



To: Voter Protection Program
From: The Mellman Group
Re: Our Recent National Poll
Date: November 3, 2020

This analysis is based on the findings of a national survey of 1,000 registered voters using a registration-based sample. Interviews were conducted via landline, cell, and text-to-online from October 29-November 2, 2020. The margin of error for the survey as a whole is +/- 3.1% at a 95% level of confidence (higher for subgroups). This survey was conducted on behalf of the Voter Protection Program.

Our just-completed survey reveals that voters will likely reject and object to a premature claim of victory by President Trump. Americans demand that every vote be counted, and that the winner of the election be determined by the will of the people.

- Fifty-nine percent (59%) of Americans worry at least “a great deal” about one party or candidate stealing the election.
- Seventy-two percent (72%) say that counting every legal vote is more important than getting results quickly (compared to just 16% who prioritize quick results), and 77% say counting every legal vote is more important than having their preferred candidate win, with 15% saying the opposite.
- Voters are persuaded by statements defending the integrity of the vote count over declarations by candidates. For example:
 - Eighty-seven percent (87%) of voters find the following statement convincing: “We can’t let either candidate steal this election. The people need to decide it through their votes and the political system must honor the will of the majority of voters.”
 - Eighty-three percent (83%) find this statement convincing: “Neither candidate can just declare himself the winner and take office. No matter how long it takes, the votes must be counted fairly and accurately, and state officials will declare the rightful winner of the election.”
- Voters are more likely to repose trust in local election officials than in any other participants in this process. Seventy one percent (71%) trust local election officials when they speak about election issues.

Efforts to steal the election, exclude votes cast legally, or prematurely declare victory will be met with fierce resistance from the American public.

Now I'm going to list some individuals and types of people that may speak out about how the election is conducted and who is the legitimate winner. How much do you trust what that individual or type of person has to say on this issue – do you trust them a great deal, some, not too much or not at all? If you aren't sure {5} or have never heard of the person {6}, just say so and we will go on.

	TRUST	DON'T TRUST	a great deal	some	not too much	not at all	not sure	never heard
[RANDOMIZE]								
[SPLIT SAMPLE]								
T1. __Local election officials	71	17	35	36	10	7	12	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE]								
T2. __Local election officials from both parties working together.....	61	27	22	39	17	10	10	1
[RESUME ASKING EVERYONE]								
T3. __your Secretary of State (named by state) * ..	49	22	18	31	10	11	17	12
T4. __your state attorney general (named by state)..	48	26	22	26	10	16	17	9
T5. __your governor (named by state) †	59	36	34	25	10	26	4	0
T6. __Your member of Congress.....	59	29	25	34	14	15	11	2
T7. __Donald Trump	40	56	29	12	7	49	3	1
T8. __Joe Biden	53	43	34	19	9	35	3	1
T9. __U.S. Attorney General Bill Barr	43	42	20	23	11	32	10	5
T10. __The U.S. Department of Justice.....	57	35	20	37	16	19	8	1
T11. __The U.S. Supreme Court	66	27	36	30	16	11	7	0
T12. __Your state's Supreme Court	67	21	27	40	12	9	10	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE]								
T13. __Your local police	74	20	43	31	9	11	5	1
[SPLIT SAMPLE]								
T14. __Your local police chief	61	25	30	32	14	11	10	3

* Alaska, Hawaii, Utah, and Washington, D.C. do not have positions called "Secretary of State." Instead, the following were read: Alaska Director of Elections Gail Fenumiai; F.M. Scotty Anderson, Chair of the Hawaii Elections Commission; Utah Chief Election Officer Spencer Cox; Michael Bennett, Chair of the D.C. Board of Elections

† For Washington D.C., "Mayor Muriel Bowser" was read.

A. Now I'm going to list some things that people tell us they are concerned about personally when it comes to the November election. After each, please tell me whether it is one of the things that concerns you most, a great deal, some, not too much, or not at all. If you are not sure, please say so and we will go on.

	one of the most	a great deal	some	not too much	not at all	not sure
__ One candidate or party might try to steal this election..	30	29	21	10	7	2

B. Which is more important? **[ROTATE]**

__A: Making sure your preferred candidate wins the election

__B: Counting every legal vote, no matter how long it takes

[IF A/B, ASK] Do you feel that way strongly or not strongly?

TOTAL A	15
TOTAL B	77
A, strongly.....	13
A, not strongly	3
B, not strongly.....	9
B, strongly.....	68
[VOL] Don't know/not sure	8

C. Which is more important? [ROTATE]

__A: Getting a final result quickly, within a day or two of Election Day

__B: Counting every legal vote, no matter how long it takes

[IF A/B, ASK] Do you feel that way strongly or not strongly?

TOTAL A	17
TOTAL B	76
A, strongly.....	14
A, not strongly	3
B, not strongly.....	9
B, strongly.....	67
[VOL] Don't know/not sure	7

Now I'm going to list some things people have told us and ask you how convincing each is to you personally. Is it very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing, or not convincing at all?

[RANDOMIZE]

Very conv	Smwt conv	Not too conv	Not at all conv	[VOL] DK
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[SPLIT SAMPLE]

D. __We can't let either candidate steal this election. The people need to decide it through their votes and the political system must honor the will of the majority of voters.	68	19	5	3	5
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[SPLIT SAMPLE]

E. __Neither candidate can just declare himself the winner and take office. No matter how long it takes, the votes must be counted fairly and accurately, and state officials will declare the rightful winner of the election.....	57	26	6	5	6
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