

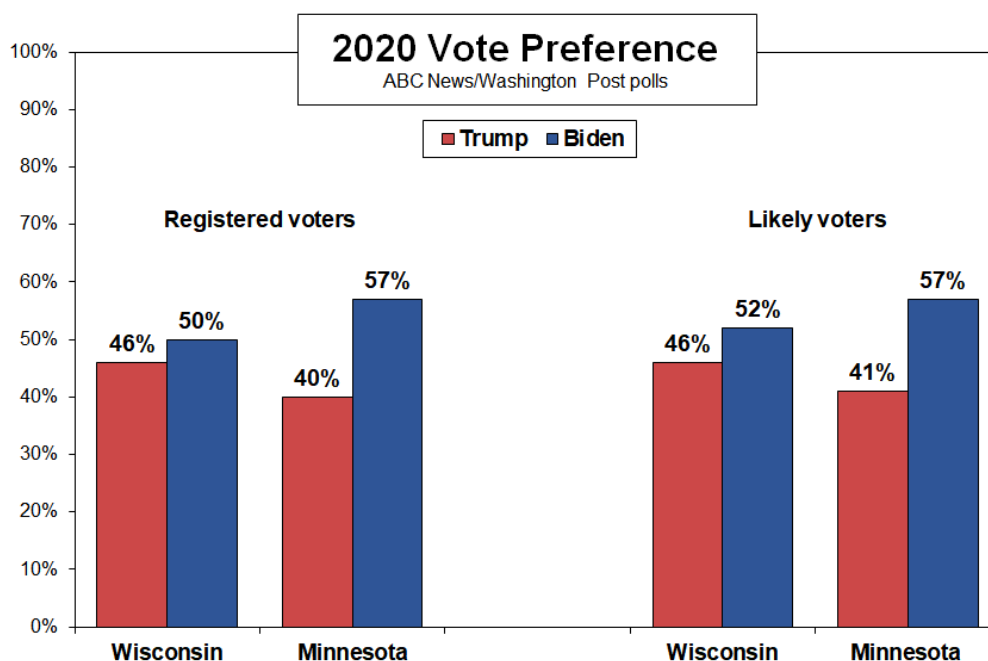
Close Contest in Wisconsin; in Minnesota, Not So Much

It's a close contest in Wisconsin heading into the final seven weeks of the 2020 presidential campaign, while women, suburban residents and independents are among the groups lifting Joe Biden to a substantial lead in Minnesota in a pair of new ABC News/Washington Post polls.

Views on the economy and the coronavirus pandemic define the race; the course of both may prove decisive. And turnout is a wildcard: As is the case nationally, Donald Trump benefits from much greater enthusiasm among his supporters, and they're far more apt to plan to vote on Election Day. That makes Biden's ability to mobilize early and absentee voting central to the outcome.

Trump won Wisconsin in 2016 by fewer than 23,000 votes out of 3 million cast. Today Biden has 52 percent support among likely voters there, with 46 percent for Trump – not a statistically significant difference given the survey's margin of sampling error. In Minnesota, by contrast, Biden holds a clear advantage, 57-41 percent, in what's been a hoped-for Trump pickup after his narrow 45,000-vote loss four years ago.

Results are very similar among the broader pool of registered voters, with Biden-Trump at 50-46 percent in Wisconsin and 57-40 percent in Minnesota in this poll, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#).



This survey was produced via random-sample telephone interviewing, with about 75 percent of calls to cell phones, weighted to census norms for sex, age, race/ethnicity, education and region. See methodological details below.

One factor in Biden's strength in Minnesota is his broad advantage there in trust to handle the pandemic – 58-36 percent over Trump among registered voters, compared with a close 49-42 percent in Wisconsin. That gap in Minnesota overwhelms a dead heat in trust on the economy.

About six in 10 registered voters in both states express worry that they or a family member might catch the coronavirus, and more than half rate the national economy negatively – two factors that independently predict support for Biden.

Further, both states have been gripped by protests over police treatment of Black people after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis in May and the shooting of Jacob Blake in Kenosha, Wisconsin, last month. Registered voters support such protests by 55-40 percent in Minnesota, compared with a close 51-44 percent in Wisconsin, and trust Biden over Trump to handle equal treatment of racial groups by 24 percentage points in Minnesota, shrinking to about half that margin, 10 points, in Wisconsin.

