

State of the Facts 2020

Conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research
With funding from USAFacts

Interviews: 09/15-25/2020

1,043 adults

Margin of error: +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95% confidence level among all adults

NOTE: All results show percentages among all respondents, unless otherwise labeled.

Q1. Do you think things in the nation are generally headed in the right direction, or do you feel that things are off on the wrong track?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDER]

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Right direction	28	34
Wrong direction	71	64
DON'T KNOW	1	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*	*
N =	1,043	1,032

Q1A. For each of the following, please say if you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion. If you don't know enough to have an opinion, you can say that too.

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Very/ Somewhat favorable NET	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Somewhat /Very unfavorable NET	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	Don't know enough to say	SKP/ REF
Donald Trump	40	22	17	56	10	46	4	*
Joe Biden	43	17	26	50	15	35	7	*

N = 1,043

Q2. Next, how closely do you pay attention to information about each of the following topics?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Extremely/ Very closely NET	Extremely closely	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too/Not closely at all NET	Not too closely	Not closely at all	DK	SKP /REF
The environment	40	13	27	42	18	13	5	*	*
Natural disasters	47	14	34	41	11	8	2	*	*
Health care	47	17	31	37	16	12	4	-	*
Crime	42	13	29	43	15	12	4	-	*
The economy and jobs	48	13	34	39	13	10	3	-	*
Education	43	16	28	38	18	14	5	-	*
Foreign affairs	26	7	19	38	35	27	8	*	1
Immigration	32	9	23	40	27	21	6	-	1
The federal budget	25	7	18	38	37	27	9	*	1
Infrastructure	21	6	14	39	39	28	11	*	1
COVID-19	57	27	30	33	10	7	2	-	*
Race and ethnicity	42	15	27	34	23	16	8	*	*
Elections and politics	48	20	29	35	16	11	6	-	*

N = 1,043

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Extremely/ Very closely NET	Extremely closely	Very closely	Somewhat closely	Not too/Not closely at all NET	Not too closely	Not closely at all	DK	SKP /REF
The environment	43	14	29	39	17	11	5	*	*
Natural disasters	49	14	35	36	15	11	3	-	*
Health care	49	16	33	38	13	10	2	-	*
Crime	44	14	30	38	17	13	4	*	*
The economy and jobs	49	14	35	35	15	11	4	*	*
Education	42	14	29	40	18	14	4	-	*
Foreign affairs	38	12	25	38	24	18	6	-	*
Immigration	46	19	27	38	17	13	4	-	*
The federal budget	29	9	21	42	28	21	7	*	*
Infrastructure	24	6	18	41	35	25	10	1	*

N = 1,032

Q3. Next we would like to ask you some questions about where you get information about the government.

Thinking about some of the ways you get information about the government these days, how often, if at all, do you get information from ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Several times a day/Once a day NET	Several times a day	Once a day	At least once a week	Less often/ Never NET	Less often	Never	DK	SKP /REF
National newspapers	15	4	11	15	69	27	43	-	*
Federal government agencies	12	3	8	20	68	41	27	*	*
Your state government	14	3	11	31	54	39	15	-	*
Businesses	10	3	7	15	74	39	35	-	1
Members of Congress	9	2	7	19	71	36	34	-	1
Local TV news	44	17	28	21	35	21	14	-	*
The president	22	8	14	26	52	26	26	-	*
National TV news networks such as ABC, CBS, or NBC	42	14	28	23	34	20	15	-	*
Social media	37	19	18	20	43	20	23	*	*
Local newspapers	16	4	13	18	65	28	37	-	*
Cable news networks such as CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC	40	20	21	22	38	19	19	-	*
Public TV or radio such as PBS or NPR	25	9	16	20	54	25	29	-	1
YouTube or other online video-sharing platforms	19	9	10	18	62	27	36	*	*
Online-only news sites, such as Huffington Post, BuzzFeed, or Breitbart	19	9	11	16	64	24	40	*	*

