

**MONMOUTH UNIVERSITY**  
**POLLING INSTITUTE**  
**MUP#240 – National (n=800 GP)**  
**Jan. 21-24, 2021**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_ (**first and last name**). I'm calling from the Monmouth University Polling Institute and I'm taking a public opinion survey of American adults for the university on the coronavirus outbreak and other issues.

CELL: I'd like your views on some topics currently in the news across the country. To start with, are you 18 years of age or older, or are you under 18?

LANDLINE: I'd like to ask a few questions of the **YOUNGEST MALE** age 18 or older, who is now at home. (**IF NO MALE AT HOME NOW:** Then, may I speak with the **YOUNGEST FEMALE** age 18 or older who is now at home?) **WHEN RESPONDENT ON PHONE:** I'd like your views on some topics currently in the news across the country.

--Your participation is very important because only 800 people have been randomly selected for this survey and your views will represent many people throughout the nation. We are not selling anything, not asking for money, and all your answers will be completely confidential

-- There are no right or wrong answers. We are only interested in your opinions. They are just as important as anybody else's.

-- Please help me; we could really use your cooperation and we are interested in what you think.

**BIDEN/DC**

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Joe Biden is doing as president?
  1. Approve
  2. Disapprove
  9. (VOL) Neither/Don't know/Refused
2. Do you approve or disapprove of the job the U.S. Congress is doing?
  1. Approve
  2. Disapprove
  9. (VOL) Neither/Don't know/Refused
3. Would you say things in the country are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?
  1. Right direction
  2. Wrong track
  3. (VOL) Depends
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused

4. Thinking about the next few years, do you feel optimistic or pessimistic about the policies President Biden will pursue? [**PROBE:** Is that very or somewhat optimistic/pessimistic?]
1. Very optimistic
  2. Somewhat optimistic
  3. Somewhat pessimistic
  4. Very pessimistic
  9. (VOL) Don't Know/Refused
5. Putting aside any policy differences you may have, how confident are you that Joe Biden will be able to get Washington to be more cooperative – very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?
1. Very confident
  2. Somewhat confident
  3. Not too confident
  4. Not at all confident
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
6. Do you think it is more important for Republicans in Congress to find ways to work together with Biden or more important for them to keep Biden in check?
1. Find ways to work together with Biden
  2. Keep Biden in check
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
7. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald Trump did as president?
1. Approve
  2. Disapprove
  9. (VOL) Neither/Don't know/Refused
8. How much did middle class families benefit from former President Trump's policies – a lot, a little, or not at all?
1. Lot
  2. Little
  3. Not at all
  9. (VOL) Don't Know/Refused
9. And how much do you think middle class families will benefit from President Biden's policies – a lot, a little, or not at all?
1. Lot
  2. Little
  3. Not at all
  9. (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

10. How likely is it that President Biden will propose policies to help the middle class – very, somewhat, not too, or not at all likely?
1. Very likely
  2. Somewhat likely
  3. Not too likely
  4. Not at all likely
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
11. How likely is it that Congress will enact policies to help the middle class – very, somewhat, not too, or not at all likely?
1. Very likely
  2. Somewhat likely
  3. Not too likely
  4. Not at all likely
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
12. I am going to read you a number of different issues and want you to tell me how important it is for the federal government to address these issues. For each one, please tell me if you feel it is extremely important, very important, just somewhat important, or not important? First **[READ ITEM] [Repeat response set as needed] [ROTATE ITEMS]**
- A. The coronavirus pandemic
  - B. Climate change
  - C. Racial inequality
  - D. Health care
  - E. Law and order
  - F. Taxes
  - G. Jobs and unemployment
  - H. Immigration
  - I. Education and schools
  - J. Lack of unity in the country
  - K. Lack of patriotism in the country
  - L. Domestic terrorism and hate groups
  - M. Left wing radicals and socialists
  - N. Election laws and voting access
  - O. Transportation and energy infrastructure
1. Extremely important
  2. Very important
  3. Just somewhat important
  4. Not important
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused

## AMERICAN SYSTEM

Now thinking about government more generally...

