

TREASURE STATE 2020 POLL RESULTS: THE U.S. PRESIDENTIAL RACE

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.

Table 1: Presidential Vote among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Trump	Biden	Other	Don't Know	Total Row Respondents
51%	44%	4%	2%	1,607

Since 1948, Democratic presidential candidates have won Montana's Electoral College votes twice. Might Democrats pull off an upset? We do not think so, but the race is considerably tighter than four years ago. President Trump leads former Vice President Joe Biden by only 7 percentage points in this poll, a lead within the poll's margin of error. The presidential race has not been this close in the Big Sky State since 2008, when Senator John McCain narrowly bested Senator Barack Obama by less than 3 percentage points.

Table 2: Presidential Vote by Party among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Party	Trump	Biden	Other / Don't Know	Total Row Respondents
Democrat	2%	97%	1%	441
Republican	94%	4%	1%	697
Independent	29%	56%	15%	334
Other	31%	49%	20%	102

The story is simple: President Trump's support remains strong among Republicans, with only 4 percent of Republicans switching to former Vice President Joe Biden. Biden has solidified his support among Democrats, with only half of Trump's defection rate. The President's support has cratered among independents—with Biden enjoying a nearly 30-point advantage over Trump.

Table 3: Presidential Vote by Age among Likely and Active Registered Voters

Age	Trump	Biden	Other / Don't Know	Total Row Respondents
18-29	37%	55%	8%	202
30-39	43%	47%	10%	236
40-49	51%	41%	8%	229
50-59	58%	39%	3%	252
60-69	55%	41%	4%	330
70+	55%	42%	3%	358

Other than young voters and those between 30 and 39, where Biden leads by 18 points and 4 points respectively, President Trump leads among every other age group in our survey. How close the presidential election will be in Montana, ultimately, comes down to whether young voters turn out at levels similar to—and perhaps higher than—2018.

Table 4: Presidential Vote by 2016 Choice among Likely and Active Registered Voters

2016 Presidential Vote	Trump	Biden	Other / Don't Know	Total Row Respondents
Trump	89%	8%	3%	811
Clinton	2%	96%	2%	470
Other	7%	63%	30%	95
Not eligible to vote	32%	58%	10%	90
Did not vote / can't recall	34%	50%	16%	110

Democrats have consolidated firmly behind their nominee, with 96 percent of those voting for Hillary Clinton in 2016 electing to support former Vice President Joe Biden in 2020. Eight percent of those who voted for President Trump in 2016 indicate they will vote for Biden this time around. As important is that 63 percent of those casting ballots for a third-party candidate in 2016 will vote for Biden, with only 7 percent switching to President Trump. Biden also leads by 26 points among voters not eligible to vote in 2016. All of this demonstrates why President Trump's support is 5 points below his 2016 performance and why Biden seems situated to best Hillary Clinton's vote share by perhaps high-single, or even double, digits.