N = 1,043

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AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Several times a day/Once a day NET	Several times a day	Once a day	At least once a week	Less often/ Never NET	Less often	Never	DK	SKP /REF
National newspapers	19	6	13	21	60	29	31	-	1
Federal government agencies	12	3	8	21	67	38	29	-	*
Your state government	14	4	10	25	60	39	21	*	1
Businesses	16	5	11	20	63	34	29	-	1
Members of Congress	14	4	10	16	70	38	32	*	*
Local TV news	52	20	32	21	26	15	11	-	1
Nonpartisan think tanks	9	3	7	14	74	32	42	1	1
The president	28	10	17	22	50	24	26	*	*
National TV news networks such as ABC, CBS, or NBC	50	21	29	21	28	17	11	-	1
Social media	54	33	21	17	28	16	12	-	1
Local newspapers	23	4	18	24	52	26	27	-	*
Cable news networks such as CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC	47	23	24	21	31	17	14	*	1
Public TV or radio such as PBS or NPR	34	14	20	22	44	23	21	-	*

N = 1,032

Q4. Regardless of how often you get information from these sources, how much do you trust information from them about the government?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020									
National newspapers	19	5	15	33	47	27	20	*	*
Federal government agencies	13	3	10	37	49	33	16	*	1
Your state government	20	3	16	41	39	27	11	*	1
Businesses	8	1	7	28	62	42	21	*	1
Members of Congress	9	1	8	29	61	40	21	*	1
Local TV news	25	5	21	42	33	22	11	*	*
The president	20	9	11	22	58	19	40	-	*
National TV news networks such as ABC, CBS, or NBC	24	6	18	36	41	24	17	-	*
Social media	7	2	5	21	71	36	35	*	*
Local newspapers	19	4	15	40	40	23	17	*	*
Cable news networks such as CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC	19	5	14	37	43	29	15	*	1
Public TV or radio such as PBS or NPR	27	10	17	32	41	24	17	*	*
YouTube or other online video-sharing platforms	7	2	5	21	71	34	36	*	*
Online-only news sites, such as Huffington Post, BuzzFeed, or Breitbart	7	1	6	24	67	32	36	1	1

N = 1,043

State of the Facts 2020

	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019									
National newspapers	19	6	14	33	46	27	19	1	1
Federal government agencies	14	3	10	36	49	34	16	*	1
Your state government	19	4	15	38	42	30	13	*	1
Businesses	8	1	7	34	56	38	17	*	1
Members of Congress	10	3	8	32	57	37	20	*	*
Local TV news	27	7	20	36	36	27	10	*	1
Nonpartisan think tanks	13	3	10	31	53	29	25	1	1
The president	19	7	12	20	61	22	39	-	*
National TV news networks such as ABC, CBS, or NBC	25	7	18	34	41	26	15	*	*
Social media	11	3	8	24	64	40	23	1	*
Local newspapers	20	5	15	39	40	27	12	1	1
Cable news networks such as CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC	23	5	18	32	44	31	13	*	*
Public TV or radio such as PBS or NPR	31	10	21	29	39	26	13	*	*

N = 1,032

Q5. Have you ever used federal government websites (e.g. Census Bureau, IRS, Centers for Disease Control) to look up information?

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
Yes	66	58
No	33	42
DON'T KNOW	-	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*	*

N =

1,043

1,032

Q6. How much do you trust information from the federal government about the following topics?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
The environment	16	5	11	34	50	32	18	-	1
Natural disasters	33	8	26	35	31	22	9	*	*
Health care	22	5	17	36	41	28	13	-	*
Crime	24	7	18	35	40	27	12	*	*
The economy and jobs	24	6	18	39	37	27	10	-	1
Education	19	4	15	40	40	29	12	-	*
Foreign affairs	18	4	14	35	46	31	15	*	*
Immigration	16	3	13	35	48	31	17	*	*
The federal budget	21	6	15	35	43	29	14	*	1
Infrastructure	20	3	17	37	42	27	15	1	1
COVID-19	23	7	16	30	47	29	18	*	1
Race and Ethnicity	16	4	12	33	50	31	19	*	*
Elections and politics	15	5	11	32	51	32	19	-	1

N = 1,043

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
The environment	13	3	10	39	46	31	16	*	1
Natural disasters	36	9	28	34	29	21	8	*	*
Health care	22	5	17	38	40	31	9	*	*
Crime	24	5	19	40	35	26	9	*	1
The economy and jobs	24	5	19	41	34	27	7	*	1
Education	21	5	16	42	37	28	8	*	*
Foreign affairs	16	3	13	37	46	30	16	*	*
Immigration	18	5	13	36	45	30	15	*	*
The federal budget	18	3	14	39	43	30	13	*	*
Infrastructure	16	3	13	43	40	29	11	1	*

