

POLL REPORT: MATT GAETZ SCANDAL & POLITICAL CONSEQUENCES

The #GaetzGate scandal has dominated the news cycle this past week. But what do Gaetz's voters think? Is he guilty? Should he resign? If so, who should replace him? Read on to find out.

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Poll conducted April 9, 2021 via IVR among more than 400 Republican respondents in FL-1.





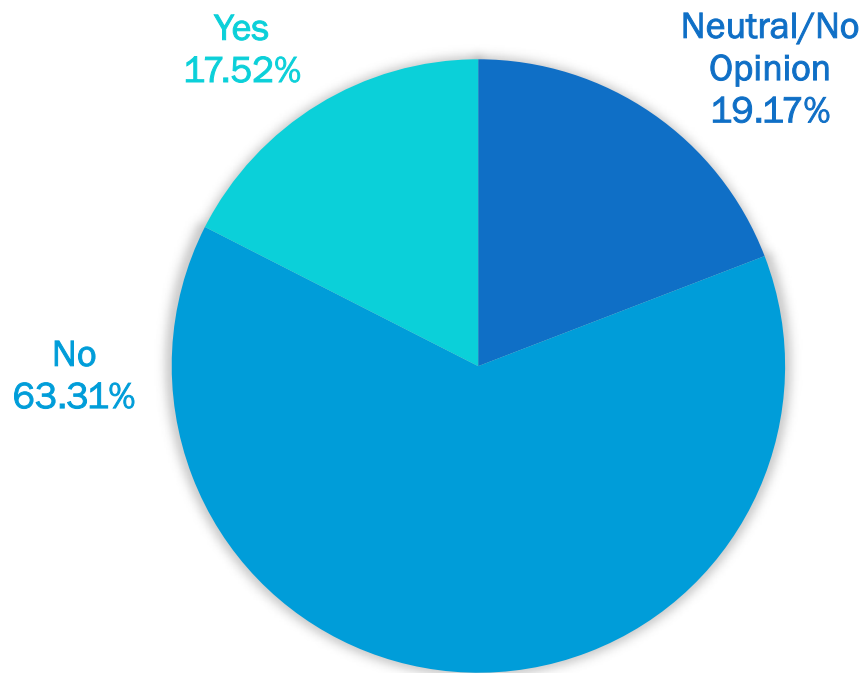
(A) Executive Summary: Matt Gaetz Poll Results

More than a week ago, the story broke: Matt Gaetz was under investigation for potentially engaging in sex trafficking. Since then, there have been many important developments. Gaetz has vehemently denied any allegations of illegal behavior. Joel Greenberg, an associate of Gaetz's who was also under investigation, reportedly reached a plea deal. Even Former President Donald Trump weighed in with a short statement. **But what does Matt Gaetz's base – the Republican voters of Florida's 1st Congressional District – think of all this?**

