

**2020 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL**  
**Wave 62 Pathways & Trust in Media Survey**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**February 18-March 2, 2020**  
**N=10,300**

**ASK ALL:**

CAMPNII

How closely have you been following news about candidates for the 2020 presidential election?

Feb 18- Mar 2 <u>2020</u>		July 22- Aug 4 <u>2019</u>	Oct 25- Nov 8 <u>2016</u> <sup>1</sup>	Sept 27- Oct 10 <u>2016</u>	June 7- July 5 <u>2016</u>
23	Very closely	15	41	35	35
37	Fairly closely	37	37	40	43
29	Not too closely	34	16	18	18
12	Not at all closely	14	6	7	4
*	No answer	*	*	*	*

**ASK ALL:**

DTNEWS

Thinking about the past couple of weeks, would you say the news for Donald Trump has been... **[RANDOMIZE DISPLAY OF OPTIONS 1-5 and 5-1]**

Feb 18- Mar 2 <u>2020</u>	
11	Very good
22	Mostly good
27	Neither good nor bad
26	Mostly bad
13	Very bad
2	No answer

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<sup>1</sup> In surveys conducted in 2016, question asked about 2016 presidential election.

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF DEMPNEWSPOS AND DEMPNEWSNEG****ASK ALL:**

DEMPNEWSPOS

Regardless of how much they've been in the news, which Democratic candidate for president would you say has gotten the BEST news coverage over the past couple of weeks? **[RANDOMIZE; DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER FOR BOTH DEMPNEWSPOS AND DEMPNEWSNEG]**

Feb 18-	
Mar 2	
<u>2020</u>	
39	Bernie Sanders
24	Mike Bloomberg
13	Pete Buttigieg
8	Joe Biden
5	Elizabeth Warren
4	Amy Klobuchar
1	Tom Steyer
1	Tulsi Gabbard
5	No answer

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF DEMPNEWSPOS AND DEMPNEWSNEG****ASK ALL:**

DEMPNEWSNEG

Regardless of how much they've been in the news, which Democratic candidate for president would you say has gotten the WORST news coverage over the past couple of weeks? **[RANDOMIZE; DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER FOR BOTH DEMPNEWSPOS AND DEMPNEWSNEG]**

Feb 18-	
Mar 2	
<u>2020</u>	
27	Joe Biden
20	Mike Bloomberg
13	Bernie Sanders
11	Tulsi Gabbard
9	Elizabeth Warren
5	Tom Steyer
5	Amy Klobuchar
4	Pete Buttigieg
7	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

WATCHDOG\_3 In presenting the news dealing with political and social issues, do you think that news organizations... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Feb 18- Mar 2 <u>2020</u>		Oct 29- Nov 11 <u>2019</u>	Feb 19- Mar 4 <u>2019</u>	Feb 22- Mar 4 <u>2018</u>	Mar 13 Mar 27 <u>2017</u>	Jan 12- Feb 8 <u>2016</u> <sup>2</sup>
20	Deal fairly with all sides	22	26	30	28	24
79	Tend to favor one side	76	72	68	72	74
2	No answer	1	2	2	*	3

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

NEWSHEARD Thinking about some stories covered by news organizations in the past couple of weeks...

How much, if anything, have you heard or read about each of the following?  
**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS; PLEASE ADD A LINE OF SPACE BETWEEN THE QUESTION STEM AND FIRST SUB-ITEM]**

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. The Trump administration adding six countries to the list of those whose citizens face restrictions on travel to the U.S. Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	22	46	31	1
b. Possible political influence by the Trump administration on criminal cases at the Department of Justice Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	47	33	19	1
c. A recent report about surveillance by the FBI of people connected to Trump's campaign in 2016 Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	24	43	31	1
d. Donald Trump's treatment of people who testified in the impeachment process Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	50	34	16	1
e. The amount of money the government has spent at Donald Trump's properties and businesses Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	25	37	37	1
f. The amount of money the government spent on the impeachment process Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	25	37	37	1

<sup>2</sup> For the comparable phone trends from before 2016 for WATCHDOG\_3, see [here](#).

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

DEM20UNDER

How well do you feel you understand what's been happening in the Democratic presidential primaries so far?

