November 2020 American Perspectives Survey Topline Questionnaire


Note: All results shown are percentages. An asterisk (*) replaces percentages greater than zero but less than 0.5 percent. Responses may not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

ASK ALL:
Q.1 In general, do you think America’s best days are ahead of us or behind us? Select one answer only.
   57 Ahead of us
   43 Behind us
   1 Refused

Now, thinking about the recent election...
Q.2 Which presidential candidate did you vote for? Select one answer only. [RANDOMIZE]
   30 Donald Trump
   32 Joe Biden
   1 Some other candidate
   32 Did not vote
   4 Refused

Q.3 Do you happen to know who your spouse or partner voted for in the 2020 presidential election? Select one answer only.
   32 Donald Trump
   33 Joe Biden
   2 Some other candidate
   20 Did not vote
   11 Not sure
   2 Refused
ASK IF VOTED FOR DONALD TRUMP, JOE BIDEN, OR SOME OTHER CANDIDATE [N=1,301]:
Q.4 Some people feel comfortable sharing how they are voting while others do not. What about you? Thinking about the people you know, did they know you [IF Q2=1 INSERT: “voted for Donald Trump”; IF Q2=2 INSERT: “voted for Joe Biden”; IF Q2=4 INSERT: “did not vote” IF Q2=3 INSERT: “voted for some other candidate”] or do they not know?

ASK IF HAS SPOUSE OR PARTNER (PPMARIT=1 OR 6) [N=1,986]:
A. Your spouse or partner
   83 Yes, know how you were voting
   15 No, did not know how you were voting
   2 Refused

ASK ALL:
B. Your close friends
   65 Yes, know how you were voting
   34 No, did not know how you were voting
   1 Refused

C. Your neighbors
   33 Yes, know how you were voting
   65 No, did not know how you were voting
   2 Refused

D. Immediate family members
   72 Yes, know how you were voting
   26 No, did not know how you were voting
   1 Refused

ASK IF VOTED FOR DONALD TRUMP, JOE BIDEN, OR SOME OTHER CANDIDATE [N=1,772]:
Q.5 When did you finally make your decision to vote for [IF Q2=1 INSERT: “Donald Trump”; IF Q2=2 INSERT: “Joe Biden”; IF Q2=3 INSERT “Some other candidate”]? Select one answer only.

   3 In the last few days
   2 In the last week
   8 In October
   5 In September
   15 Sometime this summer
   68 Before that
   * Refused
ASK IF DID NOT VOTE [N=244]:
Q.6 When did you finally make the decision that you would not vote in the 2020 presidential election? Select one answer only.

7   In the last few days
5   In the last week
7   In October
3   In September
5   Sometime this summer
62  Before that
10  Refused

ASK IF VOTED FOR DONALD TRUMP, JOE BIDEN, OR SOME OTHER CANDIDATE [N=1,772]:
Q.7 And did you vote... Select one answer only.

25  In person on Election Day
27  In person before Election Day
48  By mail or absentee ballot
*   Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,008]:
Q.8a How much of an impact, if any, will the outcome of the 2020 election have on your daily life? Select one answer only.

32  A great deal
38  Some
20  Not too much
10  None at all
1   Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,008]:
Q.8b How much of an impact, if any, will the outcome of the 2020 election have on the direction of the country? Select one answer only.

69  A great deal
22  Some
5   Not too much
4   None at all
*   Refused

ASK ALL: Regardless of how you might have voted...
Q.9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19)? Select one answer only.

38  Approve
60  Disapprove
2   Refused
Q.10  Do you think the Trump administration has had a strategy for responding to the coronavirus outbreak (COVID-19) or do you think there has not been a strategy? Select one answer only.

40 Yes, administration has a strategy  
58 No, administration does not have a strategy  
2 Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,008]:
Q.11a  Which would you say better describes how Americans overall have responded to coronavirus outbreak? Would you say most people... Select one answer only.

50 Are doing their best to be careful and considerate of others  
48 Are being thoughtless and inconsiderate  
2 Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,008]:
Q.11b  Which would you say better describes how people in your neighborhood have responded to coronavirus outbreak? Would you say most people... Select one answer only.

