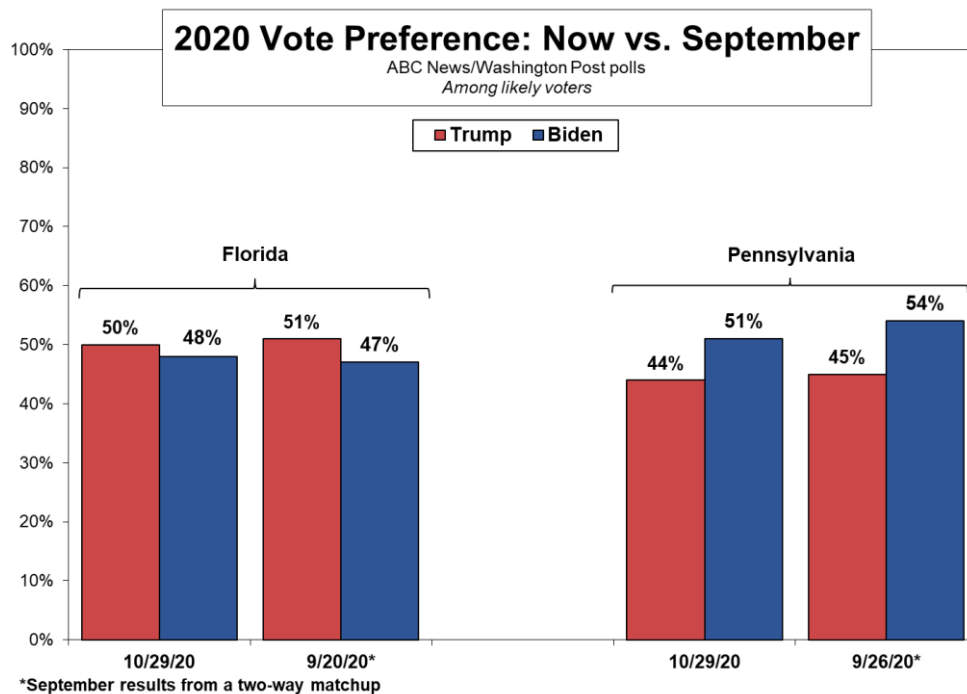# In a Pandemic vs. Economy Final, It's a Tossup in Fla., Biden +7 in Pa.

The pandemic vs. the economy defines the closing presidential contest in two key battlegrounds, with Florida holding firm to its tossup status while Joe Biden leads slightly in Pennsylvania in the season's final ABC News/Washington Post polls.

There's little change in either state. In Florida, Donald Trump has 50 percent support among likely voters to Biden's 48 percent; it was 51-47 percent in an ABC/Post poll Sept. 20. Trump won the state by 112,911 votes out of more than 9.4 million cast in 2016.

In Pennsylvania, the race stands at 51-44 percent, Biden-Trump, a slight 7-point advantage for the Democrat; that compares with a similar 9-point margin late last month. Here Trump's 2016 win was even narrower, 44,292 votes out of nearly 6.2 million cast.

