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Sharp Divisions on Vote Counts, as Biden Gets High Marks for His Post-Election Conduct

Large majority of Americans say additional COVID-19 aid is needed – and want Congress to pass it as soon as possible

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How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this study to understand how Americans view the 2020 presidential election and the voting process. For this analysis, we surveyed 11,818 U.S. adults in November 2020, including 10,399 U.S. citizens who reported having voted in the November election.

Everyone who took part in this survey 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. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education and other categories. Read more about the [ATP's methodology](#).

Here are the [questions used for the report](#), along with responses, and its [methodology](#).

Sharp Divisions on Vote Counts, as Biden Gets High Marks for His Post-Election Conduct

Large majority of Americans say additional COVID-19 aid is needed – and want Congress to pass it as soon as possible

More than two weeks after the presidential election, there are sharp divisions between voters who supported Joe Biden and Donald Trump over nearly all aspects of the election and voting process, including whether their own votes were counted accurately.

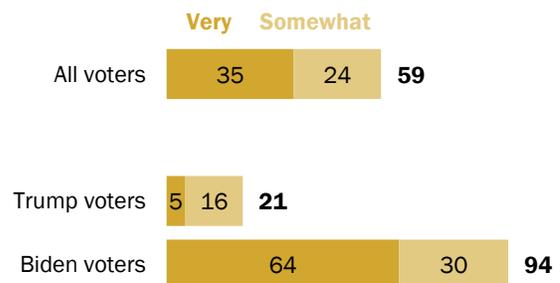
Trump voters, who already were skeptical of the electoral process and prospects for an accurate vote count before the election [in October](#), have become much more so since Biden's victory. While a 59% majority of all voters say elections in the United States were run and administered well, just 21% of Trump supporters have a positive view of how elections were administered nationally. Among Biden supporters, 94% say the elections were run and administered well.

Disagreements between supporters of the winning and losing candidates over the accuracy of presidential vote counts are not unusual, but the magnitude of the differences between Trump and Biden voters is striking. While 82% of Biden supporters are very confident *their own* vote was counted accurately, just 35% of Trump supporters say the same.

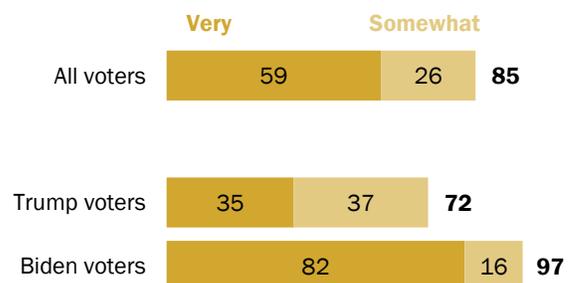
The weeks since Biden's victory have been marked by the Trump campaign's frantic and thus far unsuccessful attempts to challenge the election results in several states. Voters express much more positive views of Biden's conduct since the election than Trump's – and 57% say the Trump campaign's legal challenges to the voting and ballot counting process should end.

Biden, Trump voters deeply divided over election process, accuracy of vote count

*% of voters who say **elections in the U.S.** this November were run and administered well*



*% of voters who say they are confident that **their vote** was accurately counted*



Note: Based on voters.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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A majority of voters (62%) say Biden's post-election conduct has been excellent or good, while just half as many (31%) give Trump positive ratings for his conduct since the election. About seven-in-ten (68%) view Trump's conduct as only fair or poor, with a 54% majority rating it poor.

Both Biden and Trump, unsurprisingly, get largely positive ratings from their own supporters. However, about a third of Trump voters (34%) rate his conduct since the election as only fair or poor, compared with just 4% of Biden voters who give the former vice president low marks.

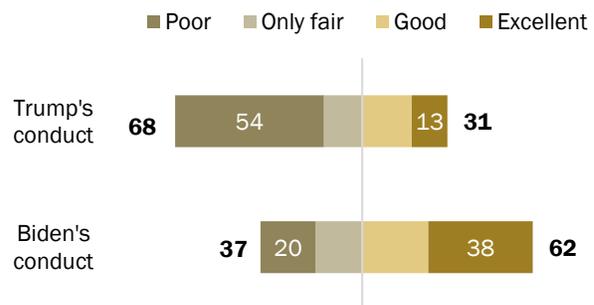
Still, while a majority of all voters say the Trump campaign should halt efforts to challenge the election, Trump voters are overwhelmingly supportive of these challenges: 85% say they should continue. Biden voters overwhelmingly say they should end (96% express this view).

As disputes over the election continue, the nation has been struggling with a record surge in coronavirus cases. And, as with views of the election process, Biden and Trump supporters are far apart on how to address the [pandemic](#). Most Biden voters (66%) favor tighter restrictions on public activity in their communities. But just 16% of Trump voters say the same; more than twice as many (44%) say there should be *fewer* restrictions, while 40% say they should remain about the same as they are currently.

The new survey by Pew Research Center, conducted Nov. 12-17 on the nationally representative American Trends Panel among 11,818 U.S. adults, including 10,399 who say they voted in the presidential election, finds far greater agreement about the need for additional governmental assistance in response to the coronavirus outbreak.

Biden's conduct since the election is viewed far more positively than Trump's

How would you rate ___ since the presidential election on Nov. 3? (%)



% of voters who say the Trump campaign should ___ legal challenges to the voting and ballot counting process in several states



Notes: Based on voters. No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

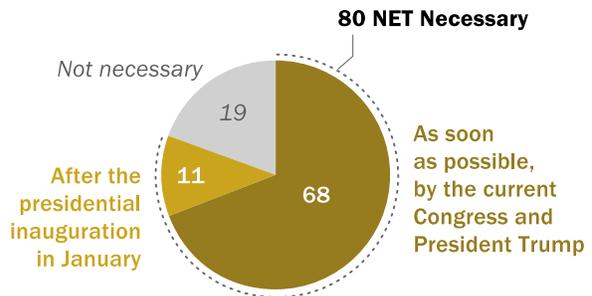
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A large majority of Americans (80%) say it is necessary for the president and Congress to pass more coronavirus aid, on top of the \$2 trillion package enacted in March.

And an overwhelming majority of those who view more assistance as necessary think Congress and the president should act on it as soon as possible, rather than waiting until after the presidential inauguration in January. About two-thirds of Americans (68%) say a new aid package is necessary *and* that it be acted upon by the president and current Congress.

Most say new COVID-19 aid is needed – and want Congress to act ASAP

As you may know, Congress and President Trump passed a \$2 trillion economic assistance package in March. Do you think another economic assistance package is ... (%)



Note: Based on general public. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Other key findings:

Biden continues to engender more confidence on coronavirus. The survey finds only modest changes in confidence in Biden and Trump on key issues since the election. As was the case before the election, Biden draws far more public confidence than Trump to handle the public health impact of the coronavirus; 58% are very or somewhat confident in Biden, compared with 39% who express confidence in Trump. Comparable shares of Americans have confidence in Biden (52%) and Trump (53%) to make good decisions about economic policy.

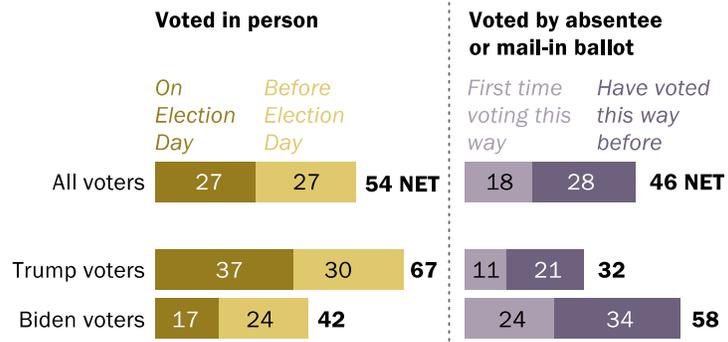
Partisans diverge in views of future trajectory of nation's economy. Views of the economy, which have been highly partisan for many years, have begun to shift following the election. While Republicans remain more positive than Democrats about current economic conditions, Democrats have become much more bullish in their views about the economy over the next year. Six-in-ten Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents say economic conditions will be better a year from now, compared with just 23% of Republicans and Republicans leaners. Last month, Republicans were far more likely than Democrats to say the economy would improve over the next year (65% of Republicans, 42% of Democrats).

Nearly half of voters say they voted by mail or absentee.

Largely because of concerns over the pandemic, mail and absentee voting increased dramatically in 2020. Nearly half of voters (46%) say they voted by absentee or mail – including 18% who report casting ballots by mail for the first time. A 54% majority say they voted in person, with equal shares voting on Election Day or before the election.

In historic election, only about a quarter of voters say they cast ballots on Election Day

% of voters who say they ...



Notes: Based on voters. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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For most voters, casting

ballots was “very easy.” Despite the dramatic changes in how Americans voted this year, a sizable majority (77%) say voting in the election was very easy. These views differ only modestly among those who voted by mail or absentee, and in person before Election Day or on Election Day itself. And while Trump and Biden supporters have substantial disagreements over the accuracy of the vote count and how the elections were administered, 81% of Biden voters and 73% of Trump supporters found it very easy to vote.

1. Biden, Trump and the post-election period

As states continue to certify vote results from the 2020 election in the coming weeks, Trump receives highly negative ratings for his conduct since the Nov. 3 election. Nearly seven-in-ten voters (68%) say Trump's conduct has been only fair or poor, including a majority of voters who say it has been poor (54%).

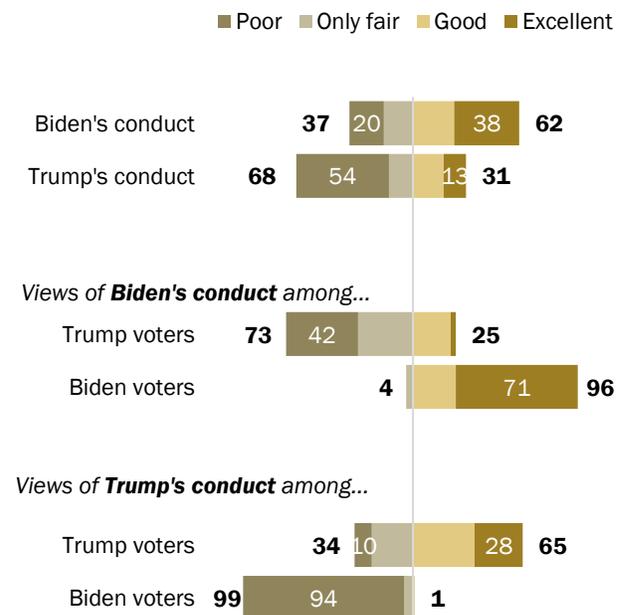
In contrast, Biden gets positive marks for his conduct since the 2020 presidential election. Overall, 62% of voters say it has been good or excellent, while 37% say it has been only fair or poor. Nearly three times as many voters say Biden's conduct has been excellent as say this about Trump's (38% vs. 13%, respectively).

The overwhelming majority of Biden voters (96%) rate Biden's post-election conduct as excellent or good, as do a quarter of Trump voters.

As the Trump campaign continues to mount legal challenges to the vote and ballot counting process in several states, 57% of voters say that these legal challenges should not continue. A smaller share (43%) says the Trump campaign should continue the legal challenges.

Most voters – and about a third of his voters – rate Trump's post-election conduct negatively

How would you rate ___ since the election on Nov. 3? (%)



Note: Based on voters. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Biden's supporters are remarkably united in their views of Trump's post-election conduct and whether his presidential campaign should continue legal challenges to the vote and ballot counting process. Virtually all Biden voters (99%) say Trump's conduct since the election has been fair or poor, with 94% rating it as poor.

Similarly, 96% of Biden voters say the Trump campaign's legal challenges to the vote counting process should *not* continue.

Nearly two-thirds of Trump voters (65%) view his post-election conduct positively, while 34% say it has been only fair or poor.

Trump's ratings are much more positive among those who said they supported him *strongly* in Pew Research Center's [October survey](#). At that time, a 68% majority of registered voters backed him strongly, while 32% supported him moderately or leaned toward voting for him.

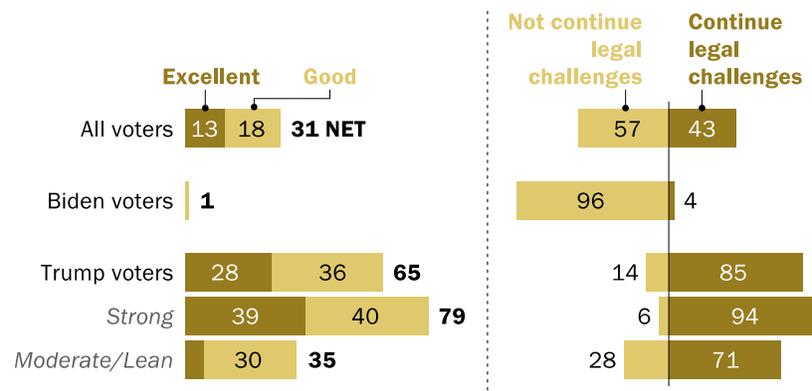
Those who supported Trump strongly last month are more than twice as likely as those who backed him less strongly to endorse his post-election conduct; 79% of Trump's strong supporters say it has been excellent or good, compared with just 35% of the smaller subset of his supporters who backed him less strongly.

However, sizable majorities of Trump voters – those who supported him strongly and not as strongly – say his campaign's legal challenges should continue. An overwhelming share of strong Trump supporters (94%) say this, as do a smaller majority of voters (71%) who backed Trump less strongly.

Majority of moderate Trump supporters fault conduct since election, but most back his continued legal fight

% of voters who rate Trump's conduct since the presidential election on Nov. 3 ...

% who say Trump campaign should ___ to the voting process in several states ...



Notes: Based on voters. No answer responses not shown. Strength of Trump support based on survey responses from October survey.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Among Trump voters, opposition to Trump’s continued legal challenges is largely limited to those who rate his post-election conduct as poor. Among the 10% of Trump voters who express this view, 62% say his campaign’s election challenges should not continue. But only about a quarter (24%) of Trump supporters who rate his conduct as only fair agree, as do very small shares of those who view his post-election conduct as good (5%) or excellent (1%).

