

Presidential Polling Update!

Prepared by Anne L. Schneider, PH.D. All opinions are those of the author.

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It's Kamala Harris! For Biden's VP choice. Yea!

The "safe" choice they are saying. The irony is huge. He's chosen as a vice presidential candidate, the first black woman, the first Asian woman, the first child of immigrant parents (Jamaican and East Indian), and the first graduate of an historical black college. And that's the safe choice. My, how things have changed. Yea.

Will the Polls Be Wrong Again?

Of course, they could be. But let's dig beneath the surface and compare the presidential polls as of August 2020 with those of August 2016 to see just how wrong were they in 2016 and what do they say right now.

TMI – the data are in the tables below, but here's the highlights.

Joe Biden's lead in national polls taken during the first week of August is larger (10 points) than Clinton's (7 points) over the same period of time in 2016.

- **Biden** is averaging a 10 point advantage over Donald Trump in 12 national reputable polls taken the first week of August. Most of these have a margin of error of about 3 or 4% depending on sample size.
- **Hillary Clinton's** lead averaged 7 points over six polls taken the first week of August in 2016.
- Looking at exactly the same polling companies in 2020 compared to 2016 does not change much, as Biden is up by 11 and Clinton was up by 7.

The national polls in August were wrong about the eventual popular vote, as Clinton won the popular vote by 48% to 46% -- 2 points, not 7.

By November, however, the national polls were almost right and within the margin of error. Polls the first week of November had her in the lead by 4% whereas she actually won by 2%-- and the margin of error for those polls was 3 to 4%. Basically, the polls were right in November although very wrong in August.

But, you say, Trump won because of the electoral college and because Clinton lost in key states that people thought she would win. YES, that's what happened.

Seven "battleground" states are shown in the Table below: Arizona (I know, not usually thought of as a battleground); Florida, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Michigan, and Wisconsin.

- **This year, 2020**, Biden is leading in all seven of these states in polls taken the first week of August by five points -- an average of 48 % to 43%.
- **In 2016, Clinton** was leading or tied in six of the seven states by an average of 3 points: 45% to 42%.
- **HOWEVER**, by the first week of November, polls had her leading in only two, Wisconsin and Pennsylvania, and trailing or tied in the other five. **Fair warning:** she was in trouble but somehow this did not sink in to the media or the public. She **LOST** all seven of those states by an average margin of 47% to 49%.

What does this mean? It means in the critical “battleground” states, Biden needs to widen his lead over Trump. Pundits disagree on why Trump gained votes in the actual election – maybe “hidden” trumpsters; maybe “hate Hillary,” maybe Russian interference, maybe voter suppression. Regardless, Biden’s current lead (5) in these 7 states is no room for comfort, although it is larger than what Clinton had in 2016 (3).

Biden may get a “bump” in the polls from his choice of Kamala Harris as the VP, or he may get a “bump” in the polls when the Democrats have their convention next week. We’ll have to wait and see.

Watch this space!!!

Table 1. National Polls, 2016 and 2020; and Actual Vote Margin (Note: updates: most recent poll available).

<u>Poll</u>	<u>Aug-2020</u>		<u>Aug-2016</u>		<u>Nov-2016</u>		Error august 2016 poll <u>overestimate clinton</u> Actual: 48.2 - <u>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 (poll of polls)	52	40	45	37	46	42	6
Monmouth College	51	41	50	37	50	44	11
NBC/WSJ	49	40	43	38	51	44	3
IPSOS/Reuters	48	38	40	35	44	39	3
Quinnipiec Univ	52	37	45	38			5
You Gov	49	40	42	38			
270 to Win NY	49	41					nov. overestm clinton
Times/Seneca	50	36			47	43	2
Fox News	49	41			48	44	2
Real Clear Politics	49	43			45	42	1
270towin	49	41			46	42	2
tpm tracker					47	44	1

ABC/ Wash.								
Post	55	40			49	46		1
CBS					47	43		2
538	51	41						
Average	50	40	44	37	47	43		2

Table 2. State by State Polls, 2020 and 2016, and Actual Vote (most recent polls available)

State	Aug-2020		Aug-2016		Nov-16		Actual Vote		Elect Votes
	Bide n	Trum p	Clinto n	Trum p	Clinto n	Trum p	Clinto n	Tru mp	
national vote							48.2	46.1	
Arizona	47	44	44	42	45	47	46	49	11
Florida	50	46	40	45	46	50	48	49	29
North Carolina	48	44	45	45	44	44	47	51	15
Ohio	46	42	45	44	39	46	44	52	18
Pennsylvania	49	43	47	48	46	40	48	49	20
Michigan	51	40	44	33	47	49	47.3	47.6	16
Wisconsin	48	42	48	38	49	41	47.4	47.8	10
average	48	43	45	42	45	45	47	49	

Notes: 2020 polls and 2016 from a variety of polling companies, first week of August.

Notes: 2016 November Polls, from Wikipedia

Be Election Ready!

