



CITIZEN DATA

EARLY VOTING TRENDS *WHAT TO EXPECT AHEAD OF NOVEMBER 3*

OCTOBER 23, 2020

Summary

Over the last few months, Citizen Data has been working to [project](#) shifts in expected turnout, early vote, and mail voting as well as the factors driving voting behavior such as Covid-19, institutional trust, and polarization surrounding vote methods.

Despite early concerns about states' ability to handle the surge in vote by mail and other pandemic-related challenges, voters in eight key states report a smooth process and a record number of voters are casting ballots early both by mail and in-person. Fewer voters by percentage plan to turnout on Election Day than in any election previously, and voters largely still trust in the process and that their vote will be counted.

Tools like ballot-tracking are being used by significant numbers of voters, where available, and the USPS is both largely trusted and has processed more than 100M ballots and requests despite internal and external pressures.

Research Overview

As November 3 nears, Citizen has turned its attention to tracking voting behavior and experience. On October 17-20, Citizen surveyed 1,000 likely voters in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Texas via IVR/P2P. Results are weighted and balanced with a margin of error + / - 3.1 percentage points.

In addition, Citizen has produced a [dynamic dashboard](#) to view vote by mail rates and turnout against expectations down the county level. This tool pulls in a live feed of voter data down to the zip code level and tracks voting progress against Citizen's modeled turnout projections.

Summary Trends

VOTING EXPERIENCE

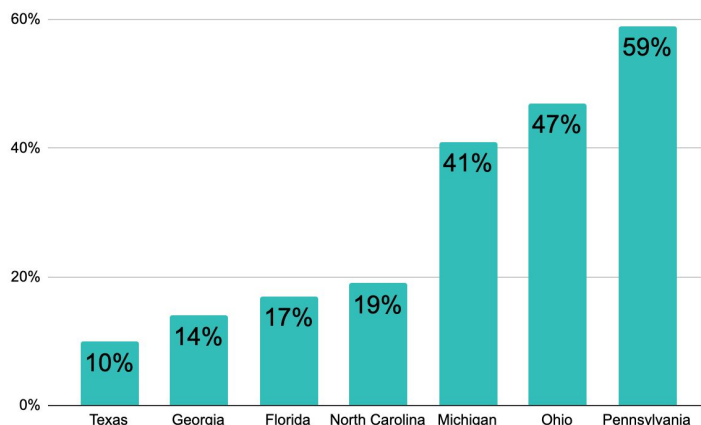
- Turnout is up across the board from 2016, and both vote by mail and in-person voting are breaking records in these states.
- Wait times of those who have voted are low generally with only a modest % of voters saying they waited more than an hour.

- Some of the shift away from vote by mail, relative to a couple of months ago, is likely related to what voters have seen or heard about it in the media.
- Confidence in the USPS remains strong, particularly among Democrats; however, voters are split on whether vote by mail is safe or prone to fraud with some voters holding both views at the same time.
- Voters want to see speed AND accuracy in vote counting.
- For the most part, voters across all parties and demographics say voting is convenient.

PRESIDENTIAL

- Biden leads Trump by small margins in each of these states, with the exception of Ohio, which is tied.
- As we've seen consistently, mail-in voters strongly favor Biden; early in-person voters less so; and Election Day voters favor Trump. Both candidates' voters are highly enthusiastic about voting.
- On questions of vote by mail reliability, the majority of Republicans believe it's prone to fraud and say that what they've seen or heard about voting by mail has made them less likely to vote that way.

STATE TRENDS



In states with the greatest early vote opportunities (North Carolina, Texas), small minorities of likely voters are planning to vote on November 3; all states are on track to meet Citizen's vote by mail and early vote projections, with the exception of Pennsylvania.

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- Urban counties are consistently those most likely to vote by mail and returning their ballots early compared to more rural counties
- Partisan gap in voting method is least pronounced in Florida

STATE VOTING PICTURE (as of October 17-20)

Florida	Voted by mail	Voted In-person	Will Vote by Mail	Will Vote In-Person Before EDay	Will Vote Election Day
Republican	27%	39%	32%	51%	62%
Democrat	53%	57%	48%	26%	18%
Non-Partisan	19%	3%	19%	22%	19%

Georgia	Voted by Mail	Voted In-person	Will Vote by Mail	Will Vote In-Person Before E-Day	Will Vote Election Day
Republican	21%	31%	27%	40%	47%
Democrat	51%	40%	48%	29%	14%
Non-Partisan	21%	25%	21%	25%	32%

Michigan	Voted by Mail	Voted In-person	Will Vote by Mail	Will Vote In-Person Before E-Day	Will Vote Election Day
Republican	30%	15%	25%	33%	48%
Democrat	50%	59%	49%	35%	21%
Non-Partisan	19%	26%	17%	28%	20%

North Carolina	Voted by Mail	Voted In-person	Will Vote by Mail	Will Vote In-Person Before E-Day	Will Vote Election Day
Republican	15%	28%	32%	35%	66%
Democrat	53%	46%	49%	39%	10%
Non-Partisan	26%	26%	18%	24%	23%

Ohio	Voted by Mail	Voted In-person	Will Vote by Mail	Will Vote In-Person Before E-Day	Will Vote Election Day
Republican	11%	33%	23%	34%	50%

Democrat	57%	35%	53%	23%	19%
Non-Partisan	27%	30%	19%	36%	24%

Pennsylvania	Voted by Mail	Voted In-person	Will Vote by Mail	Will Vote In-Person Before E-Day	Will Vote Election Day
Republican	15%	25%	26%	23%	47%
Democrat	61%	39%	59%	55%	22%
Non-Partisan	23%	36%	14%	20%	29%

Texas	Voted by Mail	Voted In-person	Will Vote by Mail	Will Vote In-Person Before E-Day	Will Vote Election Day
Republican	18%	33%	22%	37%	52%
Democrat	54%	36%	51%	35%	18%
Non-Partisan	24%	29%	25%	27%	27%

Conclusion

While some questions remain, much is clear about the 2020 election. We're headed for record overall turnout with a majority of voters likely to vote before Election Day. The voting experience thus far has been largely accessible to voters and most voters in the states we're tracking report trust in our institutions and the counting process. With just over a week to go, we'll continue to track turnout trends and voting behavior in order to support the community of non-profit organizations, local government, and the media working to ensure a safe, free, and fair election.