

To: Interested parties
Re: COVID-19 impacts on Latino community: education and the 2020 election;
Research findings from the Somos and UnidosUS August 2020 survey
From: Latino Decisions
Date: August 16, 2020

As the parties head into their conventions, Latinos continue to suffer devastating effects from the coronavirus pandemic. Latinos are now the hardest hit racial or ethnic group in America in terms of both health impacts and unemployment. Consistent with these realities, the top concerns among Latino voters are COVID response and health care costs. Latinos squarely blame Trump for mishandling the crisis, and interest in the 2020 election has increased while parents grapple with school reopenings.

Trump's mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic is hurting his standing with Latino voters ahead of the general election; they do not trust his advice and he has lost significant ground with this electorate since May.

- 70% of Latinos disapprove of Trump's handling of coronavirus, up from 56% disapproval in May.
- Trump earns an average trust rating of 3.1 on a scale of 0-10, down from 3.3 in May.
- 73% of Latinos think Trump delayed early warning signs and because of his incomplete response thousands of Americans are dead - up from 67% in May.
- 77% of Latinos support a national mask mandate and continued quarantine to keep covid in check.
- Today, 69% of Latinos say they are certain to vote, up from 62% in May; a good indication that Latino enthusiasm is starting to increase.
- Today the national Latino vote is 66% Biden, 24% Trump, a 42-point margin. In May Biden had 61% support.
- Biden leads in double-digits with Latinos in key battleground states including Arizona: 63% Biden, 29% Trump; Florida: 55% Biden, 41% Trump; North Carolina 61% Biden, 24% Trump, and Pennsylvania 59% Biden, 28% Trump.

Candidates and campaigns are at a critical point to increase outreach to Latino voters, which is something that is important to mobilizing the electorate in this challenging time.

- Asked if either party, or non-partisan civic groups had contacted them in 2020, fully 64% of Latino registered voters said no, they had not received any contact.
- Only 24% reported Democratic contact and just 14% had received Republican contact; less than 10% had been contacted by non-partisan group

One of the biggest issues facing Americans today is the health and safety of re-opening K-12 schools. Latino parents are clear in wanting more health and safety standards for school re-openings, and more assistance for home-schooling over the Internet.

- Asked if their workplace or school provides any technological assistance, 84% said no.
- 77% of Latino parents are concerned their children are falling behind academically.
- 85% are worried about contracting coronavirus if they go to in-person school.
- Likewise, 84% are worried on behalf of teachers and school staff getting sick with covid.
- 60% say with schools closed, they will have trouble accessing free or reduced lunch.

Online schooling possesses its own problems:

- 38% don't have enough computers for everyone in the home tasked with working and going to school online.
- More than one-in-three (36%) say there is no adult who can stay home to supervise their child.
- Similarly, 36% indicate their children lose access to special education programs and services when schooling moves online.
- 30% say their child is not able to access English language programs with online school.

Asked how schools can improve the online schooling experience:

- 84% of parents want basic communication about their child's assignments and progress.
- 61% want their schools to provide information to them in Spanish.
- When it comes to school re-opening, 79% want a gradual phased in approach based on the advice of teachers and health experts, not a rushed opening that puts kids at risk.

The health and economic damage are widespread across the community.

- 49% Latinos know someone who has been infected with coronavirus, and more than one in four (27%) have a family member who has contracted it.
- Because of the pandemic, more than half of Latino households, 54%, have lost income due to pay cuts, job loss, and/or having to close a business they own.

About the poll: On behalf of Somos and UnidosUS, Latino Decisions interviewed n=1,842 Latino adults nationwide from August 7 – 15, 2020. Respondents answered questions on their cell phone or landline with live callers, or via online self-responses through text or email invitations. Respondents were all randomly selected and lists deduped so each respondent only had one opportunity to be included. The invitation and survey were both available in English or Spanish, and overall, 36% of respondents answered in Spanish. Final data were compared to the Census ACS most recent estimates for Latino adults nationwide and weights were included to balance demographics for age, gender, education and region. Overall, the full sample contains a margin of error of +/- 2.3%. Some questions were just asked of registered voters (n=1,488) which contains margin of error of +/- 2.5%. State oversamples averaged approximately 240 respondents and have a margin of error of +/- 6.3%.