

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: ROBERT BLIZZARD
SUBJECT: NATIONAL SURVEY RESULTS



Public Opinion Strategies conducted a national survey of N=1200 registered voters ($\pm 2.83\%$) April 14-17, 2020. The purpose of this memo is to review the key findings from this survey.

KEY FINDINGS

- **Americans are taking coronavirus very seriously and are adapting their lives accordingly.**

Fully 79% of Americans say they are concerned that they, someone in their family, or someone else they know will become infected with the coronavirus.

As a result, overwhelming majorities of Americans are already avoiding crowds, canceling plans, avoiding public places, and deciding not to travel:

- 91% of voters say they are already *“avoiding crowds and/or large gatherings.”*
- 86% of voters say they have *“cancelled plans to attend large gatherings such as concerts or sporting events.”*
- 80% of voters say they are *“avoiding public places.”*
- 80% of voters say they have *“decided not to travel or change travel plans.”*
- 78% of voters say they are *“avoiding small gatherings.”*

- **Given the pandemic, many Americans are also thinking through their options for voting in upcoming elections.**

More than one-quarter of voters (27%) say they are already planning to *“vote absentee or by mail in an election,”* and a plurality (42%) of Americans are considering it. Interestingly, just 16% of Americans say they would NOT vote absentee or by mail.

- **When it comes to upcoming elections, voters place equal value on protecting access, preventing fraud, and protecting Americans’ health.**

Americans place equal importance on each of the following:

- By a 97%-2% margin, voters say it is important to *“make sure all eligible Americans have the ability to vote.”*
- By a 96%-3% margin, voters say it is important to *“prevent fraud and protect the integrity of the election results.”*
- By a 96%-3% margin, voters say it is important to *“protect Americans’ health and minimize the spread of the coronavirus.”*

- ***While there is support for expanding voting methods past traditional in-person voting, there is also significant concern about the impact of closing in-person options.***

While nearly two-thirds of voters say they typically vote in-person, many Americans say they prefer to vote in other ways if the pandemic continues through November:

	64%	27%
	15%	35%
	9%	9%
	3%	11%
	4%	8%

However, by a 58%-32% margin, voters say they would be concerned about the ability of their neighbors to cast a ballot if their state eliminated in-person neighborhood polling locations.

- ***State governments are getting strong marks from voters on their handling of the coronavirus pandemic.***

Voters approve of how their state government is handling the coronavirus pandemic by an overwhelming margin, 70%-26%.

And, voters rate their state and local elected officials as the types of people most trustworthy on the issue of potential voting changes as a result of the pandemic – with “*your state’s Governor*” and “*your elected officials, such as County officers or your Mayor*” beating out national leaders like the President and the Speaker of the House.

- ***And, finally, by a significant margin, voters see the legislative process as the proper channel for changes NOT litigation.***

By a 63%-13% margin, Americans prefer any changes in how elections are conducted due to the coronavirus pandemic come about as a “*result of policy changes by legislators in your state*” rather than as a “*result of changes through the court system stemming from lawsuits.*”