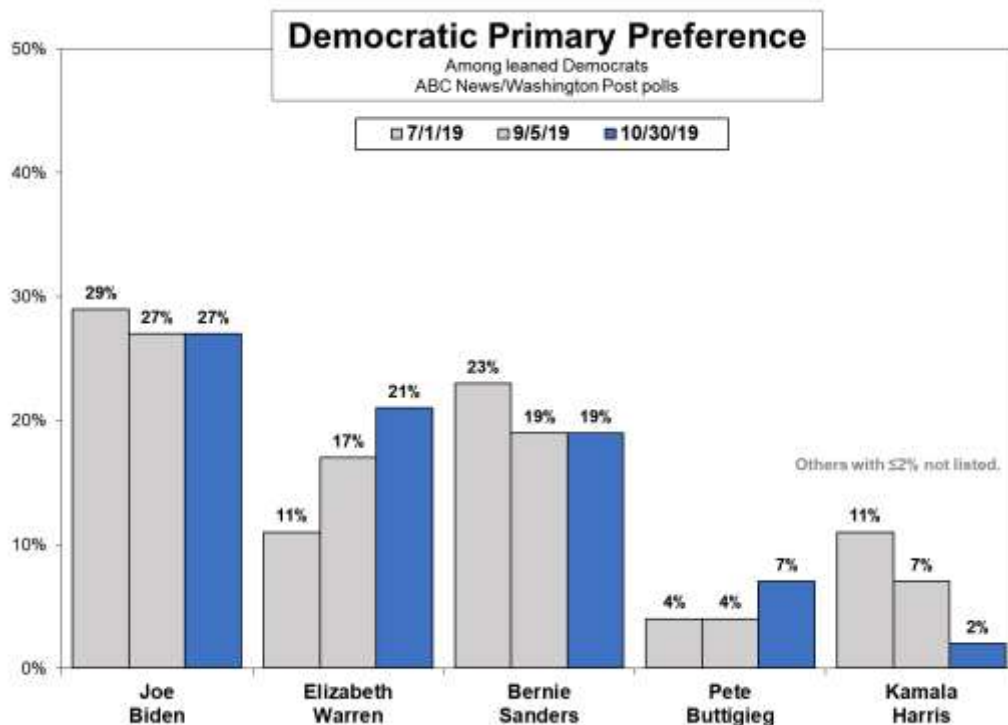


Biden, Warren, Sanders Stay on Top; Health is Now an Issue for Sanders

Bernie Sanders' health poses a concern to Democrats, Joe Biden prevails on electability and strong leadership and Elizabeth Warren is competitive on mental acuity and bringing "needed change" to Washington – attributes that may help shape their party's presidential contest.

These three continue to lead current preferences for the Democratic presidential nomination, with 27 percent support for Biden, 21 percent for Warren and 19 percent for Sanders among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll.

Pete Buttigieg now emerges one rung down, with 7 percent support, displacing Kamala Harris. She's gone from 11 percent in July to 7 percent in September and 2 percent in this survey, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#).



Those standings reflect a new high for Warren in ABC/Post polls; she had 11 percent support in July and 17 percent in September. Support for Biden and Sanders has been essentially stable across this period, with no losses for either but likewise no forward momentum.

Results are quite similar among registered voters (and there's ample time to register) – Biden with 28 percent support, Warren 23, Sanders 17 and Buttigieg 9 (up from 4 percent in September). Each of the 12 remaining candidates receives 1 or 2 percent support, at most.

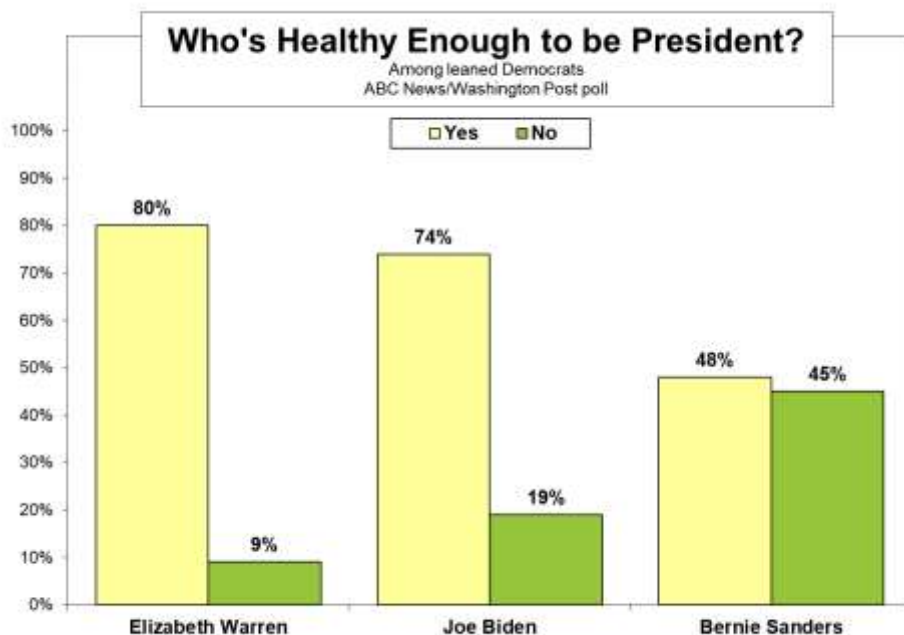
MOVE? – Current standings are not predictive; there's plenty of room for movement. Indeed about half of leaned Democrats, 53 percent, either say they'd consider another candidate (47 percent) or have no current preference (6 percent).

