

FOR RELEASE December 17, 2018

# Most Voters Have Positive Views of Their Midterm Voting Experiences

*After record turnout election, most nonvoters wish they had voted*

**FOR MEDIA OR OTHER INQUIRIES:**

Carroll Doherty, Director of Political Research

Jocelyn Kiley, Associate Director, Research

Bridget Johnson, Communications Manager

202.419.4372

[www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org)

**RECOMMENDED CITATION**

Pew Research Center, December, 2018, "Most Voters Have Positive Views of Their Midterm Voting Experiences"

## About Pew Research Center

Pew Research Center is a nonpartisan fact tank that informs the public about the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world. It does not take policy positions. It conducts public opinion polling, demographic research, content analysis and other data-driven social science research. The Center studies U.S. politics and policy; journalism and media; internet, science and technology; religion and public life; Hispanic trends; global attitudes and trends; and U.S. social and demographic trends. All of the Center's reports are available at [www.pewresearch.org](http://www.pewresearch.org). Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder. This report was made possible by The Pew Charitable Trusts, supported by a grant from Democracy Fund.

© Pew Research Center 2018

# Most Voters Have Positive Views of Their Midterm Voting Experiences

*After record high turnout, most nonvoters wish they had voted*

Voters approached the 2018 midterm elections with some trepidation about the voting process and many had concerns that U.S. election systems may be hacked. After the election, however, most say it was “very easy” to vote and confidence in election security has increased.

About three-quarters of those who report casting ballots in the midterm elections (76%) say that voting was “very easy.” In a [survey conducted in October](#), just 44% of those who planned to vote expected that the process would be very easy.

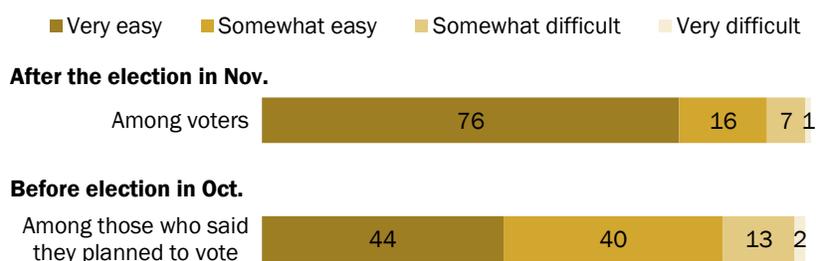
Prior to the election, fewer than half of Americans (45%) were confident that elections across the U.S. would be secure from hacking and other technological threats; 55% said they were not too confident or not at all confident that elections would be secure.

After the election, a majority of Americans (64%) say they are confident that the elections were secure from hacking, though about a third (35%) still have little or no confidence in the security of the elections.

The national survey by Pew Research Center, supported by a grant from the Democracy Fund, was conducted Nov. 7-16 among 10,640 adults, including 8,579 who say they voted in the midterm elections. This survey compares attitudes about the elections and voting process with a survey conducted before the elections (Sept. 24-Oct. 7).

## Far more voters say it was ‘very easy’ to vote than had expected it would be before the midterms

*% of voters who say voting in the elections was personally ...*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted. No answer not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

As the [pre-election survey found](#), Americans have more positive views of their local election officials than those who run elections in their states or across the U.S.

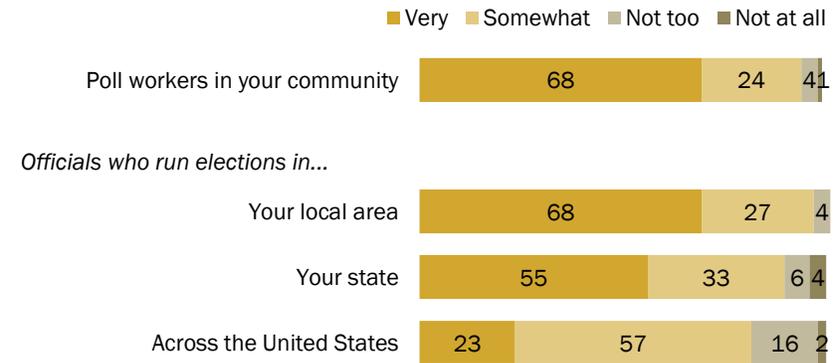
Majorities say that poll workers in their community and officials who run elections locally (68% each) did a very good job during the elections.

However, a smaller majority (55%) say the officials who run elections in their state did a very good job, and just 23% give election officials across the United States very high job ratings.

Still, large majorities say both state officials and election officials across the U.S. did at least a somewhat good job. Relatively few (10%) say state officials did not do well, while 18% say the same about officials across the country.

## Higher job ratings for local election officials than for state officials and those 'across the United States'

How well did \_\_\_\_ do their job during the elections in November? (%)



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted. No answer not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

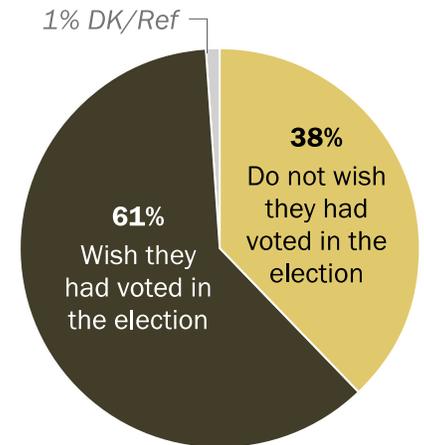
An estimated 50.1% of the voting-eligible population voted in the midterms, according to the [United States Election Project](#), making it the highest turnout congressional election [in more than a century](#). Still, about half of those who were eligible to vote *did not* do so.

A majority of those who say they did not vote (61%) also say they wish they had voted in the midterms; 38% say they do not wish they had voted.

Asked about some possible reasons why they did not vote, no single factor stands out among nonvoters: 26% say “I don’t like politics” is a major reason they did not vote. Among other major reasons, 21% say they did not think their vote would make a difference; 20% say it was too inconvenient; 19% say they were not registered; 12% say they “didn’t care” who won their local elections for Congress; and 7% say they forgot to vote.

## Most nonvoters wish they had voted in midterms

% of nonvoters who say they ...



Note: Based on U.S. citizens who say they did not vote.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

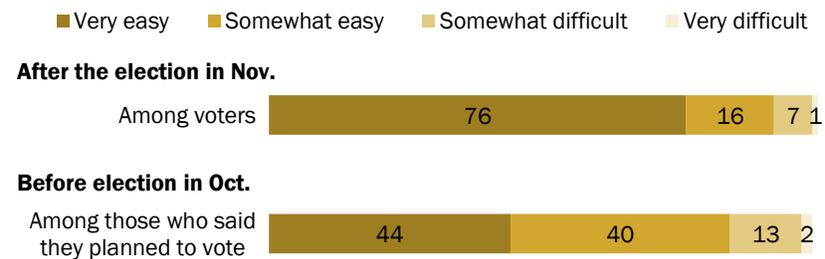
## Was voting easy or difficult?

