



PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

COVID-19, racial inequality among top political issues for Americans

Latest Newsy/Ipsos poll shows Americans split on whether to remove slaveholder statues from public spaces, but vast majority want Trump to wear a mask in public

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, June 30, 2020 – While coronavirus cases begin to spike across the nation and the 2020 presidential election nears, a new Newsy/Ipsos poll finds that the COVID-19 pandemic tops the list of most important political issues. However, racial inequality is a growing concern, with one in three citing it as an important issue compared to fewer than 10 percent last December. Americans are more divided on this topic, though, as there is a nearly even split on support or opposition for the removal of statues or monuments of slaveholders from public spaces across the country.

Detailed Findings

1. Just under half of Americans say the COVID-19 pandemic is one of their most important political issues right now, but those citing racial inequality has more than quadrupled since December 2019
 - Forty-five percent of Americans believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the three most important political issues. This is followed by the economy and jobs (34%), which has more than doubled in those who find it important since last December (15%).
 - Compared to late last year, the most rapidly growing issue is racial inequality: more than four times as many Americans now when compared to the end of 2019 think it is one of the most important current political issues (31% now vs. 7% in December). Some groups are more likely to choose racial inequality than the COVID-19 pandemic, including the Gen Z generation (60% racial inequality, 35% COVID-19 pandemic) and Black or African Americans (62%, 45%, respectively).
2. Americans are split on whether to remove statues or monuments of slaveholders from public spaces across the country.
 - Overall, 45% of Americans support removing these statues, compared to 47% who oppose.
 - Majorities of Americans under 35 (60%), Black (73%) and Hispanic (56%) Americans, as well as Democrats (68%) support removing these statues or monuments from public spaces across the country.
3. Americans are also divided in their prediction of the most likely outcome of the 2020 election. They do agree, however, that President Trump should wear a mask in public.
 - Forty-two percent say they believe Joe Biden will win in November, while 38% believe President Trump will be re-elected. Another 16% say they do not know.
 - Three quarters of Americans agree that President Trump should wear a face mask in public (74%), including 56% of Republicans.
 - A majority of Democrats and Independents (54%), though it is of particular importance for Democrats, say it is important for Joe Biden to select a woman of color as his vice presidential nominee. This includes 55% of Black Americans and 61% of those under 35 who identify as Democrats or Independents.





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4. Many are feeling financial woes related to COVID-19. For those under age 40, it has made some reconsider their family plans.
 - Half of all Americans feel worse about their financial situation now (49%), and a third say it has gotten harder to pay rent or mortgage since the pandemic began.
 - More Americans are not concerned about losing their jobs (51%) than those who are concerned (45%), but majorities of non-white Americans and those under 35 years old say they are concerned (both 52%).
 - More than two in five Millennials and Gen Zers say the pandemic has made them less likely to want to have any, or any more, children (43% without children in the household, 42% with children in the household).

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between June 25-29, 2020 on behalf of Newsy. For this survey, a sample of 2,008 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points for all respondents.

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



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Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. Below is a list of current political issues. Which, if any, do you believe to be the most important? You may select up to three.

	June 25-29 (N=2,008)	Dec 16-17, 2019 (N=1,005)
The COVID-19 pandemic	45%	-
The economy and jobs	34%	15%
Healthcare	31%	27%
Racial inequality	31%	7%
Climate change	17%	19%
Education	16%	13%
Immigration	15%	22%
National security	15%	15%
Gun violence	13%	21%
Divisiveness in politics	11%	10%
Income inequality	9%	8%
Abortion	8%	8%
Election security	8%	6%
Voting rights	7%	3%
Infrastructure	5%	5%
Other	3%	5%
None of these	2%	2%
Don't know	2%	4%

