



PRESS RELEASE

Reuters/Ipsos Poll: 2020 Democratic Primary Tracker

Biden continues to lead Sanders in the race for the Democratic nomination for president

Washington, DC, March 17, 2020 – In the Reuters/Ipsos Democratic primary tracker survey conducted between March 13-16, 2020, former Vice President Joe Biden continues to be the front runner in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination. About half of Democratic registered voters say they will support Biden (48%), compared to 39% who say they will support Senator Bernie Sanders, and 2% who say they will be voting for Representative Tulsi Gabbard. A majority of Democratic registered voters report they are certain they about who they will support (58% are completely certain, and 35% are mostly certain), compared to just 8% who are not certain about their choice. When asked who they would support in the event of a forced-choice between Sanders and Biden, Biden still has the majority of support (54%) compared to Sanders (46%) among Democratic registered voters.

Democratic registered voters see both Sanders and Biden as having different strengths. Sanders is seen as having the best approach to healthcare (50%) compared to Biden (38%), but Biden is perceived to be stronger on the economy (46%) than Sanders (38%). Electability – the single most important issue for Democratic registered voters when deciding who to vote for – is dominated by Biden. Fifty-nine percent of Democratic registered voters say that Biden is the candidate who is most likely to beat President Trump in the general election, compared to 26% who say the same about Sanders.

About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between March 13 and March 16, 2020 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For this survey, a sample of 1,116 Americans age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 955 registered voters, 458 Democratic registered voters, 374 Republican registered voters, and 85 independent registered voters. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within ± 3.3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Americans been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error. The poll also has a credibility interval ± 3.6 percentage points for registered voters, ± 5.2 percentage points for Democratic registered voters, ± 5.8 percentage points for Republican registered voters, and ± 12.1 percentage points for independent registered voters.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire.



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		All Respondents	All Registered Voters	Democratic Registered Voters	Republican Registered Voters	Independent Registered Voters
P1. Are you currently registered to vote, or not? (Select one)	Yes	82%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	No	15%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Don't know / Refused	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1116	955	458	374	85
Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?	Democrat	43%	48%	100%	0%	0%
	Republican	37%	39%	0%	100%	0%
	Independent	10%	9%	0%	0%	100%
	None/DK	10%	4%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1116	955	458	374	85
P7. In November 2020, the next presidential election will be held. Using a 1-to-10 scale... how likely are you to vote in the next presidential election? (Select one)	10- Completely certain you will vote	64%	77%	79%	82%	62%
	9	6%	7%	6%	7%	12%
	8	4%	4%	3%	3%	3%
	7	4%	4%	5%	2%	5%
	6	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	5	4%	3%	3%	1%	3%
	4	1%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	3	2%	0%	1%	0%	0%
	2	1%	0%	0%	1%	0%
	1-Completely certain you will NOT vote	9%	1%	0%	1%	4%
	Don't know	4%	2%	0%	1%	8%
	Total	1116	955	458	374	85



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		All Respondents	All Registered Voters	Democratic Registered Voters	Republican Registered Voters	Independent Registered Voters
TM3. How familiar are you with the following public figures, taking into account all the ways you may have heard about them?...Donald Trump	Very familiar	73%	78%	80%	81%	69%
	Somewhat familiar	20%	17%	15%	16%	24%
	Not very familiar	3%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Have heard of them, but that's it	3%	2%	3%	1%	3%
	Have not heard about them	1%	0%	0%	0%	1%
	Total	1116	955	458	374	85
TM3. How familiar are you with the following public figures, taking into account all the ways you may have heard about them?...Joe Biden	Very familiar	51%	58%	65%	55%	48%
	Somewhat familiar	31%	32%	29%	34%	31%
	Not very familiar	8%	6%	3%	7%	9%
	Have heard of them, but that's it	6%	4%	2%	3%	11%
	Have not heard about them	3%	1%	1%	0%	0%
	Total	1116	955	458	374	85
TM3. How familiar are you with the following public figures, taking into account all the ways you may have heard about them?...Bernie Sanders	Very familiar	51%	57%	65%	51%	49%
	Somewhat familiar	34%	34%	30%	40%	29%
	Not very familiar	7%	5%	3%	6%	12%
	Have heard of them, but that's it	6%	3%	2%	3%	10%
	Have not heard about them	2%	0%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1116	955	458	374	85