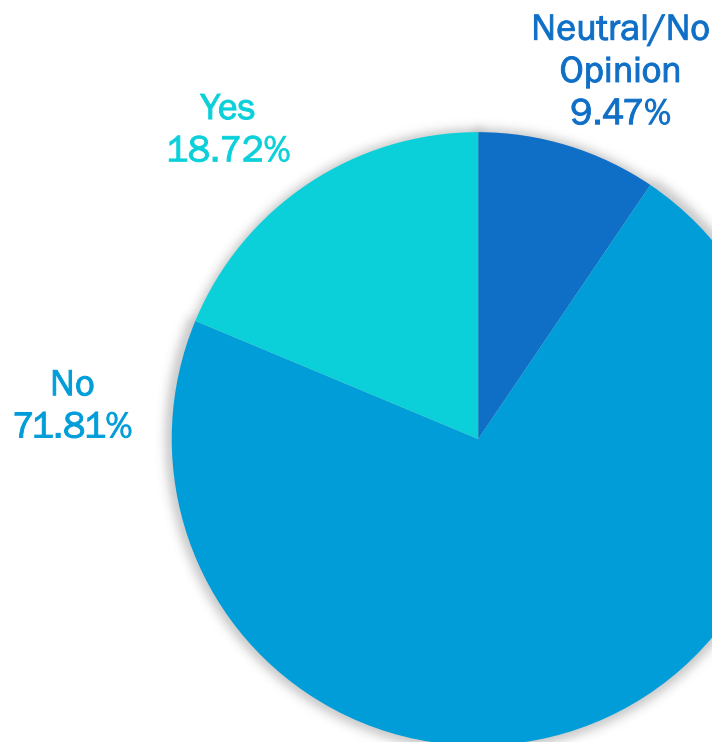
- **More than 18% of FL-1 Republicans believe Gaetz should resign.** Additionally, nearly 10% are unsure. While not exceedingly high, these numbers indicate that at least some part of Gaetz's base has already abandoned him.
- **Slightly fewer voters believe Gaetz is guilty.** Just under 18% of FL-1 Republicans believe Gaetz is guilty of sex trafficking, but more than 19% are neutral or have no opinion yet.
- **More than 85% of those who believe Gaetz should resign believe he is guilty.** This suggests that if Gaetz is somehow able to prove his innocence, he could recover a sizable portion of the support that he's lost.
- **State Senator Doug Broxson is an early favorite for Gaetz's seat if he resigns.** Broxson picked up more than 17% of the vote, which is 10% higher than any other candidate. Gaetz's perpetual primary opponent, Cris Dosev, came in second with 7%, and Florida CFO Jimmy Patronis took third place with 5%. However, more than half of voters remained undecided.
- **Interesting patterns arise when you compare support for resignation with the hypothetical FL-1 Republican field.** Broxson's broad support suggests high name ID, while Dosev's support among those in favor of resignation suggests he fills the anti-Gaetz lane.

Read on for more detailed results.

(B) Do You Believe Matt Gaetz is Guilty?

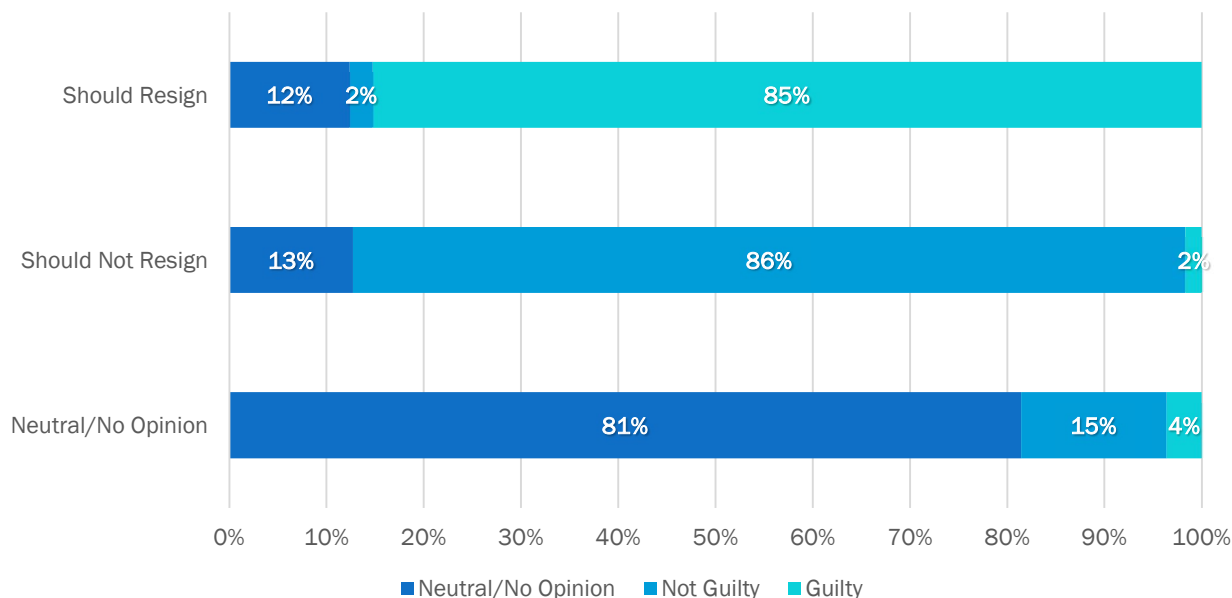


(C) Should Matt Gaetz Resign?