N = 1,032

Q7. Thinking about information you consider factual, how important is each of the following factors?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Extremely /Very important NET	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too/Not important at all NET	Not too important	Not important at all	DK	SKP /REF
It is accurate	85	65	21	11	3	2	1	*	1
It provides all relevant information	80	45	35	16	4	3	1	*	1
It explains the way the information was gathered	77	38	40	18	4	3	1	-	1
It provides more than one viewpoint on the subject	64	28	36	26	10	7	2	*	*
It has a high quality presentation	38	10	28	39	23	18	5	*	*
It does not include opinions	59	27	32	28	12	9	4	*	*
It includes information I agree with	21	6	15	27	51	32	19	-	1

N = 1,043

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Extremely /Very important NET	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too/Not important at all NET	Not too important	Not important at all	DK	SKP /REF
It is accurate	84	62	22	12	4	3	1	-	-
It provides all relevant information	81	44	37	15	5	4	1	*	-
It explains the way the information was gathered	75	37	39	20	4	3	1	*	*
It presents opposing views	59	21	38	30	11	9	2	*	-
It has a high quality presentation	39	13	26	43	18	14	4	*	*
It does not include opinions	54	28	26	32	13	9	3	1	1

N = 1,032

Q8. How likely are you to consider information factual if it has each of the following characteristics?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Extremely/ Very likely NET	Extremely likely	Very likely	Moderately likely	Not too/Not at all likely NET	Not too likely	Not at all likely	DK	SKP /REF
It is based in data	66	29	38	25	8	5	3	*	*
It comes from a non-partisan source	40	11	30	42	17	11	5	*	1
It is verified by an academic institution	43	13	29	38	18	12	6	*	1
It is verified by federal government agencies	26	5	21	48	26	18	8	*	1
Your friends and family think that it is true	11	1	9	42	46	31	15	1	1
It is verified by a business	12	3	9	46	42	29	13	*	*
It is verified by the media	18	4	14	38	43	26	17	*	1
Most people think that it is true	9	1	8	37	53	32	21	-	*
It is verified by scientists	63	26	37	26	11	8	3	-	*
It comes from someone you agree with politically	18	3	15	48	33	23	11	-	1
You have seen a photograph or video of it	34	7	27	47	18	12	6	-	*

N = 1,043

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AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/19	Extremely/ Very likely NET	Extremely likely	Very likely	Moderately likely	Not too/Not at all likely NET	Not too likely	Not at all likely	DK	SKP /REF
It is based in data	61	22	38	30	9	7	2	-	*
It comes from a non-partisan source	34	8	26	43	22	16	6	*	*
It is verified by an academic institution	44	12	33	37	18	13	5	*	*
It is verified by federal government agencies	28	7	21	47	24	18	6	*	2
Your friends and family think that it is true	14	4	9	42	44	31	13	*	1
It is verified by a business	13	3	10	48	39	31	8	*	1
It is verified by the media	16	4	12	40	44	27	17	*	*
Most people think that it is true	14	3	11	36	49	32	16	*	1
It is verified by scientists	55	22	33	32	12	8	4	*	*
It comes from someone you agree with politically	19	4	15	54	27	20	7	*	1

N = 1,032

Q9. Next, these days, how easy or difficult is it for you to ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	Very/ Somewhat easy NET	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Somewhat /Very difficult NET	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020									
Find factual information on the subjects you are interested in	54	16	37	26	21	18	3	-	*
Know if information is true or not	41	8	32	30	30	25	5	*	*
Understand the difference between fact and opinion	65	30	35	21	14	13	2	-	*

N = 1,043

	Very/ Somewhat easy NET	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Somewhat /Very difficult NET	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019									
Find factual information on the subjects you are interested in	44	12	32	24	32	25	7	*	*
Know if information is true or not	31	9	22	22	47	36	12	*	*
Understand the difference between fact and opinion	50	20	30	20	29	23	6	-	*

N = 1,032

Q10. How often do you feel like you ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Always /Often NET	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely /Never NET	Rarely	Never	DK	SKP /REF
Get conflicting information from different sources	61	15	47	32	6	5	1	-	*
Come across sources that include only one side	67	14	54	28	4	3	1	*	*

N = 1,043

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Always /Often NET	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely /Never NET	Rarely	Never	DK	SKP /REF
Get conflicting information from different sources	58	12	45	34	8	6	2	*	*
Come across sources that include only one side	64	12	52	27	9	7	2	*	*