2. In the past week, have you done each of the following more or less than you typically would?

More Often Than I Typically Would Summary

	June 25-29	May 13-15	April 16-20	March 20-24
Watch streaming platforms	30%	36%	44%	36%
Watch television (traditional)	25%	32%	41%	37%
Video chat with family and friends	19%	30%	35%	20%
Watch the news	24%	29%	45%	46%
Play video games (single- or multi-player)	17%	20%	-	-
Exercise	16%	18%	21%	16%
Play virtual games with other people	14%	15%	18%	-
Drink alcohol	10%	14%	17%	-
Listen to podcasts	11%	-	-	-

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a. Watch television (traditional)

	June 25-29	May 13-15	April 16-20	March 20-24
More often than I typically would	25%	32%	41%	37%
Same amount	54%	51%	44%	56%
Less often than I typically would	10%	6%	4%	5%
I did not do this at all in the past week	9%	9%	10%	-
Don't know	1%	1%	1%	2%

b. Watch streaming platforms (Netflix, Hulu, YouTube, etc.)

	June 25-29	May 13-15	April 16-20	March 20-24
More often than I typically would	30%	36%	44%	36%
Same amount	42%	38%	32%	52%
Less often than I typically would	8%	4%	3%	7%
I did not do this at all in the past week	19%	20%	19%	-
Don't know	1%	1%	2%	5%

c. Watch the news

	June 25-29	May 13-15	April 16-20	March 20-24
More often than I typically would	24%	29%	45%	46%
Same amount	49%	48%	37%	44%
Less often than I typically would	14%	10%	6%	7%
I did not do this at all in the past week	13%	12%	9%	-
Don't know	1%	2%	1%	4%

d. Exercise

	June 25-29	May 13-15	April 16-20	March 20-24
More often than I typically would	16%	18%	21%	16%
Same amount	46%	47%	41%	59%
Less often than I typically would	19%	17%	18%	21%
I did not do this at all in the past week	18%	16%	19%	-
Don't know	1%	2%	2%	4%

e. Play video games (single- or multi-player)

	June 25-29	May 13-15
More often than I typically would	17%	20%
Same amount	30%	31%
Less often than I typically would	8%	5%
I did not do this at all in the past week	43%	42%
Don't know	2%	3%

f. Play virtual games (e.g. board games, role-playing games, etc.) with other people

	June 25-29	May 13-15	April 16-20
More often than I typically would	14%	15%	18%
Same amount	22%	24%	24%
Less often than I typically would	7%	5%	5%
I did not do this at all in the past week	54%	53%	50%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%

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g. Drink alcohol

	June 25-29	May 13-15	April 16-20
More often than I typically would	10%	14%	17%
Same amount	37%	35%	32%
Less often than I typically would	10%	9%	7%
I did not do this at all in the past week	39%	39%	42%
Don't know	3%	3%	3%

h. Video chat (Skype, Facetime, etc.) with family and friends

	June 25-29	May 13-15	April 16-17	March 20-24
More often than I typically would	19%	30%	35%	20%
Same amount	31%	28%	23%	59%
Less often than I typically would	9%	6%	3%	12%
I did not do this at all in the past week	39%	34%	35%	-
Don't know	2%	2%	3%	9%

i. Listen to podcasts

	June 25-29
More often than I typically would	11%
Same amount	24%
Less often than I typically would	8%
I did not do this at all in the past week	53%
Don't know	4%

3. **[Asked if employed full-time, part-time, or self-employed]** When coronavirus-related stay at home orders end in your area, how, if at all, do you expect your work commute to change? If stay at home orders in your area have already ended, please answer how, if at all, your commute has changed.

