







#### America Decided... America's Divided







Everything Changed and Nothing Changed

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#### MAIN TAKEAWAYS

#### Voters wanted more competent but also more moderate leadership:

- Trump lost for failing to manage COVID competently & excessive chaos / division
- House Democrats lost where voters feared overly-aggressive Progressivism

#### Our nation remains narrowly & deeply divided:

- Senate & House nearly tied, key EC states close, minimal state-gov't change
- Biden had no coattails, enters with a narrower mandate... manage COVID & lower the volume... his ability to do more will depend on his success managing the pandemic

#### The big questions remain mostly unresolved:

- Both parties face huge internal battles over future direction & leadership
  - Biden is a transitional leader, not the future of the Democratic Party
  - Trump is out but hardly gone
- Big policy directional questions were deferred (climate, inequality, immigration, systemic racism, etc.)

#### THE RESULTS: A SPLIT DECISION

### Democrats Capture the White House & Gain in the Senate Republicans Gain in the House & States

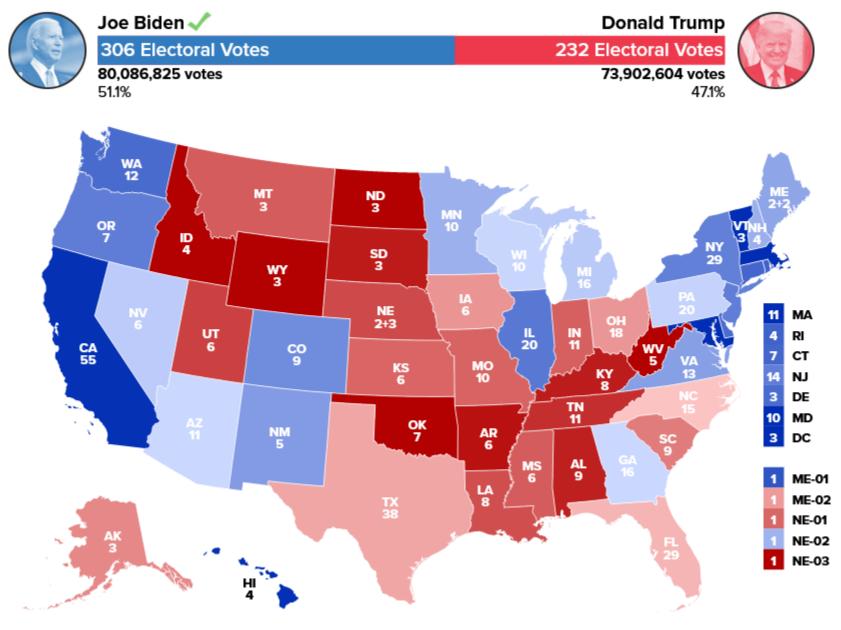






	WHITE HOUSE	U.S. SENATE		STATE LEG. CHAMBERS	GOVS
LAST ELECTION	Republican	53R – 47D	235D - 199R	59R - 39D	26R – 24D
AFTER (So Far)	Democratic	50R* - 48D	222D – 213R	61R – 37D	27R – 23D
NET GAIN	FLIP	D+1	R+14**	R+2	R+1

#### BIDEN WINS POPULAR VOTE, ELECTORAL COLLEGE



# 10 LESSONS FROM 2020: What the Elections Say About the Nation & the Future

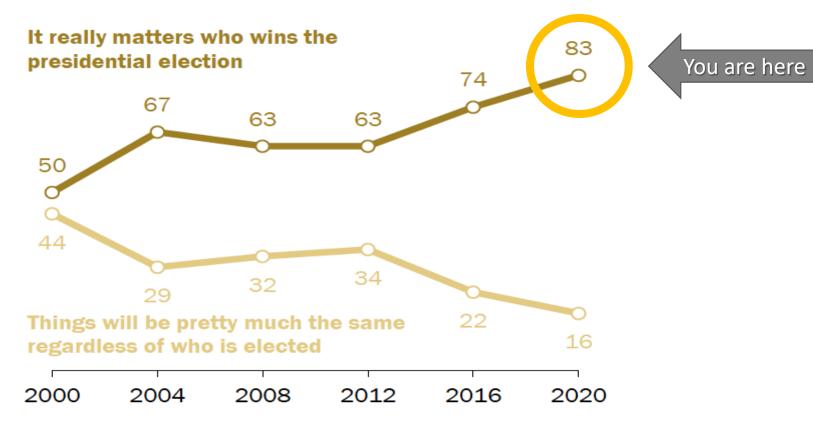
# #1. HISTORIC ENGAGEMENT Americans Remain Eager to Protest, March & Vote in an Age of Hyper-Activism

#### **AMERICANS BELIEVED "IT REALLY MATTERS WHO WINS"**





% of registered voters who say ...

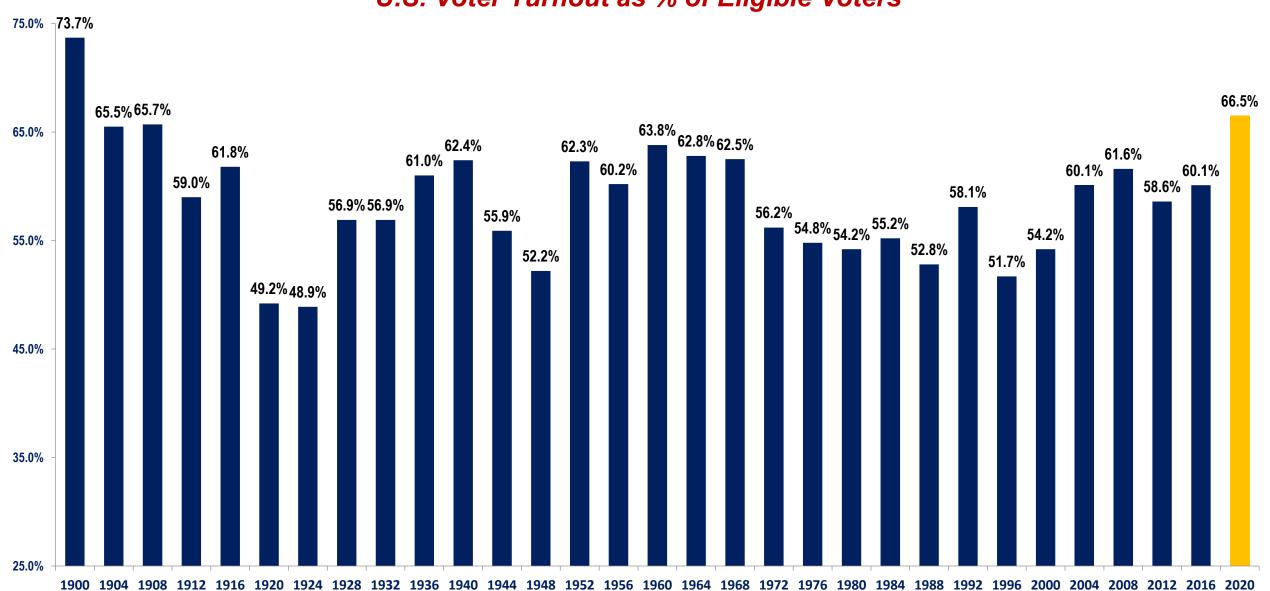


Notes: Based on registered voters. Volunteered and don't know responses not shown. Data for prior years from June surveys. Source: Telephone survey of U.S. adults conducted July 23-Aug. 4, 2020.