Underscoring Trump's challenges in Minnesota, Biden also leads there, by 11 points, in trust to handle crime and safety, while in Wisconsin the two are tied on this issue.

GROUPS – There are differences among groups in these neighboring states. Suburban likely voters pick Trump by a non-significant 9 points in Wisconsin, compared with a 16-point lead for Biden in the Minnesota suburbs. And independents, often swing voters, split in Wisconsin, a close 50-46 percent, Trump-Biden, while backing Biden by 21 points next door.

Trump-Biden <i>(among likely voters)</i>		
	Wisconsin	Minnesota
Suburbanites	54-45%	41-57%
Independents	50-46	37-58

Underlying sentiments explain these gaps. True to their states' longstanding political differences, independents in Minnesota are 12 points more apt than those in Wisconsin to lean toward the Democratic Party, while Wisconsin suburbanites are 14 points more apt than their Minnesota counterparts to be conservatives. Minnesota last voted for a Republican for president in 1972.

There's a vast gender gap in both states; while men divide closely, Biden leads Trump among women by 60-39 percent in Wisconsin and 67-31 percent in Minnesota. Suburban women, notably, are evenly divided in Wisconsin, but favor Biden by a vast 40 points in Minnesota.

Trump-Biden <i>(among likely voters)</i>		
	Wisconsin	Minnesota
Men	53-43%	51-48%
Women	39-60	31-67
Suburban men	60-38	55-44
Suburban women	49-51	29-69

MORE GROUPS – Among other groups, non-college-educated white men have been a core support bloc for Trump, and remain so – but he’s lost a great deal of support since 2016 among non-college white women in these states, as well as among college-educated white men and women alike.

Trump’s gone from a 27-point win among non-college whites in Minnesota four years ago to essentially a dead heat in this group now. And while Hillary Clinton won college-educated whites there by 9 points, Biden’s now ahead in this group by 39 points. In Wisconsin, Trump is a non-significant +10 points among non-college whites, vs. +28 points in 2016. And Biden is +23 points among college-educated whites, compared with Clinton’s +12.

Among non-college whites, the differences from 2016 are an extension of Trump’s weakness among women generally. Biden leads by 59-40 percent among non-college white women in Minnesota – a reversal from 2016. In Wisconsin, it’s Biden by 54-45 percent among non-college white women, also a reversal from the last election.

People of other racial and ethnic backgrounds make up small shares of likely voters in both states, 10 percent in Wisconsin and 13 percent in Minnesota. About two-thirds support Biden.

Trump-Biden		
	Wisconsin	Minnesota
Non-college white men		
Now (among LVs)	65-32%	60-37%
2016 exit poll	69-26	63-30
Non-college white women		
Now (among LVs)	45-54	40-59
2016 exit poll	56-40	58-36
College-educated whites		
Now (among LVs)	38-61	30-69
2016 exit poll	41-53	41-50

Another sharp difference from 2016, in both states, is among moderates. In 2016 these voters backed Clinton by a mere 5 points in Minnesota, 10 points in Wisconsin. Today moderates support Biden by a remarkable 57-point margin, 76-19 percent, in Minnesota, and an also-broad

42 points, 69-27 percent, in Wisconsin. Here, gender is not a factor; Biden holds wide leads among moderate men and women alike.

Seniors also differ from 2016; they split essentially evenly between Trump and Clinton in both states. Today likely voters age 65 and older divide by 64-35 percent for Biden over Trump in Minnesota and by 58-41 percent in Wisconsin.

Trump-Biden		
	Wisconsin	Minnesota
Moderates		
Now (among LVs)	27-69%	19-76%
2016 exit poll	42-52	43-48
Adults 65+		
Now (among LVs)	41-58	35-64
2016 exit poll	49-48	47-49

