

Most Americans agree Joe Biden is rightful winner of 2020 election Latest Reuters/Ipsos poll shows most approve of how Joe Biden is handling his position of President-elect

#### **Topline Findings**

Washington, DC, November 18, 2020 – In the latest public opinion poll from Reuters/Ipsos, three-fourths of Americans (73%) believe that Joe Biden has won the presidential election based on what they know or have heard. Five percent believe Donald Trump has won and another 18% believe the election has not yet been called. When asked who has *rightfully* won the election, 63% of Americans believe Joe Biden has, including 95% of Democrats, 29% of Republicans, and 60% of independents. Fifty-four percent of Americans say that Joe Biden is acting responsibly by claiming victory compared to just 31% who say he is acting irresponsibly. However, only 20% of Americans agree that Donald Trump, who has also claimed victory, is acting responsibly in doing so. Seven out of ten (69%) think he is acting irresponsibly. A majority of American's believe that Donald Trump claiming victory early is bad for this country's democracy (55%), only 28% feel the same about Joe Biden's claim. Sixty percent approve of how Joe Biden is handling his job as President-elect while 37% approve of Donald Trump's handling of the presidency. A majority of Americans disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the transition process to the Biden administration (60%) with most of those *strongly* disapproving (42%).

Overall, most Americans believe the election was legitimate and accurate (55%). Democrats (86%) are far more likely to hold this belief than Republicans (26%) or independents (49%). On the other hand, Republicans are much more likely to believe the results of the election were fraudulent due to illegal voting or election rigging (59%) compared to just 6% of Democrats and 20% of independents. When asked how the outcome of the election, which has consistently been called for Joe Biden, makes people feel, Democrats report positive emotions such as hopeful (30%), relieved (28%), and happy (18%). Republican responses trend negative: worried (39%), angry (15%), and indifferent (11%). Independents seem to sympathize with both sides feeling indifferent (26%), hopeful (19%), and worried (16%).

As legal challenges from the Trump campaign are ongoing, Americans unanimously agree that all ballots need to be counted, regardless of who was declared winner (87%). Three out of five (61%) trust the electoral college to reflect the will of the American people, backed by bipartisan support.

For full results, please refer to the following annotated questionnaire.





		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
	Democrat	42%	100%	0%	0%
Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a	Republican	38%	0%	100%	0%
Republican, an	Independent	12%	0%	0%	100%
independent or none of these?	None/DK	8%	0%	0%	0%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
TIM 000V00 Array	Yes, registered to vote at my current address	82%	87%	89%	74%
TM1890Y20. Are you currently registered to vote at your current address, or not?	No, not registered to vote at my current address	16%	12%	10%	21%
address, or not?	Not sure	2%	1%	1%	4%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Economy generally	19%	14%	25%	20%
	Unemployment / lack of jobs	8%	8%	7%	7%
	War / foreign conflicts	1%	1%	0%	0%
	Immigration	5%	3%	10%	1%
S8 / SC8. In your	Terrorism / terrorist attacks	3%	2%	4%	3%
opinion, what is the most important	Healthcare	20%	28%	11%	23%
problem facing the	Energy issues	1%	1%	1%	0%
U.S. today? (Select from below or write in)	Morality	8%	6%	10%	6%
,	Education	2%	2%	2%	2%
	Crime	6%	5%	7%	2%
	Environment	5%	7%	2%	5%
	Other	19%	20%	18%	23%
	Don't know	5%	3%	2%	9%
	Total	1346	598	496	149



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Senior Vice President, US, Public Affairs, Ipsos







