LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY

STEVEN S. HORNSTEIN CENTER
FOR POLICY, POLLING, AND ANALYSIS

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LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY HORNSTEIN CENTER NATIONAL POLL: AMERICA'S REACTION AFTER FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE

BROOKVILLE, NY, October 1, 2020 – Results of a breaking Long Island University Steven S. Hornstein Center for Policy, Polling, and Analysis national poll were announced in the aftermath of the first presidential debate for Election 2020.

HIGH VIEWERSHIP
National poll results found that 80 percent of respondents tuned in to watch President Donald Trump debate former Vice President Joe Biden on Tuesday evening. High viewership of the event was supported by Neilsen ratings that estimated 73.1 million Americans watched the debate.

WHO DID A BETTER A JOB IN THE DEBATE?
BIDEN 41%; TRUMP 22%; NO DIFFERENCE 18%; NO OPINION 19%
Americans were asked who they thought did a better job in Tuesday evening's debate between Trump and Biden. Among respondents, 41 percent said that Biden did a better job in the debate, while 22 percent said that Trump had a stronger performance. More than a third of respondents (37 percent) said there was no difference (18 percent) or gave no opinion on the matter (19 percent).

WHO WOULD YOU VOTE FOR IF THE ELECTION WERE HELD TODAY?
BIDEN 48%; TRUMP 31%; UNDECIDED 9%; ANOTHER CANDIDATE 7%
After the presidential debates ended on Tuesday evening, Americans were asked who they would vote for if the election were held today. Respondents said they would vote for Biden (48 percent), Trump (31 percent), and another candidate (7 percent). An additional 9 percent of respondents said they were undecided and 5 percent said they wouldn't vote if the elections were held today.

ECONOMY IS THE ONE ISSUE THAT MATTERS MOST FOR VOTERS
While a variety of factors were mentioned, the one issue that mattered most on deciding how to vote among respondents was the economy (26 percent). Following close behind was coronavirus (13 percent), racial inequality (12 percent), law and order (11 percent), and health care (11 percent). Undecided voters and Americans between the age of 45 and 60 reported the economy as the most important issue at a higher rate than other demographics. Americans between the age of 18 and 29 reported racial inequality at nearly double the rate of other age demographics (21 percent).

MINDS MADE UP
Among respondents that were asked after the first presidential debate, the majority of Americans (71 percent) said their mind is made up on their election vote, while 17 percent indicate they might change their minds and 12 percent said they aren't sure.

UNDECIDED VOTERS
Among undecided voter respondents, the demographic majorities were women (59 percent), education less than a bachelor's degree (72 percent), and age 18-29 (36 percent). The one issue that mattered most to undecided voters was the economy (32 percent).

VOTER LIKELIHOOD
Among the respondents, 88 percent said they are likely to vote in the November elections (1,324 total likely voters).

IN-PERSON VOTING – METHOD OF CHOICE
Among the respondents, 46 percent of Americans said they plan to vote in person, 38 percent plan to mail in their ballot, and 16 percent said they still aren't sure. Americans over the age of 60 plan to mail in their ballot at a higher rate than other demographics. Respondents' answers remain relatively steady from previous response.

IMPACT OF FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
A comparison of pre-debate and post-debate national polls conducted in the days before and after the event by the Long Island University Steven S. Hornstein Center for Policy, Polling, and Analysis indicated that the presidential debate had little effect on likely voters. Collectively, the difference in respondents' answers varied 3 percent or less in the days before and after the presidential debate for the majority of poll questions. The only exception included Trump's debate performance. Among pre-debate respondents, 32 percent said that Trump would do a better job. Among post-debate respondents, 22 percent said that Trump did a better job.

FINAL STRETCH
Two presidential and one vice presidential debates remain in the 2020 election cycle. The election will be held in 33 days on November 3, 2020.

METHODOLOGY
This Long Island University Steven S. Hornstein Center for Policy, Polling, and Analysis online poll was conducted through SurveyMonkey from September 30 – October 1, 2020, among a national sample of 1,502 adults ages 18 and up. Respondents for this survey were selected from the nearly three million people who take surveys on the SurveyMonkey platform each day. Data for this week have been weighted for age, race, sex, education, and geography using the Census Bureau's American Community Survey to reflect the demographic composition of the United States. The modeled error estimate for this survey is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

ABOUT THE LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY STEVEN S. HORNSTEIN CENTER FOR POLICY, POLLING, AND ANALYSIS
The Long Island University Steven S. Hornstein Center for Policy, Polling, and Analysis conducts independent polling, empirical research, and analysis on a wide range of public issues. Our studies inform the public and policy makers about critical issues, attitudes, and trends shaping the world. Faculty and scholars from all schools of study at Long Island University participate in data collection and analysis. Visit liu.edu/Hornstein for more information and results from this national poll.