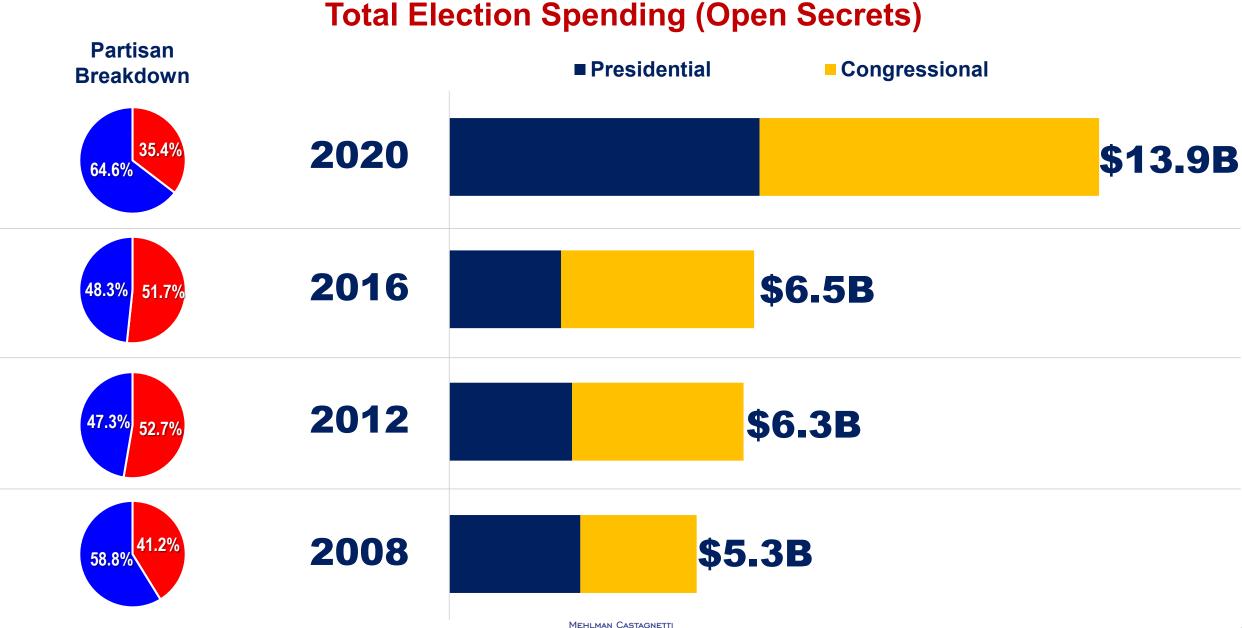
PEW RESEARCH CENTER

#### HIGHEST VOTER TURNOUT SINCE 1900

#### U.S. Voter Turnout as % of Eligible Voters



#### SPENDING ON THE 2020 ELECTIONS CRUSHED ALL PRIOR RECORDS

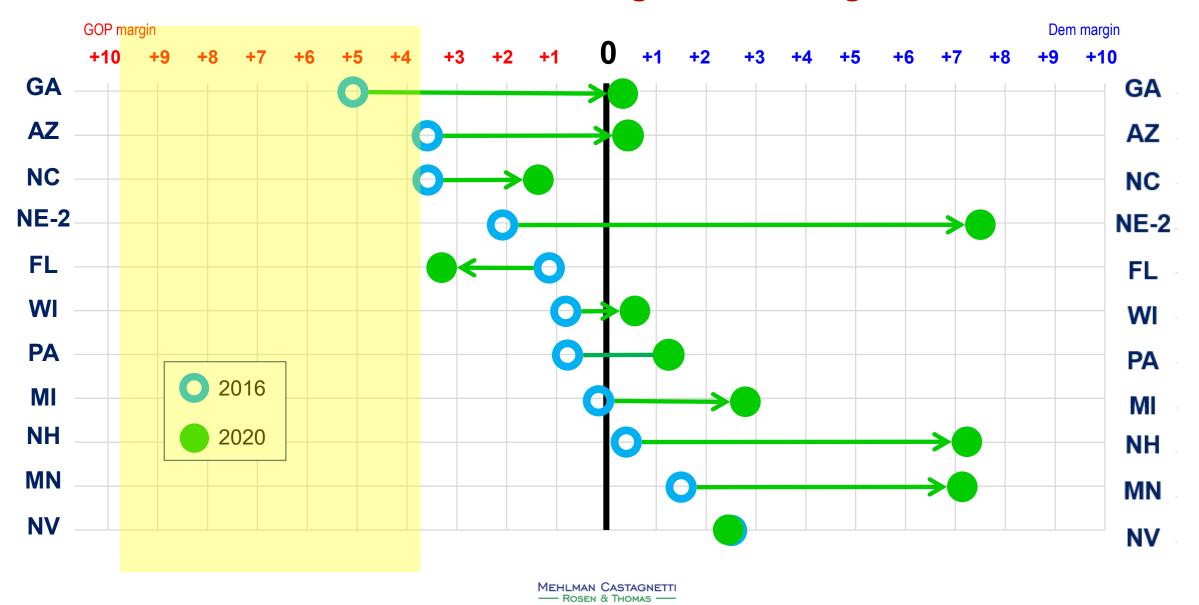


Sources: Open Secrets — Rosen & Thomas — 10

### #2. VERY CLOSE OUTCOME American Politics Remain Closely Divided, No Breakthroughs in 2020

#### THE BATTLEGROUNDS: CRITICAL STATES SHIFTED JUST ENOUGH

#### Seven States Within 3% Margin in 2020, Eight in 2016



#### FEWER VOTES DECIDED ELECTORAL COLLEGE IN 2020 THAN 2016

### While the Popular Vote Margin Grew from 3M+ (Clinton) to 5.5M+ (Biden), The Margin in Key Electoral States Remained Tight

#### 2016 ELECTION

**TRUMP 306 – 232 CLINTON** 

STATE	VOTE MARGIN	EV's
MI	10,704	16
WI	22,746	10
PA	44,929	20

Change 38,874 votes from Trump to Clinton (half total margin + 1 per state) and it's **278-260 CLINTON** 

