

Public Wise/Change Research Follow-up Poll on January 6 Events

Public Wise / Change Research Polls Two polls of the American general population (aged 18+)

First Poll Fielded online October 5-7 2021, 3,711 respondents
Margin of Error: +/- 2 percentage points

Second Poll Fielded online February 2-4 2022, 5,028 respondents
Margin of Error: +/- 1.8 percentage points

In October 2021, Public Wise conducted a poll with Change Research on public opinion around the events of January 6, 2021. Public Wise polling focused on how to characterize the events and participants, specific modes of accountability for participants and elected officials who took part in different aspects of January 6th, and the importance of remembering January 6th as a significant moment in American history compared to other recent important events. A detailed report on the October poll and other polling around January 6 can be found [here](#).

In February 2022, Public Wise reran the poll to understand how U.S. public opinion around the events on January 6 has evolved in subsequent months. Public Wise included additional questions, among them a series of questions to measure belief in different types of conspiracy theories intended to test the hypothesis that people who believe in certain conspiracy theories are more likely to believe that violence against the government is justified and less likely to think it is important to hold those who participated in the events of January 6th accountable.

Poll results indicated that most Americans want the participants in the events of January 6th to be held accountable. For lawmakers, coordinating in advance remains a bridge too far even for conservatives, the majority of whom think lawmakers should not remain in office if they coordinated in this manner. Finally, those who believe in several conspiracy theories across a broad range of topics are more likely to say they do not think that accountability is important compared to those who do not believe in conspiracy theories.

Select toplines, correlations, and takeaways below.



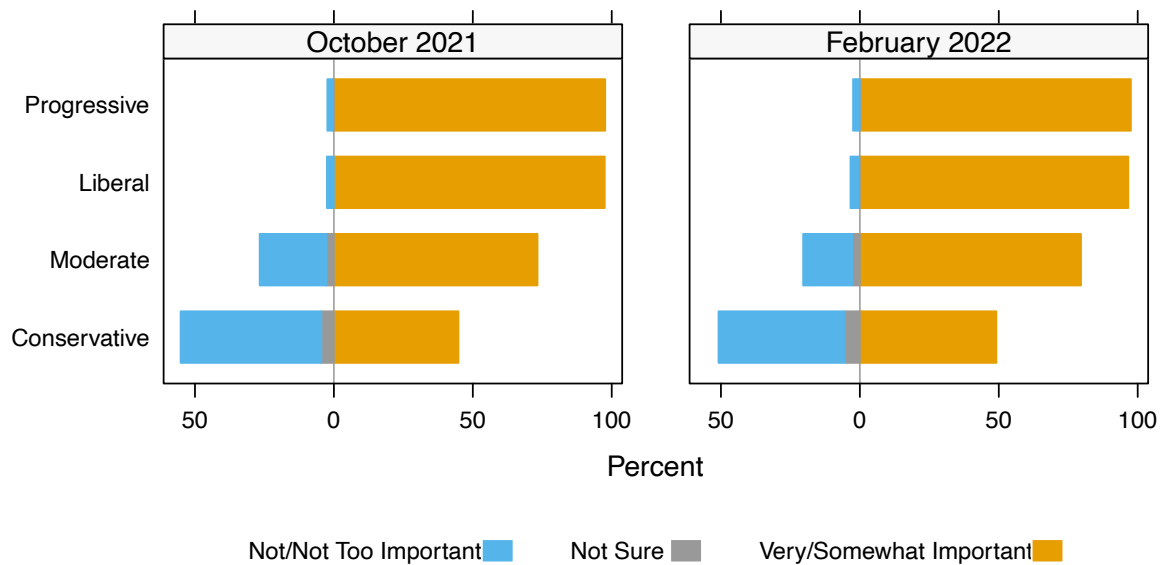
Annotated Questionnaire and Select Correlations

Toplines for Accountability

QUESTION: How important do you think it is that the people who participated in the events of January 6th be held accountable for their actions if a court determines they broke the law?

Response	October 2021	February 2022
Not Important or Not Too Important	24.8 %	21.2 %
Not sure	2.5 %	3.0 %
Important or Very Important	72.8 %	75.8 %

How Important is it to hold Jan 6 participants accountable? (Responses by Political Ideology)



Source: Public Wise/Change Research polls conducted Oct 2021 and Feb 2022.

