

Biden has slight edge over Trump in Pennsylvania

New Reuters/Ipsos poll finds having a strong plan to deal with coronavirus is the top issue for voters

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, October 5, 2020

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between September 29 – October 5, 2020 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For this study, a total of 1,000 adults age 18+ from Pennsylvania were interviewed online in English, including 605 likely voters. The poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents and 4.5 percentage points for likely voters.

Full Annotated Questionnaire

1. Are you currently registered to vote at your current address?

All Respondents			
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16	
Yes, registered to vote at my current address	85%	83%	
No, not registered to vote at my current address	13%	14%	
Not sure	2%	3%	
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005	

2. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing Pennsylvania today? (Select from below or write in)

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
The economy and job creation	19%	21%
Immigration	3%	2%
Gun violence	4%	3%
Healthcare	10%	9%
Morality	2%	3%
Education	3%	4%
Racism	6%	6%
Crime	4%	4%
Environment	3%	2%
Coronavirus/COVID-19 outbreak	38%	37%
Other	4%	4%
Don't know	4%	5%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005



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3. Which of the following best describes how you will vote or have voted in this year's presidential election, to be held on November 3rd?

Plan to Vote/Voted Summary

ote, voted odiffillary		
All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
I have not voted yet	82%	81%
I have already voted	2%	1%
I do not plan to vote	11%	9%
Not sure	4%	8%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

All Respondents			
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16	
I plan to vote at my polling station on November 3, 2020	53%	49%	
I plan to vote early at an early voting location, before November 3, 2020	4%	4%	
I plan to vote early via absentee ballot/vote by mail, before November 3, 2020	26%	28%	
I have voted at an early voting location already	1%	0%	
I have voted via absentee ballot/vote by mail already	2%	1%	
I do not plan to vote at all	11%	9%	
Not sure	4%	8%	
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005	





4. **[ASKED IF NOT VOTED]** On November 3, 2020 the next presidential election will be held. How likely are you to vote in the upcoming presidential election? (Select one)

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
1 – Completely certain I will not vote	12%	9%
2	2%	2%
3	1%	1%
4	2%	1%
5	3%	2%
6	2%	2%
7	1%	3%
8	4%	4%
9	6%	6%
10 - Completely certain I will vote	64%	64%
Don't know	3%	5%
Total Sample Size:	979	995

5. **[ASKED IF VOTED]** You mentioned you have already voted in the 2020 presidential election, did you vote for Donald Trump or Joe Biden? **[ASKED IF NOT VOTED]** If the 2020 presidential election were held today, would you vote for Donald Trump or Joe Biden?

Likely Voters		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Donald Trump	45%	46%
Joe Biden	50%	49%
Some other candidate	2%	2%
I would not vote	0%	0%
Not sure	3%	4%
Total Sample Size:	605	611

6. [ASKED IF VOTED] In the election for U.S. Congress, did you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district where you live? [ASKED IF NOT VOTED] Thinking about the elections in 2020, if the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the Democratic candidate or the Republican candidate in your district where you live?

Likely Voters		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Democratic candidate	50%	50%
Republican candidate	44%	45%
Candidate from another political party	1%	1%
Will not vote / Not sure	0%	1%
Prefer not to answer / Refused	4%	3%
Total Sample Size:	605	611



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7. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly approve	26%	26%
Somewhat approve	19%	16%
Lean towards approve	1%	2%
Lean towards disapprove	1%	1%
Somewhat disapprove	11%	9%
Strongly disapprove	39%	42%
Not sure	3%	5%
Approve (Net)	46%	44%
Disapprove (Net)	50%	51%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

8. **[ASKED IF VOTED]** When voting in the presidential election this year, which of the following candidate traits was the MOST important factor for you in deciding who to vote for? **[ASKED IF NOT VOTED]** If the 2020 presidential election were being held today, which of the following candidate traits would be the MOST important factor for you in deciding who to vote for?

