



News Source and Views on January 6 Media Consumption in Six Battleground States

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Introduction

On June 9, 2022, at least 20 million people tuned into the first hearing of the United States House Select Committee on the January 6 Attack. The hearings were held with a clear orientation towards media coverage: They were scheduled in the primetime TV slot, with all major news networks except for Fox News and OAN covering the events live.

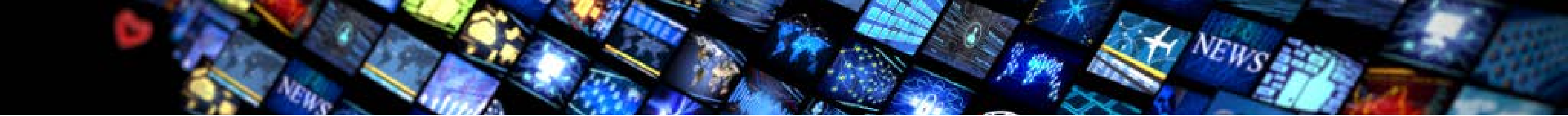
Not just that, the hearings themselves were crafted to be captivating – they were meticulously scripted, relying heavily on tv-friendly video clips from the days leading up to the attack, during the attack itself, and from interviews conducted with various witnesses throughout the January 6 committee’s investigations. The January 6 committee brought new information to the American public about the attack on the Capitol, its consequences, and the degrees of planning and involvement by people at all levels of the Trump administration and among his supporters.

Media, the fourth pillar of democracy, plays a critical role in how Americans understand and interpret the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol, along with various other issues US voters must

grapple with going into the upcoming midterm elections. Public Wise wanted to get a clearer picture of where American voters get their news, how they feel about the news, and how their news consumption patterns relate to views on January 6. We partnered with Change Research to field a survey of registered voters in six key battleground states: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

We present our main findings in the report below. First, we provide a summary of the key takeaways from our study and then an explanation of our methodology. The next section of the report details our findings about factors related to trust in the media, and our findings regarding news consumption and attitudes toward the media across different partisan groupings. Following that, we present our findings on attitudes towards January 6 and the January 6 Committee across partisan ideologies.

Finally, we offer our analysis of the correlation between media consumption patterns and attitudes towards accountability for January 6 across different partisan groups.



Summary of Key Takeaways

- Self-identified Democrats and liberal independents are more trusting of the media – both their own news sources and the media in general.
- While self-identified Republicans are less trusting of the news, they have a higher level of trust in their own news sources relative to their trust of the media overall.
- Newspaper reading and watching TV news is associated with having more trust in the press, listening to podcast news is correlated with having less trust in the press but more trust in one’s own news sources.
- Where people get their news varies by partisan ideology: newspaper and television are more popular sources for left-leaning Americans in battleground states, and radio is more popular for right-leaning Americans.
- The vast majority of respondents in battleground states say accountability for January 6 participants is somewhat or very important, consistent with our previous research on this question.
- The type of media Americans get their news from is correlated with their views on accountability, and the relationship differs across different kinds of partisan ideologies.
- Among conservative and moderate independents, as well as Republicans, reading newspapers and consuming TV news were associated with placing higher importance on accountability for January 6 participants.
- For moderate independents, getting news by podcast was associated with thinking accountability was much less critical.
- Getting news by social media or radio was not associated with views on accountability, across the political spectrum.

Sample Descriptives

Education	
High School or Less	16%
Some college but no degree	31%
Associate’s or 2-year degree	16%
Bachelor’s or 4-year degree	22%
Graduate degree	15%
Education Unknown	0.21%
Age*	
18 - 34	26%
35 - 49	23%
50 64	25%
65+	26%
Age Unknown	0.12%
% Female	52%
Race/Ethnicity**	
White	78%
Hispanic (Race)	5%
Black	14%
Asian or Pacific Islander	1%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	2%
Hispanic (Ethnicity)	7%
Partisan Ideology	
Democrat	33%
Liberal Independent	10%
Moderate Independent	16%
Conservative Independent	8%
Republican	33%
State of Residence	
Arizona	12%
Georgia	17%
Michigan	16%
North Carolina	17%
Ohio	19%
Pennsylvania	21%

Source: Public Wise/Change Research Poll Conducted August 2022.

All data are weighted using weights provided by Change Research.

*Respondents were asked ‘year of birth’ and age was calculated by subtracting year of birth from 2022.

**Will not sum to 100% because respondents can select more than one racial category.

Methodology

In September 2022, Public Wise conducted a poll with Change Research on public opinion around the upcoming midterm elections, views on January 6, and news media consumption.

The poll focused on registered voters in six key battleground states: Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, and Pennsylvania.

Public Wise polling focused on views on the recently broadcast January 6 committee hearings and specific modes of accountability for participants and elected officials who took part in different aspects of January 6th.

This poll constituted the third in a series of polls around U.S. public opinion on January 6, the first two of which were conducted in October 2021 and February 2022. In this third poll, Public Wise was especially interested in looking into how views of the January 6 committee might influence upcoming behaviors and preferences in the midterm elections.

Change Research adjusted the weights for this survey in two phases: First, each state was weighted according to the demographics of their registered voter population by gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, 2020 vote, and region. Second, each state was weighted within the total sample to reflect its proportion of the registered voter population relative to the other states in the sample. The original sample contained 4,241 respondents, but the final sample used in this report was 4,119 due to missing responses on questions of interest.

Respondents were asked if they are registered to vote, about their political affiliations, where they believe they fall on an ideological scale, their educational attainment, their demographic characteristics, their thoughts on the upcoming election, views on January 6 and the recently aired January 6 committee hearings, what news sources they rely on, and how much they trust the news media.

Our partisan grouping used throughout the survey relies on respondents’ self-identification with a given party or as an independent, not their actual voter registration status. Respondents could indicate that they identify with one of the two major political parties, Democrat or Republican, or could identify as an Independent or unaffiliated with either of the two parties. We also asked respondents where they

fall on an ideological spectrum from progressive to liberal to moderate to conservative. We then used ideology to categorize those respondents who did not identify with either of the two major political parties as either Liberal Independent (combining progressive and liberal), Moderate Independent, or Conservative Independent.

Both of our trust variables offered one of four choices for levels of trust: do not trust at all, trust a little, trust some, or trust a lot.

The news source categories used in this study are not mutually exclusive – any respondent could indicate that they consume all or none of the 5 types of news media we asked about: newspapers, television news, social media news, radio news, and podcasts. Therefore, each category is treated as a unique binary variable, where 1 means that the respondent does consume that news from that type of media source.

We first investigate patterns of trust in the media across partisan ideologies and other factors correlated with general trust in the media and trust in one’s own news sources.

Then, to better understand the relationship between news consumption patterns and views on January 6 in these battleground states, we investigated the relationship between sources of news media and January 6 attitudes, controlling for partisan ideology, gender, age, educational attainment, and race. We investigated, in particular, whether views on accountability for January 6 participants differed according to the kinds of news media these registered voters consumed within different categories of partisan ideologies. We used an interaction model, which we explain in more detail below.

The full wording for every question used in this study, along with topline and cross-tabulated breakdowns of responses can be found in our Battleground Media poll topline, which focuses on the media-related questions in the survey.

For the wording, topline, and cross-tabulated responses to the more general questions in the survey related to voting intentions, political views, and views on January 6, please see our report here.

Trust in the Media

Our survey asked two questions about trust in media: First, we asked respondents how much they trust the news sources that they consume, and secondly, we asked about how much they trust the media in general.

