



## PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

### Fewer than half of Americans confident about a peaceful post-election transition

New Newsy/Ipsos poll finds most expect to know election results within one week of Election Day

#### Topline Findings

**Washington, DC, October 28, 2020** – According to a new Newsy/Ipsos poll, Americans are relatively split on whether or not there will be a peaceful transition period between Election Day and January 2021, though fewer than half are confident this will be the case. Most Americans expect to know the presidential election result within one week of Election Day, and around half would be confident in the validity of the results. Furthermore, a quarter of Americans would support President Trump staying in office if he were to lose the election and refuse to accept the results.

#### Detailed Findings

1. Americans are skeptical of a peaceful transition period between Election Day and the beginning of the next presidential term in January.
  - Overall, 41% are confident, while 45% are not. Democrats (36%) and Independents (31%) are dramatically less confident than Republicans (53%).
  - A quarter of Americans (26%) would support President Trump staying in office if he were to lose the election in November and refuse the results as legitimate. This is statistically unchanged from July of this year (23%).
  - A majority of Republicans (51%) support this, up slightly from 45% in July. They are significantly more likely to support this than Democrats (7%) or Independents (22%).
2. Two-thirds of Americans expect to know the result of the presidential election within one week of Election Day, November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
  - A plurality of Americans (38%) expect to know the Presidential winner on Election Day or the day after. Another 27% think it will be announced within one week after Election Day.
  - Half or more would have a fair amount or great deal of confidence in the results if they were to be announced a day after (54%), a week after (57%), or a month after Election Day (51%).
  - Interestingly, confidence among Republicans diminishes the longer we will have to wait for election results, while confidence among Democrats grows. Sixty percent of Republicans report they will feel confident about election results announced on Election Day or the next day, and 49% say the same about results announced a month after. Among Democrats, 56% say they will feel confident with an announcement within two days, but their confidence peaks for results announced a week after Election Day (65%).
  - Americans are less certain about polls. Forty percent are confident that public polls will accurately pick the winner of the presidential election, while 46% are not.



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3. Of those who have not yet voted, a vast majority have already decided which presidential candidate they plan to vote for.
  - Thirty-eight percent of Americans report having already voted, either by mail or in person. For those who have not yet voted, 87% have made up their minds already about which candidate to support.
  - Fewer Independents are sure about their decision, with just over two-thirds (69%) saying they have decided (91% of Republicans and 92% of Democrats).
4. Most Americans have not been driven to purchase a gun due to political divisions or COVID-19 concerns.
  - A majority of all Americans and gun owners disagree that U.S. political divisions (58% of Americans, 55% of gun owners) or COVID-19 concerns (67% of both) have caused them to consider purchasing a firearm.
  - A quarter of gun owners have purchased additional guns since March of this year (24%), with 15% purchasing their first gun in the same time period.

*These are the findings of a Newsy/Ipsos poll conducted between October 23-27, 2020. For this survey, a sample of 2,010 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. Thinking about the election for president and other offices this November, how, if at all, do you plan to vote?

|  | Total<br>(N=2,010) | Republican<br>(N=837) | Democrat<br>(N=828) | Independent<br>(N=218) |
|--|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| In person, on Election Day                       | 26%                | 37%                   | 19%                 | 25%                    |
| In person, before Election Day                   | 9%                 | 11%                   | 8%                  | 10%                    |
| By mail or absentee ballot                       | 10%                | 8%                    | 13%                 | 11%                    |
| I have already voted, in person                  | 13%                | 16%                   | 14%                 | 8%                     |
| I have already voted, by mail or absentee ballot | 25%                | 19%                   | 35%                 | 22%                    |
| I plan to vote, but not sure how                 | 4%                 | 3%                    | 4%                  | 5%                     |
| I do not plan to vote                            | 12%                | 6%                    | 7%                  | 19%                    |
| <i>Plan to vote in-person (Net)</i>              | <i>36%</i>         | <i>48%</i>            | <i>27%</i>          | <i>35%</i>             |
| <i>Already voted (Net)</i>                       | <i>38%</i>         | <i>35%</i>            | <i>49%</i>          | <i>29%</i>             |

