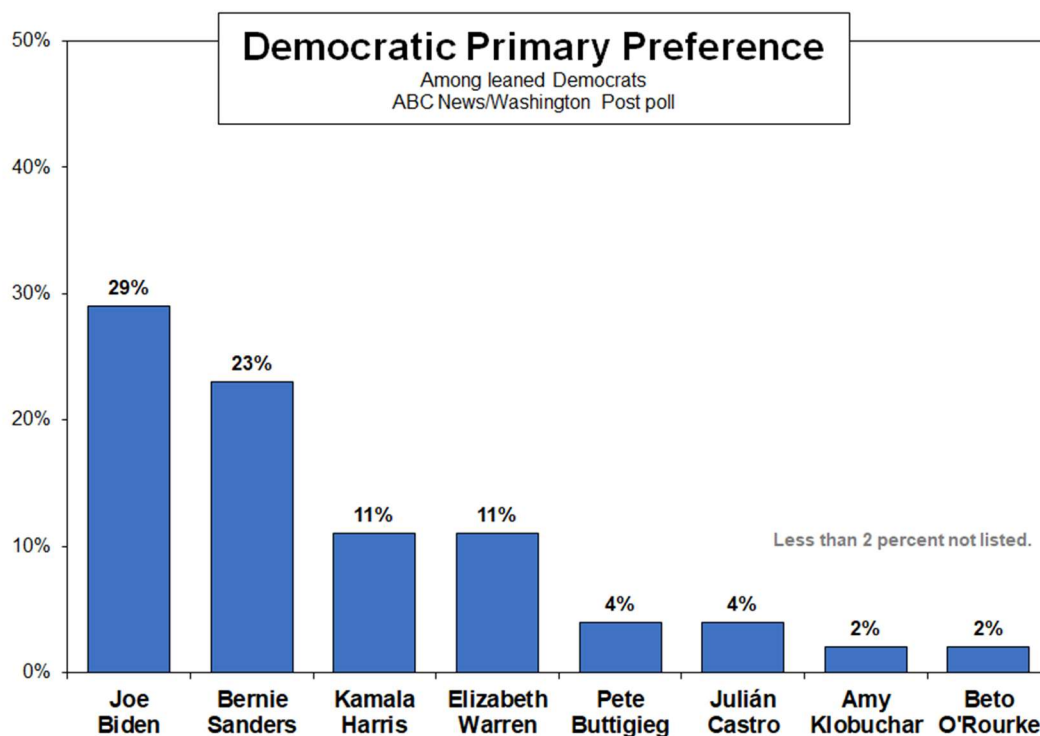


## Harris Scores in Debate Performance While Electability Keeps Biden in Front

A wide advantage in perceived electability boosts Joe Biden in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, but he lags in having new ideas, is challenged by Bernie Sanders and faces a debate-energized Kamala Harris in a new ABC News/Washington Post poll.

