

U.S. Presidential Elections



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Outline

1. The election process
2. Money in politics
3. The 2020 Presidential Election

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Nomination process

- 2 campaigns for president
 - One for party nominee
 - One for general election
- Nomination campaigns *officially* begin about 2 years prior to the election

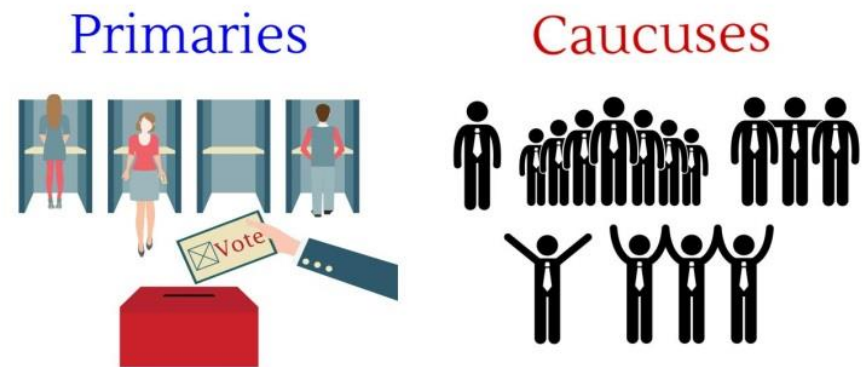


Nomination process 1796-1968

- **Congressional caucuses** (1796-1830s)
 - Allowed Congress to select candidates
- **National conventions** (1830s-today)
 - Seemed more democratic
 - But...party bosses and “smoke filled rooms”
- **Presidential primaries** emerge (early 1900s-today)
 - More democratic
 - Before 1970s, some role, but bosses dominated
 - 1968: Humphrey ran in no primaries, won nomination

2 ways to select convention delegates

- Primary
- Caucus



Over $\frac{3}{4}$ of delegates from both parties selected through primaries

Two important states



2020

DATE	STATE
Feb. 3	Iowa Caucus
Feb. 11	New Hampshire
Feb. 22	Nevada Caucus (D)
Feb. 29	South Carolina (D)

DATE	STATE
March 3	Alabama
March 3	American Samoa Caucus (D)
March 3	Arkansas
March 3	California
March 3	Colorado
March 3	Democrats Abroad
March 3	Maine
March 3	Massachusetts
March 3	Minnesota
March 3	North Carolina
March 3	Oklahoma
March 3	Tennessee
March 3	Texas
March 3	Utah
March 3	Vermont
March 3	Virginia (D)

New Hampshire State Law

- State of New Hampshire Revised Statutes, TITLE LXIII, Chapter 653> 653:9 Presidential Primary Election.
- The presidential primary election shall be held on the second Tuesday in March or on a Tuesday selected by the secretary of state **which is 7 days or more immediately preceding the date on which any other state shall hold a similar election**, whichever is earlier, of each year when a president of the United States is to be elected or the year previous.

Why do they want to be first?

- Iowa: 452 Dem visits, 1350 Rep visits ('16)
- NH: 123 Dem visits, 354 Rep visits ('16)
- Iowa & NH: quarter of media coverage
- More likely to be contacted, attend rallies
- \$70 million spent on tv ads alone in Iowa ('16)

Still ends with a convention

- Officially wraps up nomination, but they are pep rally formalities
- Nominees known in advance
- Dissent largely squashed
- Party atmosphere



Then we do it all over again!

