

The Arizona Legislative Alert

Bringing Unitarian Universalist Values to Public Policy

Will the Polls Be Wrong Again?

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Will the polls be wrong again?

Over the weekend, major polls reported that Joe Biden had stretched his lead over President Trump to 12 maybe even 14 points (NY Times and Fox News). Other national polls taken the third week of June averaged 51 points for Biden compared to 40 for Trump—an 11 point lead (see Table 1 below).

How does this compare to 2016? Didn't Hillary Clinton have a substantial lead in the polls, only to lose? Weren't the polls wrong in 2016; and maybe they are wrong today?

- First, there are major differences between 2020 poll results and 2016. The June, 2020 polls show Trump behind by 11 points on the average and the 2016 polls showed him behind by only 5 points. In 2016, Clinton was ahead of Trump in the polls – that's true – but only by 5 points on the average, compared to 11 points in 2020. (See Table 1).

- In 2016, her lead had dropped from five points to four by the last poll before the election in November, and she won the popular vote by 2.1 percent. The polls were wrong, but not by much; on the average, they overestimated her national popular vote by 2 percent.
- And, of course, we all know that she lost the electoral college, 304 votes to 227. She did not lose the national vote. (This is the only election I know of where the person who wins the vote doesn't win the office; but that's for another day).

Were the polls wrong about the swing states?

The second table below shows poll data for 2020 and for 2016 in seven swing states: Arizona, Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, Wisconsin. These are the averages from most of the 2020 polls taken in June and are compared to polls taken in November, 2016. What happened here in the swing states?

- **2020, June, swing states.** Biden has a substantial lead over Trump in all of these states, averaging a lead of 48 to 40—8 percent. The others are divided among third party candidates or undecided.
- **2016, June, swing states.** Clinton had a lead over trump in five of the states, with Trump leading in Arizona and Florida. On the average, Clinton's lead was 46-43, 3 percent.

In 2016, Clinton's lead shrunk from June to November. In June, she had a 3 point lead overall; by November this had dropped to a tie in the swing states! Most of those polls were taken on Nov. 7 and 8, with the election on the 8th.

The averages, however, hide a key point: In June, 2016 and still in November, 2016, Clinton's lead in three key states was strong enough to convince most of the media and most of us that she would win in spite of Comey's last-minute announcement of an FBI investigation and a last-minute surge for Trump.

In Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin of 2016, Clinton had poll leads in June of 1, 11, and 10 points respectively and these had changed by November to 6, -2, and 8 points. Yet, she lost all three of these states by less than one point, along with their 46 electoral votes. That's how DJT became President.

Could this happen again? Yes. The June, 2020 poll shows Biden with a lead of 10, 11, and 9 in those three states. Clinton lost leads of 1, 11, and 10 points over the summer in the polls and lost those leads entirely in the actual vote.

What happened to the polling, or the votes, or our perceptions in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin?

- Clinton lost a huge amount of ground over the last week or so, part of it because of the Comey announcement that they were opening an investigation, and he said nothing about an on-going investigation of Trump.
- Others point out that her lead was shrinking anyway both nationally and certainly in those states.
- The polls overall only overestimated her vote by 2 percent nationally; and in the seven swing states, they overestimated her vote also by 2 percent; but in Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin they over estimated her vote by 7 in Pennsylvania and 8 in Wisconsin.

Three main errors help explain why the polls in the swing states (especially Pennsylvania and Wisconsin) were off:

- Undecided voters went mainly for Trump.
- Turnout for Trump voters was underestimated.
- State polls did not adjust their sample for education.

The last one perhaps is most important. Persons who participate in polls tend to be more highly educated than those who do not; compared with voters. So, unless a poll corrects by weighting its sample to match likely voters in terms of education, it overestimates the voter choice of more highly educated people. In 2016, higher education voters preferred Clinton by quite a good margin. Polls that did not correct for this in their sample overestimated Clinton's vote.

