

**2018 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 38  
September 24-October 7, 2018  
FINAL TOPLINE  
N=10,683**

*CORRECTION (Dec. 13, 2018): For the question VTPPL, the data for those who say they are confident in local officials and those who say they are confident in state-level officials were transposed. The section, including the chart "Nearly nine-in-ten expect workers in their communities to do a good job during the elections," has been corrected to read that 32% are very confident in officials in their local area, 51% are somewhat confident, 12% are not too confident and 3% are not at all confident; 28% are very confident in officials in their state, 50% are somewhat confident, 18% are not too confident and 4% are not at all confident. The report has been corrected as well.*

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK U.S. CITIZENS ONLY (S\_CITIZEN=1) [N=10,413]:**

VTPLAN Do you plan to vote in the elections this November? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF PUNCHES 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK 3 AND 4 LAST IN ORDER]**

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=8,884]:**

Sep 24-	
Oct 7	
<u>2018</u>	
59	Yes, I plan to vote ON Election Day
31	Yes, I plan to vote BEFORE Election Day
3	No, I do not plan to vote
6	Not sure
*	No answer

**ASK IF PLAN TO VOTE (VTPLAN=1,2) [N=9,163]:**

EARLY1 Do you plan to vote in the November election in person or will you mail in your ballot?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=8,390]:**

Sep 24-	
Oct 7	
<u>2018</u>	
73	Vote in person
24	Mail in ballot
3	Not sure
*	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

CITIZ\_INFL\_T Which statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right?

Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>		<b>TREND FOR COMPARISON:<sup>1</sup></b>	
		Jan 29- Feb 13 <u>2018</u>	Nov 29- Dec 12 <u>2016</u>
52	Ordinary citizens can do a lot to influence the government in Washington	52	58
47	There's not much ordinary citizens can do to influence the government in Washington	47	40
1	No Answer	1	2

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF BLOCKS VTCONF\_COM/VTCONF\_US AND VTADMIN\_COM/VTADMIN\_US]**

Thinking about the elections this November...

**[CHANGE ORDER OF QUESTIONS BY FORM: FORMS 1 AND 2 GET VTCONF\_COM FIRST AND VTCONF\_US SECOND, FORMS 3 AND 4 GET THE REVERSE]**

**ASK ALL:**

VTCONF\_COM How confident are you that votes in YOUR COMMUNITY will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>	42	Very confident
	40	Somewhat confident
	13	Not too confident
	4	Not at all confident
	1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

VTCONF\_US How confident are you that votes across the UNITED STATES will be counted as voters intend in the elections this November?

Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>	25	Very confident
	47	Somewhat confident
	21	Not too confident
	6	Not at all confident
	1	No answer

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF BLOCKS VTSYS\_COM/VTCONF\_US AND VTADMIN\_COM/VTADMIN\_US]**

<sup>1</sup> In Jan.-Feb. 2018 and Nov.-Dec. 2016, the question stem was worded, "Which statement comes closer to your views – even if neither is exactly right?", and the first response option was worded, "Ordinary citizens can do a lot to influence the government in Washington if they are willing to make the effort."

**[CHANGE ORDER OF QUESTIONS BY FORM: FORMS 1 AND 2 GET VTADMIN\_COM FIRST AND VTADMIN\_US SECOND, FORMS 3 AND 4 GET THE REVERSE]**

**ASK ALL:**

VTADMIN\_COM

Do you think the elections this November in YOUR COMMUNITY will be run and administered...

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018

41	Very well
46	Somewhat well
9	Not too well
3	Not at all well
1	No answer

**ASK ALL:**

VTADMIN\_US

Do you think the elections this November in the UNITED STATES will be run and administered...