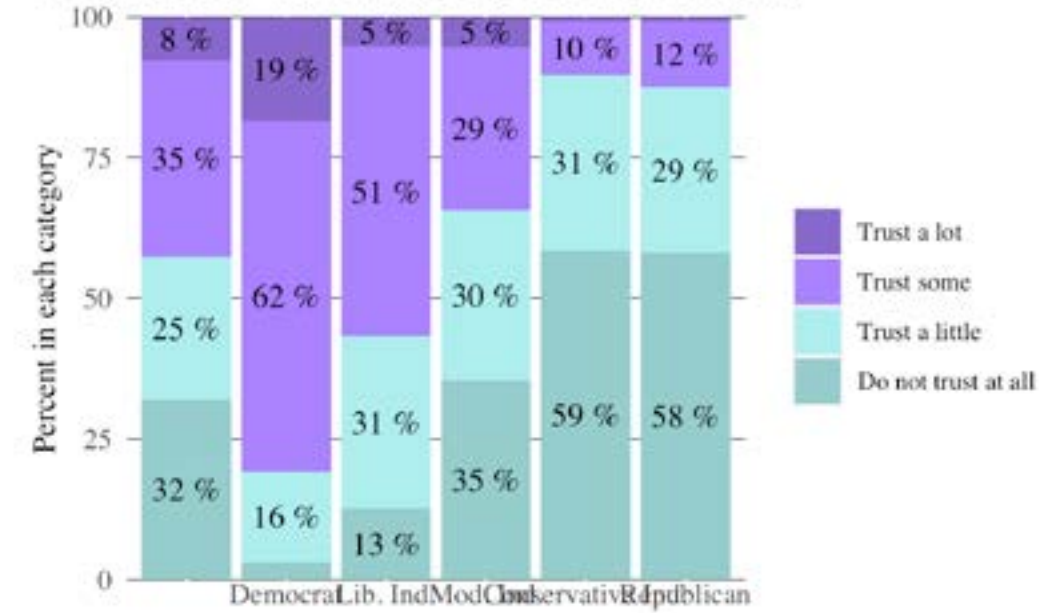
The vast majority of our respondents trust their own news sources, but this percentage differed somewhat across different partisan ideologies. While 92% of self-identified Democrats trust their own news sources “some” or “a lot”, just 71% of Republicans said the same. Conservative independents were the least trusting of their own news sources.

Meanwhile, just 43% of our respon-

dents said they trust (some or a lot) the media in general. Again, Democrats were more media-trusting: 81% trusted the media at least some, while only 13% of Republicans did.

The gap between trust in their own news and trust in the media was much larger for Conservative Independents and Republicans than for other partisan ideologies. While they are the least trusting in general, their relative mistrust of the media in general (as compared to their own news sources) is much higher.

Responses to 'How much do you trust the media?'



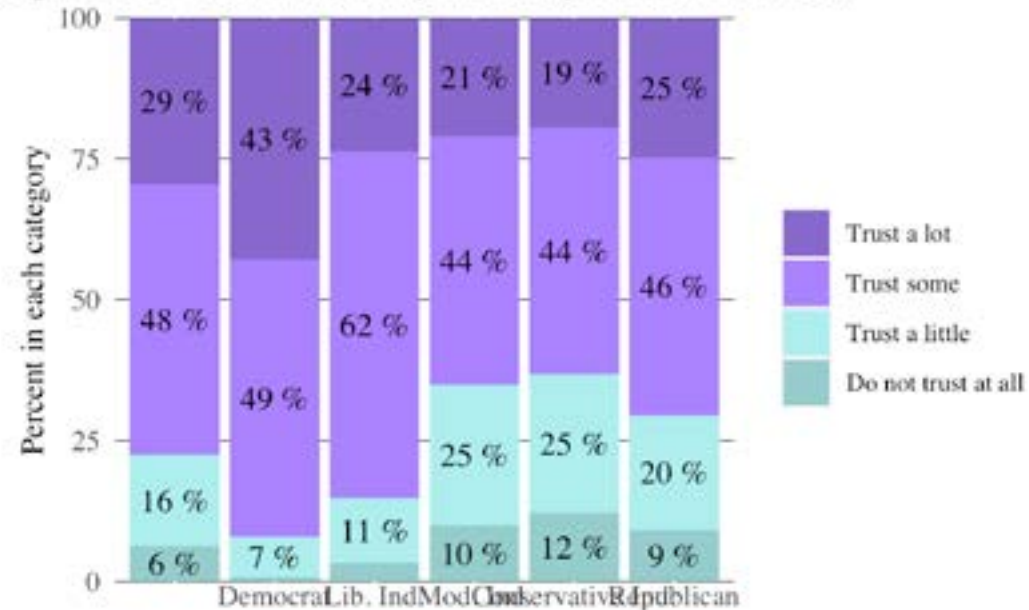
Change Research Poll of registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania; August 21-30 2022; N = 4119

To further probe the partisan trust gaps in media, we ran a regression analysis including partisan identification, demographic factors, educational attainment, and types of news consumption.

We coded trust in the media as a simple binary variable, where 1 indicated trusting the media or one's own news sources “a lot” or “some” and 0 indicating trusting them “a little” or “not at all.”

We provide a table with precise numbers for the model results in the appendix.

Responses to 'How much do you trust your news sources?'



Change Research Poll of registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania; August 21-30 2022; N = 4119

How to Read the Regression Coefficient Graphs

The graphs map the regression coefficients for each variable after including controls – how much a one unit change in that variable is related to an increase or a decline in the trust in media variable, which ranges from 0 to 1. For example, for age, the unit of measure is one year. The graphs above show that a one unit increase in age is effectively associated with no change in trust in the media, either one's own or in general.

For the binary (two category) variables, like all the media consumption variables in the model, a one-unit change means the difference between being in one category versus the other. So, for example, the graph shows that getting news from podcasts (versus not getting news from podcasts) is associated with a 0.07 point decline (on a scale of 0 to 1) in trust in the press.

For the variables which have multiple categories, like partisan identification, each has what is called a 'reference category', which is the category which the other variable categories are compared to for the regression. The reference category for partisan ideology is Democrat, therefore, the coefficients for Republican, Conservative Independents, Moderate Independents, and Liberal Independents measure the predicted difference in trust for each of these categories, respectively, when compared to the category of Democrat. Therefore, we see that going moderate Independents are associated with an almost 0.25 point lower level of trust in one's own news sources compared to self-identified Democrats, a rather sizeable difference for a scale that goes from 0 to 1.

Lastly, the graph includes indicators for the 95% confidence interval for each regression coefficient. If the entire confidence interval for the coefficient is greater than zero, then we can say that the coefficient estimate, which measures the association between that category or variable and trust in the media, is positive and statistically significant. We colored these coefficient estimates blue. In other words, blue indicates that the variable is associated with more trust in the media. If the entire confidence interval falls below zero, then the coefficient is considered negative (and is colored red). In other words, red indicates that the variable is associated with less trust in the media.

For any coefficient where the lower bound of the confidence interval is below zero and the upper bound is above zero, statistically, the coefficient is indistinguishable from zero (in other words, we do not find a statistically significant relation between that variable or category and trust in the media.) We colored these coefficients black.

Results

After including these controls in the model, we still found partisan ideology to be the most strongly correlated factor with trust in both the general press and one's own news sources.

Being a conservative independent predicted the lowest trust in both media categories. Being a conservative independent was associated with the lowest levels of trust in media and being a Democrat was associated with the highest levels of trust for both media categories.

Compared to Democrats, Conservative independents had a predicted 0.68 point lower trust in the media in general and a predicted 0.30 point lower trust in their own news sources.

These represent quite sizable effects when considering that the trust variables are measured on a 0 to 1 scale. All other partisan ideologies trusted the media and their own news sources far less than Democrats did.

