

**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 76 PATHWAYS  
October 6 - 12, 2020**

**ASK ALL:**

CAMPNII How closely have you been following news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election?

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Fairly closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not at all closely

How closely have you been following news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election?

☐ Very closely  
☐ Fairly closely  
☐ Not too closely  
☐ Not at all closely

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**ASK IF FOLLOWING ELECTION AT LEAST NOT TOO CLOSELY (CAMPNII = 1-3):**

CAMPNIIIFREQ And about how often do you get news about the candidates for the 2020 presidential election?

- 1 Almost all the time
- 2 Several times a day
- 3 About once a day
- 4 Several times a week
- 5 Less often

And about how often do you get news about the candidates for the 2020 presidential election?

☐ Almost all the time  
☐ Several times a day  
☐ About once a day  
☐ Several times a week  
☐ Less often

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**ASK ALL:**

PRESRESULTFOL How closely, if at all, do you plan on following the results of the presidential election after polls close on Election Day?

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Fairly closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not at all closely

How closely, if at all, do you plan on following the results of the presidential election after polls close on Election Day?

- ☐ Very closely
- ☐ Fairly closely
- ☐ Not too closely
- ☐ Not at all closely

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**ASK IF FOLLOWING RETURNS ON ELECTION NIGHT (PRESRESULTFOL=1-3):**

PRESRESULTPLAT Do you plan to use any of these ways of getting news to follow the results of the presidential election after polls close on Election Day? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- a. National network TV news, such as ABC, CBS, NBC, or PBS
- b. Cable TV news, such as CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC
- c. Social media
- d. News website or app
- e. A presidential candidate or their campaign

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:**

- 1 Yes, plan to use
- 2 No, do not plan to use

Do you plan to use any of these ways of getting news to follow the results of the presidential election after polls close on Election Day?

News website or app

- ☐ Yes, plan to use
- ☐ No, do not plan to use

Cable TV news, such as CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC

- ☐ Yes, plan to use
- ☐ No, do not plan to use

A presidential candidate or their campaign

- ☐ Yes, plan to use
- ☐ No, do not plan to use

Social media

- ☐ Yes, plan to use
- ☐ No, do not plan to use

National network TV news, such as ABC, CBS, NBC, or PBS

- ☐ Yes, plan to use
- ☐ No, do not plan to use

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**ASK ALL:**

ISSUEPRES How important, if at all, are each of the following issues in making your decision about who to vote for in the 2020 presidential election? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

ISSUEPRES\_ECON The economy  
 ISSUEPRES\_HEALTH Health care  
 ISSUEPRES\_SCOTUS Supreme Court appointments  
 ISSUEPRES\_ABTN Abortion  
 ISSUEPRES\_FP Foreign policy  
 ISSUEPRES\_COV The coronavirus outbreak

**RESPONSE CATEGORIES:**

- 1 Very important
- 2 Somewhat important
- 3 Not too important
- 4 Not at all important

How important, if at all, are each of the following issues in making your decision about who to vote for in the 2020 presidential election?

## The coronavirus outbreak

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not too important
- ☐ Not at all important

## The economy

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not too important
- ☐ Not at all important

## Health care

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not too important
- ☐ Not at all important

## Foreign policy

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not too important
- ☐ Not at all important

## Supreme Court appointments

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not too important
- ☐ Not at all important

## Abortion

- ☐ Very important
- ☐ Somewhat important
- ☐ Not too important
- ☐ Not at all important

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**ASK ALL:**

CAMPCOVEROWN

Overall, how well do you think the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN have covered the 2020 presidential election?

- 1 Very well
- 2 Somewhat well
- 3 Not too well
- 4 Not at all well

Overall, how well do you think the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN have covered the 2020 presidential election?

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not too well
- ☐ Not at all well

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**ASK ALL:**

CAMPCOVEROWN2

And how well do you think the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN have covered each of the following aspects of the 2020 presidential election?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS a-e; ALWAYS ASK ITEM f LAST]**

- a. The candidates' backgrounds and experience
- b. The candidates' stances on issues
- c. Which candidate is leading in the race
- d. The candidates' comments and statements
- e. What voters need to do in order to cast a ballot in the election
- f. How the coronavirus outbreak is impacting the election **[ANCHOR]**

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:**

- 1 Very well
- 2 Somewhat well
- 3 Not too well
- 4 Not at all well

And how well do you think the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN have covered each of the following aspects of the 2020 presidential election?

