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U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election: A Nation Divided

Deep partisan divisions exist in the news sources Americans trust, distrust and rely on

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How we did this

As the news media landscape continues to evolve, Americans' news habits are also changing. In this study, we take a snapshot of the news outlets people rely on and trust for news about politics and the upcoming national elections. We examine responses based on party identification to see whether Republicans and Democrats are turning to similar, or different, sources of information.

To do this, we surveyed 12,043 U.S. adults in October and November of 2019 and asked whether they had heard of or used any of 30 media sources, chosen so that respondents were asked about a range of news media across different platforms. Everyone who took part is a member of Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national, random sampling of residential addresses. Recruiting our panelists by phone or mail ensures that nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. This gives us confidence that any sample can represent the whole population. To further ensure that each survey reflects a balanced cross section of the nation, the data are weighted to match the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories.

For more, see the report's methodology and this Q&A about the project. You can also find the questions we asked, and the answers the public provided, in this topline.

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U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election: A Nation Divided

Deep partisan divisions exist in the news sources Americans trust, distrust and rely on

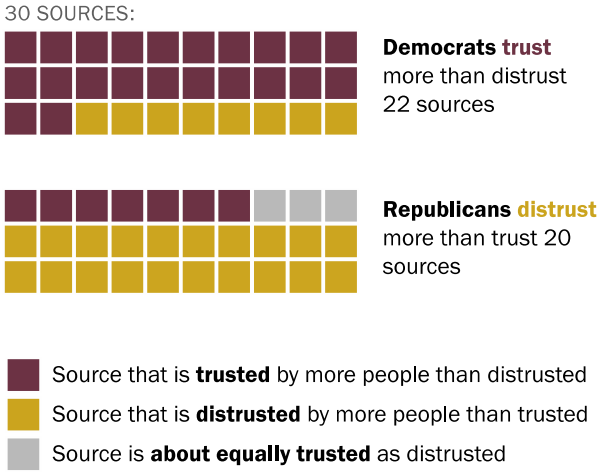
As the U.S. enters a heated 2020 presidential election year, a new Pew Research Center report finds that Republicans and Democrats place their trust in two nearly inverse news media environments.

Overall, Republicans and Republican-leaning independents view many heavily relied on sources across a range of platforms as untrustworthy. At the same time, Democrats and independents who lean Democratic see most of those sources as credible and rely on them to a far greater degree, according to the survey of 12,043 U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29–Nov. 11, 2019, on Pew Research Center's American Trends Panel.

These divides are even more pronounced between conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats.

Democrats express more trust of most news sources asked about; Republicans express more distrust

Number of sources more trusted and more distrusted for political and election news, among 30 asked about



Note: Partisans include leaners.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019. "U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election: A Nation Divided"

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Moreover, evidence suggests that partisan polarization in the use and trust of media sources has widened in the past five years. A comparison to a similar study by the Center of web-using U.S. adults in 2014 finds that Republicans have grown increasingly alienated from most of the more established sources, while Democrats' confidence in them remains stable, and in some cases, has strengthened.

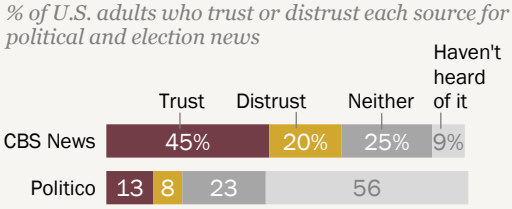
The study asked about use of, trust in, and distrust of 30 different news sources for political and election news. While it is impossible to represent the entire crowded media space, the outlets, which range from network television news to Rush Limbaugh to the New York Times to the Washington Examiner to HuffPost, were selected to represent popular media brands across a range of platforms.

Greater portions of Republicans express distrust than express trust of 20 of the 30 sources asked about. Only seven outlets generate more trust than distrust among Republicans – including Fox News and the talk radio programs of hosts Sean Hannity and Rush Limbaugh.

How we asked about trust and distrust

Respondents were first asked if they heard of the source, then if so, whether they trust or distrust it for political and election news and whether they got political and election news there in the past week. The two examples below show one outlet (CBS News) that is heard of by the vast majority of U.S. adults and is also trusted by far more people than distrusted, and another outlet (Politico) that has been heard of by far fewer adults (44%) but is still trusted by more people than distrusted, even though just 13% of the public expresses trust. See the methodology for a description of how the 30 outlets were selected.

% of U.S. adults who trust or distrust each source for political and election news



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019

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For Democrats, the numbers are almost reversed. Greater portions of Democrats express trust than express distrust in 22 of the 30 sources asked about. Only eight generate more distrust than trust – including Fox News, Sean Hannity and Rush Limbaugh.

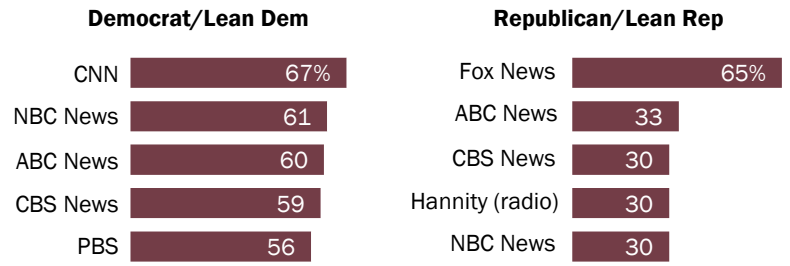
Another way to look at the diverging partisan views of media credibility: Almost half of the sources included in this report (13) are trusted by at least 33% of Democrats, but only two are trusted by at least 33% of Republicans.

Republicans' lower trust in a variety of measured news sources coincides with their infrequent use. Overall, only one source, Fox News, was used by at least one-third of Republicans for political and election news in the past week. There are five different sources from which at least one-third of Democrats received political or election news in the last week (CNN, NBC News, ABC News, CBS News and MSNBC).

And in what epitomizes this era of polarized news, none of the 30 sources is trusted by more than 50% of all U.S. adults.

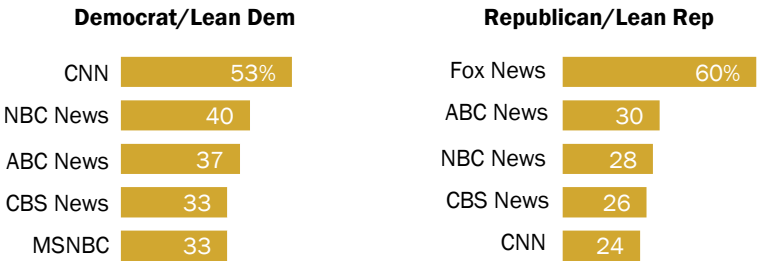
Republicans place trust in one source, Fox News, far more than any other ...

% who trust each source for political and election news (first 5 shown)



... and rely on Fox News far more for political news

% who got political and election news from each source in the past week (first 5 shown)



Note: Order of outlets does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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The Fox News phenomenon

In the more compact Republican media ecosystem, one outlet towers above all others: Fox News. It would be hard to overstate its connection as a trusted go-to source of political news for Republicans.

About two-thirds (65%) of Republicans and Republican leaners say they trust Fox News as a source. Additionally, 60% say they got political or election news there in the past week.

Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, CNN (67%) is about as trusted a source of information as Fox News is among Republicans. The cable network is also Democrats' most commonly turned to source for political and election news, with about half (53%) saying they got news there in the past week.

The big difference is that while no other source comes close to rivaling Fox News' appeal to Republicans, a number of sources other than CNN are also highly trusted and frequently used by Democrats.

The impact of political ideology on Americans' trust in news outlets

The partisan gaps become even more dramatic when looking at the parties' ideological poles – conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats.[1] About two-thirds of liberal Democrats (66%) trust The New York Times, for example. In comparison, just 10% of conservative Republicans trust the Times, while 50% outright distrust it. Rush Limbaugh, meanwhile, is the third-most trusted source among conservative Republicans (38%) but tied for the second-most distrusted source among liberal Democrats (55%).

[1] Liberal Democrats are Democrats and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party who say they are liberal or very liberal. Conservative Republicans are Republicans or Republican leaners who say they are conservative or very conservative.

At the same time, the gap is less pronounced among the more moderate segments in each party. For example, three-quarters of conservative Republicans trust Fox News, while just about half (51%) of moderate or liberal Republicans do. Conversely, moderate and conservative Democrats are more than twice as likely as liberal Democrats to trust Fox News (32% vs. 12%).

Ideology adds another layer to party-line divides of most trusted and distrusted news sources

% who trust each source for political and election news (first five shown)

Democrat/Lean Dem				Republican/Lean Rep			
LIBERAL		MODERATE/ CONSERVATIVE		MODERATE/ LIBERAL		**CONSERVATIVE**	
CNN	70%	CNN	65%	Fox News	51%	Fox News	75%
New York Times	66	ABC News	63	ABC News	47	Hannity (radio)	43
PBS	66	NBC News	61	CBS News	42	Limbaugh (radio)	38
NPR	63	CBS News	60	NBC News	41	ABC News	24
NBC News	61	PBS	48	CNN	36	CBS News	23

% who distrust each source for political and election news (first five shown)

Democrat/Lean Dem				Republican/Lean Rep			
LIBERAL		MODERATE/ CONSERVATIVE		MODERATE/ LIBERAL		**CONSERVATIVE**	
Fox News	77%	Fox News	48%	CNN	43%	CNN	67%
Limbaugh (radio)	55	Limbaugh (radio)	34	MSNBC	32	MSNBC	57
Breitbart	53	Hannity (radio)	28	HuffPost	30	New York Times	50
Hannity (radio)	50	Breitbart	22	BuzzFeed	29	NBC News	50
NY Post	27	BuzzFeed	20	Fox News	29	CBS News	48

Note: Order of outlets does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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The divide widens over time

There is also evidence that suggests that these partisan divides have grown over the past five years, particularly with more Republicans voicing distrust in a number of sources. A comparison to a similar study of web-using U.S. adults conducted by the Center in 2014 finds that Republicans' distrust increased for 15 of the 20 sources asked about in both years – with notable growth in Republicans' distrust of CNN, The Washington Post, and The New York Times.

Democrats' levels of trust and distrust in media sources have changed considerably less than Republicans' during this time span. Even accounting for the modest methodological differences

between the two studies, these differences hold. (Details about the two studies can be found in the methodology.)

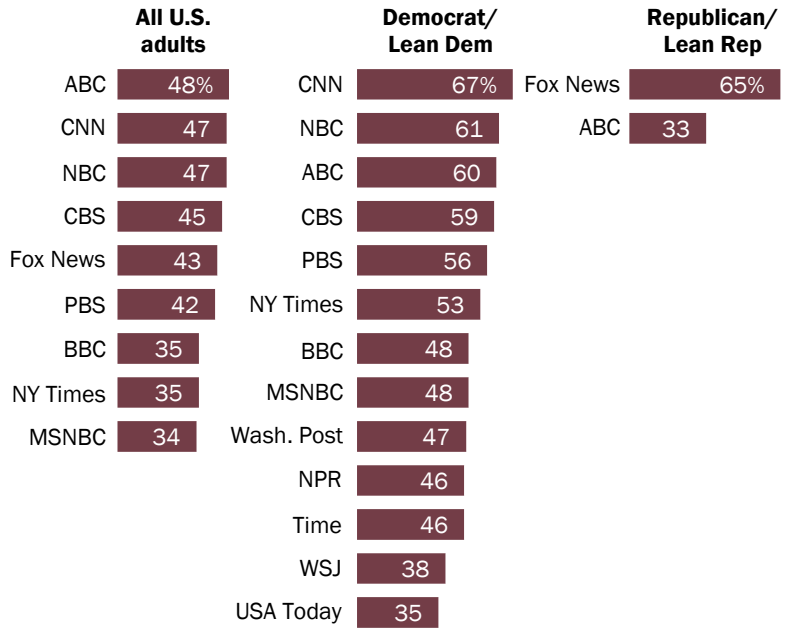
All in all, it's not that partisans live in entirely separate media bubbles when it comes to political news. There is some overlap in news sources, but determining the full extent of that overlap can be difficult to gauge. One factor is that getting news from a source does not always mean trusting that source. Indeed, the data reveals that while 24% of Republicans got news from CNN in the past week, roughly four-in-ten who did (39%) say they distrust the outlet. And of the 23% of Democrats who got political news from Fox News in the past week, nearly three-in-ten (27%) distrust it.

1. Democrats report much higher levels of trust in a number of news sources than Republicans

One of the clearest differences between Americans on opposing sides of the political aisle is that large portions of Democrats express trust in a far greater number of news sources.

Large differences in news sources trusted by Democrats and Republicans

% who trust each source for political and election news (sources trusted by 33% or more shown)



Note: Order of outlets does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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This analysis asked individuals about 30 specific news sources across different platforms, selected on a range of measures including audience size, topic areas covered and relevance to political news. (For more details, see the methodology.) Respondents were shown grids of sources and asked to click on those they had heard of. Among the outlets respondents had heard of, they were asked to then click on those they trusted and then those they distrusted for political and election news. It's worth noting that trust and distrust figures are somewhat dependent on how much of the population has heard of the source. Outlets with low awareness among the public, for example, would also necessarily have smaller portions who could express trust or distrust.

Almost half (13) of the 30 sources asked about are trusted by at least 33% of Democrats, and six are trusted by at least 50%. Among Democrats and Democratic leaners, CNN sits at the top, trusted by two-thirds (67%) of Democrats. That is followed by the three commercial broadcast networks, all closely bunched together: NBC News (61% of Democrats), ABC News (60%) and CBS News (59%).

