



TOPLINE AND METHODOLOGY

FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos October 22nd Pre and Post Debate Poll

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

Wave 2 Interview dates: October 22nd to 23rd, 2020

Number of interviews: 1,873

Wave 1 Interview dates: October 15th to 21st, 2020

Number of interviews: 3,263

Wave 2 Margin of error: +/-2.6 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	9
Not too likely	2
About 50-50	4
Very likely	6
Absolutely certain to vote	46
I have already voted in the election (by mail, absentee ballot, or early voting)	31
Skipped	*

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

	Total
Very excited	41
Somewhat excited	21
Not too excited	18
Not at all excited	19
Skipped	1
Total Excited (net)	62
Total Not Excited (net)	37



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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	27	29
Somewhat favorable	23	23
Somewhat unfavorable	11	13
Very unfavorable	34	31
Heard of, no opinion	4	3
Never heard of	1	*
Skipped	1	*
Total Favorable (net)	50	51
Total Unfavorable (net)	45	45

Donald Trump	Pre	Post
Very favorable	24	24
Somewhat favorable	12	14
Somewhat unfavorable	8	8
Very unfavorable	52	51
Heard of, no opinion	3	2
Never heard of	*	1
Skipped	1	1
Total Favorable (net)	36	38
Total Unfavorable (net)	60	59



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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	31
9	1	1
8	1	2
7	1	1
6	1	1
5	3	2
4	1	2
3	1	1
2	1	1
1	2	1
0	56	56
Mean	3.76	3.79

Joe Biden	Pre	Post
10	45	44
9	1	1
8	1	1
7	1	1
6	1	2
5	3	3
4	1	1
3	1	1
2	2	1
1	2	2
0	41	42
Mean	5.16	5.12



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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	*
4	*	*
3	1	1
2	2	2
1	3	3
0	92	93
Mean	0.26	0.23

Howie Hawkins	Pre	Post
10	*	*
9	-	-
8	*	-
7	-	-
6	-	-
5	*	*
4	*	-
3	*	*
2	2	1
1	3	3
0	94	96
Mean	0.14	0.11



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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	2	1
9	*	*
8	*	-
7	-	-
6	*	*
5	1	*
4	*	*
3	1	1
2	1	1
1	2	2
0	93	94
Mean	0.30	0.25

	Total
I will not vote	10
Skipped	4



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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.

Donald Trump	Pre	Post
10	19	18
9	2	3
8	3	2
7	3	3
6	5	6
5	18	15
4	11	15
3	8	8
2	6	7
1	3	3
0	22	19
Mean	4.51	4.61

Joe Biden	Pre	Post
10	17	15
9	3	3
8	6	7
7	7	7
6	11	15
5	18	15
4	5	7
3	3	3
2	3	2
1	2	2
0	24	22
Mean	4.91	4.93



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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.

Jo Jorgensen	Pre	Post
10	*	*
9	-	-
8	-	-
7	*	*
6	*	-
5	*	*
4	*	-
3	*	*
2	1	*
1	2	2
0	96	97
Mean	0.1	0.06

Howie Hawkins	Pre	Post
10	*	*
9	-	-
8	*	-
7	-	-
6	*	*
5	*	*
4	-	*
3	*	-
2	1	*
1	2	2
0	97	97
Mean	0.05	0.06



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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.

Someone else	Pre	Post
10	1	*
9	-	-
8	*	-
7	-	-
6	-	*
5	*	*
4	*	*
3	*	*
2	1	*
1	1	1
0	97	99
Mean	0.11	0.05



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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	3	6	7
Abortion	2	2	2
Immigration	2	6	8
Health care	9	17	16
Economic inequality	4	5	6
The COVID-19 or coronavirus outbreak	37	13	9
Gun policy	1	4	4
Climate change	5	7	8
Education	2	4	7
The economy	22	16	13
Racial inequality	6	10	9
The Supreme Court	3	6	6
Other	2	1	1
Skipped	3	3	4



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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?