The candidates' comments and statements

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not too well
- ☐ Not at all well

What voters need to do in order to cast a ballot in the election

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not too well
- ☐ Not at all well

Which candidate is leading in the race

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not too well
- ☐ Not at all well

The candidates' stances on issues

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not too well
- ☐ Not at all well

The candidates' backgrounds and experience

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not too well
- ☐ Not at all well

How the coronavirus outbreak is impacting the election

- ☐ Very well
- ☐ Somewhat well
- ☐ Not too well
- ☐ Not at all well

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## RANDOMIZE CANDACCURACY AND CANDOFFENSE

### ASK ALL:

CANDACCURACY

Thinking about how the news media covers the presidential campaign and candidates, if a candidate makes a statement that is inaccurate, which comes closer to your view about what the news media should do? **[RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS CANDOFFENSE]**

- 1 Emphasize the statement because it is important for the public to know
- 2 NOT emphasize the statement because it unfairly gives the candidate extra attention

Thinking about how the news media covers the presidential campaign and candidates, if a candidate makes a statement that is inaccurate, which comes closer to your view about what the news media should do?

- ☐ NOT emphasize the statement because it unfairly gives the candidate extra attention
- ☐ Emphasize the statement because it is important for the public to know

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## RANDOMIZE CANDACCURACY AND CANDOFFENSE

### ASK ALL:

CANDOFFENSE Thinking about how the news media covers the presidential campaign and candidates, if a candidate makes a statement that many people might find offensive, which comes closer to your view about what the news media should do? **[RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS CANDACCURACY]**

- 1 Emphasize the statement because it is important for the public to know
- 2 NOT emphasize the statement because it unfairly gives the candidate extra attention

Thinking about how the news media covers the presidential campaign and candidates, if a candidate makes a statement that many people might find offensive, which comes closer to your view about what the news media should do?

- ☐ NOT emphasize the statement because it unfairly gives the candidate extra attention
- ☐ Emphasize the statement because it is important for the public to know

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### ASK ALL:

CANDRESP More broadly, in covering political campaigns and candidates, how much of a responsibility is it of the news media to correct statements that a candidate makes that are inaccurate?

- 1 A major responsibility
- 2 A minor responsibility
- 3 Not a responsibility

More broadly, in covering political campaigns and candidates, how much of a responsibility is it of the news media to correct statements that a candidate makes that are inaccurate?

- ☐ A major responsibility
- ☐ A minor responsibility
- ☐ Not a responsibility

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**ASK ALL:**

CAMPINFODIFF When you get news and information about the presidential campaign and candidates, do you generally find it... **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 Difficult to determine what is true and what is not
- 2 Easy to determine what is true and what is not

When you get news and information about the presidential campaign and candidates, do you generally find it...

☐ Difficult to determine what is true and what is not

☐ Easy to determine what is true and what is not

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**ASK ALL:**

ELECTFTIGUE Thinking about the coverage of the presidential campaign and candidates, which comes closer to your view? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 I like seeing a lot of coverage of the campaign and candidates
- 2 I am worn out by so much coverage of the campaign and candidates

Thinking about the coverage of the presidential campaign and candidates, which comes closer to your view?

☐ I am worn out by so much coverage of the campaign and candidates

☐ I like seeing a lot of coverage of the campaign and candidates

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**ASK ALL:**

NEWSHEARD Thinking about some stories covered by news organizations in the past several weeks...

Regardless of your own views and opinions, how much, if anything, have you heard or read about each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS; PLEASE ADD A LINE OF SPACE BETWEEN THE QUESTION STEM AND FIRST SUB-ITEM; SPLIT ITEMS RANDOMLY ACROSS TWO SCREENS]**

**NO ITEMS a-w**

- x. Concerns that foreign governments are trying to influence the U.S. presidential election
- y. Concerns that the losing candidate in the U.S. presidential election will not accept the results
- z. The views of Amy Coney Barrett, Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, on key issues that may come before the court
- aa. Recent news and announcements about the development of a vaccine for the coronavirus
- bb. The impact Donald Trump testing positive for the coronavirus is having on the U.S. presidential election

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:**

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 3 Nothing at all

Thinking about some stories covered by news organizations in the past several weeks...

Regardless of your own views and opinions, how much, if anything, have you heard or read about each of the following?

