# Colorado Political Climate Survey 2020 Topline Election Report 

Initial Release,<br>October 19, 2020

## About the Study:

## American Politics Research Lab

The American Politics Research Lab (APRL) is housed in the Department of Political Science at the University of Colorado Boulder. APRL is a non-partisan academic unit that supports basic research, educational activities, and public engagement on issues

## A Note on Partisan Breakdowns

The Presidential Election: Vice-President Biden has a 9-point lead over President Trump among likely voters (47\%-38\%), with 11\% of Coloradans reporting that they ar
men (43\%-39\%), but Biden leading with women (56\%-33\%). Support for Biden and Trump sorts cleanly on partisan lines, but less so among those calling among such individuals Biden maintains a small lead (3\%), though 30\% of these respondents

The Senate Election: The Senate race mirrors the Presidential election in Colorado, with Governor Hickenlooper holding an 8-point lead over Senator Gardner (48\%is also present in this contest, with Hickenlooper and Gardner tied among men ( $45 \%-45 \%$ ), but Hicklenlooper leading among women ( $51 \%-36 \%$ ). Support for the two candidates also sorts cleanly on partisan lines, but less so among those calling among such individuals Hickenlooper maintains a

Ballot Measures: We polled on 4 of the measures on the ballot before Coloradans this fall and
they stand.

Proposition 113 (Popular Vote Compact) appears to have a comfortable lead (49\%

Proposition 115 (Late-Term Abortion Restriction) is too close to call, with $45 \%$

Proposition 118 (Paid Family Leave) has a sizable lead (65\%-22\%), though again a non-
voting. (We randomly assigned respondents to 2 different question wordings for this item, and found minimal differences thus we present the pooled result.)

Election, their confidence in the electoral process, and their opinion with respect to potential outcomes of the Presidential Election. These items were weighted to match the general population (not likely voters, as used in the electoral contests and ballot measures).

Mirroring some national
would see the winner as legitimate (57\% overall) these numbers were fairly similar by partisanship.

Coloradans are worried about the outcome of the presidential election, and about the potential for violence:
will be a
Republicans expressed more confidence (with only 29\% disagreeing with the statement vs. 48\% of Democrats and 49\% of Independents).
reed that they are worried about similar violence in Colorado specifically. With respect to violence elsewhere in the country, the portion agreeing with the statement was similar across partisan splits; at the state level, Democrats expressed slightly more concern (59\% agreement) vs. Independents (49\%) and Republicans (53\%).

## The Presidential Race

Question text: If the election for president of the United States were held today,

## The Presidential Election

| Donald Trump | $38 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Joe Biden | $47 \%$ |
| Other | $3 \%$ |
| Undecided | $11 \%$ |
| Observations | $\mathbf{8 0 0}$ |

## Presidential Election by Gender

|  | Male | Female |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Donald Trump | $43 \%$ | $33 \%$ |
| Joe Biden | $39 \%$ | $56 \%$ |
| Other | $5 \%$ | $2 \%$ |
| Undecided | $13 \%$ | $9 \%$ |
| Observations | $\mathbf{4 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 7}$ |


| Presidential Election by Partisanship |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Democrats | Republicans | Independents |
| Donald Trump | $1 \%$ | $86 \%$ | $24 \%$ |
| Joe Biden | $90 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $27 \%$ |
| Other | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $19 \%$ |
| Undecided | $8 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $30 \%$ |
| Observations | $\mathbf{3 6 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 1 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 7}$ |

Analysis done using likely voter weights (observations are weighted).
Note that due to rounding, each column may not sum exactly to $100 \%$

## The Senate Race

Question text: If the election for the U.S. Senate were held today, would you vote

| U.S. Senate Election by Gender |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  | Male | Female |
| John Hickenlooper | $45 \%$ | $51 \%$ |
| Cory Gardner | $45 \%$ | $36 \%$ |
| Other | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ |
| Undecided | $10 \%$ | $12 \%$ |
| Observations | $\mathbf{4 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 7}$ |

U.S. Senate Election by Partisanship

|  | Democrats | Republicans | Independents |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| John Hickenlooper | $89 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $34 \%$ |
| Cory Gardner | $2 \%$ | $88 \%$ | $32 \%$ |
| Other | $0 \%$ | $<1 \%$ | $4 \%$ |
| Undecided | $9 \%$ | 4 |  |

## The Generic Ballot

Question text: If the election for the U.S. House of Representatives in your congressional district

## Proposition 113

Question text: Proposition 113 would allow Colorado to join an agreement among states the National Popular Vote Interstate Compact to elect the President of the United States by a national popular vote. If the election were held today, how would you vote on this proposition?

