Reuters/Ipsos/UVA Center for Politics State Poll: Georgia

Reuters/Ipsos poll conducted in conjunction with the University of Virginia Center for Politics
10.17.2018

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted October 4 – October 11, 2018 on behalf of Thomson Reuters and the University of Virginia Center for Politics. For the survey, a sample of 1,999 adults from Georgia, including 1,088 likely voters, 445 likely voter Democrats, 534 likely voter Republicans, and 66 likely voter Independents ages 18+ were interviewed online in English.

1. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the US today? (Select from below or write in).

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Economy generally	11%	11%	11%	11%	13%
Unemployment / lack of jobs	6%	4%	7%	1%	6%
War / foreign conflicts	3%	2%	2%	2%	1%
Immigration	12%	15%	6%	24%	8%
Terrorism / terrorist attacks	9%	10%	4%	16%	8%
Healthcare	18%	22%	27%	17%	24%
Energy issues	1%	0%	0%	0%	3%
Morality	12%	13%	11%	14%	11%
Education	4%	4%	6%	3%	4%
Crime	10%	7%	9%	6%	8%
Environment	3%	3%	5%	1%	5%
Other	7%	8%	11%	5%	11%
Don't know	4%	1%	2%	0%	2%

2. In November 2018, the next midterm congressional election will be held. Using a 1-to-10 scale, where 10 means you are completely certain you will vote and 1 means you are completely certain you will NOT vote, how likely are you to vote in the upcoming midterm congressional election? (Select one)

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
1	13%	1%	2%	1%	4%
2	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
3	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%
4	2%	0%	0%	0%	2%
5	8%	3%	3%	3%	7%
6	4%	1%	1%	1%	1%
7	5%	4%	3%	4%	2%
8	6%	5%	5%	4%	12%
9	7%	9%	9%	8%	9%
10	50%	76%	76%	79%	65%

3. How much interest do you have in following news about the upcoming midterm congressional election? (Select one)

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
A great deal	29%	45%	53%	39%	44%
Quite a bit	26%	34%	28%	39%	38%
Only some	19%	17%	14%	17%	17%
Very little	11%	4%	3%	3%	2%
No interest at all	12%	1%	1%	1%	0%
Don't know / Refused	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%

4. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Right direction	38%	45%	14%	78%	26%
Wrong track	49%	51%	83%	18%	69%
Don't know	13%	4%	3%	5%	6%

5. Generally speaking, would you say things in your state are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Right direction	45%	53%	27%	82%	32%
Wrong track	36%	38%	61%	14%	56%
Don't know	19%	9%	12%	5%	12%

6. Thinking about the elections in 2018, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district where you live?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Democratic candidate	38%	45%	94%	2%	38%
Republican candidate	35%	47%	1%	95%	26%
Candidate from another political party	4%	2%	2%	0%	15%
Will not/do not plan to vote	11%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know / Refused	13%	5%	3%	2%	22%

7. If the election for governor were held today and the candidates were Stacey Abrams and Brian Kemp, for whom would you vote?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	37%	46%	92%	3%	40%
Brian Kemp (Republican)	35%	47%	3%	93%	29%
Ted Metz (Libertarian)	4%	2%	1%	2%	18%
Other	2%	1%	1%	0%	2%
Wouldn't vote	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Don't know / Refused	13%	4%	4%	1%	12%

8. [Asked to respondents who chose 'wouldn't vote, other, or don't know/refused] If you had to choose do you lean more towards Stacey Abrams or Brian Kemp?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	37%	46%	92%	3%	40%
Lean Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	3%	1%	2%	0%	4%
Lean Brian Kemp (Republican)	2%	1%	0%	1%	4%
Brian Kemp (Republican)	35%	47%	3%	93%	29%
Other/none	23%	5%	3%	3%	24%

9. Overall, do you approve or disapprove about the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Strongly approve	25%	34%	6%	64%	19%
Somewhat approve	17%	16%	4%	26%	15%
Lean towards approve	3%	1%	0%	2%	2%
Lean towards disapprove	2%	1%	1%	1%	2%
Somewhat disapprove	11%	8%	11%	5%	13%
Strongly disapprove	37%	39%	76%	3%	45%
Not sure	7%	2%	2%	0%	4%

