### **State Innovation Exchange**

Multi-State Poll - Aggregate Analysis and Findings July 2020



### **Survey Methodology**

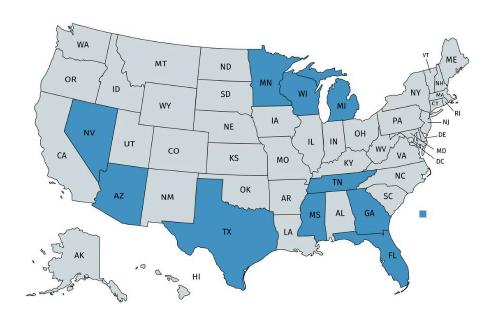
TargetSmart designed and administered this multimodal survey. Three-thousand five-hundred ninety-four interviews were conducted online among panelists who were matched to the TargetSmart voter file (3,594 weighted), 1,864 interviews were conducted online using text-to-web and email-to-web (422 email, 1,442 SMS) solicits from the TargetSmart voter file (1,825 weighted), and 300 interviews (379 weighted) were conducted via live phone calls (261 wireless, 39 landline). In total, the survey reached 5,758 adults (5,528 weighted), age 18 or older, who are registered to vote in one of the ten target states identified by State Innovation Exchange.

Quotas were designed to reflect the demographic and geographic distribution of registered voters in each target state. The data were weighted separately by gender, age, race, partisanship (party registration for states with party registration, TargetSmart Partisanship Score for states without party registration), TargetSmart High School Only Score, and a state-specific geography to ensure an accurate reflection of the populations in each target state.

The credibility interval (the theoretical margin of error for a blended-methodology poll that relies partially on telephone-based probability sampling, and partially on non-probability based online panel sampling) is +/- 1.3%. The margin of error for subgroups is larger and varies. Percentage totals may not add up precisely due to rounding



### **Target States**



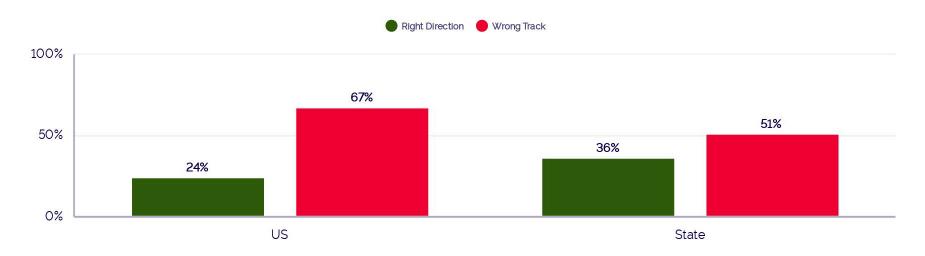
Created with mapchart.net ©



# Issue Environment and the Role of State Government

## Voters Highly Pessimistic About Direction of the US; More Mixed, But Pessimistic on Net, About Direction of the State

#### Direction of the US and State

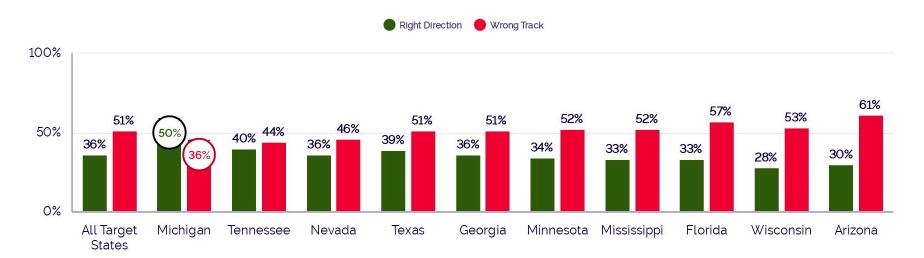


5.Generally speaking, do you think that things in the United States are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?
6.And generally speaking, do you think that things in STATE are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?



### Michigan Emerges as Only Electorate that is Net Optimistic About the Direction of the State

#### **Direction of Target States**

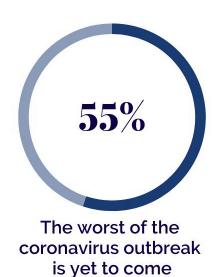


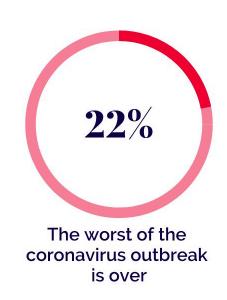
6.And generally speaking, do you think that things in STATE are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?



### Majority of Voters Across Target States Believe the Worst is Yet to Come

Worst is yet to come vs. worst is over







9. Do you believe....



### Election Administration Surfaces as Top Area for Government Role; Public Education and Coronavirus Response are Close Seconds

Government role on issues - top tier issues based on % major/some role

91%

Safely and fairly administering elections.

73% major role

86%

Ensuring equal access to high quality K through 12 public education.

61% major role

85%

Stopping the spread of the coronavirus.

63% major role

83%

Ensuring struggling families and children have access to food.

53% major role

**79%** 

Ensuring equal pay for equal work.

52% major role

77%

Ensuring access to affordable health care.

50% major role

15.Please indicate whether you think state government in STATE should have a major role, some role, a minor role, or no real role in dealing with each of the following issues.



