

New Polls Indicate Growing Support for Impeachment Inquiry

The latest survey from the Pew Research Center shows that a majority of Americans support the U.S. House of Representatives' decision to begin an impeachment inquiry into President Donald Trump. The results, which were released last week, find that 54% of American adults approve of the investigation into the President's actions. Young Americans support the House's probe in even higher numbers, with 63% of respondents aged between 18 and 29 indicating support for the impeachment inquiry. The study surveyed over 3,400 adults between October 1st and October 13th to gauge public opinion regarding the House investigation.

The investigation was formally initiated by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi back in late September, in the wake of a whistleblower complaint surrounding President Trump's July phone call with his Ukrainian counterpart, Volodymyr Zelensky. A transcript of the conversation released by the White House shows that Trump repeatedly pushed Zelensky to investigate former U.S. Vice President Joe Biden and his son, Hunter. Trump alleges that while serving as Vice President, Biden abused his power to pressure Ukraine to back away from a criminal investigation that could implicate his son, Hunter, who worked for a Ukrainian energy company and served on their board. These allegations have been widely discredited and there is no evidence of any wrongdoing by Hunter nor any action taken by the elder Biden to benefit his son.

The Pew Research Center survey and other recent polls conducted within the past several months show that a growing number of Americans across both ends of the political spectrum – Democrats, Republicans, and Independents – are warming up to the impeachment inquiry against the President. Earlier shifts in support of the investigation appeared to be driven mainly by Democrats, however since July, this has grown by 21 points among Republicans and 20 points among Independents – in addition to a 25-point increase among Democrats as well. While the public opinion figures regarding the investigation had been stagnant prior to this summer, there has been a noticeable spike in recent months. This has resulted in multiple new national polls consistently finding that at least 50% of total respondents support the inquiry.

These polls have also found some other significant sentiments that well over half of Americans appear to agree with. For example, an overwhelming majority of Americans say it is unacceptable for a president to ask a foreign leader to investigate political opponents, with over two-thirds of those surveyed expressing this feeling. Additionally, while Trump has stated his desire to know the identity of the whistleblower, around 60% of Americans believe that it is important to protect that person's identity. Finally, 58% of survey respondents say that the President has "definitely or probably" done things that are "grounds for impeachment."

Overall, the rise in support for the impeachment inquiry appears to be in direct response to recent revelations regarding the President's behavior, most notably the whistleblower scandal. Based on these various new polls, it seems as though a substantial segment of the population has been influenced by these latest developments. Ultimately, while the White House has blasted the impeachment inquiry against President Trump as "baseless" and "unconstitutional," recent polls suggest that most Americans disagree.