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To: Leadership and Staff, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)

From: Staff, Fellows and Board members, RespectAbility

Re: Public Comments, on *NIST-2021-0003-0001 Promoting Access to Voting*

Dear Director Chambers and NIST Staff,

Thank you so much for the opportunity to offer our public comments on *NIST-2021-0003-0001 Promoting Access to Voting*. When talking about voting rights, it is easy to slip into high minded rhetoric instead of focusing on the critical infrastructure necessary to ensure that more Americans can be engaged, active citizens, invested in making their voices heard. For millions of American voters with disabilities, too often their voices are ignored, and they face distinct barriers to casting their ballots in local, state, and national elections. Likewise, given the great diversity and intersectionality of the disability community, issues impacting voters of color from marginalized communities directly harm many voters with disabilities and demand swift action from decision makers to protect their rights.

Before turning to answer the specific queries and questions offered in this Request for Information (RFI), it is critical to recognize the size, scope, and potential impact of voters with disabilities. The best available estimate of the number of eligible voters with disabilities was completed by hard working disability researchers at Rutgers University. The Rutgers University's Program for Disability Research estimates that there are approximately [38 million eligible voters with disabilities](#). That is a major voting bloc and one that has the power to impact and swing elections for years to come. It is worth noting that the 2020 election proved that motivated voters with disabilities and voters from other marginalized communities could provide the decisive difference in closely contested elections. Electoral outcomes in [Arizona](#), [Georgia](#), [Michigan](#), and [Pennsylvania](#) largely depended on candidates turning out minority voters despite barriers to voting and the looming threat of the pandemic.

After the election, Rutgers and the Election Assistance Commission (EAC) released a comprehensive study of the voting accessibility of the 2020 elections. Our submitted comments amplify their findings, and we echo them with our own polling research as well.

The Rutgers study highlighted the differences between the voting experience of individuals living with and without disabilities. Their report found that even in the unprecedented circumstances of the 2020 election, voters with disabilities were better accommodated than in the 2012 election. The study's findings also shine a light on how much our nation still needs to grow to ensure that individuals living with disabilities can equitably cast their ballots.

While the COVID-19 pandemic forced more than 65 million Americans to cast their ballots by mail in 2020, this report highlighted that the voting accessibility of the 2020 election significantly improved since 2012. The shift to mail-in voting increased electoral participation for voters with disabilities. The disability community reported having 15 percent fewer incidences of voting difficulties in 2020 compared to 2012. This data is encouraging because 74 percent of all voters with disabilities voted by mail or early in-person during the 2020 election. Even though the majority of individuals with disabilities voted by mail in 2020, there was still a large group that voted in person. Indeed, RespectAbility's own electoral outreach work, especially in [Maryland](#) and [Georgia](#), found a marked preference among voters with disabilities and older voters for being able to physically cast their ballots. What this means for NIST and this RFI is that transportation access is an exogenous factor that directly impacts access to voting for potential millions of voters with disabilities. Luckily, individuals with disabilities who voted in person also reported having 12 percent fewer incidences of voting difficulties in 2020.

In addition to voters with disabilities having fewer voting difficulties, the accessibility of the 2020 election also improved in other noticeable ways. To begin with, fewer individuals with disabilities reported needing assistance to be able to cast their vote in 2020 compared to 2012. Specifically, only 6 percent of in-person voters needed assistance, and only 5 percent of mail-in voters needed assistance. These numbers dropped from 30 percent and 11 percent in 2012. Additionally, 82 percent of in-person voters with disabilities reported that their voting experience was very easy. This is significant because this perceived ease of voting has improved by 6 percent since 2012, and it was nearly identical to voters without disabilities in 2020. Finally, voters with disabilities also said that election officials were very respectful toward them, and most individuals reported they received sufficient accessible information on their possible voting options.

Even though voting accessibility has improved since 2012, there are still substantial differences in the equity of voting opportunity and access when comparing individuals with disabilities to their nondisabled peers. Specifically, voters with disabilities still encounter nearly twice as many voting difficulties as voters without disabilities, among both in-person and mail voters. Additionally, voters without disabilities were also able to vote independently without any difficulty at a much higher rate compared to voters with disabilities. It is also disappointing to note that 17 percent of voters with disabilities that needed assistance at the polls did not receive it. Finally, even though people with disabilities followed politics more and expressed more political interest than people without disabilities in 2020, people with disabilities still voted at a 7 percent lower rate than Americans without disabilities.

Voting difficulties occurred most frequently among people with vision and cognitive disabilities. These groups had the lowest voter turnout compared to all other disability types. Additionally, 30

percent of voters with cognitive disabilities reported having difficulty at polling places, and 22 percent of voters with low vision had problems with a mail ballot. Individuals with vision and cognitive impairments also had the lowest rates of being able to vote independently without difficulty.

While it is encouraging to see that voters with disabilities had fewer difficulties at the polls in 2020, these results must be taken with a grain of salt. When hearing these statistics, one might be quick to assume that these improvements might simply be the result of better polling place accessibility. However, the COVID-19 pandemic is likely responsible for the drop in voting difficulties because the pandemic forced most high-risk voters to vote by mail and individuals with less severe disabilities to vote in person in 2020. This composition change of voters at the polls is likely the reason why there were fewer reported difficulties among voters with disabilities. Since about 50 percent of individuals with disabilities would prefer to vote in person in the next election, work still needs to be done to improve voting accessibility for all individuals living with disabilities.

Additionally, even if voting accessibility at the polls is significantly improved, individuals with disabilities face many other roadblocks that hinder their political participation. Specifically, individuals with disabilities have lower employment rates, access to personal transportation, income, and education levels. These factors are all underlying reasons why the disability community votes at a lower rate than the rest of the population. Moving forward, elected officials, policymakers, and disability organizations need to find a way to address these issues and make systematic changes if our nation wants to see better voter turnout from the disability community.

Since more than 25 percent of adults in the United States have some type of disability, these findings need to be acted upon to ensure that voters with disabilities have more opportunities to accessibly exercise their right to vote.

The findings of the EAC/Rutgers University echoes many of the trends that RespectAbility saw in its own polling last year. COVID, the economy and access to healthcare motivated voters with disabilities to cast their ballots. Finding and motivating these voters will be a crucial strategy for future candidates for public office if they want to win. More details and in-depth data can be found on RespectAbility's website here.

Beyond our comments above, RespectAbility's team members also wished to respond directly and clearly to the specific questions contained in the NIST RFI. Those are succinctly included below:

1. *Describe concerns regarding accessing the right to vote privately and independently for people with disabilities.*
 - Concerns about privacy, voting, and independence depend very much upon the specific disabilities of the voter in question. To call back to the Rutgers study, 48 percent of people with disabilities have some form of mobility disability, 24 percent have cognitive issues, 18 percent have hearing issues, 12 percent have vision issues,

26 percent have difficulty leaving their homes unassisted, 13 percent have self-care disabilities and 32 percent need support in completing activities of daily living. For those with vision issues, having an accessible copy of the ballot is of critical importance, yet PDFs are often posted online without alt-text or having been checked for accessibility. Blind voters may need Braille documentation or sighted assistance in order to cast their votes. For example, 22 percent of blind voters reported difficulty in completing their mail ballots in 2020. For people with intellectual or developmental disabilities, plain language summaries of ballot issues and ballots themselves are critically important. Voters who are deaf or hard of hearing may have not had challenges physically going in to cast their vote on election day but unless that voting site has an ASL interpreter, a volunteer prepared to handle accessibility issues, or the person with a disability has an alternate means of communication, they may encounter challenges.

2. Describe effective strategies, techniques, and technologies for addressing the barriers faced by voters with disabilities throughout the voting process.

- The disability community lives by the motto "Nothing about us, without us". We must have a seat at any decision-making table that affects us (which is every table, as disability cuts across all other demographics), because those with lived experience know solutions that work and must be part of any effective solution. As such, the more opportunities for people with disabilities themselves to become more active citizens and become civically engaged is critically important. [State based coalitions](#) of voters with disabilities have helped educate candidates and push for more resources to support voting accessibility.

3. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter in getting useful information about the voting process.

- Candidates for public office and their campaigns themselves create a significant barrier to the participation of voters with disabilities by the lack of accessible campaign materials, hosting events in physically inaccessible locations, and by not having disability issues are part of the policy platforms. [RespectAbility](#) as well as other [disability advocacy](#) and [independent living organizations](#) have done our best to develop simple materials to educate candidates and campaign staff on the essential principles of accessibility. These include directed outreach to leaders with disabilities, event accessibility/accommodations, hiring staff with disabilities, disability inclusion in written materials, using respectful language, ensuring media accessibility, ensuring captioning on all video materials, and meaningfully recognizing the racial/ethnic intersectionality of the disability community. Likewise, it is the incumbent responsibility of campaigns to train their staff and volunteers on how to provide information to the disability community in a variety of formats as well as accurate information on the voting process. Key topics that need to be covered include but are not limited to person-first language, accessible event management, and disability etiquette. All topics that many disability organizations have developed resources to address.

4. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter with ballots, and in getting useful information about the items on the ballot.

- The issue and importance of plain language summaries, materials, and documentation cannot be understated. This is especially important for the approximately [7.4 million](#) Americans with intellectual and/or development disabilities and their families. Even parents of students with disabilities benefit from having clear, simple information about how ballot initiatives that impact school and special education will help or harm their children. While the Plain Writing Act has been law since 2010 and the U.S. Election Assistance Commission has stated commitments around [plain language documentation](#), more public-facing and transparent work is needed to address these challenges.

5. Provide recommendations for improving voter access for people with disabilities.

- Referring once again back to the Rutgers University study quoted extensively above, if you drill down deep into the data, there are two clear steps that are necessary to improve voter access for people with disabilities: better polling places and consistent voting procedures. While voting accessibility has slowly improved from 2012 to 2016 to 2020, many polling places are still located in inaccessible venues. As recently as 2017, a [Government Accountability Office \(GAO\)](#) study found that 60 percent of polling places they inspected had one or more potential inaccessible barriers. As such, local authorities should do what they can to communicate directly to voters with disabilities about the accessibility of their local polling. Some local boards of elections indicated online whether your polling place is ADA accessible or not and that time of information needs to be more widely spread. Likewise, supporting states to ensure greater consistency in voting procedures is also critical. Lastly, the experiences of the 2020 election proved [several critical lessons](#) that are now guiding the actions of disability and civil rights advocacy organizations. The widespread use of mail-in ballots was certainly a win from the accessibility perspective, but the reactionary turn towards signature matching and identification requirements will do long term harm to voters with disabilities.

6. Identify what has had the most impact enabling people with disabilities to vote privately and independently.

- It is critical to recognize the ease, flexibility, and opportunities created by increased options for absentee ballots and mail-in voting. As noted previously, 74 percent of all voters with disabilities voted by mail or early in-person during the 2020 election. Even before the pandemic, disability rights advocates had been pushing states to embrace greater flexibility and more options for early voting. The long-term impact of that work was evident in the turnout seen among voters with disabilities and their families. Even if our nation gets through the 2022 or 2024 election cycles without having to face another plague or pestilence, accessibility options gained because of COVID-19 should not be lost. Instead of turning away from flexible voting options, more states and localities should embrace them. For example, the great states of [Vermont, Colorado, Utah, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Hawaii](#) have all had great success with automatic mail-in ballot initiatives, as has the District of Columbia. Critically, despite false faced partisan commentary to the contrary, there is [no statistical evidence](#) to suggest that vote-by-mail favors one party over another. As such, our nation and our democracy has much to gain by expanded voting options.

7. Identify gaps that remain in making voting accessible to people with disabilities.

- Beyond the previously identified gaps faced by millions of voters with disabilities, transportation is another exogenous factor that directly impacts voting access within the disability community. As noted previously in our comments, in [Maryland](#) and [Georgia](#), our team found a marked preference among voters with disabilities and older voters for being able to physically cast their ballots. As such, we supported local organizations that prioritized collaborative opportunities to arrange transportation for voters with disabilities and older Americans. Likewise, if you cannot physically bring the voter with a disability to the polling place, bring the ballot to them. Ensuring that people with disabilities living in group settings or older Americans in assisted living facilities have opportunities to submit mail-in or absentee ballots is critical. That in turn will require local election authorities to have clear procedures and trained staff/volunteers. Challenges certainly remain, but they are challenges that can be overcome with purposeful action.

8. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter with completing online forms for the voting process.

- People who are blind or have other visual impairments are not the only people who can benefit from having more accessible online forms. As noted in 2019 by [the UX Collective](#), people with cognitive disabilities, people who use speech-to-text software, and those with limited physical dexterity also benefit from more accessible online forms. The steps to make a form more accessible are universal, whether we are talking about a local board of election website or some other web platform. Forms need to be keyboard accessible, contrasting colors need to be used, form fields need clear labels, and reminder text is important. Given both [the business value](#) of greater accessibility and the [range of resources](#) to support greater [online accessibility](#), there is no excuse for online forms related to the voting process to be inaccessible. Technical assistance from the EAC or collaboration between subject matter experts and local voting authorities may be necessary, but the solutions are out there for the taking.

9. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter in getting useful information about their eligibility to vote.

- Many of the same challenge noted above around campaign communication, online forms, and the need for accessibility also obtain when considering seeking information about voter eligibility. There is a profound role to be played by community provider organizations and independent living groups who do some of the most important, direct work with millions of potential voters with disabilities. As such, greater civic engagement and expanded resources are needed and there is a nature point of partnership between local election authorities and such organizations.

10. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter with registering to vote.

- Our public comments have previously noted the critical important of the diversity and intersectionality of the disability community. Our community is unique in that anyone, at any time, can join the nation's largest minority. Issues impacting voters of color from marginalized communities directly harm many voters with disabilities. As

such, it is worth noting that accessing proper identifying documentation is a challenge for people of color, people of color with disabilities, and those in the wider disability community. People in each of those categories drive less than other communities, are often poor and live in urban areas, [creating less need](#) for driver's licenses, one of the most common forms of government ID. Likewise, systemic racism creates additional barriers to ensuring fair, free, and open access to voting. In recent years, [automatic voter registration](#) initiatives have [spread widely](#) in states, creating opportunities to connect people from across different communities to information about voting. Given the adamant insistence on voter identification requirements in [many states](#) from many different political factions, encouraging automatic voter registration is a natural pathway for connecting more people with and without disabilities with the tools, the means, and the information necessary to become active, engaged citizens. Lastly, the value of community and coalition drive events such as National Voter Registration Day cannot be overstated, and RespectAbility is proud to have been an annual event partner since 2015. **More details here:** <https://nationalvoterregistrationday.org/> **And here:** <https://therespectabilityreport.org/?s=National+Voter+Registration+Day>

11. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter using technology for the registration or voting process, whether online, in person, or via mail.

- Previous commentary in several section of our comments addresses this point in sufficient detail.

12. Describe the availability of accessible voting equipment.

- RespectAbility's team has communicated with local disability organizations in many different states, and we have consistently found that the availability voting equipment is in fact wildly inconsistent and widely divergency based on geography and local leadership. As such, NIST should consider engaging more disability advocacy organizations for their perspectives on promoting commonality in accessible voting equipment, work to ensure common standards across localities and ensure the full scope of HAVA resources are being wisely invested in proven solutions. More details and background here: <https://nfb.org/programs-services/center-excellence-nonvisual-access/national-center-nonvisual-election-4>, here: <https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/voting-equipment.aspx>, and here: <https://www.afb.org/aw/3/6/14889>

13. Describe barriers that people with disabilities encounter with voting by mail.

- Previous commentary in several section of our submission addresses this point in sufficient and greater detail.

14. Describe security considerations relevant to existing and potential technologies used by people with disabilities in the voting process.

- Election security is a topic beyond the scope of the competencies, knowledge, and professional experiences of RespectAbility's staff and fellows. As such, we defer to the recommendations of [other authorities](#) and advocacy organizations dedicated to this critical topic. We will say, however, respond in three ways. First, it must be said that this is the third decade of the twenty-first century and the world's greatest nation

lags far behind other, smaller nations that successfully and securely [embrace online voting](#) in local, regional, and nation elections. From a purely nationalistic perspective, it is frankly embarrassing that the United States of America is not at the cutting edge of technological platforms for digital citizenship and technologically connected civic engagement. Second, the 2020 election raised the [eternally recurring](#) debate over security and accessibility of elections, yet such false dichotomies also distract from the inherent good of greater accessibility. Third, never underestimate the universal value and return on investment from expanded accessibility and more advanced forms of accommodations. Workers with disabilities requested telework/remote work options and software for decades, only for the pandemic to make remote work a preferred means of professional work. As such, better, more inclusive technology will ultimately prove to be better, more secure, and more sophisticated technology.

15. Describe barriers that people with disabilities face at polling locations.

- Please see our above comments referencing *GAO-18-4 Voters with Disabilities: Observations on Polling Place Accessibility and Related Federal Guidance*. To quote: “Of the 178 polling places, GAO was able to fully examine voting stations inside the voting area at 137. Of these 137 polling places, 65 percent (89) had a voting station with an accessible voting system that could impede the casting of a private and independent vote.” Critically, this GAO report also included specific recommended courses of action to be followed by the Department of Justice. At this time, DOJ is continuing to look at ways to follow GAO’s recommendations and continued actions internal to the federal government is needed. Read more here: <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-18-4>

16. Describe the accessibility of polling places.

- Please see our comment above and the GAO report on this topic.

17. Identify areas where poll worker training can address barriers experienced by people with disabilities.

- There are two specific ways in which poll worker training can be optimized and prioritized to address the barriers faced by voters with disabilities and promote a more universally inclusive voting experience. First and foremost, poll worker training should include specific modules about diversity, equity, accessibility, and disability issues. Such materials do not need to be exhaustive given the limited hours available for poll worker training. However, workers do need to be given more resources so they can understand the wider voting public that they will be serving on election day. [RespectAbility](#) and other engaged, inclusion organizations have extensive, free resources that can be adapted, distilled, or otherwise used for such training. Second, from our organizational experience, having clear checklists and common procedures can help poll workers address key barriers experienced by people with disabilities at the polls. Each polling place could have a standard accessibility checklist and assigned person responsible for addressing any accessibility questions. Having a specific “playbook” for how to support a person based on their type of disability could be useful. At the same time, the inclusive principle of “**ask the person**” is also important. People with disabilities themselves are the best judges of what they need

and how they should be accommodated. As such, never estimate the importance of disability etiquette and respect in preparing poll workers for the challenges they will face.

18. Identify areas where clearer or better policies can address barriers experienced by people with disabilities.

- In deference to the already extensive length of these comments, the RespectAbility teams invites any and all interested parties to learn more about our organizational agenda and our specific policy priorities to address these critical barriers on our website at <https://www.respectability.org/resources/Policy-Makers/>

19. Describe any barriers that people with disabilities face to voting that disproportionately impact communities of color, persons who live in rural areas; and persons otherwise adversely affected by persistent poverty or inequality.

- As a starting point for many decisionmakers, it is critical to recognize the true scope of issues and needs among the most marginalized communities in American society. There are 12.8 million Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) with disabilities who have long been harmed by structural racism and who are disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic crisis. Our society is at its best when all people, including Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) people with disabilities, can earn an income and become independent, just like anyone else. We must all fight racism and prejudice of all kinds. That work must go well beyond words and move into real systems change so we can create true equity and opportunities. The pandemic has made clear that the nation must transform itself to advance racial justice and make equitable opportunities a reality. Achieving that reality must begin by making voting itself a fairer, more equitable and accessible process. As such, we look forward to working with you on this process.

20. Of the concerns and barriers noted, identify the most serious and impactful barriers faced by voters with disabilities throughout the voting process.

- As a parting comment, it is critical to recognize that culture proceeds politics. One of the major causes of lower voter turnout and lower levels of civic engagement among people with disabilities is stigma. People with disabilities have been seen for decades as “less than” – as incapable of doing jobs, as unworthy of being voters, or as undesirable members of communities. Stigma dampens disability employment in every employment sector, harms the engagement of voters with disabilities and isolates people with disabilities from their communities. As such, we need elected officials who will use their public platforms to help fight stigmas by demonstrating a commitment to community inclusion, celebrating the contributions of people with disabilities, and marking key celebrations such as [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#). More important than even having proven legislative allies of the disability community, we need more people with disabilities to run for local, state and national political offices. The disability community lives by the motto "Nothing about us, without us" that we must have a seat at any decision-making table that affects us (which is every table, as disability cuts across all other demographics), because those

with lived experience know solutions that work and must be part of any effective solution. As such, our nation will begin to fulfil its grand promise by choosing more and more leaders who reflect the truly staggering and beautiful diversity of the American people themselves.

