



Mountain States Poll

October 2020

33rd edition

Dr. Jason M. Adkins, Director

Introduction

The Montana State University Billings Poll was first conducted in 1989. This is the second edition of the poll conducted under the Mountain States Poll name. This report summarizes the results of a statewide random sample of 546 residents of Montana identified as likely voters. Randomly generated lists of landline and wireless telephone numbers used to conduct the poll were purchased from Scientific Telephone Samples based in Rancho Santa Margarita, Calif., with funding provided by the Montana State University Billings Foundation.

The Mountain States Poll was conducted from October 19-24, 2020, in the Market Research Lab on the MSUB campus. Students enrolled in Dr. Adkins' PSCI 342: Media, Public Opinion, PSCI 210: Introduction to American Government, and PSCI 220: Introduction to Comparative Government courses served as telephone surveyors for the poll.

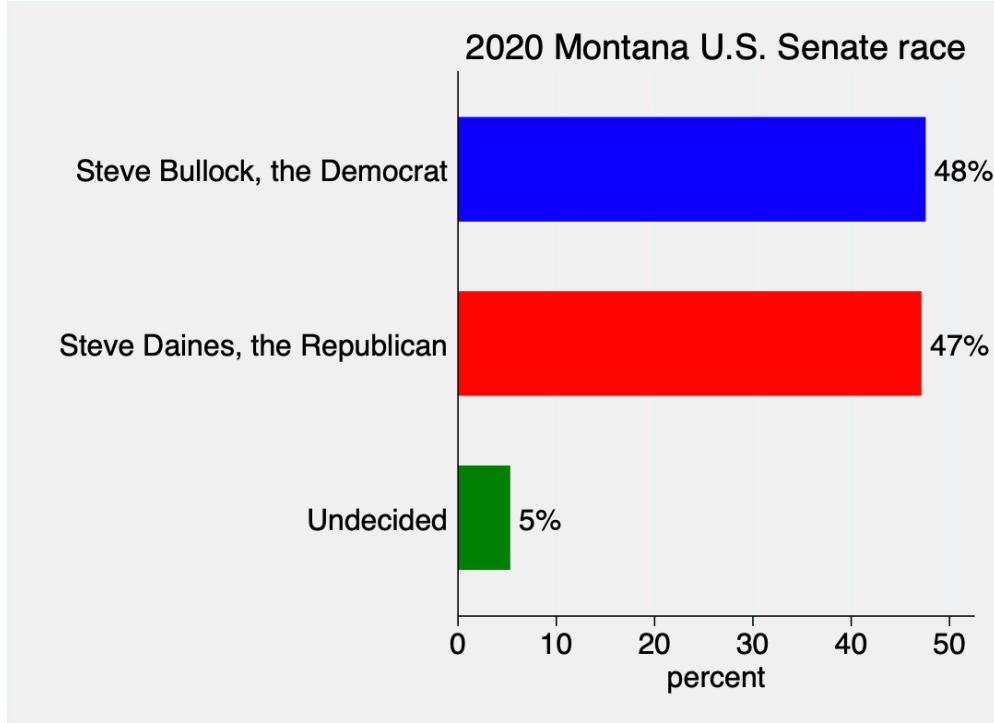
The margin of error for the poll is 4.2 percent, while various subgroups have larger margins of error. Cross-tabulation results by gender, age, education, and party affiliation are included. The polling sample was weighted based on age, gender, race, education, and 2016 presidential vote choice (a substitute for party identification as the State of Montana does not collect party registration data) based on Census Bureau estimates of the voting-age population in Montana and 2016 presidential election returns in Montana. The results are presented in order of interest in various electoral races in Montana and does not necessarily represent the order in which the questions were asked.