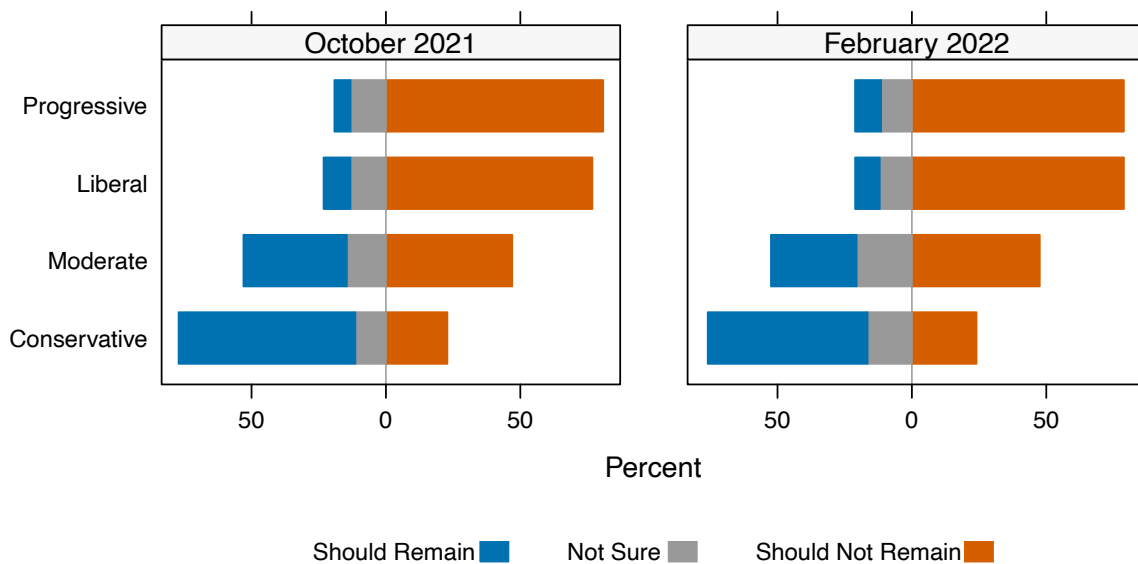
Public Wise

Equity in Democracy

QUESTION: Do you think an elected official should remain in public office if they voted against certifying the election?

Response	October 2021	February 2022
No, they should not	51.4 %	51.8 %
Not sure	13.1 %	15.8 %
Yes, they should remain	35.6 %	32.2 %

Should elected officials remain in office if they voted against certifying the election? (Responses by Political Ideology)



Source: Public Wise/Change Research polls conducted Oct 2021 and Feb 2022.



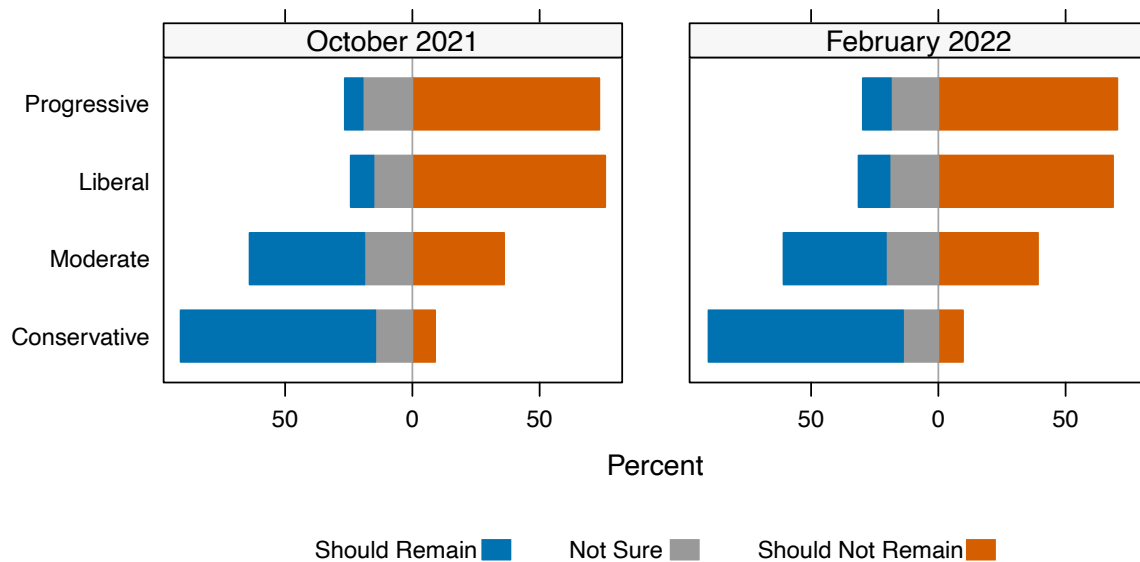
Public Wise

Equity in Democracy

QUESTION: Do you think an elected official should remain in public office if they spoke at the rally on the mall before the events at the Capitol took place?