	June 25-29 (N=1,066)
I expect to drive to work more often	19%
I expect to walk more often	12%
I expect to take public transportation (bus or rail) more often	7%
I expect to bike more often	6%
I expect to commute less, in any form, because I will be working from home more frequently	17%
I expect my commute to change in a different way	2%
I don't expect my work commute to change	46%
Don't know	3%

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4. **[ASK IF EMPLOYED FULL TIME, PART TIME, OR SELF-EMPLOYED]** How concerned, if at all, are you about losing your job due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

	June 25-29 (N=1,066)
Very concerned	18%
Somewhat concerned	26%
Not very concerned	24%
Not concerned at all	27%
I have already lost my job or been laid off	3%
Don't know	1%
<i>Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>45%</i>
<i>Not concerned (Net)</i>	<i>51%</i>

5. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Total Agree Summary

	June 25-29
I feel safe going to the doctor's office for in-person medical care	65%
I feel worse about my financial situation than I did before the COVID-19 pandemic began	49%
The COVID-19 pandemic has made me less likely to want to have children	43%
The COVID-19 pandemic has made me less likely to want to have more children	42%
It has gotten harder to pay my rent or mortgage since the COVID-19 pandemic began	33%

- a. It has gotten harder to pay my rent or mortgage since the COVID-19 pandemic began

	June 25-29
Strongly agree	15%
Somewhat agree	18%
Somewhat disagree	24%
Strongly disagree	40%
Don't know	4%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>33%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>64%</i>

- b. **[Asked if born in 1981 or later AND no child in household]** The COVID-19 pandemic has made me less likely to want to have children

	June 25-29 (N=373)
Strongly agree	18%
Somewhat agree	25%
Somewhat disagree	18%
Strongly disagree	24%
Don't know	15%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>43%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>42%</i>



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- c. [Asked if born in 1981 or later AND at least one child in household] The COVID-19 pandemic has made me less likely to want to have more children

	June 25-29 (N=264)
Strongly agree	20%
Somewhat agree	22%
Somewhat disagree	20%
Strongly disagree	28%
Don't know	10%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	42%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	49%

- d. I feel worse about my financial situation than I did before the COVID-19 pandemic began

	June 25-29
Strongly agree	21%
Somewhat agree	28%
Somewhat disagree	24%
Strongly disagree	25%
Don't know	2%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	49%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	49%

- e. I feel safe going to the doctor's office for in-person medical care

	June 25-29
Strongly agree	25%
Somewhat agree	40%
Somewhat disagree	22%
Strongly disagree	11%
Don't know	3%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	65%
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	32%

6. Now, for something different. Do you support or oppose removing statues or monuments of slaveholders from public spaces across the country?

	June 25-29
Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	17%
Somewhat oppose	17%
Strongly oppose	30%
Don't know	9%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	45%
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	47%





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7. Which of the following do you think is the most likely outcome of the 2020 election?

	June 25-29
Democrat Joe Biden will be elected	42%
President Trump will be re-elected	38%
A third-party or independent candidate will be elected	4%
Don't know	16%

8. **[Asked only of Democrats, Independents and those who see themselves as closer to the Democratic party]** How important to you, if at all, is it for Joe Biden to select a woman of color as his vice presidential nominee?

	June 25-29 (N=1,189)
Very important	21%
Somewhat important	32%
Not very important	20%
Not at all important	15%
Don't know	11%
<i>Important (Net)</i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>Not important (Net)</i>	<i>35%</i>

9. Please indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: President Trump should wear a face mask in public.

	June 25-29
Strongly agree	55%
Somewhat agree	19%
Somewhat disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	9%
Don't know	8%
<i>Agree (Net)</i>	<i>74%</i>
<i>Disagree (Net)</i>	<i>18%</i>



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between June 25-29, 2020, on behalf of Newsy. For this survey, a sample of 2,008 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. This poll is trended against Newsy/Ipsos polls conducted between December 16-17, 2019 with a sample of 1,005 U.S. adults, March 20-24, 2020 with a sample of 2,007 U.S. adults, April 16-20, 2020 with a sample of 2,004 U.S. adults, and May 13-15, 2020 with a sample of 2,009 U.S. adults.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' 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 a 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. Posthoc 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 ($n=2,008$, $DEFF=1.5$, adjusted Confidence Interval= ± 4.0 percentage points).

The poll fielded from December 16-17, 2019 has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, and the polls fielded from March 20-24, April 16-20, and May 13-15, 2020 have a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

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