### Most Voters See Role for Government in Ensuring Access to Paid Leave, Affordable Housing, Childcare, and Addressing Racism

Government Involvement on Issues - second tier issues based on % major/some role

71%

Ensuring workers have access to paid sick days and paid family leave.

43% major role

**70%** 

Ensuring access to affordable housing.

38% major role

68%

Acknowledging and addressing systemic racism.

45% major role

67%

Ensuring access to affordable childcare.

36% major role

63%

Reducing income inequality by raising the minimum wage and increasing taxes on the wealthy.

40% major role

15.Please indicate whether you think state government in STATE should have a major role, some role, a minor role, or no real role in dealing with each of the following issues.



### A Majority of Voters in Target States Indicate Their Feelings Have Changed About How Black People and Communities are Treated in America

#### Feelings About How Black People and Communities Are Treated

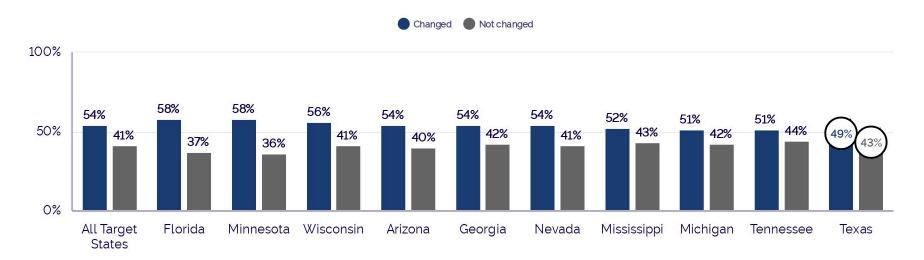


16. Would you say your feelings about how Black people and Black communities are treated in America have changed a lot, a changed a little, or not changed at all in the last month or so?



### Texas Emerges as Only Target State Where Voters are Divided on Whether Their Feelings Have Changed

Feelings About How Black People and Communities Are Treated by Target States



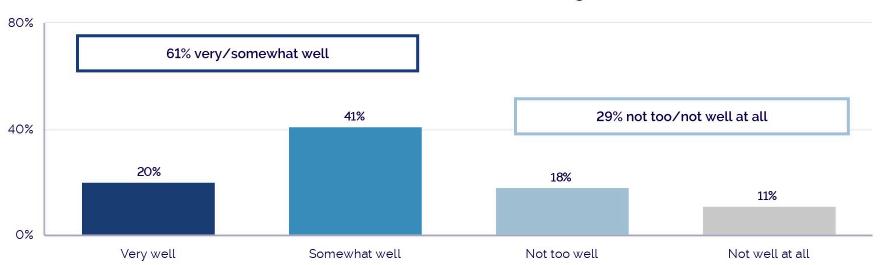
16. Would you say your feelings about how Black people and Black communities are treated in America have changed a lot, a changed a little, or not changed at all in the last month or so?



## **Election and Democracy Reforms**

## **About One Third of the Electorate Believes The Election Will Not Be Run Well**

#### **November Election Administration in Target States**

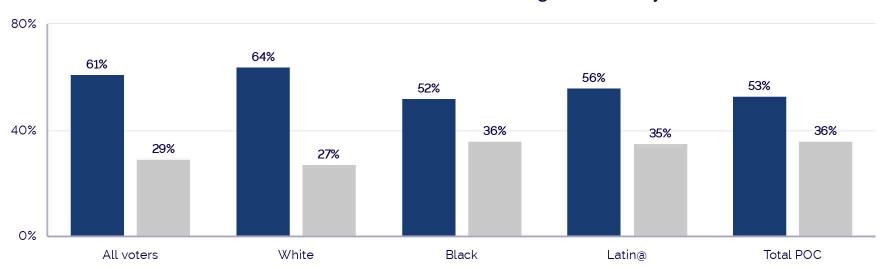


21. Switching gears a bit, do you think the elections this November in STATE will be run and administered very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?



### Voters of Color Less Likely to Believe Elections Will Be Run Well This November

#### November Election Administration in Target States - by race

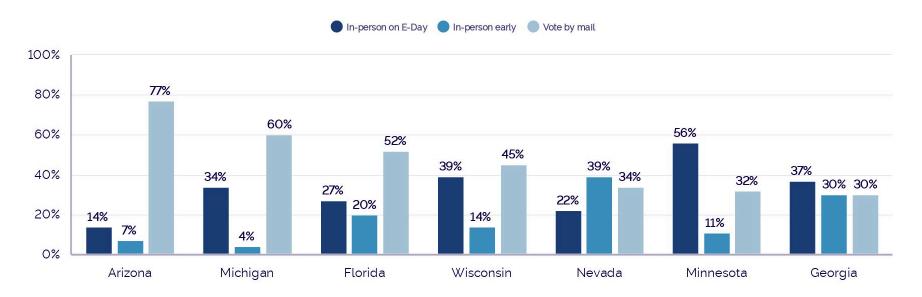


21. Switching gears a bit, do you think the elections this November in STATE will be run and administered very well, somewhat well, not too well, or not well at all?



