

The Economist/YouGov Poll
November 15 - 17, 2020 - 1500 U.S. Registered Voters



Sample 1500 U.S. Registered Voters
 Conducted November 15 - 17, 2020
 Margin of Error ±3.2%

1. Would you say things in this country today are...	
Generally headed in the right direction	23%
Off on the wrong track	64%
Not sure	13%
2. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the future of the country?	
Optimistic	42%
Pessimistic	36%
Not sure	22%
3. Are you better off now than you were four years ago?	
Better off now	46%
Better off four years ago	36%
Not sure	19%
4. Is the country better off now than it was four years ago?	
Better off now	36%
Better off four years ago	50%
Not sure	15%
5. Did you vote in the November 2020 general election?	
Yes	87%
No	13%
6. How did you vote in the presidential election this year?	
In person on election day	23%
In person before the election	27%
By mail	37%
I did not vote this year	13%
7. Who did you vote for in the election for President in 2020?	
Joe Biden	45%
Donald Trump	41%
Jo Jorgensen	0%
Howie Hawkins	0%
Other	0%
Did not vote for President	14%

8. How much confidence do you have that your vote in the 2020 presidential election was counted accurately?

Among 2020 voters

A great deal	50%
Quite a bit	15%
A moderate amount	10%
Only a little	10%
None at all	13%
Not sure	2%

9. How much confidence do you have that the 2020 presidential election was held fairly?

A great deal	41%
Quite a bit	9%
A moderate amount	9%
Only a little	12%
None at all	27%
Not sure	3%

10. Do you think the following statements are true or not true?

	Definitely true	Probably true	Probably not true	Definitely not true
Mail ballots are being manipulated to favor Joe Biden	30%	16%	9%	44%
Illegal immigrants voted fraudulently in 2016 and tried again in 2020	23%	22%	17%	39%
We will never know the real outcome of this election	16%	27%	14%	42%
Many people were illegally prevented from voting this year	13%	29%	32%	25%

11. How much voter fraud do you think occurred in this election?

A lot	37%
A little	27%
None	29%
Not sure	7%

12. Do you think the amount of voter fraud in the election caused Donald Trump to lose any of the states he lost in the election this year, or did it not change who won those states?

Among those who think some voter fraud might have occurred

Enough fraud to change who won the election	63%
Did not change who won any of the states	37%

13. How much voter fraud do you think occurred in this election?

Enough to influence the outcome	45%
Not enough to influence the outcome	26%
None	29%
Not sure	0%

14. How much voter suppression do you think occurred in this election?

A lot	33%
A little	37%
None	17%
Not sure	13%

15. Do you think the amount of voter suppression in the election caused Joe Biden to lose any of the states he lost in the election this year or did it not change who won those states?
Among those who think some voter suppression might have occurred

Enough suppression to change who won the election	32%
Did not change who won any of the states	68%

16. Some states may do recounts of the vote. Would a recount make you more or less confident in the outcome of the election?

Much more confident	11%
More confident	28%
No change	57%
Less confident	3%
Much less confident	2%

17. Some states may do recounts of the vote. Do you believe these recounts will change the outcome of the election?

It will change the outcome of the election	22%
It will NOT change the outcome of the election	55%
Not sure	22%

18. How do you feel about the next 4 years with Joe Biden as president?

Enthusiastic	30%
Satisfied but not enthusiastic	20%
Dissatisfied but not upset	14%
Upset	31%
Not sure	6%

19. Would you say that Joe Biden legitimately won the election, or not?

Biden legitimately won the election	57%
Biden did NOT legitimately win the election	43%