10. From the list of candidates below, please indicate whether they are a traditional politician or a non-traditional politician?
    a. Brian Kemp

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Traditional politician	50%	67%	64%	68%	80%
Non-traditional politician	19%	21%	20%	24%	12%
Don't know	32%	13%	17%	7%	8%

    b. Stacey Abrams

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Traditional politician	40%	50%	53%	50%	45%
Non-traditional politician	28%	36%	38%	34%	40%
Don't know	32%	14%	9%	16%	16%

c.   Ted Metz

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Traditional politician	12%	13%	14%	11%	10%
Non-traditional politician	21%	24%	25%	23%	31%
Don't know	67%	63%	61%	65%	58%

11. Which candidate for governor is better on each of the following issues?

a.   Unemployment, jobs

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	30%	38%	77%	3%	37%
Brian Kemp (Republican)	33%	43%	6%	82%	32%
Ted Metz (Libertarian)	3%	3%	4%	1%	10%
Neither	7%	5%	3%	4%	11%
Don't Know	28%	11%	11%	10%	10%

b.   Healthcare generally

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	33%	43%	85%	5%	46%
Brian Kemp (Republican)	29%	38%	3%	75%	21%
Ted Metz (Libertarian)	4%	3%	3%	2%	13%
Neither	7%	5%	2%	6%	10%
Don't Know	27%	11%	8%	12%	10%

c.   The environment

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	31%	40%	75%	7%	50%
Brian Kemp (Republican)	26%	33%	4%	65%	17%
Ted Metz (Libertarian)	5%	4%	5%	2%	12%
Neither	7%	6%	3%	8%	9%
Don't Know	31%	17%	14%	18%	14%

d. Education

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	33%	44%	84%	7%	44%
Brian Kemp (Republican)	30%	39%	3%	76%	23%
Ted Metz (Libertarian)	4%	3%	4%	1%	12%
Neither	6%	3%	1%	4%	7%
Don't Know	27%	11%	8%	12%	15%

e. Crime, law & order

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	29%	37%	75%	4%	29%
Brian Kemp (Republican)	35%	47%	8%	85%	39%
Ted Metz (Libertarian)	4%	2%	3%	1%	10%
Neither	6%	4%	3%	2%	11%
Don't Know	27%	11%	12%	8%	12%

f. Immigration

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	28%	36%	71%	4%	36%
Brian Kemp (Republican)	34%	46%	10%	82%	40%
Ted Metz (Libertarian)	3%	2%	2%	1%	9%
Neither	6%	4%	3%	3%	5%
Don't Know	28%	12%	13%	10%	11%

g. Social issues like abortion and same-sex marriage

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Stacey Abrams (Democrat)	33%	42%	76%	10%	51%
Brian Kemp (Republican)	27%	37%	4%	71%	21%
Ted Metz (Libertarian)	4%	3%	3%	2%	12%
Neither	7%	6%	4%	6%	1%
Don't Know	29%	13%	13%	12%	15%

12. As you may know, President Trump nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court. Do you support or oppose Brett Kavanaugh's nomination?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Support	38%	49%	10%	89%	36%
Oppose	40%	44%	84%	6%	53%
Don't know	23%	8%	6%	5%	12%

13. As you may know, Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh has been accused of sexual misconduct. Do you believe these allegations?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Yes	37%	40%	76%	7%	49%
No	36%	44%	8%	82%	27%
Don't know	27%	16%	16%	11%	24%

14. Please indicate how much do you agree or disagree with the following statement: In general, when the U.S. charges taxes or fees on imported goods, it is good for me personally

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Strongly agree	9%	12%	8%	16%	8%
Somewhat agree	27%	29%	18%	42%	23%
Somewhat disagree	22%	24%	28%	19%	24%
Strongly disagree	17%	19%	29%	8%	31%
Don't know	26%	17%	17%	15%	14%