These comments were prepared thanks to the hard work and close attention of RespectAbility's Fellows, Staff, and Board Members. Special credit is due to past and current Fellows Nakia Sims, Morgan Davis, Claudia Runk, Gabriella Marquez, Taylor Ragano, Taylor Easley, Ian Malesiewski, Stephanie Santo, Zoltan Boka, Chinyere Azike, and Adam Fishbein who have been active contributors to our organization's work on policy advocacy, civic engagement and advancing disability inclusion. They represent future leaders who will have a substantial impact on the opportunities and aspirations of millions of Americans with disabilities.



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Disability and Voting Accessibility in the 2020 Elections

Presentation for RespectAbility webinar:

“The Lessons of 2020: Voting, Accessibility, and Voters with Disabilities”

April 8, 2021

Dr. Lisa Schur

Dr. Douglas Kruse

Co-Directors, Program for Disability Research, Rutgers University



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- *What were the voting experiences of people with disabilities in the 2020 elections?*
- *How do these compare to the experiences of voters without disabilities?*
- *Has there been progress in voting accessibility since 2012?*
- *How did the COVID pandemic affect voting experiences?*

To answer these and other questions, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC) asked Rutgers University to design and coordinate a national survey of voting-eligible citizens with and without disabilities following the 2020 elections.

But first, what do we know about disability and voting from prior research?



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Background on disability and voting

There were 38.3 million eligible voters with disabilities in the 2020 election, based on Census data

- In addition, there were another **29.4 million** people who did not have a disability themselves, but lived in a household with someone with a disability
- In total, **67.7 million** eligible voters, or **28% of the total electorate**, either had a disability or lived with someone with a disability



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Disability and voter turnout

There has been a stubborn disability voting gap of 6-7 points in general elections

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2016</u>
People without disabilities	64.5%	62.5%	62.2%
People with disabilities	57.3%	56.8%	55.9%
Disability turnout gap	<u>-7.2%</u>	<u>-5.7%</u>	<u>-6.3%</u>

This gap widens when controlling for demographic factors (age, gender, race, ethnicity, education, marital status)



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Do people with disabilities care less about elections?

No: Surveys in 2016 and 2018 showed they were more likely than people without disabilities to:

- say they follow the campaign closely
- say “It really matters who wins the election”, and
- be “extremely interested” in the elections
(pew.org and respectability.org)



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So why is there a disability turnout gap?

Partly explained by:

- Lower resources (income and education)
- Greater social isolation (more likely to live alone, less likely to be employed)
- Lower belief that political system is responsive
- Voting difficulties (see next slide)



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Difficulties in voting

- U.S. GAO study: 83% of polling places in 2016 had one or more potential impediments to voting
- Rutgers national household survey of 3022 citizens in 2012 found reported problems in voting at a polling place for:
 - 30% of voters with disabilities
 - 8% of voters without disabilities



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Importance of voting accessibility

Inaccessible polling places and voting procedures:

- Make it more difficult to vote
- Can have psychological effects by sending the message that people with disabilities are not welcome in the political sphere.

Analysis of the 2012 survey data finds that:

- Voting difficulties predict lower perceived influence of people with disabilities in politics, and
- This perception in turn predicts lower voter turnout among people with disabilities.



2020 Post-election Survey Description



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- National sample based on randomly-selected citizens eligible to vote in 2020 elections
- Survey was designed to update and expand on 2012 post-election survey (also funded by EAC)
- Both surveys were conducted by SSRS, a member of American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)
- Disability measure was based on 6-question set used by Census Bureau, plus seventh broad question to capture other types of disability



Survey Description (continued)



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- Total sample size of all participants: 2,569
 - Disability Sample: 1,782
 - Non-disability Sample: 787
- Citizens with disabilities were oversampled to get large enough sample for reliable estimates plus breakdowns by disability type and demographics
- Total sample is more than twice the size of typical national phone surveys of 1000 people, so results should generalize well to disability and non-disability populations



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- The full report has 32 detailed statistical tables
 - All results use survey weights to reflect the full disability and non-disability populations.
 - The report notes which differences are large enough to be statistically significant (falling outside the survey's margin of error so that we can be highly confident of a true difference in the population).
- The following slides highlight some of the key results



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Disability Characteristics in the 2020 Survey

Disability sample reflects overall U.S. disability population:

- Almost half (48%) in disability sample have mobility impairments
- One-fourth (24%) have cognitive impairments
- One-sixth (18%) have hearing impairments
- One-eighth (12%) have vision impairments
- One-fourth (27%) have difficulty going outside alone
- One-eighth (13%) have difficulty with self-care inside home
- One-third (32%) need help in activities of daily living



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Voter Turnout

- People with disabilities voted at a 7% lower rate than people without disabilities of the same age
 - => Points toward a continuing disability gap in voter turnout (found in past elections)
 - => But disability turnout gap may have narrowed in 2020—will have a better sense of this when Census Bureau's Voting and Registration Supplement dataset is released in April

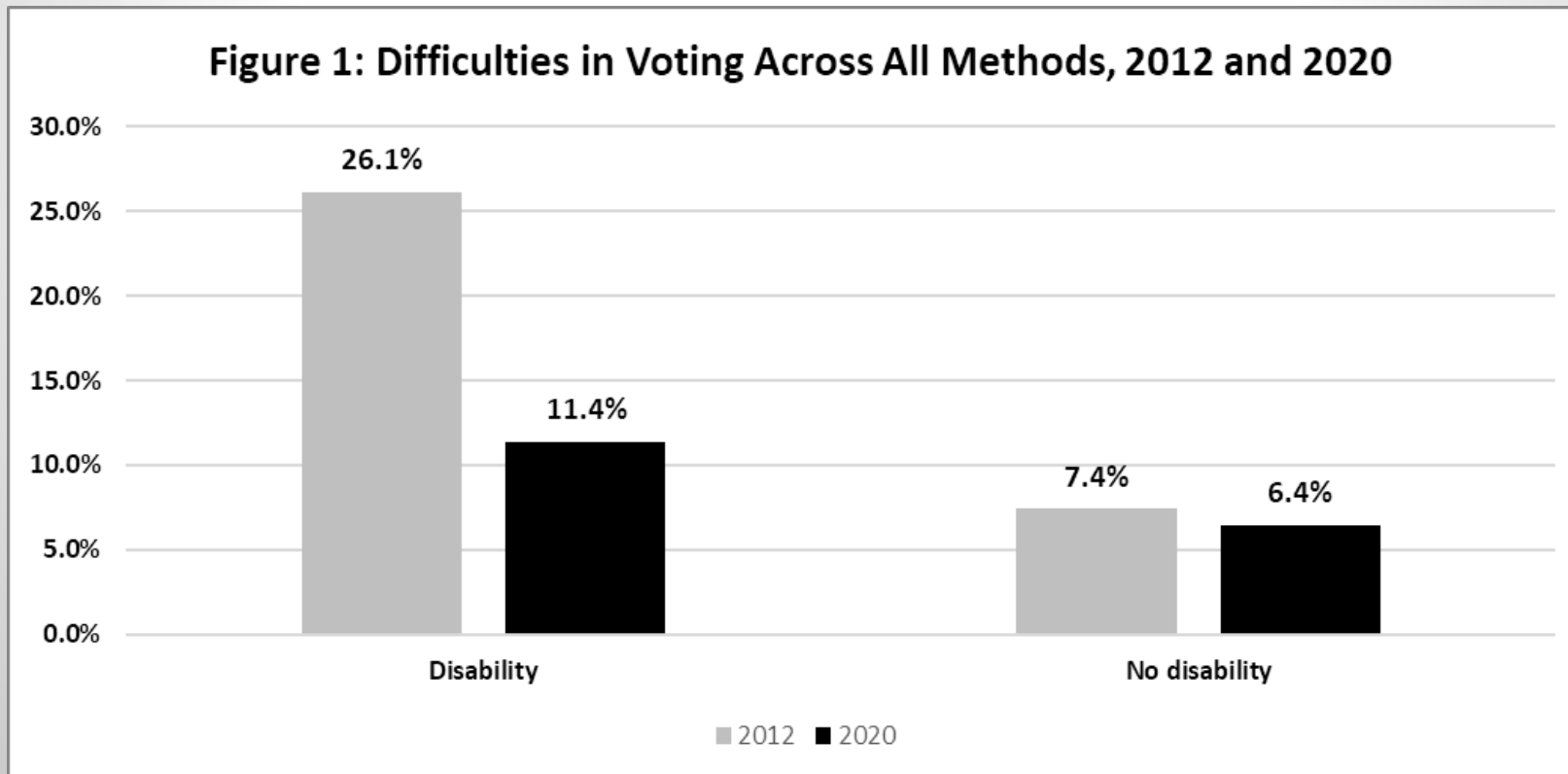


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Difficulties in Voting

- Voting difficulties among people with disabilities declined markedly from 2012 to 2020, from 26% to 11%.
- About one in nine voters with disabilities reported difficulties voting in 2020. This is double the rate of people without disabilities.





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Methods of Voting

- Almost half (49%) of voters with disabilities voted at a polling place in 2020, compared to 56% of voters without disabilities
- The shift to using mail ballots from 2012 to 2020 was identical for voters with and without disabilities (28 percentage point increase)
- One-quarter of voters with and without disabilities (24% and 25%) voted early at a polling place
- Close to three-fourths (74%) of voters with disabilities voted with a mail ballot or early in-person in 2020. This represents a significant increase from 2012 and is higher than the two-thirds (69%) of non-disabled voters who did so in 2020.



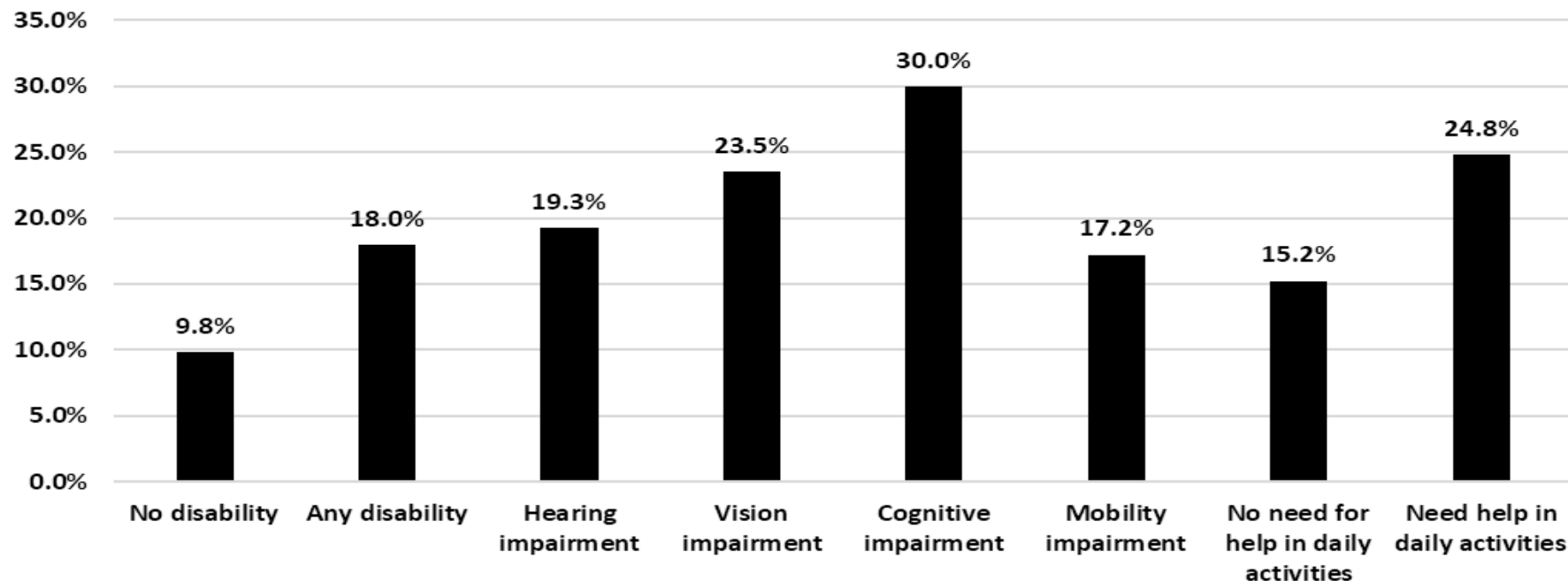
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Difficulties Voting in Person

- Among people with disabilities who voted in person in 2020, 18% reported difficulties, compared to 10% of people without disabilities. The disability number is down from 30% in 2012.
- Difficulties were most common among people with vision (30%) and cognitive (24%) impairments.

Figure 2: Any Difficulty Voting in Person by Disability Type, 2020





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Are polling places more accessible in 2020?

- About half of the decline in difficulties voting in a polling place for people with disabilities since 2012 appears due to progress in making polling places more accessible
- Biggest declines in difficulty were in:
 - “Difficulty reading or seeing the ballot”
 - “Difficulty understanding how to vote or use the voting equipment”
- Also possible declines in “difficulty in finding or getting to the polling place” and “waiting in line” (but within survey’s margin of error)
- The other half of the overall decline is tied to a change in composition of polling place voters, as those expecting the most difficulties switched to mail ballots

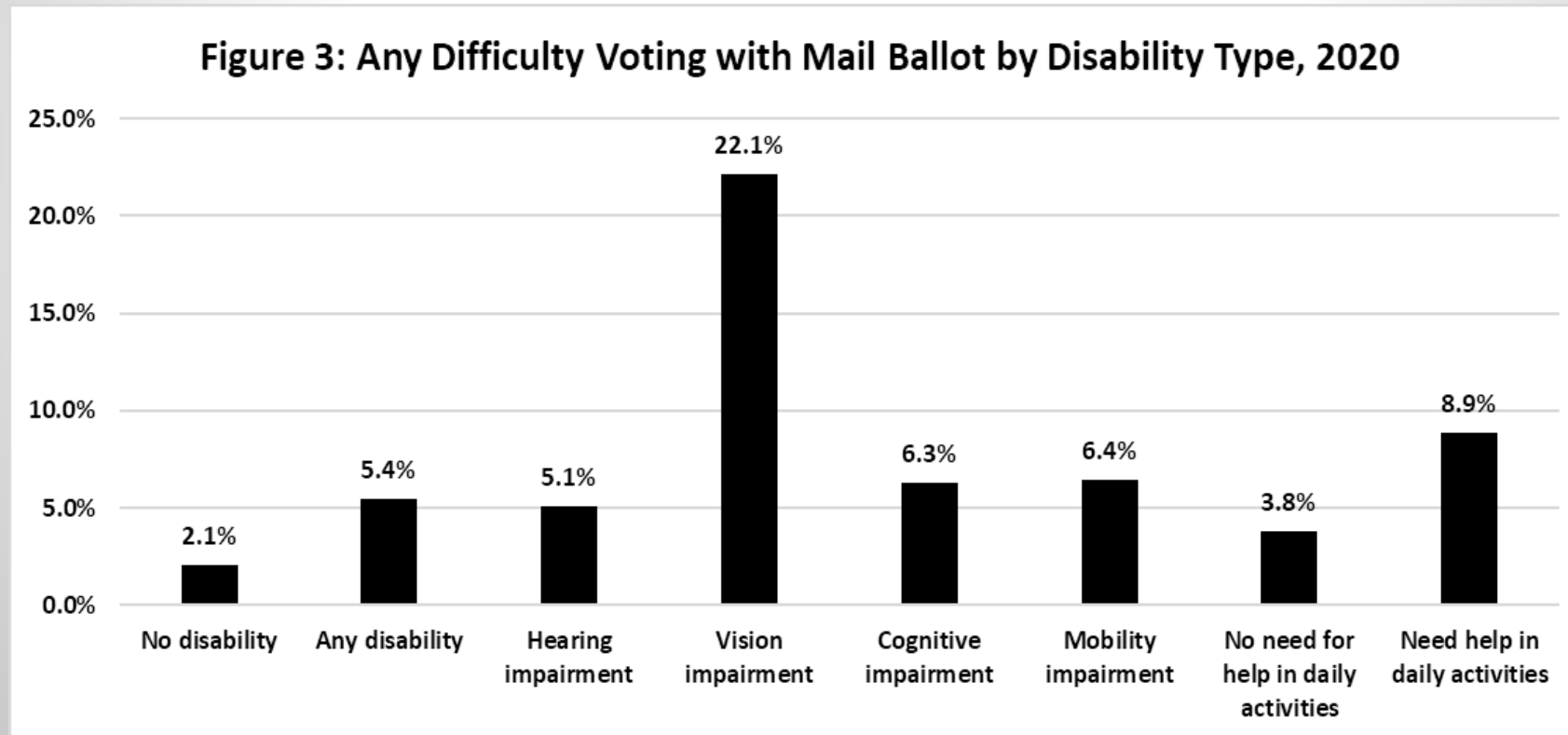


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Difficulties Voting with a Mail Ballot

- Among those using mail ballots, 5% of voters with disabilities had difficulty using the ballot, compared to 2% of voters without disabilities.
- 22% of voters with vision impairments had difficulties with a mail ballot.



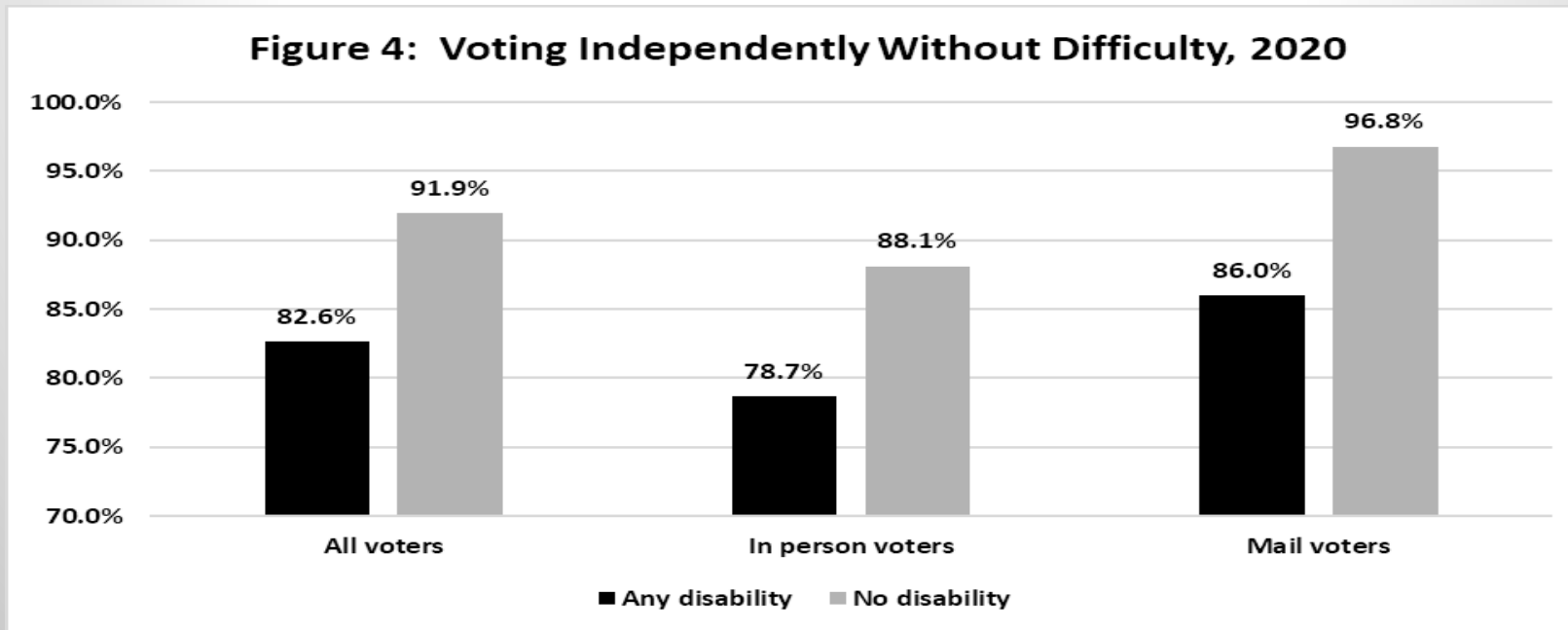


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Voting Independently Without Difficulty

- Among voters with disabilities, 6% of in-person voters needed assistance, and 11% of mail voters needed assistance
- Five of six voters (83%) with a disability voted independently without any difficulties in 2020, compared to over nine of ten (92%) of voters without disabilities.
- One in seven (14%) of voters with disabilities using a mail ballot needed assistance or encountered problems in voting, compared to only 3% of those without disabilities.





