TOPLINES

Student Debt Cancelation Receives a Failing Grade from Voters

September 2024



Rainey Center



Rainey Center fielded an online survey of 1,010 respondents over web panels from July 14-15, 2024 and weighted it to education, gender, race and 2020 election results. The margin of error is +/- 4.0.

Do you think President Biden has done a good or poor job of implementing student loan debt forgiveness?

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Very Good	17	37	11	2
Somewhat Good	25	40	27	7
Somewhat Poor	13	14	14	12
Very Poor	33	5	27	67
Don't Know	12	4	21	12

President Biden has implemented several student loan forgiveness programs thus far. Which of these do you support or oppose? Automatically canceling debt for borrowers who would otherwise be eligible for loan forgiveness under income-driven repayment (IDR) plans, like the SAVE Plan, or Public Service Loan Forgiveness but are not enrolled in those programs.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	27	47	24	10
Somewhat Support	22	33	20	13
Somewhat Oppose	12	8	11	18
Strongly Oppose	23	3	21	45
Don't Know	16	9	25	14
Support	49	80	43	23
Oppose	35	11	32	63
Net Support	14	69	12	-41

President Biden has implemented several student loan forgiveness programs thus far. Which of these do you support or oppose? Providing student loan forgiveness for students who attended fraudulent universities.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	31	49	33	12
Somewhat Support	20	22	19	19
Somewhat Oppose	9	10	9	8
Strongly Oppose	24	8	17	47
Don't Know	15	11	22	14
Support	52	71	52	31
Oppose	33	18	26	55
Net Support	19	54	25	-24

President Biden has implemented several student loan forgiveness programs thus far. Which of these do you support or oppose? Canceling student debt for borrowers with undergraduate loans who entered repayment at least 20 years ago and debt for graduate school borrowers who entered repayment at least 25 years ago.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	31	54	27	10
Somewhat Support	20	26	20	16
Somewhat Oppose	12	9	12	16
Strongly Oppose	23	4	20	47
Don't Know	13	8	21	12
Support	51	80	47	25
Oppose	36	13	32	63
Net Support	16	67	15	-38

President Biden has implemented several student loan forgiveness programs thus far. Which of these do you support or oppose? Canceling student debt for borrowers who previously enrolled in low-financial-value programs.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	24	42	21	9
Somewhat Support	24	30	27	15
Somewhat Oppose	12	13	9	16
Strongly Oppose	24	5	20	49
Don't Know	15	10	23	12
Support	48	72	48	23
Oppose	37	17	29	64
Net Support	11	55	19	-41

President Biden has implemented several student loan forgiveness programs thus far. Which of these do you support or oppose? Canceling student debt for borrowers experiencing hardship in their lives that prevents them from fully paying back their loans now or in the future.

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Strongly Support	30	53	28	9
Somewhat Support	23	31	22	16
Somewhat Oppose	13	9	10	19
Strongly Oppose	21	1	20	44
Don't Know	12	6	19	12
Support	53	84	50	25
Oppose	34	10	30	63
Net Support	19	74	20	-38

When it comes to President Biden's student loan policies, which comes closer to your view?

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
President Biden Has Gone Far Enough in Forgiving Student Loan Debt	39	20	34	65
President Biden Should Keep Chipping Away So More People's Loans are Forgiven	40	66	34	18
Don't Know	21	14	32	17

Regardless of your views on student debt cancellation as a policy, do you think President Biden has the legal authority to cancel student loan debt?

	All	Dem.	Ind.	Rep.
Has the Legal Authority	39	67	33	16
Does Not Have the Legal Authority	36	15	26	67
Don't Know	25	18	40	17





Rainey Center

(202) 350-1689
info@raineycenter.org
raineycenter.org