



**To:** R Street Institute

**From:** Ryan Tyson

**Subject:** Nationwide Electoral Reforms Survey

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### **Methodology**

From January 25<sup>th</sup> through February 5<sup>th</sup>, the Tyson Group conducted an N = 1200 nationwide survey of likely Republican voters. Additional interviews were conducted (N = 300 likely Republican voters) in the swing states of Arizona, North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania. These voters were reached by live callers on both landlines and cell phones. Our key findings are as follows:

### **General Atmospherics**

- Vote Method: **48% on Election Day, 28% Early Vote, 24% Vote by Mail**
  - There were significant regional disparities in vote method: western regions saw heavy use of vote by mail, while in-person voting was more prominent east of the Rockies.
- Ballot Casting Satisfaction: **+73% (86% Satisfied | 13% Unsatisfied)**
  - Only **67%** of voters in the Pacific region (i.e. California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Hawaii, and Alaska) were satisfied with the process of casting their ballot this election.
- Support of Alternative Voting Methods: **-53% (22% Support | 75% Oppose)**
  - In addition, **92%** of participants believe alternative methods such as vote by mail and voter drop boxes opened the 2020 election to increased error, mismanagement, or fraud.
- Validity of the Election: **-44% (23% the Election was Valid | 67% the Election was Invalid)**
  - Voters in all 6 swing states underperformed the topline and expressed more doubts over the validity of the election.

### **Trustworthiness of Public Figures**

- We asked participants to indicate how much they trust certain public officials when it comes to reforming the election process. Notable results include:
  - Donald Trump: **+76%** (86% Satisfied | 10% Unsatisfied | 4% Unsure)
  - Marco Rubio: **+50%** (65% Satisfied | 15% Unsatisfied | 18% Unsure)
  - Sean Hannity: **+54%** (64% Satisfied | 10% Unsatisfied | 25% Unsure)
  - Nikki Haley: **+45%** (53% Satisfied | 8% Unsatisfied | 38% Unsure)
  - Mitch McConnell: **+4%** (43% Satisfied | 39% Unsatisfied | 17% Unsure)

### **Vote by Mail Policies**

- In general, our participants supported policies that increased election accountability and opposed policies that expanded voter accessibility.
  - Signature Matching: **+60%** (78% Support | 18% Oppose | 4% Unsure)
  - Counting Ballots Before Election Day: **+34%** (64% Support | 30% Oppose | 5% Unsure)
  - Voter Drop Boxes: **-38%** (24% Support | 62% Oppose | 4% Unsure)
  - No Excuse VBM: **-66%** (16% Support | 82% Oppose | 2% Unsure)
  - Ballot Harvesting: **-82%** (8% Support | 90% Oppose | 2% Unsure)

### **Additional Election Questions**

- Same-Day Voter Registration: **-35%** (31% Support | 66% Oppose | 2% Unsure)
  - Support was **+43%** in our Wisconsin oversample, indicating that public opinion on the policy is much more positive in states that have it versus states that do not.
- Your State's Redistricting Process: **-5%** (31% Support | 36% Oppose | 32% Unsure)
  - Understandably, Republican voters in liberal areas of the country (i.e. the Pacific and Northeast regions) had a more unfavorable view of their state's redistricting process than Republican voters in conservative areas of the country.
- Independent Redistricting Commission: **+32%** (57% Support | 25% Oppose | 18% Unsure)

- **72%** of our voters prefer the Electoral College over a national popular vote with **65%** intensity.
- Respondents were split on whether their vote matters. **42%** agree that the electoral system has become corrupt and that their vote probably doesn't get counted anyway.
  - Again, we saw more unfavorable responses from the Pacific and Northeast regions.
  - Among the swing states that we oversampled, there was a consistent correlation between believing the current electoral system is corrupt and supporting a national popular vote.

## **Conclusion**

President Trump's rhetoric seems to have had a profound impact on his base's outlook on the election. Across all regions, our participants by and large opposed alternative voting methods, believed that those methods opened the election process to fraud, and felt that the 2020 election result was invalid. But despite parroting those claims, these same voters were satisfied with how they cast their own ballot. It's a fascinating look into how impressionable the average voter is: Republicans across the country have been convinced that election fraud happened *somewhere*, just not in *their* state.