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		All Respondents	All Registered Voters	Democratic Registered Voters	Republican Registered Voters	Independent Registered Voters
TM4. Would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures?...Donald Trump	Very favorable	22%	24%	3%	53%	9%
	Somewhat favorable	11%	11%	3%	22%	9%
	Lean towards favorable	10%	9%	4%	11%	17%
	Lean towards unfavorable	8%	6%	7%	3%	10%
	Somewhat unfavorable	7%	7%	7%	3%	13%
	Very unfavorable	42%	44%	75%	7%	41%
	Total	1105	951	457	373	84
TM4. Would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures?...Joe Biden	Very favorable	15%	17%	31%	3%	8%
	Somewhat favorable	16%	17%	29%	5%	9%
	Lean towards favorable	18%	17%	22%	9%	28%
	Lean towards unfavorable	17%	14%	10%	16%	20%
	Somewhat unfavorable	12%	12%	6%	20%	16%
	Very unfavorable	22%	23%	4%	47%	18%
	Total	1094	949	454	373	85
TM4. Would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures?...Bernie Sanders	Very favorable	17%	18%	32%	3%	11%
	Somewhat favorable	16%	18%	31%	5%	10%
	Lean towards favorable	16%	14%	16%	7%	24%
	Lean towards unfavorable	14%	12%	12%	11%	22%
	Somewhat unfavorable	9%	9%	5%	12%	13%
	Very unfavorable	28%	30%	4%	63%	21%
	Total	1102	952	457	373	85



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		All Respondents	All Registered Voters	Democratic Registered Voters	Republican Registered Voters	Independent Registered Voters
TM1634Y19. If the 2020 Democratic presidential primary election were held today, and you had to choose from the list of candidates below, for whom would you vote? - NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	35%	43%	48%	-	25%
	Bernie Sanders	33%	33%	39%	-	14%
	Tulsi Gabbard	3%	3%	2%	-	6%
	Other	3%	3%	2%	-	2%
	Don't know	16%	12%	8%	-	23%
	I can't/won't vote in the Democratic primary	10%	6%	0%	-	30%
	Total	700	581	458	0	85
TM1703Y19. How certain are you that you will vote for [INSERT RESPONSE FROM TM1634Y19] in the Democratic presidential primary? - NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Completely certain	52%	56%	58%	-	48%
	Mostly certain	37%	36%	35%	-	40%
	Not very certain	7%	6%	6%	-	10%
	Not at all certain	4%	2%	2%	-	2%
	Total	518	465	411	0	42
TM1804Y20. If the 2020 Democratic presidential primary election were held today, and you had to choose from the candidates below, for whom would you vote? - NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Bernie Sanders	50%	45%	46%	-	39%
	Joe Biden	50%	55%	54%	-	61%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59



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		All Respondents	All Registered Voters	Democratic Registered Voters	Republican Registered Voters	Independent Registered Voters
You said you would support [INSERT RESPONSE FROM TM1804Y20] for the Democratic presidential nomination. In the event [ALTERNATE RESPONSE FROM TM1804Y20] wins the Democratic nomination, which of the following scenarios best describes how you will vote in the November 2020 election for president? – NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	I will vote for [alternate response from TM1804Y20 Joe Biden or Bernie Sanders]	55%	64%	73%	-	22%
	I will vote for President Donald Trump	8%	7%	5%	-	13%
	I will vote for a third party (Green Party, independent candidates, etc.)	9%	9%	7%	-	21%
	I will not vote at all if [alternate response from TM1804Y20 Joe Biden or Bernie Sanders] wins the nomination	7%	5%	4%	-	8%
	Not sure	21%	15%	10%	-	36%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59
TM1811Y20. Have you already voted in the Democratic presidential primary? – NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Yes	39%	46%	51%	-	26%
	No	55%	50%	46%	-	67%
	Not sure	6%	4%	2%	-	7%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59
TM1812Y20. When did you/When will you make up your mind about who to vote for in the Democratic presidential primary? -NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	A few months before election day	25%	26%	28%	-	15%
	A few weeks before election day	19%	20%	22%	-	18%
	A few days before election day	26%	28%	28%	-	27%
	On election day	19%	18%	16%	-	33%
	In the voting booth	11%	8%	6%	-	6%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59