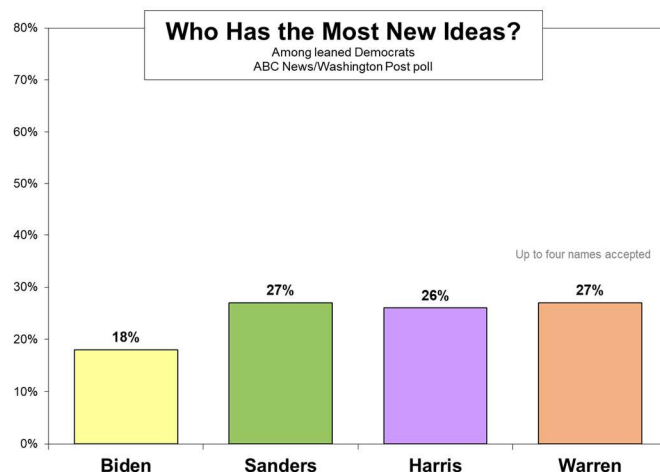
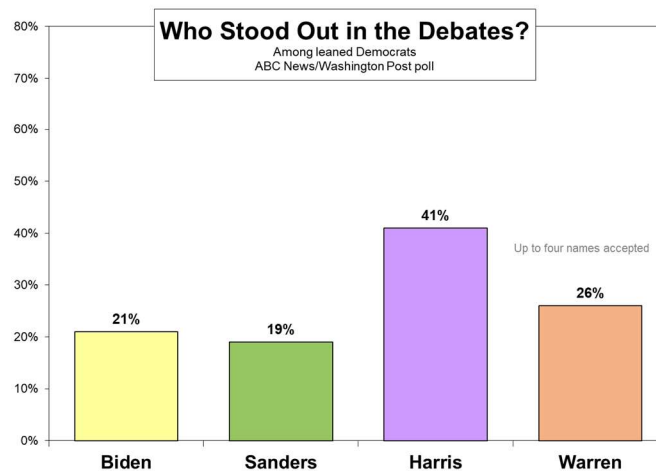
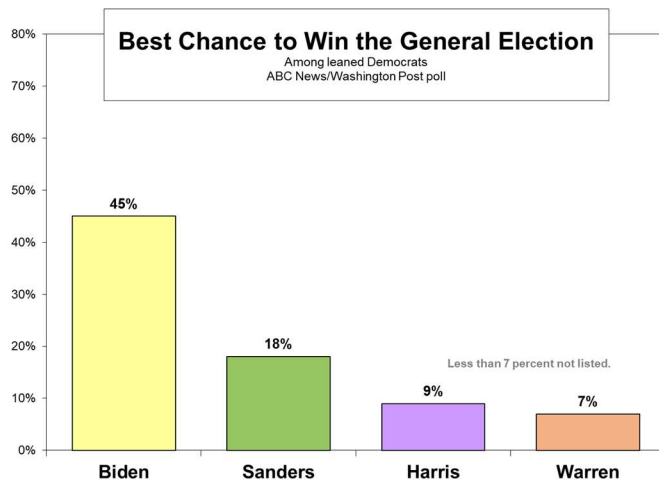
In current preferences, 29 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents support Biden and 23 percent favor Sanders, with 11 percent apiece for Harris and Elizabeth Warren. The number of undecided potential voters has dropped sharply after the first debates, with gains in support for each of these candidates. Others are in the low single digits, at best.



Given the time to register to vote in advance of the caucus and primary season, these results are among all leaned Democrats. Among those who are registered now, Biden goes to a 30-19 percent advantage over Sanders, with 13 percent for Harris and 12 percent for Warren.

Crosscurrents underlie candidate preferences in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#). A broad plurality, 45 percent, says Biden has the best chance to beat Donald Trump in the general election, but only 18 percent say he has new ideas, trailing Sanders, Warren and

Harris alike. At the same time, 41 percent say Harris stood out in her debate performance, easily the leader in this gauge, a wide 15 to 22 percentage points ahead of Biden, Sanders and Warren. And among those who actually watched both Democratic debates last week, the number picking Harris as a standout performer soars to 72 percent, well above any of her competitors.



An impact is apparent: Among the half of leaned Democrats who did not watch either of the two nights of debates, just 5 percent support Harris for the nomination. Among those who watched the debate in which she appeared, by contrast, her support swells to 20 percent. That places her numerically second among Thursday-night viewers; Biden has 28 percent support in this group; Warren, 17 percent; and Sanders, 15 percent.

Warren also does better among viewers of her debate than non-viewers, 17 vs. 8 percent support. Showing strength among highly engaged leaned Democrats, she reaches 22 percent, virtually matching Biden's 25 percent, among those who watched both debates.

There's no meaningful difference in Biden's support across debate-watching groups, and Sanders gets the booby prize – higher support among those who did not watch the debates, 26 percent, vs. 15 percent among those who watched the debate in which he appeared and 10 percent among those who watched both nights. Comparative inattention fits with his younger support profile; 18- to 29-year-olds, his best group, are least likely to have tuned in.

	All	Watched debates		Did not
		Either	Both	watch
Support:				
Biden	29%	28%	25%	30%
Sanders	23	20	10	26
Harris	11	17	19	5
Warren	11	14	22	8

These results are from a question in which respondents were read a list of Democratic candidates. Asking preferences in an open-ended format produces similar results (25-18-9-9 percent, Biden-Sanders-Harris-Warren), with gains for each in comparison with April – Biden +8 points, Sanders +7, and Harris and Warren both +5. Those with no opinion dropped sharply, 35 percent in April compared with 19 percent now (and 6 percent when the full list is read).

In another measure, intended participation is high: Seventy-two percent of leaned Democrats say they're certain to vote in their state's primary or caucus. That's up from 56 percent in November 2015, when it was first asked in the last cycle, a race that pitted just two prime candidates. Current results are similar to what they were in November 2007, the last crowded (albeit not this crowded) Democratic race.