2. **[Asked if not yet voted]** Have you already decided which presidential candidate you plan to vote for?

|     | Total<br>(N=1,008) | Republican<br>(N=510) | Democrat<br>(N=344) | Independent<br>(N=110) |
|-----|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Yes | 87%                | 91%                   | 92%                 | 69%                    |
| No  | 13%                | 9%                    | 8%                  | 31%                    |

3. If President Trump loses the election in November and refuses to accept the results as legitimate, would you support or oppose him staying in office?

|                      | Oct 23-27, 2020 | July 24-29, 2020<br>(N=2,015) | Republican | Democrat   | Independent |
|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| Strongly support     | 17%             | 14%                           | 36%        | 4%         | 12%         |
| Somewhat support     | 9%              | 9%                            | 16%        | 3%         | 11%         |
| Somewhat oppose      | 7%              | 9%                            | 11%        | 5%         | 7%          |
| Strongly oppose      | 48%             | 54%                           | 16%        | 82%        | 47%         |
| Don't know           | 18%             | 15%                           | 22%        | 6%         | 23%         |
| <i>Support (Net)</i> | <i>26%</i>      | <i>23%</i>                    | <i>51%</i> | <i>7%</i>  | <i>22%</i>  |
| <i>Oppose (Net)</i>  | <i>56%</i>      | <i>62%</i>                    | <i>27%</i> | <i>87%</i> | <i>54%</i>  |



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4. When do you think a presidential winner will be officially announced? Please select the option that is closest to your guess.

|                                    | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| On Election Day, November 3rd      | 19%          | 23%               | 18%             | 14%                |
| The day after Election Day         | 19%          | 20%               | 18%             | 17%                |
| Within one week after Election Day | 27%          | 25%               | 33%             | 27%                |
| By the end of November             | 13%          | 13%               | 14%             | 15%                |
| By the end of December             | 5%           | 6%                | 4%              | 5%                 |
| Other                              | 1%           | 1%                | 1%              | *                  |
| Don't know                         | 16%          | 13%               | 12%             | 22%                |

5. How much confidence, if at all, do you have in each of the following?

### Total Great Deal/Fair Amount Summary

|   | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|---|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| The results of the presidential election, if they were to be announced a week after Election Day                        | 57%          | 55%               | 65%             | 52%                |
| The results of the presidential election, if they were to be announced on Election Day or the next day                  | 54%          | 60%               | 56%             | 46%                |
| The results of the presidential election, if they were to be announced around a month after Election Day                | 51%          | 49%               | 61%             | 41%                |
| That there will be a peaceful transition period between Election Day and the next president's term beginning in January | 41%          | 53%               | 36%             | 31%                |
| Public polls accurately picking the winner of the presidential election   | 40%          | 36%               | 49%             | 29%                |

- a. Public polls accurately picking the winner of the presidential election

|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| A great deal                           | 11%          | 11%               | 14%             | 4%                 |
| A fair amount                          | 29%          | 25%               | 35%             | 26%                |
| Not very much                          | 30%          | 28%               | 30%             | 40%                |
| None at all                            | 17%          | 27%               | 8%              | 17%                |
| Don't know                             | 13%          | 9%                | 13%             | 13%                |
| <i>Great deal/Fair amount (Net)</i>    | <i>40%</i>   | <i>36%</i>        | <i>49%</i>      | <i>29%</i>         |
| <i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i> | <i>46%</i>   | <i>55%</i>        | <i>38%</i>      | <i>57%</i>         |



