DUELING REALITIES: AMID MULTIPLE CRISSES, TRUMP & BIDEN SUPPORTERS SEE DIVERGENT PRIORITIES AND FUTURES FOR THE COUNTRY

Findings from the 2020 American Values Survey

@RobertPJones
About the 2020 American Values Survey

• 11th Annual American Values Survey, conducted by PRRI in partnership with The Brookings Institution

• Survey of 2,538 adults in AmeriSpeak, a probability-based panel run by NORC at University of Chicago, conducted September 9-22, 2020.

• Supplemental survey of 1,070 adults conducted October 9-12, 2020.

• Supported by Carnegie Corporation of New York, with additional support from the Ford Foundation, the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation, and the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock.
CRITICAL ISSUES IN THE COUNTRY:
DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS ARE WORLDS APART
## Top Critical Issues in the Country, by Party Affiliation

**Percent who see the following as CRITICAL ISSUES:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>All Americans</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Republican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coronavirus pandemic</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>85%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairness of presidential elections</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs and unemployment</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign interference in presidential elections</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Racial inequality</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>68%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC THROUGH PARTISAN LENSES
Partisans See Different Realities in Pandemic

- Disapprove of Trump handling pandemic
  - All Americans: 65%
  - Democrat: 93%
  - Republican: 22%
  - Fox News Republican: 5%

- Believe spread could have been controlled better
  - All Americans: 40%
  - Democrat: 92%
  - Republican: 22%
  - Fox News Republican: 22%

- Believe virus developed naturally
  - All Americans: 49%
  - Democrat: 65%
  - Republican: 28%
  - Fox News Republican: 17%

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
Swing Groups Give Trump Low Marks on His Handling of Pandemic

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Disapprove of Trump's handling of the pandemic</th>
<th>Believe spread could have been controlled better</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Americans</td>
<td>65 69</td>
<td>69 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White women, 4-year degree</td>
<td>69 52</td>
<td>58 61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White women, no 4-year degree</td>
<td>52 61</td>
<td>61 68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>60 65</td>
<td>60 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Catholic</td>
<td>51 57</td>
<td>51 57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White mainline Protestant</td>
<td>66 65</td>
<td>66 65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Rust Belt States</td>
<td>65 72</td>
<td>65 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Sun Belt States</td>
<td>65 72</td>
<td>65 72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
Trusted Sources of Information about the Pandemic, by Party Affiliation

Percent who have A LOT OF TRUST in the following sources:

- University Research Centers: 51%
- Dr. Anthony Fauci: 49%
- Centers for Disease Control: 48%
- World Health Organization: 42%
- State and local health organizations: 40%
- Joe Biden: 58%
- State and local government: 37%
- Donald Trump: 14%

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
The Electoral Process and the Candidates
Major Partisan Divides in Confidence of Election Integrity

**Percent who are NOT AT ALL CONFIDENT:**

- **All Americans**
  - The election will be conducted fairly: 33%
  - Voting by mail will be as secure as voting in person: 39%
  - Trump will concede defeat if he loses election: 55%

- **Democrat**
  - The election will be conducted fairly: 30%
  - Voting by mail will be as secure as voting in person: 25%
  - Trump will concede defeat if he loses election: 55%

- **Republican**
  - The election will be conducted fairly: 29%
  - Voting by mail will be as secure as voting in person: 39%
  - Trump will concede defeat if he loses election: 77%

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
High Enthusiasm for Voting in 2020

Percent who report they are ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN TO VOTE:

- All Americans
- Democrat
- Republican

Sources: PRRI Surveys 2016-2020.
Shifting Motivations: Biden Supporters Now More Likely To Vote FOR Biden than AGAINST Trump

Percent of candidate's supporters who are voting:

- For Trump
- Against the Democrat
- Against Trump
- For the Democrat

Sources: PRRI 2016-2020 American Values Surveys.
The 2020 Presidential Election: Trump vs. Biden

Percent of LIKELY VOTERS who plan to vote for:

- Donald Trump
- Joe Biden
- Other
- Don't know/Refused

Average turnout (55%)

- Donald Trump: 40
- Joe Biden: 54
- Other: 2
- Don't know/Refused: 4

High turnout (70%)

- Donald Trump: 38
- Joe Biden: 56
- Other: 3
- Don't know/Refused: 4

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey Supplement.
### Trump vs. Biden among Religious Groups

**Hight Turnout (70%): Percent who plan to vote for:**

- **Donald Trump**
- **Joe Biden**
- **Other**
- **Don't know/Refused**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Group</th>
<th>Donald Trump</th>
<th>Joe Biden</th>
<th>Other</th>
<th>Don't know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White evangelical Protestant</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White mainline Protestant</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Catholic</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic Catholic*</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Christian religion*</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unaffiliated</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Protestant</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*N<100 cases.