2020 Vote Preference: Now vs. September
ABC News/Washington Post polls
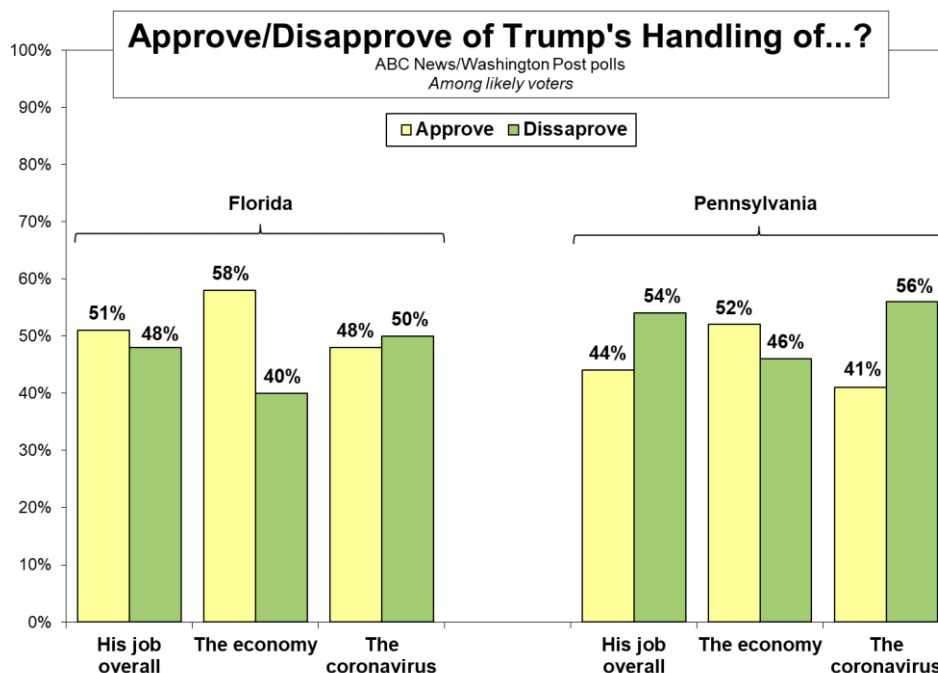*Among likely voters*

Biden owes his standing in Pennsylvania to most of the same groups his campaign relies on across the country. He holds a 14-point advantage among women, compared with an even contest among men; an 18-point lead among independents, a frequent swing voter group that Trump won by 7 percentage points here in 2016; and a broad 28-point lead among moderates.

Biden is competitive among white voters in Pennsylvania – they divide 50-46 percent, Trump-Biden – while he wins 76 percent support from members of racial and ethnic groups in the state. In Florida, by contrast, Trump leads among whites by 20 points. Additionally, boosted by Cuban Americans, he runs competitively among Hispanic voters.

Both states have been spared the worst of the current surge in coronavirus cases, yet these polls, produced for ABC by Langer Research Associates, show that the pandemic remains a powerful factor. In Pennsylvania, likely voters by 56-38 percent say it's more important to try to control the spread of the virus than to restart the economy; this narrows to 49-45 percent in Florida. In both states, Trump wins more than eight in 10 of those who prioritize the economy, while Biden wins more than eight in 10 of those focused on stopping the spread.

	2020 Vote Preference: Trump-Biden *(among likely voters)*	
In Florida, more important:		
Stop the spread (49%)	14-83%	-69 pts.
Restart the economy (45%)	87-11	+76
In Pennsylvania, more important:		
Stop the spread (56%)	15-82	-67
Restart the economy (38%)	84-11	+73

APPROVALS and WORRY – Trump just touches majority approval in Florida for his work in office overall, marking his competitiveness in the state; 51 percent of likely voters approve of his work in office, 48 percent disapprove. In Pennsylvania, he's underwater, 44-54 percent. Typically for an incumbent election, these views closely reflect vote preferences.

