

# SA 2020 Election



## Trump Wins in Student Poll

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Staff Writer

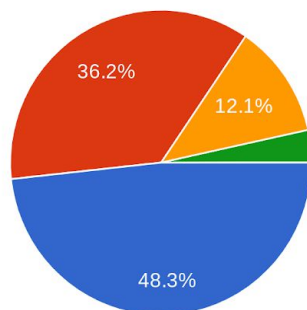
President Donald Trump would be the clear winner for a second term if it were up to the St. Albert High School students who participated in a voluntary survey of the 2020 Presidential Election.

About 48 percent of the students polled chose Trump to win. Another 36 percent sided with Vice President Joe Biden.

The Accipiter asked all students in grades 9 through 12 to anonymously vote on the candidates and provide opinions on the topics addressed in the first presidential debate. Fifty-eight of the 146 high school students responded. All were required to fill out 13 multiple choice questions and optionally provide their reasoning for their answers under most of these questions.

In the following pages, The Accipiter provides the results of the poll.

**Q: If you were eligible to vote this year, who would you vote for?**



- Donald Trump (Mike Pence VP)
- Joe Biden (Kamala Harris VP)
- Other candidate
- I would not vote in the 2020 Election

# Why Trump? Why Biden?

## Voters Split on Racism, COVID, Safety, Prosperity

After students voted for a particular presidential candidate, they were asked for reasons for their choice. Here are some examples of responses:

“Trump is a racist and ignorant person who doesn’t care about protecting people. He doesn’t care about women and has said disgusting things multiple times. He is a child who can’t put the needs of America in front of his own agenda. Biden cares about the American people and understands that even if his own personal beliefs don’t line up with what is best for the people, he should still do the right thing.”

“I chose Joe Biden because he actually cares about the country's health and safety during the pandemic. Biden is responsible and wears his mask, yet he gets made fun of by Trump and his supporters for doing so (look how that turned out). I also think Biden is a good example for our country because he does things more professionally and keeps things to himself, rather than being petty and posting about his actions on social media (hint: Trump & Twitter). Another reason why I would not vote for Trump is because he is a racist and has



called the corona virus a countless number of times the ‘Chinese virus’ and ‘kung flu,’ which is extremely disrespectful and rude towards people who live in China.”

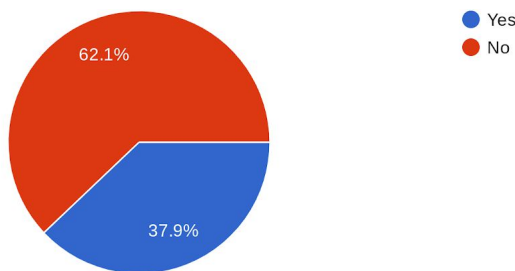
“Because (Trump) has done more for the country than any other president has in a while, and I don't wanna vote for a guy that can't make a speech without using a teleprompter or doesn't even know where he is.”

“I would vote for Trump because everything he has done and will do provides prosperity and safety rather than destruction in our country.”

One student explained why he would vote for an alternative candidate: “Kanye West because I listen to his music.”

One student, who said he would not chose to vote in the 2020 election, stated, “Because no one seems like the clear winner.”

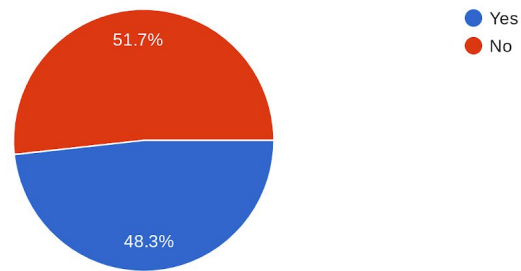
## Poll: Neither Candidate Seen as Mentally Fit



**Q: In your opinion, is Biden mentally fit to hold office for a full 4 years?**

Examples of responses:  
“Biden is clearly not mentally fit despite the false media narrative. There is plenty of video evidence of Biden forgetting things, calling his wife the wrong name and saying things which go against his former policies as well. There is plenty of video that Trump's memory is good. He doesn't have lapses.”

“Joe Biden is smart and has been in politics



**Q: In your opinion, is Trump mentally fit to hold office for 4 more years?**

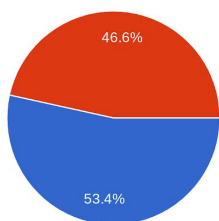
for 47 years. He knows how things work and knows what to say/do. Trump is immature and only a business man, not a good president.”

