

The background of the entire slide is a composite image. On the left, there is a close-up of a light-colored wooden chess piece, specifically a king, with its tiered top. To the right and slightly behind it is a transparent globe showing the continents of Africa and Europe. The globe has white grid lines for latitude and longitude. The overall lighting is soft, with a blueish tint in the upper part of the image.

**ΚΕΔΙΣΑ KEDISA**

KENTRO ΔΙΕΘΝΩΝ ΣΤΡΑΤΗΓΙΚΩΝ ΑΝΑΛΥΣΕΩΝ  
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC ANALYSES

# **The Presidential Elections in the United States of America (USA): Current trends and tendencies**

**Przemyslaw Niznik**

**Research Paper No. 60**

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**Analyst Kedisa**

**Research Paper no. 60**

## **Board of Directors**

**Dr. Andreas Banoutsos, Founder and President**

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America (USA):  
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**Contents**

1. Introduction.....	3
2. General characteristics of the US electoral system.....	3
3. Barack Obama – Change We Need (2008 – 2016).....	3
4. Donald Trump – Make America Great Again (2016-2020).....	4
5. Policy differences between Trump and Obama administrations.....	5
6. Donald Trump vs COVID-19.....	8
7. Current trends in the US elections: Chance of Joe Biden in elections in 2020.....	9
8. Conclusion.....	9
9. Bibliography.....	19

## 1. Introduction

This paper aims to explain how the election system works in the USA. Moreover, it analyzes the Presidency of Barack Obama and Donald Trump. It compares policies of both presidents. How Donald Trump has been handling coronavirus pandemic. This paper will focus on the current trends of the US elections and Joe Biden chances in the 2020 elections.

## 2. General characteristics of the US electoral system

Everyone in the United States can be a president, but there are 3 constitutional requirements:

- a) Be at least 35 years old
- b) Have been a resident of the United States for 14 years
- c) Be a natural-born citizen of the United States

Usually for elections a member from the main parties runs. In the US there are two major parties – Democrats and Republicans. In the caucuses members vote for who they think will be the best candidate. People outside of the main parties can also run for the elections. For example, Kanye West (American rapper) may take part in the election in 2020. Then, they will hold a state election and party members vote for the candidate they want to represent them in the general election. After the primaries and caucuses, each party holds national convention to select a Presidential nominee. The Presidential nominee announces a Vice President. After that, the Presidential nominee starts a campaign throughout the country to collect the votes of citizens. During elections, people from whole States cast their vote. When people cast their vote, they actually vote for a group of people called electors. The number of the electors is directly proportional to the number of senators in the congress. The total numbers of them is 538 from the Electoral College. The responsibility of the elector should be voting according to people will. The candidate who gets 270 votes or more wins. The new elected President and Vice President are inaugurated at January 20<sup>th</sup><sup>1</sup>.

## 3. Barack Obama – Change We Need (2008 – 2016)

Barack Obama was the first African American president and he has been representing the Democratic party. He won the 2008 elections against John McCain.

*Attachment 1*

The first serious problem after Obama won the elections was the financial crisis. He decided to create the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). The goal of stimulus bill was to save existing jobs and create new ones as soon as possible, except that the relief was to invest in education, infrastructure, renewable energy and health. The ARRA fundament was on the Keynesian economic theory which focus that during recessions the government should help in private sector, save the most jobs and stop further economic bad effects<sup>2</sup>.

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1

<https://www.usa.gov/election#item-36072>

2

<https://www.cbo.gov/sites/default/files/cbofiles/attachments/02-22-ARRA.pdf>

Barack Obama extended “Bush tax cuts” – the “Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001” (EGTRRA) and the “Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003” (JGTRRA).<sup>3</sup> The EGTRRA reduced income and capital gains taxes except that raised pre-tax contribution limits for defined contribution plans and Individual Retirement Accounts, and eliminated the estate tax<sup>4</sup>. The JGTRRA accelerated certain tax changes passed in the EGTRRA<sup>5</sup>. Obama added the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization and Job Creation Act of 2010 and American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 both of this acts extended “Bush tax cut”<sup>6</sup>.

Barack Obama contributed to reducing healthcare costs and improving quality when he had signed the “Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act”<sup>7</sup>.

He also changed financial regulation when he had signed the “Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Customer Protection Act”<sup>8</sup>.

Obama withdrew the US forces from Iraq and his administration had orchestrated the military operation that resulted in the death of Osama Bin Laden on May 2, 2011.<sup>9</sup> In the elections in 2012 opponent of Barack Obama was Mitt Romney.

*Attachment 2*

After re-election Obama started to combat climate change (Paris Agreement) and limit carbon emissions (He signed executive order). He also withdrew many soldiers from Afghanistan. In 2014 elections, Republicans took control of the Senate and Barack Obama had problem with government spending, immigration and other issues<sup>10</sup>. That’s why Obama wasn't interested in re-election.

#### **4. Donald Trump – Make America Great Again (2016-2020)**

Donald Trump in elections 2016 beat Hillary Clinton, which for many people was a shock, but in the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter I explained how elections system has been working in the US and now I will shortly remind. Despite that Trump got fewer votes than Clinton from citizens, he got more votes from the electors.

*Attachment 3*

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3

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2010/dec/06/barack-obama-bush-tax-cuts>

4

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/e/egtrra.asp>

5

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/j/jgtrra.asp>

6

<https://web.archive.org/web/20101218050919/http://www.whitehouse.gov/taxcut>

7

<https://www.natlawreview.com/article/american-taxpayer-relief-act-2012-atra-saved-fiscal-cliff>

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<https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hlthaff.2010.0447>

9

<https://www.investopedia.com/terms/d/dodd-frank-financial-regulatory-reform-bill.asp>

10

<https://web.archive.org/web/20110502033900/http://thelede.blogs.nytimes.com/2011/05/01/bin-laden-dead-u-s-official-says/>

<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/13/us/politics/obama-legacy-in-state-offices-a-shrinking-democratic-share.html>



Donald Trump has been starting as hotel developer when his father Fred Trump lent him 1 million dollars. “He helped manage his father's extensive portfolio of residential housing projects in the New York City boroughs, and took control of the company - which he renamed the Trump Organization - in 1971”<sup>11</sup>. He mentioned about running for president in 1987, even entered in the 2000 race as a Reform Party candidate<sup>12</sup>.