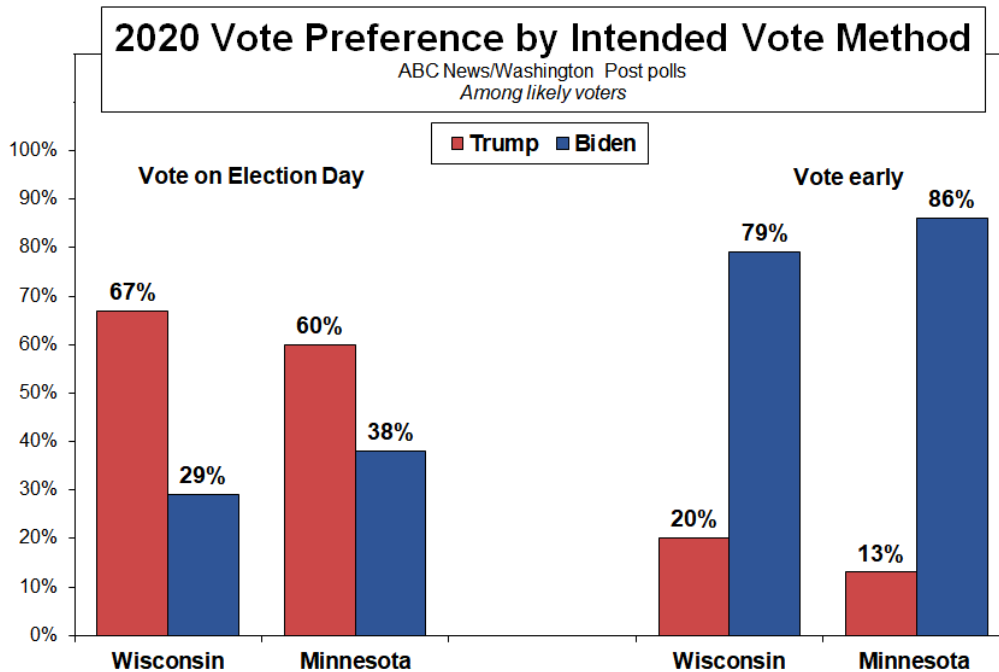
Military voters have been of increased interest since the publication of allegations that Trump disparaged military service in private conversations, which he has denied. While 2016 comparisons aren't available, Trump does better against Biden in military households than in non-military ones in both states. (By contrast, there are no significant differences comparing another group, union vs. non-union households.)

Trump-Biden <i>(among likely voters)</i>		
	Wisconsin	Minnesota
Military HH	55-43%	45-53%
Non-military HH	42-56	39-59
Union HH	44-54	38-61
Non-union HH	46-51	42-57

AHEAD? – Preferences can change. In ABC/Post national polling in 2016, a 12-point lead for Hillary Clinton on Oct. 22, 17 days before the election, contracted to Trump +1 eight days later, as GOP voters set aside the issue of Trump's lewd comments on the Access Hollywood tape and returned to his ranks. A week before the election it was Clinton +2, and ultimately Clinton won the popular vote by 2 points, while Trump won the Electoral College with key victories in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Florida.

Among other factors this year, Biden's competitive position comes from people who intend to vote early in person or by mail. Among those who intend to vote on Election Day, Trump leads by a wide 67-29 percent in Wisconsin and 60-38 percent in Minnesota. Among intended early and absentee voters – who make up 44 percent of likely voters in Wisconsin and 39 percent in Minnesota – 79 percent or more back Biden.

The question is whether they'll make the effort. While two-thirds of Trump's supporters are very enthusiastic about supporting him, strong enthusiasm for Biden falls sharply, to 50 percent in Wisconsin and 44 percent in Minnesota – a persistent disadvantage for the Democrat.



As an example, limiting the likely voter pool to voters who are very or somewhat enthusiastic about their choice brings the race to a scant +4 points for Biden in Wisconsin and +12 points in Minnesota. Tightening it further, to only very enthusiastic supporters, puts Trump slightly ahead in Wisconsin and essentially tied in Minnesota.

TRUMP – As is typical in an incumbent election, vote preferences closely reflect views of Trump's performance in office. Among registered voters in Minnesota, 40 percent approve of his work in office, while 59 percent disapprove. In Wisconsin, it's a close 46-52 percent. (Results are similar among likely voters.)