Acknowledgements

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who participated in the Mountain States Poll this year. The poll would not have been able to be fielded without a grant from the Montana State University Billings Foundation. Students from Dr. Adkins' PSCI 342: Media, Public Opinion, and Polling course deserve much of the credit as they sacrificed 20 hours of their time in order to serve as surveyors. In addition, students from Dr. Adkins' PSCI 210: Introduction to American Government and PSCI 220: Introduction to Comparative Government courses also made calls for the poll. Last, but not least, is the help provided by Glenda Holbrooke, who provides administrative support for the Department of the Social Sciences and Cultural Studies.

I. Montana politics

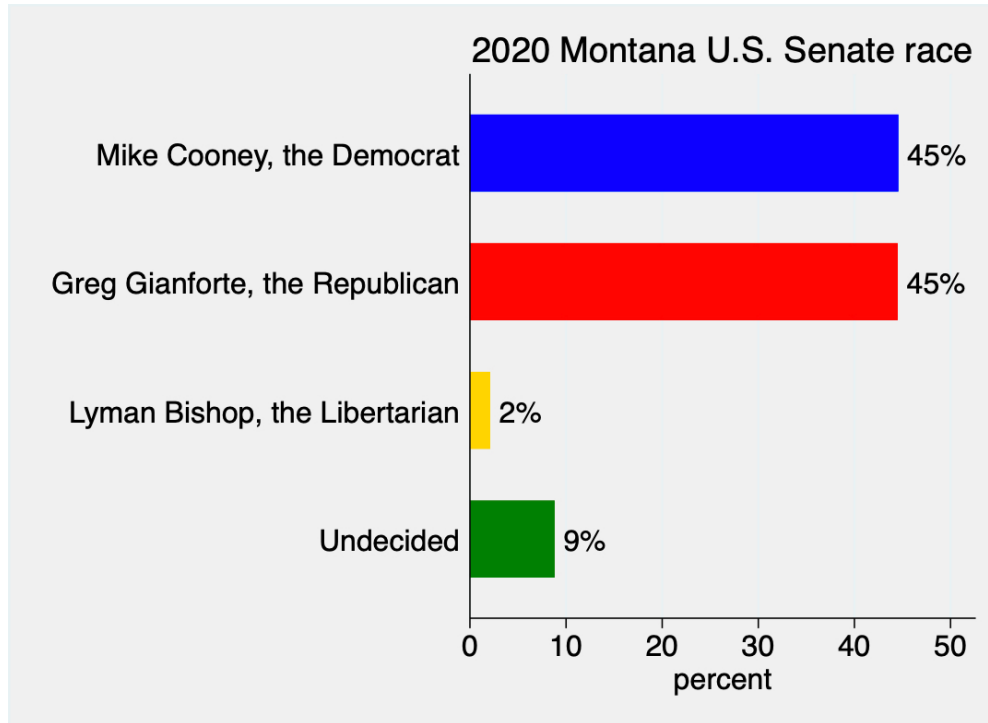
1. If the 2020 U.S. Senate election for Montana were held today or you already voted, whom would you vote for if the candidates were (candidates' names were in random order): Steve Bullock, the Democrat; Steve Daines, the Republican; or undecided?



	Party ID				Gender	
	Tot.	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Male	Female
Steve Bullock, the Democrat	48%	96%	4%	56%	39%	56%
Steve Daines, the Republican	47%	1%	92%	40%	55%	39%
Undecided	5%	3%	4%	5%	6%	5%

	Age				Education		
	18-29	30-44	45-65	65+	High school	Some col.	4-year degree +
Steve Bullock, the Democrat	57%	44%	43%	51%	41%	46%	55%
Steve Daines, the Republican	38%	48%	52%	45%	56%	46%	41%
Undecided	5%	8%	5%	4%	4%	8%	4%