Table 1. National Polls, 2016 and 2020; and Actual Vote Margin

<u>Poll</u>	<u>Jun-20</u>		<u>Jun-16</u>		<u>Nov-16</u>		Error June 2016 poll overestimate clinton <u>Actual: 48.2 - 46.1</u>
	Bide n	Trum p	Clint on	Trum p	Clinto n	Trum p	
Actual electoral college vote: 304 - 227; popular vote: 46.1 to 48.2							
CNN	55	41	42	38	46	42	1.9
Monmouth College			42	36	50	44	3.9
NBC/WSJ	49	42	42	38	51	44	1.9
IPSOS/Reuters			39	29	44	39	7.9
Quinnipiec Univ			40	38			-0.1

nov. overestm clinton

NY								
Times/Seneca	50	36			47	43		1.9
Fox News	50	38			48	44		1.9
Real Clear								
Politics	50	40			45	42		0.9
270towin	49	39			46	42		1.9
tpm tracker					47	44		0.9
ABC/ Wash.								
Post	53	43			49	46		0.9
CBS					47	43		1.9
538	51	41						
Average	51	40	41	36	47	43		2

Table 2. State by State Polls, 2020 and 2016, and Actual Vote

<u>State</u>	<u>Jun-20</u>		<u>Jun-16</u>		<u>Nov-16</u>		<u>Actual Vote</u>		<u>Elect</u> <u>Vote</u> <u>s</u>
	<u>Bide</u> <u>n</u>	<u>Trum</u> <u>p</u>	<u>Clinto</u> <u>n</u>	<u>Trum</u> <u>p</u>	<u>Clinto</u> <u>n</u>	<u>Trum</u> <u>p</u>	<u>Clinto</u> <u>n</u>	<u>Tru</u> <u>mp</u>	
national vote							48.2	46.1	
Arizona	48	41	42	44	45	47	46	49	11
Florida	49	41	43	47	46	50	48	49	29
North Carolina	49	40	48	45	44	44	47	51	15
Ohio	46	45	45	44	39	46	44	52	18
Pennsylvania	50	40	45	44	46	40	48	49	20
Michigan	47	36	50	39	47	49	47.3	47.6	16
Wisconsin	49	40	48	38	49	41	47.4	47.8	10
average	48	40	46	43	45	45	47	49	

Notes: 2020 polls from NY Times/Seneca late June and others

Notes: 2016 June polls from my average of state polls

Notes: 2016 November Polls, from Wikipedia

Action Suggestions!

Primary Elections are August 2. Are you ready? Check your registration, or register to vote!

Attention Independents: The primary elections are August 4, 2020 and by **July 6** if you want to vote by mail, you must indicate whether you want to vote in the Democratic or Republican primary! This is true even if you are already on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL). To request a ballot, you need to contact the county recorder's office in your county. You can also just go to the polls and tell them which party's primary you want to vote in.

Attention Everyone: This would be a good time to check your registration status and be sure you are listed correctly, or if not, that you can register to vote or change your address, or make whatever other correction might be needed. To do that, contact the county recorder's office in your county. Here are some of their web sites:

How to contact your county recorder's office:

Maricopa County: <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/>
Pima County: <https://recorder.pima.gov/>
Yavapai County: <https://www.yavapai.us/recorder>

Find all the others at this link: <https://azsos.gov/county-election-info>

Voting Your Values: Climate Change

Here is an opportunity to support climate action by making a pledge to Vote with Climate and Creation in Mind this Fall. Vote for candidates who support and advocate for Climate Action to preserve our Mother Earth. Please click the link below to pledge to consistently vote with the climate in mind:

<https://www.azipl.org/pledge-to-be-a-faith-climate-voter/> When you are finished making the pledge, please send a quick note to Jerry Waters at jerwat711@gmail.com stating that you have made the pledge. Since UU's Seventh Principle is "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part", this should be one of the easiest decisions you will ever make.

Initiatives/ Petitions

Let's Keep Trying! CORONA VIRUS has postponed almost everything, including gathering signatures for petitions. Nevertheless, here's the initiatives that are still active and need signatures by July! Let's keep trying. Sign up to volunteer. Put petitions out on your sidewalk!

- One new initiative petition has been added to the "let's support these" list, and that is **Health Care Rising** <https://www.healthcarerisingaz.org/>. It would require private hospitals to meet the same national health safety standards as public; provide some protection for patients with pre existing conditions; and end "surprise billing."

- **“Invest in Ed” initiative!** Volunteers are needed to take petitions into your neighborhood, to your organizations, to your friends, for signatures. Sign up here: https://investined.com/?utm_source=google&utm_medium=search&utm_campaign=2020
- **Outlaw Dirty Money** - If you have not yet signed the “outlaw dirty money” petition or helped with it, here’s the place to sign up for that one: <https://outlawdirtymoney.com/>
- **Limit ESA Expansion – Save Our Schools** has launched a new initiative to limit ESA expansion. Volunteers needed to help gather signatures. <https://sosarizona.org/volunteer/>
- **Fair Elections-** Another initiative currently gathering signatures is the Arizona for Fair elections <https://www.facebook.com/azfairelections/>. One section would allow voters to register as late as Election Day, automatically register people to vote when they apply for a driver's license, and allow more time for early voting. The Fair Elections Act also has a section that seeks to weaken the influence of big-money donors and corporation-funded committees in political campaigns.