Few are confident presidential transition would go smoothly

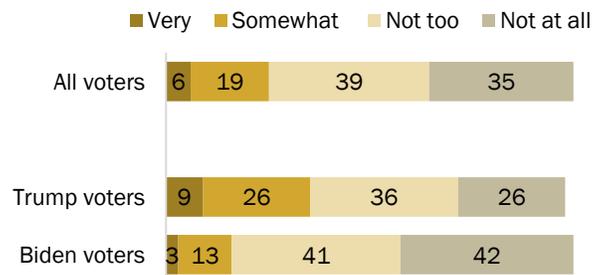
With the transition from a Trump presidency to a Biden administration stalled because of the president’s continuing legal challenges, voters are widely pessimistic that a transition would go smoothly.

Nearly three-quarters of voters (73%) say they are not too or not at all confident that the transition from the Trump administration to the Biden administration will go smoothly. This includes a majority of both Biden and Trump voters.

Trump voters are slightly more confident than Biden voters that the transition will go smoothly (35% vs. 16%, respectively). Still, majorities of each group lack confidence in a smooth presidential transition (62% of Trump voters vs. 83% of Biden voters).

Most voters not confident in smooth transition to a Biden presidency

% of voters who say they are ___ confident that a transition from the Trump administration to a Biden administration would go smoothly



Notes: Based on voters. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Warm ratings toward Biden rise following his election as president

When asked to rate Biden on a “feeling thermometer” between 0 and 100 – where 0 is the coldest, most negative rating and 100 represents the warmest, most positive – voters give Biden an average score of 48, up from 45 in October.

Overall, each of the four major 2020 candidates received a minor uptick in their average thermometer scores since October. Today, Biden’s average thermometer rating (48) is the highest of all four political leaders asked about on the survey: Trump’s overall average was 41, while ratings for Kamala Harris and Mike Pence were 45 and 44, respectively.

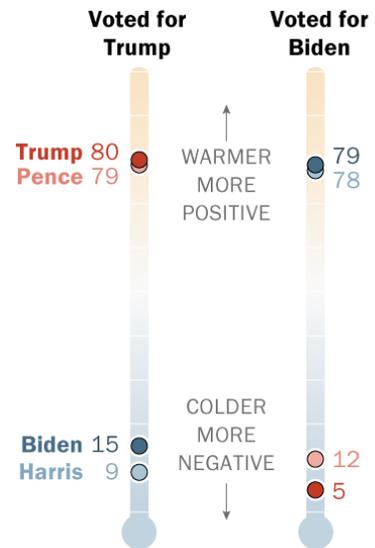
Biden’s boost in mean thermometer score comes from Biden and Trump voters alike. Biden voters give the president-elect an average rating of 79. This is up 5 points since October, when Biden’s average thermometer rating among his supporters was 74. And while Trump voters give Biden an average rating of just 15, this is up from an average score of 11 just two months prior.

Biden voters also view Harris more warmly than they did in October. Then, her average thermometer rating was 71. Today, her average is 78.

At the same time, Trump’s and Pence’s mean ratings among Trump voters are little changed from October (Trump’s average score was 82 then and 80 now; Pence’s were 78 in October and 79 today).

Voters’ views of Biden, Trump after the election

Mean thermometer ratings



Notes: Based on voters. Ratings of political leaders are based on a feeling thermometer from 0 (coldest) to 100 (warmest). See topline for details.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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2. Voters' evaluations of the 2020 election process

About six-in-ten voters (59%) say the elections this November in the U.S. were run and administered well, including 35% who say they were run very well. About four-in-ten (41%) say the elections were not run well. In October, a similar share (62%) of registered voters said they thought the November elections across the country would be run and administered well, though the share expecting they would be run *very* well (15%) was lower than the share of voters who now say the elections were run well (35%).

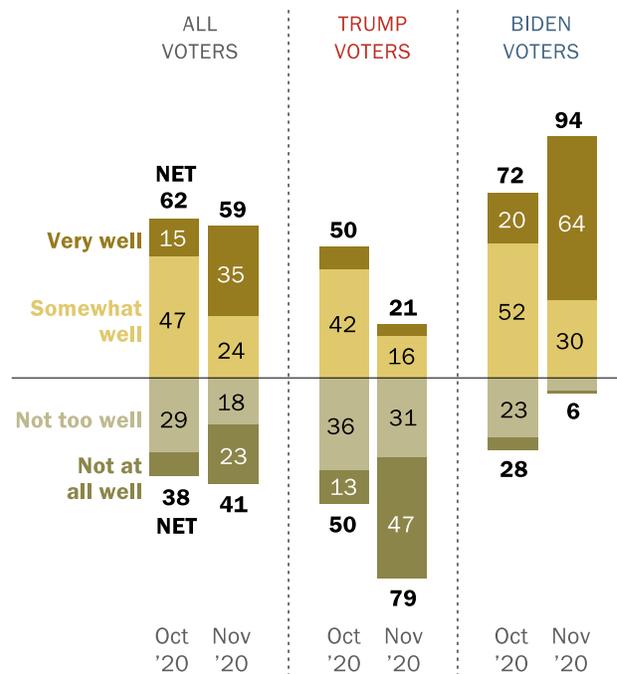
A month before the election, registered voters who supported Biden were more likely than Trump supporters to say they thought the elections across the nation would be run well. The gap in evaluations after the election is now even wider. Just 21% of Trump voters now say the elections in the U.S. were run and administered well; by comparison, nearly all Biden voters (94%) say they were run well, including more than six-in-ten (64%) who say they were run very well.

Prior to the election, half of registered voters who backed Trump expected that, nationally, the elections would be run and administered well – fully 30 percentage points higher than the share of Trump voters who now say they were run well (21%). The pattern is reversed among those backing Biden: About seven-in-ten (72%) registered voters who supported Biden expected the elections to be run well when asked in October – 22 points lower than the share of Biden voters who now say this (94%).

An overwhelming majority of voters (90%) think the November elections *in their community* were run and administered well. An identical share thought this would be the case when asked in October. Just 10% say they were not run well – a view also unchanged from before the election.

Most Trump voters say elections across the U.S. were not run well, most Biden voters say they were

% of voters who say the elections this November in *the* U.S. were run and administered ...



Notes: Based on voters. October survey based on registered voters and asked whether elections **will be** run and administered well. No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

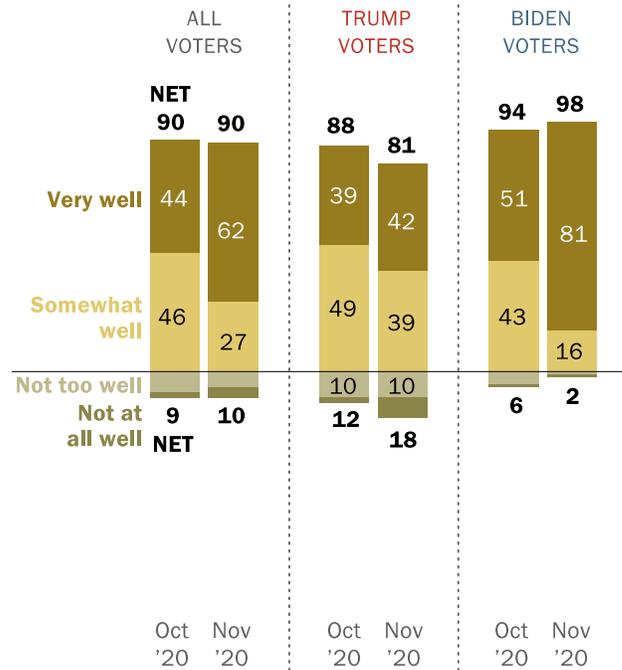
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Overall, voters give higher ratings to the way elections were administered in their community than they give to elections across the country: Nine-in-ten voters say the elections in their community were run and administered well, and 62% say these were run very well.

Still, Biden voters offer more positive ratings than Trump voters of their community’s administration of elections. Nearly all Biden voters (98%) say the elections in their community were run and administered well, including 81% who say they were run very well. About eight-in-ten Trump voters (81%) say the elections were run and administered well in their community, with 42% saying they were administered very well.

Most say elections were run and administered well in their community

% of voters who say the elections this November in their community were run and administered...



Notes: Based on voters. October survey based on registered voters and asked whether elections **will be** run and administered well. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Voters have more confidence in counts of votes cast at in-person polling places than by mail or absentee

A majority of voters say that votes cast in this past presidential election in November were counted as voters intended, both those cast in person at polling places and those cast by absentee or mail-in ballots. However, confidence is higher in the counts of in-person votes than in votes cast by mail: About eight-in-ten voters (82%) say that they are confident that votes cast in person were counted as voters intended, while about six-in-ten (59%) say the same for votes cast absentee or by mail.

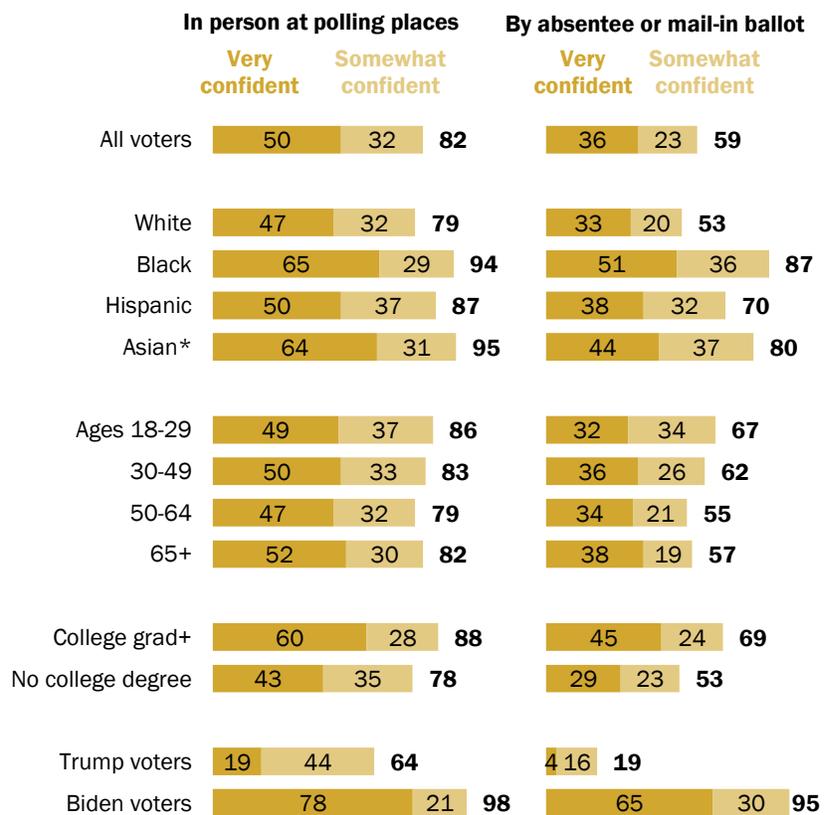
Overall, those who voted for Biden are much more likely than those who voted for Trump to have confidence that votes were counted as intended.

For votes cast in person at polling places, nearly all Biden voters (98%) say they are confident that votes were counted as intended, compared with 64% of Trump voters. For votes cast absentee or by mail, 95% of Biden voters say they are confident in vote counts – just two-in-ten Trump voters (19%) say this.

Generally, voters' confidence in vote counts – both in-person and absentee ballots – is higher among those with more educational attainment.

Biden voters more likely than Trump voters to be confident in vote count, regardless of voting method

% of voters who say they are confident that votes cast _____ across the United States were counted as voters intended in the elections this November



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: Based on voters. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. No answer responses not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Overall, Black and Hispanic voters are more likely than White voters to have confidence in vote counts, both for in-person votes and absentee. Fully 94% of Black voters they are confident that votes cast in person were counted as intended; 87% of Hispanic voters and 79% of White voters say this. And while 87% of Black voters say absentee ballots were counted as voters intended, 70% of Hispanic voters say this, along with only about half of White voters (53%).

In large part, these differences by race and ethnicity reflect underlying partisan differences. In fact, the overall pattern in these views is somewhat reversed among Biden voters: White Biden voters are more likely than Black and Hispanic Biden voters to say they are *very* confident votes were cast as intended (83% of White Biden voters, compared with 68% of Black Biden voters and 70% of Hispanic Biden voters say this about in-person votes, with a similar pattern seen in views about mail-in ballots).

Trump voters' confidence in vote counts drops after the election, Biden voters' confidence rises

Biden voters' confidence that votes – both in person and absentee – were counted as voters intended is higher than it was that votes *would be* counted as intended in a survey conducted a month before Election Day. By contrast, Trump voters' confidence in vote counts is now lower than it was in the pre-election survey. This pattern is consistent with [past elections](#), supporters of the winning candidate tend to express higher levels of confidence in vote counts than supporters of the losing candidate.

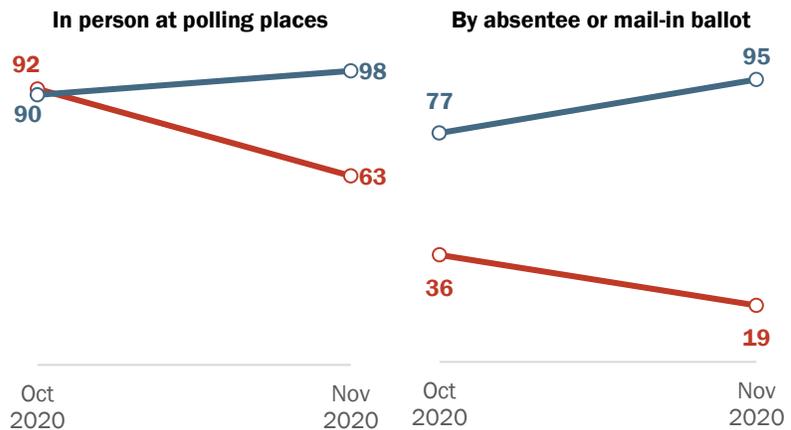
Currently, 98% of Biden voters

say that they are confident in-person votes were counted as intended; 90% of Biden supporters had expressed confidence these votes would be counted as intended in the October survey. And Biden voters' confidence that mail ballots were counted as intended is considerably higher than it was in October: 95% now say they are confident these ballots were counted as intended; in October, 77% of Biden supporters were confident this would happen.

By contrast, Trump voters' confidence in the count of in person votes is 29 percentage points lower than Trump supporters' confidence in October (92% then, 63% now), while their confidence in the count of mail-in ballots is 17 points lower (36% then, 19% now).