One student, who felt neither are mentally fit, said, “They both are way too old. Biden has no idea what he is saying and then Trump can never keep his mouth shut.”

# Trump Favored for Economy

Example of responses:

“It is on record that Donald Trump knew how serious the corona virus pandemic would be in February and chose not to do anything about it. If businesses would have had the chance to make a plan with their employees, we would not have had to deal with the staggering (at least) 15% for unemployment that we faced in April. Businesses should have been given a warning so that Americans could have been prepared to either work at home or been ready for a time of



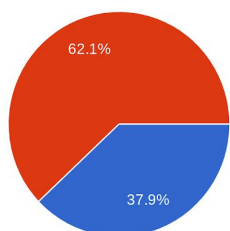
**Q: Do you think Trump has done a good job handling the economy throughout his term?**

unemployment. But no, we were given no warning and our workforce suffered for it.”

“Before COVID, the economy was the best it had ever been before, possibly best in history. Unemployment was at an all-time low and wages were rising. No matter what president was in office, the economy was going to take a great toll from shutting down the country. Now the economy is being built back rapidly.

Trump has done a good job.”

## Rough Transition of Power Predicted



**Q: If Trump is not re-elected, do you think he will peaceably allow the transfer of power and leave office?**

Examples of responses:  
 “(Trump) has said several times he would refuse to leave office even if he loses. He also has denied several times that he is losing in the race right now and called it ‘fake news.’ I’m sure he’d do this if he lost the election.”

“(Trump) isn’t a tyrant, as much as people like to think he is. He runs in the election knowing that he has the possibility of losing. So he would be prepared for a loss in the election.”



Left, President Donald Trump introduces his new nominee for the Supreme Court, Amy Coney Barrett.

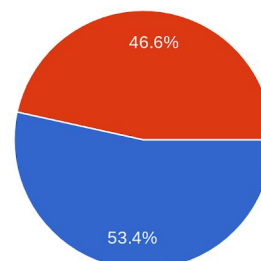
## Students Support Filling Vacancy Before the Election

Examples of responses:

“Obama couldn’t do it before he left office. If Trump is re-elected then yes, he can fill the spot. It is too close to the election for him to fill the spot.”

“Because (Trump) was elected for a four year term, not three years. It is still within his powers to appoint someone.”

**Q: Do you support Trump and the U.S. Senate filling the vacant Supreme Court seat just before the November election?**



● Yes  
 ● No

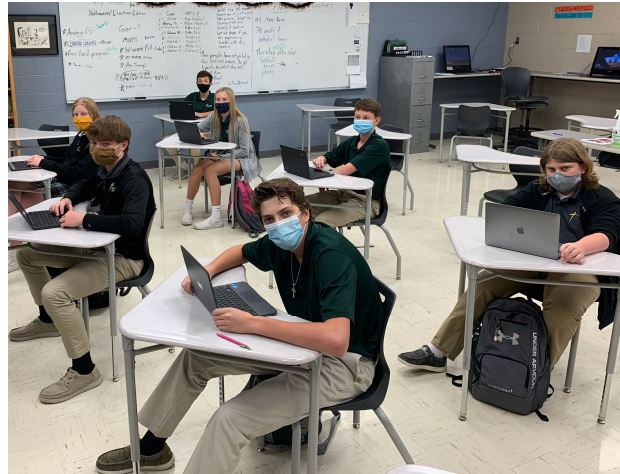
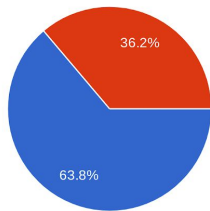
# Mask Mandate Gains Support

Examples of responses:

“Although many believe that everyone should decide for themselves, everyone needs to be doing their part to help protect those at risk. If doing something as simple as wearing a mask will help at least one person, then it is worth it.”

“It is our constitutional right to not be required by the federal government nationwide to wear masks.”

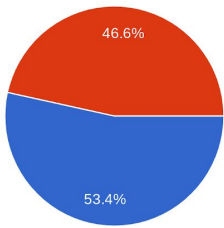
**Q: Should masks be federally, state, or city mandated (required by law to be worn in public)?**



● Yes  
● No

**Freshmen, shown studying in Melinda Keenan’s 9th Grade English class, wear their face masks dutifully all day. Photo by Alex Gast**

# Students Back Protests, BLM



● Yes  
● No

**Q: Do you support the protests against racism taking place in this country?**

Examples of responses:

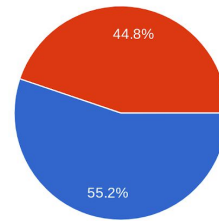
“People have a right to speak out, and there are so many reasons to support this movement. For so many years there has been systemic racism in this country, and it was time to take a stand to stop killing people just based on their race and not getting charged for it. Not only that, it is time to speak out and end racism.”

