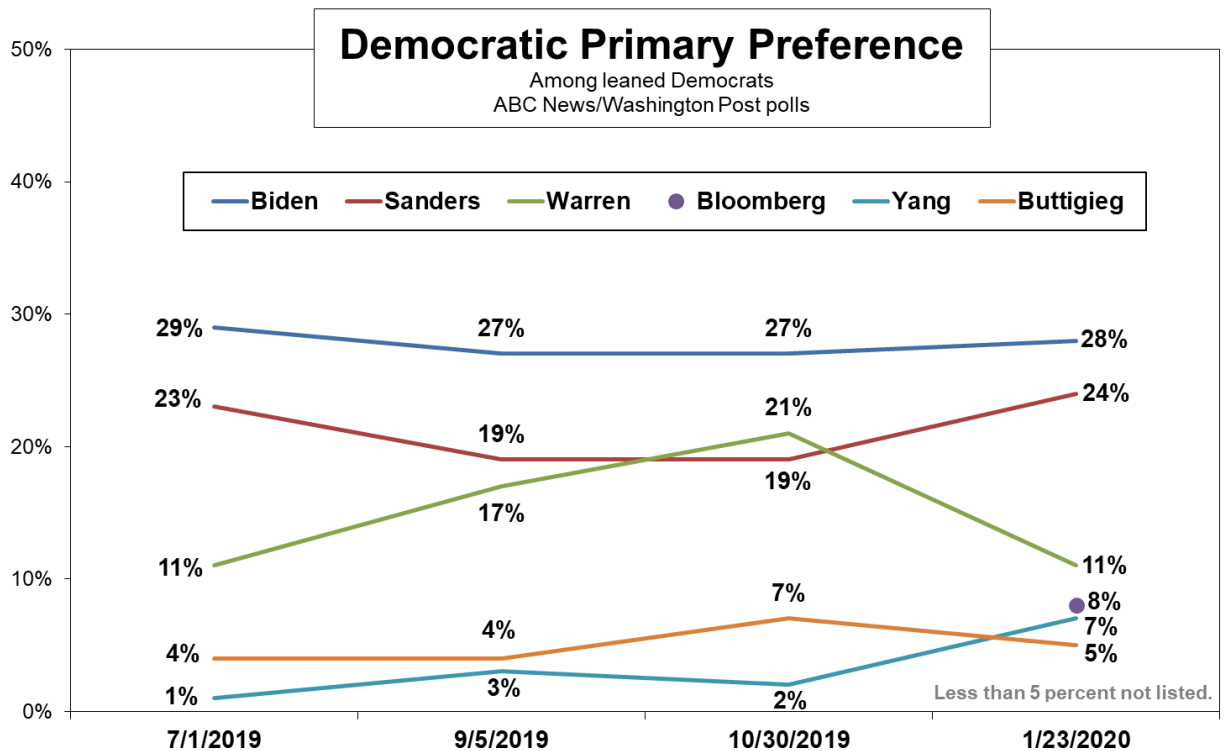


## **Biden Holds Steady, Warren Slips As the Iowa Caucuses Approach**

Joe Biden's holding his ground in preference nationally for the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination, with Bernie Sanders close by and a drop in support for Elizabeth Warren. Two new arrivals to the leaderboard come next in the latest ABC News/Washington Post poll: Mike Bloomberg and Andrew Yang.

With the Feb. 3 Iowa caucuses drawing near, 77 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents nationally say they're satisfied with their choice of candidates. Far fewer, 24 percent, are very satisfied, although that's near the average in ABC/Post polls since 2000.

This poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), finds plenty of room for movement: Just about half of leaned Democrats are very enthusiastic about their choice, and 53 percent say they'd consider supporting a different candidate. Warren, while weaker as a first choice, leads in second-choice preference.



Further, while Biden continues to prevail by a wide margin as the candidate with the best chance to defeat Donald Trump in the general election, his score on the measure has slipped slightly,

from 45 percent in July to 38 percent now. Eighteen percent pick Sanders as best against Trump; 10 percent, Warren.

