

## FiveThirtyEight/Ipsos October 7 Pre and Post VP Debate Poll

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

Wave 2 Interview dates: October 7th to 8th, 2020 Number of interviews: 1,725 Wave 1 Interview dates: September 30 to October 6, 2020 Number of interviews: 2,994

Wave 2 Margin of error: +/-2.7 percentage points at the 95% confidence level Wave 1 Margin of error: +/-2.0 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	9
Absolutely certain to vote	68
I have already voted in the election (by mail, absentee ballot, or early voting)	7
Skipped	*

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

	Total
Very excited	39
Somewhat excited	21
Not too excited	19
Not at all excited	21
Skipped	*
Total Excited (net)	60
Total Not Excited (net)	40





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

Joe Biden	Pre	Post
Very favorable	26	28
Somewhat favorable	25	24
Somewhat unfavorable	13	14
Very unfavorable	31	30
Heard of, no opinion	4	3
Never heard of	1	*
Skipped	1	*
Total Favorable (net)	50	52
Total Unfavorable (net)	44	44

Donald Trump	Pre	Post
Very favorable	23	25
Somewhat favorable	13	12
Somewhat unfavorable	8	8
Very unfavorable	52	53
Heard of, no opinion	2	1
Never heard of	*	*
Skipped	1	*
Total Favorable (net)	37	37
Total Unfavorable (net)	60	62

Kamala Harris	Pre	Post
Very favorable	25	29
Somewhat favorable	20	21
Somewhat unfavorable	10	11
Very unfavorable	30	30
Heard of, no opinion	9	5
Never heard of	6	3
Skipped	1	1
Total Favorable (net)	45	50
Total Unfavorable (net)	40	41





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

Mike Pence	Pre	Post
Very favorable	23	26
Somewhat favorable	14	13
Somewhat unfavorable	14	15
Very unfavorable	37	38
Heard of, no opinion	8	6
Never heard of	3	1
Skipped	1	1
Total Favorable (net)	37	39
Total Unfavorable (net)	51	53

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	31	32
9	1	1
8	1	1
7	1	1
6	1	1
5	3	2
4	1	1
3	1	2
2	2	1
1	2	1
0	55	56
Mean	3.74	3.75





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.

Joe Biden	Pre	Post
10	43	44
9	1	1
8	2	1
7	2	2
6	1	1
5	4	2
4	1	2
3	2	1
2	2	2
1	2	1
0	41	42
Mean	5.09	5.08

Jo Jorgensen	Pre	Post
10	1	1
9	*	*
8	*	*
7	*	*
6	*	*
5	1	1
4	1	1
3	1	1
2	2	1
1	4	3
0	90	92
Mean	0.33	0.28





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.

Howie Hawkins	Pre	Post
10	*	*
9	*	-
8	-	-
7	*	*
6	*	*
5	1	*
4	*	*
3	1	1
2	2	1
1	4	3
0	93	95
Mean	0.17	0.11

Someone else	Pre	Post
10	1	1
9	*	*
8	*	*
7	*	*
6	*	*
5	1	*
4	1	*
3	1	*
2	1	*
1	3	2
0	91	95
Mean	0.35	0.25

	Pre	Post
I will not vote	9	9
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	18	19
9	2	2
8	4	3
7	4	3
6	7	7
5	18	14
4	11	12
3	6	8
2	5	7
1	3	4
0	21	21
Mean	4.7	4.52

Joe Biden	Pre	Post
10	16	16
9	3	4
8	5	8
7	6	7
6	11	12
5	18	14
4	8	7
3	4	3
2	5	4
1	2	2
0	23	24
Mean	4.79	4.93





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
1	3	2
0	96	97
Mean	0.08	0.09

Howie Hawkins	Pre	Post
10	*	*
9	-	-
8	-	-
7	-	-
6	-	-
5	*	*
4	*	-
3	*	*
2	*	*
1	2	1
0	97	98
Mean	0.07	0.05