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		All Respondents	All Registered Voters	Democratic Registered Voters	Republican Registered Voters	Independent Registered Voters
TM651Y15_1. If the 2020 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were as below, for whom would you vote?	Joe Biden (Democrat)	41%	46%	83%	9%	33%
	Donald Trump (Republican)	35%	37%	5%	82%	23%
	Neither / Other	8%	7%	6%	4%	15%
	Wouldn't vote	8%	4%	3%	1%	10%
	Don't know/Refused	8%	6%	3%	5%	18%
	Total	1116	955	458	374	85
TM651Y15_2. If the 2020 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were as below, for whom would you vote?	Donald Trump (Republican)	37%	39%	5%	85%	29%
	Bernie Sanders (Democrat)	42%	45%	83%	5%	31%
	Neither / Other	7%	6%	5%	5%	13%
	Wouldn't vote	7%	3%	1%	2%	9%
	Don't know/Refused	8%	6%	4%	4%	18%
	Total	1116	955	458	374	85
TM1662Y19 - For each of the following, please select the candidate from the list below you think is the best on that particular issue...Immigration. -NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	33%	38%	42%	-	19%
	Bernie Sanders	33%	34%	35%	-	27%
	Some other candidate	9%	9%	6%	-	29%
	Don't know	25%	19%	17%	-	24%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59
		All Respondents	All Registered Voters	Democratic Registered Voters	Republican Registered Voters	Independent Registered Voters



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TM1662Y19 - For each of the following, please select the candidate from the list below you think is the best on that particular issue...Healthcare. - NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	31%	35%	38%	-	22%
	Bernie Sanders	45%	46%	50%	-	32%
	Some other candidate	6%	6%	3%	-	23%
	Don't know	18%	13%	9%	-	23%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59
TM1662Y19 - For each of the following, please select the candidate from the list below you think is the best on that particular issue..The environment. -NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	29%	32%	35%	-	18%
	Bernie Sanders	44%	46%	49%	-	33%
	Some other candidate	6%	5%	3%	-	17%
	Don't know	22%	17%	13%	-	31%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59
TM1662Y19 - For each of the following, please select the candidate from the list below you think is the best on that particular issue...The economy and jobs. -NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	37%	42%	46%	-	29%
	Bernie Sanders	36%	36%	38%	-	23%
	Some other candidate	8%	7%	4%	-	26%
	Don't know	20%	15%	12%	-	22%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59



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TM1662Y19 - For each of the following, please select the candidate from the list below you think is the best on that particular issue...Most likely to beat President Trump. -NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	48%	55%	59%	-	36%
	Bernie Sanders	26%	25%	26%	-	25%
	Some other candidate	6%	5%	4%	-	12%
	Don't know	20%	15%	11%	-	27%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59
TM1662Y19 - For each of the following, please select the candidate from the list below you think is the best on that particular issue...Strong progressive. -NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	23%	25%	27%	-	17%
	Bernie Sanders	48%	52%	56%	-	38%
	Some other candidate	7%	6%	4%	-	14%
	Don't know	22%	17%	13%	-	31%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59
TM1662Y19 - For each of the following, please select the candidate from the list below you think is the best on that particular issue...Can unify the Democratic Party. -NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	41%	47%	51%	-	29%
	Bernie Sanders	29%	29%	31%	-	20%
	Some other candidate	7%	7%	5%	-	20%
	Don't know	23%	17%	13%	-	32%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59



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		All Respondents	All Registered Voters	Democratic Registered Voters	Republican Registered Voters	Independent Registered Voters
TM1662Y19 - For each of the following, please select the candidate from the list below you think is the best on that particular issue...A new and different voice. - NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	23%	25%	26%	-	19%
	Bernie Sanders	46%	48%	52%	-	34%
	Some other candidate	14%	14%	12%	-	30%
	Don't know	18%	14%	10%	-	17%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59
TM1662Y19 - For each of the following, please select the candidate from the list below you think is the best on that particular issue...National security. -NOT ASKED OF REPUBLICANS	Joe Biden	44%	51%	56%	-	33%
	Bernie Sanders	23%	22%	24%	-	15%
	Some other candidate	8%	8%	4%	-	28%
	Don't know	25%	19%	16%	-	24%
	Total	637	546	458	0	59



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