

2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
Wave 73 Pathways & Social Media Survey
August 31-September 7, 2020¹

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

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-o

- p. How increased mail-in voting could affect the 2020 presidential election
- q. The Trump administration considering banning the social media app TikTok
- r. Reports that Russia paid bounties to Afghan militants for killing U.S. troops
- s. The debate over whether professional and college sports should be played in the current environment
- t. Donald Trump's criticism of and his administration's actions towards the U.S. postal service
- u. Attempts in Congress to pass another federal relief and stimulus bill
- v. On-going confrontations between law enforcement and protestors in cities around the country
- w. Discussions of the extent of child abuse and trafficking in the U.S.

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

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

¹ Open-end responses are excluded from public datasets to protect the confidentiality of ATP panelists

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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?

Donald Trump's criticism of and his administration's actions towards the U.S. postal service

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

Reports that Russia paid bounties to Afghan militants for killing U.S. troops

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

On-going confrontations between law enforcement and protestors in cities around the country

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

The debate over whether professional and college sports should be played in the current environment

- ☐ 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?

Attempts in Congress to pass another federal relief and stimulus bill

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

Discussions of the extent of child abuse and trafficking in the U.S.

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

The Trump administration considering banning the social media app TikTok

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

How increased mail-in voting could affect the 2020 presidential election

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

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ASK ALL:

NEWSATTN

Thinking about some major events in the news, how much attention do you think news organizations are giving each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 3 LAST]**

- a. The 2020 presidential election
- b. The coronavirus outbreak
- c. The protests over racial inequality and other issues

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- 1 Too much attention
- 2 Too little attention
- 3 Right amount of attention **[ANCHOR]**

Thinking about some major events in the news, how much attention do you think news organizations are giving each of the following?

The protests over racial inequality and other issues

- ☐ Too little attention
- ☐ Too much attention
- ☐ Right amount of attention

The 2020 presidential election

- ☐ Too little attention
- ☐ Too much attention
- ☐ Right amount of attention

The coronavirus outbreak

- ☐ Too little attention
- ☐ Too much attention
- ☐ Right amount of attention

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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

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:

COVIDTRUMPFOL

How closely, if at all, have you been following what Donald Trump has been saying about the coronavirus outbreak?

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

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:

COVIDCOVER1

How well do you think the news media have covered the coronavirus outbreak?

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

How well do you think the news media have covered the coronavirus outbreak?

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

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ASK ALL:

COVIDFACTS

How often, if ever, do you think each of the following get the facts right when it comes to the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. Donald Trump and his administration
- b. The news media in general
- c. The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and other public health organizations
- d. Your governor and state government
- e. The local news media in your area
- f. Friends, family and acquaintances

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- 1 Almost all of the time
- 2 Most of the time
- 3 Some of the time
- 4 Hardly ever
- [SPACE]**
- 5 Not sure

How often, if ever, do you think each of the following get the facts right when it comes to the coronavirus outbreak?

The local news media in your area

- ☐ Almost all of the time
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☒ Hardly ever
- ☐ Not sure

Your governor and state government

- ☐ Almost all of the time
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☐ Hardly ever
- ☐ Not sure

The news media in general

- ☐ Almost all of the time
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☐ Hardly ever
- ☐ Not sure

The CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) and other public health organizations

- ☐ Almost all of the time
- ☐ Most of the time
- ☐ Some of the time
- ☐ Hardly ever
- ☐ Not sure

Donald Trump and his administration

☐ Almost all of the time
 ☐ Most of the time
 ☐ Some of the time
 ☐ Hardly ever
 ☐ Not sure

Friends, family and acquaintances

☐ Almost all of the time
 ☐ Most of the time
 ☐ Some of the time
 ☐ Hardly ever
 ☐ Not sure

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ASK ALL:

COVIDTRUMPMSSG

From what you've seen or heard, do you generally think Donald Trump has been delivering the right message or the wrong message to the country in response to the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1-4 AND 4-1]**

- 1 Completely RIGHT message
- 2 Mostly RIGHT message
- 3 Mostly WRONG message
- 4 Completely WRONG message

From what you've seen or heard, do you generally think Donald Trump has been delivering the right message or the wrong message to the country in response to the coronavirus outbreak?