Update on Covid-19

Now that Arizona and almost every state is relaxing its “stay at home” orders, it is incumbent upon each of us to stay safe and to keep everyone we come in contact with safe, too. Just because restaurants can now serve in their dining room, or others are not wearing masks, does not mean we individually need to relax our own health-protective measures.

Here’s Arizona’s Re-infection Covid-19 rate (the number of other persons estimated to be infected by each currently infected person). If the rate is greater than one, then the virus is expanding, if the number of less than one, the virus is retracting.

These numbers are found at <https://rt.live/> and part of the problem is that the analysts are constantly updating all of their figures and making adjustments on the impact of increased testing and newly categorized cases! So, the data in the last AZ Legislative Alert showed Arizona with a steady downward trend, but these adjustments have put Arizona right at a .99 or 1.00 reinfection rate and show no improvement since mid April.

3/24 – 1.26

3/31 – 1.07

4/7 - .97

4/15 – .90

4/22 - .87

4/29 - .91

5/5 - 1.00

5/12 - 1.11

5/19 - 1.21

5/26 - 1.24

6/2 - 1.22

6/9 - 1.19

6/16 - 1.19

6/26 - 1.19

Here are three exceptionally good, scientifically-based analyses that are worth reading. For your convenience, I extracted from them some of the most salient points and you can read that in an earlier AZ Legislative Alert: : <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-051220.pdf>

RISKS Know Them, Avoid them. <https://www.erinbromage.com/post/the-risks-know-them-avoid-them> - Dr. Erin Bromage is an Associate Professor of biology at the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. This article reviews dozens (maybe hundreds) of research studies of how corona 19 spreads.

All about masks. <https://www.datamotion.com/category/blog/> - This information is a blog written by Peter Tippett, MD, PhD. Tippett is Chairman of the DataMotion Board of Directors and currently serves as the CEO of careMESH. The blog was originally published on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/saving-your-health-one-mask-time-peter-tippett-md-phd/>

R_t scores State by state: How fast is the virus still spreading?¹ <https://rt.live/> These are up-to-date values for R_t, a key measure of how fast the virus is growing. **It's the average number of people who become infected by an infectious person. If R_t is above 1.0, the virus will spread quickly. When R_t is below 1.0, the virus will stop spreading.**

Resources: [How to use Request to Speak](#) [How to use Resist.Bot](#) [Contacts](#) [Action](#)

[To see the full digest of bills from the 2020 legislative session, go to the PDF: <http://files.vuu.org/uujaz/2019/alert-040320digest.pdf>). The House could decide to take up some of their own that were ready for a full vote as an attempt to persuade the Senate to come back into session.

Why can R_t be going down when total number of cases testing positive is going up? Because we are testing more people, and as more people are tested, there will be more positive cases! If

¹ <https://techcrunch.com/2020/04/18/instagram-founders-rt-live/>. These data are compiled by Instagram founders Kevin Systrom and Mike Krieger

we had random samples of people that had been tested, we would know that the population of all people is comprised of

- the number tested positive who are infected and showing symptoms;
- the number tested positive who are asymptomatic (this is estimated to be about xxxx% higher than those with symptoms; and
- the number tested who are negative (this is estimated to be about xxxxx% higher than those with symptoms who tested positive.)

And, from these data, the estimates of how many total people in the population would be positive if everyone were tested.

Then R at time 1 is the total number of estimated positives (actual number of people with symptoms testing positive at time 1 plus estimated number asymptomatic who were not tested and number negative who were not tested). R at time 2 is the same formula. Then, R_t is the difference between time 1 and time 2. So, if the total number of positives at time 1 is 1,000 and the total number at time 2 (say a week later) is 2000, then the R_t is 2.0. If the R at time 2 is 500, then R_t is .5.

Become a Deputy Registrar, help Get Out the Vote 2020 (postponed, but keep this in mind).

