

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Geoff Garin
DATE: May 22, 2019
RE: Key Survey Findings on Response to the Mueller Report

On behalf of Law Works Action, Hart Research Associates conducted an in-depth survey among 1,003 voters nationwide to gauge reaction to the release of the redacted Mueller report, including views on what steps Congress should take in this regard. The interviews were conducted online with a representative cross section of voters (45% Democrat, 15% independent, 40% Republican) from April 25 to 30, 2019.

1. Fifty-eight percent of voters, including virtually all Democrats and 52% of independents, want to see Democrats in Congress take some action to hold President Trump accountable in the wake of the Mueller report. Forty-two percent of voters, including 79% of Republicans, say Democrats in Congress should drop their investigations of Trump and move on to other issues.

Of the various actions Democrats might take in this matter, the one that is most widely and strongly preferred is to hold hearings on the Mueller investigation and other possible wrongdoing by President Trump and then determine what steps to take next.

2. Many voters do not know the details of the findings in the Mueller report, but there is significant recognition of the fact that the Mueller report raised serious questions about President Trump's involvement in obstruction of justice. Fifty-three percent say Mueller found that Trump did or may have obstructed justice by improperly interfering with an investigation of him, while only 33% say Mueller found that Trump did not obstructing justice; 14% are not sure.

In a continuing effort to educate and inform voters about the Mueller investigation, three points deserve special emphasis because they evoke high degrees of concern from voters:

- The report identifies at least 10 instances when President Trump asked his staff to lie or create false documents to mislead the Mueller investigation and cover up the truth of his actions;
- The report identifies at least 10 instances when President Trump tried to obstruct justice by improperly interfering with the investigation of himself;
- The report indicates that Donald Trump engaged in witness tampering by encouraging his campaign chair, who already had been convicted of crimes, to stop cooperating with the Mueller investigation by suggesting the possibility of a presidential pardon;

These points carry extra weight with voters when they are told that hundreds of prosecutors from both parties say that if any person who was not president did the things Donald Trump did, they would have been indicted for a crime.

3. By 51% to 39%, voters are more concerned that Republicans will not go far enough in holding Donald Trump accountable for wrongdoing than are concerned that Democrats will go too far in investigating Donald Trump.

The two most compelling reasons for swing voters about why Congress should move forward with its investigations of President Trump are:

- It is the responsibility of Congress to uphold the rule of law and ensure that no one is above the rule of law, including the president; and
- Under the Constitution, Congress has both the responsibility and obligation to oversee the president and hold him accountable for his actions, and Congress must live up to its constitutional responsibilities in this matter.

It is also valuable to remind voters that, “The Mueller report makes it clear that Donald Trump engaged in serious wrongdoing and misdeeds, and if there are no consequences or no one holds him accountable now, future presidents will feel entitled to ignore the rule of law themselves.”

4. A large majority of voters, including nearly a third of Republicans, are opposed to President Trump’s obstruction and stonewalling of congressional investigations:

President Trump is refusing to cooperate with congressional investigations of him and his administration. He is refusing to comply with subpoenas issued by Congress, including refusing to allow current and former members of his administration to testify before Congress.

Do you approve or disapprove of President Trump’s refusal to cooperate with congressional investigations?

	All Voters	Demo- crats	Indepen- dents	Repub- licans
	%	%	%	%
Strongly approve.....	22	6	15	43
Somewhat approve.....	14	3	15	26
Somewhat disapprove	14	6	22	19
Strongly disapprove	50	85	48	12
Total Approve	36	9	30	69
Total Disapprove	64	91	70	31

5. Two-thirds of voters say it is wrong for a presidential campaign to take information from the Russians, disagreeing with the statement of President Trump’s attorney on this matter.

There is strong bipartisan support for Congress to pass a “duty to report” bill to deal with future cases of attempted foreign interference.

Congress may consider legislation that would require candidates for federal office and their campaigns to (a) report to the FBI any contacts they may have with foreign governments and other foreign entities, and (b) report any offers or receipt of materials that may be the result of theft or cyber hacking.

Would you favor or oppose Congress passing this legislation?

	All Voters	Demo- crats	Indepen- dents	Repub- licans
	%	%	%	%
Strongly favor	52	72	46	31
Somewhat favor.....	32	21	29	45
Somewhat oppose	11	5	19	14
Strongly oppose	5	2	6	10
Total Favor	84	93	75	76
Total Oppose	16	7	25	24

6. As the debate over the Mueller investigation and other wrongdoing unfolds, President Trump has little credibility with voters with regard to his honesty and integrity.

- Only 34% of voters say they have a lot of confidence or a fair amount of confidence in President Trump when it comes to being honest and truthful, while 56% say they have very little confidence or no confidence at all in him; among independents, 59% express low confidence in Trump’s honesty and truthfulness, while just 24% express high confidence.
- Similarly, just 36% of voters say they are very or fairly confident in Trump with regard to acting with integrity and ethics, while 54% say they have little or no confidence at all in him in this regard (among independents: 25% high confidence, 58% low confidence).