Biden does best in vote preference among likely voters, defined here as those who say they're registered and certain to vote in their state's primary or caucuses. He has 34 percent support in this group, leading Sanders, at 22 percent, and Warren, 14 percent. Next are Bloomberg, 7 percent; Yang, 6 percent; Pete Buttigieg, 4 percent; and Amy Klobuchar, 4 percent.

Results are similar among all those who report being registered. Among all leaned Democrats regardless of registration, though, the gap between Biden and Sanders becomes non-significant, 28 vs. 24 percent. That's because Biden's support skews older and older people are more apt to be registered.

Warren's support among all leaned Democrats, 11 percent, is down from 21 percent in late October. (She's down similarly, by 11 points, among those who are registered.) Yang's up by 5 points among all leaned Democrats; so is Sanders, but in his case the change isn't statistically significant. It's Bloomberg's first appearance in ABC/Post polling this cycle.

<b>Preference for the nomination among Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents</b>			
	<b>All</b>	<b>Registered</b>	<b>Registered and certain to vote</b>
<b>Biden</b>	28%	32%	34%
<b>Sanders</b>	24	23	22
<b>Warren</b>	11	12	14
<b>Bloomberg</b>	8	8	7
<b>Yang</b>	7	7	6
<b>Buttigieg</b>	5	5	4
<b>Klobuchar</b>	3	3	4

Warren's support is down by 13 to 16 points among women, college graduates, liberals, suburbanites and those under age 50. Biden, for his part, relies heavily on overwhelming support among blacks, while also prevailing among moderates and older voters. Sanders, as noted, does best with younger adults.

Enthusiasm isn't a differentiator; about half of Biden backers, and supporters of other candidates alike, are very enthusiastic about their choice. (Apart from Biden, sample sizes are too small for individual analysis.) About half of Biden's supporters, 47 percent, say they'd consider another candidate, as do 56 percent of those supporting others. (Results here and below are among all leaned Democrats.)

Notably, Biden has weakened on this measure; his "definite" support is down from 64 percent in early September to 49 percent now.

**ATTRIBUTES** – While he’s seen as best able to defeat Trump, Biden loses ground on another important attribute, as the candidate who’s “closest to you on the issues”; on this, 24 percent pick Sanders, 22 percent Biden and 15 percent Warren, with all others in the single digits.

In strategic assessments, Biden leads as best able to motivate the Democratic base, selected by 32 percent, vs. 21 percent for Sanders and 11 percent for Warren; and likewise as best able to attract independent and moderate voters, 29-17-8 percent. That assessment may be influenced by Biden’s strength among moderates in particular.

	<b>Biden</b>	<b>Sanders</b>	<b>Warren</b>
<b>Has the best chance to defeat Trump in 2020</b>	38%	18%	10%
<b>Is closest to you on the issues</b>	22	24	15
<b>Would do the best job motivating the Democratic base</b>	32	21	11
<b>Would do the best job attracting independent and moderate voters</b>	29	17	8

On another question, leaned Democrats are more apt to see a man than a woman as more likely to defeat Trump in November, 28-7 percent; 63 percent say it doesn’t matter. The gap is wider among Biden supporters, perhaps related to their choice of candidate; 44 percent see a man as likelier to win; 4 percent, a woman.

**GROUPS** – As noted, Biden wins especially broad support among blacks – 51 percent, vs. 15 percent for Sanders, with all others in single digits. It’s an important Democratic group: Blacks accounted for 25 percent of Democratic primary voters in 2016, based on results in the 27 states where exit polls were conducted. In early states, blacks ranged from as few as 2 or 3 percent in Iowa and New Hampshire and 13 percent in Nevada to a peak of 61 percent in South Carolina.

