



PRESS RELEASE

Nearly 9 in 10 Americans want all votes counted no matter who wins
New Reuters/Ipsos poll shows most do not believe Trump's victory declaration is justified; majority believe local election officials are doing their jobs honestly

Topline Findings

Washington, DC, November 6, 2020 – The latest public opinion poll from Reuters/Ipsos, conducted on November fourth and fifth, shows that 86% of Americans say it is important that all ballots are counted no matter who wins the elections. Democrats (92%) and Republicans (88%) both agree on this point. Sixty-eight percent of Americans trust that their local election officials are doing their jobs honestly, including 78% of Democrats and 67% of Republicans. More than half of Americans (57%) say they are confident that mail-in and absentee ballots are being accurately counted, but Republicans (45%) are less likely to agree on this than Democrats (72%). About six in ten Americans (58%) - including 63% of Democrats and 61% of Republicans - say they are concerned that ballots may be rejected because of silly procedural reasons. Democrats are more skeptical that the Electoral College will reflect the will of the people (49%) than Republicans (63%).

Fifty-eight percent of Americans say President Trump's early declaration of victory on election night is not justified. About two in five Republicans say the victory speech is justified (38%), but a majority say either it was not justified (33%) or they do not know (29%). Eighty-five percent of Democrats say it is not justified, 7% say it is, and 8% say they do not know. Two-thirds of Americans say Donald Trump is acting irresponsibly by claiming early victory (68%). More than half (54%) say that Trump's premature declaration is bad for America's democracy, and 84% say candidates should not be declaring victory until all of the votes are counted. A majority say that America's democracy can withstand a candidate claiming early victory (53%), and 83% say the democracy can withstand waiting until all the votes are counted to know who the winner of the election is. Most are confident that the winner of the election will be able to take office peacefully in January 2021 (61%).

Americans are most likely to say that the outcome of the election makes them feel worried (35%), followed by hopeful (16%), and indifferent (10%). About 5% report they feel happy about the election results, 5% say they feel angry, and 4% say they feel sad.

For full results, please refer to the following

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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?	Democrat	43%	100%	0%	0%
	Republican	37%	0%	100%	0%
	Independent	11%	0%	0%	100%
	None/DK	9%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1890Y20. Are you currently registered to vote at your current address, or not?	Yes, registered to vote at my current address	84%	88%	90%	82%
	No, not registered to vote at my current address	14%	11%	9%	16%
	Not sure	2%	1%	0%	2%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
S8 / SC8. In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the U.S. today? (Select from below or write in)	Economy generally	21%	18%	28%	24%
	Unemployment / lack of jobs	11%	10%	10%	9%
	War / foreign conflicts	1%	0%	0%	4%
	Immigration	5%	3%	7%	2%
	Terrorism / terrorist attacks	3%	1%	6%	2%
	Healthcare	18%	24%	12%	15%
	Energy issues	1%	1%	1%	0%
	Morality	9%	7%	12%	6%
	Education	3%	4%	3%	3%
	Crime	5%	4%	5%	8%
	Environment	5%	8%	2%	6%
	Other	16%	20%	12%	13%
	Don't know	3%	2%	2%	7%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
AB1. Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the right direction, or are they off on the wrong track?	Right direction	26%	7%	52%	21%
	Wrong track	62%	87%	36%	57%
	Don't know	12%	6%	12%	22%
	Total	1115	524	417	101



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1985Y20. Based on what you know or have heard, what is the result of the recent presidential election?	Donald Trump won	7%	2%	13%	7%
	Joe Biden won	13%	21%	6%	9%
	The election has not been called	71%	69%	76%	75%
	Don't know	9%	7%	5%	8%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1986Y20_1. How did you learn that....? Cable news	No	63%	57%	63%	68%
	Yes	37%	43%	37%	32%
	Total	1031	493	397	93
TM1986Y20_2. How did you learn that....? Social media	No	74%	72%	76%	80%
	Yes	26%	28%	24%	20%
	Total	1031	493	397	93
TM1986Y20_3. How did you learn that....? Friends or family	No	85%	86%	85%	86%
	Yes	15%	14%	15%	14%
	Total	1031	493	397	93
TM1986Y20_4. How did you learn that....? Local news	No	52%	54%	52%	39%
	Yes	48%	46%	48%	61%
	Total	1031	493	397	93
TM1986Y20_5. How did you learn that....? Other	No	89%	90%	89%	91%
	Yes	11%	10%	11%	9%
	Total	1031	493	397	93
TM1886Y20_10. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements...I am confident ballots sent by mail/absentee are/were being counted accurately	Strongly agree	26%	40%	15%	17%
	Somewhat agree	31%	32%	30%	32%
	Somewhat disagree	18%	15%	20%	19%
	Strongly disagree	19%	7%	33%	18%
	Not sure	7%	5%	2%	14%
	Total	1115	524	417	101



