Spring 2020 - Vanderbilt University Poll

May 5-22, 2020

John G. Geer & Joshua D. Clinton, Co-Directors

1,000 registered voters in Tennessee

MoE: +/- 3.8 percentage points
Approval of State Leaders by Party ID

% Responding approve

Gov. Lee
- Total: 64%
- Republicans: 82%
- Democrats: 43%
- Independents: 65%

Sen. Alexander
- Total: 50%
- Republicans: 57%
- Democrats: 43%
- Independents: 49%

Sen. Blackburn
- Total: 47%
- Republicans: 75%
- Democrats: 16%
- Independents: 42%

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Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Approval of President Trump Over Time by Party ID
% Responding approve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2017</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>86%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2018</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>93%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2020</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>41%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Approval of President Trump by Community Type over Time

% Responding approve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2018</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>54%</td>
<td>65%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2019</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall 2019</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring 2020</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Vanderbilt University
Approval of Dr. Anthony Fauci by Party ID

% Responding approve

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party ID</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republicans</th>
<th>Democrats</th>
<th>Independents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republicans</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrats</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Vanderbilt University
Top 3 Priorities of TN State Government Over Time

Which of the following do you think should be the top priority of the Tennessee state government?
Top Priorities For Tennessee State Government by Party ID

- **Education**
  - Total: 21%
  - Republican: 12%
  - Democrat: 17%
  - Independent: 22%

- **Economy**
  - Total: 34%
  - Republican: 31%
  - Democrat: 15%
  - Independent: 26%

- **Health Care**
  - Total: 45%
  - Republican: 28%
  - Democrat: 13%
  - Independent: 11%

- **Infrastructure**
  - Total: 0%
  - Republican: 10%
  - Democrat: 13%
  - Independent: 11%

- **Immigration**
  - Total: 0%
  - Republican: 4%
  - Democrat: 2%
  - Independent: 1%

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Perceptions of the Economy
(% Responding “Good” or “Fairly Good”)

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TN economy
U.S. economy

May 2012 44%
May 2013 23%
May 2014 31%
May 2015 48%
May 2016 49%
May 2017 69%
May 2018 73%
May 2019 80%
May 2020 83%

May 2012 52%
May 2013 60%
May 2014 67%
May 2015 67%
May 2016 67%
May 2017 73%
May 2018 77%
May 2019 82%
May 2020 51%
Opinions on Coronavirus Pandemic Response

How satisfied are you with how ..... responded to the coronavirus pandemic?

% responding somewhat or very satisfied

53% 65% 75% 66%

President Donald Trump  Governor Bill Lee  Your city and town leaders  The people in your local community

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Opinions on Trump response to Coronavirus Pandemic by Party ID

% responding somewhat or very satisfied

- Total: 53%
- Republican: 93%
- Democrat: 9%
- Independent: 44%
Opinions on Lee response to Coronavirus Pandemic by Party ID

% responding somewhat or very satisfied

- **Total:** 65%
- **Republican:** 83%
- **Democrat:** 42%
- **Independent:** 67%

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Views Concerning State Priorities Due to Coronavirus Pandemic by Party ID

Addressing the impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on the economy, including jobs

- Total: 50%
- Republican: 73%
- Democrat: 27%
- Independent: 43%

Addressing the impact the coronavirus pandemic has had on the health and well being of Tennesseans

- Total: 48%
- Republican: 24%
- Democrat: 71%
- Independent: 53%
Worries about Contracting Coronavirus by Party ID

How worried, if at all, are you that you or someone in your family will contract the coronavirus?

% responding very or somewhat worried

- Total: 60%
- Republican: 37%
- Democrat: 82%
- Independent: 67%
Worries about Contracting Coronavirus by Community Type

How worried, if at all, are you that you or someone in your family will contract the coronavirus?

% responding very or somewhat worried

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Worries about Re-emergence of Coronavirus after Social Distancing Guidelines are Lifted by Party ID

How worried, if at all, are you that there will be a reemergence of the coronavirus in the United States in the coming months after the social distancing guidelines are lifted for most of the country?

% responding very or somewhat worried

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>72%</td>
<td></td>
<td>72%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Views on the Severity of Coronavirus Pandemic as a Public Health Problem by Community Type

How much of a public health problem, if at all, is the coronavirus pandemic in your local community?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely large problem</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large problem</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small problem</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a problem</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Vanderbilt University
Views on the Severity of Coronavirus Pandemic as an Economic Problem by Community Type

How much of an economic problem, if at all, is the coronavirus pandemic in your local community?