About three-quarters of self-reported voters (76%) say it was “very easy” for them to vote in the November elections. Another 16% say voting was “somewhat easy.” Just 8% say voting was very or somewhat difficult.

Before the election, registered voters who said they planned to vote were somewhat less confident voting would be easy for them personally. In October, just 44% said they expected it to be very easy and 40% said they expected it would be somewhat easy for them to vote.

### Most voters say it was ‘very easy’ for them to vote in the midterm elections

*% of voters who say voting in the elections was personally ...*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted. No answer not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## How voters cast their ballots

The share of the electorate that votes early has [increased significantly over the past two decades](#). This year, the share of voters who report casting their ballots before Election Day (45%) is only 10 percentage points lower than the share that reports voting on Election Day (55%).

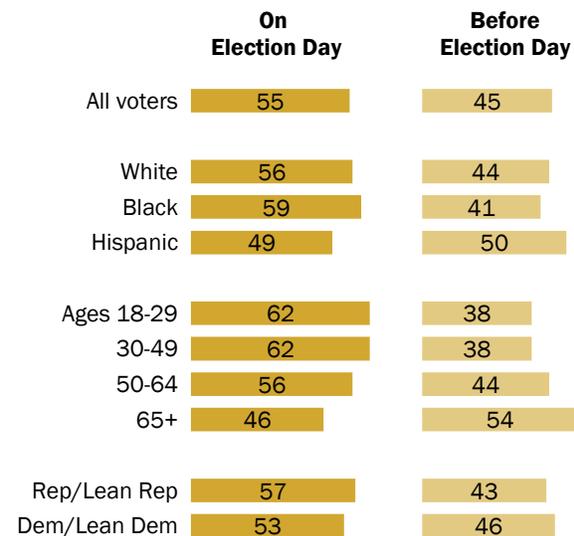
Older voters are more likely to report voting early: 54% of those age 65 and older say they voted before Election Day, compared with 44% of those ages 50 to 64 and 38% of those under 50.

White and black voters are more likely to say they turned out to vote on Election Day than beforehand (56% of white voters and 59% of black voters say they voted on Election Day). About half of Hispanic voters report voting on Election Day, while half say they voted early (49% vs. 50%).

A similar share in both parties say they voted early, with 43% of Republicans and Republican leaners and 46% of Democrats and Democratic leaners saying this.

## Older voters are more likely to vote early than younger voters

*% of voters who say they voted ...*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

While voting by mail has [become more common in recent elections](#) – including in three states where elections are conducted entirely by mail – most voters (73%) still say they cast their ballots in person this fall.

Black voters (85%) are more likely than white (72%) or Hispanic voters (68%) to report having voted in person.

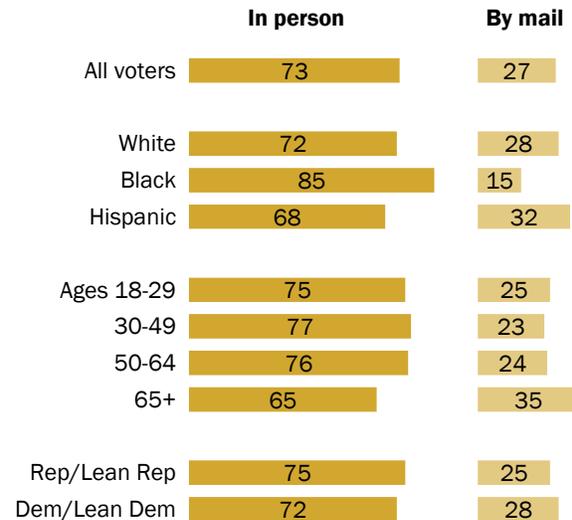
Voters over the age of 65 are the most likely to say they voted by mail, with 35% saying this. Roughly a quarter of those under 65 say they voted by mail.

Three-quarters of Republicans and Republican leaners report having voted in person; a similar share of Democrats (72%) say the same.

---

## Most voters cast their ballots in person

*% of voters who say they voted ...*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

---

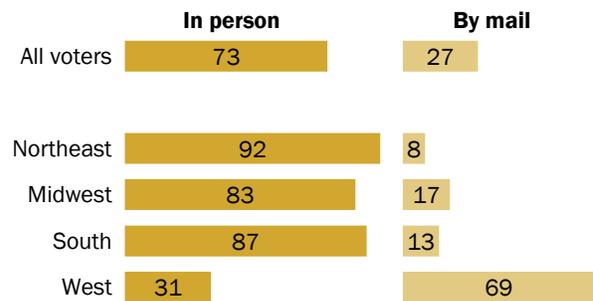
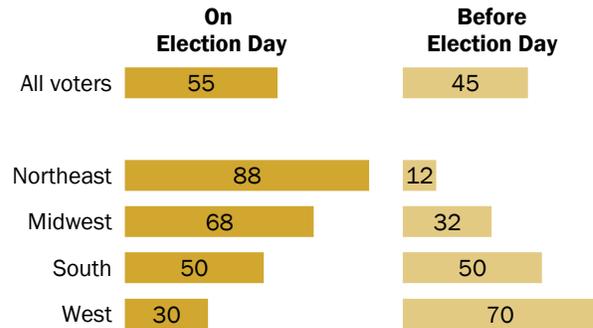
There are large differences in how and when Americans vote across regions of the country. Some regions have embraced early voting and voting by mail, while others largely vote in person and on Election Day.

Today, most voters in the Western U.S. (70%) vote before Election Day. By comparison, almost nine-in-ten voters in the Northeast (88%) say they voted on Election Day. In the South, voters are evenly split between voting early or on Election Day, while a majority in the Midwest (68%) voted on Election Day.

Most Americans still vote in person, but in the West that is no longer the norm. About seven-in-ten Western voters (69%) cast their ballots by mail, compared with fewer than two-in-ten in the other regions. (The West contains three states that conduct their elections entirely by mail: Colorado, Oregon and Washington.)

## U.S. regions vote in different ways and at different times

*% of voters who say they voted ...*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted. Regions based on U.S. census definition. No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

A wide majority of voters say voting was “very easy” for them personally, regardless of how or when they voted.