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	1	-
8	-	-
7	-	-
6	•	-
5	*	-
4	1	*
3	*	-
2	1	1
1	2	1
0	96	98
Mean	0.11	0.1





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 <sup>st</sup>	Rank 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Rank 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Violent crime	4	8	7
Abortion	3	2	2
Immigration	3	5	7
Health care	10	14	15
Economic inequality	3	6	5
The COVID-19 or coronavirus outbreak	32	13	10
Gun policy	1	2	4
Climate change	5	7	8
Education	1	4	6
The economy	22	18	13
Racial inequality	7	11	11
The Supreme Court	5	7	7
Other	2	*	1
Skipped	2	3	3

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

Violent crime Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=587)	Post (N=338)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	20	16
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	78	83
Skipped	2	1

Abortion Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=224)	Post (N=130)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	15	18
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	85	82
Skipped	-	-





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

Immigration Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=451)	Post (N=251)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	27	27
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	72	73
Skipped	1	-

Health care Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=1,194)	Post (N=691)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	66	70
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	32	29
Skipped	1	1

Economic inequality Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=384)	Post (N=231)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	82	83
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	17	16
Skipped	1	1

The COVID-19 or coronavirus outbreak Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=1,626)	Post (N=966)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	71	74
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	27	26
Skipped	2	1

Gun policy Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=232)	Post (N=122)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	38	35
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	59	64
Skipped	3	1





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

Climate change Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=614)	Post (N=387)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	94	94
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	5	5
Skipped	1	1

Education Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=327)	Post (N=175)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	52	48
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	44	48
Skipped	4	4

The economy Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=1,626)	Post (N=947)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	33	35
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	66	64
Skipped	2	1

Racial inequality Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=778)	Post (N=409)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	89	92
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	9	6
Skipped	2	2

The Supreme Court Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=624)	Post (N=354)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	46	45
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	54	55
Skipped	*	-

Other Ranked as a top 3 issue	Pre (N=96)	Post (N=62)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	37	46
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	60	50
Skipped	3	5





8. Does having Mike Pence as vice-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	26
Less safe	35
No impact	38
Skipped	1

9. Would having Kamala Harris as vice-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	34
Less safe	35
No impact	31
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	63
Whether I believe the results depends on who wins	26
I won't believe the results of the election	10
Skipped	2

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





### Post-Debate Poll

12. First, did you watch the vice-presidential debate on Wednesday, October 7th?

	Total
Yes, I watched all of it	40
Yes, I watched some of it	26
No, I did not watch it	34
Skipped	*

13. How would you rate the performance of each of the candidates who participated in the vice-presidential debate on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>?

Kamala Harris Base: Watched all or some of the debate	Total (N=1,162)
Very poor performance	13
Somewhat poor performance	16
Somewhat good performance	31
Very good performance	38
Don't know/No opinion	2
Skipped	*
Total Poor Performance (net)	29
Total Good Performance (net)	69





13. How would you rate the performance of each of the candidates who participated in the vice-presidential debate on Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>?

Mike Pence Base: Watched all or some of the debate	Total (N=1,162)
Very poor performance	17
Somewhat poor performance	22
Somewhat good performance	31
Very good performance	28
Don't know/No opinion	2
Skipped	*
Total Poor Performance (net)	39
Total Good Performance (net)	59

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

Kamala Harris Base: Watched all or some of the debate	Total (N=1,162)
Very poor policies	23
Somewhat poor policies	13
Somewhat good policies	32
Very good policies	30
Don't know/No opinion	3
Skipped	*
Total Poor Policies (net)	36
Total Good Policies (net)	62

Mike Pence Base: Watched all or some of the debate	Total (N=1,162)
Very poor policies	32
Somewhat poor policies	21
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 vice-presidential debate, as a whole?

