



## PUBLIC POLL FINDINGS AND METHODOLOGY

### Concerns about COVID-19, election interference loom as November nears

Latest Newsy/Ipsos poll finds that Americans see widespread effects of COVID-19 on all facets of life, from elections, to child care

#### Topline Findings

**Washington, DC, July 30, 2020** – As the U.S. elections near, a new Newsy/Ipsos poll shows that a majority of Americans are concerned about the impact of COVID-19, foreign interference, and other factors that could impact the outcome. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic tops the list of most important political issues, with slightly more Americans citing this as a top issue compared to last month. Regarding a return to school, most parents of a school-aged child would be uncomfortable with their child or children returning to in-person school this fall. However, the poll reveals a massive perceived gender gap in responsibility for childcare if school is at least partially online, with moms more likely than dads to say they would be handling most childcare.

#### Detailed Findings

1. More than half of Americans are concerned about the impact of COVID-19, fraud, interference and suppression on the upcoming 2020 elections. Slightly more Americans continue to think that Democrat Joe Biden will be elected in the upcoming presidential election this November.
  - Around three-quarters of Americans are concerned about the impact of COVID-19 (79%) and fake news (71%) on the upcoming 2020 elections. Sixty-three percent are concerned about foreign interference, and more than half express concern about voting issues including vote suppression (63%), voter fraud (58%), and mail-in ballot fraud (54%).
  - While Republicans are most likely to be concerned about fake news, Democrats are most likely to be concerned with COVID-19 and vote suppression.
  - More Americans think that Democrat Joe Biden will likely win in November (41%) rather than President Trump (37%). This is in line with findings last month (Biden 42%, Trump 38%).
  - More Republicans (45%) support rather than oppose (35%) President Trump staying in office if he were to lose the election. Just 23% of Americans overall support this.
2. More Americans this month believe that the COVID-19 pandemic is one of the most important political issues right now.
  - Half of Americans (51%) believe that one of the three most important political issues is the COVID-19 pandemic. This is up from 45% saying the same late last month.
  - The pandemic is followed by the economy and jobs (33%) and health care (32%), which remain statistically unchanged from last month.
  - Right now, one in four Americans (24%) cite racial inequality as one of their most important issues, down from 31% last month. This is still dramatically higher than the 7% who said the same in December of 2019. This month, it remains a top issue for 53% of Black Americans and 43% of Gen Zers.





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3. More Americans currently working from home would prefer to continue to do so once it is safe. Similarly, most parents of school-aged children would be uncomfortable with sending them to in-person classes in the fall.
  - While 47% of Americans currently working from home would prefer to continue doing so, 41% would prefer to return to the office once it is safe. Those with a child under 18 years old in their household are more likely to prefer returning to the office (48%) than those without children at home (36%).
  - The plurality of parents with a child attending elementary, middle or high school in the fall are uncomfortable with the idea of the child or children returning to full time, in-person schooling. This is particularly concerning for Democrats (76%), those who are unemployed (70%), and non-white Americans (71%).
  
4. With many parents waiting to see if school will be at least partially online, a massive perceived gender gap exists regarding responsibility for childcare.
  - Overall, 43% of parents say they will personally handle most of the child care if schools are at least partially online or virtual this fall. This is followed by another quarter who say their partner or spouse will take on this role. Less than one in ten will rely on grandparents (3%), an ex-partner (2%), or another family member (8%). Just 7% say their child will be back in school full time, and very few parents will hire a private teacher or tutor (3%).
  - Females (62%) are twice as likely as males (26%) to say they will mostly handle child care themselves.
  - Males (39%) are nearly four times as likely as females (10%) to say their partner or spouse will mostly handle this and two times as likely as females to say another family member will do so (11% of males vs. 5% of females).

*These are the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between July 24-29, 2020 on behalf of Newsy. For this survey, a sample of 2,015 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. Below is a list of current political issues. Which, if any, do you believe to be the most important? You may select up to three.

	July 24-29, 2020 (N=2,015)	June 25-29, 2020 (N=2,008)	Dec 16-17, 2019 (N=1,005)
The COVID-19 pandemic	51%	45%	-
The economy and jobs	33%	34%	15%
Healthcare	32%	31%	27%
Racial inequality	24%	31%	7%
Climate change	16%	17%	19%
Education	16%	16%	13%
Immigration	15%	15%	22%
National security	14%	15%	15%
Gun violence	13%	13%	21%
Divisiveness in politics	13%	11%	10%
Election security	10%	8%	6%
Abortion	8%	8%	8%
Income inequality	7%	9%	8%
Voting rights	7%	7%	3%
Infrastructure	5%	5%	5%
Other	3%	3%	5%
None of these	2%	2%	2%
Don't know	2%	2%	4%

2. Are you currently employed and working from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

	July 24-29, 2020
Yes	36%
No	64%

3. **[Asked if Q2=Yes]** Once it is safe to do so, do you prefer to return to your office or would you prefer to continue to work from home?