Concerns that foreign governments are trying to influence the U.S. presidential election

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Nothing at all

Recent news and announcements about the development of a vaccine for the coronavirus

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Nothing at all

The views of Amy Coney Barrett, Donald Trump's Supreme Court nominee, on key issues that may come before the court

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Nothing at all

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Thinking about some stories covered by news organizations in the past several weeks...

Regardless of your own views and opinions, how much, if anything, have you heard or read about each of the following?

The impact Donald Trump testing positive for the coronavirus is having on the U.S. presidential election

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Nothing at all

Concerns that the losing candidate in the U.S. presidential election will not accept the results

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ A little
- ☐ Nothing at all

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**ASK ALL:**

ELECTCALLCONF

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN to make the right call when announcing a winner of the presidential election after polls close on Election Day?



- 1 A lot of confidence
- 2 Some confidence
- 3 Not much confidence
- 4 No confidence at all

How much confidence, if any, do you have in the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN to make the right call when announcing a winner of the presidential election after polls close on Election Day?

- ☐ A lot of confidence
- ☐ Some confidence
- ☐ Not much confidence
- ☐ No confidence at all

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**ASK ALL:**

KNOWELECTCALL

From what you have seen or heard, which of the following best describes how news organizations decide to announce who has won the presidential election in a state? Would you say that they announce who won when... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 & 2; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 3 LAST]**

- 1 They feel confident about the outcome based on vote returns and other information
- 2 State officials are ready to formally certify the results after counting all ballots
- [SPACE]**
- 3 Not sure **[ANCHOR]**

From what you have seen or heard, which of the following best describes how news organizations decide to announce who has won the presidential election in a state? Would you say that they announce who won when...

- ☐ They feel confident about the outcome based on vote returns and other information
- ☐ State officials are ready to formally certify the results after counting all ballots
- ☐ Not sure

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**ASK ALL:**

CONVOP

How often does the 2020 presidential election come up in the conversations you have, either in person, over the phone or online?

- 1 Very often
- 2 Somewhat often
- 3 Not too often
- 4 Not at all

How often does the 2020 presidential election come up in the conversations you have, either in person, over the phone or online?

- ☐ Very often
- ☐ Somewhat often
- ☐ Not too often
- ☐ Not at all

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**ASK IF CONVERSE ABOUT ELECTION (CONVOP=1-3):**

CAMPISSUE Overall, would you say your recent conversations about the 2020 presidential election have been mostly about... **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 The candidates' personalities and comments
- 2 Specific issues or policy positions

Overall, would you say your recent conversations about the 2020 presidential election have been mostly about...

- ☐ The candidates' personalities and comments
- ☐ Specific issues or policy positions

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**ASK ALL:**

STOPTALK Have you ever stopped talking to someone about political and election news, whether in person or online, because of something they said?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

Have you ever stopped talking to someone about political and election news, whether in person or online, because of something they said?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

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**ASK ALL:**

FOLELECT How closely do you follow political and election news?

- 1 Very closely
- 2 Somewhat closely
- 3 Not too closely
- 4 Not at all closely

How closely do you follow political and election news?

☐ Very closely  
☐ Somewhat closely  
☐ Not too closely  
☐ Not at all closely

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## RANDOMIZE TCFACS AND NEWSFACTS

### ASK ALL:

TCFACTS When it comes to important issues facing the country, would you say most Trump and Biden supporters... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**

- 1 Can agree on the basic facts, even if they often disagree over plans and policies
- 2 Not only disagree over plans and policies, but they also cannot agree on the basic facts

When it comes to important issues facing the country, would you say most Trump and Biden supporters...

☐ Not only disagree over plans and policies, but they also cannot agree on the basic facts  
☐ Can agree on the basic facts, even if they often disagree over plans and policies

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## RANDOMIZE TCFACS AND NEWSFACTS

### ASK ALL:

NEWSFACTS When it comes to important issues facing the country, would you say most Americans... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**

- 1 Generally get the same basic facts regardless of the news sources they turn to
- 2 Often get different basic facts depending on the news sources they turn to

When it comes to important issues facing the country, would you say most Americans...

☐ Generally get the same basic facts regardless of the news sources they turn to  
☐ Often get different basic facts depending on the news sources they turn to

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### ASK ALL:

CAMPINFOCONF How much do you think each type of news and information leaves Americans confused about the 2020 presidential election? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public
- b. Breaking information that hasn't been fully verified
- c. Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:**

- 1 A great deal
- 2 Some
- 3 Not much
- 4 Not at all

How much do you think each type of news and information leaves Americans confused about the 2020 presidential election?