N = 1,032

Q11. How often do you think each of the following are based on factual information?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED WITH FIRST TWO ANCHORED AT TOP; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Always /Often NET	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely /Never NET	Rarely	Never	DK	SKP /REF
Joe Biden's campaign messages	30	5	25	31	39	23	16	*	*
Donald Trump's campaign messages	22	6	15	26	51	24	27	*	1
Debates between political candidates	16	3	14	54	29	22	7	*	*
Voting choices made by Americans	17	2	15	51	31	26	6	*	*
Reporting from the media	18	1	17	45	36	25	11	*	-
Decisions made by policymakers	12	1	10	56	32	25	7	*	1

N = 1,043

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	Always /Often NET	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely /Never NET	Rarely	Never	DK	SKP /REF
Political candidates' campaign messages	9	2	7	43	47	35	11	*	*
Debates between political candidates	13	2	12	47	39	32	7	*	1
Voting choices made by Americans	14	3	11	53	32	26	6	*	*
Reporting from the media	21	3	18	47	31	24	7	*	*
Decisions made by policymakers	14	2	12	55	30	24	7	1	*

N = 1,032

**Q12. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?
Political division in the United States is more a result of Americans ...**

[HALF SAMPLE ASKED RESPONSE OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019
<u>Having different beliefs</u> about how to address major problems facing the country	55	60
<u>Relying on different facts</u> about major problems facing the country	43	37
DON'T KNOW	*	1
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1	2
N =	1,043	1,032

Q13. How much influence do you think the political beliefs of each of the following have over information provided by the federal government?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	None at all	DK	SKP /REF
Members of Congress	44	14	30	41	15	11	4	*	*
The president	59	26	33	25	15	8	7	*	*
Employees in federal agencies	27	7	21	40	32	26	6	*	*

N = 1,043

AP-NORC/USAFacts 10/15-28/2019	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	None at all	DK	SKP /REF
Members of Congress	45	17	28	33	20	16	4	1	1
The president	54	25	29	27	18	9	9	1	1
Employees in federal agencies	30	8	22	39	30	23	7	1	1

N = 1,032

Q14. When it comes to getting information about the government, do you think the spread of misinformation is a major problem, a minor problem, or not a problem at all?

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Major problem	83
Minor problem	14
Not a problem at all	3
DON'T KNOW	-
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*
N =	1,043

Q15. How important is each of the following in helping you form opinions on an issue?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Extremely /Very important NET	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too/Not important at all NET	Not too important	Not important at all	DK	SKP /REF
Your personal experiences	68	24	44	25	6	4	2	-	1
Participating in a discussion about the issue on social media	11	3	8	26	62	31	31	*	1
Participating in a conversation about the issues with a person you respect	48	11	37	40	11	8	3	-	*
Seeing or hearing a story in the news	28	5	23	50	22	16	6	-	*
Learning about the issue in school	33	7	25	41	25	14	12	-	1
When a public figure you trust expresses a point of view on the issue	37	8	29	44	18	12	5	*	*
Seeing data about the issue	73	31	42	21	6	4	1	-	*
Your values	78	36	42	16	6	4	2	*	*

N = 1,043

Q16. Which comes closer to describing how you think about each of the following issues?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	I rely on facts more than my values	I rely on my values more than facts	DK	SKP/ REF
COVID-19	79	20	*	1
Policing and the criminal justice system	64	34	1	*
Climate change	79	20	*	*
Abortion	36	63	*	*
Same-sex marriage	33	66	*	*
The economy	78	21	*	1
Health care	70	30	*	1
Immigration	59	41	*	1

N = 1,043

Q17. Thinking about some of the ways you get information about COVID-19 these days, how often, if at all, do you get information from ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	Several times a day/Once a day NET	Several times a day	Once a day	At least once a week	Less often/ Never NET	Less often	Never	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020									
The news media	46	17	28	27	27	19	8	*	1
Your state or local government	26	6	21	37	37	27	10	-	*
Federal health officials at agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration	21	5	16	37	41	30	11	*	*
Donald Trump	16	4	12	21	62	24	38	*	*
Social media	26	11	15	20	53	24	30	*	*
Your doctor or health care provider	5	2	3	15	79	54	25	*	*
Your family and friends	19	7	12	35	46	34	11	*	*
A search engine such as Google or Bing	24	9	15	25	50	27	23	*	1
Other online information besides from social media or search engines	24	8	16	27	48	27	21	*	1