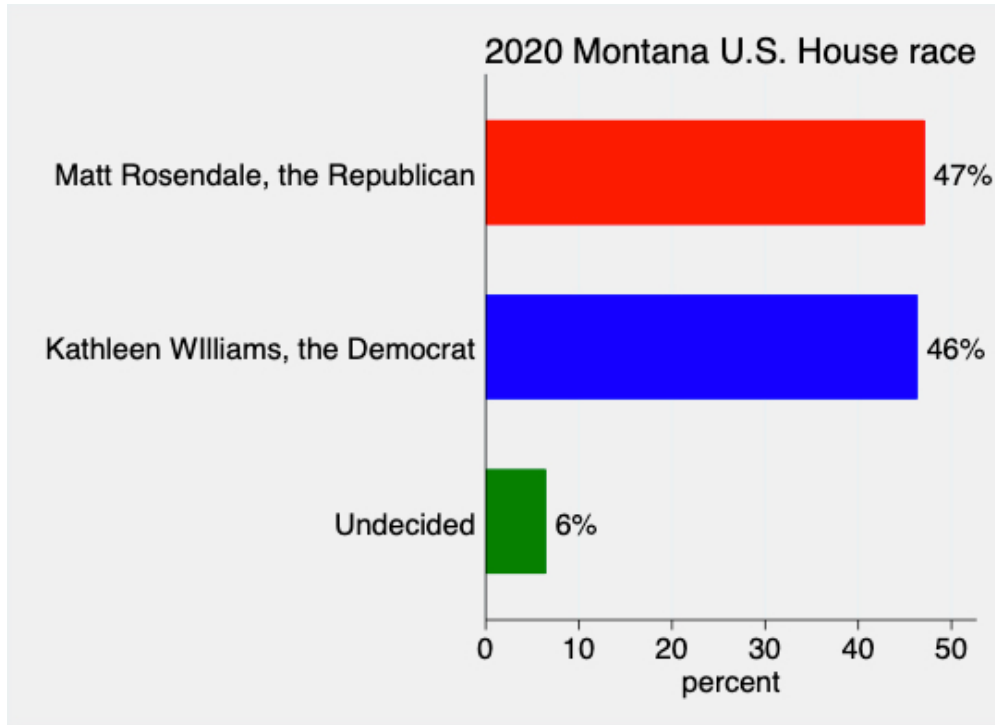
2. If the 2020 gubernatorial election were held today or you already voted, whom would you vote for or whom did you vote for if the candidates were (candidates' names were in random order): Mike Cooney, the Democrat; Greg Gianforte, the Republican; Lyman Bishop, the Libertarian; or undecided?



	Party ID				Gender	
	Tot.	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Male	Female
Mike Cooney, the Democrat	45%	96%	2%	53%	36%	54%
Greg Gianforte, the Republican	45%	1%	89%	36%	54%	35%
Lyman Bishop, the Libertarian	2%	0%	<1%	3%	3%	2%
Undecided	9%	4%	9%	8%	8%	10%

	Age				Education		
	18-29	30-44	45-65	65+	High school	Some col.	4-year degree +
Mike Cooney, the Democrat	57%	38%	39%	50%	33%	45%	55%
Greg Gianforte, the Republican	40%	43%	47%	44%	52%	44%	37%
Lyman Bishop, the Libertarian	0%	6%	2%	0%	3%	2%	2%
Undecided	3%	13%	11%	6%	12%	9%	5%