Breaking information that hasn't been fully verified

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ Not at all

Made-up information that is intended to mislead the public

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ Not at all

Factual information presented to favor one side of an issue

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ Not at all

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**ASK ALL:**

MAINMISINFO Do you think the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN have done any of the following in their coverage of the 2020 presidential election? **[DISPLAY ITEMS IN SAME ORDER AS CAMPINFOCONF]**

- a. Reported made-up information intended to mislead the public
- b. Published breaking information that hasn't been fully verified
- c. Presented factual information to favor one side of an issue

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:**

- 1 Yes, they have done this
- 2 No, they have not done this

Do you think the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN have done any of the following in their coverage of the 2020 presidential election?

Published breaking information that hasn't been fully verified

- ☐ Yes, they have done this  
☐ No, they have not done this

Reported made-up information intended to mislead the public

- ☐ Yes, they have done this  
☐ No, they have not done this

Presented factual information to favor one side of an issue

- ☐ Yes, they have done this  
☐ No, they have not done this

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On a different topic...

**ASK ALL:**

COVIDFOL How closely have you been following news about the outbreak of the coronavirus strain known as COVID-19?

- 1 Very closely  
 2 Fairly closely  
 3 Not too closely  
 4 Not at all closely

On a different topic...

How closely have you been following news about the outbreak of the coronavirus strain known as COVID-19?

- ☐ Very closely  
☐ Fairly closely  
☐ Not too closely  
☐ Not at all closely

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**ASK ALL:**

COVIDDEAL All in all, do you think that the coronavirus outbreak has been... **[RANDOMIZE ANSWER CHOICES 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK ANSWER CHOICE 3 LAST]**

- 1 Made a BIGGER deal than it really is  
 2 Made a SMALLER deal than it really is  
 3 Approached about right **[ANCHOR]**

All in all, do you think that the coronavirus outbreak has been...

- ☐ Made a BIGGER deal than it really is
- ☐ Made a SMALLER deal than it really is
- ☐ Approached about right

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**ASK ALL:**

COVIDCONTROL

Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

- 1 The U.S. has controlled the outbreak as much as it could have
- 2 The U.S. has not controlled the outbreak as much as it could have

Which statement comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

- ☐ The U.S. has controlled the outbreak as much as it could have
- ☐ The U.S. has not controlled the outbreak as much as it could have

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**ASK ALL:**

KNOWCOVIDDEATH

Just your best guess, which of the following is closest to the official count for the number of people who have died from the coronavirus in the U.S.? **[RANDOMLY DISPLAY ANSWERS 1-6 OR 6-1; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 7 LAST]**

- 1 About 50,000 people
- 2 About 100,000 people
- 3 About 200,000 people (correct)
- 4 About 300,000 people
- 5 About 400,000 people
- 6 About 500,000 people
- [SPACE]**
- 7 Not sure **[ANCHOR]**

Just your best guess, which of the following is closest to the official count for the number of people who have died from the coronavirus in the U.S.?

- ☐ About 500,000 people
- ☐ About 400,000 people
- ☐ About 300,000 people
- ☐ About 200,000 people
- ☐ About 100,000 people
- ☐ About 50,000 people
- ☐ Not sure

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Before we finish the survey...

**ASK ALL:**

ANTIFAHRD How much, if anything, have you heard or read about Antifa?

- 1 A lot
- 2 A little
- 3 Nothing at all

Before we finish the survey...

How much, if anything, have you heard or read about Antifa?

☐ A lot

☐ A little

☐ Nothing at all

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**ASK IF HEARD ABOUT ANTIFA (ANTIFAHRD=1,2):**

ANTIFAOE In your own words, what is Antifa?

**RECORD OPEN-END RESPONSE**

In your own words, what is Antifa?

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**ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT ANTIFA (ANTIFAHRD=1,2):**

ANTIFARATE Do you think Antifa is a... [RANDOMLY DISPLAY RESPONSES 1-4 OR 4-1]

- 1 Very bad thing for the country
- 2 Somewhat bad thing for the country
- 3 Somewhat good thing for the country
- 4 Very good thing for the country

Do you think Antifa is a...

☐ Very bad thing for the country

☐ Somewhat bad thing for the country

☐ Somewhat good thing for the country

☐ Very good thing for the country

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