Donald Trump became the 1<sup>st</sup> president who never held a military rank, a top government post or elected office<sup>13</sup>.

Immediately after the elections the first scandal was that Russia intervened in the 2016 elections and helped Trump won. “Mr Trump's campaign and transition teams were accused of conspiring with Russian agents to influence the US election in the then Republican candidate's favour”<sup>14</sup>. Robert Mueller was the man who lead the investigation against Trump and despite lack of evidence the ex-director of the FBI didn't exonerate the 45<sup>th</sup> president on obstruction because Trump had committed crime in obstructing an investigation of justice<sup>15</sup>.

The funny scandal was when The Wall Street Journal's reported that Trump had affair with a porn-star named Stephanie Clifford and supposedly Trump's lawyer Michael Cohen paid her 130 000\$ for her silence<sup>16</sup>. “A White House official said in a statement: These are old, recycled reports, which were published and strongly denied prior to the election”<sup>17</sup>. “My involvement with Donald Trump was limited to a few public appearances and nothing more” - she wrote in a statement, dated January 10”<sup>18</sup>.

I think that we can go ahead and call Trump the “affair guy”.

On 17 January, 2017 Trump signed executive order which has been pausing all refugee arrivals for 120 days and has been banning travel to the USA from: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, Somalia. “Additionally, refugees from Syria are barred indefinitely from entering the United States”<sup>19</sup>. That was cause of protest in the whole country<sup>20</sup>. The order even got challenged in the court<sup>21</sup>.

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11

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-35318432>

12

[ibid](#)

13

<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/04/us/donald-trump-fast-facts/index.html>

14

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-42493918>

15

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/03/24/politics/mueller-report-release/index.html>

16

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/01/12/politics/porn-star-trump-lawyer/index.html>

17

[ibid](#)

18

[ibid](#)

19

<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/04/us/donald-trump-fast-facts/index.html>

20

<https://edition.cnn.com/2017/01/29/politics/immigration-crisis-what-we-know/>

21

<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/04/us/donald-trump-fast-facts/index.html>

Many immigrants were shocked when the Trump administration announced ended of DACA program “introduced by Obama to protect nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrants brought to the United States as children. Trump calls on Congress to introduce legislation that will prevent DACA recipients from being deported. Multiple lawsuits are filed opposing the policy in federal courts and judges delay the end of the program, asking the government to submit filings justifying the cancellation of DACA”<sup>22</sup>. Look what Obama said: “The former president issued a rare statement criticizing the move by his successor to rescind one of his signature programs, calling it "basic decency”<sup>23</sup>.

On 7 May 2018 “The Trump administration announces a "zero tolerance" policy for illegal border crossings. Sessions says that individuals who violate immigration law will be criminally prosecuted and warns that parents could be separated from children”<sup>24</sup>.

During campaign Trump announced that he want build the wall on the border with Mexico, after elections he said that Mexico government will pay for it but after that Mexico City announced said that they will not pay for the wall. Trump said that immigrations from south country has been dangerous for the US citizens because immigrates are unskilled and they have been taking jobs away from Americans people<sup>25</sup>. But if we take a look at the chart we see that after Trump announced immigrations from Mexico went up where earlier had been stabilized<sup>26</sup>.

#### *Attachment 4*

Hispanic population has been rising for 20 years. It is possible that Spanish will soon be a main language with English in the US. Nevertheless, a more cautious immigration policy is needed in the future.

#### *Attachment 5*

Another shock was when Trump recognized Jerusalem as Israel’s capital and announced plan to move the US embassy there from the Tel-Aviv. "The President's decision is an important step towards peace, for there is no peace that doesn't include Jerusalem as the capital of the State of Israel," Netanyahu said (Israel PM)”<sup>27</sup>. “Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas condemned and rejected Trump's decision. Speaking in a televised address, the Palestinian leader said the move will aid extremist organizations to wage holy wars”<sup>28</sup>. Trump decision dived him advisers Rex Tillerson (ex-secretary state), Mike Pompeo (secretary state after fired Tillerson) and James Mattis (Defence secretary) they followed status quo. Vice President Mike Pence, UN Ambassador Nikki Haley and US Ambassador to Israel David Friedman agreed with Trump<sup>29</sup>.

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22

<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/04/us/donald-trump-fast-facts/index.html>

23

<https://edition.cnn.com/2017/09/05/politics/daca-trump-congress/index.html>

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<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/04/us/donald-trump-fast-facts/index.html>

25

<https://www.politico.com/story/2019/01/08/trumps-evolving-reasons-border-wall-1088046>

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<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-46824649>

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<https://edition.cnn.com/2017/12/06/politics/president-donald-trump-jerusalem/index.html>

28

[ibid](#)

29

[ibid](#)



Many times Donald Trump threatened North Korea that the US will show them the power of the U.S but Kim Jong-un didn't care. In one moment Pyongyang announced that they are open to dialog. "On 12 June 2018, Trump became the first sitting president to meet a North Korean leader"<sup>30</sup>. The last meeting was in Sweden but not between the leaders despite the US saying "good discussions were had" but North Korea said the US "brought nothing to the negotiation table"<sup>31</sup>. So we have 2020 and North Korea still isn't disarmed.

Another problem was in Asia – the trade-war with China. "The US has imposed tariffs on more than \$360bn (£268bn) of Chinese goods, and China has retaliated with tariffs on more than \$110bn of US products"<sup>32</sup>. After that counters threats were made with each other for more than 2 years but conflict finished on 15 January 2020 when the China and the US signed trade deal - called phase one.

In the beginning of 2020 Trump gave us another dose of emotions when he decided killed top Iranian general. "Speaking at Mar-a-Lago, Trump announces that a US airstrike in Iraq has killed Qasem Soleimani, the leader of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Quds Force. "We took action last night to stop a war. We did not take action to start a war," Trump says"<sup>33</sup>.

On 3 January 2020 during an evangelical event later that day, Trump says that Soleimani was planning a major attack, though the administration does not provide evidence of the intelligence"<sup>34</sup>. After the attack for Soleimani, oil surged because Iran is in top 10 producer of oil<sup>35</sup>.