20. Do you think Donald Trump should concede the election, or not?	
He should concede	60%
He should NOT concede	40%
21. Do you think that Donald Trump should begin the presidential transition process, or not?	
He should start the transition	62%
He should NOT start the transition	38%
22. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President-Elect Joe Biden is handling the presidential transition?	
Strongly Approve	41%
Somewhat Approve	13%
Somewhat Disapprove	8%
Strongly Disapprove	26%
Not Sure	12%
23. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump is handling the presidential transition?	
Strongly Approve	24%
Somewhat Approve	12%
Somewhat Disapprove	9%
Strongly Disapprove	48%
Not Sure	8%
24. Which is better?	
Unified government - the President and majorities in both houses of Congress are from the same party	31%
Divided government - the President and the majority in at least one of the houses of Congress are from different parties	39%
Not sure	30%
25. At the moment it appears that the Senate and the President may be of different parties and favor different policies. Would you rather they...	
Work together in order and compromise in order to get more done	75%
Stick to their principles, no matter what, even if less is accomplished	25%
26. How likely do you think it is that there will be a peaceful transition of power in January?	
Very likely	21%
Somewhat likely	27%
Not very likely	25%
Not likely at all	14%
Not sure	13%

27. How closely are you following the news about COVID-19?

Very closely	46%
Somewhat closely	38%
Not very closely	12%
Not following at all	4%

28. Do you personally know anyone who... [has been laid off from work due to covid-19]? Check all that apply.

Yes, me	12%
Yes, a family member	19%
Yes, a close friend	19%
No	56%
Prefer not to say	2%

29. Do you personally know anyone who... [has tested positive for covid-19]? Check all that apply.

Yes, me	3%
Yes, a family member	21%
Yes, a close friend	29%
No	51%
Prefer not to say	2%

30. Do you personally know anyone who... [has died due to complications from covid-19]? Check all that apply.

Yes, a family member	5%
Yes, a close friend	11%
No	81%
Prefer not to say	3%

31. Taking into consideration both your risk of contracting it and the seriousness of the illness, how worried are you personally about experiencing COVID-19?

Very worried	26%
Somewhat worried	36%
Not too worried	23%
Not worried at all	14%

32. In the past seven days, how often have you worn a mask on your face when outside your home?

Always	58%
Most of the time	21%
Some of the time	15%
Never	6%

33. Do you think the number of cases of COVID-19 in the community where you live is...	
Increasing	62%
Not changing	17%
Decreasing	5%
Not sure	16%

34. Looking at the COVID-19 pandemic in the U.S., do you believe that...	
The pandemic is going to get worse	49%
We are currently in the worst part of the pandemic	18%
The worst part of the pandemic is behind us	17%
Not sure	16%

35. How many Americans, in total, do you think will have died this year due to complications from COVID-19?	
Fewer than 100,000 Americans	12%
100,000-150,000 Americans	12%
150,000-200,000 Americans	11%
200,000-250,000 Americans	28%
250,000-1 million Americans	31%
More than 1 million Americans	6%

36. When do you think it will be safe to end social distancing measures and reopen businesses as normal?	
It is safe right now	17%
In about two weeks	2%
In a month or so	4%
In several months	24%
In about a year or longer	33%
Not sure	19%

37. If and when a coronavirus vaccine becomes available, will you get vaccinated?	
Yes	45%
No	26%
Not sure	29%

38. How long do you think it will be before a vaccine for COVID-19 is available to the public?	
Before the end of the summer	0%
Before November	1%
By the end of 2020	26%
By the summer of 2021	46%
By the end of 2021	11%
2022 or later	3%
Not sure	13%

39. Coronavirus vaccines are being fast-tracked through the approval process. How concerned are you about the safety of coronavirus vaccines?

Very concerned	32%
Somewhat concerned	35%
Not very concerned	15%
Not concerned at all	11%
Not sure	7%

40. Do you think the number of cases of COVID-19 in the United States is...

Increasing	76%
Not changing	8%
Decreasing	6%
Not sure	10%

41. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump has handled COVID-19?

