

2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
Wave 79 Pathways  
November 18-29, 2020

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

RANDOMIZE ORDER OF TRUMPPOSTFOL AND BIDENPOSTFOL

ASK ALL:

TRUMPPOSTFOL      How closely, if at all, have you been following DONALD TRUMP's public statements since the election?

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

How closely, if at all, have you been following DONALD TRUMP's public statements since the election?

☐ Very closely

☐ Fairly closely

☐ Not too closely

☐ Not at all closely

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RANDOMIZE ORDER OF TRUMPPOSTFOL AND BIDENPOSTFOL

ASK ALL:

BIDENPOSTFOL      How closely, if at all, have you been following JOE BIDEN's public statements since the election? {new}

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

How closely, if at all, have you been following JOE BIDEN's public statements since the election?

☐ Very closely

☐ Fairly closely

☐ Not too closely

☐ Not at all closely

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**ASK ALL:**

CAMPIMPCT In your view, how much of an impact, if any, did each of the following have on this year's presidential election? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. News media coverage of the campaigns
- b. Advertisements from the campaigns and other groups
- c. Decisions social media companies made about election content on their platforms
- d. Made-up news and information intended to mislead the public

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:**

- 1 A major impact
- 2 A minor impact
- 3 Not much of an impact at all

In your view, how much of an impact, if any, did each of the following have on this year's presidential election?

Advertisements from the campaigns and other groups

☐ A major impact

☐ A minor impact

☐ Not much of an impact at all

Decisions social media companies made about election content on their platforms

☐ A major impact

☐ A minor impact

☐ Not much of an impact at all

News media coverage of the campaigns

☐ A major impact

☐ A minor impact

☐ Not much of an impact at all

Made-up news and information intended to mislead the public

☐ A major impact

☐ A minor impact

☐ Not much of an impact at all

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**DISPLAY ORDER OF ELECTTRUMPMSG AND ELECTBIDENMSG IN SAME ORDER AS TRUMPPOSTFOL AND BIDENPOSTFOL SO THAT RESPONDENTS SEES SAME CANDIDATE FIRST IN BOTH SETS**

**ASK ALL:**

ELECTTRUMPMSG 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 following the presidential election? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1-4 AND 4-1; USE SAME ORDER FOR ELECTBIDENMSG]**

- 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 following the presidential election?

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

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**DISPLAY ORDER OF ELECTTRUMPMSSG AND ELECTBIDENMSSG IN SAME ORDER AS TRUMPPSTFOL AND BIDENPOSTFOL SO THAT RESPONDENTS SEES SAME CANDIDATE FIRST IN BOTH SETS**

**ASK ALL:**

**ELECTBIDENMSSG** From what you've seen or heard, do you generally think JOE BIDEN has been delivering the right message or the wrong message to the country following the presidential election? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF OPTIONS 1-4 AND 4-1; USE SAME ORDER FOR ELECTTRUMPMSSG]**

- 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 JOE BIDEN has been delivering the right message or the wrong message to the country following the presidential election?

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

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**ASK ALL:**

**ELECTNTMIX** How many different sources of news did you turn to, if any, to follow the results of the presidential election on Election Day (Nov. 3) after polls closed?

- 1 Just one source
- 2 Two to four different sources
- 3 Five or more different sources
- [SPACE]**
- 4 Did not follow results of the election

How many different sources of news did you turn to, if any, to follow the results of the presidential election on Election Day (Nov. 3) after polls closed?

- ☐ Just one source
- ☐ Two to four different sources
- ☐ Five or more different sources
- ☐ Did not follow results of the election

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#### ASK ALL:

CAMPCOVEROWN2 Thinking about news coverage of Election Day (Nov. 3) and its aftermath, how well do you think the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN have done at...  
[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

- g. Covering Donald Trump's reaction to the election results
- h. Covering Joe Biden's reaction to the election results
- i. Explaining the process of counting votes after polls closed on Election Day (Nov. 3)
- j. Explaining the different ways that people could have voted across the country this year

#### RESPONSE OPTIONS:

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

Thinking about news coverage of Election Day (Nov. 3) and its aftermath, how well do you think the news sources YOU TURN TO MOST OFTEN have done at...

