

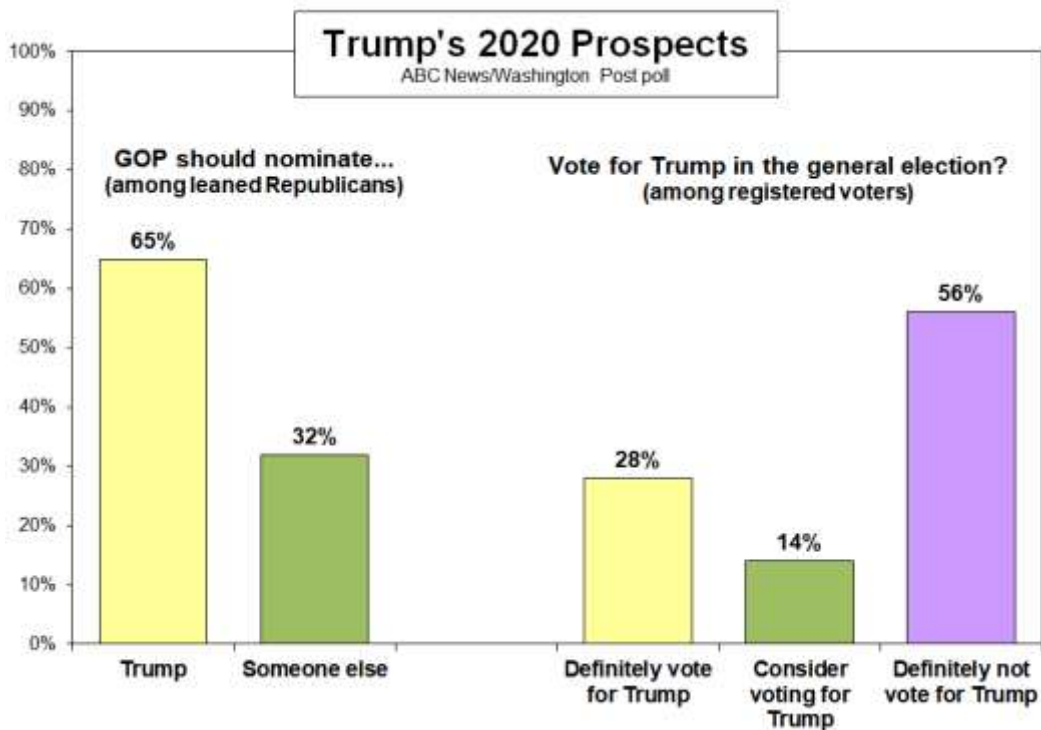
Welcome to 2020: Obstacles for Trump, And a Wide-Open Democratic Race

A third of Republicans and GOP-leaning independents oppose Donald Trump for the party's nomination to a second term and 56 percent of all adults say they wouldn't consider voting for him – two hurdles in his quest for re-election next year.

But a potentially crowded Democratic field shows no sign of a clear front-runner across the aisle in this ABC News/Washington Post poll, and there's deep division on priorities for the election season ranging from the relative importance of electability to key issues.

In short, with 21 months to go, 2020 is anyone's game.