Response	October 2021	February 2022
No, they should not	41.9 %	41.2 %
Not sure	16.9 %	17.8 %
Yes, they should remain	41.1 %	41.1 %

Should elected officials remain in office if they spoke at the Mall beforehand? (Responses by Political Ideology)



Source: Public Wise/Change Research polls conducted Oct 2021 and Feb 2022.



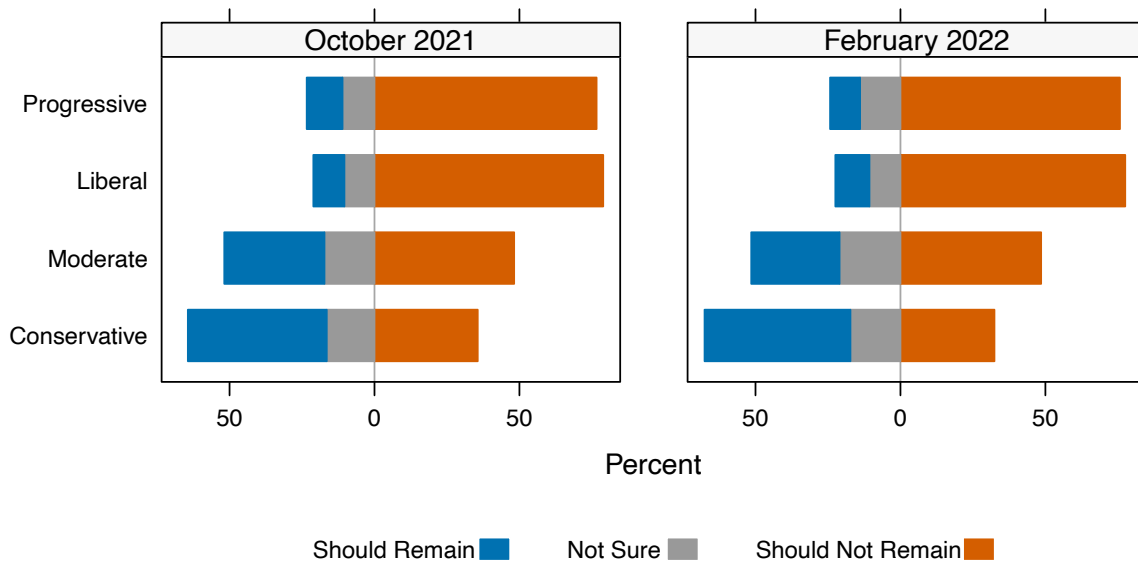
Public Wise

Equity in Democracy

QUESTION: Do you think an elected official should remain in public office if they paid for buses for people to come hear the rally and participate in a protest?

Response	October 2021	February 2022
No, they should not	55.7 %	54.0 %
Not sure	14.4 %	29.5 %
Yes, they should remain	29.9 %	16.5 %

Should elected officials remain in office if they funded buses? (Responses by Political Ideology)



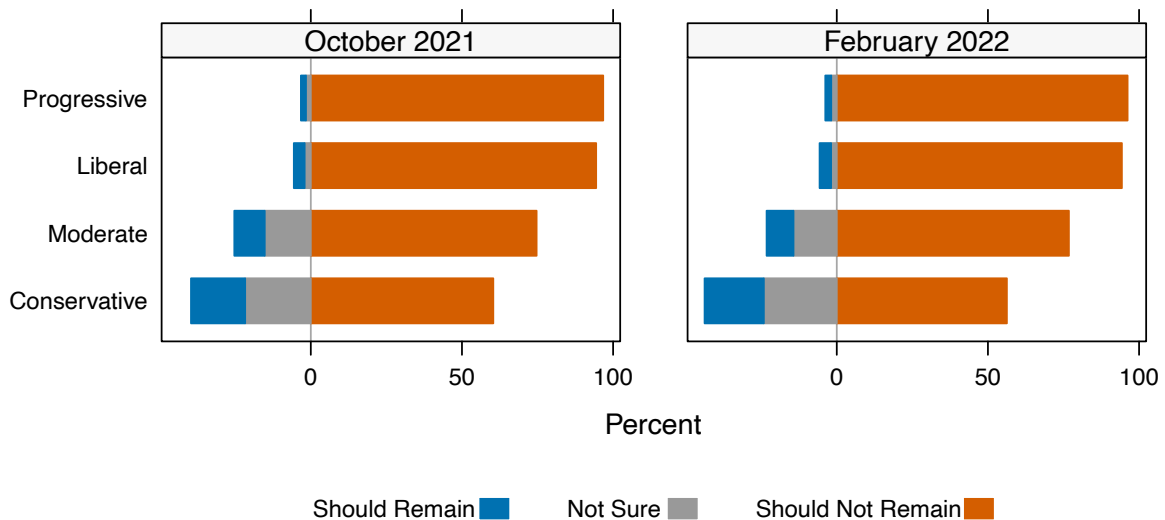
Public Wise

Equity in Democracy

QUESTION: Do you think an elected official should remain in public office if they coordinated with protestors in advance to help them understand the Capitol building and how to move within it quickly?