Covering Joe Biden's reaction to the election results

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

Covering Donald Trump's reaction to the election results

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

Explaining the process of counting votes after polls closed on Election Day (Nov. 3)

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

Explaining the different ways that people could have voted across the country this year

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

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## RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ATTENVTFRAUD AND ATTENDTCONCEDE

### ASK ALL:

ATTENVTFRAUD

All in all, do you think that allegations of voter fraud in this year's presidential election have been getting... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 3 LAST; USE SAME ORDER FOR ATTENVTFRAUD]**

- 1 Too much attention
- 2 Too little attention
- 3 About the right amount of attention **[ANCHOR]**

All in all, do you think that allegations of voter fraud in this year's presidential election have been getting...

- ☐ Too little attention
- ☐ Too much attention
- ☐ About the right amount of attention

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## RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ATTENVTFRAUD AND ATTENDTCONCEDE

### ASK ALL:

ATTENDTCONCEDE

All in all, do you think that Donald Trump not conceding the election after Joe Biden was projected to win has been getting... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 3 LAST; USE SAME ORDER FOR ATTENDTCONCEDE]**

- 1 Too much attention
- 2 Too little attention
- 3 About the right amount of attention **[ANCHOR]**

All in all, do you think that Donald Trump not conceding the election after Joe Biden was projected to win has been getting...

- ☐ Too little attention
- ☐ Too much attention
- ☐ About the right amount of attention

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**ASK ALL:****ELECTNEWSPAIR**

For each pair of opposite phrases, which one do you feel better describes the news media's coverage of the presidential election since polls closed on Election Day (Nov. 3)? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS; SHOW RESPONSES 1-3 IN ORDER; DISPLAY A-D ON THE SAME SCREEN WITH A LINE SEPARATING EACH SET OF RESPONSES]**

*[Please select one item from each group]*

- a.     1       Largely accurate  
       2       Largely inaccurate  
       3       Neither applies
  
- b.     1       Getting me the information I need  
       2       Not getting me the information I need  
       3       Neither applies
  
- c.     1       Protecting democracy  
       2       Hurting democracy  
       3       Neither applies
  
- d.     1       Highly professional  
       2       Not professional  
       3       Neither applies

For each pair of opposite phrases, which one do you feel better describes the news media's coverage of the presidential election since polls closed on Election Day (Nov. 3)?

*[Please select one item from each group]*

- ☐ Largely accurate  
☐ Largely inaccurate  
☐ Neither applies

- ☐ Highly professional  
☐ Not professional  
☐ Neither applies

- ☐ Protecting democracy  
☐ Hurting democracy  
☐ Neither applies

- ☐ Getting me the information I need  
☐ Not getting me the information I need  
☐ Neither applies

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**ASK ALL:**

CAMPNEWSFACTS

When it comes to following news about the presidential election since polls closed on Election Day (Nov. 3), would you say most Americans... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**

- 1 Generally got the SAME basic facts regardless of their news sources
- 2 Often got DIFFERENT basic facts depending on their news sources

When it comes to following news about the presidential election since polls closed on Election Day (Nov. 3), would you say most Americans...

- ☐ Generally got the SAME basic facts regardless of their news sources
- ☐ Often got DIFFERENT basic facts depending on their news sources

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**ASK ALL:**

RESULTFOLDIFF

How easy or difficult was it for you to make sense of the results of the presidential election as they were coming in? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-4 AND 4-1]**

- 1 Very easy
- 2 Somewhat easy
- 3 Somewhat difficult
- 4 Very difficult

How easy or difficult was it for you to make sense of the results of the presidential election as they were coming in?