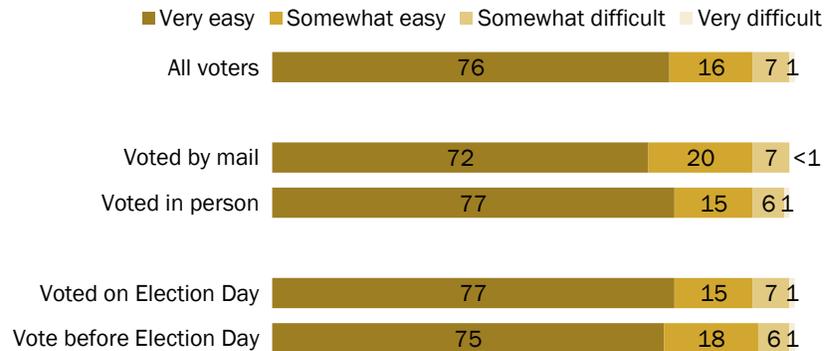
Overall, 77% of those who voted in person say voting was very easy for them. Slightly fewer of those who report voting by mail say the same (72%). There is little difference between the two groups in the share saying it was difficult.

Voters who cast their vote before Election Day are just as likely as those who voted on

Election Day to say the experience was easy: 75% of early voters say it was very easy for them compared with 77% of those who turned out on Election Day.

## Most say voting was ‘very easy’ regardless of how and when they cast their ballots

*% of voters who say voting in the elections was personally ...*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted. No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Many voters said their polling place was not crowded

Most voters who cast ballots in person say that their polling place was not too (28%) or not at all (41%) crowded. About three-in-ten say it was somewhat (24%) or very (6%) crowded.

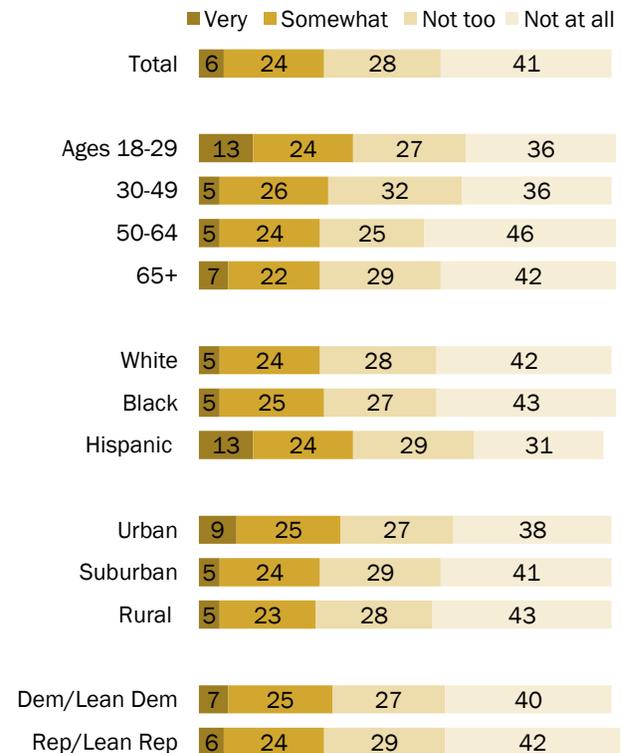
Younger in-person voters are more likely than others to report that it was crowded when they went to vote. Almost four-in-ten adults under age 30 (37%) say it was crowded, including 13% who say it was *very* crowded. In contrast, about three-in-ten voters in other age groups say it was crowded.

Though majorities of white, black and Hispanic in-person voters say their polling places were not crowded, Hispanic voters are more likely than white and black voters to report that their polling place was crowded.

Among Hispanic voters, 13% say that when they went to vote it was *very* crowded. In contrast, 5% of white voters and black voters say their polling place was very crowded.

### Majority of in-person voters say their polling place was not crowded

*% of in-person voters who say that when they went to vote, it was \_\_\_ crowded*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted in person. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

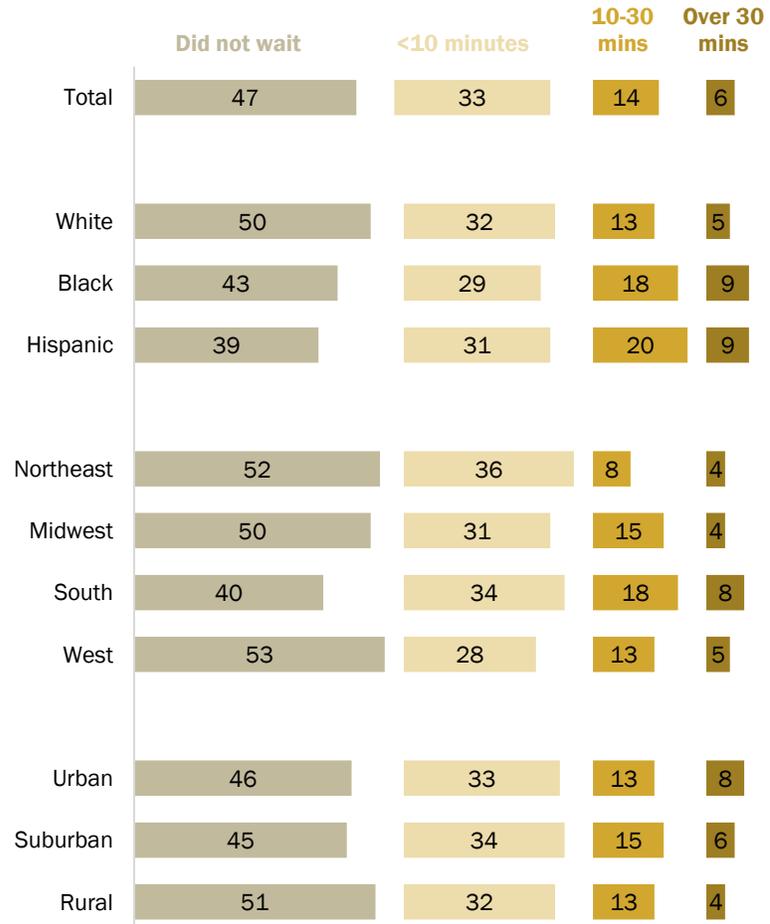
Roughly half of in-person voters (47%) say they did not have to wait in line to cast their ballots (47%), while a third (33%) say they had a wait of less than 10 minutes. Two-in-ten say they waited in line for 10 minutes or more, including 6% who report having waited for more than a half-hour (1% of in-person voters say their wait exceeded an hour).

Half of whites who voted in person (50%) say they did not have to wait at all to vote. By comparison, black (43%) and Hispanic (39%) in-person voters are less likely to report not having waited at all.