DEBATE REAX – Harris' debate rating comes among those who actually tuned in. Respondents were asked which candidates stood out as having done an especially good job in the debates, with up to four names accepted. Among those who watched both nights, a vast 72 percent picked Harris for a standout performance. Fewer but 58 percent named Warren. Neither Biden nor Sanders, nor others, remotely approach these levels. (Pete Buttigieg comes closest, cited by 31 percent.)

	Standout debate performances		
	Watched both	Watched candidate's	Did not watch
Harris	72%	69%	19%
Warren	58	49	12
Buttigieg	31	27	4

Sanders	27	24	16
Biden	20	25	18
Castro	19	19	6
Booker	18	16	4

(Up to four names accepted.)

GROUPS – Notably among groups, while Harris challenged Biden on the subject of race in their debate, his support is especially strong among blacks, 41 percent, 12 points higher than it is overall. Harris’ support, by contrast, is not differentiated by race and ethnicity – 11 percent among blacks and an identical 11 percent among all leaned Democrats. Warren, for her part, has notably low support among nonwhites, 5 percent.

Biden’s support continues to skew older, Sanders’ younger: Among leaned Democrats age 50 and older, Biden leads Sanders by a broad 39-11 percent. Among those younger than 50, Biden’s support falls to 21 percent and Sanders’ rises to 32 percent. (There are no such age gaps in support for Warren or Harris.)

	---- Race/ethnicity ---			-- Age --	
	Blacks	Whites	Other	<50	50+
Support:					
Biden	41%	26%	26%	21%	39%
Sanders	23	18	32	32	11
Harris	11	14	7	10	13
Warren	4	17	6	10	13

Among other group differences, Sanders’ support plummets among the most-educated group, while Warren’s rises with education. And by ideology, Warren does better with liberals compared with moderates. (Biden’s better number among moderates than liberals isn’t statistically significant.)

	----- Education -----			--- Ideology ---	
	No college degree	4-year degree	Post-graduate	Moderate	Liberal
Support:					
Biden	31%	21%	26%	31%	23%
Sanders	27	25	5	24	24
Harris	10	11	17	10	14
Warren	6	18	24	7	17

While the contest pits prominent Democratic women and men alike, there are no substantial differences in candidate choice on the basis of gender. Men divide 26-26-10-9 percent among Biden-Sanders-Harris-Warren; women, by a similar 30-21-12-13 percent.

WHO ELSE? – Former Vice President Biden and 2016 candidate Sanders are, of course, the best-known figures in the Democratic race. While they’re in front, it’s striking that most Democrats and Democratic leaners are not entirely wedded to their current choices; just about a quarter, 26 percent, say it’s “extremely” important to them that their candidate wins the nomination. That includes about the same number just among Biden’s supporters, 29 percent.

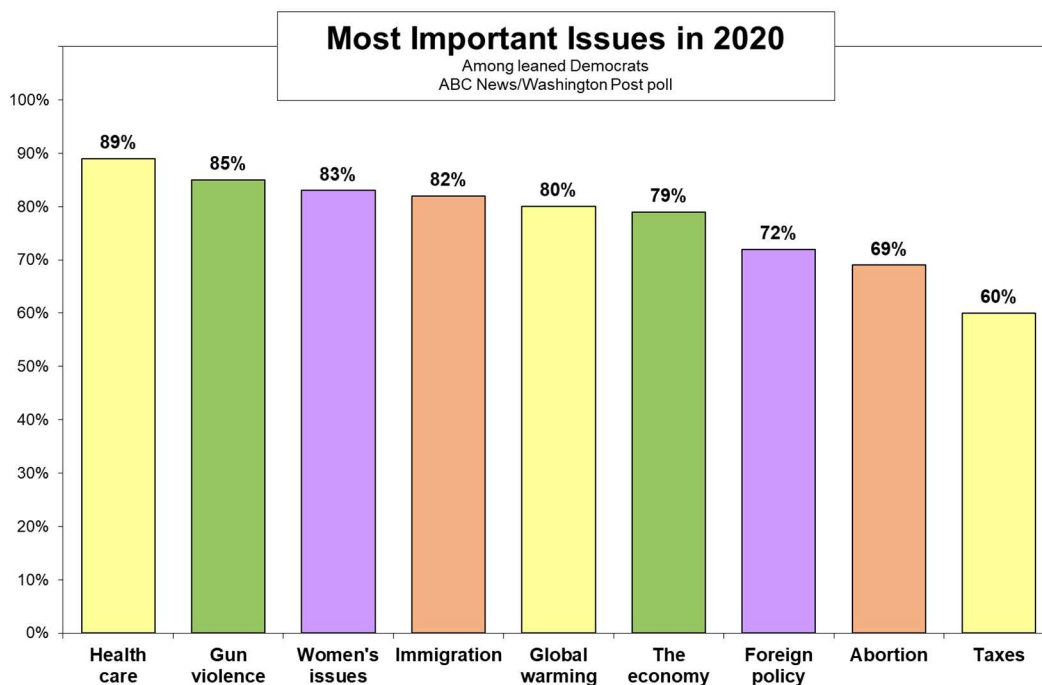
Still, asking second-choice preferences finds another advantage for Biden: Among those who don't support him now, 33 percent pick him as their next-choice candidate. By comparison, among those who don't currently favor Sanders he's second choice for 24 percent. Warren is second choice for 17 percent of those who don't back her now, as is Harris for 16 percent.