- ☐ Very difficult
- ☐ Somewhat difficult
- ☐ Somewhat easy
- ☐ Very easy

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**ASK ALL:**

RESULTJOURNDIFF

How easy or difficult do you think it was for journalists to make sense of the results of the presidential election as they were coming in? **[DISPLAY OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER AS RESULTFOLDIFF]**

- 1 Very easy
- 2 Somewhat easy
- 3 Somewhat difficult
- 4 Very difficult

How easy or difficult do you think it was for journalists to make sense of the results of the presidential election as they were coming in?

- ☐ Very difficult  
☐ Somewhat difficult  
☐ Somewhat easy  
☐ Very easy

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**ASK ALL:**

CAMP20NEWS2 Please indicate whether each of the following has been a source of news for you about the presidential election since polls closed on Election Day (Nov. 3). **[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 has been a source of news for you about the presidential election since polls closed on Election Day (Nov. 3).

Fox News Cable Channel

- ☐ Major source  
☐ Minor source  
☐ Not a source

CNN

- ☐ Major source  
☐ Minor source  
☐ Not a source

Washington Post

- ☐ Major source  
☐ Minor source  
☐ Not a source

Talk radio, such as Sean Hannity or Rush Limbaugh

- ☐ Major source  
☐ Minor source  
☐ Not a source

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Please indicate whether each of the following has been a source of news for you about the presidential election since polls closed on Election Day (Nov. 3).

ABC, CBS, or NBC national network TV

☐ Major source  
☐ Minor source  
☐ Not a source

The New York Times

☐ Major source  
☐ Minor source  
☐ Not a source

NPR

☐ Major source  
☐ Minor source  
☐ Not a source

MSNBC

☐ Major source  
☐ Minor source  
☐ Not a source

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**ASK ALL:****ELECTTALK**

How much, if at all, did you talk with others about the results of the presidential election as they were coming in, whether online or in person?

- 1 A lot
- 2 Some
- 3 Not too much
- 4 Not at all

How much, if at all, did you talk with others about the results of the presidential election as they were coming in, whether online or in person?

☐ A lot  
☐ Some  
☐ Not too much  
☐ Not at all

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**ASK ALL:****ELECTSMSHARE**

Have you posted or shared any news and information about the election results on social media? **[DATA PROCESSING NOTE: RE-CODE ALL TABLET HOUSEHOLDS TO 3]**

- 1 Yes, I have posted a lot

- 2 Yes, I have posted a little bit  
 3 No, I have not posted anything

Have you posted or shared any news and information about the election results on social media?

- ☐ Yes, I have posted a lot  
☐ Yes, I have posted a little bit  
☐ No, I have not posted anything

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**ASK ALL:**

SOCRESP

When it comes to news about political campaigns and candidates, how much do you approve or disapprove of social media companies blocking or flagging news and information on their platforms that they judge to be inaccurate or misleading?

- 1 Strongly approve  
 2 Somewhat approve  
 3 Somewhat disapprove  
 4 Strongly disapprove

When it comes to news about political campaigns and candidates, how much do you approve or disapprove of social media companies blocking or flagging news and information on their platforms that they judge to be inaccurate or misleading?

- ☐ Strongly approve  
☐ Somewhat approve  
☐ Somewhat disapprove  
☐ Strongly disapprove

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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 IF SAW AT LEAST NOT MUCH MADE UP NEWS (CAMP20MISINFO=1-3):**

**MISINFOSELF** Did you come across any made-up news or information that you think was targeted at you specifically?

- 1 Yes, I did
- 2 No, I did not

Did you come across any made-up news or information that you think was targeted at you specifically?

☐ Yes, I did

☐ No, I did not

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**ASK ALL:**

**FKNWSHRTPOST** Do you think made-up news and information related to the presidential election was mostly intended to hurt... **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1 & 2; ALWAYS DISPLAY OPTIONS 3 & 4 LAST]**

- 1 The Republican Party
- 2 The Democratic Party
- 3 Both parties about equally **[ANCHOR]**
- 4 Neither party in particular **[ANCHOR]**

Do you think made-up news and information related to the presidential election was mostly intended to hurt...