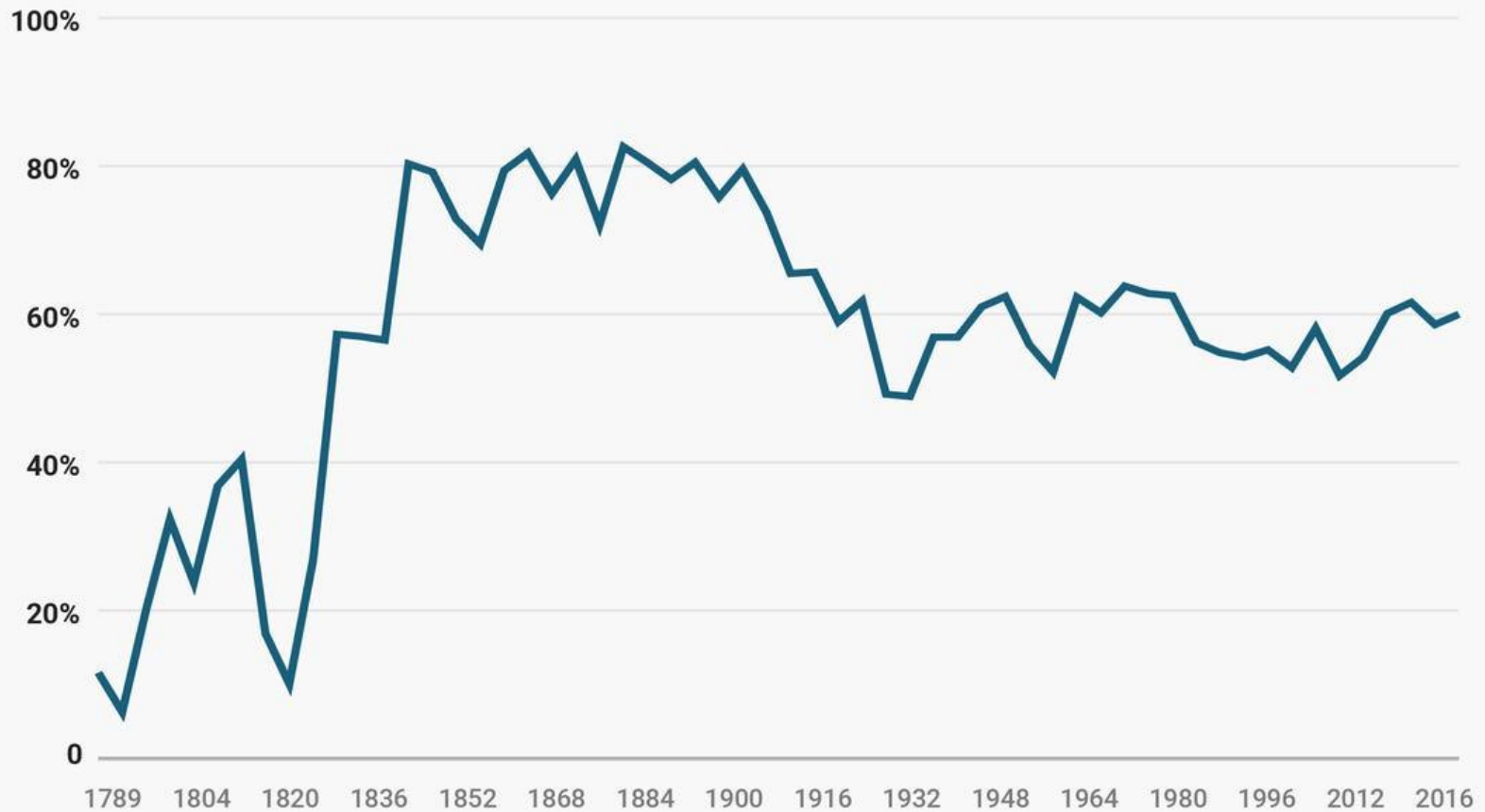


General election

- The 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November (Nov. 3, 2020)
- Includes presidential, other federal, and state and local elections
- Some vote in person on Election Day, some early, some by mail
- Must be 18 years old, registered, U.S. citizen, some other restrictions based on state