☐ Completely RIGHT message
 ☐ Mostly RIGHT message
 ☐ Mostly WRONG message
 ☐ Completely WRONG message

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ASK ALL:

COVIDTOPICA How closely are you following news and information about each of these topics related to the coronavirus outbreak? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT ITEMS RANDOMLY ACROSS TWO SCREENS]**

NO ITEMS a-g

- h. Public health guidelines, such as social distancing and wearing masks
- i. The impact it may have on the presidential election
- j. The quality and availability of testing and testing results
- k. Effects on different parts of the country
- l. The development of vaccines and treatments
- m. The impact on schools
- n. The economic impact of the outbreak
- o. The number of confirmed cases and deaths in the U.S.

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

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

How closely are you following news and information about each of these topics related to the coronavirus outbreak?

The economic impact of the outbreak

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

Public health guidelines, such as social distancing and wearing masks

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

The quality and availability of testing and testing results

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

The impact on schools

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

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How closely are you following news and information about each of these topics related to the coronavirus outbreak?

The number of confirmed cases and deaths in the U.S.

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

The impact it may have on the presidential election

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

The development of vaccines and treatments

☐ Very closely

☐ Somewhat closely

☒ Not too closely

☐ Not at all closely

Effects on different parts of the country

☐ Very closely

☐ Somewhat closely

☐ Not too closely

☐ Not at all closely

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ASK ALL:

COVIDNEWSCHNG Thinking about how you get news now compared to the FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS of the outbreak in the U.S. around the middle of March...

Compared to the FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS of the outbreak, are you... **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS; SHOW RESPONSES 1-3 IN ORDER; SHOW EACH ITEM ON SEPARATE SCREEN; SHOW INTRO TEXT ON FIRST SCREEN, REPEAT STEM ON EACH FOLLOWING SCREEN]**

- c. 1 Finding it HARDER to understand what is happening with the outbreak
2 Finding it EASIER to understand what is happening with the outbreak
3 No change
- e. 1 Finding it HARDER to identify what is true and what is false about the outbreak
2 Finding it EASIER to identify what is true and what is false about the outbreak
3 No change

Thinking about how you get news now compared to the FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS of the outbreak in the U.S. around the middle of March...

Compared to the FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS of the outbreak, are you...

☐ Finding it HARDER to understand what is happening with the outbreak

☐ Finding it EASIER to understand what is happening with the outbreak

☐ No change

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Compared to the FIRST COUPLE OF WEEKS of the outbreak, are you...

☐ Finding it HARDER to identify what is true and what is false about the outbreak

☐ Finding it EASIER to identify what is true and what is false about the outbreak

☐ No change

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ASK ALL:

COVIDTUNE Which of the following statements best describes you? **[RANDOMIZE]**

- 1 I try to tune out news about the coronavirus outbreak
- 2 I try to stay tuned in to news about the coronavirus outbreak

Which of the following statements best describes you?

☐ I try to stay tuned in to news about the coronavirus outbreak

☐ I try to tune out news about the coronavirus outbreak

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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:

KNOWCOVIDELECT Regardless of whether you think it should be done or not, does the president have the authority to delay the elections this November because of the coronavirus outbreak?

- 1 Yes, the president has this authority
- 2 No, the president does not have this authority {correct}
- 3 Not sure

Regardless of whether you think it should be done or not, does the president have the authority to delay the elections this November because of the coronavirus outbreak?

☐ Yes, the president has this authority

☐ No, the president does not have this authority

☐ Not sure

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ASK ALL:

KNOWCOVIDYOUNG From what you've seen and heard in the news, overall, how susceptible do you think people under 18 are to becoming infected with the coronavirus?
[RANDOMIZE 1-3 AND 3-1]

- 1 Far more susceptible than adults
- 2 About as susceptible as adults
- 3 Far less susceptible than adults
- [SPACE]
- 4 Not sure

From what you've seen and heard in the news, overall, how susceptible do you think people under 18 are to becoming infected with the coronavirus?

☐ Far more susceptible than adults

☐ About as susceptible as adults

☐ Far less susceptible than adults

☐ Not sure

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On a different topic...

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

On a different topic...

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 ALL:

CAMPCOVER1 How well do you think the news media have covered the 2020 presidential election?

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

How well do you think the news media have covered the 2020 presidential election?

☐ Very well

☐ Somewhat well

☐ Not too well

☐ Not at all well

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ASK ALL:

CAMP20MISINFO How much, if any, news and information have you seen or heard about the 2020 presidential election that seemed completely made up?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Not much
- 4 None at all

How much, if any, news and information have you seen or heard about the 2020 presidential election that seemed completely made up?

