

# Welcome to our webinar!

**Today's presenter:** Helping you to understand the complex factors of American life that will impact the 2020 presidential election



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Chris Jackson is a Senior Vice President and lead for the Ipsos Public Polling practice in the United States. His research specialties include public opinion trends, election polling, strategic communications research and reputation research. He works with a wide variety of public and private sector clients including our media partners including Thomson Reuters, USA Today, and ABC News, and he is a spokesperson for Ipsos Public Affairs in the US.

Chris is an expert on American electoral and public polling with a deep background in the American political system. Beyond politics, Chris has worked across a wide range of research subjects – including technology, healthcare, policy, energy and consumer issues – and mastered a wide range of research techniques– including multiple survey methodologies, focus group moderating, in-depth interviewing, etc.

Chris has been a commentator in major news outlets in the United States and abroad, including USA Today, Reuters, BuzzFeed, BBC, Sky News, and CBS, as well as original commentary from Ipsos.

Chris earned his BA from the University of Southern Mississippi and did his graduate work at the University of Georgia (MA) where he specialized in American elections.

# ELECTION 2020 INSIDE TRACK

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# AGENDA

1. CONTEXT
2. PERCEPTIONS OF DONALD TRUMP
3. GENERAL ELECTION
4. ELECTION FORECASTING
5. QUESTIONS

# CONTEXT

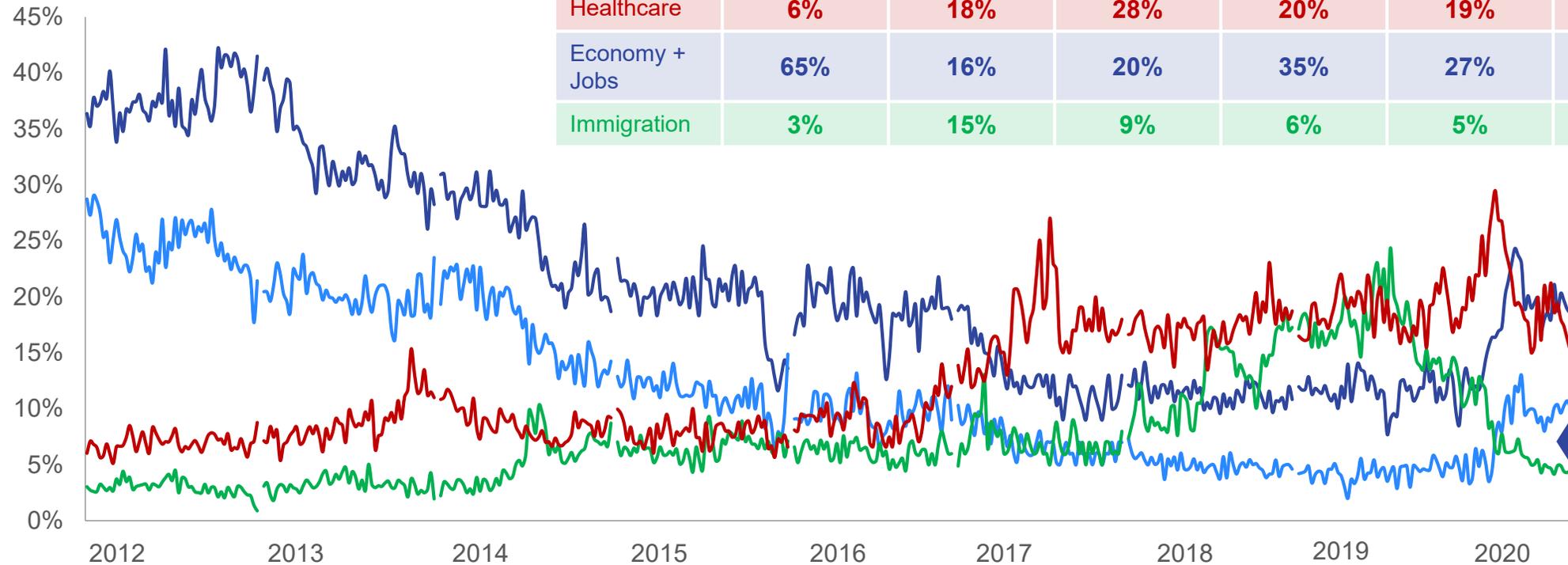
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# Most Important Problem Facing America

In your opinion, what is the most important problem facing the U.S. today?

■ Healthcare
 ■ Economy generally
 ■ Immigration
 ■ Unemployment/jobs

	January 2012	December 2019	March 2020	May 2020	July 2020	August 2020	September 2020
Healthcare	6%	18%	28%	20%	19%	19%	19%
Economy + Jobs	65%	16%	20%	35%	27%	26%	26%
Immigration	3%	15%	9%	6%	5%	4%	4%