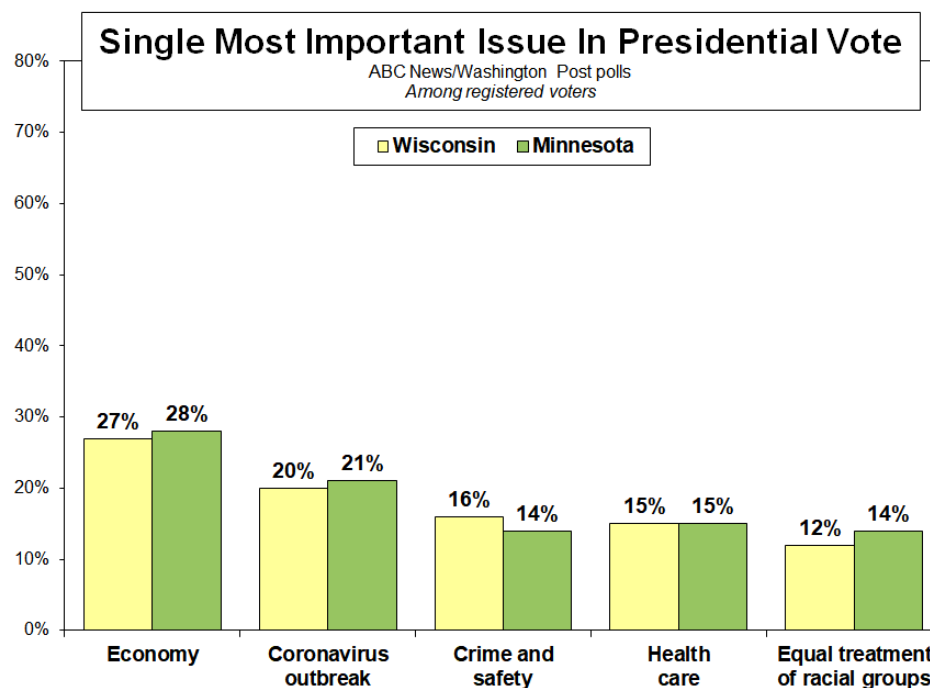
The president's ratings differ by topic. Even with the pandemic-related recession, he gets narrow majority approval for handling the economy in Wisconsin, 53-46 percent, and about an even split in Minnesota, 47-49 percent, approve-disapprove. Compare that with the pandemic itself: on this, 54 percent in Wisconsin and 60 percent in Minnesota disapprove of Trump's work.

Approve-disapprove: Trump's handling of...			
(among registered voters)			
	Overall job	The economy	The coronavirus outbreak
Wisconsin	46-52%	53-46%	44-54%
Minnesota	40-59	47-49	39-60

ISSUES/TRUST – Trust on these issues likewise differs. As noted, in Minnesota, Biden leads Trump by 22 points in trust to handle the coronavirus, as well as 24 points on equal treatment of racial groups, 17 points on handling health care, 14 points on discouraging violence at political protests and 11 points on crime and safety. It’s a dead heat on the economy. In Wisconsin, the two are closer on each issue.

Trust to handle issues: Trump-Biden <i>(among registered voters)</i>				
	Wisconsin	Trump-Biden margin	Minnesota	Trump-Biden margin
Economy	50-45%	+5 pts.	46-49%	-3 pts.
Crime and safety	48-48	=	42-53	-11
Discouraging violence at political protests	45-49	-4	40-54	-14
Health care	43-50	-7	39-56	-17
The coronavirus outbreak	42-49	-7	36-58	-22
Equal treatment of racial groups	41-51	-10	35-59	-24

ISSUES/IMPORTANCE – Among five of these issues tested for their priority, all matter. In both states, just short of three in 10 identify the economy as the most important issue in their vote, two in 10 pick the pandemic and 12 to 16 percent each name health care, crime and safety and equal treatment of racial minorities.



Vote preferences among issue groups differ profoundly. Likely voters who cite the economy as their top issue favor Trump by overwhelming margins – 88-12 percent in Wisconsin and 78-18

percent in Minnesota. By contrast, Biden wins about 90 percent of those who pick the pandemic as the most important issue. It's Trump by a huge margin among crime and safety voters; Biden by equally lopsided numbers among those focused on health care and equal treatment. The rationale for their campaign rhetoric seems clear.

VIRUS/ECONOMY – The role of the top two issues is evident another way. Among likely voters who rate the economy positively (42 percent in Minnesota, 45 percent in Wisconsin), Trump leads Biden by wide margins; among those who are little worried or unworried that they or a family member might catch the coronavirus (32 percent in Minnesota, 37 percent in Wisconsin), it's Trump again overwhelmingly. But among their majority opposites, Biden has three-quarters support or more.