Approve/Disapprove of Trump's Handling of...?
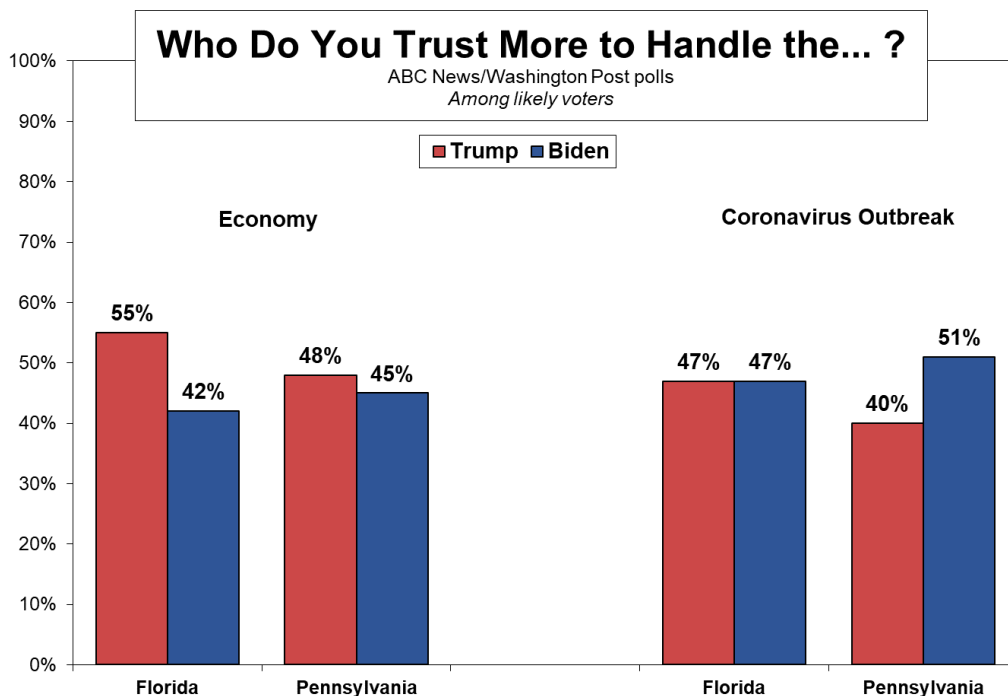ABC News/Washington Post polls
Among likely voters

Trump is boosted in Florida by notably positive ratings for handling the economy, 58-40 percent; this works less well for him in Pennsylvania, 52-46 percent. These fade to a split decision in Florida on his handling of the pandemic (48 percent approve, 50 percent disapprove) and a negative result, 41-56 percent, in Pennsylvania.

Trump has urged economic reopening, and indeed Florida lifted all statewide COVID-19 restrictions a month ago. In Pennsylvania, by contrast, masks are mandatory in public places and businesses must operate at reduced capacity indoors.

The states report similar recent infection rates, 19 daily new cases per 100,000 residents in Florida and 17 in Pennsylvania. (These compare, for example, to 78 per 100,000 in Wisconsin.) That said, Pennsylvania has a higher seven-day average test positivity rate, 13.3 percent, vs. 5.2 percent in Florida. And hospitalizations are up 54 percent in the past two weeks in Pennsylvania, compared with 7 percent in Florida.

Sixty-two percent of likely voters in Pennsylvania are worried that they or an immediate family member may catch the virus, and 8 percent say it's already happened. Fewer in Florida, 55 percent, are worried (and 10 percent say it's happened). In both states, among likely voters who are worried about catching the virus, 70 percent support Biden.

TRUST and QUALITIES – Preferences to handle the economy and the pandemic roughly follow Trump's approval ratings on them. In Florida, likely voters trust Trump over Biden on the economy, 55-42 percent, and divide evenly in trust to handle the pandemic. In Pennsylvania, it's a close 48-45 percent, Trump-Biden, on the economy, and switches to 51-40 percent, Biden-Trump, in trust on the coronavirus.

Who Do You Trust More to Handle the... ?
ABC News/Washington Post polls
Among likely voters