Also trusted by at least 50% of Democrats are the public television outlet PBS (56%) and The New York Times (53%). Next come the United Kingdom-based public media outlet BBC (48%), the cable channel MSNBC (48%) and The Washington Post (47%). Public radio outlet NPR and Time magazine are each trusted by 46% of Democrats.

ACCORDION: How respondents were asked about 30 sources

Respondents were shown grids of 30 news outlets and asked to select the ones that they had heard of. If they had heard of an outlet, they were asked if they trusted it for political and election news. If they didn't say that they trust an outlet, they were then asked if they distrusted it. Finally, respondents were asked if they had gotten political or election news in the past week from any of the outlets they had heard about. See the methodology for more details.

Conversely, after the 65% of Republicans and Republican leaners who trust Fox News as a source, trust levels drop precipitously. The only other source trusted by as many as one-third of Republicans is ABC (33% of Republicans), followed closely by CBS, NBC and the Sean Hannity radio show (all at 30%). Even though the three broadcast networks rank among Republicans' top five most-trusted sources, only about half as many Republicans as Democrats trust them.

Similarly, the percentage of Republicans who trust The New York Times (15%) and The Washington Post (13%) is about a third of the share of Democrats who do.

Trust measures for the full list of sources can be found in the sortable tables below, but in all, 18 sources are trusted by fewer than 20% of Republicans, compared with 13 trusted by fewer than 20% of Democrats.

Distrust levels offer a near reverse image of party-line gaps in trust

It is one thing to not express trust in an outlet; voicing outright distrust is another matter. Hefty party-line differences come through when looking at levels of distrust as well.

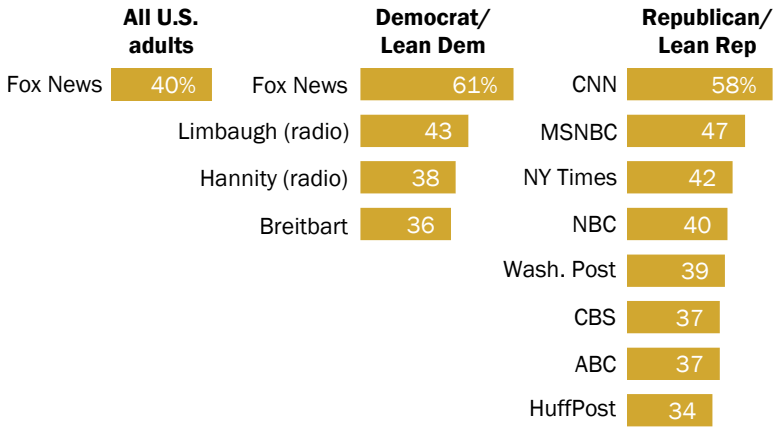
Only four of the 30 sources in this study are distrusted by one-third or more Democrats and Democratic leaners. At the top of the list by a wide margin is Fox News, distrusted by 61% of Democrats for political and election news.

Other sources distrusted by a third or more of Democrats are Rush Limbaugh (43%), the Sean Hannity radio show (38%) and Breitbart (36%). Here is it worth noting that only between 40% and 50% of Democrats have heard of those sources, which means the vast majority who could weigh in express distrust.

Beyond these news outlets, there is little Democratic distrust to go around. Fewer than 10% of Democrats distrust the three major commercial broadcast networks, the two U.S. public media sources (NPR and PBS), the two weekly news magazines (Newsweek and Time magazine) or the four daily newspapers with a national reach. These numbers are another way of reflecting Democrats' confidence in many sources in this study.

Large differences in news sources distrusted by Democrats and Republicans

% who distrust each source for political and election news (sources distrusted by 33% or more shown)



Note: Order of outlets does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.
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Among Republicans and Republican leaners, distrust of media sources is more common. Eight sources – twice as many as the Democrats' total — are distrusted by at least one-third of Republicans. At the top of the list is CNN, which is distrusted by 58% of Republicans. Then come MSNBC (distrusted by 47%), The New York Times (42%), NBC (40%), The Washington Post (39%), CBS (37%), ABC (37%) and HuffPost (34%).

All of these sources, with the exception of HuffPost, are distrusted by 10% or fewer of Democrats – and trusted by 47% or more.

Conversely, the four sources distrusted by the most Democrats – Sean Hannity, Breitbart, Rush Limbaugh and Fox News – are distrusted by 20% or fewer of Republicans.

Ratios of trust and distrust in news sources help tell the story

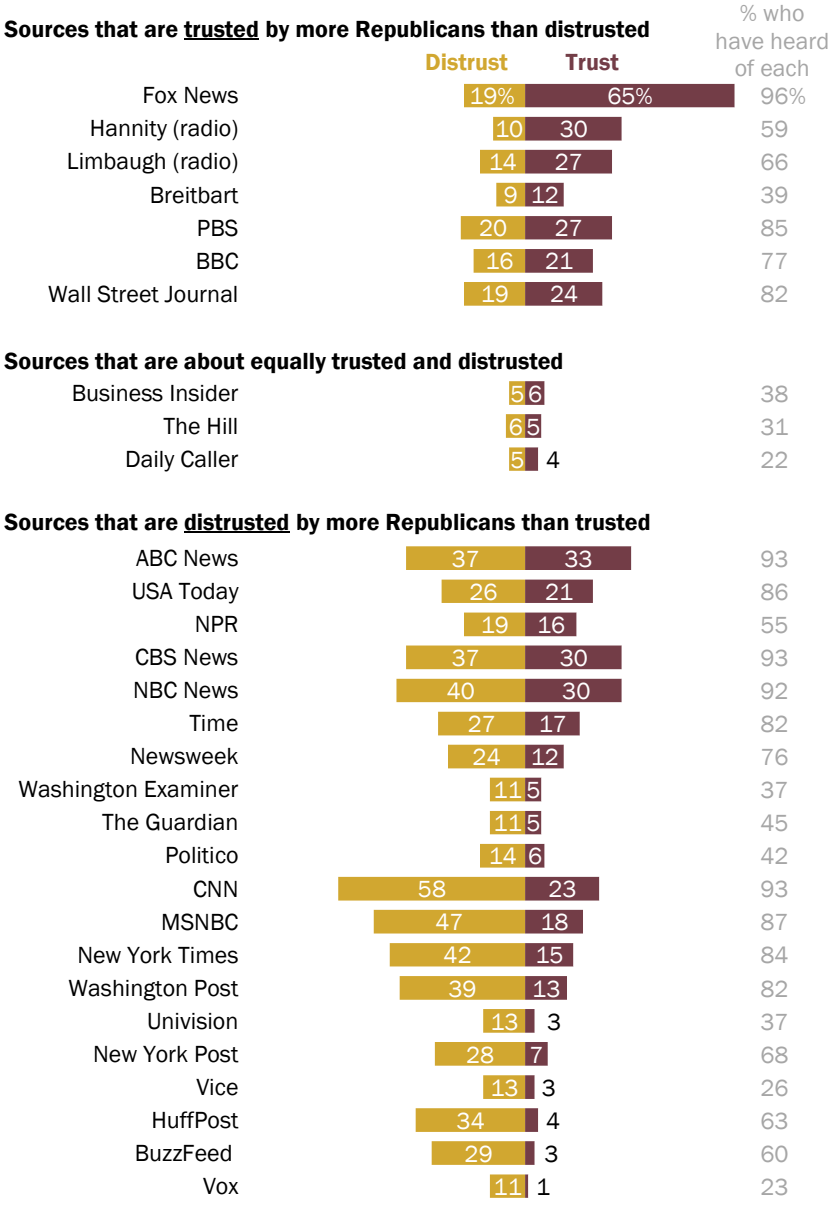
The extent of partisan media polarization – the fundamental divergence over the credibility of news sources – may be most clearly reflected by looking at trust and distrust together.

Of the 30 sources examined in this study, there are seven that Republicans (and those who lean Republican) trust more than they distrust for political and election news, 20 are distrusted by more Republicans than trusted, and three receive a mixed verdict.

Among Democrats (and those who lean Democratic),

Republicans' trust and distrust of news sources asked about

% of Republicans and Republican leaners who trust or distrust each source for political and election news



Note: Those who neither trust nor distrust, hadn't heard of each source, or did not answer are not shown. Grouping of outlets is determined by whether the percent who trust each source is significantly different from the percent who distrust each source. Outlets are then ordered by the proportion of trust to distrust. Order of outlets within each group does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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the numbers are close to reversed: 22 sources are trusted by more Democrats than distrusted, while eight are distrusted by more Democrats than trusted.

Of the sources trusted by more Republicans than distrusted, Fox News stands out. More than three times as many Republicans trust it as distrust it for political and election news (65% of Republicans vs. 19% who express distrust). The Sean Hannity radio show is trusted by three times as many Republicans as those who distrust it (30% of Republicans trust it vs. 10% who distrust it). Rush Limbaugh is trusted by 27% of Republicans and distrusted by 14%.

Other sources trusted by more Republicans than distrusted include several long-established news outlets where the ratio of trust to distrust is narrower. PBS is trusted by 27% of Republicans and distrusted by 20%, the BBC is trusted by 21% and distrusted by 16%, and The Wall Street Journal is trusted by 24% and distrusted by 19%.

Not only are Democrats much more likely to express more trust than distrust of most sources, the ratio is often much wider.

Among the Democrats' sources with the largest margins between trust and distrust are PBS (56% trust vs. 4% distrust), NPR (46% vs. 2%), NBC (61% vs. 6%), CBS (59% vs. 6%), ABC (60% vs. 7%), BBC (48% vs. 5%), The New York Times (53% vs. 6%), The Washington Post (47% vs. 7%) and CNN (67% vs. 10%).

Within that group, both The Washington Post and The New York Times are among the outlets with the greatest distrust-to-trust ratio among Republicans. Also highly distrusted among Republicans are HuffPost (4% of Republicans trust and 34% distrust) and BuzzFeed at 3% trust to 29% distrust.

How to read graphics showing trust and distrust

These graphics compare how many people trust each outlet to how many distrust it. The outlets are grouped into one of three groups: Sources that are trusted by more people than distrusted; sources that are distrusted by more people than trusted; or sources that are trusted and distrusted by about the same amount of people. Assignments to each group are based on whether the percent of people who trust each outlet is statistically significantly different from the percent who distrust it. Within those groups, the outlets are sorted from top to bottom by the ratio of trust to distrust. The order does not necessarily indicate that an outlet's overall level of trust is significantly different from the outlet below or above it.

Respondents were only asked whether they trust or distrust an outlet if they had heard of it (see the topline.) For several outlets, large portions of the population have not heard of them, resulting in small segments who could express trust or distrust.

Outlets included in the study reflect a mix of sources of political and election news. To see more about how we chose the 30 outlets asked about, see the methodology.

The much smaller group of sources distrusted by more Democrats than trusted includes Breitbart, Rush Limbaugh and the Sean Hannity radio show. Each of these is trusted by about 1% of Democrats and distrusted by about a third or more. One other outlet that fares poorly among Democrats is Fox News (23% trust to 61% distrust).

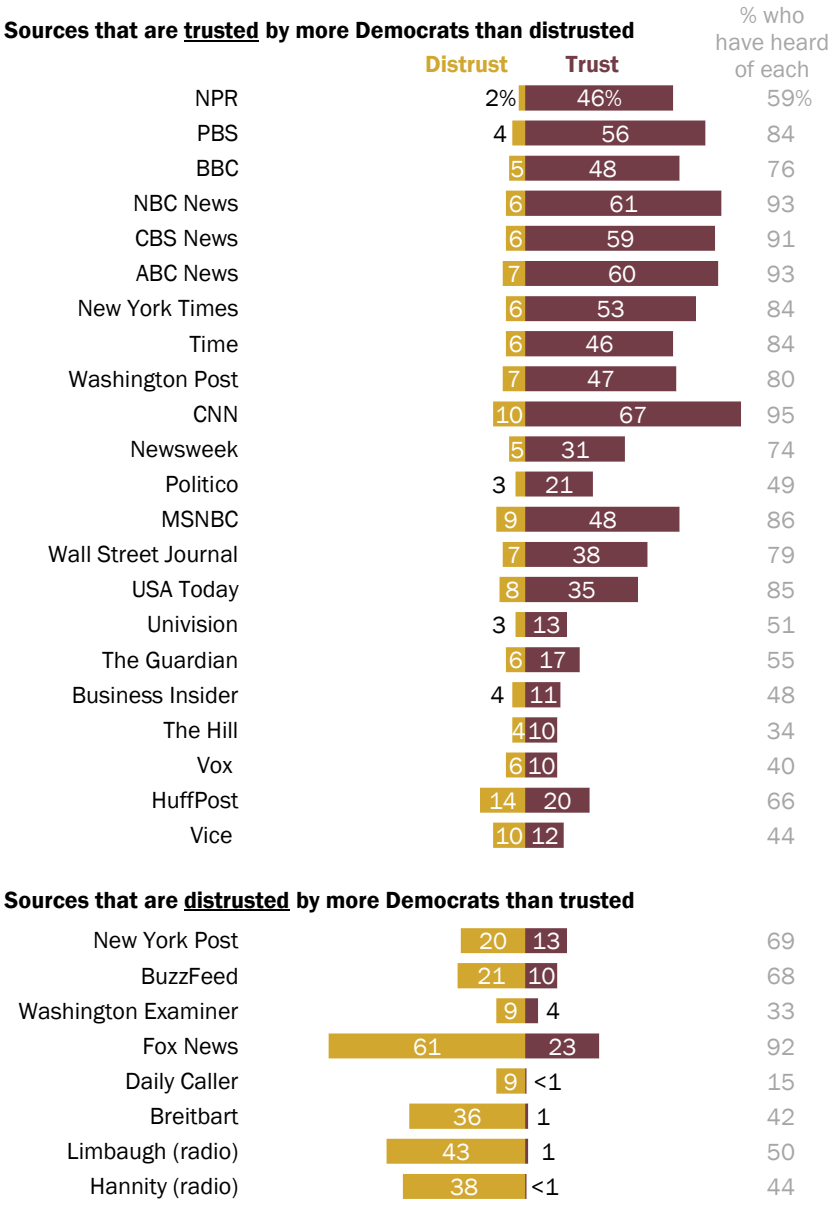
Amid this deep polarization, a few sources stand out across parties. PBS, the BBC and the Wall Street Journal are the three outlets trusted more than distrusted by both Republicans and Democrats.