VOTER TURNOUT, 1789–2016

Percentage of eligible voters who voted in presidential elections

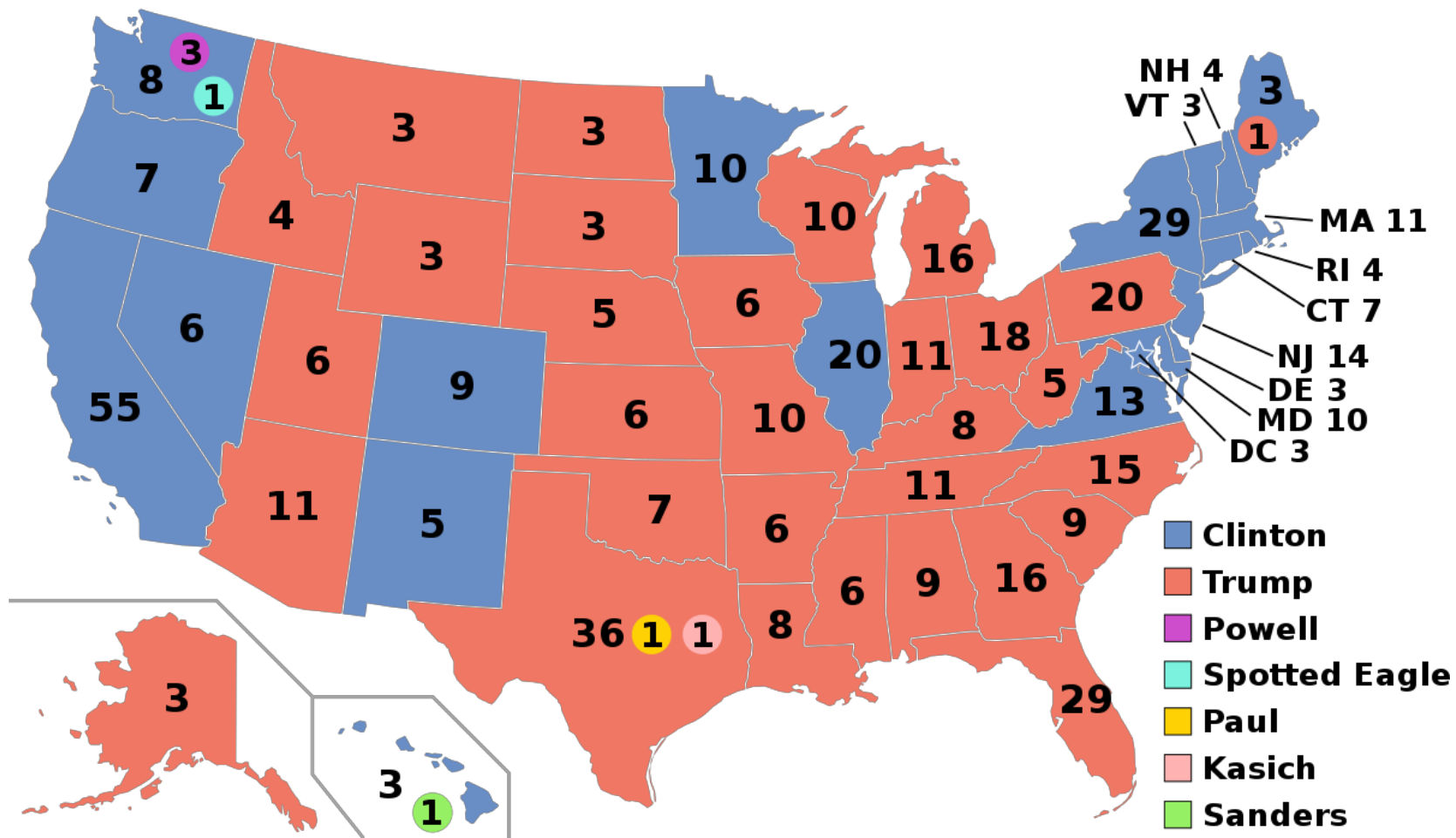


SOURCE: United States Election Project

BUSINESS INSIDER

Electoral College

- Popular vote does not choose the president
- Electoral College has 538 members
 - Each state gets one per senator and representative (i.e. minimum of 3)
- EC members cast vote based on state's vote
 - “Faithless electors” go against votes of the state
- Must have 270 to win; otherwise House of Representatives chooses



Popular vote: Clinton 65,853,514 (227 EC); Trump 62,984,828 (304 EC)