## Proposition 113 by Gender

|  | Male | Female |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | $43 \%$ | $54 \%$ |
| No | $43 \%$ | $25 \%$ |
| Not Sure | $14 \%$ | $20 \%$ |
| Observations | $\mathbf{4 1 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 8 7}$ |

## Proposition 118

Question text: Proposition 118 would create a paid family and medical leave program (funded through a payroll tax to be paid for by employers and employees in a $50 / 50$ split; it would authorize*) authorizing paid family and medical leave for those with serious medical conditions, those caring for a new child or a family member with a serious medical condition, or those having a need
held today, how would you vote on this proposition?

## Proposition 118

| Yes | $65 \%$ |
| :--- | :---: |
| No | $22 \%$ |
| Not Sure | $13 \%$ |
| Observations | 800 |

Proposition 118 by Partisanship

|  | Democrats | Republicans | Independents |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Yes | $83 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $60 \%$ |
| No | $9 \%$ | $40 \%$ | $16 \%$ |
| Not Sure | $9 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $25 \%$ |
| Observations | $\mathbf{3 6 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 1 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 7}$ |

Analysis done using likely voter weights (observations are weighted).
Note that due to rounding, each column may not sum exactly to $100 \%$
*This question was presented in two ways, one with the parenthetical text and one without. Participants were randomly assigned to each treatment with a probability of .5. No significant differences were noted between the changes in the text, thus the pooled results are reported.

| Amendment B Version 2 by Partisanship |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Democrats | Republicans | Independents |
| Yes | $46 \%$ | $46 \%$ | $41 \%$ |
| No | $20 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $25 \%$ |
| Not Sure | $34 \%$ | $36 \%$ | $33 \%$ |
| Observations | $\mathbf{1 7 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 6 3}$ | $\mathbf{5 9}$ |

Analysis done using likely voter weights (observations are weighted).
Note that due to rounding, each column may not sum exactly to $100 \%$

## Electoral Process Questions

Note: Several of the questions in this section were modeled after questions in a Pew Research survey from April, 2020.

Results in this section use general population weights they are weighted to match the general Colorado population, not likely voters (for more information, see the methodological report linked at the beginning of the document). Most (>90\%) respondents in our sample are registered voters (726/800).

How much do you agree with each of the following statements about the upcoming elections?

## Electoral Fairness

Question Text: The elections will be conducted fairly and accurately.

## Election fairness

| Agree | $54 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Disagree | $30 \%$ |
| Not Sure | $15 \%$ |
| Observations | $\mathbf{7 8 7}$ |

Analysis done using Colorado general population weights (observations are weighted). Note that due to rounding, each column may not sum exactly to $100 \%$

## Ability to Vote if Desired

Question Text: All citizens who want to vote in the election will be able to.

## All Citizens Can Vote by Partisanship

## Confidence in Mail-In Voting

Question Text: I have confidence in the mail voting system in Colorado.

| Confidence in Mail-In Voting in Colorado by Partisanship |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Democrats | Republicans | Independents |
| Agree | $82 \%$ | $59 \%$ | $62 \%$ |
| Disagree | $10 \%$ |  |  |

Worried about Violence in Colorado on/after Election Day by Partisanshipn

## Demographic Breakdown of Likely Voter Weighted Sample

Note: Partisanship used throughout is from a self-reported 7-point measure, where Strong Democrats, Democrats, and Leaning Democrats are considered Democrats, Strong Republicans, Republicans, and Leaning Republicans are considered Republicans, and self-identified Independents are Independents. This is noted below as Partisanship.

| Partisanship | Democrats | Republicans | Independents |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Partisanship | $46 \%$ | $40 \%$ | $14 \%$ |
| Observations | $\mathbf{3 6 3}$ | $\mathbf{3 1 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 7}$ |

An alternative version of the partisanship breakdown, which includes Leaning Democrats and Leaning Republicans as Independents, would appear as the following ( Alternative Partisanship

| Alternative Partisanship |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Democrats | Republicans | Independents |
| Alternative Partisanship | $33 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $36 \%$ |
| Observations | 26 |  |  |