At the other end of the spectrum, three outlets are distrusted by more in each party than trusted: the Washington Examiner, the New York Post, and BuzzFeed.

Trust, distrust, use and awareness of each news source by party and across all U.S. adults can be examined in the sortable tables below. [SORTABLE TABLES HERE]

Democrats' trust and distrust of news sources asked about

% of Democrats and Democratic leaners who trust or distrust each source for political and election news



Note: Those who neither trust nor distrust, hadn't heard of each source, or did not answer are not shown. Grouping of outlets is determined by whether the percent who trust each source is significantly different from the percent who distrust each source. Outlets are then ordered by the proportion of trust to distrust. Order of outlets within each group does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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2. Americans are divided by party in the sources they turn to for political news

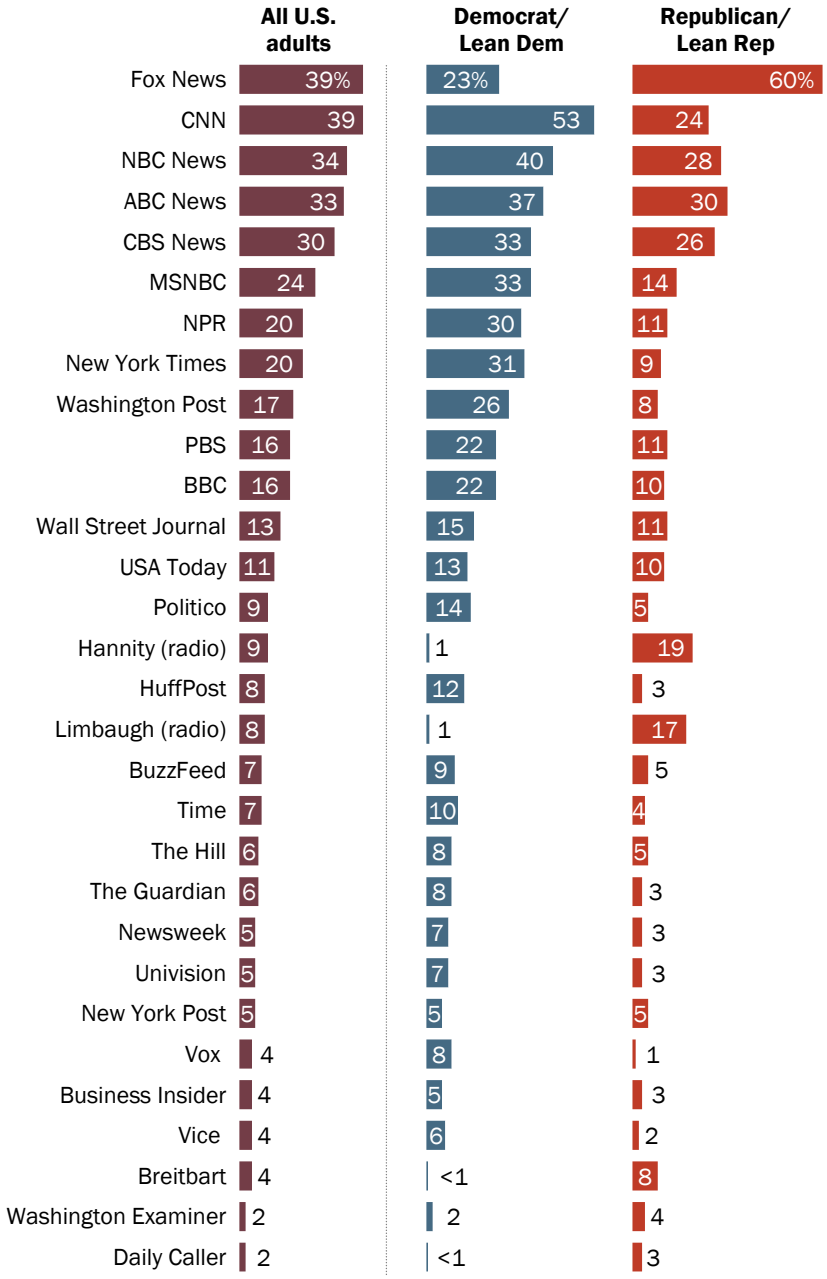
To a large degree, the pattern of partisan polarization that emerges in attitudes about the credibility of news sources is also evident in the sources that Republicans and Democrats rely on for news about politics and the election.

Overall, Republicans (and independents who lean Republican) get political and election news from a smaller group of sources than Democrats, with an overwhelming reliance on one source – Fox News. Democrats (including independents who lean Democratic), on the other hand, use a wider range of sources.

Six-in-ten Republicans say they got news from the Fox News cable network in the past week. After Fox News, there is a huge gap before the next most turned-to sources – ABC News, NBC News and CBS News, all at similar

Republicans rely heavily on Fox News; Democrats turn most to CNN but rely on many others as well

% who got political and election news from each source in the past week



Note: Order of outlets does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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levels (30%, 28%, and 26% respectively).

Despite Republicans' deep distrust of CNN, it is among the more commonly used sources among Republicans, with 24% who got political news there in the past week. Next come the radio shows of Sean Hannity (19%) and Rush Limbaugh (17%). No other source tops 15% among Republicans.

On the Democratic side, CNN is turned to by the greatest portion, with 53% saying they got political news there in the past week. As is the case with Republicans, the three major commercial broadcast networks are the next most turned to sources of political news for Democrats, albeit in bigger doses — NBC (40%), ABC (37%) and CBS (33%).

One-third of Democrats also got news from cable channel MSNBC (33%) in the past week. A similar share got political news from The New York Times (31%) and NPR (30%). About a quarter got news from The Washington Post (26%) and Fox News (23%).

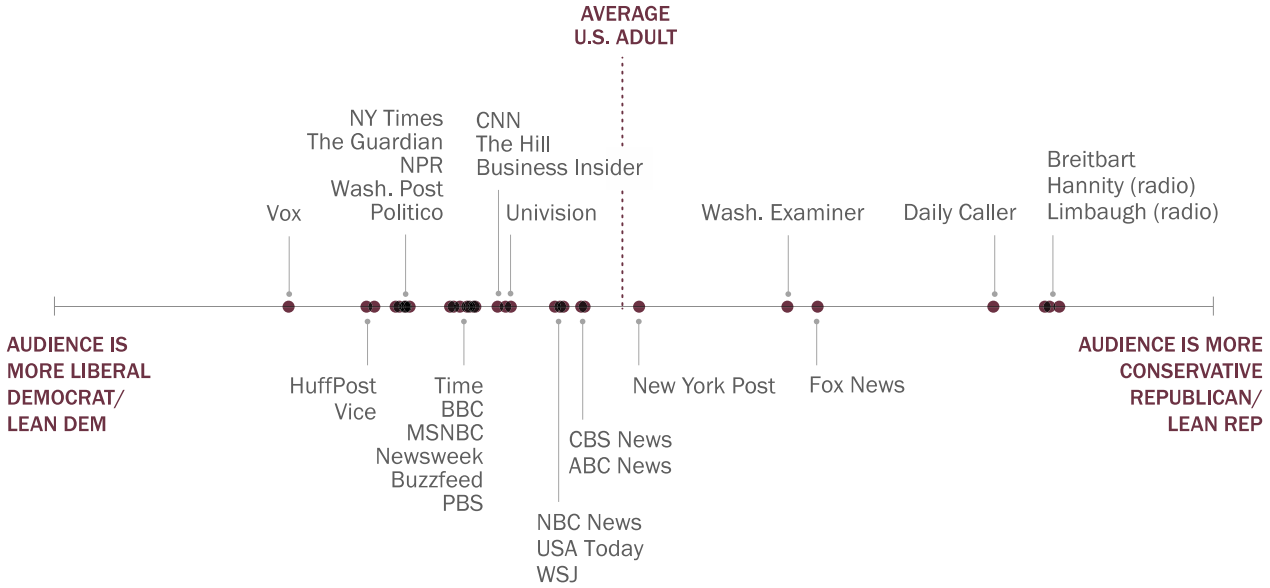
Amid these divides, there are some in each party who turn to the most relied-on sources of the other party: Roughly a quarter of Republicans (24%) got political news from CNN in the past week, which virtually matches the percentage of Democrats (23%) who say the same of Fox News. In other words, even amid the tendency of partisans to seek political news from different sources, there is still some overlap in what partisans see.

Partisan divides lead to one-sided audiences for many news outlets

The preference for news sources based on party identification and ideology affects the partisan makeup of the audience of each outlet, as shown below. Each source is placed on the line graph according to those who said they got political and election news there in the past week – taking into consideration both party identification (Republican or Democrat, including leaners) and ideology (conservative, moderate or liberal). (For more details see the methodology)

Average audience placement of each news outlet based on party and ideology

Average party and ideological self-placement of those who got political and election news from each source in the past week



Note: Lists labeling multiple points are ordered from outlets with more liberal Democrat/lean Democratic audiences on top to outlets with more conservative Republican/lean Republican audiences on the bottom. Order of outlets does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences. See methodology for details.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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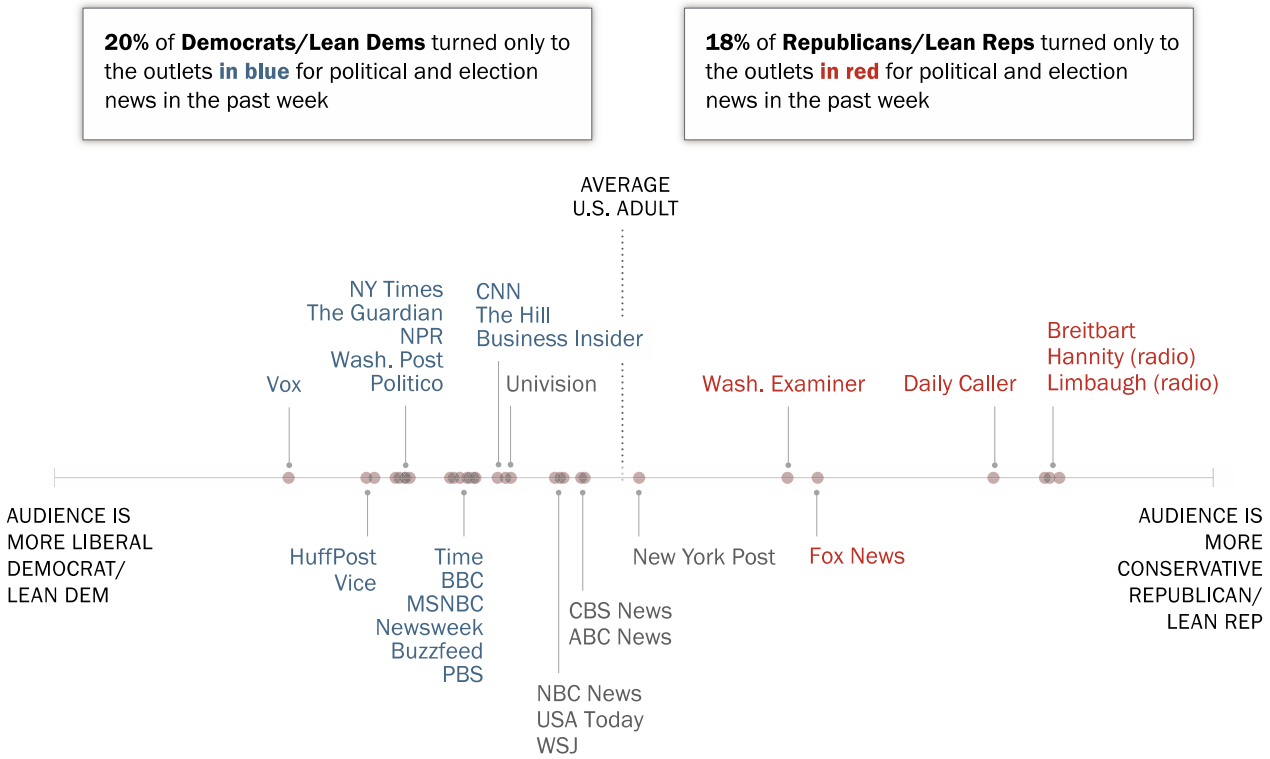
For example, the average audience member of The New York Post sits very close to the party and ideology of the average U.S. adult. The average audience member of Breitbart, the Sean Hannity radio show and Rush Limbaugh's radio program sit further to the right, as they tend to be more conservative and Republican. Fox News, even as it is turned to by large portions of conservatives Republicans, also has substantial numbers of more moderate Republicans and Democrats who get some news from it. Thus, Fox News sits closer to the middle than Breitbart and some others. It is worth noting that most of these outlets have an audience that falls at least slightly to the left of the average U.S. adult.

Furthermore, some adults only got political news in the past week from outlets whose audiences mostly share their political views. Roughly two-in-ten Republicans (18%) got political and election news in the past week only from outlets whose audiences lean disproportionately to the right – that is, there are two-thirds more conservative Republicans in their audience base than liberal Democrats.[2] Similarly, 20% of Democrats got news only from outlets whose audiences lean disproportionately to the left (two-thirds more liberal Democrats than conservative Republicans).