- Check your voting status; get on the Permanent Early Voting List (PEVL), update your registration and everything else you need to be eligible to vote. You will need Arizona Driver License or Identification Card, or your voter identification number (found on a Voter Identification Card issued by the County Recorder). Here's a terrific "voter portal": <https://my.arizona.vote/PortalList.aspx>
- How do I decide who to vote for?

Some just vote for the party, but others think you ought to vote for the individual. Reasons to vote for the party: parties tend to have a particular set of values that they pursue while in office and if these reflect your values, then it probably is safe for you to vote for the candidate of your party. A second reason is that the party caucus, especially in the legislature, is very strong and a candidate you like but who is in the party NOT of your choice may be pressured repeatedly to vote with their party. Others think you should study each race and each individual candidate and vote for the one who is closest to your position on issues or who you think would do the best job.

- **Have a favorite advocacy group? Check and see who they are supporting!!**
 - **How do I get the information I need if I decide I want to volunteer and help a candidate?**

Candidates all have web pages. Check out what they say.

Work for the party of your choice, in your county, and help their slate of candidates. Maricopa county Democratic party is at this link <https://maricopadems.org/>, Maricopa county Republican party is at this link <https://maricopagop.org/> You can find the ones for Pima and other counties by googling it!!

Volunteer to work for (or donate to) advocacy groups of your choice. Google their name, but some of that work has been done for you and below you will find links to some of the best known liberal and conservative advocacy groups. (If you know of one you'd like added to this list, send it to me via e mail: legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org)!

Civic Engagement Beyond Voting is a progressive advocacy group that has identified specific AZ legislative candidates to support. It is hosting weekly statewide phone banks for its preferred candidates (and for good candidates *running against* the legislators they don't support). A person can participate from wherever they live. Here's the link: <https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwJXLfrBRFCjLVKmdMSkrfspQkB>

- **What if I just want to help "get out the vote" (GOTV)?** (If you have information on other non partisan GOTV groups, please e mail me at legislativeadvocacy@vuu.org.)

UU the Vote. This is an Arizona Unitarian Universalist initiative sponsored by UUJAZ to help get out the vote; with many volunteer opportunities, events, candidate forums, etc. <https://www.uuthevote.org/get-involved/>

Vote Forward - <https://votefwd.org/> Vote Forward is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization. It began as an experiment conducted by Scott Forman in Alabama in 2017. Encouraged by the success of that test, Scott and a small group of friends and fellow [Opower](#) alumni built a software platform to empower volunteers to take easy and effective action. "We believe our democracy depends on everyone participating, so we volunteered our time and expertise to achieve that goal," the web site says. The project focuses on volunteers who actually WRITE LETTERS to voters, urging them to vote.

Your county recorder's office MAY have a GOTV initiative. Here are some links to find out.

Maricopa County: <https://recorder.maricopa.gov/>

Pima County: <https://recorder.pima.gov/>

Yavapai County: <https://www.yavapai.us/recorder>

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

Advocacy Groups (liberal and conservative) that endorse candidates:

Planned Parenthood: Advocacy for women's reproductive rights

<https://www.plannedparenthoodaction.org/planned-parenthood-advocates-arizona/blog/ppaas-2020-candidate-endorsements-5-months-to-election-day-2>

Equality Arizona: advocacy for gay/lesbian rights <https://www.equalityarizona.org/elections>

Sierra Club: environmental advocacy

<https://www.sierraclub.org/sites/www.sierraclub.org/files/sce/grand-canyon-chapter/election/2020%20guide%20color%207-20.pdf>

Small Business PAC: business oriented <https://www.nfib.com/content/news/arizona/small-business-pac-announces-primary-election-endorsements/>

Arizona Stand for Children endorsements: children's advocacy <http://stand.org/arizona/blog/announcing-our-2020-candidate-endorsements>

Candidate Information (general) <https://justfacts.votesmart.org/> type in a candidate's name and get information on them, including endorsements from various groups

Center for Arizona Policy (a far right, religious-oriented advocacy group)
<https://azaction.org/2020endorsements/>

National Organization for Women (Arizona) A progressive women's rights group.
<https://aznow.org/>

NARAL Arizona a pro-choice women's advocacy group
<https://www.prochoiceamerica.org/state/arizona/>

Tea Party Patriots a conservative advocacy groups with many local chapters List of all tea party groups in Arizona <https://www.teapartypatriots.org/foundation/>

Update on Covid-19

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 change.

3/24 – 1.36

3/31 – 1.07

4/7 - 1.02

4/15 – .92

4/22 - .89

4/29 - .93

5/5 - 1.00

Reopening Started

5/12 - 1.22

Shelter in place ended

5/19 - 1.21

5/26 – 1.24

6/2 – 1.17

6/9 – 1.13

6/16 – 1.06

6/23 – 1.0

7/3 - .97

7/12 - .97

7/24 - .81

7/30 - .81

8/9 - .82

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

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

of their own that were ready for a full vote as an attempt to persuade the Senate to come back into session.

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.

They will call you back and connect you each Senators 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. 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.