



TOPLINE AND METHODOLOGY

FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos September 29th Pre and Post Debate Poll

Conducted by Ipsos using KnowledgePanel®
A survey of the American general population (ages 18+)

Wave 2 Interview dates: September 29th to 30th, 2020

Number of interviews: 1,827

Wave 1 Interview dates: September 21st to 28th, 2020

Number of interviews: 3,133

Wave 2 Margin of error: +/-2.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level

Wave 1 Margin of error: +/-1.9 percentage points at the 95% confidence level

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled. Reduced bases are unweighted values.

NOTE: * = less than 0.5%, - = no respondents

Annotated Questionnaire:

1. On November 3rd, the election for president of the United States will be held. How likely are you to vote in this upcoming election?

	Total
Not likely at all	8
Not too likely	2
About 50-50	5
Very likely	10
Absolutely certain to vote	72
I have already voted in the election (by mail, absentee ballot, or early voting)	2
Skipped	*

2. How excited are you about voting in this year's presidential election?

	Total
Very excited	40
Somewhat excited	21
Not too excited	21
Not at all excited	18
Skipped	*
Total Excited (net)	61
Total Not Excited (net)	39



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3. How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following presidential candidates?

Joe Biden	Pre	Post
Very favorable	26	28
Somewhat favorable	22	25
Somewhat unfavorable	12	13
Very unfavorable	34	31
Heard of, no opinion	4	2
Never heard of	1	1
Skipped	1	*
Total Favorable (net)	49	52
Total Unfavorable (net)	46	45

Donald Trump	Pre	Post
Very favorable	24	24
Somewhat favorable	13	12
Somewhat unfavorable	8	8
Very unfavorable	51	54
Heard of, no opinion	3	2
Never heard of	*	1
Skipped	1	*
Total Favorable (net)	37	36
Total Unfavorable (net)	59	61



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4. How likely are you to vote for each of the following candidates for president? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that you would vote for them and 10 means you are absolutely certain you will vote for them. For each candidate enter a number from 0 to 10. If you have already voted for president, please select a 10 for the candidate you voted for and a 0 for all others.

Donald Trump	Pre	Post
10	32	29
9	1	1
8	1	2
7	1	1
6	2	2
5	3	3
4	1	1
3	1	2
2	2	2
1	2	1
0	55	55
Mean	3.82	3.7

Joe Biden	Pre	Post
10	43	42
9	1	2
8	2	3
7	1	2
6	2	1
5	3	3
4	2	2
3	1	2
2	2	2
1	2	2
0	41	39
Mean	5.04	5.17



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4. How likely are you to vote for each of the following candidates for president? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that you would vote for them and 10 means you are absolutely certain you will vote for them. For each candidate enter a number from 0 to 10. If you have already voted for president, please select a 10 for the candidate you voted for and a 0 for all others.

Jo Jorgensen	Pre	Post
10	1	1
9	-	*
8	*	*
7	*	*
6	*	*
5	1	1
4	1	*
3	1	1
2	3	2
1	4	4
0	90	90
Mean	0.28	0.32

Howie Hawkins	Pre	Post
10	*	1
9	*	-
8	*	*
7	-	*
6	*	-
5	*	*
4	*	*
3	1	1
2	2	2
1	4	3
0	93	93
Mean	0.15	0.19



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4. How likely are you to vote for each of the following candidates for president? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that you would vote for them and 10 means you are absolutely certain you will vote for them. For each candidate enter a number from 0 to 10. If you have already voted for president, please select a 10 for the candidate you voted for and a 0 for all others.

Someone else	Pre	Post
10	1	1
9	*	-
8	*	*
7	*	*
6	*	1
5	1	*
4	1	1
3	*	*
2	2	1
1	3	2
0	91	93
Mean	0.33	0.26

	Pre	Post
I will not vote	9	7
Skipped	3	3

5. Regardless of who you did vote for/may vote for, how likely do you think each of the following is to win? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that candidate will be elected president and 10 means you are absolutely certain they will win. For each candidate, enter a number from 0 to 10.

Donald Trump	Pre	Post
10	20	17
9	2	2
8	3	3
7	3	4
6	7	7
5	18	17
4	12	13
3	5	9
2	4	6
1	2	3
0	21	18
Mean	4.83	4.68



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5. Regardless of who you did vote for/may vote for, how likely do you think each of the following is to win? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that candidate will be elected president and 10 means you are absolutely certain they will win. For each candidate, enter a number from 0 to 10.