About two-in-ten in each party are in tight political news bubbles

Average party and ideological self-placement of those who got political and election news from each source in the past week



Note: Lists labeling multiple points are ordered from outlets with more liberal Democrats/lean Democratic audiences on top to those with more conservative Republican/lean Republican audiences on the bottom. Order of outlets does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences. See methodology for details.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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[2] An outlet was classified as left-leaning if its audience included at least two-thirds more liberal Democrats than conservative Republicans; if the audience had two-thirds more conservative Republicans than liberal Democrats, the outlet was categorized as right-leaning. If neither liberal Democrats nor conservative Republicans made up at least two-thirds more of the audience than the other, the outlet was included in the mixed-audience group. See the methodology for more details.

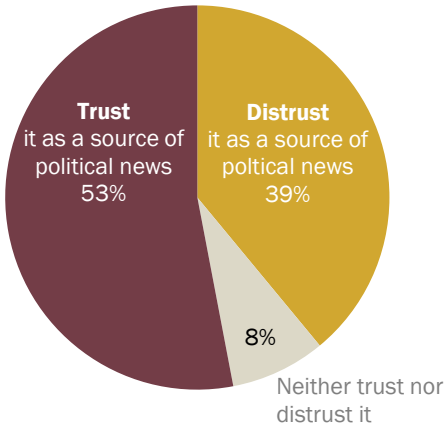
Americans' use of a news outlet does not always mean they trust it

Even as Republicans and Democrats sort themselves into different news universes, there are a few sources that are used by large numbers on both sides.

A deeper analysis reveals, however, that getting political news from a source does not always mean one trusts it. Indeed, some people report getting news from sources they also say they distrust. This is particularly true among Republicans. For example, among the 24% of Republicans who said they got political and election news from CNN in the last week, about four-in-ten (39%) say they distrust CNN. Conversely, among the 53% of Democrats who use CNN, just 4% distrust it.

Many Republicans who use CNN also distrust it

*Of the **24%** of Republican/Lean Rep who got news from CNN last week, % who ...*



Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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Similarly, for each of the three major commercial broadcast networks, about two-in-ten Republicans who got political news from these outlets in the past week also say they distrust that source (24% of Republicans who got news from NBC distrust it, 22% for CBS and 21% for ABC).

And while relatively small numbers of Republicans got news from MSNBC (14%), The New York Times (9%) and The Washington Post (8%) in the past week, of those who did, 45% distrust The Washington Post, 38% distrust The New York Times and 37% distrust MSNBC.

For Democrats, the data tells a different story. With one exception, few Democrats say they got news in the past week from sources they distrust. The exception is Fox News. Nearly one-quarter of Democrats (23%) got news there in the past week. And of those who did, 27% say they do not trust the cable channel as a source of information about the election and politics.

3. Ideology reveals largest gaps in trust occur between conservatives and liberals

The differences in trust and distrust of news outlets are often wider among the ideological wings of each party — conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats.

One way to see this is to look at the two cable channels that most clearly represent the polarized media universe. Among all Republicans and Republican leaners, CNN is trusted by 23% and Fox is trusted by 65%. Among conservative Republicans and Republican leaners, trust drops to 16% for CNN and climbs to 75% for Fox News.

Ideology adds another layer to party-line divides of most trusted and distrusted news sources

% who trust each news source for political and election news (top five shown)

Democrat/Lean Dem				Republican/Lean Rep			
LIBERAL		MODERATE/ CONSERVATIVE		MODERATE/ LIBERAL		**CONSERVATIVE**	
CNN	70%	CNN	65%	Fox News	51%	Fox News	75%
New York Times	66	ABC News	63	ABC News	47	Hannity (radio)	43
PBS	66	NBC News	61	CBS News	42	Limbaugh (radio)	38
NPR	63	CBS News	60	NBC News	41	ABC News	24
NBC News	61	PBS	48	CNN	36	CBS News	23

% who distrust each news source for political and election news (top five shown)

Democrat/Lean Dem				Republican/Lean Rep			
LIBERAL		MODERATE/ CONSERVATIVE		MODERATE/ LIBERAL		**CONSERVATIVE**	
Fox News	77%	Fox News	48%	CNN	43%	CNN	67%
Limbaugh (radio)	55	Limbaugh (radio)	34	MSNBC	32	MSNBC	57
Breitbart	53	Hannity (radio)	28	HuffPost	30	New York Times	50
Hannity (radio)	50	Breitbart	22	BuzzFeed	29	NBC News	50
NY Post	27	BuzzFeed	20	Fox News	29	CBS News	48

Note: Order of outlets does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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The same phenomenon can be seen among Democrats and Democratic leaners. The trust level for Fox News among all Democrats is 23%, but it drops significantly to 12% among liberal

Democrats. The percentage who trust CNN is roughly the same among all Democrats (67%) and among liberal Democrats (70%).

Overall then, the CNN "trust gap" between conservative Republicans (16%) and liberal Democrats (70%) is fully 54 percentage points. And the gap in trust of Fox News is even larger at 63 points (trusted by 75% of conservative Republicans and 12% of liberal Democrats).

Conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats also look even more dimly at sources that are already widely distrusted by Republicans and Democrats in general. For example, the Sean Hannity radio show is distrusted by 38% of Democrats and Rush Limbaugh is distrusted by 43%. Among liberal Democrats, distrust rises to 50% and 55%, respectively.

Similarly, MSNBC is distrusted by 47% of Republicans overall but by 57% of conservative Republicans. The New York Times is distrusted by 42% of all Republicans, yet by half of all conservative Republicans (50%).

These differences can be examined from the other direction as well. While Sean Hannity is trusted by 30% of all Republicans, he is trusted by 43% of conservative Republicans. The same is true for Limbaugh, whose trust level rises from 27% among all Republicans to 38% among conservatives.

On the other side of the aisle, The New York Times is trusted by 53% of all Democrats. But among liberal Democrats, that number jumps to 66%.

Some of these views about media credibility also are reflected in how often sources are used. Among all Republicans, 19% say they got political and election news from the Sean Hannity radio show in the past week. But about a quarter of conservative Republicans (27%) did so.

About one-third of all Democrats (31%) received political news from The New York Times in the past week. Liberal Democrats were even more faithful consumers, with 42% saying they got news from the Times in the past week.

Within both partisan groups there are ideological differences in views and use of news sources – these are particularly pronounced among Republicans. For example, there are 20 sources more conservative Republicans distrust than trust. That number falls to 15 sources among moderate and liberal Republicans. And though only four sources are trusted more than distrusted by conservative Republicans, there are 10 that moderate and liberal Republicans trust more than distrust.

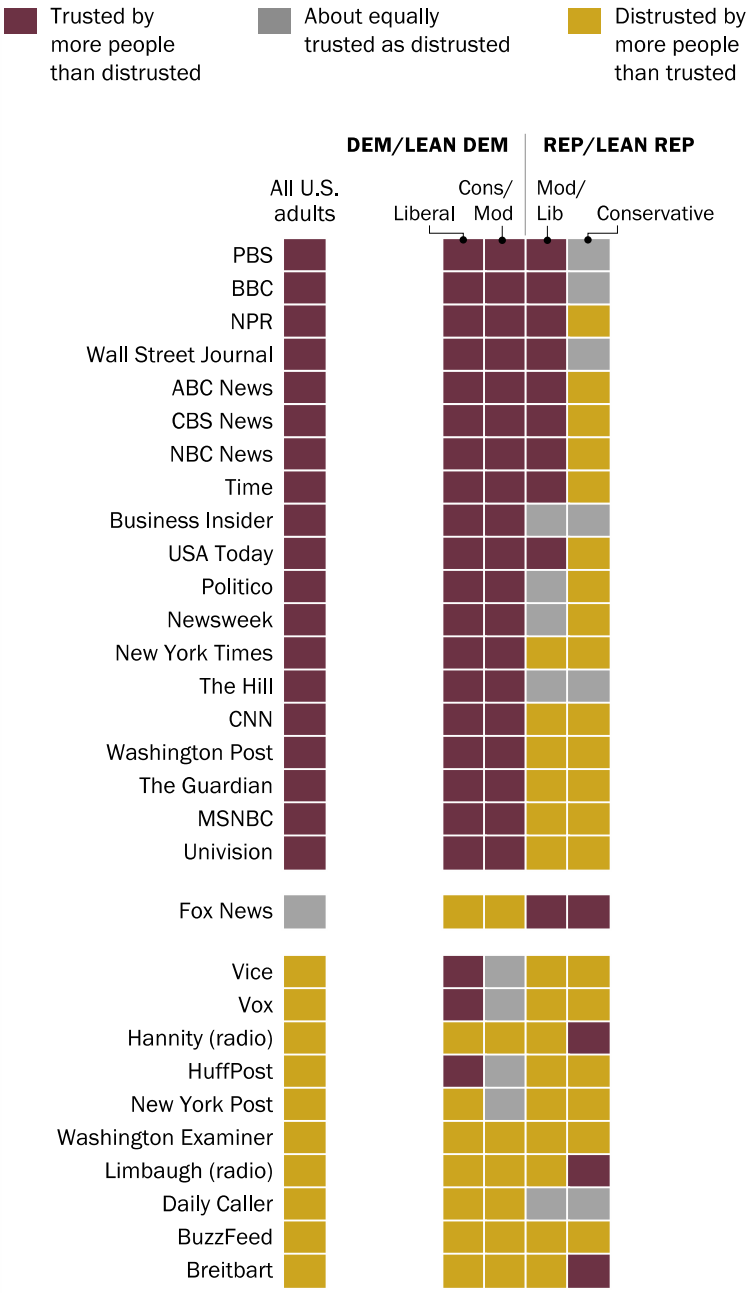
In evaluating the credibility of the three major commercial broadcast networks, moderate and liberal Republicans are far more likely to trust ABC, CBS and NBC News than conservative Republicans.

For Fox News specifically, support softens among moderate and liberal Republicans. Three-quarters of conservative Republicans (75%) trust it; only 12% distrust it. Among moderate and liberal Republicans, about half (51%) say they trust Fox News and 29% distrust it.

There are also some distinctions within parties about the use of sources for

The more moderate segments of each party show less divide in trust, more so on the right

Within each group, source is overall ...



Note: Grouping of outlets is determined by whether the percent who trust each source is significantly different from the percent who distrust each source. Order of outlets within each group does not necessarily indicate statistically significant differences.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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political and election news. Fox News is easily the most turned to source for all Republicans, but while about two-thirds of all conservative Republicans (68%) got political news there in the past week, only about half of moderate and liberal Republicans (46%) did. And, while about a quarter of conservative Republicans got political news last week from the Sean Hannity radio show (27%) and Rush Limbaugh (23%), those numbers plunge to 7% and 6%, respectively, for moderate and liberal Republicans.

The differences between conservative and moderate Democrats and liberal Democrats aren't as pronounced as those on the Republican side, but there are some. For example, while 55% of liberal Democrats distrust Rush Limbaugh, that number drops to 34% among conservative and moderate Democrats. The same is true for Sean Hannity, where the level of distrust drops from 50% among liberal Democrats to 28% for conservative and moderate Democrats.

There are other distinctions within the Democratic party when it comes to getting political and election news. For example, 42% of liberal Democrats got political news from The New York Times in the past week compared with 22% of conservative and moderate Democrats. A similar pattern is seen with The Washington Post, where one-third of liberal Democrats (33%) got political news last week compared with 20% of conservatives and moderates. Finally, while only 15% of liberal Democrats say they got news from Fox News in the past week, about twice as many moderate and conservative Democrats (29%) say they did so.

4. In recent years, partisan media divides have grown, largely driven by Republican distrust

In 2014, Pew Research Center conducted its foundational "Political Polarization & Media Habits" report. That study – which was conducted among web-using adults only – revealed that political polarization had bled into Americans' news preferences. The new 2019 data suggests that, the chasm has widened in the five years since. Although there are a few methodological differences between the two studies, the central questions regarding trust and distrust have been repeated for 20 news outlets, allowing us to make a rough comparison over time (a fuller discussion of the two studies can be found in the methodology.

Most of the movement over these five years has come from Republicans and Republican-leaning independents increasing their distrust of many of the more traditional outlets tied to legacy platforms like network TV and print newspapers. There has been far less movement among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents, and those smaller changes are largely expressed as greater trust in a few outlets.

Increase in distrust among Republicans for many outlets

% who distrust each source for government and politics news (in 2014) / political and election news (in 2019)

	2014 survey among web-using U.S. adults	2019 survey among U.S. adults	2014 to 2019 difference
Distrust among Rep/Lean Rep			
CNN	33%	58%	+25
BuzzFeed	8	29	+21
Washington Post	22	39	+17
New York Times	29	42	+12
CBS News	27	37	+10
USA Today	16	26	+10
ABC News	29	37	+9
Breitbart	1	9	+8
WSJ	11	19	+8
HuffPost	26	34	+8
MSNBC	39	47	+8
The Guardian	5	11	+6
Fox News	13	19	+6
BBC	11	16	+5
Limbaugh (radio)	22	14	-7
Distrust among Dem/Lean Dem			
Breitbart	7	36	+29
BuzzFeed	8	21	+14
Hannity (radio)	32	38	+6

Note: Outlets shown only where 2019 value is significantly different from 2014 value at a level of p<.01, taking into account the change in the percent who have heard of each outlet. Differences are based on unrounded numbers. For data on of all outlets, see the Appendix. See the methodology for details on differences between the 2014 and 2019 studies.
Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted March 19-April 29, 2014 and Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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Of the 20 sources asked about in both the 2014 and 2019 studies, distrust among Republicans increased for 15. Among those that have seen the largest erosion are those often decried by President Trump. Take for example CNN, where distrust has increased among Republicans from 33% in 2014 to 58% today. The percentage of Republicans who distrusted The Washington Post in 2014 was 22%; now it is 39%. There was a similar shift with The New York Times, where distrust jumped from 29% to 42% in the past five years.