*Attachment 6*

*Attachment 7*

## **5. Policy differences between policy of Trump and Obama**

Comparing the policies of Trump and Obama in the economy field is not easy, as Obama became a President after the financial crisis, which was the worst since the Great Depression. Despite COVID-19 pandemic which has caused the biggest blow to the US economy is too soon to compare<sup>36</sup>.

So I will focus on social welfare and health policy.

One of Obama's key policy goals was to get more Americans health insurance. The number of people without health insurance fell noticeably during his tenure after the passage of the Affordable Care Act. Progress has since stalled under Trump, who attempted (unsuccessfully) to repeal Obamacare<sup>37</sup>.

*Attachment 8*

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<sup>30</sup>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-40871848>

<sup>31</sup>

[ibid](#)

<sup>32</sup>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-45899310>

<sup>33</sup>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/04/us/donald-trump-fast-facts/index.html>

<sup>34</sup>

<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/07/04/us/donald-trump-fast-facts/index.html>

<sup>35</sup>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/business-50982313>

<sup>36</sup>

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/covid-19-coronavirus-usa-united-states-economy-gdp-decline/>

<sup>37</sup>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/08/20/trump-v-obama-economy-charts/>

Obama followed LGBT people in the military when he signed "Don't ask, don't tell" policy. He signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, which added gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability to the federal hate crimes law, he also signed Executive Order 13672, adding "gender identity" to the categories protected against discrimination in hiring in the federal civilian workforce and both "sexual orientation" and gender identity" to the categories protected against discrimination in hiring and employment on the part of federal government contractors and sub-contractors. Obama extended the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 to cover employees taking unpaid leave to care for the children of same-sex partners<sup>38</sup>. Despite Obama trying to help LGBT people, Trump rolled back many of this executive orders.

## 6. Donald Trump and COVID-19

During the Coronavirus Trump and the Senate shut down the economy and ordered the fiscal package worth 3 trillion dollars. "The package offered companies help paying wages and gave millions of unemployed Americans a weekly \$600 supplement, which expires on Friday. Many companies have exhausted their loans"<sup>39</sup>. After 2 months the US government decided re-open the economy, but it was too early and after that decision cases in the US have been raising.

*Attachment 9*

Due to stimulus relief unemployment from minimum records - surged

*Attachment 10*

The GDP shrank 31.7% q/q – the deepest decline<sup>40</sup>

*Attachment 11*

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38 [https://www.huffpost.com/entry/hate-crimes-bill-to-be-si\\_n\\_336883?guccounter=1&guce\\_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9lbi53aWtpcGVkaWEub3JnLw&guce\\_referrer\\_sig=AQAAAVLTN-BRwkQFIWV35rHt7YjSGJGtJ5bG\\_s3JDKkJtHKARXdh\\_\\_lJrI-cWfV\\_BBhuGg3xkNSuu0qy1-yEgVooESpmIjJ4Hc49ZqC58MyDogexRHQtxmQa21PcnZgO06IUGKf8mF0EYPN\\_KTglAm6A-6cIR\\_SCvGJOfm1BILMU1I](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/hate-crimes-bill-to-be-si_n_336883?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly9lbi53aWtpcGVkaWEub3JnLw&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAVLTN-BRwkQFIWV35rHt7YjSGJGtJ5bG_s3JDKkJtHKARXdh__lJrI-cWfV_BBhuGg3xkNSuu0qy1-yEgVooESpmIjJ4Hc49ZqC58MyDogexRHQtxmQa21PcnZgO06IUGKf8mF0EYPN_KTglAm6A-6cIR_SCvGJOfm1BILMU1I)

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/obama-expands-family-medical-leave-act-to-cover-gay-employees>

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2014/07/21/executive-order-further-amendments-executive-order-11478-equal-employmen>

39

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/covid-19-coronavirus-usa-united-states-economy-gdp-decline/>

40

[ibid](#)

## 7. Current trends in the US elections: Chance of Joe Biden in elections in 2020

Joe Biden is a former vice-president (2008-2016). He had been a running mate of Barack Obama. He won a seat representing the state of Delaware in the US Senate at the age of 29 - one of the youngest ever elected to the chamber<sup>41</sup>. Biden represented Delaware in the US Senate for 36 years<sup>42</sup>. He chose his running mate senator Kamala Harris. She has been Attorney General of California and District Attorney of San Francisco<sup>43</sup>. The progressive left, including some supporters of Mr. Sanders, will most likely be disappointed in Ms. Harris's selection, viewing her as far more supportive of incremental change than the kind of broad, revolutionary proposals they champion. And her long career in law enforcement could be off-putting to some voters, especially younger voters, who are eager to see a police-reform movement with unqualified backing from the White House<sup>44</sup>.

The reasons voters vote for who and why they will cast votes.

*Attachment 12*

The important thing why people will vote for Joe Biden is "He is not Trump" more than 50% his voters follow him because of that.

Check other reasons.

*Attachment 13*

But if we look for polls Biden leads

*Attachment 14*

## 8. Conclusion

To become a president of the USA, the constitution requires, to be at least 35 years old, have been a resident of the United States for 14 years and be a natural-born citizen of the United States. Remember when people cast vote for candidate they are actually voting for electors, who next choose the president. The main problem is that other countries have impact for elections in the USA that means that electors can succumb to corruption<sup>45</sup>. Secondly "Every State is allocated a number of votes equal to the number of senators and representatives in its U.S. Congressional delegation—two votes for its senators in the U.S. Senate plus a number of votes equal to the number of its Congressional districts"<sup>46</sup>. If candidate won in states below 10 votes he actually won in 30 states for 54 but he got only 159 votes. That means that states with small population means nothing.

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41

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/08/elections-democratic-presidential-candidate-joe-biden-200829163620133.html>

42

<https://edition.cnn.com/election/2020/candidate/biden>

43

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/08/11/us/politics/kamala-bio.html>

44

[ibid](#)

45

<https://www.concordmonitor.com/The-political-divide-32333260>

46

<https://www.archives.gov/electoral-college/allocation>

Barack Obama has been president after financial crisis so it was difficult time for everyone. During his presidency the former president was trying give a lot of good things for people like many executive orders which I previously described.