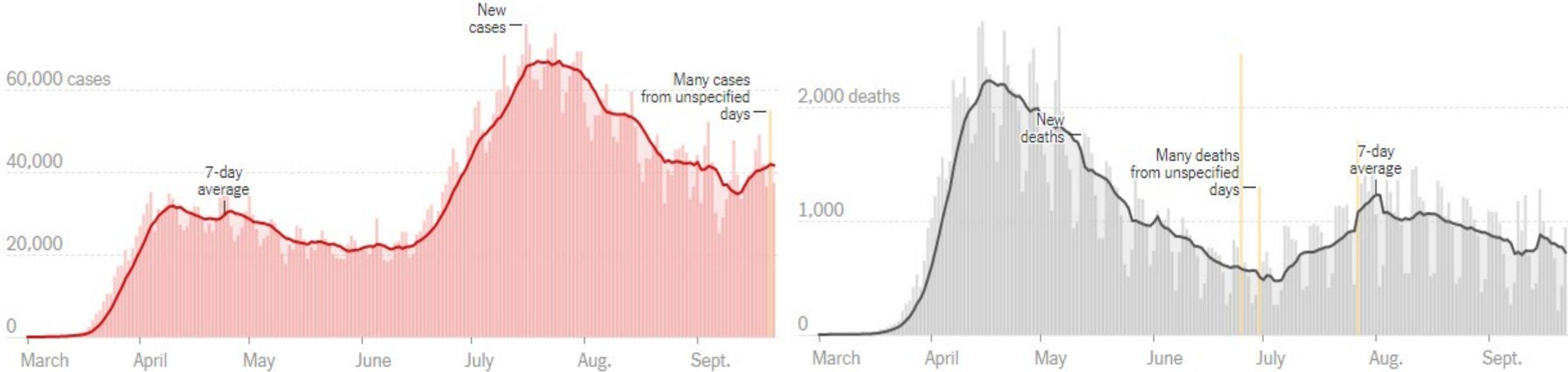


16% volunteer coronavirus, racism, or the current administration as major issues

Reuters/Ipsos Data

# Coronavirus continues to spread at a high rate in the U.S.

+6.9 million confirmed cases, +200,000 deaths



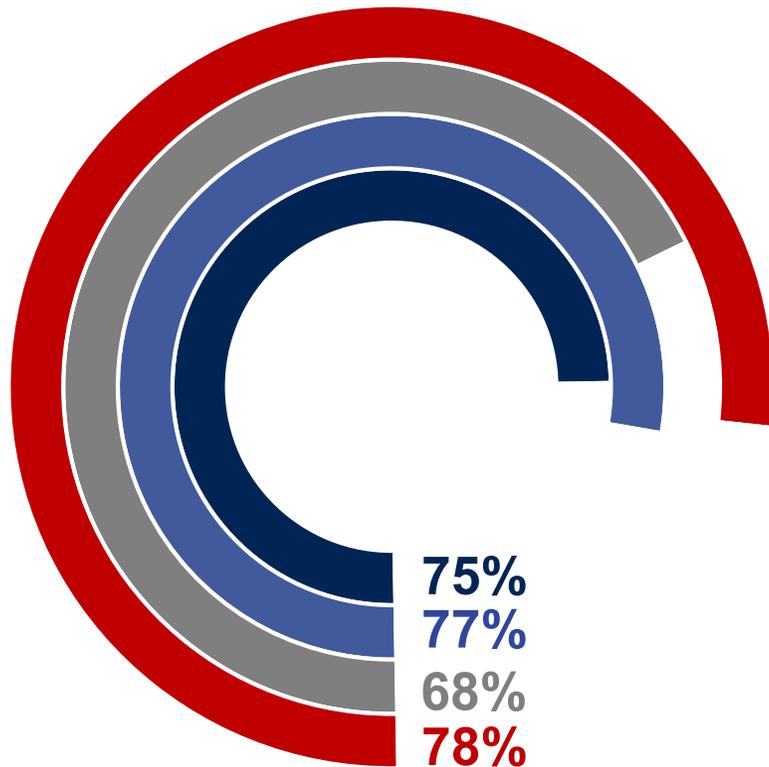
Source: New York Times



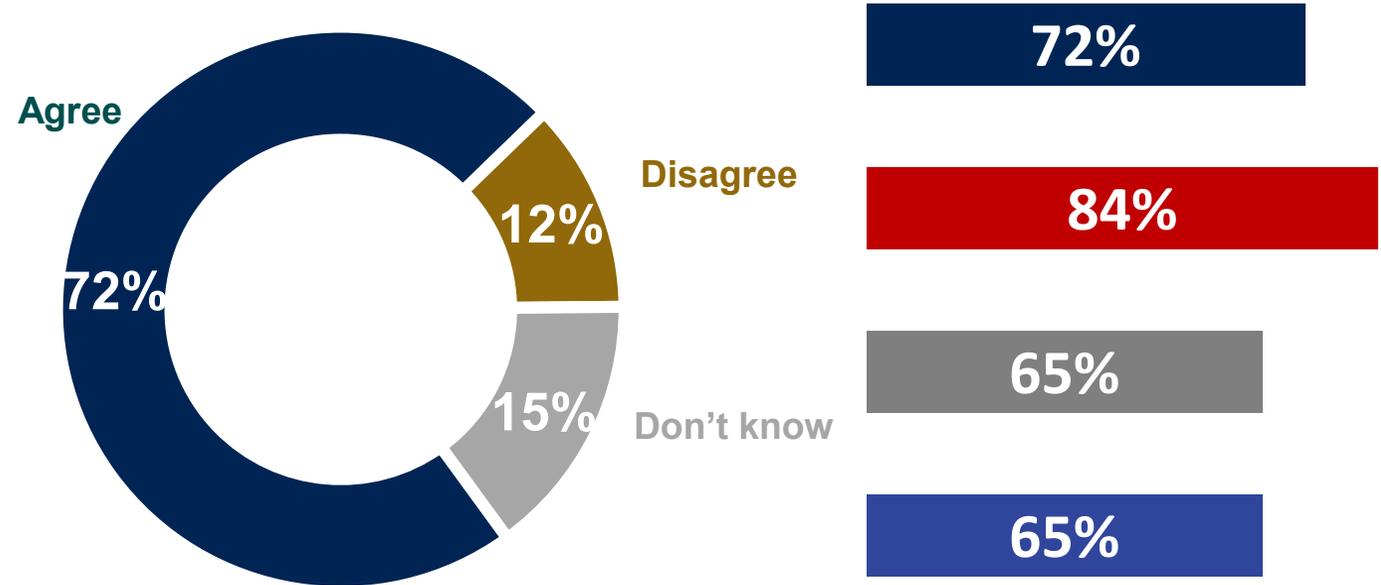
# Battle for the soul of the nation

■ All Americans ■ Republicans ■ Independents ■ Democrats

% Agree “We are in a battle for the soul of the nation”