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018

20	Very well
57	Somewhat well
18	Not too well
4	Not at all well
1	No answer

**ASK FORMS 1 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,376]:**

VOTETRAITS

All in all, is voting in elections ... **[RANDOMIZE PAIRS; RANDOMIZE ORDER OF STATEMENTS WITHIN PAIRS, SHOW ALL PAIRS ON SAME SCREEN, REPEAT STEM FOR EACH PAIR]**

a.	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	<u>Important</u> 91	<u>Not important</u> 8	<u>No answer</u> 1
b.	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	<u>Convenient</u> 73	<u>Not convenient</u> 27	<u>No answer</u> *
c.	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	<u>Exciting</u> 62	<u>Boring</u> 36	<u>No answer</u> 2
d.	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	<u>Straightforward</u> 70	<u>Confusing</u> 30	<u>No answer</u> 1

**ASK IF FORM=2 OR 3 AND U.S. CITIZEN [N=5,173]:**

VTEASY Overall, [IF VTPLAN=1, 2: "do", IF VTPLAN=3, 4, SYSMIS: "would"] you personally expect voting in the November elections to be... [RANDOMIZE ORDER 1-4 FOR HALF, 4-1 FOR OTHER HALF. RECORD IF RESPONDENT WAS SHOWN 1-4 OR 4-1]

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018

38	Very easy
42	Somewhat easy
16	Somewhat difficult
4	Very difficult
1	No answer

**ASK IF VTEASY=3-4 [N=785]:**

VTEASYOE Why [IF VTPLAN=1, 2: "do", IF VTPLAN=3, 4, SYSMIS: "would"] you expect the process of voting in the November elections to be [INSERT RESPONSE TO VTEASY; DO NOT CAPITALIZE FIRST WORD] for you personally?

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018

<b>22</b>	<b>NET Political Environment</b>
11	Choice of candidates
9	Divisive political landscape/Politicians
3	State/One party has policies that disadvantaged the other
<b>19</b>	<b>NET Logistical Challenges</b>
6	Hard to get information/Time consuming
4	Long wait times/Crowds
3	Timing inconvenient/Personal schedule
3	Unsure how to vote
2	Travel/Moving
2	Lack of polling places/Access
1	Concerns about mail/Absentee
<b>8</b>	<b>NET Doesn't matter/Doesn't represent me</b>
4	Doesn't trust candidates/Views not represented
4	Doesn't matter/Nothing changes
<b>8</b>	<b>NET Security/Vote count/Foreign Interference</b>
7	Vote count/System is corrupt
2	Russia/Other country interference
<b>5</b>	<b>NET Not difficult personally, but for others</b>
6	Other
4	Uncodeable
2	Not voting
<b>31</b>	<b>No response</b>

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses*

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**ASK ALL:**

Thinking again about the elections coming up in November...

**ASK ALL:**VTPPL How confident are you that **[INSERT ITEM; DO NOT CAPITALIZE FIRST WORD IN ITEM]** will do a good job during the elections this November?

	Very <u>confident</u>	Somewhat <u>confident</u>	Not too <u>confident</u>	Not at all <u>confident</u>	No <u>answer</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,665]</b>					
a. Poll workers in your community Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	45	44	8	2	1
<b>ASK FORM 3 ONLY [N=2,650]</b>					
b. Officials who run election in your local area Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	32	51	12	3	1
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,657]</b>					
c. Officials who run elections in your state Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	28	50	18	4	1
<b>ASK FORM 4 ONLY [N=2,711]</b>					
d. Officials who run elections across the United States Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	17	54	24	5	*

Thinking about the election rules in your state (for example, when and how elections take place and what is required to register or vote)...<sup>2</sup>**ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,307]:**

ELRULE\_FAIR All in all, would you say your state's election rules are...

Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>	
83	Fair
15	Not fair
2	No answer

**ASK FORMS 1 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,376]:**ELRULE\_EASE All in all, would you say your state's election rules... **[RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2; KEEP 3 LAST]**

Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>	
19	Make it too easy to register and vote
10	Make it too hard to register and vote
69	Make it about right to register and vote
1	No answer

<sup>2</sup> For questions ELRULE\_FAIR, ELRULE\_EASE, ELRULE\_PTY and VTSYSSEC\_ST, residents of D.C. were asked about "the District of Columbia."