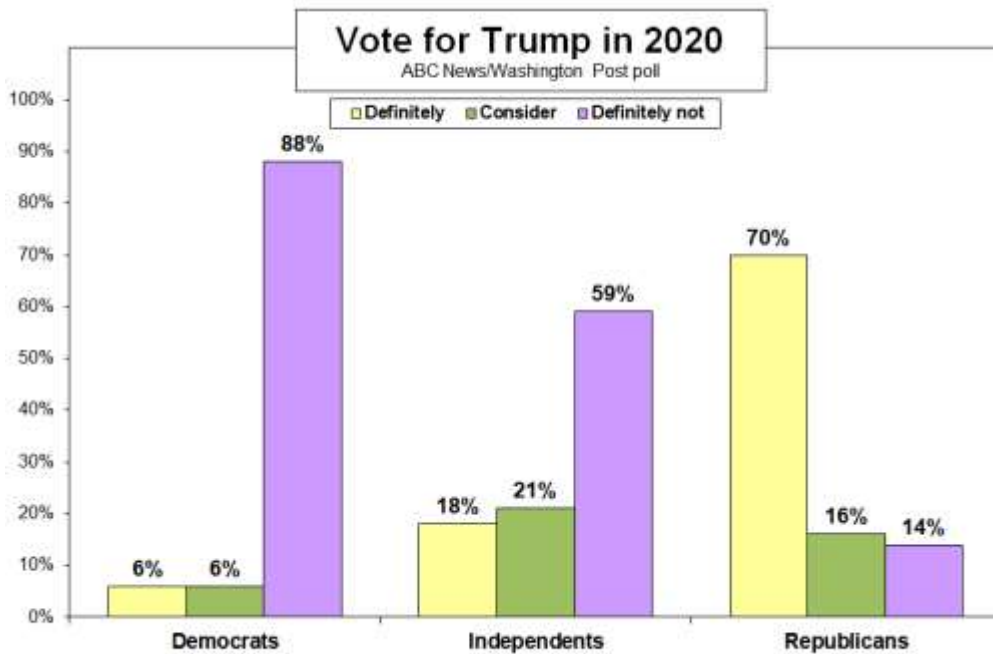
The nomination comes first. Thirty-two percent of Republicans and Republican leaning-independents say they'd like the party to nominate someone other than Trump as the GOP candidate for president in 2020. Among mainline Republicans (excluding independents who lean toward the party), 27 percent want someone other than Trump. Opposition to Trump runs as high as 41 percent of women, 42 percent of independents and 49 percent of moderates within the ranks of Republicans and GOP leaners.



Sixty-five percent of leaned Republicans and 71 percent of mainline Republicans stick with Trump, plenty enough for him to secure the nomination. But the level of potential defections is high enough to raise concerns in his camp.

So is the broader finding in which 56 percent of Americans say they definitely wouldn't vote to re-elect Trump. That's twice as many as say they'd definitely vote for him, 28 percent. A smaller share say they'd consider it, 14 percent. Results are identical among registered voters.

Opposition to a second Trump term is significantly higher than Barack Obama encountered, peaking at 46 percent in October 2011. Trump's support in his base is more solid, with 70 percent of Republicans saying they'll definitely vote for him, compared with 58 percent of Democrats for Obama in 2011. But Trump falls short when it comes to often swing-voting independents: Fifty-nine percent say they wouldn't consider him. (Forty-seven percent ruled out Obama.)



Trump also suffers among women, unsurprising given the wide gender gap in his job approval rating (just 27 percent among women vs. 49 percent among men, [as reported Friday](#)). Nearly two-thirds of women in this survey, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), say they definitely wouldn't vote for him, compared with 48 percent of men. That includes 94 percent of Democratic women, 62 percent of independent women and 18 percent of Republican women. (It's 10 percent among Republican men.)

Other groups ruling out Trump include those without a religious affiliation (73 percent), nonwhites (77 percent), 88 percent of Democrats and 92 percent of liberals. Strong backing for Trump is comparatively lower, peaking demographically at 60 percent of evangelical white Protestants and reaching 70 percent only among Republicans and approvers of his work in office.

Among the risks to Trump is the third of leaned Republicans who want the party to nominate someone else. Were Trump the candidate, just 12 percent in this group say they'd definitely support him. Forty-three percent would consider it – and another 43 percent say they would not.

Of course, such evaluations are hardly set at this point. In July 2015, 61 percent of registered voters said they would definitely not vote for Trump in the 2016 election, including three in 10 Republicans, a far cry from the final result.

AN OPEN FIELD – Uncertainty around a nominee abounds on the other side. Asked in an open-ended question whom they'd support in a primary or caucus today, 43 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents have no opinion, and no individual prospects crack single-digit mentions.

Joe Biden has 9 percent, followed by 8 percent for Kamala Harris, the U.S. senator from California who announced her candidacy just before this poll was conducted. Others mentioned include Sen. Bernie Sanders, 4 percent; Beto O'Rourke, 3 percent; Sen. Elizabeth Warren, 2 percent; Michelle Obama, 2 percent; and Sen. Cory Booker, Montana Gov. Steve Bullock, Hillary Clinton, Sen. Amy Klobuchar, Rep. Nancy Pelosi and Oprah Winfrey at 1 percent each.