Response	October 2021	February 2022
No, they should not	77.9 %	77.1 %
Not sure	12.3 %	12.7 %
Yes, they should remain	9.8 %	10.1 %

Should elected officials remain in office if they helped protestors understand how to move in the Capitol? (Responses by Political Ideology)



Source: Public Wise/Change Research polls conducted Oct 2021 and Feb 2022.



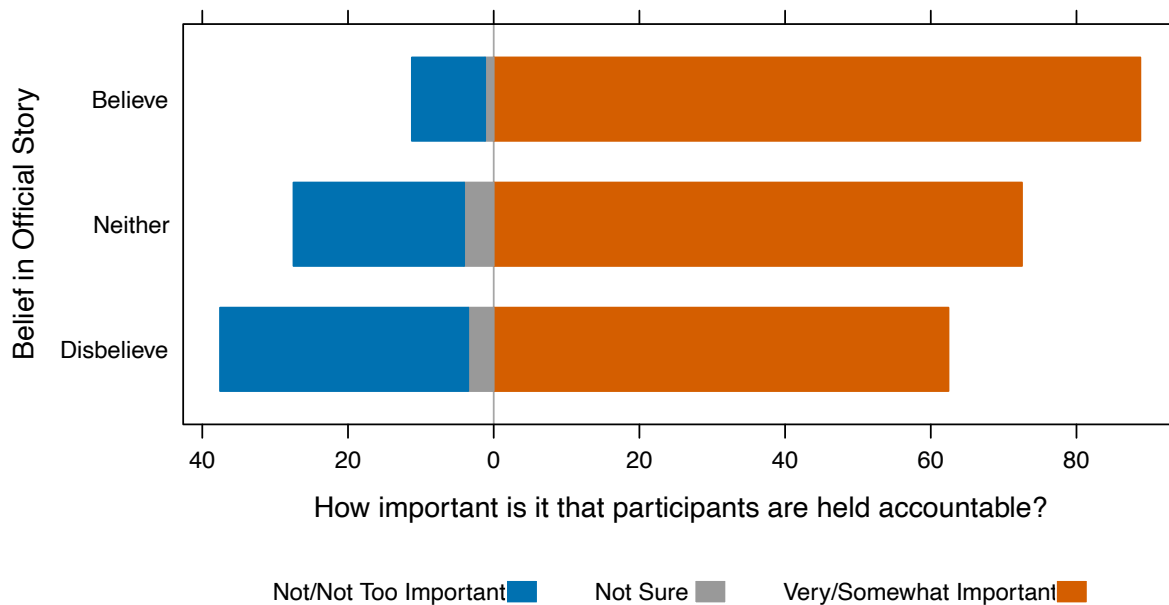
Conspiracy Theories and Accountability

Correlations between two questions

QUESTION: How important do you think it is that the people who participated in the events of January 6th be held accountable for their actions if a court determines they broke the law?

QUESTION: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “I don’t believe the official story of the assassination of John Kennedy in 1963.”

Importance of Accountability for Jan 6 Participants Divided By Disbelief in Official JFK Assassination Story



Not/Not Too Important ■ Not Sure ■ Very/Somewhat Important ■

Source: Public Wise/Change Research poll conducted Feb 2022.