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Perceived Treatment by Election Officials

- Among in-person voters, people with disabilities were more likely to report that election officials were “very respectful” toward them (84% compared to 77% for people without disabilities)
- The perceived respect from election officials, however, appeared to decline slightly from 2012 for voters both with and without disabilities (possibly due to stresses of pandemic)



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Confidence that Vote was Accurately Counted

- Two-thirds (68%) of voters with disabilities said they are highly confident their vote was accurately counted in 2020, compared to 59% of voters without disabilities
- Close to one-eighth (13%) of each group said they are “not very confident” or “not at all confident” their vote was accurately counted
- Results are very similar for in-person and mail voters



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Voter Comparisons to Pre-Pandemic Experience

- Voters were asked to compare the ease or difficulty of voting in 2020 to the last time they voted before the pandemic
- Overall, most voters with and without disabilities (63% and 64%) said it was “about the same”
- But mail voting seemed to help: among those who voted in person before the pandemic but with mail ballot in 2020, close to half of voters said it was easier in 2020 (50% of voters with disabilities and 53% of voters without disabilities).
- One-fourth (23%) of voters with disabilities who voted in polling places both in 2020 and pre-pandemic said it was easier in 2020, compared to 13% of voters without disabilities (providing more evidence of increased accessibility of polling places)



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Preference for How to Vote in Next Election

- Both voters and non-voters were asked “If you wanted to vote in the next election, how would you prefer to cast your vote?”
- Close to half (49%) of people with disabilities, and three-fifths (61%) of people without disabilities, would prefer voting in person inside a polling place
- Next most popular was voting with a mail ballot: chosen by one-third (32%) of people with disabilities and one-fifth (19%) of people without disabilities.
- Choices among remaining options did not differ significantly by disability:
 - About one-eighth (12-14%) chose voting fully online by personal computer or smartphone
 - 4-5% chose filling out a ballot online and then printing and mailing it
 - 3% chose voting by drive through or curbside.



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Other topics covered in survey report

Relationship of disability to:

- Non-voting forms of political participation
- Political interest and feelings of political efficacy
- Recruitment for voting
- Other facilitators of voting: employment, group involvement, transportation, attending religious services, education, income



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Conclusion

Key takeaways:

- Voting accessibility for people with disabilities has improved since 2012
- Despite the progress, one in nine people with disabilities encounter difficulties in voting, and they are twice as likely as those without disabilities to experience these difficulties
- This points to the need for continued progress in improving accessibility, and ensuring people with disabilities can easily exercise their right to vote

We welcome any questions, and the opportunity to make these results as useful as possible for improving civic participation and access to voting.



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**Voters with Disabilities
and the Outcome of the
2020 Election: New Data
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November 19, 2020**

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The Hon. Steve Bartlett

As a member of Congress from 1983-1991, The Honorable Steve Bartlett was the principal author of 18 major pieces of legislation including many legislative initiatives on advancing the cause of independence for people with disabilities. In addition to being a principal Republican author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, legislation included Medicaid eligibility, Section 1619 for Medicare eligibility, supported employment, assistive technology, creation of Towards Independence, the President's Council on Handicapped 1984 report, and mainstreaming reforms for IDEA. During his entire tenure in Congress, he served as the ranking Republican on the Select Education Subcommittee, with jurisdiction for disability issues in education and vocational rehabilitation. Bartlett also served on the House Banking and the Education and Labor Committees. [Read more about Steve Bartlett.](#)



Meet Today's Speakers

- **Moderated by the Hon. Steve Bartlett**, Chairman, RespectAbility
- **Celinda Lake**, President, Lake Research Partners
- **Stan Greenberg**, CEO of Greenberg Research and co-founder of Democracy Corps
- **Curt Decker**, Executive Director, National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
- **Lanona Lynette Jones, MBA**, Founder/Executive Director Inspire Positivity, Inc.

Celinda Lake

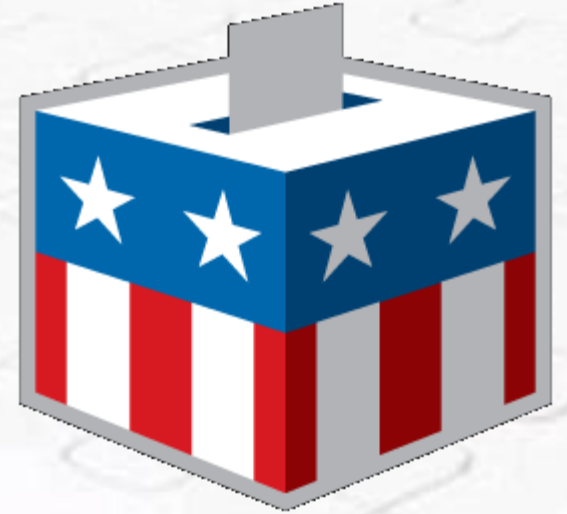
Celinda Lake is a leading political strategist, serving as tactician and senior advisor to a number of institutions and progressive candidates and elected officials. Celinda and her firm are known for cutting-edge research on issues including the economy, health care, the environment and education, and have worked for a number of institutions including the Democratic National Committee (DNC), the Democratic Governor's Association (DGA), AFL-CIO, SEIU, CWA, IAFF, Sierra Club, NARAL, Human Rights Campaign, Planned Parenthood, The Next Generation, EMILY's List, the Barbara Lee Family Foundation, the National Disability Rights Network, VoteVets Action Fund, and the Kaiser Family Foundation among many others. Celinda has a long record of defeating incumbents, including for four U.S. Senators Jon Tester, Mark Begich, Debbie Stabenow, and Sherrod Brown. She was the pollster for AOC in 2018 and her firm defeated a dozen incumbents for the House. Celinda and the Lake Research Partners team is also proud to be part of team Biden-Harris.



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Election Omnibus Findings November 2020



Lake Research Partners

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THE TARRANCE GROUP

Methodology

- Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group designed and administered this pre-election and election night survey which was conducted using professional interviewers from October 31 – November 3, 2020. The questions about voting and the demographics reached a total of 2,400 voters nationwide who voted in the 2020 elections or who were planning to vote later on Tuesday – 1,335 interviews among voters who were reached on cell phones, including 600 interviews completed by text-to-online, and 1,065 interviews among voters who were reached on landlines (margin of error +/- 2.0%). Issue questions reached a total of 1,200 voters nationwide who voted in the 2020 elections or who were planning to vote later on Tuesday (margin of error of +/-2.8%).
- Telephone numbers were drawn from the TargetSmart voter file. The sample was stratified geographically based on the proportion of likely voters in each region. The data were weighted to reflect the aggregated Presidential vote as reported in the 2020 exit polls, as well as by gender, age, race, party identification, education, marital status, union household, and census region to reflect the actual proportions of the electorate.
- Due to rounding some of the numbers in the presentation will not always add to 100%.

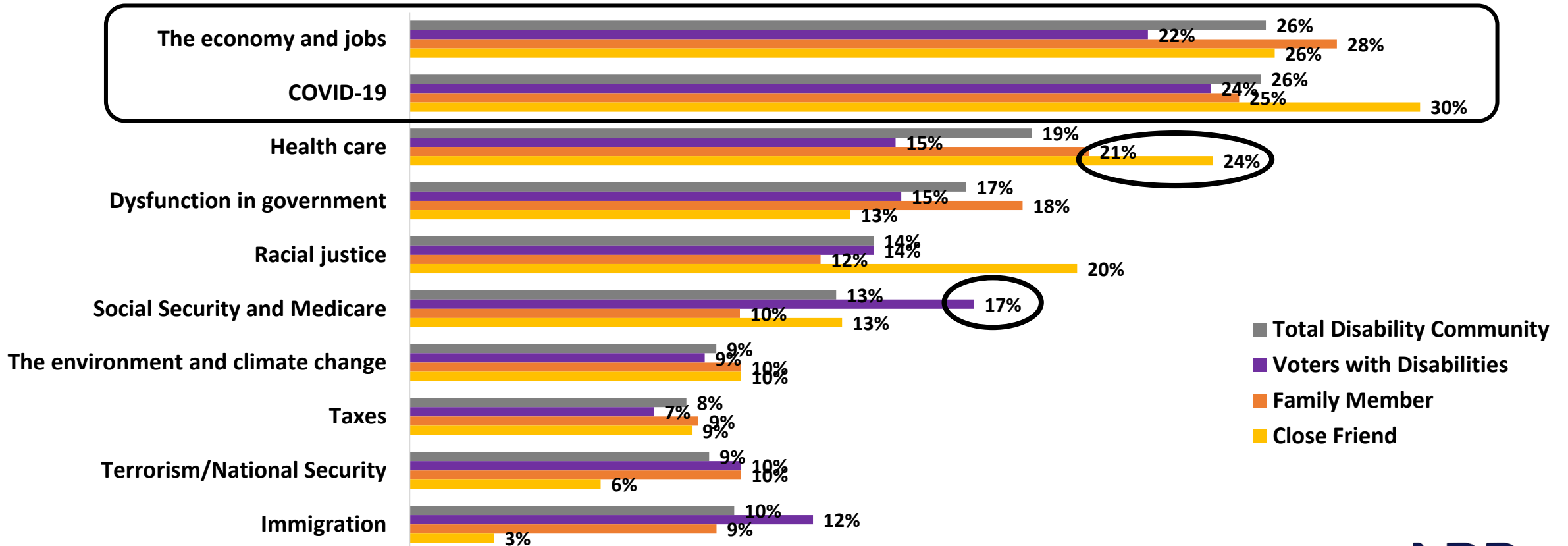
Candidates and Disability Issues



Image Description: A tan and navy poster with four squares of imagery including a wheelchair sign, an outline of a male's head and his brain, an icon of hands symbolizing sign language, and a walking icon with a cane. Underneath the image is the text "inclusion matters – access and empowerment for people of all abilities".

Among voters with disabilities and the broader disability community, COVID-19 and the economy and jobs were the most important issues in deciding for whom to vote. Voters with a family member or close friend were likely to list health care as an important issue and voters with disabilities were more likely than voters overall to list Social Security and Medicare as an important issue, too.

I am going to read you a list of issues that may have come up during the election. Please tell me which one or two of these was most important to you in deciding from whom to vote. [TOP TIER]



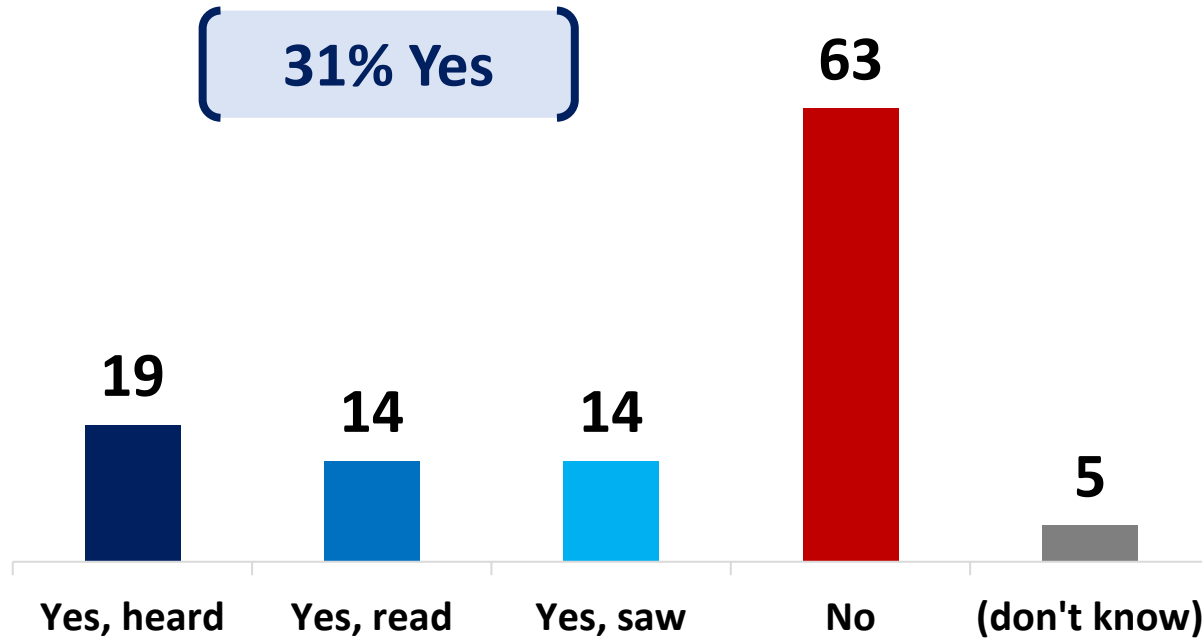
The economy and jobs and COVID-19 dominated voters' issue concerns across demographic subgroups. Voters of color and Democrats were more likely to list COVID-19 as a top issue. Democrats were also likely to list health care as a top issue. More than a third of African American voters said racial justice was a top issue.

I am going to read you a list of issues that may have come up during the election. Please tell me which one or two of these was most important to you in deciding from whom to vote. [TOP TIER]

	All	Men	Women	<30	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	White	AA	Latinx	API	Dem	Ind	Rep
The economy and jobs	30	31	28	24	28	39	32	27	32	15	27	34	12	30	48
Covid-19	28	28	28	25	34	27	28	25	24	44	30	40	45	25	12
Health care	18	17	19	22	17	20	17	17	17	22	18	18	26	18	10
Dysfunction in govt	16	18	15	16	17	17	18	15	18	11	15	8	16	17	16
Racial justice	14	12	15	18	17	13	14	8	10	34	14	15	23	13	4
SS and Medicare	11	9	13	7	7	11	9	18	11	13	9	8	14	10	9
Environment and Climate	10	8	11	14	10	10	9	9	11	5	10	10	16	11	2
Taxes	10	11	9	12	10	11	9	7	10	3	8	10	4	9	16

Less than one-third of voters overall remember hearing, reading, or seeing anything from congressional or presidential campaigns about issues that are important to people with disabilities. African American voters are most likely to recall hearing something from campaigns. Independents and voters in the Midwest are least likely.

Leading up to the November 2020 General Election, did you hear, read, or see anything from congressional or presidential campaigns about issues that are important to people with disabilities?



Among those who heard, read, or saw something, 53% voted for Biden and 46% voted for Trump. Those who heard, read, or saw something voted 53% for the Democratic candidate and 46% for the Republican candidate on the congressional ballot.

	All Yes	No
Men	30	64
Women	32	62
Under 50	32	62
Over 50	30	65
Northeast	33	62
Midwest	26	68
South	35	61
West	29	64
White	30	65
African American	38	57
Latino	29	66
API	29	64
Democrat (ID)	34	61
Independent (ID)	26	69
Republican (ID)	32	61

Voters with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, and voters with a close friend with disabilities are most likely to have heard, read, or seen something.

Leading up to the November 2020 General Election, did you hear, read, or see anything from congressional or presidential campaigns about issues that are important to people with disabilities?

	All	PWD	Family	Friends	All Dis. Comm	PWD Men	PWD Women	PWD <50	PWD 50+	PWD BG States	Dis. Comm. BG States	Voted Trump	Voted Biden
Yes, heard	19	25	22	23	23	26	24	25	26	22	22	18	20
Yes, read	14	15	19	31	18	14	16	22	9	7	13	13	16
Yes, saw	14	17	13	28	16	11	22	21	13	13	17	14	14
All yes, combined	31	41	36	47	38	36	46	41	42	33	33	31	33
No	63	55	59	51	58	61	50	55	55	61	62	63	63

Voters across demographic subgroups believe it is very important that candidates treat people with disabilities with dignity and respect. We see the greatest intensity of support among the disability community, older voters, whites, African Americans, and Democrats. There is a 13-point gap in intensity between Biden and Trump voters.

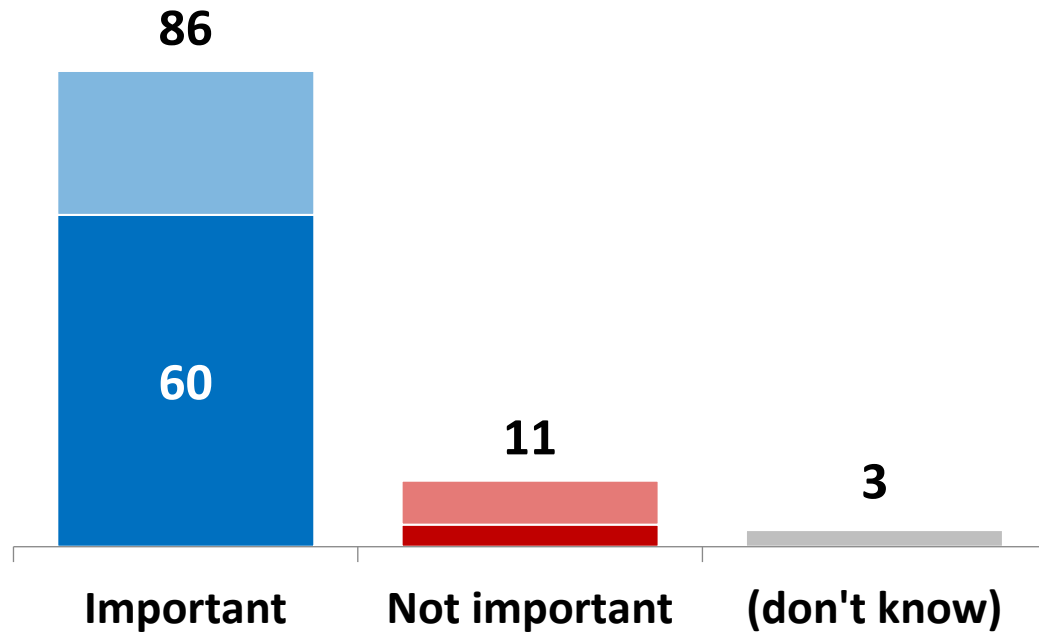
How important is it to you personally that candidates treat people with disabilities with dignity and respect?

		PWD	Fam	Friend	All Dis. Com.	M	W	<30	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	White	AA	Latinx	API	Dem	Ind	Rep	Voted Trump	Voted Biden
Very important	83	90	89	87	88	82	84	80	79	82	85	87	85	86	77	67	89	83	77	77	90
Somewhat important	9	5	8	5	7	10	8	11	14	8	10	5	8	8	12	21	6	10	12	13	5
A little important	3	2	1	3	2	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	2	3	3	9	2	2	4	4	1
Not important at all	2	1	1	6	2	2	2	1	2	5	2	1	2	1	4	1	1	1	4	3	1
Important	93	96	97	91	95	92	93	91	93	90	95	92	93	94	89	87	95	94	90	90	95
Not important	5	3	3	9	4	5	4	4	5	7	4	5	5	4	7	10	3	3	7	8	2

Within the battleground states, 95% of voters with disabilities and the disability community at large say candidates treating people with disabilities with dignity and respect is important. 90% of voters with disabilities and 88% of the disability community in battleground states think it is very important.

Across demographic subgroups, a solid majority of voters believe it is very important that congressional and presidential campaigns address issues that are important to people with disabilities. African American voters are especially likely to say it is very important.

How important is it to you that congressional and presidential campaigns address issues that are important to people with disabilities?



	Very Important	Not Important
Men	59	13
Women	60	10
Under 50	57	11
Over 50	62	11
Northeast	59	11
Midwest	60	11
South	61	11
West	57	12
White	59	12
African American	77	7
Latino	56	13
API	34	17
Democrat (ID)	68	8
Independent (ID)	59	8
Republican (ID)	52	17
Trump	51	15
Biden	68	7

■ Somewhat important
■ Very important
■ A little important
■ Not important at all

We see the greatest rating of importance for issues for people with disabilities among voters with disabilities, especially those in battleground states, men with disabilities, older people with disabilities, and Biden voters who heard something around disabilities during the election.