All Respondents		
·	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strong on the economy and job creation	20%	22%
Strong on healthcare	12%	9%
Strong on immigration	3%	5%
Has a robust plan to help the nation recover from the impact of coronavirus/COVID-19	28%	29%
Ability to restore trust in American government	17%	16%
Strong on civil rights	6%	4%
Tough on crime and civil unrest	9%	10%
Strong on the environment/climate change	4%	4%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005





9. For each of the following, please select the candidate you think is the best on that particular issue.

Summary

All Respondents				
	Joe Biden		Donald Trump	
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
The economy and job creation	38%	40%	51%	48%
Healthcare	46%	46%	37%	37%
Immigration	37%	39%	48%	47%
National recovery from the impact of coronavirus/COVID-19	45%	44%	40%	41%
Ability to restore trust in American government	43%	44%	36%	37%
Strong on civil rights	45%	46%	35%	35%
Tough on crime and civil unrest	35%	37%	48%	46%
Strong on the environment/climate change	51%	48%	27%	28%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005	1000	1005

The economy and job creation

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All Respondents			
	Sept 29 -	Comt 44 4C	
	Oct 5	Sept 11-16	
Joe Biden	38%	40%	
Donald Trump	51%	48%	
Some other candidate	4%	4%	
Not sure	7%	9%	
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005	

b. Healthcare

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Joe Biden	46%	46%
Donald Trump	37%	37%
Some other candidate	5%	5%
Not sure	12%	12%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005





c. Immigration

innigration		
All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Joe Biden	37%	39%
Donald Trump	48%	47%
Some other candidate	4%	5%
Not sure	11%	10%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

d. National recovery from the impact of coronavirus/COVID-19

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Joe Biden	45%	44%
Donald Trump	40%	41%
Some other candidate	4%	5%
Not sure	11%	11%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

e. Ability to restore trust in American government

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Joe Biden	43%	44%
Donald Trump	36%	37%
Some other candidate	8%	7%
Not sure	13%	12%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

f. Strong on civil rights

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Joe Biden	45%	46%
Donald Trump	35%	35%
Some other candidate	6%	6%
Not sure	13%	13%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

g. Tough on crime and civil unrest

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Joe Biden	35%	37%
Donald Trump	48%	46%
Some other candidate	5%	5%
Not sure	12%	12%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

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h. Strong on the environment/climate change

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Joe Biden	51%	48%
Donald Trump	27%	28%
Some other candidate	6%	8%
Not sure	16%	16%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

10. How familiar are you with the following public figures, taking into account all the ways you may have heard about them?

Total Familiar Summary

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Donald Trump	92%	90%
Joe Biden	87%	85%
Kamala Harris	66%	67%
Mike Pence	76%	76%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

a. Donald Trump

All Respondents		
•	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Very familiar	70%	69%
Somewhat familiar	21%	20%
Not very familiar	4%	5%
Have heard of them, but that's it	4%	4%
Have not heard of them	1%	1%
Familiar (Net)	92%	90%
Not familiar (Net)	8%	10%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

b. Joe Biden

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Very familiar	56%	57%
Somewhat familiar	31%	28%
Not very familiar	7%	8%
Have heard of them, but that's it	5%	5%
Have not heard of them	1%	1%
Familiar (Net)	87%	85%
Not familiar (Net)	13%	15%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005





c. Kamala Harris

All Respondents		
•	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Very familiar	29%	30%
Somewhat familiar	37%	37%
Not very familiar	20%	18%
Have heard of them, but that's it	9%	10%
Have not heard of them	5%	5%
Familiar (Net)	66%	67%
Not familiar (Net)	34%	33%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

d. Mike Pence

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Very familiar	42%	44%
Somewhat familiar	35%	32%
Not very familiar	13%	13%
Have heard of them, but that's it	7%	8%
Have not heard of them	3%	3%
Familiar (Net)	76%	76%
Not familiar (Net)	24%	24%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

11. **[ASKED IF AT LEAST HEARD OF PERSON]** Would you say you are generally favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures?

