Unstable Year, Stable Polling

Who’s ahead in the national polls?

An updating average of 2020 presidential general election polls, accounting for each poll’s quality, sample size and recency
## Lovers and Haters in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Clinton</th>
<th>Trump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fav Only Clinton (41%)</td>
<td>98%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fav Only Trump (36%)</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither (18%)</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: National Exit Poll
## Swing States

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>EVs</th>
<th>2016 Trump Margin</th>
<th>2020 Trump Margin (Polling)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>+9.0%</td>
<td>+1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>+8.1%</td>
<td>-1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>+5.1%</td>
<td>+1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>+3.7%</td>
<td>-1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>+3.6%</td>
<td>-3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>+1.2%</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>+0.8%</td>
<td>-6.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>+0.7%</td>
<td>-5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>+0.2%</td>
<td>-6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>-0.4%</td>
<td>-6.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
<td>-8.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NV</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>-2.4%</td>
<td>-6.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Upper Midwest
- Ancestral Democrats
- Non-college whites

### Sun Belt
- Conservative whites
- Non-white turnout
- Growing Hispanic/Latino population
WISCONSIN: BIDEN ADVANTAGE IN SEPTEMBER 2020 POLLS

- Sept. (MU poll) 6%
- Sept. (CBS) 6%
- Sept. (CNBC) 6%
- Sept. (Morning Consult) 8%
- Sept. (Emerson) 7%
- Sept. (NYT) 5%
- Sept. (CNN) 10%
- Sept. (ABC/WP) 11%
- Sept. (Cap. Op.) 6%
- Sept. (Reuters) 5%
- Sept. (UW) 4%
- Sept. (CNBC) 9%
- Sept. (NBC) 10%

Biden Advantage
Half Very Enthusiastic About Supporting Their Candidate

Q25. Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting Donald Trump/Joe Biden somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic or not enthusiastic at all?

- Very enthusiastic: 50
- Somewhat enthusiastic: 32
- Not so enthusiastic: 13
- Not enthusiastic at all: 3
- Don't know: 2
If the election for President was being held today, would you vote for the Republican, Donald Trump, or the Democrat, Joe Biden?

Trump has slight lead among most enthusiastic
Nearly 8 in 10 Are “Absolutely Certain” About Their Vote

Q24. And, how would you describe the chances that you will vote for Donald Trump/Joe Biden in the election for President?

- Absolutely certain: 78
- Most likely: 18
- May change my mind: 3
- Don't know: 1
Biden lead strongest among those most certain to vote

If the election for President was being held today, would you vote for the Republican, Donald Trump, or the Democrat, Joe Biden?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Absolutely Certain</th>
<th>Most Likely</th>
<th>May Change My Mind</th>
<th>Don't Know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biden</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trump</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Absolutely Certain | Most Likely | May Change My Mind | Don't Know
Certainty and Enthusiasm

- Certain/Enthusiastic: 49%
- Uncertain/Enthusiastic: 2%
- Certain/Unenthusiastic: 30%
- Not Certain/Not Enthusiastic: 20%

% of electorate
If the election for President was being held today, would you vote for the Republican, Donald Trump, or the Democrat, Joe Biden?
Forecast Models Say Biden is Favorite

Nate Silver, 538. Updated October 5

The Economist. Updated September 29th

**Biden is favored to win the election**

We simulate the election 40,000 times to see who wins most often. The sample of 100 outcomes below gives you a good idea of the range of scenarios our model thinks is possible.