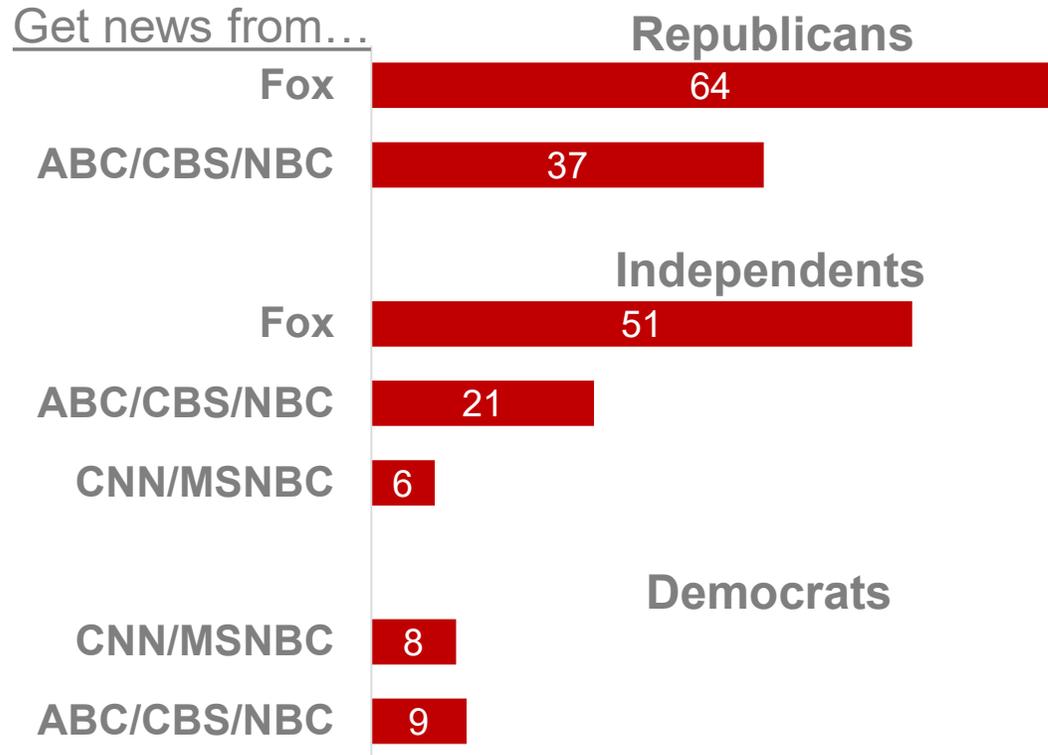
“There is chaos and destruction going on in America’s inner cities”



# Alternate Realities

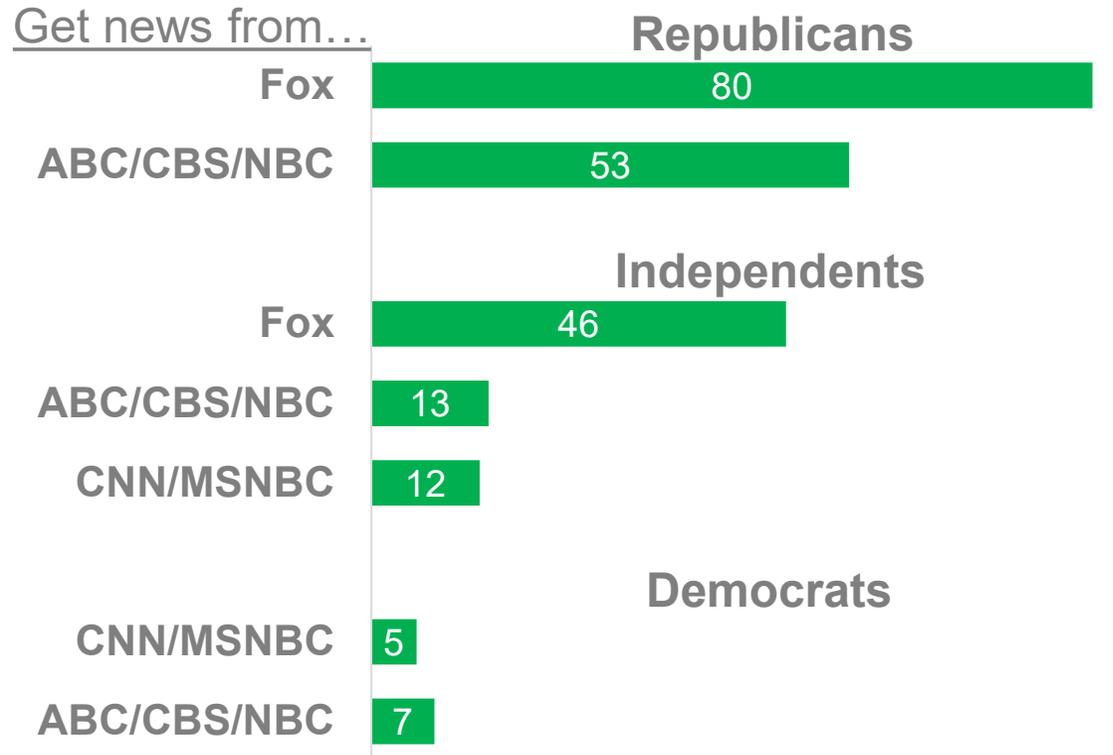
Is the official COVID-19 death toll...

■ Exaggerated



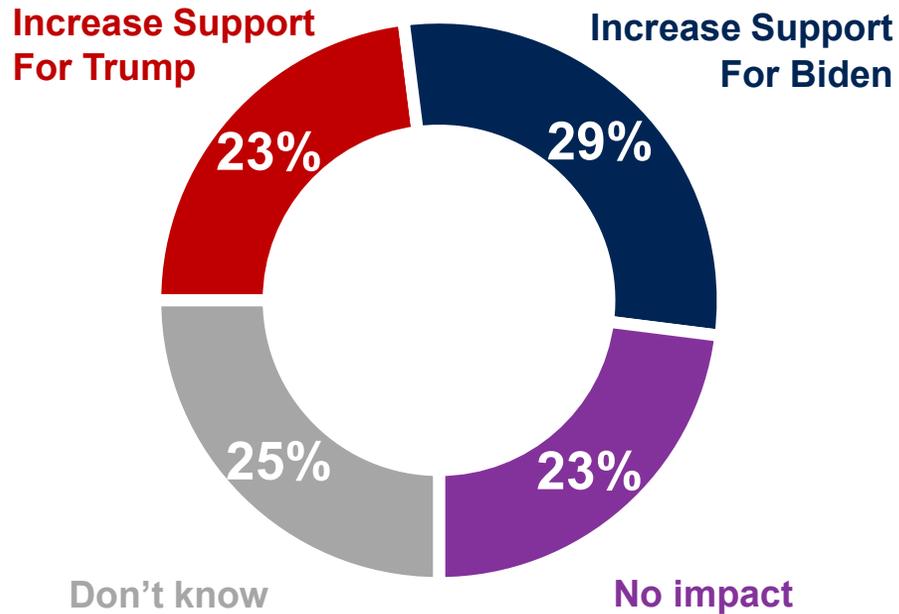
Do you approve of Trump's handling of COVID