- Extremely large problem
- Large problem
- Small problem
- Not a problem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Urban</th>
<th>Suburban</th>
<th>Rural</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely large problem</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large problem</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small problem</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not a problem</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Views on Lifting “Safer-At-Home” by Party ID

As you may know, Governor Bill Lee decided to let Tennessee’s Safer-at-Home order expire at the end of April. Thinking about the current status of the coronavirus pandemic in Tennessee, do you think Governor Lee....?

- Made the right decision at the time to let the order expire and begin re-opening the state
- Made the wrong decision at the time and the order should have been extended
- Don't know

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Republican</th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Made the right decision</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Made the wrong decision</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Views on Restaurants and Bars Re-opening by Party ID

Do you think bars and restaurants in your local community should be allowed to open for in-person dining now, or not?

- **Yes**: 44% (Total), 67% (Republican), 43% (Democrat), 15% (Independent)
- **No**: 55% (Total), 32% (Republican), 84% (Democrat), 57% (Independent)
Opinions on In-person Dining at Restaurants

Do you think that bars and restaurants in your local community should be allowed to open for in-person dining, now or not?

- Yes: 44%
- No: 55%

Would you dine in-person at a bar or restaurant in local community now, or not?
(Based on those who think local restaurants and bars should be allowed to open)

- Yes: 71%
- No: 20%
- Have already done this: 9%

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Views on In-person Church Services by Party ID

Do you think that churches in your local community should be allowed to hold in-person services now, or not?

- Yes: 74% (Total), 47% (Republican), 44% (Democrat), 52% (Independent)
- No: 85% (Total), 26% (Republican), 55% (Independent)

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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Opinions on In-person Church Services

Do you think churches in your local community should be allowed to hold in-person services now, or not?

- Yes: 47%
- No: 52%

Would you attend a church service in-person in local community now, or not?
(Based on those who think local churches should be allowed to open)

- Yes: 79%
- No: 15%
- Have already done this: 5%
Views on Re-opening Small Retail Stores by Party ID

Do you think that small retail stores in your local community should be allowed to open for in-person shopping now, or not?

- **Yes**: 67% (Total), 63% (Democrat), 43% (Republican), 32% (Independent)
- **No**: 57% (Total), 14% (Republican), 36% (Independent)

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Opinions on Re-Opening Small Retail Stores

Do you think small retail stores in your local community should be allowed to open for in-person shopping now, or not?

Yes: 67%
No: 32%

Would you shop in-person at a small retail store in your local community now, or not? (Based on those who think small retail stores should be allowed to open)

Yes: 85%
No: 11%
Have already done this: 3%
Views on Re-opening Big Retail Chains by Party ID

Do you think that big retail chains in your local community should be allowed to open for in-person shopping now, or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CSDI Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Opinions on Re-Opening Big Retail Chains

Do you think big retail chains in your local community should be allowed to open for in-person shopping now, or not?

- Yes: 65%
- No: 34%

Would you shop in-person at big retail chains in your local community now, or not? (Based on those who think big retail chains should be allowed to open)

- Yes: 75%
- No: 17%
- Have already done this: 9%
Views on Large Group Events by Party ID

Do you think sports and concerts should start holding events again where large groups of people can attend in-person, or not?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Yes</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>77%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Opinions on Resuming Large Events

Do you think sports and concerts should start holding events again where large groups of people can attend in-person, or not?

- Yes: 75%
- No: 24%

Would you attend a large sporting or concert event in-person now, or not? (Based on those who think large sporting events or concerts should be allowed to hold events)

- Yes: 76%
- No: 23%
- Have already done this: 1%
Views on Airplane Travel by Party ID

Thinking about the current status of the coronavirus pandemic, would you feel safe flying on an airplane now with other people, or not?

- Yes: 24% Total, 21% Republican, 6% Democrat, 6% Independent
- No: 75% Total, 61% Republican, 93% Democrat, 79% Independent

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Views on Different Voting and Election Proposals

Now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Please tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose.....

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal</th>
<th>Strongly or somewhat support</th>
<th>Somewhat or strongly oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Allowing voters to vote-by-mail</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increasing the time for in-person voting</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaying the November general election</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>72%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Views on Allowing Voters to Vote-by-Mail by Party ID

Now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Please tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose allowing voters to vote by mail.
Views on Increasing the Time for In-person Early Voting by Party ID

Now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Please tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose increasing the time for in-person early voting?

Total: 52% Strongly support, 33% Somewhat support, 8% Somewhat oppose, 7% Strongly oppose
Republican: 49% Strongly support, 37% Somewhat support, 8% Somewhat oppose, 5% Strongly oppose
Democrat: 52% Strongly support, 33% Somewhat support, 8% Somewhat oppose, 6% Strongly oppose
Independent: 57% Strongly support, 27% Somewhat support, 8% Somewhat oppose, 6% Strongly oppose
Views on Delaying the November General Election by Party ID

Now I am going to ask you about some proposals and reforms around voting and elections that have been offered to deal with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Please tell me whether you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose delaying the November general election until the spread of the coronavirus is under control?
Financial Concerns

Based on your total family income, how concerned are you right now about each of the following financial matters?