Also mentioned: Michael Bloomberg, Sen. Sherrod Brown, Julian Castro, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, Gov. John Hickenlooper, Gary Johnson, Rep. Joe Kennedy, Dennis Kucinich, Green Party activist Jia Lee, Rep. Bobby Scott, Sen. Kyrsten Sinema and Sen. Mark Warner.

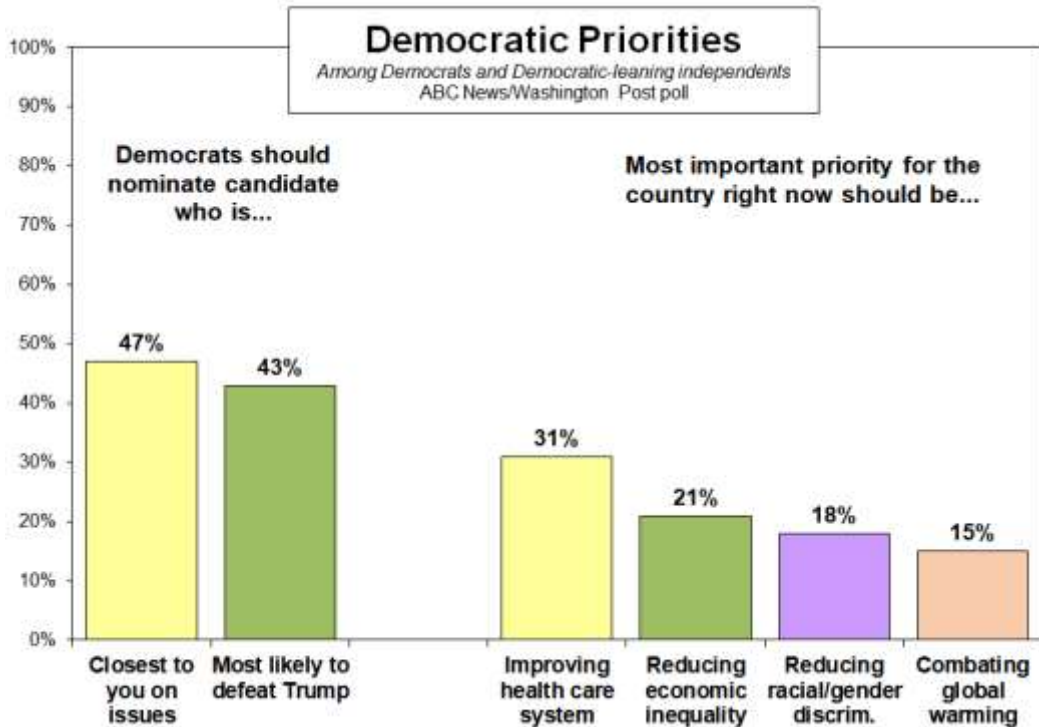
An additional 4 percent came up with an unusual choice for the Democratic nominee – Donald Trump. (Trump won 8 percent of Democrats in 2016.)

This sort of result isn't unique to this race nor this party. In a similar open-ended question asked of Republicans and Republican leaners in April 2011, 45 percent had no opinion. Eventual nominee Mitt Romney garnered 14 percent, followed by Donald Trump (6 percent) and Mike Huckabee (5 percent).

DEMOCRATIC PRIORITIES – Electability matters, but it's not paramount to all. Democrats and Democratic leaners split on whether they'd prefer a candidate who is closer to them on the issues or one that seems most likely to defeat Trump in the general election, 47 vs. 43 percent.

Issue adherence is most favored by men (55 percent), those making less than \$50,000 (52 percent) and those under age 50 (50 percent). A preference for beating Trump peaks at 52 percent of liberals and those making \$50,000 or more.

