

June 24, 2020

To: Interested Parties
Fr: Molly Murphy / Oren Savir
Re: Battleground States Poll Findings, Recommendations

Republicans are vulnerable in the battleground for their continued efforts to block voting reforms that would make it easier for people to vote safely during the pandemic. The results of recent battleground polling find that while Democrats begin with a narrow advantage over Republicans, Democrats can make further gains after driving a message the highlights the ways in which Republicans have tried to manipulate voting for Republicans' partisan gain. The strongest messages against them combine an argument that:

- 1) Expanding vote by mail and early vote have worked in other states without an increase in fraud.
- 2) Republicans are jeopardizing public health by making it hard for people to vote amidst the Coronavirus.
- 3) Voting is our right and duty, and Republicans are trying to take away that right for political gain.

Key Findings:

- **Democrats have a narrow advantage in the battleground.** Despite a one-point Republican self-identification advantage (43% Democrat / 44% Republican), a Democrat leads a generic vote for Congress by 4 points (43% Democrat / 39% Republican). In the Presidential race, Joe Biden leads Donald Trump by 7 (50% Biden / 43% Trump).

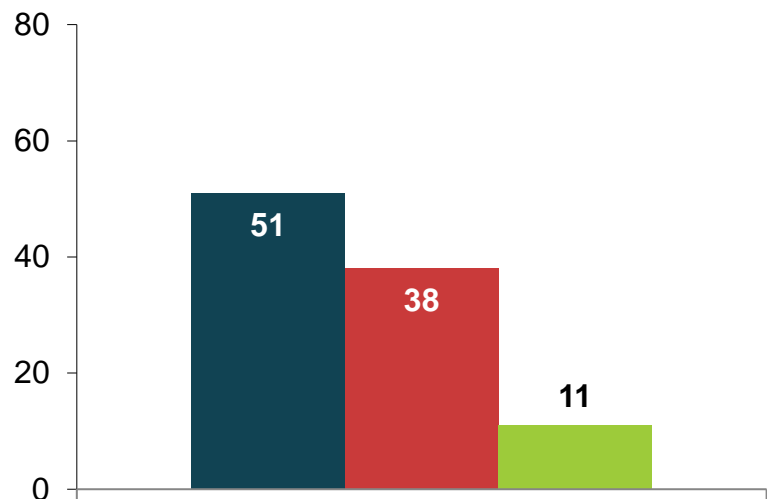
ALG Research conducted an online survey among N=1,234 likely 2020 general election voters May 21-28, 2020, in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wisconsin. Individual state samples were balanced with a roughly equal number of respondents from each.

All respondents have Internet access and took the survey through a computer, tablet, or smartphone. Because the survey was conducted online, there is no calculated margin of error. The equivalent margin of error for a sample this size is +2.8. The margin of error for subgroups varies and is higher.

- On Coronavirus, a plurality of voters believe the worst is yet to come.** Whether in terms of the number of people getting sick and dying (41% worst is yet to come / 35% worst is behind us) or the economic impact of the pandemic (46% worst is yet to come / 34% worst is behind us), Coronavirus continued to be a worry for voters as of the time of the poll in late May.
- There is overwhelming support for expanding early and mail-in voting.** A clear majority support “expanding vote by mail and early voting options to make it easier for people to vote” (69% total support, 46% strongly support). When the question is reworded to “expanding vote by mail and early voting options to make it easier for people to vote who may not be comfortable going to a polling place because of the Coronavirus”, support expands (73% total support, 49% strongly support).
- After hearing messages from both sides, the generic ballot shifts 5 points in Democrats’ favor.** Democrats begin with a lead on the generic ballot by four points (43% Democrat / 39% Republican), but following a series of messages against Republicans for opposing efforts to make it easier for people to vote Democrats expand their lead to nine points (45% Democrat / 36% Republican).
- A majority of voters take the Democratic side of the debate over expanding early and mail-in voting.** It is crucial that the measure is framed as a common-sense response to Coronavirus.

Democrats say that this funding is critical in giving people a way to vote safely this November. A number of people who voted in-person in special elections since the Coronavirus outbreak became infected after waiting in long lines to vote. No one should have to risk their safety to exercise their right to vote. This bill provides reasonable funding for states and counties to determine for themselves how to allow both Republicans and Democrats to vote safely while protecting

Republicans say that Democrats are taking advantage of a crisis to try to win elections and fund their pet projects. They want to spend four billion dollars to drastically overhaul our elections system to make it easier to rig the election on their behalf. Their plan would open the door to fraud, election tampering, and potentially even foreign governments interfering in our elections. Republicans say that we should let the states handle how to make voting safer.



- **Voters agree that expanding voting options is necessary in light of Coronavirus, even when pitted against an argument that it will lead to fraud and foreign interference.**

Democrats say our democracy only works when all people can participate. Now more than ever, there are hundreds of thousands of people who cannot or should not go to a polling place on Election Day because of the Coronavirus. We should be encouraging people to protect their health while also allowing them to exercise their right to vote.

Republicans say voter fraud is a major issue and with evidence that foreign governments are trying to interfere in our election, we cannot risk allowing our enemies like Russia and China to control the outcomes of our elections. We need to do everything we can to protect the integrity of our elections by placing safeguards on voting.