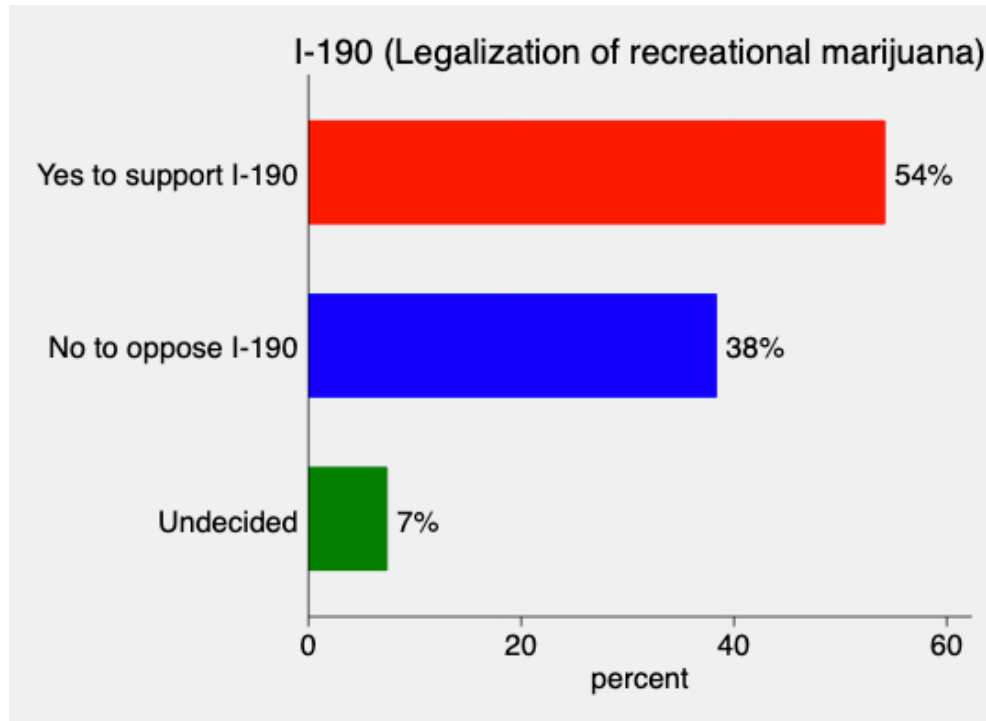
3. If the 2020 U.S House of Representatives election were held today or you already voted, whom would you vote for if the candidates (candidates' names were in random order): Matt Rosendale, the Republican; Kathleen Williams, the Democrat; or undecided?



	Party ID				Gender	
	Tot.	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Male	Female
Matt Rosendale, the Republican	47%	2%	91%	38%	54%	40%
Kathleen Williams, the Democrat	46%	96%	4%	55%	38%	54%
Undecided	6%	2%	5%	7%	8%	5%

	Age				Education		
	18-29	30-44	45-65	65+	High school	Some col.	4-year degree +
Matt Rosendale, the Republican	43%	54%	46%	46%	53%	51%	38%
Kathleen Williams, the Democrat	57%	39%	44%	50%	38%	43%	56%
Undecided	0%	7%	10%	5%	8%	5%	6%

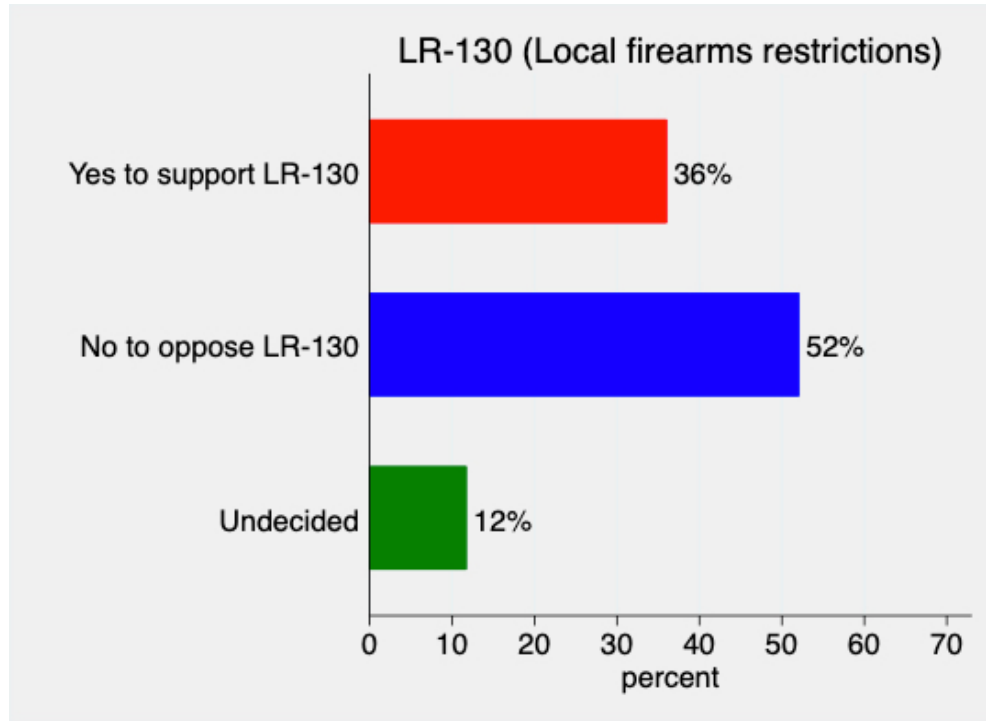
4. I-190 is a ballot measure regarding the legalization of marijuana for recreational use. A "Yes" vote would legalize recreational use and the sale of marijuana for those 21 years of age or older, and also tax marijuana at 20 percent of the purchase price. A "No" vote would keep the status quo were recreational use and the sale of marijuana would continue to be illegal. If the election were held today, how would you vote?