Trump-Biden <i>(among likely voters)</i>		
	Wisconsin	Minnesota
Economy:		
Excellent/good	88-11%	75-24%
Not so good/poor	11-86	16-82
Coronavirus:		
More worried	23-75	18-79
Less worried	86-12	81-18

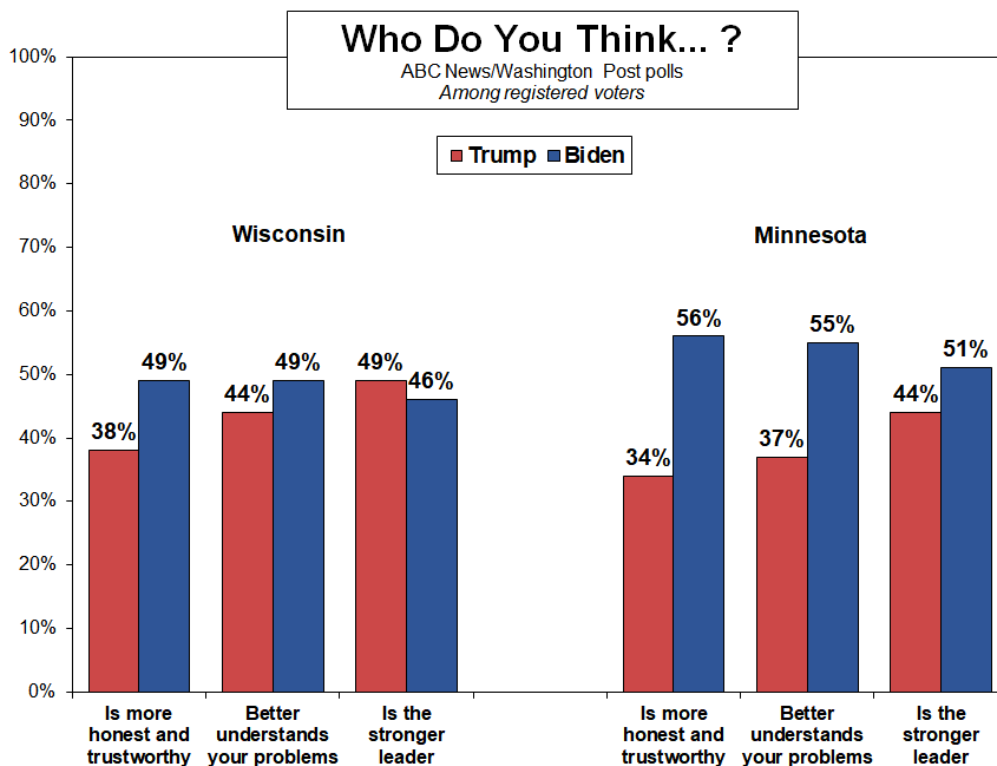
As in national ABC/Post polls, in a statistical analysis called regression, views on the condition of the economy and concerns about catching the coronavirus independently predict vote choices, even when controlling for demographic factors including the three traditional heavy hitters in presidential vote preference – partisanship, ideology and race/ethnicity.

PROTEST SUPPORT – Views on another issue also interact with vote choices. People who back recent protests over police treatment of Black people support Biden by 80-17 percent in Wisconsin and 86-12 percent in Minnesota. That flips among those who oppose such protests; about three-quarters support Trump.

As noted, 55 percent of registered voters in Minnesota and 51 percent in Wisconsin support the protests. These views are sharply partisan and ideological in both states, with support reaching about two-thirds or more among liberals, Democrats and liberal-leaning groups such as city dwellers, young people and those with more education. Opposition peaks among Republicans and conservatives. Six in 10 Minnesota independents support the protests; it's 51 percent among their counterparts in Wisconsin.

ATTRIBUTES – State differences also emerge in assessments of the candidates' personal attributes. In Minnesota, Biden leads Trump by double digits in being more honest and trustworthy (+22 points) and better understanding the problems of people like you (+18); that shrinks to a slight 7 points on who's the stronger leader.

Reflecting the tighter race in Wisconsin, Biden leads Trump by a narrower 11 points in being more honest and trustworthy. And the two are in a virtual dead heat when it comes to being the stronger leader (+3 for Trump) or empathy (+5, Biden).



REGIONS – Preferences differ sharply by state region. In Minnesota, Biden holds a commanding 60-point lead in the traditionally Democratic Twin Cities core, while Trump holds a 31-point advantage in northern Minnesota, which he carried by 23 points in 2016. The race is tighter in the historically competitive eastern Twin Cities suburbs and in the south, where Biden’s lead narrows to non-significant 10 and 12-point margins, respectively.