Republican distrust in The Wall Street Journal increased from 11% to 19% in that span and distrust of USA Today grew from 16% to 26%. CBS and ABC have also seen Republican distrust increase by 10 percentage points and 9 percentage points, respectively.

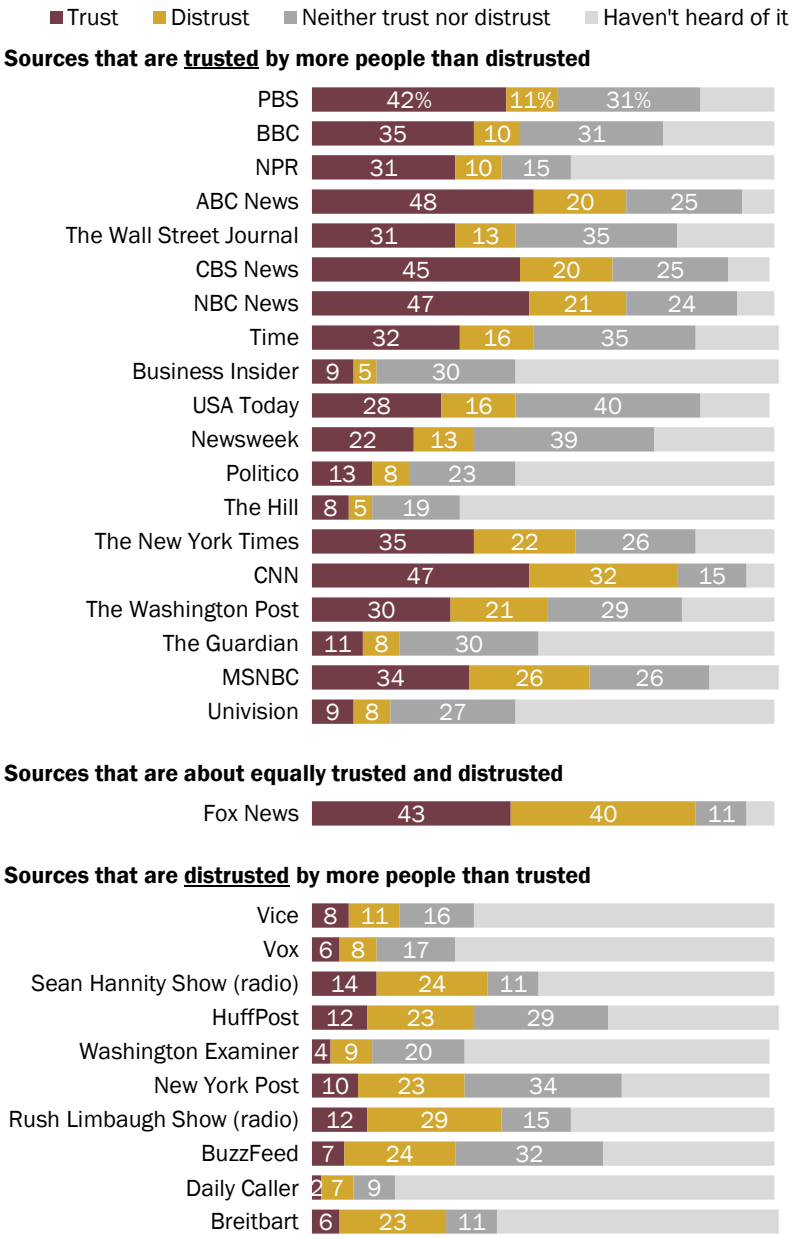
Among Democrats, levels of distrust and trust remained remarkably stable from 2014 to 2019. One exception is the Sean Hannity radio show, where distrust among Democrats increased moderately, from 32% to 38%. The percentage of Democrats who distrust Breitbart News also increased, from 7% to 36% in that period, accompanied by a rising familiarity with the conservative news outlet. In 2014, only 10% of Democrats were aware of Breitbart, compared to 42% now. Only two outlets experienced an increase in trust among Democrats: The Washington Post (37% in 2014 and 47% in 2019) and Politico (10% to 21%).

A recent Pew Research Center study sheds light on what may be at least partly behind the growing distrust on the right. In that study, researchers examined questions from more than 50 different surveys to determine what factors connect with higher or lower trust in the news media writ large. It revealed that in the Trump era, under a president who has frequently criticized much of the traditional news industry, no factor comes close to matching the impact of political party identification on trust in the news media overall. What's more, within the Republican Party, approval of Donald Trump aligns with much greater animosity toward news organizations and journalists.

Appendix: Detailed tables

Trust, distrust, and awareness of news sources

% of U.S. adults who trust or distrust each source for political and election news



Note: Grouping of outlets is determined by whether the percent who trust each source is significantly different from the percent who distrust each source. Outlets are then ordered by the proportion of trust to distrust. Order of outlets within each group does not indicate statistically significant differences. Respondents were asked if they trust or distrust an outlet only if they had heard of that outlet.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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Share of Americans who have heard of each outlet, by party and ideology [PDF ONLY]

% of U.S. adults who have heard of each source for political and election news

	All U.S. adults	Democrat/ Lean Dem	Republican/ Lean Rep	Liberal Dem/Lean Dem	Conservative/ Moderate Dem/Lean Dem	Moderate/ Liberal Rep/Lean Rep	Conservative Rep/Lean Rep
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ABC News	93	93	93	95	92	93	93
BBC	76	76	77	87	67	75	79
Breitbart	39	42	39	59	28	29	46
Business Insider	43	48	38	59	40	38	40
BuzzFeed	63	68	60	81	57	58	62
CBS News	91	91	93	94	88	91	93
CNN	94	95	93	97	93	93	93
Daily Caller	18	15	22	22	10	13	28
Fox News	94	92	96	94	91	95	97
HuffPost	63	66	63	81	55	59	66
MSNBC	85	86	87	91	81	85	89
NBC News	92	93	92	95	91	92	92
Newsweek	74	74	76	83	67	72	79
New York Post	68	69	68	79	62	63	70
NPR	56	59	55	76	45	49	59
PBS	84	84	85	91	79	83	86
Politico	44	49	42	66	35	33	49
Rush Limbaugh Show (radio)	56	50	66	61	42	53	74
Sean Hannity Show (radio)	49	44	59	56	34	45	68
The Guardian	49	55	45	71	42	42	47
The Hill	32	34	31	49	23	23	36
New York Times	83	84	84	92	78	83	85
Wall Street Journal	79	79	82	88	73	78	84
Washington Post	80	80	82	88	74	79	84
Time	82	84	82	90	79	81	83
Univision	44	51	37	58	44	35	39
USA Today	85	85	86	90	81	85	88
Vice	35	44	26	58	33	33	21
Vox	31	40	23	56	27	25	22
Washington Examiner	34	33	37	40	27	28	43

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
"U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election: A Nation Divided"

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Share of Americans who trust each outlet, by party and ideology [PDF ONLY]

% of U.S. adults who trust each source for political and election news

	All U.S. adults	Democrat/ Lean Dem	Republican/ Lean Rep	Liberal Dem/Lean Dem	Conservative/ Moderate Dem/Lean Dem	Moderate/ Liberal Rep/Lean Rep	Conservative Rep/Lean Rep
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ABC News	48	60	33	57	63	47	24
BBC	35	48	21	64	36	28	17
Breitbart	6	1	12	1	<1	4	18
Business Insider	9	11	6	14	9	7	6
BuzzFeed	7	10	3	13	8	5	3
CBS News	45	59	30	57	60	42	23
CNN	47	67	23	70	65	36	16
Daily Caller	2	<1	4	<1	1	2	5
Fox News	43	23	65	12	32	51	75
HuffPost	12	20	4	27	14	6	3
MSNBC	34	48	18	52	45	26	13
NBC News	47	61	30	61	61	41	23
Newsweek	22	31	12	33	30	16	10
New York Post	10	13	7	12	15	7	7
NPR	31	46	16	63	33	21	13
PBS	42	56	27	66	48	35	22
Politico	13	21	6	31	13	7	5
Rush Limbaugh Show (radio)	12	1	27	<1	1	10	38
Sean Hannity Show (radio)	14	<1	30	<1	1	10	43
The Guardian	11	17	5	25	10	6	4
The Hill	8	10	5	15	6	4	6
New York Times	35	53	15	66	42	23	10
Wall Street Journal	31	38	24	44	34	27	23
Washington Post	30	47	13	58	38	19	9
Time	32	46	17	52	41	24	12
Univision	9	13	3	13	13	5	3
USA Today	28	35	21	32	38	29	16
Vice	8	12	3	17	8	5	1
Vox	6	10	1	17	5	2	<1
Washington Examiner	4	4	5	4	3	3	6

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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Share of Americans who distrust each outlet, by party and ideology [PDF ONLY]

% of U.S. adults who distrust each source for political and election news

	All U.S. adults	Democrat/ Lean Dem	Republican/ Lean Rep	Liberal Dem/Lean Dem	Conservative/ Moderate Dem/Lean Dem	Moderate/ Liberal Rep/Lean Rep	Conservative Rep/Lean Rep
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ABC News	20	7	37	5	7	22	48
BBC	10	5	16	3	6	11	19
Breitbart	23	36	9	53	22	12	7
Business Insider	5	4	5	5	3	5	6
BuzzFeed	24	21	29	24	20	29	29
CBS News	20	6	37	5	7	21	48
CNN	32	10	58	9	11	43	67
Daily Caller	7	9	5	13	4	3	6
Fox News	40	61	19	77	48	29	12
HuffPost	23	14	34	15	13	30	36
MSNBC	26	9	47	8	9	32	57
NBC News	21	6	40	5	7	25	50
Newsweek	13	5	24	5	5	14	29
New York Post	23	20	28	27	14	23	32
NPR	10	2	19	2	2	11	25
PBS	11	4	20	2	5	12	25
Politico	8	3	14	4	3	9	17
Rush Limbaugh Show (radio)	29	43	14	55	34	21	10
Sean Hannity Show (radio)	24	38	10	50	28	17	7
The Guardian	8	6	11	6	5	9	12
The Hill	5	4	6	5	3	5	8
New York Times	22	6	42	5	7	28	50
Wall Street Journal	13	7	19	9	6	16	21
Washington Post	21	7	39	6	7	27	47
Time	16	6	27	4	8	19	33
Univision	8	3	13	3	4	8	16
USA Today	16	8	26	8	9	17	32
Vice	11	10	13	11	9	14	12
Vox	8	6	11	8	5	12	11
Washington Examiner	9	9	11	13	5	8	13

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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Share of Americans who got news from each outlet, by party and ideology [PDF ONLY]

% of U.S. adults who have gotten political and election news from each source in the past week

	All U.S. adults	Democrat/ Lean Dem	Republican/ Lean Rep	Liberal Dem/Lean Dem	Conservative/ Moderate Dem/Lean Dem	Moderate/ Liberal Rep/Lean Rep	Conservative Rep/Lean Rep
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
ABC News	33	37	30	32	42	36	26
BBC	16	22	10	29	16	13	8
Breitbart	4	<1	8	<1	1	3	11
Business Insider	4	5	3	7	4	3	3
BuzzFeed	7	9	5	12	7	5	4
CBS News	30	33	26	30	36	29	24
CNN	39	53	24	57	50	32	19
Daily Caller	2	<1	3	<1	1	2	5
Fox News	39	23	60	15	29	46	68
HuffPost	8	12	3	18	8	3	3
MSNBC	24	33	14	38	30	17	12
NBC News	34	40	28	39	40	32	25
Newsweek	5	7	3	8	7	4	3
New York Post	5	5	5	5	5	4	6
NPR	20	30	11	43	20	13	9
PBS	16	22	11	27	18	12	10
Politico	9	14	5	20	9	6	5
Rush Limbaugh Show (radio)	8	1	17	<1	1	6	23
Sean Hannity Show (radio)	9	1	19	1	1	7	27
The Guardian	6	8	3	13	4	4	3
The Hill	6	8	5	11	5	4	5
New York Times	20	31	9	42	22	12	8
Wall Street Journal	13	15	11	17	13	11	11
Washington Post	17	26	8	33	20	9	8
Time	7	10	4	11	9	5	3
Univision	5	7	3	4	9	3	2
USA Today	11	13	10	12	14	12	8
Vice	4	6	2	9	5	3	1
Vox	4	8	1	12	4	2	1
Washington Examiner	2	2	4	1	2	3	4

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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Trust in news outlets in 2014 and 2019, by party

% of U.S. adults who trust each source for political and election news

	Democrat/Lean Dem		Republican/Lean Rep	
	2014 survey among web-using U.S. adults	2019 survey among U.S. adults	2014 survey among web-using U.S. adults	2019 survey among U.S. adults
	%	%	%	%
ABC News	59	60	39	33
BBC	47	48	23	21
Breitbart	<1	1	9	12
Business Insider	-	11	-	6
BuzzFeed	4	10	1	3
CBS News	55	59	36	30
CNN	65	67	41*	23*
Daily Caller	-	<1	-	4
Fox News	21	23	70	65
HuffPost	25*	20*	11*	4*
MSNBC	50	48	27*	18*
NBC News	61	61	39*	30*
Newsweek	-	31	-	12
New York Post	-	13	-	7
NPR	43	46	15	16
PBS	51	56	25	27
Politico	10*	21*	4	6
Rush Limbaugh Show	1	1	27	27
Sean Hannity Show	1	<1	28	30
The Guardian	11	17	4	5
The Hill	-	10	-	5
New York Times	48	53	19	15
Wall Street Journal	33	38	32*	24*
Washington Post	37*	47*	18*	13*
Time	-	46	-	17
Univision	-	13	-	3
USA Today	37	35	29*	21*
Vice	-	12	-	3
Vox	-	10	-	1
Washington Examiner	-	4	-	5