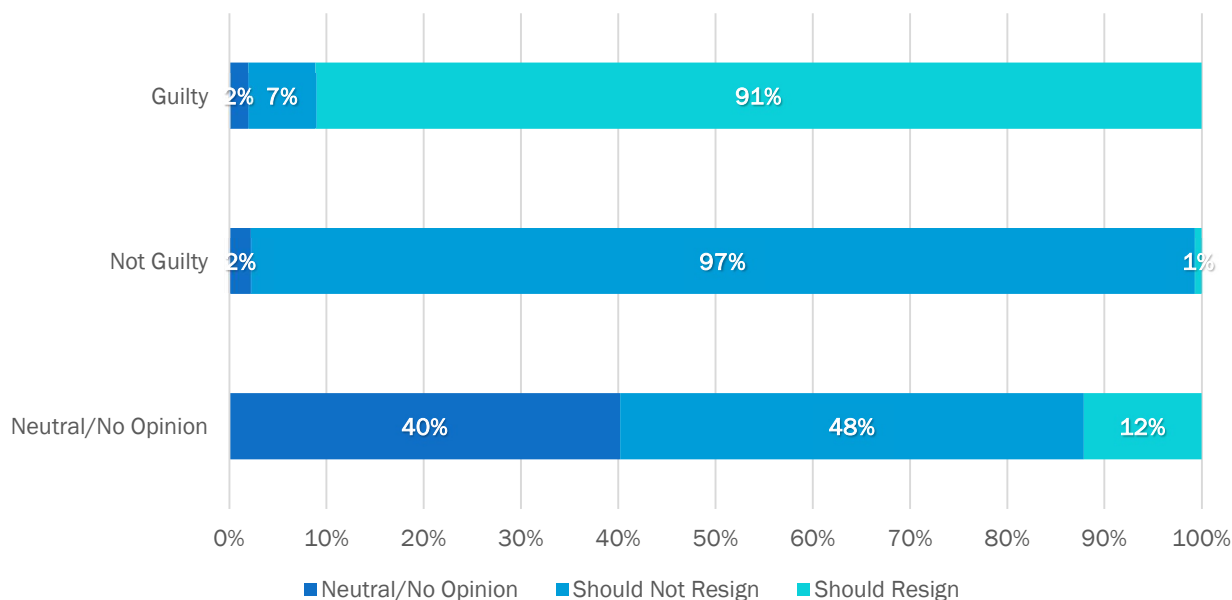
(D) Correlation Between Guilt and Resignation (Part 1)

If Gaetz is in fact innocent, this data could be a silver lining for him, as it suggests that if voters no longer believe he is guilty, he could regain the support of more than 85% of those who believe he should resign.