Inauguration

- Nearly 2 months after Election Day, new president is sworn in

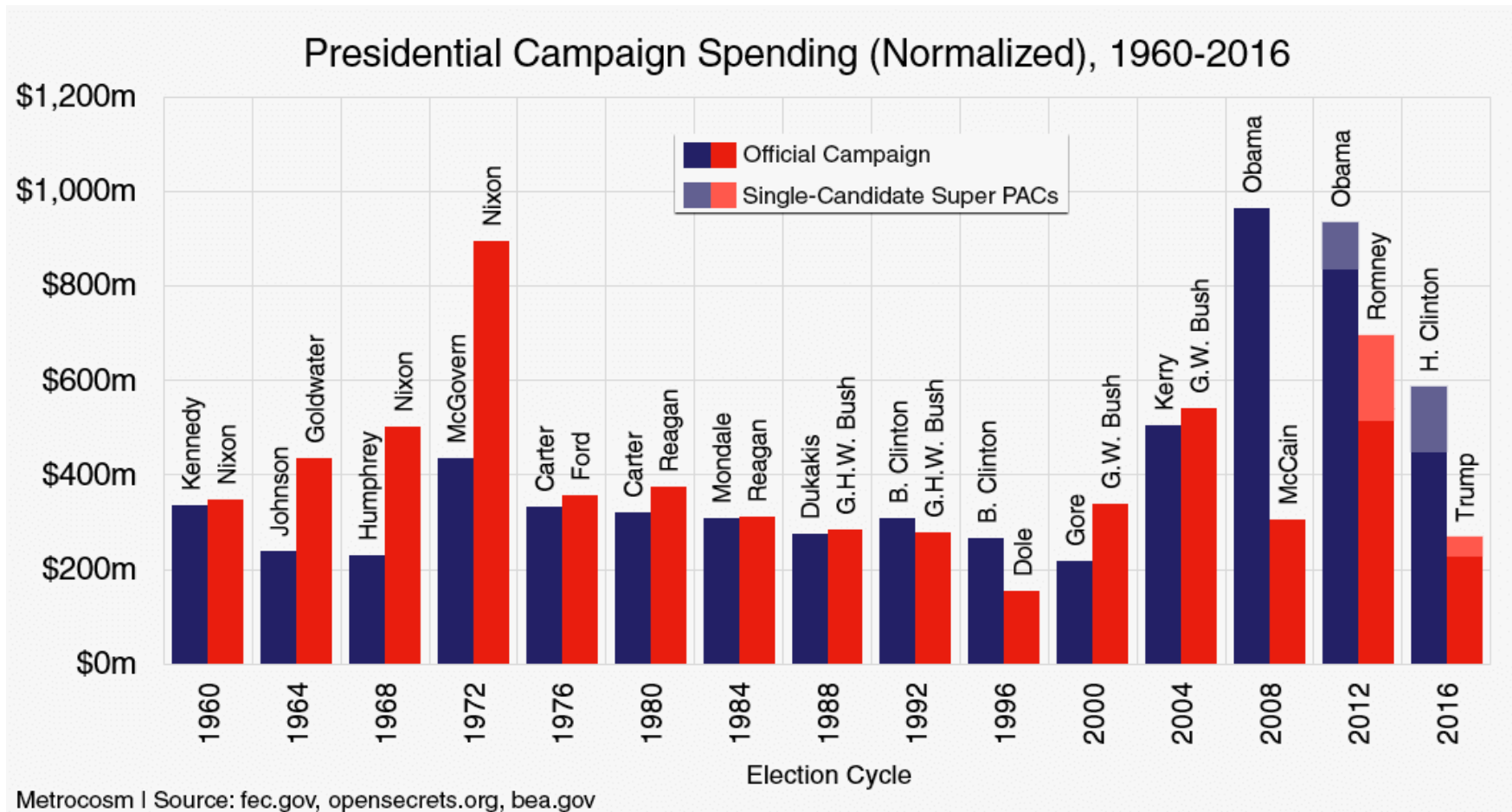


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It's expensive to run



Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission

- 2010 Supreme Court decision
- Individuals, corporations, and labor unions can spend unlimited sums of money on politics; cannot coordinate with candidates
- Many fear “buying” politicians and corruption



