



NEWS RELEASE

Latino Decisions  
Everything Latino Politics

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**\*\*PRESS TELECONFERENCE AT 12:30 P.M. ET TODAY\*\***

## **A Third of Latino Registered Voters Do Not Trust Mail-in-Voting**

*Latino voters express seven-point increase in preference to vote in person*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Results from the third week of the 2020 Latino Weekly Tracking Poll from NALEO Educational Fund and Latino Decisions offer exclusive insight into the Latino electorate's views on the 2020 presidential election. The poll, conducted by Latino Decisions September 14-19, has a margin of error of +/- 4.9 percent. The first week of the poll was September 1-6, with the third week seeing another 400 Latino registered voters take the survey. Over the course of the nine-week tracking poll, 3,600 unique Latino voters will be asked about the candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, how they plan to vote in November, and their feelings about major issues facing the country.

For the duration of the poll, NALEO Educational Fund and Latino Decisions will be holding a weekly press call to discuss the results every Tuesday at 12:30 p.m. ET/9:30 a.m. PT.

"While Latino voters continue to prioritize COVID-19, healthcare, jobs, and discrimination, our community is shifting on how we prefer to make our voices heard this election," stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund Chief Executive Officer. "Survey respondents are nearly split on those who prefer to vote by mail versus in person. While there can be many reasons for this, the controversies surrounding mail-in-voting could be playing a role in how much Latino voters trust the process. This reality marks the third consecutive week where our polling data reminds us of how important it is for elections officials to establish trust with voters. As voting is underway in some parts of the country, we are already behind on this."

"The Latino electorate seems to be responding to partisan outreach after several weeks of discussion over the efforts of both parties to win the Latino vote," said Dr. Stephen Nuño-Perez, Director of Communications and Senior Analyst at Latino Decisions. "This effort to reach out to Latinos has to continue, and we will keep an eye on the impact this is having on Latino opinion up to the election. However, the strong perception of racism and discrimination Latinos are reporting will be influential where the Latino vote will be the difference between victory and defeat. Our early results suggest that the fate of the election will depend on the ability of the parties to convince Latinos they can solve the problems facing the community."

Key findings include:

- As 51 percent of survey respondents express a preference to vote by mail (down seven points from last week) and 49 percent say they prefer to vote in person (up seven points from last week), one in every three (33 percent) respondents express they do not trust that mail-in-ballots will be correctly delivered back to county elections departments
  - Among respondents who plan to vote in person, 46 percent intend to vote early before November 3
  - For those who do plan to vote by mail, 83 percent plan on voting right away
- 30 percent of survey respondents say they are not familiar with how to request a mail-in-ballot
- Since the first week of the survey, respondents have turned away from cable or local TV news by 10 points (59 percent in week one versus 49 percent in week three) as their primary source of information on current affairs and politics
  - Newspapers saw a five-point uptick from 20 percent in week one to 25 percent in week three
- 76 percent of survey respondents say they are almost certain they will vote in 2020, with 59 percent saying they are more enthusiastic about voting in 2020 than they were in 2016
- Nearly one in every two survey respondents (48 percent) has been contacted by a representative from a political party, campaign, or other organization in the lead up to Election 2020
  - Of those who said they had been contacted, 62 percent indicate someone from the Democratic Party contacted them, 34 percent indicate someone from the Republican Party, and 27 percent indicate someone from a non-partisan or civic organization
- Health, racism and discrimination, and jobs remain the most important issues among survey respondents, with the following breakdown:
  - COVID-19: 46 percent
  - Lowering healthcare costs: 31 percent
  - Racism and discrimination: 31 percent
  - Jobs and wages: 27 percent
- 65 percent of survey respondents plan on voting for Vice President Joe Biden, and 25 percent plan on voting for President Donald Trump
- Vice President Joe Biden continues to lead President Donald Trump with respect to whom respondents trust in handling the following issues:
  - Access to affordable healthcare
    - Biden (68 percent)
    - Trump (18 percent)
  - Improving the economy
    - Biden (59 percent)
    - Trump (27 percent)
  - Bringing the country together
    - Biden (63 percent)

- Trump (16 percent)
- In addition to the 31 percent of survey respondents who say they know someone who has died from COVID-19, 36 percent say they have had trouble getting access to food, medicine, or basic household needs, as a result of the pandemic
- Of the 91 percent of survey respondents who say they have completed the census, most respondents (46 percent) say they have responded online

### Weekly Press Call

Beginning on September 8, weekly press calls to discuss topline and key findings of the previous week's polling data will be held on Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m. ET/9:30 a.m. PT on the Zoom platform, with the final press call on Monday, November 2, at 12:30 p.m. ET/9:30 a.m. PT.

You can register to join [here](#). Speakers will include NALEO Educational Fund Director of Civic Engagement Research Dorian Caal, Latino Decisions Director of Communications and Senior Analyst Dr. Stephen Nuño-Perez, and Latino Decisions analyst and research methodologist Angie Gutierrez.

### Methodology

This nine-week survey will continue through the week of the election, with a survey sample each week of 400 unique Latino registered voters. By the end of the project, data from 3,600 eligible Latino voters will have been collected on political attitudes, voting preferences, the impact of COVID-19, vote-by-mail, outreach, and voter enthusiasm. Interviews were conducted in English or Spanish, according to the respondent's choice. Surveys were conducted online with a resulting +/- 4.9 percent margin of error.

For more information, you can view the 2020 Latino Weekly Tracking Poll [toplines](#) and [crosstabs](#) for this polling week.

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### About NALEO Educational Fund

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*

### About Latino Decisions

*Latino Decisions is the nation's leading polling and research firm on Latino Americans, being called the "gold-standard in Latino American polling" by Time Magazine, and has implemented its weekly political tracking poll of Latino voters every cycle since 2010.*