### Vote-by-Mail Most Popular Option in Arizona, Michigan, and Florida

#### Vote Method - Target States With No-Excuse Absentee Voting

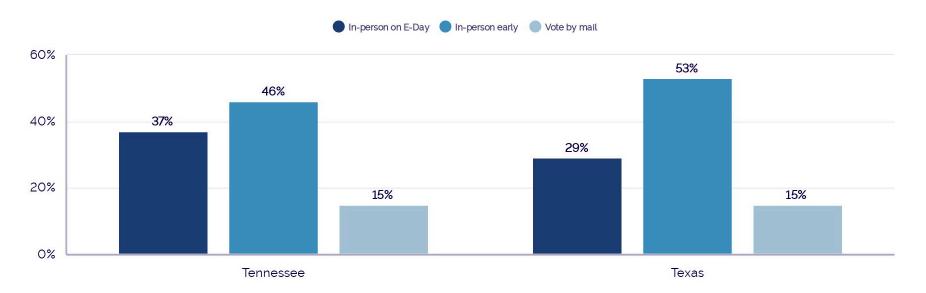


Q.4 And how do you intend to vote in the general election for President and other offices this November?



### **Early In-Person Voting Popular in Texas and Tennessee**

#### Vote Method - Target States Without No-Excuse Absentee Voting



Q.4 And how do you intend to vote in the general election for President and other offices this November?



## Democrats, Voters of Color Most Likely to Agree that Systematic Racism is a Barrier to Voting

## 49% of Voters voters agree with the following statement:

"Systemic racism has prevented Black people and other people of color from being able to fully participate in our democracy."

42% disagree with this statement.

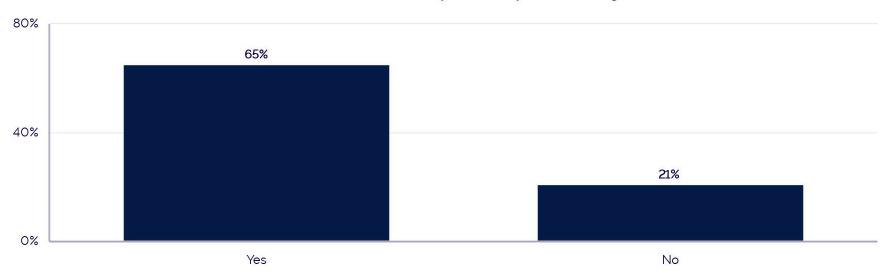
	Agree	Disagree
ID Democrat	80%	14%
ID independent	47%	41%
ID Republican	18%	72%
White	42%	48%
Black	87%	9%
Latin@	56%	32%
Total POC	72%	21%



<sup>22.</sup> Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree with the following statements about different ways people can vote in the United States.

### Two-in-Three Voters Want Barriers that Prevent Black People from Voting Removed

#### Reduce Barriers That Stop Black People From Voting

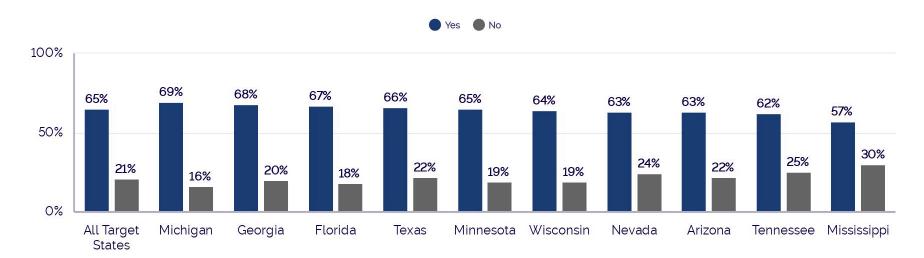


18. Do you believe the state of STATE should reduce barriers that stop Black people from voting?



## Majorities of Voters in Target States Want Barriers that Prevent Black People from Voting Removed

Reduce Barriers That Stop Black People From Voting by Target States



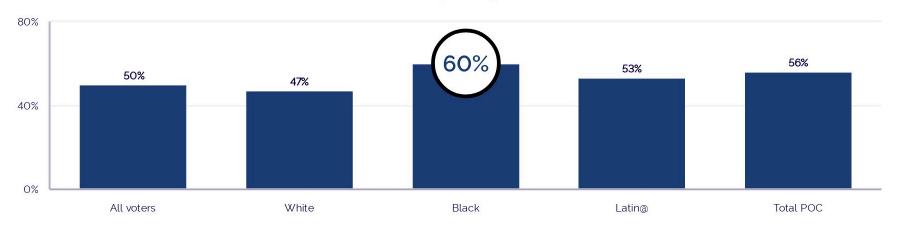
 $18. \ Do\ you\ believe\ the\ state\ of\ STATE\ should\ reduce\ barriers\ that\ stop\ Black\ people\ from\ voting?$ 



### Voters Concerned About Vote by Mail Reliability Even Before Recent News Coverage Regarding USPS

I am concerned that the mail system in my state cannot be relied upon to get vote-by-mail ballots to election officials in time for them to be counted.

% Total Agree By Race



22. Please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with the following statements about different ways people can vote in the United States.



### Reforms to Make Voting More Accessible During the Pandemic Are Broadly Popular; Voters Oppose Consolidating Polling Locations

Voting Method Reforms - % Total Support

86%

Open additional polling locations to reduce crowds and lines.

19% support 1st rank

**82%** 

Lengthening the early voting window and letting voters cast a ballot in-person up through the day before Election Day.

18% support 1st rank

**76%** 

Allowing any registered STATE voter to vote-by-mail.

25% support 1st rank

**70%** 

Allow STATE voters to cast their ballot at any polling location in their county.