Trump voters' confidence in vote counts declines after the election

% of voters who say they are very/somewhat confident that votes cast _____ across the U.S. were counted as voters intended



Notes: Based on voters. October survey based on registered voters and asked whether votes **will be** counted as intended.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Confidence one's ballot was accurately counted is higher among Biden voters than Trump voters

More than eight-in-ten voters (85%) are either very (59%) or somewhat (26%) confident that their vote was counted as they intended.

Those who voted for Biden are much more likely than those who cast their ballot for Trump to have confidence that their votes were counted accurately. Nearly all Biden voters (97%) say they are at least somewhat confident their vote was accurately counted, with 82% of Biden voters saying that they are very confident of this. By comparison, about seven-in-ten Trump voters say they are at least somewhat confident their vote was counted as intended, and just 35% say they are very confident of this.

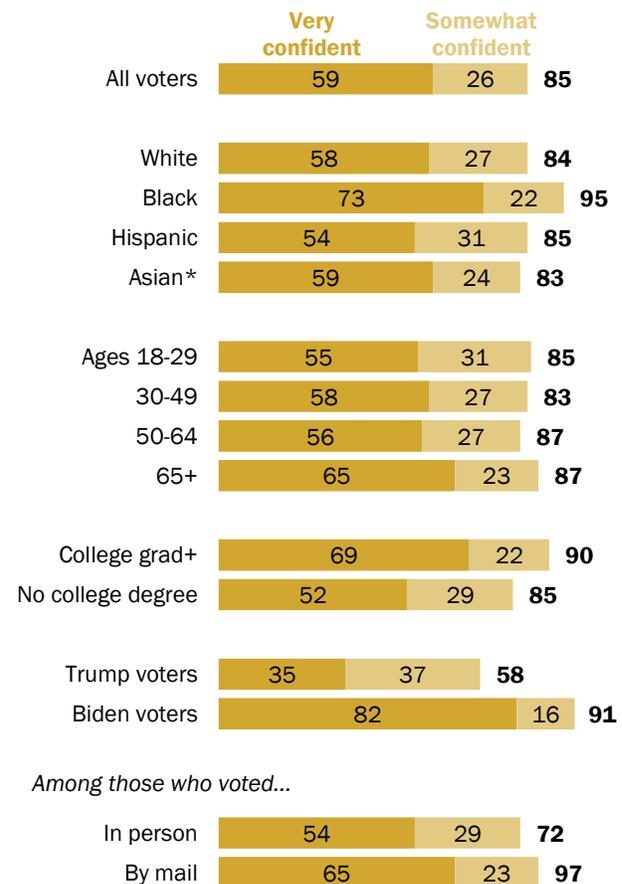
Overall, Black voters (95%) are more likely than White (84%) and Hispanic (85%) voters to think their votes were accurately counted.

These views vary only modestly by age, with voters ages 65 and older somewhat more likely than other voters to say they are very confident their vote was accurately counted (65% vs. 57%).

Voters with higher levels of education are more confident that their vote was counted accurately: 91% of college graduates say they are confident their ballot was accurately counted, 82% of those with less education say the same.

College grads, Black voters most confident their vote was counted

% of voters who say they are confident that their vote was accurately counted



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Note: Based on voters. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. "In person" refers to voters who voted in person at polling places early or on Election Day. "By mail" refers to voters who voted "By absentee or mail-in ballots." No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Overall, in-person voters (83%) are somewhat less likely than mail-in voters (88%) to say they are confident that their vote was counted accurately. However, this modest difference is attributable to Biden voters making up a larger share of mail-in voters and Trump voters making up a larger share of in-person voters. Within supporters of each candidate, there are no significant differences between in-person and mail voters in the confidence one's vote was accurately counted.

3. The voting experience in 2020

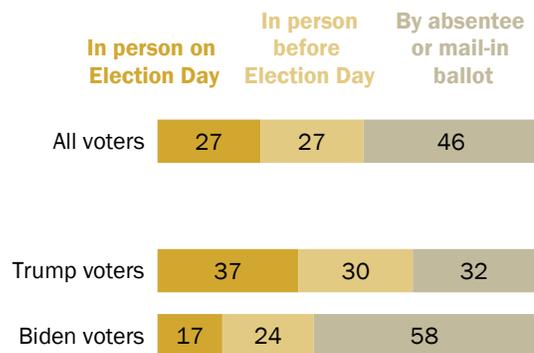
A slim majority of voters (54%) say they voted in person this November, compared with 46% who voted by absentee or mail-in ballot. About one-quarter (27%) report having voted in person on Election Day, and an identical share say they voted in person before Election Day.

Two-thirds of Trump voters say they voted in person, compared with 42% of Biden voters. Nearly four-in-ten Trump voters (37%) say they voted in person on Election Day, while just 17% of Biden voters say they cast their ballot at a polling place on Nov. 3.

Trump voters are also slightly more likely than Biden voters to say they voted in person before Election Day. Three-in-ten Trump voters report voting this way, compared with 24% of Biden voters.

Biden voters nearly twice as likely as Trump voters to say they voted by mail

% who voted ...



Notes: Based on voters. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Black voters were less likely to vote by absentee or mail-in ballot than white, Hispanic and Asian American voters. About four-in-ten Black voters (38%) say they voted by mail, compared with 45% of white voters, 51% of Hispanic voters and two-thirds of Asian American voters.

Among those who voted for Biden, these gaps are even larger. While 64% of White voters who supported Biden say they voted by absentee or mail-in ballot, smaller shares of Biden's Hispanic supporters (56%) and Black supporters (39%) voted this way.

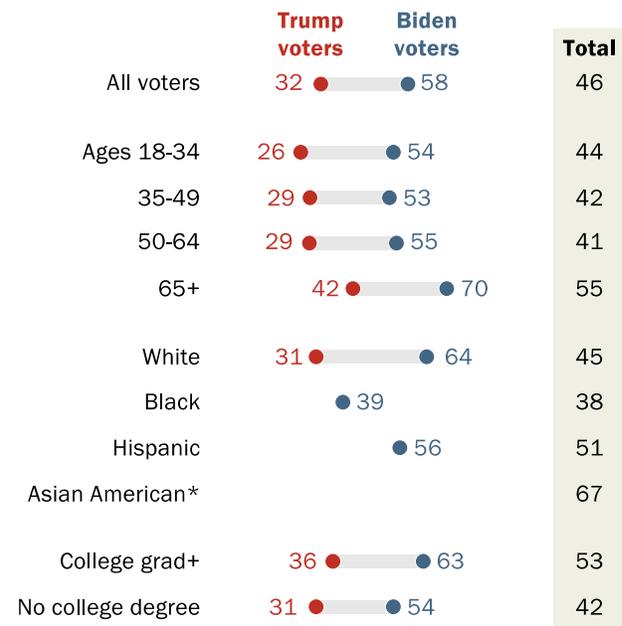
Voters ages 65 and older are more likely to say they voted by mail than younger voters. Similar shares of voters ages 18 to 34 (44%), 35 to 49 (42%) and 50 to 64 (41%) say they voted by mail. Among those 65 and older, a majority (55%) say they voted this way.

Within each age group, Biden voters are much more likely than Trump voters to say they voted by mail, with the size of this gap largely the same across groups.

College graduates are more likely than those without a college degree to say they voted by mail (53% vs. 42%).

Black voters were less likely than other groups to vote by mail

% of voters who voted by absentee or mail-in ballot



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: Based on voters. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Among absentee voters, Biden voters more likely than Trump voters to say they returned ballots early

Those who voted by absentee or mail-in ballot were about equally likely to return their ballots to a designated drop box as they were to return their ballots by mail. About four-in-ten (41%) say they returned their ballots to a drop box, while 44% say they returned their ballots by mail; 15% say they returned their ballots in person to an election official or poll worker.

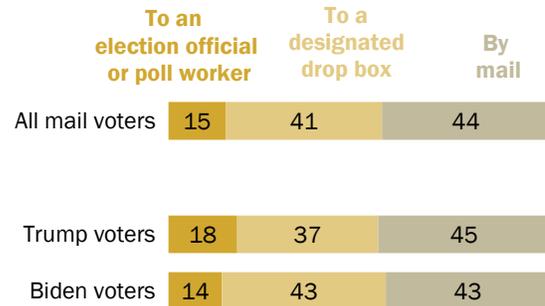
This pattern was largely the same among both Trump and Biden absentee voters.

Overall, about three-quarters of absentee or mail-in ballot voters (76%) report having returned their ballots at least a week before Election Day, while 23% say they returned their ballots in the final week leading up to Election Day. Biden voters were more likely than Trump voters to report having returned their absentee ballots in early: 82% of Biden voters who voted by absentee or mail ballot returned their ballots at least a week before Election Day, compared with 66% of Trump voters who voted this way.

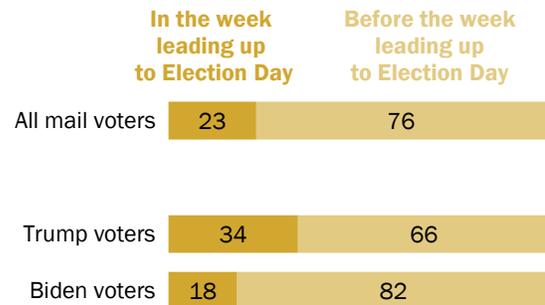
Nearly four-in-ten absentee or mail voters (39%) say they had never voted by this method prior to this November's election. Biden absentee or mail-in voters were slightly more likely than Trump absentee voters to report not having voted this way in the past (42% vs. 34%).

Most mail-in voters say they returned their ballots well before Election Day

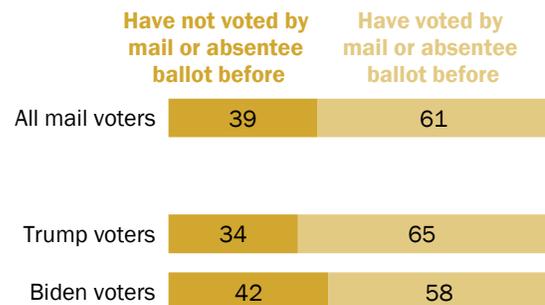
% of absentee/mail voters who returned their ballot ...



% of absentee/mail voters who returned their ballot ...



% of absentee/mail voters who ...



Notes: Based on absentee or mail-in ballot voters. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Nearly one-in-five in-person voters waited more than 30 minutes to vote

Among voters who voted in person in this election, 35% say they did not wait in line to vote at all. An additional 27% say they waited for less than 10 minutes. One-in-five waited for 10 to 30 minutes, 11% waited for 31 minutes to an hour, and 6% say they waited in line for more than an hour to vote.

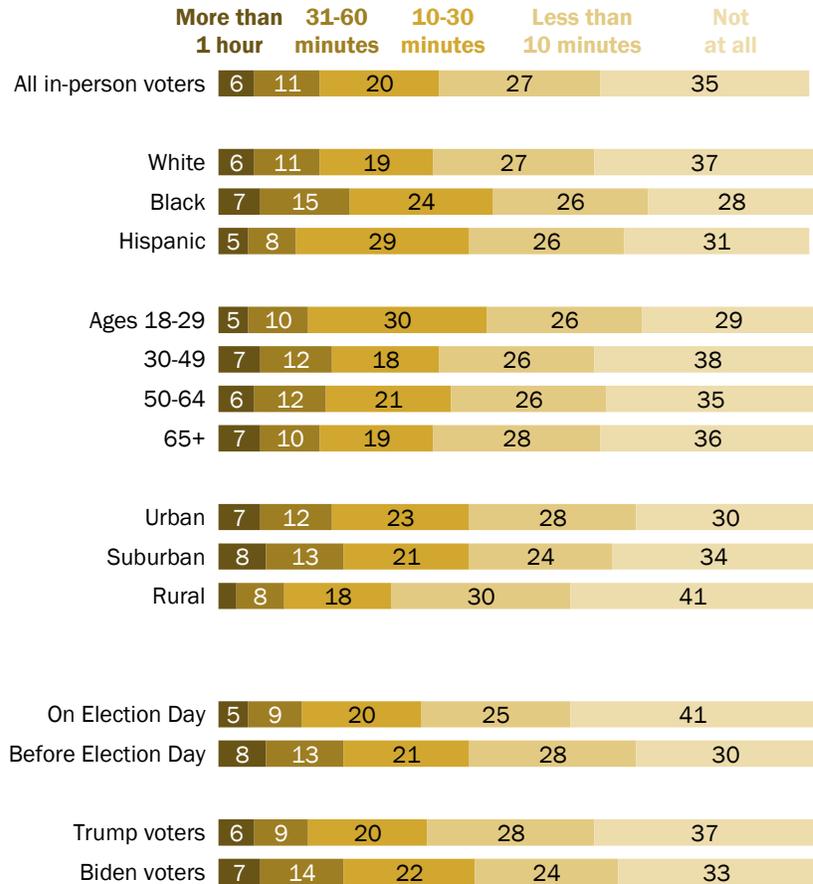
Those who voted early waited longer than those who voted on Election Day: 21% of early in-person voters waited more than half an hour, compared with 14% of Election Day voters.

Black in-person voters also waited longer to vote than White or Hispanic in-person voters. Black voters are 5 percentage points slightly more likely than white voters to say they waited more than 30 minutes to vote and 9 points more likely than Hispanic voters to say this.

Those who voted for Biden waited longer to vote, on average, than those who voted for Trump. About two-in-ten in-person Biden voters (21%) waited more than half an hour to vote, compared with 15% of in-person Trump voters.

Wait times for in-person voters varied by race and ethnicity, voting method and by candidate preference

% of in-person voters who say they waited in line to vote ...



Note: Based on in-person voters. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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These differences are partly related to the longer wait times faced by those living in more densely populated areas. Voters living in rural areas were much less likely to face a wait of more than half an hour (11% of rural voters) than those living in urban (19%) or suburban (21%) areas.

Most voters say it was easy to vote in the election

More than nine-in-ten voters (94%) say that voting in the election this November was either very easy (77%) or somewhat easy (17%), while just 6% say that voting was very or somewhat difficult.

A month before the election, about a third of registered voters (35%) expected voting would be at least somewhat difficult, compared with 36% who expected it to be somewhat easy and 29% who expected it to be very easy.

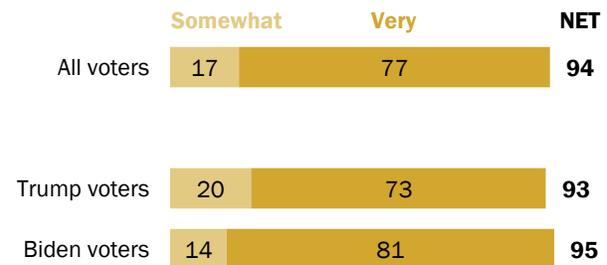
Biden supporters had been somewhat more likely than Trump supporters to say they expected voting to be at least somewhat difficult in the preelection survey, with 38% of Biden supporters and three-in-ten Trump supporters saying this.