Women, white people, and those with 4-year degrees trust both the media and their own news sources somewhat more, but the association for all these categories is weak, with coefficient sizes smaller than 0.3.

The most interesting results came from the associations between news consumption types and media trust.

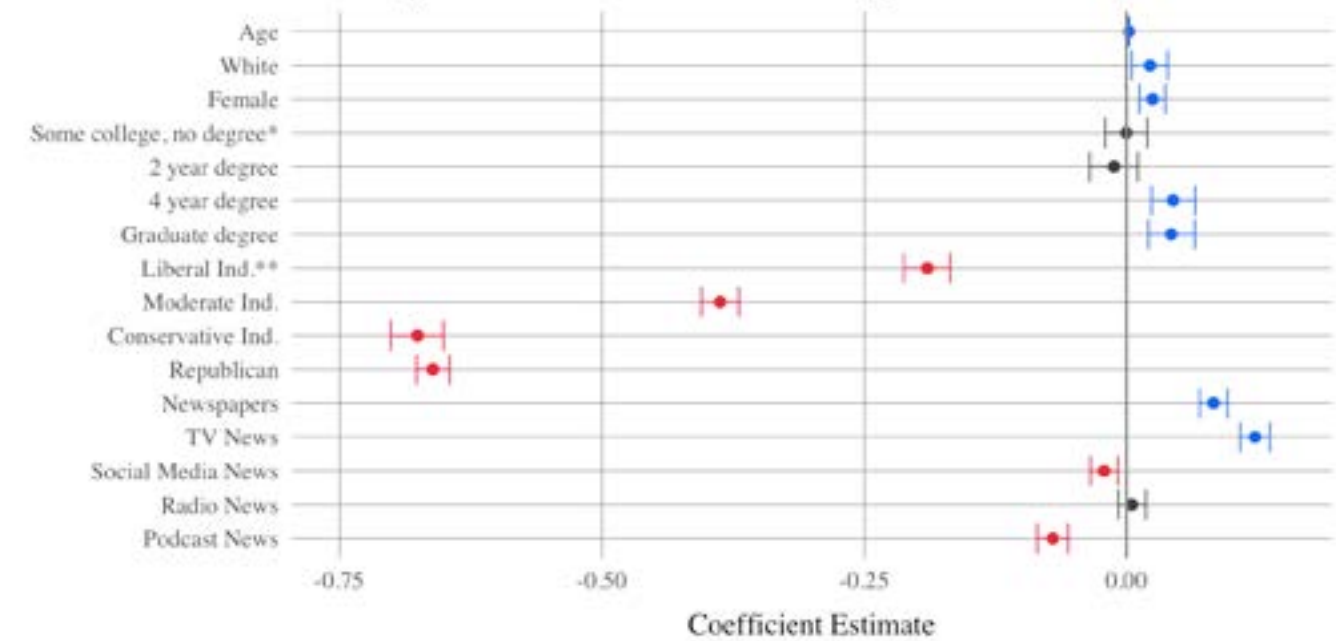
Newspaper readers and TV news viewers were more trusting of the press in general. Getting news from newspapers was correlated with 0.08 point higher trust in the press and watching TV news was associated with 0.12 point higher trust.

But these types of news consumption were not associated either positively or negatively with trust in one's own news sources.

Social media news consumers had slightly lower trust in both measures, and radio had no particular associations.

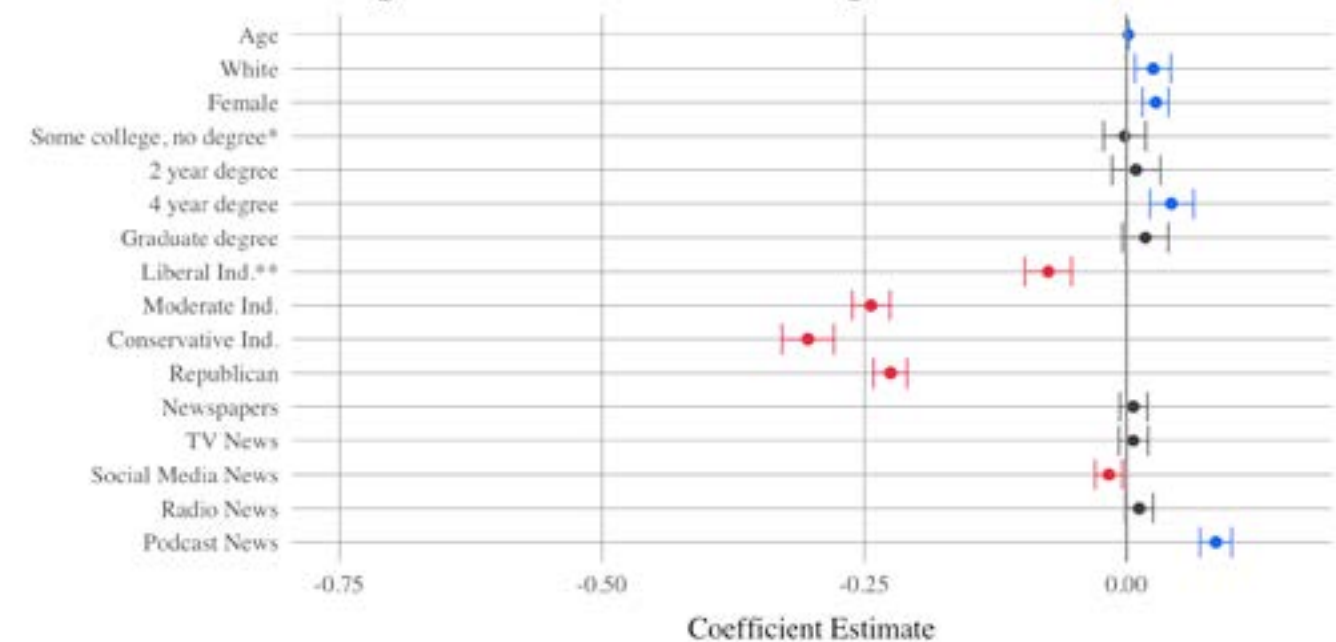
But podcast news listeners, while much more trusting of their own news sources, exhibited lower trust in the media as a whole: Respondents who get their news from podcasts had a 0.07 point lower predicted trust in the media, according to our model.

Regression Coefficients for Trusting the Media



Source: Public Wise/Change Research Poll of registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania

Regression Coefficients for Trusting Own News Sources



Source: Public Wise/Change Research Poll of registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania

News Consumption Patterns

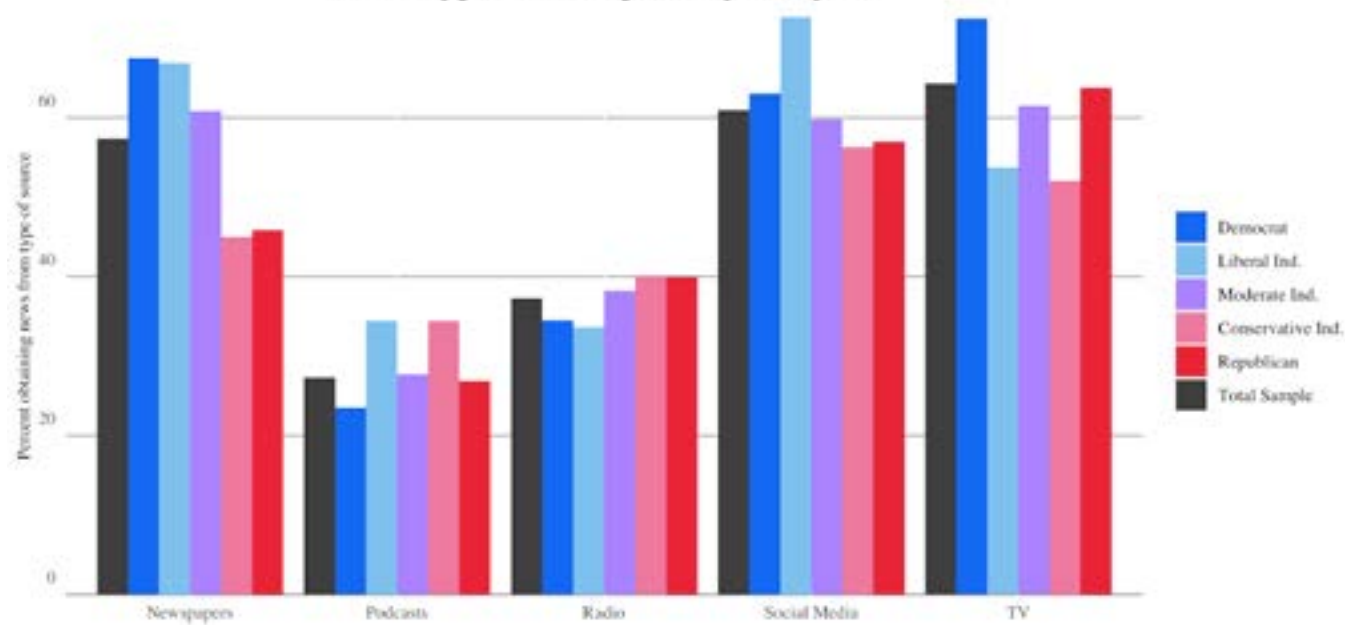
Public Wise asked battleground state registered voters about whether they consume news through newspapers, television, social media, radio and podcasts. These options were non-exclusive, so respondents could indicate all the different ways they get their news. In the general population, television was far and away the most common way people consume news. Liberal independents were exceptional in that a larger percentage of them get their news from social media than any other source, followed by newspapers, and with television in third place.

Left-leaning respondents were more likely to say they get their news from newspapers. While over two-thirds of Democrats get their news from newspapers, less than half of Republicans do. Social media news consumption was also more popular among left-leaning respondents, although the partisan divisions were less stark than with newspapers.

Radio was the second least-popular source of news overall and was the most right-leaning news source. 40% of Republicans and conservative independents listen to news on the radio, but only 34% of Democrats and liberal independents do.

Finally, television was a more popular news source for strong partisans of both stripes. Both self-identified Democrats and Republicans were more likely to watch TV news than independents. Podcasts, the least popular source of news overall, exhibited the opposite pattern. Independents got news from podcasts much more than respondents who identified with either of the two major parties.

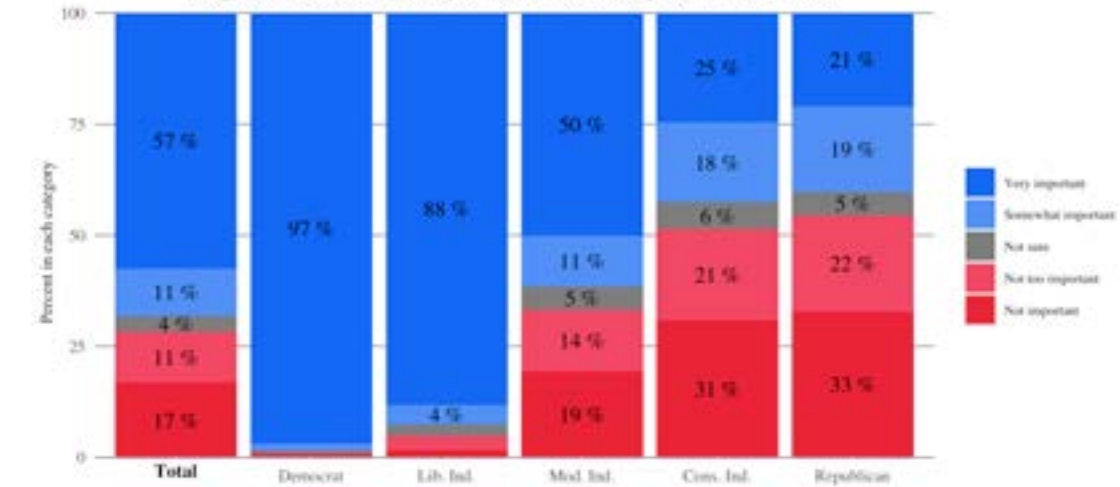
News Type Consumption by Party ID



Source: Public Wise/Change Research Poll of registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, August 21-30 2022; N = 4119

Attitudes Towards January 6 and the January 6 Committee

Importance of January 6 Accountability by Partisan ID



Source: Public Wise/Change Research Poll of registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, August 21-30 2022; N = 4119

Consistent with our previous research, a large majority of respondents in our survey said that legal accountability for January 6 participants is very or somewhat important.

This finding varied significantly across partisan ideologies: 99% of self-identified Democrats thought accountability was important, but just 40% of self-identified Republicans did.

Attention to January 6 Committee by Partisan ID



Source: Public Wise/Change Research Poll of registered voters in Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, August 21-30 2022; N = 4119

We also asked respondents about how much attention they had paid to the January 6 committee hearings.

One-third of registered voters in battleground states said they had paid a lot of attention to the hearings, another 30% said they had paid some attention.

Among self-identified Democrats, however, the number who had paid some or a lot of attention increased to 87%, whereas just 44% of self-identified Republicans said the same.

How to Read the Graphs

Within each partisan ideology category, we show the different predicted responses of accountability for those who consume a specific type of news media and those who do not.

It is important to note that these are not the same as the regression coefficients as we showed in the trust in media graphs above, rather, they provide what the model says is the predicted value for a person in a given partisan and news category, when holding other control variables at their means in the dataset.

Around each point, we provide the 95% confidence interval. When the confidence intervals do not overlap for the two points within a partisan category, this means that there is a statistically significant interaction effect for that form of media.

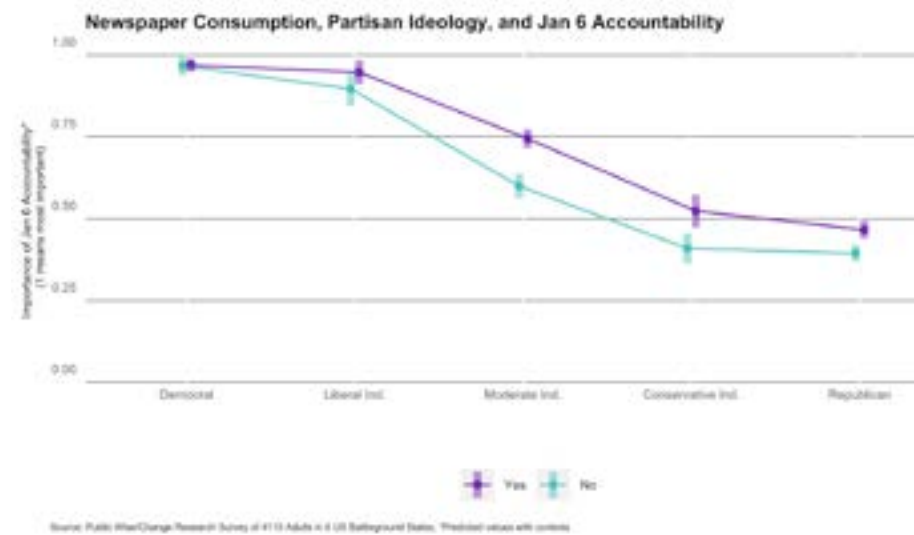
Newspaper News Consumption

For newspapers, we found an interaction effect for several of the partisan categories. Both self-identified Democrats and liberal independents had very high predicted ratings for the importance of legal accountability for January 6 participants, and there wasn't a statistically significant difference between newspaper readers and non-newspaper readers within these partisan ideological categories.