SUPER PAC SPENDING

2010 \$63 MILLION

2012 \$610 MILLION

2014 \$345 MILLION

2016 \$1.1 BILLION

2018 \$822 MILLION

TOTAL \$2.9 BILLION

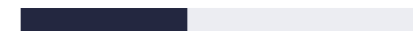
SOURCE: CENTER FOR RESPONSIVE POLITICS



Hillary Clinton (D)

CANDIDATE COMMITTEE MONEY: \$563,756,928

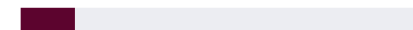
OUTSIDE MONEY: \$231,118,680



Donald Trump (R) **WINNER**

CANDIDATE COMMITTEE MONEY: \$333,127,164

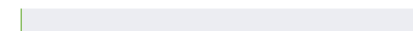
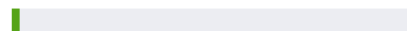
OUTSIDE MONEY: \$75,269,043



Gary Johnson (L)

CANDIDATE COMMITTEE MONEY: \$11,983,980

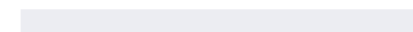
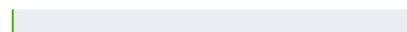
OUTSIDE MONEY: \$1,386,971



Jill Stein (3)

CANDIDATE COMMITTEE MONEY: \$3,713,170

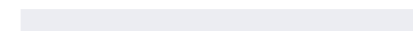
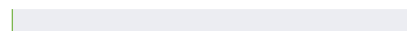
OUTSIDE MONEY: \$0



Evan McMullin (I)

CANDIDATE COMMITTEE MONEY: \$1,634,822

OUTSIDE MONEY: \$0



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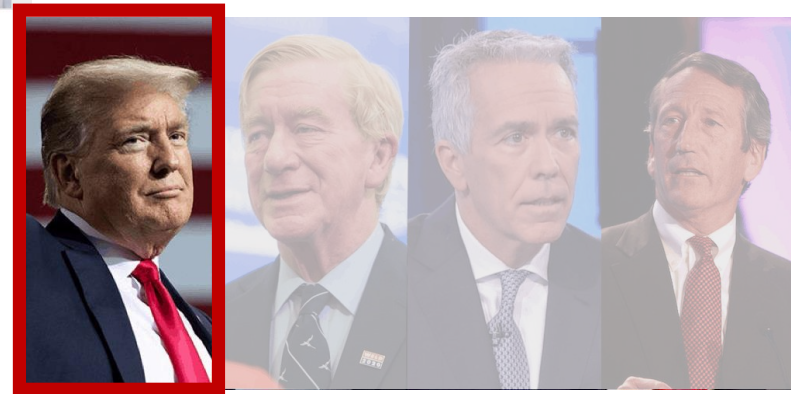


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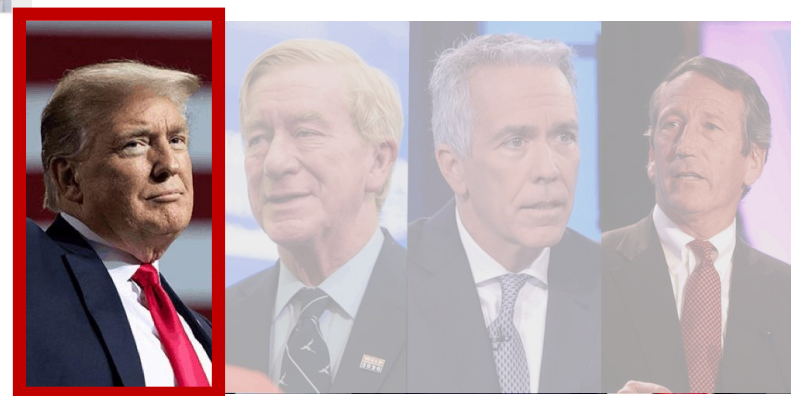
VS.