		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
AB1.Generally speaking, would you	Right direction	23%	18%	33%	13%
say things in this	Wrong track	61%	70%	51%	68%
country are heading in the right direction, or	Don't know	16%	11%	16%	18%
are they off on the wrong track?	Total	1346	598	496	149
<b>3</b> • • • •	Donald Trump won	5%	1%	12%	2%
TM1985Y20. Based on	Joe Biden won	73%	96%	48%	75%
what you know or have heard, what is the result of the recent	The election has not been called	18%	3%	36%	16%
presidential election?	Don't know	5%	1%	5%	7%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
TN44005\/00 \\/\  -	Donald Trump	23%	3%	52%	15%
TM1995Y20. Who do you believe rightfully	Joe Biden	63%	95%	29%	60%
won the 2020 presidential election?	Not sure	14%	2%	19%	25%
presidential election?	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Strongly agree	67%	68%	73%	63%
TM1886Y20_12. It is	Somewhat agree	19%	22%	17%	16%
extremely important to me that all ballots are	Somewhat disagree	5%	5%	4%	5%
counted, no matter who was declared	Strongly disagree	3%	3%	2%	4%
who was declared winner	Not sure	5%	2%	4%	11%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
TM1886Y20_7.	Strongly agree	39%	54%	26%	37%
Please indicate how	Somewhat agree	32%	31%	35%	28%
much you agree or disagree with the	Somewhat disagree	13%	7%	17%	15%
following statements I trust election officials	Strongly disagree	9%	4%	15%	9%
in my county or town to	Not sure	7%	4%	7%	11%
do their job honestly	Total	1346	598	496	149





		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
	Strongly agree	22%	7%	42%	14%
TM1886Y20_8. Please indicate how	Somewhat agree	17%	10%	25%	17%
much you agree or disagree with the	Somewhat disagree	17%	18%	14%	21%
following statements I am concerned that	Strongly disagree	37%	62%	13%	30%
the election is rigged	Not sure	7%	3%	6%	17%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
TM1886Y20_9.	Strongly agree	28%	33%	25%	25%
Please indicate how much you agree or	Somewhat agree	33%	32%	36%	29%
disagree with the following statements	Somewhat disagree	17%	18%	16%	16%
I trust the electoral college to reflect the	Strongly disagree	13%	11%	14%	16%
will of the American	Not sure	9%	6%	8%	14%
people	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Worried	22%	9%	39%	16%
	Angry	7%	2%	15%	3%
	Hopeful	19%	30%	8%	19%
TM4004V20 2 Ham	Relieved	15%	28%	4%	9%
TM1991Y20_2. How does the outcome of	Нарру	10%	18%	3%	6%
presidential election make you feel?	Sad	5%	1%	9%	5%
make you leer!	Indifferent	10%	5%	11%	26%
	Other	3%	1%	5%	4%
	None of these	8%	4%	7%	11%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Legitimate and accurate	55%	86%	26%	49%
TM1082Y16_2. What comes close to your view of the 2020	The result of illegal voting or election rigging	28%	6%	59%	20%
election? It was	Don't know	17%	7%	15%	30%
	Total	1346	598	496	149



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
	Accept the results as legitimate and support his presidency	66%	90%	38%	64%
TM1045Y16_2. If Joe Biden wins the	Accept the results as legitimate and oppose his presidency	14%	6%	22%	19%
presidency will you	Not accept the results as legitimate but do nothing	13%	3%	25%	13%
	Not accept the results as legitimate and take action	7%	1%	15%	5%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Accept the results as legitimate and support his presidency	49%	19%	82%	46%
TM1046Y16. If Donald Trump wins the	Accept the results as legitimate and oppose his presidency	19%	28%	8%	28%
presidency will you	Not accept the results as legitimate but do nothing	17%	26%	6%	17%
	Not accept the results as legitimate and take action	15%	27%	5%	9%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Very responsibly	11%	3%	23%	7%
TM1988Y20. Is Donald	Somewhat responsibly	9%	4%	16%	5%
Trump behaving responsibly or	Somewhat irresponsibly	19%	11%	28%	24%
irresponsibly by claiming victory early?	Very irresponsibly	49%	79%	19%	47%
c.s.iiiig violory daily:	Not sure	11%	4%	14%	18%
	Total	1346	598	496	149



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
	Very responsibly	34%	60%	10%	27%
TM1984Y20_2. Is Joe	Somewhat responsibly	20%	22%	18%	20%
Biden behaving responsibly or	Somewhat irresponsibly	15%	7%	24%	16%
irresponsibly by claiming victory early?	Very irresponsibly	17%	3%	33%	15%
claiming victory early?	Not sure	14%	7%	14%	22%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
TM4000V00 In Develo	Good for America's democracy	17%	8%	33%	7%
TM1989Y20. Is Donald Trump claiming victory early good or bad for	Bad for America's democracy	55%	82%	32%	52%
America's democracy?	Not sure	27%	10%	34%	41%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Good for America's democracy	41%	71%	16%	26%
TM1989Y20_2. Is Joe Biden claiming victory early good or bad for	Bad for America's democracy	28%	10%	53%	23%
America's democracy?	Not sure	31%	20%	31%	51%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Strongly approve	37%	68%	8%	27%
	Somewhat approve	20%	20%	19%	25%
AB11_2021. Overall,	Lean towards approve	4%	3%	5%	5%
do you approve or disapprove of the way	Lean towards disapprove	2%	0%	3%	0%
Joe Biden is handling his job as President-	Somewhat disapprove	10%	4%	19%	6%
elect?	Strongly disapprove	20%	2%	42%	16%
	Not sure	9%	2%	5%	20%
	Total	1346	598	496	149