☐ A lot

☐ Some

☐ Not much

☐ None at all

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ASK ALL:

INFOCREATE2 How much, if any, made-up news and information about the 2020 presidential election do you think is created by each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. Journalists
- b. Political leaders and their staff
- c. Members of the public
- d. Foreign governments or individuals
- e. Activist groups

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Not much
- 4 None

How much, if any, made-up news and information about the 2020 presidential election do you think is created by each of the following?

Journalists

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ None

Members of the public

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ None

Activist groups

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ None

Foreign governments or individuals

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ None

Political leaders and their staff

- ☐ A lot
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Not much
- ☐ None

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RANDOMIZE ORDER OF CAMP20CONVENREP AND CAMP20CONVENDEM**ASK ALL:**

CAMP20CONVENREP How closely did you follow the news and events surrounding the REPUBLICAN national convention?

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

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF CAMP20CONVENREP AND CAMP20CONVENDEM**ASK ALL:**

CAMP20CONVENDEM How closely did you follow the news and events surrounding the DEMOCRATIC national convention?

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

How closely did you follow the news and events surrounding the DEMOCRATIC national convention?

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

How closely did you follow the news and events surrounding the REPUBLICAN national convention?

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

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ASK ALL:

DEMVPIDEO Please indicate how you would describe Kamala Harris' political views. **[ROTATE DISPLAY OF OPTIONS 1-7 AND 7-1; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 8 LAST]**

- 1 Very liberal
- 2 Mostly liberal
- 3 Slightly liberal
- 4 Moderate
- 5 Slightly conservative
- 6 Mostly conservative
- 7 Very conservative
- [SPACE]**
- 8 Not sure **[ANCHOR]**

Please indicate how you would describe Kamala Harris' political views.

- ☐ Very liberal
- ☐ Mostly liberal
- ☐ Slightly liberal
- ☐ Moderate
- ☐ Slightly conservative
- ☐ Mostly conservative
- ☐ Very conservative
- ☐ Not sure

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ASK ALL:

KNOWHARRIS1 Do you happen to know what position Kamala Harris held in California before she was a senator? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 5 LAST]**

- 1 Lieutenant Governor
 - 2 Attorney General {correct}
 - 3 U.S. House Representative
 - 4 Mayor of San Francisco
- [SPACE]**
- 5 Not sure **[ANCHOR]**

Do you happen to know what position Kamala Harris held in California before she was a senator?

- ☐ Attorney General
- ☐ Mayor of San Francisco
- ☐ U.S. House Representative
- ☐ Lieutenant Governor
- ☐ Not sure

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ASK ALL:

KNOWBIDENPOL As far as you know, has Joe Biden publicly voiced his support for defunding police departments?

- 1 Yes, has voiced support
 - 2 No, has not voiced support {correct}
- [SPACE]**
- 3 Not sure **[ANCHOR]**

As far as you know, has Joe Biden publicly voiced his support for defunding police departments?

- ☐ Yes, has voiced support
- ☐ No, has not voiced support
- ☐ Not sure

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ASK ALL:

KNOWMAILELECT

As far as you know, have any U.S. states ever conducted voting in a presidential election entirely by mail?

- 1 Yes, states have done this {correct}
- 2 No, states have not done this
- [SPACE]**
- 3 Not sure

As far as you know, have any U.S. states ever conducted voting in a presidential election entirely by mail?

- ☐ Yes, states have done this
- ☐ No, states have not done this
- ☐ Not sure

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ASK ALL:

KNOWMAILFRAUD

As far as you know, how big of a problem has voter fraud been when it comes to voting by mail in U.S. presidential elections?

- 1 Major problem
- 2 Minor problem
- 3 Not a problem at all
- [SPACE]**
- 4 Not sure

As far as you know, how big of a problem has voter fraud been when it comes to voting by mail in U.S. presidential elections?

- ☐ Major problem
- ☐ Minor problem
- ☐ Not a problem at all
- ☐ Not sure

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ASK ALL:

NEWS_MOST What is the most common way you get political and election news? **[RANDOMIZE; OMIT RESPONSE OPTIONS 6 AND 7 FOR RESPONDENTS WITHOUT INTERNET ACCESS (XTABLET=1)]**

- 1 Print newspaper or magazines
- 2 Radio
- 3 Local television
- 4 National network television
- 5 Cable television
- 6 Social media
- 7 News website or app

What is the most common way you get political and election news?