However, nearly identical shares of those who voted for Biden (95%) and those who voted for Trump (93%) now say that voting this

November was easy. And Biden voters are now somewhat more likely than Trump voters to say that voting was *very* easy (81% vs. 73%).

Overwhelming majority of voters say voting was easy for them

% who say voting in the election was ___ easy



Notes: Based on voters. October survey based on registered voters. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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In their own words: Why some voters faced difficulties casting ballots

While most voters who cast ballots in the November election say voting was very or somewhat easy for them personally (94%), about 6% of voters say they encountered difficulties when casting their ballot.

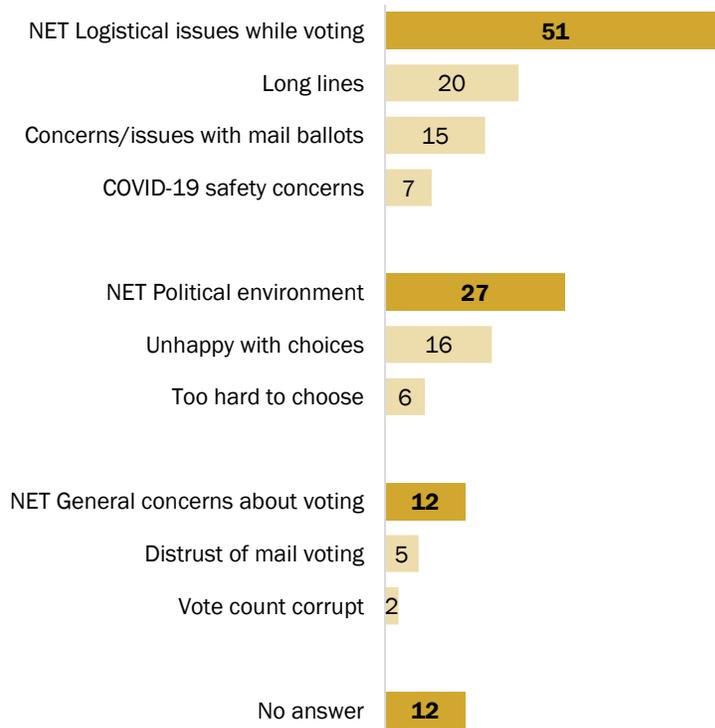
For about half of these voters (51%), logistical issues like long lines or safety concerns amid the coronavirus pandemic made voting difficult. One-in-five pointed to long voting lines, and many cited unusually long wait times at polling places. One 58-year-old woman voter said, “I had to stand in the cold and rain for approximately an hour and a half. Never had to stand in line for more than 10-15 minutes inside before.”

For 16% of these voters, issues with submitting absentee or mail ballots made voting difficult. While some pointed to

confusion about rules and requirements surrounding vote by mail, others mentioned delays in receiving or tracking their mail ballots in time. A 26-year-old man said, “I requested a mail in ballot, didn’t receive it, contacted my county and they said to wait 10 more business days. I contacted them again, then they finally sent a new one to me the week before the election. I made the choice to drop it off rather than mail it in because it was so close to Election Day.”

Voters who encountered difficulties casting ballots cited long lines and mail ballot concerns as top issues

Among the 6% of voters who say voting was somewhat or very difficult, % who say it was because ... [OPEN-END]



Notes: Based on voters who say it was somewhat or very difficult to vote in the November election (6% of all voters). See topline for full results. Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Some voters also noted that safety concerns about voting during the pandemic led to hurdles while making voting plans. One woman noted, “People in my family tested positive for COVID-19 on October 26, so instead of voting in person, we had to request a mail in ballot at the last minute.”

Nearly three-in-ten of those who say that voting was difficult say it is because they could not decide who to vote for – or did not like any of their choices in candidate: 16% say they were unhappy with their choices while 6% say they could not make up their mind about who to vote for.

About one-in-ten cited general concerns and suspicions about the voting system in general. This includes uncertainty about the vote counting process as a whole or concerns that states were tampering with the voting process, as well as specific concerns about more widespread use of mail-in voting. As one 60-year-old man put it, “I didn’t like mail-in ballots. It encourages voter fraud.”

Convenience was top factor in voters' decisions about which way to vote

Nearly two-thirds of voters (66%) say that convenience was a major reason why they chose to vote in person on Election Day, in person before Election Day, or by mail or absentee ballot. Another 15% say that this was a minor reason for voting the way they did, while 19% say that this was not a reason.

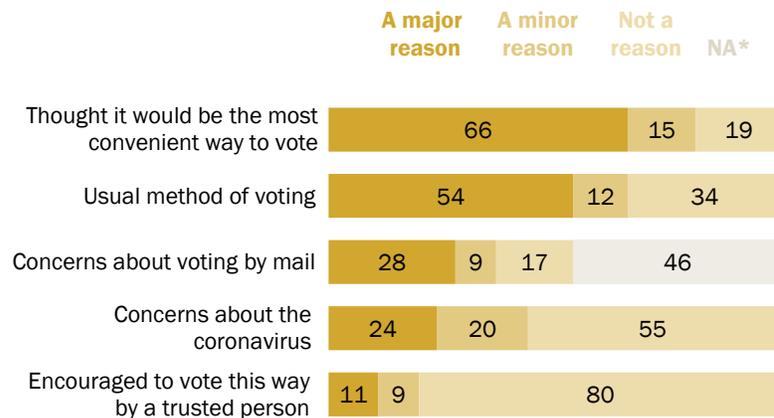
Just over half of voters (54%) say that voting the way they usually do was a major reason for their choice of method, and about one-in-ten (12%) say this was a minor reason.

Smaller shares of voters say that concerns about voting by mail (28%) or concerns about catching or spreading the coronavirus (24%) were major reasons why they voted as they did. And despite [widespread expectations](#) earlier this year that the pandemic would disrupt the November election, a majority of voters (55%) say that concerns about the coronavirus were not a factor in their decision about how to cast their ballot.

Just two-in-ten voters say that being encouraged to vote a certain way by someone they trust was either a major reason (11%) or a minor reason (9%) for the vote method they chose.

Convenience, familiarity rank among top reasons voters cast a ballot using their chosen method

% of voters who say each of the following was ___ for why they voted using the method they did



Notes: Based on voters. *Voters who cast ballots by mail or absentee were not asked whether concerns about voting by mail were a reason they voted as they did. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Those who voted using different methods this November point to somewhat different reasons for doing so. Among voters who voted at a polling place on Election Day, 76% say that a major reason for doing so was that they usually vote that way. In-person early voters are 19 percentage points less likely to say that this was a major reason for voting the way they did, and absentee or mail-in voters are 36 points less likely to say this.

Seven-in-ten mail voters (70%) and a similar share of in-person early voters (72%) say convenience was a major reason they voted the way they did. A much narrower majority (54%) of in-person Election Day voters cited convenience as a major reason for doing so.

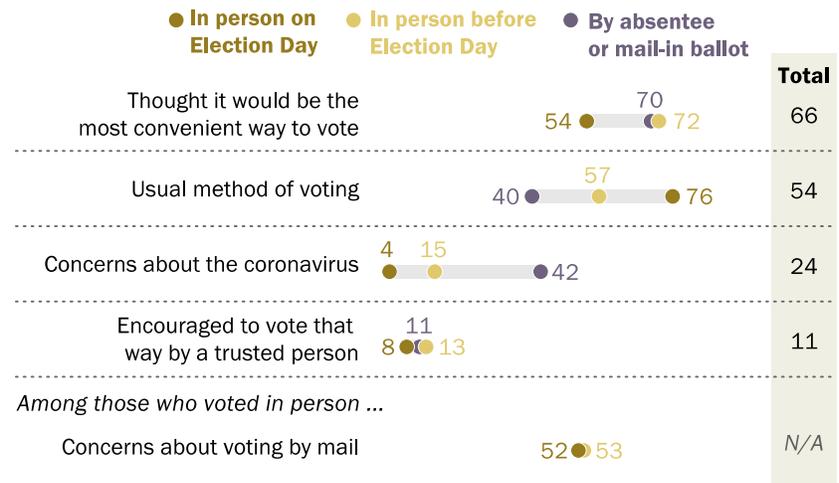
About half of in-person voters, (53% among in-person early voters, 52% among in-person Election Day voters) say that a major reason for voting in person was their concerns about voting by mail.

About four-in-ten mail voters (42%) cite concerns about catching or spreading the coronavirus as a major reason for voting by absentee or mail-in ballot. Just 15% of in-person early voters and 4% of in-person Election Day voters say that concerns about the coronavirus were a major reason why they voted using the method they chose.

Similar shares of in-person early voters (13%), mail voters (11%) and in-person Election Day voters (8%) say that encouragement from a person they trusted was a major reason for choosing to vote as they did.

Most who voted in person on Election Day say they did so in large part because that is how they usually vote

Among those who voted ____, % who say each of the following was a major reason for why they voted using the method they did



Notes: Based on voters. Only voters who voted in person were asked whether concerns about voting by mail were a reason for their decision to vote in person. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Among in-person voters, 68% of those who voted for Trump say that concerns about voting by mail were a major reason why they voted in person. By comparison, a far smaller share of in-person Biden voters (32%) cite this as a major reason why they voted in person.

This gap is somewhat larger among in-person Election Day voters than among in-person early voters. Among in-person early voters, Trump voters are 32 percentage points more likely than Biden voters to say concerns about voting by mail were a major reason for voting as they did. Among in-person Election Day voters, Trump voters are 42 points more likely than Biden voters to say this.

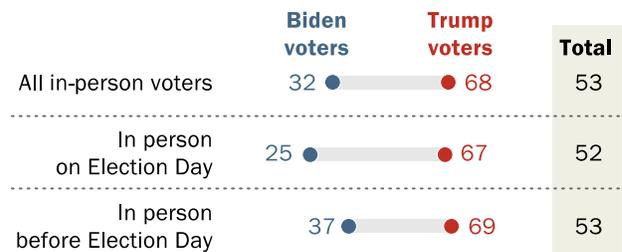
By comparison, Biden voters are more likely than Trump voters to say that concerns about the coronavirus were a major reason for voting as they did. Overall, 39% of Biden voters cited this as a major reason, compared with just 9% of Trump voters.

About half of Biden voters who voted absentee or by mail (53%) say that concerns about the coronavirus were a major reason they voted by mail, while just 20% of Trump voters who voted this way cited this as a major reason why.

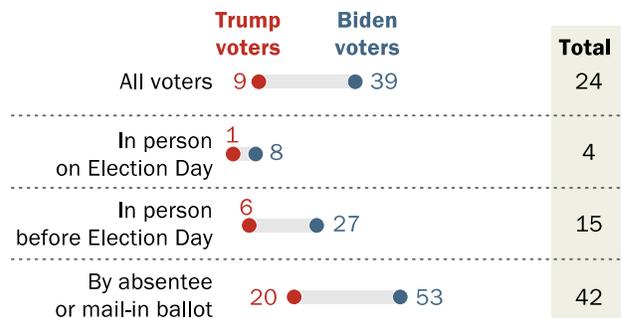
About a quarter of Biden voters who voted in person before Election Day (27%) also pointed to COVID-19 concerns as a major reason for doing so, while just 6% of in person Trump early voters said the same. Few Biden Election Day voters (8%) and almost no Trump Election Day voters (1%) considered concerns about the pandemic as a major reason for voting the way they did.

Most Trump voters who cast ballots at a polling place say concerns about voting by mail was a major reason for doing so

Among in-person voters who voted ____, % who say **concerns about voting by mail** were a major reason for why they voted using the method they did



Among those who voted ____, % who say **concerns about the coronavirus** were a major reason for why they voted using the method they did



Notes: Based on voters. Only voters who voted in person were asked whether concerns about voting by mail were a reason for their decision to vote in person.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Researching voting methods, checking registration, tracking wait times and absentee ballots

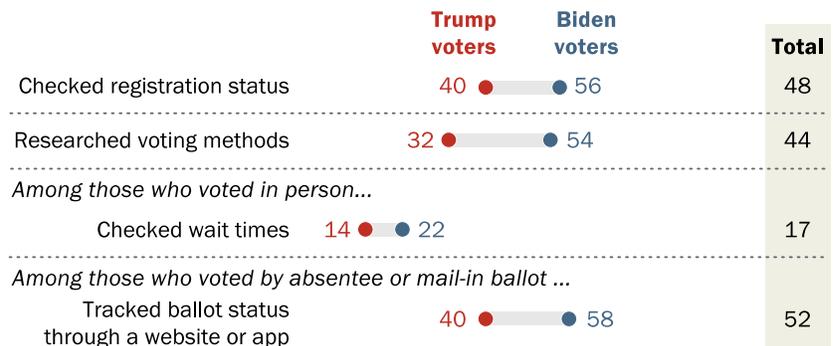
Biden voters are more likely than Trump voters to say they took a variety of steps to ensure they would be able to cast a ballot in the days and weeks leading up to Election Day. Nearly half of all voters (48%) say they checked their voter registration status prior to the election – including 56% of Biden voters and 40% of Trump voters. And a majority of Biden voters (54%) also say they researched their options for how to vote in person or by mail this year, compared with 32% of Trump voters.

Among those who voted in person in the November election, 17% say they checked wait times at an in-person polling place before going to vote: 22% of Biden voters and 14% of Trump voters say they did this.

About half of absentee or mail-in ballot voters (52%) say they tracked their ballot’s status through a website or app: Nearly six-in-ten Biden voters (58%) say they did this, compared with 40% of Trump voters.