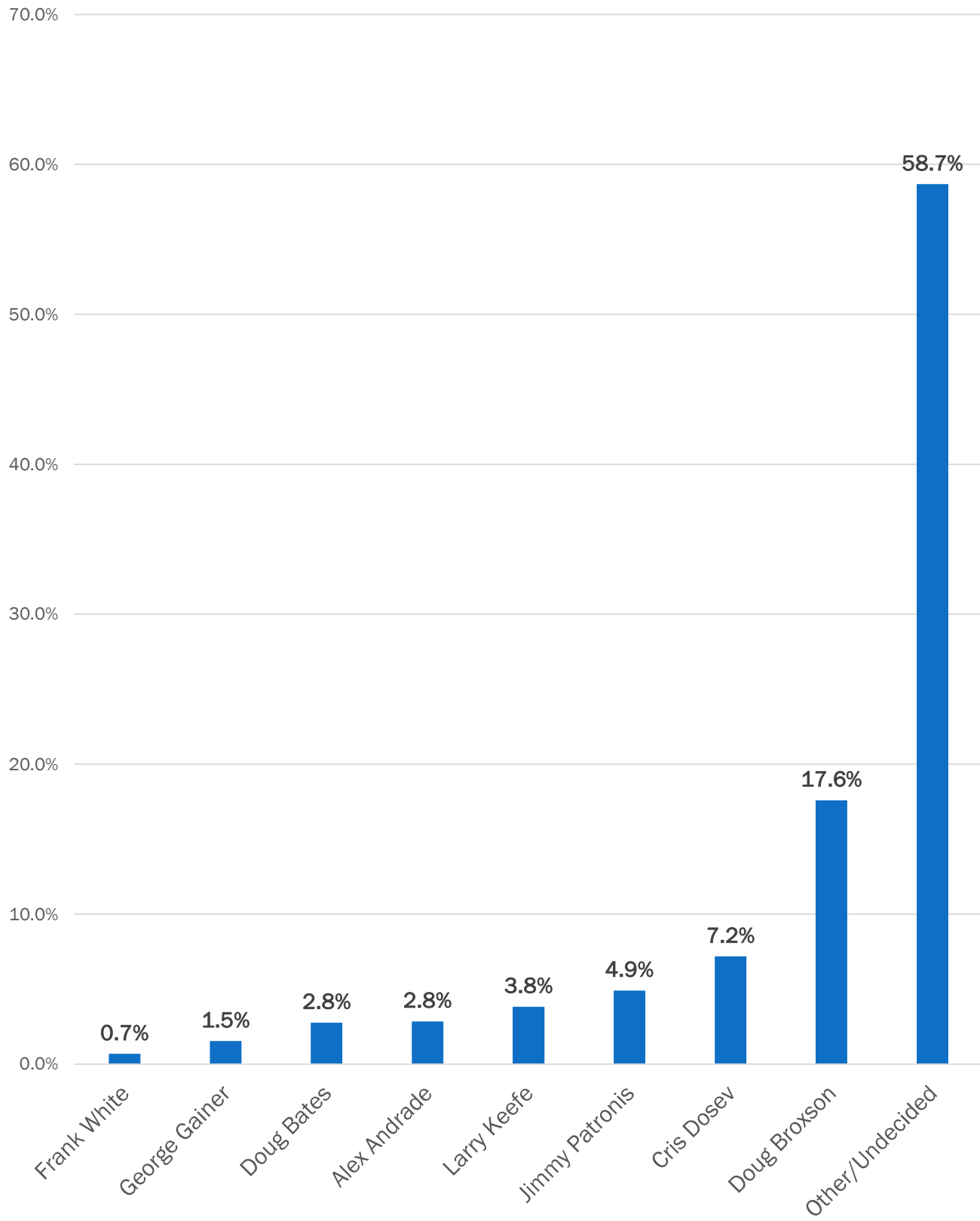


(E) Correlation Between Guilt and Resignation (Part 2)

The following graph shows the reverse of the information in the above graph. As would be expected, whether a voter believes Matt Gaetz is guilty of sex trafficking is a very strong predictor for whether or not they believe he should resign. Surprisingly, 7% of FL-1 Republican voters who believe Gaetz is guilty do not believe he should even resign.