		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
AB11_2021. Overall,	TOTAL APPROVE	60%	91%	31%	58%
do you approve or disapprove of the way	TOTAL DISAPPROVE	31%	7%	64%	23%
Joe Biden is handling his job as President-	Not sure	9%	2%	5%	20%
elect? - Summary	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Strongly approve	23%	5%	49%	10%
	Somewhat approve	13%	4%	23%	8%
AB11. Overall, do you	Lean towards approve	2%	1%	2%	5%
approve or disapprove of the way Donald	Lean towards disapprove	1%	0%	2%	1%
Trump is handling his job as President?	Somewhat disapprove	13%	15%	10%	21%
•	Strongly disapprove	43%	74%	11%	42%
	Not sure	6%	2%	3%	13%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
AB11. Overall, do you	TOTAL APPROVE	37%	10%	74%	23%
approve or disapprove of the way Donald	TOTAL DISAPPROVE	57%	88%	23%	63%
Trump is handling his job as President?	Not sure	6%	2%	3%	13%
Summary	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Very familiar	66%	67%	75%	53%
TM3. How familiar are	Somewhat familiar	25%	22%	22%	36%
you with the following	Not very familiar	4%	5%	1%	6%
public figures, taking into account all the ways you may have heard about them?Donald Trump	Have heard of them, but that's it	3%	3%	1%	4%
	Have not heard about them	2%	2%	1%	1%
	Total	1346	598	496	149





		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
	Very familiar	54%	65%	51%	40%
TM3. How familiar are	Somewhat familiar	34%	28%	38%	45%
you with the following public figures, taking	Not very familiar	7%	4%	7%	8%
into account all the ways you may have	Have heard of them, but that's it	5%	2%	3%	7%
heard about them?Joe Biden	Have not heard about them	1%	1%	0%	0%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Very familiar	34%	44%	30%	22%
TM3. How familiar are	Somewhat familiar	36%	38%	37%	36%
you with the following public figures, taking	Not very familiar	18%	11%	21%	29%
into account all the ways you may have	Have heard of them, but that's it	8%	5%	9%	10%
heard about them?Kamala Harris	Have not heard about them	4%	2%	4%	4%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Very familiar	39%	40%	50%	22%
TM3. How familiar are	Somewhat familiar	36%	35%	35%	45%
you with the following public figures, taking	Not very familiar	13%	14%	10%	19%
into account all the ways you may have	Have heard of them, but that's it	8%	7%	4%	13%
heard about them?Mike Pence	Have not heard about them	3%	3%	2%	1%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Very favorable	22%	4%	49%	10%
	Somewhat favorable	12%	4%	23%	7%
TM4. Would you say you are generally	Lean towards favorable	10%	4%	10%	17%
favorable or unfavorable towards these public	Lean towards unfavorable	8%	7%	7%	14%
figures?Donald Trump	Somewhat unfavorable	8%	9%	4%	11%
	Very unfavorable	40%	72%	7%	42%
	Total	1326	587	492	148



