South Carolina Election Commission

2020 General Election Research

November 2020
METHODOLOGY
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This report presents the findings of a quantitative, online study of registered South Carolina voters who voted in person (on Election Day or in-person absentee) in the November 3 National Election.

The sample is comprised of 518 state residents, with a corresponding sampling error of +/-4.4 percentage points at the 95% confidence level and was conducted between November 4 and 9, 2020.

Unless otherwise noted, findings are presented in percent.
KEY FINDINGS

• South Carolina in-person voters:
  - Feel it is easy to register
  - Are comfortable with our system of voting
  - Are confident in the accuracy of our system of voting

• While some believe voter fraud occurs in South Carolina and in national elections, voters feel fraud occurs far less frequently in South Carolina elections than in national elections
KEY FINDINGS

- Experiences at polling places were extremely positive:
  - A majority of in-person voters gave each of the seven polling place evaluation measures a rating of “very positive”
  - Polling places received the highest marks for “Being organized and well-run” and “Being safe and clean.”

- Those who voted absentee by mail were terminated, but respondents who voted absentee in person (but typically do not) were asked two additional questions as to why they voted absentee in person in this election.
  - More than half of voters who voted absentee in person (but typically don’t) were driven to do so because of concerns about the coronavirus and concerns about long lines on Election Day (55% and 53%, respectively)
VOTER PERCEPTIONS OF THE NOVEMBER 3 ELECTION
THINKING ABOUT THE PLACE WHERE YOU VOTED, HOW WOULD YOU RATE IT ON:

- Being clean and safe: Very Positive 73, Somewhat Positive 22, Somewhat Negative 3, Very Negative 1, Not Sure 1, Total 95
- Being organized and well-run: Very Positive 71, Somewhat Positive 25, Somewhat Negative 4, Very Negative 1, Not Sure 1, Total 95
- Signage (knowing where you should go): Very Positive 67, Somewhat Positive 25, Somewhat Negative 7, Very Negative 1, Not Sure 1, Total 92
- Having enough poll workers: Very Positive 69, Somewhat Positive 21, Somewhat Negative 7, Very Negative 2, Not Sure 2, Total 90
- Providing sanitation: Very Positive 63, Somewhat Positive 26, Somewhat Negative 6, Very Negative 24, Not Sure 24, Total 88
- Ensuring social distancing was practiced: Very Positive 63, Somewhat Positive 24, Somewhat Negative 9, Very Negative 3, Not Sure 3, Total 88
- Adequate parking: Very Positive 62, Somewhat Positive 24, Somewhat Negative 9, Very Negative 4, Not Sure 4, Total 86
VOTING ABSENTEE
DID YOU VOTE:

In person: 63
Absentee in person: 37
DO YOU TYPICALLY VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON (AMONG THOSE WHO VOTED ABSENTEE IN PERSON, N = 190)

- Yes: 20
- No: 67
- Depends/varies: 13
REASON FOR VOTING IN ABSENTEE IN PERSON
(AMONG THOSE WHO VOTED ABSENTEE IN PERSON BUT DO NOT TYPICALLY VOTE ABSENTEE IN PERSON, N = 128)
*MULTIPLE RESPONSES ALLOWED

Concerns about the Coronavirus 55
Concerns about Lines on Election Day 53
Another reason 16
GENERAL PERCEPTIONS OF AND POSITIONS ON VOTING IN SOUTH CAROLINA
IS THE PROCESS OF REGISTERING TO VOTE IN SOUTH CAROLINA:

- Very Easy: 76
- Somewhat Easy: 21
- Somewhat Complicated: 2
- Not Sure: 1
HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU IN:

The accuracy of National Elections

- Very Confident: 28
- Somewhat Confident: 32
- Not Very Confident: 18
- Not Confident At All: 21
- Not Sure: 10

Total: 60

The accuracy of South Carolina Elections

- Very Confident: 54
- Somewhat Confident: 37
- Not Very Confident: 7
- Not Confident At All: 2
- Not Sure: 1

Total: 90
TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU FEEL VOTER FRAUD OCCURS?

**National Elections**
- Very Often: 35
- Sometimes: 29
- Rarely: 29
- Never: 4
- Not Sure: 2

**South Carolina Elections**
- Very Often: 11
- Sometimes: 26
- Rarely: 52
- Never: 7
- Not Sure: 4
TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

“In South Carolina, every eligible citizen has the opportunity to register to vote.”
- Agree Strongly: 64
- Agree Moderately: 28
- Disagree Moderately: 7
- Disagree Strongly: 92

“If someone asked me how to register to vote in South Carolina, I would know what to tell them.”
- Agree Strongly: 56
- Agree Moderately: 35
- Disagree Moderately: 8
- Disagree Strongly: 91

“In South Carolina, we have fair and impartial elections.”
- Agree Strongly: 46
- Agree Moderately: 45
- Disagree Moderately: 7
- Disagree Strongly: 91
TO WHAT EXTENT DO YOU AGREE OR DISAGREE WITH THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS?

"I trust the voting process in South Carolina."
- Agree Strongly: 49
- Agree Moderately: 44
- Disagree Moderately: 5
- Disagree Strongly: 2
- Total: 93

"I am confident the voting process in South Carolina is secure."
- Agree Strongly: 51
- Agree Moderately: 41
- Disagree Moderately: 7
- Disagree Strongly: 2
- Total: 92

"I am confident in the integrity of South Carolina's voting and election infrastructure."
- Agree Strongly: 48
- Agree Moderately: 45
- Disagree Moderately: 7
- Disagree Strongly: 2
- Total: 92

"In South Carolina, every vote is counted accurately."
- Agree Strongly: 46
- Agree Moderately: 44
- Disagree Moderately: 8
- Disagree Strongly: 2
- Total: 90
HOW COMFORTABLE ARE YOU WITH USING SOUTH CAROLINA’S PAPER-BASED VOTING SYSTEM?

- Very Comfortable: 46
- Somewhat Comfortable: 35
- Not Very Comfortable: 9
- Not Comfortable At All: 4
- Not Sure: 6
HOW CONFIDENT ARE YOU IN THE ACCURACY OF SOUTH CAROLINA’S PAPER-BASED VOTING SYSTEM?

- Very Confident: 41
- Somewhat Confident: 42
- Not Very Confident: 8
- Not Confident At All: 5
- Not Sure: 4