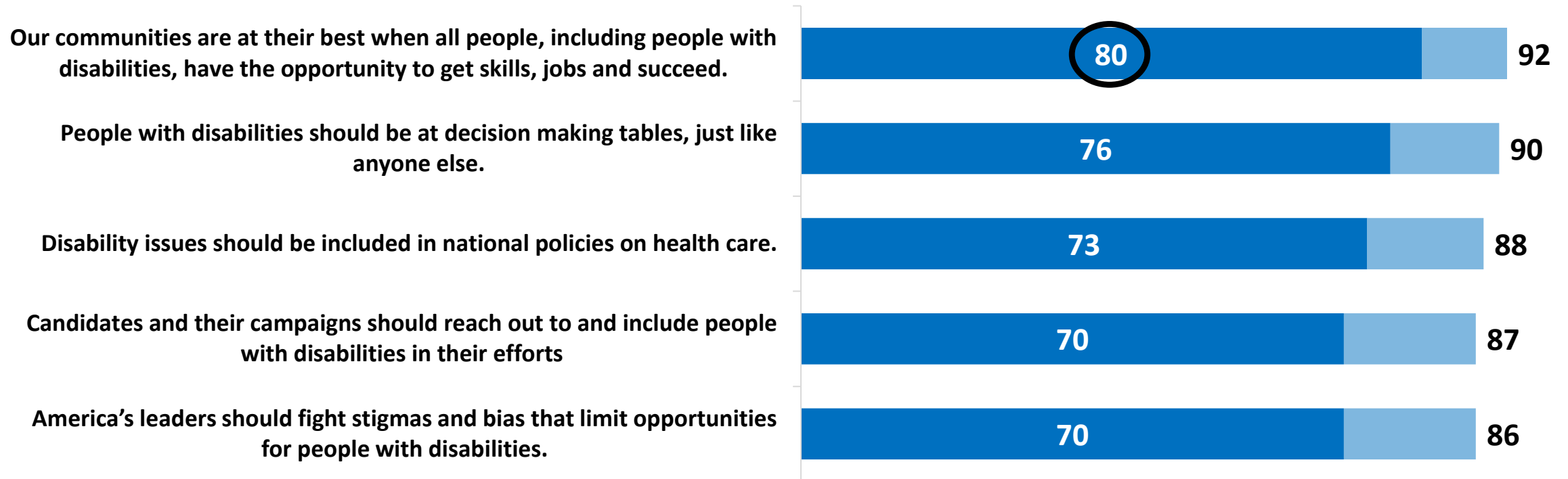
How important is it to you that congressional and presidential campaigns address issues that are important to people with disabilities?

	All Voters	PWD	Fam	Friend	All Dis. Comm.	PWD Men	PWD Women	PWD <50	PWD 50+	Heard Issues Biden	Heard Issues Trump	Didn't Hear Biden	Didn't Hear Trump	PWD BG States	Dis. Com. BG States
Very important	60	81	66	60	69	84	78	76	86	82	62	62	48	79	62
Somewhat important	26	12	24	30	21	8	16	16	10	17	27	25	32	11	25
A little important	8	4	6	5	6	6	3	7	2	1	9	8	11	6	8
Not important at all	4	1	3	5	3	1	2	1	1	0	2	2	6	2	3
Important	86	94	90	90	90	93	95	92	95	99	88	86	80	91	88
Not important	11	6	9	10	9	7	4	8	4	1	11	10	17	8	10

At least 9 in 10 voters agree that our communities are at their best when all people, including people with disabilities, have opportunities, and that people with disabilities should be at decision making tables just like everyone else. Voters also strongly agree with statements that call for disability issues to be included in national policies and for candidates and their campaigns to include this constituency in their efforts and fight against stigmas and bias.

Now let me read you some statements and please tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement. [TIER ONE]

All Voters



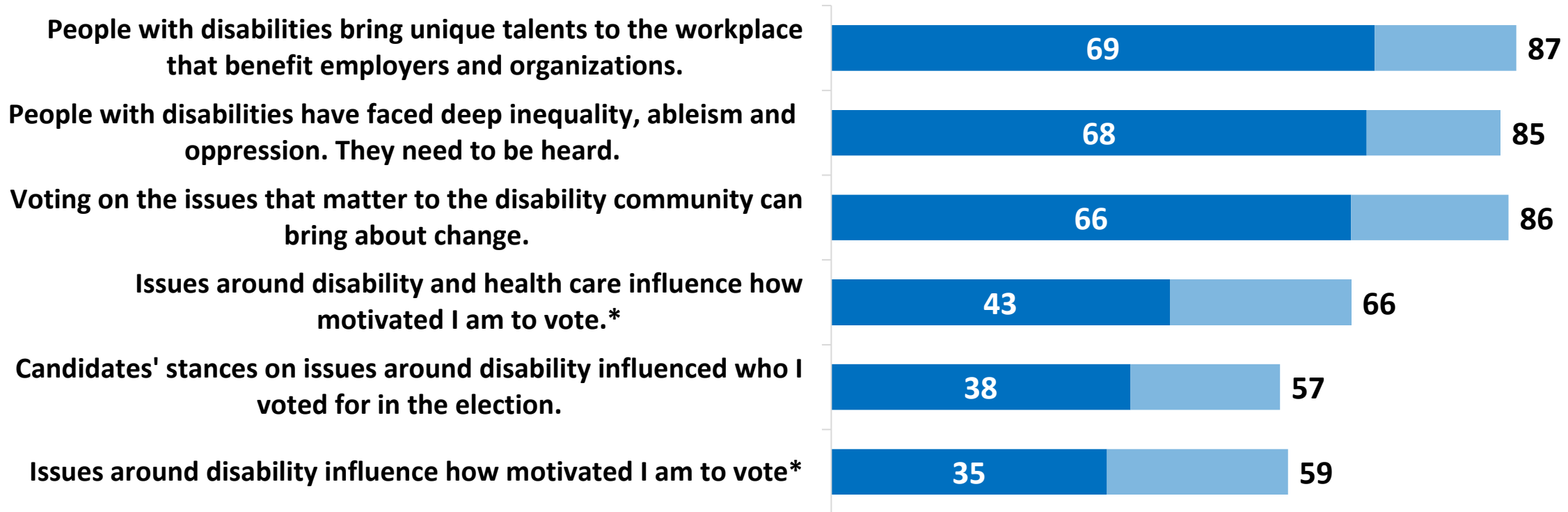
Not so strongly agree

Strongly agree

At least two-thirds of voters also strongly agree with statements that center people with disabilities and highlight their contributions to the workplace, underscore the historical biases they have faced, and talk about how voting on issues important to this community can bring about change. Statements focused on the individual around the issues and motivation to vote fall into a second tier. Voters are more likely to strongly agree that issues around disability and healthcare influence their motivation to vote rather than disability issues alone.

Now let me read you some statements and please tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement. [TIER TWO]

All Voters



Not so strongly agree
Strongly agree

*split sampled question

The top tier of statements is strong across gender, age, educational attainment, race, and party identification. African Americans, Democrats, and Biden voters are especially likely to strongly agree.

Tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement. [TOP TIER]

% Strongly Agree	All	Men	Women	<30	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	Non-College	College	White	AA	Latinx	API	Dem	Ind	Rep	Voted Trump	Voted Biden
Our communities are at their best when all people, including people with disabilities, have the opportunity ...	80	78	82	76	80	77	83	82	81	79	81	82	74	71	85	80	75	75	85
People with disabilities should be at decision making tables, just like anyone else	76	76	76	69	75	78	77	79	78	74	78	82	67	63	82	78	69	69	83
Disability issues should be included in national policies on health care	73	71	75	72	71	71	72	79	75	70	74	81	64	59	83	72	63	63	84
Candidates and their campaigns should reach out to and include people with disabilities ...	70	68	73	65	64	73	72	75	71	70	70	81	70	59	80	69	61	62	79
America's leaders should fight stigmas and bias that limit opportunities for people with disabilities	70	68	71	70	68	71	69	71	70	70	69	81	69	66	78	73	60	60	79

The top tier of statements is also strong in the disability community, especially among voters with disabilities. More than 9 in 10 older voters with disabilities and voters with disabilities in battleground states strongly agree our communities are at their best when all people, including people with disabilities, have the opportunity to get skills, jobs, and succeed.

Tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement. [TOP TIER]

% Strongly Agree	All Voters	PWD	Fam	Friend	All Dis. Comm.	PWD Men	PWD Women	PWD <50	PWD 50+	Heard Issues Biden	Heard Issues Trump	Didn't Hear Biden	Didn't Hear Trump	PWD BG States	Dis. Com. BG States
Our communities are at their best when all people, including people with disabilities, have the opportunity ...	80	91	85	84	87	91	91	86	95	88	81	83	73	92	87
People with disabilities should be at decision making tables, just like anyone else	76	85	78	77	80	87	83	83	86	85	69	82	70	85	80
Disability issues should be included in national policies on health care	73	84	80	77	81	86	82	84	84	86	66	83	61	88	84
Candidates and their campaigns should reach out to and include people with disabilities ...	70	81	77	63	76	83	79	76	85	83	66	77	61	79	75
America's leaders should fight stigmas and bias that limit opportunities for people with disabilities	70	79	75	68	75	79	78	78	80	82	70	77	57	80	75

A majority of older, African American, Latinx, Democratic, and Biden voters say issues around disability and health care influence how motivated they are to vote. Democrats and Biden voters say candidates' stances on issues around disability influence how motivated they are to vote, too.

Tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement. [SECOND TIER]

% Strongly Agree	All	Men	Women	<30	30-39	40-49	50-64	65+	Non-College	College	White	AA	Latinx	API	Dem	Ind	Rep	Voted Trump	Voted Biden
People with disabilities bring unique talents to the workplace that benefit employers and organizations	69	67	71	62	63	68	70	77	71	66	68	77	70	58	75	68	63	63	75
People with disabilities have faced deep inequality, ableism and oppression. They need to be heard	68	66	69	60	67	68	70	71	71	64	66	82	63	70	82	62	57	56	79
Voting on the issues that matter to the disability community can bring about change	66	68	64	67	64	65	65	68	67	65	65	76	64	56	73	66	58	58	75
Issues around disability and health care influence how motivated I am to vote*	43	41	45	34	46	42	41	50	44	42	37	62	50	41	55	41	32	33	53
Candidates' stances on issues around disability influenced who I voted for in the election	38	36	39	38	33	33	38	43	39	35	36	50	39	33	49	34	29	29	48
Issues around disability influence how motivated I am to vote*	35	36	35	37	30	37	36	37	42	28	33	52	42	31	45	43	21	25	44

*split sampled question

Voters with disabilities strongly agree with all statements at higher rates than the disability community overall, as do Biden voters who heard about issues around disabilities from campaigns. Younger voters with disabilities are more likely than older voters with disabilities to strongly agree that candidates' stances on issues around disability influence who they voted for and how motivated they were to vote this election.

Tell me if you agree or disagree with each statement. [SECOND TIER]

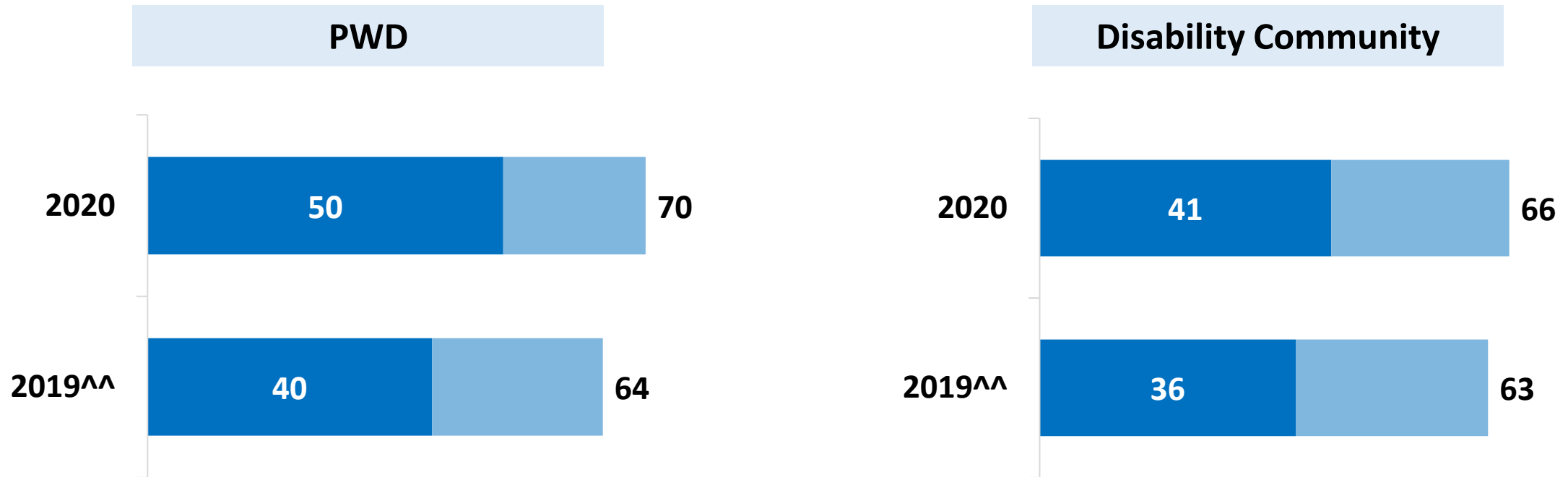
% Strongly Agree	All Voters	PWD	Fam	Friend	All Dis. Comm.	PWD Men	PWD Women	PWD <50	PWD 50+	Heard Issues Biden	Heard Issues Trump	Didn't Hear Biden	Didn't Hear Trump	PWD BG States	Dis. Com. BG States
People with disabilities bring unique talents to the workplace that benefit employers and organizations	69	83	75	60	76	81	85	78	87	80	66	72	62	82	75
People with disabilities have faced deep inequality, ableism and oppression. They need to be heard	68	84	70	65	73	81	86	83	85	84	54	77	59	84	72
Voting on the issues that matter to the disability community can bring about change	66	79	71	59	72	81	77	78	80	81	61	72	59	79	69
Issues around disability and health care influence how motivated I am to vote*	43	53	49	42	50	51	55	50	55	65	40	47	31	49	48
Candidates' stances on issues around disability influenced who I voted for in the election	38	54	40	36	43	57	51	57	52	59	39	42	25	56	47
Issues around disability influence how motivated I am to vote*	35	50	35	49	41	52	47	57	44	49	26	42	24	48	40

*split sampled question

THE TARRANCE GROUP

There has been a 10-point increase in intensity among people with disabilities and a 5-point increase among the disability community strongly agreeing that issues around disability influence how motivated they are to vote.

Issues around disability influence how motivated I am to vote*



*split sampled question

Not so strongly agree
Strongly agree

^^Lake Research Partners conducted a mixed mode survey for NDRN from August 12 – August 20th, 2019 among 1,000 adults nationwide with a disability, or who have an immediate family member or close friend with a disability.

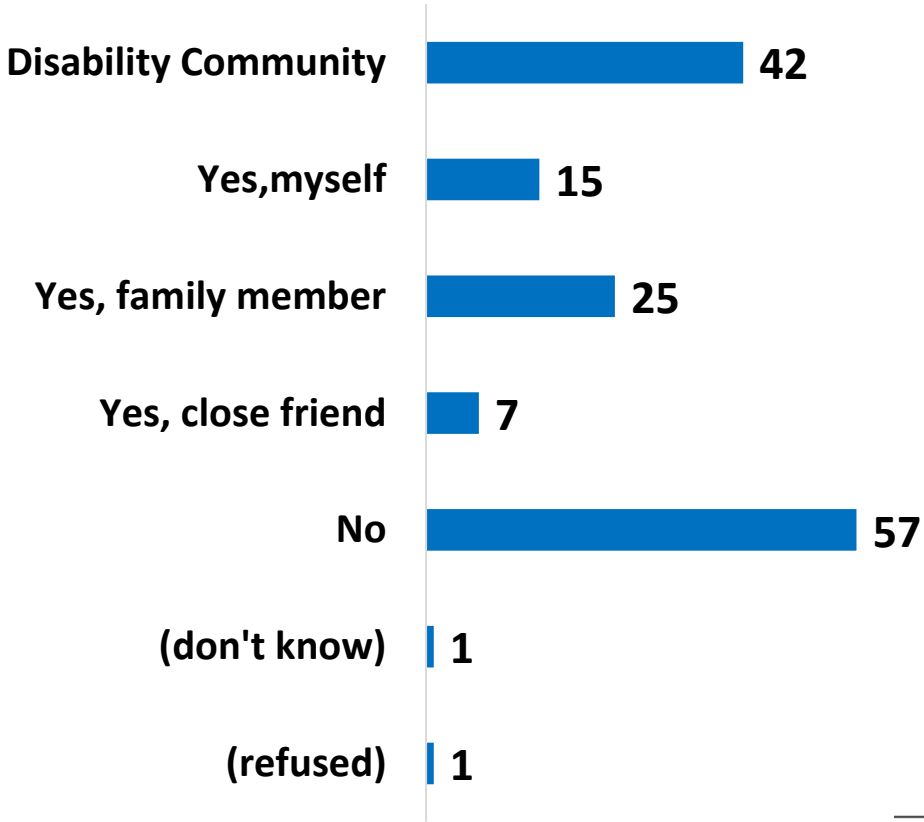
Voters with disabilities, particularly women with disabilities, are very concerned that cuts to health care and the ACA will have a negative impact on people with disabilities.

How concerned are you that cuts to health care and the ACA will have a negative impact on people with disabilities?

	All Voters	PWD	Family	Friends	All Dis. Comm.	PWD Men	PWD Women	PWD <50	PWD 50+	PWD BG States	Dis. Comm. BG States
Very concerned	41	52	47	42	46	44	60	54	50	47	46
Somewhat concerned	22	18	19	18	20	19	17	17	20	14	17
A little concerned	14	8	12	22	13	8	9	10	7	10	15
Not concerned at all	19	15	20	15	18	21	8	17	12	20	19
Concerned	62	70	65	60	65	63	77	71	70	62	63
Not concerned	32	23	32	37	31	30	16	28	19	31	33

More than 2 in 5 voters report having a disability and/or having a family member or a close friend with a disability.

Do you, a family member, or a close friend have a disability, such as a physical, mental health, sensory, learning, cognitive or other disability that impacts daily living? If yes, then please let me know which applies.



Voters with disabilities skew female, older, white, and Household income under \$50K.

Voters in the disability community overall also leans female, older, and white, but household incomes over \$50K lean higher.

Disability	Yes, myself	Yes, family member	Yes, friend	All yes	No
Men	46	50	47	48	46
Women	54	50	53	52	54
<30	15	22	20	19	17
30-39	16	18	24	17	15
40-49	11	14	20	14	16
50-64	30	24	26	28	27
65+	27	23	10	23	25
White	64	64	62	64	67
African American	13	14	10	13	11
Latino	14	14	14	14	13
API	3	3	5	3	4
Native American	5	4	4	4	3
Child <18	22	36	31	30	21
No Child < 18	78	63	63	68	79
Under \$50K	50	30	39	37	26
Over \$50K	44	62	54	56	67

Voters with disabilities are less likely to have a college education or a job.

	All Voters	PWD	Family	Friends	All
HS/Less	18	20	15	17	16
Vocational/Tech	4	5	4	8	5
Some College	21	27	23	28	25
Associates	12	12	13	13	13
Bachelor's	27	19	22	20	21
Post-Grad/Adv.	19	16	23	15	20
Employed Full time	48	24	48	61	42
Employed Part time	7	7	9	10	9
Furloughed	1	1	2	2	2
Unemployed	7	14	5	8	9
Homemakers	5	6	7	4	6
Student	2	1	1	2	1
Retired	30	45	26	14	31
Married	56	46	63	47	56
Unmarried w/ partner	6	6	6	10	6
Single	18	17	14	24	17
Separated/divorced	12	18	9	16	13
Widowed	7	12	7	0	8
Child under 18	25	22	36	31	30
No child under 18	74	78	63	63	68
HH Income Under \$50,000	31	50	30	39	37
HH Income Over \$50,000	62	44	62	54	56

Stan Greenberg

Stan Greenberg is a New York Times best-selling author and polling adviser to presidents, prime ministers and CEOs globally and right now is conducting deep research in more than a dozen countries. He was the senior pollster for President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, British Prime Minister Tony Blair, and President Nelson Mandela. Greenberg's corporate clients have included Microsoft and other global companies. Greenberg was inducted into the American Association of Political Consultants' "Hall of Fame." He has been described as "the father of modern polling techniques," "the De Niro of all political consultants," and "an unrivaled international 'guru.'" Esquire Magazine named him one of the most important people of the 21st century. He is always on call because his research is relevant, innovative and deep, whether it is exploring the new economy, climate change, new gender roles, political reform, or the hegemonic role of millennials.





