

2020 Election & Polarization of American Politics



The 2020 election between **Donald Trump (R)** and **Joe Biden (D)** was one of the most polarizing in modern history. Many people were divided on the issues and felt compelled to go to the polls. And while negative feelings towards the other party are nothing new, the growing contempt that both Republicans and Democrats have for the opposing party has grown broader and deeper than in the past.

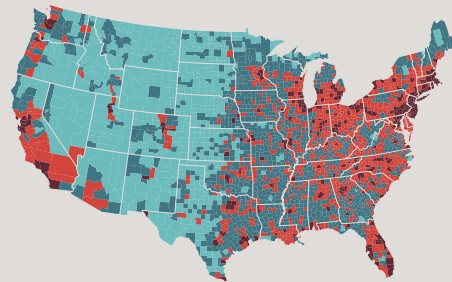


Po·lar·ize:

to divide into sharply opposing factions, political groups, etc.

The 2020 election confirmed a divide between rural and urban America.

- Big cities and dense suburbs went for Biden, and less-populated areas went for Trump; i.e., wealthier regions were blue and less wealthy were red.
- A Brookings report estimated that Biden counties accounted for a whopping **70%** of GDP in 2020, up from **64%** for Clinton counties in 2016.



Population per sq. mile

- 250+
- 50–249.9
- 10–49.9
- <10



ACCORDING TO PEW RESEARCH,

The 2020 presidential election was historic in many ways.

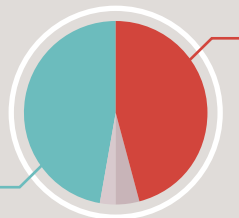
Amid a global pandemic, with unprecedented changes in how Americans voted, voter turnout rose 7 percentage points over 2016, resulting in **66%** of U.S. adult citizens casting a ballot in the 2020 election. **Joe Biden** defeated **Donald Trump** 306–232 in the Electoral College and had a 4–point margin in the popular vote.

Both Trump and Biden were able to bring new voters into the political process in 2020.

The 19% of 2020 voters who did not vote in 2016 or 2018 split roughly evenly between the two candidates.

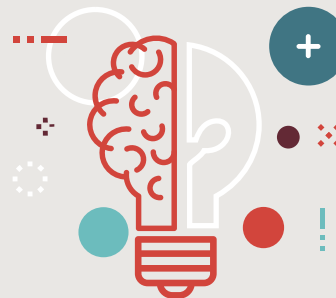
49%

of voters who did not vote in 2016 or 2018 voted for Biden.



47%

of voters who did not vote in 2016 or 2018 voted for Trump.



I·de·o·log·i·cal:

an adjective that describes political, cultural or religious beliefs. An ideology is a body of ideas, and those who agree with the main idea of something take an ideological stand to support it.

Think it Through

1. Where did your political opinions come from? Have they changed as you grow in your understanding of politics and the world?
2. Why do politics elicit such emotional responses? What triggers this when discussing certain topics?
3. How has the media shaped your view of politics? Do you think it has played a big role in helping you form your political opinions? Why or why not?