<b>Vote preference among all leaned Democrats</b>						
	<b>Biden</b>	<b>Sanders</b>	<b>Warren</b>	<b>Bloomberg</b>	<b>Yang</b>	<b>Buttigieg</b>
<b>All</b>	28%	24%	11%	8%	7%	5%
<b>Blacks</b>	51	15	9	8	5	2
<b>Whites</b>	23	21	15	7	8	9
<b>Liberals</b>	20	30	16	6	9	3
<b>Moderates</b>	35	19	9	9	4	6
<b>Democrats</b>	30	23	13	8	7	5
<b>Independents</b>	24	25	4	6	10	8
<b>Age 18-39</b>	18	39	8	3	11	1
<b>50+</b>	38	12	12	11	2	6
<b>Men</b>	31	24	10	6	10	2
<b>Women</b>	27	24	11	9	5	8

<b>College grads</b>	25	20	14	7	6	8
<b>Non-grads</b>	31	26	9	8	7	4

Among other groups, Biden has support from 35 percent of moderates, vs. 20 percent of liberals; and from 38 percent of leaned Democrats age 50 and older, compared with 18 percent of those under age 40. These flip for Sanders: He wins 30 percent of liberals but 19 percent of moderates; and 39 percent of under-40s, dropping to 12 percent of over-50s.

Divisions by age are especially significant given past turnout. In 2016 exit polls, 60 percent of Democratic voters were 45 or older. Biden’s advantage in being seen as best suited to defeat Trump may also carry weight; in 2016, in the 11 primaries where the question was asked, Democratic voters by about a 2-1 margin picked Hillary Clinton as likelier than Sanders to win in November.

Another consideration, assuming further winnowing occurs, is what second choices might be most appealing. Among Biden voters, second-choice preferences divide mainly among Sanders, 27 percent; Warren, 23 percent; and Bloomberg, 17 percent. Among those who support other candidates, 29 percent pick Warren as their second choice; 27 percent, Biden; and 14 percent, Sanders.

All said, it’s important to remember that these results reflect preferences before the voting has begun. Candidates soon will demonstrate their strengths and weaknesses in Iowa and the states that follow; voter attention will follow, and vote preferences may as well.

Consider two differing precedents: On one hand, at this point in 2016, Trump had held a steady lead in the Republican contest since summer, and went on to win. On the other, in the last ABC/Post poll before the 2008 Iowa caucuses, Clinton held a commanding lead – better than 2-1 – over Barack Obama. That changed, and quickly, as the primaries progressed.

**METHODOLOGY** – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone Jan. 20-23, 2020, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,004 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including the design effect, for the full sample, and 6 points for the sample of Democrats and Democratic-leaning independents. Partisan divisions are 27-24-39 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. Join our [mailing list](#) to get updates on all new poll releases.

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Full results follow.

1, 2a, 2c, 2b, 15-19 previously released. 2b, 11-14, 20-24 held for release.

3. (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
1/23/20	73	10	11	3	2	NA	NA	*
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

4. (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?

Among Democratic-leaning adults:

	1/23/20	10/30/19	9/5/19	7/1/19
Joe Biden	28	27	27	29
Bernie Sanders	24	19	19	23
Elizabeth Warren	11	21	17	11
Mike Bloomberg	8	NA	NA	NA
Andrew Yang	7	2	3	1
Pete Buttigieg	5	7	4	4
Amy Klobuchar	3	1	1	2
Michael Bennet	1	1	*	1
Tulsi Gabbard	1	2	1	1
Deval Patrick	*	NA	NA	NA
Tom Steyer	*	1	*	NA
John Delaney	0	1	1	0
Bill de Blasio	NA	NA	1	0
Cory Booker	NA	2	1	1
Steve Bullock	NA	*	*	*
Julián Castro	NA	2	*	4
Kirsten Gillibrand	NA	NA	NA	*
Kamala Harris	NA	2	7	11
John Hickenlooper	NA	NA	NA	1
Jay Inslee	NA	NA	NA	1
Seth Moulton	NA	NA	NA	0
Beto O'Rourke	NA	1	3	2
Tim Ryan	NA	NA	*	*
Eric Swalwell	NA	NA	NA	0
Marianne Williamson	NA	*	*	1
Other	*	1	*	*
None of these	4	2	3	1
Would not vote	1	1	3	*