13. What causes more problems in the federal government – **[ROTATE 1 and 2]** elected officials who are not willing to stand up for their principles OR elected officials who are not willing to compromise?
  1. Elected officials who are not willing to stand up for their principles
  2. Elected officials who are not willing to compromise
  3. (VOL) Depends
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
14. Which statement comes closer to your view: **[ROTATE]** Americans are united and in agreement about the most important values OR Americans are greatly divided when it comes to the most important values?
  1. Americans are united and in agreement about the most important values
  2. Americans are greatly divided when it comes to the most important values
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
15. Looking ahead to the next year, do you think the country will grow more united, more divided, or will not much change?
  1. More united
  2. More divided
  3. Not much change
  9. (VOL) Depends/Don't know/Refused
- 15A. How confident are you that Joe Biden will be able to unify the country – very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?
  1. Very confident
  2. Somewhat confident
  3. Not too confident
  4. Not at all confident
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
16. I'm going to read four statements about our American system of government. Listen carefully and then tell me which one is closest to how you feel: **[READ 1-4]**?
  1. Our system of government is basically sound and essentially needs no changes,
  2. Our system is basically sound, but needs some improvement,
  3. Our system is not too sound and needs many improvements, or
  4. Our system is not sound at all and needs significant changes
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
17. More generally, how much trust and confidence do you have in the American people as a whole when it comes to making judgments under our democratic system about the issues facing our country – a great deal, a fair amount, not very much, or none at all?
  1. A great deal
  2. A fair amount
  3. Not very much
  4. None at all
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused

18. Thinking about people who hold core political principles that are different from yours, how much does it concern you that our country would suffer lasting damage if their policies were put into place – would you say a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?
1. Great deal
  2. Some
  3. Not much
  4. Not at all
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
19. How much do you feel the American way of life is under threat right now – a great deal, some, not much, or not at all?
1. Great deal
  2. Some
  3. Not much
  4. Not at all
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused

## IMPEACHMENT

20. Overall, how confident are you that the 2020 election was conducted fairly and accurately – very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?
1. Very confident
  2. Somewhat confident
  3. Not too confident
  4. Not at all confident
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
21. Do you believe Joe Biden won this election fair and square, or do you believe that he only won it due to voter fraud?
1. Fair and square
  2. Due to voter fraud >>> **ASK Q21A**
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
- 21A. Now that Biden is in office do you feel it is time to move on or will you never accept Biden as president?
1. Time to move on
  2. Will never accept Biden as president
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
22. Do you approve or disapprove of the House of Representatives decision earlier this month to impeach former President Trump for incitement of insurrection?
1. Approve
  2. Disapprove
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused

23. Which of the following comes closest to how you feel about the impeachment charge: A. Trump did nothing wrong; B. Some of Trump's conduct was improper, but it did not rise to the level of impeachment; or C. Trump's conduct was definitely grounds for impeachment?
1. A. Trump did nothing wrong
  2. B. Some of Trump's conduct was improper, but it did not rise to the level of impeachment
  3. C. Trump's conduct was definitely grounds for impeachment
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
24. Do you want the U.S. Senate to convict or not convict Donald Trump on this impeachment charge?
1. Convict
  2. Not convict
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
25. Would you favor or oppose the U.S. Senate barring Donald Trump from holding any federal office in the future?
1. Favor
  2. Oppose
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused

## COVID

Now, a few questions on the coronavirus outbreak.