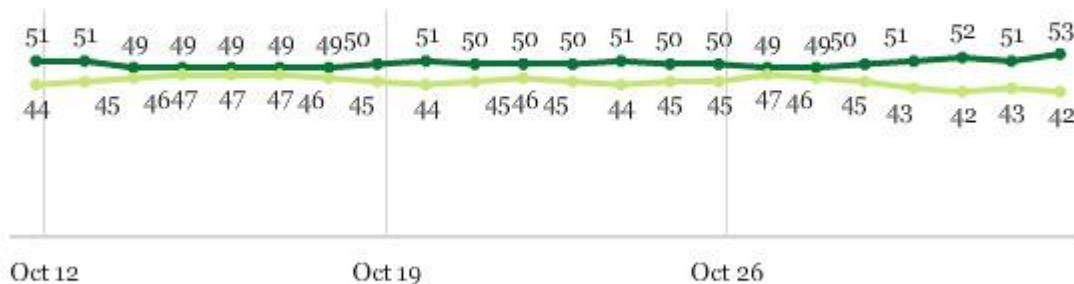
Donald Trump is a special man, he had a lot of scandals which I describe. Everything he has done is totally the opposite to Barack Obama. like migration and social programs, because like I said comparing Mr Obama and Mr Trump in the economy field is not good because they got different situation of the country. The COVID-19 situation has been difficult for everyone, president Trump decided to put a lockdown for the whole country and he signed stimulus bill which gave people money, but decision about opening the economy was too early and that caused increased many cases in the USA.

Refferring to elections in 2020 I think that is big likely that will happened the same situation like in elections in 2016. I maintain that becasuse no one expect that current president will win another time cause Biden has been leading over Donald Trump 8/9 % in the polls<sup>47</sup>. Mark Twain said: "What gets us into trouble is not what we don't know. It's what we know for sure that just ain't so."

*Gallup Daily Election Polling Results for the Presidential General Election, Obama vs. McCain, trend since Oct. 10-12, 2008*

Likely Voters (Traditional) - Based on current voting intentions and past voting behavior

■ % Obama ■ % McCain



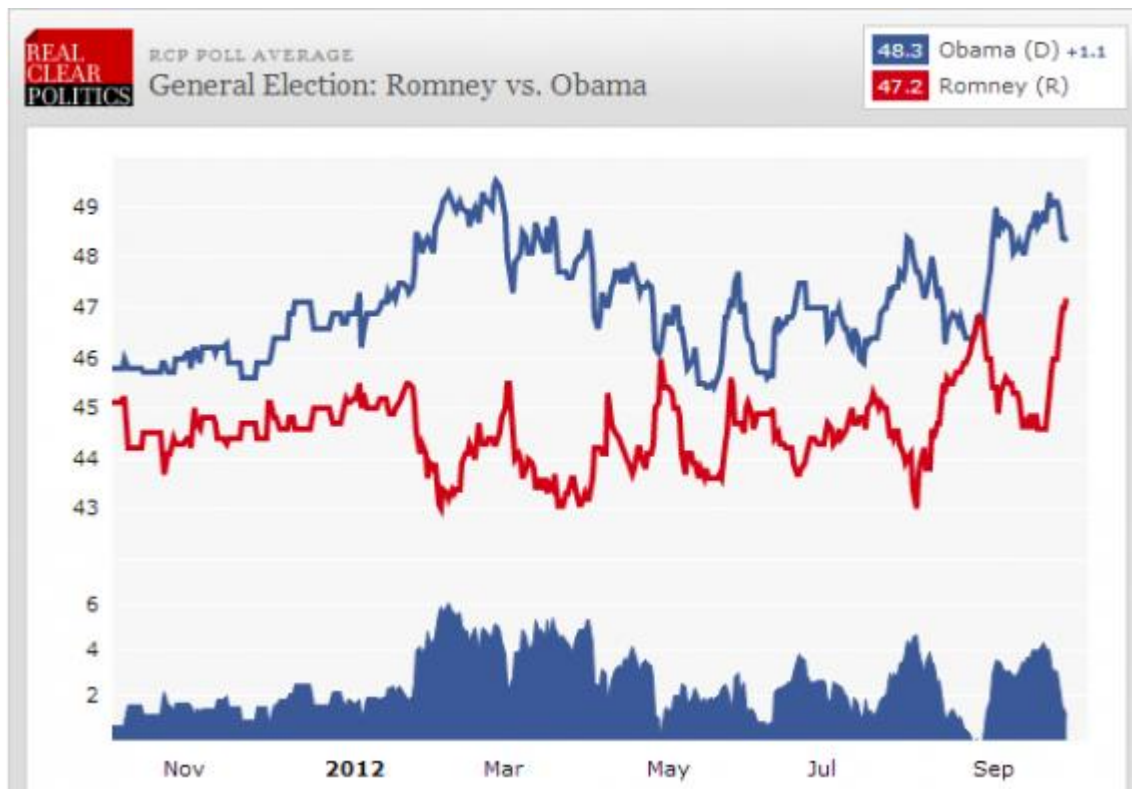
Based on three-day rolling averages.