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b. The results of the presidential election, if they were to be announced on Election Day or the next day

|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| A great deal                           | 22%          | 24%               | 24%             | 15%                |
| A fair amount                          | 33%          | 35%               | 32%             | 31%                |
| Not very much                          | 23%          | 21%               | 25%             | 26%                |
| None at all                            | 12%          | 11%               | 10%             | 12%                |
| Don't know                             | 11%          | 8%                | 9%              | 15%                |
| <i>Great deal/Fair amount (Net)</i>    | <i>54%</i>   | <i>60%</i>        | <i>56%</i>      | <i>46%</i>         |
| <i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i> | <i>35%</i>   | <i>32%</i>        | <i>35%</i>      | <i>38%</i>         |

c. The results of the presidential election, if they were to be announced a week after Election Day

|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| A great deal                           | 20%          | 17%               | 27%             | 15%                |
| A fair amount                          | 37%          | 39%               | 38%             | 37%                |
| Not very much                          | 23%          | 26%               | 20%             | 28%                |
| None at all                            | 7%           | 7%                | 6%              | 10%                |
| Don't know                             | 12%          | 11%               | 9%              | 11%                |
| <i>Great deal/Fair amount (Net)</i>    | <i>57%</i>   | <i>55%</i>        | <i>65%</i>      | <i>52%</i>         |
| <i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i> | <i>31%</i>   | <i>33%</i>        | <i>26%</i>      | <i>38%</i>         |

d. The results of the presidential election, if they were to be announced around a month after Election Day

|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| A great deal                           | 20%          | 19%               | 25%             | 14%                |
| A fair amount                          | 31%          | 30%               | 36%             | 27%                |
| Not very much                          | 22%          | 24%               | 18%             | 32%                |
| None at all                            | 13%          | 15%               | 11%             | 9%                 |
| Don't know                             | 14%          | 12%               | 10%             | 18%                |
| <i>Great deal/Fair amount (Net)</i>    | <i>51%</i>   | <i>49%</i>        | <i>61%</i>      | <i>41%</i>         |
| <i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i> | <i>35%</i>   | <i>39%</i>        | <i>29%</i>      | <i>41%</i>         |

e. That there will be a peaceful transition period between Election Day and the next president's term beginning in January

|  | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|--|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| A great deal                           | 15%          | 22%               | 11%             | 9%                 |
| A fair amount                          | 26%          | 31%               | 25%             | 22%                |
| Not very much                          | 30%          | 26%               | 35%             | 36%                |
| None at all                            | 14%          | 11%               | 17%             | 11%                |
| Don't know                             | 14%          | 10%               | 12%             | 22%                |
| <i>Great deal/Fair amount (Net)</i>    | <i>41%</i>   | <i>53%</i>        | <i>36%</i>      | <i>31%</i>         |
| <i>Not very much/None at all (Net)</i> | <i>45%</i>   | <i>37%</i>        | <i>52%</i>      | <i>47%</i>         |

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6. What impact, if any, have the recent presidential debates and town halls had on helping you decide who to support for president?

|                          | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
|--------------------------|-------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Major impact             | 15%   | 16%        | 16%      | 10%         |
| Minor impact             | 18%   | 21%        | 17%      | 18%         |
| No impact on my decision | 67%   | 64%        | 67%      | 72%         |

7. Do you own a gun?

|     | Total | Republican | Democrat | Independent |
|-----|-------|------------|----------|-------------|
| Yes | 26%   | 38%        | 18%      | 20%         |
| No  | 74%   | 62%        | 82%      | 80%         |

8. [Asked if gun owner] Which of the following is true to you?