ABOUT LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY
Long Island University, founded in 1926, continues to redefine higher education, providing high quality academic instruction by world-class faculty. Recognized by Forbes for its emphasis on experiential learning and by the Brookings Institution for its "value added" to student outcomes, LIU offers over 250 degree programs, with a network of 270,000 alumni that includes industry leaders and entrepreneurs across the globe. Visit liu.edu for more information.

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LONG ISLAND UNIVERSITY NATIONAL POLL:
WHAT AMERICANS THINK BEFORE HIGHLY ANTICIPATED FIRST PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE
SEPTEMBER 30 – OCTOBER 1, 2020
1,502 RESPONDENTS
MODELED ERROR ESTIMATE +/- 3.5%

How much of the presidential debate did you watch?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				HOUSEHOLD INCOME					EDUCATION		PARTY IDENTIFICATION		
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-60	60+	$0-$49,999	$50,000-$99,999	$100,000-$149,999	$150,000-$199,999	$200,000+	Less than Bachelors	Bachelors or more	Republican	Democrat	Ind/Other
Watched all	39%	42%	36%	35%	36%	40%	47%	36%	41%	39%	60%	59%	37%	42%	42%	43%	33%
Watched some	26%	25%	27%	30%	32%	25%	15%	28%	24%	26%	21%	20%	26%	26%	26%	29%	24%
Watched a little	16%	15%	16%	17%	16%	14%	17%	15%	16%	18%	11%	10%	16%	15%	16%	13%	18%
Didn't watch	20%	18%	21%	17%	17%	22%	21%	21%	18%	17%	8%	12%	21%	17%	17%	15%	25%

Who do you think did the best job in the presidential debate?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				HOUSEHOLD INCOME					EDUCATION		PARTY IDENTIFICATION		
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-60	60+	$0-$49,999	$50,000-$99,999	$100,000-$149,999	$150,000-$199,999	$200,000+	Less than Bachelors	Bachelors or more	Republican	Democrat	Ind/Other
Trump	22%	23%	20%	16%	20%	25%	27%	22%	21%	23%	26%	24%	24%	18%	52%	5%	17%
Biden	41%	41%	42%	43%	47%	37%	40%	39%	44%	40%	43%	59%	37%	47%	13%	72%	34%
No difference	18%	19%	16%	22%	14%	17%	16%	18%	17%	24%	15%	12%	17%	18%	18%	12%	23%
No Opinion	19%	17%	22%	18%	19%	21%	16%	22%	19%	13%	15%	5%	21%	16%	18%	11%	27%

If the election for president were being held today, for whom would you vote?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				HOUSEHOLD INCOME					EDUCATION		PARTY IDENTIFICATION		
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-60	60+	$0-$49,999	$50,000-$99,999	$100,000-$149,999	$150,000-$199,999	$200,000+	Less than Bachelors	Bachelors or more	Republican	Democrat	Ind/Other
Trump	31%	33%	29%	20%	27%	37%	40%	31%	30%	34%	36%	27%	33%	28%	75%	5%	24%
Biden	48%	45%	50%	52%	50%	43%	47%	45%	50%	46%	49%	59%	43%	54%	12%	85%	39%
Another candidate	7%	7%	7%	11%	9%	5%	3%	8%	6%	8%	4%	7%	7%	7%	4%	5%	11%
Undecided	9%	8%	10%	13%	7%	8%	8%	11%	9%	8%	6%	2%	11%	6%	6%	4%	16%
Wouldn't vote	5%	6%	4%	4%	7%	6%	2%	6%	4%	4%	6%	5%	6%	5%	3%	1%	10%

Is your mind made up, or do you think you might change your mind before the election?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				HOUSEHOLD INCOME					EDUCATION		PARTY IDENTIFICATION		
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-60	60+	$0-$49,999	$50,000-$99,999	$100,000-$149,999	$150,000-$199,999	$200,000+	Less than Bachelors	Bachelors or more	Republican	Democrat	Ind/Other
Mind made up	71%	70%	72%	63%	66%	76%	81%	68%	72%	73%	79%	83%	67%	76%	80%	79%	58%
Might change	17%	19%	16%	24%	21%	12%	11%	17%	18%	19%	11%	12%	18%	16%	14%	15%	21%
Don't Know/No Answer	12%	11%	12%	13%	13%	12%	8%	14%	10%	8%	9%	5%	14%	8%	6%	6%	21%

What one issue matters most to you in deciding how you vote for president?