GALLUP POLL

*Attachment 1*

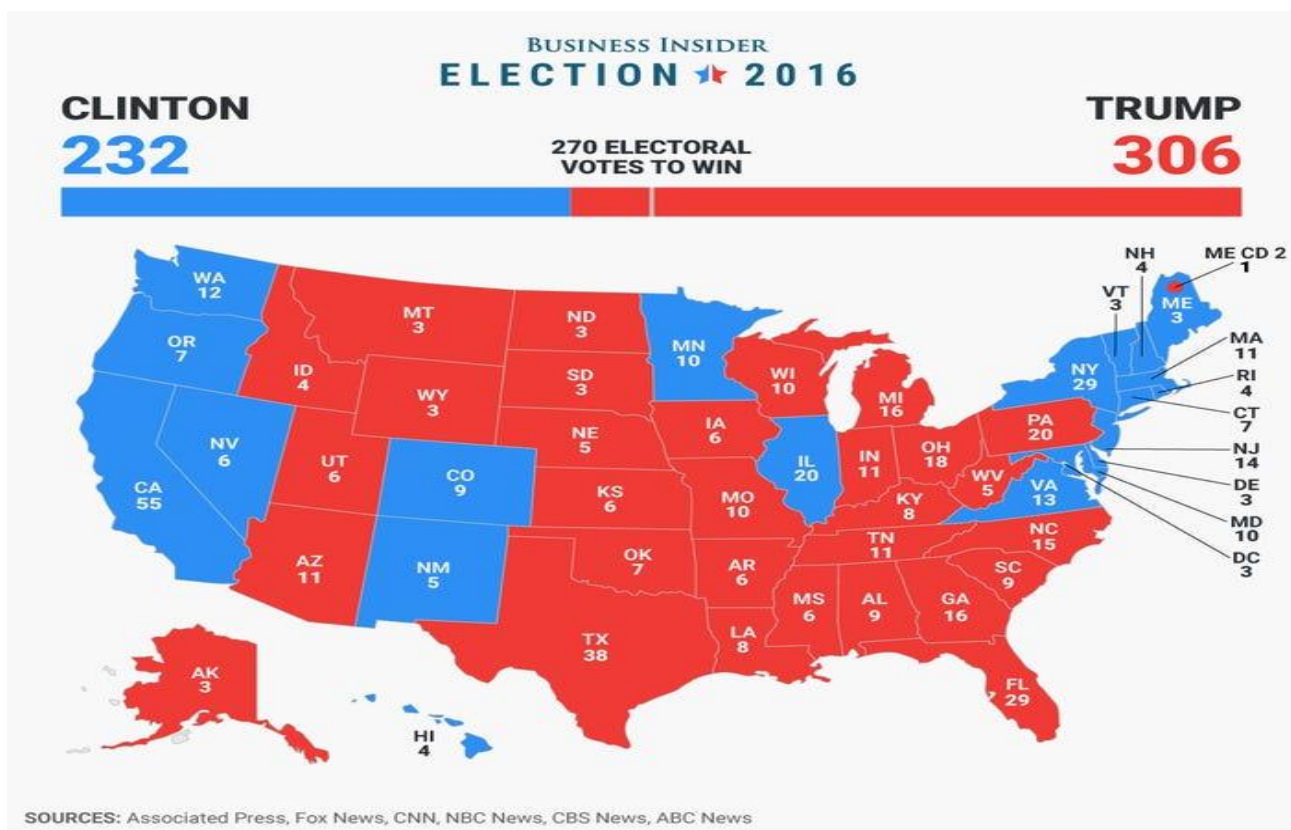
<https://news.gallup.com/poll/111703/final-presidential-estimate-obama-55-mccain-44.aspx>

<sup>47</sup> <https://edition.cnn.com/2020/07/16/politics/2020-election-polling-comparison-2016/index.html>



Attachment 2

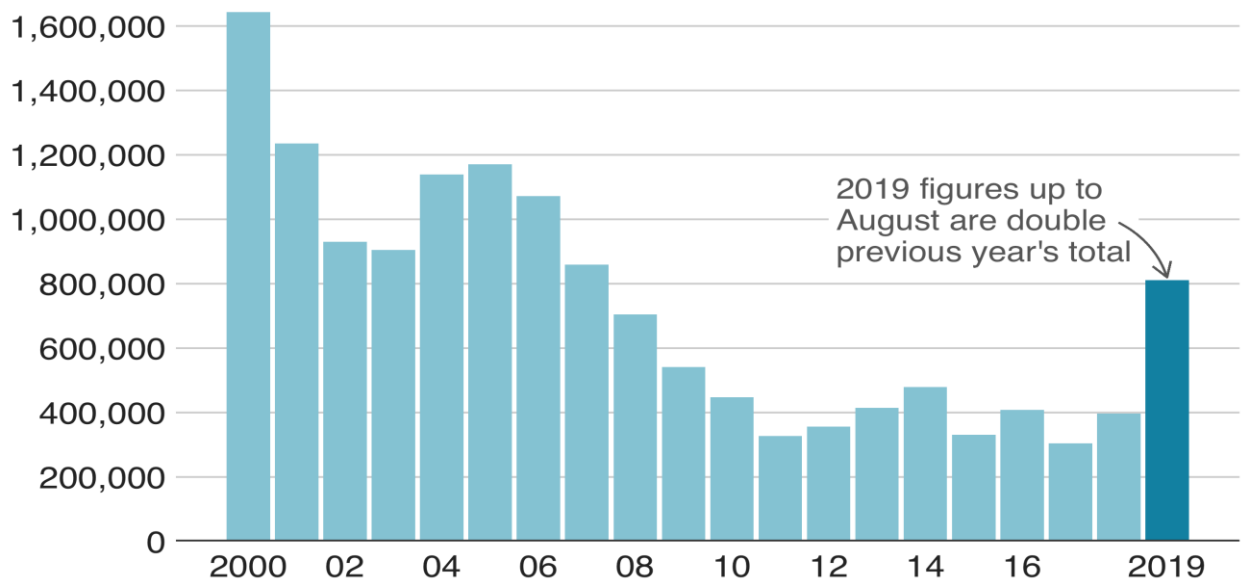
<https://www.outsidethebeltway.com/gallup-romney-and-obama-even-in-post-debate-polling/>



Attachment 3 <https://www.businessinsider.com/final-electoral-college-map-trump-clinton-2016-11>