Among black in-person voters, 27% say they waited for at least 10 minutes, including 9% who say they waited over 30 minutes to vote. Hispanic in-person voters report similar wait times (29% say they waited 10 minutes or more, including 9% who waited over a half-hour). A smaller share of white in-person voters report long wait times – 18% say they waited for 10 minutes or more, including only 5% who report waits in excess of 30 minutes.

## Blacks and Hispanics more likely than whites to say they had to wait in line to vote

When you went to vote, approximately how long did you have to wait in line to vote? (%)



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted in person. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Regions based on U.S. census definition. No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Similar shares of in-person voters in the Northeast (52%), Midwest (50%) and West (53%) say they did not have to wait in line to vote. Southern voters, however, are somewhat more likely to report having to wait in line. A quarter of Southern in-person voters (26%) say they waited in line at least 10 minutes, including 8% who say they waited over 30 minutes to vote. This is larger than the share of Northeastern (11%), Midwestern (19%) and Western (18%) in-person voters who say they waited in line at least 10 minutes. Within the South, there are no significant differences in reported wait times between white and black in-person voters.

In-person voters in rural areas are more likely than those in suburban and urban areas to say they did not have to wait to vote: 51% say this, compared with 46% of urban and 45% of suburban in-person voters. And while 8% of those in urban areas and 6% in suburban areas say they waited 30 minutes or more; just 4% of those in rural areas say the same.

## Few midterm voters say this was their first time voting

Just 3% of self-reported voters in the 2018 election say it was the first time they had ever voted; 97% say they had participated in elections before this year.

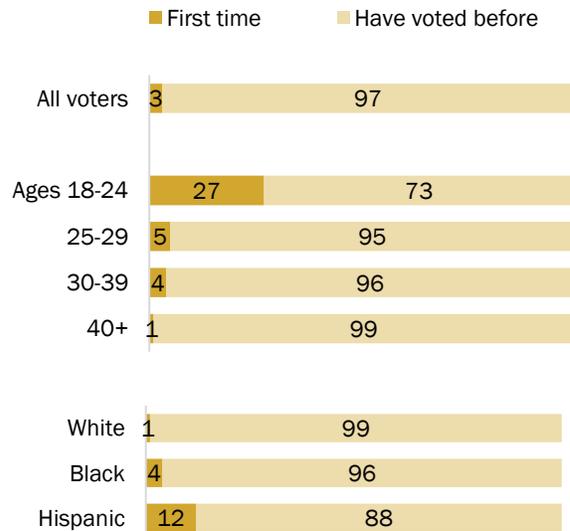
However, 27% of midterm voters under age 25 say it was their first time voting. First time voters make up just 5% of voters ages 25 to 29 and 4% of those 30 to 39. Just 1% of those 40 and older say this.

About one-in-ten Hispanic voters (12%) say this was the first election they had participated in; by comparison, just 4% of black voters and 1% of white voters say this.

Among those who cast their ballots for Democratic candidates for the House, 4% were first time voters; 2% of GOP voters say that this was the first time they had voted.

### Most voters say they had voted previously

*Is this the first year you have ever voted, or have you voted in elections before this year? (%)*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Nonvoters' reasons for not voting

There are various reasons why nonvoters decide not to vote. Nearly half (49%) say not liking politics was either a major reason (26%) or minor reason (23%) they did not vote.

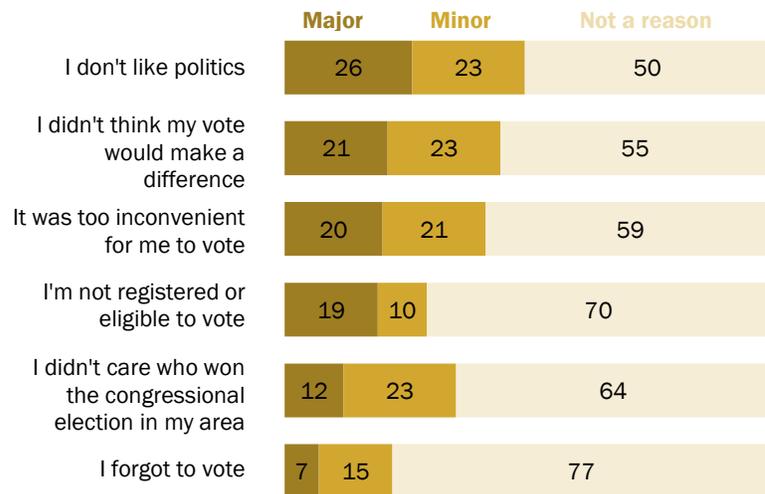
A similar share (44%) said believing that their vote would not make a difference was at least a minor reason why they did not vote.

About four-in-ten (41%) cite inconvenience as a reason, while 30% say not being registered or eligible to vote was a reason for not voting.

About a third (35%) say not caring who won their district was a major or minor reason for not voting, while 22% cite forgetting to vote as a reason for not casting a ballot.

### Nearly half of nonvoters in the midterms cite disliking politics as a reason for not voting

*% of nonvoters who say each is a \_\_\_ reason why they did not vote*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they did not vote. No answer not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

Among nonvoters who wish they had voted in the midterms, no factors particularly stand out as major reasons for not voting. But nonvoters who *do not* wish they had voted generally point to disliking politics and skepticism that their vote would matter.

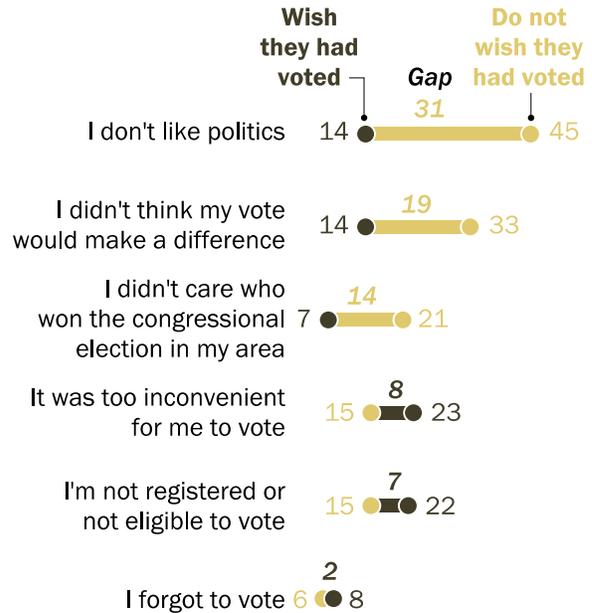
Nonvoters who do not wish they had participated in the congressional elections are significantly more likely than those who wish they had voted to say they did not vote because they do not like politics (45% vs. 14%).

And while a third of nonvoters who do not wish they had voted (33%) say not believing their vote would make a difference was a major reason why they did not vote, only 14% of nonvoters who wish they voted say the same.

