

Release date: Tuesday September 1, 2020. Survey field dates August 11 – 29, 2020

About the 2020 USC Dornsife Daybreak Poll

The USC Dornsife Daybreak 2020 Tracking Poll is the result of a collaboration between researchers in two USC research Centers: the Center for the Political Future and the Center for Economic and Social Research, both in the Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters. Arts and Sciences. Some of the questions in the survey were developed in collaboration with researchers from the Santa Fe Institute and MIT.

On August 11, 2020, USC's Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR) invited 8,355 eligible voters who are active members of CESR's Understanding America Study (UAS) probability-based internet panel to participate in an ongoing election tracking survey. At the time of this analysis, 6601 eligible voters had completed the intake survey and 6,346 (96%) agreed to participate every other week on an assigned day.

The analysis associated with this release is based on a sample of 6,240 responses over two waves of data collection including responses from 5,016 unique participants. We used the full sample of responses to track changes over time, and the sample of unique responses for all other estimates. Wave 1 began on August 11, and wave 2 began on August 25.

Tracking Study Design

Each study member who agreed to participate was randomized to respond on a pre-assigned day of the week, distributed so that our full sample participates over a 14-day period. Respondents have until their next assigned wave day (or 14 days after their assigned date) to complete the survey. Data for the full sample is nearly complete after the first 14 days, but not final until the end of the full 28-days.

Participants in the election tracking survey answer questions about their voting intentions twice a month. USC researchers use these data to calculate three types of estimators of the presidential vote: probability-based personal voting, expectations about voting of participants' friends and other people in their state, and a categorical vote estimation among a group of likely voters. Eligible voters also estimate their chances of voting in the election for president and for Congress, as well as their probability of voting for a Democrat or a Republican in their House and Senate races.

State deadlines for registration and early voting are also factored into the design; automatically triggering questions about registration status and whether the participant has already voted. Unregistered voters who pass the deadline are given a zero likelihood of voting, and those who voted already are asked for whom they voted.

Weights

The sample of longitudinal responses associated with this release was weighted by participation week for analysis of change over time, and the sample of unique respondents was separately weighted for all other estimates.

The method for creating sample weights for the tracking survey follows a customized version of the general procedure for UAS surveys described in [CESR's online methodology documentation](#).

Sample weights are constructed in two steps. First, we calculate a base weight that corrects for unequal probabilities of recruitment of different households into the UAS. Second, we generate post-stratification weights, which align sample distributions of key demographics, namely gender, race/ethnicity, age, education, geographic location, urbanicity, and voting in the 2016 election, with their population counterparts.

Population benchmarks are derived from the Basic Monthly Current Population Survey (CPS), the American Community Survey (ACS), the Election Project, and the Federal Election Commission. The provided sample weights bring the sample in line with the adult population of U.S. citizens along these dimensions, if the entire sample is used. For some results, the weighting contains a third step where weights are scaled such that State populations are matched.

We provide more details about variables used and sources for benchmarking in our overall *Tracking Poll Methodology* document, available on the Center for Economic and Social Research's [elections data page](#).

Documentation and Data Dissemination

Interactive graphic results

The survey design allows us to provide daily updates to graphs on our tracking survey website <https://election.usc.edu>. These are refreshed just after 3am PDT every day of the week. On the site, viewers can choose to view aggregated results from each of the models. The graphs may be run for overall results, or among categories of party registration or location (States that voted for Democrats, Republicans or were “battlegrounds” in 2016, urbanicity). Each data point on the graphic represents the previous seven days of participation.

Graphics and aggregate data files

The aggregated data used to create the graphics is available from the [tracking graph website](#) in csv format, along with the charts themselves, in several graphic formats. Please contact us for more information if you are interested in using these data or embedding them in other sites.

Documentation

Survey questionnaires, topline, press releases, and graphics will be made available from our [2020 Election Data](#) page, along with details about how we sample and weight the tracking poll.