Disability Community in the Final Week of the 2020 Election

Battleground Web Survey: October 21-27, 2020

November 2, 2020

CAMPAIGNS | CORPORATIONS | ADVOCACY | WORLDWIDE

Definition of Battleground

Total 16-state Presidential and Senate battleground: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico, North Carolina, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Wisconsin

8 Diverse States = AZ (+5), CO (+1), FL (+2), GA (+5), NV (+1), NM (+3), NC (+3), VA (+1)

8 Blue Wall States = IA (+3), MI (+1), ME (+3), MN (+1), NH (-), OH (+3), PA (-), WI (-)

4 Regions :

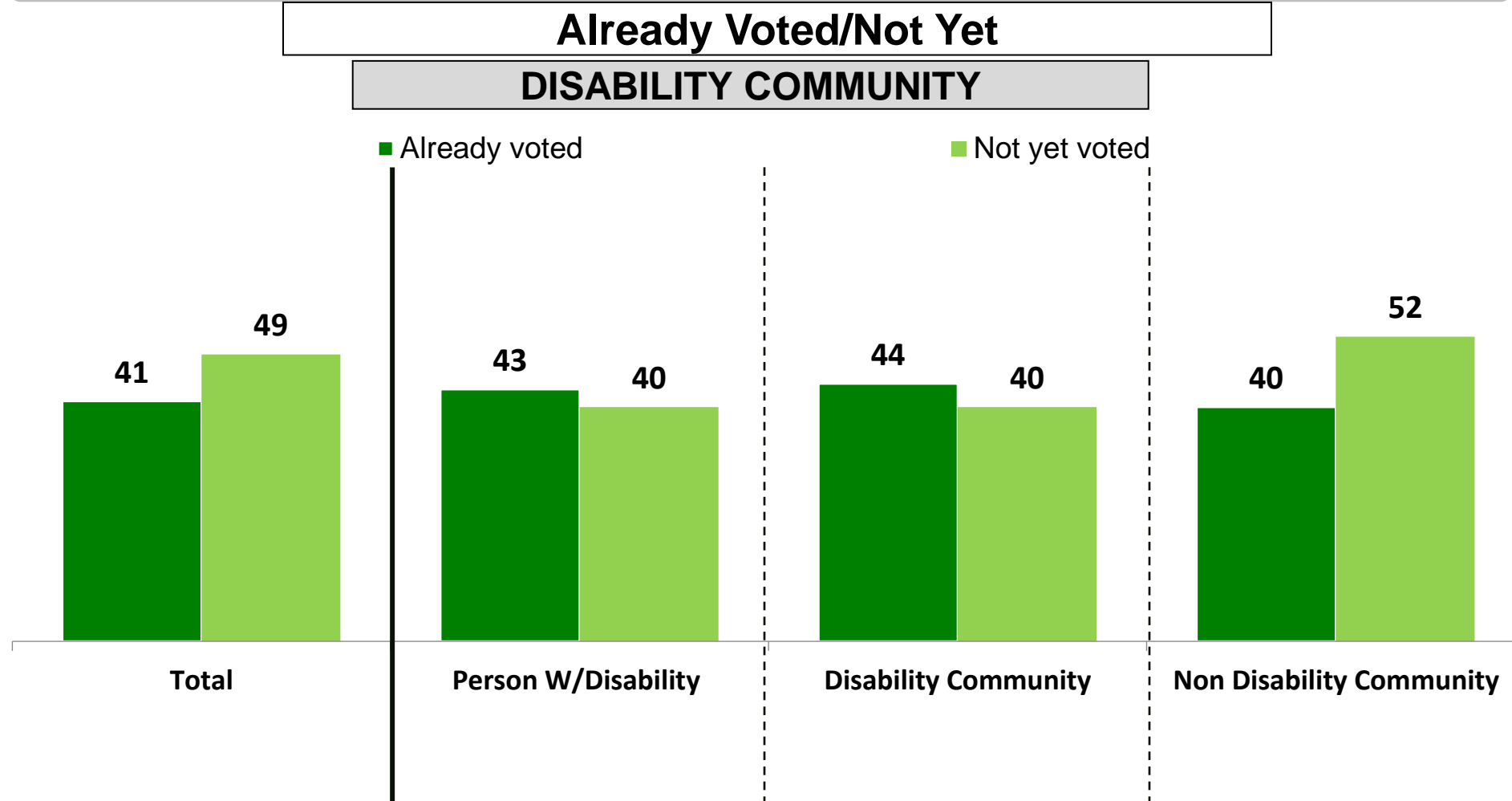
- Northeast (ME, NH, PA),
- Midwest (IA, MI, MN, OH, WI)
- South (FL, GA, NC, VA)
- West (AZ, CO, NM, NV)

**(Republican PVI advantage) (PVI – even) (Democratic PVI advantage)*

Definition of the Disability Community: The disability community includes people who self-identify as having a disability, having a family member with a disability, or having a close friend with a disability.

Nearly half of the disability community in the battleground had voted by the Friday before the election

As you may know, there will be an election for President, U.S. Congress and other offices in November. What are the chances of you voting in the election in November, or have you already voted?

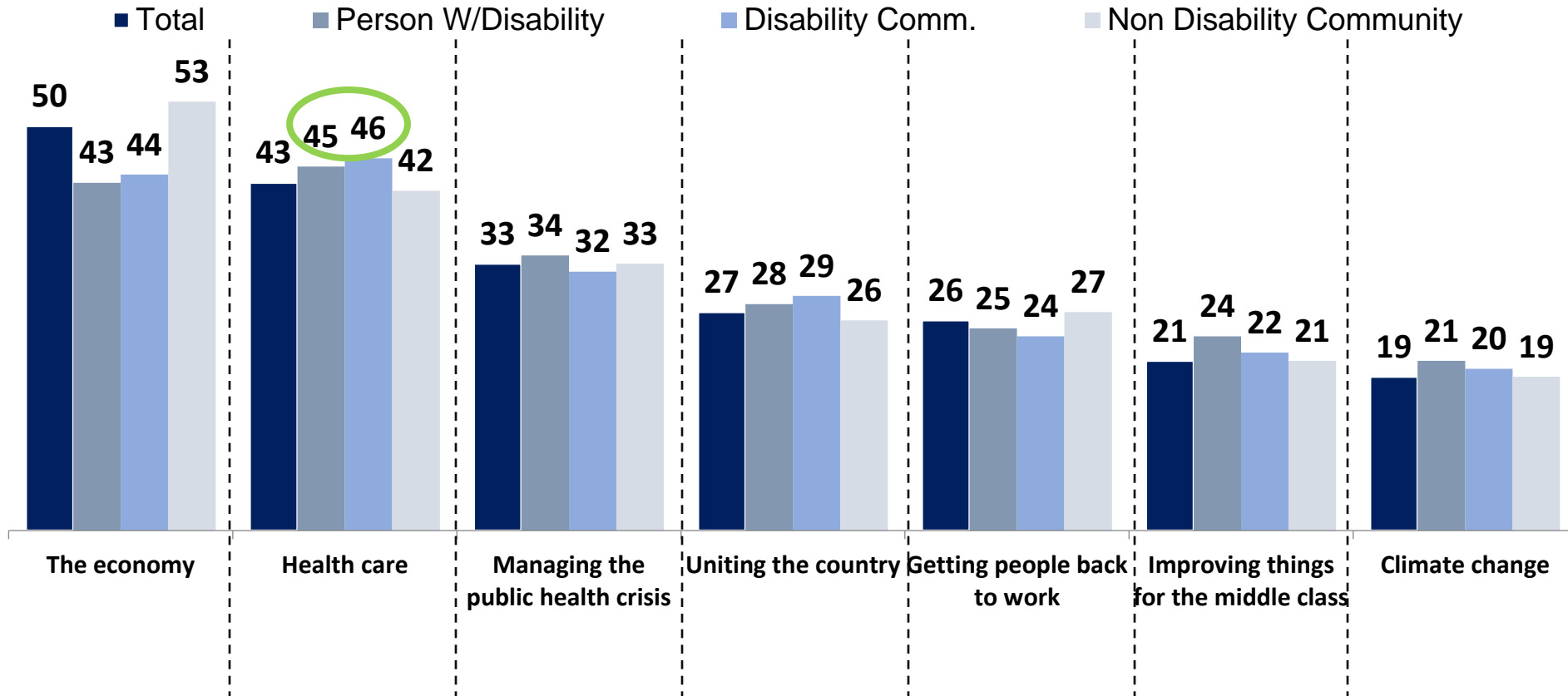


Health care tops the economy among the disability community in this election

Now you will read a list of issues in this election. Please pick the top THREE that will be most important to you when voting in the election for President, Senate and Congress this year.

TOP ISSUES IN THE ELECTION

DISABILITY COMMUNITY

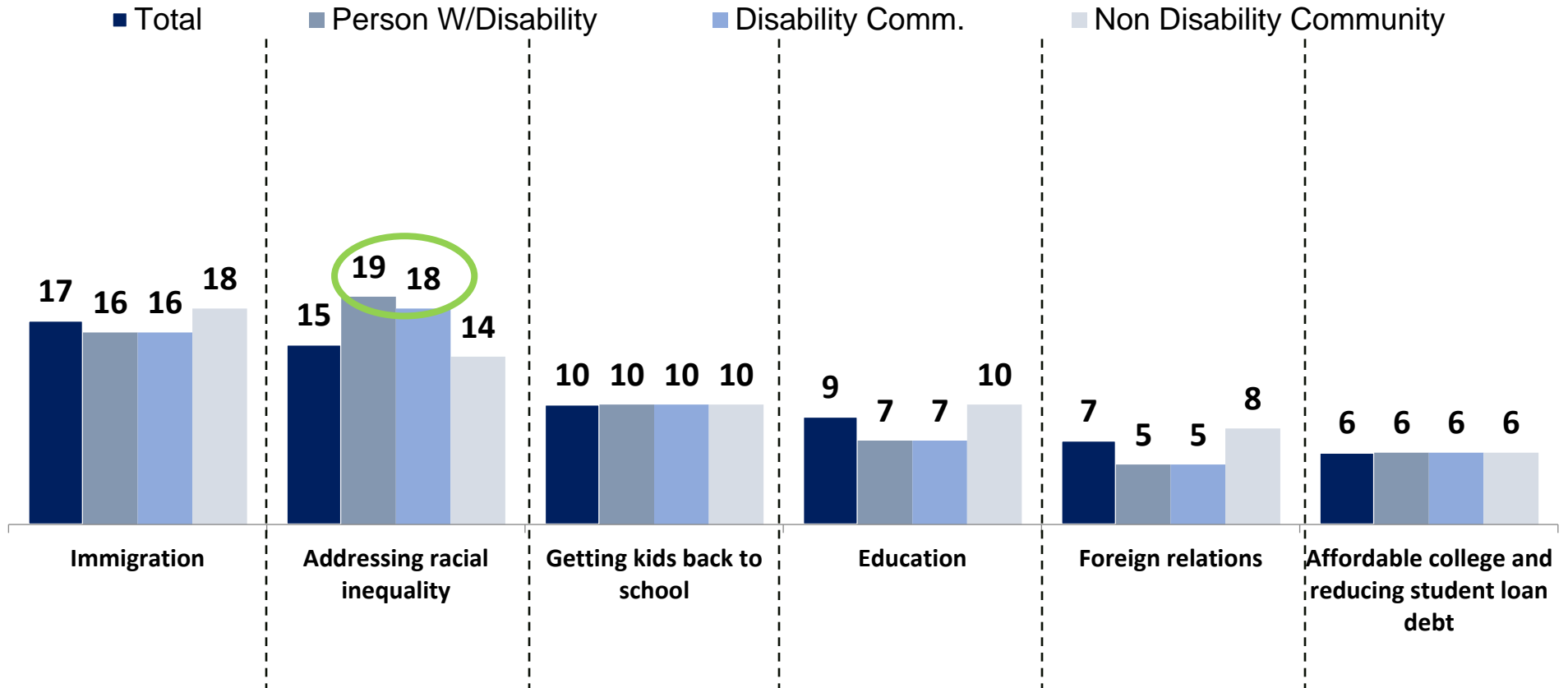


Disability community also stands out on addressing inequality, as a priority in this election

Now you will read a list of issues in this election. Please pick the top THREE that will be most important to you when voting in the election for President, Senate and Congress this year.

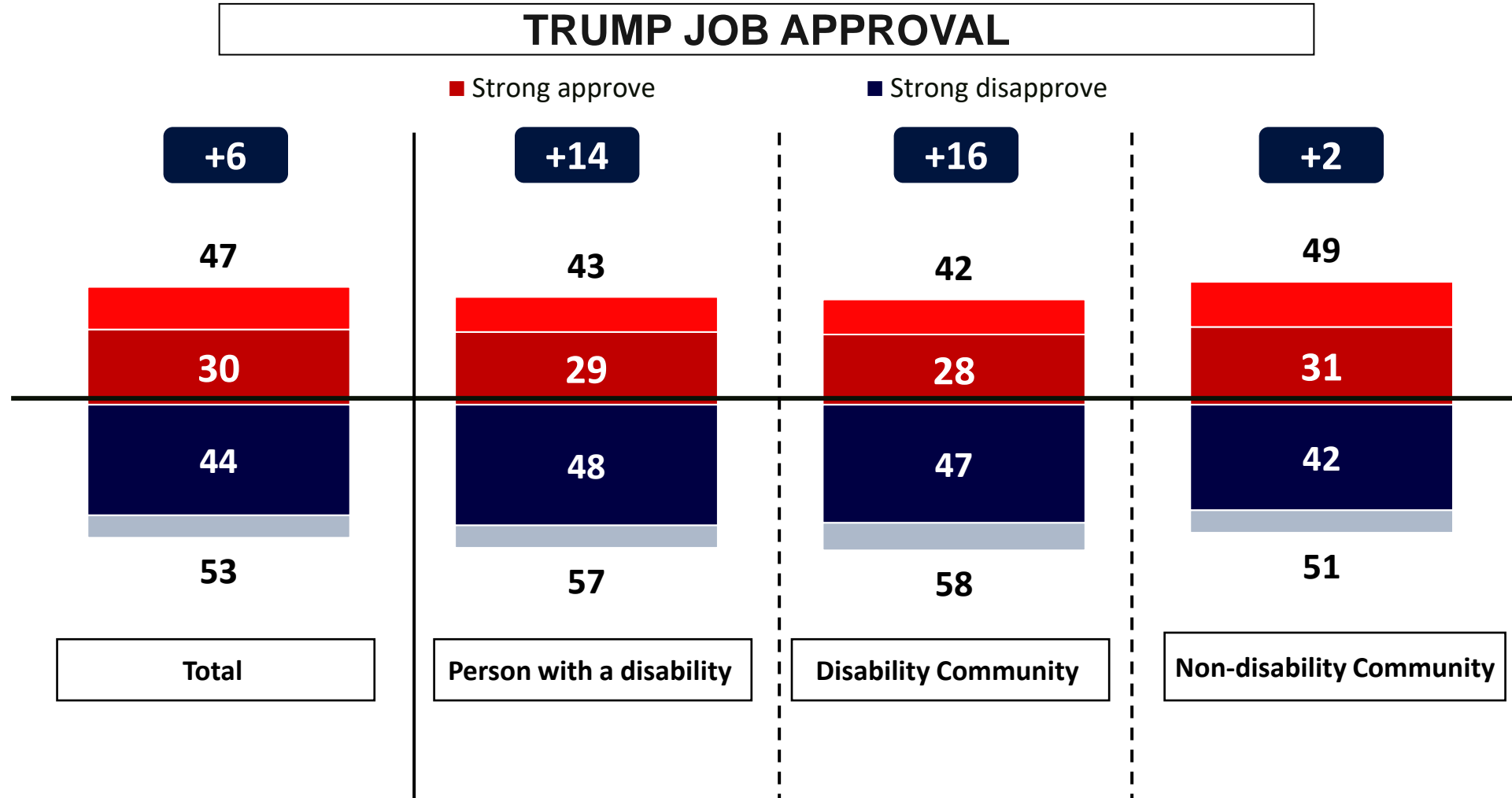
TOP ISSUES IN THE ELECTION CONTINUED

DISABILITY COMMUNITY



Disapproval of Trump's overall job performance is over twice the average among the disability community

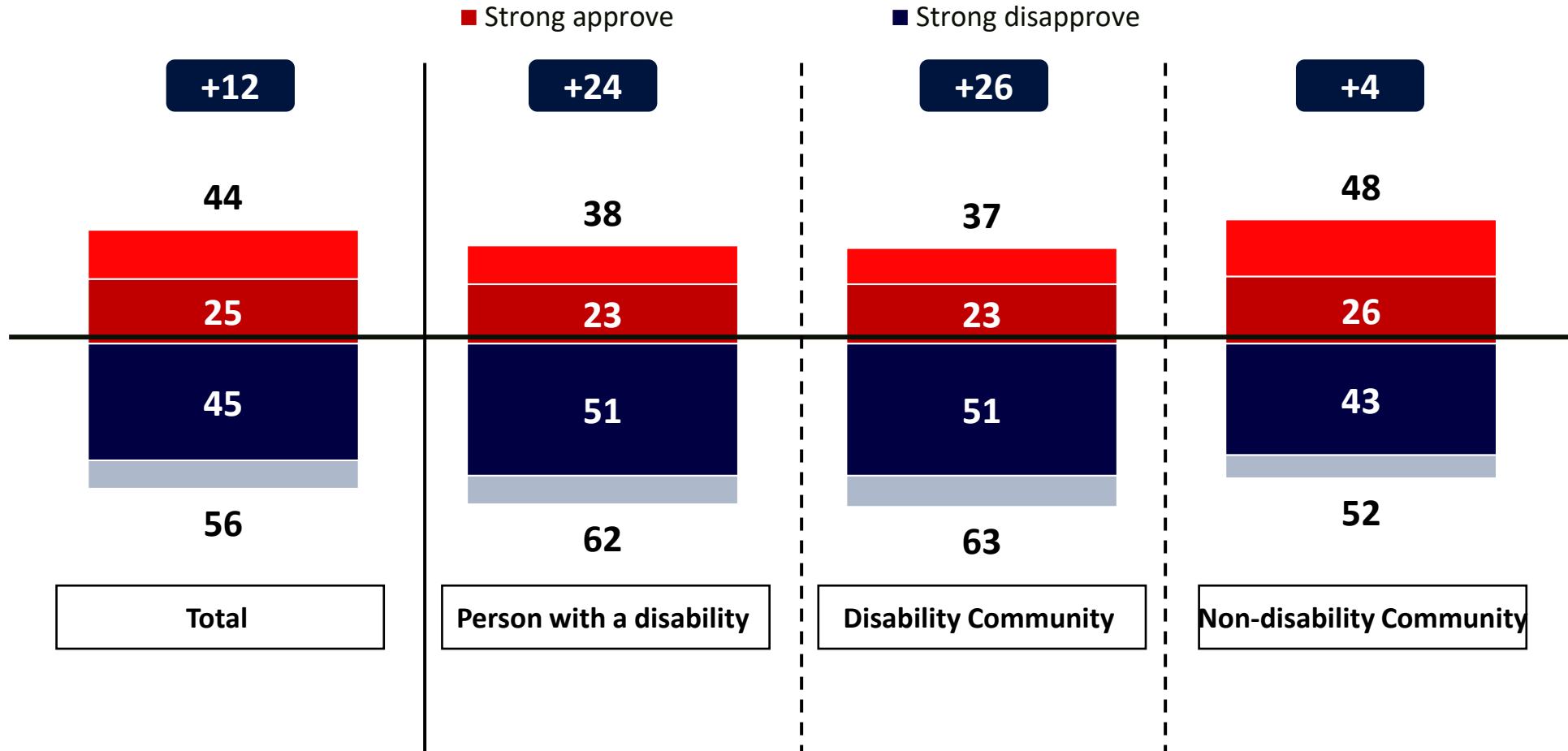
Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?



Majority in the disability community “strongly disapprove” of Trump’s handling of the coronavirus outbreak

Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling the Coronavirus outbreak?