However, a little less than a quarter of nonvoters who wish they had voted either say they did not vote due to the inconvenience of voting (23%) or being unregistered or ineligible to vote (22%). In contrast, just 15% of nonvoters who do not wish they voted say the same for each.

### For many who do not regret not voting, dislike of politics is a major reason

Among those who \_\_\_\_, % of nonvoters who say each is a major reason why they did not vote



Note: Based on U.S. citizens who say they did not vote. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

## Views of election officials

Voters offer highly positive evaluations of election workers – especially those in their local communities – following the midterm elections. Nearly seven-in-ten (68%) say that poll workers in their community and officials who ran elections in their local area did their jobs very well. More than nine-in-ten say they did their jobs at least somewhat well.

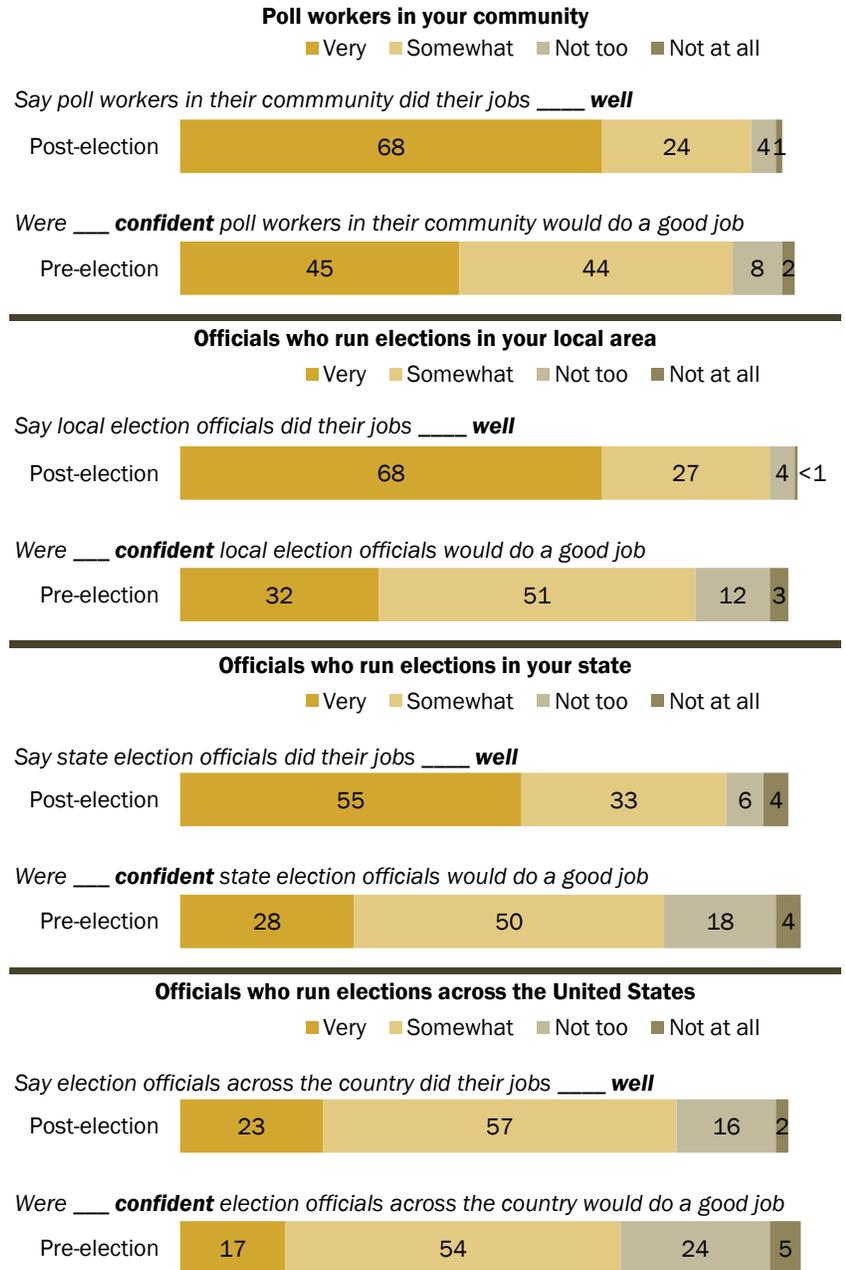
While public confidence in local election workers and officials was high in the weeks before the election, voters’ retrospective evaluations are even more positive.

Across the board, voters express more satisfaction with local workers and officials than those at the state and federal level. Still, 89% say their state’s election officials did their jobs at least somewhat well, including 55% who say they performed very well.

And while only 23% say election officials across the country did their jobs very well, an additional 57% say they did at least somewhat well. In contrast to views of local and state officials and workers, evaluations of the performance of election officials across the country are only modestly higher than pre-election confidence levels among the general public.

## Large majorities say local election officials and poll workers did a good job in the 2018 election

% who ...



Notes: Pre-election based on general public, post-election on voters. No answer not shown. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

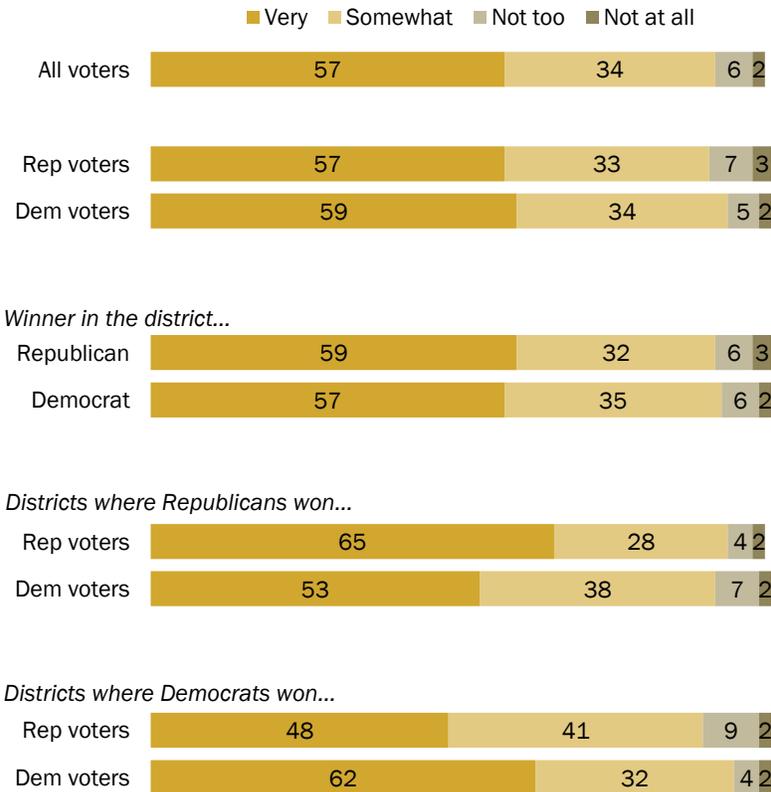
## Confidence in accuracy of the vote count linked to the outcome

Americans are generally confident that votes were counted as voters intended in the November elections. But voters who backed winning congressional candidates in their district are more likely than those who backed losing candidates to express confidence in the accuracy of the vote count.

