

# [***Here s Why Trump s New Indictment Could Hurt Him More Than Past Scandals***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:68F4-2XF1-JBCM-F0N8-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Highlight:** Even a plurality of Republicans say the charges against Trump constitute a serious crime.

**Body**

**Topline**

Former President Donald Trump has been indicted in Florida on charges stemming from him retaining White House documents at Mar-A-Lago, he announced Thursday, but while the ex-president s first indictment in New York boosted him politically, recent polling suggests this could have a more damaging impact on voters thinking.

<figure>

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Former President Donald Trump greets supporters at a Team Trump volunteer leadership training event on June 1 in Grimes, Iowa.

Getty Images

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**Key Facts**

Trump has been indicted on charges that are expected to include obstruction, false statements and violations of theEspionage Act, according to his attorney Jim Trusty, marking the second indictment for the former president following statechargesin New York in connection with hush-money payments made during his 2016 campaign.

The hush money indictment didn t have a notable impact on Trump s 2024 campaign, with Morning Consultfindingsupport for him in the GOP primary actually went up following news of his indictment on March 31, and a CNN/SSRSpollconducted after he was charged found 79% of Republicans disapproved of him being indicted (though 60% of Americans overallapproved).

But polling suggests Republicans view Trump s mishandling of classified documents as more serious, with an Associated Press/NORCpollin April finding 47% of respondents overall view it as illegal (versus 41% for the hush money payments), and 20% of Republicans said the behavior was illegal versus 13% who said the same of the New York charges.

A Yahoo News/YouGovpollconducted May 25-30 put disapproval even higher, finding 63% of all respondents and 42% of Republicans view taking highly classified documents from the White House and obstructing efforts to retrieve them as a serious crime, versus 52% of all respondents and 28% of Republicans who said the same of falsifying business records to conceal hush money payments to a porn star.

If Trump is convicted of a serious crime, only 23% of Yahoo/YouGov respondents said he should be allowed to serve as president again, including 43% of Republicans with 39% saying he should not be allowed and only 51% of people who voted for Trump in 2020.

While a conviction might not be enough to lose Trump the GOP primary where he s nowpollingmore than 30 percentage points ahead of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, his biggest rival it could have a bigger impact in a general election, with 63% of Independent voters saying he shouldn t be allowed to serve as president.

**What We Don t Know**

How polling will change now that Trump s actually been indicted. The**Washington Post**notesprevious YouGovpollingahead of Trump s New York indictment found 73% of Republicans said it was a a crime for a candidate for elected office to pay someone to remain silent about an issue that may affect the outcome of an election and 76% said it was a crime to fail to report such a transaction. After Trump was indicted on those charges, subsequent pollingfoundonly 49% and 59% of Republicans, respectively, said those were crimes, and 63% disapproved of his indictment.

**Contra**

Trump s indictments aren t necessarily affecting people s opinions of him, even if they do believe he s committed serious crimes. Last month s Yahoo/YouGov poll found 43% said Trump s New York indictment and the pending investigations don t make them feel any differently about him and they have the same opinion as always, while 34% said the alleged crimes make them feel more negative about him and 13% feel more positive. Among Republicans, 43% feel the same and slightly more said their opinion about Trump improved than went down (27% versus 22%). Only 16% of respondents who voted for Trump in 2020 say the investigations have worsened their opinion of the former president.

**What To Watch For**

Trump may soon face additional charges based on investigations by the DOJ and the district attorney in Fulton County, Georgia, into his efforts to overturn the 2020 election, with charges in the Georgia probe possibly coming as soon asAugust. That could further affect Trump s campaign, polling suggests: the Yahoo/YouGov poll found even 50% of Republicans believe conspiring to overturn an election would be a serious crime, and the AP/NORC poll found 22% of Republicans believe Trump s alleged attempt to interfere in Georgia s vote count is illegal (versus 53% of respondents overall), the highest of any crime polled.

**Key Background**

TrumpannouncedThursday he s been indicted as part of the DOJ s documents investigation, and the president is expected to appear in court in Florida on Tuesday and facechargesfor crimes including obstruction, making false statements and violating theEspionage Act. The indictment follows a more than year-longinvestigationby the DOJ into Trump bringing thousands of White House documents back to Mar-A-Lago with him including more than 300 classified ones and his alleged attempts to obstruct that probe when he didn t fully comply with a subpoena for classified documents last summer. Trump, who onceproclaimedhe could shoot somebody on 5th Avenue and still wouldn t lose political support, has already used the indictment as afundraising toolto bolster his campaign, after his campaignraised$15.4 million in the two weeks after Trump was indicted in New York almost the same amount it raised in the entire first quarter of 2023.

**Further Reading**

What Crimes Was Trump Charged With In Federal Documents Case? Here s What We Know And How Much Prison Time He Could Face(Forbes)

Trump Says He Was Indicted In DOJ Classified Documents Probe(Forbes)

Trump Indictment: Majority Of Americans Agree With Charges And Also Say ***Politics*** Played A Role(Forbes)

Poll: Can Trump win the White House if convicted of a serious crime?(Yahoo News)

Trump s legal issues have little impact on his support(AP/NORC)

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