

TREASURE STATE 2020 POLL RESULTS: CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC & POLITICS

Tabular data and analysis provided by:

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Notes: The survey was in the field from September 14 – October 2, 2020. Rows in tables may not sum to 100% exactly due to rounding. The margin of error, adjusted for design effects due to weighting, is +/-3.9 percentage points. Percentages are for weighted respondents as explained in the methods documentation.

Brief Summary: The Treasure State 2020 Pre-Election Poll asked respondents about their views, behaviors, and experiences related to the coronavirus pandemic. Overall, levels of worry are low or moderate, though older individuals worry more about personal health impacts while reporting lower levels of disruption due to the pandemic. Partisanship is a key across many of the responses, with Republicans typically holding different views than Democrats, independents, and those with other partisan affiliations. A great deal of uncertainty exists overall about potential vaccination, often due to concerns over unproven safety of a vaccine. Opposition to personal vaccination is led by women and by Republicans and those with “other” partisan affiliations. Republicans are the only partisan group to prioritize the economy over controlling the coronavirus and to oppose statewide orders for face coverings. In terms of behaviors, Republicans report lower frequency of wearing face coverings than all other partisan identities. With regard to consequences of the coronavirus pandemic, 30% of respondents report lost wages or personal income, while 16% report being laid off or furloughed.

Table 1: Perceived Personal Risk of Catching Coronavirus among Likely and Active Registered Voters

No risk at all	Low risk	Moderate risk	High risk	Believe/know I have had it	Total Row Respondents
7%	41%	37%	11%	3%	1,585

The vast majority of respondents (78%) see themselves as being at low or moderate risk of catching the coronavirus. These numbers do not differ significantly by gender, age, or education level.

Table 2a: Worry over Personal Health Impacts of Coronavirus among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Not at all worried	A little worried	Moderately worried	Very worried	Total row respondents
26%	33%	27%	14%	1,590

Table 2b: Worry over Personal Health Impacts of Coronavirus among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Age

Age	Not at all worried	A little worried	Moderately worried	Very worried	Total row respondents
18-29	23%	52%	18%	7%	200
30-39	31%	36%	26%	7%	235
40-49	38%	22%	24%	16%	228
50-59	31%	27%	32%	10%	248
60-69	21%	35%	26%	18%	326
70+	17%	29%	31%	22%	352

Table 2c: Worry over Personal Health Impacts of Coronavirus among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Partisan Identity

	Not at all worried	A little worried	Moderately worried	Very worried	Total row respondents
Democrats	3%	32%	42%	23%	436
Republicans	43%	33%	17%	7%	689
Independents	21%	34%	27%	18%	333
Other	24%	26%	33%	18%	102

Overall, a majority of respondents (59%) are not at all or only a little worried about the personal health impacts of the coronavirus. Older respondents tend to show greater concern, which makes sense given the greater risk. We also see a large partisan split, with 76% of Republicans not at all or only a little worried, while a majority of Democrats (65%) are moderately or very worried.

Table 3: Worry over Personal Economic Impacts of Coronavirus among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Not at all worried	A little worried	Moderately worried	Very worried	Total row respondents
16%	35%	30%	19%	1,588

A majority of respondents (65%) are either a little (35%) or moderately (30%) worried about the personal economic impacts of the coronavirus. These numbers do not differ consistently by age, gender, education level, or partisan identity.

Table 4a: Coronavirus as Source of Stress among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Not at all stressful	A little stressful	Moderately stressful	Very stressful	Total row respondents
14%	36%	35%	15%	1,591

Table 4b: Coronavirus as Source of Stress among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Partisan Identity

	Not at all stressful	A little stressful	Moderately stressful	Very stressful	Total row respondents
Democrats	4%	29%	46%	21%	436
Republicans	20%	43%	27%	10%	688
Independents	14%	35%	35%	16%	335
Other	16%	22%	38%	24%	102

Overall, a majority of respondents (71%) view the coronavirus pandemic as a little stressful (36%) or moderately stressful (35%) in terms of their daily lives. Again we see a large partisan split, with 63% of Republicans saying the pandemic is not at all or a little stressful, while a majority of Democrats (67%) describe the pandemic as moderately or very stressful. Responses do not differ consistently by age, gender, or education level.

Table 5a: Life Disruption due to Coronavirus among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Not at all	Just a little	Some	A lot	Total row respondents
7%	27%	39%	27%	1,589

Table 5b: Life Disruption due to Coronavirus among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Age

Age	Not at all	Just a little	Some	A lot	Total row respondents
18-29	7%	12%	44%	37%	200
30-39	3%	22%	41%	34%	235
40-49	9%	24%	36%	31%	227
50-59	8%	25%	44%	23%	247
60-69	9%	34%	36%	21%	328
70+	5%	36%	37%	21%	351

Overall, a majority of respondents (66%) say their lives have been disrupted just a little (27%) or some (39%) by the coronavirus pandemic. Younger respondents are more likely to report a high level of disruption due to the coronavirus pandemic, perhaps due to children and work concerns. The partisan divide is smaller here, and gender and education level do not produce consistently different responses.