Strongly approve	30%
Somewhat approve	14%
Somewhat disapprove	5%
Strongly disapprove	46%
Not sure	5%

42. Do you believe that a federal mask mandate would be a violation of your civil liberties, or not?

It would be a violation of civil liberties	33%
It would not be a violation of civil liberties	55%
Don't know	11%

43. Do you usually celebrate Thanksgiving?

Yes	91%
No	9%

44. Have your Thanksgiving plans this year been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic?

Yes	47%
No	43%
Not sure	10%

45. Do you plan to gather with family and/or friends from other households for Thanksgiving?

Yes	36%
No	52%
Not sure	11%

46. Do you plan to travel for Thanksgiving this year?

Yes	11%
No	84%
Not sure	5%

47. Which best describes your Thanksgiving plans?

Gather outdoors with family and/or friends from other households	3%
Gather indoors with family and/or friends from other households	30%
I will not gather with any family and/or friends from other households	52%
Not sure	14%

48. Would you cancel your Thanksgiving plans if COVID-19 cases surged in your area?
Among those who plan on gathering with friends/family for Thanksgiving

Yes	19%
No	62%
Not sure	18%

49. How worried are you about Thanksgiving leading to an outbreak of COVID-19?

Very worried	29%
Somewhat worried	33%
Not too worried	20%
Not worried at all	18%

50. Do people at your Thanksgiving celebration mostly agree or disagree about politics?
Asked of those who usually celebrate Thanksgiving

Agree	44%
Disagree	14%
About equal	29%
Not sure	13%

51. Are there ever arguments about politics at your Thanksgiving celebration?
Asked of those who usually celebrate Thanksgiving

Yes	17%
No	78%
Prefer not to say	6%

52. Do you think there will be more, less or about the same amount of argument this year?
Asked of those who have experienced political arguments at Thanksgiving

More	25%
Less	32%
About the same	39%
Prefer not to say	4%

53. Do you personally plan on doing any shopping in a store on the Friday after Thanksgiving?

Yes	9%
No	77%
Maybe	14%

54. How safe do you believe it is for people to go shopping in a store on the Friday after Thanksgiving?

Completely safe	13%
Somewhat safe	33%
Not very safe	34%
Not at all safe	20%

55. How worried are you about in-person shopping the Friday after Thanksgiving leading to an outbreak of COVID-19?

Very worried	29%
Somewhat worried	34%
Not too worried	21%
Not worried at all	15%

56. How important are the following issues to you?

	Very Important	Somewhat Important	Not very Important	Unimportant
Jobs and the economy	75%	21%	3%	1%
Immigration	47%	36%	14%	3%
Climate change and the environment	46%	21%	18%	15%
National Security and foreign policy	61%	31%	6%	1%
Education	59%	31%	7%	3%
Health care	69%	24%	5%	2%
Taxes and government spending	61%	32%	6%	2%
Civil rights and civil liberties	60%	28%	9%	3%
Gun control	47%	27%	14%	12%
Crime and criminal justice reform	50%	39%	9%	3%

57. Which of these is the most important issue for you?

Jobs and the economy	25%
Immigration	5%
Climate change and the environment	12%
National Security and foreign policy	7%
Education	5%
Health care	24%
Taxes and government spending	8%
Civil rights and civil liberties	8%
Gun control	3%
Crime and criminal justice reform	3%

58. Do you have a favorable or an unfavorable opinion of the following people?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
Donald Trump	34%	10%	5%	48%	2%
Joe Biden	30%	19%	12%	36%	3%
Mike Pence	34%	11%	9%	40%	5%
Kamala Harris	31%	18%	7%	40%	5%
Nancy Pelosi	17%	21%	11%	45%	6%
Mitch McConnell	12%	23%	12%	41%	13%

59. Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the political parties?

	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know
The Democratic Party	19%	27%	12%	39%	3%
The Republican Party	16%	25%	15%	41%	3%

60. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

Strongly approve	32%
Somewhat approve	11%
Somewhat disapprove	6%
Strongly disapprove	45%
Not sure	5%

61. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling these specific issues?