In districts where GOP candidates for the House prevailed, 65% of Republican voters say they are very confident votes in their community were counted as intended, while 53% of Democratic voters in these districts say the same. And the pattern is reversed among voters in districts where Democratic candidates won: 62% of Democratic voters in these districts say they are very confident in the vote count in their community; 48% of GOP voters in these places say the same.

### Supporters of winning candidates express higher levels of confidence in the voting process

*How confident are you that votes in YOUR COMMUNITY were counted as voters intended in the elections? (%)*



Notes: Based on U.S. citizens who say they voted. No answer not shown.  
Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

These differences are not found in voters' views of the accuracy of the vote count across the nation.

## Views of election security

The public expresses considerably higher levels of confidence that the security of the election systems in their state and around the nation were secure from hacking than it did before the election. About three-quarters (77%) say they are very or somewhat confident that their state’s systems were secure from hacking and other technological threats, up 11 percentage points from the share saying this before the election (66%). And while just 45% expressed confidence in the security of systems in the U.S. before the election, more than six-in-ten (64%) now say this.

Confidence has risen among both parties, but the shift is particularly pronounced among Democrats. About three-quarters of Democrats and Democratic leaners (76%) are either very or somewhat confident that systems in their state were secure – a month before the election, just 60% said this. Republicans express even higher levels of confidence in the security of their state’s systems (81% now say this, up from 75% pre-election).

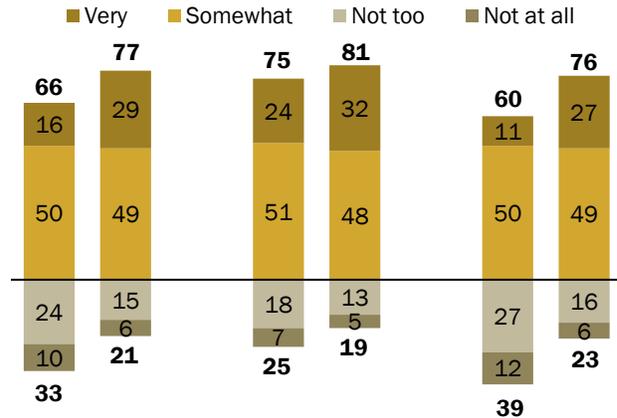
Before the election, just 34% of Democrats said they were at least somewhat confident election systems in the U.S. were secure from hacking and other technological threats. That has risen to 60% following the election.

Among Republicans, 72% say they are confident systems around the country were secure, up from 59% before the election.

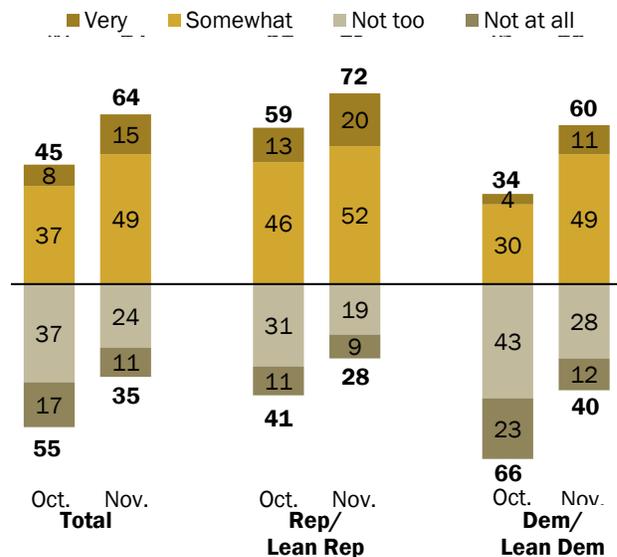
## Confidence in election systems’ security rises, particularly among Democrats

% who say they are \_\_\_ confident that ...

Election systems in **your STATE** were secure from hacking and other technological threats



Election systems in the **UNITED STATES** were secure from hacking and other technological threats



Notes: No answer not shown. Pre-election question asked whether election systems “are” secure.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

Among the 66% of Americans who before the elections said they were very or somewhat confident that state election systems were secure, nearly nine-in-ten (88%) continue to express confidence, while a 60% majority of those who were not too or not at all confident in the security of these systems before the elections now say they are at least somewhat confident they were secure.

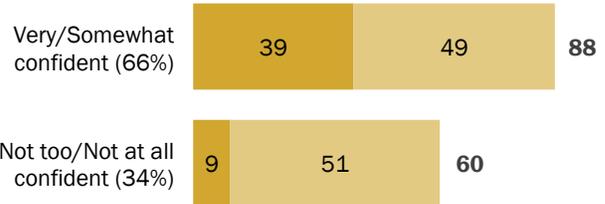
Similarly, 86% of those who expressed confidence in election systems across the country in October say they are confident these systems were secure. Among the 54% who were not confident in national election systems before the midterm elections, about half (51%) now say they are confident that election systems in the United States were secure from hacking and other technological threats, while 49% continue to express little confidence in election security around the country.

### Confidence in election security grows among those skeptical before election

*% who say they are \_\_\_ that election systems in 'your state' were secure from hacking and other threats*

■ Very confident ■ Somewhat confident

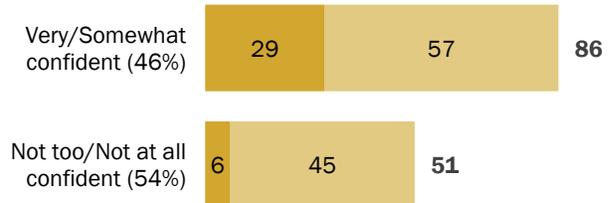
Among those who said before the elections they were ...



*% who say they are \_\_\_ that election systems in the United States were secure from hacking and other threats*

■ Very confident ■ Somewhat confident

Among those who said before the elections they were ...