Table 6a: Potential Coronavirus Vaccination among Likely and Active Registered Voters

	No	Yes	Don't know	Total row respondents
	28%	41%	31%	1,585

Table 6b: Potential Coronavirus Vaccination among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Gender

	No	Yes	Don't know	Total row respondents
Female	34%	32%	34%	739
Male	24%	47%	29%	800

Table 6c: Potential Coronavirus Vaccination among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Partisan Identity

	No	Yes	Don't know	Total row respondents
Democrats	9%	49%	41%	432
Republicans	42%	32%	26%	686
Independents	20%	48%	32%	333
Other	45%	35%	20%	101

Respondents were asked whether they would get a shot if a vaccine were to become available for the coronavirus. A majority of respondents overall (59%) either will not (28%) or do not know whether they will (31%). Women are more likely to say they will not get vaccinated (34% to 24%). Democrats (49%) and independents (48%) are mostly likely to say they will get vaccinated, while those of “other” political affiliations (45%) and Republicans (42%) are most likely to say they will not. Further, older age groups are more likely to say they will get vaccinated.

A follow-up question asked why the respondent would not or might not get vaccinated. By far, the most frequently chosen reason overall (40% of all respondents) was that the vaccine will not be proven safe. However, Republicans also frequently (23%) indicated a general distrust in vaccines as the rationale, while those indicating “other” as their partisan identity frequently (28%) stated that they trusted other methods for ensuring their health. Unproven vaccine safety was the overwhelming reason (68%) given by Democrats.

Table 7a: Prioritizing Coronavirus versus Economy among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Coronavirus more important	Economy more important	Don't know	Total row respondents
45%	40%	14%	1,541

Table 7b: Prioritizing Coronavirus versus Economy among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Partisan Identity

	Coronavirus more important	Economy more important	Don't know	Total row respondents
Democrats	83%	6%	12%	429
Republicans	15%	71%	15%	663
Independents	54%	25%	21%	320
Other	70%	27%	3%	100

Respondents were asked which is more important: (1) controlling the spread of the coronavirus even if it hurts the economy or (2) protecting the economy even if it hurts efforts to control the coronavirus. The overall sample is rather evenly split (45% coronavirus versus 40% economy). No consistent differences emerge by gender, age, or education level. However, Republicans clearly stand apart from other partisan identities in saying that the economy is more important.

Table 8a: Support for Statewide Orders for Face Coverings among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither	Support	Strongly support	Total row respondents
17%	13%	13%	21%	36%	1,581

Table 8b: Support for Statewide Orders for Face Coverings among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Gender

	Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither	Support	Strongly support	Total row respondents
Female	15%	13%	13%	18%	41%	743
Male	19%	13%	13%	24%	31%	812

Table 8c: Support for Statewide Orders for Face Coverings among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Partisan Identity

	Strongly oppose	Oppose	Neither	Support	Strongly support	Total row respondents
Democrats	0%	1%	4%	24%	71%	436
Republicans	31%	20%	20%	18%	12%	690
Independents	10%	13%	13%	23%	41%	326
Other	10%	16%	12%	13%	49%	100

Respondents were asked to what extent they supported or opposed statewide orders for face coverings as the governor deemed them necessary due to the coronavirus. Overall, a majority (57%) of respondents indicated support. The level of strong support is higher among females (41%) than males (31%). In terms of partisan identity, Republicans stand alone with a majority (51%) opposing such orders. By contrast, 95% of Democrats support such orders, with 64% support among independents and 62% among those with “other” partisan identities. Education level also has a strong influence here, with support generally increasing as education level increases and topping out with strong support among 64% of those with graduate degrees.

Table 9a: Frequency of Wearing Face Covering among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Never	Total row respondents
39%	26%	23%	12%	1,575

Table 9b: Frequency of Wearing Face Covering among Likely and Active Registered Voters, by Partisan Identity

	Always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Never	Total row respondents
Democrats	64%	24%	8%	3%	431
Republicans	21%	24%	36%	19%	688
Independents	43%	32%	17%	8%	328
Other	54%	23%	10%	13%	98

Respondents were asked how often they wore a face covering indoors where people from outside their household were interacting. Overall, a majority (65%) say always (39%) or most of the time (26%). No consistent differences emerge by gender, age, or education level – though 60% of those with graduate degrees indicate they always wear a face covering in such circumstances. However, Republicans again stand apart, with a majority (55%) saying they only sometimes (36%) or never (19%) wear face coverings. By contrast, nearly all Democrats (88%) say they wear face coverings always or most of the time, with corresponding majorities for independents (75%) and those with “other” partisan identities (77%).

Among respondents who did not always wear face coverings, the most frequent reason given was that the risk of infection was low (32%). This was the most frequent response given across all partisan identities. Personal freedom was another popular answer overall (18%), though this result was driven primarily by Republicans.

Table 10: Worry about Economic Depression among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Not at all worried	A little worried	Moderately worried	Very worried	Total row respondents
8%	32%	36%	24%	1,530

Respondents overall are rather worried about an economic depression as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. A majority of respondents (60%) are either moderately (36%) or very (24%) worried. Responses do not differ consistently by age, gender, or education level. Republicans show the greatest level of worry (47% moderately or very worried), followed by independents (39%), Democrats (31%), and those with “other” partisan affiliations (25%).

Table 11: Consequences of Coronavirus among Likely and Active Registered Voters

	Does not apply	Do not expect it	Expect it	Already happened	Don't know	Total row respondents
Lost wages/income	26%	30%	10%	30%	5%	1,566
Laid off/furloughed	46%	31%	3%	16%	4%	1,559
Deemed essential	46%	7%	5%	39%	2%	1,554
Inability to pay bills	25%	55%	7%	7%	6%	1,560
Additional childcare	68%	12%	3%	14%	3%	1,557

Respondents were asked about consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. In terms of negative consequences, 30% have lost wages or personal income, while 16% have been laid off or furloughed.