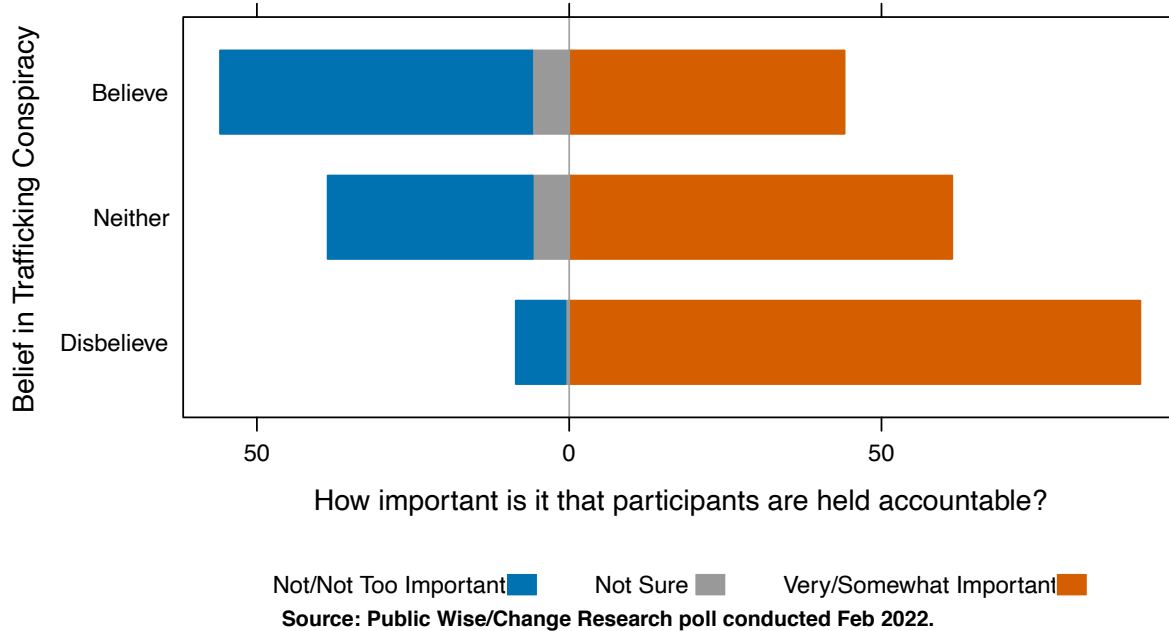
Public Wise

Equity in Democracy

QUESTION: How important do you think it is that the people who participated in the events of January 6th be held accountable for their actions if a court determines they broke the law?

QUESTION: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The government, media, and financial worlds in the U.S. are controlled by a group of Satan-worshipping pedophiles who run a global child sex trafficking operation.”

Importance of Accountability for Jan 6 Participants Divided By Belief in Child Sex Tracking Conspiracy



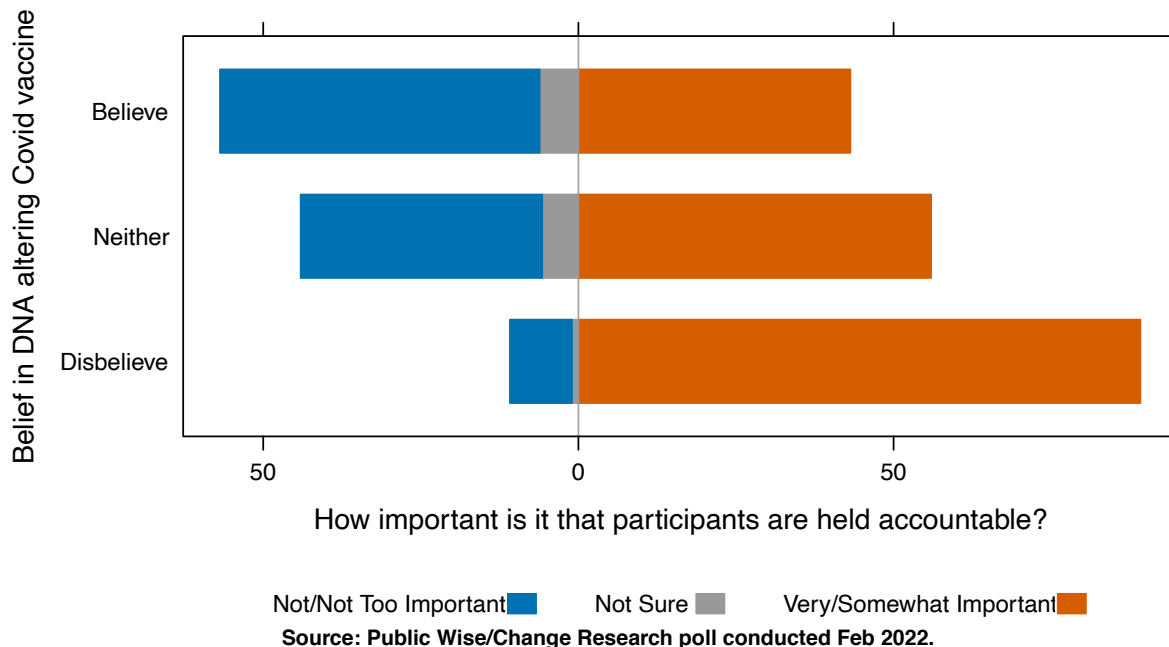
Public Wise

Equity in Democracy

QUESTION: How important do you think it is that the people who participated in the events of January 6th be held accountable for their actions if a court determines they broke the law?

