

## Pew Research Center Survey Finds That President Biden's Approval Ratings Are a Mirror Image of Trump's Among Religious Groups

In a recently released Pew Research Center survey, data polled from religious groups in the United States indicates that President Biden's approval rating is a mirror image of that of his predecessor, President Trump. Pew's survey encompassed Christians across different ethnicities, and found that the total approval rating for President Biden is very similar to that of President Trump at this time in his presidency. However, the support for each president varies wildly between particular religious groups and ethnic identities. Biden's approval rating stands at 53% among the surveyed population, whereas Trump's approval rating was 48%. Biden also had significantly higher approval ratings over his conduct while in office, compared to his predecessor. President Trump's approval was highly polarized, with many of the surveyed groups giving him either an extremely high or extremely low approval rating. Biden meanwhile, largely didn't elicit such strong sentiment in either a positive or negative fashion.

The starkest contrast in the surveyed population between Presidents Trump and Biden was the difference in approval rating among white Evangelical Christians. President Trump held an approval rating of 73%, while Biden currently holds an approval rating of just 23%. Pew's data indicates that white Evangelicals are most unhappy with Biden – more than any other group by a wide margin. Similarly, President Trump was supported among white Evangelicals by the strongest margin of any other group polled. For President Biden, the group where he holds the strongest support currently are Black Protestants, with a resounding 89% approval rating.

While President Trump had strong support from white Protestants and Catholics, he polled extremely poorly among Black and Hispanic populations, regardless of religious affiliation. In contrast, Biden's top two support groups were Black Protestants and Hispanic Catholics, both of whom gave him upwards of 80% approval. Biden has also polled extremely well among non-affiliated religious people, as well as with atheists. President Trump meanwhile, had extremely low approval ratings from atheists and other non-religious individuals.

Since coming into office, several of President Biden's policy statements and proposals have played a role in shaping the views of the people surveyed in Pew's poll. For example, despite Biden being a strict Catholic, he has expressed support for the landmark Supreme Court case Roe v. Wade which upholds a woman's right to choose. This slightly impaired his approval in the eyes of Catholics, who are largely opposed to the court's ruling.

The numbers from Pew's survey also indicated that the partisan lines among religious groups were becoming clearer, with Biden doing well with constituencies that typically lean to the political left, and Trump doing well with those on the political right. A stark difference between the two however, comes in how they appeal across traditional partisan lines. While Trump had great support from Evangelicals across his four-year term, he rarely was able to reach across the aisle to more traditionally Democratic groups. Standing in contrast to this, Biden polls stronger than Trump even among groups who traditionally are opposed to Democratic policies.