That said, another Biden advantage – being seen as the candidate best able to defeat Trump – is unlikely to be all it will take for Biden to prevail. It's notable that, among those who pick Biden on this measure, 45 percent nonetheless support another Democratic candidate.

**ISSUES** – Health care is the top-rated issue for Democrats and Democratic leaners, and they side heavily with a so-called Medicare-for-all system, a central topic of the debates. Seventy-seven percent of leaned Democrats support a government-run, taxpayer-funded universal health care system like Medicare, essentially the same as in an ABC/Post poll back in 2003. Support remains high, 66 percent, even if it meant doing away with private insurance.

Health care, moreover, is cited by 89 percent of leaned Democrats as a top issue in their vote in the general election, leading a list of nine items. Eighty-five to 79 percent cite gun violence, issues of special concern to women, immigration, global warming and the economy as highly important, followed by foreign policy, 72 percent; abortion, 69 percent; and taxes, 60 percent.

Preference in handling two of these issues is generally similar to candidate support overall. On health care, 27 percent of leaned Democrats pick Sanders as the candidate they trust most and 25 percent pick Biden, followed by 13 percent for Warren and 7 percent for Harris. On immigration, another focus of the debate, 21 percent pick Biden; 17 percent, Sanders; 12 percent, Harris; and 8 percent Warren, with an additional 8 percent favoring Julián Castro.



Viewed another way, Biden and Sanders are essentially tied among leaned Democrats who focus on any of five top issues – health care, issues of special concern to women, immigration, global warming and the economy. One remaining item differentiates them – gun violence, on which Biden has a 10-point advantage. Warren and Harris compete for third position on all these.

	----- Top issues -----					
	Health care	Gun violence	Women's issues	Immigration	Global warming	Economy
Support:						
Biden	27%	32%	25%	24%	27%	29%
Sanders	25	22	27	27	23	26
Harris	10	12	13	13	13	10
Warren	15	7	16	15	10	11

While most issue preferences don't sharply differentiate candidate choices, there are some differences in issue emphasis among groups. The economy, for example, is rated as highly important by 85 percent of those without a college degree vs. 67 percent of college graduates, and by 84 percent of those with less than \$50,000 in annual household incomes vs. 70 percent of those in the \$100,000-plus bracket.

Some gender gaps also emerge. Democratic and leaned-Democratic women are 12 points more apt than men to cite health care as highly important, 95 percent vs. 83 percent. Women are 17 points more likely than men to cite taxes as a major issue, 69 vs. 52 percent. And in the widest gap, women are 23 points more likely to call abortion a top issue, 79 vs. 56 percent.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone June 28-July 1, 2019, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,008 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 5.5 points, including the design effect, for the sample of 460 Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents covered in this report. Partisan divisions in the full sample are 29-23-37 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 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.

Media contacts: [Van Scott](#) (212-456-7243) or [Caragh Fisher](#) (212-456-3437).

Full results follow.

1-3, 14-19, 21, 24-26 held for release.

4. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the 2020 Democratic presidential primary or caucus in your state - are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

	Cert.	Prob.	50-50	Less than 50-50	Will not vote (vol.)	No primary/caucus (vol.)	Already voted (vol.)	No opinion
7/1/19	72	12	9	4	3	NA	NA	*
1/24/16	59	14	17	6	3	NA	NA	1
12/13/15	61	13	16	8	3	NA	NA	0
11/19/15	56	17	12	10	5	NA	NA	*
2/1/08	64	14	8	10	3	0	2	*
1/12/08	68	11	11	6	3	*	*	*
12/9/07	70	12	10	5	3	*	NA	*
11/1/07	71	11	9	6	2	*	"	1
10/29/03	55	19	15	8	4	*	NA	0
9/13/03	64	15	14	5	NA	1	"	1

5. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) If the 2020 Democratic primary or caucus in your state were being held today, for whom would you vote? (IF NO CANDIDATE NAMED BUT WOULD VOTE) Which candidate would you lean toward?

	---- 7/1/19 ----		4/25/19	1/24/19*
	All	Reg. voters	All	All
Joe Biden	25	28	17	9
Bernie Sanders	18	16	11	4
Kamala Harris	9	11	4	8
Elizabeth Warren	9	10	4	2
Pete Buttigieg	3	3	5	0
Tulsi Gabbard	1	2	0	0
Amy Klobuchar	1	1	1	1
Beto O'Rourke	1	1	4	3
Andrew Yang	1	1	*	0
Marianne Williamson	1	0	0	0
Julián Castro	1	1	*	*
Cory Booker	*	*	1	1
John Hickenlooper	*	*	*	*
Jay Inslee	*	*	0	0
Michael Bennet	*	0	*	0
Steve Bullock	*	*	0	1
Seth Moulton	0	0	0	0
Tim Ryan	0	0	0	0
Bill de Blasio	0	0	0	0
John Delaney	0	0	0	0
Kirsten Gillibrand	0	0	0	*
Eric Swalwell	0	0	0	0
Other	4	3	9	15
Someone new	0	0	1	1
No one/None of them	4	4	4	7
Anyone/Any of them	1	2	2	5
No opinion	19	17	35	43

\*Does not include leaned voters

6. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Now 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?

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

7. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT AND PREFER/LEAN TOWARD CANDIDATE) How important is it to you personally that [NAMED CANDIDATE] wins the Democratic nomination for president - is this extremely important to you, very important, somewhat important, or less important than that?

	--- More important ---			--- Less important ---			No
	NET	Extremely	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	opinion
7/1/19	60	26	34	40	32	7	1

8. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT AND PREFER/LEAN TOWARD CANDIDATE) After [NAMED CANDIDATE], who would your second choice be? (IF NONE OR DK/REF) Which candidate would you lean toward as your second choice?

	----- 7/1/19 -----	
	All	Reg. voters
Joe Biden	23	20
Bernie Sanders	18	18
Elizabeth Warren	15	18
Kamala Harris	14	17
Pete Buttigieg	5	6
Beto O'Rourke	4	3
Cory Booker	3	3
Julián Castro	2	2
Andrew Yang	2	2
Amy Klobuchar	1	2
Bill de Blasio	1	*
Michael Bennet	1	*
John Delaney	*	*
Tulsi Gabbard	*	*
John Hickenlooper	*	*
Tim Ryan	*	*
Eric Swalwell	*	*



Kirsten Gillibrand	*	0
Marianne Williamson	*	0
Steve Bullock	0	0
Jay Inslee	0	0
Seth Moulton	0	0
Other	1	1
None of these	3	3
Would not vote	0	0
No opinion	6	5

9. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Regardless of who you may support, which of the Democratic candidates do you think has the best chance to defeat Donald Trump in the general election?

	7/1/19
Joe Biden	45
Bernie Sanders	18
Kamala Harris	9
Elizabeth Warren	7
Julián Castro	2
Pete Buttigieg	1
Beto O'Rourke	1
Cory Booker	*
Steve Bullock	*
Bill de Blasio	*
John Delaney	*
Tulsi Gabbard	*
John Hickenlooper	*
Amy Klobuchar	*
Tim Ryan	*
Michael Bennet	0
Kirsten Gillibrand	0
Jay Inslee	0
Seth Moulton	0
Eric Swalwell	0
Marianne Williamson	0
Andrew Yang	0
Other	*
All of them	1
Any 2 or more	1
None	1
No opinion	12

10. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Which of the Democratic candidates do you trust most to handle [ITEM]?