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey Supplement.
Racial Inequality and Injustice Through Partisan Lenses
Partisans Give Trump Divergent Marks on His Handling of Protests for Racial Justice

Disapprove of Trump’s handling of the protests for racial justice:
- All Americans: 64%
- Democrat: 91%
- Republican: 21%
- Fox News Republican: 8%

Believe Trump has encouraged white supremacists:
- All Americans: 57%
- Democrat: 88%
- Republican: 18%
- Fox News Republican: 3%

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
Swing Groups Give Trump Low Marks on His Handling of Protests for Racial Justice

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Disapprove (%)</th>
<th>Believe (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Americans</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White women, 4-year degree</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White women, no 4-year degree</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seniors</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>58</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White Catholics</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White mainline Protestants</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Rust Belt States</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Key Sun Belt States</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
Racial Identity of Protesters Shapes Perceptions of Protests

*It always makes our country better when _______ speak up and protest unfair treatment by the government:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
<th>Don't know/Refused</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Americans</strong></td>
<td>61</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Black Americans</strong></td>
<td>52</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
Racial Identity of Protesters Shapes Perceptions of Protests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial/Political Group</th>
<th>Percent Who Agree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fox News Republican</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, evangelical Protestant</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, no 4-year degree</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All white Americans</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White, 4-year degree</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Percent who agree that it always makes our country better when ________ speak up and protest unfair treatment by the government

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
Cracks in Trump’s White Christian Wall of Support?
White Christian Divides on Trump Favorability, 2019 - 2020

Percent who view Trump favorably:

White evangelical Protestant  White mainline Protestant  White Catholic

Sources: PRRI 2019-2020 Surveys.
White Christian Divides on Candidates and Religion

Percent who say the person has strong religious beliefs:

- All Americans: 36% for Trump, 43% for Biden
- White evangelical Protestant: 18% for Trump, 18% for Biden
- White mainline Protestant: 18% for Trump, 33% for Biden
- White Catholic: 21% for Trump, 35% for Biden

Percent who say the person models religious values:

- All Americans: 36% for Trump, 18% for Biden
- White evangelical Protestant: 21% for Trump, 18% for Biden
- White mainline Protestant: 22% for Trump, 33% for Biden
- White Catholic: 26% for Trump, 37% for Biden

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
White Christian Divides over Handling of Coronavirus Pandemic

- Disapprove of Trump's handling of the pandemic
- The spread of the coronavirus could have been controlled better

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
White Christian Divides on Police Killing of African Americans by Police, 2015-2020

Percent who say the killing of Black Americans by police are isolated incidents:

- All Americans
- White evangelical Protestant
- White mainline Protestant
- White Catholic

Sources: PRRI 2015-2020 Surveys.
White Christian Divides on Legality of Abortion and Same-sex Marriage

60% of All Americans say abortion should be legal in all or most cases.
70% of White evangelical Protestants favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally.
55% of White mainline Protestants say abortion should be legal in all or most cases.
79% of White mainline Protestants favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally.
53% of White Catholics say abortion should be legal in all or most cases.
67% of White Catholics favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally.

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
White Christian Divides on Perceptions of Immigrants and Muslims as Threats

Percent who DISAGREE:

- Immigrants are invading our country and replacing our cultural and ethnic background
- The values of Islam are at odds with American values and way of life

All Americans: 68% disagree
- White evangelical Protestant: 40% disagree
- White mainline Protestant: 55% disagree
- White Catholic: 66% disagree

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
A FEW PLACES OF BIPARTISAN AGREEMENT
A Few Places of Bipartisan Agreement

Guaranteeing all Americans access to affordable childcare

Source: PRRI 2020 American Values Survey.
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