- 44% Not having enough money to pay for emergencies, like medical or car repairs in the event of a serious accident?
- 56% Not having enough money to pay your normal monthly bills, like housing, food and transportation
- 69% Not having enough in savings for things like retirement or your or your child's education

- Very or moderately worried
- Not too worried or not worried at all

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Vanderbilt University
Financial Concerns by Income
Based on your total family income, how concerned are you right now about each of the following financial matters?

% Reporting Very or moderately worried

Not having enough money to pay for emergencies, like medical or car repairs in the event of a serious accident?
- $45,000 and under: 62%
- $45,000 and more: 35%

Not having enough money to pay your normal monthly bills, like housing, food and transportation
- $45,000 and under: 47%
- $45,000 and more: 23%

Not having enough in savings for things like retirement or your or your child's education
- $45,000 and under: 57%
- $45,000 and more: 40%
In the past 3 months, have you put off or postponed getting health care you needed because of the cost, or not?

- Yes: 13%
- No: 87%

In the past 3 months, have you put off or postponed getting health care you needed because of fears of becoming sick with the coronavirus, or not?

- Yes: 28%
- No: 72%
Financial Troubles Due to Coronavirus by Income

% responding “Yes”

- Have you had to take out a loan or take on more credit card debt to help make ends meet because of the coronavirus?  
  - $45,000 and under: 16%  
  - $45,000 and over: 6%

- In the past 3 months, have you had trouble paying your mortgage or rent because of the coronavirus?  
  - $45,000 and under: 21%  
  - $45,000 and over: 4%

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Unemployment Benefits during the Coronavirus

As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, have you had to apply for unemployment benefits, or not?

88% Yes, 12% No

How easy or difficult was the process of applying for unemployment benefits? (Based on those who had to apply for unemployment benefits because of the coronavirus pandemic)

- Very easy: 15%
- Somewhat easy: 20%
- Somewhat difficult: 31%
- Very difficult: 33%
Plans Cancelled or Postponed due to Coronavirus
As a result of the coronavirus pandemic, have you had to cancel or postpone any of the following?

- Vacation: 45% Yes, 55% No
- Buying appliances for your home: 11% Yes, 89% No
- Buying or leasing a new car: 6% Yes, 94% No
- Doing renovations in your home: 20% Yes, 80% No
Biden v. Trump by Party ID

Thinking about the general election in November 2020, if that election were held today, and the candidates were Joe Biden, the democrat and Donald Trump, the republican, for whom would you vote?

- 94% for Joe Biden
- 94% for Donald Trump

- 42% for Total Joe Biden
- 46% for Democrat Joe Biden
- 3% for Republican Joe Biden
- 51% for Total Donald Trump
- 4% for Independent Donald Trump
- 41% for Total Independent

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Thinking about the general election in November 2020, if that election were held today, and the candidates were Joe Biden, the democrat and Donald Trump, the republican, for whom would you vote?

- Biden: 42% Total, 37% Urban, 33% Suburban, 51% Rural
- Trump: 51% Total, 39% Urban, 57% Suburban, 62% Rural

Source: Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI)
Thinking about the general election in November 2020, if that election were held today, and the candidates were Joe Biden, the democrat and Donald Trump, the republican, for whom would you vote?

- 42% for Joe Biden
- 51% for Donald Trump

**Gender Breakdown**

- **Male**
  - Joe Biden: 35%
  - Donald Trump: 57%

- **Female**
  - Joe Biden: 47%
  - Donald Trump: 45%
Biden v. Trump by Race

Thinking about the general election in November 2020, if that election were held today, and the candidates were Joe Biden, the democrat and Donald Trump, the republican, for whom would you vote?

- 42% for Joe Biden
- 33% for Donald Trump

By Race:
- White: 51% for Joe Biden, 61% for Donald Trump
- Non-white: 77% for Joe Biden, 13% for Donald Trump

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
Thinking about the general election in November 2020, if that election were held today, and the candidates were Joe Biden, the democrat and Donald Trump, the republican, for whom would you vote?

- Joe Biden: 42% for, 37% against
- Donald Trump: 51% for, 50% against
Thinking about the general election in November 2020, if that election were held today, and the candidates were Joe Biden, the democrat and Donald Trump, the republican, for whom would you vote?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income</th>
<th>Joe Biden</th>
<th>Donald Trump</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$45,000 and under</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$45,000 or more</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>