■ Total approve



# Republicans more likely to believe Donald Trump should nominate RBG Replacement before election

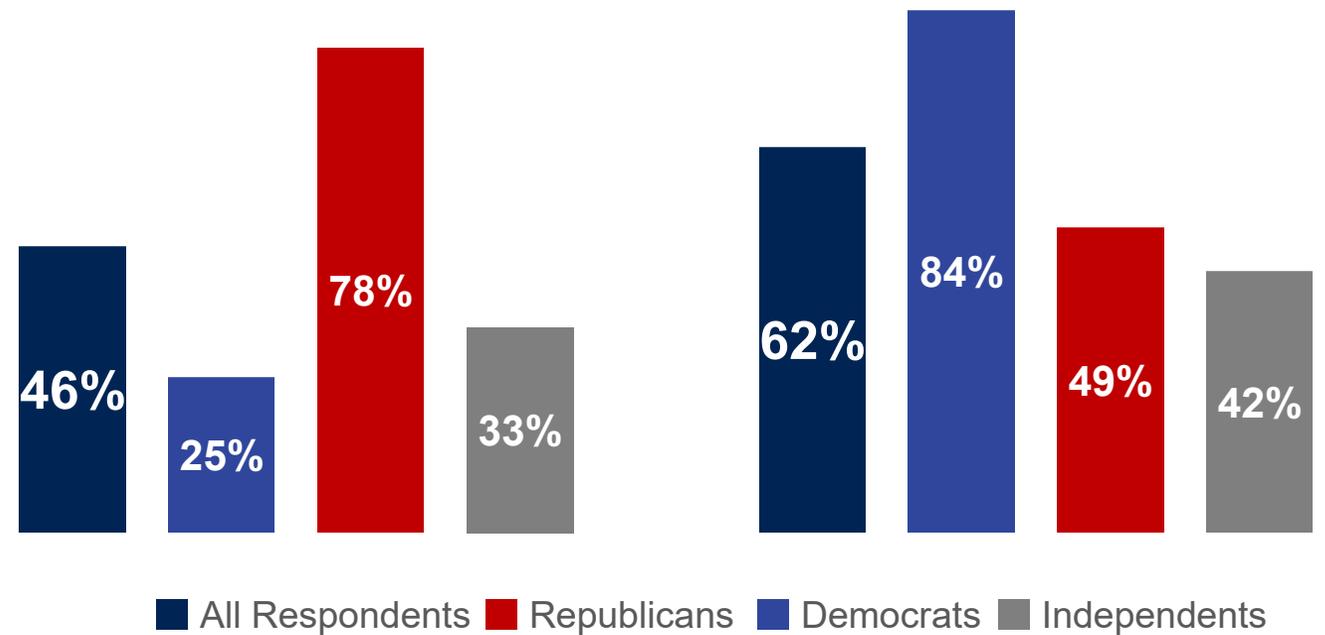
How do you expect the death of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg to impact the presidential election?



## Percent Agree With the Following Statements

President Donald Trump should nominate a replacement for Ruth Bader Ginsburg before his term ends :

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



Reuters/Ipsos Data.