■ Trump ■ Biden

Economy — Florida: Trump 55%, Biden 42%; Pennsylvania: Trump 48%, Biden 45%.
Coronavirus Outbreak — Florida: Trump 47%, Biden 47%; Pennsylvania: Trump 40%, Biden 51%.
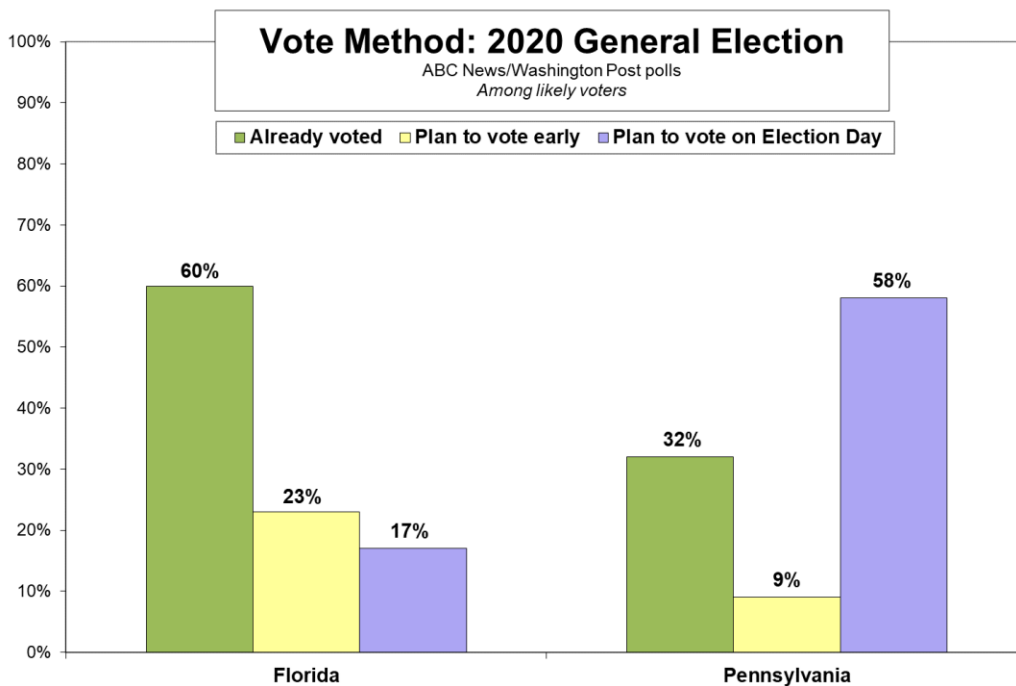
On another issue in Pennsylvania, likely voters split evenly, 45-45 percent, in trust to handle fracking in the state. In their final debate, Trump accused Biden of favoring a ban on fracking. Biden has said he would ban new oil and gas drilling on federal land but allow continued drilling under existing federal permits and on non-federal land.

Differences between Pennsylvania and Florida also emerge in views of the candidates' personal qualities. Likely voters in Florida divide evenly between Trump and Biden on who's more honest and trustworthy (46-45 percent) and who better understands the problems of people like them (47-47 percent). Trump moves to an advantage as the stronger leader, 53-44 percent.

In Pennsylvania, instead, Biden leads on the first two of these – 49-39 percent for honesty and 51-40 percent for empathy – and runs evenly with Trump on strong leadership, 47-47 percent.

	Candidate Attributes: Trump-Biden (among likely voters)			
Who do you think…?	**Florida**		**Pennsylvania**	
Is more honest and trustworthy	46-45%	+1 pts.	39-49%	-10 pts.
Better understands your problems	47-47	=	40-51	-11
Is the stronger leader	53-44	+9	47-47	=

VOTING – Among the sharpest differences between these states is how people there intend to vote. In Florida, 60 percent of likely voters said (in interviews last Saturday through Thursday) that they'd already voted, and 23 percent still intended to vote early, leaving just 17 percent as Election Day voters. Preferences among early voters are close, 50-47 percent, Biden-Trump.

In Pennsylvania, by contrast, most, 58 percent, said they'd vote on Election Day, 32 percent said they'd already voted and the rest still intended to do so. Here self-reported early voting was far more lopsided for Biden, 75-22 percent.

REGIONALLY SPEAKING – There are large differences across regions of both states. On its face, Biden's advantage in Pennsylvania rests on Philadelphia, with nearly a 4-1 lead, and its suburbs, 59-36 percent. That said, Trump's position in central Pennsylvania, 52-42 percent, is a comedown from his 28-point win there in 2016. The race is essentially tied in the northeast (including Biden's childhood hometown, Scranton), and 54-45 percent, Trump-Biden – not a significant difference given the sample size – in the western counties, including Pittsburgh.

In Florida, Miami, the Gold Coast and the Keys – with about three in 10 of the state's likely voters – is Biden's best region by far, 60-38 percent. Trump comes back with an equally large lead in northern Florida and the Panhandle, 61-38 percent, and a broad 68-30 percent in the central and Gulf Coast counties. The race is essentially tied in the Tampa area and a close 52-45 percent, Biden-Trump, in Orlando and the central Atlantic coast.