QUESTION: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The COVID 19 vaccines are dangerous because they alter your DNA.”

Importance of Accountability for Jan 6 Participants Divided By Belief in Covid Vaccine Altering DNA



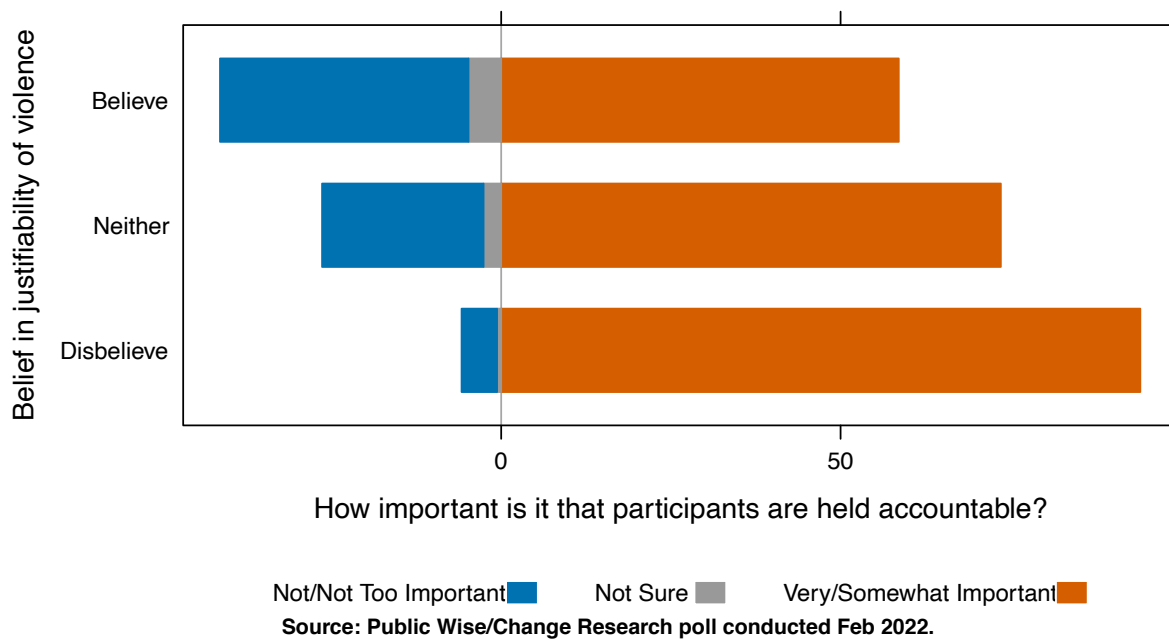
Source: Public Wise/Change Research poll conducted Feb 2022.



QUESTION: How important do you think it is that the people who participated in the events of January 6th be held accountable for their actions if a court determines they broke the law?

QUESTION: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “If elected leaders won’t protect America, the people would be justified in resorting to violent action to do it themselves, even if people could get hurt in the process.”

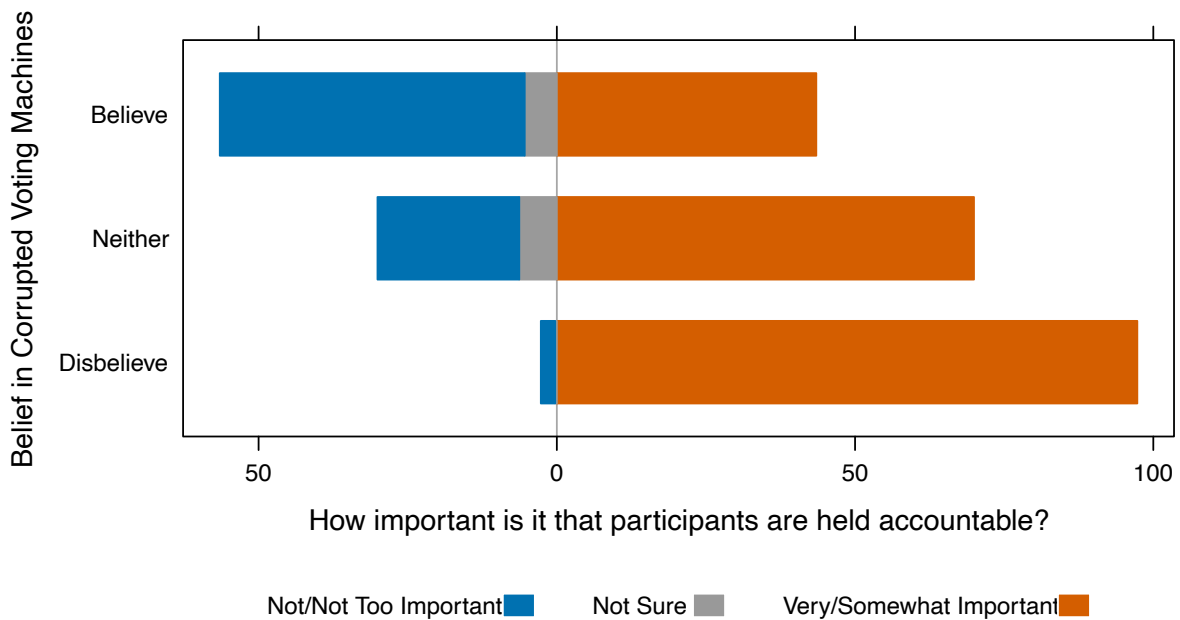
Importance of Accountability for Jan 6 Participants Divided By Belief in Justifiability of Violence