TRUMP COVID JOB APPROVAL

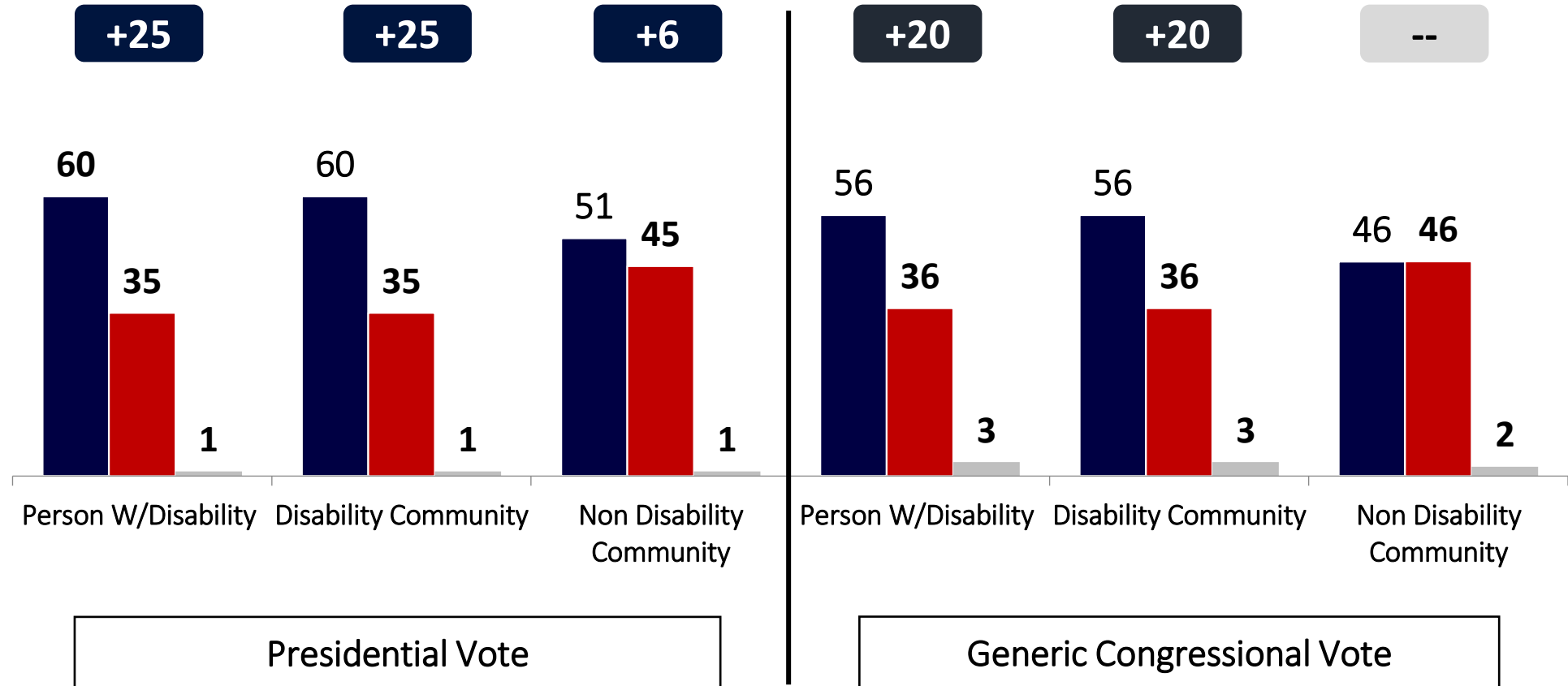


Strong Democratic lead in Presidential and House vote across the disability community

PRESIDENTIAL & CONGRESSIONAL BALLOTS

BATTLEGROUND

■ Joe Biden/Democratic Candidate ■ Donald Trump/Republican Candidate



Curt Decker

Curt Decker has been affiliated with NDRN since its inception in 1982. As Executive Director of the nation's largest non-governmental enforcer of disability rights, Curt oversees all activities related to training and technical assistance, membership services, and legislative advocacy. Before founding NDRN with other P&A Directors, Curt served as Director of the Maryland P&A, Disability Rights Maryland. Curt also served as Director of the H.E.L.P. Resource Project for Abused and Neglected Children for four years, and was a VISTA worker prior to working as a senior attorney for Baltimore Legal Aid Bureau for five years. Curt is also a past chair of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, a coalition of over 100 national disability groups, and serves on the boards of Friends of Research. In his career, Curt also served as a legislative consultant for numerous groups, including the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, the National Public Law Training Center, and the Maryland Academy of Physician's Assistants.



Lanona Lynette Jones, MBA

As the Founder and Executive Director of the nonprofit organization, Inspire Positivity, Inc., Lanona Jones develops programs, workshops and events that foster the concept of inspiring and encouraging disenfranchised and disabled residents of neighborhoods to take an active role in creating the revitalization and redevelopment of their communities. The nonprofit's primary purpose is to provide a safe, structured and secure environment to allow residents to have their voices heard and their problems and concerns addressed through Welcoming Community Dialogues. Ms. Jones has over 25 years of professional experience in the Human Resources and Non-Profit Management industries. Ms. Jones has a very unique perspective and understanding regarding the plight of the disabled populations in the community. Serving with compassion and determination, Ms. Jones applies her professional and lived experiences as a disabled individual to assist residents who are homeless, transitioning back into the community from incarceration and those with substance abuse challenges, developmental disabilities and mental illness.

Georgia Disability Vote Partnership

Join the Party!

Georgia Disability Vote Partnership

Use Your Power!

MAKE THE DISABILITY VOTE COUNT

Register! Educate! Vote! Use your Power!
MAKE THE DISABILITY VOTE COUNT

The Arc
Georgia
Proud
Co-chair

Q&A

**Questions?
Comments?**

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Appendix

Key Findings – Election Overview

- In a closely contested race, **Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump in both the electoral college and the popular vote. Our election survey had the national vote at 51% for Biden to 48% for Trump.**
 - Democrats and Republicans consolidated their respective bases (92% of Democrats voted for Biden and 93% of Republicans voted for Trump), while Independents broke in favor of Biden (54% Biden to 44% for Trump).
 - The gender gap played an important role, 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 supported Biden at higher levels.
- **A slim majority of voters with disabilities (51%), including 55% of voters with disabilities in battleground states, voted for Donald Trump.** A majority of the disability community as a whole voted for Biden – 51% to 48%.
 - While a solid majority of married (64%), non-college (57%), white (57%), male (55%) and older (59%) voters with disabilities voted for Trump, unmarried (58%), younger (56%), college-educated (57%), female (50%), and voters of color with disabilities (58%) broke for Biden.
 - In 2016, a plurality of voters with disabilities (49%) voted for Clinton (46% voted Trump). Forty-eight (48) percent of voters in the disability community overall voted for Trump in 2016 while 47% voted for Clinton.

Key Findings – Election Overview (2)

- The gender gap among voters overall showed up in the Congressional ballot as well, with men voting for the Republican candidate by 3 points (51% for the Republican to 48% for the Democrat), and women voting for the Democratic candidate by 9 points (54% for the Democrat to 45% for the Republican). Independent voters favored the Democratic candidate by 6 points (51% for the Democrat to 45% for the Republican).
- While white voters voted for the Republican by 9 points, Black, Latinx, and Asian American/Pacific Islander voters voted for the Democratic candidate by significant margins.
- Voters with disabilities split their votes evenly between the Democratic candidate (49%) and Republican candidate (49%). Half of the disability community overall voted for the Democrat.
 - A majority of married (64%), non-college (57%), male (55%) and older voters (56%) with disabilities voted for the Republican candidate for Congress. Voters of color with disabilities (62%), college educated (62%), unmarried (62%), younger (59%) and women (53%) voters with disabilities voted for the Democratic candidate.
 - In 2016, a majority of voters with disabilities (54%) voted for the Democratic candidate as did half (50%) of the disability community overall.

Key Findings – Election Overview (3)

- Three-quarters of voters (75%) made up their minds more than three months ago. Another sixth (17%) made up their minds one to three months ago (10%) or in the past month (7%). There were very few late deciders: 4% made up their mind in the week before the election and 4% in the last few days.
 - **73% of voters with disabilities and 72% of the disability community at large decided who they were going to vote more than three months ago as well.**
 - Half (50%) of late decider voters with disabilities (decided in the last few days/week/month before the election)* voted for Trump and 44% voted for Biden. Voters with disabilities who decided who to vote for early (decided more than 1 month before election) also voted Trump – 51% to 48%.
 - Among the disability community overall, late deciders voted for Biden 48% to 47% and early deciders voted for Biden 54% to 45%.
- A plurality of voters voted in person on Election Day (47%), including nearly 6 in 10 Trump voters (59%). Nearly 7 in 10 Biden voters voted early by mail or absentee ballot (69%).
 - **45% of voters with disabilities voted in person on Election Day, 23% voted early in person, and 31% of voters with disabilities voted early by mail or absentee.**
 - While two-thirds of voters with disabilities who voted early by mail/absentee ballot voted for Biden (66%), majorities of those who voted early in person (54%) and in person on Election Day (64%) voted Trump.
 - Among the disability community overall, majorities of those who voted early in person (55%) and by mail/absentee (71%) voted Biden. A majority (56%) of those who voted in person on Election Day voted Trump.
- Nearly two-thirds (64%) are confident that the winner of the election will be able to get their priorities passed in the new Congress. Voters with disabilities are more likely than voters overall to be confident (72%), including nearly three-quarters of women with disabilities and younger people with disabilities (75% and 74%, respectively).

*note small sample size

Key Findings – Election Overview (4)

- **The economy and jobs and COVID-19 dominated voters' issue concerns**, with 30% saying the economy and jobs and 28% saying COVID-19 was one of the two most important issues in deciding for whom to vote. This is followed by health care (18%), dysfunction in government (16%), and racial justice (14%).
 - Voters concerned with the economy and jobs overwhelmingly favored Trump (80%) over Biden (19%). Biden had similarly large margins among voters concerned with COVID-19: 82% voted for Biden compared to 18% who voted for Trump.
- **Among voters with disabilities, COVID-19 (24%) and the economy and jobs (22%) were the most important issues in deciding for whom to vote. 26% of the broader disability community said COVID-19 and the economy and jobs were the most important issues, too.**
 - Voters with disabilities who chose COVID-19 as one of the most important issues this election voted 77% for Biden and 21% for Trump. Voters in the broader disability community who chose COVID-19 voted 86% for Biden and 14% for Trump.

Key Findings – Candidates and Disability Issues

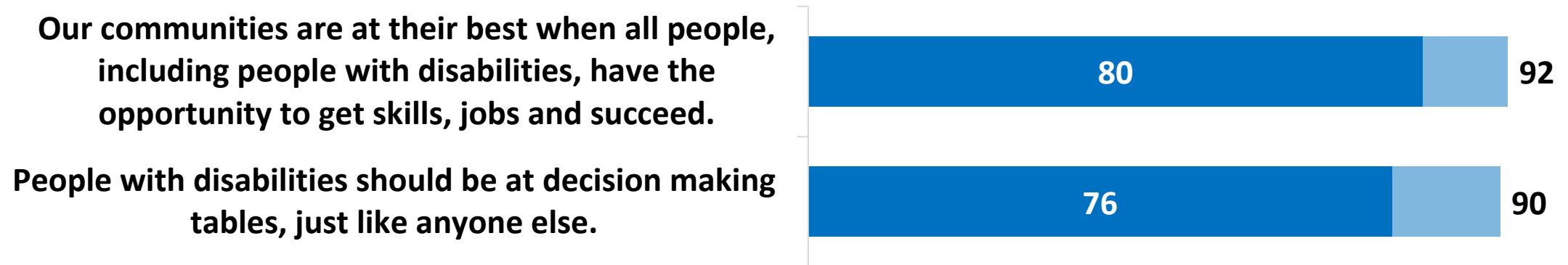
- **Less than one-third of voters overall remember hearing, reading, or seeing anything from congressional or presidential campaigns about issues that are important to people with disabilities (31%).**
 - African American voters are most likely to recall hearing something from campaigns (38%). Independents and voters in the Midwest are least likely (69% and 68% no, respectively).
 - Voters with disabilities (41%), women with disabilities (46%), and voters with a close friend with disabilities (47%) are most likely to have heard, read, or seen something, but more than half across subgroups say they had not.
- **A solid majority of voters believe it is *very* important that candidates treat people with disabilities with dignity and respect (83%)** – a core value among all voters, voters with disabilities, and the broader disability community since 2016.
 - We see the greatest intensity of support among voters with disabilities (90%), the disability community (88%), older voters (87%), whites (85%), African Americans (86%), and Democrats (89%). There is a 13-point gap in intensity between Biden and Trump voters – 90% among Biden voters to 77% among Trump voters.
- **Sixty percent of voters believe it is very important that congressional and presidential campaigns address issues that are important to people with disabilities** as well. Voters with disabilities (81%), including 79% of voter with disabilities in battleground states and 86% of older voters with disabilities, and African Americans (77%) are especially likely to say it is very important.

Key Findings – Candidates and Disability Issues (2)

- 62% of voters are concerned that **cuts to health care and the ACA will have a negative impact on people with disabilities**, including about 2 in 5 who are very concerned (41%).
 - African Americans (66%), Democrats (66%), voters in the Northeast (49%), and older voters (47%) are most likely to be very concerned. A majority of Republicans are not concerned (54%), but 39% are concerned.
- 52% of voters with disabilities are very concerned that cuts to health care and the ACA will have a negative impact on people with disabilities (70% concerned overall). Women with disabilities are especially concerned – 77% concerned, 60% very concerned.

Key Findings – Candidates and Disability Issues (3)

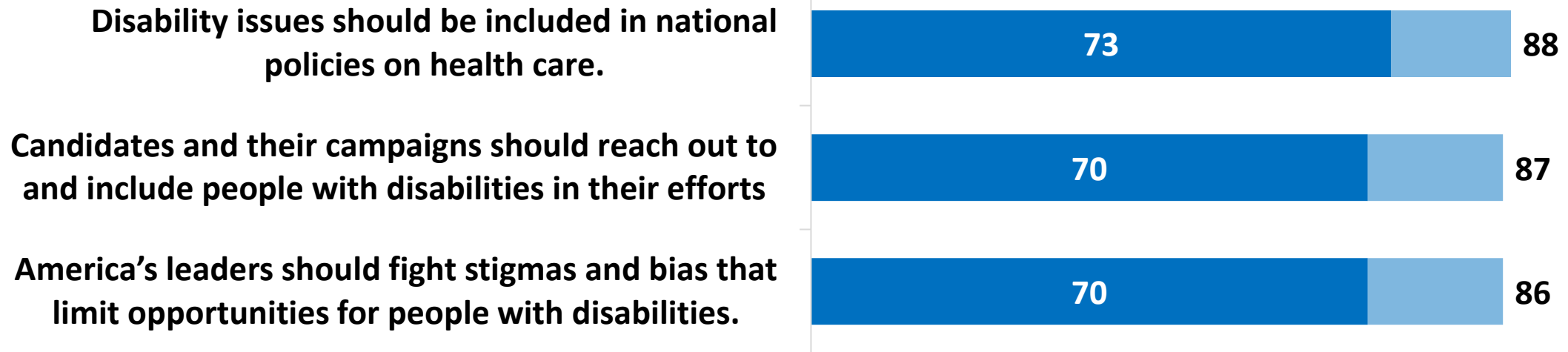
- Voters with disabilities strongly agree with all statements at higher rates than voters overall and the disability community overall, as do Biden voters who heard about issues around disabilities from campaigns.
- At least 9 in 10 voters agree that our communities are at their best when all people, including people with disabilities, have opportunities, and that people with disabilities should be at decision making tables just like everyone else. Again, these are core values.



- The top tier statements receive majority strong agreement across partisan lines, but the strongest agreements comes from Democrats and Independents. There is a 10-point gap in intense agreement between Democrats (85%) and Republicans (75%) toward the idea that *our communities are at their best when all people, including people with disabilities, have the opportunity to get skills, jobs, and succeed.*

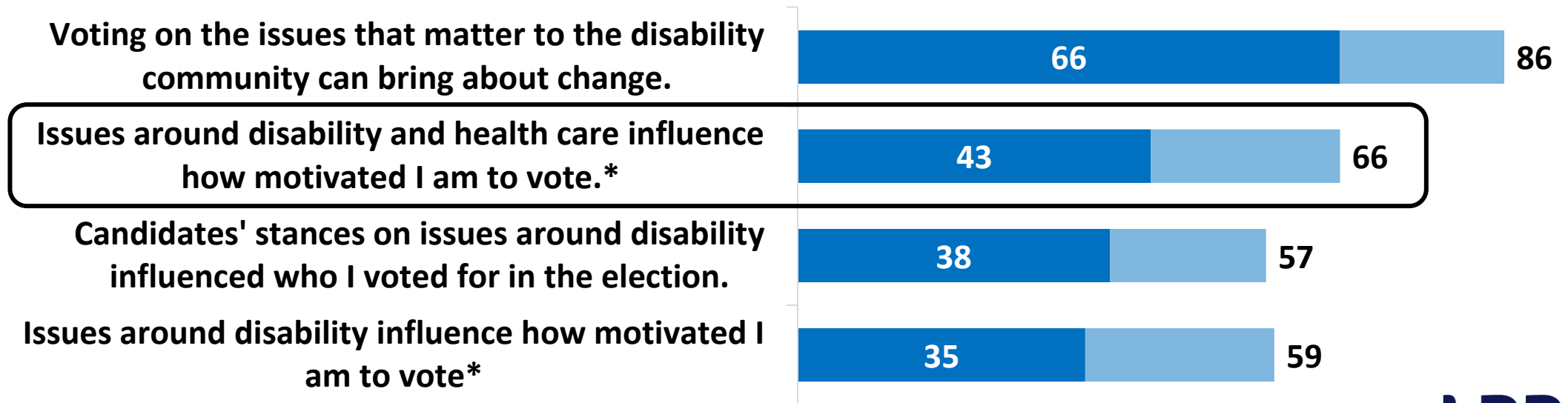
Key Findings – Candidates and Disability Issues (4)

- Voters also strongly agree with statements that call for disability issues to be included in national policies on health care and for candidates and their campaigns to not only include this constituency in their outreach efforts but to actively fight against stigmas and bias.

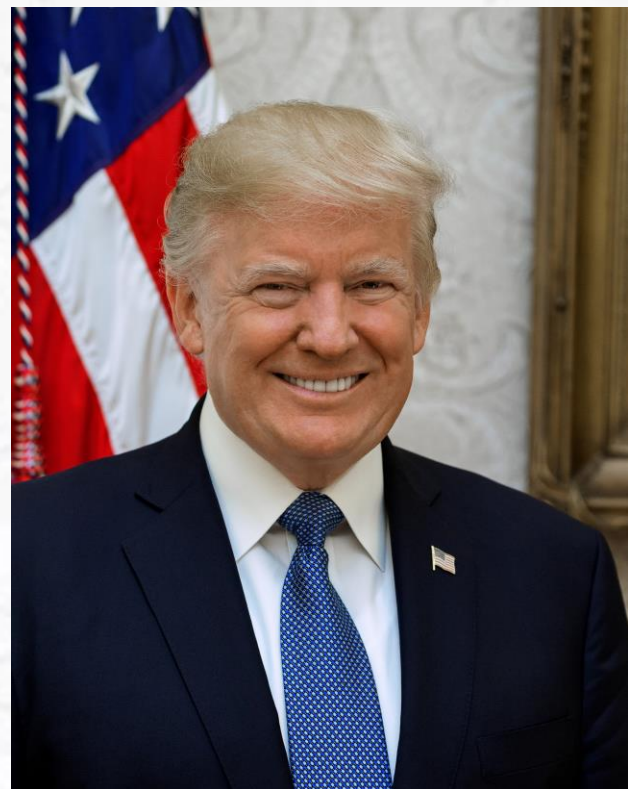


Key Findings – Candidates and Disability Issues (5)

- A solid majority of voters strongly agree voting on the issues that matter to the disability community can bring about change. Statements that center the individual around how motivated these issues are to voting behavior fall into a second tier. Voters are more likely to strongly agree that issues around disability *and healthcare* influence their motivation to vote rather than disability issues alone.
 - Younger voters with disabilities are more likely than older voters with disabilities to strongly agree that candidates' stances on issues around disability influence who they voted for and how motivated they were to vote in this election (57%).



*split sampled question



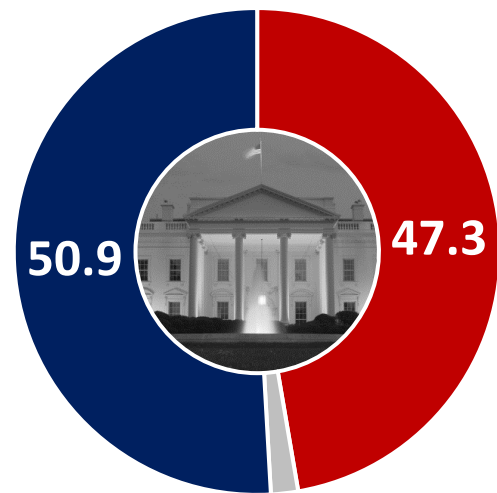
Presidential Vote

Image Description: An official photo of President-Elect Joe Biden and President Donald Trump.

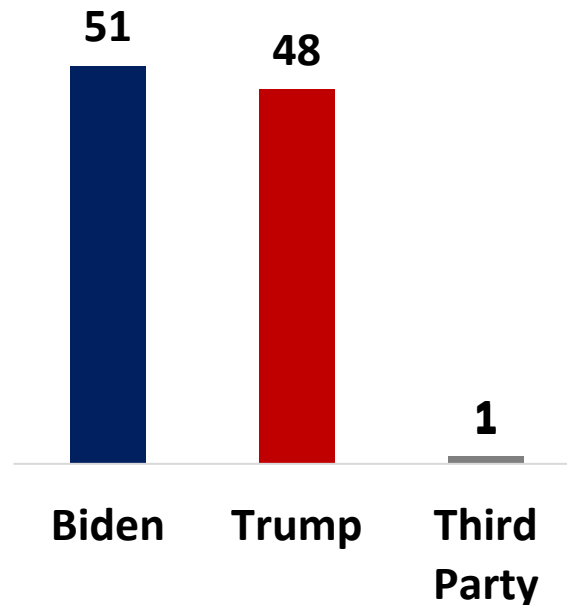
In a closely contested race, Joe Biden defeated Donald Trump in both the electoral college and the popular vote. Our election survey had the national vote at 51% for Biden to 48% for Trump.