GROUPS – While both candidates draw from their accustomed bases, there are some notable differences. Biden, as noted, leads among independents in Pennsylvania by 54-36 percent; in Florida they split evenly, 48-47 percent, Biden-Trump. (Similarly, independents in Florida are 12 points more apt than those in Pennsylvania to approve of Trump's work in office.)

Also as mentioned, Trump wins whites in Florida by 59-39 percent, while in Pennsylvania they divide 50-46 percent, Trump-Biden. This includes a big difference among white Catholics; they divide evenly in Pennsylvania, while supporting Trump by 62-37 percent in Florida. Further, in Florida, Trump is supported by 71 percent of non-college white men, about the same as four years ago. In Pennsylvania, instead, his support in this core group falls to 56 percent, down 15 points from 2016.

Across the political spectrum, college-educated white women in Florida back Biden by 59-41 percent, an 18-point margin; Trump won them by 23 points in 2016. Biden has a 40-point lead in this group in Pennsylvania, 67-27 percent. Hillary Clinton won them by 14 points.

Hispanics divide closely in Florida – 51 percent for Biden, 47 percent for Trump. While the sample is small, this is influenced by substantial support for Trump among Cuban Americans. Biden is ahead among non-Cuban Hispanics and has broad support from Black likely voters.

Among other groups, Biden wins 70 percent of urban likely voters in Pennsylvania vs. 56 percent in Florida. And seniors divide 54-45 percent, Trump-Biden in Florida – not a significant difference given the sample size – while going the other way, 57-42 percent, Biden-Trump, in Pennsylvania. Compared with those in Pennsylvania, Florida seniors are 17 points more apt to prioritize restarting the economy over controlling the coronavirus, 13 points more likely to approve of Trump's handling of the economy and 9 points less worried about catching the virus.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone interviews Oct. 24-29, 2020, among random samples of 915 Florida registered

voters, including 824 likely voters; and 908 Pennsylvania registered voters, including 810 likely voters. Results have margins of sampling error of 3.5 percentage points among registered voters and 4.0 among likely voters in both states, including design effects. The vote preference question included the Libertarian candidate in Pennsylvania and the Green and Libertarian candidates in Florida. Neither was included in the September surveys in these states.

Partisan divisions – Democrats-Republicans-independents – are 31-35-29 percent among registered voters and 31-36-28 percent among likely voters in Florida and 33-36-26 percent among registered voters and 36-36-24 percent among likely voters in Pennsylvania.

The survey was produced for ABC News by Langer Research Associates, with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology here.

Analysis by Gary Langer, with Steven Sparks, Allison De Jong, Christine Filer and Sofi Sinozich.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com. Join our mailing list for notice of all new releases.

Media contacts: Van Scott (212-456-7243) or Caragh Fisher (212-456-3437).

Full results follow.

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*= less than 0.5 percent


1. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) How closely are you following the 2020 presidential
race: very closely, somewhat closely, not so closely, or not closely at all?

                 ------ Closely ------   ---- Not closely ----     No
                 NET    Very   Somewhat   NET   Not so   At all   opinion
10/29/20 Fla.     90     68       22       10     5         4        1
9/20/20  Fla.     87     56       32       13     7         6        *
10/29/20 Penn.    94     64       30        6     3         3        *
9/26/20  Penn.    90     64       27       10     6         3        *


2. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in
the presidential election: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote,
are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

                                                  Don't think   Already
                 Certain  Probably  Chances  Less than  will vote    voted    No
                 to vote    vote     50/50     that     (vol.)     (vol.)   op.
10/29/20 Fla.      42        2         2         1         *          53       *
9/20/20  Fla.      87        6         4         1         1          NA       *
10/29/20 Penn.     67        3         2         1         1          27       *
9/26/20  Penn.     90        4         3         1         *          *        *