Feb 18- Mar 2 <u>2020</u> 20	Very well
46	Somewhat well
25	Not too well
9	Not at all well
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

DEM20IDEO

For each of the following presidential candidates, please indicate how you would describe their political views. **[RANDOMIZE RESPONSE ITEMS ACROSS TWO SCREENS; RANDOMIZE DISPLAY OF OPTIONS 1-7 AND 7-1; ALWAYS ASK OPTION 8 LAST; USE SAME ORDER FOR EACH CANDIDATE]**

	<u>Very liberal</u>	<u>Mostly liberal</u>	<u>Slightly liberal</u>	<u>Mode- rate</u>	<u>Slightly conserv- ative</u>	<u>Mostly conserv- ative</u>	<u>Very conserv- ative</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Joe Biden Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	12	18	15	21	6	5	2	18	2
b. Bernie Sanders Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	56	13	4	4	2	2	3	15	2
c. Elizabeth Warren Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	33	21	8	6	3	2	2	23	2
d. Pete Buttigieg Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	15	16	14	15	4	2	1	31	2
e. Amy Klobuchar Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	7	13	12	17	4	2	1	42	2
f. Mike Bloomberg Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	13	14	10	17	10	7	4	24	2

**ASK ALL:**

PRES20\_MFA

As far as you know, have the following presidential candidates publicly voiced their support for a single national health insurance program run by the government that would replace private insurance, sometimes called "Medicare for all"? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS A-E]**

		Yes, has <u>voiced</u> <u>support</u>	No, has <u>not voiced</u> <u>support</u>	Not <u>sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	Joe Biden Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	22	33	43	2
b.	Bernie Sanders Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	71	4	24	2
c.	Elizabeth Warren Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	52	7	40	2
d.	Pete Buttigieg Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	17	27	54	2
e.	Amy Klobuchar Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	11	26	62	2

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF KNOWBUTTIGIEG, KNOWSANDERS, KNOWWARREN****ASK ALL:**

KNOWBUTTIGIEG

As far as you know, which candidate running for president, if any, is openly gay or lesbian? **[RANDOMIZE DISPLAY OF CANDIDATE OPTIONS 1-8; ALWAYS ASK 9-10 LAST; DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER FOR KNOWBUTTIGIEG, KNOWSANDERS, KNOWWARREN]**

Feb 18-  
Mar 2  
2020

60	Pete Buttigieg (correct)
1	Elizabeth Warren
1	Mike Bloomberg
1	Amy Klobuchar
1	Tom Steyer
1	Tulsi Gabbard
*	Joe Biden
*	Bernie Sanders
4	None of them
31	Not sure
1	No answer

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF KNOWBUTTIGIEG, KNOWSANDERS, KNOWWARREN****ASK ALL:**

KNOWSANDERS

As far as you know, which candidate running for president, if any, calls themselves a “democratic socialist”? **[RANDOMIZE DISPLAY OF CANDIDATE OPTIONS 1-8; ALWAYS ASK 9-10 LAST; DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER FOR KNOWBUTTIGIEG, KNOWSANDERS, KNOWWARREN]**

Feb 18-

Mar 2

2020

61	Bernie Sanders (correct)
2	Mike Bloomberg
1	Joe Biden
1	Elizabeth Warren
*	Tulsi Gabbard
*	Amy Klobuchar
*	Pete Buttigieg
*	Tom Steyer
2	None of them
30	Not sure
1	No answer

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF KNOWBUTTIGIEG, KNOWSANDERS, KNOWWARREN****ASK ALL:**

KNOWWARREN

As far as you know, which candidate running for president, if any, was a leader in the creation of the consumer financial protection bureau in 2010? **[RANDOMIZE DISPLAY OF CANDIDATE OPTIONS 1-8; ALWAYS ASK 9-10 LAST; DISPLAY RESPONSE OPTIONS IN SAME ORDER FOR KNOWBUTTIGIEG, KNOWSANDERS, KNOWWARREN]**

Feb 18-

Mar 2

2020

19	Elizabeth Warren (correct)
4	Joe Biden
4	Mike Bloomberg
2	Bernie Sanders
1	Tom Steyer
1	Amy Klobuchar
*	Pete Buttigieg
*	Tulsi Gabbard
2	None of them
65	Not sure
2	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

IACOUNT

As you may know, full results from the Iowa Democratic caucuses in early February were not released publicly for several days.

