
D.C. Voter Survey – July 2021

Survey of 600 Registered/Likely Voters in Washington, D.C.
Margin of Error for the Total Sample of 600: +/- 4.0%

Interviews Conducted: July 20th – 26th, 2021

Study Overview

The findings in this memo are based on a survey conducted July 20th through 26th, 2021 among a representative sample of 600 registered voters likely to vote in the November, 2022 election for local offices in Washington, D.C. The margin of error for the full survey sample of 600 is +/- 4.0% and higher among subgroups or questions not asked of the full sample.

The study was conducted by telephone using live interviewers. Voters were randomly selected from the latest updated list of registered voters in Washington, D.C. The survey was written and administered by Gotham Research Group, an independent research firm based in New York City.

All the numbers in this document are presented as percentages and, due to rounding, may not add up to 100%.

Issues

1. Which of the following do you think should be the top priorities for the D.C. Council and the Mayor of Washington, D.C. to address? (ACCEPT MULTIPLE RESPONSES) [IF “ALL”, ASK:]
If you absolutely had to choose, which would you say should be the top priorities?

	Total
Crime and public safety	29%
Reopening businesses and the local economy	13%
Stopping the spread of COVID-19	19%
Affordable housing	25%
Homelessness	23%
Racial injustice	11%
Education/schooling	23%
Transportation/infrastructure	11%
All of the above (volunteered)	35%
None of the above (volunteered)	1%
Other (volunteered)	2%
Don't know/Refused	*

2. How would you describe the problem of violent crime in Washington, D.C. today – would you say it is extremely serious, very serious, somewhat serious, not very serious, or not at all serious?

	Total
Extremely serious	47%
Very serious	29%
Somewhat serious	20%
Not very serious	2%
Not at all serious	0%
Don't know/refused	1%

3. To the best of your knowledge, compared to two years ago, is there more, less, or about the same amount of violent crime in Washington, D.C.?

	Total
Much more	36%
Somewhat more	29%
About the same	27%
Somewhat less	5%
Much less	0%
Don't know/refused	3%
Net: More	65%
Net: Less	5%

Public Figures, Organizations

Now, please tell me if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of each of the following people, groups, and organizations. If you haven't heard of them, just tell me and we'll move on.

	4. Washington, D.C. City Council, otherwise known as D.C. Council	5. Mayor Muriel Bowser	6. The Metropolitan Police Department of Washington, D.C., otherwise known as the MPD
Strongly favorable	16%	39%	28%
Somewhat favorable	48%	32%	46%
Somewhat unfavorable	13%	16%	10%
Strongly unfavorable	4%	7%	4%
Heard of but can't rate	14%	3%	7%
Haven't heard of	4%	2%	4%
Don't know/Refused	2%	1%	1%
Net: Favorable	64%	71%	74%
Net: Unfavorable	17%	23%	14%

7. The police officers in your neighborhood

	Total
Strongly favorable	43%
Somewhat favorable	32%
Somewhat unfavorable	8%
Strongly unfavorable	2%
Heard of but can't rate	10%
Haven't heard of	2%
Don't know/Refused	4%
Net: Favorable	75%
Net: Unfavorable	10%

8. Thinking about the specific neighborhood you live in, would you prefer there to be more police officers than there are now, fewer police officers, or about the same number as there are now?

	Total
More police officers	33%
About the same	58%
Fewer police officers	5%
Don't know/refused	4%

9. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following: MPD police officers are generally good and well-meaning.

	Total
Strongly agree	35%
Somewhat agree	36%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	10%
Neither agree nor disagree (volunteered)	4%
Don't know/refused	6%
Net: Agree	71%
Net: Disagree	18%

Police Reform

10. Generally speaking, do you support or oppose the police reform initiatives that have come out of the D.C. Council?

	Total
Strongly support	15%
Somewhat support	30%
Somewhat oppose	5%
Strongly oppose	5%
Both (volunteered)	2%
Neither (volunteered)	0%
Don't know/refused	43%
Net: Support	45%
Net: Oppose	10%

Now I'm going to read you some ideas that have been proposed to address policing in Washington, D.C. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each one.

11. Removing police officers from schools in the District

	Total
Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	12%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	51%
Both (volunteered)	1%
Neither (volunteered)	1%
Don't know/refused	4%
Net: Support	26%
Net: Oppose	68%

12. Reducing funding to the MPD

	Total
Strongly support	8%
Somewhat support	16%
Somewhat oppose	20%
Strongly oppose	51%
Both (volunteered)	2%
Neither (volunteered)	1%
Don't know/refused	3%
Net: Support	24%
Net: Oppose	71%

13. Reducing funding to the police in your neighborhood

	Total
Strongly support	8%
Somewhat support	9%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	56%
Both (volunteered)	1%
Neither (volunteered)	2%
Don't know/refused	5%
Net: Support	17%
Net: Oppose	75%

14. Reducing the size of the MPD police force

	Total
Strongly support	8%
Somewhat support	9%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	57%
Both (volunteered)	1%
Neither (volunteered)	1%
Don't know/refused	6%
Net: Support	17%
Net: Oppose	76%

15. The movement known as “defund the police”

	Total
Strongly support	12%
Somewhat support	11%
Somewhat oppose	19%
Strongly oppose	50%
Both (volunteered)	1%
Neither (volunteered)	2%
Don't know/refused	5%
Net: Support	23%
Net: Oppose	69%

16. Increasing funding for the MPD

	Total
Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	21%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	20%
Both (volunteered)	0%
Neither (volunteered)	5%
Don't know/refused	4%
Net: Support	54%
Net: Oppose	37%

Now I am going to read you some statements about the way the D.C. Council is handling police reform. Please tell me whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

17. The D.C. Council is not consulting police officers enough as they consider and implement police reform measures. Given the rising rate of violent crime in D.C., they need to get more input from the MPD to both stop the violence and improve the quality of service the MPD provides.

	Total
Strongly agree	45%
Somewhat agree	27%
Somewhat disagree	7%
Strongly disagree	11%
Neither agree nor disagree (volunteered)	3%
Don't know/refused	8%
Net: Agree	72%
Net: Disagree	18%

18. Mayor Muriel Bowser has criticized the “defund the police” efforts by the D.C. Council, saying that the budget cuts for police have made it impossible to hire more police officers, something that is needed at a time when violent crime has been going up drastically in the District.

	Total
Strongly agree	47%
Somewhat agree	21%
Somewhat disagree	13%
Strongly disagree	13%
Neither agree nor disagree (volunteered)	2%
Don't know/refused	5%
Net: Agree	68%
Net: Disagree	26%

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