Note: Asterisk indicates that 2019 value is significantly different from 2014 value at a level of $p < .01$, taking into account the change in the percent who have heard of each outlet.
Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted March 19-April 29, 2014 and Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
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Distrust in outlets in 2014 and 2019, by party

% of U.S. adults who distrust each source for political and election news

	Democrat/Lean Dem		Republican/Lean Rep	
	2014 survey among web-using U.S. adults	2019 survey among U.S. adults	2014 survey among web-using U.S. adults	2019 survey among U.S. adults
	%	%	%	%
ABC News	6	7	29*	37*
BBC	4	5	11*	16*
Breitbart	7*	36*	1*	9*
Business Insider	-	4	-	5
BuzzFeed	8*	21*	8*	29*
CBS News	6	6	27*	37*
CNN	8	10	33*	58*
Daily Caller	-	9	-	5
Fox News	59	61	13*	19*
HuffPost	10	14	26*	34*
MSNBC	7	9	39*	47*
NBC News	7	6	34	40
Newsweek	-	5	-	24
New York Post	-	20	-	28
NPR	2	2	17	19
PBS	6	4	19	20
Politico	2	3	8	14
Rush Limbaugh Show	54	43	22*	14*
Sean Hannity Show	32*	38*	9	10
The Guardian	4	6	5*	11*
The Hill	-	4	-	6
New York Times	5	6	29*	42*
Wall Street Journal	8	7	11*	19*
Washington Post	5	7	22*	39*
Time	-	6	-	27
Univision	-	3	-	13
USA Today	9	8	16*	26*
Vice	-	10	-	13
Vox	-	6	-	11
Washington Examiner	-	9	-	11

Note: Asterisk indicates that 2019 value is significantly different from 2014 value at a level of $p < .01$, taking into account the change in the percent who have heard of each outlet.
Source: Surveys of U.S. adults conducted March 19-April 29, 2014 and Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
"U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election: A Nation Divided"

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Methodology

American Trends Panel survey methodology

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided a tablet and wireless internet connection. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in the Election News Pathways project and the U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election report are drawn from the panel wave conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019. A total of 12,043 panelists responded out of 14,412 who were sampled, for a response rate of 84%. This does not include 12 panelists who were removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4.5%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged onto the survey and completed at least one item is 0.2%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 12,043 respondents is plus or minus 1.43 percentage points.

American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	2,320
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,339
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	686
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	6,429
Aug. 19 to Oct. 25, 2019	ABS/web	4,700	3,652	3,638
	Total	**29,114**	**22,372**	**14,412**

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.
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The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of which 9,942 agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample (ABS) of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked

to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. For a random half-sample of invitations, households without internet access were instructed to return a postcard. These households were contacted by telephone and sent a tablet if they agreed to participate. A total of 9,396 were invited to join the panel, and 8,778 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. The same recruitment procedure was carried out on Aug. 19, 2019, from which a total of 4,700 were invited to join the panel and 3,652 agreed as of Oct. 25, 2019. Of the 22,372 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 14,412 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.[3]

Weighting

The ATP data were weighted in a multistep process that begins with a base weight incorporating the respondents' original selection probability. The next step in the weighting uses an iterative technique that aligns the sample to population benchmarks on the dimensions listed in the accompanying table.

Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Gender Age Education Race/Hispanic origin Country of birth among Hispanics Home internet access	2017 American Community Survey
Region x Metropolitan status	2018 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys.

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total US adult population.
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[3] AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling."

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	12,043	1.4 percentage points
Republican/Lean Republican	4,947	2.1 percentage points
Cons. Rep/Lean Rep	3,202	2.6 percentage points
Mod./Lib. Rep/Lean Rep	1,714	3.6 percentage points
Democrat/Lean Democrat	6,696	2.0 percentage points
Cons./Mod. Dem/Lean Dem	3,215	2.8 percentage points
Lib. Dem/Lean Dem	3,431	2.7 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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Selection of news sources

The 30 sources included in the Election News Pathways project were chosen so that respondents were asked about a range of news media across different platforms (e.g., television, print, radio, internet). Researchers also considered audience size, topic areas covered and relevance to political news during the 2016 election and afterwards.

The final list of 30 news outlets asked about consists of the following: four of the major broadcast television networks (ABC News, CBS News, NBC News and Univision), three major cable television news networks (CNN, Fox News and MSNBC), four of the largest newspapers by national circulation (The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Wall Street Journal and USA Today), the two major public broadcast networks (NPR and PBS), two political news radio programs with large audiences (The Rush Limbaugh Show and The Sean Hannity Show), two international media organizations with large domestic audiences (BBC and The Guardian), news websites regardless of their original platform that cover politics and had comparatively high traffic during the fourth quarter of 2018 (BuzzFeed, Vice, New York Post, Time magazine, Newsweek, Politico and Vox), one business-focused outlet with political content and higher web traffic in the time period analyzed than other similar outlets (Business Insider), and other outlets included in external lists of key political sources during the 2016 presidential election and after, selected with traffic and social media engagement figures in mind (Breitbart, The Hill, Daily Caller, HuffPost and The Washington Examiner).[4] News sources that mostly serve as aggregators of news (e.g., Google News) and social media outlets were asked about in a separate question.

[4] Sources referenced during outlet selection include "Partisan Publishers and Political Content" (NewsWhip), "Study: Breitbart-led right-wing media ecosystem altered broader media agenda" (CJR), average monthly unique visitors for October to December of 2018 from the Comscore Media Metrix® Multi-Platform U.S. database for Total Digital Population, Crowdtangle data on Facebook page interactions for each outlet from October to December of 2018, and main sources for campaign news in a 2016 Pew Research Center study.

Main source of political and election news

In addition to the series of questions about these specific outlets, respondents were also asked in an open-ended question to volunteer their main source for news. This allowed respondents to name any source, not limiting them to the specific ones asked about in the survey questions. If respondents volunteered more than one source, the first one mentioned was accepted.

Researchers grouped these open-ended responses together by brand; for instance "NY Times," "NYT" and "nytimes.com" would all be counted as indicating that The New York Times was the respondent's main source. Additionally, individual local news sources were grouped together into categories such as "local newspapers" and "local TV."

All outlets that were named by 1.0% or more respondents as their main source for news are reported in the topline. All other sources named are grouped into "Other".

Awareness, trust, distrust and use of news sources

In this study, respondents were asked about their awareness of and trust in 30 different news sources. Respondents were first asked whether they have heard of each source. Icons for and names of the sources were arrayed on two screens of 15 sources each.[5] The order of the sources on each screen and the order of the two screens were randomized. Respondents were then shown a grid of just the sources that they had heard of and asked to click on the ones they trust for political and election news. They then saw a grid that showed the sources they had heard of but had not indicated that they trust and were asked if they distrust the remaining sources. If a respondent had heard of a source but did not indicate trust or distrust of it, the response was considered "neither trust nor distrust." Finally, respondents were asked if they got political or election news in the past week from any of the sources that they heard of.

[5] This report includes the product, service and company names, as well as logos, of third parties. Such third-party designations are the trade/service marks of their respective owners and are included only to identify the relevant products or organizations. Neither Pew Research Center nor the report are endorsed or sponsored by, or otherwise affiliated with, such third parties.

Average audience placement of each outlet based on party and ideology

One section of the report shows the average audience placement of each of the 30 news outlets in a number line based on an index of self-reported party identification and political ideology. Each respondent was assigned a value on a nine-point index based on their responses to questions about their party identification and political ideology. The placement of each outlet's audience is based on the average value of those who reported getting political and election news from the outlet in the past week. The number values in the index are:

- 1 = Very conservative Republican/Lean Republican
- 2 = Conservative Republican/Lean Republican
- 3 = Moderate Republican/Lean Republican
- 4 = Liberal or very liberal Republican/Lean Republican
- 5 = No lean/Other response
- 6 = Conservative or very conservative Democrat/Lean Democrat
- 7 = Moderate Democrat/Lean Democrat
- 8 = Liberal Democrat/Lean Democrat
- 9 = Very liberal Democrat/Lean Democrat

Outlet groupings by audience makeup

Each outlet was grouped according to the ideological composition of its audience. This grouping is based on the ratio of the proportion of the audience who self-identify as liberal Democrats (including independents who lean Democratic) to the proportion that identify as conservative Republicans (including independents who lean Republican).

The survey asked respondents to indicate whether they got "political and election news" from 30 national news outlets in the past week. An outlet is considered to have a left-leaning audience if the proportion of those who got news there that identify as liberal Democrats is at least two-thirds higher than the proportion that identify as conservative Republicans. Alternatively, an outlet is considered to have a right-leaning audience if the proportion of all audience members that identify as conservative Republicans is at least two-thirds higher than the proportion that identify as liberal Democrats. And an outlet is classified as having a mixed audience if neither liberal Democrats nor conservative Republicans make up at least two-thirds or more of the audience than the other.

Data for classifying the ideological composition of news outlets comes from the first survey of Pew Research

Outlet by ideological profile of audience

	% of audience who identify as …		
Outlet group	Liberal Dem/Lean Dem	Conservative Rep/Lean Rep	Lib. Dem-Cons. Rep diff.
	%	%	%
Outlets appealing to a left-leaning audience			
Vox	62	4	58
HuffPost	53	11	42
The Guardian	54	12	42
Vice	48	7	41
New York Times	48	11	37
NPR	49	12	37
Politico	49	13	36
Washington Post	45	12	33
BBC	42	14	28
Time	37	13	25
MSNBC	37	13	24
BuzzFeed	40	17	23
PBS	39	16	22
The Hill	42	22	21
CNN	34	13	20
Newsweek	34	14	20
Business Insider	40	20	20
Outlets appealing to a mixed audience			
Wall Street Journal	31	24	7
NBC News	27	20	7
Univision	19	12	7
USA Today	25	19	6
ABC News	22	21	1
CBS News	23	22	1
New York Post	22	32	-10
Outlets appealing to a right-leaning audience			
Washington Examiner	14	44	-29
Fox News	9	46	-38
Daily Caller	3	72	-69
Breitbart	1	80	-79
Sean Hannity Show (radio)	2	82	-80
Rush Limbaugh Show (radio)	1	81	-80

Note: Differences are based on unrounded numbers.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019.
"U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election: A Nation Divided"

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Center's Election News Pathways project, conducted Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019, among 12,043 U.S. adults.

Comparison of 2019 and 2014 data

The U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election report compares data on the trust and distrust of outlets to data from a similar study conducted in 2014. Though the 2019 and 2014 studies use similar methodologies, there were several methodological differences between the two studies. Some of the main methodological differences were the following:

- Target population: While the 2019 estimates are based on the total U.S. adult population, the 2014 estimates are based only on U.S. internet users (89% of the total U.S. population sample at the time).

- Question wording: The questions in 2014 asked about trust in terms of "news about government and politics"; the 2019 survey asked about "political and election news."

    - ATP Wave 1, March 19-April 29, 2014: "Of the sources you have heard of, click on all that you generally [TRUST/DISTRUST] for **news about government and politics**." [emphasis added]

    - ATP Wave 57, Oct. 29-Nov. 11, 2019: "Of the sources you have heard of, click on all that you generally [TRUST/DISTRUST] for **political and election news**." [emphasis added]

- Weighting: The weighting of the responses to both surveys take into account gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin, internet access, region and party affiliation. The 2019 survey adjusts for volunteerism, voter registration, and country of birth for Hispanic respondents; the 2014 survey does not. For more details on the sample weighting for each study, see the survey methodology sections of the 2019 report and the 2014 report.

- Measuring partisanship: The measure of party identification used in the 2014 survey came from the telephone survey in which panelists were initially recruited. In 2019, partisanship was measured in a self-administered web survey.

Where possible, researchers conducted several sensitivity analyses to ensure that the results of any comparisons were robust and not simply artifacts of methodological differences. These included:

- Excluding 2019 respondents without internet access.
- Replicating the analysis among respondents who participated in both surveys using a single, consistent weight created using the 2019 variables and procedure.

- Repeating the 2014 analysis using an online measurement of partisanship taken from a wave of the ATP in place of the original telephone measurement.

None of these analyses produced results that differed appreciably from those presented in the U.S. Media Polarization and the 2020 Election report, and no substantive conclusions were affected. Because it is not possible to test every difference (e.g. question wording), a more conservative standard for statistical testing was used for this portion of the analysis.

All statistical testing related to changes in levels of trust and distrust between the two surveys was done using a 99% confidence interval or a threshold of $p<0.01$. Additionally, only changes that are significant *both* when calculated as a portion of the total sample *and* as a portion of those who had heard of an outlet in both years are marked as significant.

2019 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
Wave 57 November 2019
FINAL TOPLINE
OCTOBER 29 – NOVEMBER 11, 2019
N=12,043

ASK ALL:
SATIS All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	No answer
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	31	69	1
Oct 1-13, 2019	28	71	1
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	27	72	1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018	34	65	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018[6]	36	63	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017[7]	32	68	0
Sep 27-Oct 10, 2016	23	75	2
Jun 7-Jul 5, 2016[8]	19	80	1
Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	25	75	0

ASK ALL:
MAINSOPOL_OE What news source do you turn to most often for political and election news? Please list the name of the specific news organization or source.