15. Overall, do you approve or disapprove about the way your Congressperson is handling their job as Representative?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Strongly agree	12%	19%	11%	28%	10%
Somewhat agree	35%	38%	27%	50%	25%
Somewhat disagree	17%	19%	26%	11%	27%
Strongly disagree	12%	15%	23%	5%	27%
Don't know	25%	10%	13%	6%	12%

16. Overall, do you approve or disapprove about the way your Congress as a whole is handling its job?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Strongly agree	6%	8%	6%	10%	4%
Somewhat agree	26%	29%	17%	43%	14%
Somewhat disagree	26%	27%	27%	28%	24%
Strongly disagree	25%	33%	46%	18%	52%
Don't know	17%	4%	4%	2%	6%

17. What is the most important issue in determining your vote?

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Unemployment, jobs	6%	3%	5%	2%	5%
Deficit/budget	3%	3%	3%	4%	1%
Taxes	3%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Economy in general	14%	16%	12%	18%	22%
Healthcare generally	14%	17%	22%	12%	15%
Medicare/Medicaid	6%	5%	7%	4%	1%
The environment	2%	2%	3%	1%	8%
Energy, gas prices	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Social Security	8%	8%	9%	5%	12%
Education	4%	3%	4%	3%	2%
Crime, law & order	7%	6%	7%	5%	2%
Immigration	9%	10%	2%	18%	11%
International issues/conflicts abroad	3%	2%	2%	2%	0%
Social issues like abortion and same-sex marriage	6%	7%	7%	6%	7%
Gun laws	5%	5%	3%	7%	1%
The Supreme Court	4%	5%	6%	6%	6%
Other (specify)	6%	5%	6%	4%	5%

18. How motivated are you to vote for the following in the November midterm election?
    a. To vote for a candidate who agrees with me on major issues

	All Adults	All Likely Voters	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Very motivated	56%	71%	68%	75%	66%
Somewhat motivated	23%	22%	26%	18%	25%
Not very motivated	7%	2%	3%	1%	1%
Not at all motivated	14%	5%	3%	5%	8%

    b. To vote for a candidate who will support President Trump

	All Adults	All Likely Voters	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Very motivated	28%	38%	9%	70%	20%
Somewhat motivated	14%	12%	4%	19%	9%
Not very motivated	12%	9%	11%	6%	16%
Not at all motivated	45%	41%	77%	5%	55%

c.   To vote for a candidate who will oppose President Trump

	All Adults	All Likely Voter	Likely Voters: Democrat	Likely Voters: Republican	Likely Voters: Independent
Very motivated	31%	40%	75%	8%	40%
Somewhat motivated	13%	9%	13%	4%	15%
Not very motivated	14%	9%	7%	11%	9%
Not at all motivated	42%	41%	5%	77%	37%

Methodology

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted October 4 – October 11, 2018 on behalf of Thomson Reuters and the University of Virginia Center for Politics. For the survey, a sample of 1,999 adults from Georgia, including 1,088 likely voters, 445 likely voter Democrats, 534 likely voter Republicans, and 66 likely voter Independents ages 18+ were interviewed online.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos's online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online non-probability polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1999, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=4.0).

The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.4 percentage points for likely voters, plus or minus 5.3 percentage points for likely voters Democrats, plus or minus 4.8 percentage points for likely voters Republicans and plus or minus 13.8 percentage points for likely voters Independents.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our Public Opinion Polling and Communication page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ\, i.e., Y|θ~Bin(n,θ), where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of "yes", or "1", observed in the sample, so that the sample mean ($\bar{y}$) is a natural estimate of the true population proportion θ. This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian [1] statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one's knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution (π(θ/y)~β(y+a,n-y+b)), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on π(θ/y). Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that *a*=1 and *b*=1 and y=*n/2*. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\bar{y} \mp \frac{1}{\sqrt{n}}$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect 1+L=1.3 to account for complex weighting[2]

Examples of credibility intervals for different base sizes are below. Ipsos does not publish data for base sizes (sample sizes) below 100.

Sample size	Credibility intervals
2,000	2.5
1,500	2.9
1,000	3.5
750	4.1
500	5.0
350	6.0
200	7.9
100	11.2