Joe Biden	Pre	Post
10	16	14
9	2	3
8	4	5
7	5	8
6	12	12
5	18	18
4	8	8
3	4	4
2	4	4
1	3	2
0	25	22
Mean	4.61	4.77

Jo Jorgensen	Pre	Post
10	*	*
9	-	*
8	-	-
7	-	*
6	-	-
5	*	*
4	*	*
3	*	*
2	1	1
1	3	2
0	95	96
Mean	0.09	0.1



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5. Regardless of who you did vote for/may vote for, how likely do you think each of the following is to win? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that candidate will be elected president and 10 means you are absolutely certain they will win. For each candidate, enter a number from 0 to 10.

Howie Hawkins	Pre	Post
10	*	*
9	-	-
8	*	-
7	-	-
6	*	-
5	*	*
4	-	*
3	*	*
2	1	1
1	3	1
0	96	97
Mean	0.07	0.07

Someone else	Pre	Post
10	*	*
9	-	-
8	-	-
7	-	-
6	-	*
5	*	-
4	*	*
3	*	*
2	1	1
1	3	1
0	96	97
Mean	0.1	0.09



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6. Which of the following do you feel are the three most important issues facing the US today? Rank your top three options and write in the numbers in the boxes where “1” being the most important issue, “2” second most important and “3” third most important.

	Rank 1 st	Rank 2 nd	Rank 3 rd
Violent crime	5	7	8
Abortion	2	2	2
Immigration	3	6	8
Health care	8	15	14
Economic inequality	3	4	6
The COVID-19 or coronavirus outbreak	32	12	10
Gun policy	2	3	4
Climate change	5	7	8
Education	3	6	7
The economy	22	17	11
Racial inequality	7	11	10
The Supreme Court	5	6	6
Other	2	2	2
Skipped	3	3	4

7. Regardless of how you intend to vote, which candidate do you think is better on each of your 3 top issues?

Violent crime <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=622)	Post (N=361)
Joe Biden	22	22
Donald Trump	77	78
Skipped	1	*

Abortion <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=208)	Post (N=120)
Joe Biden	15	14
Donald Trump	84	85
Skipped	1	1



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7. Regardless of how you intend to vote, which candidate do you think is better on each of your 3 top issues?

Immigration <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=530)	Post (N=298)
Joe Biden	28	26
Donald Trump	71	73
Skipped	1	1

Health care <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=1,149)	Post (N=669)
Joe Biden	68	72
Donald Trump	30	26
Skipped	2	2

Economic inequality <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=416)	Post (N=263)
Joe Biden	79	81
Donald Trump	18	17
Skipped	3	2

The COVID-19 or coronavirus outbreak <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=1,699)	Post (N=997)
Joe Biden	73	75
Donald Trump	26	24
Skipped	2	1

Gun policy <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=272)	Post (N=153)
Joe Biden	40	40
Donald Trump	59	60
Skipped	1	*



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7. Regardless of how you intend to vote, which candidate do you think is better on each of your 3 top issues?

Climate change <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=670)	Post (N=416)
Joe Biden	93	95
Donald Trump	4	3
Skipped	3	2

Education <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=432)	Post (N=230)
Joe Biden	49	53
Donald Trump	47	44
Skipped	4	3

The economy <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=1,611)	Post (N=920)
Joe Biden	31	32
Donald Trump	67	67
Skipped	2	1

Racial inequality <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=810)	Post (N=457)
Joe Biden	88	92
Donald Trump	8	7
Skipped	3	1

The Supreme Court <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=638)	Post (N=415)
Joe Biden	50	52
Donald Trump	49	48
Skipped	1	1

Other <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=112)	Post (N=78)
Joe Biden	36	29
Donald Trump	63	64
Skipped	2	7



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8. Does having Donald Trump as president of the United States make you feel more safe, less safe, or doesn't it have an impact on how safe you feel?

	Total
More safe	29
Less safe	52
No impact	18
Skipped	1

9. Would having Joe Biden as president of the United States make you feel more safe, less safe, or wouldn't it have an impact on how safe you feel?

	Total
More safe	42
Less safe	36
No impact	20
Skipped	1

10. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the results of the general election?

	Pre	Post
I will believe the results of the election	59	65
Whether I believe the results depends on who wins	29	25
I won't believe the results of the election	10	9
Skipped	2	1

11. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the fairness of the general election?

	Pre	Post
The election will be fair	53	60
The election will not be fair	45	39
Skipped	2	1



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Post-Debate Poll

12. First, did you watch the presidential debate on Tuesday, September 29th?

	Total
Yes, I watched all of it	43
Yes, I watched some of it	27
No, I did not watch it	30
Skipped	*

13. How would you rate the performance of each of the candidates who participated in the presidential debate on Tuesday, September 29th?

Joe Biden <i>Base: Watched all or some of the debate</i>	Total (N=1,337)
Very poor performance	17
Somewhat poor performance	22
Somewhat good performance	42
Very good performance	18
Don't know/No opinion	1
Skipped	*
Total Poor Performance (net)	39
Total Good Performance (net)	60



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13. How would you rate the performance of each of the candidates who participated in the presidential debate on Tuesday, September 29th?