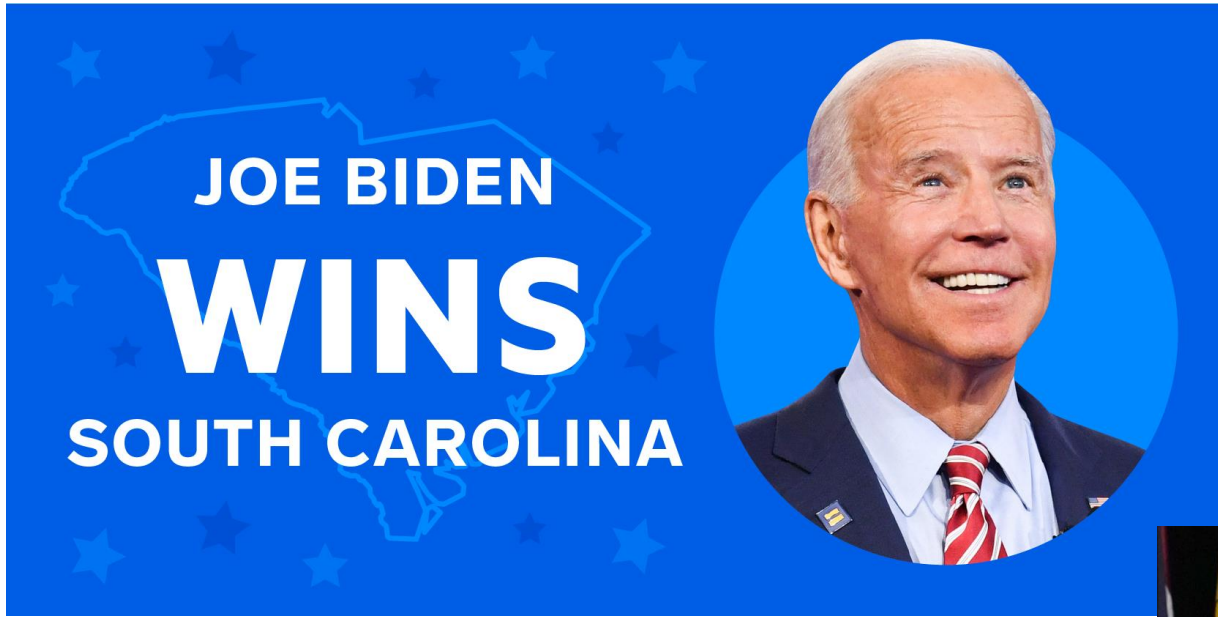




VS.

...and a few others too...