	Party ID				Gender	
	Tot.	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Male	Female
Yes	54%	77%	31%	63%	51%	57%
No	38%	21%	61%	30%	41%	35%
Undecided	7%	2%	8%	6%	7%	8%

	Age				Education		
	18-29	30-44	45-65	65+	High school	Some col.	4-year degree +
Yes	65%	50%	59%	47%	48%	57%	57%
No	31%	42%	32%	48%	43%	36%	37%
Undecided	4%	9%	10%	5%	9%	7%	6%

5. LR-130 is a ballot measure regarding firearm regulations. A "Yes" vote would remove the authority of cities and counties to regulate firearms, including concealed carry laws. A "No" vote would keep the status quo and allow cities and counties to continue to regulate firearms. If the election were held today, how would you vote?

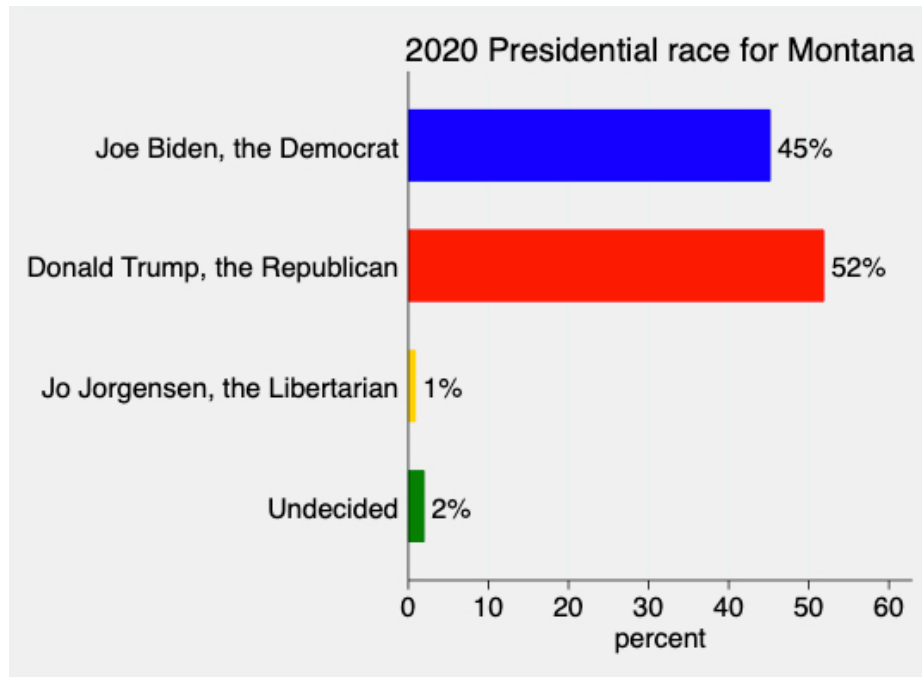


	Party ID				Gender	
	Tot.	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Male	Female
Yes	36%	23%	49%	35%	47%	25%
No	52%	71%	40%	57%	45%	60%
Undecided	12%	6%	11%	8%	8%	15%