Violent crime <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=557)	Post (N=278)
Joe Biden	26	23
Donald Trump	72	76
Skipped	2	1

Abortion <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=208)	Post (N=113)
Joe Biden	17	21
Donald Trump	81	75
Skipped	2	4

Immigration <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=510)	Post (N=266)
Joe Biden	24	21
Donald Trump	74	78
Skipped	1	1

Health care <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=1,382)	Post (N=797)
Joe Biden	64	64
Donald Trump	33	33
Skipped	3	2

Economic inequality <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=497)	Post (N=318)
Joe Biden	81	81
Donald Trump	16	17
Skipped	3	2

The COVID-19 or coronavirus outbreak <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=1,936)	Post (N=1,156)
Joe Biden	74	75
Donald Trump	24	24
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?

Gun policy <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=266)	Post (N=140)
Joe Biden	40	45
Donald Trump	59	55
Skipped	1	-

Climate change <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=665)	Post (N=417)
Joe Biden	93	92
Donald Trump	5	6
Skipped	2	2

Education <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=394)	Post (N=198)
Joe Biden	44	41
Donald Trump	52	57
Skipped	4	2

The economy <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=1,745)	Post (N=994)
Joe Biden	28	29
Donald Trump	69	69
Skipped	2	2

Racial inequality <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=749)	Post (N=451)
Joe Biden	90	89
Donald Trump	8	10
Skipped	2	1

The Supreme Court <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=528)	Post (N=310)
Joe Biden	46	42
Donald Trump	53	58
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?

Other <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue</i>	Pre (N=117)	Post (N=73)
Joe Biden	34	24
Donald Trump	61	48
Skipped	5	28

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	30
Less safe	52
No impact	17
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	43
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?

	Total
I will believe the results of the election	64
Whether I believe the results depends on who wins	25
I won't believe the results of the election	9
Skipped	2



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

	Total
The election will be fair	57
The election will not be fair	41
Skipped	2

COVID1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

	Total
Approve	37
Disapprove	61
Skipped	2

Post-Debate Poll

12. First, did you watch the presidential debate on Thursday, October 22nd?

	Total
Yes, I watched all of it	38
Yes, I watched some of it	26
No, I did not watch it	36
Skipped	*



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13. How would you rate the performance of each of the candidates who participated in the presidential debate on Thursday, October 22nd?

Joe Biden <i>Base: Watched all or some of the debate</i>	Total (N=1,248)
Very poor performance	12
Somewhat poor performance	18
Somewhat good performance	34
Very good performance	34
Don't know/No opinion	2
Skipped	*
Total Poor Performance (net)	30
Total Good Performance (net)	69

Donald Trump <i>Base: Watched all or some of the debate</i>	Total (N=1,248)
Very poor performance	24
Somewhat poor performance	22
Somewhat good performance	24
Very good performance	28
Don't know/No opinion	2
Skipped	*
Total Poor Performance (net)	46
Total Good Performance (net)	52



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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=1,248)
Very poor policies	23
Somewhat poor policies	15
Somewhat good policies	28
Very good policies	32
Don't know/No opinion	2
Skipped	*
Total Poor Policies (net)	38
Total Good Policies (net)	60

Donald Trump <i>Base: Watched all or some of the debate</i>	Total (N=1,248)
Very poor policies	37
Somewhat poor policies	16
Somewhat good policies	19
Very good policies	25
Don't know/No opinion	3
Skipped	*
Total Poor Policies (net)	53
Total Good Policies (net)	44

15. Finally, thinking broadly about the debate itself, how would you rate the presidential debate, as a whole?

	Total (N=1,248)
Very poor	5
Somewhat poor	16
Somewhat good	52
Very good	23
Don't know/No opinion	3
Skipped	-
Total Poor (net)	21
Total Good (net)	76



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16. 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	1
About 50-50	4
Very likely	6
Absolutely certain to vote	36
I have already voted in the election (by mail, absentee ballot, or early voting)	45
Skipped	*