QUESTION: How important do you think it is that the people who participated in the events of January 6th be held accountable for their actions if a court determines they broke the law?

QUESTION: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Electronic voting machines changed votes for Trump into votes for Biden in the November election.”

Importance of Accountability for Jan 6 Participants Divided By Belief in Corrupted Voting Machines



Source: Public Wise/Change Research poll conducted Feb 2022.

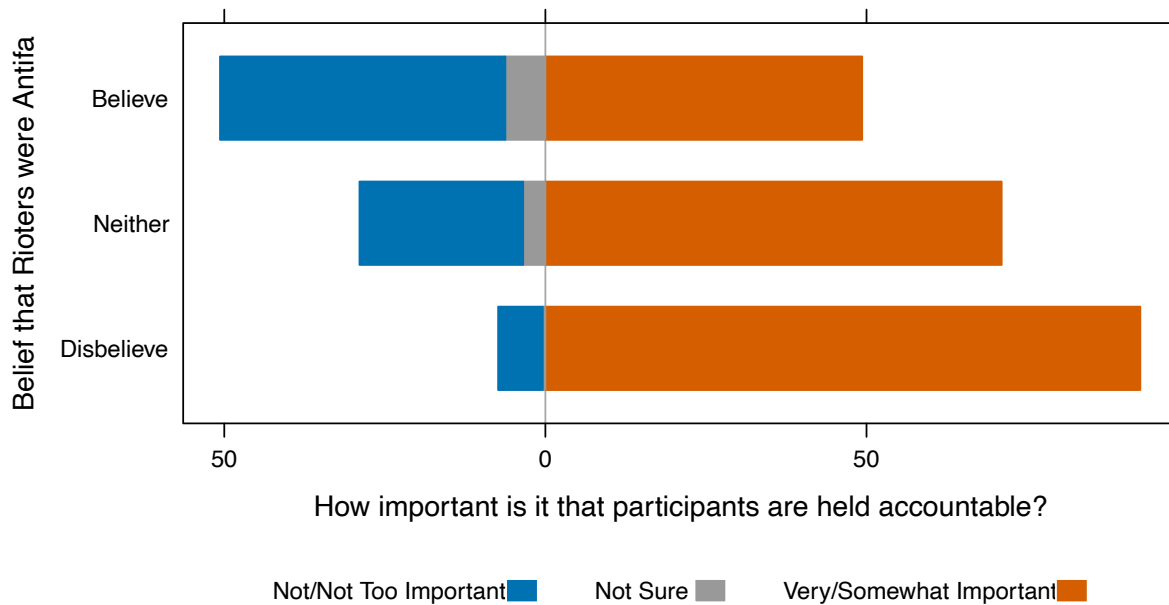
Public Wise

Equity in Democracy

QUESTION: How important do you think it is that the people who participated in the events of January 6th be held accountable for their actions if a court determines they broke the law?

QUESTION: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The people who broke into the U.S. Capitol were actually undercover members of Antifa.”

Importance of Accountability for Jan 6 Participants Divided By Belief that Capitol Rioters were Undercover Antifa



Source: Public Wise/Change Research poll conducted Feb 2022.