# Perceptions of Donald Trump

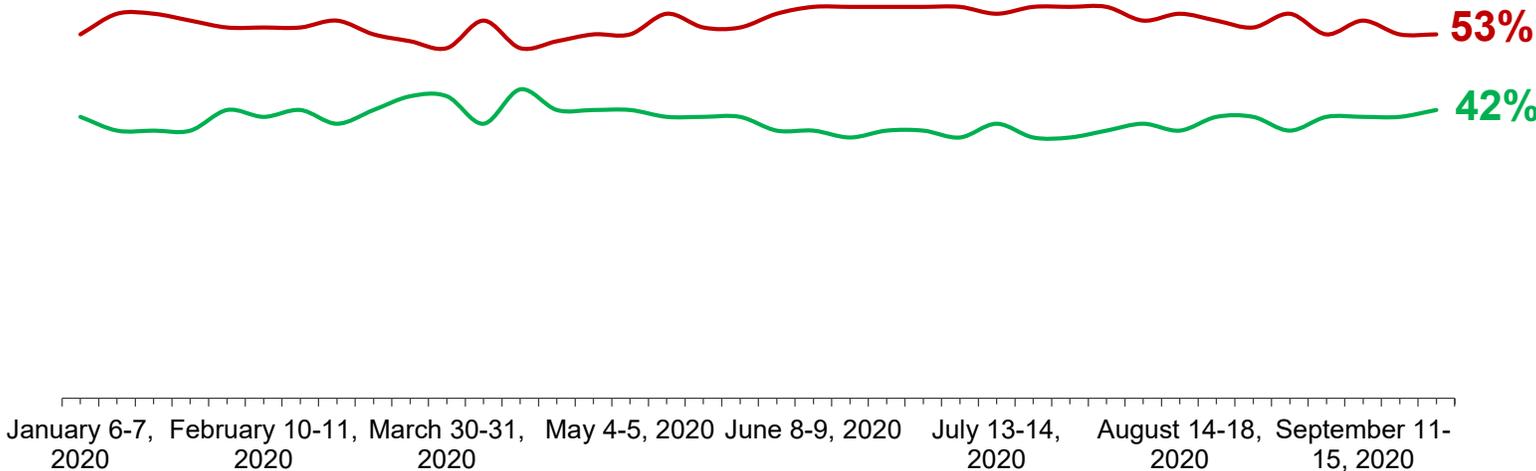
# 2

# President Trump's approval rating in 2020



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

- Total Approval
- Total Disapproval



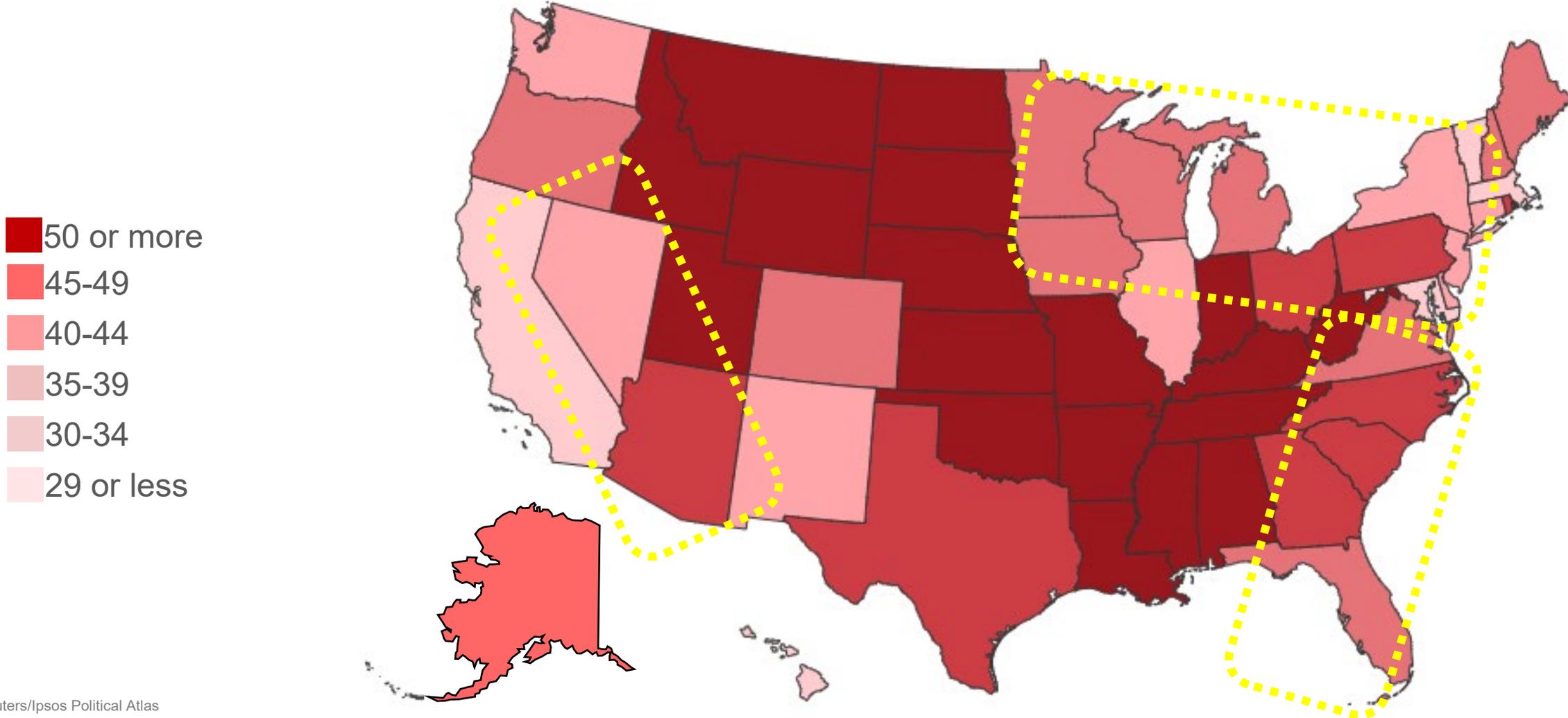
## Presidential approval going into second election

Year	President	Approval Rating
2012	Barack Obama	52%
2004	George W. Bush	50%
1996	Bill Clinton	58%
1992	George H.W. Bush	33%
1984	Ronald Reagan	54%
1980	Jimmy Carter	35%

Reuters/Ipsos Data  
Source: Gallup Presidential Job Approval Center



# President Trump's approval rating by state



Reuters/Ipsos Political Atlas

# President Trump's approval rating on key issues



Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the following issues?...

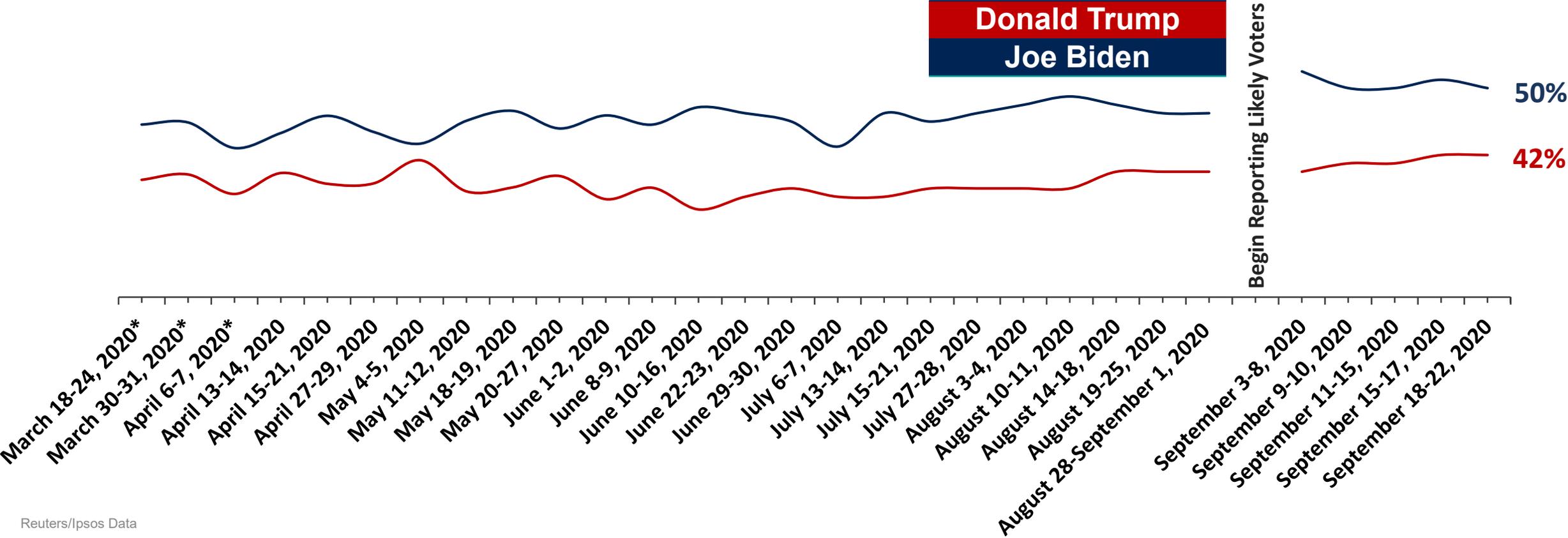
	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Lean towards approve	Lean towards disapprove	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove	Don't know	TOTAL APPROVE	TOTAL DISAPPROVE
<b>The U.S. economy</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>45%</b>
<b>Employment/jobs</b>	<b>28%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>44%</b>
<b>Coronavirus</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>56%</b>

# General Election

# 3

# Presidential Ballot Trend – Likely Voters

If the 2020 presidential election were held today, would you vote for Donald Trump or Joe Biden? *Order of candidates is randomly rotated in question text*

