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Figure 2.



## Perceptions regarding Antifa involvement in the storming of the Capitol

Significant minorities still believe that Antifa was involved in the storming of the Capitol, with 14% agreeing with this statement, and 42% unsure. Again, there are significant partisan splits, with 24% of Republicans saying this statement was accurate, but only 11% of Democrats and Independents. However, there has been a strong trend away from this belief (in our survey a year ago, 21% indicated that they believed the Antifa involvement), and much of this shift was by Republicans (dropping from 33% a year ago), and, especially, Independents (dropping from 21%).

### Perceptions about Antifa involvement in the storming of the Capitol building

Below are some statements about current affairs. To the best of your knowledge, are those statements accurate or inaccurate?

**"The people who stormed the Capitol building were undercover Antifa members"**

[Percent respondents saying the statement was "Accurate", "Inaccurate", or "Not sure"]



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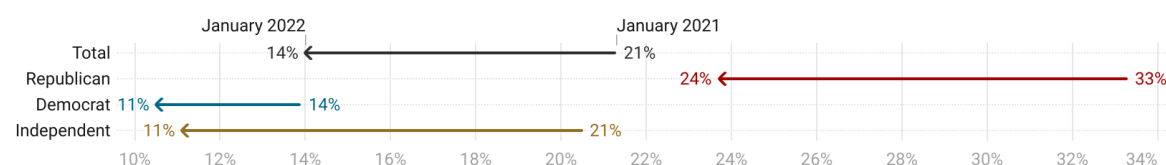
Figure 3.

### Perceptions about Antifa involvement in January 6, a year ago and now

Below are some statements about current affairs. To the best of your knowledge, are those statements accurate or inaccurate?

**"The people who stormed the Capitol building were undercover Antifa members"**

[Percent who say the statement is accurate, arrows show shift from January 2021 to January 2022]



National sample, N = 15,269, Time period: 12/22/2021-01/05/2022

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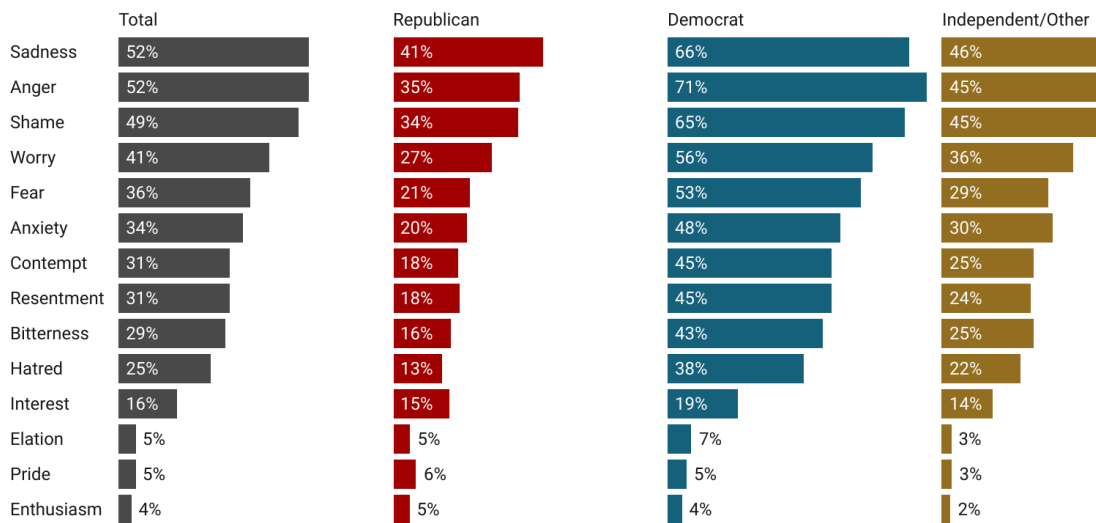
Figure 4.

## Emotional reactions to the storming of the Capitol building

The events of January 6th still evoke strong, negative emotional reactions by Americans, but especially among Democrats. The top emotions evoked by the storming of the Capitol building are sadness (52%), anger (52%), and shame (49%), with almost twice as many Democrats citing those emotions as Republicans.