3. (ASK IF CERTAIN OR PROBABLY VOTE) Do you think you'll (vote in person at a polling
place ON Election Day), or (vote early either by mail or in person BEFORE Election
Day)?
```

```
                   Vote on      Vote     Already       No
                 Election Day   early   voted (vol.)  opinion
10/29/20 Fla.        20          25        55            1
9/20/20  Fla.        38          56        NA            6
10/29/20 Penn.       61          10        28            1
9/26/20  Penn.       65          31         1            4
```

4. (ASK IF VOTE EARLY OR ALREADY VOTED) How do you think you will/did you vote – (in person at an early voting location), (by dropping off a ballot at a designated drop-box), or (by mail)?

```
                            Drop off          No
                 In person   ballot    Mail   opinion
10/29/20 Fla.        52        19        29      *
9/20/20  Fla.        36        12        51      2
10/29/20 Penn.       11        28        61      *
9/26/20  Penn.        8        18        72      2
```

3/4 NET

```
                              ------------ Vote early ------------
                 Vote on                In    Drop off          No      No
                 Election Day   NET   person   ballot   Mail    op.    opinion
10/29/20 Fla.        20          80     41       15      23      *        1
9/20/20  Fla.        38          56     20        7      29      1        6
10/29/20 Penn.       61          39      4       11      24      *        1
9/26/20  Penn.       65          31      2        6      23      1        4
```

5. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were [(Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Republicans), (Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, the Democrats)], [(Jo Jorgensen and Spike Cohen of the Libertarian Party) and (Howie Hawkins and Angela Walker of the Green Party)], for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward [(Trump and Pence), (Biden and Harris)], [(Jorgensen and Cohen) or (Hawkins and Walker)]? Confidentially and for statistical purposes only, did you vote for…?

LEANED NET VOTE PREFERENCE – LIKELY VOTERS

```
                                                       None of   Would
                                               Other    these   not vote   No
            Trump  Biden  Jorgensen  Hawkins  (vol.)   (vol.)   (vol.)    op.
10/29/20 Fla.  50    48       1         *       *        *        0        *
10/29/20 Penn.* 44   51       3        NA       *        *        0        1
*Hawkins not included
```

LEANED NET VOTE PREFERENCE – REG VOTERS

```
                                                       None of   Would
                                               Other    these   not vote   No
            Trump  Biden  Jorgensen  Hawkins  (vol.)   (vol.)   (vol.)    op.
10/29/20 Fla.  49    47       2         *       *        1        *        1
10/29/20 Penn.* 45   49       3        NA       *        1        *        1
*Hawkins not included
```

Compare to:

```
                                              Would
                           Other   Neither  not vote    No
               Trump  Biden (vol.)  (vol.)   (vol.)   opinion
9/20/20 LV Fla.  51    47     0        1        0        1
9/26/20 LV Penn. 45    54     *        *        0        1
```

```
9/20/20 RV Fla.      47       48        *        2          1          2
9/26/20 RV Penn.     44       54        *        1          *          1
```

6. Who do you trust more to handle [ITEM] – (Trump) or (Biden)?

10/29/20 - Summary table among Florida registered voters

```
                                          Both     Neither     No
                            Trump  Biden  (vol.)   (vol.)    opinion
a. the economy               55     41      1        2          1
b. the coronavirus outbreak  46     47      1        5          1
```

10/29/20 - Summary table among Pennsylvania registered voters

```
                                          Both     Neither     No
                            Trump  Biden  (vol.)   (vol.)    opinion
a. the economy               49     43      *        5          2
b. the coronavirus outbreak  40     49      *        8          2
c. fracking in Pennsylvania  46     42      1        6          5
```

Trend:

a. the economy

```
                             Both    Neither     No
              Trump  Biden   (vol.)  (vol.)    opinion
10/29/20 Fla.   55     41      1       2          1
9/20/20  Fla.   52     41      1       3          3
10/29/20 Penn.  49     43      *       5          2
9/26/20  Penn.  49     48      0       1          1
```

b. the coronavirus outbreak

```
                             Both    Neither     No
              Trump  Biden   (vol.)  (vol.)    opinion
10/29/20 Fla.   46     47      1       5          1
9/20/20  Fla.   43     48      1       6          3
10/29/20 Penn.  40     49      *       8          2
9/26/20  Penn.  40     54      1       4          1
```

c. No trend.

7. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) What do you think is more important – (trying to
control the spread of the coronavirus, even if it hurts the economy), or (trying to
restart the economy, even if it hurts efforts to control the spread of the virus)?