12% support 1st rank

**62%** 

Mailing all registered STATE voters applications to vote-by-mail.

12% support 1st rank

46%

Directly mailing all registered STATE voters a ballot, without requiring an application.

9% support 1st rank 54% total oppose 38%

Consolidate polling locations in anticipation of poll worker shortages.

4% support 1st rank

62% total oppose

23. Switching gears a bit, below are several reforms related to voting in STATE. By dragging the reforms to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the reforms up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.



## Various Ballot Return Options Are Popular; Nearly 1-in-3 Voters Highly Prioritize Returning Ballots Through the Mail with Prepaid Postage

Ballot Return Reforms - % Total Support

70%

Returning ballots received in the mail via secure, local drop-box.

14% support 1st rank

68%

Returning mail-in ballots through the mail WITH postage prepaid by the government.

31% support 1st rank

**67%** 

Returning ballots received in the mail at drive-through voting centers.

12% support 1st rank

**67%** 

Counting mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day, but received after Election Day.

14% support 1st rank

**65%** 

(MI, MS, AND WI ONLY) Allowing county election officials to begin processing, but not counting, mail-in ballots before Election Day.

15% support 1st rank

**56%** 

Counting mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day and relieved up to 10 days after Election Day.

10% support 1st rank

**42%** 

Allowing registered community organizers to collect and return ballots received in the mail for registered voters.

> 6% support 1st rank 58% total oppose

24.And to help citizens vote safely during the coronavirus outbreak, elections officials in STATE are considering several ways voters can cast or return their ballot in this year's elections. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.



### **Pre-Paid Postage Increases Likelihood of Voting by Mail**

Ballot Return Methods - % Almost Certain/Good Chance



Vote in-person at my neighborhood precinct location

44% almost certain

**58**%

Return my ballot through the mail with postage paid-for

43% almost certain

48%

Return my ballot through the mail, even if postage is not paid-for

32% almost certain

40%

Return my ballot via secure, local drop-box

21% almost certain

38%

Return my ballot at a drive-through voting center

19% almost certain

9%

Not vote in the 2020 elections

6% almost certain

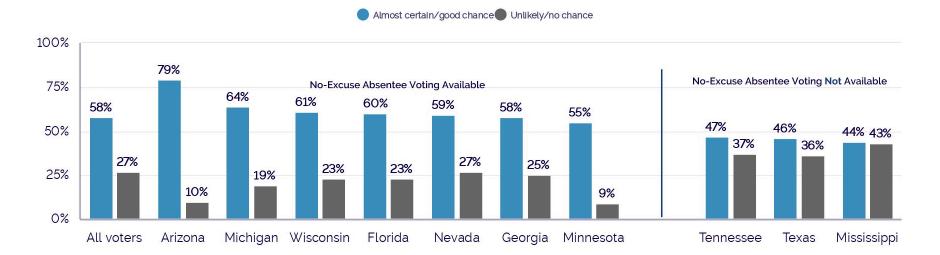
70% no chance

25. And assuming each of the following were available to you in STATE., how likely would you be to use each of these options for casting your vote or returning your ballot in the upcoming election?



## Over a Third of Voters in States That Do Not Allow No Excuse Absentee Voting Indicate They Would Pursue It As An Option If It Were Available

#### Return my ballot through the mail with postage paid-for by Target State

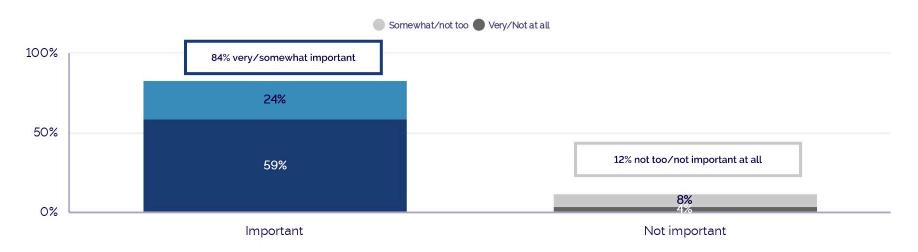


25. And assuming each of the following were available to you in Texas., how likely would you be to use each of these options for casting your vote or returning your ballot in the upcoming election?



### Ballot Tracking Important to Over 8-in-10 Voters; Nearly 6-in-10 Indicate it is "Very" Important

#### **Ballot Tracking Importance**

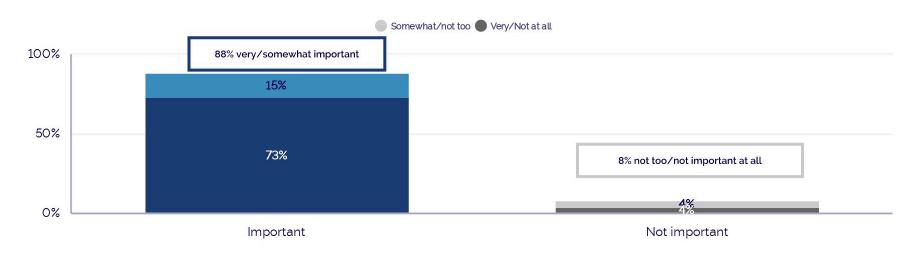


26. And do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all for election officials in STATE to allow voters to track the status of their mail-in ballot in case any issues come up?