Public Use Data files

De-identified accumulating microdata files will be made publicly available to registered UAS data users for download from the [UAS election pages](#). Data that includes more detail, and codes that may be used to link to other UAS data are also available to researchers who provide an additional data use agreement. To learn more or to register as a UAS data user, visit our main site at <https://uasdata.usc.edu>

About the Understanding America Study Internet Panel

The Understanding America Study (UAS) is an ongoing national research panel that started in 2014. We recruit study members in waves using household addresses obtained from Marketing Systems Group frames which cover all zip codes in the United States. To ensure full coverage of the U.S. population, we provide internet-connected tablets to households that were not already online. Our panel includes U.S. residents who have cell phones, landlines, or no phone at all. Study members are compensated for their participation.

For more information about the UAS panel, including weighting details; panel sampling procedures; recruitment protocols, survey and recruitment response rates; panel attrition rates; panel management protocols; and microdata files (including nonresponse and paradata), please visit the Understanding America Study panel website at UASdata.usc.edu.

About the Center for Economic and Social Research

The Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR), part of the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, conducts basic and applied research in economics, psychology, demography, education, and sociology. The center's name signifies the breadth of the research, which encompasses numerous disciplines, topics and methodologies. The Center's multi-disciplinary philosophy fosters a productive and innovative research environment focused on understanding and informing important societal issues. It is led by economist and online panel expert Arie Kapteyn, founding director of the CentERpanel in the Netherlands, the oldest existing probability Internet panel in the world, as well as the RAND American Life Panel before he moved on to create CESR.

About the Center for the Political Future

The mission of the USC Dornsife Center for the Political Future is to advance civil dialogue that transcends partisan divisions and explores solutions to our most pressing national and global issues. The Center is led by two of the nation's most experienced and respected political experts, Robert Shrum and Michael Murphy.

Shrum is the Carmen H. and Louis Warschaw Chair in Practical Politics at USC. He has a storied career as an author and campaign adviser to Democratic candidates. His numerous clients included Edward Kennedy, Joe Biden, John Glenn, and Barbara Mikulski in their Senate campaigns, and John Kerry and Al Gore in their presidential races.

Murphy is one of the Republican Party's most successful political consultants. Murphy has led more than 20 statewide campaigns to victory, including gubernatorial races for Jeb Bush, Mitt Romney, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Christine Todd Whitman, John Engler, and Tommy Thompson as well as dozens of Senatorial, United States House, and other races.

CESR Dornsife Daybreak Poll Team

Jill E Darling is Survey Director of the poll, and for the Understanding America Study at CESR

Arie Kapteyn is Professor of Economics and the Executive Director of CESR

Tania Gutsche is CESR's Managing Director and Study Manager of the Understanding America Study

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For questions about this survey, please contact uas-l@usc.edu

The USC Dornsife Center for Economic and Social Research is a proud member of the American Association for Public Opinion Research's [Transparency Initiative](#).

The survey is funded by the USC Dornsife College of Arts, Letters and Sciences and additional funding from research grants.

Topline and Demographic Tables – all estimators

Probability of Personal Presidential Vote

Probability polling estimates for president are created by taking the ratio of the individual candidate likelihood percentages, conditional on probability of voting.

What is the percent chance that you will vote in the presidential election? (0-100%)

If you do vote in the election, what is the percent chance you will vote for Joe Biden (Democrat), Donald Trump (Republican), Someone else? (Answers add to 100%)

	%
Trump	41
Biden	52
Someone else	7

Categorical (traditional vote question)

Categorical estimates are based on weighted proportions of the sample who vote for each candidate, or vote and lean for each candidate, after removing those who would not vote in the election.

If the election were being held today, would you vote for Joe Biden (Democrat), Donald Trump (Republican), or someone else? (results shown among registered voters)

	%
Joe Biden (Democrat)	50
Donald Trump (Republican)	38
Jo Jorgensen (Libertarian)	1
Howie Hawkins (Green)	-
Undecided	9
Would not vote in the election	2

Undecided are asked

As of now, do you lean more toward voting for Joe Biden (Democrat), Donald Trump (Republican), or someone else?

	%
Joe Biden (Democrat)	21
Donald Trump (Republican)	16
Someone else	15
Do not lean toward any candidate	48

Estimate of personal probability of voting by categories of vote and leaned voting if the election were held today. Horizontal table.

