



Yale Class of 1965
2020 Election Survey

Summary of Results

Zoom Meeting
in Lieu of
Annual Class Dinner

October 30, 2020

Y65 Election Survey: Agenda

METHOD: How was it conducted?

PROFILE: Who participated?

PREFERENCES: What do we want to happen?

PREDICTIONS: What do we think will happen?

ZOOM CHAT: Available for comments

Y65 2020 Election Survey: Process and Caveats

- Process

- Objective: continue a Class tradition, informal information
- Not a professional poll, organized and conducted by me
- Survey Monkey link: 13 questions
- Average time to complete: 2-3 minutes
- Survey window was open for three weeks: Oct 2-Oct 23

- Caveats

- A few questions were imperfect
- A few responses were skipped
- Selection bias is always a possibility
- Unfolding news could have influenced later responses

PROFILE:

Intense Interest in This Election

Highest Participation Ever in a Y65 Election Year Survey!

Y65 Affiliation	Responses	%
Classmate	243	89%
Spouse/Partner	23	9%
Widow	6	2%
TOTAL	272	100%

- 272 responses received
 - Almost TWICE the participation in the 2016 survey (140)
- 23 spouses/partners and 6 widows participated
- 243 Classmates represent 30% of today's Class!

PROFILE:

When, How, And Where We Will Vote

How will you vote? What State are you voting in?

Voting Method	All Responses	Blue States	Red States	Battleground States
In person, election day	28%	19%	2%	8%
Early, by mail	70	43	5	23
Will not vote	2	2		
TOTAL	100%	64%	6%	30%

- 28% will vote the “old fashioned way”—in person on election day
- 70% will vote by mail (or early in person*)
- Blue State voters (64%) exceed Red State voters (6%) by more than 10X
- Battleground State voters (30%) are where the action is
 - But 3/4 in the Battleground States (23% of 30%) have already voted

PREFERENCES:

Biden Strongly Favored Over Trump

Who will get your vote for President?

Candidate	All	Classmates	Spouses/partners/ widows
Biden	81	80	86
Trump	16	16	11
Other/not vote	3	4	3
Total	100%	100%	100%

- 81% will vote for Biden, 16% for Trump
- Gender factor?
 - Preference for Biden is slightly higher among Spouses/partners/widows (86%) than Classmates (80%)

PREFERENCES:

A Pocket of Support for Trump

Geographic differences

Candidate	All	Blue States	Red States	Battleground States
Biden	80%	84%	64%	85%
Trump	16	12	36	15
Other/not vote	4	4		
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

- Blue (84%) and Battleground (85%) voters strongly support Biden
- Red States
 - Trump (36%) has more support than in the rest of the country
 - Biden (64%) still outpolls him

PREFERENCES: Control of Congress

Which party do you prefer as the majority?

Preferred Majority	House	Senate
Democrats	80%	75%
Republicans	20	25
Total	100%	100%

- **Democrats** are the **preferred majority party** in the next Congress
- Preference for **control of the House (80%)**, same level as Biden (81%)
- Preference for **control of the Senate (75%)** is not as high

PREFERENCES:

Party-line vs. Split-the-Ticket

Ticket choices: President & Senate Majority

Presidential Candidate	All	Prefer Democrat Senate Majority	Prefer Republican Senate Majority
Biden	81%	100%	26%
Trump	16		63
Other/not vote	3		11
Total	100%	100%	100%

- Prefer a Democrat Majority—voting the party line
 - 100% will vote for Biden
- Prefer a Republican Majority—splitting their votes
 - 26% will cross party lines and vote for Biden
 - 63% will vote for Trump
 - 11% will vote other/no vote

PREDICTIONS:

Foggy Forecast—When Will Election End?

When will the winner be known?

Key Election Milestones	All	Biden Voters	Trump Voters
A Concession Will Be Made	50%	47%	54%
On Election night (+2 weeks)	23	21	28
On or Before Dec 14 EC vote	28	26	28
On Jan 6 Election Certification date	23	23	25
By House vote	2	2	2
Constitutional crisis—no clear winner	3	2	8
Uncertain	23	26	11
Total	100%	100%	100%

- 50% By Concession: 23% “traditionally” early, 28% by Dec 14
- 23% By an Electoral College certification of 270+ votes on Jan 6
- 2% By a House Vote in January
- 3% Constitutional crisis
- 23% Uncertain
- Note: This uncertain future is **one thing Biden and Trump voters agree on!**

PREDICTIONS:

We Expect a Disputed Election

Will the election results be contested in state court(s)?