But predicted ratings for the importance of accountability declined dramatically with each subsequent category of partisan ideology. But the declines were not the same for newspaper readers and non-newspaper readers.

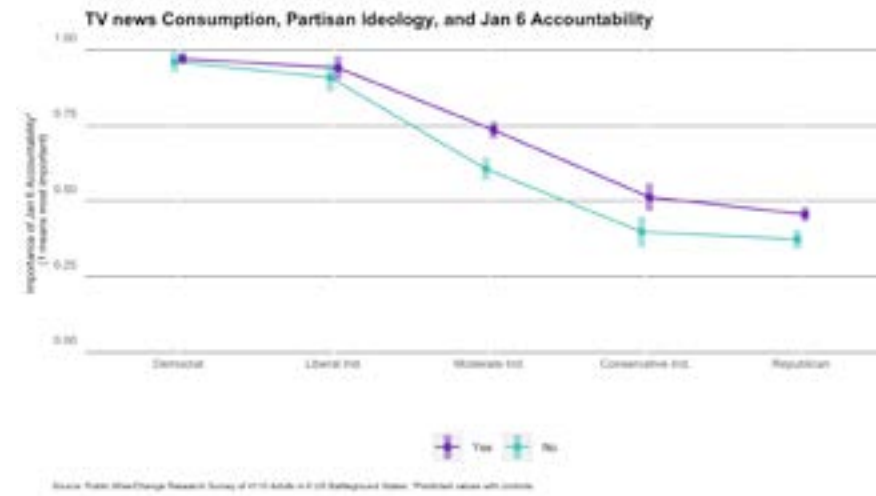
For example, moderate independents who read the newspaper had a predicted rating of 0.74 (about equivalent to the assigned score for saying that accountability is "somewhat important"), but for other moderate independents who do not read the newspaper, the rating was only 0.59.

Even among Republicans, who had the lowest predicted values for the importance of accountability, there was a difference of 0.05 in the predicted rating according to whether one reads the newspaper, and this difference was statistically significant.



So for example, the newspaper news consumption graph shows that according to our model, Democrats who read the newspaper and who don't read the newspaper both have predicted values for the accountability question very close to 1, meaning the typical respondent in these categories thinks accountability is very important.

The graph shows that newspaper readers have a very slightly higher predicted score for the accountability question, but the confidence intervals around both points overlap considerably, thus for statistical purposes, they are the same. The summary tables of these models and summary tables of the predicted values in the graphs are provided in the appendix.

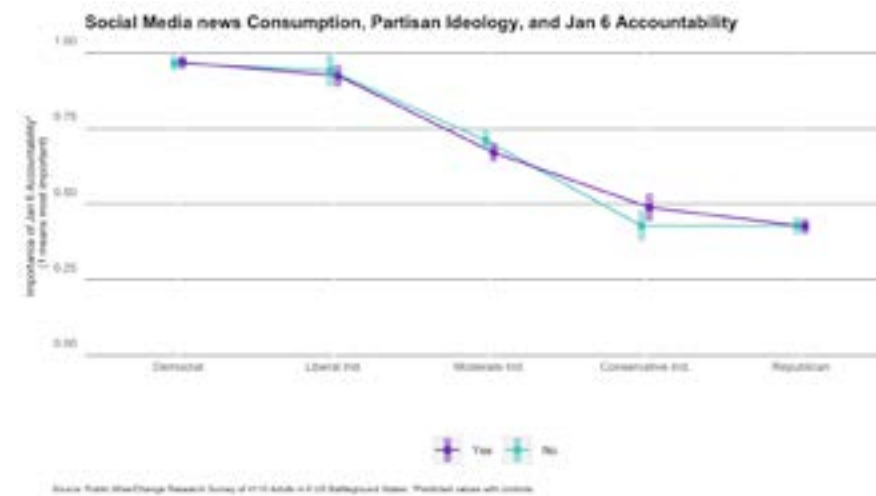


Television News Consumption

The relationship between partisan ideology, the importance of accountability, and whether or not one consumes TV news looks very similar to our model for reading newspapers.

Democrats and liberal independents have a very high predicted rating for the importance of accountability, while each partisan ideology rating going rightwards towards self-identified Republicans exhibit successively lower predicted ratings.

But for conservative independents, moderate independents, and Republicans who watch TV news, their predicted rating was higher than for the rest of their co-partisans who do not get their news from television.

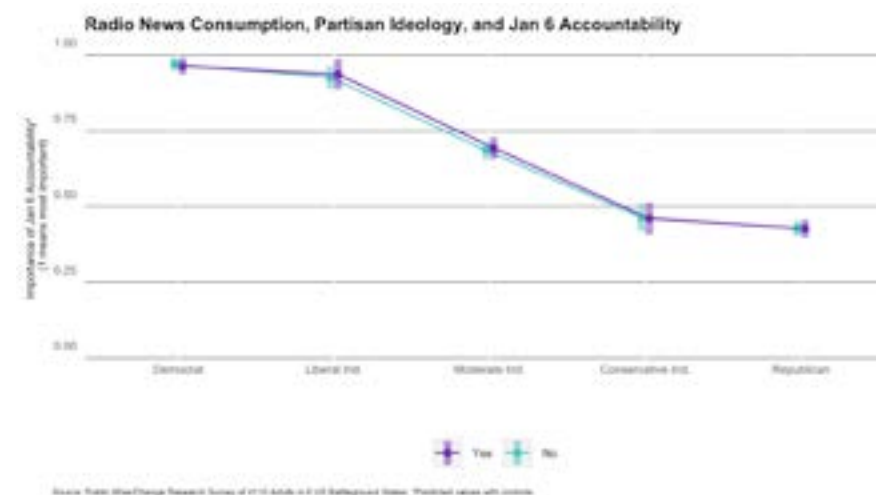


Social Media News Consumption

When it comes to social media, we find no interaction effects and no effects more generally speaking.

For all the categories of partisan ideology, there is no statistically significant difference in the predicted ratings for accountability for people who consume news by social media and people who do not.

In other words, whether a respondent is a Democrat, Republican, or an independent, we would not expect to find a difference in their views on accountability according to whether they consume news from social media.



Radio News Consumption

Like with social media news consumption, we find no interaction effects, or effects more generally, for getting news from the radio on views on January 6 accountability.

Podcasts News Consumption

Getting news from podcasts exhibits a distinct interaction effect. As in all four of the other types of media consumption, Democrats and liberal Independents have similar predicted ratings for the importance of accountability for January 6 participants, regardless of whether or not they get news from podcasts.