If the election for President were held today, and the candidates were [ROTATE BIDEN AND TRUMP] _ Democrat Joe Biden _ Republican Donald Trump, _ Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, [AND] _ Green Party Candidate Howie Hawkins, for whom would you vote?

Popular Vote as of 11/16/20



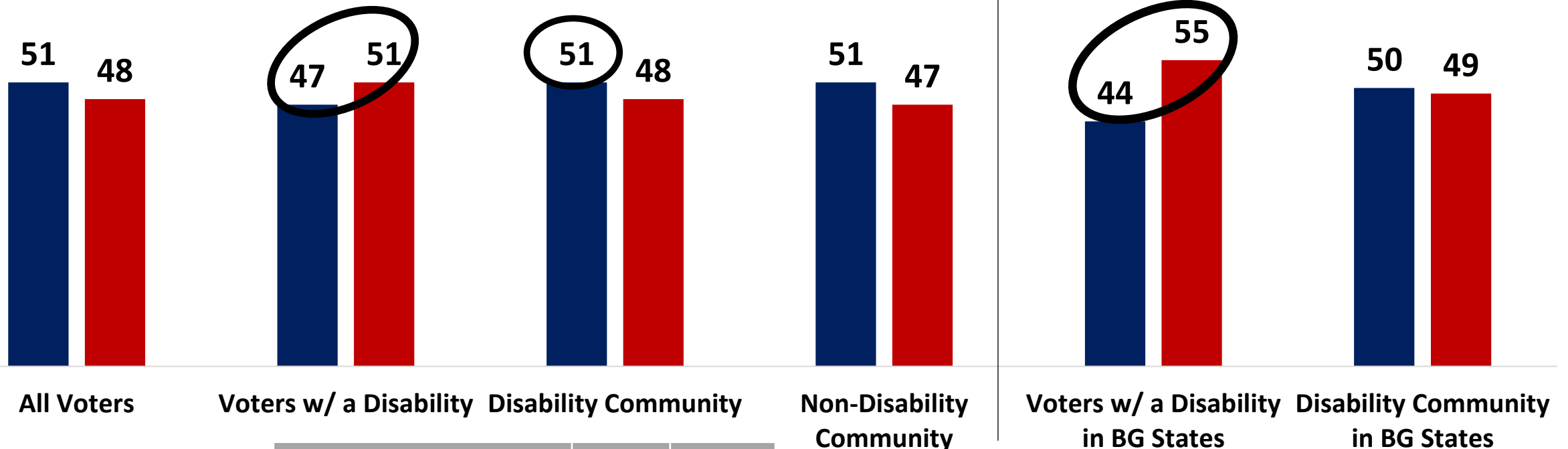
■ Trump
■ Other
■ Biden



	Trump	Biden	Third Party
Men	50	48	2
Women	45	53	1
Under 30	40	58	2
30 to 39	43	55	1
40 to 49	51	47	1
50 to 64	50	49	0
Over 65	51	47	1
Northeast	38	61	0
Midwest	51	48	1
South	51	47	2
West	47	52	1
White	54	45	1
African American	11	87	1
Latinx	40	59	1
API	36	62	3
Democrat (ID)	7	92	0
Independent (ID)	44	54	2
Republican (ID)	93	6	1

A majority of voters with disabilities overall, including 55% of voters with disabilities in battleground states, voted for Donald Trump. A majority of the disability community as a whole voted for Biden – 51% to 48%. In 2016, a plurality of voters with disabilities (49%) voted for Clinton.

If the election for President were held today, and the candidates were [ROTATE BIDEN AND TRUMP] _ Democrat Joe Biden _ Republican Donald Trump, _ Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, [AND] _ Green Party Candidate Howie Hawkins, for whom would you vote?



2016 Vote	Trump	Clinton
Voters w/ a Disability	46	49
Disability Community	48	47
Non-Disability Community	47	46

Democrat Joe Biden
Republican Donald Trump

If the election for President were held today, and the candidates were [ROTATE BIDEN AND TRUMP] _ Democrat Joe Biden _ Republican Donald Trump, _ Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, [AND] _ Green Party Candidate Howie Hawkins, for whom would you vote?

Subgroups of women were the foundation of Biden’s victory, especially Black women.

Among white voters, educational attainment remains a top predictor of the vote. As we have seen in recent elections, there was also a marriage gap.

More than two-thirds of urban voters voted for Biden and 63% of rural voters voted for Trump. Though Biden won narrowly among suburban women, the suburbs overall split their vote between the two candidates.

	Trump	Biden	Third Party
Total	48	51	1
White men	57	42	1
White women	50	48	1
African American men	15	82	3
African American women	8	92	0
Latino men	40	58	2
Latina women	40	59	1
College men	44	55	2
College women	37	61	1
Non-college men	55	43	2
Non-college women	52	47	1
White non-college men	64	35	1
White non-college women	62	37	1
White college men	49	49	2
White college women	38	60	1
Married men	57	42	1
Married women	52	47	1
Unmarried men	39	59	2
Unmarried women	38	60	0
Urban men	33	65	2
Urban women	31	69	0
Suburban men	52	46	1
Suburban women	47	51	1
Rural men	67	32	1
Rural women	63	39	1

Majorities of voters who are college educated, unmarried, female, younger, and voters of color who identify as a person with disabilities and/or as a member of the broader disability community voted for Biden.

Conversely, a solid majority of non-college, married, male, white, and older voters with disabilities and the broader disability community voted for Trump.

If the election for President were held today, and the candidates were [ROTATE BIDEN AND TRUMP] _ Democrat Joe Biden _ Republican Donald Trump, _ Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, [AND] _ Green Party Candidate Howie Hawkins, for whom would you vote?

	Trump	Biden	Third Party
Total Voters	48	51	1
Total Voters with a Disability	51	47	3
Total Disability Community	48	51	2
College PWD	39	57	4
College Disability Community	38	59	2
Non-college PWD	57	42	0
Non-college Disability Community	50	48	0
Married PWD	64	34	1
Married Disability Community	52	46	2
Unmarried PWD	40	58	3
Unmarried Disability Community	35	63	2
Men PWD	55	43	2
Women PWD	48	50	3
PWD under 50	40	56	3
PWD over 50	59	40	0
White PWD	57	41	2
POC PWD	40	58	2

Three-quarters of voters (75%) made up their minds more than three months ago. There were very few late deciders, but among the latest deciders, Trump had an 8-point margin: 51% to 43% for Biden. A plurality of voters overall voted in person on Election Day, including nearly 6 in 10 Trump voters. Nearly 7 in 10 Biden voters voted early by mail or absentee ballot.

If the election for President were held today, and the candidates were [ROTATE BIDEN AND TRUMP] _ Democrat Joe Biden _ Republican Donald Trump, _ Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, [AND] _ Green Party Candidate Howie Hawkins, for whom would you vote?

	Total	Trump	Biden
Total	100	48	51
Decided vote in last few days	4	51	43
In the past week	4	44	53
In the past month	7	47	49
1-3 months ago	10	44	53
3+ months ago	75	48	51
Voted in person on Election Day	47	59	40
Voted by mail/absentee on Election Day	--	--	--
Voted Early in person	25	47	52
Voted Early by mail/absentee	27	29	69

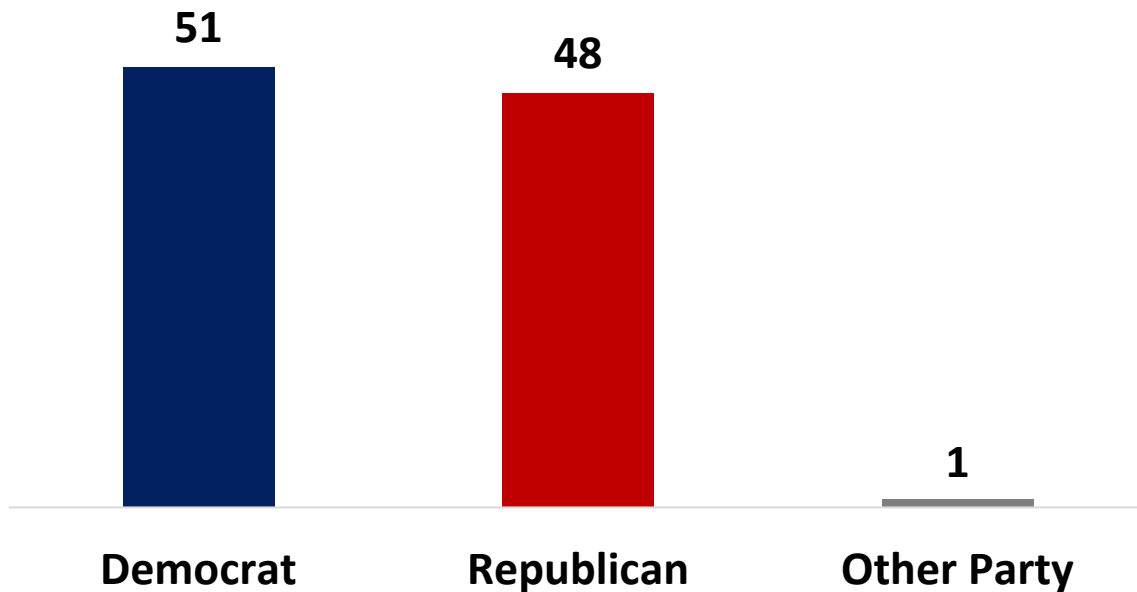
A majority of voters with disabilities voted for Trump regardless of when they made their decision, but among the disability community overall, those who decided for whom to vote early voted solidly for Biden. While two-thirds of voters with disabilities who voted early by mail/absentee ballot voted for Biden, majorities of those who voted early in person and on election day voted Trump. Among the disability community overall, majorities of those who voted early voted Biden and a majority of those who voted in person on Election Day voted Trump.

If the election for President were held today, and the candidates were [ROTATE BIDEN AND TRUMP] _ Democrat Joe Biden _ Republican Donald Trump, _ Libertarian Jo Jorgensen, [AND] _ Green Party Candidate Howie Hawkins, for whom would you vote?

	Trump	Biden
Total Voters	48	51
Total Voters with a Disability	51	47
Total Disability Community	48	51
PWD Decided Late (last days/week/month)	50	44
PWD Decided Early (more than 1 month ago)	51	48
Disability Community Decided Late (last days/week/month)	47	48
Disability Community Decided Early (more than 1 month ago)	45	54
PWD Voted Early in person	54	45
PWD Voted Early by mail/absentee	32	66
PWD Voted In Person on Election Day	64	33
Disability Community Voted Early in person	43	55
Disability Community Voted Early by mail/absentee	27	71
Disability Community Voted In Person on Election Day	56	43

In the Congressional ballot, the Democratic candidate beat the Republican candidate 51% to 48%. The gender gap showed up in the Congressional ballot as well, with men voting for the Republican candidate by 3 points and women voting for the Democratic candidate by 9 points. Independent voters favored the Democratic candidate by 6 points.

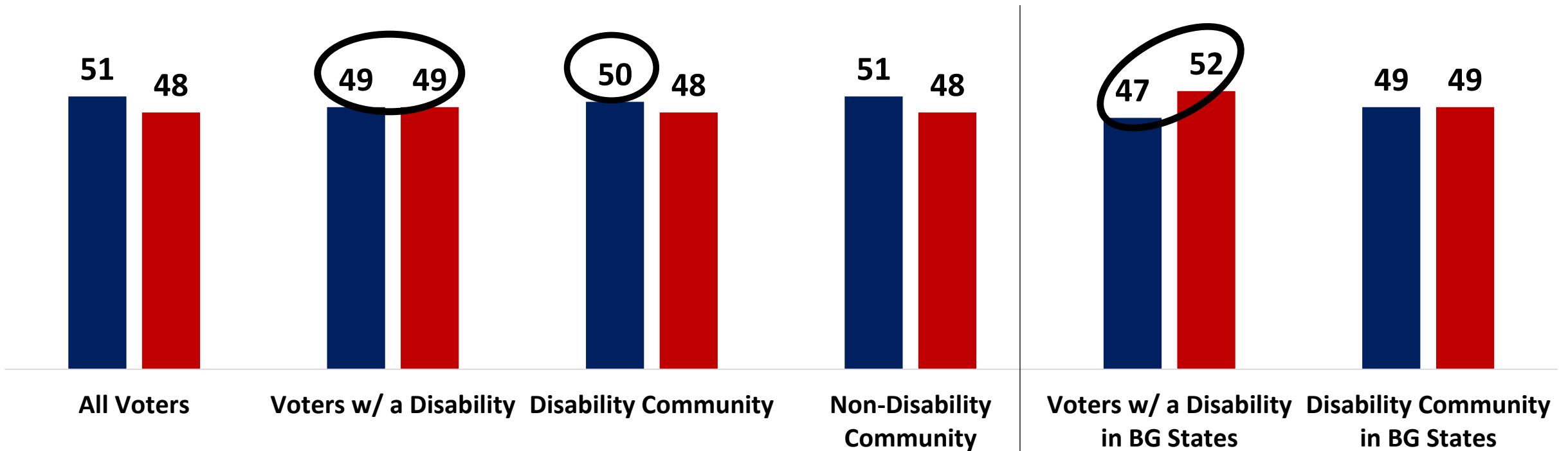
In the election for Congress, will you vote for [ROTATE: _the Republican candidate or _the Democratic candidate? [IF “UNDECIDED,” ASK]: Which candidate do you lean toward at this time?



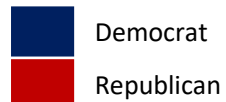
	Rep	Dem	Other
Men	51	48	1
Women	45	54	1
Under 30	39	59	2
30 to 39	43	56	1
40 to 49	53	46	1
50 to 64	51	48	1
Over 65	50	48	2
Northeast	38	61	1
Midwest	50	48	2
South	52	46	2
West	48	51	1
White	54	45	1
African American	11	87	2
Latino	39	58	3
AAPI	43	57	1
Democrat (ID)	6	94	0
Independent (ID)	45	51	4
Republican (ID)	95	5	0

Voters with disabilities nationwide split their votes evenly between the Democratic and Republican candidate. Among voters with disabilities in battleground states, 52% voted for the Republican candidate. Half of the disability community overall voted for the Democrat.

In the election for Congress, will you vote for [ROTATE: _the Republican candidate or _the Democratic candidate? [IF "UNDECIDED," ASK]: Which candidate do you lean toward at this time?



2016 Vote	Republican	Democrat
Voters w/ a Disability	41	54
Disability Community	48	50
Non-Disability Community	50	48



While white voters voted for the Republican by 9 points, voters of color voted for the Democratic candidate by significant margins across gender.

Across educational attainment, majorities of college-educated voters chose Biden while non-college voters chose Trump.

Married men and women voted for Trump while unmarried men and women voted for Biden.

In the election for Congress, will you vote for [ROTATE: _the Republican candidate or _the Democratic candidate? [IF “UNDECIDED,” ASK]: Which candidate do you lean toward at this time?

	Republican	Democrat	Other Party
Total	48	51	1
White men	58	41	1
White women	51	48	1
African American men	14	82	3
African American women	8	90	1
Latino men	41	56	3
Latina women	38	59	3
College men	46	53	1
College women	38	61	1
Non-college men	55	43	2
Non-college women	51	47	2
White non-college men	64	34	1
White non-college women	61	38	1
White college women	40	58	1
Married men	58	41	1
Married women	52	47	1
Unmarried men	40	59	1
Unmarried women	38	61	1

Like the presidential ballot, majorities of voters who are college-educated, unmarried, female, younger, and voters of color who identify as a person with disabilities and/or as a member of the broader disability community voted for Biden.

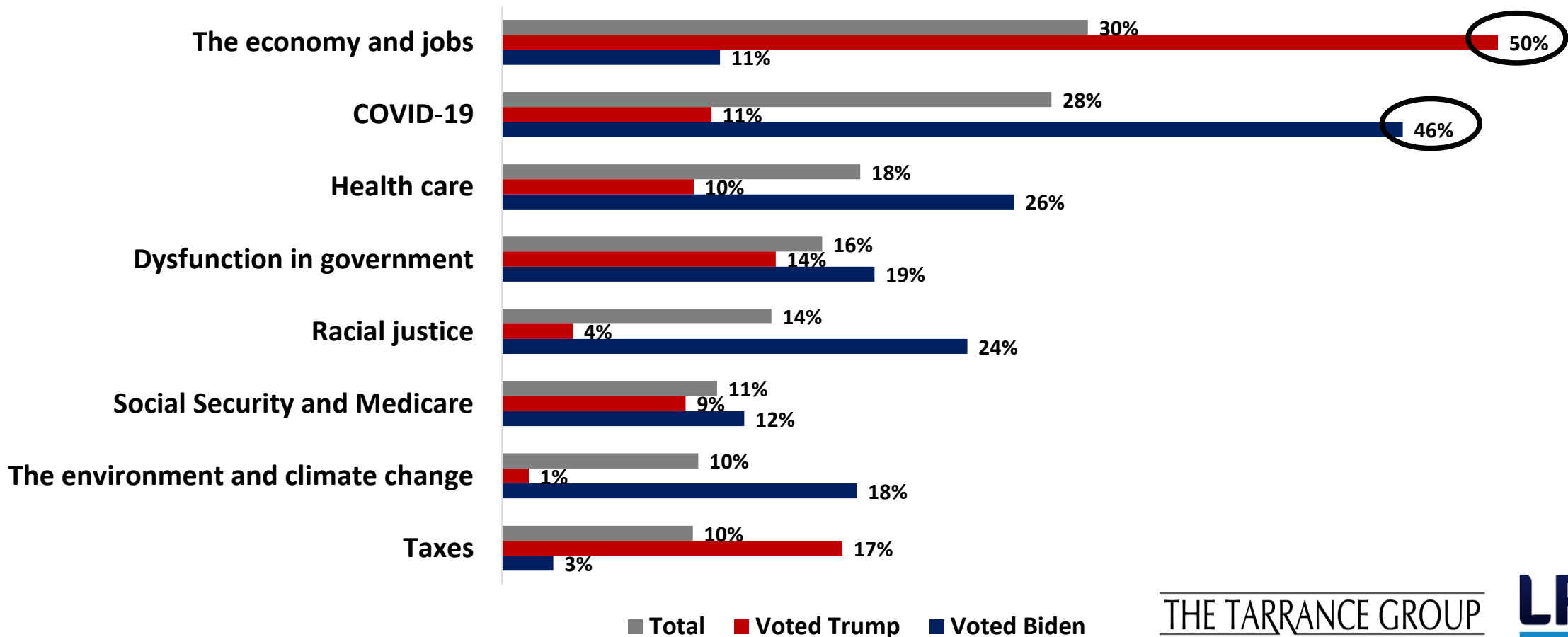
Majorities of non-college, married, male, white, and older voters with disabilities and the broader disability community voted for Trump.

In the election for Congress, will you vote for [ROTATE: _the Republican candidate or _the Democratic candidate? [IF "UNDECIDED," ASK]: Which candidate do you lean toward at this time?

