



## NATIONAL WOMEN'S LAW CENTER

Justice for Her. Justice for All.

DECEMBER 2020

# 2020 ELECTION – NWLC POLL RESULTS

## Key Findings

- **Women—especially women of color—helped deliver this election for Democrats.** In the presidential race, women's support for Biden played an important role in overcoming men's support for Trump—53% of women voted for Biden, while 50% of men voted for Trump. This dynamic played out at the Congressional level as well, with 54% of women voting for Congressional Democrats, and 51% of men voting for Congressional Republicans.

- o Black women led the way in supporting Biden—92% voted for Biden over Trump. Nearly 60% of Latinas and Asian American/Pacific Islander women\* also supported Biden.

- o Women under age 35, unmarried women, and white college educated women were also instrumental in delivering victory for Biden and Democrats in Congress.

\*Note small sample size

- **The Trump Administration's handling of women's issues drove voters to take political action, including voting.** This includes 61% of voters in Senate battleground states. About three-quarters (76%) of Biden voters also said that the Trump Administration's handling of women's issues drove them to take political action, including voting.

- **Even in this highly polarized time, voters are united in their strong support for a women's policy agenda.** There is remarkable unanimity among voters across demographic and attitudinal subgroups on their clear support for action and change on key women's issues. Voters agree that the next President and Congress should focus on the following:

- o Ending sexual harassment in schools (83% agree, 71% strongly agree)

- o Ending sexual harassment at work (83% agree, 70% strongly agree)

- o Providing access to low-cost comprehensive, accessible health care to all (78% agree, 66% strongly agree)

- o Closing the gender wage gap and ensuring equal pay (77% agree, 63% strongly agree)

- o Ensuring access to high quality, affordable child care (81% agree, 62% strongly agree)

- o Protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care, including abortion (56% agree, 44% strongly agree)

1 Methodology: Lake Research Partners designed and administered this pre-election and election night omnibus survey which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers October 31 – November 3, 2020. The questions about voting and the demographics reached a total of 2,400 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2020 elections, including both cell phones and landlines. Issue questions reached a total of 1,200 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2020 elections. The survey has a margin of error overall of +/-2.0% at the 95% confidence interval and +/- 2.8% for the issue questions. The margin of error is higher among subgroups.

- **There is strong agreement – especially among Biden voters – for protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care, including abortion.**

- o Over half of voters overall agree with the next President and Congress protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care, including abortion.
- o Over four-in-five (86%) Biden voters agree with protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care, including abortion (73% strongly agree).
- o A majority (53%) of voters overall – including almost a quarter of Trump voters – say that the Supreme Court should protect a person’s ability to access abortion.

## Election Overview

- **Joe Biden soundly defeated Donald Trump in both the electoral college and the popular vote. Our election survey had the national vote 51% for Biden to 48% for Trump.**

- **Women played a decisive role in delivering the election for Biden.** Women’s support for Biden played an important role in overcoming men’s support for Trump. Women broke for Biden by 8 points—53% for Biden and 45% for Trump, compared to men who broke for Trump by 2 points— 50% percent for Trump and 48% percent for Biden.

- **Several groups of women were instrumental in Biden’s win:**

- o Women of color strongly favored Biden over Trump:
  - Black women voted for Biden 92% to 8% for Trump.
  - Latina women voted for Biden 59% to 40% for Trump.
  - Asian American/Pacific Islander women\* voted for Biden 58% to 39% for Trump.
- o Unmarried women voted for Biden 60% to 38% for Trump.
- o White college educated women voted for Biden 60% to 38% for Trump.
- o Women under 35 supported Biden 63% compared to 36% who supported Trump. Women over 35 were much more evenly split, 51% Biden to 48% Trump.
- o Independent women voted for Biden 55% to 42% for Trump.

\*Note small sample size

- **Women also helped Democrats win at the Congressional level.** The gender gap showed up in the Congressional ballot as well – men voted for the Republican candidate by 3 points (51% for the Republican to 48% for the Democrat), while women voted for the Democratic candidate by 9 points (54% for the Democrat to 45% for the Republican).