☐ The Democratic Party

☐ The Republican Party

☐ Both parties about equally

☐ Neither party in particular

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**ASK ALL:**

**MISINFOIMPACT** Thinking about the presidential election, how much of an impact, if any, do you think made-up news and information had on... **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

- a. People's confidence in the accuracy of the election results
- b. Which candidate people decided to vote for
- c. People's decisions about whether to vote or not

**RESPONSE OPTIONS:**

- 1 A major impact
- 2 A minor impact
- 3 Not much of an impact at all

Thinking about the presidential election, how much of an impact, if any, do you think made-up news and information had on...

People's decisions about whether to vote or not

☐ A major impact

☐ A minor impact

☐ Not much of an impact at all

Which candidate people decided to vote for

☐ A major impact

☐ A minor impact

☐ Not much of an impact at all

People's confidence in the accuracy of the election results

☐ A major impact

☐ A minor impact

☐ Not much of an impact at all

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#### RANDOMIZE ORDER OF KNOWTURNOUT, HOUSEGAIN AND KNOWCONCEDE

##### ASK ALL:

KNOWTURNOUT Compared to the 2016 presidential election, how many Americans cast ballots in this year's presidential election? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2; ALWAYS ASK OPTIONS 3-4 LAST; USE SAME ORDER FOR HOUSEGAIN]**

- 1 More Americans cast ballots (correct)
- 2 Fewer Americans cast ballots
- 3 About the same number **[ANCHOR]**
- [SPACE]**
- 4 Not sure **[ANCHOR]**

Compared to the 2016 presidential election, how many Americans cast ballots in this year's presidential election?

☐ Fewer Americans cast ballots

☐ More Americans cast ballots

☐ About the same number

☐ Not sure

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#### RANDOMIZE ORDER OF KNOWTURNOUT, HOUSEGAIN AND KNOWCONCEDE

##### ASK ALL:

HOUSEGAIN Compared to the number of seats it has now, how many seats will the Democratic Party have in the U.S. House of Representatives next year? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2; ALWAYS ASK OPTIONS 3-4 LAST; USE SAME ORDER AS KNOWTURNOUT]**

- 1 More seats
- 2 Fewer seats (correct)
- 3 The same number of seats **[ANCHOR]**  
**[SPACE]**
- 4 Not sure **[ANCHOR]**

Compared to the number of seats it has now, how many seats will the Democratic Party have in the U.S. House of Representatives next year?

- ☐ Fewer seats
- ☐ More seats
- ☐ The same number of seats
- ☐ Not sure

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## RANDOMIZE ORDER OF KNOWTURNOUT, HOUSEGAIN AND KNOWCONCEDE

### ASK ALL:

KNOWCONCEDE As far as you know, has there been a losing presidential candidate in modern history who has not publicly conceded the election prior to Inauguration Day?

- 1 Yes, there has been
- 2 No, there has not been  
**[SPACE]**
- 3 Not sure **[ANCHOR]**

As far as you know, has there been a losing presidential candidate in modern history who has not publicly conceded the election prior to Inauguration Day?

- ☐ Yes, there has been
- ☐ No, there has not been
- ☐ Not sure

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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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## ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

### 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:

COVIDHOLIDAY How much, if at all, have you changed your Thanksgiving plans this year as a result of the coronavirus outbreak?

- 1 A great deal
- 2 Some
- 3 Not too much

4 Not at all  
[SPACE]

5 I don't typically celebrate Thanksgiving

How much, if at all, have you changed your Thanksgiving plans this year as a result of the coronavirus outbreak?

- ☐ A great deal
- ☐ Some
- ☐ Not too much
- ☐ Not at all
- ☐ I don't typically celebrate Thanksgiving

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**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**