Total Favorable Summary

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Danald Trump	(N=989)	(N=993)
Donald Trump	51%	47%
Joe Biden	(N=989)	(N=993)
	55%	54%
Kamala Harris	(N=952)	(N=965)
	54%	55%
Miles Danes	(N=966)	(N=980)
Mike Pence	54%	52%





a. Donald Trump

All Respondents		
·	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Very favorable	27%	28%
Somewhat favorable	15%	15%
Lean towards favorable	8%	5%
Lean towards unfavorable	7%	5%
Somewhat unfavorable	6%	7%
Very unfavorable	37%	40%
Favorable (Net)	51%	47%
Unfavorable (Net)	49%	53%
Total Sample Size:	989	993

b. Joe Biden

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Very favorable	27%	25%
Somewhat favorable	18%	18%
Lean towards favorable	10%	10%
Lean towards unfavorable	11%	9%
Somewhat unfavorable	9%	8%
Very unfavorable	25%	29%
Favorable (Net)	55%	54%
Unfavorable (Net)	45%	46%
Total Sample Size:	989	993

c. Kamala Harris

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Very favorable	20%	22%
Somewhat favorable	19%	16%
Lean towards favorable	15%	17%
Lean towards unfavorable	13%	9%
Somewhat unfavorable	9%	8%
Very unfavorable	24%	27%
Favorable (Net)	54%	55%
Unfavorable (Net)	46%	45%
Total Sample Size:	952	965





d. Mike Pence

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Very favorable	22%	24%
Somewhat favorable	18%	14%
Lean towards favorable	13%	14%
Lean towards unfavorable	11%	11%
Somewhat unfavorable	10%	9%
Very unfavorable	24%	28%
Favorable (Net)	54%	52%
Unfavorable (Net)	46%	48%
Total Sample Size:	966	980

12. Generally speaking, would you say the following things are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?

a. The national economy

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Right direction	38%	36%
Wrong track	50%	50%
Don't know	12%	14%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

b. Employment and jobs

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Right direction	40%	39%
Wrong track	49%	48%
Don't know	11%	13%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005





13. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Total Agree Summary

All Respondents		
•	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
I am sympathetic to people who are out protesting right now	50%	48%
President Donald Trump is helping to ease racial tensions	35%	35%
Joe Biden supports defunding the police	48%	49%
Joe Biden is suffering from dementia	42%	42%
As president, Joe Biden would be a puppet for the socialist wing of the Democratic Party	51%	48%
President Donald Trump lies regularly for personal political gain	59%	56%
President Donald Trump is beholden to Russian President Vladimir Putin	45%	45%
The high number of coronavirus cases in the United States is a result of poor leadership and policy decisions from President Trump	53%	52%
Businesses and schools remain closed in the United States because of poor leadership and policy decisions from President Trump	48%	46%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

a. I am sympathetic to people who are out protesting right now

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly agree	22%	25%
Somewhat agree	29%	23%
Somewhat disagree	16%	15%
Strongly disagree	25%	28%
Not sure	9%	9%
Agree (Net)	50%	48%
Disagree (Net)	41%	43%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005





b. President Donald Trump is helping to ease racial tensions

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly agree	16%	17%
Somewhat agree	19%	18%
Somewhat disagree	13%	12%
Strongly disagree	41%	42%
Not sure	10%	11%
Agree (Net)	35%	35%
Disagree (Net)	55%	54%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

c. Joe Biden supports defunding the police

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly agree	26%	30%
Somewhat agree	22%	19%
Somewhat disagree	14%	12%
Strongly disagree	22%	24%
Not sure	15%	15%
Agree (Net)	48%	49%
Disagree (Net)	36%	36%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

d. Joe Biden is suffering from dementia

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly agree	24%	24%
Somewhat agree	18%	18%
Somewhat disagree	12%	11%
Strongly disagree	29%	30%
Not sure	17%	17%
Agree (Net)	42%	42%
Disagree (Net)	41%	41%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005





e. As president, Joe Biden would be a puppet for the socialist wing of the Democratic Party

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly agree	35%	36%
Somewhat agree	15%	12%
Somewhat disagree	13%	10%
Strongly disagree	25%	29%
Not sure	11%	13%
Agree (Net)	51%	48%
Disagree (Net)	38%	39%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

f. President Donald Trump lies regularly for personal political gain

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly agree	42%	43%
Somewhat agree	18%	12%
Somewhat disagree	13%	13%
Strongly disagree	21%	22%
Not sure	7%	9%
Agree (Net)	59%	56%
Disagree (Net)	34%	35%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

g. President Donald Trump is beholden to Russian President Vladimir Putin

All Respondents		
•	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly agree	27%	29%
Somewhat agree	19%	17%
Somewhat disagree	13%	10%
Strongly disagree	25%	26%
Not sure	17%	19%
Agree (Net)	45%	45%
Disagree (Net)	37%	36%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005





h. The high number of coronavirus cases in the United States is a result of poor leadership and policy decisions from President Trump