From what you've seen or heard, which of the following do you think best describes why releasing the results of the Iowa Democratic caucus was delayed? **[RANDOMIZE DISPLAY OF 1-2; ALWAYS DISPLAY OPTION 3 LAST]**

Feb 18-

Mar 2

2020

39

There were unintentional problems that caused delays but not major efforts to purposefully delay the results

32

Not only were there unintentional problems causing delays, there were also major efforts to purposefully delay the results

28

Not sure

1

No answer

**ASK ALL:**

IMPEACHFOL

Thinking back over the past few months...

How closely, if at all, did you follow news about the impeachment and trial of Donald Trump?

Feb 18-

Mar 2

2020

24

Very closely

35

Fairly closely

28

Not too closely

12

Not at all closely

1

No answer

**ASK ALL:**

IMPEACHUNDER

How well do you feel you understood the facts and events that surrounded the impeachment proceedings?

Feb 18-

Mar 2

2020

28

Very well

40

Somewhat well

22

Not too well

9

Not at all well

1

No answer

**ASK ALL:**

IMPEACHWHY Here are a few possible reasons why the Senate voted to acquit Donald Trump and keep him in office.

For each one, please indicate whether you think it was a reason or not a reason why the Senate voted to acquit Trump. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; ALWAYS DISPLAY OPTION 3 LAST]**

	Yes, was <u>a reason</u>	No, was NOT <u>a reason</u>	Not <u>sure</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a. Republicans did not want to remove Trump because he is a member of their own party Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	60	25	14	1
b. Democrats did a poor job making the case for removal Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	43	39	17	1
c. Key witnesses and evidence were prevented from being a part of the impeachment trial Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	46	33	19	1
d. Trump's actions did not justify being removed from office Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	45	38	16	1
e. Senators were reluctant to remove a sitting president from office in an election year Feb 18-Mar 2, 2020	43	37	20	1

**ASK ALL:**

IMPEACHACT Regardless of your views about the outcome of the impeachment trial, which comes closest to your view of Donald Trump's conduct and the evidence presented against him in the impeachment trial? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER 1-3 AND 3-1]**

Feb 18-  
Mar 2  
2020

46	Trump did something wrong, and it was enough to justify his removal from office
28	Trump did something wrong, but it was NOT enough to justify his removal from office
25	Trump did nothing wrong
2	No answer



**ASK ALL:**

IMPEACHNEWS Thinking about the mix of news and information you got about the impeachment proceedings, which better describes you? **[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS 1-2; ALWAYS DISPLAY OPTION 3 LAST]**

Feb 18-	
Mar 2	
<u>2020</u>	
38	I mostly saw the same set of facts across the sources I turned to for news
31	I mostly saw conflicting facts across the sources I turned to for news
28	I didn't follow impeachment news across multiple sources
2	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

IMPEACHVOTE As far as you know, did any REPUBLICANS vote to convict Donald Trump during the impeachment trial in the U.S. Senate?

Feb 18-	
Mar 2	
<u>2020</u>	
66	Yes
12	No
22	Not sure
1	No answer

**RANDOMIZE ORDER OF MEDDLE\_RU AND MEDDLE\_UA; DISPLAY ON SAME SCREEN****ASK ALL:**

MEDDLE\_RU From what you've seen or heard, did the RUSSIAN government interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election?

Feb 18-	
Mar 2	
<u>2020</u>	
36	Definitely interfered
26	Probably interfered
13	Probably did NOT interfere
7	Definitely did NOT interfere
17	Not sure
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

MEDDLE-UA From what you've seen or heard, did the UKRAINIAN government interfere in the 2016 U.S. presidential election?

Feb 18-	
Mar 2	
<u>2020</u>	
7	Definitely interfered
18	Probably interfered
24	Probably did NOT interfere
23	Definitely did NOT interfere
28	Not sure
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

FKNWSSEE1 In the last couple of weeks, have you seen any stories about politics or the presidential election that seemed completely made-up?

Feb 18-	
Mar 2	
<u>2020</u>	
35	Yes
63	No
2	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTION HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

QAHRD How much, if anything, have you heard or read about QAnon?

Feb 18-	
Mar 2	
<u>2020</u>	
3	A lot
20	A little
76	Nothing at all
2	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics today, do you consider yourself a:

**ASK IF INDEP/SOMETHING ELSE (PARTY=3 or 4) OR MISSING:**

PARTYLN	As of today do you lean more to... <sup>3</sup>			Something	No	Lean	Lean	
		<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>else</u>	<u>answer</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
		27	29	29	13	1	17	22

<sup>3</sup> PARTY and PARTYLN asked in a prior survey.