	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	No opinion
Jobs and the economy	41%	12%	11%	31%	5%
Immigration	36%	11%	5%	44%	4%
Climate change and the environment	27%	13%	7%	45%	8%
Terrorism	38%	10%	9%	38%	6%
Education	24%	19%	9%	39%	8%
Health care	24%	19%	8%	43%	5%
Taxes and government spending	30%	16%	11%	38%	6%
Civil rights and civil liberties	30%	15%	7%	41%	7%
Gun control	34%	12%	8%	37%	9%
Crime and criminal justice reform	31%	14%	9%	38%	8%

62. Would you say Donald Trump is...

Very liberal	3%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	15%
Conservative	33%
Very conservative	24%
Not sure	21%

63. How much do you think Donald Trump cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	33%
Some	12%
Not much	6%
Doesn't care at all	44%
Not sure	5%

64. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like or dislike Donald Trump as a person?

Like a lot	19%
Like somewhat	14%
Neither like nor dislike	12%
Dislike somewhat	7%
Dislike a lot	44%
Not sure	4%

65. Would you say Donald Trump is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	38%
Somewhat strong	13%
Somewhat weak	9%
Very weak	40%

66. Do you think Donald Trump is honest and trustworthy, or not?

Honest and trustworthy	37%
Not honest and trustworthy	53%
Not sure	10%

67. Are you confident in Donald Trump's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	43%
Uneasy	50%
Not sure	7%

68. Do you think the way Donald Trump uses Twitter is appropriate or inappropriate for the President of the United States?

Appropriate	27%
Inappropriate	58%
Not sure	15%

69. Would you say Joe Biden is...

Very liberal	29%
Liberal	24%
Moderate	32%
Conservative	4%
Very conservative	2%
Not sure	9%

70. How much do you think Joe Biden cares about the needs and problems of people like you?

A lot	30%
Some	22%
Not much	15%
Doesn't care at all	29%
Not sure	4%

71. Regardless of whether you agree with him, do you like or dislike Joe Biden as a person?

Like a lot	28%
Like somewhat	18%
Neither like nor dislike	14%
Dislike somewhat	9%
Dislike a lot	27%
Not sure	4%

72. Would you say Joe Biden is a strong or a weak leader?

Very strong	22%
Somewhat strong	28%
Somewhat weak	15%
Very weak	34%

73. Do you think Joe Biden is honest and trustworthy, or not?

Honest and trustworthy	46%
Not honest and trustworthy	41%
Not sure	13%

74. Are you confident in Joe Biden's ability to deal wisely with an international crisis, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	46%
Uneasy	44%
Not sure	10%

75. Are you confident in Joe Biden's ability to deal with the COVID-19 outbreak, or are you uneasy about his approach?

Confident	48%
Uneasy	42%
Not sure	11%

76. Do you think the U.S. economy will get better, get worse or will it stay the same with Joe Biden as President?

Get better	38%
Get worse	42%
Stay the same	10%
Not sure	10%

77. Are you optimistic or pessimistic about the next year with Joe Biden as President?

Optimistic	45%
Pessimistic	43%
Not sure	12%

78. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way that the United States Congress is handling its job?

Strongly approve	4%
Somewhat approve	11%
Neither approve nor disapprove	13%
Somewhat disapprove	24%
Strongly disapprove	38%
Not sure	9%

79. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Nancy Pelosi is handling her job as the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives?

Strongly approve	15%
Somewhat approve	20%
Somewhat disapprove	12%
Strongly disapprove	44%
Not sure	9%

80. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Mitch McConnell is handling his job as Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate?

Strongly approve	12%
Somewhat approve	23%
Somewhat disapprove	10%
Strongly disapprove	42%
Not sure	13%

81. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Supreme Court of the United States is handling its job?