- While white men and women voted for the Republican candidate, Black men and women, Latinx men and women, and Asian American/Pacific Islander men voted for the Democratic candidate by significant margins, and Asian American/Pacific Islander women split:
  - o White alone men: 58% Republican to 41% Democratic
  - o White alone women: 51% Republican to 48% Democratic
  - o Black men: 82% Democratic to 14% Republican
  - o Black women: 90% Democratic to 8% Republican
  - o Latinx men: 56% Democratic to 41% Republican
  - o Latinx women: 59% Democratic to 38% Republican
  - o Asian American/Pacific Islander men\*: 65% Democratic to 35% Republican
  - o Asian American/Pacific Islander women\*: 50% Democratic to 49% Republican

\*Note small sample size

- Among white women voters, educational attainment remains a top predictor of the vote.
  - o White college educated women voted for Biden 60% to 38% for Trump.
  - o White non-college women voted for Trump by wide margins – 62% for Trump to 37% for Biden.
- As we have seen in recent elections, there was also a marriage gap. Marital status is also a key variable in the vote:
  - o Married men supported Trump – 57% to 42% for Biden.
  - o Married women also voted for Trump – 52% to 47% for Biden.
  - o Unmarried men voted for Biden – 59% compared to 39% for Trump.
  - o Unmarried women also voted for Biden – 60% to 38% for Trump.
    - Unmarried women under 55 were more likely than older unmarried women to vote for Biden (63% of younger unmarried women voted for Biden; 50% of older unmarried women voted for Biden).
    - The share of the electorate made up of unmarried women increased in 2020. Unmarried women were 22% of the electorate in 2016 and rose to 25% in 2020.

## Impact of Trump Administration's Handling of Women's Issues

- **The Trump Administration's handling of women's issues drove voters to political action.** A majority (55%) of voters say that the way the Trump Administration addressed women's issues has made them more likely to take political action, including but not limited to voting. Over one in four (42%) say this has made them much more likely to take political action, while nearly a third (29%) say it makes no difference to them.
  - o A solid majority (61%) of voters in Senate Battleground states<sup>2</sup> said they were more likely to take political action based on the Trump Administration's handling of women's issues.
  - o There is a dramatic difference between voters' response to the Administration's stances on women's issues depending on their Presidential vote: 76% of Biden voters say the way the Trump Administration addressed women's issues has made them more likely to take political action (62% much more likely) while a plurality (47%) of Trump voters say it actually has made no difference to them.
  - o Independents and Democrats both say the Administration's stances on women's issues have made them more likely to take political action (51% and 74%, respectively), while a plurality of Republicans say these stances made no difference to them (45%).
  - o A majority of voters across gender and age say the way the Trump Administration addressed women's issues has made them more likely to take political action, including but not limited to voting.
    - Women younger than 50: 56% more likely
    - Women ages 50 and older: 57% more likely
    - Men younger than 50: 55% more likely
    - Men ages 50 and older: 53% more likely
  - o Black voters are most likely to say the Administration's stances have made them more likely to take political action (68% more likely, 59% much more likely). By comparison, just over half (54%) of white voters were more likely and 58% of Latinx voters were more likely to take political action.
    - Among Black women voters, 58% are much more likely to take action and 43% of Latina women voters are much more likely to take action.
    - Among white women voters, a majority of both noncollege white women (55%) and college educated

white women (61%) said that the way the Trump Administration addressed women's issues has made them more likely to take political action.

- However, among noncollege white women, it is the Biden voters who were feeling motivated to take action based on the Administration's stances on women's issues. Noncollege white Biden voter women (78% more likely, 58% much more likely) were more likely than noncollege white Trump voter women (45% more likely, 27% much more likely) to say the Administration's stances on women's issues have made them more likely to take political action.

## Voters Ready for Action and Change on Key Women's Issues

- **Even in this highly polarized time, voters across demographic and attitudinal subgroups clearly come together in support of a robust agenda on women's issues for the next President and Congress.** This survey shows a mandate for action and change. A majority of voters agree that the next President and Congress should create better policies to address the following issues:
  - o *Ending sexual harassment in schools* (71% strongly agree, 83% agree) ^
    - Trump voters and Biden voters alike strongly agree (63% and 80%, respectively).
    - A majority across party identification, gender, racial and ethnic groups, and white women across educational attainment strongly agree (for this and other issues, see tables below for subgroup details).
    - Black women voters\* (79% strongly agree) demonstrate especially intense agreement.

^Split sampled question  
\*Note small sample size. The sample size of Asian American/Pacific Islander voters is too small for analysis.

  - o *Ending sexual harassment at work* (70% strongly agree, 83% agree) ^
    - Similar to ending sexual harassment at schools, both Trump voters and Biden voters strongly agree with ending sexual harassment at work (55% and 84% strongly agree, respectively).
    - Across age, gender, educational attainment, race, and party identification, a majority of voters strongly agree with ending sexual harassment at work. Both white

<sup>2</sup> Senate Battleground states are Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Texas

noncollege women (73%) and white college women (68%) strongly agree.