Biden voters more likely than Trump voters to say they checked their registration status ahead of voting

% of voters who say they ___ in the days or weeks leading up to the November presidential election



Note: Based on voters.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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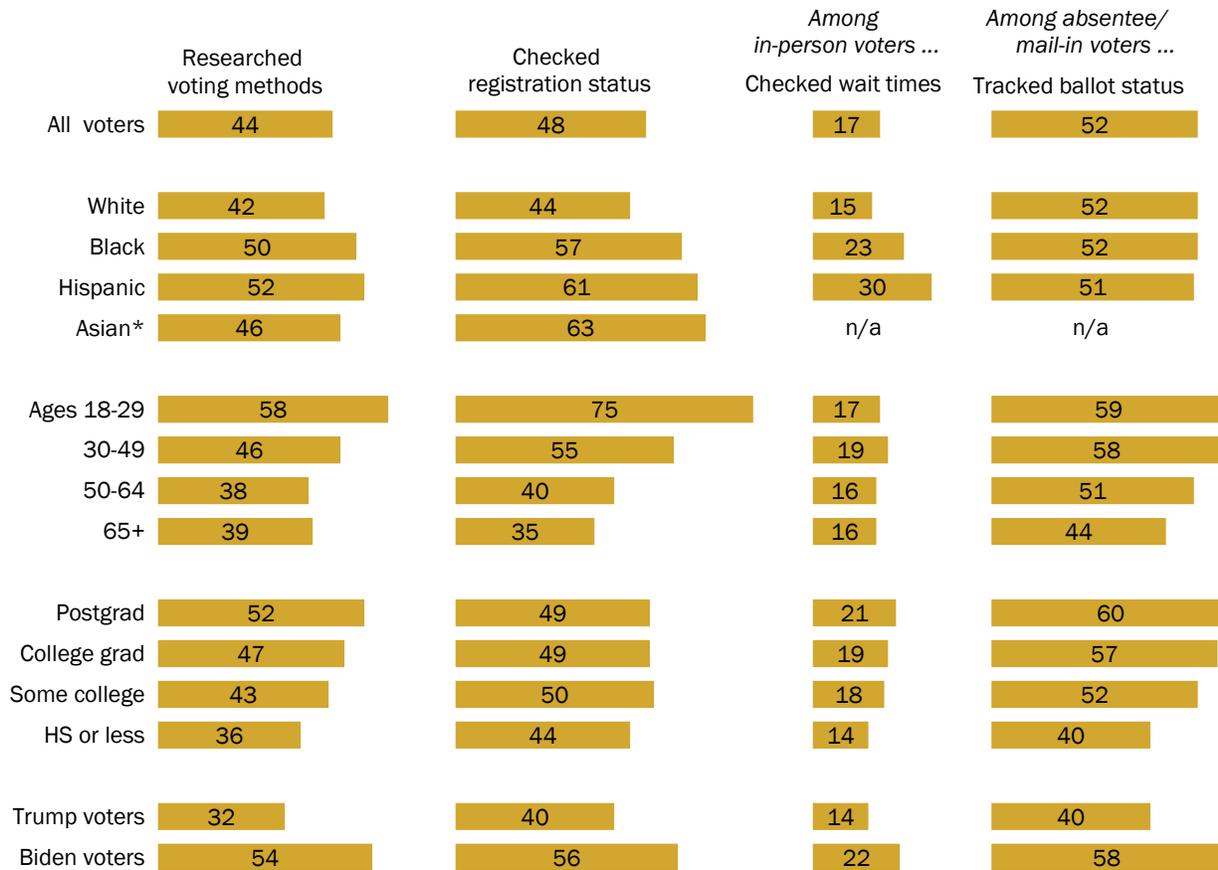
Black voters, Hispanic voters and Asian American voters are somewhat more likely than White voters to say they checked their registration status, though these differences are closely related to levels of support for the two candidates within different racial and ethnic groups.

About six-in-ten Black (57%), Hispanic (61%) and Asian (63%) voters say they checked their registration status in the days and weeks prior to voting; a smaller share (44%) of White voters report having done this. And among in-person voters, Hispanic (30%) and Black (23%) voters are both more likely than White voters (15%) to say they checked the wait time at a polling place before going to vote.

Younger voters and those with more years of formal education are also more likely to say they took several of these steps than older voters or those with fewer years of education, respectively.

Younger voters more likely than older voters to say they researched voting methods, checked voter registration status, tracked their absentee ballots

% of voters who say they ____ in the days or weeks leading up to the November presidential election



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: Based on voters. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race. Shares of Asian adults who checked wait times or tracked the status of their ballot not shown due to insufficient sample size.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Three-quarters of voters ages 18 to 29 say they checked their voter registration status in the days or weeks leading up to the election, compared with 55% of voters ages 30 to 49, 40% of those 50 to 64 and 35% of those 65 and older. A majority of voters ages 18 to 29 (58%) say they researched their options for voting, compared with 46% of 30-to 49-year-olds and 39% of those 50 and older.

And 58% of mail-in voters under 50 tracked their ballot's status online, while 51% of those ages 50 to 64 and 44% of those 65 and older say they did the same.

Voters with a college degree are more likely to say they researched their options for voting than those without a degree (49% vs. 40%). And among mail voters, nearly six-in-ten college graduates (58%) reported tracking their ballot online, compared with 46% of those without a degree.

4. Voters' reflections on the campaign

Reflecting on the 2020 presidential campaign, most voters find it was interesting rather than dull (64% vs. 34%), but also say it was too negative (76%) and not focused on important policy debates (72%).

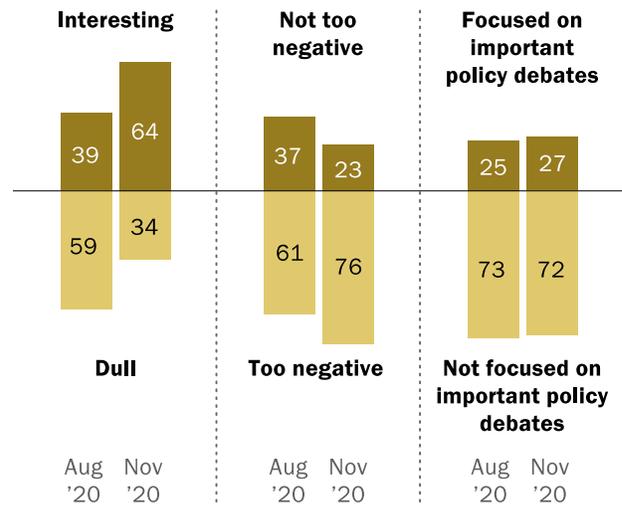
Nearly two-thirds of voters (64%) say, in retrospect, they thought the campaign was interesting. This is a significant shift of opinion since August, when just 39% of registered voters said the campaign was interesting and most (59%) said they found the campaign dull.

Today, roughly three-quarters of voters (76%) say the campaign was too negative. In August, 61% of registered voters said they thought the campaign was too negative.

Only about a quarter of voters (27%) say the 2020 campaign was focused on important policy debates, little different than the share of registered voters who said this in August (25%).

More voters find the campaign to be interesting, negative than in August

% of voters saying the presidential campaign was ...



Notes: Based on voters. August survey based on registered voters. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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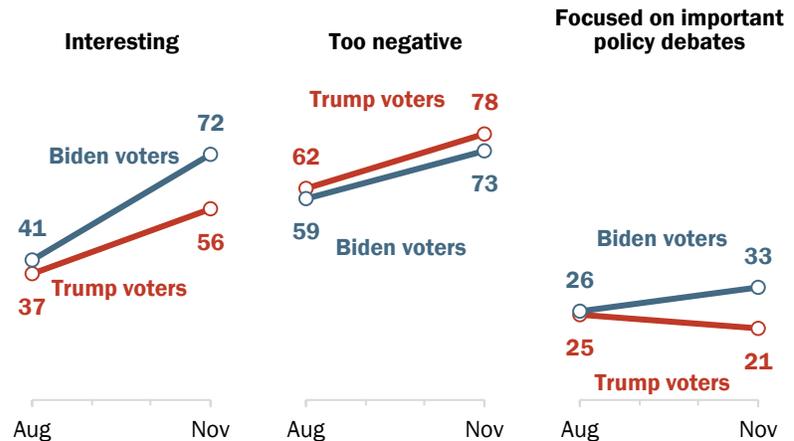
Biden voters (72%) are more likely than Trump voters (56%) to say the campaign was interesting, though majorities in both groups now say this. In August, only about four-in-ten supporters of each candidate said the campaign was interesting.

Both Biden and Trump voters are also more likely to say the campaign was too negative than they were earlier in the year. More than seven-in-ten Biden (73%) and Trump voters (78%) say the campaign was too negative. About six-in-ten (59% and 62%, respectively) said this in August.

Just a third of Biden voters and an even smaller share of Trump voters (21%) say the 2020 campaign was focused on important policy debates. However, Biden voters are somewhat more likely to say this today than they were in August, while the share of Trump voters saying this is slightly lower than the share of his supporters who said this in August (25% now, 21% then).

Biden voters now more likely than Trump voters to say campaign was interesting, policy-focused

% of voters saying the 2020 presidential election campaign was ...



Notes: Based on voters. August survey based on registered voters.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Most were satisfied with the choice of candidates

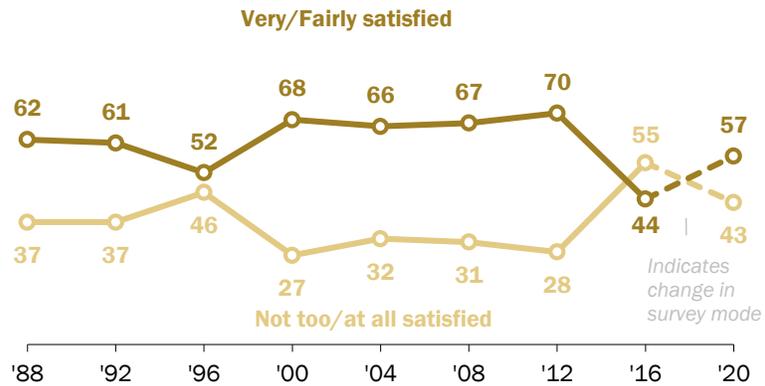
Overall, 57% of voters say they were very or fairly satisfied with the choice of presidential candidates this year, while 43% say they were not too or not at all satisfied with the choice of presidential candidates.

Four years ago, just 44% said they were very or fairly satisfied with the choice of candidates. (Note: Post-election surveys from 1988-2016 were conducted by phone, while the latest survey was conducted online; there may be *modest mode differences* on this question.)

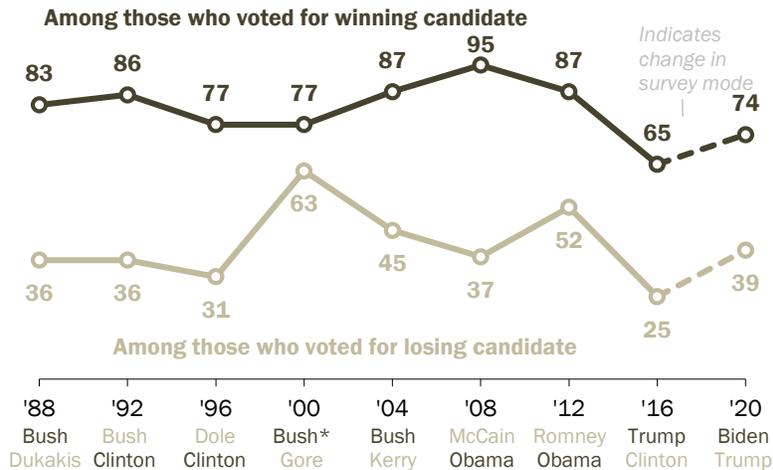
Among those who voted for Biden, nearly three-quarters (74%) say they were very or fairly satisfied with the choice of presidential candidates, compared with 39% of Trump voters who say they were satisfied.

As in the past, the presidential victor's voters express more satisfaction with their candidate choices

% of voters who say they were ___ with the choice of presidential candidates



% of voters who say they were **very/fairly satisfied** with the choice of presidential candidates ...



*In 2000, Bush is labeled as winning candidate, Gore as losing candidate, though at the time of the survey the results of the election had not been declared.
 Notes: Based on voters. Data for prior years from November post-election callback phone surveys. No answer responses not shown.
 Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

Just over half of Biden voters said their vote was more ‘against Trump’ than ‘for Biden’

As was the case in surveys conducted before the election, Trump voters remain more likely than Biden voters to consider their vote more of a vote “for” their preferred candidate. About three-quarters of Trump voters (76%) say their choice was more a vote *for* Trump, while 24% say their choice was more a vote against Biden.

Biden voters are more divided. A narrow majority (54%) say their choice was more a vote *against* Trump, while 46% say their choice was more a vote *for* Biden.

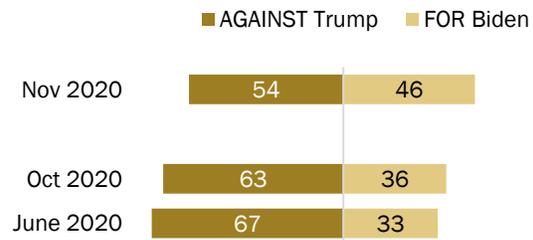
This general pattern is consistent with [previous presidential elections](#) involving incumbent presidents, with supporters of the challenger more likely to say their choice is more a vote against the incumbent than supporters of the incumbent were to view their support as against the challenger.

Slightly larger majorities of Biden supporters in June (67%) and October (63%) said their choice was more a vote against Trump than say this in the post-election survey (54%).

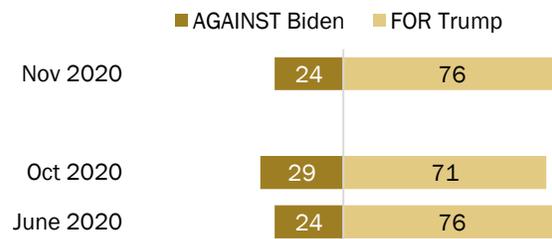
The share of Trump voters saying their vote was more a vote of support for Trump than against Biden is little different than it was in preelection surveys.

Biden voters became more likely to say their vote was ‘for’ him after election

% of Biden voters who say their choice was more a vote ...



% of Trump voters who say their choice was more a vote ...



Notes: Based on voters. Data prior to November is based on registered voters. No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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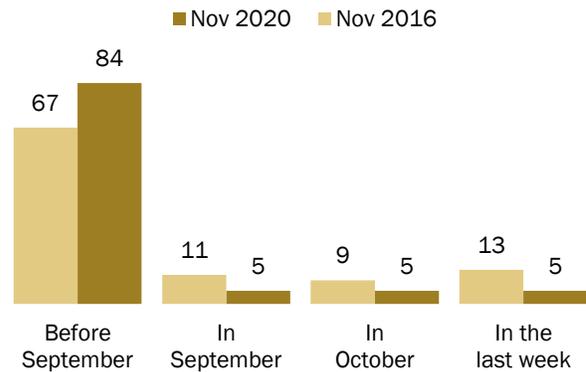
More than eight-in-ten voters (84%) say they made up their mind about who they were going to vote for in the 2020 presidential election before September. By comparison, in the wake of the 2016 election, a smaller – though still substantial – majority of 2016 voters (67%) reported having made their mind up before September.