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
	Very favorable	26%	51%	3%	16%
	Somewhat favorable	18%	29%	9%	16%
TM4. Would you say you are generally	Lean towards favorable	15%	13%	12%	20%
favorable or unfavorable towards	Lean towards unfavorable	10%	2%	15%	16%
these public figures?Joe Biden	Somewhat unfavorable	8%	2%	14%	8%
	Very unfavorable	23%	3%	47%	24%
	Total	1334	592	493	149
	Very favorable	23%	46%	2%	12%
	Somewhat favorable	15%	25%	7%	10%
TM4. Would you say you are generally	Lean towards favorable	17%	17%	11%	28%
favorable or unfavorable towards these public	Lean towards unfavorable	11%	7%	13%	15%
figures?Kamala Harris	Somewhat unfavorable	7%	3%	11%	9%
	Very unfavorable	26%	2%	56%	26%
	Total	1299	588	481	144
	Very favorable	20%	3%	45%	9%
	Somewhat favorable	14%	7%	24%	11%
TM4. Would you say you are generally	Lean towards favorable	16%	9%	17%	27%
favorable or unfavorable towards these public figures?Mike Pence	Lean towards unfavorable	13%	15%	7%	17%
	Somewhat unfavorable	11%	16%	4%	10%
	Very unfavorable	27%	50%	4%	26%
	Total	1305	585	489	148





		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
	Strongly approve	26%	5%	57%	15%
	Somewhat approve	12%	6%	18%	13%
TM1128Y17_1. Do	Lean towards approve	12%	11%	10%	18%
you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is	Lean towards disapprove	9%	12%	4%	13%
handling the following issues? The US	Somewhat disapprove	10%	14%	3%	9%
economy	Strongly disapprove	24%	47%	3%	16%
	Don't know	7%	4%	4%	16%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Strongly approve	27%	5%	58%	14%
	Somewhat approve	11%	6%	16%	14%
TM1128Y17_4. Do	Lean towards approve	13%	12%	14%	14%
you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is	Lean towards disapprove	8%	11%	4%	15%
handling the following issues? Employment	Somewhat disapprove	11%	17%	3%	11%
and jobs	Strongly disapprove	23%	45%	2%	16%
	Don't know	7%	4%	4%	17%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Strongly approve	16%	3%	36%	7%
	Somewhat approve	13%	6%	21%	10%
TM1128Y17_4. Do	Lean towards approve	8%	3%	15%	5%
you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is	Lean towards disapprove	8%	6%	8%	12%
handling the following issues? Coronavirus/	Somewhat disapprove	7%	8%	5%	9%
COVID-19	Strongly disapprove	43%	73%	11%	43%
	Don't know	5%	2%	4%	13%
	Total	1346	598	496	149



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
	Strongly approve	11%	4%	22%	5%
TM1128Y17_22. Do	Somewhat approve	6%	4%	11%	3%
you approve or disapprove of the way	Lean towards approve	8%	4%	11%	9%
Donald Trump is handling the following issues? The transition	Lean towards disapprove	11%	6%	16%	12%
process from the Trump administration	Somewhat disapprove	7%	8%	8%	5%
to the Biden administration	Strongly disapprove	42%	70%	13%	42%
	Don't know	14%	3%	19%	23%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	FOX News	16%	10%	26%	8%
	CNN	17%	30%	6%	9%
	MSNBC	5%	9%	2%	6%
TM1350Y17. Of the	ABC	8%	10%	5%	13%
choices listed below, which is your main	CBS	8%	9%	7%	12%
source of news about current events and	NBC	9%	10%	10%	5%
politics? (Select one)	Public Television	4%	5%	3%	3%
	Other	10%	5%	16%	12%
	None of the above	21%	13%	23%	31%
	Total	1346	598	496	149
	Joe Biden (Democrat)	44%	82%	11%	34%
	Donald Trump (Republican)	32%	4%	74%	18%
TM1997Y20. For	Other	4%	3%	2%	13%
whom did you vote for President in 2020?	I did not vote in the 2020 presidential election	16%	10%	11%	27%
	Unsure / Refuse	4%	2%	2%	7%
	Total	1346	598	496	149



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		All Respondents	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
TM1742Y19 /	Hillary Clinton (Democrat)	32%	64%	6%	19%
	Donald Trump (Republican)	32%	6%	71%	20%
AB7_2016. For whom	Other	6%	4%	5%	16%
did you vote for President in 2016?	I did not vote in the 2016 presidential election	26%	24%	17%	41%
	Unsure / Refuse	4%	2%	2%	4%
	Total	1346	598	496	149





#### **About the Study**

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between November 13-17, 2020 on behalf of Thomson Reuters. For this survey, a sample of 1,346 Americans age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 598 Democrats, 496 Republicans and 149 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  $\pm$  3.0 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  $\pm$  4.6 percentage points for Democrats,  $\pm$  5.0 percentage points for Republicans, and  $\pm$  9.2 percentage points for independents.

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