COVID-19: The Impacts on Voting and the 2020 Election

Key Findings and Takeaways from an April 2020 National Poll of Registered Voters
Prepared by TargetSmart Research Solutions
Survey Methodology

- National survey of 1,200 registered American voters, conducted April 8-11, 2020
- 600 respondents interviewed over the telephone by professional agents (62% on cell phones, 38% on landlines), 600 respondents interviewed online, reached via the Dynata online panel, all interviews matched to the TargetSmart voterfile
- Credibility interval of +/-2.8% (theoretical margin of error for blended-methodology poll)
- Data weighted on gender, age, race on file, partisanship, vote propensity, population density (at the census bloc level), and geography (at the state level) to ensure the composition of the sample is representative of the population of registered voters across the United States
Key Findings

- Voters express profound concerns about the impact the coronavirus outbreak will have on our elections in 2020.
- Voters place a premium on action by state and local officials to provide alternatives to in-person voting.
- Voters also place a high importance on the federal government to provide the funding necessary to cover the increased costs of conducting elections during the outbreak.
- Voters are broadly-to-overwhelmingly supportive of an array of reforms aimed at ensuring all citizens are able to vote safely in 2020, including expanded access to vote-by-mail and early voting.
Governors and Local Officials Receive Higher Marks on Coronavirus Response than the President and Congress

Coronavirus Response Job Approvals

- President Donald Trump: 48% approve, 50% disapprove
- The United States Congress: 48% approve, 44% disapprove
- The governor of your state: 73% approve, 23% disapprove
- Your city, county, and other local officials: 79% approve, 15% disapprove

Q.8 Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the way each of the following is handling the response to the coronavirus outbreak? Is that strongly APPROVE/DISAPPROVE or somewhat APPROVE/DISAPPROVE?
Three Quarters of American Voters Are at Least Somewhat Worried about Contracting Coronavirus

Aligning with trends from other public polls, GOP voters are the least worried

74%  
Very or somewhat worried all voters

86%  
Very or somewhat worried Democrats

73%  
Very or somewhat worried independents

61%  
Very or somewhat worried Republicans

Q.5 And thinking now about the coronavirus outbreak, how worried are you that you or someone in your family will contract the coronavirus - very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time Frame</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More than 6 months from now</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 4 and 6 months from now</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 2 and 4 months from now</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 1 and 2 months from now</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Between 2 weeks and 1 month from now</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In another week or two</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Today or in the next few days</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</table>

Q.9 When do you think the country will get back to normal activity - today or in the next few days, in another week or two, between two weeks and a month from now, between one and two months from now, between two and four months from now, between four and six months from now, or more than six months from now?
Voters as Likely to Be Concerned about Coronavirus Disrupting 2020 Elections as Personal Finances

Concerns Related to the Coronavirus Outbreak

- **Very concerned**
- **Somewhat concerned**
- **A little concerned**
- **Not at all concerned**

Q.10 OK, now I'm going to read you some concerns people might have due to the coronavirus outbreak. Please tell me if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned, or not concerned at all about each one.
Most Voters Believe Coronavirus Will Impact Turnout in 2020

Democrats most likely to predict big impacts

Coronavirus Outbreak Impact on 2020 Voter Turnout

Q.15 Now thinking about the elections and the coronavirus outbreak, do you think the outbreak will have a very big impact, a fairly big impact, a small impact, or no impact at all on voting turnout in the United States in 2020?
Nearly Half of Voters Are at Least Somewhat Worried about Contracting Coronavirus at Their Polling Place

Democratic voters are most concerned with contracting coronavirus at their polling place

46% Very or somewhat worried all voters
58% Very or somewhat worried Democrats
43% Very or somewhat worried independents
34% Very or somewhat worried Republicans

Q.17 How worried are you about the possibility that you or someone in your immediate family might catch the coronavirus while voting at the place where you usually cast your ballot? Are you very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?
Voters Place High Importance on State and Local Governments Providing Alternatives to In-Person Voting

importance for state and local government to provide alternatives to in-person voting during the 2020 elections: very important, somewhat important, not that important, or not important at all?

- Very important: 46%
- Somewhat important: 32%
- Not that important: 11%
- Not important at all: 4%
- Don't know: 7%

Q.19 How important do you think it is for your state and local government to provide alternatives to in-person voting at your usual polling place for the 2020 elections - very important, somewhat important, not that important, or not important at all?
Voters Also Place High Importance on the Federal Government Funding the Increased Costs of Administering 2020 Elections

Importance for Federal Government to Provide Additional Funding for Increased Costs of Elections

- Very important: 45%
- Somewhat important: 32%
- Not that important: 12%
- Not important at all: 6%
- Don't know: 4%

Q.20 And how important do you think it is for the federal government to provide additional funding to states and counties to cover the increased costs of conducting elections due to the coronavirus outbreak - very important, somewhat important, not that important, or not important at all?
Voting Reform Proposals
Two-in-Three Voters Support Online Voter Registration

Allow citizens to register to vote online

**All Voters**

- Support (66%)
  - Somewhat: 20%
  - Strongly: 46%
- Oppose (29%)
  - Somewhat: 10%
  - Strongly: 19%