This year, just 5% of voters say they made up their mind about their vote in the last week before Election Day. In 2016, 13% said they had made their mind up in the last week.

Trump voters are slightly more likely than Biden voters to report having made up their mind about their vote in the last week before Election Day (6% vs. 4%).

Voters' decisions were locked in earlier this year than in 2016

% of voters who say they made up their mind about who they were going to vote for in the presidential election ...



Notes: Based on voters. No answer responses not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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5. Key post-election issues: The pandemic and the economy

As Congress and the White House continue to wrangle over the size and necessity of a new coronavirus assistance bill, an overwhelming majority of Americans (80%) say they believe more aid is necessary. Only about one-in-five (19%) say that a second major relief package is not necessary. This is comparable to the share [who said in April that another bill would be necessary](#).

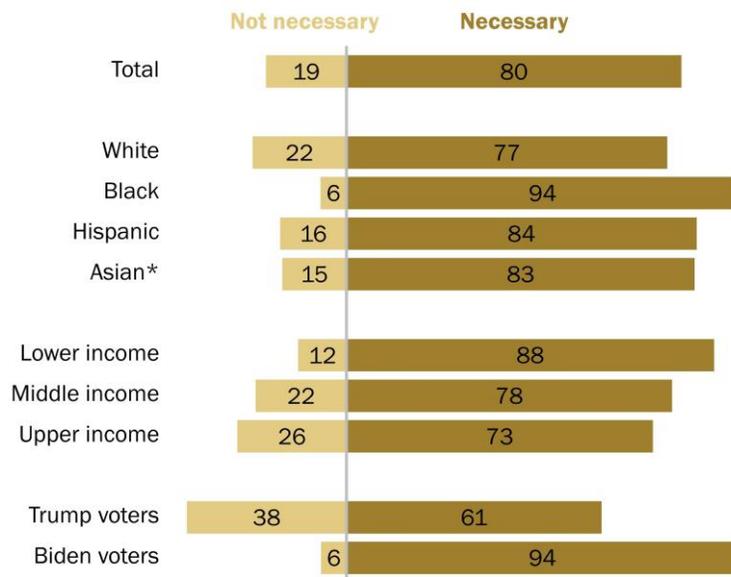
When asked if President Trump and the current Congress should pass a new economic aid package as soon as possible or if the package can wait until after the presidential inauguration in January, 85% of those who think additional aid is needed say it should be passed as soon as possible.

Overall, 68% of the public says a new economic aid package is needed in response to the coronavirus *and* that it should be passed as soon as possible.

Sizable majorities across nearly all demographic and income categories say more economic assistance is needed. However, while an overwhelming share of those who voted for Joe Biden (94%) say a new aid package is needed, a smaller majority of Trump supporters (61%) say additional assistance is necessary.

Majorities across nearly all groups, including Biden and Trump voters, say more COVID-19 aid is needed

As you may know, Congress and President Trump passed a \$2 trillion economic assistance package in March. Do you think another economic assistance package is ... (%)



*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.

Notes: No answer responses not shown. White, Black and Asian adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Family incomes are based on 2019 earnings and adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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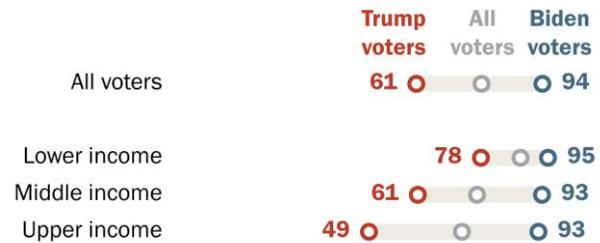
There also are differences by household income in views of the necessity of a new aid package, with larger shares of lower-income adults saying such assistance is needed.

However, the relationship between household income and support for a second major relief bill is only seen among Trump voters. About half (49%) of Trump voters in upper-income households say that another relief bill is necessary; larger shares of Trump voters in middle- (61%) and lower-income households (78%) say an additional aid package is needed.

Majorities of more than 90% of Biden voters, regardless of household income, say that a second major assistance package is necessary.

Higher-income Trump voters less likely to say more COVID-19 aid is needed

% who say another coronavirus-related economic assistance package is **necessary**



Notes: Based on voters. Family incomes are based on 2019 earnings and adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Deep divides between Biden and Trump supporters on new coronavirus restrictions

As the nation struggles with a sharp rise in coronavirus cases, more than four-in-ten Americans (44%) say there should be more restrictions on public activity in their area, 35% say the limits on activity should stay about the same as they are now and 21% favor fewer restrictions.

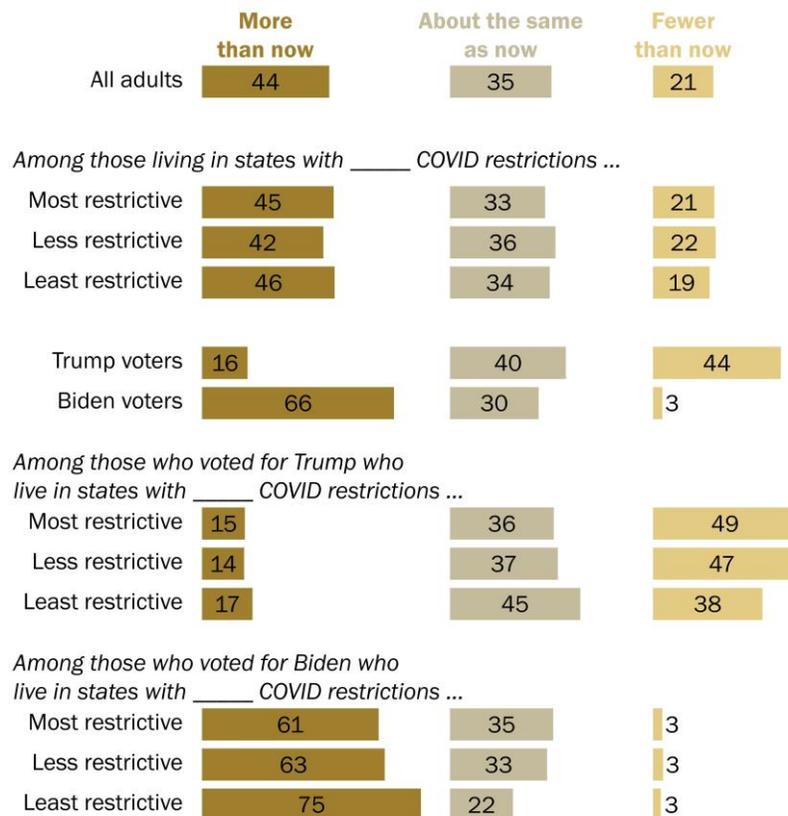
Voters' candidate preferences are a much bigger factor than the level of current coronavirus restrictions in their states or the impact the coronavirus has had on the states where they live.

Two-thirds of Biden voters say there should be more restrictions on public activity in their area because of the coronavirus outbreak, while only half as many say that restrictions should remain as they are (30%) or be loosened (3%).

Just 16% of Trump voters favor more restrictions on public activity due to the outbreak. Far more want to maintain current restrictions (40%) or say there should be fewer restrictions than there are currently (44%).

Biden voters four times as likely as Trump voters to favor more restrictions due to COVID-19

% who say there should be _____ restrictions on public activity because of the coronavirus outbreak in their area



Note: No answer responses not shown. See appendix for details of state classifications. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Overall opinions about limits on public activity because of the coronavirus outbreak vary only modestly between states like Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey, which have continued to keep relatively strict social-distancing policies in place (including mask mandates, mandatory quarantines for travelers, limits on gatherings and closures or restrictions for bars and restaurants) and states that have not enacted these policies or rolled them backed as they try to reopen their economies (including Florida, Missouri, South Dakota and Wyoming).

However, Trump voters living in places with the most restrictions are most likely to say that these restrictions should be rolled back (49%), while those living in places with the least restrictions are most likely to say that restrictions should be kept as they are (45%) or even decreased further (38%). Only relatively small shares of Trump voters, regardless of where they live, say that restrictions should be increased.

Majorities of Biden voters say that restrictions should be increased. This is especially true of those living in states with the fewest restrictions (75% living in these states say restrictions should be increased). Biden voters living in the most restrictive places were relatively more likely than other Biden voters to say that restrictions should remain the same.

Confidence in Biden and Trump on coronavirus, economy little changed

Voters remain more confident in Biden than Trump to handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak. Overall, 58% of voters are very or somewhat confident in Biden's ability to handle the outbreak. Only 42% of voters say the same about Trump. The attitudes of voters who voted in the Nov. 3 election differ little from those of registered voters [measured in October](#).

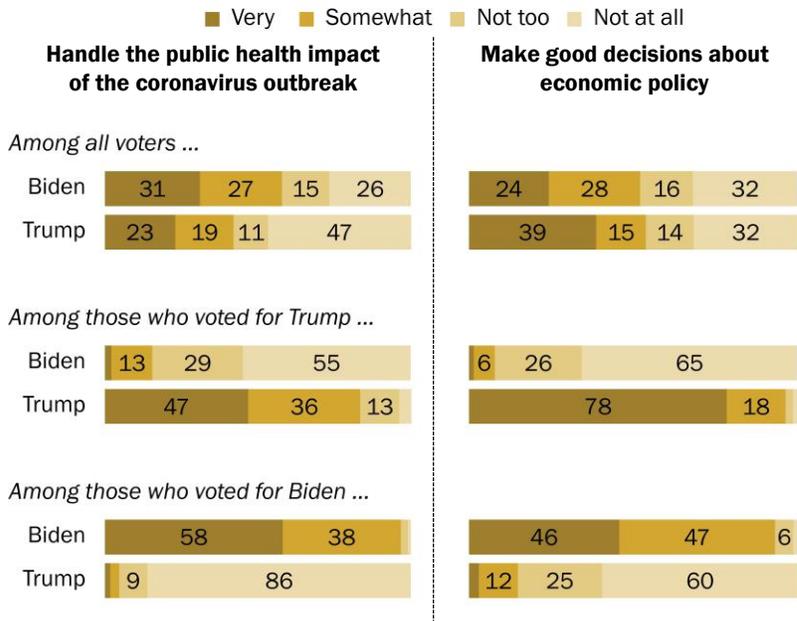
While Biden and Trump voters express far more confidence in their candidate than in his opponent, Biden voters are especially critical of Trump's handling of the coronavirus. Among Biden voters, 86% say they are not confident at all in Trump's handling of the coronavirus; far fewer Trump voters (55%) have no confidence at all in Biden.

In addition, while 58% of Biden voters are *very* confident in his ability to handle the coronavirus, fewer Trump voters (47%) are very confident in the president.

Comparable shares of voters say they are very or somewhat confident in Biden (52%) and Trump (54%) to make good decisions about economic policy. However, significantly more voters are *very* confident in Trump (39%) than Biden (24%) to make good decisions about economic policy. Trump voters express a high degree of confidence in him on the economy (78% very confident). By contrast, fewer Biden voters (46%) are very confident in the former vice president to make good decisions on economic policy.

Americans continue to express more confidence in Biden than Trump to handle the coronavirus outbreak

% of those who are ___ confident that each can ...



Note: No answer responses not shown.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Voters' economic expectations turn less positive, driven by a major shift among Trump voters

Overall, Americans' views of the current state of the nation's economy not much changed [from before the election](#), but voters' expectations about the future have shifted dramatically.

Before the election, 52% of Americans believed economic conditions would be better next year, and only 17% said they expected things to be worse. Today, 42% say they expect things will be better next year, and 32% say they expect things to be worse.

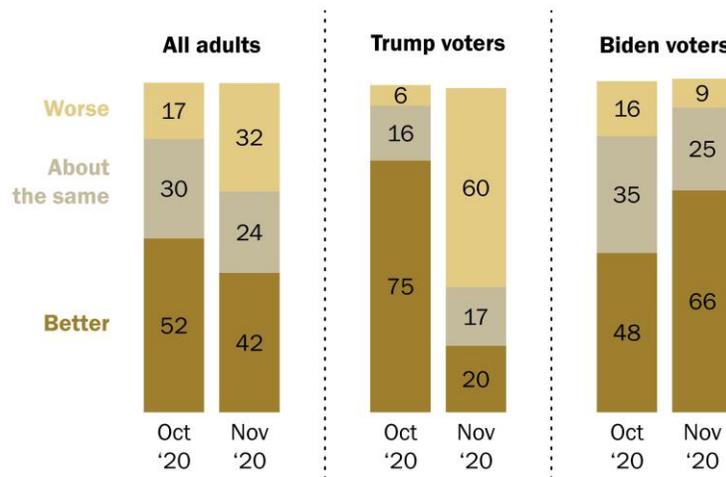
This sharp negative turn in overall economic expectations has been driven by Trump voters. Three-quarters of Trump voters were very optimistic about the economic future of the country last

month, and only 6% said they expected economic conditions to be worse next year. Now, 60% of Trump voters say that they expect economic conditions to worsen.

Biden voters have become more optimistic following the election, but the change has been less pronounced compared with Trump voters. Last month about half of Biden supporters (48%) said they expected economic conditions to improve over the next year. Today, 66% say they expect the nation's economy to get better.

Trump voters' expectations for U.S. economy turn far more negative; Biden voters' views are less changed

% who expect economic conditions to be _____ one year from now



Notes: No answer responses not shown. October data is based on U.S. adults.
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 12-17, 2020.

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Acknowledgments

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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Others at Pew Research Center also gave valuable assistance on this project, including Research Analyst Luis Noe-Bustamante and Research Assistant Jesse Bennett.

Appendix: Categorization of states based on COVID restrictions

To classify states based on the social-distancing policies they have in place, researchers relied on the [Kaiser Family Foundation's summary of state actions](#) (accessed Nov. 11, 2020).