#### **2020 ELECTION**

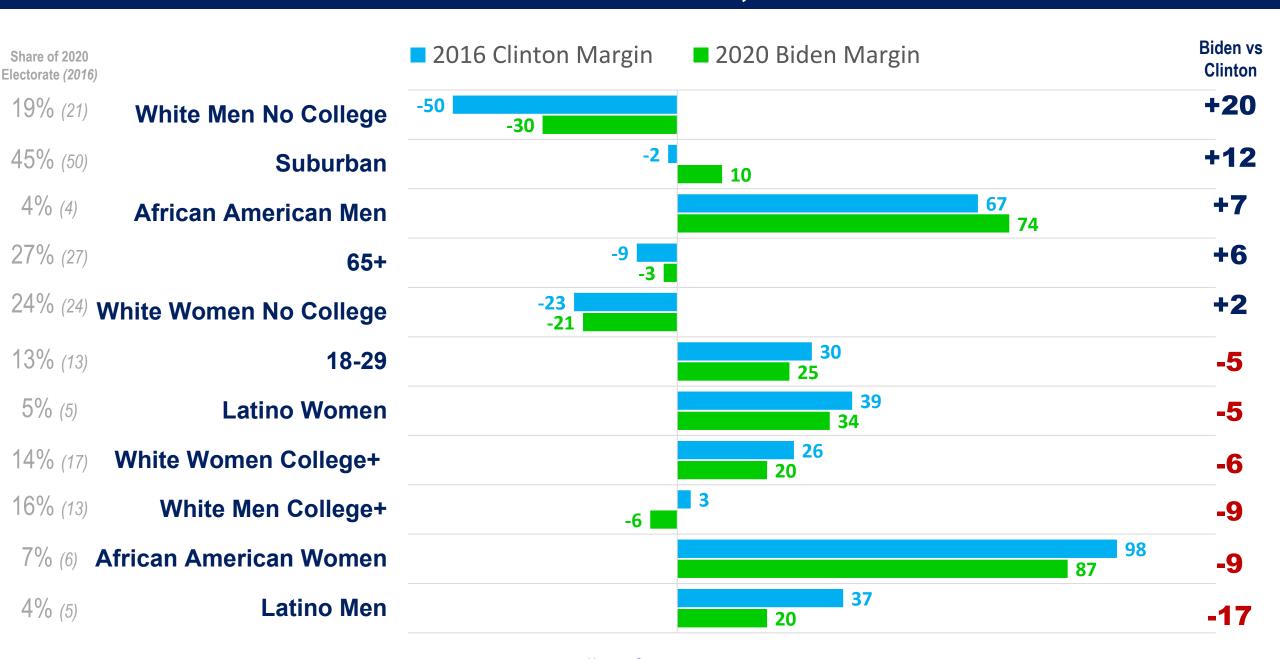
**BIDEN 306 – 232 TRUMP** 

STATE	STATE VOTE MARGIN	
GA	12,670*	16
WI	20,565*	10
PA	80,555*	20

<sup>\* 11/18 5</sup>pm; Still counting, margins will adjust

Change 56,898 votes\* from Biden to Trump (half total margin + 1 per state) and it's 278-260 TRUMP

#### BIDEN CUT INTO TRUMP'S COALITION, TRUMP INTO CLINTON'S



## #3. NO COATTAILS Americans Chose Divided Government & A Narrow Mandate for 46

#### **ELECTORATES SEEKING MAJOR CHANGE SHOW IT DOWNBALLOT**

#### **Coattails for Presidents With Big Messes to Clean Up**

YEAR / PRESIDENT	Popular Vote	Senate Seats	House Seats	Governors
2008 / OBAMA	+7.27%	+8	+21	+1
1980 / REAGAN	+9.74%	+12	+34	+4
1932 / FDR	+17.8%	+11	+97	+11
1920 / HARDING	+26.2%	+10	+63	+7
1860 / LINCOLN	+10.13%	+2 (of 66)	+30**	
2020 / BIDEN	+3.9%*	+1***	-14*	-1

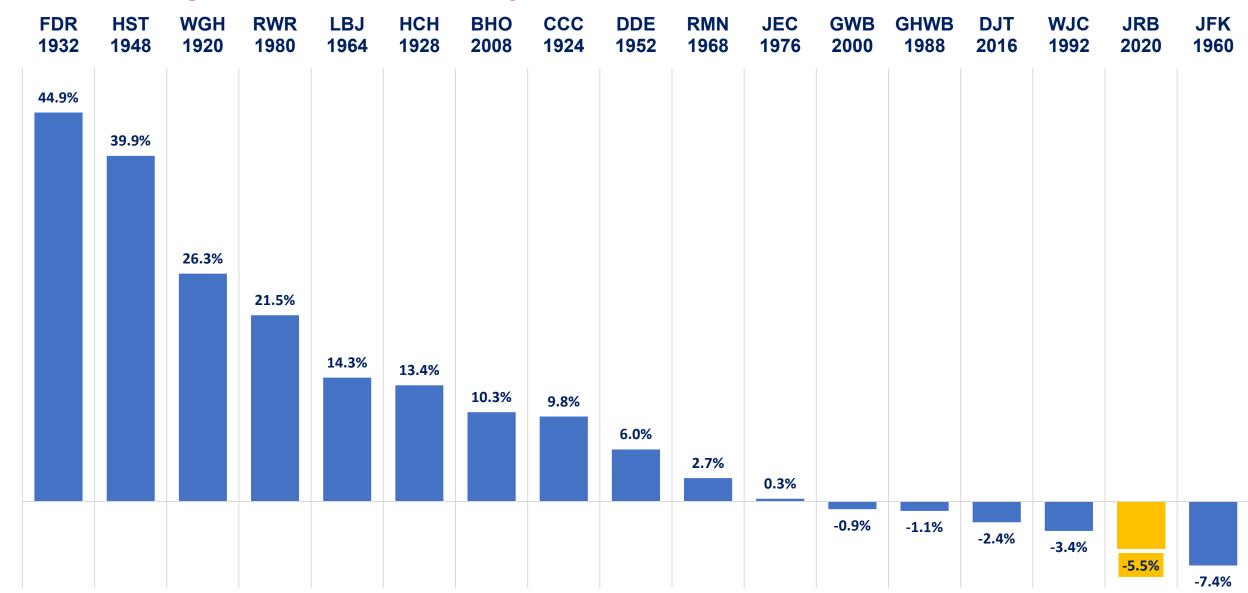
<sup>\*</sup> Still counting, margins may adjust