N = 1,043

Q18. Regardless of how often you get information from these sources, how much do you trust information from them about COVID-19?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

	A great deal/ Quite a bit NET	A great deal	Quite a bit	A moderate amount	Only a little/Not at all NET	Only a little	Not at all	DK	SKP /REF
AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020									
The news media	18	4	14	36	46	29	17	-	*
Your state or local government	26	5	21	42	31	22	9	-	*
Federal health officials at agencies like the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention or the U.S. Food and Drug Administration	36	13	23	38	26	19	7	-	*
Donald Trump	16	7	10	19	64	16	48	*	1
Social media	6	1	5	21	72	35	37	*	*
Your doctor or health care provider	53	18	35	30	16	10	6	*	1
Your family and friends	17	4	14	42	40	33	7	-	*
A search engine such as Google or Bing	12	3	10	38	49	31	18	*	*
Other online information besides from social media or search engines	12	3	9	35	52	34	19	*	1

N = 1,043

Q19. Thinking about the sources you consider trustworthy when it comes to information about COVID-19, how important is each of the following factors?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Extremely /Very important NET	Extremely important	Very important	Somewhat important	Not too/Not important at all NET	Not very important	Not at all important	DK	SKP /REF
It is accurate	85	61	24	11	4	3	1	*	*
It provides all relevant information	81	42	38	15	5	3	2	-	*
It explains the way the information was gathered	77	34	43	18	5	3	2	*	*
It provides more than one viewpoint on the subject	53	20	34	33	13	9	4	*	*
It has a high quality presentation	33	8	25	38	29	21	8	*	*
It does not include opinions	57	27	30	30	12	10	2	*	*
It includes information I agree with	16	4	11	33	51	33	18	-	*

N = 1,043

Q20. How easy or difficult is it for you to ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Very/ Somewhat easy NET	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Somewhat /Very difficult NET	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	DK	SKP /REF
Find factual information about COVID-19	43	12	31	27	30	23	7	*	*
Know if information about COVID-19 is true or not	35	9	26	29	36	26	10	*	*
Understand the difference between fact and opinion about COVID-19	48	17	32	26	26	18	8	-	*

N = 1,043

Q21. When it comes to making decisions about the following issues related to COVID-19, how easy or difficult is it for you to find the information you need?

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Very/ Somewhat easy NET	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Somewhat /Very difficult NET	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	DK	SKP /REF
When and how to get tested for infection with the virus	57	23	34	21	21	16	5	*	1
The safety of reopening schools	39	15	24	29	32	22	10	*	1
The safety of eating indoors at a restaurant	49	20	29	28	21	16	5	*	1
The safety of gathering in groups of more than 10 people	55	25	30	25	19	15	5	*	1
Wearing a face mask	70	43	27	18	12	8	4	*	1
The safety and effectiveness of treatments for the virus	35	11	24	29	35	26	9	*	*

N = 1,043

Q22. Since the start of the COVID-19 outbreak, do you think factual information about COVID-19 has become ... ?

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Easier to find	36
More difficult to find	37
Neither easier nor more difficult	27
DON'T KNOW	*
SKIPPED/REFUSED	*

N =

1,043

Q23. Now on to another topic.

When it comes to information about the upcoming presidential election, how easy or difficult is it for you ...

[GRID ITEMS RANDOMIZED; HALF SAMPLE ASKED OPTIONS IN REVERSE ORDERS]

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Very/ Somewhat easy NET	Very easy	Somewhat easy	Neither easy nor difficult	Somewhat /Very difficult NET	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult	DK	SKP /REF
Find factual information about how to register to vote	68	43	24	21	11	7	4	*	*
Find factual information about how to cast your ballot	61	33	28	23	16	12	4	*	*
Find factual information about the candidates and their positions	47	18	29	24	29	20	8	*	*
Know if information is true or not	38	13	24	24	38	26	12	*	*
Understand the difference between fact and opinion	51	25	26	24	25	17	8	-	*
Know if what candidates are saying is true or not	35	14	21	24	40	26	14	*	*

N = 1,043

Q24. When you see news about the upcoming presidential election and you want to find out if it is true or not, where do you generally go first to check?