## **Consensus Public Opinion Around Notifying Voter If There is a Problem With Their Mail-In Ballot**

#### Notification of Mail-in-Ballot Issues

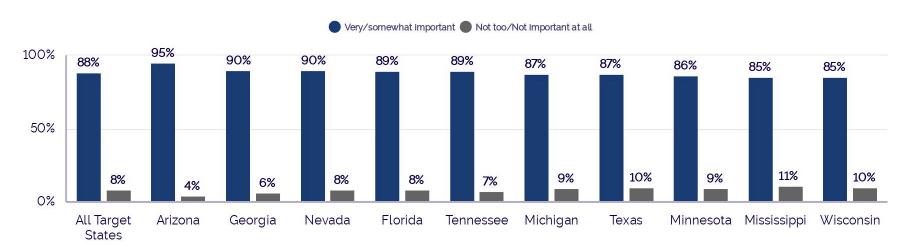


27. And do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all for election officials in STATE to immediately notify voters if there is a problem with their submitted mail-in ballot, such as if they forgot to sign their ballot, so the voter has an opportunity to correct it.



## Over 8-in-10 Voters in Each Target State Place a High Importance on Notifying Voters of Mail-in-Ballot Issues

#### Notification of Mail-in-Ballot Issues by Target States



27. And do you think it is very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all for election officials in STATE to immediately notify voters if there is a problem with their submitted mail-in ballot, such as if they forgot to sign their ballot, so the voter has an opportunity to correct it.



### Online and Same-Day Voter Registration Highly Supported by Target State Electorates

Voter Registration Reforms - % Total Support

72%

Allow verified eligible voters to register to vote online

34% support 1st rank

**69%** 

Allow verified eligible voters to register to vote on Election Day.

25% support 1st rank

**58%** 

Remove all voter registration deadlines, allowing verified eligible voters to register to vote any day up to and on Election Day.

19% support 1st rank

**44%** 

Allow verified eligible voters to register to vote online, even if they do not have DMV - issued ID.

8% support 1st rank 56% total oppose

28.Switching gears a bit, below are several reforms related to voter registration in STATE. By dragging the reforms to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the reforms up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.



### **Voters Across the Demographic Spectrum Support Same-Day Registration; Republicans Divided**

Same Day Registration by Key Demographics

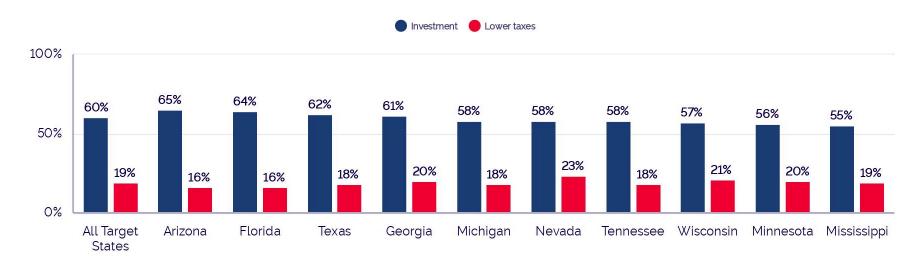
	Support	Oppose
All voters	69%	31%
ID Democrat	86%	14%
ID independent	68%	32%
ID Republican	51%	49%
White	66%	34%
Black	81%	19%
Latin@	80%	19%
Total POC	80%	20%
Under 50	81%	19%
Over 50	59%	41%



## Fiscal Policy and the Economy

### Majorities of Voters in Each Target State Prefer More State Investments

#### Investment vs. Tax Cuts by Target States



14. And which of these statements comes closer to your own view, even if neither of them is exactly right?



### Voters Across the Partisan Spectrum Prefer State Investment; Conservative Republicans Divided

Investment vs. Taxes by Key Demographics

	Invest more	Lower Taxes	Margin
All voters	60%	19%	+41
Liberal Democrats	88%	5%	+83
Moderate/Conservative Democrats	75%	12%	+63
Moderate/Liberal Republicans	52%	20%	+31
Conservative Republicans	33%	37%	-3



### Women, Younger Voters, Voters of Color Strongly Side with Investment Argument

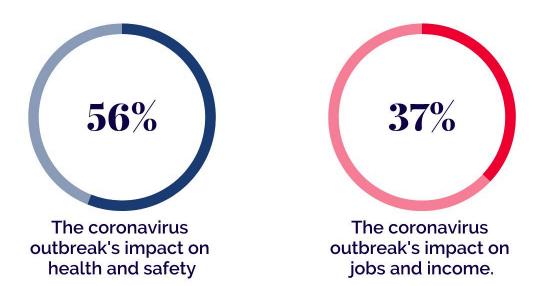
Investment vs. Taxes by Key Demographics

	Invest more	Lower Taxes	Margin
All voters	60%	19%	+41
Men	56%	24%	+32
Women	63%	14%	+48
Under 50	66%	16%	+50
Over 50	54%	21%	+33
White	57%	20%	+37
Black	72%	13%	+59
Latin@	73%	11%	+62
Total POC	70%	15%	+55



## **Voters Express More Concern About the Pandemic's Impact on Health and Safety Than They Do About Jobs and Income**

Health and safety vs. jobs and income



10.And what would you say concerns you more...



### A Majority of Voters Side With Workplace Safety Argument Over Liability Protections for Corporations

Workplace safety requirements vs. liability protections for corporations



Required to provide safe working conditions and should be penalized if workers get sick due to corporate negligence.