In Wisconsin, Biden maintains strong leads in Dane County and Milwaukee. Trump leads by 21 points in Chiwaukee suburbs, home to the recent Kenosha protests. Trump is numerically ahead in northern Wisconsin, while the race is virtually tied in the often competitive southwest and Fox River Valley regions.

WHEN VOTE – As noted, roughly four in 10 likely voters in these states say they intend to vote early or absentee. That far outstrips rates of early voting seen in 2016, 27 percent in [Wisconsin](#) and 23 percent in [Minnesota](#).

With both states permitting no-excuse absentee voting, the most popular early voting method is by mail, preferred by 21 percent in Wisconsin and 24 percent in Minnesota. Other intended early voters split between voting in-person before Election Day (9 percent in Wisconsin and 7 percent in Minnesota) or taking their ballot to a drop box (14 percent and 7 percent).

As noted, most of those choosing early or absentee methods favor Biden, with margins of +60 points in Wisconsin and +73 points in Minnesota. That reverses among Election Day voters, to +38 and +22 for Trump, respectively. Looking at it another way, most Biden voters in each state say they'll vote early, 68 and 59 percent, while most Trump voters say they'll vote on Election Day, 75 percent and 86 percent.

As elsewhere, increased early voting raises the possibility that election results may be delayed as the influx of absentee votes is counted. And the differences between Trump and Biden voters in their intended vote method suggests that intermediate election night counts may be far from the actual outcome.

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone interviews Sept. 8-13, 2020, among random samples of 705 Minnesota registered voters, including 615 likely voters; and 702 Wisconsin registered voters, including 605 likely voters. Results have margins of [sampling error](#), in Minnesota, of 4.0 percentage points among registered voters and 4.5 among likely voters; and in Wisconsin, of 4.5 points for both groups, including design effects.

Partisan divisions – Democrats-Republicans-independents – are 34-29-30 percent among registered voters and 35-31-28 percent among likely voters in Minnesota and 31-27-34 percent among registered voters and 34-27-31 percent among likely voters in Wisconsin.

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

Analysis by Gary Langer, with Sofi Sinozich, Steven Sparks, Christine Filer and Allison De Jong.

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.

* = less than 0.5 percent.

1. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) How closely are you following the 2020 presidential race: very closely, somewhat closely, not so closely, or not closely at all?

	----- Closely -----			---- Not closely ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	At all	opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	90	54	36	9	5	4	*
9/13/20 Wis.	90	56	34	10	5	4	*

2. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) I'd like you to rate the chances that you will vote in the presidential election this fall: Are you absolutely certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or less than that?

	Certain to vote	Probably vote	Chances 50/50	Less than that	Don't think will vote (vol.)	No op.
9/13/20 Minn.	91	6	2	1	*	0
9/13/20 Wis.	90	6	2	1	1	*

3. (ASK IF CERTAIN OR PROBABLY VOTE) Do you think you'll (vote in person at a polling place ON Election Day), or (vote early either by mail or in person BEFORE Election Day)?

	Vote on Election Day	Vote early	No opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	59	39	2
9/13/20 Wis.	51	44	5

4. (ASK IF VOTE EARLY) How do you think you will vote - (in person at an early voting location), (by dropping off a ballot at a designated drop-box), or (by mail)?

	In person	Drop off ballot	Mail	No opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	16	15	65	3
9/13/20 Wis.	21	30	46	2

3/4 NET

	Vote on Election Day	----- NET	In person	Vote early Drop off ballot	Mail	No op.	No opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	59	39	6	6	25	1	2
9/13/20 Wis.	51	44	9	13	20	1	5

5. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) If the presidential election were being held today and the candidates were (Donald Trump and Mike Pence, the Republicans) and (Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, the Democrats), for whom would you vote? Would you lean toward (Trump and Pence) or (Biden and Harris)?

LEANED NET VOTE PREFERENCE - REG VOTERS

	Trump	Biden	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	40	57	*	1	1	1
9/13/20 Wis.	46	50	1	3	*	1

LEANED NET VOTE PREFERENCE - LIKELY VOTERS

	Trump	Biden	Other (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	Would not vote (vol.)	No opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	41	57	*	1	0	1
9/13/20 Wis.	46	52	*	1	0	1

6. (ASK IF NAMED TRUMP) Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting Trump, somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic or not enthusiastic at all?