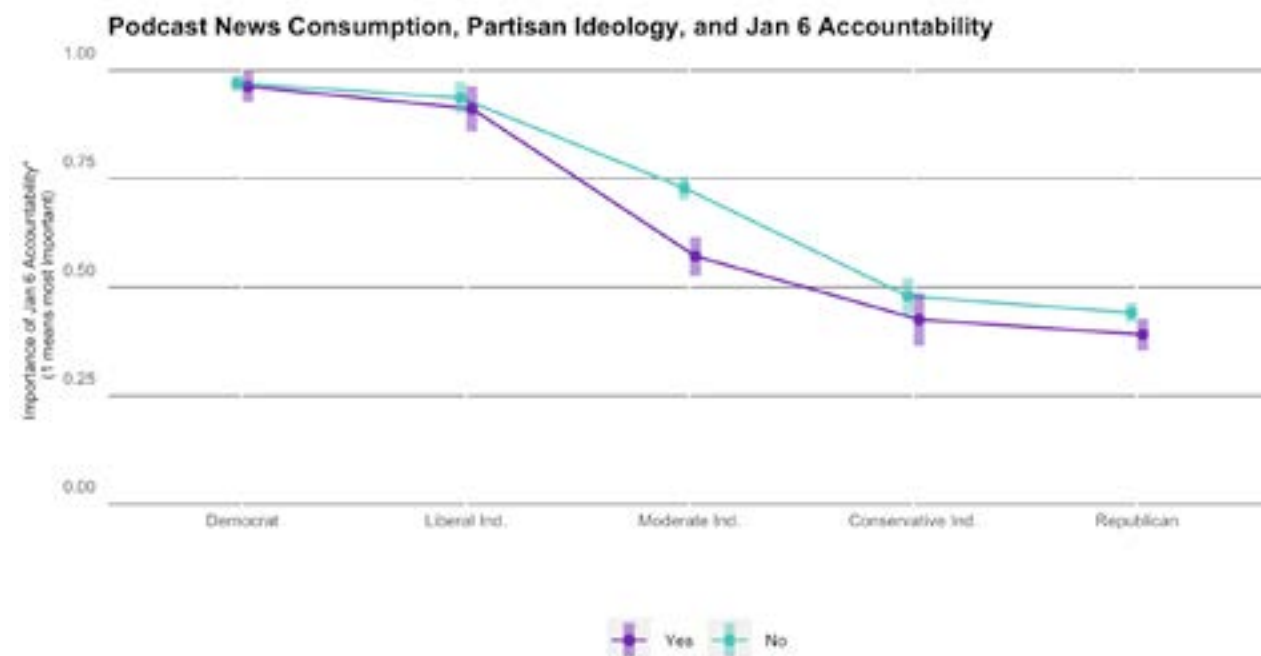
But for moderate independents, listening to podcasts is associated with a dramatically lower predicted rating for the importance of accountability. Among moderate independents who listen to news podcasts, their predicted rating is 0.59, a full 0.15 points lower than the predicted rating for other moderate independents.

Conservative independents and Republican podcast news consumers also had lower predicted ratings than their other co-partisans, but the effect was not statistically significant.

From the open-ended responses about what kind of podcasts people listen to, it's not clear that the distinct effect of podcasts on moderates is related to the kind of podcasts they listen to.

For moderate independents, the top choices of podcasts were Joe Rogan (2.9% of moderate independents indicated that they are listeners), Ben Shapiro (1.1%) and Upfirst NPR (0.7%). Joe Rogan has spread the claim that January 6 was partially spurred on by FBI "agent provocateurs" and Ben Shapiro has dismissed the January 6 committee hearings as "grandstanding" and "dumb politics".

However, these podcasts are equally popular with conservative independents and Republicans, who do not exhibit the same strong interaction effects for listening to podcasts. Furthermore, moderate independents are much less likely to listen to Dan Bongino, a major proponent of the stolen election narrative and one of the most popular podcasters among more conservative Americans.



Source: Public Wise/Change Research Survey of 4110 Adults in 6 US Background States. Predicted values with controls.

To investigate whether the correlations between types of media consumed and views on January 6 were partially or largely driven by attention paid to the January 6 committee, we ran a second model where we included attention paid to the January 6 committee hearings as an additional factor.

Our results were very similar to our original model, so we did not include them in the body of the main paper, but they can be found in the appendix.

Conclusion

Our research demonstrates some distinct differences across partisan ideologies in regards to how they view the media, consume news, and view January 6. Liberals are most trusting of the press, both their own and in general. But the gap in trust is larger for conservatives: that is, while conservatives trust both their own news sources and the media in general less than liberals do, their relative confidence in their own sources as compared to the media overall is higher.

We found that while educational attainment and demographic factors are at best weakly associated with trust in either the media or one's own news sources, partisan ideology was a strong correlate of both types of trust, and types of news consumed was a more moderate correlate. Newspaper readers and TV news viewers were more trusting of the media in general, but no more or less likely to trust their own sources. Radio news listening was not correlated with any particular views on trust in media, while social media news consumers were slightly less trusting overall. Podcast listeners were more likely to trust their own sources some or a lot, but were more skeptical of the media overall.

In regards to partisan divides around media consumption, we find that newspapers and television tend to be more popular news sources for left-leaning respondents, and radio is relatively more favored by right-leaning respondents. Podcasts are more popular among independents, whereas partisans of both the Democrat and Republican parties get more news from television.

In previous research, Public Wise uncovered variations in the ideological backgrounds of who did and did not prioritize accountability for January 6 participants. As with our previous studies, we find here that partisan ideology is a preeminently important factor correlated with views on January 6 and with attention paid to the January 6 committee hearings.

In this study, we add another dimension to our understanding of factors related to attitudes around January 6 among the U.S. public: the types of media people consume. All media sources are, apparently, not equivalent when it comes to the US public's views on whether people who participated in the attack on the Capitol should be legally prosecuted if they committed a crime.

While Democrats and liberal Independents believe Jan 6 participants must be held accountable regardless of what kinds of news media they consume, effects differed regarding other partisan ideologies. For conservative and moderate independents, as well as Republicans, reading newspapers and consuming TV news were both associated with placing higher importance on accountability. For moderate independents, getting news by podcast was associated with thinking accountability was much less of a priority. And news consumption by social media or radio was not related to views on accountability across the political spectrum.

It is important to note that the setup of this study does not allow us to assess causality. That is, we can only say that the consumption of these media sources and views on accountability are associated with each other statistically, but we cannot say that consuming media sources causes these attitudes. It could just as easily be the case, for instance, that moderate independents who do not want accountability are in turn attracted to consuming news by podcast, or that Republicans believing in the dangers of the January 6 attack led them to consume more TV news.

But establishing these correlations is important regardless. For instance, these results suggest that Republicans who read the newspapers may be especially receptive to hearing reports from the January 6 committee and that moderate independents exhibit an exceptionally high variation in their views on accountability, which is related to consuming particular forms of news media.

Appendix A: Stepwise Regression for Trust in Media Models

Table 1: Newspaper Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.114*** (0.016)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.174*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.188*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	0.039*** (0.010)	0.037*** (0.009)
Age	0.0004 (0.0003)	-0.0001 (0.0003)
White	0.030** (0.013)	0.024* (0.013)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	0.019 (0.015)	0.013 (0.015)
Moderate Independent	-0.008 (0.017)	-0.013 (0.017)
Conservative Independent	0.035** (0.016)	0.032** (0.015)
Republican	0.018 (0.017)	0.013 (0.016)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	-0.070** (0.030)	-0.052* (0.029)
Associate's or two-year degree	-0.367*** (0.023)	-0.313*** (0.023)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	-0.558*** (0.027)	-0.482*** (0.027)
Graduate degree	-0.572*** (0.018)	-0.505*** (0.019)
Newspaper Interactions		
News from Newspaper : Democrat	0.002 (0.017)	-0.003 (0.016)
News from Newspaper : Liberal Independent	0.049 (0.036)	0.034 (0.035)
News from Newspaper : Moderate Independent	0.143*** (0.028)	0.115*** (0.028)
News from Newspaper : Conservative Independent	0.112*** (0.038)	0.098*** (0.037)
News from Newspaper : Republican	0.069*** (0.024)	0.067*** (0.024)
Constant	0.897*** (0.026)	0.762*** (0.028)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.409	0.432
Adjusted R ²	0.407	0.430
Residual Std. Error	0.297 (df = 4093)	0.291 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	177.369*** (df = 16; 4093)	163.871*** (df = 19; 4090)