Protected from liability if workers get sick on the job so they can get people back to work.

11. And do you think businesses in STATE should be...



## Majorities of Voters in Each Target Side With Workplace Safety Argument

Workplace Safety Requirements vs. Liability Protections for Corporations -- By Target States



11. And do you think businesses in STATE should be...



## Voters of Color and Voters Under 50 Years Old Most Strongly Side with Workplace Safety Argument

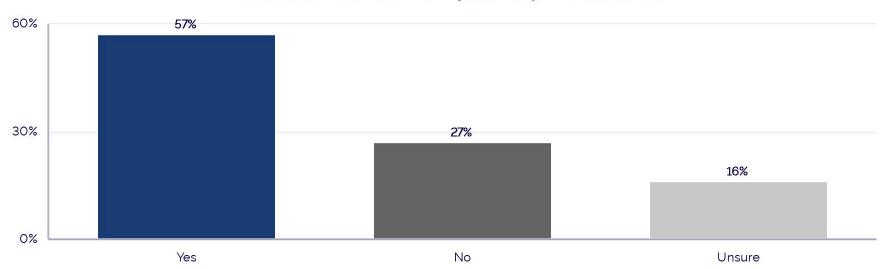
Workplace Safety Requirements vs. Liability Protections for Corporations by Key Demographics

	Workplace Safety	Liability Protections
All voters	55%	26%
Men	51%	31%
Women	59%	21%
White	51%	27%
Black	73%	16%
Latin@	68%	23%
Total POC	69%	20%
Under 50	61%	24%
50+	50%	27%



## A Majority of Voters Want State Government To Address Economic Barriers Black People And Communities Face

#### Address Economic Barriers Faced by Black People and Communities

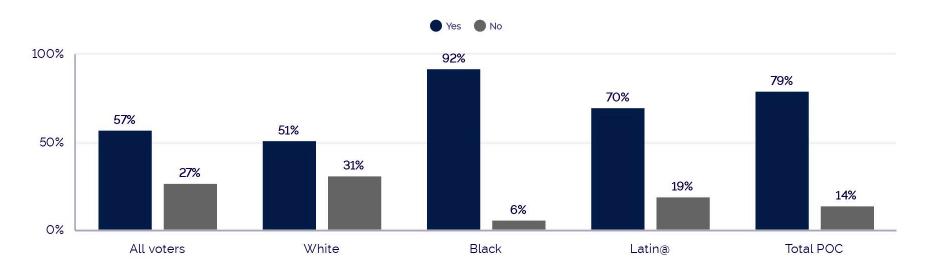


17. Do you believe the state of STATE should address economic barriers faced by Black people and the Black community?



### Majority of White Voters Believe State Government Should Address Economic Barriers Faced by Black People

Reduce Economic Barriers Faced by Black People and Black Communities - by Race



17. Do you believe the state of STATE should address economic barriers faced by Black people and the Black community?



## Small Business Loans and Health Care Reforms Are Top Priorities for Voters Related to Coronavirus

Top Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

93%

Providing low-interest loans to small businesses to help them make it

> through the crisis. 11% support 1st rank

**89%** 

Banning the practice of surprise medical billing.

9% support 1st rank

88%

Extending a grace period for people to pay health insurance bills before their coverage can be cancelled.

5% support 1st rank

87%

Limiting what drug companies can charge for prescription drugs.

17% support 1st rank

**87**%

Offering people in STATE the option to buy into the same public health insurance plans that are available to state employees if they want to.

9% support 1st rank



## Paid Sick and Family Leave Policies Also Surface As Top Priorities For Voters

Top Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

80%

Creating an insurance plan to provide paid family and medical leave for employees to care for a sick family member, bond with a new baby or recover from a major illness or injury.

5% support 1st rank

**79%** 

Requiring workplaces to provide paid sick days to their employees.

9% support 1st rank

74%

Eliminating tax breaks for corporations and large businesses that don't offer paid sick and family leave and health care to their employees.

10% 1st rank



## Tax Credit and Medicaid Expansion, Out-of-Network Cost Protections Slightly Less Salient, But Still Widely Supported Overall

Middle Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Support

73%

Expanding a tax credit to provide extra income to working people with low incomes.

5% support 1st rank

72%

Protecting patients from having to pay the costs not covered by their insurance when treated at an out-of-network hospital or by an out-of-network doctor.

5% support 1st rank

71%

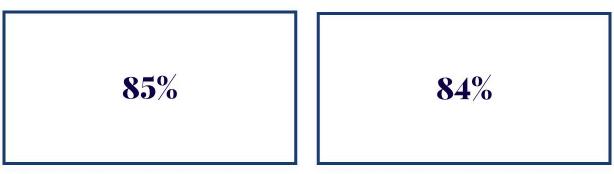
Expanding the number of people who can get healthcare through Medicaid to cover more uninsured people who otherwise can't afford healthcare coverage.

9% support 1st rank



### **Voters Reject Anti-Worker Policies**

Bottom Tier Economic Proposals - % Total Oppose



Allowing businesses to stop paying more for overtime hours.

