

Even Split on Nixon Quitting

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As President Nixon begins his sixth and most critical year in office, the public is evenly divided on whether he should resign from office, with 46 per cent in favor and 46 per cent opposed. Only 8 per cent are undecided on the issue.

At the same time, however, a majority of Americans oppose removing the President from office through the process of impeachment. The latest findings, based on a survey completed prior to recent testimony concerning erasures of a key White House tape, show 53 per cent opposed to impeaching Mr. Nixon and compelling him to leave the presidency. This compares to 37 per cent who would favor such a course of action. One person in ten is undecided.

Some favor resignation but oppose impeachment because they believe the latter course of action would be detrimental to the best interests of the nation and would further sully our image abroad.

Groups most in favor of Mr. Nixon's resigning or being compelled to leave office through impeachment are non-whites, young adults and persons living in the east.

Opinion on these issues has a strongly partisan flavor politically, with the overwhelming majority of Republicans opposed to either course of action, but with Democrats leaning heavily in favor of both resignation and impeachment. The opinions of independents are about midway between those of Republicans and Democrats and very close to the views of the nation as a whole.

"Do you think President Nixon should resign from the presidency, or not?"

Here are the key findings:

SHOULD MR. NIXON RESIGN?

	Yes, Sh'd	No, Sh'd Not	No Opin'n
National	46%	46%	8%
Whites	43	49	8
Non-Whites	71	20	9
College	48	46	6
High School	48	45	7
Grade School	39	49	12
18-29 Years	58	35	7
30-49 Years	46	46	8
50 and Over	38	54	8
East	54	38	8
Midwest	45	49	6
South	38	52	10
West	47	45	8
Republicans	19	76	5
Democrats	67	25	8
Independents	43	48	9

Following is the question asked to determine attitudes on removing Mr. Nixon from office through impeachment:

"Do you think President Nixon should be impeached or compelled to leave the presidency, or not?"

The following table shows the latest nationwide results and trend, showing little change since early November:

SHOULD MR. NIXON BE COMPELLED TO LEAVE PRESIDENCY?

	Yes	No	No Opin'n
Jan. 4-7	37%	53%	10%
Nov. 30-Dec. 3	35	54	11
Nov. 2-5	37	54	9
Oct. 19-22	33	52	15
Aug. 3-6	26	61	13
July 6-9	24	62	14
June 22-25	19	69	12

Here are the results of the latest survey by population groups:

SHOULD MR. NIXON BE IMPEACHED AND COMPELLED TO LEAVE OFFICE?

	Yes Sh'd	No, Sh'd Not	No Opin'n
National	37%	53%	10%
Whites	34	57	9
Non-Whites	60	26	14
College	36	57	7
High School	39	51	10
Grade School	31	55	14
18-29 Years	50	42	8
30-49 Years	36	54	10
50 and Over	28	60	12
East	43	48	9
Midwest	34	58	8
South	30	57	13
West	40	49	11
Republicans	13	82	5
Democrats	53	35	12
Independents	36	54	10

The findings reported today are based on a national survey of 1504 adults, 18 and older, interviewed in person in more than 300 scientifically selected localities during the period January 4-7.