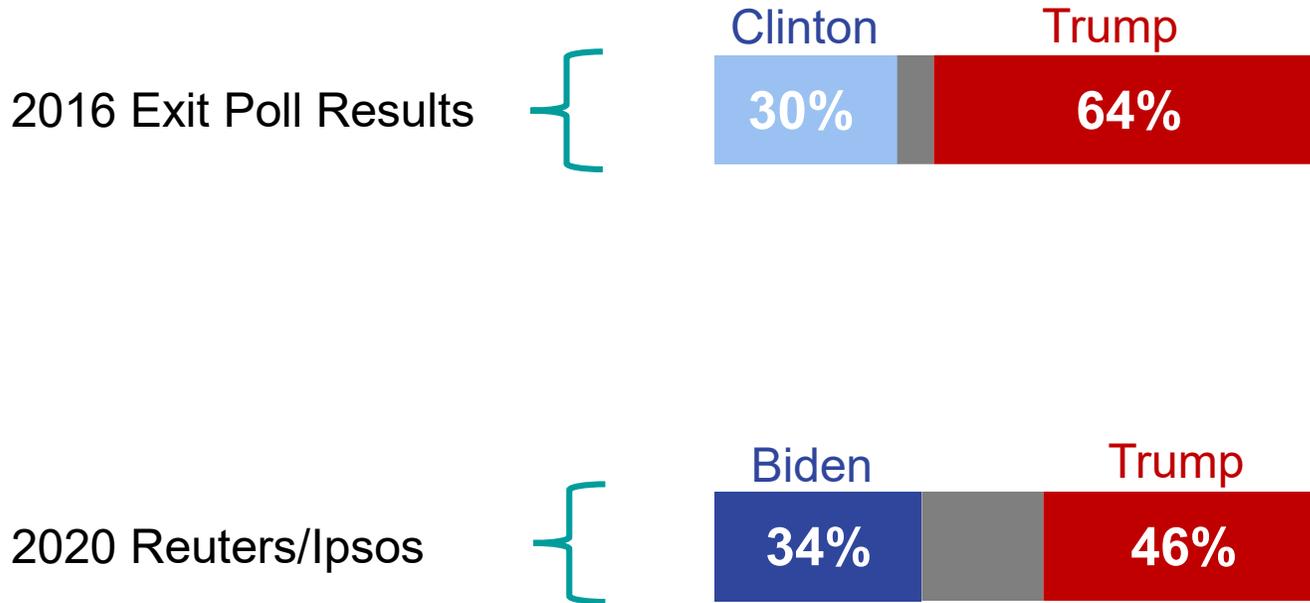


Reuters/Ipsos Data

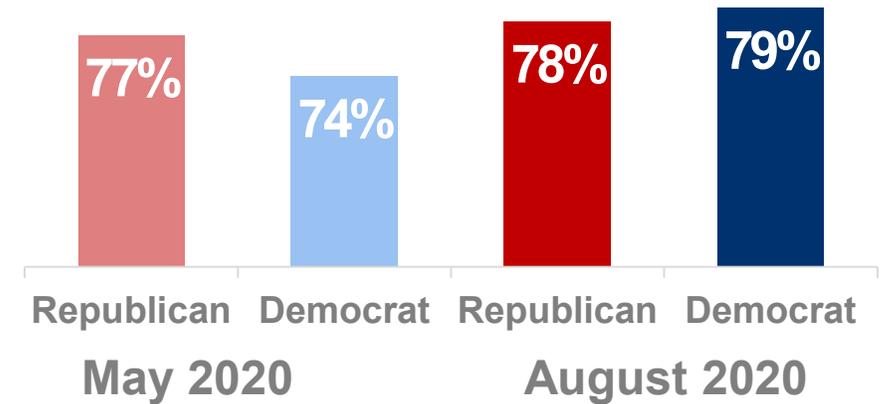


# Trump less dominant with white voters than 2016

## Support among non-college educated white voters



## Stated Intent to Vote Climbing Among Democrats



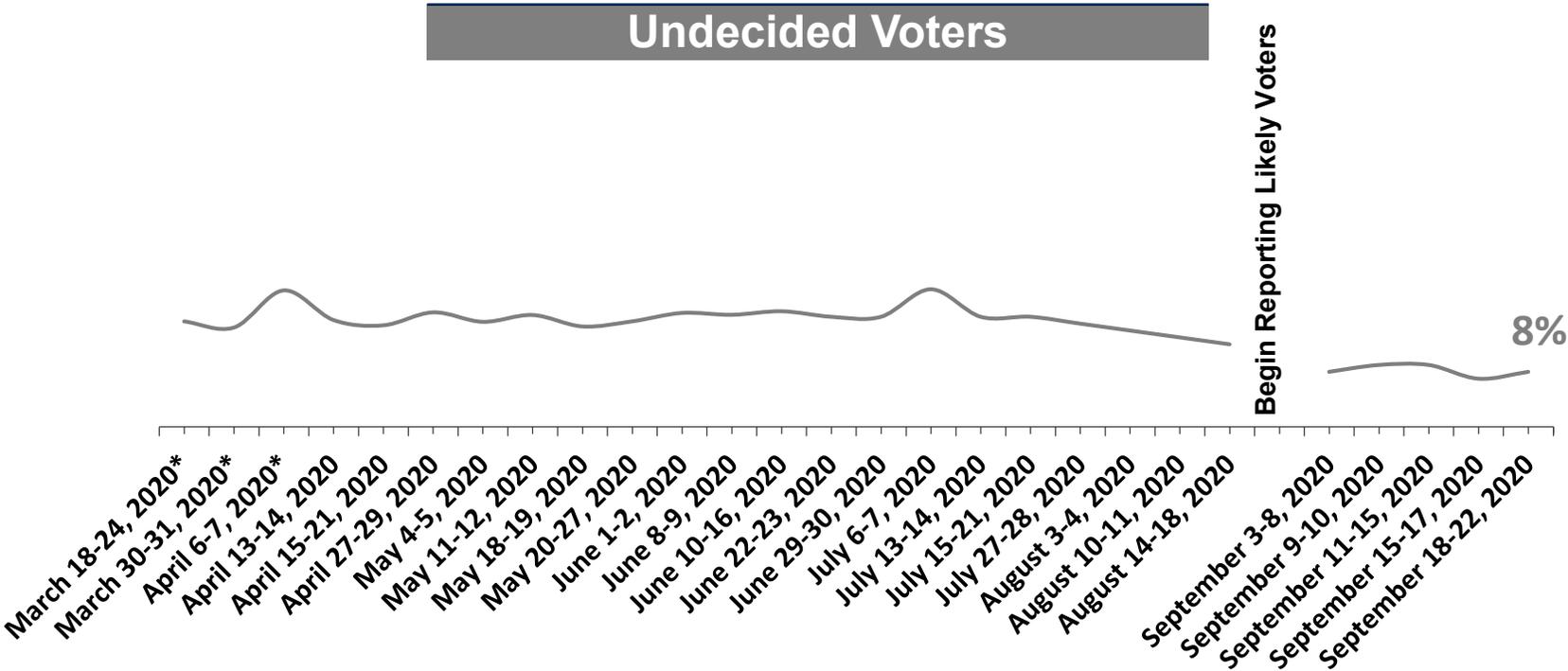
Source: Ipsos analysis

© Ipsos



# Undecided voters trend – likely voters

If the 2020 presidential election were held today, would you vote for Donald Trump or Joe Biden? *Order of candidates is randomly rotated in question text*



Year	With 100 days to go	On Election day
2016	18.5%	12.5%