Note: 2 *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 2: TV News Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.114*** (0.017)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.174*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.189*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	-0.052* (0.028)	-0.038 (0.027)
Age	-0.355*** (0.024)	-0.306*** (0.024)
White	-0.562*** (0.030)	-0.485*** (0.030)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	-0.587*** (0.022)	-0.515*** (0.022)
Moderate Independent	0.010 (0.018)	0.001 (0.018)
Conservative Independent	0.024 (0.015)	0.017 (0.015)
Republican	-0.002 (0.017)	-0.009 (0.017)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	0.046*** (0.016)	0.041*** (0.015)
Associate's or two-year degree	0.032* (0.017)	0.024 (0.016)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	0.039*** (0.010)	0.037*** (0.009)
Graduate degree	-0.00003 (0.0003)	-0.0004 (0.0003)
TV News Interactions		
News from TV : Democrat	0.029** (0.013)	0.022* (0.013)
News from TV : Liberal Independent	0.022 (0.035)	0.011 (0.034)
News from TV : Moderate Independent	0.119*** (0.029)	0.100*** (0.029)
News from TV : Conservative Independent	0.104*** (0.039)	0.089** (0.038)
News from TV : Republican	0.072*** (0.026)	0.065** (0.025)
Constant	0.909*** (0.027)	0.772*** (0.029)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.408	0.431
Adjusted R ²	0.406	0.429
Residual Std. Error	0.297 (df = 4093)	0.292 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	176.524*** (df = 16; 4093)	163.187*** (df = 19; 4090)

Note: 3 *p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 3: Social Media News Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.121*** (0.017)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.185*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.199*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	-0.025 (0.029)	-0.014 (0.028)
Age	-0.256*** (0.020)	-0.218*** (0.020)
White	-0.537*** (0.028)	-0.447*** (0.029)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	-0.537*** (0.018)	-0.462*** (0.019)
Moderate Independent	0.002 (0.016)	0.005 (0.015)
Conservative Independent	0.026* (0.015)	0.018 (0.015)
Republican	0.0002 (0.018)	-0.007 (0.017)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	0.048*** (0.016)	0.042*** (0.015)
Associate's or two-year degree	0.033** (0.017)	0.024 (0.016)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	0.040*** (0.010)	0.038*** (0.009)
Graduate degree	0.0003 (0.0003)	-0.0002 (0.0003)
Social Media News Interactions		
News from Social Media : Democrat	0.030** (0.013)	0.023* (0.013)
News from Social Media : Liberal Independent	-0.019 (0.035)	-0.023 (0.035)
News from Social Media : Moderate Independent	-0.042 (0.027)	-0.039 (0.027)
News from Social Media : Conservative Independent	0.058 (0.038)	0.028 (0.037)
News from Social Media : Republican	-0.004 (0.024)	-0.011 (0.023)
Constant	0.892*** (0.026)	0.746*** (0.028)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.400	0.426
Adjusted R ²	0.398	0.424
Residual Std. Error	0.299 (df = 4093)	0.293 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	170.840*** (df = 16; 4093)	159.976*** (df = 19; 4090)

Note:

4

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 4: Radio News Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.123*** (0.017)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.188*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.203*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	-0.043** (0.021)	-0.029 (0.021)
Age	-0.283*** (0.017)	-0.241*** (0.018)
White	-0.505*** (0.025)	-0.415*** (0.025)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	-0.541*** (0.015)	-0.461*** (0.016)
Moderate Independent	-0.006 (0.016)	-0.006 (0.016)
Conservative Independent	0.026* (0.015)	0.019 (0.015)
Republican	0.001 (0.018)	-0.006 (0.017)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	0.049*** (0.016)	0.044*** (0.015)
Associate's or two-year degree	0.034** (0.017)	0.026 (0.016)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	0.040*** (0.010)	0.037*** (0.009)
Graduate degree	0.0003 (0.0003)	-0.0002 (0.0003)
Radio News Interactions		
News from Radio : Democrat	0.031** (0.013)	0.023* (0.013)
News from Radio : Liberal Independent	0.015 (0.035)	0.001 (0.034)
News from Radio : Moderate Independent	0.013 (0.028)	0.007 (0.027)
News from Radio : Conservative Independent	0.002 (0.038)	-0.033 (0.037)
News from Radio : Republican	0.005 (0.024)	-0.014 (0.024)
Constant	0.892*** (0.025)	0.746*** (0.027)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.400	0.426
Adjusted R ²	0.397	0.424
Residual Std. Error	0.300 (df = 4093)	0.293 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	170.197*** (df = 16; 4093)	159.881*** (df = 19; 4090)

Note:

5

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 5: Podcast News Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.120*** (0.016)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.189*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.206*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	-0.034* (0.020)	-0.022 (0.020)
Age	-0.241*** (0.016)	-0.200*** (0.016)
White	-0.490*** (0.022)	-0.404*** (0.023)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	-0.529*** (0.014)	-0.453*** (0.015)
Moderate Independent	-0.008 (0.019)	-0.013 (0.019)
Conservative Independent	0.029* (0.015)	0.021 (0.015)
Republican	0.005 (0.017)	-0.002 (0.017)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	0.054*** (0.016)	0.048*** (0.015)
Associate's or two-year degree	0.038** (0.017)	0.028* (0.016)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	0.039*** (0.010)	0.036*** (0.009)
Graduate degree	0.0001 (0.0003)	-0.001* (0.0003)
Podcast News Interactions		
News from Podcasts : Democrat	0.027** (0.013)	0.020 (0.013)
News from Podcasts : Liberal Independent	-0.017 (0.037)	-0.025 (0.036)
News from Podcasts : Moderate Independent	-0.149*** (0.032)	-0.151*** (0.031)
News from Podcasts : Conservative Independent	-0.046 (0.041)	-0.074* (0.041)
News from Podcasts : Republican	-0.042 (0.028)	-0.045* (0.027)
Constant	0.908*** (0.025)	0.764*** (0.027)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.406	0.434
Adjusted R ²	0.404	0.431
Residual Std. Error	0.298 (df = 4093)	0.291 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	174.863*** (df = 16; 4093)	164.813*** (df = 19; 4090)

Note:

6

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Appendix B: Regression analysis of interaction between media consumption type and partisan ideology on views on January 6 accountability

Table 1: Newspaper Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.114*** (0.016)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.174*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.188*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	0.039*** (0.010)	0.037*** (0.009)
Age	0.0004 (0.0003)	-0.0001 (0.0003)
White	0.030** (0.013)	0.024* (0.013)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	0.019 (0.015)	0.013 (0.015)
Moderate Independent	-0.008 (0.017)	-0.013 (0.017)
Conservative Independent	0.035** (0.016)	0.032** (0.015)
Republican	0.018 (0.017)	0.013 (0.016)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	-0.070** (0.030)	-0.052* (0.029)
Associate's or two-year degree	-0.367*** (0.023)	-0.313*** (0.023)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	-0.558*** (0.027)	-0.482*** (0.027)
Graduate degree	-0.572*** (0.018)	-0.505*** (0.019)
Newspaper Interactions		
News from Newspaper : Democrat	0.002 (0.017)	-0.003 (0.016)
News from Newspaper : Liberal Independent	0.049 (0.036)	0.034 (0.035)
News from Newspaper : Moderate Independent	0.143*** (0.028)	0.115*** (0.028)
News from Newspaper : Conservative Independent	0.112*** (0.038)	0.098*** (0.037)
News from Newspaper : Republican	0.069*** (0.024)	0.067*** (0.024)
Constant	0.897*** (0.026)	0.762*** (0.028)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.409	0.432
Adjusted R ²	0.407	0.430
Residual Std. Error	0.297 (df = 4093)	0.291 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	177.369*** (df = 16; 4093)	163.871*** (df = 19; 4090)