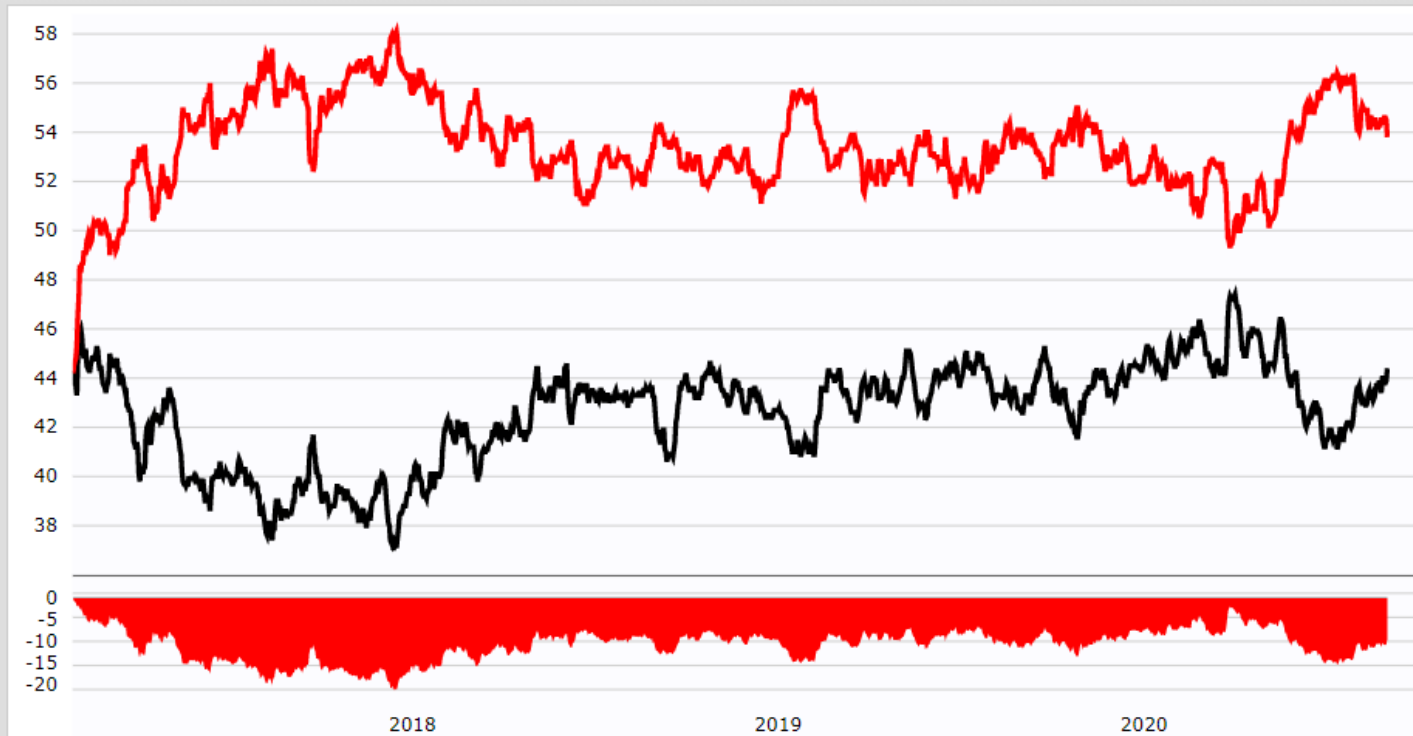






RCP POLL AVERAGE
President Trump Job Approval

44.4 Approve
53.8 Disapprove +9.4



President Trump Job Approval - Economy



Trump Job Approval | Job Approval on Foreign Policy | Direction of the County

Polling Data					
Poll	Date	Sample	Approve	Disapprove	Spread
RCP Average	7/12 - 8/25	--	49.5	48.1	+1.4
Economist/YouGov	8/23 - 8/25	1254 RV	52	44	+8
Reuters/Ipsos	8/19 - 8/25	4428 A	48	47	+1
CNBC/Change Research (D)	8/21 - 8/23	2362 LV	47	53	-6
FOX News	8/9 - 8/12	1000 RV	50	46	+4
Gallup	7/30 - 8/12	1031 A	48	51	-3
GU Politics/Battleground	8/1 - 8/6	1000 LV	50	48	+2
Harvard-Harris	7/21 - 7/23	1932 RV	52	48	+4
ABC News/Wash Post	7/12 - 7/15	845 RV	49	48	+1
All President Trump Job Approval - Economy Polling Data					

Public Approval of President Trump's Handling of the Coronavirus



1

[Trump Job Approval](#) | [Pelosi Favorability](#) | [Trump Favorability](#)

Polling Data					
Poll	Date	Sample	Approve	Disapprove	Spread
RCP Average	7/21 - 8/25	--	40.3	58.0	-17.7
YouGov	8/23 - 8/25	1254 RV	44	54	-10
Reuters	8/19 - 8/25	4428 A	40	56	-16
CNBC	8/21 - 8/23	2362 LV	42	58	-16
ABC/WP	8/12 - 8/15	868 RV	38	60	-22
NBC/WSJ	8/9 - 8/12	900 RV	40	58	-18
FOX News	8/9 - 8/12	1000 RV	44	54	-10
Gallup	7/30 - 8/12	1031 A	36	63	-27
GU Politics	8/1 - 8/6	1000 LV	38	60	-22
Harris	7/21 - 7/23	1932 RV	41	59	-18
All Public Approval of President Trump's Handling of the Coronavirus Polling Data					



In sum

- A long and complicated process
 - 2 elections: a primary and general
 - Each has complicated rules and traditions
 - Electoral College makes final decision
- Questions about representativeness
 - Do enough people vote?
 - Is the Electoral College fair?
 - Does money rule in the end?
- 2020 uses same process but with different issues

Questions?

Follow-up questions can be emailed to:

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