

Biden's standing among Americans nosedives in wake of rocky Afghanistan exit, COVID surge



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Biden's approval rating hovered in the low to mid 50s since taking office in late January. But his numbers started sliding last month, as the crisis in Afghanistan dominated media coverage and mask mandates started returning in certain spots across the country as coronavirus cases rose.

The president stands at 45%-49% approval/disapproval in an average of the latest surveys compiled by RealClearPolitics, and at 46%-48% in a compilation by the polling and analysis website FiveThirtyEight.

Forty-four percent of Americans questioned in an ABC News/Washington Post poll

released this weekend said they approved of the job Biden's doing in the White House, down six points from June. Just over half of those polled (51%) gave the president a thumbs-down on how he's handling his duties, a jump of nine points from June.

WITH BIDEN'S POLL NUMBERS DROPPING, DEMOCRATS WORRY AFGHANISTAN EXIT MAY IMPACT 2022 MIDTERMS

Gary Langer, the longtime director of polling at ABC News, highlighted that in data dating back to the Harry Truman administration, "only two presidents have had a lower approval rating at this point in their terms: Donald Trump, at 37% in August 2017, and Gerald Ford, also 37%, in March 1975."

The ABC News/Washington Post poll, conducted Aug. 29-Sept 1, is among the latest national surveys to indicate that the rocky exit from Afghanistan, ending a two-decade U.S. military presence in the war-torn Central Asian country, is taking a toll on the president's political standing.

The poll's release followed by a day an NPR/PBS NewsHour/Marist national survey that indicated Biden at 43%-51%, the president's lowest approval in Marist polling since taking office. The president stood at 46%-48% in an Ipsos national survey conducted Sept. 1-2.

TRUMP TAKES AIM AT BIDEN OVER AFGHANISTAN IN WHAT MIGHT BE THE FIRST TV AD OF THE 2024 PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

Marist Poll director Lee Miringoff highlighted last week that "the end of this chapter of American involvement in Afghanistan has taken a significant toll on Biden's standing with Americans."

Similar to the Marist poll, the drop in Biden's overall approval rating in the ABC News/Washington Post survey was fueled by a 14-point plunge in support among independents since late June and a significant slip among Democrats, from 94% approval to 86%. Republican disapproval of Biden - at 89% - was little changed from June.

Biden has been pilloried for his handling of the hastily organized evacuation efforts in Afghanistan. While the president has repeatedly declared the withdrawal and evacuation a success - the U.S. airlifted roughly 120,000 people,

including more than 5,500 Americans, after the fall of Kabul through the end of August - he's been accused by Republicans and some Democrats for underestimating the Taliban and overestimating the strength of the now-collapsed, U.S.-backed Afghan government and military.

Biden's approval of handling the situation in Afghanistan stood at 30%-60% in the ABC News/Washington Post poll. Among the vast majority of Americans questioned in the survey who supported the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, by a two-to-one margin they disapproved of the way the president handled the withdrawal.

AMERICA'S TOP GENERAL'S TERRORISM WARNING FOLLOWING U.S. AFGHANISTAN EXIT

And with serious concerns that ISIS or al Qaeda may use the war-torn Central Asian country as a platform to launch terrorist attacks on the U.S. mainland or U.S. forces overseas, 44% say the withdrawal made America less safe from terrorism. Just eight percent said the U.S. is safer as a result of the Afghanistan exit.

Biden touted his foreign policy prowess and his competence in running an administration as he challenged former President Trump in the 2020 election. And while the chaotic exit from Afghanistan is the major culprit in the president's approval rating plunge, it's not the only issue that's fueling the fall.

One of the issues that vaulted Biden to the presidency was the coronavirus, the worst pandemic to sweep the globe in a century. Biden vowed to do what Trump seemingly couldn't do - get COVID cases under control, bring back a sense of normalcy to Americans and boost an economy that was severely battered by the pandemic.

But the late-summer COVID surge due to the Delta variant is another gut punch to the president. Biden's approval rating on handling the coronavirus in the new ABC News/Washington Post poll stands at 52%-41%. The president's approval is down 10 points from June, when Biden stood at 62%-31%.

And with rising consumer prices this summer raising economic concerns, the president has also seen his approval on the economy slip, from 52%-41% in an ABC News/Washington Post poll in April to 45%-49%. The poll was conducted

before Friday's dismal unemployment report, which was another key indicator that the spread of the delta variant is hampering the economic recovery.

Source:

<https://news.yahoo.com/biden-apos-standing-among-americans-105217356.html>

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