	--- Enthusiastic ----			--- Not enthusiastic ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	94	67	27	6	4	1	0
9/13/20 Wis.	94	69	25	6	5	1	0

7. (ASK IF NAMED BIDEN) Would you say you are very enthusiastic about supporting Biden, somewhat enthusiastic, not so enthusiastic or not enthusiastic at all?

	--- Enthusiastic ----			--- Not enthusiastic ----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	84	44	40	15	9	6	*
9/13/20 Wis.	89	50	39	10	7	3	*

8. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	40	30	9	59	6	54	1
9/13/20 Wis.	46	34	12	52	6	46	2

9. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling the economy? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	47	37	11	49	14	35	4
9/13/20 Wis.	53	41	12	46	13	33	1

10. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Would you describe the state of the nation's economy these days as excellent, good, not so good or poor?

	----- Positive -----			----- Negative -----			No
	NET	Excellent	Good	NET	Not so good	Poor	opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	40	7	34	58	32	27	1
9/13/20 Wis.	44	11	33	54	30	24	2

11. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Who do you trust more to handle [ITEM] - (Trump) or (Biden)?

9/13/20 - Summary table among Minnesota registered voters

	Trump	Biden	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. the economy	46	49	1	3	2
b. the coronavirus outbreak	36	58	1	3	1
c. crime and safety	42	53	1	3	2
d. equal treatment of racial groups	35	59	1	3	2
e. discouraging violence at political protests	40	54	*	4	2
f. health care	39	56	*	2	2

9/13/20 - Summary table among Wisconsin registered voters

Trump	Biden	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
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a. the economy	50	45	*	4	2
b. the coronavirus outbreak	42	49	*	7	2
c. crime and safety	48	48	*	3	1
d. equal treatment of racial groups	41	51	1	4	2
e. discouraging violence at political protests	45	49	*	4	2
f. health care	43	50	*	4	2

12. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Which of the following is the single most important issue in your choice for president - (the economy), (the coronavirus outbreak), (crime and safety), (health care), or (equal treatment of racial groups)?

	Economy	Coronavirus outbreak	Crime and safety	Health care	Equal treatment of racial groups	Other (vol.)	No op.
9/13/20 Minn.	28	21	14	15	14	7	2
9/13/20 Wis.	27	20	16	15	12	7	2

13. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Who do you think [ITEM] - (Trump) or (Biden)?

9/13/20 - Summary table among Minnesota registered voters

	Trump	Biden	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. is more honest and trustworthy	34	56	1	9	1
b. better understands the problems of people like you	37	55	1	6	2
c. is the stronger leader	44	51	1	2	1

9/13/20 - Summary table among Wisconsin registered voters

	Trump	Biden	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)	No opinion
a. is more honest and trustworthy	38	49	2	9	2
b. better understands the problems of people like you	44	49	*	6	1
c. is the stronger leader	49	46	*	4	1

14. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you approve or disapprove of the way Trump is handling the coronavirus outbreak? Do you approve/disapprove strongly or somewhat?

	----- Approve -----			----- Disapprove -----			No opinion
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	
9/13/20 Minn.	39	25	14	60	8	52	1
9/13/20 Wis.	44	30	15	54	7	47	2

15. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) How do you feel about the possibility that you or someone in your immediate family might catch the coronavirus - very worried, somewhat worried, not too worried, or not worried at all?

	---- Worried ----			----- Not worried -----			Already caught it (vol.)	No op.
	NET	Very	Smwht	NET	Not too	Not at all		
9/13/20 Minn.	63	24	39	31	16	15	6	*
9/13/20 Wis.	60	23	37	37	19	18	3	*

16. (ASK IF REGISTERED TO VOTE) Do you support or oppose recent protests against police treatment of Black people? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
9/13/20 Minn.	55	36	19	40	11	29	5
9/13/20 Wis.	51	35	17	44	13	31	4

Demographics of weighted sample:

	% of Minnesota registered voters	% of Wisconsin registered voters
Men	49	47
Women	51	53
Age 18-39	34	31
Age 40-64	44	44
Age 65+	22	25
High school or less	27	33
Some college	34	34
College graduates	38	33
Whites, non-Hispanic	85	87
Blacks, non-Hispanic	4	5
Hispanics	4	3
Other/multiple	7	5

*** END ***