	July 24-29, 2020 (N=667)
Strongly prefer working at office	22%
Somewhat prefer working at office	19%
Somewhat prefer working from home	19%
Strongly prefer working from home	28%
No preference	10%
Don't know	2%
<i>Prefer working at office (Net)</i>	<i>41%</i>
<i>Prefer working from home (Net)</i>	<i>47%</i>



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4. Are you the parent of a child who will be attending elementary, middle, or high school in the fall?

	July 24-29, 2020
Yes	25%
No	75%

5. **[Asked if Q4=Yes]** How would you feel about your child(ren) returning to full time, in-person schooling this fall?

	July 24-29, 2020 (N=496)
Very comfortable	22%
Somewhat comfortable	18%
Somewhat uncomfortable	24%
Very uncomfortable	34%
Don't know	2%
<i>Comfortable (Net)</i>	40%
<i>Uncomfortable (Net)</i>	58%

6. **[Asked if Q4=Yes]** If your child(ren)'s school is at least partially online or virtual this fall, who will handle most of the child care?

	July 24-29, 2020 (N=496)
Me	43%
My partner/spouse	25%
Other family members	8%
Grandparents	3%
We've hired a private teacher/tutor	3%
My ex-partner/ex-spouse	2%
A nanny/babysitter	2%
Other	3%
My child will be back in school full-time	7%
Don't know	4%

7. Once a COVID-19 vaccine has been developed, if it were approved for use by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), how interested would you be in getting the vaccine?

	July 24-29, 2020
Very interested	42%
Somewhat interested	27%
Not very interested	10%
Not at all interested	15%
Don't know	7%
<i>Interested (Net)</i>	69%
<i>Not interested (Net)</i>	24%

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8. **[Asked if child in household under 18 years old]** Once a COVID-19 vaccine has been developed, if it were approved for use by the Federal Drug Administration (FDA), how interested would you be in getting your child(ren) vaccinated?

	<b>July 24-29, 2020 (N=539)</b>
Very interested	41%
Somewhat interested	27%
Not very interested	8%
Not at all interested	15%
Don't know	9%
<i>Interested (Net)</i>	<b>68%</b>
<i>Not interested (Net)</i>	<b>23%</b>

9. Now, for something different. Which of the following do you think is the most likely outcome of the 2020 election?

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>	<b>June 25-29, 2020</b>
Democrat Joe Biden will be elected	41%	42%
President Trump will be re-elected	37%	38%
A third-party or independent candidate will be elected	3%	4%
Don't know	19%	16%

10. How concerned are you, if at all, about the impact of the following on the upcoming 2020 elections?

### Total Concerned Summary

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>	<b>Feb 21-25, 2020 (N=2,010)</b>	<b>Dec 16-17, 2019 (N=1,005)</b>
COVID-19	79%	-	-
Fake news	71%	69%	67%
Foreign interference	63%	60%	56%
Vote suppression	63%	59%	54%
Voter fraud	58%	65%	55%
Mail-in ballot fraud	54%	-	-

### a. Fake news

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>	<b>Feb 21-25, 2020</b>	<b>Dec 16-17, 2019</b>
Very concerned	43%	43%	39%
Somewhat concerned	28%	26%	28%
Somewhat not concerned	13%	12%	17%
Not concerned at all	12%	14%	11%
Don't know	4%	6%	6%
<i>Concerned (Net)</i>	<b>71%</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>67%</b>
<i>Not concerned (Net)</i>	<b>25%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>28%</b>



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### b. Foreign interference

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>	<b>Feb 21-25, 2020</b>	<b>Dec 16-17, 2019</b>
Very concerned	29%	33%	22%
Somewhat concerned	34%	27%	34%
Somewhat not concerned	17%	17%	25%
Not concerned at all	14%	16%	13%
Don't know	6%	7%	7%
<b>Concerned (Net)</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Not concerned (Net)</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>38%</b>

### c. Voter fraud

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>	<b>Feb 21-25, 2020</b>	<b>Dec 16-17, 2019</b>
Very concerned	31%	36%	26%
Somewhat concerned	27%	29%	30%
Somewhat not concerned	19%	15%	24%
Not concerned at all	19%	15%	14%
Don't know	4%	6%	7%
<b>Concerned (Net)</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Not concerned (Net)</b>	<b>38%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>38%</b>

