



Several Polls Show the U.S. Presidential Race Tightening

New polls released this week show the presidential race between Donald Trump and Joe Biden tightening, as voter enthusiasm hits an all-time high. Former Vice President Biden was officially confirmed as the Democratic nominee during the Democratic National Convention this week, but has seen his lead over incumbent President Trump dip in various polls. President Trump continues to trail Biden in the majority of nonpartisan polls, but he has made up ground on the Democratic nominee. Voters who support President Trump are also more enthusiastic about voting for their candidate, whereas a significant proportion of Biden supporters view their vote as being against Trump, as opposed to being passionate about Biden. Despite President Trump's improving poll numbers, former Vice President Biden's selection of Senator Kamala Harris as his running mate has improved his standing, with a majority of voters approving of the choice.

President Trump will be buoyed by polls released by the Washington Post-ABC News, CNN, and NPR/Marist/PBS, which all show him making up ground on former Vice President Biden. In the Washington Post-ABC News poll released last month, the president trailed by 15 points. However, the same poll now shows him only trailing by 12 points. Similarly, a poll released by CNN shows the president trailing Biden by only 4 points, which is at the edge of the margin of error for the poll. Despite the gains made by President Trump, former Vice President Biden's standing in the polls remains stronger than 2016 Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, when she was ahead in most polls and still went on to lose the race. Of the most concern to President Trump could be his standing amongst white voters, a demographic which he handily won by 20 points in 2016. Currently, Trump and Biden are deadlocked at 48% apiece in this category, according to an NPR/Marist/PBS poll released late last week.

Within the CNN poll which shows President Trump's best numbers, battleground states had a specific focus. Across 15 states considered "swing-states" in the upcoming election, former Vice President Biden had the support of 49% of voters, while President Trump held 48% support. Among these 15 states, President Trump won 10 in 2016, with Hillary Clinton winning the other 5. This indicates that while the president is performing better in key areas recently, his campaign is still on the defensive and has work to do in order to win these states again in November. It also shows that despite broad national support for Biden, states with electoral college importance remain largely undecided.

One area in which President Trump holds a strong advantage over former Vice President Biden is in voter enthusiasm. According to the CNN poll and a Pew Research survey, voters who support the president are far more enthusiastic about their candidate than those who support Biden. In the CNN poll, 38% of Biden supporters said they were voting "for Biden" whereas 67% of the president's supporters said they were voting "for Trump." Furthermore, a Pew Research survey indicates that 56% of Biden voters said they were voting for him because he was "not Trump" as opposed to voting for him based on his merits.