

# [***Trump Indictment: Majority Of Americans Agree With Charges And Also Say Politics Played A Role***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:67XV-1NV1-JBCM-F0MP-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Length:** 713 words

**Byline:** Sara Dorn, Forbes Staff

**Highlight:** Mr. Big: Trump s standing in the 2024 GOP presidential field has been rising in recent polls.

**Body**

**Topline**

The majority of Americans agree with the Manhattan grand jury s decision to indict former President Donald Trump, according toa new CNN/SSRS poll that comes as other surveys show that Trump continues to maintain a firm hold over the GOP voter base, despite the investigations against him.

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Former President Donald Trump drinks in the adoration before speaking during a campaign rally at Waco Regional Airport, Saturday, March 25, 2023, in Waco, Texas.

Evan Vucci/Associated Press

</figcaption></figure>

**Key Facts**

Some 60% of the 1,048 adults polled between March 31, the day after Trump s historic indictment, and April 1, approve of the decision to bring charges against the former president (margin of error: 4).

Fewer Americans, 37%, definitively believe Trump played an illegal role in hush-money payments made to adult film star Stormy Daniels, while 33% believe he did something unethical but not illegal, 10% said he did nothing wrong at all and 20% said they were unsure.

More than three fourths of respondents (76%) believe ***politics*** played a role in the decision to indict Trump sentiment that aligns with the former president s claims that the investigation is a politically motivated witch hunt, while 14% said ***politics*** played no role at all and 10% said they were unsure.

Trump s overall standing remains unshaken by the indictment: 34% said they have a favorable opinion of him, compared to 32% in a January survey taken by the groups.

**Big Number**

**31%.**That s the share of respondents who said they believe the decision to indict Trump strengthens U.S. democracy, the same percentage as those who said they believe it weakens U.S. democracy.

**News Peg**

Trump became the first former president in U.S. history to be criminally indicted on Thursday when a Manhattan grand jury voted to bring charges against him. Trump, who will be arraigned in Manhattan criminal court on Tuesday, is reportedly facing more than 30 counts related to business fraud, including at leastone felony. The charges, which have been kept under seal, are widely expected to center on the payments his former fixer and personal lawyer Michael Cohen made to Daniels ahead of the 2016 presidential election in exchange for her silence about an affair she said she had with Trump in 2006. Experts have speculated whether Trump could be charged with falsifying business records after federal prosecutors alleged in their 2016 case against Cohen that the Trump Organization reimbursed him for the $130,000 payments under a contract that specified the services were for legal fees. Possible felony charges against Trump could relate to a campaign finance violation, after federal prosecutors alleged the payments were made to sway the results of the 2016 presidential election. Trump has denied the affair and accused the DA s office of leading a politically motivated investigation.

**Key Background**

Trump has been climbing in the polls in recent weeks eclipsing Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in hypothetical matchups after a rocky start to his third run for the White House. Some 50% of Republican voters said they will vote for Trump in the 2024 primary, according to aHarvard CAPS/Harris pollreleased last week, up four points from the group s previous poll in February. The poll was taken March 22 to March 23, days after news broke that the Manhattan district attorney s office is readying an indictment against Trump. DeSantis who hasn t announced a 2024 run yet netted support from 24% of respondents, consistent with his standing in the February Harvard/Harris poll.

**Tangent**

The CNN/SSRS poll is consistent with findings from anABC/Ipsos pollreleased a day earlier that found 45% of respondents think Trump should have been charged by the Manhattan grand jury, compared with 32% who don t think so and 23% who said they don t know. The results are starkly different across party lines: 88% of Democrats believe Trump should have been indicted, compared to 16% of Republicans.

**Further Reading**

Trump s Support Is Growing Among GOP Voters Even As Possible Indictment Looms (Forbes)

Trump Indicted: Polls Suggest Republicans Won t Care Ahead Of 2024 But Most Americans Do(Forbes)

Will Trump Get Gag Order In Manhattan DA Case? Here s What That Would Mean And Why It Could Land Him In Prison (Forbes)

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