<sup>\*\*</sup> Pending GA runoff elections

<sup>\*\*\* +30</sup> for the Unionists

#### WEAKEST HOUSE COATTAILS SINCE 1960

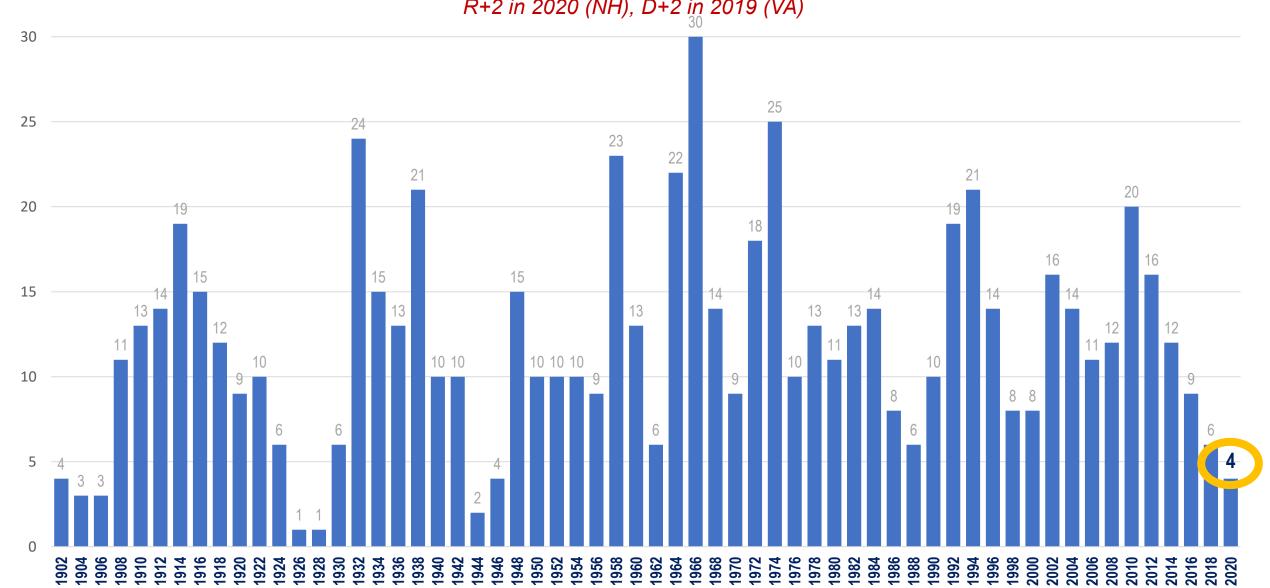
#### Change in President's Party Share of House Seats at First Election



#### IN THE STATES: A "NO CHANGE" ELECTION (GOP +2)

#### **Fewest Legislative Chamber Switches Since 1946**

R+2 in 2020 (NH), D+2 in 2019 (VA)



## #4. VOTERS HISTORICALLY DISRUPTED Focused on COVID & ECONOMY... Sought Competence > Change

#### MOST DISRUPTED ELECTORATE SINCE 1968

#### In the 31 Presidential Election Years Since 1900...



Years with Two Super-Disruptors: 1972, 2004

Years with Three Super-Disruptors: 1932, 2008

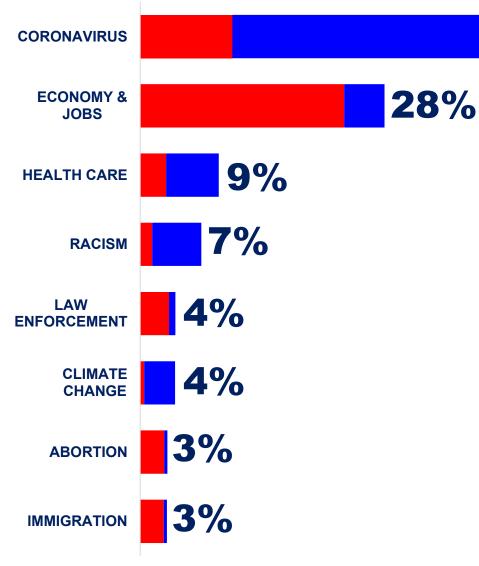
Years with Four Super-Disruptors: 1968, 2020

White House Changed Parties

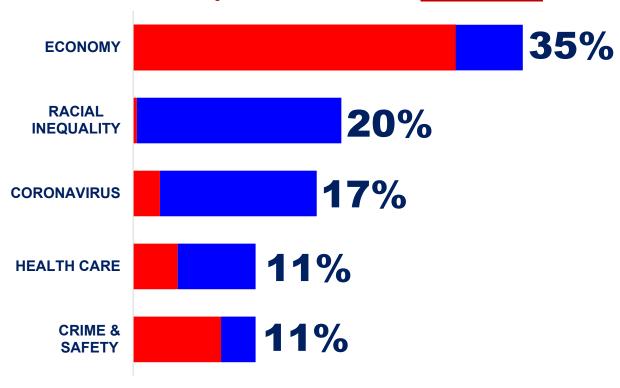
#### THE ISSUES: COVID & THE ECONOMY

41%

#### **Most Important Issue Facing the Country**



#### **Most Important Issue to Your Vote**



#### THE ADMINISTRATION'S POOR PANDEMIC RESPONSE SUNK THE PRESIDENT

#### **Crises Define Leaders**













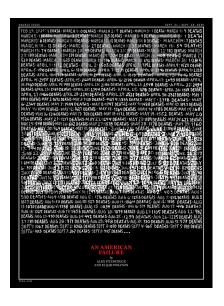
#### 55% disapproved

of Pres. Trump's handling of the coronavirus (47% strongly)

83% said the fed'l government's response to the coronavirus was an

important factor in their

vote (39% single most important factor)



Source: AP Votecast

Source: AP Votecast

2

#### PANDEMIC PERCEPTIONS TURNED HEAVILY ON MEDIA PREFERENCES

#### Media Diets Massively Shaped Perceived Pandemic Reality

"The U.S. has controlled the outbreak as much as it could"

"The U.S. has <u>not</u> controlled the outbreak as much as it could"

If your only news comes from:



If your only news comes from:

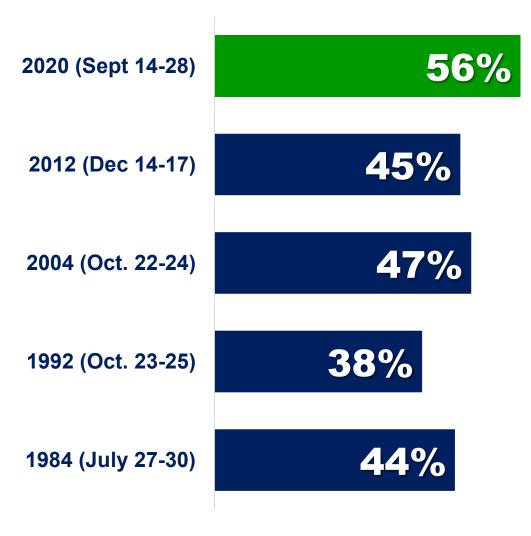


Source: Pew Research, Oct. 7, 2020 - ROSEN & THOMAS -

#### **ECONOMIC REALITIES SHAPED PERCEPTIONS**

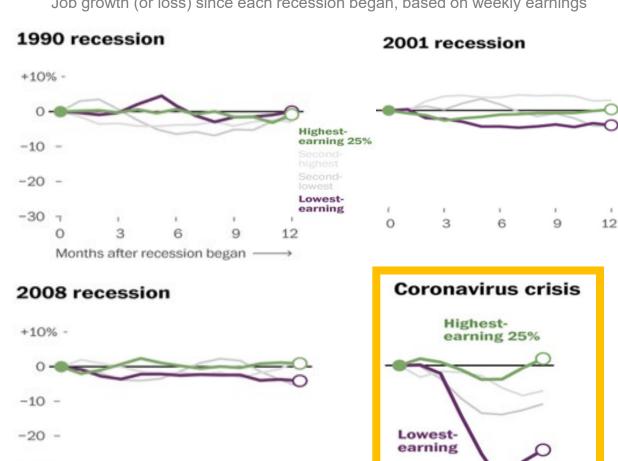
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#### Are You Better Off Today Than You Were Four Years Ago?



#### **Americans Face Two Very Different Recessions**

Job growth (or loss) since each recession began, based on weekly earnings

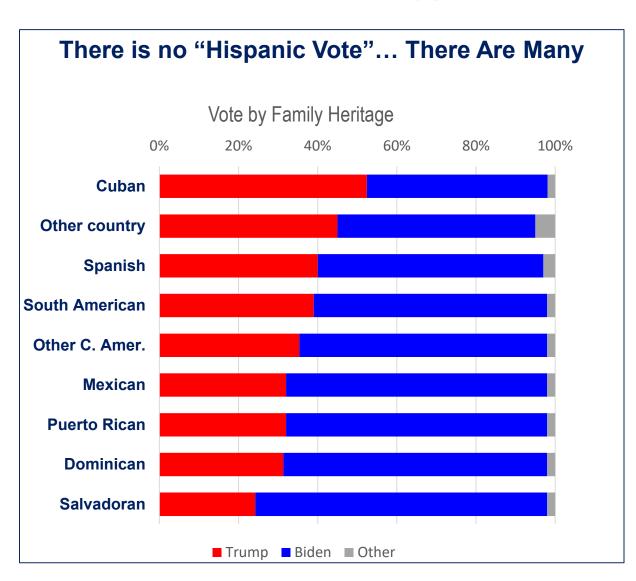


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## #5. THE ELECTORATE IS NOT MONOLITHIC You Won't Bring All Americans Together Until You Understand Them

#### **DIVERSE AMERICANS ARE NOT MONOLITHIC**

#### Appeal to Them As Individuals



#### Immigration & Civil Rights Matter Greatly, But Other Issues Matter Too

Top Issues for Americans of Color (American Election Eve poll)

LATINO	BLACK	ASIAN
Coronavirus pandemic (55%)	Coronavirus pandemic (55%)	Coronavirus pandemic (58%)
Jobs & the Economy (41%)	Racial Justice (37%)	Jobs & the Economy (44%)
Health care costs (32%)	Jobs & the Economy (34%)	Health care costs (37%)

#### THERE'S A SIGNAL IN THE NOISE: MIND THE DISRUPTION

#### Why Did >73M Americans Vote to Reelect Donald Trump?

(Most are not deplorable racists brainwashed by Fox News & Facebook friends)



### Concern that Globalization Harms > Helps

Many Americans bemoan the "hollowing out of the middle class" as businesses outsourced >2M U.S. manufacturing jobs to China & low wage nations via "free trade"



Fear the New Economy Is Leaving them Behind

Many Americans feel disrupted by the knowledge economy; they see their "flyover states" getting left behind by the "super star" technology and investment elites on the Coasts



Anger at "Political Correctness" / Elite Condescension

Many Americans feel under attack for being proud of their country & lifestyles (God, guns & football) and resent "elitist" condescension by the media and liberal politicians



### Profound Disagreement with "Socialism"

Many Americans strongly disagree with the policies offered by some on the Left (e.g. defunding the police, decriminalizing the border, ending fossil fuels, higher taxes)

#### STATE'S SCIENCE & TECH LEADERSHIP HIGHLY PREDICTIVE

#### 21 of Top 25 States for Biden

#### STATE TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE INDEX

#### 21 of Bottom 25 States for Trump

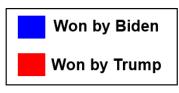
RANK	STATE	RANK	STATE
1	Massachusetts	11	Minnesota
2	Colorado	12	Connecticut
3	California	13	Pennsylvania
4	Maryland	14	New Jersey
5	Washington	15	N. Carolina
6	Utah	16	Texas
7	New Hampshire	17	Arizona
8	Virginia	18	New Mexico
9	Delaware	19	Michigan
10	Oregon	20	Illinois

MILKEN	
Overall Rankings	
2020	

1	0	1	0
4	U	Z	U

RANK	STATE	RANK	STATE
26	ldaho	36	Alaska
27	Indiana	37	Hawaii
28	Vermont	38	Nebraska
29	Montana	39	Wyoming
30	Kansas	40	Tennessee
31	Missouri	41	North Dakota
32	Alabama	42	South Dakota
33	Florida	43	Maine
34	lowa	44	Kentucky
35	S. Carolina	45	Oklahoma

21	New York
22	Georgia
23	Rhode Island
24	Ohio
25	Wisconsin



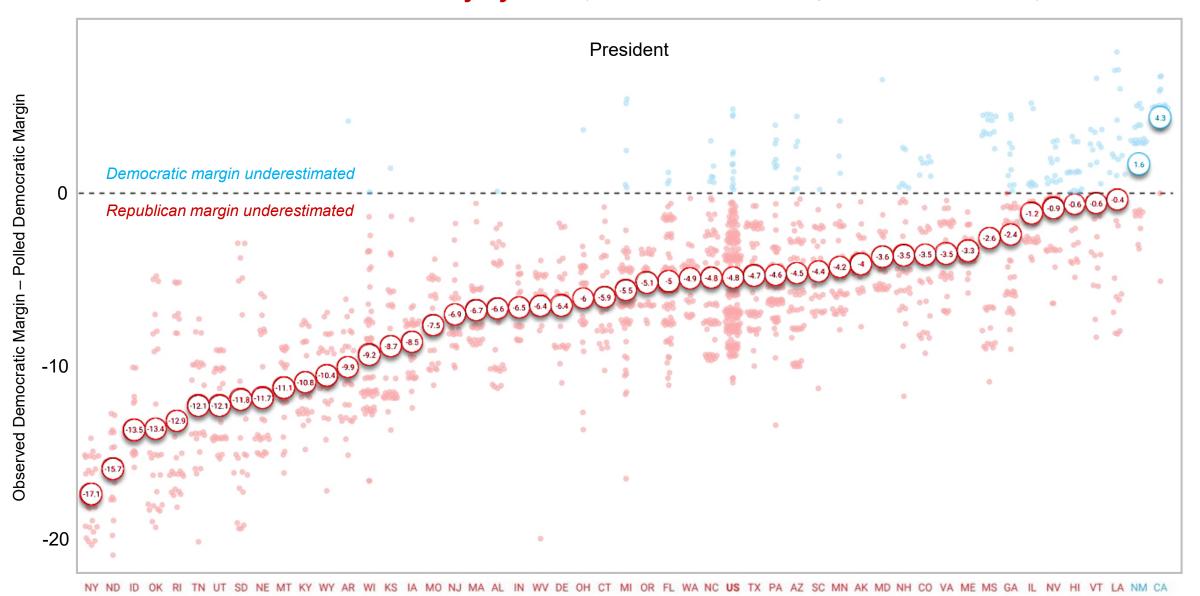
46	Nevada
47	Louisiana
48	Arkansas
49	West Virginia
50	Mississippi