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

	Total
Very excited	42
Somewhat excited	20
Not too excited	19
Not at all excited	18
Skipped	*
Total Excited (net)	62
Total Not Excited (net)	37



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

Joe Biden	Total
Very favorable	29
Somewhat favorable	23
Somewhat unfavorable	13
Very unfavorable	31
Heard of, no opinion	3
Never heard of	*
Skipped	*
Total Favorable (net)	51
Total Unfavorable (net)	45

Donald Trump	Total
Very favorable	24
Somewhat favorable	14
Somewhat unfavorable	8
Very unfavorable	51
Heard of, no opinion	2
Never heard of	1
Skipped	1
Total Favorable (net)	38
Total Unfavorable (net)	59



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19. 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	31
9	1
8	2
7	1
6	1
5	2
4	2
3	1
2	1
1	1
0	56
Mean	3.79

Joe Biden	Total
10	44
9	1
8	1
7	1
6	2
5	3
4	1
3	1
2	1
1	2
0	42
Mean	5.12



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19. 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	*
4	*
3	1
2	2
1	3
0	93
Mean	0.23

Howie Hawkins	Total
10	*
9	-
8	-
7	-
6	-
5	*
4	-
3	*
2	1
1	3
0	96
Mean	0.11



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19. 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	*
5	*
4	*
3	1
2	1
1	2
0	94
Mean	0.25

	Total
I will not vote	8
Skipped	4

20. 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	18
9	3
8	2
7	3
6	6
5	15
4	15
3	8
2	7
1	3
0	19
Mean	4.61



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20. 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	15
9	3
8	7
7	7
6	15
5	15
4	7
3	3
2	2
1	2
0	22
Mean	4.93

Jo Jorgensen	Total
10	*
9	-
8	-
7	*
6	-
5	*
4	-
3	*
2	*
1	2
0	97
Mean	0.06



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20. 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	2
0	97
Mean	0.06

Someone else	Total
10	*
9	-
8	-
7	-
6	*
5	*
4	*
3	*
2	*
1	1
0	99
Mean	0.05



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21. 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=278)
Joe Biden	23
Donald Trump	76
Skipped	1

Abortion <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=113)
Joe Biden	21
Donald Trump	75
Skipped	4

Immigration <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=266)
Joe Biden	21
Donald Trump	78
Skipped	1

Health care <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=797)
Joe Biden	64
Donald Trump	33
Skipped	2

Economic inequality <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=318)
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=1156)
Joe Biden	75
Donald Trump	24
Skipped	1



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21. 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=140)
Joe Biden	45
Donald Trump	55
Skipped	-

Climate change <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=417)
Joe Biden	92
Donald Trump	6
Skipped	2

Education <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=198)
Joe Biden	41
Donald Trump	57
Skipped	2

The economy <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=994)
Joe Biden	29
Donald Trump	69
Skipped	2

Racial inequality <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=451)
Joe Biden	89
Donald Trump	10
Skipped	1

The Supreme Court <i>Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll</i>	Total (N=310)
Joe Biden	42
Donald Trump	58
Skipped	-



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21. 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=73)
Joe Biden	24
Donald Trump	48
Skipped	28

22. 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	67
Whether I believe the results depends on who wins	25
I won't believe the results of the election	7
Skipped	1

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

	Total
The election will be fair	63
The election will not be fair	36
Skipped	1

COVID1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19)?

	Total
Approve	38
Disapprove	61
Skipped	1



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Methodology

About the Study

Wave 1 of this FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos October 22nd Debate poll was conducted October 15th to October 21st, 2020 and Wave 2 was conducted October 22nd to October 23rd, 2020 by Ipsos using our KnowledgePanel®. Wave 1 of this poll was based on a nationally-representative probability sample of 3,263 adults age 18 or older. Wave 2 was administered to those who completed the Wave 1 poll. A total of 1,873 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 2020 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 2.6 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 1.21 for Wave 1 and 1.31 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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