Note: Based on those who responded to both Oct. and Nov. surveys. Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

## Democrats more likely than Republicans to see foreign influence in midterm elections

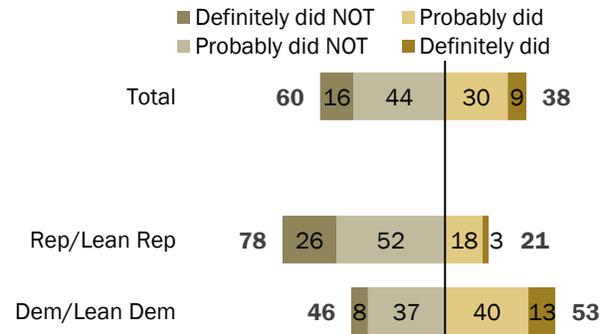
About four-in-ten (38%) Americans say that Russia or other foreign governments definitely (9%) or probably (30%) influenced the congressional elections, while six-in-ten say foreign governments probably (44%) or definitely (16%) did not influence the elections.

In October, about two-thirds (67%) said it was very or somewhat likely that Russia or other foreign governments would attempt to influence the U.S. congressional elections, including roughly a third (32%) who said this was very likely.

Democrats are more likely than Republicans to say they think there was foreign influence in the congressional elections: 53% say this, compared with 21% of Republicans. This is [similar to the partisan divide in expectations](#) before the election, when 80% of Democrats and 53% of Republicans said it was at least somewhat likely that there would be foreign attempts to influence the election.

### Partisan divide on foreign government influence in midterm elections

*% who say Russia or other foreign governments \_\_\_\_\_ influenced the U.S. congressional elections ...*



Note: No answer not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Nov. 7-16, 2018.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

## Acknowledgements

This report was made possible by The Pew Charitable Trusts, which received support for the survey from the Democracy Fund. Pew Research Center is a subsidiary of The Pew Charitable Trusts, its primary funder.

This report is a collaborative effort based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

### Research team

Carroll Doherty, *Director, Political Research*  
Jocelyn Kiley, *Associate Director, Political Research*  
Alec Tyson, *Senior Researcher*  
Bradley Jones, *Research Associate*  
Baxter Oliphant, *Research Associate*  
Hannah Hartig, *Research Analyst*  
Amina Dunn, *Research Assistant*  
John LaLoggia, *Research Assistant*  
Seth Cohen, *Intern*

### Communications and editorial

Bridget Johnson, *Communications Manager*

### Graphic design and web publishing

Alissa Scheller, *Information Graphics Designer*  
Travis Mitchell, *Digital Producer*

We also would like to thank our external advisers: Natalie Adona, Heather Creek, Barry Burden, Jan Leighley and Charles Stewart, each of whom generously gave us advice and counsel as we developed the study. While their contributions were invaluable, Pew Research Center is solely responsible for the interpretation and reporting of the data.

## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report are drawn from the panel wave conducted November 7-16, 2018. A total of 10,640 panelists responded out of 13,570 who were sampled, for a response rate of 78%. The cumulative response rate

accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 3.7%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 10,640 respondents is plus or minus 1.7 percentage points.

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial

survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of which 9,942 agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample (ABS) of households selected from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. For a random half-sample of invitations, households without internet access were instructed to return a postcard. These households were contacted by telephone and sent a tablet if they agreed to participate. A total of 9,396 were invited to join the panel, and 8,778 agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey.

---

#### American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment Dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	2,515
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,471
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	806
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	8,778
	<b>Total</b>	<b>29,114</b>	<b>18,720</b>	<b>13,570</b>

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

---

Of the 18,720 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,570 remain active panelists and continue to receive survey invitations.

### Weighting

The ATP data were weighted in a multistep process that begins with a base weight incorporating the respondents' original survey selection probability and the fact that in 2014 and 2017 some respondents were subsampled for invitation to the panel. The next step in the weighting uses an iterative technique that aligns the sample to population benchmarks on the dimensions listed in the accompanying table.

Sampling errors and statistical-significance tests take into account the effect of weighting. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish, but the American Trends Panel's Hispanic sample is predominantly U.S. born and English speaking.

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

An additional weight was computed using this same procedure for the 9,515 respondents who completed both this survey and a previous wave conducted September 24-October 7, 2018.

---

### Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Gender	2017 American Community Survey
Age	
Education	
Race/Hispanic origin	
Region x Metropolitan status	2018 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2015 CPS Volunteer Supplement
Voter registration	2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	Average of the three most recent Pew Research Center telephone surveys.
Internet access	2018 Pew Research Center internet core trends telephone survey
Generic congressional ballot	2018 House of Representatives popular vote (as of Nov. 21, 2018)

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total US adult population. House of Representatives popular vote compiled by David Wasserman and Ally Flinn at the Cook Political Report.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

---

The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>
Total sample	10,640	1.7 percentage points
Completed both Oct. and Nov. surveys	9,530	1.8 percentage points
<i>Among U.S. citizens...</i>		
Voters	8,579	1.7 percentage points
Nonvoters	1,767	3.1 percentage points
Rep/Lean Rep	4,321	2.5 percentage points
Dem/Lean Dem	5,944	2.3 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

**2018 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 39 NOVEMBER  
FINAL TOPLINE  
NOVEMBER 7-16, 2018  
TOTAL N=10,640**

**Note: In some cases, trends to prior years are to surveys conducted by telephone. This is noted throughout this topline.**

**Note: Some previously released questions based only on responses collected Nov. 7-13, 2018.**

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK U.S. CITIZENS ONLY (S\_CITIZEN=1) [N=10,373]:**

VOTED\_ATP Which of the following statements best describes you:

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>		Nov 29- Dec 12, <u>2016</u> <sup>1</sup>
23	I did not vote in the 2018 congressional elections	14
22	I planned to vote but wasn't able to	8
55	I definitely voted in the 2018 congressional elections	77
1	No Answer	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK IF VOTED (VOTED\_ATP=3):**

VTPLANPOST When did you vote in the elections this November? **[RANDOMIZE ORDER OF PUNCHES 1 AND 2; ALWAYS ASK 3 AND 4 LAST IN ORDER]**

**ASK EARLY VOTERS (VTPLANPOST=2) [N=3,946]:**

EARLY1 How did you vote in the November election?

**BASED ON VOTERS [N=8,579]:**

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>	
55	On election day
45	Before election day
19	Voted in person
25	Mailed in ballot
*	No answer
*	No answer

**PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

Nov 10-14, <u>2016</u>		Nov 6-9, <u>2014</u>	Nov 8-11, <u>2012</u>	Nov <u>2008</u>	Nov <u>2006</u>	Nov <u>2004</u>	Nov <u>2002</u>
59	On Election Day	71	63	66	80	80	85
41	Before Election Day	29	37	34	20	20	15
22	Voted in person	12	19	19	--	--	--
18	Mailed in ballot	16	17	14	--	--	--
1	Other way/DK/Ref <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	*	1	--	--	--
0	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	*	0	*	*	*	*

<sup>1</sup> In 2016, the question asked about the 2016 presidential election.

