



NEWS RELEASE

Latino Decisions
Everything Latino Politics

For Immediate Release
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****PRESS TELECONFERENCE AT 12:30 P.M. ET TODAY****

Nearly Two-Thirds of Latino Voters Concerned About Orderly Transition of Power

*With Election Day just two weeks away, COVID-19 remains
the top issue as 16 percent of Latino voters have already voted*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Results from the seventh 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 October 12 – October 17, has a margin of error of +/- 4.9 percent. The first week of the poll was September 1-6, with each week seeing an additional 400 Latino registered voters (500 in Week 5) take the survey. Over the course of the nine-week tracking poll, 3,700 unique Latino voters are being 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.

"We are just two weeks out from Election Day, and Latino voters are casting ballots with COVID-19 as their driving issue," stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund Chief Executive Officer. "Nearly 30 percent of Latino voters have lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. As the community continues to experience the devastating effects of the crisis, Latino voters also have significant concerns about the dissemination of misinformation in Election 2020 and the orderly transition of power should there be a change of Administrations. However, they are still demonstrating an enthusiastic dedication to participating in our democratic process. That enthusiasm is being met with increases in outreach to the Latino electorate, compared to 2016."

"After seven weeks of tracking Latino sentiments leading up to the election, it is difficult to overstate the impact that COVID-19 has had on the Latino electorate," said Dr. Stephen Nuño-Perez, Director of Communications and Senior Analyst at Latino Decisions. "This is an 'all hands on deck' issue that any candidate must address if they want to connect with Latino voters."

Key findings from Week 7 include:

Candidate Favorability

- Vice President Joe Biden saw a 38-point advantage in favorability over President Donald Trump, and Senator Kamala Harris saw a 27-point advantage in favorability over Vice President Mike Pence
- 68 percent of survey respondents plan on voting for Vice President Joe Biden, and 25 percent plan on voting for President Donald Trump

Issues

- COVID-19, healthcare, racism and discrimination, and jobs remain the most important issues among survey respondents, with the following breakdown:
 - Responding to COVID-19: 52 percent (high point in the survey)
 - Lowering healthcare costs: 29 percent
 - Jobs and wages: 26 percent
 - Racism and discrimination: 23 percent
 - Immigration reform and protecting immigrant rights: 20 percent
- 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 (66 percent)
 - Trump (18 percent)
 - Improving the economy
 - Biden (52 percent)
 - Trump (29 percent)
 - Immigration reform
 - Biden (59 percent)
 - Trump (21 percent)
 - Bringing the country together
 - Biden (61 percent)
 - Trump (18 percent)
- 73 percent of survey respondents believe President Donald Trump contracted COVID-19 because he failed to take the proper precautions and was acting irresponsibly
- 73 percent (high point in the survey) disapprove of the way President Trump is handling the COVID-19 response
- With Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg's passing, 64 percent (low point in the survey) of survey respondents say that the Senate should wait until after the election to let the next president make the nomination for her replacement
 - 36 percent (high point in the survey) say the Senate should vote on President Trump's nominee

- Of the 92 percent of survey respondents who say they have completed the census, most respondents (45 percent this week) say they have responded online

Voter Enthusiasm, Disinformation, and Election Preferences

- 16 percent (up 9 points from last week) of respondents say they have already voted
- With 66 percent of survey respondents saying they are almost certain they will vote in 2020, 80 percent are either just as or more enthusiastic about voting in 2020 than they were in 2016, with 60 percent say they are more enthusiastic about 2020
- Survey respondents are split on voting method, with 49 percent expressing a preference to vote by mail and 51 percent saying they prefer to vote in person
 - 78 percent (high point in the survey) say they are familiar with how to request a mail-in-ballot
 - Among the respondents who plan to vote in person, 40 percent (low point in the survey) intend to vote early before November 3
 - For those who do plan to vote by mail, 78 percent plan on voting right away
- A third of survey respondents (33 percent) say they do not trust that mail-in-ballots will be correctly delivered back to county elections departments
- 71 percent of survey respondents think ballot drop boxes are a good idea
- 75 percent (high point in the survey) of survey respondents are concerned that family or friends are being sent digitally altered videos meant to mislead the public about the presidential candidates
- Although 89 percent of respondents believe they will personally have the opportunity to freely and fairly vote in the election, 65 percent are concerned that if Vice President Joe Biden wins, there will not be an orderly transition of power

Voter Engagement

- 84 percent of respondents say they are following the news of the presidential election
- 77 percent (low point in the survey) of survey respondents said they discussed politics with family and friends
- 48 percent of respondents said they have discussed a candidate or political issue on social media
- 68 percent of survey respondents say they encouraged family or friends to register to vote
- 56 percent (high point in the survey) of respondents have been contacted by a representative from a political party, campaign, or other organization in the lead up to Election 2020 (highest point in 2016 was 46 percent)
 - Of those who said they had been contacted this election cycle, 60 percent indicate someone from the Democratic Party contacted them, 33 percent indicate someone from the Republican Party, and 26 percent indicate someone from a non-partisan or civic organization

COVID-19 Challenges

- In addition to the 29 percent of this week's survey respondents who say they know someone who has died from COVID-19, 26 percent say they have had trouble getting access to food, medicine, or basic household needs, as a result of the pandemic, and 41 percent say they had to use savings or retirement money to pay for expenses
- 29 percent (high point in the survey) of survey respondents have lost their job as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic

Weekly Press Call

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 representatives from NALEO Educational Fund and Latino Decisions.

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 (500 in Week 5). By the end of the project, data from 3,700 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.