States were given a score based on the number of measures they have in place to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. These include:

- Stay at home orders
- Mandatory quarantines for travelers
- Closures of nonessential businesses
- Closures and restrictions for restaurants and bars
- Limits on gatherings
- Mandatory face coverings

Categorization of states based on COVID policies

Most restrictive	Less restrictive	Least restrictive
Arizona	California	Alabama
Connecticut	Colorado	Alaska
Hawaii	District of Columbia	Arkansas
Illinois	Idaho	Delaware
Massachusetts	Iowa	Florida
New Jersey	Kentucky	Georgia
New Mexico	Maine	Indiana
New York	Maryland	Kansas
Rhode Island	Michigan	Louisiana
Vermont	Minnesota	Mississippi
	North Carolina	Missouri
	North Dakota	Montana
	Oregon	Nebraska
	Pennsylvania	Nevada
	Texas	New Hampshire
	Utah	Ohio
	Virginia	Oklahoma
	Washington	South Carolina
	West Virginia	South Dakota
		Tennessee
		Wisconsin
		Wyoming

Source: Kaiser Family Foundation, "State data and policy actions to address the coronavirus." Accessed Nov. 11, 2020.

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An additive index was created and then the states were divided into three roughly equal sized groups (based on population).

Defining income tiers

To create upper-, middle- and lower-income tiers, respondents' 2019 family incomes were adjusted for differences in purchasing power by geographic region and for household size. "Middle-income" adults live in families with annual incomes that are two-thirds to double the median family income in the panel (after incomes have been adjusted for the local cost of living and for household size). The middle-income range for the American Trends Panel is about \$38,900 to \$116,800 annually for an average family of three. Lower-income families have incomes

less than roughly \$38,900, and upper-income families have incomes greater than roughly \$116,800 (all figures expressed in 2019 dollars).

Based on these adjustments, among respondents who provided their income and household size, 33% are lower income, 45% are middle income and 18% fall into the upper-income tier. An additional 4% either didn't offer a response to the income question or the household size question.

For more information about how the income tiers were determined, please see [here](#).

Methodology

The American Trends Panel survey methodology

Overview

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 with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted Nov. 12 to Nov. 17, 2020. A total of 11,818 panelists responded out of 13,568 who were sampled, for a response rate of 87%. This does not include two 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 5%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 11,818 respondents is plus or minus 1.6 percentage points.

Panel recruitment

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 whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample of households selected

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	2,187
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,245
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	622
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	5,906
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	2,334
June 1 to July 19, 2020	ABS/web	1,865	1,636	1,274
	Total	36,879	25,076	13,568

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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from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Across these three address-based recruitments, a total of 17,161 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 15,134 (88%) agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. 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. Of the 25,076 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,568 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.¹ The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

Sample design

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

Questionnaire development and testing

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data which was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

Incentives

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was Nov. 12 to Nov. 17, 2020.

¹ AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling.](#)"

On Nov. 12 and Nov. 13, invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on November 12, 2020. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on November 13, 2020.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to one SMS reminder. Interactive voice recording (IVR) reminder calls were made on November 14, 2020 to 179 tablet households that previously provided consent to receive these reminders.

Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	11/12/2020	11/13/2020
First reminder	11/15/2020	11/15/2020
IVR reminder	11/14/2020	11/14/2020
Final reminder	11/16/2020	11/16/2020

Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center’s researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, two ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey (and the probability of being invited to participate in the panel in cases where only a subsample of respondents were invited). The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort. To correct for nonresponse to the initial recruitment surveys and gradual panel attrition, the base weights for all

active panelists are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table to create a full-panel weight.

For ATP waves in which only a subsample of panelists are invited to participate, a wave-specific base weight is created by adjusting the full-panel weights for subsampled panelists to account for any differential probabilities of selection for the particular panel wave. For waves in which all active panelists are invited to participate, the wave-specific base weight is identical to the full-panel weight.

Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2018 American Community Survey
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2018 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys
Frequency of internet use	2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey
Religious affiliation	
2020 popular vote turnout and margin	Projections based on Cook Political Report as of 4:55 PM, November 17

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 U.S. adult population. The 2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey featured 1,862 online completions and 2,247 mail survey completions.

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The wave-specific base weights for panelists who completed the survey are again calibrated to match the population benchmarks specified above. These weights are trimmed (typically at about the 1st and 99th percentiles) to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and test of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

A final adjustment was applied to the trimmed weights to ensure that turnout and the popular vote margin exactly matched the weighting benchmark.

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.

Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov 12-17, 2020

Group	Unweighted sample size	Weighted %	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	11,818		1.6 percentage points
All voters	10,399		1.4 percentage points
Among those who voted for ...			
Biden	6,185	51	1.9 percentage points
Trump	3,829	47	2.3 percentage points
Among those who voted ...			
In person	5,106		2.1 percentage points
Before Election Day	2,768		2.9 percentage points
On Election Day	2,313		3.0 percentage points
Absentee/Mail-in ballot	5,282		2.0 percentage points

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

Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	11,818
Logged onto survey; broke-off	2.12	117
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	74
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	1557
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		2
Screened out		N/A
Total panelists in the survey		13,568
Completed interviews	I	11,818
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,750
Non-contact	NC	0
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0

Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
Total		13,568
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		87%

Cumulative response rate	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 78	65%
Response rate to Wave 78 survey	87%
Cumulative response rate	5%

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**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
WAVE 78 November 2020
FINAL TOPLINE
NOVEMBER 12-17 2020
N=11,818**

ASK ALL:

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

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	22	77	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	18	82	1
July 27-August 2, 2020	12	87	1
June 16-22, 2020	12	87	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	31	68	1
Mar 19-24, 2020	33	66	1
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 ²	36	63	1
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017 ³	32	68	0
Sep 27-Oct 10, 2016	23	75	2
Jun 7-Jul 5, 2016 ⁴	19	80	1
Sep 15-Oct 3, 2014	25	75	0

ASK ALL CITIZENS (XCITIZEN=1) [N=11,366]:

VOTED Which of the following statements best describes you?

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u> ⁵	Nov 29-Dec 12, <u>2016</u> ⁶
22	I did not vote in the 2020 presidential election	23	14
9	I planned to vote but wasn't able to	22	8
67	I definitely voted in the 2020 presidential election	55	77
2	No Answer	1	1

ASK IF VOTED (VOTED=3) [N=10,399]:

VOTEGEN_POST In the 2020 presidential election, who did you vote for? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 FIRST FOLLOWED BY RANDOMIZED OPTIONS 3 AND 4, WITH OPTION 5 ALWAYS LAST]**

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>	
47	Donald Trump, the Republican
51	Joe Biden, the Democrat
1	Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian Party candidate
*	Howie Hawkins, the Green Party candidate
*	Another candidate
*	No Answer

² In W31 and previous surveys, question was called SATISF.

² The W24.5 Mode Study survey was administered by web and phone. Results reported here are from web mode only.

⁴ SATISF in the W18 survey was asked to a random half of the sample assigned to Form 2 [N=2,366].

⁵ In 2018, the question asked about the 2018 congressional elections.

⁶ In 2016, the question asked about the 2016 presidential election.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**ASK IF VOTED TRUMP (VOTEGEN_POST=1) [N=3,829]:**

DTFORAGNST_POST Would you say that your vote for Trump was more a vote...

ASK IF VOTED BIDEN (VOTEGEN_POST=2) [N=6,185]:

JBFORAGNST_POST Would you say that your vote for Biden was more a vote...

BASED ON VOTERS [N=10,399]:

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		<i>Based on registered voters</i>	
		Sep 30-Oct 5, <u>2020</u> ⁷	June 16-22, <u>2020</u>
47	Trump	42	44
36	<i>For Trump</i>	30	33
11	<i>Against Biden</i>	12	10
51	Biden	52	54
24	<i>For Biden</i>	19	18
28	<i>Against Trump</i>	33	36
1	Vote for Jorgensen/Hawkins/Another candidate	-	-
*	No answer	*	-

⁷ Trend for DTFORAGNST and JBFORAGNST asked prior to election combined those who said they were voting for the candidate or leaning toward the candidate. Post-election versions of these questions asked those who said they voted for Trump or Biden.

ASK IF VOTED FOR A CANDIDATE (VOTEGEN_POST=1-5) [N=10,300]:

VOTEDECTIME As far as you can remember, when did you make up your mind about who you were going to vote for in the presidential election?

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		Nov 29- Dec 12 <u>2016</u> ⁸
3	Last few days before Election Day	9
2	The last week before Election Day	4
5	In October	9
5	In September	11
84	Before September	67
*	No Answer	*

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

When did you make up your mind definitely to vote for "Hillary Clinton;" "Donald Trump;" "Gary Johnson;" "Jill Stein," "The candidate of your choice"?

	Nov 10-14 <u>2016</u>	Nov 8-11 <u>2012</u>	Nov <u>2004</u>	Nov <u>200</u>	Nov <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1992</u>	Nov <u>1988</u>
On Election Day	4	4	4	5	6	9	6
On Monday (day before the election)	*	1	1	2	3	4	3
Over the last weekend	*	1	1	2	2	4	2
In the last week	2	2	3	5	6	8	4
In the last few weeks	5	--	--	--	--	--	--
During or just after the Presidential debates	10	10	11	17	--	12	--
Before debates/after the Conventions	10	9	6	9	12	6	16
Convention period (NET)	22	10	7	7	8	12	15
<i>During or after the Republican convention</i>	13	9	1	4	--	--	--
<i>During or after the Democratic convention</i>	9	1	6	3	--	--	--
This year, before the conventions	22	16	23	21	13	18	19
Before 2016	20	41	38	20	39	12	9
Other	--	0	0	--	*	8	--
Don't remember	2	1	4	6	6	5	4
Don't know/Refused	1	4	2	3	2	1	2

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF VTADMIN_POST_COM AND VTADMIN_POST_US]****ASK ALL:**

VTADMIN_POST_COM [S]

Do you think the elections this November in YOUR COMMUNITY were run and administered...

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>	<i>Trend for comparison</i> ⁹	
			Sep 30- Oct 5 <u>2020</u>	Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>
53	Very well	49	36	41
32	Somewhat well	38	48	46
9	Not too well	8	11	9
6	Not at all well	4	4	3
1	No answer	1	*	1

⁸ In 2016, people who said "another candidate" were not asked this question; question read "As far as you can remember, when did you make up your mind definitely to vote for "Donald Trump;" "Hillary Clinton;" "Gary Johnson;" "Jill Stein,"?

⁹ In pre-election surveys in 2020 and 2018, question read "Do you think the elections this November in YOUR COMMUNITY will be..."

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF VTADMIN_POST_COM AND VTADMIN_POST_US]**ASK ALL:**

VTADMIN_POST_US [S]

Do you think the elections this November in the UNITED STATES were run and administered...

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>	<i>Trend for comparison¹⁰</i>	
			Sep 30- Oct 5 <u>2020</u>	Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>
33	Very well	21	12	20
25	Somewhat well	53	46	57
20	Not too well	18	30	18
22	Not at all well	7	12	4
1	No answer	1	1	1

ASK IF VOTED (VOTED=3) [N=10,399]:VTEASY_POST Overall, was voting in the election this November for you personally... **[RANDOMIZE ORDER 1-4 FOR HALF, 4-1 FOR OTHER HALF]**

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		<i>Trend for comparison¹¹</i>		
		Sep 30- Oct 5 <u>2020</u>	July 27- Aug 2 <u>2020</u>	Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>
77	Very easy	29	23	46
17	Somewhat easy	36	28	39
5	Somewhat difficult	29	38	13
1	Very difficult	6	11	2
*	No answer	*	1	*

¹⁰ In pre-election surveys in 2020 and 2018, question read "Do you think the elections this November in the UNITED STATES will be..."

¹¹ Surveys asked if respondents "expect" voting to be very easy, somewhat easy, etc.

ASK IF VOTING WAS DIFFICULT (VTEASY_POST=3,4) [N=522]:

WHYHARD_POST Why was voting in the November election difficult for you personally? [OPEN-END]

Nov 12-17,
2020

51	NET Logistical issues while voting
20	Long lines
16	Concerns/issues with mail ballots
7	COVID safety concerns
5	Lack of polling places/access
5	Issues with poll workers
3	Travel or moving
27	NET Political environment
16	Unhappy with choices
6	Too hard to choose
	Hard/time consuming to get information about who or what to vote for
3	
2	Divisive political landscape
12	NET General concerns about voting
5	Distrust of mail voting
2	Vote count corrupt
1	Misinformation about process for voting
1	Accusations that one party is tampering with ballots
2	Other/Uncodeable
12	No answer

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses***ASK ALL:**

ECON1 Thinking about the nation's economy...

How would you rate economic conditions in this country today?

	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Only fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	5	31	44	20	*
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	4	29	42	25	*
June 16-22, 2020	4	22	44	30	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	4	19	38	38	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	16	42	33	9	*
Sep 16-29, 2019	10	46	35	8	*
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	14	43	32	11	*
Nov 7-16, 2018	13	46	31	9	1
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	12	45	32	11	*
Feb 28-Mar 12, 2017	2	37	43	17	0
Oct 25-Nov 8, 2016	2	30	47	21	*
Apr 29-May 27, 2014	1	18	50	30	1

ASK ALL:

ECON1B

A year from now, do you expect that economic conditions in the country as a whole will be...

	<u>Better</u>	<u>Worse</u>	About the same as <u>now</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	42	32	24	2
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	52	17	30	1
June 16-22, 2020	50	22	27	1
Apr 7-12, 2020	55	22	22	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	29	26	45	1
Sep 16-29, 2019	20	32	48	*
July 22-Aug 4, 2019 ¹²	28	28	44	*

ASK ALL:

SATCAND_POST

Now that the campaign is over, how satisfied were you with the choice of presidential candidates? Would you say that you were...

BASED ON VOTERS [N=10,399]:

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		July 27- Aug 2, <u>2020</u>	June 16-22, <u>2020</u> ¹³
30	Very satisfied	15	16
26	Fairly satisfied	31	31
24	Not too satisfied	35	34
19	Not at all satisfied	19	19
*	No answer	1	1

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Now that the campaign is over, how satisfied were you with the choice of presidential candidates?

BASED ON THOSE WHO VOTED:

Nov 10-14 <u>2016</u>		Nov 8-11 <u>2012</u>	Nov <u>2008</u>	Nov <u>2004</u>	Nov <u>2000</u>	Nov <u>1996</u>	Nov <u>1992</u>	Nov <u>1988</u>
19	Very satisfied	37	39	33	24	18	24	26
25	Fairly satisfied	33	28	33	44	33	37	36
26	Not very satisfied	16	17	16	18	24	21	20
29	Not at all satisfied	12	14	16	9	22	16	17
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	2	2	5	3	2	1

¹²

In the survey conducted from July 22- August 4, 2019, response options for this question were not randomized.