## Migrants detained on the US-Mexico border

Total number of people by US financial year, 2000-2019

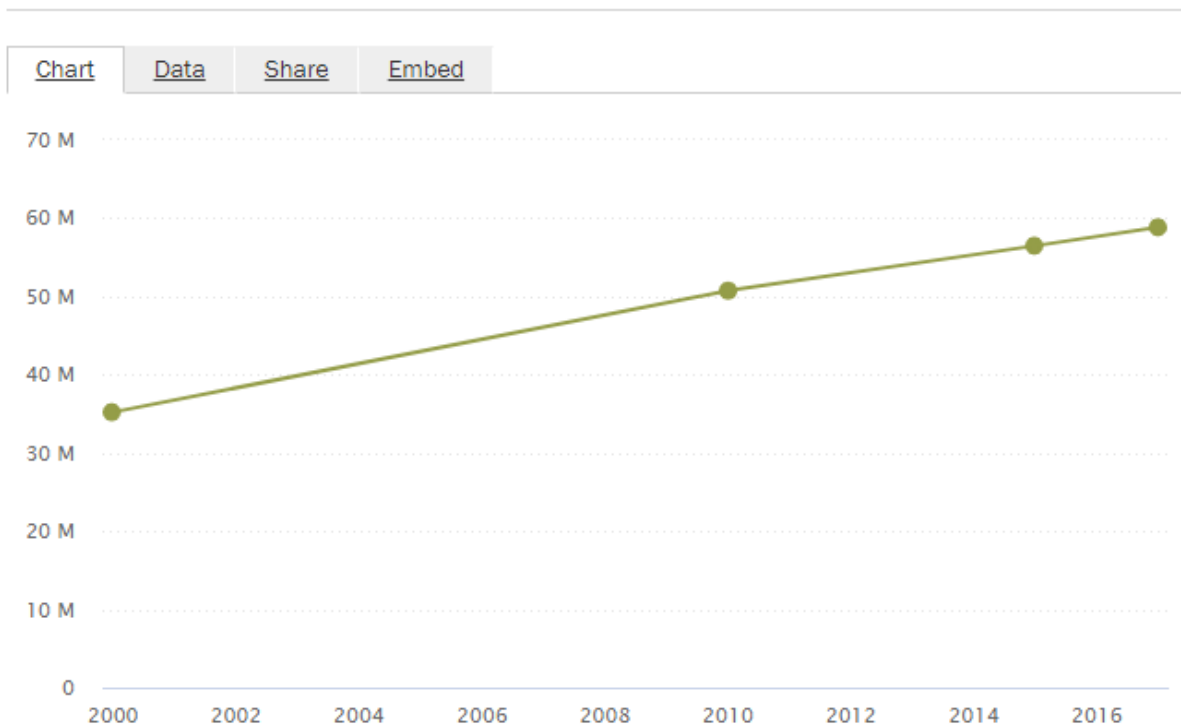


Source: US Customs and Border Protection agency

BBC

Attachment 4 <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-46824649>

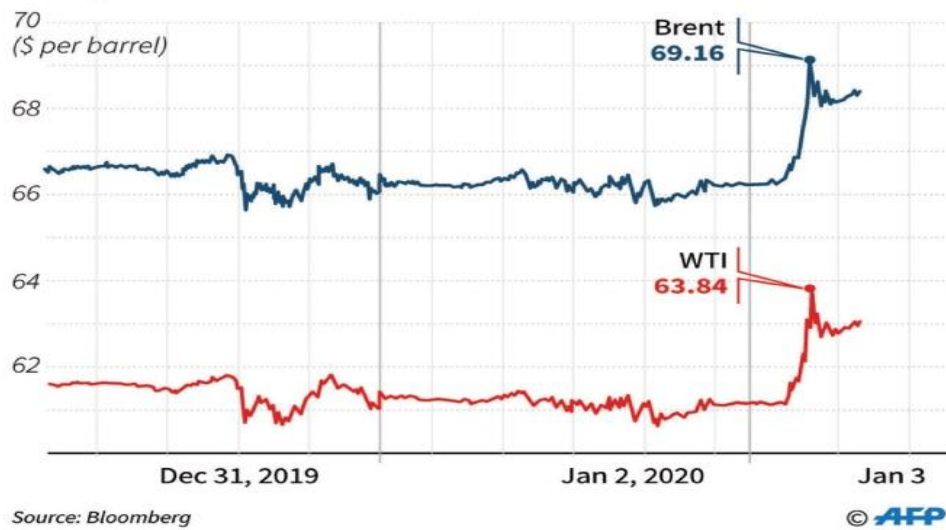
## Hispanic population in the U.S., 2000-2017



Attachment 5 <https://www.pewresearch.org/hispanic/fact-sheet/latinos-in-the-u-s-fact-sheet/>