- The most intense agreement comes from Biden voters (84% strongly agree), Black women voters\* (82% strongly agree), and Latina women voters\* (79% strongly agree).

<sup>^</sup>Split sampled question

\*Note small sample size. The sample size of Asian American/Pacific Islander voters is too small for analysis.

o *Providing access to low-cost comprehensive, accessible health care to all* (66% strongly agree, 78% agree)

- While Biden voters agree with this at remarkably high levels (86% strongly agree, 93% total agree), a majority of Trump voters also agree with this (43% strongly agree, 68% total agree).
- Strong majorities across gender, age, educational attainment, and race agree with this.
- Both white noncollege women (68%) and white college women (67%) strongly agree.
- Black women voters (79% strongly agree) and Latina women voters (72% strongly agree) are a key part of the base of support. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of Asian American/Pacific Islander voters\* strongly agree.

\*Note small sample size.

o *Closing the gender wage gap and ensuring equal pay* (63% strongly agree, 77% agree)

- Men and women strongly agree at similar levels (61% and 65%, respectively) and older voters are more likely than younger voters to strongly agree, although a majority of voters across age strongly agree with this (71% of voters age 65+ strongly agree, 69% of voters age 50+ strongly agree, 65% of voters age 35+ strongly agree, and 58% of voters under age 35 strongly agree).
- Black women voters are most likely to strongly agree (80%), though majorities of women voters across race strongly agree (66% of white women voters strongly agree, and 57% of Latina women voters strongly agree). Over half (56%) of Asian American/Pacific Islander voters\* strongly agree.

- Unmarried women are more likely than married women to strongly agree (69% and 61%, respectively).
- While Biden voters are much more likely to strongly agree (81%) than Trump voters (45%), a majority of Trump voters do agree with this (61%).

\*Note small sample size.

o *Ensuring access to high quality, affordable child care* (62% strongly agree, 81% agree)

- Voters across party identification agree with this, including 69% of Republicans and 80% of Independents, while Democrats are in near-universal agreement (94%).
- Across race, voters strongly agree, with Black women voters the most likely to strongly agree (79%). Nearly two-thirds of white women voters (63%) and Latina women voters (63%) strongly agree. Over half (54%) of Asian American/Pacific Islander voters\* strongly agree.

\*Note small sample size.

- This is an issue that is important to voters whether or not they have children: among parents (57% strongly agree), including employed parents (59% of employed fathers and 55% of employed mothers strongly agree), and people who are not parents (64% strongly agree), this issue garners intense agreement among a solid majority of voters.
  - This pattern of strong agreement among both parents and those with no children under 18 in their home extends across age, race, and party identification. Non-parents show more intense agreement than parents among voters under 30, ages 40-49, white alone voters, Independents, and Republicans. Among voters ages 30-39, 50-64, Latinx voters, and Democrats, parents and non-parents are equally likely to strongly agree with ensuring access to high quality, affordable child care.

% strongly agree	Children under 18 in home	No children under 18
Under 30	56%	<b>63%</b>
30-39	65%	63%
40-49	50%	<b>60%</b>
50-64	60%	63%
65 or older	n/a	69%
White alone	56%	<b>63%</b>
Black	n/a	79%
Latinx	56%*	56%
Democrat	76%	79%
Independent	51%	<b>64%</b>
Republican	41%	<b>50%</b>

\*Note small sample size among Latinx parents; among voters ages 65 and older and Black voters, the sample size among parents is too small for analysis

- Among voters who say they have caregiving responsibilities of any kind, 88% agree (71% strongly) that this is an issue the next President and Congress should create better policies to address.
  - Among the 53% of voters who say that the federal pandemic response has not been enough, there is near-universal agreement (94% total, 79% strong agreement) that the next President and Congress should create better policies to address access to high quality, affordable child care.
- o *Protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care, including abortion* (44% strongly agree, 56% agree)
- Across gender, age, race, and educational attainment, voters net agree.
  - The most intense agreement comes from Democrats (76% strongly agree), Biden voters (73%), and Black women voters (66%).
  - Nearly two-thirds of Latinx (63%) and Asian American/ Pacific Islander voters\* (62%) agree.
  - White men are more evenly split (50% agree, 45% disagree).
- Biden voters agree by a 76-point margin, while Trump voters disagree by a -42- point margin.
  - Independents (53% agree, 38% strongly) and Democrats agree (76% strongly, 87% total), while Republicans disagree (68% disagree, 63% strongly).
  - Voters who believe abortion should be legal and generally available or legal in many circumstances<sup>3</sup> overwhelmingly agree (79% agree, 66% strongly). On the other hand, anti-abortion voters<sup>4</sup> disagree (66% disagree, 59% strongly), and conflicted voters<sup>5</sup> are evenly split between agreeing (45%) and disagreeing (47%).