Strongly approve	13%
Somewhat approve	38%
Somewhat disapprove	20%
Strongly disapprove	8%
Not sure	21%

82. In general, how would you describe the political viewpoint of the Supreme Court of the United States?

Very liberal	2%
Liberal	4%
Moderate	33%
Conservative	29%
Very conservative	13%
Not sure	19%

83. Overall, do you think the economy is getting better or worse?

Getting better	24%
About the same	26%
Getting worse	39%
Not sure	11%

84. Do you think the stock market will be higher or lower 12 months from now?

Higher	22%
About the same	21%
Lower	28%
Not sure	30%

85. Would you say that you and your family are...

Better off financially than you were a year ago	28%
About the same financially as you were a year ago	41%
Worse off financially than you were a year ago	24%
Not sure	7%

86. Six months from now do you think there will be...

More jobs	27%
The same amount of jobs	18%
Fewer jobs	31%
Not sure	25%

87. How worried are you about losing your job?

Very worried	8%
Somewhat worried	30%
Not very worried	61%

88. If you lost your job, how hard would it be for you to find a new job that paid as much as you are making now?

Very hard – I would probably have to take a pay cut.	28%
Somewhat hard – It might take a while before I found a job that paid as much.	39%
Not very hard	22%
Not sure	11%

89. How happy would you say you are with your current job?

Very happy	22%
Happy	41%
Neither happy nor unhappy	28%
Unhappy	7%
Very unhappy	3%

90. In general, how would you describe your own political viewpoint?

Very liberal	11%
Liberal	18%
Moderate	30%
Conservative	21%
Very conservative	14%
Not sure	6%

91. Who did you vote for in the election for President in 2020?

Joe Biden	45%
Donald Trump	41%
Other	1%
Did not vote for President	14%

92. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Democrat	36%
Republican	28%
Independent	30%
Other	4%
Not sure	3%

93. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a ...?

Strong Democrat	26%
Not very strong Democrat	10%
Lean Democrat	9%
Independent	14%
Lean Republican	11%
Not very strong Republican	9%
Strong Republican	19%
Not sure	3%

94. Are you...?

Male	47%
Female	53%

95. Respondent age by category

Under 30	14%
30-44	23%
45-64	37%
65+	27%

96. What racial or ethnic group best describes you?

White	73%
Black	12%
Hispanic	10%
Other	6%

97. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

No degree	60%
College grad	40%

98. What is the highest level of education you have completed?

HS or less	29%
Some college	30%
College grad	26%
Postgrad	15%

99. What is your marital status?	
Married	52%
Separated	2%
Divorced	11%
Widowed	5%
Never married	25%
Domestic / civil partnership	4%
100. Are you the parent or guardian of any children under the age of 18?	
Yes	24%
No	76%
101. Calculated from respondent's state of residence	
Northeast	17%
Midwest	23%
South	37%
West	23%
102. Do you own or rent the place you currently live?	
Own	63%
Rent	33%
Other	4%
103. Thinking back over the last year, what was your family's annual income?	
Under \$50K	40%
\$50-100K	29%
\$100K or more	20%
Prefer not to say	11%
104. How important is religion in your life?	
Very important	39%
Somewhat important	24%
Not too important	15%
Not at all important	22%
105. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?	
More than once a week	6%
Once a week	20%
Once or twice a month	6%
A few times a year	13%
Seldom	22%
Never	30%
Don't know	3%

106. Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

Yes	33%
No	67%

107. People practice their religion in different ways. Outside of attending religious services, how often do you pray?

Several times a day	28%
Once a day	15%
A few times a week	12%
Once a week	4%
A few times a month	6%
Seldom	13%
Never	17%
Don't know	4%

108. What is your present religion, if any?

Protestant	33%
Roman Catholic	20%
Mormon	2%
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	0%
Jewish	3%
Muslim	1%
Buddhist	1%
Hindu	0%
Atheist	6%
Agnostic	7%
Nothing in particular	21%
Something else	6%

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Sponsorship	<i>The Economist</i>
Fieldwork	YouGov
Interviewing Dates	November 15 - 17, 2020
Target population	US Registered Voters
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov's opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, and region) was selected from the 2016 American Community Study. Voter registration was imputed from the November 2016 Current Population Survey Registration and Voting Supplement.
Weighting	The sample was weighted based on gender, age, race, education, news interest, and 2016 Presidential vote (or non-vote). The weights range from 0.052 to 5.157, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.796.
Number of respondents	1500
Margin of error	± 3.2% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	44 questions not reported.