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1886Y20_11. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements... I am concerned that ballots were/are rejected for silly procedural reasons	Strongly agree	23%	25%	27%	10%
	Somewhat agree	35%	39%	34%	32%
	Somewhat disagree	19%	18%	19%	28%
	Strongly disagree	12%	11%	13%	10%
	Not sure	11%	8%	7%	20%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1886Y20_12. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements... It is extremely important to me that all ballots are counted, no matter who was declared winner	Strongly agree	67%	77%	67%	59%
	Somewhat agree	19%	15%	22%	23%
	Somewhat disagree	5%	4%	6%	7%
	Strongly disagree	5%	3%	5%	8%
	Not sure	4%	2%	2%	3%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1886Y20_13. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements...The loser must concede defeat	Strongly agree	50%	67%	34%	52%
	Somewhat agree	24%	17%	34%	20%
	Somewhat disagree	10%	7%	14%	12%
	Strongly disagree	5%	4%	7%	4%
	Not sure	11%	6%	10%	13%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1886Y20_7. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements... I trust election officials in my county or town to do their job honestly	Strongly agree	34%	46%	27%	23%
	Somewhat agree	34%	33%	40%	32%
	Somewhat disagree	14%	10%	16%	19%
	Strongly disagree	11%	8%	13%	12%
	Not sure	7%	4%	4%	14%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1886Y20_9. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements... I trust the Electoral College to reflect the will of the American people	Strongly agree	23%	20%	27%	23%
	Somewhat agree	29%	29%	36%	17%
	Somewhat disagree	22%	24%	20%	27%
	Strongly disagree	17%	19%	13%	14%
	Not sure	9%	7%	4%	19%
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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1991Y20_2. How does the outcome of presidential election make you feel?	Worried	35%	41%	33%	31%
	Angry	5%	5%	6%	2%
	Hopeful	16%	18%	17%	13%
	Relieved	6%	8%	6%	1%
	Happy	5%	5%	8%	1%
	Sad	4%	4%	5%	2%
	Indifferent	10%	6%	11%	15%
	Other	4%	4%	3%	11%
	None of these	15%	9%	12%	25%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1983Y20. Do you believe Donald Trump's declaration of victory in the election for President of the United States is justified?	Yes	20%	7%	38%	16%
	No	58%	85%	33%	56%
	Not sure	22%	8%	29%	28%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1984Y20. Which of the follow comes closest to your opinion?	I accept Donald Trump's declaration of victory even though all of the votes have NOT been counted	16%	7%	30%	8%
	Candidates should not be declaring victory until all of the votes are counted	84%	93%	70%	92%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1989Y20. Is Donald Trump claiming victory early good or bad for America's democracy?	Good for America's democracy	17%	6%	33%	11%
	Bad for America's democracy	54%	86%	22%	51%
	Not sure	30%	8%	45%	38%
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	All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents	
TM1988Y20. Is Donald Trump behaving responsibly or irresponsibly by claiming victory early?	Very responsibly	7%	3%	13%	1%
	Somewhat responsibly	11%	4%	20%	11%
	Somewhat irresponsibly	19%	11%	30%	16%
	Very irresponsibly	49%	80%	16%	51%
	Not sure	15%	3%	22%	21%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1987Y20_1_1. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements...I am concerned that Trump will use the power of the military to try to stay in office :	Strongly agree	19%	32%	5%	19%
	Somewhat agree	21%	31%	11%	18%
	Somewhat disagree	16%	16%	18%	12%
	Strongly disagree	31%	9%	58%	33%
	Not sure	13%	12%	8%	19%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1987Y20_1_2. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements...Our democracy can withstand a candidate claiming early victory	Strongly agree	22%	17%	32%	17%
	Somewhat agree	31%	27%	37%	33%
	Somewhat disagree	17%	21%	14%	18%
	Strongly disagree	15%	24%	6%	12%
	Not sure	15%	10%	12%	20%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1987Y20_1_3. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements...Our democracy can withstand waiting until all of the votes are counted to know who won the election	Strongly agree	54%	66%	45%	56%