### Yes Summary

|   | Total<br>(N=562) | Republican<br>(N=332) | Democrat<br>(N=153) | Independent<br>(N=49) |
|---|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| I owned a gun before March of this year                   | 90%              | 93%                   | 90%                 | 88%                   |
| I have purchased additional guns since March of this year | 24%              | 27%                   | 18%                 | 14%                   |
| I purchased my first gun after March of this year         | 15%              | 15%                   | 17%                 | 3%                    |
| I purchased my first gun within the past 3 months         | 12%              | 11%                   | 14%                 | 8%                    |

a. I owned a gun before March of this year

|     | Total<br>(N=562) | Republican<br>(N=332) | Democrat<br>(N=153) | Independent<br>(N=49) |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | 90%              | 93%                   | 90%                 | 88%                   |
| No  | 10%              | 7%                    | 10%                 | 12%                   |

b. I purchased my first gun after March of this year

|     | Total<br>(N=562) | Republican<br>(N=332) | Democrat<br>(N=153) | Independent<br>(N=49) |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | 15%              | 15%                   | 17%                 | 3%                    |
| No  | 85%              | 85%                   | 83%                 | 97%                   |

c. I purchased my first gun within the past 3 months

|     | Total<br>(N=562) | Republican<br>(N=332) | Democrat<br>(N=153) | Independent<br>(N=49) |
|-----|------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Yes | 12%              | 11%                   | 14%                 | 8%                    |
| No  | 88%              | 89%                   | 86%                 | 92%                   |



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d. I have purchased additional guns since March of this year

|     | <b>Total<br/>(N=562)</b> | <b>Republican<br/>(N=332)</b> | <b>Democrat<br/>(N=153)</b> | <b>Independent<br/>(N=49)</b> |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Yes | 24%                      | 27%                           | 18%                         | 14%                           |
| No  | 76%                      | 73%                           | 82%                         | 86%                           |

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

### Total Agree Summary

|   | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|---|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| U.S. political division has caused me to consider purchasing a firearm              | 32%          | 40%               | 27%             | 26%                |
| Concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic have caused me to consider purchasing a firearm | 24%          | 27%               | 23%             | 21%                |

a. U.S. political division has caused me to consider purchasing a firearm

|                       | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Strongly agree        | 13%          | 18%               | 9%              | 9%                 |
| Somewhat agree        | 19%          | 22%               | 17%             | 17%                |
| Somewhat disagree     | 18%          | 18%               | 19%             | 23%                |
| Strongly disagree     | 40%          | 35%               | 48%             | 36%                |
| Don't know            | 10%          | 8%                | 7%              | 15%                |
| <i>Agree (Net)</i>    | <i>32%</i>   | <i>40%</i>        | <i>27%</i>      | <i>26%</i>         |
| <i>Disagree (Net)</i> | <i>58%</i>   | <i>52%</i>        | <i>66%</i>      | <i>59%</i>         |

b. Concerns over the COVID-19 pandemic have caused me to consider purchasing a firearm

|                       | <b>Total</b> | <b>Republican</b> | <b>Democrat</b> | <b>Independent</b> |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Strongly agree        | 8%           | 10%               | 6%              | 7%                 |
| Somewhat agree        | 16%          | 17%               | 17%             | 14%                |
| Somewhat disagree     | 18%          | 21%               | 15%             | 21%                |
| Strongly disagree     | 49%          | 44%               | 56%             | 44%                |
| Don't know            | 9%           | 8%                | 6%              | 14%                |
| <i>Agree (Net)</i>    | <i>24%</i>   | <i>27%</i>        | <i>23%</i>      | <i>21%</i>         |
| <i>Disagree (Net)</i> | <i>67%</i>   | <i>65%</i>        | <i>71%</i>      | <i>65%</i>         |



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### About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between October 23-27, 2020, on behalf of Newsy. For this survey, a sample of 2,010 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. The sample include 837 Republicans, 828 Democrats, and 218 independents. This poll is trended against a Newsy/Ipsos poll conducted between July 24-29, 2020, with a sample of 2,015 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 2018 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=2,010, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/- 4.0 percentage points).

This poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.9 percentage points for Republicans, plus or minus 3.9 percentage points for Democrats, and plus or minus 7.6 percentage points for independents. The poll fielded between July 24-29, 2020, has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

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