## #6. ANOTHER POLLING FAIL We're Flying Blind: Pre- and Post-Election Misses

(How will you reach stakeholders if you don't know who they are or where they stand?)

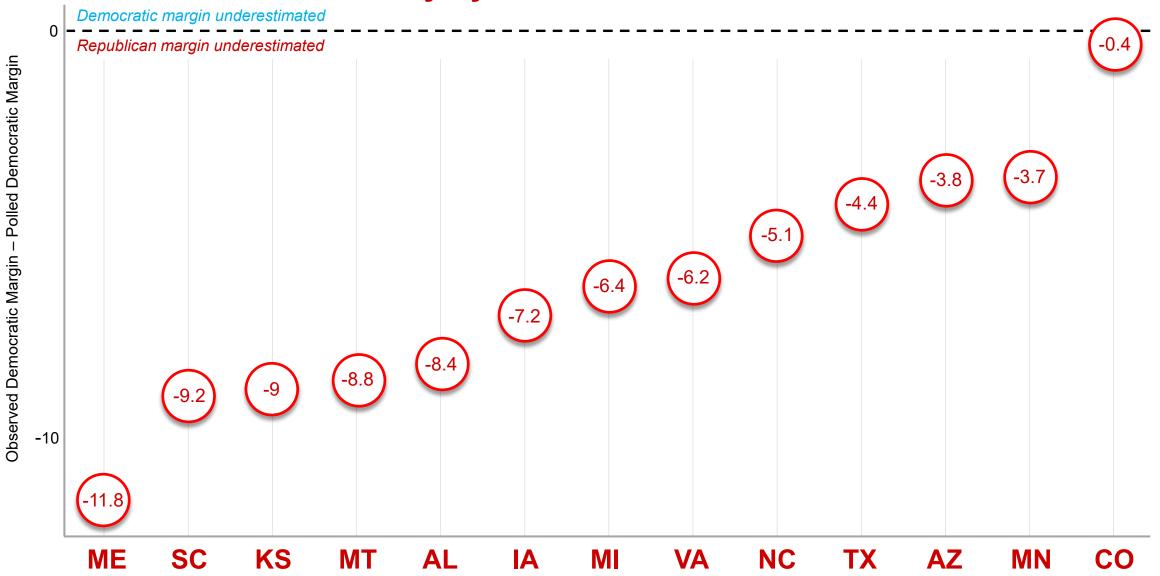
#### PRE-ELECTION POLLS SIGNIFICANTLY UNDER-COUNTED TRUMP SUPPORT

Presidential Poll Accuracy by State (vote totals as of 11am 11/13; All polls within 2 weeks of election)



#### NOT JUST TRUMP / PRESIDENTIAL: SENATE POLLING MISSED GOP VOTERS

#### Senate Poll Accuracy by State (vote totals as of 11am 11/13; All polls within 2 weeks of election)



#### **EVEN THE EXIT POLLS DON'T AGREE**

#### Large & Inexplicable Disparities Between the Two Competing Exit Polls



Sources (Linked): Edison Research
AP Votecast

**Shows Initial** data published 11/4 and (italics = adjusted data published 11/10 if different from initial)

**Biden +3** (B+2)

WHO VOTED (Estimated Share of 2020 Electorate)						
<b>65%</b> (67%)	White	74%				
13%	Latino / Hispanic 10%					
22%	65+ (seniors) 27%					
<b>34%</b> (35%)	White No College	44%				
HOW WE VOTED						
Trump +1 (B+9)	White Women College+	Biden +20				
Trump +12	Household Income >\$100k	Biden +4				
Biden +60	African American Men	Biden +75				

Biden +10

Suburban

## **#7. WHAT TO EXPECT IN 2021**Challenging Politics, Challenging Times

#### SENATE CONTROL DETERMINED IN 2 GEORGIA RUNOFFS 1/5/21





#### **Results of Major Statewide GA Races Since 2000**

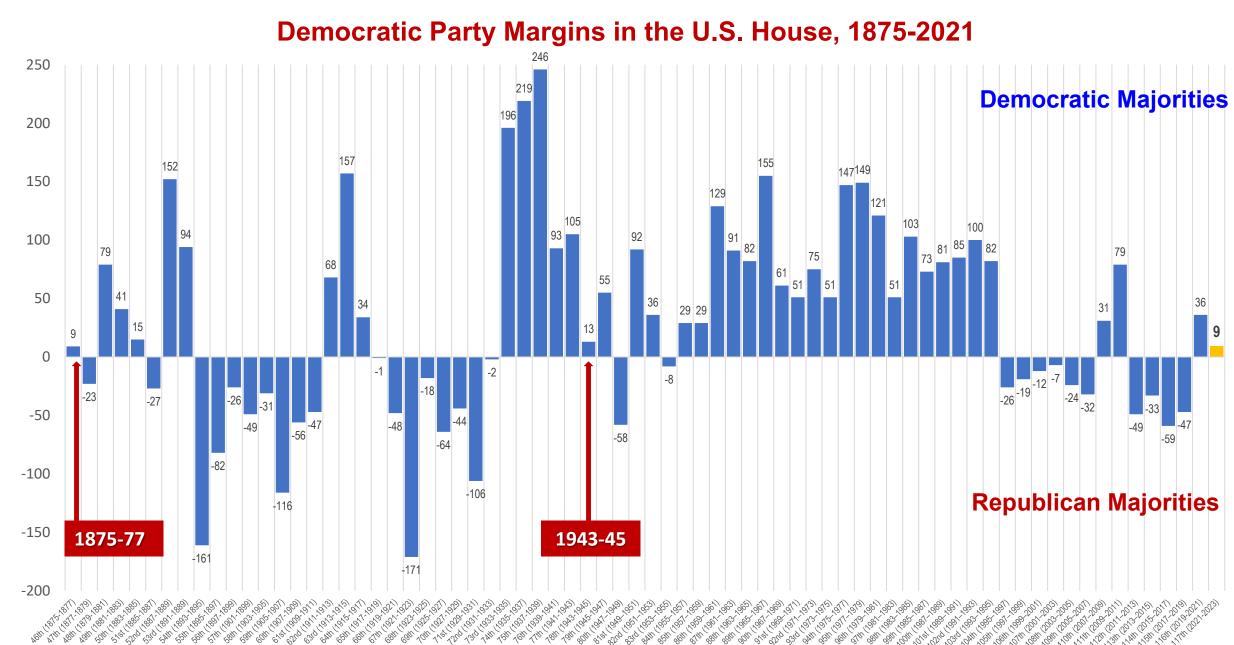
YEAR	PRESIDENT	SEN. SEAT 1	SEN. SEAT 2	GOVERNOR	LT. GOV	SEC. STATE
2020	49.5%	49.8%	<b>48.5%</b> (all Rs)			
2018				50.2%	51.6%	51.9%
2016	50.4%		54.8%			
2014		52.9%		52.7%	58.0%	57.5%
2012	53.3%					
2010			58.3%	53.0%	54.5%	56.2%
2008	52.2%	57.4%				
2006				57.9%	54.1%	54.1%
2004	60.0%		57.9%			
2002		52.8%		51.3%	51.9%	61.1%
2000	54.7%					