There's also a lack of consensus within the party on issue priorities – albeit with some preference for the bread-and-butter issue of health care, which performed well for the Democrats in the midterms. Presented with four potential top issues, 31 percent of leaned Democrats prioritize improving the health care system, compared with 21 percent for reducing economic inequality, 18 percent for reducing racial and gender discrimination and 15 percent who pick combatting global warming.



Among the differences across groups, whites are more likely than nonwhites to focus on global warming (21 vs. 8 percent), while it's the opposite on reducing discrimination (13 percent of whites, 23 percent of nonwhites). More older adults prioritize health care, peaking at 40 percent of seniors.

Inequality is a more compelling issue among college graduates than non-graduates (27 vs. 17 percent) and, perhaps surprisingly, among those with \$100,000-plus incomes compared with those who make less (29 vs. 19 percent).

	Health care	Inequality	Discrimination	Global warming
All Democrats + Democratic leaners	31%	21%	18%	15%
Democrats	34	20	17	13
Democratic-leaning independents	27	22	19	17
Men	32	22	13	16
Women	31	20	21	14
18-49	27	21	20	18
50+	36	22	15	10
Whites	32	19	13	21
Nonwhites NET	31	22	23	8

<\$50,000	30	19	16	17
\$50,000 to <\$100,000	29	19	25	12
\$100,000+	33	29	14	16
College graduate	28	27	15	15
Non-college graduate	33	17	19	15
Prefer 2020 candidate:				
Closest on issues	39	16	13	13
Most likely to defeat Trump	28	22	21	14

Those who'd rather have a candidate closer to them on the issues are more apt to prioritize health care (39 vs. 28 percent) and less likely to focus on discrimination (13 vs. 21 percent).

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 21-24, 2019, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,001 adults and 893 registered voters. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect. Partisan divisions are 32-24-37 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 Sofi Sinozich.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>. Readers are welcome to [subscribe](#) to the Langer Research Associates email distribution list.

Media contacts: [Heather Riley](#) or [Julie Townsend](#).

Full results follow.

*= less than 0.5 percent

1-17 previously released.

18. (ASK IF LEANED REPUBLICAN) Would you like the Republican Party to nominate Trump to run for a second term as president next year, or would you like the Republican Party to nominate someone other than Trump as its candidate for president in 2020?

	Nominate Trump	Nominate someone other than Trump	No opinion
1/24/19	65	32	3

19. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) If the 2020 Democratic primary or caucus in your state were being held today, for whom would you vote? (OPEN-END)

Joe Biden	1/24/19
	9

Kamala Harris	8
Bernie Sanders	4
Donald Trump	4
Beto O'Rourke	3
Michelle Obama	2
Elizabeth Warren	2
Cory Booker	1
Steve Bullock	1
Hillary Clinton	1
Amy Klobuchar	1
Nancy Pelosi	1
Oprah Winfrey	1
Michael Bloomberg	*
Sherrod Brown	*
Julian Castro	*
Kirsten Gillibrand	*
John Hickenlooper	*
Gary Johnson	*
Joe Kennedy	*
Dennis Kucinich	*
Jia Lee	*
Bobby Scott	*
Kyrsten Sinema	*
Mark Warner	*
Other	4
Someone new	1
No one/None of them	7
Anyone/Any of them	5
No opinion	43

20. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) What's more important to you - that Democrats nominate the presidential candidate (whose positions on the issues come closest to yours), or the candidate (who seems most likely to defeat Donald Trump in November 2020)?

	Closest on issues	Most likely to win	Same person (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Both (vol.)	No opinion
1/24/19	47	43	*	1	3	6

21. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Which of the following do you think should be the most important priority in the U.S. right now: (reducing economic inequality), (combatting global warming), (improving the health care system) or (reducing racial and gender discrimination)?

	Reducing economic inequality	Global warming	Improving the health care system	Reducing discrimination	Other (vol.)	Two or more (Vol.)	None (vol.)	No op.
1/24/19	21	15	31	18	1	13	1	1

22. Assuming Trump is the Republican candidate for president in 2020, would you definitely vote for him, would you consider voting for him, or would you definitely not vote for him?

	Definitely would	Would consider	Definitely would not	No opinion
1/24/19	28	14	56	1

*** END ***