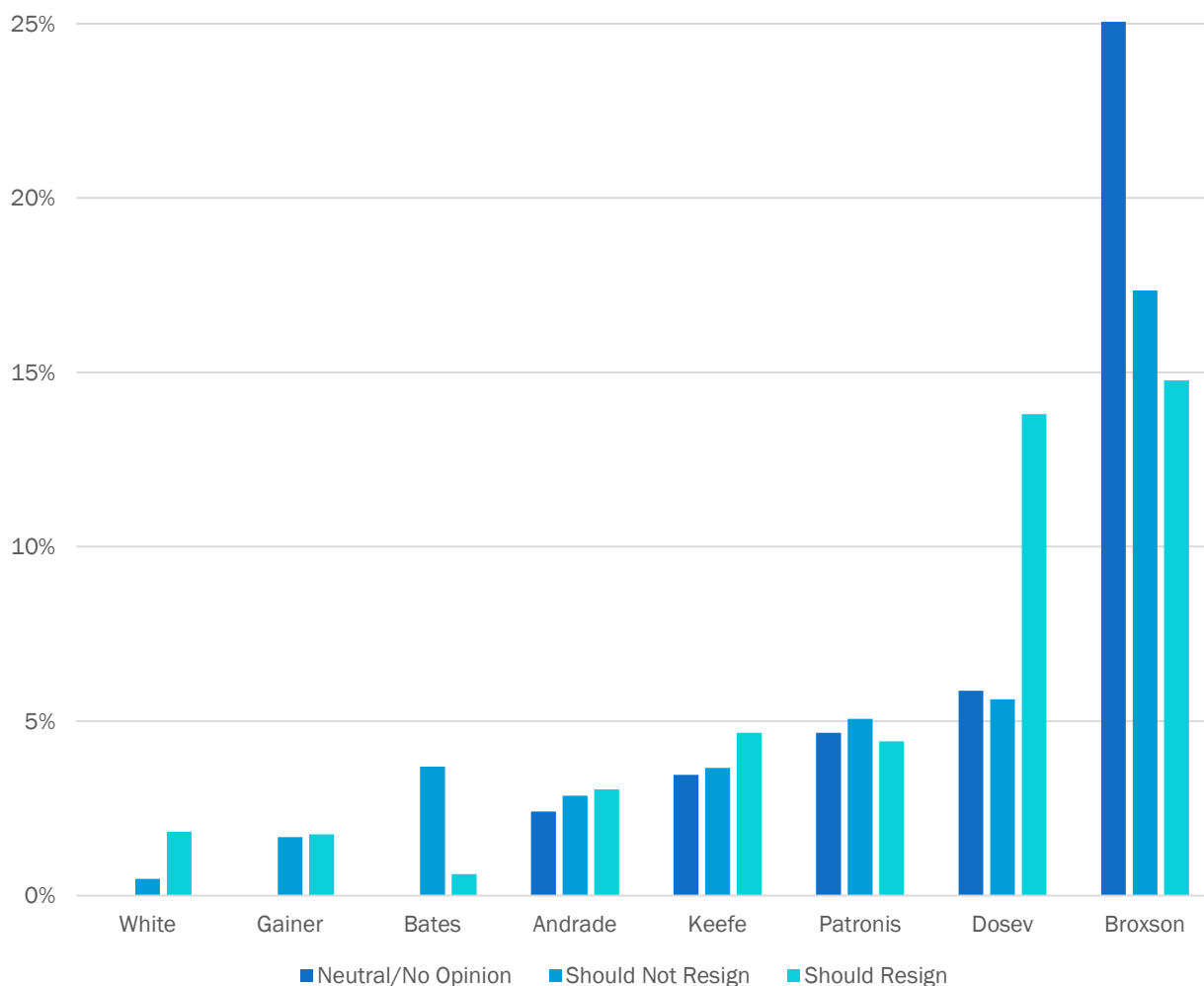
(F) FL-1 Republican Nomination if Gaetz Resigns



(G) FL-1 Republican Nomination By Resignation Answer

Several data points provide interesting insights into the race. Here are a few:

- Broxson dominates the vote among those who are neutral or have no opinion about Gaetz's resignation. As these voters do not have strong feelings either way towards resignation, it's likely that they are not as in tune with political news as the other groups. Their overwhelming support for Broxson suggests that he has high name ID among Republicans in general.
- Dosev was one of Gaetz's main opponents in the 2016 Republican primary for FL-1 and challenged Gaetz again in 2018. Thus, Dosev enjoys a significant spike among those who believe Gaetz should resign. However, Dosev might need to tread carefully in the anti-Gaetz lane, as most Republicans still believe that Gaetz should stay in office.



Note: The Other/Undecided option was removed from the above graph for readability purposes, but all three values were between 55% and 60%.



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