#### FIRST NEWLY-ELECTED DEMOCRAT WITHOUT A D-LED SENATE SINCE 1884



	1ST TERM	SENATE	HOUSE
	DEMOCRATIC	MAJORITY	MAJORITY
YEAR	PRESIDENTS	PARTY	PARTY
2020	Biden	GOP*	DEM
2008	Obama	DEM	DEM
1992	Clinton	DEM	DEM
1976	Carter	DEM	DEM
1964	Johnson	DEM	DEM
1960	Kennedy	DEM	DEM
1948	Truman	DEM	DEM
1932	FDR	DEM	DEM
1912	Wilson	DEM	DEM
1884	Cleveland	GOP	DEM
1856	Buchanan	DEM	DEM
1852	Pierce	DEM	DEM

#### SMALLEST DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY IN HOUSE SINCE 1875-77



# THE POLITICS: HOW MUCH CAN GET DONE IN 2021?



### THE CASE FOR MORE THE CASE FOR LESS

Top 3 leaders are **Deal Makers** with 113 years combined experience

Wings of parties oppose "dealing with the enemy," preferring causes to compromise

Crises (COVID & economy) demand cooperation & agreement

Pandemic has become **Partisan**, economic needs debated

**Moderates** in both parties want progress on problems

**Ideologues** in both parties want "purity"

Senate GOP & House Dem **Majorities At Risk** in purple states & districts

Politicians who compromise are more likely to face **Primary Challenges** from the fringes of their parties

**Mainstream Media** will paint compromise as courageous

Social Media will paint compromise as treachery







# **KEY BIDEN ATTRIBUTES & CONSIDERATIONS**

# It's Possible That Only He Can Fix It

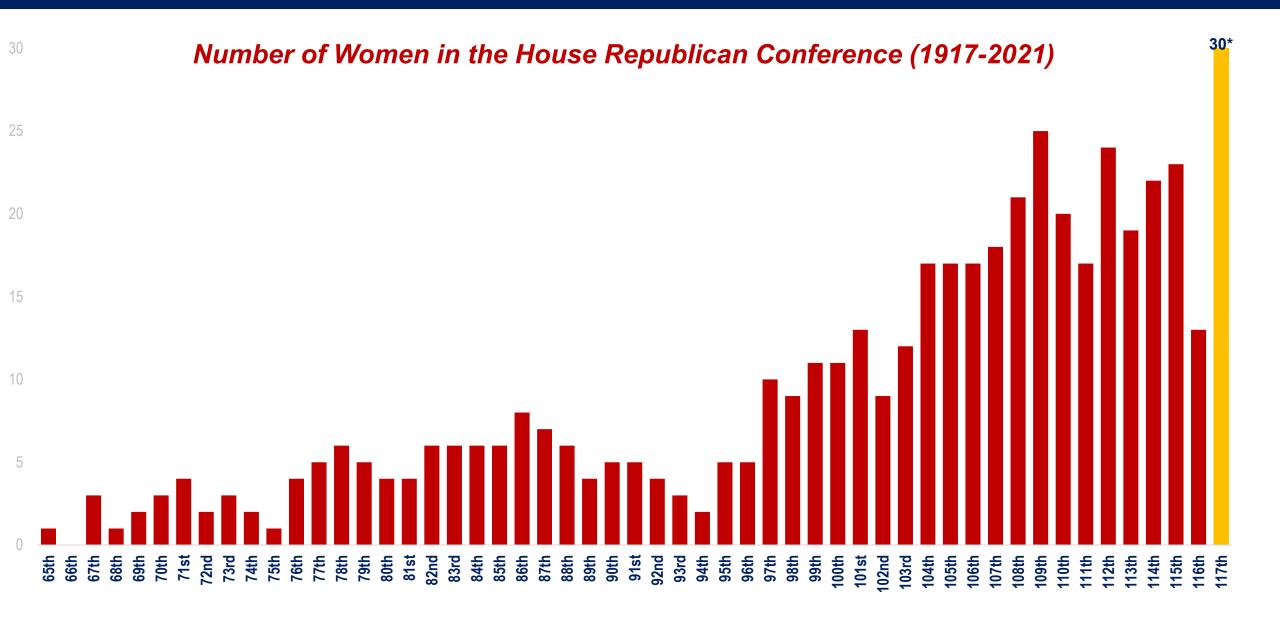




- 2. He's Party Centrist more than an Ideological Moderate (willing to compromise with anyone)
- 3. He's an Institutionalist (with great respect for the people, processes & protocol that make government work)
- **4. He retains an Optimistic view of the GOP** (works well with Sen. McConnell, believes there are more Howard Baker / Bob Doles out there)
- **5. He's a Transitional figure and he knows it** (trying to govern well rather than lead a revolution)

# #8. BOTH PARTIES IN TRANSITION Historic Uncertainty about the Parties' Future Leadership & Direction

# SOME GOOD NEWS: MOST EVER REPUBLICAN WOMEN IN THE U.S. HOUSE



# THE FIVE FACES OF THE GOP, 2021+



# The Republican Civil War for the Future

יוען	GOP REFORMERS	NEW DEAL- MAKERS	NEW REAGANITES	NEW #RESISTANCE	TRUMPISTS
мотто	Be Competent & Non-Partisan	We Came to Govern	Take Back the Right	America First Nationalism	It's Trump's Party (he can tweet if he wants to)
LEADERS	Gov. Hogan (MD) Gov. Baker (MA) Gov. Scott (VT)	Collins Murkowski Romney	Rubio Sasse Toomey	Cotton Cruz Hawley	Pres. Trump VP Pence Trump Family
PHILOSOPHY	<ul> <li>Most popular U.S. governors are Blue State GOP</li> <li>Socially moderate</li> <li>Fiscally conservative</li> <li>Pragmatic problem solvers</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Legislate to solve problems</li> <li>Democrats are the opposition, not the enemy</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Reformicons:</li> <li>Free enterprise + Future of Work</li> <li>Limited gov't + Modern safety net</li> <li>Strong defense</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Control the border</li> <li>Fight political correctness</li> <li>End unfair trade deals, put America first</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>DJT made America great only he can fix it again</li> <li>Democrats, Big Tech &amp; Media stole election</li> </ul>

Core Challenge: Republicans have won the popular vote for President once since 1988.