¹³

In the surveys asked in June 2020 and July 2020, the question was worded "What's your opinion of the presidential candidates for this year? Would you say that you are..." Trends for these questions based on registered voters.

ASK ALL:

CMPGNTRAIT_POST For each of the following, please select which is a better description of the 2020 presidential election campaign. **[RANDOMIZE PAIRS, KEEP STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR IN THIS ORDER; KEEP ON SAME SCREEN]**

BASED ON VOTERS [N=10,399]:

CMPGNTRAIT_POST_INT

	<u>Interesting</u>	<u>Dull</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	64	34	2
July 27-Aug 2, 2020 ¹⁴	39	59	2

CMPGNTRAIT_POST_NEG

	<u>Too negative</u>	<u>Not too negative</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	76	23	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	61	37	2

CMPGNTRAIT_POST_POLCY

	<u>Focused on important policy debates</u>	<u>Not focused on important policy debates</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	27	72	1
July 27-Aug 2, 2020	25	73	2

¹⁴ CMPGNTRAIT July trends based on registered voters.

[RANDOMIZE FEEL_COUNTRY_FEAR, FEEL_COUNTRY_HOPEFUL, FEEL_COUNTRY_ANGRY, FEEL_COUNTRY_PROUD ON SAME PAGE]

ASK ALL:

Thinking about the state of the country these days, would you say you feel... *[Please select one item from each pair].*

FEEL_COUNTRY_FEAR [DISPLAY RESPONSES IN ORDER]

	<u>Fearful</u>	Not <u>fearful</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	61	37	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	63	36	*
June 16-22, 2020	66	33	*

FEEL_COUNTRY_HOPEFUL

	<u>Hopeful</u>	Not <u>hopeful</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	54	45	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	44	55	*
June 16-22, 2020	46	53	*

FEEL_COUNTRY_ANGRY

	<u>Angry</u>	Not <u>angry</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	54	45	2
June 16-22, 2020	71	29	*

FEEL_COUNTRY_PROUD

	<u>Proud</u>	Not <u>proud</u>	No <u>answer</u>
Nov 12-17, 2020	24	74	2
June 16-22, 2020	17	83	1

[RANDOMIZE POSTELEC_BIDE AND POSTELEC_TRMP AND SHOW ON SAME PAGE]

ASK ALL:

POSTELEC_BIDE How would you rate Joe Biden's conduct since the presidential election on November 3rd?

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>	
33	Excellent
27	Good
21	Only fair
18	Poor
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

POSTELEC_TRMP

How would you rate Donald Trump's conduct since the presidential election on November 3rd?

Nov 12-17,
2020

11	Excellent
17	Good
18	Only fair
53	Poor
1	No answer

ASK ALL:

CHALLENGE_CT

As you may know, nearly all the votes have been counted and Joe Biden is projected to be the winner of the 2020 presidential election. At the same time, the Trump campaign is mounting legal challenges to the voting and ballot counting process in several states.

Which comes closer to your own view – even if neither is exactly right? The Trump campaign...**[RANDOMIZE]**

Nov 12-17,
2020

40	Should continue these legal challenges
59	Should not continue these legal challenges
1	No answer

ASK IF VOTED (VOTED=3):

VOTE_HOW_POST

How did you vote in the election? **[RANDOMIZE]****ASK IF VOTED IN PERSON (VOTE_HOW_POST=1) [N=5,106]:**

VOTEINPWHEN

When did you vote?

BASED ON VOTERS [N=10,399]:Nov 12-17,
2020

54	In person at a polling place
27	<i>On Election Day</i>
27	<i>Before Election Day</i>
*	<i>Refused</i>
46	By absentee or mail-in ballot
*	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:*When did you vote in the elections this November?**How did you vote in the November election?*Nov 7-16,
2018

55	On election day
45	Before election day
19	<i>Voted in person</i>
25	<i>Mailed in ballot</i>
*	No answer
*	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Did you vote ON Election Day or BEFORE Election DAY?

Did you vote in person or did you mail your ballot in?

Nov 10-14 <u>2016</u>		Nov 6-9 <u>2014</u>	Nov 8-11 <u>2012</u>	Nov <u>2008</u>	Nov <u>2006</u>	Nov <u>2004</u>	Nov <u>2002</u>
59	On Election Day	71	63	66	80	80	85
41	Before Election Day	29	37	34	20	20	15
22	<i>Voted in person</i>	12	19	19	--	--	--
18	<i>Mailed in ballot</i>	16	17	14	--	--	--
1	Other way/DK/Ref (VOL.)	1	*	1	--	--	--
0	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	0	*	*	*	*

ASK IF VOTED BY ABSENTEE OR MAIL (VOTE_HOW_POST=2)VOTEMAIL How did you return your absentee or mail-in ballot? [**RANDOMIZE**]**BASED ON ABSENTEE OR MAIL VOTERS [N=5,282]:**

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>	
15	In person to an election official or poll worker
41	At a designated dropbox
44	By mail
*	No answer

ASK IF VOTED BY ABSENTEE OR MAIL (VOTE_HOW_POST=2)

MAILWHEN When did you mail or return your absentee or mail-in ballot?

BASED ON ABSENTEE OR MAIL VOTERS [N=5,282]:

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>	
23	In the week leading up to Election Day
76	Before that
*	No answer

ASK IF VOTED IN PERSON (VOTE_HOW_POST=1) [N=5,106]:

WAITVOTE When you went to vote, approximately how long did you have to wait in line to vote?

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>	Nov 17- Dec 15, <u>2014</u>
35	Not at all	47	53
27	Less than 10 minutes	33	30
20	10-30 minutes	14	13
11	31 minutes - 1 hour	5	3
6	More than 1 hour	1	*
*	No answer	*	*

ASK IF WAITED MORE THAN ONE HOUR TO VOTE (WAITVOTE=5) [N=359]:

WAITVOTE0E Approximately how long did you have to wait in line to vote?

Nov 12-17,
2020

57	1 hour – less than 2 hours
30	2 hours – less than 3 hours
13	3+ hours
*	No answer

ASK IF VOTED (VOTED=3) [N=10,399]:

VOTEWAY How much of a reason, if at all, were each of the following for why you voted the way you did (in-person early, in-person on Election Day, or by mail or absentee ballot)?
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

		Major <u>reason</u>	Minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
VOTEWAY_USL	It is how I usually vote Nov 12-17, 2020	54	12	34	*
VOTEWAY_COVID	I had concerns about catching or spreading the coronavirus Nov 12-17, 2020	24	20	55	*
VOTEWAY_TRUST	I was encouraged to vote that way by someone I trust Nov 12-17, 2020	11	9	80	*
VOTEWAY_CONVTE	I thought it would be the most convenient way for me to vote Nov 12-17, 2020	66	15	19	*

ASK IF VOTED IN PERSON (VOTE_HOW_POST=1) [N=5,106]:

VOTEWAY_BLLTACC	I had concerns about voting by mail Nov 12-17, 2020	53	16	31	*
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ASK IF VOTED BY MAIL OR ABSENTEE (VOTE_HOW_POST=2) [N=5,282]:

MAILFIRST Is this the first time you have ever voted by mail or absentee ballot?

Nov 12-17,
2020

39	Yes, this is the first time I have ever voted by mail or absentee ballot
61	No, I have voted by mail or absentee ballot before
*	No answer

ASK ALL CITIZENS (XCITIZEN=1) [N=11,366]:

PLANELEC Did you do any of the following in the days or weeks leading up to the November presidential election? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]**

		<u>Yes, I did this</u>	<u>No, I did not do this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
PLANELEC_RESCH	Research your options for how to vote in person or by mail this year Nov 12-17, 2020	38	61	*
PLANELEC_REG	Check your voter registration status Nov 12-17, 2020	41	59	*
ASK IF VOTED IN PERSON (VOTE_HOW_POST=1) [N=5,106]				
PLANELEC_WAIT	Check wait times at an in-person polling place before going to vote Nov 12-17, 2020	17	83	*
ASK IF VOTED BY ABSENTEE/MAIL (VOTE_HOW_POST=2) [N=5,282]:				
PLANELEC_TRAK	Track the status of your absentee or mail-in ballot through a website or app Nov 12-17, 2020	52	48	*

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]**

		Rating of <u>0 to 24</u>	Rating of <u>25 to 49</u>	Rating of <u>50</u>	Rating of <u>51 to 75</u>	Rating of <u>76 to 100</u>	No Answer	<i>Mean rating</i>
THERMTRUMP	Donald Trump							
	Nov 12-17, 2020	50	7	9	8	26	*	38
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	51	6	7	10	25	1	37
	Apr 7-12, 2020	45	7	7	10	30	*	42
	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	
THERMBIDEN	Joe Biden							
	Nov 12-17, 2020	35	9	12	14	29	1	47
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	38	10	12	15	24	1	43
Apr 7-12, 2020	37	14	16	15	17	*	40	
THERMPENCE	Mike Pence							
	Nov 12-17, 2020	44	8	16	7	25	*	41
	Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	43	7	17	7	25	1	41
	Apr 7-12, 2020	38	10	17	9	25	1	43
	Sep 3-15, 2019	41	9	22	8	19	1	39
Feb 26-Mar 11, 2018	44	7	21	8	19	1	38	
THERMHARRIS	Kamala Harris							
	Nov 12-17, 2020	40	7	13	11	29	*	44
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	41	7	18	12	22	1	41	

ASK ALL:

JBCONF Thinking about JOE BIDEN's ability to handle a number of things, how confident are you that Joe Biden can do each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Very <u>confident</u>	Somewhat <u>confident</u>	Not too <u>confident</u>	Not at all <u>confident</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak					
Nov 12-17, 2020	26	32	18	24	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	23	31	20	25	1
June 16-22, 2020	15	37	21	26	1
c. Make good decisions about economic policy					
Nov 12-17, 2020	21	31	19	28	1
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	17	33	19	30	1
June 16-22, 2020	12	35	23	29	1

ASK ALL:

DTCONF Thinking about DONALD TRUMP's ability to handle a number of things, how confident are you that Donald Trump can do each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE]**

	<u>Very confident</u>	<u>Somewhat confident</u>	<u>Not too confident</u>	<u>Not at all confident</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Handle the public health impact of the coronavirus outbreak					
Nov 12-17, 2020	19	21	16	44	*
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	17	22	16	45	1
June 16-22, 2020	18	22	16	43	1
c. Make good decisions about economic policy					
Nov 12-17, 2020	32	21	17	29	*
Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020	28	22	18	31	1
June 16-22, 2020	29	21	16	33	1
Jan 6-19, 2020	32	21	18	29	1
July 22-Aug 4, 2019	29	21	15	35	*

ASK ALL:

COVID_2ASSISTLD As you may know, Congress and President Trump passed a \$2 trillion economic assistance package in March in response to the economic impact of the coronavirus outbreak. Do you think another economic assistance package is...

ASK IF NECESSARY (COVID_2ASSISTLD=1) [N=9,515]:

COVID_2ASSISTLD2 Do you think another economic assistance package should be passed...

Nov 12-17,
2020

80	Necessary
68	<i>As soon as possible, by the current Congress and President Trump</i>
11	<i>After the presidential inauguration in January</i>
*	<i>Refused</i>
19	Not necessary
1	No answer

TREND FOR COMPARISON:

Do you think it will be necessary for the president and Congress to pass an additional economic package?

	June 16-22, <u>2020</u>	Apr 7-12, <u>2020</u> ¹⁵
Yes, another economic assistance package will be necessary	71	77
No, another economic assistance package will NOT be necessary	28	22
No answer	2	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

¹⁵ In the survey asked Apr 7-12, 2020, the question was asked as: "Do you think it will be necessary for the president and Congress to pass another bill to provide more economic assistance?"

ASK ALL:

NEWADMIN How confident, if at all, are you that a transition from the Trump administration to the Biden administration would go smoothly?

Nov 12-17,

2020

6	Very confident
20	Somewhat confident
39	Not too confident
33	Not at all confident
2	No answer

ASK ALL:

COVID_OPENMORE Thinking about restrictions on public activity because of the coronavirus outbreak IN YOUR AREA, do you think there should be... **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 WITH OPTION 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

Nov 12-17,

2020

44	MORE restrictions right now
21	FEWER restrictions right now
35	About the same number of restrictions right not
1	No answer

Apr 29-

May 5

2020

27
24
48
1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL WHO VOTED (VOTED=3) [N=10,399]:

VTCOUNT_OWN How confident are you that your vote was accurately counted?

Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>	
59	Very confident
26	Somewhat confident
9	Not too confident
6	Not at all confident
*	No answer

PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:

	Nov 10-14 <u>2016</u>	Nov 6-9 <u>2014</u>	Nov 8-11 <u>2012</u>	Nov 4-7 <u>2010</u>	Nov <u>2008</u>	Nov <u>2006</u>	Nov <u>2004</u>
Very confident	71	68	68	64	73	70	68
Somewhat confident	19	21	22	26	22	23	24
Not too confident	4	5	5	4	3	3	4
Not at all confident	5	4	3	3	2	2	3
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1	1	3	*	2	1

ASK ALL:

VTCOUNT_POST_INP How confident are you that votes cast IN PERSON AT POLLING PLACES across the United States were counted as voters intended in the elections this November?

		<i>Trend for comparison¹⁶</i>
		Sep 30- Oct 5, <u>2020</u>
Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		
42	Very confident	42
35	Somewhat confident	44
13	Not too confident	10
8	Not at all confident	4
1	No answer	1

ASK ALL:

VTCOUNT_POST_ABS How confident are you that votes cast BY ABSENTEE OR MAIL-IN BALLOT across the United States were counted as voters intended in the elections this November?

		Sep 30- Oct 5 <u>2020¹⁷</u>
Nov 12-17, <u>2020</u>		
30	Very confident	17
27	Somewhat confident	38
19	Not too confident	28
23	Not at all confident	16
1	No answer	1

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

¹⁶ In the survey asked Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020, the question was asked as: How confident are you that votes cast IN PERSON AT POLLING PLACES across the United States will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

¹⁷ In the survey asked Sep 30-Oct 5, 2020, the question was asked as: How confident are you that votes cast BY ABSENTEE OR MAIL-IN BALLOT across the United States will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

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...¹⁸

<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>Something else</u>	<u>No answer</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
27	29	28	15	2	19	20

¹⁸ Party and PartyIn asked in a prior survey.