21% oppose 1st rank

Allowing businesses to pay less than the minimum wage

43% oppose 1st rank



# Nearly Three-in-Five Voters Support Extending the Length of Time Laid-Off Workers Can Receive Unemployment Benefits

Economic Proposals - % Total support

58%

Extending the length of time that laid-off workers can receive unemployment compensation and increasing the amount that they receive.

5% support 1st rank

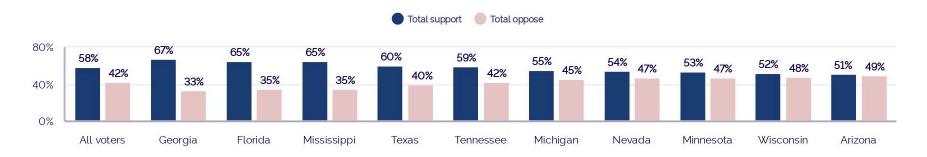
42% total oppose



## Varying Levels of Support for Unemployment Compensation Reform Across Target States; Most Divided Public Opinion in NV, MN, WI, and AZ

Extending the length of time that laid-off workers can receive unemployment compensation and increasing the amount that they receive.

By Target States





## Democrats, Independents, Younger Voters, and Voters of Color Most Supportive of Extending Unemployment Benefits

Extending length of unemployment benefits by key demographics

	Support	Oppose
All voters	58%	40%
ID Democrat	77%	23%
ID independent	55%	45%
ID Republican	40%	60%
Under 50	67%	33%
Over 50	51%	49%
White	53%	47%
Black	84%	15%
Total POC	76%	26%

## Array of Revenue Raisers Supported by Voters in Target States

Top Tier Revenue Proposals - % Total Support

87%

Close corporate tax loopholes.

27% support 1st rank

85%

Increase taxes and financial penalties on companies that pollute STATE's air and water.

17% support 1st rank

**73%** 

Increase taxes on the wealthiest individuals in STATE.

17% support 1st rank

71%

Increase taxes on those making over \$250,000 a year in STATE.

9% support 1st rank

69%

Create a carbon tax paid by companies based on how much carbon they emit.

6% support 1st rank

64%

Increase taxes on profitable corporations in STATE.

7% support 1st rank

20. As you may know, states, counties, and towns across the country are seeing tax receipts and tax revenues fall dramatically due to the coronavirus crisis and economic slowdown. Below are some proposals that are being considered to raise revenue for the state of STATE to prevent large budget cuts to things like education, health care, infrastructure, and human services. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.



# Increasing Capital Gains Taxes, Sales Taxes, and Motor Vehicle Fees Far Less Popular

Bottom Tier Revenue Proposals - % Total Support

45%

Increase capital gains taxes on things like stocks and investment portfolios.

55% total oppose

41%

Apply the existing sales tax in STATE to online purchases, including subscription services like Netflix and Amazon Prime.

59% total oppose

39%

Increase motor vehicle fees and fines for speeding tickets and other moving violations.

61% total oppose

34%

Apply the existing sales tax in STATE to services like car repairs, haircuts, accounting, and legal services.

66% total oppose

18%

Increase the sales tax in STATE.

82% total oppos

20. As you may know, states, counties, and towns across the country are seeing tax receipts and tax revenues fall dramatically due to the coronavirus crisis and economic slowdown. Below are some proposals that are being considered to raise revenue for the state of STATE to prevent large budget cuts to things like education, health care, infrastructure, and human services. By dragging the proposals to the "support" or "oppose" box, please indicate which ones you support and which ones you oppose. Then, by dragging the proposals up and down within each box, please indicate which ones you support the MOST and which ones you oppose the MOST.

# Coronavirus

## Over 1-in-3 Voters Have Been Laid Off or Had Their Hours or Pay Cut

#### **Coronavirus Impact**

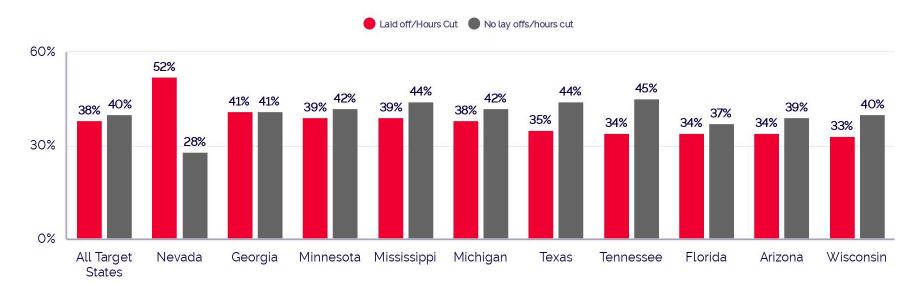


8. Have you or any member of your household been laid off, had work hours reduced, or their pay cut as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, or was nobody in your household employed before the outbreak?



## **Voters in Nevada Most Acutely Impacted by the Pandemic**

#### **Coronavirus Impact by Tartet States**



8. Have you or any member of your household been laid off, had work hours reduced, or their pay cut as a result of the coronavirus outbreak, or was nobody in your household employed before the outbreak?



## Employment and Small Business Closures Surface As Most Salient Coronavirus Concerns, Followed Closely by People Contracting the Virus

Top Tier Concerns - % total concerned

85%

People in STATE losing work and income due to the coronavirus outbreak.

56% very concerned

84%

Small businesses and restaurants closing down permanently in STATE.

56% very concerned

**75%** 

People in STATE contracting the virus, getting sick, and potentially dying.