No opinion 5 6 6 6

Among Democratic-leaning registered voters:

	1/23/20	10/30/19	9/5/19	7/1/19
Joe Biden	32	28	29	30
Bernie Sanders	23	17	19	19
Elizabeth Warren	12	23	18	12
Mike Bloomberg	8	NA	NA	NA
Andrew Yang	7	2	3	*
Pete Buttigieg	5	9	4	4
Amy Klobuchar	3	2	2	2
Michael Bennet	2	1	*	1
Tulsi Gabbard	1	2	2	1
Deval Patrick	1	NA	NA	NA
Tom Steyer	*	1	1	NA
John Delaney	0	1	*	0
Bill de Blasio	NA	NA	1	0
Cory Booker	NA	2	1	1
Steve Bullock	NA	0	*	*
Julián Castro	NA	1	*	3
Kirsten Gillibrand	NA	NA	NA	*
Kamala Harris	NA	2	7	13
John Hickenlooper	NA	NA	NA	1
Jay Inslee	NA	NA	NA	1
Seth Moulton	NA	NA	NA	0
Beto O'Rourke	NA	1	3	2
Tim Ryan	NA	NA	*	*
Eric Swalwell	NA	NA	NA	0
Marianne Williamson	NA	*	*	1
Other	1	1	*	*
None of these	3	2	3	1
Would not vote	0	1	2	1
No opinion	3	4	6	6

5. (ASK IF NAMED ANY CANDIDATE) How enthusiastic are you about voting for [NAMED CANDIDATE] for the presidential nomination - very enthusiastic, fairly enthusiastic, not too enthusiastic, or not enthusiastic at all?

	--- Enthusiastic --			---- Not enthusiastic ----			No
	NET	Very	Fairly	NET	Not too	Not at all	opinion
1/23/20	90	48	42	9	8	1	*
1/23/20 RV	91	50	42	8	7	1	1

6. (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
1/23/20	53	45	3
10/30/19	52	47	2
9/5/19	55	43	2

7. (ASK IF NAMED ANY CANDIDATE) After [NAMED CANDIDATE], who would your second choice be? Which candidate would you lean toward as your second choice?

Among Democratic-leaning adults:

1/23/20 10/30/19 7/1/19

Elizabeth Warren	27	18	15
Joe Biden	18	15	23
Bernie Sanders	18	21	18
Mike Bloomberg	8	NA	NA
Pete Buttigieg	6	8	5
Amy Klobuchar	6	4	1
Andrew Yang	6	2	2
Tom Steyer	3	1	NA
Michael Bennet	2	1	1
Tulsi Gabbard	1	1	*
John Delaney	*	2	*
Deval Patrick	0	NA	NA
Bill de Blasio	NA	NA	1
Cory Booker	NA	2	3
Steve Bullock	NA	1	0
Julián Castro	NA	2	2
Kirsten Gillibrand	NA	NA	*
Kamala Harris	NA	8	14
John Hickenlooper	NA	NA	*
Jay Inslee	NA	NA	0
Seth Moulton	NA	NA	0
Beto O'Rourke	NA	2	4
Tim Ryan	NA	NA	*
Eric Swalwell	NA	NA	*
Marianne Williamson	NA	1	*
Other	2	1	1
None of these	2	5	3
Would not vote	0	0	0
No opinion	3	7	6

Among Democratic-leaning registered voters:

	1/23/20	10/30/19	7/1/19
Elizabeth Warren	25	20	18
Bernie Sanders	19	19	18
Joe Biden	17	14	20
Mike Bloomberg	7	NA	NA
Pete Buttigieg	7	8	6
Amy Klobuchar	6	4	2
Andrew Yang	6	2	2
Tom Steyer	3	1	NA
Michael Bennet	2	*	*
Tulsi Gabbard	1	1	*
John Delaney	*	3	*
Deval Patrick	0	NA	NA
Bill de Blasio	NA	NA	*
Cory Booker	NA	2	3
Steve Bullock	NA	1	0
Julián Castro	NA	2	2
Kirsten Gillibrand	NA	NA	0
Kamala Harris	NA	9	17
John Hickenlooper	NA	NA	*
Jay Inslee	NA	NA	0
Seth Moulton	NA	NA	0
Beto O'Rourke	NA	2	3
Tim Ryan	NA	NA	*
Eric Swalwell	NA	NA	*
Marianne Williamson	NA	1	0
Other	2	1	1
None of these	2	5	3
Would not vote	0	0	0
No opinion	3	6	5

8. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Overall, how satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the choice of candidates for the Democratic nomination for president this year - are you very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied or very dissatisfied?

	----- Satisfied -----			--- Dissatisfied ---			No opinion
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Very	
1/23/20	77	24	53	20	15	5	3
7/19/15	72	24	48	26	17	9	2
11/1/07	81	30	51	18	14	4	1
9/7/07	78	28	50	21	17	4	2
7/21/07	83	33	50	16	14	2	1
6/1/07	79	26	53	18	15	4	2
4/15/07	80	29	51	18	14	3	2
2/25/07	86	29	57	12	9	3	2
10/29/03	68	9	58	28	21	8	4
9/13/03	64	8	56	34	27	7	2
1/16/00	69	14	56	28	21	7	2

\*10/29/03 and previous: "candidates in the Democratic primary"

9. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) Regardless of who you may support, which candidate do you think [ITEM]?

Full item wording:

- a. Has the best chance to defeat Donald Trump in the general election
- b. Is closest to you on the issues
- c. Would do the best job motivating the Democratic base
- d. Would do the best job attracting independent and moderate voters

1/23/20 - Summary Table

	Best chance	Closest issues	Best motivate Dem base	Best attract indep./mod. voters
Joe Biden	38	22	32	29
Bernie Sanders	18	24	21	17
Elizabeth Warren	10	15	11	8
Mike Bloomberg	8	6	8	9
Pete Buttigieg	3	6	3	5
Amy Klobuchar	2	5	3	5
Deval Patrick	1	*	0	0
Andrew Yang	1	6	3	6
Michael Bennet	*	*	2	*
Tulsi Gabbard	*	1	*	1
Tom Steyer	*	1	*	1
John Delaney	0	0	*	0
Other (vol.)	2	1	2	2
None of these (vol.)	3	2	2	1
No opinion	14	10	13	14

Trend where available:

- a. Has the best chance to defeat Donald Trump in the general election

	1/23/20	9/5/19	7/1/19
Joe Biden	38	42	45
Bernie Sanders	18	14	18
Elizabeth Warren	10	12	7
Mike Bloomberg	8	NA	NA
Pete Buttigieg	3	1	1
Amy Klobuchar	2	1	*
Andrew Yang	1	1	0



Deval Patrick	1	NA	NA
Andrew Yang	1	1	0
Tulsi Gabbard	*	*	*
Michael Bennet	*	*	0
Tom Steyer	*	*	NA
John Delaney	0	0	*
Bill de Blasio	NA	1	*
Cory Booker	NA	*	*
Steve Bullock	NA	0	*
Julián Castro	NA	0	2
Kirsten Gillibrand	NA	NA	0
Kamala Harris	NA	2	9
John Hickenlooper	NA	NA	*
Jay Inslee	NA	NA	0
Seth Moulton	NA	NA	0
Beto O'Rourke	NA	2	1
Tim Ryan	NA	0	*
Eric Swalwell	NA	NA	0
Marianne Williamson	NA	*	0
Other	2	*	*
All of them	NA	3	1
Any 2 or more	NA	2	1
None	3	4	1
No opinion	14	14	12

b-d. No trend.

10. (ASK IF LEANED DEMOCRAT) What kind of candidate do you think would be more likely to defeat Trump in November 2020, (a man) or (a woman), or doesn't it matter?

	Man	Woman	Doesn't matter	No opinion
1/23/20	28	7	63	1
9/5/19	23	7	69	1

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