**Party ID Breakdown**

- **ID Democrat**
  - Total support: 80%
  - Total oppose: 16%
- **ID Independent**
  - Total support: 65%
  - Total oppose: 28%
- **ID Republican**
  - Total support: 51%
  - Total oppose: 45%

18. OK, now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each proposal.
Three-in-Five Voters Support Same-Day Voter Registration

Allow citizens to register to vote on Election Day, also known as same-day registration

All Voters

- Somewhat Support (42%)
- Strongly Support (21%)
- Somewhat Oppose (10%)
- Strongly Oppose (20%)

Party ID Breakdown

- ID Democrat: 80% Support, 16% Oppose
- ID Independent: 60% Support, 31% Oppose
- ID Republican: 44% Support, 50% Oppose

18. OK, now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each proposal.
Seven-in-Ten Voters Support Extending Voter Registration Deadlines

Extend voter registration deadlines

All Voters

Support (71%)
- Somewhat
- Strongly
- 25%
- 47%

Oppose (22%)
- 10%
- 12%

Party ID Breakdown

ID Democrat
- Total support (84%)
- Total oppose (12%)

ID Independent
- Total support (69%)
- Total oppose (22%)

ID Republican
- Total support (59%)
- Total oppose (35%)

18. OK, now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each proposal.
Three Quarters of Voters Support Expanding Vote-by-Mail Access; Majority Are *Strongly* Supportive

*Expand access to vote-by-mail*

**All Voters**

- **Support (73%)**
  - Somewhat: 19%
  - Strongly: 55%
  - Oppose: 8%
  - Somewhat: 14%

**Party ID Breakdown**

- **ID Democrat**
  - Total support: 90%
  - Total oppose: 8%
- **ID independent**
  - Total support: 71%
  - Total oppose: 22%
- **ID Republican**
  - Total support: 57%
  - Total oppose: 37%

18. OK, now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each proposal.
Three Quarters Also Support Pre-Paid Postage for Anyone who Votes by Mail

Include pre-paid postage for anyone who votes by mail

All Voters

- Support (74%)
  - Somewhat: 21%
  - Strongly: 53%

- Oppose (20%)
  - Somewhat: 7%
  - Strongly: 13%

Party ID Breakdown

- ID Democrat
  - Support: 85%
  - Oppose: 12%

- ID Independent
  - Support: 74%
  - Oppose: 20%

- ID Republican
  - Support: 62%
  - Oppose: 32%

18. OK, now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each proposal.
Eight-in-Ten Voters Support Expanding Access to Early Voting; Reform Has Cross-Partisan Appeal

*Expand access to early voting*

**All Voters**

- **Support (80%)**
  - Somewhat: 22%
  - Strongly: 58%

- **Oppose (15%)**
  - Somewhat: 7%
  - Strongly: 8%

**Party ID Breakdown**

- **ID Democrat**
  - Total Support: 88%
  - Total Oppose: 9%

- **ID Independent**
  - Total Support: 76%
  - Total Oppose: 17%

- **ID Republican**
  - Total Support: 74%
  - Total Oppose: 21%

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Nearly Universal Support for Ensuring Polling Stations Conform with CDC Guidelines

Ensure polling stations conform with CDC guidelines on sanitation

All Voters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Somewhat</th>
<th>Strongly</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Support</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oppose</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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Party ID Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party ID</th>
<th>Total Support</th>
<th>Total Oppose</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ID Democrat</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID Independent</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ID Republican</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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Eight-in-Ten Voters Support Having Extra Poll Workers on Standby

Have extra poll workers on standby in case other workers become ill or are quarantined

18. OK, now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each proposal.
About 8-in-10 Voters Support Moving Polling Places from At-Risk Sites

Move in-person polling places from at-risk sites such as senior care facilities

All Voters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support (78%)</th>
<th>Oppose (14%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>Strongly</td>
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<tr>
<td>23%</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>55%</td>
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Party ID Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ID Democrat</th>
<th>ID independent</th>
<th>ID Republican</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>80%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>19%</td>
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Increasing the Number of In-Person Polling Places Also Garners Support from 8-in-10 Voters

*Increase the number of in-person polling places in order to minimize lines*

18. OK, now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each proposal.
Two-in-Three Voters Support Providing Workers with Paid Time Off for Voting

Ensure all working citizens get paid time off for voting

All Voters

- Support (66%): 45% Somewhat, 21% Strongly
- Oppose (26%): 12% Somewhat, 14% Strongly

Party ID Breakdown

- ID Democrat: 82% Support, 13% Oppose
- ID Independent: 62% Support, 18% Oppose
- ID Republican: 53% Support, 42% Oppose

18. OK, now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus outbreak. Please tell me whether you support or oppose each proposal.
Six-in-Ten Voters Support Allowing Voters to Cast their Ballots in Any Precinct in their County

Allow any voter to cast a ballot at any voting precinct in their county

All Voters

Party ID Breakdown

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Voters Divided on Allowing Citizens to Vote Over the Internet; Significant Partisan Contour Emerges

Allow citizens to vote over the Internet

All Voters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support (49%)</th>
<th>Oppose (45%)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat</td>
<td>Strongly</td>
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<tr>
<td>21%</td>
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<td>13%</td>
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Party ID Breakdown

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<tr>
<td>63%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31%</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>64%</td>
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