54% very concerned

**76%** 

People in STATE not being able to afford their rent or mortgage payments.

50% very concerned

70%

The state of STATE losing tax revenues and facing budget cuts.

34% very concerned

68%

People in STATE being forced to choose between their health and their job.

45% very concerned

Q.13 Please indicate if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned at all about each of the following concerns people in STATE might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.



## A Majority of Voters Also Express Concerns About the Impact on Voting and the Disproportionate Impact Coronavirus Has on Black Communities

Second Tier Concerns - % total concerned

**59%** 

The coronavirus outbreak preventing STATE citizens from voting in this year's elections.

38% very concerned

**56%** 

Problems with administering elections in STATE, like long lines on Election Day.

32% total concerned

**54%** 

The disproportionate impact of the coronavirus on the Black community.

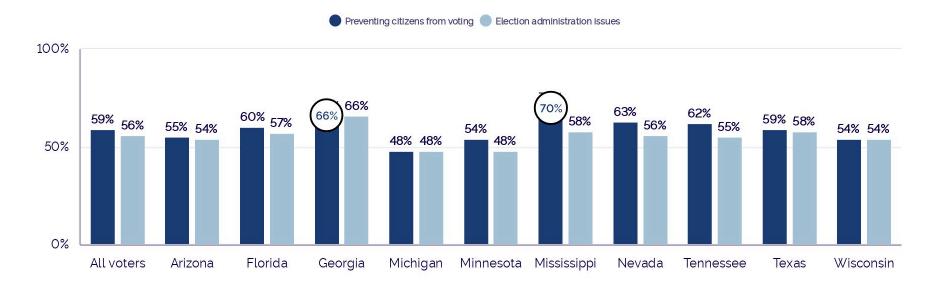
34% total concerned

Q.13 Please indicate if you are very concerned, somewhat concerned, a little concerned at all about each of the following concerns people in STATE might have due to the coronavirus outbreak.



## **Voters in Georgia and Mississippi Express Most Concern with the Pandemic Preventing Citizens from Voting**

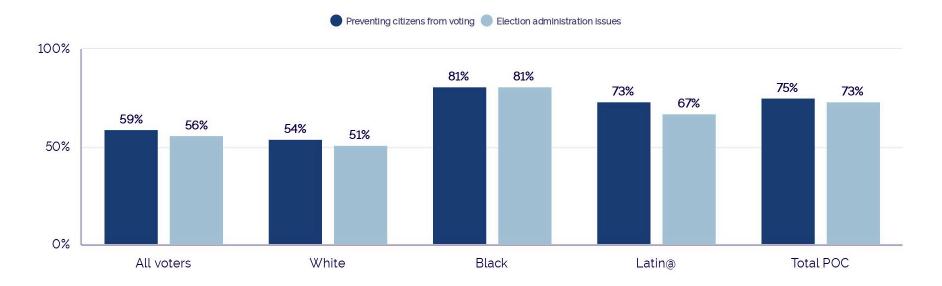
#### Coronavirus Impact on Voting and Election Administration by Target States





## Voters of Color, Particularly Black Voters, Over Index on Concerns for Voting and Election Administration During the Pandemic

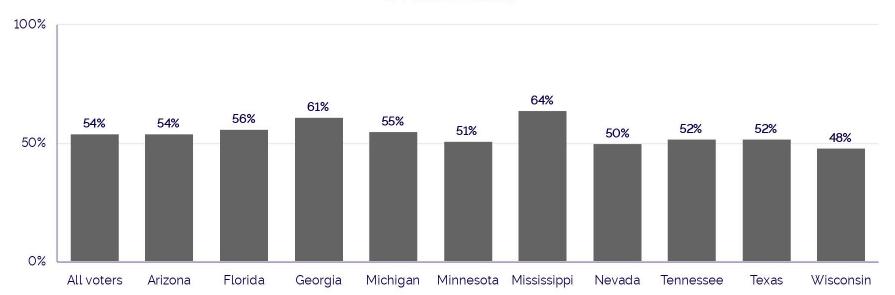
#### Coronavirus Impact on Voting and Election Administration by Race





### Voters in Georgia and Mississippi Express the Most Concern About the Pandemic's Disproportionate Impact on People of Color

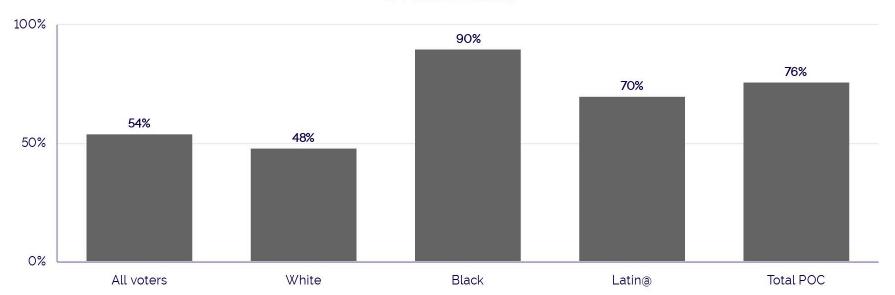
#### Pandemic's Disproportionate Impact on People of Color by Target States





## Black Voters Unanimously Concerned About the Pandemic's Disproportionate Impact on People of Color

#### Pandemic's Disproportionate Impact on People of Color by Race





# Questions?