[OPEN-END RESPONSES RECODED]

SOURCES MENTIONED

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019[9]	
16	Fox News/Fox News Cable Channel/Fox
12	CNN
7	Local television stations
5	NPR
4	NBC News
4	ABC News
4	MSNBC
3	CBS News
3	Television (no specific source)
2	The New York Times
1	Internet (including "social media," "website," no specific source)
1	Google news/Google
1	Facebook (including specific groups)
1	BBC
1	Local news (no specific source)
1	Local newspaper (not including NYT or Wash. Post)
1	YouTube (including specific channels, not including Young Turks)
1	The Washington Post
18	All other sources
13	Refused/Don't know

[6] In W31 and previous surveys, question was called SATISF.
[7] The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.
[8] SATISF in the W18 survey was asked to a random half of the sample assigned to Form 2 [N=2,366].
[9] Respondents were asked to provide their main source for political and election news. If respondents volunteered more than one source, the first one mentioned was accepted. Sources shown individually are those that were named by at least 1% of respondents.

ASK IF GAVE RESPONSE TO MAINSOPOL_OE [N=11,322]:
MAINSOPOL_USE Which of the following best describes how you use the news source you turn to most often for political and election news? **[RANDOMIZE]** {new}

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,043]:

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
32	I rely on this source far more than any other
57	It's one of multiple sources I rely on regularly
1	No answer
9	Did not give response to MAINSOPOL_OE

ASK ALL:
NEWS_MOST What is the most common way you get political and election news? **[RANDOMIZE; OMIT RESPONSE OPTIONS 6 AND 7 FOR RESPONDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS (TABLETHH=1)]** {mod W1; mod W23}

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
3	Print newspaper or magazines
8	Radio
16	Local television
13	National network television
16	Cable television
18	Social media
25	News website or app
1	No answer[10]

ASK ALL WITH INTERNET ACCESS (TABLETHH=0) [N=11,862]:
SM1 How often, if at all, do you get politics and election news from social media sites (such as Facebook, Twitter, or Snapchat)?

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,043]:

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
19	Often
27	Sometimes
20	Hardly ever
29	Never
*	No answer
4	No internet

[10] 10 respondents were shown and selected options that they should not have received due to a programming error. For this question, those 10 responses are coded as "No answer".

ASK ALL:

SOURCEHEARD Please click on all of the sources that you have HEARD OF, regardless of whether you use them or not. If you are unsure, please DO NOT click it. You can click anywhere in each of the boxes.

For second screen of images, should say: "Again, please click on all that you have HEARD OF."

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019		Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
94	Fox News	63	HuffPost
94	CNN	63	BuzzFeed
93	ABC News	56	Rush Limbaugh Show (radio)
92	NBC News	56	NPR
91	CBS News	49	The Guardian
85	MSNBC	49	Sean Hannity Show (radio)
85	USA Today	44	Politico
84	PBS	44	Univision
83	The New York Times	43	Business Insider
82	Time	39	Breitbart
80	Washington Post	35	Vice
79	The Wall Street Journal	34	Washington Examiner
76	BBC	32	The Hill
74	Newsweek	31	Vox
68	New York Post	18	Daily Caller

ASK IF SELECTED ANY SOURCES IN SOURCEHEARD. SHOW ALL SOURCES SELECTED IN SOURCEHEARD.

SOURCETRUST Of the sources you have heard of, click on all that you generally TRUST for political and election news. **[KEEP SOURCES AND SCREENS IN SAME ORDER AS SOURCEHEARD. IF MORE THAN ONE SCREEN, SHOULD SAY ON SECOND SCREEN*:*** "Again, please click on all that you generally TRUST."**]**

ASK IF SELECTED ANY SOURCES IN SOURCEHEARD. SHOW ALL SOURCES SELECTED IN SOURCEHEARD & NOT SELECTED IN SOURCETRUST.

SOURCEDISTRUST Now, click on all that you generally DISTRUST for political and election news. **[KEEP IN SAME ORDER AS IN SOURCEHEARD. IF MORE THAN ONE SCREEN, SHOULD SAY ON SECOND SCREEN:** "Again, please click on all that you generally DISTRUST."**]**

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,043]:

	Trust	Distrust	Neither	Not heard of
1. ABC News				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	48	20	25	7
Based on heard of [N=11,238]	51	22	27	--
2. CBS News				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	45	20	25	9
Based on heard of [N=11,083]	50	22	28	--
3. NBC News				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	47	21	24	8
Based on heard of [N=11,223]	51	23	26	--
4. NPR				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	31	10	15	44
Based on heard of [N=8,084]	56	18	27	--

SOURCETRUST/SOURCEDISTRUST CONTINUED ...

	Trust	Distrust	Neither	Not heard of
5. Rush Limbaugh Show (radio)				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	12	29	15	44
Based on heard of [N=7,825]	22	52	26	--
6. Sean Hannity Show (radio)				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	14	24	11	51
Based on heard of [N=6,929]	28	50	23	--
7. Washington Post				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	30	21	29	20
Based on heard of [N=10,198]	38	26	36	--
8. The New York Times				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	35	22	26	17
Based on heard of [N=10,496]	42	27	32	--
9. HuffPost				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	12	23	29	37
Based on heard of [N=8,503]	19	36	45	--
10. Breitbart				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	6	23	11	61
Based on heard of [N=5,865]	15	58	28	--
11. BBC				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	35	10	31	24
Based on heard of [N=9,742]	46	13	41	--
12. Time				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	32	16	35	18
Based on heard of [N=10,320]	39	19	42	--
13. Univision				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	9	8	27	56
Based on heard of [N=6,248]	21	17	62	--
14. Vice				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	8	11	16	65
Based on heard of [N=4,155]	22	32	46	--
15. Daily Caller				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	2	7	9	82
Based on heard of [N=2,495]	12	37	51	--
16. Fox News				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	43	40	11	6
Based on heard of [N=11,323]	45	43	12	--
17. MSNBC				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	34	26	26	15
Based on heard of [N=10,686]	40	30	30	--
18. CNN				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	47	32	15	6
Based on heard of [N=11,445]	50	34	16	--

SOURCETRUST/SOURCEDISTRUST CONTINUED ...

	Trust	Distrust	Neither	Not heard of
19. PBS				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	42	11	31	16
Based on heard of [N=10,437]	50	13	37	--
20. The Wall Street Journal				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	31	13	35	21
Based on heard of [N=10,187]	39	16	45	--
21. USA Today				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	28	16	40	15
Based on heard of [N=10,562]	33	19	48	--
22. Politico				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	13	8	23	56
Based on heard of [N=6,675]	30	18	52	--
23. BuzzFeed				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	7	24	32	37
Based on heard of [N=8,060]	11	39	50	--
24. Newsweek				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	22	13	39	26
Based on heard of [N=9,667]	29	18	53	--
25. Business Insider				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	9	5	30	57
Based on heard of [N=5,640]	20	11	70	--
26. Vox				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	6	8	17	69
Based on heard of [N=4,309]	18	27	55	--
27. The Hill				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	8	5	19	68
Based on heard of [N=4,658]	24	16	61	--
28. Washington Examiner				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	4	9	20	66
Based on heard of [N=4,653]	12	27	60	--
29. New York Post				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	10	23	34	32
Based on heard of [N=8,728]	15	34	51	--
30. The Guardian				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	11	8	30	51
Based on heard of [N=6,792]	22	16	61	--

ASK IF SELECTED ANY SOURCES IN SOURCEHEARD. SHOW ALL SOURCES SELECTED IN SOURCEHEARD.

SOURCEUSE Please click on all of the sources that you got political and election news from in the past week. This includes any way that you can get the source. If you are unsure, please DO NOT click it. **[KEEP IN SAME ORDER AS SOURCEHEARD]**

DO NOT SHOW THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO RESPONDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS (TABLETHH=1): HuffPost; Breitbart; BuzzFeed; Business Insider; Vox; Daily Caller

If more than one screen, should say: "Again, please click on all that you got political and election news from in the past week."

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,043]:

	Got news	Did not get news	Not heard of
1. ABC News			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	33	59	7
Based on heard of [N=11,238]	36	64	--
2. CBS News			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	30	61	9
Based on heard of [N=11,083]	33	67	--
3. NBC News			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	34	58	8
Based on heard of [N=11,223]	37	63	--
4. NPR			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	20	35	44
Based on heard of [N=8,084]	37	63	--
5. Rush Limbaugh Show (radio)			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	8	49	44
Based on heard of [N=7,825]	13	87	--
6. Sean Hannity Show (radio)			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	9	40	51
Based on heard of [N=6,929]	18	82	--
7. Washington Post			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	17	63	20
Based on heard of [N=10,198]	21	79	--
8. The New York Times			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	20	63	17
Based on heard of [N=10,496]	24	76	--
9. HuffPost			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	8	56	37
Based on heard of [N=8,503]	12	88	--
10. Breitbart			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	4	35	61
Based on heard of [N=5,865]	10	90	--
11. BBC			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	16	60	24
Based on heard of [N=9,742]	21	79	--

SOURCEUSE CONTINUED ...

	Got news	Did not get news	Not heard of
12. Time			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	7	75	18
Based on heard of [N=10,320]	8	92	--
13. Univision			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	5	39	56
Based on heard of [N=6,248]	12	88	--
14. Vice			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	4	31	65
Based on heard of [N=4,155]	12	88	--
15. Daily Caller			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	2	16	82
Based on heard of [N=2,495]	10	90	--
16. Fox News			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	39	54	6
Based on heard of [N=11,323]	42	58	--
17. MSNBC			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	24	62	15
Based on heard of [N=10,686]	28	72	--
18. CNN			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	39	55	6
Based on heard of [N=11,445]	41	59	--
19. PBS			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	16	68	16
Based on heard of [N=10,437]	19	81	--
20. The Wall Street Journal			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	13	67	21
Based on heard of [N=10,187]	16	84	--
21. USA Today			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	11	73	15
Based on heard of [N=10,562]	13	87	--
22. Politico			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	9	35	56
Based on heard of [N=6,675]	21	79	--
23. BuzzFeed			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	7	56	37
Based on heard of [N=8,060]	11	89	--
24. Newsweek			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	5	69	26
Based on heard of [N=9,667]	7	93	--
25. Business Insider			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	4	39	57
Based on heard of [N=5,640]	10	90	--

SOURCEUSE CONTINUED …

	Got news	Did not get news	Not heard of
26. Vox			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	4	27	69
Based on heard of [N=4,309]	14	86	--
27. The Hill			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	6	26	68
Based on heard of [N=4,658]	18	82	--
28. Washington Examiner			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	2	32	66
Based on heard of [N=4,653]	7	93	--
29. New York Post			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	5	63	32
Based on heard of [N=8,728]	7	93	--
30. The Guardian			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	6	44	51
Based on heard of [N=6,792]	11	89	--

ASK ALL:
SOURCEUSE_OE Are there any other news sources that were NOT listed here that you got political and election news from in the past week? Please list the name of the specific news organizations or sources. **[OPEN END]**

[INCLUDE 3 SINGLE LINE TEXT BOXES]
[OPEN END RESPONSES HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE]

ASK ALL:
AGGHEARD Please click on all of the sites or apps that you have HEARD OF, regardless of whether you use them or not. If you are unsure, please DO NOT click it. You can click anywhere in each of the boxes. **[RANDOMIZE SOURCES]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
94	Facebook
93	YouTube
88	Twitter
86	Instagram
73	Yahoo News
73	LinkedIn
70	Google News
62	Reddit
35	Apple News

ASK IF SELECTED ANY SOURCES IN AGGHEARD. SHOW ALL SOURCES SELECTED IN AGGHEARD.
AGGTRUST Of the sites or apps you have heard of, click on all that you generally TRUST as a place to get political and election news. **[KEEP IN SAME ORDER AS IN AGGHEARD]**
ASK IF SELECTED ANY SOURCES IN AGGHEARD. SHOW ALL SOURCES IN AGGHEARD & NOT SELECTED IN AGGTRUST.
AGGDISTRUST Now, click on all that you generally DISTRUST as a place to get political and election news. **[KEEP IN SAME ORDER AS AGGHEARD]**

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,043]:

	Trust	Distrust	Neither	Not heard of
1. Facebook				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	15	59	19	6
Based on heard of [N=11,406]	16	63	20	--
2. YouTube				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	17	36	39	7
Based on heard of [N=11,225]	19	39	43	--
3. Twitter				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	12	48	28	12
Based on heard of [N=10,847]	14	54	32	--
4. Reddit				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	7	24	31	38
Based on heard of [N=7,795]	11	39	50	--
5. LinkedIn				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	7	18	47	27
Based on heard of [N=9,543]	10	25	65	--
6. Instagram				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	6	42	37	14
Based on heard of [N=10,547]	8	49	44	--
7. Google News				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	28	16	27	30
Based on heard of [N=8,598]	39	22	39	--
8. Yahoo News				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	17	21	36	27
Based on heard of [N=9,072]	23	28	49	--
9. Apple News				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	12	7	17	65
Based on heard of [N=4,910]	33	19	48	--

ASK ALL WITH INTERNET ACCESS (TABLETHH=0) [N=11,862]. ASK IF SELECTED ANY SOURCES IN AGGHEARD. SHOW ALL SOURCES SELECTED IN AGGHEARD.

AGGUSE Please click on all of the sites or apps that you have used as a place to get political and election news from in the past week. If you are unsure, please DO NOT click it. **[KEEP IN SAME ORDER AS AGGHEARD]**

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,043]:

	Got news	Did not get news[11]	Not heard of
1. Facebook			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	25	68	6
Based on heard of [N=11,406]	27	73	--
2. YouTube			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	17	75	7
Based on heard of [N=11,225]	19	81	--
3. Twitter			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	14	75	12
Based on heard of [N=10,847]	15	85	--
4. Reddit			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	7	56	38
Based on heard of [N=7,795]	11	89	--
5. LinkedIn			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	3	70	27
Based on heard of [N=9,543]	4	96	--
6. Instagram			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	6	79	14
Based on heard of [N=10,547]	8	92	--
7. Google News			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	20	51	30
Based on heard of [N=8,598]	28	72	--
8. Yahoo News			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	13	61	27
Based on heard of [N=9,072]	17	83	--
9. Apple News			
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	10	25	65
Based on heard of [N=4,910]	28	72	--

[11] Respondents who do not have the internet are coded as "did not get news" if they heard of site or app.