**ASK FORMS 1 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,376]:**  
**[SHOW ON SAME SCREEN AS ELRULE\_EASE]**

ELRULE\_PTY All in all, would you say your state's election rules... **[RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2; KEEP 3 LAST]**

Sep 24-	
Oct 7	
<u>2018</u>	
14	Unfairly favor the Republican Party over the Democratic Party
11	Unfairly favor the Democratic Party over the Republican Party
73	Do not favor one party over the other
2	No answer

**ASK FORMS 1 AND 2 ONLY [N=5,322]:**

VTSYSSEC\_ST How confident are you that election systems in YOUR STATE are secure from hacking and other technological threats?

Sep 24-	
Oct 7	
<u>2018</u>	
16	Very confident
50	Somewhat confident
24	Not too confident
10	Not at all confident
1	No answer

**ASK FORMS 3 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,361]:**

VTSYSSEC\_US How confident are you that election systems in the UNITED STATES are secure from hacking and other technological threats?

Sep 24-	
Oct 7	
<u>2018</u>	
8	Very confident
37	Somewhat confident
37	Not too confident
17	Not at all confident
*	No answer

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF VTEFFORT-VOTING]**

**ASK FORMS 2 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,368]:**

VTEFFORT Which statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right?  
**[RANDOMIZE]**

	Citizens should have to prove they really want to vote by registering ahead of time	Everything possible should be done to make it easy for every citizen to vote	No answer
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	32	67	1
Apr 19-23, 2017 <sup>3</sup>	39	59	2

<sup>3</sup> April 2017 survey was conducted by telephone.

**ASK FORMS 1 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,315]:**

VTMAND Which statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right?  
[RANDOMIZE]

	All citizens should be required to vote in <u>national elections</u>	Every citizen should be able to decide for themselves whether or not to vote in national <u>elections</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	21	79	1
Apr 19-23, 2017 <sup>4</sup>	20	78	1

**ASK FORMS 1 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,376]:**

VOTING Which statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right?  
[RANDOMIZE]

	Voting gives people like me some say about how <u>government runs things</u>	Voting by people like me doesn't really affect how <u>government runs things</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	68	31	1
Jan 29-Feb 13, 2018	61	38	1

**ASK FORMS 1 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,315]:**

VTCHNGRULES Which statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right?  
[RANDOMIZE]

	If election rules were changed to make it easier to register and vote, that would also make elections <u>less secure</u>	It would not make elections any less secure if election rules were changed to make it easier <u>to register and vote</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	37	60	3

**ASK FORMS 2 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,368]:**

VTEARLYDOC Which statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right?  
[RANDOMIZE]

	A voter should only be allowed to vote early or absentee if they have a documented reason for not voting in person on <u>Election Day</u>	Any voter should have the option to vote early or absentee without having <u>to document a reason</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	28	71	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**[RANDOMIZE VTBLWH, VTHISWH, VTECON]****ASK FORMS 1 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,376]:**VTBLWH Which comes closer to your view about your state<sup>4</sup>... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018  
80  
17  
2

Black and white citizens in my state have equal access to voting  
Black citizens in my state have less access to voting than white citizens  
No answer

**ASK FORMS 2 AND 3 ONLY [N=5,307]:**VTHISWH Which comes closer to your view about your state... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018  
69  
27  
3

Hispanic and white citizens in my state have equal access to voting  
Hispanic citizens in my state have less access to voting than white citizens  
No answer

**ASK FORMS 2 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,368]:**VTECON Which comes closer to your view about your state... **[RANDOMIZE]**

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018  
67  
30  
2

Lower-income and middle-income citizens in my state have equal access to voting  
Lower-income citizens in my state have less access to voting than middle-income citizens  
No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK IF STATE HAS MORE THAN ONE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (STATE IS NOT AK, DE, VT, WY, MT, SD, ND, DC) [N=10,448]:**GERRY\_PTY All in all, would you say the way congressional districts are drawn in your state...  
**[RANDOMIZE 1 AND 2; KEEP 3 LAST]**

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018  
22  
15  
58  
5

Unfairly favors the Republican Party over the Democratic Party  
Unfairly favors the Democratic Party over the Republican Party  
Does not favor one party over the other  
No answer

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<sup>4</sup> For questions VTBLWH, VTHISWH and VTECON, residents of D.C. were asked about "the District of Columbia."