Donald Trump <i>Base: Watched all or some of the debate</i>	Total (N=1,337)
Very poor performance	50
Somewhat poor performance	17
Somewhat good performance	20
Very good performance	13
Don't know/No opinion	1
Skipped	*
Total Poor Performance (net)	66
Total Good Performance (net)	33

14. Putting aside each candidate's performance or delivery in the debate, how would you rate their answers, specifically in terms of the policies outlined?

Joe Biden <i>Base: Watched all or some of the debate</i>	Total (N=1,337)
Very poor policies	21
Somewhat poor policies	18
Somewhat good policies	37
Very good policies	20
Don't know/No opinion	4
Skipped	*
Total Poor Policies (net)	39
Total Good Policies (net)	56

Donald Trump <i>Base: Watched all or some of the debate</i>	Total (N=1,337)
Very poor policies	44
Somewhat poor policies	14
Somewhat good policies	20
Very good policies	19
Don't know/No opinion	3
Skipped	-
Total Poor Policies (net)	57
Total Good Policies (net)	39



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15. On November 3rd, the election for president of the United States will be held. How likely are you to vote in this upcoming election?

	Total
Not likely at all	7
Not too likely	2
About 50-50	4
Very likely	10
Absolutely certain to vote	71
I have already voted in the election (by mail, absentee ballot, or early voting)	5
Skipped	*



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16. How favorable or unfavorable is your opinion of each of the following presidential candidates?

Joe Biden	Total
Very favorable	28
Somewhat favorable	25
Somewhat unfavorable	13
Very unfavorable	31
Heard of, no opinion	2
Never heard of	1
Skipped	*
Total Favorable (net)	52
Total Unfavorable (net)	45

Donald Trump	Total
Very favorable	24
Somewhat favorable	12
Somewhat unfavorable	8
Very unfavorable	54
Heard of, no opinion	2
Never heard of	1
Skipped	*
Total Favorable (net)	36
Total Unfavorable (net)	61



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17. How likely are you to vote for each of the following candidates for president? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that you would vote for them and 10 means you are absolutely certain you will vote for them. For each candidate enter a number from 0 to 10. If you have already voted for president, please select a 10 for the candidate you voted for and a 0 for all others.

Donald Trump	Total
10	29
9	1
8	2
7	1
6	2
5	3
4	1
3	2
2	2
1	1
0	55
Mean	3.7

Joe Biden	Total
10	42
9	2
8	3
7	2
6	1
5	3
4	2
3	2
2	2
1	2
0	39
Mean	5.17



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17. How likely are you to vote for each of the following candidates for president? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that you would vote for them and 10 means you are absolutely certain you will vote for them. For each candidate enter a number from 0 to 10. If you have already voted for president, please select a 10 for the candidate you voted for and a 0 for all others.

Jo Jorgensen	Total
10	1
9	*
8	*
7	*
6	*
5	1
4	*
3	1
2	2
1	4
0	90
Mean	0.32

Howie Hawkins	Total
10	1
9	-
8	*
7	*
6	-
5	*
4	*
3	1
2	2
1	3
0	93
Mean	0.19



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17. How likely are you to vote for each of the following candidates for president? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that you would vote for them and 10 means you are absolutely certain you will vote for them. For each candidate enter a number from 0 to 10. If you have already voted for president, please select a 10 for the candidate you voted for and a 0 for all others.

Someone else	Total
10	1
9	-
8	*
7	*
6	1
5	*
4	1
3	*
2	1
1	2
0	93
Mean	0.26

	Total
I will not vote	7
Skipped	3

18. Regardless of who you did vote for/may vote for, how likely do you think each of the following is to win? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that candidate will be elected president and 10 means you are absolutely certain they will win. For each candidate, enter a number from 0 to 10.

Donald Trump	Total
10	17
9	2
8	3
7	4
6	7
5	17
4	13
3	9
2	6
1	3
0	18
Mean	4.68



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18. Regardless of who you did vote for/may vote for, how likely do you think each of the following is to win? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that candidate will be elected president and 10 means you are absolutely certain they will win. For each candidate, enter a number from 0 to 10.

Joe Biden	Total
10	14
9	3
8	5
7	8
6	12
5	18
4	8
3	4
2	4
1	2
0	22
Mean	4.77

Jo Jorgensen	Total
10	*
9	*
8	-
7	*
6	-
5	*
4	*
3	*
2	1
1	2
0	96
Mean	0.1



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18. Regardless of who you did vote for/may vote for, how likely do you think each of the following is to win? Use a scale of 0 to 10, with 0 meaning there is no chance at all that candidate will be elected president and 10 means you are absolutely certain they will win. For each candidate, enter a number from 0 to 10.