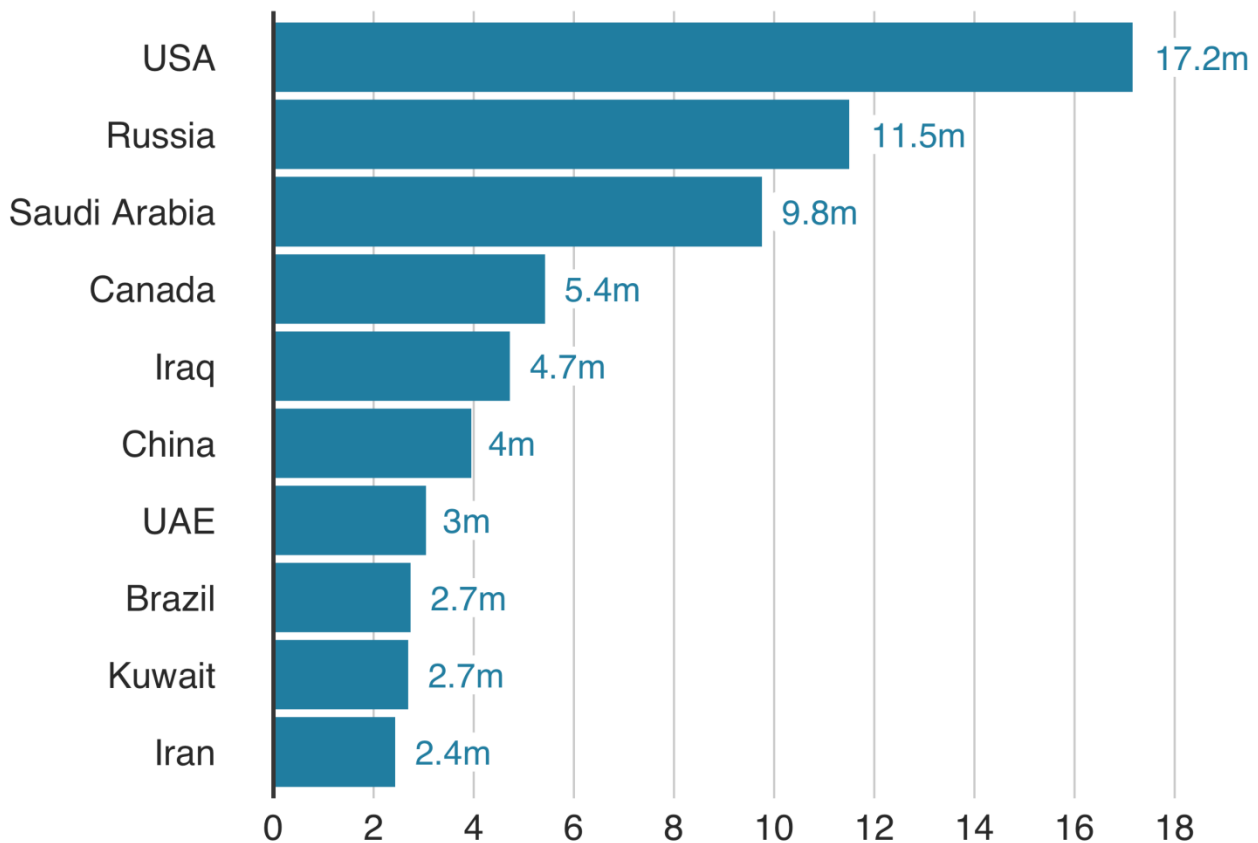
## Oil price



Attachment 6 <https://www.dawn.com/news/1526174>

## Top 10 oil producers

Countries by million of barrels produced in a day



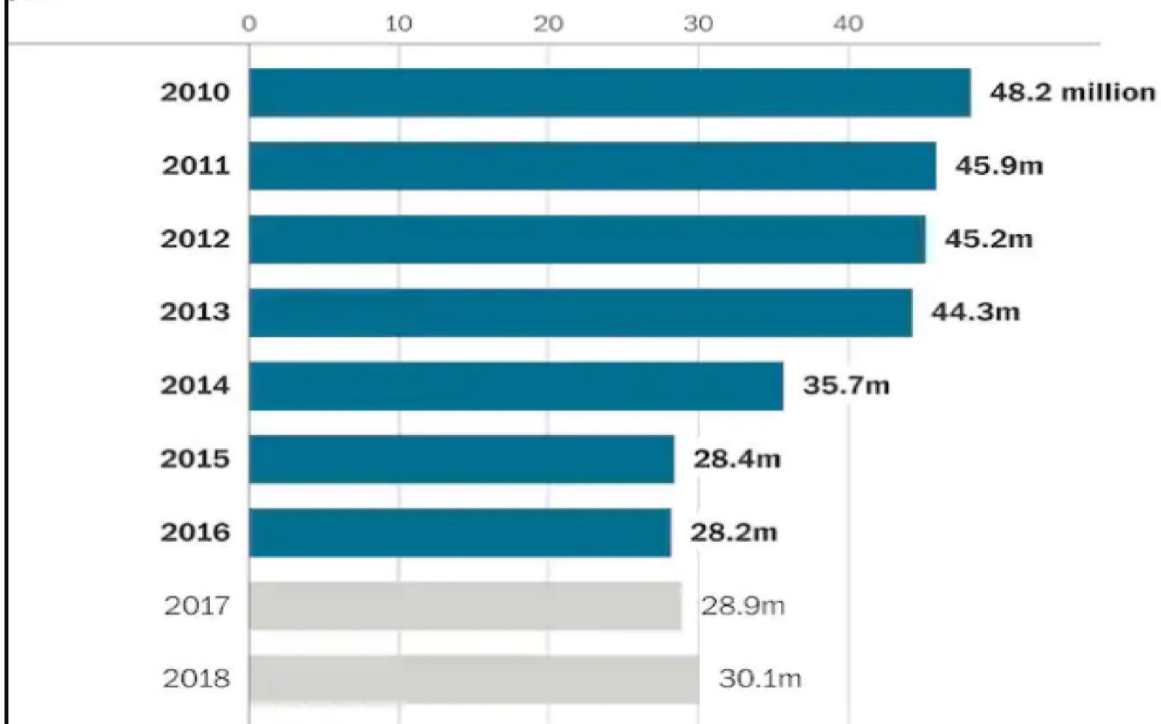
Source: OPEC, H1 2019

BBC

Attachment 7 <https://www.bbc.com/news/business-50982313>

## Americans lacking health insurance coverage

Number of people under 65 who did not have health insurance for at least part of the year.

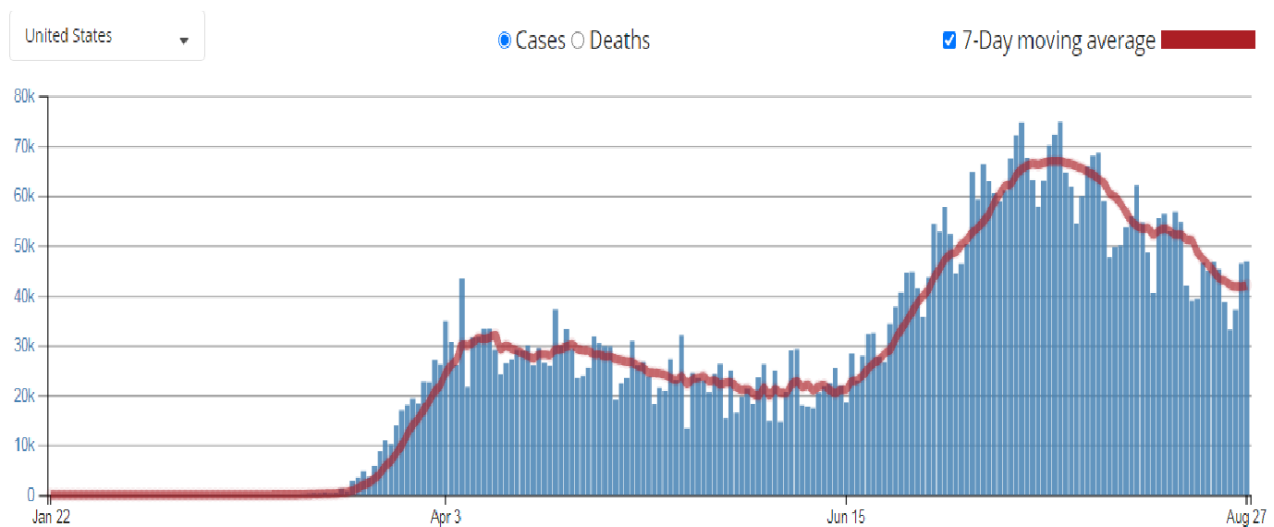


Obama era shaded

Source: CDC (National Health Interview Survey)

HEATHER LONG/THE WASHINGTON POST

Attachment 8 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2019/08/20/trump-v-obama-economy-charts/>