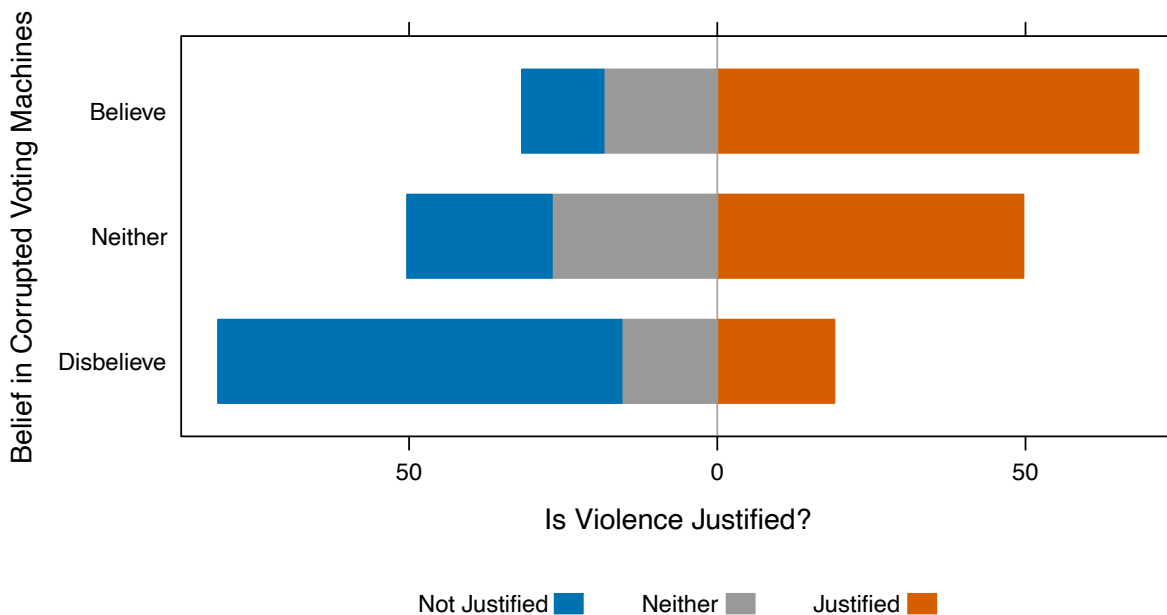
Public Wise

Equity in Democracy

QUESTION: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “If elected leaders won’t protect America, the people would be justified in resorting to violent action to do it themselves, even if people could get hurt in the process.”

QUESTION: How much do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Electronic voting machines changed votes for Trump into votes for Biden in the November election.”

Justifiability of Violence Divided By Belief in Corrupted Voting Machines



Source: Public Wise/Change Research poll conducted Feb 2022.



TAKEAWAYS

On Accountability for Participants in January 6 Events

- The percentage of Americans who believe participants should be held accountable increased from 72.8% to 75.8%. This increase came both from respondents who were previously unsure and respondents who previously thought it was unimportant to hold participants accountable.
- There is an ideological split on views on accountability for participants, with almost all progressives and liberals seeing accountability as important, most moderates seeing accountability as important, and conservatives split on the question of importance of accountability.

On Elected Officials Who Support the January 6 Events

- People's views on whether elected officials who supported the January 6 events should be allowed to remain in office vary widely according to what role the official played.
- Over 3/4s of respondents agreed that officials should not remain in office if they coordinated with protesters by providing information to protesters on how to move through the Capitol building. A majority of self-identified conservatives agreed that these officials specifically should not remain in office. Advance coordination continues to be the bridge too far.
- Just 41% of Americans believe that officials should not remain in office if they spoke at the Mall before the rally.
- Since October 2021, there has been a small increase in the amount of people who say officials who supported the Jan 6 events should not remain in office, and this is true for every type of support we polled about, including funding buses, providing logistical information about the Capitol, speaking at the rally beforehand, and voting against certifying the election.
- There remain large ideological splits around whether elected officials who supported Jan 6 should be allowed to stay in office. Large majorities of both progressives and liberals believe that these officials should not be allowed to stay, while moderates tend to be split, and only a minority of conservatives are opposed to these officials staying in office for most cases.

On Belief in Conspiracy Theories and Importance of Accountability

- Respondents who expressed belief in a wide variety of conspiracy theories are more likely to think it is not at all important for participants in Jan 6th to be held accountable if a court finds they broke the law compared to respondents who didn't express belief in conspiracy theories



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- Respondents who strongly agreed with the conspiracy theory that voting machines were changing votes to Biden in the 2020 election are also more likely to say that violence is justified to retake the government
- Respondents who strongly agreed with the conspiracy theory that voting machines were changing votes to Biden in the 2020 election are also more likely to say that they do not think it is at all important to hold participants in Jan 6th accountable if a court finds they broke the law