ASK ALL WITH INTERNET ACCESS (TABLETHH=0) [N=11,862]:
CANDNEWS And in the last week, did you get political and election news or information directly from any of the following candidates or their campaigns online, such as through email, social media, or campaign website? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]** {new}

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,043]:

a. Donald Trump or his presidential campaign

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
25	Yes
69	No
2	No answer
4	No internet

b. A Democratic candidate or their presidential campaign

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
26	Yes
67	No
2	No answer
4	No internet

ASK ALL:
WATCHDOGIMPT Thinking beyond the current political environment, do you think that it is important or not important for journalists to serve as watchdogs over elected leaders? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
73	Important to serve as watchdogs
25	Not important to serve as watchdogs
3	No answer

ASK ALL:
WATCHDOGFAR And do you think that journalists TODAY are… **[RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK PUNCH 3 LAST]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
35	Going too far as watchdogs
32	Not going far enough as watchdogs
30	Getting it about right
3	No answer

ASK ALL:
TRUMPMEDIA Who do you think is contributing more to the tense relationship between **[ASK FORM 1:** Donald Trump and the U.S. news media **/ ASK FORM 2:** the U.S. news media and Donald Trump**]**? **[MATCH ORDER OF RESPONSES 1 AND 2 TO STEM; ALWAYS ASK RESPONSE 3 LAST]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
40	Donald Trump
31	The U.S. news media
28	Both equally
1	No answer

Now, thinking about the people you talk with, whether in person, over the phone, or online…

ASK ALL:
TALKPOL How often do you discuss government and politics with others?

Oct 29-Nov 10 2019		Apr 29-May 13 2019	Jan 29-Feb 13 2018	Mar 2-28 2016	Mar 19-Apr 29 2014[12]
15	Nearly every day	10	18	23	13
28	A few times a week	30	33	35	29
24	A few times a month	28	23	18	26
33	Less often	31	26	23	32
*	No answer	*	*	1	*

ASK ALL:
LEADPOL When you talk with friends and family about political and election news, do you tend to… **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS 1 AND 2 WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
55	Listen to the conversation more than lead
23	Lead the conversation more than listen
21	Never talk with friends and family about politics
1	No answer

[12] In Wave 1 (March 19-April 29, 2014), 407 non-internet panelists were surveyed by phone.

ASK ALL:
STOPTALK Have you ever stopped talking to someone about political and election news, whether in person or online, because of something they said?

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
45	Yes
54	No
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:
Have you ever stopped talking to someone about political news, whether in person or online, because of something they said about government and politics?

Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017	
44	Yes
56	No
0	No answer

ASK ALL:
FOLELECT How closely do you follow political and election news?

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
24	Very closely
38	Somewhat closely
25	Not too closely
13	Not at all closely
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
CORE_ELECT Overall, do you think the way the U.S. elects presidents works...

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
21	Very well
37	Somewhat well
28	Not too well
12	Not at all well
2	No answer

ASK ALL:
CONFVALUESa Generally speaking, how much confidence, if any, do you have in the American people to accept election results regardless of who wins?

	A great deal of confidence	A fair amount of confidence	Not too much confidence	No confidence at all	No answer
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	11	40	38	10	1
Nov 27-Dec 10, 2018[13]	9	43	36	11	*

[13] December 2018 asked as part of a battery of questions.

ASK ALL:
FKNWSCNCRN20 How concerned are you, if at all, about the influence made-up news and information could have during the presidential election next year?

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
48	Very concerned
34	Somewhat concerned
12	Not very concerned
5	Not at all concerned
2	No answer

ASK ALL:
FKNWSHRT20 Do you think made-up news and information related to the presidential election will mostly be intended to hurt… **[RANDOMIZE 1 & 2; ALWAYS DISPLAY 3 & 4 LAST]** {new}

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
30	The Republican Party
28	The Democratic Party
34	Both parties about equally
7	Neither party in particular
2	No answer

ASK ALL:
FKNEWSCONF How confident are you in your own ability to recognize news that is made up?

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
26	Very confident
52	Somewhat confident
16	Only a little confident
5	Not at all confident
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:
PEW6 How confident are you in your own ability to recognize news that is made up? Are you very confident, somewhat confident, not very confident, or not at all confident?

Dec 1-4, 2016[14]	
39	Very
45	Somewhat
9	Not very
6	Not at all
1	No answer

[14] December 2016 survey conducted via telephone.

ASK ALL WITH INTERNET ACCESS (TABLETHH=0) [N=11,862]:
INTFREQ About how often do you use the internet?

BASED ON TOTAL [N=12,043]:

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
40	Almost constantly
42	Several times a day
7	About once a day
4	Several times a week
3	Less often
1	No answer
4	No internet

ASK ALL:
DIGCONF Overall, how confident do you feel using computers, smartphones, or other electronic devices to do the things you need to do online? {Fact Opinion; W15}

Oct 29-Nov 10 2019		Feb 22-March 4 2018	*Based on all internet users* Oct 13-Nov 15 2015
58	Very confident	52	54
31	Somewhat confident	34	32
7	Only a little confident	10	10
3	Not at all confident	4	4
*	No answer	1	*

ASK ALL:
NEWSAMOUNT Which of the following statements comes closer to your view? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019		Feb 22-March 4 2018
66	I am worn out by the amount of news there is these days	68
32	I like the amount of news there is these days	30
1	No answer	2

ASK ALL:
GROUP_TRUST How much, if at all, do you trust the information you get from…

	A lot	Some	Not too much	Not at all	No Answer
a. National news organizations					
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	17	49	24	11	*
July 8–July 21, 2019	21	54	19	5	*
Feb 22–March 4, 2018	21	49	20	9	*
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	20	52	22	6	*
Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	18	59	18	6	*
b. Local news organizations					
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	21	57	15	5	*
July 8–July 21, 2019	29	57	12	3	*

GROUP_TRUST CONTINUED …	A lot	Some	Not too much	Not at all	No Answer
Feb 22–March 4, 2018	28	55	12	5	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	25	60	12	2	*
Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	22	60	14	3	1
c. Friends, family, and acquaintances					
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	8	57	28	6	1
July 8–July 21, 2019	11	62	24	3	*
Feb 22–March 4, 2018	13	58	23	5	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	15	61	21	3	1
Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	14	63	19	3	1
d. Social media sites, such as Facebook, Twitter or Snapchat[15]					
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	4	23	38	34	1
July 8–July 21, 2019	6	33	35	26	*
Feb 22–March 4, 2018	4	29	36	30	1
Mar 13-Mar 27, 2017	5	30	40	25	*
Jan 12-Feb 8, 2016	4	30	33	32	1
e. Political leaders and public officials					
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	3	43	38	15	1

ASK ALL:
WATCHDOG_3 In presenting the news dealing with political and social issues, do you think that news organizations deal fairly with all sides, or do they tend to favor one side?

Oct 29-Nov 10 2019[16]		Feb 22-March 4 2018	Mar 13-Mar 27 2017	Jan 12-Feb 8 2016
22	Deal fairly with all sides	30	28	24
76	Tend to favor one side	68	72	74
1	No answer	2	*	3

Now we have some questions about topics you may have learned about in the news or from other sources. Not everyone will have heard of them. We are interested in what people know off the top of their head.

ASK ALL:
SENCONTR Which political party currently has a majority in the U.S. Senate? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019		Jan 29-Feb 13 2018[17]	Jun 7-Jul 5 2016[18]
62	Republican Party *(Correct)*	83	56
17	Democratic Party	13	14
21	Not sure	-	28
1	No answer	4	2

[15] For the January 2016 and March 2017 surveys, GROUP_TRUSTd read "Social networking sites, such as Facebook and Twitter." For the January 2016 survey, GROUP_TRUSTd was asked only of web respondents.
[16] For the comparable phone trends from before 2016 for WATCHDOG_3, see here.
[17] February 2018 did not include "not sure" or "don't know" response options.
[18] July 2016 survey included "don't know" response option.

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF KNOWDEFICIT THROUGH KNOWTARIFF

ASK ALL:
KNOWDEFICIT Since Donald Trump took office, has the U.S. federal budget deficit… **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF 1 & 2, USE SAME ORDER IN KNOWUNEMPLY]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
55	Gone up *(Correct)*
12	Gone down
9	Stayed about the same
23	Not sure
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
KNOWUNEMPLY Since Donald Trump took office, has the unemployment rate in the United States… **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF 1 & 2, USE SAME ORDER IN KNOWDEFICIT]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
8	Gone up
65	Gone down *(Correct)*
13	Stayed about the same
13	Not sure
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
KNOWTARIFF Tariffs are fees charged to bring goods into the U.S. from other countries.

Since Donald Trump took office, have tariffs in the U.S. generally... **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1 & 2]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
72	Increased *(Correct)*
5	Decreased
4	Stayed about the same
18	Not sure
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
ELECTKNOW2 As you may know, presidents are chosen not by direct popular vote, but by the electoral college in which each state casts electoral votes. What determines the number of electoral votes a state has? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
28	The number of voters in the state
39	The number of seats the state has in the U.S. House and Senate *(Correct)*
4	The number of counties in the state
2	Each state has the same number of electoral votes
26	Not sure
*	No answer

ASK ALL:
KNOWPARTIES Thinking about where the political parties stand on important issues, please indicate which party you think is generally more supportive of each of the following. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 & 2; ALWAYS DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTION 3 LAST]**

	Republican Party	Democratic Party	Not sure	No answer
ASK ALL:				
a. Reducing the size and power of the federal government				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	54	15	30	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON: Reducing the size and scope of the federal government				
March 29-April 1, 2012[19]	53	25	-	22
b. Increasing taxes on higher income people				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	11	72	16	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON: Increasing taxes on higher income people to reduce the federal budget deficit				
March 29-April 1, 2012[11]	20	67	-	13
c. Restricting access to abortion				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	74	9	16	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
March 29-April 1, 2012[11]	61	19	-	20
d. Creating a way for immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally to eventually become citizens				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	11	72	17	1
TREND FOR COMPARISON:				
March 29-April 1, 2012[11]	17	63	-	21

[19] April 2012 survey conducted by telephone.

ASK ALL:
THERMO We'd like to get your feelings toward a number of people on a "feeling thermometer." A rating of zero degrees means you feel as cold and negative as possible. A rating of 100 degrees means you feel as warm and positive as possible. You would rate the person at 50 degrees if you don't feel particularly positive or negative toward them. **[RANDOMIZE]**

[Enter the number in the box between 0 and 100 that reflects your feelings]

	Rating of 0 to 24	Rating of 25 to 49	Rating of 50	Rating of 51 to 75	Rating of 76 to 100	No answer	Mean rating
a. How do you feel toward Donald Trump?							
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	49	8	9	9	25	1	38
Sep 3-15, 2019	49	7	8	10	26	1	38
Feb 26-Mar 11, 2018	51	8	10	9	22	1	35
Nov 29-Dec 12, 2016	37	11	14	12	24	2	43
Sept 27-Oct 10, 2016	48	9	9	11	18	4	35
Apr 5-May 2, 2016	53	8	9	11	17	3	32
THERMO CONTINUED …	Rating of 0 to 24	Rating of 25 to 49	Rating of 50	Rating of 51 to 75	Rating of 76 to 100	No answer	Mean rating
b. How do you feel toward Nancy Pelosi?							
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	41	9	20	12	17	1	38
Sep 3-15, 2019	40	11	22	14	12	1	36

ASK ALL:
NEWSHEARDUA Thinking about some stories covered by news organizations in recent weeks…

How much, if anything, have you heard or read about each of the following stories that have been in the news recently? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]**

	A lot	A little	Nothing at all	No answer
ASK ALL:				
a. Joe Biden calling for the removal of a prosecutor in Ukraine in 2016				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	25	34	41	1
b. Donald Trump temporarily withholding U.S. aid to Ukraine this past summer				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	48	26	25	1
c. Donald Trump asking Ukraine to investigate Joe Biden and his son				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	59	22	18	1
d. A whistleblower report regarding Donald Trump and Ukraine				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	59	24	16	1
e. Hunter Biden's work with a natural gas company based in Ukraine				
Oct 29-Nov 11, 2019	36	36	28	1

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF UKRAINETRUMP AND UKRAINEBIDEN

ASK ALL:
UKRAINETRUMP Based on what you've heard or read in the news, which comes closest to the reason why Donald Trump temporarily withheld U.S. aid to Ukraine this past summer? **[RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1-2, USE SAME ORDER IN UKRAINEBIDEN]** {new}

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
47	He wanted to help his reelection campaign by having Ukraine investigate Joe Biden and his son
20	He wanted to advance a U.S. government position to reduce corruption in Ukraine
31	Not sure
1	No answer

ASK ALL:
UKRAINEBIDEN Based on what you've heard or read in the news, which comes closest to the reason why Joe Biden called for the removal of a prosecutor in Ukraine in 2016? **[RANDOMIZE PUNCHES 1-2, USE SAME ORDER IN UKRAINETRUMP]** {new}

Oct 29-Nov 11 2019	
32	He wanted to protect his son from being investigated
24	He wanted to advance a U.S. government position to reduce corruption in Ukraine
43	Not sure
1	No answer

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:
ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to…[20]

Republican	Democrat	Independent	Something else	No answer	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
28	30	28	13	2	16	20

[20] PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.