Base: Watched all or some of the debate	Total (N=1,162)
Very poor	3
Somewhat poor	14
Somewhat good	58
Very good	22
Don't know/No opinion	2
Skipped	*
Total Poor (net)	17
Total Good (net)	81

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	6
Not too likely	2
About 50-50	5
Very likely	9
Absolutely certain to vote	64
I have already voted in the election (by mail, absentee ballot, or early voting)	13
Skipped	*

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

	Total
Very excited	41
Somewhat excited	23
Not too excited	20
Not at all excited	16
Skipped	*
Total Excited (net)	64
Total Not excited (net)	36





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

Donald Trump	Total
Very favorable	25
Somewhat favorable	12
Somewhat unfavorable	8
Very unfavorable	53
Heard of, no opinion	1
Never heard of	*
Skipped	*
Total Favorable (net)	37
Total Unfavorable (net)	62

Joe Biden	Total
Very favorable	28
Somewhat favorable	24
Somewhat unfavorable	14
Very unfavorable	30
Heard of, no opinion	3
Never heard of	*
Skipped	*
Total Favorable (net)	52
Total Unfavorable (net)	44





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

Kamala Harris	Total
Very favorable	29
Somewhat favorable	21
Somewhat unfavorable	11
Very unfavorable	30
Heard of, no opinion	5
Never heard of	3
Skipped	1
Total Favorable (net)	50
Total Unfavorable (net)	41

Mike Pence	Total
Very favorable	26
Somewhat favorable	13
Somewhat unfavorable	15
Very unfavorable	38
Heard of, no opinion	6
Never heard of	1
Skipped	1
Total Favorable (net)	39
Total Unfavorable (net)	53





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	32
9	1
8	1
7	1
6	1
5	2
4	1
3	2
2	1
1	1
0	56
Mean	3.75

Joe Biden	Total
10	44
9	1
8	1
7	2
6	1
5	2
4	2
3	1
2	2
1	1
0	42
Mean	5.08





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	1
4	1
3	1
2	1
1	3
0	92
Mean	0.28

Howie Hawkins	Total
10	*
9	-
8	-
7	*
6	*
5	*
4	*
3	1
2	1
1	3
0	95
Mean	0.11





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	*
2	*
1	2
0	95
Mean	0.25

	Total
I will not vote	9
Skipped	3

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	19
9	2
8	3
7	3
6	7
5	14
4	12
3	8
2	7
1	4
0	21
Mean	4.52





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	16
9	4
8	8
7	7
6	12
5	14
4	7
3	3
2	4
1	2
0	24
Mean	4.93

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





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	1
0	98
Mean	0.05

Someone else	Total
10	1
9	-
8	-
7	-
6	-
5	-
4	*
3	-
2	1
1	1
0	98
Mean	0.1





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

Violent crime Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=338)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	16
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	83
Skipped	1

Abortion Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=130)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	18
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	82
Skipped	-

Immigration Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=251)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	27
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	73
Skipped	-

Health care Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=691)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	70
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	29
Skipped	1

Economic inequality Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=231)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	83
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	16
Skipped	1

The COVID-19 or coronavirus outbreak Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=966)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	74
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	26
Skipped	1





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

Gun policy Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=122)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	35
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	64
Skipped	1

Climate change Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=387)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	94
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	5
Skipped	1

Education Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=175)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	48
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	48
Skipped	4

The economy Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=947)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	35
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	64
Skipped	1

Racial inequality Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=409)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	92
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	6
Skipped	2

The Supreme Court Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=354)
Joe Biden	45
Donald Trump	55
Skipped	-





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

Other Ranked as a top 3 issue in pre-debate poll	Total (N=62)
Joe Biden/Kamala Harris	46
Donald Trump/Mike Pence	50
Skipped	5

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	68
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	64
The election will not be fair	35
Skipped	1

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

	Total
Approve	37
Disapprove	62
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 October 7<sup>th</sup> Vice Presidential Debate poll was conducted September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 6, 2020 and Wave 2 was conducted October 7<sup>th</sup> to October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by Ipsos using our KnowledgePanel®. Wave 1 of this poll was based on a nationally-representative probability sample of 2,994 adults age 18 or older. Wave 2 was administered to those who completed the Wave 1 poll. A total of 1,725 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 2.0 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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