	Somewhat agree	29%	22%	39%	25%
	Somewhat disagree	7%	7%	8%	6%
	Strongly disagree	3%	2%	3%	6%
	Not sure	7%	4%	5%	8%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1987Y20_1_4. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements...The winner of the election will be able to take office peacefully on January 20, 2021	Strongly agree	29%	29%	36%	21%
	Somewhat agree	31%	34%	31%	33%
	Somewhat disagree	16%	16%	15%	13%
	Strongly disagree	7%	8%	5%	7%
	Not sure	17%	13%	14%	26%
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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1977Y20. Which of the following best describes how you voted in this year's presidential election, held on Tuesday, November 3, 2020?	I voted at my polling station on November 3, 2020	26%	23%	37%	21%
	I voted early at an early voting location, before November 3, 2020	21%	21%	24%	19%
	I voted early via absentee ballot/vote by mail, before November 3, 2020	35%	44%	28%	37%
	I did not vote at all	18%	12%	11%	24%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
AB11. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?	Strongly approve	27%	5%	57%	22%
	Somewhat approve	14%	2%	26%	21%
	Lean towards approve	1%	1%	2%	3%
	Lean towards disapprove	1%	1%	0%	0%
	Somewhat disapprove	9%	13%	6%	6%
	Strongly disapprove	42%	77%	7%	40%
	Not sure	5%	1%	1%	7%
Total	1115	524	417	101	
AB11. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President? Summary	TOTAL APPROVE	43%	8%	86%	46%
	TOTAL DISAPPROVE	52%	90%	13%	46%
	Not sure	5%	1%	1%	7%
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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1843Y20.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?	Strong on the economy and job creation	27%	12%	48%	24%
	Strong on healthcare	8%	9%	3%	11%
	Strong on immigration	3%	1%	5%	5%
	Has a robust plan to help the nation recover from the impact of coronavirus/COVID-19	22%	34%	11%	18%
	Ability to restore trust in American government	22%	27%	15%	29%
	Strong on civil rights	6%	7%	5%	6%
	Tough on crime and civil unrest	6%	4%	10%	3%
	Strong on the environment/climate change	5%	5%	3%	3%
	Total	1115	524	417	101
TM1350Y17. Of the choices listed below, which is your main source of news about current events and politics? (Select one)	FOX News	19%	7%	36%	15%
	CNN	15%	27%	7%	7%
	MSNBC	5%	11%	1%	0%
	ABC	12%	13%	11%	11%
	CBS	10%	11%	7%	14%
	NBC	8%	10%	6%	11%
	Public Television	5%	5%	3%	4%
	Other	10%	7%	11%	15%
	None of the above	16%	8%	18%	23%
	Total	1115	524	417	101



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1742Y19 / AB7_2016. For whom did you vote for President in 2016?	Hillary Clinton (Democrat)	32%	63%	7%	17%
	Donald Trump (Republican)	34%	8%	75%	24%
	Other	5%	4%	3%	17%
	I did not vote in the 2016 presidential election	23%	23%	15%	33%
	Unsure / Refuse	5%	2%	0%	9%
	Total	1115	524	417	101



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About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between November 4-5, 2020 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For this survey, a sample of 1,115 Americans age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 524 Democrats, 417 Republicans and 101 independents. Weighting was then employed to balance demographics to ensure that the sample's composition reflects that of the adult population according to Census data and to provide results intended to approximate the sample universe. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll is accurate to within ± 3.3 percentage points, 19 times out of 20, had all Americans been polled. The credibility interval will be wider among subsets of the population. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error, and measurement error. The poll also has a credibility interval ± 4.9 percentage points for Democrats, ± 5.5 percentage points for Republicans, and ± 11.1 percentage points for independents.

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ISIN code FR0000073298, Reuters ISOS.PA, Bloomberg IPS:FP

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