## How do Americans feel about the storming of the Capitol building?

To what extent do each of the following terms describe your feelings or emotions about the storming of the Capitol on January 6th?  
[ Percent respondents who respond "quite a bit" or "extremely" ]



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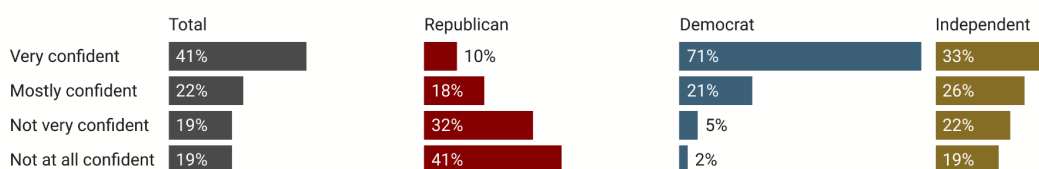
**Figure 5.**

## Perceptions regarding the fairness of the 2020 election

There continue to be wide splits in the perceptions of the fairness of the 2020 election. Notably, 71% of Democrats, but only 10% of Republicans, indicate that they are "very confident" in the fairness of the 2020 election (Independents are in between, at 33%). Overall, 63% of Americans indicate that they are very or mostly confident of the fairness of the election. There has been a modest, 3-4 percentage point shift away from confidence in the election across all partisan groups.

### Confidence in the fairness of the 2020 US election

How confident are you in the fairness of the 2020 presidential election?



National sample, N = 15,269, Time period: 12/22/2021-01/05/2022

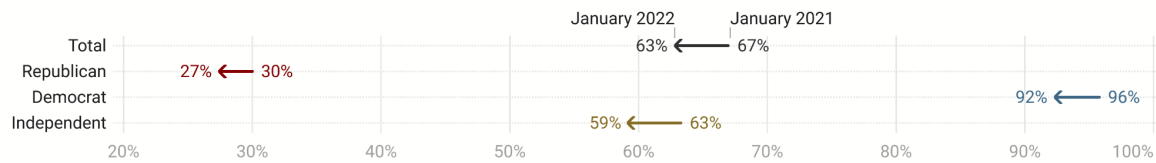
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**Figure 6.**

## Confidence in the fairness of the 2020 US election, a year ago and now

How confident are you in the fairness of the 2020 presidential election?

[Percent who say "Mostly confident" or "Very confident", arrows show shift from January 2021 to January 2022]



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**Figure 7.**

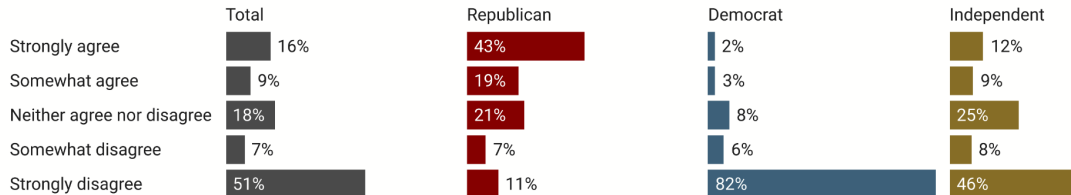
## Perceptions regarding who should have won the 2020 election

There are massive partisan splits in the belief that "if votes were fairly counted, Donald Trump would have won the 2020 election." A large majority of Republicans agree with this statement, by a margin of 62% to 18%; in contrast to Democrats and Independents, who disagree by margins of 88% to 5% and 54% to 21%, respectively.

### Perceptions about the winner of the 2020 election

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement:

"If votes were fairly counted, Donald Trump would have won the 2020 election"



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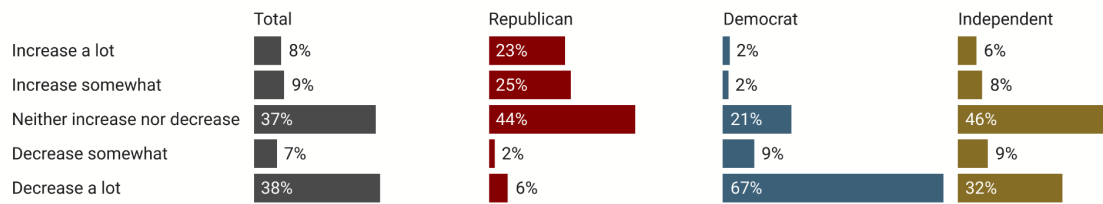
**Figure 8.**

## The continued role of Donald Trump in the Republican party

Donald Trump continues to loom over the Republican party, with 48% of Republicans indicating that his endorsement would increase their support of a candidate (versus only 8% saying it would decrease). However, Trump's blessing may provoke a backlash in the general election, because 45% of all respondents indicated that a Trump endorsement would decrease their support of a candidate, versus only 17% (almost entirely Republicans) that said that it would increase. Notably, 41% of Independents indicate that a Trump endorsement would decrease their support of a candidate, versus 14% that it would increase their support.

## The importance of Donald Trump's endorsement in future elections

Would Donald Trump's endorsement of a candidate for office increase or decrease your support for that candidate?



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**Figure 9.**