Attachment 9 <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#trends>



Attachment 10 <https://pl.investing.com/economic-calendar/unemployment-rate-300>



Attachment 11 <https://pl.investing.com/economic-calendar/gdp-375>

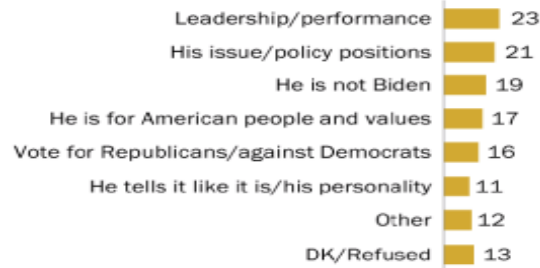
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## Top reason for voting for Biden among his supporters: He's not Trump

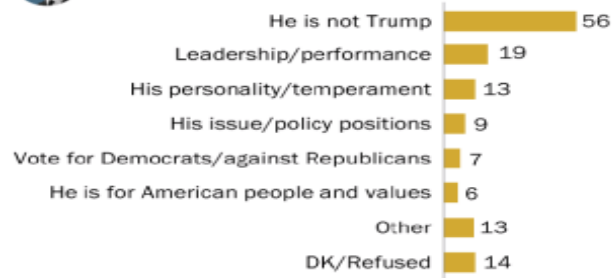
*In your own words, what is the main reason you support or lean toward \_\_\_\_\_ in the 2020 presidential election?*  
(%)



### Donald Trump (R)



### Joe Biden (D)



Notes: Based on registered voters. Open-ended questions asked only of those who support/lean toward Trump or Biden. See topline for full set of responses. Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

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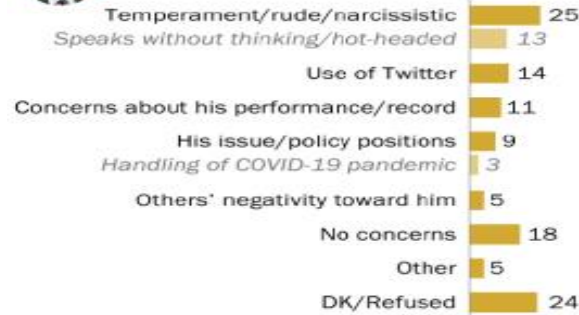
Attachment 12 <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2020/08/13/perceptions-of-trump-and-biden/>

## Trump's temperament, Biden's age and health are most common concerns among their supporters

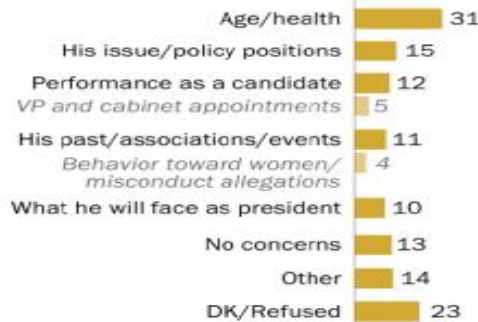
And while you support or lean toward \_\_\_\_ in the 2020 presidential election, what, if anything, concerns you about him? (%)



### Donald Trump (R)



### Joe Biden (D)



Notes: Based on registered voters. Open-ended questions asked only of those who support/lean toward Trump or Biden. See topline for full set of responses. Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

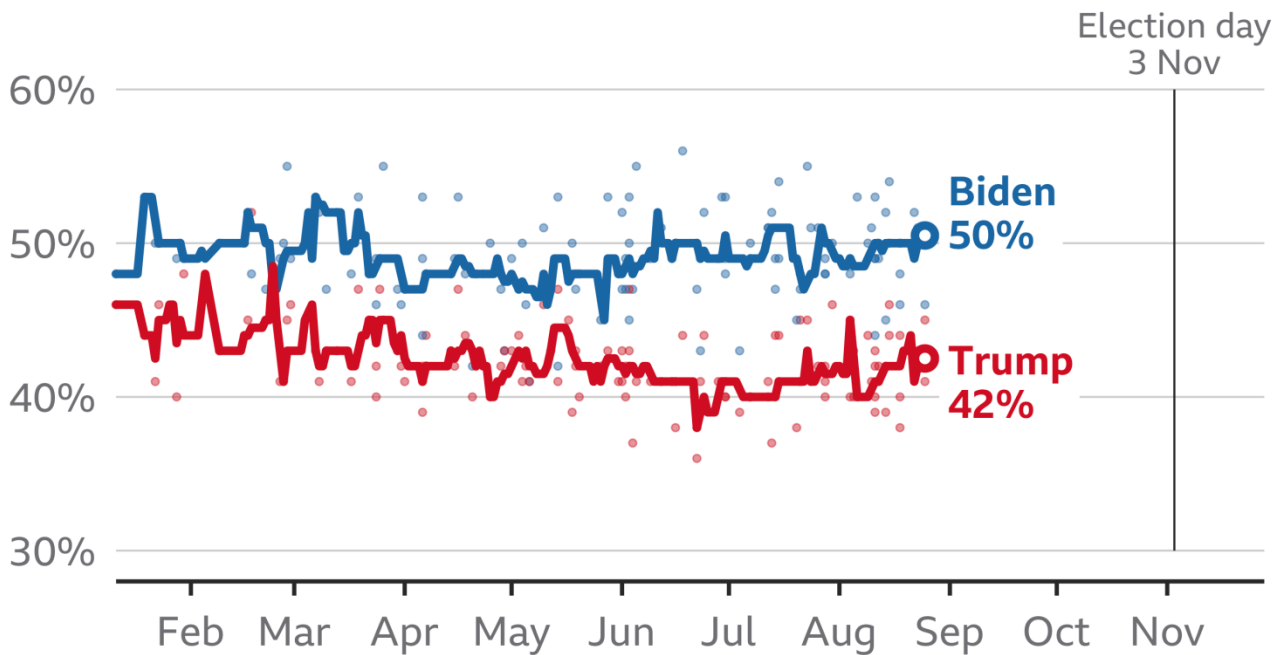
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted July 27-Aug. 2, 2020.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Attachment 13 <https://www.pewresearch.org/politics/2020/08/13/perceptions-of-trump-and-biden/>

# Biden has a stable lead in national polls

📈 Trend lines show average based on 📍 individual polls



Source: Real Clear Politics. Polls up to 25 August

BBC

Attachment 14

[https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/news/410/cpsprodpb/0F5D/production/\\_114133930\\_polltracker-nc.png](https://ichef.bbci.co.uk/news/410/cpsprodpb/0F5D/production/_114133930_polltracker-nc.png)



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