26. Thinking about you personally, has the coronavirus outbreak had a major impact, minor impact, or no real impact on your own daily life?
1. Major impact
  2. Minor impact
  3. No impact
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
27. How concerned are you about someone in your family becoming seriously ill from the coronavirus outbreak – very concerned, somewhat concerned, not too concerned, or not at all concerned?
1. Very concerned
  2. Somewhat concerned
  3. Not too concerned
  4. Not at all concerned
  5. (VOL) Has already happened
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
28. Please tell me if each of the following has done a good job or bad job dealing with the coronavirus outbreak. **[READ AND RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**
- A. President Biden
  - B. Your state's governor
  - C. The American public
  - D. Health agencies in the federal government
  - E. Former President Trump

1. Good job
  2. Bad job
  3. (VOL) Mixed, depends
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
29. How confident are you that Joe Biden can put the country on the road to recovery from the pandemic – very confident, somewhat confident, not too confident, or not at all confident?
1. Very confident
  2. Somewhat confident
  3. Not too confident
  4. Not at all confident
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
30. When do you think the country will get the outbreak under control and be able to return to normal – in the next month or two, by the summer, before the end of the year, later than that, or never?
1. In the next month or two
  2. By the summer
  3. Before the end of the year
  4. Later than that
  5. Never
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
31. Thinking about the Covid vaccine, do you plan to get the vaccine as soon as you are allowed, will you let other people get it first to see how it goes, or is it likely you will never get the vaccine if you can avoid it?
1. As soon as allowed
  2. See how it goes
  3. Likely will never get vaccine
  4. (VOL) Already got it
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused

## RELATIONSHIPS

I have a few quick questions about relationships before we end.

32. Which of the following best describes you: married, living with a partner, never been married, widowed, divorced, or separated?
1. Married >> GO TO Q33
  2. Living with a partner >> GO TO Q33
  3. Never been married >>> **ASK Q32A**
  4. Widowed >>> **ASK Q32A**
  5. Divorced or separated >>> **ASK Q32A**
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused >>> **ASK Q32A**

**[IF Q32=3-9 ASK Q32A:]**

- 32A. Are you currently in a romantic relationship with someone?
1. Yes >> GO TO Q33
  2. No >> **SKIP TO D1**
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused >> **SKIP TO D1**

33. How satisfied are you with your current relationship – extremely, very, somewhat, not too, or not at all satisfied?
1. Extremely satisfied
  2. Very satisfied
  3. Somewhat satisfied
  4. Not too satisfied
  5. Not at all satisfied
  9. (VOL) Don't Know/Refused
34. And how important is your partner to your overall happiness – extremely, very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important?
1. Extremely important
  2. Very important
  3. Somewhat important
  4. Not too important
  5. Not at all important
  9. (VOL) Don't Know/Refused
35. Do you consider your partner to be your best friend or do you call somebody else your best friend?
1. Partner
  2. Somebody else
  3. (VOL) Both my partner and somebody else
  4. (VOL) Call no one my best friend
  9. (VOL) Don't Know/Refused
36. Would you say your romantic relationship has gotten better or worse since the coronavirus outbreak started last year, or is it about the same? [**PROBE:** Is that a lot or a little (better/worse)?]
1. A lot better
  2. A little better
  3. About the same
  4. A little worse
  5. A lot worse
  6. (VOL) Relationship started after outbreak
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
37. Do you and your partner get into arguments more often, less often, or about the same as you did before the outbreak? [**PROBE:** Is that a lot or a little (more/less) often?]
1. A lot more often
  2. A little more often
  3. About the same
  4. A little less often
  5. A lot less often
  6. (VOL) Relationship started after outbreak
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused



38. Looking ahead to Valentine's Day next month, will you and your partner do anything special to mark the day? [IF "YES" ASK: Will you go out to dinner or some other event or will you stay in to celebrate the day?]

1. Yes, go out
2. Yes, stay in
3. No, nothing special
9. (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

**[ROTATE Q39-40]**

39. If you had to choose just one Valentine's Day gift and the outbreak wasn't a factor, which of the following would make you the happiest – **[ROTATE OPTIONS 1-5]** – an expensive gift like jewelry or electronics, a simple gift like flowers or candy, having a night out such as dinner or a show, planning a new and interesting activity together such as taking a class, or spending some time together at home doing a favorite activity?