Trump wins 18 in 100

Biden wins 81 in 100

---

Right now, our model thinks **Joe Biden** is very likely to beat **Donald Trump** in the electoral college.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chance of winning the electoral college</th>
<th>Joe Biden</th>
<th>Donald Trump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chance of winning the electoral college</td>
<td>around 6 in 7 or 86%</td>
<td>around 1 in 7 or 14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chance of winning the most votes</th>
<th>Joe Biden</th>
<th>Donald Trump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chance of winning the most votes</td>
<td>better than 19 in 20 or 98%</td>
<td>less than 1 in 20 or 3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Predicted range of electoral college votes (270 to win)</th>
<th>Joe Biden</th>
<th>Donald Trump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Predicted range of electoral college votes (270 to win)</td>
<td>213-415</td>
<td>123-325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Election Forecast Models

What Models can tell us

- Provide probabilistic assessment of the state of the race
- Bring in a variety of inputs and data, many of which are important
- Allows for Bayesian updating

How models cheat

- Forecasting is hard: small number of elections, questionable assumptions, very rough measures of inputs and can never be wrong…
- 2012, 90% Chance of Obama Win:
- 2016, 71% Chance of Clinton Win:

Why FiveThirtyEight Gave Trump A Better Chance Than Almost Anyone Else

By Nate Silver
### Eligible Citizens Who Didn’t Vote in 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/2016</th>
<th>Non-College White</th>
<th>College White</th>
<th>Non-White</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MI</td>
<td>1,563,809</td>
<td>412,191</td>
<td>643,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MN</td>
<td>786,284</td>
<td>210,716</td>
<td>259,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NH</td>
<td>220,282</td>
<td>68,924</td>
<td>24,795</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>2,289,875</td>
<td>603,125</td>
<td>695,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WI</td>
<td>819,356</td>
<td>160,644</td>
<td>306,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AZ</td>
<td>683,831</td>
<td>228,169</td>
<td>904,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FL</td>
<td>2,565,664</td>
<td>719,336</td>
<td>2,565,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GA</td>
<td>1,171,614</td>
<td>327,386</td>
<td>1,303,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NC</td>
<td>1,105,431</td>
<td>320,569</td>
<td>834,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TX</td>
<td>2,665,119</td>
<td>812,881</td>
<td>4,274,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Dave Wasserman, Cook Report

Who Benefits from Increased Turnout? It Depends...

- **Trump Opportunities:** Rust Belt
- **Biden Opportunities:** Sun Belt
Biden supporters’ views on ease of voting vary depending on their states’ voting laws; Trump backers more likely to say it will be easy regardless of where they live

Source: Pew Research
GOV. EVERS JOB APPROVAL +8%


Approve: 39%  47%  54%  52%  47%  50%  51%  51%  65%  59%  54%  57%  51%

Disapprove: 22%  37%  34%  42%  38%  40%  38%  29%  33%  38%  37%  43%

Approve:D    Disapprove:R
Percentage of Americans who are either somewhat or very concerned that they or someone they know will be infected with the coronavirus

- All Americans
- Democrats
- Independents
- Republicans

October 2-3
- 81%
- 86%
- 82%
- 70%

September 18-19
- 72%
- 87%
- 69%
- 52%
6 in 10 Say More Change Needed From Police in Wisconsin

Q45 Split A. Which comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

- Police in Wisconsin have made the changes needed to treat black people equally to white people: 22
- Police in Wisconsin need to continue making changes to treat black people equally to white people: 60
- Don’t know: 18
Majority Opposes Defunding Police, Even if Shifting Money Elsewhere

Q42 Split A. Do you support or oppose the policy to "defund the police"?

Q42 Split B. Do you support or oppose reducing the budget of the police department in your community, and shifting money to programs related to mental health, housing, and education even if that means fewer police officers?
Controlling Spread More Important Than Restarting Economy

Q33. What do you think is more important?

- Trying to control the spread of the coronavirus, even if it hurts the economy: 60
- Trying to restart the economy, even if it hurts efforts to control the spread of the virus: 29
- Don't know: 11
Q47 Split A. If a vaccine that protected you from the coronavirus was available for free to everyone who wanted it, would you definitely get it, probably get it, probably not get it or definitely not get it?
Majority Concerned About Children Falling Behind in School

Q37. How concerned are you that your child or children are falling behind in their education because of COVID-19?

- Very concerned: 30
- Somewhat concerned: 35
- Not too concerned: 18
- Not at all concerned: 13
- Don't know: 4