```
                 Control     Restart      No
                the virus  the economy  opinion
10/29/20 Fla.      50          44          7
10/29/20 Penn.     53          40          7
```


8. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is
handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

```
               -------- Approve --------   ------- Disapprove ------    No
               NET   Strongly  Somewhat   NET   Somewhat  Strongly   opinion
10/29/20 Fla.   51     41         9        47      6         41          2
9/20/20  Fla.   47     35        12        51      6         45          3
10/29/20 Penn.  45     34        11        52      8         44          3
9/26/20  Penn.  43     32        11        55      7         49          1
```

9. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is
handling the economy? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	-------- Approve --------			------- Disapprove ------			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/29/20 Fla.	58	48	9	40	11	29	2
9/20/20 Fla.	54	44	11	43	8	34	3
10/29/20 Penn.	54	40	14	44	9	34	2
9/26/20 Penn.	53	40	12	46	11	35	1

10. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is
handling the coronavirus outbreak? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	-------- Approve --------			------- Disapprove ------			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
10/29/20 Fla.	47	36	10	51	6	45	3
9/20/20 Fla.	45	31	14	52	5	46	4
10/29/20 Penn.	43	30	13	54	6	48	3
9/26/20 Penn.	42	27	15	57	5	52	1

11. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) How do you feel about the possibility that you or
someone in your immediate family might catch the coronavirus – very worried, somewhat
worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

	-- More worried --			------ Less worried ------			Already caught	No
	NET	Very	Smwht	NET	Not too	Not at all	it (vol.)	op.
10/29/20 Fla.	56	30	26	34	18	16	10	*
9/20/20 Fla.	57	27	30	36	20	16	7	*
10/29/20 Penn.	59	29	30	32	16	16	9	*
9/26/20 Penn.	62	27	35	34	17	17	3	*

12. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Who do you think [ITEM] – (Trump) or (Biden)?

10/29/20 – Summary table among Florida registered voters

	Trump	Biden	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. is more honest and trustworthy	46	45	2	7	1
b. better understands the problems of people like you	45	48	*	5	2
c. is the stronger leader	53	43	*	2	2

10/29/20 – Summary table among Pennsylvania registered voters

	Trump	Biden	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. is more honest and trustworthy	39	47	*	12	2
b. better understands the problems of people like you	40	49	*	8	2
c. is the stronger leader	47	46	*	3	3

Trend:

a. is more honest and trustworthy

| | Trump | Biden | Both (vol.) | Neither (vol.) | No opinion |

```
10/29/20 Fla.    46       45        2         7         1
9/20/20  Fla.    41       46        1         9         3
```

b. better understands the problems of people like you

```
                              Both     Neither     No
            Trump   Biden   (vol.)    (vol.)    opinion
10/29/20 Fla.  45      48       *         5         2
9/20/20  Fla.  44      48       *         7         1
```

c. is the stronger leader

```
                              Both     Neither     No
            Trump   Biden   (vol.)    (vol.)    opinion
10/29/20 Fla.  53      43       *         2         2
9/20/20  Fla.  51      43       1         3         2
```

a-c. No trend for Pennsylvania

	% of Florida registered voters	% of Pennsylvania registered voters
Men	48	48
Women	52	52
Age 18-39	30	34
Age 40-64	42	42
Age 65+	28	23
High school or less	33	41
Some college	34	27
College graduates	32	32
Whites, non-Hispanic	61	78
Blacks, non-Hispanic	14	10
Hispanics	20	6
Other/Multiple	5	5

*** END ***