If you live in Maricopa County, you can become a “deputy Registrar” and get regular updates on how you can help GOTV (get out the vote) in 2020. Once trained, you will get regular updates on where and when volunteers are needed to help insure that every eligible person is registered and able to vote in 2020. Additional dates are listed as well: www.tinyurl.com/DRClass20.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Governor [602-542-4331](tel:602-542-4331) , or [e-mail](#).

Name

Phone Fax

[Senator Martha McSally \(R- AZ\)](#) 202 224-2235 202 228-2862 contact@mcsally.senate.gov

[Senator Kyrsten Sinema \(D- AZ\)](#) 224-4521 226-4386 contact@sinema.senate.gov

[Rep Tom O'Halleran \(D – 01\)](#) 225-3361 225-3462 <https://ohalleran.house.gov/contact>

[Rep Ann Kirkpatrick \(D – 02\)](#) 225-2542 225-0378 <https://kirkpatrick.house.gov/contact>

[Rep Raul M. Grijalva \(D – 03\)](#) 225-2435 225-1541 <https://grijalva.house.gov/connect-with-raul>

[Rep Paul A. Gosar \(R – 04\)](#) 225-2315 226-9739 <https://gosar.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>

[Rep Andy Biggs \(R – 05\)](#) 225-2635 226-4386 <https://biggs.house.gov/contact>

[Rep David Schweikert \(R – 06\)](#) 225-2190 225-0096 <https://schweikert.house.gov/contact-form>

[Rep Ruben Gallego \(D – 07\)](#) 225-4065 225-1655 <https://rubengallego.house.gov/contact>

[Rep Debbie Lesko \(R – 08\)](#) 225-4576 225-6328 <https://lesko.house.gov/contact/>

[Rep Greg Stanton \(D – 09\)](#) 225-9888 225-9731 <https://stanton.house.gov/contact>

U.S. Senate –

- **Kyrsten Sinema** - 825B&C Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-4521
Phoenix Phone: 602-598-7327 **Email:** contact@sinema.senate.gov

Martha McSally _B40D Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510 Phone: 202-224-2235
Email: contact@mcsally.senate.gov

Request to Speak – This is a way to “be heard” at the legislature without being there at all! But, first, you must be signed up. If you have signed up in the past, your old information will still get you in. If not, then go to the capitol, go to the first floor of senate or house buildings, 1700 W. Washington, and use the computer to sign up. There are people there to help you. Then, here’s how to use it there or from your phone or your computer at home:

- Get the # of the bill – You can get it from this newsletter.
- On the azleg.gov site <https://www.azleg.gov/> click on Legislative Information, then on Request to Speak
- Click on “new request” (on the menu on the left)
- Put in the bill #. (or put in name of a committee, and hit “search” to see the committee’s upcoming agenda and choose the bill #)
- You should get a message (scroll down if needed). If it says “no active agenda” then it isn’t before a committee. If you want to register your opinion anyway, click on “my bill positions” (on the menu on the left), and indicate yes or no on the bill.
- If it is before a committee, (scroll down a little to see) it will ask if you actually want to speak at the committee hearing (probably not, just click “no”) and then register for/against and put in your comment if you want.

If you want to review the bill, click on “documents” and review the bill itself or the House or Senate “fact sheet.”

- Use Resistbot to [text your state lawmakers!](#) Text STATE to 50409 to try it out.

Resistbot.io - How to use it. Click on the “messages” icon on your I-phone, then click on the pencil in the top right-hand corner. You will get a “To: “ screen. Put in 504-09 and then in the message type “resist.” They will respond and ask for your zip code or address and what you want to do. This is a free service, reportedly developed by volunteers. It will ask for your zip code or address, and then you can send a fax, letter, make a phone call, send an e-mail to Sen. Sinema and McSally and the House member as well or even to Governor Ducey.

I just did it this morning and selected “call.” They called me back connecting me to each Senators office and I left a message for McSally and actually talked to a staff member in Sinema’s office.

After you have sent several, it will ask you which of the various people you want it sent to. At first, it just sends to all three, later it will add state-level elected officials, too. You get more services after you've used it awhile!

[Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation](#) –

Anne L. Schneider, Ph.D. is a member of the Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation. VUU's staff includes Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Andy Burnette; Music Director, Katie Seifert; Director of Faith Formation, Marci Beaudoin, Administrator, Sue Ringler. VUU is located at 6400 W. Del Rio Drive, Chandler, AZ 480 899 4249 VUU holds services at 10:30 to 11:30 on Sunday. Currently, by zoom! Contact the office to get the zoom link.