2012	7.6%	4.3%
2008	13.1%	3.6%
2004	6.4%	3.4%
2000	17.8%	8.9%

Reuters/Ipsos, FiveThirtyEight

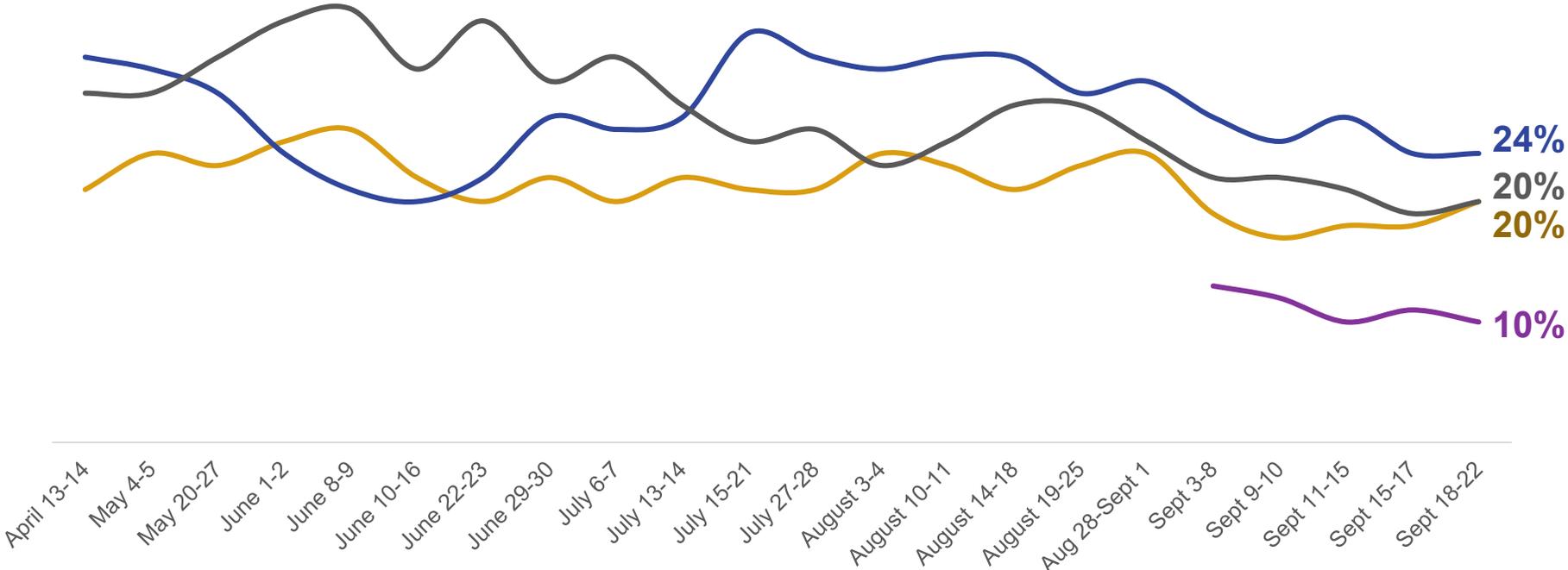
\*"If the 2020 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were as below, for whom would you vote?" Question text from March 18-April 7, 2020



# Coronavirus is the key issue this election

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?

- Has a robust plan to help the nation recover from the impact of the coronavirus
- Ability to restore trust in American government
- Strong on the economy and job creation
- Tough on crime and unrest