### d. Vote suppression

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>	<b>Feb 21-25, 2020</b>	<b>Dec 16-17, 2019</b>
Very concerned	35%	33%	28%
Somewhat concerned	28%	26%	27%
Somewhat not concerned	17%	16%	22%
Not concerned at all	13%	15%	15%
Don't know	7%	10%	8%
<b>Concerned (Net)</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>54%</b>
<b>Not concerned (Net)</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>38%</b>

### e. COVID-19

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>
Very concerned	46%
Somewhat concerned	34%
Somewhat not concerned	9%
Not concerned at all	9%
Don't know	3%
<b>Concerned (Net)</b>	<b>79%</b>
<b>Not concerned (Net)</b>	<b>18%</b>





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### f. Mail-in ballot fraud

	July 24-29, 2020
Very concerned	30%
Somewhat concerned	24%
Somewhat not concerned	18%
Not concerned at all	24%
Don't know	4%
<i>Concerned (Net)</i>	<i>54%</i>
<i>Not concerned (Net)</i>	<i>42%</i>

11. 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?

	July 24-29, 2020
Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	9%
Somewhat oppose	9%
Strongly oppose	54%
Don't know	15%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>23%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>62%</i>

12. How much do you support or oppose each of the following?

#### Total Support Summary

	July 24-29, 2020
Proposals to move some money currently going to police budgets into better officer training, local programs for homelessness, mental health assistance, and domestic violence	61%
Community oversight in policing, including a police commission of civilians who oversee things like the police chief, police training, and civilian complaints	55%
Eliminating police unions	31%
The 'defund the police' movement	28%
Abolishing prisons and the prison system	16%
Abolishing police departments	14%



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a. The ‘defund the police’ movement

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>
Strongly support	11%
Somewhat support	17%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	46%
Never heard of it	3%
Don't know	8%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>28%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>61%</i>

b. Proposals to move some money currently going to police budgets into better officer training, local programs for homelessness, mental health assistance, and domestic violence

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>
Strongly support	33%
Somewhat support	28%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	16%
Never heard of it	3%
Don't know	7%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>61%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>30%</i>

c. Community oversight in policing, including a police commission of civilians who oversee things like the police chief, police training, and civilian complaints

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>
Strongly support	24%
Somewhat support	31%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	15%
Never heard of it	5%
Don't know	10%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>55%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>29%</i>

d. Eliminating police unions

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>
Strongly support	12%
Somewhat support	19%
Somewhat oppose	20%
Strongly oppose	29%
Never heard of it	4%
Don't know	15%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>31%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>49%</i>







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### e. Abolishing police departments

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>
Strongly support	5%
Somewhat support	9%
Somewhat oppose	14%
Strongly oppose	63%
Never heard of it	3%
Don't know	6%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>14%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>77%</i>

### f. Abolishing prisons and the prison system

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>
Strongly support	6%
Somewhat support	10%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	58%
Never heard of it	5%
Don't know	6%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>16%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>73%</i>

### 13. Do you support or oppose President Trump sending federal law enforcement officers from U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and other agencies to major cities across the country to control protests?

	<b>July 24-29, 2020</b>
Strongly support	27%
Somewhat support	17%
Somewhat oppose	11%
Strongly oppose	35%
Never heard of it	3%
Don't know	7%
<i>Support (Net)</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Oppose (Net)</i>	<i>46%</i>





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### About the Study

These are some of the findings of an Ipsos poll conducted between July 24-29, 2020, on behalf of Newsy. For this survey, a sample of 2,015 adults age 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska, and Hawaii was interviewed online in English. This poll is trended against Newsy/Ipsos polls conducted between June 25-29, 2020, with a sample of 2,008 U.S. adults, February 21-25, 2020, with a sample of 2,010 U.S. adults, and December 16-17, 2019, with a sample of 1,005 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 2016 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 ( $n=2,015$ ,  $DEFF=1.5$ , adjusted Confidence Interval= $\pm 4.0$  percentage points).

The poll fielded from December 16-17, 2019, has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points, and the polls fielded from February 21-25, 2020, and June 25-29, 2020, have a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

### For more information on this news release, please contact:

Mallory Newall  
Director, US  
Public Affairs  
+1 202 420-2014  
[mallory.newall@ipsos.com](mailto:mallory.newall@ipsos.com)

Kate Silverstein  
Media Relations Specialist, US  
Public Affairs  
+1 718 755-8829  
[kate.silverstein@ipsos.com](mailto:kate.silverstein@ipsos.com)





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