**ASK RANDOM 3/4 OF RESPONDENTS [N=7,941]:****ASK FORMS 1 AND 2 [N=3,968]:**

ELECMIS\_1Ma Thinking about an election in a place that has 1,000,000 voters, if **[INSERT ITEM]** voted in the election even though they were not eligible to do so would you consider this to be a...

Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	Major problem with <u>the election</u>	Minor problem with <u>the election</u>	Not much of a problem with <u>the election</u>	No <u>answer</u>
1 person <b>[N=1,300]</b>	41	30	28	1
10 people <b>[N=657]</b>	44	31	25	*
100 people <b>[N=682]</b>	52	31	17	*
1,000 people <b>[N=690]</b>	62	22	16	*
10,000 people <b>[N=639]</b>	69	20	9	3

**ASK FORMS 3 AND 4 [N=3,973]:**

ELECMIS\_1Mb Thinking about an election in a place that has 1,000,000 voters, if **[INSERT ITEM]** (was/were) prevented from voting in the election even though they tried to vote and met all eligibility requirements would you consider this to be a...

Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	Major problem with <u>the election</u>	Minor problem with <u>the election</u>	Not much of a problem with <u>the election</u>	No <u>answer</u>
1 person <b>[N=1,401]</b>	58	26	15	2
10 people <b>[N=664]</b>	59	26	14	1
100 people <b>[N=659]</b>	66	20	12	2
1,000 people <b>[N=630]</b>	83	10	5	1
10,000 people <b>[N=619]</b>	86	9	5	*

**ASK OTHER RANDOM 1/4 OF RESPONDENTS [N=2,742]:****ASK FORMS 1 AND 2 [N=1,354]:**

ELECMIS\_100ka Thinking about an election in a place that has 100,000 voters, if **[INSERT ITEM]** voted in the election even though they were not eligible to do so would you consider this to be a...

Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	Major problem with <u>the election</u>	Minor problem with <u>the election</u>	Not much of a problem with <u>the election</u>	No <u>answer</u>
1 person <b>[N=458]</b>	38	30	31	2
10 people <b>[N=449]</b>	42	39	18	1
100 people <b>[N=447]</b>	54	31	14	1

**ASK FORMS 3 AND 4 [N=1,388]:**

ELECMIS\_100kb Thinking about an election in a place that has 100,000 voters, if **[INSERT ITEM]** (was/were) prevented from voting in the election even though they tried to vote and met all eligibility requirements would you consider this to be a...

Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	Major problem with <u>the election</u>	Minor problem with <u>the election</u>	Not much of a problem with <u>the election</u>	No <u>answer</u>
1 person <b>[N=480]</b>	65	21	13	*
10 people <b>[N=436]</b>	62	24	13	1
100 people <b>[N=472]</b>	76	19	5	*

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ELCTCMMT\_R & ELCTCMMT\_D]****ASK FORMS 2 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,368]:**

ELCTCMMT\_R How committed would you say the REPUBLICAN PARTY is to making sure elections in the United States are fair and accurate? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]**

Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>	
20	Very committed
35	Somewhat committed
23	Not too committed
19	Not at all committed
3	No answer

**[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ELCTCMMT\_R & ELCTCMMT\_D]****ASK FORMS 2 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,368]:**

ELCTCMMT\_D How committed would you say the DEMOCRATIC PARTY is to making sure elections in the United States are fair and accurate? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF ITEMS]**

Sep 24- Oct 7 <u>2018</u>	
23	Very committed
40	Somewhat committed
19	Not too committed
17	Not at all committed
2	No answer

**ASK FORMS 1 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,376]:**

VTPRIORITY Please indicate whether you would **[MATCH ORDER WITH PUNCHES: favor or oppose]** the following ideas about election policy. **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS; REVERSE ORDER OF PUNCHES FOR RANDOM HALF-SAMPLE]**