Warren's supporters are not highly committed; 65 percent say they'd consider someone else. That compares with 43 percent among Biden's supporters and 50 percent among supporters of all other candidates combined. (The sample size of Sanders supporters is too small to dice.)

Who might their second choices be? Current Biden supporters divide chiefly between Sanders (31 percent) and Warren (26 percent) as their fallback preference, with 8 percent apiece for Harris and Amy Klobuchar and 7 percent for Buttigieg. Warren voters go more for Sanders (36 percent) than Biden (17 percent) as their second choice, with 11 percent each for Harris and Buttigieg and 6 percent for Julián Castro.

Among all leaned Democrats who support someone other than Biden or Warren, second choice preferences divide between Biden, 24 percent and Warren, 23 percent, with all others in the single digits.

ATTRIBUTES – In terms of candidate attributes, perhaps most seriously, given his Oct. 1 heart attack, leaned Democrats divide about evenly, 48-45 percent, on whether or not Sanders, 78, is in good enough overall health to serve as president. That's a stark contrast to both Biden (age 76), seen as in good enough health by 74 percent, and Warren, age 70, seen as healthy by 80 percent.



Younger adults, who are among Sanders’ strongest supporters, are most apt to think he’s in good enough health to serve – six in 10 18- to 39-year-olds say so. Just 40 percent of those age 40 and older agree.

Several other attributes differentiate the candidates. Forty-two percent of leaned Democrats think Biden has the best chance to defeat Donald Trump in the general election, over Warren, Sanders, Buttigieg and Harris. Seventeen percent pick Warren and 16 percent Sanders. Biden also is ahead in being seen as the strongest leader in the group, 35-19-20 percent.

Thirty percent see Sanders as best understanding the problems of people like them; 22 percent say that about Biden, 20 percent for Warren. Sanders and Biden are about even in being seen as most honest, 27-26 percent; 16 percent pick Warren on this attribute.

In terms of having the sharpest mental ability, 24 percent select Warren, about as many (21 percent) Biden, 17 percent Sanders and 15 percent Buttigieg. And Biden, Warren and Sanders run quite closely on being closest to you on the issues and being likeliest to bring needed change to Washington.

	Biden	Warren	Sanders
Best chance to defeat Trump in 2020	42%	17%	16%
Strongest leader	35	19	20
Best understands your problems	22	20	30
Most honest and trustworthy	26	16	27
Bring needed change to Washington	24	24	25
Closest to you on the issues	25	20	25
Sharpest mental ability	21	24	17

SUPPORT GROUPS – There also are differences in the candidates’ support profiles. Ideology is an example; Warren does best among liberals, with 31 percent support, compared with 18 percent among moderates. Biden leads among moderates.

Warren is weaker among independents compared with her support from mainline Democrats, potentially a factor in open primaries.

There are sizable gender gaps in support for Warren and Sanders alike; Warren’s support nearly doubles among women compared with men, while Sanders’ does the same among men compared with women. By race/ethnicity, Biden does best with black voters, with 39 percent support, a group in which Sanders remains quite weak.

Biden does best with older leaned Democrats, Sanders with younger ones. And Warren does well with college graduates.

	Biden	Warren	Sanders	Buttigieg
All	27%	21%	19%	7%
Liberals	20	31	23	8
Moderates	29	18	16	8
Democrats	26	26	19	8
Independents	29	15	16	6
Men	30	14	26	5
Women	25	27	14	9
Whites	24	25	16	12
Nonwhites	30	17	23	2
Blacks	39	22	6	4
Age 18-39	14	22	31	5
65+	39	14	10	8
College grads	23	29	17	11
Non-grads	29	17	21	5

With the first voting in Iowa three months away there are myriad ways these group and personal attribute differences may play out. All that's certain in primaries is that nothing is certain until the public more fully tunes in, the candidates make their cases, and the voting begins.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Oct. 27-30, 2019, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,003 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 5.5 points, including the design effect, for the sample of 452 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents covered in this report. Partisan divisions in the full sample are 29-23-38 percent, Democrats-Republicans-independents.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling and data collection by Abt Associates of Rockville, Md. See details on the survey's methodology [here](#).

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on all new poll releases.

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Full results follow.