Note:

2

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 2: TV News Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.114*** (0.017)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.174*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.189*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	-0.052* (0.028)	-0.038 (0.027)
Age	-0.355*** (0.024)	-0.306*** (0.024)
White	-0.562*** (0.030)	-0.485*** (0.030)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	-0.587*** (0.022)	-0.515*** (0.022)
Moderate Independent	0.010 (0.018)	0.001 (0.018)
Conservative Independent	0.024 (0.015)	0.017 (0.015)
Republican	-0.002 (0.017)	-0.009 (0.017)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	0.046*** (0.016)	0.041*** (0.015)
Associate's or two-year degree	0.032* (0.017)	0.024 (0.016)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	0.039*** (0.010)	0.037*** (0.009)
Graduate degree	-0.00003 (0.0003)	-0.0004 (0.0003)
TV News Interactions		
News from TV : Democrat	0.029** (0.013)	0.022* (0.013)
News from TV : Liberal Independent	0.022 (0.035)	0.011 (0.034)
News from TV : Moderate Independent	0.119*** (0.029)	0.100*** (0.029)
News from TV : Conservative Independent	0.104*** (0.039)	0.089** (0.038)
News from TV : Republican	0.072*** (0.026)	0.065** (0.025)
Constant	0.909*** (0.027)	0.772*** (0.029)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.408	0.431
Adjusted R ²	0.406	0.429
Residual Std. Error	0.297 (df = 4093)	0.292 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	176.524*** (df = 16; 4093)	163.187*** (df = 19; 4090)
Note:	3	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 3: Social Media News Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.121*** (0.017)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.185*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.199*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	-0.025 (0.029)	-0.014 (0.028)
Age	-0.256*** (0.020)	-0.218*** (0.020)
White	-0.537*** (0.028)	-0.447*** (0.029)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	-0.537*** (0.018)	-0.462*** (0.019)
Moderate Independent	0.002 (0.016)	0.005 (0.015)
Conservative Independent	0.026* (0.015)	0.018 (0.015)
Republican	0.0002 (0.018)	-0.007 (0.017)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	0.048*** (0.016)	0.042*** (0.015)
Associate's or two-year degree	0.033** (0.017)	0.024 (0.016)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	0.040*** (0.010)	0.038*** (0.009)
Graduate degree	0.0003 (0.0003)	-0.0002 (0.0003)
Social Media News Interactions		
News from Social Media : Democrat	0.030** (0.013)	0.023* (0.013)
News from Social Media : Liberal Independent	-0.019 (0.035)	-0.023 (0.035)
News from Social Media : Moderate Independent	-0.042 (0.027)	-0.039 (0.027)
News from Social Media : Conservative Independent	0.058 (0.038)	0.028 (0.037)
News from Social Media : Republican	-0.004 (0.024)	-0.011 (0.023)
Constant	0.892*** (0.026)	0.746*** (0.028)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.400	0.426
Adjusted R ²	0.398	0.424
Residual Std. Error	0.299 (df = 4093)	0.293 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	170.840*** (df = 16; 4093)	159.976*** (df = 19; 4090)
Note:	4	*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 4: Radio News Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.123*** (0.017)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.188*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.203*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	-0.043** (0.021)	-0.029 (0.021)
Age	-0.283*** (0.017)	-0.241*** (0.018)
White	-0.505*** (0.025)	-0.415*** (0.025)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	-0.541*** (0.015)	-0.461*** (0.016)
Moderate Independent	-0.006 (0.016)	-0.006 (0.016)
Conservative Independent	0.026* (0.015)	0.019 (0.015)
Republican	0.001 (0.018)	-0.006 (0.017)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	0.049*** (0.016)	0.044*** (0.015)
Associate's or two-year degree	0.034** (0.017)	0.026 (0.016)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	0.040*** (0.010)	0.037*** (0.009)
Graduate degree	0.0003 (0.0003)	-0.0002 (0.0003)
Radio News Interactions		
News from Radio : Democrat	0.031** (0.013)	0.023* (0.013)
News from Radio : Liberal Independent	0.015 (0.035)	0.001 (0.034)
News from Radio : Moderate Independent	0.013 (0.028)	0.007 (0.027)
News from Radio : Conservative Independent	0.002 (0.038)	-0.033 (0.037)
News from Radio : Republican	0.005 (0.024)	-0.014 (0.024)
Constant	0.892*** (0.025)	0.746*** (0.027)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.400	0.426
Adjusted R ²	0.397	0.424
Residual Std. Error	0.300 (df = 4093)	0.293 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	170.197*** (df = 16; 4093)	159.881*** (df = 19; 4090)

Note:

5

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Table 5: Podcast News Effects of Partisan Views on January 6

	Importance of Accountability	
	(1)	(2)
Attention Paid to Committee Hearings		
A little attention paid to hearings		0.120*** (0.016)
Some attention paid to hearings		0.189*** (0.015)
A lot of attention paid to hearings		0.206*** (0.016)
Demographics		
Female	-0.034* (0.020)	-0.022 (0.020)
Age	-0.241*** (0.016)	-0.200*** (0.016)
White	-0.490*** (0.022)	-0.404*** (0.023)
Partisan ID (reference: Democrat)		
Liberal Independent	-0.529*** (0.014)	-0.453*** (0.015)
Moderate Independent	-0.008 (0.019)	-0.013 (0.019)
Conservative Independent	0.029* (0.015)	0.021 (0.015)
Republican	0.005 (0.017)	-0.002 (0.017)
Education (reference: Highschool or less)		
Some college, but no degree	0.054*** (0.016)	0.048*** (0.015)
Associate's or two-year degree	0.038** (0.017)	0.028* (0.016)
Bachelor's or four-year degree	0.039*** (0.010)	0.036*** (0.009)
Graduate degree	0.0001 (0.0003)	-0.001* (0.0003)
Podcast News Interactions		
News from Podcasts : Democrat	0.027** (0.013)	0.020 (0.013)
News from Podcasts : Liberal Independent	-0.017 (0.037)	-0.025 (0.036)
News from Podcasts : Moderate Independent	-0.149*** (0.032)	-0.151*** (0.031)
News from Podcasts : Conservative Independent	-0.046 (0.041)	-0.074* (0.041)
News from Podcasts : Republican	-0.042 (0.028)	-0.045* (0.027)
Constant	0.908*** (0.025)	0.764*** (0.027)
Observations	4,110	4,110
R ²	0.406	0.434
Adjusted R ²	0.404	0.431
Residual Std. Error	0.298 (df = 4093)	0.291 (df = 4090)
F Statistic	174.863*** (df = 16; 4093)	164.813*** (df = 19; 4090)

Note:

6

*p<0.1; **p<0.05; ***p<0.01

Appendix C: Incorporating Jan 6 Attention Controls

We were curious to find out if part or most of the interaction effect of news sources on the relationship between partisan ideologies and accountability views might be driven by differences in the amount of attention respondents had paid to the January 6 committee hearings, as different types of news sources covered the hearings to very different degrees. Thus we ran a version of our model where we incorporated reported attention paid to the January 6 committee hearings as a control.

Respondents could indicate whether they had paid attention “a lot”, “some”, “a little”, or “none at all” to the committee hearings. While incorporating this factor slightly reduced the interaction effect for some types of media, it was a very small reduction and did not change our substantive findings in any case. We provide the side-by-side plots of the two models below and the regression table outputs for the two models can be found in Appendix B.