	Republican	Democrat	Third Party
Total Voters	48	51	1
Total Voters with a Disability	49	49	2
Total Disability Community	48	50	2
College PWD	36	62	2
College Disability Community	41	58	2
Non-college PWD	57	41	2
Non-college Disability Community	51	48	1
Married PWD	64	33	3
Married Disability Community	54	44	2
Unmarried PWD	36	62	2
Unmarried Disability Community	35	64	1
Men PWD	55	44	1
Women PWD	45	53	3
PWD under 50	41	59	1
PWD over 50	56	41	3
White PWD	57	41	2
POC PWD	35	62	3

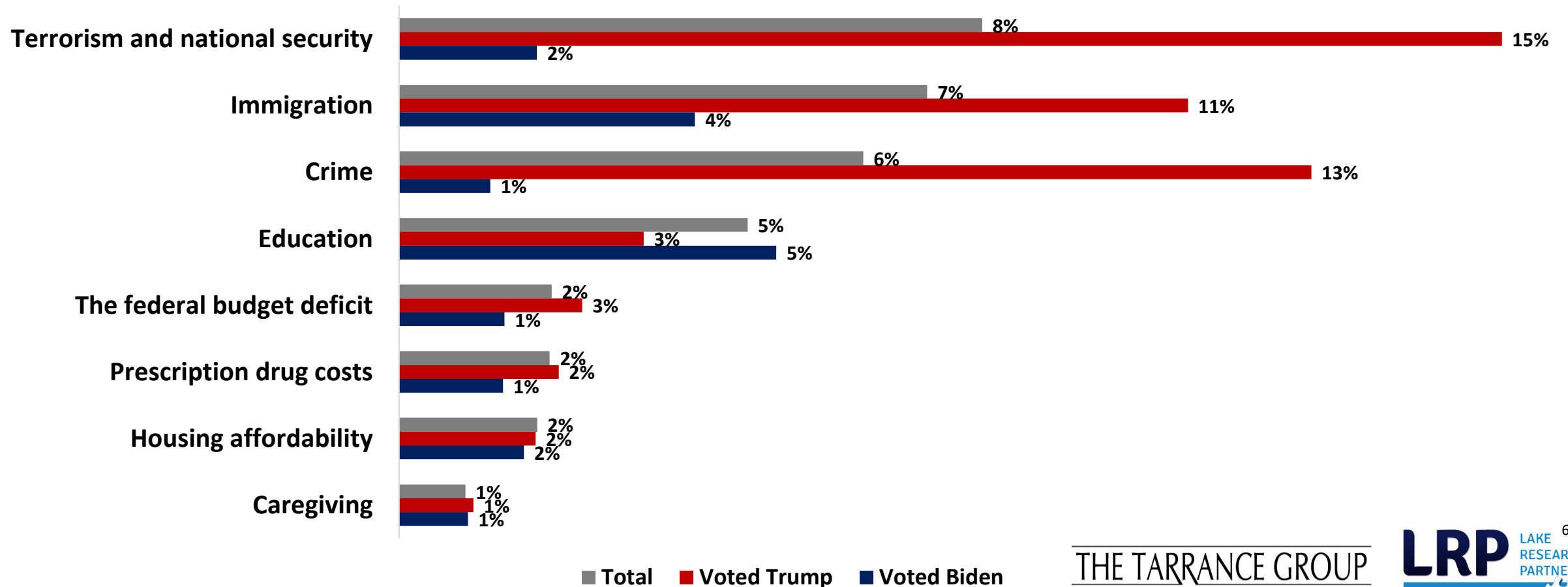
The economy and jobs and COVID-19 dominated voters' issue concerns, with 30% saying the economy and jobs and 28% saying COVID-19 were one of the two most important issues in deciding for whom to vote. While the economy and jobs were paramount among Trump voters, COVID-19 was most important to Biden voters.

I am going to read you a list of issues that may have come up during the election. Please tell me which one or two of these was most important to you in deciding from whom to vote. [TOP TIER]



In a second tier of issues are terrorism and national security, immigration, crime, education, the federal budget, prescription drug costs, housing affordability, and caregiving. Trump voters were more likely to list terrorism and national security, immigration, and crime as issues of importance this election.

I am going to read you a list of issues that may have come up during the election. Please tell me which one or two of these was most important to you in deciding from whom to vote. [SECOND TIER]



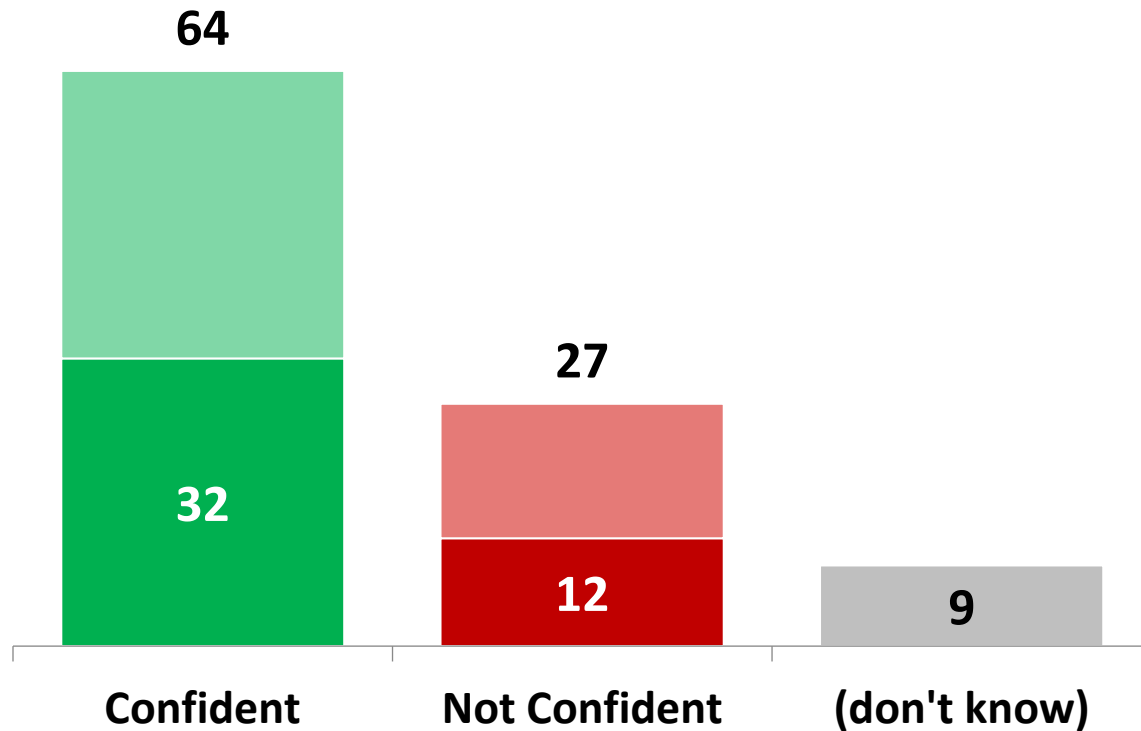
Voters concerned with the economy and jobs and taxes overwhelmingly favored Trump (80%) over Biden (19%) and the Republican candidate for Congress (81%) over the Democratic candidate (18%). Biden and Democratic candidates for Congress had similar large margins among voters concerned with Covid-19, health care, racial justice, and the environment and climate change.

I am going to read you a list of issues that may have come up during the election. Please tell me which one or two of these was most important to you in deciding from whom to vote. [TOP TIER]

	Total	Economy and jobs	Covid-19	Health care	Dysfunction in Govt.	Racial Justice	SS and Medicare	The Environment /Climate	Taxes
Voted Trump	48	80	18	26	40	12	41	6	83
Voted Biden	51	19	82	73	58	86	58	90	13
Congressional Vote for Republican	48	81	18	26	43	14	40	8	83
Congressional Vote for Democrat	51	18	81	74	57	84	59	90	14

Nearly two-thirds of voters overall are confident that the winner of the election will be able to get their priorities passed in the new Congress.

Typically, the winner of a Presidential election is able to get a few of their top policy priorities passed in Congress during their first year. How confident are you that the winner of the election will be able to get their priorities passed in the new Congress?

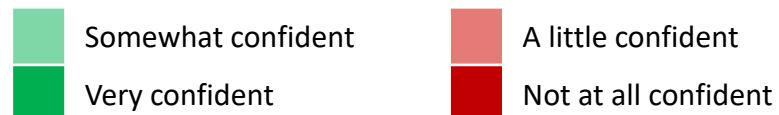
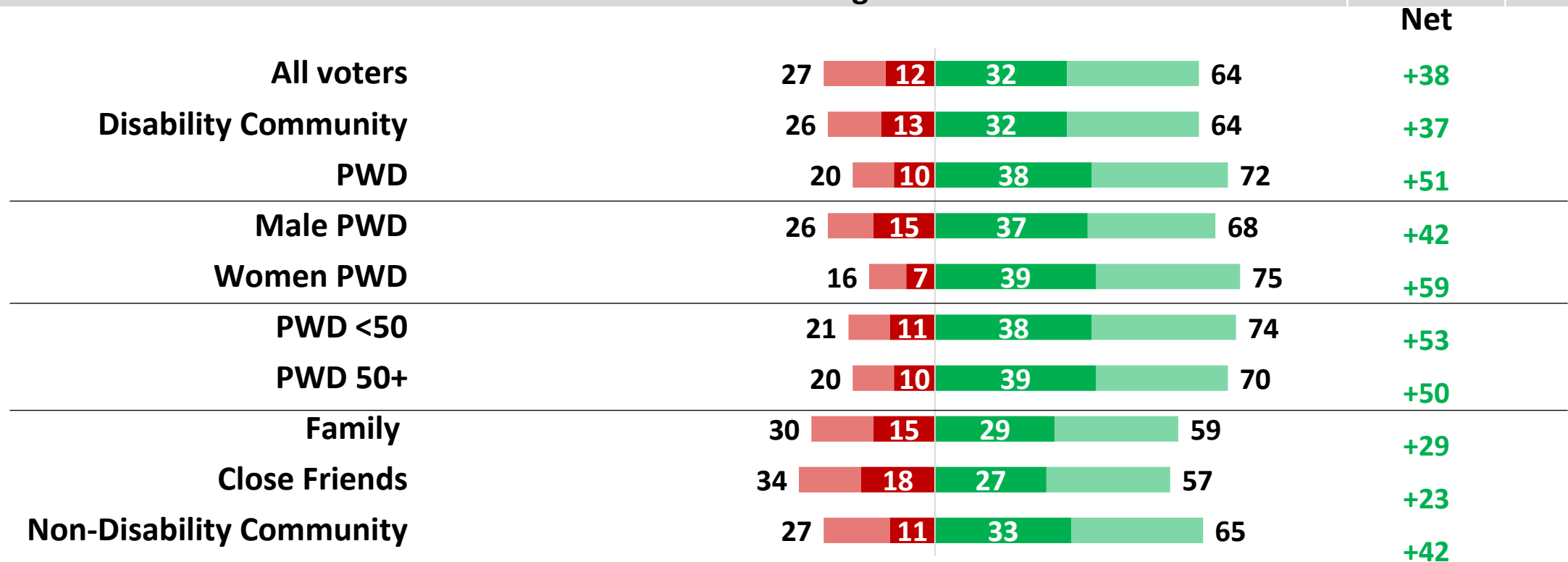


	Confident	Not Confident
Men	64	28
Women	65	26
Under 30	62	30
30 to 39	64	29
40 to 49	65	27
50 to 64	66	26
Over 65	64	23
Northeast	61	28
Midwest	63	30
South	67	24
West	65	26
White	63	28
African American	69	24
Latino	72	23
API	61	33
Democrat (ID)	66	26
Independent (ID)	54	34
Republican (ID)	71	22

■ Somewhat confident
■ Very confident
■ A little confident
■ Not at all confident

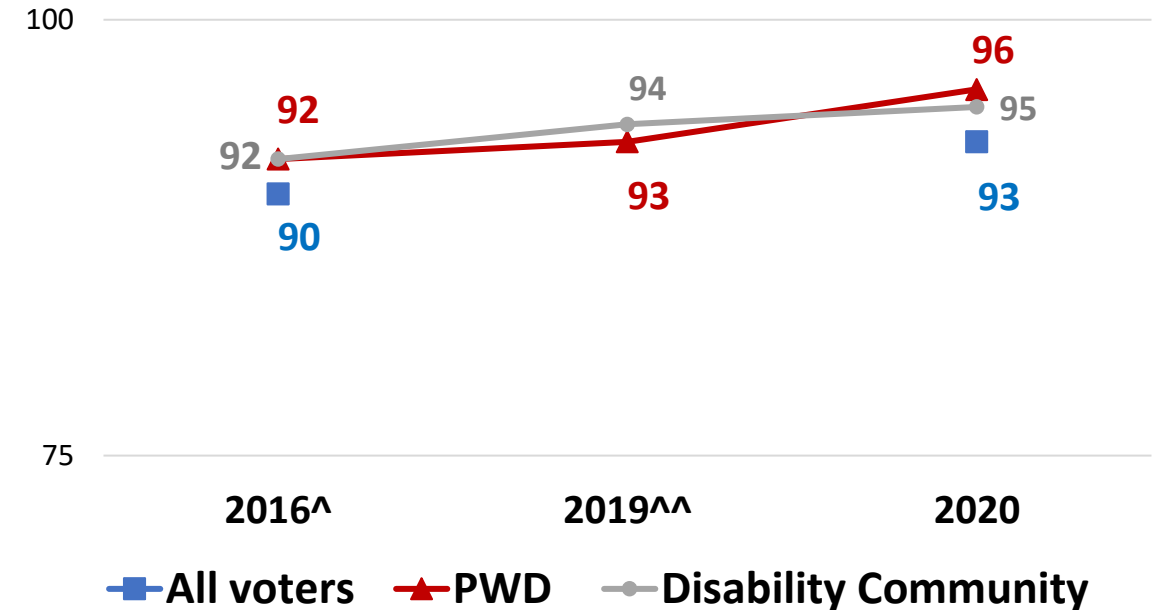
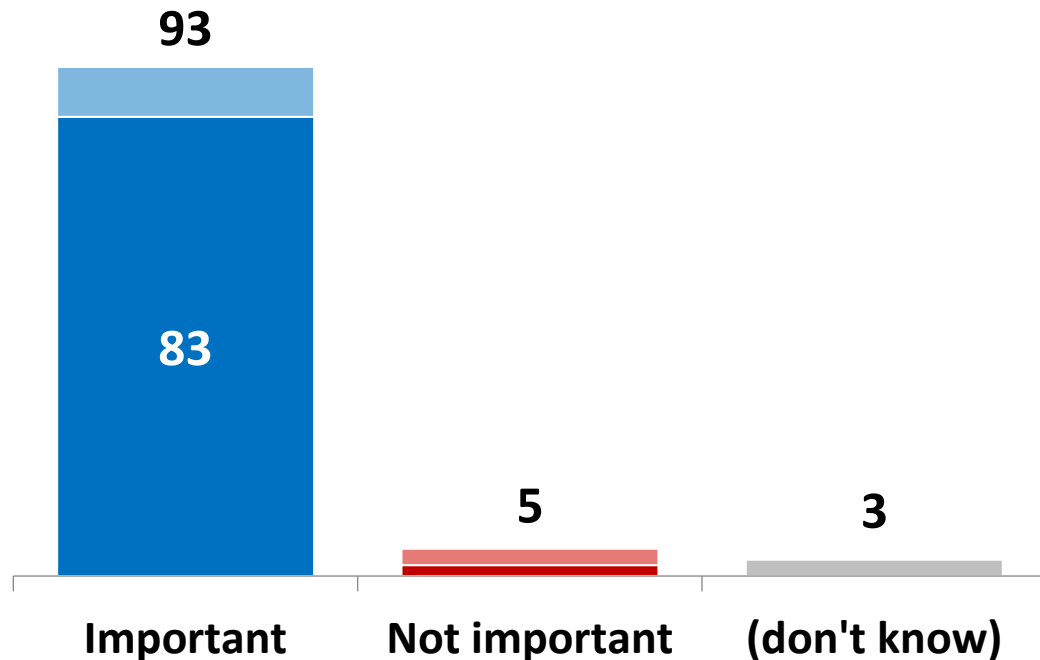
Voters with disabilities are more likely than voters overall to be confident, including nearly three-quarters of women with disabilities.

Typically, the winner of a Presidential election is able to get a few of their top policy priorities passed in Congress during their first year. How confident are you that the winner of the election will be able to get their priorities passed in the new Congress?



A solid majority of voters believe it is very important that candidates treat people with disabilities with dignity and respect – a core value among all voters, voters with disabilities, and the broader disability community since 2016. The simple act of treating disabled people with respect is powerful and in an election season where hundreds of races are going to be decided by 5-points or less, courting these groups is good politics and good policy.

How important is it to you personally that candidates treat people with disabilities with dignity and respect?



[^]Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group a pre-election and election night omnibus survey November 6 through November 8, 2016, that included issue questions on behalf of RespectAbility. A total of 1,200 likely voters nationwide who voted in the 2016 elections (margin of error of +/-2.8%) were reached.

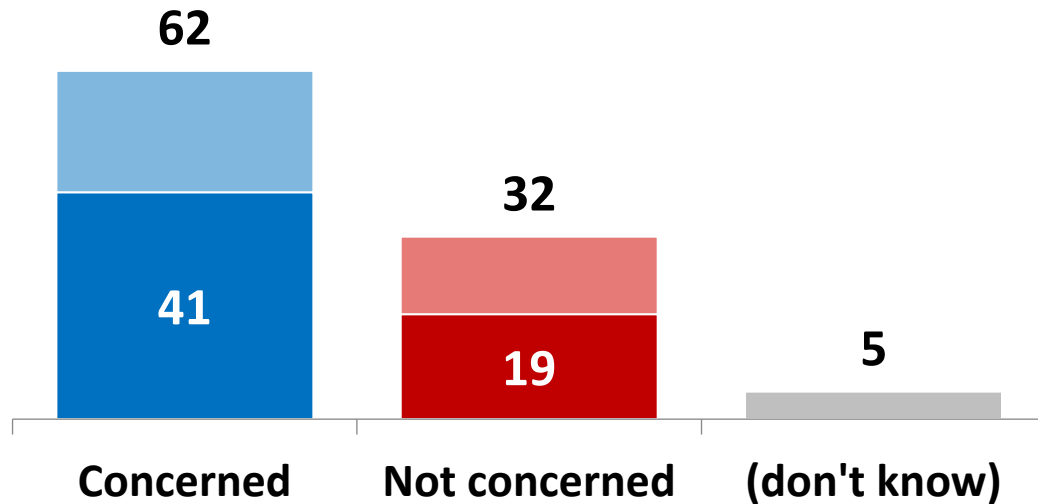
^{^^}Lake Research Partners conducted a mixed mode survey for NDRN from August 12 – August 20th, 2019 among 1,000 adults nationwide with a disability, or who have an immediate family member or close friend with a disability.

Somewhat important
 Very important

A little important
 Not important at all

Voters are concerned that cuts to health care and the ACA will have a negative impact on people with disabilities, including about 2 in 5 who are very concerned. African Americans, Democrats, voters in the Northeast, and older voters are most likely to be very concerned. A majority of Republicans are not concerned.

How concerned are you that cuts to health care and the ACA will have a negative impact on people with disabilities?



	Very Concerned	Not Concerned
Men	39	34
Women	42	30
Under 30	39	32
30 to 39	39	33
40 to 49	36	39
50 to 64	40	34
Over 65	47	25
Northeast	49	27
Midwest	41	30
South	39	35
West	36	34
White	37	34
African American	66	18
Latino	44	26
API	33	40
Democrat (ID)	66	12
Independent (ID)	39	32
Republican (ID)	17	54



While a slim majority of voters with disabilities voted for Trump, a majority of the disability community as a whole voted for Biden and Democrats in Congress.

A plurality voted in person on Election Day, including 45% of voters with disabilities. 31% of voters with disabilities voted early by mail or absentee and 23% voted early in person.

Like voters overall, voters with disabilities and the disability community at large decided for whom to vote more than 3 months ago.

	Yes, myself	Yes, family member	Yes, friend	All yes	No
Voted Trump	51	46	38	48	47
Voted Biden	47	52	60	51	51
Voted Republican Congressional	49	47	40	48	48
Voted Democrat Congressional	49	51	59	50	51
Party ID Democrat	38	36	46	38	38
Party ID Independent	22	25	25	24	24
Party ID Republican	37	35	22	35	36
Voted in person ED	45	47	46	47	47
Voted by mail/absentee ED	1	1	5	1	1
Voted Early IP	23	25	27	25	24
Voted Early by mail/absentee	31	27	22	27	27
Decided In last few days	5	4	3	4	3
Decided In past week	5	3	5	4	3
Decided In past month	4	6	8	6	7
Decided 1-3 months ago	11	12	15	12	9
Decided 3+ months ago	73	74	68	72	77

Demographic Profile of Voters in the Disability Community

	All Voters	PWD	Family	Friends	All
Men	47	46	50	47	48
Women	53	54	50	53	52
<30	18	15	22	20	19
30-39	16	16	18	24	17
40-49	15	11	14	20	14
50-64	27	30	24	26	28
65+	24	27	23	10	23
White	65	64	64	62	64
African American	12	13	14	10	13
Latino	13	14	14	14	14
API	4	3	3	5	3
Native American	3	5	4	4	4
Northeast	20	20	19	19	19
Midwest	23	23	25	23	24
South	35	37	36	37	37
West	22	20	20	22	20
Democrat	38	38	36	46	38
Independent	24	22	25	25	24
Republican	35	37	35	22	35
Born In the U.S.	94	97	94	94	95
Born in Another Country	5	3	5	5	5