“A lot of the protests have turned out to be riots and not a safe place to be whatsoever. The peaceful protests are fine, but once it gets to the point of destroying buildings and cities, I cannot support that.”

Examples of responses:

“BLM is an organization that is fooling many people. It is funded by rich white men, in order to manipulate people in our country to get them to vote Democrat. Lots of fear and false ‘social injustices’ are promoted by BLM. Also, where does all the money BLM raises go? Not back into black communities or black-owned businesses. I support the sole statements that ‘Black Lives Matter’ and ‘All Lives Matter’ but not the wicked, hidden intentions of the organization BLM.”

“Of course I support the Black Lives Matter organization. Their mission goal is to eradicate white supremacy (the ideology that white people are the superior race just because of their skin color) and build support to intervene in violence inflicted on black communities in America. They are simply working for a world where black peoples' lives are no longer systematically targeted. Black Lives Matter is the lowest standard, not Black Lives are Important or Worthy, simply MATTER. The BLM Organization is trying to disband the decades of discrimination that African Americans have been put through.”



● Yes  
● No

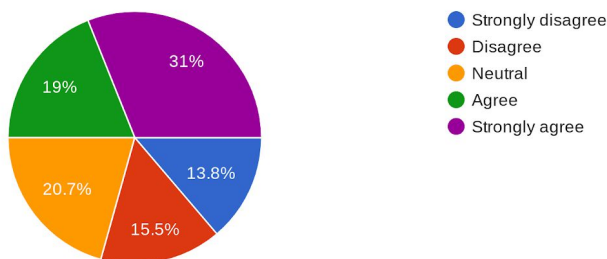
**Q: Do you support the Black Lives Matter organization behind the movement?**

# Policing Proposals

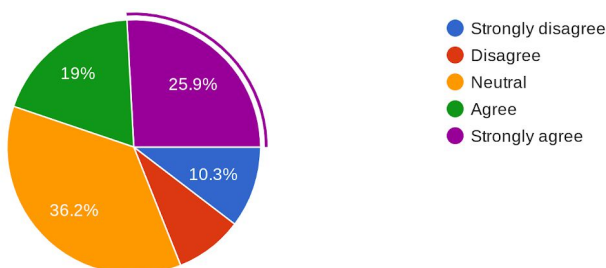
Half the students polled support giving police more training to resolve problems and allegations stemming from systemic racism. But many of the students are neutral when it comes to more training to understand and handle people with mental illness.

More than half of the students oppose the movement to defund police.

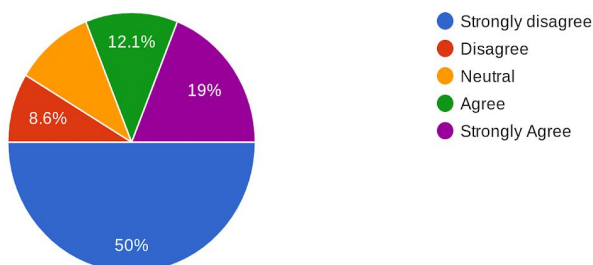
**Q: Should changes be made to current police policies and training to address issues/allegations of racism?**



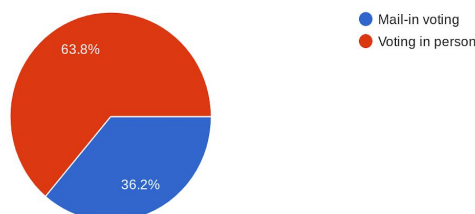
**Q: Should changes be made to current police policies and training involving citizens with mental illness?**



**Q: Should cities “defund” the police and funnel more money into crime-prevention efforts, such as educational programs, job training, mental health treatment, etc. ?**



## Students Reject Mail-In Voting



**Q: Do you support mail-in voting or voting in person for this election?**

Examples of responses:

“Voter fraud is too relevant and proven to have whole-states mail in (their) vote.”

“With the pandemic, some people don’t want to leave the house and go to a room full of people. We need to increase voter turn-out and allowing mail-in voting will do so. Every voice should be heard.”

“I support either, because if you want to vote in person, you’re still voting, and I like that there is mail voting for people who are high risk and cannot leave their homes. So mail or in person ... you are still voting and that is what matters.”