



The Washington ImPACT: February



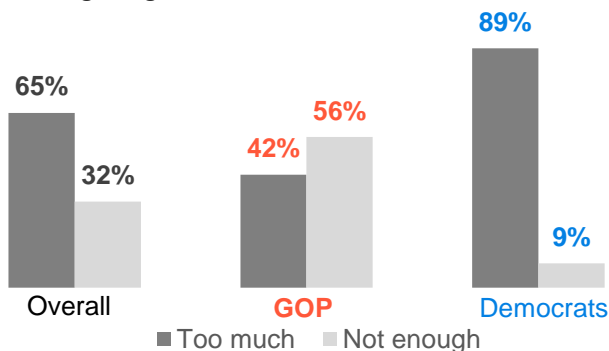
Look ahead: Biden’s priorities from the State of the Union

President Biden delivered the 2023 State of the Union address on February 7. Here are the key policy areas to watch going forward based on the speech.

- **“Finishing the job” with the economy**
 - Biden touted economic accomplishments in his presidency thus far including the creation of 12 million jobs in two years, lowering prescription drug costs, and infrastructural improvements
 - Biden also stated his intent to create more high-paying jobs that do not require college education, which experts say was an appeal to swing voters
- **The debt ceiling and the social safety net**
 - Biden stated his intent to veto any legislation that would “sunset” programs like Social Security and Medicare while mentioning he had already received such a proposal from GOP leaders
- **Tyre Nichols, police reform and assault weapons**
 - Biden’s call to action for police reform in response to the January death of Tyre Nichols received bipartisan standing ovations with Nichols’ parents in the audience; despite his emotional appeal and a seemingly bipartisan agreement, a split 118th Congress is still unlikely to pass police reform legislation

Congressional priorities polling

“Republicans in Congress will focus _____ on investigating the Biden administration.”



Survey conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023 by Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel, 2023; 5,152 adults

101 on the 202

Debt ceiling negotiations continue

- Speaker Kevin McCarthy has been urging Biden to negotiate with the Republicans to raise the debt ceiling and cut spending. Republicans have not reached a consensus on what spending should be cut
- As part of his concessions to win the Speaker role, McCarthy agreed to implement rules that would make it more difficult to raise the debt limit in the future; now, any bill meant to raise the debt limit must be accompanied by spending cuts

South Carolina will hold its Democratic primaries first ahead of Iowa

- The DNC codified a new calendar placing South Carolina’s primary first; the RNC will retain its early slate of Iowa, New Hampshire, South Carolina, and Nevada
- Supporters of the change hail the DNC’s efforts to diversify the electorate while opponents cite fears that Midwestern voters will be ignored by the Democratic party
- The DNC’s changes will make it much more difficult for a legitimate primary challenger to emerge against Biden in 2024

Trivia

What was the “State of the Union address” called before the 1940s?

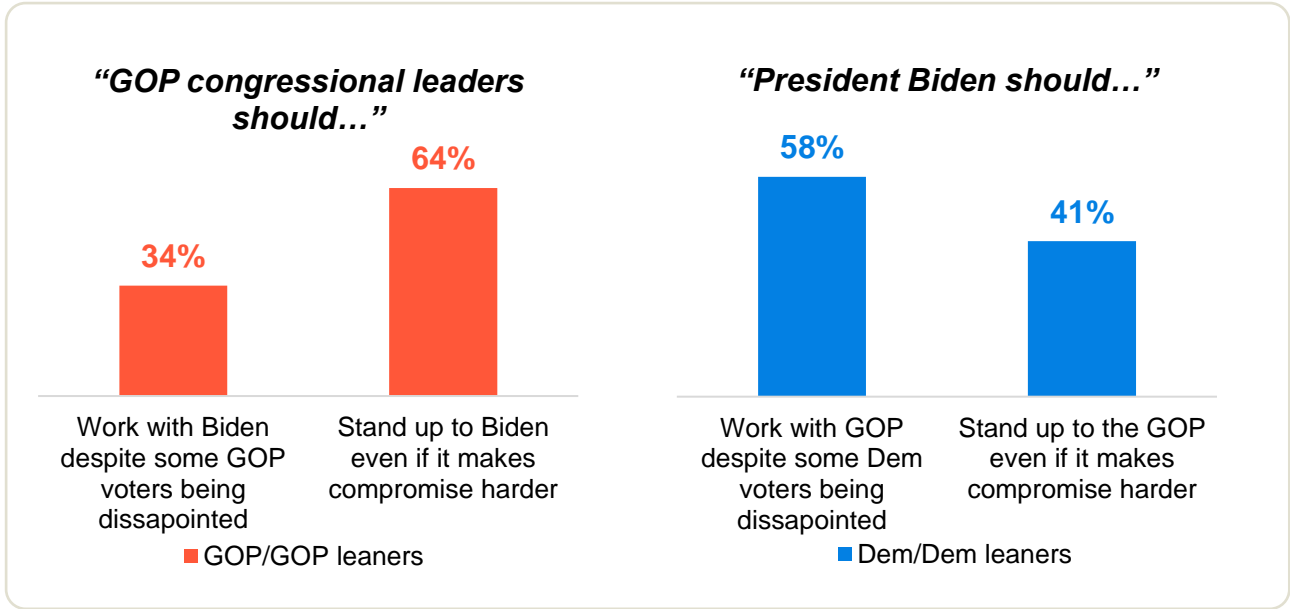
- Address on National Happenings
- Annual Message
- Executive Proclamation

*Answer on next page



The Washington ImPACt: February

Public opinion on partisan compromise



Survey conducted Jan. 18-24, 2023 by Pew Research Center’s American Trends Panel, 2023; 5,152 adults

Top spending corporate PACs in 2022