	Age				Education		
	18-29	30-44	45-65	65+	High school	Some col.	4-year degree +
Yes	33%	35%	41%	32%	42%	35%	32%
No	55%	49%	50%	56%	49%	46%	60%
Undecided	12%	16%	10%	11%	9%	18%	8%

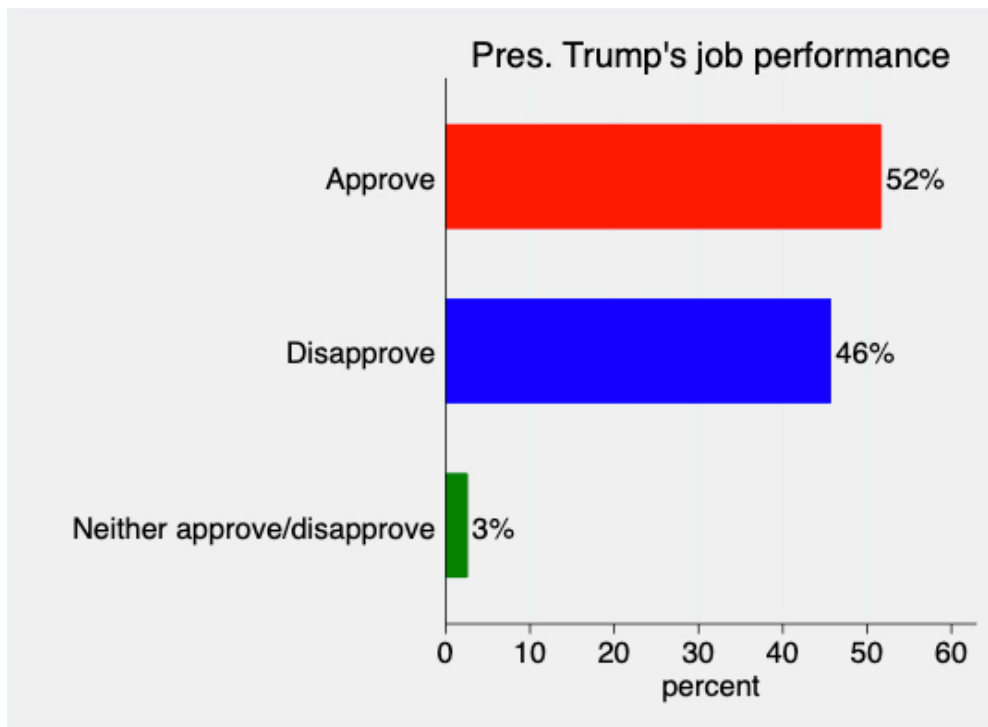
U.S. politics

6. If the 2020 U.S presidential election were held today or you already voted, whom would you vote for if the candidates (candidates' names were in random order)? Joe Biden, the Democrat; Donald Trump, the Republican; Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian; or undecided?