1, 5-6a, 7-9, 18-28 previously released. 2-4, 6b-f, 15-17 held for release. *= less than 0.5 percent.

10. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) I'll read a list of candidates for the Democratic nomination for president in 2020. After I've read the full list, please tell me whom you'd vote for in the primary or caucus in your state. (IF NONE OR DK/REF) Which candidate would you lean toward?

	--- 10/30/19 ---		---- 9/5/19 ----		---- 7/1/19 ----	
	All	Reg voters	All	Reg voters	All	Reg voters
Joe Biden	27	28	27	29	29	30
Elizabeth Warren	21	23	17	18	11	12
Bernie Sanders	19	17	19	19	23	19
Pete Buttigieg	7	9	4	4	4	4
Cory Booker	2	2	1	1	1	1
Julián Castro	2	1	*	*	4	3
Tulsi Gabbard	2	2	1	2	1	1
Kamala Harris	2	2	7	7	11	13
Andrew Yang	2	2	3	3	1	*
Michael Bennet	1	1	*	*	1	1
John Delaney	1	1	1	*	0	0
Amy Klobuchar	1	2	1	2	2	2
Beto O'Rourke	1	1	3	3	2	2
Tom Steyer	1	1	*	1	NA	NA
Steve Bullock	*	0	*	*	*	*
Marianne Williamson	*	*	*	*	1	1
Bill de Blasio	NA	NA	1	1	0	0
John Hickenlooper	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1
Jay Inslee	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	1
Kirsten Gillibrand	NA	NA	NA	NA	*	*
Seth Moulton	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Tim Ryan	NA	NA	*	*	*	*
Eric Swalwell	NA	NA	NA	NA	0	0
Other	1	1	*	*	*	*
None of these	2	2	3	3	1	1
Would not vote	1	1	3	2	*	1
No opinion	6	4	6	6	6	6

11. (ASK IF NAMED ANY CANDIDATE) (Would you consider supporting another candidate) to be the Democratic Party's nominee, or (are you definitely supporting [NAMED CANDIDATE] as long as s/he is in the race)?

	Would consider another candidate	Definitely supporting named candidate	No opinion
10/30/19	52	47	2
9/5/19	55	43	2

12. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT AND PREFER/LEAN TOWARD CANDIDATE) After [NAMED CANDIDATE], who would your second choice be? Which candidate would you lean toward as your second choice?

	--- 10/30/19 ---		---- 7/1/19 ----	
	All	Reg voters	All	Reg voters
Bernie Sanders	21	19	18	18
Elizabeth Warren	18	20	15	18
Joe Biden	15	14	23	20
Pete Buttigieg	8	8	5	6
Kamala Harris	8	9	14	17
Amy Klobuchar	4	4	1	2
Cory Booker	2	2	3	3
Julián Castro	2	2	2	2
John Delaney	2	3	*	*
Beto O'Rourke	2	2	4	3
Andrew Yang	2	2	2	2

Michael Bennet	1	*	1	*
Steve Bullock	1	1	0	0
Tulsi Gabbard	1	1	*	*
Tom Steyer	1	1	NA	NA
Marianne Williamson	1	1	*	0
Bill de Blasio	NA	NA	1	*
John Hickenlooper	NA	NA	*	*
Kirsten Gillibrand	NA	NA	*	0
Jay Inslee	NA	NA	0	0
Seth Moulton	NA	NA	0	0
Tim Ryan	NA	NA	*	*
Eric Swalwell	NA	NA	*	*
Other	1	1	1	1
None of these	5	5	3	3
Would not vote	0	0	0	0
No opinion	7	6	6	5

13. (ASKED IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Thinking about just five of these candidates - (Biden), (Sanders), (Warren), (Harris) and (Buttigieg) - who do you think [ITEM]?

Full item wording:

- a. is the most honest and trustworthy
- b. has the best chance to defeat Donald Trump in the general election
- c. would do the most to bring needed change to Washington
- d. is the strongest leader
- e. is closest to you on the issues
- f. best understands the problems of people like you
- g. has the sharpest mental ability

10/30/19 - Summary Table

	Most honest	Best chance	Bring change	Strongest leader	Closest issues	Best understands	Mental ability
Biden	26	42	24	35	25	22	21
Sanders	27	16	25	20	25	30	17
Warren	16	17	24	19	20	20	24
Buttigieg	9	3	9	5	9	8	15
Harris	4	2	4	6	6	5	7
All equally (vol.)	5	3	1	1	1	2	1
Any 2 or more (vol.)	2	3	2	1	1	2	1
None of them (vol.)	4	4	4	3	3	4	2
No opinion	7	9	7	9	10	7	11

14. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Do you think [ITEM] is in good enough overall health to serve as president, or not?

10/30/19 - Summary Table

	Yes	No	No opinion
a. Joe Biden	74	19	7
b. Bernie Sanders	48	45	7
c. Elizabeth Warren	80	9	12

*** END ***