1. an expensive gift like jewelry or electronics
2. a simple gift like flowers or candy
3. having a night out such as dinner or a show
4. planning a new and interesting activity together such as taking a class
5. spending some time together at home doing a favorite activity
6. (VOL) Something else
7. (VOL) Nothing at all
9. (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

40. If you had to choose just one way to celebrate Valentine's Day and the outbreak wasn't a factor, which of the following would make you the happiest – doing something new, challenging, and interesting together, or doing something together that is familiar, well-known, and routine?

1. New, challenging, and interesting activity
2. Familiar, well-known, and routine activity
3. (VOL) Something else
4. (VOL) Nothing at all
9. (VOL) Don't Know/Refused

**DEMOS**

Now a few classification questions for statistical purposes only.

- D1. Are you currently registered to vote at the address where you now live, or haven't you had a chance to register?

1. Yes, at this address
2. Not registered at current address for any reason
9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused

- D2. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, independent, or something else?

1. Republican >> **ASK D2B**
2. Democrat >> **ASK D2B**
3. Independent >>> **ASK D2A**
4. Something else >>> **ASK D2A**
9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused >>> **ASK D2A**

- D2A. Do you lean more toward the Republican Party or more toward the Democratic Party?
1. Republican
  2. Democrat
  3. Neither
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
- D2B. Do you consider yourself a strong [Republican/Democrat] or not so strong?
1. Strong
  2. Not so strong
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
- D3. In general, would you describe your political views as liberal, moderate, or conservative? **[IF LIB/CON ASK: Is that very or somewhat (liberal/conservative?)]**
1. Very liberal
  2. Somewhat liberal
  3. Moderate
  4. Somewhat conservative
  5. Very conservative
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
- D4. What was the last grade in school you completed?
1. 8<sup>th</sup> grade or less
  2. High School incomplete (Grades 9, 10 and 11)
  3. High School Complete (Grade 12)
  4. Vocational/Technical School
  5. Some College
  6. Junior College Graduate (2 year, Associate Degree)
  7. 4 year College Graduate (Bachelor's Degree)
  8. Graduate School (Masters, Law/Medical School, etc.)
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
- D5. What was your age on your last birthday?  
 \_\_\_\_\_ [ENTER NUMBER. 98 = 98 or more; 99 = Don't Know/Refused]
- D5A. **[IF DK/REFUSED IN D5, ASK:]** Is it from ... [READ LIST]?
1. 18 to 34,
  2. 35 to 54, or
  3. 55 or over?
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
- D6. Do you have any children under the age of 18?
1. Yes
  2. No
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
- D7. Are you of Latino or Hispanic origin?
1. Yes
  2. No
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused

- D8. Are you white, Black or of Asian origin?
1. White
  2. Black
  3. Asian
  4. (VOL) Hispanic, but won't specify race
  5. (VOL) Other, specify: \_\_\_\_\_
  9. (VOL) Don't know/Refused
- D9. So that we can group all answers, is your total annual family income before taxes: Under \$25,000; from \$25,000 to just under \$50,000; from \$50,000 to just under \$100,000; or \$100,000 or more? Your best estimate is fine. **[IF REFUSE, PROBE ONCE: "We understand and respect that this information is private, we ask only for research purposes, and all your answers are recorded confidentially."]**
1. Under \$25,000
  2. \$25,000 to just under \$50,000
  3. \$50,000 to just under \$100,000
  4. \$100,000 or more
  8. (VOL) Don't know
  9. (VOL) Refused
- D10. **RECORD RESPONDENT GENDER** from observation:
1. Male
  2. Female
- D11. Record STATE of residence from landline area code. If CELL PHONE interview, verbally CONFIRM state of residence: "Which state do you live in?" / \_\_\_\_\_/

*Thank you very much for your help.*