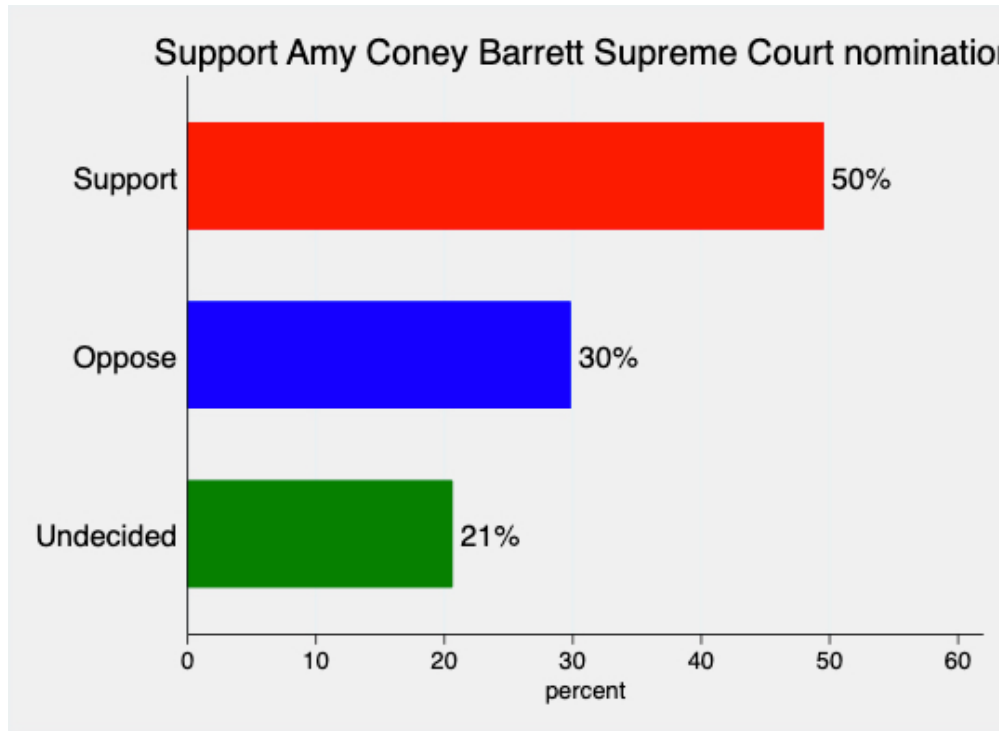
	Party ID				Gender		
	Tot.	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Male	Female	
Joe Biden, the Democrat	45%	98%	3%	51%	34%	56%	
Donald Trump, the Republican	52%	2%	97%	45%	62%	42%	
Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian	1%	0%	0%	2%	2%	<1%	
Undecided	2%	0%	1%	2%	3%	1%	
	Age				Education		
	18-29	30-44	45-65	65+	High school	Some col.	4-year degree +
Joe Biden, the Democrat	51%	47%	41%	47%	34%	44%	56%
Donald Trump, the Republican	44%	50%	57%	51%	62%	54%	42%
Jo Jorgensen, the Libertarian	1%	3%	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%
Undecided	4%	1%	2%	3%	3%	2%	1%

7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president?



	Party ID				Gender		
	Tot.	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Male	Female	
Approve	52%	4%	95%	48%	63%	41%	
Disapprove	46%	95%	3%	49%	33%	46%	
Neither approve/disapprove	3%	2%	2%	3%	4%	3%	
	Age				Education		
	18-29	30-44	45-65	65+	High school	Some col.	4-year degree +
Approve	40%	51%	57%	52%	67%	52%	39%
Disapprove	55%	46%	40%	48%	32%	45%	58%
Neither approve/disapprove	5%	3%	3%	1%	1%	3%	4%

8. Do you support or oppose the nomination of Amy Coney Barrett for Supreme Court Justice?



	Party ID				Gender		
	Tot.	Dem.	Rep.	Ind.	Male	Female	
Support	50%	9%	88%	48%	61%	38%	
Oppose	30%	66%	2%	27%	20%	40%	
Undecided	21%	26%	9%	25%	19%	22%	
	Age				Education		
	18-29	30-44	45-65	65+	High school	Some col.	4-year degree +
Support	28%	48%	57%	53%	62%	48%	42%
Oppose	21%	34%	32%	29%	17%	31%	40%
Undecided	51%	19%	12%	18%	22%	22%	19%

Sample Composition Before Weighting

Age				Gender	
18-29	30-44	45-65	65+	Male	Female
11%	27%	32%	30%	49%	51%
Party ID			Education		
Republican	Democrat	Independent/Other	HS or less	Some college	4-year deg.
34%	24%	42%	18%	33%	50%
Race					
White	Black	Hispanic	Native American	Other (includes multiracial)	
90%	1%	3%	2%	4%	