\*Note small sample size.

3 Respondents who say abortion should be legal and generally available and subject to only limited regulation or that regulation of abortion is necessary, although it should remain legal in many circumstances

% strongly agree	Total	Gender		Party Identification			POTUS Vote	
		Men	Women	D	I	R	Trump	Biden
Ending sexual harassment in schools	71	72	70	80	65	65	63	80
Ending sexual harassment at work	70	69	71	83	72	55	55	84
Access to accessible health care	66	64	67	87	67	43	43	86
Closing gender pay gap	63	61	65	80	60	47	45	81
Access to high quality, affordable child care	62	60	64	78	59	48	45	78
Protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care	44	42	46	76	38	14	15	73

% strongly agree	Total	Education		White Women X Education		Women X Race	
		NC	C	NC	C	Black	Latina
Ending sexual harassment in schools	71	74	68	74	70	79*	72*
Ending sexual harassment at work	70	70	69	73	68	82*	79*
Access to accessible health care	66	67	64	68	67	79	72
Closing gender pay gap	63	65	61	66	67	80	57
Access to high quality, affordable child care	62	64	60	64	62	79	63
Protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care	44	40	49	39	50	66	52

\*Note small sample size

- 4 Respondents who say abortion should only be legal in the most extreme cases, such as to save the life of the person or in the cases of rape or incest, or that all abortions should be made illegal.
- 5 Respondents who say abortion should be legal in many circumstances although regulation is necessary or that abortion should only be legal in the most extreme circumstances.

- **It is notable that while white noncollege women comprise a key part of the Trump coalition, they are far more likely than Trump voters overall to strongly agree that the next President and Congress should create better policies on every women’s issue.**

% strongly agree	All Trump Voters	White Noncollege Women
Ending sexual harassment in schools	63	74
Ending sexual harassment at work	55	73
Access to accessible health care	43	68
Closing gender pay gap	45	66
Access to high quality, affordable child care	45	64
Protecting and expanding access to reproductive health care	15	39

## The Supreme Court’s Potential Actions on Abortion Access

- In a forced choice, a majority (53%) of voters say that the Supreme Court should protect a person’s ability to access abortion, with just over a third (36%) saying that the Supreme Court should allow states to place burdensome restrictions on abortion.
  - o Biden voters side with protecting access to abortion (81%), though nearly a quarter (24%) of Trump voters do as well. Attitudes toward the Supreme Court’s rulings correlate closely with Presidential vote: Biden voters overwhelmingly want to protect the ability to access abortion, while Trump voters want to allow states to restrict it.
  - o Similarly, Democrats strongly side with protecting a person’s right to access abortion (82%), as do half of Independents (52%), and nearly a quarter of Republicans (23%), though 67% of Republicans say the Supreme Court should allow states to restrict abortion.
  - o Over half of voters across gender, age, educational attainment, and race believe that the Supreme Court should protect a person’s ability to access abortion.
  - o Solid majorities of Black women and Latina women side with protecting abortion access.
  - o Similarly, voters’ attitudes toward abortion are highly correlated with their perceptions of the Supreme Court’s possible actions: Voters who believe abortion should be legal and generally available or legal in many circumstances overwhelmingly want to protect access. On the other hand, anti-abortion voters want to restrict it, and conflicted voters are evenly split.

Demographic Subgroup	Protect ability to access abortion	Allow states to restrict
Democrats	<b>82</b>	10
Independents	<b>52</b>	31
Republicans	23	<b>67</b>
Biden voters	<b>81</b>	9
Trump voters	24	<b>64</b>
White	<b>51</b>	38
Black	<b>67</b>	19
Latinx	<b>60</b>	32
AAPI*	<b>53</b>	34
Black women	<b>67</b>	16
Latina women	<b>61</b>	34
Men	<b>51</b>	39
Women	<b>54</b>	33
Noncollege	<b>51</b>	36
College	<b>55</b>	35
Pro-choice	<b>79</b>	13
Anti-abortion	22	<b>65</b>
Conflicted	<b>43</b>	<b>44</b>