Disputing the Election	All	Biden Voters	Trump Voters
Lawsuits filed by at least one party	94%	94%	89%
By Democrats	40	30	67
By Republicans	54	94	22
No lawsuits will be filed	6	6	11
Total	100%	100%	100%

- 94% feel the election results will be contested in court, 6% say No
- Who will file the lawsuits? There are differences...
 - Biden voters say: Republicans 94%, Democrats 30%
 - Trump voters say: Republicans 78%, Democrats 67%

PREDICTIONS: RBG's Successor—A Done Deal

Will Amy Coney Barrett be confirmed as an Associate Justice?

Senate Confirmation	All	Biden Voters	Trump Voters
Yes, before Nov 3	51%	41%	85%
Yes, by a lame duck Senate	36	42	13
Yes, by next Senate	2	2	0
ACB will be confirmed	89	86	98
ACB will not be confirmed	11	14	2
Total	100%	100%	100%

- 89% got the outcome right
- 51% also got the timing right, especially Trump voters (85%)
- 11% got the outcome wrong

PREDICTIONS:

Another “Bush v. Gore” decision ahead?

Will a SCOTUS decision determine the next President?

SCOTUS Decision on an Appeal	All	Biden Voters	Trump Voters
SCOTUS WILL NOT determine the winner	67%	67%	68%
SCOTUS WILL determine the outcome	33	33	32
SCOTUS decision will favor Biden	19	24	4
5-4 vote	14	18	4
4-4 vote, affirming prior decision	5	6	0
SCOTUS decision will favor Trump	15	9	28
5-4 vote	14	8	28
4-4vote, affirming prior decision	1	1	0
Total	100%	100%	100%

- 67% say SCOTUS will not determine the winner, 33% say they will
- Biden voters say: SCOTUS will decide their way—24% to 9%
 - (Surprising, given Democrats concern with composition of SCOTUS)
- Trump voters say: SCOTUS will decide their way—28% to 4%

PREDICTIONS: Biden Will Be Elected

Who will take the oath of office on Jan 20, 2021?

Candidate	All	Biden Voters	Trump Voters
Biden	84%	99%	6%
Trump	16	1	94
Total	100%	100%	100%

- Overall, 84% predict Biden, 16% predict Trump
- Once again, predictions are highly aligned with preferences
 - 99% of Biden voters predict he will win
 - 94% of Trump voters predict he will win

PREDICTIONS:

Democrats will keep control of the House

Which Party will hold the Majority in the next House?

Candidate	All	Biden Voters	Trump Voters
Democrats will hold the majority	97%	100%	84%
Gain seats	74%	87	30
Lose seats, but still win	23	13	54
Republicans will regain the majority	3	0	15
Total	100%	100%	100%

- 97% predict Democrats will keep the majority
 - Biden voters: they will gain seats 87%, lose seats 13%
 - Trump voters: they will gain seats 30%, lose seats 54%
- 15% of Trump voters predict a major Republican upset

PREDICTIONS:

A Closer Call in the Senate

Which party will hold the majority in the next Senate?

Predicted Majority Party	All	Biden Voters	Trump Voters
Democrats	77%	93%	22%
With 51+ seats	51	62	13
With 50 seats, VP tiebreaker	26	31	9
Republicans	23	7	77
With 51+ seats	18	6	60
With 50 seats, VP tiebreaker	5	1	17
Total	100%	100%	100%

- Predicted Senate majority: Democrats **77%**, Republicans **23%**
- Predictions align closely with preferences
 - **93%** of Biden Voters predict Democrats will take the majority
 - **77%** of Trump voters predict Republicans keep the majority
- **31%** predict a 50-50 Senate, with the VP as tiebreaker

A Cautionary Footnote: Counting Chickens is Risky Business

Y65 Class Survey Comparison: 2020 vs. 2016

Presidential Candidate	Preferences		Predictions	
	2020	2016	2020	2016
Biden '20/Clinton '16	80%	67%	84%	86%
Trump	16	20	16	6
Other/unsure	4	13		8

- Our **Preferences** have changed in four years
 - Biden preferred over Clinton by 13% (80% - 67%)
 - Trump support declined by 4% (20%- 16%)
 - Side-line sitters declined by 9% (13% - 4%)
- But our **Predictions** remain the same
 - **2016: 86%** predicted a Clinton win...and were wrong
 - **2020: 84%** predict a Biden will win...and soon we will see

Summary Observations

- Predictions for a “Blue Wave” are high
 - 84% Biden elected
 - 97% Democrats keep the House majority
 - 77% Democrats retake the Senate majority
- A few things are less clear
 - When/how the election will end
 - Whether/how SCOTUS will determine the outcome
 - What the next Senate will look like
- We see the future through rose-colored glasses
 - Virtually all predictions confirm our preferences
 - We may be smart, but we’re also human

Where Can I See These Results?

This presentation will be posted on:

www.yale1965.org

Thanks for your participation and attention!!



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