79 Are doing their best to be careful and considerate of others  
20 Are being thoughtless and inconsiderate  
2 Refused

ASK ALL:
Q.12  Do you plan on getting or have you already gotten the flu vaccine or do you not plan on getting the flu vaccine this year? Select one answer only. [ROTATE]

50 Yes, have gotten the flu vaccine  
16 Have not gotten the vaccine, but plan to get it  
33 Have not gotten the flu vaccine and do not plan to  
1 Refused

Q.13  If an FDA (Food and Drug Administration)-approved vaccine to prevent coronavirus/COVID-19 was available right now at no cost, would you agree to be vaccinated? Select one answer only. [ROTATE]

51 Yes  
47 No  
2 Refused

ASK IF WOULD NOT TAKE VACCINE [N=889]:
Q.14  What is the most important reason you would not take a vaccine to prevent coronavirus? Is it because you... Select one answer only. [LIST IN ORDER] [ROTATE]

59 Have concerns about safety  
15 Have concerns about effectiveness  
16 Do not believe vaccine is necessary  
10 Some other reason [SPECIFY]  
* Refused
**ASK ALL:**
**Q.15** Which statement best describes what you do when you leave your house or apartment... Select one answer only.

69  I always wear a mask when I leave the house
20  I usually wear a mask, but not always
  5  I occasionally wear a mask, but not often
  3  I rarely wear a mask
  3  I never wear a mask
  1  Refused

**Q.16** Now, read each statement and please say whether you agree or disagree with each one. [RANDOMIZE]

A. Wearing a mask is more about being politically correct than it is about stopping the spread of COVID-19

13  Completely agree
16  Somewhat agree
15  Somewhat disagree
54  Completely disagree
  1  Refused

B. In general, regardless of who is in power, politicians can’t be trusted

24  Completely agree
51  Somewhat agree
20  Somewhat disagree
  4  Completely disagree
  1  Refused

**Q.17** Would you favor or oppose passing a national mandate to require people to wear a mask in public places to reduce the spread of COVID-19? Select one answer only.

69  Favor
30  Oppose
  1  Refused
RELIG  What is your present religion, if any?

30  Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.)
20  Roman Catholic (Catholic)
  2  Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
  *  Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
  1  Jewish (Judaism)
  1  Muslim (Islam)
  *  Buddhist
  1  Hindu
  6  Atheist (do not believe in God)
  5  Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
  14  Nothing in particular
  15  Just Christian
  2  Something else [Specify]
  2  Refused

ASK IF PROTESTANT, JUST CHRISTIAN, OR SOMETHING ELSE [N=968]:

BORN  Would you describe yourself as a “born-again” or evangelical Christian, or not?

  43  Yes
  56  No
  1  Refused

ASK ALL:

Q.18  How would you describe your household’s financial situation? Would you say you... Select one answer only.

  38  Live comfortably
  38  Meet your basic expenses with a little leftover for extras
  18  Just meet your basic expenses
  5  Don’t even have enough to meet basic expenses
  1  Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,008]:

Q.19a  Since February 2020, has your household’s income...? Select one answer only.

  3  Increased substantially
  14  Increased slightly
  56  Remained the same
  16  Decreased slightly
  9  Decreased substantially
  2  Refused
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,008]:
Q.19b Since February 2020, has your household’s savings...? Select one answer only.

7    Increased substantially
18   Increased slightly
39   Remained the same
20   Decreased slightly
15   Decreased substantially
  2   Refused

ASK ALL:
Q.20 Before the coronavirus outbreak, did you have an emergency or rainy-day funds that would cover your expenses for 3 months in case of sickness, job loss, economic downturn, or other emergencies? Select one answer only.

61   Yes
38   No
  1   Refused

ASK IF HAD EMERGENCY FUNDS [N=1,339]:
Q.21 Over the last few months, how much, if at all, have you spent of your emergency or rainy day fund? Select one answer only.

7    All of it
  7   Most of it
  6   About half of it
 23   Just a little of it
 57   None of it
  1   Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,008]:
Q.22a Thinking about the December holidays, do you plan to spend more money on holiday shopping this year (2020) than you did last year, less money, or about the same amount? Select one answer only.

  4   More money
 45   Less money
 48   About the same amount
  2   Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,008]:
Q.22b Now thinking about the amount of money you generally donate during the holiday season to charities or other organizations, thinking about your current finances do you expect to give more, about the same, or less than you did last year? Select one answer only.