**ASK IN-PERSON VOTERS (EARLY1=1):**

HOWVOTE How did you cast your ballot in the November election?

**BASED ON IN-PERSON VOTERS [N=6,321]:**

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>	
7	Paper ballot counted by hand
54	Paper ballot scanned and counted by a computer
39	Electronic or mechanical voting machine
1	No answer

**ASK IF VOTED (VOTED\_ATP=3):**

FIRST Is this the first year you have ever voted, or have you voted in elections before this year?

**BASED ON VOTERS [N=8,579]:**

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>	
3	First time voting
97	Had voted before
--	No answer

**ASK IN-PERSON VOTERS (EARLY1=1):**

V7 When you went to vote, approximately how long did you have to wait in line to vote?

**BASED ON IN-PERSON VOTERS [N=6,321]:**

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>		Nov 17- Dec 15, <u>2014</u>
47	Not at all	53
33	Less than 10 minutes	30
14	10-30 minutes	13
5	31 minutes - 1 hour	3
1	More than 1 hour (please specify)	*
*	No answer	*

**ASK FORM 1 AND 2 IN-PERSON VOTERS (EARLY1=1):**

VTCROWD When you went to vote, would you say it was...

**BASED ON FORM 1 AND 2 IN-PERSON VOTERS [N=3,122]:**

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>	
6	Very crowded
24	Somewhat crowded
28	Not too crowded
41	Not at all crowded
*	No answer

**ASK FORM 3 AND 4 IN-PERSON VOTERS (EARLY1=1):**

KNPOLL When you went to vote, did you personally know any of the people working at the polling place?

**BASED ON FORM 3 AND 4 IN-PERSON VOTERS [N=3,199]:**

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>	
19	Yes
81	No
*	No answer

**ASK IF U.S. CITIZEN AND DID NOT VOTE (S\_CITIZEN=1 AND VOTED\_ATP=1,2) [N=1,767]:**

WISH\_VOTED Do you wish that you had voted in the election?

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>		Nov 17- Dec 15, <u>2014</u>
61	Yes	55
38	No	43
1	No answer	1

**ASK IF U.S. CITIZEN AND DID NOT VOTE (S\_CITIZEN=1 AND VOTED\_ATP=1,2) [N=1,767]:**

POL5MOD If you had voted in the elections this November for the U.S. House of Representatives, would you have voted for **[RANDOMIZE: "the Republican Party's candidate" OR "the Democratic Party's candidate"]** for Congress in your district?

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>		Nov 17- Dec 15, <u>2014</u>
28	Republican Party's candidate	25
38	Democratic Party's candidate	31
4	Another party's candidate	6
29	Not sure	37
1	No answer	1

**ASK IF U.S. CITIZEN AND DID NOT VOTE (S\_CITIZEN=1 AND VOTED\_ATP=1,2) [N=1,767]:**

NOVOTERSN2 There are lots of different reasons why many people don't vote. For you personally, how much of a reason, if at all, is each of the following for why you did not vote? **[RANDOMIZE]**

		Major <u>reason</u>	Minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
a.	I didn't think my vote would make a difference Nov 7-16, 2018	21	23	55	1
b.	I didn't care who won the congressional election in my area Nov 7-16, 2018	12	23	64	1
c.	I'm not registered or not eligible to vote Nov 7-16, 2018	19	10	70	1

**NOVOTERSN2 CONTINUED...**

		Major <u>reason</u>	Minor <u>reason</u>	Not a <u>reason</u>	No <u>answer</u>
d.	It was too inconvenient for me to vote Nov 7-16, 2018	20	21	59	1
e.	I don't like politics Nov 7-16, 2018	26	23	50	1
f.	I forgot to vote Nov 7-16, 2018	7	15	77	1

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK FORM 2 AND 3 VOTERS (VOTED\_ATP=3) [N=4,288]:**

VTEASY Overall, was voting in the elections this November for you personally... **[MATCH ORDER OF RESPONSE OPTIONS TO WHAT RESPONDENTS RECEIVED IN W38]**

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>		Sep 24- Oct 7, <u>2018</u> <sup>2</sup>
76	Very easy	38
16	Somewhat easy	42
7	Somewhat difficult	16
1	Very difficult	4
*	No answer	1

**ASK VOTERS (VOTED\_ATP=3) [N=8,579]:**

VTPPL\_POST How well did **[INSERT ITEM; DO NOT CAPITALIZE FIRST WORD IN ITEM]** do their job during the elections this November?

	Very <u>well</u>	Somewhat <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	No <u>answer</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=2,098]</b>					
a.	Poll workers in your community				
	Nov 7-16, 2018	24	4	1	3
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018 <sup>3</sup>	44	8	2	1
<b>ASK FORM 3 ONLY [N=2,128]</b>					
b.	Officials who run election in your local area				
	Nov 7-16, 2018	27	4	*	1
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	50	18	4	1
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=2,160]</b>					
c.	Officials who run elections in your state				
	Nov 7-16, 2018	33	6	4	1
	Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	51	12	3	1

2 September survey asked if respondents "expect" voting to be very easy, somewhat easy, etc.

3 In September, respondents were asked, "How confident are you that \_\_\_\_ will do a good job during the elections this November?"

**VTPPL\_POST CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>well</u>	Somewhat <u>well</u>	Not too <u>well</u>	Not at all <u>well</u>	No <u>answer</u>
<b>ASK FORM 4 ONLY [N=2,193]</b>					
d. Officials who run elections across the United States					
Nov 7-16, 2018	23	57	16	2	2
Sep 24-Oct 7, 2018	17	54	24	5	*

**ASK FORMS 1 AND 2 ONLY [N=5,288]:**

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

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>		Sep 24- Oct 7, <u>2018</u> <sup>4</sup>
29	Very confident	16
49	Somewhat confident	50
15	Not too confident	24
6	Not at all confident	10
1	No answer	1

**ASK FORM 4 ONLY [N=2,689]:**

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

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>		Sep 24- Oct 7, <u>2018</u>
15	Very confident	8
49	Somewhat confident	37
24	Not too confident	37
11	Not at all confident	17
*	No answer	*

**ASK FORM 3 ONLY [N=2,663]:**

FRGNINFL\_POST2 Do you think Russia or other foreign governments influenced the U.S. congressional elections, or not?

Nov 7-16, <u>2018</u>	
9	Definitely influenced
30	Probably influenced
44	Probably did NOT influence
16	Definitely did NOT influence
2	No answer

**ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

<sup>4</sup> For VTSYSSEC\_ST and VTSYSSEC\_US, the September survey asked about whether election systems "are secure."