	Strongly <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>favor</u>	Somewhat <u>oppose</u>	Strongly <u>oppose</u>	No <u>answer</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,665]</b>					
a.F1 Automatically registering all eligible citizens to vote Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	34	31	17	17	1
b.F1 Making Election Day a national holiday Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	36	29	18	17	1
c.F1 Removing inaccurate and duplicate registrations from voter lists using automatic methods Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	36	41	16	6	1
d.F1 Conducting all elections by mail Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	9	25	28	37	1
e.F1 Allowing people convicted of felonies to vote after serving their sentences Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	33	37	15	14	1
<b>NO ITEM f.</b>					
<b>ASK FORM 4 ONLY [N=2,711]</b>					
g.F4 Automatically updating voter registrations when people move Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	58	29	7	5	1
h.F4 Allowing people to register on Election Day at the polls Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	36	28	17	18	1
i.F4 Removing people from registration lists if they have not recently voted or confirmed their registration Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	15	22	27	35	1
j.F4 Requiring all voters to show government-issued photo identification to vote Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	54	22	13	11	1
k.F4 Requiring electronic voting machines to print a paper backup of the ballot Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	49	36	10	4	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK FORM 1 AND 3 [N=5,315]:**

FRGNINFL How likely, if at all, do you think it is that Russia or other foreign governments will attempt to influence the U.S. congressional elections in November?

Sep 24-

Oct 7

2018

32	Very likely
35	Somewhat likely
22	Not too likely
9	Not at all likely
2	No answer

**ASK IF EXPECT INTERFERENCE (FRGNINFL=1-3) [N=4,904]:**

FRGNIMPCT Overall, do you think the attempts by Russia or other foreign governments to influence the U.S. congressional elections are a...

Sep 24-

Oct 7

2018

59	Major problem
28	Minor problem
12	Not much of a problem
1	No answer

**[ROTATE VTSECACT\_ST VTSECACT\_US BY FORM. FORM 2 GETS STATE FIRST, COUNTRY SECOND. FORM 4 GETS COUNTRY FIRST, STATE SECOND]****ASK FORMS 2 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,368]:**

VTSECACT\_ST How confident are you that your STATE GOVERNMENT<sup>5</sup> is making serious efforts to protect election systems in your state from hacking and other technological threats?

Sep 24-

Oct 7

2018

14	Very confident
48	Somewhat confident
27	Not too confident
9	Not at all confident
1	No answer

**ASK FORMS 2 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,368]:**

VTSECACT\_US How confident are you that the federal government is making serious efforts to protect election systems in the United States from hacking and other technological threats?

Sep 24-

Oct 7

2018

13	Very confident
42	Somewhat confident
30	Not too confident
14	Not at all confident
1	No answer

<sup>5</sup> Residents of D.C. were asked about "the DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S GOVERNMENT."

**ASK FORMS 2 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,368]:**

VTSECTECH1 Do you think technology companies like Facebook, Twitter, and Google have a responsibility to prevent the misuse of their platforms to influence the U.S. elections this November?

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018  
76  
23  
1

Yes, they have this responsibility  
No, they do not have this responsibility  
No answer

**ASK FORMS 2 AND 4 ONLY [N=5,368]:**

VTSECTECH2 How confident are you in technology companies like Facebook, Twitter, and Google to prevent the misuse of their platforms to influence the U.S. elections this November?

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018  
6  
27  
44  
22  
1

Very confident  
Somewhat confident  
Not too confident  
Not at all confident  
No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

SOCIETY

Do you think each of the following is generally **[RANDOMIZE: (a good thing) or (a bad thing)]** for our society, or doesn't it make much difference? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS, SPLIT OVER 2 SCREENS]**  
**[SHOW RESPONSE OPTIONS 1 AND 2 IN SAME ORDER AS STEM, WITH 3 ALWAYS LAST]**

- a. Increasing racial and ethnic diversity

Sep 24-  
Oct 7  
2018

53 Good thing for society  
17 Bad thing for society  
29 Doesn't make much difference  
1 No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**