  7   Give more
 59   Give about the same
 33   Give less
  1   Refused
ASK ALL:
Q.23  How well, if at all, do the following describe you... [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A.  I rarely ever get sick
36    Very well
45    Somewhat well
13    Not too well
 4    Not at all well
 1    Refused

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1,008]:
B.  I have stopped talking to a friend or family member because of their politics
  9    Very well
 13    Somewhat well
 19    Not too well
 56    Not at all well
  2    Refused

C.  I am not generally comfortable telling people how I am going to vote
  22   Very well
   7   Somewhat well
  23   Not too well
  25   Not at all well
   3   Refused

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1,008]:
D.  I am not generally comfortable telling people how I voted
  23   Very well
  27   Somewhat well
  23   Not too well
  26   Not at all well
   1   Refused

E.  I enjoy talking about government and politics with friends and family members
  11   Very well
  28   Somewhat well
  29   Not too well
  31   Not at all well
   1   Refused
Q.24 Do you personally know anyone in the United States who has tested positive for the coronavirus? Select all that apply.

4 Yes, myself
5 Yes, someone in my household
67 Yes, someone outside my household
28 No, do not know anyone [Exclusive]

ASK IF RESPONDENT HAS NOT PERSONALLY TESTED POSITIVE [N=1,938]:
Q.25 Given your current health and personal background, if you personally contracted COVID-19 do you think it is likely it would be... Select one answer only.

48 A mild case
34 A moderate case
16 A severe case
2 Refused

ASK ALL:
Now a couple of questions about yourself...
Q.26 Do you currently live in a city, a suburban area, a small town, or a rural area? Select one answer only.

28 City
39 Suburban area
18 Small town
15 Rural area
1 Refused

Q.27 People may relocate for many different reasons. Thinking about the past few months, has any of the following happened to you? [RANDOMIZE ITEMS]

A. You personally moved out of where you were living, either permanently or temporarily

2 Yes, has happened for reasons related to the coronavirus outbreak
7 Yes, has happened but for reasons not related to the coronavirus outbreak
90 No, has not happened
1 Refused

B. Someone else has moved INTO your home, either permanently or temporarily

3 Yes, has happened for reasons related to the coronavirus outbreak
5 Yes, has happened but for reasons not related to the coronavirus outbreak
91 No, has not happened
1 Refused
ASK IF MOVED [N=167]:
Q.28 What best describes the place you moved from... Select one answer only.

40 City
36 Suburban area
17 Small town
7 Rural area
* Refused

ASK ALL:
Q.29 Please try to place yourself on a scale of masculinity/femininity, where 0 is completely masculine and 6 is completely feminine. Select one answer only.

27 0 – Completely masculine
9 1
7 2
4 3
9 4
9 5
29 6 – Completely feminine
4 Neither feminine nor masculine
1 Refused

PARTY Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as... Select one answer only.

30 Republican
31 Democrat
25 Independent
13 Something else
1 Refused

ASK IF REPUBLICAN [N=659]:
PARTY1 Would you call yourself a... Select one answer only.

55 Strong Republican
44 Not very strong Republican
* Refused

ASK IF DEMOCRAT [N=720]:
PARTY2 Would you call yourself a... Select one answer only.

53 Strong Democrat
46 Not very strong Democrat
1 Refused
ASK IF INDEPENDENT OR SOMETHING ELSE [N=629]:

**PARTY3** Do you think of yourself as closer to the... Select one answer only.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Party</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Republican Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>Democratic Party</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
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Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by the Survey Center on American Life. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 2,016 adults (age 18 and up) living in the United States, including all 50 states and the District of Columbia. All interviews were conducted among participants of the web-enabled KnowledgePanel, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the US general population, not just the online population. Interviewing was conducted between November 13 and November 21, 2020. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English.

Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel. For those who agree to participate but do not already have internet access, Ipsos provides at no cost a laptop and internet service provider connection. People who already have computers and internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique log-in information for accessing surveys online and then are sent emails throughout each month inviting them to participate in research.

The final data were weighted to match the adult US population based on the following parameters: gender by age, race, education, Census region by metropolitan status, household income, language proficiency, and 2020 vote outcome. The sample weighting was accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. The use of survey weights in statistical analyses ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target population.

The margin of error for the qualified survey sample is $+/- 2.8$ percentage points at the 95 percent level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.6.