- ☒ Print newspaper or magazines
- ☐ National network television
- ☐ Local television
- ☐ Radio
- ☐ News website or app
- ☐ Cable television
- ☐ Social media

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ASK ALL:

CAMP20NEWS

Please indicate whether each of the following is a source of political and election news for you.

[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; SPLIT ITEMS RANDOMLY ACROSS TWO SCREENS]

- a. Fox News Cable Channel
- b. CNN
- c. MSNBC
- d. ABC, CBS, or NBC national network TV
- e. NPR
- f. The New York Times
- g. Washington Post
- h. Talk radio, such as Sean Hannity or Rush Limbaugh

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- 1 Major source
- 2 Minor source
- 3 Not a source

Please indicate whether each of the following is a source of political and election news for you.

CNN

- ☒ Major source
- ☐ Minor source
- ☐ Not a source

Fox News Cable Channel

- ☐ Major source
- ☐ Minor source
- ☐ Not a source

Talk radio, such as Sean Hannity or Rush Limbaugh

- ☐ Major source
- ☐ Minor source
- ☐ Not a source

NPR

- ☐ Major source
- ☐ Minor source
- ☐ Not a source

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Please indicate whether each of the following is a source of political and election news for you.

The New York Times

- ☐ Major source
- ☐ Minor source
- ☐ Not a source

Washington Post

- ☐ Major source
- ☐ Minor source
- ☐ Not a source

MSNBC

- ☐ Major source
- ☐ Minor source
- ☐ Not a source

ABC, CBS, or NBC national network TV

- ☐ Major source
- ☐ Minor source
- ☐ Not a source

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ASK ALL:

CAMPAIGNNEWS

Please indicate whether each of the following is a source of political and election news for you. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. The Donald Trump campaign
- b. The Joe Biden campaign

RESPONSE OPTIONS:

- 1 Major source
- 2 Minor source
- 3 Not a source

Please indicate whether each of the following is a source of political and election news for you.

The Donald Trump campaign

☐ Major source

☐ Minor source

☐ Not a source

The Joe Biden campaign

☐ Major source

☐ Minor source

☐ Not a source

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On a different topic...

ASK ALL:

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

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

On a different topic...

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

☐ A lot

☐ A little

☐ Nothing at all

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ASK IF HEARD (QAHRD=1,2)

QAOE In your own words, what is QAnon?

RECORD OPEN-END RESPONSE

In your own words, what is QAnon?

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ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT QANON (QAHRD=1,2):

QATHREAT Do you think QAnon 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 QAnon 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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ASK IF HEARD AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT QANON (QAHRD=1,2):

QATRUMP From what you've heard or read, to what extent, if at all, does Donald Trump support people who promote the QAnon theories? **[RANDOMIZE FIRST TWO ITEMS]**

- 1 Seems to support them
- 2 Seems to oppose them
- 3 Neither
- [SPACE]**
- 4 Not sure **[ANCHOR]**

From what you've heard or read, to what extent, if at all, does Donald Trump support people who promote the QAnon theories?

- ☐ Seems to support them
- ☐ Seems to oppose them
- ☐ Neither
- ☐ Not sure

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Before we finish the survey, we're interested in getting a deeper understanding of how people have been experiencing the coronavirus outbreak, and how it might have impacted them in both negative and positive ways. Please take a moment to reflect on how the outbreak has affected your own life, and then answer the next two questions in as much detail as you can.

[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF COVIDDIFF_OE AND COVIDPOS_OE]

COVIDDIFF_OE Thinking about how things have been going in your life since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, in what ways, if any, have things been difficult or challenging for you personally?

[OPEN END]

COVIDPOS_OE Thinking about how things have been going in your life since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, what, if anything, have been some positive aspects of the situation for you personally?

[OPEN END]

Before we finish the survey, we're interested in getting a deeper understanding of how people have been experiencing the coronavirus outbreak, and how it might have impacted them in both negative and positive ways. Please take a moment to reflect on how the outbreak has affected your own life, and then answer the next two questions in as much detail as you can.

Thinking about how things have been going in your life since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, in what ways, if any, have things been difficult or challenging for you personally?

Thinking about how things have been going in your life since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, what, if anything, have been some positive aspects of the situation for you personally?

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