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly agree	39%	38%
Somewhat agree	14%	14%
Somewhat disagree	12%	12%
Strongly disagree	29%	29%
Not sure	5%	7%
Agree (Net)	53%	52%
Disagree (Net)	41%	41%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

i. Businesses and schools remain closed in the United States because of poor leadership and policy decisions from President Trump

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Strongly agree	32%	31%
Somewhat agree	16%	15%
Somewhat disagree	15%	14%
Strongly disagree	30%	33%
Not sure	7%	7%
Agree (Net)	48%	46%
Disagree (Net)	45%	47%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

14. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Total Agree Summary

All Respondents	
	Sept 29 – Oct 5
Abortion should be legal in most cases	55%
Young people who were brought into the country as children should be allowed to apply for deportation deferrals and work permits	67%
The Affordable Care Act (ACA, or sometimes called Obamacare) should be repealed completely	43%
The winner of the election should be able to appoint Ruth Bader Ginsberg's replacement on the Supreme Court	59%
Total Sample Size:	1000





a. Abortion should be legal in most cases

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 -	
	Oct 5	
Strongly agree	33%	
Somewhat agree	22%	
Somewhat disagree	13%	
Strongly disagree	21%	
Not sure	10%	
Agree (Net)	55%	
Disagree (Net)	35%	
Total Sample Size:	1000	

b. Young people who were brought into the country as children should be allowed to apply for deportation deferrals and work permits

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 -	
	Oct 5	
Strongly agree	34%	
Somewhat agree	33%	
Somewhat disagree	10%	
Strongly disagree	9%	
Not sure	13%	
Agree (Net)	67%	
Disagree (Net)	20%	
Total Sample Size:	1000	

c. The Affordable Care Act (ACA, or sometimes called Obamacare) should be repealed completely

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 -	
	Oct 5	
Strongly agree	25%	
Somewhat agree	18%	
Somewhat disagree	14%	
Strongly disagree	29%	
Not sure	13%	
Agree (Net)	43%	
Disagree (Net)	43%	
Total Sample Size:	1000	





d. The winner of the election should be able to appoint Ruth Bader Ginsberg's replacement on the Supreme Court

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	
Strongly agree	41%	
Somewhat agree	18%	
Somewhat disagree	10%	
Strongly disagree	16%	
Not sure	15%	
Agree (Net)	59%	
Disagree (Net)	26%	
Total Sample Size:	1000	

15. Of the choices listed below, which is your main source of television news about current events and politics? (Select one)

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
FOX News	20%	20%
CNN	16%	16%
MSNBC	6%	5%
ABC	15%	14%
CBS	7%	7%
NBC	9%	10%
Public Television	4%	5%
Other	8%	9%
None of the above	14%	14%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005



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16. Did you happen to vote in any of these other elections? (Select all that apply)

All Respondents		
•	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
2008 presidential election (Obama vs. McCain)	57%	57%
2010 midterm congressional election (local Congressperson)	38%	42%
2012 presidential election (Obama vs. Romney)	60%	60%
2014 midterm congressional election (local Congressperson)	41%	45%
2018 midterm congressional election (local Congressperson)	48%	50%
None of these	25%	28%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005

17. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?

All Respondents		
	Sept 29 – Oct 5	Sept 11-16
Democrat	46%	46%
Republican	43%	40%
Independent	7%	7%
Other / Don't know	4%	7%
Total Sample Size:	1000	1005



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About the Study

These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted September 29 – October 5, 2020, on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For this study, a total of 1,000 adults age 18+ from Pennsylvania were interviewed online in English, including 605 likely voters. The first wave of this poll was conducted September 11-16, 2020, among 1,005 adults age 18+ from Pennsylvania, including 611 likely voters.

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 online sample for this poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all online 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=1,000, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.0 percentage points). The online poll also has a credibility interval of plus or minus 4.5 percentage points for likely voters. The first wave has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all online respondents and plus or minus 4.5 percentage points for likely voters.

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