[ITEMS RANDOMIZED]

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
An internet search	35
A national newspaper	3
Your local newspaper	2
A federal government agency	3
A candidate's website	4
National TV news networks such as ABC, CBS, or NBC	8
Your local TV news networks	6
Social media	5
Cable news networks such as CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC	13
Public TV or radio such as PBS or NPR	7
A friend or family member	6
YouTube or other online video-sharing platforms	2
An online-only news site, such as Huffington Post, BuzzFeed, or Breitbart	3
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED/REFUSED	2

N =

1,043

Q25. How concerned are you about foreign governments interfering with the 2020 presidential election by ...

AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020	Extremely /Very concerned NET	Extremely concerned	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Not very/Not at all concerned NET	Not very concerned	Not at all concerned	DK	SKP /REF
Tampering with voting systems or election results	44	24	20	24	31	22	9	-	*
Influencing the news and information Americans see	45	25	20	29	26	18	8	-	*

N = 1,043

PID1. Do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an independent or none of these?

If Democrat in PID1

PIDA. Do you consider yourself a strong Democrat or a moderate Democrat?

If Republican in PID1

PIDB. Do you consider yourself a strong Republican or a moderate Republican?

If independent, none of these, or Don't Know/SKIPPED ON WEB/REFUSED in PID1

PIDI. Do you lean more toward the Democrats or the Republicans?

PID. Combines PID1, PIDI, PIDA, and PIDB.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Democrat NET	43
Strong Democrat	17
Moderate Democrat	18
Lean Democrat	8
Independent/None – Don't lean	15
Republican NET	42
Lean Republican	11
Moderate Republican	16
Strong Republican	15
N =	1,043

G11B. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself a ...

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Liberal	24
Moderate	36
Conservative	38
DON'T KNOW	1
SKIPPED/REFUSED	1
N =	1,043

AGE.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
18-24	11
25-34	18
35-44	17
45-54	15
55-64	17
65-74	14
75+	7
N =	1,043

GENDER.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Male	48
Female	52
N =	1,043

RACE/ETHNICITY.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
White	63
Black or African American	12
Hispanic	17
Other	9
N =	1,043

MARITAL STATUS.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Married	48
Widowed	5
Divorced	10
Separated	4
Never married	25
Living with partner	7
N =	1,043

EMPLOYMENT STATUS.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Employed	60
Not employed	40
N =	1,043

EDUCATION.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Less than a high school diploma	10
High school graduate or equivalent	28
Some college	28
College graduate or above	34
N =	1,043

INCOME.

	AP-NORC/USAFacts 09/15-25/2020
Under \$10,000	4
\$10,000 to under \$20,000	9
\$20,000 to under \$30,000	13
\$30,000 to under \$40,000	10
\$40,000 to under \$50,000	9
\$50,000 to under \$75,000	21
\$75,000 to under \$100,000	12
\$100,000 to under \$150,000	14
\$150,000 or more	8
N =	1,043

Study Methodology

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and with funding from USAFacts.

Data were collected using the AmeriSpeak®, NORC's probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. household population. During the initial recruitment phase of the panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, and field interviewers (face-to-face). The panel provides sample coverage of approximately 97 percent of the U.S. household population. Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between September 15 and 25, 2020, with adults age 18 and over representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from AmeriSpeak, and 1,043 completed the survey—966 via the web and 77 via telephone. Interviews were conducted in both English and Spanish, depending on respondent preference. The final stage completion rate is 27.2 percent, the weighted household panel response rate is 23.6 percent, and the weighted household panel retention rate is 84.8 percent, for a cumulative response rate of 5.4 percent. The overall margin of sampling error is +/- 4.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Once the sample has been selected and fielded, and all the study data have been collected and made final, a poststratification process is used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census division, race/ethnicity, and education. Weighting variables were obtained from the 2020 Current Population Survey. The weighted data reflect the U.S. population of adults age 18 and over.

For more information, email info@apnorc.org.

About USAFacts

USAFacts is a not-for-profit, nonpartisan civic initiative providing the most comprehensive and understandable single source of government data.

For more information, please visit usafacts.org.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

- The Associated Press (AP) is an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world's population sees AP journalism every day. www.ap.org.

- NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest and most respected, independent research institutions in the world. www.norc.org

The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals.

The founding principles of The AP-NORC Center include a mandate to carefully preserve and protect the scientific integrity and objectivity of NORC and the journalistic independence of AP. All work conducted by the Center conforms to the highest levels of scientific integrity to prevent any real or perceived bias in the research. All of the work of the Center is subject to review by its advisory committee to help ensure it meets these standards. The Center will publicize the results of all studies and make all datasets and study documentation available to scholars and the public.

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