# **DEMOCRATS: INCREMENTALISM OR AGGRESSIVE PROGRESSIVISM?**

## **PROGRESSIVES**

# The Democratic Civil War for the Future

### **MODERATES**





**HEALTH** CARE





**ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT** 





TAX





TECH & **TELECOM** 





CIVIL **RIGHTS** 





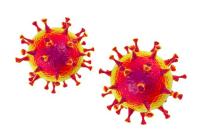
**IMMIGRATION** 





# #9. MACRO TRENDS THAT MATTER Regardless of Washington, Big Changes Are Coming, All Around the World

# **CONTEXT: KEY MACRO TRENDS**



### **PANDEMIC**

### **DOMINATING 2021**

- Global infections peak in winter;
   U.S. lacks testing / tracing / masking
- Recovery
   undermined by
   mistrust/fear
   (masks, vaccines),
   state deficits &
   inequality



# **TECHNOLOGY**

### **ACCELERATION**

- Accelerating 4<sup>th</sup>
   Industrial Revolution
   Hyper-Digital
   Transformation hits
   eds, meds & Feds
- Ongoing Techlash drives policy in Congress, agencies, states & global



# **GEOPOLITICS**

### **DEGLOBALIZATION**

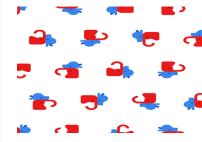
- Soft Power Vacuum (neither U.S. nor China trusted);
   Nationalism > Globalism
- U.S.-China
   Decoupling on tech,
   "critical" goods &
   sectors



# **CULTURE**

### **HYPER-ACTIVISM**

- BOTH left & right energized by 2020 election, anger amplified on cable & social media
- TRUST deficit exacerbated (government, media, elections, medicine)



# **POLITICS**

### REALIGNMENT

- Both parties face Civil Wars & future-defining identity crises
- Reform era accelerated, anchored by need for resilience economy

# **GEOPOLITICS: NEW WORLD ORDER TAKING SHAPE**

# **Great Power Rivalry Returns**



# **Cross-Border Flows Slow**



# **Multilateralism Remade**



# **Trade Economics Disrupted**



# #10. RECOMMENDATIONS Engaging Washington in the Biden Era & Reasons for Faith in America

# TIMETABLE: THE NEXT ~780 DAYS IN BIDEN'S WASHINGTON







	Was de la constant de	100 Di II G	<u>जगीमर</u>	
	Lame Duck & Transition (Nov-Jan 5th)	First 100 Days (Jan 20-Apr 30)	First 2 Years (Jan 20 – Midterms)	
POLITICS	<ul><li>Recounts &amp; Lawsuits</li><li>Leadership Elections</li><li>GA Senate runoffs</li></ul>	<ul><li>Inauguration &amp; Confirmations</li><li>Intra-Party Civil Wars</li><li>Temporary return of civility</li></ul>	<ul> <li>2022 Midterms (both small Majorities at risk, many primaries?)</li> <li>2024 race begins (Will Biden run again? Will Trump?</li> </ul>	
PROCESS	<ul> <li>Transition planning</li> <li>Trump Lame Duck: EOs, deals, purges &amp; pardons, "midnight" regulations (no CRA), sanctions</li> <li>"Lame Duck" Session</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Fill Cabinet, White House &amp; Executive Branch jobs (4,013)</li> <li>House will pass many bills that die in the Senate</li> <li>1st Trip abroad</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>New Normal         <ul> <li>Chaos → Calm</li> <li>Aspirational → Practical</li> <li>Throw for TDs → Run for 1<sup>st</sup> D's</li> <li>Intra-Party deals → Inter-Party</li> </ul> </li> <li>McConnell controls floor</li> </ul>	
POLICY	<ul><li>COVID stimulus</li><li>FY21 funding</li></ul>	<ul><li>Reverse Trump EOs / Regs</li><li>Rejoin Paris, WHO, COVAX</li></ul>	• Increased oversight (pandemic profiteering, systemic failures, tech, health)	

- Nat'l Defense Auth. Act
- Health, tax "extenders"
- COVID & economy dominate
- Post-Trump reforms (eg Hatch Act; Presidential tax returns, etc.)
- Bipartisan Issues (e.g. Big Tech, China, infrastructure)

— ROSEN & THOMAS —— Source: Mehlman Castagnetti analysis

# **RECOMMENDATION: STRATEGY FOR ENGAGING WASHINGTON IN 2021**

## **Employer engagement may hold the key:**

- Bipartisan coalitions succeeded in 2015-16:
- TSCA reform
- 21<sup>st</sup> Century Cures Act
- FAST Act (infrastructure)
- Trade Promotion Authority

### **Successful efforts require:**

- Partnering with stakeholders on problems & solutions
- Working with high-impact NGOs & policy makers on both sides, aligning issues with values
- Running persistent, bipartisan, surround sound campaigns

# **Business leaders expected to step up:**

- On issues of global & national concern
- Employees, customers, investors & activists looking for C-Suite leadership



# **REASONS FOR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**

# Reports of the Death of Our Democracy Are Greatly Exaggerated

No Foreign Interference



No Evidence of Fraud

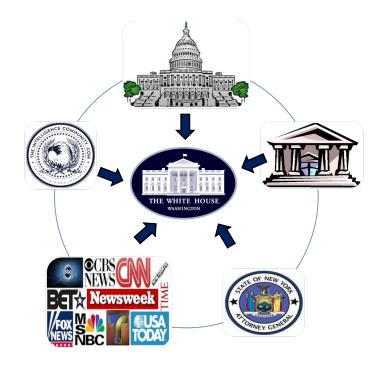


**Max Turnout, Not Intimidation** 



**No Violence** 





Our System of Checks & Balances Held, Limiting President Trump as It Will President Biden



# For future slides: bruce@mc-dc.com

# MEHLMAN CASTAGNETTI —— ROSEN & THOMAS ——

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### **RECENT ANALYSES:**

https://bit.ly/Mehlman-Infographics