	TOTAL	GENDER		AGE				HOUSEHOLD INCOME					EDUCATION		PARTY IDENTIFICATION		
		Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-60	60+	$0-$49,999	$50,000-$99,999	$100,000-$149,999	$150,000-$199,999	$200,000+	Less than Bachelors	Bachelors or more	Republican	Democrat	Ind/Other
Economy	26%	27%	24%	18%	25%	32%	23%	25%	26%	33%	23%	29%	27%	24%	45%	12%	24%
Racial inequality	12%	10%	14%	21%	12%	8%	5%	12%	14%	11%	4%	7%	13%	10%	4%	21%	9%
Law and order	11%	10%	11%	11%	7%	11%	17%	12%	9%	12%	17%	12%	10%	12%	22%	5%	8%
Coronavirus	13%	16%	11%	14%	14%	12%	14%	14%	13%	13%	15%	17%	13%	14%	7%	21%	11%
Foreign policy	2%	3%	2%	3%	3%	2%	2%	3%	2%	4%	6%	2%	2%	3%	2%	2%	3%
Health care	11%	9%	13%	8%	8%	14%	13%	11%	11%	9%	11%	12%	11%	10%	4%	16%	11%
Climate change	5%	7%	4%	6%	7%	4%	5%	5%	6%	4%	8%	7%	4%	7%	1%	7%	7%
Immigration	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%	2%	2%	3%	3%	2%	0%	0%	3%	3%	3%	2%	3%
Supreme Court	3%	4%	3%	2%	3%	2%	7%	3%	3%	3%	2%	7%	3%	3%	3%	3%	4%
Education	2%	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	0%	2%	2%	2%	4%	0%	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%
Other	12%	11%	12%	12%	14%	10%	12%	12%	12%	8%	11%	5%	11%	12%	8%	8%	17%

How likely are you to vote this November in the election?

		GENDER		AGE				HOUSEHOLD INCOME					EDUCATION		PARTY IDENTIFICATION		
	TOTAL	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-60	60+	$0-$49,999	$50,000-$99,999	$100,000-$149,999	$150,000-$199,999	$200,000+	Less than Bachelors	Bachelors or more	Republican	Democrat	Ind/Other
Definitely will vote	73%	72%	73%	60%	69%	78%	88%	67%	77%	78%	81%	85%	67%	81%	79%	77%	64%
Probably will vote	16%	14%	17%	25%	19%	11%	7%	17%	14%	16%	11%	5%	18%	12%	15%	15%	17%
Probably will not vote	7%	8%	5%	10%	6%	6%	2%	9%	4%	4%	8%	5%	9%	3%	4%	6%	9%
Definitely will not vote	5%	6%	5%	5%	7%	6%	3%	7%	4%	3%	0%	5%	7%	4%	2%	2%	11%

Do you plan to vote in person or will you mail in your ballot?

		GENDER		AGE				HOUSEHOLD INCOME					EDUCATION		PARTY IDENTIFICATION		
	TOTAL	Male	Female	18-29	30-44	45-60	60+	$0-$49,999	$50,000-$99,999	$100,000-$149,999	$150,000-$199,999	$200,000+	Less than Bachelors	Bachelors or more	Republican	Democrat	Ind/Other
Vote in person	46%	44%	47%	38%	46%	52%	43%	44%	46%	53%	51%	37%	44%	48%	67%	35%	40%
Mail in ballot	38%	39%	37%	45%	37%	30%	46%	36%	42%	35%	34%	49%	38%	38%	23%	52%	36%
Not sure	16%	17%	16%	17%	17%	18%	11%	19%	13%	12%	15%	15%	18%	14%	10%	13%	24%

Nature of Sample:
National Poll

AGE	PCT
< 18	0%
18-29	26%
30-44	22%
45-60	36%
> 60	15%

GENDER	PCT
Male	47%
Female	53%

HOUSEHOLD INCOME	PCT
$0-$49,999	40%
$50,000-$99,999	33%
$100,000-$149,999	13%
$150,000-$199,999	3%
$200,000+	3%
Prefer not to answer	8%

EDUCATION	PCT
Less than Bachelor's degree	58%
Bachelor's degree or more	42%

PARTY IDENTIFICATION	PCT
Republican	27%
Democrat	34%
Independent/Other	39%

REGION	PCT
New England	4%
Middle Atlantic	13%
East North Central	16%
West North Central	6%
South Atlantic	17%
East South Central	6%
West South Central	11%
Mountain	7%
Pacific	19%

DEVICE TYPE	PCT
iOS Phone / Tablet	57%
Android Phone / Tablet	37%
Other Phone / Tablet	0%
Windows Desktop / Laptop	5%
MacOS Desktop / Laptop	1%
Other	0%