7/1/19 - Summary Table

	Health care	Immigration
Bernie Sanders	27	17
Joe Biden	25	21
Elizabeth Warren	13	8
Kamala Harris	7	12
Pete Buttigieg	2	3
Julián Castro	1	8
Beto O'Rourke	1	4
Amy Klobuchar	1	2
Andrew Yang	1	1
Marianne Williamson	*	1
Michael Bennet	*	*
Cory Booker	*	*

Tulsi Gabbard	*	*
Jay Inslee	*	*
Tim Ryan	*	0
Kirsten Gillibrand	0	*
John Hickenlooper	0	*
Eric Swalwell	0	*
Steve Bullock	0	0
Bill de Blasio	0	0
John Delaney	0	0
Seth Moulton	0	0
Other	1	*
All of them	2	2
Any 2 or more	1	0
None	2	3
No opinion	15	16

11. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Did you happen to watch either of the debates among Democratic presidential candidates that were held Wednesday and Thursday night? [IF YES] Did you watch only the Wednesday night debate, only the Thursday night debate, or did you watch on both nights?

	----- Watched either -----					Did not	No
	NET	Wed.	Thu.	Both	Other (vol.)	watch	opinion
7/1/19	49	8	12	26	2	50	1

12. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Given what you saw, or what you've heard or read since then, which candidates, if any, stand out to you as having done an especially good job in the debate? You can name up to four.

	7/1/19
Kamala Harris	41
Elizabeth Warren	26
Joe Biden	21
Bernie Sanders	19
Pete Buttigieg	13
Julián Castro	12
Cory Booker	10
Beto O'Rourke	7
Andrew Yang	3
Amy Klobuchar	2
Michael Bennet	1
Bill de Blasio	1
Tulsi Gabbard	1
Kirsten Gillibrand	1
Jay Inslee	1
Tim Ryan	1
Eric Swalwell	1
Marianne Williamson	1
John Delaney	*
John Hickenlooper	*
None of them	4
No opinion	31

13. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Which candidates do you think have the most new ideas? You can name up to four.

	7/1/19
Bernie Sanders	27
Elizabeth Warren	27
Kamala Harris	26

Joe Biden	18
Pete Buttigieg	15
Julián Castro	13
Beto O'Rourke	8
Cory Booker	6
Andrew Yang	6
Amy Klobuchar	3
Kirsten Gillibrand	2
Michael Bennet	1
Bill de Blasio	1
Tulsi Gabbard	1
Jay Inslee	1
Tim Ryan	1
Marianne Williamson	1
Steve Bullock	*
John Delaney	*
John Hickenlooper	*
Seth Moulton	*
Eric Swalwell	*
None	5
No opinion	25

20. Thinking again about the general election in 2020, for each item I name please tell me how important it will be in you vote for president - one of the single most important issues, very important, somewhat important, or less important than that?

7/1/19 - Summary Table among leaned Democrats

	NET	1 of most	Very	NET	Somewhat	Less	No op.
a. the economy	79	18	61	21	19	2	*
b. immigration	82	24	57	18	16	2	*
c. taxes	60	10	50	39	33	6	*
d. health care	89	29	61	10	9	1	*
e. issues of special concern to women	83	20	63	17	15	2	*
f. abortion	69	18	51	29	26	3	1
g. gun violence	85	23	62	15	11	4	*
h. foreign policy	72	12	60	27	24	3	1
i. (climate change), also known as (global warming)	80	25	54	20	18	2	*

\*Full sample asked item a; half sample asked items b-e; other half asked f-i.

22. Which would you prefer, (the current health insurance system in the United States, in which most people get their health insurance from private employers, but some people have no insurance); or (a universal health insurance program, in which everyone is covered under a program like Medicare that's run by the government and financed by taxpayers?)

Among leaned Democrats

	Current	Universal	No opinion
7/1/19	17	77	5

23. (ASK IF UNIVERSAL HEALTH INSURANCE) Would you support or oppose Medicare for all if it meant there was no private insurance option available?

Among leaned Democrats

Support	Oppose	No opinion
---------	--------	------------

7/1/19        85            13            2

Q22/23 NET among leaned Democrats

			----- Universal -----			
	Current	NET	Support w/o private	Oppose w/o private	No op.	No opinion
7/1/19	17	77	66	10	2	5

\*\*\* END \*\*\*