## Current leader on issue

**Biden +5**

**Biden +8**

**Trump +9**

**Trump +7**

# Election Forecasting

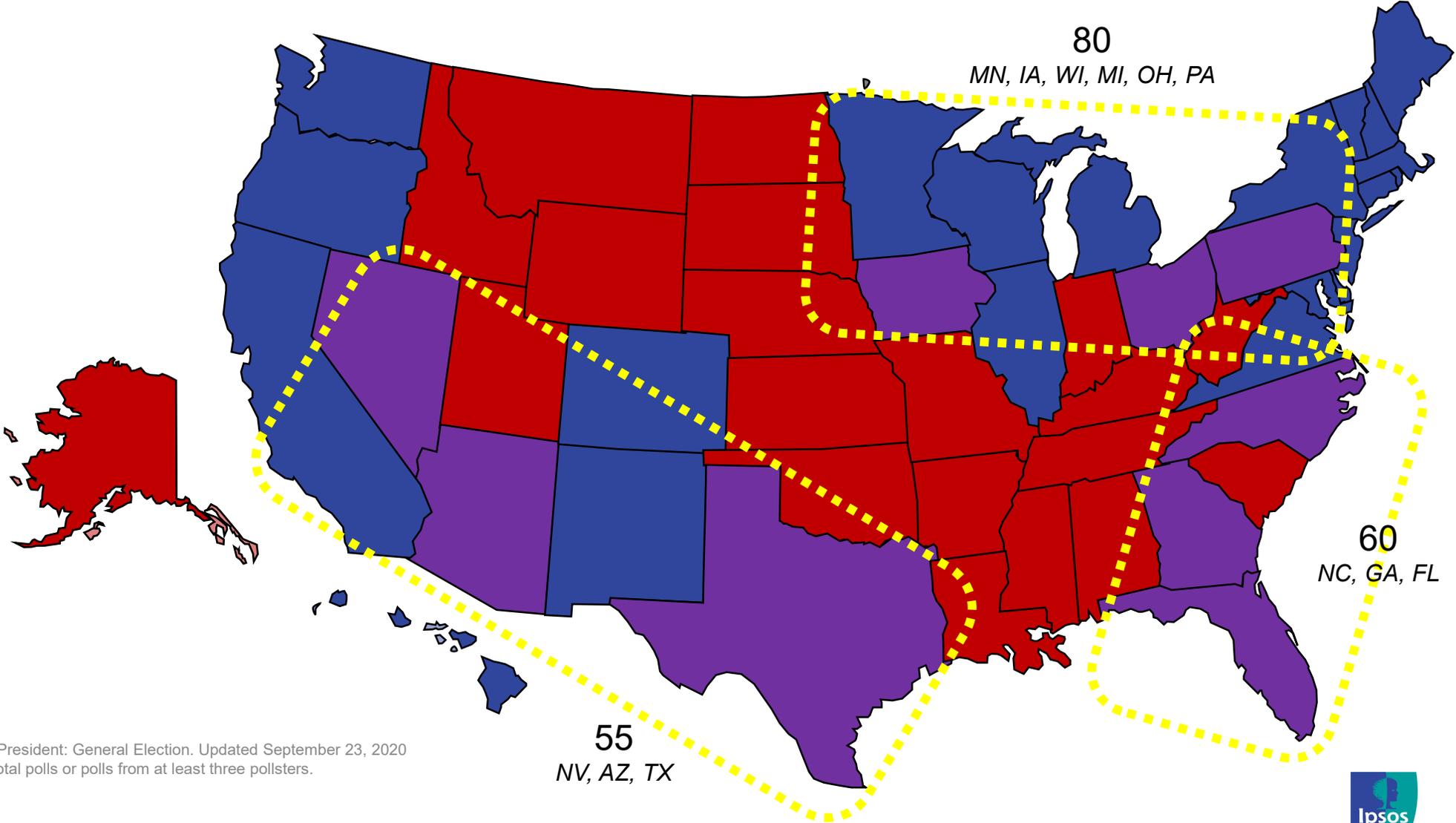
# 4

# Polling market averages show Biden advantage in Rust Belt, number of toss-up states remain

 Biden leads

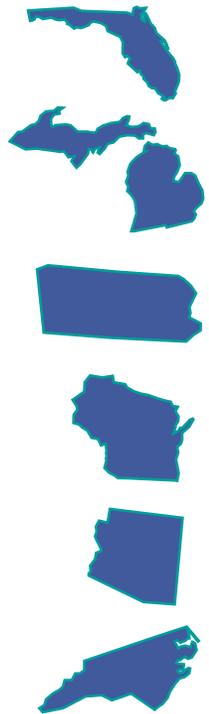
 Toss-up

 Trump leads



FiveThirtyEight 2020 National Polling Average, President: General Election. Updated September 23, 2020  
Average only reported if state has at least five total polls or polls from at least three pollsters.

# Ipsos polls show tight races, with Biden having slight edge in Wisconsin and Michigan



State	Vote share (Reuters/Ipsos)	State Trump Approval (Among All Respondents)	Base Rate Model Probabilities
Florida	Even	48%	<b>Trump 86%</b>
Michigan	Biden +5	42%	<b>Trump 55%</b>
Pennsylvania	Biden +3	44%	<b>Trump 74%</b>
Wisconsin	Biden +5	43%	<b>Trump 70%</b>
Arizona	Biden +1	43%	<b>Trump 70%</b>
North Carolina	Even	44%	<b>Trump 74%</b>

Ipsos Projection of State Polling data

# Election Forecast: Mixed Signals

Source	Finding	Advantage
Base rate model - national	Trump approval between 40-45%	Trump
Base rate model - state	Trump 3-5 points stronger in key states	Trump
Main problem heuristic	Biden preferred on COVID and restoring trust	Biden
Election poll – national	Biden has sizable lead in national polls	Biden
Election poll - state	Biden leads in states sufficient to reach 270	Biden
Academic/econometric	Mixed ranging from Trump to Biden	Mixed
<b><u>AVERAGE OF SOURCE PROJECTIONS</u></b>		
Summary judgement	Mixed signals, Biden slight favorite	Slightly Biden

Source: Ipsos analysis



# Potential outcomes for 2020



One in Five

Two in Five

Two in Five

**Blue Wave**  
*(Democrats hold House, take Senate and White House)*

**Narrow Biden Win**  
*(Democrats hold House, take White House, Republicans hold Senate)*

**Narrow Trump Win**  
*(Democrats hold House, Republicans hold Senate & White House)*

**Emboldened progressive control of government**

- Focus on getting coronavirus and economy under control
- Potential for major federal spending
- Proactive regulatory state
- Opportunities for “good” private sector actors to set agendas

**Status quo ante**

- Halting efforts to manage pandemic & revive economy
- Reconstituted regulatory apparatus and legislative gridlock
- Relative freedom of maneuver for private sector within existing context

**Continued governmental and social disorder**

- Personality-driven global policy setting
- Pandemic and economic fallout continue
- Ongoing political and social risk for private sector
- Deregulatory efforts prioritize industry agenda

Source: Ipsos analysis

# Ipsos Resources

Axios-Ipsos Coronavirus Index

Reuters/Ipsos Public Opinion Partnership

IpsosGlobalIndicators.com

*The Point Being* – an Ipsos Podcast overview of public opinion trends

*Cliff's Take* – Weekly Ipsos Thought Leadership

All our public polling: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-and-polls/news>

Ipsos Coronavirus Central: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/knowledge/society/covid19-research-in-uncertain-times>

# THANK YOU!

## Questions?

# About Ipsos

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“Game Changers” – our tagline – summarises our ambition to help our 5,000 clients to navigate more easily our deeply changing world.

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# Game Changers

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At Ipsos we believe our clients need more than a data supplier, they need a partner who can produce accurate and relevant information and turn it into actionable truth.

This is why our passionately curious experts not only provide the most precise measurement, but shape it to provide True Understanding of Society, Markets and People.

To do this we use the best of science, technology and know-how and apply the principles of security, simplicity, speed and substance to everything we do.

So that our clients can act faster, smarter and bolder. Ultimately, success comes down to a simple truth:  
**You act better when you are sure.**