If the election held today	Probability-based Estimate		
	%Trump	%Biden	%Other
Vote Biden	2	95	3
Lean Biden	16	62	21
Lean Trump	57	24	19
Vote Trump	93	3	2
Undecided	27	38	35

* some categories were not included due to insufficient sample size

Social Circle Expectations

Social circle estimates are created by taking the ratio of the percentage of social contacts expected to vote for different candidates, conditional on social contacts' likelihood of voting. Estimates are post-stratified by the adult population of each state.

Out of all your social contacts who live in your state and are likely to vote in the 2020 U.S. presidential election, what percentage do you think will vote for: Joe Biden (Democrat), Donald Trump (Republican), Someone else? (Answers add to 100%)

	%
Trump	45
Biden	50
Someone else	5

Winner expectations

Winner expectation estimates are calculated as the mean of winner expectations for each candidate, post-stratified by the adult population of each state.

Of all people who live in your state and are likely to vote, what percentage do you think will vote for: Joe Biden (Democrat), Donald Trump (Republican), Someone else? (Answers add to 100%)

	%
Trump	45
Biden	47
Someone else	8

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Demographic Tables - personal probability estimate.

Tables sum to 100% across rows

Race/Ethnicity	Trump	Biden	Other	MOSE +/-
Non-Hispanic White	51	42	6	2
Non-Hispanic Black	7	87	6	6
Non-Hispanic other Race	25	64	11	6
Hispanic	25	64	11	5
Gender	Trump	Biden	Other	
Female	36	56	8	2
Male	45	49	6	3
Age Groups	Trump	Biden	Other	
18 to 39	34	54	12	4
40 to 64	43	51	6	2
65 and older	46	52	3	3
Generations	Trump	Biden	Other	
Silent & Greatest Generation	47	52	2	6
Boomer	44	52	5	3
GenX	43	51	6	3
Millennials & Gen Z	34	54	12	4
Household Income	Trump	Biden	Other	
Less than \$50K annual HH income	38	53	9	3
\$50K or more annual HH income	42	52	6	2
Education	Trump	Biden	Other	
Education less than 4 year degree	45	47	8	2
Four year college degree or more	34	61	5	2
Race/Education	Trump	Biden	Other	
White, No Col degree	59	34	7	3
White, College degree	41	54	5	3
Non_White, No Col degree	19	70	11	4
Non-White, Col degree	16	78	5	5

Gender/Education	Trump	Biden	Other	MOSE +/-
Male, No Col degree	50	42	7	4
Male, College degree	38	56	5	3
Female, No Col degree	41	50	9	3
Female, College degree	27	67	6	3
Race/Education	Trump	Biden	Other	
White Female with no Col Degree	56	37	8	4
White Male with no Col Degree	62	31	7	4
White Female with Col Degree	36	58	6	4
White Male with Col Degree	44	51	5	4
Race/Gender	Trump	Biden	Other	
White women	49	44	7	3
Black women	5	89	6	7
Hispanic women	21	66	13	8
White men	53	41	6	3
Black men	9	85	6	12
Hispanic men	29	62	8	9
Gender/Census urbanicity	Trump	Biden	Other	
Rural women	55	36	9	5
"Mixed" area women	43	49	8	3
Urban women	24	68	8	4
Rural Men	62	32	7	6
"Mixed" area Men	52	42	6	4
Urban Men	31	63	6	4
Race/Age group	Trump	Biden	Other	
White, age < 40	46	43	11	5
White, age 40+	54	42	5	2
Non-White, age < 40	16	71	14	6
Non-White, age 40+	20	75	5	4
Census urbanicity	Trump	Biden	Other	
Rural	58	34	8	4
Mixed	47	45	7	2
Urban	27	65	7	3

Self-reported Urbanicity	Trump	Biden	Other	MOSE +/-
City	25	66	8	3
Small City	40	52	8	4
Suburb	40	53	7	4
Small Town	48	45	6	5
Rural Agricultural Area	60	34	6	4
Rural other areas	59	36	5	6
Other areas	34	53	12	4