Howie Hawkins	Total
10	*
9	-
8	-
7	-
6	-
5	*
4	*
3	*
2	1
1	1
0	97
Mean	0.07

Someone else	Total
10	*
9	-
8	-
7	-
6	*
5	-
4	*
3	*
2	1
1	1
0	97
Mean	0.09



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19. Regardless of how you intend to vote, which candidate do you think is better on each of your 3 top issues?

Violent crime <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=361)
Joe Biden	22
Donald Trump	78
Skipped	*

Abortion <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=120)
Joe Biden	14
Donald Trump	85
Skipped	1

Immigration <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=298)
Joe Biden	26
Donald Trump	73
Skipped	1

Health care <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=669)
Joe Biden	72
Donald Trump	26
Skipped	2

Economic inequality <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=263)
Joe Biden	81
Donald Trump	17
Skipped	2

The COVID-19 or coronavirus outbreak <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=997)
Joe Biden	75
Donald Trump	24
Skipped	1



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19. Regardless of how you intend to vote, which candidate do you think is better on each of your 3 top issues?

Gun policy <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=153)
Joe Biden	40
Donald Trump	60
Skipped	*

Climate change <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=416)
Joe Biden	95
Donald Trump	3
Skipped	2

Education <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=230)
Joe Biden	53
Donald Trump	44
Skipped	3

The economy <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=920)
Joe Biden	32
Donald Trump	67
Skipped	1

Racial inequality <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=457)
Joe Biden	92
Donald Trump	7
Skipped	1

The Supreme Court <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=415)
Joe Biden	52
Donald Trump	48
Skipped	1



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19. Regardless of how you intend to vote, which candidate do you think is better on each of your 3 top issues?

Other <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=78)
Joe Biden	29
Donald Trump	64
Skipped	7

20. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the results of the general election?

	Total
I will believe the results of the election	65
Whether I believe the results depends on who wins	25
I won't believe the results of the election	9
Skipped	1

21. Which of the following best describes how you feel about the fairness of the general election?

	Total
The election will be fair	60
The election will not be fair	39
Skipped	1

For more information on this news release, please contact:

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Methodology

About the Study

Wave 1 of this FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos September 29th Debate poll was conducted September 21st to September 28th, 2020 and Wave 2 was conducted September 29th to September 30th, 2020 by Ipsos using our KnowledgePanel®. Wave 1 of this poll was based on a nationally-representative probability sample of 3,133 adults age 18 or older. Wave 2 was administered to those who completed the Wave 1 poll. A total of 1,827 adults participated in the Wave 2 poll.

The survey was conducted using KnowledgePanel, the largest and most well-established online probability-based panel that is representative of the adult US population. Our recruitment process employs a scientifically developed addressed-based sampling methodology using the latest Delivery Sequence File of the USPS – a database with full coverage of all delivery points in the US. Households are randomly sampled from all available households in the U.S. All persons in selected households are invited to join and participate in KnowledgePanel. Ipsos provides selected households that do not already have internet access a tablet and internet connection at no cost to them. Those who join the panel and who are selected to participate in a survey are sent a unique password-protected log-in used to complete surveys online. As a result of our recruitment and sampling methods, samples from KnowledgePanel cover all households regardless of their phone or internet status and findings can be reported with a margin of sampling error and projected to the general population.

The study was conducted in both English and Spanish. The data were weighted to adjust for gender by age, race/ethnicity, education, Census region, metropolitan status, household income, and party identification. The demographic benchmarks came from the 2019 March supplement of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS). Party ID benchmarks are from recent ABC News/Washington Post telephone polls. The weighting categories were as follows:

- Gender (Male, Female) by Age (18–29, 30–44, 45–59, and 60+)
- Race/Hispanic Ethnicity (White Non-Hispanic, Black Non-Hispanic, Other or 2+ Races Non-Hispanic, Hispanic)
- Education (High School graduate or less, Some College, Bachelor and beyond)
- Census Region (Northeast, Midwest, South, West)
- Metropolitan status (Metro, non-Metro)
- Household Income (Under \$25,000, \$25,000-\$49,999, \$50,000-\$74,999, \$75,000-\$99,999, \$100,000-\$149,999, \$150,000+)
- Party ID (Democrat, Republican, Independent, Something else)

The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 1.9 percentage points for Wave 1 and plus or minus 2.7 percentage points for Wave 2 at the 95% confidence level, for results based on the entire sample of adults. The margin of sampling error takes into account the design effect, which was 1.23 for Wave 1 and 1.35 for Wave 2. The margin of sampling error is higher and varies for results based on sub-samples. In our reporting of the findings, percentage points are rounded off to the nearest whole number. As a result, percentages in a given table column may total slightly higher or lower than 100%. In questions that permit multiple responses, columns may total substantially more than 100%, depending on the number of different responses offered by each respondent.



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About Ipsos

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